

Chess Room Newsletter



Our 3rd Jeremy Silman Memorial Tournament Recapped Below!
Issue #1073 | July 11, 2026 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

Our flagship edition of our flagship tournament ended recently and we were very honored to host the **3rd Jeremy Silman Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon**. It was - according to my records - the strongest Tuesday Night Marathon we've ever held, with two grandmasters and fourteen total masters in the top section! A HUGE thank you to Gwen Feldman and the Silman James Press who donated to the prize fund and donated a large amount of Jeremy's books as raffle prizes.

The top section was incredibly strong and ended with **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2663)** and **GM Mark Heimann (2547)** tying for 1st place after both finished at 6.5 points. Their only draw came from each other in round 3 and it was a hard fought draw! Just behind them, **Quincy Chen (2077)** and **FM Andy C Lee (2322)** shared 3rd place with matching 5.0 scores. **Kristian Clemens (1943)** rounded out the prize list, earning Best U2000 with 4.5 points.

In the middle section, **CM Isaac Dan Zhao (1947)** took 1st place with a strong 6.0 score, followed by **Gagik Babayan (1691)** in 2nd at 5.5. **Charlie Schaezlein (1571)** and **Daniel Sevall (1798)** tied at 5.0, splitting 3rd place award.

In the under section, **Romeo Belmes Barreyro (1500)** dominated with an outstanding 6.5 score to win 1st place outright. **Connor Harriman (1419)** secured 2nd with 5.5 points. **Robert Turner (1251)** and **Samuel Schlenker (1311)** tied at 5.0 for 3rd place.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason and IA/NTD Dr. Judit Sztaray.

Our next tournament of the month was our **June Monthly Scholastic Tournament**. Congratulations to **Adam Tennant (1377)**, who claimed 1st place in a strong field in our 600+ section! **Ethan C Leung (1236)** put in a great performance to take 2nd, **Theodore Tissot-Dupont (702)** rounded out the podium in 3rd, and **Aneesh Somani (577)** and **Blouin Morin (1126)** tied for 4th with Theodore with Theodore and Aneesh winning out on tiebreaks. In our under600 section, I have to say well done to **Sevan Saint Pierre**

Goorjian (448) on a fantastic 1st-place finish! **Kanstantsin Halasiuk (541)** earned a solid 2nd, while **Eddy Yuanzhe Qi (unr.)**, **Parker Firmage (374)**, and **Alex Lopez (365)** received trophies for 3rd-5th based on tiebreaks.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Abel Talamantez.

Our next tournament of the month was our **25th Henry Gross Memorial** was a tightly contested top section, with **FM Austin R Mei (2336)** and **NM Theodore James Coyne (2297)** finishing in a share of 1st place after a hard-fought event. Just behind them, **Christopher Timothy Atkeson (2080)** and **Sreyshthaa Krishnan (1875)** battled to a tie for 3rd, capping off a strong showing from the section's higher-rated players.

In the middle section, **Wes Pereira (1754)** turned in the standout performance of the section, taking clear 1st place ahead of the field. Right behind, a crowded four-way tie for 2nd formed between **Fan Jin (1759)**, **Kaihan Liu (1702)**, **Stephen J Balhoff (1640)**, and **Yuvan Nandhakumar (1623)** — a testament to how competitive this bracket was.

Congratulations to **Yinuo Huang (1516)** and **Ryan Gai (1217)**, who shared the top spot after a well-earned tie for 1st place in the under section. Rounding out the podium, **Ethan Lam (1273)** claimed 3rd on his own with a strong showing of 3.5 points.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next weekend event was our second **Monthly Scholastic Tournament**. **Sia Kurkure (855)** took top honors, edging out **Bradley L Harger (1402)** in a tie for 1st. **Shivaansh Girish (929)** claimed 3rd, with **Thomas C Moore (1305)** and **Ezra Mart (972)** rounding out the standings in a shared 4th. **Eva Gunzenhauser (356)** and **Ian Kim (324)** shared the top spot in a tie for 1st place. **Parker Firmage (374)** followed in 3rd, while **Dev Light (unr.)** and **Atticus Pass (unr.)** tied for 4th and took 5th, respectively.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

In the **Summer Celebration Blitz**, **NM Daniel Cremisi (2350)** dominated the top section with an outstanding score of 6.5 out of 7 securing 1st place. Close behind, **NM Sebastian Suarez (2327)** turned in a strong performance

to take 2nd, while **GM Mark Heimann (2547)** rounded out the podium in 3rd.

In the under1800, **Rithvik Prakki Prakki (1618)** was the star, posting a perfect score to claim 1st place outright. The battle for 2nd was fierce, with five players finishing in a tie at 5.0 points each: **Kar Lun Cheng (1764)**, **Ritwik Saha (1630)**, **David Siegel (1627)**, **Thu Anh Le (1474)**, and **Ethan C Leung (1236)**, reflecting just how competitive the middle of the field was.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next tournament was our **60th Stamer Memorial Tournament**. **Abhishek Mallela (2083)** led the section wire-to-wire, finishing with a perfect score to take 1st place. **Zee Chin (1988)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd, and **Tapas Aarav Natraj (1955)** secured 3rd with 2.5. Rounding out the special prizes, **Arjunsai Navaneetha Prabhu (1792)** posted 2.0 to claim Top U2000, while **Quincy Chen (2077)** and **Justin Fink (2077)** tied at 2.0 apiece for Top U2200.

In the middle section, **Aaditya Joshua Rajesh (1585)** had a standout tournament, also posting a perfect score to win the section outright. Behind him, a packed five-way tie at 3.0 developed among **Deepak Sundaram (1725)**, **Wayne W Ballantyne (1939)**, **Matthew Wang (1751)**, **Ethan Han (1652)**, and **Ojas Parhar (1632)**, covering 2nd place, 3rd place, and the Top U1800 prize. **Vasisht Macharla (1498)** picked up the Top U1600 award with a 2.5 score.

In the under section, **Ethan Lam (1273)** ran away with a perfect score to take 1st place. **Nevaa Vikram Jadhav (1166)** earned 2nd with a 3.5 score. 3rd place was shared between **Sandesh Aher (1515)** and **Ethan Y Wang (1416)**, who each finished at 3.0. In the category prizes, **Alex Alaniz (1154)** took the U1200 award with 2.5, while **Peter Xu (1340)** and **Jai Yadav (1247)** tied at 2.5 for the U1400 prize.

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

These tournaments were directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Remembering Anthony P. Corrales: Three Years Later

By Colin Ma

Anthony P. Corrales (1969-2023) worked at the Mechanics' Institute between 1998 and 2016. Anthony ran the scholastic chess program. He caught chess classes, directed chess tournaments, and mentored chess players. He passed away in July of 2023.

The first tribute to Anthony appeared in the chess room newsletter #1040 (August 12, 2023). It was followed by a second tribute in the chess room newsletter #1051 (July 20, 2024). A third tribute appeared in the chess room newsletter #1061 (July 5, 2025). The third tribute is the longest and most detailed article about Anthony's contributions to the Mechanics' Institute chess community.

After Anthony passed away, chess books were donated to the MI Library in his memory. These books have the bookplate "In Memory of Anthony P. Corrales" affixed to them. They are also listed as such in the library catalog. From an initial batch of twenty-six books in the first year after Anthony passed away, the number of books has increased to 79 today. The number of books has more than tripled from the initial batch. Within the past year, twenty-six more books were added to the collection. They are listed here with call numbers if available. (Some of the books are still being processed and are expected to be available in the MI Library later.)

- *Batsford's Chess Bible* by Sean Marsh - Batsford, 2021 - Call Number 794.12 M366

- *Learn to Play Chess Like a Boss* by Patrick Wolff (DK Publishing, 2019) - Call Number 794.1 W855L

- *Chess Progress: From Beginner to Winner* by Erik M. Czerwin (Everyman Chess, 2014) - Call Number pending

- *Chess Training for Post-Beginners: A Basic Course in Positional Understanding* by Yaroslav Srokovski (New in Chess, 2014) - Call Number 794.1 S77

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- *Tricks, Traps, and Tips in the Chess Opening: Practical Lessons for Ambitious Improvers* by Dean Ippolito (New in Chess, 2022) - Call Number 794.122 I649
 - *Chess Openings for Dummies. 2nd Edition.* by James Eade and Carsten Hansen (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2025) - Call Number 794.122 E105
 - *PCO Practical Chess Openings* by Martyn Kravtsiv (Gambit Publications, 2025) - Call Number 794.122 K918
 - *The Chess Tactics Detection Workbook* by Volker Schlepütz and John Emms (Everyman Chess, 2014) - Call Number pending
 - *The Checkmate Patterns Manual* by Raf Mesotten (New in Chess, 2022) - Call Number pending
 - *Chess Strategy Move by Move* by Adam Hunt (Everyman Chess, 2013) - Call Number 794.12 H939
 - *Break the Rules! A Modern Look at Chess Strategy* by Neil McDonald (Everyman Chess, 2012) - Call Number pending
 - *The Greatest Ever Chess Strategies* by Sam Collins (Everyman Chess, 2012) - Call Number pending
 - *The Most Exciting Chess Games Ever* by Steve Giddins (New in Chess, 2022) - Call Number 794.15 G45m
 - *In the Zone: The Greatest Winning Streaks in Chess History* by Cyrus Lakdawala (New in Chess, 2020) - Call Number 794.15 L192i
 - *Learn from the Legends 2: Chess Heroes at Their Best* by Mihail Marin (Quality Chess, 2025) - Call Number pending
 - *Fighting Chess Move by Move* by Colin Crouch (Everyman Chess, 2012) - Call Number pending
 - *Your Best Move: A Structured Approach to Move Selection in Chess* by Per Ostman (Everyman Chess, 2011) - Call Number pending

- *Test Your Chess* by Zenón Franco (Everyman Chess, 2014) - Call Number 794.1 F825t
- *Sherlock's Method: The Working Tool for the Club Player* by Elshan Moradiabadi and Sabina Foisor (Thinkers Publishing, 2020) - Call Number pending
- *500 Chess Questions Answered* by Andrew Soltis (Batsford, 2021) - Call Number 794.1 S69f
- *Reveal Your Chess Style* by Andrew Soltis (Batsford, 2025) - Call Number 794.1 S69r
- *Maximize Your Chess Potential!* by Dan Heisman (Popular Chess, 2025) - Call Number 794.12 H473
- *The Comfort Zone: Keys to Your Chess Success* by Daniel Gormally (Thinkers Publishing, 2021) - Call Number pending
- *Reaching the Top?! by Peter Kurzdorfer (Russell Enterprises, 2015) - Call Number pending*
- *Associative Thinking: How to Connect Patterns and Creativity in Chess* by Mikhail Shereshevsky (New in Chess, 2025) - Call Number pending
- *The New in Chess Book of Chess Improvement* (New in Chess, 2017) - Call Number 794.15 N53g

For absolute beginners to chess, the books by Sean Marsh, GM Patrick Wolff, and Erik Czerwin are suitable. These books provide instruction on the basic rules of chess and more. (GM Wolff is currently serving as a trustee of the Mechanics' Institute.)

The book by IM Yaroslav Srokovski could be helpful for post-beginners who seek to improve their positional understanding.

On chess openings, the books by IM Dean Ippolito, FM James Eade/FM Carsten Hansen, and GM Martyn Kravtsiv provide instruction. The Eade/Hansen book is for beginners, while the Kravtsiv book is for more advanced players. (FM Eade is a former trustee of the Mechanics' Institute.)

On chess tactics, the books by Volker Schlepütz/GM John Emms and Raf Mesotten provide instruction. The Schlepütz/Emms book is about developing a stronger awareness of chess tactics. The checkmate patterns book by Mesotten is based on his popular Chessable course.

On chess strategy, the books by IM Adam Hunt, GM Neil McDonald, and IM Sam Collins provide instruction.

The books by FM Steve Giddins, IM Cyrus Lakdawala, GM Mihail Marin, and IM Colin Crouch are collections of annotated games. GM Marin's book is the second volume that follows up his first critically-acclaimed book about chess legends.

The books by Per Ostman, GM Zenón Franco, and GM Elshan Moradiabadi/WGM Sabina Foisor focus on helping players select the best move. (The Sherlock Holmes motif was used in the book by GM Moradiabadi and WGM Foisor. However, in the original canonical stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, neither Sherlock Holmes nor his friend Dr. John Watson ever played chess.)

There are two books by GM Andrew Soltis, a prolific author. One discusses chess-playing style, and the other answers a wide range of questions about chess.

The books by NM Dan Heisman, GM Daniel Gormally, NM Peter Kurzdorfer, and Mikhail Shereshevsky can help with chess improvement. The New in Chess book, compiled and edited by FM Steve Giddins, is a collection of best articles from New in Chess that can help chess players improve.

These new books at the MI Library continue the endeavor to honor Anthony's memory at the Mechanics' Institute.

Chess Moves of the Revolution: Two Chess Stories for America's 250th Anniversary

by NM Dmitry Dzhanhirov

Published on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of American Independence 2026

Preface

The crowning event of 2026 in the United States is, without question, the celebration of the 250th anniversary of American Independence. To mark this historic milestone, I have dedicated two stories to the opening chapter of the Revolutionary War, told through the vivid, metaphorical language of chess.

The first story covers the Battle of Lexington and Concord — April 19, 1775 — the opening clash of the Revolutionary War, in which the American militia routed the British regulars in a running battle from Lexington to Cambridge.

The second story covers the Siege of Boston — April 1775 to March 1776 — culminating in Washington's seizure of Dorchester Heights and the British evacuation of the city.

Both chess compositions are drawn from the classic repertoire of chess problem art, chosen for the remarkable way their solutions mirror the historical events they represent.

About the Author

Dmitry Dzhanhirov is a USCF National Chess Master, Co-Champion of the 2025 Northern California Senior (50+) Chess Championship, and an independent researcher specializing in LLM-based chess AI systems in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In the first battle of the **American War of Independence**, a spontaneously formed American militia defeated a large detachment of the regular British colonial army on **April 19, 1775**.

Diagram 1. White to move and mate in 9.

The British colonial forces – Black – are based in **Boston**, in the upper-right corner of the board. The American militiamen – White – have established a network of arsenals with weapons and gunpowder – represented by the White rooks and bishops – for a prolonged war against the mother country.

By order from London, British General **Thomas Gage** sent a large force out of Boston to seize the militia arsenal in **Concord** – the lower-right corner of

the board – under the command of Major **John Pitcairn**, represented by the Black king.

The Battle Begins — Lexington

On the morning of April 19, the British vanguard entered **Lexington** – square **a4** – where it encountered an armed militia detachment. Major Pitcairn ordered them to lay down their arms and disperse, but the militiamen engaged in battle:

1.b2-b3+ Nc5xb3

2.a2xb3+ Ka4-b4

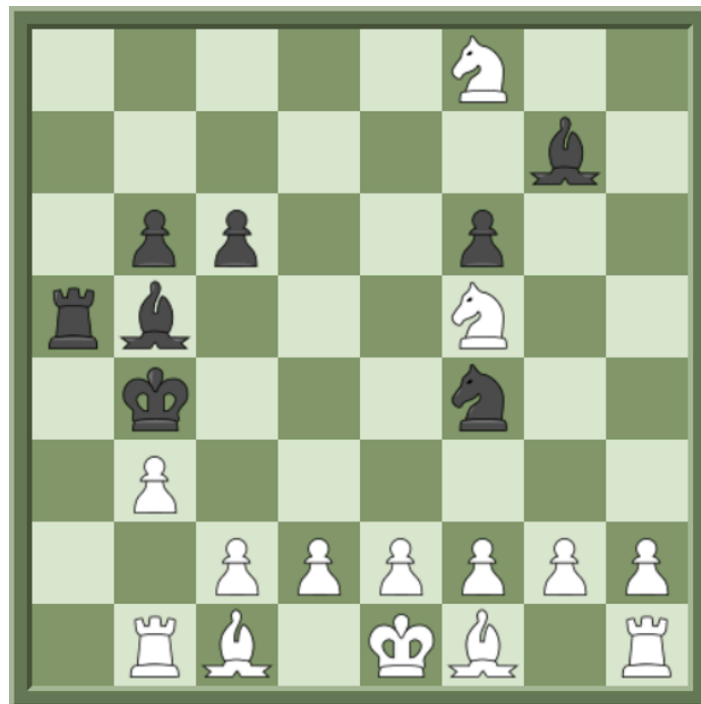


Diagram 2. After 2...Ka4–b4.

Then other militia units began to arrive at the battlefield, and the British were forced to retreat back toward Boston.

Retreat and Rout — Lincoln & Menotomy

During the withdrawal, the British were attacked by the militia at **Lincoln** and **Menotomy** (now Arlington), after which their retreat turned into a rout:

3.c2-c3+ Kb4-c5

4.d2-d4+ Kc5-d5

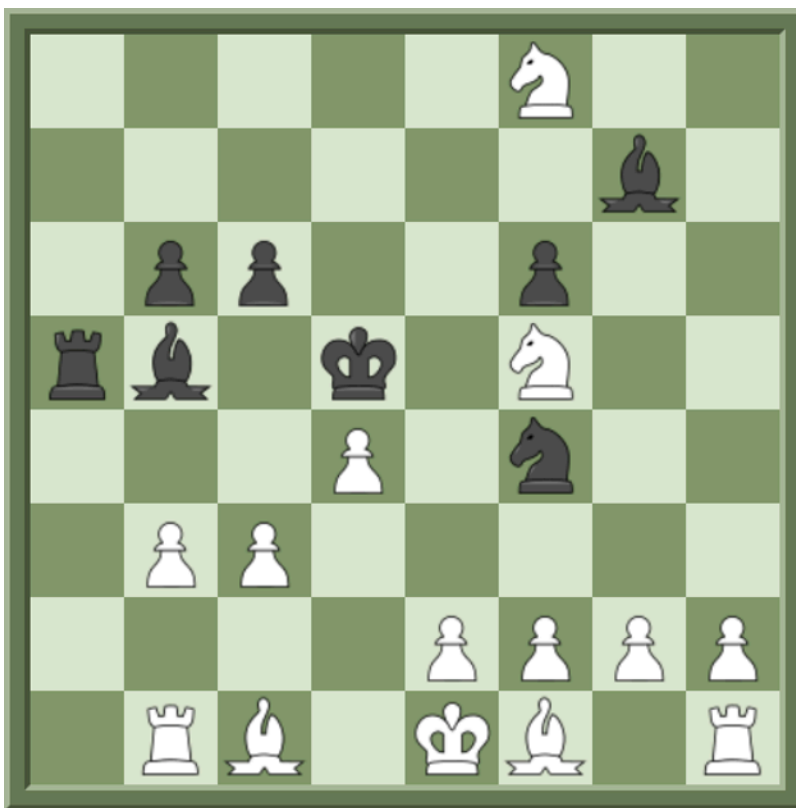


Diagram 3. After 4...Kc5-d5.

Fresh Detachments Enter the Fray

Fresh detachments of militiamen now enter the fray:

5.e2-e4+ Kd5xe4

6.f2-f3+ Ke4xf5



The final militia attacks took place in Cambridge, a suburb of Boston, bringing the victorious battle to its conclusion:

7.g2-g4+ Kf5-g5
8.h2-h4+ Kg5-h6
9.Bxf4#

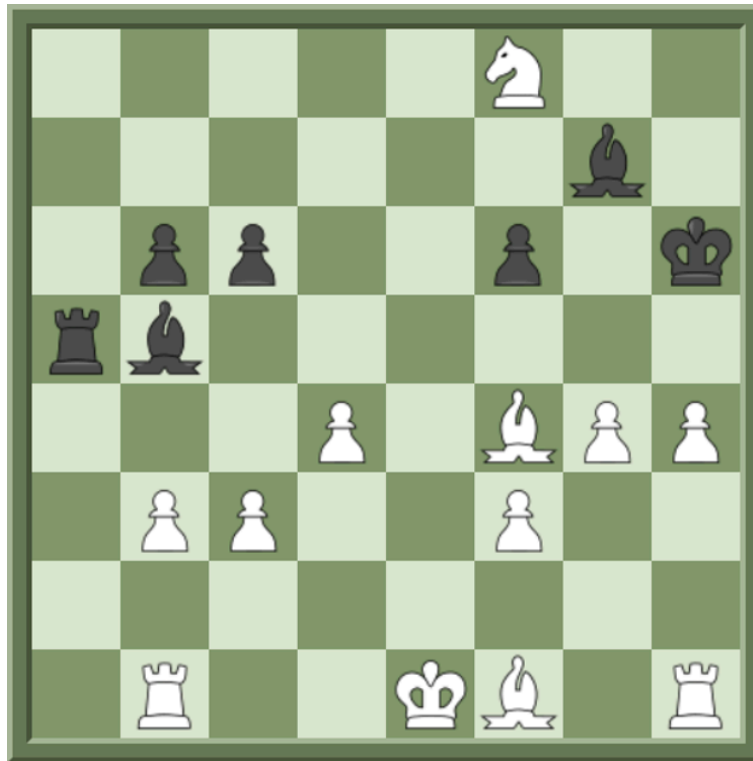


Diagram 5. Final position after 9.Bxf4#.

II. Siege of Boston

The Capture of Boston became the most striking event of the initial phase of the American War of Independence. Militiamen from New England, who would later become soldiers of the Continental Army, under the command of **George Washington**, blockaded the city for **11 months** starting from April 19, 1775. **On March 17, 1776**, the British were forced to surrender Boston.

To describe this historical event, I chose a study by the famous Soviet Ukrainian chess composer **Filipp Bondarenko**, first published in 1984 in the Hungarian chess magazine *Magyar Sakkelet*.

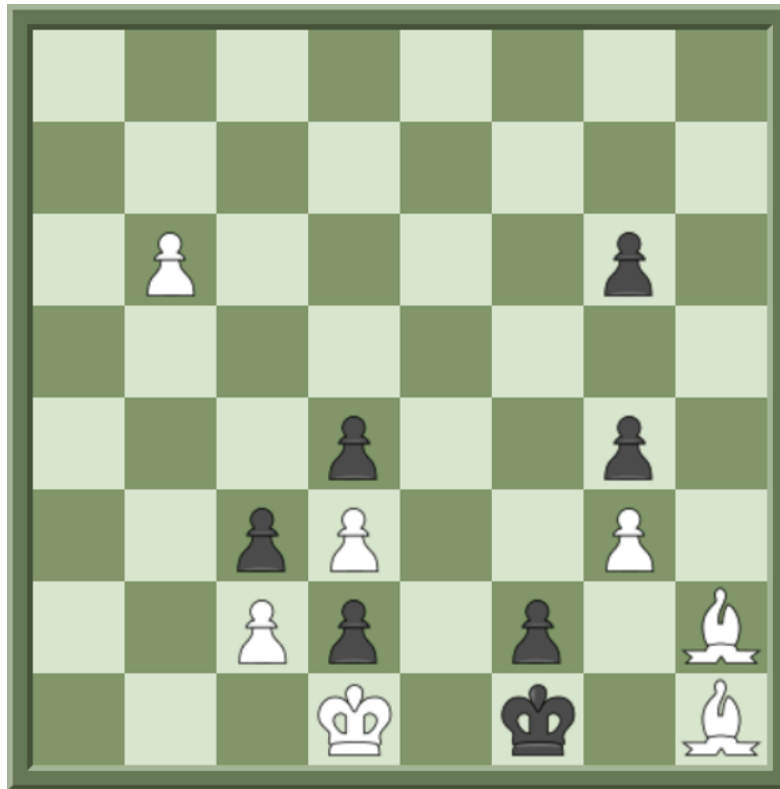


Diagram 1. White to move and win.

The Setup

George Washington – the white King on d1 – established his headquarters in **Cambridge**, where one part of the militiamen (white pieces) besieging Boston was positioned on squares **f1** and **f2**.

Another part of the future Continental Army was located in the area of the **Dorchester Heights fortifications** – on squares **g3** and **g4**. These heights provided a convenient position for shelling Boston, but the Americans lacked siege artillery.

The pawn on **b6** represents **Ethan Allen's** detachment marching to storm **Fort Ticonderoga** – square **b8**.

The defense of Boston is commanded by the British General **Thomas Gage** – the black King on **f1**. American loyalists join the British army – the pawns on **g4** and **g6**.

The Stalemate Trap

The siege drags on, and the situation is close to a deadlock. For example, after 1.Bh1–d5? g6–g5, stalemate becomes inevitable, because if the light-squared bishop retreats along the a2–g8 diagonal, the British break the blockade with 2...Kf1–g2 and win.

Henry Knox and Fort Ticonderoga

In this situation, the decisive factor becomes the expedition of Henry Knox – Bh1 – who goes to fetch artillery from Fort Ticonderoga:

1.Bh1 – a8! g6 – g5
2.b6-b7

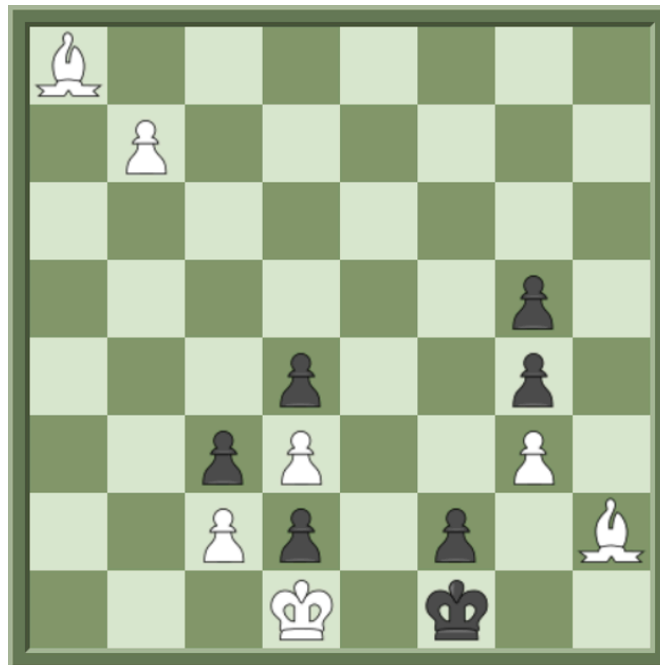


Diagram 2. After 2.b6-b7.

The pawn has blocked the bishop and the black king is no longer stalemated:

2... Kf1 – g2
3. b7 – b8=Q+

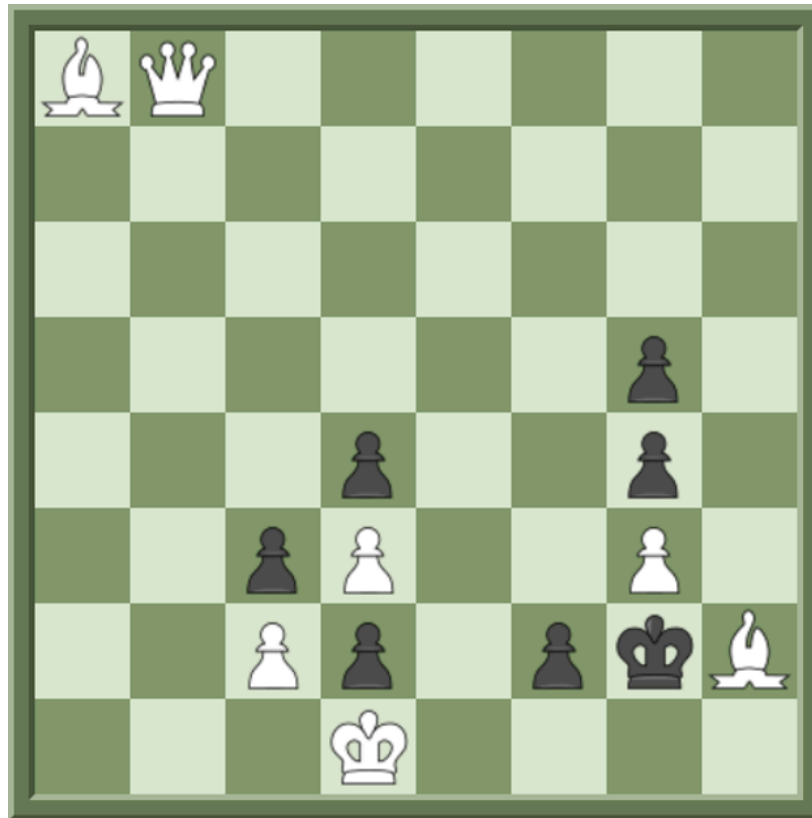


Diagram 3. After 3.b7-b8=Q+.

In the captured Fort Ticonderoga, a large amount of siege artillery was found, and Knox organized its transport to Boston.

3...Kg2 – f1

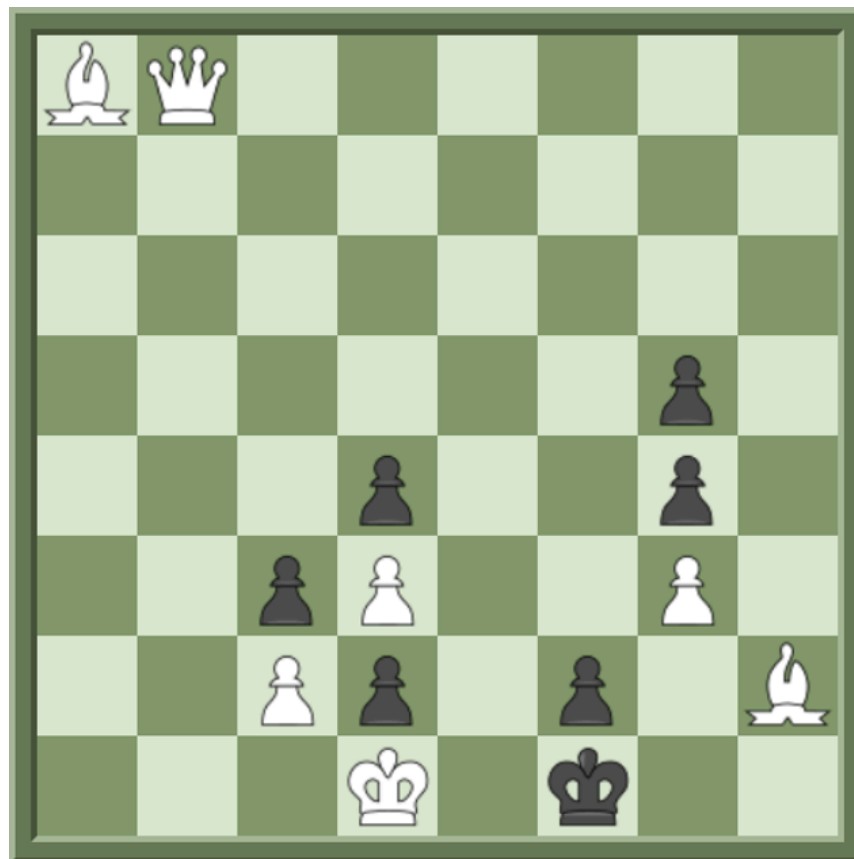


Diagram 4. After 3...Kg2-f1.

Artillery Arrives at Dorchester Heights

As we can see, Black is still hoping for a stalemate, but Henry Knox ensures the transportation of the siege guns and the preparation of artillery positions on Dorchester Heights.

4.Ba8 – f3! gxf3

5.g3-g4

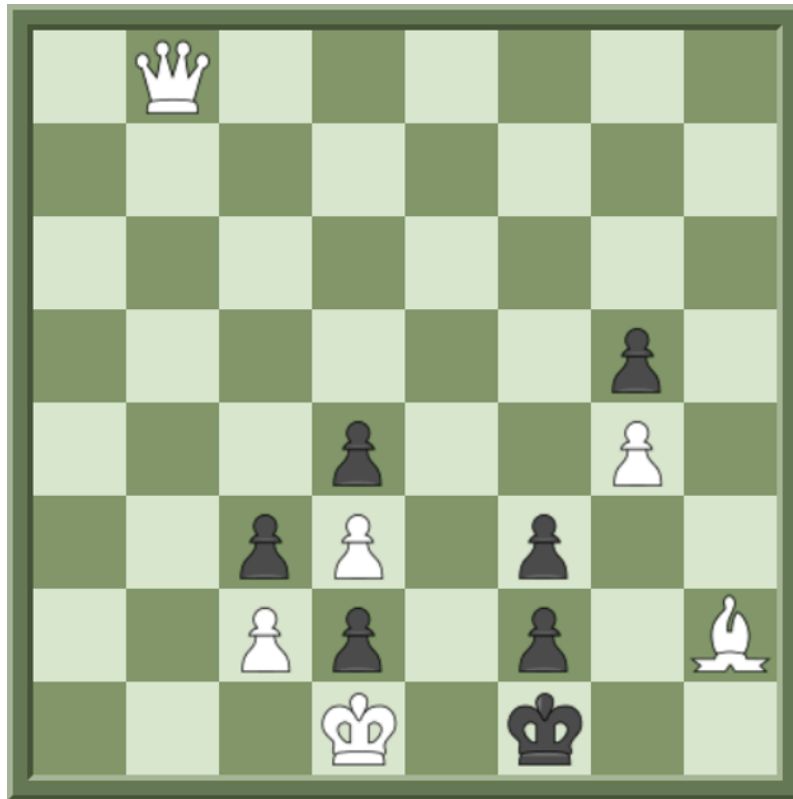


Diagram 5. After 5.g3-g4.

