



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1021 | June 18th, 2022

Conway TNM Round 7 Report

In the final round, IM **Elliott Winslow** narrowly escaped with a draw vs **Christophe Bambou** on board 1, while NM **Siddharth Arun** took down **Adam Stafford** on board 2. Both Winslow and Arun share 1st and 2nd places with 5.5 points, while Bambou takes clear 3rd with 5 points.

The under 1800 section saw **Anton Maliev** take clear 1st with an impressive 6.5 point total by holding **John Chan** to a draw, while **Steve Sobel** and **Yorgos Tsolias** joined Chan in a tie for 2nd at 5.5 points, defeating **Nicholas Horde** and **Timothy Bayaraa** respectively.

Raymond (Ray) Conway was the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1971 to 1980. The Tuesday Night Marathon was started by Conway to make the most of the soaring interest in chess during the 'Fischer Boom'.

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 was co-directed by Dr. **Judit Sztaray** and **Abel Talamantez**. The **Peter Grey Memorial TNM** starts up July 12th. More information and the link to register [here](#).

Gens Una Sumus!

-
Contents:

[Conway TNM report](#)

[GM Nick de Firmian](#)

[IM Jeremy Silman](#)

[FM Paul Whitehead](#)

[Tony's Teasers](#)

[Richard Hack](#)

[June Quads &
Scholastic](#)

[Puzzles in the Library](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Solutions](#)

[Feedback](#)

chessroom@milibrary.org

415-393-0110



□ **Winslow,Elliott** **B13**
■ **Bambou,Christophe** **2235**
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (7.1) 14.06.2022
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4

[I had noticed that Bambou has played the Modern Janowski Variation of the Queen's Gambit, i.e. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6!? so perhaps I shouldn't have been totally surprised...]

1...c6 Well, this was a surprise!

[He is very fond of an interesting line in the Center Counter: 1...d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 Bg4!? 6.f3 Bd7!? and has played it against both Michael Walder and me in previous TNMs. Mike erred in the opening but Christophe didn't take advantage of it and lost to a nice attack, while I erred a bit further on, leading to nothing clear for either side, and we had a fairly short draw.]

2.d4 d5 3.exd5 The Exchange Variation, seen in all too many games where White had no idea what they were doing, alas.

[Perhaps, since I haven't seen him play the Caro Kann before, I should have tested him out in some main line. 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 But he might have paid attention to the radical developments in Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6!? 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5!?]

3...cxd5 4.c4 My old favorite, the Panov-Botvinnik Attack. Decades ago when I returned to add 1.e4 to my repertoire after making it to Master as a 1.d4 player, this was my choice against the Caro Kann. It's essentially a queen pawn opening transposition! So I was more at home. **4...Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6** The Caro Kann player's line.

[5...e6 is the traditional, Semi-Tarrasch line;]

[5...g6 is the feisty gambit line;]

[5...Be6 might look somewhat ridiculous but it does force White to declare!]

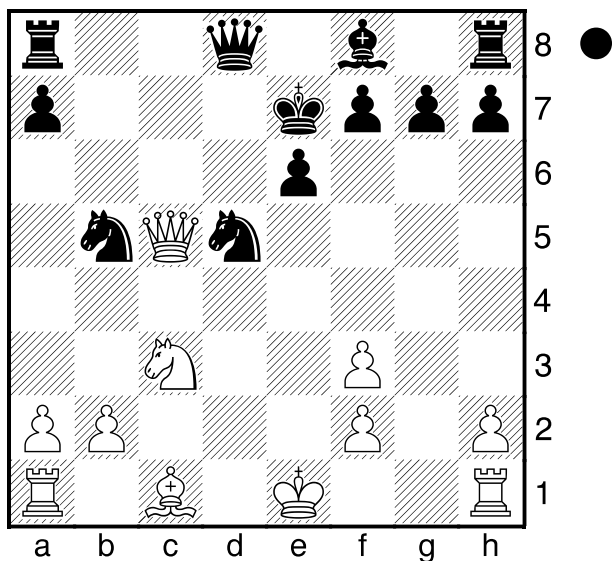
6.Nf3

[For years I played 6.Bg5 including my last game with International Bill Martz of Wisconsin. I was still an expert when we first played in 1971 and he outclassed me, but then I somehow won the next two games. He won the fourth, then four draws. Back then in the 70s I thought I was better in them all, but Stockfish has since scrambled my opinions in most of them! But our final meeting, in Vancouver 1976, in this line, I won nicely. dxc4 7.Bxc4 e6 (We now know that 7...h6! goads the bishop to some square where it can be hit with ...Nf5 (!?)) 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3 with a tempo or so up on these Isolated Queen Pawn positions. I should send this game in to Paul Whitehead to look at during the Chess Cafe!]

6...a6!?

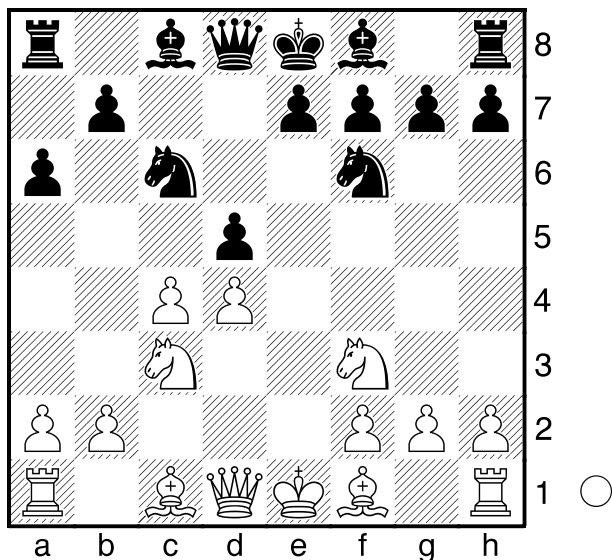
[I was wondering if I'd dare play, let alone remember, the incredible piece sacrifice in the main line, first played by Grischuk and since heavily investigated: 6...Bg4 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.gxf3 e6 10.Qxb7 Nxd4 11.Bb5+ Nxb5 12.Qc6+ Ke7 and now 13.Qc5+!? (13.Qxb5 Qd7 14.Nxd5+ Qxd5 15.Qxd5 exd5 has been pretty much neutralized as a winning attempt for White, although I might be happy with it given the tournament situation...)

(Diagram)



A) 13...Nd6! 14.Nxd5+ exd5 15.0-0 is the critical line, when Black appears to have some safe moves, e.g. (15.Qxd5!?) 15...Qc8 16.Qxd5 Qb7 Still, we have one floating king!;

B) 13...Ke8 14.Qxb5+ Qd7 15.Nxd5! exd5 16.Qd3! Bb4+ 17.Kf1! f6 18.Kg2 Kf7 19.Bf4 1-0 (39) Grischuk,A (2737)-Vidit,S (2689) Wch Rapid, Doha (6) 27.12.2016.]



7.cxd5

[7.c5!? might make some sense here,]

[and 7.h3!? seems a fitting response (Weaver Adams would be amused) and has done quite well, if rarely!]

7...Nxd5 8.Bd3

[8.Bc4 Be6 9.Bb3!? guarding the bishop and setting up recapture with the a-pawn when the hanging pawns become some other sort of beast.]

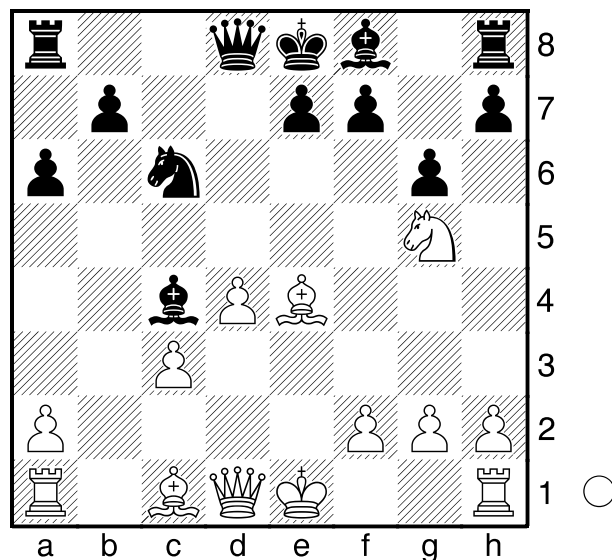
8...g6!?

[8...Bg4]

9.Be4 Be6 10.Ng5!? White really wants the isolated pawn to be supported, but the pawns are still a problem.

[It turns out it might be stronger after 10.0-0 Bg7 11.Ng5 (or not, unclear)]

10...Nxc3! 11.bxc3 Bc4!



12.Qf3? My elaborate intention...

[12.Bd3]

[12.Rb1!? Qd7 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Bg7 15.h4!?]

12...Rc8! 13.Bd3?!

[13.Qe3 returns the square f3 to the knight, but the time cost is significant: Black is solidly better now.]

13...Ne5! A shocker! The tournament situation had me content with a draw and a likely tie for first and second.

[So 13...Bxd3 14.Qxf7+ Kd7
15.Qd5+ Ke8 (15...Kc7?? 16.Ne6+)
16.Qf7+ and a repetition]

[I had worked out 13...Qd5 14.Qxd5
Bxd5 15.c4? (15.Be4 Bc4 16.Nf3
f5 \bar{f}) 15...Bxg2 16.Rg1 , overlooking
Nb4!!-+]

14.dxe5 Forced, and very much *not*
was I was looking for: **14...Qxd3**

15.Qxd3 Bxd3 16.f4?

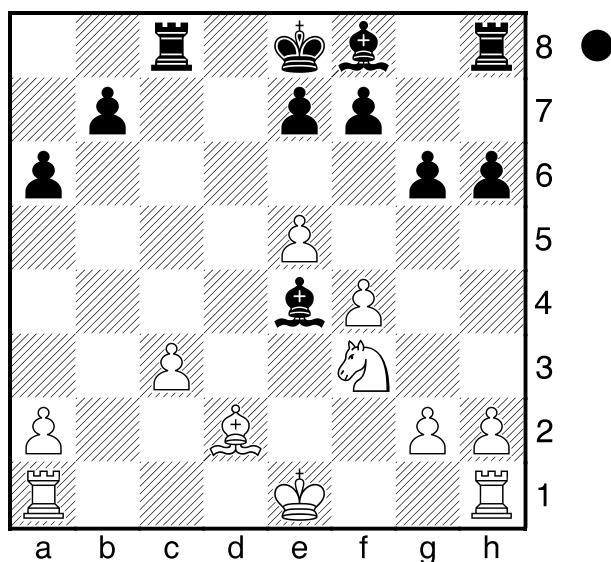
[16.Be3 \square h6 \bar{f} (16...Rxc3?! 17.Kd2
Ra3 18.Bc5 Ra5 19.Kxd3 Rxc5
20.f4 Black is better with the pawn,
but at least White gets into the center
with rooks quickly.)]

16...h6-+ and it veers into "won" for
Black. **17.Nf3 Be4**

[17...e6! first is even better.]

18.Bd2

[18.Kf2!? again tries to get the rooks
to the files before Black can develop,
but it's not at all convincing.]

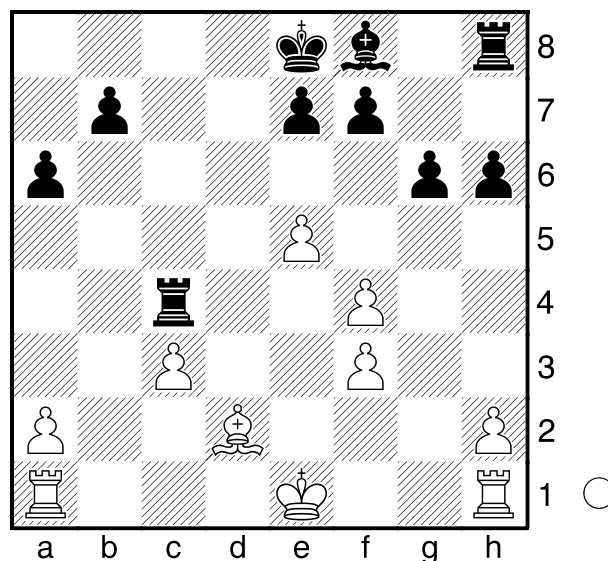


18...Bxf3?

[18...Rc4 19.a4 e6 is the Stockfish
15 choice, but it's understandable
why Christophe played as he did,
cashing in the two bishops to assure
the far better pawn structure.]

19.gxf3 Rc4

[Still 19...e6 . You don't have to
fianchetto just because you play ...
g6!]



20.a4

[20.Ke2!= Apparently (sez SF) ...Ra4
is not to be feared. And sure enough:
Ra4 21.Rhb1 b5 22.Rb4 Ra3 23.c4
and White activates by one tempo.]

20...Kd7 21.Ke2 e6 22.Rhb1 Kc8 \bar{f}

[22...Rc7]

23.Rb3 Be7?!

[23...Rc7 and ...Bc5 is some
advantage, but not much.]

24.Rab1 Rc7 25.Be3!= Total equality
("0.00" sf15). **25...Kb8 26.Bb6 Rd7**

(Diagram)

27.Bd4? That didn't last!

