



MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE  
Since 1854

# CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1015 | May 7, 2022

Gens Una Sumus!

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## Conway TNM Round One Report

The 7-Round Ray Conway Memorial TNM Swiss kicked off May 3<sup>rd</sup> with 71 entrants in two sections.

There were very few surprises in the top section - headed by IM **Elliott Winslow** - as the top half neatly defeated the bottom half with a few draws thrown in here and there.

In the Under 1800 section some of the old club stalwarts threw their weight around, with **Nick Casares Jr.**, **Albert Starr**, **John Chan**, **Charles James**, and **William Thibault** all winning their games. It's early times yet, but the veterans are not leaving without a fight!

**Raymond (Ray) Conway** was the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1971 to 1980.

His tenure coincided with the 'Fischer Boom', and the Tuesday Night Marathon (also called the Tuesday 'Limited') was started by Conway to make the most of the soaring interest in chess at that time.

Amazingly, no photographs seem to exist of Conway.

Former Chess Room Director IM **John Donaldson** rounds out the little we know about his predecessor in a previous MI Newsletter, here:

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/734>

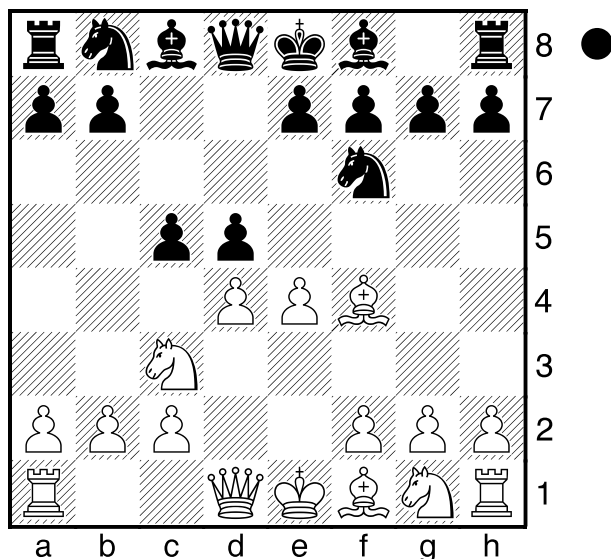
For complete TNM info, standings and results:

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

**Arun, Siddharth** **D00**  
**2209**  
 **Molodyk, Mikhail** **1867**  
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (1.2) 03.05.2022  
*[de Firmian]*

**1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bf4 c5 4.e4!?**

[Safer is 4.e3 but Arun wanted immediate action]



**4...Nxe4! 5.Nxe4 dxe4 6.d5 e6**

[6...Qb6 is a worthy alternative]

**7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Bc4 Qb6 9.b3 Be7**

**10.Be5 Qa5+ 11.Kf1 b5 12.dxe6**

**fxe6?!**

[12...bxc4! 13.exd7+ Nxd7 14.Qd5 Rd8 would give Black an edge. If 15.Bxg7?! Rg8 16.Bb2 c3 is very good for Black]

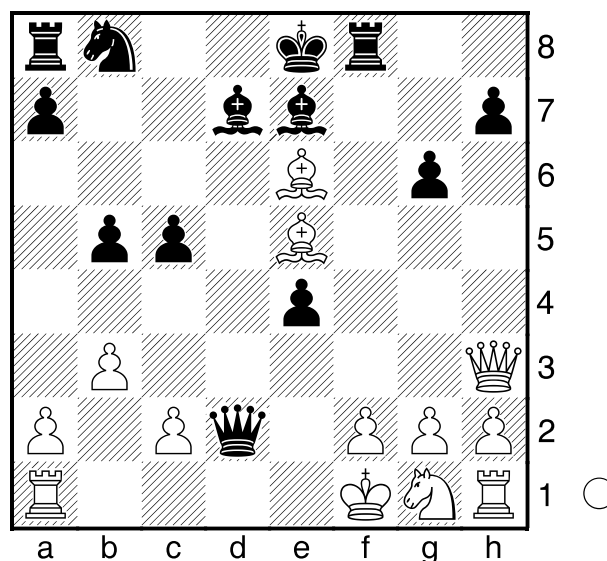
**13.Qh5+**

[A better line seems to be 13.Bxg7 Rg8 14.Qh5+ Kd8 15.Qxh7 Rxg7 16.Qh8+! Kc7 (16...Be8 17.Rd1+ Nd7 18.Bxe6) 17.Qxg7]

**13...g6 14.Qh3 Rf8 15.Bxe6 Qd2**

(Diagram)

A wild position with both sides attacking even with lagging development. **16.Ne2**



**Bxe6 17.Qxe6 Nd7 18.Bg7 Rf7 19.Qxe4 Rd8 20.Bc3 Nf6! 21.Qc6+ Qd7 22.Qxd7+ Rxd7** After all the excitement we get an even ending.  
**23.h3?!**

[23.f3 keeps it even. Now Black gains the upper hand.]

**23...Ne4 24.Be1 Bf6 25.c3 b4 26.Rc1 bxc3 27.g3 Bd4 28.f4 Be3 29.Rc2 g5?!**

[29...Bd2 keeps the extra pawn]

**30.Nxc3 Nxc3 31.Rxc3 gxf4 32.gxf4 Rxf4+ 33.Ke2 Bd4 34.Rd3 Re7+ 35.Kd1 Rfe4= 36.Bd2 Rg7 37.Kc2 Rg2 38.Rf1 Ree2 39.Rf5 Rg1 40.b4 Ra1 41.bxc5 Rxa2+ 42.Kd1**

(Diagram)

**Rh2?**

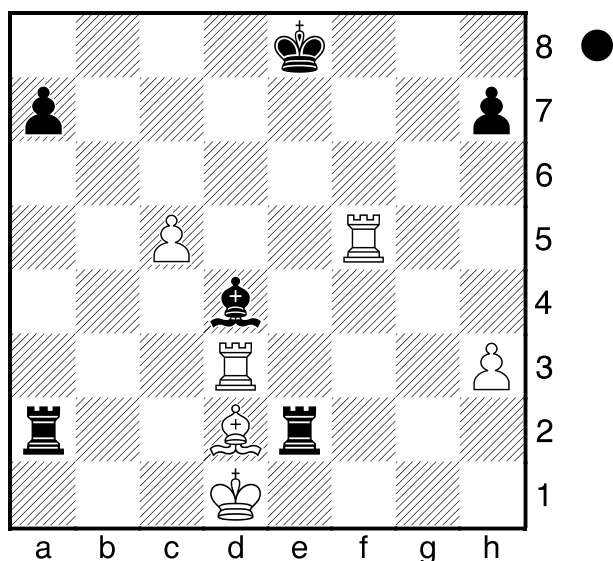
[giving away the bishop, The game would be just a tad better for White after 42...Re4 43.c6±]

**43.Rxd4** There is no mate here

**43...Ra1+ 44.Kc2 Ra2+ 45.Kc3 Rxh3+**

**46.Kc4** Now it's an easy win with the extra bishop and the white king safely up the board helping out. **46...Rc2+ 47.Kd5 Rg3 48.Re4+ Kd7 49.c6+**

[49.Rf7+!]



