



MECHANICS'
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CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1014 | April 16, 2022

Gens Una Sumus!

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Falconer TNM Round Seven Report

The giants fell in the final round, as Expert **Eugenio Garcia** defeated IM **Elliott Winslow**, taking clear 1st in the top section with a 6 – 1 score, while **Nicholas Weng** took down NM **Michael Walder** for clear 2nd. Walder finished alone in 3rd. Rounding out the prize-winners were **Luke Widaja** (Best under 2000) and **Sebastian Suarez** (Best under 1800).

Eugenio wishes to dedicate his victory in the TNM to his father, Mr. Clehir da Rocha Garcia, who passed away in March. He has written an article on chess and AI, with the link in FM Paul Whitehead's column below.

The under 1800 section saw a dramatic finale, as **Karl Stuart Kingma** lost an epic battle to **Austin Bourdier**. Those two were joined at the top with 5.5 points by **Dean Guo** and **Steve Sobel**. **Rishabh Bhatnagar** took the Best under 1400 prize.

Neil Falconer (1923-2014) was a Mechanics' Institute trustee. A remembrance penned by former Chess Room Director **IM John Donaldson** can be found here: <http://www.uschess.org/index.php/April/Neil-Falconer-1923-2014.html>

For TNM info, standings and results: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

Follow the DGT action: <https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tnm-2022/2/1/1>

□ Ahrens, Richard

■ Olson, David

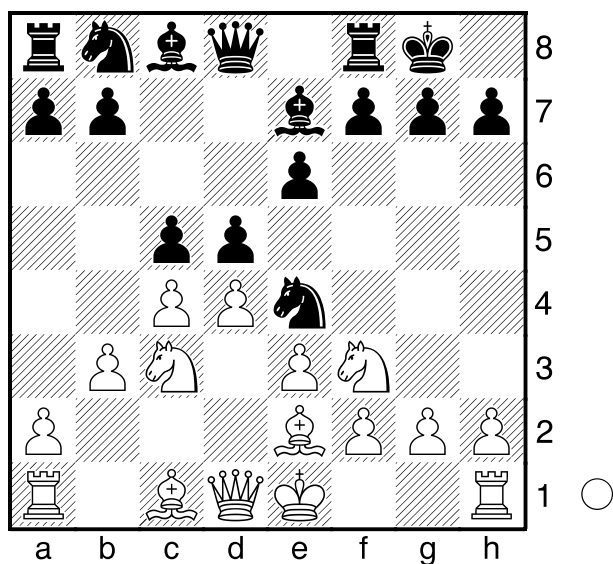
D37

1037

1400

MI Falconer TNM: u1800 (7.25) 12.04.22
[de Firmian]

1.d4 e6 offering to play a French Defense if White plays **2.e4 2.c4 c5** offering to play a Benoni Defense if White plays **3.d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 d5** So we finally settle on a Semi-Tarrasch opening with symmetrical pawn structure. **7.b3 Ne4!?**



David changes the symmetrical tone of the game with this central charge. **8.Bb2**

[8.Nxe4?! dxe4 9.Nd2 cxd4

10.Nxe4 Nc6 is good for Black]

8...Qa5 9.Qd3 f5 10.0-0 dxc4?!

Thus far it has been excellent opening play by both players. This move however gives up some control of the central squares. Preferable would be

[10...cxd4]

11.Qxc4 cxd4 12.Nxe4! fxe4 13.Nxd4

Fine play by Richard. White is now clearly better with well placed pieces and a target on e6 to attack. **13...Qc5?!**

[13...Qd5 is probably a little better]

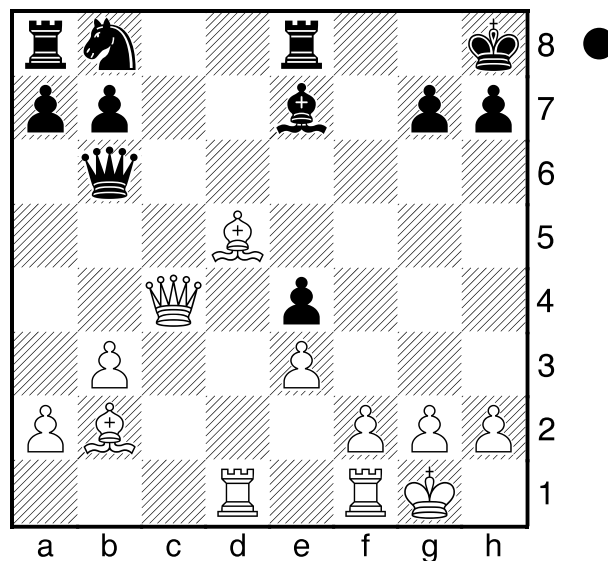
14.Rad1

[White can just take the pawn with

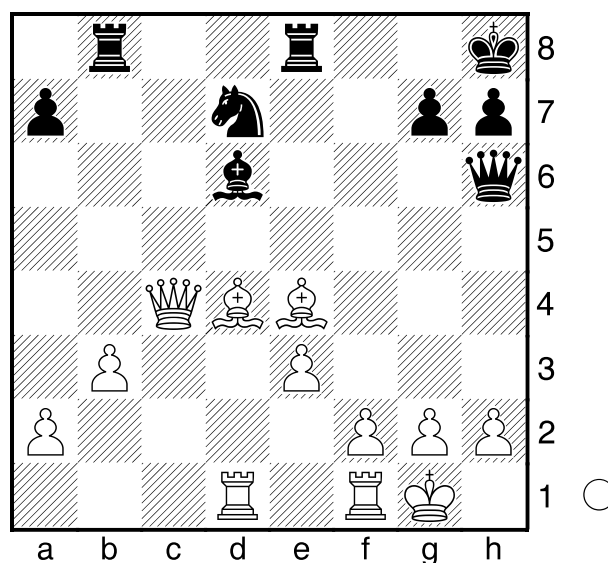
14.Nxe6 Qxc4 15.Bxc4 Bxe6

16.Bxe6+ and have a tremendous endgame]

14...Qb6 15.Bg4 Kh8 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.Bxe6 Re8 18.Bd5



The game thus far has been completely in White's favor. He has two great bishops and will win a second pawn at his choosing. **18...Nd7 19.Bd4 Qh6!** Black is objectively lost, but this is at least the start tricky play on the kingside. **20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Bxe4 Bd6**



White is still winning but must deal with the threat of mate on h2 and the loose

bishop on e4. **22.Bxg7+ Qxg7?**

[22...Kxg7! nets a piece for the four pawns]

23.Rxd6 Rbc8 24.Bc6

[24.Qb5 is a simple win.]

24...Ne5 25.Qd5 Rf8 26.Kh1 Rg8

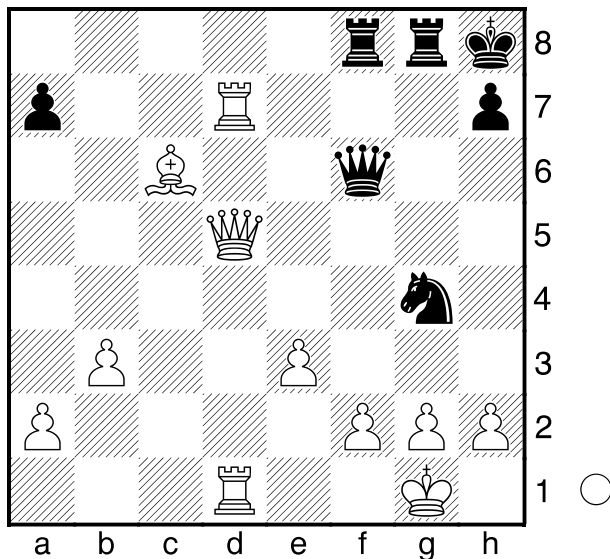
27.Rd1?

[27.g3! stops the threats on the g-file]

27...Ng4?

[27...Nxc6! wins a piece since 28.Rxc6 Rcd8 overloads the white queen. It has to defend mate on g2 and protect the rook on d1 29.Rd6 Rxd6]

28.Kg1 Rcf8 29.Rd7 Qf6



A critical phase of the game. White has 4 extra pawns now but Black has all his pieces on the kingside to make trouble. It can be very hard to handle such aggression. **30.Qd4?!**

[30.f4! Nxe3 31.Qh5 Rg7 32.Rxg7 Qxg7 33.Rd7! Qa1+ 34.Kf2 would win. It looks scary but White controls the board.]

30...Ne5! Now Black has threats and will win something. White can still be clearly better after 31. f4 Nxc6 32. Qxf6+ with four pawns for the knight in the endgame. **31.Rd6?? Qxf2+**

White resigns as back rank mate is coming. A fine game by Richard until the last move complications. David kept his chances alive even after losing the pawns and got a lucky break in the end.
0-1

E67

□ **Garcia,Eugenio**

2103

■ **Winslow,Elliott**

2258

MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.1) 12.04.2022

[Winslow/de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 7 2.Nf3 8 g6 3:59 3.g3 12 Bg7 5 4.Bg2 4 0-0 11 5.0-0 8 d6 40 6.c4 23 Nbd7 49 7.Nc3 37 e5 6

Going with the usual Classical Defense.

8.h3 50 This has a few wrinkles over the usual 8.e4 and pops up every now and then. Including 44 years ago in Lombardy-Winslow, US Open (9), Fairfax 1976! 1-0 23. Maybe NOW it's time to learn how to meet this?

[8.e4 exd4!? 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.h3 Nc5 11.Re1 a5!? have become the current way to go at many levels. (and 11...Bd7!?)]

8...Re8 5:05

[Probably just 8...c6 although after

A) 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3

Black can put up a stronger fight for c5 with Qe7 and he's better situated for the f-pawn thrust:

A1) 11.Qb3 Ne8!? (11...Nh5);

A2) 11.Qd2 Nh5!?;

B) Lombard played 9.Be3;

C) 9.e4 Black doesn't have the option of the ...exd4 lines above mentioned.]

9.dxe5 1:07 dxe5 1:27 10.Be3 34 c6 7:05 11.Qb3 2:54

[11.Qd2]

[11.Qc2]

11...Qa5?! 4:25 Always looking for trouble.

