



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1029 | September 10th, 2022

Gens Una Sumus!

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Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial TNM

The Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off on September 6th with 73 registered players in two sections. Three IM's are playing, and while IM **Keaton Kiewra** and IM **Kyron Griffith** took ½ point byes in the 1st round, IM **Elliott Winslow** showed up to try to get a leg up on the competition. It was not to be, however, as **Sebastian Suarez** played a terrific game, hung tight, and earned a hard-fought draw. It was a round of upsets in the top section, as NM **Michael Walder** lost to **Stephen Parsons** (1719), while Expert **Edward Lewis** went down to **Steve Sobel** (1674).

The under 1800 section is almost twice as large as the top section, and old timers **John Chan**, **Romeo Barreyro** and **Michael Hilliard** are part of a large pool of 1st round winners.

Vladimir Naroditsky (d.2019) was a Mechanics' Institute Trustee and the father of GM Daniel Naroditsky.

The games from every round of the TNM are uploaded to the main page of the tournament in .pdf and .pgn formats. That information is here, along with the current standings, pairings and results:

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

The TNM is co-directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and FIDE Arbiter **Abel Talamantez**.

 **Suarez,Sebastian** **B22**
 **Winslow,Elliott** **1802**
2259
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.1)
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5
Nd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4

[6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3

A) 7...d6;

B) 7...g6?! 8.Ng5± Nxe5?

9.Qxd4+- (\triangle 9.Bf4+-) 9...f6

10.Qxe5 d5 11.Qe2 fxe5 12.Bxg5 Bg7 13.0-0 Qd6 14.Na3 Bd7

15.Rad1 (15.Rfe1!) 15...e6

16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.Qxb5+ Qd7

18.Qb4+- 6.21 but 0-1 (65)

Nepomniachtchi, I (2792)-Firouzja, A (2759) Paris GCT Blitz;

C) 7...d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6

10.Na3 dxc3 11.Bxe6 Qxd1

12.Rxd1 fxe6 13.Nb5 Rc8

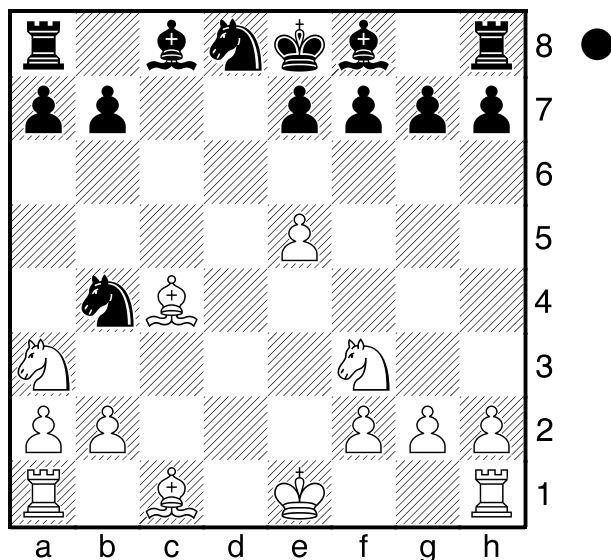
it's all a big theoretical line.]

6...d6 7.Bc4 dxe5

[7...Nb6]

[7...e6]

8.dxe5 Ndb4 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Na3



Be6

[10...a6!]

11.0-0

[11.Ke2!? g6]

11...Rc8

[11...g6]

12.Bxe6 Nxe6 13.Be3 Nc6?!

[13...a6]

14.Rac1

[14.Rfc1 g6 15.b4 a6 16.Nc4]

14...g6 15.Nb5 a6

[\triangle 15...Bg7 16.Nxa7 Nxa7 17.Bxa7 Ra8 18.Bc5 Rxa2 19.Ba3 0-0±]

16.Nbd4 Nexd4?!

[16...Ned8]

17.Nxd4± Bg7 18.Nxc6?!

[18.f4]

18...Rxc6 19.Rxc6 bxc6 20.Rc1?!

[20.f4]

20...Kd7?!

[20...Bxe5 21.Rxc6 Kd7 22.Rxa6 Bxb2= 23.a4 Rc8 24.Kf1 Bc1 25.Bb6 Ba3 26.Ke2 Bc5]

21.f4 "1/2?" 21...Rb8 22.b3 a5?!

[22...Rb5]

23.Kf2?!

[23.Rc4 Rb5 24.Rd4+ Ke6 25.Ra4]

23...f6

[23...a4 24.bxa4 Rb4 (24...Rb2+ 25.Kf3 Rxa2 26.Bd4 Ke6 27.Rxc6+ Kd5 28.Rc7 Kxd4 29.Rxe7 Kd5 30.Rxf7 Bxe5 31.fxe5 Kxe5=)]

24.exf6 Bxf6

[24...exf6]

25.Rc4 Rb5

[25...e5]

[25...e6]

26.Kf3 Rd5 27.Ke4 e6 28.Bd4

[28.g4]

28...Be7

[28...Bxd4 29.Rxd4 Kd6= 30.Rxd5+ exd5+ 31.Ke3 c5=]

29.Be5 Bc5

[29...Bd6 30.Rd4 Bxe5 31.Rxd5+ cxd5+ 32.Kxe5 Kc6 33.Kd4 h5]

30.g4 Bg1?!

[30...Bb4]

31.h3?!

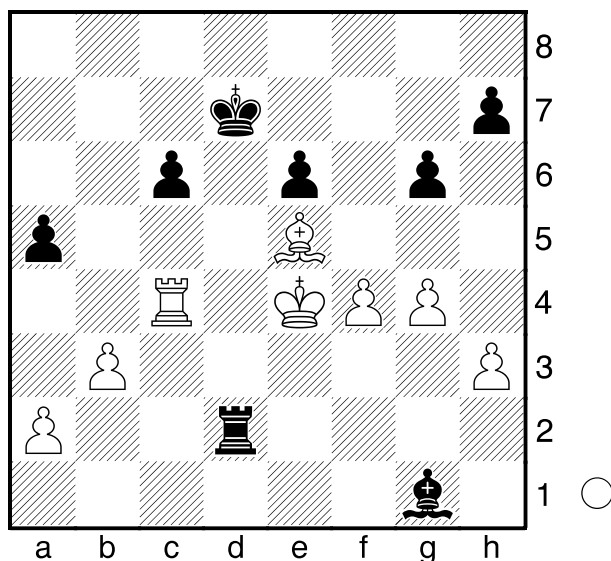
[31.Rc1

A) 31...Bxh2? 32.g5 Rd2 33.a4

Re2+± 34.Kf3 (34.Kd4);

B) 31...Bb6]

31...Rd2?



**32.Bd4! Rd1 33.Bxg1 Rxd1 34.Ra4?!
[34.Ke5!]**

34...Rh1 35.Rxa5

**[35.Ke5 Rxd1 36.Kf6 Kd6 37.Rd4+
Kc5 38.Re4 Rh4 39.g5 Rh2]**

35...Kd6= 36.b4 Rxd1 37.a4

**[37.g5 h6 38.gxh6 Rxd1 39.Rg5
Rh2=]**

37...h5

[37...Rb3]

[37...Rc3]

38.gxh5 gxh5

[38...Rxd1=]

39.Ra6 Kc7 40.b5 cxb5 41.axb5 Rh1

42.Kf3

[42.Rxe6 Re1+ 43.Kf5 Rxe6

44.Kxe6 h4=]

42...Kd7 43.Ra7+ Kd6 44.Rh7 Kc5

45.Rh6 Kxb5 46.Rxe6 Rf1+ 47.Kg3

Kc5 48.Re5+ Kd6 49.Rxd5

1/2-1/2

Seitzer, Phillip

Sun, Kevin

B37

2150

1772

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.2)

[Winslow, Elliott]

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4

[2.c4]

2...Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4

Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nc2 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0

9.0-0 Be6 10.f4 Qa5 11.Be3 Rac8

12.Rc1 Rfd8 13.h3 Nb4 14.Na3 Bd7

15.Bf3 Bc6 16.Qe2 a6 17.Rfd1

Qc7??

[17...Nd7 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.exd5

Nc5=]

18.Qf2?

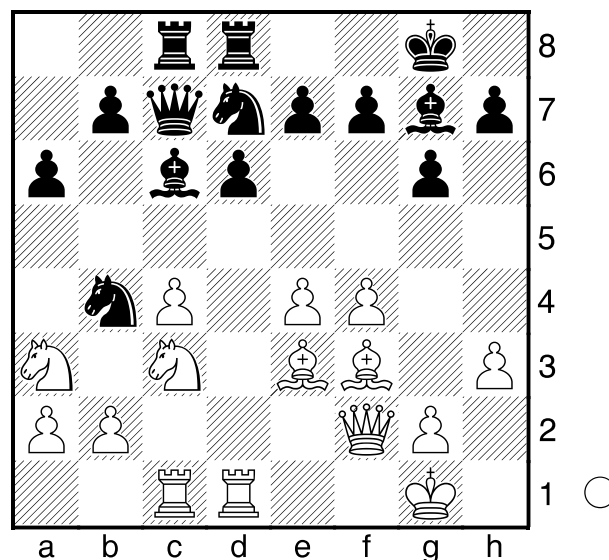
[18.Nd5+- Bxd5 19.cxd5 Qb8

20.Rc4 a5 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Nc4

White is overrunning the queenside,
while Black has no counter. White can
toss in a2-a3 so that nothing gets to
c2.]

[18.Nab1+-]

18...Nd7



19.Nc2?? "1/2?" Agreed after using all but
ten minutes of his time.

[19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Qa5

21.Qd2±]

[19.Nc2+- Bxc3 20.bxc3 Nxa2

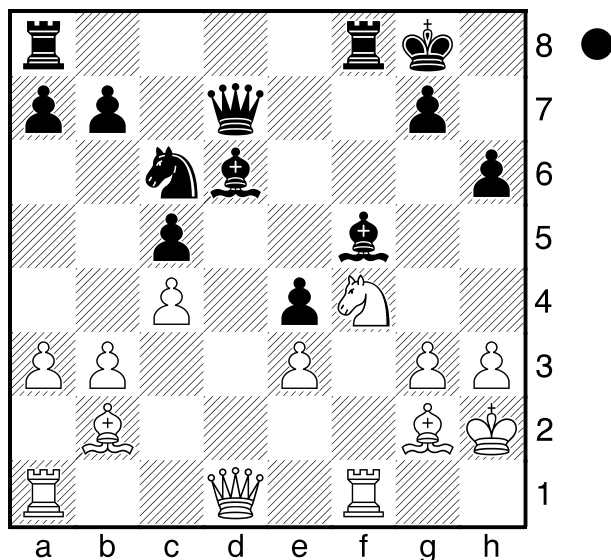
21.Qh4 Nxc1 22.Rxc1 e6 23.f5 exf5
Believe the computer when it tells you
White can't make anything of the
weakened dark squares around
Black's king -- okay?]