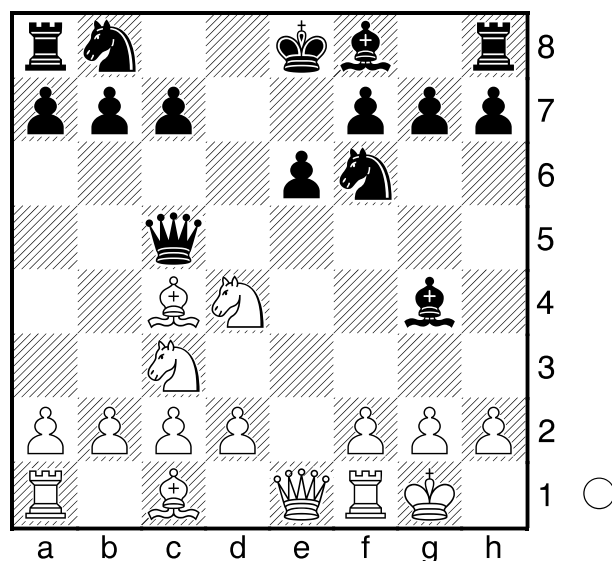
**49...Rxc6 50.Rf7+ Kd8 51.Kxc6 Rg6+ 52.Kd5** Black resigned. This game was a great battle!  
1-0

**Argo, Guy** **B01**  
**1856**  
 **Bambou, Christophe** **2101**  
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (1.3) 03.05.2022  
*[de Firmian]*

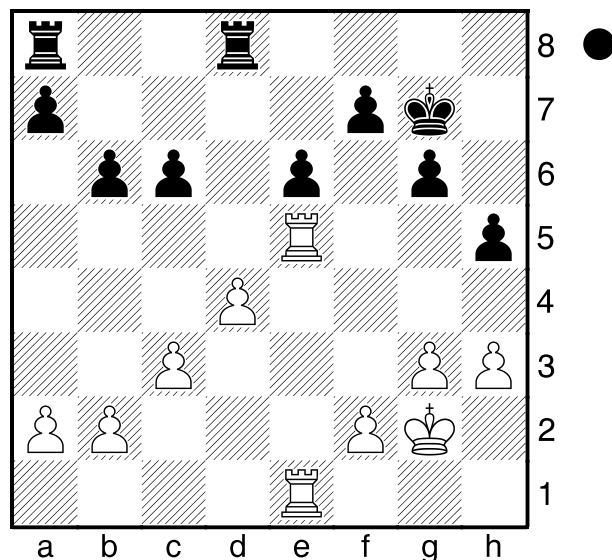
**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.0-0 e6 7.Nd4**  
 [ 7.d4 is more usual ]  
**7...Bg4 8.Qe1 Qc5**

(Diagram)

**9.Bb5+ c6 10.Nb3** escaping the black queens fork of the bishop and knight.  
**10...Qh5 11.Be2 Bd6 12.h3 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Qxe2 14.Nxe2** The endgame is even. There is lots of play left with 7 pawns each and many pieces on the board.  
**14...Nbd7 15.d4 0-0 16.Bf4 Bxf4 17.Nxf4 Rfd8 18.Rfe1 Nb6 19.c3 Nc4 20.Re2 Nd5 21.Nd3**  
 [ 21.Nxd5 cxd5 22.Nc5 b6 23.Nd3 would also be a safe alternative ]



**21...g6 22.g3 h5 23.Ne5 Ndb6 24.Nxc4 Nxc4 25.Nc5 Nd6 26.Rae1 Kg7 27.Kg2 b6 28.Nd3 Nc4 29.Ne5 Nxe5 30.Rxe5**

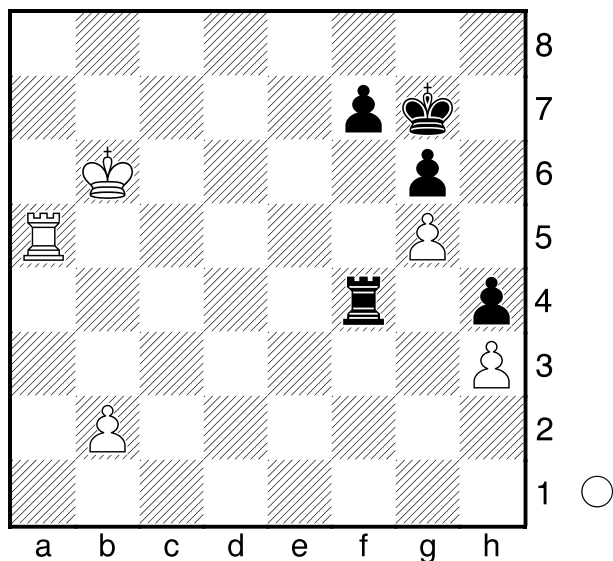


Thus far Guy has held his own very well against his higher rated opponent. Only rooks and pawns are left and one thinks this game will end in a draw. **30...a5 31.a4 Rab8 32.R1e2 Kf6 33.f4 Rd5 34.Kf3 Rd7 35.Rh2 Rd5 36.Rhe2 Rbd8 37.Rxd5 cxd5 38.Ke3 Rc8 39.Kd3 Rb8?! 40.c4! dxc4+ 41.Kxc4 Rd8 42.Re5!** White has an edge despite the isolated d-pawn since his king is

active. 42...Rd6 43.g4?!

[ 43.h4!± ]

43...h4!= 44.d5 exd5+ 45.Rxd5 Re6  
46.g5+ Kg7 47.Re5 Rd6 48.Kb5 Rd4  
49.Kxb6 Rxa4 50.Rxa5 Rxf4

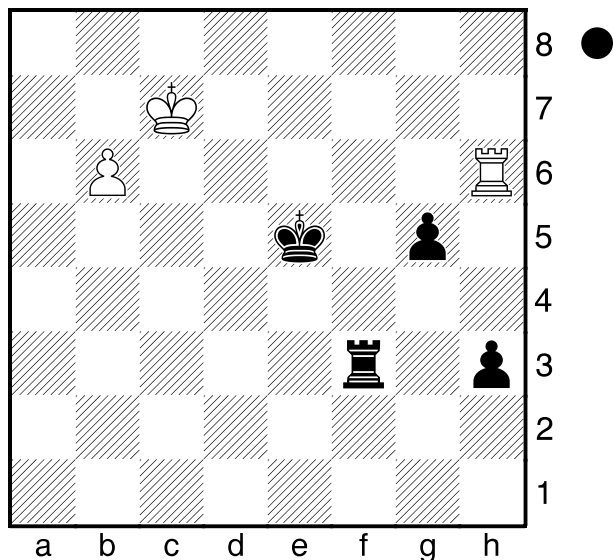


**51.Rb5?** The wrong square for the rook.  
White would draw with other moves -

[ 51.Rc5 ]

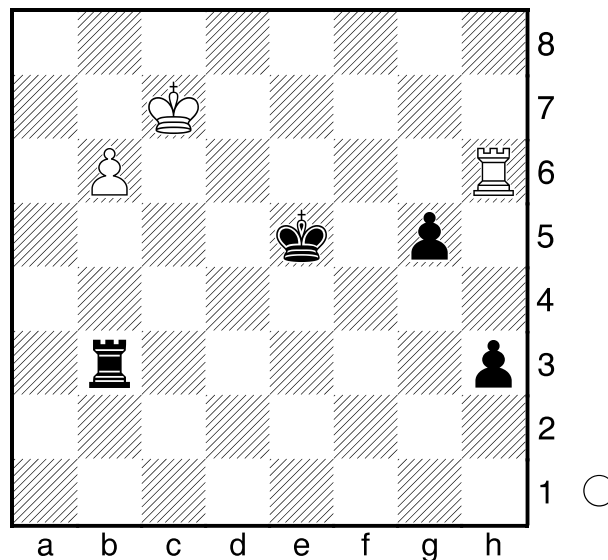
[ 51.Kc6 ]

51...Rf3+ 52.b4 Rxh3 53.Rc5 Rb3  
54.b5 h3 55.Rc4 Rf3 56.Rh4 f6  
57.gxf6+ Kxf6 58.Kc7 g5 59.Rh6+  
Ke5 60.b6



**Rb3?**

[ 60...Rc3+ 61.Kd8 Rb3 62.Kc7  
g4+ ]



That loss of tempo is enough to permit  
White to just barely draw with 61 b7 --  
but the only scoresheet to make it this  
far says "0-1". Perhaps the finish was  
**0-1**

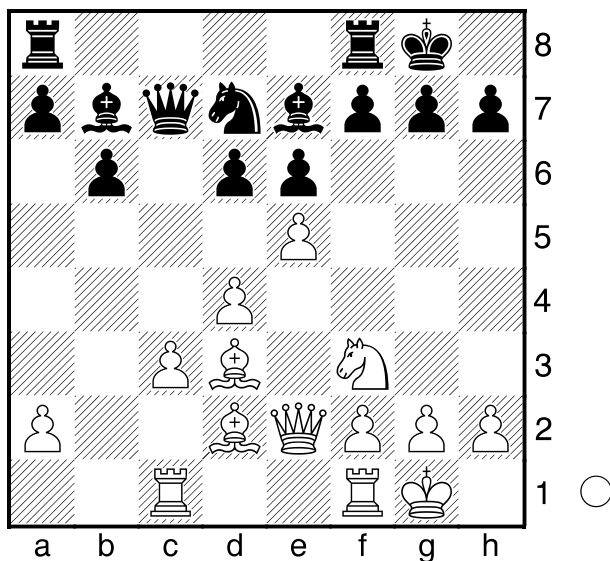
**B22**

□ **Macnee, Felix** 1828  
■ **Weng, Nicholas** 2021  
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (1.5) 03.05.2022  
[de Firmian]