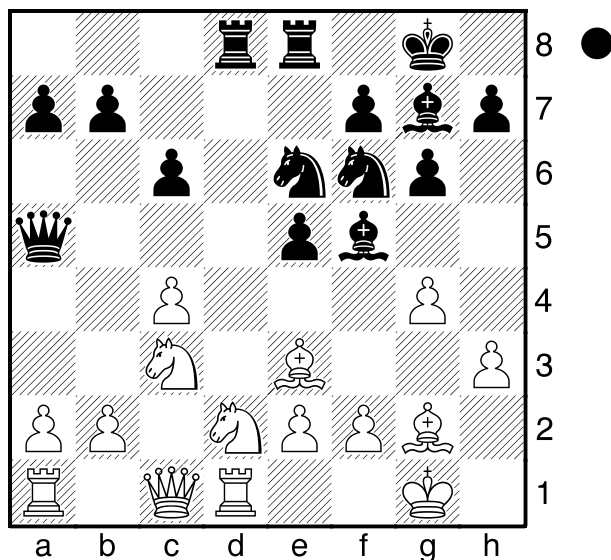
[11...Qe7!? , performing more defensive function, is more common, and even more so with transpositions. Luke McShane (2625) backed into this position (11...Re8) against Tigran Petrosian (2581), 2nd Sanjin Hotel Cup Tiayuan 2005, avoided repetition and went for two rooks vs. queen, and was outplayed (1-0, 59).]

12.Rfd1N 8:20

[12.a3 (intending Qc2 and b4, or just Qb4!) has a couple draws after Nc5 13.Qb4 Qxb4 14.axb4 Nce4 (the other went 14...Na6 15.b5 cxb5)]

12...Nb6?!N 18:03

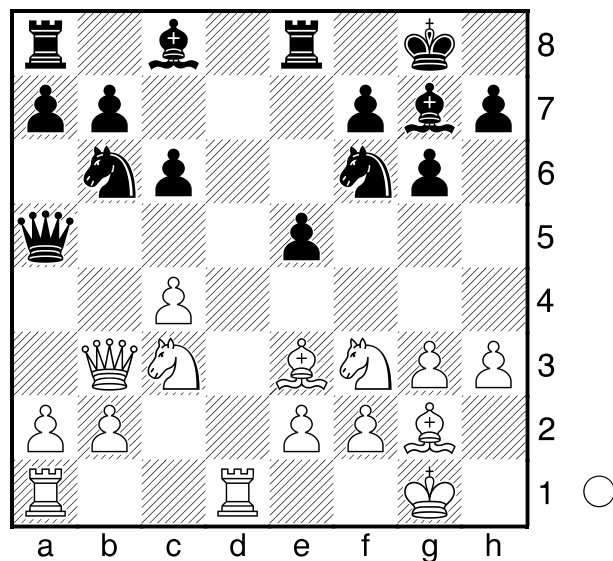
[12...Nc5 13.Qc2 Bf5 14.Qc1 Rad8 15.Nd2 Ne6 (15...h5) 16.g4!



Bxg4! 17.hxg4 Nxg4 18.Nb3?! (18.Nde4=) 18...Qb4? (18...Rxd1+ 19.Qxd1 Qc7=) 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 White is doing well but 0-1 (63) Whatley,R-Rogers,N (2265), 24th World op, Philadelphia 1996]

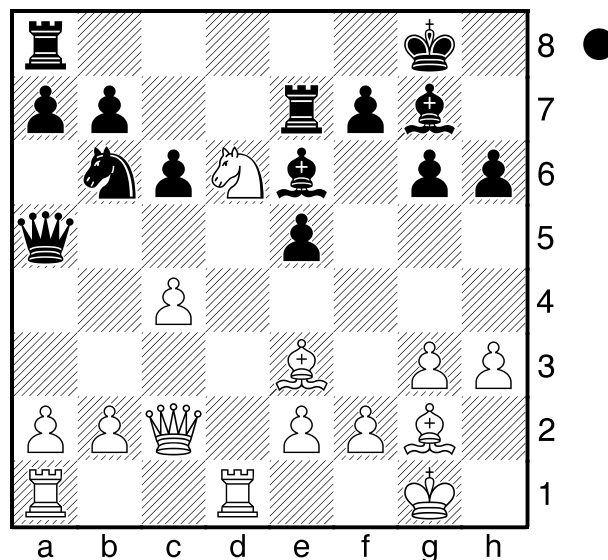
(Diagram)

13.Ng5! 6:20 Garcia heads for the key square in this system: d6! 13...h6 6:17



14.Nge4 30 Nxe4 5:15 15.Nxe4 5 Be6 1:04 16.Nd6 55 [16.Rac1]

16...Re7 29 17.Qc2 4:00



White has a clear advantage 17...Nc8?! 6:02 Getting rid of the knight was the intention all along, but there are tactics... [Stockfish 14.1 wants to toss in 17...e4!? 18.Bxe4 Nc8]

18.b4! 10:17

[But not 18.Nxb7? Rxb7 19.Bxc6 Qc7 when Black's pieces find ongoing activity.]

18...Qc7? 2:38

[18...Qxb4! 19.Rab1 Qxd6! 20.Rxd6 Nxd6 21.Bc5 Rd8 is "on computer" a clear plus still, but the unbalanced material give both sides chances.]

19.c5+ 1:57 So much for ... Nxd6! And Black has trouble squirming, as **19...Kh7** 5:10 It's hard to suggest any moves for Black.

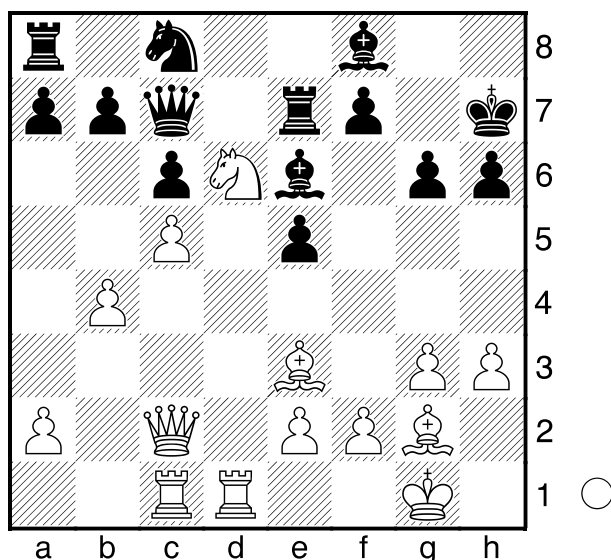
[19...Rd7 allows 20.Ne8 Qd8 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.Rxd7 Qxd7 23.Rd1 dominates.]

20.Rac1 4:59

[20.b5! cxb5 21.Nxb5 Qa5 22.a4]

20...Bf8?! 4:27

[20...a6]



21.f4! 8:20

[The computer continues to prefer 21.b5 although the played move creeps up to second after a while.]

21...Bg7?! 31

[Black was demoralized by now, and by this: 21...exf4

A) 22.Bxf4 Nxd6 23.cxd6 (23.Bxd6 Qd8 24.Bxe7 Qxe7±) 23...Qb6+ at least gets rid of the knight, but otherwise is dreadful;

B) 22.Nb5! cxb5 23.Bxf4]

22.f5! 31 **Bxf5?!** 2:33 **23.Nxf5** 13 **gxf5** 4 **24.Qxf5+** 12 **Kg8** 4 **25.Be4** 39 **Kf8**

5:43 **26.Qh7** 1:42

[26.Rf1 Qd7 27.Qh5 is the highest plus on Stockfish]

26...Re6 5:02 **27.Bf5** 2:00 it's just mopping up now **27...e4** 2:08 **28.Bf4** 6:25 **Qe7** 3:43 **29.Bxe6** 3:24 **Qxe6** **30.Rd8+** 1:43 **Ke7** 20 **31.Qxg7!** 2:28

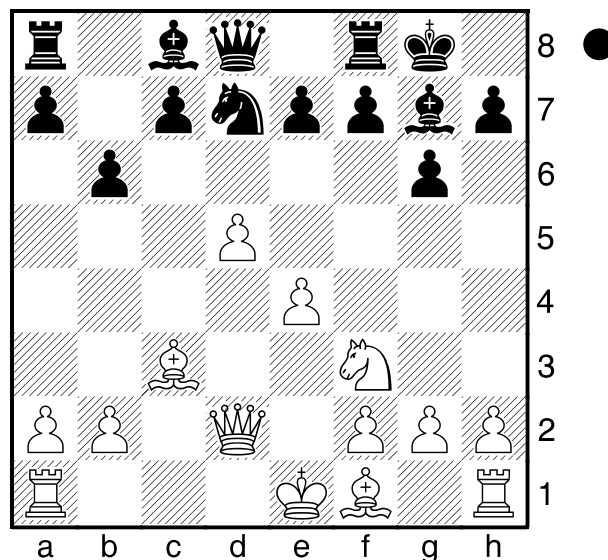
Garcia got the most out of an often-thought quiet variation, and won with a nice kingside attack.

[31.Qxg7 Kxd8 32.Qf8+]

1-0

D85
 □ **Walder,Michael** 2073
 ■ **Weng,Nicholas** 1974
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.2) 12.04.2022
[de Firmian]

1.d4 9 **Nf6** 29 **2.c4** 5 **g6** 11 **3.Nc3** 5 **d5** 6 **4.cxd5** 7 **Nxd5** **5.Bd2** 1:11 **Bg7** 2:47 **6.e4** 8 **Nxc3** 5 **7.Bxc3** 6 **0-0** 58 **8.Qd2** 11 **Nd7** 10 We have an Exchange Grünfeld with White recapturing on c3 with the bishop. **9.Nf3** 6:23 **b6** 2 **10.d5** 12:11



Bxc3!? N 7:47

[Predecessor: 10...Nf6 11.Bd3 e6 12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.Nd4 Bd7 14.0-0

c5 15.Ne2 Bc6 16.Ng3 b5
 which seems about equal 9though 0-1
 (63) Manteiga,F (1915)-Miranda,R
 (2264) Montevideo 2022)]

11.bxc3?! 41

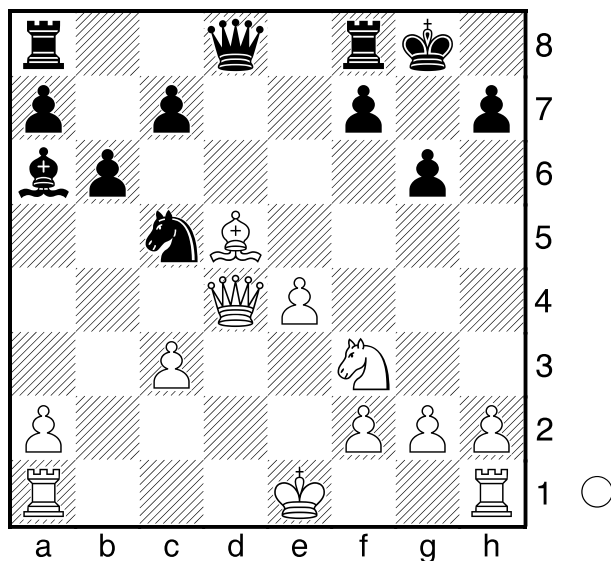
[11.Qxc3± seems a little better]

11...Nc5 19 /= 12.Qd4 4:06

[12.Qe3=]

12...e6 1:44 13.Bc4 1:38 exd5! 7:34

14.Bxd5 17 Ba6 9



active play by Nicholas to take
 advantage of his lead in development.
 Now White must worry. On 15. Bxa8
 Nd3+ 16. Kf1 Qxa8 favors Black.
 Probably White should just play 15. Rd1
15.Ne5? 5:36 Qg5!-+ 5:46 suddenly
 Black has terrible threats **16.h4 17:32**

(Diagram)

Qxe5! 4:44 Black is clearly winning.

