

Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1037 | May 13, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



Mr. **Azamat Abdraimov**, Consul General of the Republic of Kazakhstan in San Francisco, introduces the special edition of the Chess Cafe covering the World Chess Championship held in Kazakhstan, on April 10. A link to the recording is [here](#), and more pictures are below. Screenshot by Trisha Gorman.

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Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On April 8, the Mechanics' Institute hosted its monthly doubleheader of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, and **Quads Championship** in the afternoon.

The Quads had 53 players participating in 13 sections, and **Chawit Asavasaetakul** (2162) was the winner of the top quad with 2.5 points.

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

The April Scholastic Swiss saw 20 players competing in two sections.

In the 600+ section, **Emilio Berkeley** (1195) took first place on tiebreaks over **Kepler McTiernan** (721), **Nate Bomze** (unr.), and **Sebastian Ghoussaini** (796), all scoring 3 points from 4 rounds. **Jillian Stevens** (951) scored 2 points and took 5th place on tie-breaks.

Kaiqi McNabb (540) scored a perfect 4-0 to win the u600 section. Clear 2nd was **Hubert Wang** (583) with 3 points, while 3rd and 4th places with 2.5 points each (in tie-break order) were **Blaise Haudenschild** (350) and **Yulan Wang** (344). Fifth place on tie-breaks was **Joselyn Marroquin** (406) who scored 2 points.

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

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

The **Spring Tuesday Night Marathon** ended on April 18 with a total of 101 players competing in three sections.

There was a four-way tie for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Best under 2200 in the 2000+ section, with **Max Hao** (2047), FM **Conrado Diaz** (2262), **Archit Dasika** (2143), and **Christophe Bambou** (2058) all scoring 5 points from 7 rounds. **Edward Lewis** (1974) took the Best under 2000 prize with 3.5 points.

Michael Walder (1954) ran away with 1st place in the 1600-1999 section, scoring an impressive 6.5 points. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places were **Kristian Clemens** (1857) and **James Mahooti** (1812), both with 5 points. Tied for Best under 1800 with 4.5 were **Yonathan Admassu** (1647), **Stephen Parsons** (1780), and **Wilson Wong** (1673). Also scoring 4.5 points and taking clear Best under 1600 was **Fernando Toledo Guerrero** (1597).

Mechanics' Institute scholastic coach **Lee Cooper** (1567) took clear 1st place in the Under 1600 section with 6 points, closely followed by **John Gay** (unr.), **John Chan** (1500), and **Sam Calvert** (1364), at 5.5 points each.

Complete results for the Spring Tuesday Night Marathon can be found [here](#).

The Spring Tuesday Night Marathon was directed by Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason**, FIDE Arbiter **Richard Koepcke**, and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

On Tuesday, April 25, the Mechanics' Institute hosted the **Spring Splash Blitz**, right after awarding GM Christopher Woojin Yoo the Falconer Award (see below). With 82 participants headed by GM Yoo and a film crew from KRON covering the action, the Chess Room was buzzing with excitement.

GM **Christopher Yoo** (2681) dominated the 5-round, double-game Swiss, scoring 9.5 from 10, a full point ahead of IM **Ladia Jirasek** (2433) and FM **Maxim Ventura Bolet** (2298) who tied for 2nd and 3rd places.

Siva Srinivasan (1598), **David Z. Li** (1748), and **Zee Chin** (1725) tied for Best under 1800 with 7 points apiece, while **William Fitzgerald** (934) and **Henry Alford** (627) tied for Best under 1300 with 6 points each.

Complete results for the Spring Splash Blitz can be found [here](#).

The Spring Splash Blitz was co-directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason**.

There was a great turnout on Saturday, May 6, for the **21st Charles Powell Memorial**, with 78 participants competing in four sections.

Sricharan Pullela (2144) and **Alex Chin** (1925) shared 1st and 2nd places in the 2000+ section with 3-1 scores, while **Nitish Nathan** (2151), **Tony Kukavica** (2136), and **Ethan Sun** (1909) tied for 3rd place with 2.5 points apiece.

The 1600-1999 section also saw a 2-way tie for 1st and 2nd places, with **Colin Yi** (1702) and **Neev Grover** (1463) both scoring 3.5 points. Tied for 3rd were **Jacob Goldman** (1766), **Victor Briancon-Marjollet** (1755), and **James Bao** (1687), all scoring 3 points.

Benchly Buccat (1432) scored a perfect 4-0 and took the top prize in the 1200-1599 section. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places with three points each were **John Chan** (1506), **Vivaan Pavuluri** (1253), and **Max Weshsler** (1203).

Mechanics' Institute chess coach **Colin Shober** (unr.) took clear 1st in the Under 1200 section with a perfect 4-0 score, a clear point ahead of a six-way tie for 2nd and 3rd between **Nagendra Athreya** (1009), **Viyaan Khurana** (902), **Emede Tovar Jr.** (854), **Joel Ramos** (326), **David Xu** (unr.), and **Elliot Clark** (unr.).

Complete results for the 21st Powell Memorial can be found [here](#).

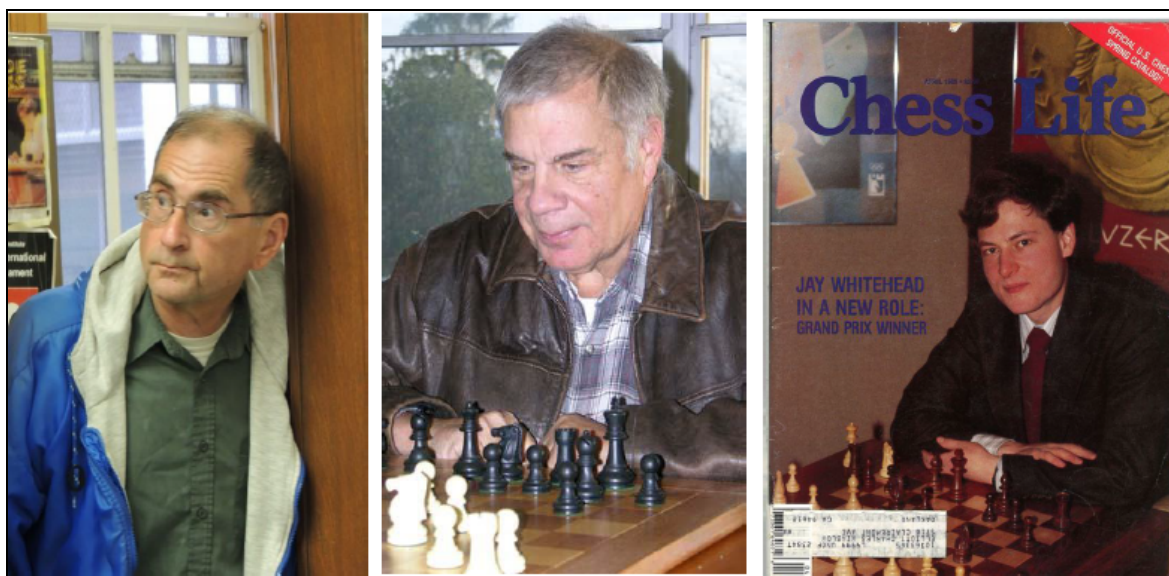
The 21st Powell Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

The **2023 Summer Tuesday Night Marathon** kicked off on May 2 with 100 players(!) competing in four sections. This seven-round event finishes up on June 13.

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

The 2023 Summer Tuesday Night Marathon is being co-directed by Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

On Sunday, May 7, the Mechanics' Institute hosted the **17th Annual Steve Brandwein / Ray Schutt / Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz Tournament**, with a total of 43 players showing up to compete in one Open Section.





Dipro Chakraborty (2292) took clear 1st place with 10.5 points from 12 games. Only a half point behind with 10 points was IM **Ladia Jirasek**, while 3rd place with 9 points was the surprising **Daniil Kardova**, only rated 1573. **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (1615) took the best Under 1800 prize with 7 points, and **Stanislav Perumov** (unr.) was best Under 1300.

The 17th Annual Steve Brandwein / Ray Schutt / Jay Whitehead Memorial Tournament was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated Games from rounds six and seven of the Spring TNM, and rounds one and two of the Summer TNM.

 **Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir** **B96**
 **Hao,Max** **2147**
2047
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 11.04.23
[Ivanenko, Tony]

Definitely the most frustrating game I've played to date. Obtained a winning advantage from a nuanced sideline, then suddenly began to play like an ape: blitzing out certain moves, spending a lot of time trying to get other dubious ones to work, not even thinking about the general state of the position and worst of all, falling into a cheap two-bit tactic when I was nearly in the clear. Fortune was definitely on my opponent's side today... **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** The Sicilian Najdorf comes back onto the board. I had already faced this twice and expected to face it again as my opponent has a track record with it, including against Elliott. **6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6** This is the so-called Deferred (or Delayed) Poisoned Pawn variation, which was in vogue during the late half of the last decade. In essence, Black spends a tempo to root out the bishop on g5, which changes the dynamics of the position. 9.Nb3 is no longer playable and the variations with 9.f5 also change their tune somewhat due to the loose position of the bishop on h4, so it has become a favorite of Najdorf aficionado Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. However, this move order makes a certain other line more playable... **9.a3** has been played by a number of top level players and remains a top pick for the Delayed PP variation, with good results. The point is that with the bishop on h4, White can quickly knock the queen back with Bf2, which is not possible in the main PP line.

[9.Qd2 just transfers back to the PP

variation.]

[9.Nb3? Qe3+± is the point, with the f4-pawn dropping since it is no longer being supported by Bg5.]

9...Nbd7

[9...Qxb2?? 10.Na4+- just drops the queen.]

10.Bc4!? Definitely an interesting sideline, which has been tested a top level too! The point of the move is to add pressure onto e6-pawn now that the Bc8 is no longer defending it, thus injecting some tactics against it.

10...Nxe4?+- A mistake from my opponent's end, probably caused by unfamiliarity of this position. However, somehow I had missed this move in my analysis (I probably examined every other "legitimate" move but this one) so it actually threw me off-guard a little and I had to spend a good amount of time calculating trying to refute it.

[If Black just continues normally:

10...Be7 11.Bf2 Qc7 12.Bxe6! fxe6 13.Nxe6 Qc4 14.Nxg7+± is the point, where the two pawns + loose Black king is enough compensation for the bishop.]

