

Gens Una Sumus!

Contents:

[Vladimir Naroditsky TNM:  
Annotated games by IM  
Elliott Winslow](#)

[FM Paul Whitehead:  
Chess at the Top](#)

[Recent Tournaments](#)

[Sophie Schwarz: Confessions  
of a Chess Coach](#)

[IM John Donaldson reviews  
Cheparinov's 1.d4!](#)

[Picturing the TNM](#)

[Recent Games](#)

[Letters From Abroad](#)

[Here and There](#)

[Seeking Scholastic Coaches](#)

[A Puzzle in the Library](#)

[Richard Hack:  
Chess Café Kaleidoscope](#)

[Tony's Teasers](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Solutions](#)

[Contact & Feedback](#)

[chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

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# Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1030 | October 8, 2022

## Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial TNM

After five rounds, the remarkable **Steve Sobel** (1674) leads the 1800+ section after defeating **Sebastian Suarez**, and he is now a perfect 5-0. A trial by fire awaits, as a match-up with IM **Kyron Griffith** or IM **Elliott Winslow** (possibly in the last two rounds) is inevitable. Steve has a comfortable lead of 1.5 points over Kyron and Elliott, and, joining those two at 3.5 points, are NM **Larry Snyder** and Experts **Pranav Srihari** and **Abhishek Handigol**.

In the under 1800 section, **Yonathan Admassu** and **Dominic James Croce** maintained a narrow lead over the pack by drawing their game. Both players have 4.5 points, while **Karl Stuart Kingma**, **Nicholas Alaya**, **Jashun Barrack**, and **Fernando Toledo Guerrero** all stand right behind with 4 points.

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

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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>

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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]*

Sebbby starts out with a semi-upset on board one! The endgame was even veering in his favor, but his endemic time trouble hindered his finding a way. Still...

**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+- (  $\triangleleft$  9.Bf4+- ) 9...f6

10.Qxe5 d5 11.Qe2 fxg5 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. ]

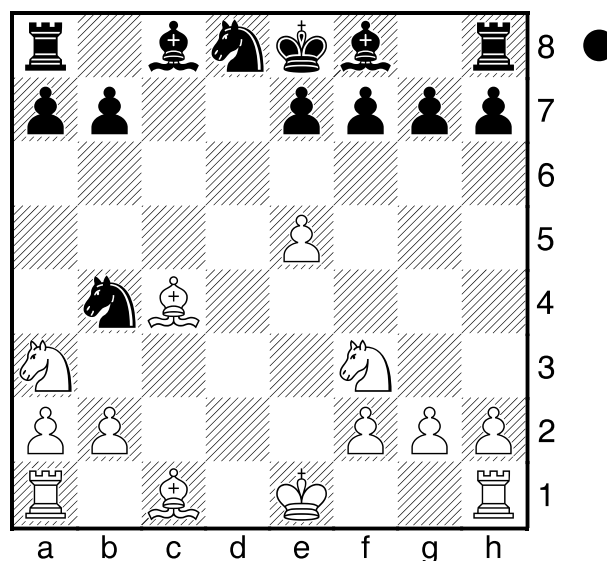
**6...d6 7.Bc4 dxe5**

[ 7...Nb6 ]

[ 7...e6 ]

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

(Diagram)



**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**

[  $\triangleleft$  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 ]

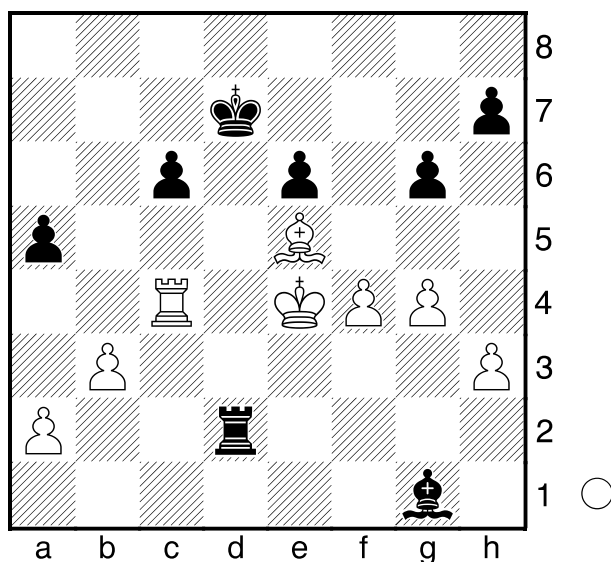
**23.Kf2?!**

[ 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?**



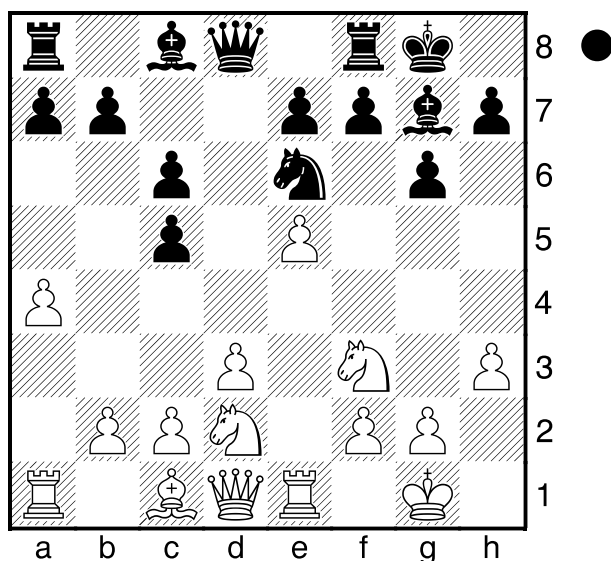
**32.Bd4! Rd1 33.Bxg1 Rxd1 34.Ra4?!**  
 [ 34.Ke5! ]  
**34...Rh1 35.Rxa5**  
 [ 35.Ke5 Rxd3 36.Kf6 Kd6 37.Rd4+  
 Kc5 38.Re4 Rh4 39.g5 Rh2 ]  
**35...Kd6= 36.b4 Rxh3 37.a4**  
 [ 37.g5 h6 38.gxh6 Rxh6 39.Rg5

Rh2= ]  
**37...h5**  
 [ 37...Rb3 ]  
 [ 37...Rc3 ]  
**38.gxh5 gxh5**  
 [ 38...Rxh5= ]  
**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.Rxh5** And Black  
 just barely slips into a draw (know your  
 Philidor positions!)...  
 1/2-1/2

**B30**  
**1674**  
**Seitzer, Phillip**  
**2150**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (2.4)  
 [Sobel, Steve]

This game was the start of Sobel's  
 miracle run so far! He slipped out of a lot  
 of trouble and took off... (E.Winslow)  
**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.e5**  
**Nd5 5.0-0 Nc7 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.h3 g6**  
 has lost popularity (7...Bf5). **8.Re1**  
 [ 8.d3 Ne6 9.Be3 Bg7 10.Re1 Qc7  
 11.Qc1 0-0 12.Bh6 f5 13.Bxg7 Kxg7  
 14.Qe3 b6 15.Nc3 h6 16.h4 Kh7  
 17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Ne2 Ba6 19.b3  
 Rd7 20.h5 g5 21.Ng3 Rf8 22.Nxf5  
 Rxf5 23.Qe4 Ng7 24.g4 e6 25.d4  
 c4 26.gxf5 exf5 27.Qe3 Re7 28.Nd2  
 b5 29.bxc4 bxc4 30.Qa3 Bb5  
 31.Qd6 Nxh5 32.Qxc7 Rxc7 33.Nb1  
 Ba6 34.Nc3 Bb7 35.e6 Re7 36.d5  
 cxd5 37.Nxd5 Bxd5 Ter Sahakyan,S  
 (2611)-Jojua,D (2580) Taleigao 2019  
 1-0 ]  
**8...Bg7 9.d3 0-0 10.Nbd2 Ne6 11.a4**

(Diagram)



**b5N**

[ There was an email game with  
11...a5 ½-½ (41) Bernal Varela,N  
(2408)-Wosch,A (2398) LSS email  
2019 ]

**12.Ne4 Qc7 13.Neg5 Rd8 14.c3?!**

[ 14.Bd2 Nxc5 15.Nxc5 h6  
( 15...Bxe5 16.axb5 cxb5 17.Qf3 )  
16.Nf3 ]

**14...a6 15.Qe2 h6 16.Nxe6 Bxe6**

**17.Be3 c4 18.d4 Rdb8 19.Nd2 c5?!**

**20.Ne4?!**

[ 20.dxc5 Qxe5 ( 20...Bxe5 21.Bxh6 )  
21.Nf3 Qe4 22.Bd4 Qxe2 23.Rxe2± ]

**20...cxd4 21.cxd4?**

[ 21.Bxd4 Bxe5 22.Nc5 ]

**21...b4 22.Rec1 Bd5 23.Bd2?!**

[ 23.Nc5 e6 24.Rc2 Bf8 25.Rac1  
Bxc5 26.dxc5 Qxe5 27.Rxc4!? Bxc4  
28.Rxc4∞ Computer claims  
compensation. ]

**23...a5 24.Be1?! Rd8 25.Rc2 Rac8**

**26.f3 Qc6 27.Nd2?**

[ 27.Nc5 e6 With Bf8 coming. ]

**27...Rd7?! 28.Rac1? Rdc7 29.Bh4?**

[ 29.Nxc4 b3! ( 29...Bxc4 30.Rxc4  
Qxc4 31.Rxc4 Rxc4 I was pretty  
skeptical of white's outlook. ) 30.Rc3  
Qa6 ]

[ 29.Qe3 Staves off c3 for now... ]

**29...Qe6?**

[ 29...c3 30.bxc3 b3 31.Rb2 Qxa4 ]

**30.Nb3 Qb6?**

[ 30...c3 31.Nc5 Rxc5 32.dxc5 Bb3  
33.bxc3 Bxc2 34.Rxc2 b3-+  
( 34...Rxc5 35.cxb4 Rxc2 36.Qxc2  
axb4 37.f4 b3 38.Qb2 Qc4 39.Bxe7  
Qxa4 40.Ba3-+; 34...Bxe5 35.f4 Bxc3  
36.Qxe6 fxe6 37.Bxe7-+ ) ]

**31.Nc5 Bf8?!**

[ 31...Rxc5 32.dxc5 Qxc5+ ]

**32.e6**

[ 32.Rxc4 Bxc4 33.Rxc4 ]

**32...fxe6?!**

[ 32...Bxe6 33.Nxe6 Qxe6 ( 33...fxe6  
34.Rxc4 ) 34.Qxe6 fxe6 35.Bg3 Rc6 ]

**33.Bg3 Rxc5 34.dxc5 Qxc5+ 35.Bf2**

**Qd6 36.Rxc4?**

[ 36.Bd4 Bg7 ( 36...Bxf3 37.gxf3  
Qxd4+ 38.Kg2 I prematurely stopped  
calculating at 37...Qxd4+, failing to  
realize that I get material back. ) ]

**36...Bxc4?**

[ 36...Qa6 ]

**37.Rxc4 Qa6 38.Re4 Qxe2 39.Rxe2  
Rc6**

[ 39...Bg7 40.b3 Rc3 41.Re3 Rc2  
This comes up later too - the winning  
plan for black is Rb1 or Rb2 and Bc3. ]

**40.Bd4 Kf7 41.b3 Rd6 42.Rd2?**

[ 42.Re4 Refuses to cede the key  
diagonal. ]

**42...Bg7 43.Be3 Rc6 44.Rd3 h5**

**45.Kf1 Be5?**

[ 45...Rc2 ]

**46.Bd2?**

[ 46.Ke2 Rc2+ 47.Rd2 Rc1 48.Rd1  
Rc2+ 49.Rd2 ]

**46...Bc7 47.Ke2 Kf6 48.g4 hxg4**

**49.hxg4 Bb6**

[ 49...e5 50.Ke3 Ke6 Prevents the  
white rook infiltration. ]

**50.Rd7 Rd6 51.Rb7 e5 52.Rb8 Ke6**

**53.Ra8 Kd5 54.Be3 Bxe3?**

[ 54...Bc7 55.Re8 Re6 56.Kd3± ]

**55.Kxe3 Rc6** My opponent offered a

draw. **56.Rxa5+ Ke6 57.Ke4 Rc3 58.Rxe5+ Kf6 59.Rb5 Rxb3 60.f4 Rb1 61.Rb6+?** Here my opponent initially played the illegal move b3 (they had 3 seconds on their clock).

[ 61.Kd3 b3 62.Kc3 Rg1 63.g5+ ]  
**61...Kf7 62.Kd3 b3 63.Kc3 Rf1?**

Wrong square.

[ 63...Rg1 64.g5 e5!= ]

**64.Rb4 Rf3+**

[ 64...Ke6 65.Kxb3 Rf3+ 66.Kc4!

The only way to make progress. Rxf4+ 67.Kc5 The details vary, but in the end the outside passer always hands white the win. ]

**65.Kb2 Ke8 66.a5 Rd3 67.a6**

My opponent's flag fell.

**1-0**

 **Macnee,Felix** **A00 1723**  
 **Horde,Nicolas T** **1451**

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (2.11)  
*[Horde,Nicolas]*

**1.b4?!** Why not? Weird opening but it's not bad at all and people generally don't have a lot of experience in the orangutan. **1...e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5**

I give away a central pawn in exchange for fast development **3...Nf6 4.e3 0-0**

**5.Nf3 Nc6** I did not like this move because it's preventing c5 which would continue to prevent White from taking the center

[ 5...d5 6.c4 c5 ]

**6.Bb2 d5 7.Be2 Bg4 8.0-0 Re8 9.c4!**

White is behind in development and extremely cramped, this is an excellent attempt at releasing their pieces **9...dxc4**

[ 9...Bxf3 10.Bxf3 dxc4 11.Qc2 Ne5 ( 11...Qd3! This would had been much more challenging ) 12.Bxe5 Rxe5

13.Qxc4 I calculated this variation but did not like it. I give away my bishop

pair for a pawn but in exchange White has solved all his development problems. They can continue with Nc3 and connect their rooks. Stockfish gives +1 here. ]

**10.Bxc4 Ne5?** I did not realize that this move is actually bad. The idea is that I start tactics against White's underdeveloped pieces. However, after the bishop takes my rook is awkwardly placed

[ 10...Qe7 Just normal development ]

[ 10...a6 ]

[ 10...Na5 ]

**11.Bxe5**

[ 11.Bb3?? Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Bh3 ]

[ 11.Be2 I thought that White would play this move. I completely overlooked that f7 is weak Nd3

This is what I had planned, however Stockfish refutes this 12.Bxd3 Qxd3 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Ne5 Bxd1 15.Nxd3 And Black loses a piece. ]

**11...Rxe5 12.Bxf7+!** I still can't believe I missed this easy tactic **12...Kxf7??**

Complete moment of hallucination

[ 12...Kh8 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3

Best continuation for Black, I am down a pawn but the fight is still on ]

**13.Nxe5+**

[ 13.Qb3+ Nd5 I have no explanation on why I thought this would hold for Black 14.Nxe5+ I completely overlooked a very easy fork (on check!) ]

**13...Kg8 14.Qb3+** This is just over, I am down a full rook and soon one other piece **14...Nd5 15.Nxg4 Kh8 16.e4!**

**Qh4 17.Ne5** I was (and still am) disgusted by my play so I wanted to resign here. Then I spotted the quick mate for my opponent and let him finish in style. ;) **17...Nb6** The "gentleman" way to resign according to my opponent **18.Nf7+ Kg8 19.Nh6+ Kh8 20.Qg8+ Rxc8 21.Nf7#** My quickest game in the

TNM so far. I still can't believe I overlooked an easy Bxf7 then fork tactic. The good news is that I doubt I will fall for the same trick again. Kuddos to my opponent, he complicated the position when needed and managed to increase my chances to blunder. The takeaway from this game is that I will still continue to work on tactics. I can study all games in the world, it does not matter if I fall for a tactic in 2.

**1-0**

**B09**  
 **Bayaraa, Timothy** **1438**  
 **Admassu, Yonathan** **1598**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (2.13)  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

Admassu played the sharp Pirc Defence, and Bayaraa met the challenge with the critical Austrian Attack. Complication continued even after queens exchanged, when eventually it was White's shaky pawns that matter. White let his passed c-pawn slip and then it was technique. Yonathan has barely slowed down, tied for 1st-2nd after 5 with 4.5. **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Qd3**

[ 7.Bd3 Qxc5 8.Qe2

**A) 8...Nc6** 9.Be3 Qa5 10.0-0 ( 10.Bd2!?) );

**B) 8...0-0** 9.Be3 Qa5 10.0-0 ( 10.h3!? Nh5!? 11.Kf2 f5 12.Bc4+ Kh8 13.Ng5 Bxc3 14.bxc3 fxe4 15.Nf7+ Kg7 16.g4 Nf6 17.g5 Nh5 18.Nxd6 Nxf4 19.Bd4+ e5 20.Qxe4 Nc6 21.Nf7 Ne6 0-1 (21) Wittmann, W-Suttles, D Mayaguez 1971 EXT 2015 [ChessBase II] ) 10...Bg4 11.Rad1 ( 11.h3; 11.Qe1 ) 11...Nc6 12.Bc4 Nh5 13.Bb3 Bxc3!? 22.08 ½-½ (45) Spassky, B-Fischer, R

(2785) 27th World ch (17), Reykjavik ]

[ 7.Qd4!? is the move that has been causing Black the most headaches lately. ]

**7...Qxc5 8.Be3 Qb4 9.Qb5+ Qxb5?!**

[ 9...Nc6! 10.0-0-0!?± 1-0 (43) Li, C (2720)-Liu, Q (2502) China 2017 ]

**10.Nxb5**

[ 10.Bxb5+! ]

**10...Na6**

[ 10...Kd8 11.Ng5! ( 11.Nxa7 Nxe4 0-1 (39) Cougoulic, A (1650)-Crahan, A (1720) Bretagne 2003 ) 11...Rf8 12.Bxa7+- h6 13.Bb6+ Kd7 14.Nc7 Ra4 15.Bb5+ ]

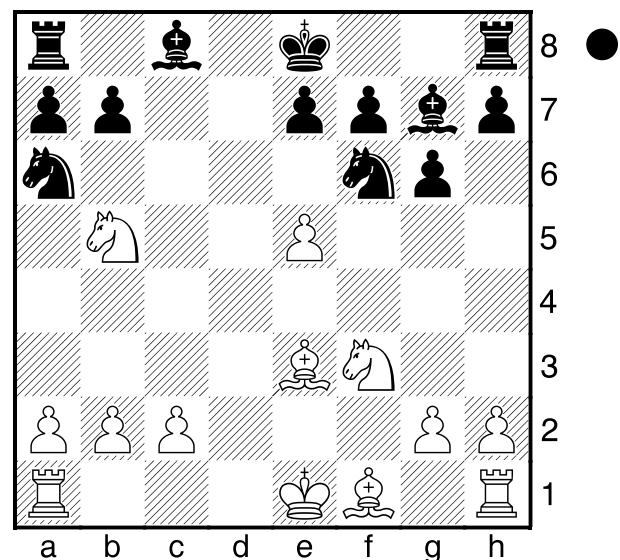
**11.e5!?**

[ 11.Bd3 ]

**11...dxe5**

[ 11...Nd5!? 12.Bd2 (a less active square, but f4 needs guarding) 0-0 13.0-0-0 dxe5 14.Nxe5 Nac7 ½-½ (29) Fernandez Garcia, J (2445)-Van Wely, L (2590) Las Palmas 1993 ]

**12.fxe5**



**Nd5N**

[Previously: 12...Ng4 13.Bd4 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.0-0-0 Bxd4 16.Rxd4 Ne3 17.Re4 Nxf1 18.Rxf1 0-0 1-0 (66) Cubas, J (2455)-Ker, A (2316)

Tromsøe 2014 ]

13.Bd4 Bf5 14.c3 b6 15.Bc4 Nf4  
16.g3 Be6 17.Bxe6 Nxe6 18.Be3 0-0  
19.0-0

[ 19.0-0-0! ]

19...Nac5 20.Rad1 a6 21.Nbd4 a5  
22.Nxe6 Nxe6 23.Bxb6 Rfb8 24.Be3  
Rxb2 25.Rf2 Rab8 26.c4 R2b4 27.c5  
Rc4 28.Rd5 Rc8 29.Ng5 Nxc5  
30.Bxc5 R4xc5 31.Rxc5 Rxc5  
32.Bxe7 Rxe5 33.Bd6 Rd5 34.Be7  
Bd4 35.a3 Rf5 36.Kh1 Rxf2 37.h3  
Rc2 38.h4 Bc5 39.Bd8 a4 40.h5  
Bxa3 41.h6 Bb4 42.g4 a3 43.g5 a2  
44.Bf6 Bc3 45.Bd4 a1Q+ 46.Bg1 Rc1  
47.Kh2 Rxc1 48.Kh3 Qf1+ 49.Kh4  
Be1#  
0-1

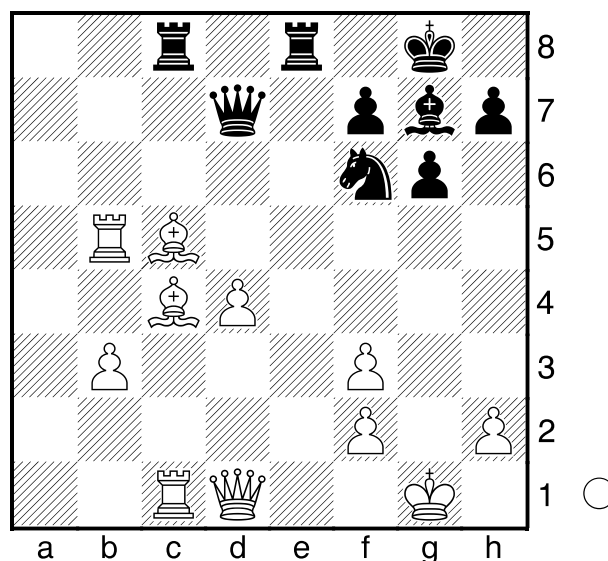
□ Handigol,Abhishek  
■ Bambou,Christophe

E60  
2105  
2125

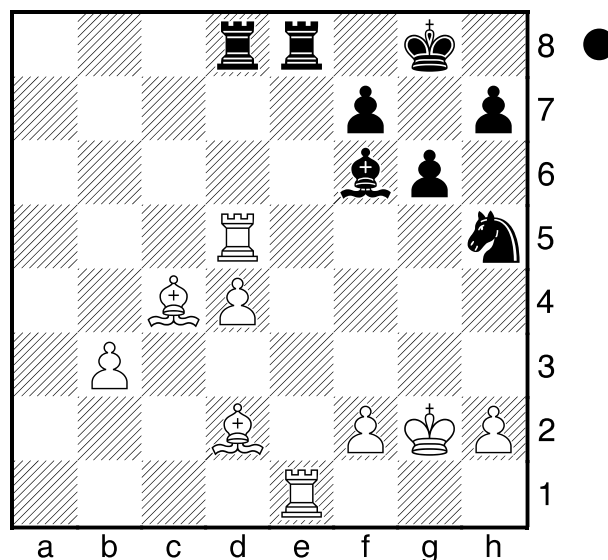
MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (3.1)  
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.b3 c5 4.Bb2 g6  
5.c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4  
cxd4 9.Nxd4 a6 10.a4 Bd7 11.Nd2  
Nc6 12.N2f3 Rc8 13.Rc1 Qb6 14.Ba3  
Nxd4 15.exd4 Bg4 16.Re1 Rfe8  
17.Bxe7 Qa5 18.Re5 b5 19.axb5  
axb5 20.Rxb5 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Qa7  
22.Bc5 Qd7

(Diagram)

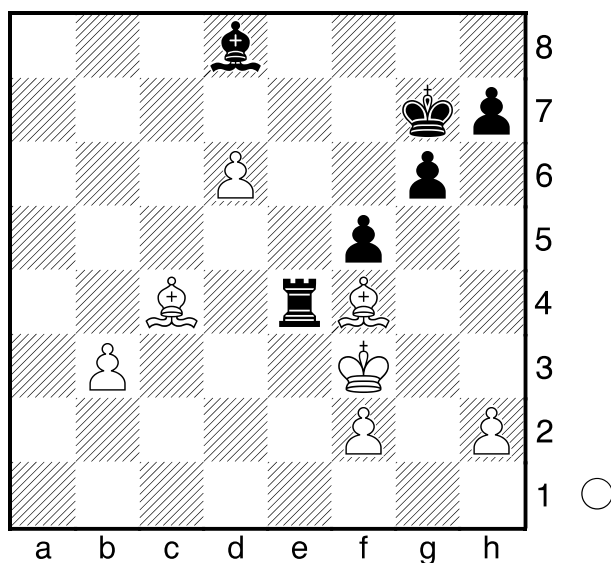


Somehow White has stolen a couple pawns, and they're rather threatening! The kingside weakness is all Black has going for him, but it will be hard to make anything of it. 23.Bb4 Nh5 24.Rd5 Qh3 25.Bd2 Bf6 26.Qf1 Qxf3 27.Qg2 Qxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Rcd8 29.Re1?? [ 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.d5+- ]

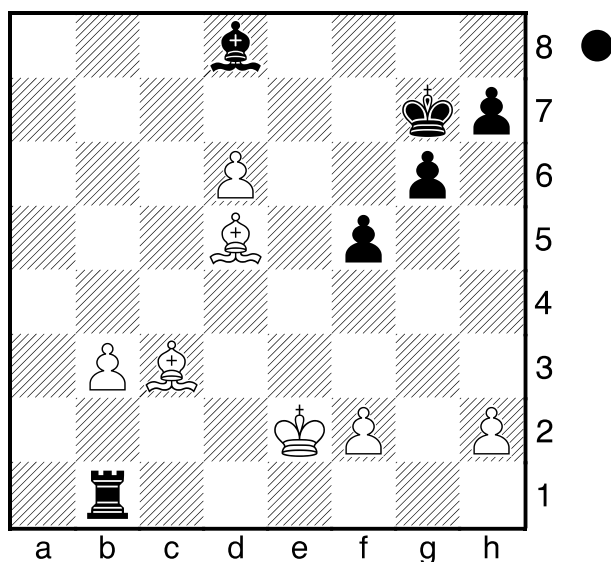


29...Nf4+! 30.Bxf4 Rxe1 31.Rxd8+ Bxd8 32.d5 Kg7 Black has the advantage, but will have to be careful with those passed pawns still looking for a touchdown. 33.Kf3 f5 34.d6 Re4?

