

# Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1035 | March 11, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



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## Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On February 11, the Mechanics' Institute hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, and Quads Championship in the afternoon.

Fifty seven players competed in 14 sections, and **Sebastian Suarez** (1971) was top quad winner.

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

The February Scholastic Swiss had a strong turnout of 32 players competing in three sections. First place in the 700+ section was taken by **Hayes Marvin** (965) with 3.5 points out of 4. **Anthony Dokanchi** (678) scored a perfect 4-0 to take 1<sup>st</sup> in the under 700 section, and **Jonathan Gay** (unr.) took the top under 450 prize, also with a perfect 4-0.

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

Both Quads and Scholastic Swiss were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by Local TD **Michael Hsu**.

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The New Year Tuesday Night Marathon wrapped up on February 21 with a total of 94 players competing in three sections.

IM **Kyron Griffith** (2450) took clear 1<sup>st</sup> in the 2000+ section with 5.5 points from 7 games. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> were IM **Elliott Winslow** (2223) and **Siddharth Arun** (2186) with 5 points each. **Luke Widjada** (2104) and **Archit Dasika** (2143) both tied for the Best under 2200 prize with 4.5 points each, while **Sebastian Suarez** (1945) took the Best under 2000 prize, also scoring 4.5 points.

**Anthony Ivanenko** (1712) ran away with 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1600-1999 section, scoring 6 points with no losses. **Victor Briancon-Marjollet** (1708) and **Karl Stuart Kingma** (1683) were a full point behind, tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a three-way split for Best under 1800 between **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (1640), **Stephen Parsons** (1780), and **Felix MacNee** (1692), all scoring 4.5 points. There was an even larger tie for Best under 1600, with five players splitting the honors at 3.5 points each: **Pratyush Hule** (1424), **Neil Kulkarni** (1564), **Ronald Allen III** (1525), **Chunhui Gu** (1525), and **John Chan** (1515).

The under 1600 section also saw a clear winner, with unrated **Isaac Lazarus** scoring an impressive 6.5 points, while another unrated player, **Wilson Wong**, took clear 2<sup>nd</sup> with 6 points. **Sam Nolen** (826) and **Michael Edward Phillips** (1420) split 3<sup>rd</sup> place and the Best under 1400 prize with 5.5 points each, while the Best under 1200 prize was split four ways between **Adam Levine** (643), **Belinda Xu** (1106), **Otto Albert Schmidt** (1089), and **William Fitzgerald** (755), all scoring 4.5 points.

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

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

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The Spring Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off March 7 with 95 players competing in three sections. Information, standings, and results can be found [here](#).

The Spring TNM is being directed by Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

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### **IM Elliott Winslow**

Annotated Games from rounds six and seven of the New Year TNM, and round one of the Spring TNM.

D00

□ Arun,Siddharth

2186

■ Winslow,Elliott

2223

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 14.2.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

Talk about a missed opportunity: At this point Kyron Griffith, Archit Dasika and I were tied for 1st-3rd with 4, followed by Luke Widjaja the lone 3.5. I'd already played Kyron. Kyron was taking a half-point bye, Luke beat Archit, and I ... floundered badly against Arun Siddharth. I knew he played the Jobava System but spent too much time on his previous preferred line (the Trompowsky), I forgot the line I prepared and played something else entirely, I wobblily mixed ideas more often than the last-place finisher on Top Chef, and passed by various drawing opportunities in the ending -- to go down. Grrr! Kudos to Arun, though, showing his gentle strength in these "buzzing mosquito" openings. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 g6**

[ 3...e6 ]

[ 3...c6 ]

[ 3...c5!? ]

**4.e3 Bg7 5.Nb5 Na6 6.h3 0-0 7.Nf3 c6 8.Nc3 Qa5?! Superficial.** He could brush aside any pin problems.

[ 8...Nc7 and to e6, \*then\* ...c5. ]

[ 8...Nb8 and then ...c5. ]

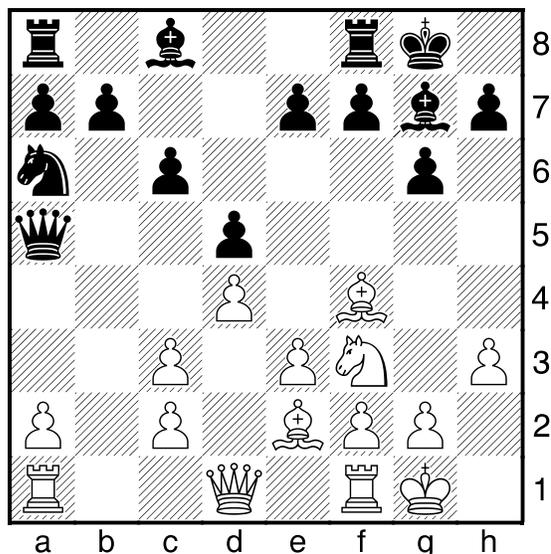
[ Even 8...Qb6 and then ...c5. ]

**9.Be2?! insisting on a gambit?**

[ 9.Bd3 Ne4 10.0-0 Nxc3 11.Qd2± ]

**9...Ne4 10.0-0 Nxc3 11.bxc3**

(Diagram)



Nb8

[ I didn't even begin to consider how he would get compensation after 11...Qxc3! 12.Rb1 (No better is first 12.Bxa6 bxa6 13.Rb1 ) 12...Qa5 ( 12...b5 ) ]

**12.c4 Nd7**

[ 12...b6!? to trade a bishop via ... Ba6 ]

**13.cxd5 cxd5 14.c4 e5**

[ 14...dxc4 15.Bxc4 Nb6 16.Bb3 Nd5 17.Bg3 Be6 ]

**15.Bh2**

[ Probably more to the point is 15.dxe5 dxc4 16.e6! Nb6! 17.exf7+ Rxf7 18.Rc1± ]

**15...dxc4 16.Bxc4 exd4 17.Nxd4 Ne5**

**18.Bb3 Bd7 19.Qe2?!**

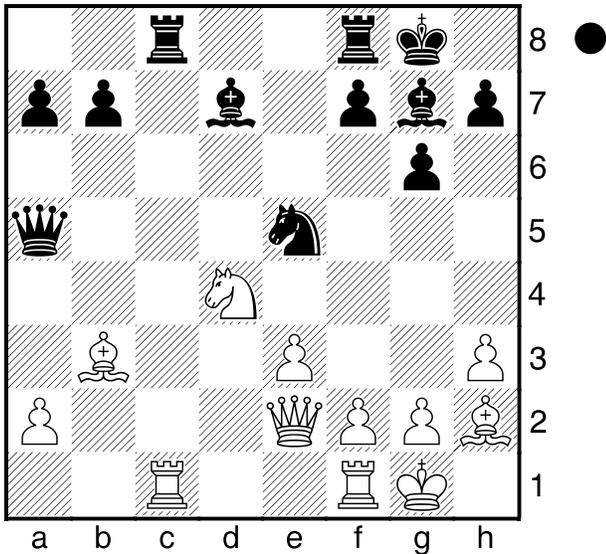
[ 19.Rc1± ]

**19...Rac8±**

[ 19...Nc6= 20.Nb5?! Bxa1 21.Rxa1 Ne7 ]

**20.Rac1**

(Diagram)



**a6**

[ I don't know why I didn't play the intended 20...Ba4 ]

**21.Rxc8 Bxc8?!**

[ 21...Rxc8!? 22.Bxe5 Bxe5 23.Qf3 Be8! 24.Qxb7 Rb8 25.Qe7 Qc7 26.Qxc7 Bxc7± but let's face it: I never quite equalized. ]

**22.Rc1**

[ 22.Qc2!± ]

**22...Bd7 23.Bg3**

[ 23.Bxe5 Bxe5 24.Qf3 Qa3!= ]

**23...Rc8**

[ 23...Bf6! a good preparatory move 24.e4 Rc8 ]

**24.Rxc8+ Bxc8 25.f4**

[ 25.Qc2! Qd8!± ]

**25...Nc6 26.Qc4 Qc7** Somehow Black is surviving, or at least should have.

**27.f5**

[ 27.Nxc6 bxc6 28.Qe4 Bf8 ( 28...Bf5! 29.Qe8+ Bf8 30.e4 Qd7! 31.Qxd7 Bxd7 32.Bc4 a5± ) 29.Qe8 Qd7 30.Bxf7+! Qxf7 31.Qxc8 Qxa2 32.Qxc6 Qb3 33.Qe8 a5= ]

**27...Qd7! 28.Nxc6 bxc6 29.fxc6 hxg6**

**30.Qe4! Kh7 31.h4 Bf6! 32.h5 Kg7**

[ 32...Qg4! I'd \*still\* have the worst of it, but White still hasn't done much, either. 33.Qxg4 Bxg4 34.Bxf7 gxh5

35.Bc7 Bc3 36.Bd6 h4 37.Be7 h3 38.Be8 hxg2 39.Bxc6 Bh3 40.Bxg2 Be6= ]

**33.hxg6 fxg6 34.Qc4!± Qe8**

[ 34...Kh6! 35.Bf4+ g5 36.Bg3 Qe7 37.Kf2 Qd7 38.Ke2 ]

**35.e4 Kh6**

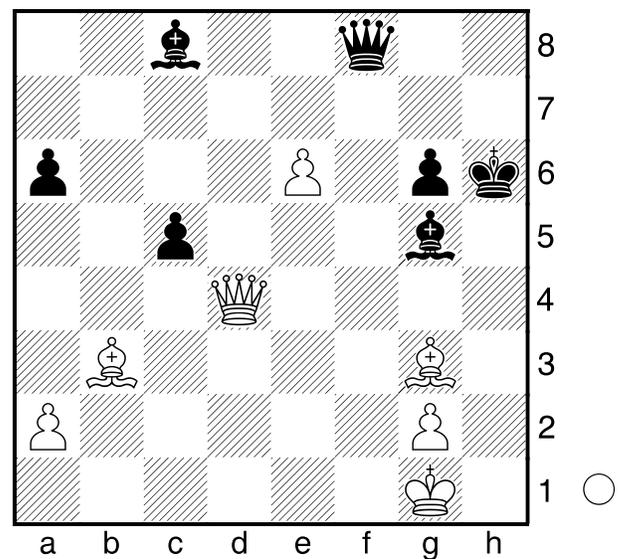
[ 35...a5 36.Bd6 ( 36.e5 Bg5 37.Bf2 a4 ) 36...Kh6 ]

**36.e5 Bg5 37.e6 Qf8 38.Qd4**

[ 38.Bf2! Qd6 39.Qc3 Kh7 40.Bg3 Qf8 41.Qe5 Qf5 42.Qc7+ Kh6 43.Be5 White appears to be winning. ]

**38...c5?!**

[ 38...Be7!± (a blockade with a bit of a threat) ]



**39.Bd6! Knockout. 39...Qd8**

Some floundering before the flag.

**40.Qe5 c4 41.e7 Bxe7 42.Bxe7 Qg8**

**43.Bf6** Setting up the cute 44.Qh2+ and mate.

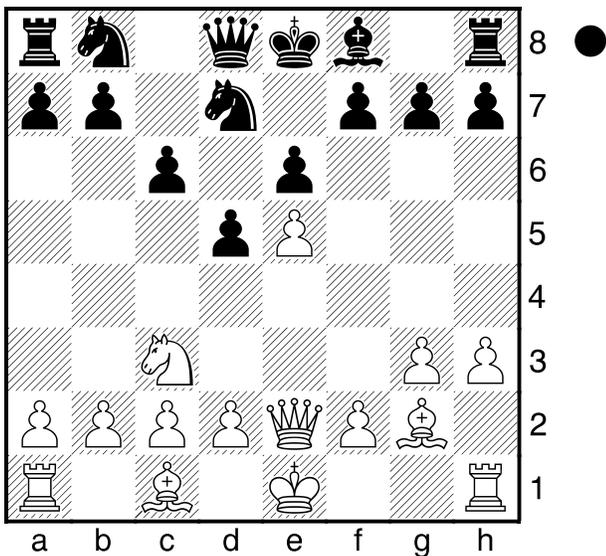
**1-0**

**Widjaja,Luke** **2104**  
 **Dasika,Archit** **2143**  
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 14.2.23  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

**1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3**  
**Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Bb4**  
**8.e5**

[ 8.0-0 is more fashionable. For example: Nbd7 9.exd5 ( 9.d3!?) 9...cxd5 10.Nd1 0-0 11.d4 b5 12.a4 bxa4 13.Rxa4 a5 14.Ne3 Nb6 15.Ra2 a4 16.Qe2 Rc8 17.Qb5 Be7 18.Bd2 Rb8 19.Ba5 Qd6 20.Bxb6 Rxb6 21.Qxa4 Rfb8± != 22.Rb1 ( 22.Qa3!?) 22...Rb4 23.Qa7 R8b7 24.Qa8+ Rb8 25.Qa7 R8b7 26.Qa8+ Rb8 27.Qa7 ½-½ Artemiev, V (2699)-Carlsen, M (2855) Meltwater Tour Final chess24.com INT rapid 2021 (4.1) ]

**8...Nfd7 9.Qg4 Bf8 10.Qe2**

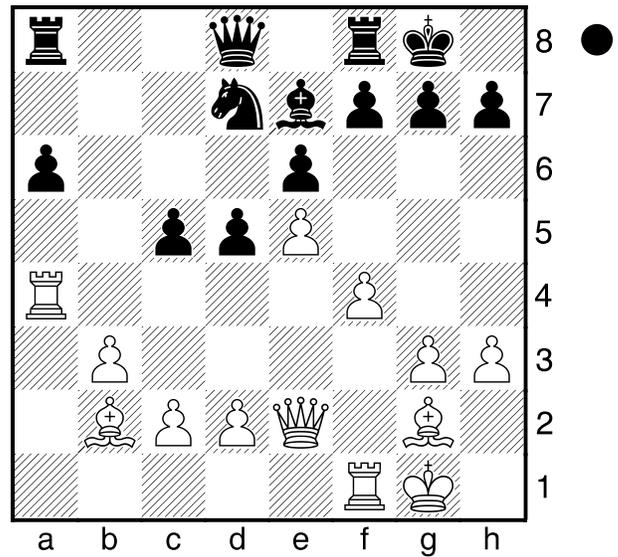


**Be7N**

[Black did a lot better in the last game played this far out: 10...c5 11.d3 Nc6 12.f4 g6 13.0-0 Bg7 14.Nb5 0-0 15.c3 a6 16.Nd6 Qc7 17.c4 Nd4 18.Qd1 Nxe5 19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Nxb7 Qxb7 21.g4 Qd7 22.Bg5 Rab8

23.Rb1 dxc4 24.dxc4 Bg7 25.Qd2 f5 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.b3 Kh8 28.Kh1 e5 29.Bd5 Rb6 30.Rg1 f4 31.Rg4 Nf5 32.Rbg1 Ng3+ 33.R1xg3 fvg3 34.Rxg3 Qf5 35.Rf3 Qb1+ 36.Kg2 Rxf3 37.Bxf3 Rb8 38.Be2 Qg6 39.Kh2 e4 40.Bf4 0-1 Rozentalis,E (2602)-Motylev,A (2677) EU-ch rapid Warsaw 2012 (10) ]

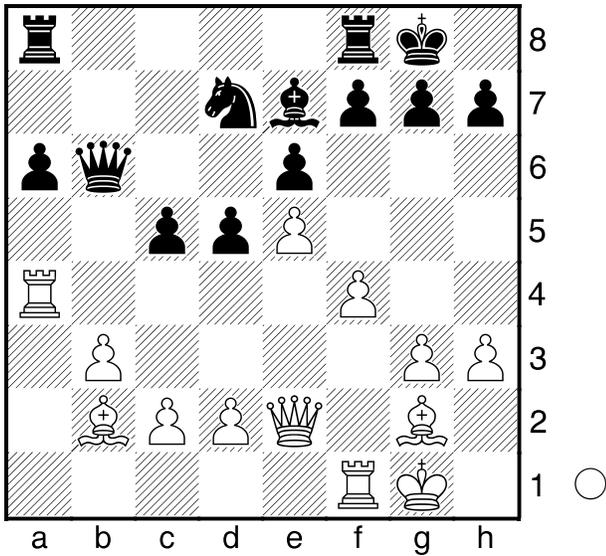
**11.0-0 0-0 12.f4 c5 13.b3 Nc6**  
**14.Bb2 a6 15.a4 Nd4 16.Qd1 b5**  
**17.Ne2 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 bxa4 19.Rxa4**



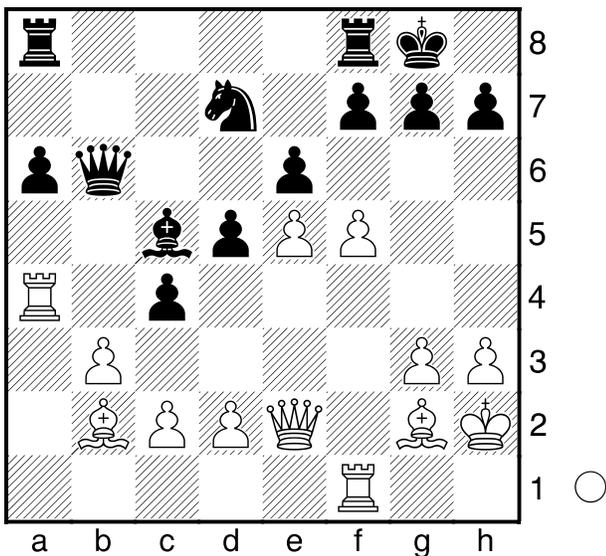
**Qb6?**

[ 19...c4! gets the queenside play going right away, with equal chances. ]

(Diagram)

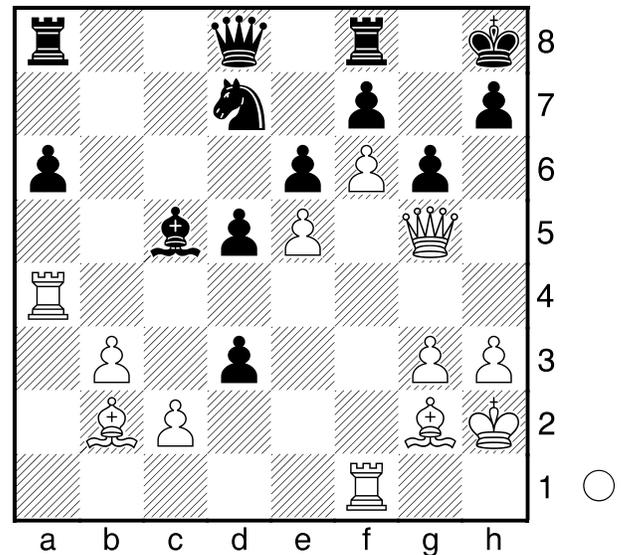


All it takes sometimes, even in a "quiet" line like the Two Knights Variation of the Caro Kann, is one hesitation. **20.f5!** Too! Late! And White is basically already winning. **20...c4+ 21.Kh2 Bc5** [ 21...Kh8 22.Bc3! cxb3? 23.f6 gxf6 24.exf6 Bd6 25.Rh4! So that's why ... cxb3 is so bad! ]



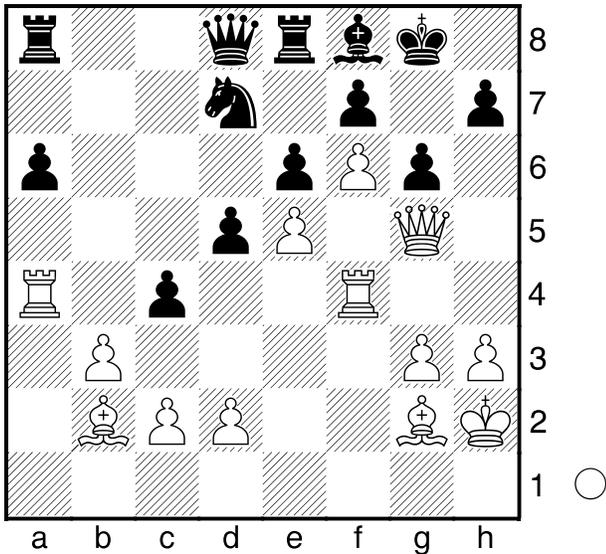
**22.Qh5** [ 22.f6! gxf6 23.d3! A nice move to pry open lines in every direction. ]  
**22...g6?!** [ 22...Bd4!? 23.Ba3 of course g6

24.Qg5 exf5 Black gets desperate  
 25.Bxd5 Bxe5 He can only win one Exchange! Hah! 26.Rxc4!+- ]  
**23.Qg5?!**  
 [ 23.Qh6! Rfc8 (or anywhere) 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Bxd5! ]  
**23...Qd8??**  
 [ 23...Rfe8 looks like the best defense. White is clearly better, but the game is ahead. ]  
**24.f6** White is a step ahead of Black all the way. **24...Re8**  
 [ 24...Kh8 25.d4! pushes the bishop off track: cxd3? ]

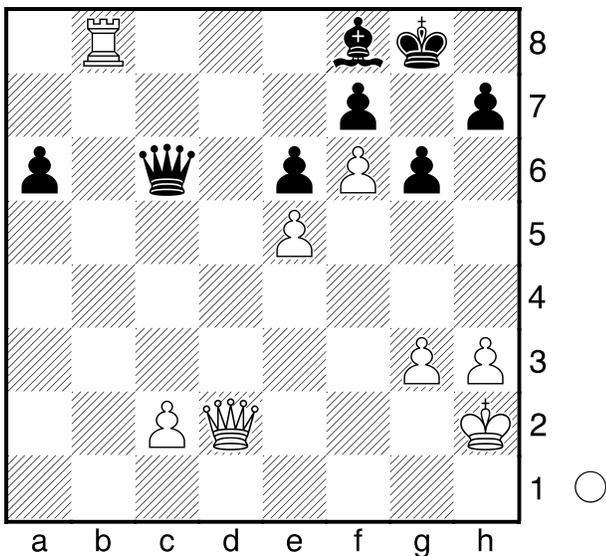


26.Qh6 Rg8 27.Qxh7+!  
 is one everybody should know and love. ]  
**25.Rf4?!**  
 [ 25.Ba3! "Removal of the Guard." (There was a chapter on that in some tactics book I had fifty years ago, anybody remember which?) Bxa3 26.Rxa3 Kh8 27.Rf4 Rg8 28.Rh4 Nf8 29.bxc4+- Prosaic. ]  
**25...Bf8**

(Diagram)



26.Rh4! Qc7 27.bxc4  
 [ 27.Rh6!? Qc5 28.Ba3 ]  
 27...Rab8 28.Bc3! Nc5 29.Bb4  
 [ 29.Ra1! ]  
 29...Ne4 30.Bxe4 Rxb4 31.Rxb4 dxe4  
 32.Rb2! Qxc4 33.Qe3 Luke shows the  
 flexibility in adding cashing in on a  
 material advantage to looking for  
 checkmate. 33...Rd8 34.Rxe4 Rxd2+?  
 White, Black, Annotator all overlooked  
 the problem... 35.Qxd2 Qxe4 36.Rb8  
 Not just a good positional move  
 (hampering the bishop entering play)...  
 36...Qc6

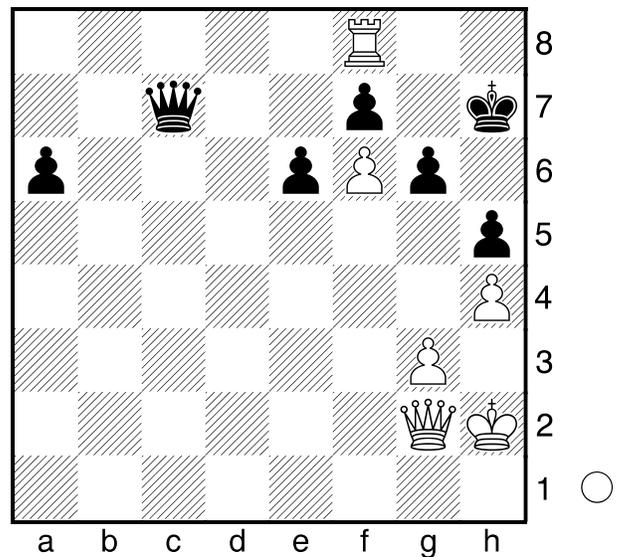


37.c4 The second best move, by a lot! I  
 guess Luke \*did\* forget to keep looking!  
 [ 37.Rxf8+! Kxf8 38.Qb4+!  
 is immediate mate! ]

37...Qc5 38.h4 h5 39.Kh3 Qc6  
 [ 39...Qg1 looks uncomfortable for a  
 moment, then you see 40.Rxf8+! Kh7  
 ( 40...Kxf8 41.Qd8# ) 41.Qh6+!  
 (merely the fastest) Kxh6 42.Rh8# ]

40.Kh2  
 [ 40.Qg2! ends Black's little check  
 game, he can only delay mate by  
 trading (but not by much). Qc5  
 41.Qb7! Qa3 42.Qe7! ]

40...Qc5 41.Qb2 Kh7 42.Qb6 Qxe5  
 43.Qb7 Avoiding perpetual check.  
 43...Qe2+ 44.Qg2 Qxc4 45.Rxf8 Qc7



46.Qd2 Threatening 47.Rh8+ and 47.  
 Qh6+! as well as 47.Rxf7+ if the queen  
 wanders off.

