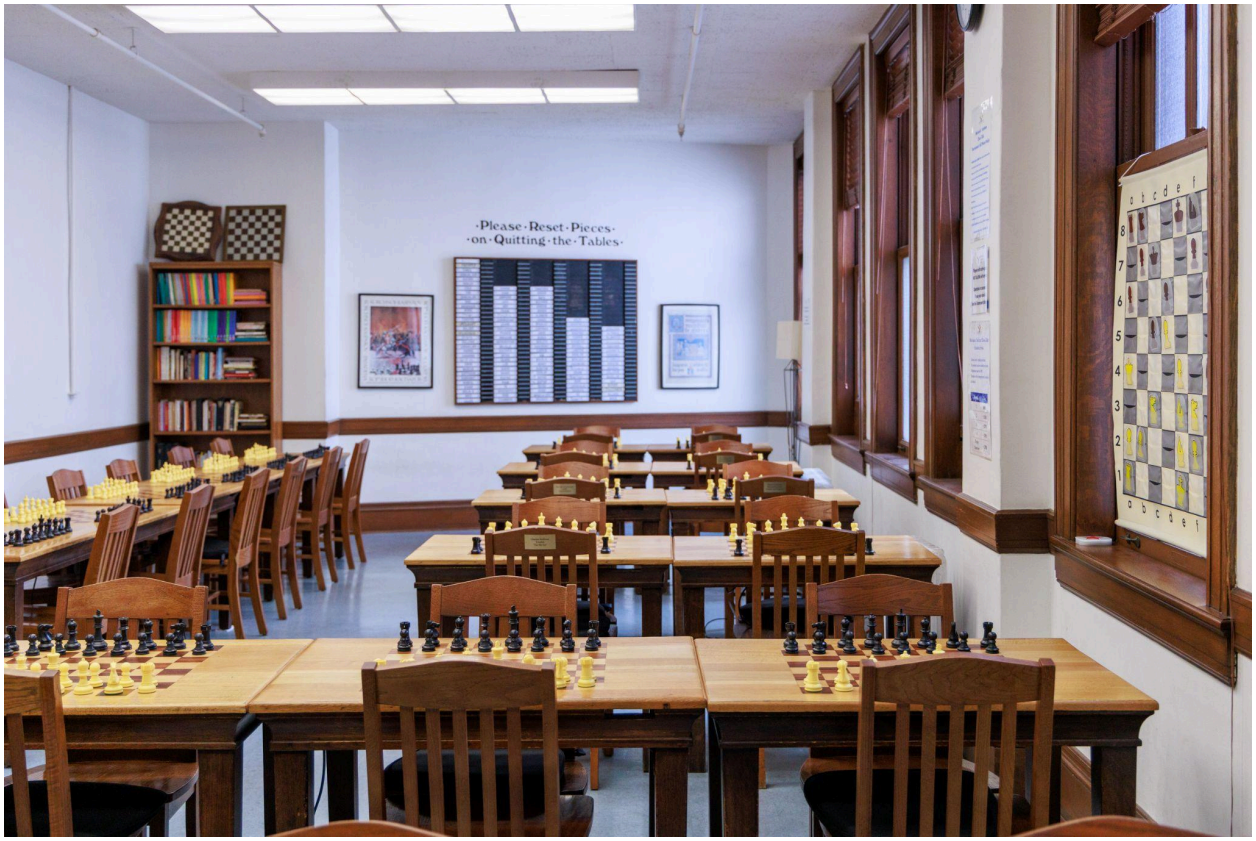
MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
CULTURE IN COMMUNITY

57 POST STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94014

Chess Room Newsletter



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Issue #1076 | October 10, 2026 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

Alex Robins

Our first tournament to cover this month is our now **Bi-Monthly Scholastic Swiss**! The 800+ section was won by **Derek Diaz Ko (1301)**, who posted a strong 4.0 to claim 1st place and just started his own chess club at his school. **Anjali Guntuboyina (1103)** earned 2nd with 3.0, and **Anirudh Guntuboyina (876)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 2.5. **Theodore Tissot-Dupont (948)** and **Sergei Pimenov (819)** both finished at 2.0, taking 4th and 5th.
In the 400-799 section, chess camp veterans **Callum Kenna (790)** and **Keshav Mehta (730)** tied for 1st place, both finishing at 3.5. **Tiberius Ostrem (774)** claimed 3rd with 3.0, while **Shourya Ranadev Edla (565)** also scored 3.0 to take 4th. **Aarush Bajaj (622)** closed out the prize list in 5th with 2.5.
The u400 section belonged to **Andrew Ranjan (317)**, who had a perfect score for 1st place. **Santiago James Echevarria (325)** followed with 3.5 for 2nd, and **Charlie Changrui Zhang (293)** took 3rd with 3.0. **Noah Masahiro Saunders (unr.)** and **Frank Tokarz (unr.)** also finished at 3.0, taking 4th and 5th.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next tournament of the month was our monthly **Adults Only Tournament**, which is back by somewhat popularish demand - play in these if you keep complaining about playing kids! The 1600+ section saw **Hovik Manvelyan (1866)** and **Daniel Sevall (1830)** share 1st place, both finishing at 2.5. **Samuel Agdamag (1405)** took 3rd with 2.0.
In the u1600 section, **Jack Determan (unr.)** won 1st place with a strong 3.0. **Blake Grudzien (1335)** followed with 2.5 for 2nd. A five-way tie for 3rd formed at 2.0 points among **Albert Martin Starr (1500)**, **Preston Yadegar (1396)**, **Luka Vyatkin (1260)**, **Imelda Meili Hau (554)**, and **Craig Baldwin Patrick Faria (unr.)**.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Abel Talamantez.

After that we had our **23rd St. Amant Memorial Tournament**, named after the first world class player to play at Mechanics', Pierre Charles Fournier de Saint Amant. In the 2000+ section, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2660)**

took 1st place with a perfect score. Behind him, a crowded seven-way tie for 2nd formed at 3.0 points among **Kanwar Sethi (2158)**, **Saatvik Krishnan (1946)**, **Sebastian Suarez (2339)**, **Neil Chalissery (2110)**, **Zee Chin (2057)**, **David Jin (2040)**, and **Suhas Varma Indukuri (1927)**. Together they shared the 2nd and 3rd place honors as well as the Top u2200 and Top u2000 awards.

The 1600-1999 section was won by **Darsh Thekkoot (1611)**, who posted another perfect score to claim 1st place outright. **Gautam Chowdary Aetukuri (1630)** and **Kayden Pak Mo (1628)** tied at 3.5, sharing 2nd place. **Samuel Joseph Petty (1734)** and **Wilson Han (1603)** both scored 3.0, splitting 4th place and the Top u1800 prize, while **Jai Yadav (1502)** earned the Top u1600 award with 2.5.

In the u1600 section, **Blake Grudzien (1335)** made it a trifecta of perfect scores, with **Craig Baldwin Patrick Faria (1496)** taking 2nd at 3.5. **Mohit Kumar Rout (1290)** and **Robert Turner (1380)** tied at 3.0, sharing 3rd place and the Top u1400 award. Rounding out the prize list, **Justin Adam Hallman (1176)**, **Arjun Bemgal (1166)**, and **Shelton Yu Cai (919)** tied at 1.5 for 5th place and the Top u1200 prize.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by Senior TD/IA Abel Talamantez and NTD/IA Judit Sztaray.

The next tournament we had was the **4th Chernev Memorial Tournament**, named after Irving Chernev, a member here and the writer of one of our best circulating books *Logical Chess Move by Move*. In the 2000+ section, **Daniel Videna (2058)** and **Adit Rajaram (1980)** tied for 1st place, both finishing at 3.5. **WIM Laurie Qiu (2237)**, **Zee Chin (2057)**, and **Andrew Zou (1908)** followed with 3.0, sharing 3rd place in a three-way tie.

The 1600-1999 section was won by **Daniel Sevall (1830)**, who posted a strong 3.5 to claim 1st place outright. A four-way tie for 2nd formed at 3.0 points among **Theodore Miller (1702)**, **Russell L Siegelman (1600)**, **Harikrishnan Pradeep (1533)**, and **Blake Grudzien (1335)**.

In the u1600 section, **Max Lober (1363)** went 4.0 to take 1st place, with **Diego Diez De Bonilla (unr.)** earning 2nd at 3.5. A six-way tie for 3rd formed at 3.0 points among **Sumanth Pavuluri (1260)**, **Nevaan Vikram Jadhav (1242)**, **Yousuf Jamal (1194)**, **Sudhir Pokhrel (1183)**, **Cayden Chen**

(1168), and **Raphael Sebastian Schied (unr.)**.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Next we had our second **Bi-Monthly Scholastic Swiss** because these have really been taking off! The 500+ section saw **Noah Masahiro Saunders (645)** and **Uzi Solomon (812)** tie for 1st place, both finishing at 3.5. **Travis Wong (597)** claimed 3rd with 2.5, while **Theodore Tissot-Dupont (1099)** and **Kanstantsin Halasiuk (830)** both scored 2.0, taking 4th and 5th.
In the u500 section, **Santiago James Echevarria (423)** went a perfect 4.0 to win 1st place outright. **Harlan Jackson Ritchie (unr.)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd. **Wallace Kwan (421)**, **Owen Hayes (273)**, and **Edward Lim (unr.)** all finished at 2.0, sharing 3rd place and taking the 3rd through 5th place spots.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Later that same day we had a small but strong **September FIDE Blitz**. The 1800+ section was won by **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2640)**, who posted a dominant 7.0 to claim 1st place. **Naga Abhiram Ponnaluri (1981)** and **Si Hao Huang (1923)** tied at 4.5, sharing 2nd place.
In the u1800 section, **Andrii Onoshchenko (unr.)** went a perfect 7.0 to win 1st place outright. **Kar Lun Cheng (1723)** followed with 6.0 for 2nd, and **Dominic A Vazquez (1542)** took 3rd with 5.0.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our last tournament of a busy September was our **24th McClain Memorial** in honor of Norcal Chess Journalist and player Guthrie McClain. In the 2000+ section, **Aashvi Sri Rangamreddy (1816)** took 1st place with a strong 3.5. **Darsh Thekkoot (1771)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd. **Pranav Db (1796)** and **Rajdeep Pinge (1974)** tied at 2.5, sharing 3rd place, with Pranav also earning the Top u2200 prize. Rounding out the prize list, a five-way tie at 2.0 among **Alejandro L Canales (1887)**, **WCM Serena Yuan (1884)**, **Dev Isak Kosuri (1830)**, **Ansh Ankit Doshi (1818)**, and **Anirudh Gutta (1815)** shared the Top u2000 award.
The 1600-1999 section produced a five-way tie for 1st at 3.0 points between

Serena Liu (1784), **Yuvan Nandhakumar (1734)**, **Jinfeng Liu (1715)**, **Rishan Biswas (1693)**, and **Ayden Wang (1670)**, who shared the top prizes along with the Top u1800 award. **Samuel Allen Saliva (1546)** earned the Top u1600 prize with 2.0.
In the u1600 section, **Keller Ma (1366)** went 4.0 to win 1st place outright. **Anthony Lawson Defranco (1140)** and **Jacob Eugene Norris (874)** tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd place. **Yousuf Jamal (1194)** claimed the Top u1200 prize with 2.5, and **Arnav Parisaboyina (1167)** took the Top u1400 award with 2.0.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

In Memoriam: Nelson Viray

Alex Robins



As some of you may know, our longtime lobby attendant Nelson Viray passed away unexpectedly in August. Even if you didn't know Nelson personally, you probably recognize him from working the front door at our tournaments, particularly at the Tuesday Night Marathon, for over a decade.

Nelson helped keep our tournaments safe, and in that respect he went above and beyond. I remember one night when someone was agitated outside, and

Nelson walked a player all the way to the BART gates. That was well beyond his job duties, but it was the right thing to do, and he did it.

Keeping our events safe and acting as the gatekeeper for the building meant Nelson often dealt with people at their worst, but he handled it all with a great sense of humor and never failed to make me laugh about whatever situation we encountered. Only a few weeks before he passed away, I was walking past the Montgomery BART plaza, absorbed in my phone, when I suddenly found myself in the middle of a flock of pigeons. I was flustered and overwhelmed until I heard Nelson's boyish giggle and turned to see him tossing pieces of bread at my feet. Maybe you had to be there, but we laughed hard about that one for days afterwards.

What you also might not have known is that Nelson was also a solid club player who would often play chess club stalwart, former lobby attendant, and newsletter contributor Tony on his lunch break. Shortly before his illness, Nelson told me he was hoping to retire in the next couple years, and that when he did, he was going to come by and play in a blitz tournament. I never got to see that, but I'm sure he would have crushed some of our readers and then had something funny to say about it afterward.

If it isn't clear already, I'll end by saying I miss having Nelson here at the club as a colleague, chess player, and friend.

The Scientific Era in the Study of Chess Thinking Part I

Dmitry Dzhanhirov, NM, Independent Researcher

Inside the Black Box of Chess Mastery

A tournament hall. Silence, broken only now and then by the faint click of a clock. A master has been staring at the board for twenty minutes. He barely moves; his face is as impassive as a poker player's. Then he reaches for one of his pieces and makes a move. An experienced spectator will often realize that the move is strong—perhaps even the only one that wins or saves the game. But how the master found it, the spectator has no idea.

In control theory and psychology, a situation like this is called a "black box." The input is the position; the output is the move. What happens in between cannot be seen from the outside.

Yet the strength of a master's moves is no accident. Game after game, the master finds what the amateur misses, and this ability can be measured. At first it showed in the results of individual games; from the nineteenth century on, in the results of tournaments and matches; and since the middle of the twentieth century, in the rating system devised by the American physics professor Arpad Elo.

So what is the secret? Does the master simply calculate further than the amateur? Is his memory far better than average—and, in the case of the leading grandmasters, downright phenomenal? Is he generally smarter than other people? Or does he see something on the board that others fail to notice?

Ask the master himself, and he will gladly explain. Here the opponent's king is exposed, and that matters more than the piece I sacrificed. There the bishop pair more than makes up for the doubled pawns. In this position a strong square for the knight may emerge, and it is worth giving up the exchange to get it. It all sounds logical and clear. You will read much the same in the articles and books of the world's leading players, world champions included—the books from which generations of players have learned the game, and still do.

But in fact, all these accounts tell us *what* the master saw, not *how* he saw it. Why, out of a dozen plausible-looking continuations, did he immediately single out two or three promising ones and start calculating their consequences, without even considering the rest? Why does the bishop pair compensate for a damaged pawn structure in some positions, while in others the bishops cannot distract the opponent from besieging the weak pawns? How is it that in some situations a bishop and knight are stronger than a rook and two pawns, while in others a rook with just one pawn dominates two minor pieces? Why must you hurry to castle in one line of an opening, while in another line—of the same opening!—you can postpone castling and use the saved tempo to build up the initiative?

This is precisely where the line runs between a strong player and a weak one, between master and amateur. But where this understanding comes from, the master himself usually cannot clearly explain.

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For a long time the subject was a matter of idle talk among professionals and amateurs in chess cafés and clubs, between games. But in the last third of the nineteenth century philosophers and psychologists took up the question, and for more than a century and a half now science has been trying to peer inside the chess "black box." Along the way it has had to debunk two popular myths: that the master carries a photograph of the board in his head, and that he simply calculates further than everyone else.

Our story begins in Paris, with a philosopher who was sure he knew the answer.

Hippolyte Taine: The "Inner Mirror" Hypothesis (1870)
Hippolyte Taine (1828–1893) was a French philosopher, historian, and literary critic, and one of the leading figures of French positivism. He is best known for his formula "race, milieu, moment," with which he explained the development of art and literature.

But Taine had other interests as well, and they turned out to matter for the history of chess psychology. In 1870 he published a two-volume treatise, *De l'intelligence* (On Intelligence), in which he sought to explain the human mind through the workings of the nervous system and the brain, without recourse to the notion of the soul as a separate entity. The book was highly praised by, among others, the British philosopher, social thinker, and economist John Stuart Mill (1806–1873) and the French historian of religion Ernest Renan (1823–1892), and for several decades it remained one of the major works of French psychology.

In the part of the treatise devoted to mental images, Taine turned to blindfold chess. Strictly speaking, this was an observation rather than a study. Taine described players who, "with their eyes closed and their faces turned to the wall," play for hours and often defeat very strong opponents. The explanation seemed obvious to him: at every move the player has the entire board, with all the pieces in place, before his mind's eye, "as in an inner mirror." Otherwise, Taine reasoned, the player could not foresee the consequences of either his opponent's move or his own.

As proof of his hypothesis, however, Taine offered only the account of an unnamed American friend with experience of blindfold play, who claimed to see the pieces, the board, and the colors of the squares "exactly as the turner made them." In other words, what this player had in his head was not some imaginary board but the very board that stood in front of his

opponent—the one that, for the duration of the game, was hidden from him.

Despite evidence that looks flimsy by modern standards, the "inner mirror" hypothesis seemed convincing and, in the absence of an alternative, became widely accepted. In this view, a player's chess talent was equated with a visual memory close to photographic.

It was with this idea in mind that, twenty years later, a young psychologist named Alfred Binet began his own investigation—and it was he who would go on to refute Taine's hypothesis.

Alfred Binet: Pioneer of the Scientific Approach (1892)
The first scientist to apply scientific research methods to the question of what chess mastery is was the French psychologist Alfred Binet (1857–1911), a member of the Laboratory of Physiological Psychology at the Sorbonne, who in 1894 received his doctorate in natural sciences from the University of Paris.

He is remembered in the history of science above all as the creator, together with the psychiatrist Théodore Simon (1873–1961), of the first practical psychological test for identifying children with intellectual delays: the Binet–Simon scale of 1905. The test was the forerunner of the American Stanford–Binet scale and, through it, the ancestor of modern IQ tests.

Binet's study was prompted by the news that in February 1891 Alphonse Goetz had given a blindfold simultaneous exhibition on eight boards at the Café de la Régence. Relying on Taine's hypothesis, Binet assumed that the explanation lay in the master's phenomenal visual memory.

As Binet recalled, Goetz *"tried to convince me that blindfold play has nothing to do with visual memory."* Binet admits that he did not understand the explanation and set the work aside for a while.

Later, as part of Binet's study, Goetz described his experience of blindfold play this way: *"As for the pieces, I do not see their shape—I do not see it at all. [Over the board] I play sometimes with Régence pieces, sometimes with English Staunton pieces, and I could not tell you which of them I see when playing blindfold. I see only the range, the action of the pieces. A rook standing somewhere makes the same impression on me that his cannon makes on an artilleryman: he senses rather than sees its position behind the rampart. In the same way, to my inner eye a bishop is not*

a fancifully turned piece of wood but a force acting along the diagonal."

These words read like an indirect reply to Taine and his pieces "exactly as the turner made them."

At the same time, Goetz admitted that he could, if he wished, picture the board visually. But in an exhibition on six to eight boards, he said, this method was useless and tiring.

In 1892 Binet published a questionnaire for blindfold players in the French chess magazine *La Stratégie*. He received 62 replies from players of every level, from amateurs to the very strongest. The results first appeared as an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* (1893) and then, in 1894, as a separate section of his book *Psychologie des grands calculateurs et joueurs d'échecs* (The Psychology of Great Calculators and Chess Players).

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Binet's Respondents

About thirty people are named in Binet's book. The best known of them were:

Germany

Siegbert Tarrasch (1862–1934), a star of the first magnitude in world chess, both for the strength of his play and for his contribution to theory. In 1890 he declined an invitation from the Havana Chess Club to play a match against the first world champion, Wilhelm Steinitz, saying he could not leave his medical practice. He did play for the world title in 1908—against the second world champion, Emanuel Lasker (1868–1941)—and lost +3 −8 =5.

Emil Schallopp (1843–1919), a strong master who in his youth was a regular partner of the legendary Adolf Anderssen (1818–1879) in casual games; a well-known theoretician (author, notably, of the Schallopp Defense in the King's Gambit), analyst, and popularizer of chess. For ten years he was president of the Berlin Chess Society. A stenographer by profession.

Alexander Fritz (1857–1932), a strong master and well-known theoretician (author, notably, of the Fritz Variation of the Two Knights Defense) and a popularizer of chess who regularly gave blindfold simultaneous exhibitions. In 1880, in Mannheim, he played blindfold on 12 boards. He worked first as a lawyer and later as a judge in Alsfeld, Hesse.

England

Joseph Henry Blackburne (1841–1924), winner of several very strong international tournaments and, at the time, one of the five strongest players in the world. For several decades he was regarded as England's best player; as late as 1914, at the age of 72, he shared first place in the British Championship. He was one of the finest blindfold players of his

time.

Camille Moriau (?–1926), a French sales agent living in England. A strong amateur, he was at the time champion of the City of London Chess Club and became known for a blindfold exhibition on six boards that he conducted in three languages.

France

Samuel Rosenthal (1837–1902), a Polish-born strong master who took part in a number of international tournaments, performing quite respectably and finishing in the upper half of the crosstable. His best result was fourth place at Vienna 1873, where he scored 2½ out of 3 against Blackburne, who tied for first with Steinitz (it was precisely the loss to Rosenthal that cost Blackburne outright victory), and also won a game from Anderssen. He was a well-known chess journalist.

Jules Arnous de Rivière (1830–1905), a very strong player who preferred unofficial games. He won a number of informal matches against strong opponents. In Paris in 1863 he lost an informal match to Paul Morphy (1837–1884) by +3 −9 =0, but at the time this looked like a very respectable result against the American genius (for comparison, the great Anderssen lost to Morphy in 1858 by +2 −7 =2). He was a well-known chess journalist.

Jean Taubenhaus (1850–1919), a Polish-born, well-known master regarded as both a France and a Russia player.

Dawid Janowski (1868–1927), a subject of Russia and later of France; at the time a rising star, and later one of the strongest players in the world. He played two matches against Emanuel Lasker—an unofficial one in 1909 and a world championship match in 1910—and lost both heavily: +1 −7 =2 and +0 −8 =3.

Alphonse Goetz (1865–1934), a strong master who won the highly prestigious championship of the Café de la Régence in Paris in 1890 and 1892. He was known for his blindfold simultaneous exhibitions;

Binet mentions seeing Goetz play blindfold on 10 boards.

Stanislaus Sittenfeld (1865–1902), a Polish-born, well-known master and popularizer of chess who twice took third prize in the Café de la Régence championship. Of his three matches with Janowski in 1891–1893 he won one and drew one; in 1891 he drew a match with Taubenhaus; and in 1889, in the Régence championship, he won a tournament game from Mikhail Chigorin (1850–1908), who had just played a world championship match against Steinitz and lost it by a respectable +6 –10 =1.

Among the other respondents, we should mention the well-known Catalan chess writer and problemist **José Tolosa y Carreras** (1846–1916) and the strong Scottish player and chess journalist **David Forsyth** (1854–1909), who became champion of New Zealand in 1901. In 1883 Forsyth proposed a method of recording chess positions that, refined 111 years later by the programmer Steven Edwards (1957–2016), became the FEN format—Forsyth–Edwards Notation.

As we can see, although amateurs predominated among the respondents—many of them remained unknown to the chess world—a number of participants belonged either to the elite or to the "second tier" of the chess of the day, and many of them were remarkable personalities. Binet thus obtained first-hand descriptions of the "inner world" of the blindfold player from a whole series of outstanding players of his era.

In his study Binet asked: how does a chess player hold a position in his mind and conduct a game without seeing the board? To begin with, the replies to the questionnaire did not confirm Taine's hypothesis. Closest to the "photographic" version was Camille Moriau, who believed that it was impossible to do without a visual image of the board. But most masters described something quite different.

Alexander Fritz, for example, stated: *"[...] the board that appears to me has no distinguishing features, and neither do the pieces [...]. The image of the board and pieces appears with their colors, more vividly for the pieces I am playing myself. The shape of the pieces does not matter. They do not appear to me in any definite form, although the different pieces differ in size: a pawn is smaller than a knight, a knight*

smaller than a queen."

According to Binet, Fritz admitted that some positions he could reconstruct only by replaying in his mind all the moves made so far.

Samuel Rosenthal claimed that when playing blindfold he saw neither the board nor the pieces at all: *"I work not by sight but by reasoned mathematical calculation."*

Siegbert Tarrasch gave a profound answer: *"Every game is played partly blindfold. Any combination of, say, five moves is carried out in the head—the only difference being that the board is in front of your eyes. The pieces you are looking at often get in the way of calculation."* Binet, for his part, observed that when playing over the board one has to picture only the future arrangement of the pieces, whereas without the board one must picture the present one as well.

Stanislaus Sittenfeld described the board he imagined when playing blindfold as a "grayish transparency" with no edges and no colored squares, on which the position was formed by more or less dark dots.

Summing up the replies, Binet concluded that skill in blindfold play rests on three pillars: erudition, imagination, and memory. He put erudition—that is, knowledge and experience—first. Knowledge and experience are what make a position meaningful and coherent, and such a position is easier to keep in one's head.

The chess player's memory, as the study showed, turned out to be not "mechanical" but "meaningful." Tarrasch called it a "memory of facts": a good game can be told as a chain of connected events. The problemist José Tolosa y Carreras spoke of a "memory of order," which restores the moves in the sequence in which they were played—something Fritz mentioned as well.

Binet's study set the course that all later research on chess thinking would follow. The replies suggested that a master's strength depends not so much on a special memory or general sharpness of mind as on knowledge and experience, which allow him to see meaning in a position rather than a mere set of pieces arranged on the board.

Today we would speak of the "expertise" of chess masters, who, thanks to experience, pick out the key "patterns" in a position they are analyzing in their heads. But these terms, so convenient for describing chess thinking,

did not come into use until the second half of the twentieth century.

The next important contribution to the study of chess thinking was made by the American psychologist Alfred Cleveland of Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, in his doctoral dissertation, "The psychology of chess and of learning to play it" (1907).

(To be continued in the next issue)

Introducing *Grandmasters*

Alex Robins

Coming soon to a theatre near you, the chess cinematic event of the year, brought to you by your friends at Chess.com, it's *Grandmasters*!

I heard about this movie recently, so I thought I'd share the news about the limited time screening here in San Francisco with our readers. Most chess players' second favorite thing after chess is chess drama, and this film seems to offer it in spades. Hear it from Danny Rensch himself who told me that "we've been living inside the drama of top-level chess for decades, and we always knew the outside world had only seen a small slice of it. Seeing Grandmasters up on the big screen is going to be incredible, and getting to share that moment with the whole chess community makes it even better."

Do I need to sell you more on this? It's screening Tomorrow and Wednesday at Metreon - check out the trailer and buy your ticket now! The chess club is closed Wednesday night anyway so what else are you going to do?

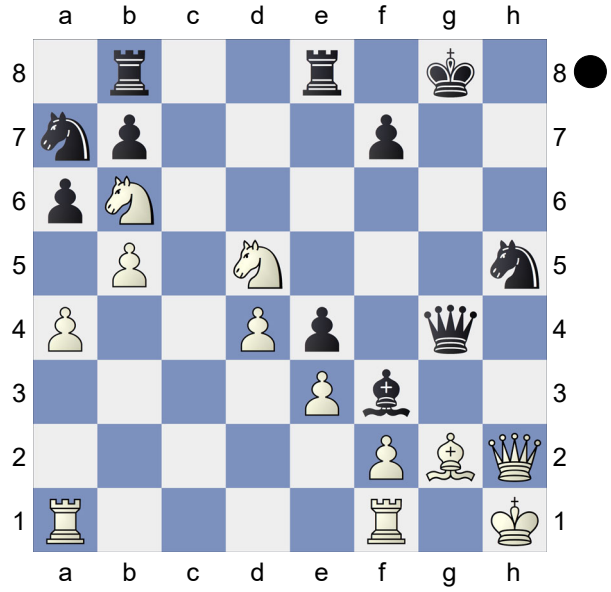
Tactical Fireworks

FM Henry Deng

This time I want to share a few interesting tactics that were played in my online games. Most of them were not found in the games themselves but reviewing them afterwards revealed those hidden tactics. The games were played relatively recently against strong opponents.

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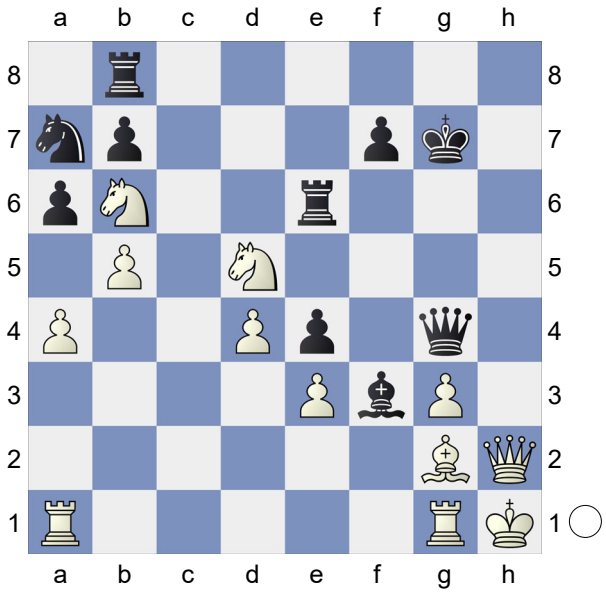
□ **Opponent**
■ **Deng,Henry**
[Deng,Henry]



White's king is vulnerable, but with Rg1 coming and Nf6 ideas looming, Black's king is not so safe either. Black needs to act quick before White can consolidate and safeguard his king. **28...Re6!** The only move to not lose the game for Black. This hangs the rook on b8 with check, but White does not have time to take it. The rook lift threatens ideas with Rh6 and Ng3. **29.Bxf3** This is the only move for White. This leads to an equal endgame.

[29.Qxb8+?? Even though White takes the rook with check, he has to spend one more tempo to go back to protect the bishop. Kg7 30.Qh2 *(30.Rg1 Ng3+ 31.Qxg3 Qxg3 32.Bxf3 Rh6+ 33.Bh5 Rxh5#)* 30...Rh6 31.Rg1?? *(31.Kg1 Rg6 32.Nf4 Nxf4 33.exf4 Bxg2-+)* 31...Ng3+ 32.fxg3 Qh3! A nice finish, forcing checkmate. 33.Qxh3 Rxh3#]

[29.Rg1? Ng3+! Opening the h-file, and importantly, clogging the g-file so that there is no more threat of a pin on the queen. 30.fxg3 Kg7!



A quiet move to threaten Rh8 or Rh6, and White cannot do anything to stop it. 31.Bxf3 exf3 32.Ra2 Rh8-+]

29...Qxf3+ 30.Qg2+ Kh7 31.Qxf3 exf3 32.Rg1 Rh6 33.Kh2= Althought White's king position looks precarious, there is no way for Black to actually take advantage of it. The game is still pretty complex but overall still equal.
0-1

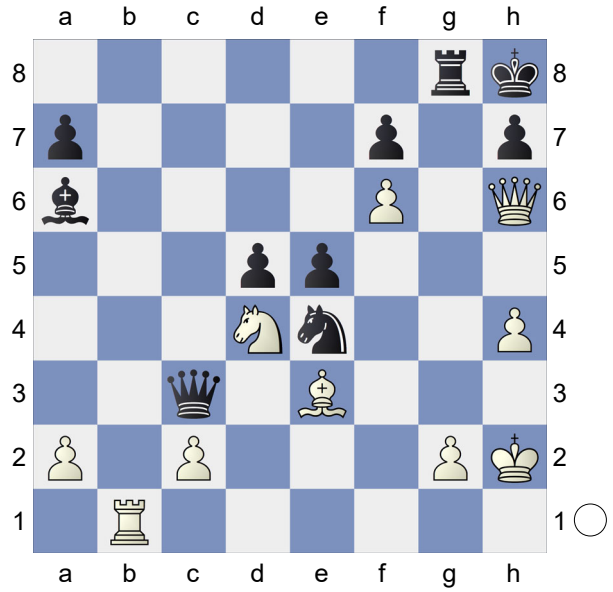
B23

□ **Opponent**
■ **Deng,Henry**
[Deng,Henry]

(Diagram)

Both kings are weak, but Black's king is currently under a larger threat on account of the weak g7 square. Here White could have exploited that, but it was not found. **28.Nf3??** Missing the way to win.