1/2-1/2

Lamstein, Josh
 Bambou, Christophe
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.3)
[Winslow, Elliott]

A08
1753
2125

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.d3 e5
5.Nbd2 Be7 6.0-0 Be6 7.c4
 [7.e4]
7...Nf6 8.a3 0-0 9.b3 h6 10.Bb2 d4
11.h3 Qd7 12.Kh2 Bf5 13.Ne1 Bd6
14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Be6 16.Nd3 f5
17.exf5 Bxf5 18.e4 dxe3 19.fxe3 e4
20.Nf4

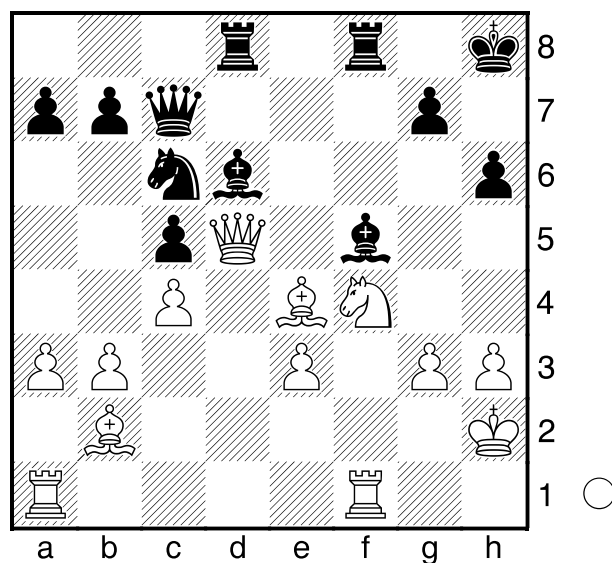


Qc7?

[20...Rad8 21.Qh5= (21.Qd5+ Rf7#)]

21.Qd5+± Kh8 22.Bxe4 Rad8
 [22...Bxf4 23.Rxf4+-]

(Diagram)



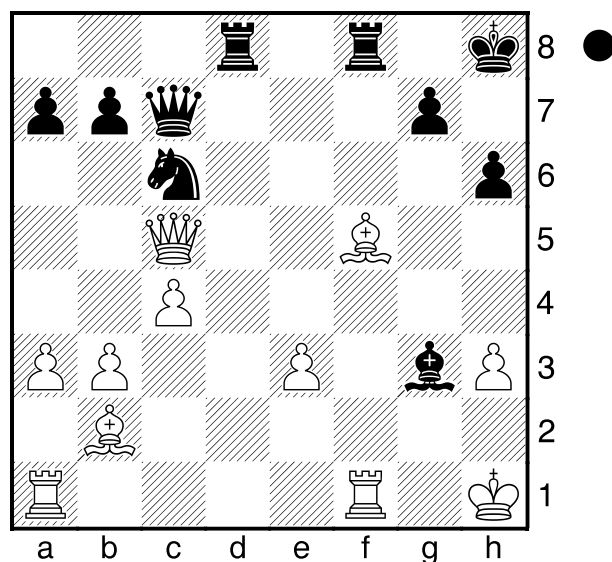
23.Bxf5?

[23.Ne6! Bxg3+ 24.Kg2+- Rxd5 25.Bxd5]

23...Bxf4 24.Qxc5??

[24.Rxf4 Rxd5 25.cxd5 Ne7 26.Be4=]

24...Bxg3+ 25.Kh1



b6!-+ With this little move White completely falls apart!

[25...Rd2?? 26.Qxf8#]

26.Qb5 Rd2 27.Be4 Rh2+ 28.Kg1
Bf2+ 29.Rxf2 Rxf2
0-1

B33



Walder, Michael

2083



Parsons, Stephen

1719

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.6)

[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6
8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6
11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 Bb7

[12...0-0]

[12...Rb8]

[12...Ne7]

13.a4

[13.Be2]

[13.Nce3]

13...bxa4 14.Rxa4 Ne7

[14...0-0]

[14...Nb8]

15.Bc4 0-0 16.0-0 a5 17.Qd3 Bc6

18.Ra2 Kh8 19.Nce3

[19.Rd1 f5 20.exf5 Nxf5 21.g3 Qb8

22.b4 axb4 23.Rxa8 Bxa8 24.cxb4

Bxd5 25.Bxd5 1-0 (65) Ognean, M

(2278)-Bulau, A (2051) lasi 2018]

[19.Nxe7 Bxe7 20.Bd5 might be the

most logical play of all, reaching the

anti-Sicilian positional Holy Grail of

Good Knight vs. Bad Bishop. Rc8

21.Bxc6 Rxc6 22.Rfa1 Qb8 23.Ne3

Rfc8 24.Qd5 Bg5 25.Rxa5

1-0 (49) Varga, V (2140)-Koncz, I

(2210) Hungarian Team league 3.3.

2013]

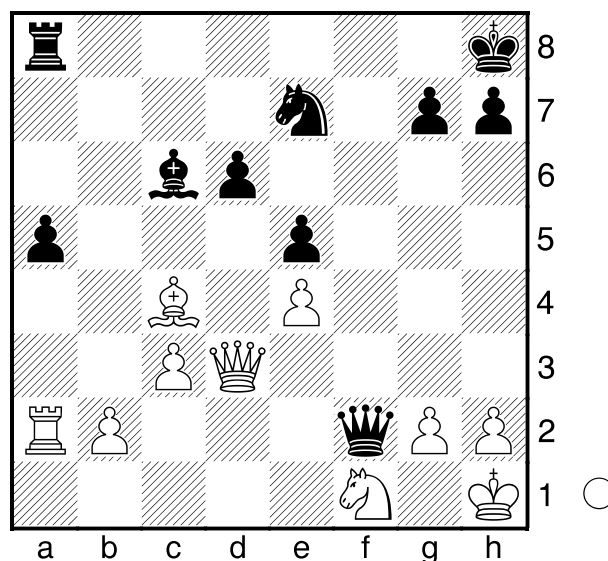
19...Bxe3 20.Nxe3 f5 21.f3

[21.exf5]

21...Qb6 22.Kh1 fxe4 23.fxe4 Rxf1+

24.Nxf1 Qf2?!

(Diagram)



Superficially aggressive, but it could be ignored. **25.Qf3**

[25.b4! Qe1 26.Kg1! Bxe4 27.Qd2!

Stopping for a moment to oust the intruder.

A) 27...Qxd2 28.Nxd2 Bc6

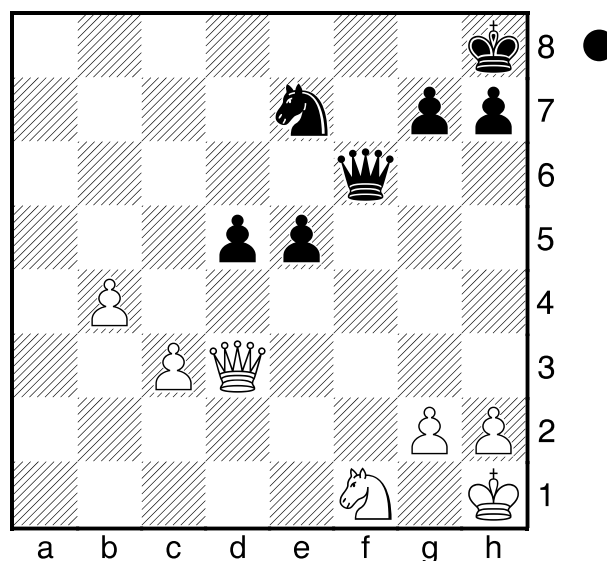
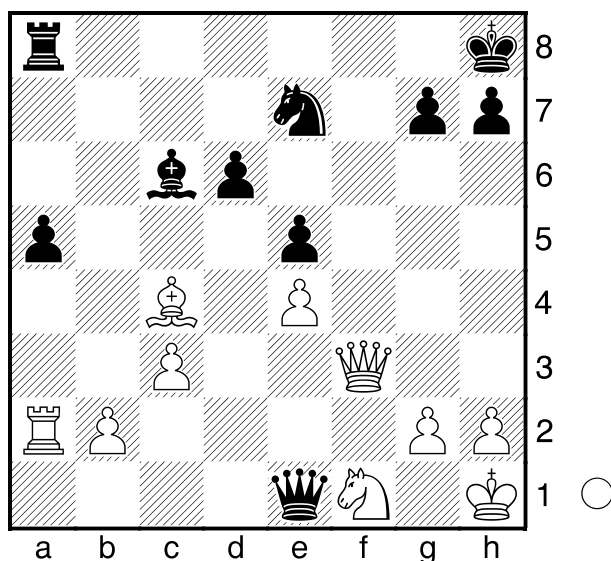
29.Rxa5± has just few enough pieces still on the board that the queenside pawns outsway the center pawns. Of course I'm looking at the computer output and interpreting, but it's a logical and instructive conclusion. (29.bxa5!?

One passed pawn or the other);

B) 27...Qh4]**25...Qe1?!**

[25...Qxf3 26.gxf3 a4 makes sure that the b-pawn doesn't do something nasty, like queen.]

(Diagram)



26.Rxa5!± White grabs a pawn.
Unfortunately for him he loses his way
later... **26...Rb8 27.Ra7?!**

[White has to defend for a moment
with 27.Bd3

A) 27...Ng8 28.Ra7 Nf6 29.Rf7
Kg8 30.Bc4 d5 31.exd5! Bb5!
32.Rxf6! Bxc4! (32...gxf6 33.Bxb5
when on the recapture White will
pick off the rook, guarding f1!)
33.Rf7 Typical Sveshnikov: still a
cliffhanger!;

B) 27...Rxb2?? 28.Qf8+ Ng8
29.Ra7 Bb7 30.Bc4+- Triumphant
return!]

27...Bxe4 28.Qe3

[28.Qg3!? Qxg3 29.Nxg3 Bb7⇝
with our standard technical
Sveshnikov situation.]

28...Qh4 29.b4 Nf5 30.Qd2

[30.Qe2]

30...Rf8 31.Rf7 Rxf7 32.Bxf7 Qf6

33.Bd5 Ne7 34.Bc4 d5 35.Bd3?!

[35.Bb5]

35...Bxd3 36.Qxd3

(Diagram)

e4! Even after all that's transpired and
with so little left on the board, Black
finds a tactic. **37.Qb5?**

[37.Qb1 Qf2! (37...Qxc3?! 38.b5!
when White's running b-pawn secures
equality ("0.00" everywhere on the
screen).) 38.b5 e3 39.Nxe3 Qxe3
40.b6 Nc6 41.b7 Nb8 Both sides
need luft! 42.h3 Qe4 43.Qb6 Qe1+
44.Kh2 Qe7 45.Qb5 Qd6+ 46.Kg1
g6= That's as far as it goes: White
can't queen, but there's not a lot Black
can do either.]

37...Qxc3+- 38.Qe8+?!

[38.h3 Qa1 39.Kh2 Qe5+ 40.Kg1
Nf5 Black's queen dominates
White's.]