1-0

□ **Karthi,Jashith**

■ **Sobel,Steve**

2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 14.2.23  
[Winslow,Elliott]

Both in this game and in the current TNM, Jashith shows a lot of promise. He lost only one game (to Luke Widjaja), maybe had too many draws, but mainly played a stable game. Still, as this game showed, his opening repertoire isn't airtight. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6**

**4.Nc3 e6** An invitation to the Meran, or Semi-Meran, or Botvinnik or Anti-Botvinnik or Moscow Variation... **5.cxd5** Seen earlier in this TNM! **5...exd5 6.Qc2 g6! 7.Bg5 Be7 8.e3**

[ 8.e4 was Winslow-Griffith in Round 3; a somewhat wobby mess with mutual king trouble that eventually decided for White (1-0 48). ]

**8...Bf5** Black solves the Bad Bishop Problem in this line, when White's advantage fades. **9.Bd3** This is far and away the most popular, which just shows how many chess players are sleepwalking through their games. To say Black has an easy game is an understatement.

[ 9.Qb3? Scores even worse; ]

[ 9.Qd2 actually does pretty well, but clearly White is only just waking up. ]

[ 9.Qc1!? is even some grandmaster games, but the only 2700+ x2 game, Radjabov-Wang Yue, went to Black: Ne4 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Be2 Nd7 12.0-0 0-0 13.a3 a5 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Nd2 Qg5 16.Re1 h5 17.Bf1 h4 18.b4 axb4 19.axb4 h3 20.g3 Qe7 21.Qb2 b5 22.Qc3 Qd6 23.g4 Rxa1 24.Rxa1 Bxg4 25.Nxe4 Qe6 26.Ng3 Nf6 27.Qc5 Ne4 28.Nxe4 Qxe4 29.Rc1 Be6 30.Qe5 Qxe5 31.dxe5 Ra8 32.f3 Ra4 33.Rxc6 Rxb4 34.Kf2 Rb1 35.Bd3 Rh1 36.Bxb5

**D36**

**1924**

**2012**

Rxh2+ 37.Kg1 Rg2+ 38.Kh1 Rf2 39.Bc4 Bxc4 40.Rxc4 Rxf3 41.Re4 Kf8 42.e6 f5 43.e7+ Ke8 44.Re5 g5 45.e4 g4 46.exf5 g3 47.Re1 Rxf5 48.Kg1 Rf3 49.Kh1 Rf7 50.Rg1 Rg7 51.Ra1 Rxe7 52.Kg1 Kf7 53.Kf1 Re3 54.Kg1 Kf6 55.Ra6+ Kg5 56.Ra5+ Kf4 57.Ra1 Rd3 58.Rf1+ Ke3 59.Re1+ Kf3 60.Kh1 Kf2 61.Rg1 Ke2 0-1 Radjabov,T (2713)-Wang,Y (2723) Beijing Sportaccord rap rapid 2013 (4) ]

**9...Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nbd7 11.0-0**

[ 11.h3 0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.Bf4 a5 14.Rab1 Bf8 15.Bh2 Ne4 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Nc5 18.Qc2 Qd7 19.Rbe1 Qe6 20.f4 Ne4 21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.f5 gxf5 23.Qf2 f6 24.Bh2 a4 25.Qxf5 Bg7 26.Qxe6+ Rxe6 27.a3 Ra5 28.Re2 Rb5 29.Rc1 Rb3 30.Rc3 f5 31.Rxb3 axb3 32.Bf4 Kf7 33.Re1 c5 34.d5 Re8 35.Rc1 Rc8 36.d6 Ke6 37.d7 Kxd7 38.Rd1+ Ke8 39.Rd2 c4 40.Bd6 Bxb2 0-1 Gukesh, D (2578)-Erigaisi,A (2567) Junior Speed Qual Asia Chess.com INT blitz 2021 (2.10) ]

**11...0-0 12.Nd2 Re8 13.h3 a6**

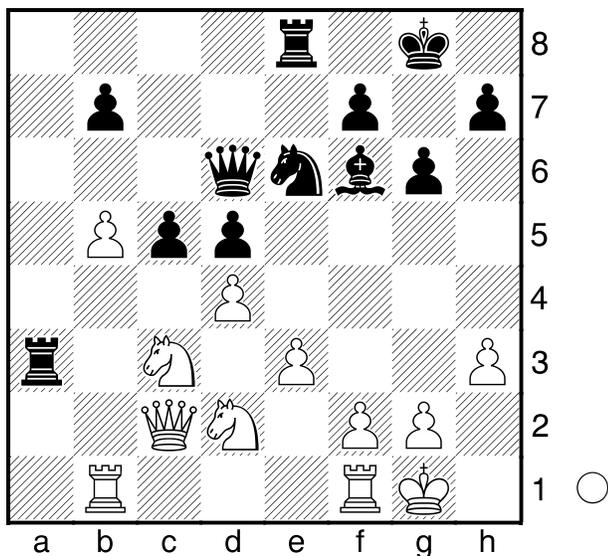
**14.Rab1 Nf8 15.b4 Ne6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6**

**17.a4 Qd6 18.b5**

[ 18.a5!? ]

**18...axb5 19.axb5 Ra3 20.Qc2 c5**

(Diagram)



21.Nce4!= Fantastic! But just even.  
 21...dxe4 22.Nc4 Qe7 23.Nxa3 cxd4  
 24.Nc4 d3?!

[ 24...Nc5!

A) 25.Nb2 d3 26.Qc4 b6;

B) 25.Rb4 Rd8 ( 25...Nd3;  
 25...d3 );

C) 25.Nd2 ]

25.Qa4 Nc7?

[ 25...Qd7 26.Rfc1 Ng5 eyes h3, and  
 more likely f3 (so he can take back  
 with the pawn: dangerous!). ]

26.b6!+- Nd5

[ 26...Ne6 ]

27.Nd6! Rd8 28.Nxe4 Bg7 29.Qc4 f5

30.Nc5 Kh8 31.Nxd3 Nc3 32.Rb3

Ne4 33.Qc2 Qh4 34.Rb4 Bf8 35.Rc4

Bd6 36.Rc8 Kg7 37.Rxd8 Qxd8

38.Qb2+ Kh6 39.Qd4 Qe7 40.Rc1 g5

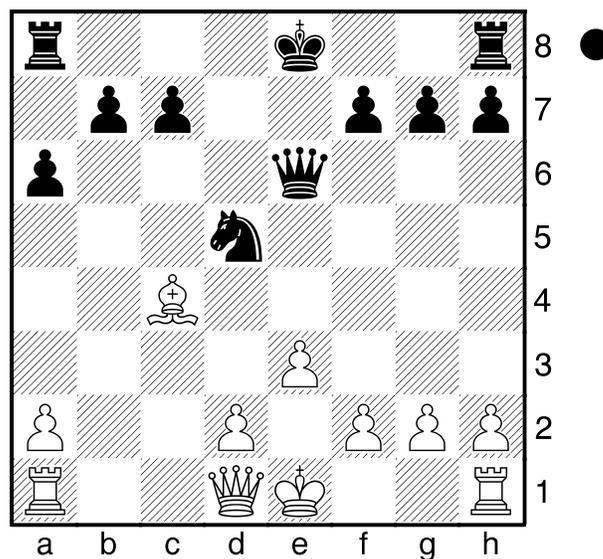
41.Qd5 Kg6 42.Rc8 Nf6 43.Qc4 Qd7

44.Rc7 Bxc7 45.bxc7

1-0

A00  
 1692  
 1640  
 2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (6.7)  
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c4  
 d6 5.Bc3 Bxc3 6.Nxc3 Be6 7.e3 d5  
 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Nb5 a6  
 11.Nbd4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Qd6 13.Nxe6  
 Qxe6 14.Bc4



Nxe3

[ 14...b5! = ]

15.Qa4+ b5 16.Bxb5+?

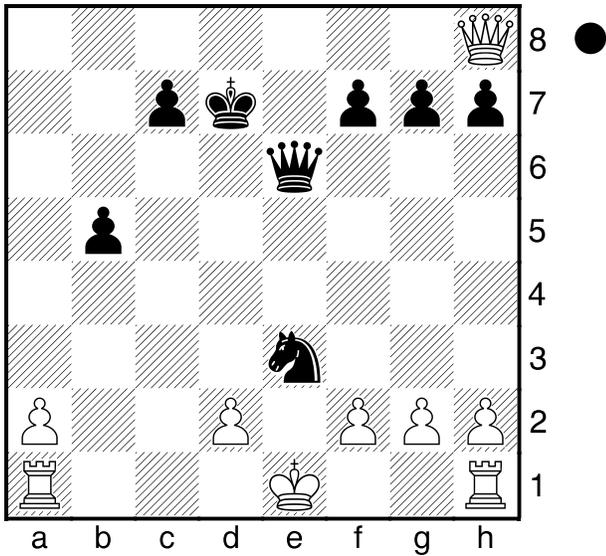
[ 16.Bxe6 bxa4 17.Bxf7+ Kxf7  
 18.fxe3± ]

16...axb5 17.Qxa8+ Kd7!

[ 17...Ke7?? 18.Qa3+ ]

18.Qxh8

(Diagram)



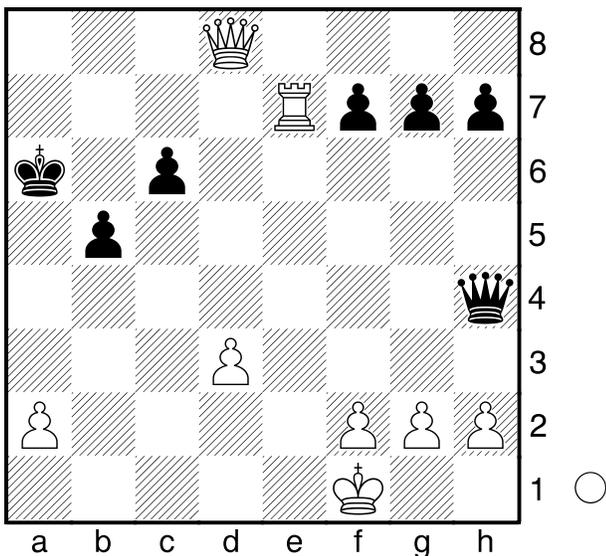
**Nc2+??** Three moves only equalize (the rest, including this, lose):

- [ 18...Ng4+ ]
- [ 18...Nc4+ ]
- [ 18...Nxg2+ ]

**19.Kd1 Nxa1 20.Qa8**

- [ 20.Re1! ]

**20...Qc4 21.Re1 Qc2+ 22.Ke2 Qc4+ 23.Kf3 Qd3+ 24.Re3 Qf5+ 25.Ke2 Qg4+ 26.Kf1 Qc4+ 27.d3 Qc1+ 28.Re1 Qg5 29.Rxa1 c6 30.Re1 Qh4 31.Qe8+ Kc7 32.Re7+ Kb6 33.Qd8+ Ka6**



**34.Ra7+**

**1-0**

**C44**

□ **Agdamag, Samuel**

**1400**

■ **Goc, Konrad**

**1536**

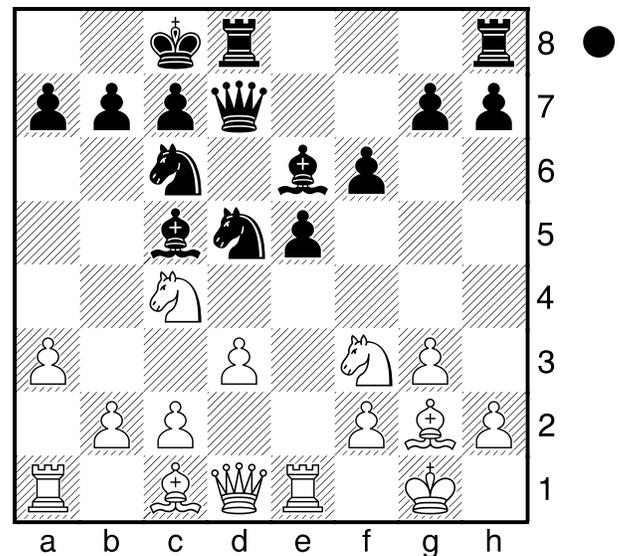
2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (6.13)

[Goc, Konrad/(Winslow, Elliott)]

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d3 Nc6 3.Nbd2 e5 4.e4 Nf6 5.g3 Bc5 6.Bg2** Black misses an opportunity to be =+ here by taking on e4  
**6...Be6**

[ 6...dxe4 7.dxe4 0-0 8.0-0 a5±  
Would have been a possible continuation. Taking space on the queenside and blocking in White's fianchettoed LSB means Black is slightly better ]

**7.0-0 Qd7 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Nc4 f6 10.Re1 0-0-0 11.a3**



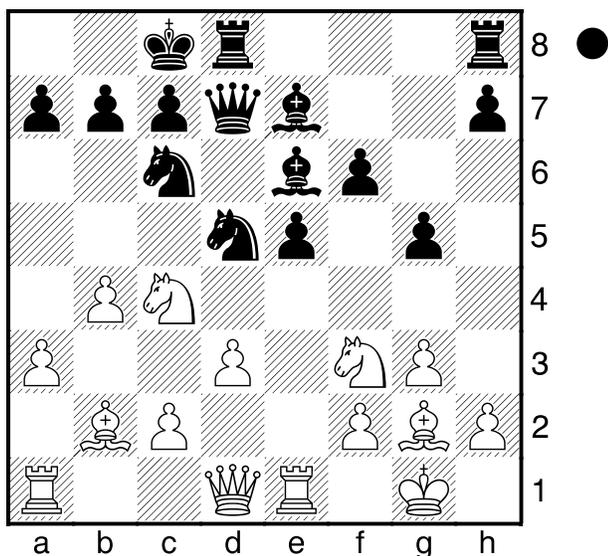
The game was lost in these next couple of moves for Black. The kingside pawnstorm, which I judged to be more dangerous for White than White's queenside pawnstorm is for Black is in fact too slow. The reason for this is the presence of the bishop on c5 and knight on c6, which can be used to gain tempi

as White pushes his pawns. There is a comparative lack of White pieces on the kingside to be used for tempo-gaining moves. EW: Stockfish 15.1 just says Black is "clearly better." **11...g5 12.b4 Be7?**

[ 12...Bd4! This was the last practical chance for Black, but I didn't want to give up the DSB and activate White's fianchettoed LSB. 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Bb2 h5∞ (EW: Stockfish considers 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.Qf3 the only way White has anything (but it is something), even after c6 17.Qe4 Nc7 (barely double-digits on the "new" scale).) ]

[EW: But Black has better, too! 12...Bd4! 13.Nxd4 Nxd4! 14.Bb2! and now: Bg4! (keeping the queen low) 15.f3! (allowing 16...Nf3+ is dreadful) Bh3♣ and Black's attack is obviously ahead of White's. (and none of that 16.Bh1? stuff: h5-+ is even more accelerating Black.) ]

**13.Bb2**



**h5??**

[ 13...Bh3 This was the last actual chance for Black to stay in the game, but I thought that this move was pointless since White would just

decline the trade of LSB's with Bh1  
**A) 14.b5** Bxg2 15.bxc6 Qh3 16.cxb7+ Kxb7 (EW probably best) (EW: 16...Kb8!? 17.Na5 Rd6 is also possible -- White is short on inroads. ) 17.Rb1♣ Apparently Black is better here, but not only did I not see Qh3, I wouldn't have gone for this position anyway with the open b-file and Black's missing b-pawn.;  
**B) 14.Bh1** a6 15.d4 EW: "!" "counter-attack in the center" etc. Nf4 Only move. 16.Nfd2 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Bg4 18.Nf3 Nh3+ 19.Kf1 exd4= This all becomes very difficult to play and is really the only line that keeps Black in the game. ]

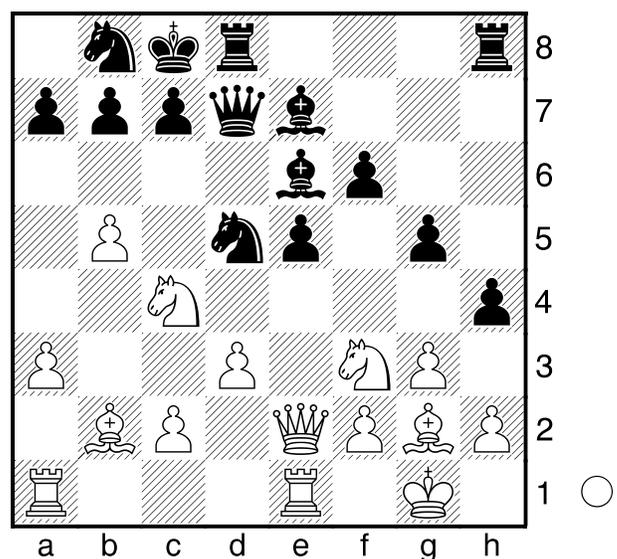
[EW: 13...a6 isn't so bad either, even if it's "moving a pawn in front of the king." ]

**14.b5! Nb8 15.Qe2?**

[ 15.Ncxe5! fxe5 ( 15...Qxb5 16.Ng6 Qxb2 17.Rxe6 Rhe8 18.Nxg5!+- ) 16.c4! ]

**15...h4?**

[ 15...Bg4 16.d4± ( 16.Rab1± ) ]



**16.Ncxe5!! fxe5 17.Nxe5 Qe8 18.Nc6!**

[ (EW: Well, 18.Ng4 is stronger acc. to



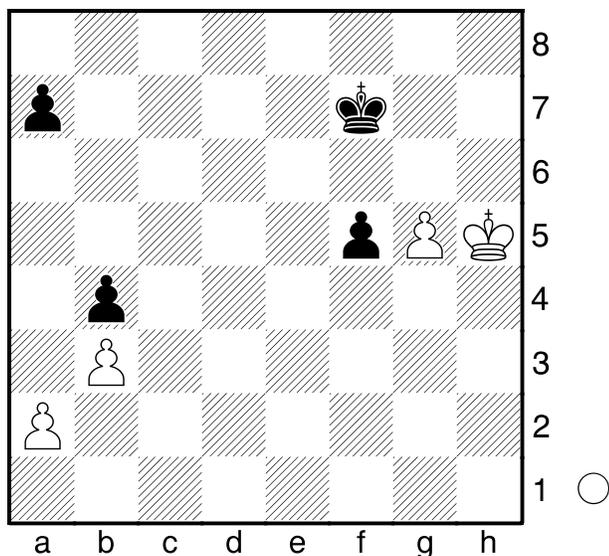
[ 42.Kf4 is a win as well, but more delicate. a6 ( 42...a5 43.g6 Kf6 44.g7 Kxg7 45.Kxf5 White will win both pawns. ) 43.g6 Kf6 44.g7 Kxg7 45.Kxf5 Kf7 46.Ke5 Ke7 47.Kd5 Kd7 48.Kc4 Kc6 49.Kxb4 Kb6 is won with the pawn on a6! Chess is hard. 50.Kc4

**A) 50...Ka5 51.a3! ( 51.Kc5?? ) 51...Kb6 52.Kd5 Kb5 53.Kd6 Kb6 54.a4 Ka5 55.Kc6 Kb4 56.Kb6 Kxb3 57.a5+-;**

**B) 50...Kc6 ]**

**42...Kf7**

[ 42...Kf7 43.g6+ Kg7 44.Kg5 f4 45.Kxf4 Kxg6 46.Ke5 Kf7 47.Kd6 White mops up on the queenside. ]

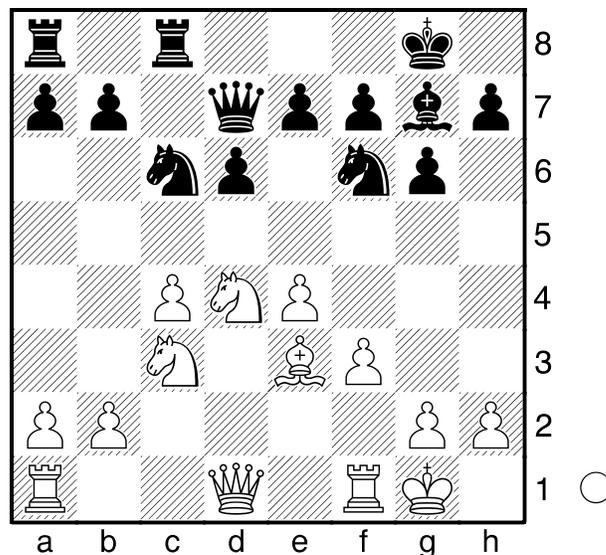


White is winning in the final position:  
1/2-1/2

**Widjaja, Luke** **B52**  
**2104**  
 **Griffith, Kyron Waykuan** **2450**  
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 21.2.23  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

Here's the game that clinched this Tuesday Night Marathon for Kyron. The

two of them were tied for 1st-2nd, with three players a half-point behind. So a win here was about even risk/gain over a loss. Kyron pressed well, and somewhere in there Luke gave out. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bg7 9.f3 0-0 10.Be3 Nc6 11.0-0 Rfc8**



**12.Nxc6?!N**

[Most popular is 12.b3 a6 ( 12...Qd8 here too (Carlsen and Gelfand have played, although the ...Qa5 maneuver hasn't fared so well. ) 13.Nde2 b5 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.cxd5 Nb4 16.Bd4 Bxd4+ 17.Nxd4 Qa7 18.Rf2 Rc3 19.Rd2 Nc2 20.Rb1 Rac8 21.Kf1 Ne3+ 0-1 So,W (2760)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2736) Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (2.24) ]  
 [ 12.Nde2 is \*very\* sensible, keeping material on when more space, and guarding c3 in preparation for b2-b3. But it does weaken the grip on b5. (Oh, and it scores best.) Black usually responds Qd8 ]

**12...bxc6 ♠13.Rb1**

[ ♠13.Rc1 ]

**13...Qb7= 14.b4?!=** Luke plays it loose - too loose. Soon Kyron is infiltrating on

the light squares. **14...Rab8**

[ 14...Nd7! ]

**15.Bd4?!**

[ 15.Qe2= ]

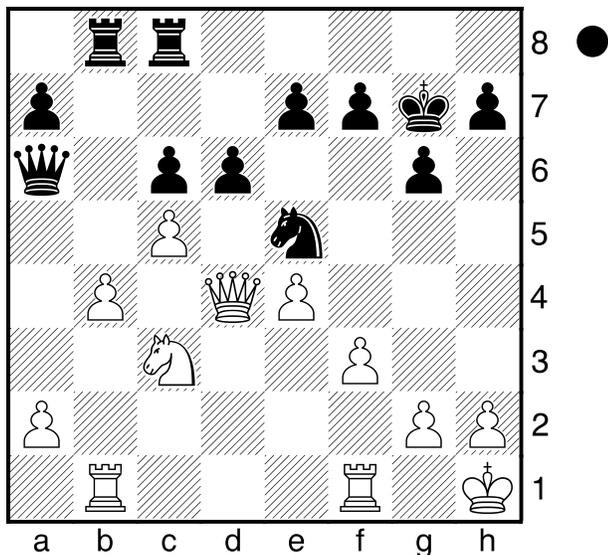
**15...Nd7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Kh1?!**

Setting up possible back rank difficulties.

