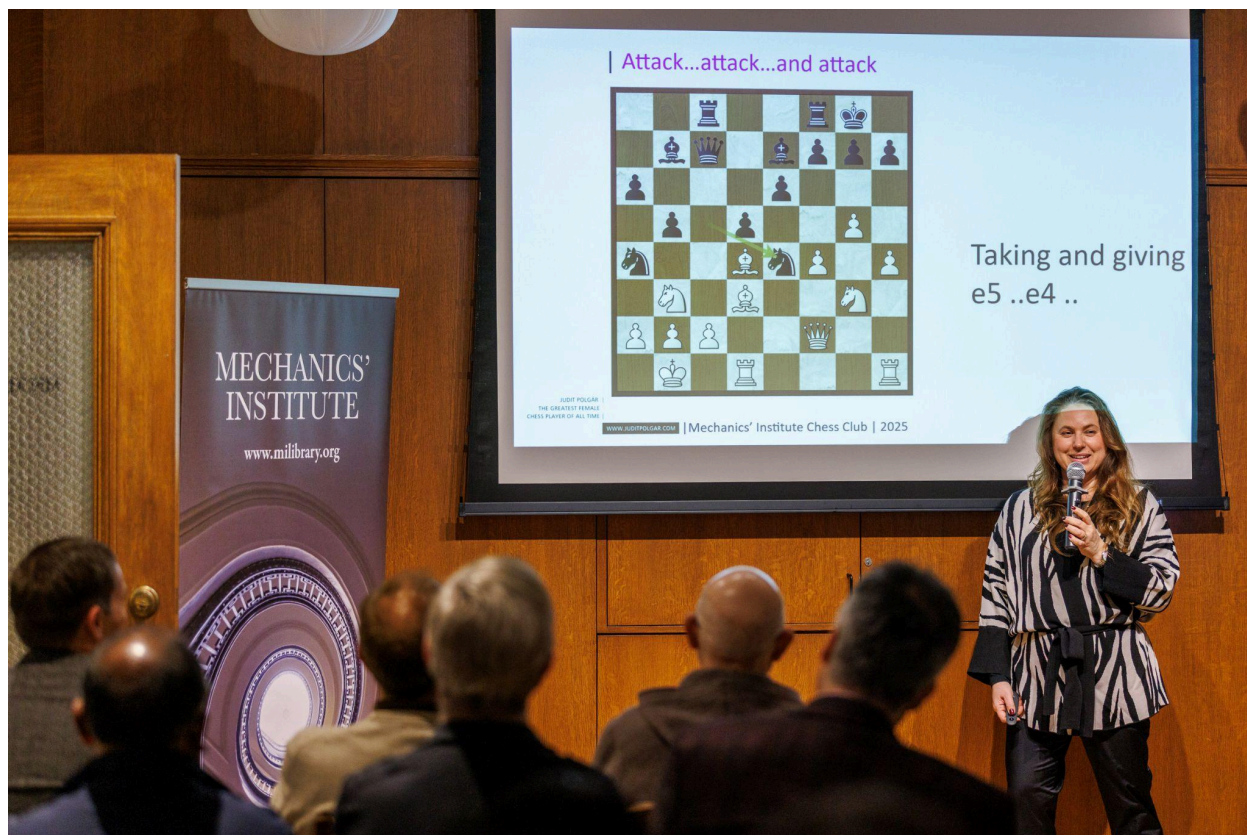


Chess Room Newsletter



Chess Legend GM Judit Polgar visits Mechanics'
Issue #1065 | November 8th, 2025 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

Our **Fall Tuesday Night Marathon** ended on October 14th and was, as it has been since 1972, a great tournament. The top section was won outright with a round to spare by **NM Theodore James Coyne** (2239) so he took off week 7 and won with six points. Behind him in second place was newsletter contributor and game annotator **IM Elliott Winslow** (2200) and in third place and splitting the u2200 prize we had a 2-way tie between **Stephen Parsons** (1861) and **CM Pranav Senthilkumar** (2227).

In the 1600-1999 section, we had a split with the dangerous French blitz player **Lucas Lamouroux** (1943) and **Carl Anthony Pickering** (1652) tying for first with 5.5 points each. Longtime Mechanics' player **William Gray** (1921) took a clear third with 5 points.

In the under1600 section we had the most decisive winner with **Eric Liu** (1288) taking 6.5 points over 7 rounds. Second place was tied between **Zachary Wickliffe** (1449) and **Calvin Django Dees** (1296) with five points each.

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

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and ANTD Scott Mason.

Our **October Monthly Scholastic Swiss** was another great tournament and we hope to see you at the next one. In the over 600 section, first through fifth went to: **Anushka Patil** (1187), **Juliette Jones** (1011), **Sasha Chugh** (840), **Andre Wang** (693), and **Wen Larson** (632). I want to highlight two things - first that Anushka won the tournament with a perfect score. Second, that places first through third all went to girls! We really try to promote women in chess at



Mechanics' and we are proud of Anushka, Juliette, and Sasha!

In the under600 section, **Dylan Skurow** (534) took first with 4 out of 4 points. Dylan was followed by **Ean Park** (516), **Rafael Petlin-Teisch** (unr.), **Daniel Kveseladze** (unr.), and **Taran Sheth** (unr.). A big thank you to all of our scholastic players and their families and tune in next month for an update on the school standings!

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

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

After our Monthly Scholastic Swiss we went to the other end of the spectrum with our **3rd Chernev Memorial Tournament** - an 18 and up event. Irving Chernev was a great chess writer and a member of our chess club. His book *Logical Chess Move by Move* is still one of the most circulating nonfiction books in our library and I suspect will be for years to come. In the top section, **Christopher Atkeson** (2060) and **Michael Cafiero** (1806) split first place with three points each. Third place was also split between Mechanics' Institute Chess Coach **Raghu Rajaram** (1932) and **Lucas Lesniewski** (1952).

In the under1600 section **Shivam Patel** (1170) won the tournament with a perfect score - nice work! Second and third place were split three ways between **Matthew Thayer** (1444), **Alexander Menchtchikov** (1338), and **Billy Barnds** (unr.).

Full results for the Chernev Memorial can be found [here](#).

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

For coverage of our Fast Fall Blitz - check out Richard Hack's article below!

On the 25th we had our 3rd Benson Memorial Tournament and it was a relatively small one by Mechanics' standards - but sometimes it's nice to run a more intimate and low-key event! In the 2000+ section **Sivavishnu Sirnavasan** (2015) won the tournament outright with a perfect score - my guess is we will not need to wait too long for him to cross the finish line to 2200. Sivavishnu was followed by **Tapas Aarav Natraj** (1895) in second place

with three points and third was shared between **Evan Shi** (1865) and **Naga Abhiram Ponnaluri** (1748). In the middle section, **Preron Chakrabarty** (1631) took home first place with 3.5 points. **Toma Yuen** (1742) and **Austin Bo Chen** (1643) were right on his heels with 3 points each and split the second and third prizes. In the under section, we had a three way tie for first with **Vikram Scherfke** (1423), **Ian Widjaja** (1412), and **Vasisht Macharla** (1352) each scoring 3.5 points - congrats to all three players!.

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

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

Our next tournament day was our second time doing a day of fast chess - with rapid in the morning and blitz in the afternoon. These have become a lot of fun and we hope you will join us and that these tournaments continue to grow! In the top section of our **October Mechanics' Weekend Rapid**, Mechanics' Institute Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2355) took first place with 4.5 points out of 5. He was followed by a three way split between **Benito Kestelman** (1839), **Beckett Spence** (1812), and **Mikhail Giorgiev** (1808) with 3.5 points each. In the under section, we had a three way tie for first with **Toma Yuen** (1713), **Max Katkin Meachem** (1711), and **Phil Ploquin** (1681) all taking home the first place prize. Later that afternoon, in the **October Weekend Blitz** our coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2355) was having a great day and scored six points for his second first place victory of the day. Behind him was a three way tie for second with **Aryan Balyan** (2251), **WFM Jenny Qi** (2092), and **Mikhail Grigorev** (1808) scoring five points each. In the under section, **Toma Yuen** (1742) and **John Boyer** (1636) tied for first place with 5.5 points just barely eking past **Hoa Long Tam** (1698) and **Phil Ploquin** (1681) who had 5 points each.

Full results for the rapid can be found [here](#) and for the blitz [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Abel Talamantez.

In Remembrance of Daniel Naroditsky (1995-2025)

By Alex Robins

If there's one thing that's struck me as remarkable it is just how many people have come by the chess club to process the loss of Daniel - as a friend, as a child they knew, or as someone they learned from online. Is there any other chess player whose passing would impact so many people? I honestly doubt it. In the past week, we've hosted visitors from across the world, top GMs who sparred with Daniel, fans who never met him, and club members who remember a brilliant and gentle young boy at the club. Guests have written poems, brought flowers, and a makeshift shrine has formed in a corner of the club. The outpouring of affection for Daniel is truly a testament to how he touched people. Everyone is trying to process the loss and the shock of Daniel's passing in their own way, but I think it's important that many of us are doing this together here at the place where Daniel spent so much time.

I never had the chance to meet Daniel. I was out of town during the last tournament he played at the club here and I regret that I didn't get the chance to meet him in person. But, in some ways that feels fitting, as many of us knew Daniel, even if we never met him. I've watched a lot of chess commentators and streamers but there was something special about Daniel. He had a way of leaping off the screen and making you laugh like an old friend with his jokes and impressions. People, myself included, really felt like they knew him - even if we never met him in person. We've all heard these types of connections get criticized as "parasocial" but I like to think that Daniel transcended that and really did connect with people through the screen. The outpouring of grief over his untimely passing from fans around the globe speaks to this.

While it's too soon to say what steps we will take to commemorate and preserve Daniel's legacy here, I know that his memory will live on in our community.

Below is a poem written by a community member on Daniel's passing. It is just one of the many ways our community members are reckoning with our collective loss.

Silence

Your love for the game brought healing to a wounded world
Now there is pain
Your enthusiasm filled the room with life
Now there is emptiness
Your passion for learning led us to new adventures
Now our progress is stalled
Your words brought clarity to a confusing world
Now there is silence
Your desire to understand brought light
Now there is darkness
Your humor brought laughter into a world of heaviness
Now there is silence
Your kindness and gentleness brought hope for a better tomorrow
Now there is emptiness

We sit in an empty room,
Dark, silent,
Waiting, waiting,

Yet, through the silence, there is a quiet whisper,
Nearly inaudible,
"Love never fails"

- Renate Irene

Judit Polgar Visits Mechanics' Institute

By Christian Brickhouse and Richard Hack

"I know nothing about chess and even I know Judit Polgar"
– unnamed MI staff member

Top 10 in the world. World Championship contender. Achieved Grandmaster faster than Fischer. The first woman to achieve a FIDE rating above 2700. An unmatched 26 year reign as the number 1 female player, a title she held even after her retirement. There are many pretenders to the title of greatest of all time, but there is only one Judit Polgar.

To a room packed wall-to-wall—I could only stand—Judit Polgar spoke of her journey to the top. The daughter of teachers, she first learned chess from her mother. Later, her father began to coach her more. Laszlo Polgar, her father and author of the largest chess book, had a belief that geniuses are made, not born. Any child could make exceptional achievements if trained in a specialist subject from an early age. If he's right, then the gender gap in chess is not due to some inherent difference between women and men, but a difference in the opportunities and training afforded to boys over girls.

Judit and her sisters, GM Szusza Polgar and IM Sofia Polgar, were homeschooled. This was a sticking point for the Hungarian authorities. She also refused to play in women-only tournaments, a sticking point for the Hungarian Chess Federation which prohibited mixed-gender sections. In 1988 she and her sisters, alongside Ildiko Madl, won gold for Hungary in the 28th Olympiad in the women's section; FIDE refused to let them play against men in team competitions.

In 1991 she became a grandmaster. The youngest ever at the time, she broke Fischer's record by a month. It was no small match either. Her final GM norm came at home in the Hungarian Championship against the best players in her country. She bested the field, winning first with 6 of 9 points.

She showed belittling comments by Kasparov on account of her gender, and then her first game against him where he cheated. Kasparov realized he made a blunder after removing his hand from the piece, but then quickly made a different move. The game continued and Judit went on to lose the game. Then, Linares 2001. An elite tournament of the 6 best in the world. Judit faced Kasparov twice. She showed both games. He went for a draw both times.

Uncontroversially the greatest woman to ever play the game, Judit proved a still controversial thesis: genius knows no gender. A champion for women and girls in the sport, she was asked about her thoughts on the topic throughout the Q&A. She pointed out that while girls often choose separate sections to avoid dealing with misbehavior from groups of boys, a larger problem is parents and coaches pushing girls out of more competitive open sections. Asked if she had a message to girls in the sport: "It's a game for everyone. Don't take the easy way."





MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

CULTURE IN COMMUNITY

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Fast Fall Blitz Tournament at M.I. Chess Club on Tuesday, October 21, 2025

By Richard Hack

When I came in, some people asked if I was going to play, but I said I was just there to watch. The M.I. Fast Fall Blitz Tournament was a festive occasion with seven rounds of 3-minute games with 2-second increment and had come a week after we completed the seven rounds of the Fall Tuesday Night Marathon with its 90/30 time control. The Fall Blitz had 44 entries, 22 in each of the two sections, 1800+ and Under 1800.

Our special guest was GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez, a youthful 38-year-old U.S. player rated 2599, the highest rating in the upper section. A grandmaster since 2008, he won the World Open in 2023, the Cleveland Open in 2018, the Philadelphia Open in 2013, the PanAmerican Chess Championship in 2009, the Catalan Circuit in 2008, and was a member of the Cuban Olympiad Team in his country of origin, where he won various national championships. He is known for beautiful victories against players such as Wesley So, Arkadij Naiditsch, and Vasif Durarbayli.

He also played in the FIDE World Rapid in New York in 2024, a large 13-round tournament of 180 players from many parts of the world, 147 of them rated over 2400 and 99 rated 2500 or more, with just 10 under 2200. That event was won by dark horse 18-year-old Volodar Murzin of Russia, who won 7 and drew 6, including a second-round victory as White over Fabiano Caruana, who played a Sveshnikov Sicilian and succumbed to White's kingside pawn storm in a game with mating chances for both sides. At 2588 Murzin had only the 59th highest rating in the tourney. Second and third place were won by two other Russian players, Alexander Grischuk and Ian Nepomniatchi.

GM Corrales had to take a bye in the final round of the Mechanics' Institute Fall Blitz when he was tied at the top with 5.5 out of 6 with local NM Daniel Cremisi, who had the second-highest rating (2347) and finished clear first after winning his last-round game against the resourceful Christopher

Powers (1769), one of two 1700 players in the upper section, who scored 4 out of 7 and tied for 7th-9th. Four other masters and six experts played in the top section, which was rounded out by three 1900 players, four over 1800, and one at 1684. I'm sorry I wasn't able to follow most of the games of Corrales or many others, but there are quite a few DGT records and a lot of memory in players' heads to be sure.

The Under 1800 section was won by the previously unrated Michael Cafiero, who won 6 and lost 1, with four other players knotted at 5, including my esteemed opponent Hoa Long Tam, Vikram Scherfke, Jack March Soloway, and Aaron Ingber. Six others scored 4-3 to place 6th-10th, including the three 1700 players.

At 6:30 I saw a crowd in the hall in front of the posted pairings for Round 1. Many engaged in conversation, while a lesser number focused in silence. When I saw the pairing of Cailen Jeremiah Melville with CM Pranav Senthikuma, I also remembered how this year's marathon reading of Moby-Dick at the Maritime Museum had been scheduled for Oct. 18 but was cancelled at the last minute due to the fed government shut-down. It's one of the fine cultural events of the year, with people signing up to read one chapter each on the second floor of the boat-shaped museum with its long windows giving on to the waters of the Bay.

Before play began, our excellent TD Scott Mason explained some differences between U.S. Chess and FIDE rules for blitz. First, touch move, not clock move. But if your move is illegal, you can change it if you haven't pressed the clock. Nor can an upside-down rook serve as a queen. Many extra queens were provided next to boards, but if you had to go get one, you could pause the timer.

There were two quick announcements by Chess Director Alex Robins about an appearance the next day by IM Sagar Shah, the online face of ChessBase India, a journal with a million subscribers and one that's well liked by the club, plus another blitz tournament coming up Sunday, Oct. 26 after an earlier rapid.

Soon we heard the banging of yellow and black hard plastic pieces on heavy wooden chess tables and the smacking of clock levers. Minutes later the sounds slowed as positions got more advanced and moves more weighty.

With 8 seconds to go in one contest, a Black queen angled down from g6 to c1, giving a fatal check, bolstered by its bishop on d6 moving to b4 to aim at e1.

After Round 1 there was lively talk in the hallway and the skittles room where half a dozen boards were active. I looked at a framed wall photo of 43 players in the California Open in Santa Cruz in 1951. There were two women. Most of the men wore jackets and some ties. In another photo nearby Sam Shankland holds overhead the trophy for the Olympiad win in 2016. Five of the six U.S. players wear Russian hats, while third from the right is John Donaldson, the perennial captain of the team, former director of the MI club and currently a trustee, and as ever a prolific, trenchant, and pungent writer and lecturer steeped in chess lore.

Back in the main room one player told another that his rating had once gone up to 2190. "It never dropped while I was drinking," he said, "but after I quit, it did!" And he's not going back to all that mess.

In Round 2 I watched the large TV screen showing progress on the 8 DGT boards behind me. I see a master win carefully with 6 pawns to 4. In another game Jeff Sinick beat his opponent in a pawn race, and his new queen came sliding from a8 to h1 just in time to block Black's pawn at h2. His king came over to shoulder the Black king away, win the pawn, and push that king back to its side of the board, and halfway there White resigned.

At the break, much discussion along a big double line in the playing room. Laughs over a funny move by a previous visitor. One player told a Bay Area neighbor about an outdoor group that meets Sunday in Menlo Park, "kind of the same group" that meets at another locale every other Wednesday. "If it's raining we go to a bar two blocks away."

Round 3 rattled with pieces and clocks in blitz time. . . .

Daniel Cremisi dodged a bullet against another player in the top five, Dipro Chakraborty. As Black, Cremisi lost his g and h pawns, but after a while got one of White's. He jockeyed, and White advanced a pawn in the expanded center, with the Black rook blocking on the back rank. More maneuvers, and finally White interposed his bishop on the 8th rank to shield a queening square. Three Black pawns (c to e) were passed and advanced, but a bit stymied. It all came down to Black rook vs. White queen. 7 seconds left, then 8, 10, 11, playing on the increment until White overstepped the time limit.

More lively discussion between rounds, even after they sat waiting for Round 4 to start. "Don't give her help before the game," said Alex good-naturedly to someone showing a maneuver to his opponent, Thu Anh Le. Late in the middle game a defensive pawn push enabled her to force a win with queen and bishop.

Certain positions on the screen showed two pawns against a rook; a knight and 2 connected pawns versus king; queen and rook and 5 pawns against queen plus 3 pawns; bishop and knight and 7 pawns vs. knight and bishop and 6 pawns.

In Round 4 the 2nd-seeded NM Cremisi drew with GM Corrales. When questioned about it later, Daniel said, "This game will not appear in a lecture." Lately he gives many of the talks that precede rounds in the Tuesday Night Marathon. I asked him about the almost final position that was frozen on the light board at the front end of the playing room, and he confirmed that yes, he had moved his king back to protect his a-pawn, though it was almost too obvious to bring up; and we can assume there was a little careful back and forth in the final 12 seconds between him and Corrales.

Both also won in Round 5. In Cremisi's game, both sides had two rooks, a bishop, and 5 pawns, but Black's were all isolated (one pair vertically), while White had 2 united on the queenside and 3 side-by-side on the kingside. After White captured the c6 pawn, he still had a protected passer at move 31. He played his bishop to c2 to cover his a4 pawn when Black's king threatened it, and soon angled his own king out to e5 to prevent the

dark-square bishop from coming back to cover the queening square h8, and that was all she wrote.

“I wouldn't say smooth,” he said to my description later in the hall, and briefly talked about his play, adding, “It doesn't always work,” and as I left, said thank you.

One player told another about how becoming a National Master could help provide a living. “She asked me, 'Are you an arbiter?' So I said, 'Do you need one?' And they paid me \$80 a day.”

Over on the right in the skittles room, I watched part of another battle between two inveterate rivals and collaborators from the Tuesday Night Marathons, Tony Lama and Albert Starr, who were not entered in tonight's fray. And looked at a wall plaque for the Bagby Masters Invitational from 1976-87, won 3 times each by Jay and Paul Whitehead and Paul Biyiasis.

Outside on Market across from the Palace Hotel, I stood in the cool air waiting for the 38 Geary bus to take me the last half-mile home to get my rest before the afternoon class at Alice Fong Yu Middle School on 12th Avenue in the Sunset.

San Quentin Skunkworks: A Call for Players

By Abel Talamantez, IA, LSI, FIDE 100 Best Educator

San Quentin Skunkworks Transformative Gaming initiative uses chess as an educational and rehabilitative tool to build 21st century skills, as well as promote social and emotional well being. The Pawns to Progress chess program has been preparing players for tournament play and we have already begun organizing USCF rated tournaments inside San Quentin.

Working in partnership with the Mechanics' Institute, we are looking for volunteers with a current USCF rating to be a part of our mission by coming into San Quentin to participate in USCF rated games. This will help players establish a more accurate standard rating, but more importantly, will help foster community and connection. Whether it be a 1-day tournament with several rounds or a once a week marathon type event, we are looking for people interested in helping us make a positive difference through chess. The Mechanics' Institute has previously partnered with San Quentin Skunkworks, click here to see an article on our past event: [San Quentin chess event unites prisoners, guards to transform lives | KTVU FOX 2](#)

Abel Talamantez is the Director of Chess and Community Impact for San Quentin Skunkworks, Lead Tournament Director at the Mechanics' Institute and Chess Program Director at Hamilton K-8 School in Novato, CA. He will be the facilitator and your guide on the inside. If you are interested in being a part of this team or have any additional questions, please reach out to Abel a.talamantez@sanquentinskunkworks.org or Alex Robins, Chess Room Director at the Mechanics' Institute chessroom@milibrary.org.