38...Ng8 39.b5?! Qc4

[39...Qf6! 40.Kg1 Qd4+ 41.Kh1
Qf2]

40.Qf8 Qxb5 41.h4 h6 42.Ng3 d4
43.Nf5

[43.Nxe4 Qb1+]

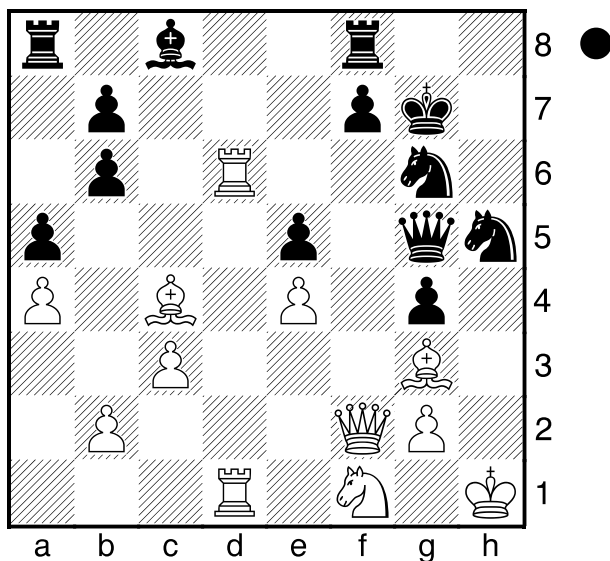
43...Qf1+ 44.Kh2 Qf4+ The record
grows unclear around here in the time
scramble, but Parsons put the moves
together ... **45.Kg1 Qc1+ 46.Kh2 Qc7+**
47.Kh3 d3 48.Nd6 d2

0-1

Li, David Z
 Widjaja, Luke
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.7)
[Winslow, Elliott]

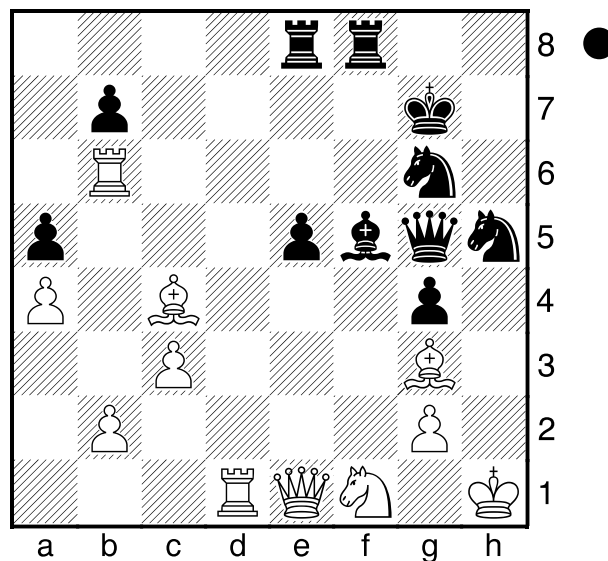
C50
1716
2049

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0
 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4
 g5 9.Bg3 Ne7 10.c3 Bb6 11.Nbd2
 Ng6 12.a4 a5 13.Qb3 Nh5 14.d4 Qf6
 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Kh1 Nh4 17.Rfd1 h5
 18.Nh2 g4 19.h4 Kg7 20.Ndf1 Ne6
 21.f3 Nc5 22.Qc2 Nxh4 23.fxg4 hxg4
 24.Ne3 Qg5 25.Nd5 Ne6 26.Nxb6
 cxb6 27.Qf2 Ng6 28.Rd6 Nef4
 29.Rad1 Nh5 30.Nf1



f5 31.exf5 Bxf5 32.Qe1 Rae8 33.Rxb6

(Diagram)



Be4! 34.Qxe4 Rxf1+ 35.Rxf1 Nxg3+
 36.Kg1 Nxe4 37.Rf7+ Kh6 38.Rbxb7
 Qe3+
0-1

Lewis, Edward
 Sobel, Steve
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.8)
[Sobel, Steve [Winslow, Elliott]]

D47
2032
1674

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.d4 e6
5.a3

[5.Bd3 dxc4 6.Bxc4 b5 7.Bd3]
5...Nbd7 6.Nc3 Bd6 7.Bd3 dxc4?!
 [7...0-0 8.0-0 e5=]

8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3

[9.Bb3 I forgot that a3 defangs b4, but
 my opponent didn't test me here!]

9...0-0 10.0-0 Bb7 11.e4 e5

A typical Meran move. Black actually
 scores very well from this position in the
 lichess masters database. **12.Be3**

[12.d5?! A common try in online blitz
 and suggested by my opponent in our
 post-mortem, but often mistimed in
 my experience. cxd5

A) 13.Nxb5?? Bb8! 14.Nd2
 (14.exd5 e4) 14...Nc5-+;

B) 13.Bxb5?? d4-+;

C) 13.exd5 a6+ Is the pawn passed or isolated?]

12...Ng4?!

[12...Re8]

[12...a6]

13.Bg5 f6 14.Bh4 exd4 15.Nxd4

Bxh2+

[15...Nxb2?? 16.Re1 And the knight is trapped.]

16.Kh1 Nc5!?

[16...Nde5! 17.Be2 (17.Ne6 Qxd3) 17...Qd7

A) 18.Qb3+ Kh8 19.f4 (19.Rad1? g5! 20.Nf5 Qe8 The threat of Qh5 forces some liquidation. 21.Bxg4 Nxb3 22.f3 Be5 23.fxb3 g5 19...Bxf4 20.Rxf4 Qxd4 21.Rxg4 Nxb3 22.Bxg4+;

B) 18.f4 Ne3 19.Qb3+ N5c4 20.Nf5 Nxf1 21.Rxf1 Kh8 22.Bxc4 bxc4 23.Qxc4 Bxf4 24.Rxf4 g6+]

17.Be2?

[17.Nf5 h5 (17...Qxd3 18.Qxg4+-) 18.Bc2 Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Be5]

[17.Bc2 Bc7 18.e5 Nxe5 Black has material, but white has open lines and initiative. SF gives white +0.65 at depth 33.]

17...Be5 18.Bxg4?

[18.Nf5 Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Ne5 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.f4 The Fish claims sufficient compensation for white.]

18...Qxd4 19.Qb1?

[19.Qe2 Qd3 I planned to insist on trading queens. But at least this would not blunder f5.]

[19.Qe1 Offers black an embarrassment of riches Nd3 (19...f5!? I had set myself calculating this while my opponent considered their queen moves.)]

19...Qc4

[19...f5! Despite calculating this in another line I had inexplicably failed

to play it here...]

20.Be2 Qe6 21.f3? The variations given later show that this move fatally exposes the white king. **21...Rad8?!**

[21...Nb3 22.Qa2 Qf7 23.Rad1 Qh5! I missed this final blow.]

22.Rd1 Bc8?!

[22...Nb3 23.Qa2 Bc8 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ Is strictly superior to 25...Rxd1+ in the text.]

23.Qc2 Nb3 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rxd1+?

[25...Nd4 I didn't like self-pinning, but it's easy to break the pin. 26.Qc1 Rd7]

26.Nxd1?

[26.Bxd1 Nd4 27.Qd2 Qd6+] [26.Qxd1 g5 27.Bf2 Kg7]

26...Nd4 27.Qd2 Nxe2 28.Qxe2 Qc4?!

Surely not the critical try, but I felt that even I could not lose the ensuing endgame.

[28...Bc7! 29.Ne3 (29.Bf2 f5! Opens the position favorably for black.) 29...Qe5 30.g4 h5-+]

29.Qd2??

[29.Qxc4+ bxc4 Black probably doesn't win by force, but it'll be a difficult defense.]

29...Qf1# The chess speaks for itself!
0-1



Maliev,Anton

B04

1630



Dutter,Frederic

1900

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.9)
[Maliev, Anton]

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.exd6 cxd6 5.Nf3 g6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Bg4 10.c3

I'm not very familiar with the theory of the Alekhine, so I chose a setup that I thought was a bit passive, but solid.

10...Nc6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4

Making it harder for Black to achieve the e5 break without weakening his kingside.

12...d5 13.h3 Bf5 14.Nbd2 g5 15.Bg3

Mission accomplished. It is hard for Black to form a plan here. Meanwhile white has ideas of Nf1-e3, h4, a future f4, or just trading minors on e5. **15...a5 16.a4 e6 17.Nf1 Rc8 18.Ne3 Bg6 19.Ng4** My hope was to provoke an f-pawn push and weaken e6. I also wouldn't mind trading off bishops on e5 and removing his defenses. 19. h4 also looked tempting, but ...f5 seems to be a strong reply, shutting down my kingside activity.

[19.h4 f5 20.hxg5 f4 21.gxh6!

Although, this line definitely looks fun.]

19...Nc4 20.Bxc4 dxc4 21.Nfe5 Nxe5

22.Nxe5 Bh7 23.f4 Targeting Black's overextended pawns. **23...f6 24.Nf3**

Qd5 25.Qd2 Rfe8 26.h4?! A very anti-positional move, but my goal was to force Black's hand. ...g4 allows me to reroute my knight to a better square (e3) and further weakens black's kingside.

26...g4 27.Nh2 h5 28.Nf1 Qf5

Threatening a queen trade on d3 was a solid plan. I thought I would be equal at best, once Black's bishop pair comes alive. **29.Re3**

[29.Ne3 Qd3 30.Qf2 Stockfish's preference, to boot the queen with Rad1. I suppose this formation is more harmonious for me.]

29...Bh6 30.Qe2 Qc2 31.Nd2

I was happy with this move, and I felt the tables turning in my favor. It's hard for Black to deal with the threats down the e-file, and Qxb2 allows my rook to infiltrate with Rb1-b7. **31...Bd3 32.Qe1 e5? 33.dxe5 fxe5 34.Ne4**

My opponent was probably expecting the tempting 34.Rxe5, but after 34...Rxe5 35.Qxe5 Black has enough counterplay on my poorly placed knight. Fortunately, I

have the opportunity to use my knight to its fullest potential, threatening two forks and headed to g5.

[34.Rxe5 Rxe5 35.Qxe5 Qxd2

36.Qe6+ Kh7 37.Qxc8 Be4

Stockfish even gives Black a slight advantage here due to the strong mate threat.]

34...Bxe4 My knight's long journey (10 moves!) has reached its end. **35.Rxe4**

Qxb2 36.Rb1 Qa3 37.Rxe5 Qxa4

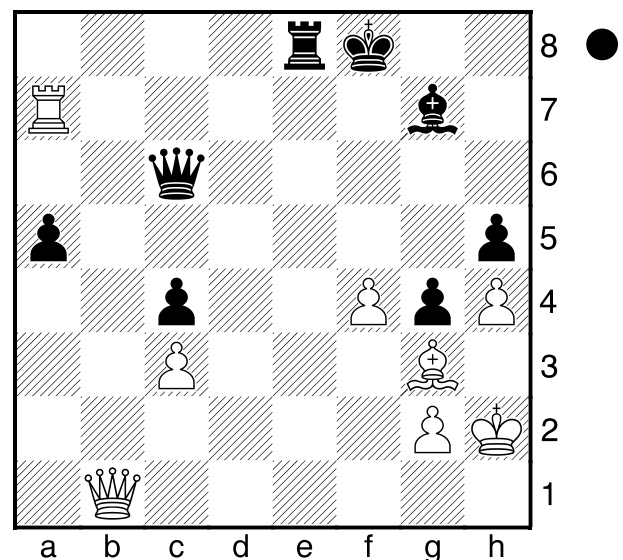
38.Rxb7 Material is equal, but Black's king is completely exposed while my king can be tucked away safely on h2. At the very least, a perpetual check is always an idea for me. **38...Qc6 39.Rbe7?** I missed a crushing win with 39.Qb1! here, with an unstoppable kingside infiltration. These major-piece endgames always seem much clearer in hindsight...