17.Bxa8 7:40

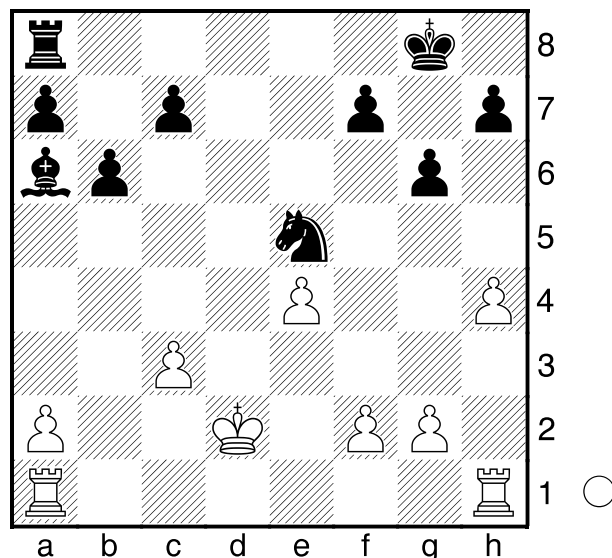
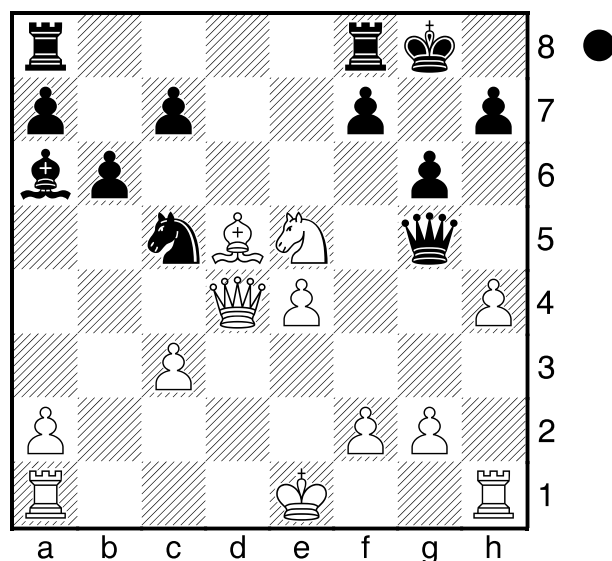
[17.Qxe5 Nd3+]

17...Rxa8! 28 18.Qxe5 7:15 Nd3+

19.Kd2 11 Nxe5 7

(Diagram)

The bishop and knight for a rook is
 solidly winning for Black in the endgame.

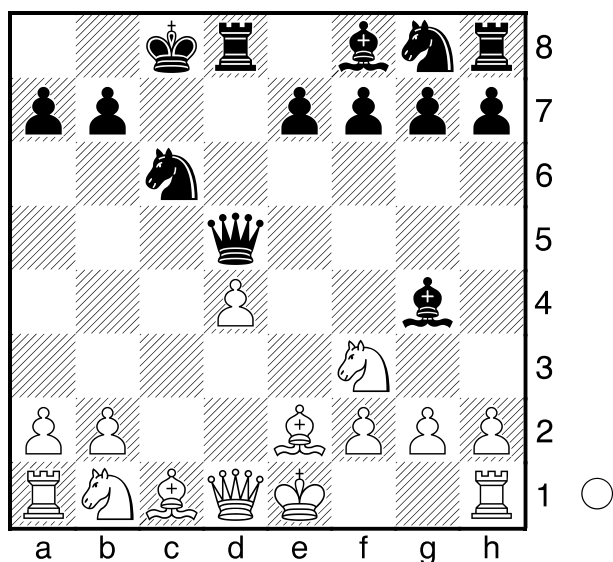


Nicholas shows good technique to wrap
 up the point. **20.Ke3 16:41 h5 2:44**
21.Rhd1 3:58 Ng4+ 5:49 22.Kf3 29 c5
-6.70/13 2:31 23.Kg3 2:32 Bb5 6:22
 Strongly threatening ...Ba4. **24.a4 4:37**
Bc6 35 25.f3 8:24 Ne3 1:06 26.Rd6
3:45 Rc8 19 aiming for ... Nc4. 27.Ra2
3:56 Kf8 1:19 28.Kf4 3:23 Nc4 16
29.Rd1 21 Ke7 59 30.g4 29 Rh8! 3:49
 Threatens to win with ... hxg4. **31.g5**
2:54 Ke6 6:15 32.Kg3 1:58 Re8 1:35
33.f4?! 1:21 tricky but hastening the end
33...Bxe4 2:54
 [33...Nd6!]

34.Re2 50 Nd6 6 35.Rde1 2:09
 White resigned as 35...Kd5 or Kd7
 solves everything.
0-1

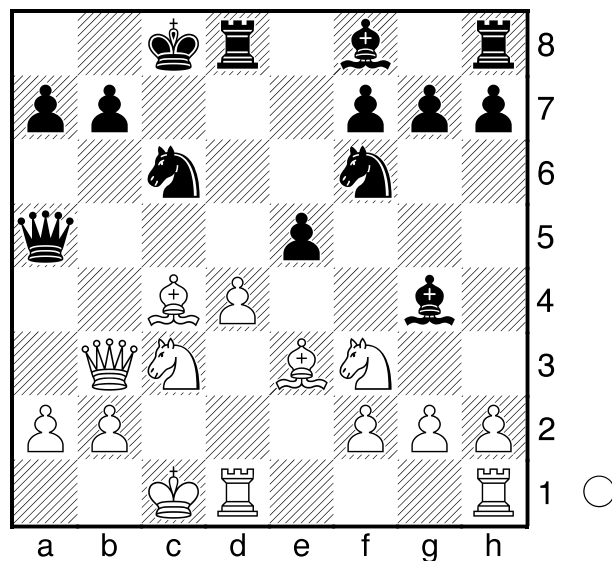
Suarez, Sebastian **B22**
 Parsons, Stephen **1601**
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.5) 12.04.2022 **1660**
[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 7 2.d4 8 cxd4 7 3.c3 4
 The adventurous Smith-Morra Gambit.
3...d5 32 Which Stephan declines to
 transpose into a 2. c3 Sicilian **4.exd5 19**
Qxd5 24 5.cxd4 21 Nc6 1:08 6.Nf3 9
Bg4 1:17 7.Be2 25
 [7.Nc3! Bxf3 8.Nxd5 Bxd1 9.Nc7+
 Kd8 10.Nxa8 favours White]
7...0-0-0 1:33



Both players seem ready for an active,
 fighting game. **8.Nc3 1:40 Qa5 1:42**
9.Be3 2:34 Nf6 6:32 10.Qb3 4:25 e5!? 4:09
 very active, though 10...e6 is more
 solid **11.0-0-0 13:29 Be6 8:16 12.Bc4 1:43**
Bg4? 10:26

(Diagram)



losing time going back and forth should
 get punished **13.Bxf7 9:20**

[13.dxe5! Rxd1+ 14.Rxd1 Nxe5
 15.Bd5 Qc7 16.Kb1 Nxd5 17.Rxd5
 leaves Black in real trouble due to
 lagging development and the
 exposed king]

13...Bxf3 10:41 14.gxf3 55 Nxd4 11:24
 [14...exd4 15.Bf4 dxc3? 16.Be6+
 Nd7 17.Rxd7 Rxd7 18.Bxd7+ Kxd7
 19.Qf7+ Be7 20.Rd1+]

15.Bxd4 3:24 exd4 47 16.Ne4 10:08
Be7 7:17 Chances are about even here.

17.Qe6+ 2:01 Rd7?! 3:08
 [17...Kb8 18.Qxe7 Rd7 19.Qe6
 Qc7+ wins the bishop back on f7]

18.Nxf6?! 1:53
 [18.Rxd4! is simple and very nice for
 White]

18...Bxf6! 12:42 This is an exchange
 sacrifice but probably the best choice.

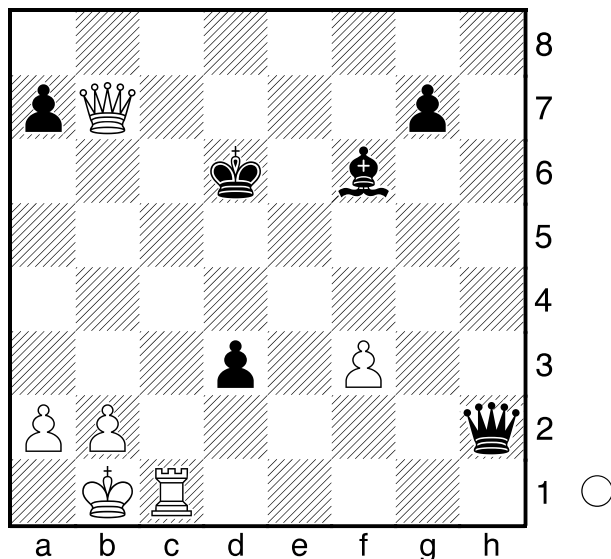
19.Be8 33 Rxe8 3:59 20.Qxe8+ 7
Kc7?! 7

[20...Rd8 21.Qe6+ Kb8 is a safer
 place for the king]

21.Kb1! 6:23 Re7 4:51 22.Rc1+ 1:44
Kd6? 2:26 Stephen is too brave with his
 king.