[28.Rb8! The rook cannot be taken. White is threatening Qg7 mate. Black can defend though. Bc8 *(28...Rxb8*



29.Qg7#) 29.Nf5!+- There is no defense to Ne7 coming next, dislodging the rook who has to both defend g7 and f8.]

28...Qxc2 29.Rg1 Bf1 Not necessary, other moves also worked, but it is a good option. **30.Bg5??**

[30.Bd2 Nxd2 31.Qxd2 Qxd2 32.Nxd2 Ba6∓]

30...Qf2!-+ And there is no good defense to Qg3 Nf2 coming. Not found in the game, Be2 was played, White eventually won.

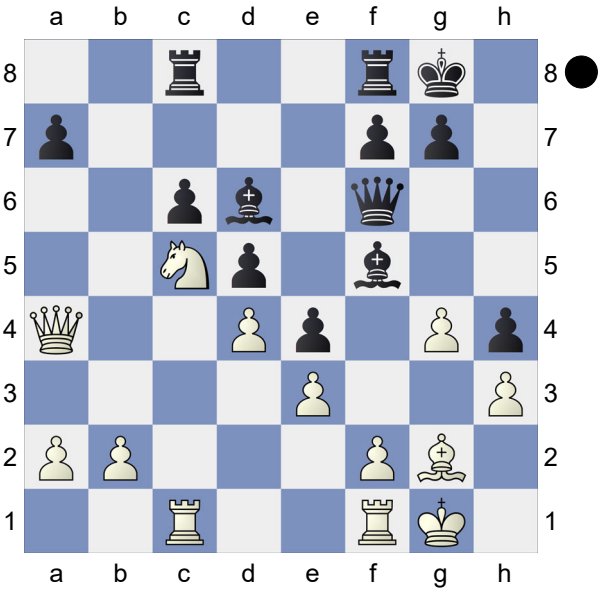
1-0

A00

□ **Opponent**
■ **Deng,Henry**
[Deng,Henry]

(Diagram)

Black has a dangerous attack against the White king, and by playing g4, White weakens the king further. **19...Bxg4!?** The sacrifice is sound, but needs to be executed well. This is not the only move, in fact the engine gives a slight



advantage to moving the bishop back with Be6. **20.hxg4 h3 21.Bxh3**

[21.Bh1?? h2+ 22.Kg2 Qf3#]

21...Qh4

[21...Qf3? Played in the game. This is not the right way, as it gives White time to defend. 22.Bg2 Qxg4 23.Qd1 Qh4 24.f4 While White's king is not completely out of the woods, Black's attack has diminished and White went on to win.]

22.Nxe4! The only move for White. The point is to open up the g8-a2 diagonal which will be helpful later if Black tries to go f5.

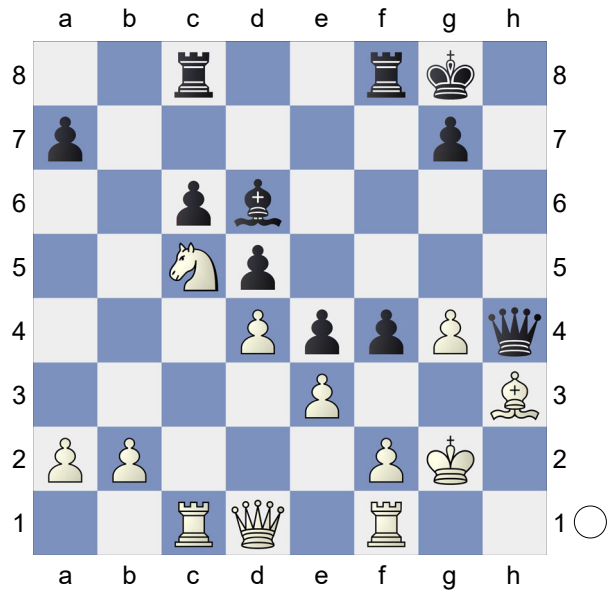
[22.Kg2? The more obvious move. However Black gets a strong attack. f5 23.Qd1 f4

(Diagram)

Black tries to open up lines and also threatens f3. 24.exf4 Rxf4 25.Rc3 Rcf8 26.f3 Bxc5 27.dxc5 d4-+ Black goes d3 next, and crashes through on the kingside.]

22...dxe4 23.Kg2 Qf6

[23...f5? 24.Qc4+ Rf7 *(24...Kh7? 25.Rh1+-)* 25.Qe6 Rcf8 26.Rc2± Black is not losing but White has gotten the upper hand with the Queen



coming in to Black's position.]

24.f4 exf3+ 25.Rxf3 Qe7=

Still a complex position but equal.

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Annotated Games from the TNM and Recent Tournaments

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from the 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!

B07

□ **Cawthon,Jeremy David** **2098**
■ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **2667**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 15.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

Christopher Yoo has fine-tuned his TNM play very well! Those two half-point byes, and then three wins, then another half point bye in Round 6 -- recovering perhaps after a clear first in the Western States in Reno the day before! Still, a win on Tuesday will tie for 1st-2nd. He may have gone a bit too far this time, he has Black against the player he'd be tying with (me). I will be going all out to not go all in! **1.e4** 2 Here are, pretty much, the notes I've run in the round files. **1...g6** 18

[1...b6 Owen's Defense (which he was not the first to play, but had a few games in 1858, and even in the 1890s was playing it).]

2.d4 6 **Bg7** 4 **3.Nc3** 32 **d6** 6 **4.Be3** 27 **Nf6** 6 **5.Be2** 30 Rare: only 705 games in Mega 2026 database (but a lot of transpositions), while the two main moves score better as well. But at least it has some "pedigree":

[5.f3]

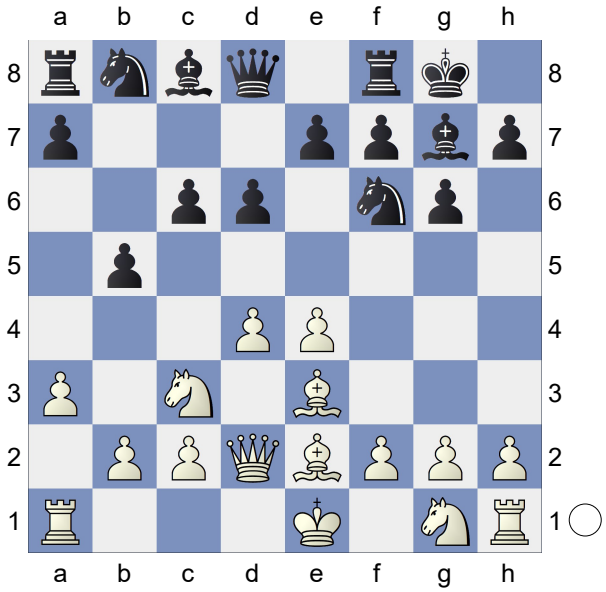
[5.Qd2]

5...c6 1:10

[5...0-0 6.h4 Nc6 7.h5 e5 8.hxg6 fxg6 9.Nf3 Ng4 10.Bc4+ Kh8 11.Ng5 Bh6 12.Qxg4 Bxg4 13.Rxh6 Kg7 14.Rxh7+ 1-0 (14) Burn,A-Owen, J Liverpool 1874. **1874** !!! Is this "Owen's Other Defence" Looks like a brief loss in faith in 1...b6...]

6.Qd2 12 **b5** 19 **7.a3** 12 If the bishop had been on d3 already, then this wouldn't be necessary, White could answer ...b4 with Ne2-g3 and something out of the closed Ruy. **7...0-0** 1:15

(Diagram)



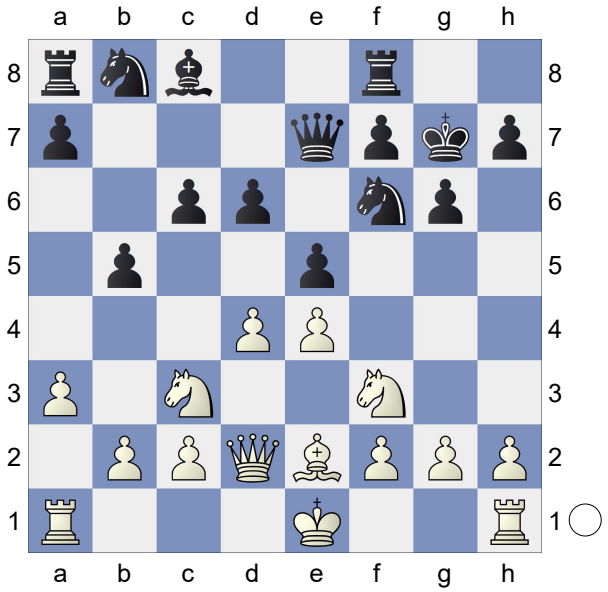
8.Bh6! 50 **e5** 3:02 **9.Bxg7** 45 **Kxg7** 5 **10.Nf3** 12 **Qe7** 47

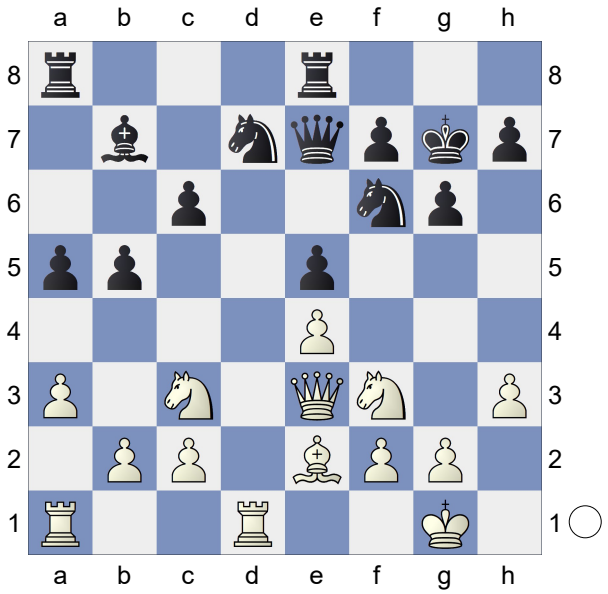
[10...Nbd7 11.0-0 Qe7 12.d5 Bb7 13.dxc6 Bxc6 14.Bd3 a6 15.Rfe1 Nc5 16.Rad1 Rfd8 17.Qc1 Qb7 18.Qe3 Ne6 19.g3 a5 20.Nh4 b4 21.Nb1 Ng4 22.Qe2 h5 23.c3 Ng5 24.f3 Nf6 25.Qe3 Ne6 26.Nd2 bxc3 27.bxc3 Qa7 28.Qxa7 Rxa7 29.Rb1 d5 30.exd5 Bxd5 31.Be4 Rc7 32.Bxd5 Rxd5 33.Nf1 Rxc3 34.a4 Ng5 35.Re3 Rc2 36.Reb3 Ra2 37.Rb5 Rxa4 38.Rxd5 Nxd5 39.Rb5 Nc3 40.Rc5 Ne2+ 41.Kf2 Ra2 42.Ke3 Ne6 43.Rxe5 Nc1 44.Nd2 Ra3+ 45.Ke4 Nd3 46.Rd5 Kf6 47.f4 Nf2# 0-1 (47) Pollio,C (1997)-Valiente, C (2232) Santiago de Chile 2010]

(Diagram)

Often a cozy place for the queen when dxe5 is in the air. **11.h3** 55 **Nbd7** 41 **12.0-0** 22 **Bb7** 1:54 **13.Rfd1** 1:56 **a5** 5:28 **14.Qe3** 2:55 **Rfe8** 2:12 **15.dxe5** 2:24 **dxe5** 1:43

(Diagram)





16.Rd2?! 2:57

[16.Bd3]

[16.Ne1]

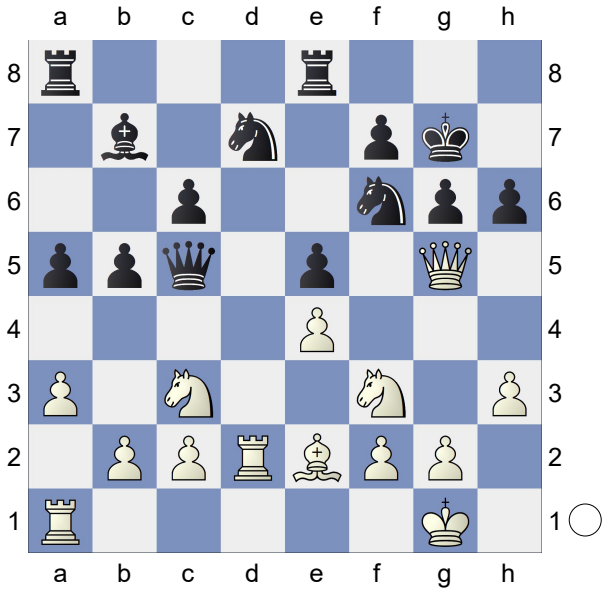
[16.Rac1]

16...Qc5= 1:47 (-0.12/22) **17.Qg5?!** 2:40 Compared to other games Jeremy's played, it would seem that time spent on a move just comes up with bad ones.

[17.Rd3 Qxe3 18.Rxe3 Nc5 19.Rb1 a4!? Black's knights have more squares to meander around and maybe find something.]

17...h6∓ 2:33

(Diagram)



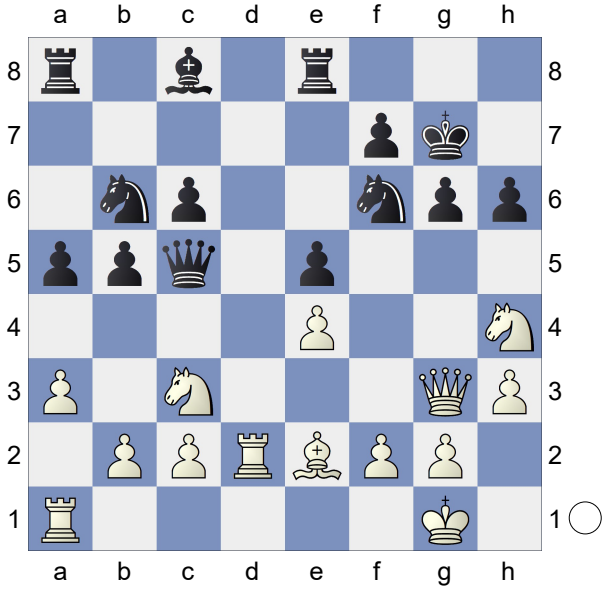
18.Qg3 13 **Nb6** 5:11 Same for Christopher: over five minutes but not such a great result.

[18...Nh5! 19.Qh2 Qe7∓ Stockfish 19 came out since this was played and annotated, but the evals look like they're holding. Black has a solid advantage.]

19.Nh4 3:10

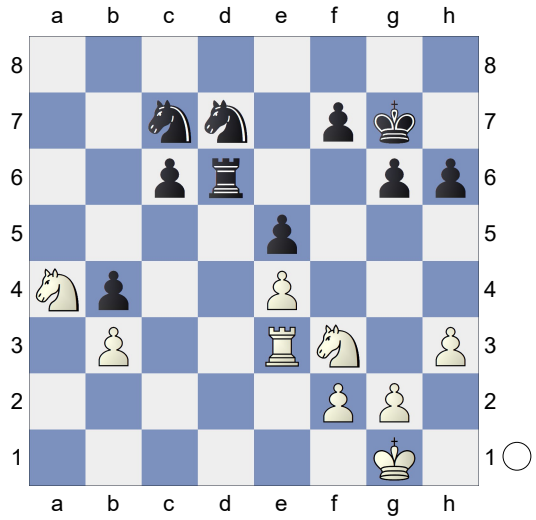
[19.Bd3∓]

19...Bc8∓ 31



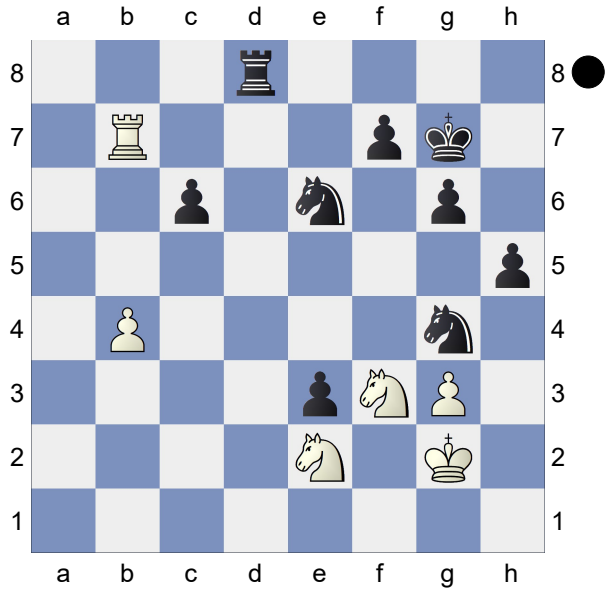
The pawn at c6 is integral (controlling d5); the bishop redeploys. **20.Rd3?** 6:56 **b4-+** 2:53 Black picks off a pawn, which here is enough. **21.axb4** 7 **axb4** 4

22.Rxa8 2 **Nxa8** 8 **23.Na4** 49 **Qxc2** 23
24.Bd1 5 **Qc1** 1:16 **25.Kh2** 3:34
[25.Qe3! Qxe3 26.Rxe3 Be6 27.Bb3 Nd7 28.Bxe6 Rxe6 29.b3 Rd6 30.Nf3 Nc7



In Shankland's "Converting an Extra Pawn" book his Part 3 of his method is deciding what the extra pawn is doing. He forgot determining which pawn is the extra one (!). Here it's pretty obviously the c6 pawn. Controlling d5, and the eternal threat of ...c5-c4 and the b-pawn gets passed and dirty.]
25...Nxe4 1:11 Ow, make that two pawns. Over. **26.Qf3** 13 **Qf4+** 3:06
27.g3?! 10
[27.Qxf4 exf4 28.Bf3 Nc7 29.Rd4 Nxf2 30.Bxc6 Re2 31.Rxb4 Rc2 32.Nc3 Nd3]
27...Qxf3 56 **28.Bxf3** 6 **Nxf2** 25 **29.Rb3** 42 **e4** 10 **30.Be2** 7 **Bxh3** 2:32
Looks precarious, but Yoo is in control.
31.Rxb4 17 Bringing it down to minus three pawns! **31...Bg4** 8
[31...Nc7!]
32.Bxg4 1:20 **Nxg4+** 7 **33.Kg2** 6 **h5** 45
34.Nc3 14 **e3** 4 **35.Ne2** 6 **Nc7** 14
36.Rb7 7 **Ne6** 19 **37.Nf3** 10 **Rd8** 12
38.b4 16

(Diagram)



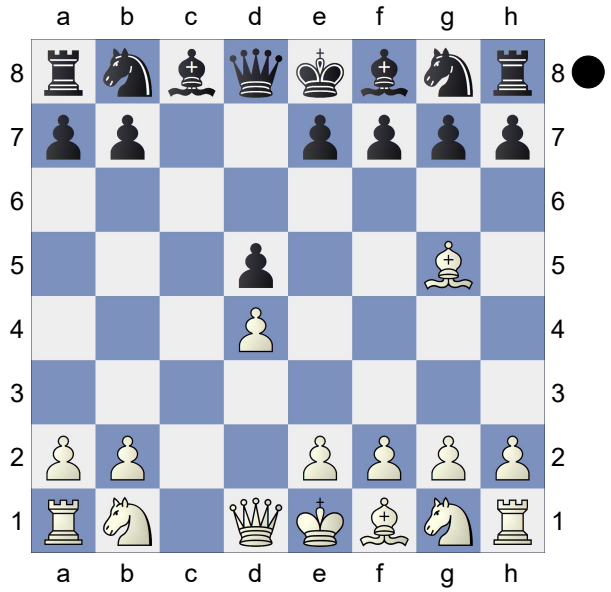
Rd2! 2:12 **39.Nxd2** 22 **exd2** 5 **40.Nc3** 7
Ne3+ 3 **41.Kg1** 26 **d1Q+** 26 **42.Nxd1** 2
Nxd1 7 **43.b5** 28 **cxb5** 4 **44.Rxb5** 3
Nd4 57 **45.Rb7** 15
[45.Rd5 Ne2+ 46.Kh2 Ne3]
45...Ne3 **46.Kh2** 12 **Nf3+** 14 **47.Kh3** 11
g5 19 Threatening mate even! **48.g4** 13
hxg4+ 16 **49.Kg3** 7 **Nd4** 48 **50.Kf2** 13
Ndf5 5 **51.Ra7** 33 **g3+** 5 **52.Kf3** 8 **g4+** 6 **53.Kf4** 19 **g2** 11 **54.Ra1** 15 **Nf1** 11
55.Kg5 1:19 **g1Q** 13 **56.Ra6** 13 **Qc5** 23
57.Ra8 19 **N5g3+** 8 **58.Kxg4** 20 **Qf5+** 5
59.Kh4 7 **Qh5#** 3
0-1

D10
□ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **2667**
■ **Horowitz,Phineas F** **1975**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 22.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

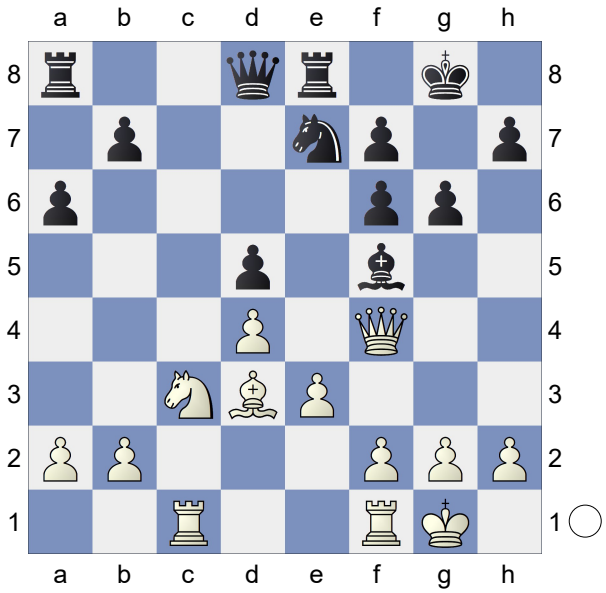
1.d4 26 **d5** 25 **2.c4** 25 **c6** 11 **3.cxd5** 25 **cxd5** 11 **4.Bg5** 4

(Diagram)

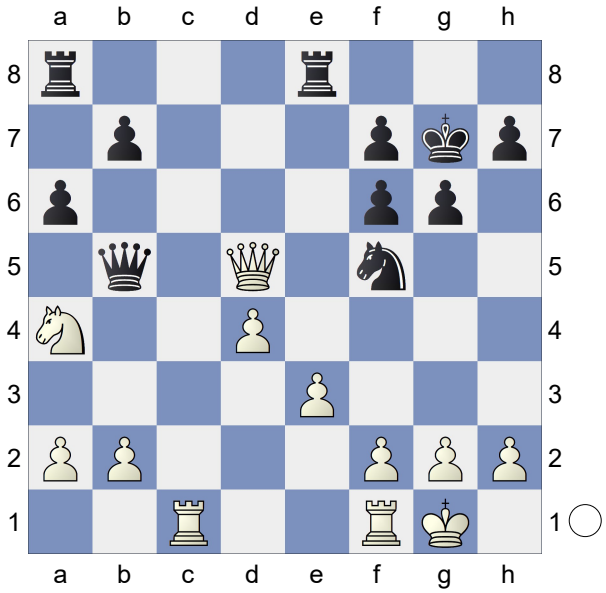
I have no words. **4...Nf6** 3:54
I would try somehow to take advantage of White's last, but some of the heaviest



hitters have done the same, refusing to be shaken. **5.Bxf6** 27 **exf6** 30
[SF 19 makes 5...gxf6 equivalent, but results favor this, "capture towards the center." Speaking of heavy hitters: 6.Nc3 e6 7.e3 Nd7 8.Bd3 f5 9.h3 h5 10.h4 Nf6 11.Nge2 Bd6 12.Qb3 a6 13.Rc1 b5 14.a4 b4 15.Nb1 Bd7 16.Qd1 Qa5 17.b3 Ne4 18.Kf1 Ke7 19.f3 Nf6 20.Kf2 Qb6 21.Nd2 f4 22.e4 Be5 23.exd5 Bxd4+ 24.Kf1 Nxd5 25.Nc4 Ne3+ 26.Nxe3 Bxe3 27.Rc4 Rac8 28.g3 Rxc4 29.Bxc4 Bc6 30.Nxf4 Bxf4 31.gxf4 Qe3 32.Rh3 Rg8 0-1 (32) Mamedyarov,S (2808)-Aronian,L (2764) Paris GCT blitz 24 Jun 2018]
6.Nc3 42 **Nc6** 3:02 **7.e3** 1:28 **Bb4** 3:47 **8.Rc1** 1:34 White is slightly better. was the old line (8.Nge2). **8...0-0** 1:52 **9.Bd3** 2:34 **Re8** 4:22 **10.Nge2** 1:27 **Ne7?!N** 15:34
[10...Bg4 11.0-0 Qd7 12.Qb3 Rad8 13.Nf4 Be6 14.Na4 Bd6 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.Rxc5 b6 1-0 (46) Esquivel Revilla,E (2155)-Leon,V Merida 1997]
[10...Be6!= Most solid.]
11.0-0 2:18 **a6** 9:59 "Black has weak pawns" (TA) "Well, one weak pawn" (Winslow) **12.Nf4** 1:47 **Bd6** 3:36
13.Qh5 1:40
[13.Ncxd5 is interesting. Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxh2+ 15.Kxh2 Qxd5 16.Qc2]
13...g6 3:29 A sharp opening **14.Qf3** 1:22 **Bxf4** 1:04
[14...Rb8±]
15.Qxf4± 10 (sf 19 +0.50/25) **15...Bf5?** 46
[15...Kg7±]



This move loses the game for Black.
16.Bxf5!+- 1:32 **Nxf5** 10 **17.Qf3** 27 A pawn falls! **17...Kg7** 4:44 **18.Qxd5** 1:43 **Qb6** 2:51 **19.Na4** 5:39 **Qb5** 1:27



20.Qb3 16 **Qxb3** 1:51 **21.axb3** 5
No problem **21...b5** 1:19 **22.Nc5** 1:06
Nd6 1:11 **23.Nd3** 2:57 **Ne4** 3:34
24.Rfd1 1:21 Dodges Nd2 **24...a5** 2:44
25.f3 3:32 **Ng5** 2:24
[25...Nd6 26.e4 a4 27.bxa4 bxa4]
26.d5 2:04 **h5** 32 **27.h4** 34 **Nh7** 7
28.e4 36 **Rac8** 3:47 **29.Rc5** 31 **Rxc5** 38 **30.Nxc5** 3 White is a pawn up. And that's not the half of it. **30...Nf8** 1:23
31.d6 13 **Rb8** 2:31 **32.d7** 48 **Rd8** 55
33.Rd5 1:00 **Kh6** 3:45 **34.Rd6** 45 **Kg7** 50 **35.f4** 16 **b4** 3:32 **36.Kf2** 14 **Kg8** 1:14 **37.Ke3** 21 **Kg7** 59 **38.Kd4** 21
Ne6+ 24 **39.Rxe6** 17 **Rxd7+** 1:06
40.Nxd7 6 White mates. **40...fxe6** 7
KN-KP **41.e5** 5 **fxe5+** 15 **42.Nxe5** 8
Kf6 8 **43.Ke4** 11 **Kg7** 17 **44.Nc6** 5 **g5** 11 **45.fxg5** 6 **Kg6** 1 **46.Nxa5** 12
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.58
1-0

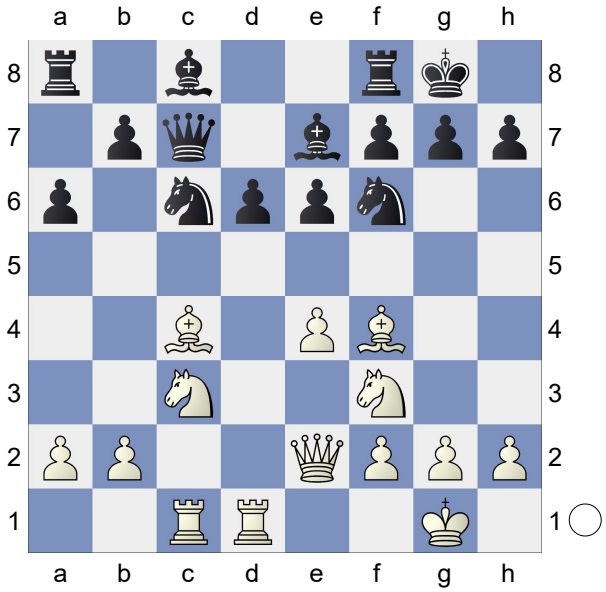
B21

□ **Parsons,Stephen** **2012**
■ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **2667**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 29.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

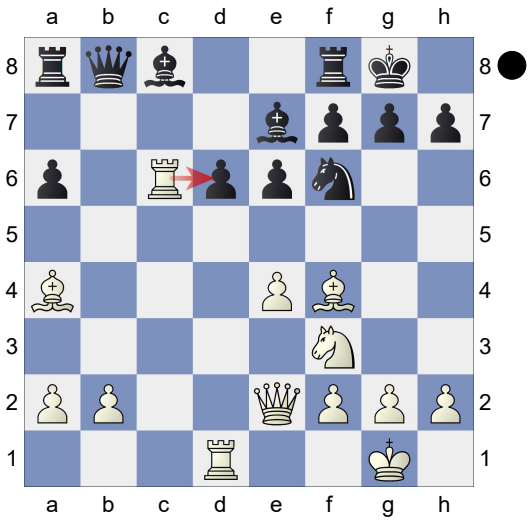
Christopher lost to Nakamura in this sharp rabbit-hole of a forced line in the Morra Gambit, back in a 2023 blitz game (Titled Tuesday), but that was then. He's since patched it up and scored with it, and again here. **1.e4** 2 **c5** 1:45 **2.d4** 42 **cxd4** 7 **3.c3** 6 **dxc3** 39 **4.Nxc3** 7
Nc6 13 **5.Bc4** 1:01 **e6** 34 **6.Nf3** 31 **a6** 2:31 **7.0-0** 2:04 **d6** 12 **8.Bf4** 1:04 **Be7** 16 **9.Qe2** 1:07 **Nf6** 22 **10.Rfd1** 24 **Qc7** 7 **11.Rac1** 15 **0-0** 13

(Diagram)

12.Bb3 2:16 **Qb8** 24 **13.h3** 2:13



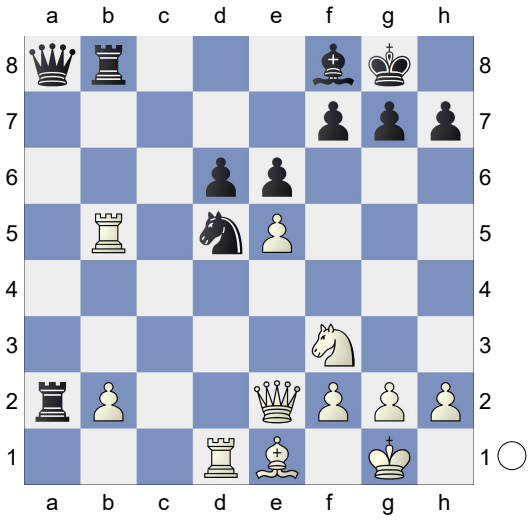
[13.Na4!? b5!? 14.Rxc6 bxa4 15.Bxa4



Bd7 *(15...Bb7 16.Nd4!∞)* 16.Rc4
A) 16...Bb5 17.Bxb5 axb5 18.Rb4 Rxa2 19.Rxb5 Qa8 20.e5 Nd5 21.Bd2 Rb8 22.Be1 Bf8