[ 34...g5-+ Black must remember he has a majority as well! ]



**35.Bd5= Re1 36.Bd2 Rd1 37.Ke2 Rb1 38.Bc3+**



**Bf6??**

[ 38...Kf8= 0.00 ]

**39.d7** And through to the end zone.

**39...Bxc3 40.d8Q+- Rb2+ 41.Kd3 Bf6 42.Qg8+ Kh6 43.Qe6**

[ 43.Qf8+ Bg7 44.Qe7 ]

**43...Bg5 44.f3 Rxh2 45.b4 Rb2**

**46.Bb3 Rf2 47.Bd5 Rb2 48.Kc4 Bd2**

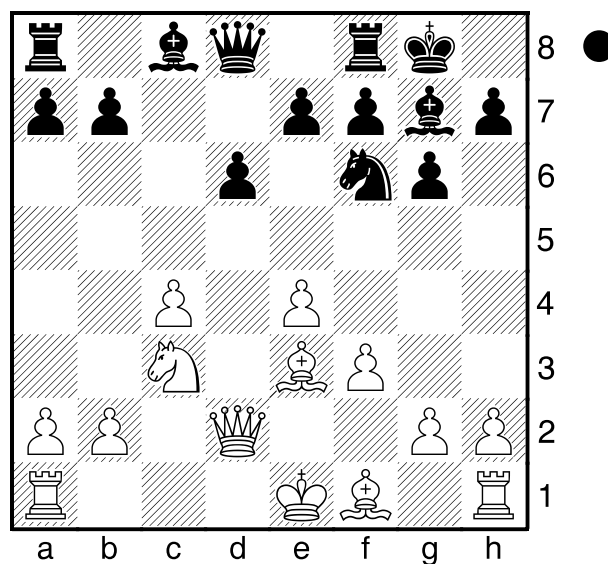
**49.b5 f4 50.Qf6 Rb4+ 51.Kc5 Be3+**

**52.Kxb4**

**1-0**

**B36**  
**1802**  
**1772**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (3.3)  
 [Winslow,Elliott]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 d6 8.f3 Bg7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Qd2**



**a5** I wonder if Kevin remembered that something goes to a5, but chose the wrong something?

[Very recent game: 10...Qa5 11.Rc1 Be6 12.b3 Rfc8 13.Bd3 a6 14.Nd5 ( 14.Ne2!? I'd say is the "modern" approach (with thoughts of harassing the bishop on e6), except that the main game in this note happened a mere two days before Suarez-Sun! ) 14...Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Nxd5

**A) 16.exd5!? Bd7 17.a4 ( 17.h4!? ) 17...Bb2 18.Rb1 Ba3 ( 18...Be5 19.h3 e6 20.Be4 exd5 21.Bxd5 Bc6 22.Rhc1 Bxd5 23.cxd5 Kf8 24.a5 Ke8 25.Rc4 Kd7 26.Kd3 Bf6 27.g4 Bd8**



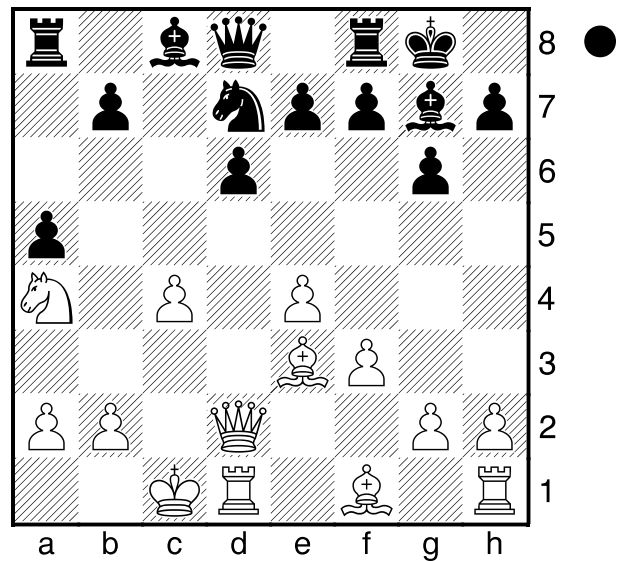
28.Rf4 Ke8 25.03 ½-½ (80) Predke, A (2595)-Guseinov, G (2646) Batumi ) 19.h4 b5 20.h5 Bb4+ 21.Ke2 Bc3 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.cxb5 axb5 24.Rbc1+- b4 25.Rh4 Ra5 26.Bd4 17.02 1-0 (52) Grischuk, A (2777)-Guseinov, G (2666) PRO League (rapid), Chess.com 17.02.2020; **B) 16.cxd5** Bd7 17.Rxc8+ Rxc8 18.Rc1 Rxc1 19.Kxc1 e6 20.dxe6 Bxe6 21.Kd2 Kf8 22.Bc4 Bxc4 23.bxc4 h5 24.Kd3 Ke7 25.h3 Ke6 26.g4 hxg4 27.hxg4 Kd7 28.a4 Kc6 29.f4 Bf6 30.f5 Bd8 31.Bd4 b5 32.axb5+ axb5 33.cxb5+ Kxb5 34.Bb2 Kc6 35.Kc4 Bg5 36.Bc3 Bf4 37.Bd4 Bg5 38.Bc3 Bf4 39.Bd4 Bg5 40.Bc3 ½-½ Gelfand, B (2668)-Ivanchuk, V (2678) Julius Baer GenCup Prelim (rapid) (5), chess24.com 18.9.2022. ]

**11.Na4** No, it as probably just what he meant:

[(1) the move has impeccable pedigree: 11.b3 a4 12.b4 Be6 13.Rc1 Nd7 14.Be2 Nb6 15.Nb5 a3 16.Nd4 Bd7 17.h4 h5 18.g4 hxg4 19.fxg4 e5 20.Nb3 Bc6 21.Bf3 f5 22.gxf5 gxf5 23.Na5 f4 24.Bf2 Na4 25.Nxc6 bxc6 26.0-0 c5 27.b5 Bf6 28.Kh1 Nb6 29.Rcd1 Kh8 30.Qxd6 Qxd6 31.Rxd6 Nxc4 32.Rd5 Ne3 33.Bxe3 fxe3 34.Be2 Bxh4 35.Rf5 Rxf5 36.exf5 Rd8 37.Rxd8+ Bxd8 38.Kg2 Kg7 39.Kf3 Kf6 40.Ke4 c4 41.Bxc4 Bb6 42.Bd3 ½-½ (42) Caruana, F (2801)-Carlsen, M (2877) Saint Louis 2014 ]

**11...Nd7 12.0-0-0!**

(Diagram)



Interesting, Chessbase's "Report→Novelty Annotation" (the quick couple of game references) now adds a few words: "12.0-0-0! is now more promising than 12.Rd1." I'll temper that making the "!" => "!?" and a "maybe..."

**12...Qc7 13.Kb1 b6**

[ 13...Nc5 14.Nxc5!? ((2) for why 11...a5): here is a game by another Azerbaidjani: 14.Nc3 Be6 15.h4 a4 16.h5 a3 17.Bh6 axb2 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.Qh6+ Kf7 21.Qxh7+ Ke8 22.Qxg6+ Bf7 23.Qg5 Qa5 24.Qd2 Na4 25.Nb5 Kd7 26.Rh7 Qxd2 27.Rxd2 Ra5 28.a3 Rc8 29.Nxd6 exd6 30.Rxf7+ Kc6 31.Rf6 Rd8 32.Be2 Rh5 33.Kc2 Rh1 34.Rd1 b1Q+ 35.Kxb1 Nc3+ 36.Kc2 Nxd1 37.Bxd1 Kc5 38.Be2 Kd4 39.Kd2 Ra1 40.Bd1 Rxa3 41.Rf5 Kxc4 42.Be2+ Kb4 43.Rb5+ Ka4 44.Rxb7 Ra8 45.Bd1+ Ka5 46.Rb5+ Kxb5 0-1 (46) Santos Ruiz, M (2585)-Mamedov, R (2659) Moscow 2019 ) 14...dxc5 15.Qd5 Bd4! ( 15...b6?! 16.Qxa8 Bb7 17.Bf4 Qc6 18.Qd8! g5 19.Qd7 gxf4 20.Qxc6 Bxc6 21.g3 1.11 1-0 (25) Shahade, G (2476)-Navalgund, N (2289) Titled Tuesday (blitz), Chess.com ) 16.Bxd4

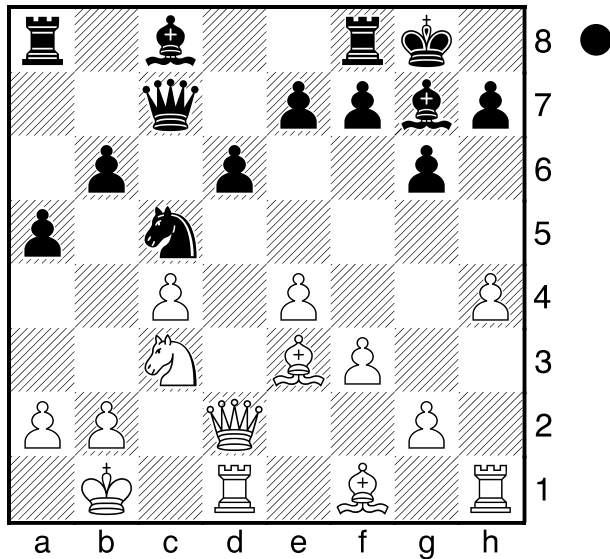
Rd8± ]

**14.h4** In any case, just the sort of thing youngsters would like :- ) (compare to Gelfand's stodgy approach) **14...Nc5?!**

[ 14...h5 a la Soltis, is best but not quite good -- White's attack is slowed or nulled, but what does Black have on the queenside? Less than nothing.

15.Bh6± ]

**15.Nc3!**



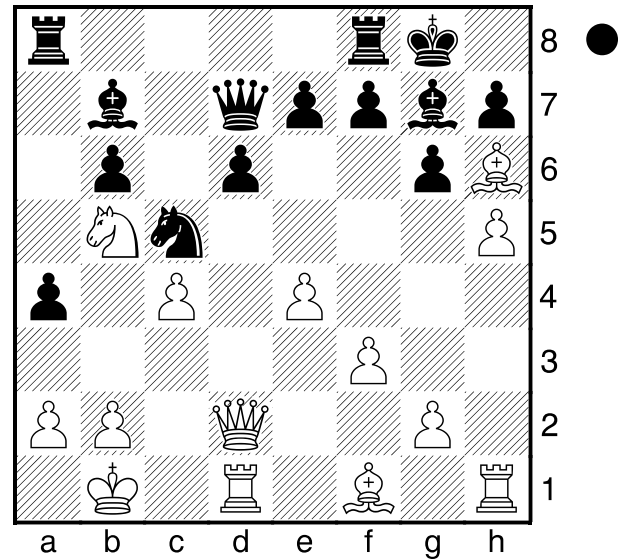
**a4N**

[A crisp and inspiring win from this position: 15...Be6 16.h5 Rfc8 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Bd4 Bxd4 19.Qxd4 Nd7 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5 Nf6 22.Bd3 a4 23.Qe3 Rf8 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.g4 Qd7 26.Qe3 Kf7 27.Rh6 Rh8 28.Rdh1 Rag8 29.a3 b5 30.cxb5 Nxd5 31.Bc4 Qb7 32.Rxh7+ Rxh7 33.Rxh7+ Rg7 34.Qd4 1-0 (34) Goumas,G (2427)-Fernandez Caballero,A (2134) 47th Seville op (3) 17.07.2022 ]

**16.h5** The bad news for Kevin: there really isn't any defence. **16...Bb7**

[The problem with 16...a3 is it can be bypassed, more than bypassed, or ignored, all +- on Stockfish: 17.-- ( 17.b3; 17.b4; 17.Bh6! )]

**17.Nb5 Qd7 18.Bh6**



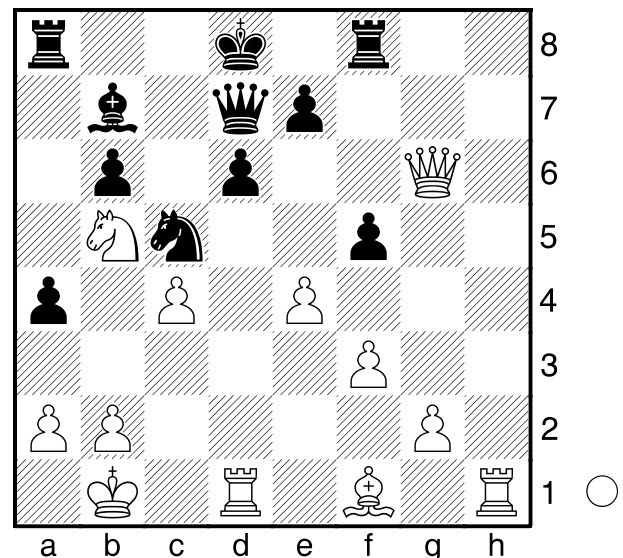
**f5?!**

[ Stocky would have you preserve the bishop: 18...Be5 19.Bxf8 Rxf8 20.a3 when it certainly does lord it over the dark squares! Practical chances, but, not good enough, White is just biggerly better. +- (+1.75 or so) ]

**19.hxg6 hxg6 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qh6+ Kf7 22.Qh7+ Ke8**

[ 22...Kf6 23.e5+! (Even better than 23.Rh6 Rg8 24.e5+ Kxe5 25.Rxg6 which is totally winning as well )]

**23.Qxg6+ Kd8**



One could stop here with the pawn \*and\*

the attack, except it's even worse than that. **24.e5**

[ 24.Nxd6! Qe6 25.Qg5 really puts the lights out. ]

**24...Qe6 25.Qg5**

[ Compy says "enough fun" and opt for the two-pawn ending plus: 25.Qxe6 Nxe6 26.exd6 ]

**25...Qxe5 26.Nxd6 Kc7 27.Rh7 Rf6 28.Nb5+**

[ And here it prefers 28.Nf7 Be4+ 29.Kc1! Rxf7 30.Rxf7 but you know Sebby is under ten minutes by now and having to calculate starts to take a back seat to a safe won harbor. ]

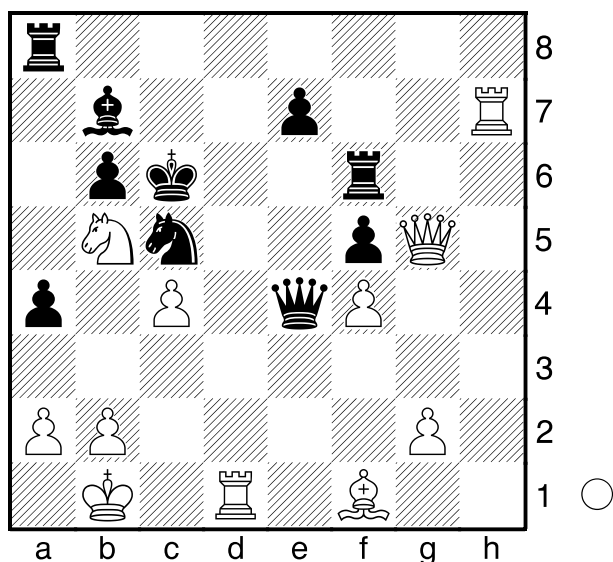
**28...Kc6**

[ 28...Kb8 ]

**29.f4**

[ 29.Qd2! ]

**29...Qe4+**



**30.Bd3!**

[ Or 30.Kc1 Qe3+ 31.Kc2+- ]

[ But not 30.Ka1?? Nb3+ 31.axb3 axb3+ 32.Na3 Rxa3+ 33.bxa3 Qc2+- oops ]

**30...Nxd3 31.Qxf6+!!** Okay, this calculation doesn't take much checking. And Suarez, down way under five minutes (he marked "3" after 29.f4), stops keeping score. Sun more or less

went all the way... **31...Kc5**

[ 31...exf6? 32.Rc7# ]

**32.Qxe7+**

[ We know that Sebby knows about keeping queens around when the enemy king is floating: 32.Rxe7! is everything at once, including mate shortly. (Well, in 13.) Ne5+ 33.Ka1 ]

**32...Qxe7 33.Rxe7 Be4 34.Rc7+ Kb4 35.a3+ Ka5**

[ 35...Kb3 36.Nd4# ]

**36.Ka2+- Nc5 37.g3 Bc2 38.Rc1**

**Bb3+ 39.Ka1 Bxc4 40.Rxc4 Kxb5**

**41.Rb4+ Ka5 42.Rf7 Rg8 43.Rxf5**

**Rxg3 44.Ka2 Ka6 45.Rf8 "45.Rf5" --**

(probably not the move played) **45...Nd7**

**46.Rxa4+ Kb5 47.Rb4+ Kc6 48.Rf7**

**Rd3 49.f5 Kd6 50.Rg7 Rf3 51.Rg6+**

**Kc5 52.Rg5 Kc6 53.Rc4+ Kd5**

**54.Rc7 Kd6 55.Ra7 Nc5 56.Rg6+**

**Ke5 57.Rxb6 Rxf5 58.Rb5 Kd4**

**59.Raa5 Rg5** And with 40 seconds on the clock, **60.Rxc5** Suarez's scoresheet says "White resigns" but he also circled WHITE WON so we'll give him the point. **1-0**

**B90**  
 Kiewra, Keaton **2465**  
 Winslow, Elliott **2259**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (3.4)  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

Keaton hasn't played many of his games, but he showed up to completely outplay and put Winslow back into the pack...

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 Nc6**

[ 6...e5 7.Nb3 ( 7.Nde2 h5 ) 7...Be6 8.Qf3 Nbd7 9.g4 h6 ]

**7.g4 Nxd4?!**

[ 7...g6!? ]

[ 7...e5

**A) 8.Nf5 h5!**

**A1) 9.g5 Nxe4 10.Nxg7+ Bxg7**

11.Nxe4 d5 12.Ng3 e4  
13.Nxh5?  
**A1a)** 13...Rxh5± 14.Qxh5  
Nd4 15.Qh7 Kf8  
( 15...Qa5+! ) 16.g6 Qf6  
17.gxf7=;

**A1b)** 13...Be5!;

**A2)** 9.Bg5;

**B)** 8.Nde2!]

8.Qxd4 e5 9.Qd3 Be6

[ 9...h6 ]

10.f4 exf4?!

[ 10...Rc8 11.f5 Bc4 Δ...h6 ]

11.Bxf4 Qb6?

[ 11...d5 12.0-0-0 dxe4 13.Nxe4  
Qxd3 14.Bxd3 0-0-0 15.Ng5 Bd6  
16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bd2± ]

12.0-0-0+ 0-0-0 13.Be3 Qc7 14.Qd4  
Nd7 15.g5 Ne5 16.h4 Nf3 17.Qa7

Qb8 18.Qb6 Qc7 19.Bh3 Qxb6

20.Bxb6 Rd7 21.Nd5 Ne5 22.Nf4

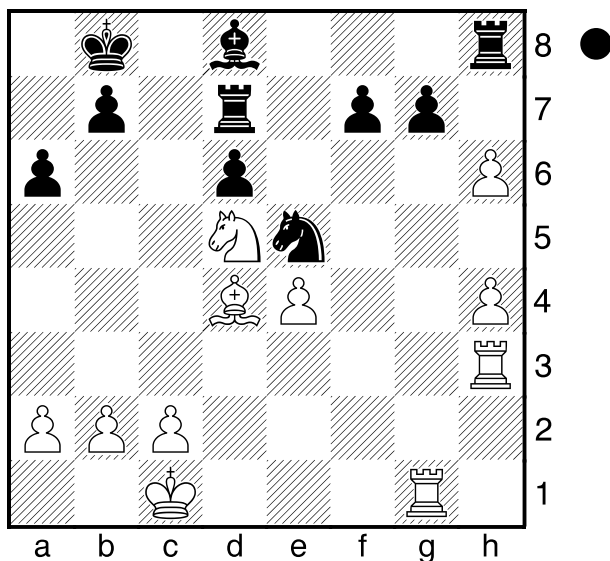
Bxh3 23.Rxh3 Be7 24.Nd5 Bd8

25.Rg1 Kb8 26.Bd4 h6

[ 26...Re8 27.h5 ]

[ 26...b5 27.Bxe5 dxe5 28.h5 ]

27.gxh6



Rxh6??

[ 27...gxh6 ]

28.Rxg7 Rxh4?! 29.Rxh4 Bxh4

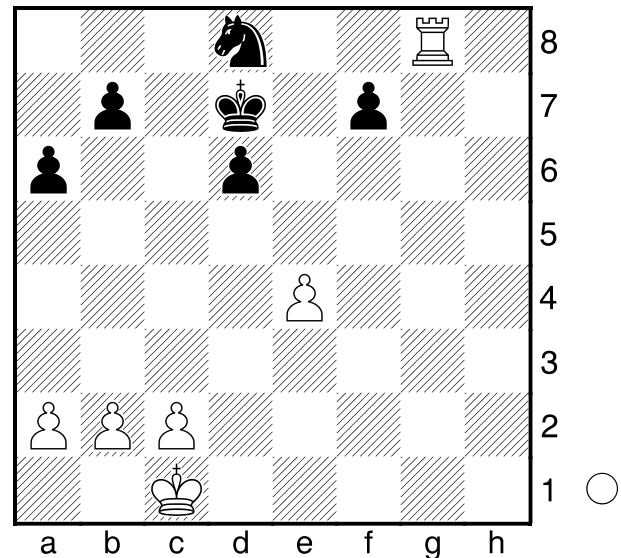
30.Bb6

[ 30.Rg8+?? Rd8 31.Rxd8+ Bxd8  
32.Bxe5 dxe5± ]

30...Bd8 31.Rg8 Nc6 32.Nf6

[ 32.b4 ]

32...Kc8 33.Nxd7 Kxd7 34.Bxd8 Nxd8



35.Kd2 Nc6 36.Ke3 Ne5 37.Kf4 Kc7  
38.Re8 Ng6+ 39.Kf5 Kd7 40.Rb8 Kc7  
41.Ra8 Ne5 42.b3 Nc6 43.c3 Ne5  
44.Kf6 Nd3 45.Rh8 Nf2 46.Rh4 b5  
47.Kxf7 Nd1 48.Rh3 Nf2 49.Re3 Ng4  
50.Re2 Kd7 51.Rg2 Ne5+ 52.Kf6 Kc6  
53.Ke6 Nd3 54.Rg8 Nc5+ 55.Kf5 Kc7  
56.e5 dxe5 57.Kxe5 a5 58.Kd5 Nd3  
59.Kd4  
1-0

C45

Horde,Nicolas T

1451

Brickhouse,Christian

1058

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (3.22)

[Brickhouse CB, Horde NH, Winslow EW]

Both players sent in the game with notes! I (EW) decided to "merge" them so you can see both players' thoughts, something I have always found interesting. Somehow I had access (Capablanca Chess Club, St. Louis in the 60s!) to the Piatogorsky Cup

tournament books, which had often both players' notes. Even Fischer sent in a game or two, I don't recall how many. In any case, there are a lot of lessons in this game. The obvious one would be "Never resign!" for which I have a hard time coming up with a proper counter-argument. But if you \*do\* play on to mate on the 137th move, please send the computer (.pgn) transcript of the moves -- so that \*I\* don't have to mouse them in!

Thank you :) =Elliott Winslow your trusty Game Enterer **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3** NH: The other move is 5.Be3 but I prefer keeping the game complicated **5...Bb6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 0-0!?**

CB: Objectively, castling is fine, but I dislike how it turned out to restrict my knight and queen. My main plan at this point is to rid myself of the turbulent bishop on g5, or at least unpin my queen without damaging my kingside.

**8.Qe2 Nd4 9.Qd2 Ne6**

[ 9...Nxb3 10.axb3 Re8 11.0-0-0 h6 12.h4 c6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 ½-½, Carlsen, M - Nakamura,H, Lindores Abbey Final 8, 2020. ]

**10.h4N** NH: I am underdeveloped and my king still in the middle but this looks dangerous to accept for Black.

[ 10.Be3 c6 11.0-0-0 ½-½ Smirnov,T - Triapishko,A, ch-RUS Junior 2020. ]

**10...Nxc5? 11.hxc5 Ng4** CB: I've accomplished my goal, at the expense of a half-open h-file. I argue that the g5 pawn is more of a liability than an asset, and will try to exploit my pressure on f2

**12.Nd4?**

[ 12.Be2!