[22...Kb6 keeps him in the game]
23.Qb8+! 13 Kd5 1:59 24.Qg8+ 2:33

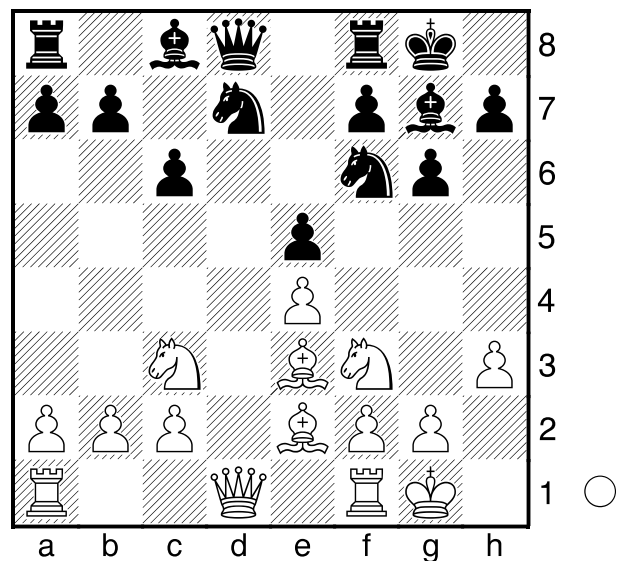
Kd6 1:31 25.Qxh7 55 Re2 2:00 26.Rc2
 1:09 good technique by Sebby. He is
 material up and now keeps his king safe.
26...Re1+ 3:54 27.Rxe1 4:20 Qxe1+ 2
28.Rc1 10 Qxf2 1:10 29.Qe4 2:26
Qxh2 2:10 30.Qxb7 18 d3 2:40



31.Qb8+ 12
1-0

□ **Widjaja, Luke** **B08**
 ■ **Lewis, Edward** **1901**
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.4) 12.04.2022 **1982**
[de Firmian]

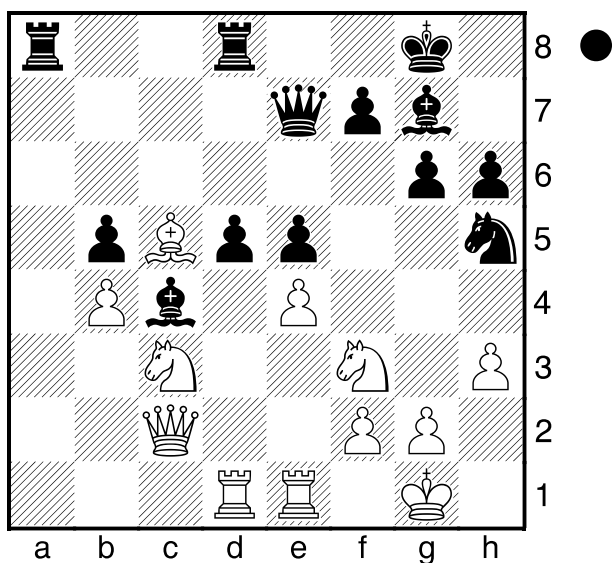
Before the round Ed had a couple of chess friends from LA who came into the club. They were clearly rooting for their chess comrade, and they were very impressed with our club. They wished LA had anything like it. **1.e4 g6 8 2.d4 3 Bg7 5 3.Nc3 13 d6 16 4.Nf3 12 Nf6 30 5.Be3 7:33 c6 31 6.Be2 2:52 Nbd7 57 7.h3 1:06 0-0 2 8.0-0 28 e5 5 9.dxe5 12:00** A reasonable time to make the first exchange of the game. The pawn structure gets set and White can try to make inroads. **9...dxe5 1:56**
 (Diagram)



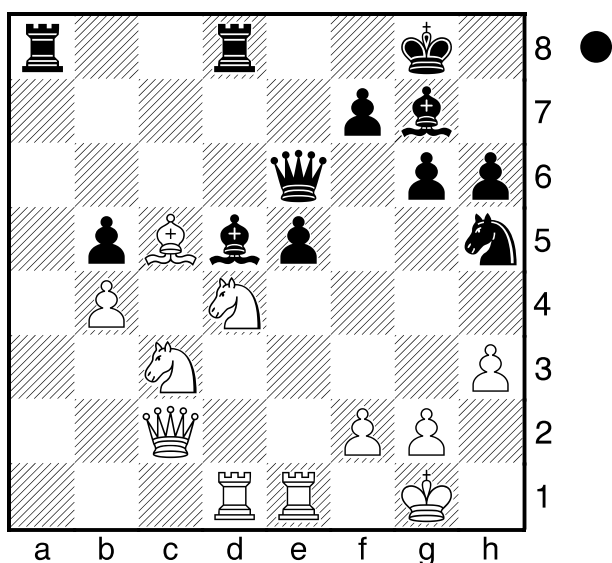
10.Bc4?! 1:30
 [10.Qd6 Re8 11.Rfd1 gives White some opening edge]
10...b5 12 11.Bd3 2:07 Qe7 13 12.Qe2 11:36 Nc5 2:21 Now Black has at least equality. **13.a3 3:09 Nh5 35 14.Rfe1 14:12 h6 1:38 15.Rad1 7:17 Be6 52 16.b4 7:27** Luke decides to force the issue and make the black knight decide if it will take the bishop or not. This clarifies matters to an even position.
16...Nxd3 1:15 17.cxd3 8 Rfd8 18 18.d4 4:50 Bc4 7:50 19.Qc2 15 a5 50
 [19...exd4]
20.d5 11:40
 [20.dxe5! axb4 21.axb4 Threatens to win a piece with 22. g4 so Bxe5 22.Nxe5 Qxe5 23.Bxh6 wins a pawn, though g5 gives fair play for it]
20...axb4 1:02 21.axb4 41 cxd5 1:34 22.Bc5?! 2:32
 [22.Nxd5]

(Diagram)

22...Qe6?! 5:17
 [22...Qb7! is a clear pawn up for Black. Ed's friends would have been very happy with that.]



23.exd5 20 Bxd5 27 24.Nd4 8:05

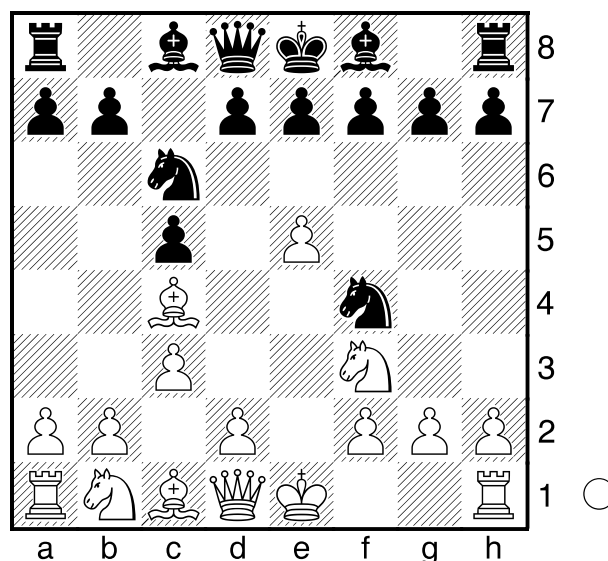


So we are back to an even position after Black moves the queen and White wins the pawn back on b5. However...

24...Bb7?? 8:53 Oh no! Not that! Well, I expect Ed's Los Angeles friends cheered him up after this blunder. **25.Nxe6 1-0**

B22
1740
Lamstein,Joshua
1740
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.14) 12.04.22
[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nf4?!



6.d4! d5

[6...Nxg2+? 7.Kf1 and the black knight is trapped]

7.exd6?!

[7.Bxf4 dxc4 8.d5! would really push Black around]

7...Qxd6 8.0-0 cxd4 9.Nxd4

[9.cxd4]

9...e5?!

[9...Nxd4 is a lot safer]

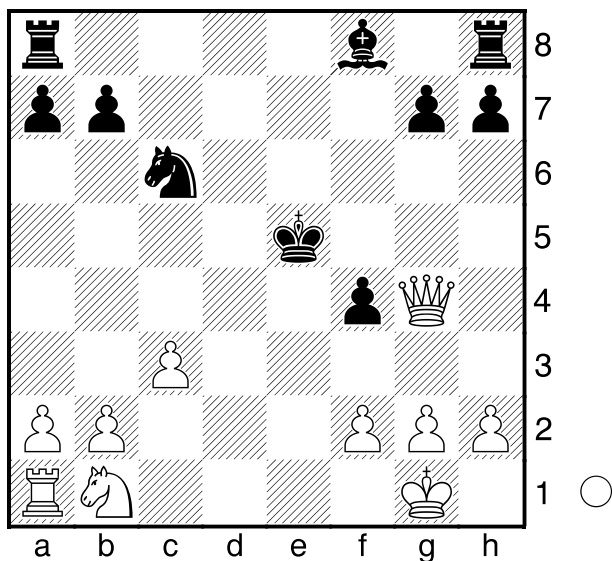
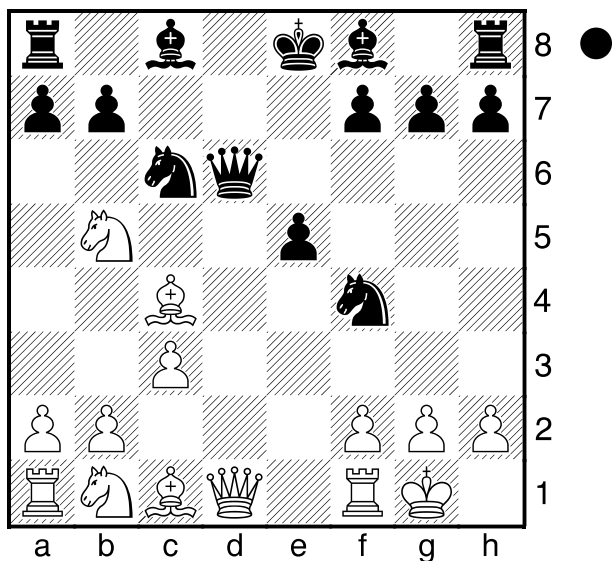
10.Nb5

(Diagram)

Qe7?! Black is in trouble. A little better is to play the endgame with

[10...Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Rb8 12.Bxf4 exf4 13.Nc7+ Ke7 though White is clearly better here too]