[27.c4! Rc8 28.Rd3! Rxd3 29.Kxd3=
puts out all the fires.]

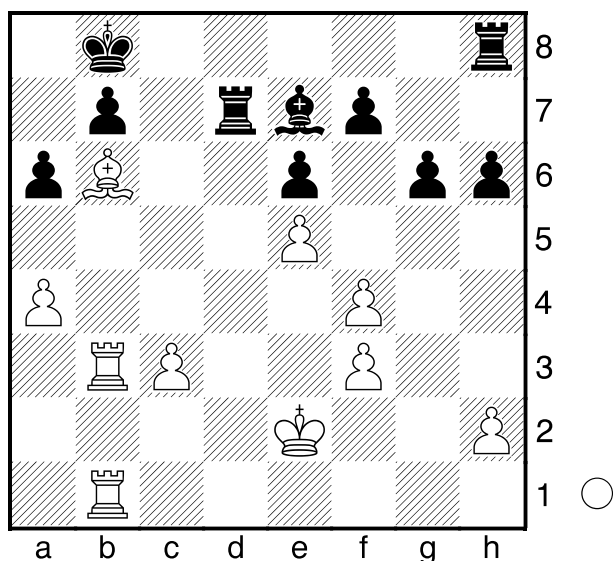
27...Rc8 28.Kd3 Bc5

[28...Rc5!]

**29.Ke3? Bxd4+ 30.cxd4 Rc4 31.Rb4
Rc3+ 32.Ke4?**

[32.Ke2 Rc2+ 33.Ke3 Rxh2 34.Rb6
revs up counterplay (Rxa6, Rd6!?)
although Black still can play to win.]

32...a5!-+ Yet again: Didn't see it



coming at all. **33.Rb5 Rc4 34.Rd1**
 [34.Rxa5 Rxd4+ 35.Ke3 Rxa4
 36.Rab5 Rd7 37.h4 h5 38.R5b3
 ultimately fails.]
34...Rxa4 35.Ke3 Rd5! Nor that.
36.Rxd5?!
 [36.Rb6 h5 37.Rdb1 Rd7 38.R1b5
 h4 starts to get annoying as well.]
36...exd5 37.Rc1 Rc4 And again,
 blindsided by an obvious move. Of
 course I can't take! **38.Rg1 Rc3+**
39.Ke2 a4 Stockfish is now talking
 pretty big numbers (over -7). I do have
 one plus -- he's used more time than me,
 and as the ratings so often dictate, he's
 not comfortable in the ending. **40.h4 a3**
 [40...h5! Shuts any counterplay
 down.]
41.h5

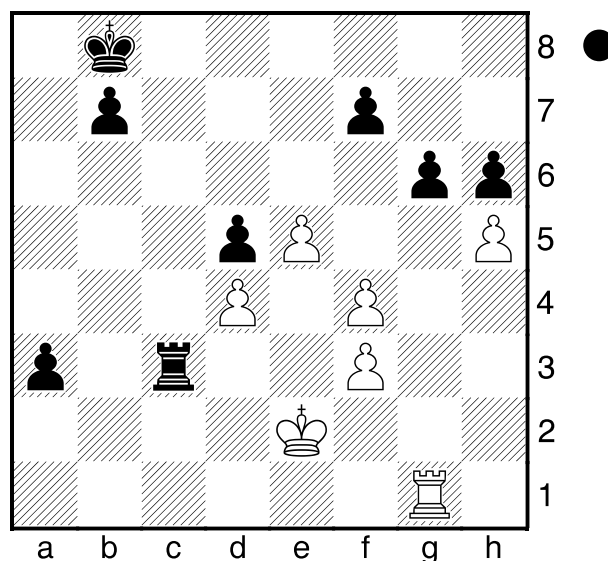
(Diagram)

a2?!

[41...gxh5 42.f5 Kc7 when because
 of his a-pawn there's no time to go for
 the f-pawn!]

42.Ra1

[Objectively better is 42.e6 fxe6
 43.hxg6 Rc2+ 44.Ke3 Rg2!
 45.Rxg2!? (45.Ra1 b5 46.g7 Rxc7



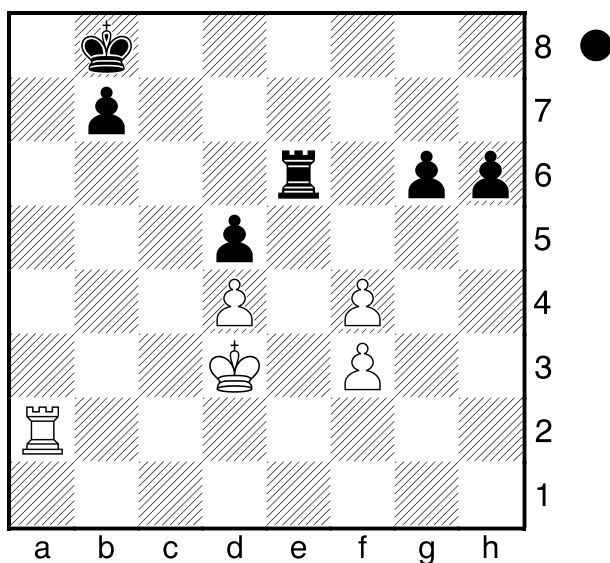
47.Rxa2 b4 48.f5!?) 45...a1Q
 46.f5!? when the only move for
 anything is Qf1!! 47.Rg4 exf5 48.g7
 fxg4 49.g8Q+ Ka7 50.Qxg4
 Good luck with *this*...]
42...Rc2+! The only way to do it **43.Kd3**
Rg2!
 [43...Rf2? 44.Ke3! Rg2 45.e6! fxe6
 46.hxg6 White is ready for f4-f5]
44.hxg6
 [44.e6 fxe6 45.hxg6 h5 46.g7 Rxc7
 47.Rxa2 h4-+ Two passed pawns.
 Forget it.]
44...fxg6 45.Rc1!? Rb2
 [45...Rf2! 46.f5 gxf5 47.e6 f4!
 Too many (Black) passed pawns!]
46.e6 Rb6
 [46...Rb1! 47.e7 a1Q 48.e8Q+ Ka7
 49.Rxb1 Qxb1+ The d-pawn goes,
 and it's hopeless.]
47.Ra1 Rxe6 48.Rxa2

(Diagram)

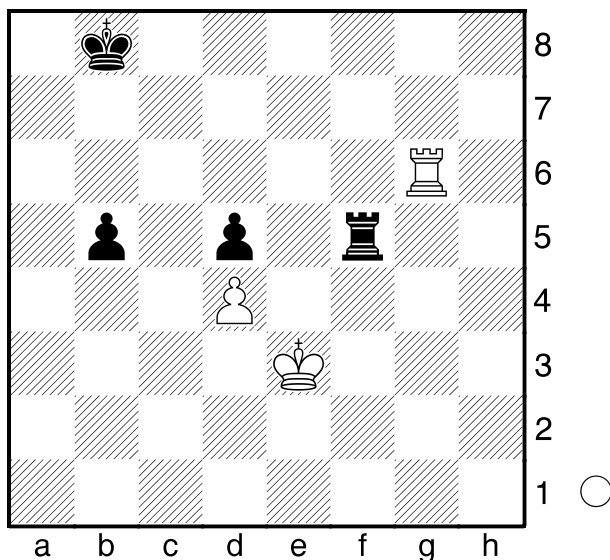
b5??

[48...Ra6! is the only move to win! I
 can't head to the kingside now (I get
 skewered with ...Ra3+ and ...Ra2+).]

49.Rh2= Totally drawn. **49...Rf6**
 And all the pawns go away. **50.Rxh6**



**Rxf4 51.Rxg6 Rxf3+ 52.Ke2 Rf4
53.Ke3 Rf5**



He offered a draw. Arun had already beaten Stafford with a nice defence to Black's dangerous but unsound knight sacrifice not too far out of the opening. So first-second. A relief after a precarious opening. Those ...a6 lines are raging (see Carlsen for details) and are going to need some work on Whites' (my) part!

1/2-1/2

□ **Arun,Siddharth**

■ **Stafford,Adam**

D08

2209

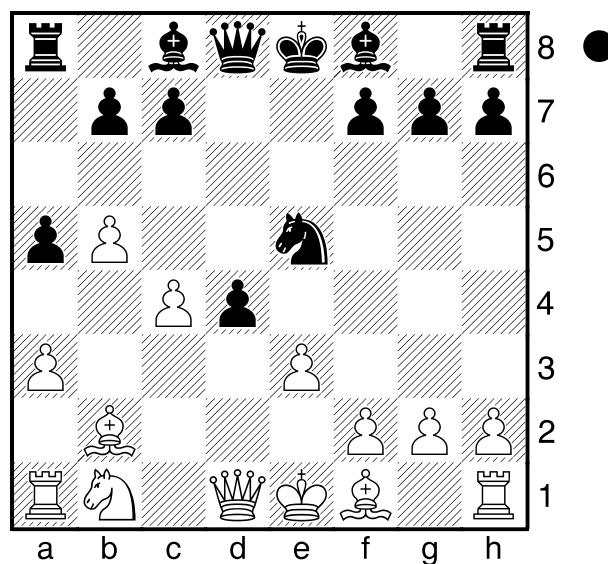
1855

MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (7.2) 14.06.2022
[de Firmian]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 The Albin Counter Gambit always leads to a lively game.

3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.a3

One of many choices for White. This reaction on the queenside is very sensible. **5...Nge7 6.b4 Ng6 7.Bb2 a5 8.b5 Ncxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.e3**



Bc5! A very combative move, not backing down.

[10...Be6 11.Bxd4 Nxc4 is slightly better for White]

11.Bxd4!

[11.exd4?! Bg4 12.Qd2 Qh4 is very sharp and seems to be in Black's favor, e.g. 13.dxc5 Rd8 14.Qc2 Rd1+ 15.Qxd1 Bxd1 16.Bxe5 Bh5 17.Nc3 0-0]

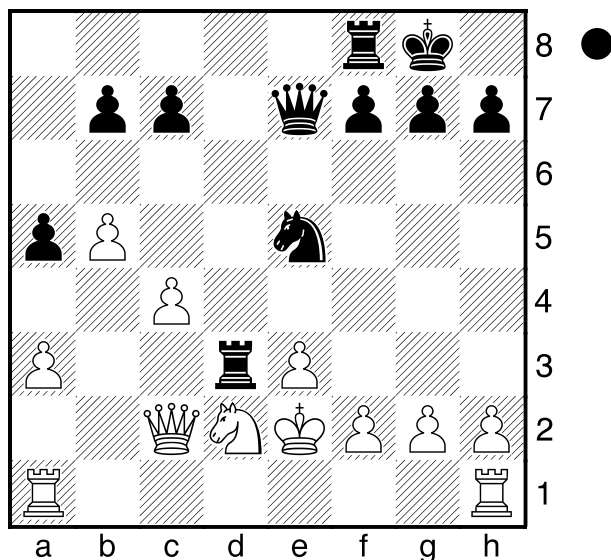
11...Bg4 12.Qd2 Qe7 13.Be2?

[13.Nc3! Would keep the advantage for White. Now Black gains the upper hand.]

13...Bxd4! 14.Qxd4 Rd8 15.Qc3 Bxe2 16.Kxe2 Rd3 17.Qc2 0-0

[17...Qg5!]

18.Nd2



Rfd8?!

[18...Qg5! 19.Nf3 (19.Rhg1 Qg6 20.Rac1 Rfd8) 19...Rxe3+! 20.Kf1 Rxf3 21.gxf3 Nxf3 is a big advantage for Black]

19.Rhd1= Ng4?! 20.Ne4

[20.Nf3!]

20...Nxf2? This sacrifice is unsound.

[20...Ne5 is better for White but Black is still in the game]

[20...Qxe4? 21.Rxd3]

21.Nxf2 Qxe3+ 22.Kf1 Rd2 23.Rxd2

Rxd2 24.Qf5 Well defended by Arun.

White is just a piece ahead for a pawn.