**17...Qa6** **18.Qd4+?** Around here it starts to slip into a serious Black plus.

[ 18.b5 Qb6 19.Rb3

**18...Ne5! 19.c5**



**Qd3?!**

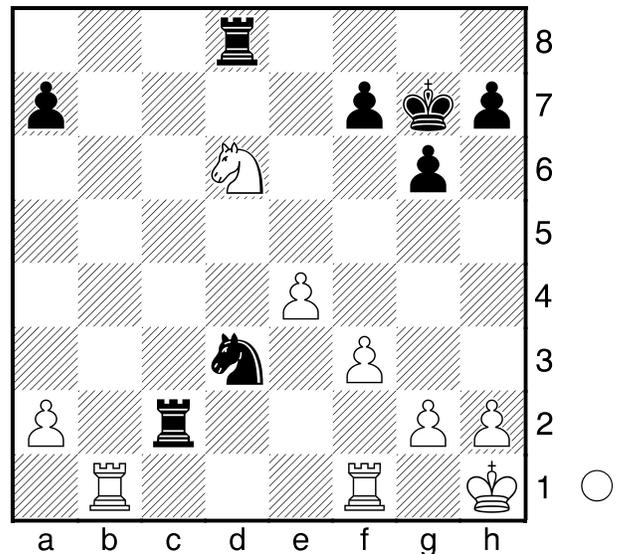
[ 19...Qc4! 20.Qxc4 Nxc4 21.Rfc1 dxc5 22.bxc5 Na3 Black makes inroads. ]

**20.Qxd3 Nxd3 21.cxd6 exd6 22.b5 cxb5 23.Nxb5 Rc2=** Black now still has "something," but it's no longer significant. At least for a while. **24.Nxd6**

[ 24.a4 ]

**24...Rd8**

(Diagram)



**25.Nb5?**

[ 25.e5! Nxe5 26.Rbd1 Nc6 27.a3 Rc3 28.Nb5 Black's going to eventually pick off the a-pawn, but with the rook on the wrong side of the passed pawn it's difficult if not impossible to win. ]

**25...a6 26.Na3 Rxa2** The extra rooks on the board provide Black further opportunities. **27.Ra1 Re2 28.Nb1?**

[ 28.h4 Nf4 29.Rg1 Rdd2 30.Nc4 Rc2 31.Na3 Rc3 32.Nb1 is just going around in circles; Black needs to come up with something else. ]

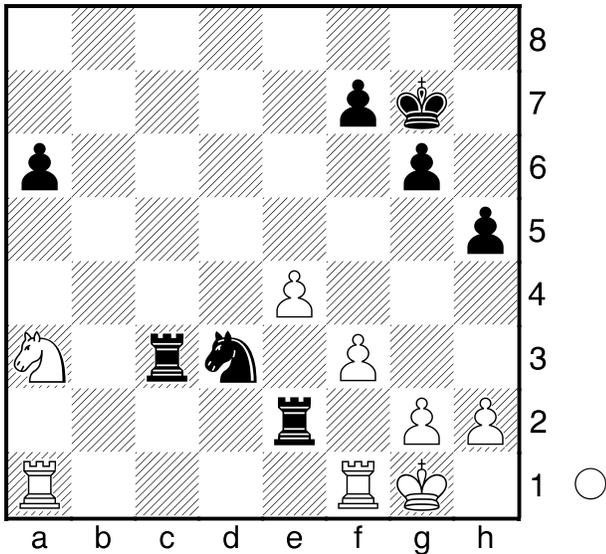
**28...Rc8! 29.Na3 Rc3 30.Kg1**

[ 30.Nb1 Rc5 It's hard to see how this is better, but Black is winning now. ]

**30...h5+**

[ 30...g5 Arcane. ]

(Diagram)



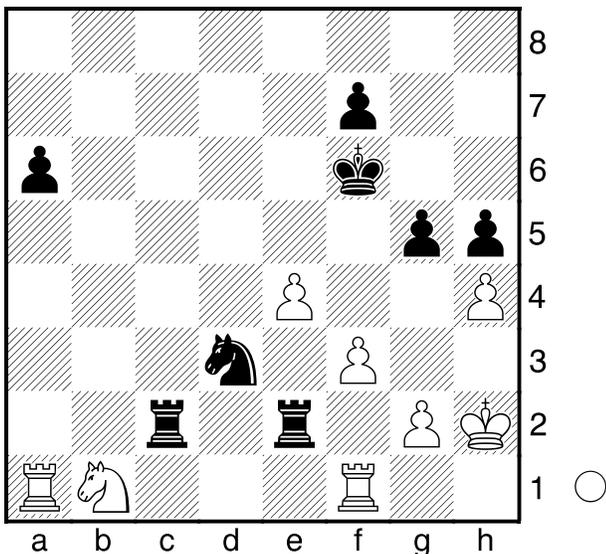
**31.h4 Kf6 32.Kh2**

[ 32.e5+!? Kf5! (although hardly necessary) ]

**32...g5?**

[ 32...Nf4! 33.Kg3 ( 33.Rg1 Rxf3 )  
33...g5-+ Trouble for the White king. ]

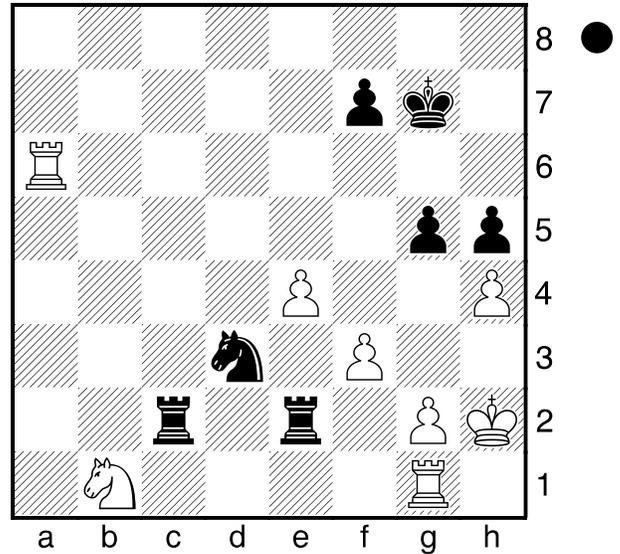
**33.Nb1! Rcc2**



**34.Rxa6+?**

[ 34.Rg1 Nf4 ( 34...Ne1? 35.Nd2!+= is a shocking shot! Nxg2 36.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Rxd2+ 38.Kg3 Rd6 39.hxg5+ Kxg5 40.Ra5+ Kg6 41.Kh4= ) 35.Rxa6+ Kg7 36.hxg5 Rxg2+ 37.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 38.Kh1≠ ]

**34...Kg7! 35.Rg1**



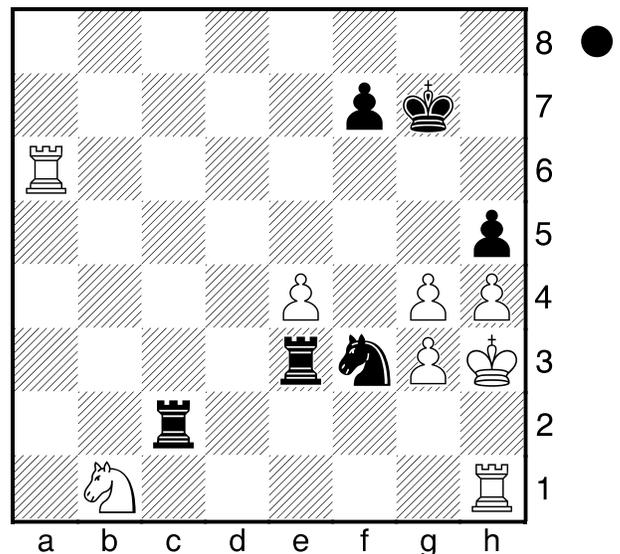
**Ne1!-+** White is now \*up\* a pawn, but his king is under siege! **36.Kh3 g4+!**

Far and away the best approach.

**37.fxg4**

[ 37.Kg3 Rxg2+ 38.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 39.Kf4 gxf3 will win the knight for that pawn. ]

**37...Re3+ 38.g3 Nf3 39.Rh1**



**Re1!** The finishing touch. The rest needs no comment. **40.gxh5 Rxh1+ 41.Kg4 Nh2+ 42.Kg5 Rc5+ 43.Kf4 Rf1+ 44.Ke3 Rxb1 45.h6+ Kh7 46.Ra7 Rf1 47.Kd4 Rc8 48.e5 Kxh6 49.Ra6+ Kg7**

**50.h5 Rd1+ 51.Ke4 Re1+ 52.Kf4 Rc4+ 53.Kg5 Nf3+ 54.Kf5 Rxe5#**

A fine win, worthy of a tournament winner. And worthy of study: there is a lot to learn about the initiative.

**0-1**

**Winslow, Elliott** **B90**  
**2223**  
 **Hao, Max** **2023**  
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 21.2.23  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

I had an easy time reaching 2nd when my young opponent jumped the gun on ... b5 in a major line of the Najdorf Sicilan, English Attack: **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6**

[It's not clear why current Top Theory leans towards 7...Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2 h5 . I like the possibility of ... g6 and maybe even ...Bh6 in some lines. Maybe it's about a timely ... 0-0. ]

**8.f3 h5** An ounce of prevention? Soltis's influence? Lc0?? Anyway, it's still seen as often as not, more or less. **9.Qd2** I like to temporize. As my chess buddy (from my very first tournament, Missouri Open 1966) and longtime penpal (and multitalented genius) Lance Williams once wrote to me (with accompanying illustration), "He who levitates is lost." There could be a tempo loss...

[ 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nbd7 ( 10...g6!? 11.Qd2 Nbd7 ) 11.Qd2 g6! ]

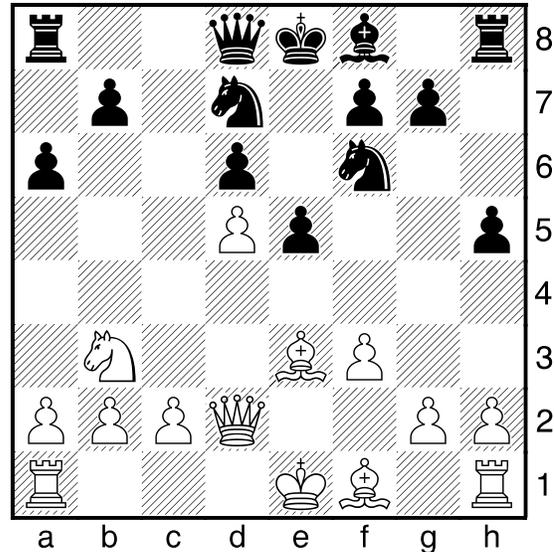
**9...Nbd7 10.Nd5**

[ 10.0-0-0 ]  
[ 10.a4!? ]

**10...Bxd5**

[ 10...Nxd5 11.exd5 Bf5 12.Bd3 ( 12.Na5!?!; 12.Be2!?! ) 12...Bxd3 13.Qxd3 There's that tempo loss. ]

**11.exd5**



**b5?!**

[ 11...g6 has \*exploded\* in popularity this last year; in Mega 2022 there were less than 600 instances (still vastly the most popular move), while in the Chessbase Online Database there are 6000 occasions (with the transpositions included). I wonder if anyone knows what's going on! ]

[ There is also (2nd in popularity) 11...Qc7 some recent weirdness: 12.0-0-0 g6 13.Kb1 Bg7 14.Be2 Rc8 15.Rc1 Ng8N ( 15...Kf8 16.c4 b6 17.g4 Nc5 18.g5 Nfd7 19.Na1 Kg8 20.Nc2 Kh7 21.Nb4 Rhe8 1-0 (58) Aronian, L (2759)-Sevian, S (2684) Chess.com INT 2022 ) 16.g4 Ne7 17.h4 Nf6 18.c4 hxg4 19.fxg4 Qd7 20.Qd1 Nfg8 21.Qg1 Ra8 22.Qg2 Bf6 23.Bf2 Nc8 24.g5 Bd8 (It's been a strange game!) 25.Bg4 Qe7 26.c5 f5 27.gxf6 Qxf6 28.Nd2 Qe7 29.Bxc8 Rxc8 30.Ne4 1-0 Smeets, J (2552)-Heinemann, T (2484) Bundesliga 2223 Germany 2022 (8.6) ]

**12.a4!** I thought at the time the game was over, but Stockfish just makes White solidly better, not winning. And

results up through now have the better player mostly winning. **12...Rb8?N**  
 But this definitely steps off the pier.

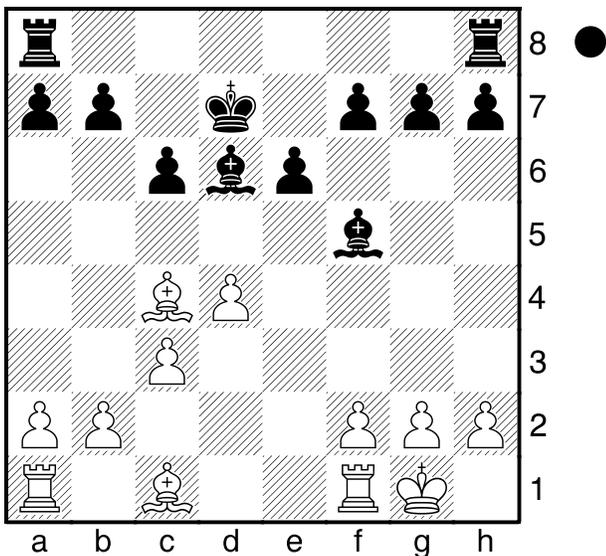
[ 12...b4!? 13.a5 ]

[ 12...bxa4!? 13.Rxa4 ]

**13.Na5 Qc8 14.Nc6 Rb7 15.axb5  
 axb5 16.Na7 Qb8 17.Ra5 b4 18.Nc6  
 Qc8 19.Ba6  
 1-0**

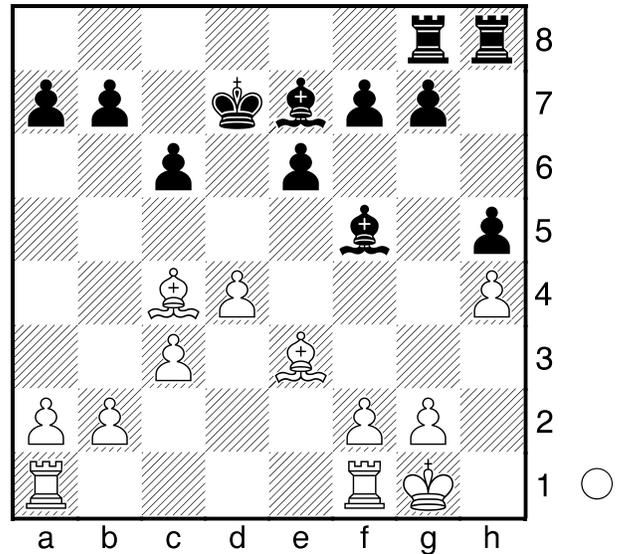
**Sobel, Steve** **B11**  
**2012**  
 **Arun, Siddharth** **2186**  
**2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.3) 21.2.23**  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

Meanwhile Arun generated this unusual kingside initiative in a Two Knights Caro Kann, and when Steve didn't find the best defense found a wonderful liquidation to a won king and pawn ending:  
**1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2 Nxe4 6.Qxe4 Qa5 7.Bc4 Bf5 8.Qe5 Qxe5+ 9.Nxe5 e6 10.c3 Bd6 11.d4 Nd7 12.Nxd7 Kxd7 13.0-0**



**h5 14.Be3 Rag8 15.h4 Be7**

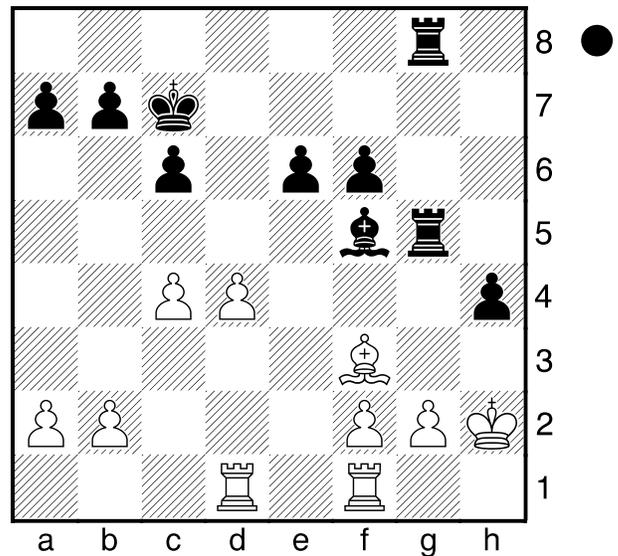
(Diagram)



**16.Bg5! Bxg5**

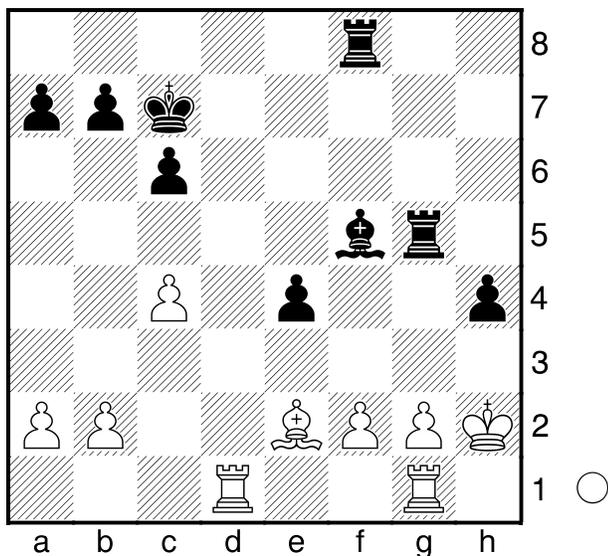
[ 16...Bd6!? ]

**17.hxg5 f6 18.gxf6 gxf6 19.Kh2 Rg5  
 20.Be2 h4 21.Bf3 Rhg8 22.Rad1  
 Kc7= 23.c4?!**



**e5! 24.dxe5 fxe5 25.Rg1! e4 26.Be2!  
 Rf8**

(Diagram)



27.f3?

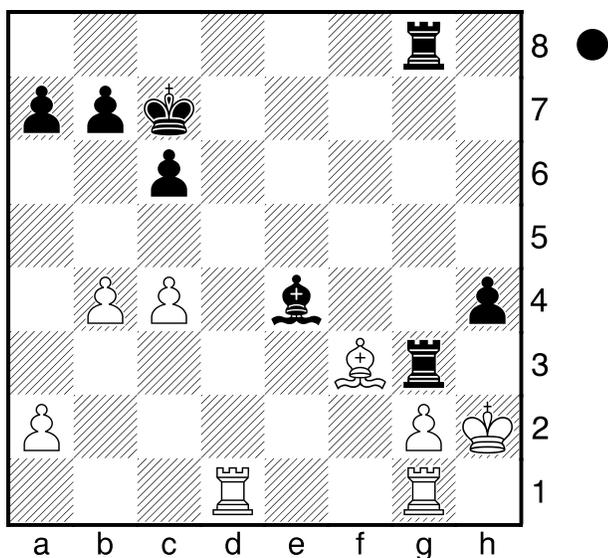
[ 27.g4! hxg3+ ( 27...Bxg4 28.Bxg4 Rxf2+ 29.Kh3 Rxb2= ) 28.Rxg3= ]

27...Rfg8 28.b4?!

[ 28.c5!? Be6 29.b4= ]

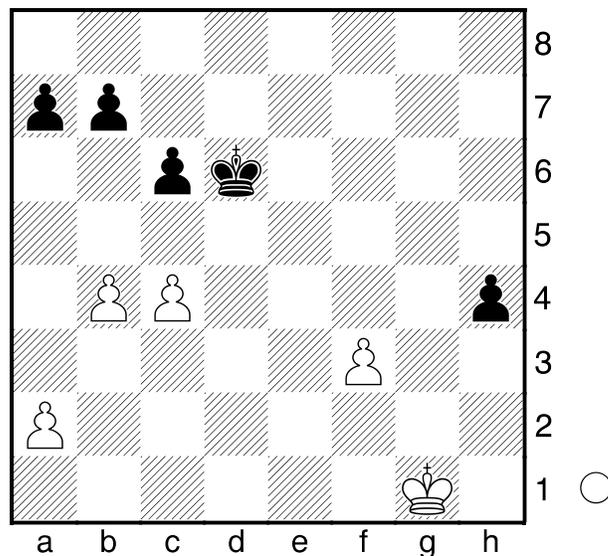
28...Rg3! 29.fxe4 Bxe4 30.Bf3

[ 30.Bf1!? h3 31.Re1 hxg2! 32.Rxe4 gxf1N+ 33.Rxf1 Rg2+ 34.Kh1 Rxa2+ ]



30...Bxf3! 31.gxf3 Rxg1 32.Rxg1 Rxg1 33.Kxg1 Kd6

(Diagram)



34.a4 Ke5 35.Kg2 a5 36.bxa5 Kf4

37.c5 h3+

0-1

A22

□ Clemens, Kristian

1831

■ Ivanenko, Anthony

1712

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (7.6)

[Ivanenko, Anthony]

1.c4 e5 The King's Pawn English, or the Reverse Sicilian. This variation has definitely become the critical approach to the English Opening. And in a must-win scenario to secure clear first place, this was my choice. 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 The Carls-Bremen system. Once the main line, it has given way in popularity to the Four Knights variation, mainly due to the poor results against this game's line.

[ 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e4 Bb4 5.d3 d6 6.a3 Bc5 7.b4 Bb6 has become the fashionable line in the King's Pawn English lately, championed by Abdusattorov, and it has brought him very respectable results, such as this game against Carlsen: 8.Na4 Bg4 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.Bb2 Bxf3 11.Qxf3

Nd7 12.g3 Qf6 13.Qd1 Nf8 14.Bg2  
 Ne6 15.0-0 g5 16.Bh3 h5 17.Bxe6  
 Qxe6 18.b5 Nb8 19.f4 gxf4 20.gxf4  
 Nd7 21.Kh1 Qg4 22.Qf3 f6 23.Qe3  
 0-0-0 24.f5 h4 25.Rg1 Qh5 26.Rg6  
 Rdg8 27.Rag1 Rxc6 28.fxc6 Rg8  
 29.g7 Qh7 30.Qh3 Rxc7 31.Rxc7  
 Qxc7 32.Qxh4 Nc5 33.Bc1 c6  
 34.bxc6 bxc6 35.Qh3+ Kb7 36.Qf3  
 Qh7 37.Bd2 Ka6 38.Kg2 Qg7+  
 39.Kf1 Qh7 40.h3 d5 41.Qf5 Qg8  
 42.cxd5 cxd5 43.exd5 Qxd5 44.Ke2  
 Kb5 45.Be3 Qg2+ 46.Bf2 Ka4 47.h4  
 e4 48.dxe4 Nxe4 49.Qf3 Qg6 50.h5  
 Qe8 51.Be3 f5 52.h6 Qe5 53.Kf1  
 Qd5 54.Kg2 Qg8+ 55.Kh3 Ng5+  
 56.Bxc6 Qxc6 57.Qc6+ Kxa3  
 58.Qc3+ Ka4 59.Qc4+ Ka5 60.Qc3+  
 Ka4 61.Qg7 Qe3+ 62.Kh4 f4  
 63.Qd7+ b5 64.h7 Qe5 65.Kg4 f3  
 66.Kxf3 Qf6+ 67.Ke4 Qh4+ 68.Kd5  
 Qh5+ 69.Kc6 Qg6+ 70.Kc7 Qg3+  
 71.Kb7 Qf3+ 72.Ka6 Qf6+ 73.Ka7  
 Qf2+ 74.Kb7 Qf3+ 75.Qc6 Qf7+  
 76.Qc7 Qf3+ 77.Ka6 Qa8+ 78.Kb6  
 Qh8 79.Qc2+ Ka3 80.Qd3+ Ka2  
 81.Kc5 b4 82.Qd2+ Ka1 83.Qd4+  
 1-0 (83) Abdusattorov,N (2633)-  
 Carlsen,M (2856) Warsaw 2021 ]

**3...Bb4** The Smyslov system. Once a  
 sideline to the Reverse Dragon, it has  
 shot up in popularity and has been  
 achieving good results for Black. It's  
 effectively a Reverse Rossolimo for  
 Black and we all know how well that  
 scores for White! **4.e4 Bxc3**

Chopping the knight before the other  
 one heads to e2. Play becomes more  
 difficult after the complex is formed.

**5.dxc3!?** **d6** My opponent has  
 traditionally gone for bxc3 systems so to  
 see this on the board was certainly  
 unexpected for me! However, with the d4-  
 lever gone, all the center tension has  
 vanished, so I decided to simply solidify  
 the center pawn structure and focus

play on the wings. **6.Bg2**

[ 6.f3!?! is a cutting-edge novelty  
 made fashionable by Carlsen and  
 Caruana in recent years. I was almost  
 afraid to see it on the board! Here's  
 an example of Caruana dismantling a  
 top GM with it: a5 7.a4 Be6 8.Nh3  
 h6 9.Nf2 Na6 10.Be3 Nc5 11.Qc2  
 0-0 12.g4 Nfd7 13.h4 c6 14.Be2 b5  
 15.axb5 cxb5 16.cxb5 d5 17.exd5  
 Bxd5 18.c4 Bb7 19.Rd1 Qe7 20.g5  
 e4 21.f4 Nd3+ 22.Kf1 N7c5 23.gxh6  
 gxh6 24.Rg1+ Kh8 25.Qc3+ f6  
 26.Rg6 Rg8 27.Qxf6+ Qxf6 28.Rxf6  
 Nxf2 29.Kxf2 Nd3+ 30.Bxd3 exd3  
 31.Rxh6+ Kg7 32.Rb6 Be4 33.Re6  
 Bf5 34.Re5 Kf6 35.Bd4 Rad8  
 36.Rd5+ Kg6 37.Rg1+ Kh6 38.Rxc8  
 Rxc8 39.Rxf5 Rg2+ 40.Kxc8 d2  
 41.Rd5 1-0 (41) Caruana,F (2792)-  
 Navara,D (2697) Baku 2021 ]

**6...Be6 7.b3 a5!?!N** A novelty, as far as  
 I could tell, and one that my silicon  
 friend likes. Which shouldn't be  
 surprising, considering it was inspired by  
 computer prep! The idea is, with the  
 bishop on g2, to grab the space and  
 then redirect the b7-knight to c5 and  
 prod the sensitive a2-b3-c4 complex  
 with our Q-side majority pieces. **8.Ne2?!**  
 While the engine doesn't consider this to  
 be too grievous, the knight is rather  
 poorly placed on e2 and simply serves to  
 be a loose target. It's a far long way  
 from its ideal e3-square.

[ 8.Nf3!?! and the pawn is not hanging  
 due to: Nxe4 9.Nxe5! ]

**8...Nbd7 9.Be3 Ng4!?** I had my doubts  
 about this move during the game since  
 the knight ends up sitting awkwardly  
 placed and then being kicked back, but I  
 was pleased to see the engine agree  
 with my assessment: the Q-side play  
 takes priority over the woes of the K-  
 side! **10.Bd2 Nc5 11.Qc2 a4 12.0-0**  
**0-0 13.h3 Nf6 14.Be3 b6?!**

I have to say I'm quite proud to discover this to be my first slight inaccuracy in the post-game analysis. The engine preferred to simply take the queen off the d-file.

[ 14...Qe7 15.Rae1 axb3 16.axb3 Ra3 17.Ra1 Rfa8 18.Rxa3 Rxa3̄ ]

**15.Rad1?!** Bad inaccuracy, almost bordering on a mistake. White simply does not have the time to being playing slow moves like these while an attack is being mounted against his Q-side.

[ 15.f4 axb3 16.axb3 Bd7 17.f5 Bc6 18.g4 h6 19.Ng3 Nh7!?∞

is surprisingly much less scary for Black than what I had envisioned. ]

**15...Qd7** Gaining a tempo off the h3-pawn. **16.Kh2 Qc6?!** I was proud to find this move during the game... only to find out I missed a brilliant (yet elusive) rebuttal in turn! **17.f4??** The K-side pawn finally gets pushed, but it's a step too late.

[ 17.Nd4!! axb3 18.axb3 exd4? 19.e5! d3 20.Rxd3 d5 21.Rd4 Nfe4± and suddenly White's monster pawns more than compensate for the missing piece. ]

**17...axb3 18.axb3 Nxb3!!**

Out of nowhere! This sacrifice had visibly shell-shocked my opponent during the match. **19.fxe5**

[ 19.Qxb3 Bxc4 20.Qb2 Ra2 21.Qc1 Rxe2-+ Black is simply two pawns up with no compensation for White. ]

**19...dxe5 20.Rd5** My opponent desperately sacrificing to create play for his pieces. **20...Bxd5 21.exd5 Qxc4 22.d6 Na1!?** Interesting way to create initiative for Black, but Stockfish prefers a different solution.