**A) 12...Bxf2+ 13.Kf1 Be3**

14.Qd3± Black will have a hard time defending both pieces. A fair try is Qxc5 ( 14...f5 15.exf5

Loses a piece for Black NH )

15.Bxc4 Qxc4 16.Qxe3

but black is still down a piece for two pawns CB;

**B) 12...Nxf2 13.Rf1 d6 14.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2** Black is underdeveloped and can't really mount an attack while my pieces can join the fight very quickly. This is +2 (!) for White NH ]

**12...Bxd4?!**

[ 12...d5! CB: Exploit the knight blocking the queen and release the light square bishop ]

**13.Qxd4 Qxc5** CB: I have some troubles to castle my kingside and I am down a pawn. However the h file provides enough counterplay so I wasn't too dissatisfied with the position Black is up a pawn, but White has compensation on the h-file **14.Ne2?** CB: The idea is to push f4 and castle queenside

[ 14.Nb5± NH: White should attempt to disrupt Black's queenside majority ]

**14...d6**

[ 14...Qf6 15.f3 Qxd4 16.Nxd4 Nf6 NH: I thought this was the best continuation for Black. The queens are off the board so my attack is definitely weaker. My opponent told me after the game that he wanted to keep the queen over the board though ]

**15.f4 Qa5+?! CB:** Being a pawn up, black should trade queens and move towards an end game

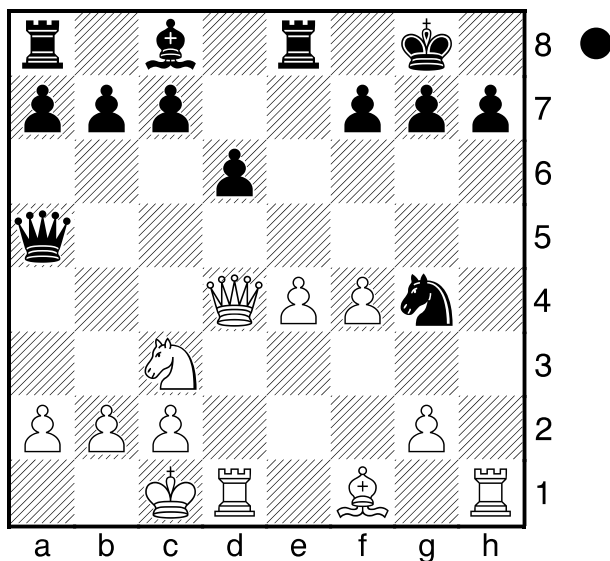
[ 15...Qf6 This time Qf6 is even stronger NH 16.Qxf6 Nxf6 17.Nc3

**A) 17...Re8 18.Bd3?** ( 18.0-0-0 concedes the fight but white improves king safety, living to fight another day. CB ) 18...Nxe4 If 19.Bxe4? Bf5 wins a piece (wins the piece back! - EW) after 20.Kf2 Bxe4-+;

**B) 17...Bg4! ]**

**16.Nc3 Re8 17.0-0-0**

(Diagram)



NH: I finally castle queenside. Stock gives a small edge for Black but this is much easier to play for White in my opinion. I can quickly move my heavy pieces to the kingside and start the pawn storm **17...c5? 18.Qd2!**

[ 18.Qxd6!? NH: This is actually not that bad for White because of some crazy tactics Nf2 19.Bb5! Rf8 ( 19...Bg4 20.Bxe8 Rxe8 21.Rdf1 Nxd1 22.Rxd1; 19...Nxd1 20.Qxd1 Rd8 21.Qh5 h6 22.g4 CB: Black is up the exchange, but white has a serious attack brewing on the kingside. ) 20.f5 Nxd1 21.Nd5 a6 22.Ne7+ Kh8 23.Ng6+ Kg8 24.Qxf8# ]

[ 18.Qg1 NH: I was hesitant with Qg1 to free e2 for my bishop but I thought the queen was slightly misplaced. It's actually the second best move ]

**18...Be6?** NH: Stockfish gives +5 (!!) for White because grabbing the a2 pawn is way too dangerous considering how fast the White's attack is. I thought this wasn't a good move because I wanted to play Kb1 but Stockfish finds an even stronger continuation **19.Kb1?**

[NH: 19.f5! Bxa2 20.Qg5 Nf6 21.Rh3! Kh8 22.Qh4 Black is

completely busted, his light square bishop is stuck on a2 (!), while all my pieces are extremely active on the kingside ]

**19...Rad8 20.f5 Bd7?**

[CB: 20...Bxa2+! 21.Nxa2 Qxd2 22.Rxd2 d5 Black has two pawns for the piece, and can get some counterplay on white's pawns. ]

**21.Bd3**

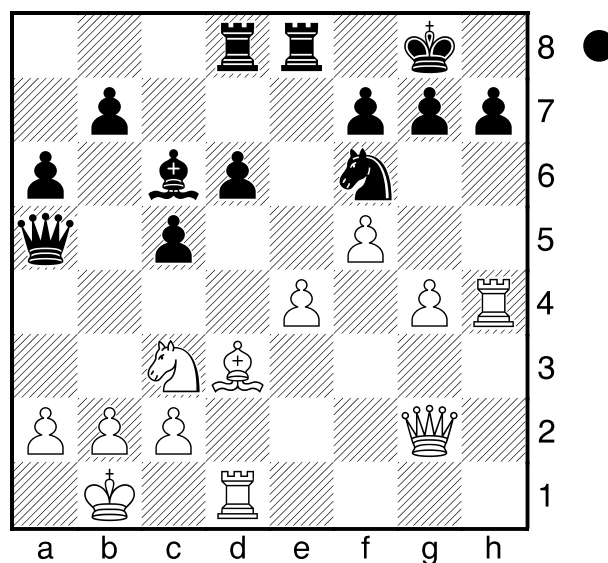
[NH: 21.Qg5! Nf6 22.Bc4 Black has no good moves, all my pieces are joining on the attack ]

**21...a6 22.Rh4 Nf6**

[NH: 22...Ne5 23.Rdh1 Nxd3 24.Rxh7 Kf8 25.Rh8+ Ke7 26.Nd5# I saw that line so I knew that Ne5 would have been a decisive blunder ]

**23.g4** CB: Black is in serious trouble here. It turns out that white's attack is faster. **23...Bc6 24.Qg2?**

[NH: 24.g5! Nxe4 ( 24...Nd7?? 25.Rxh7 Kxh7 26.Rh1+ Kg8 27.f6 g6 28.Qh2 ) 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 26.Nxe4 Qxd2 27.Nxd2 ]



**24...Nxe4??**

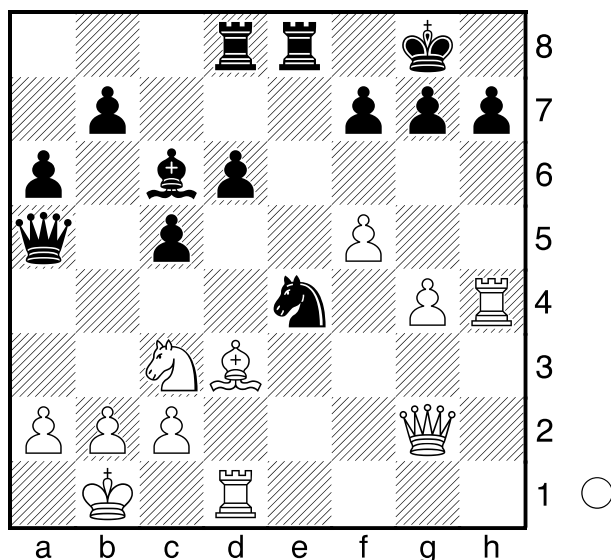
[ 24...c4! 25.g5 (NH: 25.Bxc4? d5! 26.exd5 Nxd5 And all of a sudden Black gets a lot of counterplay )

25...Qxf5! CB: exploits the pawn being pinned to the queen (NH: 25...cxd3 (? - EW) 26.gxf6 g6 27.fxg6 dxc2+ 28.Kxc2+- (White by a lot EW) 26.exf5 (26.gxf6 Qxf6 27.Rdh1 cxd3 CB: keeps queens on the board. EW: - and with the e-file blocked, e7 will be a path out for the black king. ) 26...Bxg2 27.gxf6 cxd3 CB: Trade queens and minor pieces

**A) 28.fxg7?** Bf3 29.Rxd3 (29.Kc1!) 29...Re1+ 30.Nd1 Bxd1 31.Kc1+- CB: King gets discover checked into oblivion.;

**B) 28.Rxd3?** Re1+ 29.Rd1 Rxd1+ 30.Nxd1 Bf3 CB: White is down a pawn going into the end game.;

**C) 28.cxd3!** CB: White is down a pawn, but has better chances with the second rook. EW: -- Not really! Stockfish makes Black the better side of even; and \*that's\* best play for both sides. ]



NH: To be honest I am still not sure why they played that move **25.Nxe4??**

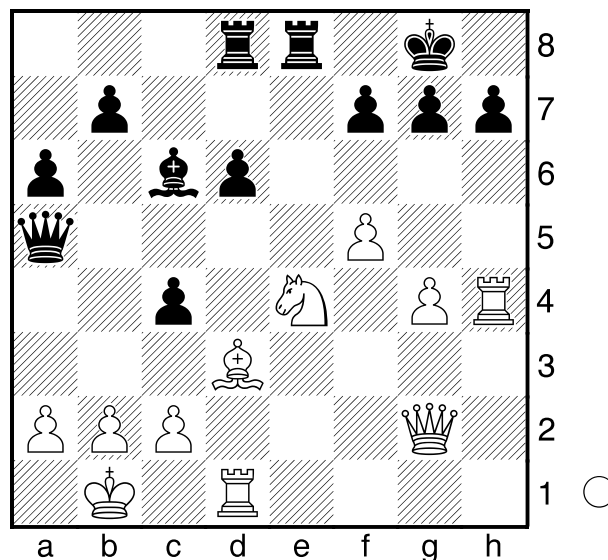
EW; CB: "?!", NH: ""

[ 25.Bxe4! +7 on Stockfish ]

**25...Bd5?**

[ 25...c4!= CB: removes the defender. -

- EW: but...



26.Qh1! cxd3 27.cxd3 Bxe4 (27...h6 28.Rxh6!) 28.dxe4 Δ Rxh7 but also g4-g5 Qe5 is almost but not quite even. 29.Re1!? h6 30.g5 d5 31.gxh6 g6 32.fxg6 fxg6 33.Qf3 ]

**26.Nf6+! gxf6 27.Qxd5 Qe1 28.Qh1**

NH: Winning more material

[ 28.Rh1! is even better (EW) ]

**28...Qxh1 29.Rdxh1 Re3 30.Rxh7 Kf8**

**31.Rh8+ Ke7 32.Rxd8 Kxd8 33.b3**

NH: Stopping any back rank shenanigans. I am completely winning being a piece up in the endgame.

**33...Kc7** CB: I believe I might have a

chance to hold if I can mobilize my queenside majority. **34.Rh7 Kc6**

**35.Rxf7 Re1+ 36.Kb2 Rg1 37.Rxf6?!**

[ CB: 37.Be2 protects the g4 pawn giving white two passers. ]

**37...Rxcg4 38.Rg6 Rf4 39.Bc4??**

NH: I hallucinated and just give away an extra easy win. It's still completely winning but I'll have to work on that

[ 39.f6 Kd7 40.Bc4 CB: I calculated this line but I accidentally switched the move order when I played... Ke8 41.f7+ Kf8 42.Rg8+ ]

**39...Rxf5 40.Be6 Rf4 41.Rg7 b5**

**42.Bd7+ Kb6 43.Rg6 Kc7 44.Rg7**

**Kb6+-** CB: Black, believing he can build a defensive fortress, offers a draw, which white declines. EW: One does not offer draws here. (1) You're down a bishop! (2) Black hasn't built said fortress yet (and probably won't be able to) (3) White can try to win without danger (well, I may have to reconsider that) (4) White even has the right rook pawn for his bishop (light queening square, not that is should come to that) (5) White is 400 rating points above Black. **45.a4?!**

[EW: 45.a3! keeps more flexibility. ]

**45...b4?!**

[EW: 45...bxa4 A similar comment ]

**46.Be6 Rf2 47.Bd5 a5**

NH: I miscalculated here, believeing that after

[ 47...Rf5 48.Rb7+ Ka5 there was mate after 49.Rb5+ but I missed axb5  
EW: Argh! (This round was played the day after Talk Like a Pirate Day.  
That's the closest I can come.) ]

**48.Rb7+ Ka6 49.Rd7 Rf6**

CB: My pieces are on their optimal squares. The Black king is stuck on a6/ b6 so my plan is to bring my king to d5, force the trade of rooks then put Black in zugzwang to grab all remaining pawns

**50.Kc1** CB: White begins his king walk. Black doesn't believe it to be a serious threat **50...Kb6 51.Kd2 Ka6 52.Kd3 Kb6 53.Re7 Rf4 54.Be4?!**

[ 54.Rd7?? Rd4+ 55.Ke3 Rxd5=

CB: White loses his bishop and black's extra pawn is defended. ]

**54...Rf6?!**

[ 54...d5 55.Bxd5?? ( 55.Bg2 et alia EW ) 55...Rd4+ 56.Ke3 Rxd5= CB: White loses his bishop, but this time pawns are equal. ]

**55.Kc4 Rf2 56.Rd7?**

[ 56.Rb7+ Ka6 57.Rd7 Rd2 58.Bd3 ]

**56...Rd2** CB: White has walked his king

into a mating net which black exploits to gain positional advantage. **57.Bd3**

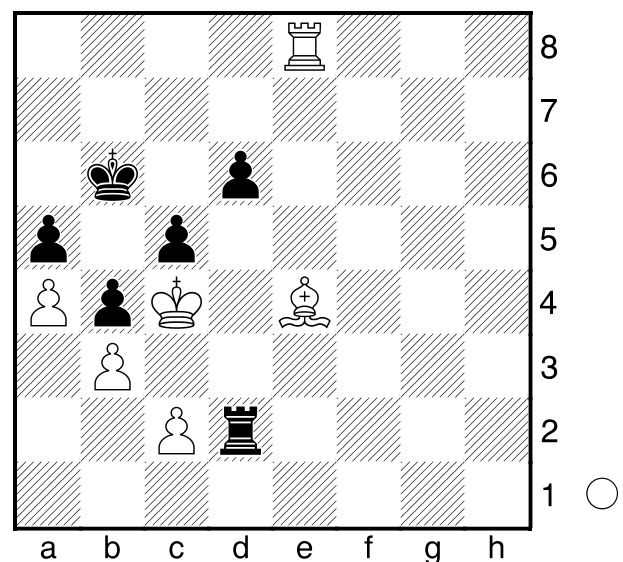
CB: Defends against 57...Rd4# **57...Kc6**

NH: I thought that I blundered the position as Black is threatening my rook and ...d5#. I was low on time and was thinking about sacking the Rook on d6 but I found the only winning continuation.

CB: Black is threatening 58...d5# if white moves the rook from the d-file, and threatening to take the rook if white fails to find the only winning move. **58.Rd8! Kc7 59.Re8**

[ 59.Rh8! Kc6 60.Rh5 NH: I thought about it but I don't know why I did not play it... The idea is simply that now Black can't prevent the White king from infiltrating on b5 or d5 Rf2 61.Be4+ Kb6 ( 61...Kd7 62.Kb5; 61...Kc7 62.Kb5 ) 62.Kd5 Kc7 63.Rh7+ Kb6 64.Kxd6 ]

**59...Kc6** Black renews the d6-d5 mate threat. CB **60.Be4+ Kb6**



**61.Rf8?? ??** CB: I was low on time and it definitely got on my nerves In defending against the d6-d5 mate threat, white overlooks that his bishop was on d3 to defend against Rd4# which black takes advantage of. **61...Rd4#** NH: And this is how you throw a completely winning



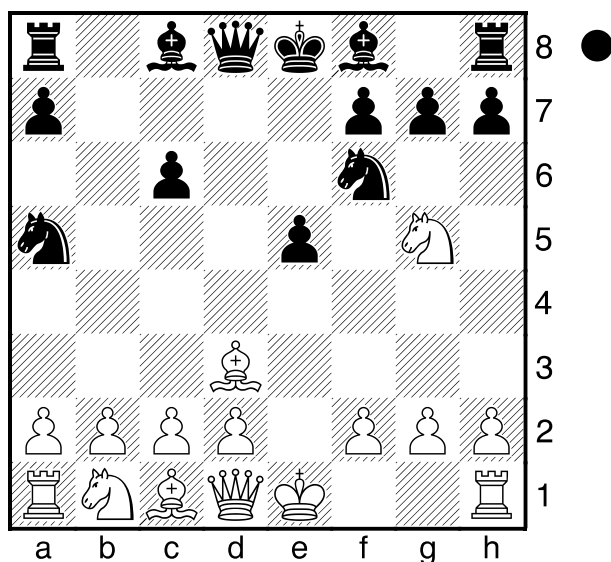
game. Checkmate CB  
0-1

**Sobel, Steve** **C58**  
**1674**  

**Handigol, Abhishek** **2105**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (4.1)  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

Sobel grabs the pawn in the Two Knights Defence, and through up and down complications manages to cash for yet another (!) upset of an expert! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3** This has all but completely superceded the older moves.

[ 8.Be2 ]  
 [ 8.Qf3?! ]



**8...Ng4!?** I thought this was a junk move until I saw all the not-so-junkie players who've used it! And successfully, too -- it now scores better than anything else (and better than even).

[Still, Carlsen beat Ding Liren with the "usual" 8...Nd5 last year. ]

**9.Ne4** But this does peek over 50% in practice. **9...Qh4N** Never before played!

[Mostly seen is the all but forced sequence 9...f5 10.Be2 h5 11.h3 fxe4 12.hxg4 Bc5 and now 13.b4! ½-½ (34) was from Stellwagen,D (2625)-L'Ami,E (2581), a computer-assisted match game in Maastricht 2008 [L'Ami,E]. ]

**10.Be2?**

[Alas for Handigol's novelty, 10.g3 pushes Black back with a quick straightening out of White's slight logjam:

**A) 10...Qh6** 11.Be2 Qg6 12.d3 Be7 13.b3 ( 13.h3; 13.Bd2 );

**B) 10...Qh3** 11.Bf1 Qh5 12.h3 Qg6 13.d3 Nf6 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Bg2;

**C) 10...Qd8** 11.Be2 and Black can't muster any attack. Stockfish: +- ]

**10...Nxb2!** Just barely! **11.Ng3 f5?!**

[ 11...Bd6!± and ...e4 ]

**12.d3**

[ 12.d4! ]

**12...f4?**

[ 12...Bc5 first! ]

**13.Nf1 Nf3+** looks good at first glance, but **14.Bxf3 Qxh1 15.Bd2** and Black falls apart on the queenside! **15...Nb7 16.Bxc6+ Kd8 17.Ba5+?!** White is still doing fine,

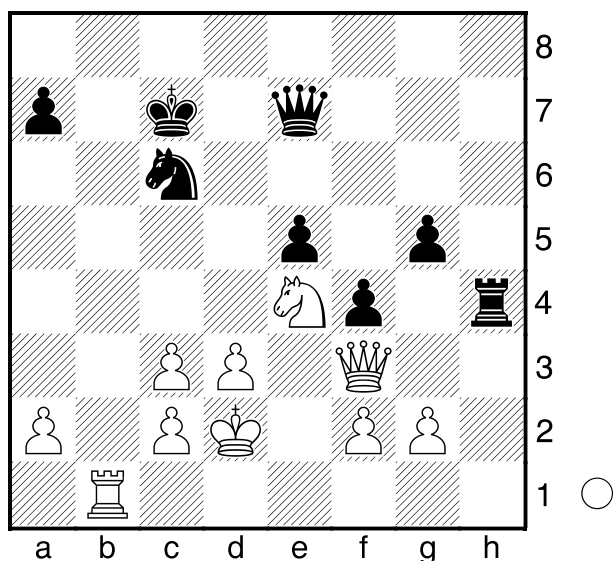
[but 17.Qf3! and Qd5 will be much too much. ]

**17...Nxa5 18.Bxa8 Qh6 19.Nc3 Qb6 20.Qf3 Bb4 21.Nd2 Bb7 22.Bxb7 Qxb7 23.Qg4 Re8 24.0-0-0 Bxc3 25.bxc3 Qf7 26.Ne4 Qd7 27.Qh4+**

[ 27.Qxd7+ would come as a relief to Black (but still lost); the formula is: "Safer king, keep the queens on the board." ]

**27...Qe7 28.Qxh7 Nc6 29.Qg6 Kc7 30.Kd2 Rh8 31.Rb1 Rh6 32.Qg4 Rh4 33.Qg6 Rh6 34.Qg4 Rh4 35.Qf3 g5**

(Diagram)

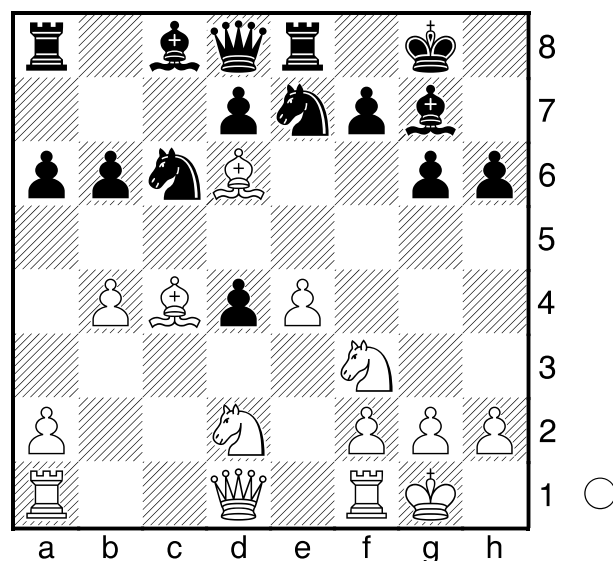


36.g3 g4 37.Qe2 f3 38.Qe3 Rh8  
39.Nc5 Kc8 40.a4 Qd6 41.Rb5 Qh6  
42.Ne4 Qxe3+ 43.Kxe3 Rh1 44.Kd2  
Ra1 45.Nf6 Rxa4 46.c4 Nd4 47.Rxe5  
Ra2 48.Kc3 Ne2+ 49.Kb4 Rxc2  
50.Nxg4 Nc1 51.Re3 Ne2 52.Kc5  
Kd7 53.Ne5+ Ke6 54.Nxf3+ Kf6  
55.d4 a5 56.d5 a4 57.d6 a3 58.d7  
1-0

**B31**  
 Widjaja,Luke 2049  
 Lavi,Eilon 2110  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (4.3)  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Luke launches a classic attack at f7! 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 e5 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 exd4 8.Bf4  
This well-known gambit has caught quite a few sleepy Sicilianers. 8...Nge7 9.Bd6 0-0

[ 9...a6 10.Bd3 b6 ]  
 10.Nbd2 a6 11.Bd3 Re8?  
 [Let's try to get developed: 11...b6 ]  
 12.b4  
 [ 12.Bc4! ]  
 12...b6 13.Bc4 h6  
 (Diagram)

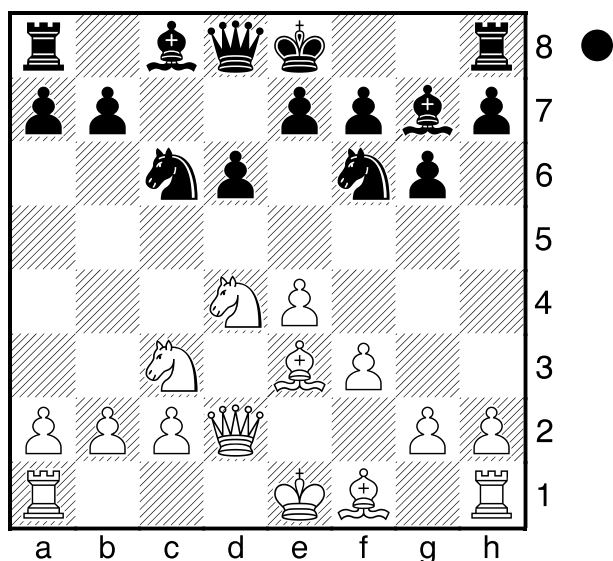


14.Bxf7+! Kxf7 15.Qb3+ Kf8 16.Ng5!  
hgx5 17.f4! Be5 18.fxe5+ Kg7  
19.Rf7+  
1-0

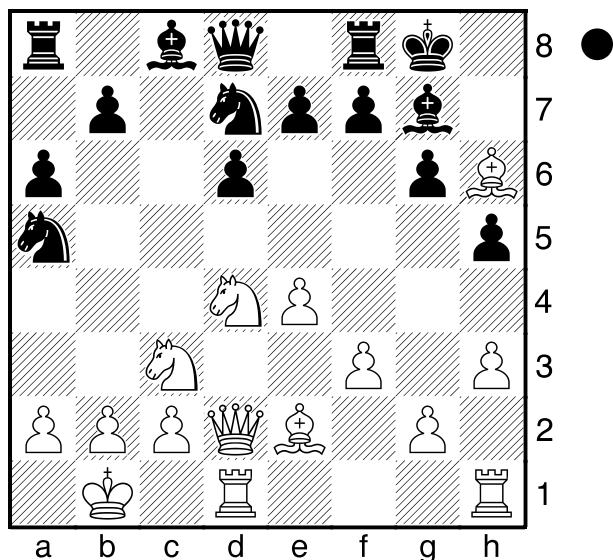
**B75**  
 Winslow,Elliott 2259  
 Sanguinetti,George A 1930  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (4.5)  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Your trusty (if rusty) Game Entry Guy fumbles into a mating combination for the "1000" books. (1001?) 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7  
 [ 6...Nc6 7.f3 h5!? 8.Qd2 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 Bh6!?± is something I've seen somewhere recently; the computer is not amused. ]  
 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2

(Diagram)



**h5!?** George noted he used to play this decades ago. I confess I've never taken it seriously enough to study it. My bad. **9.0-0-0 0-0 10.Kb1** Awaiting developments. **10...Nd7** The Zombie Knight Attack! Another business I've let pass without serious study. (Black can play thus without ...h5 as well.) **11.h3 a6** Probably too slow on Black's part (I haven't played a2-a4 of course). **12.Be2 Na5 13.Bh6**

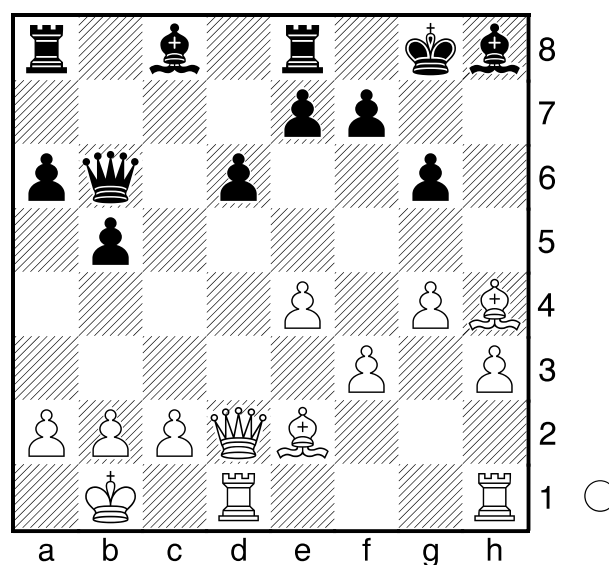


**Bh8!?** This makes it up to #5 or so in the Stockfish Candidate List, not that anything is going to work. But it's a good

practical move -- and I'm going to equally practically ignore that rook! **14.g4 h4 15.Nb3 Re8** I really wasn't going to take it anyway. **16.Bg5!** I'm intending a boring h4-h5 after eliminating the splinter on h4. I can get away with this? **16...b5 17.Nxa5 Qxa5 18.Nd5! Qd8** Queens off would be just as bad.