24...Qe2+ 25.Kg1 g6 26.Qf4 Rc2

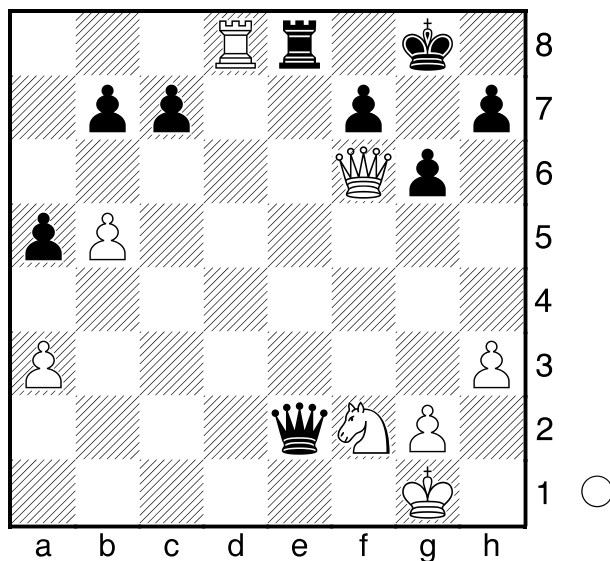
27.Rd1 Kg7 28.Qd4+ Kg8 29.h3

Rxc4 30.Qf6 Re4 31.Rd8+ Re8

(Diagram)

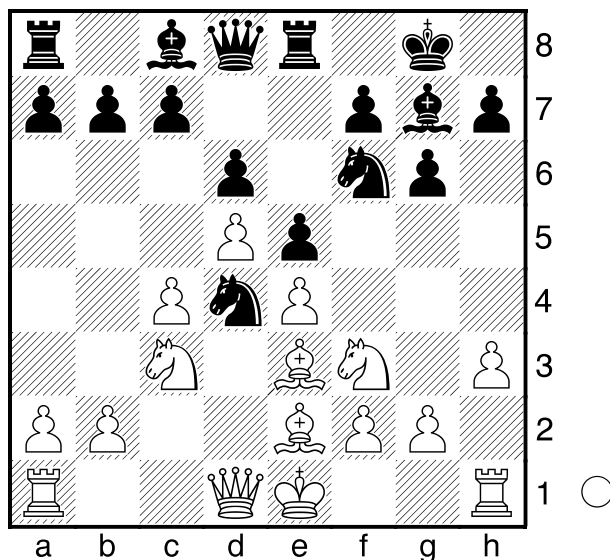
32.Ng4! Rxd8 33.Nh6+ Black resigned. A real battle.

1-0



Lesniewski, Lucas E97
 Lewis, Edward 1914
1998
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (7.3) 14.06.2022
 [de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3
 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.h3 Nc6 A rather unusual
 line against the King's Indian. 7.Be2
 Re8 8.Be3 e5 9.d5 Nd4!

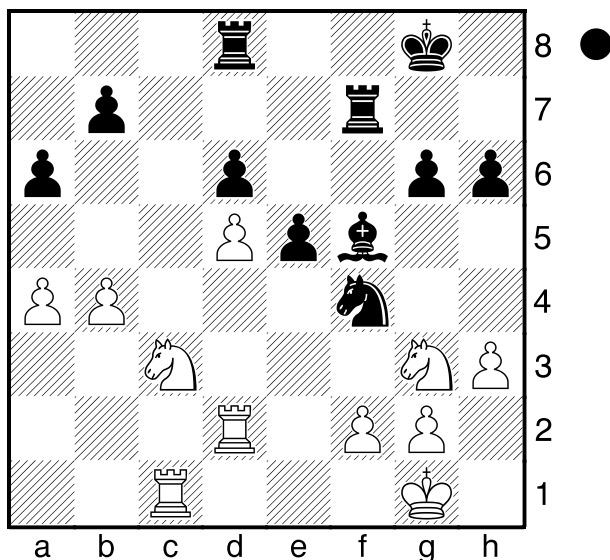


Black equalizes with this jump into the center. 10.0-0!? giving up the bishop

pair

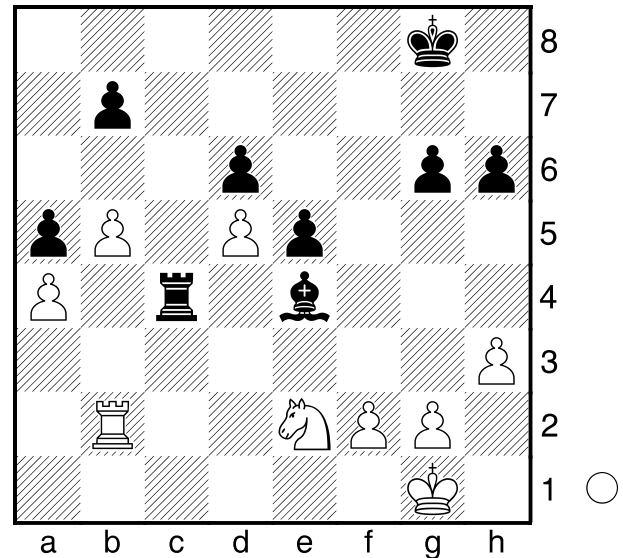
[10.Nxd4 exd4 11.Bxd4 Nxe4
is at least equal for Black]
10...Nxe2+ 11.Qxe2 Nh5 12.Qd2 f5
13.Bg5 Bf6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 The position
is fairly equal but a little more
comfortable for Black as he has his
good bishop remaining. **15.Qg5 Qxg5**
16.Nxg5 a6 17.b4 h6 18.Nf3 Rf8
19.c5 Bd7 20.Rac1 Rac8 21.Rfd1
fxe4?!

[21...Nf4!]
22.Nd2 Rcd8 23.Ndxe4 Bf5 24.cxd6
White could delay this capture and
retain more options. **24...cxd6 25.a4?!**
This doesn't help so much here. 25. f3
would help consolidate the kingside.
25...Nf4 26.Rd2?!
[26.Kh2!]
26...Rf7 27.Ng3?



Rc7! Lewis realizes what is important
here which is the c-file. Black gains
access to squares attacking the white
pawns. **28.Nce2 Nxe2+ 29.Nxe2**
Rxc1+ 30.Nxc1 Rc8 31.Ne2 Rc4
Black is winning at least a pawn. The
rook on c4 is a powerful piece in this
endgame. **32.Rb2 Be4 33.b5?!**
looking for a pawn break, but this
allows Black to get a winning setup.

33...a5!



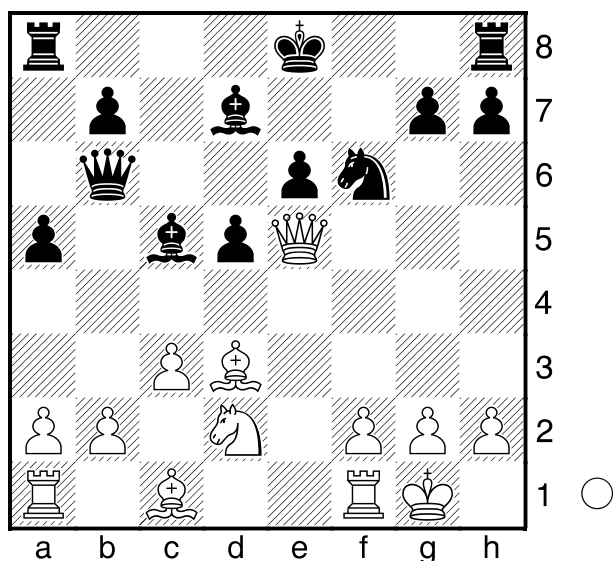
The white pawns are on the same color
as the black bishop and all weak. Ed
wraps it up with good technique. **34.Ng3**
Bxd5 35.Rd2 Rc5 36.Kh2 Kf7 37.h4
Ke6 38.h5 g5 39.f3 Rc4
Another pawn goes. **40.Nf5 Kxf5**
41.Rxd5 Ke6 42.Rd2 Rxa4 43.Rc2
Kd7 White resigns.
0-1

C02
Dessert,Christopher 1703
Knowles,Chase 1959
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (7.7) 14.06.2022
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6
5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 Bd7
[6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Bd7]
7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 a5 9.Nbd2 f6
10.Qe2 fxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Qxe5
Nf6

(Diagram)

13.Qg3N
[Predecessor: 13.Nf3 0-0 14.Qe2
Bd6 15.Ne5 Rae8 16.Be3 Qc7



17.Bd4 Re7 18.Rae1 Be8 19.Qe3 a4 20.f4 Nd7 21.Rf3 Bxe5 22.fxe5 Rxf3 23.Qxf3 Nc5 24.Bc2 Bb5 25.Qe3 b6 26.b4 Nd7 27.Qf2 g6 28.Qd2 Qc4 29.Bd1 Rf7 30.Be2 Qc6 31.Bg4 Kg7 32.h4 h5 33.Bh3 Bc4 34.a3 Bb5 35.Kh2 Nf8 36.Be3 Kh7 37.Qd4 Nd7 38.Bg5 Nf8 39.Re3 Qc7 40.Rf3 Rxf3 41.gxf3 Be8 42.Qf4 Nd7 Hector,J (2499)- Merriman,J (2253) London 2015 1-0]

13...0-0 14.Nb3 Bd6 15.Be3 Qc7 16.Qh4 e5 17.f4 e4 18.Be2 Rae8 19.Nd4 Qd8 20.f5 Be5 21.g4 h6 22.Rf2

[22.Kh1]

22...Nh7 23.Qxd8 Rxd8 24.Raf1 Ng5 25.Kg2 Nf7 26.a3 Nd6 27.h4

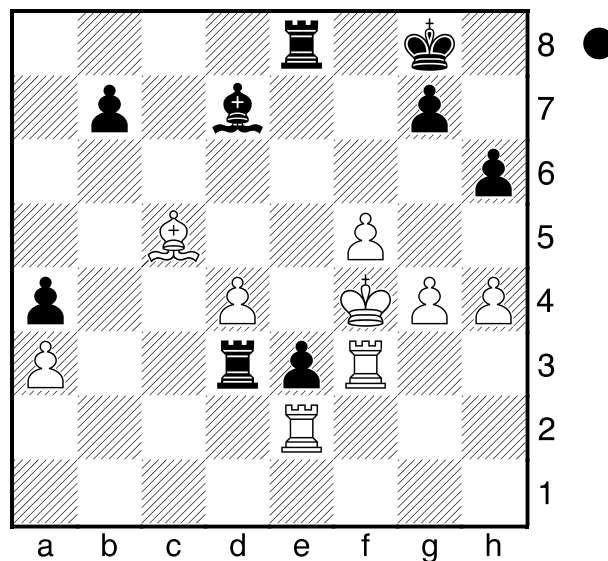
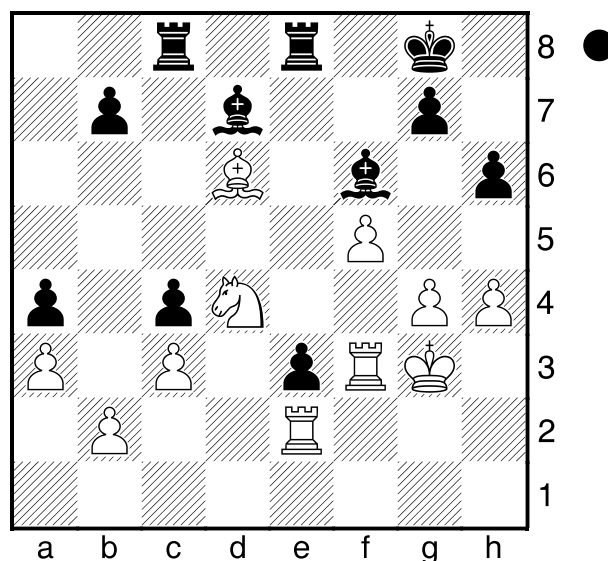
[27.Ne6! Bxe6 28.fxe6 Rxf2+ 29.Bxf2 Re8 30.Rd1+-]

27...Bf6 28.Bf4 Nc4 29.Bxc4 dxc4 30.Bc7 Rde8 31.Re2 a4 32.Rf4 e3 33.Kg3 Rc8 34.Bd6 Rfe8 35.Rf3

(Diagram)

Bxd4! 36.cxd4 c3! 37.bxc3 Rxc3 38.Kf4 Rd3 39.Bc5

(Diagram)

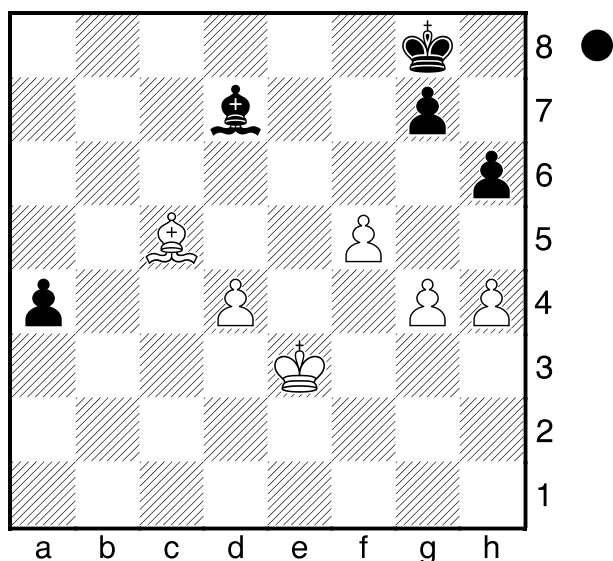


b6! 40.Bxb6 Rxa3 41.Bc5 Rd3 42.Rxe3 Rdx3 43.Rxe3 Rxe3 44.Kxe3

(Diagram)

h5! The only move (else White was winning). Both sides kept score to this point, when it's a standard opposite colored bishop draw: White is up a pawn with few if zero winning chances. Were there were more moves but they went under five minutes?