The British Counter Attack Fails

The British try to attack Dorchester Heights with

5...Kf1-g2,

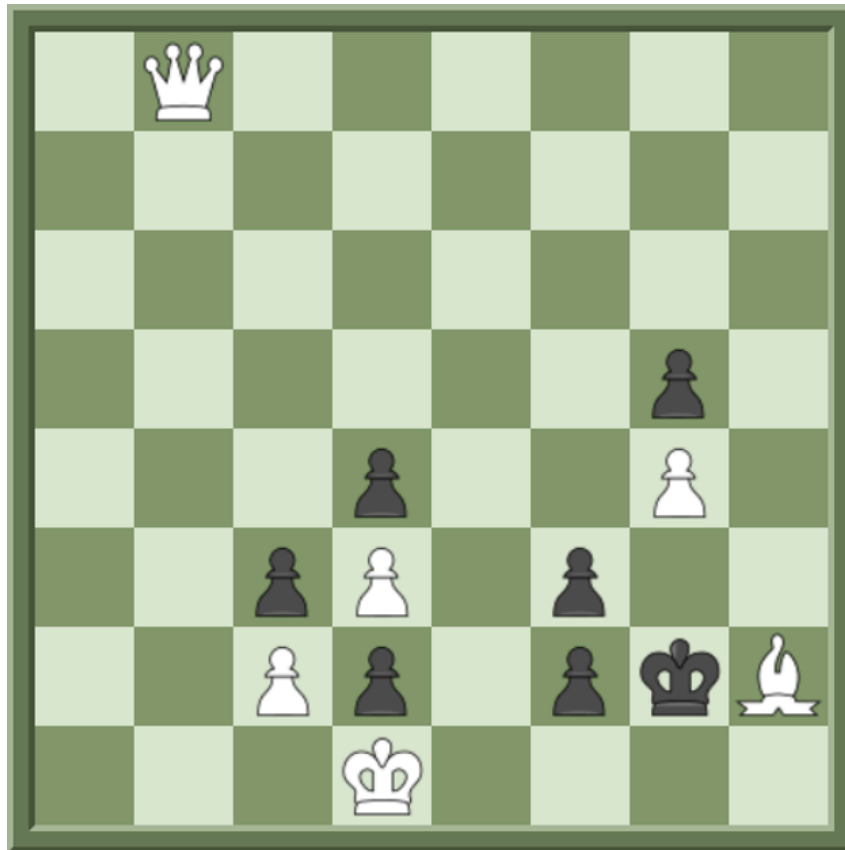


Diagram 6. After 5...Kf1-g2.

but unsuccessfully:

6.Qb8 – g3+ Kg2-f1

After that, the siege artillery of the American militia begins bombarding Boston, forcing the British garrison to capitulate:

7.Qg3 – h3#

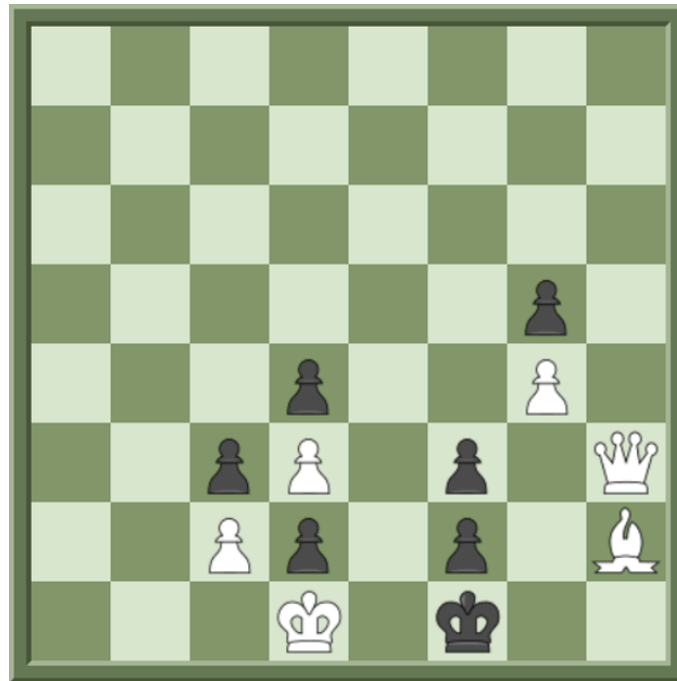


Diagram 7. Final position after 7.Qg3-h3#.

Tactical Fireworks

By FM Henry Deng

The 2026 World Open, the largest open chess tournament in the United States, took place in Washington, DC at the Omni Shoreham Hotel from July 1-5. This marked a departure from its long-time venue, the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel, where it is traditionally held following the Philadelphia International, an event that was not held this year. I played the World Open last year, though I did not get to do so this year, it was a fun and worthwhile experience. The Open section was headlined by many GMs and IMs all vying for the coveted guaranteed \$65,400 in prizes for the Open Section. GM Haowen Xue won the playoffs in the end, beating out GM Praneeth Vuppala and IM Evan Park tied for first as well, all three ended up with 7.5/9.

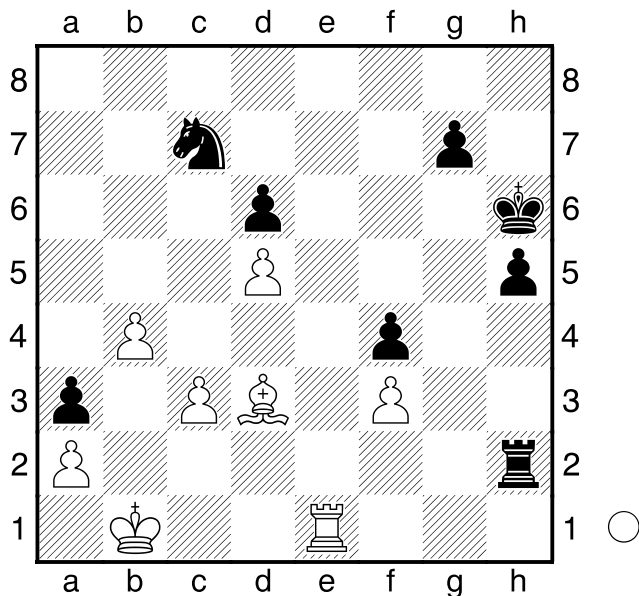
Here are a selection of some of the interesting tactics that caught my eye from the tournament:

□ Jiang, Lucas
 ■ Andriasian, Zaven

B90
2362
2538

54th Annual World Open 2026 (5) 3.7.26
 [Deng, Henry]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7
 8.Be3 Be6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 b5
 11.g4 b4 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 a5
 14.Kb1 a4 15.Nc1 Qa5 16.g5 Nh5
 17.Bh3 f5 18.gxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd3 Na6
 20.Bg4 Nf4 21.Nxf4 exf4 22.Be6+
 Kh8 23.Bd4 Nc7 24.Bxf6 Rxf6
 25.Bd7 a3 26.b3 Raf8 27.Rhe1 Rg6
 28.Bc6 Qc5 29.Qd4 Na6 30.Qxc5
 Nxc5 31.Rd4 h5 32.Rxb4 Rg2
 33.Rb6 Rf5 34.b4 Re5 35.Rb8+ Kh7
 36.Re8 Rxe8 37.Bxe8 Na6 38.c3
 Rxh2 39.Bb5 Nc7 40.Bd3+ Kh6



Up until this move, Black's position was better with his active rook neutralizing White's king and White's passed b-pawn. In addition, Black has his own menacing passed h-pawn that is looking to run down the board. Black now tries to move his king up, which seems like the natural move to move out of the check and activate the king. However, this gives

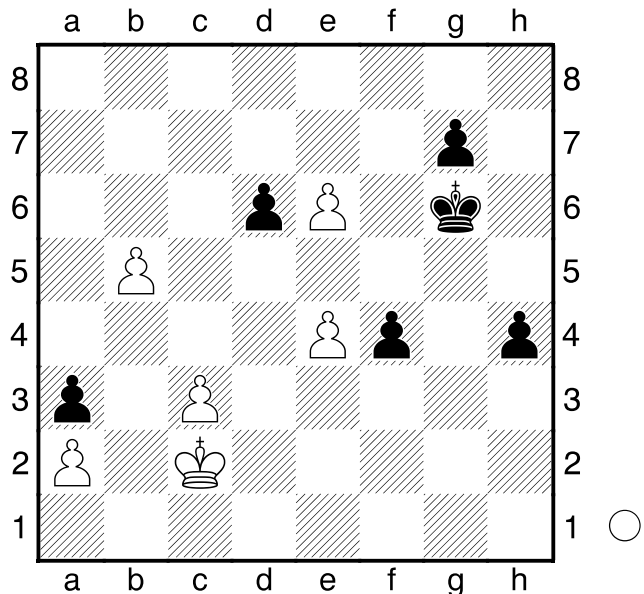
White an unexpected opportunity...

41.Re6+! The only move! All other moves lose. The rook "sacrifices itself" on e6, though as it turns out, accepting the sacrifice will not work out for Black.

[41.Bc4 Attempting to protect the d5 pawn and push the b-pawn. However, Black's rook activity easily stops White's pawn while helping Black's pawn push forward to promotion. h4 42.b5 Rb2+ White's b-pawn will be taken off the board next turn.]

41...Kg5 Unfortunately this has to be played for Black, but this gives White yet another passed pawn, and White's rook is also active.

[41...Nxe6 42.dxe6 Rh1+ 43.Kc2 Re1 44.Be4 Next move, White will just go e7 and the Black king is cutoff from the pawn by the White bishop and his own pawn on g7. Black has one last try though. Rxe4 45.fxe4 Kg6 46.b5 h4



It might look like Black promotes just in time, but it turns out that the combination of threatening the promotion of the b-pawn and the e-pawn gives White one extra tempo that is just enough to stop Black's

pawns. 47.b6 h3 48.e7! Kf7 49.b7 h2 50.e8Q+ Kxe8 51.b8Q+ Ke7 52.Qb1+-]

42.Rxd6 Rb2+ 43.Kc1 h4 44.Rg6+ Kh5 45.d6 White's pawn is too fast. The problem for Black is that White's king and bishop are controlling the d-file and not allowing Black's rook to stop the pawn. The second rank in which Black's rook was dominating earlier suddenly became its own prison. **45...h3 46.Rxg7 Ne6 47.Rh7+ Kg5 48.Bc4**

Black resigned. After Nd8, Rxh3, Black's threats are all neutralized and in the aftermath, White will be up 3 pawns.

Analysis: **48...h2 49.Bxe6 Rg2 50.d7 Rg1+ 51.Kc2 h1Q 52.Rxh1 Rxh1 53.d8Q+- 1-0**

Lin, Bryan Enming **B92**
 Das, Aditeya **2381**
2298
 54th Annual World Open 2026 (7) 4.7.26
[Deng, Henry]

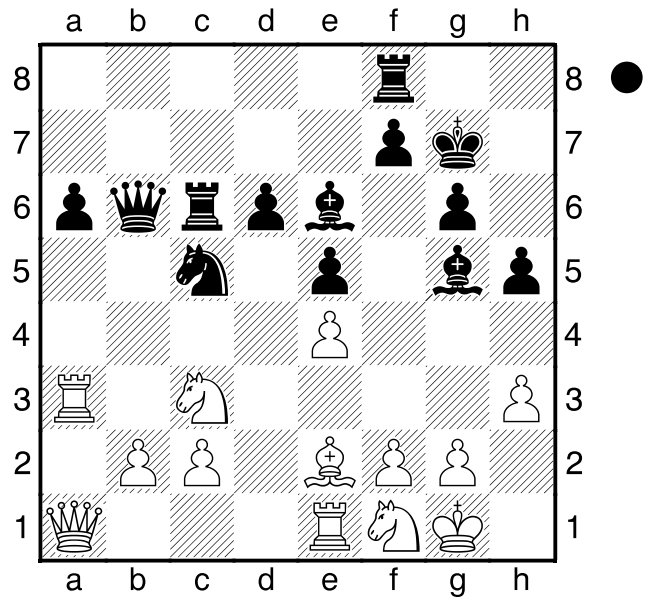
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Be6 10.Bf3 Nbd7 11.a4 h5 12.h3 Rc8 13.a5 g6 14.Be3 Kg7 15.Nd2 Nh7 16.Nf1 Rc6 17.Bd2 Ng5 18.Be2 Nc5 19.Bxg5 Bxg5 20.Ra3 b5 21.axb6 Qxb6 22.Qa1

(Diagram)

We arrive at a chaotic position. However, Black is clearly better with active pieces and the bishop pair. **22...f5!?**

This signals Black's intentions to attack White's king. However, it was stronger to go Qb4.

[22...Qb4 23.Nd5 Bxd5 24.exd5 Rb6+ Followed by f5 next turn. This



way, White will not be able to take on f5 and gain access to some weak squares in the center as in the game.]

23.exf5 Rxf5 This had to be played. Black could have tried to take with the pawn instead to maintain a strong pawn storm, but that turns out to weaken Black's position further.

[23...gxf5 24.Bf3 e4? A natural move to block the bishop. The best move was Bh4! targeting f2, but it wouldn't have been easy to spot. 25.b4!+- Opening up the long diagonal and eyeing Black's king. It also attacks the knight. There is no way for Black to defend.]

24.Bf3 Bh4! Not fazed by the attack on the c6 rook. Rxf3!? was also interesting, though we see that played one move later. **25.Ne3 Rxf3** A classic exchange sacrifice. It is relatively easy to justify it in this case, White's king is significantly weakened and the pawn structure is crippled. **26.gxf3 Bxh3 27.f4?** Attempting to open up the diagonal so that if exf4, then b4! wins again with the same idea. **27...Qd8?** Attempting to reroute the queen, but missing an even stronger way to do so.

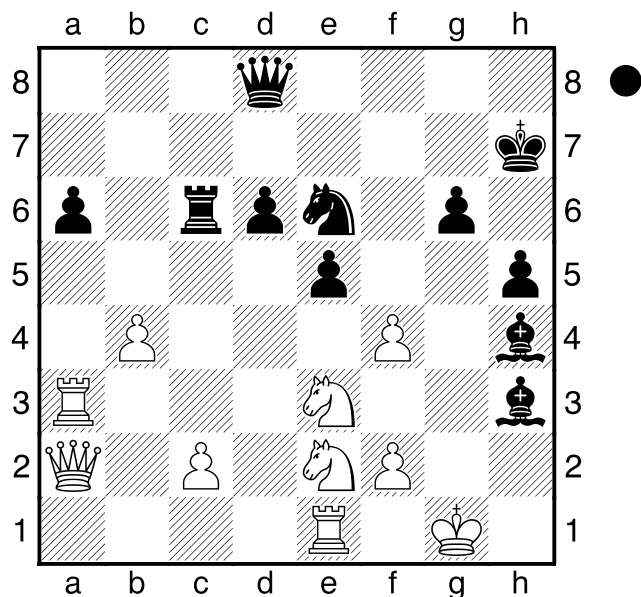
[27...Qb4! Black wants to take the f4 pawn with the queen. 28.Ned5 (28.Ncd5 Qd2 29.Rf1 Ne4-+) 28...Qd4 Brings the queen into the attack with decisive effect. The queen cannot be easily dislodged. 29.Re2 Be6 30.Ne3 exf4-+]

28.b4 Ne6 29.Ne2 The only move, White can't afford to let Black take the f4 pawn and bring the queen to g5.

29...Kh7 Getting the king out of the pin along the long diagonal. Black is now threatening to take the f4 pawn.

30.Qa2??

[30.Nd5 One of the best moves, attacking the bishop on h3. Bg4 31.Rc3 Rxc3 32.Qxc3 Qf8= Still not a clear position, but of course the evaluation is still technically equal.]

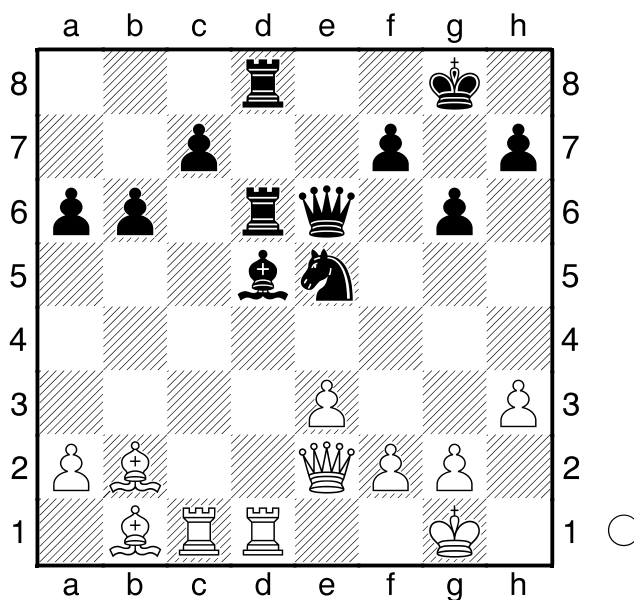


White makes the final mistake under all the pressure. As chaotic as the position was, it was still equal but practically hard for White to play given the ferocity of Black's attack. **30...Bxf2+! 31.Kxf2 Qh4+ 32.Ng3** Unfortunately, White has to block with the knight. If the queen were still on a1, White could have gone

back Kg1 and still been okay, but now that hangs the rook on e1! **32...Qxf4+** Both Qxf4 and exf4 were equally strong. **33.Ke2 Qxg3** Black recoups their minor piece. White is completely lost, unable to cope with the threats against the king. **34.Kd1 Qf3+ 35.Kd2 Nd4 36.c3 Nb5 37.Rxa6 Nxc3 38.Ra7+ Kh6 39.Qf7 Ne4+** After Kd3, Rc3# is checkmate. **0-1**

A13
2605
2502
54th Annual World Open 2026 (9) 5.7.26
[Deng, Henry]

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.b3 Bd6 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Nc3 Re8 7.d4 b6 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Rc1 a6 11.Re1 dxc4 12.bxc4 e5 13.Bc2 exd4 14.Nxd4 Ne5 15.Qe2 g6 16.Red1 Qe7 17.h3 Rad8 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.cxd5 Bxd5 20.Nf5 Qe6 21.Nxd6 Rxd6 22.Bb1 Red8



The final round clash. This is a high-stakes game, whoever wins will tie for first place. Black is up a pawn here but

White has strong bishops. **23.Qxa6?**
Not losing yet, but a mistake. The pawn
on a6, like c7, was a poisoned pawn.

[23.Rxc7?? Bxg2 24.Rxd6 Qxd6-+]
[23.e4 Bc4 24.Rxd6 Qxd6
25.Qe3=]

23...Nc4 A natural move, setting up a
devious trap. However, there was a
slightly stronger option.

[23...Qf6! 24.Bxe5 (24.Qf1 Nf3+
25.gxf3 Qxb2 This is clearly bad for
White with the ruined pawn structure
and weak king position.) 24...Qxe5
25.Qe2 c5+ White has won back the
pawn but now Black's pieces are
active, the strong dark square bishop
is off the board.]

24.Ba1??

[24.Bc3 Qd7 If Black tries the same
idea as the game, this time it is
different because of the bishop
placement. 25.Rxd5 Rxd5 26.Qxc4
There is no Rc5 here. Black can still
win the piece however. Rd1+
27.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 28.Kh2 Qxb1
29.Qxc7= White gets the time to take
the pawn and the position is equal
on account of Black's weak dark
squares around the king.]

24...Qd7! Nc4 took away the queen's
escape squares. It transpires that the
queen is going to be trapped by Ra8!
There is no good defense. **25.a4**

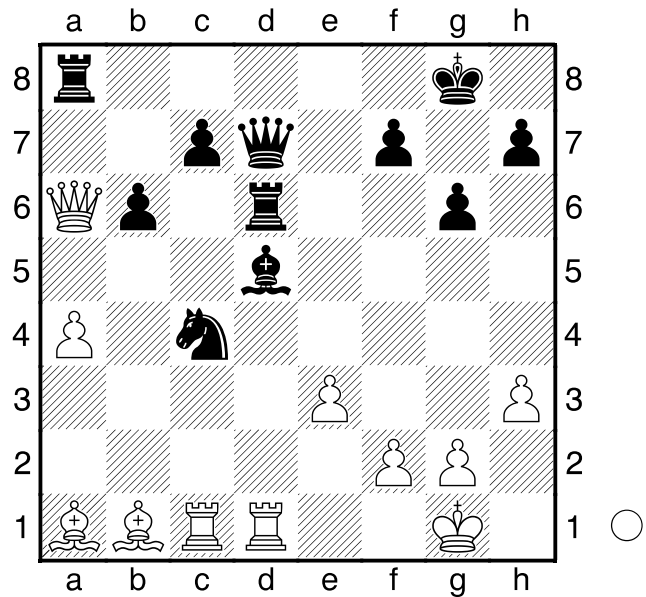
[25.Rxd5 Rxd5 26.Qxc4 Rc5 27.Qf1
Rxc1 28.Qxc1 Qd1+ 29.Qxd1 Rxd1+
30.Kh2 Rxb1-+]

25...Ra8

(Diagram)

After 26.Qb5 Qxb5 27. axb5 Rxa1, Black
is up a clean piece.

0-1



Annotated Games from the TNM and Recent Tournaments

By IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from the Spring 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](#). So scroll down to the next page to check out the games!

□ Heimann, Mark

■ Chen, Quincy

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 09.06.2026

[Winslow, Elliott]

C88

2547

2077

16.bxc3± 4 c5? 4:06

[16...Rb7±]

[16...Qd7]

[16...c6!?]

The last two rounds. After the grandmasters drew in Round 3 (with no small amount of drama), they both showed no mercy to the rest of the field, heading in high gear to 4-0 finishes, and a tie for 1st & 2nd, and possibly a record prize for the Tuesday Night Marathon. Courtesy of Jeremy's wife, Gwen Feldman. For some reason Heimann was on Board 1 this round, and he deserved it with classic restriction play on the White side of an Anti-Marshall Ruy Lopez. Chen found himself short on space for his minors, Heimann maneuvered nicely on the queenside then broke with f4 when Black couldn't maintain a piece on e5, and further pawn advances led to further line opening. An inaccuracy could have cost the GM the game, but Chen neglected to take advantage of it, and White won.

1.e4 9:40 e5 4 2.Nf3 7 Nc6 4 3.Bb5 19 a6 5 4.Ba4 6 Nf6 5 5.0-0 8 Be7 8

6.Re1 5 b5 13 7.Bb3 4 0-0 16 8.a4 9 b4 19 9.a5 35 d6 1:49 10.d3 1:16 Be6

2:37 11.Nbd2 28 Bxb3 49 12.Nxb3 13 Rb8 9 13.d4 2:35 White has an edge.

13...Rb5 7:51 14.d5N 5:13 A definite improvement on the only previous play:

[14.Qd3 Qc8 15.d5 Nb8̄ 16.Bg5

Nbd7 17.Nbd2 c6 18.dxc6 Qxc6

19.Bxf6 Bxf6 (19...Nxf6!) 20.Nc4

0-1 (34) Coro, L (2352)-Esipenko, A

(2720) Online Olymp Div Top-C,

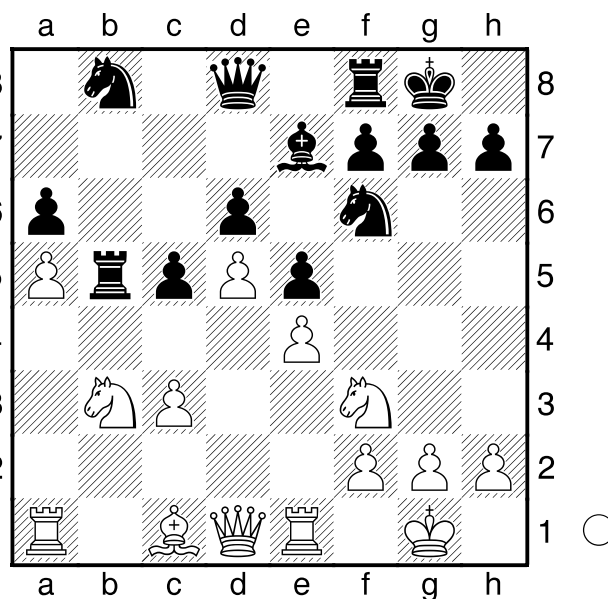
Chess.com 10 Sep 2021]

14...Nb8 18 15.c4! 36 Prevents c6.

[15.c3±]

15...bxc3 2:03

[Worse is 15...Rb7 16.c5±]



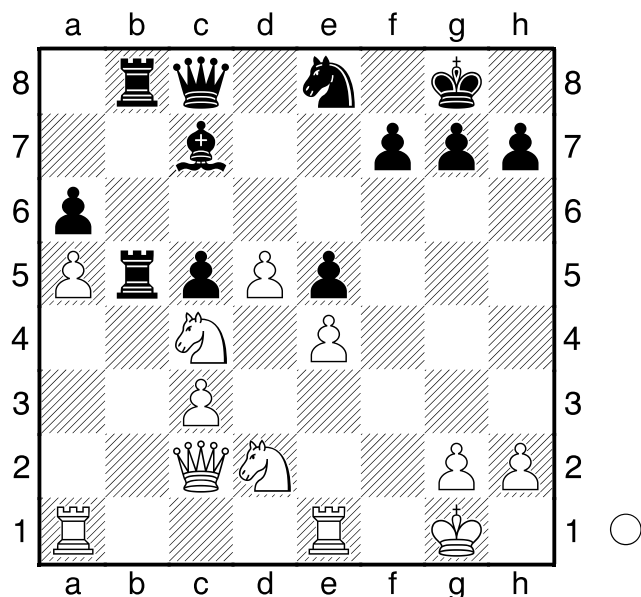
17.Nfd2!± 1:16 Nicely solving the weakness of the a-pawn, but it's still a strength. 17...Nbd7 1:21 18.Nc4 23 Qc7 2:16 19.Nbd2 1:05 Rfb8 1:10 20.Qc2 2:29 Ne8 8:09 21.Nf1 47 Bd8 3:00 22.Be3 4:21 Qc8 4:42 23.Nfd2 42 Bc7 1:15 Black appears to contort to attack the a-pawn three times, but White can always just guard it as well. 24.f4 6:46 exf4 5:43

[24...Qd8± is a better defense.]

25.Bxf4+- 5 Ne5 25 26.Bxe5! 1:59 dxe5 6

(Diagram)

27.Ra2 3:08 f6 3:52 28.h3 1:21 Nd6 2:45 29.Nxd6 18 Bxd6 5 30.Nc4 4 Qd8 9 31.Qd3 24 Kf8 8:10 32.Rf1 54 Kg8 2:50 33.Raf2 1:14 Kh8 1:41 34.g4 1:17 Around here the computer starts making ...Rxa5 the best try (but insufficient). 34...h6 5:01 35.h4 26 Qd7 55



36.g5 1:51 Bc7?! 13:21

[36...Rg8 37.gxf6 gxf6+ 38.Kh2]
[36...Bf8 37.Rg2]

37.gxf6 45 gxf6 9 38.Rg2 7

Black's rook on b5 is so out of play!

38...Rg8 1:03 39.Rff2 2:08

[39.Rxg8+! Kxg8 40.Kh2 It's Black's king in trouble.]

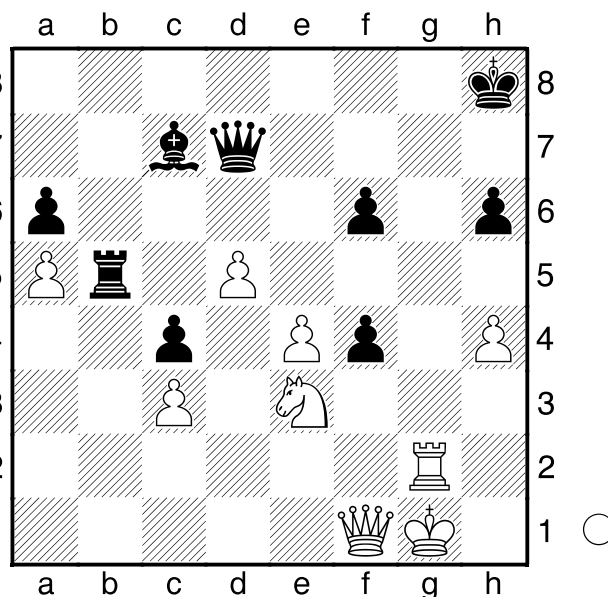
39...Rg4 4:29 40.Ne3! 4:27 c4 4:51

Doesn't help. **41.Qf1 55**

[41.Qd1]

41...Rf4 42.Rxf4 exf4

(Diagram)



43.Nxc4? 8:18

[43.Nf5+- (Rg6 would now be decisive) Qe8 44.d6! Bxa5 45.Qf3 (45.Qxf4?! Rb1+ 46.Kh2 Qe5+- is still won, but now Black's king is at least safe.) 45...Rxf5 46.exf5 Qe1+ 47.Kh2 Qxh4+ 48.Qh3 Qxh3+ 49.Kxh3]

43...Be5? 3:54 This move loses the game for Black.

[43...Qe7!≠ counterplay! 44.Qd3 Qc5+ 45.Qd4 Rb1+ 46.Kf2 Qxd4+ 47.cxd4 Rb4=]

44.Qf3 1:12 Qc8 1:35

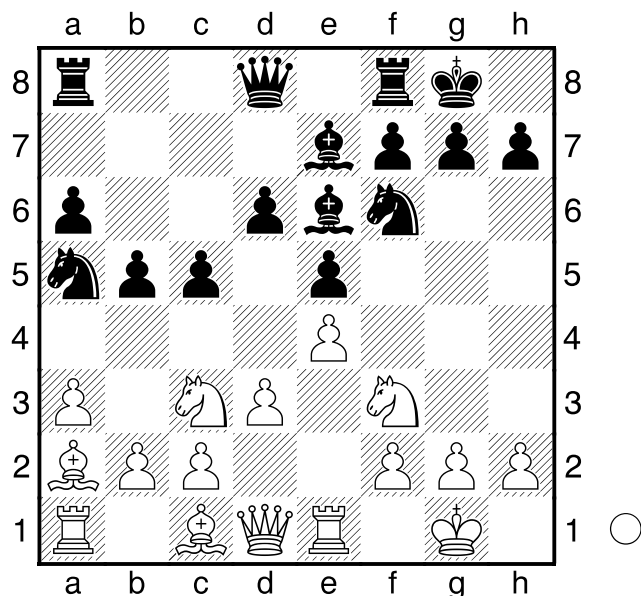
[44...Qe8 45.Nxe5 fxe5]

45.Nxe5 1:23 fxe5 2:48

The two connected passed pawns and constant king danger: it's over. **46.Qh5 7 Qf8 1:12 47.Qxe5+ 8** (Make that *three* connected passed pawns) **47...Kh7 4 48.Kh2 1:33 f3 43 49.Rf2 18 Qg8 1:13 50.Qf5+ 18 Kh8 17 51.Qxf3 10 Rb1 31 52.Qf6+ 10 Kh7 8 53.Rg2 1:10 Qb8+ 22** (54.e5 and 54.d6 are both mate in a few) Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.75 **1-0**

Yoo, Christopher Woojin **C88**
 Bhatia, Aadit **2663**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 09.06.2026 **2279**
[Winslow, Elliott]

Once again: Christopher Yoo outclasses another opponent, this time Quincy Chen, without much happening. He did seem to have set up a nice knight sac and then didn't played a less forcing one which might have cost him, but otherwise a fine game. **1.e4 2 e5 18 2.Nf3 11 Nc6 41 3.Bb5 7 a6 24 4.Ba4 7 Nf6 23 5.0-0 7 Be7 30 6.Re1 2:33 b5 41 7.Bb3 8 0-0 24 8.d3= 20** A different approach than seen in the previous game, in a way more "pure": slow build-up. **8...d6 59 9.a3 2:06 Na5 2:01 10.Ba2 39 c5 11.Nc3 48 Be6 2:34**

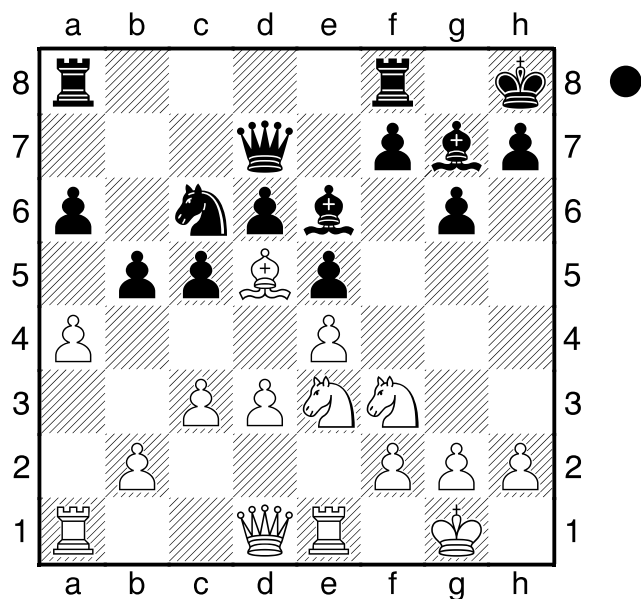


It can be said, though, that this approach wastes the first move; the position is equal. **12.Bg5 32 Nc6 2:08 13.Bxf6 2:06 Bxf6 35 14.Nd5 g6 57** is the legacy move (14...a5). **15.c3 37 Bg7 3:06 16.Ne3N 1:20**
 [Sam drew a blitz game with an inform Ding Liren a few years ago:
 16.b4 Ne7 17.Ne3 Qd7 18.a4 Rfb8

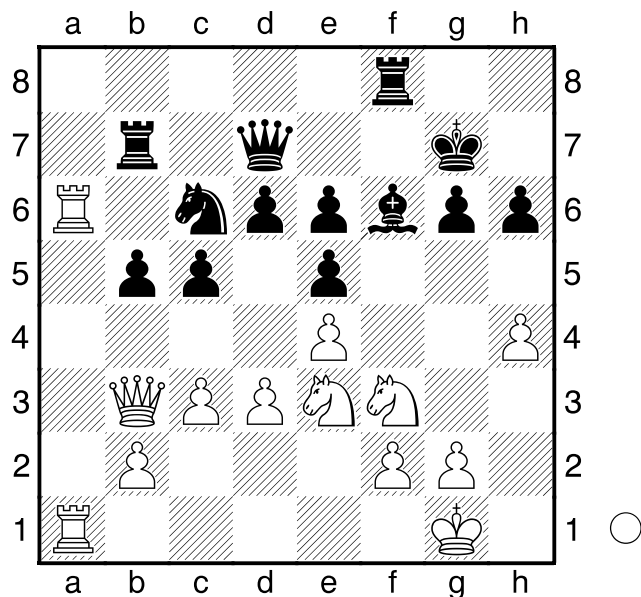
19.Bxe6 Qxe6 20.Qc2 Bh6 21.Qa2 Bxe3 22.Rxe3 Qxa2 23.Rxa2 cxb4 24.cxb4 ½-½ (35) Shankland,S (2705)-Ding,L (2811) Chess.com INT 2019]
 [But Kamsky managed a win against Karjakin in a rapid game from a while back: 16.h4 Kh8 17.g3 f5 18.Ng5 Bg8 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Qh5 h6 21.Kg2 Ne7 22.Qf3 Ra7 23.Nxe7 Rxe7 24.Bxg8 Rxb8 25.Nh3 Qa8 26.Nf4 Rb7 27.Nd5 Rf8 28.a4 bxa4 29.Re2 Qe8 30.Nf4 Rb3 31.h5 Kh7 32.Qd5 Rf6 33.Ng6 Qb5 34.Ne7 Qe8 35.Ng6 Rb8 36.f4 Re6 37.Rf1 Qf7 38.g4 fxg4 39.Kg1 Rf6 40.Qe4 Kg8 41.Qxa4 Rf5 42.Qe4 Re8 43.c4 Re6 44.Rff2 Rxh5 45.f5 Rf6 46.Rf1 Rg5 47.Ref2 Qd7 48.Kg2 Rf7 49.f6 Bf8 50.Kg3 Qe6 51.b3 a5 52.Nh4 Qd7 53.Ng6 Qe6 54.Nh4 Qd7 55.Nf5 Kh8 56.Ne3 Rh5 57.Nd5 Rh3+ 58.Kg2 g3 59.Rf5 Rh2+ 60.Kxg3 Rb2 61.Rh1 Qe6 62.Rf3 Rh7 63.Qg6 Rxb3 64.Rh4 Rb1 65.Kh2 Rb2+ 66.Kh1 a4 67.Rg4 Qf7 68.Qf5 a3 69.Ne7 a2 70.Ng6+ Qxg6 71.Qxg6 a1Q+ 72.Rg1 Qxg1+ 73.Kxg1 Rb1+ 74.Kg2 Rb2+ 75.Kh3 1-0, Kamsky,G (2762)-Karjakin,S (2775) Beijing rapid 15 Dec 2012]
16...Kh8 4:27 17.Bd5 3:20 Qd7 9:26
 [17...Bxd5= 18.Nxd5 a5]
18.a4± 1:11