11.Bxf4 exf4 12.Re1 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Rxe6! Qxe6 15.Nc7+ Kf7 16.Nxe6 Kxe6 17.Qg4+ Ke5



Joel has a queen and pawn for bishop and knight, so certainly should be winning. Joshua fights on bravely with his king being fearless. 18.Nd2 Be7 19.Re1+ Kd6 20.Qxf4+ Kd7 21.Nc4 Raf8 22.Rd1+ Kc8 So now the black king has found safety for a while. Still, White has the material edge. 23.Qg4+ Kb8 24.Rd7 Bc5 The first sign of counterplay. 25.Qg3+ Ka8 26.Qc7 Bxf2+ 27.Kh1 Rb8 28.Nd6? Black gets back in the game after this. Instead

[28.Rxg7 Rhe8 29.g3 should be

easily enough]

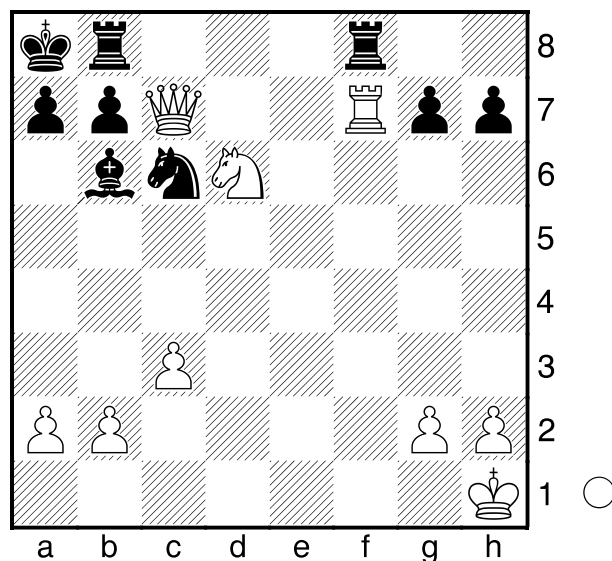
28...Rh8

[28...Bb6 29.Nb5 saves the queen as taking on c7 gets mated]

29.Rf7?!

[29.Nf7]

29...Bb6!



30.Qd7?

[30.Nb5 Ne5 31.Qxe5 Rxf7 is equal]

30...Ne5 suddenly Black has a big advantage. An amazing turnaround.

31.Qe6?!

[31.Qxb7+ Rxb7 32.Rxf8+ Rb8 is two pawns for the bishop]

31...Nxf7 32.g3

[32.Nxf7 Rbe8 wins]

32...Nxd6 33.Qxd6 Rbd8 34.Qe7 Rf2

35.Qe1 Rxb2 36.a3 a6 37.c4 Rdd2

Joel played a great opening and was clearly winning, yet Joshua hung in there and siezed his chances when the opportunities came.

0-1

Joyce Carol Oates



On March 21st 2018, the world-famous author visited the chess room - on a break from giving a talk at the Mechanics' Institute on her short story collection "Beautiful Days."
(Photo Mechanics' Archives)

April Quads

There was a great turnout for the monthly championship quads held Saturday, April 9th, with 56 players competing in 14 sections. TD Judit Sztaray was assisted by volunteers Arjun Sankar and Aryan Achuthan (who also won the top section).

Cross-tables and prize-winners are here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads#0409>

Mark your calendar – our next Quads are on May 14th.

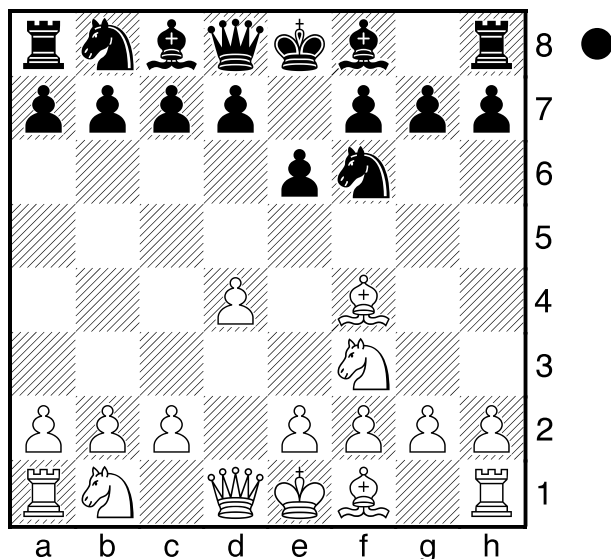
FM Paul Whitehead analyses a couple of games from the Quads: one sent in by Quad 8 winner Venugopal Mani, and another found on the floor of the chess room office...

Hsu, Michael 1546
 Mani, Venugopal 1528
 Mechanics Monthly Quads, Apr 2022 (1)
[Whitehead, Paul]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3

[2.Bf4 On the 2nd move shows up more and more now.]

2...e6 3.Bf4



Or on the 3rd move. **3...d5 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.exd4 Qb6**

Putting the Queen in front of the pawns is rather primitive.

[7...Be7]

[7...Bd6]

[7...Nh5]

8.Qc2 Be7 9.Bd3 h6 10.0-0 Nh5

11.Bg3?!

[Only 11.Be3 left hope for keeping an advantage.]

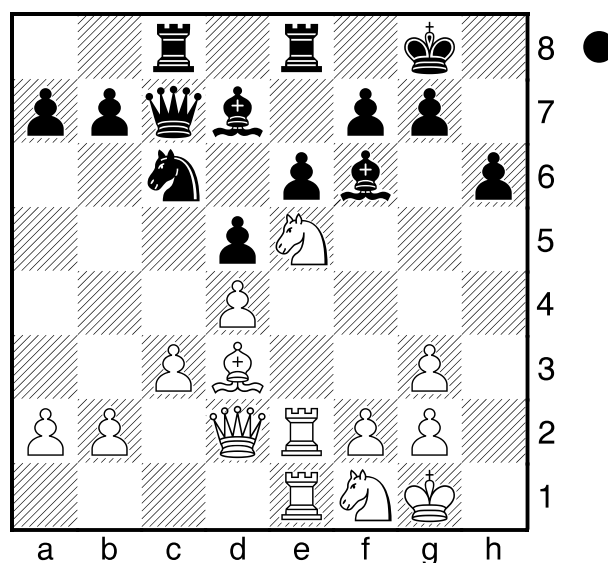
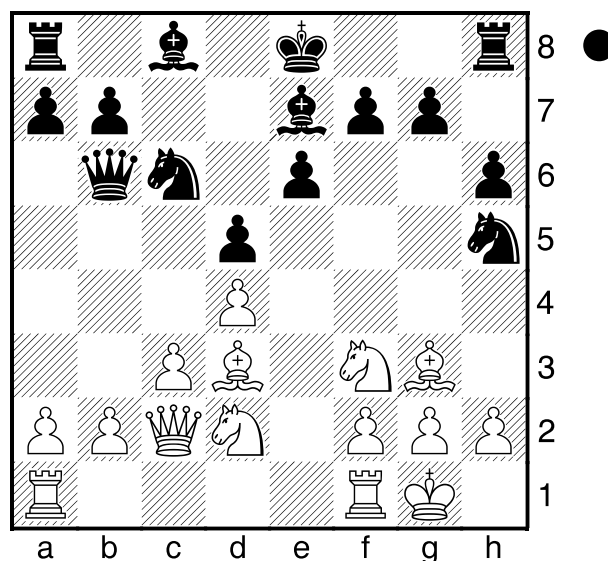
(Diagram)

11...Nxg3 12.hxg3 Bf6 13.Rfe1 0-0

14.Re2 Bd7 15.Nf1 Rac8 16.Qd2

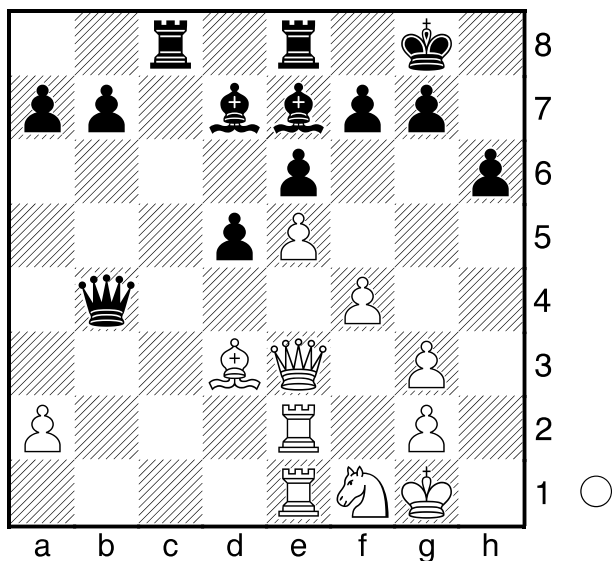
Rfe8 17.Rae1 Qc7 18.Ne5?!

[18.Ne3 intending Ng4 was one good idea here.]

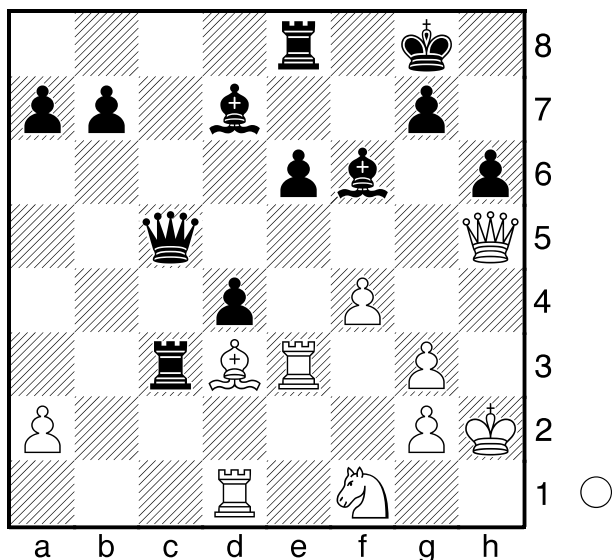


The simplest moves can turn out to be mistakes. The range of black's 2 bishops increases. **18...Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bg5!** Provoking white's next move... **20.f4?!** Seriously weakening squares around the king - plus the g1-a7 diagonal is opened up... **20...Be7 21.b4?** An elementary blunder. White loses a key pawn and the game is over. **21...Qxc3 22.Qe3 Qxb4**

(Diagram)



Two pawns down, white could resign. He makes a desperate attempt... **23.Qf3 Qd4+ 24.Kh2 Rc3 25.Re3 f5 26.exf6 Bxf6 27.Rd1 Qc5 28.Qh5 d4**



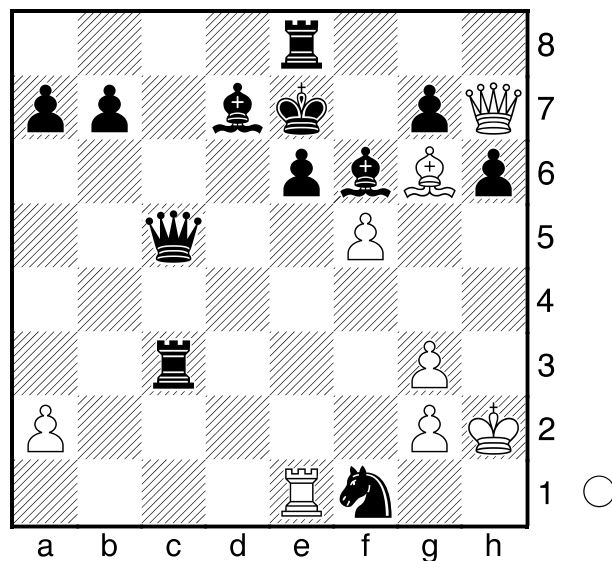
29.Qg6

[29.Qxc5 Rxc5 is of course a lost endgame.]