[10...g5 was played in a top level game by the Najdorf expert himself: 11.Bf2 Qc7 12.Qe2 Nb6 13.Bb3 gxf4 14.0-0-0 Be7 15.Rhe1 Rg8 16.g3 fxf3 17.Bxf3 e5 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.exf5 Rg7 20.Kb1 0-0-0 21.Bf2 Rd7 22.Bxb6 Qxb6 23.Bxf7 Kb8 24.Bb3 Rc7 25.Rd3 Rg5 26.Rf1 h5 27.h3 Rg1 28.Rxg1 Qxg1+ 29.Ka2 Qg5 30.Qf3 h4 31.Re3 Rc5 32.Ne4 Nxe4 33.Rxe4 Bf6 34.Rb4 Qg7 35.Qd3 Qd7 36.Rb6 Rc6 37.Rb4 Qc7 38.Qd5 Ka7 39.Rg4 Qc8 40.Qe4 d5 41.Qxd5 Qxf5 42.c3 Qf2 43.Qf7 e4 44.Rg7 Qb6 45.Rg2 e3 ½-½ Caruana,F (2711)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2722) Biel Accentus 2011 (1)]

[10...e5 is definitely the main try here, and was played in a high-level Wijk aan Zee game. 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.Nf5 g6 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Rh7 15.0-0-0 gxf5 16.exf5 Be7 17.Bxe7 Kxe7 18.Rhf1 Qf6 19.Bb3 Rh8 20.Rf3 Re8 21.Ba4 Rd8 22.Rg3 b5 23.Qxa8 bxa4 24.Rc3 Nb6 25.Qa7+ Rd7 26.Rc7 Kd8 27.Rdxd7+ Nxd7 28.Rc3 Qd6 29.Qa8 Nc5 30.Qa7 Nd7 31.Rg3 Ke7 32.Rd3 Qc6 33.Rc3 Qxg2 34.Rxc8 Qh1+ 35.Kd2 Qxh2+ 36.Kc3 Qh3+ 37.Kb4 Qxf5 38.Qc7 e4 39.Qd8+ Kd6 40.Qc7+ Ke7 41.c4 e3 42.Qd8+ Kd6 43.Qc7+ Ke7 44.Qd8+ Kd6 45.Qc7+ ½-½ Adhiban,B (2653)-

Nepomniachtchi,I (2767) Tata Steel-A 79th Wijk aan Zee 2017 (10)]

11.Nxe4 Coming to the correct move in the end.

[11.Bxe6 was a move I spent a long time calculating to try to get it to work, but unfortunately after Nxc3

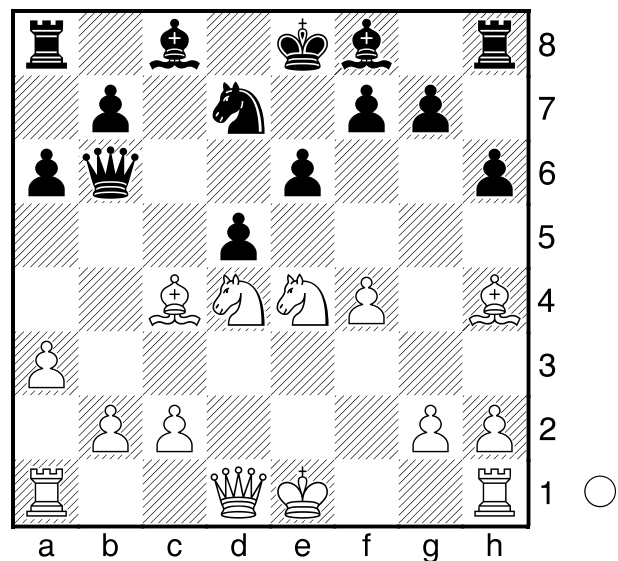
(Though Black had a better response: 11...Be7 12.Bxd7+ Bxd7 13.Bxe7 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Kxe7=; 11...fxe6??

12.Qh5+ g6 13.Qxg6#) 12.bxc3 Be7 13.Bxd7+ Bxd7± I just couldn't see a solidly winning continuation.]

[11.Nxe6?! was another idea I tried but it didn't work either: Nxc3 12.bxc3 d5= where Black stabilizes.]

11...d5

(Diagram)



12.Nxe6?!± but unfortunately this move isn't exactly accurate.

[12.Bxd5! was simpler and more precise. exd5 And now I missed that 13.Qe2! works because of mating tactics. Bb4+ 14.Nc3+ Kf8 15.axb4 Qxd4 16.Rd1 Qxf4 17.Be7+ Kg8 18.Nxd5+- White is prepared to bring the last piece into the game via f1 and has a very dominant control over the whole board.]

12...dxc4?! countered by another inaccuracy. White's e4-knight is much more active in the resulting position than the c4-bishop would've been.

[12...dxe4 was more accurate and after 13.Nxf8 Nxf8 14.Qe2 Bf5 15.0-0-0 Ng6 16.Bf2± White has positional advantages, but nothing more.]

13.Nxf8 Qe3+ 14.Qe2 Qxe2+ 15.Kxe2 Kxf8 16.Rad1 Pinning the knight since the back-rank is very much loose.

16...f6 17.Nd6?± Played way too quickly. If I had to think, I would've realized that it's far more advantageous to bring the shut-out bishop back into the game to control the dark squares. I shouldn't have cared too much about the consolidating 17...b5 because what's

more important in this position is to grab control and deny space to Black's pieces while building up my own... the primary disadvantage Black is experiencing is his lack of development.

[17.Bf2! Controlling the c5- and b6-squares. b5 18.Nd6 Ke7 19.Rhe1 Rd8 20.Kf1+- and now look at this position: White's pieces are fully coordinated to deny Black play.]

17...Nb6?!+-

[17...Nc5 was more accurate as it brings the knight closer to the center. 18.f5 Bd7 19.Nxb7 Re8+ 20.Kf1! Nxb7 21.Rxd7+- White's pieces aren't as active.]

18.f5?± Trying to be way too cute. In reality, I overestimated the knight's position on d6 and didn't stop to think things through. Yes, it may look nicely positioned right now, but in reality it's interfering with access to one of the only open files on the board for a rook that is ready to spring to the seventh rank and while the c8-bishop may not be strong now, it can certainly untangle itself via ...Bd7-c6.

[18.Nxc8 was the correct procedure and after Rxc8 19.Bf2! This was the resource I missed for... quite an astonishing number of moves. Na4 20.Rd7 Nxb2 21.Rxb7 c3 22.Re1+- White is ready to double up on the seventh rank while Black is struggling with finding channels for his rooks.]

18...Na4?!+- 19.Rhe1?± Again, getting way too cute with my moves, especially since I had already thought of a crushing move.

[Surprisingly, I thought of the move 19.Rd4 but didn't bother to calculate that after Nxb2 20.Rb1 c3 21.Ne4!+- the knight is completely trapped and will soon be picked up!]

19...g5?+-

[19...Nxb2 20.Kd2? was this weird

idea spinning inside my head, but I didn't even bother noticing that after c3+ 21.Kxc3 Nxd1+- just wins the rook with check.]

20.Bf2 Finally, my opponent forces ♗f2 for me, but the funny thing is that I didn't even calculate the follow-up for the bishop, just thinking, "♗f2 looks better placed than ♗g3". I swear, I did that last game, and this game was even worse in that respect! **20...Bd7**

[20...Nxb2 was better once again. And this time I wasn't thinking of that terrible tactic. 21.Rb1 c3 22.Kf3 Bd7 23.Bd4 Bc6+ 24.Kg3+- ends up just winning.]

21.Kd2? And at this point I'm beginning to wonder whether somebody spiked my water bottle with hallucinogens.

[21.Bd4! doesn't even require an explanation. And yet I somehow missed it.]

21...Nxb2 22.Rb1 c3+ 23.Kxc3 Na4+ 24.Kb4 I... don't really understand what I was trying to achieve here.

[24.Kd2 b5 25.Bd4+- is much more measured.]

24...b5 25.Bd4 Finally! How I didn't see this maneuver many moves back is beyond comprehension. **25...Bc6**

26.Bxf6

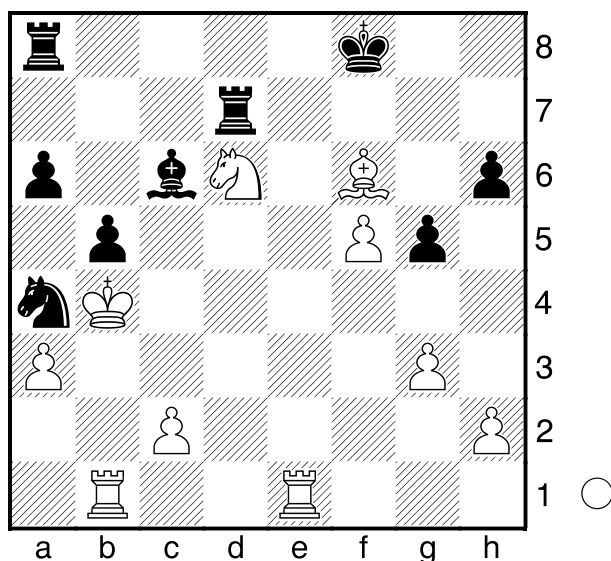
[26.Ka5!+- was much better, retreating the king to a safer space.]

26...Rh7

[26...a5+ 27.Kb3 Rh7 28.Re3 Nc5+ 29.Kb2+- is still winning for White, but Black has complicated matters quite a bit.]

27.g3 Again, 27.♔a5 was much better. **27...Rd7**

(Diagram)



Same with 27...a5. **28.Ka5!** Finally! ♔a5 is a very nice idea to hide the king on a5 since it was very loose on the the b4-square due to threats of ...a5. However, pretty much none of the pieces can harass the king on a5, so it's quite a bit safer there. **28...Kg8**

[28...Rxd6? 29.Be7+- is the point. The knight wasn't hanging due to this fork.]

29.Rbd1

[29.Be5! was a much more reliable move order since after Rad8 30.Rbd1+- White is ready to push the f-pawn.]

29...Rb8 30.Be5 b4 31.axb4 Nb6

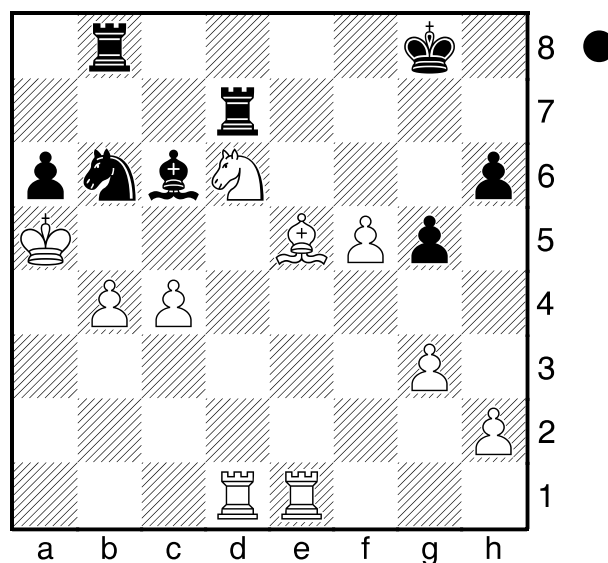
For some reason, I wasn't even looking at mating threats at this point, even though that's Black's only way back into this game.