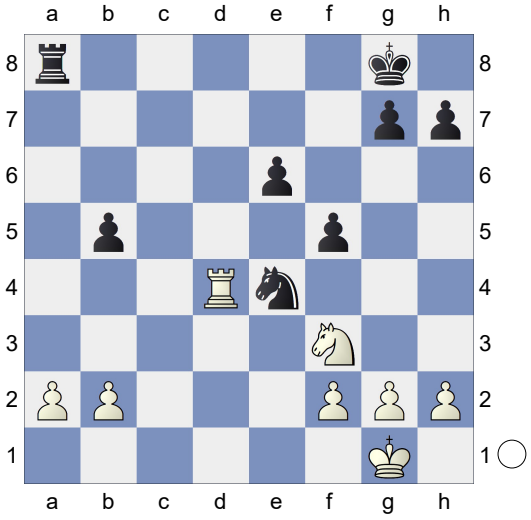
(Diagram)

23.g3? *(23.exd6=* and White has nothing to worry. *Rxb5 24.Qxb5 Bxd6 25.Rc1)* 23...Qa6-+ 24.Nd4 Rxb5 25.Nxb5 dxe5 26.Rc1 e4 27.Kf1 *(⌓27.Rb1)* 27...e3-+ 28.fxe3 Nxe3+ 29.Kg1 Nd5 30.Kf1 g6 31.Nc7 Qxe2+ 32.Kxe2 Rxb2+ 33.Bd2 Bh6 0-1 (33)



Domingo Nunez,A (2333)-Yoo,C (2588) Titled Tuesday intern op 18th Feb Early 2025;

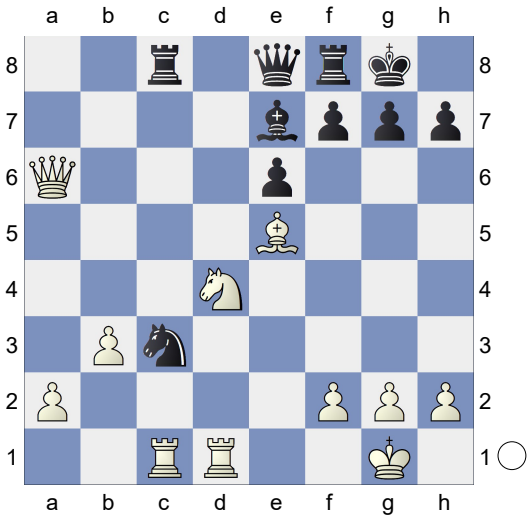
B) 16...Bxa4 17.Rxa4 Qb5 18.Rc4 *(18.Qxb5 axb5 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Bxd6 Bxd6 21.Rxd6 Nxe4 22.Rd4 f5=*



The old joke: if White plays the Morra Gambit, he should be able to equalize. *)* 18...Rac8 19.b3 d5 20.exd5 Nxd5 21.Be5 Nb6 *(21...Rfd8=)* 22.Nd4± Qe8 23.Rcc1! Nd5? *(23...Nd7±)* 24.Qxa6+- Nc3? *(24...Bb4 25.Nc6 f6)*

(Diagram)

25.Nf5!+- exf5 26.Rxc3 Ra8

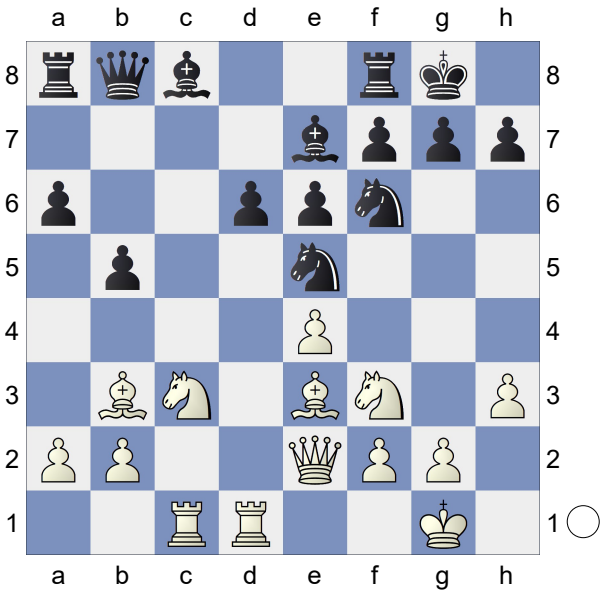


27.Qe2 Bf6 28.Re3 Qc6 29.Bxf6 Qxf6 30.a4 Rfb8 31.Red3 g6 32.g3 Kg7 33.Qf3 Ra6 34.Rc3 Rb4 *(34...Rab6 35.Rd7 Rd8 36.Rxd8 Qxd8)* 35.Rd7+- Hoping for Rcc7. Re4 36.Rcc7 Rae6? *(36...Qa1+ 37.Kg2 Rf6)* 37.a5 h5 38.Rxf7+ Qxf7 39.Rxf7+ Kxf7 40.Qc3 h4 41.Kg2 hxg3 42.hxg3 Re2 1-0, Nakamura,H (2775)-Yoo,C (2607) Titled Tuesday intern op 09th May Late 2023]

13...Ne5 1:52 **14.Be3** 8:42

[14.Nd4= keeps the balance.]

14...b5 2:35



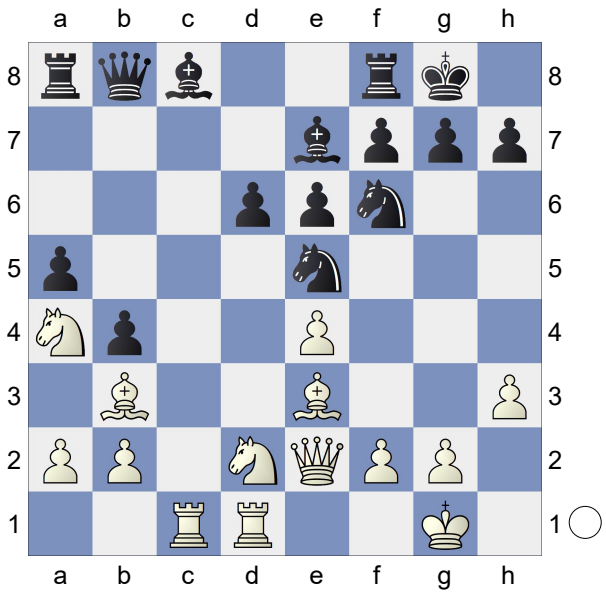
15.Nd2?!N 2:38

[15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Bc2 *(16.a4!)* 16...Bb7 17.g3 Rc8 18.Kh2 Bc6 19.f3 Nd7 20.Qf2 Nf6 *(⌓20...Qb7 21.Nb1 b4)* 21.h4 a5 *(21...Ne8∓ 22.Bb6 h6)* 22.g4 *(*Better is *22.Bd3∓)* 22...a4 23.Bd3 b4 *(⌓23...Be8 24.Ne2 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 h6)* 24.Nb1 *(24.Nb5∓* might work better. *Bxb5 25.Rxc8+ Qxc8 26.Bxb5)* 24...Qb7 *(24...h5-+ 25.g5 Nd7)* 25.Qg3? *(25.h5∓)* 25...Bb5-+ 26.Qxe5? *(26.Bxb5 Qxb5 27.Qf2)* 26...Rxc1-+ 27.Bxc1 Bxd3 28.Rxd3 Qc6 29.g5 Qxc1 30.gxf6 Bxf6 31.Qb5 Qxb1 32.Qb7 Qxd3 0-1 (32) Kracht,R (1539)-Baltic,F (1875) Dortmund 2015]

15...b4∓ 3:14

[⌓15...Ng6 16.Nf3 Bb7]

16.Na4 59 **a5** 18



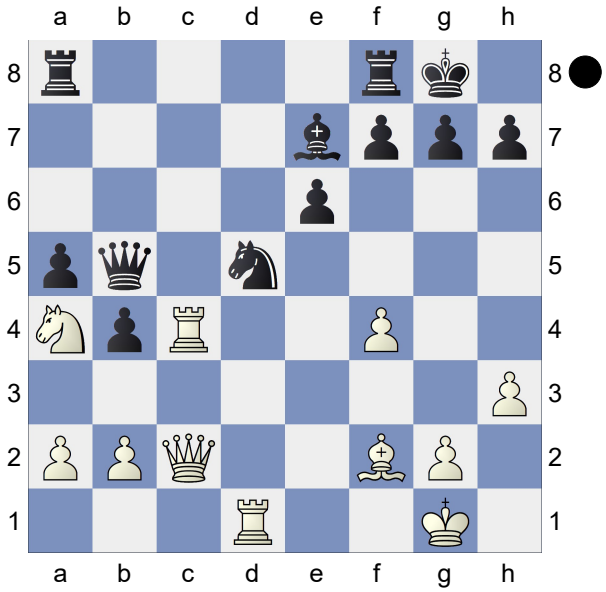
17.f4? 5:09 Now White is beyond hope.

[17.Nb6∓]

17...Ba6-+ 19 **18.Nc4** 4:33 **Bxc4** 36 **19.Bxc4** 27 **Nxc4** 6 **20.Rxc4** 53 **Qb5** 1:20 **21.Qc2** 3:20 **d5** 40 **22.exd5** 1:02 **Nxd5** 21 **23.Bf2** 1:12

[⌓23.Rd3 Nxe3 24.Rxe3]

(Diagram)



23...Nc3! 1:29 **24.bxc3** 1:44

[24.Rxc3 bxc3]

24...Qxc4 8 **25.Nb6** 1:29 **Qxc3** 15 **26.Qxc3** 17 **bxc3** 6 **27.Nxa8** 7 **Ba3** 1:04 **28.Be3** 22 **c2** 39 **29.Rf1 Rxa8** 11 **30.Bc1** 26 **Bxc1** 29 **31.Rxc1** 4 Endgame KR-KR. Black is two pawns up. **31...Rc8** 6 **32.Kf2** 20 **f6** 34 **33.Ke2** 30 **e5** 13 **34.fxe5** 42 **fxe5** 5 **35.Kd3** 16 **Kf7** 5 **36.Rxc2** 55 **Rxc2** 9 Black mates. **37.Kxc2** 3 KP-KP. Black is a pawn up. **37...Ke6** 7 **38.Kd3** 34 **Kd5** 7 **39.g4** 43 **g5** 13 **40.Ke3** 1:05 **e4** 10 **41.Ke2** 1:12 **Kd4** 8 **42.a4** 1:25 **e3** 8 Weighted Error Value: White=0.76/Black=0.06 (flawless) **0-1**

C43

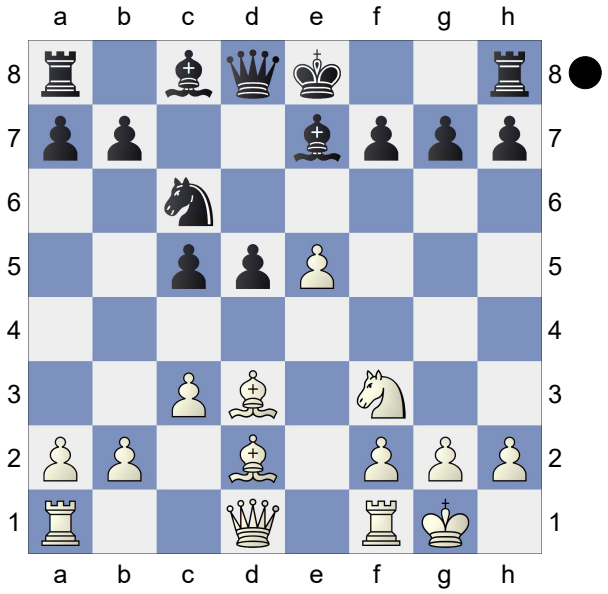
□ **Hasteer,Divija** **1874**
■ **Clemens,Kristian** **1970**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (3.9) 01.09.2026
[Clemens,Kristian/(Winslow,Elliott)]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.dxe5 d5 5.Nbd2 Nxd2 1:31 White: 1:18, Black: **6.Bxd2 Be7 7.Bd3 c5**

I remembered this idea from my game against Michael Walder a few years ago.

8.c3 Nc6 9.0-0

[9.h3 White didn't consider this, because, as I pointed out after the game, the bishop is fine on e6.]

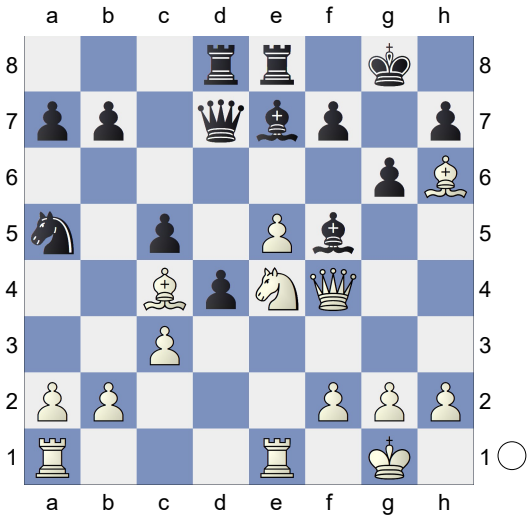


9...Bg4

[Walder-Clemens, Summer TNM 2023, went: 9...0-0 10.Re1 Be6 11.Qc2 g6 ew: as I noted back then: "?!" and now "sf19: +0.70/28" *(11...h6= 0.17/30* sf19 *12.Rad1 Qd7 13.Bf4 Rfd8 14.Bg3 f5 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Nh4 Bxh4 17.Bxh4 Re8±* ½-½ (31), Guseinov,G (2668)-Markus, R (2616), Olympiad-44 Chennai 2022 *)* 12.Bh6 Re8 13.Qd2 *(13.Rad1!)* 13...Qd7 *(13...d4=)* 14.Qf4± I remember thinking at this point that I had never played anyone who is so good at getting his pieces into the attack. Every time I play NM Walder, it feels like he is getting two moves for every one of mine. Rad8?! 15.Ng5!+- d4?! 16.Ne4! Bf5 17.Bc4! Na5

(Diagram)

A) after he declined to play 18.e6!+- fxe6 19.Qe5 Bh4 *(19...Bf8 20.Nf6+)* 20.Bb5 Nc6 21.Bxc6



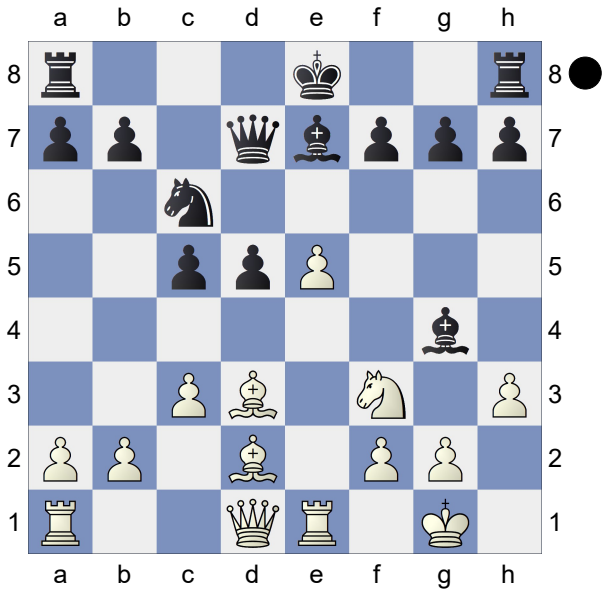
bxc6 22.g3;

B) 18.Bxf7+?? I barely managed to survive this typically brutal Walder attack 18...Kxf7= 19.g4 Kg8 20.gxf5 Qxf5 21.Qxf5 gxf5 22.Ng3 Nc4 and we agreed to a draw about a dozen moves later.]

10.Re1

[10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nxe5 12.Qe2 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 0-0∓]

10...Qd7 1:26 White: 1:18, Black: **11.h3**



Bf5 I decided that the whole point of Bg4 (besides pressuring the center indirectly) was to trade light-squared bishops, so I simply traded them and decided to figure out the rest of the plan later.

[ew: A number of 2700 players (and one monster computer program) prefer 11...Bh5 with very close to total equality.]

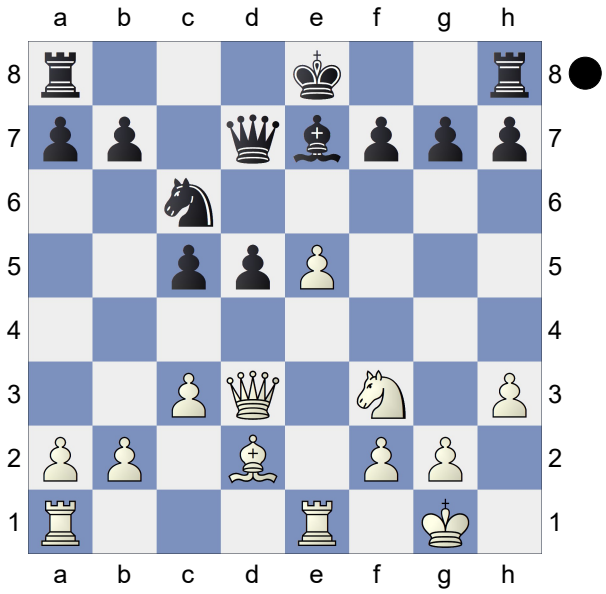
12.Qe2N

[12.Qc2 (ew: more forcing) Bxd3 13.Qxd3]

12...Bxd3 (ew: transposing)

[(ew:) 12...0-0!=]

13.Qxd3



0-0-0?!N (ew)

[13...0-0 14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Bxg5 Nd8 16.Rad1 Ne6 17.Be3 d4 18.cxd4±]

[ew: 13...Qe6! 0.24/27 sf19:]

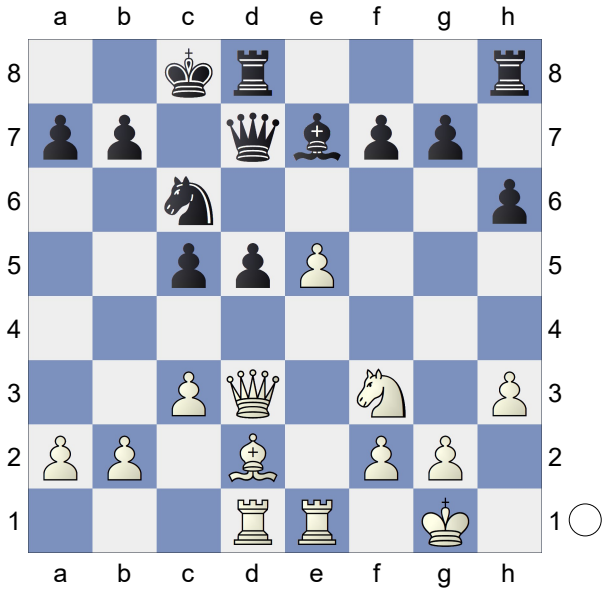
14.Rad1 White said that this was a committal move, because she is giving up on the queenside pawn storm. I know that pawn storms are a pretty typical idea in opposite-side castling situations, and I thought some combination of c4 and b4 would be logical. Having said that, Rad1 seems totally normal here and can't be that bad.

[14.b4 c4 15.Qc2 h6 16.a4 g5 17.a5 with a typically double-edged opposite-side castling position]

[sf19: 14.Ng5!± 1.50/24]

14...h6

[ew: better 14...Qe6!? 15.Bg5 Rd7 but still ±]



setting up g5 and taking away the g5 square from White **15.Bf4** White: 60 min, Black: 68. White spent 4 minutes on e6.

[ew: sf19: 15.b4! cxb4 16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Qc3+ Qc7 *(17...Kb8 18.e6+-)* 18.Qb3 Nc6 19.Bf4±]

15...g5

[15...Qe6= We found this after the game, and I don't know why I didn't seriously consider it during the game. This blocks the e6 pawn break and sets up g5-g4. 16.h4 Rhg8 17.h5 *(17.Qd2 g5 18.hxg5 hxg5 19.Nxg5 Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Qg4 21.f4* is one sample line- Black still has work to do, but White's kingside is severely compromised, while White has made no progress on the queenside. *)* 17...Qg4 18.Qe3 Qxh5 19.e6=]

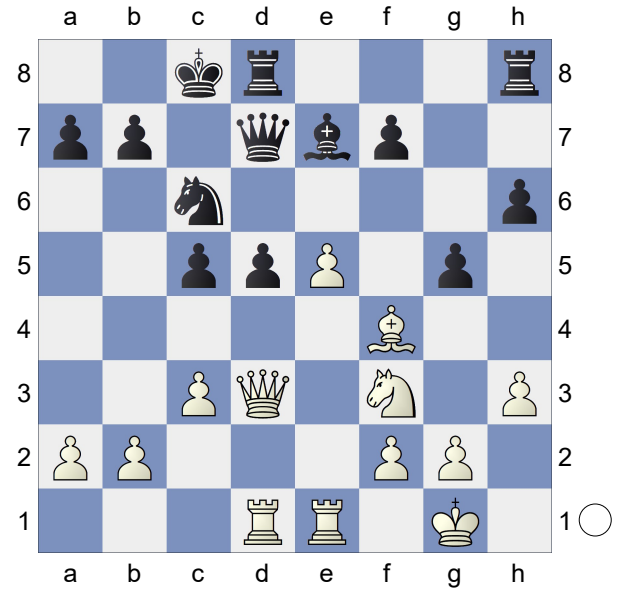
(Diagram)

16.e6!

[16.Bh2 g4]

16...fxe6 17.Be5

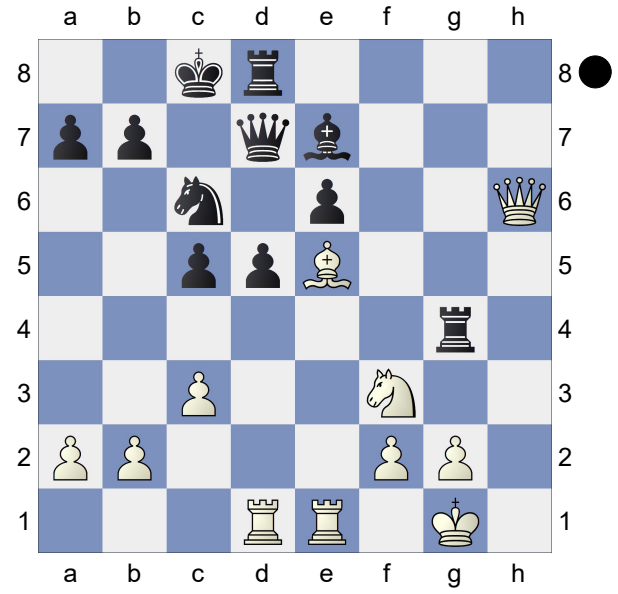
[17.Ne5! Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Rhg8 19.Qh7 *(ew 19.Qe2!?)* 19...g4 *(ew*



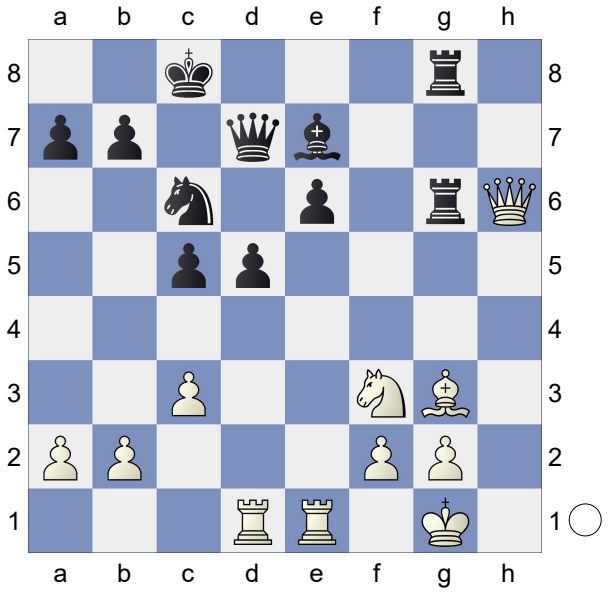
19...Qe8!?=) 20.hxg4 Rxg4
21.Qxh6= This is what I expected]

17...Rhg8 18.Qh7 g4 19.hxg4 Rxg4 20.Qxh6

[20.Nh2 I was looking at this move, because the point is that Rg6 is not playable, meaning that I can't effectively double on the g-file yet. Rh4 *(20...Nxe5 21.Rxe5 Rh4 22.Nf3 Rg4 23.Qxh6)*]



White :53 min, Black: 57. One of the keys to my successful State Championship tournament over Labor Day was more disciplined time management. **20...Rdg8 21.Bg3 R4g6**



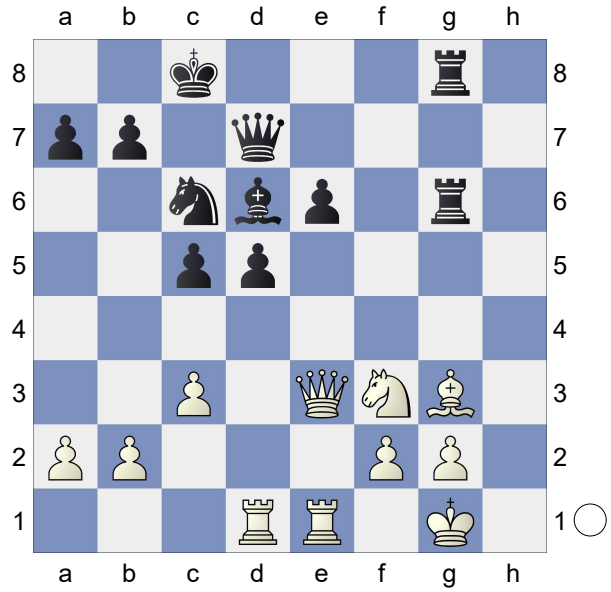
My opponent pointed out after the game that she thought the weakness of the e6 pawn was a major source of counterplay. (ew: Perhaps, but Stockfish 19 has Black already with a clear plus) **22.Qe3**

[22.Qf4! White pointed this out after the game. I thought this was easily covered by Bd6 before realizing that this loses a piece. After Qf4, Ne5 is a strong threat, trading off the only defender of b8: Bd6?? *(22...e5 23.Nxe5 Nxe5 24.Qxe5 Bd6 25.Qe3 Bxg3 26.fxg3 Rxg3 27.Qxc5+ Kb8 28.Re2; 22...Rg4 23.Qh6; 22...a6 23.Ne5 Nxe5 24.Qxe5 Qc6* Everything is covered for now, and the center looks decent for Black, but this looks pretty uncomfortable in view of the dark-square weaknesses.*;* sf19: *22...Bd8!? 23.Kf1 Qh7 24.Ke2 Rf6 25.Rh1 Qg6∓;* sf19: *22...c4! 23.Ne5* and *now* *Bd6!∓)* 23.Qxd6+- Qxd6 24.Bxd6 Rxg2+ 25.Kf1±]

22...Bd6

(Diagram)

My impression was that Black made some serious progress on the kingside,



while White has not started action on the queenside. (ew: sf19: -1.84/24 winning) I considered that Black stood better strategically Given that I planned to meet b4 with ...c4, I thought White's counterplay had to come from either concrete operations on the kingside to fend off my attack or pressure against e6. **23.Nh4** My opponent spent 8 minutes here and had 44 minutes; I spent 9 and had 38 left. **23...Rf6!**

[23...Rxg3 24.fxg3

A) 24...Bxg3 25.Nf3 *(25.Qxe6* Both of us thought that this refuted the whole line, as the g8 rook is hanging. *Bxe1 26.Qxg8+ Kc7 27.Rxe1)* 25...Bxe1 26.Rxe1 Rg6 *(26...Re8 27.Qxc5 e5 28.Rd1 Rd8)* 27.Qxc5;

B) 24...Rxg3 25.Qxe6 This was the first line I looked at, which I quickly discarded]

24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.Nf3 Rfg6 32 White: 37 min, Black: 32 min **26.Nh4 Rg4 27.Qh3**

[27.Qxe6+ Qxe6 28.Rxe6 Rxh4 29.Rxd5 Rhg4 *(29...Ra4!)* 30.g3 R4g5∓]

27...Qe7 I spent 6 minutes on this move, and I think that was a little too much. (ew: especially as many moves are winning here!)

[27...Qf4 ew: !) 28.Rxe6 Rxh4 29.Re8+ *(29.Rf6+ Rxh3 30.Rxf4 d4!)* 29...Kc7 30.Qc8+ Kb6 31.Rxg8 I stopped calculating here (White had stopped after 29.Re8+), but we both agreed that this is untenable for Black. (ew: In fact, it's totally won for Black!) Qh2+ *(Or 31...Qh6 32.Kf1 Qh7!* stockfish gives it -7.99/12 (!) and getting bigger as I type! *)* 32.Kf1 Qe5! (the only winning move at this point!) Black wins rook or queen, as *(32...Qh1+?? 33.Ke2 Re4+ 34.Kd2 Qh6+ 35.Kc2 Re2+ 36.Kb1* (ew: at least Black has *Rd2!* with a draw) *)* 33.Kg1 Qh5!]

28.Nf5

[Better but still losing is 28.Nf3!? Qf7! 29.Kf1 Kb8-+]

28...Qf6?

[ew: 28...Rxg2+! 29.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 30.Kxg2 Qg5+ 31.Ng3 Ne5-+]

29.Ng3

[29.Nh6 Rxg2+ 30.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 31.Kxg2 Qxh6]

29...Kc7?! I was tired of calculating Rxe6 or Qxe6 on every move and decided to simply solve the problem.

[ew: 29...Ne5! when 30...Rh4 is winning against almost anything.]

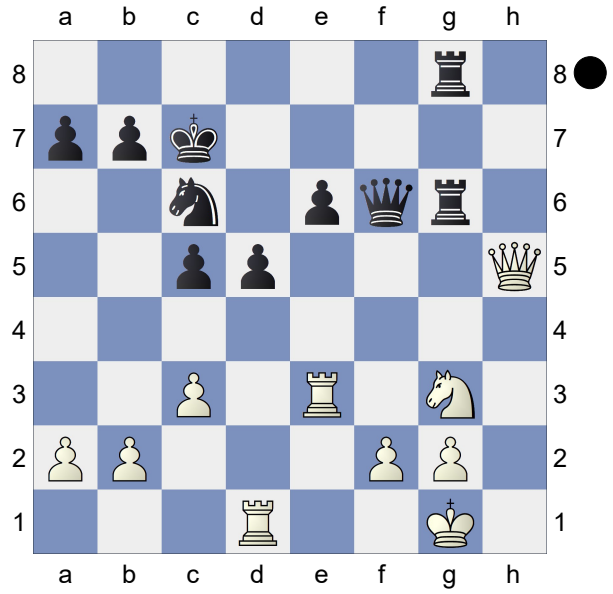
30.Re3 R4g6 White: 29 min, Black: 15. Fatigue from a busy day at work and not enough sleep was starting to cause me to slow down.

[30...d4 Now, with plenty of time to analyze, I think I should have admitted that my kingside attack was going nowhere (3 defenders against 3 attackers, but this raises the question of what the point of the last dozen moves was) 31.Rf3 Qe7 32.Qh6 and the queen gets out]

[ew: Kristian overlooks (and I might

have too, without Stockfish 19 revving up my computer's fan) 30...Ne5!-+ -3.66/29]

31.Qh5∓



Ne7?! (ew ?) The point is to bring another piece into the attack, but if I had had time to think properly, I would have seen that this attack is still probably doomed, since I have four attackers against three defenders. This means that the attack is likely strategically unsound and I am essentially relying on concrete/ tactical resources. (ew: Stockfish makes Black with a clear advantage with many moves!)