(Diagram)

It does seem that Black's advanced pawns in many Closed Ruy Lopez lines are more weak than strong; in any case You is the guy to pick them apart.
18...Rab8 7:17 19.axb5 2:16 axb5 28 20.Ra6 1:15 Ne7 1:12 21.Bxe6 56 fxe6 3:45 22.Qa1 3:16 h6 10:36 23.Qa2 1:36 Rb7 38 24.Ra1 1:10 Nc6 7:43 25.h4 2:32 Second front. 25...Bf6 1:05

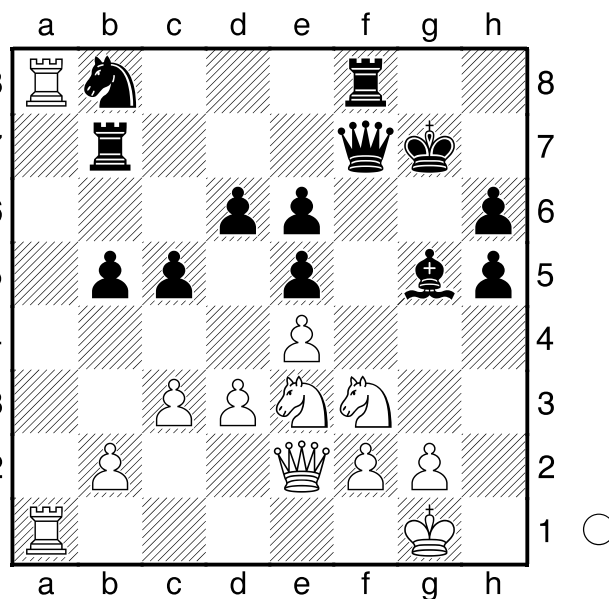


26.Qb3 1:11 Kg7± 1:21

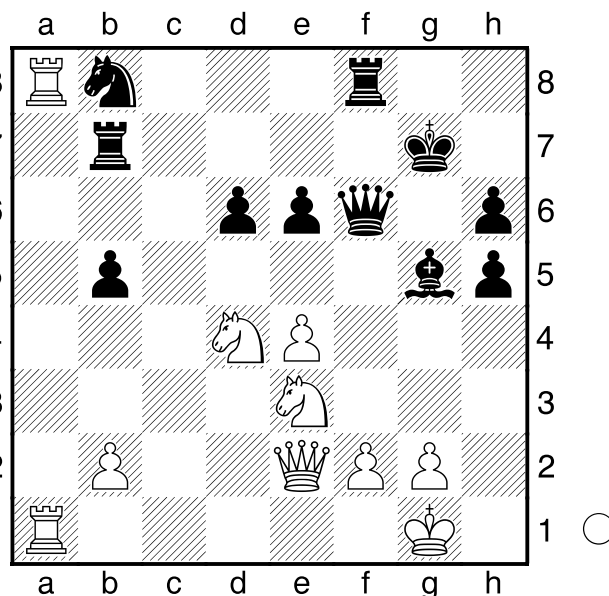


27.h5? 2:21 White could improve his position quite a bit before this, e.g. g3 & Kg2 so that a quick Rh1 would be available. Black isn't doing anything.
27...Nb8= 4:43 28.Ra8 1:46 hxc6 is in the air **28...gxh5 47 29.Qd1 4:29 Qf7 1:37** The computer gives Black a slight advantage here! **30.Qe2 3:48 Bg5?! 5:24**

(Diagram)

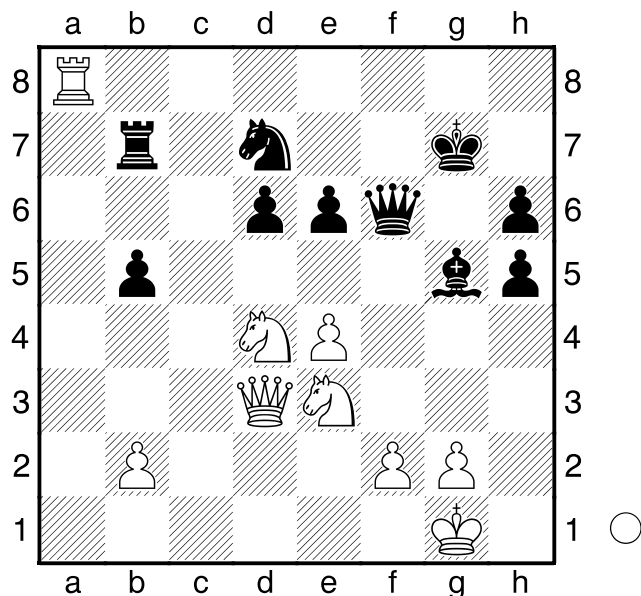


...which just slipped into a slight plus for White after... **31.d4! 1:16 exd4 1:51 32.cxd4 5 cxd4 1:05 33.Nxd4 11 Qf6 34**

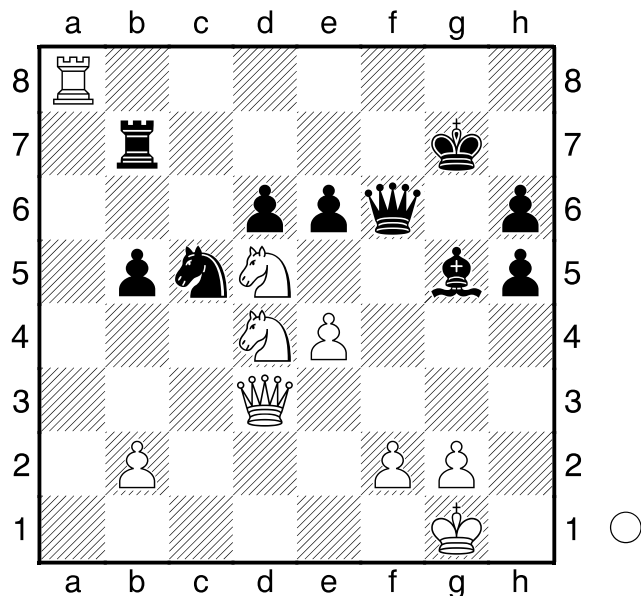


34.R1a7?! 2:10 The board is on fire.
 [34.Nxb5 Rxb5-+]
 [34.Nf3±]
34...Rff7? 1:51
 [Black should try 34...Rxa7 35.Rxa7+ Kg8= 36.Nxb5 Nc6]
35.Rxb7!+- 5:34
 [Weaker is 35.Nxb5 Rxa7 36.Rxa7 Rxa7 37.Nxa7 Bxe3 38.Qxe3

Qxb2=]
35...Rxb7 3 36.Qd3! 24
 [36.Nxb5 Qe5 37.Nc3 h4=]
36...Nd7 2:39

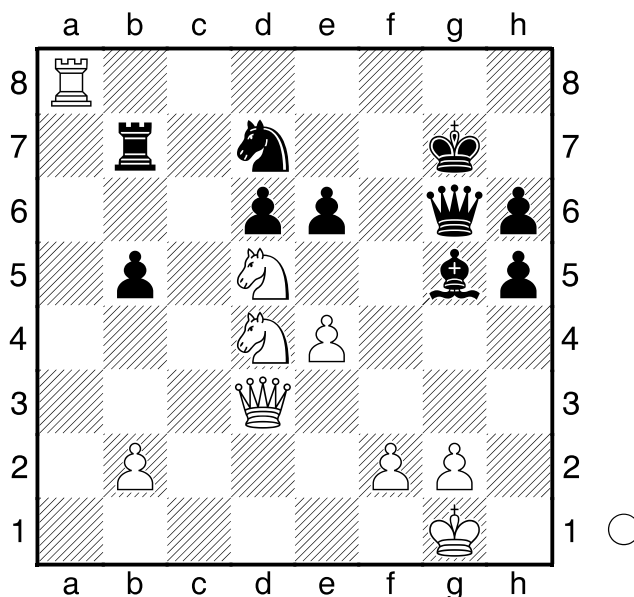


37.Nd5! 5:06
 [37.Ndf5+! exf5 38.Nxf5+ Kg6
 39.Qd5]
37...Qg6 5:23
 [37...Nc5!?]



38.Rg8+!! Kf7 39.Qa3! exd5
40.Qa8+-]

(Diagram)



38.Qc3! 1:47 Other moves win, but this is most incisive. **38...exd5 5:36 39.Nf5+ 10 Kf7 5 40.Qc6 27 dxe4 5:47 41.Nxd6+ 1:00 Kg7 3:46 42.Ne8+ 27 Kh7 45 43.Qxb7 7 Qe6 8 44.Ra7 44 Qxe8 1:01 45.Qxb5 33 Kg6 1:06 46.Qxd7 18 Qe5 10 47.Qf7# 8**
 Superbly played by Yoo! Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) / Black=0.52
1-0

A37
 □ **Diller,Bradley R** **2129**
 ■ **Suarez,Sebastian** **2314**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 09.06.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Whether preparation of a fine feel for the positions, Suarez takes good measure of Diller's favorite English Opening. A convincing performance. **1.c4 c5 4:25 2.g3 7 Nc6 6 3.Bg2 8 g6 6 4.Nc3 15 Bg7 5 5.Nf3 39 e5 16** and the symmetry is broken. **6.0-0 4:03 d6 7 7.a3 1:26 a5 58 8.d3 1:18 Nge7 1:17 9.e3 2:00 0-0 50 10.Ne1 10:39** Dreaming of supporting b2-b4 from c2,

but it's slow -- and in fact never happens.

[10.Rb1=]

10...Be6 57 (...d5 perhaps!?) **11.Nd5** 9
Rb8 57 **12.h3** 1:50

[12.b3]

[12.Rb1 b5 13.Nc2 b4?!

(13...bxc4!) 14.axb4 Bxd5?!

(14...Nxb4) 15.cxd5= Nxb4

16.Nxb4 axb4 17.b3? Ra8 18.Bb2

Ra2 19.g4 Qb6 20.Kh1 Rfa8 21.e4

Bh6 22.Bc1+ Bxc1 23.Qxc1 Re2?

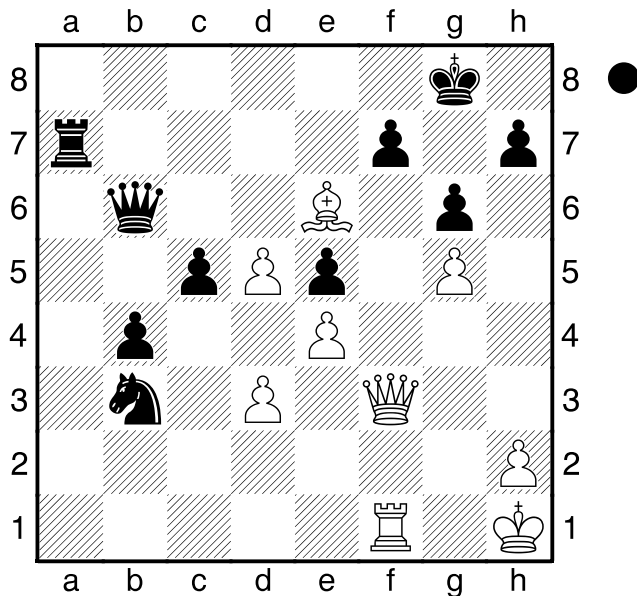
(23...g5!-+) 24.Bf3 Rea2 25.g5!

Nc8 26.Qe3 Na7 27.Ra1 Nb5

28.Rxa2 Rxa2 29.Bg4 Nd4 30.f4

Nxb3?!= 31.fxe5 dxe5 32.Qf3 Ra7

33.Be6



Nd2?? 34.Qf6+- Qc7 35.d6 Qb7

36.Bxf7+ Qxf7 37.Qd8+ Kg7

38.Rxf7+ Rxf7 39.d7 b3 40.Qe8

Rf1+ 41.Kg2 1-0, Tatvidze,D (2222)-

Pranav,P (2046) 36th Krakow op-A, 4
Jan 2026]

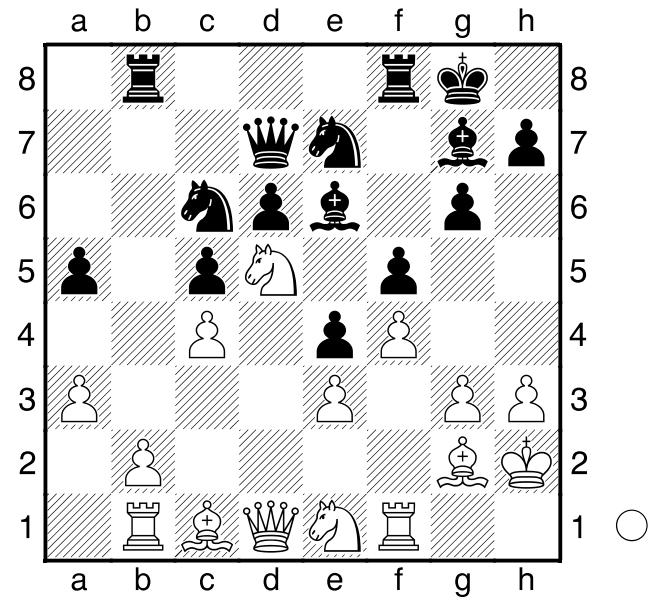
12...b5 1:18 **13.Rb1** 23:33 **Qd7** 12:43

14.Kh2 36 **f5** 13 **15.f4** 2:52

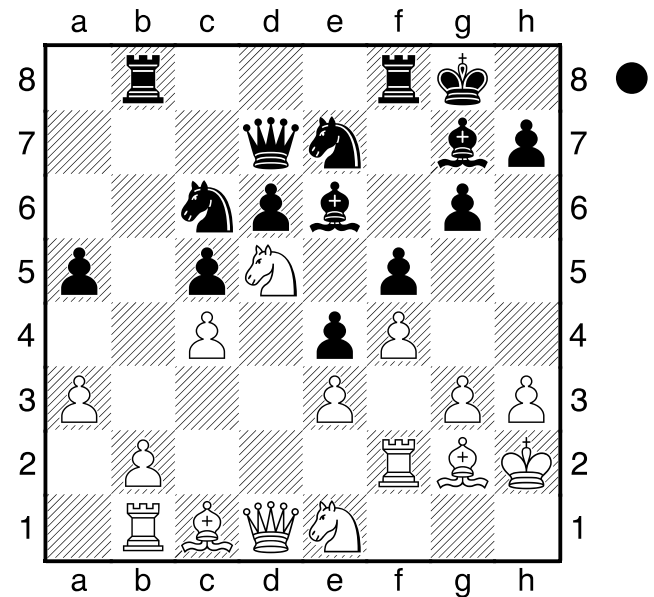
[15.b3 keeps fighting.]

15...bxc4+ 7:41 **16.dxc4** 2 **e4** 14

(Diagram)



17.Rf2 5:32



a4! 11:40 **18.b4** 9:03

[18.Qxa4 Nxd5]

18...axb3 1:11 **19.Rxb3** 36 **Na5** 1:50

20.Rxb8 36 **Rxb8** 10 **21.Bf1** 38 **Nxd5**

5:34 **22.cxd5** 3 **Bf7** 10 **23.a4** 7:54 **c4**

5:05 **24.Bd2** 32 **c3** 1:57 **25.Bc1** **Qb7**

6:14 **26.Ba3** 49 **Qb1** 11:36 Black is

clearly winning. **27.Qxb1** 5:10 **Rxb1**

1:10 **28.Nc2** 3 **Bxd5** 21 **29.Bxd6** 2:08

Bb3 5:12 **30.Bc7** 7:35

[30.Na3 Ra1 31.Bb5]

30...Bxc2 3:48 **31.Bxa5** 1:02 **Bd3** 1:12

White got outplayed after the opening.
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.48/
 Black=0.06 (flawless)
0-1

□ **Heiserman, Jimmy** **E49**
 ■ **Senthilkumar, Pranav** **2262**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (6.4) 09.06.2026
[Winslow, Elliott] **2183**

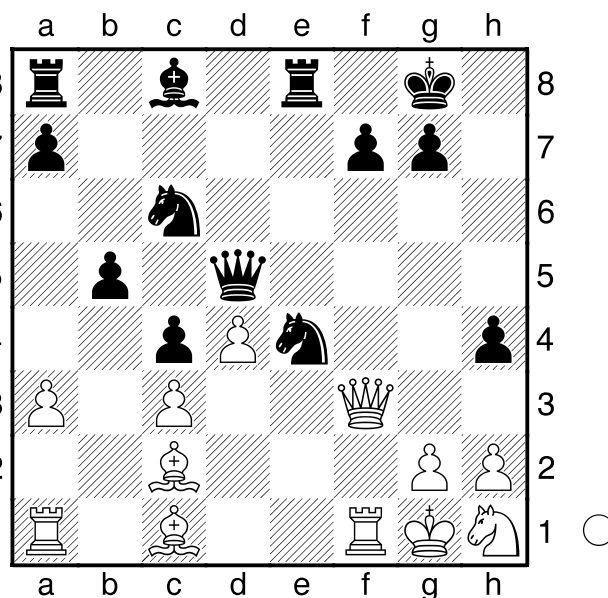
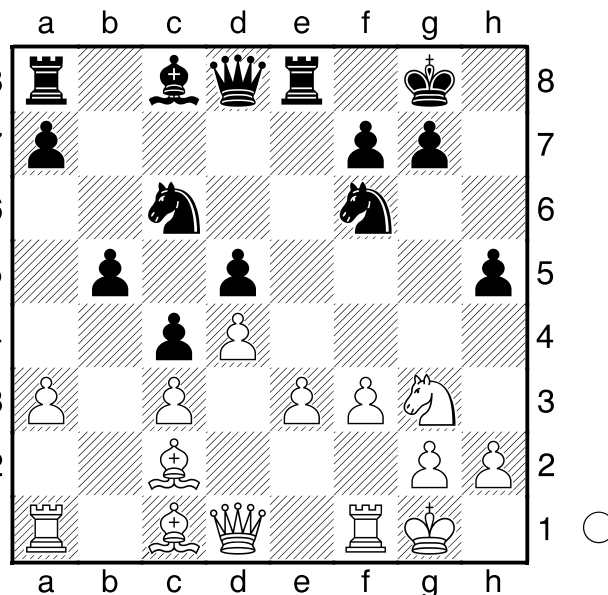
Heiserman showed once again that he knows his openings, even into the middlegame. His 14.e4! avoids slow buildup and instead a fast gambit to launch a dangerous attack. Senthilkumar defended well, Heiserman lost his way and fell under severe counterattack, when it was he who held on; Senthilkumar allowed a crushing rook sacrifice that led to mate! Great game! **1.d4** 1:06 **Nf6** 11 **2.c4** 13 **e6** 40 **3.Nc3** 6 **Bb4** 29 **4.e3** 6 **c5** 1:37 **5.a3** 1:26 **Bxc3+** 1:05 **6.bxc3** 5 **d5** 2:50 **7.cxd5** 3:50 **exd5** 1:50 **8.Bd3** 3:00 **c4** 1:24 **9.Bc2** 45 **0-0** 3:55 **10.Ne2** 1:17 Has this line really changed much since Botvinnik-Capablanca, AVRO 1938? If you haven't seen that game, you have to -- it'd be a great game even if it wasn't the changing of the era. **10...Re8** 8:50 **11.0-0** 8:25 **Nc6** 4:57 **12.f3** 13:58 **b5** 5:43

[Δ12...Na5 as in a critical late-round game in the Anand-Carlsen world championship match.]

13.Ng3± 16:29 **h5** 5:15

(Diagram)

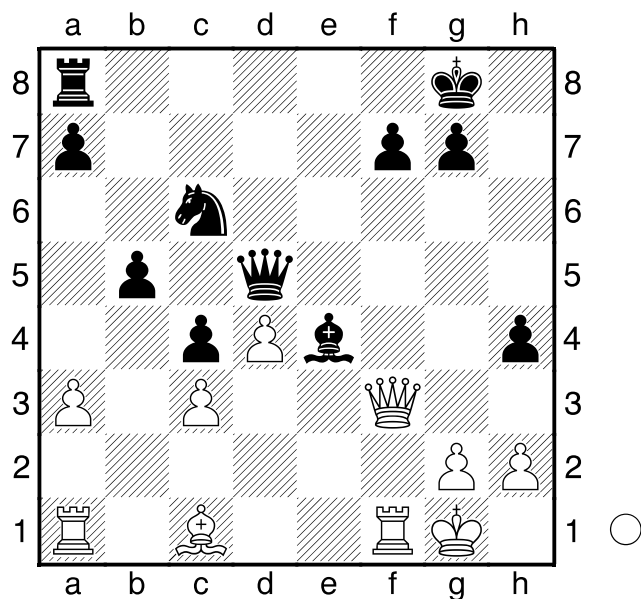
14.e4! 5:48 Bg5 is the strong threat.
14...h4 4:53 **15.Nh1±** 5 An excellent pawn sacrifice! **15...dxe4** 5:49 **16.fxe4** 6 **Nxe4** 10:31 **17.Qf3** 24 **Qd5** 10:10



18.Bxe4! 17 **Rxe4** 2:37 **19.Nf2** 11 (coincidentally stopping ...Bg4) **19...Bf5** 14 **20.Nxe4N** 34 The better move.
 [20.Bd2 Nxd4!? 21.cxd4 Rxd4 22.Qxd5 Rxd5± 23.Ba5 Re8 24.Rae1 Rde5 25.Nd1 h3 26.g3 1-0 (76) Geirnaert, S (2441)-Grochal, J (2184) Wachtebeke 2016]
20...Bxe4 38

(Diagram)

21.Qf2? 24 White is weak on the light



squares

[White has to play 21.Qh3!±]

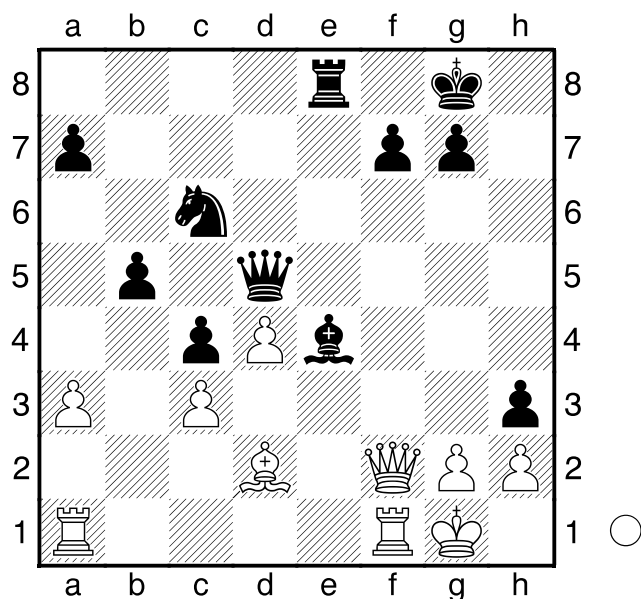
21...Re8?! 3:02

[21...h3! is good enough! 22.Qg3
hxg2 23.Re1 Nd8=]

22.Bd2?! 7:00

[22.h3]

22...h3↑ 11:25



He found it, finally! **23.gxh3 1:28**

[23.g4=]

23...Re6 5:07

[23...a5!?

24.Bf4? 16:55

[24.Qxf7+ Kh7 25.Rf4 Rg6+
26.Kf2=]

24...a5 48

[24...Qh5!-+ 25.Rae1 Ne7]

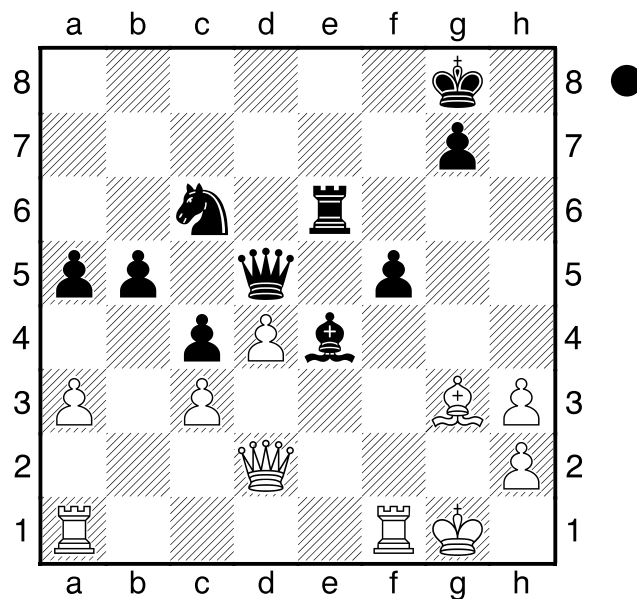
[24...Ne7!-+]

25.Bg3 1:17

[25.Rfe1±]

25...f5-+ 11 ...b4 is the strong threat.

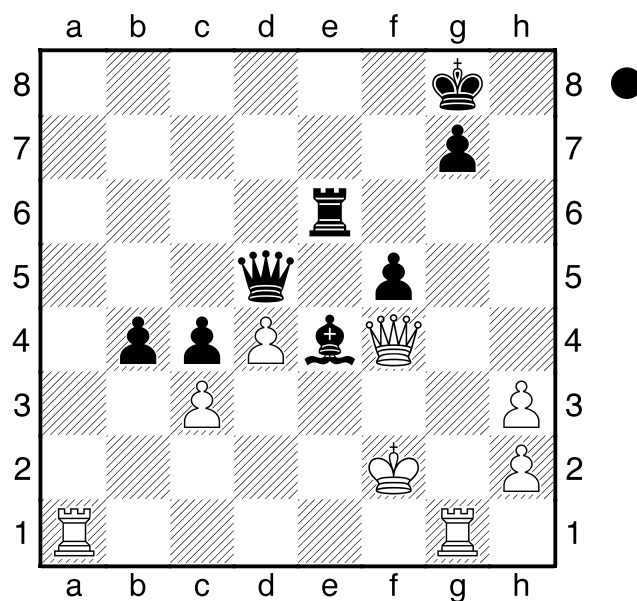
26.Qd2 2:47



Ne5? 5:28 27.Bxe5= 1:12 Rxe5 4

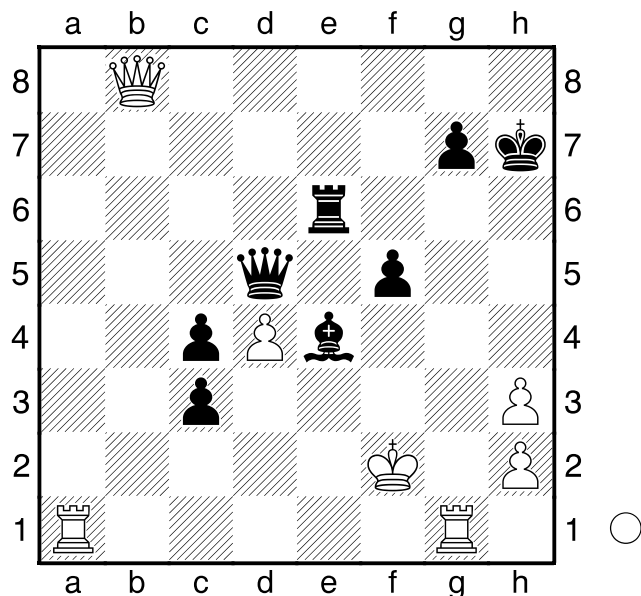
28.Qf4 56 Re6 34 29.Kf2! 12 b4 49

30.axb4 4 axb4 3 31.Rg1 2:59



bxc3? 2:41

[31...Qb7= and Black has nothing to worry. 32.d5 Re8 (32...Bxd5 33.Qd4=; 32...Qxd5 33.Ra7=)]
32.Qb8+- 3:03 **Kh7** 1:00



33.Rxg7+!! 50 Happens to be the only move, too. **33...Kxg7** 4 **34.Ra7+□ 7 Kf6?!** 1:12
 [34...Kg6 35.Qh8+-]
35.Qh8+ 23 White mates. **35...Kg5** 9
36.Rg7+ 44 **Rg6** 17 **37.h4+** 16
 Deflection **37...Kf4** 6 **38.Rxg6** 14 **Bh1**
 2:12 **39.Qh6+** 7 Heiserman was in trouble, but finished beautifully!
1-0

C50
 □ **Parsons, Stephen** 1968
 ■ **Lee, Andy C** 2322
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (6.7) 09.06.2026
[Winslow, Elliott]

Andy Lee comes out with a relatively rare answer to the Italian Game, and Stephen Parsons doesn't seem to react well at all. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6!?** Definitely not one of the two major moves! (3...Bc5 & 3...Nf6)! I don't even know what to call it -- at least 3...Be7

has a name (the Hungarian Defence, I think). But in these days of sheer quantity (so many of the best players in the world are playing so many more games -- rapid! blitz!!) every stone is getting looked under. Carlsen beat Gukesh with it last October (a 10m+5s game, hardly because of the opening), Caruana played it three times (2W 1D 0L), Ivanchuk was way ahead of them all in 2017... anyway, certainly less theory to peruse!

[3...Bc5]

[3...Nf6]

4.0-0 The four obvious moves rise to the engine top, with no particular suggestion one is better than the others. But 4.0-0 has its minuses: giving away the king's address!?

[4.d4]

[4.c3]

[4.Nc3]

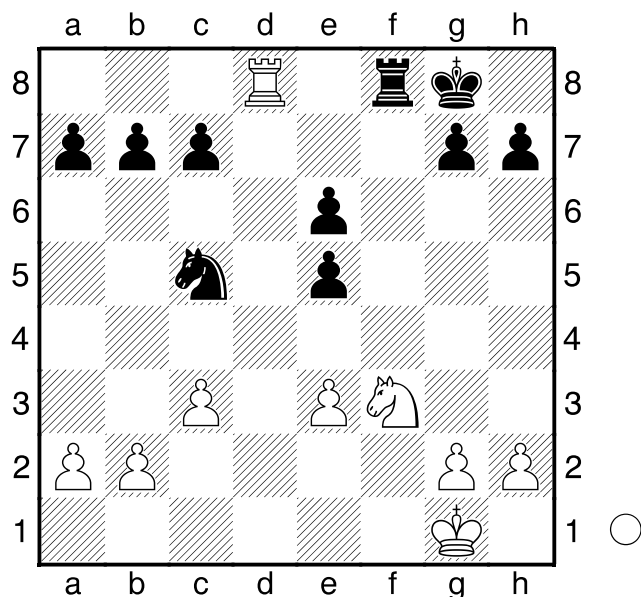
4...Bg4 Stockfish 18 has White up half a pawn or so after this or the other two plausible bishop moves,

[Carlsen's choice here was 4...Be6
 5.Bxe6 fxe6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 Be7
 8.d4 0-0 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 dxe5
 11.Nd2 Bc5 12.Nf3 Qxd1 13.Rxd1
 Nxe4 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Rf5
 16.Rd7 Rc8 17.Rad1 Nc5 18.Rd8+
 Rxd8 19.Rxd8+ Rf8=

(Diagram)

20.Rd1 e4 21.Ne5?! h5 22.Nd7 Rf5
 23.Nxc5 Rxc5 24.Rd4 Rd5 25.c4
 Rxd4 26.exd4 Kf7 27.Kf2 Kf6
 28.Ke3 Kf5 29.b4 a6 30.h4 b5
 31.c5 c6 32.g3 e5 0-1, Gukesh,D
 (2752)-Carlsen,M (2839) Saint Louis
 Clutch Champions, Saint Louis, 28
 Oct 2025]

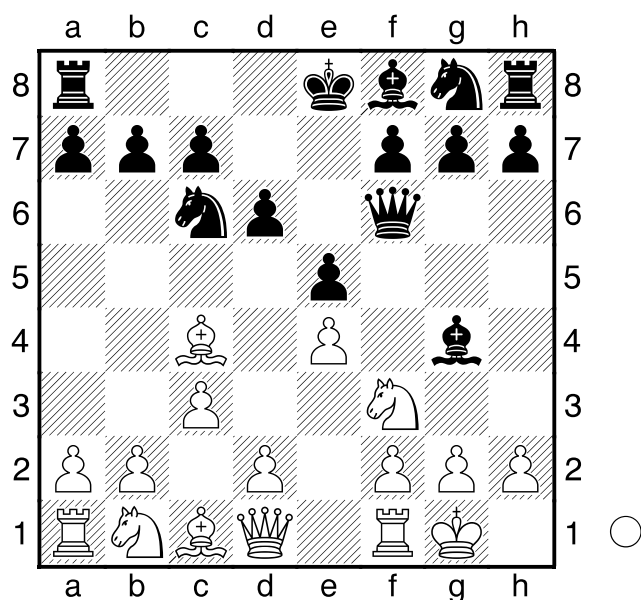
[and maybe best of them, 4...Be7
 "make the best move that keeps your



options" (you know, like 3.Bc4 or 3.Bb5 :-))]

5.c3 Qf6

[5...Nf6 is again the "normal" replay -- but Lee is pressing!]

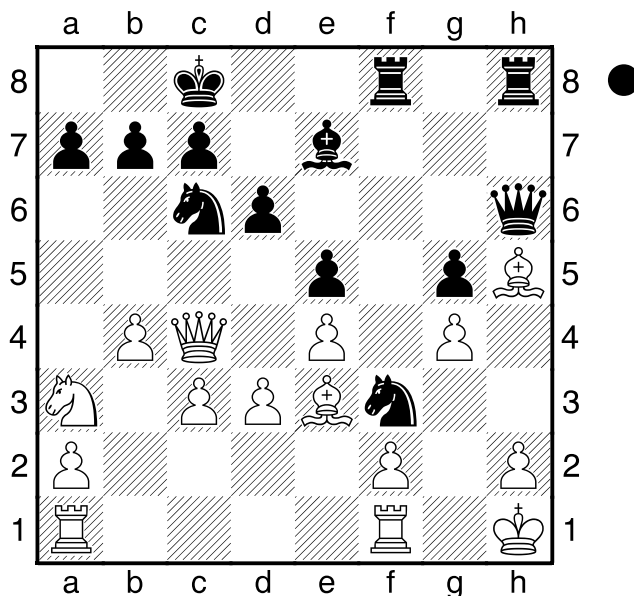


6.Be2! I thought at first this was quite a concession -- but the engine makes it the best position White's had in all this!