[My tired self was only looking at this tactic: 31...Rxd6 doesn't work because of simplifications. 32.Rxd6 Rb5+ 33.Kxa4 Rxe5+ 34.Rxc6 Rxe1 35.Rxh6+- and White is simply up three pawns in this winning endgame.]

32.c4??

[32.Rd4 Nd5 33.Rxd5 Bxd5 34.c4+- is just winning.]

[32.Bd4 Nd5 33.Bc5!+- is as well.]



My brain had only registered 32...♞d5 as a threat and somehow missed this simple combo. **32...Rxd6! 33.b5??** Simply imploding.

[White could still save the game with 33.Rc1! With the life saving pin. Nxc4+ 34.Rxc4 Rd5+ 35.Kxa6 Bb5+ 36.Ka7 Bxc4 37.Bxb8 Rxf5± which appears to be a drawn opposite colored bishop endgame, but the presence of the b4-pawn is tricky for Black. In any case, White is not losing here.]

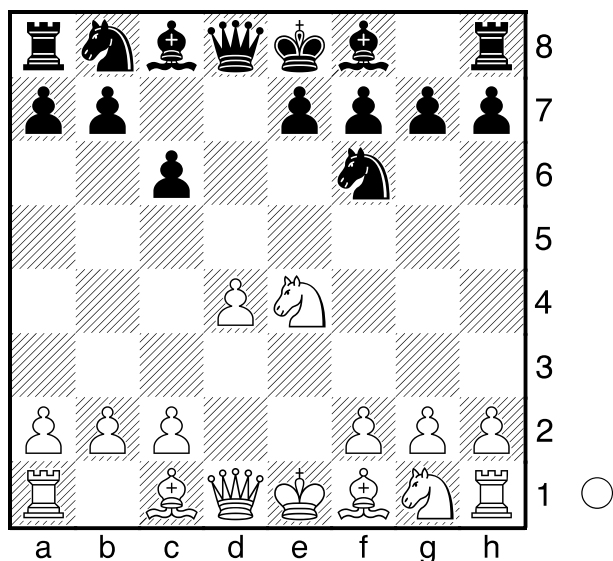
33...Nxc4+ 34.Kb4 Rxd1

0-1

B15
 1974
 2140
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (6.5) 11.04.23
 [Lewis,Edward/Winslow,Elliott]

[EW: Ed Lewis shows his exciting style, filled with unexpected shots and blows!] Eugenio Garcia is a strong player and a Brazilian junior champion. I don't regularly play 1.e4, but I knew he played

the Caro Kann defense. Our first encounter was drawish but I pressed the position and lost that game. Here we are yet again, and this time Eddie Ai will not be denied. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6**



5.Ng3

[(ew: mostly you see 5.Nxf6+ when exf6 is still a Big Thing -- continuing something like (5...gxf6 is the famous Bronstein-Larsen line, see another game this round)) 6.c3 (6.Bd3 (Gambito!?)) 6...Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5!?

as in (among thousands of games the last few years) Winslow-Griffith, online TNM 23.6.2020, where Kyron allowed Mate in One on move 14 -- and I overlooked it! (managed to win anyway) -- and also, among those two thousand or so games, a fantastic battle that ended Magnus Carlsen's 125-game classical chess no-loss streak: 10.Be3 Nd7 11.0-0-0 b5 12.d5 c5 13.Bxb5 Rb8 14.c4 a6 15.Ba4 Re7 16.Ng3 Ne5 17.Ne4 Reb7 18.b3 Rb4 19.Bd2 Rxa4 20.bxa4 Bf5 21.Rde1 h4 22.h3 Ng6 23.Re3 Nf4 24.g4 Bg6 25.Kd1 f5 26.Nxd6 Qxd6 27.gxf5 Bh5+ 28.f3

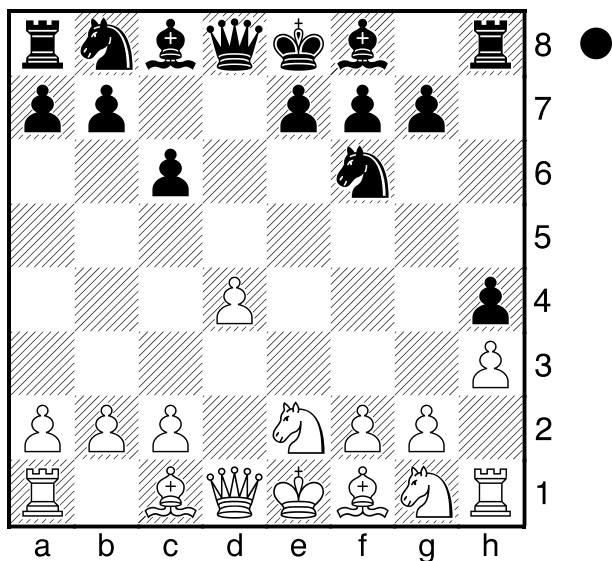
Qf6 29.Bc3 Qg5 30.Qe4 Qg2 31.Rhe1 Qxa2 32.Qc2 Qxc4 33.Re8+ Kh7 34.Rxb8 Qxd5+ 35.Qd2 Bxf3+ 36.Kc1 Qxf5 37.Re3 Ne2+ 38.Kb2 Nxc3 39.Qxc3 Qf4 40.Qd3+ f5 41.Rf8 Qb4+ 42.Kc1 Be4 43.Qb3 Qd4 44.Qc3 Qd6 45.Rf7 Qg6 46.Rd7 Qg1+ 47.Kb2 c4 48.Rxe4 fxe4 49.Rd4 Qf2+ 50.Qd2 c3+ 51.Kxc3 Qg3+ 52.Kb2 Qxh3 53.Rxe4 Qg3 54.Qd4 Qg2+ 55.Kc3 Qf3+ 56.Kb4 Qf8+ 57.Ka5 Qf5+ 58.Kxa6 g5 59.a5 h3 60.Re7+ Kg6 61.Qg7+ Kh5 62.Qh7+ Kg4 63.Re4+ 1-0 Duda,J (2757)-Carlsen,M (2863) Norway Chess 8th Stavanger 2020 (5)]

5...h5 6.h3

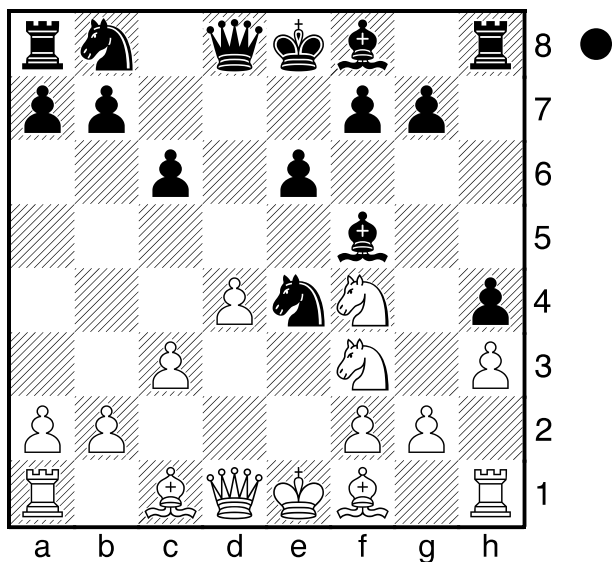
[ew: 6.h4 is way the most popular, but how good can *that* be?]
[6.Bc4 (2nd on the list) was seen in a key game for Hans Niemann at Sitges 2022: h4 7.N3e2 Bf5 8.h3 Be4 9.Nf3 e6 10.Be3 Qa5+ 11.c3 Nbd7 12.Bd3 Bxf3 13.gxf3 g6 14.Rg1 Bh6 15.Qd2 Bxe3 16.fxe3 e5 17.f4 exd4 18.exd4 0-0-0 19.Rg5 Qc7 20.0-0-0 Rde8 21.f5 Nh7 22.Rg2 g5 23.Ng1 f6 24.Bc4 Nb6 25.Be6+ Kb8 26.Nf3? (26.c4 Nf8 27.c5 Nc8 28.Bc4=) 26...Nf8 27.Bb3 Nd5 28.Bxd5 cxd5 29.Nh2 Nd7 30.Ng4 Re4 31.Re2 Rhe8 32.Rde1 Rxe2 33.Rxe2 Rxe2 34.Qxe2 Qf4+ 35.Ne3 Nb6 36.Kd1 Qe4 37.Kd2 a6 38.Qh2+ Ka7 39.Qd6 Qxe3+ 0-1 Gokerkan,C (2470)-Niemann,H (2698) Sitges Sunway op 9th 2022 (9) and a draw in the last round with tournament winner Alekseenko had Hans tying for 2nd-3rd.]

6...h4 7.N3e2

(Diagram)



Black has been very aggressive. Black has forced the knight to e2, but it will soon re-route to help control the e5 and c5 squares in a couple of moves buying White some time to adjust to the position.
7...Bf5 8.c3 e6 9.Nf3 Ne4 10.Nf4

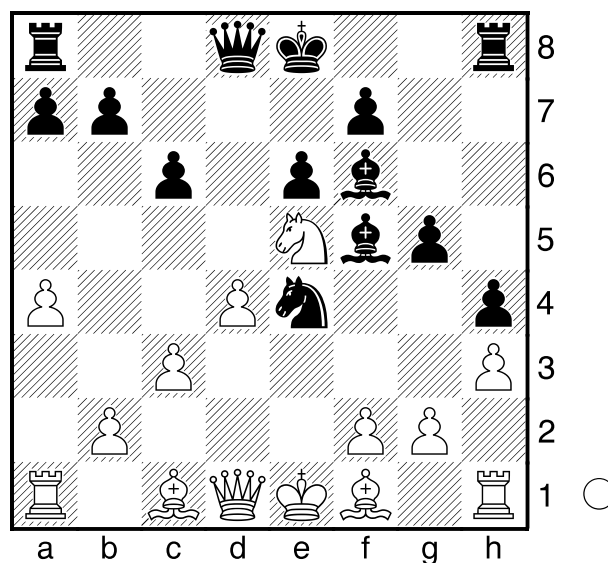


The knight on f4 will meander to the d3 square controlling c5/e5, Black must break soon or a cramped position will ensue. **10...Be7N**