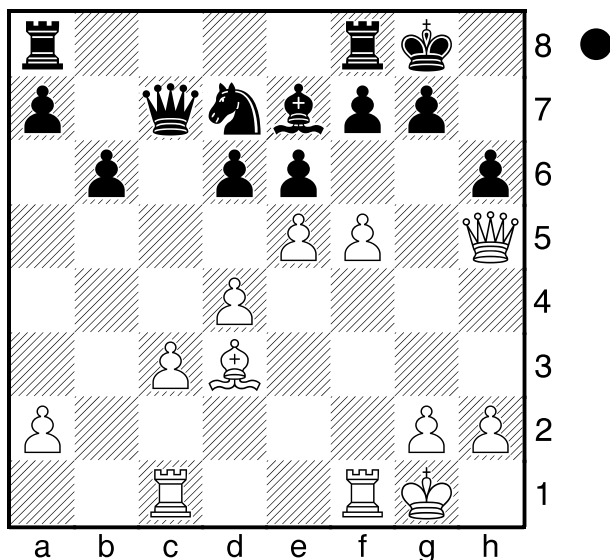
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4  
cxd4 5.cxd4 e6 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.bxc3  
Qc7 8.Bd2 b6 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.Nf3 Be7  
11.0-0 d6 12.Qe2 Nd7 13.Rac1 0-0

(Diagram)

Thus far a normal kind of opening with  
chances for both sides, Felix now makes  
an oversight. **14.Bg5? Bxf3! 15.Qxf3**  
**Bxg5 16.Qh5 h6 17.f4** A piece down  
White does his best to attack and make  
the game interesting. **17...Be7 18.f5**  
[ 18.Rf3!? is a slower way to attack.



Black is of course winning in all the lines but there will be some accurate defense necessary. ]



**18...dxe5 19.fxe6 Nf6** Nicholas brings the defenders to the kingside and there is little left of the attack, **20.exf7+ Rxf7 21.Qg6 Bd6 22.Rxf6** going all in. **22...Rxf6 23.Qh7+ Kf7 24.dxe5 Qc5+ 25.Kh1 Bxe5 26.Bc2** White gets some checks on the light squares. At least the black king has to run around. **26...Rf8 27.Bb3+ Ke8 28.Qd3 Rd6 29.Ba4+ Kd8 30.Qe4 Qd5** That does it **31.Qh4+**

**g5 32.Qg4 Rf4 33.Qh5 Rxa4 0-1**

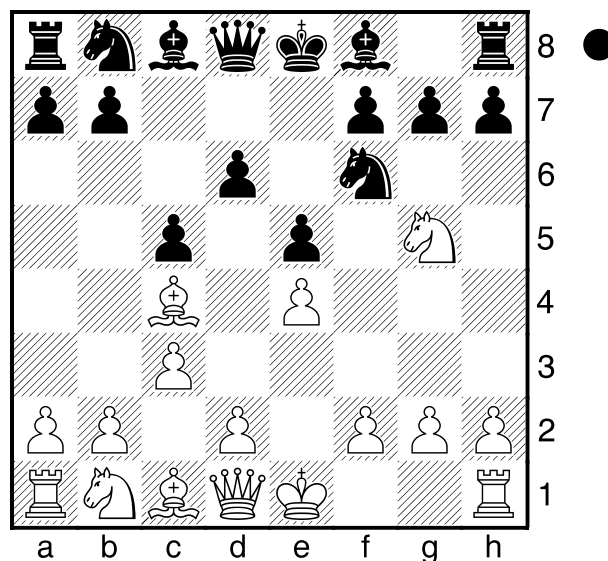
**B50**

□ **Foulke,Ryan**

■ **James,Charles**

MI Conway TNM: u1800 (1.26) 03.05.22  
[de Firmian]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 e5 4.Bc4 Nf6?! 5.Ng5**



**d5!** The best defense after getting in trouble with the f7 square. As long as you can get your pieces out and castle you will have your chances. **6.exd5 Bd6 7.d3 a6 8.0-0 b5 9.Bb3 0-0 10.Be3 Nbd7 11.Nd2 Nb6 12.Qf3?!**

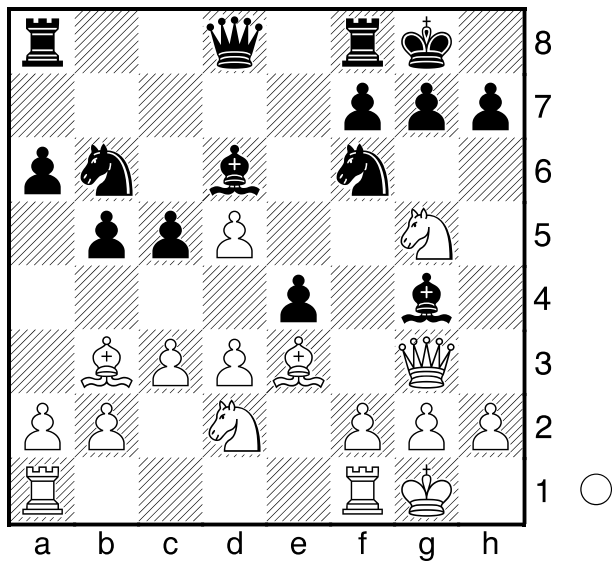
[ 12.c4 would keep the extra pawn ]  
**12...Bg4 13.Qg3 e4**

(Diagram)

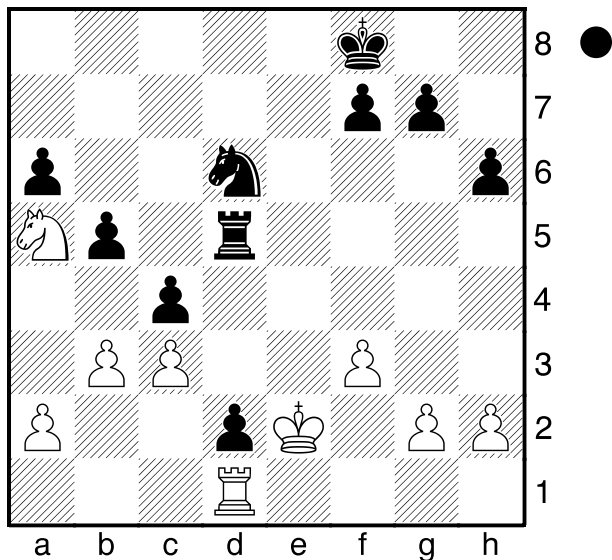
Now the game is sharp and about even again. **14.Bf4?**

[ 14.Qh4 ]

**14...Bxf4 15.Qxf4 exd3** now Black holds the edge with the advanced d-pawn **16.d6 c4 17.Bd1 Bxd1 18.Raxd1 Nbd5 19.Qf5 Qxd6**



Black has the monster protected passed pawn on d3, so White will suffer for the rest of the game. **20.Nde4 Qd7 21.Qxd7 Nxd7 22.Rfe1 h6 23.Nf3 Nf4 24.Nd6 Ne2+ 25.Kf1 Nf6 26.Ng1 Nxg1 27.Kxg1 Rad8 28.Nb7 Rd5 29.Na5 Re8 30.Rxe8+ Nxe8 31.f3 Re5 32.Kf1 Kf8 33.b3 Nd6 34.Re1 d2! 35.Rd1 Rd5 [ 35...b4! ] 36.Ke2**



**b4! 37.Rxd2 Re5+?**  
[ Black saves a key tempo with  
37...Rxa5 38.Rxd6 Rxa2+ 39.Kd1

cx b3 and an easy win ]  
**38.Kd1 Rxa5 39.Rxd6 Rxa2 40.bxc4 b3**  
[ 40...bxc3 is still good for Black. Now some mistakes happen, perhaps from time trouble. ]  
**41.Rb6 Ra1+ [ 41...Rxb6 ]**  
**42.Kd2 Ra3 43.Kc1 a5 44.Kb2**  
The white king has done a good job to become active **44...Ra2+ 45.Kxb3 Rxb3 46.c5 a4+ 47.Kxa4 Ra2+ [ 47...Ke7 ]**  
**48.Kb5 Re2 49.c6 Re5+ 50.Kc4**  
At this moment White is better, but there are no more recorded moves. We assume a time scramble and Black prevailed.  
**0-1**

## **GM Nick de Firmian**

### **Russian Chessplayers in the Time of War**

There are classic stories of chess players' careers being impacted by wars. The Mannheim International Tournament of 1914 was stopped after 11 rounds when World War 1 broke out. Eleven Russian players, including Alekhine and Bogoljubov, were interned by the Germans. They were freed and allowed to return home via Switzerland after a couple of months. The good news was that the internment reportedly helped their opening preparation as they were able to analyze together.