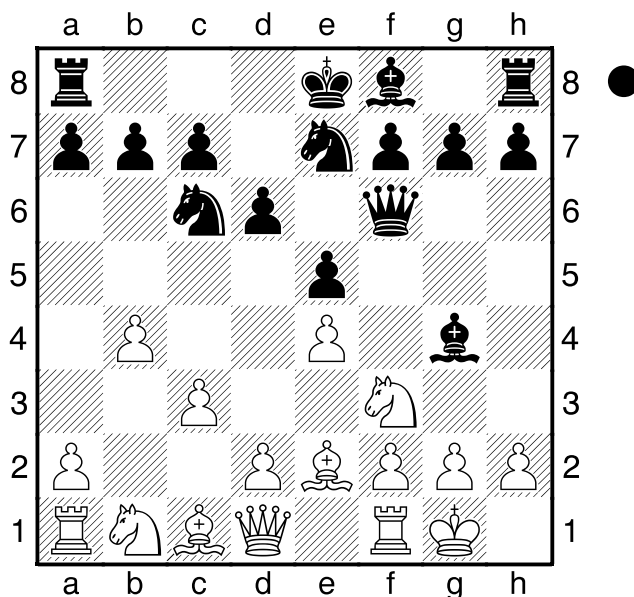
6...Nge7 Black is really going all out to attack! f4 beckons... **7.b4?!±**

[7.d3 h5 8.Na3!? Bxf3 9.Bxf3 g5 10.Bxh5!? (10.h3± (+1.00/25) but still

fluctuating) 10...Qh6± 11.g4 Ng6 12.Qb3 0-0-0 13.Qxf7!? Nh4 14.Be3?! (14.f3; 14.Kh1) 14...Be7 15.b4?! Rdf8 16.Qc4 Nf3+ 17.Kh1



Qg6!± 18.h3 Qf6! 19.d4 (19.Rg1 Nxf1 20.Rxf1 Qf3+-+) 19...Rxf5 20.gxf5 g4 21.Rg1 Nxf1 22.Kxf1 gxf3 0-1 Remizov,Y (2396)-Zakharov,V (2537) Ekaterinburg 2023]



Parsons tries to get a jump on Black's queenside castling. **7...Ng6**

Not burning his bridges (well, kingside).

[7...g5!?]

[7...h5!?]

8.b5

[8.d4± And now Bg5 is threatened Nf4 (8...Bxf3 9.Bxf3±) 9.Bxf4 Qxf4 10.Nbd2 Bxf3 11.Nxf3! Qxe4? 12.Re1 Qf5 13.Qa4+- Black has a big problem on that diagonal!]

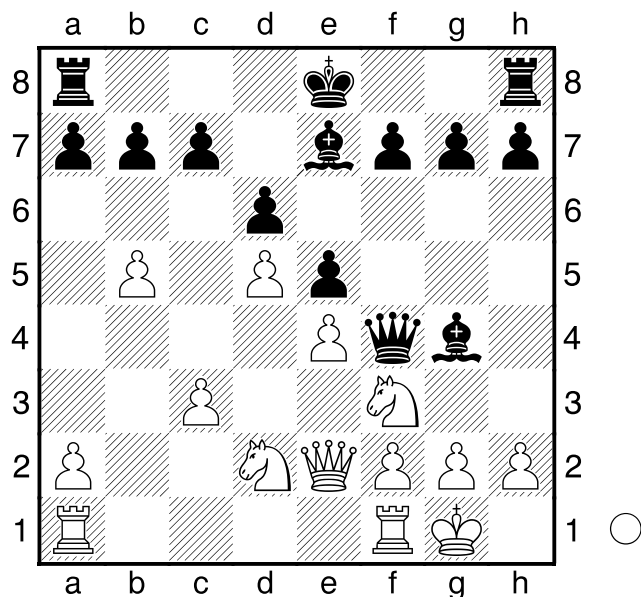
8...Nd8!± 9.d4 Ne6 Repels Bg5 and eyes f4 **10.Be3**

[10.g3± was the last chance for something]

10...Ngf4= 11.Nbd2 Be7 Time to catch up on his reading -- err, development (and *finally* deciding where the king goes). **12.d5 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 Nf4 14.Bxf4**

[14.Qc4 Bd8=]

14...Qxf4



Classic: two bishops vs. two knights (and a lot of heavy artillery). **15.Qc4**

[15.a4 f5 (15...0-0)]

15...Bd8 16.Rae1?!

[16.a4= 0-0 17.a5]

16...0-0± 17.Re3 Bd7

[17...a6!]

18.Qd3

[18.Rb1±]

18...f5

[18...a6± 19.bxa6 Rxa6]

19.c4 a6

[19...Qh6]

[19...b6!?]

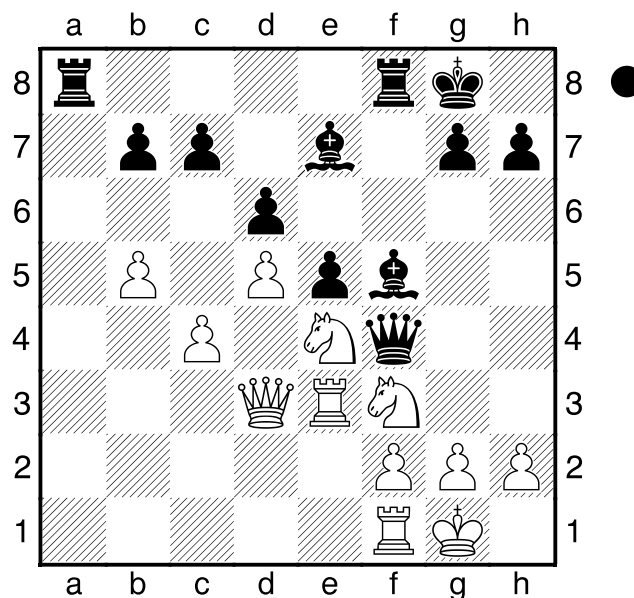
20.a4

[20.Qa3±]

20...axb5± 21.axb5 Be7 22.exf5

[22.Qc3±]

22...Bxf5 23.Ne4



b6! White no longer has any queenside action. **24.Nfd2** The outpost on e4 looks good, but:

[24.Qe2± h5!?]

24...Ra2!-+ and White has trouble holding it together. **25.Rd1 Qg4?!**

[25...Qh6!-+ (looking for ...Bg5)

26.Re2 Qg6! (26...Rfa8)]

26.f3?!

[26.Qf1± was worth a try. Rfa8

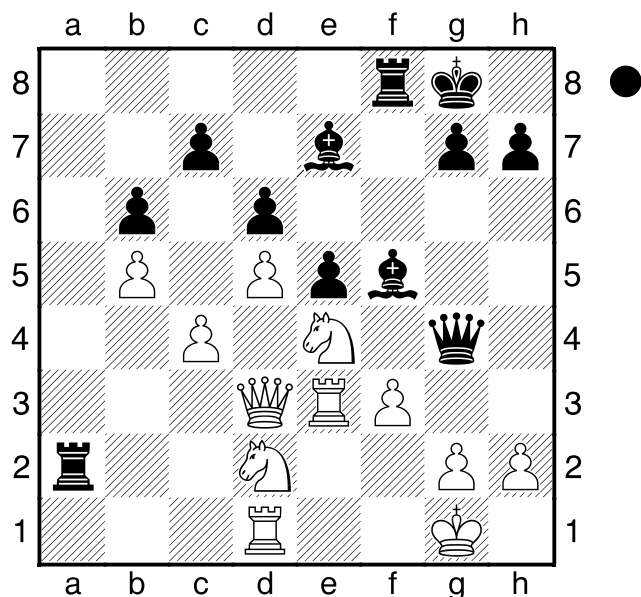
27.Nc3 R2a3 28.h3 Qh4 29.Rg3

Bg6± Clear plus, but no clear plan.]

(Diagram)

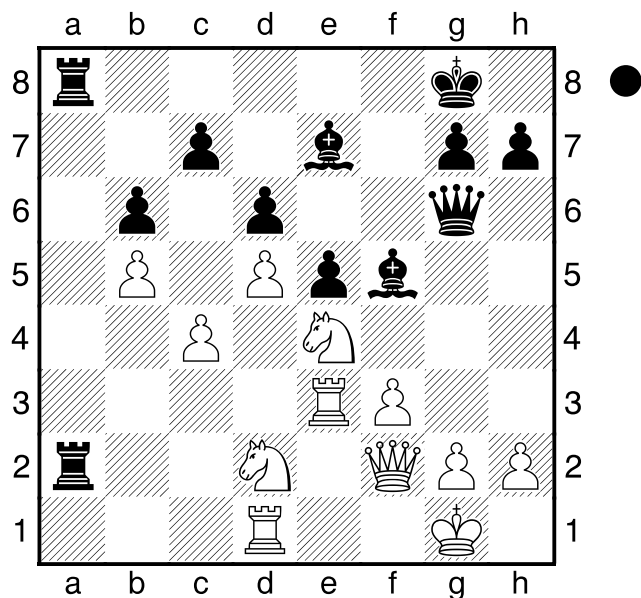
26...Qg6! 27.Qe2

[27.Re2]



27...Rfa8 28.Qf2

[28.Qe1]



28...Rc2 Can't argue with doubling on the 7th!

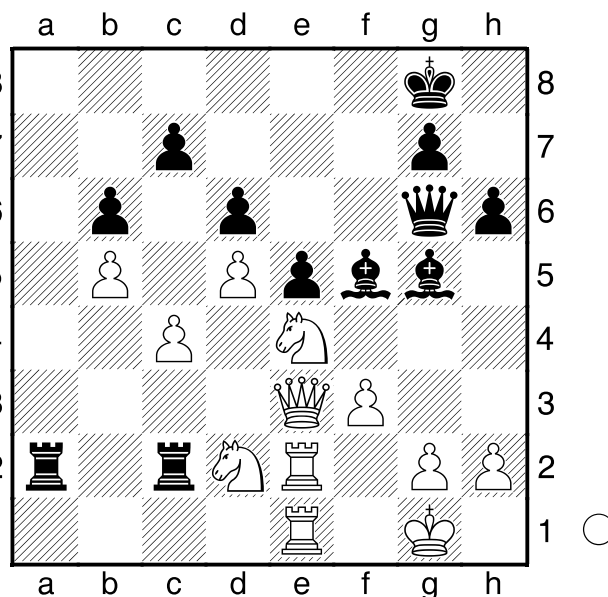
[But you can -- even stronger is 28...Bxe4! 29.Rxe4 Bg5 30.Re2 Qd3]

29.Re2 Raa2 30.Rde1 h6 31.Qe3?

[31.h3 is more resistant.]

31...Bg5

(Diagram)



Skewer. Black is clearly winning.

32.Nxg5 Qxg5 33.f4 Qxf4 34.Rf1

Qxe3+ Deflection 35.Rxe3 Rxd2

36.Rxf5 Rxd2+ Nicely done, Andy!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/

Black=0.17 (very precise)

[36...Rxd2+ 37.Kf1 Rxd2 38.Kg1

Rag2+ 39.Kf1 Rc2]

0-1

□ **Agrawal, Varun**

■ **Winslow, Elliott**

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (6.11) 09.06.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

E61

1997

2217

A battle with Fischerian echoes, but the queens came off and a murky

middlegame without them ensued. My biggest (only!?) advantage was

Agrawal's shortage of clock time;

experience and ancient reading might

have been how I triumphed. **1.b3 Nf6**

2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.d4

0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.e3 e5 8.Be2 Re8

9.0-0 e4 10.Nd2 c6 11.b4 I didn't think

about it at the time, but it's now a King's

Indian Attack a la Fischer-Miagmasuren

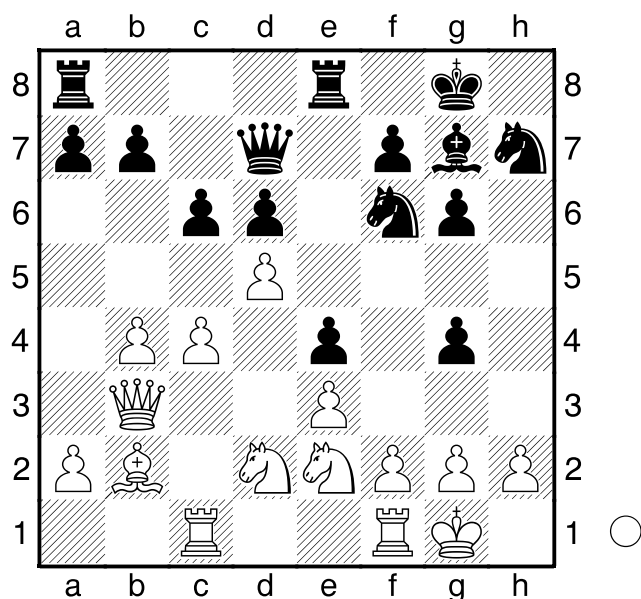
and others, except that Black has played ...c6 (or c2-c3 in those games). It does give White a "loose thread" to pull on...

11...Nf8 12.Qb3 h5 White has an edge (says the "TA" AI).

[Predecessor: 12...Bf5 13.a4 h5 14.Rfe1 N8h7 15.b5 Qd7 16.Ba3 h4 17.Rab1 Rac8 18.a5 Ng5 19.Qa4 0-1 (31) Wojdak,J (2144)-Jedraszek,P (1933) Poland 2022]

13.d5 Bg4 14.Bxg4 hxg4 15.Rac1 N8h7 16.Ne2 Qd7

[16...cxd5= 17.cxd5 Ng5]



17.Rfd1

[17.dxc6± bxc6 18.Ng3]

17...c5?! ill-conceived, but it worked out. [17...cxd5 18.cxd5 Ng5 19.b5 Nh5= approaches equality, but it's still unclear how either side makes progress.]

18.bxc5 dxc5 19.Qb5?!

An overreaction to Black getting an attack going.

[White should play 19.a4±]

19...b6

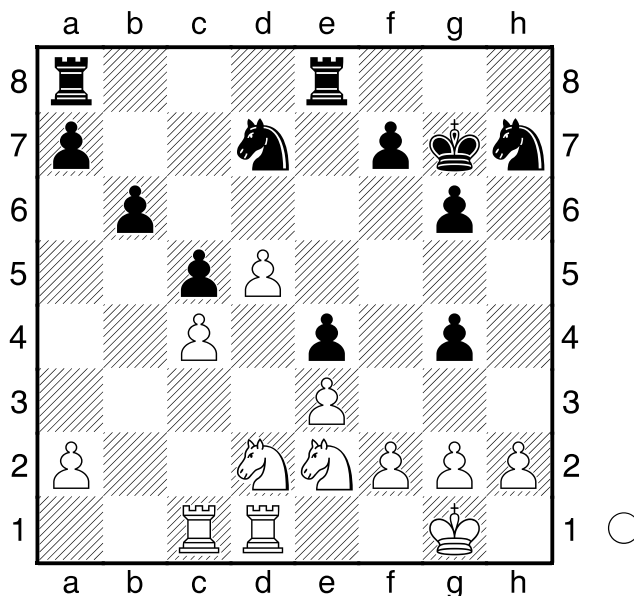
[19...Qxb5 20.cxb5 b6 is at least equal. But why give him c4 for the knight?]

20.Qxd7

[20.a4!?]

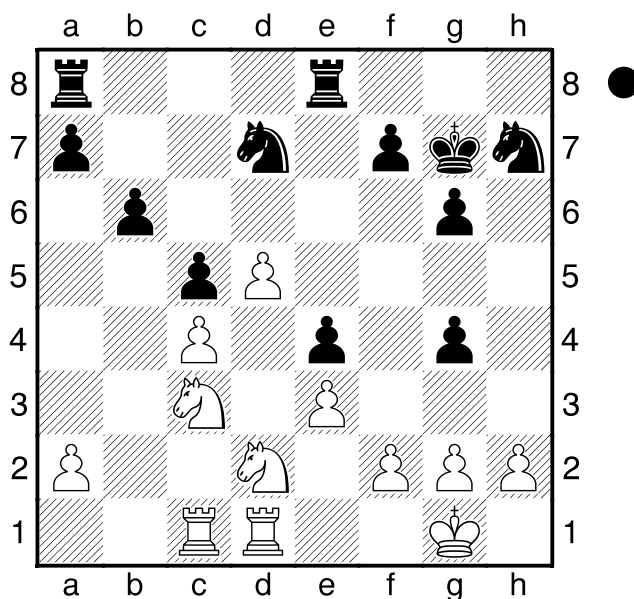
[20.Qb3!?]

20...Nxd7 21.Bxg7 Kxg7



A complicated queenless middlegame! (I enjoy those.) **22.Nc3**

[22.a4= remains equal.]



22...f5

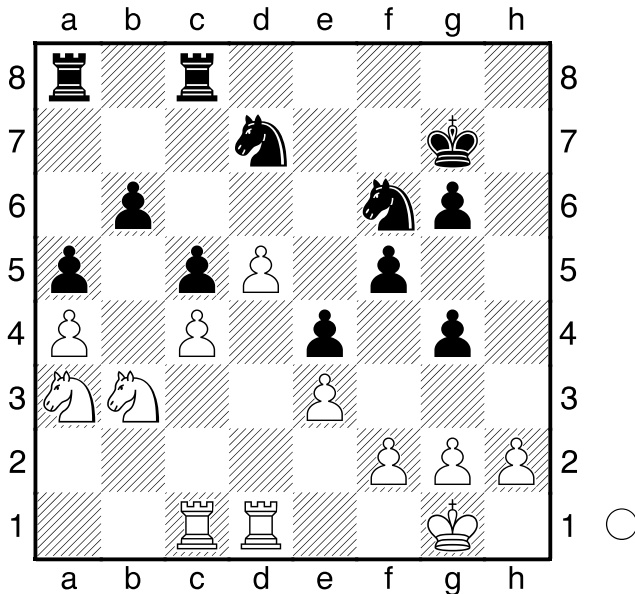
[22...Ng5!± says Stockfish 18. Is there some mating attack down the h-file!?]

23.Nb5 Rec8 Actually the computer

move! **24.Nb3**

[24.a4?]

24...Nhf6 25.a4 a6 26.Na3 a5



27.Nb5 Ne8?!?

[27...Ne5!? Black wants to play ... Rh8. 28.Rc3 (28.d6 concerned me, but that's as far as it goes) 28...Nfd7 doubling on the h-file looms eventually]

28.Rc2?!

[28.Rf1= sees Black with a dwindling plus]

28...Kf7

[28...Nef6? deserves consideration.]
[28...Rab8!? is SF18's top move, not bothered at all by 29.Na7 Rc7 30.Nc6 Ra8? That knight looks good, except then what?]

(Diagram)

29.Nc1

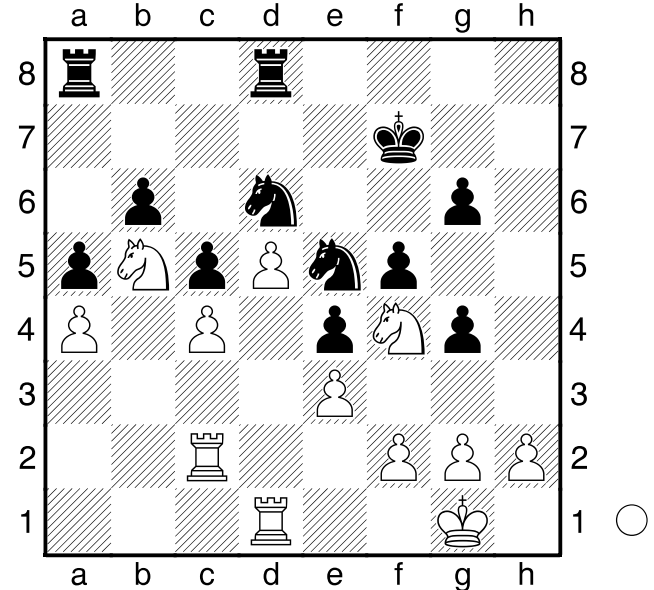
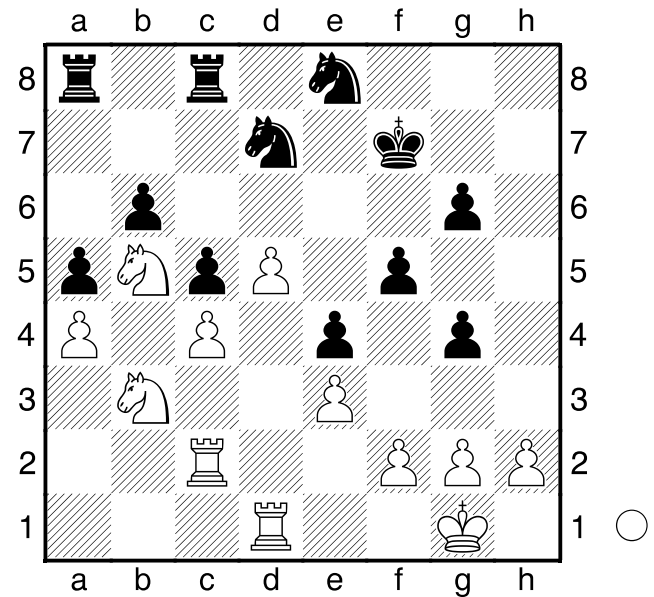
[29.f3= gxf3 (29...exf3 30.gxf3 gxf3 31.Nd2=) 30.gxf3 exf3 31.Nd2]

29...Rd8

[Better is 29...Ne5?]

30.Ne2? Ne5 31.Nf4! Nd6

(Diagram)



32.Na3? This costs White the game.

[32.Nxd6+? /= Rxd6 33.Ne6 (33.Rf1)]

[32.Ne6 Rd7 (32...Ndxc4!?)

33.Nxd8+ Rxd8 34.d6 Ke6 35.d7 Rxd7 36.Rxd7 Kxd7=) 33.Nxd6+ Rxd6]

32...Rab8 33.Rb1 Rb7

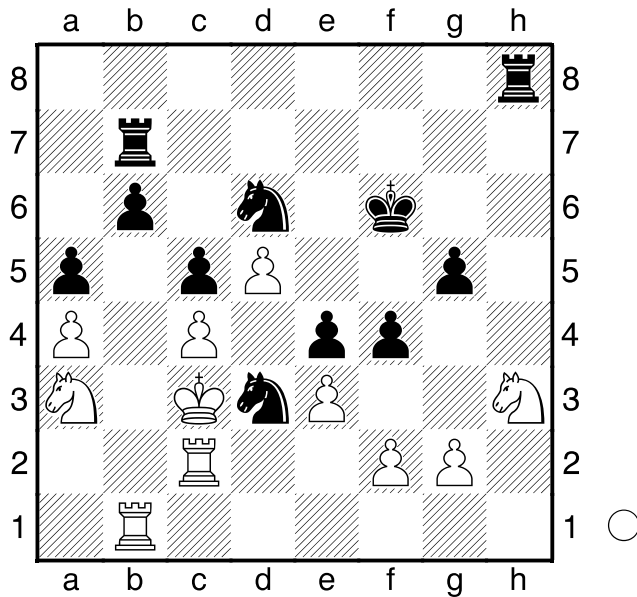
[33...Ke7-+ 34.Ne6 Rh8]

34.Kf1 Rh8 35.h3 Black has space advantage and is better

[35.Kg1 keeps fighting.]

35...gxh3-+ 36.Nxh3 Kf6 37.Ke2 g5

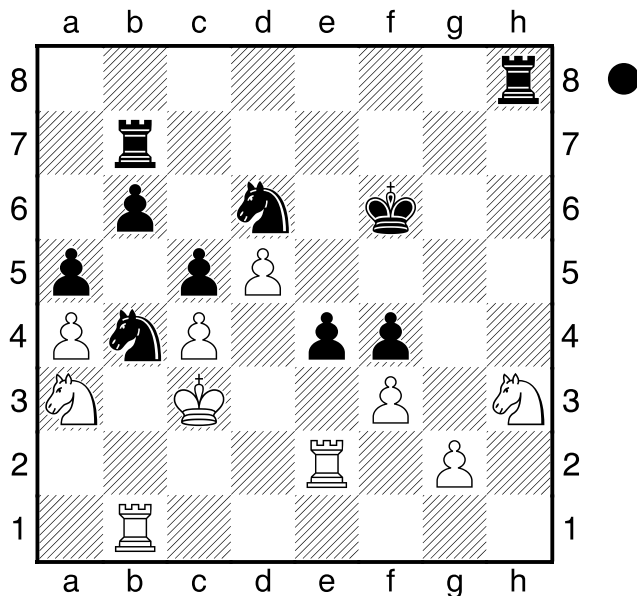
38.Kd2 Nd3 39.Kc3 f4



40.exf4

[40.Ng1 Rh2 41.f3]

40...gxf4 41.f3 Nb4 42.Re2



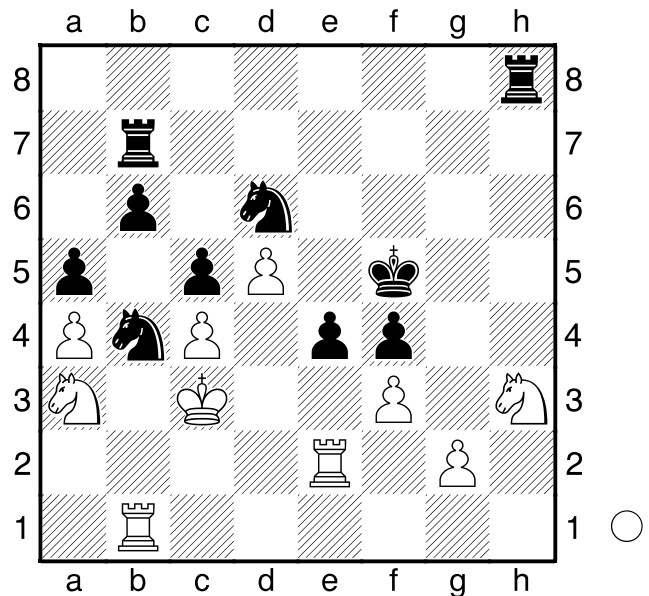
Kf5

[42...exf3 43.Re6+ Kf5

A) 44.Rxd6 fxf2 (I didn't see how promising this was) 45.Ng1 f3! (45...Re7);

B) 44.Nxf4 Decoy 44...Kxf4 45.g3+ Kf5 (45...Kxg3? 46.Rxd6 f2 47.Rg6+ Kh2 48.Nc2-+) 46.g4+ (46.Rxd6? perishes. Re7-+)

46...Kxg4 47.Rxd6 Re7 48.Rg6+ Kf5]



43.Rbe1?!

[43.fxe4+ Nxe4+ 44.Rxe4!? Kxe4 45.Nb5 Rd7 46.Rf1 Rh4 (46...Ke5 47.Nxf4 Rg7) 47.Ng1 Rh1]

43...e3 44.Ng1 White is weak on the dark squares

[44.Nc2 Re7 45.Nxe3+ Rxe3+ (45...fxe3 46.Rxe3 Rxe3+ 47.Rxe3-+) 46.Rxe3 fxe3 47.Rxe3]

44...Rg7 45.g4+ Kg5-+ 46.Nb5?

[46.Nc2 Rf7 (46...Rh1? 47.Nxe3 fxe3 48.Rxe3-+) 47.Na3]

46...Nxb5+ 47.axb5 a4 (-+ becomes ... well, -+) **48.Ra1 Ra7 49.Ra3 Rh1 50.Rg2 Ra8 51.Kb2 Re8**

(Diagram)

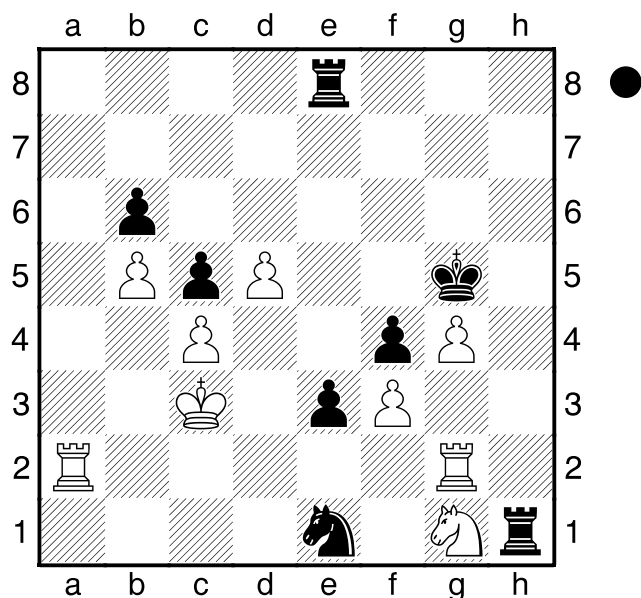
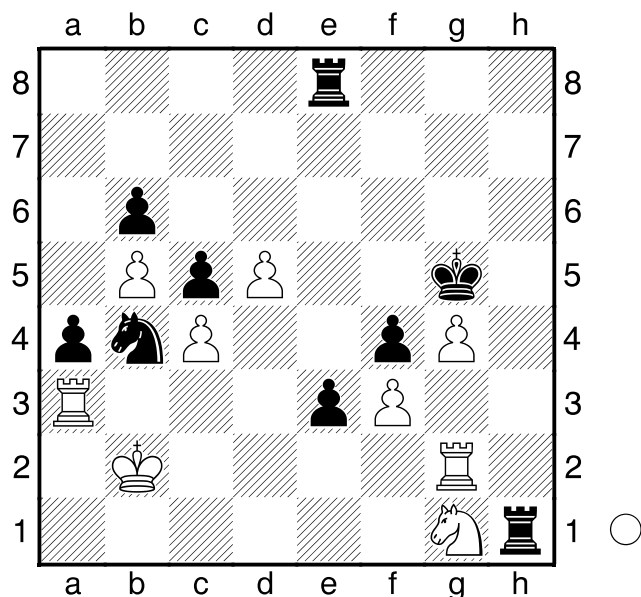
52.Rxa4 Nd3+ 53.Kc3 Ne1 54.Raa2

(Diagram)

Rxg1!? I had to do something about the absence of Flash in this game.

[54...Nxg2 55.Rxg2 Ra8]

55.Rxg1 Nxf3 56.Rf1 Nd4 57.d6 e2



58.Rh1 f3 ...f2! is the strong threat.
59.d7 Rd8 60.Ra6 f2⊕ White lost on time. CB AI via TA: "Superbly played by Winslow!" (made easier when your opponent is living on increment)
0-1

C47
 □ **Cawthon,Jeremy David** **2119**
 ■ **Clemens,Kristian** **1943**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (6.12) 09.06.26
[Clemens,Kristian/(Winslow,Elliott)]

(ew: Kristian's notes (including times!) are always interesting!) On the Sunday morning before the game, I woke up before 4 AM to compete in the Escape From Alcatraz triathlon. Of course, it wasn't just the early hour that exhausted me - I was still feeling the effects of the lack of sleep and the physical effort two days later. For once in my life, I was hoping for a shorter game, and my opponent unknowingly obliged by playing quickly. (ew: I've been meaning to ask Jeremy why *he* was running a sprint; he really didn't take any time!)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 d5 9.exd5 Bg4 ew: (to at least try to complicate an otherwise pretty staid opening!)

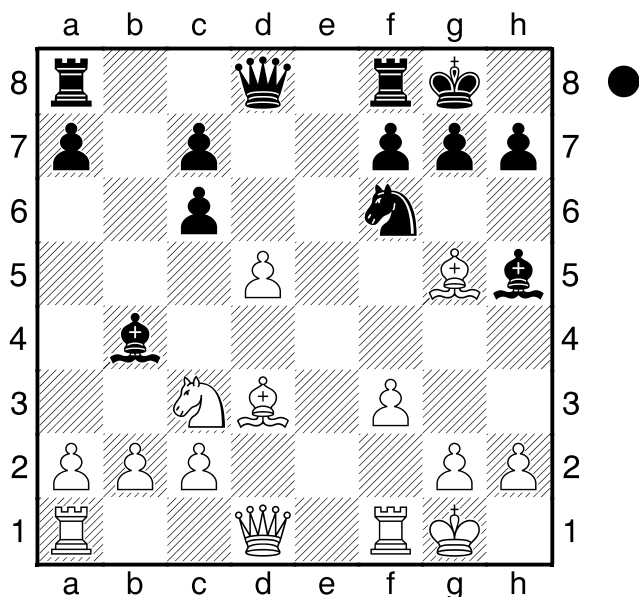
[9...cxd5 10.Bg5 (10.h3; 10.Qf3; 10.Na4)]
10.f3 Bh5 White: 1:33, Black: 1:30, and I spent 4 minutes on my next move.
11.Bg5

[ew: 11.dxc6 Qd4+ 12.Kh1 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qxc3= although superstars (Carlsen, Naka) have played both sides, with some success even]

(Diagram)

11...Bxc3 At this point I was out of prep and wanted to ensure that I survived the opening against such a strong player. (ew: a bit premature -- but what am I saying, it's all quite even.)

[ew: For example: 11...cxd5 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Nxd5 Qxb2



A) (ks gives 14.Nxc7 Qc3??

(whereas 14...Rad8 is if anything advantage Black);

B) 14.Rb1 Bc5+ 15.Kh1 Qe5
 16.Re1 Qd6 17.Ne7+ Kh8 18.Qe2
 Rad8 19.Qe5 Bg6 20.Nxg6+ fxg6
 21.Qxd6 cxd6 22.Rb7 Rb8
 23.Rxb8 Rxb8 24.g3 Kg8 25.Re4
 Rd8 26.Re7 Kf8 27.Rb7 Re8
 28.Kg2 Bb6 29.Bb5 Re5 30.Rb8+
 Kf7 31.Bc4+ d5 32.f4 Re8
 33.Bxd5+ Kf8 34.Rxe8+ Kxe8
 35.Kf3 h6 36.Ke4 Ke7 37.c4 Kd6
 38.h4 Bf2 39.Kf3 Be1 40.Kg4
 Kc5 41.Bg8 Liang,A (2719)-
 Aronian,L (2729) Saint Louis 2026
 ½-½]

[ew: 11...Qd6 is fine, too]

12.bxc3 cxd5 13.Re1

[ew 13.c4!?