[ew: Actually four games got this far and went 10...Nd7 11.Bd3 and now all veered off (two draws, two wins for White). One involved

superstreamer Levy Rozman: Ndf6 12.Qe2 Qc7 13.Ne5 0-0-0 14.Ng4 Bd6 15.Nxf6 Nxf6 16.Qf3 Qb6 17.Bxf5 exf5 18.0-0 g6 19.Nd3 Ne4 20.Bf4 Qc7 21.Bxd6 Qxd6 22.Rad1 Qf6 23.Nc5 Nxc5 24.dxc5 Qe5 25.b4 Rhe8 26.a4 a6 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Rd1 Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Qxc3 30.Qd6 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Qe6 32.Qf8+ Kc7 33.Kg1 g5 34.Qg7 g4 35.hxg4 fxg4 36.Qg5 Qe1+ 37.Kh2 Qxb4 38.Qe5+ Kc8 39.Qe8+ Kc7 40.Qe5+ Kd7 41.Qf5+ Ke7 42.Qe5+ Kd8 43.Qd6+ Ke8 44.Qe5+ Kd7 45.Qd6+ Kc8 46.Qf8+ Kc7 47.Qd6+ Kc8 48.Qf8+ Kd7 49.Qd6+ Ke8 50.Qe5+ Kf8 51.Qh8+ Ke7 52.Qe5+ Kf8 53.Qh8+ Ke7 54.Qe5+ ½-½ Popadic, D (2147)-Rozman, L (2343) Titled Tuesday intern op 20th Oct Chess.com INT blitz 2020 (5)]

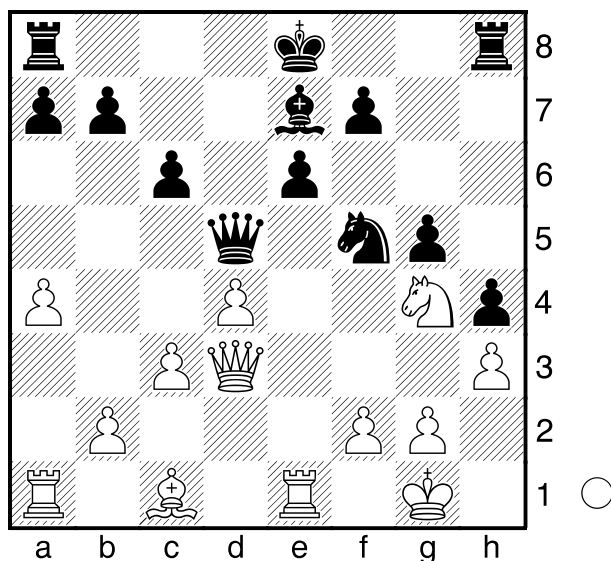
11.Nd3 Nd7 12.a4 g5 13.Nfe5 (ew: ?!)
 [13.Nde5]
13...Nxe5 (ew: ?!)
 [ew: 13...f6!]
14.Nxe5 Bf6



White has to evaluate the position in terms of the exchange of minor pieces going into the endgame. I am willing to part with my knight on e5 only if I can

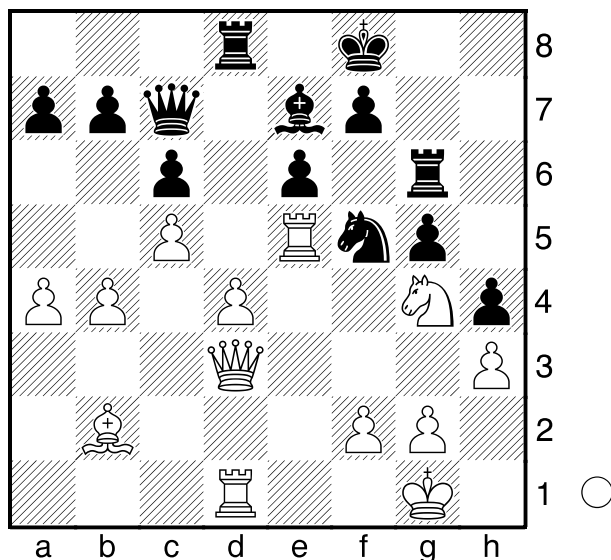
trade Black's f5B and gain control of g4 with my queen rather than trade my knight for the Black bishop on e5.

15.Ng4 Be7 16.Bd3± Nd6 17.0-0 Bxd3 (ew: ?!) 18.Qxd3 Nf5 19.Re1 Qd5



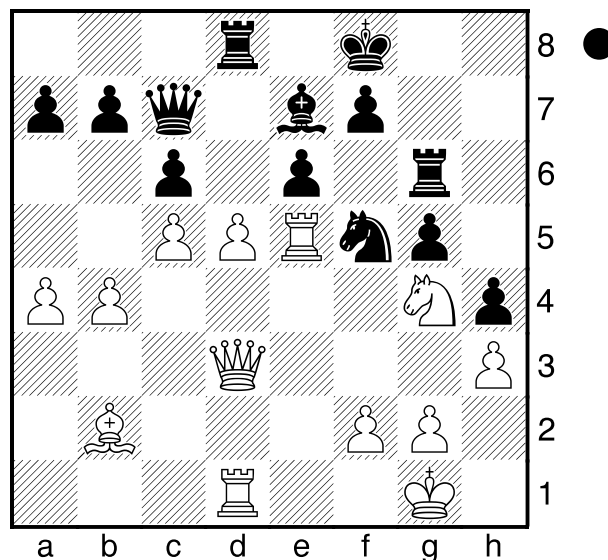
I still control c5/e5. How is Black going to remedy this dark square control?

20.b4 (ew: +- Stockfish 15.1) 20...Rd8 21.Bb2 Rg8 22.c4 Qd6 23.c5 Qc7 24.Rad1 Kf8 25.Re5 Rg6

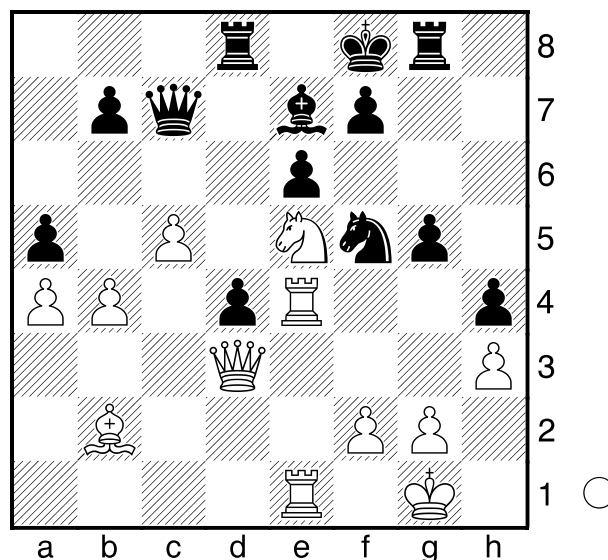


Black seems to be holding the position. I looked for 20 minutes. At this time I thought is it going to another draw?

What would you play here? Hmm.. **26.d5**

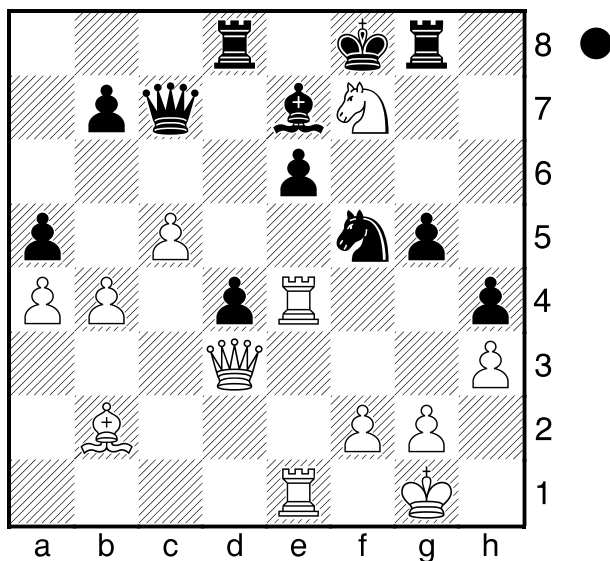


Eddie Ai 26...cxd5 27.Rde1 d4 28.R5e4 a5 29.Ne5 Rg8

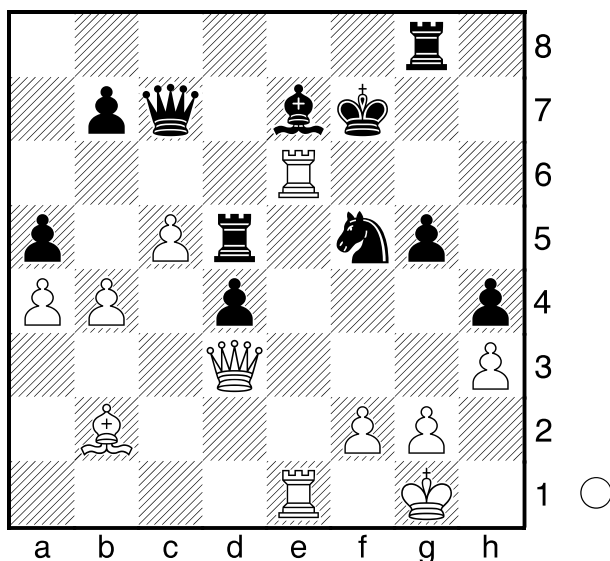


We have arrived at a puzzle like position, can you create? **30.Nxf7**

(Diagram)



Eddie Ai. **30...Kxf7 31.Rxe6 Rd5**



32.Bxd4 Over complicating? I had to find a way to get my last piece into the spectrum of possibilities. This very move allowed for the King hunt to occur.

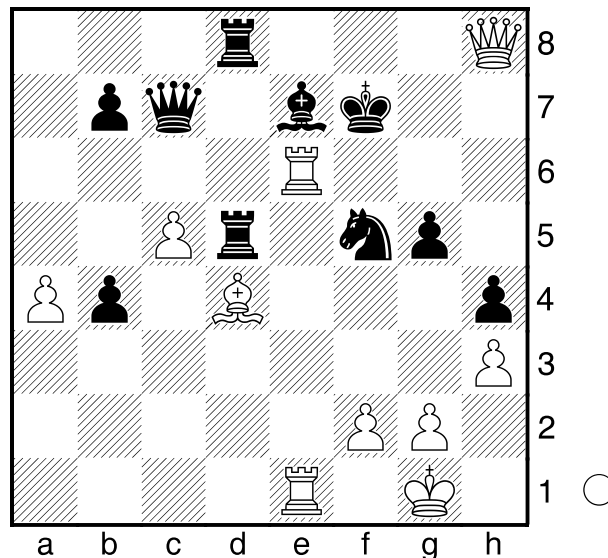
[ew: As played was winning -- but 32.Qf3! ends it right now.]