[ 22...cxd6! 23.Bxa8 Rxa8-+ Simply neutralizing any of White's play and emerging three pawns up with a winning endgame in sight. ]

**23.Qd1 Ra2 24.Nc1 Rc2** It's amazing

how engines always find the simplest way forward. This time Stockfish prefers to exchange the poorly placed rook for the very active light squared bishop and, once again, neutralize White's play.

[ 24...Rxc2+ 25.Kxc2 Nd5 26.Bd2 cxd6-+ ]

**25.Bg5 cxd6?!** Again, my silicon engine keeps yelling and yelling at me: "Just give back the exchange and play the winning endgame!"

[ 25...Ne4! 26.Be7 Nxd6 27.Bxf8 Kxf8-+ ]

**26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Qf3 Qe6** The f6-pawn is protected simply by virtue of the overloaded f1-rook having to protect the c1-knight as well. **28.Ne2 Nb3 29.Qh5 Nc5** Getting the knight back just in time to cover Be4. **30.g4 Rxe2 31.g5**

**Rxc2+!?** And heeding my engine's advice, I simplify into the winning endgame. **32.Kxc2 fxc5 33.Rf3 Qg6 34.Qg4 f5 35.Qc4+ Qe6 36.Qe2 Ra8 37.Rf2 Ne4** With ...Ra2 to follow - I was even ready to sacrifice the knight to bring the pieces off the board, since the pawn endgame is an easy victory.

**0-1**

**B11**

□ **Tsolias,Yorgos**

**1540**

■ **Lazarus,Isaac**

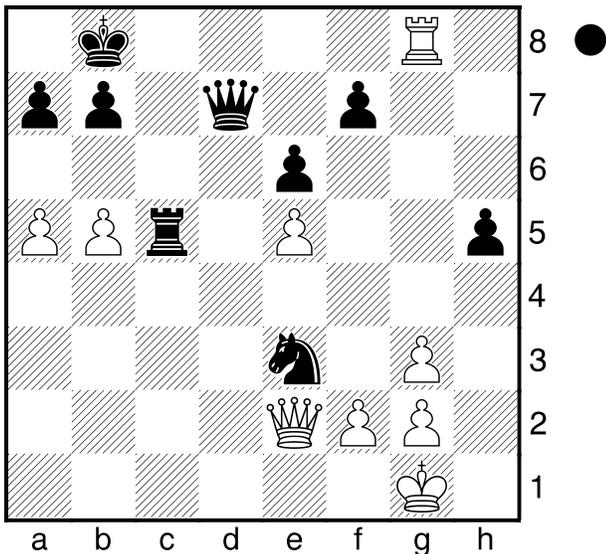
**0**

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (7.18)

[Winslow,Elliott]

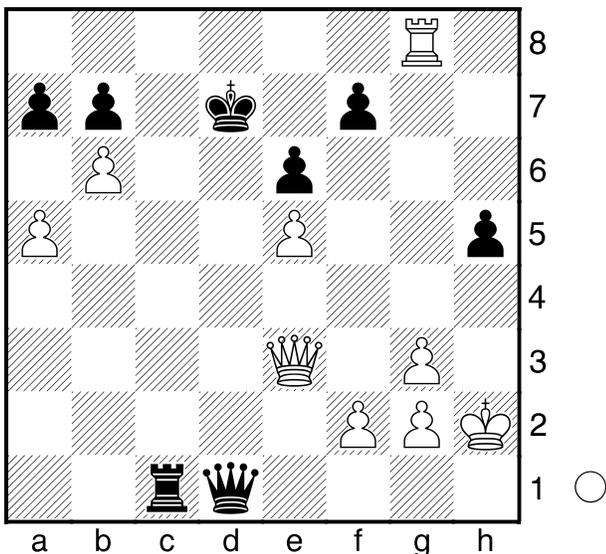
**1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2 Be6 6.c3 Nbd7 7.d4 Qb6 8.Neg5 Bg4 9.Qc4 Nd5 10.Be2 h6 11.Ne4 e6 12.0-0 Bf5 13.Ng3 Bh7 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Bd6 16.a3 N5f6 17.Re1 0-0-0 18.b4 Rhe8 19.c4 Bxg3 20.hxg3 g5 21.b5 cxb5 22.cxb5 Kb8 23.Qe2 Nd5 24.Bb2 Rc8 25.a4 Qa5 26.Ne5 Nxe5 27.dxe5 Rh8 28.Rec1 h5 29.Rxc8+ Kxc8**

30.Bc1 g4 31.Bd2 Qd8 32.a5 Kb8  
 33.Ra4 Qd7 34.Rd4 Rc8 35.Be3 Rc5  
 36.Rxg4 Nxe3 37.Rg8+



**Kc7??**

[ 37...Rc8! 38.Rxc8+ Kxc8 39.fxe3± ]  
**38.Qxe3+- Qd1+**  
 [ 38...Qxb5 39.Qf4 Qb1+ 40.Kh2 Qf5  
 41.Qd4 Δ 42.Qd8+ +- ]  
**39.Kh2 Rc1 40.b6+! Kd7**

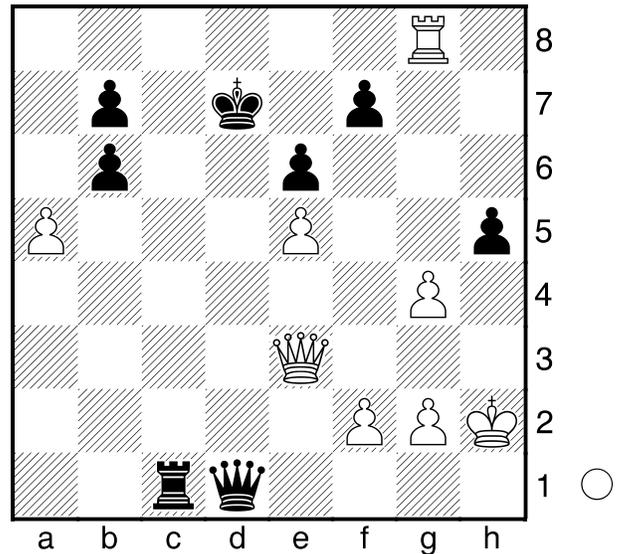


Now the proverbial "Comedy of Errors" occurs, where neither player lands a winner, until finally... **41.g4??** Tossing the win (not the last time, either).

[ 41.Qxc1! Qxc1 42.bxa7+- devastates. ]

**41...axb6?**

[ 41...h4! would draw: White then still has 42.Qxc1! Qxc1 43.bxa7 but now Black must has a perpetual. ]



Back in the hole. **42.Qxb6?** White's last chance to win, but...

[ 42.gxh5? Qxh5+ 43.Kg3 Rc5!

□ when it's even, as in neither side has any way to keep it going. ]

[ With no time left, and having missed it already, it was very unlikely White would find the one winning move 42.Kg3!!+- □ ]

**42...Qh1+-+ 43.Kg3 h4+??** This should lose!

[ 43...Rc3+! 44.Kf4 ( 44.f3 h4+ )

44...Qc1+! 45.Ke4 Qc2+ 46.Kf4

Qd2+ 47.Ke4 Rc4+ 48.Kf3 Qf4+

49.Ke2 Rc2+ 50.Kd3 Qc4+ 51.Ke3

Rc3+ 52.Kd2 Qd3+ 53.Ke1 Rc1# ]

**44.Kf3??**

[ 44.Kf4! when the tactics continue:

Rc4+ (Yorgos said later he was

worried about 44...Qh2+ 45.g3 Qxf2+

overlooking that his queen was

guarding that pawn! ) 45.Kg5 Rxg4+

46.Kxg4 Qxg2+ 47.Kf4 Qh2+

( 47...Qxg8 48.Qxb7+ Ke8 49.Qb8+ and QxQ ) 48.Kf3 Qh1+ 49.Ke2 Qe4+ 50.Qe3+- ]

**44...Rc3+** Now it's Black winning, and he doesn't let go. **45.Ke2 Rc2+! 46.Ke3 Qc1+ 47.Ke4 Rc4+ 48.Kf3**

[ 48.Qd4+ prolongs but still pretty dead ]

**48...Qa3+?!**

[ 48...Qd1+ 49.Ke3 Qe1+ 50.Kd3 ( 50.Kf3 Qe4# ) 50...Qe4+ 51.Kd2 Rc2+ 52.Kd1 Qe2# ]

**49.Ke2** White lost on time. Black had two seconds left! And speaking of two, it's Mate in two, after

[ 49.Qe3 Rc3+- ]

**49...Rc2+** A tough loss for Tsolias, while Lazarus scoops up clear first.

**0-1**

□ **Sisti,Daniel J**

■ **Suarez,Adrian**

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (7) 21.02.23  
[Winslow,Elliott]

**B12**

**1284**

**0**

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nd2 e6**

**5.Nb3 Nd7 6.Nf3 c5 7.dxc5 Nxc5**

[ 7...Bxc5 8.Nxc5 Nxc5 Taking c5 first with the bishop would prevent white from checking the black king, losing the right to castle, white gets the bishop pair. The computer doesn't like 8. Nxc5, prefers 8. Bg5 attacking the queen. ]

**8.Nxc5 Bxc5 9.Bb5+ Kf8 10.0-0 Qc7**

**11.Qe2**

[ 11.Bd2 this would have been stronger, controlling dark squares on the queen side and allowing Bc3 to follow, protecting e5 and covering the critical d4 square. ]

**11...Ne7 12.a3?!**

[ 12.h3 would be much better, solving white's problems with defending e5 ]

[ 12.Rd1 strongest, covering d4 a6 13.Bd3 h6 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Qxe3 Bxd3 16.cxd3 Nf5 17.Qd2 Rc8 18.Rac1 Qb8 19.d4 ( 19.g4 Ne7 20.Nd4 Ng6 21.f4 f6 22.f5 Nxe5 23.Nxe6+ Kf7 24.h3 ) ]

**12...Bg4 13.b4 Bxf3 14.gxf3?**

[ 14.Qxf3 Bd4 15.Rb1 Bxe5 16.g3 ]

**14...Bd4!** crushing **15.c3?!**

[ 15.f4 Bxa1 hard to see compensation for white 16.Qg4 ( 16.f5 Nxf5 ) 16...Ng6

**A) 17.Kh1** f6 18.Qxe6 ( 18.exf6 Bxf6 ) 18...Qe7;

**B) 17.f5** exf5 18.Qxf5 Qxe5;

**C) 17.Bd3** f5 18.exf6 gxf6

19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Kh1 Qg7 ]

**15...Bxe5 16.f4 Bxf4 17.Bxf4 Qxf4**

**18.Kh1 h5 19.Rg1 Rc8**

[ 19...Qe4+ 20.Qxe4 dxe4

would force a trade of queens with white down material, and probably a winning endgame, but this would be more difficult and give white some chances of fighting back. ]

**20.Qb2 Nf5 21.Ba4 h4 22.h3? Qf3+**

**23.Kh2 Rxc3 24.Qxc3 Qxc3 25.Rgc1**

**Qe5+ 26.Kg2 Ne7! 27.Re1 Qg5+**

**28.Kh2 Rh6 29.Bc2?!** a desperate attempt to block the rook, but the other possibility of Bd1 would also fail

[ 29.Bd1 f5 30.Rg1 Qf4+ 31.Kh1 Rg6 ]

**29...Qd2 30.Rac1 Qxf2+ 31.Kh1 Rh5**

**32.Rf1 Qg3 33.Rxf7+ Kxf7 34.Rf1+**

**Nf5**

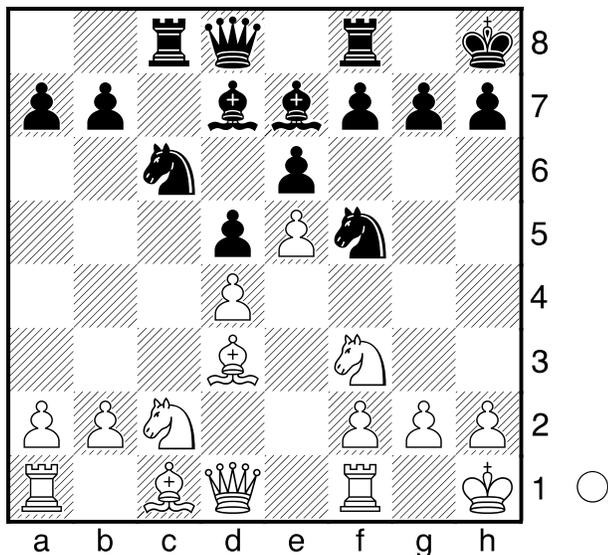
**0-1**

□ **Widjaja,Luke**  
 ■ **Xia,Yusheng**

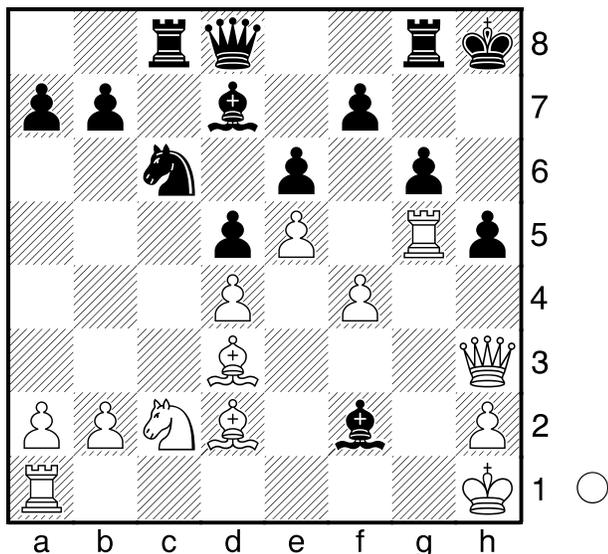
**C02**  
**2085**  
**2263**

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 07.03.2023  
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6  
 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Nge7 7.Na3 cxd4  
 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Nc2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0  
 11.Bd3 Rc8 12.Kh1 Kh8



13.g4 Nh4 14.Nxh4 Bxh4 15.g5 Bxg5  
 16.Qh5 h6 17.f4 g6 18.Qh3 Bh4  
 19.Rg1 h5 20.Bd2 Bf2 21.Rg5 Rg8



22.f5 Rg7 23.fxg6 fxg6 24.Bxg6 Kg8

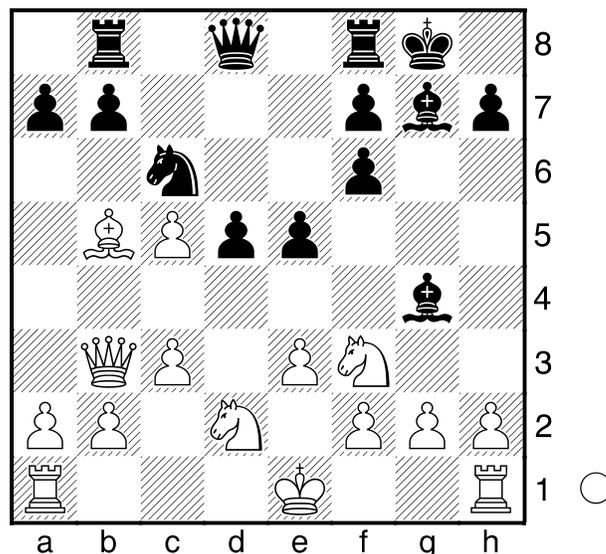
25.Rxh5 Rxc6 26.Rh8+ Kf7 27.Qh7+  
 Rg7 28.Qh5+ Ke7 29.Bg5+ Rxc5  
 30.Qxc5+ Kf7 31.Rh7+ Kf8 32.Qg7+  
 Ke8 33.Qf7#  
**1-0**

**D03**

□ **Diaz,Conrado** **2262**  
 ■ **Handigol,Abhishek** **2074**

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 07.03.23  
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bg5 c5 4.Bxf6  
 gxf6 5.c3 Nc6 6.e3 e5 7.Nbd2 Bg4  
 8.Qb3 Rb8 9.Bb5 Bg7 10.dxc5 0-0



11.0-0 Qe7 12.Qxd5 Rfd8 13.Qc4  
 Be6 14.Qh4 Qxc5 15.Ba4 Bf5 16.Ne4  
 Qe7 17.Ng3 Bg6 18.e4 b5 19.Bb3  
 Na5 20.Bd5 Nc4 21.Qg4

[ 21.b3 Nb6 22.c4 ]

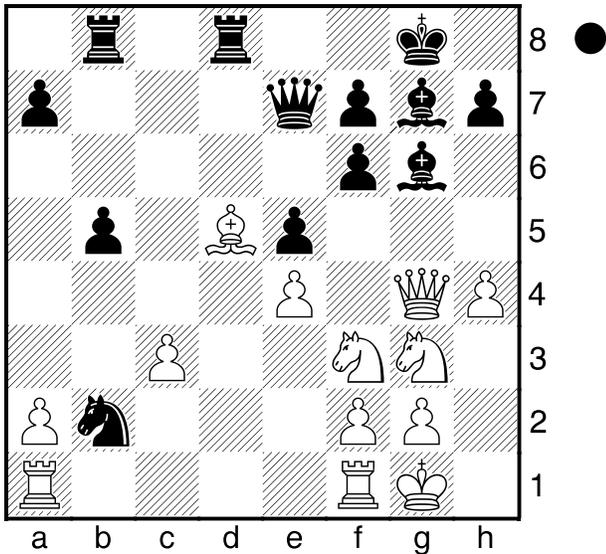
**21...Nxb2?!**

[ 21...Nb6 22.Bb3 Qd7 is still pretty  
 good for White, but Black might yet  
 hold the fort. ]

**22.h4?**

[ 22.Nh4! establishes a knight on f5,  
 \*then\* h4-h5 is even better. ]

(Diagram)



**22...f5?** Black had his big chance right now:

[ 22...Rxd5! 23.exd5 h5! 24.Qb4 ( 24.Nxh5?? f5-+; 24.Nf5 Qc5 25.Qh3 Bf8⇌ ) 24...Qxb4 25.cxb4 Bh6± Black isn't so badly off at all. Two bishops often match up well against rook and knight, and this position is typical. ]

**23.Nxf5+-** Now White establishes a grip to go with the extra pawn. **23...Bxf5**

**24.Qxf5 Qf6 25.Qxf6?!** White should keep the queens on (h5 or g4).

**25...Bxf6± 26.Rab1 Na4 27.Rfc1 Rdc8 28.c4 b4 29.g3?!** "Uberluft"

[ 29.Rb3 Nc5 30.g4± Or should \*this\* be "uberluft"? I should leave the German word creation to Germans... ]

**29...Nc3± /= 30.Rxc3!** Best practical try!

**30...bxc3 31.Rc1 Rb2 32.Rxc3 Rxa2** Hard to refuse **33.c5 Ra1+ 34.Kg2 Kf8?!**

[ 34...h5! ]

**35.c6±**

[ 35.g4! Be7 ( 35...h6 36.c6+- after all ) 36.Nxe5 Bxc5? 37.Nd7+ White would like to keep rooks on Ke7 38.Nxc5 Ra5 39.Rf3!?

Almost extravagant, when just letting the rooks trade wins. ( 39.Nb7;

39.Nb3 ) 39...Raxc5 40.Rxf7+ Kd6 41.Rxh7+- \*OH\* that's a lot of pawns! ]

**35...Rc7?!**

[ 35...h5!± leaves White with work to do. ]

**36.Nd2**

[ 36.g4! h6 37.g5 hxg5 38.hxg5 Be7 39.Nxe5 Bxg5 40.Nxf7 ]

**36...Be7 37.Rb3 Bc5 38.Nc4 f6**

**39.Rb8+ Kg7 40.Rg8+ Kh6 41.g4**

**Ra2 42.Kg3?!** Hangs on to the win, just.

[ 42.Be6! Rxf2+ ( 42...Rxc6? 43.Bf7 ) 43.Kg3+- Black's king is in trouble. Rf4 44.Bd7 Bf2+ ( 44...Be7 45.Ne3 ) 45.Kh3 ]

**42...Bxf2?!**

[ 42...Ra1! Forget the f-pawn, stop mate! 43.Kg2! Or try... Rc1 44.g5+! With the e-pawn about to hang White can plow ahead. fxg5 ( 44...Kh5 45.gxf6 ) 45.hxg5+ Kh5 46.Nxe5 Imagine 47.Nf3, 48.Kg3, 49.Be6, 50. Bg4 Mate. Now, stop it. Can't. (Well, ... Rxc6) ]

**43.Kh3** It works like a composition.

**43...Bc5 44.g5+ fxg5 45.hxg5+ Kh5**

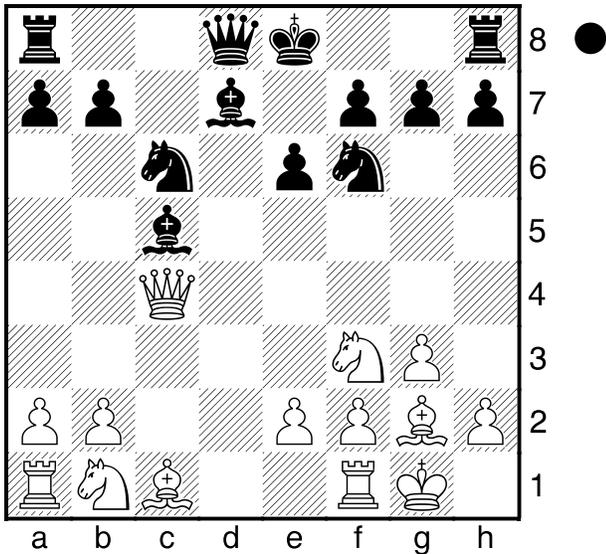
**46.Be6** Yes some flaws, but beyond that a wonderful game by Conrado!

**1-0**

Snyder, Larry **E04**  
 Lessler, Peter **2069**  
**2251**  
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 07.03.23  
 [Winslow, Elliott]

**1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0**  
**Nc6 5.d4 e6 6.c4 dxc4 7.Qa4 Bd7**  
**8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qxc4**

(Diagram)



Not a particularly exciting defense to the Catalan, nor popular. But at least Black has rooks connecting. **9...Qe7**

[ 9...Be7 10.Nc3 0-0 would keep to the orthodox. Here's a high-level if not too exciting encounter: 11.Rd1 Qa5 12.e4 Rfd8 13.Qe2 Ng4 14.h3 Nge5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.f4 Bc5+ 17.Kh2 Nc6 18.Be3 f6 19.Bxc5 Qxc5 20.e5 fxe5 21.Ne4 Qe7 22.fxe5 Nxe5 23.Nd6 Nf7 24.Nxb7 Rdc8 25.Rac1 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Rc8 27.Qe3 Rxc1 28.Qxc1 Qe8 29.Qc5 Qb8 30.b4 (30.b3!) 30...g6?! 31.Qe7 (31.a3!) 31...Ne5? (31...Qe8) 32.Nc5

Imperceptibly White has worked into a won position. Which he then doesn't win. Just another 2700 vs. 2700 Catalan. Qf8 33.Qg5 Nf7 34.Qe3 Qe7 35.a4 e5 36.b5 Be8 37.Bd5 h5 38.Ne4 Kg7 39.Qc5 Qxc5 40.Nxc5 Nd6 41.Kg2 Kf6 42.Kf3 Nf5 43.Ne4+ Ke7 44.Ke2 Nd6 45.Kd3 Bd7 46.Nf2 Kd8 47.Kc3 Kc7 48.Kb4 e4 49.Nxe4 Bxh3 50.Nxd6 Kxd6 51.Bf7 Bf5 52.a5 Bd3 53.Be8 Ke7 54.b6 axb6 55.axb6 Kd8 56.Kc3 Bb1 57.Kd4 Kc8 58.Ke5 Kb7 59.Kf6 Bf5 60.Bxg6 Bh3 61.Bxh5 Kxb6 62.Bg6 Bg4 63.Bf5 Be2 64.Kg5 Kc5

65.Bg4 Bb5 66.Kf6 Kd4 67.Bf5 Be2 1/2-1/2 Gelfand,B (2703)-Adams,M (2712) Olympiad-43 Batumi 2018 (8. 1) ]

**10.Nc3**

[ 10.Bg5!± tries to turn the moderate development advantage into something almost tangible: doubled pawns, a bishop retreat to b6 (when d6 is vaguely weakened), anything. ]

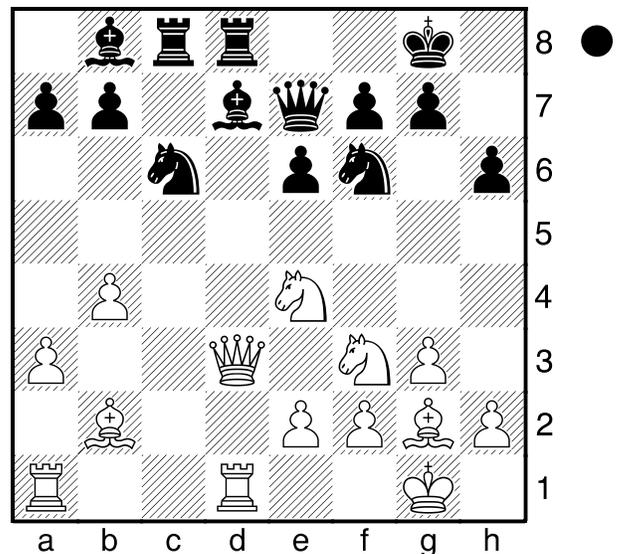
**10...h6!= Time well spent. 11.a3 Rc8**

The minus sign flickers here and there in the Stockfish evaluation, but it returns to "0.00" every time. **12.Qd3 0-0 13.b4**

**Bd6**

[ 13...Bb6 keeps it pegged on the zeroes. ]