13...Qd6 Connecting rooks so that I
 don't have to take back with the queen
 after I play Re8

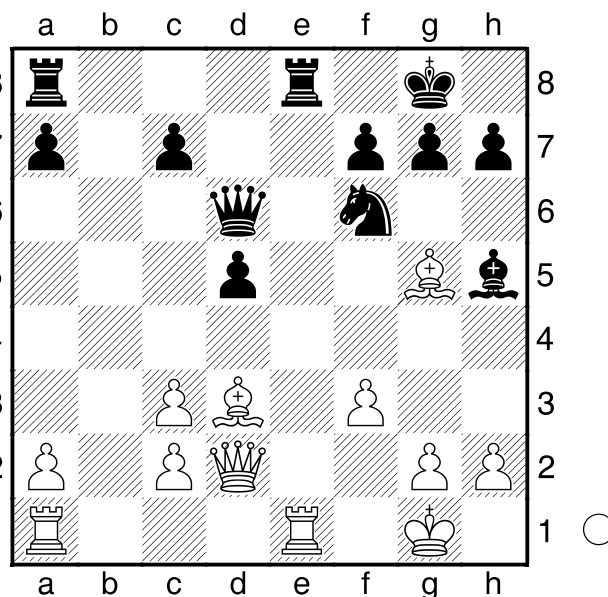
[13...Bg6]

[13...Re8]

[13...c6]

14.Qd2 Rfe8

(Diagram)



15.Bf4N

[A game had gone 15.Rab1 Bg6
 16.Kh1 Nd7 17.Bb5 c6 18.Bd3 Nc5
 19.Re3 f6 20.Bf4 Qd7 21.Rbe1 Ne6
 22.Bg3 Nf8 23.Bf2 Rxe3 24.Bxe3
 Re8 25.h3 Qd6 26.Bxa7 Qa3
 27.Bxg6 Rxe1+ 28.Qxe1 hxg6
 29.Qe3 Qxa2 30.Bc5 Qxc2 31.Qe7
 Qc1+ 32.Kh2 Qf4+ 33.Kg1 Qc1+
 34.Kf2 Qd2+ 35.Kf1 Qd1+ 36.Kf2
 Qd2+ 37.Kg1 Qc1+ 38.Kh2 Qf4+
 ½-½, Gadimbayli,A (2470)-Borges da
 Silva,R (2198) Lichess.org INT 2021]

15...Qc5+ 1:19 White: 1:27

[15...Qc6 16.Be5 Bg6]

16.Be3 Qd6 ew: Is this the tacit draw
 offer? **17.Qf2**

[17.Bb5 c6]

17...Bg6 The point of this line is that
 Black has a comfortable middlegame
 after he trades off the light-squared
 bishop. I spent about 6 minutes on this
 decision. Somewhere around here, I
 took a break to eat dinner.

[17...a6 18.Bc5 Qd7 19.Bd4 Qd6
 Maybe this was better, preserving the
 pawn structure as it is instead of the
 pawn trade that was played in the
 game. I wasn't sure if the pawn

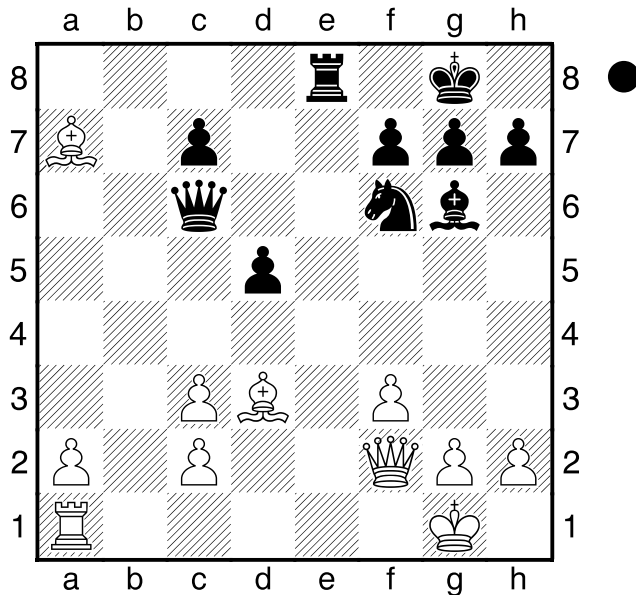
belonged on a6.]

18.Bc5 Qc6 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8

[19...Nxe8 20.Bxa7 Bxd3 21.cxd3 Qxc3 22.Rd1 Nd6 23.Bd4 Qb4

If White had played d4 already, this would be a lot better, but here I don't really see the knight as doing a lot on d6.]

20.Bxa7



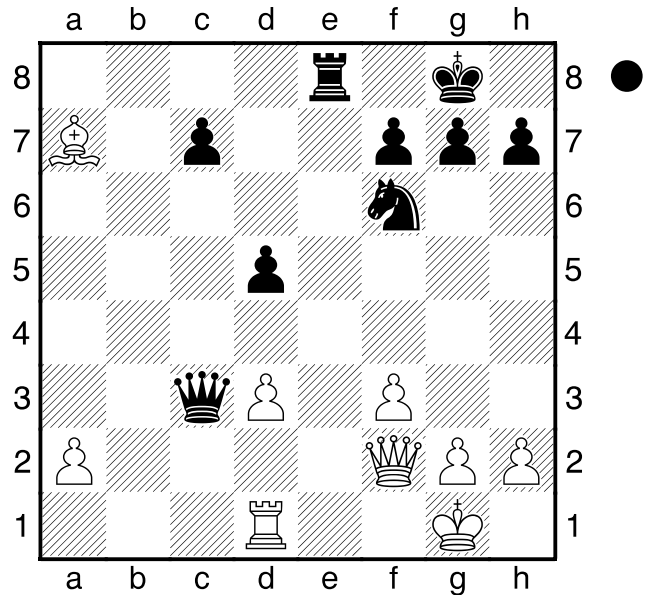
Bxd3 White: 1:24, Black: 1:03. White played significantly faster than I did at all stages of this game. I was prepared for the challenge of playing a stronger player, but I was not expecting this additional challenge.

[20...Qxc3 21.Bd4 Qc6 This seemed more comfortable for White than the text, because White's rook is safe on a1 behind the passed pawn, whereas in the game, he had to move it to a less useful square.]

21.cxd3 Qxc3 This is what I planned when I played Bg6. I evaluated this position as equal but potentially dangerous in the endgame, since knights don't defend well against rook pawns. **22.Rd1**

[22.Bd4 Qxd3 23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.Qg3+ Kh8 25.Qxc7?? Qd4+]

[22.Qf1= The engine suggests this more defensive line, but I assume White was playing for a win and wanted to keep some initiative.]



22...Nd7! This took about 8-10 minutes to find- the point is to control the c5 square to get my pawns moving. I was hoping he would play d4, but didn't think that seemed likely. **23.Bd4?!** (ew)

[23.Qd2 Qxd2 24.Rxd2 c5 25.Rb2=]

23...Qb4 The point of keeping the queen on b4 is that the Qf2 is tied to the defense of that bishop- it's hanging with check if the queen moves away. This also keeps an eye on the e1 square: White was still at 84 minutes, while I spent 9 minutes here and had 42.

[23...Qa5 24.Qg3]

24.Rc1

[24.Qb2?? Re1+ 25.Rxe1 (25.Kf2 Qxb2+ 26.Bxb2 Rxd1) 25...Qxe1#]

24...c5 I had to calculate carefully here, but when I made my move, White instantly put his bishop on c3, indicating that he had seen all the variations before I could work them out. **25.Bc3**

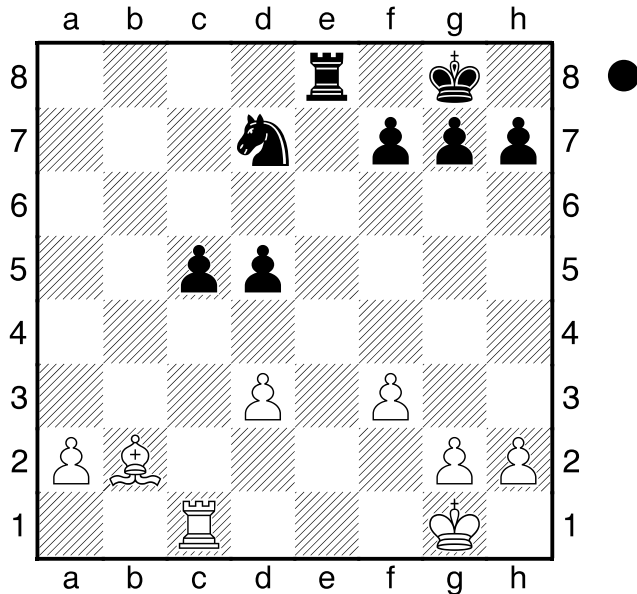
[25.Bxc5 Nxc5 26.Qxc5 Re1+]

27.Rxe1 (27.Kf2 Qd2+ 28.Kg3

I calculated that I have at least perpetual check after Qg5+... and then I saw that Qxc1 covers c8 and wins the game.) 27...Qxc5+

The point of this whole line is that this is check- if it weren't, Re8+ Qf8 followed by trading on f8 would give White a winning pawn endgame.]

25...Qa3 26.Qb2 Qxb2 27.Bxb2



Re2?! A good positional idea, but the wrong concept here. I wanted to tie his pieces down, but I ended up having to retreat just two moves later. There is a famous game between Marshall and Capablanca where Capablanca used a rook on the 7th rank and a queenside majority to totally tie down White's forces. I wasn't blindly copying that game, but I should have grasped that the difference here is that White has a potentially dangerous passed pawn that my rook cannot stop from e2. I should have been thinking of Nimzovich instead: "The passed pawn is a criminal that should be kept under lock and key". (ew: The full quote continues "Mild measures, such as police surveillance, are not enough.")

[27...Ra8

A) 28.a3?! Rb8-+ 29.Rc2 d4 30.a4 Ra8 31.Bc1 (31.Ba3 Ra5) 31...Rxa4;

B) 28.Ra1 Ra4 Black is totally fine here, with a blockade on a light square against the a-pawn and an easy plan with f6, Kf7-e6, Ne5 or even c4 or d4 (28...d4) (ew: 29.a3 f6+)]

28.Rb1 f6

[28...Rd2 29.a4 Rxd3 30.a5 Rb3 31.a6 c4 Actually, this doesn't look so bad 32.Bd4 Rxb1+ 33.Kf2 Nb6]

29.a4 I was calculating Ne5 and Rd2, but again, I decided to keep it simple.

[ew: 29.d4!? c4 (29...cxd4 30.Bxd4 Rxa2 31.Rb5 Rd2 32.Rxd5=) 30.a4 Kf7 31.a5 Re3 32.Bc1 Rb3 33.Rxb3 cxb3 34.Kf2 Ke6=]

29...Re6 30.a5 d4 I switched the move order here, preventing him from playing Bc3 in response to my planned Ra6. This also generally cuts down on the activity of the bishop and king. Fixing the pawn on d3, where the bishop couldn't guard it, ended up being important in the later endgame. White: 81 min, Black: 29. White's fast play was taking a toll on my time management, but I thought I was doing fine on the board.

[30...Ra6 31.Bc3 Kf7 and I judged that I could get my king into the game to help with the blockade before his king could do anything. It was important to blockade the pawn with a piece on a light square, because the knight keeps him out of b6 and the rook can't be dislodged from a6.]

31.Ba3 Kf7 I spent 5 minutes here and was down to 20 minutes by move 35, when he had 79. **32.Rb5 Rc6 33.Kf2**

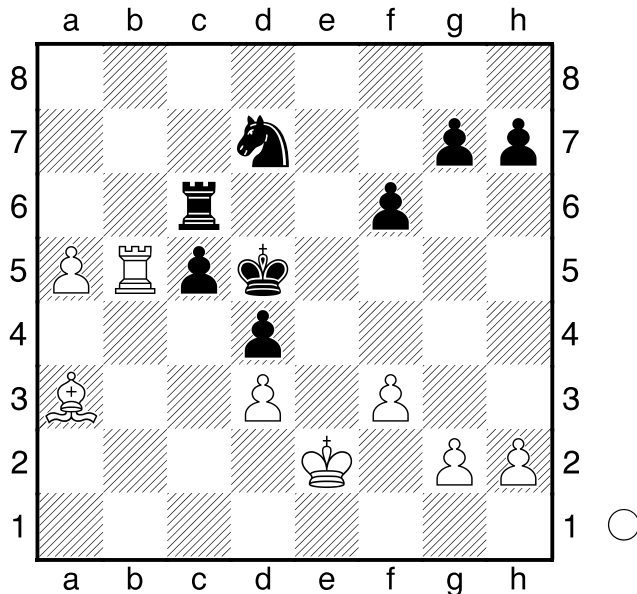
[ew: 33.a6 Rxa6 34.Bxc5 Ra4 35.f4 Nxc5 36.Rxc5 Ra3 37.f5 Rxd3

38.Rc7+=]

33...Ke6

[33...Ne5 I seriously considered this, ultimately discarding it in favor of simply activating my king. 34.Ke2 c4 35.dxc4 Nxc4 36.Bb4 Ke6 (36...Ne5 37.Rb7+) 37.Kd3]

34.Ke2 Kd5



Around here, I remember thinking that I couldn't be worse, since my rook is as good as his, my knight is no worse than his bishop, and my king is a lot more active than his. My only real worry is the a-pawn, which is a big worry if I can't maintain the blockade on a6. (ew: Black does have a little something now (more active king)) **35.Bc1**

[35.Rb7 Ke6=]

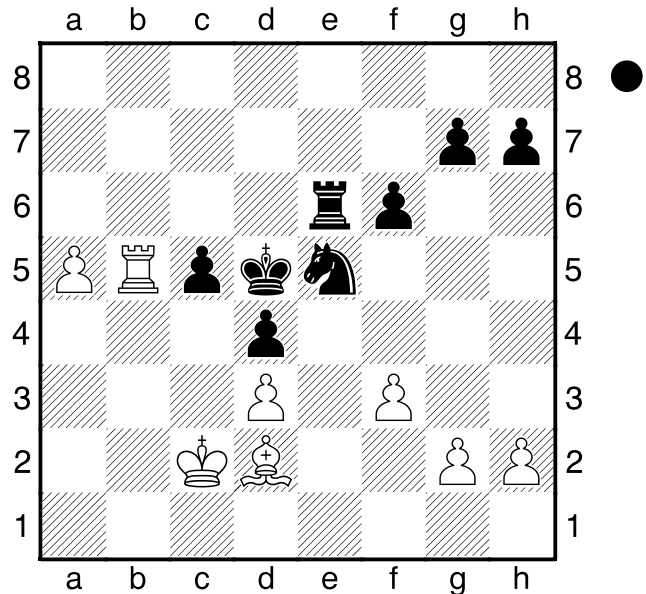
35...Ra6 White: 79 min, Black: 18. White essentially played on the increment from move 24 to the end of the game, and I was also consciously trying to speed up around here. **36.Bd2** I played Ra6 to force his bishop to d2, where it gets in the way and takes squares from his king, but I thought this was at best equal for me. **36...Re6+?! (ew: that little something just went away)**

[36...Kc6 37.Rb3 Ne5 and then c4

next- I should have given this more thought]

[36...Ne5 37.Rb7 c4 (37...g6 38.Rxh7 c4 39.dxc4+ Nxc4 40.Rd7+ Kc5) 38.Rxg7]

37.Kd1= Ne5 This opens the seventh rank for his rook, and I'm not sure that is wise. I think Ra6 and Kc6 would have been better. I would have been totally fine with a draw in this position. **38.Kc2** White's clock pressure got to me here- I was trying to play faster, but didn't realize that I needed to slow down and carefully analyze his response to my planned move.



38...Kc6?? This illustrates why I had lost several games in a row at this tournament- when faced with several "plausible alternatives" (Rc6, Ra6, Nd7, c4), I overlooked a simple check that ruined my whole position. With 20 minutes on my clock, I was already feeling the beginnings of time pressure, but it was worth investing another minute or two to organize my thoughts and check my analysis again. **39.Rb6+** I remember White thinking for a minute or two here- one of his longest thinks of the game- and finding the winning move:

39...Kd5 40.Rxe6 Kxe6 41.a6+- Nc6 42.Ba5?!

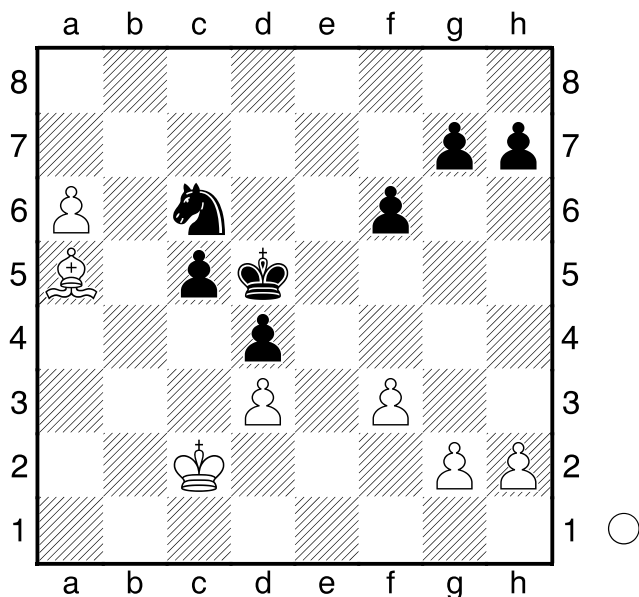
[42.Bf4 Nb4+]

[42.Kb3! Kd5 43.Bf4! Black has no defense against Bb8 (43.Ka4 c4 44.Kb5 cxd3 45.Kb6 The engine calls this equal- the point is that my king will get to c2 and win his bishop for my d3 pawn after I sacrifice my knight for his a3 pawn.) 43...Na7 44.Bb8 Nc8 (44...Nc6 45.a7) 45.a7 Nb6 46.Bc7 Na8 47.Ba5 (ew: and, as Yakov Yukhtman said 60 years ago, "king go bingo")]

42...Kd5!± Here I realized I wasn't quite losing yet- Kb3 is met by Nxa5+ and Nc6, Kb2 is met by c4, and Bb6 is met by Nb4+. So I think White should play Bc7 with the idea of Bb8.

[42...Nxa5 43.a7]

[42...Na7 43.Bb6]



43.Bb6?? I think I must have caught my opponent on a bad day- a player of White's caliber can usually see this in his sleep.

[43.Kb3 Nxa5+ 44.Ka4 Nc6 45.Kb5 Na7+ 46.Kb6 c4 47.dxc4+ Kxc4 48.Kxa7 d3 49.Kb7 d2 50.a7 d1Q

51.a8Q Qd5+ 52.Ka7 Qxa8+

53.Kxa8 Kd3 0-1]

[43.Kb2 Na7 44.Kb3 Kc6 45.Kc4 Nb5 With a positional blockade- Black can play Nd6-b5 and hold.]

43...Nb4+ 44.Kd2 Nxa6-+

With 19 minutes left on my clock, I got up to splash water on my face and mentally reset. I was very tired, but as usual, getting a reprieve from certain defeat gave me enough energy to finish the game. **45.g4** This seemed like a good start, trying to make something happen on the kingside and keeping his pawns on light squares. **45...g6** Removing another target from the light squares. I thought he could still try h4-h5 and maybe Bd8, but I thought I would be faster with c4. White: 80 min, Black: 15. We both mainly played on increment to the end of the game, when I had about 12 minutes and he had 82. **46.f4 f5 47.g5** I thought his last chance was to trade on f5 and swing his king around to attack my split pawns, although I would then just push my queenside majority. This position is one in which Black can maneuver forever- I thought White had no counterplay at all here.

[47.gxf5 gxf5 48.Ke2 Nb4 49.Ba5 Nc6 50.Bb6 c4]

47...Nb4 48.Ba5 Nc6 49.Bc7 Ne7 50.Kc2 Kc6 51.Be5 Nd5 52.Kb3 Kb5 53.Kc2 Ne3+ Going after White's h-pawn- I was actually trying to delay decisive action in the center and wanted to round up another pawn while I could.

54.Kb3 Ng4 55.h3 Nf2

[55...Nxe5 I wasn't really in the mood to calculate, given that Black was already strategically winning. 56.fxe5 Kc6 57.Kc4 f4 58.e6 Kd6 59.e7 Kxe7 60.Kxc5 f3 61.Kxd4 f2]

[55...Ne3]

56.Kc2 Nxh3 57.Kd2 Nf2 58.Ke2 Ng4

59.Bg7 Ne3 Now I wanted my knight on e6 and king on d5 so that if his bishop landed on e5, I could play Nxg5. **60.Kd2 Kc6 61.Ke1 Nd5 62.Be5 Nb4 63.Kd2 Kd5 64.Bg7 Nc6 65.Kc2 Nd8 66.Be5 Ne6 67.Bb8 c4** (ew: Were the last 20 or so moves necessary!?) **68.Be5 cxd3+**

[68...Nxg5 69.dxc4+]

69.Kxd3 Nc5+ 70.Ke2 Ke4 71.Kd2 Ne6 This was an interesting and pretty equal game for a while which should have been decided by my blunder with Kc6 but was instead decided by White's loss of the a-pawn in the endgame.

0-1

□ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **D37 2663**
 ■ **Heiserman,Jimmy** **2262**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 16.06.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

Rapid 1min+30sec My original notes stand well -- Christopher really stands out for his clean, sophisticated play -- and the Mechanics' is fortunate to have him playing here! His patience and alertness to opportunities at the board are well worth studying. For example, this game... **1.Nf3 1:40:00 d5 0 2.d4 0 Nf6 0 3.c4 0 e6 0 4.Nc3 0 Be7 0 5.Bf4 0 0-0 0 6.e3 0 c5 0 7.dxc5 0 Bxc5 0 8.Qc2 0 Nc6 0 9.a3 0 Qa5 0 10.Nd2 0 Bb4 0 11.Bd3!?** 0

"Exploring less charted territory" (CB AI) And given how knowledgeable Heiserman tends to be in the opening, this might be a good idea. It certainly turned out well quickly.

[11.cxd5!? has been the vastly preferred line. Especially by Topalov. exd5 12.Bd3 d4 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.Nc4 Qh5 15.bxc3 Nd5 16.cxd4

Nxd4 17.Qb2 Nxf4 18.exf4 Rd8 19.Ne5 Bf5 20.Bc4 Be6 21.Bxe6 Nxe6 22.g3 Nc5 23.Qc2 b6 24.Rad1 Qh6 25.Qf5 Qe6 26.Qxe6 fxe6 27.Nc6 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 a5 29.Rd6 b5 30.f5 Re8 31.Nxa5 exf5 32.Rd5 Ra8 33.Nc6 Ne4 34.Rxf5 h6 35.Rxb5 Rxa3 36.Rb4 Nf6 37.Rb7 Rd3 38.Ne5 Rd5 39.Ng6 Kh7 40.Nf8+ Kg8 Tin,J (2575)- Sindarov,J (2674) Abu Dhabi 2024 ½-½ (121)]

[11.Rc1!? "11.Rc1 is a critical line" is CB AI's little comment.]

11...e5!?

[Mentioning this side-game for its pedigree, sort of. Not really like Father Bill to accede to a shortish draw; perhaps a veteran's agreement. I never met Yanofsky, but I must have spent days' worth of hours hanging out with Bill in the Village most weekends when I was down to Manhattan from the Chess Federation in New Windsor. 11...h6 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.Nb3 Qd8 14.Qxc3 dxc4 15.Bxc4 Qe7 16.h3 Bd7 17.Nd4 Rac8 18.Rac1 Rfe8 19.Nf3 e5 20.Bh2 b5 21.Be2 Nd4 22.Qd3 Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Bxh3 24.Rfd1 a6 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Bg3 Nh5 27.Qd6 ½-½ (27) Lombardy,W-Yanofsky,D Netanya 1969]

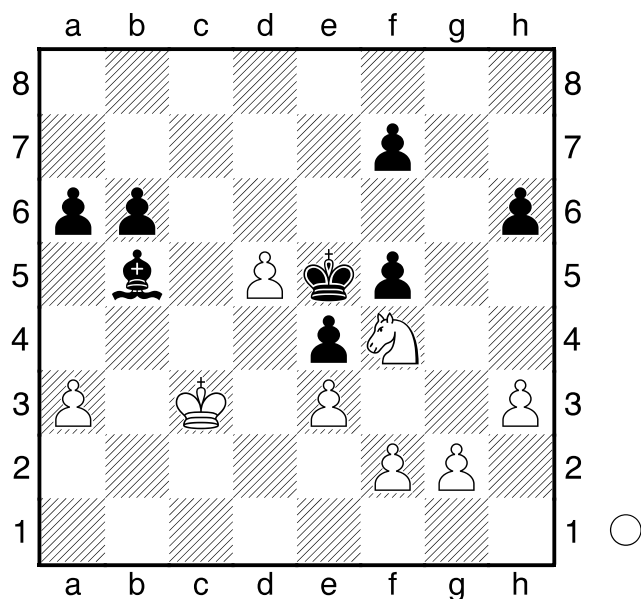
12.Bg5 It is either this

[or 12.Bg3N d4= (12...Be6=) 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.Nb3 Qa4 15.bxc3 dxe3 16.fxe3]

12...d4? 0

[12...e4 13.Bxf6! gxf6?! (13...exd3 14.Qb1! Be7 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Qxd3±) 14.Be2± Bxc3 15.bxc3± (15.Qxc3!±) 15...f5?! 16.Nb3 Qa4 17.cxd5± Na5 18.Nd4 (18.Rb1!) 18...Qxc2 19.Nxc2 Bd7= 20.Nd4 Rac8 21.Kd2 Rc5 22.c4 Rfc8

23.Rhc1 Nxc4+ 24.Bxc4 Rxc4
 25.Rxc4 Rxc4 26.Rc1 Rxc1 27.Kxc1
 Kg7 28.Kd2 Kf6 29.Kc3 Ke5 30.Kc4
 h6 31.Ne2 b6 32.Nf4?! ♣ a6 33.Kb4
 Be8 34.h3 Bd7 35.Kc3 Bb5



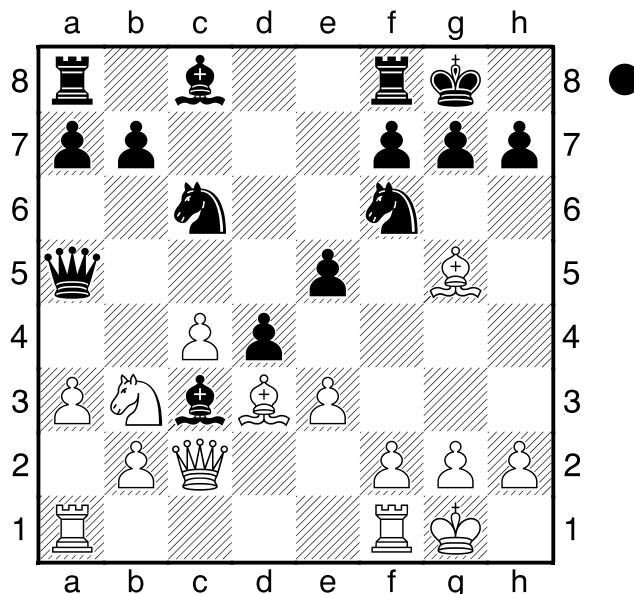
36.g3? (36.Kb4 Bf1 37.Kc3 ♣)
 36...Bf1-+ 0-1 (78) Magnussen,H
 (2136)-Stockmann,M (2303) Halle
 2012]
 [12...Bxc3!=

A) 13.Qxc3 Qxc3 14.bxc3 Be6
 (14...Rd8!) 15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.c4
 Nb6 17.Rb1 Nd7 18.Nb3 f6
 19.Bh4 Rfd8 20.Be2 Rac8 21.0-0
 Ne7 22.Na5 Nc5 23.Nxb7 Nxb7
 24.Rxb7 Nf5 25.Bg3 Bxc4
 26.Bxc4+ Rxc4 27.Rxa7 h5 28.e4
 Rxe4 29.f4 h4 30.Bf2 exf4
 31.Ra5 Ne3 32.Re1 Rd2 33.Rb5
 Rc4 34.Rb4 Rcc2 35.Rxf4 Nd1
 36.Rf1 Ra2 37.h3 Kf7 38.a4 g5
 39.Rf3 Kg6 40.a5 Nxf2 41.R3xf2
 Rxf2 42.Rxf2 Rxa5 43.Rc2 f5
 44.Kf2 g4 45.hxg4 fxg4 46.Rc1
 Kg5 47.Rb1 Ra2+ 48.Kg1 Ra4
 49.Rf1 Rf4 50.Rc1 g3 51.Rc5+
 Kg4 52.Rc1 Ra4 53.Rb1 Rd4
 54.Rc1 Kf4 55.Ra1 Rd2 56.Ra4+
 Ke3 57.Ra3+ Ke2 58.Ra1 Rd1+

59.Rxd1 Kxd1 60.Kh1 Ke2
 61.Kg1 Ke1 62.Kh1 h3 63.Kg1
 h2+ 64.Kh1 Kf2 ½-½ (64) Chasin,
 N (2435)-Dushyant,S (2313) San
 Vicente 2025;

B) 13.bxc3 e4 14.Bf1 d4 15.Bxf6!
 ♠ d3! ♠ 16.Qb1 gxf6 17.Nxe4 f5!
 18.Nf6+ Kg7 19.Nd5 d2+ 20.Kxd2
 Rd8= Not an easy evaluation for
 humans! Silman would have a field
 day categorizing imbalances!]

13.0-0! 0 Bxc3 0 14.Nb3 0



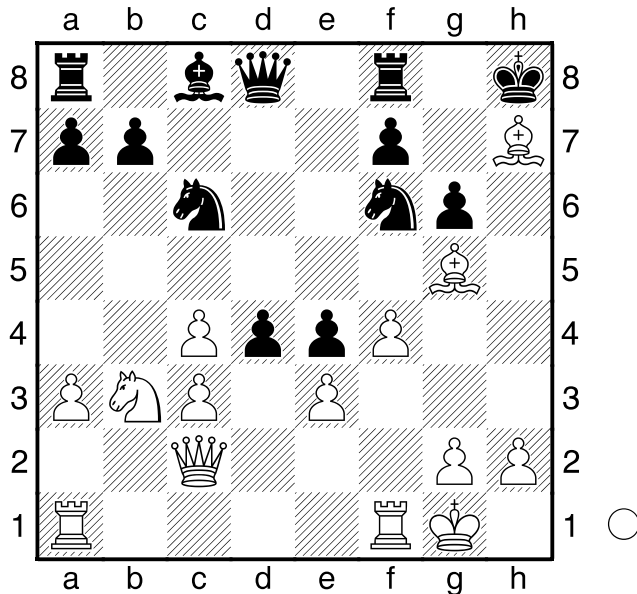
Qd8N 0

[14...Qc7

A) 15.Bxf6! gxf6 16.bxc3 dxc3
 17.Bxh7+ Kg7 18.Rac1±
 (18.Be4±);

B) 15.bxc3?! e4 16.Bxe4 Nxe4
 17.Qxe4 dxc3 18.Rfc1 Na5
 19.Rxc3 Nxb3 20.Rxb3 Be6
 21.Rxb7 Qxc4 22.Qxc4 Bxc4
 23.e4 Rfb8 24.Rab1 Rxb7
 25.Rxb7 a5 26.f3 a4 27.Kf2 h6
 28.Be7 Rc8 29.Bd6 Bb3 30.Bc7
 Re8 31.e5 Kh7 32.Ke3 Re7
 33.g4 f6 34.f4 g5 35.fxg5 hxg5
 36.Ra7 fxe5 37.Bb6 ½-½ (37)
 Simantsev,M (2511)-Khachatryan,V
 (2163) Poltava 2009]

15.Bxh7+ 0 Kh8 0 16.bxc3! 0 g6?! 0
 17.f4! 0 e4 0
 [17...Bf5 18.e4!]



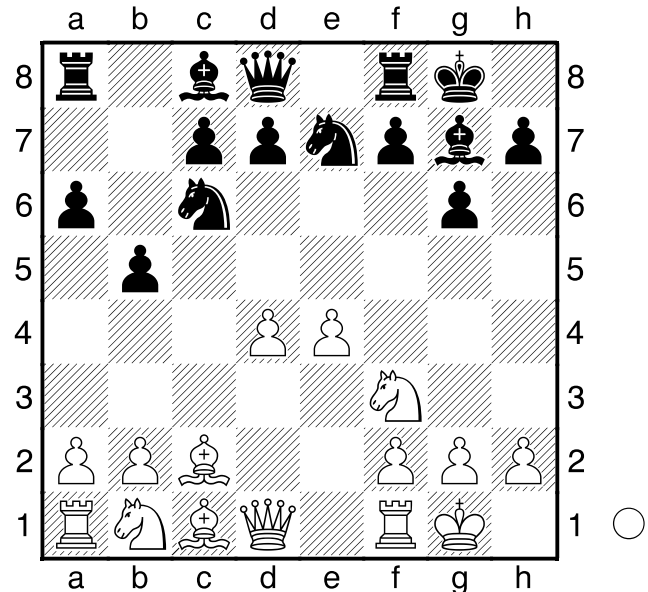
18.cxd4 0 Everything works around
 conquering the long diagonal 18...Kxh7
 0 19.d5 0 Nb8 0 20.c5!?!+- 0
 [20.Qb2 ,]
 [20.Nd4 and]
 [20.Nd4 are all a bit better (in
 ascending order).]