[39.Qb1 Bg7 40.Rxg7+

A nice finish.]

39...Rxe7 40.Rxe7 Bg7 41.Kh2 Kf8

42.Ra7 Re8 43.Qb1



Qc5?? 44.Bf2?? A very instructive tactical moment. This wasn't just for show (44...Qxf2?? 45.Qf5+ is mate in three), this seemed like the clearly best move, gaining a tempo on the queen

while improving the bishop and securing the dominant a7 rook. However, it loses to the spectacular 44...g3+! 45.Kxg3 Re3+!, where both 46.Bxe3 Qxe3+ and 46.Kh2 Qxa7 lose a bishop. Neither of us spotted this idea in the game. I had rejected 44.Qb7, because after 44....Re7 45.Qb8 Re8 I didn't spot anything better than a repetition. However, I had overlooked 45.Bf2! holding everything together. In this line 45...g3 doesn't work because the a7 rook is defended.

Lessons: always consider switching the move order on your tactical sequences. And always look for checks (even the most unlikely) especially in open positions with major pieces on the board.

[44.Qb7 Re7 45.Bf2! (45.Qb8+ Re8 46.Qb7 Re7) 45...Qxa7 46.Qc8+! Re8 47.Bc5+! Kf7 48.Qf5+! Kg8 49.Bxa7 Beautiful line, courtesy of Stockfish.]

44...Qd6??

[44...Qxf2?? 45.Qf5+]

[44...g3+! 45.Kxg3 Re3+!! 46.Bxe3 Qxe3+]

45.Qf5+ Kg8? This blunders a mate in two, but the other options aren't much better.

[45...Qf6 46.Qxh5 Qxf4+ 47.Bg3 The best try, but my attack continues.]

46.Qf7+

1-0



Horde,Nicolas T



Lyles,William

C42

1451

1009

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (1.24)
[Horde,Nicolas]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be6?! 7.Be3

[7.Ng5 I thought that Be7 is a better

move because of Ng5 but it's my first round so I wanted to develop calmly and see after]

7...Nc6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.Qd2 Qd7

Normal development from both side. My opponent told me after the game he was waiting for me to castle before committing. **10.0-0 0-0-0** Going for the teeth, I thought that I had a great position because my pawn storm is very easy to start

[10...0-0 Most solid option for Black]

11.a4

[11.Bb5 a6 12.a4?? axb5 13.axb5 Nb8 14.Ra8 I wasn't convinced about it at all and the engine confirms it]

11...Na5?? This is clearly not the correct plan.

[11...h5 I told my opponent he should had gone for the kingside pawn storm instead]

12.Bxa7 b6 13.Bb5 The idea is to create another weakness with c6 **13...c6**

14.Ba6+ Kc7

[14...Nb7?? 15.Bxb6]

15.b4 Ra8 16.bxa5 Rxa7 17.axb6+ Kxb6 I calculated until here. I spent 30 minutes on the next move. **18.Be2**

First Stockfish line but I felt that I missed something

[18.Rfb1+! I spent 30 minutes calculating this variation but could not find the correct attacking sequence and gave up. With Stockfish I now know that this is actually the second best line (and probably the best line against a human as everyone would take the free a6 bishop here). But why complicate a winning position without a clear continuation? Kxa6?? Losing on a spot but very tempting for a human. This is actually the only line to calculate for White. (18...Kc7 19.Be2 Better for Black but is still +3 for White) 19.Qd3+ Ka5 20.Rb5+!! I saw that cxb5 21.axb5+ I stopped

calculating here as I did not see the continuation Kb6 22.Qd4+!

A) 22...Kxb5 23.Rxa7 Qxa7

Missed that, Black is forced to give back the queen (23...Qc6

24.Qb4#; 23...Qc8 24.Qa4+ Kb6

25.Qa5+ Kc6 26.Nd4# I did not

see the full mating sequence);

B) 22...Kc7 23.Rxa7+ Kd8

24.Rxd7+ Kxd7 This is what I

missed, Black is completely busted here, the king safety is out of scope

and my b5 pawn is a monster]

18...Rha8 19.Ra3? The idea is to go to b3 but I overlooked that Black is controlling this square with the LSB. I realized immediately after playing Ra3

[19.Rab1+ Kc7 20.Rb2 Rxa4

21.Rfb1 Ra1 22.Rb7+ Kc8

I thought about this line after playing the ugly Ra3]

[19.Qd4+! Kc7 20.Qxg7 Overlooking a simple fork, I was obsessed with Black's king that I forgot the other side of the board]

19...Rxa4 20.Rxa4 Rxa4 21.Rb1+ Kc7

22.Qe3 Kc8 23.Nd4 I thought the

position was slightly better for Black as

they have the bishop pair and a

healthier pawn structure. Stockfish is

saying +4 here (!). My plan is to redeploy my knight on d4 (monster square) and

bishop on f3

[23.Qb6? Qc7 24.Ba6+ Kd8

I did not see a continuation here and

noticed I was forced to exchange

queen so my winning chances are

lower here]

23...Bc4 24.Nxc6

[24.Bg4 Strong too Qxg4 25.Qxe7

Bb5 26.Qxd6]

24...Qxc6 25.Qxe7 Bxe2 26.Qxe2

Not the best continuation

[26.Qf8+ Kd7 27.Qxf7+ Kc8

28.Qe6+ Kc7 29.Qxe2 Even stronger as I grab a free pawn]

26...Re4 27.Qf3 Qe8 I thought for a

long time and I estimate that the

endgame is better for me because of my

extra pawn. **28.h3 Re1+ 29.Rxe1**

Qxe1+ 30.Kh2 Qe5+ 31.Qg3

[31.g3! The idea is to start

centralizing the king via g2]

31...Qf6 Here my plan is to start

pressuring Black's king with constant

check but I failed to do so. Better would

have been to start centralizing the king via g1 **32.Qg4+ Kc7 33.Qc4+ Kd7**

34.Qg4+ Kc7 35.Qg3 Kc6

This is when I realized I messed up, I

just offered Black extra tempi **36.Qe3??**

Qe5+! I calculated for a long time and

concluded that Black is going to grab my c3 pawn and the game is a dead draw.

Activating my king and try to create

counterplay against the c6 pawn does

not work as Black will simply grab my f,

g and h pawns. I was a little disappointed

as I knew I clearly missed my chances

but at least I stayed lucid to hold the

draw. The drawing plan is to bring the

king on d1-c1 and just do nothing

37.Kg1!? The only way to complicate. If I

can hold on to my c2 pawn Black will

have to prove how to win

[37.g3?? Qxe3 38.fxe3 Kc5 39.Kg2

Kc4 40.Kf3 Kxc3 41.Ke4 Kxc2

42.Kd5 Kd3 43.e4 Ke3 Completely

lost for Black so I discarded g3 for

that reason]

[37.Qg3 Even if it's still a draw I am

100% sure this is super easy to play

for Black Qxg3+ 38.Kxg3 Kc5 39.Kf4

Kc4 40.Ke4 Kxc3 41.Kd5 Kxc2

42.Kxd6 Kd2 43.Ke5?? (43.f4! Ke3

44.g4 Kf3 45.f5 Kg3 46.Ke7 Draw)

43...Ke2]

37...Qxe3 38.fxe3 Kc5 39.Kf2 Kc4

40.Ke2 Kxc3 41.Kd1 My plan is just to

move the king back and forth to c1 and

d1, Black has no way to grab the e3

pawn without releasing control on the d2

square for my king **41...f5 42.h4 g6 43.g3 h6 44.Kc1 g5 45.h5** Keep some complications

[45.hxg5 hxg5 This is helping Black getting the draw, why would I allow it? :)]

45...d5 46.Kd1 Just waiting **46...d4 47.exd4 Kxd4 48.Kd2 f4 49.gxf4 gxf4 50.Ke2** I thought I was winning here. My opponent asked if it was a draw and I said I don't think so. I missed that Ke4 or Kc3 is actually still a draw because the h pawn will trap the White king in the corner **50...Ke4** This is when I realized it's actually a draw because of the h pawn and my king can stay stuck in the corner.

[50...Kc3 51.Kf3 Kxc2 52.Kxf4 Kd3 53.Kf5 Kd4 54.Kg6 Ke5 55.Kxh6 Kf6 56.Kh7 Kf7 57.Kh8 Kf8 58.Kh7 Kf7 Draw]

51.Kf2 Kf5 52.Kf3 Kg5 53.c4

The only way to create some chaos

53...Kxh5 Here I knew he blundered for real

[53...Kf5! 54.c5 Ke5 55.c6 Kd6 56.Kxf4 Kxc6 57.Kf5 Kd6 58.Kg6 Ke6 59.Kxh6 Kf6 60.Kh7 Kf7 Draw]

54.c5 Kg5 55.c6 h5 56.c7 Kh4!

57.Kxf4!

[57.c8Q Embarassing draw]

57...Kh3 58.c8Q+ Kh4 59.Qd8+

[59.Kf3 Another embarrassing draw]

59...Kh3 60.Qg8 h4 61.Kf3

Qg2# on the next move. Overall I got a very good position as my opponent did not understand the pawn storm idea to create ideas. I knew I had a strong attack but missed the full continuation (sacrificing a rook without seeing the full variation in the first round is... ballsy). I still had chances later on until I blundered in the endgame. Then my opponent did not force the easy draw and unfortunately (for him) blundered at

the end. So a bittersweet win.
1-0

D35

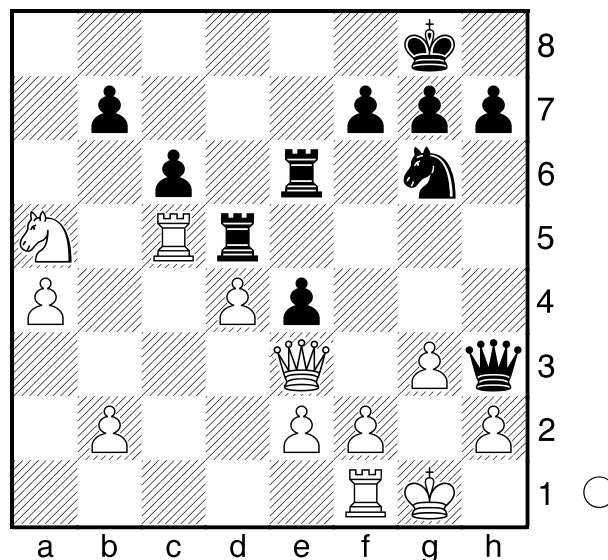
□ **Barrack,Jahsun**

■ **Ly,Jennifer**

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (1.27)
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.d4 c6 6.Bg2 Bd6 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a4 a5 10.Re1 Re8 11.Qc2 Nf8 12.Nd2 Bb4 13.Nb3 Ne4

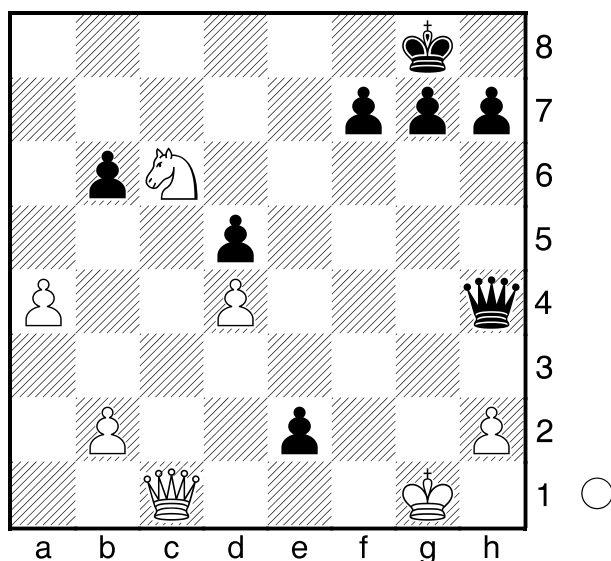
Black is doing quite well here. **14.Rf1 Bf5 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 dxe4! 17.Bf4 Ng6 18.Bd2 Bxd2 19.Qxd2 Qd5 20.Qc3 Qh5 21.Qe3 Rad8 22.Rac1 Qh3 23.Nxa5 Rd5 24.Rc5 Re6**



White has found a pawn on the queenside, but in return Black has all her pieces directed towards White's king.
25.f3?! Permits a fantastic continuation.

