



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1017 | May 21st, 2022

Conway TNM Round Three Report

By defeating NM **Michael Walder**, Expert **Edward Lewis** is once again off to a perfect 3-0 start in the top section of the TNM. Trailing a half point back are IM **Elliott Winslow**, NM **Siddharth Arun**, and Experts **Christophe Bambou** and **Nicholas Weng**. Lewis will very likely face his *bête noire* Winslow in the next round... stay tuned!

In the under 1800 section there are three tied with a perfect 3-0: **Dominic Croce** and **Anton Maliev**, who defeated veterans **John Chan** and **Nick Casares** respectively, and both are joined by **Yorgos Tsolias**, who got the jump on unrated **Nicolas Horde**.

The Conway TNM has two TD's, with Dr. **Judit Sztaray** and former MI Chess Club Director **Abel Talamantez** alternating every other Tuesday.

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 was started by Conway to make the most of the soaring interest in chess at that time.

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>

Gens Una Sumus!

Contents:

[Conway TNM report](#)

[GM Nick de Firmian](#)

[IM John Donaldson](#)

[May Quads & Scholastic](#)

[FM Paul Whitehead](#)

[Tony's Teasers](#)

[Richard Hack](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Solutions](#)

[Feedback](#)

chessroom@milibrary.org

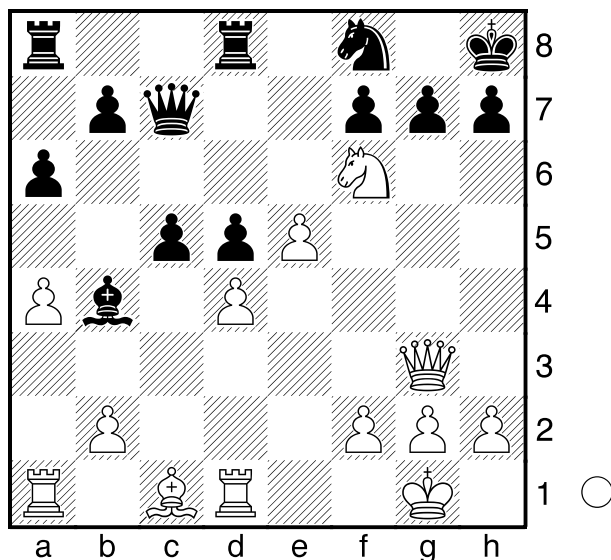
415-393-0110



Lesniewski, Lucas D19
 Sawhney, Yuvraj 1914
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (3.4) 17.05.2022 1671
[de Firmian]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3
dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4
8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qe2 Bg6 10.Rd1 0-0
 A solid Slav Defense where White has
 just a minimal advantage. **11.Bd3 Bxd3**
12.Qxd3 Qc7 13.e4! This aggressive
 advance is the best try for some
 advantage. **13...Rfd8**

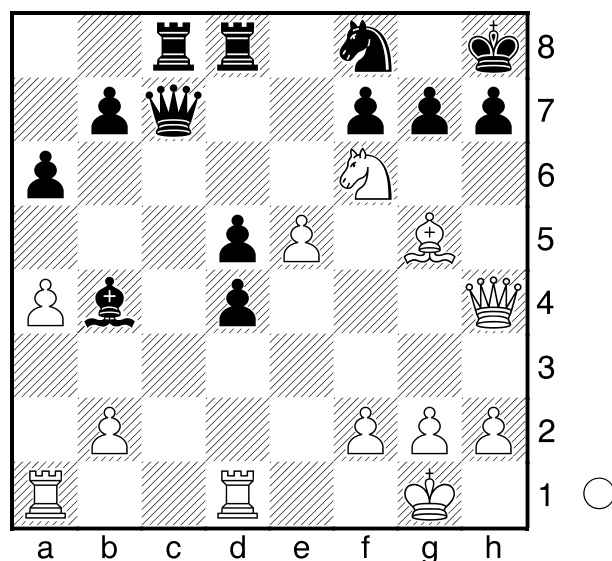
[13...e5!]
14.e5 Nd5 15.Ng5 Nf8 16.Qg3 a6
17.Nge4 c5?!
 [17...f5 18.exf6 Qxg3 19.f7+ Kxf7
 20.hxg3 is an equal endgame]
18.Nxd5
 [18.Bg5!?]
18...exd5 19.Nf6+ Kh8



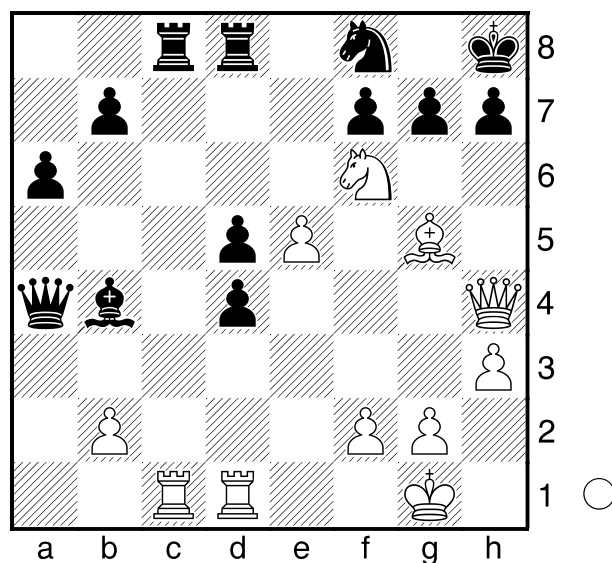
20.Qh4 cxd4
 [20...c4]
21.Bg5 Rac8

(Diagram)

22.Rac1
 [22.Nh5! Re8?! 23.Nxg7 Kxg7



24.Bf6+ Kg8 25.Qh6 Ne6 26.Rxd4
 wins as the only way to deal with **27.**
Rg4+ will cost Black his queen]
22...Qa5?!
 [22...Qb8]
23.h3?!
 [23.Qh5! Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Qb6
 25.Qxf7 Qe6 26.Qc7 Be7 27.Nxh7
 keeps the edge for White]
23...Qxa4?



24.Nxh7! This wins now that the black
 queen isn't guarding d8 anymore.
24...Nxh7 25.Bxd8 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 d3
 It still looks tricky with the advanced d-

pawn, but Lucas wraps it up with a back rank mate threat **27.Be7! g5**

[27...d2 28.Rc8+]

28.Bf6+ Kg8 29.Rc8+ Nf8 30.Qh8# 1-0

□ **Suarez,Sebastian**

■ **Hao,Max**

B21

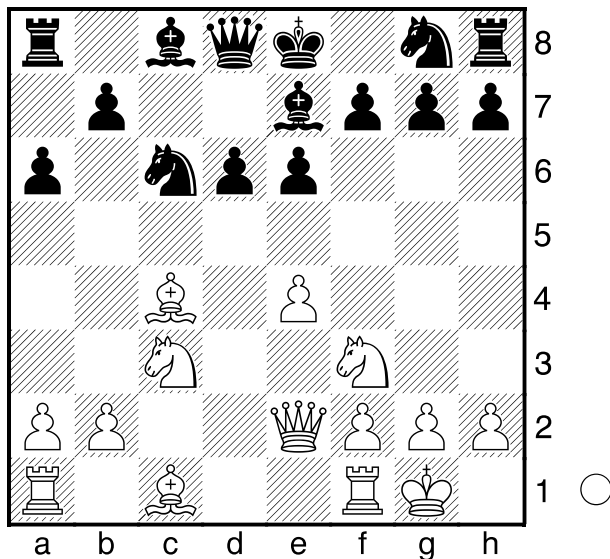
1728

1900

MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (3.5) 17.05.2022

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Qe2 a6



This is a typical Smith-Morra position. White needs to make use of his advantage in development. So 9. Rd1 or at least 9. Bf4 is called for. Sebby makes a positional move to stop queenside expansion and gives Black an extra tempo for defense. **9.a4?! Nf6**

10.Rd1 Qc7 11.h3

[11.Bf4]

11...0-0 12.Bf4 Rd8

[12...Ne5 stops 13. e5]

13.Rd2

[13.e5 dxe5 14.Rxd8+ Qxd8

15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Bd7 17.Rd1

Qe8]

13...h6 14.Rad1 e5 15.Be3 Be6

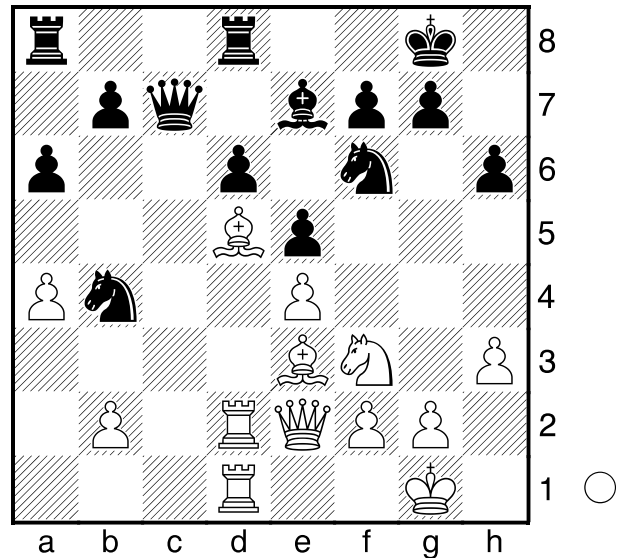
16.Nd5?!

[16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Qc4 Qc8

is some pressure for the pawn though

Black is for choice]

16...Bxd5! 17.Bxd5 Nb4



White has a dilemma. Either let the strong light-squared bishop get traded or lose another pawn after 18. Bb3 Qc6

18.Ra1 Nbx d5 19.exd5 Qa5

Max is a clear pawn up with a solid position. **20.Qc4 Rac8 21.Qb3 Ne4**

[21...b5 stops the threat of 22. Bb6]

22.Rdd1 Nc5

[22...Re8 23.Bb6 Nc5! 24.Bxc5

Qxc5 25.Qxb7 Rb8 26.Qxa6 Rxb2

is still clearly better for Black]

23.Bxc5 Rxc5 24.Qxb7 Rc7 25.Qb3 Rdc8?!