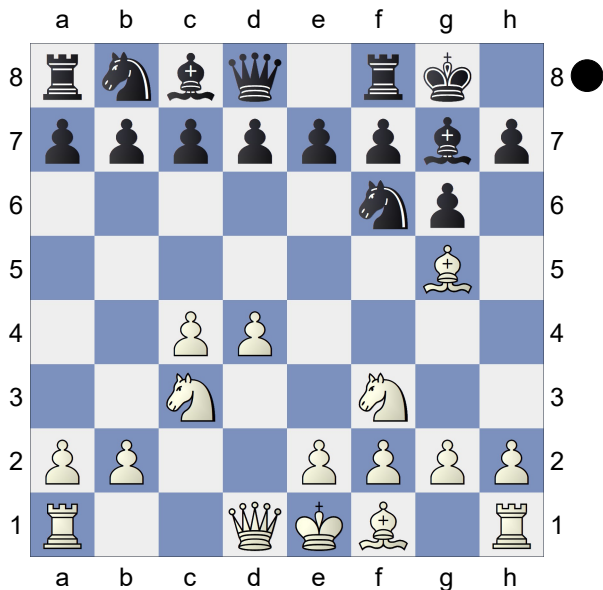
**Sam in Samarkand: King's Indian Games from the
FIDE Grand Swiss**
By GM Sam Shankland

Our GM in Residence will be analyzing his games from the FIDE Grand Swiss and teaching us about one of the newer weapons in his repertoire, the King's Indian Defense!

Hakobyan, Aram **E61**

Shankland, Samuel L **2625**
 FIDE Grand Swiss (8) **2670**
 12.09.2025
[samsh]

My second King's Indian encounter in Samarkand was my first ever loss while playing the King's Indian proper. I did not prepare as well as I did in some of my other games, and while I was definitely fine at some point, I was a bit too ambitious and ended up overpressing. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Bg5**

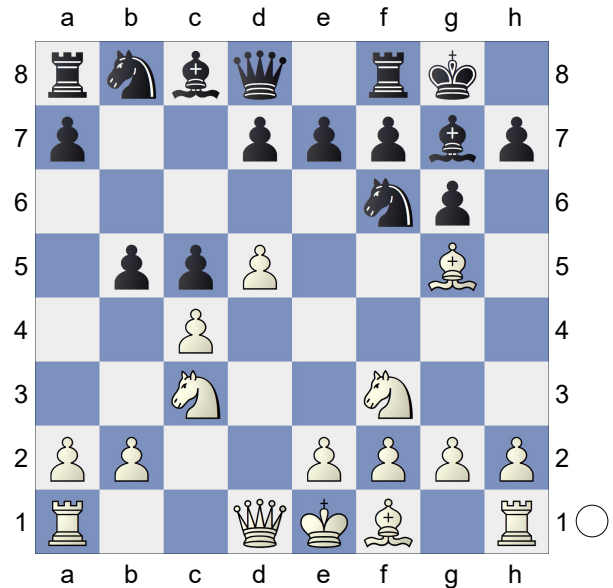


This line is not particularly intimidating, and Black should be fine pretty easily. But it is quite an annoying one to face in that you don't really get to imbalance the game the way you can in White's other tries. **5...c5!?**

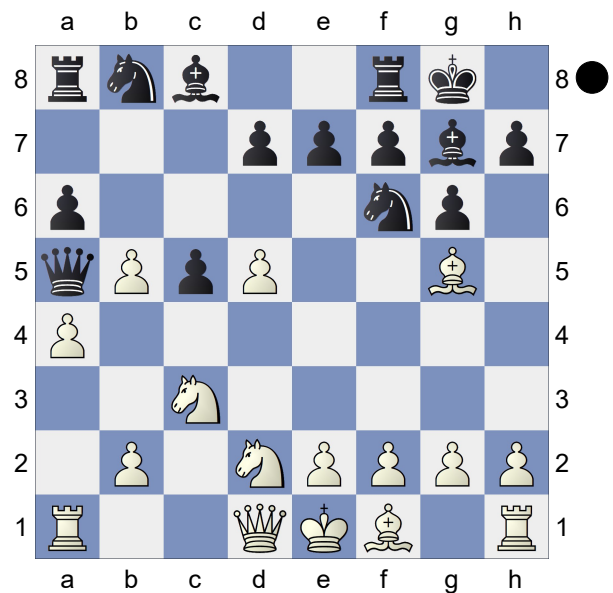
[5...d6 A solid option like this should be quite fine. 6.e3 Bf5 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Nbd7 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 c5= Black is fine, but it's not easy to make anything fun happen. I could easily imagine 15 moves going by here with neither side being able to make any meaningful change to the position. When I added the King's

Indian to my repertoire, I made up my mind that I did not mind being objectively worse if I could get a strategically and dynamically complex position that I could outplay my opponents in if I understood it better than they did. This d6 and Bf5 did not fit that bill too well, so I did something more aggressive.]

6.d5 b5!



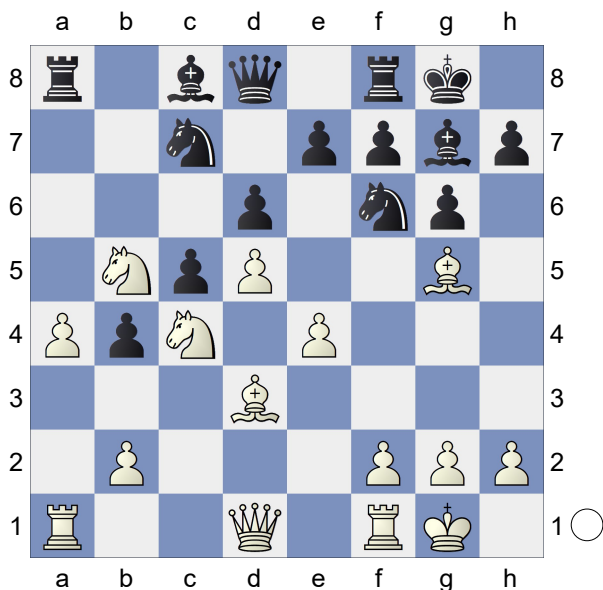
We see the point. Nxb5 walks straight into Ne4, and my hope was that I would get a decent Benko Gambit in case white took with the pawn on b5. **7.cxb5 a6 8.a4 Qa5 9.Nd2!**



I was not happy to see this move, which was a sign that my opponent was very well prepared. It's far from an obvious decision, but definitely the only way to fight for an edge. **9...axb5 10.e4!**

And we see the point. I cannot play bxa4, and White is ready for Bxb5 next. The knight on d2 means that Nxe4 is not a thing. So, I have to go for b5-b4, but this leaves me with a questionable structure.

10...b4 11.Nb5 d6 12.Bd3 Na6 13.0-0 Qd8 14.Nc4 Nc7



Up to here, I mostly knew what I was doing. I knew the machine gave White some edge, but I thought I could ignore it due to the dynamic nature of the position. This turns out to not be entirely correct. The more I looked at the board while playing without the machine running, the more I was thinking that White has an easy long term edge, and that I have no hope for meaningful counterplay. The a-pawn is a huge long term trump, and it is not easy to suggest anything proactive for me to do. **15.Re1**

[15.Nb6 The machine gives this move. I saw it, but missed an important point. Bg4 16.f3 Rb8 17.Na7! Without this one, I would not be in such bad shape. As is, I have a problem. Rxb6 18.a5!±

This is not easy for White to find. He accepts being a piece down for the moment, but now my rook is kicked away, and he is ready for Nc6 and fxg4. White is definitely better here.]

15...Ba6 16.Nxc7 Qxc7 17.Rc1?!]

I think this was a serious misunderstanding on White's part.

Allowing me to play b4-b3 will give me a good Benko gambit.

[17.b3! This should be preferred, and I really did not like my position.]

17...b3! Around here, I started playing very well, but I also got a bit too ambitious. My thought was Black should be almost better- this is too optimistic.

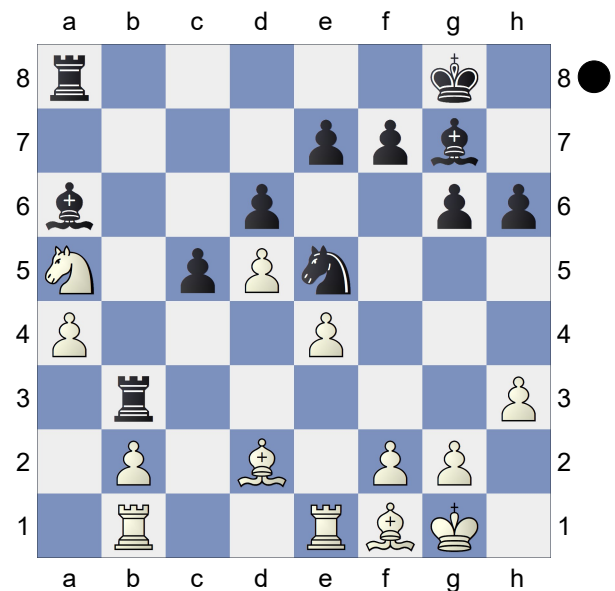
18.Qxb3 Rfb8 19.Qc2 Qb7 20.Rb1

Qb3! Of course I do not allow b2-b3, when White has easily consolidated his extra pawn. **21.Qxb3 Rxb3 22.Bf1 h6!**

Pushing the bishop away and making sure not to hang e7 before going for Ng4. **23.Bd2**

[23.Bxf6 Bxf6 The b2-pawn is toast, and Black can push for an edge.]

23...Ng4! 24.h3 Ne5 25.Na5

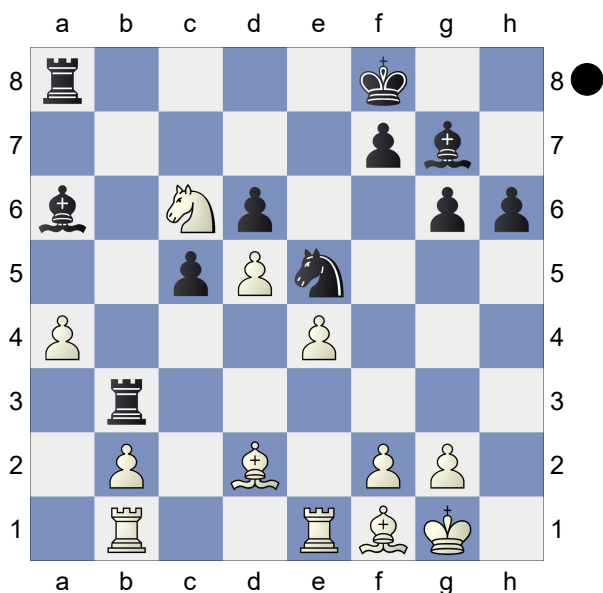


Rxh3! Well calculated. Around here I was feeling very optimistic, which is probably why I lost the game. The computer claims every move is equal.

26.Nc6

[26.gxh3? Nf3+ 27.Kg2 Nxd2
28.Bxa6 Rxa6 29.Rbd1 Rxa5
30.Rxd2 Rxa4? This position is quite miserable for White. I can play Rb4 next, I have no weaknesses, he will constantly be tethered to defending the b-pawn, and then I can slowly expand on the kingside with moves like Be5, g5, h5, Kg8-g7-g6, f5, etc.]
[26.f4 This was the only move I had worried about, and I calculated it quite well. Bxf1 27.fxe5 Rd3! 28.Rbd1 Be2! (28...Rxd2 The computer claims this is fine too, but I prefer the text.)
29.Rxe2 Rxa5= I was optimistic here, but the computer screams equal.]

26...Rb3 27.Nxe7+ Kf8 28.Nc6



Around here is when it was time for me to be an adult and make a draw. I saw so many variations that led to everything flying off the board, and I tried way too hard to prevent this from happening.
28...Bxf1 29.Nxe5 Bxg2?! This is not a mistake just yet, but it is the first step in the wrong direction. I should have accepted that my opponent played decently enough and steered the game towards equality.

[29...Bxe5 30.Kxf1 Rxa4 31.Bxh6+

Ke7 32.Ra1 This seemed like a dead draw to me. Rxa1 33.Rxa1 Rxb2 34.Ra7+ Ke8 35.Ra8+=]

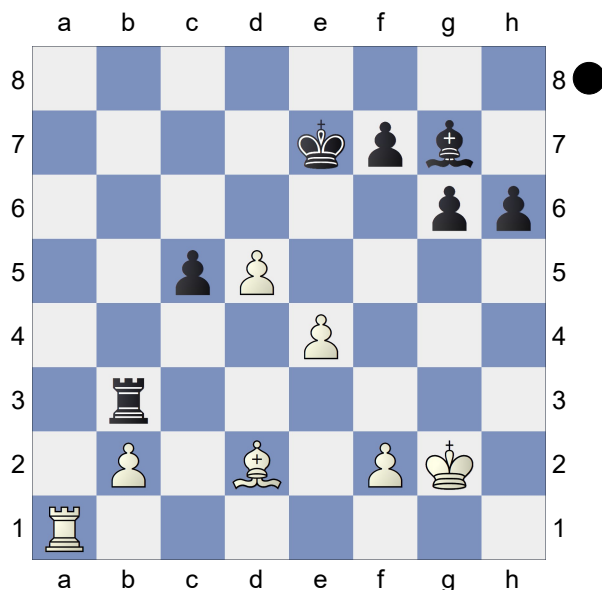
30.Nd7+! I had missed this move completely, desperadoing the knight on c5.

[30.Kxg2 Bxe5]

[30.Nxg6+ I was expecting this one. fxg6 31.Kxg2 Rxa4 32.Ra1 Rxa1 33.Rxa1 g5= I thought I could press a bit here with the bishop coming to e5 to keep everything solid, but once more, the computer laughed at me.]

[30.Nc4 Rxa4! 31.Nxd6 Bf3 This looked very dangerous for White to me, but the computer remains unfazed and calls it equal, as it has called everything else all game long.]

30...Ke7 31.Nxc5 dxc5 32.Kxg2 Rxa4 33.Ra1 Rxa1 34.Rxa1



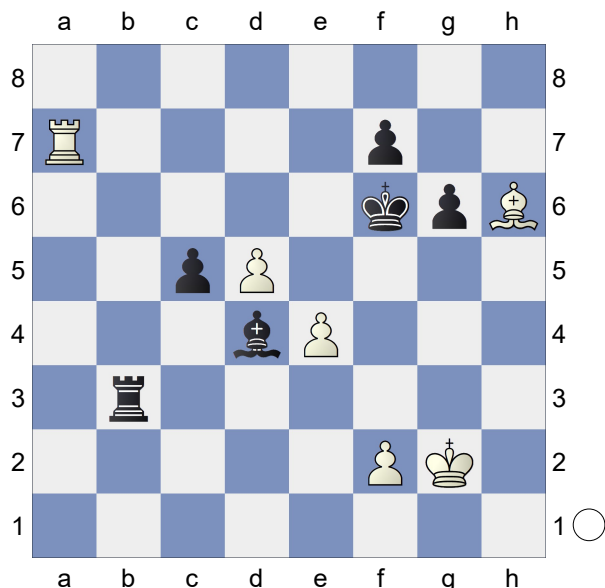
Now is when I really went off the deep end. **34...Bxb2?**

[34...Rxb2 35.Ra7+ Ke8 36.Ra8+ Ke7=]

35.Ra7+ Kf6 36.Bxh6 Bd4??

[36...g5 This was needed, and the game should still fizzle pretty fast.]

(Diagram)

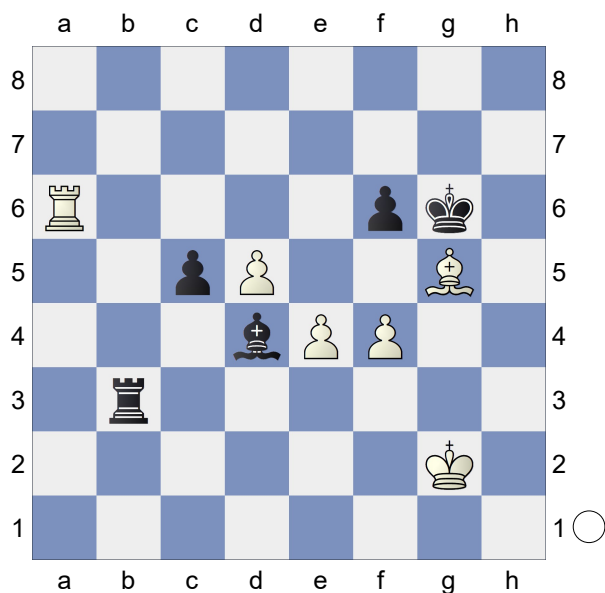


Black is getting counterplay and can play for mate. The machine claims White needs to allow a perpetual right away.]

40...Kh5 41.Bxd4 cxd4 42.d6 Kg4 43.d7 Rb2+ 44.Kf1 Rb8 45.e5 d3 46.Rd6! The final finesse. I have been more upset after losses before, but not often!
 [46.e6? Once can always dream. Kf3! 47.Ke1 Ke3 48.Ra1 Rh8!=]

1-0

Right after I moved, I saw what I had done. **37.f4+-** Just like that, the game is over. Bg5+ followed by e5 and d6 will win, and there is not a thing I can do about it. It's always painful to lose a game, but it's even more so if you lost because of a bad attitude of pushing for a win at all costs, when you were never better and could have drawn every which way. **37...g5 38.Bxg5+ Kg6 39.Ra6+ f6**



40.Bxf6! A final accurate move before time control sealed my fate.

[40.e5? I was naive enough to hope for this one. Kf5! 41.Rxf6+ Kg4

Another Visit from ChessBase India!

By Alex Robins

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club was honored to play host again to IM Sagar Shah of ChessBase India fame. In addition to being an incredible commentator, a promoter of the game we all love, and a strong player - Sagar is a really nice guy who we hope to host again in the future.

This time he brought GM Magesh Chandran for some casual games with fans and some strong players representing Mechanics' showed up to help us host them – including Board of Trustees members GM Vinay Bhat and GM Patrick Wolff.

While here IM Sagar Shah was gracious enough to feature us on his channel. Check out [this great interview](#) with GM, future [California Insurance Commissioner](#), and 2-time US Champion Patrick Wolff. And, [this tour](#) given by yours truly - there's a historical error in my tour let me know if you notice it - a few already have!





GM Patrick Wolff, GM Vinay Bhat, GM Magesh Chandran, and IM Sagar Shah catch up at Mechanics - quite a high average rating here!



The visiting Masters witness a classic Mechanics' rivalry between IM Ladia Jirasek and NM Daniel Cremisi

Below are some casual blitz games played by some of the masters in attendance. Just another reminder that you never know who may be across the table from you at Mechanics'.

