

Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1034 | February 11, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



Dallas Pak was photographed by his mom while competing in the January Mechanics' Institute USCF-rated online scholastic tournament.

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Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On January 21, the Mechanics' Institute hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, and Quads Championship in the afternoon.

The January Quads had 57 participants in 14 sections, and the top quad was won by **George Sanguinetti**.

Complete results for the January Quads can be found [here](#).

The January Scholastic Swiss had 27 participants competing in two sections. The 500+ section was won by **Cody Kletter** with a perfect 4-0 score, while the u500 section was won by **Elijah Dukhovny**, also with a perfect 4-0 score.

Complete results for the January Scholastic Swiss can be found [here](#).

Both events were directed by Local TD **Michael Hsu**, assisted by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason**.

The 22nd Henry Gross Memorial was held on February 4 with a full house of 77 players competing in three sections.

IM **Kyron Griffith** and Expert **Nathan Yan** tied for 1st and 2nd in the 2000+ section with 3.5 points from 4 games after drawing each other in the 3rd round. Tying for 3rd with 3 points each were NM **Tony Kukavica**, **Vedant Talwalker**, and **Quincy Chen**.

Frederic Dutter scored 3.5 points in the 1600-1999 section and took clear 1st place. Tying for 2nd and 3rd places were **Jenny Qi**, **Zee Chin**, and **Reyansh Paragiri**.

The under 1600 section saw both **Pablo Abad** and **Charlie Mintz** scoring a perfect 4-0, while clear 3rd place was taken by **Melissa Xu** with 3.5 points.

Complete results for the 22nd Gross Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 22nd Gross Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou** and assisted by Local TD **Michael Hsu**.



Henry Gross (1907-1987) stands between Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director **Arthur Stamer** and trustee **Charles Bagby**. Gross was a lawyer by profession and the 1952 California State Champion. Photo from the Mechanics' Institute archives.

The New Year Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off January 10 with 80 players participating in three sections. The tournament runs until February 21.

Information, standings and results can be seen [here](#).

The New Year TNM is being co-directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason**.

IM Elliott Winslow

Annotated Games from rounds two through five of the New Year TNM

□ Griffith,Kyron **B03**
 2450
 ■ Walder,Michael **2041**
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 17.1.23
[Griffith,Kyron/(Winslow,Elliott)]

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6
5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7
8.Rc1 0-0 9.b3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5
11.c5 N6d7 12.Bc4 Nc6 13.Nge2
b6!? 14.Bd5 Bb7 15.0-0?!]

[15.Ne4 is the only way to keep the
 advantage bxc5 16.Nd6 is the point
 EW: Let's continue... Qc7 17.Bxc5
 Nxc5 18.Rxc5 Rad8! 19.Nxb7! Qxb7
 20.Rxc6 Qb4+! 21.Nc3 e4!
 and White has a small advantage.
 (sf15.1)]

15...bxc5

[EW: A bit better is 15...Nxc5 16.Bxc5
 bxc5 17.Ne4 Qe7 18.Nxc5 Na5=
 (0.00 acc. to SF)]

16.Ne4 Nb6 17.Rxc5 Nxd5 18.Rxd5
Qh4?

[18...Qb8 is what I had expected]
 [EW: 18...Qc8! 19.Nd6 Qc7=]

19.Nc5

[19.f3! I had seen this but I was
 spooked by a queen sac line Ne7
 20.Bg5 (20.Bf2 is a nice
 improvement which I missed (EW &
 Stockfish:) Qxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Bxd5
 22.Qd3±) 20...Qxg5 21.Nxg5 Nxd5
 This actually struck me as quite scary.
 My queen has few targets and will be
 chased around quite a bit. My knights
 also have no outposts]

19...Bc8 20.Qd2 Rd8 21.Bg5 Rxd5
22.Qxd5 Qxg5 23.Qxc6 Rb8 24.Qc7
Ra8 25.Ng3 Bg4?!]

[EW: 25...Bf8 is quite balanced.]

26.h3 Bf5 27.Rd1 Re8?!]

[27...Rc8 28.Qxa7 Bf8]

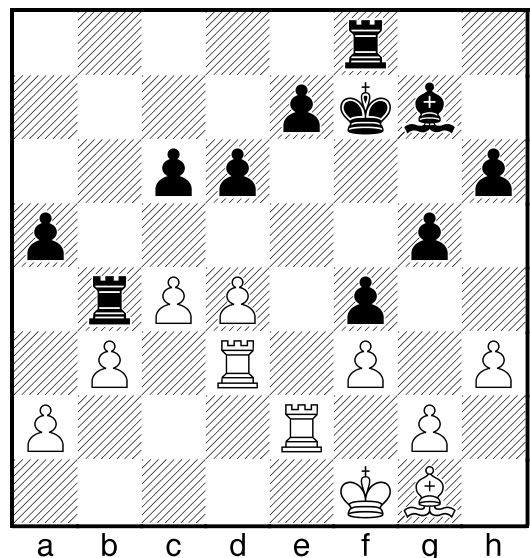
28.Qxa7 e4 29.Ncxe4 Bxe4 30.Nxe4
Qf4 31.Ng3

[31.Re1!]

31...h5 32.Qd7 Re6 33.Qd2 Qe5
34.b4 h4 35.Qd8+ Re8 36.Qxh4
1-0

□ Karthi,Jashith **E61**
 1924
 ■ Winslow,Elliott **2223**
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 17.1.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3
0-0 5.Bg5 h6
 [5...d6]
 [5...c5! 6.e3 cxd4 7.exd4 (7.Nxd4
 Qa5!) 7...d5!]
6.Bh4 c5 7.e3
 [7.d5]
7...cxd4 8.exd4 d6
 [8...d5!]
9.Be2 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nc6
12.0-0 Nd7 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qd2 g5
15.Bg3 Qb6 16.Rad1 Rae8 17.b3 Nf6
18.Rfe1 Qb4 19.Ne4 Qxd2 20.Rxd2
 [20.Nxf6+?? exf6]
 [20.Nxd2 Nh5 21.Nf1]
20...Nxe4 21.Rxe4 f5 22.Ree2 f4
23.Bh2 a5 24.f3 Kf7 25.Kf1 Rb8
26.Bg1 Rb4 27.Rd3



Rfb8?

[27...a4 28.Bf2 (28.c5 d5 29.Bf2 Rfb8 30.Rb2 R4b5 31.Rb1 e5!? 32.dxe5 Bxe5)]

28.Bf2!= d5!? 29.cxd5?

[29.Be1 dxc4 30.Bxb4 cxd3 31.Rxe7+ Kf6 32.Bc5 Bf8 33.Re5!= (33.Rc7? Re8! 34.Bxf8 d2-+)]

29...cxd5 30.g3?!

[30.Be1 Rxd4 31.Rxd4 Bxd4 32.Bxa5 Rc8 33.a4 e5 34.]

30...a4 31.gxf4 axb3?!

[31...gxf4 32.Rb2 (32.Bh4 R8b7) 32...Bf6]

32.Rxb3 Rxb3 33.axb3 gxf4! 34.Rb2 Rb4! 35.Ke2

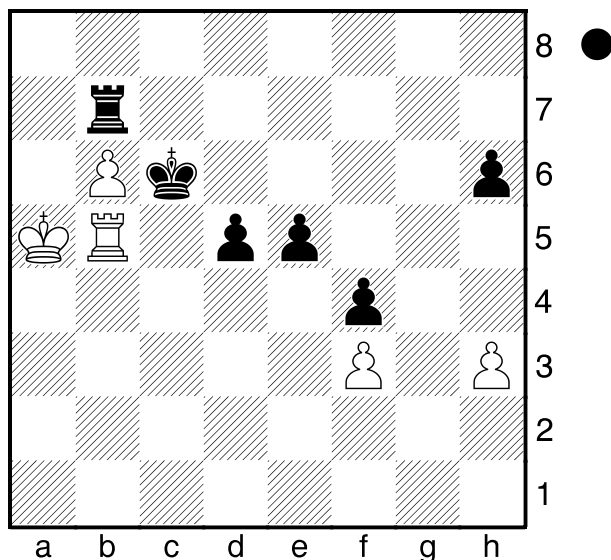
[35.Be1 Bxd4-+]

35...Bxd4! 36.Bxd4 Rxd4 37.b4 Rc4 38.b5 Rc7 39.Kd3

[39.Rd2!? Ke6 40.b6 Rb7 41.Rd4 Ke5 42.Rb4 Kf5 43.Rb5 e6 44.Kd3 e5! 45.Rxd5 Rxb6 46.Ke2 Rb2+ and ...Rh2]

39...Ke6

[39...e5 My original intention, but then I caught a wisp of a fear of 40.b6 Rb7 41.Rb5 Ke6 42.Kc3 Kd6 43.Kb4 Kc6 44.Ka5



But in fact this is winning, various ways, especially Rb8!]

40.b6

[40.Rb4!? Ke5 41.Rd4 Rb7 42.Rb4 Rb6 43.Kc3! At some point it's going to be ...Kd6 giving up f-pawn for b-pawn. Black is better, but it's not clear.]

40...Rb7 41.Rg2?! Both of us had overlooked just how subtle this ending is.

[41.Rb4!? Ke5 42.Kc3 e6 43.Kd3 h5! 44.Kc3 Kd6 45.Rxf4 Rxb6 46.Kd3 (46.Rh4 Ke5 47.Rxh5+ Kf4 48.Kd4 Rc6!)]

41...Kd6! 42.Rg6+

[42.Rb2 e5]

42...e6 43.Rxh6 Rxb6 44.Rh8?!

[44.Ke2]

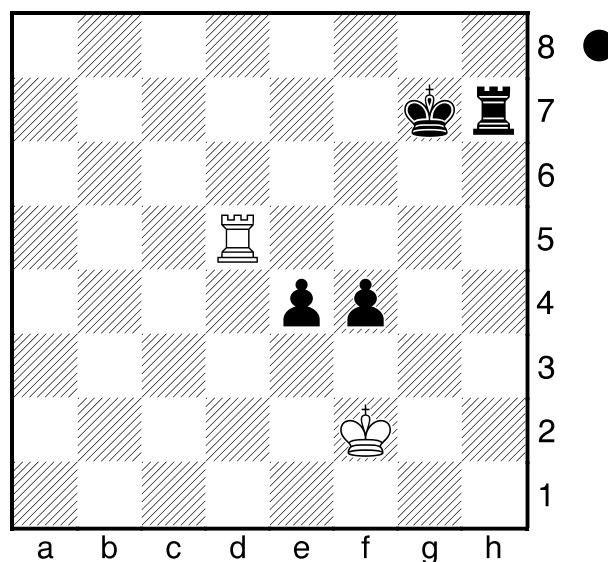
44...Rb2 45.h4 Rf2 46.h5 Rxf3+

47.Ke2 Rh3 48.h6 Ke7

[Nothing wrong with forward: 48...Ke5 49.h7 d4 50.Kd2 f3 51.Kd3 Rh1]

49.h7 Kf7 50.Kf2 e5 51.Kg2 Rh4

52.Kg1 e4 53.Kf2 Kg7 54.Rd8 Rxh7 55.Rxd5



Well there's something weird: I'm looking at Chessbase 17 with Stockfish 15.1 and the tablebases. The 7-piece TB it uses just gives "-1 depth 0" -- but the 6-piece TB gives the moves to mate. So this capture says "-#20 depth 0" after my move. So SF "prefers" 55.Rc8/55.

Rb8/55.Ra8 because it's less -- I don't know, "succinct"? Funny. **55...Kf6**

56.Kg2 Rg7+ (#20) A move faster are
[56...f3+]
[56...Ra7]

57.Kf2 Rg5 #25! Better is rook to the queenside. **58.Rd4 Kf5 #25** again!
[58...Ke5 #22 59.Ra4 e3+!]

59.Rd5+ (!) keeping it maximum, not that it saves anything else. **59...Kg4 60.Rd4 #17**

[60.Rd8! #23]

60...e3+ 61.Ke2 Ra5 62.Rd8 Ra2+ 63.Ke1 Kf3 64.Rd1 Rh2 0-1

□ **Argo,Guy**

■ **Dasika,Archit**

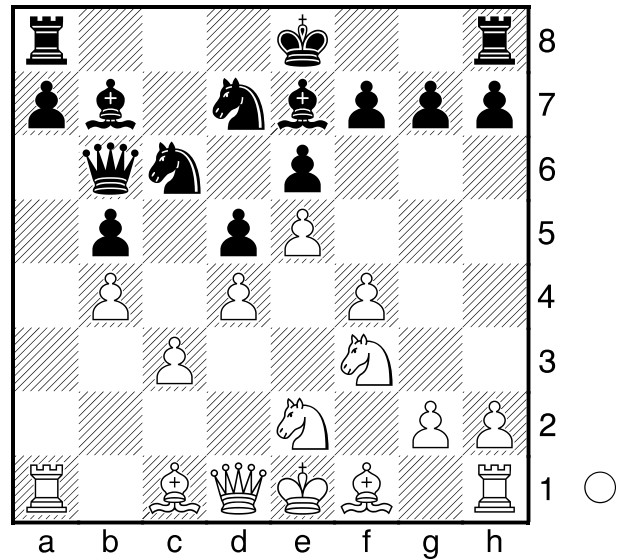
2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 17.1.23
[Argo,Guy/Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.f4 c5 (EW) It's now a Steinitz French Defense, with an extra move played for each player. **7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Ne2**

[8.Be3]

8...Be7 9.c3 b5 10.a3 Qb6 11.b4 cxb4 12.axb4 Bb7?!

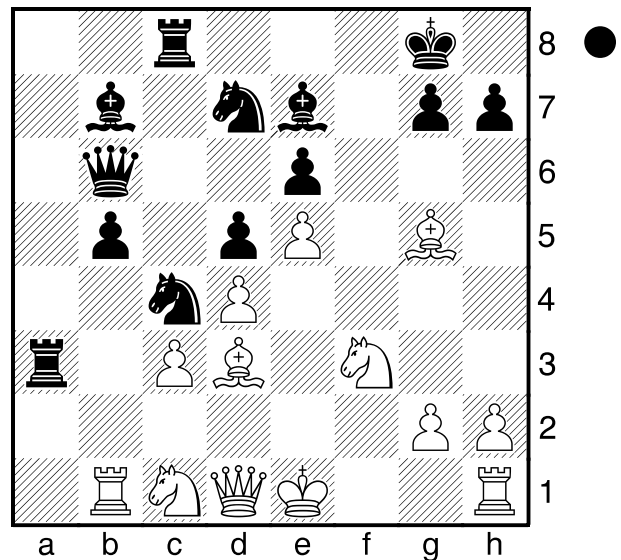
(Diagram)



13.Bd2?

[13.f5! exf5 14.Nf4 Nd8 15.Qd3± xf5, xb5]

13...0-0 14.Nc1 a5 15.bxa5 Nxa5 16.Rb1 Nc4 17.Bd3 Rfc8 18.f5 Ra3 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.Bg5

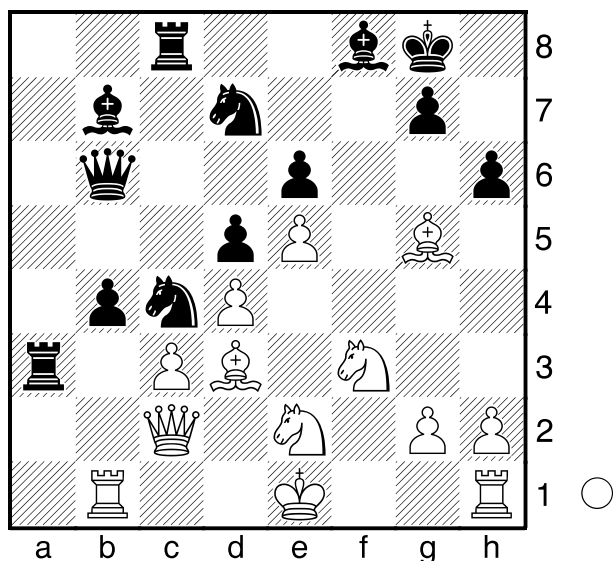


Bf8?!

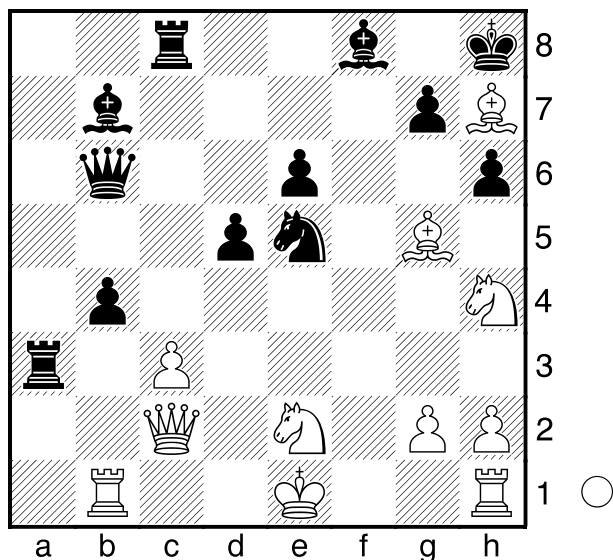
[Here Stockfish gets crazy: 20...Rxc3! 21.0-0! (21.Bxe7 Nb2!; 21.Ne2!? Ndxe5! 22.dxe5! Ra3 23.Bxe7 Ne3 24.Ned4!±) 21...Qd8 (21...Ndxe5!? 22.Bxe7! Not even the computer believes it, saying ± (+0.70 or so))]

21.Ne2 b4?

[21...h6]
22.Qc2?
 [22.Bc1!+-]
22...h6!



Best, but still an advantage... **23.Bh7+?**
 [23.Rf1!]
23...Kh8 24.Nh4??
 [24.Qg6!±]
24...Ndxe5?
 [24...hxcg5 25.Ng6+ Kxh7 26.Nxf8+ Kg8 27.Nxd7 Qc7!+-]
25.dxe5 Nxe5



26.Ng6+??
 [26.Bf4!+-]

26...Nxcg6? 27.Qxcg6? Ra2!+-
 [27...Ba6!+-]
28.Bxh6 Ba6 29.Bd2 Rxd2
 [29...Bxe2! 30.Kxe2 Rxc3]
30.Kxd2 bxc3+ 31.Kc2
 [31.Ke1 Qe3]
31...Qe3 DEFINITELY one that got away.
0-1

B76
 1712
 1904
 Ivanenko,Anthony
 Sanguinetti,George
 2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (2.7)
 [Ivanenko,Anthony]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 It's quite interesting that my first two games in the chess club end up being d6-Sicilians. Now I just need the Classical to round out the triage!
6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 If I was still a dashing young lad, I would've no doubt been gung-ho about venturing into the Yugoslav Attack. But those are gone and so is my aggression. The Dragon has been slain and restored many times throughout the decades, but it appears as if the Rauser variation is truly a stake into its heart, dragging Black not into an explosive race that most enthusiasts wish, but into a weary endgame where they're fighting for a draw. The model game for the Dragon these days is Darius Swiercz - Daniel Naroditsky, 2021 US Chess Championship. **9...h5?!** Not quite sure what purpose this move serves, it delays g2-g4, but introduces a lever for White to wrench open. **10.Be2?!N** A novelty, though I do question myself to its practicality. With 9...h5 being played, White can simply enter a better version of the Yugoslav Attack with the old-fashioned Bc4! Not to mention that White

will be vying to play h3 anyway and this move blocks Qd2-f2 maneuvers. I think I got my lines mixed up as I hadn't looked into my Dragon prep for a while, where one of the lines goes Bc4, ...Na5, and then Be2!, where Black's a5-knight is looking rather out there and will have to retreat back, giving White a tempo.

10...Re8 11.h3 h4?! Attempting to place the g2-pawn under arrest, but the pawn is looking rather flimsy, especially with White's control over the dark squares. 12.Qe1! a6 13.Nxc6!?

A rather complex idea inspired by neural networks: the reasoning behind it is to shut down Black's Q-side counterplay. The strengthened pawn center is not as useful as it looks and Black often struggles to find any play via the b-file. However, the idea is premature in this case, as the g7-bishop is strong, cutting across a1-h8. The best play was the simple one!

[13.Qxh4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 b5 15.Qf2 Rb8 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5+-

And White's pieces are simply more active. (EW: and White *is* up a pawn, one which was defending Black's king once upon a time...)]

13...bxc6 14.Bc4 e6? In such a position, Black should've played more actively with ...Qa5! as the d5-pawn is rather useless with the x-rayed queen.

15.Qxh4 Bb7? Too slow and the bishop quickly becomes a hindrance due to blocking the b-file. **16.e5?! Played a bit too hastily, especially considering that I had the winning move in mind since 14...e6. The last move must've scrambled my wits and I had incorrectly assumed that the knight was pinned! Had I been younger, I would've definitely imploded the game from exasperation.**

[16.Bg5! Chaining Black pieces to the defense of the knight. e5 17.Rd3 d5 18.exd5 cxd5 19.Bxd5 Bxd5

20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Rxd5 Nxd5+-
Is simply winning for White.]

16...Nd5 17.Bg5 Qa5 18.Bd2??

I must've still been fuming from the missed win or I would've calculated the winning sequence to its end.

[18.Ne4! dxe5 19.Bxd5 This is the move I missed. cxd5 20.Nf6+ Kf8 21.Qh7+- Black cannot stop mate without serious material loss.]

18...Qc7?!]

[18...Qb6 Much better spot for the queen. 19.exd6 c5 20.Rhe1 Bc6 21.Bh6 Rab8 22.Bb3+- Is still winning for White, but Black's got a bit more pressure against the Q-side.]

19.exd6 Qxd6 20.Ne4 Qe5 21.c3

Of course! White's minors are better so there stands no reason to transition into an even endgame.

[21.Bc3?? Nxc3 22.Nxc3 Qe3+ 23.Kb1 Qb6= and Black's strong g7-bishop and strong Q-side play compensates White's pawn advantage.]

21...Rad8 22.Rhe1 Qc7 23.Bg5

Threatening Bxd5 followed by Nf6+.

23...f6 24.Bxf6 Nxf6 25.Nxf6+ Bxf6 26.Qxf6 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Qf7 28.Qxf7+ Kxf7 29.Rd7+ Re7 30.Rxe7+ Kxe7

Converting down to a nice endgame with a two-pawn advantage and same-colored bishops. The rest is simple technique. **31.Kd2 a5 32.Ke3 c5**

33.Kf4 Kf6 34.h4 e5+ 35.Ke3 Bc6 36.g3 Kf5 37.Bd3+ Kf6 38.Be4 Bb5 39.Bd5 Bd7 40.g4 Ke7 41.Ke4 Kd6 42.Bf7 Bc6+ 43.Ke3 g5 44.hxg5 Ke7 45.Bg6 Ke6 46.Be4 Bb5 47.b3 a4 48.c4 axb3 49.Bd5+ Kd6 50.cxb5 Kxd5 51.axb3

1-0

□ Tam,Hoa Long

■ Nolen,Sam

B11

1427

826

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (2.21)

[Winslow,Elliott/Nolen,Sam/Tam,Hoa-Long]

This turned out easier than I thought it would be (well, I woke up at 4am with the method in my mind :-). Here is this interesting game, with *both* players' notes! (Maybe I'll poke in here and there)

SN=Sam Nolen HLT=Hoa-Long Tam

EW=(some guy) **1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5**

3.Nf3 Bg4 HLT: 'the main theory move, but I almost never see it and don't actually know this variation.' **4.h3 Bxf3**

5.Qxf3 e6 6.d4 dxe4 7.Qxe4 Nf6

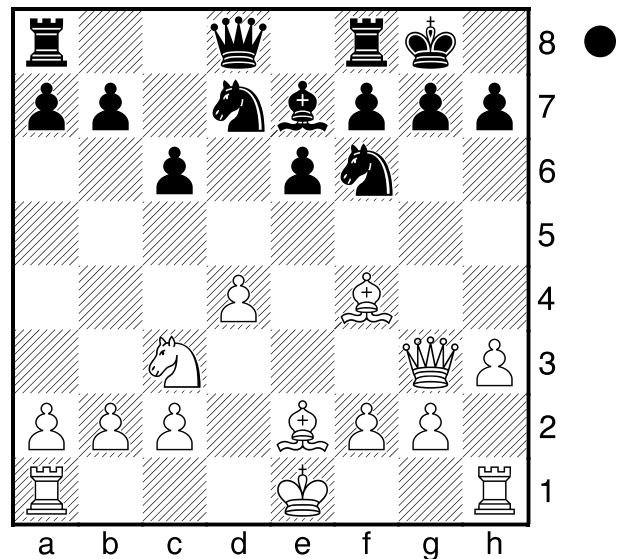
8.Qd3

[EW: Here's your typical super-GM blitz game... 8.Qh4 Be7 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.0-0 Nf8 11.Ne2 Nd5 12.Qg3 Ng6 13.c3 Bd6 14.Qf3 Qh4 15.Qe4 Qe7 16.c4 Nf6 17.Qf3 0-0 18.Bg5 Rad8 19.Rad1 h6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Qxf6 gxf6 22.Bxg6 fxg6 23.Rd3 Rd7 24.Rfd1 Rfd8 25.Kf1 Kf7 26.b3 h5 27.Nc3 Be5 28.Ne2 c5 29.d5 exd5 30.cxd5 h4 31.Ng1 g5 32.Nf3 Bd6 33.Re3 Bf4 34.Red3 b5 35.Ke2 Re8+ 36.Kf1 Red8 37.Ke2 a6 0-1 Kamsky,G (2666)-Deac,B (2707) Titled Tuesday intern op 25th Oct Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (5)]

8...Nbd7 9.Bf4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0

11.Qg3

(Diagram)



SN: 'An aggressive play. White threatens Bh6, and the bishop on e2 prevents Nh5.' HLT: 'Amazingly, this is still in the master's database' **11...Nd5N**

[Predecessor: 11...Re8 12.Bc7 Qc8 13.0-0 Nd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Rac1 Bh4 16.Qh2 Bg5 17.Bf4 Bxf4 18.Qxf4 Qb8 19.Qxb8 Raxb8 20.Bb5 Red8 21.f4 g6 22.g4 f5 23.Bxd7 Rxd7 24.gxf5 gxf5 25.Kf2 Rc8 26.Rg1+ Rg7 27.Ke3 b5 28.Rxg7+ Kxg7 29.Rg1+ Kf6 30.Kd3 b4 31.a3 bxa3 32.b3 h5 33.h4 a5 34.c3 a2 35.Ra1 Rg8 36.Rxa2 Rg3+ 37.Kc2 Rg2+ 38.Kb1 Rg4 39.Rxa5 Rxh4 40.Ra8 Rxf4 41.Rh8 ½-½ Rambaldi,F (2444)-Baillet,P (2469) Chambery 20th 2014 (3.3)]

12.Nxd5 HLT: 'I don't want to retreat my bishop.' **12...cxd5**

[HLT: 12...exd5 13.0-0-0 with the symmetrical pawns and closed c-file, castling long to create an imbalance seemed like the best plan.]

13.0-0 Rc8 14.c3 Qb6 15.Rab1 Bf6

SN: 'A strange-looking move, but it defends against Bh6, and prepares e5 after Rfe8. HLT: '?! Black sees the threat of Bh6, but this move blunts the bishop. Moving the rook to allow ...g6

seems more active' **16.h4** HLT: 'h5 and h6 are both covered by my bishops, so I want to continue with this pawn advance before I move my LSB to d3.' **16...Rfe8** **17.h5** SN: 'This is slightly premature and allows Black to retake the initiative with ...e5.' **17...e5** HLT: '!' **18.dxe5 Bxe5** EW: '!' **19.Bg4** SN: 'Better is 19.Bf3, as it will prove easier for Black to escape from the pin than to defend the isolated pawn.' EW: It may not matter; Black seems to be able to muster a defense. **19...Bxf4 20.Qxf4 Rcd8** SN: 'Better is the counterattack 20...Rc4. EW: 'And Black is even a bit better.' **21.Rfe1** HLT: 'Not a good use of time. I should pile up on the d file immediately.'

21...Nf6

[HLT: 21...Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Qxb2?? 23.Bxd7]

22.Bf3 h6 SN: 'Play is becoming difficult for both sides. I thought for some time here before settling on the unambitious but correct ...h6.' **23.Red1** SN: 'Not much to grab onto except for the isolated pawn, which White now begins to besiege.' **23...Re7** SN: 'The start of a wrong plan. Correct is 23...Ne4, (with equality -- EW) where the knight cannot be dislodged without improving the position of the isolated pawn.'

24.Rd2

[EW: ' 24.Rd4 has to be better. (My housemate would exclaim "Alekhine's Gun!")]

[And Stockfish (the 4th annotator) points out 24.Qd4! with some advantage, admittedly invisible to the human eye.']

24...Red7 25.Rbd1 Qe6 SN: 'This cowardly move gives White a winning advantage. I did not even consider the straightforward and correct ...d4.'

[EW: 'The point is 25...d4

A) 26.Qf5 d3 SM: '±' **27.Rxd3?! (27.Kf1±) 27...Rxd3 28.Rxd3**

Rxd3 29.Qxd3 Qxb2=;

B) 26.cxd4 Qa5! attacking two pawns. Again, a small advantage after 27.d5±]

26.Rd4 HLT: 'c4 doesn't help yet, but I have time to add another attacker'

26...b5 27.R1d3 SN: '?' **27...a6**

SN: 'Again Black plays it too safe,

[missing an opportunity to retake the initiative with 27...Qe1+ 28.Kh2 Qxf2± ']

28.Qd2 Kf8 SN: 'I temporarily forgot that the king cannot attempt to guard the rooks, because after ...Ke7, Re3 wins the queen.' **29.Qd1** HLT: 'I want to make sure h5 is covered after my bishop leaves' **29...a5 30.a4** SN: 'This opens the door slightly for Black. It is better for White to attack on the kingside.'

HLT: 'clearing a path for c4' **30...Qc6**

31.b3 bxa4 32.Rxa4

[32.bxa4 (HLT) I didn't like splitting my pawns, but this keeps all of my pieces focused on d5. Qe6 getting off of the bishop's diagonal and cutting off my king 33.c4?? (EW: 33.g3± is pretty good for a plus) 33...dxc4 34.Rxd7 Rxd7 35.Rxd7 Qxd7-+]

32...Qb5 33.Rad4 Kg8 SN: 'In despair over Black's paucity of resources.'

34.c4? SN: 'Trading the queenside pawns now gives away White's advantage. White's idea after c4 was ...dxc4; bxc4, and the Black queen will be out of safe squares from which to defend the rook on d7. But this is an error as the f5 square will become available after ...dxc4.' HLT: Ttoo soon!.

I spent a ton of time here calculating whether Black could sac the queen for two rooks, that I completely missed Qf5'

[34.g4! HLT: '!' 'Preventing Qf5 and solidifying h5 (I considered this instead of Qd1 earlier, but I didn't like opening up my king so much while

black's queen was still on the kingside'

A) 34...a4 35.c4 (EW: 35.*Rxa4+-*)
35...dxc4 36.bxc4 Rxd4!±;

B) 34...Kf8 35.c4?! dxc4 36.bxc4
Rxd4=]

[EW: 'Stockfish 15.1 strongly prefers
34.g3!]

34...dxc4 35.bxc4 Qf5! SN: 'The
refutation of White's plan.' HLT: 'Only
way to keep enough defenders on d7'

36.Rxd7 Rxd7 37.Rxd7 Qxd7

[37...Nxd7?? 38.Bg4]

38.Qb3 SN: 'Everything now looking
drawish.' **38...Qc7 39.Qb5 Nd7 40.Be4**
Nf6

[40...Nc5 HLT 41.Qe8#]

41.Bc2 HLT: '?? My original plan was to
play Bc6. I hallucinated that my bishop
was hanging after taking the knight if it
returns to d7, which is just wrong.' EW:
'! It's the best move!'

[41.Bc6 HLT EW but Black is quite
even after all of Qd8 (41...Qd6;
41...Qf4; 41...Nxb5)]

41...Nd7 HLT: 'draw offer by black' EW:
'?!' **42.Kf1**

[EW: 42.Ba4!±]

42...Kf8 HLT: 'now black doesn't have
any back rank issues after Nc5' **43.Ba4**
Nf6

[HLT 43...Nc5?? 44.Qe8#]

[43...Ke7!= EW & SF15.1: (0.00)]

44.c5=

[44.g3!±]

44...Kg8? SN: 'Black again is on the
back foot. I didn't see many options here.'
EW: Important moment for counterplay:

[44...Qf4=]

[44...Qe5=]

45.c6± g6?? SN: 'A clean blunder,
attempting to open things up but further
undermining the position of the Black
king.' **46.Qb7**

[46.hxg6! fxg6 47.Qc4+ Kf8

(47...Kg7) 48.Qe6 EW: 'White should
still toss in g2-g3, and Bc2, when

Qf7+! is threatened.']

46...Ne8 SN: 'The only move.' EW: '(but
not good enough)' **47.hxg6 fxg6**

48.Qxc7?? SN: 'After this blunder the
game is once again a draw. The light-
square bishop cannot remove the
knight's blockade of the c-pawn and
Black's king is closer to the action than
White's king.' HLT: 'Completely
inexplicable queen trade. I knew I
needed to run my king over to the a
pawn, and I guess I just didn't like the
idea of Black's queen checking me all
over the place once I get on the e file.
But once the knight gets in front of my
pawn, the game is over.' EW: 'Well,
White's win is over. It's now a draw. Or
should be.' **48...Nxc7 49.Ke2 Kf7**
50.Ke3 Ke7 51.Kd4 Kd6 52.g4
HLT: 'My notation stops here, the rest is
from my opponent's notation'

[52.g3]

52...Ne6+ 53.Ke3?!