32...axb4

[32...Ke8 33.Qc4 Rxd4 34.Rxe7+ Qxe7 35.Rxe7+ Kxe7 36.Qxg8 (ew)]

33.Qf3 Rgd8 34.Qh5+! (ew: "mate in 13" sez stockie) **34...Kf8 35.Qh8+** [35.Rg6! ew: is the mate :-)]

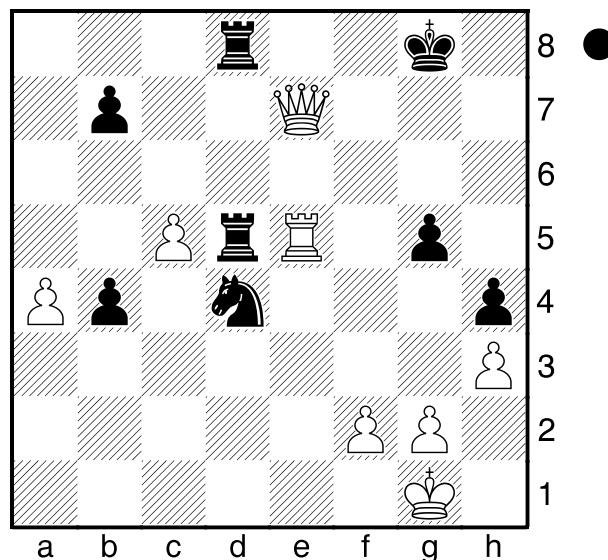
35...Kf7



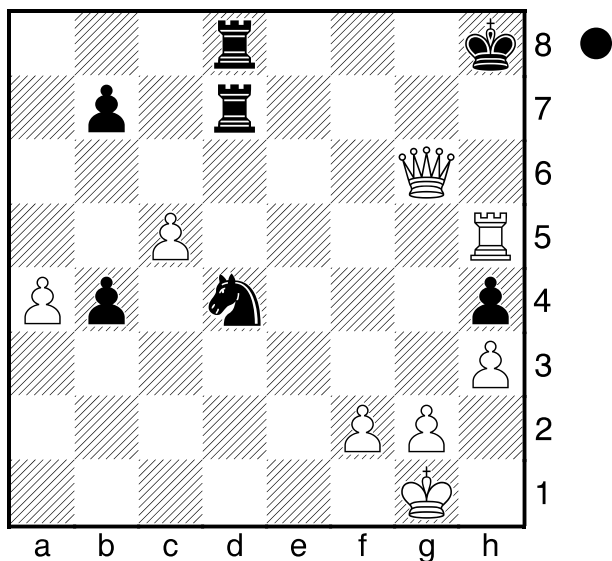
What would you play here? **36.Rf6+** White has now sacrificed a pawn, a knight, a bishop and then finally a rook exchange. This last exchange is forced in terms of the loss of Black's queen.

[36.Qh5+ Kf8 37.Rg6]

36...Bxf6 37.Qxf6+ Kg8 38.Qh8+ Kf7 39.Qh7+ Kf8 40.Qxc7 ew: Now it's "just" totally won. **40...Nxd4 41.Qe7+ Kg8 42.Re5**



R5d7 43.Qxg5+ Kf8 44.Qf6+ Kg8 45.Rg5+ Kh7 46.Qg6+ Kh8 47.Rh5+ (Diagram)



Black resigns. Great game, I got lucky on this one. Ed and Eugenio are even 1-1, until next time.

1-0

Horde, Nicolas T
 Moisselin, Simon

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (6.15)
[Nicolas Horde]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 Nc6

Never been a big fan of this variation and this game illustrates why **5.a3! Nxe5 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.b4** I have given up the entire centre to Black in return for extremely easy and fast development and a permanent danger on the queenside **7...e5** I thought this was already a serious concession, Black is not developed enough to support the center and c6 is covered so e5 is a target. Better moves are e6 or even a5 to challenge my queenside. My next moves are just logical and Black is already in trouble **8.Bb2 d4 9.Nf3**

[9.Qe2 Qe7 10.Nf3 Bg4 (10...Bd7 11.0-0) 11.Nbd2 Also possible, White has a lot of good options against e5 f6

12.h3 Be6 13.0-0]

9...Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3

[10...Bh5? 11.g4 Bg6 12.Nxe5]

11.Qxf3 Qf6 12.Qe4 Keeping contact with the c6 knight **12...Qe6 13.0-0 Nf6**

14.Qe2 It looks like White has lost a tempo but in reality the knight is misplaced on f6 and would had been better on e7 **14...Be7 15.Re1 Nd7 16.f4?!** Not the best move for tactical reasons. I would had been better off with the other pawn break c3.

[16.c3! I thought about it for a long time and it's a thematic pawn break.

All of White's pieces are extremely active and Black is going to have a hard time finishing development. dxc3 17.Nxc3 0-0 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Ne4 This is a dream position where White controls the entire board and Black has no plans a6 20.Bc4 Qf5 21.Ng3 Qg5]

16...Bh4! Missed that move, otherwise I would not had played f4

[16...exf4 17.Qxe6 fxe6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Rxe6 This is what I had calculated and this is positionally crushing for White as Black's pawn structure is ruined]

17.Rf1 0-0-0 I thought I was winning at this point and started calculating a bunch of lines to see which plans seemed the strongest.

[17...exf4 18.Qxe6+ fxe6 19.Rxf4 (19.Nd2! e5 20.c3) 19...Bg5 20.Re4 Be3+ 21.Kh2 e5 Simon mentioned this line in our post-mortem, he saw it after castling queenside and thought this was equalizing. SF gives a slight edge for White but in practise I agree that Black has an easier time]

18.Bxc6

[18.Bc4 Qh6 19.b5! Na5 20.c6! bxc6 21.bxc6 Nxc6 I calculated this line and thought that White keeps decent chances as the king is

B12
1402
1565

completely exposed. I am down a pawn but this looks extremely dangerous and promising. However I did not see a clear continuation and decided to not gambit a pawn when my position was already comfortable. SF still gives a nice advantage for White]

18...bxc6 19.Qa6+ Kb8 20.f5!

Nbd2 is much stronger but this move is SF's second choice. This is dangerous as I am letting Black create a passed pawn in the center but on the other hand the main idea is to deviate the queen from the defense of the c6 pawn

[20.Nd2! There's no rush as Black is almost paralyzed and needs to spend time defending their king]

20...Qd5

[20...Qh6 21.f6 I thought this was brilliant as it interferes with c6. If Black takes with either the knight, bishop or pawn, c6 is going to fall and my pawns will keep marching up. However, there's a simple refutation with Rc8! (21.Bc1!! Bg5 22.Bxg5! Qxg5 23.Qxc6 This is the improvement of the f6 variation that I had calculated. Now the attack plays by itself) 21...gxf6 (21...Rc8!) 22.Qxc6]

21.Nd2 Nf6 22.Nc4 Rd7 This is a critical moment. My idea is to plant a knight on either d6 or a5 and march the pawns up the board. The main issue in the attack is the misplaced b2 bishop. Positional considerations suggests either c3 to open up the kingside or reshuffling the bishop on c1 to free the b file **23.Na5?!**

[23.Bc1! Rc7 24.Rb1 Nd7 25.Bd2! Be7 Now the pawns can start moving and Black has no counterplay. 26.c3 d3 27.Be3 Rhc8 28.Rbd1]

[23.c3 d3 24.Bc1 Rhd8 (24...Rc8 25.Rb1) 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Bf4!]

23...Rc7 24.c4?? I spent a long time before committing on c4. The idea is to play b5 and open the queenside. The big drawback is that now Black has 2 connected passed pawns in the center of the board (!) so if my attack fails the endgame is lost. I was convinced I had a winning attack after b5 hence I decided to go all in with c4.

[24.a4 Adding more pawns to the attack. However most of White's advantage is gone as Black has enough pieces to blockade the queenside]

[24.c3 g5! 25.fxg6 Rg8 26.cxd4 Qe4 And black has found some counterplay]

24...Qd7 25.b5 Qc8 26.Nxc6+

This is what I calculated when playing c4. However there's a big flaw that I completely missed and I would not had played c4 if I had seen so kuddos to my opponent for playing it (and almost tempo!) **26...Rxc6!!** This is when I realized that I am lost. This stops White's attack as I am forced to trade everything **27.Qxc6 Qxc6 28.bxc6** We enter the endgame with White being up a pawn and the exchange (!). However this is positionally lost for White as the tripled isolated pawns on the c file are not going anywhere and Black has an easy game with the connected passed pawns. At this point I switched gear and try to look for as much activity as possible and infiltrate on the 7th or 8th rank **28...Kc7 29.a4 Kxc6 30.Ba3 Ne4 31.Rfb1 Nc3 32.Rb3! Be7**

[32...Nxa4?? 33.Rb5! Nc3 34.Ra5! The idea behind Rb3]

33.Bb4 Rb8 34.Raa3 Ne4

[34...Rxb4! 35.Rxb4 Bxc5 36.Rab3 d3+ And the passed pawns are too strong]

35.g4 d3 36.Ba5 Bxc5+ 37.Kf1 Re8 38.Ra1

[38.Ra2! More resilient Ng3+ 39.Kg2 Ne2 40.Rab2 e4 41.Rb8 Nf4+ 42.Kg3]

38...Bb6! Very clever 39.Be1

[39.Bxb6?? Nd2+ 40.Ke1 Nxb3 41.Rb1 axb6 42.Rxb3 e4]

39...Nc5 40.Rb2 e4 41.Bb4 e3 42.a5 e2+ 43.Ke1 Bc7 44.Kf2 Be5 45.Rab1 Bxb2 46.Rxb2 d2 47.Rxd2 e1Q+

A very interesting game. I was borderline winning in the middlegame with a dangerous attack but failed to find the correct plan. After Black successfully defended the attack, the endgame was strategically lost.