□ Wolff,Patrick

■ Bhat,Vinay

Oct 22, 2025 Visit (1.1)

[Winslow,Elliott]

D00

2530

2519

□ Panchanathan,Magesh

■ Wolff,Patrick

Oct 22, 2025 Visit (4.1)

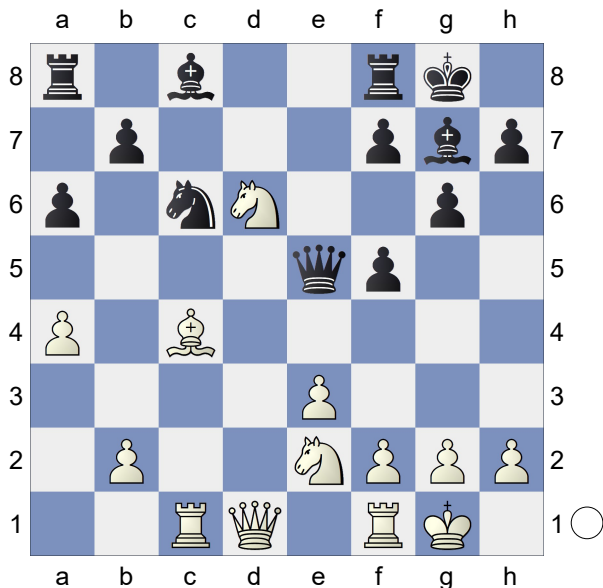
[Winslow,Elliott]

A32

2451

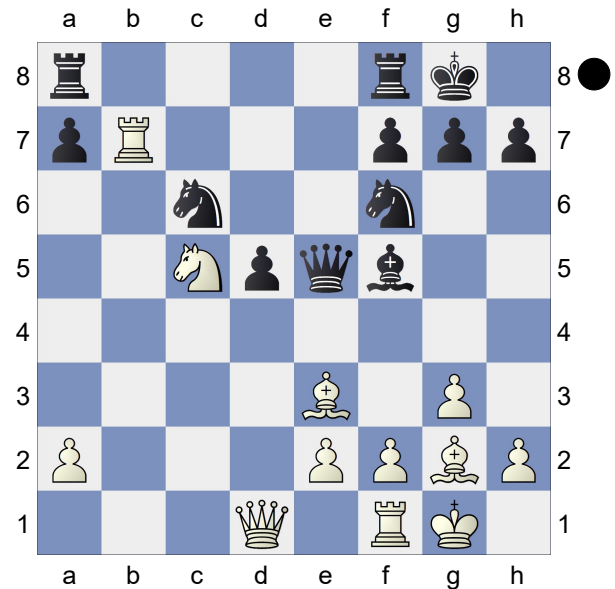
2530

1.d4 2 Nf6 2 Bg5 3 d5 4 3.e3 2 g6 8
4.Bxf6 4 exf6 5.c4 3 dxc4 4 6.Bxc4 19
Bg7 2 7.Nc3 0-0 1 8.Nge2 4 a6 8 9.a4
8 c5 3 10.0-0 45 Nc6 1 11.dxc5 19
Qa5 4 12.Ne4 16 f5 8 13.Nd6 4 Qxc5 6
14.Rc1 Qe5 5

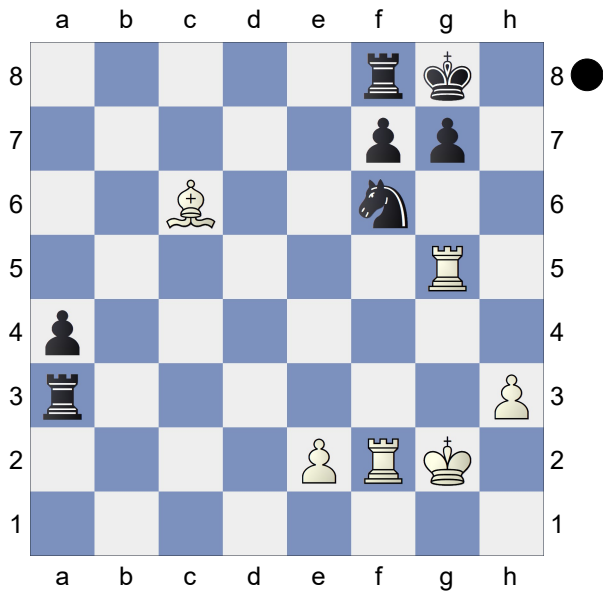


15.Nxf7 16 Rxf7 2 16.Qb3 6 Qe7 39
17.Rfd1 7 Be5 33 18.Nf4 18 Bxf4 13
19.exf4 1 Kg7 1 20.Bxf7 12 Qxf7
21.Qc3+ 1 Qf6 7 22.Qb3 7 Qf7 24
23.Qb6 1 Be6 13 24.b4 Rc8 15 25.b5
4 axb5 3 26.axb5 Ne7 5 27.Qxb7 13
Bd5 13 28.Qa7 7 Rxc1 11 (White is
winning here!)
1/2-1/2

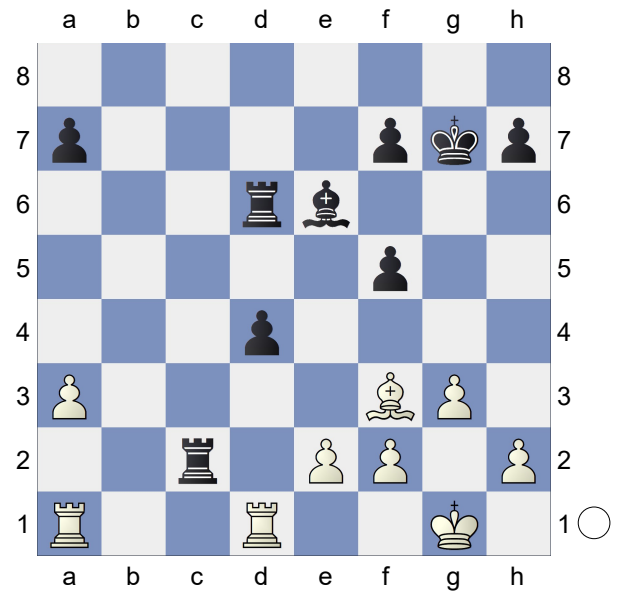
1.Nf3 2 c5 1 2.g3 1 Nc6 4 3.d4 2
cxd4 2 4.Nxd4 3 Nf6 14 5.Bg2 Qb6
15 6.Nb3 5 e6 4 7.c4 15 d5 11
[7...Qa6! 8.c5 b6=]
8.cxd5 4 exd5 5 9.0-0 4 Be6 2
[9...d4!?±]
10.Be3± 5 Qd8 7 11.Nc3 9 Be7 7
12.Nc5 2 0-0 18 13.Nxb7+- 12 Qb8 20
14.Nc5 4 Qxb2 2 15.N3a4 52
[15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Rb1 Qxc3
17.Rc1+-]
15...Qe5± 25 16.Rb1± 10
[16.Bf4]
16...Bf5 55 17.Rb7 18 Bxc5= 8
18.Nxc5 6



d4! 9 19.Bxc6 32 dxe3 20.Nd3 6
Bxd3 1
[20...exf2+±]
21.Qxd3 1 exf2+ 22.Rxf2 2 Rad8
23.Qb3= 6 Qc5 2 24.Bf3 a5 2 25.Rb5
2 Qa7 3 26.Kg2 7 h6 2 27.g4 3 a4 3
28.Qb2 3 Qd4 29.Qxd4 8 Rxd4 30.h3
1 Rd2 31.a3 2 Ra2 32.g5 hxg5
33.Rxg5 1 Rxa3 34.Bc6 1



Rc3?? 8 35.Rxf6+- 3 a3 36.Rd6 7 a2
1 37.Ra5 Rc2 2 38.Bf3 Rb8 2
39.Rda6 3 Rbb2 1 40.Ra8+ Kh7
41.Be4+ Kh6 1 42.Bxc2
1-0



2 32.Rb4 3 Rxa3 6 33.Rxd4 Bxf3+ 2
34.exf3
1/2-1/2

E04
2451
2519
 Oct 22, 2025 Visit (8.1)
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 1 Nf6 2 2.Nf3 e6 2 3.g3 c5 5
 4.Bg2 1 d5 4 5.0-0 2 Nc6 7 6.c4 1
 dxc4 9 7.dxc5 2 Qxd1 8 8.Rxd1 1 Bxc5
 3 9.Nbd2 1 c3 6 10.bxc3 1 Bd7 23
 11.Nb3 3 Be7 1 12.c4 26 0-0 6 13.Bf4
 2 Rac8 6 14.c5 33 Rfd8 21 15.Nfd2 39
 e5 55 16.Bg5 Be6 8 17.Bxf6 1:05 gxf6
 1 18.Ne4 2 Nd4 1 19.Nxd4 16 exd4 1
 20.a3 8 f5 4 21.Nd6 1 Bxd6 5 22.cxd6
 Rxd6 1 23.Bxb7 2 Rc2 2 24.Bf3 1 Kg7
 40

(Diagram)

25.h4 1 Kf6 2 26.Rac1 2 Bb3 5
 27.Rxc2 2 Bxc2 1 28.Rd2 Be4 29.Kg2
 5 Ke5 3 30.Rb2 4 Ra6 31.Rb5+ 1 Kf6

New Books by Russell Enterprises

Reviewed by IM John Donaldson

Most publishers would be ecstatic to have one title in their catalogue that was a candidate for best chess book ever written, Russell Enterprises (www.russell-enterprises.com) has two!

Tal-Botvinnik 1960 has long been recognized as a classic and *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual* was granted similar status when it first appeared in 2003.

Twenty-two years later the sixth edition of the latter, which has become the bible on the subject, has appeared. *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual* continues to get bigger and better and now comes in at 504 large pages in a two-column format, 64 pages larger than the fifth edition. The price has risen to \$39.95, but still represents good value when taking into account the extraordinary amount of material presented.

The increase in size is primarily due to changes in endgame theory and the inclusion of more theoretical and practical material in endings where players often go astray, rook and pawn versus rook and pawn being one example. These types of endgame occur surprisingly often and Grandmasters Karsten Mueller and Alex Fishbein, who also collaborated on the 5th edition, have done an excellent job of incorporating this new material, a sad necessity since Dvoretsky passed away in 2016.

This reviewer recalls a visit to the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club by four-time US Champion Alex Shabalov during which he was asked what single book he would recommend to all chess players. His answer was *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*. That's a good answer to an impossible question as all players need to play the concluding phase of the game well. Dvoretsky's book, despite its length, is centered on teaching key concepts and instilling practical knowledge. This information has become ever more important today as endgames are played to a finish, often with little time left on the clock for either player. Like previous editions of *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, key material is highlighted – in this case in gray, to prioritize that which is most essential.

Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual is a book for ambitious players. Exactly when it should be read is difficult to say precisely and will vary from individual to individual. Keep in mind Dvoretsky's classic is demanding. It could be the right time is when a player attains a rating of 2000 or maybe 2200.

Players rated below this will also benefit from tackling *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, but also have a wealth of choices that might be more accessible.

Three good ones, not mentioned in the extensive bibliography in this book, are Jesus De Villa's *100 Endgames You Must Know*, Jeremy Silman's *Silman's Complete Endgame Course* and James Howell's *Essential Endgame Knowledge*. The latter two are particularly good for club level players as they provide plenty of clear instructional prose.

The Benko Bible: Volume 1: The Gambit Accepted by Vassilios Kotronias and Mikhail Ivanov fills a gap in the chess literature as it offers a modern and comprehensive guide to this dynamic defense to 1.d4. The present work, devoted entirely to the position after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d4 b5 4.cxb5 a6, is massive, coming in at close to 600 pages (priced at a very reasonable \$39.95). This book not only covers all theoretical lines in the Benko Gambit Accepted but analyzes over 300 typical endgames. If you want to play the Benko this is definitely the book for you.

You can find out more about these books and other offerings from Russell Enterprises at <https://www.russell-enterprises.com>

Annotated Games from the TNM

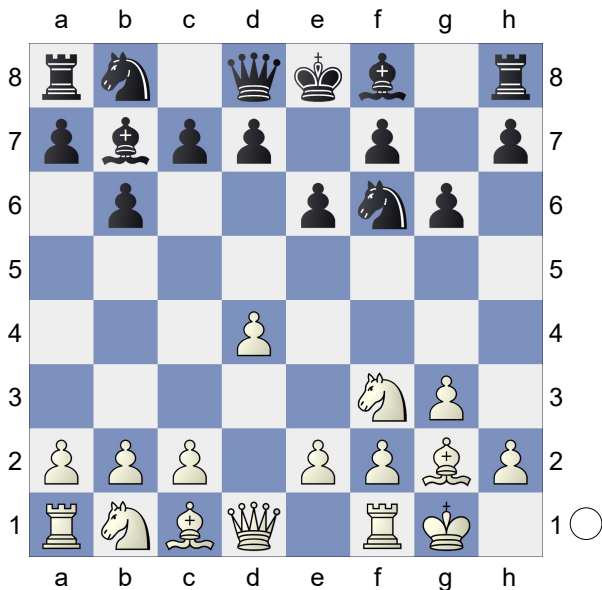
By IM Elliott Winslow

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

Winslow, Elliott E16
 Melville, Cailen Jeremiah 2200
 2025 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 1893
 [TA/Winslow, Elliott] 14.10.2025

The last round of the Fall TNM! (It *is* still Fall, so I don't feel too bad covering this here...) **1.d4 46** As noted last month, Theodore Coyne had guaranteed clear first with a round to go, and so took off the last round. This left Winslow (me) a half point ahead of **five** players looking for a piece of second place. (I guess had Melville won and the other two games drawn, **he** would have been clear 2nd!) Two of them, Pranav Senthilkumar and Stephen Parsons, won their games but could only watch as I won also -- but not without giving Cailen excellent chances (to say the least)!

1...e6 11 2.Nf3 14 Nf6 9 3.g3 3:22 b6 11 4.Bg2 8 Bb7 6 5.0-0 6 g6 28
 [5...Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Nc3 (7.d5!? exd5 8.Nh4 is still an enigmatic gambit.) 7...Ne4]



Earlier in the day I'd surveyed his previous games and decided to avoid this line, and then there I was anyway!

Without the slightest looking into what White should be doing here. **6.c4 1:45 Bg7 30 7.Nc3 27** Could this be the start of a misappreciation of how to handle White's slight space advantage? Underestimating Black's next move? I think so.

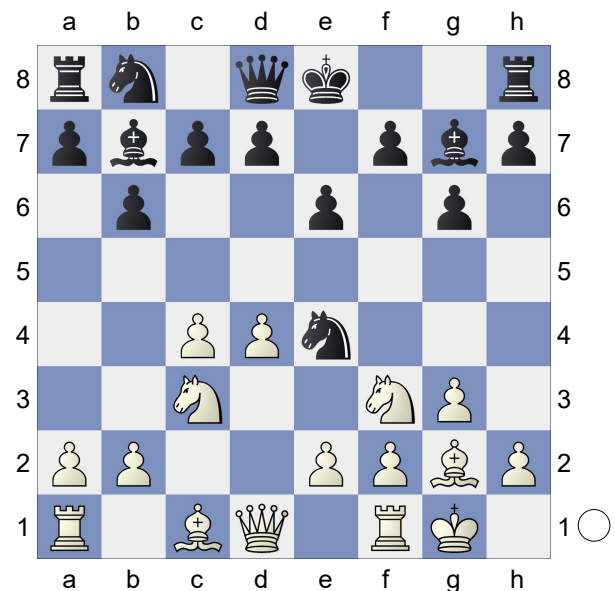
[7.Bg5!? h6 8.Bf4]

[7.Qc2!?]

[7.Bf4!?]

[7.d5!? exd5 8.Nh4 is a major idea in the ...Be7/...0-0 direction; here the knight doesn't have f5, but maybe that's just not the point. It's worth noting GM and major theoretician Alexey Sarana has played this way twice.]

7...Ne4 8



The most common, and clearly the plan. **8.Bd2 2:56** A major plan against the ... Be7/...0-0 Queen's Indian, but here Black is better poised to expand on the kingside.

[8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Bg5!?]

[8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 (9.bxc3?!)

9...0-0 10.Bg5!? (10.Rd1!?)]

8...0-0 3:10 9.Rc1 1:13 d6 5:49

The position is equal.

[9...c5!?]

10.d5 5:14 Nxd2 1:44 11.Qxd2 2:22 e5

12 **12.e4** 2:27

[12.b4!?]

[12.h4!?]

12...a5 5:48 13.Ne1 6:01 Bc8N 5:40

Black starts to reorient towards the kingside. Already all the evaluations have a minus in front of them.

[13...Na6 14.Nd3 Bc8 15.Rce1 Bd7

16.b3 f5 17.f4 Nb4 18.fxe5 Nxd3

19.Qxd3 Bxe5 20.exf5 Bxf5

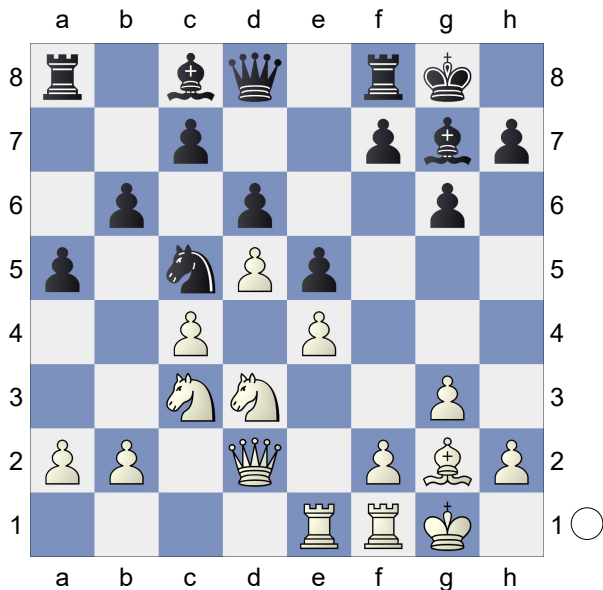
½-½ (44) Finokaliotis,G (2098)-

Kalogeris,I (2454) Eforie Nord 2025]

14.Nd3 5:34

[14.f4!?]

14...Nd7 3:08 15.Rce1 4:02 Nc5 2:24



16.f4?! 7:24 It's a fine line between taking space and getting too loose. This appears to go a bit too far.

[16.Nxc5 bxc5 17.Nb5 f5 18.Bh3 hangs on, if you can believe Stockfish in these Indian position.]

16...f5?!= 15:28

[16...exf4 17.gxf4 Re8?]

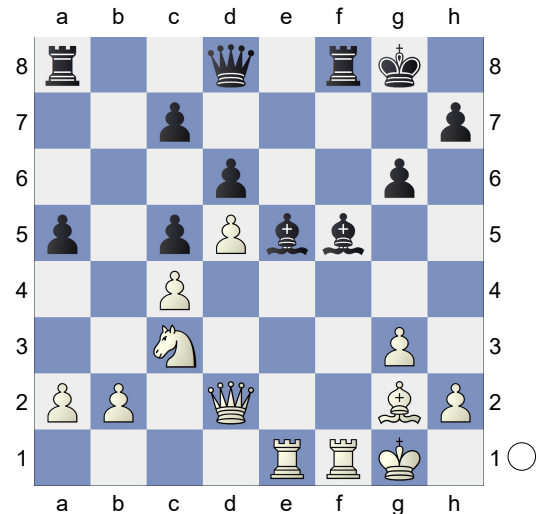
17.fxe5 16:52

[There was a way... 17.Nxc5 bxc5

18.exf5 Bxf5 19.fxe5 Bxe5

(Diagram)

20.Rxe5! dxe5 21.d6 Rc8 22.Qd5+



appears to achieve complete equality.

A) 22...Kh8? 23.Qxe5+ Qf6

24.Qxf6+ Rxf6 25.g4+-;

B) 22...Rf7 23.g4 c6 24.Qxe5

(24.Qd1= Be6 25.Rxf7 Kxf7

26.Ne4=) 24...Bxg4 25.Rxf7 Kxf7

26.Ne4=;

C) 22...Kg7]

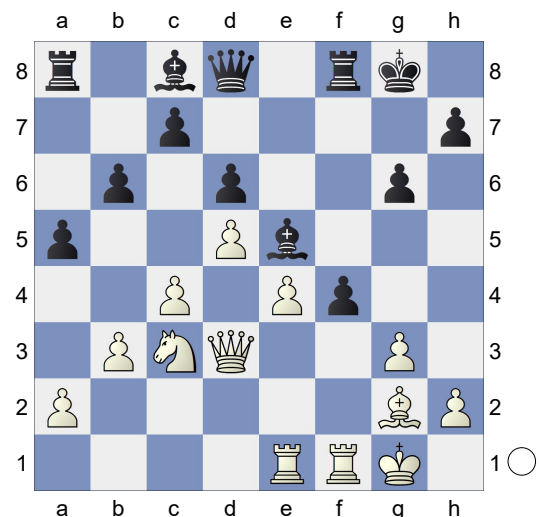
17...Nxd3 52 18.Qxd3 31 Bxe5 2:39

19.b3? -1.75/28 3:33

[19.Qd2=]

19...Qe7? -0.24/31 7:04

[19...f4+- -1.75/28



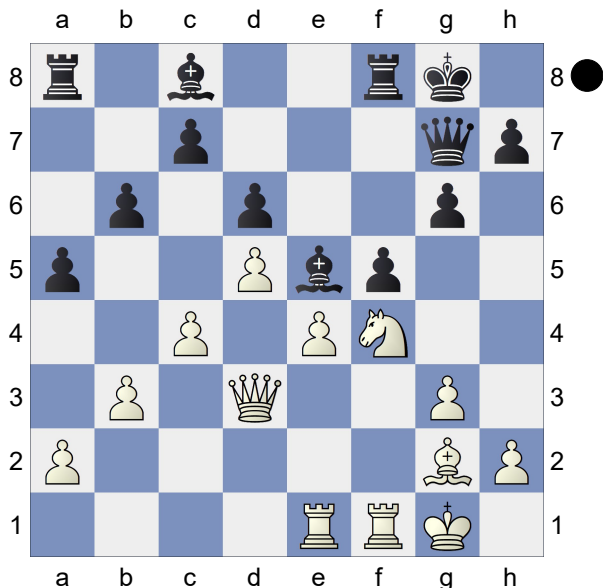
White ends up with the weaker king (one less cover pawn), a bad bishop, and a sad knight. 20.gxf4 (20.a4 Bg4) 20...Rxf4 21.Rxf4 Bxf4]

20.Ne2?! 3:07

[20.Qd2]

20...Qg7! 3:17 21.Nf4?! -0.89/31 5:56

[21.Qe3 -0.52/30 was preferable.]
[21.Qc2]



21...Bxf4? -0.06/36 7:36

[21...g5! -0.89/31 There is still chances to rush those pawns. 22.Ne6 Bxe6 23.dxe6 f4! 24.gxf4 Rxf4 25.Rxf4 gxf4]

22.Rxf4= 1:32 Now Black has a nominal advantage only. 22...g5?! 29 23.Rf2± 17 Bd7? 0.91/37 1:42

[23...f4= 0.00/58]
[23...Qe5=]

24.exf5± 1:05 Not the greatest pawn in the world, but just wait... 24...h5?! 2:12 [24...h6 25.g4]

25.Ref1 8:48

[25.Re6!?± Bxe6 26.dxe6 Rae8 27.h3 White can "maneuver" forever.]

25...Rf6 43 26.h3 50 Kf7?! 2.26/28 2:25

[26...Re8± 0.83/32]
[26...Raf8]

27.a3 45

[27.Re1! Rf8 28.Re6! Bxe6 29.dxe6+ Kg8 30.Qe2]

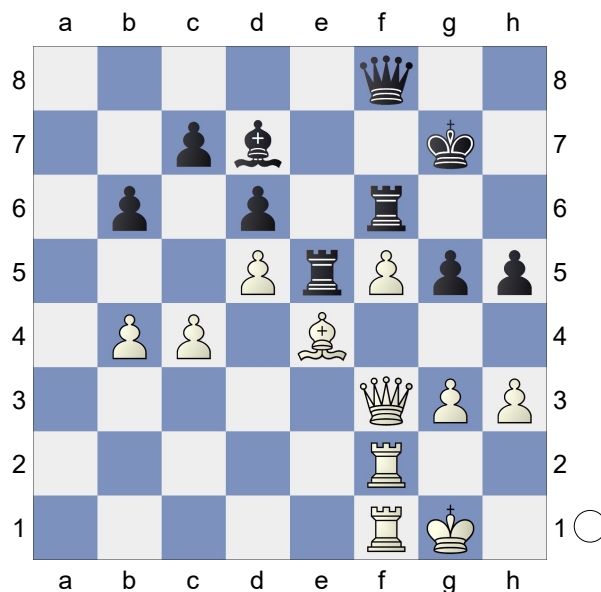
27...Re8 33 28.b4↑ 39 Keeping Black busy. 28...axb4 1:56 29.axb4 6 Re5 1:04 30.Be4 1:44 Qf8 2:57 31.Qf3?!