[25.Rxd5 clears the air, somewhat! Look at this sequence: cxd5 26.Rc1 (26.f3 Nh4 27.Rf2 exf3 28.Qc1 Rxe2 29.Rxe2 fxe2 30.gxh4 b6 31.Nc6 Qxh4

(Diagram)



Quite a delicate calculation by Stockfish there! But follow the game, this position comes up later, with quite a fantastic resolution...) 26...h6 (26...Nf8!?)

A) 27.Kh1;

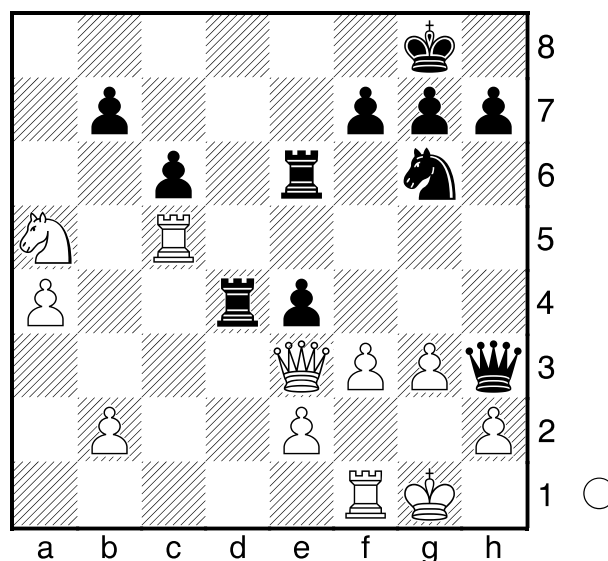
B) 27.f3 exf3 28.Qxf3 Rf6 29.Qxd5 (29.Qg2 Qd7+) 29...Qg4 30.e3 Qe2+;

C) 27.Nxb7! White continues on the queenside; he's going to need a clean slate there after he pays heavily to defend the kingside... 27...Nh4 28.gxh4 Rg6+ 29.Qg3! Of course. Rxc3+ 30.hxc3 (30.fxc3? f5+) 30...e3! 31.Nc5 Qg4 32.Kf1 exf2 33.Rc3 Qxd4 34.a5 Qb4 35.Nd3! Qxa5+ White could hope to hold this.]

25...Nh4

[25...Rxd4!!

(Diagram)



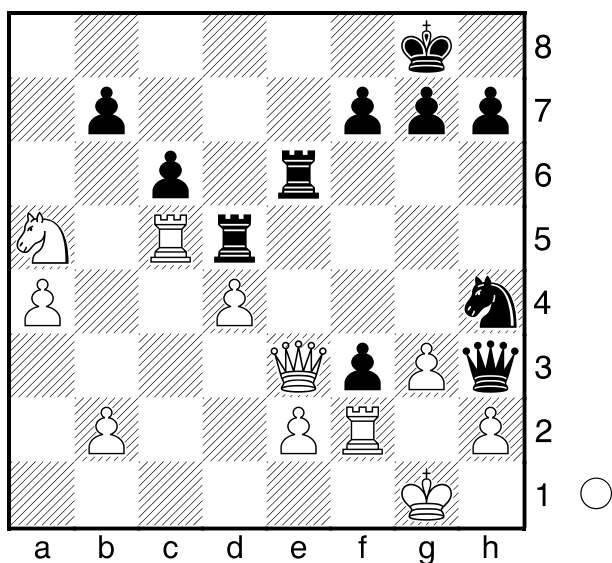
A) 26.Qxd4? exf3 27.exf3

(27.Qf2 Rxe2) 27...Re2 28.Qf2 (or a quick mate) (28.Rf2 Re1+ 29.Rf1 Rxf1#) 28...Rxf2 29.Rxf2 b6! The tail-end stinger. Black is up material, and White can't quite organize rooks and passed pawn fast enough.;

B) 26.Nc4 exf3 27.Qxf3 Rf6 28.Qg2 Rxf1+ (or 28...Qe6+) 29.Qxf1 (29.Kxf1) 29...Qd7+ White is in disarray, while Black has various targets 30.Qf3 Qe7 31.b4 Nf8]

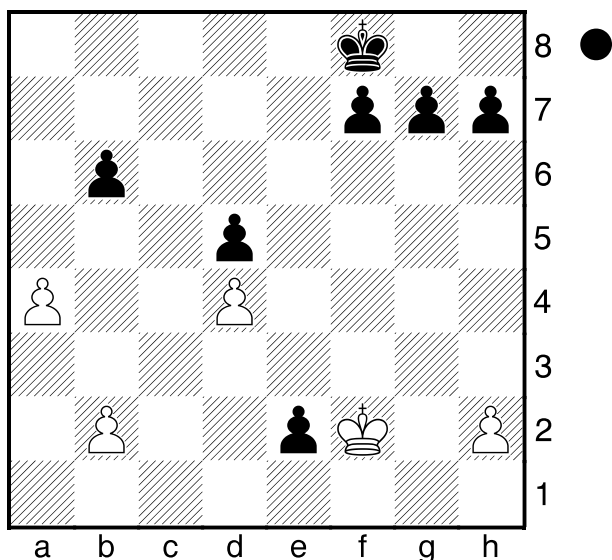
26.Rf2 exf3

(Diagram)



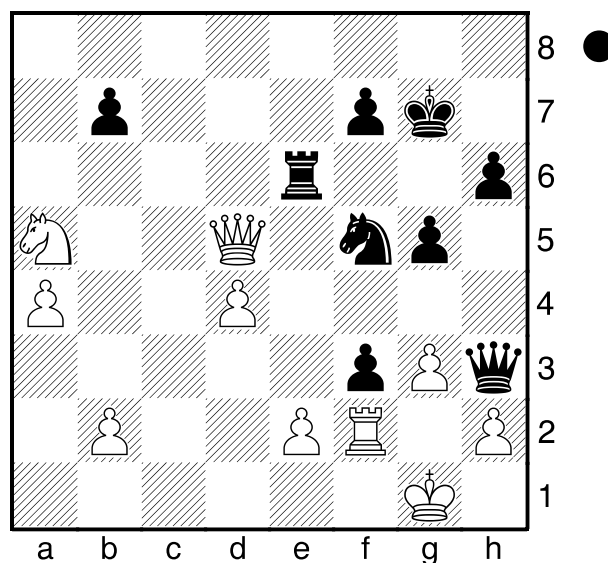
27.Qf4?

[27.Rxd5! cxd5 28.Qc1 Rxe2 (covering c8!) 29.Rxe2 fxe2 30.gxh4 b6 31.Nc6 Qxh4 is the same position given after 25.Rxd5 cxd5 26.f3 above. But let's look further now: 32.Ne7+! Qxe7 (32...Kf8 33.Qc8+ is a perpetual -- really!) 33.Qc8+ Qf8 34.Qxf8+ Kxf8 35.Kf2



It looks like it will be a standoff:
White's threat to make a passed a-pawn, Black's kingside pawns. g5
36.Kxe2 Ke7 37.Kf3 f5 38.Kg3 h6
39.b4 Kd7 <shrug> draw, no?]

27...g5! 28.Qb8+ Kg7 29.Rxd5 cxd5
30.Qd8 h6 31.Qd7 Nf5 32.Qxd5



Rxe2??

[32...fxe2 when 33.Qxe6 fxe6
34.Rxe2 is not a defence (-+). Qg4
(34...Nxd4)]

33.Rxe2 fxe2 34.Qe5+ Kg6?

[34...Kf8 35.Qxe2 Nxd4=]

35.Qxe2 With White's king safe now, it'll be the queenside that counts.

35...Nxd4??

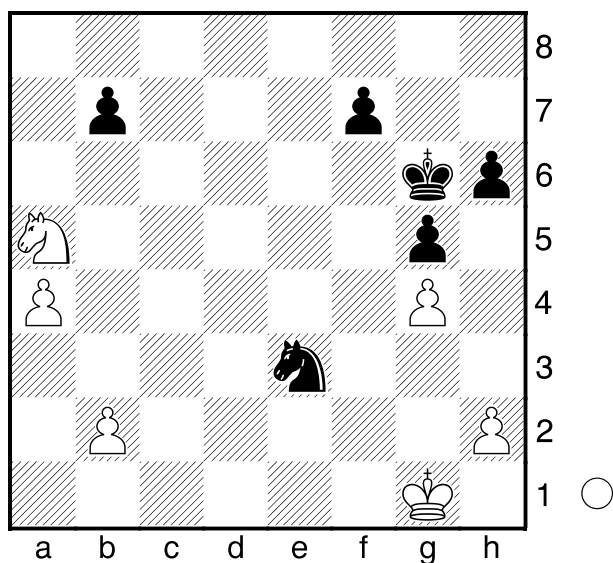
[35...Nxg3!? 36.hxg3 Qxg3+ 37.Kf1
Qf4+ 38.Qf2 Qc1+ 39.Kg2 b6
40.Nb3± White has work ahead, but
should prevail.]

36.Qe4+ Nf5 37.g4 Lets Black's queen out, not that that should save the game.

[37.Nxb7! sets White up for life (new life -- queens) and wins easily.]

37...Qe3+ 38.Qxe3 Nxe3

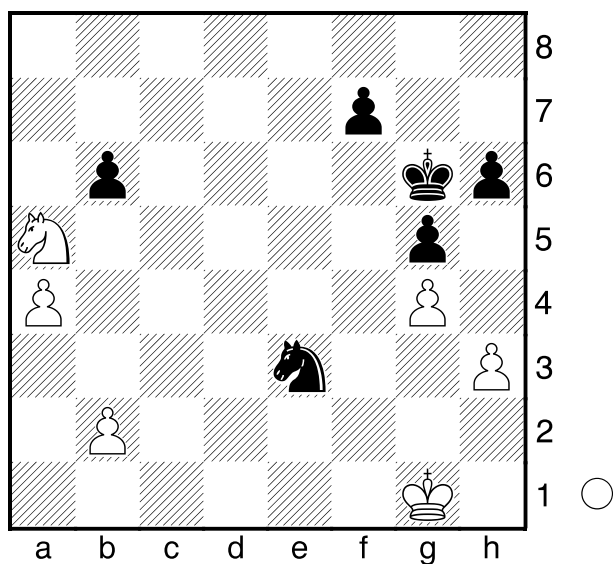
(Diagram)



39.h3?