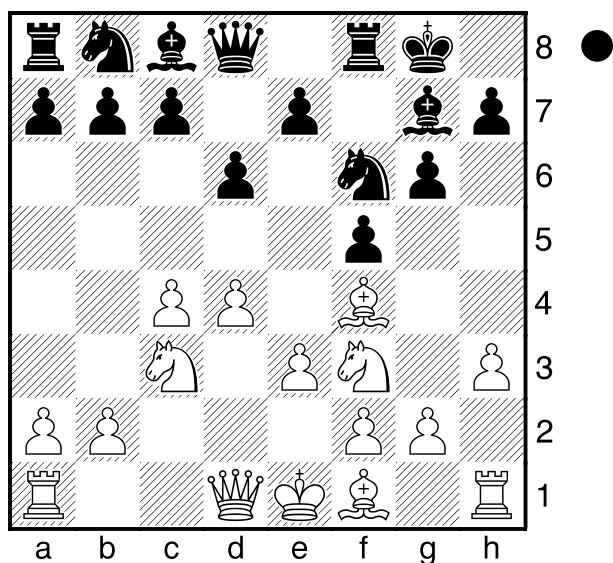
0-1



Chan, John
 Maliev, Anton

MI Conway TNM: Under 1800 (7.10)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.c4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 Bg7
 5.h3 0-0 6.Bf4 d6 7.e3



There are a few hundred games in this position in the databases, although it must be pointed out that the highest rated players of White only have played

it in blitz games (and why are they in the database?). **7...Qe8** This is a rare situation where Chan and his opponent have reached a position with citing in a current opening book. Mihai Marin in "Dutch Sidelines" (in the Grandmaster Repertoire series, from Black's point of view) doesn't mention Black's move directly...

[He does give 7...Nc6 8.Bh2 Qe8 when 9.c5! e5 10.Nb5± gets very uncomfortable.]

[But as it's a Black repertoire book, he comes up with something quite novel (and Stockfish 15 backs it up): 7...c5!? with two pages of analysis leading to equality if not better.]

8.Qb3

[8.c5!?±]

8...a6?! That really can't be what it's about, can it? **9.Be2** It's either this

[or 9.c5+]

9...Nbd7?!

[9...Kh8 10.0-0 Nc6±]

10.0-0

[10.c5+]

10...Kh8 11.Rfe1?!

[11.c5! dxc5?! 12.Bxc7 borders on winning.]

11...e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Bh2 c6

[13...b6! solves the development question, although White still has a plan: 14.a4 Bb7 15.a5±]

14.Rac1 There's no reason for that

14...h6 or that

[14...e4]

15.Qc2 b6 16.b4! Qe7 17.b5?!

[17.c5! bxc5 18.bxc5 Qxc5

19.Qa4!± is a very temporary pawn sacrifice a5 20.e4 f4 21.Nd5 Qd6 22.Rxc6 Qb8 23.Nh4 Kh7 24.Qc4 and look at this: g5 25.Ng6!! Kxg6 26.Bg4! Alas, it's probably not best -- but fun!]

17...axb5 18.cxb5 c5?

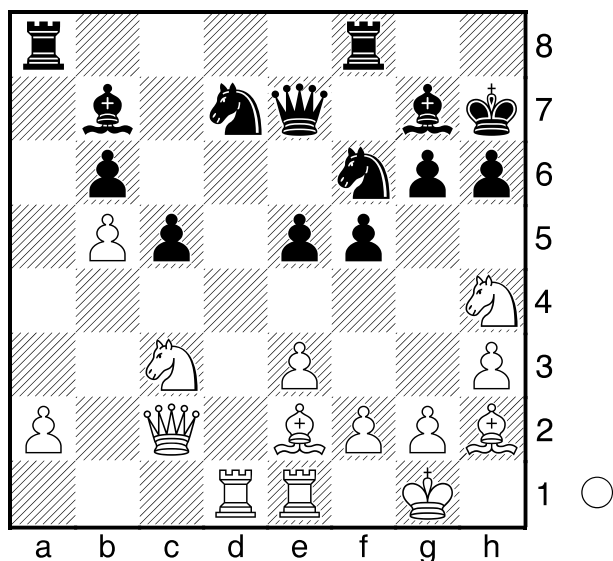
[18...cxb5]

[18...Bb7]

19.Rcd1 White has a mildly won game (!). **19...Bb7 20.Nh4**

[20.Nd2! c4, even at the cost of a pawn: Nd5 21.Nc4 Nxc3 22.Qxc3 Rxa2 23.Qd3+-]

20...Kh7



21.Bf3??

[21.g4+- is doing pretty well still. Ra3!? 22.Nxg6!! Kxg6 23.Qxf5+ Kf7 24.Rxd7 Qxd7 25.Bc4+ Ke8 26.Qxe5+ don't stare, but it's winning for White.]

21...e4 Advantage Black. **22.Bd6 Qe6 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.Be2 g5 25.Bc4 Qe5 26.Nxf5 Qxf5 27.Rd6 Ne8 28.Be6 Nxd6 29.Bxf5+ Rxf5** Three pieces for the queen! **30.Rd1 Be5 31.g4 Rf7 32.Nb1 Nxb5 33.Qc4 Bh2+ 34.Kg2 Ne5 35.Qxb5** Wait, two pieces? **35...Nd3 36.Rf1 Bc7 37.Nd2 h5 38.Qc4 Re7 39.Qb3 hxg4 40.hxg4 Ne5 41.Rh1+ Kg7 42.Qc3 Kg6 43.Kf1 Ba6+ 44.Kg1 Nxg4 45.Qh8 Be5 46.Qh5+ Kf5 47.Nf1 Nf6 48.Qh3+ g4 49.Ng3+ Ke6 50.Qh8 c4**

Perhaps there was time pressure, perhaps the drastic imbalances got to him, maybe that passed pawn threw him into a state of fear -- in any case, White

is winning on most moves, by a lot, and it made the difference between 2nd-3rd and 1st-2nd. Not that much money, but tying for first... But what a game in any case!

1/2-1/2

D00
1559
0

□ **Sobel, Steve**

■ **Horde, Nicolas**

MI Conway TNM: Under 1800 (7.11)

[Horde,N / (Winslow,E)]

(New tournament player Nicolas Horde is making the most of his experience - he dutifully analyzes his games right afterward, as recommended by Botvinnik in his famous chess school, and practiced by, among others, Kasparov. In Nic's case he uses Lichess.org to run a computer analysis and enter his thoughts during the game. Perhaps years from now he'll look back at this work, wondering if nothing else "What was I *thinking*??" :-)) **1.d4** 0.00 **d5** 0.35 **2.Nc3** 0.12 My opponent told me after the game that he was still shocked that his previous opponent prepped against him during the previous round so he did not know if I had prepared against him -- that's why he is playing d4 for the first time. He has also found all my studies and my username (not super hard if you have my name :)) and decided to go for a Jobava against me because he has never played d4 so he would be sure my prep would be useless against him (I don't prep, as I play whatever I am in the mood during that day). I have played the Jobava online and I know some simple plans against it. (Chess is getting pretty tough when the 1500s and even the first-timers know their openings so well that they can target their opponents!) **2...Nf6** 0.18

3.Bf4 0.13 (This is an extremely topical line! It's certainly a different affair than the usual Queen's Gambit (sorry Ms. Harmon!).) **3...a6** 0.00 (This inoffensive a6 prevents any shenanigans with Nb5 cutting a lot of White's threats. (A sensible explanation. These days ... a6 is popping up everywhere (see this round, Board 1!). The loss of time isn't so bad. Sometimes these little rook pawn moves are overly cautious, while other times they introduce whole systems.) **4.e3** 0.25

[(Jobava has played, during the experimental phase, both 4.Nf3] [and 4.Qd2 , probably just preparing queenside castling and then who knows what.)]

4...Bf5 0.12

[(And here also, the superstars have also gone with the slightly more careful 4...e6] [and the immediate 4...c5 -- the White bishop has left the queenside, so of course Black leans over there.)]

5.f3?! 0.04 Inaccuracy. Nf3 was best. It's a very popular line online and super straightforward: pawn storm on the kingside. I have some experience on it so I was not too scared. (Horde's analysis isn't really borne out in practice - the best players are still trying this and that.)

[5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Ne5 h6 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.cxd3 c6 9.h3 e6]

[(In fact, Carlsen and Naroditsky have kept their f3 options open with 5.Bd3)]

5...e6?! 0.13 Inaccuracy. 5...c5 was best. (Interesting! You have to go pretty far down the list of games (and there are well over a hundred), sorted by Black rating, to find players playing 5...c5! The superstars stabilized with 5...e6 first, as did Horde.)

[5...c5! 6.g4 cxd4 (6...Bg6 7.h4 h6

8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 The position is equal but Black's pawn structure is healthier) 7.exd4 Bd7 8.Qd2 e6 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Nge2] [(And young phenom Praggnanandhaa (and others) has gone for the "ounce of prevention" -- successfully. 5...h5!?)]

6.g4 0.03 **Bg6** 0.22 **7.h4** 0.00 **h6** 0.00 [7...h5!?]

8.Bd3 0.15

[(Early on Jobava tossed in 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 before the trade, which gives Black the option c5!?)]

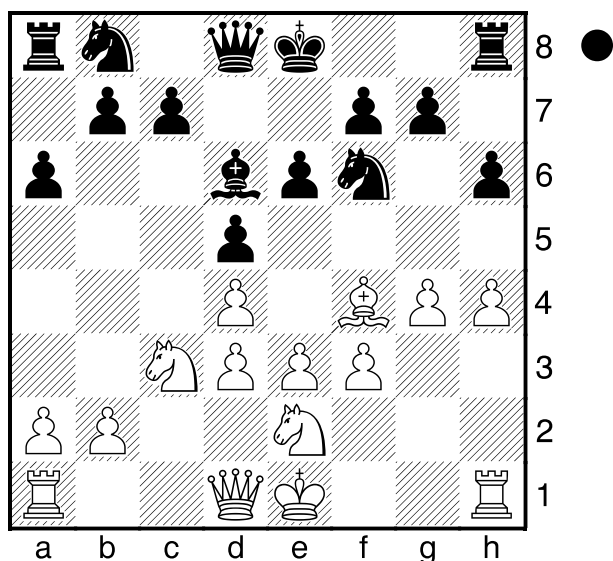
8...Bxd3 0.04 **9.cxd3** 0.13 Here my plan is simply to wait until I know where White will castle, I feel like White's pawn structure is very weak. (This is a popular line! But admittedly more with just the queen recapture (3-1 or so over 80 games). Former Bay Area Hot Kid, now Young Man of the World (and rapidly approaching 2700!) Hans Niemann has done a video course on this opening, and played it as well, with both recaptures. It is hard to make something of White's doubled pawns.) **9...Bd6?!** 0.02 (It's looking like this is out of order. Black should get his c-pawn going first while he can:

[9...c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.d4 Be7 (not even trading) (11...Bd6 12.Nge2 Nc6 and White has done well, even with 13.Kf2!? (getting connected!) played by another former Bay Area superstar: Rc8 14.Rc1 b5 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Nf4 Ne7 17.g5 1-0 (35) Naroditsky,D (2631)-Kiewra,K (2421) SF-San Diego Team match, ICC 2015)]

10.Nge2 0.34

(Diagram)

Qe7?! 0.62 Inaccuracy. Bxf4 was best. (So now we're on our own. Horde is right,



the clarification and giving d6 to the queen as better. In fact, Stockfish 15 makes it the difference between += and =+, not fatal, but a misstep.)

[10...Bxf4 11.Nxf4 Qd6 preparing -- ...0-0-0!? 12.Kf2 Nc6 13.Qa4 0-0-0 14.Qa3 Qxa3 15.bxa3 g6 16.Rab1 Nd7 17.Na4 Kb8 18.Rhc1 Ka7 19.Ne2 Rc8 20.Rc2 Ne7 21.Rbc1 c6 Black had a little something, which eventually grew to 0-1 (56) Zavgorodniy,S (2429)-Kanarek,M (2479) Katowice 2014]

11.Kf2? 0.51 Mistake. Qb3 was best. I wasn't convinced about this move. It's not that I am winning or anything but it's mainly that now my plan is super straightforward: castle queenside and counter attack the pawn storm with g5 [11.Qb3 I missed this move, this is why the engine prefers exchanging the dark square bishop as soon as possible

A) 11...Bxf4 12.Nxf4! (12.Qxb7?! Bxe3 13.Qxa8 Qb4 turns out to be okay for White, but in practice it's asking for some suffering.) 12...Nc6! 13.Qxb7! Kd7 14.Qb3 Rab8 15.Qa3! (15.Qc2 e5!) 15...Qxa3 16.bxa3 when White has

some advantage in spite of ugly pawns.;

B) 11...b6 12.Rc1 Nc6 13.Bxd6 ((or 13.Kf2)) 13...Qxd6 14.Qa4 with a nominal plus for White.]

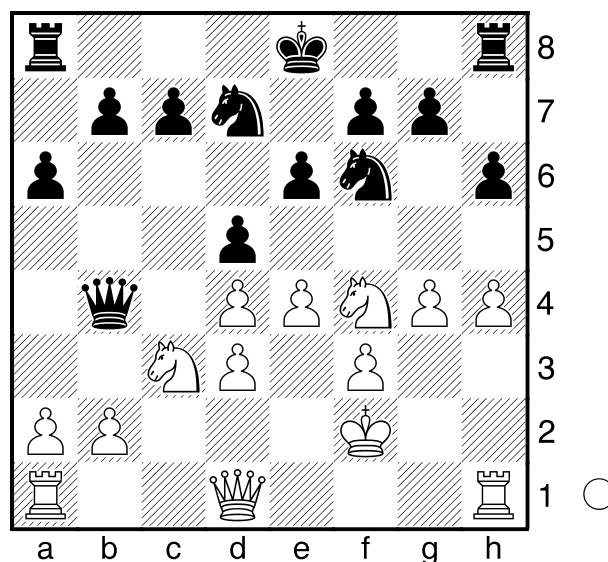
11...Nbd7?! 0.08 Inaccuracy. Bxf4 was best.