20...b6 0 21.Qb2 0 Kg7 50 22.c6 0
 Should be fatal, and indeed is. 22...Qd6
 1:27 23.Nd2 0 Re8 4:00 24.Nc4 0
 Qxd5 56 25.Qxf6+ 0 Kh7 14 26.Nd6 0
 Rf8 1:07 27.f5 0 (The computer sees
 mate in 7, and probably so does
 Christopher.
 1-0

□ Suarez, Sebastian C60 2314
 ■ Heimann, Mark 2547
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 16.06.2026
 [Winslow, Elliott]

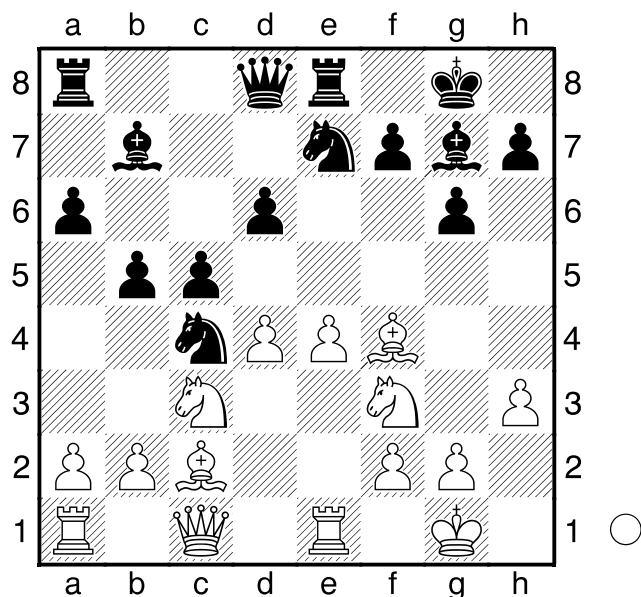
I'm surprised to see Heimann playing
 Smyslov's 3...g6 against the Ruy. Wasn't

it close to refuted? In any case, Suarez
 avoided that but was doing well anyway;
 he didn't make the most of his center
 though. And the pressure as the GM
 outplayed him mounted to winning
 proportion. 1.e4 3:08 e5 5:04 2.Nf3 22
 Nc6 7 3.Bb5 6 g6 7 4.0-0 42 Bg7 4
 5.c3 20 a6 17 6.Ba4 5 Nge7 14 7.d4
 14 exd4 37 8.cxd4 6 b5 13 9.Bc2 7
 0-0 35
 [9...d5±]



10.Re1 11:20
 [10.d5± Na5 11.Qe1]
 10...d6 4:39
 [10...d5!=]
 11.h3± 24 Bb7 2:18 12.Nc3 3:40 Na5
 1:05 13.Bf4 1:01 Re8 1:18 14.Qd2N
 17:00
 [14.Rc1±]
 [14.a4 b4 15.Na2 c5 16.dxc5 dxc5
 17.Qxd8 Raxd8 18.Bc7 Nec6
 19.Bxd8 Rxd8 20.Nc1 Bxb2
 0-1 (63) Lee, M (2227)-Mitkov, N
 (2447) Charlotte 2023]
 14...Nc4= 3:26 15.Qc1 18 c5 34

(Diagram)



16.b3?! 4:32

[White should try 16.d5±]

16...cxd4 3:56 17.bxc4 7

White sacrificed a pawn **17...dxc3 3**

18.Qa3 15:07 Inhibits b4. **18...Nc6↑ 2:40**

White is under strong pressure. **19.Rad1 5:56**

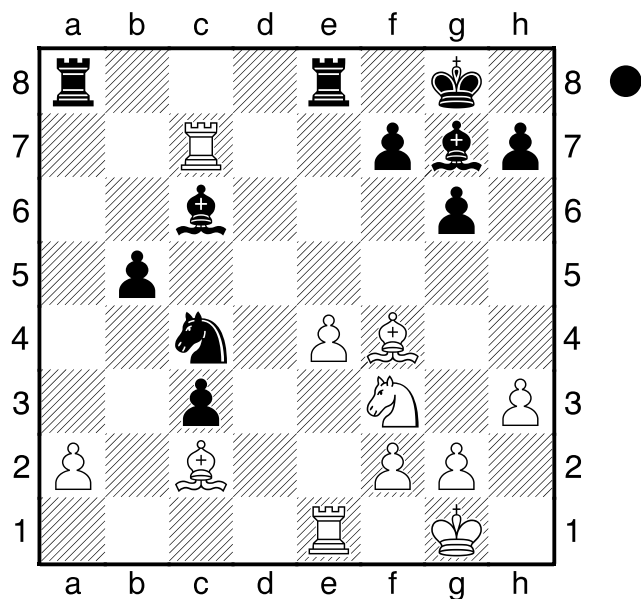
[19.Bxd6 7 Na5 (19...bxc4

20.Rab1=) 20.c5]

19...Qa5!-+ 6:17 20.Qxa5 4:10 Nxa5 3

21.cxb5 11 axb5 4 22.Rxd6 10 Nc4

1:48 23.Rd7 37 Bc6 7:16 24.Rc7 5:08



Rxa2 38 Black plays on the queen side

and is better

[24...Rec8 7 25.Rxc8+ Rxc8]

25.Bb3= 47 Ra6 7 26.e5! 1:53

Shutting out the B/f4, maybe c3 falls!?

26...Bxf3 18:48 27.gxf3 9 g5 10:51

28.Bg3 2:07 Raa8 3:43

[28...Bxe5?! 29.Bxc4 Bxc7!

30.Rxe8+ Kg7=]

29.Rc1 5:45 Bxe5 4:06 30.Bxe5 27

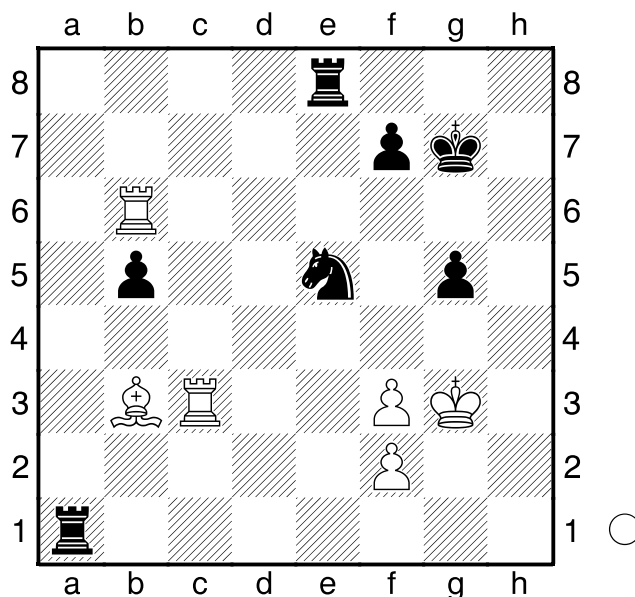
Nxe5 3 31.R1xc3 33 Kg7 5:58 32.Kg2

1:15 Rab8 1:08 33.h4 2:33 h6 13

34.hxg5 48 hxg5 2 35.Kg3 1 Kf6 2:53

36.Ra7 10:39 Ra8 1:48 37.Rb7 2 Ra1

4:15 38.Rb6+ 2:29 Kg7 4



39.Rd6? 38

[White must play 39.f4! 7 Rh8

40.fxg5 (40.fxe5? Rg1+ 41.Kf3

Rh3+ Skewer 42.Ke4 Rxc3-+)]

39...b4-+ 4:42 40.Re3 13

(Diagram)

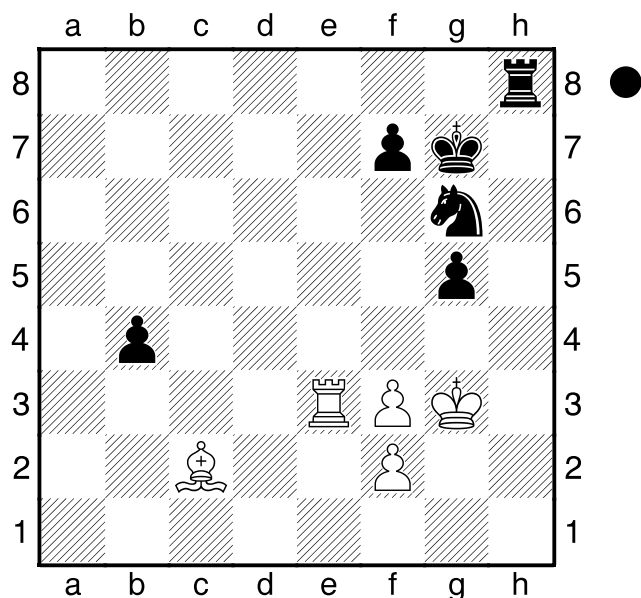
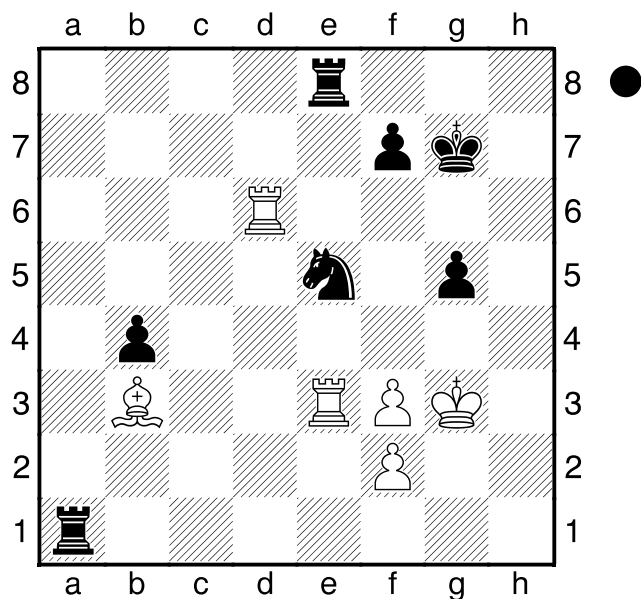
Rh8! 9 41.Rd1 17 Rxd1 7 42.Bxd1 1

Endgame KRB-KRN. Black is a pawn up.

42...Ng6 17 43.Bc2 5:19

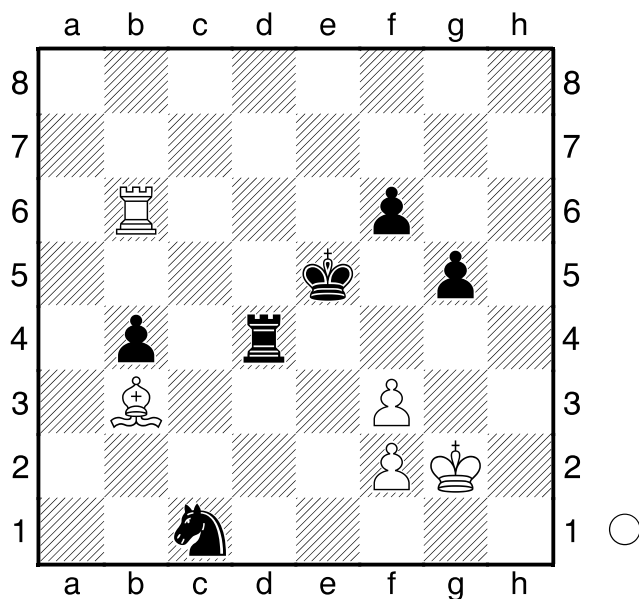
(Diagram)

Rh4? 2:34

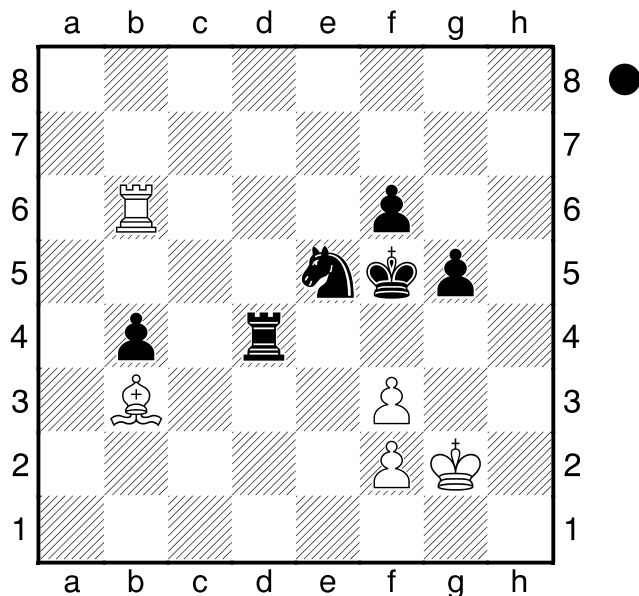


[Black should play 43...Rc8+
44.Bxg6 Kxg6]
44.Re8!= 43 Nf4 1:13
 [44...Rf4+ might be stronger.]
45.Rb8 37 Ne2+ 2:36 46.Kg2 2 Rd4 17
47.Rb7 38 Nc3 1:20 48.Bb3 46 Rf4 3
49.Rb8 10 Kg6 47 50.Rb6+ f6 1:00
51.Rb8 Rd4 30 52.Rb7 17 Kf5 40
53.Re7 36 Nd5 1:06 54.Rb7 33 Nf4+
29 55.Kg3 21 Ke5 16 56.Rb6 1:04
Ne2+ 1:12 57.Kg2 2 Nc1 13

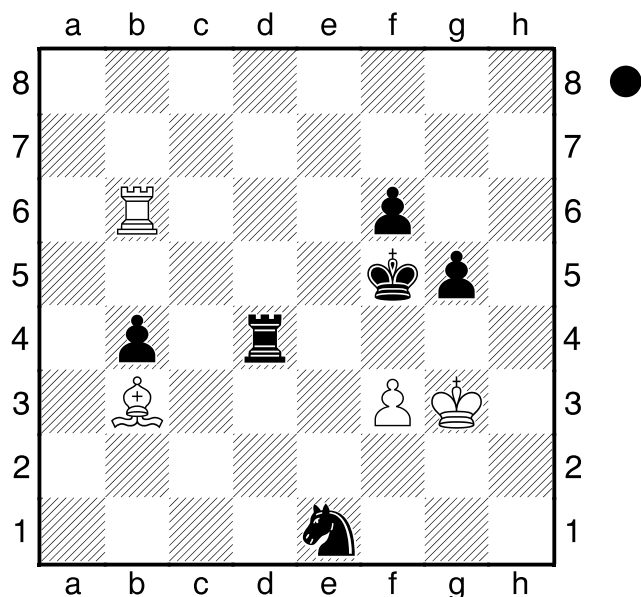
(Diagram)



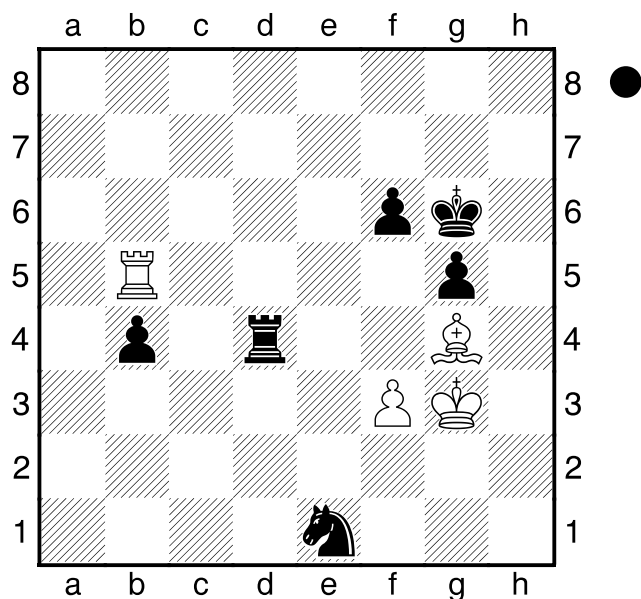
58.Bf7 43
 [58.Bc2+]
58...Nd3 23
 [58...Rf4!+ and ...Nd3 should not be
 overlooked 59.Bh5 Nd3]
59.Re6+!+ 2 Kf5 6 60.Rb6 12 Ne5 1:14
61.Bb3? 15
 [61.Bg8+ Kg6 62.Rb7]



61...Nxf3!+ 1:02 Decoy 62.Kg3 1:56
 [62.Bc2+ Kg4]
62...Ne1 1:12 Prevents Bc2+ 63.f3 1:15
 (Diagram)



Rd3! 45 64.Be6+ 32 Kg6 16 65.Bg4 15
Rd4 39 66.Rb5 25



Rf4! 13 67.Be6? 50

[67.Rb7]

67...Rxf3+ 6 Black is clearly winning.

68.Kh2 5 Rf4 8 69.Bb3 27

[69.Rb8]

69...Nf3+ 7 70.Kg3 7 Nd4 11

Weighted Error Value: White=0.27

(precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)

0-1

□ **Seitzer,Phillip**

■ **Lee,Andy C**

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (7.3) 16.06.2026

[Winslow,Elliott]

C47

2034

2322

Andy Lee finishes the tournament with another win to tie for 3rd-4th with Chen. Here White had the better opening but a shot on move 15 threw Seitzer off balance; an error bordering on blunder followed and another, and it was over.

1.Nf3 2 Nc6 1:46 2.e4 2:54 e5 11

Well *that* was curious! **3.d4 7 exd4 12**

4.Nxd4 7 Nf6 48 5.Nc3 13 Bb4 54

6.Nxc6 8 bxc6 13 7.Bd3 5 0-0 1:14

8.0-0 2:19 d5 4:24 9.exd5 2:10

C47: Scotch Four Knights and Four

Knights with 4 g3. **9...Bg4 4:39**

Black sacrificed a pawn **10.f3 8:40 Bh5**

8 11.Ne2 7:55 The position is equal.

11...cxd5 6:34 12.Nf4 33 Re8N 3:29

[12...Bg6 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.c4 Bc5+ 15.Kh1 Nh5 16.g3 dxc4 17.Bxc4 Qf6 18.Qc2 Bd6 1-0 (72) Golubev,M (2461)-Boder,J (2328) Chess.com INT 2024]

13.Bd2 5:33 Qd6 13:57 14.Kh1 4:21

Re5 13:14

[14...Bc5= remains equal.]

15.c3± 13:37 Bc5 54 16.Re1 7

[16.g4± Bg6 17.g5 Rxc5 18.Nxg6 Rxc5 19.Qa4]

(Diagram)

Against Be3 **16...Ne4!= 5:52 17.Bxe4**

1:51 dxe4 24 18.Be3? 5:55

[But not 18.Nxh5? Rxh5 19.h3 Rd5 20.Rxe4 Rxd2-+]

[18.g4!= and White has nothing to worry.]

18...exf3-+ 2:35 19.Qxd6 2:25 Bxd6

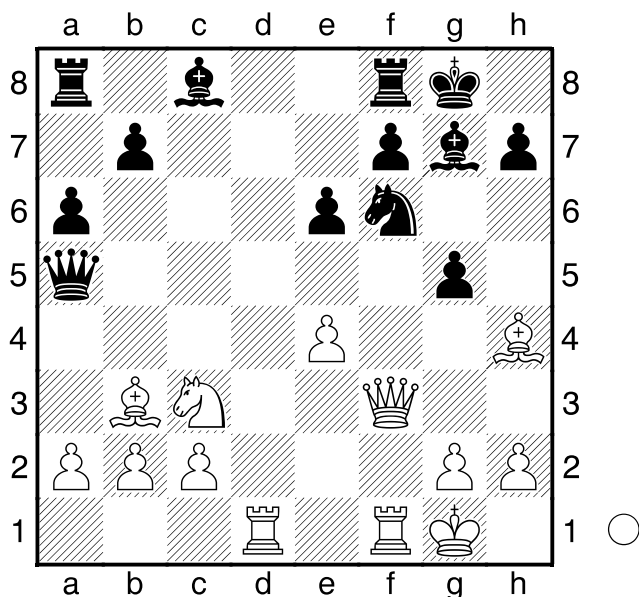
1:34 20.Nxh5 2:31 Rxh5 31 21.h3 29



●

(Diagram)

b5 1



21.Bg3 1:51

[21.Be1!± (threatening Nd5) and White stays clearly on top. Nd7 22.Na4]

21...e5? 18:41 This move loses the game for Black.

[21...Bd7±]

22.Nd5+- 1:01 **Nxd5** 1:16 **23.Rxd5** 6

[Don't take 23.Bxd5 Be6 24.Bf2 (24.Bxb7? Qb6+ 25.Bf2 Qxb7-+) 24...Rac8±]

23...Qc7 26 **24.Qe3** 11:29 **Be6** 3:53

[Δ24...Qe7 25.Qc5 Qxc5+ 26.Rxc5 Be6]

(Diagram)

25.Rxe5!! 1:15 **Bxb3** 2:52

[25...Qd7 26.Rxg5]

26.Rxg5! 27 **Qe7** 53 **27.axb3** 1:15 **f6**

14 **28.Rd5** 42 **Rae8** 4 **29.Bd6+-** 54

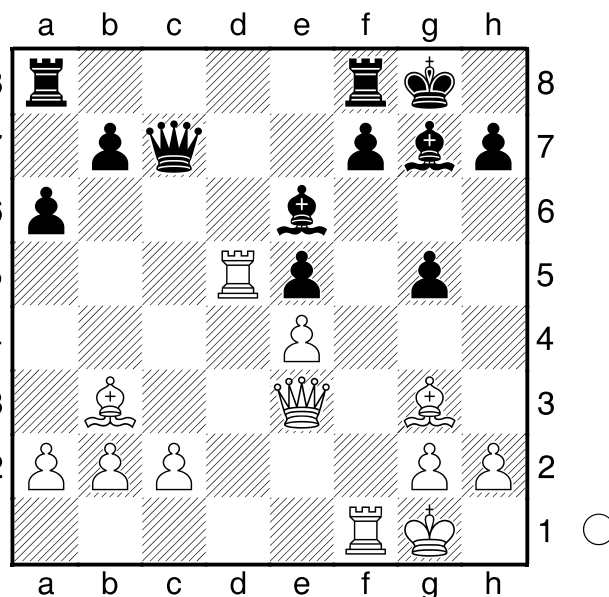
Qe6 13 **30.Bxf8** 1:00 **Qxd5** 2 **31.Bxg7**

1:20 **Rxe4** 49 **32.Qf2** 1:22 **Rg4** 3:27

33.Bxf6 15 Weighted Error Value:

White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.54

1-0



□ **Ploquin,Phil**

■ **Zhao,Isaac Dan**

3rd Silman TNM: 1600-1999 (7.5) 16.6.26 [Winslow,Elliott]

B00

1647

1947

This win saw Isaac Zhao keep his half point lead over Babayan and win the 1800-1999 section clear. **1.e4** 4 **e6** 4:59 **2.d4** 10 **b6** 1:40 **3.Bd3** 1:10 **Bb7** 11 **4.Nf3** 43 **c5** 23 **5.Be3** 1:57 **Nf6** 16 **6.Nc3** 4:19 White is expecting it to turn into some sort of Open Sicilian after ... cxd4. **6...cxd4** 7 **7.Bxd4** 2:14

But this is maybe unusual.

[7.Nxd4± Bb4 8.Bd2]

7...Nc6= 6 Free tempo, if you believe bishops are worth a bit more than knights! **8.Be3** 17 The position is equal.

8...Bb4 1:54 **9.Bd2** 1:06 **d5!N** 1:43

Black is equal plus. You can't ask for more than that in a critical game like this!

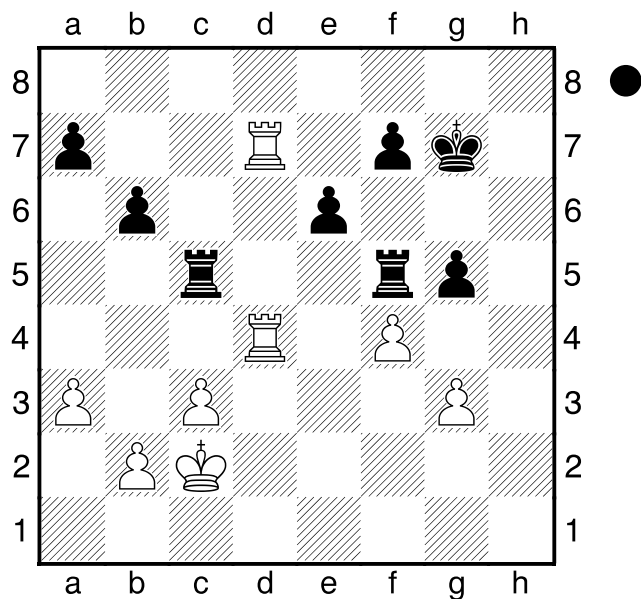
[9...Rc8 10.a3 Bc5 11.0-0 0-0

12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Be7 14.Qe2 Nh5

15.Bxe7 Qxe7 0-1 (42) Zaloznik S,D-Urbanc,P (1862) Debeli Rtic 2012]

10.exd5 46 **Nxd5** 29 **11.Nxd5** 54 **Qxd5**

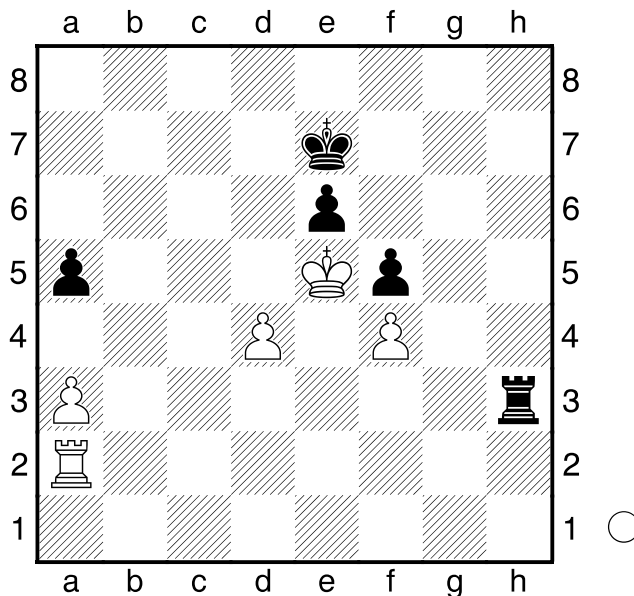
20 **12.a3!** 31 **Bxd2+** 54 **13.Qxd2** 33 **Ne5** 50 **14.Nxe5** 4:42 **Qxe5+** 17 **15.Qe2** 7
 [15.Qe3 $\bar{f}$ is superior. Qxb2 16.0-0]
15...Qxe2+ 40
 [15...Qxb2 $\bar{f}$ 16.0-0 0-0]
16.Kxe2 35 **0-0** 1:56 **17.f3** 3:11 **Rac8**
 17 **18.Rad1** 1:08 **Bd5** 44 **19.Rd2** 1:12 **g6** 47 **20.Rhd1** 47 **Rc5** 51 **21.c3** 1:21 **Bb3** 8 **22.Bc2** 19 **Bc4+** 1:08 **23.Bd3**
 1:01 **Bb3** 6 **24.Bc2** 8 **Bd5** 8:23 **25.Ke3**
 2:14 **Kg7** 26 **26.Be4** 41 **Bxe4** 1:12
27.Kxe4 22 Endgame KRR-KRR
27...Rb5 2:24 **28.Kd3** 48 **Rc8** 5:57
29.Kc2 4:19 **Rg5** 21 **30.g3** 28 **Rf5** 38
31.Rd3 57 **Rcc5** 1:12 **32.R1d2** 1:04 **h5**
 2:21 **33.f4** 1:45 **h4** 1:37 **34.Rd7** 59
hxc3 37 **35.hxc3** 10
 [35.Rxa7 gxh2 (35...Rxf4 36.hxc3
 Rff5 37.a4 $\pm$) 36.Rxh2 Rxf4-+]
35...g5 3:27 **36.R2d4** 2:58



gxf4 5:03 **37.gxf4** 18 b4! is the strong threat.

[37.Rxa7? perishes. fxg3 38.Rg4+ Rg5-+]
37...Ra5 1:00 **38.Kd3** 2:27 **Kg6** 1:34
39.Ke3 2:10 **Rfb5** 8:19 **40.Rd2** 2:16
Ra4 1:28 **41.Rg2+** 6:19 **Kf6** 14 **42.Rh2**
 7:37 **Kg7** 2:46 Prevents Rh7+ **43.Rg2+**

2:55 **Kf8** 6 **44.Rh2** 2:27 **Rf5** 57 **45.Rd4**
 1:53 **Rxd4** 38 **46.cxd4** 6 KR-KR
46...Rb5 10 **47.b4** 1:23 **a5** 50 **48.Rb2**
 2:05 **Rh5** 5:40 **49.bxa5** 3:59 **Rh3+** 2:19
50.Ke4 1:36 **bxa5** 4:13 **51.Ra2** 3:37
f5+ 34 **52.Ke5** 38 **Ke7** 6



53.d5 29 **Re3+** 7 **54.Kd4** 17 **Re4+** 18
55.Kc5 1:34 **exd5** 3:18 **56.Kxd5** 9 **Kf6**
 1:11

[56...Rxf4!? 57.Ke5 $\square$ Rf3=]
57.Kc5? 1:50 Loses the game.
 [57.Rf2 $\bar{f}$]
57...Rxf4-+ 3:04 Black is clearly winning.
58.Kd5 3:32 **a4** 4:57 **59.Rb2** 6:15 **Rf3**
 1:11 **60.Ra2** 36 **Rb3** 42 **61.Kd4** 29
Kg5 3:19 **62.Ke5** 27 **Re3+** 9 **63.Kd4** 8
Rg3 3:27 ...f4 is the strong threat.
64.Ke5 45 **Kg4** 31 **65.Rf2** 1:51 **Re3+**
 14 **66.Kd4** 1:48 **Rxa3** 19 **67.Ke5** 52
Re3+ 14 **68.Kd4** 9 **f4** 47 and White
 resigned. Weighted Error Value:
 White=0.31/Black=0.17 (very precise)
0-1

□ Babayan, Gagik

■ Rao, Neeraj

3rd Silman TNM: 1600-1999 (7.19)

[Winslow, Elliott]

B22

1691

1577

Here is Gagik securing clear 2nd with accurate Alapin alacrity (couldn't help myself :-)) -- minus one big chance that he allowed Neeraj, but then Rao didn't take it! And back to endgame win. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Bb5 Bg4 6.h3** B22: Sicilian: 2 c3.

6...Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qxf3 8.gxf3

The position is equal. **8...Rc8 9.d3 a6**

10.Ba4N

[Predecessor: 10.Bxc6+ Rxc6

11.Be3 Nf6 12.Nd2 g6 13.Ne4 b6

14.O-O-O Bg7 15.d4 cxd4 16.Bxd4

0-1 (43) Koenig, P-Kiendl, T (1823)

Teisnach 2009]

10...b5 11.Bc2 Nf6 12.Nd2 b4

[12...e6±]

13.Ne4

[13.Ba4±]

13...Nd7 14.a3 White wants to play

axb4. **14...a5**

[14...bxc3= remains equal. 15.bxc3 f5]

15.axb4± cxb4 16.Bd2

[16.Ba4±]

16...e5

[16...g6±]

17.Ba4

[17.f4±]

17...bxc3

[17...f5!± deserves consideration.]

18.bxc3 f5 19.Ng3 White is more active. **19...Nc5**

[19...g6±]

20.Bxc6+

[20.Nxf5+- Threatens to win with Bxc6+. g6 21.Ng3]

20...Rxc6± 21.Rxa5 g6 22.Ke2↑

White has good play. **22...Nb3?**

[22...Bg7±]

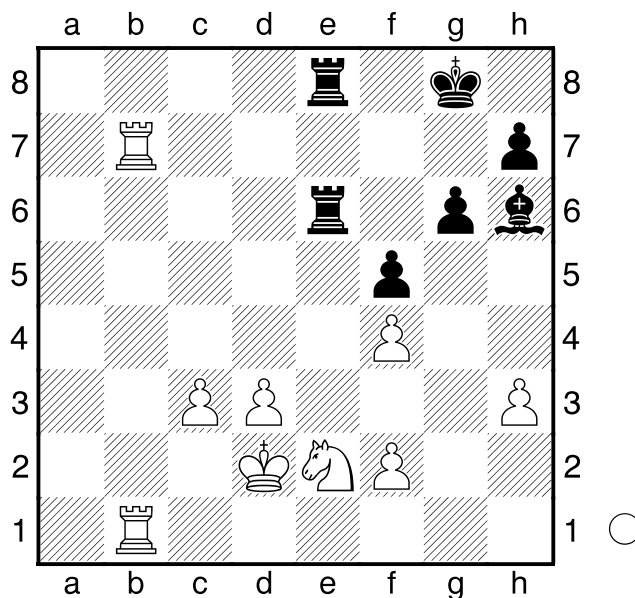
[22...Bg7±]

23.Rxe5+- Kf7 24.Rb5 Nxd2

25.Kxd2 Bh6+ 26.Kc2 Ra8 27.Rhb1

Bg7 28.Ne2 Re8 29.Kd2 Bh6+ 30.f4

Rce6 31.Rb7+! Kg8

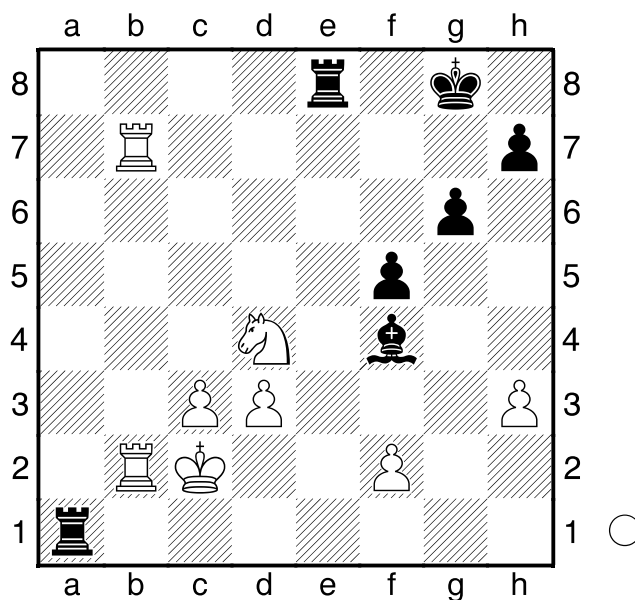


32.Nd4 Bxf4+ 33.Kc2 Ra6 34.R1b2

Dodges Ra2

[34.Rd7+-]

34...Ra1±

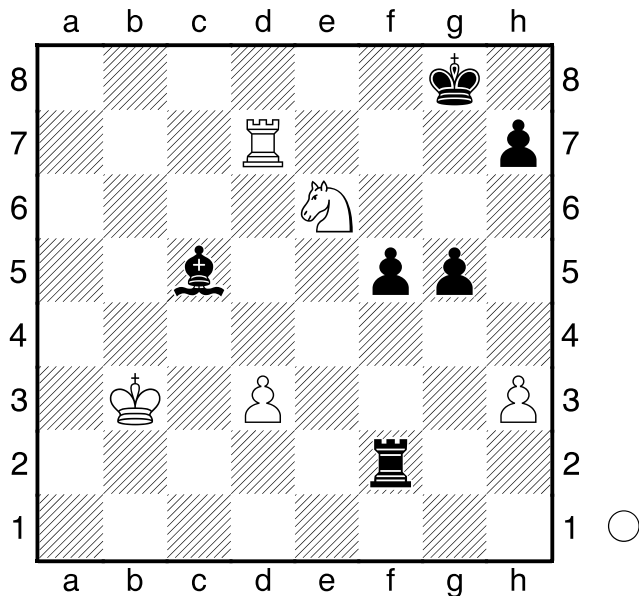


35.Rd7

[Better is 35.Rb1!± Ra3 36.h4]

35...Rc1+= 36.Kb3 Rb8+ 37.Ka2

**Rxb2+ 38.Kxb2 Rf1 39.Ne6 Rxf2+
40.Kb3 g5?
[40...Bh6!=]
41.c4+- Be3 42.c5 Bxc5**



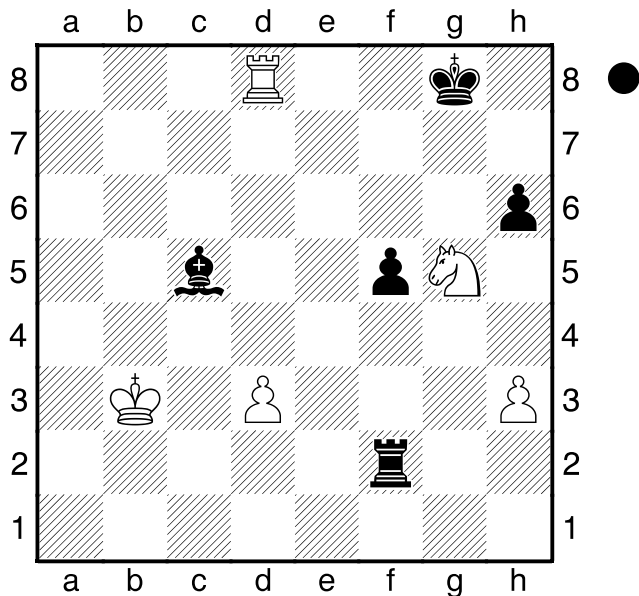
43.Nxg5??±

[43.Nxc5+- h6 44.Ne6]
[43.Rg7+ Kh8 44.Rc7+-]

43...h6??