[31...Rh6 32.Qe2? *(32.Rf3∓)* 32...d4 *(32...Rgh8!-+; 32...Qh4-+)* 33.Rf3 Qe7 34.cxd4 Nxd4 *(34...cxd4 35.b4* This is a computer line- White needs to generate immediate counterplay before Black organizes his central advance. *)* 35.Qe5+]

32.Rde1

[32.Qe5+ Qxe5 33.Rxe5 Kd6 34.Re3]

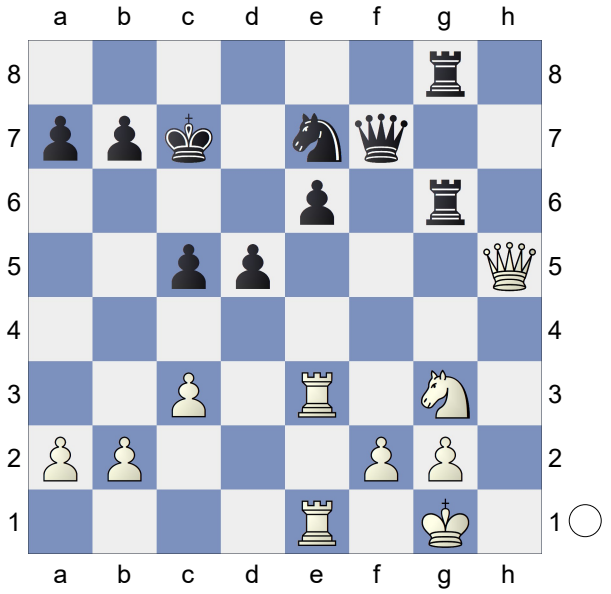
32...Qf7

[32...Nf5 33.Rxe6

A) 33...Nxg3 34.Rxf6 *(34.fxg3 Qg5 35.Re7+ Kb8* White has a big head start in this endgame. *)*

34...Nxh5 35.Rxg6 Rxg6;

B) 33...Qxe6 34.Rxe6 Rxe6 35.Qf7+ 1-0]



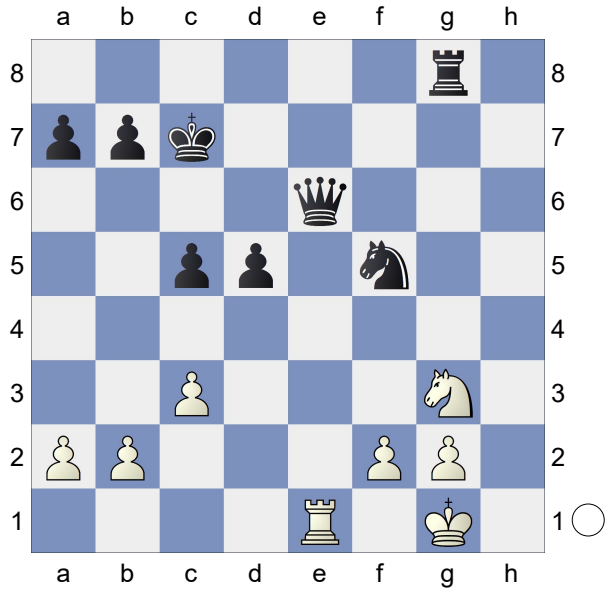
33.Qe2= Here I decided that I was not outplaying my opponent in the middlegame, so maybe I could try to make something happen in the endgame. (ew: and here I'll leave it to Kristian to wrap up the annotations...)

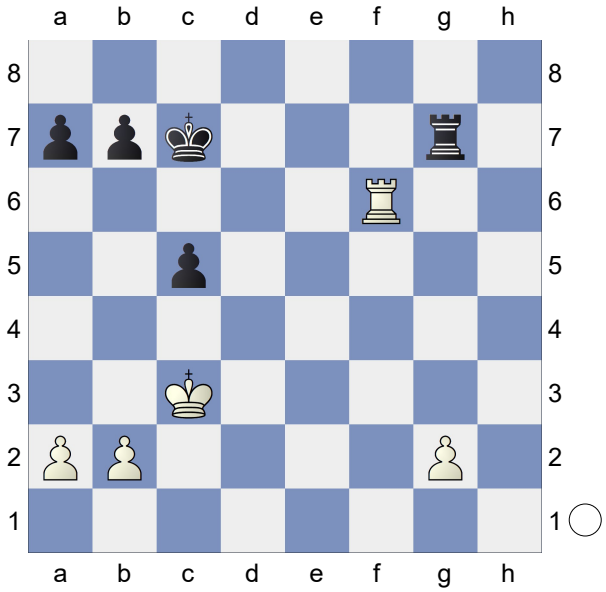
[33.Rxe6 Rxe6 34.Qxf7 Rxe1+ 35.Kh2 Rh8+ *(35...Rd8* This engine line actually makes sense- push the candidate pawn as soon as possible. *)* 36.Nh5 Re5 37.g4 I calculated this and couldn't see any further. I think White is better here, because it's very hard to coordinate my rooks, and my knight is pinned. Maybe I should walk my king to a7.]

33...Nf5 34.Rxe6 Rxe6

[34...Nxg3 35.Re7+ Kb6 36.Rxf7 Nxe2+ 37.Rxe2 Rxg2+ 38.Kh1 R2g6 39.Rh7 Kc6 40.Ree7 b6 41.Rxa7 Rg1+ 42.Kh2 R8g2+ 43.Kh3 Rg6 The engine gives Black a slight advantage here. If I'm not mating him or winning a rook, I don't want any part of this for Black.]

35.Qxe6 Qxe6





White: 16 min, Black: 7. The time situation factored into my decision to simplify. I mostly played on the increment for the rest of the game, finishing with 4 minutes to my opponent's 11. **36.Rxe6 Nxg3 37.fxg3 Rxg3**
[37...Kd7 38.Re3 Kd6 39.Kf2 The engine calls it a draw, but I didn't see a reason to give up a pawn, as that would look like groveling.]
38.Kf2 Rg7 39.Rf6 Rd7 40.Ke3 d4+ 41.Kd3 dxc3+
[41...c4+ 42.Kxc4 d3 43.Rf1 d2 44.Rd1 I looked at this in the game and rejected it.]
42.Kxc3 Rg7

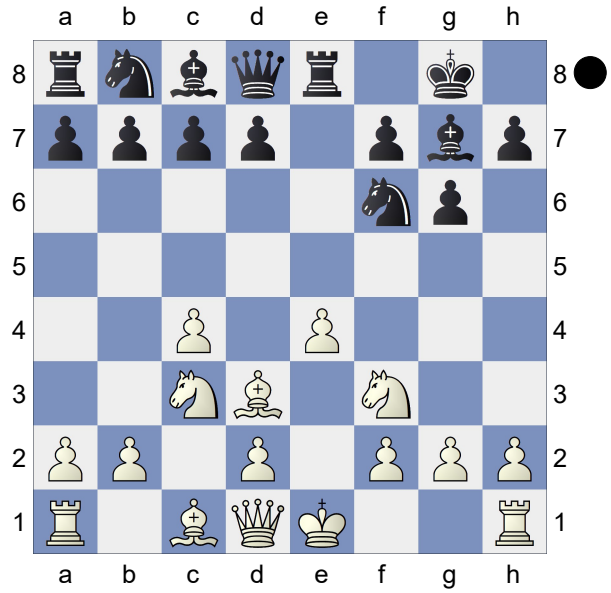
(Diagram)

This is the position I was aiming for when I played Nf5. The rook will be passive on f2, White's king is a target, not an asset, after b5 and Rg3+, and I can slowly improve my king. This probably falls under the category of "all rook endgames are drawn", but I thought it was a lot easier to play for Black.
43.Rf2 b5 White offered a draw and then played her move. I thought for a minute and accepted. Thank you to Judit for helping us through some rules questions and to my opponent for her good sportsmanship in a situation that could easily have been avoided if I had just spoken up properly in response to her draw offer. I was hoping for a3 or b3 here, in which case I would continue the queenside pawn march and move my king up. The point of Rg7 is that the king cannot easily support the pawn, because I have the frontal defense with Rf7+ if she ever plays Rf3. I thought Kd3 was the right move, and the final position is indeed an easy draw for both sides. This was an interesting game in which we both had chances. (ew: I suspect something is wrong with the moves here!) **44.Kd3**
½-½

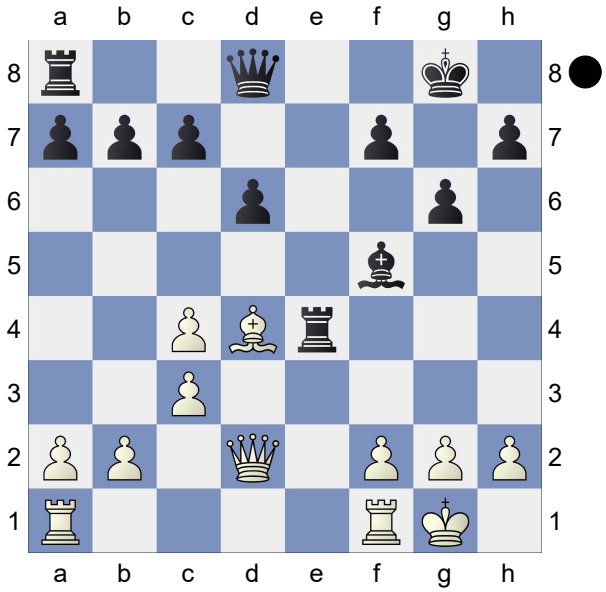
A16
□ **Bambou,Christophe** **2113**
■ **Zavgorodniy,Andrew** **2094**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 15.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.Nf3 32 **Nf6** 24 **2.c4** 14 **g6** 27 **3.Nc3** 28 **Bg7** 39 **4.e4** 24 **e5** 49
[4...d6]

[4...0-0]
5.Nxe5 1:33 **0-0** 24 **6.Nf3** 1:10 **Re8** 28
7.Bd3 1:13
[7.d3 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2±]



7...Nxe4! 1:05
[Relevant: 7...b5 8.0-0 bxc4 9.Bxc4 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 d5 11.d3 dxc4 12.dxc4 Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Nc6 14.Nc3 Rb8 15.h3 Ba6 16.Nb5 Re4 17.Be3 Bxb2 18.Rab1 Bf6 19.Nxc7 Rxb1 20.Rxb1 Bxc4 21.Nd2 Re7 22.Nxc4 Rxc7 23.Nd6 Rd7 24.Ne4 Be5 25.Rc1 Kg7 26.Nf6 Rd3 27.Kf1 Bxf6 28.Rxc6 Ra3 29.Rc2 h5 30.g4 h4 31.Kg2 a6 32.Bc1 Ra4 33.a3 Be5 34.Rc6 f6 35.g5 f5 36.Re6 Bd4 37.Be3 Ding,L (2806)-Mamedyarov,S (2759) chess24.com INT 2022 ½-½]
8.Bxe4 25
[8.Nxe4 f5 9.Qc2! fxe4 10.Bxe4 c6! (else White is better) 11.c5 *(11.0-0?! d5∓)* 11...Qe7 12.d3 Na6 with an edge for Black.]
8...Bxc3 21 **9.dxc3** 16 **Rxe4+** 12
10.Be3 7 **Nc6** 24 **11.0-0** 23
[11.c5!?]
11...d6 31 **12.Qd2** 1:18 **Bf5** 2:36
13.Nd4 1:18 **Nxd4** 5:09 **14.Bxd4** 1:22



Qh4N 3:48
[Predecessor: 14...Qf8 15.f3 Ree8 16.b3 Bd7 17.Rae1 f5 18.Be3 Qf7 19.Bg5 a6 20.h3 b5 21.cxb5 axb5 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Re1 Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1 Qe6 25.Qd2 Bc6 26.Be3 Kf7 27.Bd4 Ke8 28.Kf2 Kd7 29.Qh6 Qf7 30.Kg3 Bd5 31.Qg7 c5 32.Qxf7+ Bxf7 33.Be3 Ke6 34.Kh4 Be8 35.Kg5 h5 36.h4 Ke7 37.Bf4 Ke6 38.Kh6 Ke7 39.Kg7 Ke6 40.Bg3 Ke7 41.Bh2 Ke6 42.Bf4 Ke7 43.Be3 Ke6 44.Bc1 Hansen,S (2520)-Krause,B (2404) Wangels 2024 ½-½ (61)]
15.f3 2:33 **Re7** 3:07 **16.Rae1** 1:35
Rae8 1:00 **17.g3** 1:31 **Qh3** 1:26
18.Rxe7 51 **Rxe7** 11 **19.c5** 9:07 **dxc5** 7:51 **20.Bxc5** 10 **Rd7** 37 **21.Qe2** 9:56
Be6 11:30 **22.Rd1** 2:43 **b6** 1:47
23.Rxd7 59 **Bxd7** 22 **24.Bf2** 11:04 **Qe6** 7:06 **25.Qxe6** 33
½-½

B31

□ **Kosuri,Dev Isak** **1802**

■ **Parsons,Stephen** **2012**

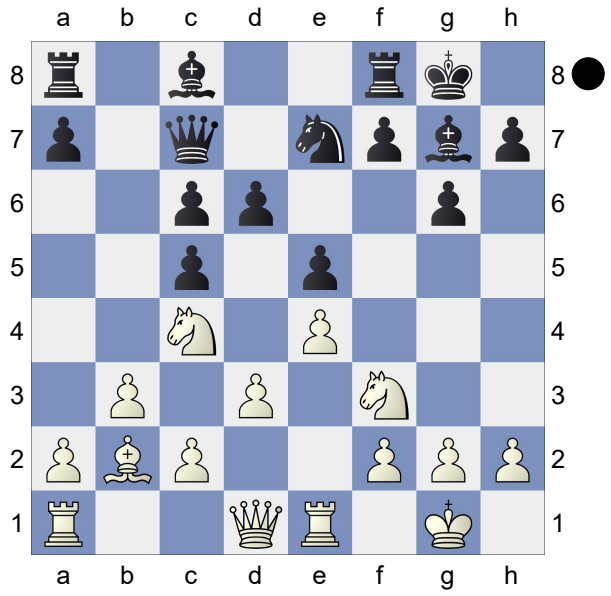
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.8) 06.10.2026

[Winslow,Elliott]

I like how Parsons made the extra center pawn work in this game. Dev Kosuri still hasn't quite found his focus, but when he does it'll be quite interesting. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 e5 7.d3 Ne7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Nc4**

[Relevant: 9.b3 d6 10.Bb2 Be6 11.c3 a5 12.d4 a4 13.dxe5 a3 14.Bc1 dxe5 15.Ng5 Bc8 16.Nc4 Ba6 17.Qxd8 Rfxd8 18.Nxa3 Bd3 19.Be3 h6 20.Bxc5 hxg5 21.Bxe7 Rd7 22.Bb4 Bf8 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 24.Nb1 Bxe4 25.c4 Rd3 26.h4 Bf5 27.hxg5 Rxb3 28.Nd2 Rb2 29.Nf3 e4 30.Ne5 c5 31.g4 Re8 32.gxf5 Rxe5 33.fxg6 Rxg5+ 34.Kf1 Rh5 35.Re2 Rh1+ 36.Kg2 Rxe2 37.Rxh1 Rxa2 38.Rh8+ Kg7 Moiseenko,V (2548)-Zvjaginsev,V (2649) Sochi 2017 ½-½]

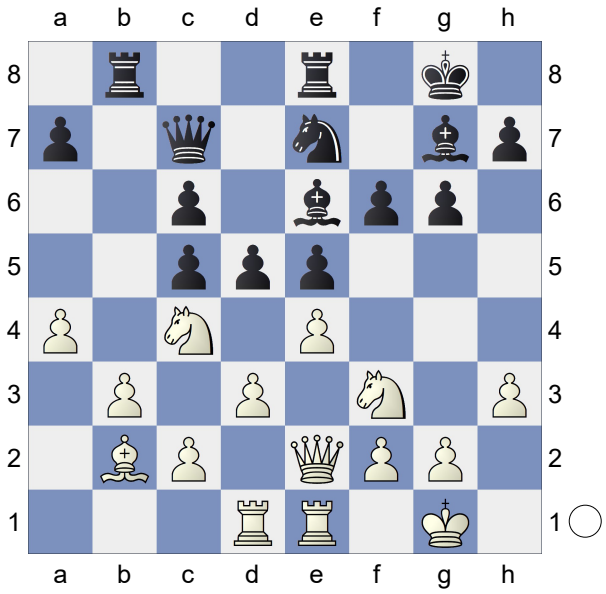
9...Qc7 10.b3 d6 11.Bb2



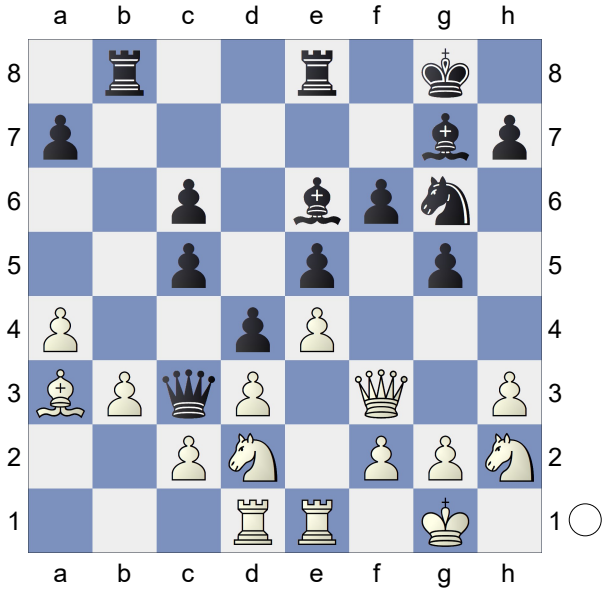
Rb8N

[Predecessor: 11...Bg4 12.h3 Be6 13.Bc3 f5 14.Ng5 Bd7 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Qe2 Nd5 17.Bd2 Rae8 18.Ne4 Bxe4 19.dxe4 Nf4 20.Qd1 Re6 21.Qg4 h5 22.Qg3 d5 23.Ba5 Qb8 24.Nd2 Qb5 25.Bc3 Ne2+ 26.Rxe2 Qxe2 27.Qd3 Qxf2+ 28.Kh1 0-1 (28) Epstein,A-Arutyunyan,A (2145) Moscow 1998]

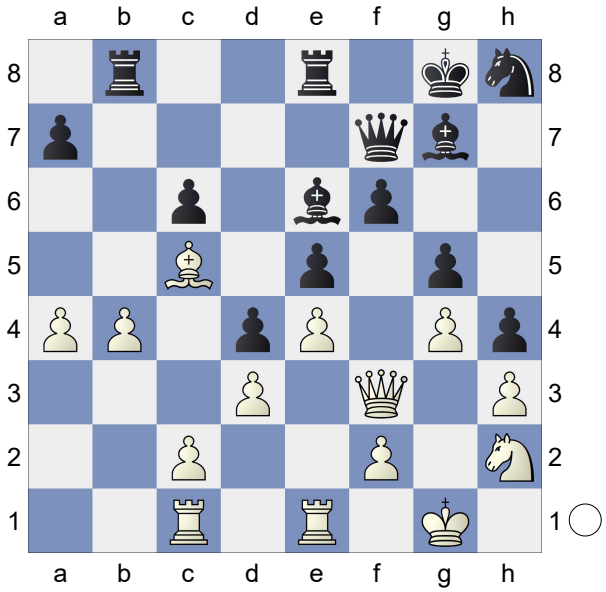
12.Qd2 Re8 13.Rad1 Bg4 14.Qe2 f6 15.h3 Be6 16.a4 d5



17.Ncd2 Qa5 18.Ba3 g5 19.Nh2 Ng6 20.Qe3 d4 21.Qf3 Qc3



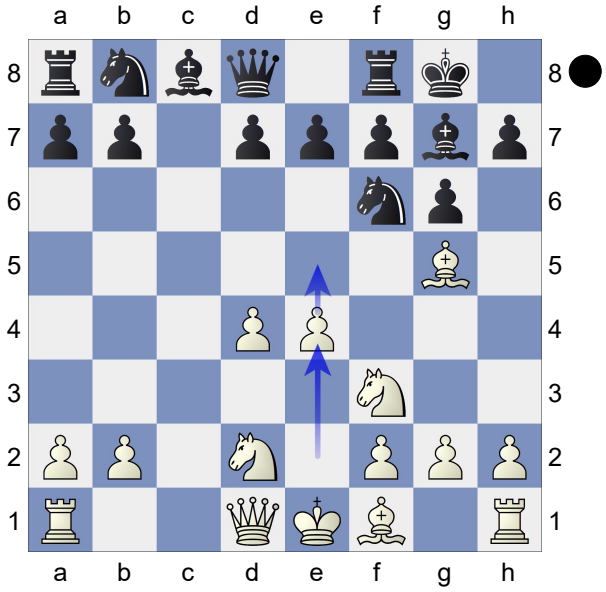
22.Rc1 Qxd2 23.Bxc5 Qa5 24.b4 Qc7 25.Ng4 Qf7 26.g3 h5 27.Nh2 Nh8 28.g4 h4



29.c3 dxc3 30.Rxc3 Ng6 31.Bd6 Rbc8 32.Rec1 Qd7 33.Bc5 Nf4 34.Nf1 Bf8 35.Ne3 Bxc5 36.bxc5 Rb8 37.Ng2 Qd4 38.Nxf4 exf4 39.e5 Bd5 40.Rc4 Qxc4
0-1

A48
□ **Sen,Samir** **2247**
■ **Winslow,Elliott** **2203**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 22.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

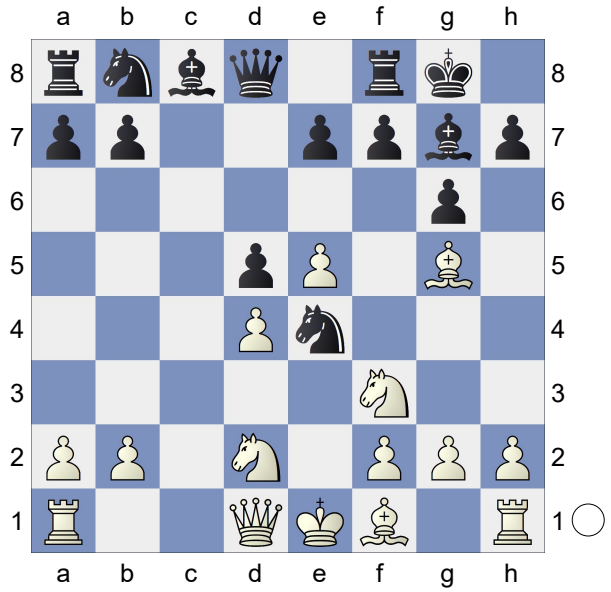
So finally -- the big story is *me*. What am I doing a point ahead of the field?? It started in Round 3: I got a free point when my opponent misunderstood how to ask for a half-point bye -- he was paired but didn't show up. So now we play for real: I lost my way in the ending but he neglected to capitalize. Same for the next two games (not to mention Lewis-Winslow in Round 2, where I was quite gone as well!). Bambou played fantastically in Round 5 only to fumble in a calculation and lose a piece; and Heiserman thought he'd found a nice combination to win but ran into quite a defense, and forgot to take the draw (well, draws) that was/were available, sliding into a dry lost queen ending (two pawns extra for nothing helped my otherwise absent technique). In short: I've been lost in every game, but nobody's crossed that final line. **1.d4** 13 **Nf6** 35 **2.Nf3** 4 **g6** 1:05 **3.Bg5** 11 **Bg7** 1:21 **4.Nbd2** 13 **c5** 2:05 **5.c3** 53 **cxd4** 48 **6.cxd4** 13 **0-0** 1:03 **7.e4!?** 1:38



d5!? 1:06
[I've learned from experience to be wary of throwing my pawns forward and weakening my king cover. Except that is the main story of the King's Indian! Look at this line that Stockfish mentions that I never considered: 7...h6!? 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bf4 d5 10.e5 g5 11.Bg3 f5 12.h3 f4=]
8.e5 9:08 **Ne4** 30

(Diagram)

A key motif that is often worth considering in the King's Indian when White plays a more cautious system. Black has an advantage even. **9.Be3!** 1:40 During the game I thought "That can't be good!" but Stockfish 19 makes it best. **9...f6** 11:37 There I go, encouraging my opponent to checkmate



me.

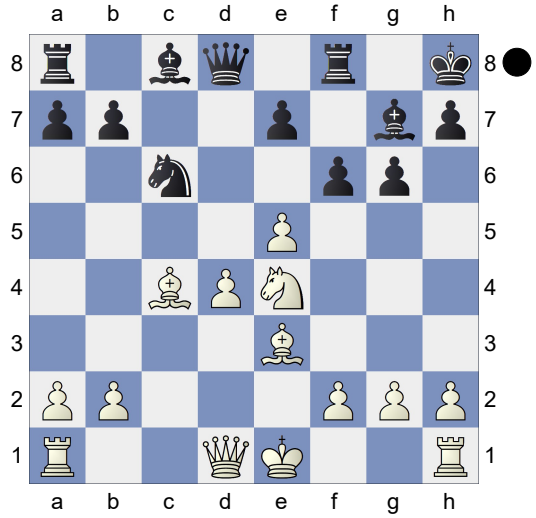
[Stockfish favors a different approach: 9...Nc6 10.Bb5 Qb6 11.Qa4 Nxd2 12.Nxd2 f6!?]

[or first 9...Qb6 10.Bd3 Bf5 11.Qb1 Nxd2 12.Nxd2 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nc6=]

10.h4!?N 10:59 Top of the list! Not that White had an advantage...

[10.Bd3 Nxd2 11.Qxd2 Nc6 12.exf6 exf6 13.0-0 Bg4 14.Be2 Qb6 15.h3 Be6 16.Rfd1 0-1 (39) Krasteva,B (2292)-Bulmaga,I (2438) Petrovac 2023]

[10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Bc4+ Kh8 12.Nd2 Nc6! *(12...fxe5?! 13.d5±)* 13.0-0 *(13.Nxe4??*



f5!-+ (We both missed this, during and after the game) and White's center falls. *)* 13...fxe5 14.d5 Nd4=]

10...Nxd2?! 8:20

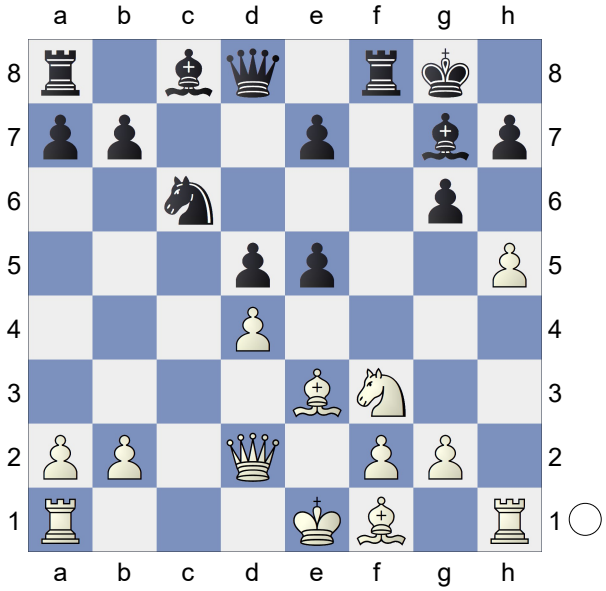
[10...Nc6!=]

[10...Bf5!=]

11.Qxd2 2:51 **Nc6** 21 **12.h5** 6:04

[12.exf6!±]

12...fxe5 16:03



13.hxg6 1:28 After the long thinks, this was fast. **13...hxg6** 43 **14.Bh6?** 1:13

[White should clean up the central situation first: 14.Nxe5= Nxe5 15.dxe5 Bxe5 16.0-0-0 when taking the d-pawn will be too dangerous after almost anything by Black: Bf5= *(16...Qd6=; 16...Bg4=; 16...Be6=)*]

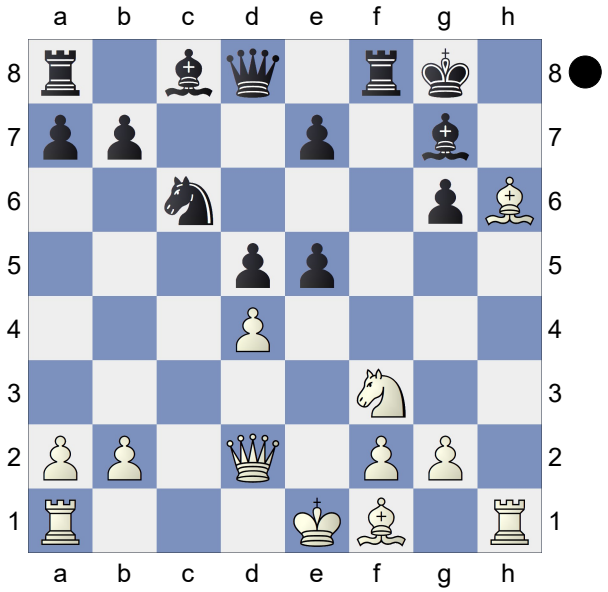
(Diagram)

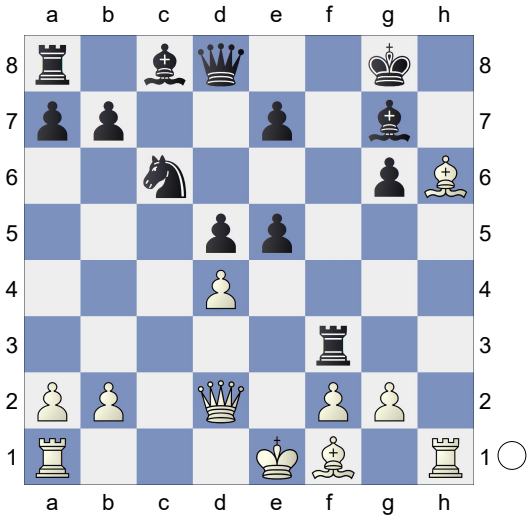
14...Qd6?! 1:36 We both thought this was an excellent move after the game. But for Stockfish 19, it's not even on my screen until I increase the number of lines looked at to eight!

[Best is 14...Rxf3!∓

(Diagram)

This is the sort of shot one has to find.