[53.Ke4?? Nc5+]

[53.Kc4! h5 54.gxh5 gxh5 55.Bd1
h4 (55...Nf4 56.Bxh5) 56.Bg4= Nc7
57.Bf3 (57.Bh3)]

53...Nd8?!

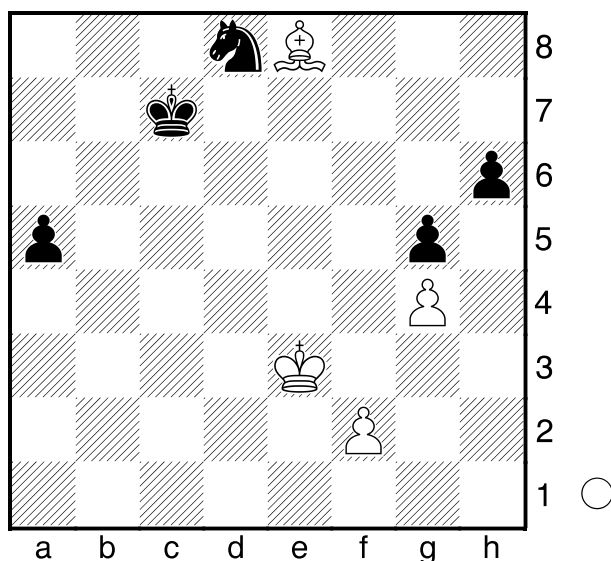
[53...g5]

54.c7 HLT: 'my pawn is lost, so I want to
lure the king away an extra square'

[54.g5! hxg5 55.Kf3=]

54...Kxc7 55.Be8 g5

(Diagram)



56.Ke4?? SN: 'The human move, but gives Black a winning advantage. After f4, the game would still have been a draw.'

[56.f4=]

56...Kd6?

[56...Ne6! EW: 'The only winning move' 57.Ke5 Kd8 58.Bb5 Ke7]

57.Kf5?

[57.f4!=]

57...Ke7 58.Ba4 Kf7?

[EW: 'Again, an only move: 58...Ne6!-+ ']

59.Bb3+

[59.f4 (EW: now or next move) gxf4 60.Kxf4 A better attempt. Given how the endgame played out, only having one black pawn on the kingside would have made the game a draw.]

59...Kg7 60.Ke4?? HLT: 'missing my last chance to play f4. The rest is a time scramble for me, so not much else to say.' **60...Kf6 61.Bd5 Ne6 62.f3 Nf4 63.Bc6 Ke6 64.Kd4 Kd6 65.Be4 Ne6+ 66.Kc3 Kc5 67.Kb2 Kb4 68.Ba8 a4 69.Be4 a3+ 70.Ka2 Nc5 71.Bd5 Na4 72.Bc6 Nc3+ 73.Ka1 Ne2 74.Bd5** HLT: 'my opponent's notation stops here. The game went on for at least another 20 moves and I'm

playing entirely on delay at this point, but this position is borderline resignable. Black gave up the P/a3 and ran over to the kingside and I could only sac my bishop for one of Black's pawns.'

74...Nd4 (SN) No more notation from this point, but play is straightforward. Black can simply abandon the a-pawn and collect the White pawns on the kingside.

0-1

D36
2223
2450

□ **Winslow,Elliott**
■ **Griffith,Kyron Waikun**
2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 24.1.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6

5.cxd5 Veering off from the two main lines,

[The Meran, 5.e3]

[The Botvinnik and Moscow, 5.Bg5]

[5.g3 is also fairly popular, as seen on Board 2 (without Nc3 and Nf6 in).]

5...exd5 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Qc2 g6!

(To get ...Bf5 in, solving Black's problem piece.) **8.e4**

[8.e3 Bf5 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 0-0 is the boring line.]

8...dxe4!

[8...Nxe4 9.Bxe7 Kxe7 (9...Qxe7?

10.Nxd5) 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Qxe4+

Be6 12.Bc4 Re8 13.Bxe6 Kf8

14.0-0 Rxe6 15.Qf4 Kg7 isn't so

exciting, either.]

[Shirov played 8...0-0 against Kamsky; he lost but others have fared better.

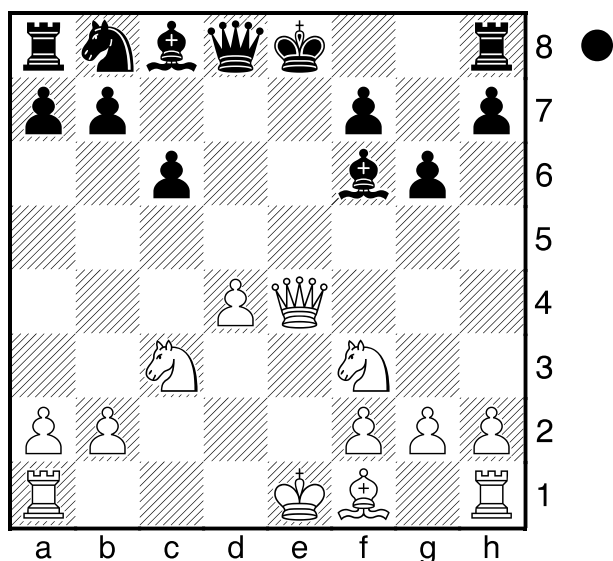
9.e5 Ne4 10.Bh6 Re8 11.Bd3 Nxc3

12.bxc3! c5 13.h4 cxd4 (13...c4!±)

14.h5± 1-0 Kamsky,G (2655)-Shirov,A (2655) Dortmund 1992 (7)]

9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Qxe4+

(Diagram)



Kf8

[10...Qe7!? is slightly better. Between the two bishops and the isolated center pawn, you'd think it's only Black who can have a plus in this queenless middlegame.]

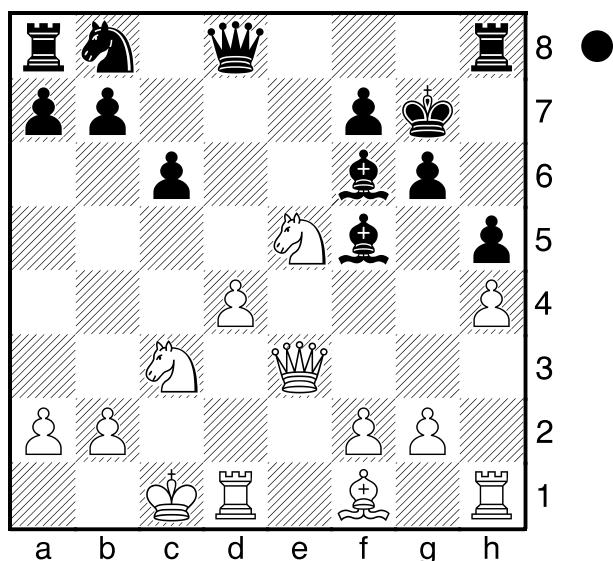
11.0-0-0?!

[11.Bc4 keeps it close to the 50 yard line.]

11...Kg7 12.h4 h5 13.Ne5 Bf5

14.Qe3?!

[14.Qf4]



14...Bxh4? A bit overboard.

[14...Nd7 15.Bc4 Rf8 16.f4]

15.g3? Returning the favor!

[15.Bc4!+- says SF15.1:

A) 15...Rf8 16.Ne4!;

B) 15...Bg5 16.f4 Bh6 17.Nxf7 Re8 18.Qg3 (18.Qd2);

C) 15...Qf6 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Qxe4 Bg5+ 18.Kb1 Na6 19.Rh3;

D) 15...Re8 16.Bxf7 Rxe5 17.dxe5 Qe7 18.Rxh4! Qxh4 19.g3 Qe7 20.e6+-;

E) 15...Qe7 16.Nxf7 b5 17.Bb3 Qxe3+ 18.fxe3 Bf2 19.e4 Bg4 20.Nxh8 Bxd1 21.Nxd1 Bxd4 22.Nf7+-]

15...Bf6 16.Bc4 (Finally!) and "½-½?"

(that is, I offered a draw). I was thinking "most dangerous opponent" and "he's taking a bye in Round 6, if we both win the rest of our games I win!" Rather idealistic/optimistic of me. But also, I know that when one declines a draw offer it can have psychological effect; it leaves a vague sense of "I declined the draw offer; now I must play to win." And ultimately that (and a few king advances on my part!) cost him. **16...Bxe5?!** Right away he played a bit too straightforward.

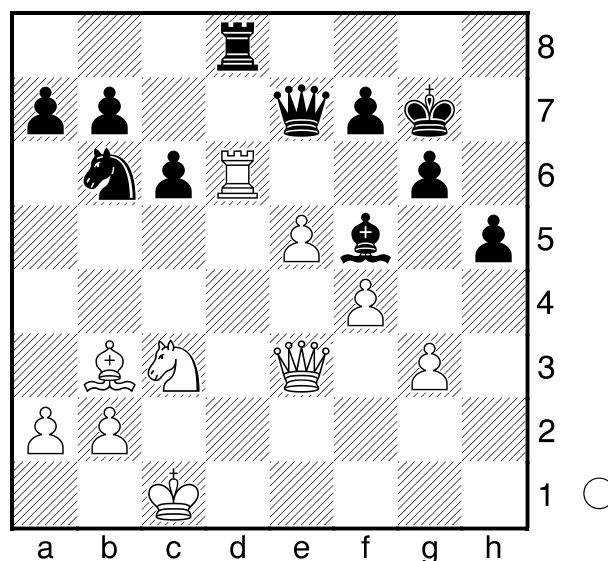
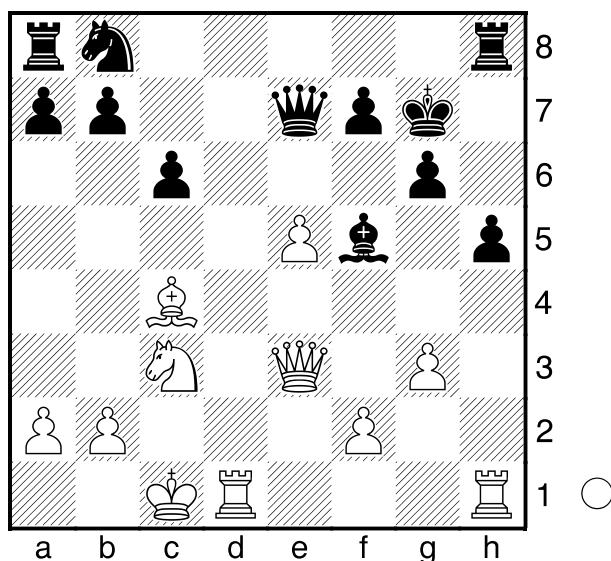
[16...Qe7! is almost impossible to imagine, if you're encumbered by thoughts. Stockfish 15.1 has it pegged at "best" and "(-0.56)".

17.Nxf7 (17.g4!? is some crazy response that sf15.1 has best off and on.) 17...Qxe3+ 18.fxe3 b5 19.Bb3 Rf8 20.Nd6 Bg4 21.Rdf1 Nd7

Still ½, still around (-0.5).]

17.dxe5 Qe7

(Diagram)



18.Rd6? I remember playing this without enough reflection (bad trait!).

[sf15.1: 18.e6! fxe6 (18...Bxe6?? 19.g4!!+-; 18...b5!? 19.Bb3 a5 20.a4=) 19.Qe5+ (19.g4 Bxg4 20.Ne4= Na6!?)

A) 19...Kh7??

A1) 20.g4 Bxg4 (20...Nd7 21.Qc7 Qg5+ 22.Rd2+-) 21.Ne4;

A2) 20.Ne4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4+-;

B) 19...Qf6 20.Qe3= (20.Qc7+) and Black might do well to take the repetition: 20...Qe7! 21.Qe5+]

18...Nd7!± 19.f4 Nb6

[19...Rhd8!?]

20.Bb3?!

[20.Bd3!]

20...Rad8! 21.Rhd1

[21.Rf6!? Nd5 22.Nxd5 cxd5 23.Rxf5!? gxf5 24.Qd4 Qc7+ (or 24...Qe6) 25.Kb1 Qb6-+ either trades queens or mobilizes the passed pawn.]

21...Rxd6 22.Rxd6 Rd8

[Quite a bit better is 22...h4!-+]

(Diagram)

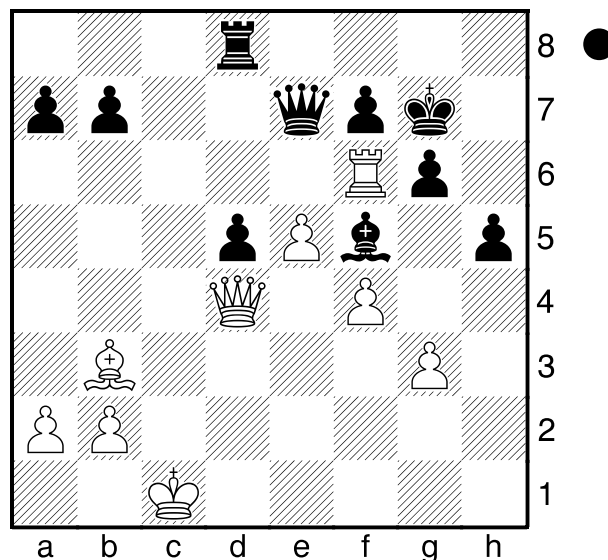
23.Rf6!? losing -- but complicated!

[23.Ne4 Bxe4 24.Rxd8 Qxd8 25.Qxe4± Typical computer -- it prefers a dry pawn-down ending to confusion in an objectively lost position.]

23...Nd5! 24.Nxd5

[24.Bxd5 cxd5 Alas, White can't occupy d4 with queen and knight at the same time...]

24...cxd5 25.Qd4



Be4?!

[25...Rc8+ 26.Kd2 Be6 27.f5!? Bxf5 28.Bxd5 Rd8 29.Rd6 b6 Black has

inroads, too many.]

26.Kd2! b6?!=

[26...Kg8!?]

[And, after not much (computer) time at all, up comes 26...Kh6!±]

27.Rd6! Rc8

[27...Rxd6?! 28.exd6+ Qf6 29.Ke3

"The king is a fighting piece," blah blah. We both thought this was Plus White, but Qxd4+! 30.Kxd4 Kf6

31.Bxd5 Bf5!=]

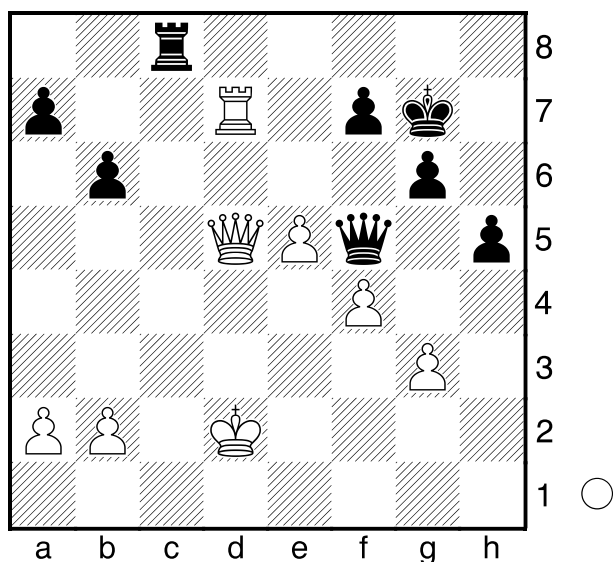
28.Rd7! It's not much better than just taking, but kudos to this usually clumsy rook for agility!

[28.Bxd5 Bxd5 29.Rxd5 (29.Qxd5 h4 30.Rd7 Rc5 31.Qd4 Qe6

32.gxh4 Rc4) 29...Qe6 30.Rd7 a5]

28...Qe6 29.Bxd5 Bxd5 30.Qxd5 Qf5=

[30...Qxd5+= of course, but that would be acquiescing to neutrality.]



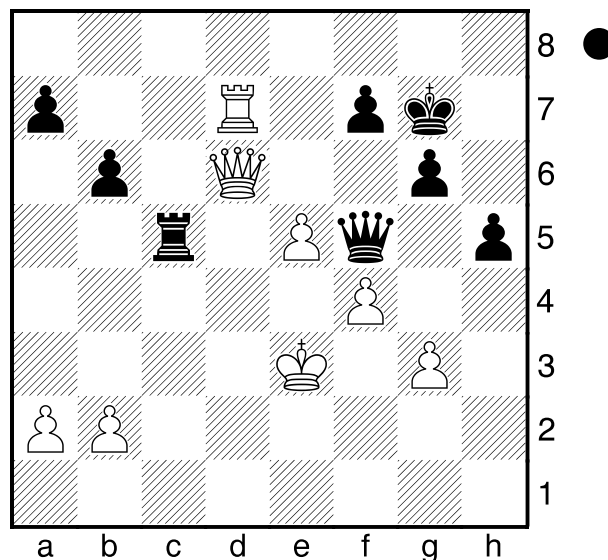
31.Ke3! And the same could be said for this nimble king, keeping a tempo ahead of things.

[31.Qd6=]

[31.e6= Qc2+ (31...Rc2+? 32.Kd1! Qxd5+ 33.Rxd5 Rc8!±) 32.Ke3 Qc1+ 33.Qd2 Qg1+ 34.Qf2 Qc1+=]

31...Rc5 Black had thirteen "0.00" moves on Stockfish 15.1 -- This was one

of them. **32.Qd6**



But that last move narrowed the list.

Here Black has only two moves:

32...g5?? Kyron must have thought it was my king in trouble, floating in the center like that -- but no.

[32...Rc8 33.Rxa7 Qc2=]

[32...Rc4 33.Qd3 Re4+=]

33.Rd8!+- gxf4+ 34.gxf4 h4

[34...Qh3+ 35.Kd4 No checks! I

thought of the famous Mitrofanov "Qg5!!" study; you would do well to Google it and appreciate the amazing geometry.]

[34...Kh7 35.Qb8! (35.Qf8 is "less winning")]

35.Qf8+ (Here it is "more winning")

35...Kg6 36.Qh8! There are various ways to set up mate, and various ways for Black to squirm out of it (or try).

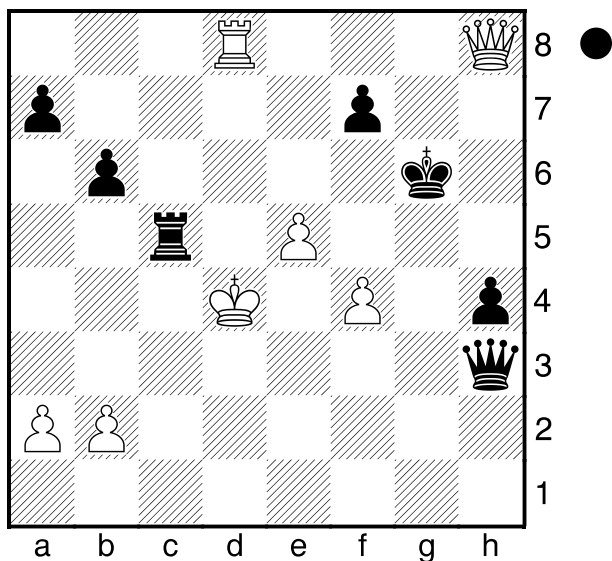
[36.Rd6+ Kh5 37.Qg7 Qh3+ 38.Kd4]

[36.Qg8+! Kh5 37.Qg2! is a good alternate: Rc6 (37...Rxe5+

is never perpetual, too many effective squares controlled by the White rook and queen) 38.Rh8+ Rh6 39.Qf3+ Qg4 40.Rxh6+]

36...Qh3+ 37.Kd4

(Diagram)



It was not at all believable when Black went into this that it would turn out that Black's king is the one in mortal danger while White's king skates. Meanwhile, Black starts to run low on time... **37...Kf5 38.Qh7+!**

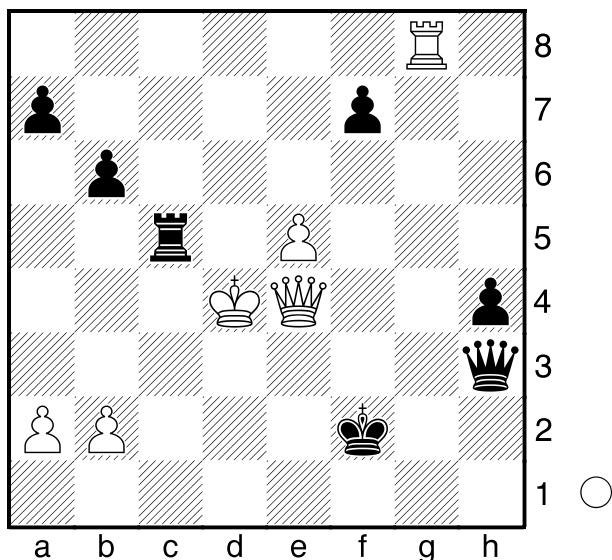
[Even better: 38.Rg8!]

38...Kxf4 39.Qe4+ "Third best."

[39.Qh6+!]

[39.Qxf7+!? Qf5 40.e6!]

39...Kg3 40.Rg8+ Kf2



41.Rg4! A nice (and only!) multipurpose move, blocking ...Qd7+ and preparing a discovered attack/pin. It's taken White

almost as much time as Black, but finally the crosshairs line up.

[41.Qf4+ Ke2 (41...Qf3 42.Qh2+ Ke1 43.Rg1+ Qf1 44.Qxh4+!) requires 42.Qe4+ and back to the same]

41...Rc1 42.Qf5+ Qf3 43.Rf4! Rd1+ 44.Kc4 Rd3 45.Qxf7! h3 46.Rxf3+ Rxf3 47.Qh5 Kg2 48.e6 Black lost on time. Even if White cashed his pawn for Black's rook and then gave up his queen for Black's pawn, his king would be way closer -- and that's not necessary. 1-0

1-0

D30

Dasika,Archit 2143

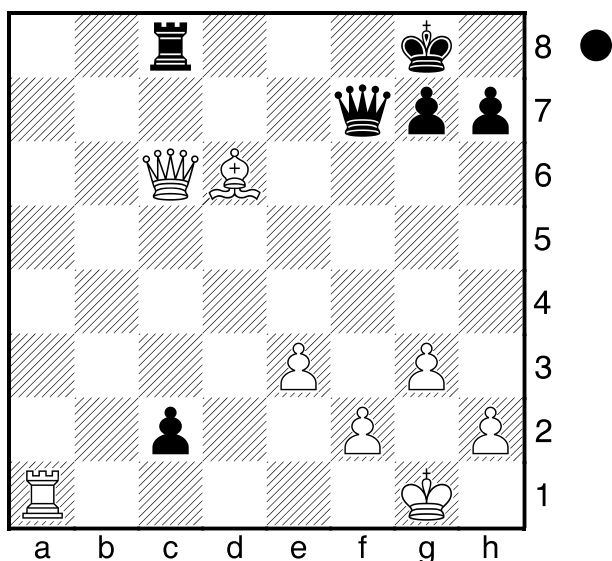
Arun,Siddharth 2186

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 24.1.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 b5 6.a4 Bb7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Ne5 a6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.axb5 axb5 11.Rxa8 Bxa8 12.Nxb5 cxb5 13.Bxa8 0-0 14.Bg2 Qc7 15.Bd2 Rd8 16.e3 Nd5 17.Qh5 Bd6 18.Ra1 Nf6 19.Qe2 Bxe5 20.Ba5 Qa7 21.dxe5 Nd5 22.Qe1 Rc8 23.Bb4 Qb7 24.Bd6 Nc6 25.Qd2 b4 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Qxd5 c3 28.bxc3 bxc3 29.e6 c2 30.exf7+ Qxf7 31.Qxc6

(Diagram)

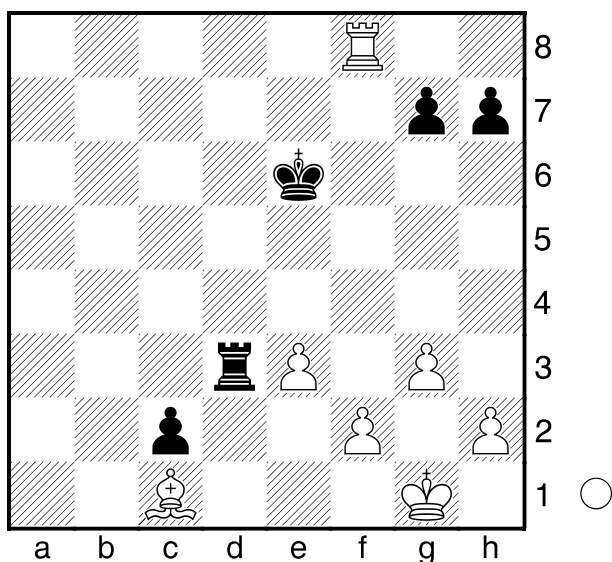


Rxc6??

[31...c1Q+ 32.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 33.Rxc1 Qd5=]

[31...Qe6! 32.Ra8 c1Q+ 33.Qxc1 Rxa8=]

32.Ra8+ Qe8 33.Rxe8+ Kf7 34.Rf8+ Ke6 35.Ba3 Rc3 36.Bc1 Rd3

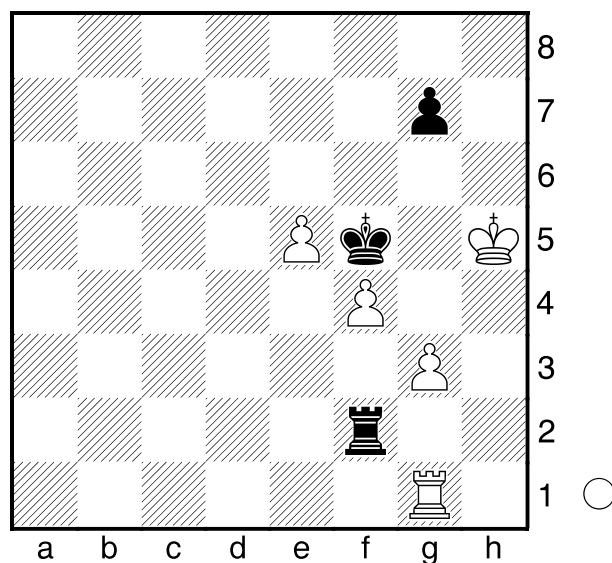


37.Kf1?!

[37.Kg2 Rd1 38.Ba3 Ra1 39.Rc8 Rxa3 40.Rxc2]

37...Rd1+ 38.Ke2 Rxc1 39.Kd2 Rh1 40.Kxc2 Rxh2 41.Kd3 Rh1 42.Ke4 Ra1 43.Rd8 Ra2 44.f4 Rf2 45.Ra8 Rg2 46.Ra6+ Ke7 47.Kf3 Rb2 48.e4

Rb3+ 49.Kg4 Re3 50.e5 h5+ 51.Kh4 Kf7 52.Rd6 Rf3 53.Rd1 Ke6 54.Rg1 Kf5 55.Kxh5 Rf2

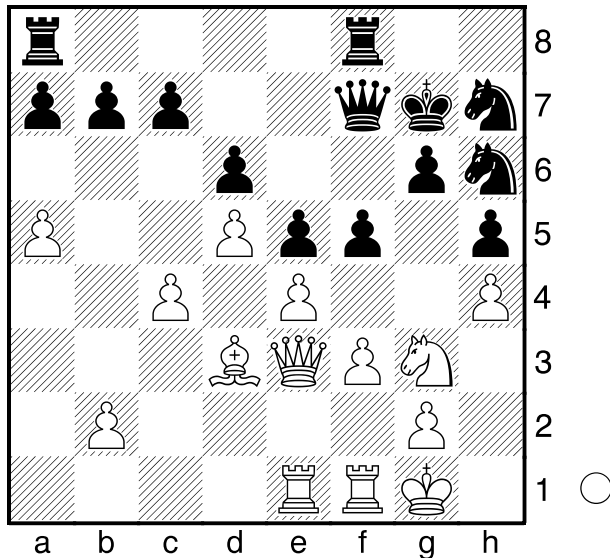


56.g4+! Kxf4 57.Re1! g5 58.e6 Rh2+ 59.Kg6 Kxg4 60.e7 Rh8 1-0

C55
 1814
 1807
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.4) 24.1.23
[Argo, Guy/Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.c3 d6 6.0-0 Be7 GA: I'm not a huge fan of Black's position - bit dull
7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Re1 Kh8 9.a4 Qe8
 GA: Trying to get something going on the Kside
10.Nf1 Nh7 11.d4 Bg4 12.d5 Nd8 GA: This made me happy. A closed center encourages my Kside shenanigans.
13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Bg5 15.Ng3 Bxc1 GA: Surprised he let me swap my bad bishop
16.Rexc1 g6 17.Qe3 Kg7 GA: 17...f5! is actually playable
18.Rf1 f6 19.Bd3 h5 20.h4?
 GA: The first chink in the armour appears. the h pawn will be the source of much pain for White.
20...Nf7 21.a5

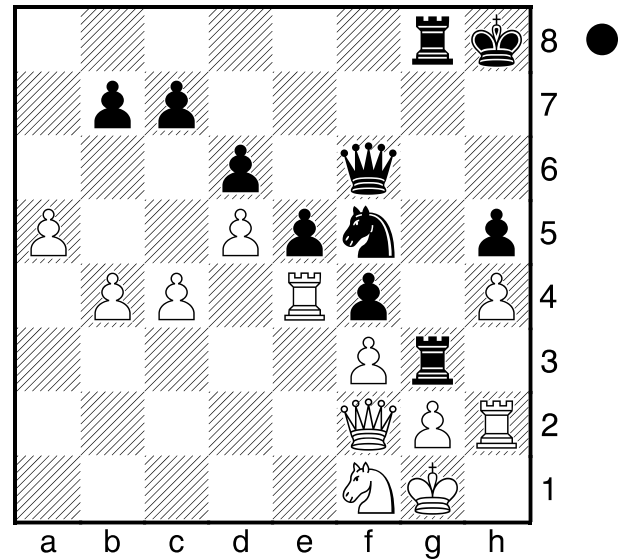
Nh6 GA: Knights on the rim are dim?
 We'll see about that... **22.Rae1 Qd7?!**
 GA: Too cautious. **22...f5!** immediately
23.f3 Qf7 24.c4?! f5!



GA: Finally! **25.exf5 gxf5 26.Qe2 Qg6 27.Kh2 Kh8 28.Rh1 Rg8 29.Nf1 Qf6 30.Kg1 Rg7 31.Rh2 Rag8?! 32.b4? Nf8?** GA: Too slow! **32...e4!** was still the breakthrough **33.Ne3 Ng6 34.Qf2 f4 35.Nf1?? Nf5?!**

[GA: 35...Nxb4!+- wins material]
36.Bxf5 Qxf5 37.Re4 Qf6 38.Re2 Ne7?! GA: too slow 39.Qxa7?! GA: Very naughty 39...Nf5? GA: 39... Qg6 with the idea of Qd3 is more testing 40.Qf2 Rg3 41.Re4 Nd4 42.Nd2 Nc2 43.Nf1 Nd4 44.Nd2 Nf5 45.Nf1

(Diagram)



Nxb4?! 41... Qg6! keeps the pressure on and threatens **Nxb4** properly.

[45...Qg6!]

46.Rxb4?? GA: **42.Qxg3!** and White breaks free

[EW: 46.Qxg3!! Rxb4! (46...fxg3 47.Rxb4) 47.Nxg3 Qg5!? (47...fxg3 48.Rxb4=) 48.Rxb4! Qxb4 49.Nh1!]

46...Rxb4+- 47.Qxg3 Rxb4+

[47...Qxb4!]

48.Kxb4 Qxb4+- GA: Black is winning but failed to convert with minutes left.

White created a passed pawn and Black failed to find a way to get his Q behind enemy lines. Very disappointing (The rest of the notes are EW) **49.b5 Qg5+ 50.Kh2 Qd8**

[50...Qg6]

51.Re2 c6?

[51...Kg7]

52.Ra2?

[52.dxc6 Qxa5! (52...bxc6? 53.b6) 53.cxb7 Qa7 54.Nd2 Qxb7 55.Ne4=]

52...cxb5 53.cxb5 Qa8?!

[53...Qc8 54.a6 bxa6 55.bxa6 Qc4+-]

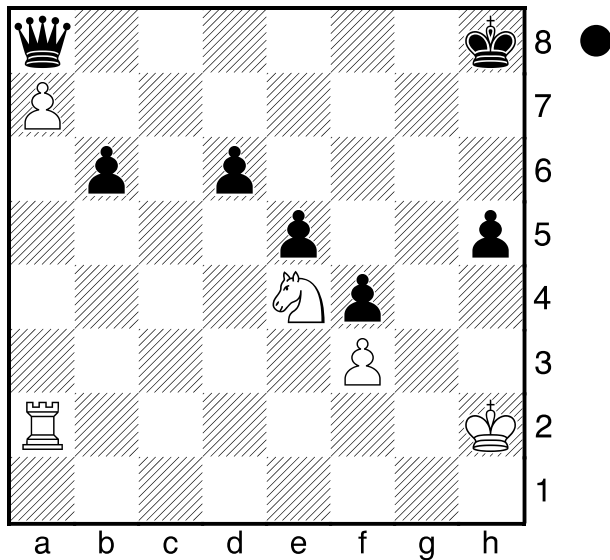
54.Nd2 b6 55.a6 Qxd5 56.Rc2 Qxb5

57.a7 Qe8?

[57...Qa6 58.Rc7 d5=]

58.Ra2 Qa8 59.Ne4?

[59.Nc4!]



59...d5?

[59...h4=]

[59...Kh7=]

[59...Kg7=]

[59...Kg8 60.Nxd6±]

60.Nd6?

[60.Nf6!+-]

60...Kg7?