**19.Bxh4**  
[Stockfish is all hyped up about 19.f4, either here or after my grab. (Maybe h4-h5 really \*is\* too slow.)]

**19...Nb6 20.Nxb6**  
[20.f4!]  
**20...Qxb6**

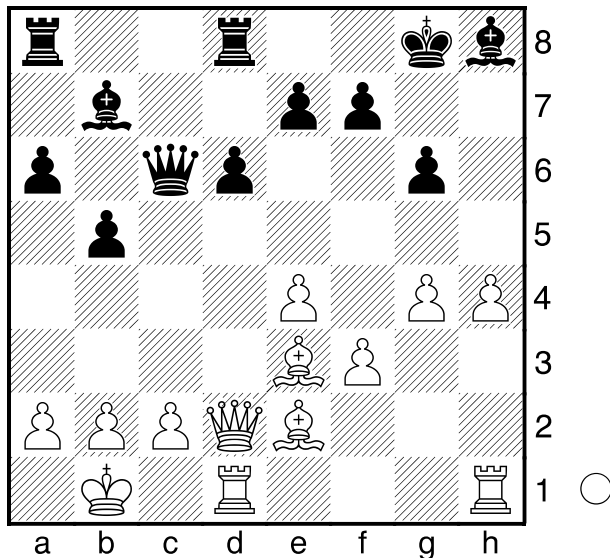


**21.Bg5!**  
[21.f4!?]  
**21...Bb7**  
[21...Be6]  
**22.Be3**  
[22.h4!]  
**22...Qc6**  
[22...Qc7]  
**23.h4 Red8**

[23...d5!? right off looks to get to the long diagonal, but I was thinking I'd disorder his queen and bishop:

**A) 24.h5 dxe4 (24...Qf6 25.e5! Qxe5 26.c3** again, White gets there first) **25.hxg6** might just be better;

**B) 24.e5!? Bxe5 25.h5 d4**  
**26.Bh6 ]**



Slow again. **24.h5 d5?! 25.hxg6 Qxg6**  
 [ 25...fxg6 26.Bd4! is best ]

**26.Rh6?!**

[ 26.e5! ]

[ 26.Bd4! ]

**26...Qg7 27.c3**

[ 27.Qc1 ]

**27...Rd6!? I'd completely overlooked this**

**28.Rxd6 exd6 29.exd5**

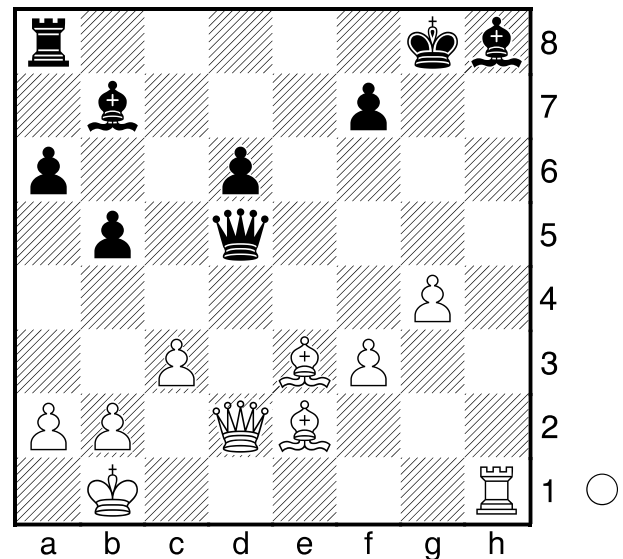
[ 29.Rh1! dxe4 30.Bd4 f6 31.g5! ]

**29...Qe5**

[ 29...b4!? 30.Bd4 bxc3 31.Bxc3  
 Qg6+ 32.Bd3 Bxc3 33.Qxc3 Qh6  
 34.Bf5 ]

**30.Rh1! A bit of a trap... 30...Qxd5?!  
 ...into which he falls (some time trouble).  
 [ 30...Bg7 ]**

(Diagram)

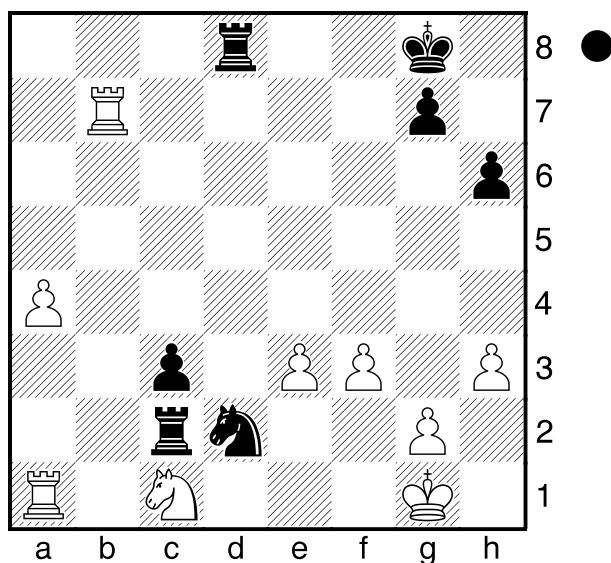


**31.Rxh8+ Kxh8 32.Bd4+ f6 33.Qh6+  
 Kg8 34.Qxf6**  
 [ 34.Bxf6 ]  
**1-0**

**A00**  
 1500  
 1024  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (4.17)  
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Starr was cruising to yet another 1.b4  
 positional outplaying his lower rated  
 opponent, but then... **1.b4 e5 2.Bb2  
 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c4 0-0 5.e3 Re8  
 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bc3 a5 8.Be2 c6 9.0-0  
 Be6 10.Qa4 Bc5 11.d3 Nbd7  
 12.Nbd2 Nb6 13.Qc2 d5 14.Nb3 Bb4  
 15.Qb2 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 dxc4 17.dxc4  
 Nbd7 18.Bd3 Qe7 19.Nxa5 Nc5  
 20.Nb3 Ra3 21.Qc2 Nxd3 22.Qxd3  
 Rea8 23.Qc2 Qb4 24.Nbd2 c5  
 25.Rfb1 Qc3 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.Rxb7  
 h6+- 28.h3  
 [ 28.Rc7 ]  
**28...Bxc4 29.Nxc4 Rxc4 30.Ne5 Rc2  
 31.Nxf7**  
 [ 31.a4! ]  
**31...Ne4 32.f3****

[ 32.a4! ]  
**32...Nd2**  
 [ 32...Nc3! ]  
**33.a4**  
 [ 33.Nd6! ]  
**33...c4**  
 [ 33...Nc4! ]  
**34.Ne5 c3 35.Nd3**  
 [ 35.Rc7! ]  
**35...Rd8 36.Nc1??**  
 [ 36.Ne1? Rb2+ ]  
 [ 36.Rc1 Nxf3+ 37.gxf3 Rxc1+  
 38.Nxc1 Rd1+ 39.Kg2 Rxc1  
 40.Rc7± ]



**36...Nxf3+!**  
**0-1**

**Suarez, Sebastian** **D47**  
**Sobel, Steve** **1802**  
**1674**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (5.1)  
 [Winslow, Elliott]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6**  
**5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5**  
**8.Bd3 Bd6** This is "what it's all about" in  
 the twenty-first century. And it has  
 proven a tough nut to crack. Black

combines play for ...e6-e5 with possible  
 tactical expansion with ...Bb7 and even ...  
 c5 as a temporary pawn sack. (See the  
 Aronian-Anand game!)

[A hundred years ago 8...a6 9.e4 c5  
 was one of the original "deep  
 analysis" openings (maybe after the  
 Giuoco Piano Moller Attack). ]

[Then 8...Bb7 caught everyone's  
 attention forty years later. ]

**9.0-0** Far and away most common! But  
 many experiments have tried for  
 something more immediate, so even at  
 least achieving a plus score. (Yes, this  
 line has been that tough on White.)

**9...0-0 10.Qe2**

[Relevant: 10.a3 Bb7 11.Qc2 Rc8  
 12.b4 (This game can't be shown  
 often enough: 12.Ng5 c5 13.Nxh7  
 Ng4 14.f4 cxd4 15.exd4 Bc5 16.Be2  
 Nde5 17.Bxg4 Bxd4+ 18.Kh1 Nxg4  
 19.Nxf8 f5 20.Ng6 Qf6 21.h3 Qxg6  
 22.Qe2 Qh5 23.Qd3 Be3 0-1 (23)  
 Aronian, L (2802)-Anand, V (2772) Wijk  
 aan Zee 2013. Anand's "Immortal  
 Game"? Perhaps! Except he noted  
 that it was all on his board the night  
 before! ) 12...a5 13.Rb1 c5 14.Nxb5  
 cxb4 15.Qe2 Be7 16.e4 bxa3  
 17.Bxa3 Bxa3 18.Nxa3 Ba8 19.Nb5  
 Rb8 20.Rfd1 Qe7 21.h3 g6 22.Qe1  
 a4 23.Rdc1 Rfc8 24.Nd2 Nb6  
 25.Rxc8+ Rxc8 26.e5 Nfd5 27.Nd6  
 Rb8 28.N2e4 Qa7 29.Nb5 Qe7  
 30.Bf1 Bc6 31.Nbd6 Qa7 32.Qc1  
 Be8 33.Ra1 Kg7 34.h4 Nd7 35.Bb5  
 Qxd4 36.Rxa4 Qxe5 37.Nxe8+ Rxe8  
 38.Bxd7 Rd8 39.Bc6 Rc8  
 Mamedyarov, S (2782)-Shankland, S  
 (2709) Saint Louis 2021 1-0 (70) ]  
 [ 10.Qc2 Bb7

**A) 11.e4** e5 12.dxe5 ( 12.h3!? );

**B) 11.Ng5** not worrying about ...b4  
 has done pretty well as well.;

**C) 11.a3 ]**

**10...Bb7 11.Rd1 Qe7 12.b3**

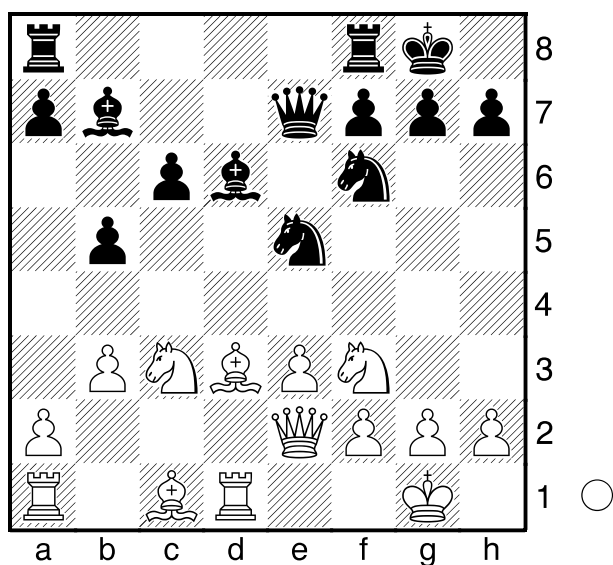
[ 12.e4!? ]

[ 12.Ne4!? Nxe4 13.Bxe4 a5 14.b3 ]

**12...e5** Black gets there first, and any advantage for White is gone. **13.dxe5?!** White perhaps overreacts to the ...e4 threat.

[ Stockfish has White sidestep the pawn fork with 13.Qc2 Rae8 14.Bf5 but no edge (for either side for that matter). ]

**13...Nxe5**



**14.Nxe5?!**

[ Predecessor: 14.Bb2 a6 15.Nd4 g6 16.Ne4 Nxd3 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Rxd3 Qe7 19.Rad1 Be5 20.Qg4 h5 ½-½ (20) Vera,S (2042)-Perez Rodriguez,L (2324) Tornado INT 2021 ]

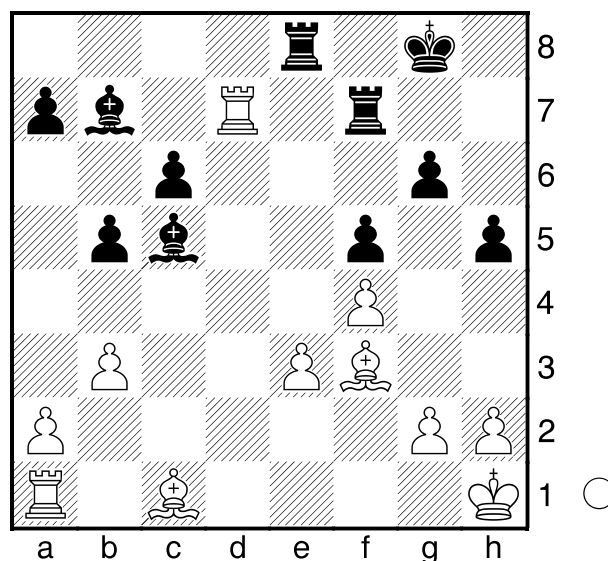
**14...Qxe5** **15.f4** **Qc5** **16.Kh1** **Rae8?!**

It's hard to find a purpose for that rook on f8 (although it did function for ...f5 in the game);

[ 16...Rfe8 ]

**17.Qc2** **h5** **18.Ne4** **Nxe4** **19.Bxe4** **f5** **20.Qxc5** **Bxc5** **21.Bf3** **g6** **22.Rd7** **Rf7**

(Diagram)



**23.Rxb7??** A faulty combination, probably in time trouble. **23...Rxb7**

**24.Bxc6** **Rd8** **25.Bb2** **Rc7**

[ 25...Rb6! ]

**26.Bxb5** **Bxe3** **27.Bc4+** **Kh7** **28.Be5** **Rcd7** **29.g3**

[ 29.h4 Rd2! is even better than trading rooks ]

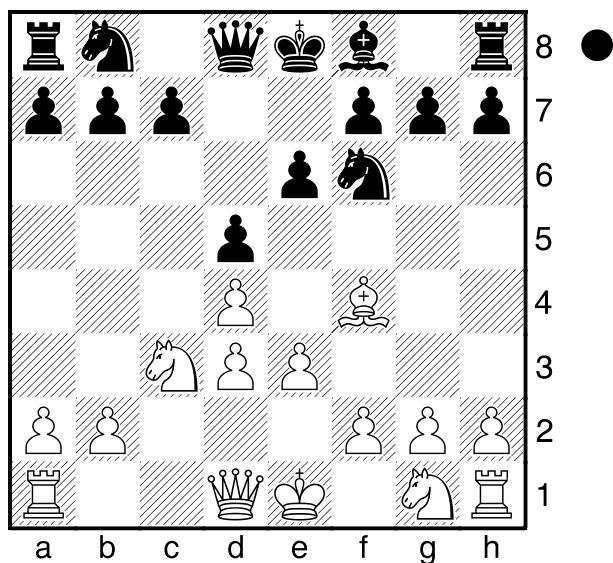
**29...Rd1+** but with the f-pawn guarded, this is better. **30.Rxd1** **Rxd1+** **31.Kg2** **Bd4** Sobel brings it home for (1) another upset (2) clear first by a point and a half (!!) going into the last two rounds (3) a rough time ahead, as there are a couple hungry masters awaiting who are not interested in being upset at all! **32.Bxd4** **Rxd4** **33.a3** **a5** **34.Bb5** **Rd2+** **35.Kg1** **Ra2** **36.b4** **Rxa3** **37.bxa5** **Rxa5**

**38.Be2** **Ra2** **39.Kf2** **Kg7** **40.Ke3** **Kf6** **41.h3** **Ra3+** **42.Bd3** **Ke6** **43.Kd4** **Kd6** **44.Kc4** **Ra4+** **45.Kc3** **Kc5** **46.g4** **Rxf4** **47.gxf5** **gxf5** **48.Kd2** **Kd4** **49.Ke2** **Re4+** **50.Bxe4** **Kxe4** **51.Kf2** **Kf4** **52.Kg2** **Ke3** **53.Kf1** **Kf3** **54.h4** **Kg3** **55.Kg1** **Kxh4** **56.Kg2** **Kg4** **57.Kf2** **Kf4** **58.Kg2** **Ke3** **59.Kf1** **Kf3** Sobel has had a dream start of 5-0 -- just a draw ... just a draw...

**0-1**

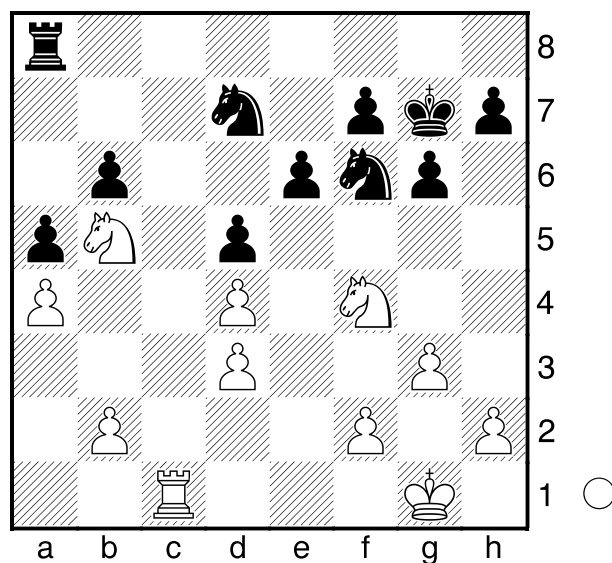
Handigol, Abhishek D00  
 Snyder, Larry 2105  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (5.2) 2071  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

An epic, in which Snyder probably missed a win (although as it went it so looked like it was there!). **1.d4 Nf6**  
**2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4** Jobava! **3...Bf5 4.e3**  
**e6 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.cxd3**

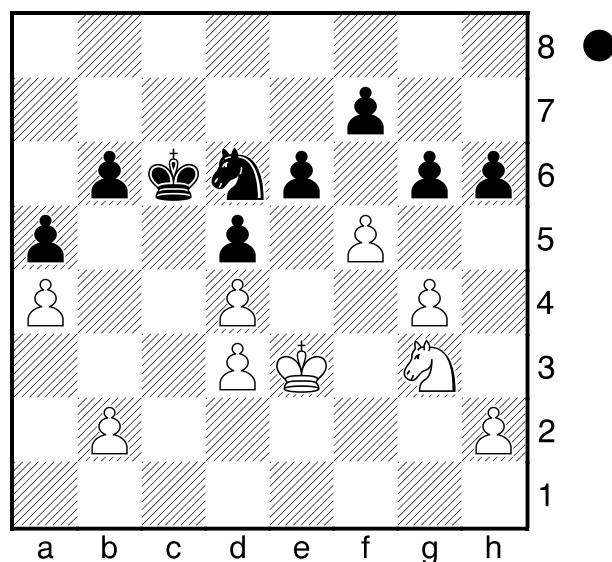


**Bd6 7.Nge2 Bxf4 8.Nxf4 0-0 9.Qb3**  
**b6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Rfc1 c5 12.a4**  
**cx d4 13.ex d4 a6 14.Na2 Qb8 15.g3**  
**Qd6 16.Nb4 a5 17.Nc6 Rac8 18.Na7**  
**Rxc1+ 19.Rxc1 Qb8 20.Nc6 Qd6**  
**21.Qb5 g6 22.Na7 Qb8 23.Qa6 Kg7**  
**24.Nb5 Qa8 25.Qxa8 Rxa8**

(Diagram)

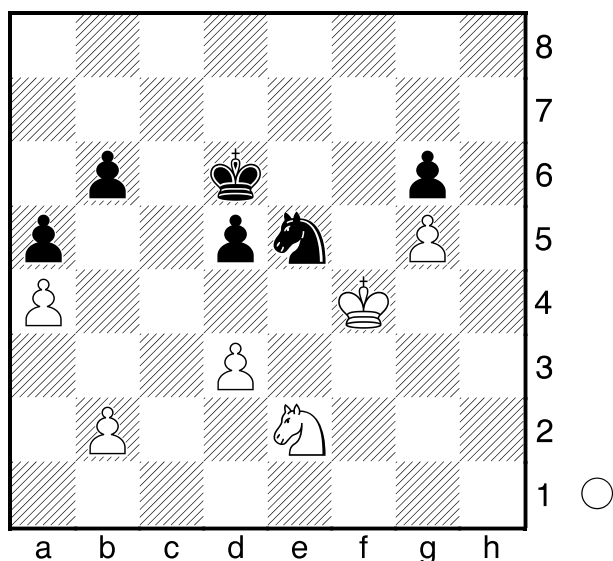


**26.Rc7 Kf8 27.Ne2 Ke7 28.Nec3 Ne8**  
**29.Rc6 Kd8 30.Kg2 Rc8 31.Rxc8+**  
**Kxc8 32.Kf3 Kd8 33.Ke3 Ke7 34.g4**  
**h6 35.Ne2 Nd6 36.Na7 Nb8 37.f4**  
**Kd7 38.Ng3 Nc6 39.Nxc6 Kxc6 40.f5**  
*[ 40.Ne2 b5 41.b3 ♣ ]*



**40...Kd7?**  
*[ 40...exf5 41.gxf5 g5-+ ]*  
**41.fxg6 fxg6 42.h4 Ke7 43.Kf4 Nf7**  
**44.g5 hxg5+ 45.hxg5 Kd6 46.Ne2**  
**e5+ 47.dxe5+ Nxe5**

(Diagram)



48.d4 Nd3+ 49.Ke3 Nxb2 50.Nf4  
Nxa4 51.Nxg6 b5 52.Ne5 Nb6 53.g6  
Nc8 54.g7 Ne7 55.Nf7+ Kc6 56.Nh6  
b4

[ 56...Kd6 57.Kd2 Ke6̄ ]  
57.g8Q Nxg8 58.Nxg8 a4 59.Kd3 a3  
60.Kc2 Kb5 61.Kb3 a2 62.Kxa2 Kc4  
63.Ne7 Kxd4 64.Kb3 And they both  
join the big tie for 2nd-6th behind the  
meteoric Stephen Sobel.

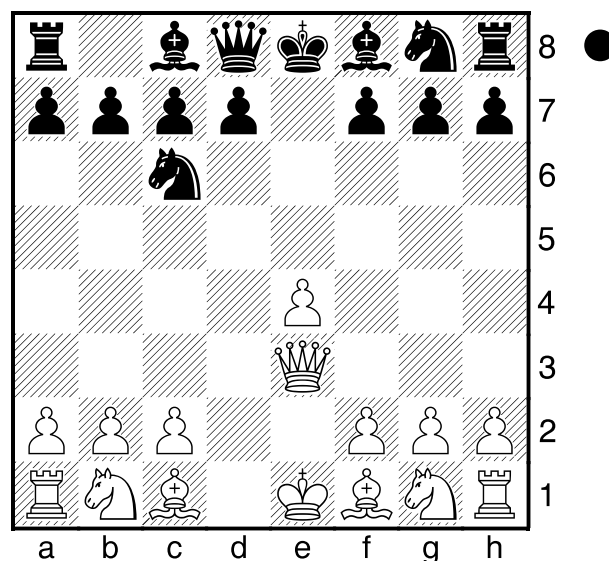
1/2-1/2

□ Griffith, Kyron Waykuan C22 2437  
■ Widjaja, Luke 2049

MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (5.3)  
[Winslow, Elliott]

We have to include a smooth outclassing  
game by Griffith, 1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4  
3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3

(Diagram)



d6

[ 4...Nf6 5.Nc3 ( 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Nc3  
d5 and Black has at least equalized. )  
5...Bb4 6.Bd2 ( 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3  
0-0 8.f3 d5 Black has no worries at  
all. ) 6...0-0 7.0-0-0 Re8 has been  
among others Nepomniachtchi versus  
the world's elite -- with mixed results  
(leaning towards Black). ]

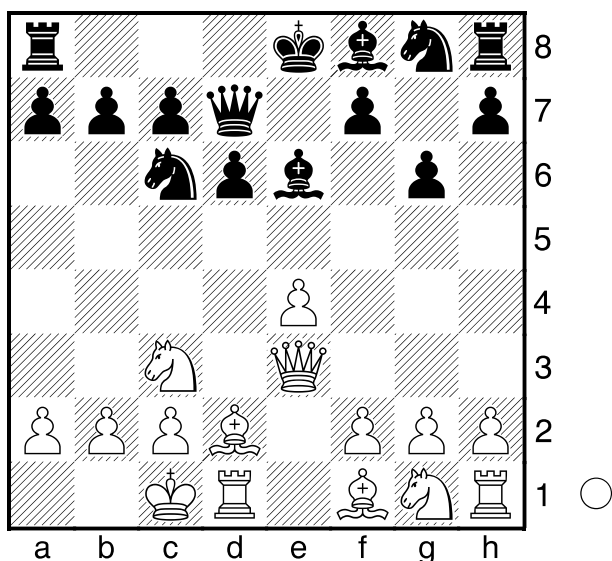
5.Bd2 Be6 This will be rudely met.