0.69/31 5:08

[31.h4± 1.56/28 g4 (31...gxh4 32.gxh4) 32.Rf4± although I'm not yet seeing the break of the blockade...]

31...Kg7? 2.35/32 1:28

[31...Rh6!± 0.69/31]



32.h4!+- 1:25 g4 38 33.Qf4 22 Kh7?! 4:23

[33...Kf7 34.Bb1 Qh6 35.Qg5! is the sort of point.]

34.Bd3 1:02

[34.Qe3]

34...Qh6 8:01 35.Kg2? 0.00/72 9

[Only move: 35.Qg5+- 1.99/37 Re3 36.Re2 What I missed! (36.Qxh6+ Kxh6 37.Bb1 Rxg3+ 38.Kh2 Rh3+ 39.Kg2 Rxh4±) 36...Rxe2 (36...Rxd3? loses. 37.Re7+ Kh8 38.Qxh6+ Rxh6 39.Ra1!+- The point!; 36...Rxg3+? 37.Kh2+-) 37.Bxe2]

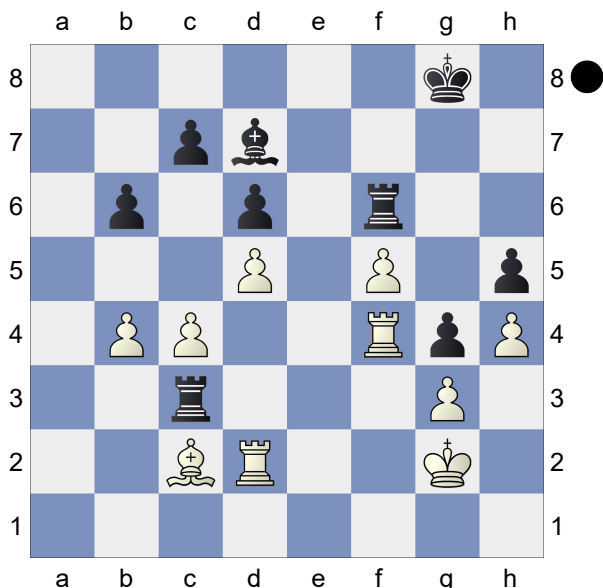
35...Qxf4= 17 36.Rxf4 2 Re3 17

Now it should be a draw: "all zeroes" on the computer. 37.Bc2 24 Rc3 29

38.R1f2 16 Kg8 1:19 39.Rd2 6:31

(Diagram)

Rf8? 0.87/33 34 It's the old story, losing



for trying to win.

[39...Kf8= 0.00/69 or, essentially, anything else.]

40.f6± 18 (sf 17.1: +0.70/27 and climbing) **40...Ra8?? 5.67/19 25**

This sends Black way over the edge.

[40...Be8!? 41.Rf5! Kh8!
(41...Rxc4? 42.Rg5+ Kh8 43.Re2!+-
rather amazing) 42.f7! Bxf7 43.Rdf2
Rf3 44.R2xf3 gxf3+ 45.Kxf3 Kg7
46.Be4 Ra8 47.g4 Ra1±]
[40...Rf3! 41.Rxf3 gxf3+ 42.Kxf3
(42.Kf2!? Rxf6 43.Be4±) 42...Rxf6+
43.Ke3±]

41.Bg6+- 20

[41.Re2 Kh8 42.f7 Rf8 43.Bg6]

41...Raa3 25 42.f7+! 59

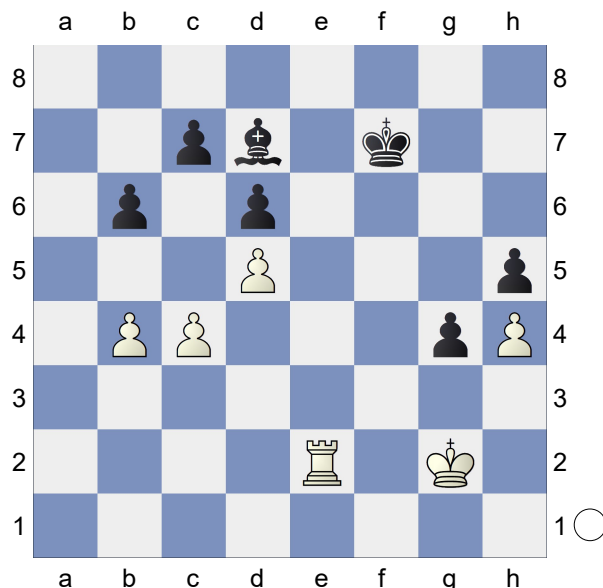
[42.Bxh5 Rxc3+ 43.Kf1! Ra1+
44.Kf2 Rgg1+- 45.f7+ Kf8
46.Ke3+-]

42...Kf8 8 43.Re2 1:00 Rxc3+ 14

44.Kf2 32 Rgf3+ 2:37 45.Rxf3 2 Rxf3+ 21 46.Kg2 5 Rxf7 4:49 47.Bxf7 5 Kxf7 5

(Diagram)

Black has no chance here. **48.Kg3 9 Kf6 40 49.Kf4 4 Bf5 16 50.Re3 4 Bd7 25 51.Ra3 55 b5 47 52.cxb5 1:03**



Threatening mate with Ra7. **52...Bxb5 2 53.Rc3 5 White mates. 53...Ba4 36 54.Rxc7 12 g3 24 55.Kxg3 18 Ke5 4 56.Rh7 35 Bd1 17 57.b5 10 Kxd5 8 58.b6 3 Bc2 36 59.Rc7 19 Weighted Error Value: White=0.25/Black=0.71 1-0**

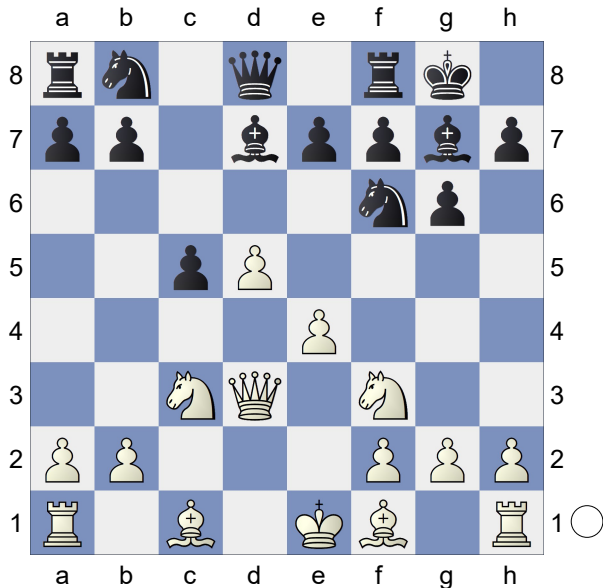
D96
 Senthilkumar,Pranav **2227**
 Zavgorodniy,Andrew **1992**
 2025 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 14.10.2025
 [TA]

Senthilkumar must have known he was going to face a Gruenfeld from Zavgorodniy, but he could not have expected this one! Still, he got the better of the opening, and was winning by move 14. **1.d4 2:49 Nf6 26 2.c4 6 g6 20 3.Nc3 3 d5 24 4.Nf3 7 Bg7 24 5.Qb3 1:21 dxc4 40 6.Qxc4 2 Be6 28 [6...0-0] 7.Qd3 3:50 [7.Qb5+] [7.Qa4+] 7...0-0 0.58/34 2:34 [7...c5= 0.21/31] 8.e4± 1:14 c5 1:24 9.d5 6:07**

White is slightly better. **9...Bd7** 1.23/31

1:46

[Black should play **9...Bg4**± 0.58/28]



10.Be3 0.61/32 2:58

[10.e5!± 1.23/31]

10...Qa5 4:14 **11.Nd2** 0.30/32 4:05

[White should play 11.e5± 0.71/28
Ng4 12.Bf4]

11...Na6 0.67/32 2:40

[11...Ng4= 0.30/32 might be
stronger.]

12.Be2! 15:30 **b5** 5:59 **13.0-0** 4:48

[13.Nxb5? Nb4 14.Qc4 Bxb5
15.Qxb5 Nc2+ 16.Kd1 Qxb5
17.Bxb5 Nxa1-+]

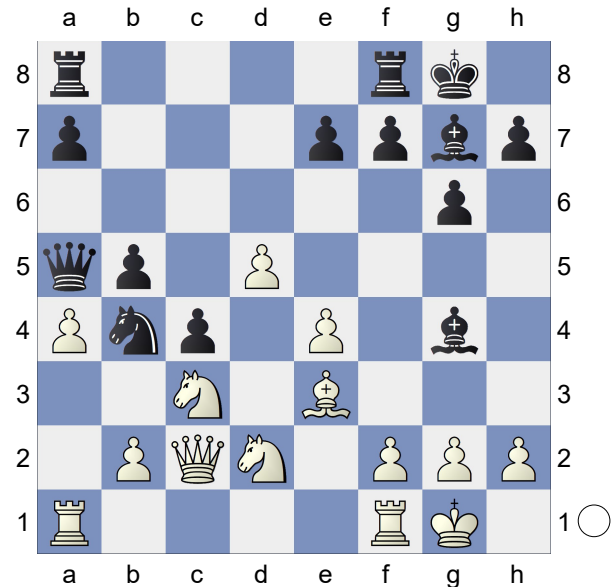
13...c4 7:20 **14.Qc2N** 5:11 a4 is the
strong threat.

[14.Qb1 Ng4 15.Bxg4 Bxg4 16.a4
b4 17.Nb5 Be2 18.Rc1 c3 19.bxc3
bxc3 20.Nb3 ½-½ (75) Omar,N
(2355)-Safarli,E (2655) Baku 2014]

14...Ng4 2.36/25 9:53 Black cannot hold
the game after this.

[14...Nb4± 0.97/30 was called for.
15.Qb1 Qc7]

15.Bxg4+- 1:38 **Bxg4** 5 **16.a4** 48 **Nb4**
10:21



17.Qb1 2:52

[17.axb5? Qxa1 18.Qb1 Qxb1
19.Rxb1 Rfc8-+]

17...Nd3 1:44 **18.axb5** 3:46 **Qb4** 49

19.Ra4 6:55 Skewer

[19.Rxa7? Rxa7 20.Bxa7 Nxb2
(20...Bxc3? 21.bxc3 Qa4 22.Be3+-)
21.Nxc4 Qxc4 (21...Qxc3 22.Rc1±;
21...Bxc3? 22.Nxb2 Bxb2 23.Rc1-+)
22.Qxb2 Bxc3-+]

[19.Bxa7? Nxb2 (19...Bxc3?
20.bxc3 Qxc3 21.b6+-) 20.Rc1
Bxc3-+]

19...Qxb2 38 **20.Rxc4** 36

[20.Nxc4 Qxc3 21.Bd2 Qd4=]

20...Bxc3 3.94/25 2:12

[Δ20...Qxb1 2.63/24 21.Rxb1 Ne5]

21.Qxd3 32 **Bxd2** 35 **22.Rc2** 4:56

[22.Bxd2 Qxb5 23.Bh6 Rfd8+-]
[22.Qxd2 Qxd2 23.Bxd2 Be2=]

22...Qe5 11:15 **23.Bd4** 6:18

[But not 23.Bxd2 Bd7 24.Bc3 Qb8]

23...Qf4 6:54 **24.Rxd2** 1:40

[Less strong is 24.Qxd2 Qxd2
25.Rxd2 Bd7+-]

24...Bd7 42 Threatening ...Bxb5! But it's
not happening, and the extra pawn plus
a bit of weakness around Black's king
eventually worked out. **25.Rc2** 1:46
Rfb8 2:34 **26.Rb1** 41 **a6?** 5.10/24 57

(Diagram)

[26...Rb7 2.91/25 27.g3 Qd6]
 27.Be3 3:31 Qd6 6:27 28.b6 56 Bb5
 30 29.Qd2 51 Rb7 3:30 30.Rbc1 33
 Rd8 3:28 31.Rc8 1:16 f6 58 32.Bf4
 1:40 Qxb6 1:23 33.Bc7 2:45 Rxc7 30
 34.R8xc7 48 Qd6 2:46 35.Qd4 1:18
 Kf7 1:59 36.g3 2:27 Qa3 2:25 37.Qc5
 2:40 Qxc5 52 38.R1xc5 3:10
 Endgame KRR-KRB 38...Rd6 39.Rb7
 1:13 Rd7 36 40.Rxd7 22 Bxd7 6
 KR-KB 41.Rc7 4 Ke8 10 42.Ra7 28
 Bb5 5 43.f3 6 Bc4 24 44.Kf2 5 h5
 1:35 45.Ke3 13 Kf8 44 46.f4 8 g5 1:40
 47.Kd4 11.13/35 28

[♞47.fxg5 #27/50 fxg5 48.Kd4 Ba2
 49.Rxa6 Bb3 50.e5 Bc2 51.e6 h4
 52.Ke5]

47...Bb5 28 48.fxg5 5 fxg5 21 49.Ke5
 4 White wants to mate with Ke6. 49...h4
 25 50.Ke6 27 Bd3 36 51.Rxe7 35

Weighted Error Value: White=0.26/
 Black=0.66

1-0

□ Bambou, Christophe

■ Parsons, Stephen

2025 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.3) 14.10.2025
 [TA]

1.e4 6 c5 7 2.c3 3 Nf6 1:14 3.e5 4
 Nd5 15 4.d4 3 cxd4 41 5.cxd4 4 e6 38
 6.Nf3 9 d6 1:08 7.Bc4 9 Nc6 1:15
 8.0-0 6 Be7 28 9.Qe2 10 0-0 45
 10.Nc3 5 dxe5 2:48 11.dxe5 23 Nxc3
 1:05 12.bxc3 4 Qc7 1:32 13.Bd3 44 f5
 1:21 B22: Sicilian: 2 c3. 14.exf6 1.43/29
 28 White attacks

[14.a4± 0.53/27]

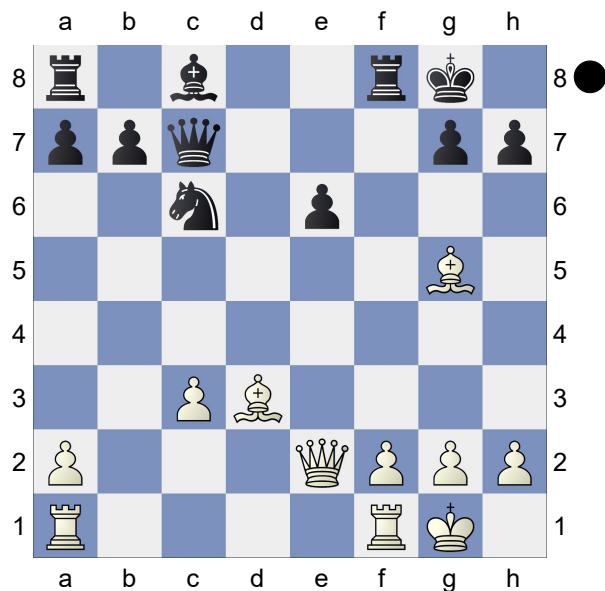
14...Bxf6± 11 15.Ng5 0.66/29 1:31

[15.Ba3± 1.39/30 Rd8 16.Qe4]

15...Bxg5± 5:45 White is slightly better.

16.Bxg5 3

(Diagram)



Ne5N 1.93/28 1:43

[16...e5!± 0.68/30]

[16...Qe5 17.Qxe5 Nxe5 18.Be4 h6
 19.Be7 Rf7 20.Bd6 Nc4 21.Bg3
 Nd2 22.Rfe1 Nxe4 23.Rxe4

0-1 (104) Arnott, J (2176)-Bellon Lopez,
 J (2404) Caleta 2011]

17.Bc2+- 6:43 A strong pair of Bishops.

17...Bd7 4:53 18.Rad1 9:36 Rae8

3.37/25 5:20 Repels Be7

[18...Ng6 1.84/28 19.h4 Rf7]

19.Rfe1 1.77/27 5:52

[♞19.Rd4 3.37/25]

19...Ng6 7:50 20.Qh5 0.50/33 3:37

[20.h4+- 1.66/31]

20...Qxc3± 5:13 21.Bb1 0.09/39 8:11

[21.Bxg6± 0.50/33 deserves
 consideration. hxg6 22.Qxg6]

21...Qc5= 7:09

(Diagram)

22.Re3 2:27

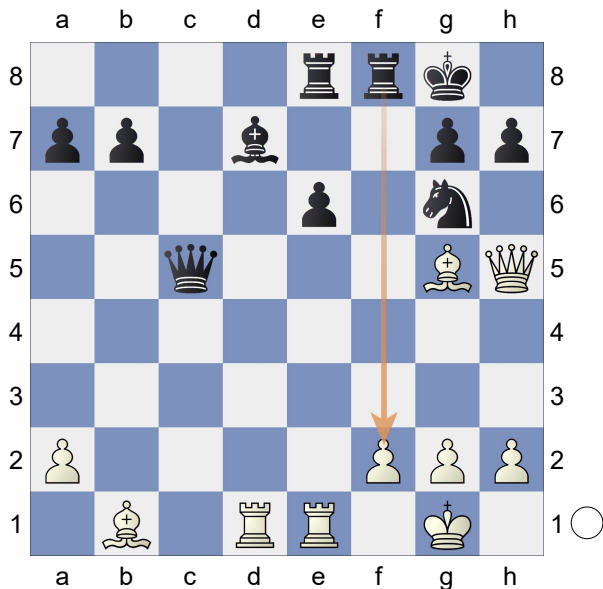
[22.Rxd7? is a self mate. Qxf2+
 23.Kh1 Qxe1#]

22...Rf7 10:11 and ...Ref8 should not be
 overlooked 23.Bxg6 16:53 hxg6 24

24.Qh4 10:54 Threatens to win with Rh3.

24...Rf5 5:02 25.Rh3 1:45 Bc6 6:27

26.Be3 8:02 Qc2→ 5:21 Black has



some attack. Really sharp! Active counter play! **27.Qh7+?** -6.09/32 45

White is weak on the light squares

[27.Rc1= -0.25/34 Qe4 (27...Qxa2 28.Qh7+ Kf7 29.Rg3±) 28.Qxe4 Bxe4 29.Bxa7]

27...Kf7+ 20 28.Rc1 37 Qe4 2:22

[28...Qxa2 29.Rg3 Rf6 30.h4±]

29.Rf3 20:05 Rxf3 3:50 30.gxf3 4 Qxf3

16 31.Kf1 3 Bb5+ 6:59 32.Kg1 10

Qg4+ 5 33.Kh1 58 Bc6+ 4 34.Rxc6 6

bxc6 5 Endgame KQR-KQB 35.h3 37

Qf3+ 43 36.Kh2 12 Qe4 2:53

(-> ...Rd8) **37.h4 1:30 Rd8 56**

(-> ...Rd1) **38.Bg5 56 Rd1 32**

Black mates. **39.h5 1:19 Rh1+ 6**

40.Kg3 5 Rg1+ 8 Weighted Error Value:

White=1.26/Black=0.58

0-1

A17

□ Heiserman, Jimmy

2291

■ Smith, Roger Christopher

1851

2025 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.4) 14.10.2025

[TA]

1.c4 29:26 e6 4:30 2.Nc3 6 d5 22 3.e3

9 Nf6 29 4.Nf3 10 Nbd7 1:05 5.b3

3:38 Be7 1:31 6.Be2 4:31 A17: English

Opening: 1...Nf6 with ...Bb4. **6...0-0 1:30**

7.0-0 2:06 b6 4:03 8.cxd5 31

The position is equal. **8...exd5 13 9.Bb2**

32 Bb7 1:14 10.Rc1 1:32 c6 3:46

11.d4 7:54 Re8 2:10 12.Ne5N 2:51

[12.Bd3 Bd6 13.Ne2 Nf8 14.Ne5

Rc8 15.Ng3 a6 16.Qe2 a5 17.f4 c5

18.Bb5 1-0 (50) Kazakov, M (2513)-

Ferrufino, B (1919) Chess.com INT

2023]

12...Nxe5 6:08 13.dxe5 6 Nd7 12 14.f4

11:04 Bc5! 1:17 15.Rf3 15 Strongly

threatening Bd3. **15...f6! 1:16 16.Na4**

0.08/33 8:40

[16.b4± 0.48/29 Bxb4 17.Rh3 fxe5

18.Bd3]

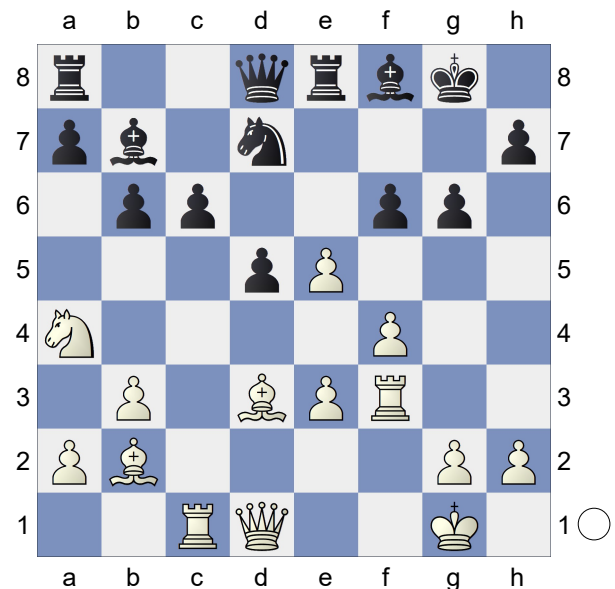
16...Bf8= 3:14 17.Bd3 -0.60/31 30

[17.Qc2= 0.13/31]