[60...e4 61.Nc8 e3=]

A) 62.Kg1= Kh7 (62...Kg7);

B) 62.Nxb6 e2! 63.Nxa8 e1Q=]

61.Ne8+ Kh6 62.Nc7 Qg8 63.Rg2

1-0

□ Parsons,Stephen

■ Clemens,Kristian

D37

1780

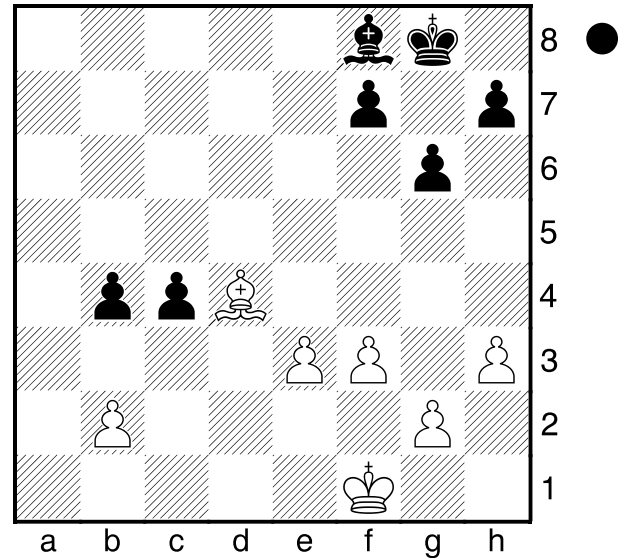
1831

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (3.7)

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Be7 4.Nf3
Nf6 5.Bf4 Nbd7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 dxc4
8.Bxc4 a6 9.0-0 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7
11.Rc1 c5 12.d5 exd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5
14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Qxd5 Nf6 16.Qe5
Re8 17.Rfd1 Qa5 18.a3 Rad8 19.Qf5

Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Rd8 21.Rxd8+ Qxd8
22.h3 g6 23.Qc2 Qd5 24.Nd2 c4
25.f3 Nd7 26.Ne4 Nc5 27.Nxc5 Bxc5
28.Qc3 Bf8 29.Be5 a5 30.Qd4 Qxd4
31.Bxd4 b4 32.axb4 axb4 33.Kf1



[after 33.Kg1-f1] Here Parsons
commented when sending in the game
(I'd just entered it!), "[Here] my
opponent played the magnificent 33...c3!
and I was not able to hold the ending."

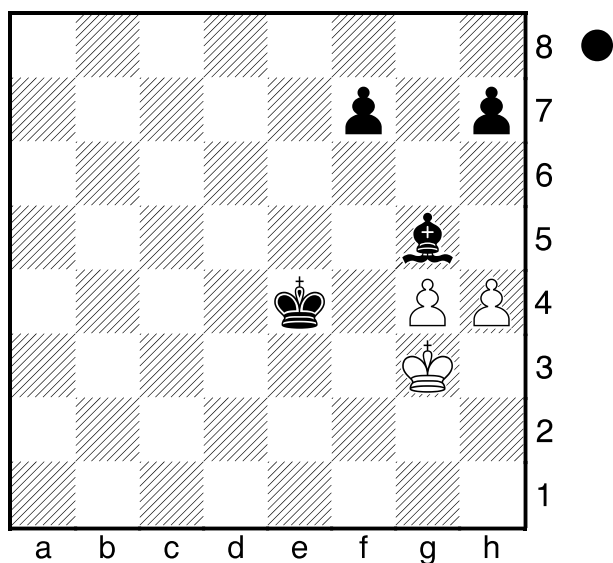
33...c3! 34.Bxc3

[34.bxc3 b3]

[34.b3 Bc5]

34...bxc3 35.bxc3 White can dream of
trading down to Bishop and Wrong Rook
Pawn -- and Black can avoid it. **35...Bg7**
36.c4 Kf8 37.Ke2 Ke7 38.c5 Ke6
39.e4 Bf8 40.f4 Bxc5 41.g4 Ba3
42.Kd2 g5 43.fxg5 Ke5 44.Ke3 Bc1+
45.Kf3 Bxg5 46.Kg3 Kxe4 47.h4

(Diagram)



**h6 48.h5 Be3
0-1**

□ **Moisselin, Simon**

■ **Maliev, Anton**

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (3.12)
[Winslow, Elliott]

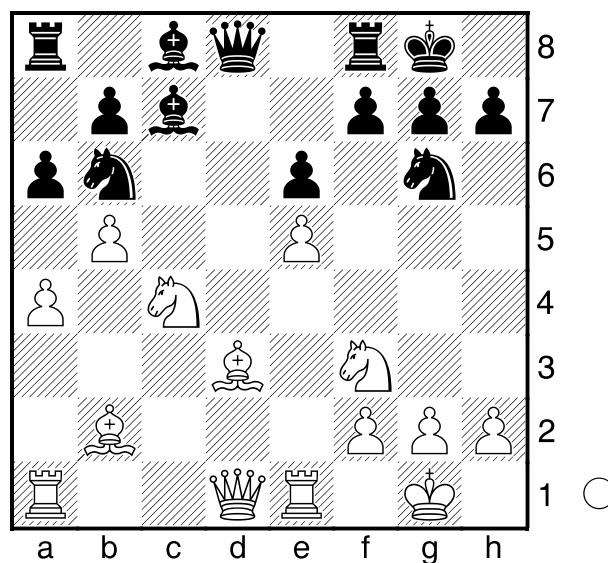
**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6
5.a3 Bxc5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bd3 Nge7
8.b4 Bb6 9.Bb2 Bc7 10.b5 Nb8
11.Nbd2 Nd7 12.0-0 Ng6 13.Re1 0-0
14.a4 a6 15.c4 dxc4 16.Nxc4 Nb6**

(Diagram)

B12

1516

1783



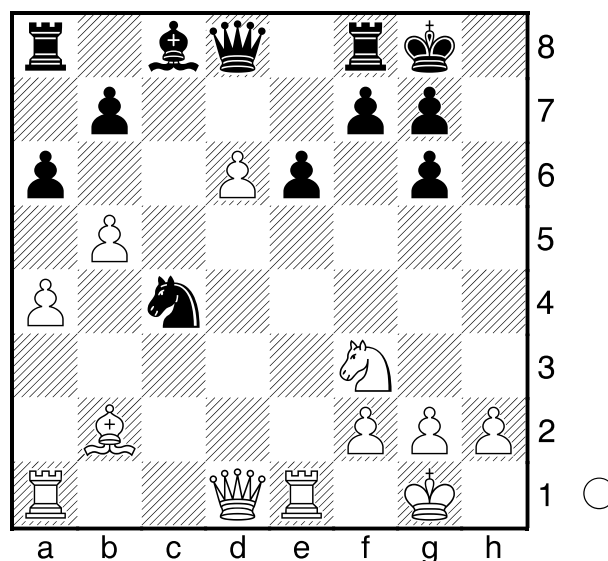
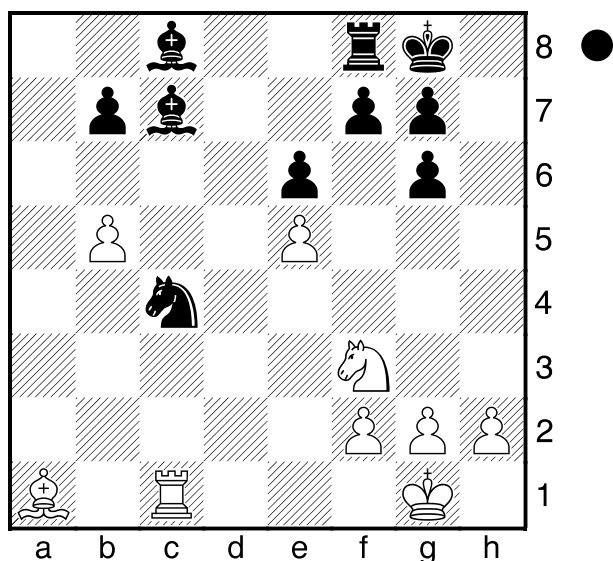
17.Bxg6?? Not just a tactical misfire, but a missed opportunity for a nice, probably winning positional bind.

[17.Nxb6! Bxb6 18.Ba3 Re8
19.Qb1! (Even better than 19.Qc2)
19...Bd7 20.Rd1 Black can't
straighten out.]

17...hxg6? And Black lets him get away with it!

[It wasn't easy to see all the complications after 17...Qxd1!
18.Rexd1 (18.Raxd1 Nxc4-+)
18...Nxc4 19.Bd4 hxg6 20.Rdc1
(20.Rac1 axb5 21.axb5 Ra4)
20...axb5 21.axb5 Rxa1 22.Bxa1

(Diagram)



Rd8! (suddenly it's all about back rank mate) 23.Bd4 (23.h4 Nb6! (guarding B/c8) 24.Rxc7 Rd1+ 25.Kh2 Rxa1 26.Ng5 Ra8 27.Rxf7 Nd5! Black covers all the 7th rank squares, so there's no mate for White. Which means that Black rook is ready to get to work!) 23...f6! 24.Rxc4 Bxe5! 25.h4 (or 25.h3) 25...Bxd4 (even better than 25...Bb8) 26.Nxd4 e5 It's "just a pawn," but White has problems and it might be fatal.] [Note that move order is critical: 17...Nxc4?? 18.Bxh7+!+- Kxh7 (18...Kh8 19.Bd4) 19.Qc2+]

18.Nd6?!

[18.Qc2 axb5 19.axb5 Bd7 20.Ba3 Bxb5!? 21.Nxb6 Rxa3 22.Rxa3 Bxb6 Certainly with both bishops and an extra pawn Black has practical chances, but Stockfish gives the plus to White; +0.68, which is in the "maybe draw, maybe White can win" range.]

18...Bxd6

[18...axb5=]

19.exd6 Nc4?!

(Diagram)

20.Bxg7!? The latest Stockfish frequently even ventures "!!" which has for 55-plus years has been the Chess Informant (and now everybody else's) symbol for "deserving attention."

[But 20.Bc3! gets the "!" ("good move")... Good heavens, I just looked in a recent Informant and it says it means "a very good move." !!]

20...Kxg7 21.Qd4+ Kg8?

[21...e5! 22.Qxc4 Qxd6±]

22.Qxc4 Qxd6

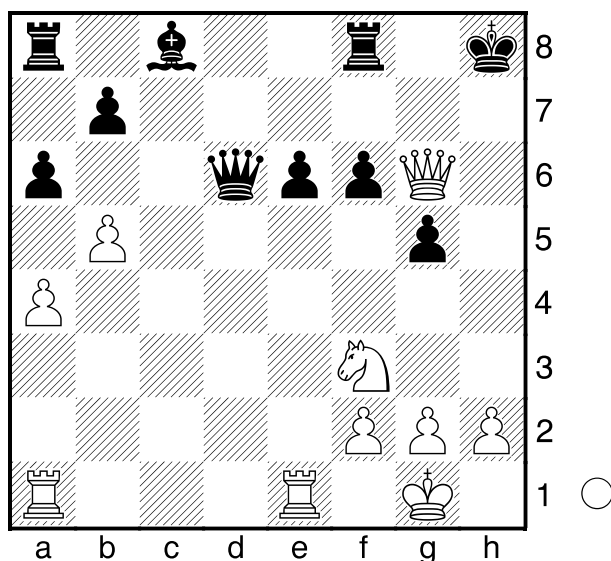
[22...axb5 23.Qd3!! is impressive calculation.]

23.Qh4! f6 24.Qh6 g5?!

[24...Qe7 25.Qxg6+ Qg7 26.Qb1! again -- keep the queens on!]

25.Qg6+ Kh8

(Diagram)



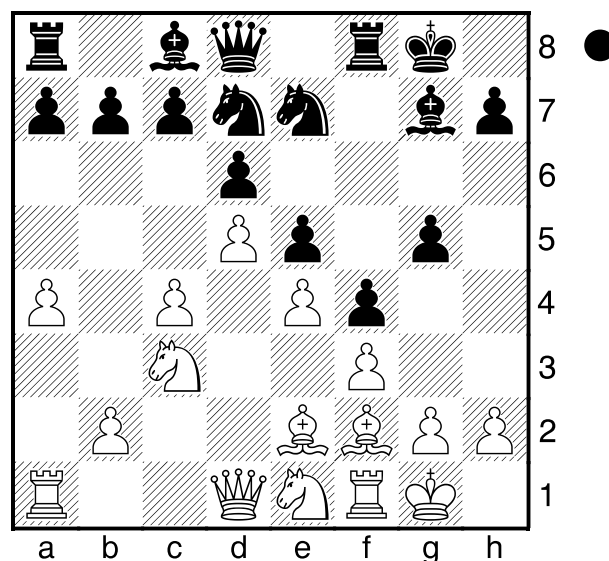
26.h4

[26.Re3! and 27.Nxg5 is curtains. g4
27.Qh5+ Kg7 28.Qxg4+ Kf7
29.Qh5+ Ke7 30.Nh4 Note Rd1
coming...]
26...g4?! 27.Qh5+ Kg7 28.Qxg4+ Kf7
29.Qh5+ Ke7 30.Rad1 Qb6 31.Nd4
e5 32.Qf3
[32.f4!]
32...axb5 33.Qa3+ Kf7 34.Qb3+ Be6
35.Nxe6 Qxe6 36.Rd7+
1-0

Allen, Ronald III E99 1525
Vandenhoven, Clarke Raymond 1351
2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (3.17)
[Winslow, Elliott]

Nothing like a wild Mar Del Plata King's
Indian to add spice to the Newsletter!
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5
Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4
12.Bf2 g5 13.a4

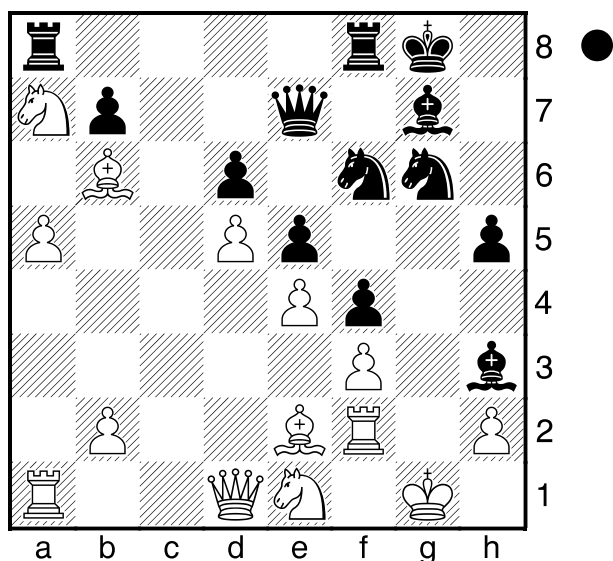
(Diagram)



Ng6

[13...a5! is worth a move to slow
White's attack. 14.Nd3 (14.Nb5 b6
15.Nd3 Nf6 16.b4 axb4 17.Nxb4
Bd7=) 14...b6 15.b4 axb4 16.Nxb4
Nc5]
14.a5 h5 15.Nb5 Nf6 16.c5?
[16.Nxa7 Bd7 17.c5]
16...g4?
[16...a6!]
17.cxd6 cxd6 18.Nxa7 gxf3
[Relevant: 18...Bd7 19.Nb5 Ne8
20.Nc3 g3 21.hxg3 fxg3 22.Bxg3
Qg5 23.Bh2 Nf6 24.Nd3 Qe3+
25.Kh1 h4 26.Qc1 Qd4 27.Bg1 Nh5
28.Qd2 Ng3+ 29.Kh2 Qc4 30.Nf4
Bh6 31.Nxg6 Bxd2 32.Bxc4 Nxf1+
33.Bxf1 Rf6 34.Nxh4 Bg5 35.Bf2
Rf4 36.g3 Rf6 37.Be2 Kf7 38.Nf5
Rh8+ 39.Kg2 Bxf5 40.exf5 Rfh6
41.Bg1 Rh1 42.Nd1 Bd2 43.Nf2
1-0 Kozak, A (2535)-Blohberger, F
(2502) Mitropa Cup Corte 2022 (8.2)]
[18...g3!? 19.Bb6 Qe7 20.Nxc8
Raxc8 21.Kh1± but not so much]
19.gxf3 Bh3 20.Bb6 Qe7 21.Rf2
[21.Nb5!]
[21.Kh1!?]

(Diagram)

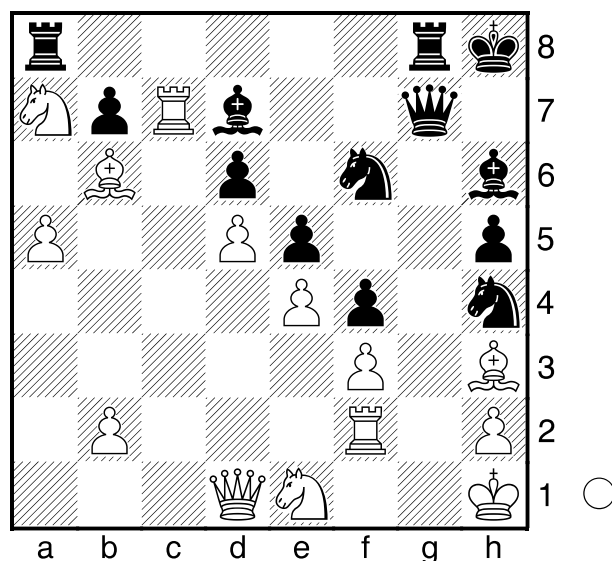


21...Nh4N

[Last time this occurred it went:
 21...Nd7 But White is better (but lost
 anyway). 22.Bf1 Qg5+ 23.Kh1 Qh4
 24.Qe2 Nf6 25.Nb5 Ng4 26.Bxh3
 Nxf2+ 27.Bxf2 Qxh3 28.Nxd6 Qd7
 29.Nxb7 Qxb7 30.Bc5 Rfb8 31.b4
 Nf8 32.Qc4 Qb5 33.Qxb5 Rxb5
 34.Nd3 Ra6 35.Rc1 Nd7 36.Be7
 Kf7 37.Rc6 Ra7 38.d6 Bf8 39.Bxf8
 Kxf8 40.Rc8+ Kf7 41.Nc5 Nxc5
 42.bxc5 Rbxa5 43.c6 Ra2 44.Kg1
 Ra1+ 45.Kg2 R7a2+ 46.Kh3 Rh1
 0-1 Wetzel,G (2165)-Scherer,F
 Hassloch op-A 1997 (6)]

**22.Kh1 Kh8 23.Rc1 Rg8 24.Bf1 Bd7
 25.Rc7 Bh6 26.Bh3 Qg7**

(Diagram)



**27.Ng2 Nxd7 28.Rxg2 Qh7 29.Bf5
 Qf7 30.Be6 Qh7 31.Rxg8+ Rxg8
 32.Bxg8 Kxg8 33.Rxb7 Nxe4
 34.Qg1+ Bg5 35.Rxd7 Qxd7 36.fxe4
 Qe7 37.h4 Qd7 38.Qxg5+**

Black resigns.

1-0

C58
 1540
 1238

□ Tsolias,Yorgos

■ Brickhouse,Christian

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (3.25)

[Brickhouse,Christian/(Winslow,Elliott)]

1.e4 e5 The only time I've played the
 Caro-Kann was in the previous game
 between Tsolias and me, so he said after
 the game that he wasn't expecting 1...
 e5. **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5
 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6
 8.Qf3!?** Tsolias said that this was prep,
 having seen me play the Two Knights
 Italian a number of times before. It paid
 off for him as I missed the correct move.
8...Qd5?

[8...Be7! 9.Bxc6+ Nxc6 10.Qxc6+
 Bd7 11.Qf3 0-0 Black is down two
 pawns but the bishop pair and open
 queenside provide adequate

compensation.]

9.Qxd5 Nxd5 The early attack is over, but Black is down a pawn and has a weak queenside. I have a dynamic advantage given that my pieces are better developed and the half-open files may be assets for the rooks. **10.Ba4**

Be7N

[10...Nb6!? corner the bishop 11.Bb3 f6 then harass the knight 12.Ne4 Nxb3 13.axb3 Black has the bishop pair but White has a half-open a-file. f5 Hansen, John - Ben Jazia, Bessem, 1-0, lichess.org]

11.Nf3 f6 12.c4 Nb6

[12...Nf4!? when d3 looks like a good place for a black knight]

13.Bb3? Black wins the pawn back because the capturing knight will be defended by the other knight.

13...Naxc4?! It wasn't clear OTB which knight was better. In hindsight, I think the b-knight was better. With the knight on a5, the pressure remains on the bishop.

[13...Nbxc4 14.Ba4 Nb6 15.Bc2]

[13...e4!? potential intermezzo since the c4 pawn isn't going anywhere.]

14.a3 Na5 15.Ba2 Ba6 16.Nc3

0-0-0!? With the white bishop on a2, I wasn't going to castle kingside. I considered not castling and walking the king to c7, but that seemed to take too long. While I'd prefer my h-rook on d8, castling queenside seemed more efficient even if I need to reposition my rooks later. **17.b4 Nb7 18.b5?**

EW: This is just bad.

[18.h4!?]

18...cxb5 19.0-0?

[19.Rb1!? EW: gets the pawn back, but White is even more convoluted than Black. SF: -+.]

19...b4-+ 20.axb4 Bxf1 21.Kxf1 Bxb4

Tsolias' argument here is that my light-square bishop was better than his rook,

and while down the exchange, he has opened up a lot of lines to my king. Practically, it's a tough position for Black given the lack of king safety, but if defended well, black has a clear advantage. (EW: Stockfish and Masters: "We are not amused.") **22.Nb5 a6?!**

23.Be6+ Kb8?!

[23...Nd7 24.Rxa6 Nbc5 25.Rc6+ Kb7 26.Bd5 Nb6 27.Rc7+ Kb8 28.Bf7 Nd3-+]

24.Rxa6+ Nd5 25.Na7?!

[25.d4!?]

25...Nc5 26.Nc6+ Kb7?

[26...Kc7-+]

27.Nxd8+?

[27.Bxd5!=]

27...Kxa6?!

[27...Rxd8! 28.Bxd5+ Kxa6-+]

Black is still up the exchange and closer to an endgame. (28...Rxd5?=)]

28.Nf7! Nxe6 29.Nxh8 I give back the exchange, but it will be difficult for the h8 knight to make its way home.

29...Ndf4?

[29...Nd4-+]

30.d4 exd4? I thought for maybe 10 minutes here considering a bunch of candidates, but I decided to play solid and went for a line that seemed equal. This was probably a strategic mistake and I should have been more aggressive.

[30...Nd3 31.Be3 e4 32.d5]

(32.Nh4!?) 32...Nef4 Black's winning the d-pawn.]

[30...e4 31.Nh4 (31.d5??) 31...Nd5+]

Passed pawn is blockaded and likely to be picked up soon.]

31.Bxf4 Nxf4 32.Nxd4 Kb6 33.g3

Bc5 34.Nf5 g6?! This weakens the h6 square and winds up freezing black's pawns. The better idea is probably to just drop the knight back and defend.

[34...Ne6]

35.Nh6 Nd3?! The idea is to try and win

a pawn using the knight and bishop, but the practical outcome is really just a waste of tempi for Black. White winds up getting to advance pawns while Black's pieces dance around making easily parried threats. **36.f3 Ne5 37.f4 Nd7 38.N8f7 Kc7?! 38... Kc6** is probably better since the knight on d7 prevents the king's progress. With the king on c6, he can simply walk around the White-controlled d6 square.

[Δ 38...Kc6 39.Nd8+ Kd6 40.Nb7+ Ke6 Black's king has arrived.]

39.h4 f5 40.Ng5 Nf6 41.Nhf7 Be7 42.Ne5 h6?!

[42...Nh5 43.Nxh7 Nxg3+

I missed that this was check when calculating in my head 44.Kg2 Nh5 45.Nxg6 Bd6 46.Kf3=]

[42...Kd6!?]

43.Ng7 g5 44.fxg5 hxg5 45.Nxg5 Ng4? 46.Nxg4 fxg4 Black can't defend the g4 pawn. **47.Ne4 Kd7 48.Nf2 Ke6 49.Nxg4 Kf5 50.Ne3+ Ke4**

[50...Kg6!?]

51.Ke2 Bd6 52.Nf1 Bxg3??

Thought this was a draw but missed the pawn is protected on c5. **53.Nxg3+ Kf4 54.h5 Kg5 55.Kf3 Kh6 56.Kf4 Kh7 57.Kg5 Kg7 58.Nf5+ Kh7 59.Kf6 Kh8 60.Kg6 Kg8 61.Nd6 Kh8 62.h6 Kg8 63.h7+ Kh8 64.Nf7# 1-0**

E94

□ **Dasika,Archit**

2143

■ **Winslow,Elliott**

2223

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 31.1.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Na6 8.Be3 Qe8

[8...c6 puts it in Kotronias's alternate recommendation in his

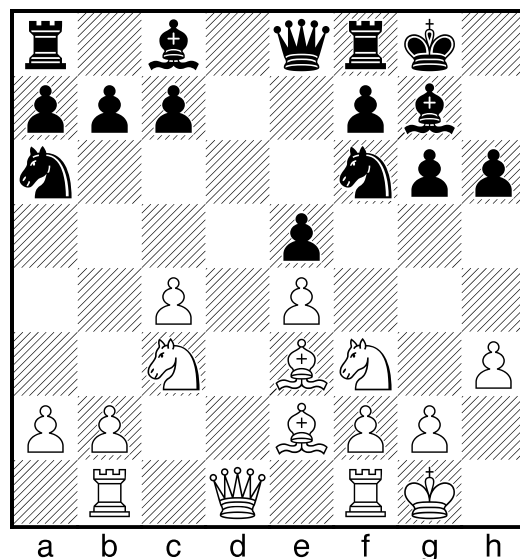
Grandmaster Repertoire book (which I had completely forgotten).]

[8...Ng4 9.Bg5 Qe8 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.h3 Nf6 12.Rb1 h6 13.Be3 was the order of the game below]

9.dxe5 dxe5 10.h3 h6

[10...Nh5]

11.Rb1



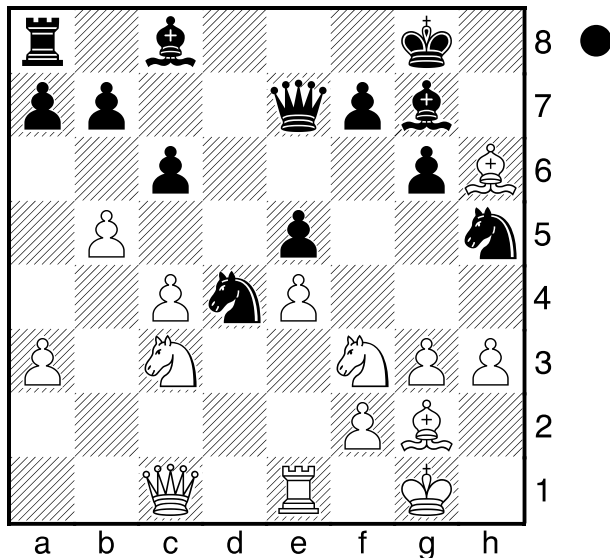
Qe7

[11...c6 12.Qd6 Nh5 13.b4 Qd8 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.b5 Nc7 16.Rfd1 Ne6 17.bxc6 bxc6 18.Rxd8+ Nxd8 19.Bd1 Nf4 20.Nd2 Nfe6 21.Na4 Nd4 22.Bxd4 exd4 23.Nc5 h5 24.Ba4 Bf8 25.Nd3 Be6 26.f4 a5 27.Rb6 Bb4 28.Nxb4 axb4 29.Bb3 c5 30.Kf2 Bd7 31.Rd6 Ra7 32.e5 Ne6 33.Ne4 Kf8 34.Kg3 Rc7 35.Nf6 Bc6 36.Nd5 Rc8 37.Nb6 Rc7 38.Nd5 Rc8 39.Bc2 Bxd5 40.Rxd5 Ke7 41.Kf3 Rc6 42.Ba4 Rc7 43.g3 Ra7 44.Bb3 Rc7 45.Ke4 f5+ 46.exf6+ Kxf6 47.g4 hxg4 48.hxg4 Re7 49.Re5 g5 50.Rf5+ Kg6 51.fxg5 d3 52.Kxd3 Rd7+ 53.Ke3 Nxg5 54.Rxc5 Re7+ 55.Kd3 Ne6 56.Rb5 1-0 Maksimenko,A (2541)-Budrewicz,K (2278) Znin op 2010 (3)]

12.a3 c6 13.b4 Nh5 14.Re1 Nf4

15.Bf1 Rd8 16.Qc2 Qf6 17.b5 Nc7

18.Rbd1 Rxd1 19.Qxd1 Nce6 20.g3
Nh5 21.Bg2 Qe7 22.Qc1 Nd4
23.Bxh6



Bxh3?!

[23...Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Bxh3 25.bxc6
bxc6 26.Na4=]

24.Nxd4 Bxg2? 25.Nxc6 Somehow I
thought I had ...Qh3 here... **25...bxc6**

26.Kxg2 Qe6 27.Bxg7

[27.bxc6+-]

27...Kxg7 28.Qe3 Qxc4 29.bxc6 Qxc6

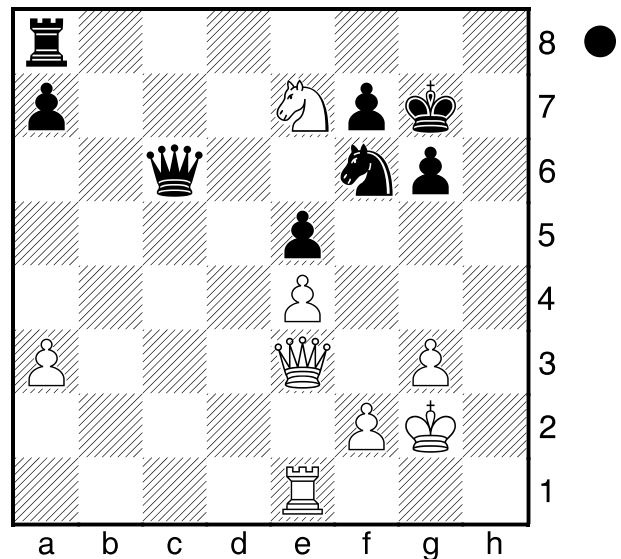
[29...Rc8 30.Nd5 Rxc6 31.Qxa7
Nf6]

30.Nd5

[30.Rh1]

30...Nf6 31.Ne7

(Diagram)



Qe6?

[31...Qb6!=]

32.Rh1+- Ng8 33.Nd5

[33.Nxg8 Rxg8 34.Qh6+ Kf6

35.Qh4+ Kg7 36.Qh7+ Kf8

37.Rd1+-]

33...Rc8± 34.Qg5 f5?! 35.Qh4 fxe4

36.Qh7+?

[36.Qh8+!]

36...Kf8 37.Ne3 Qf6

[37...Qf7!±]

38.Rd1 Rc2 39.Rf1 Re2 40.Qxa7

Qf3+ 41.Kg1 Nf6 42.Qb8+ Kf7

43.Qxe5 Nh5 44.Nd5 Ra2 45.Qe7+

Kg8 46.Qg5 Kg7

[46...Kh7!]

47.Ne7 Qf7

[47...e3!? 48.Qxg6+ Kf8 49.Nf5

exf2+ 50.Kh2 Re2±]

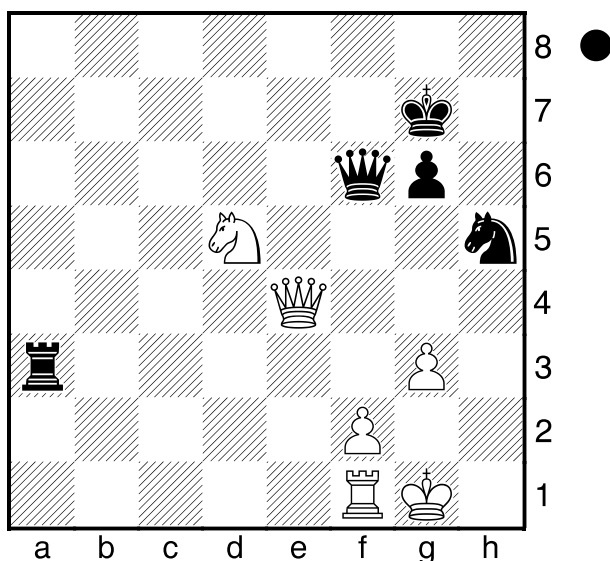
48.Qe5+ Qf6?!

[48...Nf6]

49.Qxe4 Rxa3 50.Nd5?

[50.Qb7!±]

(Diagram)



50...Qd6??

[50...Rxc3+! (0.00) Such a tactical shot to miss! 51.Kh2 (51.fxc3 Qxf1+!) 51...Qd6= (51...Qf3=)]

51.Re1 Nxc3?

[51...Ra5 52.Ne3 Nf6 53.Qb7+ Qd7 54.Qb4 Ra4 55.Qc3 Qd4 56.Qc7+ Qd7 57.Qe5 Re4 58.Qg5 Kf7 borderline, maybe holdable]

52.Qd4+- Kh6?!

[52...Kf7 53.Qc4! (only move) Nf5 54.Rb1+-]

53.Qd2+?!

[53.Qh8+ Kg5 54.Re5+]

53...Kg7?!

[53...g5!]

54.Re7+ Kg8 55.Re8+ Kg7 56.Re7+ Kg8 57.Nf6+ Kf8

[57...Qxf6 58.Qd5+!]