0-1

□ **Agdamag, Samuel**

■ **Casares, Nick Jr**

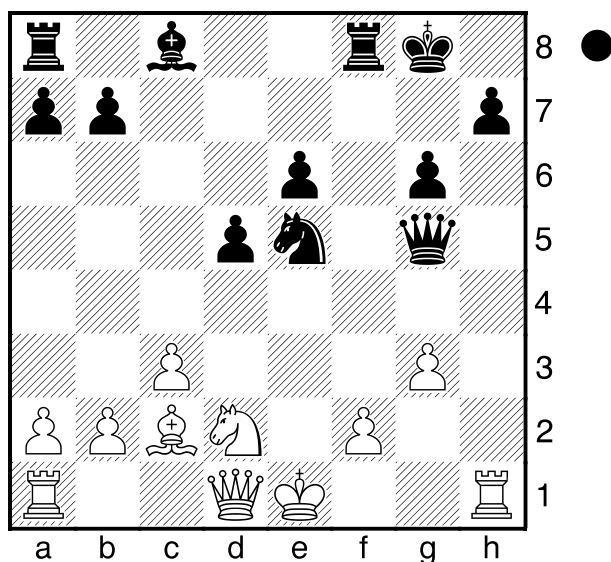
2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (6.21)
[Winslow, Elliott]

D03

1400

1600

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nbd2 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.Ne5 c5 8.c3 cxd4 9.exd4 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7 11.h4 g6 12.Bh6 Re8 13.h5 Nxe5 14.Bb1 Bg5 15.Bxg5 Qxg5 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.g3 Rf8 18.Bc2



Rxf2 19.Kxf2 Ng4+ 20.Ke1 Qe3+ 21.Qe2 Qxg3+ 22.Kd1 Nf2+ 23.Kc1 Nxb1 24.a4 e5 25.Ra3 Bg4 26.Qf1 Qh3 27.Qb5 Qg2 28.b4 Rf8 29.Qxb7 Rf2 30.Bb3 Qg1+ 31.Kb2 Rxd2+ 32.Bc2 Rxc2+ 33.Kxc2 Qd1+ 34.Kb2 Qd2+ 35.Kb1 Bf5+ 36.Ka1 Qc1+ **0-1**

E07

103

□ **Le, Thu**

■ **Langendorf, Brian Keith**

0

2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (6.41) 11.04.23
[Le, Thu/(Winslow, Elliott)]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.b3 Ne4 9.Qc2

[9.Bb2 Nxc3 10.Bxc3]

9...Nxc3 10.Qxc3 Nf6 11.Qc2 c5?

Slightly premature, as Black's pieces have not developed enough to support the break

[11...b6 12.Bb2 Bb7 13.Rfd1 c5]

12.Bb2

[12.cxd5 exd5 13.dxc5]

[12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.cxd5 Qb6 14.Bb2]

12...Qb6 13.cxd5 exd5

[13...Nxd5 Taking with the knight is stronger and Black would be close to equalizing 14.e4 (14.Ne5 cxd4 15.Rfd1 Bc5 16.Rac1) 14...Nb4 15.Qe2]

14.Ba3 Black can't do ...cxd4 else the bishop hangs. **14...Ne4 15.Nd2**

[15.Ne5 This looked like a good move but my knight / bishop wouldn't have any good square to go back to. Decided to play simple chess instead. cxd4 16.Bxe7 Re8]

15...Re8?

[15...Nxd2 Black should have taken the knight and avoid losing a pawn. The position is still fairly equal here

(ew: Not so fast!) 16.Qxd2 Re8
 (ew "?!") (16...Be6! 17.dxc5 Bxc5
 18.Bxc5 Qxc5 19.Rfd1±) 17.Bxc5
 Bxc5 18.dxc5 Qxc5 (ew: and here
 19.Bxd5± White is up a fairly healthy
 pawn.)]

16.Nxe4 cxd4

[16...dxe4 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.dxc5
 Qg6]

[(ew: Black can't muddy the water
 much with 16...Bf5 17.Bxc5 Qe6
 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Rfc1 White's still
 up that annoying pawn, should be a
 win.)]

17.Bxe7 Rxe7 18.Ng5 Qh6 19.Rac1!!

(ew: Thu Le must have been thrilled
 with this move (the "!!" is hers!) but it's
 all the same. Still, it's when you start
 putting moves together like this, what
 Soltis called "Little Tactics," that your
 game takes flight.)

[19.Nf3 is just as good, slightly better
 even, but not as fun. :-)]

19...Bg4 20.Nf3

[20.h4 Rxe2 (20...Rf8 21.Bxd5)
 21.Qd3 Rf8 (ew: still totally won)]

20...Rc8? Allows mate in 3.

[20...Rf8 21.Nxd4 Qb6 22.Qd2]

21.Qxc8+ Bxc8 22.Rxc8+ Re8

23.Rxe8#

1-0

D19

□ Hao,Max 2047

■ Dasika,Archit 2143

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 18.04.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

Going into the last round it's Dasika with
 5-1, Diaz with 4.5-1.5, and Hao,
 Bambou and Widjaja with 4 (but Widjaja
 has a last-round half-point bye). 1.d4 d5
 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4
 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0
 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Rd1 This line has a

reputation for being solid as a Slavic rock
 -- which makes it a nice choice with that
 half-point tournament lead. Still, at
 some point it's not about the opening,
 it's about the players. Let's see how it
 goes... 10...Qc7 11.e4 Bg6 12.e5 Nd5
 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Bd3 Rfc8 15.Bf4
 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Qc4! Black even has a
 bit of an initiative.

[16...Qc2?? 17.Qb5+- is worth
 pointing out -- I didn't see it!]

17.Qe3 Qc2 18.Ne1 Bxe1 19.Rxe1
 Rc4 20.Re2 Qf5± Black is now clearly
 better -- compare minor pieces, plus
 control of the c-file (at least for now).
 21.b3 Rc7 22.Rc1 Rac8 23.Rxc7
 Rxc7 24.h3 h6 25.Re1 Nb8

[25...g5! 26.Bg3 Qc2 borders on
 won for Black.]

26.g4 Qg6 27.Rc1 Rxc1+ 28.Qxc1
 Nc6 29.Be3?!

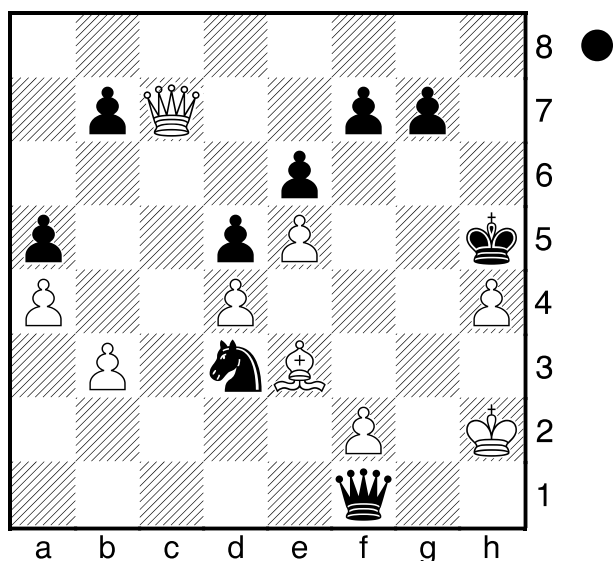
[29.Qc3 is the best try. But it's hard
 to handle -- White's earlier pawn
 advances are coming back to haunt
 him, in the form of an airy position.
 And the problem with the bishop isn't
 going away.]

29...Qd3 30.Qb2 a5 31.Kg2 Nb4
 32.Bd2 Qe4+ 33.Kg1 Nd3

[33...Nc2 34.Bc3 Qd3 could run
 White out of moves.]

34.Qc3 Qe2 35.Be3 Qd1+ 36.Kh2
 Qf1 37.Qc8+ Kh7 38.Qc2 Kg6 39.h4
 h5 40.gxh5+ Kxh5 41.Qc7

(Diagram)



Kg4?? There are some amazing "active king" games, Timman-Short comes to mind, various others. This is not one of them.

[41...Kg6! 42.h5+! Kh7 43.Qxf7 Ne1! 44.Qg6+ Kh8 45.Qg3 Qd3!± certainly isn't "even" -- but at least Black isn't self-mating. And Black has counterplay (plus that big pawn on e3...).]

42.Qxf7 Qh3+ 43.Kg1+- Qxh4

[No time for 43...Ne1?? -- 44.Qf4+ Kh5 45.Qg5#]

[43...Qf3 44.Qg6+ Kxh4 45.Qxd3+- picks off the knight, and bad or not, that bishop is a lot of extra wood for White.]

44.Qg6+ Kf3 45.Qxd3+- Qg4+ 46.Kf1 Qg2+ 47.Ke1 Qh1+ 48.Qf1

[48.Kd2! is even better, but the difference between +6 and +4 is for the computers to argue; for humans there isn't much difference.]

48...Qh7

[And the "hold out longer" move is 48...Qxf1+ but forget that.]

49.Qe2+ Kg2

[49...Ke4 is a cute mate: 50.f3+ Kf5 51.Qc2# (51.Qd3#)]

50.f3+ Kg3 51.Qf2+ Kh3 52.Qf1+

Kg3 53.Qg1+ Kxf3 54.Qf2+ Kg4 55.Qg2+ Kh5 56.Qh2+ Kg6 57.Qc2+

A defensive triumph by the still improving Hao -- and they both ended up in a four-way tie for 1st (with Diaz, who was content to coast, and Bambou, who squashed your annotator with a "quiet" line against the Pirc (next game)).

1-0

 **Bambou, Christophe**
 **Winslow, Elliott**

B07

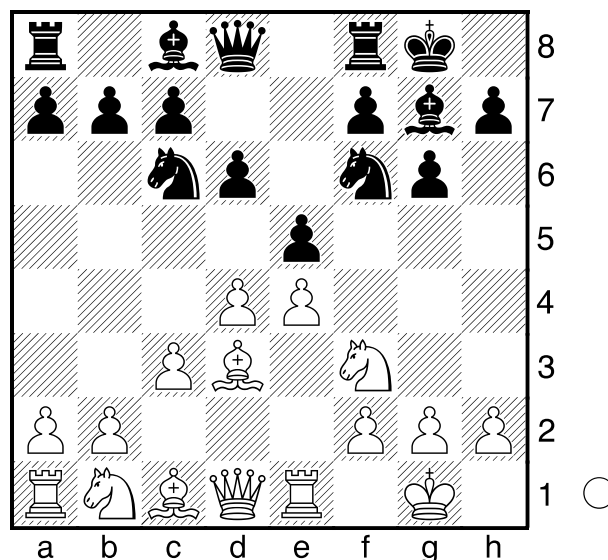
2058

2219

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (7.3) 18.04.23
[Winslow, Elliott]

This game is Bambou at his best. His slightly quirky opening had me semi-conscious, and I slipped into a web of loosened pawns and marauding rooks and queen. The final shot is very nice!