[25...Bf6 is still an edge for Black]

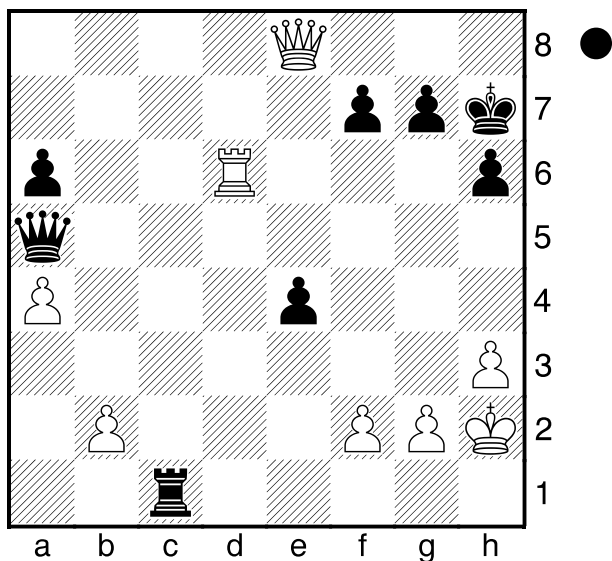
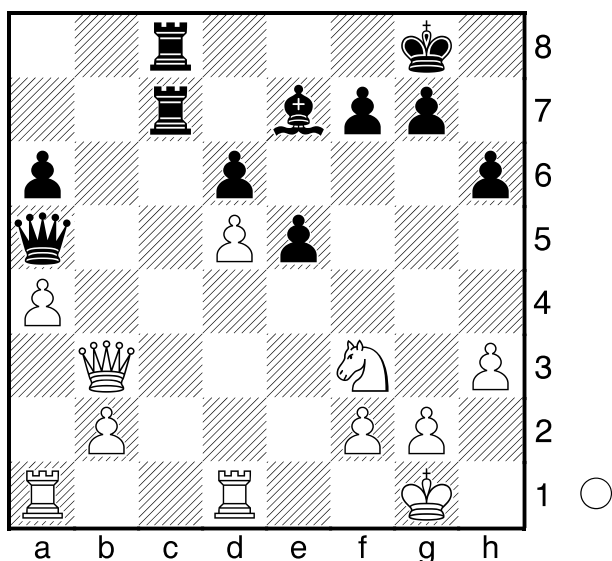
(Diagram)

26.Nxe5! dxe5 27.d6 Bxd6 28.Rxd6

Rc1+ 29.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 30.Kh2 e4

31.Qb8+ Kh7 White has fought back to equality. Now 32. Rd8 would be good.

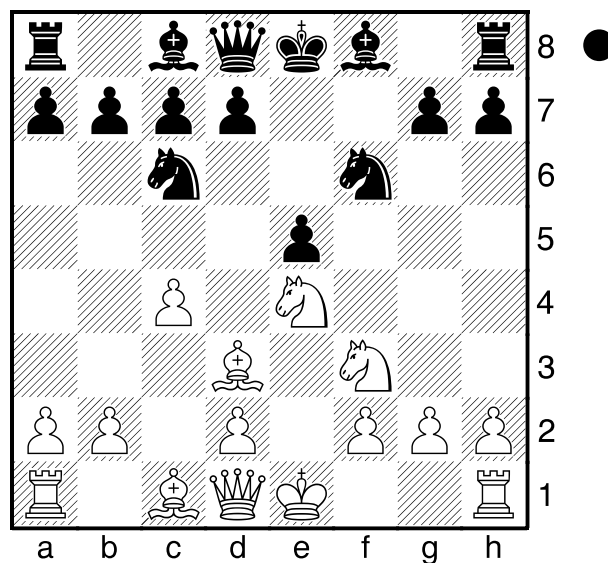
Instead - **32.Qe8?**



Qf5! Suddenly the black queen and rook create a decisive attack on the white king. There is no good way out. **33.Rd2 Qf4+ 34.g3 Qf3 35.Qxe4+ Qxe4 36.f3 Qe1 0-1**

A27
1725
1856
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (3.8) 17.05.2022
[de Firmian]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 f5 4.e4!?
 An unusual move. The position becomes like a double king pawn game where White has the pawn on c4. **4...fxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Bd3?!**

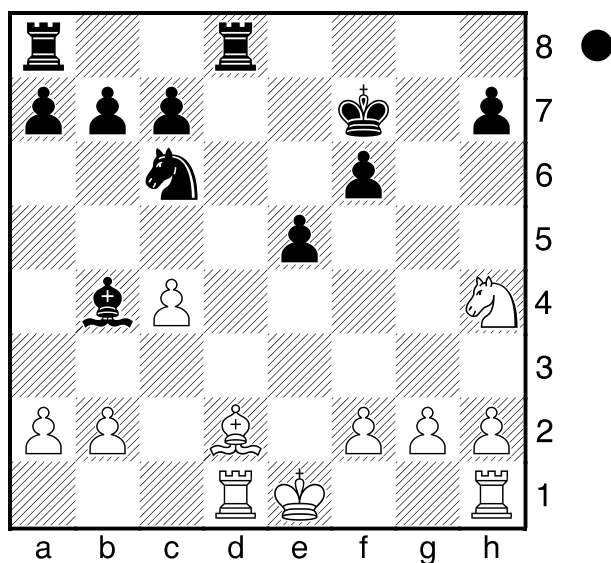
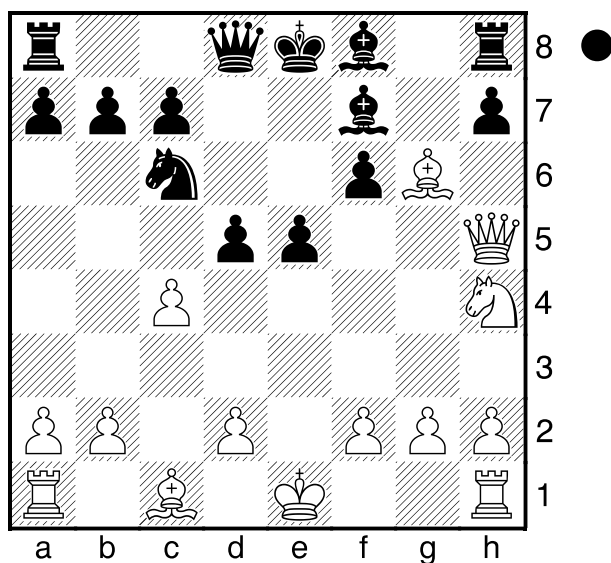


d5! Guy advances classically in the center, not afraid of complications. **7.Nxf6+ gxf6 8.Nh4 Be6 9.Qh5+ Bf7 10.Bg6**

(Diagram)

A curious position with 3 white pieces on the far right side. **10...Qe7 11.Bxf7+ Qxf7 12.Qxf7+ Kxf7** The result of the complications has just been trades, but Black has emerged with a clear advantage as he has greater central control and development. If now **13.cxd5 Nb4** gets the pawn back with a big edge. **13.d3 Bb4+ 14.Bd2 dxc4 15.dxc4 Rhd8 16.Rd1?!**

(Diagram)

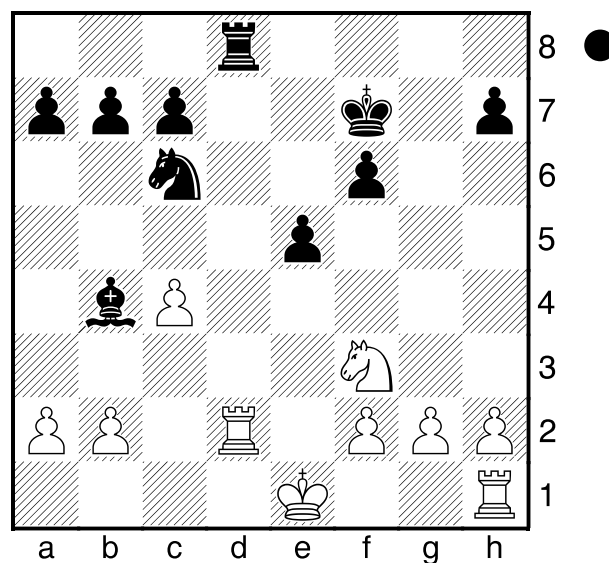


This gives Black an extra tactical possibility. 16. 0-0-0 was safer.
16...Rxd2! 17.Rxd2 Rd8 Like the way Morphy used to do it. **18.Nf3**

(Diagram)

Nd4?!

[18...e4! is indeed winning: 19.a3 exf3 20.axb4 fxg2 21.Rg1 Ne5! 22.Rxd8 Nf3+ 23.Kd1 Nxc3 and the g pawn decides]
19.Kd1 Bxd2 20.Nxd2 Ne6
 [20...f5! would keep a clear

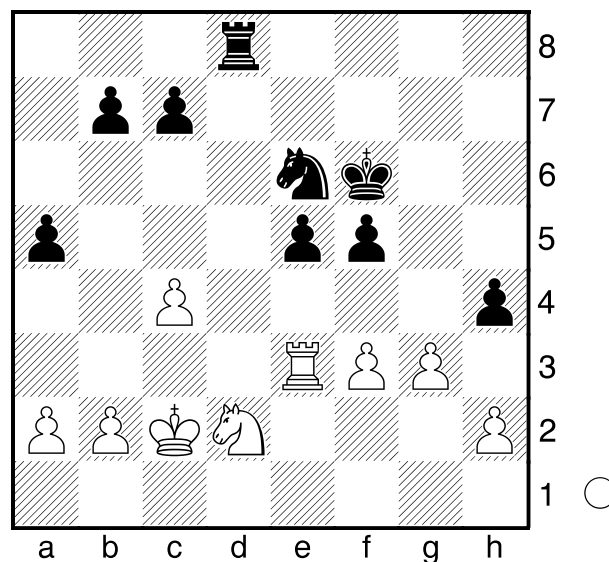


advantage]

21.Kc2

[21.g3!? Nd4 22.Kc1 Ke6 keeps up the pressure. The black king is much more active than the white king.]

21...f5 22.Re1 Kf6 23.f3 a5 24.g3 h5 25.Re3 h4!



Well played by Guy. The h-pawn adds to the pressure on the kingside. Taking it would shatter White's pawn structure.
26.g4 Rg8 27.gxf5?! opening the g-file gives Black a decisive advantage. It's hard to give advice here but

[27.h3 Nf4 28.Re1! should put up more resistance]

27...Kxf5 28.Re4 Nf4 29.Nf1 Rg2+ 30.Kb3 Rf2

[30...Ke6! 31.Ne3 Rxh2 32.Ng4 Re2]

31.Ne3+ Ke6 32.Ng4 Rxf3+ 33.Ka4 Nd3

[even stronger is 33...Kf5 34.Rxe5+ Kxg4]

34.Re3 Nxb2+ 35.Kb3 Rxe3+ 36.Nxe3 Nd3 Black is two pawns ahead. This is

just technique now. **37.Kc2 Ne1+**

38.Kc3 Nf3 39.h3 e4 40.c5 b5

41.cxb6 cxb6 42.Kc4 Kd6 43.a4 Ng5

44.Nf5+ Kc6 45.Nxh4 Nxh3 46.Kd4

Ng5 47.Nf5 b5

[47...Ne6+ 48.Kxe4 Nc5+ is another way to win]

48.axb5+ Kxb5 Black won with the two extra pawns. A well played ending by Guy.