[39.Nxb7 Nxg4 40.a5+- appears to be a won knight ending. Although it goes down to White's last (h-)pawn!]

39...b6=



40.Kf2??

[40.Nc6=]

[40.Nb7=]

40...Nd1+ 41.Ke2 Nxb2 42.Nc6 Nxa4
43.Kd3 b5 44.Nd4 Nc5+ 45.Kc3 Ne4+
0-1

FM Paul Whitehead

Upcoming Changes

The major announcement to our readers is that the MI Chess Newsletter will henceforth be published on a monthly basis, rather than weekly during the TNM as has been traditional. Expect to see us on the 2nd Saturday of every month, with other changes being worked out as we move forward. As usual, we love to get your contributions – see this issue for what I believe to be outstanding submissions from our community.

Also in the pipeline here are more classes. I have transitioned the Free Introduction to Chess for Mechanics' Members from an on-line Zoom class, started during the pandemic, to in-person, starting September 7th : <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#beginner>

And starting Thursday October 13th, I will be teaching an eight-week game review class, in which we will be looking at participant's games, trying to identify areas of weakness and strengths, so as to make improvements in strategy and tactics, in opening, middle-game and endgame play. Stay tuned for more information and registration information.

Hans Niemann!

As the controversy continues to swirl around the 19-year old Grandmaster - who just defeated Carlsen in the Sinquefeld Cup, triggering the World Champion's withdrawal from the event amidst world-wide insinuations of cheating – we are reminded of earlier times, 2013 and 2014, when Hans was a regular participant in the Tuesday Night Marathon. But first these tidbits: Hans was born here in San Francisco, and I believe this makes him the strongest player ever from this town. And Hans shares my birthday!

We remember a brash, confident kid – he wanted your rating points! In his first TNM of January/February 2013, Hans won the best under 1200 prize of \$160, scoring 3 points from 8 rounds. Just under 2 years later he won the Fall TNM outright with a score of 7.5 from 8 rounds, winning \$650, and his rating went over 2200 for the 1st time.

Hans was coached for a while by IM John Grefe, and he spoke at John's memorial at the Mechanics'. Afterwards he played GM James Tarjan a few games in the Chess Room. Hans won the 1st game before Jim hunkered down and fought back, but the Hans we knew never backed down from a challenge!

To round out this trip down memory lane I have made a quick and small selection of Hans' games at the MI from those formative years. More gems can be found in our tournament and game archive: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive>

Vichik,Adam (1262) - **Niemann,Hans** (1835) [B72]

Mechanics' Neil Falconer TNM; 30/90, SD San Francisco (8.15), 24.09.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 Ng4 8.Be2 Nxe3 9.Qxe3 Nc6 10.Nb3 Be6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rad1 Nb4 13.Nd4 Bd7 14.Rd2 a6 15.a3 Nc6 16.Nf3 Rc8 17.Rfd1 f5 18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Ng5 Ne5 20.Bd5 f4 21.Qe2.



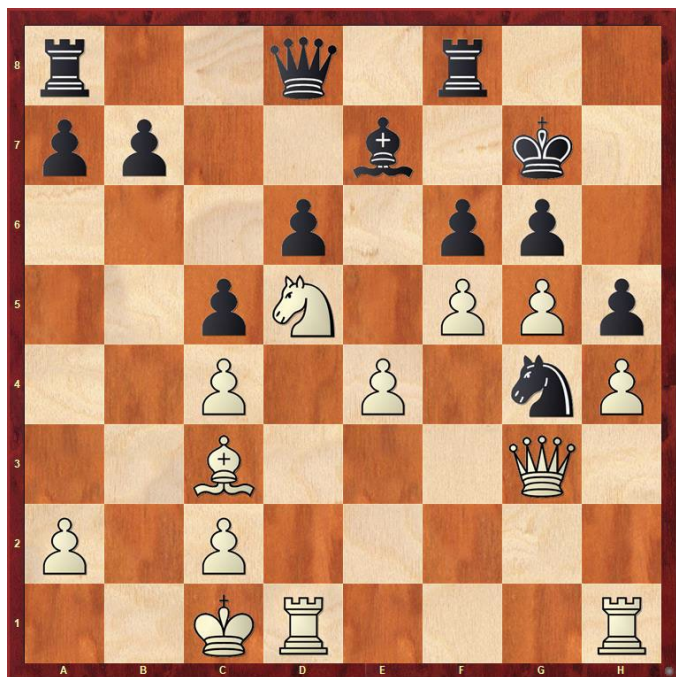
[Diagram]

21...f3! 22.gxf3 e6 23.Nxe6 Bxe6 24.Bxe6 Nxf3+ 25.Kh1 Qh4 26.Qxf3 Rxf3 27.Bxc8 Be5 28.Kg2 Rf8 29.Bxb7 Qxh2+ 30.Kf1 Qh1+ 31.Ke2 Qf3+ 32.Ke1 Bg3 33.Bxa6 Qe3+ 34.Re2 Bxf2+ 35.Kf1 Qh3# 0-1.

Niemann,Hans (1835) - **Maser,Thomas** (1904) [C22]

Mechanics' Neil Falconer TNM; 30/90, SD San Francisco (9.7), 01.10.2013

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3 d6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bd2 Be7 7.0-0-0 Bg4 8.f3 Be6
9.Nge2 Ne5 10.Nf4 Nc4 11.Bxc4 Bxc4 12.g4 c6 13.g5 Nd7 14.h4 Qa5 15.Nh5 g6 16.Qd4
Ne5 17.f4 c5 18.Qf2 Ng4 19.Ng7+ Kf8 20.Qg3 h5 21.f5 Qd8 22.b3 Kxg7 23.bxc4 f6
24.Nd5 Rf8 25.Bc3.



1-0.

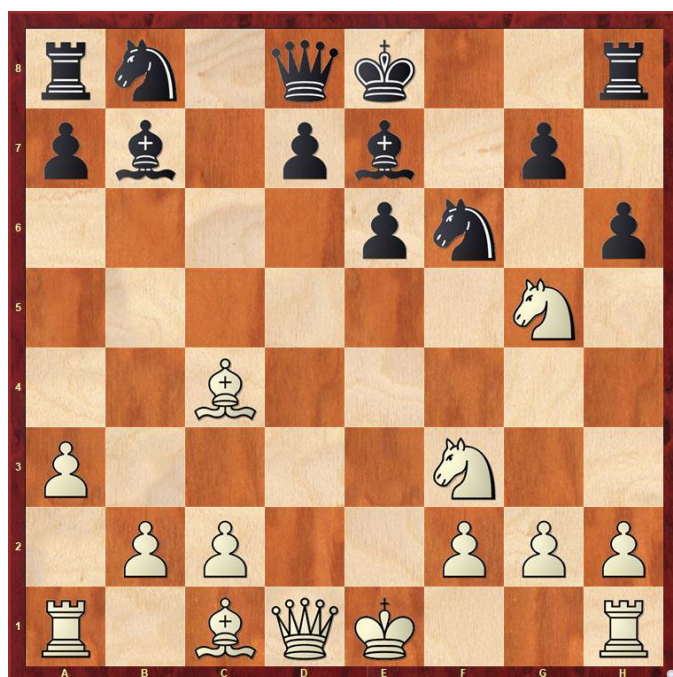
Lee,Andy (2320) - **Niemann,Hans** (2054)
[B00]

Mechanics' Spring TNM; 30/90, SD/30 San
Francisco (3.2), 01.04.2014

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.a3 Nf6 5.Bd3
c5 6.dxc5 bxc5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.e5 Nd5 9.Ne4
f5 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Neg5 c4 12.Bxc4 h6.

[Diagram]

13.Qd3!? hxg5 14.Qg6+ Kf8 15.Nxg5 Qe8
16.Qd3 Nc6 17.f4 Nd5 18.0-0 Bxg5



19.fxg5+ Kg8 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Qxd5+ Qe6 22.Qxe6+ dxe6 23.Be3 Rf8 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8
 25.b4 Rh4 26.b5 Ne5 27.Bxa7 Rg4 28.g3 Nf3+ 29.Kf2 Rc4 30.h4 Rxc2+ 31.Ke3 Rc3+
 32.Ke2 Rb3 33.a4 Ne5 34.Ra3 Bf3+ 35.Kf1 Rb1+ 36.Kf2 Rb2+ 37.Kf1 Rb1+ ½-½

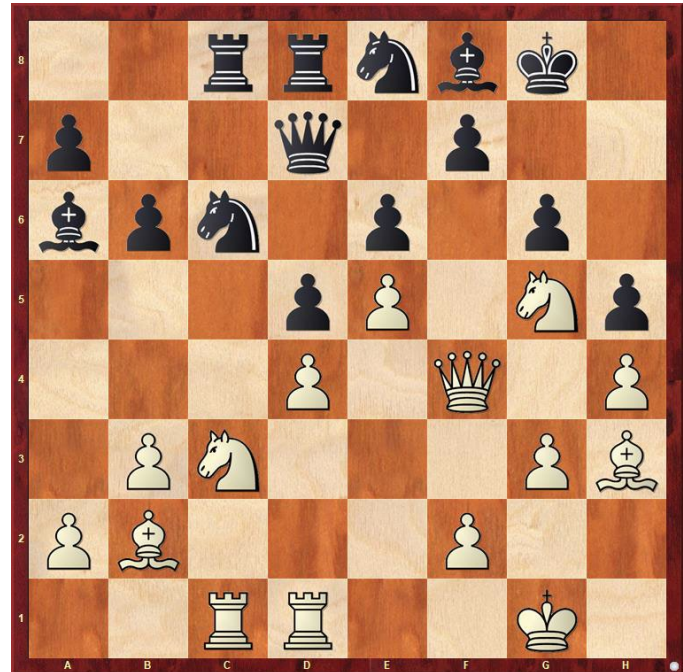
Niemann,Hans (2135) - **Askin,Michael** (1964) [E08]

Mechanics' Fall TNM; 30/90, SD/30 San Francisco (5.1), 25.11.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qc2 e6 5.g3 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.b3 b6 9.Rd1 Bb7
 10.Bb2 Rc8 11.Nc3 Qc7 12.e4 Rfd8 13.e5 Ne8 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Qe2 Nb8 16.Rac1 Qd7
 17.h4 Ba6 18.Qe3 h5 19.Ng5 g6 20.Qf4
 Bf8 21.Bh3 Nc6.