17...g6? 2.45/33 13:08

[17...fxe5± -0.60/31 keeps the upper

hand. 18.Rg3 e4]



18.Rg3 7:22

[Less strong is 18.exf6 Nxf6 19.f5 g5±]

18...Bg7 2:27 19.exf6 1.14/28 6:12

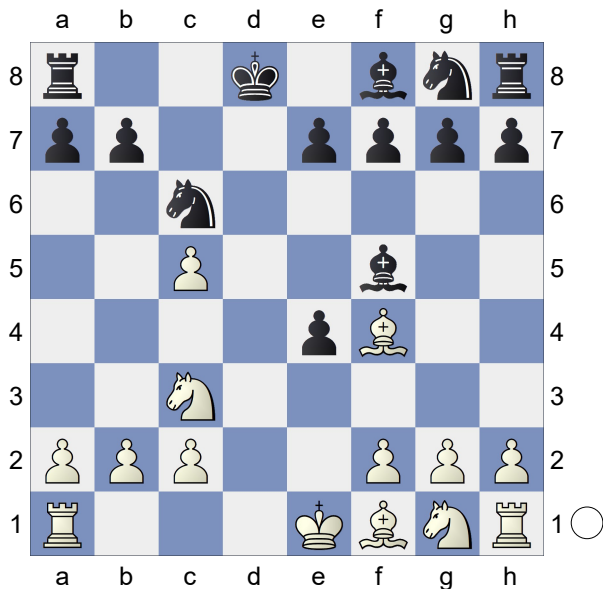
White has a strong passed pawn

[19.Bxg6+- 1.94/24 hxc6 20.Rxc6]

19...Nxf6± 2:38 20.f5↑ 2:00 White is

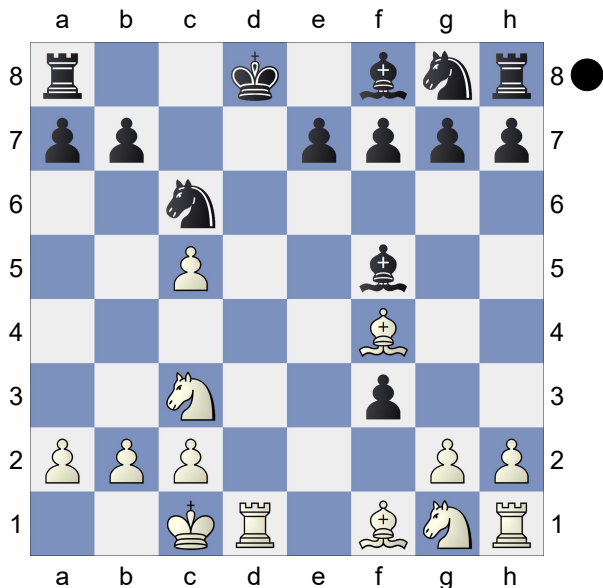
really pushing. White has more active

7.f3?! 1.32/30 4:24 The problem with gambit players -- sometime they don't know when to just accept that they're winning (or at least doing quite well)



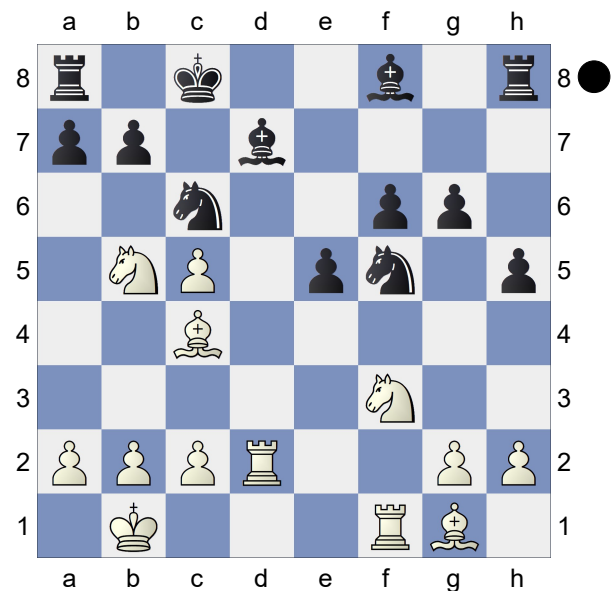
without the gambit!

[7.0-0-0+- 1.94/22 Kc8 8.Nge2]
7...exf3? 2.33/24 5:31
 [7...e6± 1.32/30]
 [7...e5 8.Be3 Nf6 9.fxe4 Nxe4
 10.Bd3 Nxc3 11.Bxf5 Ne7 12.Bh3
 Ncd5 13.0-0-0 Ke8±]
8.0-0-0+- 17
 [8.gxf3 Bxc2 9.Bb5 g6̄]



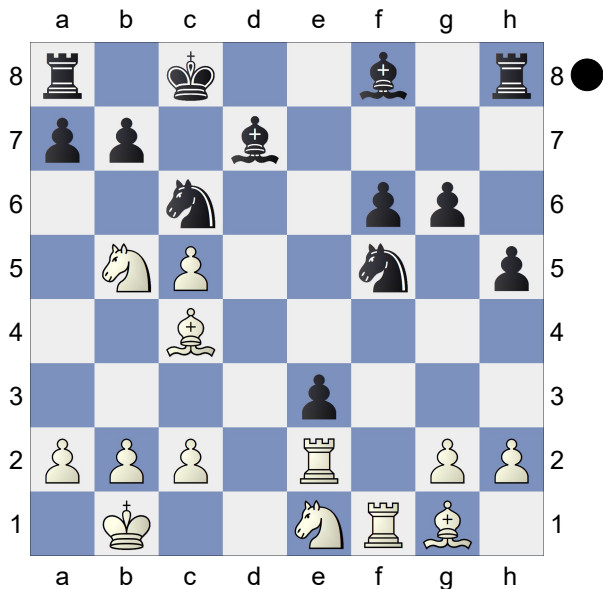
Now White rolls on in. **8...Kc8 32**
9.Nxf3+- 26 f6 32 10.Bc4 6:57 e5 31
11.Be3 22 h5? 4.02/20 25:30
 [11...Nge7 2.23/26 12.h3 h5
 (12...g5)]

12.Rhf1 9:47
 [12.Nh4!]
12...Nge7 6:01 13.Nb5 2:47
 [13.b4!]
13...Bd7 23:37 14.Nd6+ 7:54 Kc7 32
15.Rd2?! 6:19
 [15.a3 Nf5 16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Ng5!+-]
15...Nf5± 1:42 +/- 16.Nb5+ 1.09/30 1:46
 [White should try 16.Nxf5!+- 2.05/32
 Bxf5 17.Ng5]
16...Kc8± 4:59 17.Bg1 53 White is
much more active.
 [Δ17.Bf2]
17...g6 43 18.Kb1 1:34



e4? 1.83/31 3:16
 [18...Bh6± 0.79/30]
19.Ne1? -1.60/25 3:49
 [19.Rfd1!+- 1.83/31 Rh7 20.Rxd7!?
 (20.Bg8 Rg7 21.Rxd7) 20...Rxd7
 21.Be6 Nb8 22.Nd2+- e3 23.Ne4
 Be7 24.h3!+-]
19...e3?! -0.69/26 1:20
 [19...Ne5̄ -1.60/25 20.Be2 Bxb5
 21.Bxb5 Bh6]
20.Re2? -2.37/24 8:10
 [20.Rd5 Ne5 21.Be2 Bc6 22.Nd6+
 Nxd6 23.Rxd6 Bxd6 24.cxd6 Ng4+-]
 [20.Rd1!̄ -0.69/26]

(Diagram)



20...Ne5!-+ 1:59

[20...Bxc5 21.Nd3 Na5 22.Nxc5=
(22.Be6? Bxe6 23.Rxf5 Bxf5-+)]

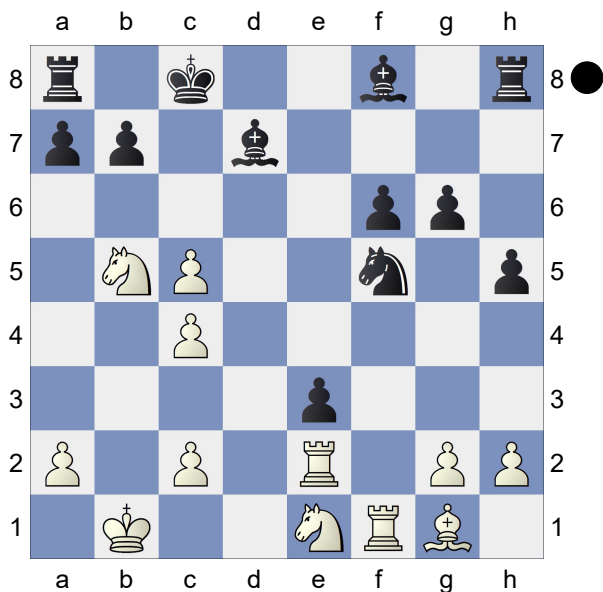
21.b3 -2.97/25 5:41

[21.Na3 -2.06/27 is a better defense.
Nxc4 (21...Bxc5 22.Nd3) 22.Nxc4
Bb5-+ but not better enough.]

21...Nxc4 3:46

[21...Bxc5 22.Nd3 Nxd3 (22...Nxc4
23.bxc4 Bb6 24.Nc3) 23.cxd3)
[21...Bxb5! 22.Bxb5 Nd4-+]

22.bxc4 11



Bxc5?! -0.89/28 12

[22...Be6!-+ -2.19/27 is more deadly.
23.Rxf5

A) 23...Bxf5 24.Bxe3 Rh7!

(24...a6 25.Nc3) 25.Bf2 Kd8-+;

B) 23...gxf5 both recaptures win

24.Rxe3 Bf7 (24...Bxc4 25.Re8+

Kd7 26.Rxa8 ; 24...Bxc5 25.Rxe6

Bxg1 26.Nf3) 25.Nd6+ Bxd6

26.cxd6 Re8 (26...Bxc4 27.Re7)

27.Rxe8+ Bxe8]

23.Nd3! 5:20 Bb6 30

[23...b6!]

24.c3?! -2.79/30 3:11

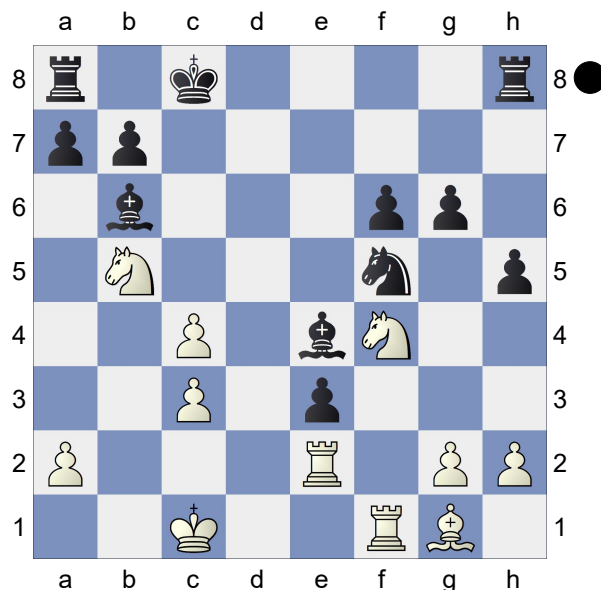
[24.Nc3! -0.59/28]

24...Bc6 1:33

[24...Re8-+]

[24...Rd8!]

25.Nf4 1:22 Be4+ 57 26.Kc1 42



a6? -0.44/30 4:14

[26...Rd8-+ -2.84/24 27.Rfe1 Kd7]

27.Na3? -2.77/29 2:56

[Only move: 27.Nd4! -0.44/30]

27...g5? -0.55/30 1:26

[27...Rd8-+ -2.77/29 28.Nc2 Bd3

Skewer 29.Nxd3 Rxd3]

28.Nd5 49 Bc5 10 29.Nc2 2:24 Bd3

0.00/59 22

[29...b5! -0.66/32 30.Ree1 bxc4

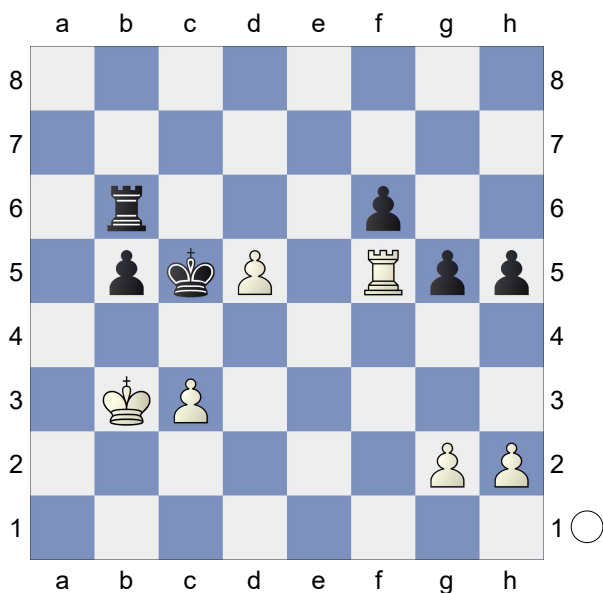
(30...Bd3 31.Rxf5 Bxf5 32.Bxe3)

31.Nxf6 Bd3 (31...Bxg2? 32.Rxf5

Bd6 33.Nxe3+-) 32.Rxf5 Bxf5

33.Bxe3 Bxe3+ 34.Nxe3 Bd3]

30.Rxf5!= 1:16 Bxf5 21 This pair of
 bishops is nice. 31.Bxe3 21 Bxe3+ 52
 32.Ncxe3 50 Bd3 2:42 33.Rd2 26 Be4
 14 34.Nb6+ 18 Kc7 7
 [Much weaker is 34...Kb8 35.Kb2=]
 35.Nxa8+ 19 Rxa8 4 36.Nd5+ 33 Bxd5
 27 37.cxd5 4 Endgame KR-KR
 37...Kd6 17 38.Kc2 38 Kc5 48 39.Kb3
 1:02 b5 38 40.a4 3:10 Rd8 48 41.axb5
 1:49 axb5 7 42.Rf2 31 Rd6 11 43.Rf5
 9 Rb6? 4.02/28 56
 [43...h4= 0.00/82]



44.h4? 0.00/89 1:02 Rd6 2:28
 The position is equal. 45.hxg5 11 fxg5
 2 46.Rxg5 2 Rxd5 47.Rxd5+ 1:31
 Kxd5 1 KPP-KPP 48.Kb4 19 Kc6 6
 49.c4 10
 [49.g3!?]
 49...bxc4 8 50.Kxc4 5 Kd6 27 51.Kd4
 15 Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/
 Black=0.55
 1/2-1/2

□ Gray,William D00
 1921
 ■ Tam,Hoa Long 1698
 2025 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (7.12)
 [Winslow,Elliott]

I don't know, is the London too
 unambitious? This game never quite
 moved the needle for complications. A
 win for Gray would have (as it went) tied
 for 1st-3rd and a much bigger payday.
 Still, Hoa-Long was set some problems,
 which he did manage adequately. 1.Nf3
 d5 2.d4 c5 3.c3 Nc6 4.Bf4 Nf6
 5.Nbd2 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bb5 a6
 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Ne5 Qb6 10.0-0 Be7
 11.Bg5 cxd4 12.cxd4 Ra7 13.Rc1
 Rc7 14.Qa4 0-0 15.Rxc6 Rxc6
 16.Nxc6 Bd6 17.Ne5 Bxe5 18.dxe5
 Ng4 19.Nf3 Be4 20.h3 Bxf3 21.hxg4
 Be2 22.Rc1 Qxb2 23.Qc6 Bc4!
 [23...Bxg4?? 24.Be7+-]
 24.e4 Qxe5 25.Be7 Qb2 26.Rxc4
 dxc4 27.Bxf8 Qc1+ 28.Kh2 Qh6+
 29.Kg1 Qc1+ 30.Kh2 Qh6+ 31.Kg1
 Qc1+ And clear 3rd wasn't so bad either!
 1/2-1/2

□ Braithwaite,Andrew C04
 1311
 ■ Liu,Eric 1288
 2025 Fall TNM: u1600 (7.6) 14.10.2025
 [TA/Winslow,Elliott]

In the Under-1600 Section, Eric Liu was
 a point ahead of the field, and in danger
 early on but after dodging 12.Ne3 never
 looked back. But the win came and went
 more than once. Eventually he showed
 nice technique to stabilize his extra
 pawns and finally advance one to
 queening. 1.e4 14 e6 3 2.d4 6 d5 3
 3.Nd2 5 Nc6 6 4.Ngf3 52 Nf6 18 5.e5
 42 Nd7 33 6.c3 36 f6 8 7.exf6 1:44

Qxf6 12 8.Bd3 2:34 Bd6! 20 9.0-0 2:26
0-0 6 10.Re1 2:28 Kh8 31 was the old
 line (10...e5). **11.Nf1 3:34** The position
 is equal. **11...h6N 1.37/30 57**
 Prevents Bg5

[11...e5 $\mp$ -0.45/29 stays ahead.
 12.Ne3 Qf7]
 [11...e5 12.Bg5 Qf7 13.dxe5 Ndx5
 14.Be2 Bg4 15.Nxe5 Qxf2+ 16.Kh1
 Nxe5 17.Bxg4 Qxb2 1-0 (24) De la
 Villa Garcia,J (2449)-Daurimbetov,A
 (2139) Chess.com INT 2023]

12.Bc2 0.02/32 9:31

[12.Ne3 $\pm$ 1.37/30]

12...e5= 1:25 13.dxe5 -2.12/26 5:43

[13.Be3= 0.00/33]

13...Ndx5+- 43 14.N1d2? -4.35/22
16:28

[14.Qxd5 -1.99/28 Ne7 15.Qd1]

14...Bg4 3:31 15.Bb3 8:21 Ne7 19:43

[15...Bxf3 16.Nxf3 d4 17.cxd4
 Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 Qxf3 (18...Nxd4
 19.Qxf6 Rxf6 20.Bd1 $\pm$) 19.gxf3 $\mp$]

16.h3 21:58 Nxf3+ -1.85/29 22:28

[16...Bxf3 17.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3
 Qxf3 19.gxf3 $\mp$]

[Δ 16...Bh5 -4.22/26 17.Re3 Rae8]

17.Nxf3 4:09 Bh5 -0.90/32 3:34

[17...Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qxf3 19.gxf3 $\mp$]
 [17...Bxh3!+- -1.78/33 18.Qd4 Be6
 19.Qxf6 Rxf6]

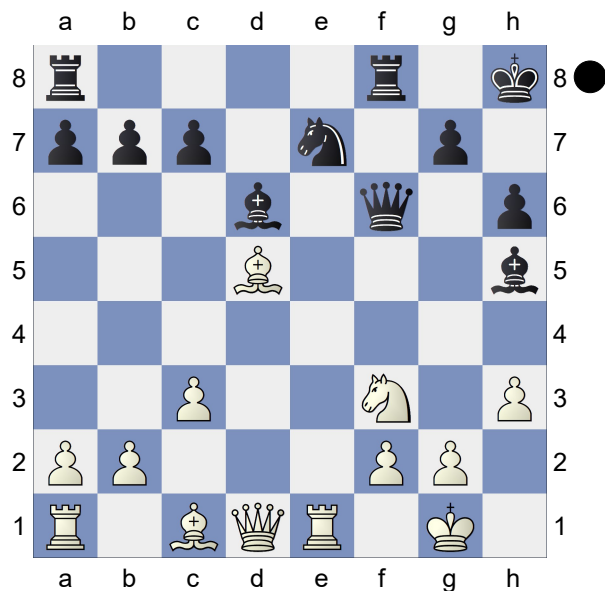
18.Bxd5? -4.06/31 4:07

[18.Be3 $\mp$ -0.90/32 is tougher.]