0-1

Wei,Brian **A85**
 Hack,Richard **1142**
1500
 MI Conway TNM: u1800 (3.26) 17.05.22
[de Firmian]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6

Richard's usual Leningrad Dutch

Defense. **4.Bg5 Bg7 5.Nf3 h6 6.Bxf6**

Bxf6 7.e3

[7.e4! would be more aggressive]

7...0-0 8.h3 d6 9.Bd3 Bg7 10.Qb3 e6

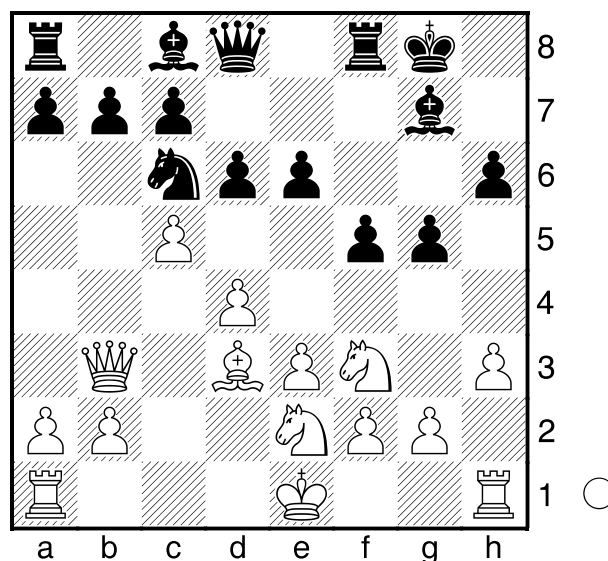
11.Ne2 g5 12.c5 Nc6

(Diagram)

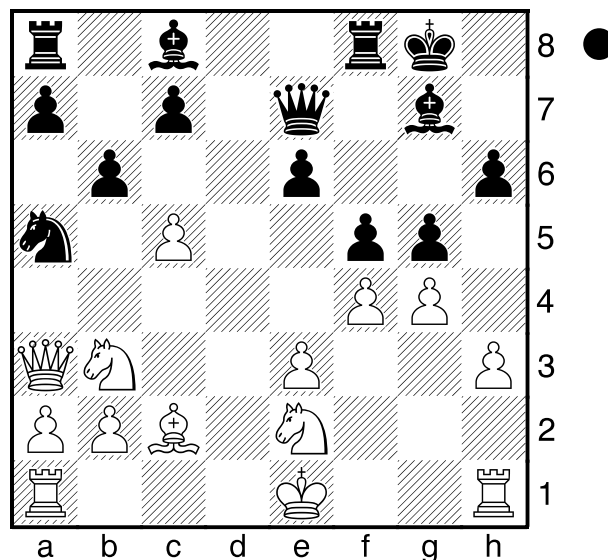
A complicated position with lots of play for both sides. Wei should develop but chooses a dubious plan instead.

13.Nd2?!

[13.Rc1]

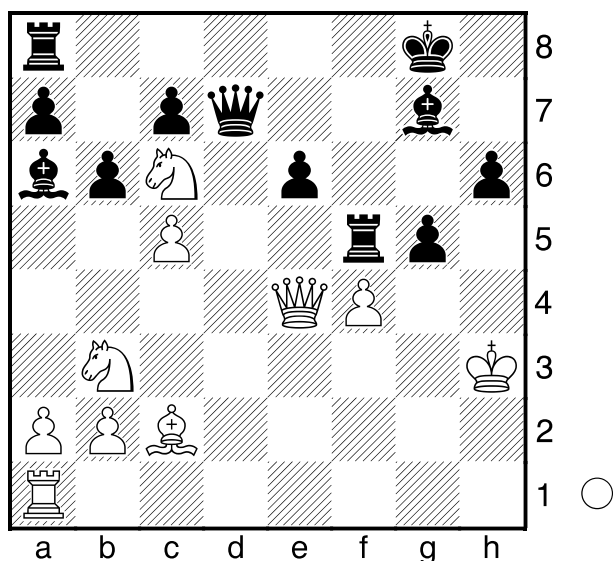


13...dxc5! 14.dxc5 Ne5 15.Bc2 Qe7 16.f4 Nc6 17.g4 Brian gets credit for active play, trying to open up the kingside. Black is better placed though and has the initiative. **17...Na5 18.Qa3 b6 19.Nb3?**



Bb7! 20.Rf1 Nc4 The black pieces are all on great squares. The black knight picks up material now with its threats. **21.Qb4 Nxe3 22.Ned4 Nxf1 23.Kxf1 Ba6+ 24.Kg2 fxg4 25.Nc6 Qd7 26.Qe4 gxh3+ 27.Kxh3 Rf5?!**

(Diagram)



28.Ne7+! Qxe7 29.Qxa8+ Rf8 30.Qe4

White has gotten the exchange back. Now Black must play accurately to bring home the point. **30...Rxf4! 31.Qa8+**

[31.Qh7+ Kf8 goes nowhere for White]

31...Kf7 32.Rd1 Bc4 33.cxb6 axb6 34.Qc6 Rh4+ 35.Kg2 Bd5+ 36.Rxd5

exd5 37.Qxd5+ Qe6 The exchange and two pawn advantage is easy to convert. **38.Qf3+ Qf6 39.Qd5+ Qe6**

40.Qf3+ Bf6 41.Nd4 Rg4+ 42.Kh1

Rh4+ 43.Kg2 Qg4+ Simplest. If the queens had stayed on there could be cheapos for White. **44.Kf1 Qxf3+**

45.Nxf3 Rf4 46.Ke2 g4 47.Ne1 g3

48.Bb3+ Kg6 49.Bd5 Rf2+ 50.Ke3

Bg5+ 51.Kd4 Rxb2 52.Nf3 g2

53.Be4+ Kh5 54.Ng1 Rxa2 55.Bf3+

Kh4 56.Bd5 Rf2 White resigned

0-1

A52

□ **Bambou, Christophe**

2101

■ **Arun, Siddharth**

2209

MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (3.1) 17.05.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 The Budapest Gambit, rare at the higher levels but not

a bad choice for club play. **3.dxe5 Ng4**

4.e3 Also rare if not barely heard of.

[4.Bf4 is the basic play, when White doesn't get much but does get something. Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 (6.Nc3 used to be "theory," but the doubled pawns mean it's never completely comfortable for White.)]

6...Qe7

A) Everybody should know the trap

7.a3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5

9.axb4?? (9.e3) 9...Nd3#;

B) **7.e3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5**

9.Be2 It's now known there's no need to kick the bishop, it's not so happy on b4 regardless. Short had the bright idea to play this in the first round of his Candidates semifinal match with Karpov (Linares 1992), and just ended up spotting him a point.]

[**4.Nf3**

A) **4...Nc6** when 5.Bf4 back to the main line, is better than continuing with (5.e3);

B) **4...Bc5 5.e3 Nc6** when White's quiet setup can't be underestimated.]

4...Nxe5 5.f4 There used to be the line 3. e4 Nxe5 4.f4 but it has been established as overextended, but this? In fact it scores pretty well here! **5...Nec6**

Scores better than

[**5...Ng6** when the knight could just be out of play.]

6.Nc3

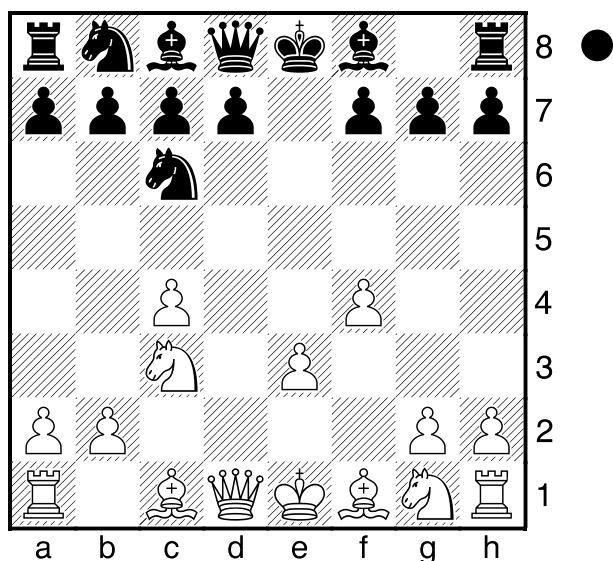
[**6.Nf3** looks best but Stockfish can't make up its mind, for that matter there's]

[**6.Bd2**]

[and **6.Ne2!?**]

(Diagram)

6...g6!? This definitely gets a surprise



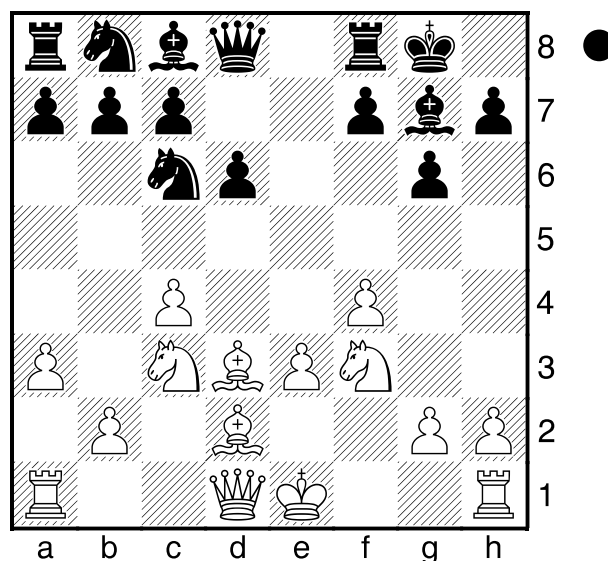
mark (but not a novelty at all); after 2...e5 it is **very** rare to send the bishop to this diagonal.

[6...Bb4 is the only Grandmaster game of note and it was a blitz game): 7.Nge2 0-0 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.Nxc3 a5 10.Bd3 Re8 11.0-0 d6 12.b3 Nd7 13.Bc2 Nc5 14.Rb1 Be6 15.e4 Qf6 16.Nb5 Qd8 17.Bb2 f6 18.Nc3 Bf7 19.Bc1 Nd7 20.Qd3 Kh8 21.Be3 Nc5 22.Qd2 a4 23.b4 Nb3 24.Qd3 Ne7 25.Nd5 Nxd5 26.cxd5 Bg6 27.f5 Bf7 28.Rf4 c6 29.dxc6 bxc6 30.Bf2 d5 31.Rd1 Qe7 32.h3 Rad8 33.Re1 d4 34.e5 c5 5.18 and it goes crazy, probably with both flags hanging (figuratively): 0-1 (45) Ivanisevic,I (2606) -Sevian,S (2660) Tuesday Intern, Chess.com]

7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Bd2 d6 9.a3N

[9.Bd3 Nd7 10.a3 a5 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rb1 Nf6 13.Qc2 d5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.e4 Qd8 17.Bc3 Bg4 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Qc3+ f6 20.Bb5 Bxf3 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Rxf3 Qd6 23.Rd3 Qxf4 24.Rf1 Qe5 25.Rd7+ Kh6 26.Qe3+ Qg5 27.Rf4 1-0 (27) Elsness,F (2458)-Tisdall,J (2426) Norway 2010]

9...0-0 10.Bd3



Be6?!+- Black's plan is faulty. **11.0-0 d5?** Or rather, its implementation.

[After 11...Na5 12.b3 d5 White has some advantage but not such a huge one (nice bishop on g7 still!).]