58.Qxd6

1-0

Griffith, Kyron Waykuan

B11

Zhou, Ivan

2450

1814

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 31.1.23
[Winslow, Elliott]

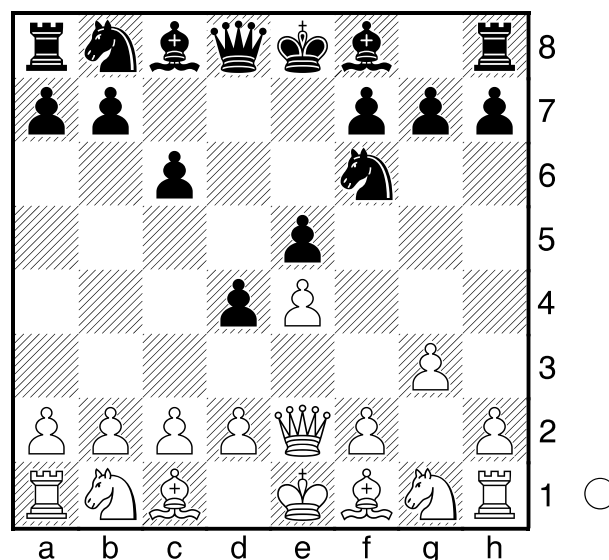
This game was missing about half the moves in the round file, so here it all is, but it's worthwhile regardless. Another Kyron victory, maybe not the smoothest, but entertaining from the early opening on! **1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Qe2**

What the...? But already over 300 games in the database! Zvjaginsev plays it a lot, but Pridorizhni is the big adherent. I suspect people play the Caro Kann against him just to see 3.Qe2! **3...d4**

4.Nb1

[4.Nd1 is "Prid's" pref (and Alekseev, to add some superstar power).]

4...e5 5.g3 Nf6

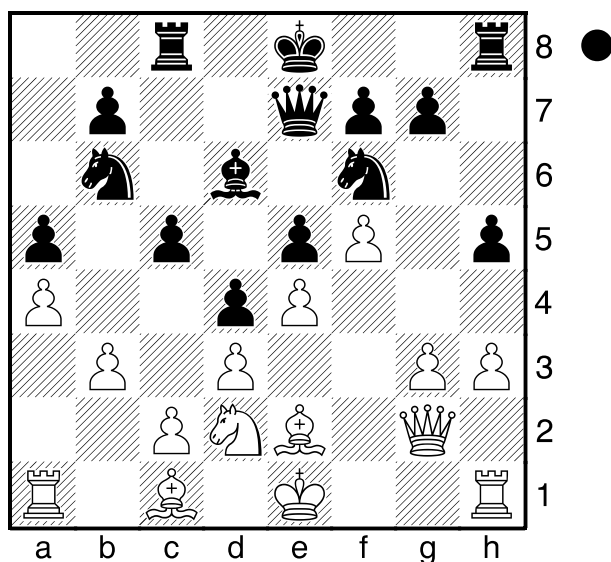


6.f4N

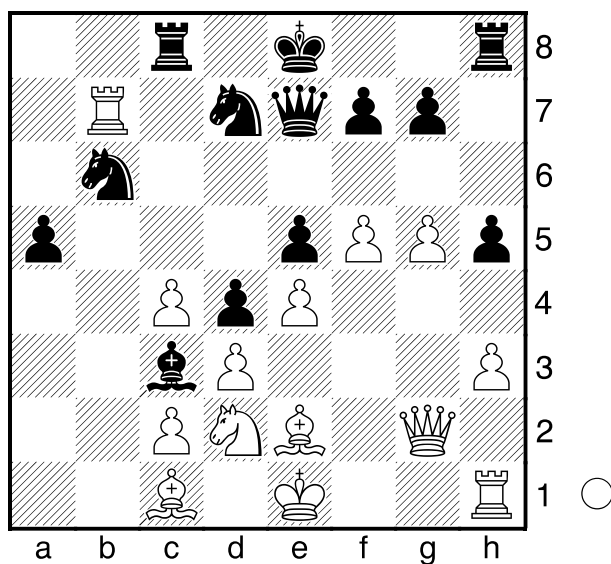
[The less radical 6.Bg2 worked out in this game: Bd6 7.d3 Be6 8.f4 Bg4 9.Bf3 Bxf3 10.Nxf3 Nbd7 11.0-0 Qe7 12.fxe5 Bxe5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.Nd2 c5 15.Nc4 Qe6 16.Bf4 0-0 17.a4 Nd5 18.Qh5 Nxf4 19.Rxf4 f6 20.Raf1 b6 21.Rh4 h6 22.Rf5 Qf7 23.Qg4 Kh7 24.Rfh5 Rad8 25.Qh3

Qg6 26.Rg4 Qf7 27.Nd6 Qa2
 28.Rxg7+ Kxg7 29.Qg4+ Kh7
 30.Rxh6+ 1-0 Ootes,L (2197)-
 Lindeman,J (2032) NED-chT 1112
 Netherlands 2011 (9.6)]

6...Bd6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3
 Nbd7 10.d3 Qe7 11.Nd2 Nb6 12.Be2
 c5 13.a4 a5 14.b3 h5 15.f5 Rc8
 16.Qg2



c4!? 17.bxc4 Bb4 18.g4 Bc3
 [18...hxg4 19.hxg4 Rxh1+ 20.Qxh1
 Kd8]
 19.Rb1 Nxa4 20.g5 Nd7 21.Rxb7
 Nab6



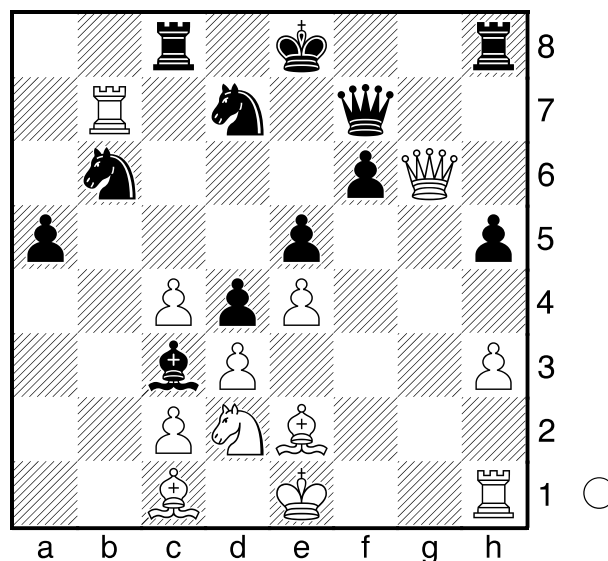
22.f6! gxf6 23.g6?

[23.0-0!±]

[23.gxf6!±]

23...fxg6 24.Qxg6+ Qf7

[24...Kd8!? 25.Bxh5 Rc6=]



25.Qf5?!

[25.Qxf7+ Kxf7=]

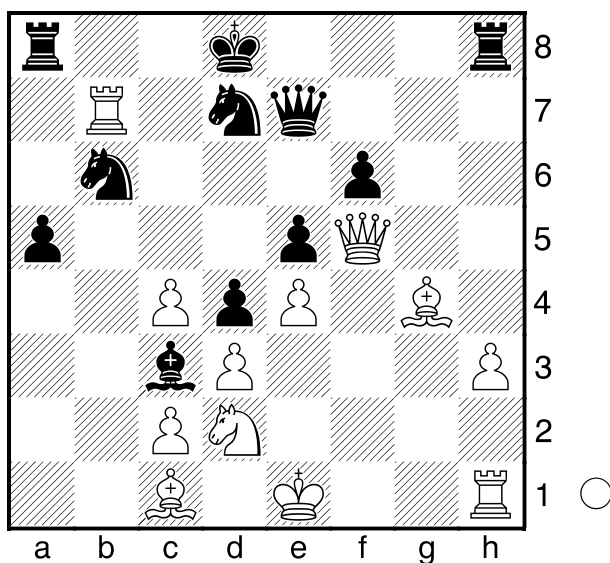
25...Qe7

[25...Kd8!?]

26.Bxh5+ Kd8 27.Bg4± Ra8??-+

[27...Rc7! 28.Rxc7 (28.Rxb6 Nxb6
 29.Ba3 Bb4=) 28...Kxc7 29.Qe6 Qg7
 30.Ke2 Bb4±]

(Diagram)



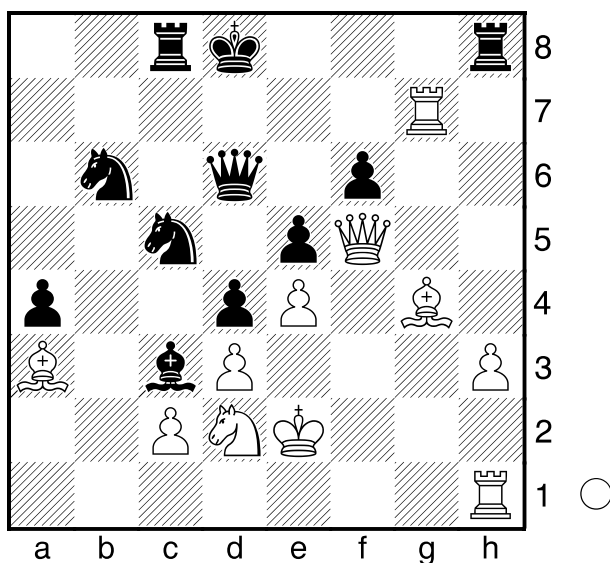
Nobody likes to defend! (Okay that's not true. But it's *hard* to defend. THAT is true.) **28.Ke2** Still winning, in other words anything works.

[28.c5! is a squasher though.]

28...Qd6 29.c5! Still the best. **29...Nxc5 30.Rg7! a4?!**

[30...Bxd2 31.Bxd2 Nbd7 32.h4 "etc." wins]

31.Ba3 Rc8



32.Nc4! Black's two knights, defending d7, topple.

1-0

Walder, Michael

Suarez, Sebastian

B41

2041

1945

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (4.3) 31.1.23

[Tactical Analysis 5.3 (9s)]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4

a6 5.Bd3 Qc7 6.c4

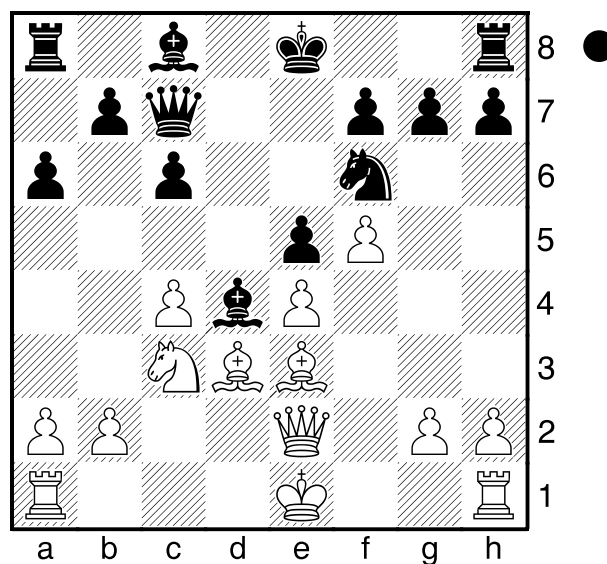
[6.0-0]

6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Nxc6 dxc6 9.f4

e5 10.f5 Bc5 11.Qe2 -0.43/28

[11.Qf3= 0.00/29]

11...Bd4 12.Be3



Bd7N

[Predecessor: 12...Nd7 13.0-0 a5

14.Qf2 Qb6 15.Rae1 f6 16.Kh1

Bxe3 17.Rxe3 Qd4 18.Rd1 Nb6

19.Be2 Qc5 20.Bh5+ Ke7 21.Rg3

Qxf2 22.Rxg7+ Kf8 23.Rf7+ Ke8

24.Rxh7+ 1-0 (24) Dani,P (2205)-

Krutti,V (2355) Hajduboszormeny

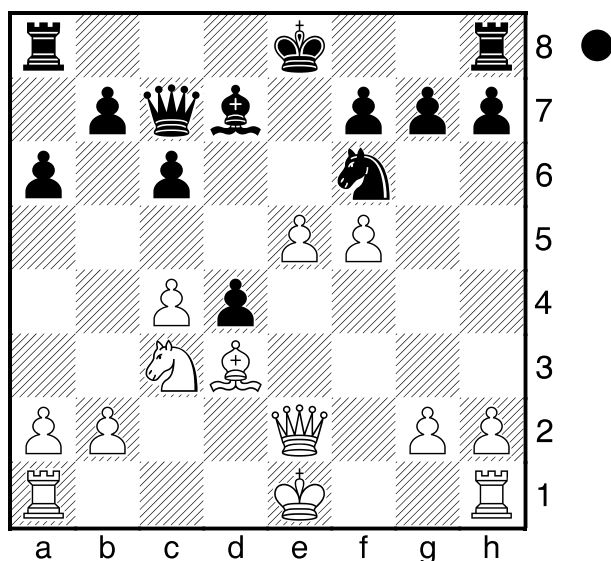
1995]

13.Bxd4? -1.96/31

[White should try 13.0-0-0 -0.38/27]

13...exd4+ 14.e5

(Diagram)



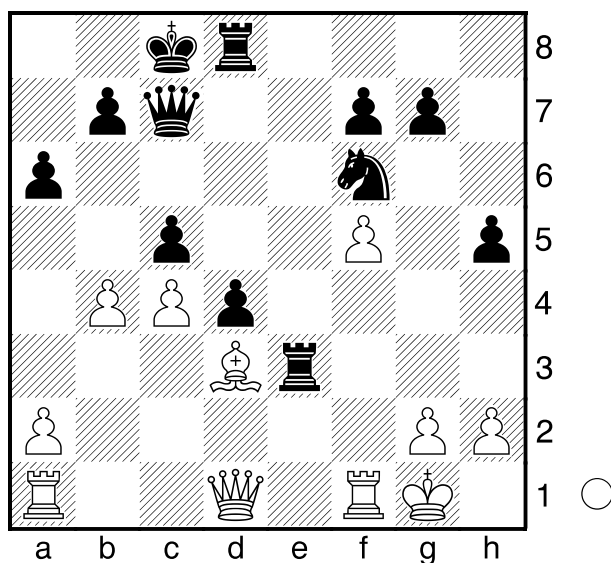
0-0-0! 15.0-0? -5.13/25

[15.exf6 -1.88/30 was the crucial defense. dxc3 16.0-0 (16.fxg7? Rhe8+-)]

15...Rhe8 Black is clearly winning.

[Weaker is 15...dxc3 16.exf6 gxf6 17.bxc3]

16.Na4 Rxe5 17.Qd1 c5 18.b4 Bxa4 19.Qxa4 Re3 20.Qd1 Inhibits Ng4. 20...h5



White must now prevent ...Ng4. 21.h3 Against Ng4 21...Rde8 (→ ...Rxh3!) 22.Qc2 Qg3 23.Rad1 Nd7 Hoping for ...Ne5. 24.Rf2 Re1+ 25.Bf1 Rxd1

26.Qxd1 Qh4 27.Qa4 Re3 Threatens to win with ...d3. 28.b5 axb5 29.Qxb5 Qf6 30.Be2 Qe5 31.Qb2 d3 32.Qxe5 Nxe5 33.Bxh5 Nxc4 Endgame KRB-KRN 34.f6 g6 35.Bxg6 d2

[Much less strong is 35...fxg6 36.f7 Kd7 37.f8Q+-]

36.Bc2 Re1+ 37.Kh2 Ne3 38.g4 Nxc2 39.Rxd2 Nd4 And now ...Nf3+ would win. 40.Rf2 Prevents Nf3+. 40...Re4 41.g5 Ne6 42.g6 fxg6 43.f7 Nf8

White got outplayed after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.80/ Black=0.26 (precise)

0-1

D00

□ Arun,Siddharth

2186

■ Hao,Max

2023

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (4.4) 31.1.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bf4 Yes, it's the Jobava System, or Jobava-London, or Veresov-Jobava or whatever it's called.

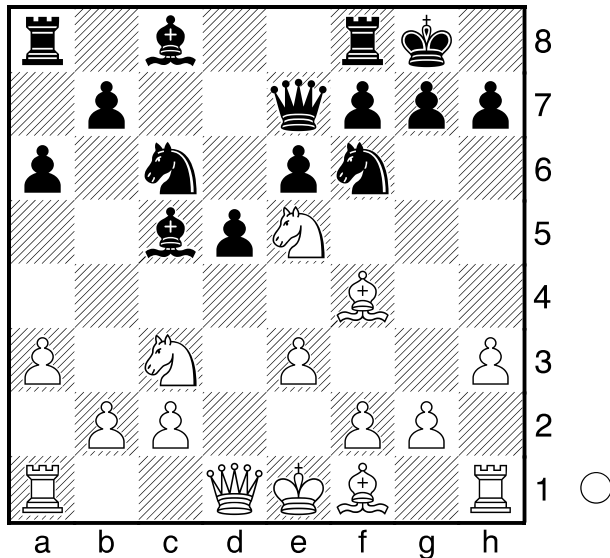
Note the Barry System has Ng1-f3 in there already. Ah, but after his recent rant are we going to have to "cancel" his signature and call it something else?

3...a6 Is the "threat" of 4.Nb5 really that disruptive!? 4.e3 c5

[4...b5 5.h4 h5 6.Nf3 e6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.Ne2 c5 9.c3 Nbd7 10.Ng5 Qb6 11.a4 c4 12.Bc2 Bd6 13.0-0 Ne4 14.Bxe4 dxe4 15.Ng3 Be7 16.Qc2 Qc6 17.Qxe4 Nb6 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qxc6+ Bxc6 20.e4 0-0 21.Nxh5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Bxe4 23.Be5 Rxa1 24.Rxa1 Ra8 25.Rxa8+ Bxa8 26.Bd6 Kh7 27.Nf4 Be4 28.f3 Bc2 29.Kf2 Nd5 30.Nh5 Kg6 31.g4 f5 32.Kg3 fxg4 33.fxg4 Kf7 34.Nf4 ½-½ Erigaisi,A (2628)-Carlsen,M (2834) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (5)]

5.dxc5 e6 6.a3 Bxc5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.h3

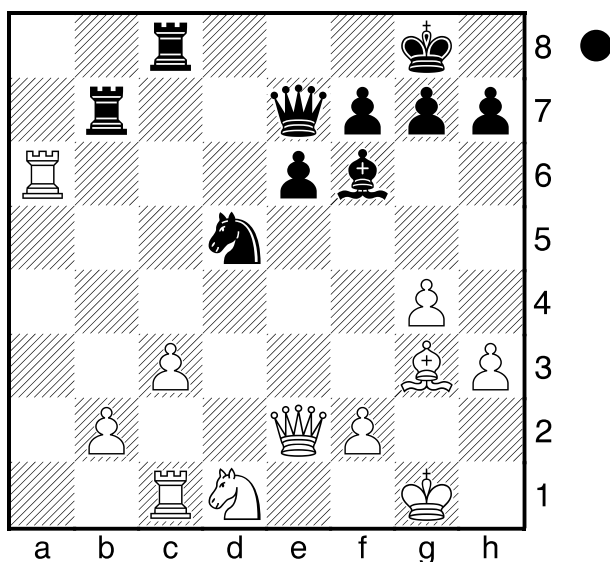
Qe7 9.Ne5 0-0



10.g4N

[In the precedent game White played spinelessly and suffered accordingly:
10.Bd3 Rd8 11.Qf3 Bd7 12.Qg3 Nh5 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Qg5 Nxf4 15.Qxf4 e5 0-1 Cognata,D (1470)-Rocchi,E (1881) Biella Vercelli Province-ch 2015 (1)]

10...Rd8 11.Qf3 Nd7 12.Nxd7 Rxd7 13.Bg2 b5 14.0-0 Bb7 15.Bg3 b4 16.axb4 Nxb4 17.Qe2 Rc8 18.Rfc1 d4 19.Bxb7 Rxb7 20.exd4 Bxd4 21.Nd1 Bf6 22.c3 Nd5 23.Rxa6



Oh, come on! It can't be that easy! If it is, sign me up (and don't tell my opponents!). **23...Bg5 24.Rca1 Rd8 25.Ra8 Rbd7 26.Rxd8+ Qxd8 27.c4 Nb6 28.c5 Nc8 29.Nc3 Rd2 30.Qf3 Rd3 31.Qb7 Rxd3+ 32.fxd3 Be3+ 33.Kh2 1-0**

A00
1692
1712
Macnee,Felix
Ivanenko,Anthony
2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (4.8)
[Ivanenko,Tony]

Let me include this spectacular game, this time with the actual annotator credited! Mr. Ivanenko is a recent addition to the Tuesday Night Marathon world, and is tearing up the 1600-1999 section so far. And, his annotations have been well worth the reading. **1.b4** The Polish Opening is certainly an interesting one - I wouldn't go so far as to call it sound, but it definitely has some bite to it with all the potentially open lanes and channels for White. However, it poses no difficult to Black if he knows the theory, which is probably why it should be used sparingly in one's repertoire lest he is willing to run into prep. **1...e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.e3 0-0 5.Nf3 d5 6.Be2** Up to this point, both players have been following the mainline theory. Here, however, a more modern approach should be taken since Black is preparing to grab the space on the Q-side:

[**6.c4 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.a3 Ba5 9.Qc2 Nc6 10.Bb2**∞ And while this position is comfortable for Black, White does have some active play on those open diagonals.]

6...c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d4?! Since the White's b-pawn is gone, he needs to

preserve his precious d-pawn lever. Otherwise, he will quickly run out of resources to create Q-side space for himself. **8...c4** Showcasing why it is important to keep the d-pawn safe until c4 is plugged. White has no hope of budging that monster pawn until he vies for control over the e4-square. Interestingly enough, it is one of two options to approach this position, though I do consider it quite simpler.

[8...Ne4 9.a3 Ba5 10.dxc5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Be6 12.Nf3 Rc8+ was my silicon friend's other preference, utilizing its control over the dark squares to constrain White's development. I quite like it, the position is dynamic, but it is a tad bit more difficult to coordinate.]

9.c3N Ba5 The best spot for the bishop is to stare at the fixated weakness: the c3 pawn. **10.Qc2 Ne4?** D'oh! There are times when one thinks of the big picture too much and forgets about the little things. 10...Ne4 makes sense from a number of perspectives: the knight is activated on a dangerous outpost, doubling up on the c3-pawn and constraining the b1-knight to its square; the K-side is ripe for the taking; and the bishop is about to be kicked. If only the d5-pawn wasn't overloaded...

[10...b5 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.Rfc1 a6 13.Bf4 Bg4 14.a3 Bh5 15.Qb2 Nd7+ Swinging the knight over to a4 and pressing on White's sensitive dark squares.]

11.Bxc4 Bf5 12.Bd3 Rc8 Fortunately for Black, White had just spent two tempi on moving the bishop and the so-called "sacrifice" did open up a channel for him to use: the c-file. **13.a3** The crucial moment of the game. I spent nearly half an hour on the following move. It is easy to look at the engine analysis and conclude that it is a drawn game, but

this position is far more complicated than that. As such, I chose the most complicated continuation in hopes to out-calculate my opponent. **13...Bxc3!?** There are so many elements layered onto this move. White chose the correct continuation, but first, let's examine the alternative. **14.Nxc3**

[14.Bxe4?? Bxe4 The simplest and most elegant. For some reason, I was calculating 14...Nxd4 when I played 13...Bxc3, and that is not even winning. (14...Nxd4 15.Bxd4! Bxa1 16.Bxf5 Rxc2 17.Bxc2 Bxd4 18.Nxd4= Is actually drawn, surprisingly enough, with three minors for the queen. However, it is quite difficult to hold.) 15.Qxc3 Nxe5-+ Is winning for Black. White has to abandon the queen due to all the mating threats.]

14...Nxe5 15.Bxe4?? White cracks under pressure, blundering after an almost hour's examination of the position by both players.

[15.Nxe5 Rxc3 16.Qb2 (16.Qe2 f6 17.Nf3 Ng3 18.hxg3 Bxd3 19.Qd2 Qc7 20.Rfc1 Rc8 21.Rxc3 Qxc3+ Was looked at in the post-game analysis and both players agreed Black stands better in this endgame.; 16.Qd1 f6 17.Nf3 Was actually examined during kibitzing, but here I missed a fantastic continuation: Nxf2! 18.Rxf2 Bxd3-+ The weak a3- and e3-pawns will end up as nice targets for Black's active pieces.) 16...Qb6 17.Qxb6 axb6 18.Rfc1 Rfc8 19.Rxc3 Rxc3= And this is drawn, though it does feel like Black is the one playing for two results with all his activity.]

15...Bxe4? Winning, but imprecise. Better is:

[15...Nxf3+! The bishop is skewered to the queen. 16.gxf3 dxe4 Bringing the pawn into the game as

well and generating threats against the king. 17.Kh1 Qh4 18.fxe4 Bh3+- Threatening ...Rxc3 and ...Qxe4.]

16.Qd1 Nxf3+ 17.gxf3 Bf5 The best square for the bishop, maintaining control of b1-h7 and eyeing the h3-square. **18.Ne2 Rc6** A flexible move. Black is both threatening to swing the rook to the h-file to generate mating threats against the h2-pawn and to double up the rooks on the c-file. **19.Ng3 Bc2?!** In hindsight, not the best move, but it was quite cheeky, aiming to gain a tempo off the queen. The bishop is rather misplaced on c2 though.

[19...Bd7 20.f4 Rg6 21.Rc1 Bh3 22.Re1 h5+- Aiming to dislodge the secure knight to generate mating threats on g2.]

20.Qe2 Qh4 21.Kg2?

[21.Rfc1 Rfc8 22.e4 Qd8+ And White has complicated matters.]

21...Rh6 22.Rh1 Qh3+ 23.Kg1

The poor rook is now entombed on h1, effectively leaving White a piece down. Now's the time to focus on whole board play and aim towards the Q-side with our more mobile pieces! **23...Rc8 24.Rc1 Rhc6 25.Qf1 Qd7** I didn't particularly want to trade off pieces yet as Black's advantage was defined by his vastly superior mobility, so I wanted to consolidate the position a bit first.

[25...Bf5 26.Rxc6 Rxc6 27.Nxf5 Qxf5+- Was much better according to my silicon friend, but I didn't see (nor care to see at this point) the threat of ...Rg6+.]

26.Re1 Rc3 27.Qg2 Rxa3?!

[EW: Stockfish sidesteps with 27...Kh8!]

28.e4?!

[EW: And here better is 28.Nh5! but Black still wins with Bg6! 29.Nf4 b5+-]

28...dxe4 29.Nh5 I'm ashamed to admit

I almost fell out the chair at this move since I missed this little trick. Fortunately I gained my bearings at the end and spotted the proper defense, but I was seriously considering 29...Kf8 for a minute or two! **29...Qxd4! 30.fxe4 Rc6 31.e5 Rg6 32.Ng3 Ra1** Black is simply going to emerge three pawns up after all these trades, which is simply too much, so White resigned.

0-1

C00

□ **Moisselin, Simon**

1516

■ **Kingma, Karl Stuart**

1683

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (4.12)

[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 e6

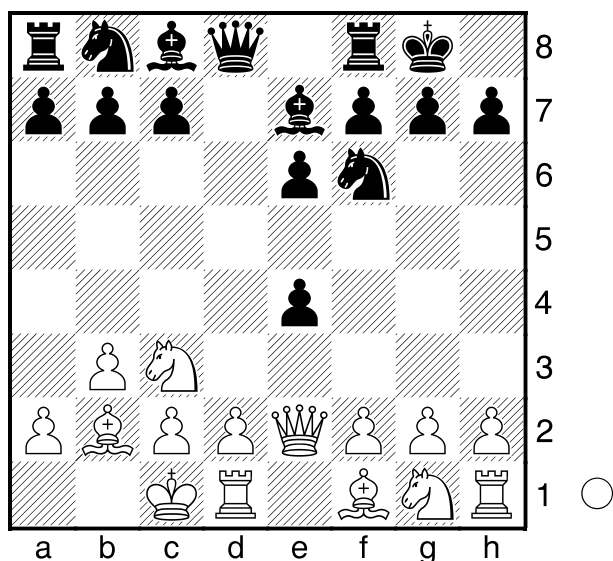
[IM John Grefe had the occasional fondness for 1...c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3]

2.b3 There is some logic to this (there might even be a book or two on it), but when the computers are already giving Black some advantage you have to ask what you're doing! Still, it's unbalanced and can be fun (and opposite sides castling is always exciting)... **2...d5**

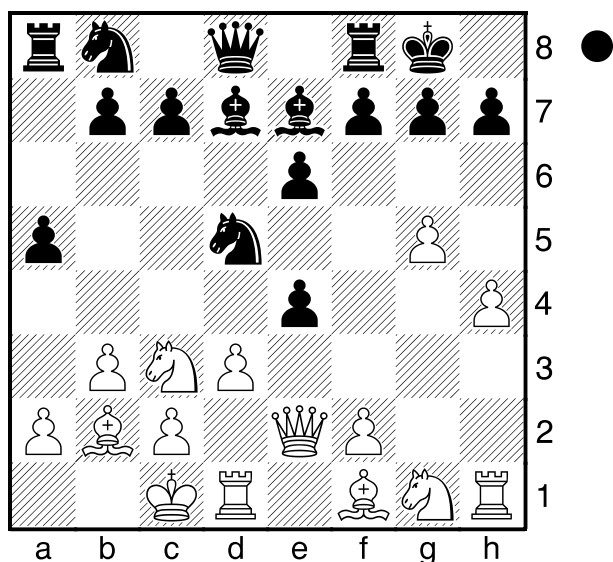
3.Bb2 dxe4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Be7

6.0-0-0 0-0

(Diagram)



7.g4!? a5! 8.g5 Nd5 9.h4
 [9.Qxe4 Bxg5 10.Nf3 f5 11.Qe1 Bf6]
9...Bd7 10.d3?



Ba3! 11.Nxd5 Bxb2+ 12.Kxb2 exd5
13.dxe4 d4 14.Bh3?
 [14.a4!]
14...c5
 [14...a4!]
15.f4?! a4+ 16.Bxd7 Qxd7 17.Nf3
axb3
 [17...Nc6]
18.cxb3
 [18.axb3!]

18...Nc6 19.h5 Nb4
 [19...b5!]
20.a3?
 [20.a4!]
20...Rxa3 21.Ra1 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 Qg4!
23.Nxd4 Qxf4 24.Nf3 Nc6
 [24...b5 25.Ra5 c4 26.Rxb5 Nd3+]
25.g6 hxg6
 [25...fxg6! 26.hxg6 Qf6+]
26.hxg6 Qf6+ 27.e5 Qxg6 28.Rh1
Rd8 29.Qh2 Kf8 30.Qh8+ Ke7
31.Qh4+ Kd7
 [31...Ke8 32.Qh8+ Kd7]
32.Qh3+
 [32.Rg1 Qf5]
32...Qe6
 [32...Kc7]
33.Qg3 g6 34.Qf4 Kc7 35.Rh7 Rd7
36.Ka3 Nb4
 [36...Kb6!]
37.Qe4 Rd3 38.Nd4 Qa6+
0-1

D37
 1112
 1356
 Cao,Danny Du Uy
 Horde,Nicolas
 2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (4.28)
 [Horde,Nicolas]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 a6
5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 h6
8.Bh4 c6 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4?!
 Suspicious, this is too early **11.h3**
 [11.Qb3! Bxf3 (11...Bc8 Like in the exchange slav, admitting moving the LSB out of the pawn chain was a mistake) 12.Qxb7 Nbd7 13.gxf3 White is up a pawn at a cost of a weakened pawn structure]
11...Bh5
 [11...Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nbd7]
12.Rc1?
 [12.Qb3 Bxf3 13.Qxb7 Nbd7 14.gxf3 Same idea as before]
 [12.g4 Bg6 13.Bxg6 fxg6 14.Ne5

Kh7 15.Qc2 Qe8 White is still better but it's still a game]

12...Nbd7 13.Re1 Re8
 [13...Ne4! Typical idea against Nf3...
 14.Bxe7 (14.Bxe4?? dxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxh4) 14...Qxe7 15.Qc2 f5]

14.Be2 Bg6 15.Qb3 Qc8
 [15...Ra7 The rook is passive but at least the queen is not under the same file as the c rook 16.Bg3 Ne4]

16.Bxf6 Nxf6 17.Ne5 Bf5 18.g4 Bh7?!
 [18...Be6 19.f4 Keeping the pieces towards White's king, the LSB is a little too passive on h7]

19.Qd1 Bd6 20.f4 h5?
 [20...Qe6! White's attack is going nowhere 21.Bf3 Rad8 22.Qd2 Nd7 23.Bg2 With still all pieces on the board against a very weak White's king]

21.Bf3! hxc4 22.hxc4 Very dangerous to open the h file when White's heavy pieces can infiltrate more easily than me due to my h7 bishop but at least I keep creating weaknesses on the kingside for White **22...Nd7??**
 Obviously overlooking a simple tactic [22...Qe6]

23.Nxd5 Rb8 Making sure I keep the bishop pair, the position is still winning for White but at least I have the bishop pair and possibility to open the position [23...Qd8 24.Nxd7 Qxd7 25.Nb6 Losing even more material]
 [23...Nxe5 24.dxe5 Bc7 25.Nxc7 Qxc7 Trading even more pieces]

24.Nxd7 Qxd7 25.Nc3 Qe7 26.Qd2 Rbd8 27.Qf2
 [27.Qh2 I thought this would had been the best plan with Kg2 and Rh1 f6 28.Kg2 g5 29.Qh5!]

27...c5?! The engine does not like it but I think it's the best practical option

28.dxc5
 [28.Nd5 Qf8 29.Qh4! And my pieces

are all paralyzed]

28...Bxc5 29.Nd5 Qd6
 [29...Rxd5?? I really thought this would trade back everything but...
 30.Bxd5 Bxe3 31.Rxe3 Qxe3
 32.Qxe3 And Black can't take the queen because of Rc8#. At least I saw it...]