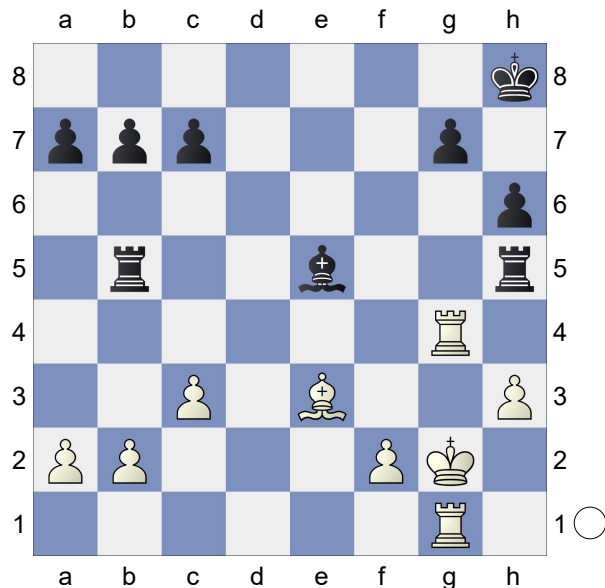
(Diagram)

18...Nxd5? -0.12/29 12

[18...Rad8!+- -4.06/31 19.Bb3
 (19.Bxb7? Bh2+ Discovered Attack
 20.Kxh2 Rxd1+-) 19...Bh2+
 Discovered Attack (19...Bxf3 20.Qxf3
 Qxf3 21.gxf3=) 20.Kxh2 Rxd1
 21.Bxd1 Ng6 (21...Bxf3? 22.Bxf3
 Qd6+ 23.Kh1+-)]



19.Qxd5= 1:14 Bxf3 8 20.Qxf3 2:21
Qxf3 58 21.gxf3 7 Rxf3 6 22.Kg2 2:40
Raf8 1:05 23.Be3 1:35 R8f6 2:00
24.Bd4 2:50 Rf8 1:45 25.Re4 1:21
R3f5 5:30 26.Rg4 1:58 Be5 2:32
27.Be3 1:22 Rd8 55 28.Rg1 1:22 Rd5
10:24 29.Kf1 51 Rh5 2:35 30.Kg2 54
Rb5 1:42

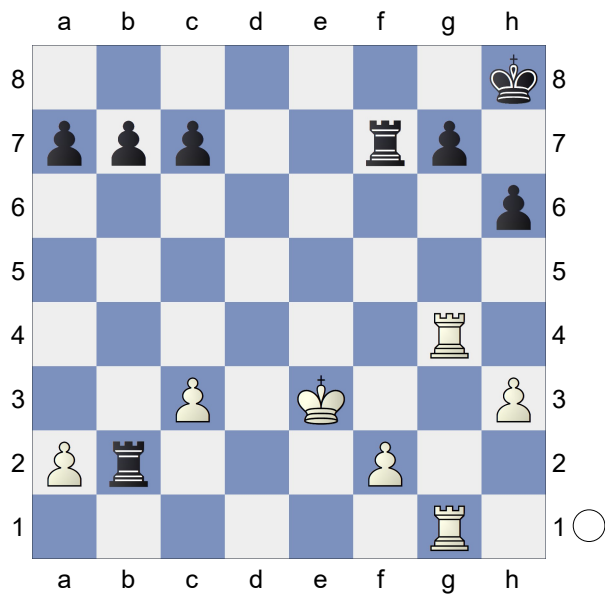


31.Bd4? -2.83/30 52 White slips up
 here.

[31.b4= -0.22/38 First things first:
 save that pawn! It's even.]

31...Rxb2 1:08 32.Bxe5 41 Rxe5+- 6
33.Kf3 -4.26/22 31 Finally threatening g7,
 but Black just steps back (after a check).

[♠33.a4 -2.99/29]
33...Rf5+ 1:02 34.Ke3 28 Rf7 20



35.R1g2 31 Rxa2 8 36.Rc4 38 b5 3:48
37.Rc5 25 Rb2 20 38.Rd5 37 a5 1:19
39.Rd8+ 14 Kh7 5 40.Ra8 23 a4 5
41.Ra5 25 c6 2:30 42.c4 24 Rb3+ 53
43.Kd4 59 a3 38 44.cxb5 25 cxb5 6
45.Kc5 37 Rxh3 52 46.Rg3 31 Rxc3
46 47.fxg3 6 Rf3 14 48.g4 21 Kg6 4
49.Kxb5 20 Kg5 27 Black mates.
50.Ra7 1:05 Kxg4 1:09 51.Rxc7+ 21
Kh4 29 52.Rg1 26 a2 34 53.Kc4 45
Ra3 14 54.Ra1 16 Kg3 15 55.Kb4 36
Ra8 4 56.Kc3 33 Kg2 9 57.Kd3 42 h5
6 58.Ke2 31 h4 12 59.Rf1 34 Re8+ 15
60.Kd2 28 Kxf1 6 Weighted Error
Value: White=0.74/Black=0.54
0-1

□ Cremisi, Daniel

■ Huang, Brice

2025 Oct Weekend Rapid (1.1) 26.10.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

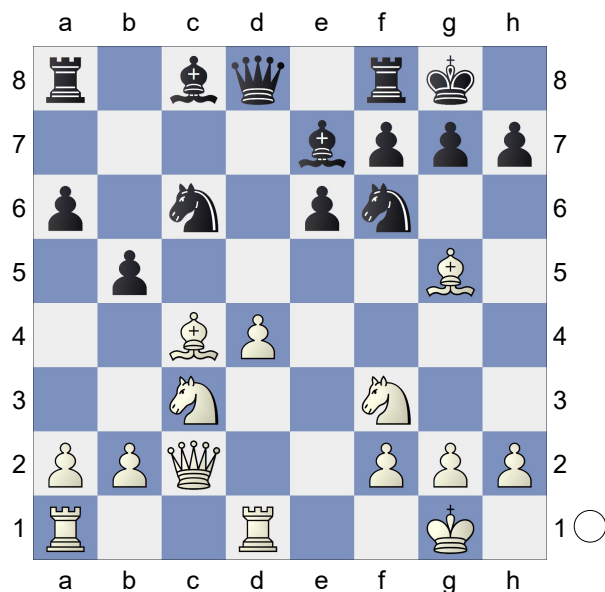
D31

2355

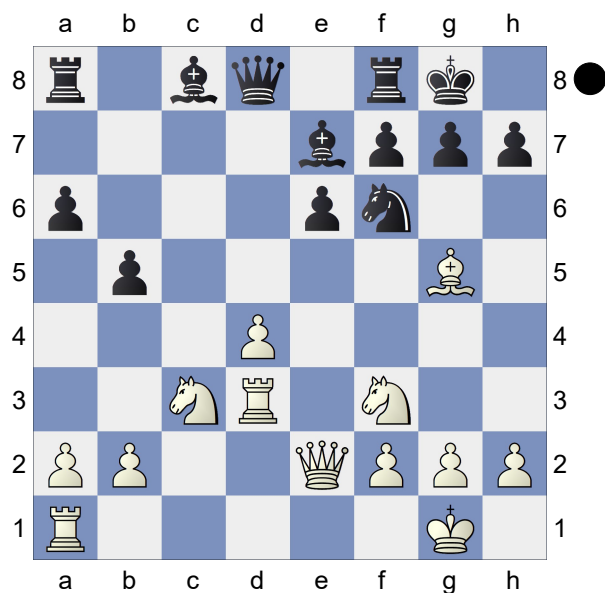
1859

Here's a game from the October Weekend Rapid tournament. Fifteen minute games, with a three-second increment. In Round 1 on first board,

Brice Huang gave the hugely higher rated Daniel Cremisi quite a run for the money, but "time took its toll." **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Qc2 Be7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 0-0 8.Nf3 c5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Rd1 cxd4 11.exd4 a6 12.Bg5 b5**



13.Bd3 Cremisi lets his light square bishop get traded off. There was a time when I felt I couldn't win without it (!).
13...Nb4 14.Qe2 Nxd3 15.Rxd3



And indeed Stockfish gives Black with some light advantage. **15...Bb7**

[15...b4!? 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Ne4 a5=]

16.Rad1 Nd5 17.Bxe7

[17.Nxd5]

17...Qxe7

[17...Nxe7!? keeps an extra pair of minors around, plus maybe ...b4 picking on that knight.]

18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.b3 Rfd8 20.Ne5 Rd6

[20...f6 when the weakness on e6 is unlikely to play]

[20...Rac8 grab the c-file!?]

21.Rh3 Qg5

[21...Rc8 22.Qd3 h6 is still (acc. to Stockfish 17.1) a little something for Black]

22.Rg3 Qf5 23.Ng4 Qf4

[23...Kf8]

[23...Kh8 are both just 0.00]

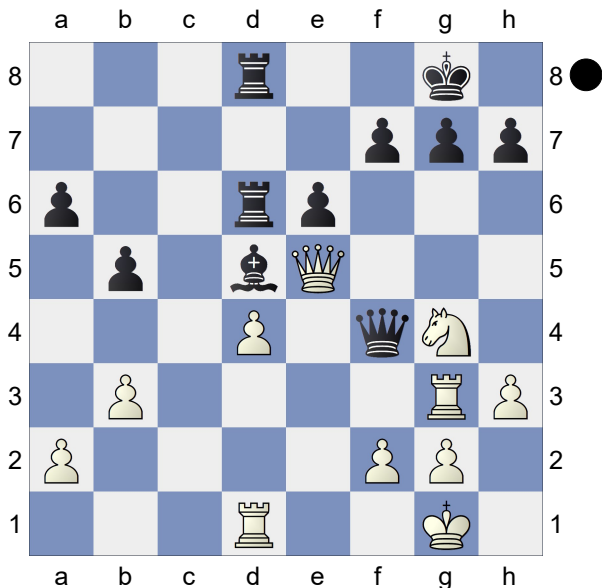
24.h3

[24.Qe5!± Qxe5 25.dxe5 Rc6 26.Nf6+ Kh8 27.Nxd5 exd5 28.f4 but Black should hold. (or 28.Rgd3)]

24...Rad8

[24...Bb7!? ready to pick on d4]

25.Qe5



(still there) **25...Qxe5 26.dxe5 Rc6**

27.Nf6+ Kh8 28.Nh5! g6

[28...Rg8!? 29.Nf4 Rd8 30.Rgd3

Rc5 31.b4 Rc4 32.Nxd5 Rxd5

33.Rxd5 exd5 34.Rxd5 g6 35.Rd6

Rxb4 36.Rxa6 Re4=]

29.Nf6 Rc2 30.Rd4 Kg7 31.a3 Ra2

32.b4 h6

[32...Rc8]

33.Rc3 Ra1+ 34.Kh2 Ra2 35.f3 g5

36.Kg3 Re2 37.Nxd5

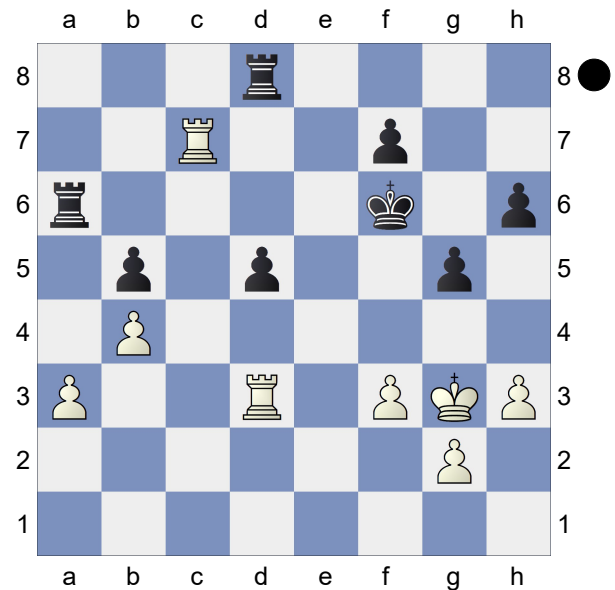
[37.Ng4=]

37...exd5

[37...Rxe5!?]

38.Rc6 Rxe5 39.Rxa6 Re6 40.Ra7

Kf6 41.Rc7 Ra6 42.Rd3



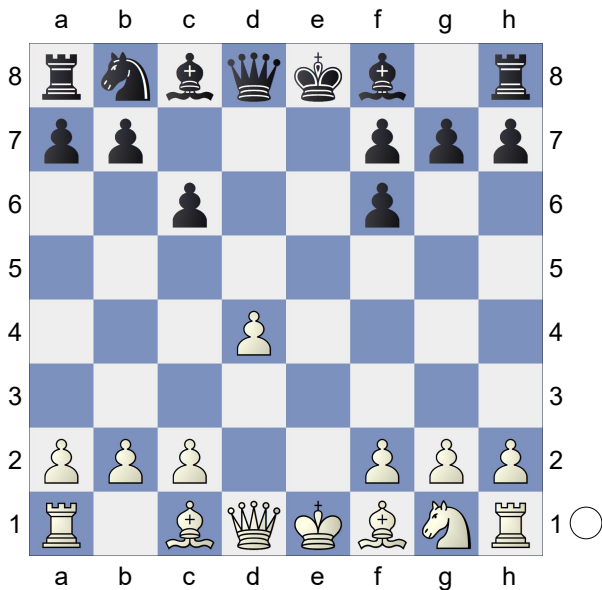
Nothing more? Black had six seconds before this move, in a drawn position he must have frozen and lost on time.

1-0

B15
Parsons, Stephen 1966
Bhatia, Aadit 2246
 2025 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 04.11.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

Aadit Bhatia is new to the Tuesday Night Marathons, but has played around the Bay Area for a few years. His first USCF tournament was a Philadelphia International in 2018, with a lot of pretty strong tournaments all around the US, but he played quite a lot in India before

that, first appearing on the FIDE lists in 2013 when he was 11 years old! A few years off (university probably) and now, especially now that he's in the US, his rating is climbing again. Here he leaves Stephen Parsons, who has had some excellent results lately, rather in the dust in the still popular ...exf6 line in the Caro Kann. **1.e4 2. c6 5:23 2.d4 9 d5 4 3.Nc3 5 dxe4 38 4.Nxe4 9 Nf6 3** Still going strong! **5.Nxf6+ 10 exf6 6**

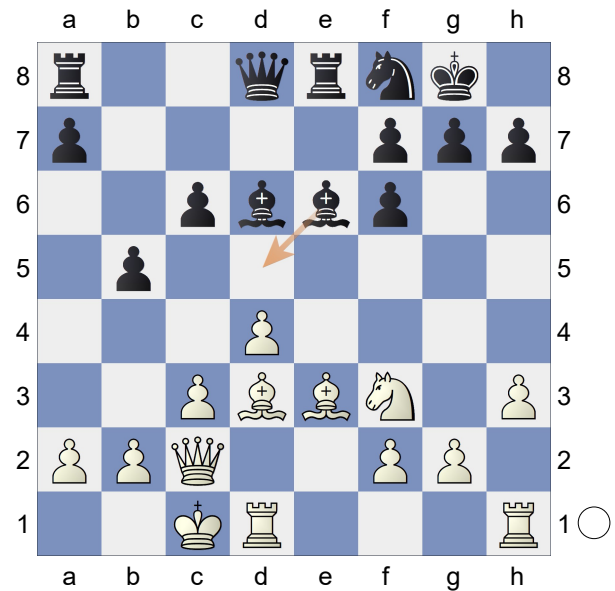


6.Nf3 15

[6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 has become the de facto Main Line, putting some pressure on Black right away. 0-0 8.Qc2 probably should be played first, to invoke a pawn push in front of Black's king. But note that the big thing is Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5!! (well...) -- here there are over 4200 games in the ChessBase online database! And as popular as this line is at every level, probably thousands more in games like this one at the TNM.]

6...Bd6 11 7.Bd3 10 0-0 6 8.Be3 32 Re8 1:10 9.c3 1:06 Nd7 7:10 10.Qc2 6 Nf8 47 Stockfish 17.1 makes it equal. So why does Black win a healthy majority of the games? **11.h3 1:32**
[11.0-0-0?]

[11.0-0=]
11...Be6 2:44 12.0-0-0 2:12 b5N 7:10
[12...Qa5 13.b3 Qc7 14.g4 Bd5 15.Nh4 Bxh1-+ 16.Rxh1 g6 17.Kb2 Bf4 18.Ng2 Bxe3 19.Nxe3 Re6 20.h4 Rae8 21.h5 Qf4 22.hxg6 fxg6?! 23.Bc4 Kg7 24.Bxe6 1-0 (24) Gevorgyan,M (2219)-Balabayeva,K (2116) Chess.com INT 2021 Black must have lost on time (it's a blitz game), it's still a plus for her. But no longer "winning."]

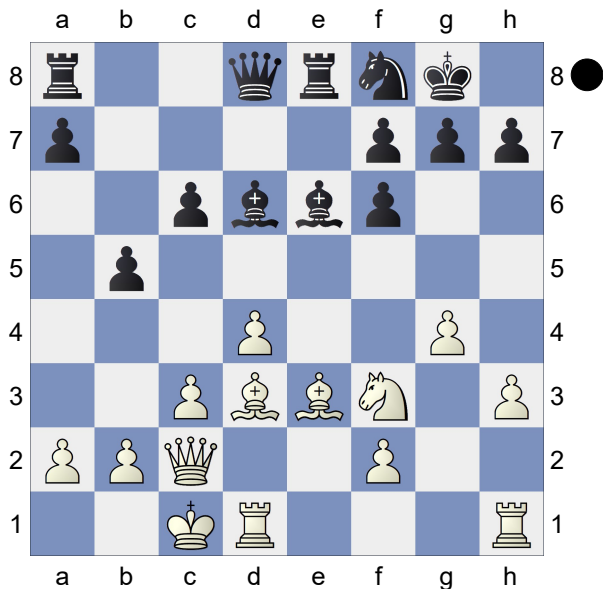


13.g4? 1:24

[13.Be4? Qc7 14.d5 cxd5 15.Bxd5]

(Diagram)

White felt the need "on principle" to start a kingside pawn storm, but (1) Black is pretty solid on the kingside (2) that "extra" pawn on f6 as much helps the defense as provides a "hook" for file opening (3) there's a tactical problem: **13...Bd5!-+ 2:39** It's not so much material as it is control -- White just never gets anything going while Black does. It helps that the center is Black's.
[13...Bxa2 14.b3±]



14.Nh4 1:35 Stockfish makes an exchange sacrifice with this

[(or 14.Nd2) as the best try.]

[14.Be2 Be4 15.Qb3 Ng6-+]

14...Bxh1 59 15.Rxh1 38 Qc7 2:51

16.g5 1:04 fxc5 24 17.Nf5 40

(White couldn't even take back!) **17...Bf4**

30 18.Rg1 29 g6 1:34 19.Nh6+ 4:37

Kg7 57 20.Ng4 23 f6 1:53 21.h4 24 h5

13:55 And there goes a piece to make it

a whole rook. **22.hxg5 6:15 fxc5! 1:55**

is even better than taking it!

[22...hxg4 23.gxf6+ Kxf6 24.Rxg4

Bxe3+ 25.fxe3-+]

[22...Bxg5 23.Bxg5 fxc5 24.Ne5

Rxe5 25.dxe5 Qxe5 26.a4-+]

23.Ne5 1:19

(Diagram)

Hoping for Bxf4. **23...Bxe3+! 23 24.fxe3**

13 Rxe5! 10 25.dxe5 11 Qxe5 4

Classic returning of most of the material

to simplify. **26.Qf2 8:58 Nd7 1:55**

27.Re1 50 Rf8 3:41 28.Qg2 17 Rf6 18

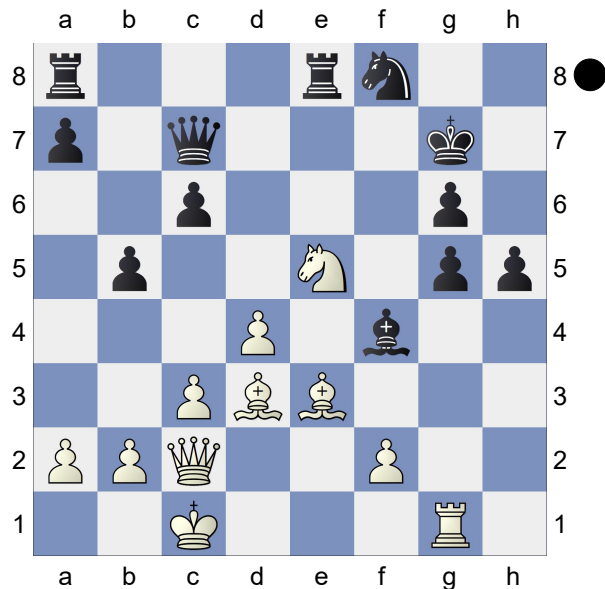
29.Qd2 3:08 Rd6 1:32 30.Qe2 2:58 g4

56 31.Bc2 29 Nf6 2:13 32.Qf2 5:18

Nh7 2:08 33.e4 24 c5 5:28 34.Bb3

1:25 Ng5 17 35.Bd5 25 Nf3 4:08

36.Rd1 2:37 Rf6 46 The players both



had plenty of time (00:55:56 vs.

00:31:40 going in), so this was a

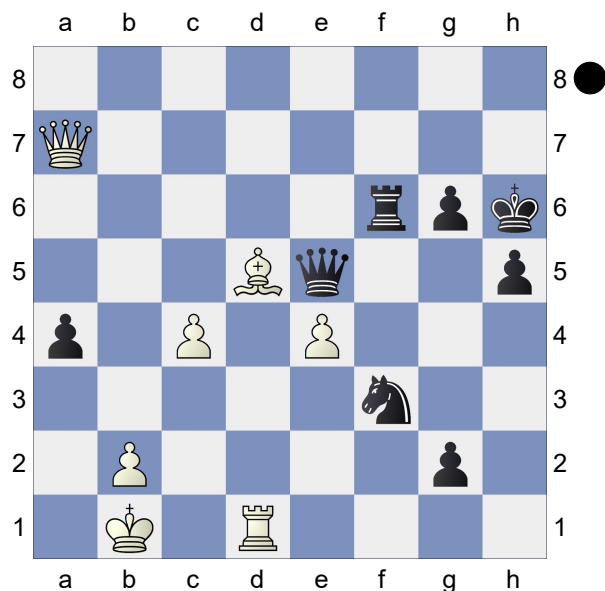
calculation, not a "fortunate error" -- the

g-pawn runs through and costs White

the exchange. **37.Qxc5 1:18 g3 19**

38.Qxa7+ 47 Kh6 7 39.Kb1 3:40 g2

4:23 40.a4 7:51 bxa4 29 41.c4 6



Nd4! 5:34 Okay, more than the

exchange! **42.Qa5 4:25**

[42.Qxa4 changes nothing but the

irrelevant pawn count]

42...Rf1 43 43.Qd2+ 37 Qg5 19

44.Qxd4 1:32 Rxd1+ 3

[44...g1Q?? 45.Qh8#!]