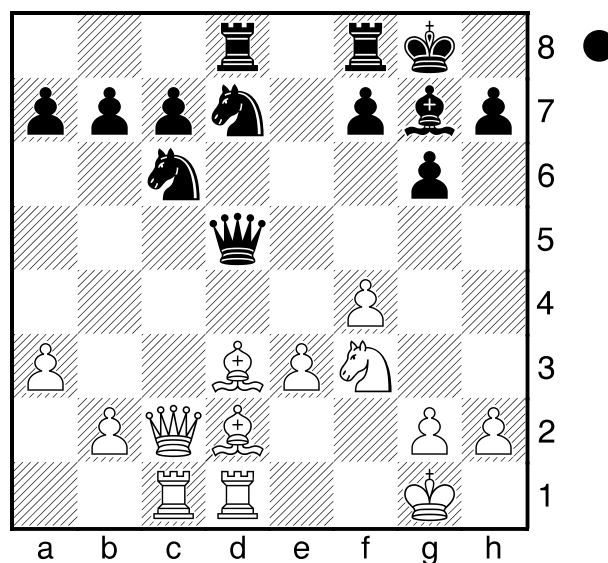
12.cxd5 Bxd5 13.Nxd5

[13.e4!? Be6 14.Be1! Nd7 15.Bh4]

13...Qxd5 14.Qc2

[14.Qe2!]

14...Nd7 15.Rac1 Rad8 16.Rfd1±



Qc5?!

[16...Qc5 17.Bc4 Stockfish 14.1 makes it just good enough for White to call it winning. Did Bambou not

appreciate the extent of his advantage? Is the computer wrong? Was the draw agreed upon before the game commenced? And so, can Lewis now get to clear first after three? As it turns out, he can and did. (See next game!)

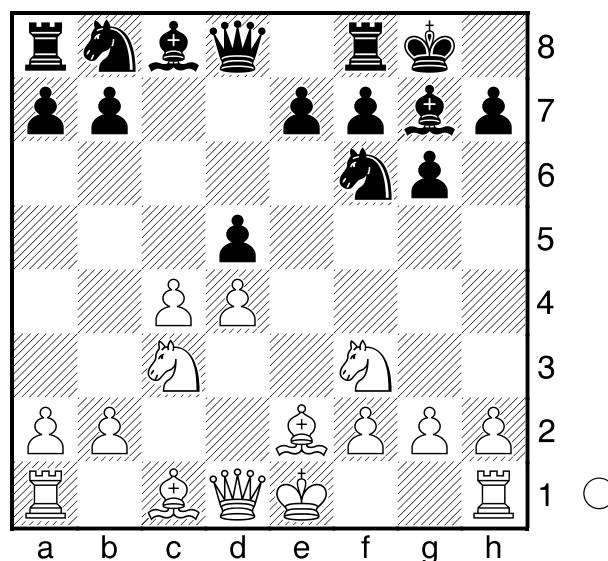
1/2-1/2

Lewis, Edward
 Walder, Michael
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (3.2) 17.05.2022
[Tactical Analysis 5.2 (7s) / Winslow, Elliott]

D94

1998

2075



1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 Ed starts out more traditionally.

[2.e3 g6 3.b4 was Lewis-Winslow mentioned below.]

2...g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e3 This has been Lewis's favorite treatment, see Lewis-Winslow from the Shipman Memorial TNM, January 2, 2022 (0-1 31).

[4.e4 d6 5.d4 would head into the Classical King's Indian, when it might have been interesting to see what Walder had planned!]

4...0-0 5.Be2 c5 6.d4 cxd4 7.exd4 d5

Mike opts for, what, a Grunfeld with e2-e3 by transposition, or a Tarrasch Queen's Gambit Reversed if you prefer to call it. In any case, Black has scored excellently thusly.

(Diagram)

8.c5?! Stockfish 14.1 thinks it's competitive, but if you sort the couple thousand games in Mega 2022 by White rating, you have to scroll pretty far down the list to find anybody that believes in it (Uh, E.Danielan, 2513). And in fact, Black shows a solid plus score. **8...Nc6**

[8...b6! was a game by some 2300

player in a Junior event in 1977. He finished pretty well, behind Jon Arnason who won (but lost to this guy), Jay Whitehead and maybe some others (hard to find a crosstable!)... 9.cxb6 Qxb6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Na4 Qd6 12.b3? (White was okay until this) Nc6 0-1 (41) Sendur, A (2260)-Kasparov, G (2323) 3rd World Cadet (U17) ch, Cagnes sur Mer 1977. Curious to see this old game, when later GK quite successfully (until Karpov) championed the Tarrasch QG for Black!]

9.h3 Ne4

[9...b6 is also plausible]

10.0-0 Nxc3 11.bxc3 e5 Natural, but you're not going to bust down *that* door... **12.Bb5** And now Bxc6 would win.

12...e4 The position is equal. **13.Ne1 Qa5** This has happened a couple of times,

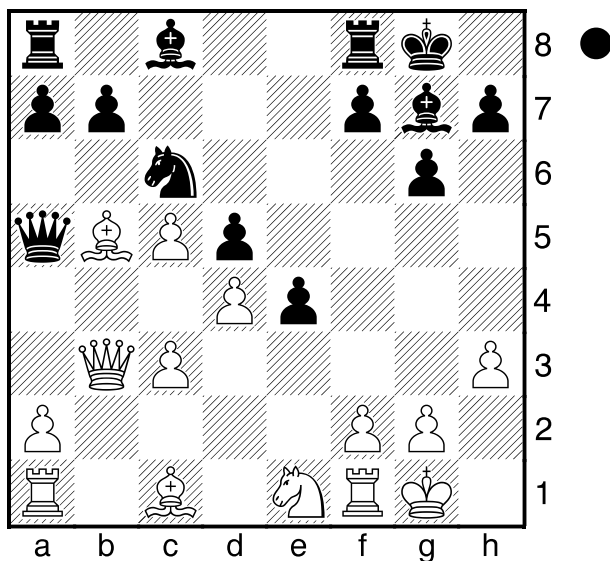
[but the computer prefers 13...Qc7=]

14.Qb3±

(Diagram)

Be6N

[Last game previously to have stuck with us this long: 14...a6 15.Bxc6



bxc6 16.Bf4 Ra7 17.Nc2 Rb7
18.Qa3 Qxa3 19.Nxa3 Rd8 20.Rab1
Rdd7 1/2-1/2 (34) Boca,H-Franz,G
(2165) Oberpfalz-ch M1, Neutraubling
1999]

15.Nc2?!

[15.Bf4!± gets on the right side of
"slight advantage".]

15...Rad8?

[15...Qc7!= /≠]

16.Bf4± f5 Black is slipping into quite
an inferior position. **17.Rad1** At least as
good

[as 17.Rab1±]

17...a6?!

[17...Rd7 18.c4!]

[17...h5±]

(Diagram)

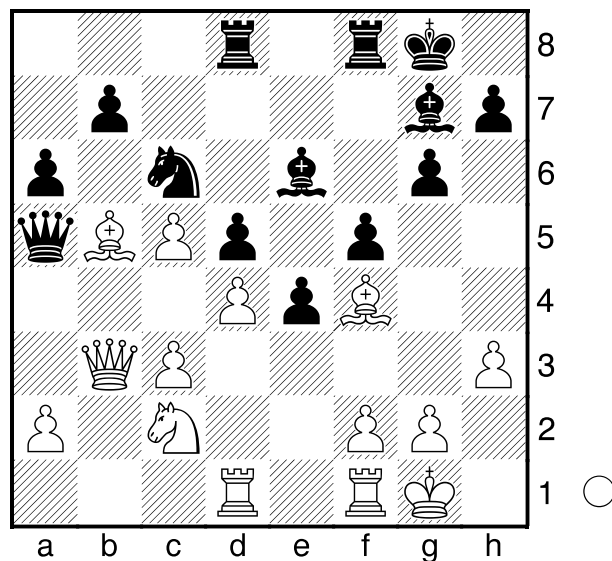
18.Be2?!

[18.Bxc6! bxc6 19.Qb6!+- Qxc3
(19...Qa4 20.Nb4 Rc8 21.Qxa6;
19...Qxb6 20.cxb6 is a very sad
situation) 20.Nb4!+- works very well
tactically.]

18...Rd7± 19.Rfe1?!

[Better is 19.c4±]

19...Qd8= Black has sorted it out and

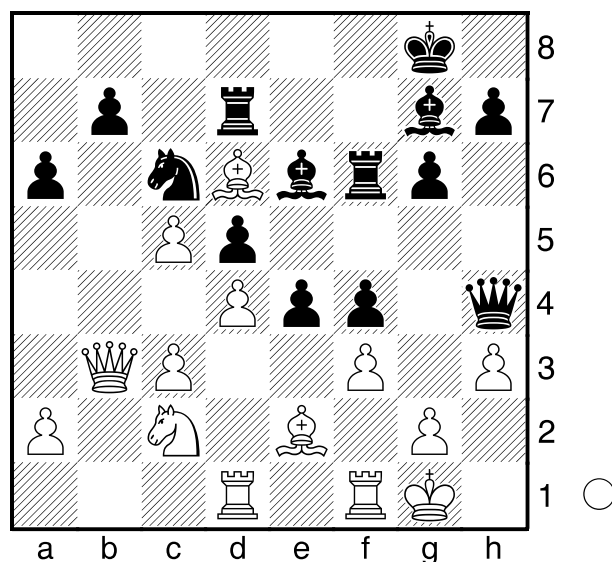


stands no worse. **20.f3 Qh4 21.Bd6
Rf6**

[21...Rff7!]

22.Rf1± f4?

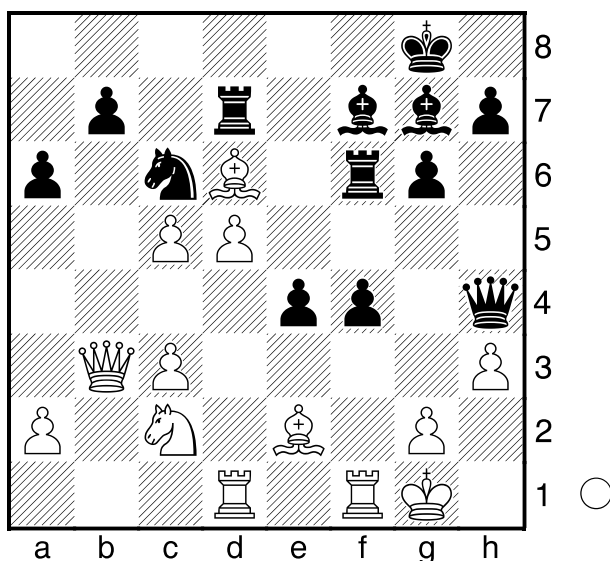
[22...Rff7±]



This fails combinationally. **23.fxe4!+-
dxe4**

[23...Na5 24.Qa4 Bxh3 is a "Hail
Mary" but (24...dxe4 25.d5) 25.Rf3
(among others) tackles it hard.
(25.gxh3??)]