And note how it was echoed in the next game, Round 5 with Bambou; he hit me with a ...Rxf3! and I could resign! 15.Bxg7

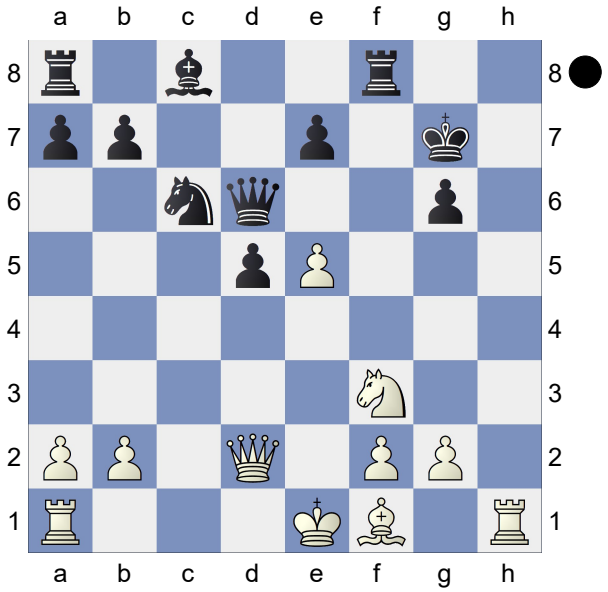
A) 15...Rh3!? (all that the TA gives) 16.Rxh3 *(16.gxh3 Nxd4 17.Bg2 Kxg7=)* 16...Bxh3 17.Bxe5 Nxe5=;

B) 15...Kxg7! 16.gxf3 *(16.Qh6+?! Kf6∓)* 16...Nxd4 17.0-0-0 Bf5 18.Bd3 Bxd3 *(18...Qf8)* 19.Qxd3 Qf8∓]

15.Bxg7= 8:52 **Kxg7** 50 **16.dxe5±** 5:45

(Diagram)

Qb4! 4:37 In fact, the only move -- everything else loses. **17.Rh4** 2:26



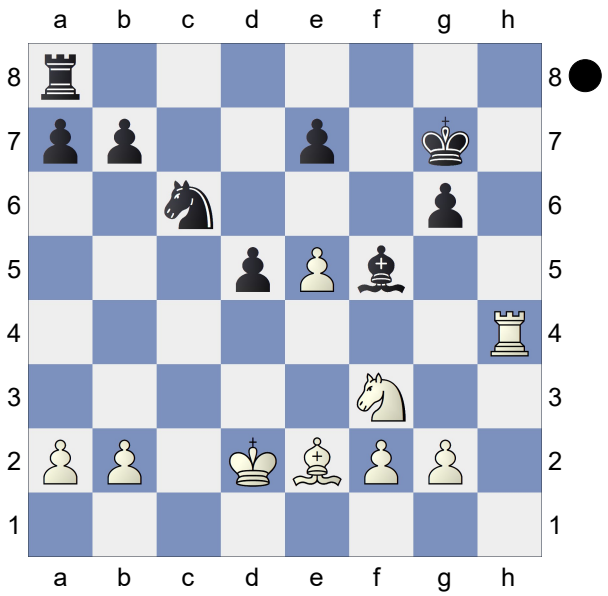
[17.Qxb4± is superior. Nxb4 18.Rc1 Nc6! 19.Bb5 Bd7 20.Bxc6 bxc6 (sf19 a nominal +0.15/32)]

17...Qxd2+ 4:26 **18.Kxd2** 6 **Bf5** 2:58

[18...g5!?∓ and *Black* has the edge, which actually *grows* as the engine chugs along (usually one sees the descent to 0.00) : -0.49/23 19.Rh5□ *(19.Nxg5 Rxf2+ 20.Ke3 Rxb2∓)* 19...g4 20.Rg5+ Kf7∓ *(20...Kh6 21.Bd3 Rxf3 22.Rg6+ Kh5 23.gxf3)*]

19.Be2 5:03 **Rh8** 37 **20.Rah1** 1:30 and Rxh8 would now be decisive

20...Rxh4 3:32 **21.Rxh4** 5

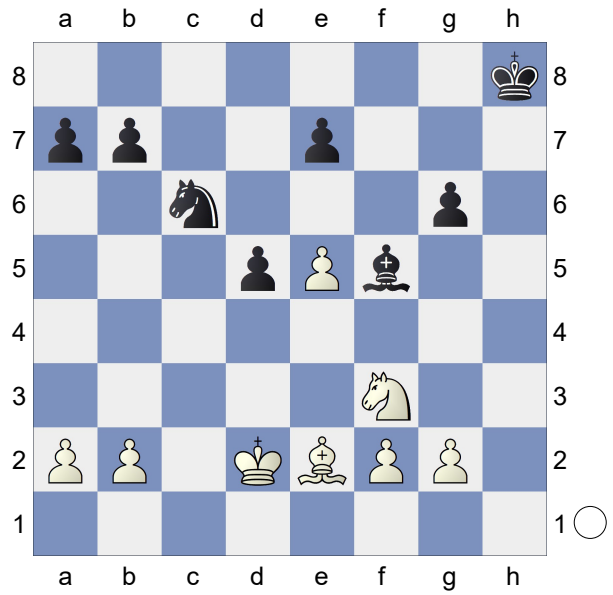


Now for some bad endplay: **21...Rh8?**

5:50 Sending my king to the corner? Trading rooks (often a quick way to lose)?

[21...Be4= (and almost anything else) 22.Ng5 Nxe5 23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Rxe4 Kf6=]

22.Rxh8+- 1:41 **Kxh8** 1



23.Ke3? 33

[23.Bb5!+- was White's "open window" -- I come to my senses right away.]

23...Be4= 5:19 "TA" says "The position is equal." Stockfish 19 had a pretty big plus at first (+0.45 or so) but after maybe 20 seconds it's all 0.00. Whew!

24.Kf4 2:57 **Bxf3** 1:52 **25.Bxf3** 24 KB-KN **25...e6** 9 **26.Bg4** 1:24 **Nd8** 45 **27.Ke3** 1:29 **Kg7** 9 **28.f4** 7:55 **Kf7** 17 **29.Be2** 54 **Nc6** 1:46 **30.Bb5** 52 **g5** 2:59 **31.g3** 3:27 **gxf4+** 17 **32.gxf4** 1:21 **Ne7** 44 **33.Bd3** 1:15 **b6** 1:31 **34.Kf3** 25 **Nc6** 47 **35.Kg4** 1:24 **Kg7** 1:56 **36.Kg5** 2:40 **Kf7** 18 **37.Be2** 5:00 **Ke7** 1:15 **38.Kg6** 36 **Nd4** 1:02 **39.Bd3** 23 **Nf3** 2:22 **40.Be2** 1:37 **Nd4** 6 **41.Bd3** 6 **Nf3** 14 **42.Be2** 7 Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

½-½

A57

□ **Winslow,Elliott** **2203**

■ **Bambou,Christophe** **2113**

2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 29.09.2026

[Winslow,Elliott/TA]

1.d4 40 **Nf6** 1:31 **2.c4** 40 **c5** 16 **3.d5** 12 **b5!?** 5 **4.Nf3** 1:02 In "Squeezing the Gambits" by Kiril Georgiev, there is some reason for tossing this in before his suggestion of taking (5.cxb5 a6) and then not taking (6.b6!?), but it gives Black too many different ways to go besides the usual Benoni moves.

[4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 *(5.b6!?; 5.e3!?)* 5...e6!? *(5...d6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.Nf3 g6 8.e4* is the old form. *)*]

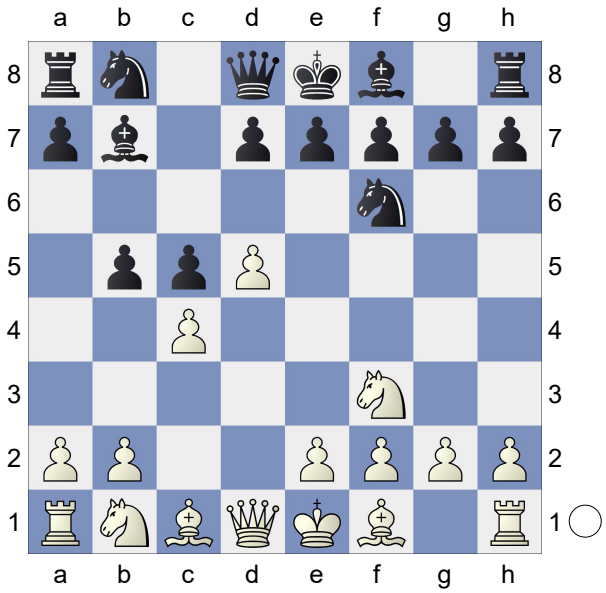
4...Bb7 10

[4...g6 5.cxb5 a6 6.b6!?]

[4...bxc4]

[4...b4]

[4...e6]



5.a3! 2:01 I remembered looking at this a few months ago and being totally surprised that *this* was the best move on the computer. And by move seven it will be clear that I didn't learn the lesson very well!

[5.a4]

[5.Qc2]
[5.Nbd2]

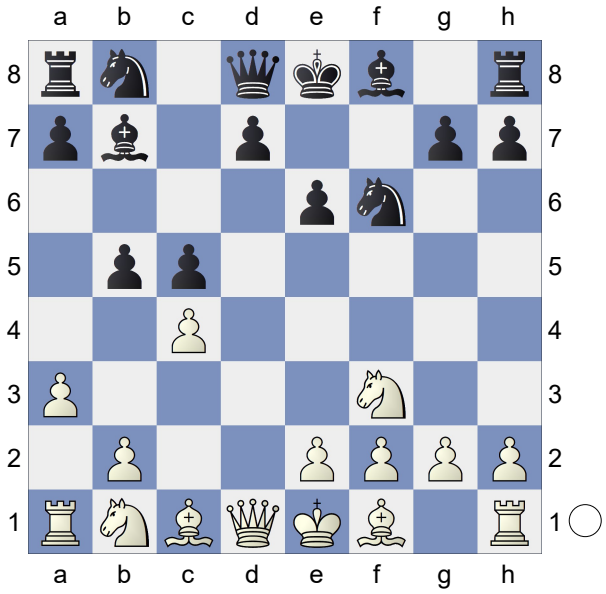
5...e6!? 11 Obviously Christophe had intended this all along. (Eleven seconds!?) It does have the feature that, if White wants to get anything going, he'll have to let Black get the pile of center pawns that characterizes the line (and that Georgiev was trying, on principle, to avoid in the book).

[5...bxc4 6.Nc3! e6 7.e4 exd5 8.exd5± d6 9.Bxc4 Be7 10.0-0 aiming for Nh4. 0-0! 11.Nh4±]

6.dxe6! 9:57

[The problem was 6.Nc3 b4! and Black is already a bit better.]

6...fxe6 10



7.Nc3?N 32

[OF COURSE White must play 7.cxb5□± /± d5 8.g3!?±]

[Predecessor: 7.cxb5 d5 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.e3 Bd6 10.Be2 0-0 11.Nbd2 e5 12.e4 h6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 1-0 (43) Artemiev,V (2694)-Cunha,L (2239) Kazan 2024]

7...bxc4∓ 3:48 **8.Qa4** 8:04

[8.e4!?∓ Nxe4 9.Bxc4 Nf6 Black can against almost anything play 10...Be7 and 11...0-0, and then decide on ...d5 or not. *(9...Nd6!?∓)*]

8...Be7∓ 9:05

[8...Nc6!-+ 9.Qxc4 d5 10.Qh4 Be7]

9.Qxc4 4:46 **Nc6** 6:53

[⌓9...0-0 White must now prevent ... d5. 10.Na4 d5]

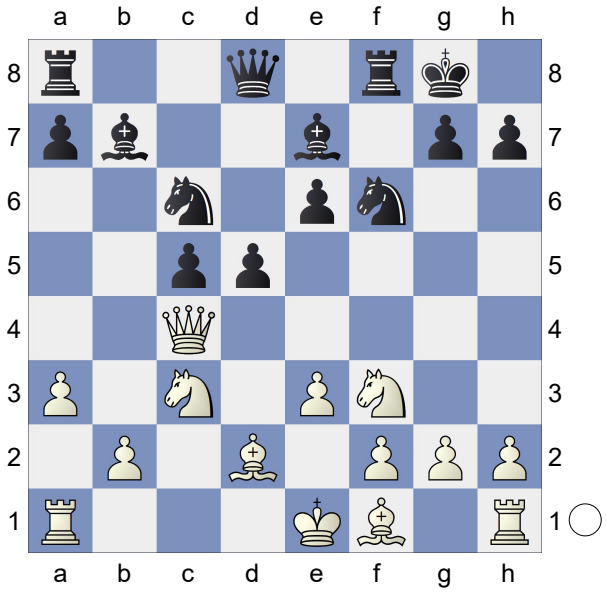
10.e3?! 6:04

[10.Bf4!? 0-0 11.Rd1 d5 12.Qb5 Qc8 13.e3 White at least tries to get those pieces into the game and weather the storm. d4! 14.exd4 Ng4!-+]

10...0-0 1:53 **11.Bd2** 2:52

[11.Qa4 isn't much better.]

11...d5 1:32



12.Qa4 5:12 There just isn't a good square for White's queen.

[12.Qb3 Rb8 13.Rd1 e5 *(13...Kh8)*]

(Diagram)

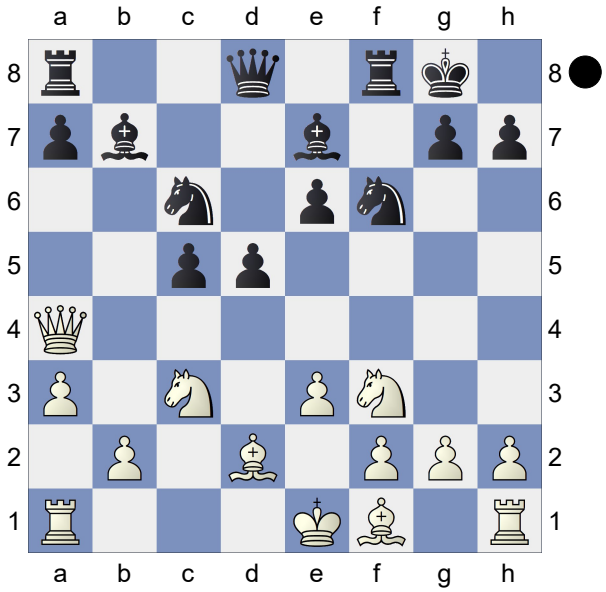
12...d4! 6:54 **13.Ne2** 9:41 **Ne4!** 25:48

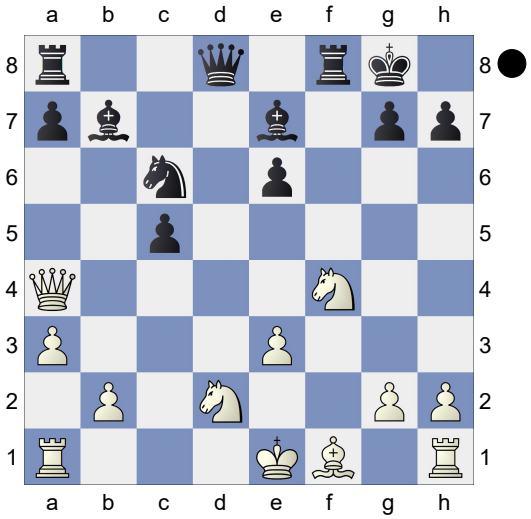
14.Rd1? 2:44

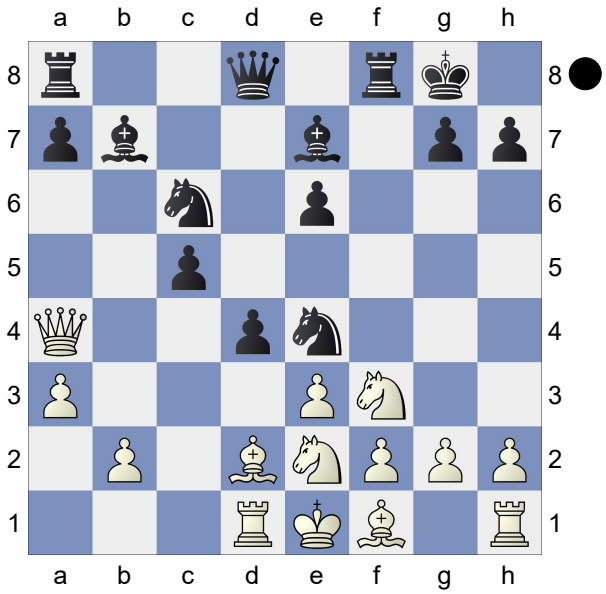
[⌓14.Nf4 Nxd2 15.Nxd2 dxe3 Discovered Attack 16.fxe3

(Diagram)

Nd4!]





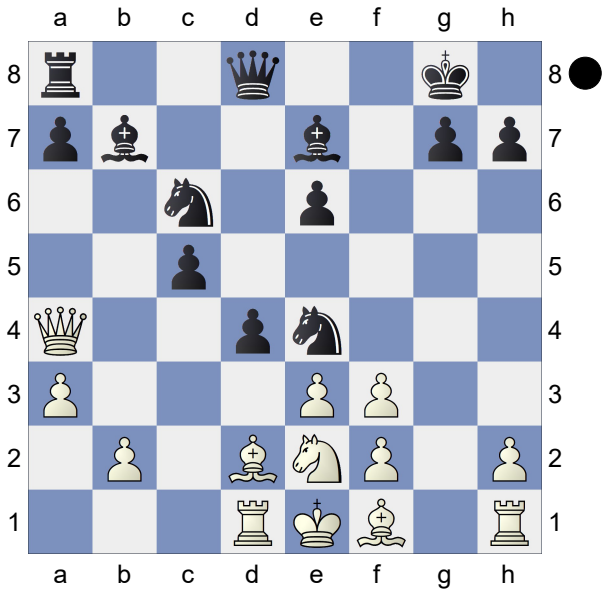


I was sure the time he was taking was because of how strong this move was...

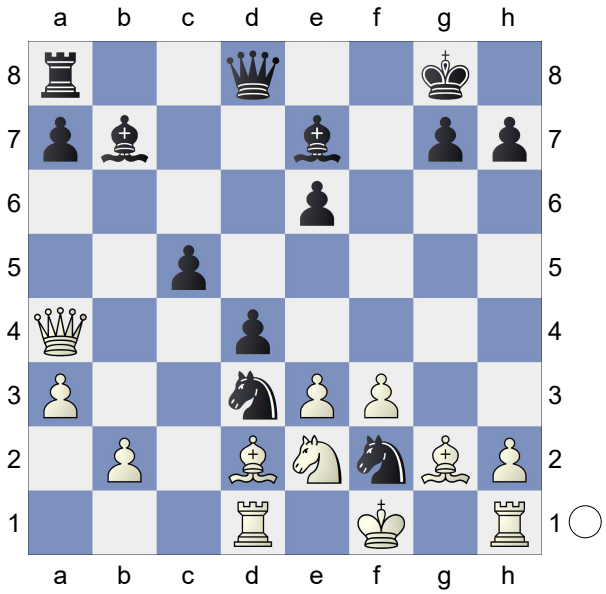
14...Rxf3!! 11:37 I'll give this "!!" even though Stockfish makes it 2nd best! (by a tiny bit) Still, the threats from Bambou's move are pretty scary, once they sink in.

[14...Nxf2!! 15.Kxf2 Ne5!! 16.Nf4 Bxf3 Even now I don't see just how bad White's game is! Stockfish: -8.69!]

15.gxf3 29

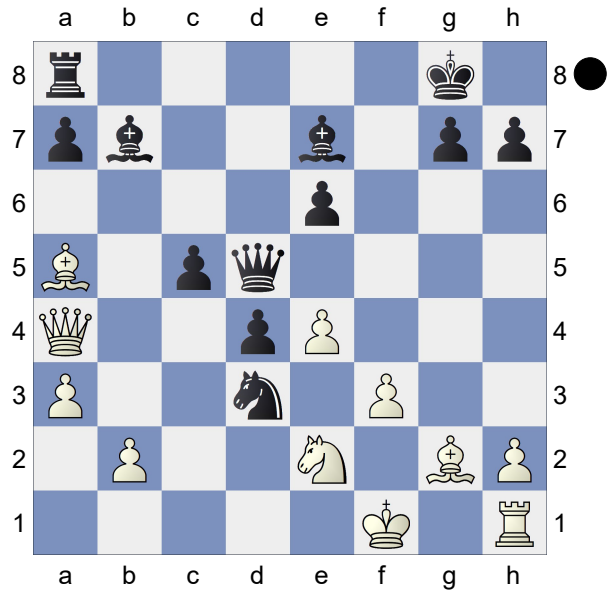


Ne5! 38 **16.Bg2** 6:53 **Nd3+** 2:21 It's a cancer of knights! **17.Kf1** 2 **Nexf2** 48



I'm bordering on resignation; White can't hold it together. **18.Ba5** 5:47 **Qd5!** 5:36

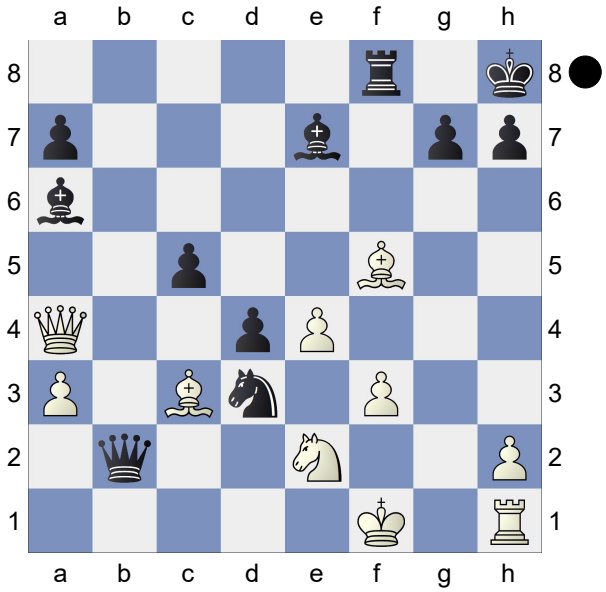
19.Rxd3 9:42
[19.e4]
19...Nxd3 34 **20.e4** 27



Qa2! 3:00 (-> ...Qb1+) More disaster, in a completely expected direction (I grimaced when he also found and played this).
[SF19 equally weighs 20...Qg5!]
21.Bh3 39 **Qb1+** 2:46 **22.Kg2** 3 **Qxb2** 11 **23.Bxe6+** 17 **Kh8** 13 **24.Kf1** 1:52 **Rf8** 2:45 I'm even down a pawn to go with my hopeless king and rook. **25.Bf5** 53 **Ba6** 21 (-> ...Nf4) **26.Bc3?!** 47
[26.Be1 Nb4!]
[26.Bc7 Nf4!]

(Diagram)

26...Qxe2+?? 32 A horrible and almost trivial miscalculation!
[26...dxc3 27.Qxa6 Qd2 mates shortly]
[while 26...Qb1+ 27.Kg2 Qa2 won't take much longer.]
27.Kxe2 10 I was wondering how there was something to the double check, since the discovered check attacking my queen was met neatly by taking the bishop -- when he stopped the clock

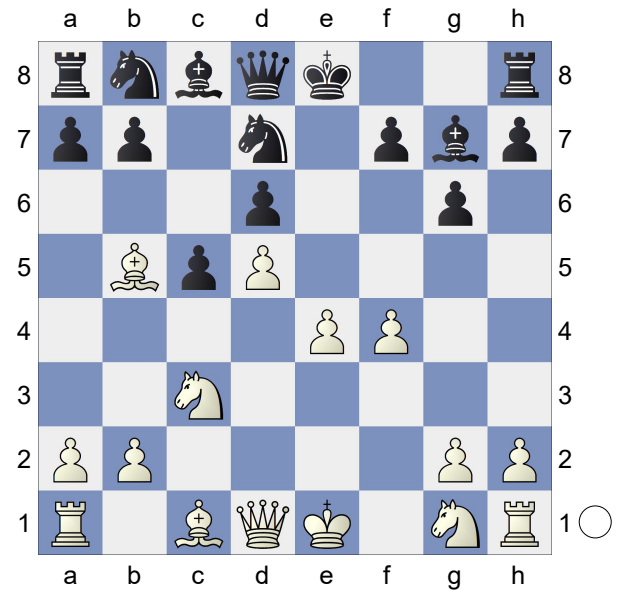


and offered his hand. Had I said "draw?" and not noticed? No, he resigned. Weighted Error Value: White=1.37/ Black=0.31
[27.Kxe2 Nb2+ 28.Qxa6]
1-0

A67
□ **Heiserman,Jimmy** **2299**
■ **Winslow,Elliott** **2203**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 06.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 11 **Nf6** 3:52 **2.c4** 9 **e6** 1:17 **3.Nc3** 22 **c5** 14 **4.d5** 19 **exd5** 8 **5.cxd5** 6 **d6** 6 **6.e4** 25 **g6** 10 Note that Stockfish rates the Benoni, giving White a clear advantage here, +0.95 even. Somebody has already run Stockfish 19 out to depth 50(!) with a similar result. **7.f4** 20 Once I'd stumbled into the Benoni, having noticed that he preferred exd5 lines elsewhere, I had the thought to beat him to it -- but the Taimanov is critical. Stokfish 19 even rates 7.f4! the only move that earns a "+/-". And so I expected Heiserman to play it. But no, I hadn't prepared at all. All over-the-board musings. **7...Bg7** 24 **8.Bb5+** 11 **Nfd7**

15



So now: which line would he play? **9.Be2** 3:58 The least popular of the main moves.

[9.Bd3 was the classical response, back in the day.]

[9.a4 is some sort of finesse, founded (I think) in noting that a Black knight on b4 is ineffective. So options for the bishop remain.]

[9.Nf3 a6 10.Bd3 b5 11.0-0 White intends to play a2-a3 and let Black wonder what to do with that advanced majority. Still, Nimzovich's "A passed pawn should be kept under lock and key" might apply here as well.]

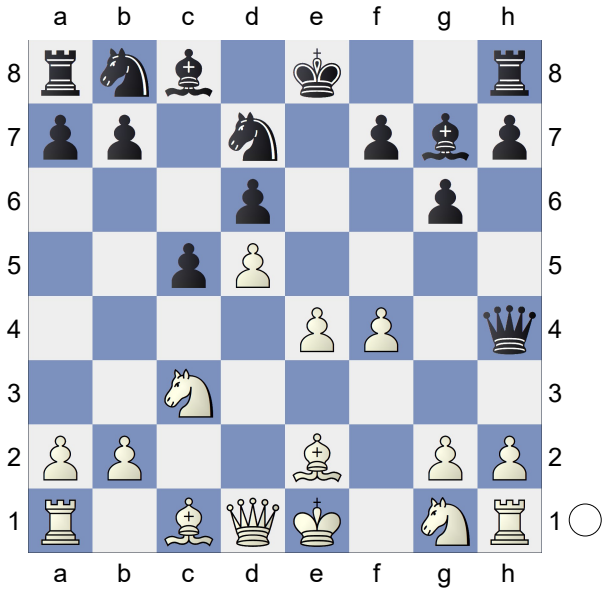
9...Qh4+!? 1:52

[9...0-0 10.Nf3 Na6 *(10...Re8; 10...a6?! 11.a4; 10...Nf6)*]

(Diagram)

This is not a bad idea, or wouldn't have been if I'd known what I was doing.

10.g3 15 **Qd8** 11 Black loses two whole moves, but one of them is the meaningless g2-g3. There was a time when I would never have gone back to



d8, but now I accept that the original square for the queen is pretty good!

[And the full retreat scores a lot better than 10...Qe7 In fact, after e4-e5 later on the queen could be targeted.]

11.Nf3 1:27 **0-0** 2:44 "White is better" (TA). "Somebody shut that computer off" (Benoni player). **12.0-0** 11 **Re8?!** 1.15/22 1:40 This rook has a similar fate as the queen: maybe it belongs on its original (well, after castling) square.

[⌓12...Na6 0.77/23 Now SF19 favors 13.a4!? -- so far no takers. Same idea as earlier, maybe b4 is no place for a black knight!? I'm learning (for next time).]

13.Re1 0.52/19 13:23 Interesting that he took so long (13 minutes).

[Again: "White should play 13.a4± 1.15/22 " (TA). But quickly SF19 makes that second best;]

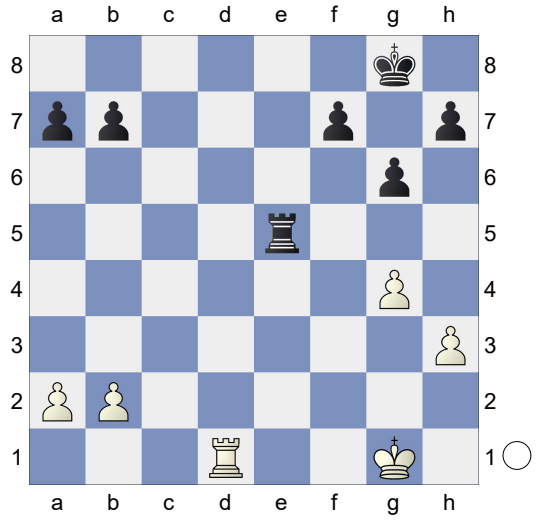
[13.f5!?]

[A lot of people's computers prefer 13.Kh1!? which is almost as cryptic as it gets. How about "freeing g1 for a bishop retreat" !?!?]

13...Nb6? 1.10/25 7:00 In my defense, I note that I was thinking of the basic strategy in various openings, including this one, to trade a minor piece, any

minor piece, to relieve the remaining force stepping on each other's squares. ...Bg4 is the idea. Except that I've forced g2-g3, and that very bishop could be useful down the line.

[13...Na6!?± 0.52/19 was an old Bundesleague game with the great Vlastimil Hort playing Black and winning: 14.Bf1 Nb6 15.h3 c4 16.e5 Nb4 17.g4 dxe5∓ 18.fxe5 N6xd5 19.Nxd5 Qxd5 20.Qxd5 Nxd5 21.Bxc4 Nb6 22.Bb3 Be6 23.Be3 Nd7 24.Bxe6 Rxe6 25.Bd4 Rae8 26.Rad1 Nxe5 27.Bxe5 Bxe5 28.Nxe5 Rxe5 29.Rxe5 Rxe5∓

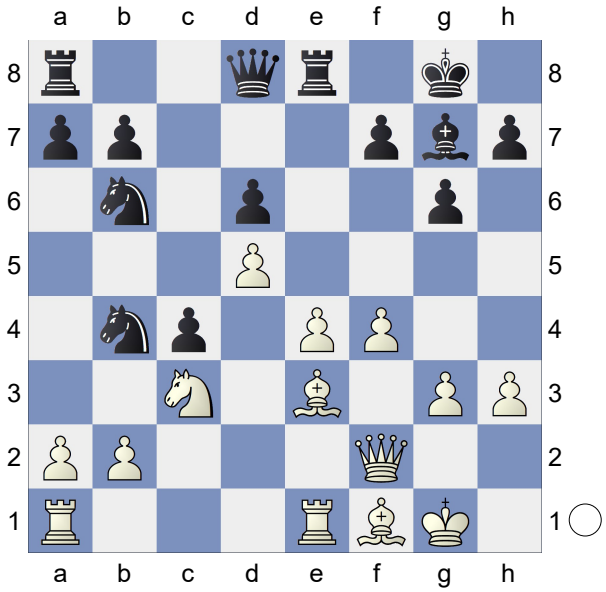


: 0-1 (49) Borik,O (2370)-Hort,V (2585) Germany 1983: 0-1 (49) Borik, O (2370)-Hort,V (2585) Germany 1983]

14.Bf1 1:26 **Bg4** 1:34 **15.h3** 2:04 **Bxf3** 7 **16.Qxf3** 4 **Na6N** 1:07

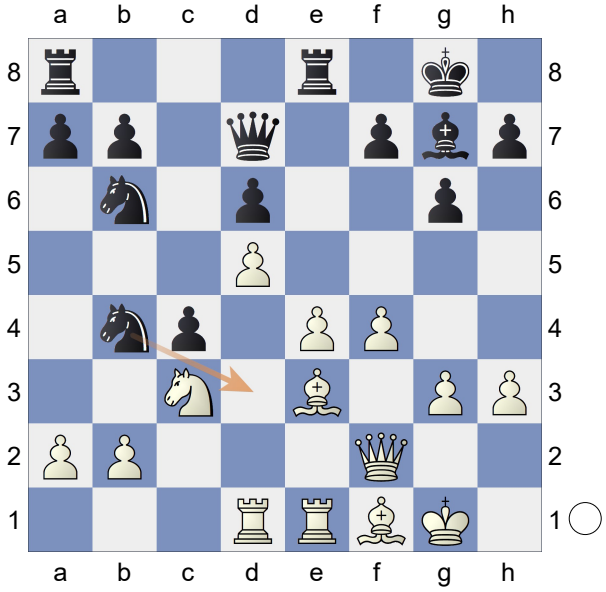
[16...N8d7 SF19 +1.16/25 Common occurence: White has a clear advantage, Black wins. 17.Be3 a6 18.Bf2 Rb8 19.a4 Nc8 20.h4 Qa5 21.Bh3 Qc7 22.Re2 b5 23.axb5 axb5 0-1 (66) Katsanis,V (2369)-Predein,V (2373) Titled Tuesday intern op 17 Feb 2026]

17.Be3 13:48 **Nb4** 5:38 **18.Qf2** 8:33 Prevents Nc2. Meanwhile White builds, setting up e4-e5 or f4-f5. **18...c4** 9:05



19.Rad1! 54 **Qd7** 9:15

[19...Rc8]



20.Kh2? 0.48/26 5:06 (Enough with the building!)