**14.Rd1 Bb8 15.Bb2 Rfd8 16.Ne4**



**e5?!**

[ 16...Nxe4 17.Qxe4 e5 ]

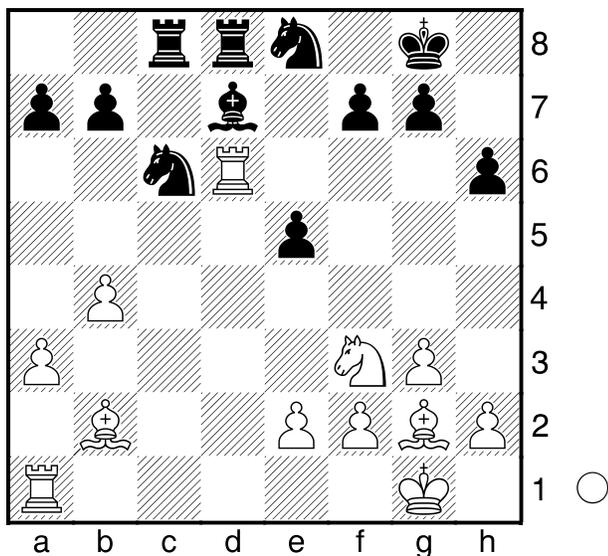
**17.Nd6±** Now White can show off the Two Bishops for a while. **17...Bxd6**

**18.Qxd6 Qxd6?**

[ 18...Qe8! pushes back more successfully. ]

**19.Rxd6± Ne8**

(Diagram)



**20.Rd2?!**

[ 20.Rxd7! Rxd7 21.Bh3 Rcd8  
 22.Bxd7 Rxd7 23.Nxe5 Rd2  
 24.Nxc6 bxc6 when all three bishop  
 moves (c1, c3, e5) lead to a  
 substantial ending advantage. If White  
 were Fischer, Black could resign. ]

**20...e4!** Staying in the "window." **21.Ne5**  
**Nxe5**

[ 21...Bf5! ]

**22.Bxe5 Bc6**

[ 22...Bf5 ]

**23.Rad1 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 a6 25.f4?!**

[ 25.h4 ]

[ 25.a4 ]

**25...Kf8?!**

[ 25...exf3 26.exf3 f6 27.Bb2  
 ( 27.Bh3 Ra8 woops ) 27...Kf7 ]

**26.e3**

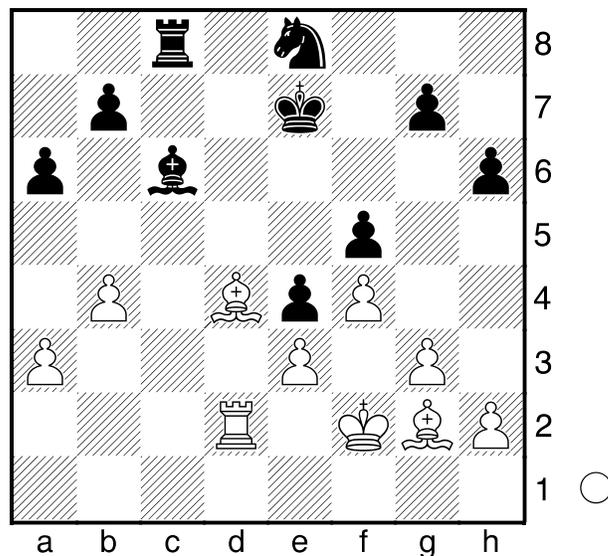
[ 26.f5! ]

**26...Ke7**

[ 26...h5 ]

**27.Kf2 f6 28.Bd4 f5**

(Diagram)



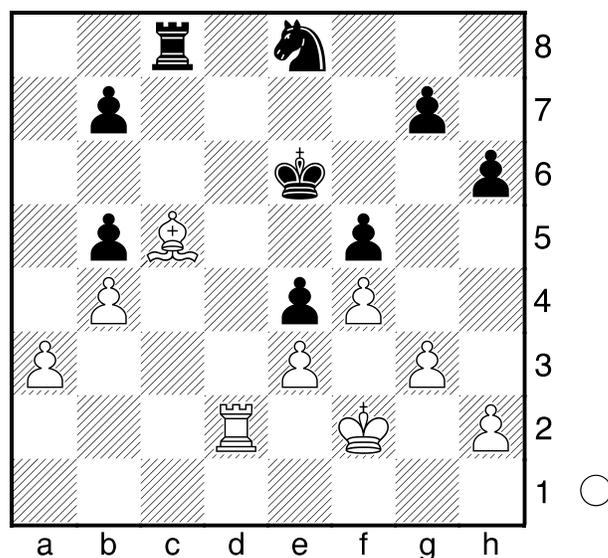
**29.Bf1**

[ 29.Bh3! Ke6 30.g4 g6 31.Bc5±  
 has gotten uncomfortable. ]

**29...Bb5 30.Bc5+**

[ 30.Bh3 g6 31.g4 still causes some  
 trouble for Black. ]

**30...Ke6 31.Bxb5 axb5**



So much for "just moving" (See Soltis's  
 anecdote about Fischer in "What It  
 Takes to Become a Chess Master," the  
 beginning of Chapter 4, "More." The  
 bishops are gone, as is the advantage.  
**32.Ke2 Ra8 33.Ra2 Nc7 34.Bd4 g6**  
**35.Kd2 Nd5 36.Ra1 h5** Now it's Black

"playing for two results," even if the engines make it 0.00. **37.h3** This could come back to bite White. **37...Ne7**  
**38.Bb2? Nc8?!**

[ 38...Rd8+! 39.Ke2 Rd3-+ is too much. ]

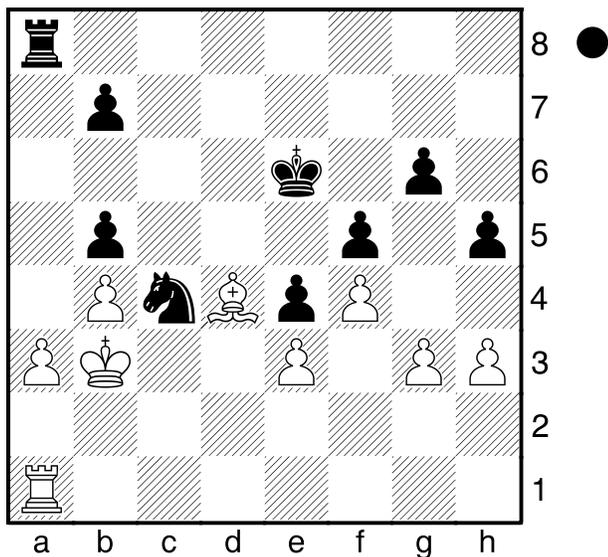
**39.Kc3**

[ 39.Bd4 ]

**39...Nb6**

[ 39...Nd6 ]

**40.Kb3 Nc4 41.Bd4**

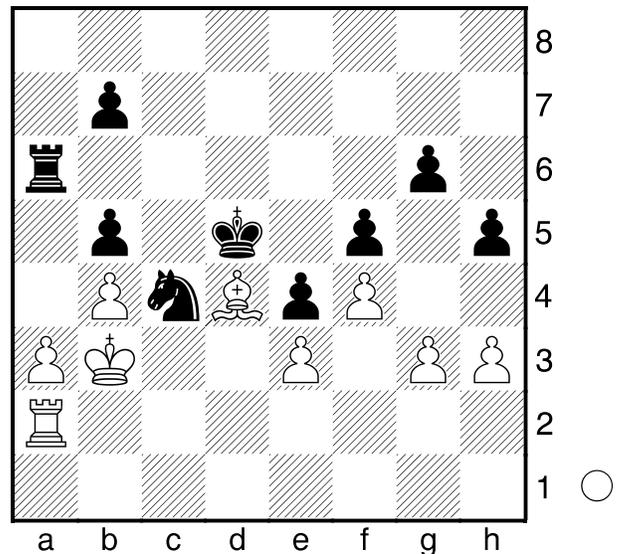


**Kd5?**

[ 41...Nd2+ 42.Kc2 Nf3-+ ]

**42.Ra2** A precarious but adequate defense... **42...Ra6**

(Diagram)



**43.a4??** Wrong rook pawn.

[ 43.h4 holds. ]

**43...bxa4+ 44.Rxa4 Nd2+ 45.Ka3**

**Rxa4+ 46.Kxa4 Nf1 47.Kb5 Nxb3**

**48.Kb6** Of course this required accurate calculation. **48...Ne2**

[ 48...Kc4 ]

**49.Bf6 Kc4 50.Be7 Nc3 51.Kxb7**

Here the only scoresheet turned in has no more moves. Black is winning, and did win.

**0-1**

**D32**  
 Winslow,Elliott **2219**  
 Hao,Max **2047**  
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 07.03.23  
 [Winslow,Elliott C]

For some reason I didn't look up my previous games with Max. We'd played three times, I'd had White in all three, two Najdorfs and a Tarrasch QGD, I was 3-0 (but the first game his rating was 1661). The Tarrasch had him playing the latest Dubov treatment instantly against me, until he finally played an inferior "novelty" that got him in trouble. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3** How many

moves do you think Black has here?

\*Nine\* have been played over a thousand times each! **4...c5**

[ 4...Nc6?! is kind of antithetical (I might say "lame") and scores accordingly; ]

[ 4...b6 is also suspect; the other seven are all logical, sensible moves: ]

[ 4...Be7 ]

[ 4...Bb4 ]

[ 4...c6 ]

[ 4...dxc4 ]

[ 4...Nbd7 ]

[ 4...a6!? ]

[And then there's 4...h6!? which has been tossed into the ring, by Carlsen no less. It'll be over 1000 in no time I'm sure. Ah, I was looking at an old database: It's over 1300 instances! ]

### 5.cxd5 exd5

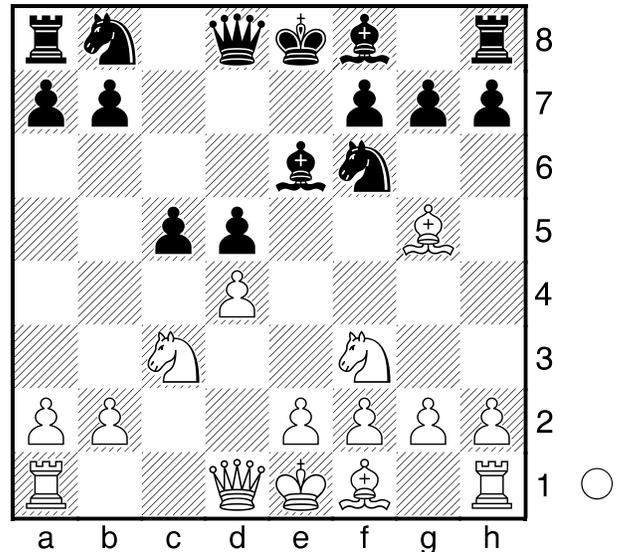
[ 5...Nxd5 has been given the treatment lately at the highest level as well. ]

### 6.Bg5

[In our last game we transposed to 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 when he blitzed out the latest cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 1-0 Winslow,E (2244)-Hao,M (1900) MI Peter Grey TNM: 1800+ San Francisco 2022 (1.4) You can find it in the Archive. ]

### 6...Be6!?

(Diagram)



This surprised me. Shows how out of touch I am: Carlsen is 1/2-1 1/2 with it, the Indian kids have well over a dozen games, Firouzja -- well, he lost. Altogether over 600 games. **7.e3** McDonnell-De Labourdonnais, 1834! I wanted some sort of stock structure, but maybe blowing it up is the way to go.

[ 7.e4!? dxe4 8.Nxe4 cxd4 ( 8...Be7!? ) 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.Bxf6 Bxb5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Re1 0-0 14.Nc3 Qd7 15.Ne5 Qe8 16.Qxd4 1-0 Gurevich,D (2470)-Ivanov,I (2530) New York Heraldica-Ruslan 1983 (2) ]

[ Vidit played 7.dxc5!? Bxc5 8.e3 0-0 9.Be2 h6 10.Bh4 Nc6 11.0-0 Rc8 12.Rc1 Be7 13.Nd4 a6 14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.Bf3 Rc4 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nxd5 Rxc1 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qxc1 Bxa2 20.Bxb7 Rb8 21.Qc7 Qd8 22.Rc1 Bc4! 1/2-1/2 Vidit,S (2722)-Carlsen,M (2870) Tata Steel India rapid Kolkata 2019 (6) and Magnus held the draw. Still, it's nice to avoid Black's next move... ]

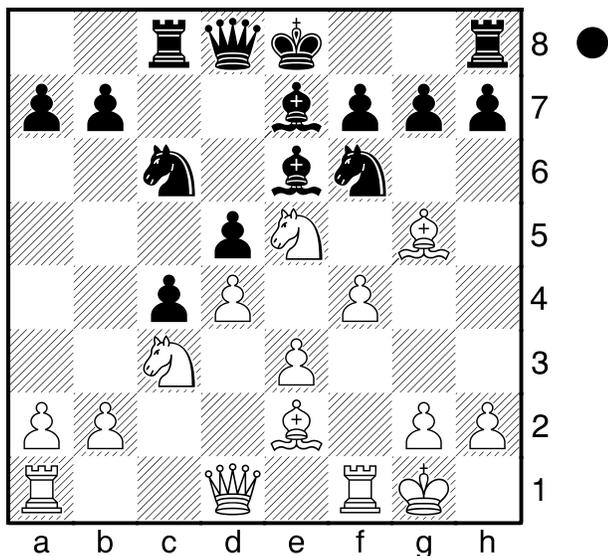
**7...c4!?** More instant play from Max.

### 8.Be2 Nc6

[ Stockfish prefers 8...Nbd7 ]

**9.0-0± Be7 10.Ne5 Rc8**

[ 10...h6!? ]  
**11.f4±**



**Ng8!?**

[ 11...h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 ]

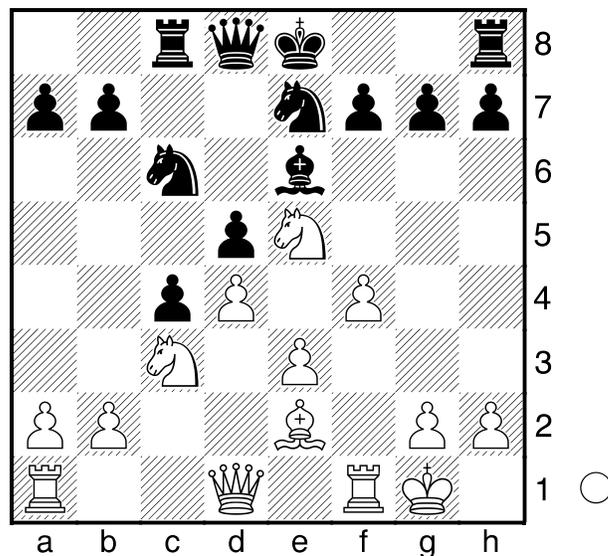
**12.Bxe7?!** White has two superior continuations, one I saw (but nowhere near deeply enough) and the other didn't even enter my short "candidate moves" list:

[ 12.f5!! I tried to take seriously but failed: Bxg5 13.fxe6 Nxe5 14.dxe5 I stopped at "This is really bad for me" (I think I used a shorter version of that) fxe6 ( 14...Bxe3+? 15.Kh1 fxe6 16.Bh5+ g6 17.Qf3+- ) 15.e4! Qb6+ ( 15...d4 16.Nb5+- ) 16.Kh1 d4 17.Qa4+ Qc6 18.Nb5 d3! 19.Bxd3! cxd3 20.Nd6+ Kd7 21.Qd4!+- There was no way I was seeing all that! ]

[ 12.e4!? really throws it all up in the air, and I think I didn't consider it (maybe I did, but quickly backed off). f6!? ( 12...dxe4 13.d5!+- What? ) 13.f5! (Or maybe 13.Bh5+!) 13...fxe5 14.Bxe7 Ngxe7 15.fxe6 Even now I'm glazing over. ]

**12...Ngxe7**

(Diagram)



**13.Qd2?!** Trying to keep it from being clearly nothing.

[ 13.b3 cxb3 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.axb3 is a quickly dwindling plus ]

**13...f6**

[ 13...a6! so now he could take with the rook. ]

**14.Nxc6 Nxc6**

[ 14...Rxc6?! 15.b3± successfully fights for the center. ]

**15.b3?!**

[ 15.Rad1 0-0 16.e4± ]

**15...cxb3**

[ 15...Na5!= ]

**16.axb3 0-0 17.f5?!**

[ 17.b4!± Nxb4? ( 17...g6 18.Ra2 some slight pressure against Black's queenside ) 18.Rxa7± feels like some sort of successful Minority Attack: the pawns might just be weaker than strong (as in, a passed pawn on the 2nd rank). ]

**17...Bf7 18.Bf3?!**

[ 18.b4= ]

**18...Na5**

[ 18...a5!? ]

**19.Rab1 b6 20.Be2** No work on one diagonal, try the original one **20...Qd7 21.Ba6 Rc7 22.Qd3?!**

[ 22.Nb5 Rc6= ]

**22...Nc6** I walked into \*that\* tactic **23.b4**

[ 23.Nb5?? Nb4 ]

**23...Nb8!?** **24.Ne2**

[ 24.Ra1? ]

**24...Nxa6 25.Qxa6?** **Qe7?!**

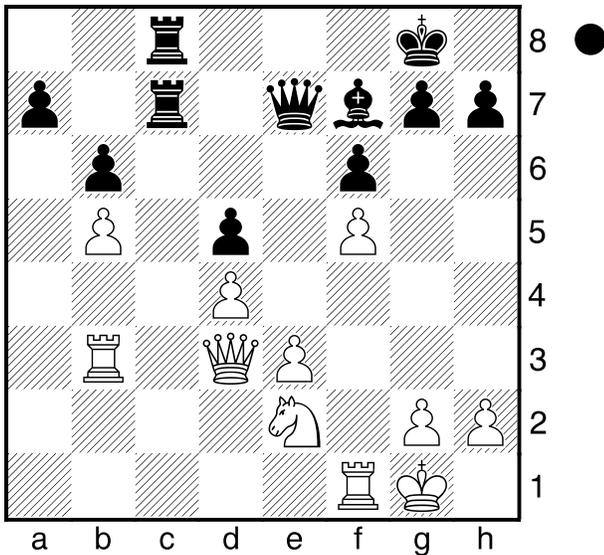
Various rook moves from f8 **26.Qd3!**

**Re8 27.Rb3** White is close to equality

(oh joy) **27...Rec8**

[ 27...a5! ]

**28.b5**



**g5! 29.h3?**

[ 29.fxg6 Bxg6 ( 29...hxg6 30.h4! = )

30.e4!! actually keeps the balance.

Stunning. Never entered my mind. ]

**29...Qe4** A surprise, which "works"

[ 29...Rc4? ]

**30.Ng3?**

[ 30.Re1 gives him a chance to

"reconsider" with Qe7 ]

[ I had miscalculated 30.Qxe4! dxe4

31.Rb2 Rc2? (I thought good for him)

( 31...h5=; 31...Kg7=; 31...Bc4= )

32.Rxc2! Rxc2 33.Ng3 Bd5

( 33...Bc4? 34.Ra1+- Bxb5 35.Rxa7 )

34.Ra1 Rc7 35.Kh2± I could live with

this. ]

**30...Qh4?**

[ 30...Qxd3 31.Rxd3 h5! and White

will be too off balance after ...h4 and ...

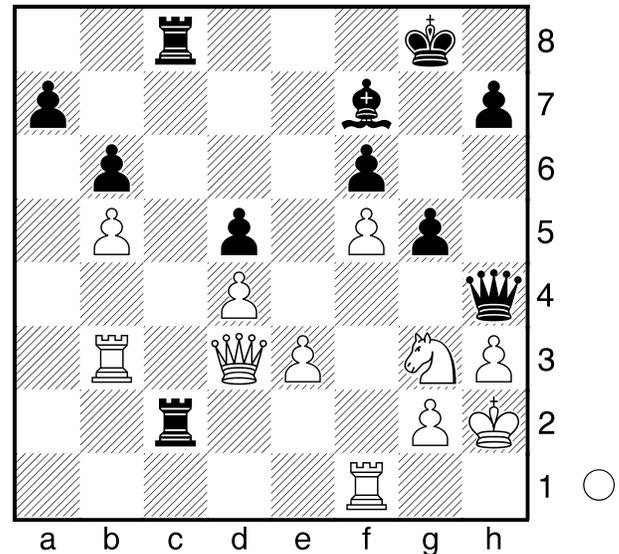
Be8. (or 31...Be8 ) ]

**31.Kh2?!**

[ 31.Ne2= ]

**31...Rc2**

[ 31...Qh6 32.Ne2 Qf8? and back around ]



**32.Ne2??**

[ 32.Rd1 should hold (33.Rd2

dampens the problems). ]

**32...Qe4!-+** THIS time it's quite a different story! **33.Re1 Ra2??**

[ 33...Bh5! shakes White down. 34.g4

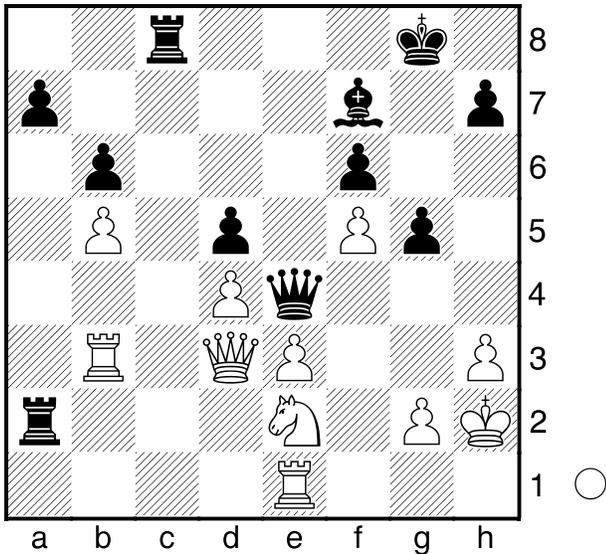
Qxd3 ( 34...Qf3! ) 35.Rxd3 Be8

36.Rb3 Rd2 37.Kg2 Rcc2 38.Kf3

h5-+ It's going to be ...h4, ...Kf8-e7-d6,

and ...Rb2. ]

(Diagram)



**34.Qxe4! dxe4 35.Rc3!±** He admitted he missed this saving grace. I didn't realize how good it is. **35...Rc2**

[ 35...Rc4! 36.Rxc4 Bxc4 37.Nc3 Rc2 38.Nxe4 Bxb5 39.Nxf6+ Kg7 40.Ng4 h5 41.Ne5 Kf6 42.e4 Rd2 43.Nf3 Rd3 44.Kg3± was quite a forcing sequence, with nothing clear on the horizon. ]

**36.Rxc8+ Rxc8 37.Ra1**

[ 37.Rc1?? Rxc1 38.Nxc1 Bc4+- ]

**37...Rc7** (He offered a draw. I wrote "1/2?" on my scoresheet and then played on. I was perusing the Rules today and see you're supposed to write (=), which I think is all wrong. In fact, a draw offer often means "You're winning, please don't notice and take the draw." (Except when it doesn't of course) **38.Ra3** Anyway, I (often) quote from R & B (no, not Rhythm and Blues! Rocky and Bullwinkle!) Natasha: "Boris, you have plan?" Boris: "Of course I have plan! Plan not always work..." **38...Bd5?!**

[ ⊲38...Bc4 39.Rc3! ( 39.Nc3 Bd3 40.d5 Kf8 41.d6 Rd7 42.Kg3 h5 43.h4 Ke8 ) 39...a6!? 40.bxa6 b5! 41.Ra3⊲ ( 41.Ng3 Ra7! ) 41...Ra7!± 42.Ng3 Bd3 43.h4!? teeters on winning. ]

**39.Nc3 Rd7 40.Kg3 Ba8 41.Kf2?**

[ 41.Kg4 ]

[ 41.h4 ]

**41...h5!± 42.g3 Kf8 43.Ke2 h4?**

[ 43...Ke7!± ]

**44.g4 Bd5 45.Kd2**

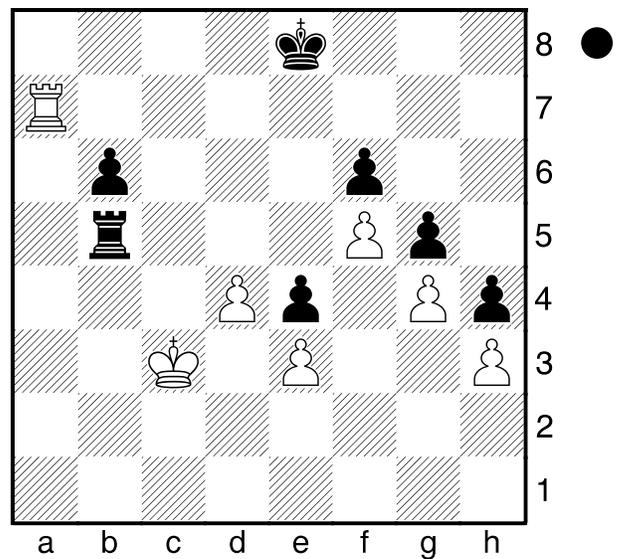
[ 45.Nxd5 Rxd5 46.Rb3 Rd8

47.Kd2+- which I really was not sure of at the time. (Which, by the way, I had little of) ]

**45...Ke8?! 46.Ra4**

[ 46.Nxd5! Rxd5 47.Rxa7 Rxb5

48.Kc3+-



White's king is slipping into d5 and further. ]