[Why "Report | Novelty Annotation"  
chooses to show this game is unclear:  
5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.0-0-0 0-0  
8.Qg3 Nh5 9.Qf3 Nf6 10.h3 Rb8  
11.g4 b5 12.g5 b4 13.gxf6 bxc3  
14.Bxc3 Bxf6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Qxf6  
gxf6 17.Ne2 f5 18.Nd4 Nxd4  
19.Rg1+ Kh8 20.Rxd4 Re8 21.Bd3  
fxe4 22.Bxe4 Re6 23.Bd3 Rf6  
1/2-1/2 (35) Belyakov, B (2478)-  
Yandemirov, V (2394) Kazan 2015. ]

6.Nc3 g6 7.0-0-0 Qd7?

(Diagram)





It looks like Black is going to emulate White and castle queenside, but it never happens. **8.Nd5!** Perhaps there is something wrong with Stockfish 15 -- it evaluates this as winning! (Or it might \*be\* winning...)

[Predecessor: 8.f4N 0-0-0 9.Nb5 Kb8 10.Bc3 f6 11.Nf3 Bg7 12.Nbd4 Nge7 13.Be1 Bg4 14.Rd3 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Nc6 16.Ra3 Nxd4 17.Qxd4 b6 18.Bc3 Qe7 19.f5 gxf5 20.h3 Bh5 21.exf5 Rde8 22.Bb5 Qe3+ 23.Kb1 Qxd4 24.Bxd4 Re4 25.Rg3 Bh6 26.Bxf6 Rf8 27.Bd3 Re3 28.Rxe3 Bxe3 29.Bc3 d5 30.g4 Be8 31.Bg7 Rf7 32.f6 h6 33.Bg6 Rxf6 34.Bxf6 Bxg6 35.g5 hxg5 1-0 (35) Deus Filho,J (2011)-Da Silva Mach,J (1800) Forquilha 2013 ]

**8...Bg7 9.Bc3 f6 10.Bb5 a6 11.Ba4 b5 12.Bb3** So much for castling -- well, anywhere. **12...Rc8 13.Ne2 a5 14.a4 b4 15.Bd4 Nd8**

[ 15...Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Bf7 17.Nb5 just keeps piling up the pressure (Qa7 next!). ]

**16.Rhe1 Qf7 17.Qd3! c5 18.Be3 Qb7 19.Bf4 Bf8 20.Bc4 Bd7 21.Ba6 Qa7 22.Bxc8 Bxc8 23.Qb5+ Bd7 24.Qb6** Kyron has won material and a lot of key

squares as well, and Luke just decides to end it.

**1-0**

**B00**  
**2083**  
**2259**  
MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (5.6)  
[Winslow,Elliott]

**1.e4** What to play against Mike, whose opening preparation is usually far and away his strength? **1...b6** Hah! Owen's Defence! But seriously. Let's approach 1.e4 logically. Clearly it's a mistake, as the pawn is unprotected and a target. Direct attack has its problems:

[ 1...f5? 2.exf5 hmm, wins a pawn. And the computers have White already winning. ]

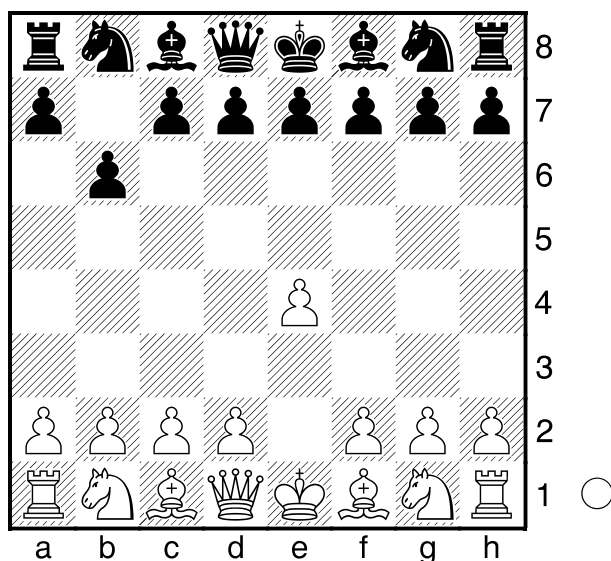
[ 1...d5 attacks White, only it is White's move -- so 2.exd5

**A) 2...Nf6** might be better, 3.d4 only now it's the knight that gets kicked around not the queen after Nxd5 (And I won the shortest game I ever played with this: 3...Bg4 4.Bb5+ c6!? 5.dxc6 Bxd1?? 6.c7+ 1-0. It was in a TNM, so you could find it, I'm not embarrassing my opponent any more. ) 4.c4;

**B) 2...Qxd5** and do I have to break out the chess proverbs here? ]

[ 1...Nf6 also gets kicked all over the place after 2.e5 (Remember, Alekhine gave it up after one game!); Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.f4 although most of the Top Players wuss out and play 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3. ]

(Diagram)



**2.d4 Bb7** Which brings us to a slightly more delayed attack. Is there anything wrong with a fianchetto? Black bears into the center and keeps all his other options open. I've said enough, Owen's Defence speaks for itself. **3.Nc3**

[ 3.Bd3 f5? 4.exf5 Bxg2 ]

[ 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.c4 Qd8 is one of the main things to do, a sort of Center Counter. ]

**3...e6 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.e5!?**

Negi's Line

[ 6.Qe2 d5 7.0-0!? Bxc3 8.e5!?

is Negi's Other Line, but even he doesn't think it's anything after Bb4 9.exf6 gxf6 ( 9...Qxf6?? 10.Bg5 )]

**6...Ne4 7.0-0 Gambit! 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3**

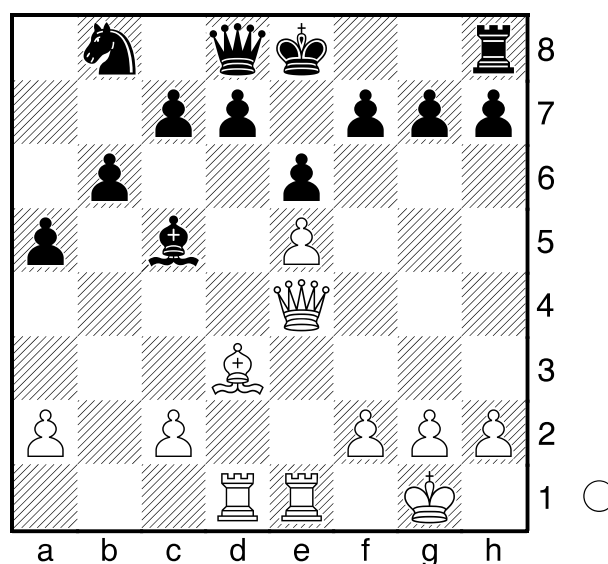
**Bxc3** Hanging on to the dark-squared bishop seems almost mandatory -- and we might as well have a pawn.

[ But maybe 8...Be7 is too passive. ]

**9.Rb1**

[ Mike's prep slips! He hadn't looked at this material for maybe a year or more (Negi's last so far book in the "Grandmaster Repertoire" series, "1. e4 vs. Minor Defences" came out in late 2020), and the lines have remained relatively arcane (i.e. very few have played them). Negi's line

goes 9.Bg5! Bxf3!? ( 9...f6 10.exf6 gxf6 11.Ne5! is a standard "step into the pawn fork" for this sort of position. Time to quote Tal: "They can only take one at a time" or something like that. Negi gives some pretty convincing coverage of this.; 9...Qc8 10.Rb1 is his final move for Black, with a lot of tries, nothing quite working out for him. ) 10.Qxf3 Qxg5 11.Qxa8 Negi carries on here, further forcing moves Qd8 12.Rad1 Bxd4 13.Rfe1 a5 14.Qe4 Bc5



Negi analyzes further, mentioning that engines underestimate White's attacking chances at first. Maybe! But there might not be a second... ]

**9...Nc6!** I managed to remember how important this move was. **10.Bg5!?** **f6!**

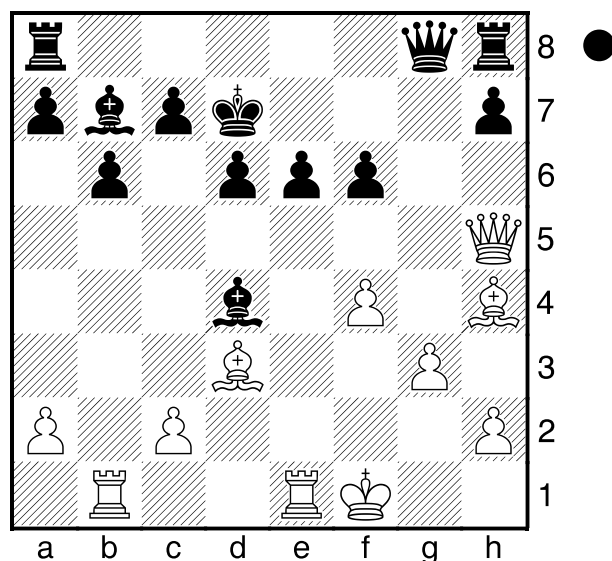
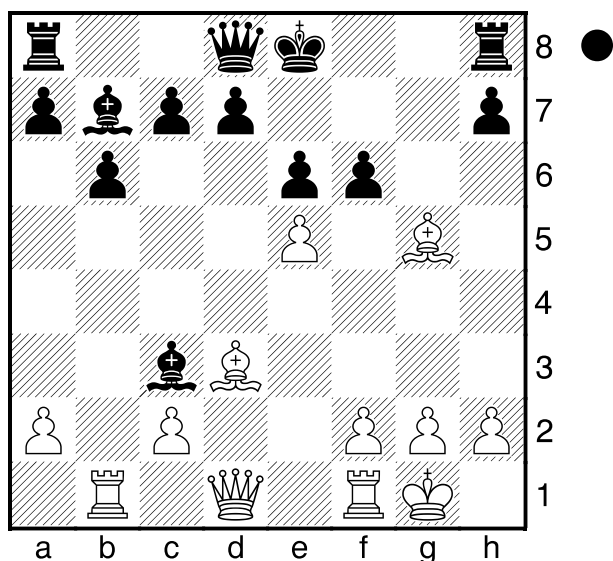
**11.exf6**

[ 11.Be3!? Qe7 12.Rb3 Ba5

Negi actually gives this, with "the worst seems to be over for Black" (... 0-0-0!). Perhaps that coverage left a bad memory for Mike... ]

**11...gxf6 12.Ne5?! Nxe5+ 13.dxe5**

(Diagram)



### Bxe5!?

[The only game previous here was even stronger: 13...fxg5! 14.Qh5+ Ke7! (I only noticed 14...Kf8? 15.f4 Qe7! 16.f5 I didn't want to let the f-file be forced open! But **Bxe5!!** 17.fxe6+ Bf4 seems to favor Black. ) 15.Qxg5+ Kf8+- Black "triangulates" to dodge the checks (perpetual or otherwise), the g-pawn's disappearance means it's that much harder to open the f-file, and it's just won. Very precarious! I went the stodgy, "practical" route. 0-1 (41) Cuellar,U (2022)-Pena Morales,H (2136) Lima 2013. ]

### 14.Qh5+ Ke7

[ 14...Kf8?! ]

### 15.Bh4 Qg8! 16.g3

[ 16.f3 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Qg7 18.Rbe1 Rag8 19.Re2 Kd8 ( 19...Bc5 )]

### 16...d6

[ 16...Bd6! is more "organice" -- and just better. ]

### 17.Rfe1 Kd7 18.f4 Bd4+

[ 18...Bc3! 19.Re2 Rf8 when 20.Qb5+ c6 21.Qc4 Ba5 the bishop plays an adequate role (and with a future). ]

### 19.Kf1

(Diagram)

### Re8?!

[ 19...Rf8! 20.Bb5+? ( 20.Rbd1 Kc8! 21.Rxe6 Kb8 gives back one pawn but completes the King safety course -- for Black (but not for White). ) 20...Kc8 is too easy now. ]

### 20.Bb5+? Free tempos for Black!

[ 20.Rbd1! is much better, Stockfish even dropping to less than -1 and even less. ]

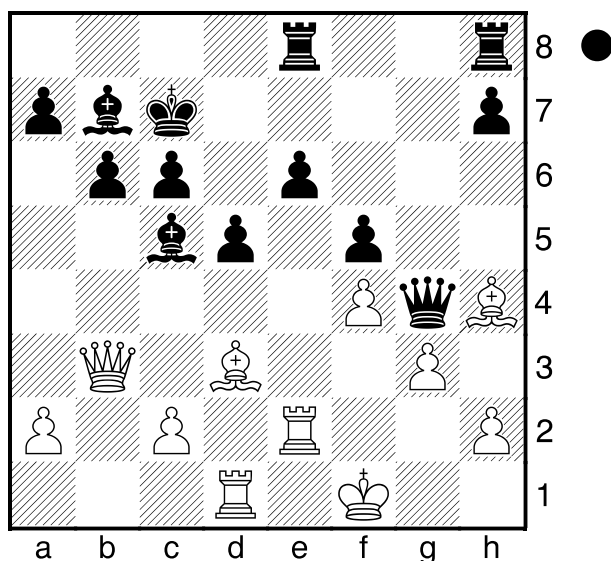
### 20...c6 21.Rbd1 Bc5

[ 21...Qg6! ]

**22.Bc4 Qg6! 23.Qe2 f5 24.Qd3 Kc7 25.Qb3 d5 26.Bd3 Qg4** White's king's turn to feel the heat. **27.Re2?!**

[ Still, 27.Kg2 Rhg8 28.Bg5! Rxc5! (We have Kotronias's book on Petrosian's Exchange sacs on order) 29.fxg5 Qxc5 is horribly one-sided. ]

(Diagram)



A tricky defence (which we both saw!), but flawed. **27...Qf3+**

[ 27...e5! 28.fxe5 f4! is a finisher. ]

**28.Ke1 Be3**

[ 28...e5! 29.fxe5 Rxe5! doesn't let White last long, either. ]

**29.Be4! fxe4**

[ 29...dxe4! 30.Rxe3 ( 30.Qxe3 Qh1+ picks up the rook ) 30...Qh1+ 31.Ke2 Qxh2+ 32.Ke1 Qg1+ 33.Ke2 Ba6+ 34.c4 Qh2+ 35.Ke1 e5 is still a rout. ]

**30.Rxe3 Qh1+**

[ I forgot about 30...Qg2! ]

**31.Kd2 Qxh2+ 32.Kc1**

[ 32.Re2! Qh3 33.Bf6! Ba6! 34.Bxh8 Rxh8 is \*still\* good for Black. ]

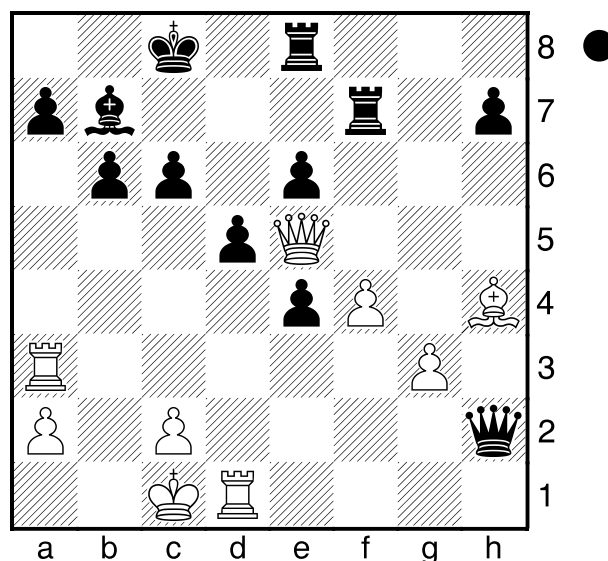
**32...Rh8! 33.Qc3 Rf7**

[ 33...Kb8! 34.Qg7 Qf2! 35.Ra3 Ka8! White can't do anything (but Black can -- those center pawns!) ]

**34.Qe5+ Kc8 35.Ra3**

[ I saw a fantastic line that seemed to never end -- but it does, in my favor: 35.Rxd5!? Rf5 (I had overlooked that simply 35...cxd5 36.Rc3+ Bc6 sneaks out (that R/f7 defends nicely!). ) 36.Rd8+ Rxd8 37.Qxe6+ Rd7 38.Qxf5 Qg1+ 39.Kb2 Qxe3 40.Bf6 when Black has various

defences. (or 40.Qf8+ Kc7 41.Bf6 Bc8! )]



**35...Qh3??** I wanted to break up the dark square play but this is too heavy-handed.

[ 35...Qf2! 36.Rxa7 b5! 37.Ra3 Qb6 was a better way to do it! ]

**36.Rxa7 Qf5 37.Qd4?!**

[ 37.Qb2 ]

[ 37.Qb2! b5 38.a4! -- necessary to throw everything at Black! -- when the best chance, such as it is, is e5 39.axb5 Qe6 40.bxc6 Qxc6 -- but it's nothing: 41.Ra3 Rc7 42.fxe5= ]

**37...Kc7 38.Qa4??** White was rapidly running out of time (Black could contemplate his missteps at his leisure).

[ 38.a4 e5 The lost move gives Black time to get the pawns going, with the better chances (but hardly the crushing position he had a few moves ago!). ]

**38...Rb8?!**

[ 38...Kb8! squelches White's play, followed by ...d4 and/or ...e5, winning handily. ]

**39.Qa6** White is going to run out of bullets.

[ 39.Qb4 c5 40.Qb5 d4 41.a4 Qd5 ]  
**39...Rd7 40.Rd4 c5 41.Ra4 d4**  
**42.Qb5 d3 43.R4a6 d2+ 44.Kb2**  
**Rd6**⊕ White's flag fell as he was playing  
 45.Rxb6 and noticing that his queen  
 would be pinned.  
**0-1**

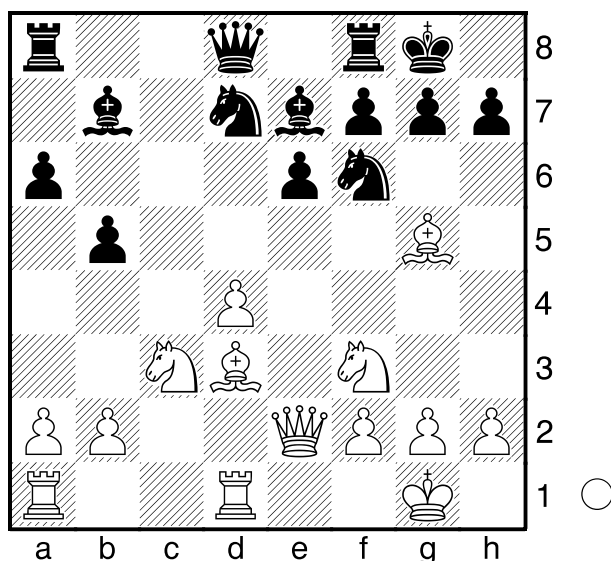
**D48**

□ **Clemens,Kristian** **1941**  
 ■ **Li,David Z** **1716**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (5.10)  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 c6**  
**5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5**  
**8.Bd3 Bb7**  
 [ 8...Bd6 , the current line of attention,  
 happened on Board 1 this round,  
 successfully for Black! ]

**9.0-0**

[ 9.e4 ]  
**9...a6 10.Qe2 c5 11.Rd1** This looks  
 more like a Queen's Gambit Accepted  
 position than a Meran. Although, White's  
 bishop ight more belong on b3 (thinking  
 about d4-d5 bust-ups!). **11...cxd4**  
**12.exd4 Be7 13.Bg5 0-0**



**14.Rd2!?** Rook lifts happen for White a

lot in the IQP positions -- one of the  
 advantages of the pawn being on the 4th.  
 But this "half a lift" isn't really any at  
 all -- it doesn't get above the pawns!

**14...Nb6 15.Re1** Still, White is getting  
 everybody into the fight. **15...Nbd5**

**16.Bc2 Rc8 17.Ne4 Bb4** Woops?

**18.Qd3 Rxc2** Not bad, but look at this:

[ 18...Nxe4!! 19.Bxd8 Nf4! 20.Qb3  
 Nxd2! 21.Bxh7+! (The only way to  
 stay in the game!) Kxh7 22.Ng5+  
 Kg8 23.Qxb4 Nxg2⌘ it's still  
 complicated, but Black is coming out  
 on top. ]

**19.Qxc2 Bxd2 20.Nfxd2 Qb6**

[ 20...h6 ]

**21.Nc5?!**

[ 21.Nxf6+= ]

**21...Rc8**

[ 21...Ba8!⌘ ]

**22.Qb3 h6 23.Bh4 Rc7 24.Bg3 Rc8**

**25.a4 Bc6 26.axb5 Bxb5 27.Ra1 Qc6**

**28.Nf3 Nd7 29.Rc1 Qb6 30.Qa3 Nb8**

**31.Ne5 f6 32.Nf3 a5 33.Ra1 Nc6**

**34.Nd7 Qd8 35.Qd6?!**

[ 35.Nc5= ]

**35...Nxd4?!**

[ 35...Kf7⌘ ]

**36.Nxd4 Bxd7 37.Nxe6 Qe7 38.Qxd5**

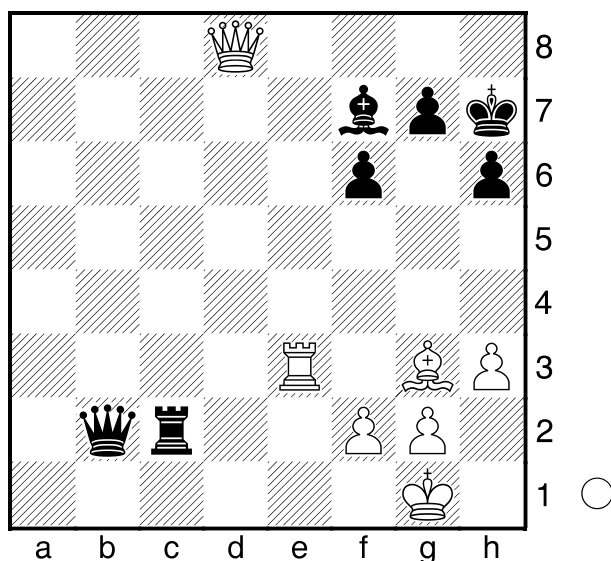
**Qxe6 39.Qxa5 Qb3 40.Re1 Be6**

**41.h3 Rc2 42.Qa8+ Kf7 43.Qa7+ Kg8**

**44.Qe7± Bf7 45.Qd8+ Kh7 46.Re3**

**Qxb2**

(Diagram)

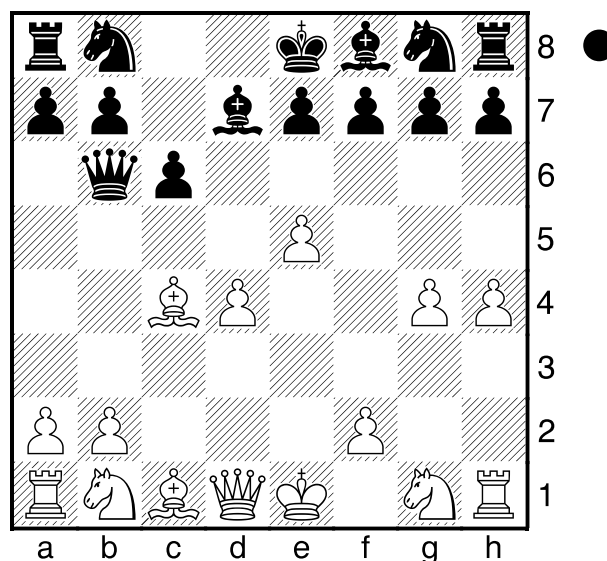


**47.Qf8?? Rc1+ 48.Kh2 Qa2?**  
 [ 48...Qb1 49.Bd6 Rh1+ 50.Kg3  
 Qg6+-+ ]  
**49.Re7? Kg6?!**  
 [ 49...Qb1 $\bar{f}$  ]  
**50.h4 Qd5?? 51.Rxf7**  
**1-0**

□ **Horde,Nicolas T** **B12**  
 ■ **Cao,Danny Du Uy** **1451**  
 MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (5.22)  
*[Horde,Nicolas]* **1048**

Nicolas Horde has been sending in his annotations each round, on which he obviously spends a lot of time and energy! The games have been interesting, and this one (against one of the MI's scholastic coaches) was especially so. (E.Winslow) **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4** Going for a tactical game **4...Qb6?! 5.g4 Bd7 6.c4 dxc4 7.Bxc4**

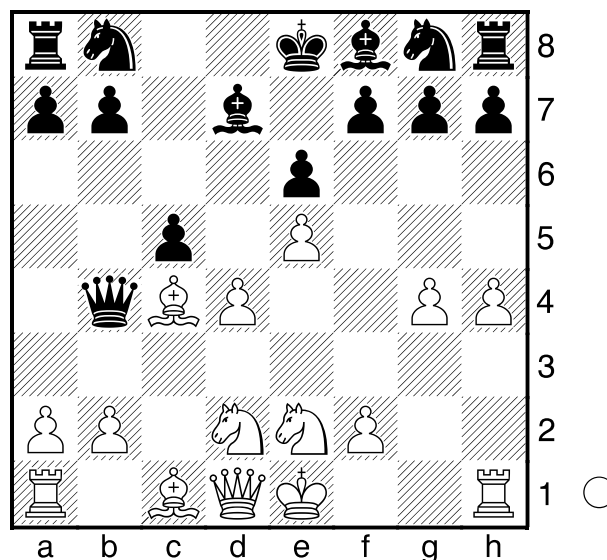
(Diagram)



**Qb4+?** This helps White developing  
**8.Nd2 e6 9.Ne2?!**

[ 9.Ngf3 I was not a big fan of Nf3 because it prevents f4 but Stockfish does not agree with me Ne7 10.0-0 Qb6 11.Ne4 SF gives +2.5 (!), my pieces are very active and I have all space ]

**9...c5!**



A very good move to immediately challenge White's center and develop Black's pieces **10.d5?! White is still better but Stockfish thinks it's too early and O-O or a3 would had been stronger**

[ 10.0-0 Nc6 11.a3 Qb6 12.Re1 ]  
 [ 10.a3 Qa5 11.b4 cxb4 12.0-0 Bc6  
 This is the first SF line, I am still  
 struggling to understand how this  
 position is better than what I played ]

**10...exd5 11.Bxd5 Bc6?**

[ 11...Ba4

**A) 12.a3** Qxg4 13.Bb3 ( 13.b3  
 Bc6 ) 13...Bxb3 14.Qxb3

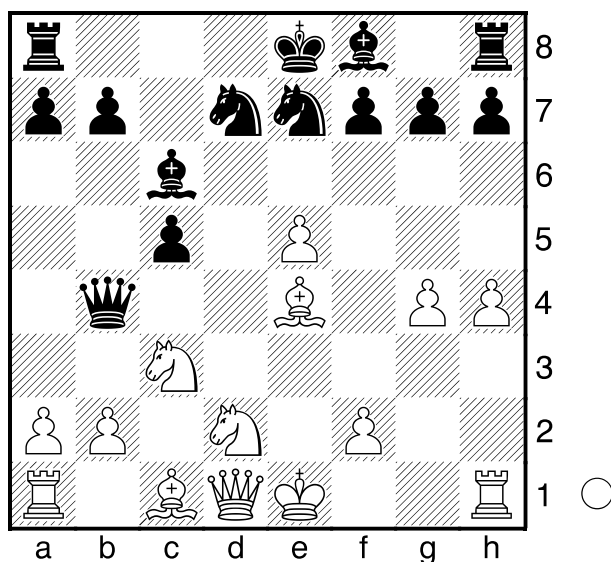
White's pawn structure is not the  
 greatest but the activity  
 compensates for the lost pawn;

**B) 12.b3** Bc6 13.a3 Qxg4 14.Nc4  
 This is Black's best line but who  
 plays like that ]

**12.Nc3!** Very important move that keeps  
 the advantage **12...Ne7**

[ 12...Bxd5?? 13.Nxd5 Qa5 14.0-0  
 Nc6 15.Nc4 Qd8 16.Bg5 Qc8  
 17.Re1 Material is equal but this is  
 obviously completely lost for Black ]

**13.Be4!** Not allowing Black to develop  
 with tempo **13...Nd7**



**14.a3!** I spent 15-20 minutes with this  
 move. Black has only 3 retreats for the  
 Queen: a5, b6 or d4. The first two moves  
 are to leading the loss of the h8 rook (!)  
 and the only way to limit the damage is  
 Qd4. I think this is the critical move of  
 the game. **14...Qb6**

[ 14...Qd4! 15.Ne2! Qxe5 ( 15...Qa4!  
 16.Qxa4 Bxa4 17.f4 The most  
 resilient move for Black. It's still  
 pretty bad (+1.5) but at least the game  
 still goes on. I missed Qa4 as the  
 remaining defensive move when I  
 played a3 ) 16.Nc4 Qf6 ( 16...Qe6  
 17.Nd6+ Kd8 18.Nf4; 16...Bxe4  
 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 SF sacrifices 2 pieces  
 for a queen which means Black is in  
 massive trouble ) 17.Nd6+ (Actually  
 17.Bg5 right away is too easy -- EW )  
 17...Kd8 I calculated this line and  
 thought that was Black's best try. It's  
 +7 (!) for White ]

**15.Nc4 Qc7 16.Nd6+ Kd8 17.Nxf7+  
 Ke8 18.Nxh8** Tactic in 4 that wins the  
 Rook, the game is over. I am still  
 traumatised by my blunder of mate in 1  
 in round 3 so I took my time to make  
 sure Black has 0 counterplay.