30.Qe2 b5 31.a3??
 [31.f5! Keeping Black's LSB at bay]

31...Be4! Black's worse piece and the knight on D5 is very annoying **32.Nc3?!**
 [32.Bxe4 Rxe4 33.Qf3 Qxd5
 34.Rxc5 Qxc5 35.Qxe4 White is still up a pawn but their king is very weak and I thought this would had been holdable]

32...Bd3!? My opponent is down to 5 minutes so this move keeps the position still very complicated. I am still down a pawn but I have total domination over the board. SF gives a minus edge for Black with some miracle defenses but in practice it's a nightmare
 [32...Bxf3 33.Qxf3 Rxe3 34.Rxe3 Qd2 35.Rd1 Qxe3+ 36.Kg2 Rxd1! (36...Qxf3+ 37.Kxf3 Rxd1 38.Nxd1 This is equal) 37.Nxd1 Qd2+ Very important to keep the queen on the board when White's king is so weak 38.Kf1 SF gives -1 but in practice I can play forever with little risks]

33.Qf2
 [33.Qg2 Qxf4 This idea is always lurking]
 [33.Qd2 Qxf4]

33...Qb6
 [33...g5! 34.b4 (34.fxc5?? Bxe3! The idea behind g5 35.Rxe3 Rxe3 36.Qxe3 Qg3+ 37.Kh1 Kg7! With the threat of Rh8) 34...Ba7 35.Nd5 And the position is still complicated but why enter something like this but we are both low on time?]

34.Nd5 Rxd5! I immediately saw that

this is working this time because I spent 10 minutes calculating the exact same variation on move 29 and it did not work because of the back rank mate. Now that the king has an escape on h7 it is obvious it works **35.Bxd5 Rxe3!**

36.Kg2! To be honest I did not see this defense. This is the only way to keep equality so hats off to my opponent for finding this move with 3 minutes on the clock...

[36.Rxc5?? Rxe1+ 37.Qxe1 Qxc5+ 38.Qf2 Qxd5 Black is up a piece]

[36.Rf1?? Rg3+]

[36.Bxf7+ Kxf7 There's no intermediate check 37.Rxc5 Rxe1+ 38.Qxe1 Qxc5+ Black is up a piece again]

36...Re2!

[36...Bc4 Keeping the mess, I would had never played that though

37.Rxc4 bxc4 38.Rxe3 Bxe3 Equal]

37.Rxe2 Bxf2 38.Re8+?? Trying to look for counterplay but there's nothing

[38.Rc8+!! This is the best defensive move by SF. Giving it here as this line is just insane. The entire line is equal for both players but unplayable with so little time on the clock Kh7

39.Re5!! Basically saying that Black lacks one tempo to checkmate White's king thus SF has time to get a quiet move g5! The most testing defense (39...Qa7 40.Rh5+ Kg6 41.Rc6+ f6 42.Rg5+ Kh6 43.Rh5+ Perpetual; 39...Qd4 40.Rh5+ Kg6 41.Rc6+ f6 42.Rg5+ Kh6 43.Rh5+ Perpetual) 40.Re7

A) 40...Qd4 41.Rec7 (41.Rxf7+ Kh6 42.Rc6+ Bg6 43.Rff6 Qxd5+ 44.Kxf2 Kh7 45.Rxg6 Qd2+ 46.Kf1 And Black needs to keep checking and get the perpetual but what a line...);

B) 40...Bg6 41.f5! White gets the quality back and excellent

counterplay]

[38.Rxf2 We enter an imbalanced endgame with B+Q vs 2R+Q. I estimated that the position is slightly better for Black as White's king is weak. I also have 15 minutes on the clock vs 1 minute for my opponent so it's much easier to play for me]

38...Kh7 39.Rh1+ Kg6 40.f5+ Kg5 41.Rh5+ Kf4 42.Rh4?? Bxh4 43.Bxf7

Qf2+ Black played the illegal Kh2 and resigned but there's mate in 2 to follow. Definitely not my best game from an opening standpoint but a nice save for once

0-1

E18

103

1274

☐ **Le,Thu**

☒ **Singer,Andrew**

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (4.33)

[Singer,Andrew/(Winslow,Elliott)]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Be7 4.Bg2 d5 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 b6 7.Ne5 Bb7 8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.Qc2 Bd6 10.Bf4 Rb8 11.e4

dxc4 12.Rfe1 Turns out the sequence 12. Nc6 .. Bxc6 13.e5 ... Bxg2 14. Kxg2 followed by 15.ex whatever does not work. I did not realize this during the game and thought I blundered a piece expecting Black to play 12 Nc6 but after 14... Nh5 15 exd6 the continuation is terrible for White (15.... Nxf4 16.gxf4.. cxd6 and White's pawn structure is destroyed and king is exposed, material is close to even as well). **12...Nh5**

13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Bxd6

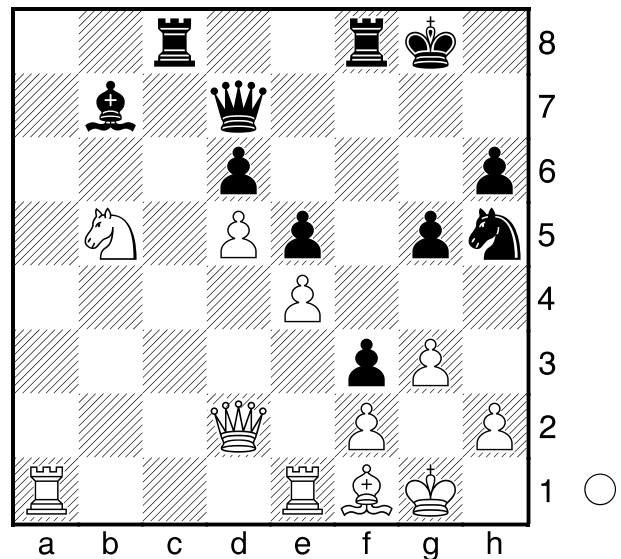
[(EW: I thought at a glance 14.Be3 was the better, keeping the better minor, but the computer glances back and has Black fine after Bb4)]

14...cxd6 15.d5?!

[15.Qe2! (EW: Double Attack!) Nf6 16.Qxc4 d5= (16...Nxe4 17.Nxe4

Bxe4 18.Bxe4 d5 19.Bxh7+=]
15...e5?
 [15...exd5 16.exd5 b5 17.a4 a6
 18.axb5 axb5 19.b3 b4 20.Ne4 c3=
 21.Qd1!? f5!? (21...Nf6 22.Nxf6+
 gxf6=) 22.Nxc3!? Nxg3!? 23.hxg3
 bxc3 24.Rc1 f4 25.Rxc3 fxg3
 26.Rxg3 Bc8!=]
16.a4?!
 [16.Qe2!±]
16...a6?! (EW: Black should guard
 something!) **17.Bf1?!**
 [17.Qe2]
17...Rbc8
 [17...b5!]
18.b3 b5?!
 [18...cxb3 19.Qxb3 Rc5! 20.Nd1 f5!
 21.Qxb6 fxe4 22.Ne3 Nf6=]
19.axb5 axb5 20.bxc4 bxc4 21.Qa2
 [(EW: *White* has a clear plus after
 21.Qb2!)]
21...f5
 [21...Nf6]
22.Bxc4
 [22.Bh3! g6 23.Reb1 Rc7 24.Rb6±]
22...f4
 [22...Qc7!]
23.Nb5 f3
 [23...fxg3 24.fxg3 Ra8̄]
24.Bf1± g5? 24...g5 is a blunder but it's
 hard to spot the best way to punish. 25
 Qa3 and eventually Qxd6 Qxd6 Nxd6
 and White is up a pawn, and a passed
 pawn on the fifth rank at that. It looks
 defensible with ...Rcd8 for Black but it
 is not after White plays Rc1 and then
 Rc7. I'm not sure how many people
 would find this in our U1600 group?
25.Qd2 (EW: Not bad either!) **25...h6**

(Diagram)

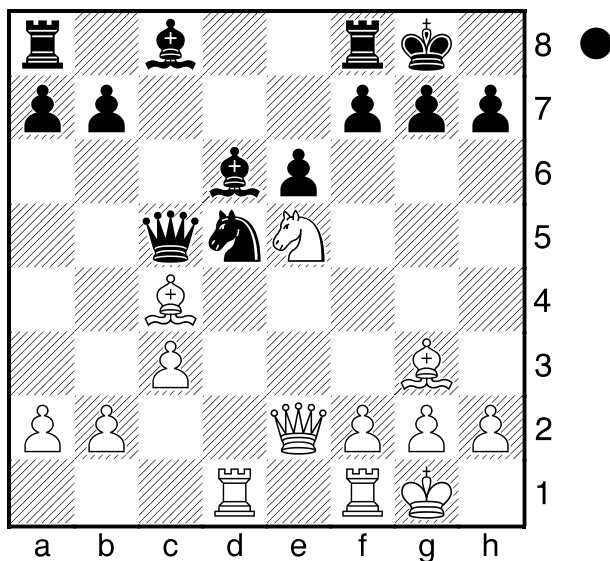


26.h4??
 [26.Ra7!]
 [26.Qb4!]
26...Qg4 27.Nxd6 Nxg3 28.Nf5 Nxf1+
29.Kxf1 Qg2#
0-1

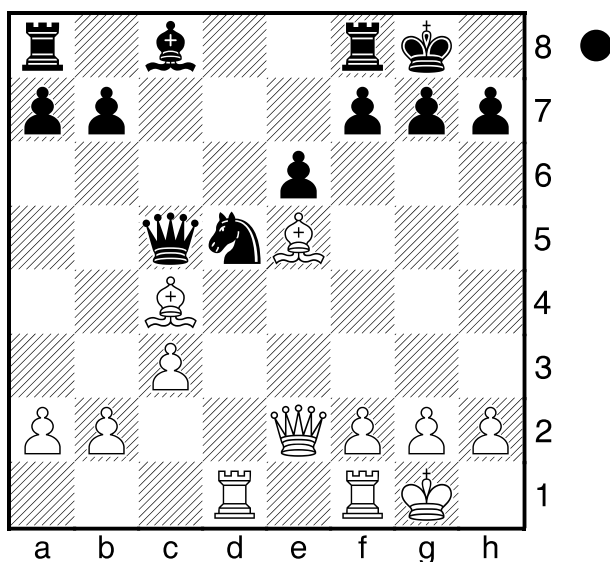
□	Griffith,Kyron Waykuan	B17
■	Dasika,Archit	2143
2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (5.1)		7.2.23
[Winslow,Elliott]		

Another crisp attack on the king by
 Kyron! **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3**
 No funny business this time! (1.e4 c6 2.
 Nc3 d5 3.Qe2 in the previous round
 against Hao!) **3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7**
5.c3 Avoiding the sharper paths of
 [5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6
 8.Bd3 (8.Bb3)]
 [or the later, current 5.Ng5]
5...Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bc4 e6 8.Nf3
Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.Ne5 c5
12.Bf4 Bd6 13.dxc5 Qxc5 14.Rad1
Nd5 15.Bg3

(Diagram)



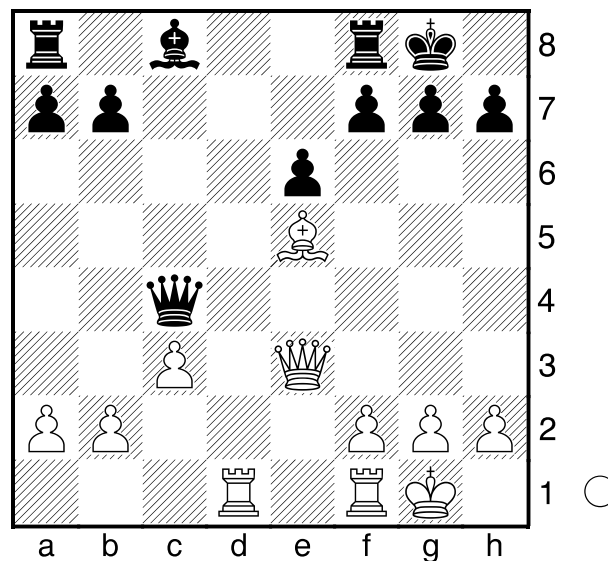
White is already solidly better, with Black's development behind. Black thinks there is a path to equality, but it's got a flaw. A big one. **15...Bxe5**
This is fine, although admittedly it does pass White the two bishop advantage.
16.Bxe5



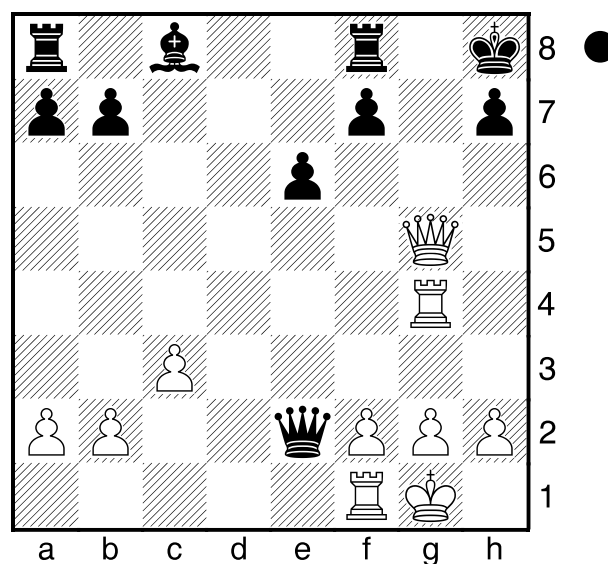
Ne3? But this little tactic comes crashing down on Black. White gives up the bishops. Both of them.

[16...f6 17.Bg3]
17.Qxe3 Qxc4

(Diagram)



18.Bxg7! Everything is just right.
18...Kxg7 19.Qg5+ Kh8 20.Qf6+ Kg8 21.Rd4 Qe2 22.Qg5+ Kh8 23.Rg4+-

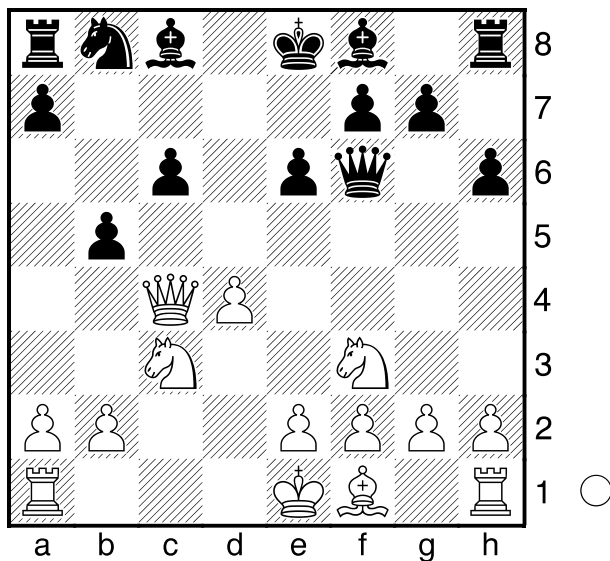


Qxg4 24.Qxg4 e5 25.Qb4 Be6 26.Qxb7 Bxa2 27.Ra1 Rad8 28.h4 Bd5 29.Qe7 Rde8 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Ra4 Another rook lift and it's over.
1-0

Winslow, Elliott D43
 Suarez, Sebastian 2223
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 7.2.23 1945
[Winslow, Elliott]

I have to include this game, despicable finish notwithstanding. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5**
 [5.e3]
 [5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 3
 Winslow-Griffith, Round]

5...h6
 [5...Nbd7]
 [5...dxc4]
6.Bxf6
 [6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5]
6...Qxf6 7.Qb3
 [7.e3]
 [7.Qc2]
 [7.a3]
 [7.g3]
7...dxc4
 [7...Nd7 8.e4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Qf4
 (9...Qf5) 10.Bd3 e5 (10...Be7)
 11.0-0]
8.Qxc4 b5?
 [8...Nd7 9.Rd1 (9.e3; 9.g3; 9.e4;
 9.0-0-0!?)]



There's a reason you don't see this...

9.Qb3?

[9.Nxb5! ...and that's it! White nips a pawn without too much suffering.
 Stockfish 15.1 makes it "only" +1 or so.]

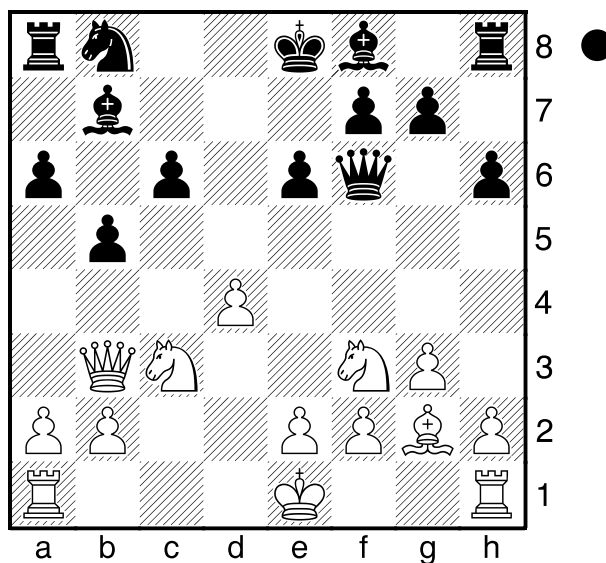
9...a6 10.g3?!

[10.e3 Nd7 11.a4]

10...Bb7

[10...c5]

11.Bg2



Nd7?!

[11...c5! 12.dxc5 (12.Rd1 cxd4
 13.Rxd4!? Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Qxd4
 15.Bxa8 Be7 16.0-0 0-0) 12...Nd7!
 and White has to be careful not to slip
 into the worse position.]

12.Ne4!?

[12.0-0 c5 13.Rfd1±]

12...Qf5 13.Nh4!?

[13.Qe3 Bb4+ 14.Nfd2±]

13...Qh7 14.Qe3

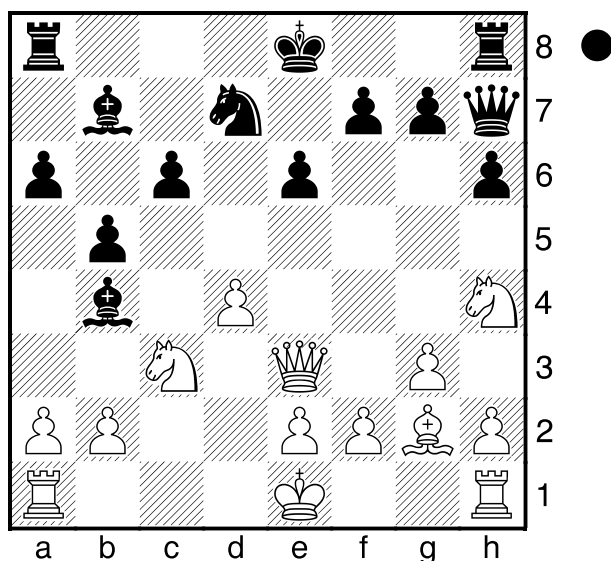
[14.a4!±]

[14.Nc5!≡]

14...Bb4+ 15.Nc3

[15.Kf1!?]

(Diagram)



15...Nf6?

[15...Qc2! I thought I could sack a pawn with castle and Ne4, but the computer doesn't believe in White's game. And 16.Qc1 Bxc3+ 17.bxc3 Qxc1+ 18.Rxc1 g5 19.Nf3 c5̄ is the sort of thing I wanted to avoid.]

16.0-0 0-0

[16...Qc2 (less good now) 17.Rab1 Bxc3 18.Rfc1! Bd2 19.Rxc2 Bxe3 20.fxe3± is perhaps suprisingly pretty good for White.]

17.a3

[17.Ne4!?]

[17.Rac1!?]

17...Ba5?!

[17...Be7]

18.Ne4 Nd5 19.Qd3!

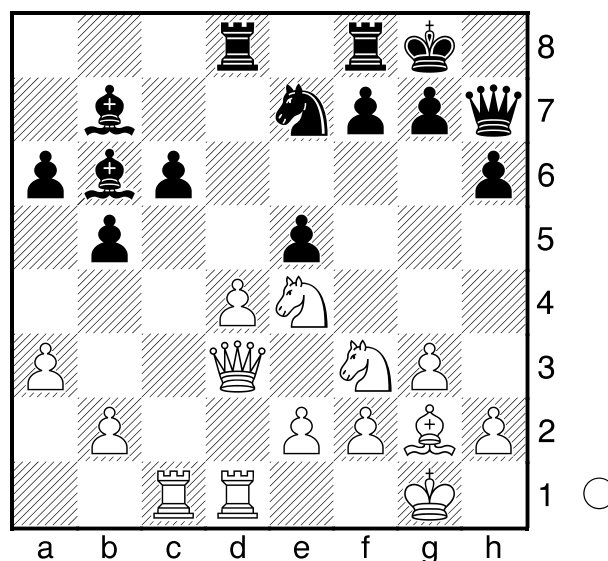
[19.Qb3!? g5 20.Nc5!± (20.Qxd5 cxd5 21.Nf6+ Kg7 22.Nxh7 Kxh7 23.Nf3=)]

19...Rad8 20.Nf3 Bb6 21.Rfd1

[21.b4]

21...Ne7 22.Rac1 e5

(Diagram)



23.e3?

[23.Nxe5!!

A) 23...Bxd4 24.e3!! Bb6 25.Nd7!

Qf5 26.g4! Qe6 (26...Qxg4

27.Nef6+ gxf6 28.Nxf6+ Kg7

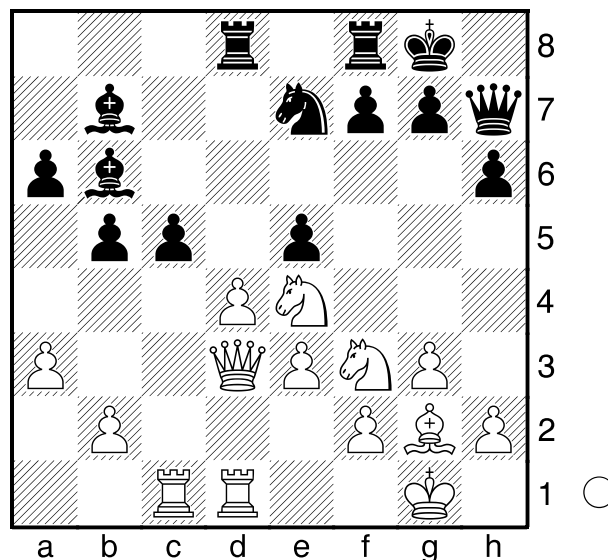
29.Nxg4 Rxd3 30.Rxd3+-)

27.Nxf8+-;

B) 23...Rxd4]

23...c5?!

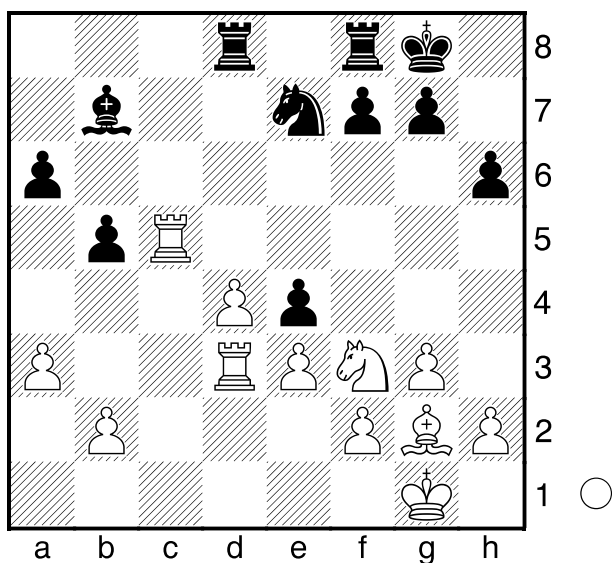
[23...exd4! 24.Nxd4 Bxd4 25.exd4±]



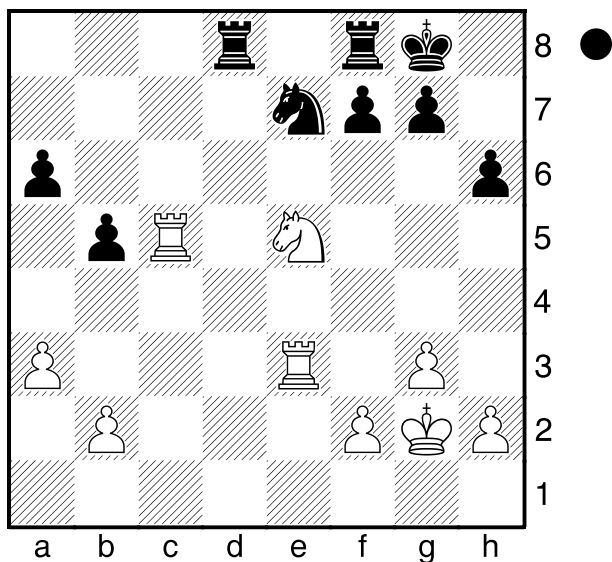
24.Nxe5?

[24.Nxc5! Qxd3 25.Rxd3 Bxc5

26.Rxc5 e4



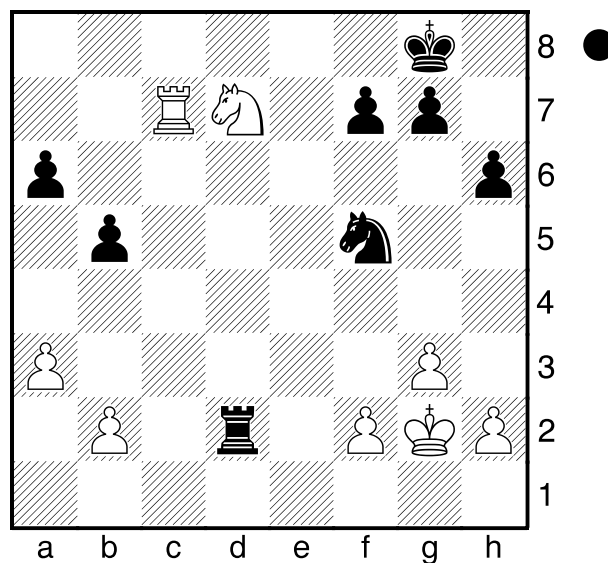
27.Nd2! exd3 28.Bxb7±]
24...cxd4 25.Nc5 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Bxc5
27.Rxc5 Qxd3 28.Rxd3 dxe3
29.Rxe3=



Rd6 30.Nc4?!
 [30.b4]
 [30.h4]
30...Rd5 31.Rc7?! Nf5 32.Re5 Rfd8
33.Rxd5
 [33.Rc8! Rxc8 34.Rxd5 Nh4+
 35.gxh4 bxc4 36.Rd6 a5 37.Rd5=]
33...Rxd5 34.Nb6?!
 [34.Ne3]
 [34.g4!?]

34...Rd2 35.Nd7

[35.Kf1 Rxb2 36.Ra7 Nd4 37.Rxa6
 Nf3 38.Ra8+ Kh7 39.Ra7 f5 40.h4
 Nd2+ 41.Ke1 Ne4 42.Nd7 Nxf2
 43.Nf8+ Kg8 44.Ne6=]



35...h5 36.Nc5?!

[36.Kf1 Rxb2 37.Ra7]

36...Rxb2

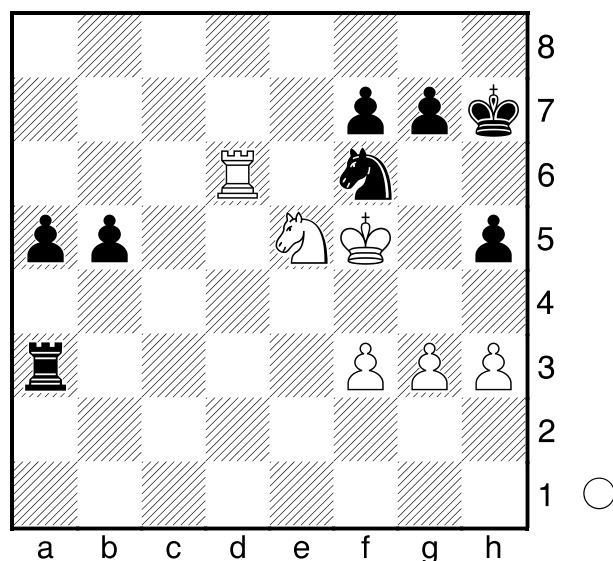
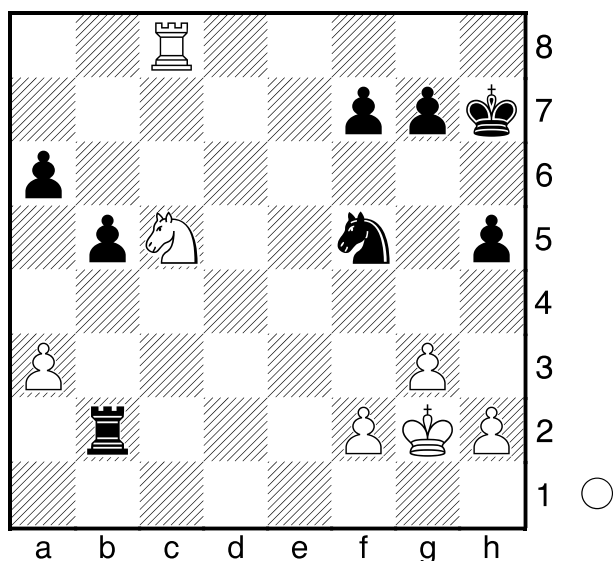
[36...Ne3+ 37.Kf3 Ng4 38.Ne4 Rxb2
 39.h3 f5 40.Rc8+ Kf7 41.Ng5+ Kg6
 42.hxg4 hxg4+ 43.Kf4 Rxf2+ 44.Ke3
 Rf1 45.Ke2 Ra1±]

37.Rc8+

[37.Ne4 Ne3+ 38.Kf3 Ng4]

37...Kh7

(Diagram)



38.Rc6??

[38.Re8! a5 39.a4! Nd6 40.Rd8 Nc4 41.axb5 Rxb5 42.Rc8+]

38...Ne3+-+ 39.Kf3 Ng4 40.Nd3

(I picked up the knight to play 40.Ne4...)

40...Rb3 41.Rd6 Rxa3

[41...Ne5+?! 42.Ke2! (42.Ke4? Nxd3 43.Rxd3 f5+ 44.Kd4 Rxd3+ 45.Kxd3 Kg6-+) 42...Nxd3 43.Rxd3

A) 43...Rxd3?! 44.Kxd3 Kg6 45.Kd4 Kf5 46.Kc5! (46.f3?? g5 47.Kc5 g4-+) 46...Ke6 47.Kb6 Kd6 48.h4 f6 49.f4 f5 50.Kxa6=;

B) 43...Rb2+! 44.Ke3 Ra2+]

42.Kf4 a5 43.h3 Nf6 44.Ne5 Ra2

[44...Ra4+ 45.Kf5 Ne4]

45.f3 Ra4+

[45...b4 46.Nxf7 b3]

46.Kf5 Ra3

(Diagram)

Sebby is now under five minutes and no longer recording, but the time-trouble horror was already in full force -- with me not far behind. **47.Kf4**

[47.g4]

47...Rc3

[47...Ne8]

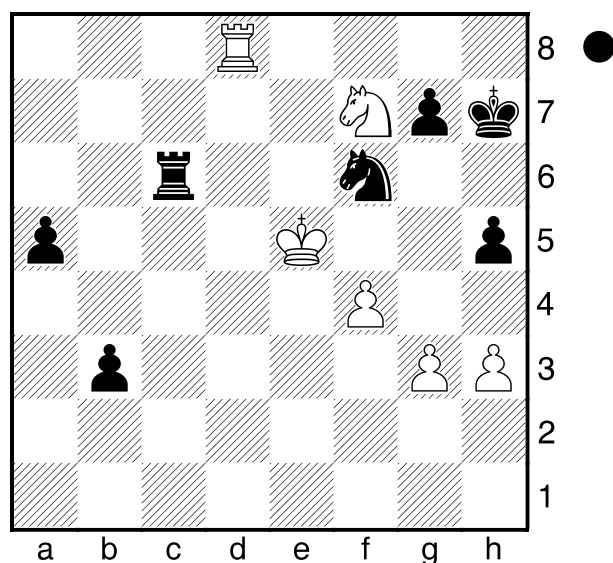
48.Nxf7+ Rc4+

[48...b4]

49.Kf5 Rc5+ 50.Ke6 b4 51.Rd8 Rc6+

[51...b3!]

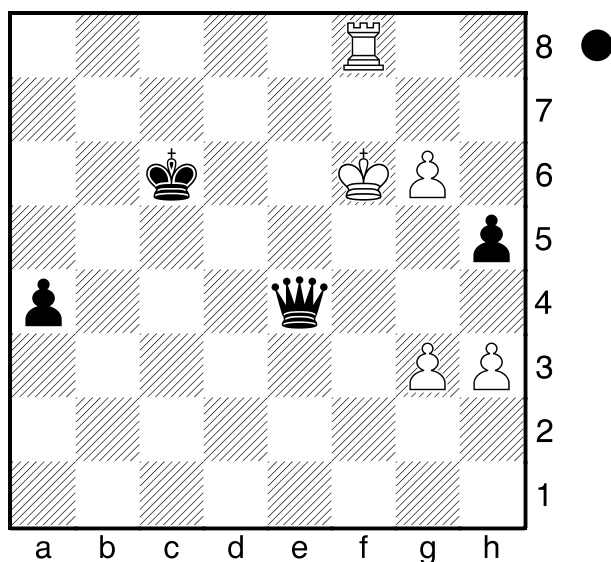
52.Ke5 b3 53.f4



a4?!