Paul Keres of Estonia may well have become world champion in the 1940's or 50's if not for living under the Soviet regime. He was often rumored to have stepped aside for Botvinnik, who was the Soviet's favorite. In the 1948 World Championship Tournament (a quintuple round robin) he lost the first four games to Botvinnik, who won the event and became world champion. Of course, it's exceedingly rare for a top player like Keres to lose four games without even a draw. Keres' life was rumored to be at stake since he played tournaments in Nazi territory during WWII. One may note that Keres came off better than Alekhine after WWII. Alekhine was found dead in Portugal in 1946. Most believe he was killed for his pro-Nazi writings during the war.

While the current Russian-Ukraine war doesn't interfere with the careers of many of the world's players, it is having a serious effect on the Russians who have many of the world's leading players. Chess is your job if you are a Russian grandmaster, so the events continue despite the war. Right now, there is a Russian Team Championship in Sochi (which hosted the Winter Olympics in 2014). This Black Sea resort is a beautiful spot not far from the Crimea. Here the players try to just play chess despite the war. We give below a game of Alexander Grischuk, one of the best Russian players of the last two decades. Grischuk's

wife is Ukrainian, and his sympathies are like the 44 top Russian players who signed an appeal last month to Putin last month to stop the war. That appeal begins as the following:

*"We are against any military action on the territory of Ukraine and call for an immediate ceasefire and a peaceful decision to the conflict through the path of dialogue and diplomatic negotiations. For us, it is unbearably painful to see the catastrophe that is happening these days with our people.*

*We've played for Russia in individual and, which is a special honor, team competitions. We are sure that chess and sports in general should unite people. Our country has done its best to organize the most complex and prestigious international events even on the peak of the pandemic.*

*Chess teaches you to be responsible for your actions; each move is meaningful and a mistake can bring you to a fatal point of no return. This used to be a sport, but now the human lives, human rights and freedoms, human dignity, the present and the future of our countries are at stake.*

*During these tragic days we are thinking of all the people caught in the midst of this frightful conflict. We share the pain of our Ukrainian colleagues and call for peace."*

A strong and courageous statement from the chess players. We give below a game from a courageous Russian player of older times. This classic is from the great Russian ex world champion Boris Spassky. Spassky is one of the most principled men in any sport and had to flee Leningrad as a child during the Nazi siege of WWII. This classic game was so admired it was featured in the James Bond film "From Russia With Love."



**Grischuk, Alexander** **C18**  

**Shubin, Kirill** **2742**  
 Russian Team Chess Championship Premier (2) **2472**

Slow 90min+30sec **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5!?**

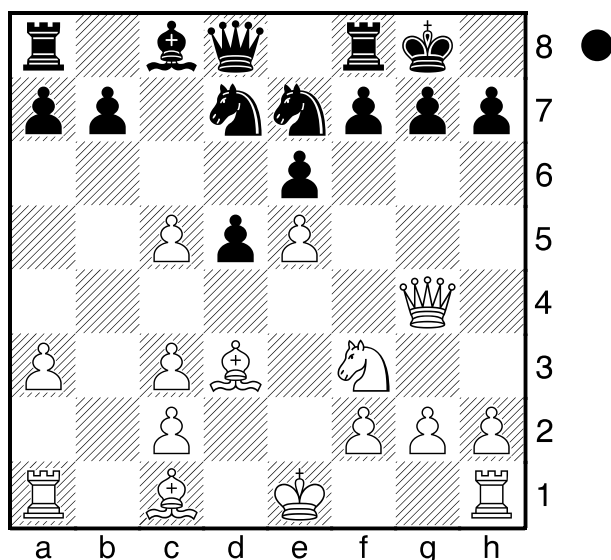
A tricky variation in this Winawer French. It was favored by the top Armenian players some years ago. White must react sharply to try for an edge. **6.Qg4 Ne7 7.dxc5**

[ 7.Qxg7 Rg8 8.Qxh7 cxd4 9.b4 should also be a slight edge to White in a complex position ]

**7...0-0**

[ 7...d4 8.b4 dxc3 9.bxa5 ]

**8.Nf3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nd7 10.Bd3**



This is a common type position from the Winawer French. White has terrible pawn structure but actively placed pieces and the advanced pawn on e5. **10...Nf5 11.0-0 Nxc5 12.a4 Nxd3 13.cxd3 b6 14.h4** The game has transformed to a fairly normal structure. White has lost the bishop pair but gotten back decent pawn structure. He still has some edge. **14...Ba6 15.Rd1 Rc8 16.Ba3 Re8 17.Bb4 Bb7 18.a5!** Now White has secure squares for all his pieces. There

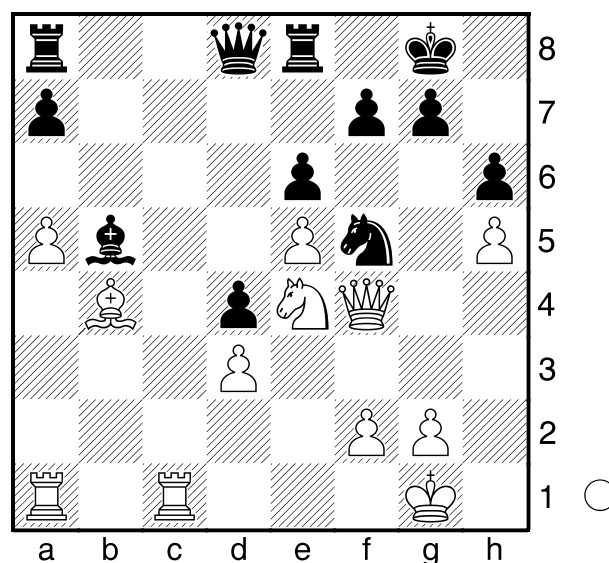
is no quick plan for victory but simply a more comfortable setup for the first player. **18...Ra8**

[ 18...b5!? ]

**19.h5 h6 20.Qf4 d4!? 21.c4**

Grishuck doesn't want to grab a pawn and allow Black control of the d5 square.

His move makes more practical difficulties for Black. **21...Bc6 22.Nd2 b5 23.cxb5 Bxb5 24.Ne4 Bc6 25.Rdc1 Bb5?!**



**25...Rc8** would keep all the Black pieces working. Now Grischuk charges ahead.

**26.g4! Qh4**

[ 26...Ne7 27.Nd6 Nd5 28.Qxf7+ would win, so Shubin decides to sacrifice a piece ]

**27.Qf3 Bxd3** best

[ 27...Ne7 28.Rc7 is crushing ]

**28.Qxd3 Qxg4+ 29.Ng3 Rad8**

At first site it may seem Black is doing well. He has two pawns for the bishop and may get a third. Also the white king looks a bit open. Yet the white bishop is strong and the black pawns do not create any problems for White. **30.Ra3 Rd5 31.Qe4 Qg5?!**

[ 31...Qxe4 32.Nxe4 Rxe5 33.f3 Rb5 34.Bd2 is good for White but there is lots of fight left ]

**32.Rd1 Nxg3**

[ 32...Ne3!? ]

**33.Rxg3 Qxh5 34.Re1**

[ 34.Rxd4 Rxe5 35.Qg2 ]