[20.Bd4!+- 1.95/20 Here Black could "go defensive" with 20...Bxd4 21.Rxd4 f6 but 22.b3!+-]

20...Na4? 1.41/20 3:52

[20...Nd3!± 0.48/26 21.Bxd3 Bxc3 22.bxc3 cxd3 23.Bxb6 axb6 24.Rxd3 Qa4 the double attack equalizes.]

21.Bd4!± 10:46 Better late than never!

[21.Bxc4 Nxc3 22.bxc3 Rxe4 23.cxb4 *(23.Bxa7? Rxc4 24.cxb4*

Rxa7-+; 23.Bd4 Bxd4 24.cxd4 Rxe1∓) 23...Rxc4∓]

21...Rac8? 3.47/17 2:57

[21...Nxc3± 1.38/25 22.bxc3 *(22.Bxc3 Bxc3 23.bxc3 Nd3±)* 22...Nd3 23.Bxd3 Bxd4 24.Qxd4 cxd3 25.Rxd3 Rac8]

[21...Bxd4 22.Rxd4 Nxc3 23.bxc3 Nd3 24.Bxd3 cxd3 25.e5! Later than even the Fianchetto Variation, where White develops and noodles about before finally getting the center pawns moving.]

22.Bxg7+- 6:02 **Kxg7** 2:23 **23.e5** 7:17

[23.Qxa7 Nxb2 *(23...Nxc3 24.bxc3 Nd3±)* 24.Rd2 N2d3 25.Rb1]

23...Nxc3 5:06 **24.bxc3** 4 **Nd3** 52

25.Bxd3 1:19 **cxd3** 4 **26.Qd4** 18

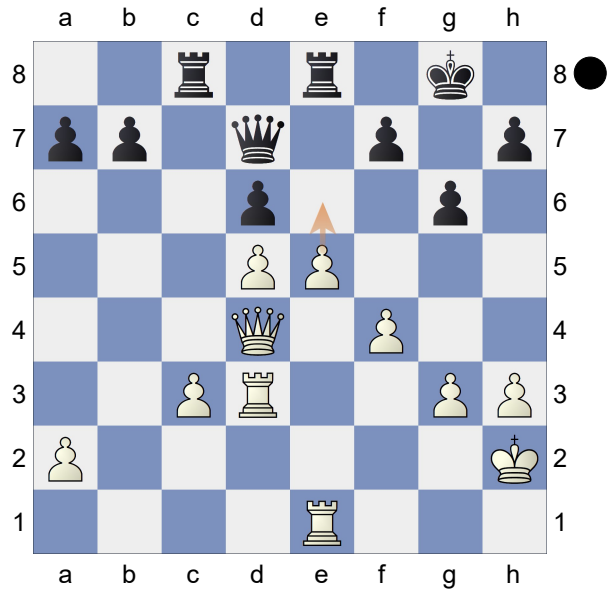
[26.Rxd3]

26...Kg8 45

[26...dxe5 27.fxe5 Kg8 28.Rxd3+-]

27.Rxd3 4:17

[27.Qxd3 Qa4±]



That chunk of time left Heiserman with a little over 15 minutes, still not time pressure, although one is always affected a bit. White is up a pawn, has e4-e5 on the board, *must* be winning! But the smell of blood had him looking maybe too hard, or not hard enough.

27...Qb5 2:22

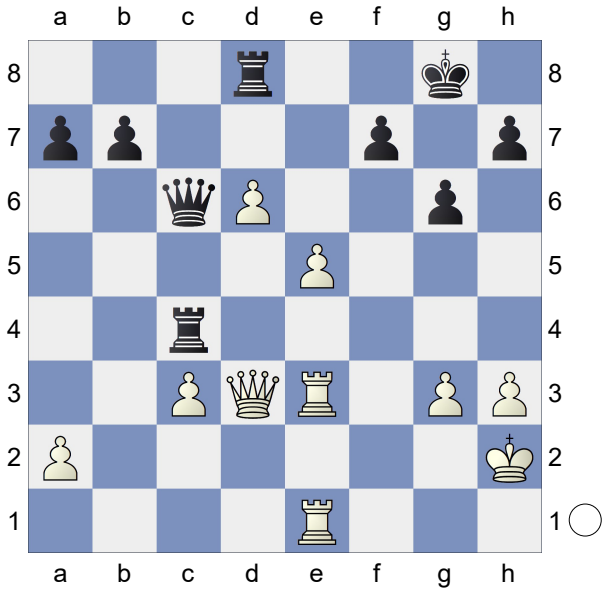
[27...b6!?]

28.Rde3! 5:59 **Rc4** 3:12 **29.Qd3** 1:19

[Why the TA even mentions these moves, but: "Stronger than 29.Qxa7 Qxd5 30.exd6 Rxe3 31.Qxe3 *(31.Rxe3 Qd2+ 32.Kg1 Rxc3=)* 31...Qxd6= "]

29...dxe5 2:20 **30.fxe5!** 40 **Rd8** 1:17

31.d6 6:05 I hadn't really given this its due **31...Qc6** 1:45



32.e6? 0.06/31 1:31 Too eager! White notes that Black's king is exposed as well, and calculates some mates. But in desperation I find the (only!) defense.

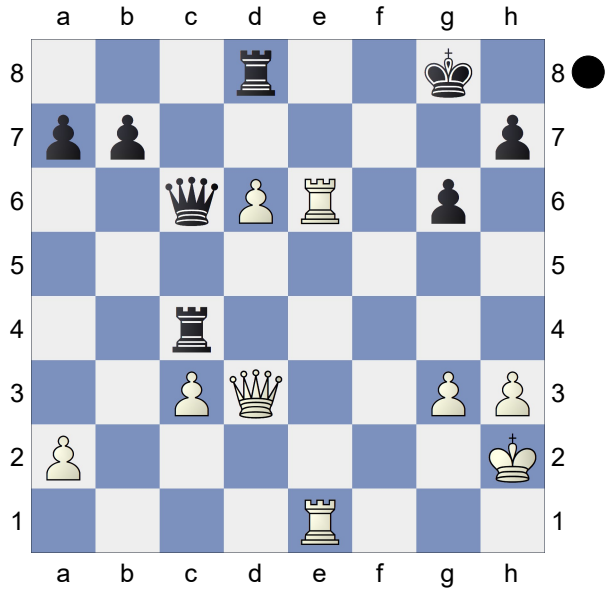
[32.R1e2!+- 4.74/19 *first* puts an end to my dreams of some counterattack on the 2nd rank. Rc5 33.c4 Rxc4? (but it's coming anyway) 34.e6 Rxd6 35.exf7+ Kxf7 36.Re7++- is the sort of thing he was expecting. (sf19: +9.61/51)]

[32.Rf1!]

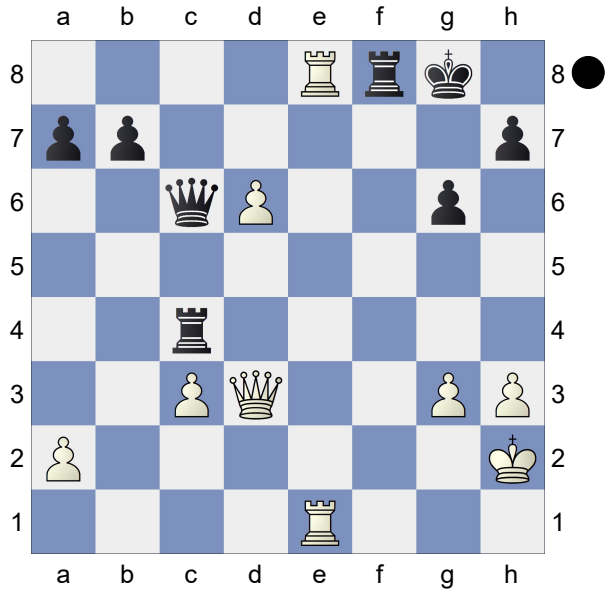
32...fxe6!= 32 **33.Rxe6** 11

(Diagram)

(down to eight minutes) **33...Rf8!=** 6:01 So that the rook won't hang with check,



but also threatening mate myself! (⟶... Rf2+) The engine makes it all (I usually have the top six lines showing) 0.00. (By the way, I have 26:49 left) **34.Re8** 2:18



Intending Rxf8+ and mate. **34...Rxc3!** 1:19 Another necessary move **35.Rxf8+** 6 **Kxf8** 5 **36.Qf1+=** 1:44

[36.Re8+!=]

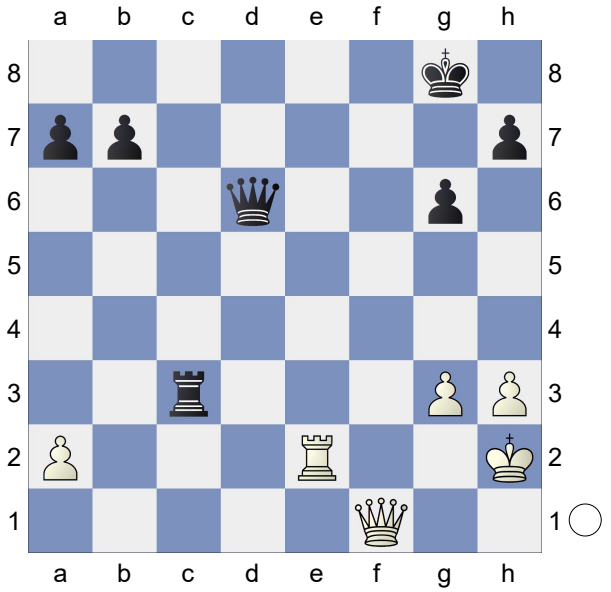
[36.Rf1+=]

[36.Qe4=]

[36.Qd1=]

36...Kg8□ 45 **37.Re2⇄** 4:26 White is not holding back **37...Qxd6!** 1:18

(Diagram)



I thought maybe I was even better now, but the computer finds defenses (for White now). But while Heiserman kept his clock time over a minute (when he'd get the 30 seconds increment), he'd have to really reach to find his way. **38.Qe1** 10 It requires some ugly moves to draw:

[38.Qf2=]

[38.Rg2=]

[38.Qg1=]

38...Rd3 2:01 **39.h4=** -0.43/26 32 Still thinking of attack!

[39.a4= -0.03/36]

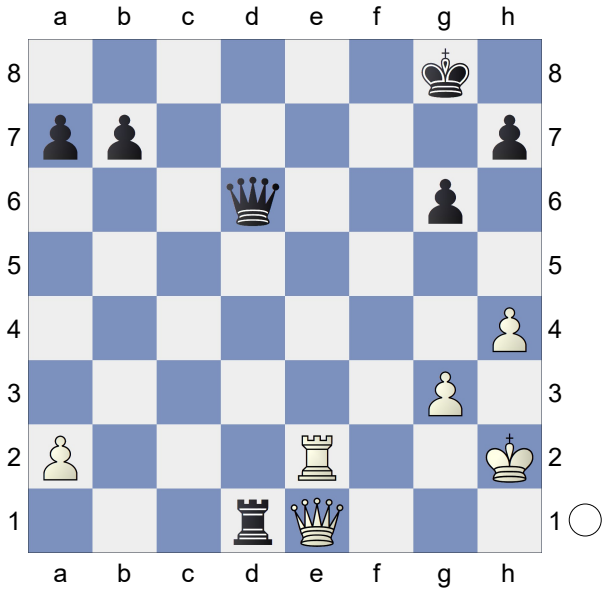
39...Rd1 -0.04/31 1:33

[39...b5!?∓ -0.43/26 but just one of "0.00" on 19]

(Diagram)

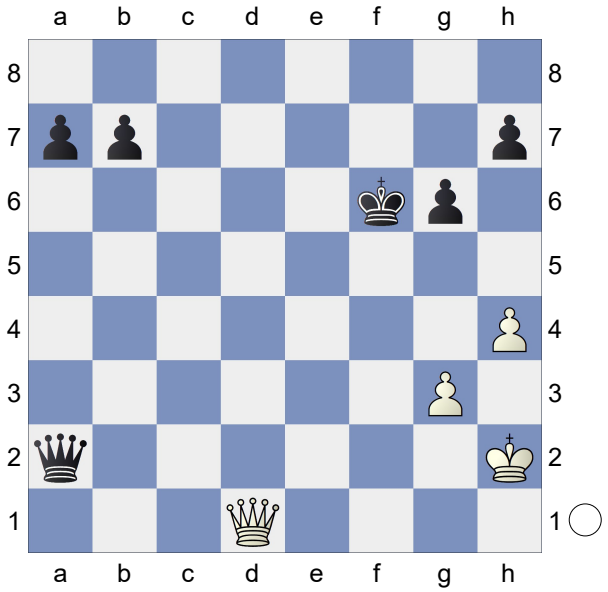
40.Re8+? -4.09/16 48 Over the edge! When I saw my 41st I knew I was winning (although I also knew, it being a queen and pawn ending, I'd still have to make it happen).

[40.Qc3= -0.04/31 was close to an only move. Note that Black can't get the queen to the long diagonal without unprotecting f8. So 40...Qc6



41.Qxc6 bxc6 and White has various rook endings to eventually draw even though down a pawn. In fact, 42.Re8+ Kf7 43.Rc8 gets the pawn back without letting Black's king matter too much. Draw.]

40...Kf7-+ 15 **41.Re7+** 4 **Kf6!** 46
(so that the a-pawn goes with check, and I can keep both my queenside pawns)
42.Re6+ 54 **Qxe6** 6 **43.Qxd1** 2 **Qxa2+** 8



On principle I avoid queen endings whenever possible. Here (1) I had started the game thinking a draw was a pretty good result (2) I was pretty sure this was won. **44.Kh3** 14 **Qe6+** 1:37
45.Kh2 4 **Ke7** 2:25 **46.Qa1** -4.57/17 6
[⌓46.Qf3 -2.90/28 Qa2+ 47.Kh3]
46...a6 1:05 **47.Qb2** 4 **b5** 39 **48.Qg7+** 11 **Qf7** 1:58 **49.Qd4** 8 **Qa2+** 1:10
[49...Qc4!? 50.Qa7+ Kd6 51.Qxa6+ Ke5]
50.Kg1 13 **Qb1+** 2:00 **51.Kh2** 7 **Qc2+** 24 **52.Kg1** 6 **Qc7** 54 **53.Qg7+** 35 **Kd6** 12 **54.Qb2** 3:01 **Kc6** 43 **55.Kh2** 10
Kb7 1:22 **56.Qb4** 20 **Qe5** 1:11 **57.Qf8** 23 **Qe2+** 38 **58.Kg1** 22 **Qe3+** 2:05
59.Kh2 6 **Qd2+** 29 **60.Kg1** 10 **Qd4+** 16
61.Kh2 11 **b4** 41 **62.Qf7+** 23 **Kb6** 17
63.Qxh7 5 **Qf2+** 22 **64.Kh3** 13 **Qf5+** 6
65.Kg2 16 **Qe4+** -9.62/13 25 **66.Kh2** 11
b3 13 **67.Qh8** 33 **Qc2+** -13.62/14 2:28
68.Kh3 5 **a5** 2:18 **69.Qe8** 3:18 **Qf5+** 1:11 **70.Kg2** 16 **Kc5** 1:26 **71.Qa4** 24
Qd5+ -25.44/27 18 **72.Kh2** 24 **Qd2+** 16
73.Kh3 11 **b2** 18 **74.Qa3+** 2:35 **Qb4** 1:23 **75.Qe3+** 4 **Qd4** 1:02 **76.Qa3+** 16
Qb4 1:26 **77.Qe3+** 4 **Kb5** 25 **78.Qe8+** 27 **Kc4** -95.40/33 25 **79.Qe4+** 2:07 **Kb3** 41 **80.Qb1** 19 **Qc4** 1:14 **81.Qe1** 55
Qc8+ 19 TA: "Quite a comeback for Black." Jimmy resigned, just as Bambou and Horowitz agreed to a draw -- and Scott said "You can talk now" -- all the other games were done. Queen endings! Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/Black=0.22 (precise)
0-1

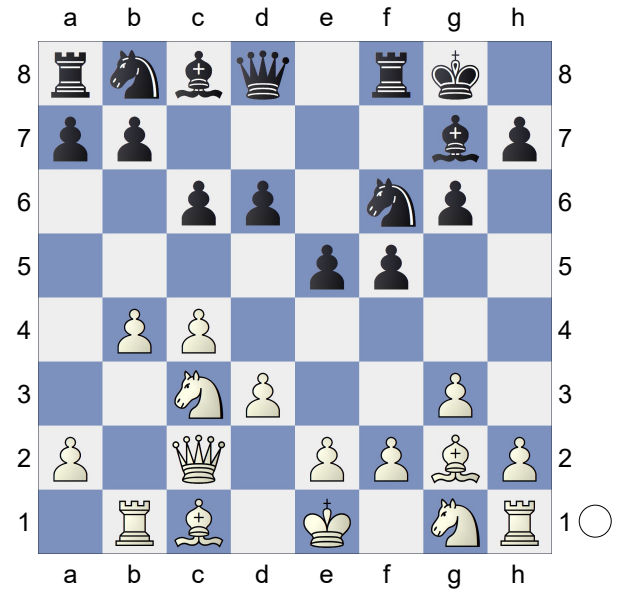
	A21
□ **Zavgorodniy,Andrew**	**2094**
■ **Pathak,Rudransh**	**1929**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.4)	06.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]	

Rudransh Pathak is on fire in this TNM. He lost (to me) in Round 1 and since has three wins and two half-point byes, picking up 70 rating points and in

contention for making Expert -- and a place in the prize list. Here Andrew Zavgorodniy gets confused during some exchanges before the opening is even over, and Black is winning by move fourteen. **1.c4** **e5** 47:56 **2.g3** 20 **g6** 4 **3.Bg2** 34 **Bg7** 12 **4.Nc3** 30 **f5** 32 **5.d3** 1:11 **Nf6** 44 **6.b4** 1:42 **0-0** 1:51 **7.Rb1** 5:36 **d6** 33

[7...Nc6 8.b5 Nd4 9.e3 Ne6 10.Nge2 d6 11.a4 h5 12.Ba3 a5 13.Qd2 Rf7 14.f4 h4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.cxd5 Nc5 17.fxe5 h3 18.Bf3 Nxa4 19.e6 Rf8 20.0-0 Nc5 21.Nf4 g5 22.Nh5 g4 23.Nxg7 gxf3 24.Nh5 c6 25.Bb2 cxd5 26.Qc3 Nxe6 27.Qh8+ Kf7 28.Qh7+ Ke8 29.Qg6+ Kd7 30.Rbc1 Qg5 31.Qh7+ Qe7 32.Qh6 Qg5 33.Qxg5 Nxg5 34.b6 Ne6 35.Rxf3 Ra6 36.Nf6+ Rxf6 37.Bxf6 Korobov,A (2661)-Dardha,D (2619) Chess.com INT 2023 1-0]

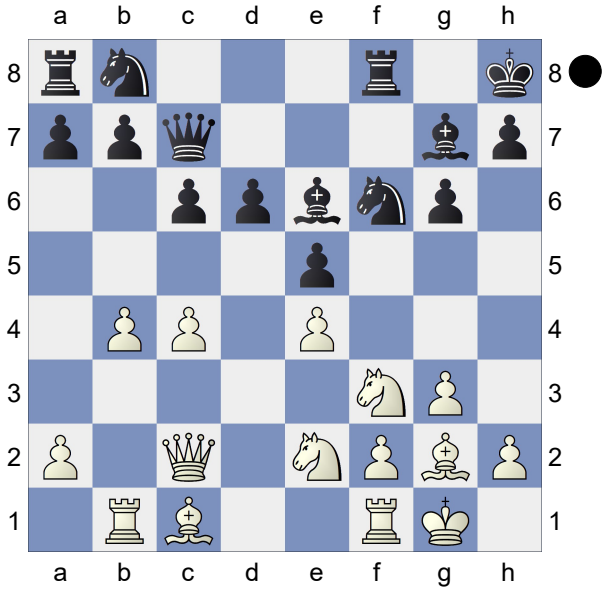
8.Qc2 2:25 **c6** 2:00



9.e4N 2:27

[9.Nf3 e4 10.dxe4 fxe4 11.Ng5 d5 12.0-0 h6 13.Nh3 d4 14.Nd1 Bf5 15.Nf4 Qd7 16.h3 g5 17.g4 Bh7 18.Nh5 Nxh5 19.gxh5 e3 20.Qb3 Bxb1 21.Qxb1 Qe6 22.fxe3 Rxf1+ 23.Bxf1 Nd7 24.exd4 Bxd4+ 25.e3 Bg7 26.Nf2 Rf8 27.Ng4 Ne5 28.Be2 Nxg4 29.hxg4 Qf6 30.Qf5 Qd6 31.Qe4 Qg3+ 32.Kh1 Qe1+ 33.Kg2 Qxe2+ 0-1 (33) Zgadzaj,R (2142)-Chojnacki,K (2369) Poronin 2016]

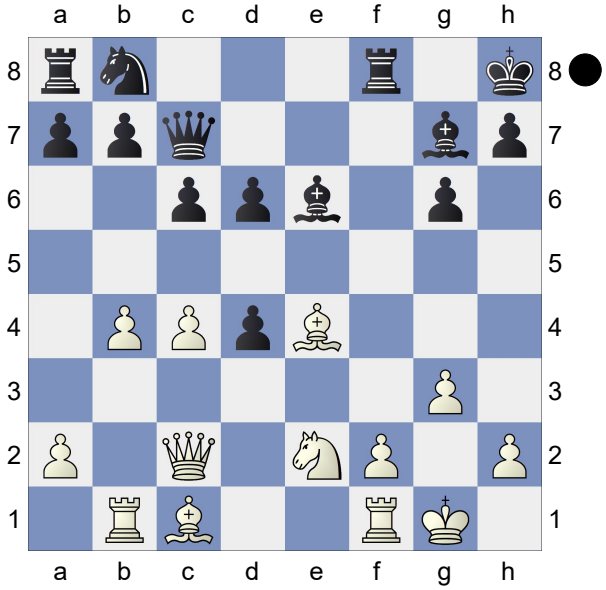
9...Be6 48 **10.Nf3** 6:55 **Kh8** 10:22 **11.0-0** 3:08 **Qc7** 2:15 **12.Ne2** 5:39 **fxe4** 2:04 **13.dxe4** 6:03



Nxe4! 7:05 **14.Nfd4?** 1:10

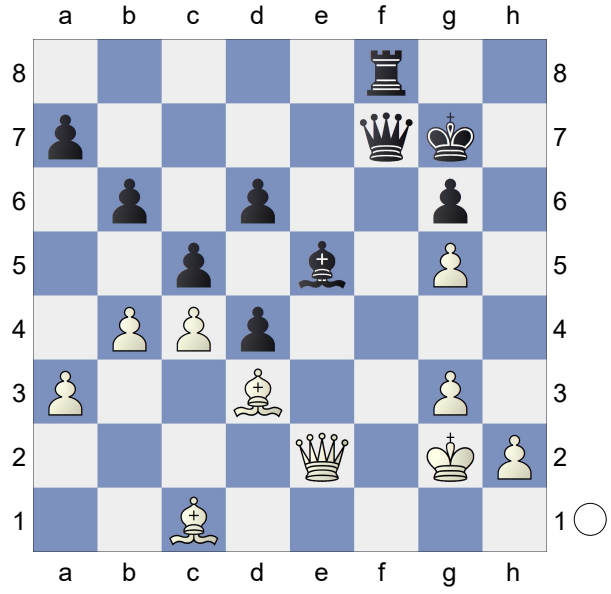
[14.Nxe5! Bxe5 15.Bxe4=]

14...exd4-+ 1:09 **15.Bxe4** 13

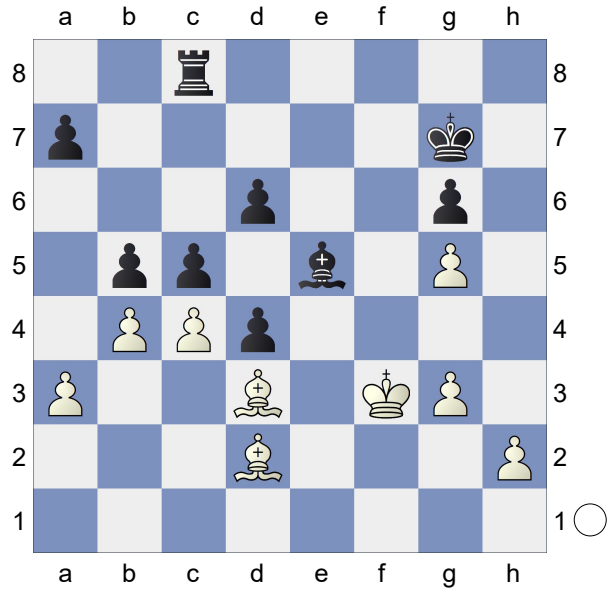


Qf7! 15 **16.Bd3** 14:19 **Bh3** 16 **17.Bb2** 1:11 **Bxf1** 3:02 **18.Rxf1** 21 **Na6** 1:23 **19.a3** 55 **c5** 23 **20.Qd2** 2:51 **Nc7** 1:02 **21.Qf4** 2:47 **Ne6** 1:52 **22.Qh4** 3:38 **Bf6**

11 **23.Qh3** 1:42 **Ng5** 32 **24.Qg2** 28 **Rae8** 4:01 **25.Nf4** 1:20 **Be5** 9 **26.Nxg6+** 3:15 **hxg6** 3 **27.f4** 8 **Qd7** 6:33 **28.fxg5** 1:39 **Rxf1+** 1:27 **29.Qxf1** 25 **Kg7** 2 **30.Bc1** 2:17 **Rf8** 6 **31.Qe2** 1:42 **Qf7** 1:21 **32.Kg2** 1:51
[32.bxc5 Qf3 33.cxd6 Bxd6!]
32...b6 20



33.Bd2?! 1:16 **Re8** 15 **34.Qf3** 2:43 **Qxf3+** 55 **35.Kxf3** **Rf8+** 16 **36.Kg2** 24 **Rc8** 44 **37.Kf3** 3:47 **b5** 1:22

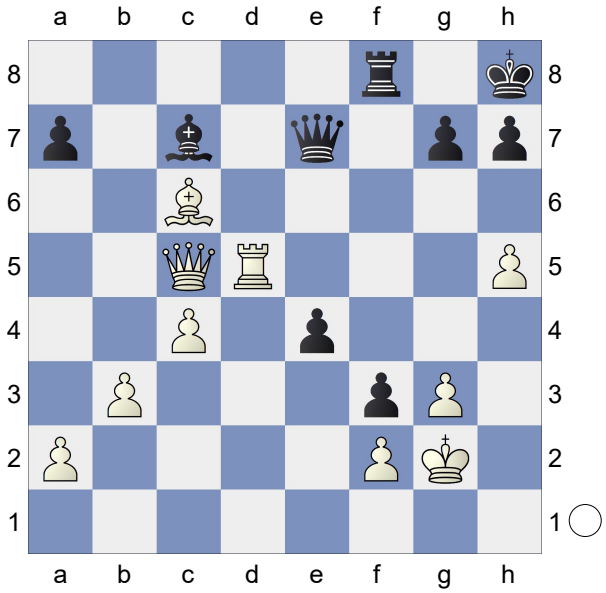


38.bxc5 1:53 **bxc4** 1:37 **39.Bxc4** 6 **dxc5** 18 **40.Ke4** 12 **Bc7** 38 **41.Kd5** 1:01 **Rf8** 59 **42.Kc6** 3:48 **Rf2** 56 **43.Be1** 17 **Rc2** 2 **44.Bd5** 2:35 **Re2** 2:03
0-1

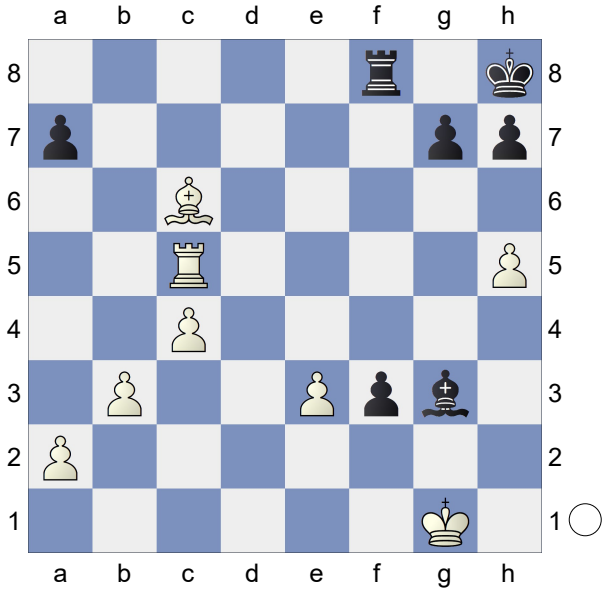
E01
□ **Bambou,Christophe** **2113**
■ **Horowitz,Phineas F** **1975**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 06.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

Christophe Bambou still needs to get comfortable in his "Clinch" boots -- this is the second game he let his opponent off the hook. This draw put a prize out of reach for both of them. I'll let "TA" annoy readers with a barrage of three-move notes and fishy evaluations (Chessbase! Figure that out!). **1.c4** 17 **Nf6** 1:00 **2.Nf3** 23 **e6** 43 **3.g3** 12 **d5** 13 **4.Bg2** 9 **c6** 2:35 **5.b3** 21 **Bd6** 1:30 **6.Bb2** 12 **Nbd7** 37 **7.d4!** 10 is now more promising than 7.0-0. **7...0-0** 43 **8.0-0** 7 **b6** 2:37 **9.Nfd2** 13 E01: Catalan: Early deviations. **9...Qc7** 1.04/21 4:55
[9...Bb7± 0.68/24]
10.Nc3± 47 **Ba6** 10:30 **11.e4** 0.76/24 8:58
[⌓11.Rc1 1.13/22]
11...dxe4 18 **12.Ndxe4** 30 **Nxe4N** 1.42/18 49
[⌓12...Be7 0.78/23]
[12...Be7 13.Qc2 Rac8 14.Rad1 Rfd8 15.Rfe1 Bb7 16.Bc1 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Nf6 18.Bf4 Qd7 1-0 (49) Postnikov,A (1957)-Baglaev,E (2114) Irkutsk 2009]
13.Nxe4 15
[13.Bxe4 Rad8±]
13...Be7 1:24 **14.Re1** 8:44 **Rad8** 3:40
15.Qf3 1:54 **Bb7** 1.10/21 11:25
[15...Nf6± 0.70/22]
16.Rad1 23:17 **f6** 2.24/18 27:09
[16...Nf6± 0.84/22]
17.Nc3 5:32 **e5** 3:01 **18.d5** 1.31/24 3:30
[18.a3+- 1.76/20]