29...dxe3 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Bg6 Ke7 32.f5 e2 33.Re1 exf1N+

(Diagram)

Amusing, but promoting to a Queen wins just the same. **34.Rxf1 Qe5 35.Re1**



Qxg3+ 36.Kh1 Qxe1+ 37.Kh2 Qg3+ 38.Kh1 Rc1# 0-1

A84

□ **Reilman,James**

■ **Matthews,Bradley**

April Quads Mechanics' Institute (3)
[Whitehead, Paul]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Bg5 h6?!

[3...c6 Is interesting.]

[3...e6 Is usual.]

(Diagram)

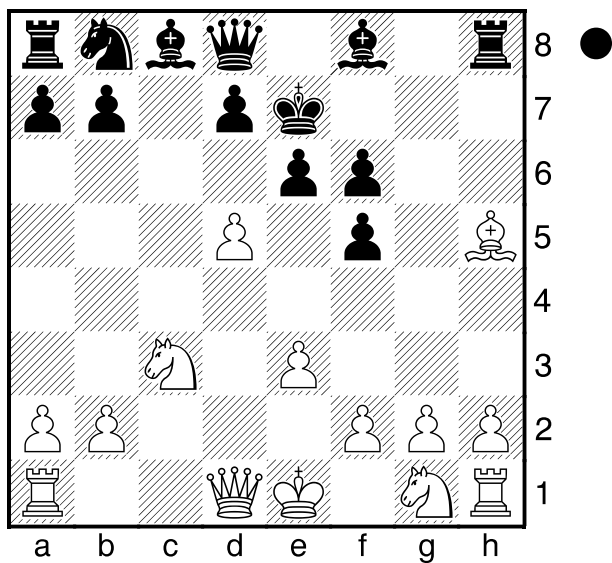
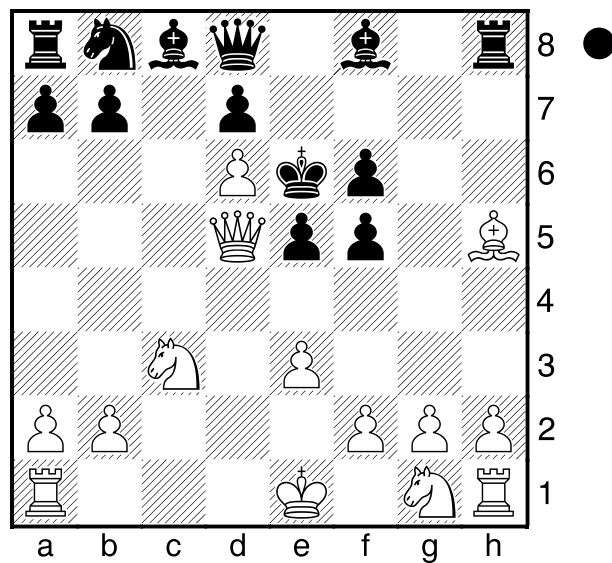
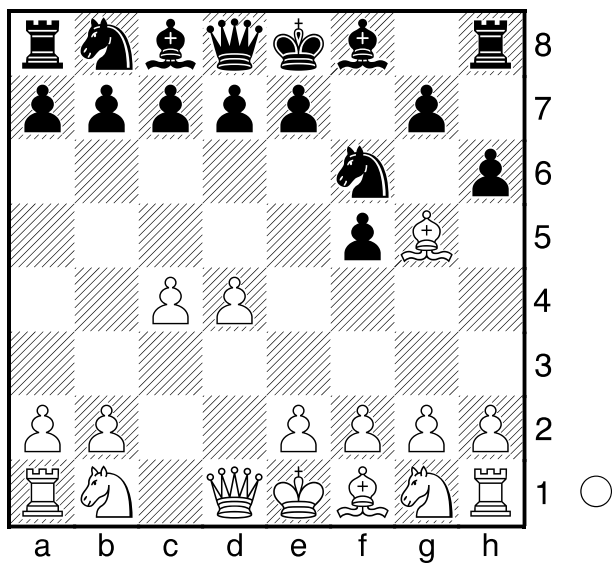
Dubious, as it considerably weakens the light squares. **4.Bxf6 gxf6?**

[4...exf6 was necessary.]

5.e3 Threatens **6.Qh5#**. **5...h5 6.Be2** Threatens **7.Bxh5+** with mate to follow. **6...e6?** Black is going the wrong way with his king.

[**6...Bg7 7.Bxh5+ Kf8** while pretty hopeless, is nevertheless a better option.]

7.Bxh5+ Ke7 8.Nc3 c6 9.d5 cxd5 10.cxd5



e5??

[10...Qb6 Simply holds on, which is sometimes our thankless task in chess.]

11.d6+ Ke6 12.Qd5#

(Diagram)

1-0

GM Nick de Firmian

Iceland – The land far from troubles.

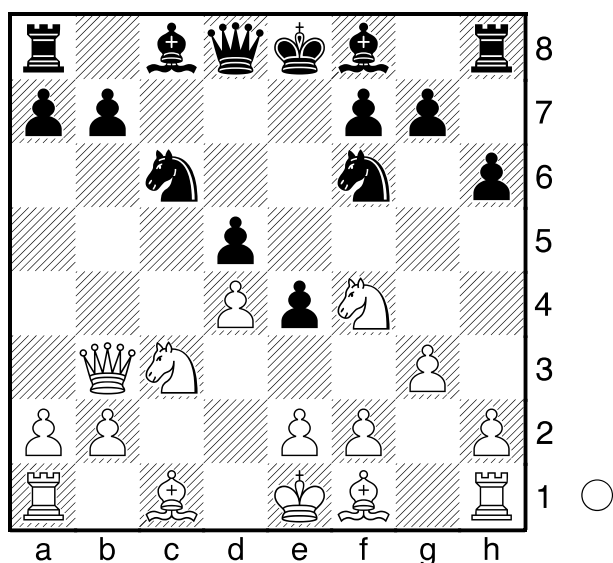
Pandemic, war, strife, hardship, cruelty. These current day problems have been around since the dawn of human existence. Yet one land is mostly free from these and has almost all the good things in life – plus loads of chess too! That is wonderful Iceland, which just finished their annual super-swiss tournament at the Harpa Center in downtown Reykjavik. A number of Mechanics' Institute players have visited Iceland because of this renowned tournament. They naturally enjoy the fabulous scenic sites as well as the chess environment. The incredible Blue Lagoon, glaciers, volcanoes, aurora borealis, and classic Nordic architecture are some of the pleasures to see. Add to that the natives are extremely friendly, polite and considerate and that the island now has no covid restrictions (due to extremely effective policy). Thus, you get an oasis of serenity in this troubled world.

Fifty years ago Iceland became the center of the chess world during the famous Cold War "Match of the Century" – Bobby Fischer vs Boris Spassky. The match, played in Reykjavik, was a great advertisement for the country, which then later hosted the thawing of the cold war with the Regan-Gorbachev summit. Chess has continued to be important in this country with only 350,000 people and so is a popular destination for the tourist chess player. This year's Reykjavik Open had a number of Americans participating, including young grandmaster Hans Niemann, who came up through the ranks playing in our Tuesday Night Marathon. Hans didn't win the event, though he had a respectable result. He lost a game to a famous Icelandic old timer, Johann Hjartarsson, who had beaten Korchnoi in one of the Candidates matches in 1988. We give this game below as an inspiration to our older players as evidence that age need not hurt your game much. Yet we also give the decisive last round game of the winner, 16-year-old Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, who benefited from the luck of brave (dare we say brash) that young players tend to have. Older players have a tendency to try to work things out instead of diving into dubious complications. The luck of the young players comes from the fact that chess is so complicated so there will always be mistakes. Young players don't feel the need to be in control as much and just go with flow.

□ Hjartarson, Johann
 ■ Niemann, Hans Moke
 Reykjavik Open 2022 (6)

A20
 2465
 2637
 10.04.2022

Slow 90min+30sec 1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6
 3.d4 e4 3...exd4 is more usual but
 Hans wants a real fighting position
 against his old opponent. 4.Nc3 d5
 5.Nh3 h6 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Qb3 Nf6
 8.Nf4 Nc6!