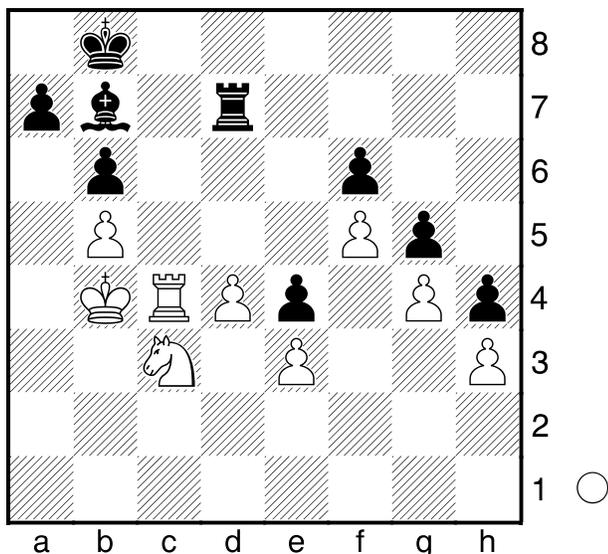
**46...Kd8**

[ 46...Ba8! ]

**47.Kc2** Yes, again **47...Ba8** Ratz!

**48.Kb3 Kc8 49.Rc4+ Kb8 50.Kb4 Bb7**

(Diagram)



**51.d5! Re7 52.Rxe4 Rxe4+ 53.Nxe4 Bxd5 54.Nxf6 Bf3!?**

[ 54...Bg2 55.Nh7 Kc7 ( 55...Bxh3 56.f6 ) 56.f6 Bd5 57.Nxg5 Kd6 58.Kc3 Kc5 59.e4 Ba2 60.f7 ]

**55.e4**

[ 55.Nh7! Bxg4 56.f6 Bh5 57.Nxg5 ]

**55...Kc7 56.e5 Kd8 57.Kc4**

[ 57.Nh7 ]

**57...Ke7 58.Nd5+ Kd8 59.e6 Be2+**

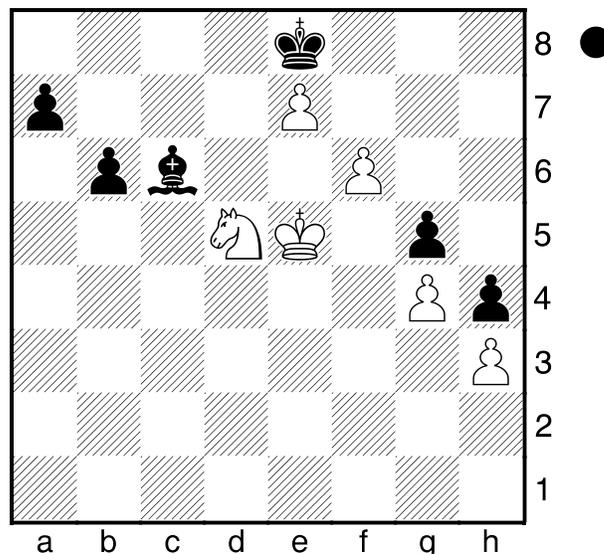
**60.Kd4 Bxb5 61.f6 Bc6 62.e7+?**

[ 62.f7 ]

**62...Ke8 63.Ke5?!**

[ 63.Ne3! is easy -- in fact, mate in 12. ]

(Diagram)



**63...b5**

[ 63...Bxd5! 64.Kxd5 Kd7 I thought this draws! But my pawns are just too far advanced and his not far enough: 65.Ke5! b5 66.Kf5 b4 67.Kg6 (or 67.Kxg5 b3 68.Kg6 b2 69.Kf7 also wins ) 67...Ke8 68.Kg7 and that f-pawn, which I so brutishly pushed back on moves 11 and 17, is the hero. ]

**64.Nb4 Bd7 65.Kd6**

**1-0**

**D02**

□ **Lazarus,Isaac**

**1845**

■ **Moisselin,Simon**

**1565**

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (1.12)

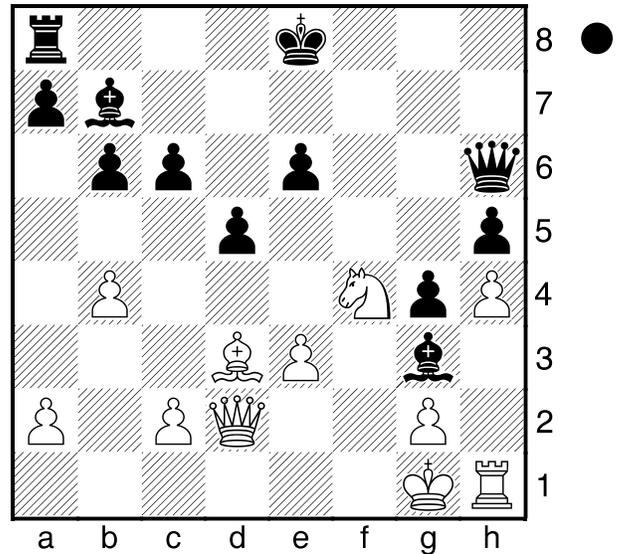
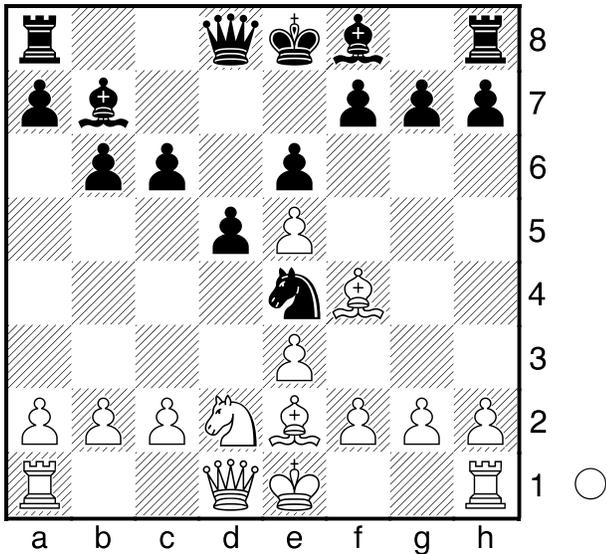
[Winslow,Elliott]

**1.d4 b6 2.Bf4 Bb7 3.Nf3 e6 4.e3 Nf6**

**5.Nbd2 d5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.Be2 Nbd7**

**8.Ne5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 Ne4**

(Diagram)



**10.Nf3?**

[ 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Qd4!= ]

**10...Bb4+?**

[ 10...g5! 11.Bg3 Qc7!± ]

**11.Kf1**

[ 11.c3!= Let him have his fun, it just favors White. Be7!= ( 11...g5 12.Nxg5; 11...Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxc3+ 13.Kf1 Bxa1 14.Qxa1± ) ]

**11...g5± 12.Bg3 h5 13.h4?!**

[ 13.h3 Qc7 14.c3 Bf8 15.Bh2 0-0-0 ]

**13...Nxg3+ 14.fxg3 g4+ 15.Ne1 Bc5**

**16.Qd2 f6 17.b4 Be7 18.exf6 Bxf6**

**19.Rd1 Be5 20.Nd3 Bxg3 21.Kg1 Rf8**

**22.Rf1 Rxf1+ 23.Bxf1 Qf6**

[ 23...e5! ]

**24.Nf4 Qh6 25.Bd3**

(Diagram)

**e5? But not now! 26.Ne2± (Woops!)**

**26...e4?!**

[ 26...Bxh4! 27.Rxh4 Qg5 28.g3 e4 White will have pretty good compensation for the pawn. ]

**27.Nxg3 exd3 28.Qxd3 Bc8**

[ 28...0-0-0!? ]

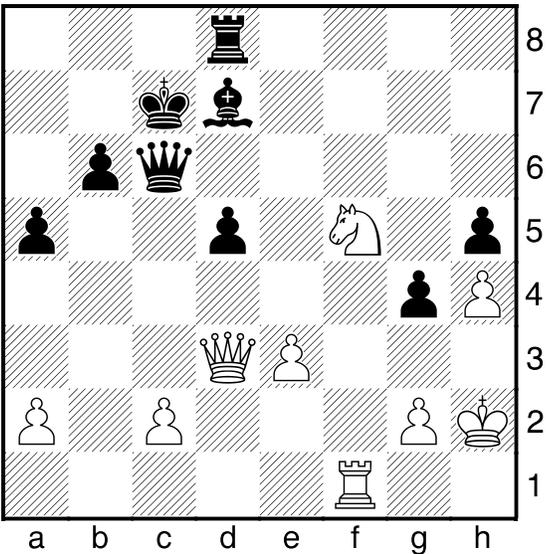
**29.Kh2** Sensible, and a long time coming...

[ But 29.Qd4! first "gets there first" (where "there" is centralized, and what "gets" is the queen) Be6 30.Kh2 0-0-0 31.Rf1 ]

**29...a5 30.b5 Bd7 31.Rf1 0-0-0**

**32.bxc6 Qxc6 33.Nf5 Kc7**

(Diagram)



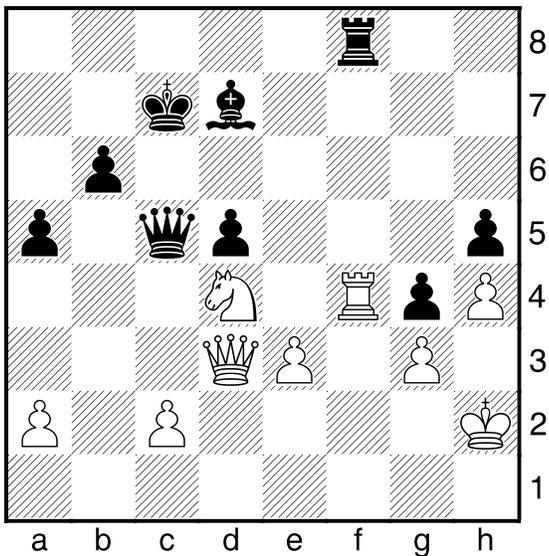
**34.g3?**

[ 34.Ng3!± ]

**34...Qc5?**

[ 34...Qc4! 35.Ng7!± ]

**35.Nd4 Rf8 36.Rf4**



**b5?**

[ 36...Rxf4 37.exf4 Qc4 38.Qe3= ]

**37.Qh7! Re8**

[ 37...Kc8!± ]

**38.Rf7 Rxe3 39.Rxd7+ Kc8 40.Rf7**

**Re8 41.Qf5+ Kb8 42.Qd7**

**1-0**

□ **Rex,Tobiah**

■ **Parsons,Stephen**

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (1.13)

[Parsons,Stephen]

**A18**

**1556**

**1780**

**1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 Bb4?**

Mouse slip **4.e5! Bxc3 5.bxc3 Ng8**

**6.Qg4 g6 7.d4 d5 8.Bg5 Qd7**

White is already much better **9.cxd5**

**Qxd5 10.Bd3 Nc6** Preparing Nxe5

ideas **11.Ne2 Bd7 12.0-0 h6?**

[ 12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Qxd3 14.Rad1

Qf5 ( 14...Qb5 15.Qd4 ) 15.Qd4

Qxg5 16.Qxd7+ Kf8 Did not seem all that appealing... ]

**13.Bh4?** For some reason the computer give Nxe5 here a better evaluation, but I was still concerned with my d8 square

[ 13.Nf4! Qa5 14.Nxg6!! is great for White ]

**13...g5 14.Bg3 f5? 15.exf6?**

[ 15.Qh5+! apparently both players missed this simple move ]

**15...Nxf6** Black is back in the game

**16.c4 Qxg2+ 17.Kxg2 Nxg4! 18.Bxc7**

**Ne7?! 19.Bd6? Bc6+** Now the white squares are weak in White's camp

**20.Kg1 Rd8 21.Ba3? Bf3 22.h3??**

**Ne5! 23.Nc1 Nxd3 24.Nxd3 Nf5**

[ 24...Be2! 25.Rfe1 Bxd3 26.Rxe6

Rh7 27.Rae1 Rd7 28.d5 Bxc4

29.d6 Bxe6 30.Rxe6 and Black saw

all of this, but opted to avoid any complications despite the position winning concretely ]

**25.Nc5??** An unfortunate blunder in an other wise great game from white

[ 25.Ne5! keeps the game going ]

**25...Rxd4 26.Bb2 Rh4!** A mating net forms **27.Be5 Rxh3 28.Bh2 Nd4**

**29.Rfe1 Ne2+** The simplest way to

simplify **30.Rxe2 Bxe2 31.Re1 Bxc4**

**32.Nxe6 Bxe6 33.Rxe6+** Black should win easily **33...Kd7 34.Rd6+ Ke7**

35.Bg3?! Rxc3+  
0-1

|

## IM John Donaldson

### New Books by Russell Enterprises

*Cambridge Springs 1894* (400 pages, hardback, \$34.95) by Robert Sherwood

*The Exchange Sacrifice according to Tigran Petrosian* (304 pages, paperback, \$24.95) by Vasilios Kotronias

*The Polish Defense* (224 pages, paperback, \$24.95) by Jerzy Konikowski and Marek Soszynski

*Attacking the Strongpoint: The Philosophy of Chess* (240 pages, paperback, \$24.95) by Igor Zaitzev

Russell Enterprises, founded over thirty-five years ago, publishes chess books on all facets of the game which is apparent from its recent offerings. Among them are a tournament book, a middle game work, an opening guide, and a book encompassing the life's work of one of the more creative chess minds of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

When one thinks of the strongest tournament held on American soil in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century New York 1924 immediately comes to mind. Indeed, this event, with the current (Capablanca), past (Lasker), and future (Alekhine) world champions participating, was a veritable who's who of the best players of the time. It was not, however, the only world class event held in the United States between 1900 and 1950.

New York 1927 (1. Capablanca 2. Alekhine 3. Nimzowitsch) was also quite strong as all six participants were top-ten players. So also, was Cambridge Springs 1904, which while lacking the top to bottom strength of the other events, had a number of famous names playing including World Champion Lasker, Schlechter, Teichmann, Pillsbury, Janowsky, Showalter, Marco, and Chigorin.

Unlike the New York events, which were blessed with tournament books written by Alexander Alekhine, Cambridge Springs initially produced no such work dedicated to it, although it did play a major part in the *American Chess Bulletin* getting started. It would be over thirty years before Fred Reinfeld's book on Cambridge Springs 1904 would appear. Unfortunately, the print run for that self-published work was modest and the book didn't make a big impact.

Now, over a century after the event was held, Robert Sherwood has produced a fitting tribute in the form of *Cambridge Springs 1904*. This attractively produced 400-page hardback provides the history of the event and how it came to be, player biographies, photographs, detailed annotations to the games, and more.

Cambridge Springs 1904 was a huge triumph for Frank Marshall who won the event with a sensational score of 13-2, two points ahead of World Champion Emanuel Lasker. The tournament also marked the end of Harry Nelson Pillsbury's career – the great American player would die two years later at the age of thirty-three.

Despite the strength of the event and the individual stories of Marshall and Pillsbury, the most enduring legacy of Cambridge Springs is the opening which bears its name.

The sequence **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6 6.Nf3 Qa5** dates back to at least 1892 when Lasker played it in a simul albeit in a way that wouldn't be recognized today (**7.Bxf6 gxf6?!**). It would be four more years before the Cambridge Springs Defense scheme (...**Qa5** with ideas of exploiting the position of the bishop on g5 with ...**Ne4** and ...**Bb4**) would show up in a high-level event although again not in a way we recognize today. Tarrasch-Albin, Nurnburg 1896, opened **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 Qa5**, was the sequence played in this critical last round game.

The Soviet Master S. Rosenberg, who wrote about the origins of the Cambridge Springs Defense in the magazine "64" (translated by the late Dan Scoones in *Northwest Chess* March 1972, pages 17-19) quotes Alexander Alekhine, who believed that openings should not be named after those who played them first, but rather those who brought them to the attention of the chess world. This explains why the sequence **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6 6.Nf3 Qa5** is named after a small town in northwestern Pennsylvania, midway between Chicago and New York. The Cambridge Springs was played four times in this event, with the games involving world class players. It is one of a handful of opening lines named after American players or cities – the Benko Gambit, Wilkes Barre, and McCutcheon are three others that spring readily to mind.

*Cambridge Springs 1904* by Robert Sherwood, with a foreword by Andy Soltis and contributions by the English chess historian A.J. Gillam and Frank Camaratta is a major contribution to American chess history which covers the tournament from all angles. This includes not only an in depth analysis of the games, but every other detail including the distinctive pieces used in the event. This is a book that all those interested in American chess history will want to have.

Tigran Petrosian was for many years one of the more underestimated world champions. Recently, however, like Emanuel Lasker, his career has enjoyed new appreciation. In part this is due to two books published by Russell Enterprises. The first, which came out in 2019, was *The King's Indian According to Tigran Petrosian* by Igor Yanvarjov, which made the case for the "Iron Tiger" having mastered KID structures. The second and new work is *The Exchange Sacrifice According to Tigran Petrosian*.

Everyone knows Petrosian was the master of the exchange sacrifice with the game Reshevsky-Petrosian, Zurich 1953, perhaps the most famous example of his skill at transcending the traditional values of the chess pieces. What is not as appreciated is just how often Petrosian was prepared to sacrifice the exchange in every conceivable situation from attack to defense.

Greek Grandmaster Vassilios Kotronias, the author of this important new book, has examined 36 of Petrosian's games in great depth, from the dawn of his career to the final years. Interestingly, this includes not only the ninth world champions successes, but also his failures. Not every exchange

sacrifice he made was successful. This is a book that will increase the positional understanding of any player who reads it, primarily players rated 2000 on up.

*The Polish Defense* covers more ground than one might first suspect. It includes not only **1.d4 b5** (the Polish Defense proper), also but the St. George Defense (**1.e4 e6 2.d4 a6** intending **3...b5** or **1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5**), **1.Nf3 b5**, and **1.f4 b5**. While none of these are likely to be seen on a regular basis at the highest level (**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b5** being a major exception), they are playable in games between mortals where they can be paired with **1.b4** for a complete repertoire.

The author of *Attacking the Strongpoint*, Grandmaster Igor Zaitzev, is one of the most creative players in the history of chess. Consider that he not only invented the variation of the Ruy Lopez that bears his name (**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7**) but also discovered important novelties in a number of other openings including **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Ng5!?**, and **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 e4 7.Ng5 Re8 8.f3 e3!?** Who can forget the famous knight sacrifice **11.Ng5!** (Diagram), successfully employed in game ten of the 1978 Karpov-Korchnoi, World Championship match.



Many thought at the time this sacrifice was the brainchild of another of Karpov's seconds, Mikhail Tal. Not so says the 12<sup>th</sup> World Champion Anatoly Karpov in his tribute to his long-time helper who also assisted Tigran Petrosian.

Today, taking into account how chess has developed this century, with its ever increasing reliance on the silicon oracle, it is unlikely that a chess thinker like Igor Zaitzev will be seen again. As Gary Kasparov mentions in his foreword, Zaitzev possessed an unorthodox chess vision that enabled him to see what others could not.

In *Attacking the Strongpoint* the Russian grandmaster shares his philosophy of chess, offering new insights on classical games and presenting some of his best efforts. He also offers a behind the scenes view of what it was like to work as Anatoly Karpov's long-time second and in so doing preserves a part of chess history that has all but disappeared.

It's been roughly thirty years since the last player has had an adjourned games and silicon oracles analyze the opening stage of the game without prejudice and at incredible depth. Unquestionably the use of computers has enriched the game in many ways, pointing out new ways of looking at positions. However, it has also taken something away. One can appreciate from this book that the creativity and spirit of discovery of Zaitzev cannot be replicated in 21<sup>st</sup> Century chess.

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## The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

A teacher in Tennessee writes [children's books](#) with chess as the theme.

Golden State Warriors superstar Klay Thompson plays chess with his [dog](#).

*The Three Sailor's Gambit* by Lord Dunsany gets a nice reading [here](#).

In an amusing battle between AI interfaces, Stockfish absolutely [destroys](#) ChatGPT at chess.

Another player is found [cheating](#) using that same old, tired method.

Will a sensational [tweet](#) by WGM Jennifer Shahade spark a 'Me Too' movement in the chess world?

A Life Coach played chess for 365 days straight - and lived to [tell the tale](#).

As chess surges in popularity, USCF membership tops [100,000](#) for the first time.

A three-year-old girl from Kashmir is [competing](#) in a FIDE event.

Our favorite Chess Master [won](#) a horse race down in Tampa by 4 and 3/4 lengths.

Russia [leaves](#) the European Chess Union to join the Asian Chess Federation.

A popular streamer on Twitch unknowingly [trashes](#) his own play.

The World Champion is only human, and [misses](#) a simple mate in three moves

GM Sam Shankland gives a [shout-out](#) to the Mechanics' Institute.

Oxford and Cambridge are still [dueling](#) on the chess board after 150 years.

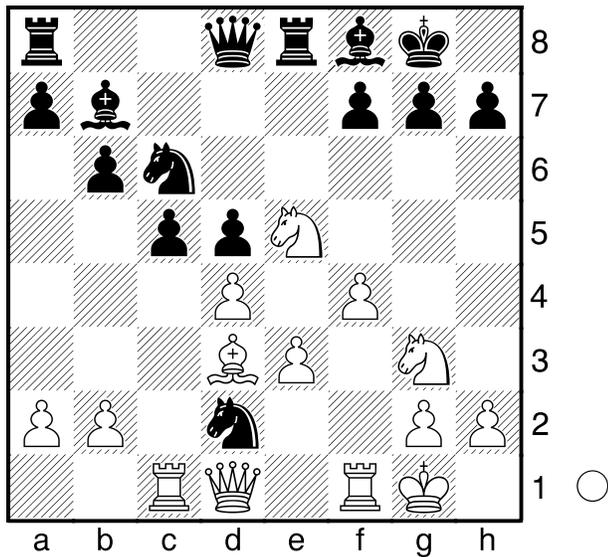
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## Recent Games

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

**Abdusattorov, Nodirbek** **E46**  
**2734**  
 **Esipenko, Andrey** **2675**  
 WR Chess Masters 2023 (2.2) 17.02.23

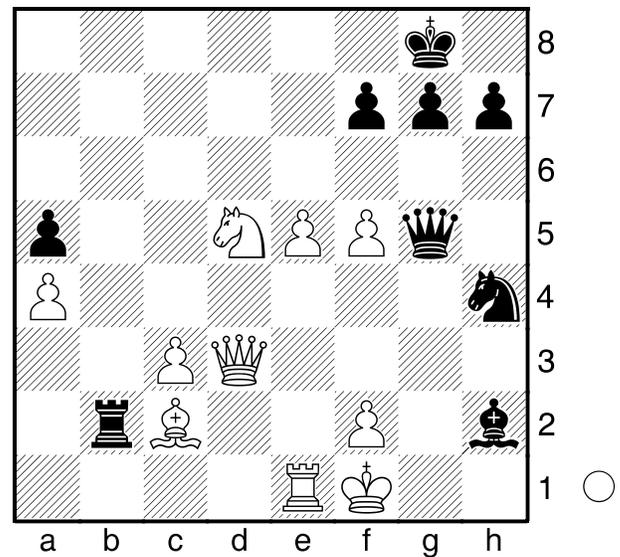
White stuns black with the classic bishop sacrifice. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd2 b6 6.Bd3 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Nf3 Re8 9.Rc1 Bf8 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Ne5 c5 12.f4 Nc6 13.Ne2 Ne4 14.Ng3 Nxd2



15.Bxh7+! Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxf7+ Kh8 18.Ng6+ Kh7 19.Nh5 Re6 20.f5 Nxf1 21.Rxf1 Qg5 22.Qxe6 Qxh5 23.Rf3 cxd4 24.Qf7 Bd6 25.Nf8+ Rxf8 26.Qxh5+ Kg8 27.f6 Ne5 28.Rf5 g6 29.Qg5 dxe3 30.Rxe5 Kf7 31.Rxe3 Bc5 32.b4 Bxe3+ 33.Qxe3 Re8 34.Qc3 Bc8 35.a4 Bf5 36.h3 Rd8 37.Qd4 Be6 38.g4 Rc8 39.g5 Rc1+ 40.Kf2 Rc2+ 41.Kg3 **1-0**

**Gukesh D** **C54**  
**2718**  
 **Praggnanandhaa R** **2690**  
 WR Chess Masters 2023 (2.5) 17.02.23

Black throws the kitchen sink at white, but comes up short. The final small combination is quite pretty. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.b4 Bb6 7.a4 a5 8.b5 Ne7 9.0-0 Ng6 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Bb3 c6 12.Nc4 Bc7 13.Bg5 d5 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.exd5 Bg4 16.Ne3 Bh5 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.bxc6 e4 19.dxe4 Nh4 20.Nd5 Qh6 21.Re1 Bxh2+ 22.Kf1 Ra7 23.Qd3 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Qxc6 25.f4 Qh6 26.f5 Rb7 27.Rab1 Rfb8 28.Bc2 Qg5 29.Rxb7 Rxb7 30.e5 Rb2

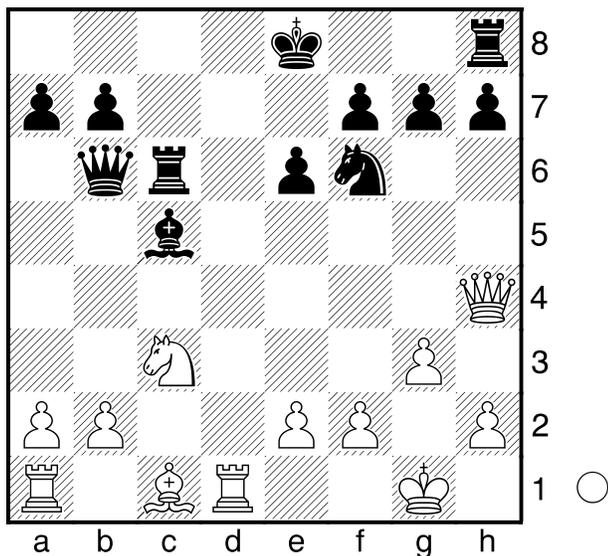


31.Ne7+! Qxe7 32.f6 **1-0**

**So, Wesley** **E04**  
**2766**  
 **Duda, Jan-Krzysztof** **2729**  
 WR Chess Masters 2023 (1.2) 16.02.23

White's 15th move rocks black back on his heels. 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.d4 e6 6.c4 dxc4 7.Qa4