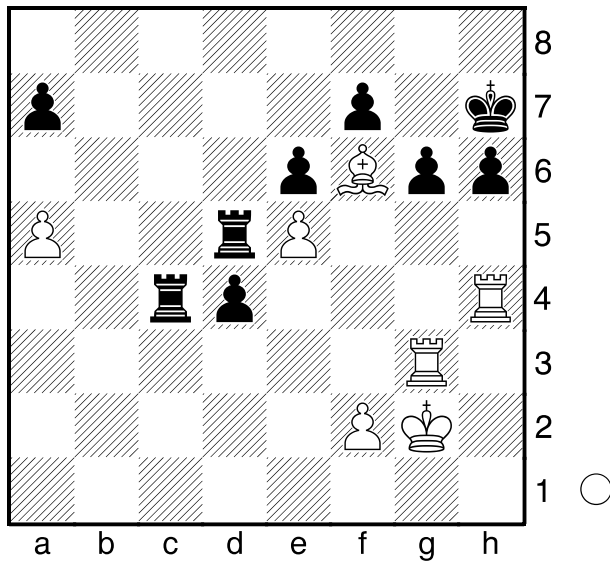
**34...Rc8 35.Kg2 Rc4 36.Be7! Qf5?**

trying to head for safety in the endgame, yet there is danger there too. 36...Rc3

was needed. **37.Bf6 Qxe4+ 38.Rxe4**

White has a tremendous attack even without the queens. **38...g6 39.Rh4**

**Kh7**

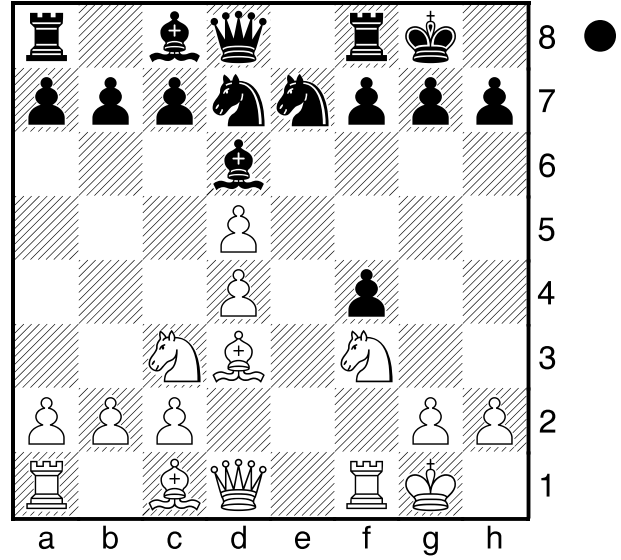


**40.Rxh6+!** It is mate next move.  
**1-0**

**C36**  
 **Boris Spassky**  
 **David Bronstein**  
 USSR Championship (16) 20.02.1960

A great battle between two of the most famous Russian chess players of all time. **1.e4 e5 2.f4!** The exclamation mark is for courage. Spassky plays the King's Gambit which is also a favorite of Bronstein's. **2...exf4 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Bd6** Bronstein gives back the pawn for easy development. This is perfectly reasonable play against the King's Gambit. **5.Nc3 Ne7 6.d4 0-0 7.Bd3**

**Nd7 8.0-0**



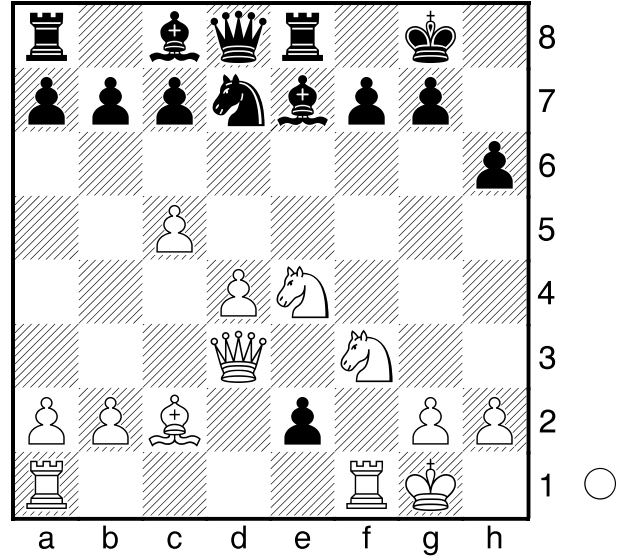
Chances are about even yet the position has very imbalanced pawn structure and is hard to figure out. **8...h6!?**

[ 8...Nf6! ]

**9.Ne4! Nxd5 10.c4 Ne3 11.Bxe3 fxe3 12.c5 Be7 13.Bc2** Black is temporarily a pawn ahead. White though has promising open lines on the f-file and light-squared diagonals. **13...Re8?!**

[ 13...g6 ]

**14.Qd3 e2**



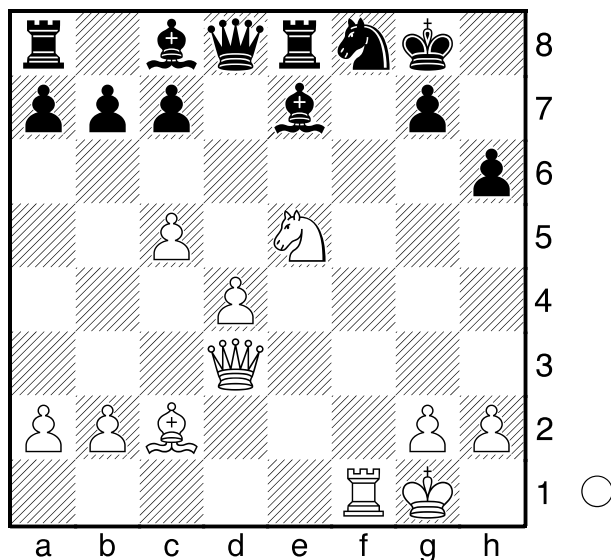
**15.Nd6!** A fantastic idea, ignoring the threat to the rook on f1. Spassky goes all

in on the attack. **15...Nf8?**

[ 15...exf1Q+ 16.Rxf1 Bxd6 17.Qh7+ Kf8 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.Qh8+ Ke7 20.Re1+ Ne5 21.Qxg7 Be6 would allow Black to hold on. This defense was only found decades later by computer analysis. ]

**16.Nxf7!! exf1Q+ 17.Rxf1 Bf5**

[ 17...Kxf7 18.Ne5+ Kg8



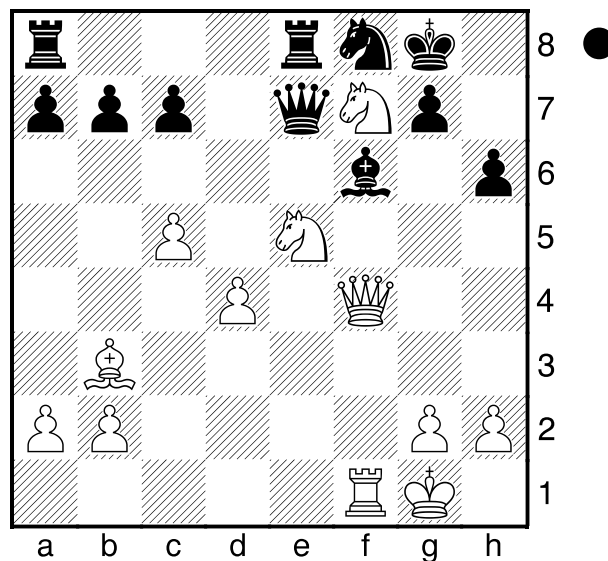
19.Qh7+! Nxh7 20.Bb3+ Kh8 21.Ng6# was Spassky's fantastic idea. Bronstein throws his bishop out for the defense but it only delays the finish. ]

**18.Qxf5 Qd7 19.Qf4 Bf6 20.N3e5 Qe7 21.Bb3**

(Diagram)

All the white pieces take key attacking squares. Black has no hope. **21...Bxe5 22.Nxe5+ Kh7 23.Qe4+** Bronstein resigned. This incredible game was supposedly played by the villain in "From Russia with Love." I don't believe any real villain could compose such a masterpiece.

**1-0**



## **IM John Donaldson**

### ***Oops! I Resigned Again!***

No other game has the body of literature chess does. You can add together the number of books published on bridge, poker and backgammon and the total would be but a small fraction of the works on the royal game, which likely number over 100,000.

Keeping this total in mind it is not surprising how difficult it is to write a truly original book, but Grandmaster Ian Rogers has done just that with *Oops! I Resigned Again!* (2021, Russell Enterprises, Inc., [www.russell-enterprises.com](http://www.russell-enterprises.com) 160 pages, \$19.95).