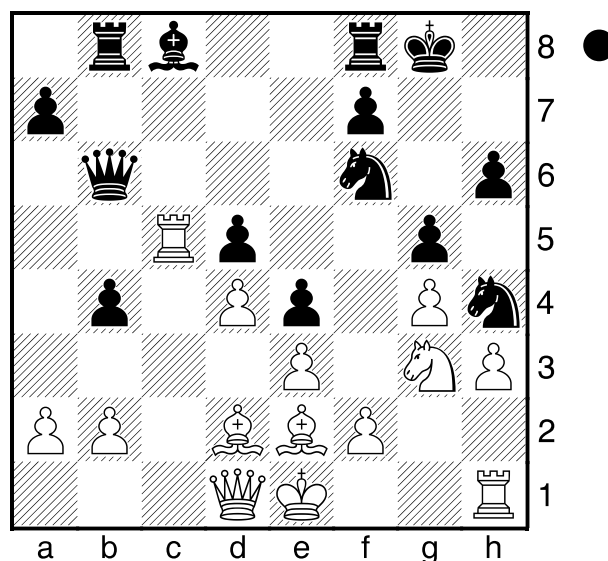


Hans plays actively to counter attack the d4 pawn. This is the only way to keep the balance. 9.e3

[9.Nfxd5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 Qxd5
 11.Nxd5 Nxd4! 12.Nc7+ Kd8
 13.Nxa8 Nc2+ 14.Kd1 Nxa1
 keeps material even]

9...Bb4 10.Bd2 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 g5
 another aggressive move. It can be
 somewhat weakening on the king side
 but it gains space and attacks the knight.
 12.Ne2 0-0 13.h3 Hjartarsson is a very
 experienced player and stops to take
 some control of the kingside light
 squares. 13...Rb8 14.g4 b5 15.Qd1
 b4 16.Bd2 Ne7 17.Ng3 Ng6 18.Rc1
 Nh4 19.Be2 Qb6 20.Rc5

(Diagram)



Ba6? Here is where Hans starts to go wrong. Trading the light-squared bishops may look logical so that the black knight can come to f3 without being taken. Yet this exchange doesn't get Black an attack on the white king, and it loses control of critical queenside squares. Better is 20...Bd7! followed by 21...a5 to take important queenside space.

21.Qa4! Bxe2 22.Kxe2 Qe6 23.Rhc1
 Rb6?! Already in trouble Hans plays to
 keep material on the board for more
 complexity. Objectively it was better to
 just lose the a-pawn with 23...Rfc8.

[Perhaps Hans had been planning the
 sacrifice 23...Nxg4 but 24.Rc6!
 drives the queen away from the g4
 square (24....Qd7? 25. Rg6+) and
 simply wins]

24.Rc6 Qd7

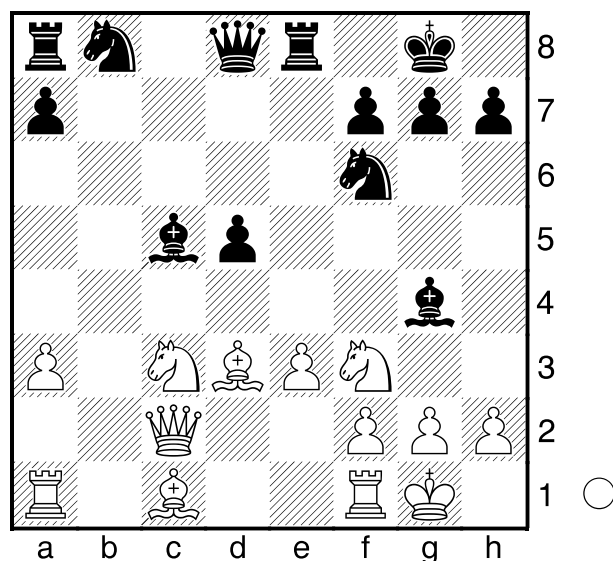
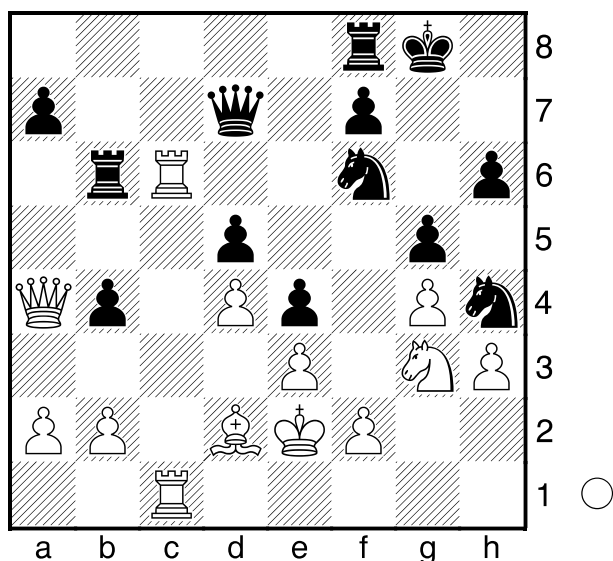
(Diagram)

25.b3 The safe move from the older
 player. It's good enough, though

[25.Nh5 Nxh5 26.Rg6+ Nxg6
 27.Qxd7 is quite decisive]

25...Rxc6?!

[25...Qb7 26.Rc7 Qb8 offers more
 resistance in this very bad position]



26.Rxc6 Qd8 27.Bxb4 Black resigns. If 27...Re8 28. Rxf6 Qxf6 29. Qxe8+ So the old man was victorious against the young Demon - quite a surprise.
1-0

Gukesh,D. **E48**
 Praggnanandhaa,R. **2637**
 Reykjavik Open 2022 (9) **2624**
12.04.2022

Slow 90min+30sec This was the decisive last round game to decide the winner of the tournament. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.a3** Direct play by Gukesh on the white side of the Nimzo-Indian. White may get a little edge if Black now surrenders the two bishops. **7...Bd6 8.Qc2 b6 9.b4 c5?!** Praggnanandhaa charges ahead in the center and accepts an isolated pawn. More circumspect was 9...a5 but young players often choose direct, aggressive moves. **10.bxc5 bxc5 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nf3 Re8 13.0-0 Bg4**

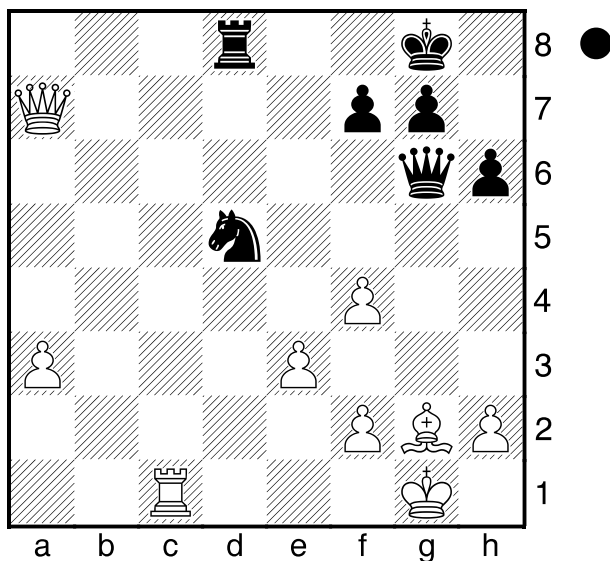
(Diagram)

14.Rd1! Fine play by Gukesh, not worrying about getting doubled pawns on the kingside. The white king is safe enough and the black d-pawn is a target. **14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Bd6 16.Bb2 Be5 17.Bb5 Nbd7 18.Nxd5** Grabbing a pawn. Black has some chances against the open white king but objectively nothing worth a pawn. **18...Bxb2 19.Qxb2 Re5 20.Bxd7 Rxd5 21.Rxd5 Nxd5 22.Bh3** Bringing the bishop back to the weekend kingside is best. On g2 the bishop will help the defense and pressure the long white diagonal. **22...Nb6 23.Qe5 Qd2 24.f4 Qe2 25.Rc1 Qd3 26.Qc3 Rd8 27.Qc7!**

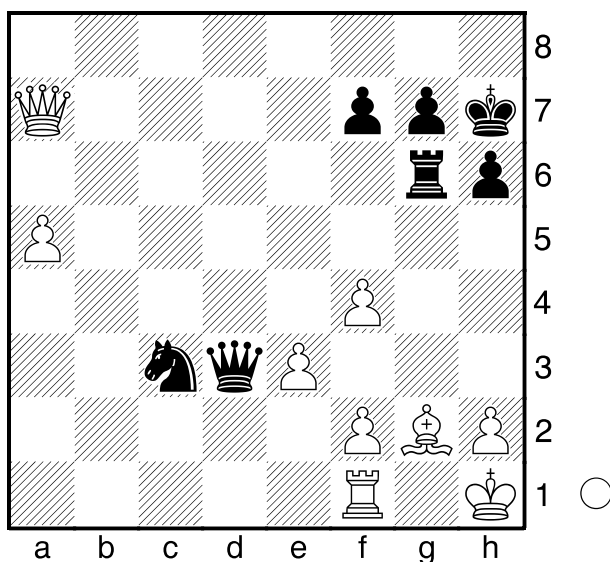
[27.Qxd3 Rxd3 gives Black the active rook in the endgame, so decent drawing chances.]
27...h6 28.Qxa7 Nd5 29.Bf1 Qg6+ 30.Bg2

(Diagram)

Thus far the game has gone White's way. Here we see Praggnanandhaa make the most of his chances. A good player is hard to put away. **30...Nc3! 31.Rf1 Qd3 32.a4 Rd6** Two pawns down, Black continues to play very aggressively and



brings all three pieces to bear on the white king. **33.a5 Rg6 34.Kh1 Kh7!?**



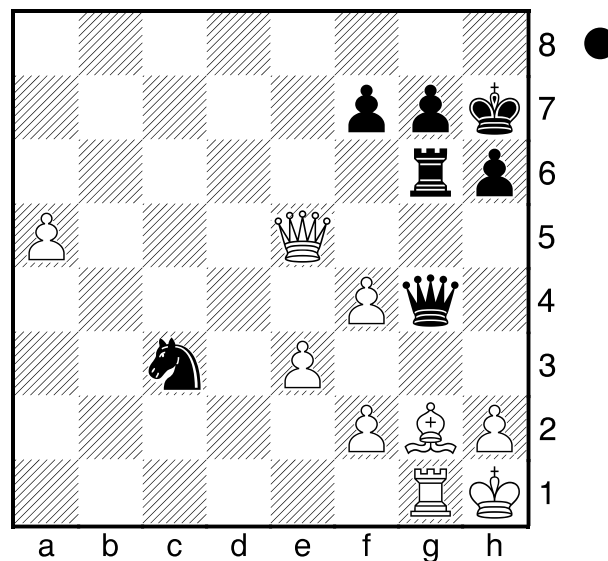
35.Qd4?! Qf5! 36.Qe5?

[36.Qxc3 Rxc3 would be perpetual check if White takes the rook, but 37 Qe5! would be a good winning try.]

36...Qg4 37.Rg1?

(Diagram)

Nd1! White has no good defense to 38... Nf2+ and resigned. One can say this was a lucky victory by Praggnanandhaa, but it is similar to his rapid chess victory



over Magnus Carlsen. Good players create trouble for their opponent even when they have a bad position. This Reykjavik Open victory is another indication that 16 year old Praggnanandhaa will become a real force in the chess world.