[11...Bxf4 12.Nxf4 Nc6 (Black readies ...0-0-0 with a slight plus.)]

12.e4 0.27 I was not a big fan of this move, **12...Bxf4** 0.33 **13.Nxf4** 0.28 I was happy with White's pawn structure, it's extremely weak and I have a lot of counterplay on the kingside **13...Qb4?!** 0.07

[13...0-0-0 14.e5]

[(13...dxe4!? 14.dxe4 0-0-0 might be best of all -- it certainly stops 15. e5 (Black just takes it!), and readies central counterplay.)]



Inaccuracy. O-O-O was best. I thought this was a good move but I missed Qa5! **14.exd5??** -1.96 Blunder. Qa4 was best. Here I knew this was a mistake, White's pieces are very disorganized

[14.Qa4! Qxa4 (14...Qxb2+ 15.Nce2 Very sharp and objectively difficult for Black as the queenside is fully

17...g5?! -0.03 Inaccuracy. Nc5 was best. Because I did not want to allow Ng5, I estimated this is my only shot at pushing g5

[17...Nc5 Getting the last piece not developed in the game, I completely missed this move (17... Nc5 *is* best,

(Here Nicolas really discussed and analyzed this key moment! Perhaps in his subconscious he couldn't "let go" of the rook at d8, and take the leap; he did try to calculate into it but overlooked some quite difficult details of the attack. Still, working with the computer afterwards he's presented quite an impressive piece of analysis! I'm just leaving it as it is, for us to see if it holds up.. .) This is the critical position of the game. I sensed that there was something but I could not calculate the line until the end. Basically my lack of chess vision/tactics is making me entering this super sharp position. What I should had told myself to help calculating was "if I don't play gxh4 now

then he will play h5 and shut down all my attack so even if I can't see the full line I should have sensed that it was the only counterplay I had. **19...Rdg8??** 0.51 Blunder. 19...gxh4 was best. I took 20 minutes to play this move, this is the decisive attacking mistake, my plan was to sack the knight after h5. Even if I don't see the full continuation after gxh4 I should have still played it because it's the only way to continue the attack. This exact position highlights my lack of tactical vision, I saw that gxh4 was promising but struggled to find the winning move.

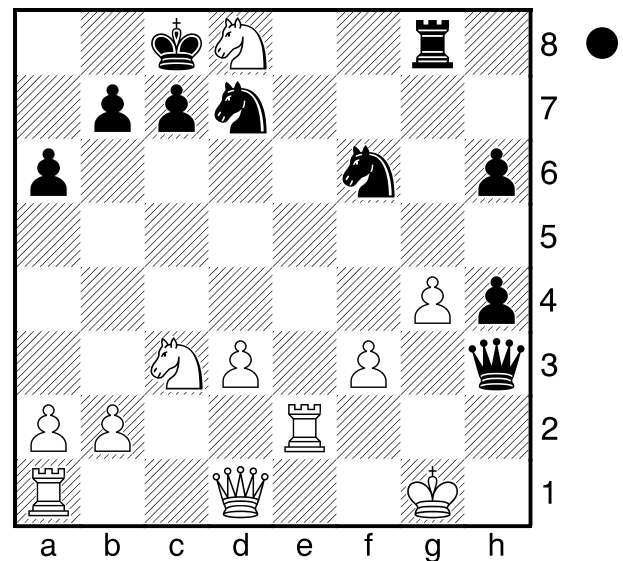
[19...gxh4! This is the only way to continue the attack, I discarded it because I could not see the full continuation

A) 20.Nxd8 Qg3+

A1) 21.Kh1 Qh3+ (21...h3??

This is one of the main reasons I wasn't convinced about this line, basically a pawn + queen is not enough to checkmate White's king. (Well... ecw) The main idea is that the pawn is much more threatening on h4 as it allows the access to the h3 square for the queen. I should have considered how to bring more reinforcement into the attack and might have found ...Rg8.) 22.Kg1 Rg8!! This is what I missed, basically all my pieces are targeting White's king. I am down a full rook but my pieces are extremely well coordinated. If I can bring the d7 knight into the attack White is busted (22...Qg3+ 23.Kh1 Qh3+ I could have simply gone for the draw because I haven't seen ...Rg8, good lesson to myself: if I can't find the continuation and my position is lost then just take the

perpetual.) 23.Re2 (ecw: it's worth noting that here Stockfish 15 points out that "best" is giving up the queen on g4 after the blows -- but it's still a loss.) (Say 23.Nf7)



A1a) 23...Nxg4?? (Horde)

24.Rg2! Qxg2+! 25.Kxg2 Ne3+ 26.Kf2 Nxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Kxd8 This is equal but slightly more pleasant to play as Black (27...Rxd8!

is somewhat better! but still White might hold with careful defence. 28.d4 Nf6 29.d5+);

A1b) 23...Ne5!! Absolutely brilliant deflection (ecw: the generally used technical term for this theme; Nicolas used "deviation") of the e2 rook!

A1b1) 24.Rg2 (ecw: White is quite busted on any attempt) Nxf3+ 25.Kf2 Nd4! Even though there's no clear mate, Black's pieces are so organized that defending is almost impossible

A1b11) 26.g5 Rxc5 (26...Kxd8) 27.Rxc5

hxg5 (ecw: with a swarm of queen and two knights leading to White giving up his queen to avoid mate.);

A1b12) 26.Ne6;

A1b2) 24.Rxe5

(ecw: I made this the main line) 24...Nxg4! 25.fxg4 Rxg4+ (ecw: Now White has to give up his queen ... and his rook ... and his knight! Leaving a won Q v R+N ending.) 26.Qxg4+ Qxg4+ 27.Kh1 Qh3+ 28.Kg1 Qg3+ 29.Kh1 Qxe5

This is winning for Black, White's pieces are too disorganized;

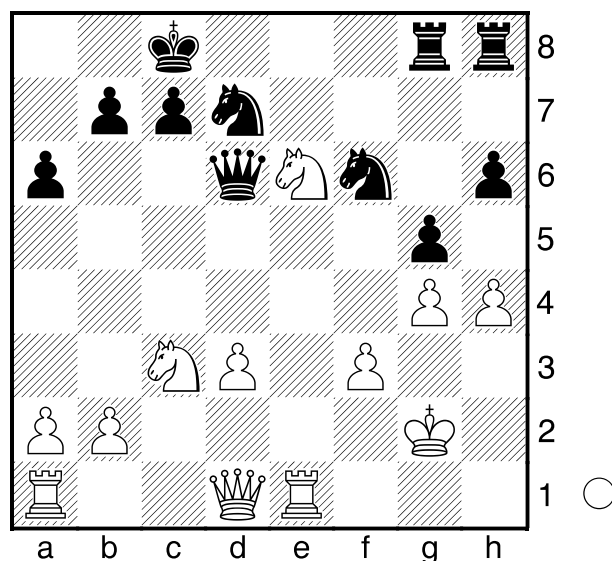
A2) 21.Kf1 Nxg4

This is crushing for Black 22.fxg4?! Rf8+ (and mate in five or so).;

B) 20.Kh1 (ecw: Objectively the best try!) 20...Rde8 (ecw: It's quite a different story on the kingside with blocking avoided!) 21.Ng7 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 h5 23.g5 Qf4 24.Qe2 Qxg5 25.Rg1 Qf4 26.Ne6]

[19...Rde8 20.Ng7 Rxe1 21.Qxe1 (ecw: But 21.Qxe1 h5! keeps the attack going at the cost of a mere pawn or two.)) 21...gxh4 I felt that my attack was stopped and I did not calculate any further]

(Diagram)



f8, I should have kept pieces on the board.

[(ecw: 20...Re8! 21.Ng7 Rxe1 22.Qxe1 Qxd3 is in fact fairly balanced.)]

[20...Nxh5? 21.gxh5 I realized that this does not work because of the queen protecting g4]

21.Nxc5 2.14 **Qxc5** 1.99 **22.Rc1** 1.07 [22.Qb3! is much better, winning according to SF15. (ecw)]

22...Nxh5?? 3.81 Blunder. Rd8 was best. I did not want to suffer for 20 moves in a lost endgame so this is my last attempt to continue the attack

[22...Rd8 23.Qb3 (ecw: veers towards a win as well, but there is still work to do.)]

23.gxh5 3.95 (ecw: It's pretty over now, so I leave it to Horde to wrap it up...

23...g4 4.07 **24.f4** 3.41 [24.fxg4 Qxh5 25.Re4 Qg5 26.Qe1 h5 27.Qe3 Qh4 28.Qg3 ecw: is SF15's "best line" but it does seem a bit more perilous...]

24...Qxh5 3.92 **25.Rh1?!** 2.86 Inaccuracy. 25.Re3 was best. [25.Re3!]

25...Qf5 3.42 **26.Qd2** 2.95 **h5** 3.04 **27.Ne4** 3.37 And all of a sudden White's

20.h5! 0.85 I was planning on sacking the knight on h5 but it simply does not work because of the queen covering g4 **20...Nc5??** 2.18 Mistake. 20...Re8 was best. I wanted to exchange this knight as it was preventing my rook from coming to

pieces are well coordinated, I knew my chances were over at this point **27...Rd8** 3.18 **28.Qc3** 3.55 **Rh7?! 4.86**

Inaccuracy. Qd7 was best.

[28...Qd7 29.Rhf1 h4 30.f5 Kb8 31.Kg1 g3 32.Rf3 Rdg8 33.Rc2 Rf8 34.f6 Rh5 35.Qd2]

29.Qf6?! 3.79 Inaccuracy. Qe5 was best.

[29.Qe5 Qxe5 30.fxe5 Rxd3 31.Nf6 Rd2+ 32.Kg3 h4+ 33.Kxg4 Re7 34.Rce1 Rf2 35.Nh5 Rxb2]

29...Qb5?! 5.68 Inaccuracy. Qd7 was best.

[29...Qd7 30.Rc3]

30.Nd6+ 6.42 Rxd6 6.75 31.Qxd6 5.00

Qxb2+ 6.69 32.Kg3 6.32 Rd7 6.77

33.Qf8+ 5.75 Rd8 6.53 34.Qf5+? 3.51

Mistake. Qf7 was best.

[34.Qf7 Qb6 35.Rhe1 Rxd3+ 36.Kh4 Kb8 37.Qf8+ Ka7 38.Qc5 Rh3+ 39.Kg5 g3 40.Qxb6+ cxb6]

34...Kb8 4.67 35.Qe4?! 3.33

Inaccuracy. Qe5 was best.

[35.Qe5]

35...Qxa2? 5.36 Mistake. h4+ was best.

[35...h4+ 36.Kxh4]

36.Rxh5 5.61 Qd2 6.81 37.Rc4?! 4.12

Inaccuracy. Rb1 was best.

[37.Rb1 b5 38.Rd5 Rxd5 39.Qxd5 b4 40.Kxg4 Qe2+ 41.Qf3 Qe7 42.Qe4 Qd7+ 43.f5 a5]

37...Rxd3+ 4.93 38.Kxg4?! 3.85

Inaccuracy. Kh4 was best.

[38.Kh4]

38...Re3? 7.72 Mistake. Qd1+ was best.

[38...Qd1+]

39.Rh8+ 7.99 Ka7 8.07 40.Qd4+ 7.47

I resigned here, I am forced to exchange queens and the endgame is completely lost for me. Kudos to my opponent for finding the best moves against my attack. I am not convinced that prepping against me was the best use of time at our level. I had some serious chances in the middlegame but could not find the best

attacking continuation as the position was super sharp and only one move was winning. Now that I am analyzing the game I should have gone for the draw when I had the chance. Nevertheless it's been an amazing tournament and I have learned a lot throughout those six games. I am also convinced my time is better spent studying tactics/games/endgames rather than openings. I still need refresher against some gambits but overall I usually managed to get a playable middlegame but got outplayed/outcalculated in the middlegame.

(Winslow: And thanks Nicolas, for such excellent and open analysis of some exciting games! This one especially was a thriller, and the spectacular possibilities you (well, and your computer) uncovered are wonderful material!)