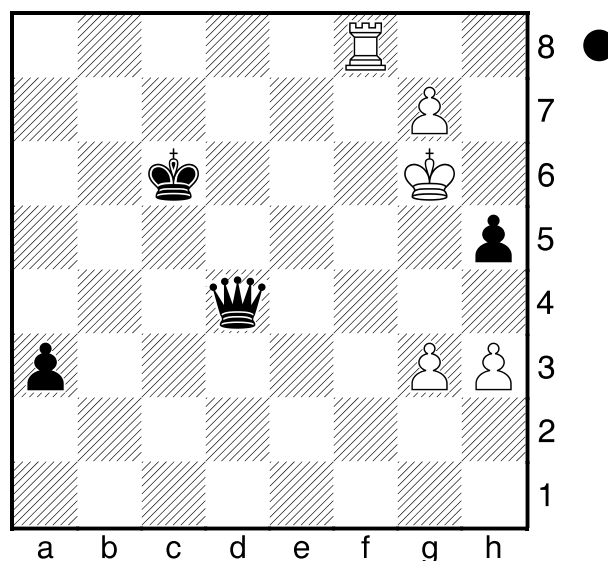
[53...b2 gets right on the point.]

54.f5 Rc5+ 55.Ke6 Rc6+ 56.Ke5 g6
 [56...g5!]
 57.Ng5+ Kg7 58.Ne6+ Kf7
 [58...Rxe6+ 59.fxe6 a3! 60.Rd7+
 Nxd7+ 61.exd7 a2 62.d8Q a1Q+-+]
 59.Rf8+ Ke7 60.Rxf6 b2?! But here a
 moment to prepare helps:
 [60...Rb6 61.Rxg6 Rb5+ 62.Kf4 b2]
 61.fxg6
 [61.Rxg6! Rxe6+! (only move)
 62.Rxe6+ Kd7 63.Rb6 a3+-]
 61...b1Q 62.Rf7+ Ke8 63.Rf8+ Kd7
 64.Rf7+ Kc8 65.Rf8+ Kb7 66.Nd8+
 Kb6 67.Nxc6 Kxc6
 [67...Qxg6! Over!]
 68.Kf6 Qb2+ 69.Kf7 Qb3+ 70.Ke7
 Qb4+ 71.Kf7 Qc4+ 72.Ke7 Qe4+
 73.Kf6



a3?
 [73...Qf3+! and ...Qxg3+-]
 74.g7!± Qd4+?!
 [74...a2 75.Ra8! Qd5! 76.Kg6 Kb7
 77.Rxa2 Qxa2 78.Kh7 h4! 79.g4!=]
 75.Kg6

(Diagram)

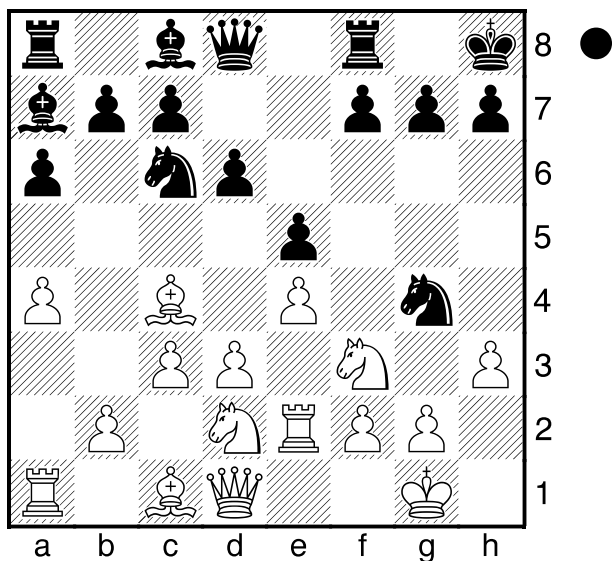


Qe4+?
 [75...a2 76.g8Q Qe4+! 77.Kxh5
 Qe5+=]
 76.Kh6!± Qe6+ 77.Kh7 a2 78.Rf1=
 [78.Ra8!±]
 78...Qe4+ 79.Kh8 Qd4 80.Rc1+!
 (only move) 80...Kd7 81.Kh7
 With seconds left for both, somehow it
 ended up in Q+h v Q -- for White -- and
 Black got pinned after ...Qe7+; Qf7,
 with the queens coming off and the h-
 pawn queening.
 1-0

□ Zhou,Ivan C54 1814
 ■ Widjaja,Luke 2104
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 7.2.23
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0
 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 0-0 7.Nbd2 a6 8.a4
 Ba7 9.Re1 Ng4 10.Re2 Kh8 11.h3

(Diagram)



f5! Black takes a fast initiative. **12.Nf1?!**
 [12.hxg4 Maybe, but fxg4 13.Nh2 g3
 is scary. 14.Ndf3! (14.Nhf3 Bg4
 threatens to end a knight on f3 15.Kf1
 Qe8! and to the h-file) 14...gxh2+
 15.Nxh2 Qh4 16.Be3 Bd7+
 sees Black with further attack.]

12...Nf6

[12...fxe4! 13.dxe4 Rxf3! 14.gxf3
 Nf6+ 15.Ng3 Ne7 (15...Bxh3)
 16.Kh2 Ng6 and again, Black is filing
 in on the weak squares.]

13.b4

[13.exf5! Bxf5 14.Ng3 Bg6 15.d4
 Nh5+]

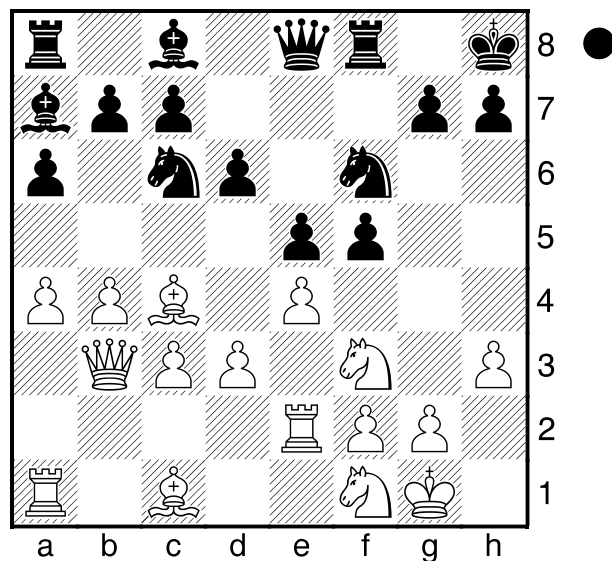
13...Qe8?!

[13...Ne7!]

14.Qb3?

[14.exf5! Bxf5 15.Ng3=]

(Diagram)



14...f4!-+ 15.Bb2 Qh5

[15...g5!]

16.N1d2?!

[16.N1h2 g5 17.Be6 tries to hold g4,
 but it's temporary. Bxe6 18.Qxe6
 Rae8 19.Qf5 h6 20.b5 Ne7 21.Qe6
 Nc8 22.Qb3 (22.Qf5 Nh7 23.Qg4
 Qf7 and ...h5) 22...g4-+]

16...g5

[16...Bxh3!? 17.gxh3 g5]

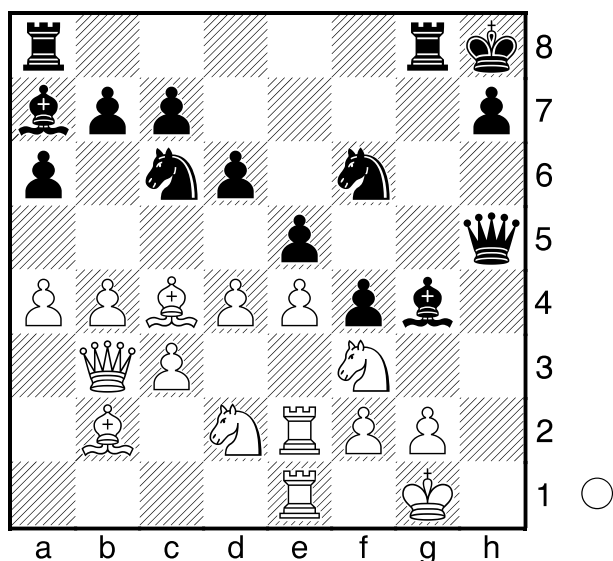
17.d4 g4 18.hxg4 Bxg4 19.Rae1?!

[19.Be6! Rg8! 20.Bf7 Qh6 21.Bxg8
 Rxg8 22.b5-+]

19...Rg8!?

[19...Bh3!?]

(Diagram)



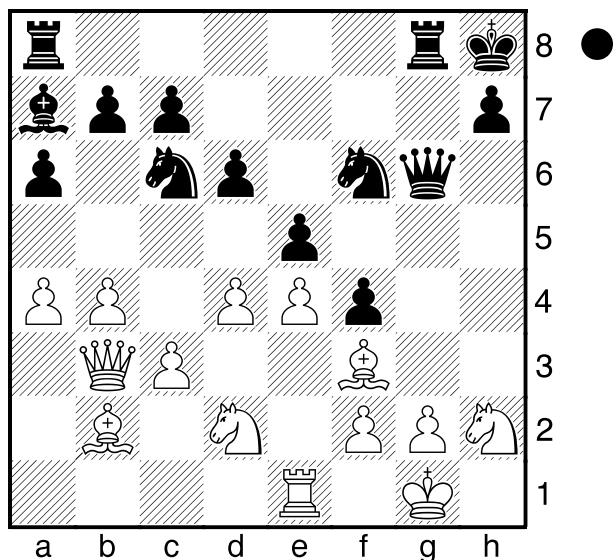
20.Nh2 Bxe2

[20...Rg7! 21.f3 exd4]

21.Bxe2 Qg6

[21...Qh3! 22.Bf3 Rg7 23.Kh1 Qh4
24.b5 Nd8-+]

22.Bf3



exd4?! Unnecessary complications.
Black can continue to build the attack,
say

[22...Rae8]

[or 22...Rg7]

23.cxd4?!

[23.b5! dxc3 24.bxc6 cxb2!]

That bishop was becoming quite

annoying! (24...cxd2 25.Rd1!+-
White's multiple threats (cxb7, Qe6/
Ng4) win out. Rg7! 26.cxb7 Re8
27.Rxd2) 25.cxb7 Rae8 26.Qxb2
Qg7-+ Black can finally get around to
...h5 and ...Ng4]

23...Bxd4 Back in the public! **24.b5**

axb5 25.axb5 Na5 26.Qb4?! c5!

27.Qa3 Nc4 28.Qxa8 Rxa8

[28...Nxd2!]

29.Nxc4 Bxb2 30.Nxb2 Re8 31.Nd3

Qg5 32.e5 dxe5 33.Bxb7 e4 34.Nb2

f3 35.g3 Qd2

0-1

B48

□ **Sobel,Steve**

2012

■ **Walder,Michael**

2041

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (5.4) 7.2.23

[Sobel,Steve]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6

[2...d6 I expected this way to play. I
guess my opponent tried to get me
out of prep.]

3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6

[4...a6 In my opinion the Kan is a
great way to get folks out of prep.]

5.Nc3 Qc7 But he got unlucky - I play

the Taimanov myself with the black

pieces. **6.Be3 a6 7.Qf3 Ne5 8.Qg3**

Nf6 9.0-0-0 b5 10.a3!?

Not the computer's first choice, but it
apparently scores much better than the
mainline.

[10.f4 Neg4 11.Bg1 h5 is more
standard.]

[10.Bxb5 axb5 11.Ndxb5 Qb8

Note that Bb6 is not advisable as

black has not yet played Bb7. **12.Bf4**

d6 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.Rxd6 Nh5

15.Qg5 Qxd6 16.Bxe5 Ra5

is just one of many wild lines in

Harikrishna's Taimanov course.]

10...Bb7 11.Bxb5 axb5?

[11...Rc8! 12.Ba4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 is suggested in Harikrishna's repertoire - it turns out that I myself forgot the very important 11...Rc8!]
[11...Nxe4 I suggested this move in a post-mortem with Michael. Oops!

12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7

14.Qxe5]

12.Ndxb5 Qb8 13.Bb6 Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Nc4 15.Nc7+ Ke7 16.Qg5+ f6

17.Qc5+ Kf7 18.Rxd7+ Kg8 19.Qxc4

Black resigned - they cannot avoid checkmate. Not much to take away from this one - I knew the refutation up to Bb6 from analyzing my online games, so it was basically just a win from book.

1-0

□ **Srinivasan,Sivavishnu**

■ **Ivanenko,Anthony**

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (5.7)

[Ivanenko, Tony]

Anthony Ivanenko has been providing excellent notes to his games. Including the last round against Felix Macnee: Those were Tony's notes! He's now in clear 1st by a half point in the 1600-1999 section. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6**

3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5

We have a Sveshnikov on our hands!

Once a minefield for new ideas, its current state would best be described as a tad more pitiable than the 5.Re1 Berlin in that the objective is to bore the opponent to sleep. Still, it remains a powerhouse in the top echelons and was even employed by Magnus Carlsen for a period of time. **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6**

8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6

11.Nxf6+?! The first move to deviate from the main positional line and unfortunately for my opponent, not the best one. Black's dark squared bishop

B33

1640

1712

already has trouble activating in the main lines and here we give it up for the strongly posted d5-knight? Sign me up!

At this point, White is no longer fighting for a win. **11...Qxf6 12.c3 Qg6!?**

Striking at the e4-pawn and pinning the f1-bishop to the g2-pawn.

[12...0-0 was the alternative most players chose: 13.Be2 Bb7 14.0-0

Rad8 15.Bf3 Nb8 16.Nc2 Nd7

17.Re1 Nc5 18.Nb4 g6 19.Nd5

Bxd5 20.Qxd5 Rb8 21.Red1 Rb6

22.Rd2 Rc8 23.Bd1 Qg5 24.Bb3

Rc7 25.Rad1 Rbc6 26.a3 h5

27.Ba2 h4 28.h3 Kg7 29.Kh1 Kh6

30.Rc2 a5 31.Re1 b4 32.axb4 axb4

33.cxb4 Nd3 34.Rxc6 Nxe1 35.g4

hxc3 36.fxc3 Qe3 0-1 (36) Larino

Nieto,D (2488)-Kotronias,V (2603)

Budva 2009]

13.f3 0-0 14.Qd2 Be6!? It's not every day that an engine move is selected as a novelty! I was quite proud of seeing the idea during the game. The d6-pawn is not really hanging as it's been peppered with poison. **15.Bd3**

[15.Qxd6? Rac8 16.Qd2 Rcd8!

17.Qf2 Ne7 18.Be2 f5 19.exf5

Nxf5 was the idea, preventing 0-0-0 and aiming at the critical d2-square once the king is brought to safety.

Black is already enjoying a lot more space and activity with his pieces.]

15...Ne7 16.Nc2 f5 17.Ne3 Two other lines I've considered:

[17.0-0 d5!? 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Bxf5 Qxf5]

[17.exf5 Bxf5 18.Bxf5 Nxf5 19.0-0 Nh4]

17...f4! The position has now transitioned into a KID-like structure.

18.Nc2 Qh5?! Honestly, wasn't really impressed with this move during the game. The idea is to open up the g6 square for the knight and perhaps swing Rf8-f6-h6, but since the White king

hasn't castled yet, it's not a particularly great option.

[18...Qe8 19.a3 Kh8 20.0-0-0 Bb3±

And the queen is already looking much better positioned in the center than it was in the game.]

19.a3?! The most blatant indication

White is planning to castle Q-side.

However, I'm not a fan of exposing the light squares like that, especially

considering Black still possesses the light squared bishop! And as seen later, that will come into play. **19...d5?!**

I would almost give his move a question mark, but it's not losing. However, I did have the correct continuation in mind but discarded it because it seemed too slow:

[19...Rab8! 20.0-0-0 Bb3 21.Be2 Rfd8 22.g3 a5 23.gxf4 b4 24.axb4 axb4 25.Nxb4 exf4 Is completely fine for Black, I underestimated the impact of the bishop on b3.]

20.0-0-0 Rfd8?! Wrong rook! ...Rfe8 needed to be left as an option. **21.Qf2**

[21.exd5 Bxd5 22.Qe2 Nc6 23.Rhe1 Rab8± White's advantage is not much, but Black is now struggling to generate play.]

21...d4!! Yes! The move my opponent missed: in exchange for the pawn structure, Black closes off the much-needed diagonal for the queen.

22.cxd4?

[22.g4! was an important intermezzo to knock the queen off the fifth rank.

Qh6 23.cxd4 exd4 24.Nxd4 Bf7!=]

22...exd4 23.g4?? Unfortunately, it came a move too late. Black's queen is now free to roam the rank.

[23.g3 Bb3 24.gxf4 Qh6 25.Rd2 Qxf4∞]

23...Qc5-+ 24.Kb1 Ng6?!

[24...Nc6!]

25.Bf1??

[25.Be2 Ne5 26.Nb4 Rac8 27.Rc1

Bc4 28.Bxc4+ bxc4-+ Black wins with the monster d-pawn, but White's not done just yet.]

25...Bb3 26.Rd2 Rac8 27.Bd3 Ne5

28.Rc1 Rd6 And now it's over. With

White's tangled pieces, any non-queen piece move he makes is winning for

Black: a zugzwang. **29.Qe2**

My opponent was low on time at this point. **29...Rdc6 30.Qf1 a5 31.h4**

[31.Bxb5 Nc4 32.Bxc4+ Qxc4 33.Qxc4+ Rxc4-+ With ...d3 coming.]

31...b4 32.h5 bxa3 33.bxa3 Qc3

34.g5 Qxd2

0-1

C50

□ **Sanguinetti, George A**

1904

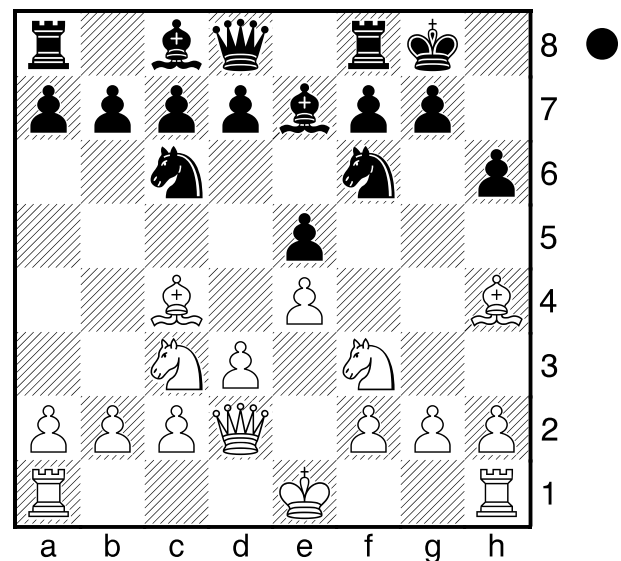
■ **Clemens, Kristian**

1831

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (5.8)

[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.Qd2?



Nxe4! 9.Bxe7 Nxd2 10.Bxd8 Nxf3+ 11.gxf3 Rxd8 12.Nd5 Nd4 13.0-0-0

[13.c3!? Nc2+ 14.Kd2 Nxa1 15.Nxc7 Rb8 16.Rxa1 b5!-+]

13...c6 14.Ne7+ Kf8 15.c3 Nxf3
16.Nxc8 Raxc8 17.h4 The knight won't
 be a problem. **17...d5 18.Bb3 e4**
 [18...Rd6! 19.Rh3 Rf6]
19.Rh3
 [19.Bc2 f5]
19...Ne5 20.Bc2 exd3 21.Bb1
 [21.Bxd3 Rd6 22.f4 Nxd3+
 23.Rdxd3 -- well, it's all pretty lost.]
21...c5 22.Bxd3 d4 23.Bf5 dxc3!?
 Sensational.
 [simpler were 23...Rc6]
 [and 23...Rc7]
24.Re1 cxb2+ 25.Kxb2 Nd7 26.Rhe3
 [26.Rd3 Nf6 (26...Nb6)]
26...Rb8 27.Re7 Re8! Good technique.
28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Rc1 Nb6
 [29...Re2+ 30.Kb3 Ke7]
30.f3 Re2+ 31.Kb1 Na4 32.Bc2 Nc3+
33.Kb2 Nb5 34.Kb1 Na3+
0-1

☐ **Dutter,Frederic**

☒ **Li,David Z**

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (5.9)
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 This line,
 first seen in Showalter-Halprin, Vienna
 Imperial Jubilee 1898, is still around. It's
 hard to get anything against the Petroff
 in any case. **6...Be7 7.Be3**
 [That early game featured, like now,
 queenside castling for White: 7.Bd3
 Nd7 8.Be3 0-0 9.h4 f5? 10.Bc4+
 Kh8 11.Ng5 Qe8 12.Qe2 Ne5
 13.0-0-0 1-0 Showalter,J-Halprin,A
 Wien Imperial Jubilee Vienna 1898]
7...0-0 After a while (well, a hundred
 years if you count Halprin!), Black
 players got sick of White throwing
 pawns at their king and pulled the "if you
 can't beat'em, join'em" and started

castling queenside as well! Shades of
 the Queen's Gambit Exchange
 Variation! But that strategy (here at
 least) seems to have lost its luster for
 some reason, and the super-GMs are
 back to ...0-0. **8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Nf6**
 Both sides have a lot of flexibility (well,
 variance) in deployment, especially
 Black. And also, this is one of those
 opening lines where a number of the
 absolute best players will play either side.
 Especially the US tops Caruana and So.
10.Bd3 The most frequent and best
 scoring. If nothing else, it gives White
 the choice of which rook to move to
 g1(!).

[10.h4 c5 ½-½ Gavrilescu,D (2454)-
 Bacrot,E (2669) Bundesliga 1920
 Germany 2019 (5.4)]

10...c5 All of the above can be said for
 this move as well (# of games, %, Fabi &
 So). **11.h4!?** Pretty much everything
 has been played even here, but this is
 fairly rare, interesting and promising!

[Those guys have grown fond of
 "simple" central development:
 11.Rhe1]

11...Qa5 12.Kb1

[12.a3!? d5 13.c4 (13.Bg5!? c4
 14.Be2 Rd8 but now for their
 respective reasons the players shut
 the game down: at least White varied
 his queen a bit (e3, d4). :-) 15.Qe3
 Bc5 16.Qf4 Bd6 17.Qd4 Bc5 18.Qf4
 Bd6 19.Qd4 Bc5 20.Qf4
 ½-½ Gavrilescu,D (2454)-Bacrot,E
 (2669) Bundesliga 1920 Germany
 2019 (5.4)) 13...Qxd2+ 14.Bxd2 d4
 15.Rde1 Re8 16.c3 best try for some
 plus.]

12...Be6 13.c4 Qxd2! 14.Bxd2 Rfe8
 [14...Ng4!? 15.Rhf1 h6]

15.Ng5 Bd7 16.Bc3= Bc6?
 [16...h6]
 [16...h5]

17.Bxf6! Bxf6

C42

1900

1771

[17...gxf6!? 18.Ne4 f5 19.Ng3 f4
20.Nh5 f3±]

18.Bxh7+ Kf8± 19.Bd3 Bxg5?

[19...Bxg2 20.Rh2 Bxg5 21.hxg5
Bc6 That extra bishop retreat guards
e8, so the game would go on.]

20.hxg5 Bxg2??

[20...g6 21.Rh2 Kg7 22.Rdh1 Rh8
23.Rxh8 Rxh8 24.Rxh8 Kxh8±]

**21.Rh8+ Ke7 22.Re1+ Kd7 23.Bf5+
1-0**

□ **Tsolias,Yorgos**

■ **Schmidt,Otto Albert**

B13

1540

1089

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (5.22) 7.2.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3
Nc6 5.c3 e5 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Bb5+
Nc6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Nf3 Bd6** A typical
sort of opening setup mostly seen in the
Tarrasch French. **10.Qa4 Qc7
11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Qh4?!**

[12.0-0 Ng4]

[12.h3! but even here: a6 13.Bd3
Bd7 14.Qc2 Rac8 15.a3

and now the computer surprises me,
preferring Ne5 with the better side of
equality (not that it's much)]

12...Bf5?!

[12...Ne7± and White should seriously
consider Stockfish's top move:
13.Qa4]

13.0-0 Ne5? Bad on principle: Isolated
Queen Pawn => dynamic play => keep
pieces on board. (But see the note to 12.
h3!?) **14.Nxe5± Bxe5 15.Nf3 h6?!**

[15...Ng4!? 16.Bd4 Bf6]

16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Bd4± Qe4?

18.Bxf6+- Black has fallen apart; the
pawn is just the first of many, if White
chooses, but there is an attack on the
king. And no counterplay. **18...gxf6**

19.Qxh6 Probably the right pawn to take,

with immanent rook lift to the h-file.

19...Bg6

[19...a6 20.Rae1! Qg4 21.Re3! Qg7
22.Qf4 Bg6 23.Ba4]

20.Rad1 Rad8 21.Bd3 White has so
many ways to play! But the position calls
out for a rook lift:

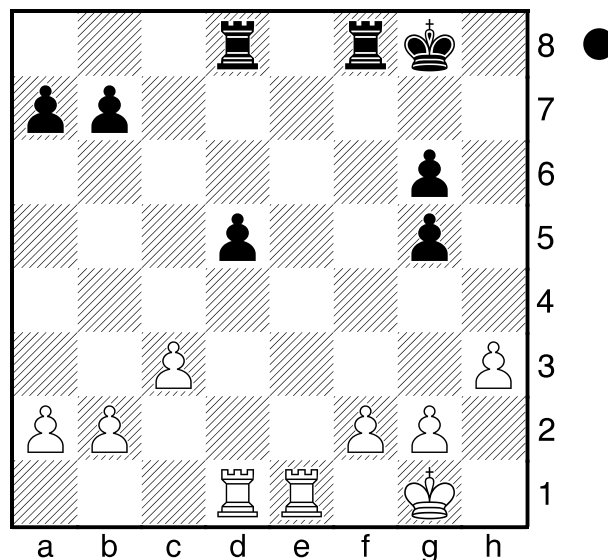
[21.Rd3! really pushes Black to give
up the queen Qxd3 (21...Qf5
22.Rh3! Bh7 23.Rg3+ Bg6 24.h4;
21...Qe5 22.f4! Qh5 23.Qxh5 Bxh5
24.Rh3 Bg6 25.f5 Bh7 26.Rf4)
22.Bxd3 Bxd3 23.Rd1 Bg6 24.Rd4
Another rook!]

[21.Rd4 Qe5 22.Rg4 (22.Rh4 f5
23.Rd1 is fairly routine as well) 22...f5
23.Rg3 -- well, the picture is clear
every which way.]

21...Qg4 22.h3

[22.f4!]

**22...Qg5 23.Qxg5 fxg5 24.Bxg6 fxg6
25.Rfe1**



Of course this is a won ending, but
letting Black get to it feels like a letdown.

25...Rd7 26.Rd4 Rf4 27.Red1 Rf5

[27...Rxd4 28.Rxd4 b5 29.Rg4]

28.c4! That should do it. **28...Rdf7**

29.cxd5 Rxf2 30.R4d2?!

[30.d6!]

30...Rxd2 31.Rxd2 Kf8 32.d6

[32.Rf2! jumps right on the pawn ending. Black doesn't even have a prayer.]

32...Ke8 33.Rf2! Rf5 Stockfish squirms with a lateral rook move, but lost is lost.

34.Rxf5 gxf5 35.g3! Kd7 36.h4 gxh4 37.gxh4 Kxd6 38.Kf2 Ke5 39.Kf3 Kf6 40.a4 b6 41.b4 a6 42.Kf4 a5 43.b5!

[43.bxa5?? bxa5 44.h5 Kg7 45.Kxf5 Kh6 is *drawn* -- Black has time to take the h-pawn and get back to c8.]

43...Kg6 44.h5+ Kxh5 45.Kxf5 Kh6

46.Ke6 The first time you win an endgame like this is a great feeling -- the more so depending on how well you visualized it after 33.Rf2! Well done Yorgos!

1-0

□ **Horde,Nicolas T** **E20 1356**

■ **Pradhan,Sabeek** **1124**

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (5.26) 7.2.23
[Horde,Nicolas]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5 5.d5 exd5 6.cxd5 d6 7.e4 0-0

8.Bc4?! In anticipation of Re8 and a knight sac on d5 but the white g-knight will cover on e2.

[8.Bd3 Makes more sense to avoid getting kicked away by b5 Nh5 9.Nge2 f5 10.0-0 f4 11.a3]

[8.Nge2!

A) 8...Nh5?! 9.g4 (9.h4 f5 10.exf5 Rxf5 11.g4 Rxf3 12.gxh5 SF gives a nice edge for White but what a mess) **9...Qh4+ 10.Kd2** The king is surprisingly safe and the pawn storm looks extremely promising;

B) 8...b5 9.Ng3 a6 10.a4 Probably the best continuation **bx a4 11.Rxa4 a5 12.Be2]**

[8.Be3 Re8 9.Nge2 Nbd7 10.Ng3

h5 11.h4 a6]

8...Bd7?! He should had developed the remaining knight instead of blocking the congested d7 square. On top of that, this bishop has no future **9.Nge2?!**

[9.a4! Preventing b5]

9...b5 10.Bb3 c4 11.Bc2 Bc5 12.Nd4 Qb6 13.Be3 Nh5?! I thought his idea was Nf4 but in our post-mortem he said the idea was f5 but he did not follow through in the game **14.Nce2?!**

Preventing Nf4

[14.a4! bxa4 (14...b4 15.a5 Qc7 16.Nce2 A better version of the game) 15.0-0]

14...Qa5+ 15.Bd2?!

[15.Kf2 I thought about it and it's a typical idea in the f3 nimzo, it looks weird but Black is going nowhere on the queenside and I can finish development easily with a huge space advantage on the kingside **Na6 16.g4 Nf6]**

15...Qb6 16.Be3 Qa5+? My opponent told me he was hoping for a soft draw [16...f5! 17.exf5! Na6 18.0-0

(18.a3?? Rae8 19.Bf2 Nf4 20.0-0 Nxe2+ 21.Nxe2 Bxf5 Black has a lot of activity and is winning now) **18...Nb4 19.Bf2 (19.Be4?!**

Patching everything but SF gives a small edge for Black as White's pieces are slightly passive and there's a tactical sequence to win material **Nf6 20.Kh1 Nbx d5 21.Bxd5+ Nxd5 22.Bg1 Rae8 f5** is going to fall soon) **19...Nxd5 20.Qd2** And the game is equal and complicated]

17.Qd2 Bb4 My opponent thought that he was winning my queen (?)

[17...Qxd2+ 18.Bxd2 a5 19.g4 Nf6 20.b3! Black's expansion on the queenside is more a liability rather than an asset while White's pawnstorm is unstoppable]

18.Nc3 The game has definitely shifted

into White's favor. After castling, the plan is f4, e5 while Black's queenside pawn are going nowhere. Black has a Benoni pawn structure with an awkward dark square bishop on b4 instead of protecting the king on g7 and eyeing the a1-h8 diagonal **18...Na6 19.0-0 Nc5 20.a3 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Rac8 22.Bg5!!**

I think this subtle positional move kills the game for White. SF does not find it in the first recommendations and prefers g4 or Ra1b1 but for a human Bg5 is much stronger. White threatens Be7 winning the critical d6 pawn and the center pawns will advance freely. If Black cover e7 then g4 forces the knight on f6 and the pawn structure is ruined [22.Rab1 SF's first move but I like my move better]

22...Rfe8?

[22...f6 I thought that was the best move but Black now has weaknesses all over the board 23.Be3]

23.g4! Nf6 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Kh1

I could not make Qh6 work until the mate so another subtle waiting move. I renew the threat of Qh6 as the knight will jump on f5, Black will take it and open the g file to check with tempo

[25.Qh6! I spent a lot of time calculating this variation and sacrificing the knight on d4 but could not see until the end so I kept on improving my position with this idea in mind Qxc3

A) 26.Nf5?? Bxf5 27.gxf5 Qxc2?? (27...Kh8!! And now Black is winning) 28.Rf2 Qxf2+ 29.Kxf2 I calculated this variation and did not like it even though the pawn structure is damaged and Black's king is weak. However, Black is forced to sacrifice the knight in order to stay alive against the threat of Rg1. However it does not

matter as Qxc3 is a blunder and Kh8 stops this idea Nd3+ 30.Ke3 Ne5 31.Rg1+ Ng6 32.h4;

B) 26.e5 Qxd4+ 27.Kh1 f5??

I did not see a clean way to finish so I stopped calculating here (27...Nd3 28.exf6! And Black gives the Queen or gets mated soon) 28.gxf5 I overlooked that now the g file is open and Black gets mated]

25...Nb3??

[25...Kg7 26.g5! The plan if Black tried to cover h6 with the king]

26.Bxb3

[26.Qh6! Nxa1 (26...Qd8 27.e5 f5 28.gxf5 Black gets mated soon) 27.e5 Nxc2 (27...Rxe5 28.Bxh7+ Kh8 29.Bg6+ Kg8 30.Qh7+) 28.exf6 a6 29.Qg7#]

26...cxb3 27.Qh6

[27.Nxb3 Qxc3 Black is hoping for this variation where it's equal]

27...Qxc3?? 28.Nf5 Bxf5 29.gxf5 Kh8 30.Rac1! The only move to win. White loses otherwise because of the c3 passer **30...Qd3??** My opponent mentally gave up

[30...Qd4 Keeping an eye on f6 31.Rg1! Rg8 32.Qg7+!! Rxg7 33.Rxc8+ Rg8 34.Rcxg8#]

[30...Qxc1 Black has to give up the queen otherwise gets mated]

31.Qxf6+ Kg8 32.Rg1+ Kf8 33.Qxd6+ Re7 34.Rxc8# 1-0

C78

☐ **Morris,Daniel**

864

☒ **Langendorf,Brian Keith**

0

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (5.32) 7.2.23 [Morris,Daniel]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 6.d3 The Ruy "Slowpez." **6...Bc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1** It looks like the

anti-Marshall a4 is automatic here these days, but I'm a bit surprised that my move leaves theory entirely. **8...d6 9.h3 Bb7 10.c3 Qd7** This looked suspicious to me. I punish it accurately. **11.Bg5 Qe7 12.Nbd2 h6 13.Bxf6** This is objectively a mistake, but I like ridding Black of this defender in the Ruy Lopez, and I think Black's queen is usually misplaced on f6 in U1600 games.