24.d5! Crashing through! **24...Bf7**
(Diagram)



Perhaps he'd forgotten what pawns do
25.dxc6! (Not the only win but the most satisfying.) **25...Rfxd6**

[25...Bxb3 26.cxd7 (So that's why ... Rff6 was flawed) Rf7 27.Bxf4]

26.cxb7

[26.Rxd6 Bxb3 27.cxd7 gets a bigger number on the computer screen.]

26...Rxd1 27.b8Q+ Rd8

[27...Bf8 28.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 29.Bxd1 Bxb3 30.Qxb3+]

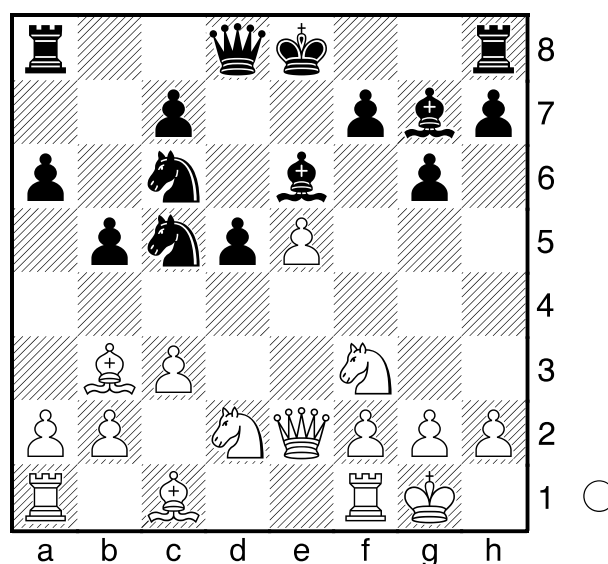
28.Rxd1 A trainwreck. Unfortunate for Walder, he was back in the game until 22...f4? For Ed Lewis, he is now in clear first after three rounds with all the pre-tournament favorites right behind at 2.5. If Winslow gets over his cold (it's not Covid!), then he faces his *bête noire* (0-6!) this Tuesday.

1-0

C80
 1703
 1867
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (3.7) 17.05.2022
 [Winslow, Elliott C]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 g6

Another game with an unexpected fianchetto (see Carron-Argo, Board 7). Here it does make some sense, targeting e5. **11.Qe2 Bg7**



12.Nd4! Nxe5 13.f4 Nc4?!

[13...Ned3!? 14.f5 gxf5 15.Nxf5 0-0 16.Nxg7 Kxg7 17.Bc2 Nxc1 18.Raxc1 gives White more than enough for the pawn -- how much more isn't clear though.]

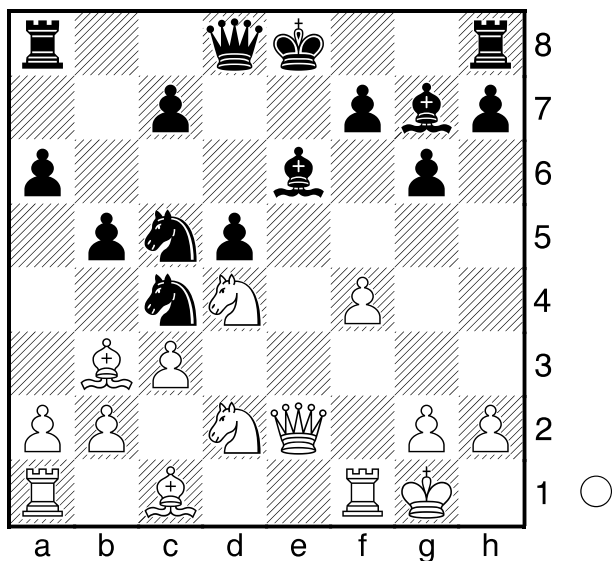
(Diagram)

14.Nxc4?

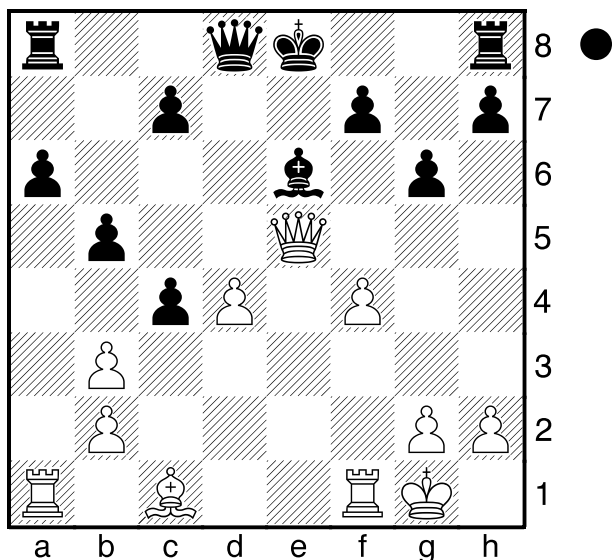
[14.f5! gxf5 (best?) 15.Nxf5 Bf6 16.Bc2 is so much compensation that Stockfish 14.1 gives it winning! THAT may require some contemplation.]

14...Bxd4+?!

[14...dxc4 15.Nxe6 fxe6!]



(15...Nxe6? 16.f5 gxf5 17.Bc2+-
is again too much play for a worthless
pawn.) 16.Bc2 0-0=]
15.cxd4 Nxb3 16.axb3 dxc4 17.Qe5



Rg8??

[Black survives 17...0-0 and then
some: 18.f5 Bxf5 19.Bh6 f6̄
with some advantage.]
18.bxc4 bxc4 19.f5! gxf5 20.Rxf5
Qe7?

[20...c6± keeps White's advantage
under some control]

21.Bg5! Qd6

[21...Rxg5 fails to bail. 22.Rxg5 f6

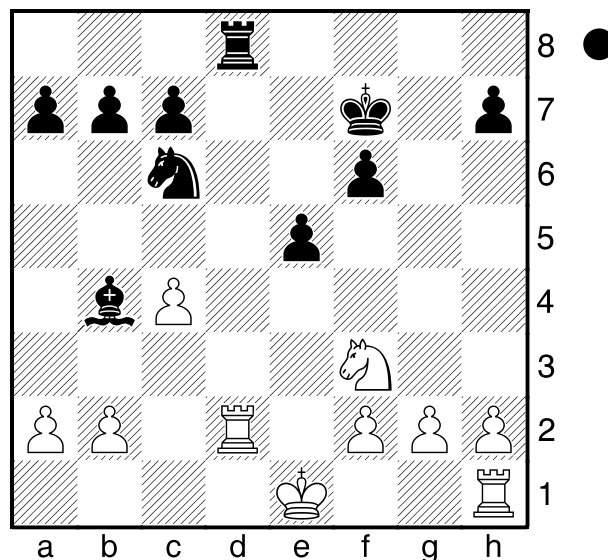
23.Qe4+-]

22.d5! The point. It's basically over.

22...Qxe5 23.Rxe5 Rg6 24.Bh4 Kd7
25.dxe6+ fxe6 26.Rd1+ Kc6 27.Bf2
Rf8 28.Rc5+ Kb7 29.Rxc4 Rf7
30.Rdc1 e5 31.Rc5 Re6 32.Bg3 Rfe7
33.Kf2 c6 34.Ke3 e4 35.R5c4 Rd7
36.R1c3 a5 37.Rb3+ Ka6 38.Rxe4
Rg6 39.Re8 Ra7 40.Reb8 c5 41.Kd3
a4 42.R3b5 Rf7 43.Rxc5 Rd7+
44.Kc2 Re7 45.Rc4
1-0

A27
1725
Argo, Guy
1856
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (3.8) 17.05.2022
[Winslow, Elliott C]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 f5 4.e4
fxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Bd3 d5 7.Nxf6+
gxf6 8.Nh4 Be6 9.Qh5+ Bf7 10.Bg6
Qe7 11.Bxf7+ Qxf7 12.Qxf7+ Kxf7
13.d3 Bb4+ 14.Bd2 dxc4 15.dxc4
Rhd8 16.Rd1 Rxd2 17.Rxd2 Rd8
18.Nf3



Nd4?!

[18...e4 is indeed winning easily:
19.a3 exf3 20.axb4 fxg2 21.Rg1

Ne5!]

19.Kd1 Bxd2 20.Nxd2 Ne6

[20...f5! seems to be good to win,
though "less easily" than above.]

21.Kc2

[21.g3!? Nd4 22.Kc1 but Ke6
is in the winning zone.]

21...f5 22.Re1 Kf6 23.f3 a5 24.g3 h5

25.Re3 h4 26.g4 Rg8 27.gxf5 Kxf5

28.Re4 Nf4 29.Nf1 Rg2+ 30.Kb3 Rf2

31.Ne3+ Ke6 32.Ng4 Rxf3+ 33.Ka4

Nd3 34.Re3 Nxb2+ 35.Kb3 Rxe3+

36.Nxe3 Nd3 37.Kc2 Ne1+ 38.Kc3

Nf3 39.h3 e4 40.c5 b5 41.cxb6 cxb6

42.Kc4 Kd6 43.a4 Ng5 44.Nf5+ Kc6

45.Nxh4 Nxh3 46.Kd4 Ng5 47.Nf5 b5

[47...Ne6+! 48.Kxe4 Nc5+

is Basic Chess Endings material.]

48.axb5+ Kxb5

0-1

□ Gu,Thomas

1290

■ Blum,Paul

1048

MI Conway TNM: u1800 (3.22) 17.05.22

[Winslow, Elliott C]

Young Thomas turns in another excellent, maybe even flawless, performance! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4** The Scotch. While it is quite an interesting opening with influence from many world champions and super-GMs, it will never achieve the popularity of the two main bishop moves:

[3.Bc4 The Italian, or Giuoco Piano]

[or 3.Bb5 The Spanish, or Ruy Lopez.]

3...d6?! Everybody learns at some point: don't let yourself be pushed around in the opening!

[3...exd4 is the only move to fight for the initiative.

A) 4.Bc4 is known as the Scotch Gambit, with a labyrinth of possibilities.;

B) 4.c3 is the Goring Gambit.

Unfortunately for the ambitious White player looking for a quick win, d5! (Capablanca's Solution)

5.exd5 Qxd5 6.cxd4 Bg4

cuts across White's hopes and ends up in a lot of (yech) endgames!

7.Be2 (7.Nc3 Bxf3! 8.Nxd5 Bxd1

9.Nxc7+ Kd7 10.Nxa8 Bh5

is still complicated, but in principle

Black will round up the knight with

advantage.) 7...Bxf3!? 8.Bxf3 Qc4!