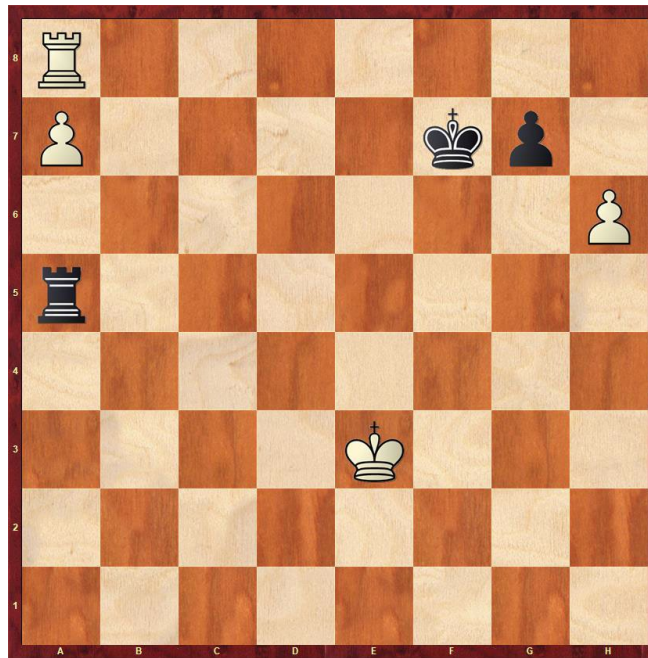
The Australian GM, the top-rated player in Australia from 1984 until his retirement in 2007, has chosen the topic of premature resignations, games in which one side resigns in a position which is objectively drawn or even winning for them. How Rogers managed to come up with so many examples point to his wide involvement with the game for half a century. ChessBase has no magic search key that would have eliminated the need for a keen eye and long experience.

One might think that such a book would be a curiosity at best, but in fact the games given in *Oops! I Resigned Again!* are quite instructive. Take the following encounter between many-time Candidate Lev Polugaevsky and the always tough-to-beat Bruno Parma, many-time member of the Yugoslav national team. It was played in the annual USSR-Yugoslavia match which were a key fixture on the chess calendar in the 1950s and 1960s.

#### **Lev Polugaevsky – Bruno Parma**

Vrnjacka Banja 1965

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 d5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.b3 Be6 11.Bb2 Qe7 12.Nb5 Ne4 13.Rc1 Rac8 14.Nbd4 Rfd8 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Nd4 Bd7 17.Bg4 Bb6 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Bxf5 Rc7 20.Qg4 Qg5 21.Qxg5 Nxc6 22.Rc2 Ne6 23.Be5 Rcc8 24.Rfc1 d4 25.Rxc6 Rxc6 26.Rxc6 dxe3 27.fxe3 Bxe3+ 28.Kf1 Bb6 29.Bxe6 fxe6 30.Ke2 Rd5 31.Bc7 Ba5 32.a4 Kf7 33.Bxa5 Rxa5 34.Rc7+ Kf6 35.Kd3 Ra6 36.Kc4 e5 37.Kd5 h5 38.Rc3 Ra5+ 39.Ke4 Ra6 40.Rf3+ Ke6 41.Rf5 Ra5 42.Rg5 Kf6 43.Rxh5 Rc5 44.h4 Ke6 45.Rg5 Kf6 46.Rf5+ Ke6 47.h5 Rd5 48.Rg5 Rd4+ 49.Ke3 Kf6 50.Rg6+ Kf7 51.Ra6 Rb4 52.g4 Rxb3+ 53.Ke4 Rb4+ 54.Kf5 Rf4+ 55.Kg5 Kf8 56.Rxa7 Rc4 57.a5 e4 58.Kf4 e3+ 59.Kxe3 Rxc4 60.a6 61.Ra8+ Kf7 62.a7 Ra5 63.h6.**



Now **Parma resigned** as 63...gxh6 loses to 64.Rh8 and 64.h7 seems to be unstoppable. Black, who was losing just a few moves earlier, lets his negative thoughts get the better of him, not realizing his opponent gifted him a half point that could have been grabbed with 63...Kg6!

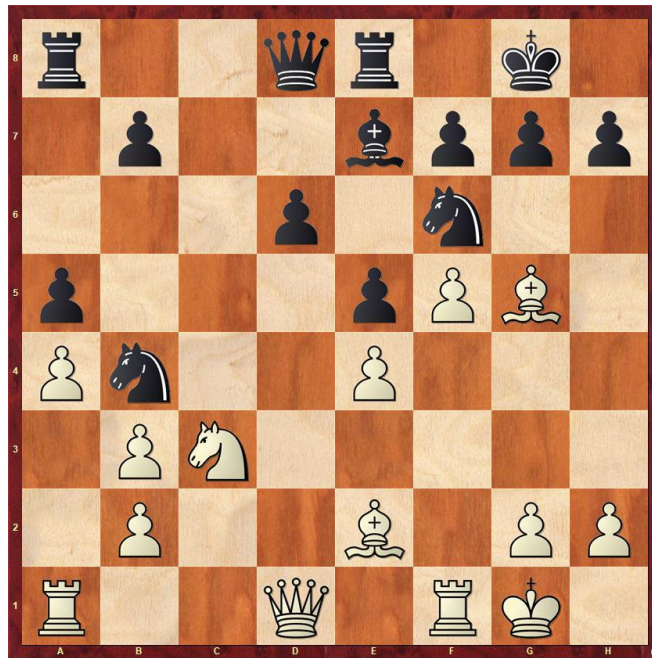
One of the nice features in *Oops! I Resigned Again!* are the back stories behind the games. A case in point is the following encounter held early in Bobby Fischer's career. The 1956 US Junior was the first national success Bobby enjoyed as he took first place, but as Rogers points out it almost did not happen. In the penultimate round he won a game that proved to be the difference, but should he have?

I (JD) have provided additional annotations here.

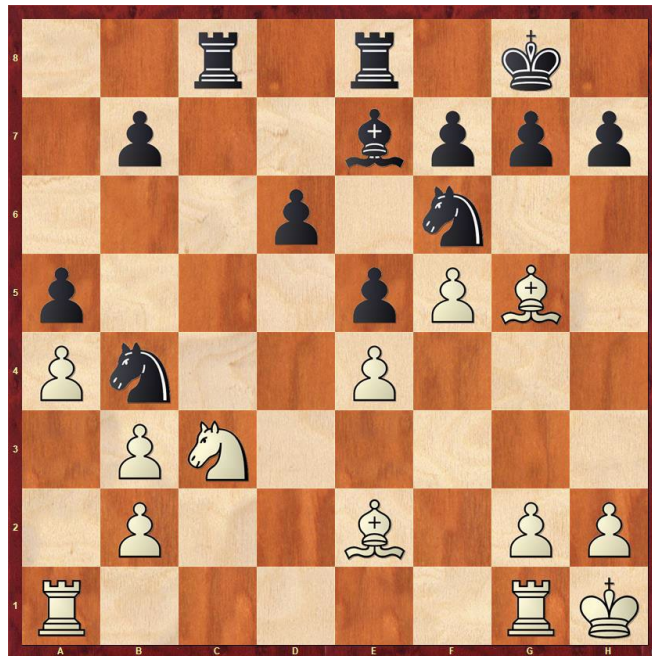
### **Kenneth Blake - Robert James Fischer**

Philadelphia 1956

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6.** It's exceptionally rare to find Fischer playing the Sicilian but not his favorite Najdorf. The only other example I could find was from his match against Janosevic two years later, where he played the Black side of a Richter-Rauzer, albeit via a Najdorf (5...a6) move order. **3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 a5 10.a4 Be6 11.f5 Bxb3?** 11...Bd7 with the idea ...Nb4 and ...Bc6 looks more logical. **12.cxb3 Nb4 13.Bg5.** Or 13.Bc4 as White wants to control d5. **13...Re8.**