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 Nc6 7.c3 e5



8.dxe5

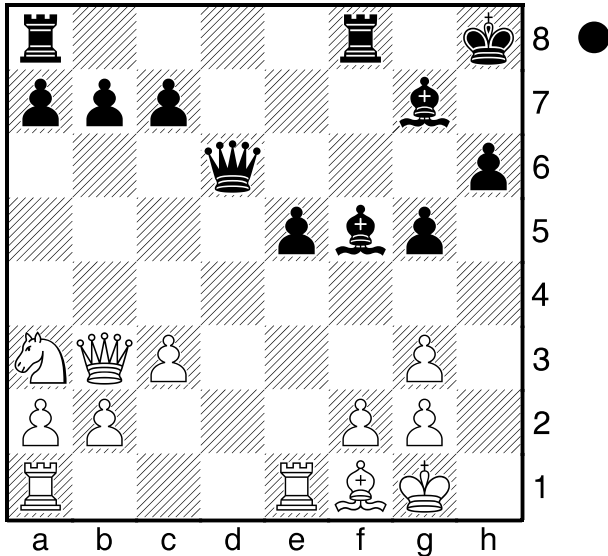
[8.h3]

8...Nxe5

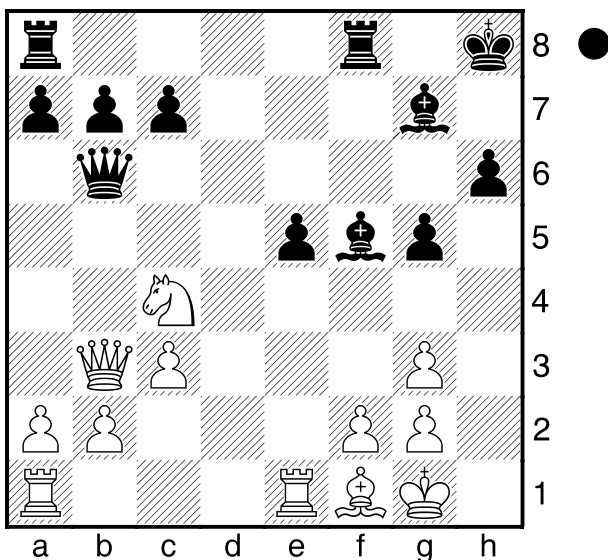
[8...dxe5]

9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bg5?! h6 11.Bh4 Qd6

[11...g5 12.Bg3 Nh5!= / \bar{f}]
12.Qc2 g5 13.Bg3 Nh5 14.Bf1
 [14.Bc4!?]
 [14.Na3!]
14...f5 I could feel myself slipping down
 the rabbit-hole...
 [14...Be6= / \bar{f}]
15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Qb3+ Kh8 17.Na3
Nxg3 18.hxg3

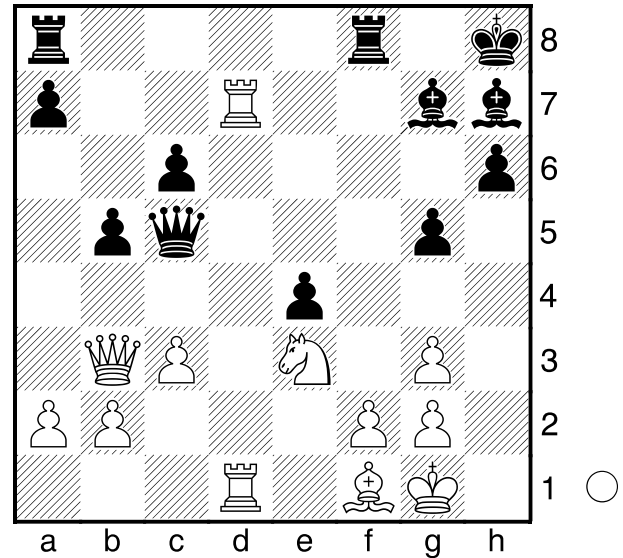


Qb6?!
 [18...Qc5=]
19.Nc4



Qc5
 [19...Qxb3! 20.axb3 e4 \pm]

20.Ne3 Bh7?! 21.Rad1 c6 22.Rd7
 [22.Qxb7!+-]
22...b5 23.Red1 e4?
 [23...Rae8 24.R1d6 e4 \pm]



24.Rxg7!
 [24.Rxg7 Kxg7 25.Rd7+ Kh8
 (25...Kg6 26.Qe6+ Rf6 27.Qxe4+)
 26.Qe6 Rae8 27.Qxh6 Re7
 28.Qxf8+]
1-0

D80
 [19...Qxb3! 20.axb3 e4 \pm]
 [22.Qxb7!+-]
 [23...Rae8 24.R1d6 e4 \pm]
 [25...Kg6 26.Qe6+ Rf6 27.Qxe4+]
 [28.Qxf8+]
1-0

(ew: Tony has been annotating his
 games for the TNM archive, and does an
 excellent job! Opening coverage, self-
 investigation, critical moments, trying to
 find the right answers to the right
 questions. So I am happy to include
 some of his (and others') work here in
 the Newsletter...) ===== Going into the
 last round after two tough losses,
 especially one where a winning position
 was thrown, is always a tough

challenge mentally -- not just because of the realization that you're no longer a prize contender, but more because that these losses shackle your mind, forcing you to think about them over and over again and affecting your game. To go in as Black against a master-level opponent under these conditions is an even greater challenge. My goal was simple: don't lose. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5** I am less surprised and more perplexed at this point as to why people insist on reiterating the 4. Bg5 Grunfeld against me. It's not particularly critical, does not pose as many problems for Black as other lines, and is not even that solid anymore with the advent of new variations against it (hint: if you want a solid Grunfeld line, go play the Fianchetto Grunfeld and watch me give you a death stare). At best, it's a nice surprise weapon to pull out once in a while. And yet I've had the pleasure to play against it as Black three times in a row! **4...Bg7** Sacrificing the pawn in order to gain activity.

[4...Ne4 as I mentioned previously is the "old main line", but there are several variations here that are quite unpalatable to Black, so it gets played less frequently these days.]

5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.cxd5 c5

[6...c6 is an alternative.]

7.e3!? A very rare move, but this pawn maneuver gives Black the chance to transpose back into the other line. Two other variations were played earlier in this very TNM!

[7.Nf3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qb6 9.Nb3 a5 10.Qd2 a4 11.Nc1 a3 12.Nb3 axb2 13.Qxb2 Qb4 14.Rc1 Bf5 15.e3 0-0 16.Qd2 Rc8 17.Nd1 Qxd2+ 18.Kxd2 Rxa2+ 19.Ke1 Rxc1 20.Nxc1 Rc2 21.Nd3 Na6 22.Nf4 Nc5 23.Bb5 g5 24.Nh5 Bd3 25.Nxf6+ exf6 26.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 27.Kf1 Rd2 28.Nc3 Rxf2+

29.Kg1 Rc2 30.h4 Rxc3 31.Kh2 Rc1 32.Rxc1 Nxc1 33.hxg5 fxg5 34.Kg3 b5 35.Kg4 b4 36.Kf5 b3 37.d6 b2 38.Kf6 b1Q 39.d7 Qg6+ 40.Ke7 Qe6+ 0-1 40, Lewis,E (1974)-Ivanenko,A (2147) Spring TNM 2023 (3)]

[7.dxc5 Nd7 8.c6 Nc5 9.e3 0-0 10.Bc4 bxc6 11.Nge2 Rb8 12.dxc6 Qa5 13.0-0 Rxb2 14.Nd5 Ne4 15.Nxf6+ Nxf6 16.Nd4 Bf5 17.Rc1 Be4 18.Be2 e5 19.c7 Bb7 20.Nb3 Qxa2 21.Bc4 Qa4 22.Nc5 Qc6 23.Nxb7 Qxb7 24.Qd8 Kg7 25.Be6 fxe6 26.Qxf8+ Kxf8 27.c8Q+ Kf7 28.Rc7+ 1-0 Dasika,A (2143)-Ivanenko,A (2147) Spring TNM 2023 San Francisco Mechanics' Insti (5)]

7...cxd4 8.exd4 Transposing back to the 6...c6 variation after 7.e4 cxd5 8.exd5, having avoided all unpleasant sidelines. **8...Qb6**

[I thought during the game that perhaps 8...0-0 9.Nf3 (A high level game continued: 9.Nge2 e6 10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.d5 Bd7 12.Ng3 Qb6 13.Qd2 Bd4 14.Bc4 Re8+ 15.Kf1 Na6 16.Rd1 Bg7 17.d6 Rac8 18.Bd5 Nc5 19.h4 Rcd8 20.h5 Be6 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Bf3 Bc4+ 23.Kg1 Re6 24.Nce4 Nxe4 25.Nxe4 Bb5 26.Rh4 Bc6 27.Qg5 Bxe4 28.Rxe4 Rxe4 29.Bxe4 Rxd6 30.Rxd6 Qxd6 31.Qd5 Qxd5 32.Bxd5 Bxb2 33.Bxb7 Kg7 34.Bd5 Bd4 35.Kf1 Bb6 36.Ke2 Bd4 37.Bb3 Bb6 38.Bc4 Bc5 39.Bd5 Bb6 40.Bb3 Bc5 41.Kf3 ½-½ Dubov,D (2618)-Fressinet,L (2709) EU-ch 15th Yerevan 2014 (3)) 9...Bg4 was more accurate, but it turns out that after 10.Be2 (10.Bc4 Nd7 11.Qd2 a6 12.Ng5 e5 13.Nce4 exd4 14.Nxf6+ Nxf6 15.0-0 h6 16.f3 hxg5 17.fxg4 Nxd5 18.Qxd4 Nf4 19.Qxd8 Raxd8 20.Rfd1 Kg7 21.g3 Ne6 22.Bd5 Rd6

23.Bxb7 Rb6 24.Bd5 Rxb2 25.Rab1 Rfb8 ½-½ Sokolov,I (2699)-Saric,I (2637) CRO-chT1A 21st Sibenik 2012 (6.12)) 10...Qb6 11.0-0 Qxb2 12.Ne4= White is completely fine, having caught up in development and ready to use the open files to generate play. One game continued: Bg7 13.d6 exd6 14.Nxd6 Qb4 15.Nxf7 Rxf7 16.Rb1 Qe7 17.Bc4 Nc6 18.Re1 Qd7 19.h3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Raf8 21.Re4 Nxd4 22.Qe3 Nc6 23.Be6 Qc7 24.Rf4 Be5 25.Rxf7 Rxf7 26.Rd1 Kg7 27.Bxf7 Qxf7 28.a3 Bc7 29.Qe4 h5 30.g3 Bb6 31.Rd2 Kh6 32.Kg2 Qf6 33.a4 Bd4 34.f4 Bb6 35.g4 hxg4 36.hxg4 Qf7 37.Rd5 Qe7 38.Qxe7 Nxe7 39.Rd7 Bc5 40.Rxb7 a5 41.Kf3 Kg7 42.Rc7 Bb4 43.Ke4 Kf6 44.Ra7 Ke6 45.Ra6+ Kf7 46.f5 gxf5+ 47.gxf5 Bc3 48.Ra7 Kf6 49.Ra6+ Kf7 50.f6 Ng8 51.Kd3 Bb4 52.Kc4 Nxf6 53.Kb5 Nd5 54.Rxa5 Bxa5 55.Kxa5 Nc3 56.Kb4 Nxa4 57.Kxa4 ½-½ Leniart,A (2372)-Baklan,V (2618) Wroclaw Polonia op 4th 2009 (3)]

9.Bb5+ Bd7 I wasn't too keen on giving up the bishop pair, but other variations proved to be rather bleak.