[13.Bh4 Kh8 14.Nf1 g5 15.Bg3±] **13...Qxf6 14.Nf1 b4 15.Ne3 Bxe3 16.Rxe3 a5 17.d4 bxc3 18.bxc3 exd4?** I recognized this as a somewhat serious misstep. White enjoys the "big center duo" after recapturing. **19.cxd4 Ne7 20.Rc1 Rac8 21.e5 dxe5?**

White's central pawn becomes quite dangerous after the recapture. Indeed this pawn eventually decides the game.

[21...Qf4] **22.dxe5 Qg6 23.Bc2** [23.e6 f5 24.Qd7 Qf6 25.Rxc7 I missed these nice tactics.] **23...Qe6 24.Qd3 g6 25.Qb5 Qd5** [25...Bxf3 26.Rxf3 c5 27.Bb3 Qxe5 28.Qxa5]

26.Rb3 The engine's line is pure insanity.

[26.Qb2 Rb8 27.e6 fxe6 28.Bb3 Ba8 29.Rce1 a4 30.Rxe6 axb3 31.Rxe7 and White is totally winning, with Stockfish giving +5.7 here.] **26...Bc6 27.Qxd5 Bxd5 28.Ra3 Ra8 29.Bb3 Bxf3 30.gxf3** I'd seen all of this before exchanging the queens. I thought White must be better here, and indeed Stockfish gives +0.9 as we enter the endgame. **30...Kg7??** The losing move. Black leaves his c-pawn hanging.

[30...c6] **31.Rxc7 Nf5 32.Rc5 Nd4 33.Rcxa5 Rxa5 34.Rxa5 Ne2+?** [34...Nxb3 35.axb3 Rb8 Headed to a draw.]

35.Kg2 Nd4 36.Bd5 Rd8 37.f4 Rd7 38.Bf3 Re7 39.Bg4 Nc6 40.Ra4 h5 41.Bf3 Nd8 42.Rc4 h4 43.a4 Ne6 44.a5 Ra7 45.Ra4 Ra6 46.Be2 Ra7 [46...Nxf4+ 47.Rxf4 Rxa5 48.Re4] **47.Kf3** By this point we were both getting low on time. White is completely winning, but I began to worry that I might not have enough time to finish the conversion! **47...Nd4+ 48.Ke3** In time trouble, I just wouldn't abandon my a-pawn. I worried there wasn't enough time to grind out a win if the pawn fell, and I'd have to settle for offering a draw as our clocks dwindled to zero.

[48.Rxd4 Rxa5 49.Rd7] **48...Nf5+ 49.Kd3 Ng3 50.Bf3** I didn't take the knight because I was too afraid of Black's h-pawn running after 50...hxc3. These are the oversights we make when the clock is under two minutes and we've still got lots of work to do to convert.

[50.fxc3 hxc3 51.Bf3] **50...Rd7+ 51.Rd4 Ra7 52.Rd5 Rb7 53.Kc4** Now there's simply no excuse for not grabbing the knight. This is time-scamble desperation. **53...Rb2 54.a6 Ra2 55.Rd6 Nf5 56.Rb6 Ne7 57.Kb3 Ra5 58.Kb4 Ra1 59.Rd6 Rb1+ 60.Ka3 Ra1+ 61.Kb2 Ra5 62.Be2 Ra4 63.Kb3 Ra5 64.Rd7** Preparing e6, with my bishop keeping an eye on the a-pawn. But my new focus is on ramming the e-pawn home. **64...Nc6 65.e6** With under a minute on both players' clocks, my e-pawn suddenly lunges toward promotion. My opponent missed that Black's f-pawn is pinned. **65...Kf8 66.Bc4 Ne7 67.a7 Nc6 68.Rxf7+ Ke8 69.Rc7 Nxa7 70.Kb4 Ra1 71.Bb5+ Kf8**

[71...Nxb5 72.Kxb5 Re1! This draws, in shocking fashion. With under 30 seconds on both our clocks, neither of

us even came close to seeing this.]
72.e7+ Kf7 73.e8Q+ Kf6 74.Qf7#
 I deliver checkmate with about 25
 seconds left on both clocks.
1-0

C50

□ **Spevack,Ben**

■ **Ahrens,Richard William**

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (5.39) 7.2.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nf3
Nc6 5.d3 h6 6.Nd5 d6 7.Qe2 Nxd5
8.Bxd5 0-0 9.c3 Qe7 10.Rb1 Be6
11.b4 Bxd5? Overlooking... 12.exd5

...that both pieces are now attacked!

12...Bxf2+ 13.Qxf2 Nd8 14.0-0 e4

15.Re1 f5 16.Nd4 Qf6 17.Re3

White could just take the pawn, too.

17...c5 18.bxc5 dxc5 19.Ne6 Nxe6

20.dxe6 Qxe6 21.Qf4 b6 22.Bb2

Qxa2 23.Qf1 exd3 24.Rxd3 Qc4

Somehow Black has gotten quite a few
 pawns for the bishop (although White is
 still solidly better). **25.Rbd1 g6?**

[Black could get his last rook into the
 game: 25...Rae8]

26.Qf3

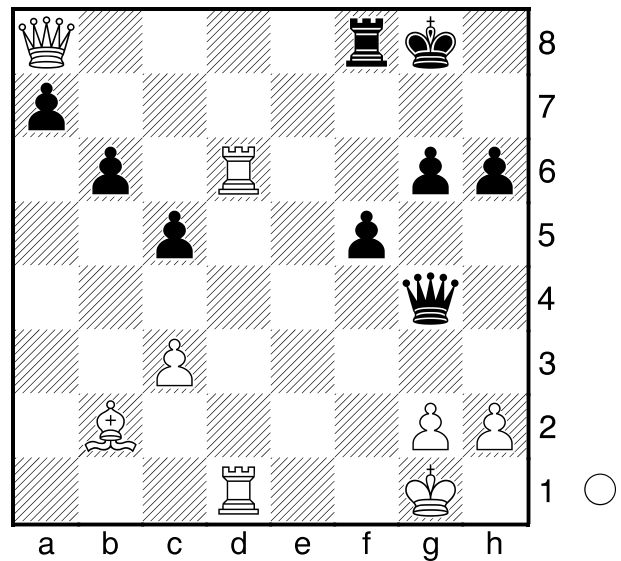
[26.Rd6! breaks the blockade of the c-
 pawn; once c3-c4 happens that extra
 bishop comes into its own.]

26...Qe4

[26...Rae8]

27.Rd6 Qg4 28.Qd5+! This should be
 checkmate soon... **28...Rf7 29.Qxa8+**
Rf8

(Diagram)



30.Rd8? Qxd1+! 31.Kf2??

White totally loses the thread.

[31.Rxd1 Rxa8 32.c4!+-]

31...Qxd8

0-1

IM John Donaldson

New Books by Thinkers Publishing

The Modernized O'Kelly Sicilian (342 pages, paperback, \$43) by Jan Boekelman

Beat the Dutch Defense (249 pages, paperback, \$38) by Jan Boekelmann

My Most Memorable Interviews (474 pages, hardback \$49 or paperback \$44) by Gert Devreese

The Modernized Arkhangelisk by Viktor Erdos (408 pages, paperback, \$35)

The Anti-Sicilian Bible by Efstatios Grivas (515 pages, paperback, \$37)

The Belgian publisher Thinkers Publishing recently released several new titles, most, but not all dealing with opening theory. The most important is Dutch amateur Jan Boekelman's work on the O'Kelly Sicilian (**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6**).

The O'Kelly has long considered to be "tricky" in the sense that if White played the routine **3.d4**, Black was considered to be at least equal if not better after **3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5** followed by **...Bb4** (or **...Bc5**). Unfortunately for the second player **3.d4** is not forced and both **3.c3** and **3.c4**, each seeking to make **2...a6** irrelevant, have long been considered better for White if not refutations.

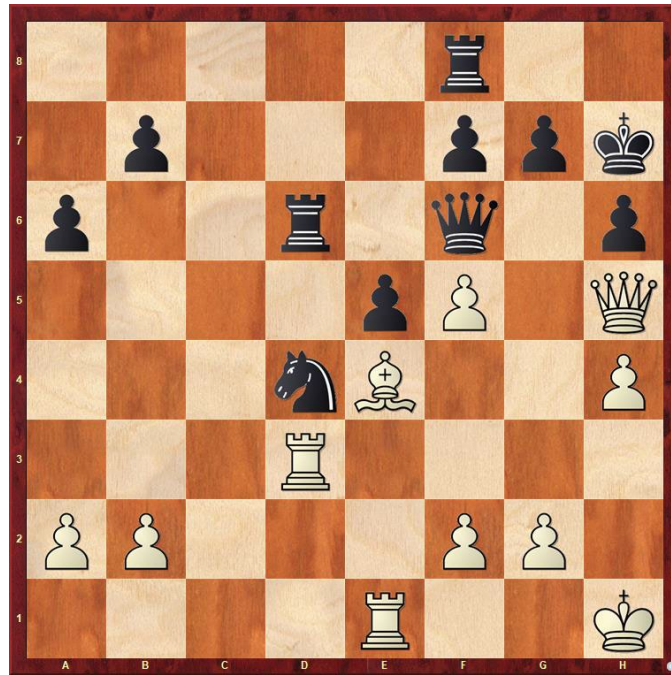
Such was the state of theory until recently, although a few sources (primarily English Grandmaster John Emms' chapter The O'Kelly Variation - Not Just a One-trick Pony in *The Sicilian Dangerous Weapons*, Everyman Chess 2006) suggested Black's resources had been underestimated. Things changed during the pandemic when the deluge of online rapid and blitz tournaments caused top players to look for new opening weapons, particularly ones with surprise value at fast time controls.

One of the new champions was the Russian Grandmaster Vladislav Artemiev whose games featured prominently in English International Master Andrew Martin's *Play the O'Kelly Sicilian*, Everyman Chess 2022, the first book devoted entirely to **1.d4 c5 2.Nf3 a6**. This work was a fine pioneering effort, but suffers from two defects for stronger players. The format, centered around well-annotated model games, makes it an excellent introduction to the subject but not well suited to examining the theoretical nitty-gritty. Also, how to meet **3.Nc3** is a tricky issue for O'Kelly players, and Martin's advocacy of **3...b5 4.d4 e6**, while practical, doesn't hold up for regular use against strong opposition.

Boekelman's new book, *The Modernized O'Kelly Sicilian*, makes a strong case for **2...a6** being invited into the family of regular Sicilian variations (Najdorf, Sveshnikov, Taimanov etc.) as he takes a critical look at **3.c3** and **3.c4**.

Against the latter he proposes **3...Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Nf5 d5** (Martin focuses on **6...d6 7.Nc3 g6 8.Ne3 Bh6** which offers the second player better winnings chances, albeit with more risk) where Black often sacrifices a pawn for positional compensation. Boekelman's main line goes

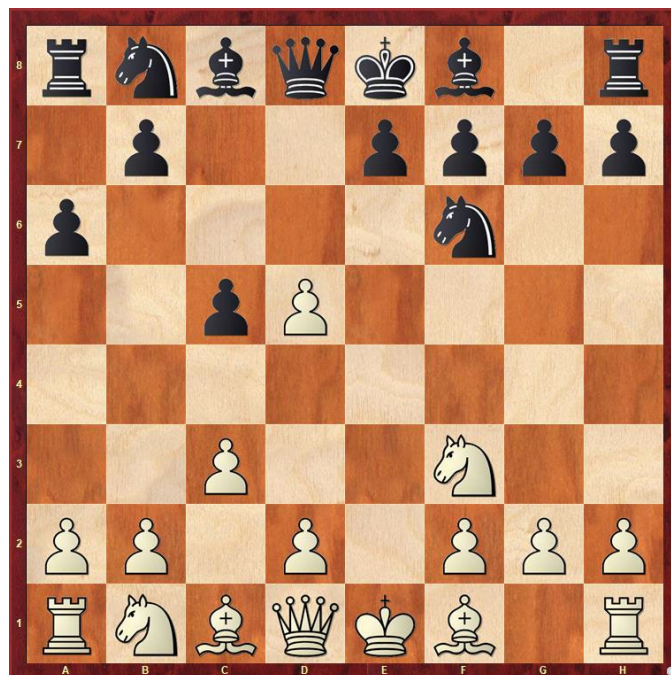
7.cxd5 Bxf5 8.exf5 Nd4 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.Bd3 Be7! 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Qg4 Bf6 15.h4 Rac8 16.Be4 Qd7 17.Bh6 Kh8 18.Bg5 Qe7 19.Rad1 h6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Qh5 Rcd8 22.Rd3 Kh7 23.Kh1 Rd6.



with equal chances in Ivic-L. Van Foreest, Terme Catez 2021.

Black looks to be equalizing after **3.c4**, but what of **3.c3**, steering the game into the Alapin Sicilian (**1.e4 c5 2.c3**) and asking the relevancy of **2...a6**? Here the author advocates for **3...d5** (and not **3...e6 4.d4 d5** which doesn't seem to be completely satisfactory) and after **4.exd5** he examines both **4...Qxd5** and the newer **4...Nf6**. Boekelman believes White can get a small against the former with **5.d4 Nf6 6.Be2** and that after **6.Be3** the resulting isolated queen pawn positions score well for the first player even though they may not be objectively better.

These reservations with **4...Qd5** have caused the author to advocate for **4...Nf6**.



This line bears an affinity with the currently popular 1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 (see the Anti-Alapin Gambit – Carsten Chess 2022 - by Cyrus Lakdawala and Carsten Hansen – if the idea of ...d5 and ...Nf6 works against c3 in the O’Kelly it should be even better without the inclusion of Nf3 and ...a6). This line has the practical objection that White can repeat the position after 5.Qa4+ Bd7 6.Qb3 Bc8 7.Qa4+, but theoretically this is not a problem.

Interestingly the author points out that **3.d4**, while not recommended, is not as bad as commonly thought and in fact should lead to equal chances with best play. Nor are **3.b4**, **3.g3** or **3.d3** particularly challenging. This leaves one last try for White which is perhaps the most problematic for Black – **3.Nc3**.

One of the major selling points for the O’Kelly, especially compared to other Sicilian variations, is that it is not considered to be theoretical compared to the Najdorf, Dragon, Sveshnikov, etc... That certainly is the case – except for **3.Nc3**. Black’s problem is how to keep the play in O’Kelly territory and this is indeed a challenge.

Martin advocates for **3...b5 4.d4 e6** in his book. This line can have good surprise value but as a regular weapon it falls short against stronger opposition. However, those under 2200 (Martin’s target audience), should find it suitable to play on a regular basis. The opening phase seldom decides games at this level and the d5-Benoni type setups that are White’s most challenging approach require a skillset (**1.e4** player playing a **1.d4** middlegame) most amateur players will not possess.

Unfortunately for Black the alternative is transposing into the Kan or Taimanov Sicilians. This is not necessarily what Black signed up for when playing **2...a6**, but there are some built in advantages arriving at these variations via the O’Kelly. With the White knight on **c3** big lines with **5.c4** and **5.Bd3** are ruled out against the former and **5.Nb5** against the latter.

In some ways adopting the Kan appears to be the principled approach. After **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4** Black can play **5...b5** and indeed this is just what Grandmaster Adrien Demuth advises in his book *The Modernized Kan Sicilian* (Thinkers Publishing 2022) where he points out the knight on **c3** is a target for the Black b-pawn. All credit to Boekelman (and Thinkers Publishing) to not referring the reader to this book but instead giving an entirely different Kan repertoire for Black.

The Modernized O’Kelly Sicilian fills a major gap in the chess literature as it serves as the first systematic work on this variation. The author is not a FIDE titled player, but the days when this was an insurmountable obstacle to producing a good quality book have long passed with the ever-increasing strength of Silicon oracles. Boekelman, as he has shown in other works, is a conscientious researcher who consults all relevant sources whether paper or electronic. He organizes his material well and provides helpful conclusions at the end of each chapter.

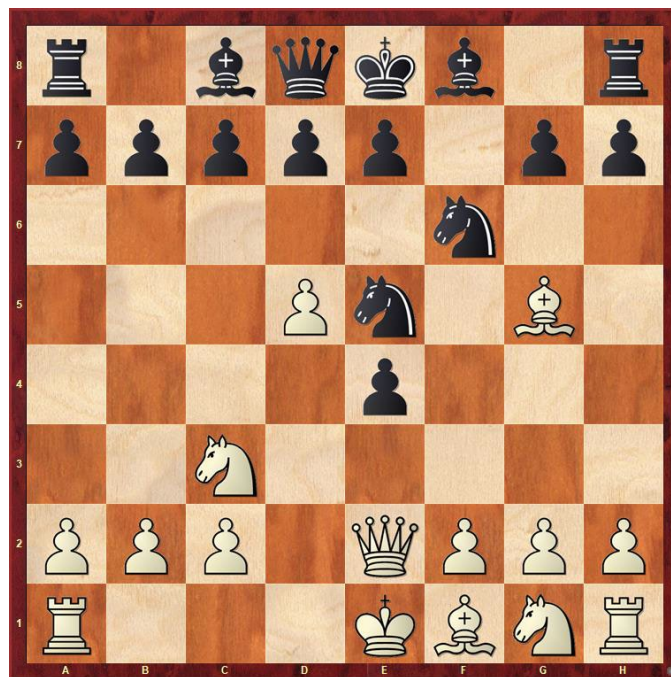
A strong Grandmaster could potentially have done a better job of choosing what material to include and exclude and provide more pithy explanations of the strategic objectives for both sides (Anish Giri’s coverage of anti-Sicilian lines in his book on the Dragon is a good example), but all said this a fine work.

The real problem for the potential O'Kelly player is how to meet **3.Nc3**. Boekelman spends almost a third of this book on his Kan Sicilian coverage which begs the question if Black wouldn't be better off learning how to meet **5.c4** and **5.Bd3** in the Kan rather than playing **2...a6**. Here the words of Emms in his 2006 article still ring true, "I believe the O'Kelly can be a particularly effective weapon when combined with elements of the Kan."

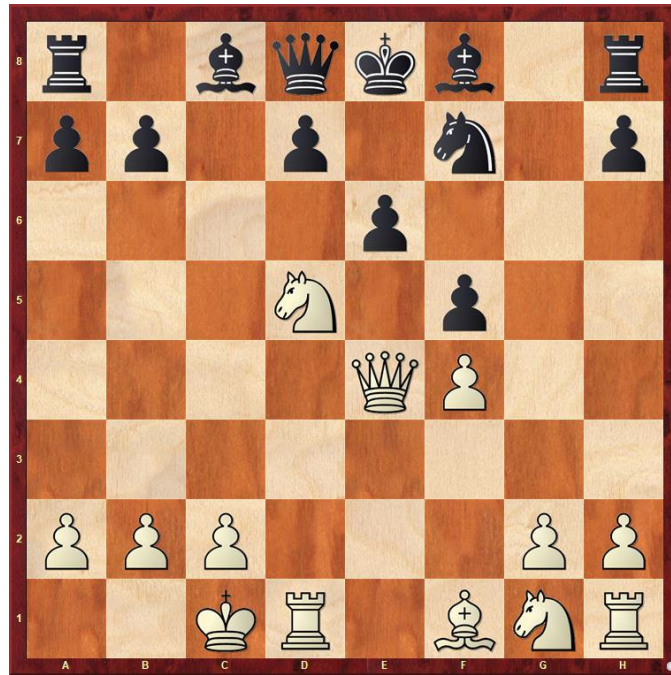
Beat the Dutch Defense is another book by Jan Boekelman but on a much different topic. The subject here is the Staunton Gambit (**1.d4 f5 2.e4**). Back in the 1920s and 1930s Mikhail Botvinnik often reached the Dutch Defense via **1.d4 e6 2.d4 f5**, possibly to avoid the Staunton Gambit. Such measures are seldom seen these days, in part because of the long-term strength of **1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nc6**, but this variation may be in for a reevaluation on account of the strength of **5.d5 Ne5 6. Qe2** (instead of the traditional **6.Qd4**).

English Grandmaster Simon Williams's *The Killer Dutch Rebooted* (Everyman Chess 2022) was published simultaneously with Boekelman's book making it interesting to compare their conclusions about the strength of the Staunton Gambit.

Black major choices after **1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5** are **4...g6**, **4...c6** and **4...Nc6**. The latter has been the main line for some time and is Williams's choice. After **5.d5 Ne5** White has two choices and both authors agree that the older **6.Qd4** is not dangerous, focusing their attention on **6.Qe2**, the move which has given new life to the Staunton Gambit.



Black's best responses are **6...c6** (Williams's choice as well as fellow Dutch aficionado Grandmaster Viktor Moskalenko) and **6...Nf7** (Boekelman's main line). After **6...c6 7.0-0-0** Boekelman considers **7...Nxd5** best, giving the move an exclamation mark, but Williams shows that the second player has a simpler solution in **7...cxd5 8.f4 Nf7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nxd5 (10.Rxd5 b6) 10...e6 11.Qxe4 f5**.



Boekelman gives only **11...Bh6**.

Conclusion: The Staunton Gambit is sound but it does not refute the Dutch. Players seeking an aggressive system against the Dutch will find Boekelman's book useful.

Those looking for a chess book to read cover to cover for pleasure, picking up some chess culture along the way, will find Belgian journalist Gert Devreese's massive tome *My Most Memorable Interviews* just the thing. This book includes interviews with top players and other interesting figures in the chess world the past twenty odd years. This is the rare chess book that can be recommended no matter what the reader's rating is.

Hungarian Grandmaster Viktor Erdos enjoys a reputation as an excellent theoretician with a deep understanding of the game. These qualities are front and center in his book *The Modernized Arkhangelisk* which covers the line **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5** in great detail as well as providing a repertoire against earlier White deviations in the Ruy (**4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Qf6** for example).

The Anti-Sicilian Bible by Efstatios Grivasis is a massive (515 pages!) work devoted to the Black side when White avoids the Open Sicilian. A repertoire is provided against lines often seen at the club level including the Closed (**2.Nc3**), the Alapin (**2.c3**), and the Grand Prix (both **2.f4** and **2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4**). The Greek Grandmaster offers **..Nc6** against the Rossolimo which works whether Black enters it via **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5 Nc6** or **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6**. Well annotated model games and exercises with solutions round out this work.

You can find sample chapters from these books in PDF at www.thinkerspublishing.com.

The Chess Scuttlebutt

Links to some of the news that make up our world.

Kazakhstan will [host](#) the Ding Liren vs. Ian Nepomniatchi World Championship match in April.

Magnus Carlsen [loses](#) two games in a row in the Netherlands – the first time since 2015.

CNN [explains](#) current chess time-controls and Fischer-Random to its readers.

Play chess on your phone and [earn](#) Bitcoin.

Lord of the Rings [collector's edition](#) chess set “more finely sculpted than Aragorn’s jawline”.

Webster University now [offers](#) a Chess in Education degree.

Former *Chess Life* columnist FM Alex Dunne has [died](#) at the age of 81.

Shattering the Guinness World Record, a woman in India sets up a chess board in 29.85 seconds using only [one hand](#).

Online chess leads to a [transatlantic romance](#).

A chess-bot named [Mittens](#) might give you a little cat scratch fever.

Has the 7-year-old racehorse Chess Master really gone off form? Find out [here](#).

Chess.com has been experiencing problems with its servers – and [blames](#) the overwhelming popularity of chess.

An [article](#) that tries to answer the question “Who Invented Chess?”

A [study](#) examines gender stereotypes and chess.

A three-year-old chess [prodigy](#) in the making?

Big Chess, big [money](#): the Champions Chess Tour promises a two-million dollar prize-fund.

We may not always agree with these fellows, but the [C-Squared Podcast](#) is always interesting.

Kids in Philadelphia [“Checkmate Violence”](#) in annual tournament.

Can chess engines help in hospital [emergency rooms](#)?

FIDE [rolls out](#) the 1st Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities.

Anish Giri [wins](#) Tata Steel despite a late surge from Carlsen.

How to make an [electronic shoe](#) to cheat at chess.

[Empowering](#) young girls through chess in Liberia.

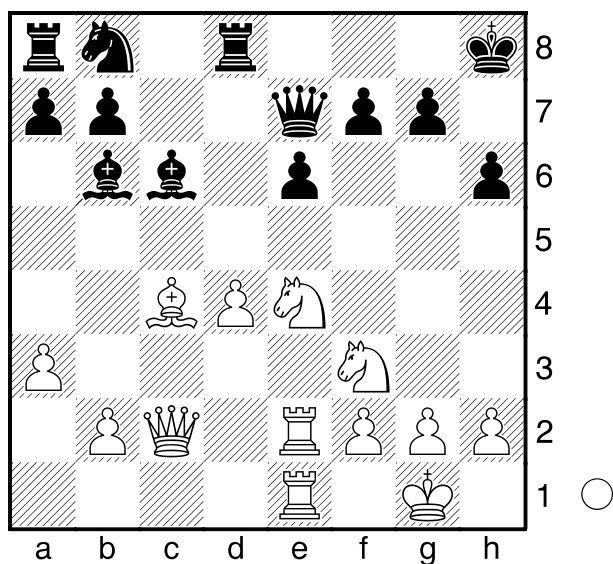
Top Iranian woman chess player [explains](#) why she removed her headscarf.

Recent Games

A selection of games played around the world that have caught our attention.

A Giri **D38**
 D Gukesh **2764**
 Tata Steel Masters (2) **2725**
15.01.2023

A spectacular double sacrifice of knight and rook, and a precise finish by the winner of Tata Steel. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 0-0 8.Rc1 dxc4 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Ne4 Qe7 12.a3 Ba5 13.exd4 Rd8 14.Rc2 Bd7 15.Re2 Bc6 16.Qc2 Bb6 17.Rfe1 Kh8

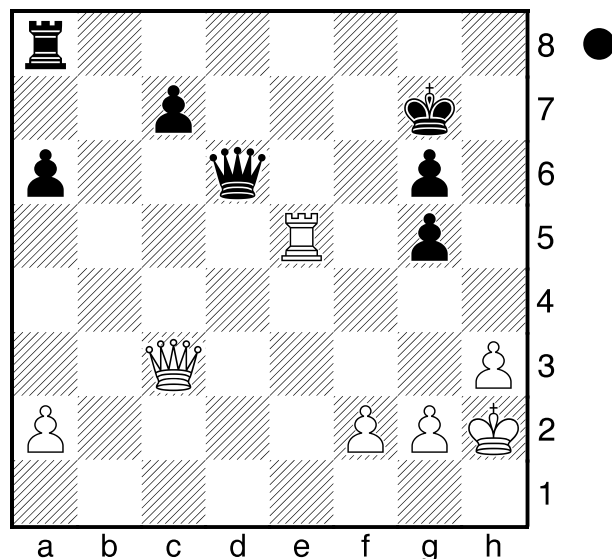


18.Neg5! hxc5 19.Rxe6! fxe6 20.Rxe6 Qxe6 21.Bxe6 Bxf3 22.Qf5 Be4 23.Qxe4 Rxd4 24.Qf3 g4 25.Qf8+ Kh7 26.Bf5+ Kh6 27.Bc2
1-0

Nodirbek Abdusattorov **C84**
 Parham Maghsoodloo **2713**
 Tata Steel Masters (4) **2719**
17.01.2023

A long, intense struggle, where the vulnerability of black's king was the theme throughout. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 d6 7.c3 0-0 8.Re1 b5 9.Bc2 Re8

10.Nbd2 Bf8 11.Nf1 g6 12.h3 Bg7 13.Ng3 d5 14.d4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 exd4 16.Bg5 Be6 17.Bb3 h6 18.Bxe6 Rxe6 19.Nxf6+ Bxf6 20.Rxe6 fxe6 21.Qe2 hxc3 22.Qxe6+ Kh7 23.Qxc6 dxc3 24.bxc3 b4 25.Re1 bxc3 26.Re6 Kg7 27.Ne5 Qd1+ 28.Kh2 Bxe5+ 29.Rxe5 Qd6 30.Qxc3

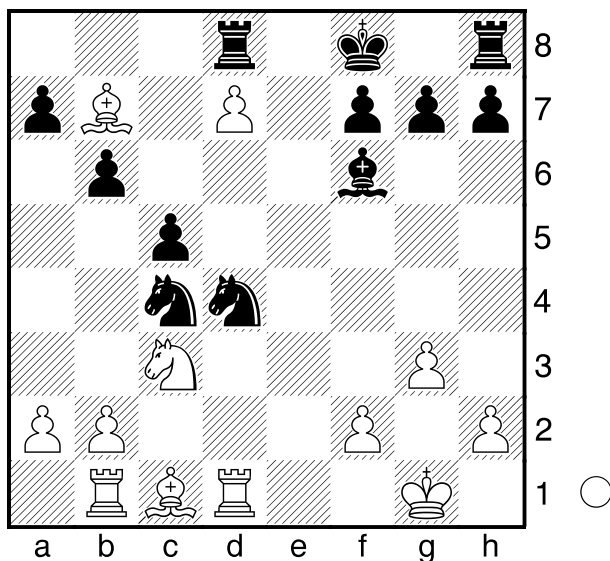


Re8 31.f4 Kf8 32.Rxc3 Qxf4+ 33.Rg3 Re6 34.Kg1 Kg8 35.Rd3 c5 36.Rd8+ Kf7 37.Rd7+ Ke8 38.Rd5 Qh4 39.Rd1 c4 40.Rf1 Kd7 41.Qb4 Qd4+ 42.Kh1 Qd5 43.Qf8 Re7 44.Qf6 Rh7 45.Rf4 Kc7 46.Rd4 Rf7 47.Qh8 Qb5 48.a4 Qc5 49.Rd1 Rd7 50.Rb1 Rd8 51.Qg7+ Rd7 52.Qb2 Kc6 53.Qb8 Rd3 54.Qb7+ Kd6 55.Qxa6+ Ke7 56.Qxc6 Kd7 57.a5 Qd5 58.Qg4+ Kd6 59.a6 c3 60.Rb6+ Ke5 61.Qg5+ Ke4 62.Qe7+ Qe5 63.Qh4+ Kf5 64.Qg4#
1-0

A Giri **E15**
 M Carlsen **2764**
 Tata Steel Masters (4) **2859**
17.01.2023

A positional masterpiece, and Giri beats Carlsen at a classic time-control for the

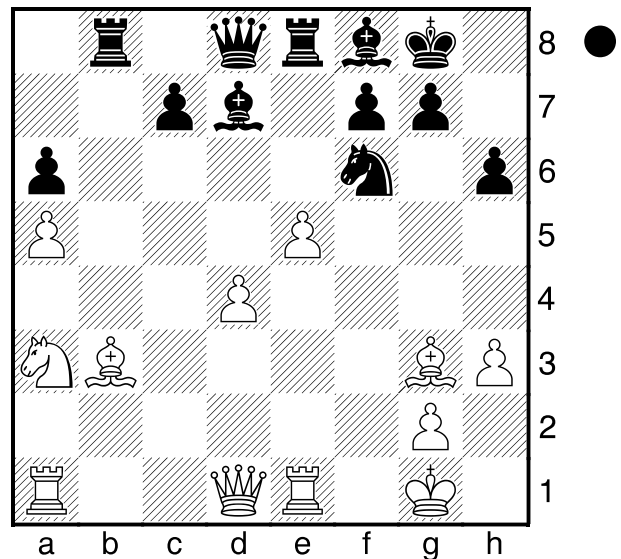
first time in over a decade. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.d5 exd5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rd1 Nc6 11.Qf5 Nf6 12.e4 d6 13.e5 Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Nxd7 15.exd6 Bf6 16.Re1+ Kf8 17.Nc3 Nb4 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.Bxb7 Rd8 20.Rd1 Nc4 21.d7 Nc2 22.Rb1 Nd4



23.b4! Rxd7 24.Bd5 Nd6 25.bxc5 bxc5 26.Ba3 Ke7 27.Bxc5 Ne6 28.Bb4 a5 29.Bxa5 Rc8 30.Na4 Nc4 31.Rbc1 Be5 32.Bb4+ Kf6 33.Nc5 Nxc5 34.Rxc4 Rdc7 35.Ba5 1-0

C88
2766
2859
Tata Steel Masters (8) 22.01.2023

22...Bc6! was an unexpected shot, and the US Champion could not adjust. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 b4 9.a5 d6 10.c3 Rb8 11.h3 h6 12.d4 bxc3 13.bxc3 exd4 14.Nxd4 Bd7 15.Bf4 Ne5 16.Na3 Re8 17.Bg3 Bf8 18.f4 Nc6 19.e5 dxe5 20.fxe5 Nxd4 21.cxd4



Bc6! 22.Bc2?