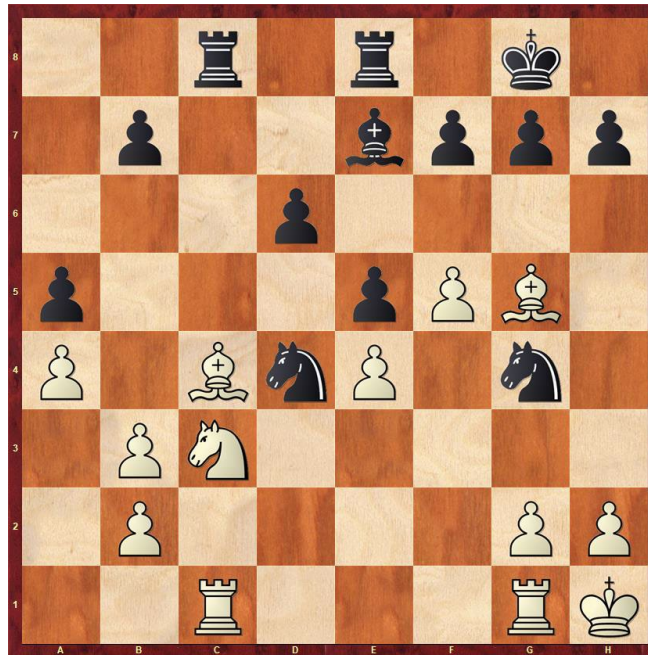
**14.Bf3?** 14.Bb5 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Red8 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bc4 was the thematic way to play. Fischer won many games with just this setup – but for White with his favorite Sozin variation (6.Bc4). **14...Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Rac8** 15...Rad8, dreaming of a future ...d5, was an alternative. **16.Rg1?!** This is a very strange move. 16.Qd2 was still very nice for White. **16...Qf2?!** 16...Rcd8 was more to the point. **17.Qe2?** 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Be2 with Bc4 was necessary. **17...Qxe2 18.Bxe2.**



**18...Nc2?** Fischer was only 13 when this game was played and likely strong Expert/weak Master strength (ratings were only done once a year so it's impossible to



say exactly), but improving fast. A year later Bobby would not have failed to spot:  
 18...Rxc3 19.bxc3 Nxe4 20.g4 Nxc3 21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Rac1 Rc7 23.Bc4 Nba2 24.Rce1  
 Kf8 and Bobby would have been on the road to victory. **19.Rac1**. Again 19.Bxf6 Bxf6  
 20.Rad1 Nd4 21.Bc4 was called for. **19...Nd4 20.Bc4 Ng4.**



Black threatens not only mate but the bishop on g5. This was enough for Blake who promptly **resigned**, but what did he overlook? With 21.h4, providing luft while protecting the bishop, he would have retained equal chances.

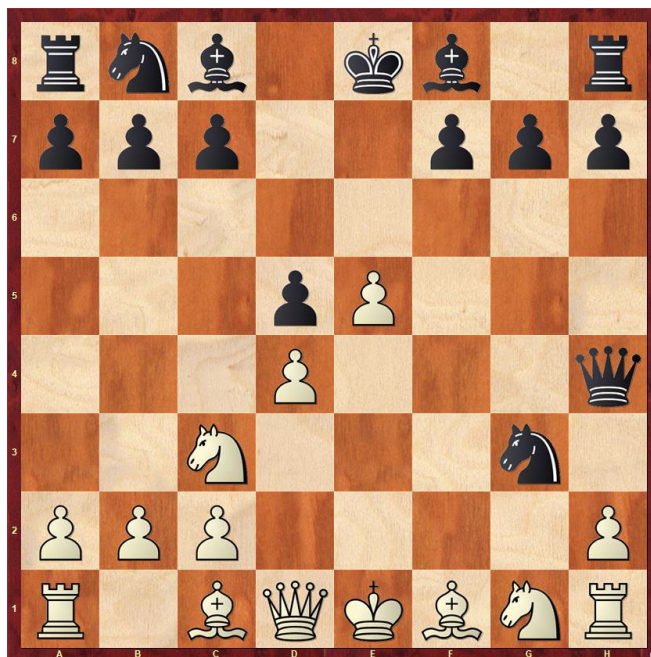
Reading through *Oops! I Resigned Again!*, the rare chess book I can warmly recommend to chess players of all levels, I was struck by the fact that I had never been present for a premature resignation. Less than a week later I saw my first! The names have been withheld to protect the innocent as both players have reason to want this game forgotten.

## **NN-NN**

Berkeley 2022

**1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.d4?** The three book moves, are 5.Nf3, 5.Qf3 and 5.d3 **5...Qh4+?!** This looks natural but correct was 5...Bb4! concentrating on speedy development. For example 6.Qd3 c5 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 0-0 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.Be2 Bf5 11.Qe3 f6 12.exf6 Qxf6 13.0-0 Rae8 and White will not survive long. **6.g3 Nxg3?**

and **white resigned.**



Should he have? No! After 7.Nf3! Qh5 (7...Qg4 8.Rg1!) 8.Nxd5! White is winning or close to it. For example 8...Nxb1 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 Bg4 11.Bg2.

If Black had instead played 6...Nxc3 he would have retained a large advantage: 7.gxh4 (7.Bxc3 Qe4+) 7...Nxd1 8.Kxd1 c5.

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(Editor's note: We are proud and honored to have IM John Donaldson contributing to the MI Newsletter – the same Newsletter that he started way back in 2000!)



## **FM Paul Whitehead**

### **Chess is everywhere**

French GM Joel Lautier is the only non-Russian on the US sanction list – twice:

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20220423-war-in-ukraine-jo%C3%ABl-lautier-the-french-chess-star-on-the-us-sanctions-list>

Chess.com is blocked in Russia - along with Facebook, Twitter and Amnesty International:

<https://www.chess.com/news/view/chess-com-banned-by-russia>

Missouri Eagle Scout builds giant chess board:

<https://krcgtv.com/news/local/local-high-schooler-builds-giant-chess-board-for-eagle-scout-project>

Chess Café regular Alexey Root is moving up in the world:

<https://www.chessable.com/blog/chessable-welcomes-dr-alexey-root/>

A review of 'The World Champion', a documentary on the dramatic 1978 Karpov vs Korchnoi match:

<https://english.elpais.com/culture/2022-04-27/parapsychologists-sects-and-secret-services-remembering-the-most-tense-chess-game-in-history.html>

Portrait of 'Asia's first Grandmaster', Sultan Khan:

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/283750/mir-sultan-khan-first-asian-grandmaster-chess-unsung-genius-history/>

12 year old prodigy FM Alice Lee went all the way to the finals (losing to GM Krush), while Caruana downed Aronian at the inaugural American Cup in St. Louis:

[https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/photos-inaugural-american-cup-wraps-up-at-st-louis-chess-club/collection\\_f84e5ca0-eb8f-5ead-b1f5-7fad2d3bfcce.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/photos-inaugural-american-cup-wraps-up-at-st-louis-chess-club/collection_f84e5ca0-eb8f-5ead-b1f5-7fad2d3bfcce.html)

The Brecksville Chess Club in Ohio meets at Panera Bread – not at White Castle:

<https://www.scriptype.com/2022/04/26/brecksville-chess-club-is-home-for-experts-casual-players/>

In Cumberland, Rhode Island, a chess tournament for kids is being held at the Public Library:

[https://www.valleybreeze.com/news/cumberland/chess-tournament-for-kids-at-the-cumberland-library-may-7/article\\_df0d3404-c270-11ec-b0e5-f308729338ed.html](https://www.valleybreeze.com/news/cumberland/chess-tournament-for-kids-at-the-cumberland-library-may-7/article_df0d3404-c270-11ec-b0e5-f308729338ed.html)

The Shropshire lads are getting strong at chess:

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/sport/2022/04/28/shropshire-chess-youngsters-clinch-promotion/>

And so are the youngsters on Kaua'i Island:

<https://www.thegardenisland.com/2022/04/27/hawaii-news/happy-camper-for-wednesday-april-27-2022-2/>

Visiting Fort Wane, Indiana? Try out the life-sized chess set in their downtown:

<https://www.wane.com/news/play-some-life-size-chess-in-downtown-fort-wayne/>

Cheating at chess is just nowhere'sville:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/article-dont-cheat-at-chess-odds-are-youll-get-caught/>

A Blueberry Chess Pie is perfect for Mother's Day:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/cooking-corner-blueberry-chess-pie/>

Learn your German compound chess words:

<https://dotesports.com/chess/news/what-does-zwischenzug-mean-in-chess>

Ukrainian WGM Evgeniya Doluhanova wins a big tournament in Ireland:

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/sligochampion/sport/other-sports/sligo-chess-event-proves-a-hit-41611558.html>