1-0

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahrens, Richard	A01
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cadimas, Freddie	1064
		779

MI Conway TNM: Under 1800 (7.26)

[de Firmian]

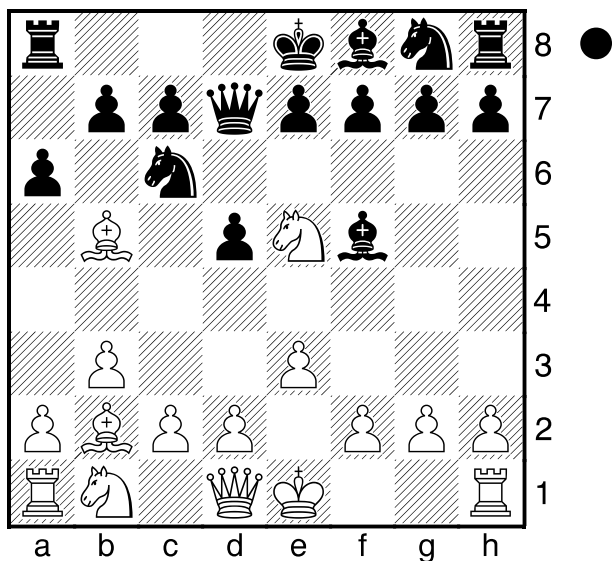
1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Bf5 4.Bb5 Qd7 5.Nf3 a6 6.Ne5!

(Diagram)

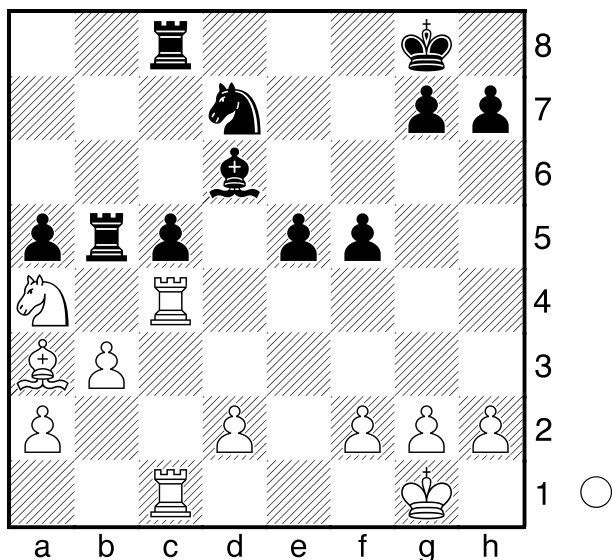
This Nimzovich/Larsen Attack has worked out well for White. It seems to be Richard's pet opening. **6...Qe6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Nf3?! No need to go back.**

[8.d3 Nf6 9.Nd2 is very nice for White]

8...Nf6 9.Nd4 Qd7 10.Nxf5 Qxf5 11.0-0 e5 12.c4 Bd6 Now Black has developed well and has equal chances. **13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Ba3 c5 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Na4 Nd7 17.Re1 Rab8 18.Qe2 a5**



19.e4 a good move, breaking up the black center and isolating the c5 pawn (though White's d-pawn also gets isolated **19...Qe6 20.exd5 Qxd5 21.Qe4 Qxe4 22.Rxe4 f5?! 23.Rc4 Rfc8 24.Rac1 Rb5**



25.Nc3

[25.d4! exd4 26.Rxd4 is very good for White cxd4 27.Rxc8+ Bf8

28.Bxf8 Nxf8 29.Rd8 wins a pawn]

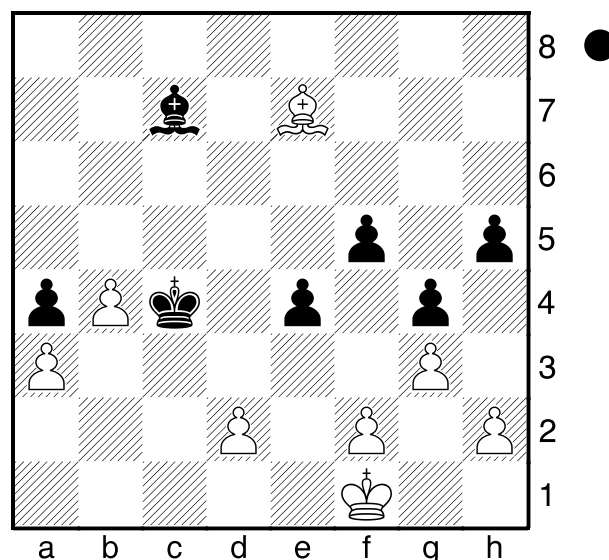
25...Rb7 26.Nd5 Kf7 27.Rh4 h6

28.Rh5 Kg6 29.Rh3 The white rook has been very active but Black has had an easy time defending against the one

move threats. **29...Nf6 30.Nxf6 Kxf6 31.Rhc3 Rbc7 32.Bb2 g5 33.g3 e4?** opening the diagonal to the black king **34.Rxc5+! Ke6 35.Rxc7 Rxc7 36.Rxc7 Bxc7** Black has been fortunate to only lose a pawn from the oversight on move 33. His king is central and the white d-pawn is isolated, so it is not easy for White to convert the extra pawn. **37.Bc3 h5 38.b4?! a4! 39.a3?! Kd5** suddenly Black has fine play against the white pawns. It would have been much better for White to keep his pawns on light squares to complement his bishop and keep the black king out. **40.Bf6?!**

[40.Kf1]

40...g4 41.Be7 Kc4 42.Kf1



Be5! Well played! If the black king attacked the a3 pawn White could play b4-b5. Now Black is winning his pawn back with a winning position. **43.Ke2 Bb2 44.Ke3** The last chance was

[44.b5 though Black should still win after Kxb5 45.d3 Bd4]

44...Bxa3 45.Kf4 Bxb4 46.Kxf5

a mistake, but the black a-pawn wins easily anyway **46...Bxe7** White resigned. A back and forth battle and an

interesting endgame.
0-1

□ Starr,Albert

■ Casares Jr,Nick

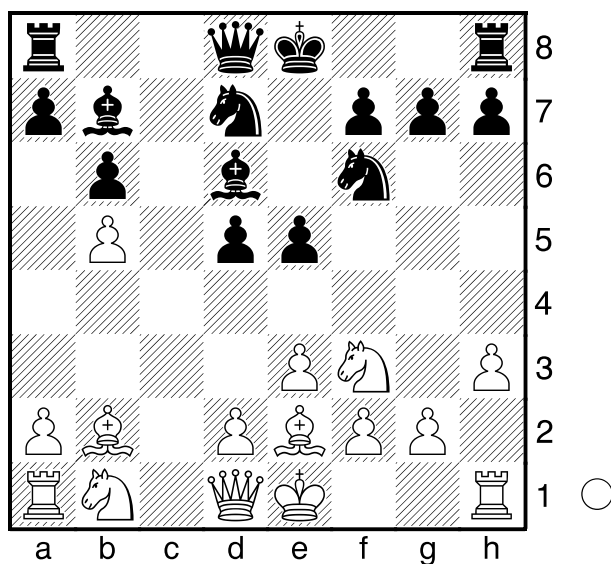
MI Conway TNM: Extra Games (7)
[de Firmian]

A00

1511

1600

1.b4 e5 2.b5 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb2 Bd6
5.c4 c6 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.h3 b6 8.Nf3
Nbd7 9.Be2 Bb7



Albert has of course played his favorite Orangutan Opening, but Nick has responded well by occupying the center. Black is at least equal at this stage.

10.0-0 Rc8 11.d3 0-0 12.Nbd2 Re8
13.a4 a5 A good move, remembering to deal with the queenside issues. White has a choice to open the game on that wing or keep it closed. 14.Rc1

[14.bxa6 Bxa6 15.Nb3 Nc5
is also more comfortable for Black]

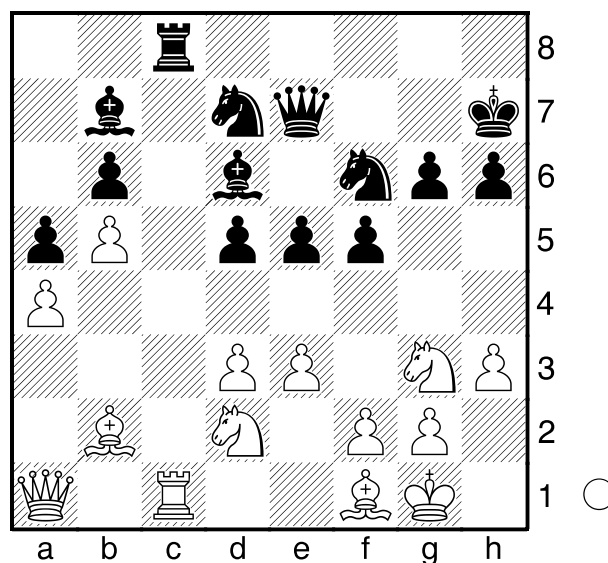
14...Qe7 15.Rxc8 Rxc8 16.Qa1! Ne8

[perhaps Black would do better with the more direct 16...e4 17.Nd4 Qe5 18.g3 Qg5]

17.Nh2?!

[17.Rc1 is more natural]

17...f5 18.Rc1 Nef6 19.Nhf1 h6
20.Ng3 g6 21.Bf1 Kh7

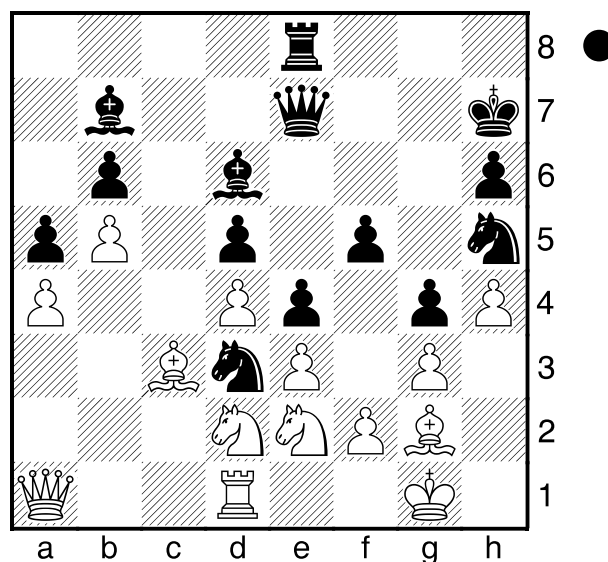


Black has more space but the breakthrough won't be easy. Here White should probably trade rooks to reduce material and Black's attacking chances.

22.Re1?! Bb4 23.Rd1 Bd6 24.Ne2
Re8 25.g3 Nh5 26.Bg2 Nc5 27.d4
Nd3 28.Bc3?

[28.dxe5! Nxe5 29.Bd4 Keeps this dark squared bishop active. Now Black gets a strong pawn wedge on the kingside and center.]

28...e4! 29.h4 g5 30.Bh3 g4 31.Bg2



f4! Excellent! Nick seizes the moment to make a powerful breakthrough. **32.Nc1?!**

[32.Nxf4 Bxf4 33.exf4 Nxf2!

should also be winning, though it would make more work for Black]

32...fxg3 33.Nxd3 exd3 34.Nf1 gxf2+

The white kingside falls apart. **35.Kxf2**

Qxh4+ 36.Kg1 Ng3 37.Re1 Nxf1

38.Kxf1 Rf8+

0-1

GM Nick de Firmian

The Candidates Tournament Has Begun!

Played from June 16th to July 5th, the long-awaited Candidates Tournament is underway. The tradition of having the best eight players besides the champion facing off is the chess highlight of the year, being equaled in interest only by the world championship match itself. The battle to determine the challenger is a defining moment for these aspiring players. One thing is to make it into the top ten in the world. That shows one is a top-level pro. Yet to best the other challengers is like making it into the NBA finals or the Super Bowl. Winning the championship is of course the goal, but even being in the pinnacle battle is already a historical achievement. We chess players long remember the titanic struggles of the battle to become the challenger as much as the world championship matches.

The games of 2022 have not started as of this writing, so instead we bring you a short reminder of epic Candidates Tournaments of old. The tradition first started in 1948 when the world's top eight players played a quadruple round robin. The great difference of that event was that the reigning world champion, Alekhine, had passed away, so the winner in 1948 became world champion without having to win the match afterward. The great 1959 Candidates featured some of the greatest players of the 20th Century – Petrosian, Fischer, Keres, Smyslov and the winner Mikhail Tal (who visited the Mechanics Institute in 1991 for our Pan Pacific Tournament). A second time the winner of the Candidates became world champion without a match was in 1974, when Bobby Fischer chose not to defend his title under FIDE's conditions. Then the Candidates was a series of knockout matches of the top eight players and the finals that year was between Anatoly Karpov (who also visited the MI) and Victor Korchnoi. Another great Candidates was London 2013. This event featured the best grandmasters of the last 20 years, including Kramnik, Gelfand, Svidler and Ivanchuk. Yet the winner was young Magnus Carlsen, and this event led to his reign which is still continuing.

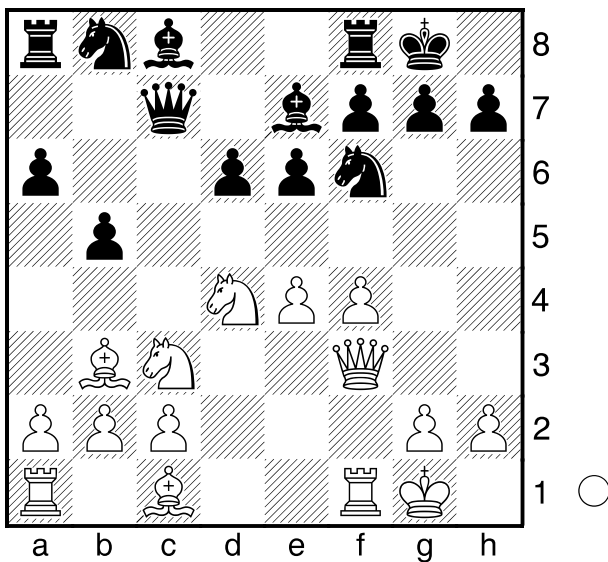
Next time we will bring you games of the 2022 Candidates, but for now we present a couple of great battles from these previously mentioned classics.