(8...Qxd4?? 9.Bxc6+) 9.Bxc6+

bxc6!;

C) 4.Nxd4 simply called the

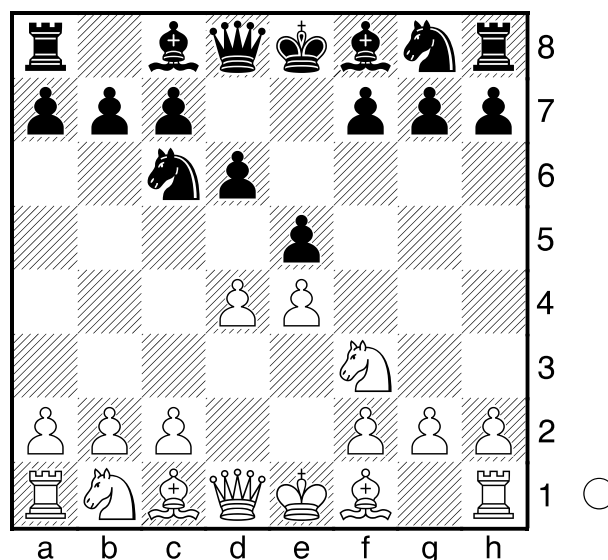
Scotch Game, gives Black two main

lines, -- (4...Bc5; and 4...Nf6;

as well as a host of lesser moves:

4...Qh4; 4...Bb4+; 4...Qf6);

D) 4.--]



4.dxe5 Certainly leading to a healthy plus, when Black can't castle. But there's a paradox: White trades queens to keep Black's king in the center, but the main piece to take advantage of that is -- the queen! Still, it's a queenless middlegame, with advantages as well.

[The computer-preferred plan involves space: 4.d5 but it could somewhat

backfire to Black's ...f5.]

[Then there's 4.Bb5 which happens to transpose into the Steinitz Defense to the Ruy Lopez. Sometimes tricking the opponent into an opening they probably know nothing about is very effective!]

[4.c3 gets high marks by Stockfish as well, tricking Black into a Ponziani without the critical (3.c3) 3...d5 or 3...Nf6 lines. Nf6 5.Bd3 shores up the center nicely.]

[And even simply 4.Nc3 , let's see what Black's going to do...]

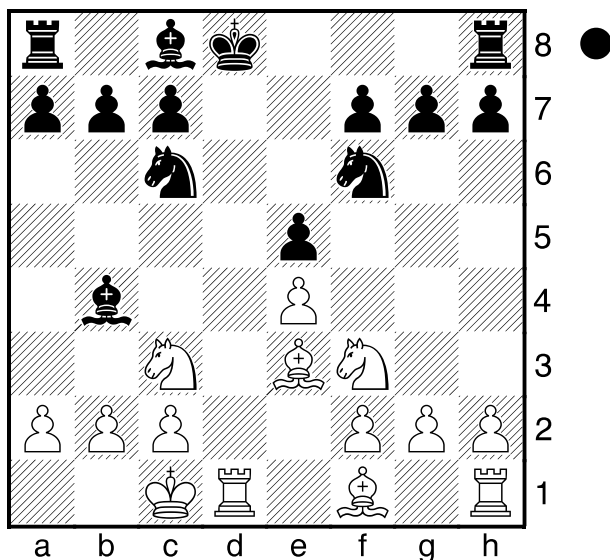
4...dxe5

[4...Nxe5 the computer shows us 5.c4!? with the no-longer dreaded Maroczy Bind.]

5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Be3 I can't even quibble with this, as computers make it just as good

[as 6.Nc3]

6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.0-0-0+



Unpinning with check **8...Bd7?!**

The worst of them all.

[8...Ke8 9.Nd5 Bd6 is best, admitting a sort of minor defeat: 10.Nxf6+ gxf6 11.Nh4!±]

9.Nd5!+- Some tactics, which turn out to be in White's favor. **9...Nxe4 10.Nxb4**

Nxb4 11.Nxe5 Nd6? That could be "?!" since it's lost either way, but this doesn't really put up a fight.

[11...Nxa2+ 12.Kb1 Nac3+ 13.bxc3 Nxc3+ 14.Kc1 Nxd1 15.Kxd1 looks good for Black on the material tally but White is winning. Be6 Still, he might have to see 16.Kc1! a5 17.Kb2!+- White's king sees to it personally that Black can't use those extra pawns.]

12.Bc5! Re8

[12...Nc6 13.Bxd6 cxd6 14.Nxf7+]

13.Nxd7 Nxa2+ 14.Kb1 Kxd7 15.Kxa2 b6 16.Bb5+ Ke7 17.Rhe1+ Kf8

18.Bxd6+ cxd6 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8

20.Bxe8 Kxe8 21.Rxd6 A mature

performance by Mr. Gu. Thanks to father Chunhui Gu, who makes sure that Thomas's absent and/or unreadable scoresheets are converted to a .pgn file.

1-0

GM Nick de Firmian

Vive la France!

The hottest player in the world this month has been France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, who won the Chess Grand Prix tournament in Bucharest Romania. This is one of only two Grand Prix tournaments of the year. He gained victory with his usual combative style, delving into obscure positions where it's hard to avoid mistakes even for the very best in the world. This result is a rebound for Vachier-Lagrave who a year ago had been second in the Candidate's Tournament but since had dropped out of the top ten in ranking. His Romanian victory moved him back into the top ten and garnered the \$100,000 first prize. Bon vivant Maxime!

France has not been regarded as a chess superpower, but the current scene is promising. Young Alireza Firouzja is the third ranked player of the world since moving to France from his native Iran. The French Olympic team will include strong veterans Etienne Bacrot and Joel Lautier to play alongside with Vachier-Lagrave and Firouzja – a team that could beat anyone.

The rich history of the royal game in France adds greatly to its chess culture. The strongest player (by far) of the 18th century was Andre Philidor who taught the world that pawns were the soul of chess. He was also a renowned composer and well known in the music world. Pierre Saint-Amant was a great player of the 19th century and was France's consul to California 1851-52. We give below one game of the new of France, from Vachier-Lagrave's victory, along with a game from our old California consul from around the time the Mechanics' Institute was founded.

C82

□ Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime

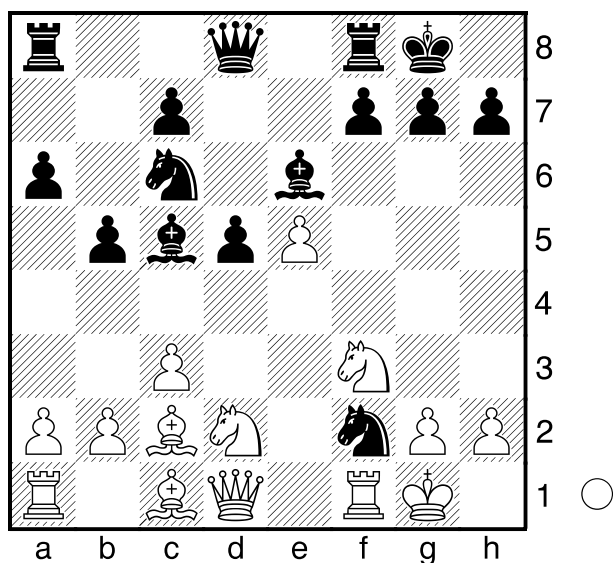
2750

■ Caruana,Fabiano

2786

Superbet Chess Classic Romania 2022 (4)
[de Firmian]

Slow 90min+30sec This is the battle from the 4rth round of the tournament where Maxime plays America's number one player. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4** A classical Open Ruy Lopez, as Korchnoi used to play as Black. **6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Bc2 Nxf2**



This Dilworth Attack is very respectable. Black gives up a knight and bishop for rook and pawn but gets some attack in compensation. **12.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 f6 14.Nf1** giving back a pawn to get the White pieces to safe squares.

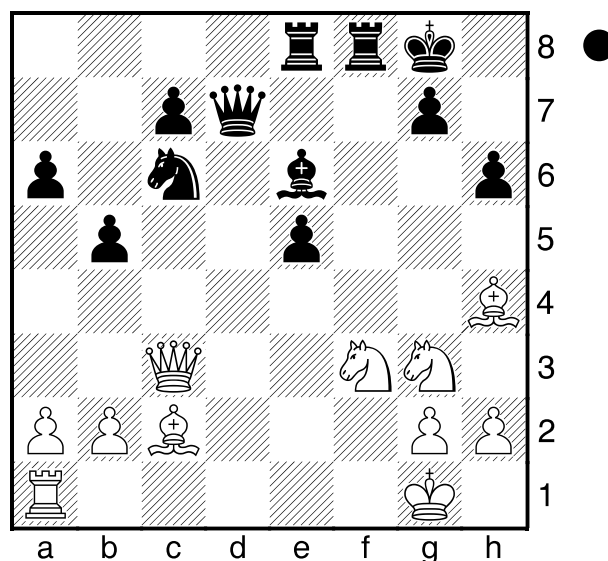
[14.exf6 is the old line]

14...fxe5 15.Kg1 Qd7 16.Bg5!? Rae8 17.Qd2 d4 18.Ng3 h6 19.Bh4 dxc3

[19...g5 20.Bxg5 (or 20.Nxg5 hxg5 21.Qxg5+) 20...hxg5 21.Qxg5+ Qg7 seems possible and quite unclear]

20.Qxc3

(Diagram)



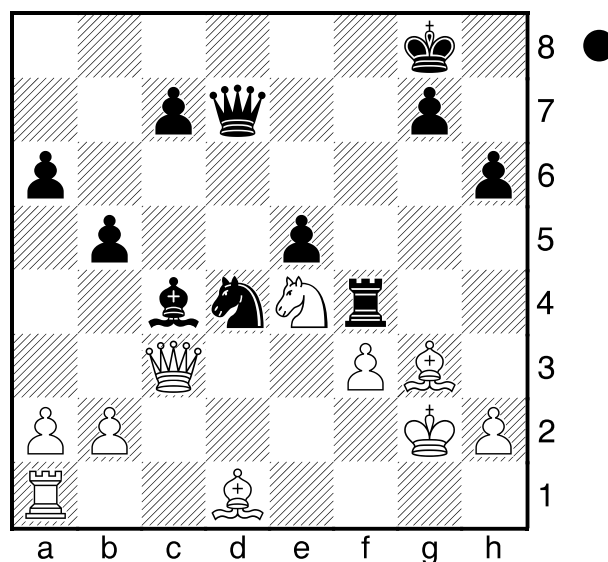
Rxf3!?

[20...g5?! 21.Rd1!]

21.gxf3 Nd4 22.Bd1 Rf8 23.Ne4 Bc4

24.Kg2 Rf4 25.Be1!

[not falling for the sneaky trap 25.Bg3?]



Qh3+! 26.Kxh3 Bf1#]

25...Qf5 26.Nd2 Black's sacrifice is not sufficient and White has a clear edge.

26...e4 27.Bg3

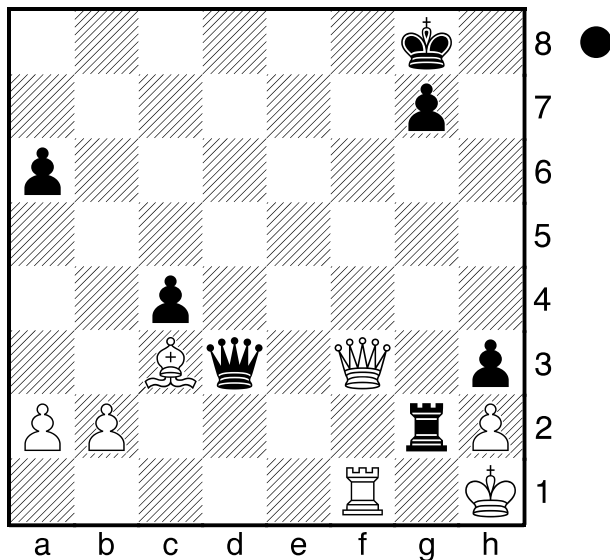
[27.fxe4!?]

27...exf3+ 28.Kf2 Rg4?!

[28...Bd5 may offer more attacking chances]

29.Nxc4 bxc4 30.Bxf3 Nxf3 31.Qxf3

Qc2+ 32.Qe2 Qf5+ 33.Kg1 h5 34.Rf1
 White is consolidating with the extra
 piece. **34...Qg6 35.Kh1 h4 36.Bxc7**
h3 37.Qf3 Qd3 38.Be5 Rg2 39.Bc3



Caruana resigned. He will lose the
 endgame after 39....Rg6 40. Qxd3 cxd3
 41. Rf3
1-0

□ **Howard Staunton**
 ■ **Pierre de Saint-Amant**
 Match Paris (France)
[de Firmian]

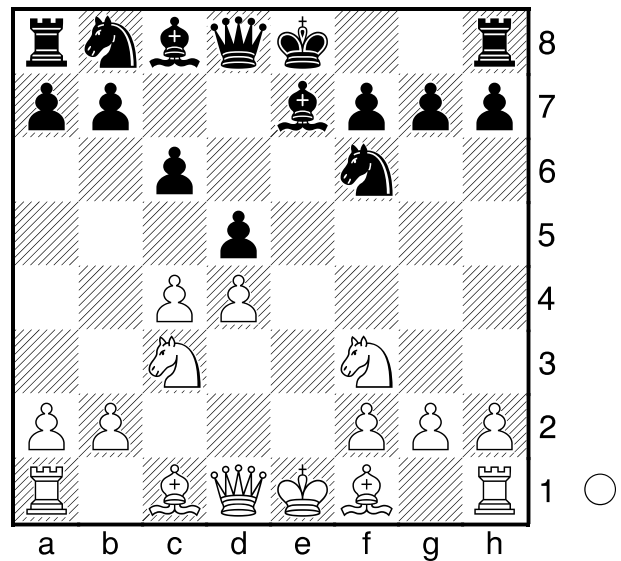
C01

1843

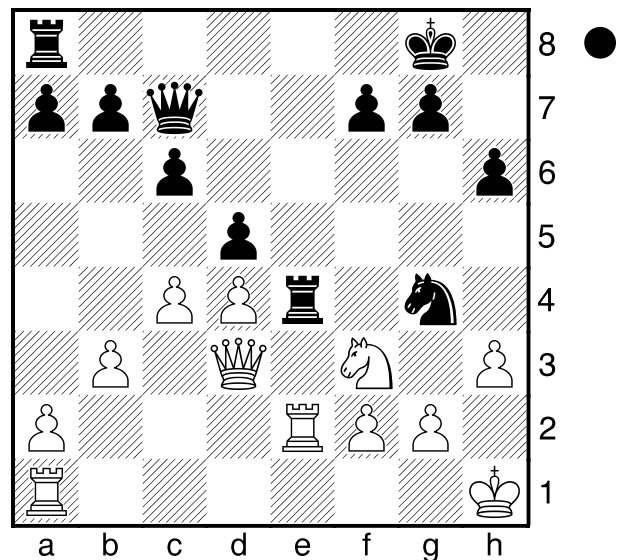
1.c4 e6 2.e4 c6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5
exd5 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Nf3 Be7

(Diagram)

The opening had begun strangely by
 modern standards but has transposed
 into a type of Exchange French Defense
 that is normal enough nowadays. **7.Bd3**
0-0 8.0-0 Bg4 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.b3 h6
11.Kh1 Bb4 12.Ne2 Bd6 13.Bf4 Bxf4
14.Nxf4 Nh5 15.Nxh5 Bxh5 16.Be2
Re8 17.Re1 Qc7 18.Ng1?! Staunton
 plays passively with this retreat and



Saint-Amant starts to gain the upper
 hand. **18...Bxe2 19.Rxe2 Nf6 20.Qd3**
Ng4 21.Nf3 Re4 22.h3?



Rae8! A fine shot that White cannot deal
 with. **23.Ne5**

[If 23.Rd2 Re1+! 24.Rxe1 Rxe1+
 25.Nxe1 Qh2#]

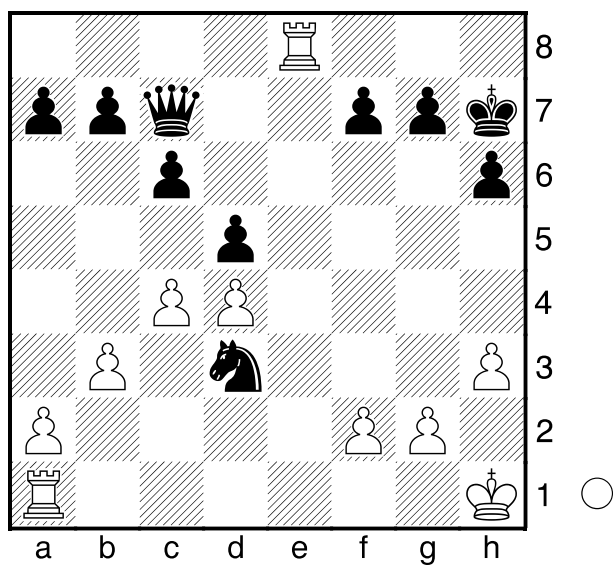
[if 23.Rxe4 Nxf2+]

[23.Rae1 Qe7 24.Rxe4 Nxf2+
 25.Kg1 dxe4 26.Qe3 Nd3]

23...Nxe5! 24.Rxe4

[24.dxe5 Qxe5 25.Rxe4 Qxa1+
 wins a rook]

24...Nxd3 25.Rxe8+ Kh7

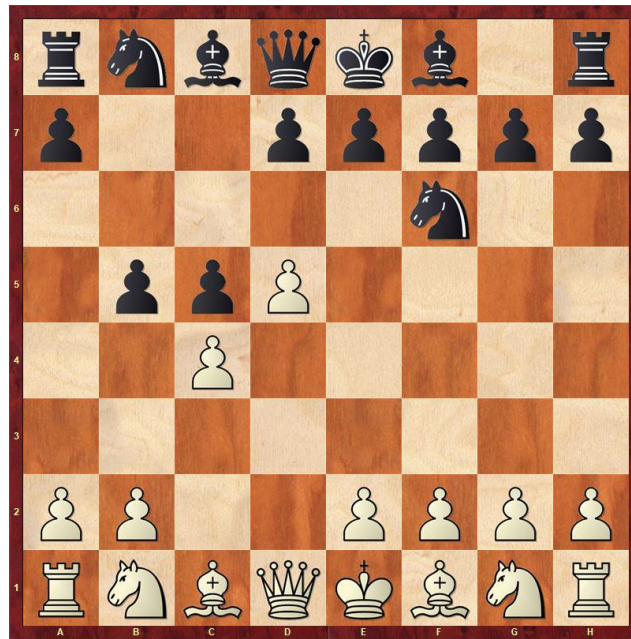


The black queen and knight easily win against the two rooks. **26.Kg1 Qf4 27.Re2 Qxd4 28.Rd1 dxc4 29.Red2 b5 30.a4 a6** White resigned. A fine game that still delights today.
0-1

IM John Donaldson

The Benko Revisited: Volumes 1 and 2 by Alexey Kovalchuk. Reviewed by IM John Donaldson

The Belgian firm Thinkers Publishing (www.thinkerspublishing.com) has a number of new books coming out this summer, two of them dealing with the brainchild of the late Pal Benko. The Hungarian-American GM was not the first to play **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5**



but without question was the one who contributed many of the fundamental ideas that continue to make it viable today. The most important of Benko's discoveries was that piece exchanges (including queens) often favored Black, even in the endgame. It was Benko who first showed the power of a well-timed advance with ...f5 or ...e6 chipping away at White's center and that ...Bg7xc3 could be perfectly fine under the right circumstances.

Benko built the opening that bear his name from the ground up without the aid of modern computer engines. He deserves to be remembered not only for this, but for his other contributions to the game including qualifying twice for the Candidates and being a world class problemist and study composer. Benko was truly a giant.

Alexey Kovalchuk, who has previously authored books on the Modern Benoni and Grunfeld for Thinkers Publishing, is back with a two-volume series on the Benko Gambit. The title of the first book, which comes in at 424 pages (\$41), doesn't fully describe its contents. Most of it is not devoted to the Benko proper, but rather attempts to avoid it with 3.e3, 3.Nf3 and 2.Nf3. Probably the most important lines Kovalchuk covers are

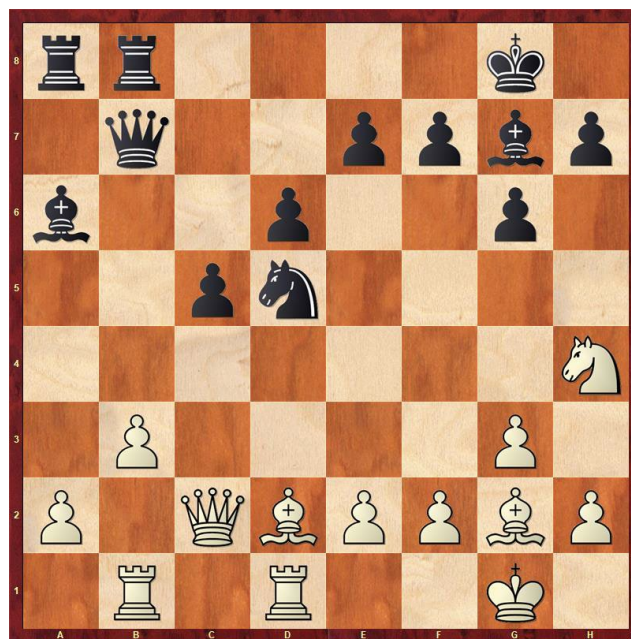
those arising from the Blumenfeld Gambit (1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 b5) where he proposes meeting 4.Bg5 with the less commonly seen 4...g6.

Volume 1 also deals with 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.e3 d5, with an emphasis on isolated queen pawn positions arising after 4.Nc3 e6 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0. Here Black delays capturing on d4 to avoid activating White's dark-squared bishop and opening the e-file.

Several lines in the Symmetrical English are covered as well, including 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.g3 and 5.Nc3 Nc6. All of the above make this book useful for Modern Benoni players as well as those who use the Benko Gambit regularly. The remaining 80 pages of this volume deal with White's less common attempts on move 4, the most important of which is 4.Nf3. Kovalchuk believes it should be met by 4...b4.

Volume 2 (350 pages, \$39) examines the Benko Gambit Accepted (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6). Here Kovalchuk's super main line he concludes the book with is:

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 d6 7.g3 g6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.Rb1 The author explains that if White wants to get his rook off the long diagonal now is the time to do it as 10.0-0 is met by 10...Nb6 11.Rb1 Bc4. **10...0-0 11.0-0 Qa5 12.Bd2 Rfb8 13.Qc2 Qc7 14.b3 Nb6 15.Nh4 Qb7 16.Rfd1 Nfxd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5.**

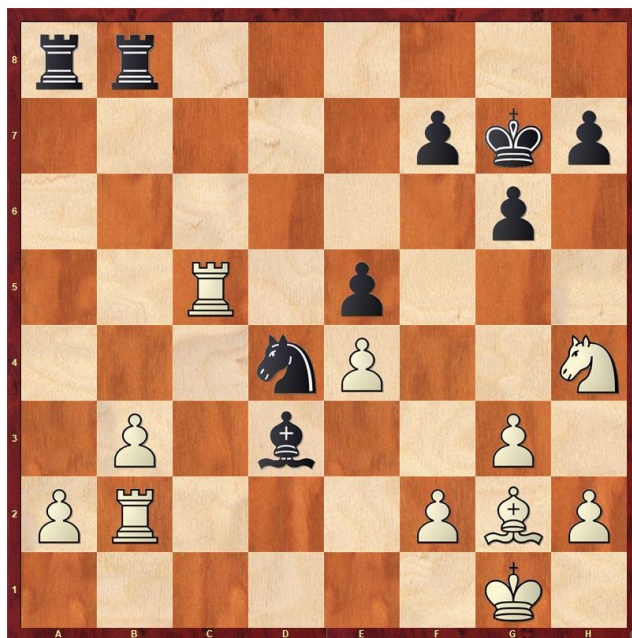


18.Bh6.

18.Bf4? Nxf4 19.Bxb7 Nxe2+ 20.Kg2 Bxb7+ 21.f3 Nd4 22.Qd2 Bf6 23.Kf1 g5 24.Ng2 Nxf3 and Black is winning.

18...e6 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.e4 Nb4 21.Qc3+ e5 22.Rxd6 Qe7 23.Rd2 Nc6 24.Rd5 Nd4 25.Qxc5

Qxc5 26.Rxc5 Bd3 27.Rb2.



27...Nxb3! 28.Rxe5 Nc1 29.Rxb8 Rxb8 30.h3 Rb1 31.Re7 Nxa2+ 32.Kh2 Rb2 33.Kg1 Rb1+ 34.Kh2 with a draw.

Earlier on (move 24 and before) there are many options for both sides that Kovalchuk deals with at length, quoting high level correspondence games and relying on strong engines.

Those who play the Benko for either side will find these up to date guides interesting reading.

May Quads and Scholastic Report

On Saturday May 11th the MI hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, Quads in the afternoon.

The Scholastic event had 20 players divided into 2 sections, with the +700 section won by **Arjun Ograin** with 3.5 from 4. The under 700 section also saw a clear winner, with **Ethan Redlin** going a perfect 4-0.

Complete results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person#0514>

The Quads had 35 players show up, with **Patrick Liu** and **Lucas Lesniewski** sharing 1st in the top Quad.

Complete results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads#0514>

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

Chess is making waves in the Virgin Islands:

<https://stthomassource.com/content/2022/05/18/a-resurgence-of-chess-comes-to-the-virgin-islands/>

Chess optical illusion goes viral on the internet:

<https://www.newsweek.com/bizarre-optical-illusion-chess-board-baffles-internet-1707049>

Hip Hop legend crushed by 10-year old:

<https://hiphopdx.com/news/id.70362/title.wu-tang-clan-legend-gza-humbled-after-10-year-old-boy-schools-him-in-speed-chess-twice#>

The Summer of 1972 - Chess, the Rolling Stones, and The Godfather:

<https://www.oregister.com/2022/05/18/summer-of-72-how-the-godfather-the-rolling-stones-a-chess-battle-and-more-shaped-pop-culture/>

Padres third baseman Manny Machado likes keeping his horse on the board:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/13/sports/baseball/manny-machado-chess.html>

'Subway Sam' brings community to New Yorkers with chess:

<https://pix11.com/news/local-news/subway-sam-plays-chess-with-strap-hangers-outside-l-train-stop/>

An artist uses chess to investigate his Persian heritage:

<https://www.designboom.com/art/mohammad-hassan-namdari-checkmate-history-game-05-18-2022/>

TikTok for chess-players:

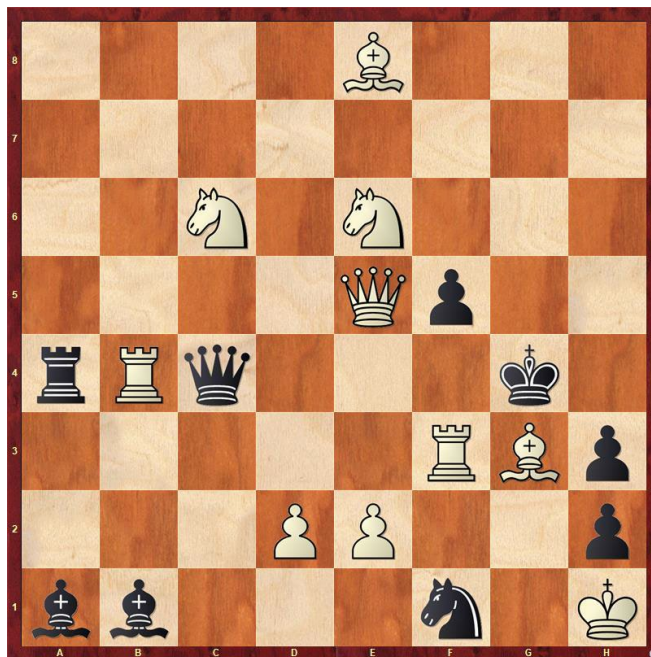
<https://www.chess.com/article/view/terrific-tiktoks-chess-players-will-love>

Finally, the headline alone is hilarious, but keep on reading:

<https://hard-drive.net/guy-playing-chess-thrown-out-of-checkers-tournament/>

Chess – it's everywhere.

Tony's Teasers



1. K. Widlert 1982. White mates in two moves.



2. F. Fillery 1992. White mates in three moves.

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

After pointing out a grandmaster's fatal error in making one obvious move instead of another in a winning endgame as Black, G.C. van Perlo writes: "What patzer was at work here, you may ask. Wrong. This happened in the game Mamatov-Mark Tseitlin, Moscow Spartakiad 1979 . . . But as so often in these writings, in this so-called noble game danger is always lurking, for each player, on each level. This knowledge may console you when you yourself have fallen victim to these perils again." – Van Perlo's Endgame Tactics, Diagram 361 (New in Chess, 2nd ed., 2006)

I finally went to Bernal Chess last Saturday afternoon and found it a rewarding experience. Seven or eight boards were active for two to three hours on the outdoor patio in back of the Progressive Grounds coffee house at 400 Cortland Avenue. Ratings ranged from three digits up to 2200 or so. I played eight games against three opponents, and the timing was either slow but informally quick, or five minutes on the clock. The occasional conversation was lively. It was good for my game and my spirits.

Juliana Gallin, who co-founded Bernal Chess, is a regular at the OL Chess Café, too. Many of those who attend like to talk about tournaments they've played in or studied.

Elliott Winslow: "That was at one of the National Opens in Las Vegas at the Imperial Palace sometime in the 1980s. I went with Hal Bogner, Kathy and Matt Bilby. That tournament is the one where I had an exciting draw against Shamkovich.

"Anyway, Gufeld was constantly moving quickly away from his chess game, then coming back to make a move or two before scurrying off again. When I left my board to visit the restroom, I saw him feverishly playing blackjack—then he zoomed past me on his way back to his chess game."

He also mentioned the 1983 U.S. Open in Ft. Worth, where he had "one incredible game as White versus Edwin Strickland."

There were stories of Shirazi Kamran, who played in some U.S. Championships, doing well in some, but in two others scoring only half a point.

Mike Walder: "There was point money at that U.S. Championship, and I think the single half point Kamran scored won him just about enough for bus fare back to L.A., or at least that has been my line. Dzindzi pretty much cleaned him out at backgammon."

Born in Tehran, he won the Iranian Chess Championship in 1972, and has represented Iran, the United States, and France. His highest rating was 2457 in 2010.) Riverbeast (in the Comments section at ChessGames.com) replied, "Naturalized American, I'm assuming...He played in several US Championships. It's a bit unfair to judge him just from his poor performances in the US Championships, because he had some decent results after 1984, including a plus score in the US Championship a few years later... But after he went 1-14 in the 1992 US Championships, a rather unkind joke was going around the Manhattan Chess Club: 'Shirazi wanted to prove that his 1984 performance wasn't a fluke!' " The glories of competition and gallows humor.

In regard to last week's discussion about the books *The Last Gamesman* and *Seven Games*, Asa Hoffmann, the author of the former, used to say, "I play chess to feed the horses."

"There were so many Runyonesque places to play games in New York," said Elliott. Dzindzi won the games of backgammon they often had. "We went to The Olive Tree until 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. After being kicked out, we went to an all-night donut shop; and when the sun came up, went back to Washington Square Park till the afternoon."

Alexey Root mentioned that the build-up for the 2022 U.S. Senior Tournament (players over 50) has been proceeding, but so far only 36 states have selected representatives to send to the July 5-17 tournament in St. Louis with its \$75,000 prize fund. Different states have different means of selection.

A long discussion of Korchnoi followed a reading from Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors*, Vol. 5 on Korchnoi and Karpov. Paul mentioned that Korchnoi was the only player included in that series who was not a World Champion. Andrejs Gulbis mentioned headlines in the mid-70s about "Korchnoi's Complaint."

Trisha Gorman mentioned the documentary film of the last decade, "Closing Gambit," about the 1978 World Championship match.

A game was played and discussed. Poison Pawn Najdorf; only two ways to try for an advantage, but easy to draw. Paul: "There's a lot of juice in this position . . . When the pieces get close together, everybody gets confused... Great players exert the force field of chess pieces. Development goes on throughout the game as players try to incrementally improve their pieces... The chessboard demands that you find the play in the position."

(More on the Chess Café here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe>)

Upcoming Events

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - Ongoing

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>

May USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com

Sunday May 22, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2

Monday May 30, 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>

57th Arthur Stamer Memorial G/45

Saturday June 4, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G/45;d5

Two sections: 1800+ and under 1800.

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/57th-stamer-memorial-championship-g45-person>

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/57thStamerMemorialChampionshipG45>

Mechanics' Institute June Championship Quads

Saturday June 11, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5

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

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsJun2022>

Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

Saturday June 11, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5

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

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJun2022>

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.e4! Interference. Threat: 2.Qf4# or 2.Qxf5#. 1...Bxe5 2.Nxe5#. 1...Kxf3 2.Bh5#.

Problem #2: 1.Qa1! Intending 2.Qh1 or 2.Qh8. 1...Bf5 2.Qg7! and 3.Qh6#.

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. Sztaray on the rating of FIDE events

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

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



World Champion Alexander Alekhine giving a simultaneous exhibition at the Mechanics' Institute in 1931.

(Photograph: Mechanics' Archives)