Bd7 8.Qxc4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Rc8 10.Nc3  
Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Bc5 12.Qh4 Bc6  
13.Rd1 Qb6 14.Bxc6+ Rxc6

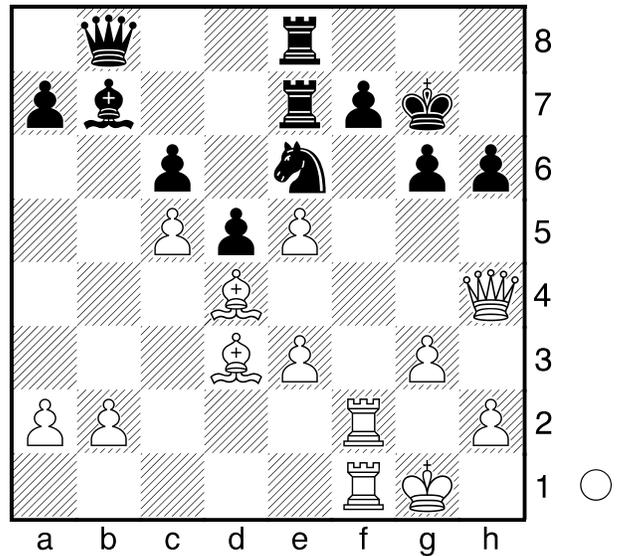


15.Bh6! Bf8 16.Rd3 Nd5 17.Nxd5  
exd5 18.Be3 Qxb2 19.Bd4 Qb4  
20.Rb3 Qe7 21.Qxe7+ Kxe7 22.Rxb7+  
Ke6 23.Rb8 h5 24.Rab1 h4 25.Kg2  
Kf5 26.Kf3 hxg3 27.hxg3 Rc4 28.e3  
Rc2 29.R1b5 Kg6 30.Rxd5 Rxa2  
31.Rdd8 Rh2 32.Rxf8 Raxf2+ 33.Ke4  
f6 34.Rb7 a6 35.Ra8 Ra2 36.Raa7  
Rh7 37.Kf3 Ra5 38.Rb6 Rg5 39.Kg2  
a5 40.e4 Rg4 41.Kf3 Rg5 42.Be3 Re5  
43.Bf4 Rc5 44.e5 Rh8 45.Rba6 Rd8  
46.exf6 gxf6 47.Rxa5 Rc3+ 48.Kg4  
**1-0**

**D79**  
 □ **Khotenashvili, Bela** **2485**  
 ■ **Diasamidze, Lulu** **1541**  
 80th Georgian Women Championship 2023 (3.1)

The newly minted Georgian Women's  
Champion switches from the queenside  
to the kingside in this entertaining effort.  
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.d4 c6  
5.Nc3 d5 6.Bg2 0-0 7.cxd5 cxd5  
8.Ne5 e6 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Nxc6 bxc6  
11.Bf4 Qe7 12.Rc1 Bb7 13.Na4 Rac8

14.Nc5 Ba8 15.Qa4 Nh5 16.Bd2 Rfe8  
17.e3 Nf6 18.Rc2 Qc7 19.Ba5 Qb8  
20.Rfc1 Bf8 21.Bf1 Bxc5 22.dxc5 Re7  
23.Qh4 Kg7 24.Bc3 e5 25.f4 Rce8  
26.fxe5 Ne4 27.Bd4 h6 28.Bd3 Ng5  
29.Rf1 Ne6 30.Rcf2 Bb7

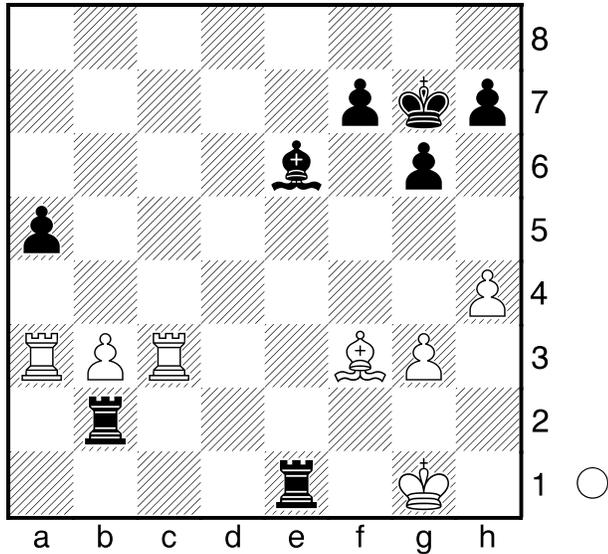


31.Rxf7+! Rxf7 32.Rxf7+ Kxf7 33.Qf6+  
Kg8 34.Bxg6 Rf8 35.Qxe6+ Kg7  
36.Bh5 Rg8  
**1-0**

**E94**  
 □ **Krush, Irina** **2432**  
 ■ **Carlsen, Magnus** **2852**  
 Pro Chess League 2023 (1) 14.02.2023

An historic match-up in this game from  
the online Pro Chess League. 1.d4 Nf6  
2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0  
6.Be2 c6 7.0-0 e5 8.Be3 exd4 9.Nxd4  
Re8 10.f3 d5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5  
cxd5 13.Kh1 Nc6 14.Nxc6 bxc6  
15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 dxe4 17.Qxd8  
Rxd8 18.fxe4 Be6 19.b3 Rd2 20.Bf3  
c5 21.Rfc1 Rc8 22.Rc3 a5 23.h4?  
Kg7 24.e5 Rd4 25.g3 c4 26.Rac1  
cxb3 27.axb3 Rb8 28.Ra1 Rb5  
29.Ra3 Rxe5 30.Kg1 Rd2 31.Ra1 Rb2

32.Ra3 Re1#



0-1

□ Aronian,Levon

■ Giri,Anish

WR Chess Masters 2023 (5.1) 21.02.23

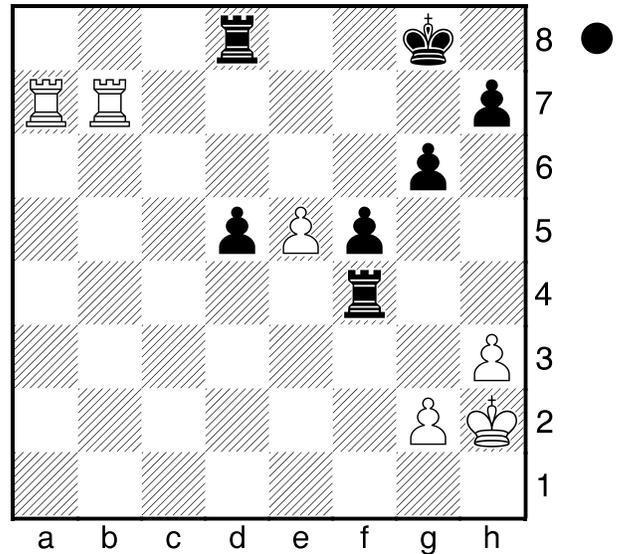
**C67**

**2736**

**2780**

Black's 21st move was dubious - perhaps a winning attempt? And 37... Rh4! might even have saved the game.  
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.a4 Be7 7.Nc3 a6 8.Bf1 e4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Rxe4 d5 11.Re1 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.Be2 0-0 14.d4 Re8 15.Ne5 Bxe2 16.Rxe2 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Qd7 18.Qd3 Rad8 19.b3 Qe6 20.Bd2 Qg6 21.f4 f5?! 22.b4 Qe6 23.c3 c5 24.bxc5 Bxc5+ 25.Be3 Bxe3+ 26.Qxe3 Rc8 27.Rb1 Qc6 28.Qd4 b5 29.axb5 axb5 30.Kh2 Red8 31.Re3 Qc4 32.Rg3 Qxd4 33.cxd4 Rc4 34.Rxb5 Rxd4 35.Rb7 g6 36.Ra3 Rxf4 37.Raa7

(Diagram)



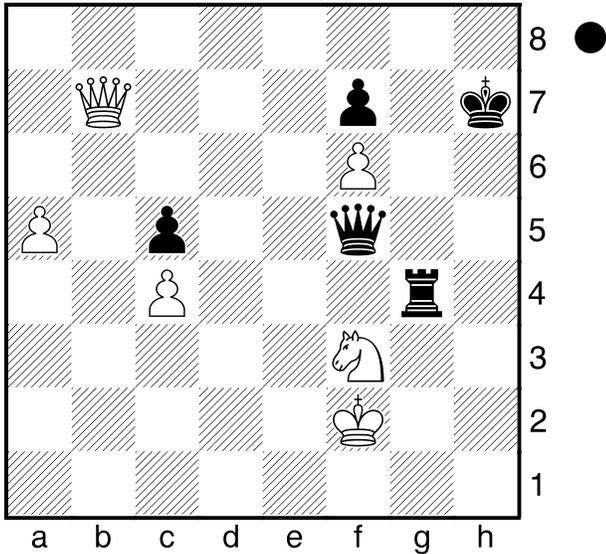
Re4? 38.Rg7+ Kf8 39.Raf7+ Ke8  
 40.Rxh7 Rh4 41.Re7+ Kf8 42.Rhf7+ Kg8  
 43.Rg7+ Kh8 44.Rxg6 d4 45.Rd6 Rc8  
 46.Rf7 Rf4 47.e6 Kg8 48.Rdd7  
**1-0**

□ **Vincent Keymer** **E61**  
**2690**  
 ■ **Ian Nepomniachtchi** **2793**  
 WR Chess Masters (9) 25.02.2023

Black grinds out a nice game, and with 57...Nf7! switches over to a mating attack.  
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.h3 e5 8.b4 exd4 9.exd4 d5 10.0-0 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nb6 12.Bb3 Nbd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.b5 a6 15.bxa6 Rxa6 16.Bg5 Qd6 17.Qd2 Be6 18.Rfe1 c6 19.Rab1 Raa8 20.Bh6 Rfe8 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Re5 h6 23.Rbe1 f6 24.R5e4 Bf7 25.Nh2 Rxe4 26.Rxe4 h5 27.Nf1 Rd8 28.Qe1 Rd7 29.Ne3 Nb6 30.Qc3 Nd5 31.Qe1 Nc7 32.Bxf7 Rxf7 33.Nc2 Rd7 34.h4 Kf7 35.Qe3 Ne6 36.a3 Ng7 37.Qb3+ Qd5 38.Qd3 Ne6 39.Nb4 Qd6 40.Qb3 Re7 41.Nc2 Kf8 42.Qe3 Ng7 43.Rxe7 Qxe7 44.Qg3 Qe4 45.Qd6+ Kf7 46.Ne3 Qe7 47.Qb8 Qd7



Bb7 39.Qf2 Qxc4 40.Rxg7+ Kh8  
 41.Qg3 Bd5 42.Ne5 Qe4 43.c4 Bf4  
 44.Rxh7+ Qxh7 45.Qxf4 Bxg2 46.Ne3  
 Bh3 47.Kf2 Be6 48.Nf3 Qh5 49.a4  
 Rg8 50.a5 Bg4 51.Nxg4 Rxg4 52.Qd6  
 Kh7 53.Qxa6 Qf5 54.Qb7

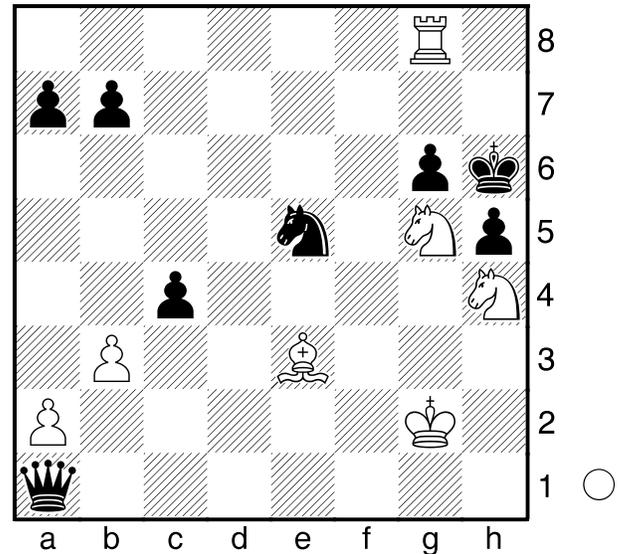


Rxc4?? 55.Qxf7+  
 1-0

Szabo,Gergely-Andras-Gyul **2514** **B12**  
 Stepanencu,Nicodim-Cosmin **2283**  
 Romanian Chess Championship 2023 (6)

A beautiful mating combination tops off an incredible attack, an effort already being touted as the "Game of the Year."  
 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5  
 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 Qa5+ 7.Nd2 e6  
 8.Ngf3 Nh6 9.0-0 Nf5 10.c4 Be7  
 11.g3 0-0 12.b3 Rd8 13.Rd1 c5  
 14.dxc5 Qxc5 15.Nf1 dxc4 16.Qxd8+!  
 Bxd8 17.Rxd8+ Kh7 18.Ne3 Qa5  
 19.Ng5+ Kg6 20.Ng2 Nxg3 21.Nf4+  
 Kf5 22.Nxf7 Qc3 23.Kg2 Ne4 24.Rf8  
 Kg4 25.Be3 Nxf2 26.Nd5 Qxa1  
 27.Nh6+ Kxh4 28.Bxf2+ Kg5 29.Be3+  
 Kg6 30.Ne7+ Kh7 31.Nf7 Nc6  
 32.Ng5+ Kh6 33.Nf7+ Kh7 34.Ng5+

Kh6 35.Nxe6+ Kh7 36.Ng5+ Kh6  
 37.Nf5+ Kg6 38.Nh4+ Kh6 39.Nf7+  
 Kh7 40.Ng5+ Kh6 41.Rxa8 g6 42.Rg8  
 Nxe5

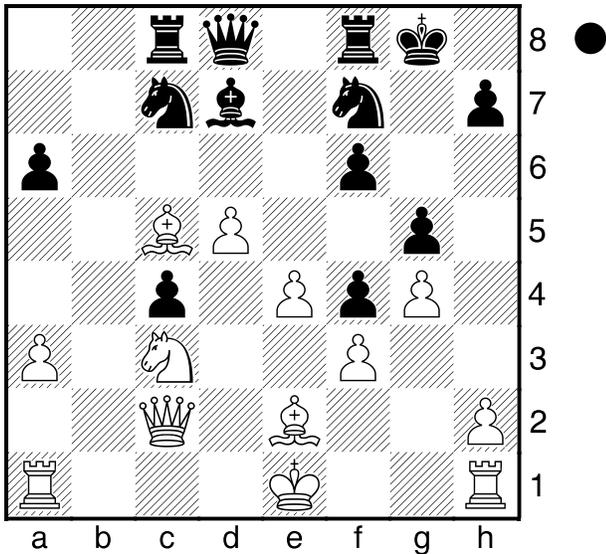


43.Rxg6+!  
 1-0

Bluebaum,Matthias **2663** **E92**  
 Rapport,Richard **2740**  
 German Bundesliga 2022-23 (5.1) 4.2.23

An intricate attacking game with swarming knights and juicy tactical shots. 1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 g6  
 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5  
 Na6 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 Nh6  
 11.Nd2 c5 12.g4 Nf7 13.a3 Bh6  
 14.Qc2 Bd7 15.Nf1 Bf4 16.Ne3 Nc7  
 17.Ng2 a6 18.b4 g5 19.Bg3 b5  
 20.bxc5 dxc5 21.f3 bxc4 22.Nxf4 exf4  
 23.Bf2 Rc8 24.Bxc5

(Diagram)



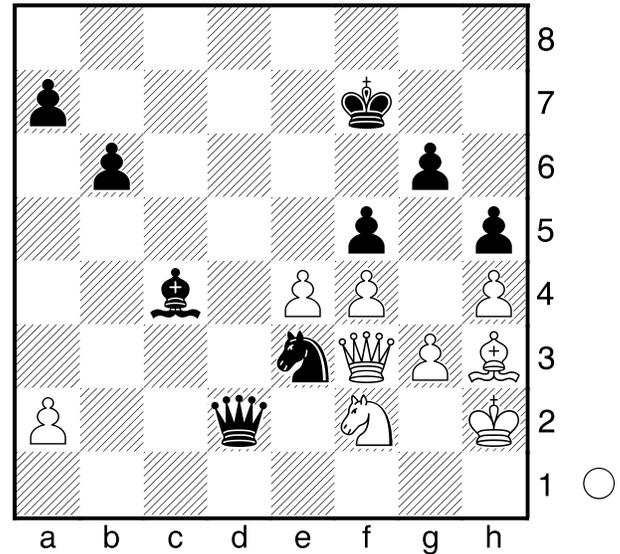
Nxd5! 25.Bxf8 Ne3 26.Qd2 Kxf8  
 27.Rc1 Ne5 28.Qd6+ Kf7 29.Kf2 Be6  
 30.Qxd8 Rxd8 31.Ra1 Rd2 32.Ra2  
 Nd3+ 33.Kg1 Nb2 34.h4 Kg6 35.hxg5  
 fxg5 36.Kh2 Nxg4+ 37.fxc4 f3 38.Re1  
 Rc2 39.Kg1 Nd3 40.Bxf3 Nxe1  
 41.Rxc2 Nxc2 42.Kf2 Nxa3 43.e5 Nb5  
 44.Na4 Kf7 45.Ke3 Ke7 46.Nc5 a5  
 47.Be2 Nc3 48.Bf3 Bd5 49.Bxd5  
 Nxd5+ 50.Kd4 Nb6 51.Kc3 h6 52.Kd4  
 a4 53.Kc3 a3

0-1

□ **Andrey Esipenko** **E11** **2675**  
 ■ **Dommaraju Gukesh** **2718**  
 WR Chess Masters (7) 23.02.2023

In the final position white finds himself in a picturesque zugzwang and must resign. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.b3 b6 10.Nc3 Ba6 11.e4 dxc4 12.Rfe1 e5 13.Ne2 Ng4 14.bxc4 exd4 15.Nexd4 Nde5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bc3 Bc5 18.Rad1 Qc7 19.f4 Nxc4 20.Kh1 Rad8 21.Nf5 f6 22.Rxd8 Qxd8 23.Qe2 g6 24.Nh6+ Kg7 25.Ng4 Bd4 26.Rd1 c5 27.Qf3 h5 28.Nf2 Ne3

29.Rd2 Qc7 30.Bxd4 cxd4 31.Rxd4  
 Qc3 32.Rd7+ Rf7 33.Rxf7+ Kxf7 34.h4  
 Bc4 35.Bh3 f5 36.Kh2 Qd2!

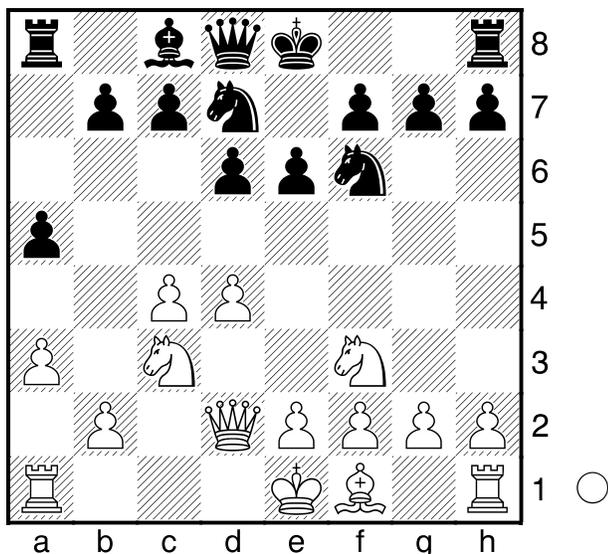


0-1

□ **Bacrot, Etienne** **E11** **2646**  
 ■ **Speelman, Jon S** **2493**  
 Schachbundesliga (9.7) 26.02.2023

With the spike attack 8.g4!? white goes straight for the throat and doesn't let go. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 d6 7.Nc3 Nbd7

(Diagram)

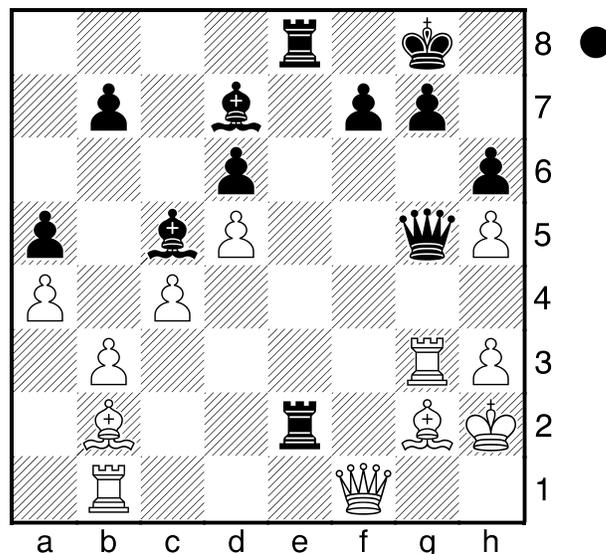


8.g4!? e5 9.g5 Nh5 10.dxe5 dxe5  
 11.Rd1 c6 12.Ne4 0-0 13.Bh3 f5  
 14.gxf6 Nxf6 15.Be6+ Kh8 16.Nd6  
 Qe7 17.Ng5 h6 18.Ndf7+ Rxf7  
 19.Nxf7+ Kg8 20.Qd6 Kf8 21.Rg1 Ne8  
 22.Qxe7+ Kxe7 23.Bxd7 Bxd7 24.Nxe5  
 Be6 25.f4  
**1-0**

□ **Indjic,Aleksandar** **A29** **2630**  
 ■ **Adams,Michael** **2689**  
 Schachbundesliga (9.4) 26.02.2023

Black's 27th move caps off a powerful positional attack. The queen cannot be taken. 1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.e3 0-0 7.Nc3 a6 8.d4 Ba7 9.h3 Rb8 10.a4 Bf5 11.Nh4 Bd7 12.d5 Ne7 13.Kh2 Bc5 14.Rb1 a5 15.e4 c6 16.f4 Ng6 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.b3 h6 19.Ne2 Re8 20.Bb2 cxd5 21.exd5 Nh5 22.Nf3 Nxf3+ 23.Rxf3 Qg5 24.Qf1 Re7 25.g4 Rbe8 26.gxh5 Rxe2 27.Rg3

(Diagram)

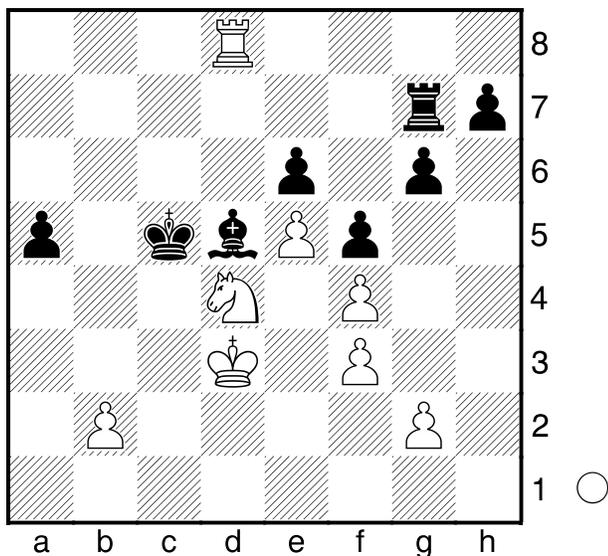


R8e3! 28.Rxe3 Qxe3 29.Kh1 Rf2  
**0-1**

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **D26** **2852**  
 ■ **Hammer,Jon Ludvig** **2631**  
 Norwegian Team League 2022-2023 (8)

White slowly piles on the pressure - and black finally cracks. 35...Rb7! would have kept the game in balance. 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5 5.d4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 a6 7.e4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.Bg5 Bd7 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.Bb3 Ng4 13.Rd1 Nge5 14.Bh4 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Na5 16.Bg3 Bxg3 17.hxg3 Nxb3 18.axb3 0-0 19.Qf4 Qxf4 20.gxf4 Bc6 21.f3 f5 22.e5 Rad8 23.Ke2 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Kf7 25.Ke3 Ke7 26.Ne2 Bd5 27.Nd4 g6 28.Rh1 Rf7 29.b4 Kd8 30.b5 Kc7 31.Rc1+ Kb6 32.bxa6 bxa6 33.Rc8 a5 34.Kd3 Rg7 35.Rd8 Kc5?

(Diagram)



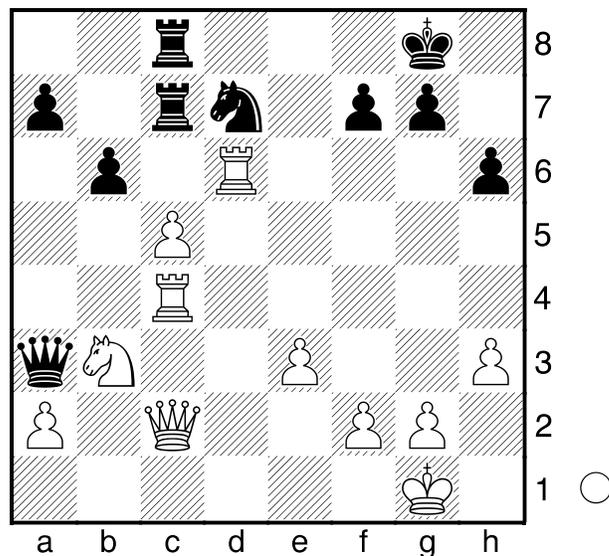
36.Rb8! Rb7 37.Nxe6+ Kb4 38.Rxb7+  
Bxb7 39.Kd4 Bc6 40.Nc5 h5 41.b3 h4  
42.e6 Ba8 43.Nd3+ Kxb3 44.Ne5  
**1-0**

**D52**

□ **Aleksandra Goryachkina** **2576**  
 ■ **Claudiu-Cristian Dobre** **2271**  
 European Individual Chess Championship (1)

White switches from queenside to kingside for a deadly mating attack. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.Nd2 Bb4 8.Qc2 c5 9.Nb3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qa4 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.dxc5 Be6 14.Bd3 0-0 15.0-0 Rfc8 16.Rfc1 Rc7 17.Rab1 Rb8 18.h3 h6 19.Qe2 Nd7 20.c4 dxc4 21.Bxc4 Bxc4 22.Rxc4 Qa6 23.Qc2 Rbc8 24.Rd1 b6 25.Rd6 Qa3

(Diagram)



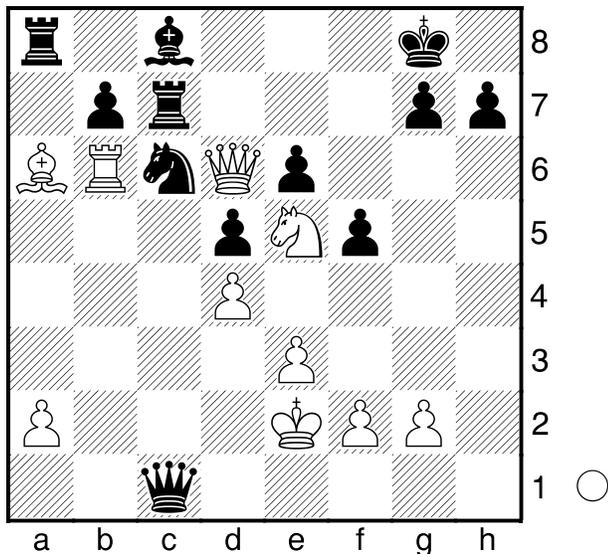
26.Rg4! Nxc5 27.Rxh6 Nxb3 28.Qh7+  
Kf8 29.Qxg7+ Ke8 30.Rh8+ Kd7  
31.Qxf7+ Qe7 32.Qf5+ Qe6 33.Rh7+  
Kd6 34.Rg6 Nc5 35.Rxe6+ Nxe6  
36.Rh6  
**1-0**

**D38**

□ **Anton Korobov** **2658**  
 ■ **Ruslan Ponomariov** **2655**  
 European Individual Chess Championship (5.1)

White ties black up then starts tactical operations with 24.Bxa6! leading to an elegant finish. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd2 Bd6 8.c5 Be7 9.b4 Ne4 10.b5 Nxd2 11.Kxd2 Nb8 12.Bd3 c6 13.Rab1 cxb5 14.Bxb5 Qc7 15.Rhc1 f6 16.Bd3 Nc6 17.Qc2 f5 18.Nb5 Qb8 19.Qc3 a6 20.Nd6 Bxd6 21.cxd6 Qxd6 22.Rb6 Qd8 23.Qc5 Rf7 24.Bxa6! Rc7 25.Ne5 Qh4 26.Ke1 Qxh2 27.Qd6 Qg1+ 28.Ke2 Qxc1

(Diagram)



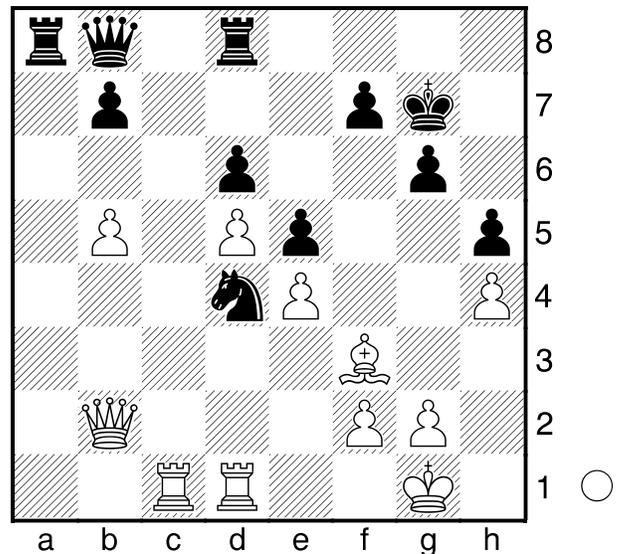
29.Rxc6! Qb2+ 30.Kf3 Rf7 31.Rc7  
Rxa6 32.Rxc8+  
**1-0**

□ **Shimanov,Aleksandr**  
 ■ **Carlsen,Magnus**  
 Pro Chess League (17.1)

**B21**  
**2581**  
**2852**  
 09.03.2023

White bamboozles the World Champion with an exchange sacrifice and a sustained attack on the king in a game from the Pro Chess League. 1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qd3 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.Nd5 Nd7 10.c3 Nc5 11.Qc2 e6 12.Ne3 Qc7 13.Rd1 Rd8 14.b4 Nd7 15.a3 Nde5 16.Bb2 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 a5 18.Rac1 Bd7 19.c4 axb4 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.axb4 e5 22.Nd5 Qb8 23.Qb2 Be6 24.h4 h5 25.b5 Bxd5 26.cxd5 Nd4

(Diagram)



27.Rxd4!? exd4 28.Qxd4+ Kg8 29.g4  
Rc8 30.Re1 hxg4 31.Bxg4 Rc2 32.h5  
Qa7 33.Qf6 Qa5 34.Rf1 Qd8 35.Qf4  
Qe7 36.hxg6 fxg6 37.Qh6 Qg7  
38.Be6+ Kf8 39.Qg5 Rc4 40.Kg2  
Rxe4 41.Rh1 Re5 42.Qf4+ Ke7  
43.Rc1 Ke8 44.b6 g5 45.Qg4 Qh6  
46.Rc7 Ra1 47.Bf7+ Kf8 48.Qc8+ Kg7  
49.Be6+ Kf6 50.Qd8+ Kg6 51.Qe8+  
**1-0**

# **Richard Hack**

## **Tales from the Chess Cafe**

At the Chess Café on Monday, February 27, we had another interesting collection of players ranging in strength from various master levels to beginner. Some talk, some mostly listen, and the subject matter is freely expressed and unrecorded. Among the games we looked at on the screen was Bronstein-Tal from Riga 1968 (1-0), which opened with a Falkbeer Counter Gambit. Bronstein forced the trade of queens on move 10, and for the rest of the game it seemed like almost every move was an attack. The winner was told afterward that he had better moves early on, but he replied that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to offer the exchange to Tal (an interesting fact that Paul dug up).

On Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, the 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship took place in the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park. For this renewal of this event in person, some 300 K-12 students signed up. Strong rains had come overnight and early in the morning, but had pretty much left the city by the 10am start time. Every row of tables in the long high tournament room was busy with quiet and lively competition during the four rounds of play. This Garden Court Room is high-ceilinged with excellent illumination from a slightly arched, paneled skylight and long rows of white globe electric lights running just under the tops of the long side walls.

During some eight hours plus of setting up, breaking down, eating, and going home, many people stand out among the players, parents, and others. Tournament Directors and volunteers including organizers and teachers ran a tight ship. The many helpers not named below include Alex Robins, Sophie Adams, Mitchell Sains, Alyssa Stone, Judit Sztaray, and many others. I've been to most of these tournaments, and this was probably the best one yet.

A real trouper, the Mechanics' Institute Chess Coordinator Paul Whitehead, performed a long simultaneous exhibition of master chess in the outer hall, taking on all comers with just a few breaks from a little after 10am to the late hours of the afternoon. When I arrived, players were standing three-deep all around a group of exhibit tables arranged into a large gated rectangle, inside which he made his endless circuit. In a way it seemed like all-you-can-eat or a bottomless cup of coffee.

A bit later some boards emptied, and I was able to start a game with him, a 2...d6 Sicilian that he met with 3. Bb5 check. He said about move 8 or 10 that my moves were simple and good, but he had to take his break before we could get well into it. His backup was Ladia Jirasek, a 22-year-old International Master, who soon took charge of the nascent middle-game and finished me off with a

knight fork on the queenside while I was defending for too long without finding a counterattack on a rather low-ceiling flight in the air of that game.

“But that’s chess,” said Ladia several times later with a smile, when we took advantage of an opportunity to talk away from the boards for a few minutes about how games go and players we know, and situations like the turnabout of expectations, the emotions and mysteries of playing: that’s chess, too. I discovered he’s been teaching Yali Dancig-Perlman, a chess friend of mine from several weekend tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute. I told Ladia how I’ve noticed Yali’s skill, confidence, and winning ways.

An interesting grade-school student from the Marshall Elementary School Chess Club in the Mission district was there at his first tournament. I was close enough to one of his games to notice that his resignation was delivered with a gentle little smile that was so genuine I was touched when I reflected on it later. For a moment it seemed to transcend the pain that losing can be so full of.

A little play can make your day, as the ad says.

The father of another player spoke to me generally and was interested in hearing about the classic bishop sac described in *The Art of Attack in Chess* by Vuckovich. He wrote down the title of that book and that of another called *The Art of Defense in Chess* by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988). Paul Whitehead recently devoted a series of very interesting OL classes to each book.

Drama, sport, entertainment, social interaction. Chess-playing is a public performance of what you have practiced, and a test of your adaptability given that almost every one of your games is a little different from the rest, and move after move, the parallel strivings of both players have to be taken into account.

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

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## 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Championship



We at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club are proud to have held our 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship on March 4th. This was the first time this tournament has been held in-person since 2019, before the pandemic, and we consider it a resounding success! We had 274 players who were present day-of and participated in the tournament (294 total unique registrants at the start of the day). For many of our players this was their first ever in-person tournament, and we think we might have some future TNM regulars in the audience. Check out next month's newsletter for a full report on the tournament, but for now we would like to extend some well-deserved thanks.

We all want to give a huge shout-out to our Chief Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and Tournament Directors **Scott Mason, Richard Koepcke, Arthur Liou, Vincent Ng, Michael Hsu, Abhinav Penagalapati, Ricky Cheung, Dennis Tocol, Jaysen Shi, Dawson Wu, Aaron Tam, and Guillermo Rey**. We could not put on a tournament without them. We are also extremely grateful to all our volunteers, staff, and Trustees for supporting this event.

The scholastic championship was also overflowing with chess masters who helped to teach and entertain our participants. Our newsletter editor FM **Paul Whitehead** gave a simultaneous exhibition with 20 boards, and we also had special guest appearances from IM **Keaton Kiewra** and a surprise drop in from IM **Ladia Jirasek**.



The Bernal Chess Club took first place in the Combined Team Competition – congratulations!  
From right to left: **Jasper Zerr, Wesley Wongchenko, Kepler McTiernan, Derek Ko**.



MECHANICS'  
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# Scholastic Chess Camps



Mechanics' Institute camps are an opportunity for beginner chess players to join and start a lifelong appreciation of the royal game of chess and play with other kids in the historic Mechanics' Institute Chess Room!

Intermediate students will learn tactics, how to defend common opening traps, and review famous games.

Join us and start a lifelong journey through one of the world's greatest games.

## Find Out More and Register at:

[milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess](https://milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess)

For More Information Contact:

415-393-0110

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

### Spring Break Camp

March 27-31

from 9:30am-3:30pm

### Summer Camps

June 12-16 (All Ages)

June 26-30 (All Ages)

July 10-14 (Grades K-5)

July 17-21 (Grades 6-12)

July 24-28 (All Ages)

July 31-Aug 4 (All Ages)

Aug 7-11 (All Ages)

All camps run from 9:30am-3:30pm

**Cost: \$500 (Pro-rated Half-Days Are Available)**

## 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 *Pandemic Shark: A Journey Through the World of Chess Improvement* (2020), by Daniel Gormally. This one's a bit tough, but 1.Ng6! threatens 2.Qxh7+! Kxh7 3.Rh3+ Kg8 4.Rh8#. Black can defend with 1...h6, but then 2.Nh8! threatens 3.Qxf7+ and 4.Qxg7#. And if 2...Rf8 3.Qxh6 will lead to inevitable mate on g7.

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## 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](mailto:arobins@milibrary.org).

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

## Alan Freberg

### Tales from a Misspent Youth

"To be a chess player is the sign of a gentleman, to be a good chess player is the sign of a misspent youth." -Jose Raul Capablanca, World Chess Champion 1921-1927

When I first visited San Francisco in the Fall/Winter of 1976-77, I visited several chess playing venues. The Meat Market coffee house at 4123 24th St. was one. Vesuvio Cafe on Columbus and the Grand Piano coffee shop at Haight and Cole were other venues where I went to play.

When I moved to San Francisco in 1978, the Meat Market was still the main meeting place for chess players. Only the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club was better known. Half of the Meat Market's clientele were chess players at any given moment. This was the situation until the owners wised up and realized that chess players did not make the most ideal customer base. This is because so many of them have very little money. They buy a cup of coffee – maybe – and sit there for hours arguing with each other and discouraging the paying customers from staying. As a rule, they get kicked out of every venue where they become a major part of the clientele. They do much better in venues where they can pose as local color. So – to make a long story short – the chess players were kicked out of the Meat Market in 1981 or '82.

We were without a venue until one of our number said, "Hey, I have a friend who just opened a coffee shop and needs some customers." Or some such. The place was the newly opened Cafe de Medici at 151 Noe St. at the corner of Henry St. A small place with two rooms and windows on two sides. It is now the home of L'Aardoise Restaurant which opened a month after the Medici closed. But I get ahead of myself.

The chess players were very welcome at the Medici. After a year, though, the proprietor started to get antsy. The chess players were his main clientele – never a good sign – and he wanted his business to prosper. What to do? He got an idea: why not have the Noe Valley poets, who were then centered on the nearby Cafe Flore, do poetry readings on Tuesday nights? He would thereby expand his customer base and fill his cafe. On the surface this looked like an excellent idea – except the poets were as penurious as the chess players and at least as cantankerous. And he didn't tell the chess players to stop during the readings.

The poets had their readings in the back room of the cafe while the chess players took up the tables in front. Chess clocks make a lot of noise – what with people hitting them hard with chess pieces. Moving the pieces makes noise. The continual banter between players also contributes to what can be a very noisy game. The common stereotype of the quiet chess player is not universal and should never be applied to coffee house chess.

After the poets had been there a month or so the tension between the two groups had grown palpable. Finally, one of the poets, a rather largish Latino fellow with a gruff manner, came in to recite. As he walked past the chess players he announced "I'm here to read my poetry and you guys are going to be quiet!" One of the chess players – a biker type named Steve – responded with a "Yadda yadda" and the games continued.

There were at least two speed (five minutes for each player) games going on at the time as well as a backgammon game. Backgammon is even noisier than chess, what with all the rattling of dice in the

cups and the tossing of the dice onto the board. That and the click-click-click of the chess clocks and you can imagine the din. The scene was set for a showdown.

Nothing really happened until our star poet got up and started to read. About two lines into it our poet exploded and told us to stop. Words were said in return at which point about 20 poets were up and out of their seats. Arms waving. Shouting. Gesticulating. The whole bit. The game players kept at their games. A few words were said in response, but when the clock is ticking one must concentrate on the game and not on peripheral distractions like poets. The poets left – most of them anyway.

The upshot of it all was that the poets and the chess players were both 86ed the next week and the cafe closed within a month. Not a happy ending for any of the parties involved. But it did make for a tale.

---

One of the backgammon players in this tale was the late Jay Whitehead. One of the best chess players in the US at that time, he once qualified to play in the US Championship. I'm told that he was even better at backgammon than chess. I knew him from various chess venues in San Francisco.

I went to the last two Lone Pine tournaments as a spectator in 1980 and 1981. Jay played in the last one where he achieved an International Master norm. International Master and International Grandmaster are titles given out by FIDE, the international chess organization. They are awarded to players who reach certain standards (norms) in tournament play.

Among his opponents at Lone Pine was Soviet Grandmaster Efim Geller, at that time one of the best in the world for 30 years and one of the few players to have a plus score against Bobby Fischer. He was also Boris Spassky's lead second when Spassky played Fischer for the title in Reykjavik in 1972.

Lone Pine had a couple bars where several players met to socialize after playing. When the next day's pairings were announced and we knew Jay was going to play Geller, the next day everyone went to one of the bars and pooled all their published material (no computers in those stone-age days). They found a line in the Sicilian Defense where Geller had been held to draws in the past. Jay played it and it worked. Geller offered a draw around move 30.

Jay ended up giving up chess and backgammon a couple years later. He joined the Hari Krishnas in Berkeley and stayed with them until his untimely death some 30 years later. A great loss for everyone who knew him.

---

The Greyhound to Lone Pine arrived shortly after midnight. When I went there in 1981 for the last of the tournaments I met Victor Korchnoi as I stepped off the bus. Recognizing him I said, "Mr. Korchnoi, I came to see you play!" He shook my hand and said "Tomorrow." He was there to meet someone who was on the bus. I never had any further conversation with him.

Korchnoi, himself, had arrived on that same bus a week earlier on the Sunday night before the first round of the tournament. He had fled the Soviet Union a few years earlier and received asylum in the Netherlands. Since then the Soviets had boycotted every tournament in which he played.

Lone Pine was the biggest cash prize in the chess world at that time and the Soviets always sent two of their best players. Korchnoi's last minute arrival at Lone Pine had the Soviets scrambling. There were already two of their top players present and ready to play. What to do? They called their embassy in Washington and received instructions to play. His game, which he won against Yusupov (later to become a Championship Candidate and one of the Soviets' best trainers) was his first tournament game against a Soviet player since his defection. Soon after that game the Soviets dropped their boycott of his tournaments.

Also at that tournament was a recent defector named Igor Ivanov. He was an International Master who had won a game against World Champion Anatoly Karpov. On the strength of that win he was able to travel outside the country to play. He defected in Canada about a month before this tournament at Lone Pine.

I got a ride out of the tournament to Monterey with Ted Yudacufski, one of the tournament directors. Ivanov rode with us. He spoke very little English. A big man wearing a Jerry Jeff Walker t-shirt (and who liked to buy beer whenever we stopped). I asked him the obvious question, "How do you like it here?" He shook both hands – one with a beer – and shouted, "I am freedom!" You go, Igor!

---

I did gofer work for Max Burkett at Lone Pine. Max's job was to type up and publish the previous day's games by the next morning. Everyone got a copy. The original top sheets of the players' score sheets were theirs, but Max got the carbon copies and made his bulletins from them. Sometimes he'd have me watch and keep a score where both players' handwriting was so bad that he couldn't read them. I'd sit on a chair next to the players and write their moves down – legibly.

While we were working the night after their game Max offered me both copies of the Korchnoi-Yusupov game. I was in one of my hippie non-materialistic phases at the time and turned them down. AAAAAAARGH! AAAAAAAAHH!

---

My first contact with chess was from reading the article on it in the *World Book Encyclopedia* as a child. My parents bought a set for the family when I was 10 or 11 years old. When I showed the article to my mother and asked her about it she said it was extremely complicated and people spent their entire lives analyzing a single position. She created quite the aura of mystery about it.

Soon after this I purchased a cheap plastic set in a local store. The copy of the rules that came with the set had diagrams showing the pieces only moving one square and didn't explain that the pieces could move the full length of the board. So our games resembled checkers in their slowness. The rules also didn't show how to capture. Being children, we were quite inventive in solving that problem. I played my first game by the rules some years later.

(Alan Freberg is a longtime member of the Mechanics' Institute and the author of  
*The Cab Drivers Guide to San Francisco*.)



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

Free and encouraged for MI Members

**5-6pm**

### **First Fridays of the month:**

January 6th

February 3rd

March 3rd

April 7th

May 5th

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

Questions?

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



## Endgame Lab

FM Paul Whitehead is starting an eight week class on endgames, running on Thursdays, April 13 to June 1 from 5:30-6:30pm. Here is the course description:

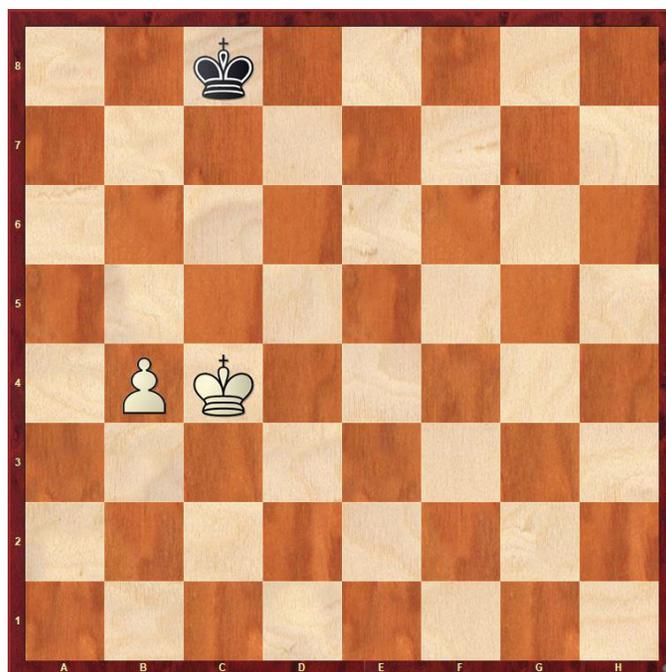
The endgame is that part of the game separating the strong player from the weak. How many games are won or lost because basic knowledge of endgames is lacking?

In this eight-week course, FM Paul Whitehead will lead a discussion covering basic and intermediate endings, including reviewing the participant's knowledge of basic checkmates, principals, and terminology – opposition, centralization, zugzwang. We will discuss and review the theory and practice of king and pawn endings, rook endings, minor piece endings, queen endings, and various material imbalances.

Participants will also be encouraged to bring in examples from their own games, and there will be plenty of take-home material and examples for independent study.

Take your game to the next level!

It's also important to note that every World Champion from Steinitz to Carlsen has been an outstanding endgame player – it can even be said that mastery of the endgame is what raises them above the rest of the Grandmasters.



The young Bobby Fischer had his endings down cold, and with black found the only move to draw in a game with Svetozar Gligoric at the Candidates Tournament in 1959. What was Fischer's move?

Information about joining the Endgame Lab can be found [here](#).

## Tony's Teasers



1. M. Havel, 1904.  
White mates in 3 moves.



2. S. Loyd, 1877.  
White mates in 4 moves.

## Tournaments, Classes, and Events

The Mechanics' Institute offers a wide range of chess tournaments, classes, and special events. Our offerings include a monthly Chess Social, free classes for women and Mechanic's members, an online Chess Café, chess camps for adults and children, and much more.



You can find a list of ongoing and upcoming tournaments [here](#).



Offerings for adults and advanced players can be found [here](#).



Information about scholastic events, camps, and programming can be found [here](#).



Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!

## Solutions

### Tony's Teasers

1. **M. Havel**, 1904. **1.Qd1!** Threatens **2.Nf3+**. **1...g1=N** (**1...g1=Q** **2.Qf3+ Kh2** **3.Qh5#**) **2.Nf2+ Kh2**  
**3.Qd6#!**

2. **S. Loyd**, 1877. **1.Qh8!** The white queen nimbly flies around the board, e.g. **1...Rc4+ 2.Kb3+ Rc3+**  
**3.Qxc3+ Kb1 4.Qb2#**. Or **1...Rh4 2.Qxh4 d4+ 3.Kb3 Kb1 4.Qh1#**. Or **1...Rb4 2.Kc2+ d4 3.Qa8+ Ra4**  
**4.Qxa4#**.

### Endgame Lab

**Gligoric – Fischer**, Candidates Tournament 1959.

**1...Kb8!** Keeps the "Distant Opposition" and draws. But not **1...Kc7?** **2.Kc5 Kb7 3.Kb5! Kc7 4.Ka6**, and white wins

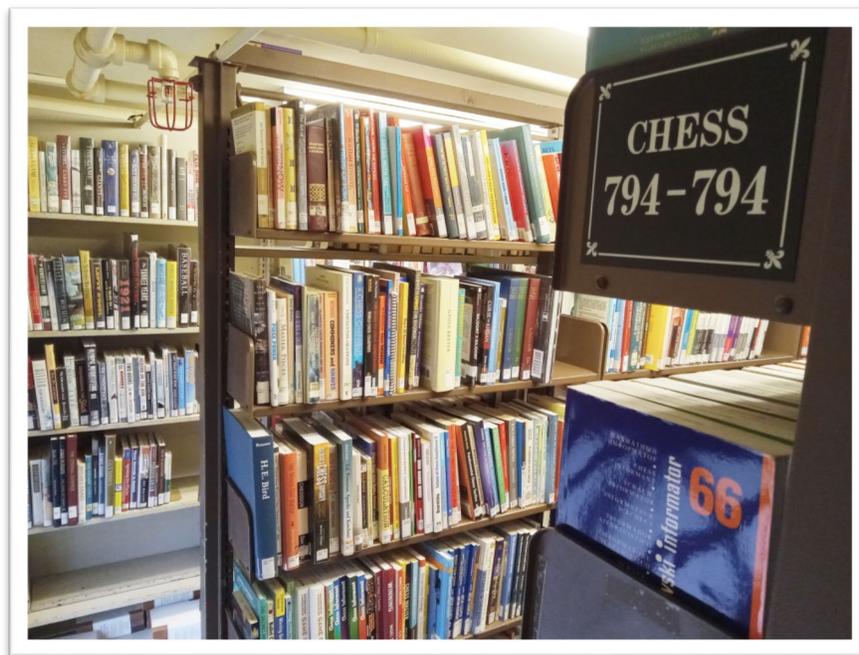
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## Contact Us

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

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