45.Qxd1 7 g1Q 4 46.Qxg1 10 Qxg1+ 4

47.Kc2 16 Qd4 4 "Artfully played by Bhatia" says the Tactical Analysis feature, and I can only agree. Well done! Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/Black=0.08
0-1

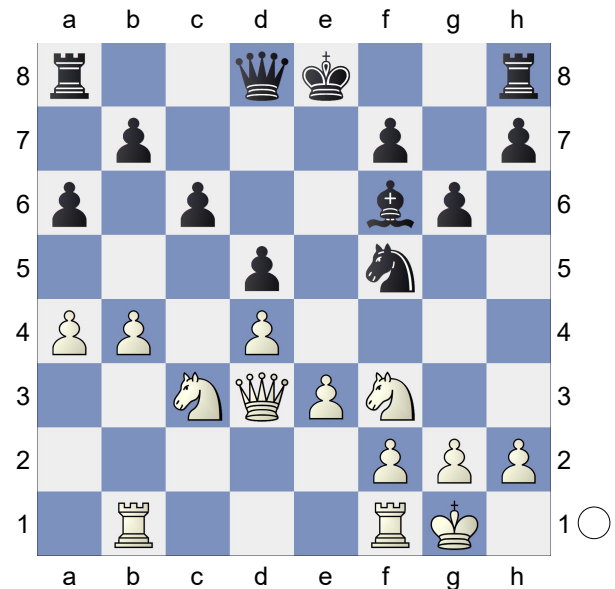
Balyan, Aryan **D36**
 Clemens, Kristian **2232**
 2025 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.2) **1941**
[Winslow, Elliott]

Another player I at least don't remember ever seeing at the Mechanics' is Aryan Balyan. His first chess seems to be in Ohio, where he steadily if slowly (no meteoric rise that is!) progressed. It looks like he was in Missouri for school (chess scholarship!?) and then: here he is. He's played in a flurry of MI tournaments this last month or so, and seems to be settling in with a Tuesday Night Marathon, so we'll be getting to know him. **1.d4 2 d5 34 2.c4 5 e6 8 3.Nc3 4 Be7 29 4.Nf3 27 Nf6 20 5.cxd5 11 exd5 9 6.Bg5 10 Nbd7 44 7.e3 2:31 c6 37 8.Qc2 1:00 Nf8 1:02 9.Bd3 22 g6 54 10.0-0 1:26 Ne6 1:05 11.Bh4 3:03 Ng7 1:03 12.b4 10:41 a6 6:11 13.Rab1 1:58 Bf5 1:40**

Perhaps he'll have to sharpen up his openings though! Here he's run into Kristian Clemens' excellent Queen's Gambit Decline, Exchange Variation preparation. (Have I extracted all the points I'm going to from Kristian in this? Time for 1.e4!? Not the Petroff! Oh no....) **14.a4 7:07 Bxd3 59 15.Qxd3 2 Nf5 3:07 16.Bxf6 10:32 Bxf6 26**

(Diagram)

17.a5?! 10:51 This gives up on any



Minority Attack plan, locking up the queenside. Handshake? No, more moves, twenty more...

[17.b5!? axb5 18.axb5 0-0 19.Rfc1 Nd6 20.bxc6 bxc6 is standard Minority Attack protocol, but with the light-square bishop traded off it's hard to do much to Black.]

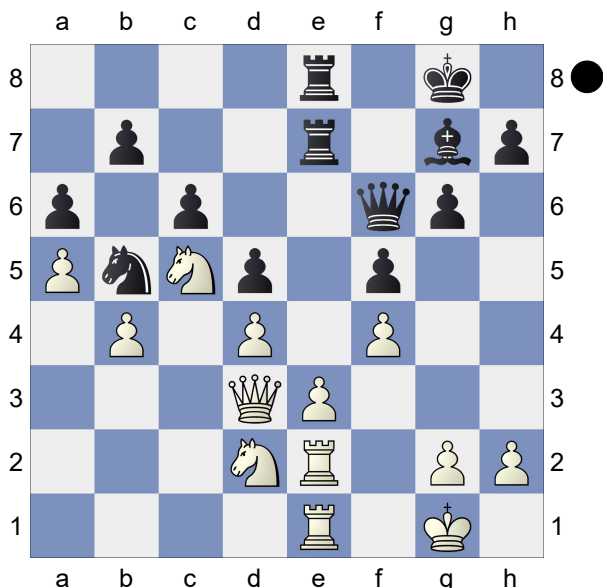
17...0-0 5:55 18.Na4 1:04 Nd6 3:23 19.Nc5 1:48 Re8 2:00 20.Nd2 41 Bg7 8:30 21.Rbd1 4:52 f5 3:04 22.f3 3:14 Qe7 3:37 23.Rfe1 3:26 Qf6 3:11 24.Ndb3 2:51
[24.f4!? g5!? 25.Nf3! g4 26.Ne5±]
24...Qf7 6:37 25.Rb1 4:34 Rad8 4:15 26.Re2 3:11 Re7 1:11 27.Rf1 1:59 Rde8 4:33 28.Nd2 5:20 Nb5 5:54 29.Ncb3 1:45 Qf6 3:55 30.Rfe1 8:22 Qd6 4:08 31.Nc5 3:23 Qf6 11:04 32.f4 3:25

(Diagram)

g5! 5:56 /= Impressive! Kristian knows it's the moment to hit the "Detonate!" button, before White gets in Nf3-e5.

33.fxg5?! 2:04

[33.Nf3!? gxf4 34.exf4 Nxd4 (34...Re4!?) 35.Rxe7 Rxe7 36.Rxe7 Qxe7 37.Kf1 Nxf3 38.Qxf3



I'd think the extra pawn might matter, but Stockfish says no.]

33...Qxg5 27 34.Nf3 9 Qf6 2:55 35.Ne5 57 Qg5 1:35 36.Nf3?! 2:07

[36.Rf2= (0.00) Bxe5 37.dxe5 Rxe5 38.Rf3 Qe7 39.Rxf5 Rxe3 40.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 41.Rxe3 Rxe3 42.Nxb7= I'll trust Stockfish that this is just liquification on a drawing scale.]

36...Qf6 1:23

[36...Qg4! keeps a working initiative, ready to bring that knight into c4.]

37.Ne5 2:07 Qg5 3:18 Well-held, Mr. Clemens! And, welcome to the TNM wars, Mr. Balyan! Try to hang on to your rating points!

1/2-1/2

E76
 ☐ **Horowitz, Phineas F** **1931**
 ■ **Winslow, Elliott** **2207**
 2025 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 04.11.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

I started out with my usual badly-remembered sharp opening. Phineas and I have played in the last three TNM's now. I'm 3-0, but the two games I've been Black have been quite a mess!

(Winslow-Horowitz was a Dragodorf, which didn't get its fire going.) **1.d4 2 Nf6 1:09 2.c4 13 g6 8 3.Nc3 12 Bg7 10 4.e4 20 d6 6 5.f4 1:58 0-0 1:07 6.Nf3 1:12 e5!? 3:01** Who'd have thought! Almost 400 games.

[6...c5 Ah, the good old days, which I've been on both sides of since 1968(!).]

[6...Na6 often transposes into an identical or similar line, but allows some annoying independent possibilities for White.]

7.fxe5 7:31

[7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Nxe5 Na6 10.Be2]

7...dxe5 10 8.d5 1:08 White tries to achieve a controlled advantage, especially since the pawn grabs (both here and on the previous move) have their problems. In fact, most of the games transposed from 6...Na6 -- but Guseinov has always been 6...e5.

[8.Nxe5 c5]

8...c6?! 1:42

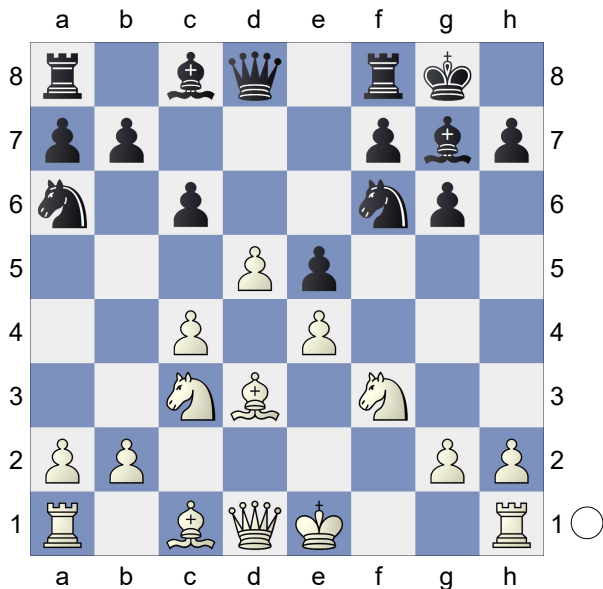
[8...Na6! Guseinov has a huge plus score with this! 9.Bd3 (9.Be2 (via 6...Na6) was against a much higher rated player than Gadir: G. Kasparov... Nc5 Black has a great score from here 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.b4 Na6 13.a3 c5 14.Rb1 Bd7 15.b5 Nc7 16.d6 Ne6 17.Nd5 Qd8 18.Qd2 Nd4 19.0-0 Be6 20.Nxd4 Bxd5 21.Nc6 bxc6 22.cxd5 cxb5 23.Rxb5 Qxd6 24.Qa5 f5 25.Rxc5 fxe4 26.Rc6 Rxf1+ 27.Bxf1 Qf8 28.d6 1/2-1/2 (28) Lautier, J (2655)-Kasparov, G (2805) Amsterdam 1995)]

9.Bd3 12:22

[9.Be2!? Na6 (9...b5!?)]

9...Na6 3:24

(Diagram)



two games, 203 transpositions(!)

10.h3?! N 4:21

[10.0-0±]

10...Nh5?! 14:15 Pushing my luck. I saw the various queenside plays, which led to repetitions. Ugh.

[10...Nc5 11.Be3 Nxd3+ 12.Qxd3 b5 13.d6 bxc4 14.Qd2 *This* is best? No repetition in sight.]

11.g4? 9:07

[11.0-0!]

11...Nf4! 14 (Says SF 17.1, though I was merely hoping the dark square might compensate (they do of course).

12.Bxf4 54 exf4 7 13.Qd2 7:05 Nc5 3:11 14.0-0-0 3:25

(Diagram)

Qa5 6:43 Probably best.

[14...cxd5 15.cxd5 b5=]

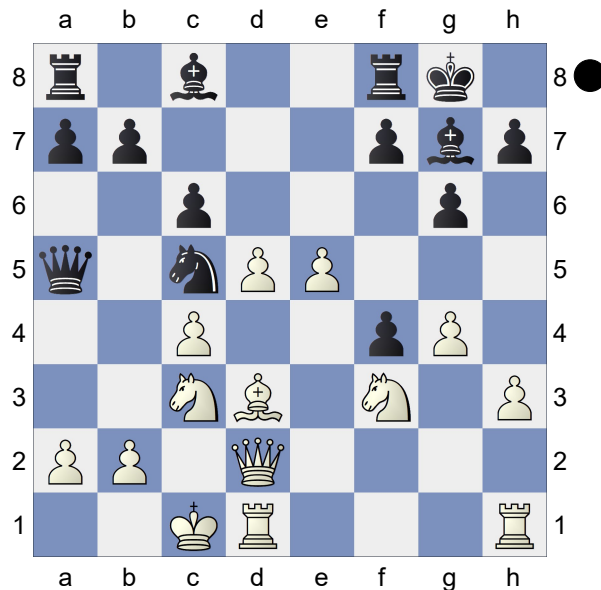
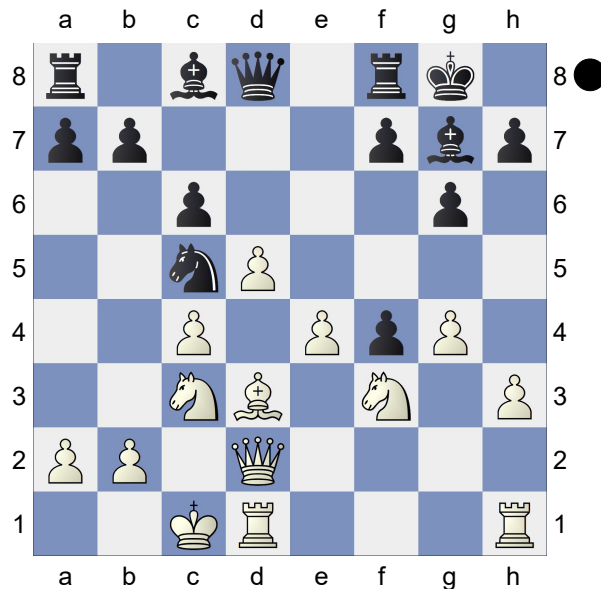
[14...b5!? 15.dxc6 Qa5 16.cxb5 Rd8 is outside of my "crazy comfort zone"...]

15.e5 5:46

(Diagram)

b5! 4:15 It works now... **16.Kb1? 23:59**

[16.cxb5 cxd5 17.Kb1 Nxd3



18.Qxd3 a6 19.Nd4 axb5 20.Nc6 Qa6 16:47]

[16.dxc6! Be6 (16...b4 17.Ne4 Nxd3+ 18.Qxd3 Qxa2= (-0.10/24))]

16...bxc4? 8:47 Lets White off easy.

[16...Nxd3! 17.Qxd3 bxc4 18.Qxc4 Rb8 19.dxc6 (best acc. to SF) Ba6 20.Qd4 Rb4 21.Qf2!]

17.Bxc4 16 cxd5 1:18 18.Nxd5 2:04

(Diagram)

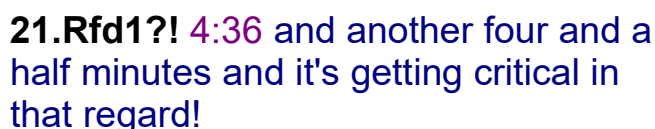
Qxd2 2:25 Best, but was this really what I wanted to do? I tell the kids: "Don't trade queens when you're the one with



[22.e6! fxe6 23.Nxf4 Black now trade one rook or let White trade them all, either way the plus is taken. But I have the two bishops! I can just "make moves" as Fischer said. Rxd2 (23...Bf6 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8 26.Nd4 Be4+ 27.Ka1 Bb4 28.Ndxe6+ Nxe6 29.Bxe6= (best)) 24.Nxd2 Kf7]

the attack!" I should have thought about that a few moves ago. **19.Rxd2 18 Bb7= 1:12 20.Rf1 8:29** Meanwhile... He was burning down the clock, using almost half of his remaining 17m39s on this move... **20...Rfd8 3:31** I had almost 44 minutes at this point

[20...Kh8]



[21.Ng5=]



[24.Nxf4+!? Ke7 (24...Ke8)]

24...Ke7 24 25.Nxa8 41 Rxd2 1:11

26.Rxd2 2 Bxa8 10 The two pieces and f-pawn will win easily. **27.b4 1:13 Ne4**

1:15 28.Rc2 1:49 f3 2:54 29.Kc1 30
Ng3 7:50 30.Kd1 53 Bd4 46 31.Rd2 38
Bb6 1:55 32.Rd3 30 Kf6 1:18 33.a4 28

[33.Rd7!? -- nah]

33...Ke5 1:13 34.a5 37 Bd4 8 35.b5 14
Be4 2:17

[35...Nf1!]

36.Rb3 21 Kf4 28 37.b6 21 axb6 18

38.axb6 10 Bb7 50 39.Rb4 1:30 f2

1:48 40.Bb5 28 Ke5 1:04

[40...Bf3+ 41.Kc1 Ne2+ 42.Bxe2
Bxe2 43.Rxd4+ Ke3]

41.Rb3 32 f1Q+ 2:21

[41...Kf4!]
42.Bxf1 3 Nxf1 9 43.Ke2 52 Ne3 10
44.Ke1⊕ 1:02 White's time
0-1

□ **Mays-Smith,Isaac S**
 ■ **Marvin,Hayes Alexander**
 2025 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (1.11)
[Winslow,Elliott]

A minor upset in that Hayes Marvin didn't win against a significantly lower rated Isaac Mays-Smith. But I imagine Hayes was more upset when he saw (sees?) how he let this one get away, after a spectacular knight jump into White's position. If it wasn't winning, then it was close to it... **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+** The BogolIndian against the Catalan. I beat Brad Diller in this a year and a half ago in a TNM. I'm sure he's patched it up since then, but we haven't had a chance to test it out.

4.Bd2 Qe7 The long-standing main line.

[Brad played 4...c5!? 5.Bxb4 cxb4 6.Bg2 0-0 7.e4 when I have e2 for my knight (for better or worse).]

[Three other pretty popular moves are 4...Be7]

[4...a5]

[and 4...Bxd2+ . Take your choice.]

5.Bg2 0-0

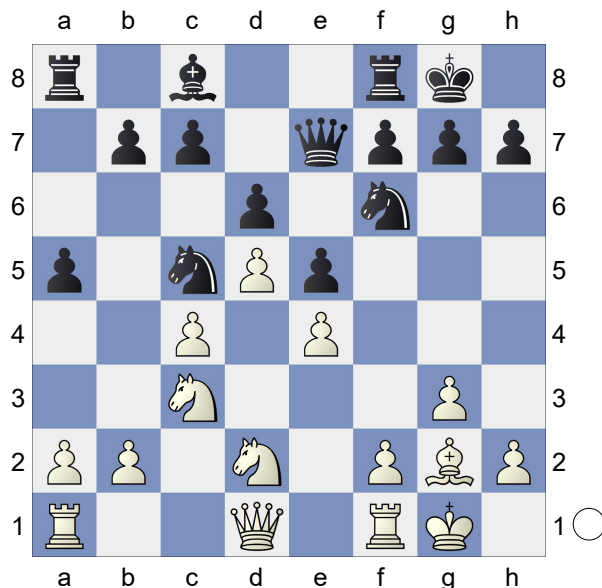
[5...Nc6!?]

6.Nf3 Bxd2+ 7.Nfxd2!? Rare but not at all bad.

[Relevant: 7.Qxd2 Ne4 8.Qc2 d5 9.0-0 c6 10.Nbd2 f5 11.Ne5 Nd7 12.Ndf3 Nd6 13.e3 Nf7 14.Nxf7 Rxf7 15.b4 Qxb4 16.Rfc1 Qxc4 17.Qxc4 dxc4 18.Rxc4 Re7 19.Rb1 e5 20.h4 e4 21.Nd2 Nb6 22.Rc5 Be6 23.Ra5 Nd5 24.Ra3 b5 25.Ra6 Rc7 26.a3 Rb8 27.Rc1 Rb6 28.Ra5

Kf7 29.Bh3 Ke7 30.Bf1 g6 31.Be2 a6 32.a4 Kd6 33.Bf1 Nb4 34.Rc3 Ra7 35.Rc5 Rab7 36.Rc3 Bd5 0-1, Dardha,D (2604)-Caruana,F (2758) Titled Tuesday (blitz) 27 Sep 2022]

E11 7...d6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.e4 e5 10.d5 a5 11.Nc3 Nc5



12.Nb3N

[Predecessor: 12.b3= Bg4 (12...h5!?) 13.f3 Bd7 14.Qe2 Ne8 (14...g6) 15.Rae1 (15.f4!?± !=) 15...Nf6 (15...f5 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Nce4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Nf6=) 16.f4± Rfe8 17.f5 Reb8 18.g4 Ne8 19.Nf3 (19.Rf3! Δ20.Rg3±) 19...Na6 20.g5 f6 21.h4 (21.g6! h6 22.Rb1) 21...a4± 0-1 (39) Zeppos,P (2004)-Vasiliadis,A (1943) Achaia 2012]

12...Nfd7

[12...b6 13.Qd2 h5]

13.Nb5

(Diagram)

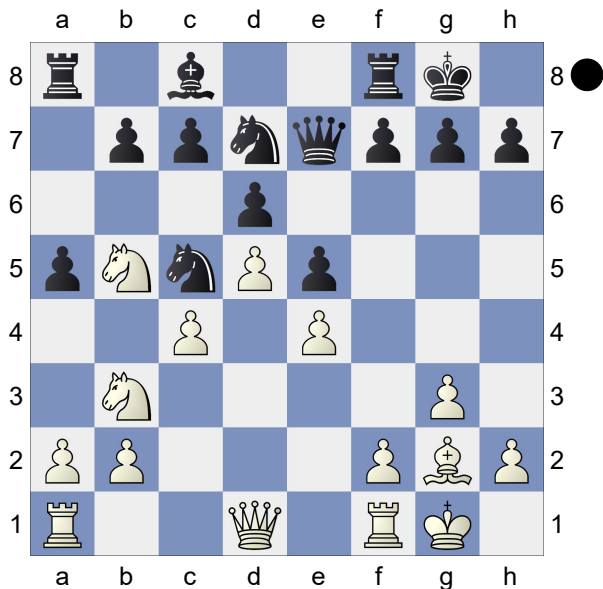
Nxb3?!

[13...Qd8 14.Nxc5 Nxc5 15.f4=]

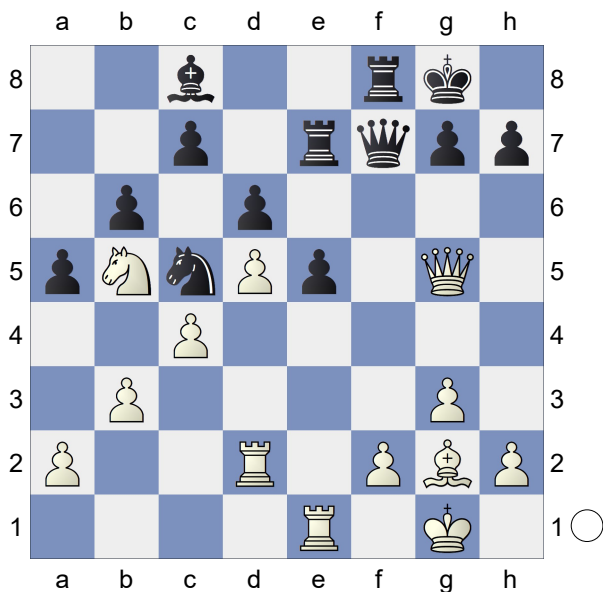
14.Qxb3?!