**18...Bxe4??** Giving away Black's best  
 defensive piece and helping me  
 developing another piece into the attack  
**19.Nxe4 Qxe5 20.Qe2 g6 21.Bg5  
 Bg7**

[ 21...Qxh8?? I set up another trap  
 with the same f7 weakness but my  
 opponent did not fall for it twice :)  
 22.Nd6+ Kd8 23.Nf7+ ]

**22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nxg6+ hxg6 24.Nc3  
 Re8 25.0-0 Kd8 26.Qxe5 Nxe5  
 27.Rad1+ Kc7 28.f3 a6 29.Kg2 Kc6  
 30.Rfe1 Rf8 31.Rd5** I spent another 20  
 minutes on that move, this kills the game  
 on the spot **31...Nxf3**

[ 31...Rxf3 32.Rdxe5 Bxe5  
 ( 32...Rxc3 33.Re6+! Kd7 34.bxc3 )  
 33.Kxf3 ]

**32.Re6+ Kc7 33.Re7+ Kc6 34.Rxg7  
 Ne1+** Black does not have enough  
 material to force a draw **35.Kh1 Rf1+  
 36.Kh2 Rf2+ 37.Kg1 Rxb2 38.Rxg6+  
 Kc7 39.Rxc5+ Kd7 40.h5 Nf3+  
 41.Kf1 Nd2+ 42.Ke1 Nf3+ 43.Kd1  
 Rd2+ 44.Kc1 Rd4 45.Rd5+ Rxd5**

**46.Nxd5** I think this is my best game in the TNM so far, I got an early advantage in the opening by grabbing a lot of space at the cost of a weak pawn structure. Then I found a nice tactic in 4 that allowed me to win a Rook and the game was over after that.

**1-0**



## **FM Paul Whitehead**

### **Hans Niemann: Chess at the Top**

#### **"Money Changes Everything" – The Brains**

By now we are all familiar with the scandal engulfing the chess world, boiled down to this: lame-duck World Champion Magnus Carlsen loses a game in the Sinquefeld Cup to 19-year-old American up-start GM Hans Niemann. He then withdraws from the tournament, at the same time making a vague insinuation that Niemann has cheated. A couple of weeks later in the online Julius Baer Generation Cup, Carlsen loses yet another game to Hans, resigning before playing his 2<sup>nd</sup> move. Shortly afterwards he makes a statement on social media, asserting that Hans had cheated during their encounter at the Sinquefeld Cup – and offers not a single shred of evidence.

I want to offer my own opinion, based on long experience in the chess world plus my own interactions with Hans when he was an up-and-coming player at the Mechanics' Institute.

It is not an easy path to the top of the chess world. It takes great fighting spirit and single-minded determination. Magnus Carlsen, like every other World Champion before him, has demonstrated those qualities. Other top players I have observed, like GM Walter Browne (one of Hans' early coaches), manifest that desire to win in an almost visceral and physical way.

I have no doubt whatsoever that the will to win (and not to lose!) can cloud a chess players moral compass. Ashamedly, I remember engaging in fisticuffs with my own brother over a disputed game.

With that said, I'm curious what the reader might think of the following example. Captured on video, Carlsen attempts to take a move back against GM Alexandra Kosteniuk in the 2009 World Blitz Championship, and then leaves the table without a word or a handshake: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeyXKTVYenA&t=161s>

If this was not an attempted cheat, then I don't know what is.

Perhaps even more damning is the following video, Carlsen's own live-stream of the Lichess Titled Arena in December 2021. The World Champion clearly takes the advice of GM David Howell to trap GM Daniel Naroditsky's queen. I understand the tournament had a 1<sup>st</sup> place of \$500. The critical moment is at the 1:44:00 mark: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRdrf1Ny3x8>

I am not trying to throw just Magnus Carlsen under the bus here. Both of these videos show very typical displays of fighting spirit. Sadly, they also display not particularly rare examples of un-sportsmanlike behavior.

For the World Champion to accuse Niemann of what he himself is clearly guilty of is, in my opinion, just flat out wrong. If Niemann has cheated, then so has Carlsen. And many, many others.

Thirty years ago (and more) it was a common sight to see chess masters and grandmasters walking the hallways together, whispering in each other's ears. I don't believe the majority of players were outright cheating perse, but innocent questions or statements such as: "What do you think of my position?" or "Maybe it's time to go home!" accompanied by frowns, raised eyebrows, coughing, laughing, et cetera, were quite common. Of course, this is different information than one can get nowadays. After all, a grandmaster is only human, and their suggestions and advice will only take you so far.

But Stockfish is a God.

Nowadays the top players are electronically frisked, and their trips to the bathroom are monitored - all under the smoky pall of large prize funds, large appearance fees, and generous corporate sponsorship.

While the top players and streamers, and the private interests that sponsor them (purporting to speak for the regular player), wring their hands worrying over the "integrity of the game" and the "existential threat" posed by cheaters, they are living in a chess world unimaginable only 30-40 years ago.

Back then, top players might have lived out of their cars or crashed on a friend's couch, all the while waiting for a few paltry bucks from their chess federation or a miserable cash prize to pay their expenses. Chess lacked the glitz that corporate sponsorship and lots of money can buy: the glamorous world of *The Queen's Gambit*, trash-talking streamers angling for a date with one of the Botez sisters, or better yet: the chance to be rich and/or the subject of world-wide attention.

Chess at the top looks, sounds, and tastes very different now than it did not so long ago. The players are younger, have nice haircuts, and pay respect (if not outright homage) to their master, World Champion Magnus Carlsen. It looks quite cozy from the outside: for almost ten years now, the same 15-20 players have competed against each other over and over again in countless tournaments, over the board and online. Rarely are outsiders permitted into this precious circle, which helps to keep their ratings inflated just enough to keep the invites and appearance fees coming and the sponsorships rolling in.

But cracks are starting to appear.

Almost all of the top players lost rating points at the recent Olympiad in Chennai, where they had to compete with lower rated players.

A younger generation is muscling in, in the shape of players like Hans Niemann, India's Dommaraju Gukesh, and Nodirbek Abdusattorov from Uzbekistan. The latter became the World Rapid Champion earlier this year, defeating not only Carlsen, but Carlsen's two most recent World Champion challengers, Fabiano Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi.

The young may also seem to lack the "proper respect," which leads us back to what I see as the whole crux of this sorry Carlsen/Niemann affair.

Right now, with the lack of any evidence that Niemann cheated in that over-the-board game against Carlsen, I think the only conclusion we can reach is the one staring us all in the face: Hans Niemann beat Magnus Carlsen fair and square at the Sinquefeld Cup.

I believe Hans has gotten under Magnus' skin big-time, and, as is well documented here and elsewhere, Magnus hates losing. And to what extent, we are just now finding out. With Carlsen also abdicating the World Championship, I am reminded somewhat of an angry child that destroys his own sandcastle when told that it's time to leave the beach.

Hans Niemann played a lot at the Mechanics' Institute as a youngster (11-12 years old in 2013 and 2014), and his progress was meteoric. As I outlined in our last [newsletter](#), his rating jumping from 1200 to 2200 in just under two years.

I myself played Hans a bunch of times, and his father recently sent me a video of Hans and I battling it out in a blitz game at the Mechanics' Institute. I am totally winning for ages and ages, and his only hope is that I will lose on time. Hans hangs in there though, crying "Flag, flag, flag!" over and over. Both of us are enjoying the contest immensely... and I lose on time before I can mate him. His joy at winning is a sight to see.

Not everyone appreciated Hans' brash and cheeky demeanor. It was either IM John Donaldson or I who (affectionately) started calling him "Niemann the Demon," but there were (and are still) players at the club who, perhaps, have forgotten what it was like to have been young once.

When I see Hans in those post-game interviews at the Sinquefeld Cup, I feel I am watching exactly the same person that I knew back then: a person with a great love for chess, supremely confident in his abilities, and with respect for no one.

A stone-cold chess killer.

Hans acts in a rough and tumble manner that surprises us nowadays, and harkens back to earlier times - perhaps strongly influenced by older coaches like GMs Walter Browne, Max Dlugy, and IM John Grefe. These are no-nonsense and worldly fellows, and Hans' development was tempered in steel.

I think the time has passed, if it ever really existed, when chess could lay claim to completely fair-play. Ruy Lopez de Segura (c.1530 - c.1580) a founding father of modern chess and a Catholic priest, advised his students to "place the board such that the light shines in your opponent's eyes."

Behind the brouhaha surrounding Carlsen and Niemann, there are other factors and interests playing out. As we follow chess celebrities, minor and major (because that is what they are now) we should also follow the money. Is it a coincidence that Niemann was banned anew from chess.com whilst the Play Magnus Group was acquired by that selfsame chess.com? I find it fascinating to see who is lining up to defend Carlsen's accusations, and why.

There will always be attempts to cheat at over-the-board chess - some have been caught, others not. With the money pouring in, attempts to cheat will not stop, ever. Chess has entered the world of all other sports and games where these problems exist, whether it's baseball or poker.

The online world thrived like nobody's business during the pandemic: perhaps the real "existential threat" to wealthy streamers and online platforms is not cheaters - it's the return to over-the-board play.

The chess world at the top has waited a long time for this moment – they’ve made it. They have world-wide attention, and they are rolling in the dough. In a sense they have gotten what they wished for, yet in another sense they are paying the price for those wishes coming true.

But back here, for the rest of us in the clubs, in our homes and schools, I believe chess will thrive and continue to be enjoyed for the skillful, interesting, and fascinating game that it is - untainted by money and enjoyed for its own sake.

The same way Hans and I enjoyed playing together, not so very long ago.



Hans Niemann playing blitz with GM James Tarjan at the Memorial for IM John Greco at the MI in 2014.

Photo by Elliott Winslow.

## Recent Tournaments at the MI

On September 10, the Mechanics' Institute hosted its monthly double-header of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, **Quads** in the afternoon.

There was a small turnout of only eight players for the scholastic event, as the players were getting ready for the San Francisco Scholastic Championship the following day (see below). **David Kuperman** and **Sharanya Chudgar** each posted 3-1 scores and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places.

Final results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person#0910>

The Quads were a different story, with 70 players participating. **Umesh Gopi** won the top Quad with the unusual result of 2 draws and a forfeit win!

Final results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads#0910>

Both events were directed by FIDE Arbiter **Abel Talamantez**.

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On September 11, the Mechanics' Institute went online to host the **San Francisco Scholastic Championship**. Started in 2014, and held annually at the S.F. County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, the event has moved online during the pandemic.

95 students participated on either the USCF-rated chess.com platform, with an u1000 section or 1000+ section; or on the non-rated chesskid.com platform, also in 2 sections: K-5 or 6-12 grade.

The winner of the USCF 1000+ section with 28 players was **Rishwan Biswas** with a perfect 5-0 score, and clear 2<sup>nd</sup> was **Pranvi Pramod** with 4.5-.5. **Andrew Ballantine** took 3<sup>rd</sup> on tie-breaks over **Adithya Chitta**, **Ethan Wang**, **Roger Pan**, **Anusha Mukhopadhyay**, and **Vanya Voloshin**, who all scored 3.5 -1.5.

**Drew Silvius** also scored a clean 5-0 in the USCF under 1000 section, topping a field of 42 players. Six players tied a full point behind: **Rishik Bhattacharyya** (2<sup>nd</sup>), **Tara Prem** (3<sup>rd</sup>), **Amulya Medarametla**, **Sayan Mukhopadhyay**, **Jasmine Lee**, and **Robyn Nakhimovsky**.

The K-5 section with 23 players was won by **MintBubblyBadger** with a fine 4.5-.5 score, and a ½ point behind were **VarickM BayAreaChess** and **NiceCoolingCamera**.

The Grade 6-12 section with 12 players was dominated by **RareFestiveTreasure** with a perfect 5-0, while **itsmeian** and **MegaStrangeDeputy** scored 3.5-1.5 for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> places.

The tournament was directed by International Arbiter Dr. **Judit Sztaray**, while FIDE Arbiter **Abel Talamantez** ran the live commentary on Twitch - expertly assisted by **Sebastian "Sebby" Suarez**. Also appearing on the stream at different times were MI CEO **Kimberly Scrafano**, MI Senior Director of Programs, **Alyssa Stone**, MI Chess Program Manager **Alex Robins**, Hip-Hop/Chess/Jiu Jitsu podcaster **Adisa Banjoko**, WCM **Allyson Wong**, and IM **John Donaldson**.

Relive the drama here: <https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess>

Final results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive?y=2022&t=77&e=314048>

Stay tuned: we plan to be back in Golden Gate Park March 2023!

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Held on September 17 and 18, the **21<sup>st</sup> Donnelly Memorial** had an outstanding turnout of 80 players competing in three sections, and each section saw a clear winner in this FIDE-rated event.

The 2000+ section was won by Expert **Jeffery Wang** with 4.5 from 5 games, with Experts **Michael Walder**, **Andrew Guo**, and **Rohan Rajaram** splitting 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and best under 2200. There was a massive 7-way tie for the best under 2000 prize. Surprisingly, not a single Master entered the tournament, making for a very even playing field.

In the 1500-1999 section **Mikhail Alexandrovich Molodyk** took the top spot with 4.5 from 5, while **Daniel Perlov** and **Ivan Zhou** split 2<sup>nd</sup> and the best under 1800 prize. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to **Jenny Qi**, with **Pratyush Bhingarkar** and **Anvitha Penagalapati** splitting the best under 1600 prize.

The under 1500 section was convincingly won by **Serena Liu** with a perfect 5-0 score. A full point behind in 2<sup>nd</sup> was **Sandash Aher**, with **Kishor Bhat** taking clear 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 3.5 points.

Final results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21st-donnelly-memorial-championship-fide-rated>

The tournament was directed by the triple-threat of International Arbiter **Dr. Judit Sztaray**, and FIDE Arbiters **Abel Talamantez** and **Richard Koepke**.

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Fifty-Nine players competed in two sections at the **21<sup>st</sup> J.J. Dolan Memorial**, held

October 1. Clear 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1800+ section was taken by **IM Kyron Griffith** with an undefeated 3.5 from 4 games. Tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, a half point behind were NM **Dmitry Vayntrub, Advay Bansal, Christophe Bambou, Aiden Liu, and Dylan Tang.**

A big shout-out to MI regular **John Chan**, who scored a perfect 4-0 and took clear 1<sup>st</sup> in the under 1800 section. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.5 were **Brett Parker** and **Francis Willett.**

The tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter **Abel Talamantez**, and final results here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21st-jj-dolan-memorial-championship>

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## **Sophie Schwarz**

### **Confessions of a First-Time Chess Coach**

I started back in July as a Library Assistant at the Mechanics' Institute. Though the Institute is widely regarded for the chess program, I didn't have much experience playing and thought my realm of involvement wouldn't expand past the library department. I'd never have guessed I'd be teaching kids how to play chess!

After much encouragement, I accepted a position as a chess coach for after-school and lunch-time chess clubs at elementary schools around San Francisco. I teach children the rules and guide them in improving their game. I was nervous and excited about this position, as I anticipated that some of the kids might know more than me. Working with kids at different skill levels has encouraged me to improve my own game and has definitely been humbling as they teach me new tactics!

Until last year, I didn't have much exposure to chess. When we were kids, my brother learned to play chess from my grandfather. I wasn't directly discouraged from playing, but the escalating intensity that I witnessed between the two of them was sort of a deterrent to my getting involved. I don't consider myself the competitive type and being competitive and intense seemed to be as essential as knowing how the pieces moved.

Last Christmas when my brother and dad were in town to visit me, we decided to pick up a board game to play and decided on chess. We had gone to Gamescape on Divisadero and browsed what they had to offer. Everything seemed so involved with whole world building scenarios so, although it was only a two-person game, we decided to go with a classic.

Back at the house my dad and brother played, pausing to help me cook and then to eat dinner. I mostly watched over.

It wasn't until my dad went back to the hotel and my brother stayed to catch up, that I had a chance to play. He taught me how the pieces moved and, with our bellies full of holiday indulgences, we sat at my kitchen table listening to the radio and playing chess (trying to!) late into the night.

Even though he beat me every time, the stakes felt low. It was a nice thing for us to do while we filled each other in on our lives. I didn't think that chess could be played with such a casual tone, but there we were! I do take some pride in saying I wasn't even being a bitter loser!

Eventually we called it a night, but that evening laid the foundation for me to start playing chess regularly. I began trying to rope friends into a game or two when they were over - still getting beat most times, though slowly making sense of things.

When I started working at Mechanic's Institute in July, I didn't really consider myself a "chess player" per se, but the curiosity was there. While reshelving chess books, I would scan the stacks, taking in the titles of the books. I began to realize the depth and possibilities of the game and, honestly, felt slightly discouraged about ever being a "good" player.

So many of the titles might as well have been in another language, with all of the fancy opening names and terminology. The old feeling about chess crept back up, that maybe chess was a thing for other people, but not for me.

I still played games here and there. I brought the board to a few picnics in the park, or dinners at friends' houses, and we'd play casually. I roped my boyfriend into playing and, eager to learn, he challenged me to games on chess.com (oftentimes, to my amusement, multiple games at once).

Chess was still a casual activity for me, but when I learned about the opening for chess coaches at Mechanics' Institute, I figured I knew enough to guide kids in the fundamentals.

Although my knowledge was sufficient at the start, I was inspired to improve my game. I began attending the women's Sunday morning chess group with Sophie Adams. I totally treasure the supportive atmosphere of the group and recommend this to other women playing chess at any level. Sophie gives great personalized suggestions about how to improve your game, and pointed me in the right direction - not towards the dense books filled with game notation and theory, but to chesskid.com and the lessons sections on chess.com.



I did peek at a few of the books in MI's chess section today and they're beginning to look less intimidating. I still feel aways away from cracking open any "adult" chess books, but I do frequent the kids' section. There's still a lot to learn, but I'm looking forward to having a fighting chance against my brother at Christmas this year!

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## IM John Donaldson

*Cheparinov's 1.d4! : Volume 2 The Slav and Semi-Slav* (Thinkers Publishing, [www.thinkerspublishing.com](http://www.thinkerspublishing.com), paperback, 480 pages, \$43) is the second book in the Bulgarian Grandmaster's series on 1.d4.

The present work is devoted to the position after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 and covers the following variations from the White side:

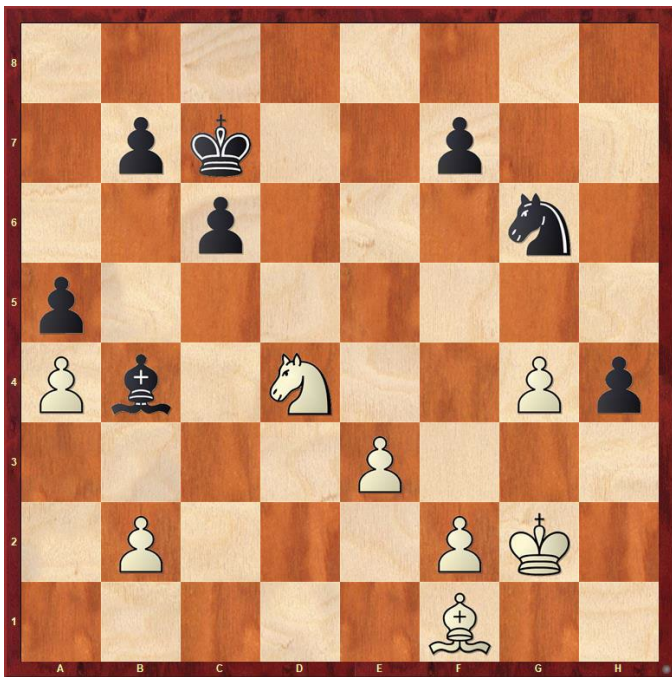
Noteboom (3.Nf3 e6 4.Nf3), Chebanenko (3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6), Main line Slav (3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4), Cambridge Springs (3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5), Botvinnik (3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4) and Moscow (3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6).

These days, when the democratization of information means everyone has access to huge databases of games and strong computer engines, one might ask what value the authors of printed books can offer readers. This might be a legitimate question in the future, but for now there is no question that a Grandmaster with a peak rating of 2718 FIDE, who is noted for his opening expertise (long-time second of ex-World Champion Veselin Topalov), can add offer invaluable insights. Most notably this is through his identification of critical lines and explanation of strategic ideas.

Cheparinov has always been known for playing the most principled lines and that is the case here where he opts for 5.c5 against the Chebanenko, 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 against the main line Slav and 5.Bg5 against the Semi-Slav. This repertoire requires some serious theoretical knowledge which is reflected in the heftiness of this tome, but there is plenty of well-chosen explanatory prose that makes this book accessible to amateur as well as professional players.