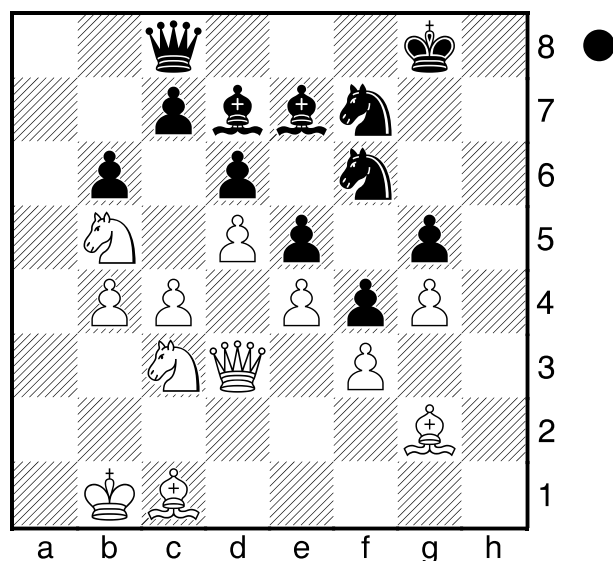
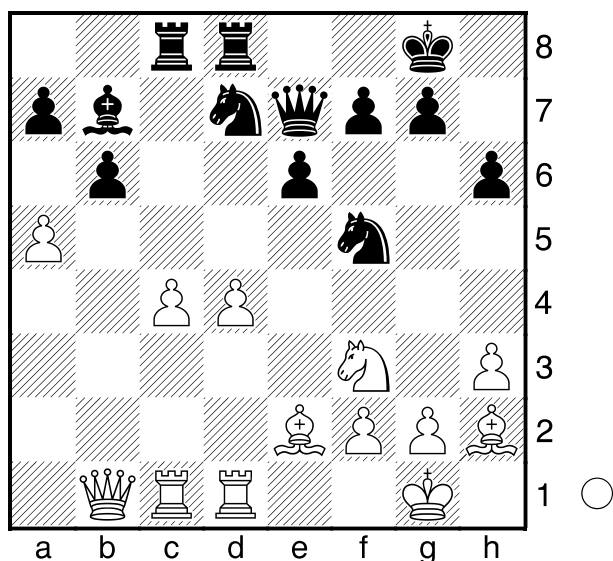
[22.exf6 Rxe1+ 23.Bxe1 Rxb3!-+]
[22.Rf1! would have held the balance.]

22...Qd5 23.Re2 Rb4! 24.Kh2 Rxd4 25.Qb1 Ne4 26.Bxe4 Rxe4 27.Rxe4 Qxe4 28.Qxe4 Bxe4 29.Nc4 Rb8 30.Rc1 Rb5 31.e6 fxe6 32.Bxc7 Rc5 33.Bf4 Bd5 0-1

A17
2627
2686
Tata Steel Challengers (11) 27.01.2023

White's queenside minority attack and bishop pair put black under relentless pressure. 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bd6 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 Re8 7.Nb5 Be7 8.Be5 Na6 9.Be2 c6 10.Nc3 Nc5 11.Qc2 Ncd7 12.Bg3 dxc4 13.bxc4 b6 14.h3 Bb4 15.Bh2 Bb7 16.0-0 Qe7 17.d4 Rac8 18.Rfd1 Bxc3 19.Qxc3 c5 20.a4 Ne4 21.Qb3 cxd4 22.exd4 Nd6 23.Rac1 Nf5 24.a5 Red8 25.Qb1 h6

(Diagram)



26.c5 Bxf3 27.Bxf3 bxc5 28.Bb7 Rb8
29.Bxb8 Rxb8 30.dxc5 Nxc5 31.Qb5
Nxb7 32.a6 e5 33.Rb1 Nd4 34.Qb4
Qc7 35.axb7 Qc2 36.Qb2 Qg6
37.Rdc1 Nf3+ 38.Kh1 Nh4 39.Rc8+
Kh7 40.Rg1
1-0

Nxg4! 35.fxg4 Bxg4 36.Bf3 Bh3
37.Bh5 g4 38.Ne2 Bf1 39.Qd1 Bg2
40.Bg6 Ng5 41.Nbc3 Bf3 42.Qf1 Kg7
43.Bf5 Qh8 44.Nxf4 exf4 45.Bxf4 Bf6
46.Qc1 Nf7 47.Nb5 Qa8 48.e5 dxe5
49.Bd2 Nd6 50.Bh6+ Kf7 51.Nxd6+
cxd6 52.Bg5 Qh8 53.Be3 e4 54.Bxb6
Qh2 55.Bg1 Qe2 56.b5 Qd3+
0-1

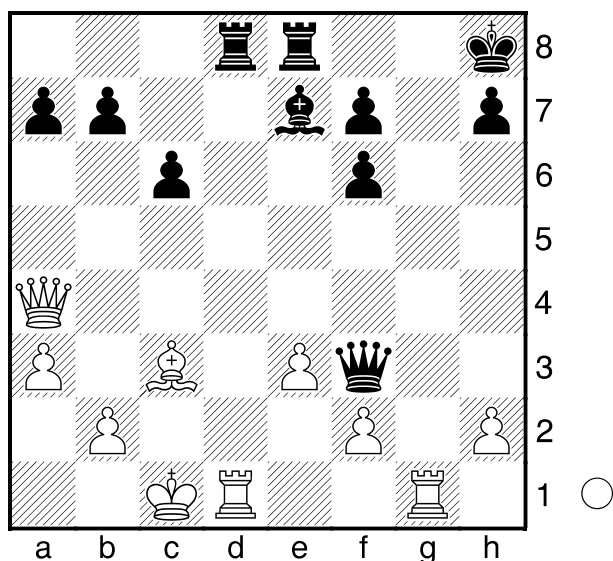
□ **Arjun Erigaisi** **A50**
 ■ **Magnus Carlsen** **2722**
 Tata Steel Masters (13) 29.01.2023 **2859**

□ **Tan,Zhongyi** **A28**
 ■ **Zhu,Jiner** **2530**
 FIDE Women's Grand Prix | Second Leg 20 (1) **2486**

A master class in fighting spirit from the get-go, as the World Champion takes his talented opponent on a wild ride. The black queen's manoeuvres on the a8-h8-h1 axis are particularly nice. 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.d4 0-0 7.d5 Na6 8.Nc3 Nc5 9.Nd4 e5 10.Nc2 a5 11.b3 d6 12.e4 Bc8 13.Na3 Ne8 14.Nab5 Bd7 15.Rb1 f5 16.f3 f4 17.a3 g5 18.b4 Nb7 19.g4 h5 20.h3 Rf7 21.Kf2 Bf8 22.Rg1 Rh7 23.Bf1 Nf6 24.Ke1 Qc8 25.Rb2 Nd8 26.Qd3 Nf7 27.Kd1 Be7 28.Kc2 axb4 29.axb4 hxg4 30.hxg4 Ra1 31.Rb1 Rh2+ 32.Rg2 Rxg2+ 33.Bxg2 Rxb1 34.Kxb1

Black's weakened kingside proves to be too difficult to hold in the long run. 1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Qc2 0-0 6.Nd5 Re8 7.Qf5 d6 8.Nxf6+ gxf6 9.Qc2 e4 10.Nh4 d5 11.a3 Bf8 12.cxd5 Qxd5 13.d4 exd3 14.Bxd3 Qh5 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Be2 Rad8 17.Bd2 Ne5 18.0-0-0 Nxf3 19.gxf3 Bxf3 20.Rhg1+ Kh8 21.Bc3 Be7 22.Bxf3 Qxf3 23.Qa4 c6

(Diagram)

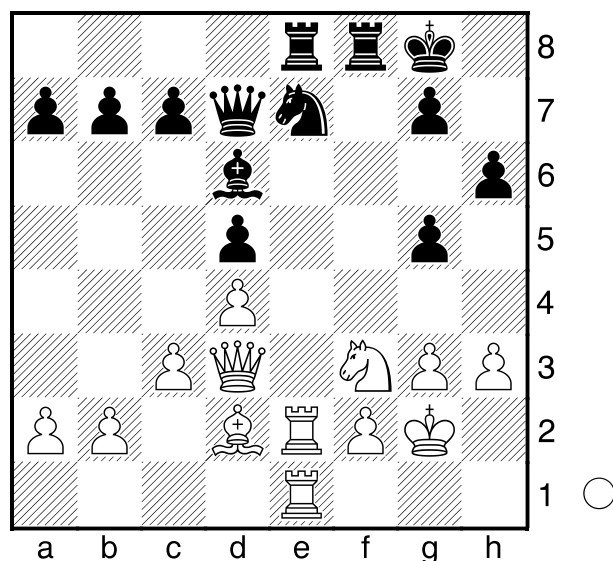


24.Qb3! Rd5 25.Qxb7 Qxf2 26.Qxc6
Red8 27.Rdf1 Qxe3+ 28.Kb1 R5d6
29.Qg2 Qh6 30.Ka2 Re6 31.Rf5 Re3
32.Rh5 Qf8 33.Bd2 Rxd2 34.Qxd2
Re5 35.Rh3 Rg5 36.Qc2 Qg8 37.Re1
Bd6 38.Re8
1-0

A Kosteniuk **C42**
2519
 A Kashlinskaya **2491**
 Women's Grand Prix (1) 02.02.2023

Another game in which pressure on the kingside proves too much to bear. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Nbd2 Nxd2 8.Bxd2 Bg4 9.0-0 Be7 10.c3 0-0 11.h3 Bh5 12.g3 Qd7 13.Kg2 Bg6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Qe2 Rae8 16.Qd3 Bd6 17.Rae1 Ne7 18.Re2 h6 19.Rfe1 g5

(Diagram)

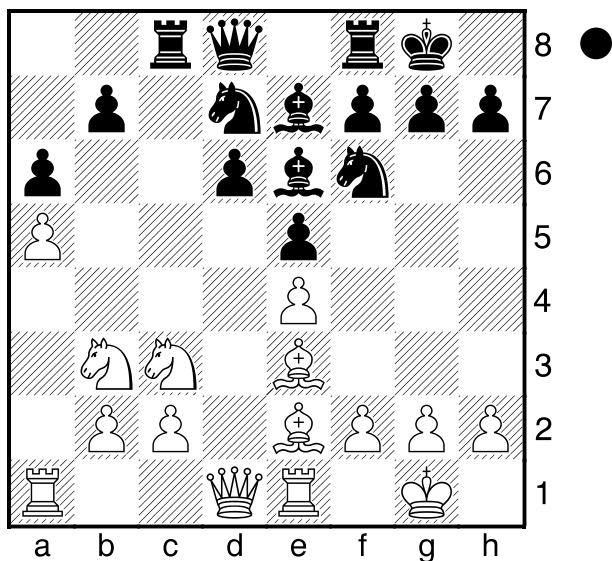


20.c4! dxc4 21.Qxc4+ Kh8 22.Re6
Nc8 23.d5 Nb6 24.Qg4 Qf7 25.Qe4
Rd8 26.Bc3 Kg8 27.Rg6 Rfe8 28.Re6
Rf8 29.h4 g4 30.Qxg4 Nxd5 31.Bd4
Ne7 32.Rf6! Qe8 33.Rxd6
1-0

Levon Aronian **B92**
2736
 Peter Svidler **2683**
 Airthings Masters (1.1) 03.02.2023

A classic Sicilian exchange sacrifice leads to a powerful attack in the center, followed by a king-side onslaught. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.a4 Rc8 12.a5

(Diagram)

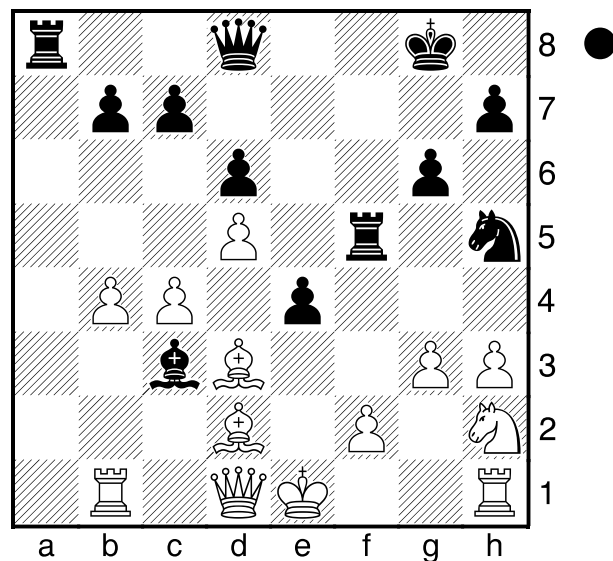


Rxc3! 13.bxc3 Nxe4 14.Qd3 f5 15.f3
Nef6 16.c4 f4 17.Bf2 e4 18.Qd1 e3
19.Bh4 Ne5 20.Nd4 Bc8 21.c3 Nh5
22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.Qb3 Qh4 24.Rf1 Rf6
25.c5+ Kh8 26.Qb6 Rh6 27.h3 Rg6
28.g4 Qg3+ 29.Kh1 Qxh3+ 30.Kg1
Qg3+ 31.Kh1 Qh4+ 32.Kg2 Nxg4
33.fxg4 Bxg4 34.Rf3 Bh3+
0-1

Openyagami **E90**
GGuseinov **2614**
2704
 ICC tourney 3118 (40 10) (3) 04.02.2023

A brilliant attacking game in the style of Tal and Kasparov. 1.c4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e4 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Nh2 Na6 9.g3 Nc5 10.b4 Nd7 11.Rb1 a5 12.a3 axb4 13.axb4 f5 14.exf5 e4 15.Nb5 Ne5 16.Nd4 Bxf5 17.Nxf5 Rxf5 18.Be2 Nd3+ 19.Bxd3 Bc3+ 20.Bd2

(Diagram)

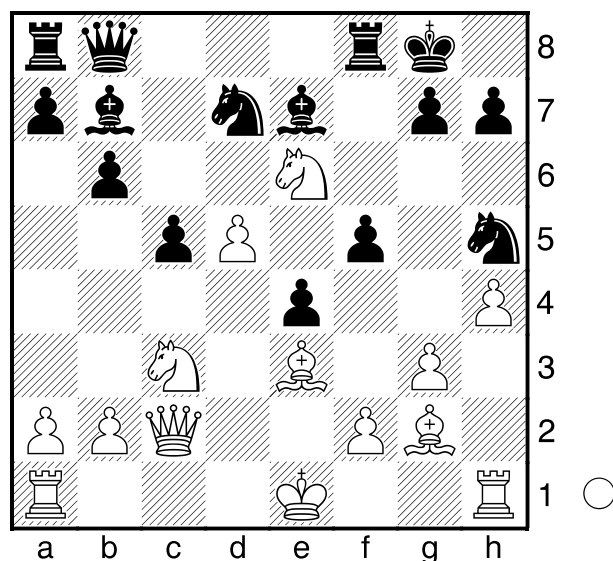
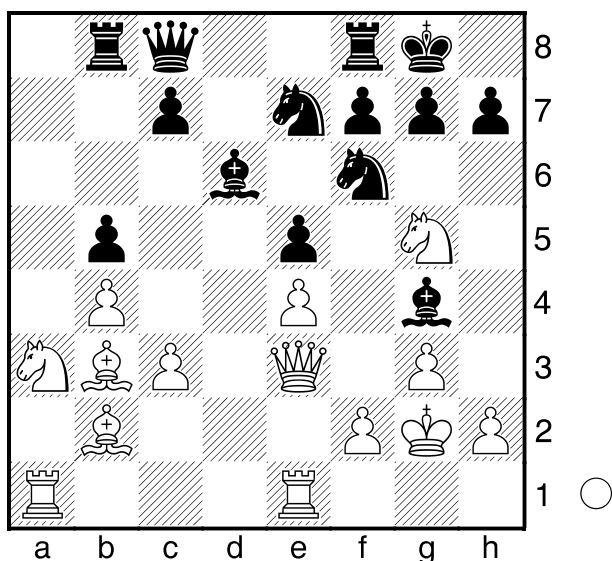


Nxg3!! 21.fxg3 Qg5! 22.Ng4 exd3
23.Bxc3 Re8+ 24.Be5 Rxe5+
25.Nxe5 Qe3+
0-1

Firouzja,Alireza **C54**
Erigaisi Arjun **2785**
2701
 Airthings Masters Div 1 2023 (1.1) 6.2.23

With four pieces out of play on the queenside white makes the fatal error of opening up the game with 23.f4? and gets completely destroyed. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.b4 Be7 7.Nbd2 d5 8.Bb3 Be6 9.0-0 a6 10.Re1 Qd7 11.Bb2 dxe4 12.dxe4 Rad8 13.a4 Nh5 14.g3 Bh3 15.Kh1 Nf6 16.Qe2 Bg4 17.Nc4 Bd6 18.Kg2 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Na3 Rb8 21.Qe3 Ne7 22.Ng5 Qc8

(Diagram)



23.f4? h6 24.Nf3 exf4 25.gxf4 Bh3+
26.Kh1 Qg4 27.Rg1 Qxf4 28.Rae1
Ng4 29.Qe2 Qxe4 30.Bc1 Ng6 31.Bc2
Qc6 32.c4 Rbe8
0-1

17.g4! fxg4 18.Bxe4 Ndf6 19.Nxf8
Qxf8 20.0-0 Bd6 21.Bf5 Re8
22.Rhe1 Kh8 23.Kb1 a6 24.Bg5 b5
25.Re6 Rd8 26.Ne4 Bf4 27.Bxf6 Nxf6
28.Nxf6 gxf6 29.Qe4 Be5 30.Qxg4 c4
31.Qh5 Qg8 32.Re7
1-0

Carlsen,Magnus **E11**
2852
 Sarana,Alexey **2668**
 Airthings Masters Div 1 2023 (1.1) 6.2.23

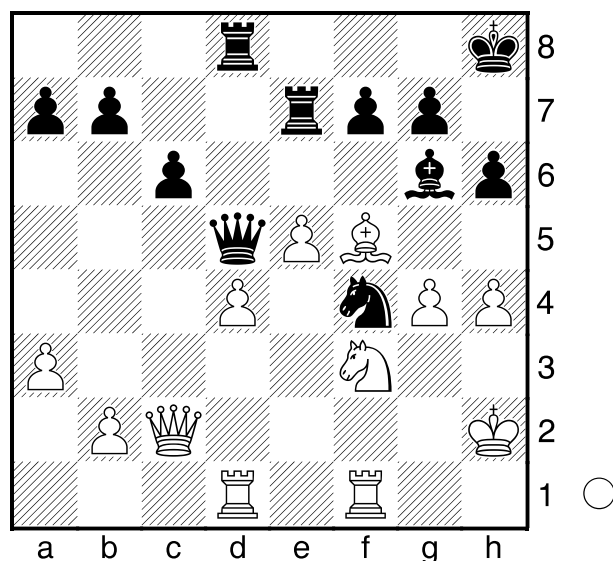
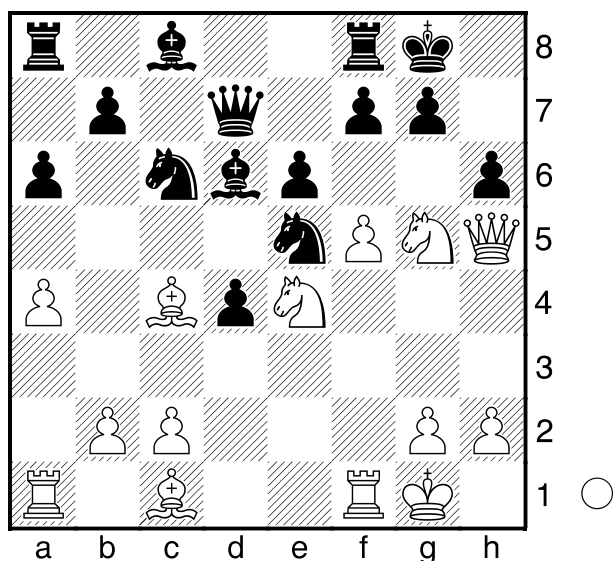
9.h4!? ala AlphaZero is interesting, and maybe 9...c5 reacting quickly in the center was the antidote. After Carlsen's knight penetrated to e6, 17.g4! tore black's position completely open. Down material and under attack, Sarana quickly succumbs. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 c6 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.Bf4 0-0 9.h4!? b6 10.Nc3 Bb7 11.e4 dxe4 12.Ng5 c5 13.d5 exd5 14.cxd5 Nh5 15.Be3 f5 16.Ne6 Qb8

(Diagram)

Horvath,Dominik **C07**
2513
 Roshka,Yevgeniy **2503**
 GM Vienna 2023 (2.4) 08.02.2023

White's relentless attacking play makes a nice impression. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Qe2 a6 9.a4 Bd6 10.Ne4 Nge7 11.Nfg5! Ng6 12.f4 0-0 13.f5 Nge5 14.Qh5 h6

(Diagram)



15.Nf6+ gxf6 16.Qxh6 Re8 17.Qh7+
Kf8 18.fxe6 Rxe6 19.Bxe6 fxe6
20.Rxf6+ Ke8 21.Qg8+ Ke7 22.Qf8#
1-0

25.Kg3 Ne6 26.h5 Bxf5 27.gxf5 Nf8
28.Rde1 Nh7 29.Re4 Rg8 30.Rg4
Ree8 31.Kh2 f6 32.Qg2 Ng5 33.e6
Rd8 34.Nh4 Rge8 35.Rc1 Qxg2+
36.Kxg2 Kg8 37.Kf2 Rd5 38.Ke3 Rb5
39.b4 a5 40.Rc5 Rxc5 41.dxc5 axb4
42.Rxb4 Rb8 43.Ng6 Nh7 44.Rd4 Ra8
45.a4 Nf8 46.e7 Re8 47.Rd8
1-0

Erigaisi,Arjun **B12**

Gukesh,D... **2701**
2718
 Champions Chess Tour Airthings Masters (52)

A powerfully played game by Erigaisi, who holds his compatriot in a vice-like grip to the very end. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.c3 Nd7 7.Be2 Ngf6 8.Nbd2 exd4 9.cxd4 Bb4 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qc2 Bh5 12.a3 Bxd2 13.Bxd2 Re8 14.e5 Nd5 15.Bd3 h6 16.Bh7+ Kh8 17.Bf5 Nf8 18.g4 Bg6 19.Kh1 Ne7 20.Bb4 Qd5 21.Rad1 Rad8 22.Bxe7 Rxe7 23.h4 Ne6 24.Kh2 Nf4

(Diagram)

San Francisco Scholastic Championship Returns to Golden Gate Park

The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship returns to over-the-board play in Spring 2023. “As many youth chess players know, Mechanics’ Institute had to pivot during the pandemic and move most of our classes and tournaments online. Over the past year and a half, the Institute’s staff have



worked diligently to ensure that we have been able to return to more schools and in-person tournaments in our scholastic enrichment program,” said Kimberly Scrafano, CEO of Mechanics’ Institute. “While we have appreciated the opportunity to organize our annual chess championship online for the last three years, we are excited to announce that the Institute is planning to host the 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship in-person and live in Golden Gate Park this spring.”

The Mechanics’ Institute’s San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship has brought together hundreds of young players of all levels annually since 2015. The intent of the event is to foster competition in a friendly environment, and therefore there are both non-rated and USCF-rated sections, engaging players of all skill levels. With past grant support from the Morris and Alma Shapiro Fund, the A.O. Dragge Foundation, the Mary A. Crocker Trust, and First Republic Bank, the Institute has been able to offer this event free to all players.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 4. The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship will take place at 10am at the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park.

For more information, and to register for the Scholastic Championship, go [here](#).

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

With the Bay Area Scholastic Chess Tournament coming up on March 4, and the Mechanics' Institute's coaches working in schools and meeting monthly to build a curriculum, how to teach chess to beginners and others becomes an even more interesting question. Recently I've been thinking of the game primarily as an art of arrangement, with the purpose of building a strong position as well as an attack and a defense.

A few weeks ago I noticed some kids with pawns on the first rank. When I went over to get them to position them according to the rules, I saw that they had made a fine-looking, well-proportioned design of all the pawns and pieces radiating from two foci out to the corners and edges of the board. I decided my impatience was out of place, and I told them how nice it looked, which pleased them. I guess attack and defense can come later. They're already seeing beauty in the game.

A daily engagement with the 64 squares and 32 starting pieces is kind of like going to work, except most people don't get paid. A player's commitment is similar to that of an artist, scientist, or other thinker. And it's a great form of competition, a serious sport that one can play long after age 35 or 40.

The first Friday in February brought me at last to the monthly Chess Social at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room. There were several games going on, and a good number of people dropping in to socialize for the hour between 5pm and 6pm. I got in a number of informal games with a better player and we found our taste for friendly jibes and low-key trash talk entertaining to some of the others at the Social. It was a very good hour!

For years I've been meeting and remembering players who crossed paths with me in the life stream of chess, especially at a crossroads like this. Interesting individuals, friends, rivals, teachers, students, and world-class competitors who come here to give lectures and simuls, fill positions, and help us organize outreach.

Once, after a long absence from the chess room, I bumped into an old friend in the doorway of the Mechanics' Institute library. I congratulated him when he told me he'd become a master, but he insisted on modestly replying, "It's not so hard if all you do is study chess eight hours a day for twenty years." He said that he was now looking for a job.

Each partie begins with the looks of the players and the opening engagement of pawns and pieces, followed by the struggle to lead, to make plans, to come through a messy position into order step by step, and hopefully an arrangement that seriously threatens a coup de grâce.

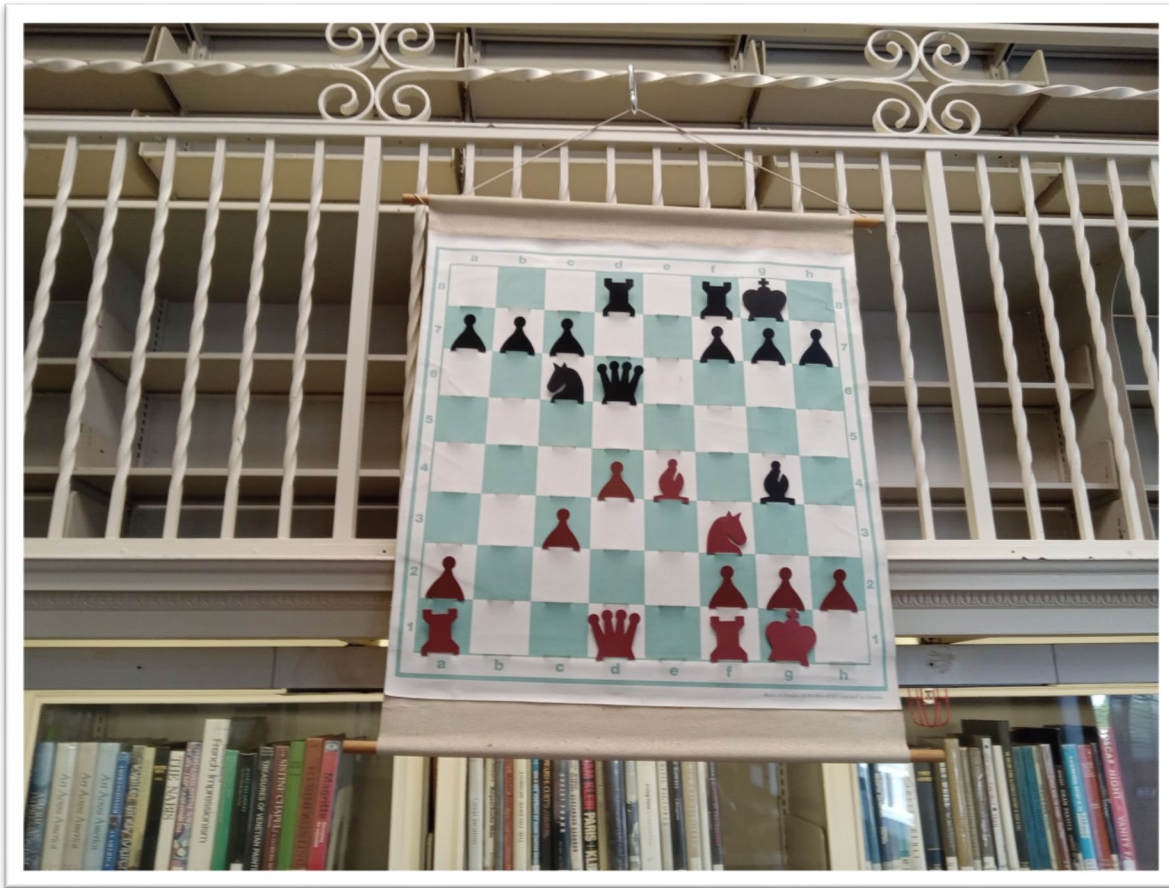
The end of one is the beginning of another. Every game score is the subject of further consideration. Progress, replay, fluctuation, redo.

Effectively arranging the pieces on the board, and arranging your life to fit the game into it. The game makes you think and is a gateway to the rest of it all.

(Information about joining the weekly Chess Café can be found [here](#).)

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.



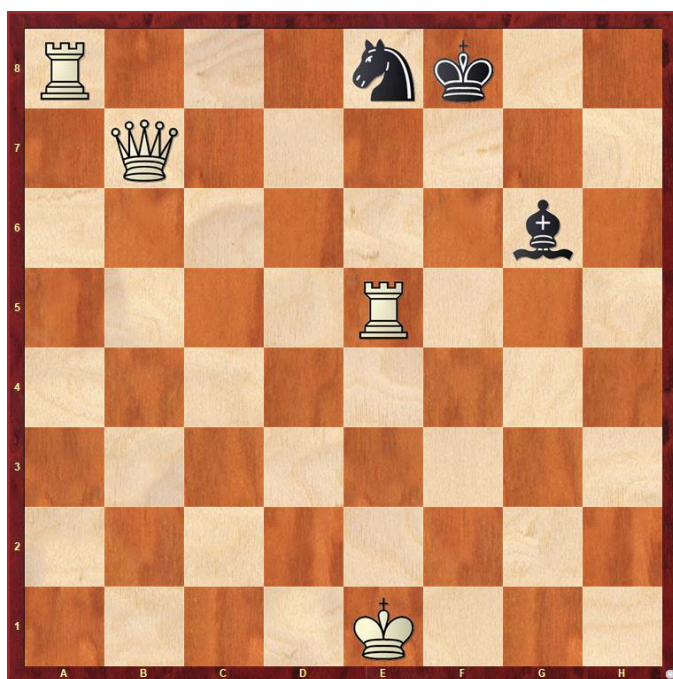
White to move. From Carsten Hansen's column Make Your Move in *Chess Life*, July 2022.
1.Bxh7+! is an example of the "Greek gift" sacrifice. If 1...Kxh7 then 2.Ng5+! Kg8 3.Qxg4. White recovers the piece, nets a pawn, and has a strong attack.

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

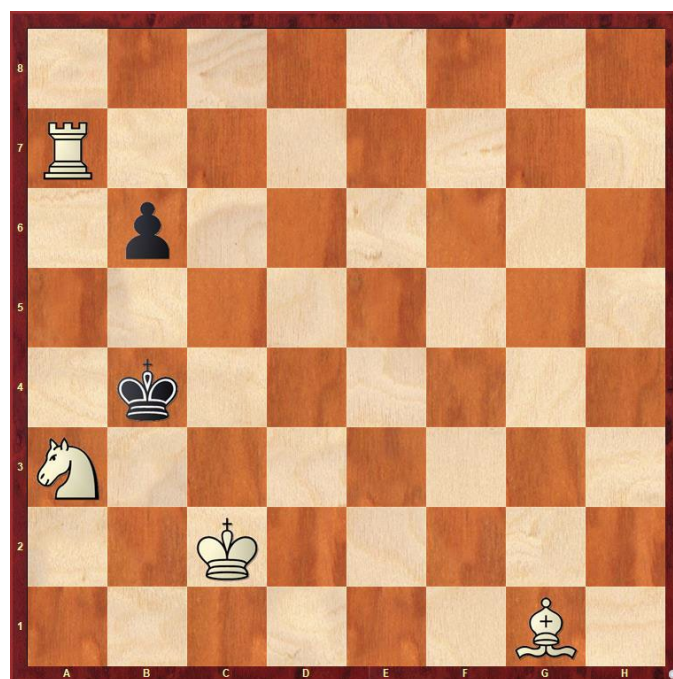
Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics' Institute? The Institute is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques.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

[Employment Opportunities | Mechanics' Institute \(milibrary.org\)](https://milibrary.org/employment-opportunities)

Tony's Teasers



1. Z. Mach, 1910.
White mates in 2 moves.



2. W. Kopfstahl, 1898.
White mates in 3 moves.

Upcoming Events

Tournaments

2023 New Year Tuesday Night Marathon - Ongoing

Tuesdays, January 10-February 21, 2023. 6:30pm. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5
Information and [link](#) to register.

2023 Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

Tuesdays, March 7-April 18, 2023. 6:30pm. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5
Information and [link](#) to register.

23rd A.J. Fink Memorial (under 2200) G/40;d5

Saturday, March 11, 2023. 10:00am. 4 games of G/40;d5
Information and [link](#) to register.

Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

Saturdays, February 11 & March 18, 2023, 10am. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5.
Information and [link](#) to register.

Monthly Championship Quads

Saturdays, February 11 & March 18, 2023, 3pm. 3 games of G/30;d5.
Information and [link](#) to register.

2023 San Francisco Scholastic Championship

Saturday, March 4, 2023, in Golden Gate Park
Information and [link](#) to register.

2023 Spring Mechanics' Women's Tournament – Free and Online

Sunday, February 12, 2023 to Saturday, March 18, 2023.
Non-USCF rated, 5 games of G/60+5 on a rolling schedule.
Information and [link](#) to register.

USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com

Saturday, February 25, 3pm. 6 games of G/10+2
Information and [link](#) to register.

Classes

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

Every Sunday from 10am-12pm. Information and [link](#) to register.

Introduction to Chess: Free Class for Mechanics' Institute Members with FM Paul Whitehead

7 classes, in person. Wednesdays, January 11-February 22, 2023, 5-6pm.
Information and [link](#) to register.

Game Analysis Series with FM Paul Whitehead

8 classes, in person. Thursdays, January 26-March 16, 2023, 5-6pm.
Information and [link](#) to register.

Other Offerings

Chess Café, Mondays 4-5:30pm, ongoing.

Information and [link](#) to register.

Chess Social, First Fridays 5-6pm, See attached flyer.

Solutions

1. **Z. Mach** 1910. **1.Rg5!** Zugzwang. If the black bishop moves on the h7-b1 diagonal then **2.Qg7#**.
Or **1...Bf7 2.Qb4#!**

2. **W. Kopfstahl** 1898. **1.Ra8!! b5 2.Ba7!** Hiding the bishop. **2...Kxa3** (or **2...Ka5/a4**) **3.Bc5+ #**.

Contact Us

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

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

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



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

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