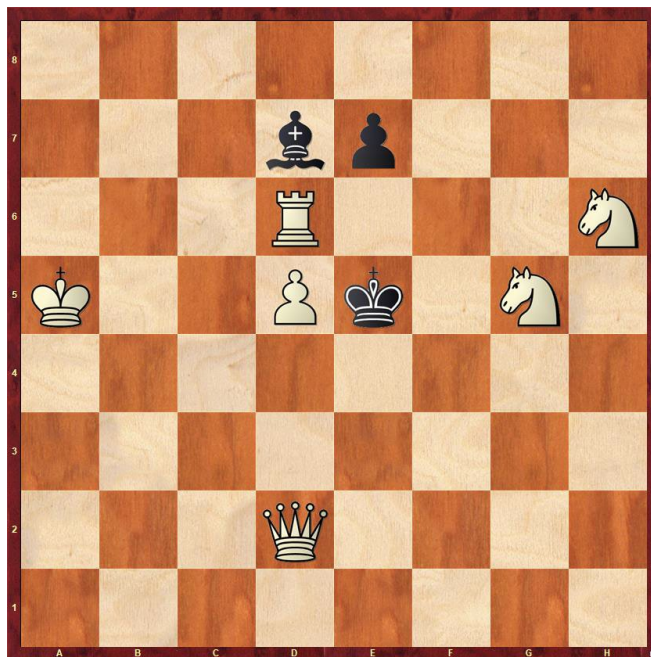
Celebrate Mother's Day with... Mom Chess Bots?

<https://www.chess.com/news/view/play-chess-against-mothers-day-bots>

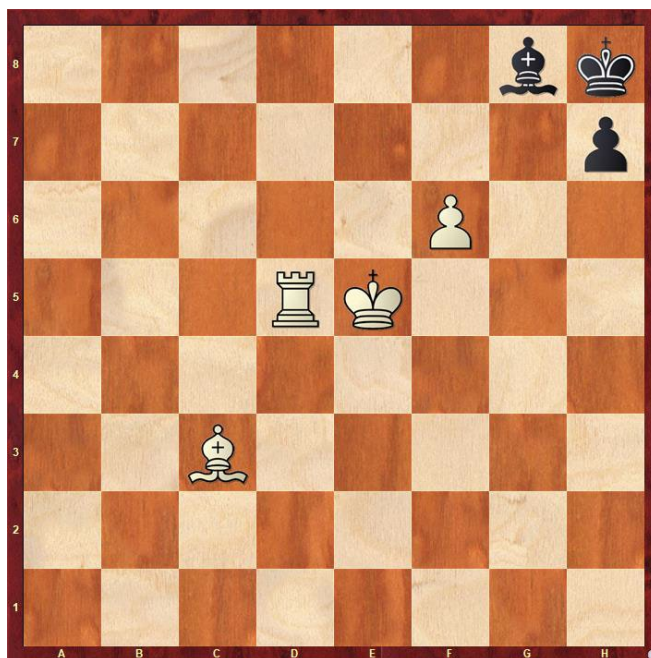
Finally, former MI Chess Room Director Abel Talamantez is making big waves in Novato:

<https://www.mariniij.com/2022/04/29/novato-chess-champions-return-home/>

## Tony's Teasers



1. J. F. Moon 1898. White mates in 2 moves.



2. Elena Pepeliaera 1958. White mates in 3 moves.

## **Richard Hack**

### **Stories from the Chess Café**

Among his many interesting statements of principled play, Boris Gelfand suggests you should try to find the line you overlook or never consider. Instead, quite often, "Your position is promising and you spot an appealing line. But you sell yourself short, get a big advantage rather than a winning one, and later make a small mistake that allows unwanted counterplay and subsequently a draw. It has happened to everyone." (Dynamic Decision Making in Chess, page 90.)

Sal Matera told us on March 7 that he was recently elected president of the Marshall Chess Foundation. (See The Village Voice, Feb. 9, 2022. The Marshall Chess Club also has a newsletter called The Marshall Spectator.) Sal said he's recently been working with Regina Fischer's archives, which ought to make an interesting story.

During that same meeting, the game of bridge came up. Capablanca played bridge to relax. Mike Walder mentioned that his dad was a life master of the card game, and that two leading Illinois chess masters, Greg DeFotis and Craig Chellstorp, went from chess to bridge. The game seems to be dying off, but perhaps online play will revive it. Steve Brandwein of the Mechanics' was an excellent bridge and scrabble player and was profiled in the book Word Freak, about the world of Scrabble. On March 3, Asa Hoffmann, called "the sparring partner of champions," put out a book called The Last Gamesman: My Sixty Years of Hustling Games in the Clubs, Parks and Streets of New York. My cousin in San Jose told me that master points in bridge are cumulative, so instead of a fluctuating performance rating as in chess, older bridge players often get ranked higher than younger, stronger ones.

On Friday, April 29, I went to the club and found two masters playing a slow game. One of them, David Brown, was visiting from Palm Springs, where he started the Desert Chess Club in December 2019 and runs it with another master, Lars Meyer; it meets two days a week at the Palm Springs and La Quinta public libraries. He pays for the sets, clocks, and numerous memberships. (See their website at [desertchessclub.com](http://desertchessclub.com).) Born in Chicago and raised in Mississippi, he traveled a lot with his military family and has communicated with kids around the world (e.g., Japan and Okinawa). His father was a strong player, though he didn't play in tournaments; and even when his health was declining and he couldn't talk, he could still play winning chess.

As Alexey Root noted on May 2, the next U.S. Open is going to be played in Palm Springs. This most recent Chess Café was missing Paul Whitehead and Nick de Firmian and was not scheduled, but six players still showed up, including a first-timer.

Alexey is now the Chief Science Officer for Chessable. "I'll get to encourage science and give awards for scientific work." (See article at [chessable.com/blog/chessable-welcomes-dr-alexey-root/](https://chessable.com/blog/chessable-welcomes-dr-alexey-root/) which notes that Alexey won the U.S. Women's Championship in 1989 with 5 wins and 4 draws, and has represented the U.S. in one Interzonal and one Olympiad.) She remarked that Chessable also pays royalties for material it publishes, which for Bryan Tillis, a Florida master, are more than what he made as a teacher.

Mike Walder: "Chessable is really helpful up to A- or Expert-level."

Der Spiegel's English edition of March 30 features an interview with 25-year-old Russian grandmaster Daniil Dubov. A photo caption quotes him: "I could miss the end of the world while analyzing the Italian opening." It includes these exchanges:

DER SPIEGEL: Mr. Dubov, you are one of the 44 Russian chess players who, in an open letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin at the beginning of March, called for an end to the war of aggression on Ukraine. Why did you decide to do this?

Dubov: You probably think that Russia is a bad country and we are bad people. But there is a large number of people who share the same values as you do in Europe. When the military actions started, it felt crazy, it was hard to believe. We were just shocked. When we published the letter, it felt good, like we could make a difference. Now it looks like it didn't make a difference. By now you can't even use the word "war" in Russia. Our letter was published before this new law, so at least we are not criminals.

DER SPIEGEL: Would you still say the word war now?

Dubov: No. Russian media wouldn't be able to quote me then. It's strange that a single word can get you into trouble.

DER SPIEGEL: Are you not afraid of harsh consequences?

Dubov: I don't know. There are many people who criticize Putin and are still free. I don't really see myself in trouble. I don't insult my country. I just think we made a very big mistake. If that gets me in trouble, so be it.

DER SPIEGEL: Did you consider yourself a political opponent of Putin even before the war?

Dubov: To be a real opponent, you really have to do something. I am not a professional politician. But I love this country and want it to do well. I criticize things because I have the right to do so. . . It can't get any worse for Russia. We can't make up for it. What's going on is a disaster. The consequences will be long and unpleasant, no matter where the conflict will go. I hope it will end as soon as possible.

(Info on the Chess Café is here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe>)

## Upcoming Events

### **Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - Ongoing**

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 - Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **20<sup>th</sup> Charles Powell Memorial Championship G/45**

Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 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-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-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissMay2022>

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## Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Ne6! Kxd6 (1...exd6 2.Qd4#) 2.Nf7#.

Problem #2: 1.Kf4! h6 (If 1...Bf7 2.Re8+ Bg8 3.f7#. Or 1...h5 2.Rxh5+ Bh7 3.f7#.)  
2.f7+ Kh7 3.f8=N#.

## 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>

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### Newsletter



#### In This Issue

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

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

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

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MI Chess Room c.1930 (Photo: Mechanics' Institute Archives)