[Diagram]

22.Nxd5! Bh6 23.Ne3 Nb4 24.Rxc8 Rxc8
 25.d5 Bxg5 26.hxg5 Nd3 27.Qd4 Nxb2
 28.Qxb2 Qe7 29.dxe6 fxe6 30.Qd4 Ng7
 31.Qa4 Be2 32.Rd7 Qf8 33.f4 Qc5
 34.Qd4 Qc1+ 35.Kf2 Bg4 36.Bxg4 hxg4
 37.Qd2 Qb1 38.Rxg7+ Kh8 39.Rh7+ Kg8
 40.Rc7 1-0



A few links throwing different shades of light on the Carlsen/Niemann brouhaha:

The reddit community weighs in:

https://www.reddit.com/r/chess/comments/x7igg5/megathread_hans_niemann_allegations/

GM Jacob Aagard: <https://forum.killerchesstraining.com/t/paranoia-and-insanity-by-jacob-aagaard/856>

GM Hikaru Nakamura: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN3zNrvO8b4>

Hans' passionate defense of himself on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJZuT-kij0>

"May you live in interesting times", is either an ancient curse or a simple statement of fact. The chess world is certainly living in its own version of that saying right now!

IM John Donaldson

Two new books by Gambit Publications

Gambit Publications (<http://www.gambitbooks.com/>) is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. During the past quarter century, the English company has published over 200 titles on all aspects of the game from opening books to game collections to middle game works. Two recent offerings reflect the diversity of its offerings.

Understanding Pawn Endgames (2022, 159 pages, \$19.95) by the noted Ukrainian trainer, IM Valentin Bogdanov, covers a fundamental part of the in a most unusual way. Since almost all endings can end up becoming pawn endgames every player needs to have a basic understanding of such concepts as the opposition and triangulation. These are well covered in a number of books including *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, *100 Endgames You Must Know* by de la Villa and Gambit's *Secrets of Pawn Endgames* by Muller and Lamprecht. What is less common to see are books dealing with non-theoretical pawn endgames. These are typically positions with multiple pawns on both sides of the board and are quite difficult to properly analyze.

There seem to be few books in English devoted to this topic. *Pawn Endings* (Batsford 1974) by Averbakh and Maizelis is one and was a great book for its time, but the authors did not have (could only dream of!) the 7-man tablebase that analyses positions with 7 or fewer pieces perfectly. *Nunn's Chess Endings Volume 1* and the aforementioned work by Muller and Lamprecht present some of these types of endgames, but *Understanding Pawn Endgames* is the first book devoted entirely to the subject.

The 268 examples provided, played from 1981 to the present, but primarily in the 21st century, are taken entirely from grandmaster practice. Bogdanov has arranged his book by theme including chapters on breakthroughs, zugzwang, transposition to queen endings and calculation.

The latter deserves further mention. The positions given in this book, without exception, are challenging – to put it mildly! Some great players are shown to be mortal as the author acknowledges in his introduction where he writes:

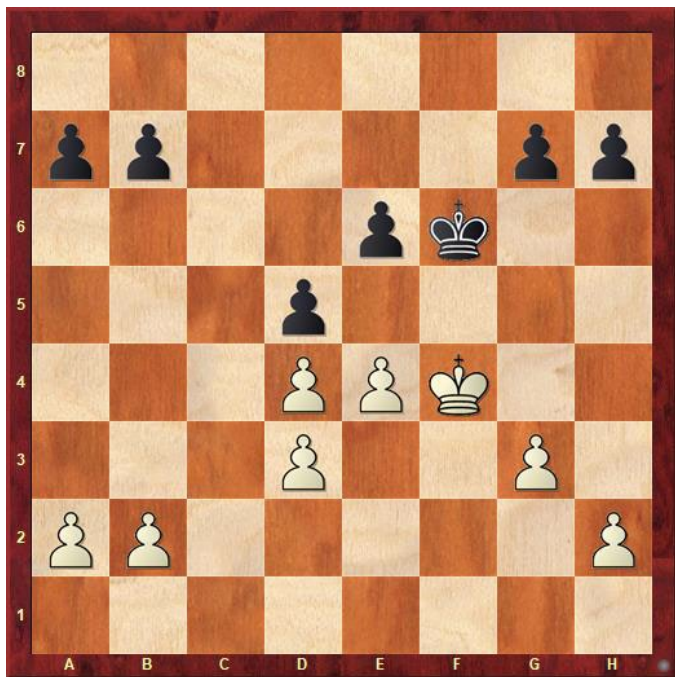
I should stress that the purpose of the book is not to belittle the level of play of the leading chess players.

Who are the sort of players Bogdanov is referring to? How about a couple of former World Champions, in what is one of the simpler endings in this book:

Veselin Topalov – Garry Kasparov

Linares, 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3 Be7 6.O–O Nf6 7.Nh4 Nd4 8.g3 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.Bg5 Ng8 11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Rxf4 Kd7 15.Nf3 Rf8 16.Rxf8 Qxf8 17.Nxd4 cxd4 18.Ne2 Qf6 19.c3 Rf8 20.Nxd4 Nc6 21.Qf1 Qxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 23.Kxf1 Nxd4 24.cxd4 d5 25.Kf2 Ke7 26.Kf3 Kf6.



27.h4?

The result of the game hinges on the mutual zugzwang that we shall see in a few moves' time, but this is not the right way for White to bring it about. The symmetrical structure on the queenside does not allow either side to transfer the burden to move to the opponent, so it all comes down to tempo moves on the kingside. Thus, it is a mistake to advance a pawn that still had the choice of moving one square or two.

27.Kg4 g6 (27...h6 28.Kh5) 28.h3 h6 29.h4 is the correct method.

27...g6?

27...h6! 28.Kg4 g6 29.Kf4 g5+!, when White cannot make progress.

28.b4 b5 29.Kf4! h6 30.Kg4! 1–0.

According to Bogdanov some of the reasons why even great players go wrong in these endings include time trouble and carelessness and even ignorance of text book endings, but the most common cause is mistakes in calculation. This rings true and supports the author's final sentence which makes the cause for pawn endings as the perfect exercise to improve this vital skill. Pawn endings unquestionably require accurate calculation and *Understanding Pawn Endgames* offers plenty of high-quality examples to solve with detailed solutions. Players rated below 2200 will find more elementary works on pawn endings sufficient, but those who are stronger (or are ambitious) will find this book just the thing to increase their skill in this phase of the game and also their calculating ability.

Problem Chess: Art and Magic on the Chessboard (2022, 112 pages, \$19.95) by the late Goran Forslund is the rare chess related work that was written solely for the reader's enjoyment. It offers an introduction to the world of chess problems from the mate-in-two variety to retrograde problems. This is not the book for those who want to improve their over the board play, but it will provide hours and hours of pleasure to those who enjoy solving problems.

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

Are you interested in joining the team at MI? The MI Chess Club is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. Candidates should also have a basic foundation in classroom management and conflict resolution strategies, particularly working with children. This is an in-person position and candidates must be able to commute to schools in San Francisco. If you're interested follow the link below or reach out to our Chess Program Manager, Alex Robins, at arobins@milibrary.org.
[Employment Opportunities | Mechanics' Institute \(milibrary.org\)](#)

Kristian Clemens

An American Abroad

"Hi Paul, Judit, and Abel -

I just got back from playing my first tournament abroad, and I felt like sharing my experiences- please feel free to use any, all, or none of this in a future newsletter if you think anyone might find it interesting. I know some of the players at the club have played abroad, and I've never really gotten to hear too much about their tournaments, so I figured I'd write in and tell how things went for me.

- Mechanics' On the Move -

Ever since I studied abroad in Barcelona in 2012 (the year before I started playing chess seriously), I've been looking for an excuse to go back. This summer, I found two excuses: an annual cultural festival in one of my favorite districts and the Sants Open chess tournament. I had never played chess outside the US (my invitation to the Hungarian norm tournaments must have gotten lost in the mail), so the more relaxed European schedule was a welcome change.

I read an article about Richard Teichmann recently, and I feel like I inadvertently played like him: a few quick, crushing wins and a bunch of solid, rather unambitious draws. What can I say- Barcelona was too interesting to make me want to prepare much at my apartment! I finished with 3 wins, 1 loss, and 5 draws, and I skipped the last round to come home for my grandfather's 93rd birthday dinner. It was a very well-run tournament, and I looked forward to playing every day even as I explored the city.

This tournament had several wonderful innovations: a huge projected screen with the top six active boards above the "elite" playing area that also had a SportsCenter-like results bar scrolling across it, name plates with club or country flags at every table, and a great little "cafe" in the playing hall where one could buy water, bananas, candy, beer, and even handmade sandwiches for absurdly low prices. Most of my games finished

before the time control (unlike my normal games here), so I had a pleasant routine of looking over my games on the metro while on the way to the beach or dinner.

I also wanted to practice my Spanish, which was once practically fluent but has lain mostly dormant since college. I asked the tournament director how to say some chess-specific terms like "adjust" and "I offer a draw" ("compongo" and "ofrezco tablas" respectively), and one of the highlights of the tournament was analyzing my games with the locals in Spanish without being laughed at. As I told one kibitzer, playing one game a day at 4:30 really is very civilized- I had plenty of time to get groceries, go sightseeing, and take a nap before taking the metro across town for every game. (Somehow, I don't think GMs like Motylev, Vaibhav, or Narayanan, who were leading the A section, were strolling to museums or churches and shopping before their games)

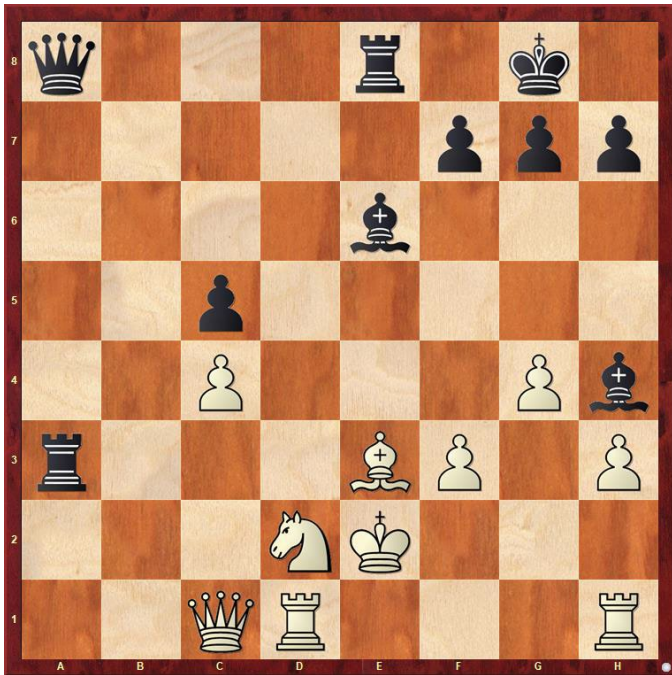
Overall, it was a great experience, and I highly recommend playing abroad to anyone with sufficient means and vacation time. Besides the queen endgame I botched in my last game, my biggest regret is not having done this 5 years ago! I'd like to share two positions from my games (not engine-checked puzzles, just two positions I remembered):

Clemens, Kristian - Sobrevia Castellar, Lluís, round 4: White to play after 26...f5:



My counterplay, like the fantastic Barcelona metro, came right on time: 27. c6 bxc6 28. dxc6 Qe6 (if Qxc6, then b5) 29. exf5 Qxf5 (if Rxf5, then fxg4 and Qb3, trading queens) 30. Qxf5 Rxf5 31. fxg4, winning a pawn with a great position that I managed to draw in time trouble.