[14.axb3!±]

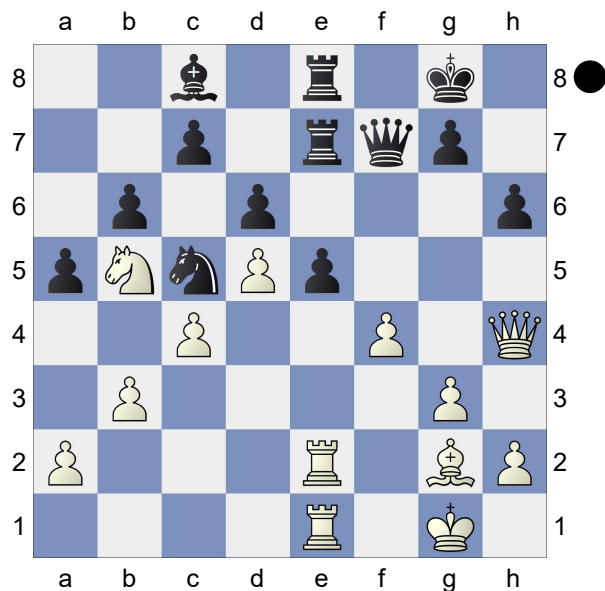
14...Nc5=



[14...f5=]
15.Qe3 b6 16.Rfb1? f5~~f~~ 17.exf5
 (Or else ...f4) **17...Bxf5 18.Re1 Qf7**
19.Rad1 Bg4
 [19...Rac8!]
20.Rd2
 [20.f3!]
20...Rae8
 [20...Rac8]
21.b3 Re7
 [21...e4!/?]
22.Qg5 Bc8



23.f4?! h6 24.Qh4 Rfe8 25.Rde2?
 [25.fxe5 Rxe5 26.Rxe5 Rxe5
 27.Rf2=]

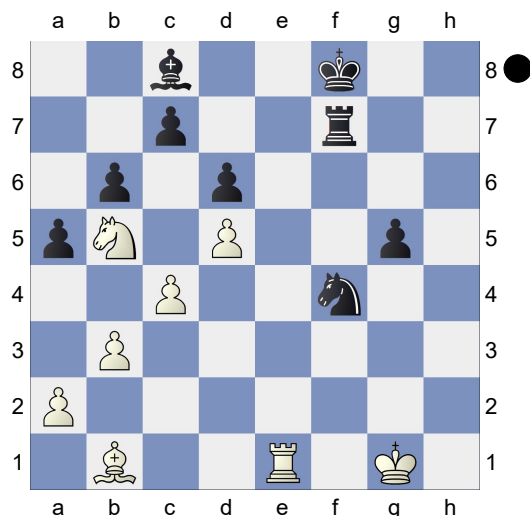


25...Nd3!! Black launches a delicate but successful assault! Or rather, it should have been.

[25...e4? 26.Nd4!±]
26.fxe5?
 [26.Rd1?! exf4 27.Rxe7 Rxe7
 28.Rxd3 (28.Rf1) 28...Re1+□ 29.Kf2
 (29.Bf1 fxf3) 29...fxg3+□ 30.Kxe1
 (30.Kxg3 Re2! 31.Bf3 Qg6+ 32.Kf4
 Qxd3) 30...Qf2+ 31.Kd1 Qg1+
 32.Kc2 Qxg2+ 33.Rd2 Bf5+ 34.Kc1
 Qg1+ 35.Rd1 (35.Kb2 Qb1+ 36.Ka3
 Qc1+ 37.Rb2 g2) 35...Qe3+ 36.Kb2
 (36.Rd2 g2) 36...Qe2+ (36...g2??
 37.Qd4) 37.Ka3 Qxd1 38.Qxg3
 Qc1+ 39.Ka4 Qb2 40.a3 (40.Nc3
 Bd7+) 40...Bd7□ 41.h4 Kf7]
 [26.Rf1! exf4 27.Rxe7 Qxe7!
 28.Qxe7 Rxe7 29.gxf4 (29.Rd1 fxf3
 30.Rxd3 Re1+ 31.Bf1 gxh2+
 32.Kxh2 Rxf1 33.Nxc7 Bd7-+
 ("just" - -1.66/25)) 29...Rf7 30.h4
 Nxf4 31.Re1 Kf8 32.Be4 g5
 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Bb1

(Diagram)

and it looks like an Engine Bishop Stall (c), i.e. Stockfish 17.1 thinks

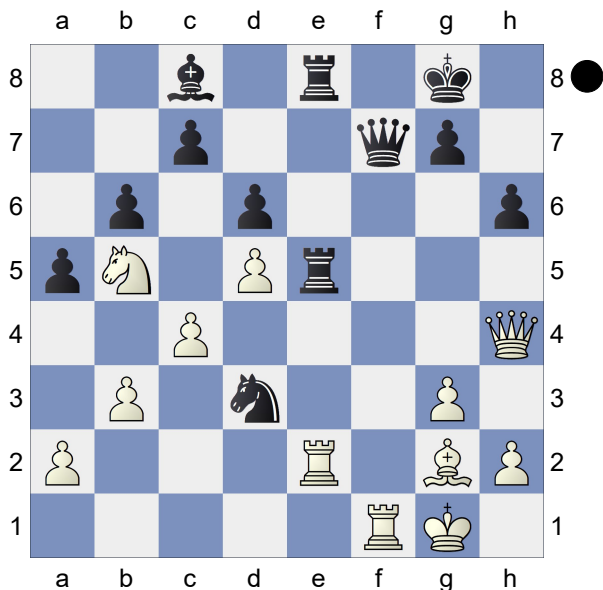


Black is winning (-2.11/d34) but can't quite make it happen (so far).]

26...Rxe5

[26...Nxe1! 27.e6 Bxe6
is even better.]

27.Rf1



Rxe2! 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Qh5+

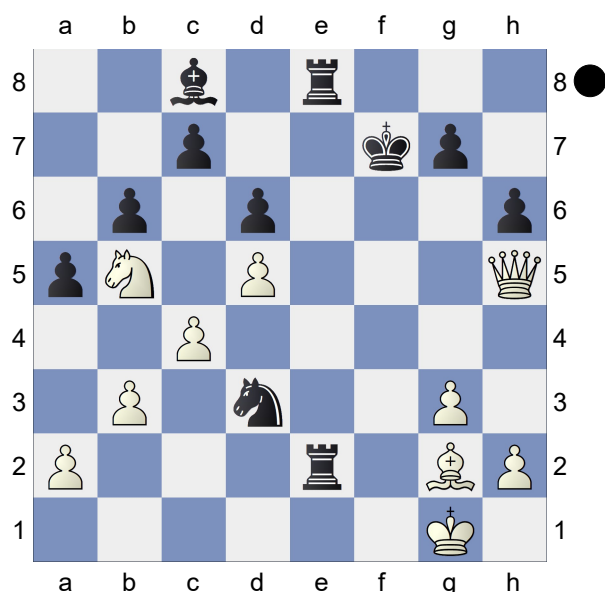
(Diagram)

Kf8??

[29...Kg8! 30.Bf1 R2e5!
(30...Re1-+)]

30.Qf3+ Kg8 31.Qxd3= R8e3 32.Qd4
[32.Qg6=]

32...Re1+ 33.Kf2 R1e2+ 34.Kg1 Re1+
35.Kf2 They both got away with a draw,



sort of.

1/2-1/2

D30

1247

0

□ **Le,Thu Anh**

■ **Weaver,Kyle**

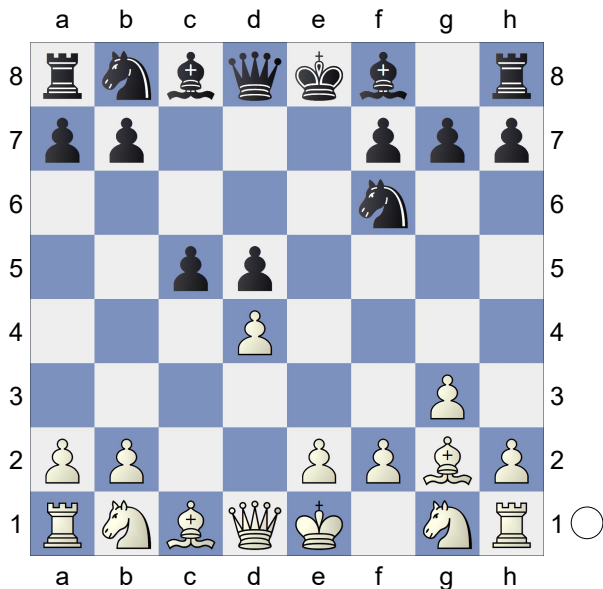
2025 Winter TNM: u1600 (1.31) 04.11.25
[Le,Thu Anh/(Winslow,Elliott)]

Thu Anh is back working on her game (via Cremisi's class, starting up this Sunday!), This game will be interesting material. Kyle Weaver, meanwhile, may or may not be returning to tournament chess after 20 years when someone with that name played a tournament in Florida -- or was it the Kyle Weaver in Texas? ... In any case: he could turn out to be a force. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 c5 (EW) Offering to turn a Catalan into a Tarrasch Queen's Gambit. 5.cxd5 exd5

(Diagram)

6.dxc5?! (EW) Typically this waits until the Black f8-bishop moves, thus gaining a tempo. At least that's the drill.

[6.Nf3!



A) 6...cxd4 7.Nxd4 (7.0-0!?)
 7...Bb4+ (7...Bc5!? A sort of Dubov Variation (White's knight already on c3), although Keres and others certainly have done this (... cxd4 and ...Bc5) in similar positions. Here is a recent, pretty high-level game, between two of the best Azeri players: 8.0-0 0-0 9.b3 Re8 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Be3 Bb6 12.Qd2 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.Rac1 Rc8 15.Nxc6 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Rxe3 17.Nxd8 Rexc3 18.Rxc3 Rxc3 19.g4 Bg6 20.Rd1 h5 21.Nxb7 hxg4 22.hxg4 Nxg4 23.Bxd5 Rc2 24.Bf3 Ne5 25.a4 Nxf3+ 26.exf3 Rc3 27.Na5 Rxf3 28.Rd8+ Kh7 29.Rd7 a6 30.Rd6 Bc2 31.Rxa6 Bxb3 32.Nxb3 ½-½ Mamedyarov,S (2732)-Mamedov,R (2656) Azerbaijan ch, Baku, 15 Feb 2025) 8.Bd2 (8.Nd2);

B) 6...Nc6;

C) 6...Be7;

D) 6...c4?! 7.0-0± and White can hit that c-pawn head-on with 8.b3.]

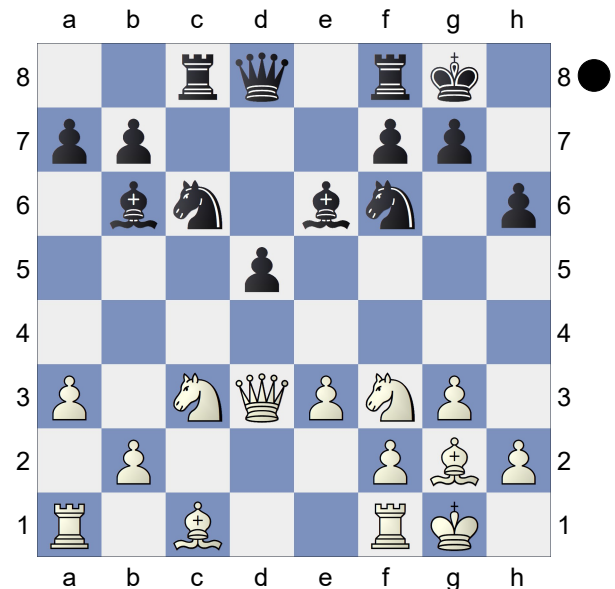
6...Bxc5 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Qc2

[(EW) I'm quite interested to see a number of early games (including 1923!) with 9.Bg5 -- especially Ulf

Andersson breaking down Lajos Portisch's IQP defence: h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Nc3 Rd8 12.Ne1 Be6 13.Nd3 Bd4 14.Rc1 Rac8 15.Nf4 Bxc3 16.Rxc3 d4 17.Rc5 Qe7 18.Nxe6 Qxe6 19.b3 1-0 (61) Andersson,U (2610)-Portisch,L (2650) Tilburg 1981]

9...Bb6 10.a3!? Taking advantage of the knight not on c3 yet!? There are some high-level games with this motif. But Thu veers back into the usual stuff. [10.Nc3 Nb4 11.Qb3 Nc6 12.Rd1] **10...h6 (EW)** Not really necessary either. [10...Re8] [10...Ne4]

11.e3? Be6 12.Nc3 Rc8 13.Qd3



Qd7?

[Here Weaver misses a shot, based on the a6-f1 diagonal (!). In IQP positions both sides have to keep an eye on the pawn's advance... 13...d4!-+ 14.exd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bc4 (EW) Stockfish 17.1 doesn't think there's enough for the Exchange. Sometimes White's bishop on g2 is compensation; not here.]

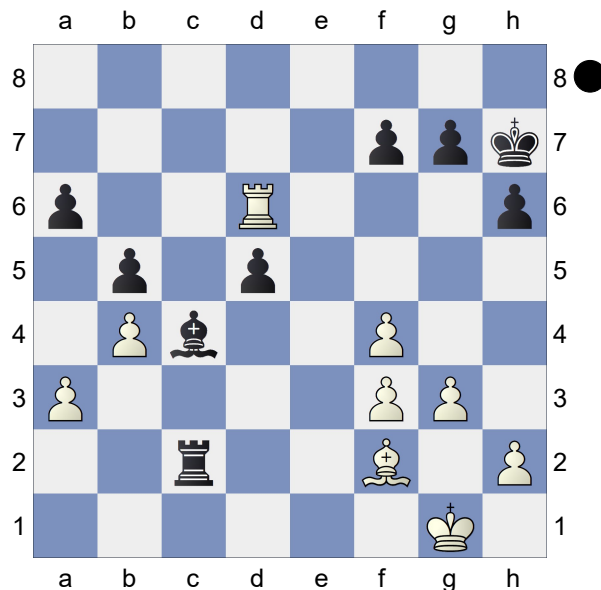
14.Na4 Bf5

[14...Bg4]

15.Qd1

[15.Qb5]
 [15.Nxb6]
15...Qc7
 [15...Ne4!?]
16.Nxb6 Qxb6 17.b4 Rfd8 18.Bb2 Ne4 19.Nd4?!
 [19.Qe2]
 [19.Re1]
 [19.Nh4 Bh7 20.Qg4 Plan is to bring the knight to f5.]
 [19.Rc1]
19...Bg6
 [19...Nxd4! 20.Qxd4 Qxd4 21.Bxd4 Nd2]
20.Nxc6
 [20.Bh3 Rc7 21.Rc1]
20...Rxc6 21.Bd4 Qc7 22.Bxe4
 [22.Rc1 Rxc1 (22...Rc4) 23.Qxc1 Qxc1 24.Rxc1]
22...Bxe4= (EW) ? Better to improve the status of that pawn:
 [22...dxe4! when White must be alert to danger on the light squares around the king. (-0.45/d40)]
23.Qg4 Bg6 24.Qf4 The symptom of: "I'm getting low on time and I don't know what to do. Therefore I will knowingly make a not-so-good move. But should be holdable.
 [24.b5 Rc4 25.a4 Re8 26.a5 Re4 27.Qf3]
24...Qxf4 25.exf4 I did not like this move and saw that gives Black a passed pawn. While it is an isolated pawn and opposite-colored bishop, which, should be fine theoretically (famous last words), White is now the defending side.
 [25.gxf4?? Bd3-+ wins the exchange because of the mate threat.]
25...b6 26.Rac1 Rdc8 27.Rxc6 Rxc6 28.f3 Bd3 29.Re1
 [29.Rd1 Be2 30.Re1 Bxf3
 I saw this and didn't want to lose the pawn. Should have let it go and go for counterplay on the 7th rank 31.Re8+

Kh7 32.Re7]
29...Rc4 30.Bf2
 [30.Kf2 Rc2+ 31.Ke3 Bc4 32.h4 Ra2 33.f5 Rxa3+ 34.Kf4 f6 35.Re3]
30...Rc7 31.Kg2 Rc2 32.Re8+ Kh7 33.Rd8 Bc4 34.Rd7 a6 35.Rd6 b5 36.Kg1??

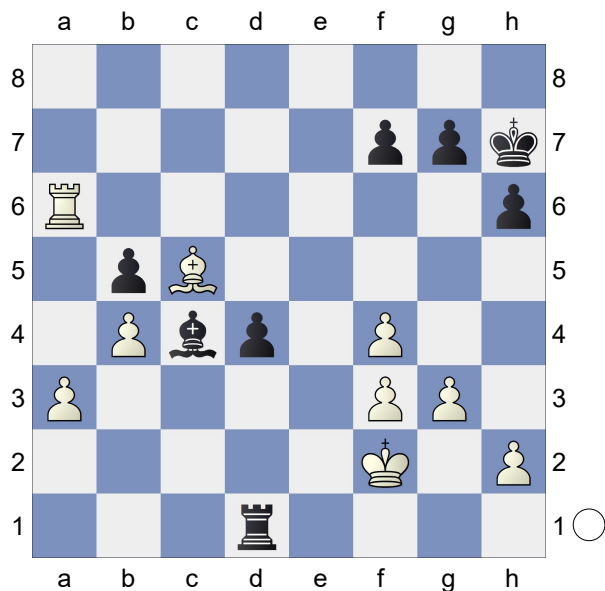


Black missed another win here.

36...Rd2?
 [36...Rc1+ 37.Kg2 Bf1+ 38.Kg1 Bh3+]
 [(EW) 36...Rc1+ 37.Kg2 Bf1+ 38.Kh1! is of course better, but still lost (although this one is not easy to work out at all): Bh3+ 39.Bg1 Rd1 40.g4 (40.Rxa6 d4) 40...f6 41.Rd8 Kg6 42.Rd7 Rd3 43.Bc5 Rxa3]
37.Bc5 Now it's back to a draw. **37...Rd3 38.Rxa6 Rd1+ 39.Kf2 d4**

(Diagram)

40.Rd6? Thu doesn't find a solution to her uncomfortable king, but it's there:
 [40.g4! Rf1+ 41.Kg2=]
40...d3?
 [40...Rd2+-+ 41.Ke1 (41.Kg1 d3!) 41...Re2+ 42.Kd1 d3 Threat: 43... Bb3+ 44.Kc1 Rc2+ 45.Kb1 d2 and 46...Rc1+]

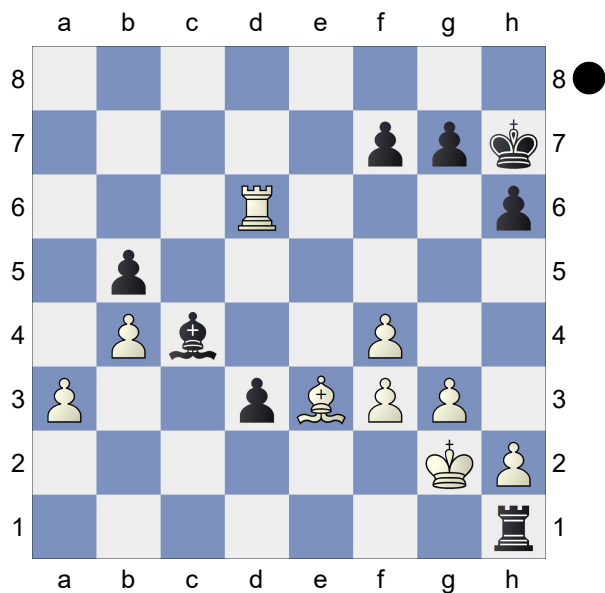


41.Be3

[41.g4]

41...Rh1 42.Kg2

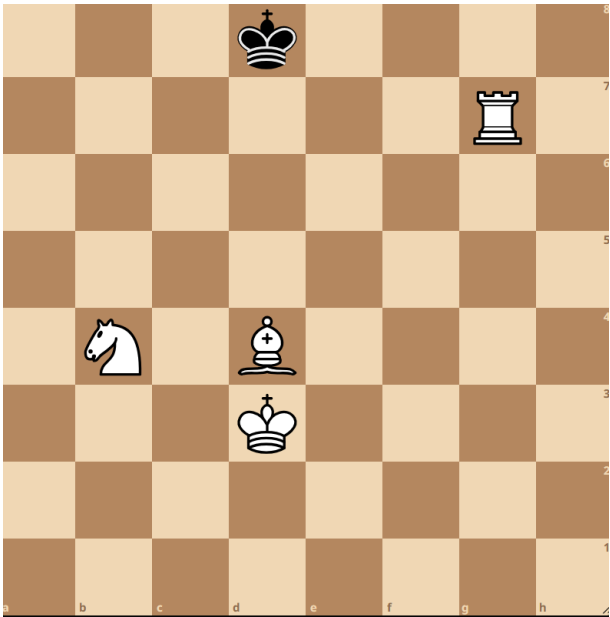
[42.g4! The only move to not lose the game. Rxh2+ 43.Kg3 Re2 44.Bd4= (44.Bc1= also hangs on)]



42...Re1! 43.Bf2 Re2 The pawn runs to queen with ...Bb3 helping between steps.

0-1

Tony's Teasers
White to play and mate in 4.



Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1. Be3!

If 1...Ke8 then every move is forced! 2. Nc6, Kf8 3. Bh6, Ke8 4. Re7#

If 1...Kc8 2. Bb6, Kb8 3. Nc6, Kc8 4. Rc7#

Contact Us

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