□ Fischer, Robert James

■ Tal, Mihail

Candidates Tournament (13) 28.09.1959
[de Firmian]

A battle between two of the greatest players of all time. Fischer was young then and not yet at the top of the world. Yet he still played with dashing, aggressive style - and his opponent certainly did too. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4** This was usually Bobby's preferred move against the Najdorf. **6...e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.f4 0-0 9.Qf3 Qc7 10.0-0 b5!**



The game is very sharp already, as befits the players and the Najdorf Variation. **11.f5**

[11.e5 dxe5 12.Qxa8? exd4 wins material]

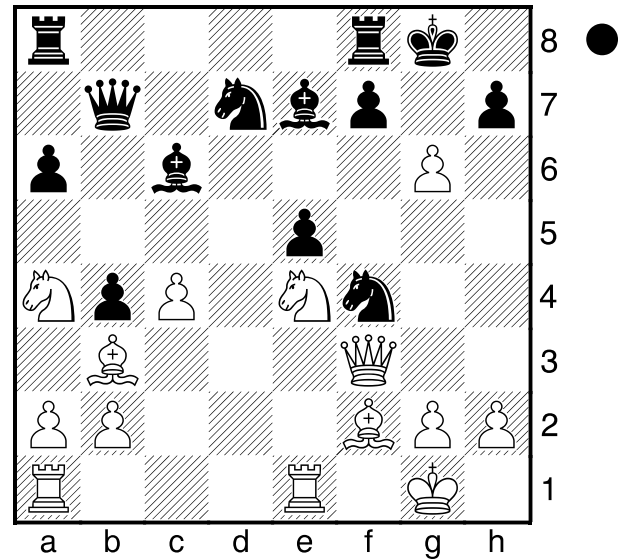
11...b4 12.Na4 e5 13.Ne2 Bb7

Black has at least equalized. The fight is for control of the central light squares.

14.Ng3 Nbd7 15.Be3 Bc6 16.Bf2?!

[16.a3]

16...Qb7 17.Rfe1 d5! With this advance Black gets the initiative. **18.exd5 Nxd5 19.Ne4 Nf4 20.c4 g6! 21.fxg6**



f5! Classic Tal. He goes for the throat and as usual doesn't care about a pawn or two. **22.g7?**

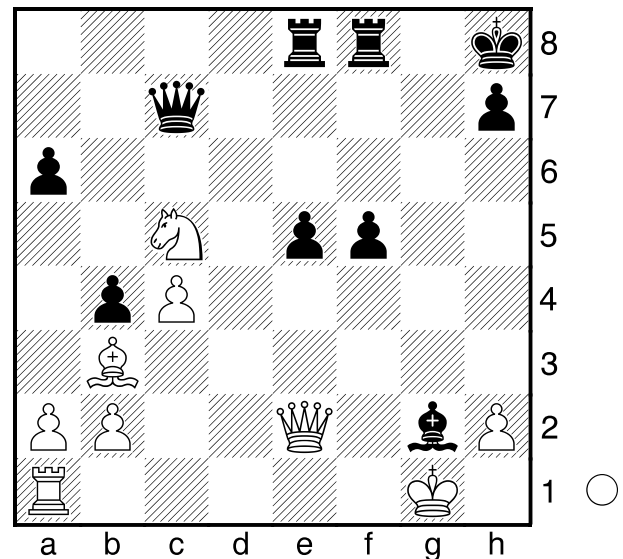
[22.gxh7+ Kh8 23.Bc2 is relatively best, though Black is clearly better]

22...Kxg7 23.Qg3+ Kh8 24.Nec5

Nxc5 25.Bxc5 Bxc5+ 26.Nxc5 Qc7

27.Qe3 Rae8 Getting the last piece into play. White cannot hold the kingside.

28.Re2 Nxe2+ 29.Qxe2 Bxg2!



A tactical finish worthy of its author. Tal pursues the attack with vigor. **30.Nxa6**

[30.Kxg2 Qxc5 is also hopeless]

30...Qa7+ 31.Kxg2 Rg8+ 32.Kh3 Qg7

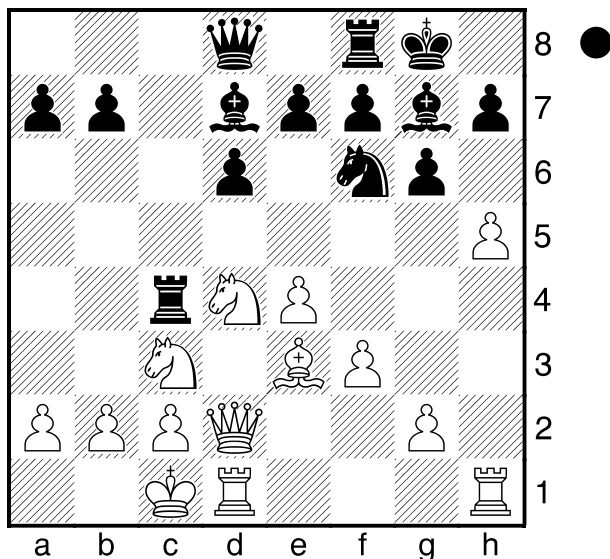
33.Bd1 Re6 Fischer resigned. Powerful play by Tal, who won the event and became world champion. Fischer of course would later see his day arrive in the 1972 Match of the Century.

0-1

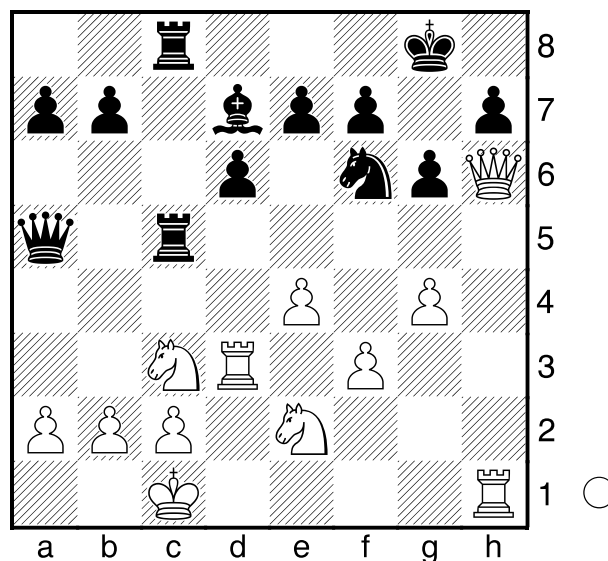
□ **Karpov, Anatoly**
 ■ **Kortschnoj, Viktor**
 Candidates final (2)
[de Firmian]

B78
2700
2670
 1974

The game set the tone for the match, which was the finals of the Candidates matches and ended up being a match for the world championship when Fischer stopped playing. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6** A fighting Dragon Variation! Brave and ambitious, but risky at the highest levels. **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3** Perhaps this surprised Korchnoi. The Yugoslav Attack is the most aggressive reply to the Dragon and one has to be theoretically well prepared, which wasn't Karpov's style at that time. **7...Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.h4 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.0-0-0 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.h5**



The classic pawn sacrifice to open the h-file. This has always been well known theory and the position that arises is very sharp. The big question is if White can break through with the attack on the h-file. **14...Nxh5 15.g4 Nf6 16.Nde2!?** A rather new move at the time. Karpov decides that he needs to shore up his defense on c3 in order to be able to focus the other forces on the black king. **16...Qa5 17.Bh6 Bxh6 18.Qxh6 Rfc8 19.Rd3** Once again adding protection to the knight on c3 before proceeding with the attack. **19...R4c5?!**



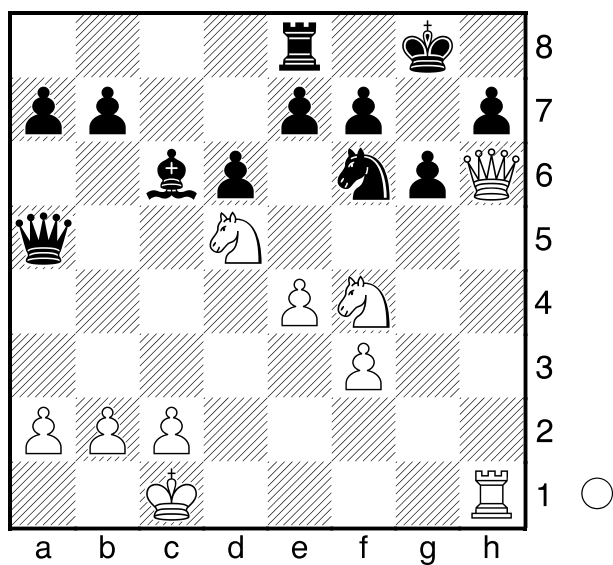
20.g5! Black's last move was designed to prevent this advance but Karpov plays it anyway! **20...Rxg5?!**

[**20...Nh5 21.Nf4 Rxc3 22.Rxc3 Rxc3 23.Nxh5 gxh5 24.Qxh5 Kf8** was best, though White is clearly better]

21.Rd5! Rxd5 22.Nxd5 White is two pawns down, yet the threats to the black king are very serious. **22...Re8 23.Nef4 Bc6**

(Diagram)

24.e5! The killer move, adding the last unexpected attacker. **24...Bxd5**



[24...dxe5 25.Nxf6+ exf6 26.Nh5
 gxh5 27.Rg1+]
25.exf6 exf6 26.Qxh7+ Kf8 27.Qh8+
 Korchoi resigned as 27...Ke7 28. Nxd5+
 Qxd5 29. Re1+ is the end.
1-0

IM Jeremy Silman

A Missed Opportunity

Six-time US Champion Walter Browne was one of my most difficult opponents, but I almost beat him late in my career (my last event was played at the Mechanics' in early 1999). Here is the game which didn't quite make the cut for *Silman's Chess Odyssey*.

Walter Browne vs. Jeremy Silman, American Open 1998.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3.

Browne always preferred this classic treatment, though 6.Ne5 has turned into the main line.

6...e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0.

I used to favor 8...Nbd7, but too many people grabbed the draw with 9.Qb3 a5 10.Na2 Be7 11.Qxb7 Rb8 12.Qa6 Ra8 13.Qb7. That wasn't a worry playing Walter as he was always a fighter.

9.Qe2 Bg6 10.Ne5 Nbd7 11.Rd1 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.f4 Qc7.



A very interesting position. White has some dynamic potential on the kingside while Black has a structural advantage.

14.Na2.

White also achieved nothing in Piasetski vs. Silman, San Francisco 1995, after 14.Bd2 a5 15.Be1 Be7 16.e4 Rfd8 17.g4 h6 18.Bg3 Bh7 19.Kg2 Nc5 20.f5 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Rd8. Another thought is 14.g4 but after 14...Rfd8 15.e4 h6 16.Kg2 Bh7 17.Bb3 Be7 Black is doing well.

14...Be7.

14...Bc5! is very strong.

15.e4.

Worse is 15.b4 Rfd8 16.Bb2 Nb6 17.Bb3 Nd5 when Black stands better.

15...Nc5.

15...Rad8 was very good.

16.Nc3 Rfd8.

The trouble with White's game is that all the energy in his position is dedicated to the f4-f5 advance. Unfortunately, that will leave the e5-pawn very weak. One reason that White's attack can't succeed is that poor placement of the pieces on c4 and c3 — both these guys are cut off from the kingside. The text is an important move. The f8-square must be cleared for Black's dark-squared bishop. 16...h6 17.Rf1 Bh7 18.Kh1 Rad8 is a little better for Black.

17.Rf1 Qd7.

This stops f4-f5 and prepares to meet 18.b4 with 18...Qd4+. Best was 17...h6 18.f5 Bh7 with equal chances.

18.g4.

18.Rd1 Qc8! 19.Rf1 b5 20.axb5 cxb5 21.Bxb5 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Bxe4 23.Qxe4 Qxc5+ is a little better for me.

18...h6.

Black wants no part in 18...f6? 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.e5 Be7 21.f5.

19.f5 Bh7.

My light-squared bishop is entombed, but White's pawns on e4 and e5 are targets.

20.Be3 Qc7!



A key move. The e5-pawn is targeted.

21.f6.

21.Bf4 Bg5 is nice for Black, as is 21.b4 Qxe5!.

21...Bf8.

21...gxf6 22.exf6 Bf8! was more exact and a little better for Black.

22.fxg7 Kxg7.

White is doomed structurally, but Black's king is weak.

23.g5.

This doesn't turn out very well.

23...Bg6!

23...Nxe4 24.gxh6+ Kh8 was also good.

24.gxh6+ Kh7.