Aleksanyan Israilyan, Nicolas - Clemens, Kristian, round 8. Black to play and win after 26. Rd1:



I played 26... Bxg4 and White resigned in view of 27. hxg4 Rxe3+ 28. Kf1 Rxf3+ 29. Nxf3 Qxf3+ 30. Kg1 Qf2#. White then showed me 26... Rxe3+ 27. Kxe3 Bc4+ 28. Ne4 (now that the king isn't on e2, this isn't double check, which is why I didn't play it- I stopped calculating here) Bg5+, and if 29. f4, Qxe4+, and if anything else, then ...Bxc1 wins the queen.

That's all from me- I know it's a little long, but at least it's not a printed newsletter... feel free to edit as you see fit!

Thanks,
Kristian



Kristian: battling it out in Barcelona.

Richard Hack

Heat Wave Musings

"I gotta figure this out." The player studied the position while a few cronies and other colleagues hovered nearby, some during breaks from their boards and conversations on a day off from tournament and match play.

In silent moments stray noise traveled up from the street four flights down, some of it amplified by the narrow passage between the Mechanics' Institute and the McKesson Building at the foot of Post, Montgomery, and Market Streets. A busy part of town pretty quiet on the weekend, but still a transportation hub with a flow of walkers, cyclers, and talkers.

Like many of us the player we were watching had a particular interest in this greatly analyzed and ever-fertile opening with its many interesting possibilities. In numerous tabiyas and game variations, he had made deep dives in sessions competitive, philosophical, and scientific.

He had a little motto or mantra he used when the way to a plan met a blank wall. To proceed further, he would say silently, Get to the point, get to the point. And he would inventory the position again, finding a little light through the spaces between the logs, then some more.

No one can deny the sport is exciting and the game compelling to anyone involved in it, even without rating points, treasure, and reputation on the line. The biggest winners often express their fear of being bested in the heat of the struggle for that point.

Sometimes when you're hit with a sudden possible loss, a line or two of perennial clarity might filter through the momentary devastation. The recording might be from pages or speakers or singers like Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes ("If You Don't Know Me By Now"), or The Main Ingredient (listen now):

"Everybody plays the fool, some-tah-eye-imes;

There's no exception to the rule."

Not that this would make you feel any better or play more observantly, but you're still working on all that. Sometimes you get squeezed, and you can't foresee everything. At least in chess, you die and come back to life for another go. By now you are many times immortal.

The movie Chess Fever also came up. A silent film from 1925 in Moscow during a big international tournament attended by none other than the World Champion Capablanca, who seems to appear in one or two brief shots. The whole town is mad for chess. In one upstairs room we see a young man frowning over the position on a peg-in board while his young ladyfriend gets more and more impatient with his lack of attention to her. Finally she picks up the board and tosses it out the window. It lands on a load of hay in the back of a wagon conveniently parked. The teamster hears the sound and turns around to pick up the set, study it, and begin trying out moves.

In a corner of the chessroom as the afternoon peaked, a well-traveled expert in late middle age was telling one of his tall tales to a group of aficionados, some giving out with broad grins and amused laughter as he said:

"One night in a dream I was walking down Market Street with a famous chess master I used to take lessons from. In reply to a question I had, he snapped his fingers and we were suddenly in the Café de la Régence in Paris over a hundred years ago. I was shocked but tried not to show it. My guide silently nodded toward a game several tables away, and I recognized David Janowski.

" 'I'm not dressed for this,' I whispered. He put his finger to his lips, and as we walked on he told me quietly, 'No one here will pay any attention to that.' I followed him to a distant nook where a dignitary whose name I couldn't recall was giving advice in English to another player as they pored over a critical position similar to the one I had asked my teacher about on the threshold of this journey, and he played through several tactical lines that interested me greatly.

" 'Get used to the unexpected,' he told his student. 'Try not to show surprise when they move that way—at most lift a bored eyebrow slightly. Let them sweat out the reply while you take stock again and try to compose a complete refutation or at least a good fighting continuation that sweats them as they are surprised in turn.' As he demonstrated some wonderful paths out of the dilemma on the board, I felt enlightened.

"My guide told me we could go anywhere in any year, to any club or pub where chess was played at a reasonably high level. He told me it was like going to the Louvre or the Met where so many went to enjoy other forms of art. 'Anytime you want to travel like this again, just call, text, or email.' But when I started writing down his contact data, he suddenly vanished and I woke up. Instead of being glad to be alive as usual, I was just mad that I couldn't contact him directly. I closed my eyes again and tried to go back, but I couldn't; and I think that's why my rating never rose to 2200."

His audience murmured with amusement, except for one stodgy curmudgeon who said, "That's the craziest thing I ever heard."

The storyteller glanced at him with surprise and shrugged. "That's chess, I guess."

"Yes and no," said another thoughtful listener, which was our cue to continue on our ways of work and taking pleasure from a studious, two-fisted, head-butting sport with an international language that you're learning all your life.

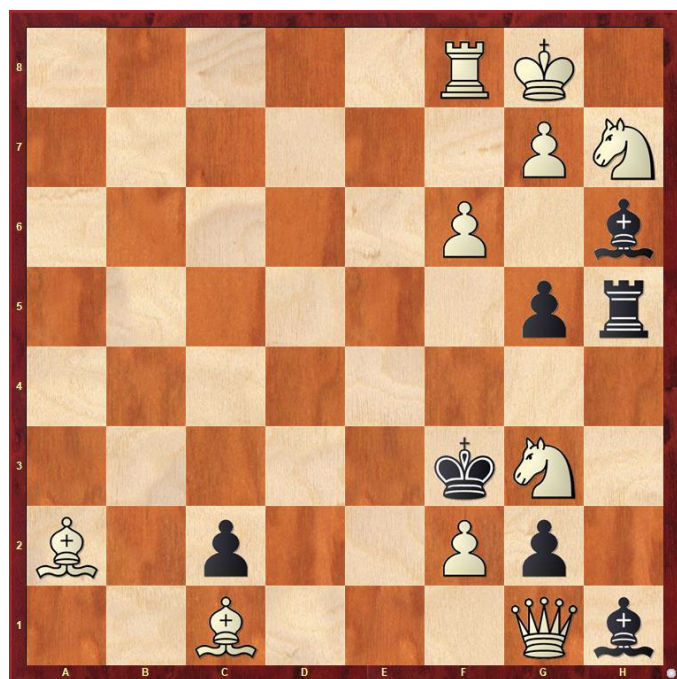
A Puzzle in the Library

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.

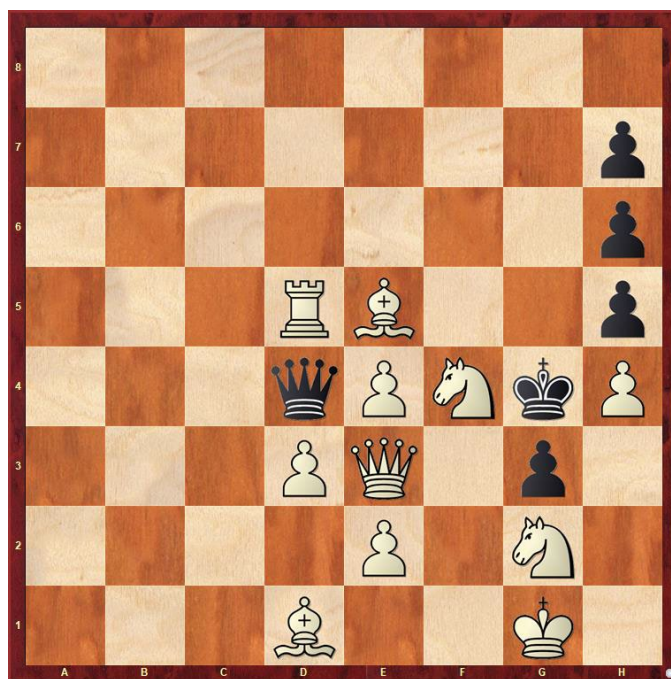


From *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*. Black wins by forcing the rook trade under favorable circumstances – but how? An illustration on the theme of "The Opposition".

Tony's Teasers



1. D. Kutzborski 1973.
White mates in 3 moves.



2. Rudenko/Chepizny 1984.
White mates in 3 moves.

- Upcoming Events -

Tournaments

Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial TNM - Ongoing

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 to Tuesday, October 18, 2022. 6:30PM. USCF + FIDE
Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5

Information and link to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/vladimir-naroditsky-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

September Monthly Championship Quads

Saturday, September 10 2022, 3PM. 3 games of G/40;d5.

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

Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

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

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

USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com

Sunday September 18, 3PM. 6 games of G/10+2

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

2022 San Francisco Scholastic Championship - Online

Sunday September 11 2022

Annual heritage event for our scholastic community! Free event on chesskid.com and chess.com

Information and link to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2022-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online>

21st Howard Donnelly Memorial (FIDE Rated)

Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18, 9AM. 5 games of G/90+30.

Information and link to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21st-donnelly-memorial-championship-fide-rated>

Classes

Free Women's Online Class with FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams

Every Sunday from 10AM – 12PM. Information and link to register:

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class>

Introduction to Chess: Free Class for MI Members

Wednesday 9/7 to Wednesday 10/26

Information and link to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#beginner>

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Ra8! Intending 2.Ra4 and 3.Bd5#. If 1...g4 2.Ng5+ Bxg5 3.Bd5#. Or 1...Kg4 2.Be6+ Kh4 3.Qh2#.

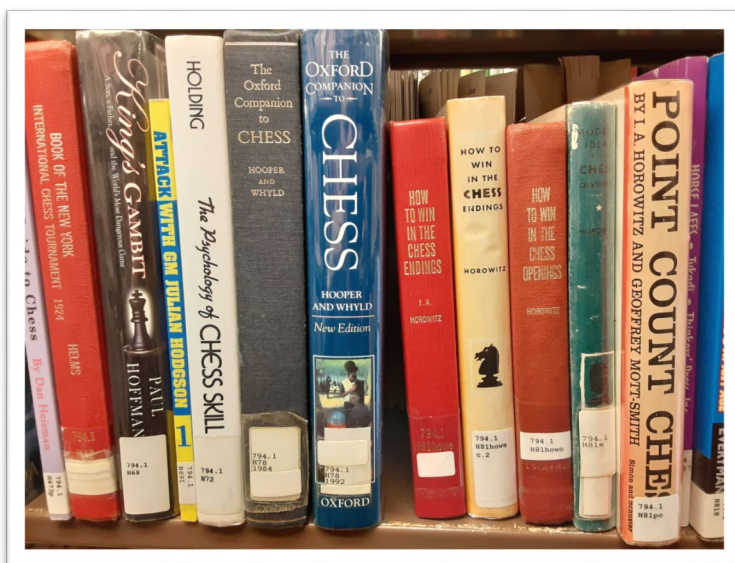
Problem #2: 1.Bb8! Zugzwang. 1...Qxe3 2.Nxe3+ Kxh4 3.Rxh5#. If 1...Qxe4 2.Qf3+! Qxf3 3.exf3#. Or 1...Qb6 2.Qc5! Qxc5+ 3.e3#.

Contact us

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco 94104. Our phone number is (415) 393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today at chessroom@milibrary.org

With over 3,000 books and periodicals, The Mechanics' Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.



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

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