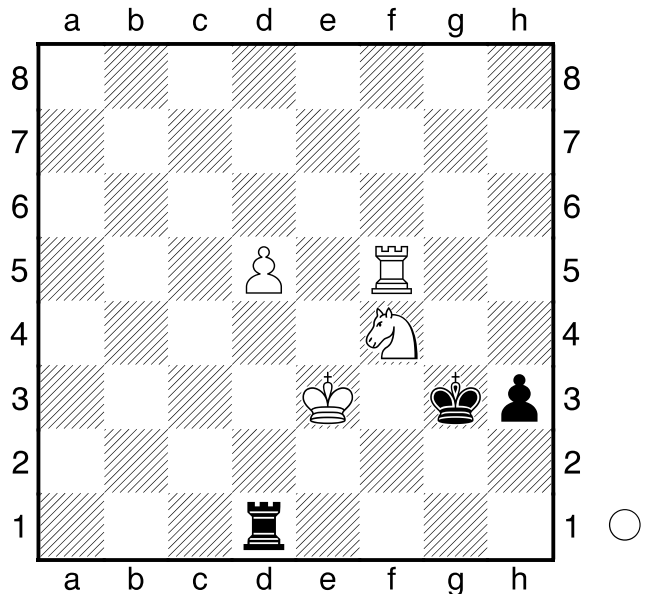
[43...Be3 44.Nxh7 Bd4!=]
[43...Be3= and Black is okay.
44.Nxh7 Bd4]

44.Rd8+



Kg7?

[44...Bf8 45.Ne6 Kf7 46.Nxf8 f4]
**45.Ne6+ Kf6 46.Nxc5 KRN-KR
46...Rf3 47.Kc4 Rxh3 48.d4 Rh1
49.Rd6+ Kg5 50.Ne6+ Kg4 51.d5
Rc1+ 52.Kd4 h5 53.Rd8 Rd1+
54.Ke3 h4 55.Rg8+ Kh3 56.Rg5 Kh2
57.Rxf5 h3 58.Nf4 Kg3**



59.Nxh3! Kxh3 KR-KR. White is a pawn up.

[59...Re1+ 60.Kd2]

**60.Ke4 Kg4 61.Rf8 Re1+ 62.Kd4
Rd1+ 63.Kc5 Rc1+ 64.Kd6 Kg5
65.Kd7 Rd1 66.d6 Kg6 67.Kc7 Rc1+
68.Kd8 Kg7 69.Rf4 Rd1 70.d7 Rd3
71.Rf5 Kg6 72.Rc5 Kg7 73.Kc7 Kf7
74.d8Q Rxd8 75.Kxd8 KR-K 75...Ke6
76.Kc7 Ke7 77.Rc6 Kf7 78.Rd6 Ke7
79.Rh6 Kf7 80.Kd7 Kg7 81.Re6 Kf7
82.Ra6 Kg7 83.Ke7 Kg8 84.Rf6 Kg7
85.Re6 Kg8 86.Rg6+ Kh8 87.Kf7
Kh7 88.Rf6 Kh8 89.Rh6#** Weighted
Error Value: White=0.56/Black=0.84
1-0

Turner,Robert **C15**
1251

Barreyro,Romeo Belmes **1500**
 3rd Silman TNM: u1600 (7.6) 16.06.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

Barreyro already was guaranteed first! Still, a theoretically interesting game if a bit of a throwback; and Turner could have been making more for himself in the "not-first" category... **1.e4 3 e6 8 2.d4 12 d5 6 3.Nc3 16 Bb4 48 4.Bd2 38** (Not seen at all often these days, what with the engines giving Black the advantage already. But it's trappy and a surprise weapon, which could make up for objective failure. **4...Bxc3 26**

[4...dxe4! 5.Qg4! Nf6! 6.Qxg7 Rg8 7.Qh6 Qxd4! 8.0-0-0 (8.Nge2) 8...Nbd7= 9.f3! a6!]

5.bxc3 1:11

[5.Bxc3! dxe4 6.Qg4! White's score with 4.Bd2 is dragged down by all the other moves played here! Nf6 7.Qxg7 Rg8 8.Qh6 & 0-0-0, and White has a tug of a plus.]

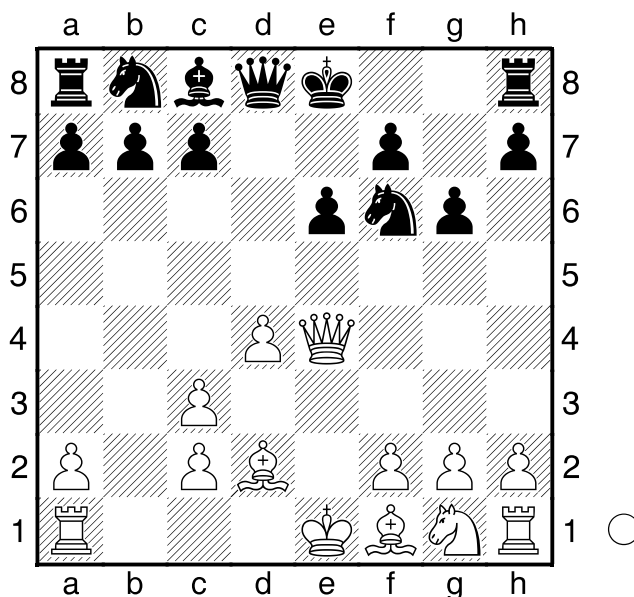
5...dxe4 25

[Relevant: 5...Ne7 6.Bd3 c5 7.e5 c4 8.Be2 Qa5 9.a4 Bd7 10.Qb1 b6 11.Qb4 Nbc6 12.Qa3 Rb8 13.Nf3 b5 14.0-0 bxa4 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Rfb1 Rb6 18.Nd2 Nc8 19.f4 Kd8 20.h4 Rxb1+ 21.Rxb1 Qc7 22.Nf1 Be8 23.f5 Qe7 24.Qc1 Nb6 25.Qf4 g5 26.Qf2 gxh4 27.Ne3 h5 28.f6 Qa3 29.Qe1 h3 30.Ra1 Qf8 31.gxh3 Qh6 32.Qg3 Rg8 33.Qxg8 Qxe3+ 34.Kf1 Qxh3+ 35.Kf2 Talibov,S (2307)-Mammadov,S (2177) Nakhchivan 2022 0-1]

6.Qg4 2:03 g6?! 3:34

[Everyone's computer loves the "standard" 6...Nf6 7.Qxg7 Rg8 8.Qh6 with a common Winawer French scenario -- Black is no worse.]

7.Qxe4 2:30 Nf6 35



8.Qf4N 3:16 As good as the other moves

[Predecessor: 8.Qf3 Nbd7 9.Ne2 Qe7 10.Bh6 Nd5 11.Bd2 Qf6 12.Nf4 Nxf4 13.Bxf4 e5 14.Bxe5 Qxf3 15.gxf3 Nxe5 16.dxe5 b6 17.Bb5+ Bd7 18.Bxd7+ Kxd7 19.0-0-0+ Ke6 20.f4 Rad8 21.Rd4 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Kf5 23.Kd2 Kxf4 24.Ke2 Rd8 25.c3 c5 26.h3 Kf5 27.Rd1 cxd4 28.cxd4 a5 29.Rd3 b5 30.Kd2 b4 31.Rf3+ Ke6 32.Rf6+ Ke7 33.Kd3 Rc8 34.Ra6 Rc3+ 35.Ke4 Rxh3 36.Rxa5 Rh2 37.f3 Rc2 Diachenko,M (1104)-Moravcik,A (1082) Dudince 2023 ½-½]
[8.Qh4!?]

8...0-0 2:09 9.Nf3± 1:22 White is clearly

better here -- those dark squares and no bishop to cover them! He just needed to play more aggressively (h2-h4!). As it went: a draw; even a win wouldn't have stopped Barreyro from claiming 1st, but Turner then could have tied for 2nd-3rd instead of 3rd-4th. **9...Nd5 4:55 10.Qh6 4:47 f6 26 11.Bd3 4:23 Rf7 1:59 12.0-0 8:09 Nc6 48 13.Rfe1 6:07 Nde7 3:08 14.Bc4 6:51 Nf5 1:29 15.Qh3 1:30 Re7 6:19 16.Re4 5:34 Na5 1:25**

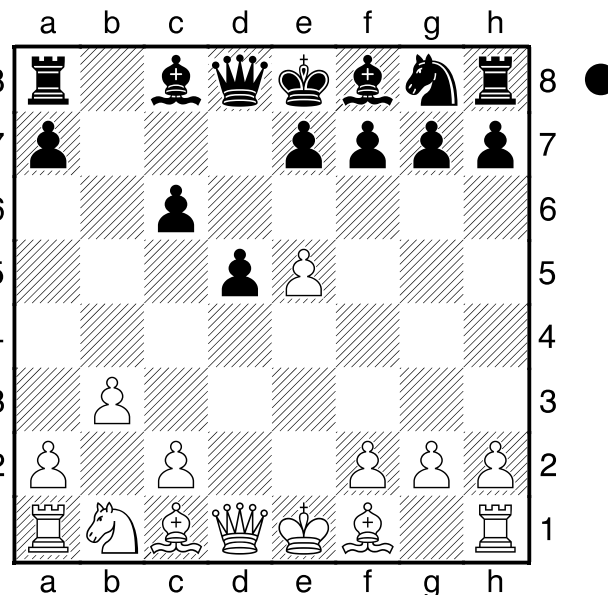
17.Bd3 2:18 Nd6 1:30 18.Rh4 10:28 e5
 4:33 19.Qg3 27 e4 18 20.Ne5 6:10 Nf5
 35 21.Qf4 2:38 fxe5 5:19 22.Qg5 4:19
 Nxh4 12:39 23.Bxe4 24 Nf5 4:46 24.c4
 4:10 Nxc4 2:52 25.Bb4 27 Ncd6 1:24
 26.Bd5+ 3:04 Kg7 2:37 27.dxe5 33
 Qf8 3:56 28.exd6 1:24 cxd6 10:48
 29.Bc3+ 41 Re5 12 30.Re1 4:49 h6 6
 31.Qf4 33 g5 1:39 32.Bxe5+ 2:28 dxe5
 13 33.Qxe5+ 10 Qf6 2:17 34.Qe8 1:22
 Qf8 2:14 35.Qe5+ 15 Qf6 46 36.Qe8
 28 Qf8 16 37.Qe5+
 1/2-1/2

□ Harriman, Connor **B12**
 1419
 ■ Defranco, Anthony Lawson **0**
 3rd Silman TNM: u1600 (7.31) 16.06.26
[Winslow, Elliott]

Connor Harriman leaped into clear 2nd in the section with this win in the 3...c5 line of the Advance Variation of the Caro Kann, ever popular at the Mechanics'. Time to learn something about it! (My Panov Botvinnik is no surprise any more.) 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 [5.Qxd4!? Nc6 6.Qf4] 5...Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.b3

(Diagram)

f6? This can't be good! 8.exf6 gxf6 9.Qh5+ Kd7 10.Bd3 Kc7 11.Bf4+ Kb7 12.0-0 e5 13.Bd2 Bd6 14.a4 a5 15.c3 Qe7 16.b4 Kc7 17.c4 Bxb4 18.cxd5 Ba6 19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.Bxb4 axb4 21.dxc6 Rxc6 22.Nd2 Qf8 23.Rfd1 Ne7 24.Nb3 Ng6 25.Qf3 Qa8 26.Qd5 Rd8 27.Qf7+ Kb6 28.a5+ Ka6 29.Qxh7 Rxd1+ 30.Rxd1 Nf4 31.Qe4 Qc8 32.Qxb4 Ne2+ 33.Kf1 Nd4 34.Nxd4 exd4 35.Qxd4 Kxa5 36.Ra1+

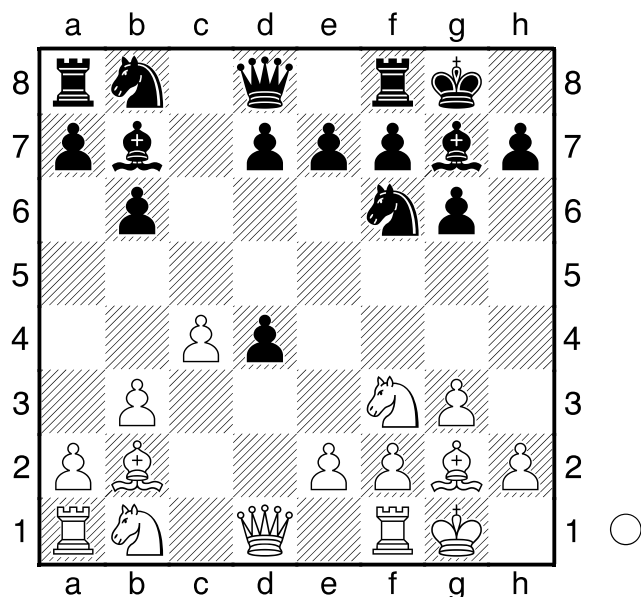


Kb5 37.Qd5+ Rc5 38.Rb1+ Ka6
 39.Qd6+
 1-0

□ Seitzer, Phillip **A30**
 2072
 ■ Yoo, Christopher Woojin **2665**
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 07.07.26
[Seitzer, Phillip]

EW: Start of a new TNM! And some surprises: (1) Christopher Yoo is playing again! (2) Some upsets in Round 1, including a couple of the successes from the previous TNM. (3) Winslow starts with a win! <cough> Anyway: Philip Seitzer analyzes his first round game here, seemingly not noticing that his opponent is rated 600 points higher than him. "Play the board, not the opponent!" And Yoo shows his signature confident play, even going for a quadruple fianchetto (not that the super-symmetry lasts that long). 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 0-0 7.c4 c5 8.d4 cxd4

(Diagram)



9.Nxd4?

[9.Qxd4! This is the only way to play here. Everything else is already worse for White.

A) 9...d6 10.Nc3 Ne4

(10...Nbd7) 11.Qe3;

B) 9...a6!?;

C) 9...Na6!?;

D) 9...Nc6 10.Qh4 h6 (10...d5!=)

11.Bxf6 Bxf6 (11...exf6 12.Nc3±

White plays against the IQP)

12.Qxh6 (Note that the Ra1 is taboo because of Ng5) Nb4

13.Na3!? (13.Nbd2!?) 13...Bg7

14.Qd2 Bxa1 15.Rxa1 Bxf3

16.Bxf3 Nc6 17.Rd1 Qc7 18.Nb5

(18.Qxd7 Qxd7 19.Rxd7 Ne5

equality) 18...Qe5 White has

sacrificed an exchange, and has

some compensation, but this

seems like a good line to enter as

Black, as if White fails to prove

anything, Black may reach a more

favorable endgame. (SF18: +0.18/

d29)]

9...Bxg2 10.Kxg2 d5 I was really worried about situations where Black can go e5 quickly, so I thought I had better take off the d-pawn. The computer

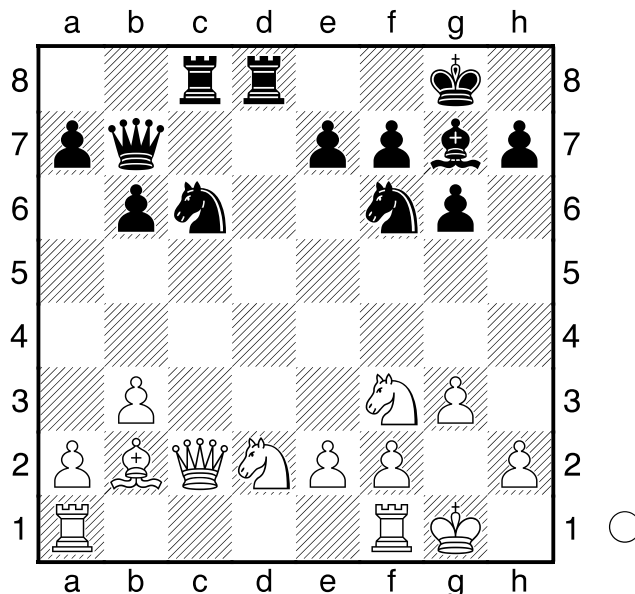
prefers Na3, which makes some sense - some kind of improved version of Nd2.

11.cxd5

[11.Nd2 e5 12.N4f3 e4 13.Ne5]

11...Qxd5+ 12.Nf3 Qb7 13.Nbd2 Nc6

14.Qc2 Rfd8 15.Kg1 Rac8



16.Rac1? Things were bad before, but now they can't be saved. I just missed my opponent's idea of Nc2 after the line that plays out in the game. **16...Nd4**

17.Qd3 Nc2!

[17...Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 Qxf3 19.Nxf3

This was my intention - I thought white could hold on here. Black has a microscope edge owing to his better placed rooks, but white should be able to hold on.]

18.Qxd8+

[18.Qb5 Rd5 19.Qa4 b5 (19...Ra5

20.Qh4 Rh5 21.Qf4 This was

another possibility I was worried

about.) 20.Qa5 b4 21.Qa4 Nd7

This looked pretty scary OTB - like I

was getting my queen trapped. Based

on all of these lines, I thought I had

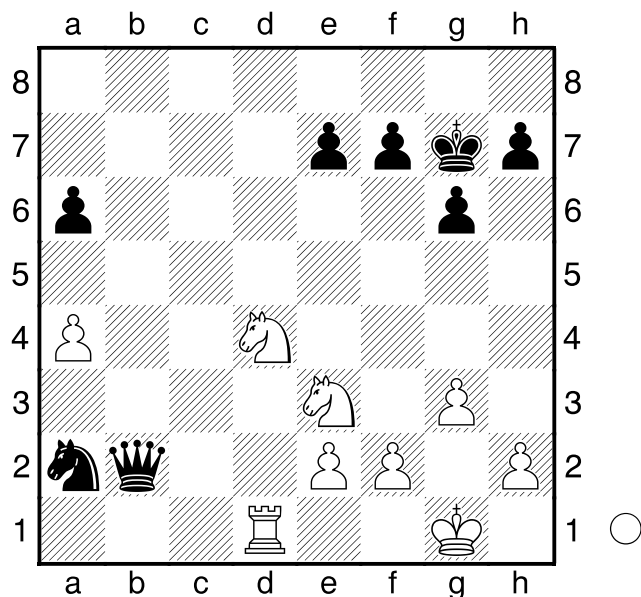
better ditch the queen for the R+N, but

I knew my position was very bad - I

was really hoping for a miracle.]

18...Rxd8 19.Rxc2 Nd5 20.Bxg7

Kxg7 21.Rfc1 Qa6 22.Nc4 Nb4
23.Rb2 b5 24.Ne3 Qa3 25.Rcb1 Rc8
 [25...Nxa2 26.Nc2 Qa6 27.Ra1
 I was hoping for some kind of
 nonsense like this. Of course, my
 opponent finds a much better way to
 continue.]
26.Nd4 Rc1+ 27.Rxc1 Qxb2 28.Rd1
a6 29.a4 bxa4 30.bxa4 Na2



My position looked pretty hopeless here.
 At this point I was thinking about ways I
 could set up swindle chances. Alas, it all
 looks pretty bleak... **31.a5 Nc3 32.Re1**
Qb4 33.Nec2 Qxa5 34.Ra1 Qb6
35.e3 Qb2 36.Ra5 Qc1+ 37.Kg2 Qd2
38.Re5 Nd1 39.Rxe7 Qxf2+ 40.Kh3
Qf1+ 0-1 Black wins. Rough game. Not
 my best effort...
0-1

□ Heiserman, Jimmy

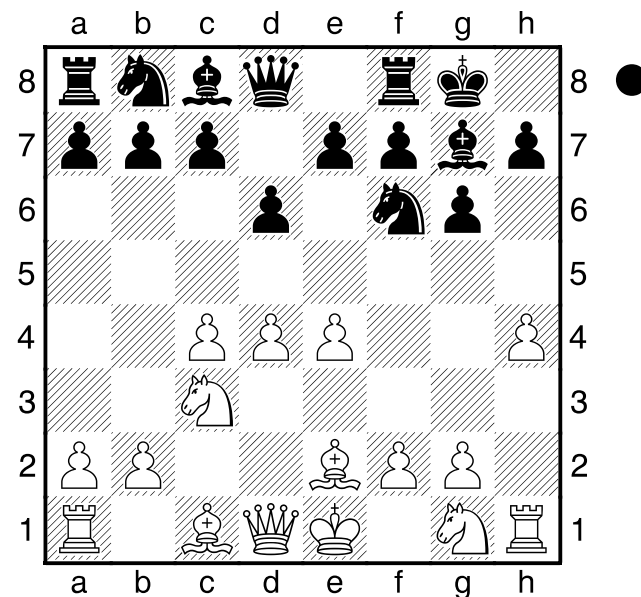
■ Parsons, Stephen

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 07.07.26
 [Winslow, Elliott]

E73
2270

2014

me!) with his Caveman Line against the
 King's Indian, 6.h4!?!? It worked,
 eventually... **1.d4 2 Nf6 43 2.c4 6 g6**
21 3.Nc3 5 Bg7 8 4.e4 7 d6 15 5.Be2
5 0-0 45 6.h4!? 11



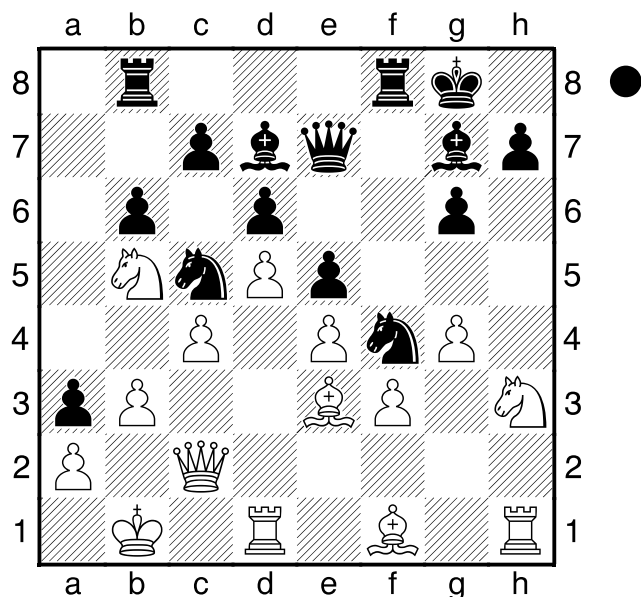
e5 2:03

[6...c5!? 7.d5 e6 8.h5 exd5 9.exd5
 Re8 10.h6 Bh8 11.Bg5 Qb6 12.b3
 Ne4 13.Nxe4 Rxe4 14.Kf1! a5!±]
7.d5 21 Na6 2:11 8.Be3 3:02 b6 8:50
9.h5 4:25 Nc5 17 10.Qc2 1:12 a5 1:54
11.0-0-0 4:40 a4 7:01
 [11...Bd7]
12.hxg6 18:21 fxc6 45 13.f3 1:20 Nh5
3:09 14.g4 1:47
 [14.Kb1]
14...Nf4± 53 15.Bf1 16 Bd7 1:59
16.Nh3?! 9:51
 [16.Qd2]
16...a3?! 2:54
 [16...Rf7±]
17.b3 3:03 Qe7 5:14 18.Kb1 38 Rab8
1:59 19.Nb5?! 3:43
 [19.Nf2]

(Diagram)

19...Bxb5? 12:22

Heiserman, usually a theoretical maven,
 might have surprised Parsons (certainly



[19...Nhx3 20.Rhx3 h5 21.Be2 hxc4
22.fxg4 Bxb5 23.cxb5 Rf4!±]

20.cxb5 6 **Ra8** 1:42 **21.Bc4** 2:40 **Rf7**
1:42 **22.Bc1** 6:54 **Raf8** 3:45 **23.Rdf1**
2:46 **Ra8** 7:50 **24.Rh2** 2:19 **Nhx3** 1:33
25.Rhx3 5 **Bf6** 31 **26.Qd2** 50 **Raf8** 45
27.Rfh1 2:23 **Nd7** 6:17 **28.Qh6** 3:06 **g5**
9:15 **29.Bxa3** 2:48 **Rg7** 13 **30.Bc1** 2:33
Rff7 14 **31.R3h2** 41 **Nf8** 1:07 **32.Qh3**
34 **Ng6** 18 **33.Qf1** 1:07 **Nh4** 30 **34.Be3**
2:51 **Qf8** 43 **35.Be2** 1:45 **Be7** 1:53
36.Rh3 1:30 **Rf4** 48 **37.Bxf4** 5:25 **exf4**
8 **38.e5** 8 **dxe5** 2:58 **39.Bc4** 1:21 **Kh8**
1:04 **40.Qd3** 43 **Bc5** 37 **41.Rxh4** 1:40
gxh4 16 **42.Rxh4** 3 **Bd4** 2:23

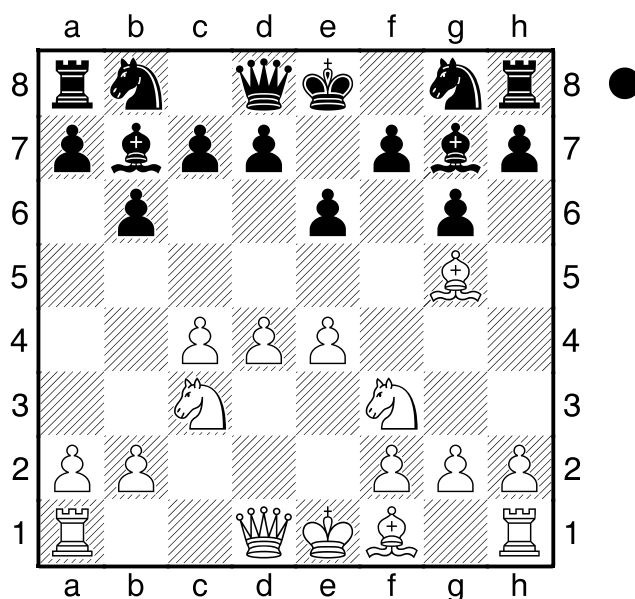
[42...e4!? 43.Qxe4 Re7 44.Qd3]
43.Rh2 3:00 **Qb4** 2:02 **44.Qd2?! 1:33**
Qc5?! 1:08

[44...Qxd2± considerably limits
White's plus.]
45.Qe1 2:08 **Be3** 1:58 **46.Qc3** 2:58
Bd4 2:10 **47.Qd3** 36 **Qb4** 21 **48.Re2** 24
Be3 2:21 **49.Kb2** 3:47 **Bd4+** 43 **50.Kb1**
5 **Be3** 12 **51.d6** 1:53 **Qxd6** 2:26
52.Qxd6 12 **cxd6** 1 **53.Bd5** 8 **Rc7** 1:02
54.Rc2 55 **Rxc2** 29 **55.Kxc2** 3 **Kg7** 5
56.b4 7 **Kf6** 57 **57.a4** 9 **Kg5** 28 **58.a5**
13 **bxa5** 22 **59.bxa5** 3 **h5** 13 **60.gxh5**
4 **Kxh5** 7 **61.Kd3** 31 **Kg5** 1:01 **62.b6**

15 **Kf6** 18 **63.Kc4** 14 **Ke7** 29 **64.Kb5**
10 **Kd7** 1:00 **65.a6** 12 **e4** 1:32
1-0

□ Winslow, Elliott **A40**
■ Zhao, Isaac Dan **2200**
2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 07.07.26
[Winslow, Elliott] **1995**

1.d4 36 **b6** 1:07 **2.c4** 5:22 **g6** 1:11
3.Nc3 2:07 **Bg7** 6 **4.e4** 1:22 **Bb7** 7
5.Nf3 1:59 **e6** 2:23 **6.Bg5** 4:59



Qc8N 59

[6...Ne7 7.Qd2 h6 8.Be3 d6 9.Bd3

A) 9...Nd7

A1) 10.d5± e5 11.0-0-0
(11.g4!);

A2) 10.0-0-0 a6 11.Kb1 c5
12.Bc2 Qc7 13.dxc5 dxc5
14.Bf4 e5 15.Be3 0-0-0 16.Nd5
Nxd5 17.cxd5 Kb8 18.Qe2 Bf8
19.Nd2 b5 20.a4 c4 21.axb5
axb5 22.b3 c3 23.Qxb5 cxd2
24.Rxd2 Bc5 25.Bd3 Qb6
26.Bxc5 Qxc5 27.Rc1 Qxb5
28.Bxb5 Nf6 29.Rc4 Ne8
30.Bc6 Bxc6 31.Rxc6 Rd6

32.Rdc2 Rxc6 33.Rxc6 Nc7
 34.Kc2 Rc8 35.Kd3 Ne8
 36.Rxc8+ Kxc8 37.Kc4 Nd6+
 38.Kd3 Kb7 39.f4 f6 40.fxe5
 fxe5 0-1 (40) Navara,D (2710)-
 Laznicka,V (2674) Prague 2012;
A3) 10.0-0 a6 11.b4 g5 12.d5
 e5 13.Rab1 Ng6 14.c5 Bc8
 15.Rfc1 Nf4 16.cxd6 cxd6
 17.Bf1 0-0 18.Qd1 Nf6 19.Nd2
 Ng4 20.Nc4 b5 21.Bb6 Qe7
 22.Ne3 Nxe3 23.Bxe3 f5 24.a4
 bxa4 25.Nxa4 Bb7 26.Nb6
 Rad8 27.Qc2 fxe4 28.Qxe4 Rf7
 29.Ra1 Ne6 30.Re1 Qc7
 31.Rac1 Qb8 32.Bd3 Nf8 33.h4
 gxh4 34.Qxh4 Re8 35.Bxh6
 Bxh6 36.Qxh6 Qd8 37.Re3
 Rg7 38.Rh3 1-0, Kuljasevic,D
 (2555)-Curic,D (2276) Split op
 1st, 9 Aug 2011;

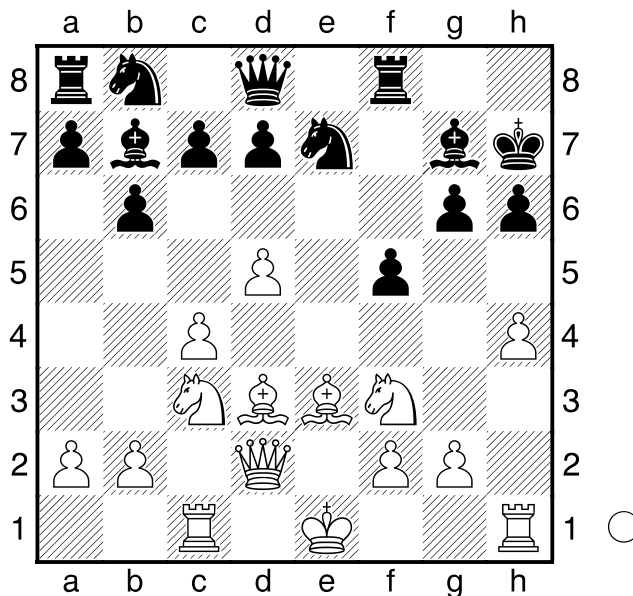
B) 9...c5 10.d5 exd5 (10...e5
 11.0-0-0 Bc8 12.h4!? Bg4
 13.Rdf1!+-) 11.exd5 Nd7 12.Nb5
 Nf6 13.Bf4 Nc8 14.0-0 a6
 15.Rfe1+ Kf8 16.Nc3 Kg8 17.h4
 Kh7 18.a4 Qd7 19.a5 bxa5
 20.Rxa5 Ne7 21.Na4 Rab8 22.b4
 cxb4 23.Qxb4 Rhd8 24.Qd2 Nf5
 25.Nc3 Re8 26.Rb1 Qc7 27.Ra2
 Bc8 28.Rc1 Rb3 29.Bxf5 Bxf5
 30.Nd4 Rxc3 31.Qxc3 Ng4
 32.Qd2 Qe7 33.Nxf5 gxf5 34.Qd3
 Kg8 35.g3 Ne5 36.Qxf5 Nf3+
 37.Kg2 Nd4 38.Qd3 1-0, Georgiev,
 Ki (2546) - Starostits,I (2400)
 Kuressaare Saaremaa Rapid 4th, 6
 Jun 2023]

7.Rc1!? 2:41 /?! These "Crouching
 Tiger" defences pose a question to
 White: which way is Black going to
 finally hit the center, not to mention
 locate their king? This handles ...d5 but
 in a few moves White will wonder where
 his own king is going. **7...h6** 6 **8.Be3**

1:24 White is clearly better. **8...f5** 3:59

[8...d6±]

9.exf5+- 6:50 **exf5** 11 **10.d5** 8:03 **Qd8**
 19:10 **11.Bd3** 2:49 **Ne7** 3:37 **12.h4**
 1:24 **0-0** 3:09 **13.Qd2** 5:52 **Kh7** 17:09
 (I don't know what the Big Think was
 about!)