18...cxd5 25 **19.Nxd5** 3:52 **Bxd5** 8
20.Rxd5 8:58
[20.Qxd5+ Kh8]
20...Nc5 2:53 **21.Qh5** 3:56 **Bd6** 1.70/22 13:00
[21...g6± 1.26/23 22.Qe2 h5]
22.Red1+- 3:27 **Kh8?** 3.82/21 3:34
[22...a5 1.64/25 23.Qe2 Nb7]
23.Bc1? 1.49/23 4:28 A strong pair of Bishops.
[23.b4+- 3.82/21 g6 24.Qh3]
23...f5? 5.23/17 4:49
[23...a5± 1.49/23 24.h4 Be7]
24.Ba3 2.48/21 6:10
[⌓24.Bg5 5.23/17 Rd7 25.Bc1]
24...Be7 56 **25.Rxd8** 1:20 **Bxd8** 2:08
26.Bd5 0.34/23 31
[26.Bb2+- 2.36/20]
26...Qe7 1.12/18 1:10
[26...e4!± 0.34/23]
27.Re1 0.14/28 5:05 White is much more active.
[White should try 27.b4± 1.12/18 Nd7 28.Qf3]
27...e4 5 **28.Qe2** 2:49 **Qg5** 1:20 **29.h4** 0.00/38 1:05
[29.Qe3± 0.36/27]
29...Qg6 14 **30.h5** 39 **Qd6** 31 **31.Rd1** 53 **Qh6** 1.67/20 37
[31...Qf6= 0.30/23 and Black stays safe.]
32.Kg2? 0.05/31 6:47
[32.b4!+- 1.67/20 Ne6 33.b5]
32...Bc7 7 **33.Bc1** 30 **Qf6** 6 **34.Ba3** 48
[34.h6 is more complex. Nd3 35.Bd2 gxh6 36.Qe3]
34...Re8 22 **35.Bxc5** 25 **bxc5** 3 **36.Qe3** 28 **Qe7** 0.37/20 1:15
[36...f4= 0.00/27 37.gxf4 *(37.Qxc5? fxg3 38.Bxe4 Rxe4-+)* 37...Bxf4]
37.Bc6± 39 **Rf8** 6.77/23 31
[37...Rd8± 0.87/22 38.Rxd8+ Bxd8]
38.Rd5? 0.00/44 29
[38.Rd7+- 6.77/23 f4 39.Rxe7 *(39.Qxe4? Qe5+-)* 39...fxe3 40.fxe3 *(40.Rxc7?* is the wrong capture. *e2-+)*]
38...f4= 55 **39.Qxc5** 8 **f3+?** 3.16/18 51
[39...Qf6!= 0.00/18 40.Bd7 f3+ 41.Kh3 Bb6]

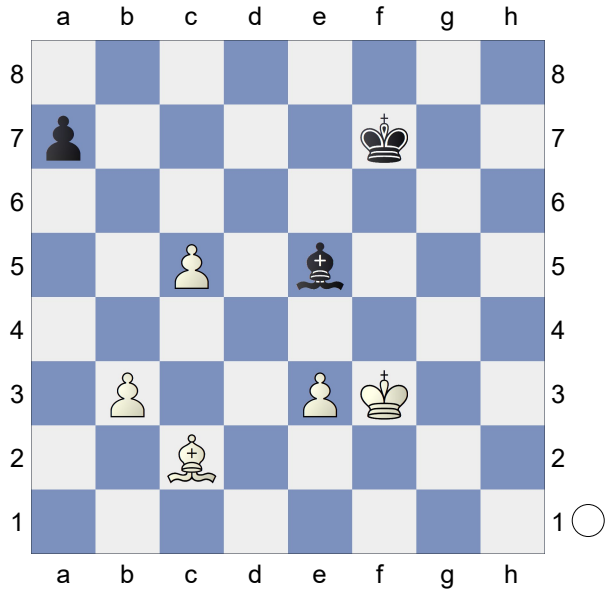


40.Kg1? 0.00/20 7
[40.Kh3!+- 3.16/18 Qf6 41.Rd7]
40...Qxc5 6.04/19 14
[40...Qf6= 0.00/20 41.Rd1 Bb6]
41.Rxc5 2 Endgame KRB-KRB. White is a pawn up. **41...e3** 29 **42.fxe3** 21 **Bxg3** 31



43.Bxf3! 32 Deflection, Back Rank
43...g6 51 **44.Kg2** 22 **Bd6** 16 **45.Rc6** 9

Rd8 34 **46.hxg6** 1:24 **hxg6** 2 **47.c5** 24 **Be5** 40 **48.Be4** 1:38 **Rd2+** 22 **49.Kf3** 4 **Rxa2** 18 **50.Rxg6** 8 **Rb2** 1:03 **51.Bd5** 7 **Rc2** 42 **52.Rg8+** 1:04 **Kh7** 1 **53.Be4+** 17 **Kxg8** 3 **54.Bxc2+-** 5 KB-KB. White is two pawns up. **54...Kf7** 12



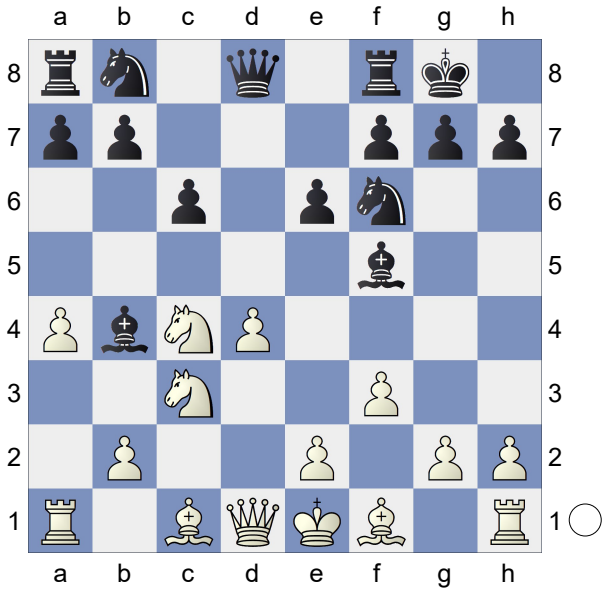
55.Ke4! 15 **Ke6** 18 **56.b4?** 1.01/64 4
[56.Bd1+- 7.03/25 and the rest is easy. Bc3 57.Bg4+ Ke7 58.Kd5]
56...Bc3± 12 **57.b5** 22 **Bb4** 31 **58.Bb3+** 6 **Kd7** 11 **59.Kd5** 16 **Bd2** 1:16 **60.e4** 3 **Be3** 13 **61.e5** 0.00/80 15
[61.Bd1± 1.07/50]
61...Bf2 48 The position is equal. **62.e6+** 31 **Kc7** 28 **63.Bc2** 9 **Bh4** 32 **64.Bf5** 1:08 **Bg5** 12 **65.Kc4** 1:17 **Be7** 11 **66.Bg4** 5 **Bg5** 26 **67.Kb4** 52 **Be7** 15 **68.Bh5** 24 **Kb7** 47 **69.Be8** 18 **Kc7** 18 **70.Bd7** 6 **Kb7** 13 **71.Kc4** 4 **Kc7** 23 **72.Kd5** 7 **Bf6** 27 **73.Ke4** 1:05 **Be7** 6 **74.c6** 9 **Kd6** 35 **75.Kf5** 4 Black must now prevent Kg6. **75...Bd8** 14 **76.Be8** 52 **Ke7!** 36 **77.Bh5** 15 **Bc7** 42 **78.Be2** 10 **Bd8** 26 **79.Bc4** 7 **Bc7** 7 **80.Ke4** 33 **Bd8** 1:06 **81.Kd5** 39 **Bb6** 10 **82.Bd3** 10 **Bc7** 16 **83.Be2** 1:59 Black escapes into a draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0.64/Black=0.89
½-½

D17
□ **Melville,Cailen Jeremiah** **1843**
■ **Mercado,Adam** **1928**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.11) 06.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott/Melville, Cailen Jeremiah]

I usually chicken out and play the old-school 6.e3 and get castled fast, but Cailen braves the armada of Black responses to 7.Ne5, and even gets to play 9.Kf2! (I've wanted to, but just couldn't imagine getting there!) **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 e6**
[6...Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7 is still having its adherents]
[as is 6...Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Nb6 8.Ne5 *(8.Ne3!?; 8.e3!?)* 8...a5]
[6...Na6 is a Jobava favorite]
[and Caruana (and others) have played 6...Qc7 this year: 7.Nxc4 Na6 8.f3 Rd8 9.e4 Be6 10.Ne5± *(10.Be3 Bxc4)* 10...Nb4 11.Be3 a5 12.Bc4 Nd7 13.Bxe6 Nxe5 14.0-0 fxe6 15.Bf4 Nbd3 16.Qxd3 Nxd3 17.Bxc7 Rxd4 18.Rfd1 Rd7 19.Bxa5 g6 20.Ne2 Bg7 21.Bc3 Bxc3 22.Nxc3 Kf7 23.a5 Rhd8 24.a6 bxa6 25.Rxa6 Rd6 26.h4 Rb8 27.Rd2 h6 28.Nd1 g5 29.h5 Ne5 30.Rxd6 exd6 31.Ra7+ Kf8 32.Kf1 d5 33.exd5 cxd5 34.Ra6 Ke7 35.Ra7+ Kf8 36.Ra6 Ke7 37.Ra7+ Kf8 38.Ra6 ½-½ (38) Praggnanandhaa,R (2741)-Caruana,F (2795) Candidates Tournament, Pegeia 2026]
7.f3 Bb4 8.Nxc4 0-0

(Diagram)

Alas, no clock times -- I'd really like to know who prepared what. **9.Kf2! c5**
[9...h6!? 10.e4 Bh7 11.Be3]



[But look at *this* -- and not only because it's a rare 2800+ vs. 2800+ game: 9...e5!? 10.Nxe5 Bc2!? *(10...c5 11.d5 Re8 12.Nc4 Nbd7 13.e4 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bxe4 15.fxe4 Nxe4+ 16.Kg1 Nxc3 17.Qf3 Ne4 18.Bb2 Ndf6 19.Rd1 a6 20.a5 Qd7 21.h3 Rad8 22.d6 Qe6 23.Kh2 Nxd6 24.Nxd6 Rxd6 25.Bc4 Qd7 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Qg3+* 1-0 (27) Indjic,A (2607)-Vysochin,S (2503) Titled Tuesday intern op 18th May 2021 *)* 11.Qd2 c5 12.d5 Bb3 13.e4 Re8 14.Qf4± (sf19 +0.53/23) c4 15.Nxc4 Nbd7 16.Be3 Nf8 17.Bd4 1-0 (59) Ding,L (2805)-Caruana,F (2842) Candidates Tournament, Ekaterinburg 2020.]

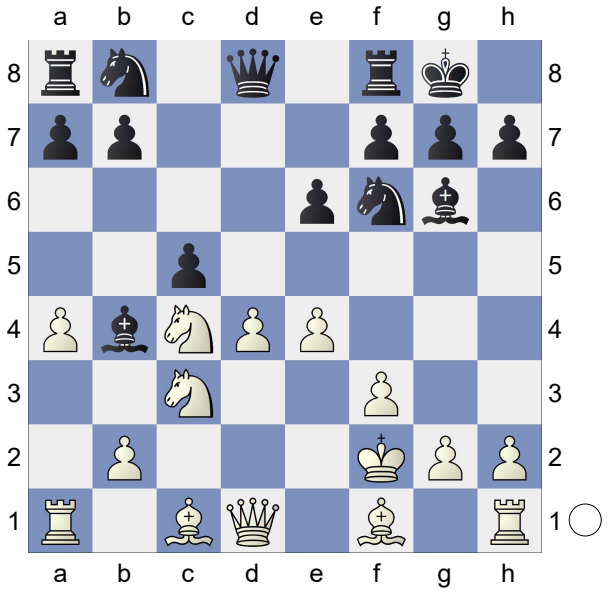
10.e4± Bg6

(Diagram)

11.Be3? The straight-backed move.

[11.dxc5?! Qe7!∓ 12.Be3 Rd8]

[11.Na2!± is just the right moment. Nc6 12.Nxb4 Nxb4 13.Bd2 Bxe4!? 14.fxe4 Qxd4+ 15.Be3 Qxe4 16.Qf3! Ng4+ 17.Kg3 Qxf3+ 18.Kxf3 Nxe3 19.Nxe3± Three pawns for the piece, although not that similar to the famous

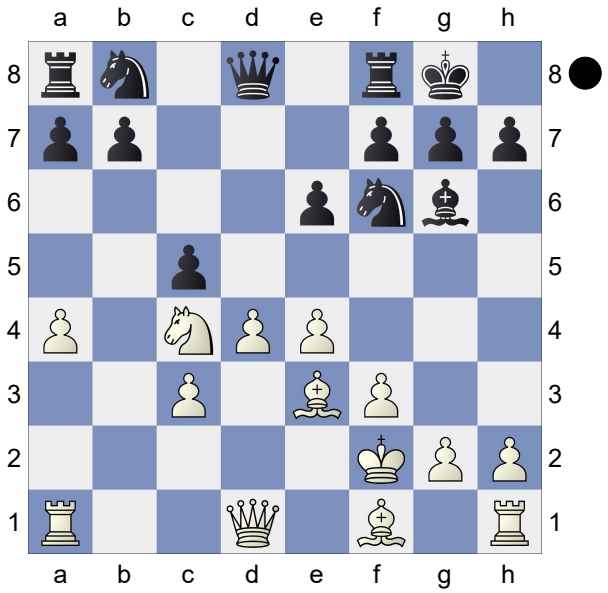


line elsewhere in 6.Ne5. White has an edge, which is dwindling as I type...]

11...Bxc3?

[11...cxd4! 12.Qxd4 Qe7! 13.Ne5 Rd8 14.Qc4 Nbd7 15.Nd3 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Bxe4!∓ Woops! The dark side of 9.Kf2!]

12.bxc3



Bxe4?! Hard to just give it "??" but the numbers think it's pretty bad.

[12...cxd4 13.Qxd4 Nc6 14.Qxd8±]

13.fxe4 Nxe4+ 14.Kg1 Nxc3 15.Qd3 cxd4 16.Bxd4 Nd5 17.Qg3+- f6 18.Bc5 Rf7 19.Qe1 e5 20.Rd1 Rd7 21.g3

[21.Nd6 Rxd6 22.Bxd6 Qxd6 23.Qa5 *(23.Bc4 Qc5+)*]

21...Qc7 22.Ba3 Nc6 23.Bh3 Nd4 24.Rxd4 exd4 25.Qe6+ Kh8 26.Qxd7 Qxc4 27.Be6 Qe2 28.Qxd5 d3 29.Bg4

[29.Bc1 Qe1+ 30.Kg2 Qe2+ 31.Kh3 h6]

29...Qxg4 30.Qxd3 Re8 31.h3 Qxa4 32.Kf2 Rc8 33.Rd1 h6 34.Rd2 Re8 35.Qg6 Qc6 36.Rd6 Qb5 37.Qd3 Qe5 38.Rd8 Rxd8 39.Qxd8+ Kh7 40.Qd3+ f5 41.Qe3 Qd5 42.Bb2 b6 43.Qd4 Qf7 44.h4 Qc7 45.Qc3 Qd7 46.Qd4 Qf7 47.Qe5 Qd7 48.Ke3 Qf7 49.Bd4

[49.Kf4 Kg6 50.Qd6+ Kh7 51.Qe5]

49...Qg6 50.h5 Qg5+ 51.Kd3 Qg4 52.Kc4 a5 53.Kb5 Qg5 54.Be3 Qxh5 55.Bxb6 a4 56.Bd4 Qg4 57.Kxa4 Qg6 58.Kb4 Qg5 59.Kc5 Qg6 60.Kd5 Qf7+ 61.Kc5 g5 62.Qh8+ Kg6 63.Qd8 Kh5 64.Be5 Qa7+ 65.Kd6 Qa4 66.Ke7 Kg4 67.Qd3 Qc6 68.Qd1+ Qf3 69.Qd7 h5 70.Kf6 Qe4 71.Qd1+ Qf3 72.Qxf3+ Kxf3 73.Kxg5 Ke4 74.Bc7

1-0

D05

□ **Calvin,Jamie Duif** **1600**

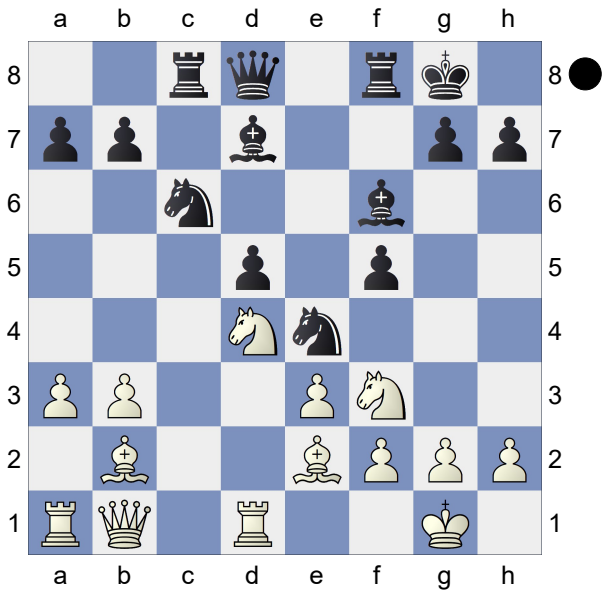
■ **Stults,Sawyer** **1662**

2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (5.14) 29.9.26

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 0 **d5** 3 **2.Nf3** 7 **e6** 5 **3.e3** 3 **c5** 13 **4.Be2** 15 **Nc6** 35 **5.0-0** 21 **Nf6** 9 **6.b3** 22 **Be7** 41 **7.Bb2** 27 **0-0** 11 **8.Nbd2** 32 **Ne4** 12:33 **9.dxc5** 6:13 **f5** 9:45 **10.c4** 7:20 **Bxc5** 10:40 **11.a3** 3:11 **Be7** 5:54 **12.cxd5** 3:30 **exd5** 39 **13.Nd4** 3:07 **Bg5** 5 **14.N2f3** 1:38 **Bf6** 1:17 **15.Qc2** 1:15 **Bd7** 2:04 **16.Rfd1** 2:30 **Rc8** 2:35 **17.Qb1** 9:51

[17.Qd3=]



17...Qe7! 13:04

[Black didn't play 17...Qe8 (which had a temporary life in Duif's Chess Noter device!), but had the game gone the same way it would have still been successful: 18.Bf1 Ne5 19.b4?? *(19.Nxe5=)* 19...Nxf2! 20.Kxf2?! Ng4+ 21.Kg3 *(*better is *21.Ke1* but White's king remains a target: *Qxe3+ 22.Be2 Qf2+ 23.Kd2 Ne5!* (best of many) and White's king is still in trouble (note *24.Nxe5? Bg5+* and mate in a couple) *)* 21...Be5+ 22.Kh4 Qe7+ 23.Ng5 Rf6 is mate in five.]

18.Bf1?! 2:04

[18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.b4=]

[18.Qd3=]

[18.b4=]

[18.Nc2=]

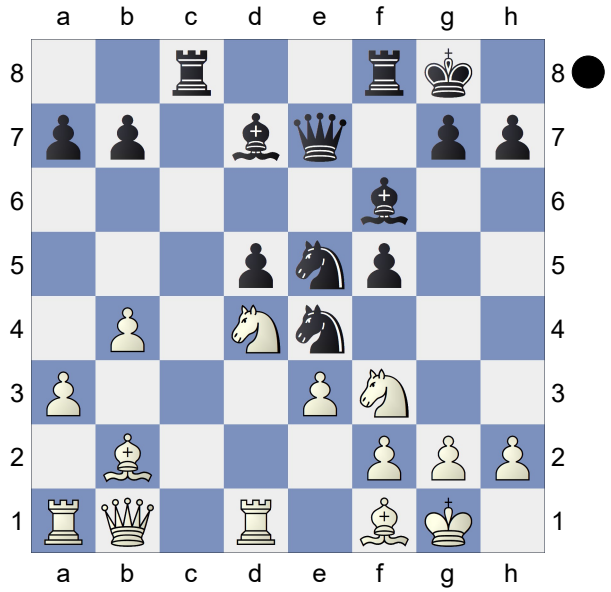
18...Ne5 1:39

[18...f4!?]

[18...Bxd4 19.Bxd4 f4]

19.b4?? 4:20

[19.Nxe5 (trade off the attackers!) Qxe5 20.g3 g5 21.Ra2! Qe7!= *(21...f4!? 22.exf4 gxf4 23.Ne2 Qe8 24.Nxf4 Bxb2 25.Qxb2 Nc3⩱)*]



19...Nxf2!-+ 9:30 (Stockfish 19 makes it -5.01/27) **20.Kxf2** 4:07 **Ng4+** 5:43 **21.Kg3** 47 **Qd6+ 22.Ne5 Qxe5+ 23.Kh3** 1 **Nf2#**
0-1

E11

□ **Pinge,Rajdeep** **1974**
■ **Mejia,Junior** **1682**
2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (5.12) 29.9.26
[Pinge,Rajdeep]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 I had been studying Catalan as White for a couple of weeks now and found some good success playing online so wanted to try it. **3...Bb4+ 4.Bd2**
[4.Nd2 here is equally good but I felt Bd2 was better for getting tempo and to not block it after Nd2.]
4...Qe7 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Nf3 Ne4 7.a3 With queen on e7, I felt a3 would force the bishop and knight trade and also protect the b4 square. **7...Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 d5 9.Rc1 0-0 10.0-0 Rd8 11.e3 a5 12.Qc2** I followed the Catalan theory sequence of knight on d2 and queen on c2 plus wanting to put pressure and free up the e4 square for e3-e4 pawn push. This was a minor inaccuracy though. cxd5 would have been better to open up c file for rook.
[12.cxd5 exd5 *(12...Nxd2 13.Qxd2 exd5)*]
12...Nf6 13.Rfd1 Later in the game, this move became a big headache. The logic here was to push e4 and after dxe4, Nxe4, the d4 pawn was defended twice as against two attacks. However this boxed in the rook on c1 without open c file which became a problem later in the game.
[13.Rcd1!]
13...a4 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Bd7 16.Nc5? The excitement of exchanging light-squared bishop of Black for knight resulted in this mistake which allows Black to free up the position on the queen side with Nxd4 and gain equality.
16...b6?? I knew this was a blunder with knight hanging on c6 pinned in front of the rook on a8.
[16...Nxd4! 17.Nxd4 Qxc5 18.Bxb7 Rab8 19.Bg2∓]
17.Nxd7 Nxd7 18.Ne5?? I didn't analyze this properly and missed taking advantage of the blunder. Ndxe5 leads to a completely equal position here. I was thinking Nxd4 Rxd4 Nxd5 Rh4 Ng6 Bxa8 Nxa4 will give some advantage to White due to strong light-squared bishop vs weak knight in the middle game. The winning moves here are Ne1 or Nh4 and Black would lose at least an exchange.
[18.Ne1+-]
[18.Nh4+-]
[18.h4+-]
18...Nxd4± Continuing to analyze the Rxd4 Nxd5 Rh4 Ng6 Bxa8 Nxa4 line, I couldn't find much advantage though since the light squares around White king are weak. The engine says both Nc6 or Rxd4 lead to equal position.
[18...Ndxe5! 19.dxe5 Qc5=]

19.Nc6 This looked more threatening with Nxc6 the only correct option for Black and I liked the c6 outpost for light-squared bishop.

[19.Rxd4 Nxe5 20.Rh4 Ng6 21.Bxa8 Nxh4 22.Be4]

19...Nxc6! 20.Bxc6 Rab8= I realized that the c6 outpost was actually worthless here. **21.Bxa4**

[I analysed 21.Qxa4 to put pressure on the knight but 21...Ne5 followed by ... Rd6 were strong responses here for Black.]

21...Ne5 22.Qe4 Qf6 23.Kg2 g6 24.h3 A wrong move by Black traps the knight with f4. **24...g5 25.Qe2**

I spent about 23 mins here analysing various lines. Didn't want rook exchange or Re1 to give open d file to Black. b2 pawn was about to be under attack so f4 was not possible. Bc2 had Ng6 in response. I didn't like Qe2 but couldn't find any other good move.

[25.h4 was not possible because of gxh4 26.Qxh4 Qf3+]

25...Ng6 26.Bc6 Not much logic except securing the h1-a8 diagonal. **26...Qe5 27.Qc2** Didn't want queen exchange as that would have led to a sure draw. **27...h5 28.Be4** Idea is to force f5 Bf3 and then white would need to save h4 pawn otherwise the knight on g6 is hanging with a nasty queen check and all tempo with White. **28...f5 29.Bf3 h4 30.Re1** This is a minor inaccuracy. Bh4 at this stage would have been best.

[30.Bh5 Kg7 31.Re1 Qf6]

30...Qf6 31.Re2? A bit of time pressure and a mistake. **31...e5 32.Bh5**

I had earlier thought Bd5+ and then Rce1 but e4 and potentially the bishop getting trapped after c6 meant I opted for Bh5. Black is clearly winning at this point with the pawn storm and open d file. **32...hxg3?** A big mistake that equalized the position. Nf8 was the only correct move here as per engine to keep the knight and threaten to trap the bishop.

[32...Nf8]

33.Bxg6 Qxg6 34.Rxe5 gxf2 35.Qxf5 Qc6+ 36.Qe4 I quickly made the move as per my plan but then regretted it immediately. Thought Kh2 was better to get out of checks and continue the threat on g5 pawn and potential tactics to try and win some material.

[36.Kf1 Qh1+ 37.Kxf2?? *(37.Ke2 Qxc1)*]

[36.Kh2]

36...Qxe4+ 37.Rxe4 Rd2 38.Rf1 Rf8 39.Rg4 I realize now that I should have focussed on maintaining connected pawns so protecting b2 pawn and giving up a3 or c4 would have been better. The engine also suggests trying to win c7 pawn since g5 was already a weak pawn.

[39.b4 Rc2 *(39...Ra2)*]

39...Rxb2 40.Rxg5+ Kh7 41.Rg3 Rc2 42.Rf3 Rg8+ 43.Kh2 Rxc4 44.R1xf2 Extremely disappointed with myself at this point that I couldn't capitalize on that advantage out of the opening. I was certain I was winning but couldn't find a way. I thought of offering a draw but continued for a bit. **44...Ra8 45.Rg2 Rd8 46.Rf5 Kh6 47.Rf6+ Kh7 48.Rgf2 Rd3 49.Rf7+** Thought about R6f3 and trying for an exchange but endgame was a draw since Black would have been able to get a passed pawn by the time White king reached there.

49...Kg6 50.R7f6+ Kg7 51.Rf7+ Again thought of draw / rook exchange but continued with the checks for a bit.

51...Kg8 52.R7f5 Rcc3?? Black blundered and I was still disappointed but slightly elated to not exchange the rooks and play some hope

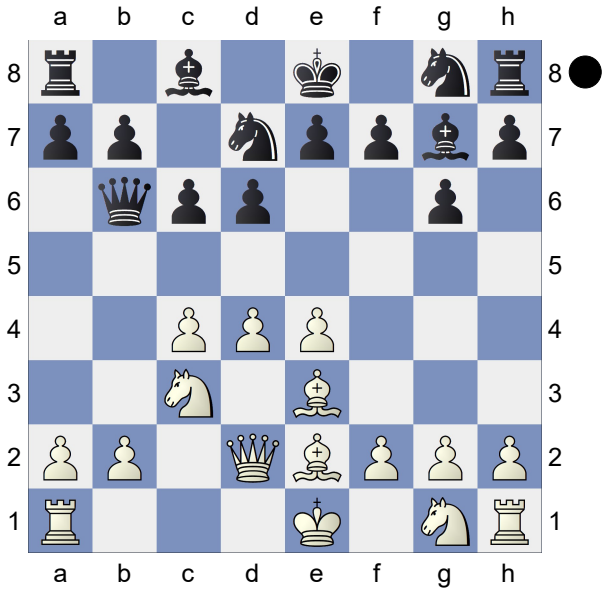
chess to eventually win. **53.Rg2+ Kh7 54.Rh5#**
1-0

A42
□ **Zhao,Isaac Dan** **1981**
■ **Pinge,Rajdeep** **1974**
2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (6.5) 06.10.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

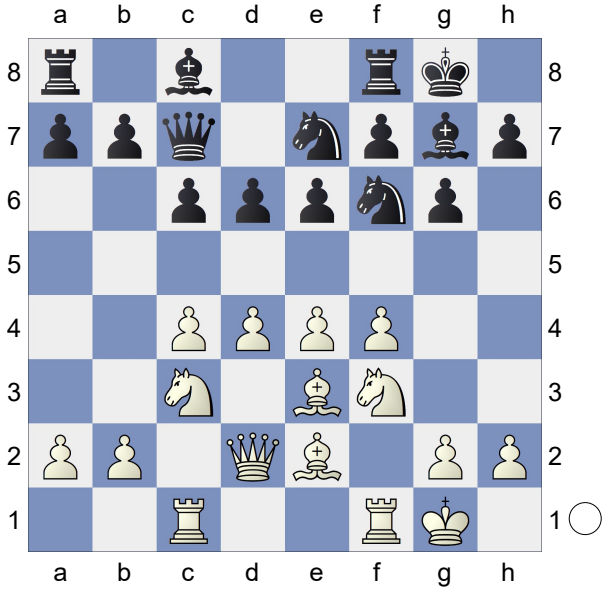
Meanwhile: Isaac Zhao is in a similar position: a clear point ahead of the field with just one round to go. Well, okay, his next opponent won't be a GM. Still. I'm unsure what happened in this game, but the end was crisp! **1.c4** 3:45 **c6** 57 **2.e4** 2:39 **g6** 2:25 **3.Nc3** 3:21 **Bg7** 57 **4.d4** 13 **d6** 2:52 **5.Be2** 49 **Nd7** 3:49 **6.Be3** 13
[Relevant: 6.Nf3 e5 7.Be3 Ngf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qc2 Ng4 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bd2 h5 12.Rad1 Qe7 13.b4 Kh7 14.h3 Nh6 15.Be3 Re8 16.c5 dxc5 17.dxc5 Nf8 18.Rd6 Nf7 19.Rd2 Be6 20.Rfd1 Red8 21.Qa4 a6 22.Qa5 Rdc8 23.Na4 Rd8 24.Qb6 Rac8 25.Nc3 Rxd2 26.Rxd2 Qc7 27.a4 Nd7 28.Qxc7 Rxc7 29.Rd1 Bh6 30.Bxh6 Kxh6 31.Nd2 a5 32.bxa5 Nxc5 33.Nc4 Rd7 34.Rxd7 Bxd7 35.h4 Kg7 Bluebaum,M (2679)-Galaktionov,A (2333) Chess.com INT 2026 ½-½ (97)]
6...Qb6 13:08 **7.Qd2** 47

(Diagram)

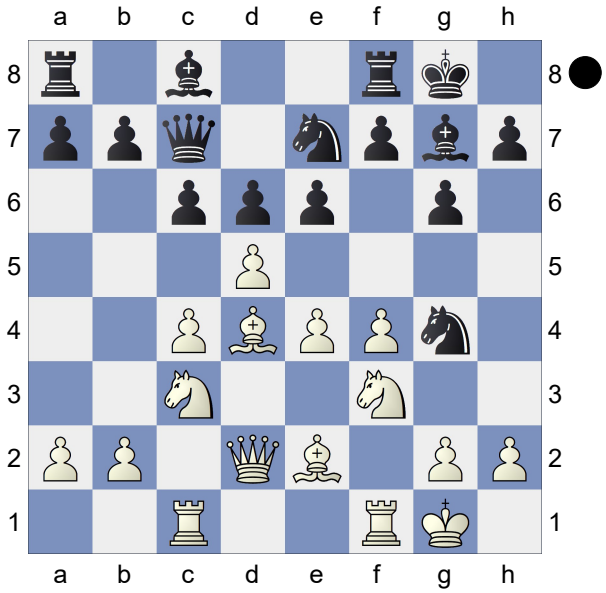
Qc7N 3:43 This can't be good news.
[Predecessor: 7...a6 8.Nf3 Qc7 9.Rd1 b6 10.h3 Bb7 11.Ng5 h6 12.Nf3 c5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.Qxd5 Rb8 16.b3 Qa5+ 17.Nd2 Qxa2 18.Bxc5 Nxc5 19.Qc6+ Nd7 20.0-0 Qa5 21.Bg4