0-1

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

The New Yorker profiles GM Hikaru Nakamura:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/rabbit-holes/the-most-popular-chess-streamer-on-twitch>

Washington Square Park in New York is the place to learn life's lessons:

<https://annekadet.substack.com/p/life-advice-from-nyc-chess-hustlers?s=r>

Chess and... shotguns?

<https://www.polygon.com/23009866/action-chess-vrchat-real-estate>

Benjamin Franklin was quite the chess player:

<https://www.historynet.com/how-playing-chess-made-benjamin-franklin-a-better-diplomat/>

Maybe extraterrestrials are interested in chess:

<https://www.forbesindia.com/article/lifes/how-a-game-of-interstellar-chess-could-help-establish-contact-with-aliens/75289/1>

Chess, zugzwang, pizza:

<https://www.quantamagazine.org/the-secrets-of-zugzwang-in-chess-math-and-pizzas-20220408/>

Chess, insanity, murder:

<https://bigthink.com/pessimists-archive/chess-insanity/>

Local chess players should remember this gentleman, now the USCF FIDE Events Manager:

<https://new.uschess.org/news/new-fide-events-manager-hired>

The best Chess Pie in the world is apparently made in Tennessee:

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/tennessee/best-dessert-in-the-world-tn/>

MANIAC beats human at chess:

<https://discover.lanl.gov/news/0412-maniac>

There is a river named Chess in England, but it's in the news for all the wrong reasons:

<https://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/news/20055711.sewage-discharged-nearly-2-000-hours-river-chess/>

A stunning photo-essay on the charity Chess in Slums Africa:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/gallery/2022/apr/07/from-pawns-to-kings-young-chess-champions-in-the-slums-of-lagos-nigeria>

A nice overview of top chess streamers on Twitch:

<https://dotesports.com/news/the-best-chess-streamers-on-twitch>

An article about chess in the movies – including a few we haven't heard of:

<https://www.looper.com/832150/15-movies-about-chess-you-should-watch-next/>

Of course GM Magnus Carlsen is a fabulous poker player, apart from his side-gig as World Chess Champion:

<https://highstakesdb.com/news/live-poker-news/world-chess-champion-magnus-carlsen-runs-deep-in-norwegian-poker-championships>

He stands 5'9" and just turned 59 years old:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garry_Kasparov

Chess as a cure for boredom?

<https://www.purewow.com/family/what-to-do-when-youre-bored>

A 'neural-network' draws a picture of two cats playing chess:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/technology/meet-dall-e-the-ai-that-draws-anything-at-your-command/>

Newly minted Falconer Memorial TNM winner Eugenio Garcia writes on the intersection of chess and artificial intelligence:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/living-under-ai-supremacy-five-lessons-learned-from-chess-garcia>

Finally, we loved seeing this 'cat' playing chess:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49JtNpQWAQY>

Chess is everywhere.

Dr. Judit Sztaray

On Your Move

A quick column this week to remind you all about a few things on what you should only do when it's your turn, or only do it when it's your opponent's turn.

Often, I see players doing the following things on their opponent's move, but really they should only be doing these when it is their turn:

- **Adjusting Pieces:** When you want to adjust any piece, you have to wait for your turn, say ADJUST loud and clear, and then touch the piece and adjust it to the middle of the square.
- **Scoresheet Update:** There are times when we get mixed up with our own notation. We can absolutely ask our opponent to show their scoresheet for a minute or so, but you should only do it on your move, and make sure to return the scoresheet to your opponent when you are back.
- **Pausing the clock to Clarify Rules:** Pausing the clock for complaints or resolving any issue is fine to do at any time or on anyone's move, but just for the sake of clarifying rules (such as draw claims, etc), you should only do it on your move. Same goes for asking any questions from your opponent.

On the other hand, there is one thing that you ideally should only do on your opponent's turn, after you made your move: that is using the bathroom. While there is no explicit rule on this, but it looks much better if you get up to use the bathroom after you made your move, and not when your opponent made the move, and it's your turn to think and move.

Please, keep these in mind during your next chess tournament, and hopefully we'll see/hear less and less "adjust" from players when the clock is up on the other side.

As usual, any questions or clarification regarding the topic, please feel free to reach out to us!



Farewell

It's with a heavy heart that I say partial goodbye to you all.

Starting next week, I begin a new adventure with [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) serving chess organizers in the US and around the world by creating a dynamic chess organizer community where we all can connect, learn, reach resources and grow.

While my full-time employment with Mechanics' will come to an end this week, I will be sticking around helping with the various administrative duties on the tournament side as well as continue to direct some tournaments at the club.

I would like to thank all of you, every single one of you, for your kindness and support. There were so many of you sharing your support, and it meant more to me than I can ever express. I want to also express my deepest thanks to Paul, who has been an amazing friend and colleague.

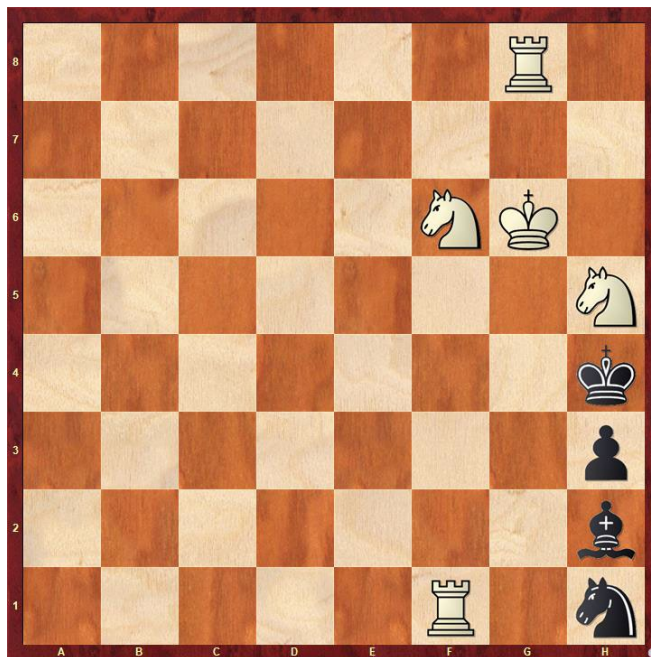
Thank you for your support over the past three years. It has been an honor and pleasure to be part of the US oldest chess club.

Sincerely,

Judit Sztaray



Tony's Teasers



1. Brian Harley 1947. White mates in 2 moves.



2. Hans-Peter Rehm 1983. White mates in 3 moves.

Richard Hack

Stories from the Chess Café

"I think we should not allow the engines to define 'the best move,' but be more intelligent about it," Gelfand writes in *Positional Decision Making*. "Winning the game is about delivering the deadly blow, not mathematics." People should learn when and how to use this powerful technology.

"Still, at depth 26, the computer does not understand this move (48. Nh8!! in Gelfand-Yue 2010). Partly I like this move for aesthetic reasons, but computers have no understanding of such things!" He later shows how years later the computer found the winning combination in the last round of the 1990 Interzonal.

I suffer from a lot of bad thinking at the board, and I've been too stubborn about using certain opening lines. I look forward to again enlarging my repertoire from the get-go and playing 1. d4 as well as e4 and c4. I enjoy the Café more because the top players spend plenty of time encouraging other players and analyzing the games they dare to send in, which usually aren't as bad as they think.

Paul's parting advice: "Organize your thoughts around a game; tell yourself the salient points. Somebody's gaining space . . . I try to find the story in a game I play or study."

In the World Team Championship last November, Gledura had a perfect score going on Board 4. He beat Guseinov in their game, and we watched it here.

"Nice game."

"A lot of unintuitive moves."

Elliott Winslow quoted John Grefe: "It's important that you master your one- and two-move tactics; in other words, take the piece." Winslow spent a lot of time in New York. Said Johanna Lorensen of The Chess Shop certified that she was Bob Dylan's inspiration for his long surreal and symbolic song "Visions of Johanna." The Chess Forum was across the street from The Chess Shop and is still going.

"The more you stay with chess, the more you'll meet interesting people," said Paul. He talked about playing in Phoenix when it was 113 degrees and hanging out with the Russian Anatoly Lein ("Layne"). A big, barrel-chested talker.

"He was a boxer in Russia," said Sal Matera.

"One of those guys who could pull railroad cars with his teeth," said Paul.

Sal: "He read a dictionary when it wasn't his move."

Nick: "When those guys came over in the first Russian wave of chess immigrants in the '70s, we were mad because we weren't going to win any more prizes, but we had to play better because of them."

(Some of my latest quotes or discoveries may be old stuff to you, so send me your notes and quotes and stories, if you like, and I'll try to relate them here, with or without your name as you prefer.)

Editor's Note: Information for joining the Chess Café is here:

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe>

Upcoming Events

April USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com

Sunday April 17, 2022, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2

Saturday April 23, 2022, 3PM. 6 games of G/10+2

For information and links to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2022-chesskidcom>

14th Annual Steve Brandwein / RaySchutt / Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz

Sunday May 1, 2022, 1PM. 6 Double Round Swiss. G/4min +2

(Registration coming soon)

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon

Tuesday, May 3rd 2022 - Tuesday, June 14th 2022. 6:30PM.

USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/ray-conway-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/RayConwayMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon>

20th Charles Powell Memorial Championship G/45

Sunday, May 8th 2022, 10AM. 4 Round SS G/45;d5. USCF Rated.

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-charles-powell-memorial-championship-g45-person>

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/20thPowellMemorialChampionshipG45>

Mechanics' Institute May Championship Quads

Saturday May 14, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 3RR G/30;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads>

Registration: [https://mechanics-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsMay2022)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsMay2022](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsMay2022)

Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

Saturday May 14, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G30;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institutemonthly-scholastic-swiss-person>

Registration: [https://mechanics-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissMay2022)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissMay2022](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissMay2022)

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Ng3! Intending 2.Nc4#. If 1...Nxd3 2.Rc5#. 1...Bxd3 2.Kc4#!

Problem #2: 1.Qd3! Threatens 2.Qxh7+! Kxh7 3.Rh8#. If 1...Kxh5 2.Qxh7+ Bh6 3.Nf4#. The trickiest is 1...Rf5, but then 2.Bg4! Qb5 3.Ng5#.

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA>

Newsletter



In This Issue

- TNM Report & Annotated Games
- GM de Firmian and FM Whitehead on Politics and Chess
- Dr. Szatay on the rating of FIDE events

You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess>