



MECHANICS'
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CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1020 | June 11th, 2022

Conway TNM Round 6 Report

IM **Elliott Winslow** stands alone at the top of the top section with 5 points after defeating Expert **Nicholas Weng**. Trailing by ½ a point are NM **Siddarth Arun** who defeated Expert **Edward Lewis**, Expert **Christophe Bambou** who had a forfeit win, and "A" class player **Adam Stafford** who downed **Frederick Dutter**. Winslow is very likely paired with Arun in the final round for all the marbles.

In the under 1800 section, **Anton Maliev** widened his lead to a full point by beating his closest rival **Steve Sobel**. With a perfect 6-0, he is guaranteed at least a tie for first place. In a clash of MI veterans, **John Chan** took down **Albert Starr**, and he stands in clear second with 5 points.

Raymond (Ray) Conway was the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1971 to 1980. His tenure coincided with the 'Fischer Boom.' 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: <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>.

The Conway TNM is co-directed by Dr. **Judit Sztaray** and **Abel Talamantez**.

Gens Una Sumus!

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415-393-0110





Weng,Nicholas



Winslow,Elliott

B90

2021

2235

MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (6.1) 07.06.2022

[Winslow, Elliott]

In the previous round, leading the tournament by half a point but stuck at home with a "mild" case of Covid, I had to take a half-point bye. But somehow all my competitors for first place also drew -- so I was still just barely ahead of them going into this round! There were three games that could catch me, so I was compelled to play a sharp attempt at a win. I was fortunate, such as you can be in a chess game, in that my opponent happened into a gap in his chess knowledge, and made it all too easy for me to blast my way to his king. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3** The English Attack against the Najdorf Sicilian. A superficial perusal of Nicholas's games showed this most likely to be the opening variation he would play. **6...e5 7.Nb3**

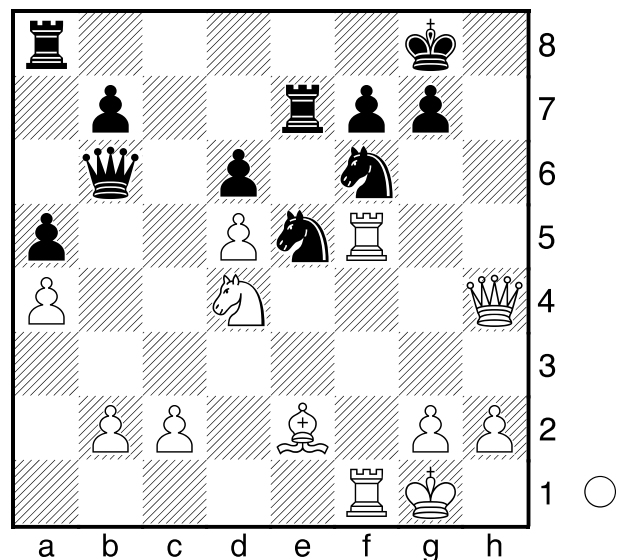
Be6

[A similar game by Nicholas last year went: 7...Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Qd2 h5 And here Weng went with the more modern, central space-taking 10.Nd5

A) Giri mentions this major line in his recent update on chess24.com to his Chessable Najdorf course. And after the other capture, **10...Nxd5 11.exd5 Bf5 12.Be2** (Other moves!? (12.Na5!?)) he gives 12...a5 from the course. He goes on to show how Grandelius played this as Black against Giri himself, forcing Anish to choose some position still with play for White. He succeeded in winning, but shows in the video how the Swedish grandmaster might have improved.;

B) 10...Bxd5 11.exd5 a5!?

Maybe Kelly watched Giri's course and was thinking of the other variation? Black shunts White's queenside play while his own aggressions on the kingside are hard to thwart. Especially interesting in that that the engines just give White as better. Maybe if we let them run for a long long time...Or perhaps my memory has the wrong position! (After the far more popular 11...Nbd7 the rare 12.Na5!? is problematical for Black, since now White's queenside play with c2-c4, b2-b4 rolls on) 12.a4 0-0 13.Be2 (All the engines prefer "burying" the bishop with 13.Bb5 and then c2-c4! And give White a healthy advantage.) 13...Nbd7 14.0-0 h4 15.f4 exf4 16.Rxf4 Nh7 17.Raf1 Bg5 18.Rd4 Bf6 19.Rg4 Ne5 20.Rgf4 Re8 21.Nd4 (21.Bb5!±) 21...Bg5 22.Rf5 Clearly Weng has lost his way, as Kelly misses a shot now: Bxe3+? (22...Nc4!-+) 23.Qxe3 Qb6 24.Qf2 Re7 25.Qxh4 Nf6



26.Rxf6! He's certainly found it again! gxf6 27.Kh1! Qd8 28.Nf5

Rc7 29.Qh6 Qf8 30.Qxf6 Ng6
 31.Bd3 Rd7 32.h4 Kh7 33.h5
 Qh8 34.Qg5 Kg8 35.Nh6+ Kg7
 36.Rxf7+ 1-0, Weng,N (2001)-Kelly,
 S (1786) MI Sept-Oct TNM, San
 Francisco 28.9.2021]

8.Be3 h5 9.Qd2

[As we said a year ago, 9.Nd5!
 is still the "big thing"]

9...Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8

[10...Be7 11.g3 The old move.

(Here's a high-level game from two
 Bay Area legends, played at the
 Mechanics ten years ago: 11.Kb1
 Qc7 12.f4 b5 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5
 0-0 15.Be2 Rac8 16.c3 Rfe8
 17.Rhg1 Ng4 18.Rgf1 Bf6 19.f5?
 Nxe3 22.09 Black had an advantage
 at this moment in an up-and-down
 battle, eventually prevailing: 0-1
 (77) Browne,W (2449)-Shankland,S
 (2601) 3rd Konig Memorial (rapid),
 San Francisco; 11.Nd5 of course,
 although White's king committed to
 the queenside changes things.)

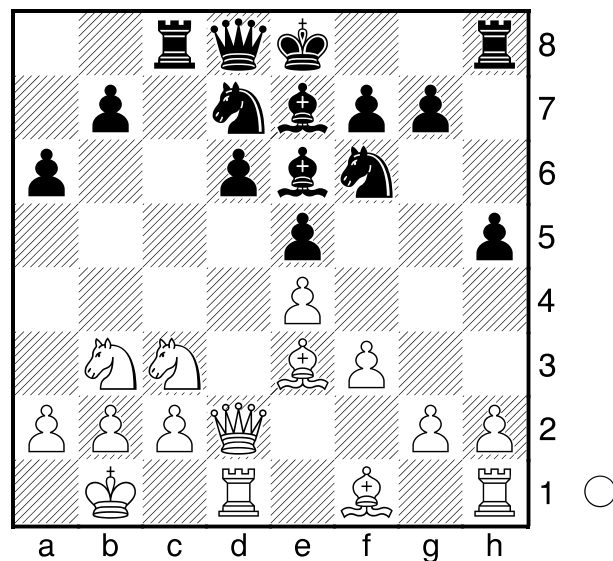
A) 11...Rc8 12.Kb1 (12.Nd5 Bxd5
 13.exd5 Nb6 14.Bxb6 Qxb6
 15.Bh3 Rc7 16.Kb1 h4 17.Qe1
 Kf8! was the early key game
 Anand-Sadler, Tilburg 1998.);

B) 11...b5 12.Kb1 Nb6 13.Na5
 Qc7 14.Bxb6 Qxb6 15.Nd5 Nxd5
 16.exd5 Bd7 was an early game for
 Weng and another Bay Area
 youngster; Black was okay here but
 lost his way at some point: 1-0 (54)
 Weng,N (1731)-Hao,M (1475) San
 Francisco 2021.]

11.Kb1 Be7

[11...b5 right away!? Naka and Nepo
 have played it.]

(Diagram)



forward in this position. Fifteen (!)
 moves have been played here! **12.g3**
 I was so sure that Nicholas would have
 read somewhere that this plan is too
 slow (for example in Vigorito's "Playing
 the Najdorf" (2019)) and not the way to
 go that I didn't expect him to play it
 again! But he did.

[12.Bg5]

[12.h3]

[12.Nd5]

[An exciting 2700-plus game: 12.h4
 b5 13.a3 0-0 14.Bg5 Re8 15.g4
 This leads to an amazing line, which
 the computer has "0.00" and "only
 move" to the end of the game! hxg4
 16.fxg4 Bxg4 17.Re1 d5 18.Nxd5
 Nxd5 19.exd5 Bf5 20.Bd3 e4
 21.Nd4 Bxg5 22.hxg5 exd3
 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.Nxf5 dxc2+
 25.Ka2 Qe4 26.Ne7+ Qxe7 27.Qh2
 c1N+ 28.Ka1 Nb3+ 29.Ka2 Nc1+
 30.Ka1 Nb3+ 31.Ka2 Nc1+
 1/2-1/2 (31) Wei,Y (2732)-Giri,A
 (2764) Chess.com INT 2020]

12...g6?! As usual, I'm just unable to
 make my way through a theoretical line
 without veering off. As I was so sure
 he'd look at other things, so I had.

[12...b5! There are so many games

White has a wide choice of ways

among 2750-plus from a few years ago, although the super-GMs seems to have moved on to somewhere else. 6.h3 e5 7.Nb3!? perhaps. 13.Nd5!? I wasn't happy with Bxd5 14.exd5 Nb6 15.Bxb6 Qxb6 16.Na5?! Rc5 actually given by Vigorito, not that I remembered any of this! 17.c4 bxc4 18.Nxc4

A) 18...Qc7! 19.Rc1 0-0 20.Ne3 Nd7 \bar{f} 21.Nf5?! Bf6!-+ (21...Rxc1+ 22.Qxc1 Nc5 \bar{f});

B) 18...Qb7 19.Ne3?! my concern
But just 0-0+ In fact there is a fairly
old game, admittedly blitz: 20.Bd3
Rb8 21.Rc1 Rbc8 22.Rxc5 Rxc5
23.Rc1 Rxc1+ 24.Qxc1 g6 25.a3
Qb6 26.Qd2 Qd4 27.Kc2 Bf8
28.Bc4 Qb6 29.Qd3 Bh6 30.Nd1
Qg1 31.Qe2 a5 32.Kb3 Nd7
33.Ka2 Nb6 34.Nc3 Nxc4
35.Qxc4 Qxh2 36.Ne4 Bf8
37.Nf6+ Kg7 38.Ne8+ Kh8
39.Qc7 Kg8 40.Nf6+ Kg7
41.Ne8+ Kg8 42.Nf6+ Kg7
43.Ne8+ Kg8 44.Nf6+ Kg7 13.10
Exciting! And note, Anand on the
other side. ½-½ Akopian,V (2648)-
Anand,V (2803) World ch (Blitz),
Berlin]

13.h3?!

(Diagram)

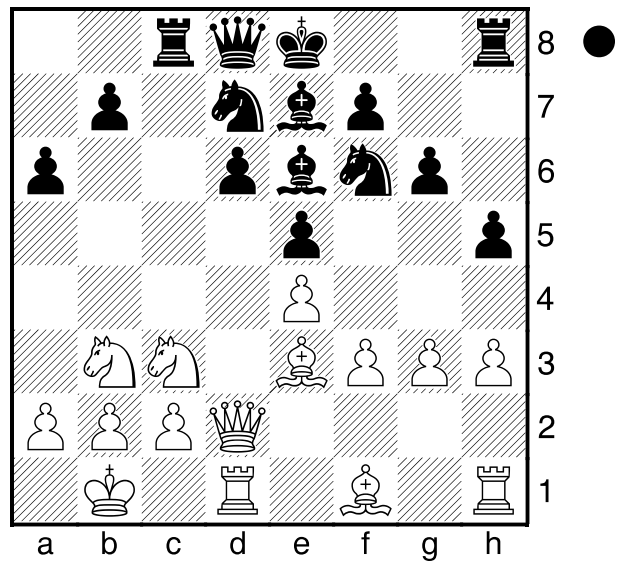
Too slow, as Vigorito said about 12.g3.

13...Kf8N My lumbering plan.

[13...b5!⇒ again is more to the point though, getting something going.]

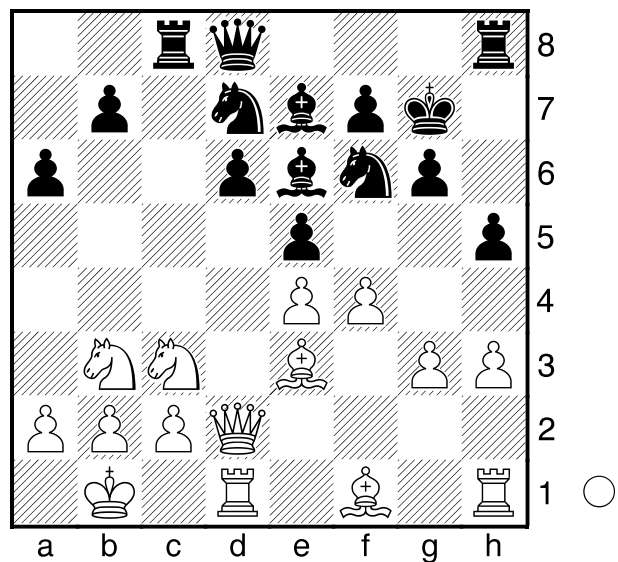
[Here's a last reference game:

13...Qc7 14.Rh2 Kf8? (14...b5±)
 15.Rf2 (15.g4!±) 15...b5 16.Bg2
 Nb6 17.Bxb6 Qxb6 18.f4 b4 19.Nd5
 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bf5 21.Rc1 Bf6
 22.Qe2 Kg7 23.Qf3 exf4 24.g4 hxg4
 25.hxg4 Bxg4 26.Qxf4 Bf5 27.Rcf1
 a5 28.Rd2 Be5 29.Qg5 f6



0-1 (29) Kull,T (1753)-Shishkov,A (2405) Tallinn 2021. Note the 600 point rating difference...]

14.f4± For a move or two I was quite uncomfortable regarding f4-f5 happening, even as a sacrifice (I intended to decline). But... **14...Kg7**



15.Qf2?? Not slow enough! Still-young Nicholas hadn't seen (or it didn't leave an impression) the famous game Movsesian-Kasparov, Sarajevo 2000, which was hardly the same position (Gary favored the Scheveningen style ... e6), but ...Rxc3! was the key shot. Here

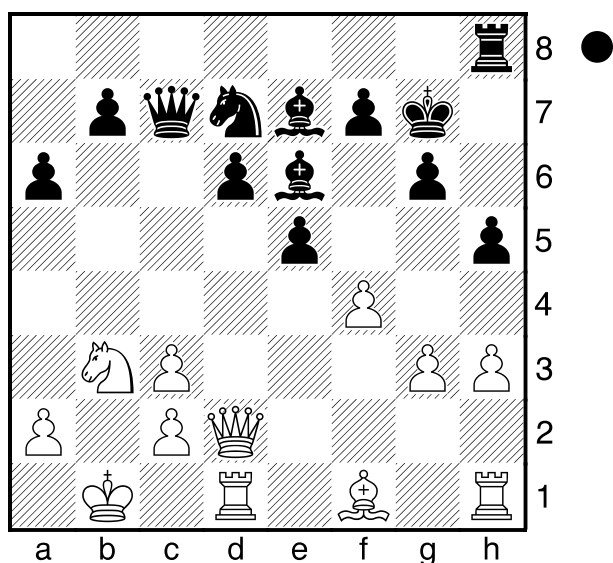
it even wins the e-pawn, with a raging attack.

[The computer gives almost anything else as a good developing, preparatory attacking move, leading with 15.Bd3± to put a rook on f1 and push f4-f5.]

15...Rxc3!-+ The only move to even remotely consider, and the evaluations bear this out. **16.bxc3 Nxe4 17.Qe1 Qc7 18.Bd2?!**

[18.c4!? might be the last chance to make it interesting, although Black *is* won after taking -- or better, not taking: Ndf6!-+ is shaking out as best.]

18...Nxd2+ 19.Qxd2

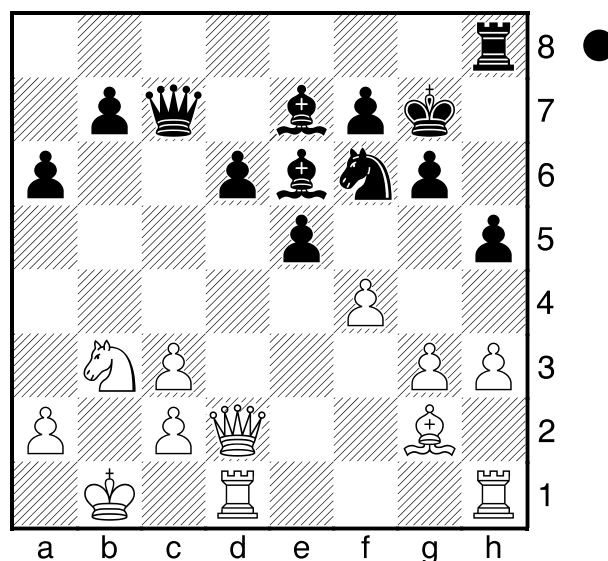


Nf6?! Black lets himself be distracted by a one-move threat and heads in the wrong direction. But to be fair, this is still quite strong (-4.3 or so, via Stockfish 15).

[19...Nb6! and into a4 with the knight just puts White out of his misery. Apparently I also forgot Movsesian-Kasparov -- ...Nb6-a4 was the crusher in that game as well.]

20.Bg2

(Diagram)



a5! Black makes up for his somewhat careless previous move with a torrent of accurate thrusts at White's king's position. **21.Qd3 Rc8 22.fxe5?!** Letting Black's bishop into a3 just speeds the attack.

[22.g4!? a4!]

22...dxe5 23.Qe3 a4 24.Nd2

Stockfish, seeing the game continuation, has White give up the knight. But of course that's hopeless... **24...Bc5!**

25.Qd3 Ba3! 26.Ka1

[26.Qe3 Qa5!]

26...Rd8

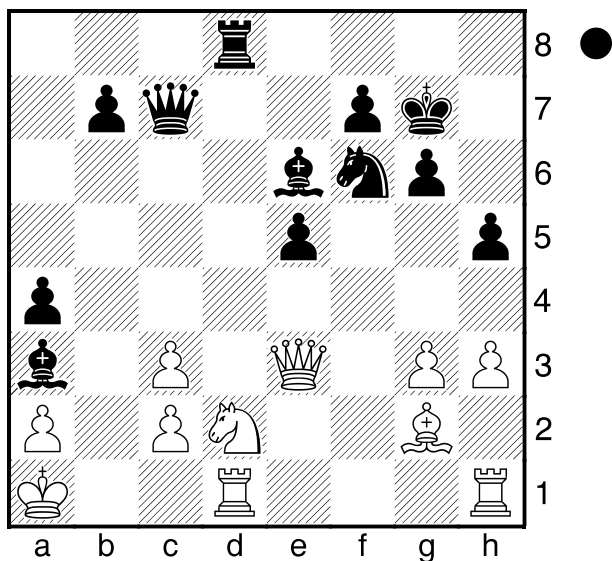
[Damned computer notes that even better, if that's possible, is 26...Bf5! and on 27.Qc4 Qa5! Now that's just sadistic.]

27.Qe3

(Diagram)

Rxd2!

[After 27...Rxd2 Nicholas resigned instantly. Some vague fight could be put up by 28.Rxd2 Qc4 29.Bd5 , but after Nxd5 30.Qd3 Qc5! 31.c4 Ne3 the end is near. This time all three of the next games had decisive results, so there are three players a



half point back, setting up a dramatic last round.]

0-1

□ Lewis,Edward

■ Arun,Siddharth

D02

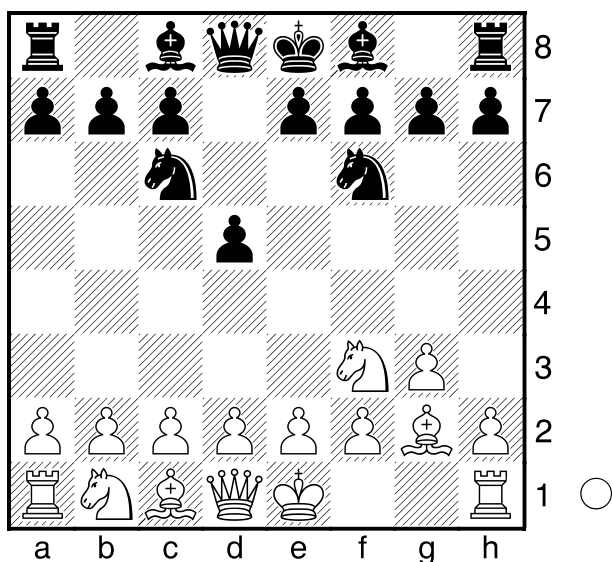
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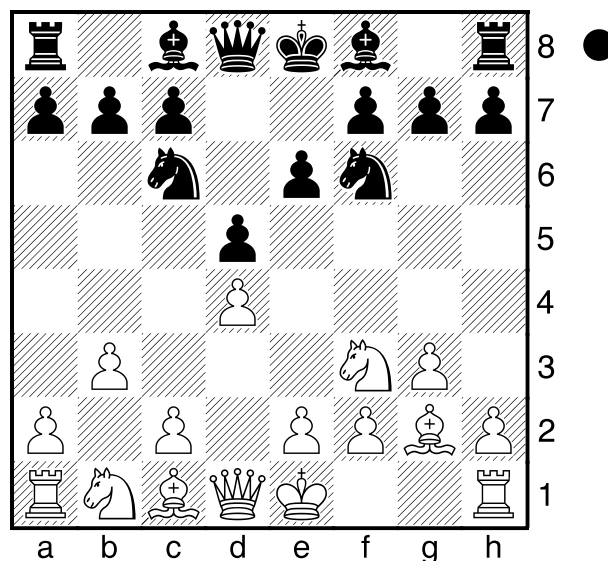
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (6.2) 07.06.2022

[Lewis,Ed (Winslow,Elliott)]

1.g3 Surprise, now my opponent's prep is out the window. 1...Nf6 2.Bg2 d5 3.Nf3 Nc6

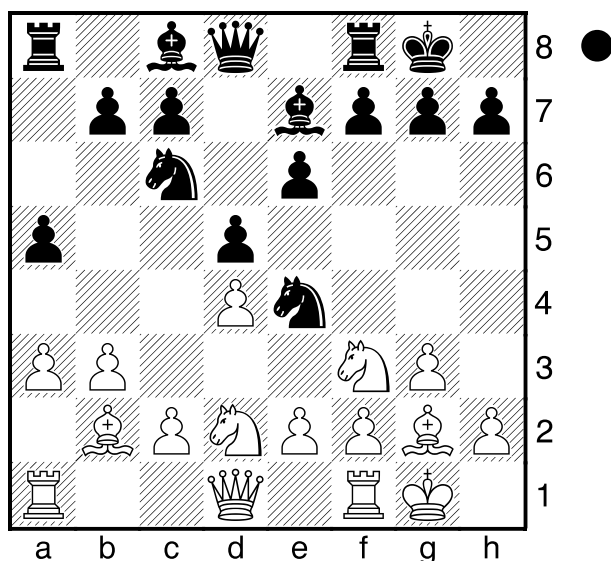


A better try was 3...c5, 3...Nc6 is an attempt to gain the center with ...e5 but the response 4.d4 locks down the center and the ...Nc6 move hinders the ...c5 expansion buying White some time. 4.d4 e6 5.b3



5.O-O, 5.a3 and 5.Nbd2 are all good continuations but I decided to support the c4 expansion and wanted to control e5 from a distance with Bb2. I usually disagree with a double fianchetto system because of awkward pawn formation, closed blockade of b&g files and my experience of having one active fianchetto and the other inactive due to the organic chess formations that occur as a process across the grid. 5...Be7 6.O-O Ne4 6...O-O, 6...a5 and 6...b6 are all playable here, Black moves the same piece twice and perhaps loses time? (Hey, it's heading for a Stonewall Attack -- you can't get the knight to e4 in one move, you gotta take two. :-) 7.Bb2 0-0 8.a3 Now it is White's turn to lose time, a3 is unnecessary, c4 was the better continuation while the N is still on c6 and so Black cannot strengthen the pawn structure with ...c6. 8...a5 9.Nbd2 This is acceptable but dogmatic in sequence.

[more to the point was 9.c4
as mentioned before.]



9...f5 10.c4 Bf6 11.e3

Another dogmatic response to protect.

[11.Rc1 and the metal box gives +1.0
for White.]

11...b6 12.Rc1 Bb7 Here Ne5, Qc2,
cxd5 are all acceptable continuations. In
this position I wanted to keep the
dynamic tension but also wanted to
remove the N on e4 with f3 at some
point. Also, the redevelopment of Nf3
to e1 to d3 was attractive to control e5,
f4 and c5 in the near future so I choose
13.Ne1

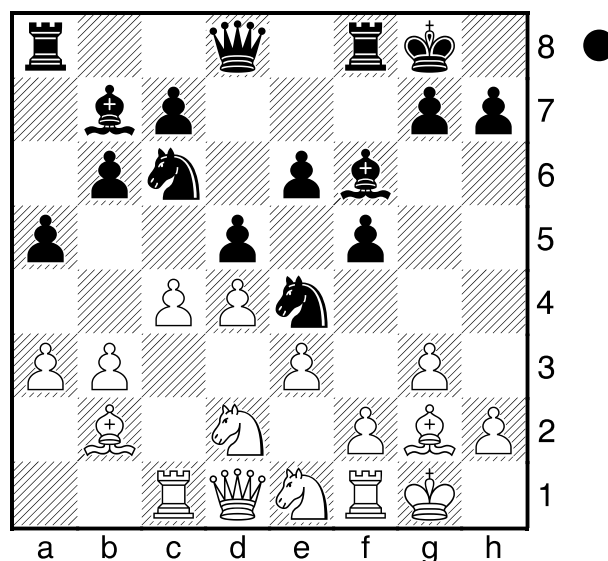
(Diagram)

Ne7 14.Nd3 g5 15.cxd5 exd5 16.Nf3

Time to control e5, the lunchbox gives
+1.1 for White. **16...c5!?**

(Black launches aggressive play, but it
could backfire...) **17.Nfe5 cxd4**

18.exd4! It is not often that taking with a
pawn and blocking your own bishop is a
good idea, but here the electronic
abacus agrees with my choice and gives
+1.2 to the concept. (A mere +1.1 vs. 0.
9 on my comp)

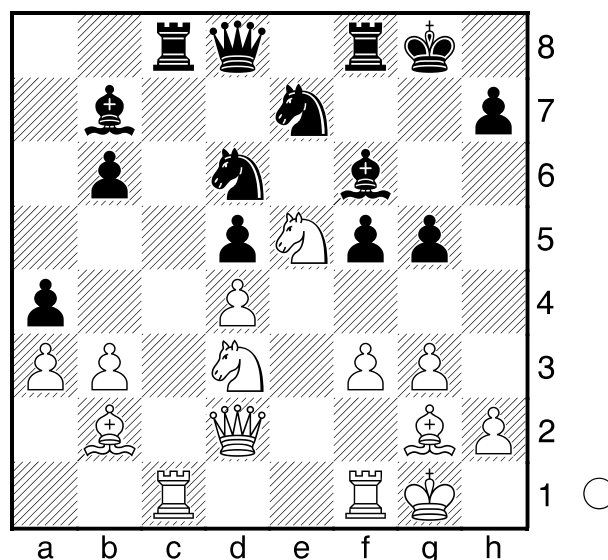


[18.Bxd4 Ba6 19.b4 axb4 20.axb4
Bb5 21.f3 Nd6]

18...Rc8 19.f3 Nd6 20.Qd2

[20.a4! (stops Black from playing the
same move, thus keeps control of
c4)]

20...a4 How to continue?

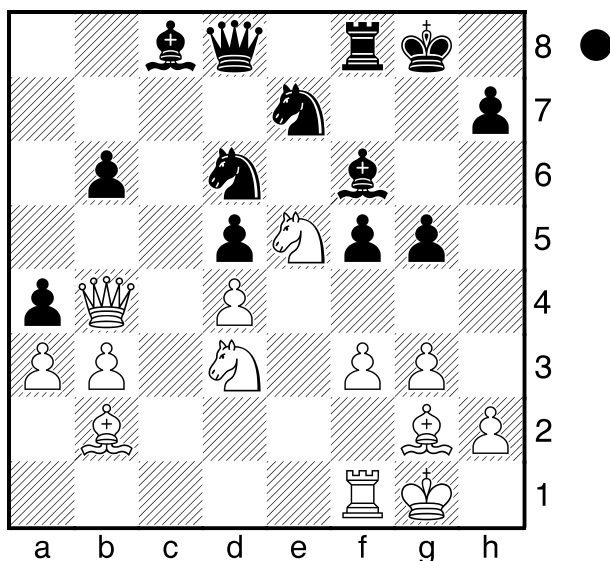


21.Rxc8?! Here the mainframe informs
that while 21.Qb4, which seems natural
to gain space and pressure Black, was
wrong; 21.bxa4! the material grab was
correct and gives +1. 4 as a result! (I
don't know about Ed's computer
configuration, but my little box thinks 21.

bxa4 is *slightly* better. Still, it's a critical position, and a little goes a long way...)

[21.bxa4 Nc4 22.Qe2 Nxb2
23.Qxb2 Ba6 24.Rfd1]

21...Bxc8 22.Qb4



axb3 23.Qxb3 Be6 (!)

[23...Ba6!]

24.Re1 (White certainly looks to have advantages here, and Stockfish 15 concurs. **24...Nc4?!**

[24...f4!? 25.gxf4 Nc4]

[24...Bxe5!? with a different response on each recapture...]

25.Bc3?!

[25.f4! Nxb2?! (25...h6 (keeps it around +1)) 26.Qxb2 Qd6 27.Rb1! (White is in fact winning) Nc6 28.Qd2! Nxd4 29.Qf2!

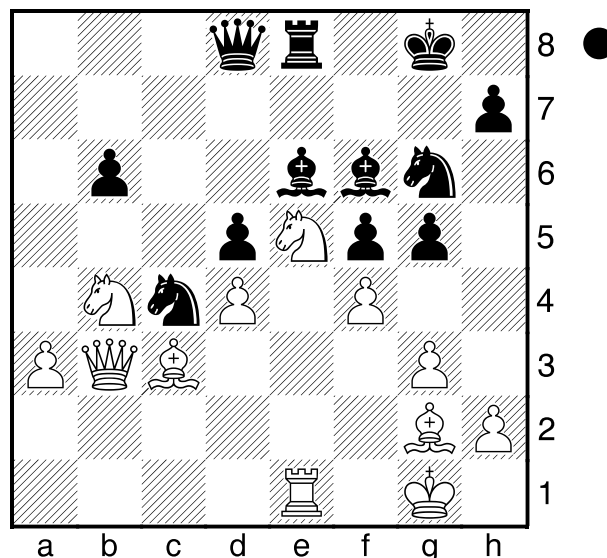
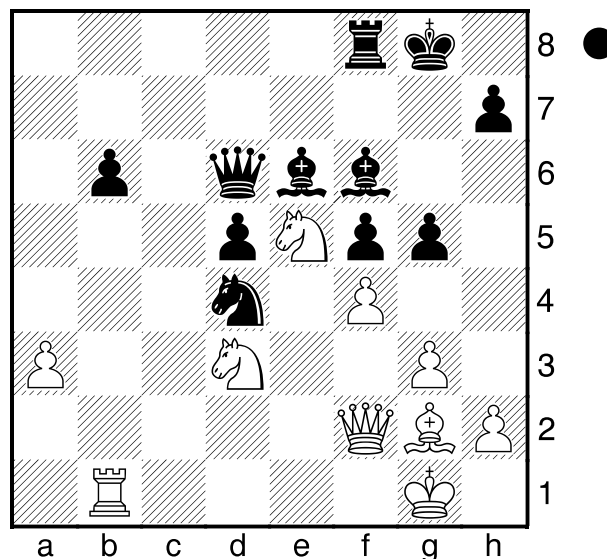
(Diagram)

It is hard to wrap my mind around that even though I am down a pawn, the silver cruncher gives +2.2 as compensation in this position! (less on my computer, but still!)

25...Re8 26.f4 Ng6!

[26...gxf4 27.Nxf4]

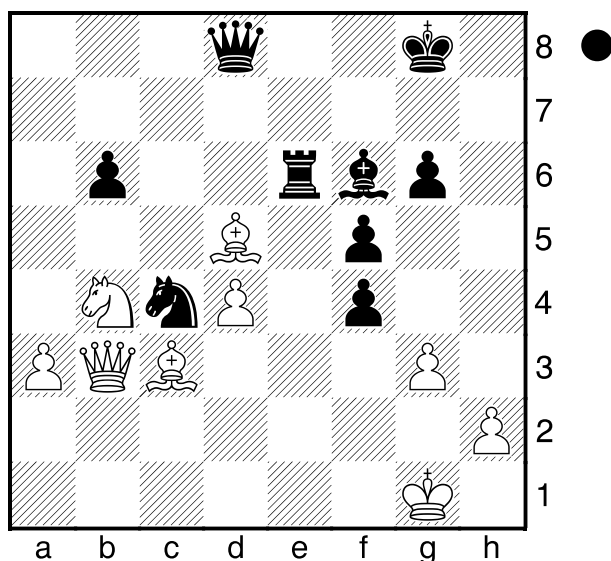
27.Nb4



Setting a little trap if black takes the pawn on f4. Can you see it? **27...Bxe5**
[27...gxf4? 28.Nxg6 hxg6 29.Rxe6 (29.Nxd5! (is even better!)) 29...Rxe6 30.Bxd5

(Diagram)

28.fxe5 f4! (Black -- finally! -- takes over some initiative on the kingside, enough to call it a balanced game.) **29.Qa4 Kf7**
30.Bf1 30.Qb5, 30.Rc1 and 30.Nd3 are all playable (and "0.00"). **30...Qc8**



31.Rc1 Re7

[31...Kg7!]

32.Bd2

[32.Bg2]

32...Rc7

[32...Kg7̄]

33.Qc2 Kg8

[33...Kg7!]

34.Bd3 Qe8 35.Bf5 Bxf5?!

[35...Kg7̄ (one more time)]

36.Qxf5 Rf7 37.Qg4!

[37.Qxg5?? Nxd2-+]

37...Kg7

[37...Nxd2?? 38.Rc8+- (Yet another reason g7 was better)]

38.Be1 Qd8 39.Qe6 39.Bf2 was best;

White begins to lose his way away from his own king! **39...Ne3**

[39...fxg3!̄]

[39...Qf8!̄]

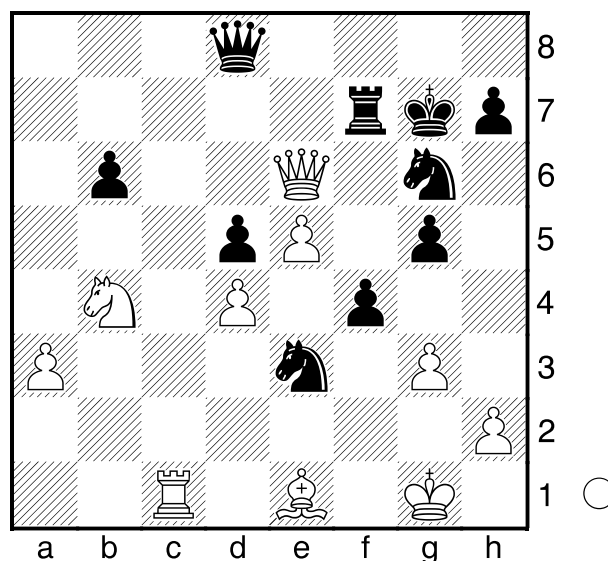
(Diagram)

40.Rc6?? I already saw the tactical exchange with fxg3, but fatigue and impatience prompted this error.

[40.Rc3]

[40.Qd6]

[40.Bf2 (all keep it even.)]



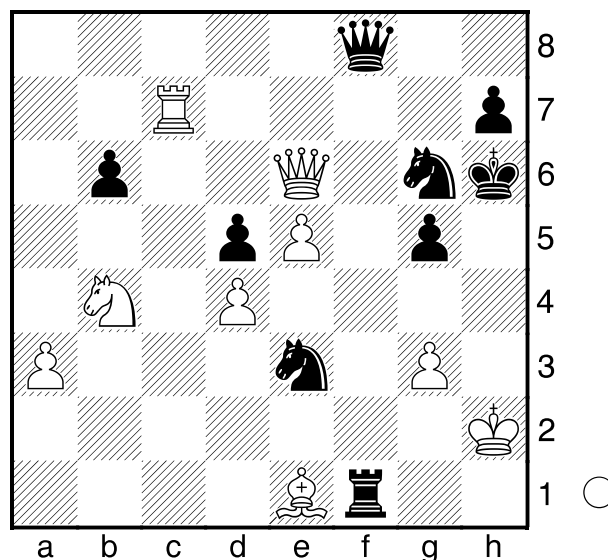
40...fxg3+ 41.hxg3 Rf1+ 42.Kh2

White gives up the piece in hopes of counterplay, but in reality is just lost with an accurate technical sweep. (Not so fast! - EW) **42...Qf8??**

[42...g4!-+ (takes away h3 from all of White's pieces and seals the deal.)]

[42...Nf8-+ (but not by as much)]

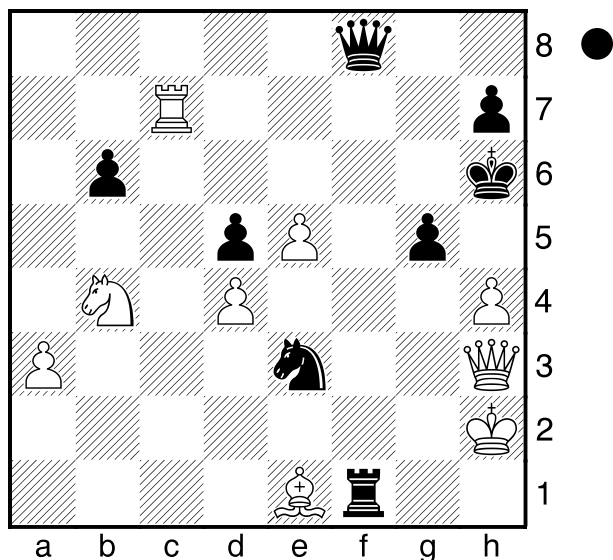
43.Rc7+ Kh6



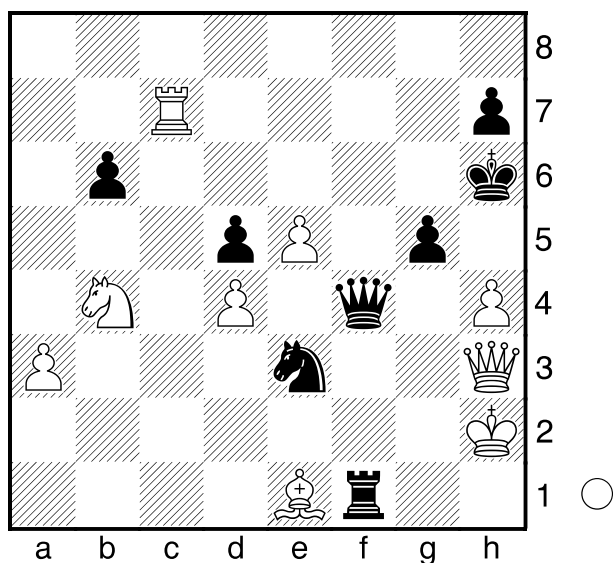
White now detects the draw, just repeat the position right? Check on h3 then back to e6 all so simple? **44.Qh3+ Nh4**

45.gxh4

[45.Qe6+ Ng6 46.Qh3+=]



EL: But no, I want to gain ELO points and prove I can sit at the table of masters. This over-reach costs the game and yet more rating points, when will I ever learn to accept the ever boring and emulative personality draw. Not in my style, unless you force the draw. (EW: No, actually this still draws as well!)
45...Qf4+



46.Bg3?? (Now, *finally* Ed goes under. [46.Qg3!! forces Arun to take the perpetual with Ng4+ (46...Rf2+?! 47.Bxf2 Nf1+ 48.Kg2 Nxc3 49.hxc3+

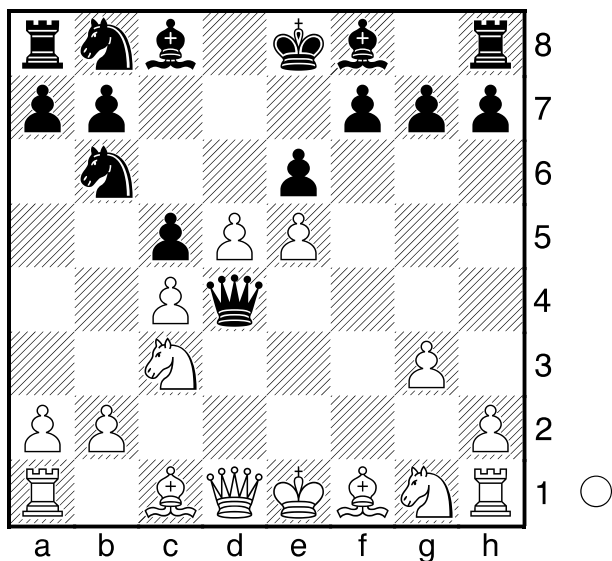
(gives, if anyone, *White* chances to win)) 47.Kg2 (47.Kh3?? Rh1+ 48.Kg2 Qf1#) 47...Ne3+ 48.Qxe3 Qxe3 49.hxc3+ (49.Kxf1= (= 0.00); 49.Rc6+ (and next capture -- also = 0.00)) 49...Kxc3 50.Kxf1=]
46...Ng4+ 47.Qxc4
 [47.Kg2 Qf3#]
47...Qxc4?! (Fischer would give himself a "?" for this:)
 [47...Qd2+! (mates in half the moves.)]
48.hxc3+ Qxc3?!
 [48...Kg6! (keeps mate in sight)]
49.Kg2 Rd1 (which doesn't mean White isn't totally lost...) **50.Kf3 Qf5+**
 [50...Qh5+! (sees mate (in 8) *again*)]
51.Bf4+ Kh5 52.Nxd5 Qh3+ 53.Ke2 Qd3+ 54.Kf2 Rf1+ 55.Kg2
 (What a battle!! - EW)
 [55.Kg2 Qf3+ 56.Kh2 Rh1#]
0-1

B03
 1855
 1900
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (6.3) 07.06.2022
 [de Firmian]

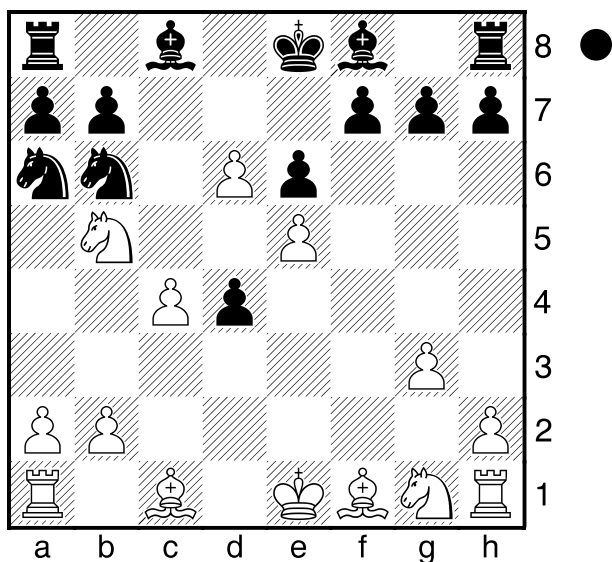
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 The aggressive Four Pawns Attack. Theoretically Black is able to equalize against the imposing center. **5...dxe5 6.fxe5 c5?!** This allows White a distinct, powerful pawn center. Safer is 6... Nc6 abd 7...Bf5 **7.d5 e6 8.Nc3 Qh4+ 9.g3 Qd4**

(Diagram)

10.Qxd4 The endgame is good for White. Also possible was [10.Bd3 Qxe5+ 11.Kf2 to keep the queens on. White has excellent



compensation for the pawn with a lead in development extra space.]
10...cxd4 11.Nb5 Na6 12.d6!



keeping the black pieces hemmed in. Extra space is good in the endgame also. **12...f6 13.Nf3 Bd7 14.Nbxd4 fxe5 15.Nxe5 Bxd6 16.Nxd7** White has gotten the bishop pair and better pawn structure. Now **16...Kxd7 17. Bd2** would be a nice edge for White. Dutter tries to mix it up, but it doesn't help. **16...Bb4+ 17.Bd2**
 [17.Ke2! Kxd7 18.Bg2 would be an even bigger advantage]

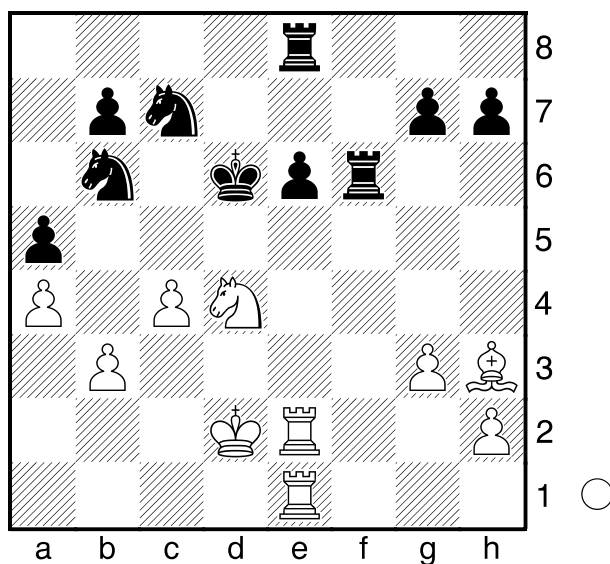
17...Bxd2+ 18.Kxd2 Kxd7 19.Re1 Nc7?! This is passive and White consolidates the advantage. More practical chances were offered by the pawn sacrifice

[19...Raf8 20.Rxe6 Nc5 21.Re1 Rf2+ 22.Kc1 Re8]

20.b3 Rhf8 21.Re2! Excellent! This calm move defends the second rank and prepares to pile up on the weak e-pawn. **21...a5 22.a4**

[22.Bg2]

22...Rae8 23.Bh3 Kd6 24.Rhe1 Rf6



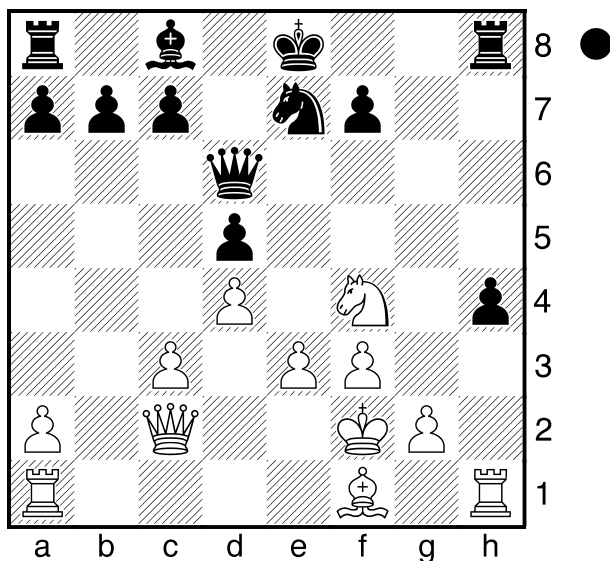
we are missing any further moves and only have the result (1-0). After 25. Kc3! and 26. Rd2 White will win material and should easily win the game.

1-0

A45
 2344
 1900
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (6.8) 07.06.2022
 [de Firmian]

Kayven has a big challenge - Black against an opponent 444 points higher rated. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 Nc6 5.c4?! e6**

[5...e5! 6.Bxe5 Bb4+ 7.Ke2 0-0
is a very promising pawn sacrifice]
6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Qc2 g5 8.Bg3 h5
9.cxd5 exd5 10.f3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3
Nxg3 12.hxg3 Qd6 13.Kf2
 [13.g4!]
13...h4 14.gxh4 gxh4 15.Ne2 Ne7
16.Nf4

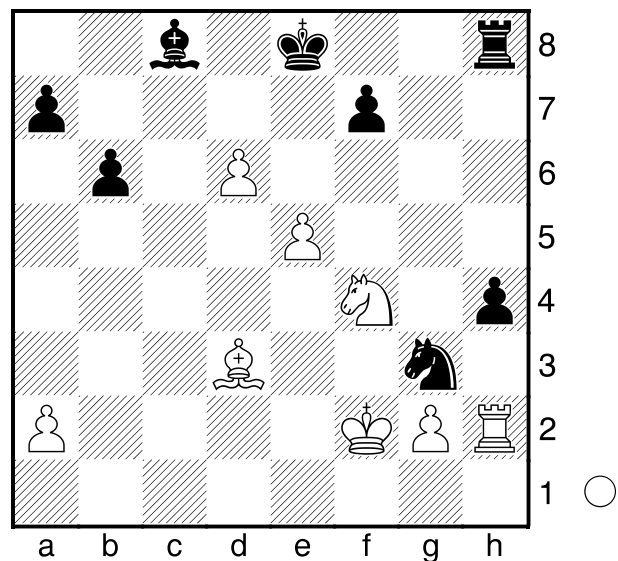


The sharp opening has produced an even middlegame. Both sides have holes on the kingside. **16...Nf5 17.Bd3 Ng3 18.Rh2** The white rook is a little stuck here, but it keeps an eye on the black h-pawn. **18...c6 19.Rb1 b6 20.c4 Ke7?! [20...dxc4]**

21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Rc1?! [22.Bh7! picks up the h4 pawn]

22...Bd7 23.Qc7 Rac8 24.Qxd6+ Kxd6 25.Rxc8 Bxc8 26.e4 dxe4 27.fxe4 White has a slight edge in the endgame and Diaz wants to convert against his lower rated opponent. Now **27... Be6** would keep the disadvantage minimal. **27...Bb7?! 28.e5+ Ke7 29.d5 Bc8 30.d6+ Ke8?! [30...Kd8±]**

(Diagram)



31.Ke3?!

[31.Nd5! causes more trouble]

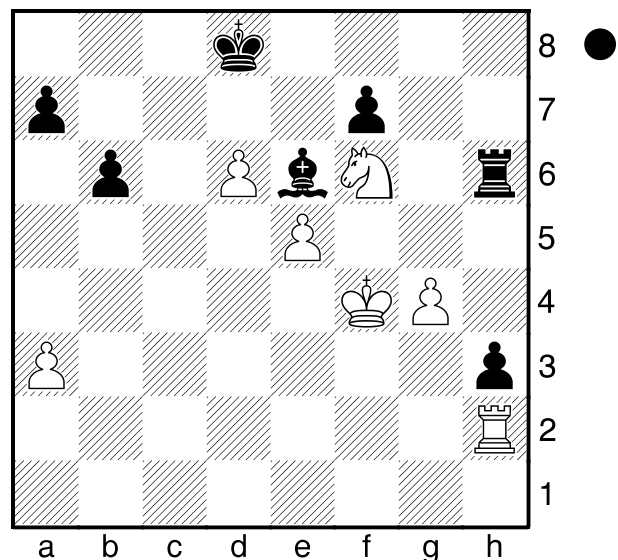
31...Nf5+±

[31...Kd8!]

32.Bxf5 Bxf5 33.g3? now Black should be able to hold the game with the passed h-pawn. White would keep a clear advantage with

[33.Kf3]

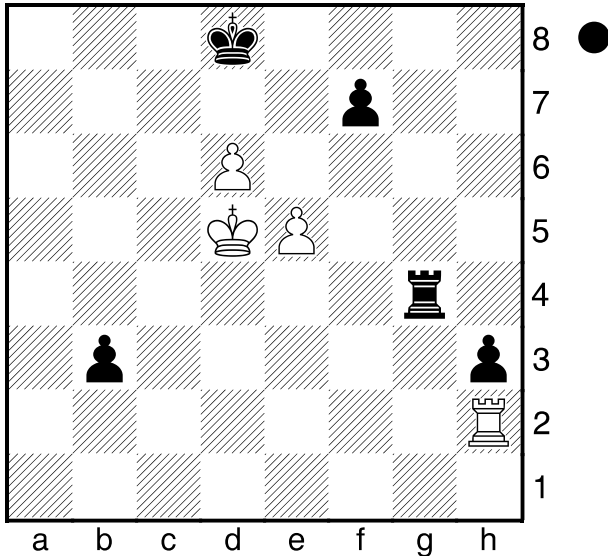
33...h3= 34.Nd5 Kd7 35.Kf4 Be6 36.Nf6+ Kd8 37.a3 Rh6 38.g4



b5! Kayven chooses the right moment to generate counterplay on the queenside. **39.Ke4 a5 40.Kd4**

[40.Kf4]

40...b4 41.axb4 axb4 42.Kd3 Kc8
43.Kc2 b3+ 44.Kb2 Rh4 45.Ka3 Kd8
46.Kb2 Kc8 47.Kc3 Kd8 48.Kd4?!
trying hard to win, but this just gets
White in danger **48...Bxg4 49.Nxg4**
Rxg4+ 50.Kd5?



Rg3?

[50...Rb4! 51.Rb2 h2 52.Rxh2 b2
53.Kc6 Rc4+ 54.Kd5 b1Q
is an easy win]

51.Rf2 Ke8 52.e6?

[52.Rb2 Kd7 53.Rh2]

52...fxe6+ 53.Kxe6 Re3+

[53...Rg6+! 54.Kd5 Rg2!]

54.Kd5 Rd3+ 55.Ke6 Re3+?

[55...Rd4! zugzwang 56.Rb2 Re4+
57.Kd5 Rh4 still wins]

56.Kd5 a lucky escape for Conrado after
pressing too hard for the win
1/2-1/2

A85

Chan, John

1504

Starr, Albert

1511

MI Conway TNM: u1800 (6.11) 07.06.22

[de Firmian]

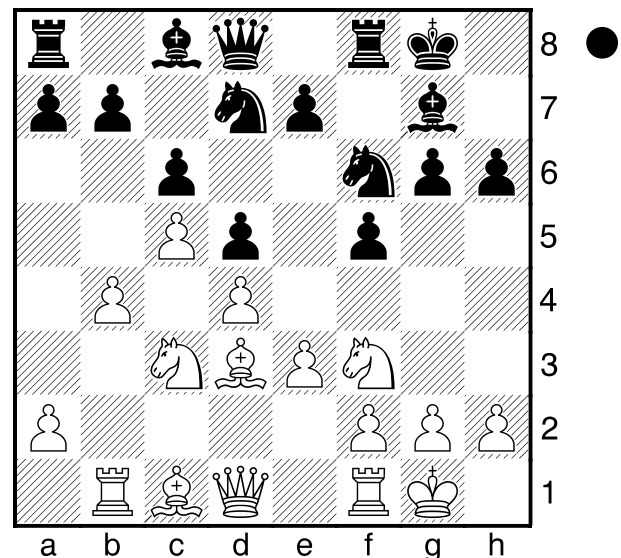
A battle between two of our most
original club players. **1.c4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6**
3.Nc3 c6 4.d4 g6 5.e3 Bg7 6.Bd3
0-0 7.0-0 d5

[7...d6 would be a type of Leningrad
Dutch]

8.c5

[8.Qb3 would keep the center fluid
and look for queenside and c-file
play]

8...Nbd7?! 9.Ng5 Nb8 oops. Black
must go back now to guard e6 **10.Rb1**
h6 11.Nf3 Nbd7 12.b4



Qc7

[12...Ne4 or]

[12...e5!? 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.dxe5
Ne4 both give Black equal chances]

13.h3 e5 14.Nh4 John starts the attack
on the kingside and the game heats up.

14...exd4

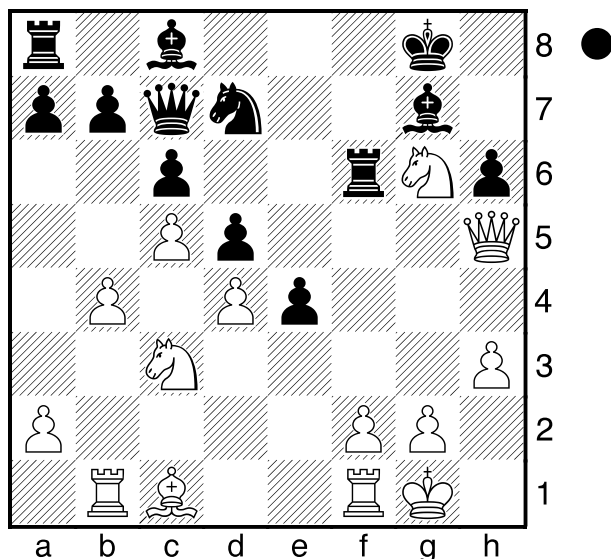
[Simply 14...Kh7! holds the kingside
ground]

15.exd4 Ne4?! a pawn sacrifice

[15...Kh7 16.Ne2 Ne4 17.Nf4 Rf6

holds on to all the material]
16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.Nxg6 this is a valuable kingside pawn. White is clearly better. **17...Rf6 18.Qh5?!**

[18.Ne7+ Kh7 19.Qh5 Nf8 20.Nexd5 cxd5 21.Nxd5 Qf7 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6 23.d5 is a fine position for White with the powerful central pawns]



18...Nf8?!

[18...Nxc5! 19.bxc5 Qf7 20.Nf4 Rxf4 wins the pawn back]

19.Nh4 Be6 20.Be3 Bf7 21.Qe2 Ne6 22.b5 Rf8 23.Qc2 Be8 24.b6?!

This locks the queenside pawns and makes the battle on the kingside

[24.bxc6 keeps the queenside more open and gives White play on that side of the board]

24...axb6 25.cxb6 Qe7 26.Rbc1

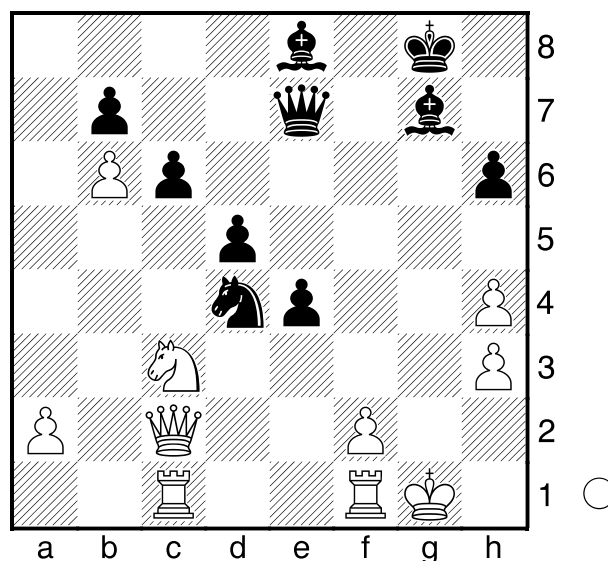
The critical moment of the game.

26...R6f7?

[26...Bh5 is good, and even more forcing is]

[26...Rf4! 27.Bxf4 Rxf4 28.g3 Rxh4 29.gxh4 Nxd4

(Diagram)



would give Black a fierce attack, worth much more than the two exchanges sacrificed]

27.Ng6 Qd6 28.Nxf8 Kxf8 29.Qd2

Now with the exchange and pawn ahead John takes home the point. **29...Bd7**

30.Bxh6 Rf6 31.Bxg7+ Nxg7 32.Ne2 Rf5 33.Ng3 Rf4 34.Qe3 Qf6 35.f3!

getting the white rooks into the kingside battle makes it easy to convert the material advantage **35...Qg5 36.fxe4!**

Rxf1+ 37.Rxf1+ As this is check Albert resigned. An interesting struggle where Black had serious kingside attacking chances.

1-0

C55

□ **Horde,Nicolas**

■ **Henderson,Se**

MI Conway TNM: u1800 (6.12) 07.06.22

[Winslow,Elliott]

Horde could well be the next "Man to Watch" in the TNM and Bay Area chess. This is his first tournament, and he's taking it seriously, scrutinizing each game afterwards with computer analysis, looking for spots to improve. Even in

this event now, he may poke into the money with a win in the last round. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7**

The Hungarian Defense, not seen that often but sensible. Complete with Carlsen sighting. **4.0-0**

[4.d4 d6 5.dxe5 (5.d5 Nb8 6.Bd3 is a major line, intending c2-c4.)

5...dxe5 6.Qxd8+ Bxd8 is one idea. Too esoteric? White has done pretty well over the decades...]

4...Nf6 5.Re1?! Horde notes that this allows a tactic, known as a "fork trick."

5...0-0?!]

[5...Nxe4 6.Rxe4 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qd6 is, if anything, better for Black by a little. But it is curious that, of the almost 1000 games in the Mega 2022 database, only 15 have this move!]

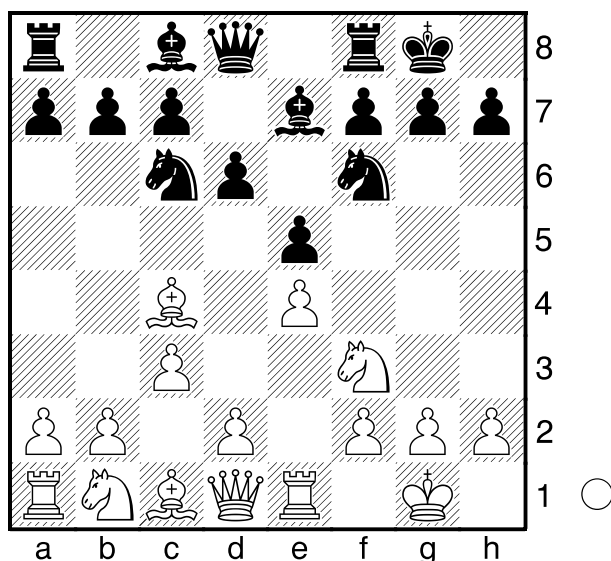
6.c3 Most common.

[6.Bb3!? steps away from that little tactic.]

[6.d4!?]

6...d6?

[Now 6...Nxe4 has been played a fair number of times, with a pretty big score for Black!]



7.h3? Horde goes so far as giving this

"?!". Yet, it was played by Ivanchuk!

(Well, he did lose...) **7...Na5**

"??" (Nicolas likes question marks.)

[7...Nxe4 once again.]

8.Bf1 White tucks the bishop back home.

8...c5 9.d4 Nc6 Black had more interesting alternatives, like

[9...exd4 10.cxd4 d5!?]

10.Bg5 Two question marks here? Excessive!

[10.d5 Nb8 makes some sense, maybe followed by 11.a4]

10...Ne8?!

[10...cxd4 11.cxd4 exd4 12.Nxd4 h6 13.Bh4 d5 with plenty of center for Black.]

11.Be3 Qb6?! 12.d5! Qxb2?

[12...Nd8]

[or 12...Nb8 13.b4! with Black's center in trouble.]

13.dxc6! Qxa1 14.Qb3 Black's queen is in trouble. **14...bxc6 15.Nbd2 Qxe1**

16.Nxe1 White is winning. He stumbles a bit in getting his advantage in working force (Q+N v Rs) going, but eventually succeeds. **16...Nf6 17.Nc2 h6 18.Na3 Bd7 19.Qb7** Jumping in a bit early.

[19.Nac4]

19...Rfb8 20.Qa6 Rb2?!

[20...d5 mobilizes Black's pawns, but not well enough to change the evaluation of +/-.]

21.Bc4 Rb6

[21...d5 22.Bb3 c4?! 23.Naxc4 dxc4 24.Nxc4 Rb1+ 25.Kh2 Black's rooks are quite uncoordinated.]

22.Qa4

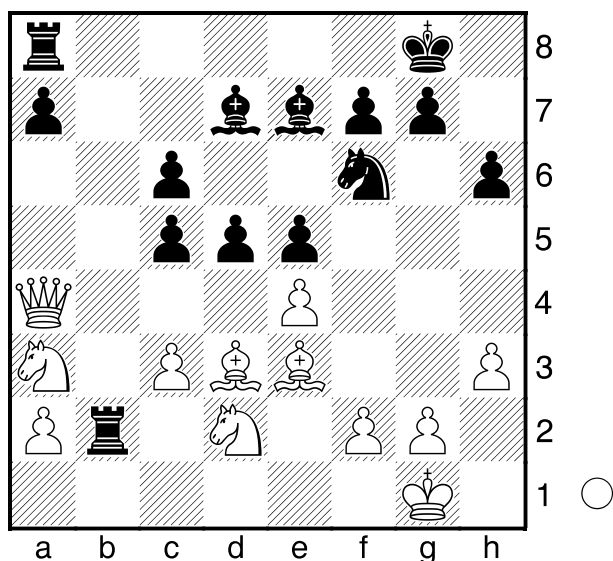
[22.Qa5!]

22...d5 23.Bd3 Rb2?!

[23...Rbb8]

(Diagram)

A "bad luck" square for the rook. **24.Nf3?!**



[24.Nac4! dxc4 25.Nxc4 Rbb8 26.Nxe5 Be8 27.f4+- cashes in for two, soon three pawns, leaving Black still unfocused.]

24...Bd6

[24...Rxa2!]

25.Nc2?

[25.Bc1!+- sends the rook home once again.]

25...a5?

[25...c4! is close to winning for Black! White has to resort to 26.Bxc4 dxc4 27.Nd2 c5 28.Qa6 Bf8 29.Ne1 but still Black is on top.]

26.Qa3

[26.Nce1!]

26...Rb1+ 27.Nce1 Rbb8 28.Bxc5?

There is a pawn fork to contend with!

[28.Nd2+-]

28...Bxc5 29.Qxc5 dxe4 30.Nxe5

exd3 31.N1xd3 White comes out with a slight advantage, but nothing special.

31...Rb5?!

[31...Re8!? White could win the c-pawn two ways, but Black gets counterplay.]

32.Qc4 Be8 33.Nxc6 Bxc6 34.Qxc6 Rb1+ 35.Kh2 Rd8 36.Ne5

[36.Qc7! and the knight can't be taken.]

36...Rbd1?!

[36...Rb2 37.Qc7 Rf8]

37.Qc7 Rf8 38.Qxa5 Rd5 39.Qc7

Rfd8? The players must have been short on time or attention, as they really start to miss things! **40.Qxf7+ Kh7 41.Qg6+ Kg8 42.Nc6**

[42.Nf7! The queen and knight work well together, as Capablanca famously noted a hundred years ago.]

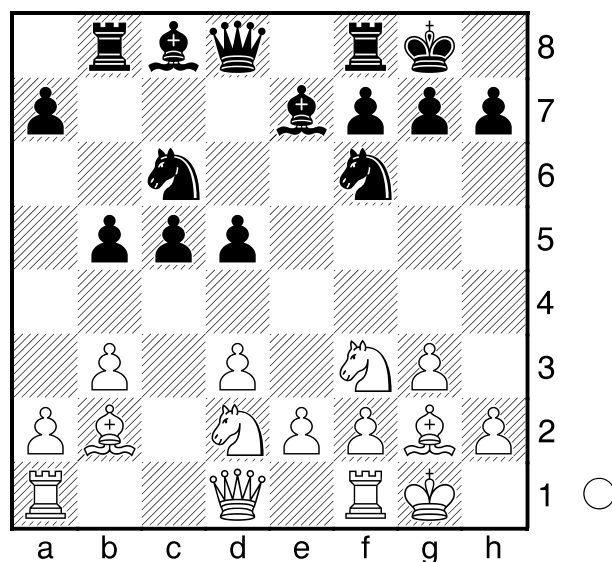
42...R8d7 43.Nd4 Re7 44.Nf5 Ree5?

45.Nxh6+? Overlooking mate in one! But Black saw the loss of the exchange and resigned anyway! A bumpy ride! We'll be watching Nicolas's last round, and looking forward to his next tournament as well!

1-0

A14
 1400
 1078
 MI Conway TNM: u1800 (6.21) 07.06.22
 [de Firmian]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.d3 0-0 7.0-0 c5 8.b3 Nc6 9.Bb2 Rb8 10.Nbd2 b5



An aggressive move to take queenside space. The opening play has been good from both players and chances are equal here. **11.Qc2 Qb6 12.Ne5 Bb7**

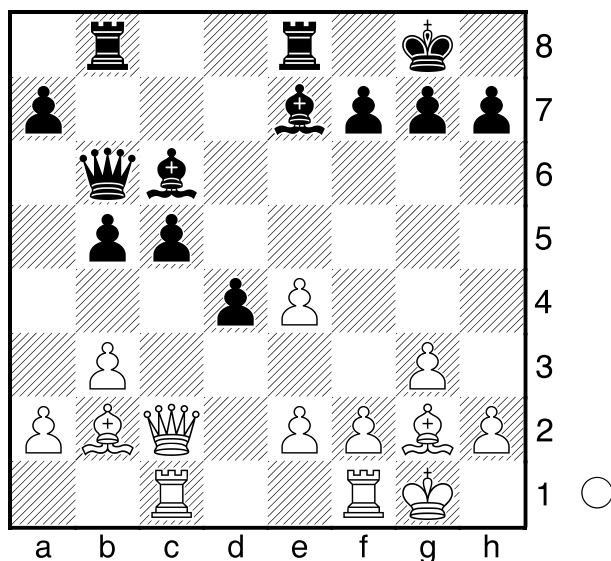
13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Rac1 d4?!

[14...Rbc8 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Qxc5 Qa5 would be fair play for the pawn sacrificed]

15.Ne4?!

[15.Bxc6 Qxc6 16.Bxd4! wins a pawn]

15...Nxe4 16.dxe4 Rfe8?



17.Bxd4! Bxe4 Danny chooses this way to lose a pawn, trying to get bishops of opposite color

[17...cxd4 18.Qxc6 Qxc6 19.Rxc6]

18.Bxe4 cxd4 19.Bxh7+ Kh8 20.Bd3

Bg5 21.f4! Be7 22.Qc6 Qxc6

[22...Qb7 23.Qxb7 Rxb7]

[22...Qa5 23.Qe4 g6 24.a4

(24.Qxd4+)]

23.Rxc6 The endgame is winning for White despite the opposite color bishops. The white pieces are well placed and the pawns strong. **23...a5 24.Rfc1 Bb4 25.f5**

[25.Rc7]

25...f6 26.Re6 Rxe6

[26...Rbc8 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.Rc7]

27.fxe6 Bc3

[27...Be7]

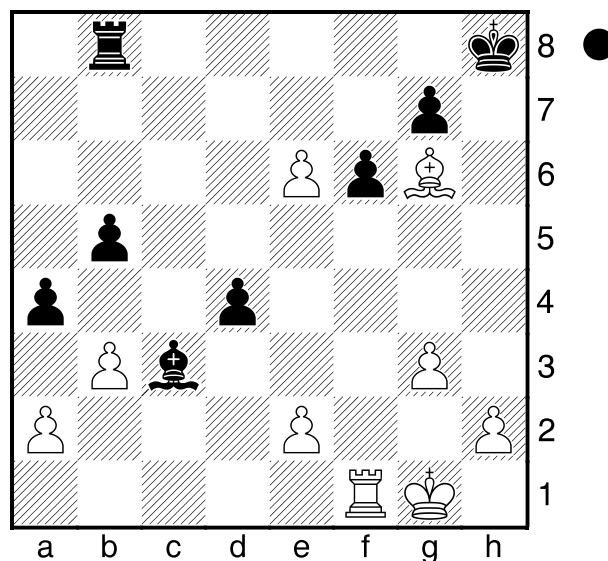
28.Rf1

[28.Bg6!]

28...a4?!

[28...Re8 29.Rf5 Rxe6 30.Rxb5 g6! would give some drawing chances]

29.Bg6



now the e6 pawn is a monster **29...Bb4**

[29...Kg8]

30.Rc1 Kg8 31.Rc7 Kf8

[31...Kh8 32.e7]

32.Rf7+ Ke8?

[32...Kg8 would hold out longer but White is clearly winning anyway]

33.Rxg7+

[33.Rb7+]

33...Kf8

[33...Kd8 34.Rd7+ Kc8 35.Bf5 d3 36.e7]

34.Rf7+ Ke8?!

[34...Kg8]

35.Rb7+ Kd8 36.Rxb8+ Ke7 37.Bf5 Bc5 38.Rxb5 Ba7 39.Rb7+

Black Resigns. A well played endgame by David Olson.

1-0

57th Arthur B. Stamer Memorial

An appropriate number of players – 64 - turned out June 4th for the tournament named after the MI Chess Club's first director. The top section (over 1800) was won convincingly in a breakout performance by Expert **Alan Finklestein** – he scored a perfect 4-0. Tied for 2nd at 3-1 were NM **Conrado Diaz**, who played himself back into form after being upset by A player **Hanchi Yao** in round one, and Experts **Nitish Nathan** and **Lucas Lesniewski**. The under 1800 section was won jointly by **Adam Stevens** and **Jonathan Disenhof**, both scoring a perfect 4-0. Trailing by only half a point was **Matthew Ma**.

Full results: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/57th-stamer-memorial-championship>



Arthur Stamer (left) with Henry Gross and MI trustee Charles Bagby, sometime in the 1950's. Photo: Mechanics' Archives.

Continuing a recent tradition of analyzing games 'just found on the floor in the chess room,' we present two such random finds from the 57th Arthur B. Stamer under 1800 section.

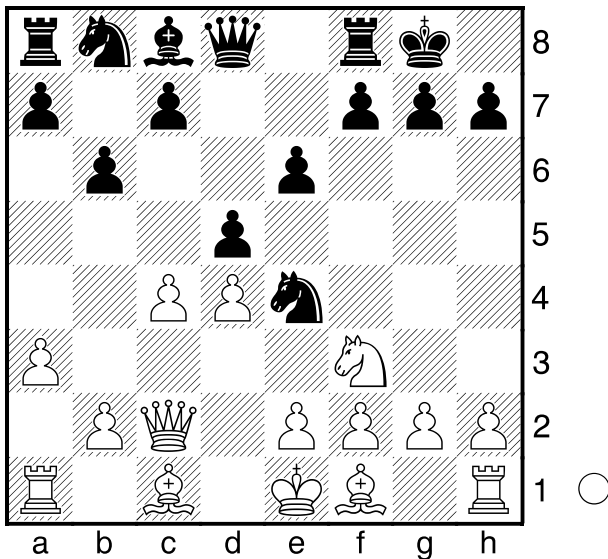
No effort has been made to protect the innocent!

E37

□ Chan,Yedi
 ■ Shubhankar,Sharan

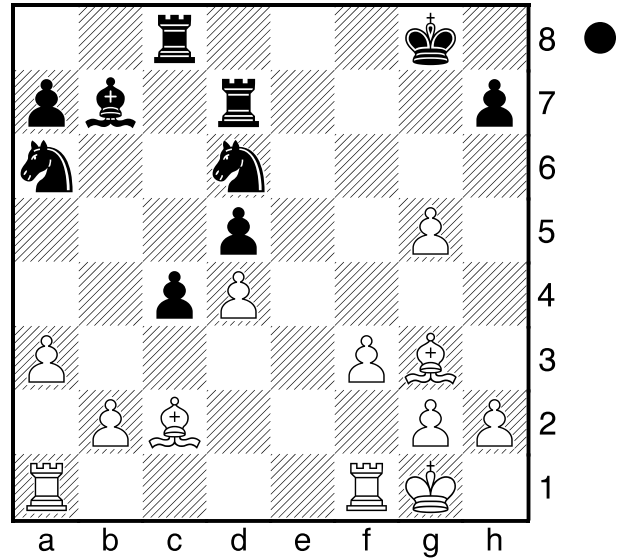
57th Stamer Memorial (3) 04.06.2022
 [Whitehead, Paul]

With 'found' games you never know what to expect. If every game tells a story, this one might be titled: Look Before You Leap. **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qc2 0-0 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3 Ne4 8.Qc2 b6**

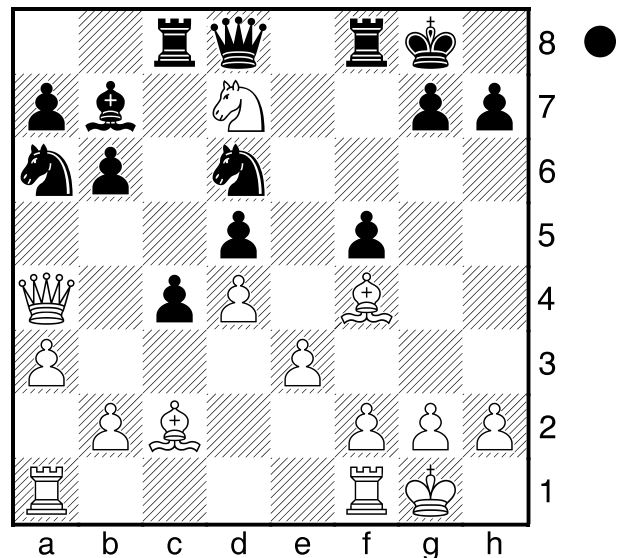


9.cxd5 This makes black's life a bit easier. Simply **9.e3** is better. **9...exd5 10.Bf4 Na6?! Misplacing the knight.**
 [10...c5=]
11.e3
 [11.Qc6! Rb8 12.e3 was also good.]
11...c5 12.Bd3 f5!? Black plays an aggressive, whole-board game. But this weakens e5 irreperably. 13.0-0 Bb7 14.Ne5 Rc8 15.Qa4 c4 16.Bc2?!
 [The simple 16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.f3 gives white a big edge. Black's knight and bishop are stuck.]
16...Nd6?!
 [Black should strike with 16...g5! 17.Bg3 f4! 18.f3 b5! 19.Qxb5 Nd6 winning a piece, although white gets compensation with 20.Qd7! Qxd7

21.Nxd7 Rf7 22.exf4 Rxd7 23.fxg5



with the very definition of an unclear position.]
17.Nd7??
 [Instead 17.Qd7! guarantees white a better game.]



Alas, white leaps... **17...b5** This traps the queen, and the game is over.
18.Qxa6 Bxa6 19.Nxf8 Qxf8 20.Bxd6 Qxd6 21.Bxf5 Rf8 22.Bg4 Rf6
 The game continued for awhile, but eventually white resigned.
0-1

□ Lu, Katherine

■ Singh, Amrit

57th Stamer Memorial (4)

04.06.2022

[Whitehead, Paul]

B90

1330

0

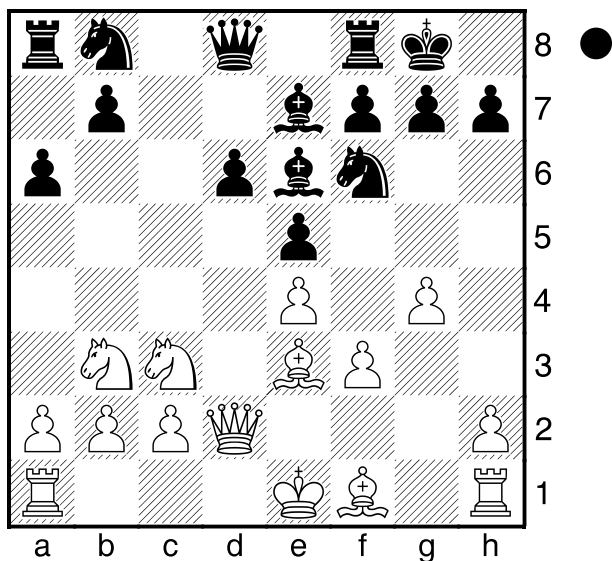
Another game that 'turns on a dime'.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6
8.f3 Be7 9.Qd2 0-0

[9...h5 holding up white's intended g4
is another idea.]

10.g4

[10.0-0-0 is far more common,
holding up ...d5.]



10...b5

[10...d5! And if 11.g5 d4! is the way
to play here.]

11.Nd5 This gives white very little.

11...Nxd5 12.exd5 Bh4+! 13.Kd1

[If 13.Bf2 Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Qh4+
15.Kg1 Bc8! keeping d7 for the knight
and intending ...f5. Black is much
better.]

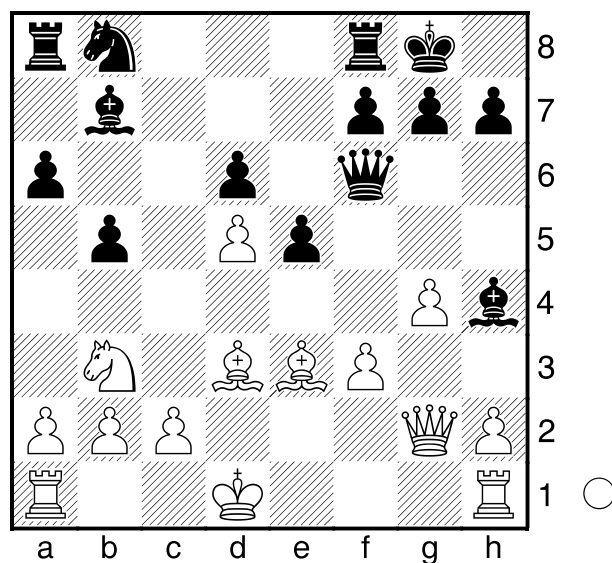
13...Bc8 14.Bd3

[14.a4!?]

14...Qf6

[14...f5!±]

15.Qg2 Bb7?



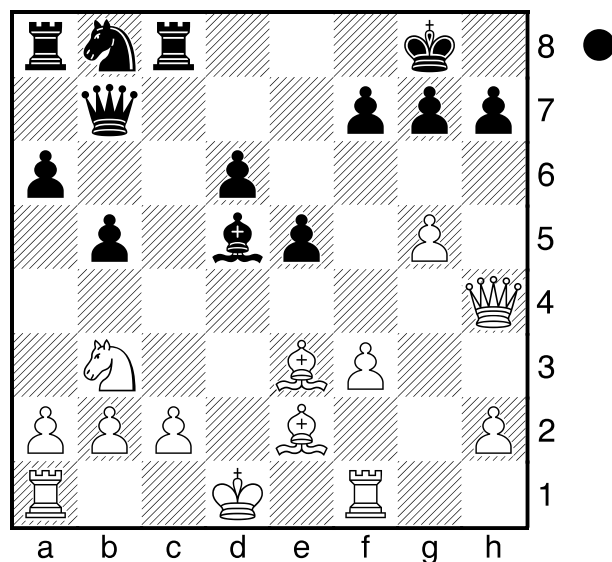
Loses a piece. 16.g5! Qe7 17.Qg4
Bxd5 18.Rf1

[18.Be4! challenging the bishop was
better.]

18...Qb7 19.Be2

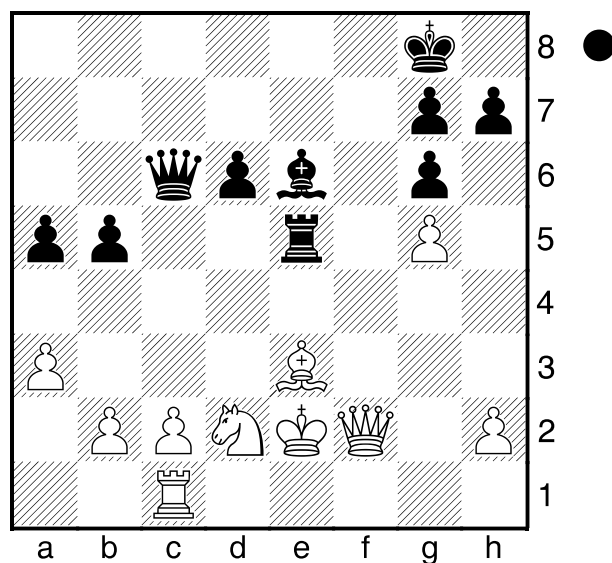
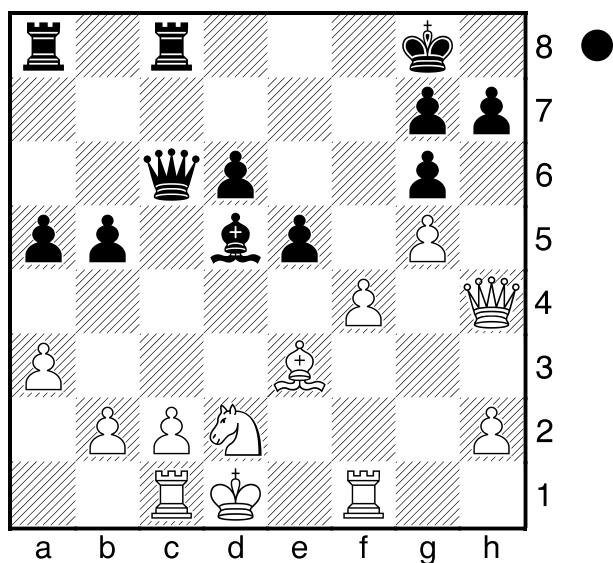
[19.Qxh4! Bxf3+ 20.Rxf3 Qxf3+
21.Kd2 Qg2+ 22.Ke1 f5 23.gxf6+-]

19...Rc8 20.Qxh4



Now white just needs to consolidate her
position... 20...Qc6 21.Rc1 a5 22.a3
Nd7 23.Nd2 Nf8 24.Bd3 Ng6 25.Bxg6
fxg6 26.f4

(Diagram)



Things are still going well. **26...Rf8**

27.Qe1? A passive move. And, like most passive moves, a mistake.

[27.fxe5! with the exchange of a pair of rooks, white is still winning.]

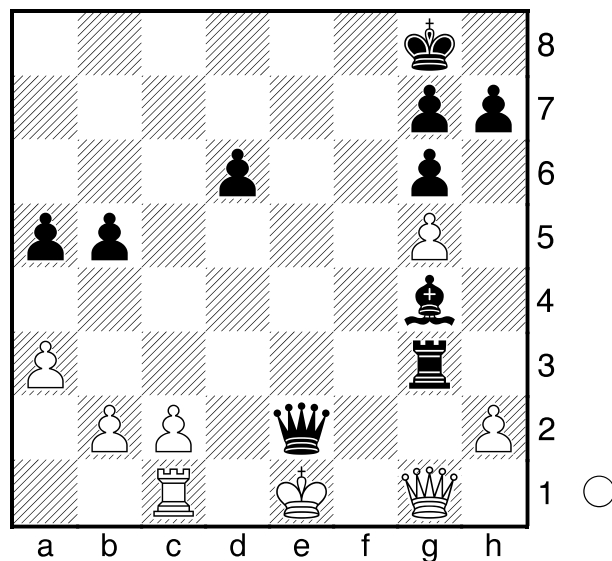
27...Rae8?

[Black is also too slow. Instead 27...exf4! 28.Bxf4 Rae8 29.Qg3 Bc4! puts the white king in a deadly central cross-fire.]

28.fxe5! Back on track. **28...Rxf1**

29.Qxf1 Rxe5 30.Qf2 Be6 31.Ke2??

[31.Nb3! Trying to play on the dark squares (Kd2, Nd4) should still win.]



(Diagram)

31...Bg4+ 32.Kf1?

[32.Ke1 Qh1+ 33.Nf1 Bh3+]

32...Rf5+ 33.Bf4 Qh1+ 34.Qg1 Rxf4+

35.Nf3 Rxf3+ 36.Ke2 Rg3+ 37.Kf2

Qf3+ 38.Ke1 Qe2#

(Diagram)

Chess can be a cruel game!

0-1

GM Nick de Firmian

A Step Back in Time.

The 15th and 16th World Champions are in a close, heated battle for first place in the strongest tournament being played now in the world. This sounds perfectly normal, and it certainly would have been – ten years ago. It's no surprise to see the current champion, Magnus, at the top of the heap. He has so dominated chess the last decade that him not winning an event is something of an upset. He gained the title of world champion nine years ago in 2013 with a clear match victory over reigning champion Vishy Anand. This seemed the natural order of things as Carlsen is 21 years younger than Anand and the rise of youth is an inexorable fact of all sports. The great battles these two had a decade ago were riveting as they were clearly the top two players in the world. Anand however is 52 years old and has faded on the world scene over the last decade. Yet the last month has seen him back in the fighting form of his youth.

These two are once again locked in a tight race for first in the Norway Chess 2022 International. Carlsen has 13.5 points after 7 rounds and Anand 13 points, well ahead of the rest of the field. The individual matchup even resulted in a victory for Anand, as they drew their classical game and Anand scored a victory over Carlsen in the blitz Armageddon game. (Players get 3 points for a classical victory, 1.5 points for an Armageddon win and 1 point if they lose the Armageddon game.) The finish will be exciting with the last two rounds left to decide. Carlsen is getting in the groove with his patented grinding style which pushes a small advantage to its maximum to heap pressure on the opponent. Most opponents crack if the battle goes long enough. Meanwhile Anand shows his incisive, brilliant style of yesteryear with his trademark tactical flourishes. We give below a game of each of these champions.

Carlsen, Magnus **D78**
2864

Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar **2751**
 Norway Chess 2022 (11) 31.05.2022
[de Firmian]

Slow 90min+30sec **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6**

3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0

A symmetrical Neo-Gruenfeld. The opening is solid to begin with. **6.c4 c6**

7.Nc3 dxc4 8.e4 Bg4 Shakh grabs a

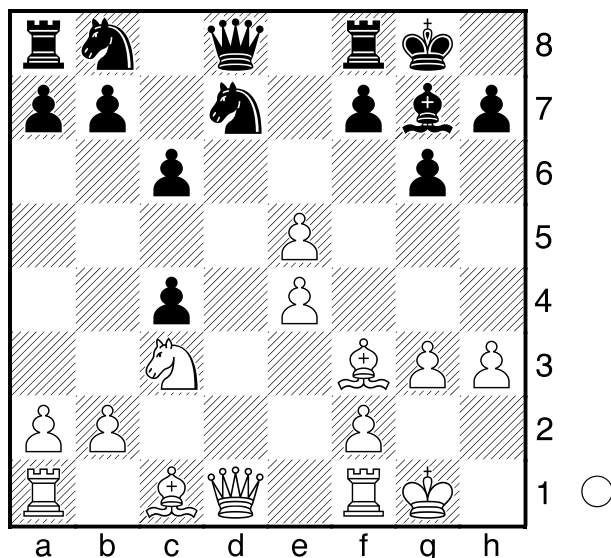
pawn while allowing White to take the

center. Now the game has sharpened

up. **9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 e5** hitting back

to take some central dark squares

11.dxe5 Nfd7



12.e6! This pawn is doomed anyway, so may as well weaken the black pawn structure. **12...fxe6 13.Be3 Qe7**

14.Bg2 Na6 15.Qe2 Nb4

[Holding the pawn with 15...b5?!

16.a4 gives White easy, active play]

16.Qxc4 Nc2 17.Nd5! Carlsen said this move was part of his preparation for the

title match against Nepomniachtchi last

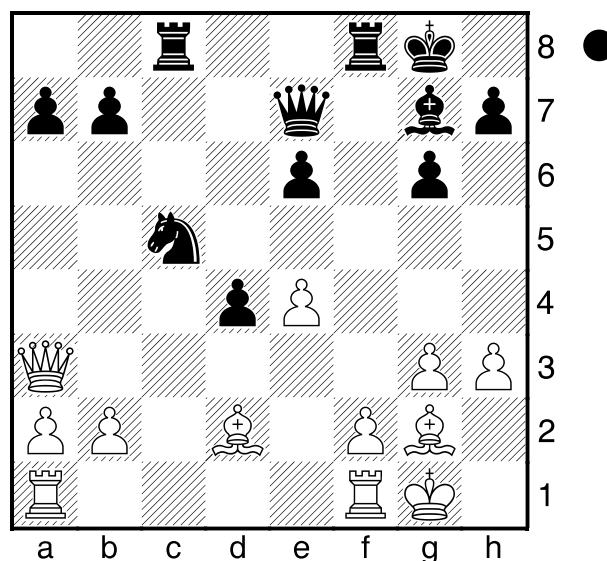
year. It's all very aggressive, but

Mamedyarov reacts with cool and calm

moves. **17...cxd5 18.Qxc2 d4! 19.Bd2**

Rac8 20.Qb3 Nc5 21.Qa3

(Diagram)



White has the bishop pair while Black has the strong d-pawn. Chances are about even and the position has lots of imbalanced play in it. **21...Qd7 22.Rac1** [22.Qxa7?! d3 23.Be3 Na4 is nice for Black]

22...b6 23.e5!? giving a pawn again to keep active bishops. Carlsen chooses a practical way to keep pressure on his opponent, keeping the position fluid.

23...Bxe5 24.Rfe1 Bg7 25.b4 Na4

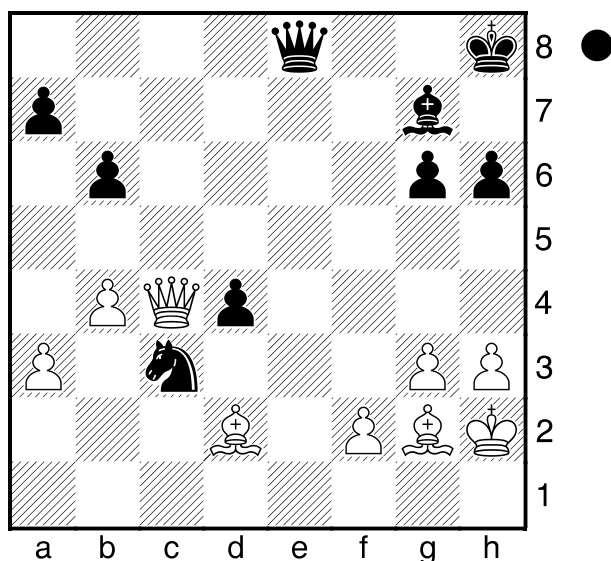
26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.Qb3 Nc3!?

[White also wins the pawn back after 27...Re8 28.Rxe6 Rxe6 29.Bd5 Kf7 30.Bxe6+ Qxe6 31.Qxa4]

28.Rxe6 Kh8 29.Kh2 Re8 30.Rxe8+ Qxe8 31.Qc4 h6 32.a3

(Diagram)

We take a pause here to look at the position. Objectively Black should be able to draw, but that's very difficult in practice against Carlsen. The bishop pair and slight pressure allow him to play for a long time and make trouble on both sides of the board. **32...a5 33.bxa5 bxa5 34.Bf1!** headed to the fine d3 square **34...Qf8 35.Kg2 Ne4 36.Be1 Qxa3 37.Bd3 Nd6 38.Qa6**



again Black is temporarily a pawn ahead, but he must give something back
38...Nf5 39.h4 h5 40.Bxa5 Kh7 41.Qb5 Three pawns each leaves not too much left, yet the white bishop on d3 exerts strong pressure. **41...Qf8 42.Qd5 Qd6 43.Qf3**

[43.Qxd6!? Nxd6 44.Kf3 is a fair alternative. The endgame would also be hard for Black.]

43...Qe5

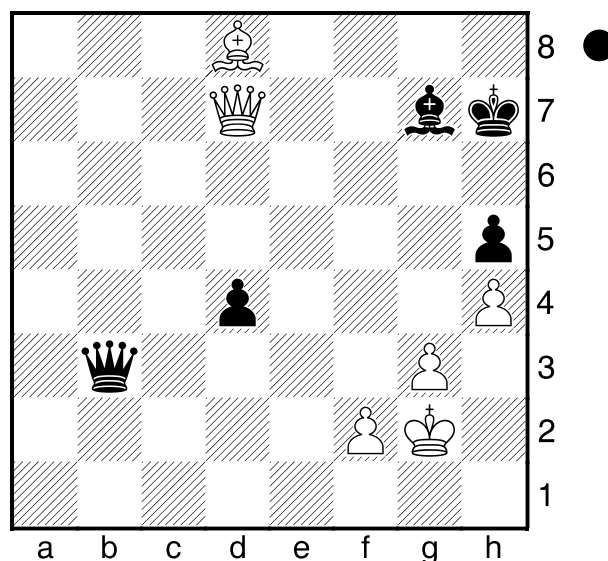
[43...Qa3! 44.Bb6 Ne3+ 45.fxe3 Qxd3 46.exd4 Qc2+ was probably the best route for a draw. Even though White would have an extra pawn it would be very difficult to make progress.]

44.Bd8 Qe6 45.Qb7 Nd6 46.Qc6 Qb3? Mamedyarov cracks under the pressure. It's not pleasant for Black after [46...Be5 47.Bc7 yet he doesn't lose material]

47.Bxg6+ Kxg6 48.Qxd6+ Kh7 49.Qd7!

(Diagram)

This move wins the game. It takes control of critical white squares and threatens 50. Bf6. Black can't hold



things together anymore. **49...Kg6**

50.Qc6+ Kf7 51.Qc5 Qb7+ 52.f3

The black pawn on h5 will go now.

52...Ke8 53.Bc7 Qb2+ 54.Kh3 d3

55.Qxh5+ Kd7 56.Qf7+ Kc6

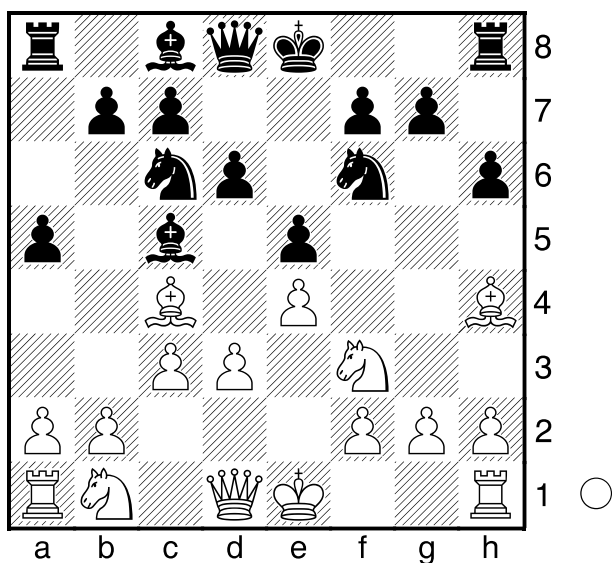
Mamedyarov played this and resigned since 57. Qc4+ Kb7 58. Bf4 stops the d-pawn and remains two pawns up.

1-0

C54
 2751
 2753
 Norway Chess 2022 (14) 07.06.2022
 [de Firmian]

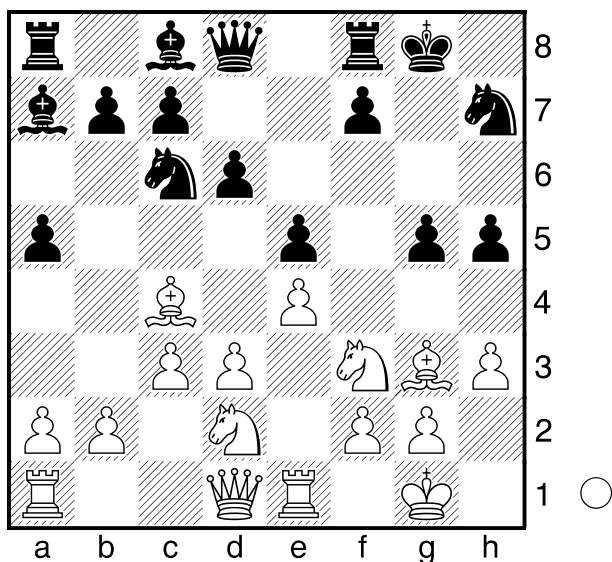
Blitz 5min This was the Armageddon game of the match after the players drew their classical time control game. Even though it's a quick game it shows Anand's sparkling style. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3** This Giuoco Pianissimo is all the rage now. It has supplanted the Ruy Lopez as the opening of choice for the top players. **5...d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 a5!?**

(Diagram)



A trendy move to take space on the queenside and make a safe retreat for the bishop on a7. We cannot really speak of an opening advantage for White, but the position leaves lots of scope for play on both sides and the center.

8.Nbd2 Ba7 9.0-0 g5 10.Bg3 0-0 11.Re1 Nh7 12.h3 h5



Aggressive play from Radjabov! Black advances his kingside pawns even though he is castled on that side himself. It can be weakening but it certainly creates trouble for White also. **13.d4 Qf6 14.Bb5 h4 15.Bh2 g4 16.hxg4**

Bxg4 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Qa4

[18.dxe5 Qg7 is possible but it opens the diagonal of the bishop on a7. Anand's move is safer.]

18...h3 19.Bg3!?

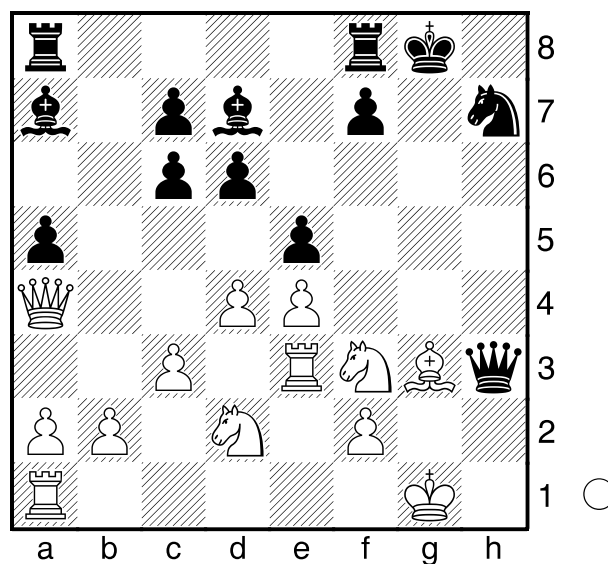
[19.Re3]

19...Qh6 20.gxh3 Qxh3 21.Re3

Thus far we have a well played game and Black would not be worse if he played 21...Qh5. One slip is all it takes.

21...Bd7?

[21...Qh5 22.Qxc6]



22.Nxe5! suddenly the black position is blown apart. Typical of Anand to seize the tactical opportunity. **22...dxe5** declining the sacrifice would lose at least two pawns **23.Bxe5 Qh5 24.Rg3+ Bg4** nothing works for Black, e.g.

[24...Ng5 25.Bf6 Kh7 26.Bxg5 Rg8 27.f4 f6 28.Qc4 fxg5 29.Kg2 gxf4 30.Qf7+! Qxf7 31.Rh1+ Qh5 32.Rxh5#]

25.Qd1 Radjabov resigned as he loses at least three pawns in the ending.

1-0

IM John Donaldson

Two New Books on the Sicilian.

Hundreds of books have been written on 1.e4 c5 but amazingly enough English International Master Andrew Martin has found a fresh topic to write on. *Play the O'Kelly Sicilian* (Everyman Chess, 279 pages) is only the second book dedicated to the sequence 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 , appearing almost thirty years after *Sicilian Defense O'Kelly Variation* by John Lutes.

The O'Kelly is the odd Sicilian variation where the automatic 3.d4 is a mistake. Indeed after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 Black has already equalized after just five moves – that's not something you can say about the Najdorf, Dragon or Sveshnikov if White plays 3.d4.

If 3.d4 were forced everyone would play the O'Kelly, but it isn't. 3.c4 or 3.c3 have always been considered more theoretically challenging as they question the usefulness of 2...a6. Martin believes he has viable answers to both.

The old main line 3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 e5 7.Nf5 d5 8.cxd5 Bxf5 9.exf5 Nd4 10.Bd3 Nxd5 doesn't equalize and the recent refinement 10...Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Be4



still offers White a small but pleasant advantage.

Martin offers two interesting lines to meet White's Maróczy Bind setup. promising ideas. The first, championed by Russian 2700 Vladislav Artemiev who has successfully

employed the O'Kelly at blitz and rapid time controls, is 3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Nf5 d6 7.Nc3 g6 8.Ne3 Bh6



(8...Bg7 is also reasonable).

The second is a gambit line that begins with 3...d6 4.d4 Bg4 5.dxc5 Bxf3 6.gxf3 (6.Qxf3 dxc5 and Black is doing well with a knight heading to d4) 6...e6!? (6...dxc5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Be3



is no fun for the second player). Black probably doesn't have enough for the pawn after 7.cxd6 Bxd6 in world class events, but at the amateur level it should do just fine.

The other supposed refutation of 2...a6 is 3.c3 turning the game into an Alapin Sicilian where the early advance of the a-pawn might be a time waster. Martin's solution is 3...d5 4.exd5 Qxd5. One idea is that in the event White accepts an isolated d-pawn Black may follow up with ...b5 and ...Bb7 leading to typical IQP positions. One advantage of ...a6, is that by delaying the development of his king bishop Black may deploy it more actively on d6 instead of e7. For example 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Be3 (intending Ne5 and Bf3) 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Qd8 10.Nc3 Bd6!



as in S. Pranav-Vidit, Mumbai 2009. The strength of this idea was first pointed out in John Emms' outstanding chapter The O'Kelly Variation: Not Just a One-Trick Pony in *Dangerous Weapons: The Sicilian* (Everyman Chess 2006).

Martin has made a good case that Black can obtain satisfactory play after 3.c4 and 3.c3, but what if White is content to offer a transposition to a Paulsen/Kan or Taimanov Sicilian after 3.Nc3? This offer does cut down on White's options. If, for example, 3...a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 the first player has lost the option to play c4 (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4) or Bd3 without his knight on c3 (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3). These are concessions by White which Black can attempt to meet by 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 b5, a line championed by Adrien Demuth in the *The Modernized Sicilian Kan* (Thinkers Publishing 2022).

Another option for Black is to transpose into the Taimanov variation (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6) via 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6. The latter line allows Black to avoid 5.c4 and 5.Nb5.

Of course, having to learn some Kan/Paulsen or Taimanov lines might not be what the O'Kelly player is hoping for. Many who play 2...a6 do so precisely to avoid more heavily analyzed Sicilians. Does Black have a way to steer the game into more independent waters after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.Nc3? Martin believes he does and offers two choices.

His backup is 3...d6 4.d4 Nd7 which the late Hungarian Grandmaster Istvan Csom successfully employed on a number of occasions. He typically developed in normal Sicilian Scheveningen fashion only playing ...cxd4 after White had lost the option to opt for some of his most aggressive setups. The problem with this line looks to be 5.dxc5 Nxc5 6.Bf4 intending e5 if Black plays ...Nf6. The second player can develop his queenside first with ...b6, ...Bb7 and ...Rc8 but sooner or later he has to bring out his kingside pieces and there doesn't appear to be a good way to do this according to Stockfish. This is a pity as Csom had good results with this line, even getting the better of it against Tal, who played 6.Be3, allowing Black to develop with ...e6, ...Ne7, ...Nc6 and ...Be7.

Martin's first choice is 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.Nc3 b5 4.d4 e6, a great favorite of the 1965 World Junior Champion Bojan Kurajica who is still playing 2500 chess in his mid-70s. Interestingly the first game I could find with this line was Tarjan-Fritzinger from the 1968 US Open. The 2022 US Chess Hall of Fame inductee played the most critical move, 5.d5. Martin then considers 5...Bb7 to be Black's best answer, meeting 6.Bg5 with 6...Be7. If White then trades on e7 Black seems to be doing okay. More testing is the untested computer recommendation of 7.h4 with the idea of meeting 7...h6 (what else?) with 8.Bf4 (idea 9.d6) 8...d6 9.dxe6 fxe6 10.e5 d5 11.Bd3



and Black is in dire straits because of the weakening caused by ...h6. Of course, this is hardly forced and one can see this line doing fine at club level, but for players higher up Emm's recommendation to consider transposing into the Kan/Paulsen or Taimanov rings true.

If the latter is what Black is considering he may wish to consider *the Sicilian Taimanov* (Everyman Chess 2022, 272 pages, \$27.95). The latest book by the English Grandmaster Nigel Davies covers standard Taimanov lines 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 like 5.Nb5 and 5.Nc3 a6 6.Nxc6, but the heart and soul of this book, which makes it stand out, is its examination of lines where Black develops his king knight to e7. As Davies points out in his introduction, although the opening sequence 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 is commonly called the Taimanov, this is not precise. It is actually the lines after 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 and 6.g3 where Black plays 6...Nge7 and 6.f4 and 6.Be3 are met by 6...Nxd4 and later...Ne7, which are the intellectual property of Taimanov. It was he who came up with this setup which often sees the Black king knight end up on g6 or c8, the queen on e8 and the bishop on f6. Black often meets e5 with f6. All this is unique to Taimanov's system which is less theoretical and more strategic than many other Sicilian lines.

This line is not well-covered in the chess literature with only Taimanov's 1989 book *The Sicilian Defense Taimanov System* devoted exclusively to it. In modern times James Rizzitano's *Chess Explained: The Taimanov Sicilian* provides some coverage but is still 16 years old. Clearly Davies' book is long overdue.

Davies also covers anti-Sicilian lines where White deviates from 3.d4. This includes the Closed Sicilian, Alapin, Grand Prix Attack and sidelines.

Both *Play the O'Kelly Sicilian* and *the Sicilian Taimanov* are arranged around well-annotated model games and not organized the way theory books traditionally are. On the plus side this makes them ideally suited as teaching tools for players rated 1800 to 2300 who are looking for guidance on these openings. That said, stronger players will want to supplement these works with other sources and independent work. Like other Everyman Chess publications these books are available in a variety of formats, electronic as well as print. For more information on these options and samples from the book go to www.everymanchess.com.

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

On the eve of the 2022 Candidates Tournament, GM Hikaru Nakamura mulls it all over:

<https://new.uschess.org/news/i-do-feel-big-responsibility>

Vladimir Putin rewards Sergey Karjakin for backing him up:

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/chess-putin-gives-award-grandmaster-banned-backing-ukraine-invasion-2022-06-02/>

Playing chess in Miami Beach sounds good right about now:

<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/events/open-play-chess/>

The upcoming Olympiad in Chennai, India, will introduce a torch relay for the first time:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/chess/fide-announces-torch-relay-before-chess-olympiad/article38501195.ece>

Chess returns to Pasadena:

<https://www.pasadenanow.com/weekendr/chess-night-is-back/>

'Bullet Chess' examined in more depth than one might have thought possible:

<https://gamerant.com/bullet-chess-tips/>

Chess - find a friend or foe in Findlay:

<https://thecourier.com/news/390157/chess-revival-comes-to-findlay/>

Boxing great Lennox Lewis loves the game of chess:

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2022/jun/06/remember-when-arkansas-chess-loving-lennox-lewis/>

IM Alexander Nikitin, trainer of Kasparov, Bacrot and Jakavenko, has passed away:

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/alexander-nikitin-obituary>

The small town of Coquille in Oregon has some craaaazy chess events coming up:

https://theworldlink.com/news/local/coquille-chess-club-hosts-tourney-plans-summer-events/article_b01bcc1c-e1d5-11ec-896b-1bd3c7d3a043.html

Never looked at a chess stream on YouTube? Try dipping your feet in here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXkpsA5baHQ>

Finally, Her Majesty the Queen does NOT play around:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/420996-queen-urged-not-to-let-meghan-markle-win-the-pr-chess-match>

Tony's Teasers



1. P. T. Cate, 1976. White mates in two moves.



2. T. Sarsenkekov, 1981. White mates in three moves.

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café.

At the café of Monday, June 6, 2022 we analyzed three games, but began with news of the pandemic among us. Two of our regulars had contracted Covid from infected tournament players, the presence of whom led to a re-imposition of the mask rule in the M.I. chess room.

The illness came on fast. After a couple of negative tests at home and the PCR test at Kaiser, they started feeling really bad a couple of days later. "When I'm sick I dream that I'm diagnosing my whole body. At one point I thought, Another lung infection, how unfair." They were put on Paxlovid, recently approved for emergency use.

The other player said, "To get well I was eating hot and sour soup with bok choy and fish fillet, but the two dishes ended up dosing me with MSG and giving me a headache. I think it was because I insisted on a clear broth with no meat, and the cook thought, 'That's bland, I'll jack it up' and poisoned me. Oh well, it's been happening for decades."

I told Juliana of Bernal Chess and the others that on Sunday, June 5 from 4:00 to 7:00 I went to the third monthly meeting of a new group called the No Kings No Queens Chess Club, led by trumpeter Danny Cao of the Mechanics' Institute, in the spacious back room of a good looking bookstore called Medicine for Nightmares, 3036 Twenty-Fourth Street (between Folsom and Harrison). They had four boards going (seven laid out) and some spirited players. Walking west on 24th from Mission St to get there, I passed buildings and several alleys leading north with blocks of colorful murals.

We talked of notable chess spaces, including an apartment in Alameda now shared by Mike Walder, Elliott Winslow, and Frank Thornally. Others mentioned one in Berkeley that probably included Nick de Firmian and Walter Browne; and a house shared by Jesse Kraai, David Preuss, Andy Lee, "and those guys."

Another attendee mentioned having nine weeks of dizziness after her 4th shot, a second booster. She said June 6 was the first day she had felt completely normal since the end of March. When we talked about the art of giving an injection, she said she

discovered that moving her arms in a circular motion beforehand produced a shot without any pain at all.

I mentioned one or two shots that were unnecessarily painful, and one that was delivered fast by a busy guy in an ER, who quickly slowed it down and apologized.

“Technique matters,” said Paul, bringing us back to chess.

When I mentioned that they once paid you \$20 for a pint of blood and I used that while a student, Andrejs Gulbis added that there also used to be a card handed to donors in case that said, “This person is on a plasma donation program. The marks on [their] arm are because of this.”

Paul talked briefly about the café as a place where one could say virtually anything about any subject of interest.

Alexey Root mentioned that she was still working to finish her new book, *United States Women Chess Champions*. “I’ve got through 50 games so far. The historian John Hilbert said he would create an index for my book, so I’m proofing his book, 600 pages on Albert Whiting Fox. Fox (1881-1964) was an American master, and we went over a game of his that may or not be apocryphal.

Wikipedia says, “Born in Boston, [Fox] spent a few years in Germany, studying mathematics. By the end of his sojourn in Europe, he won several brilliant games in 1900 and 1901 at Café de la Régence in Paris, and in Antwerp and Heidelberg. Fox returned to America in 1901. He tied for 10–11th at Cambridge Springs 1904 (won by Frank Marshall), and won the Manhattan Chess Club Championship in 1905/06.”

Then she talked about the John Griswold White Collection at the Cleveland Public Library, considered to be the world’s largest collection of chess material in the world. She visited on July 21, 2021 and wrote an article about it that appeared in *Chess News* at ChessBase on 8/17/2021 with several interesting photos. She wrote that the 1925 building has elegant neo-classical architecture and sweeping marble staircases. The internal and external photos are reminiscent of a number of San Francisco buildings in or near the Civic Center, including the old Main Library (now the Asian Art Museum) and

the post office and courthouse at 7th and Mission. One of the shots from Cleveland shows browseable stacks from the side that look like those in the Mechanics' Institute Library.

Raymond W. Rozman III, Special Collections Librarian at the Cleveland Public Library has said, "White (1845-1928) was the foremost chess collector of his era, well known to book dealers in America and Europe, and he also collected heavily in folklore and other areas." The collection includes the archival collections of José Raúl Capablanca, Emanuel Lasker, Claude Bloodgood, and others.

"I found three games that I will annotate for United States Women's Chess Champions," Alexey told us. "I was most excited about finding a 1937 U.S. Women's Chess Championship game by Adele Rivero, that year's champion. Edith Lucie Weart's scrapbook had the game. Who did Rivero defeat in the game I found? Weart!

"I am still looking for wins or draws by Gisela Kahn Gresser and Mona May Karff from the 1948 U.S. Women's Chess Championship, where they were co-champions. While the 1948 U.S. Championship, held at the same time and place as the 1948 Women's, is well documented in the collection and elsewhere, the women co-champions' games appear to be missing. The last game on my wish list is a win or draw by Karff played during the 1974 U.S. Women's Chess Championship, which she won. Please comment or contact me if you have these games."

(For more on the John G. White Collection of Chess and Checkers and about students playing chess at the library, read Mark N. Taylor's December 2012 Chess Life cover story, accessible through that magazine's digital archive. Researchers and others can contact the collection at special.collections@cpl.org.)

We looked at Juliana Gallin's online game as White against a French Defense with 3. e5.

Paul Whitehead: "5. . . a6 is a bit unusual. Black has to be careful not to fall behind in development."

Mike Walder said that move is often played against the Morra, but never against the Wing.

Elliott Winslow pointed out some early moves in the O’Kelly Sicilian that can lead to the same position.

Black developed a large pawn wedge (a6-b5-c4-d5-e6-f7), but it wasn’t enough. There was an argument by Elliott, Paul, and Alexey over tactics after a possible Queen sacrifice by White. Juliana: “I didn’t have the guts to play the sacrifice, but I considered it.”

Paul: “We’ve been criticizing your Queenside play, but it’s beginning to pay off. . . White has something here. It might be a sac on c4 or something else. Black’s queenside development didn’t hold together, and you reacted well. . . Crush the French and make the chess world happy.”

Mike Walder mentioned that Giri, Nepomniatchi, and Vachier-LaGrave are top players who play the French. “My coach has been helping me work on playing against this opening. We’re up to the Steinitz.” He mentioned the gambit . . . cxd4; Bd3.

Elliott: “The analysis is a hundred years old.”

I piped in, “Truth is truth.”

Mike: “Black develops . . . Ne7 to c6 and Nbd7 to get both Knights hitting White’s e5 pawn.”

We’ll have to keep till next time Mike’s game against Tim Pellant, a SoCal player, a game discovered by John Donaldson. We learned from Andrejs that L.A. is SoCal, but the area of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, et al., is called SlowCal.

Trish Gorman, a member of the League of Women Voters, left early to go over her June 7 ballot.

“[P]lay . . . is an activity which proceeds within certain limits of time and space, in a visible order, according to rules freely accepted, and outside the sphere of necessity or material utility. The play-mood is one of rapture and enthusiasm, and is sacred or festive in accordance with the occasion. A feeling of exaltation and tension accompanies the action, mirth and relaxation follow.” – Johan Huizinga, *Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play-Element in Culture* (Chap. 7, Play and Poetry)

Puzzles in the Library

Every week or so the Mechanics' Institute's Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.



The puzzle this week is from *Secrets of Spectacular Chess*, by Jonathan Levitt. White (who is in check!) to play and win.

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>

June USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com

Saturday June 18, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2

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

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-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsJun2022)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsJun2022](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-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJun2022)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJun2022](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJun2022)

21st William Addison Memorial (FIDE Rated) G/90+30

Saturday and Sunday, June 25th & 26th. 5 games of G/90+30

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21st-addison-memorial-championship-fide-rated>

Registration: [https://mechanics-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/21stAddisonMemorialChampionship)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/21stAddisonMemorialChampionship](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/21stAddisonMemorialChampionship)

Here is our calendar in full: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/calendar>

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Qc3! Intending 2.Qxd4#. 1...e5 2.Nf6#. 1...Nf3 2.e4#!

Problem #2: 1.Bd6! Intending 2.Qc7 and 3.Qb8#. If 1...Bxa7 2.Qg2#. 1...Bg3 2.Bc5! Bmoves 3.Qg2#. If 1...Bg1 2.Qc7 Bxa7 3.Qc6#. Finally, if 1...Bc5 2.Bb8! and mate next move.

Submit your piece or feedback

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

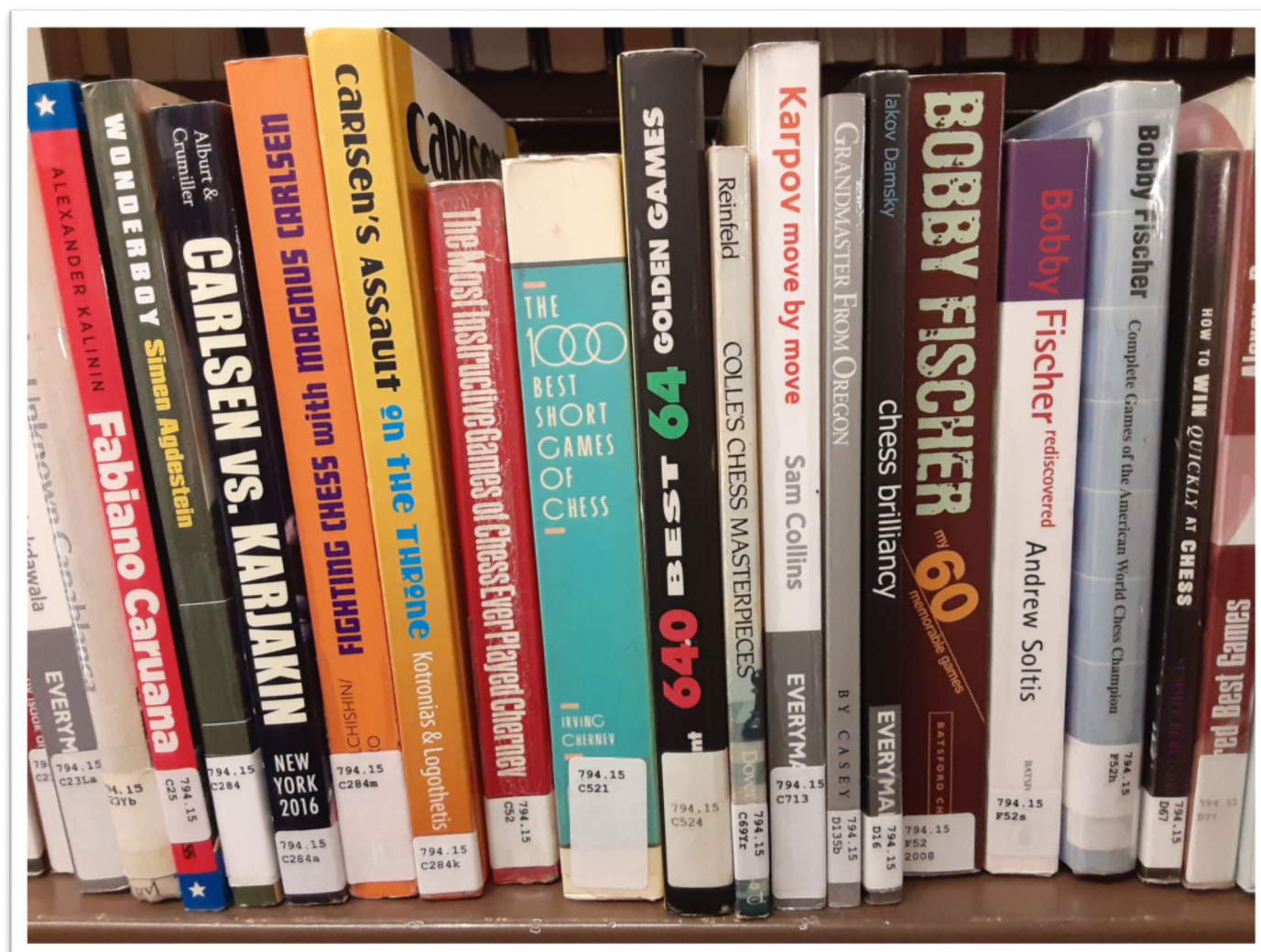
<https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA>



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