I felt very confident here, but both of us now had only three minutes to make 16 moves! (The time control was 40 moves in 2 hours for the first-time control). 24...Kh8 was also good.

25.Bf4.

25.h4 Qxe5 26.Bf4 Qd4+ 27.Be3 Qe5 with equal chances.

25...Be7.

A pity. I loved the position of my bishop on f8, but White's plan of h2-h4-h5 began to nag me. Having no time for a deep look, I decided to kill it. The critical move was 25...Rd4!

26.Rf2 Rd4.

Going after the e5-pawn by 26...Nd7!? was also tempting, but that clock was ticking and a decision had to be made! Best was 26...Rd7! 27.Kh1 Rg8 28.Raf1 a6 29.Bg3 Kh8.

Black is doing very well.

27.Rg2 Rg8 28.Be3?

28.Kh1 held the balance.

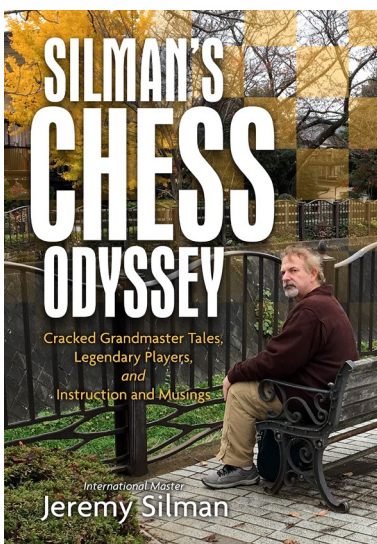


28...Qxe5.

I had been dying to sacrifice the exchange throughout the game, and now I jumped at the chance. However, it's not best. Instead, 28...Rd7!! 29.Rf1 Qxe5 30.Bf4 Qh5 31.Be3 b6 32.a5 bxa5 33.Qxh5 Bxh5 34.Rxg8 Kxg8 35.Ra1 a4 36.Kf1 Kh7 37.Be2 Bxe2+ 38.Kxe2 Rb7 39.Bxc5 Bxc5 and Black wins.

29.Bxd4 Qxd4+ 30.Kh1, draw agreed.

I had thought that I stood better here, but a closer look showed that things are actually far from clear: 30...Kxh6 31.Rd1 Qe5 32.Qe3+ Bg5 33.Qg1 a5 34.Rf1 Rh8 35.Rf3 Be7 32.Qf2 Bg5 with equal chances.



Silman's Chess Odyssey is one of over 3,000 books and periodical on chess to be found at the Mechanics' Institute. Come visit us: in person at 57 Post Street in downtown San Francisco, or on the web at <https://www.milibrary.org/>

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

GM Daniel Naroditsky has become the chess columnist for the *New York Times*:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/12/crosswords/chess-columnist-naroditsky.html>

He brings along a slew of new articles designed to bring readers into the Royal Game:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/crosswords/chess/how-to-play-chess.html>

What did Napoleon Bonaparte, Benjamin Franklin and Edgar Allan Poe have in common?

<https://bigthink.com/the-past/mechanical-turk/>

Summer jobs, teens and chess lessons:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/teens-charging-up-to-70-per-hour-for-summer-jobs-2022-6>

1972 remembered – there was chess in Iceland, cannibalism in the Andes:

<https://www.upandcomingweekly.com/views/8694-remembering-1972-50-years-go-by-in-a-flash>

Brooklyn has a new mural of champions, including GM Maurice Ashley:

<https://pix11.com/news/local-news/brooklyn/we-are-brownsville-mural-highlights-community-champions/>

Chelsea soccer star Christian Mate Pulisic is a chess fanatic, as if his middle name didn't already give it away:

<https://theathletic.com/3362188/2022/06/14/pulisic-chess-usmnt-kante/>

World Champion Magnus Carlsen wins on his home turf yet again:

<https://www.ft.com/content/269b9111-fe5b-41bd-900d-f976456d484e>

The Westfield, NJ chess club is holding all-girls tournaments organized by a 16-year old:

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/westfield/westfield-teen-launches-all-girls-chess-tournament-local-ymca>

Canadian chess streamer Nemo Zhou proves the haters wrong:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/article-proving-the-haters-wrong-nemo-zhou-is-one-of-the-countrys-top-chess/>

Finally, soon you can play chess on the ceiling, ala Beth Harmon in the *Queen's Gambit*:

<https://www.govtech.com/question-of-the-day/where-will-you-be-able-to-play-chess-on-the-ceiling>

Tony's Teasers



1. T.M. Brown, 1873. White mates in two moves.



2. H. von Gotschall, 1930. White mates in three moves.

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Cafe

On Monday, June 13 we analyzed five games, including a brief look at the parody by Hans Kmoch of Nimzovich's style of game commentary called "The Immortal Overprotection Game." All very amusing and at one point the move Rhe1 gave White five defenders of his e5 pawn. Things had not broken, but the game had followed a consistent theme that elated the narrator.

We started with a discussion of coffee. Andrejs mentioned that he found one at Trader Joe's that he really liked, called Dark Roast (\$3.99 a pound). Someone else noted a brand they like called Highwire Coffee started by a master cupper from Peet's.

We then heard that Nick de Firmian is a wildcard entry in the U.S. Senior Championship (rounds begin at 1:00 p.m.). The winner, it was said, goes to the World Senior.

I read out several paragraphs by a young Artur Yusupov on Efim Petrovich Geller, the Soviet GM, from Boris Gelfand's Dynamic Decision Making. We talked about Geller, a great fighter, who had a plus score in 200 games against six world champions from Botvinnik to Fischer, but not including Spassky.

Mike mentioned that on September 6, 1955 three Argentinian players (Najdorf, Pilnik and Panno) had the Black pieces against three Soviet players (Keres, Spassky and Geller) in Gothenburg, Sweden. The Argentines had an opening novelty prepared. When the Soviets realized the same position was on all three boards, Keres and Spassky waited 45 minutes as Najdorf-slaying specialist Geller looked deeply into the position and came up with a very forceful line that started with a bishop sacrifice. After Geller played Bb5+ hanging the bishop to the a6 pawn, the legend goes that Spassy and Keres returned to their boards and immediately made the same move. All three Soviet players won their games.

Juliana showed us a recent online win as White with her Advance Variation against the French Defense. Paul noted that her opponent's early 3. . . cxd4 takes the pressure off White too soon. Later, White lost a pawn through inattention, but was still better.

"The engine kept telling me to play Bd3," she said.

She played with verve and gusto.

Mike Walder pointed out a harder defense for Black at one point: . . . Ng6 against White's Bh4.

Paul: "Playing f4 before . . . f3 cements the dark squares."

Black moved his rook to c4. "Kick him out," said Elliott.

Juliana: "He didn't fall for the combination."

Paul: "Now he's blundered a piece."

Elliott: "What a great guy."

The endgame had her with Q, R, and B vs. Q and R, but Black's counterplay included a pawn at e3 leveraging her pawn at f2. "I kept wondering should I take the pawn or continue with my Kingside attack?" A check won the Be6 for Black, but left his queen in a bad position, where it was won by her knight fork.

After the immortal overprotection game, we looked at Elliott Winslow's brilliancy prize at the 1984 U.S. Open in Fort Worth.

"I was having a very mediocre tournament. I'd caught a cold because it was hot there, and the hotel jacked up the AC till room temperature was down to 65°. This game was my 10th or 11th."

The game went on apace. Suddenly the move designated Rxd5!! showed threats of discovered check and smothered mate.

"Two knights gained for a rook and bishop, but also a vicious attack. Here you should also have Qf3 attacking his Ra8." It was quickly over.

"I forgot for a long time that it was a brilliancy prize. I got a hundred to a hundred and fifty dollars for winning it."

Paul: "Elliott should write a book about his life in chess."

He said a few words on it, and Trish advised: "Tape yourself talking all about the subject, then turn that into printed copy."

He was an Assistant Editor and dedicated proofer at Chess Life four different times. What he said about that will appear in a later chapter of this open book.

And he got his final IM norm at the 2nd San Francisco International Tournament, held at Miz Brown's Restaurant on Mission Street near 22nd and 23rd Streets (long gone).

He said he worked with Julio Kaplan, once Junior Champion of the World and competitive GM who retired from professional competition rather early in order to program and produce computer software for chess. "He co-authored programs Superstar and Turbostar," says Wikipedia, "competed at the WMCCC 1983 and WMCCC 1985, respectively. In 1990, Kaplan started to work with Larry Kaufman and Don Dailey on Heuristic Alpha which later evolved to Socrates and Kasparov's Gambit."

Elliott: "Heuristic Software was Julio's company, doing the software for the Saitek line of table-top dedicated chessplaying machines, which was based in Hong Kong. At some point they had Kasparov as a brand. One of their less-than-strongest machines had eight

games with eight positions saved as a sort of quiz; I was led, little by little, into essentially writing a book on them; Kasparov was on the cover, but if you paid attention to the introduction, it identified me as the author. 'I was Garry's ghost-writer!' "

It turns out we won't get to all five games from June 13 today, but the fourth one we saw was Paul Whitehead vs. Vincent McCambridge in 1982.

Alexey noted that Vince is the Southern California alternate for the Irwin. Enrico Sevillano has been the number one in line to go. And that Tim Taylor from SoCal is playing in next week's NorCal Senior, but if he wins, he can't represent the North.

The game was a Winawer French in which Paul as White took Black's c5 pawn with his own from d4, producing that common tripled pawn on the c-file, taking squares away from Black and opening the b- and d-files. White also played 17. Kg2 to protect h3, get the King into the game, and pose Black a difficult decision.

Paul was asked by two people, "How do you know when to triple your pawns on the c-file?" He noted that it prevents Black from blockading it with . . . c4 and helps White play on both sides of the board.

Mike Walder noted that Nunn and Beliavsky played dxc5 here that this was a popular line also played by Spassky, Anand, Shirov and many other top players.

May you also find the lines you most like to play!

The Hans Kmoch parody/composition, Nimzovitch vs. Systemsson, Copenhagen 1927, can be found here: <https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1334664>

Paul Whitehead vs. Vincent McCambridge, San Francisco 1982, can be replayed here: <https://2700chess.com/games/whitehead-mccambridge-r5-san-francisco-1982>

Here is Elliott's brilliancy-prize game:

Winslow, Elliott C (2370) - Strickland, Edwin [D35] US Open-85 Fort Worth (5), 1984

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 Be7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.g4 Nf8 11.h3 Be6 12.0-0-0 b5 13.Kb1 Qb6 14.Ne5 Rec8 15.Bf5 c5 16.dxc5 Qxc5 17.Qb3 a6 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.g5 Nh5 20.Rxd5!! exd5 21.Nxd5 Ne6 22.Nc7 Nhxf4 23.exf4 Qb6 24.Nxe6 Rc4 25.Nxc4 Qxe6 26.Nd2 Qxb3 27.Nxb3 Rf8 28.Re1 Bd6 29.Re6 Bxf4 30.h4 Bh2 31.Rxa6 Rxf2 32.Nc5 Rf4 33.h5 Rf5 34.g6 hxg6 35.hxg6 Rf6 36.Ra8+ Rf8 37.Rxf8+ Kxf8 38.Ne6+ Ke7 39.Nxg7 Kf6 40.Nf5 Kxg6 41.Nd4 b4 42.Kc2 1-0.

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

June Quads and Scholastic Report

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

The Scholastic event saw 17 players divided into 2 sections, with the +700 section won by **Justyn Klot** with a perfect 4–0. The under 700 section also saw a clear winner, with **Calvin Rummins** also going a faultless 4-0.

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

The Quads had 34 players show up, with **Nicholas Weng** scoring a 3–0 hat-trick in the top Quad. Complete results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads#FinalResults>

Both tournaments were directed by Arthur Liou.

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.



Black to move. Although not attributed, this position shows a fairly standard clearance sacrifice. Steven points out that tactics like this can be picked up in an upcoming class taught by Coach Colin Shober: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-improvements-developing-players-june-aug-2022>

Upcoming Events

2nd Peter Grey Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 - Tuesday, August 23 2022. 6:30PM. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7
Round SS G/120;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-peter-grey-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

Registration: [https://mechanics-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/2ndPeterGreyMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/2ndPeterGreyMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/2ndPeterGreyMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon)

June & July USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com

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

Saturday July 2, 3PM. 4 games of G/20+

Sunday July 17, 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>

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)

21st Charles Bagby Memorial G/40;d5

Saturday July 16th. 4 games of G/40;d5

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

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

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

21st Walter Pafnutieff Memorial G/40;d5

Saturday July 30th. 4 games of G/40;d5.

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21th-pafnutieff-memorial-championship>

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

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

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

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Qa7! Kg6 2.Be4#. Or 1...Nc6 2.Nxh4#. Or 1...Kxe6 2.Bc8#.

Problem #2: 1.Ne3! dxe3 2.Kxg3 e2 3.Qc1#. Or 1...d3 2.Qg2! d2 3.Qf1#. Or 1...g2 2.Qd1+ Kf2 3.Ng4#.

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>



You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess>

**The MI Chess Room Newsletter will take a short break along with the TNM.
Our next issue will be out on July 16th.**