These days opening theory seems to be a never-ending arms race with constant improvements found for both sides. Top players find it harder and harder to gain even the hint of an advantage against players rated several hundred points below them. In this environment Cheparinov aims for positions for White that are easier to play for human beings, particularly in the endgame. Here are a few examples, first from the main line Slav defense (1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5), which comprises roughly one third of this book. The author's evaluations have been put in italics for clarity.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7 11.Bg2 g5 12.Ne3 gxf4 13.Nxf5 0-0-0 14.Qc2 Nc5 15.0-0 fxg3 16.hxg3 a5 17.Rad1 h5 18.Rxd8+ Qxd8 19.Rd1 Qf6 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Bc5 22.Bh3 Kb8 23.e3 Ng6 24.Qc4 Bb4 25.Qd4 Qxd4 26.Rxd4 Bc5 27.Rc4 Bb4 28.Bf1 Rd8 29.Rd4 Rxd4 30.Nxd4 h4 31.g4 Kc7 32.Kg2.**



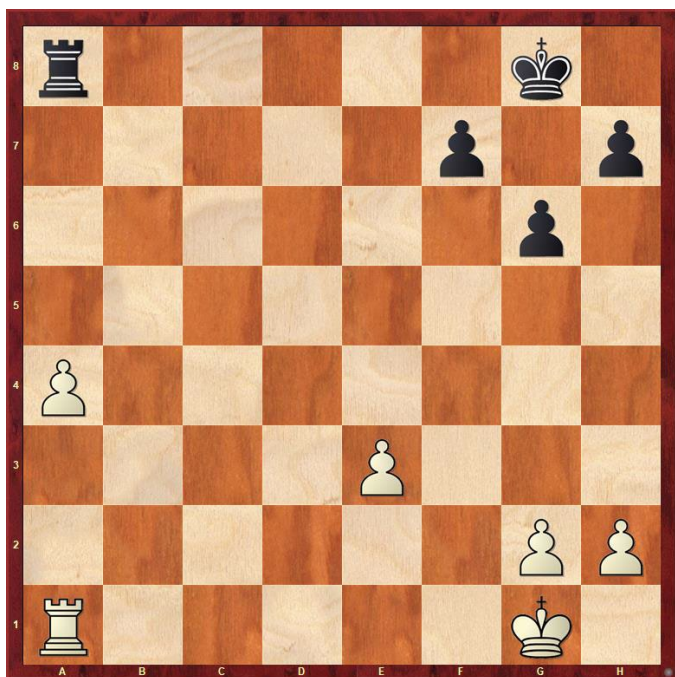
*The endgame is probably close to a draw. but I still think White has some chances and easier play.*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Nb6 8.Ne5 a5 9.e3 g6.** 9...Nbd7 is San Diego IM Cyrus Lakdawala's preference in his excellent book *The Slav* (Everyman Chess 2022). After 10.Nc4 Qc7 11.Qf3 Bc2 Cheparinov proposes the new move 12.Bd2! and then gives the following sharp line which is supported by supplementary analysis and explanation: 12...e5 13.g4 Bb4 14.g5 exd4 15.exd4 Nd5 16.Rc1 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Bxa4 18.Nb2 N7b6 19.c4 Nb4 20.Qe2+ Kf8 21.Be3 Bb3 22.Bh3 a4 23.0-0 a3 24.d5.



*Black has serious problems to solve. White's chances are better.*

**10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Nxd3 Bg7 12.Qb3 0-0 13.0-0 Nfd7 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Bd2 e5**



16.Rac1 exd4 17.exd4 Qd6 18.Be3 Qe6  
19.d5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Qxd5 cxd5  
22.Rc7 Ne5 23.Rxb7 Rfb8 24.Rxb8+ Rxb8  
25.Nxe5 Bxe5 26.Rxd5 Bxb2 27.Rxa5 Bd4  
28.Rb5 Rd8 29.Rb1 Bxe3 30.fxe3 Ra8  
31.Ra1

**31...Ra5.** *It is probably a draw, but it is not easy.*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.Nd2 Bb4 8.Rc1 0-0  
9.Bh4 e5 10.dxe5 Ne4 11.Ncxe4 dxe4 12.a3 Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 14.Kxd2  
Nxe5 15.Kc3.**

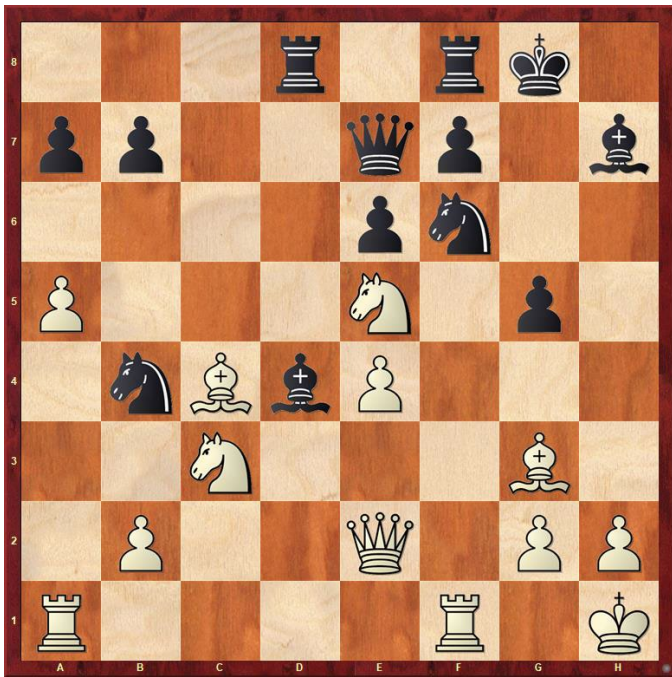


*Playing this ending with White is quite easy*

Cheparinov offers both novelties and rarely tried lines whose strength has been previously overlooked.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Na6.** The late Tony Miles and Cyrus Lakdawala get the credit for reviving this discredited line. The latter has enjoyed





excellent practical results with it. **7.e3 Nb4**  
**8.Bxc4 e6 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Qe2 h6 11.e4**  
**Bh7 12.Bf4 0-0 13.Bg3!**

White has traditionally prefaced this move with 13.Rad1 but there is no need for it. The text prepares f4 and Bh4 immediately. **13...Qe7.** Another possible move is 13...Qc7. 14.f4! Rae8 15.Bb3 Clears the square c4 for the knight.

15...Nd7 16.Nc4 White has a clear advantage. **14.Bh4! g5 15.Bg3 c5 16.dxc5.** A strong and logical novelty. 16.f4? is very bad after 16...cxd4 17.fxg5 hxg5 Black was winning in S. Ernst-Smeets, Wijk aan Zee 2013. **16...Bxc5 17.Kh1 Rad8 18.f4 Bd4 19.fxg5 hxg5 20.a5.**



*White is undoubtedly much better.*

This reviewer learned a number of new things studying this book. Here is one example.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Bf4 Bg7 7.e3 Nc6 8.h3 0-0 9.Be2!**

I always thought 9.Bd3 was the right move, but Cheparinov points out that the surprising 9...Nd7! is strong. For example 10.Nxd5 e5 11.dxe5 Qa5+ 12.Nc3 Ndx5 and Black has good compensation for the pawn.

**9...Bf5 10.0-0 Ne4 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.Qb3 Na5 13.Qb4! Nxc3 14.Rxc3** and White has a clear advantage.

The Slav line 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 is popular among top grandmasters and a tough nut to crack. Cheparinov offers the following solution.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 6.e3 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.Nf3 b6 12.e4 Bb7 13.e5 Nd5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Bd3 Re8 16.Bf4 Nf8 17.Bg3 Ne6 18.h3 Rc8 19.Kh2**



*The position is close to equality but I still believe it is easier to play with White in this position.*

*Cheparinov's 1.d4!:* Volume 2 *The Slav and Semi-Slav*, and the series as a whole, is not for the casual player. This book is aimed at those rated 2200 on up, but ambitious lower-rated players will also find it quite useful with the caveat they should not neglect work on other parts of their game.



## Picturing the Tuesday Night Marathon

Photographs by Alyssa Stone









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## Some Recent Games

A small collection of games played around the world in the past few weeks that have caught our attention:



□ **Evgeny Tomashevsky**

■ **Maksim Chigaev**

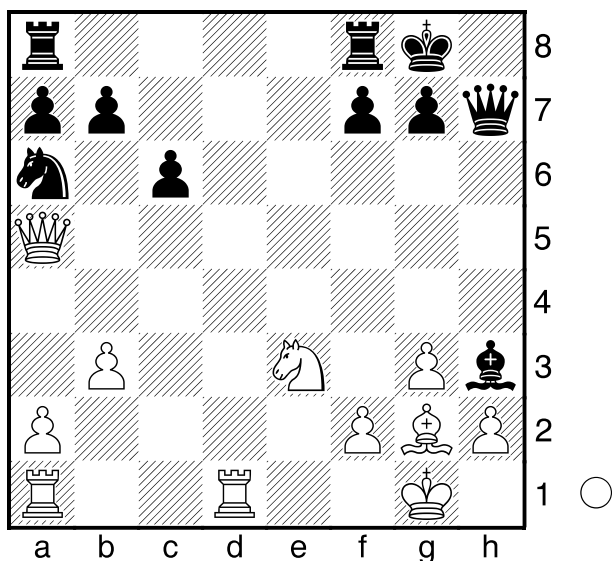
75th Russian Championship (8.4)

**A20**

**2700**

**2641**

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Nd4 d5  
5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Nc2 Nf6 7.Nc3 Qe5  
8.Bg2 Na6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Ne3 h5  
11.d4 exd3 12.exd3 Qd4 13.Ne2 Qd8  
14.b3 0-0 15.Bb2 Ng4 16.Nf4 Bf6  
17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Nxh5 Nxh5 19.Qxh5  
Qxd3 20.Rfd1 Qh7 21.Qa5 Bh3



22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Qxa6 Qe4 24.Qc4  
Qg6 25.Rac1 Rac8 26.Qh4 Be6  
27.Rc5 Rfe8 28.Rh5 f6 29.Rh8+ Kf7  
30.Rxe8 Rxe8 31.Qa4 Qh5 32.Qxc6  
Bh3 33.Qd5+ Qxd5 34.Rxd5 f5  
35.Rd3 f4 36.gxf4 Re4 37.f5  
**1-0**

□ **Samuel Sevian**

■ **Vachier Lagrave,M.**

Chess.com Global Championship (2.5)

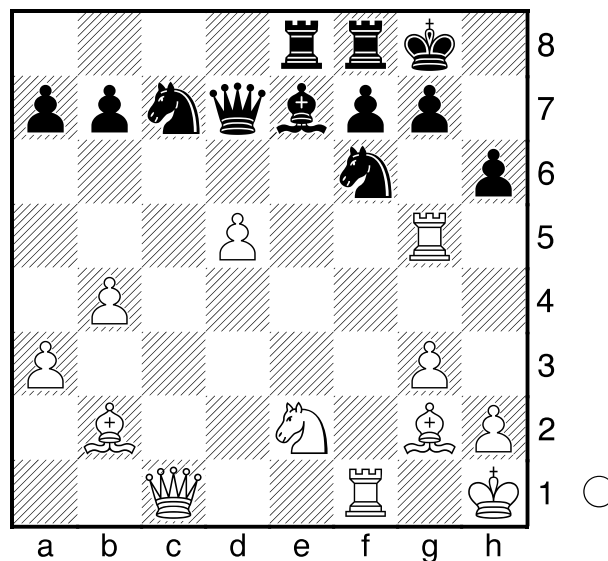
**A20**

**2684**

**2757**

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Nd4 d5  
5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Nc2 Nf6 7.Nc3 Qe5  
8.Bg2 Be7 9.Ne3 Na6 10.a3 0-0  
11.b4 Re8 12.Bb2 Qe6 13.0-0 Nc7

14.Qc2 Bd6 15.f3 exf3 16.Rxf3 Be5  
17.Raf1 Qe7 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Rxf5 Qd7  
20.e3 Rad8 21.d4 Bd6 22.e4 Ne6  
23.Ne2 Be7 24.Qc1 Rf8 25.Kh1 Rde8  
26.d5 cxd5 27.exd5 Nc7 28.Rg5 h6



29.Rxg7+ Kxg7 30.d6 Qxd6 31.Nd4  
**1-0**

**A45**

□ **Christopher Woojin Yoo**

**2563**

■ **Hans Moke Niemann**

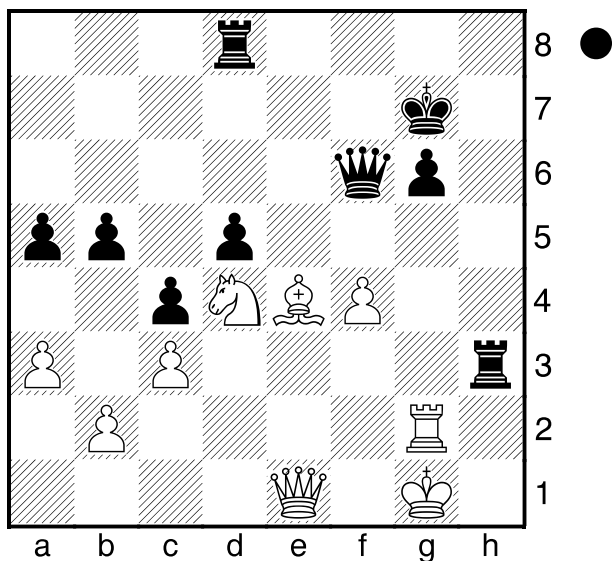
**2699**

U.S. Championship (1.4)

05.10.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 e6 4.Nb5  
Na6 5.e3 Be7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Be2 Nh5  
8.Be5 f6 9.Bg3 c6 10.Nc3 c5 11.0-0  
Nxc3 12.hxc3 c4 13.e4 Bb4 14.exd5  
exd5 15.Nb1 Nc7 16.c3 Bd6 17.Nbd2  
b5 18.Ne1 Be6 19.Nc2 Qd7 20.Re1  
a5 21.a3 g6 22.Nf1 h5 23.Qd2 Kg7  
24.f4 Rh8 25.Bf3 f5 26.Re2 Ne8  
27.Rae1 Bf7 28.Re5 Nf6 29.Nfe3 h4  
30.Qf2 h3 31.Re2 Rad8 32.Qe1 Ne4  
33.g4 Bxe5 34.dxe5 hxg2 35.Rxg2  
Rh3 36.e6 Bxe6 37.gxf5 Bxf5  
38.Nxf5+ Qxf5 39.Nd4 Qf6 40.Bxe4

(Diagram)

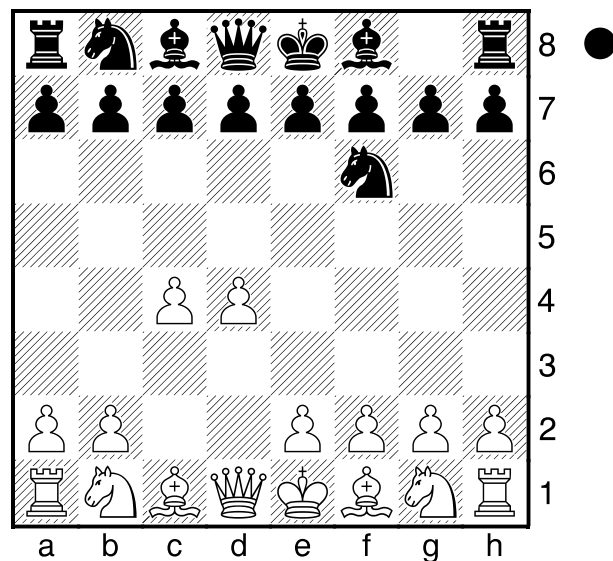


Re8 41.f5 Rxe4 42.Qf2 Reh4  
 43.Rxg6+ Qxg6+ 44.fxg6 Rh1+ 45.Kg2  
 R4h2+ 46.Kg3 Rxf2 47.Kxf2 Rh2+  
 48.Ke3 Rxb2 49.Kf4 Kxg6 50.Ke5 b4  
 51.axb4 axb4 52.cxb4 c3 53.b5 Rxb5  
 54.Nxb5 c2  
**0-1**

□ **Hans Moke Niemann** **A50 2688**  
 ■ **Magnus Carlsen** **2861**  
 Julius Baer Generation Cup (6.3) 19.9.22

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4

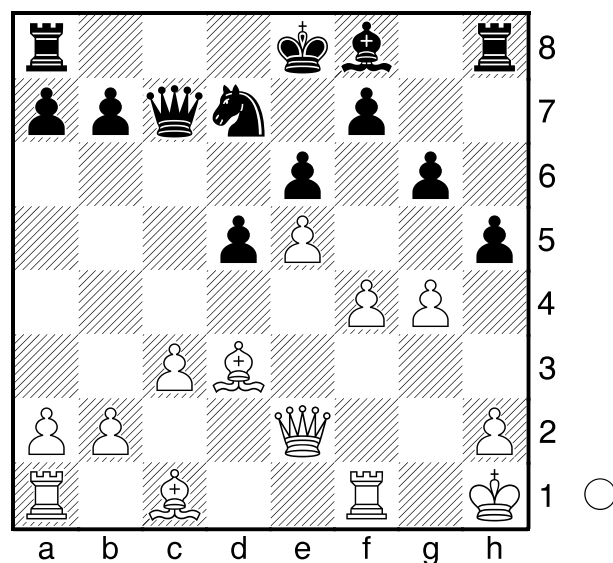
(Diagram)



**1-0**

□ **Gukesh D** **B01 2732**  
 ■ **Varga,Zoltan** **2401**  
 37th ECCC 2022 (2.3) 04.10.2022

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4  
 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Ne5 c6 7.Bc4 e6  
 8.g4 Be4 9.0-0 Bd5 10.Nxd5 cxd5  
 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.c3 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7  
 14.Qe2 Qc7 15.f4 g6 16.Kh1 h5



17.f5 0-0-0 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.Rf7 hxg4

20.Bf4 Bh6 21.Bg3 Rdf8 22.Raf1 Rxf7  
23.Rxf7 Rf8 24.Rh7 Bc1 25.Bb5 Rd8  
26.Qc2 Be3 27.Qxg6 Qb6 28.Bxd7+  
Rxd7 29.Rxd7 Kxd7 30.Qf7+  
**1-0**

□ **Arjun Erigaisi**

■ **Magnus Carlsen**

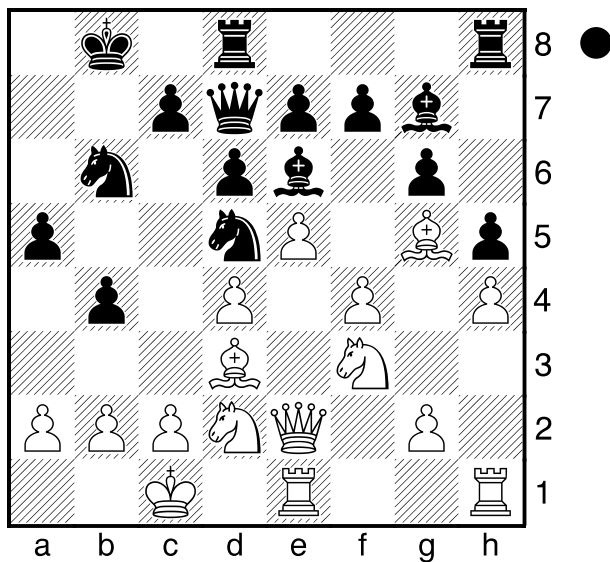
Julius Baer Generation Cup (1.8) 18.9.22

**B06**

**2725**

**2861**

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Be3 a6  
5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Nd7 7.h4 Ngf6 8.0-0-0  
h5 9.e5 b4 10.Nb1 Nd5 11.Bg5 N7b6  
12.Re1 Be6 13.f4 Qd7 14.Bd3 a5  
15.Qe2 0-0-0 16.Nf3 Kb8 17.Nbd2



Qa4 18.exd6 cxd6 19.Bxg6 Qxa2  
20.f5 Na4 21.Ne4 Qxb2+ 22.Kd2 Nac3  
23.Qd3 Bd7 24.Bxf7 Bb5 25.Qxb5+  
Nxb5 26.Bxd5 Nxd4  
**0-1**

□ **Kateryna Lagno**

■ **Tan Zhongyi**

Women's Grand Prix (6)

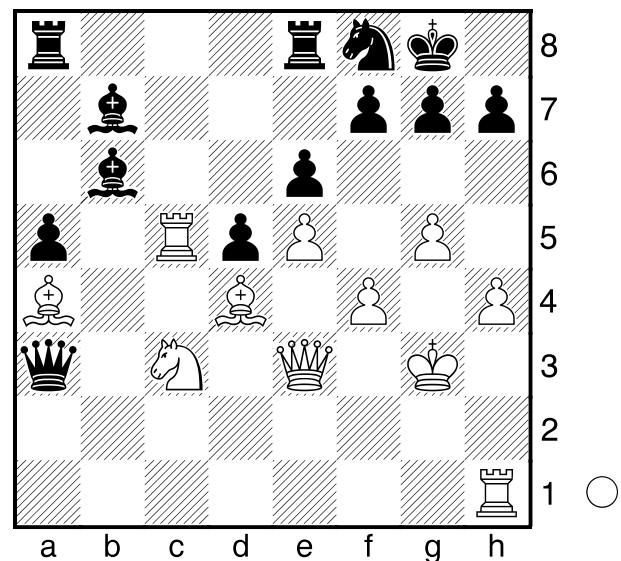
23.09.2022

**B84**

**2547**

**2525**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4  
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.Be3 Be7  
8.g4 d5 9.e5 Nfd7 10.f4 Nc6 11.Qd2  
Bh4+ 12.Kf1 Be7 13.Kg2 Qc7 14.Bf3  
Nxd4 15.Bxd4 b5 16.Ne2 Bb7 17.c3  
0-0 18.Qe3 Rfe8 19.g5 a5 20.h4 b4  
21.Rac1 Qc4 22.cxb4 Qxb4 23.Rc7  
Nf8 24.a3 Qb5 25.Nc3 Qb3 26.Bd1  
Qxb2+ 27.Ne2 Qb5 28.Nc3 Qb2+  
29.Kg3 Bd8 30.Rc5 Qxa3 31.Ba4 Bb6



32.Rb1 Bxc5 33.Bxc5 d4 34.Bxa3  
dxe3 35.Bxe8 Rxe8 36.Rxb7 Rc8  
37.Ne2 h6 38.gxh6 gxh6 39.h5  
**1-0**

□ **Hans Moke Niemann**

■ **Levon Aronian**

Julius Baer Generation Cup (11.8)

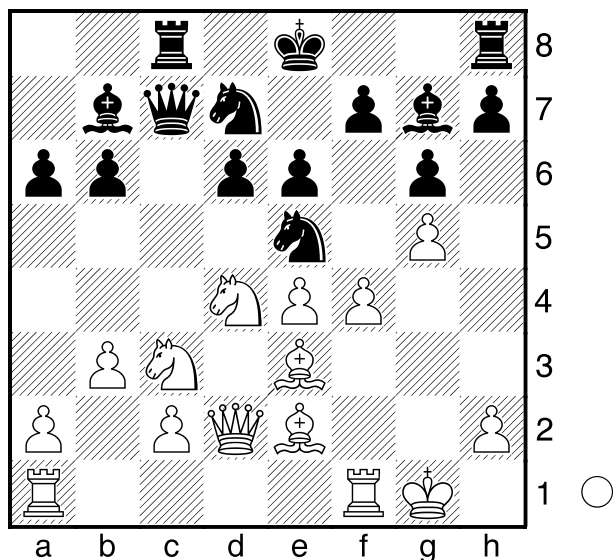
**B90**

**2688**

**2759**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4  
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bd3 g6 7.f3 Bg7  
8.Be2 Nbd7 9.0-0 b6 10.Be3 Bb7  
11.Qd2 Qc7 12.g4 Ne5 13.g5 Nfd7

14.b3 e6 15.f4 Rc8



16.Ndb5 axb5 17.Nxb5 Qxc2 18.Nxd6+ Ke7 19.fxe5 Nxe5 20.Qb4 Qxe2 21.Nf5+ 1-0

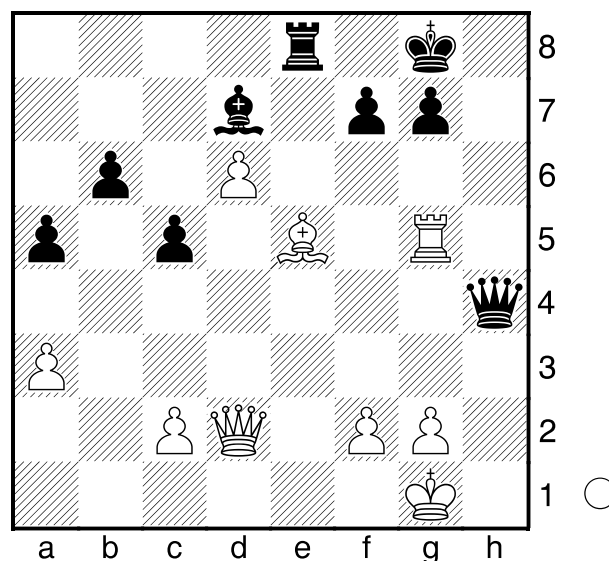
□ Daniil Dubov  
■ Ilia Iljiushenok

**C43**  
**2702**  
**2551**

75th Russian Championship (11.1)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.0-0 Nxe5 8.dxe5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bxc3 10.Rb1 0-0 11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 12.Qd3+ Kg8 13.Qxc3 a5 14.Rd1 Re8 15.Bf4 Qd7 16.Rd3 Qf5 17.Qd2 Qh7 18.Rxd5 b6 19.Rd4 Be6 20.a3 Qg6 21.Re1 c5 22.Rd3 Bf5 23.Rd6 Re6 24.Re3 Rae8 25.Rg3 Qh5 26.Rg5 Qh7 27.h4 Rxd6 28.exd6 Bd7 29.Be5 Qxh4

(Diagram)



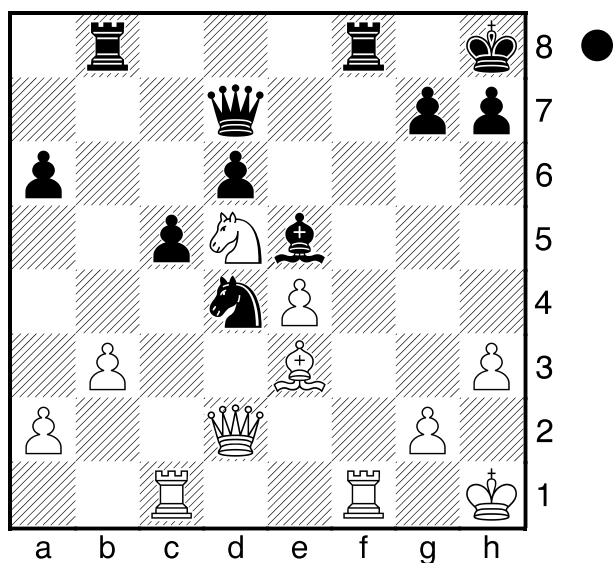
30.Bf6 Qe4 31.Rxg7+ Kf8 32.Qh6 1-0

□ E Paehtz  
■ A Kosteniuk  
Women's Grand Prix (5) 22.09.2022

**C84**  
**2477**  
**2521**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.Bd2 0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.Re1 Nb8 11.c4 bxc4 12.Bxc4 Nbd7 13.Nc3 Nb6 14.Bb3 c5 15.Be3 Ne8 16.Nd2 Kh8 17.f4 exf4 18.Bxf4 Nc7 19.Nc4 Ne6 20.Be3 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 Bf6 22.Rf1 Rb8 23.Qd2 Be5 24.Rac1 Qd7 25.Kh1 Nd4 26.Bd5 f5 27.b3 fxe4 28.dxe4 Bxd5 29.Nxd5