14.Kd1 5:54 My bad habit of lateral king
 movement (without also putting the rook
 on the other side, i.e. castling). I saw I'd
 have to "make some adjustments"
 immediately but wasn't so sure those
 moves were better for Black than White.
14...Na6 7:49 **15.a3** 1:42 **Nc5** 1:04
16.Bc2 51

(Diagram)

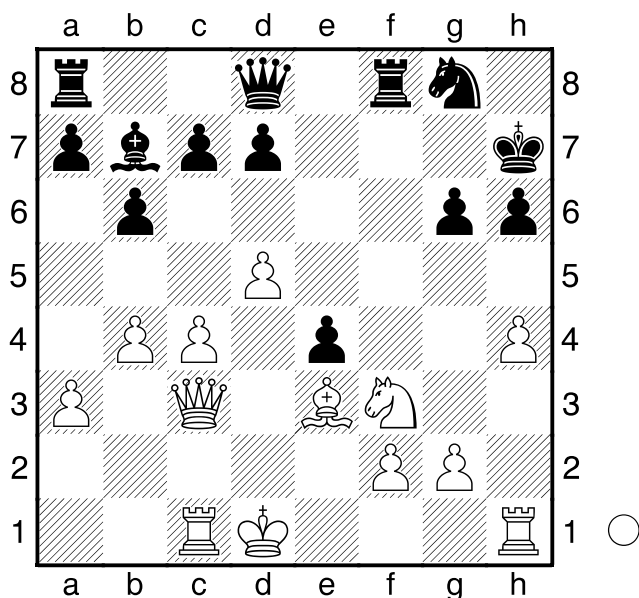
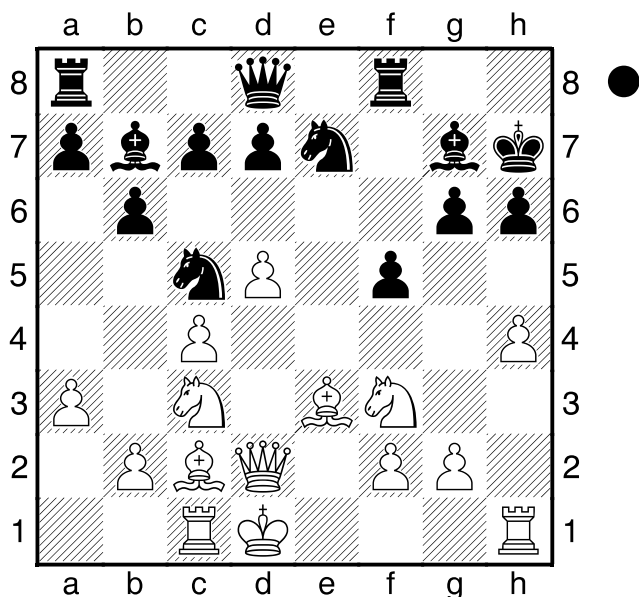
Ng8? 20:43 Another long (longer!)
 thought, this time completely
 unexpected.

[♞16...a5 had to be right! 17.h5 g5
 18.g4 refused to achieve anything in
 my thinking at the time.]

17.b4 2:30 **Bxc3?** 26 This turns out to
 be a quick suicide.

[17...Ne6 keeps fighting. 18.dxe6
 dxe6 19.Ng5+ Kh8]

18.Qxc3 8 **Ne4** 58 **19.Bxe4** 9 **fxe4** 5



20.Ng5+ 8 hxg5 59

[20...Qxg5 21.hxg5]

21.hxg5+ 17 Nh6 3 22.Rxh6+ 12

CB TA AI: "Black is weak on the dark squares" Uh, right. **22...Kg8 4 23.Rh8+ 54 Kf7 6 24.Rh7+ 8** "Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening." Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.98. That might be the highest I've ever gotten! I wonder if it'd been higher if I hadn't "found" 7.Rc1 and 14.Kd1.

1-0

C45
Pang,Owen J **1855**
Chen,Quincy **2150**
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.7) 07.07.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Quick note: here's one of those upsets I mention earlier. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.Nd2** [9.b3 is more common by a lot]

9...Nb6 Why so hurry? Scores almost the worst in this position. **10.b3 Qe6**

[Relevant: 10...g6 11.Ne4 Bg7 12.Nf6+ Bxf6 13.exf6 Qxe2+ 14.Bxe2 c5 15.0-0 0-0-0 16.Bg4 h5 17.Bh3 Kb8 18.Re1 Bc8 19.Re7 Rh7 20.a4 d6 21.a5 Nd7 22.Bb2 Nf8 23.Bxc8 Kxc8 24.h4 Nd7 25.Kh2 Nb8 26.Kg3 Nc6 27.Kf4 Rd7 28.Re8+ Rd8 29.Re7 Rd7 30.Re8+ Rd8 ½-½ (30) Fier,A (2572)-Rodshtein,M (2664) Germany 2014]

11.Bb2 Be7

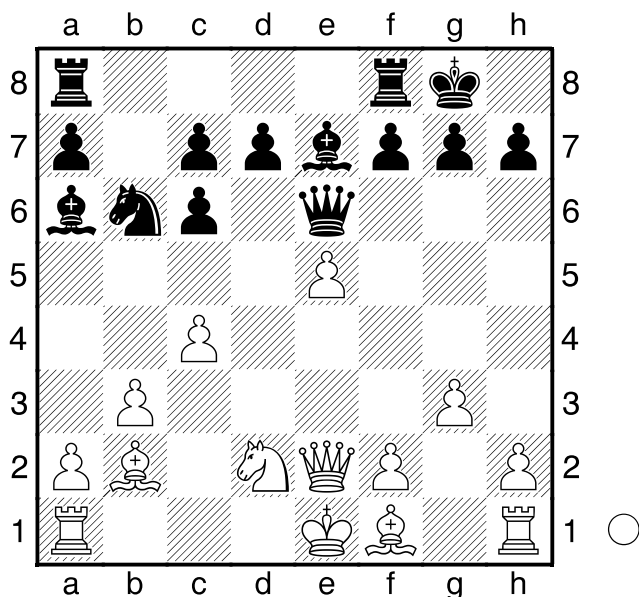
[11...Bb4 12.a3 Be7 13.g3 Rb8 14.0-0-0 0-0 15.Qh5 c5 16.Bd3 g6 17.Qe2 d5 18.exd6 Qxe2 19.Bxe2 cxd6 20.Rhe1 Bb7 21.Bf3 Bxf3 22.Nxf3 Rfe8 23.Kc2 Bf8 24.Ng5 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 d5 26.cxd5 Nxd5 27.Rd1 Rd8 28.Bf6 Rd7 29.Ne4 Nb6 30.Rxd7 Nxd7 31.Kc3 Nb6 32.a4 h6 33.a5 Nd7 34.Kc4 g5 35.Kb5 Nb8 36.Bc3 f5 37.Nxc5 Kf7 38.Be5 a6+ 39.Nxa6 Nxa6 40.Kxa6 Bc5 41.f3 g4 42.fxg4 fxg4 43.Kb7 1-0 (43) Ivanchuk,V (2611)-Joel Paul, G (1969) Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2024]

12.g3 0-0

(Diagram)

13.Bg2N

[Predecessor: 13.0-0-0 f6 14.exf6



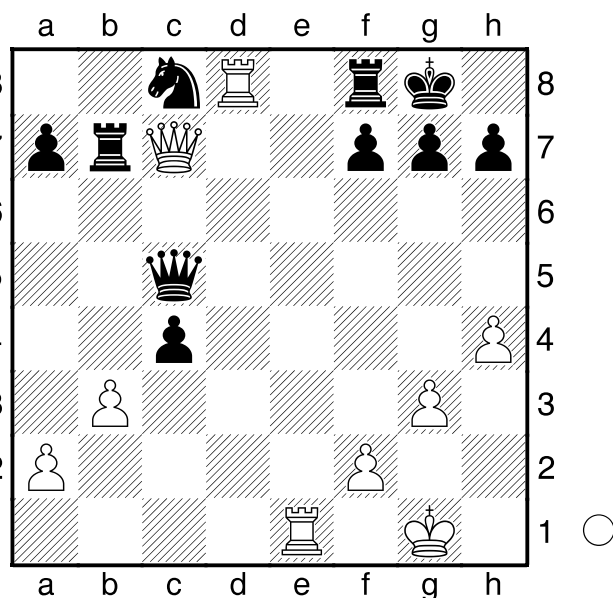
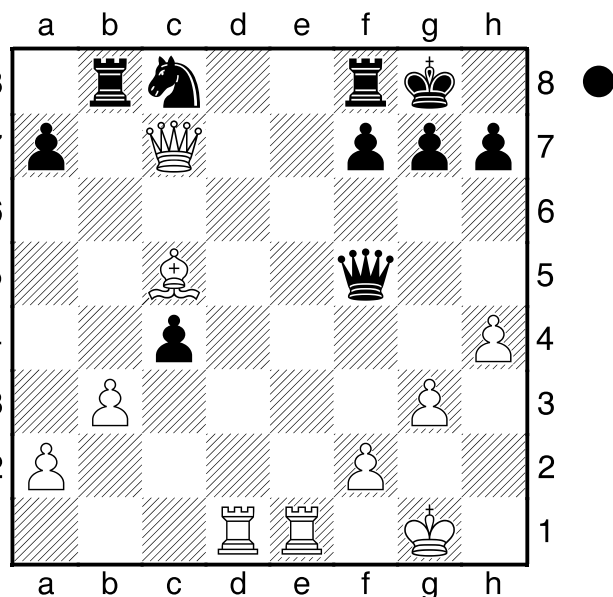
Qxe2 15.Bxe2 Bxf6 16.Bxf6 Rxf6
 17.Ne4 Rff8 18.f4 Rae8 19.Bf3 Bc8
 20.c5 Nd5 21.Rd4 Rd8 22.Kd2 d6
 23.cxd6 cxd6 24.Rc1 Bb7 25.Ng5
 Rfe8 26.Bxd5+ cxd5 27.Rc7 Ba6
 28.Ra4 Re2+ 29.Kd1 Bd3 30.Rd4
 Bb5 31.a4 Rde8 32.axb5 Re1+
 33.Kc2 R8e2+ 34.Rd2 h6 35.Rxe2
 Rxe2+ 36.Kd3 Re8 37.Nf3
 1-0 (37) Plenkovic,Z (2365)-Asic,I
 (2001) Pula 2009]
13...Rab8 14.h4 Bb4 15.Bh3 Qe7
16.Rc1 d5 17.0-0 Bxd2 18.Qxd2
dxc4 19.Qa5 Bc8 20.Ba3 c5 21.Bxc5
Qxe5 22.Bxc8 Nxc8 23.Rfe1 Qd5
24.Rcd1 Qf5 25.Qxc7

(Diagram)

Rb7 26.Rd8 Qxc5

(Diagram)

27.Qxc5 Rxd8 28.Qd5 Nd6 29.Qxd6
Rbb8 30.Qc7 Rbc8 31.Qxa7 c3
32.Qe3 c2 33.Rc1 Rd1+ 34.Kg2 Kf8
35.a4 Rxc1 36.Qxc1 Ke7 37.a5 Kd6
38.a6 Nice game Pang!
 1-0



B04
 1804
 2077
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.9) 07.07.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

So close! Liu just couldn't find a knockout with limited clock time. Mallela managed to keep the tricks flying, or the illusion of them, and first White let a perpetual emerge, and then (after Black

also lost the thread), flipped a win into a loss in one move. It cost a whole rook to avoid mate, and the knight down ending was difficult for them both, but Liu couldn't find the last draw. **1.e4 Nf6**

2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 5.Nxe5 c6 6.c4

[6.Be2]

6...Nb4 7.Nd3

[Relevant: 7.Be3 Bf5 8.Nd3 e5

9.Nxb4 Bxb4+ 10.Nc3 Qa5 11.Qb3

0-0 12.a3 exd4 13.Qxb4 Qe5

14.Be2 Na6 15.Qxb7 Nc5 16.Qxc6

dxc3 17.Qxc5 Qxc5 18.Bxc5 cxb2

19.Kd2 Rfe8 20.Rae1 Rab8 21.Bf3

Rxe1 22.Rxe1 a5 23.Bb6 a4 24.c5

b1Q 25.Rxb1 Bxb1 26.Kc3 Ba2

27.Kb4 Bb3 28.Kb5 Re8 29.c6 Re1

30.Bg4 Rb1 31.Kc5 Rc1+ 32.Kd6

h5 33.Bd7 Rd1+ 34.Ke7 Bd5 35.c7

Bb7 36.Bxa4 Rd3

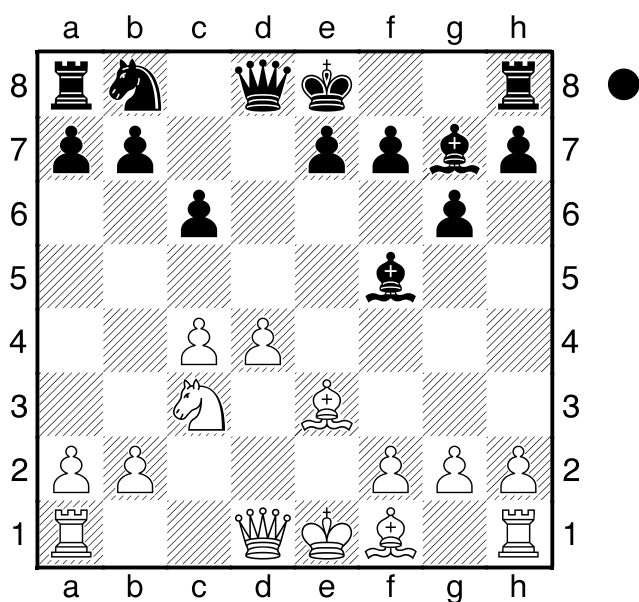
1-0, Nepomniachtchi,I (2773)-Bortnyk,

O (2604) Chess.com Rapid Wk8

Swiss, 2 Apr 2022]

7...Nxd3+ 8.Qxd3 g6 9.Nc3 Bf5

10.Qd1 Bg7 11.Be3



Na6N

[Predecessor: 11...0-0 12.Be2 Qc7

13.Rc1 Rd8 14.0-0 Na6 15.d5 e6

16.g4 exd5 17.cxd5 Be6 18.Bf3

Bxc3 19.Rxc3 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Rxd5

21.Qxd5 cxd5 22.Rxc7 Nxc7 23.Rc1

Ne6 24.h4 d4 25.Bd2 Kf8 26.f4 f5

27.gxf5 gxf5 28.Kf2 Kf7 29.Kf3 Rg8

30.Be1 Rg1 31.a4 Rf1+ 32.Ke2

Rxf4 33.a5 Re4+ 34.Kd3 a6 35.Bf2

Kf6 36.Rc2 Ke5 37.Kd2 Kf4 38.Rc8

Kf3 39.Be1 Re2+ 40.Kd1 Rxb2

41.Rh8 Nebe,H (1766)-Laqua,C

(2082) Bodenmais 2023 0-1]

12.a3 Qd7 13.Qd2 Rd8

[13...0-0 14.Be2 Rfd8]

14.Rd1 0-0 15.Be2 Qc7?!

[15...Nc7]

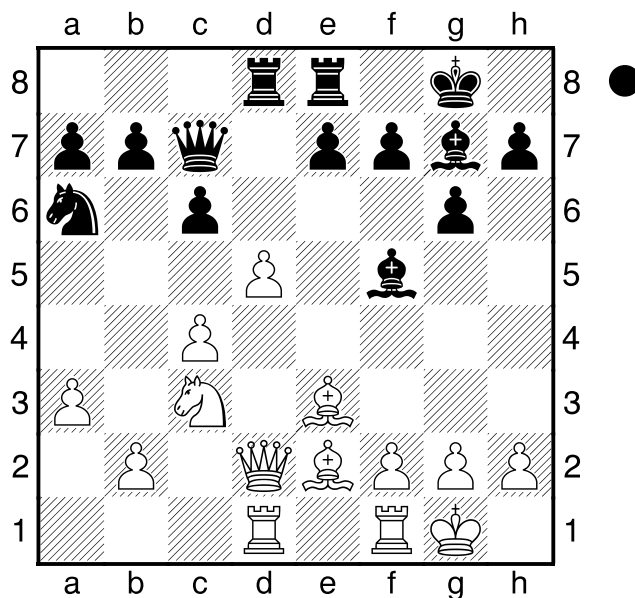
16.d5

[16.Qc1!]

16...Rfe8

[16...b6]

17.0-0±



(53m left) **17...Be6?** (62m left) **18.Bd4+-**

(39m left) **18...Be5?! 19.f4?!**

[19.Bxe5 Qxe5 20.Rfe1!]

19...Bxd4+ 20.Qxd4 cxd5 21.cxd5

Bd7 22.Qxa7 White adds a pawn to a

hearty space advantage **22...Nc5?!**

[22...Qc5+ 23.Qxc5 Nxc5

now Stockfish manages to call all

these moves +-. 24.Rd4 (24.Kf2;

24.h4; 24.h3; 24.Rfe1; 24.Bf3; even
24.Rf3]]

23.b4+-

[23.d6! makes it even more
extreme:

A) 23...Qc8 24.b4! (24.Nd5);

**B) 23...exd6 24.Nd5 Qc8
25.Nf6+]**

23...Nb3?

[23...Na4 24.Nxa4 Qc2 25.Nc5
Qxe2 26.Rfe1 followed by the b-pawn
falling.]

24.Nb5 (SF18: +4.54/20) 24...Bxb5

[24...Qc2 25.Bd3 Qb2 26.Rb1]

25.Bxb5 Ra8 26.Qe3 Rec8 27.a4

(21m left)

[27.f5! Let's not forget Black's king!]

27...Qc2 (47m left)

[27...Qc3 28.Rd3 Qxb4 29.Rxb3]

28.Qxe7 (16m left)

[28.f5!]

28...Rc7

[28...Nd2 29.Rfe1 Nc4 30.d6]

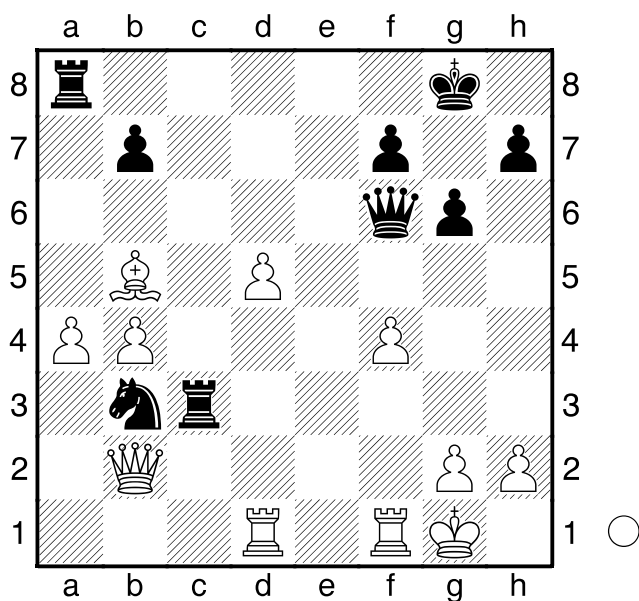
29.Qe3 (14) 29...Rc3 30.Qf2 (11)

[30.Qe1]

30...Qf5 31.Qb2

[31.d6!]

31...Qf6



32.d6

[32.Rf3!? Qb6+ 33.Qf2 Qxf2+
34.Rxf2 Rd8 35.d6]

[32.Kh1! Rc6 33.Qxf6 Rxf6 34.d6]

32...Nd4!? (Still objectively quite lost, but
it's tricky, and it cost White 5 of her
remaining 10 minutes) **33.d7**

Too many good moves!

[33.f5]

[33.Rfe1]

33...Rd8

[33...Nxb5 34.axb5 (34.Rfe1!?!;
34.f5!?!)]

34.Rfe1 Kg7 35.Re8! but White is
down to 1 minute! (Black has 27)(I
assume it's Abhishek writing down the
times!)

[35.Qxc3! Ne2+ 36.Rxe2 Qxc3

37.Re8 It's going to be way too much
for the queen.]

35...Ne6?!

[35...Rd3!? 36.Rxd3 Rxd7

Again: too much for the queen.]

36.Re1

[36.a5!? Stockfish can be totally
mystifying sometimes...]

36...Qd4+ 37.Qf2 Rxd7 38.Bxd7

Qxd7 39.Ra8

[39.f5! Qxe8 40.Qb2]

39...Nd4 40.Rd1 Rc4 41.Qb2

[41.f5]

[41.Qe3]

[41.Qe1]

41...f6

[41...Qe7 42.Kh1 Qxb4 43.Qxb4
Rxb4 44.g3]

(Diagram)

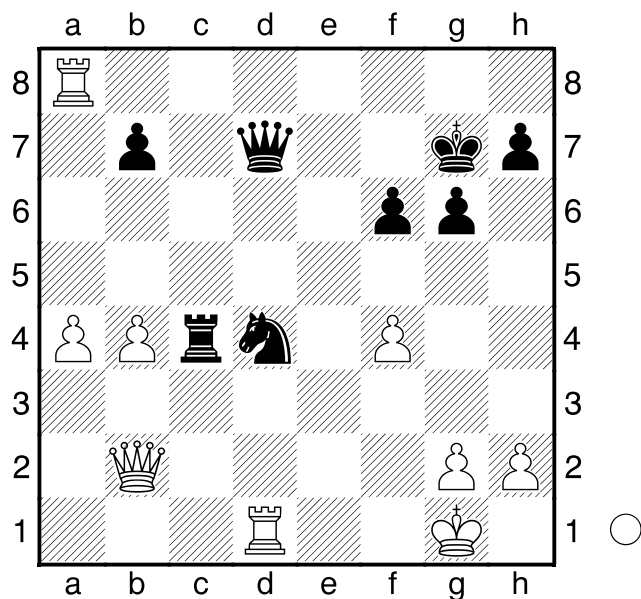
42.Rd2? = White had six moves still
winning, in order of how won:

[42.Qb3]

[42.Qd2]

[42.Qf2]

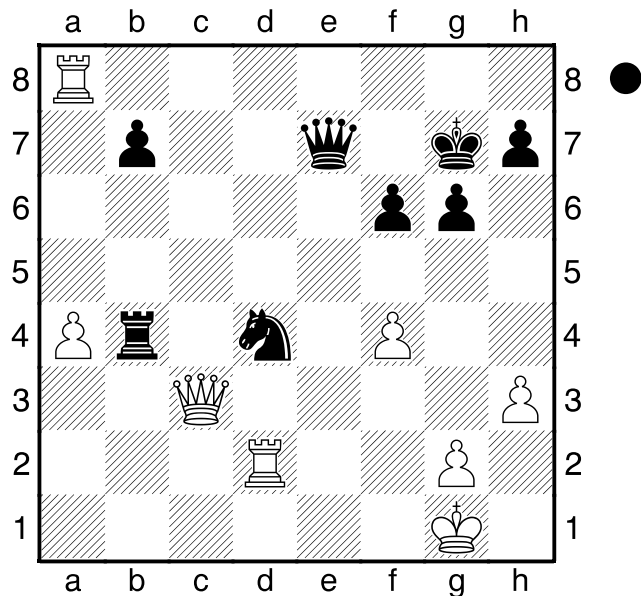
[42.Kh1]



[42.Qb1]
[42.Qa1]
42...Qe7!
[42...Qe6]

43.h3 Rxb4
[43...Qe3+]
[43...Qe1+]

44.Qc3
[44.Qa2 Kh6= (44...Qe1+ 45.Kh2 Kh6!=)]



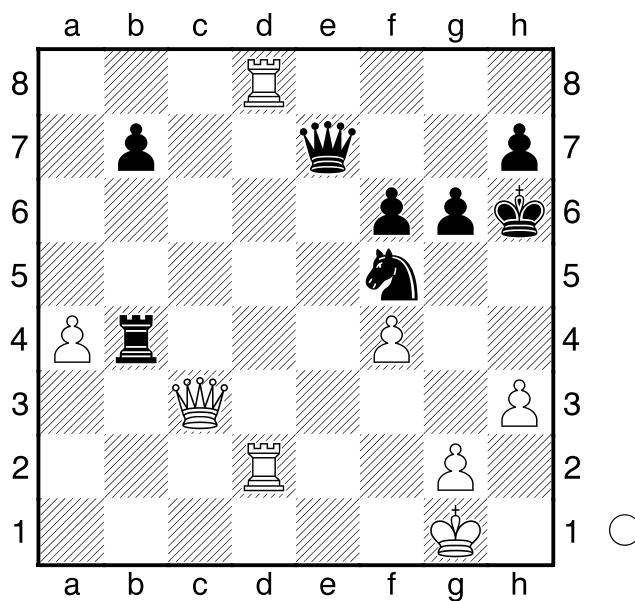
44...Nf5?
[44...Rb3=]

[44...Qe1+ 45.Kh2 Rb3 46.Re8!? Qxe8 47.Qxd4 Qe7=]

45.Rad8+-

[45.Kh2! Rb1 46.Rb2]

45...Kh6



46.R8d7?? Not just not winning --
losing. e1 had to be contested (by
moving the d2 rook).

[46.R2d7+-]

[46.Rd1+-]

[46.Kh2+-]

46...Qe1+-+ 47.Kh2 Rb1 48.Rxh7+ Kxh7 49.Rd7+ Kh6 50.Qxe1 Rxe1 51.Rxb7 Re4

[51...Re2!]

52.a5 Ra4

[52...Rxf4! 53.a6 Ra4 54.a7 -- everything wins (for Black).]

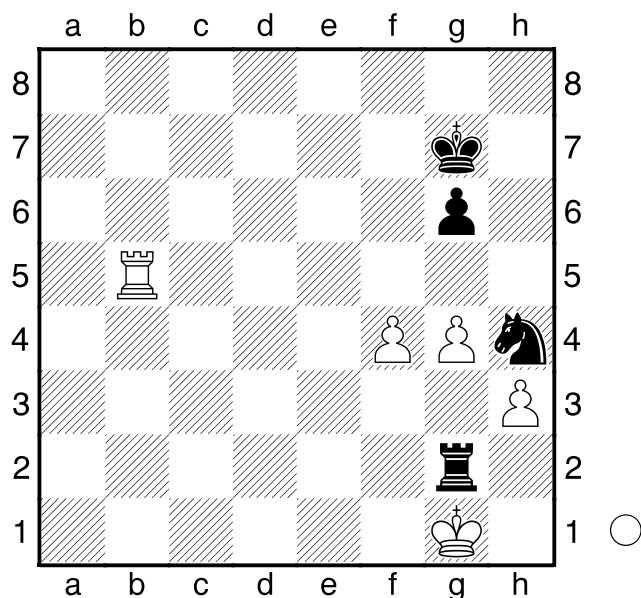
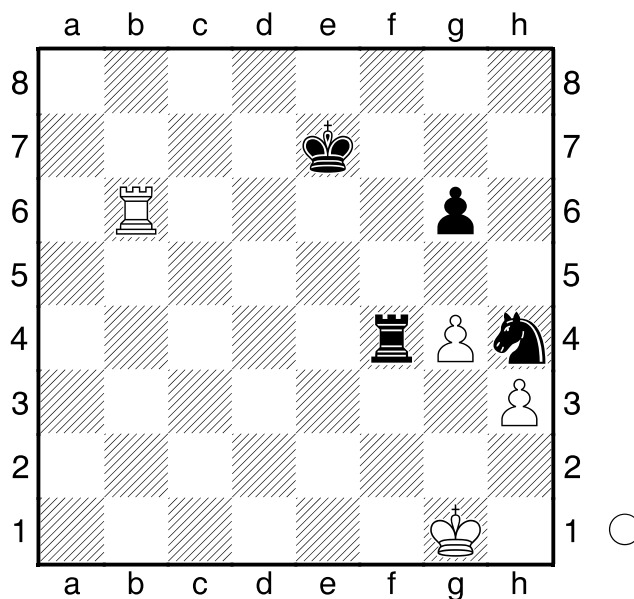
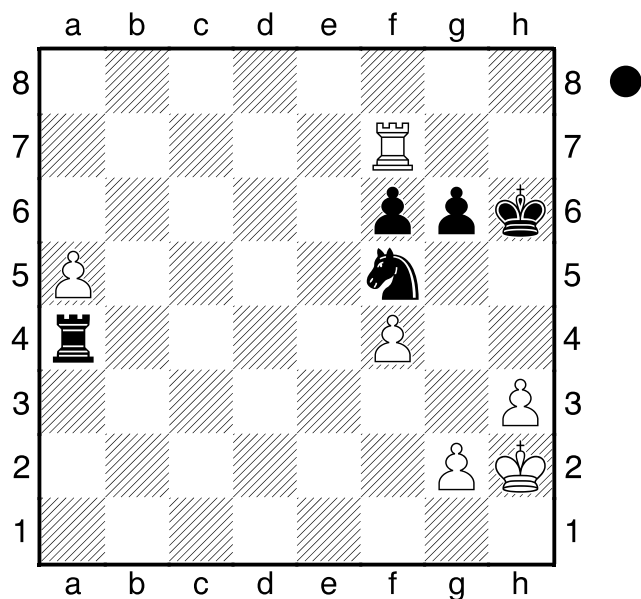
53.Rf7

(Diagram)

Rxa5?

[53...Ra2 54.Rxf6 Nh4 55.Kg3 Kh5 56.Kh2 (56.f5 g5) 56...Rxg2+ 57.Kh1 Kh6 58.Rf8 Kg7 59.Ra8 Ra2 60.Kg1 Ng2]

54.Rxf6 Kxg7 55.Rb6 Ra4 56.g4 Ra2+ 57.Kg1 Nh4 58.Rb5 Rg2+



59.Kh1?

[59.Kf1 $\bar{+}$]

**59...Rf2+ 60.Rb7+ Kf6 61.Rb6+ Ke7
62.Kg1 Rxf4**

(Diagram)

This one is hard to lose one's way.

**63.Rb7+ Kf6 64.Rh7 g5 65.Rb7 Ke5
66.Rb3 Rf3 67.Rb5+ Kf4 68.Rb4+
Kg3 69.Rb1 Kxh3**

[69...Rf2!]

0-1

C42
Dutter,Frederic 1900
McCutcheon,Bennett 1647

2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (1.10)
[Winslow,Elliott]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3
0-0 8.Bd3 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6
11.Qd2 Nd7 12.0-0-0 Nf6**

[12...Ne5]

[12...c6]

13.Bxg6

[Last master game: 13.Nd4 Ne4

14.Qe2 Nc5 15.Bxg6 fxg6 16.b4

Ne4 17.Ne6 Qd7 18.Nxf8 Qc6

19.Qd3 Rxf8 20.b5 Qxc3 21.Qxe4

Bf6 22.Qd5+ Kh8 23.Qb3 Qa1+

24.Kd2 Qe5 25.Rhe1 d5 26.f4 Qd6

27.g5 d4 28.gxf6 dxe3+ 29.Kc1

Qxf6 30.Kb1 1-0 Gibala,A (2248)-

Kanyamarala,T (2371) TT 26 Nov

2024]

13...fxg6

[13...hxg6 14.Rdg1 c6 15.h4 Ne4

16.Qe2 Qa5 17.Kb1 Bf6 18.Bd4

Rfe8 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qe3 Kg7

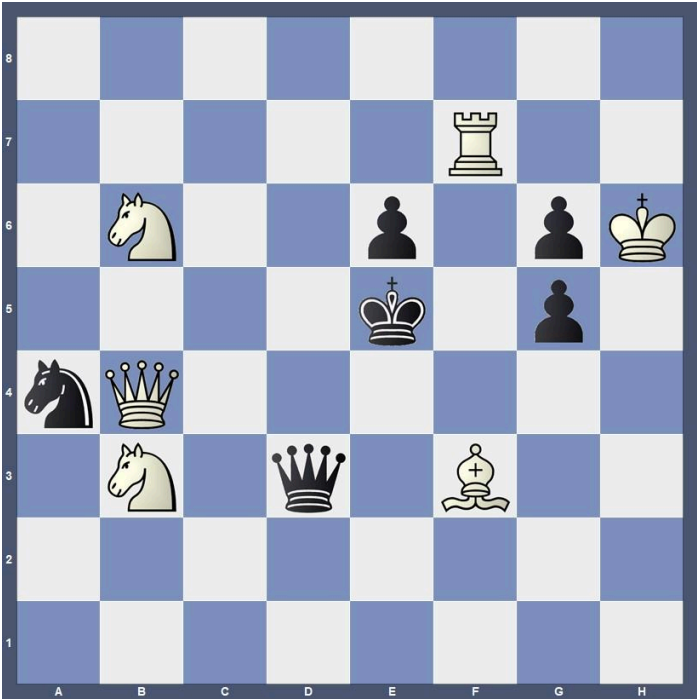
21.Nd4 Ng5 22.Qg3 Nh7 23.Nf5+
Kh8 24.Nxd6 Re7 25.g5 Qe5
26.Qxe5 fxe5 27.Ne4 Kg7 28.h5
Nf8 29.Rh2 gxh5 30.Rxh5 Ng6
31.Rgh1 Nf4 32.Rh7+ Kg6 33.f3
Rd8 34.R1h6+ 1-0 (34)
Skorobogatykh,A (2155)-Fomichev,S
(2051) Zelenograd 2016]

14.g5

[14.Ng5 Qd7 15.f4 Kh8 16.Qd3 h6
17.Nf3 Qa4 18.Nh4 Kg8 19.Nxg6
Rfe8 20.a3 Qe4 21.Bd4 Qxd3
22.cxd3 Kh7 23.Nxe7 Rxe7 24.Bxf6
gxf6 25.Rde1 Rae8 26.Kd2 Kg6
27.Rxe7 Rxe7 28.Re1 Rf7 29.h4 h5
30.g5 fxg5 31.fxg5 a6 32.Ke3 Rf5
33.Re2 b6 34.Rf2 Re5+ 35.Kd2 Rf5
36.Rxf5 Kxf5 37.Ke3 c6 38.b3 Ke5
39.d4+ Kf5 40.Kf3 b5 41.a4 a5
42.Ke3 d5 43.Kf3 bxa4 44.bxa4
Kg6 45.Kf4 Kf7 46.Kf5 Kg7 47.g6
Kg8 48.Kg5 c5 49.dxc5 d4 50.cxd4
Kg7 1-0 (50) Lacau Rodean,I (2091)-
Bellissimo,J (1977) Toronto 2011]

14...Nd7 15.Nd4 Nc5 16.f4 Qd7
17.Qg2 Kh8 18.h4 Ne6 19.Qg4 Nc5
20.Qxd7 Nxd7 21.Ne6 Rfc8 22.Bd4
Bf8 23.h5 gxh5 24.Rxh5 c5 25.Bf2
Kg8 26.Rdh1 Kf7 27.f5 Be7 28.Rxh7
Rg8 29.Bh4 Nf8 30.Nxf8 Raxf8
31.g6+ Ke8 32.Re1
1-0

Tony's Teasers
White to Play and Mate in 2.
William Meredith
Dubuque Chess Journal December, 1889



Solution

1. Qd2!

If 1...Qxd2 2.Nc4#

If 1...g4 2.Qf4#

If 1... Kd6 2. Nc4#

Contact Us

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