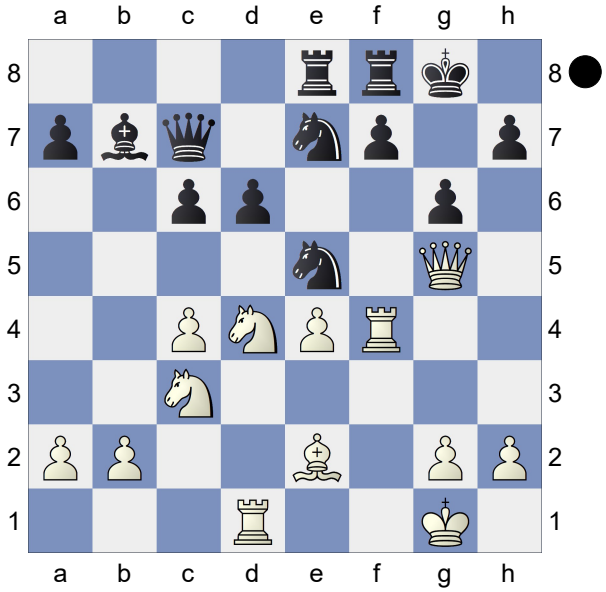
Ngf6 22.Ra1 Qxd2 23.Bxd7+ Nxd7 24.Rxa6 Qb4 25.Ra7 Rd8 26.Rfa1 Bxa1 0-1 (26) Norri,I (1558)-Piiroinen,T (1890) Naantali 2014]
8.f4!+- 7:29 White could wait forever for Black's knight to move (so that Bh6 becomes available), and launches into Space advantage. Stockfish 19: <pat_on_back> **8...e6** 3:50 **9.Nf3** 10:02
[9.e5!?]
9...Ne7 2:26 **10.Rc1** 8:53
[10.e5! d5 11.b3]
10...0-0 1:40 I tell the kids "Castling gives away your king's address." **11.0-0** 1:05 **Nf6** 5:44



12.d5? 10:17
[12.h3!+-]
12...Ng4± 8:53 **13.Bd4?** 20:05
[13.dxe6 fxe6 14.Bd4±]

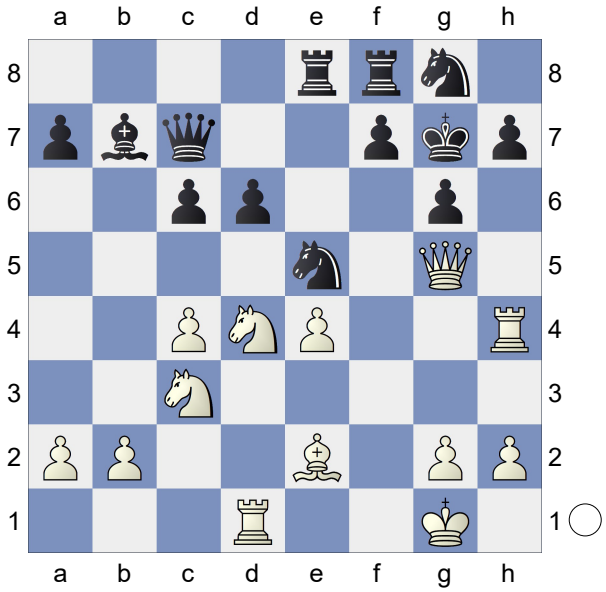


13...Bxd4+? 2:53
[13...e5! 14.fxe5 dxe5]
14.Nxd4+- 3:03 **e5** 8:37 **15.fxe5?!** 39
[15.Nb3!+- so to meet ...Qb6+ with c4-c5.]
15...Nxe5 4:41 **16.dxc6?!** 1:27 **bxc6±** 55 **17.Rcd1** 1:36 **Bb7** 8:42 **18.Qg5** 6:03 **Rae8** 5:18 **19.Rf4** 1:48

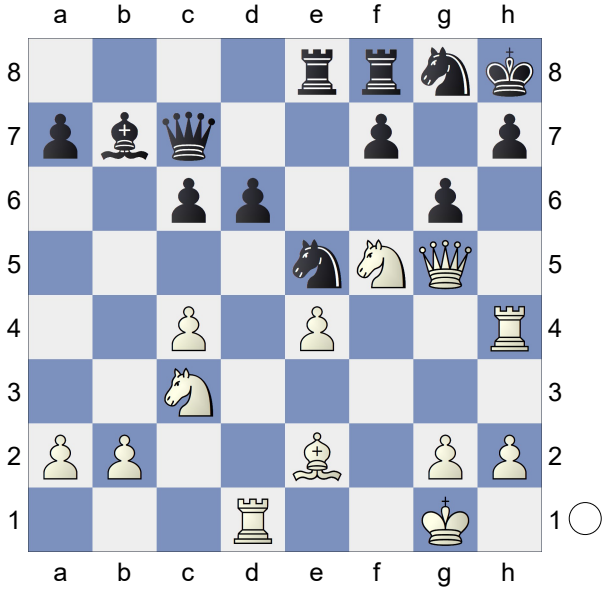


Kg7? 12:38
[19...Nc8± /=]

20.Rh4 1:05 **Ng8** 43



21.Nf5+! 5 the only move to anything at all! **21...Kh8** 19



22.Rxh7+! 3
1-0

D34
□ **Wu,Victor Yuhang** **1838**
■ **Tam,Hoa Long** **1692**
2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (6.13) 6.10.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

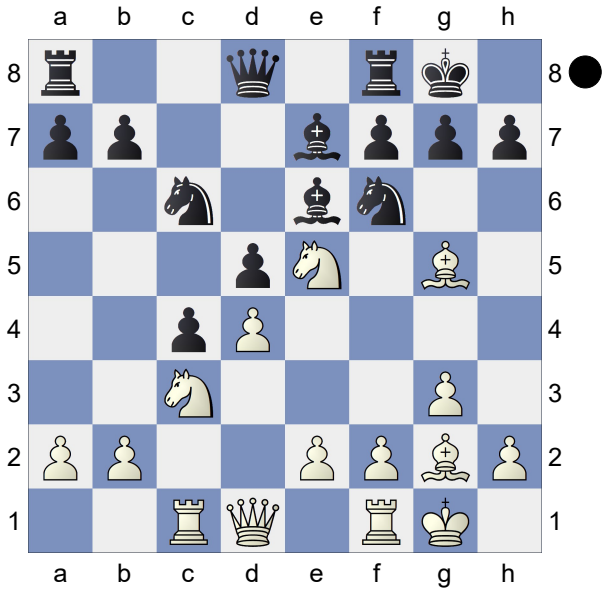
Tam could have been in clear 2nd with a shot at winning the section clear, since

he would have been paired with Zhao in the last round, when a win for Tam would take it alone; but he was lucky to hold this game. It had a lot of typical features you get in bishop of opposite color endgames, veered between +- and = a few times before flattening out to a draw. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 Be6**

[9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 h6 11.Be3]

[9...c4 10.Ne5 *(10.e3!?)* 10...Be6]

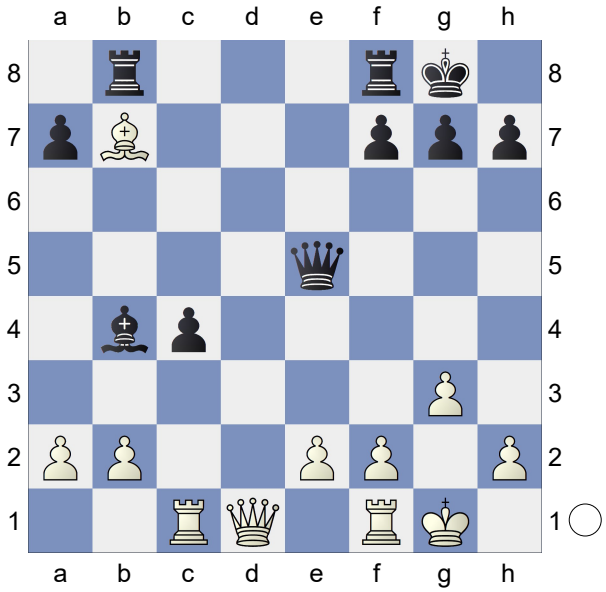
10.Rc1 c4 11.Ne5



Bb4N

[Relevant: 11...h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.f4 Bxe5 14.fxe5 b5 15.e3 b4 16.Nb5 Qg5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Nd6 Rad8 19.Qh5 f6 20.Nxc4 Bf7 21.exf6 Qe6 22.Bh3 Qe8 23.fxg7 Kxg7 24.Qg4+ Kh7 25.Qf5+ Kg7 26.Ne5 Nxe5 27.dxe5 Qe7 28.Qf6+ Qxf6 29.exf6+ Kg6 30.Bf1 h5 31.Bd3+ Kh6 32.Rc7 a5 33.h4 Rd6 34.Re7 Bg6 35.Bxg6 Kxg6 36.f7 Rc6 37.Rd7 Rc1+ 38.Kg2 Rc2+ 39.Rf2 Rc5 40.Kh3 a4 41.Kg2 Cori,J (2651)-Van Foreest,J (2690) Chess.com INT 2022 1-0 (61)]

12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Bxd5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Qxe5 16.Bxb7 Rab8



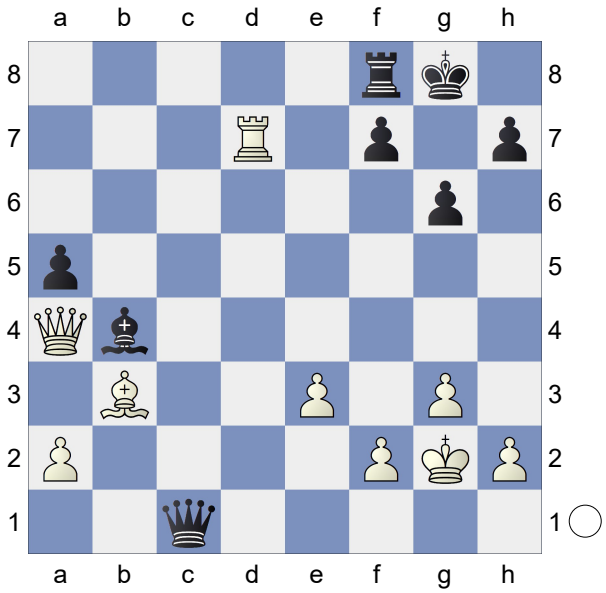
17.Ba6?

[17.Bd5!+-]

17...Qxb2?!

[17...Rfd8!=]

18.Bxc4 a5 19.Qc2 Qe5 20.e3 Rfd8 21.Qa4 g6 22.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Qc3 24.Bb3 Qc5 25.Rd5 Qc1+ 26.Kg2 Rc8 27.Rd7 Rf8

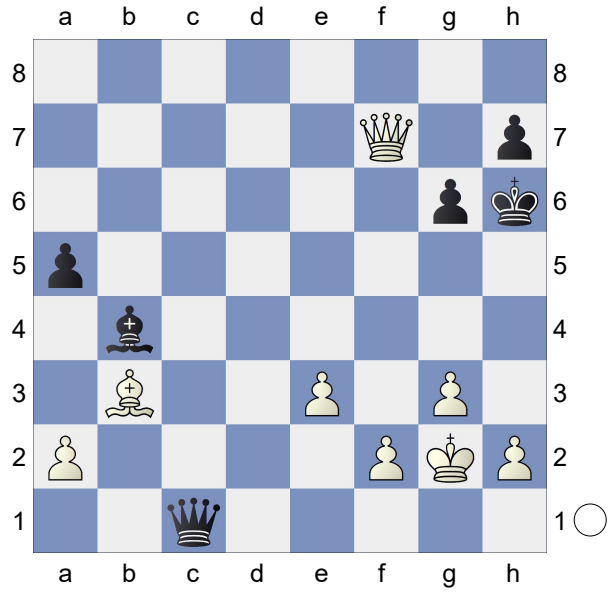


28.Rxf7! Rxf7 29.Qe8+ Kg7 30.Qxf7++- Kh6

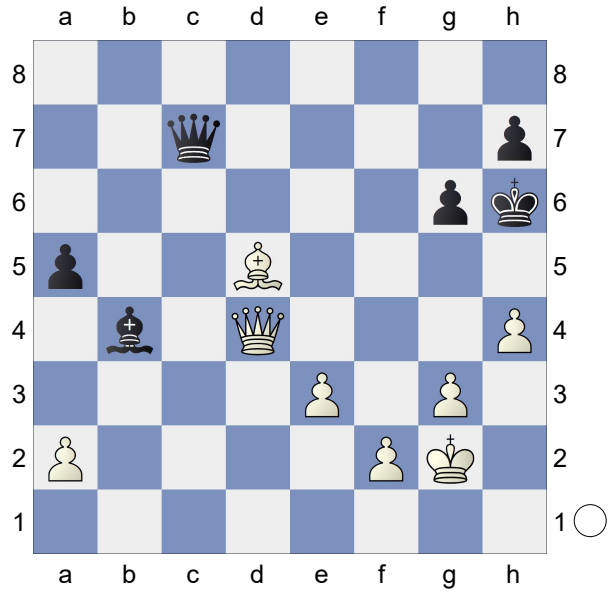
(Diagram)

31.Qf4+

[31.h4]



31...Kg7 32.Qd4+ Kh6 33.h4 Qc6+ 34.Bd5 Qc7

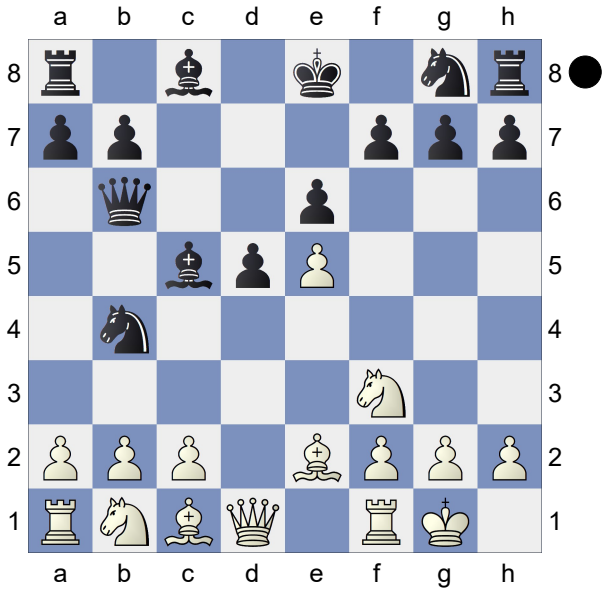


35.Qf4+ Qxf4 36.gxf4 Kg7 37.e4
[37.h5]
37...Kf6 38.Kf3 Bc5 39.Ke2?±
[39.h5+-]
[39.e5+]
39...h6 40.f3?=
[40.Kf3±]
[40.Bg8±]
40...a4?
[40...Bb6=]
[40...Ba7=]
41.e5+?= Everything else wins.
[41.Bc6+- a3 42.Bd7]
41...Kf5= 42.Be4+ Kxf4 43.Bxg6 Kxe5 44.h5 Kf4 45.Be8 a3 46.Bd7 Bd6 47.Bg4 Bc5 48.Kd3 Be7 49.Kd4 Bf6+ 50.Kd5 Be7 51.Ke6 Bg5 52.Kf7 Ke5 53.Kg6 Kf4
½-½

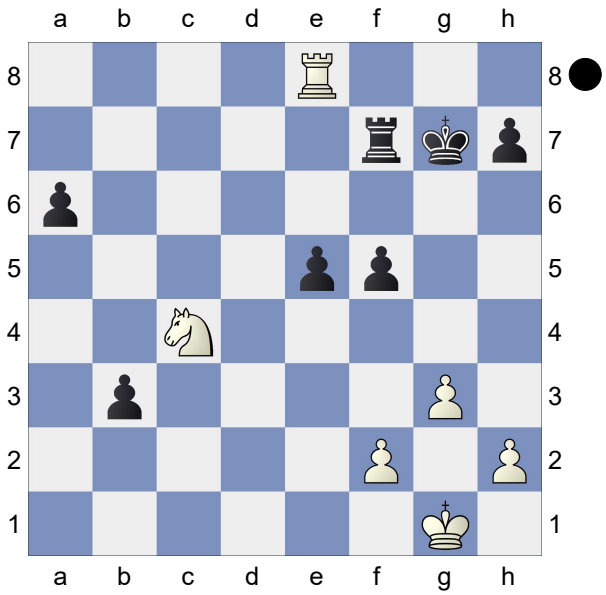
C02
□ **Tobias,Mason** **1227**
■ **Barreyro,Romeo Belmes** **1567**
2026 Fall TNM: u1600 (6.6) 06.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

In the Under-1600 Section, Romeo Barreyro is *also* a point ahead of the field with six wins! But, even here he still has to work, as in clear second with five points (a loss in Round 1) is unrated Julian Ossa, so *that* pairing is a fait accompli -- and if Ossa wins it's a tie for 1st-2nd. This game saw Mason Tobias essay an old-timey version of the Advanced French, winning a piece when Romeo got a little too tricky on the queenside; Black got a couple pawns, but Mason was *close* to converting. Finally though, he free-fell twice, costing him a half point each time. Still, he's up (according to SwissSys's approximation): 117 rating points!! (Barreyro is +54) **1.e4** 2 **e6** 14 **2.d4** 53 **d5** 9 **3.e5** 4 **c5** 1:29 **4.Nf3** 1:18 **Nc6** 21 **5.Bd3** 11 **Qb6** 36 **6.dxc5** 14
[6.0-0 cxd4 7.Nbd2 Nge7 8.Nb3 Ng6 9.Re1 Be7 10.Nbxd4 0-0 11.c3 Bd7 12.h4 h6 13.h5 Nh4 14.Nxh4 Bxh4 15.Qg4 Bg5 16.Bxg5 hxg5 17.Qxg5 f6 18.Qg6 f5 19.h6 Rf7 20.h7+ Kh8 21.Qxf7 1-0 (21) Bortnyk,O (2608)-Kuzubov,Y (2606) Chess.com INT 2024]
6...Bxc5 10 **7.0-0** 6 **Nb4** 40 **8.Be2** 1:45

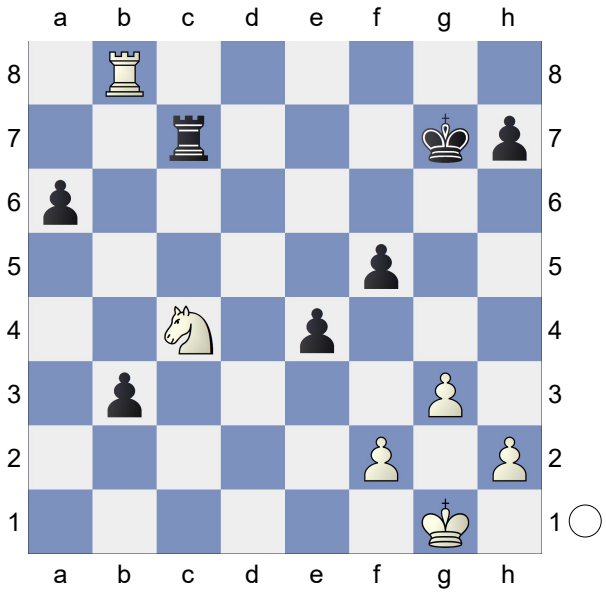
(Diagram)



Ne7N 14
[8...Bd7 9.a3 Nc6 10.b4 Bf8 11.c4 dxc4 12.Nbd2 Nd4 13.Bxc4 Rc8 14.Bb2 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Ne7 16.Rac1 Bc6 17.Qf4 Nf5 18.Bd3 g5 19.Qxg5 Bh6 20.Qf6 Bg7 21.Qg5 Bh6 22.Qf6 Bg7 23.Nc4 Rg8 24.Nxb6 Bxf6 25.Rxc6 Rxc6 26.Bb5 axb6 27.exf6 Kd8 28.Bxc6 bxc6 29.Rc1 Kd7 30.Rd1+ Kc8 31.Rc1 Kd7 32.Rd1+ Kc8 33.Kf1 Rd8 34.Rxd8+ Kxd8 35.Ke2 Kd7 36.Be5 b5 37.Kd3 Nh4 38.Bg3 Antonijevic,Z (2070)-Radovic,G (1975) Belgrade 2014 1-0]
9.a3 4:43 **Qa5** 2:39 **10.c3** 1:32 **Nbc6** 6:01 **11.b4** 13 **Nxb4** 3:59 **12.cxb4** 1:00 **Bxb4** 24 **13.Bd2** 15 **Bxd2** 11 **14.Qxd2** 13 **Qb6** 1:40 **15.Nc3** 2:31 **0-0** 16 **16.Rab1** 3:18 **Qd8** 2:14 **17.Nb5** 3:36 **Nf5** 4:44 **18.Nbd4** 46 **Ne7** 57 **19.Rfc1** 2:20 **a6** 55 **20.Qc3** 5:07 **Ng6** 2:42 **21.Qc7** 1:42 **Qe8** 49 **22.g3** 9:39 **f6** 34 **23.exf6** 1:55 **gxf6** 35 **24.Qd6** 56 **Rf7** 9:40 **25.Rc7** 11:24 **b5** 7:40 **26.Rbc1** 2:16 **Bd7** 3:14 **27.Rb7** 6:44 **e5** 3:12 **28.Nb3** 50 **Rd8** 5:34 **29.Rcc7** 43 **Bc8** 3:26 **30.Rxc8** 1:40 **Rxc8** 1:03 **31.Qxd5** 55 **Ne7** 4:38 **32.Qe4** 4:10 **Qc6!=** 1:57 **33.Qxc6** 51
[33.Bd3!?]
33...Rxc6 49 **34.Nfd2** 2:42 **f5** 45 **35.a4** 24 **bxa4** 10 **36.Bc4!** 19 **axb3** 32 **37.Rxe7** 6
[37.Bxb3!?]
37...Rxc4 29 **38.Re8+** 51 **Kg7** 2:17 **39.Nxc4** 8

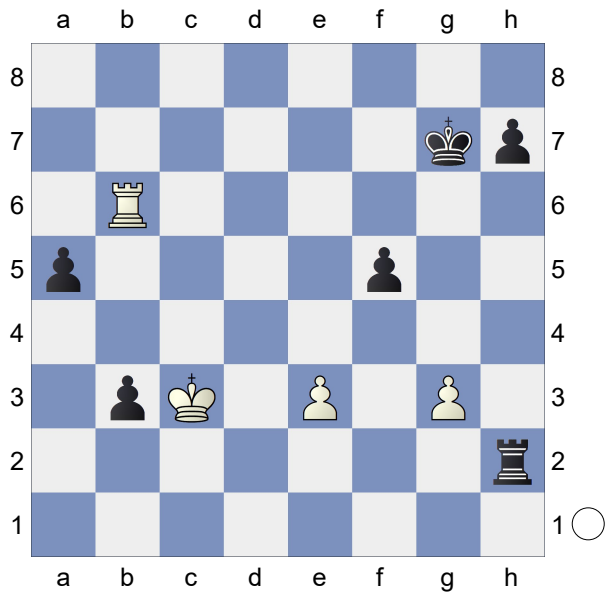


e4?? 44
[39...Rc7=]
40.Rb8 26 **Rc7** 22



41.Nb2? 47
[41.Ne3! f4 42.gxf4 Rc3 43.Nf5+ Kf6 44.Ng3+-]
41...Rc3 28 **42.Rb6** 56 **a5** 19 **43.Kf1** 58 **e3** 36 **44.fxe3** 1:45 **Rc1+** 8 **45.Ke2** 23

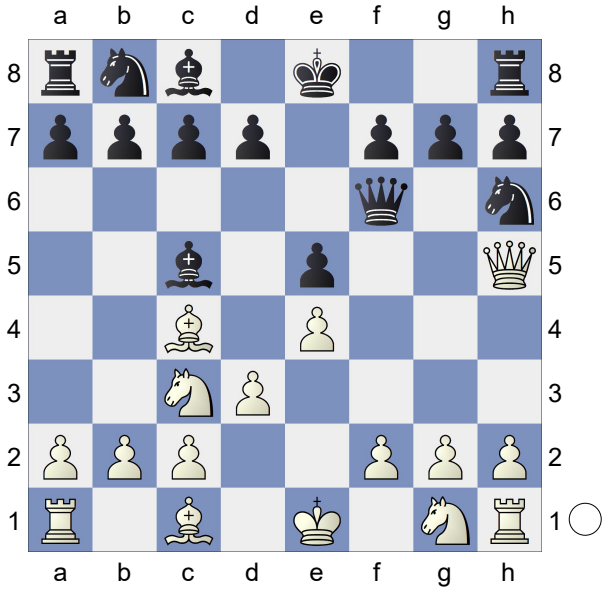
Rc2+ 46.Kd3 26 **Rxb2** 4 **47.Kc3** 28 **Rxh2** 46



48.Kxb3?? 49
[48.Rxb3 Ra2 49.Rb5=]
48...Rh3 12 **49.Rb7+** 23 **Kg6** 13 **50.Rb8** 36 **Kf6** 38 **51.Rg8** 1:37 **Ke5** 2:17 **52.Re8+** 24 **Kd5** 29 **53.Rf8** 1:11 **Ke4** 21 **54.Ka4** 47 **Rxg3** 26 **55.Re8+** 29 **Kf3** 28 **56.Kxa5** 14 **h5** 27 **57.Re5** 28 **Kg4** 43 **58.e4** 18 **fxe4** 52 **59.Rxe4+** 7 **Kf5** 5 **60.Re8** 23 **h4** 29 **61.Rb8** 24 **h3** 23 **62.Rb5+** 14 **Kg4** 15 **63.Rb4+** 9 **Kf3** 20 **64.Rb3+** 19 **Kg2** 4 **65.Rb2+** 8 **Kh1** 1:38
0-1

C20
□ **Martin,Bryan D** **1233**
■ **Eaves,Isaac** **0**
2026 Fall TNM: u1600 (5.28) 29.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

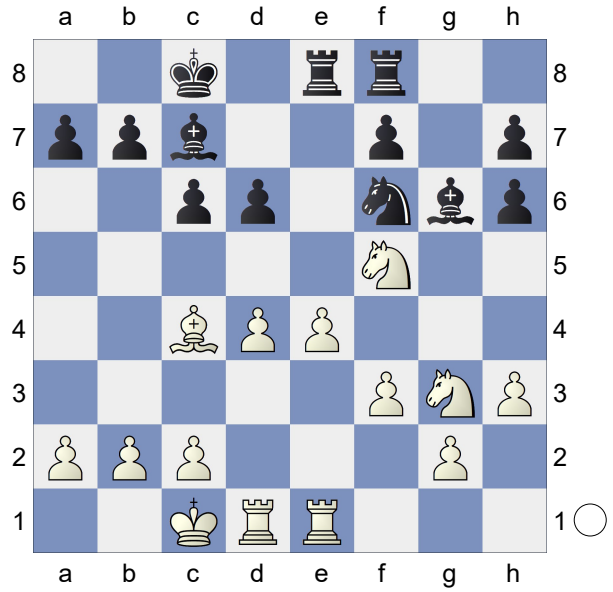
Here's Bryan Martin in the middle of his late-tournament surge to clear 3rd place (with one round left), playing what seems to be his favorite opening. I don't think anyone fell for Scholar's Mate this tournament! He'll be another hundred points better when he gives it up. **1.e4 e5 2.Qh5 Bd6 3.Bc4 Nh6 4.d3 Qf6N**
[4...Qe7 5.Bg5 Qf8 6.Nf3 Be7 7.0-0 Bxg5 8.Nxg5 g6 9.Qf3 d5 10.Bxd5 c6 0-1 (63) Gyacsok,R (750)-Nehrukumar,S (984) Willingen 2023]
5.Nc3 Bc5?
[5...Qg6± is more resistant. 6.Qf3 c6]



6.Nf3 Active counter play! **6...c6** Prevents Nd5. **7.Bxh6 gxh6 8.Qxe5+** White is winning.
[8.Bxf7+ Ke7 9.0-0-0 *(9.Nxe5 Qxf2+ 10.Kd1 d6∓; 9.Qxe5+ Qxe5 10.Nxe5 d6∓)* 9...d6±]
8...Qxe5 9.Nxe5 Rf8 Black is weak on the light squares **10.Ne2 d6 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.d4 Bb6 13.0-0-0 Nd7 14.h3 Bh5 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Rhe1 0-0-0 17.Nh4 Rde8 18.Nhf5 Bc7 19.f3**
[⌓19.Bd3]
19...Nf6?
[19...d5]

(Diagram)

20.Bb3 Nh5
[⌓20...a6 21.Ng7 *(21.Nxh6? Ng8+-)* 21...Rd8]



21.Nxh5+- Bxh5 22.Ng7 Rd8 23.Nxh5 d5 24.e5 Rg8 25.g4 Rg6 26.c3 Re6 27.Bc2 Kb8 28.Nf6 c5 29.f4 cxd4 30.Rxd4 Ra6 31.a3 Ra5 32.Red1 Bb6 33.Rxd5 Raxd5 34.Rxd5 Be3+ 35.Kd1 Kc7 36.Rxd8 Kxd8 37.Nd5 Bf2 38.Ke2 Bc5 39.b4 Bf8 40.Ke3 Kd7 41.Ba4+ Ke6 42.Ke4
White mates. **42...f5+ 43.gxf5+ Kf7 44.f6 a6 45.f5 b5 46.Bb3 Ke8 47.Nc7+ Kd7 48.Nxa6 Kd8**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.71
1-0

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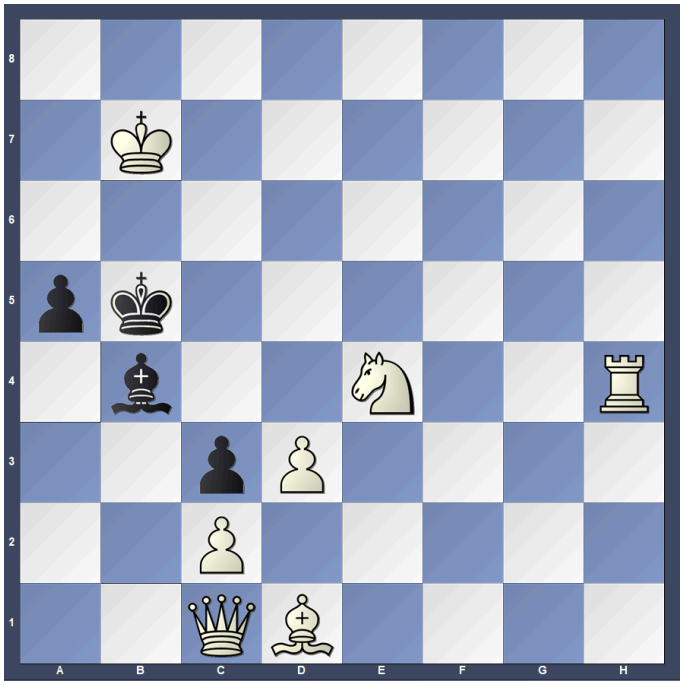
Tony's Teasers

White to Play and Mate in 2

Luis C. Arango, Florida

From Benko's Bafflers May 1982





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Solution

1. Qb2, cxb2 2. c4#

If 1...a4 then 2.Rh5# as the bishop is now pinned!

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