(Diagram)

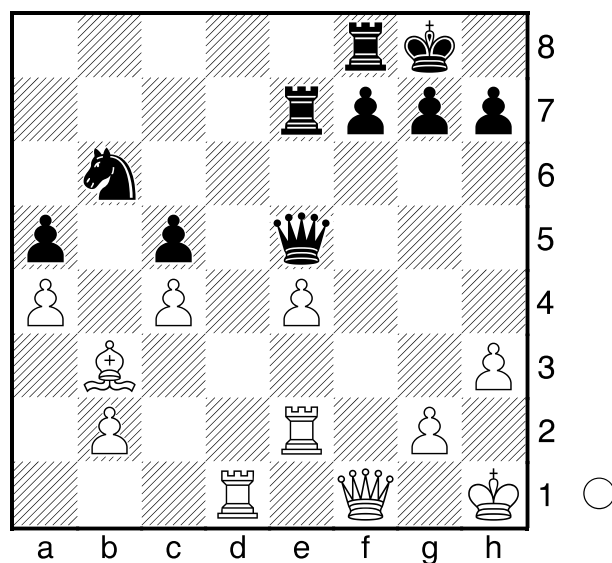


Qb5 30.Rf2 Rxf2 31.Qxf2 Ne2 32.Rc4  
Qxc4  
0-1

□ Maghsoodloo,Parham C88 2721  
■ Yilmaz,Mustafa 2633  
Susha Chess Rapid 2022 (9.2) 23.09.22

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4  
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0  
8.h3 Bb7 9.d3 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5  
11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Rxe5 Qd6 13.Re1  
Rae8 14.Nd2 c5 15.Ne4 Qc6 16.c4  
Nb6 17.f3 Bh4 18.Re2 Qc7 19.Qf1  
bxc4 20.dxc4 Bxe4 21.fxe4 Bf6 22.Bf4  
Bd4+ 23.Kh1 Be5 24.Bxe5 Qxe5  
25.Rd1 a5 26.a4 Re7

(Diagram)

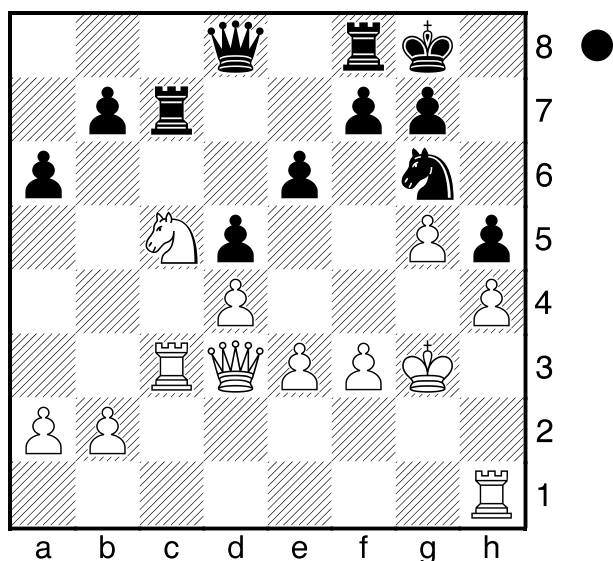


27.Qe1 Ra8 28.Red2 Qc7 29.e5 Nd7  
30.Bc2 g6 31.Qe4 Rae8 32.e6 Nf6  
33.exf7+ Rxf7 34.Qh4 Nh5 35.Rd6  
Re2 36.Bxg6 hxg6 37.Rxg6+  
1-0

□ Ekaterina Goltseva D10 2275  
■ V Gunina 2469  
72nd Russian Championship (Women) (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Bf4  
Nc6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nc3 a6 7.Be2 Bf5  
8.g4 Be4 9.f3 Bg6 10.h4 h6 11.Nh3  
e6 12.Kf2 Rc8 13.Rc1 Be7 14.Bg3  
0-0 15.Nf4 Bd6 16.Kg2 Bxf4 17.Bxf4  
Ne8 18.g5 h5 19.Bg3 Bf5 20.Bd3  
Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Nd6 22.Na4 Nf5 23.Bf2  
Nce7 24.Nc5 Rc7 25.Rc3 Ng6 26.Bg3  
Nxc3 27.Kxc3

(Diagram)



e5 28.Kf2 Qe7 29.Na4 Re8 30.Rxc7  
Qxc7 31.Nc3 Qb6 32.b3 Qa5 33.Kg3  
exd4 34.Qxd4 Ne7 35.Qe5 Qd8  
36.Kf2 Qc8 37.Nxd5 Qc2+ 38.Ke1  
Qb1+ 39.Ke2 Qxh1 40.Nxe7+ Kf8  
41.g6 Qxh4  
**0-1**

□ **Anna Zatonskih**

■ **Jennifer Yu**

U.S. Women's Championship (1.1)

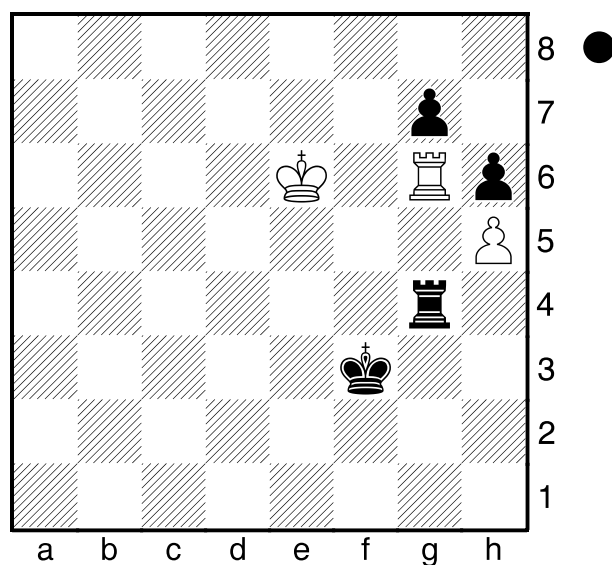
**E20**

**2368**

**2297**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2  
0-0 5.a3 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 d5 7.e3 b6  
8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Be2 Ne4 10.Rc1 Nd7  
11.0-0 Rc8 12.b4 Nxc3 13.Rxc3 c5  
14.cxd5 Bxd5 15.dxc5 bxc5 16.Qc2  
cxb4 17.axb4 Rxc3 18.Qxc3 Qb8  
19.Rc1 Nf6 20.Nd4 Ne4 21.Qa3 h6  
22.b5 Rc8 23.Nc6 Bxc6 24.bxc6 Qb6  
25.Bd3 Nf6 26.Qa4 Nd5 27.Qa6 Qxa6  
28.Bxa6 Rc7 29.Kf1 Kf8 30.e4 Nb4  
31.Bb5 Ke7 32.Ke2 Kd6 33.Rd1+ Kc5  
34.Ba4 Nxc6 35.Bxc6 Kxc6 36.Rc1+  
Kd7 37.Ra1 Kd6 38.Ke3 Kc5 39.Rc1+  
Kb6 40.Rb1+ Ka5 41.Ra1+ Kb4  
42.Rb1+ Ka3 43.Ra1+ Kb2 44.Ra5  
Kb3 45.Ra1 Rd7 46.h4 e5 47.h5 Kb4

48.Rb1+ Kc5 49.Rc1+ Kd6 50.Ra1  
Rb7 51.g3 Kc6 52.Rc1+ Kb6 53.Rb1+  
Kc7 54.Rc1+ Kb8 55.Ra1 Rb3+  
56.Kd2 Kb7 57.Ra5 f6 58.Rd5 Kc6  
59.Rd8 Rb7 60.Kc3 a5 61.f4 exf4  
62.gxf4 Re7 63.Rd4 Ra7 64.Kb3 a4+  
65.Ka3 Kc5 66.Rb4 Rd7 67.Rxa4 Rb7  
68.e5 fxe5 69.fxe5 Kd5 70.Rg4 Kxe5  
71.Rg6 Kd4 72.Ka4 Ke3 73.Ka5 Kf3  
74.Ka4 Re7 75.Kb3 Re3+ 76.Kc4  
Re4+ 77.Kd5 Rg4 78.Ke6



Rg5 79.Rxg5 hxg5 80.Kf5 g4 81.Kg6  
g3 82.Kxg7 g2 83.h6 g1Q+ 84.Kh8  
Qd4+  
**0-1**

## Letters from Abroad

We at the Mechanics' Institute are privileged to receive correspondence from folks near and far. From the everyday (Where are you? When are you open? Is there parking nearby?) to the specific (Who am I paired in with next round of the TNM? Do you offer classes? What should I play against the Najdorf?) - we've seen it all.

Recently we received a couple of emails from points far away, and thought we'd share them. The first is from **Tasos Notakis**, writing from Greece:

### A chess friend from Greece

"Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, I am 56 years old Greek, a very passionate chess lover. I read the history of your club and I was fascinated by the club's contribution to the chess history of your country and the love for chess that your club's people show. I am not a very good player but I really like to play and read (and I have a good collection) any novel, poem, or historical-sociological book about this noble creation of the human being.

Because for me chess is not a game but a metaphor of real life on the chessboard. It requires great qualities that real life asks of us, such as patience, persistence, analytical plan, and above all, it is the most dialectical (and for that reason very educational) pleasure of the human being, since it asks us to analyze a position and synthesize a response, just as it happens in real life. But you know much better than me all this...

I would like to connect with anyone of your chess club that would be interested in starting a frequent contact with me, to exchange ideas, opinions, chess files, and hopefully we could play a game in the future. I am looking forward to your reply, meanwhile I want to greet you all the team of chess club with a poem about chess by a Greek poet, whose poem I looked it up in English for you."

## Chess

Come on let's play...  
I'll offer you my queen.  
(She was once my favourite.  
I have no favourite anymore)  
I'll offer you my rooks  
(I no longer shoot at my friends  
they have already been dead before me)  
This king has never been mine.  
And after all what shall I do with all these soldiers?  
(They are moving forward, blind, without even a dream)  
Everything, even my knights I will give you  
I'll only keep this crazy bishop  
who knows how to cross only in one colour  
striding from one end to the other  
laughing in front of so many armours of yours  
suddenly striking your lines  
agitating your solid factions.  
And this game has no ending.

- Manolis Anagnostakis (1925–2005)

(Mr. Notakis can be contacted at [odiorennot@hotmail.com](mailto:odiorennot@hotmail.com))

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Our second correspondent is **Alexander Avedisian**, from Uruguay:

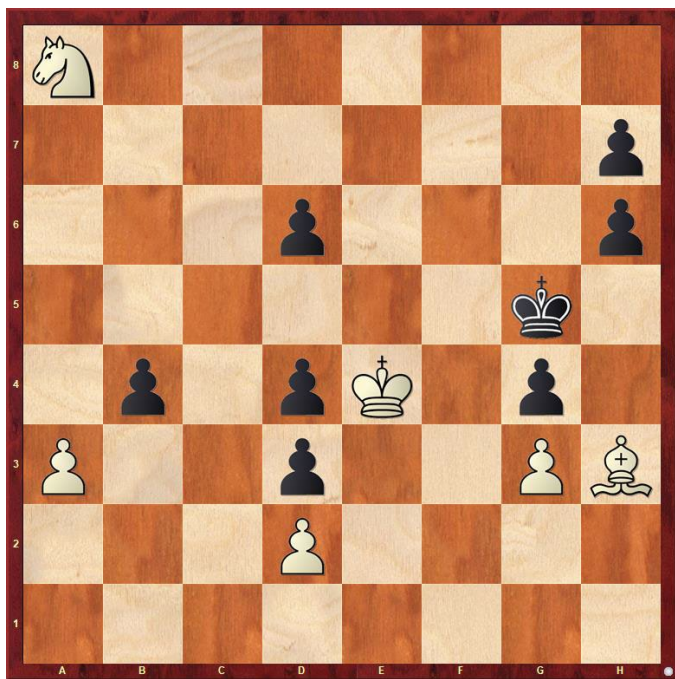
"Dear Chess Program Manager Alex Robins and Chess Coordinator Paul Whitehead of  
Mechanic's Institute Chess Room:

I'm Alexander Avedisián an amateur chess player in my country Uruguay, and with my  
wife we are going to travel to San Francisco in November of 2022.



We already went to New York in 2017 and this time we want to visit the West Coast staying a few days in San Francisco and we want to visit the Mechanics' Institute to know one of the oldest chess clubs in San Francisco.

I am also a chess composer and made many chess studies that I would like to share with the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club players maybe visiting you on a specific date we coordinate previously and sharing them of one of my awarded chess study to see if they can find the correct sequence (this is my best chess study and was awarded #6 place in the Ceskoslovensky Sach2021 among all the original studies of 2020).



Alexander Avedisian, 2020.

White to play and win!!

Thanks, Alexander.”

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## Here and There

The World Chess Hall of Fame is set to induct GM James Tarjan, among others:

<https://worldchesshof.org/>

The MI and the Chess Cafe get a shout-out here (thanks, Alexey Root):

<https://www.sparkchess.com/problem-chess-art-and-magic-on-the-chess-board-book-review.html>

We think you should be listening to “Ladies Knight”, hosted by WGM Jennifer Shahade:

<https://new.uschess.org/news/ladies-knight-jen-shahade-ft-luciana-morales>

## 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](mailto:arobins@milibrary.org).  
[Employment Opportunities | Mechanics' Institute \(milibrary.org\)](#)

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## 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 *How to Create Combinations* (1996), by Vladimir Pafnutieff.  
White to move and win. Pafnutieff (1912-1999) was a long-time MI member, and he called this particular tactic "Diverting the guard".

## Richard Hack

### Chess Café Kaleidoscope

Someone referred to a Sam Shankland quote: "If you see a move and your opponent prevents it, why don't you play it anyway? It may work or win."

Juliana Gallin of BernalChess showed the Oct. 3 Chess Café a 27-move win OL playing the Panov-Botvinnik Attack against the Caro-Kann. She mentioned an improvement to replace her 7. Bg5, though when this move occurred, one observer said, "That couldn't be wrong."

We discussed her possible play of c4-c5 a few moves later (instead of allowing ...d5xc4) to produce "a majority structure, not necessarily to make a passed pawn," noted Elliott, "but to annoy Black."

Emil Sutovsky, FIDE Director General, on Lajos Portisch turning 85 in April: "Portisch is not just an outstanding grandmaster who has participated in the Candidates eight times (both matches and tournaments). Lajos is more than a player who has been in the world's top ten for a quarter of a century; he is more than a unique fighter capable of defeating three world champions in the same tournament.

"Portisch is a symbol, a brand, a role model. One may not have Tal's creativity, not be a brilliant intuitive player like Karpov, not burn himself out in every game like Korchnoi, but one can still be consistently at the top through hard work, determination and a strong personality. . .

"I haven't spoken to him for a long time, but back in 2019, Lajos was still actively following events in the chess world, commenting knowledgeably and not without a pinch of salt. We always talked with him in Russian, which Portisch speaks as brilliantly as English and German." <https://fide.com/news/1680>

Diceman, in the kibitz section of Chessgames.com, after a Stockfish assessment, Final position is mate in 21: "While no white player will probably see it or play it perfectly, no black player will defend it perfectly."

Is there a qualitative difference between 3-dimensional and 2-dimensional chess?

"Over the board I feel like I have a bird's-eye view."

"Our chess literature is full of 2-dimensional diagrams."

"Touching the pieces helps you learn, too."

"Online chess allows me to play lots of games when I want to."

"I don't play as well as in person."

"The same kinds of mistakes occur online and over the board."

We delved into some tournaments new and old in the September and October Cafes, like the Julius Baer Generation Cup, the 21<sup>st</sup> Donnelly Memorial, the Olympiad in August, et al.

Two games from the Julius Baer. A rapid featuring Arjun Erigaisi vs. Le Quang Liem. Erigaisi, 19, is the reigning champion of India. Le, age 31, is Viet Nam's highest-rated grandmaster.

17...a5 attacks White's O-O-O position.

"Both players just go for it. It gets wild."

Google: "Erigaisi earned the GM title at age 14 years, 11 months, and 13 days, making him the 32nd-youngest person ever to achieve the title of grandmaster. He is the 54th GM from India." When he beat Dominguez Perez of the U.S. in the last round of the 44<sup>th</sup> Olympiad, he went over 2700 by 2.2 rating points, playing for India 1. As we know the India 2 team took the bronze medals.

The second game on Sept. 19 was Adhiban Baskaran vs. Erigaisi. Baskaran turned 30 on August 15 and is said to be the seventh-highest-rated player in India and "widely known as the Beast due to his hyper-aggressive style of play." Black wins! A KID becomes a Gruenfeld; and in a tight spot 33...f5! forks White's King and Queen.

At another tournament, we reached an ending with Q+P vs. Q. "I was able to make a shadow for my King."

These days it's often a good time to return to a famous passage by Emanuel Lasker: "On the Chess-board lies and hypocrisy do not survive long. . . Our little Chess

is one of the sanctuaries where [the] principle of justice has occasionally had to hide to gain sustenance and a respite after an army of mediocrities had driven it from the marketplace. And many a person, struck by injustice . . . has found justice realised on the Chess-board and has thereby recovered the courage and vitality to continue to play the game of Life. Later generations, not so narrow-minded as ours, will recognise and appreciate this merit of our noble game."

Lasker's Manual of Chess (N.Y.: Dover Publications, 1960), p. 235.

People meeting at the Chess Café have been digging into the cases of Hans Niemann, Magnus Carlsen, Karjakin, Nepomniatchi, et al. Some of these are accused, some are providing statistical anomalies and other data, evidence on the chess world's informal investigation into the ways of cheating, which we're trying to understand.

"Carlsen was always a sore loser in the past."

Charles James, an attorney, pointed out that some of the indirect evidence might reveal the mechanism that would have to underlie any process of cheating. On Sept. 12 and later, he cited HAL chess on Reddit, showing Hans has a higher frequency of computer moves.

Paul, Michael, Elliott, Sal, and others have been looking at different sides of the question. Do you call cheating the piling of crinkly candy wrappers next to the board? Nakamura vs. Browne.

"I played Hans five times in 2014 in M.I. tournaments. I hung my face, as they say. The score was 2½-2½."

"Dramatic interview with Hans. Brought up his training by John Grefe."

"Not the usual path."

"The top 5 in the world have been suspicious of Hans for quite a while."

"Nepo's podcast went into the history of why people cheat."

"He was ahead of the curve on me learning this . . . Hans is strong."

"Supremely confident as a player."

"Just something about Niemann's presence at the board. Savants and geniuses, it's what they do."

"Completely fearless when he played Tarjan for the first time. 'So I'm just some old guy, huh?' Buckled down and beat Hans."

"Sounds like a guy without a moral compass."

"Or a flawed one."

"Their will to win overrides their ethics."

"Karjakin is another elephant in the room. His 6-month suspension is over, rooting for Russia to crush Ukraine."

"There's a video of Carlsen cheating online in a \$500 tournament. Talking out loud. Carlsen said, What is it? Then he moved based on a hint. We need a link to this conversation."

"Danny Rensch, the enforcer for Chess.com."

"Which is why I play at Lichess."

"They're protecting their space."

"His interview was a half-truth, so Chess.com reversed their decision."

"Others have cheated on their platforms."

"A couple of young players in the Bay Area have appealed it and their bans were lifted. Certain players can't log in."

"Hans, a cold-blooded player."

"Mother an attorney. Dad looks like a linebacker; a nice guy. A couple of younger sisters. Home schooling, then no schooling."

"Chess has become a big-money sport. It's turned a corner."

"Hans is a lightning rod."

Still 19.

Mike Walder happened to tell a story along the way, one he read about Steinitz removing his Queen Knight to play an amateur at odds and won the game with a sacrificial attack in the King's Gambit that wouldn't have worked if he had had a Knight on QN1, impeding his Queen Rook from joining the attack quickly enough.

When Alex Yermolinsky was our Grandmaster-in-Residence, he cautioned players against referring later to the opponent as their friend. He thundered: "He is not your friend—he is your enemy!"

That's keeping things objective, as well as symbolic.

"O villains, vipers damned without redemption!

Dogs easily won to fawn on any man!

Snakes in my heart-blood warmed, that sting my heart!

Three Judases, each one thrice-worse than Judas!

Would they make peace? Terrible hell make war

Upon their spotted souls for this offence!"

Richard II.3.2.125-130

Shakespeare may have meant only some of those who beat you. And some others out there. Maybe it was more about bad luck, not opponents per se.

"Is there a chess utopia? Let's go again and see."

*The New York Times* on June 12th introduced its new chess columnist, Daniel Naroditsky: "I don't know if this is a personality trait," he said, "but if you want to get good at the game, you have to be willing to do the same thing over and over and over again.

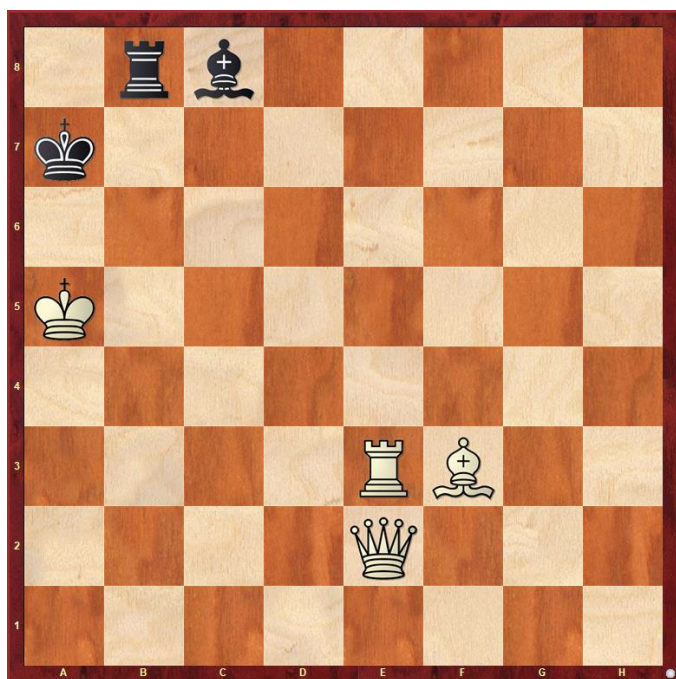
"You have to be very goal-oriented because of that," he added. "Sometimes, all that sustains you is knowing where you want to be."

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(For more information about the Chess Café – and to join the conversation – look here:  
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe>)



## Tony's Teasers



1. G.J. Bourma 1968.  
White mates in 3 moves.



2. A. Lubusov 1978.  
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>

#### **Monthly Championship Quads**

Saturday, October 8, 2022, 3PM. 3 games of G/40;d5.

Saturday, November 12, 2022, 3PM. 3 games of G/40;d5.

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

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

#### **Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person**

Saturday, October 8, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5.

Saturday, November 12, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5.

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

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

#### **20<sup>th</sup> St. Amant Memorial G/40;d5**

Saturday, October 22, 2022. 4 games of G/40;d5.

Information and link to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-st-amant-memorial-championship>

#### **50<sup>th</sup> Carroll Capps Memorial G/40;d5**

Saturday, November 5, 2022. 4 games of G/40;d5

Information and link to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/50th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship>

#### **Felix German Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon**

Tuesday, November 11, 2022 to Tuesday, December 20, 2022. 6:30PM. USCF + FIDE  
Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5

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

\*All tournament participants must wear masks until further notice\*



## **Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!**

Free and encouraged for MI Members

**5-6pm**

**First Fridays of the month:**

October 7th

November 4th

December 2nd

Unwind from the week with fellow chess players. We'll have rousing game replays on the big screen, snacks, and lively conversation. Wine available for purchase in the Meeting Room provided during the CinemaLit program. Stick around for CinemaLit at 6pm!

Questions?

Contact [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)



## Classes

### **Free Women's Online Class with FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams - Ongoing**

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 with FM Paul Whitehead**

8 classes, in person. Wednesdays, 9/7 to 10/26. 5PM to 6PM.

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

### **Chess Improvements for Developing Players**

10 classes. Taught online by Colin Schober. Wednesdays, 9/28 to 11/30. 6PM to 7PM.

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

- Late enrollees are eligible for pro-rated tuition -

### **Game Analysis Series with FM Paul Whitehead**

8 classes, in person. Thursdays, 10/13 to 12/1. 5PM to 6PM.

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

## Other Offerings

### **Chess Café, Mondays 4PM – 5:30PM: Ongoing**

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

**Chess Social, First Fridays 5PM – 6PM:** See attached flyer.

### **Special Author Event!**

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 6PM (Virtual on Zoom):

***United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937–2020***

WIM **Alexey Root** in conversation with MI Chess Coordinator

FM **Paul Whitehead**

For more information, and the link to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/events/united-states-womens-chess-champions-1937%E2%80%932020-virtual-event-zoom-nov-10-2022>

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## Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Re8! Rb6. (1...Rb1 2.Qa6+! Bxa6 3.Ra8#. Or 1...Bb7 2.Qe7 R moves 3.Qxb7#.) 2.Qe3 Kb8.Qxb6#.

Problem #2: 1.c4! Threatens 2.Qb1+ Nd3 3.Qxd3#. If 1...fxg3 2.Nf6+! exf6 3.f3#! Or 1...Nc3 2.f3+! gxf3 (2...Nxf3 3.Nf6#.) 3.Qe3#.

## Contact Us

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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>