[9...Nd7 10.Nf3 a6 11.Bxd7+ Bxd7 12.Qd2 Bb5= and though White may struggle with development somewhat, Black doesn't have a good method of digging out the d-pawns.]

[I even thought about the cheeky 9...Kf8!? but correctly deduced that it was too slow -- Black has to be quick in development to compensate for the pawn. 10.Nge2 Kg7 (10...a6 somehow ended working for Black in one of the games, but I wouldn't want to repeat his experience. 11.Ba4 Qxb2 12.0-0 b5 13.Bb3 Qa3 14.Ne4 Nd7 15.Rc1 Kg7 16.Rc7 Rd8 17.d6

Rb8 18.Qd2 Bb7 19.Nc5 Nxc5 20.dxc5 Rdc8 21.Rxb7 Rxb7 22.Qd5 Ra7 23.Qxf7+ Kh6 24.Nf4 Qxc5 25.Ne6 Qf5 26.Bd1 exd6 27.Qxa7 Qxe6 28.Qxa6 Rc5 29.Bb3 Qe7 30.g3 Bd4 31.Qa8 Rf5 32.Qg2 Qe2 33.Kh1 Bxf2 34.Rc1 d5 35.g4 Rf3 36.g5+ Kg7 37.Bxd5 Rd3 38.Bb3 Qf3 39.Rf1 Qxg2+ 40.Kxg2 Bc5 41.Rf7+ Kh8 42.Rc7 Bf8 43.Rf7 ½-½ Johansson,J (2378)-Cernousek,L (2457) Olomouc GM 17th 2014 (9)) 11.0-0 Rd8 12.a4 a5± and now it's White's turn to press Black as he struggles to get his queenside developed.]

10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Nge2 0-0

12.Qd2?!± Perhaps it is a bit harsh to judge this as an inaccuracy, but White needs to complete development before contesting Black and the b2-pawn wasn't that important anyway.

[Surprisingly, the predecessor turns out to be an ancient game between two Soviet legends: 12.0-0 Rfd8 13.Qd3 Rac8 14.a4 Bg7 15.a5 Qa6 16.Qe3 Re8 17.g3 Rcd8 18.Nf4 Bh6 19.Qf3 Bxf4 20.Qxf4 Nf6 21.Qe5 b6 22.Ra4 bxa5 23.Rfa1 Qb7 24.Rxa5 Qxb2 25.Nd1 Qd2 26.Ne3 Qe2 27.Kg2 Qd3 28.Rxa7 Qe4+ 29.Qxe4 Nxe4 30.Kf3 Nd6 31.R1a4 h5 32.R7a5 Nb7 33.Rb5 Nd6 34.Rc5 Nb7 35.Rc7 Nd6 36.Rb4 Kf8 37.Rc5 Rb8 38.Rxb8 Rxb8 39.Nc4 Rb3+ 40.Kf4 Nf5 41.Ke4 ½-½ Smyslov,V-Bronstein,D URS-ch34 Final Tbilisi 1966 (12)]

12...a6?!= It's written in my contract that I'm obligated to stamp my presence in a game with a head-shaker, so I suppose it's better to get it out earlier rather than later before it bites me in the behind. The idea was to follow up with ...♔d6, but it's too slow and quite frankly unnecessary.

[Much quicker was: 12...Bg7 13.0-0 Nf6 14.Rfe1 Rad8 15.Nf4 Rfe8 when Black is intending to follow up with ...g6 and perhaps ...h5 and is on his way to winning back the d5-pawn. White is not lost, but Black gets a pleasant position to play with.]
 [Even 12...Qd6 was actually playable, the idea being that 13.Nb5? Qxd5! 14.Nc7 Qxg2 15.Rg1 Qxh2 16.Nxa8 Rxa8+ and now White is regretting not castling earlier as the unsafe king + two pawns more than compensates for the exchange.]

13.0-0 Rfd8

[I was also thinking of 13...Rfe8 with ideas to play ...Rad8, g7, f6 and then maybe even throw ...e7-e5 in there somewhere, but ultimately preferred to play on the queenside.]

14.Rac1 Qa5!? Electing to press White's pieces and bring the knight in through b6. Perhaps a little dodgy compared to the solid play of g7-f6, but the computer sees nothing wrong with it.

[14...Bg7 15.Rfe1 Nf6 16.Nf4 Rd7= is also fine and perhaps more reliable.]

15.Qf4 Rac8

[I had also thought of 15...Nb6 but it quickly led to concerns after 16.b4 (I was also concerned about 16.Qc7?! because I somehow missed that after Rd7 17.Qc5 Qxc5 18.dxc5 Nxd5 I'm free to scoop up the pawn with zero repercussions due to 19. Rcd1 xc3 20. Rxd7 xe2+ coming with check and then escaping through f4.) 16...Qa3 (My initial thoughts were actually 16...Qxb4? but turns out I missed 17.Rb1 Qd6 18.Qxd6 Rxd6 19.Ne4+- when my knight would be hanging.) 17.d6 Rac8 18.dxe7 Bxe7= and while Black will recover the pawn, White gets a little too much

play and our pieces are a bit too loose for my liking, so I rejected this plan.]

16.a3

[16.d6? runs into Bg5! 17.Qe4 Bxc1 18.dxe7 Re8 19.Rxc1 Qb4 20.Nd5 Rxc1+ 21.Nxc1 Qxb2+- when White simply doesn't have enough active resources to utilize the two passers.]
 [I was actually spending my time calculating 16.b4? but it turns out to be completely fine for Black after Qxb4 17.Rb1 Qa5! 18.Rxb7 Rxc3 19.Nxc3 Qxc3 20.d6 e5!+ is simplest for Black, shutting down any play White might have generated and taking comfort in the isolani with two minors harassing it.]

16...Nb6 17.Qf3 Bg5 Moving the bishop away from threats on f6 and preparing ...xd5.

[17...Nxd5?? is obviously no good due to 18.Nxd5 Rxc1 19.Nxf6+ exf6 20.Rxc1+-]

18.Ra1!? A disgustingly ugly-looking move, but completely effective at shutting down play against the d5-pawn.

[I was almost certain White was forced into 18.Rcd1 Nxd5 19.Ne4 Bh6 20.N2c3 Nxc3 21.bxc3+ which is unbelievably comfortable for Black.]

18...Nc4! However, a change of plans showed that the knight was actually outposted quite well on c4, threatening the b2-pawn and a fork on d2.

[18...Nxd5?? is a mistake once again, this time met by 19.b4! and Black is forced to drop his knight. Nxb4 20.axb4 Qxb4+-]

19.Qg4 Not really an inaccuracy, but it allows Black to keep up the pressure in the position.

[19.b4 Qb6 20.Rfd1 after which Black has nothing better to do than hunker down with a move like Qf6=]

19...Bd2

[19...Bh6 is also fine, but I preferred the more active position.]

20.Rfd1?!? However, this lets Black take a semblance of control over the game.

[20.Qh4 was better and now after Bxc3 21.Nxc3 Nxb2 22.Ne4 Qxd5 23.Qxe7= The king threatens force Black to liquidate quickly.]

20...Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qxd5

Black reclaims the pawn and now his active pieces are looking well-placed compared to White's -- not to mention the more solid two pawn islands vs the three White has. **22.h4** I briefly considered whether I should waste any time on the kingside. **22...h5**

But ultimately decided that the principled counter worked best, especially since it comes with a tempo. **23.Qg3 Qd6**

Offering the trade of queens to simplify the position and take away White's best piece.

[My good friend Stockfish prefers to maintain the tension on the center with 23...Nd6 but after 24.Rd3 Ne4 25.Qe3 Rc7 26.Nf4 Qf5 it is not quite clear to me how Black is supposed to penetrate White's queenside, even if the position does look visually pleasing to the eye.]

24.Qxd6 Rxd6 25.Rdb1 b6 26.a4 e5

Threatening to blow open files for Black's rooks. **27.Ra2 exd4** However, this simplifies into a basic rook + minor endgame, so the draw is on the table at this point.

[In case Black wants to maintain the tension, there's the option of: 27...Kf8 28.Re1 Ke7 29.Ng3 Re6 30.Rae2 exd4 31.Rxe6+ fxe6 32.cxd4 Kd6= And while Black's king may be closer to the center, he doesn't have enough compensation to escape the draw.]

28.cxd4 Kg7 29.g3 Kf6 30.Rc2 Re8

Threatening the fork on a3. **31.Rb3**

[31.Rxc4 Rxe2 32.Rcb4 Ree6 33.d5 Rxd5 34.Rxb6 Ra5= is also drawn.]

31...b5!? Crafty little trick to ease Black's job in the position, although far from the only move. **32.axb5 axb5 33.Nc3**

[33.Rxb5 runs into Na3 although after 34.Re5! Rxe5 35.dxe5+ Kxe5= the game is dead in the water anyway.]

33...Rxd4 34.Nxb5 Rd1+ 35.Kg2 Ne5

(=) At this point, both opponents could see that continuing in this entirely symmetrical position would just end up beating a dead horse.

[Thankfully I didn't blunder right into 35...Nd2?? intending ...Ree1, which just runs into 36.Rd3!+- after which the knight eventually falls.]

1/2-1/2



Chitta,Adithya



Admassu,Yonathan

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (7.12)

[Winslow,Elliott]

E73

1647

1647

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4

0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.Be3 c5 Maybe better from the long view.

[The main line, certainly in keeping with King's Indian style, is 6...e5 7.d5 and now for some reason Na6 (maybe to get White to play f2-f3) (7...a5) 8.h4 most common, but (Sarana's preferred 8.g4 Nc5 9.f3 h5 10.g5 Nh7 11.h4 could well be even better.) 8...Nc5 9.Qc2 c6 10.h5]

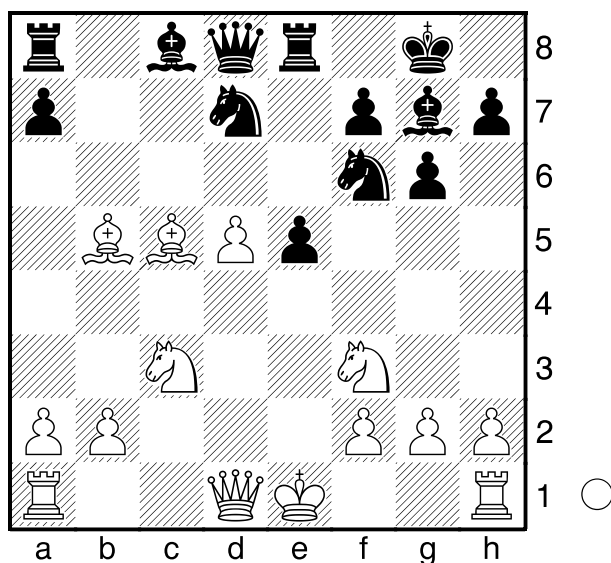
7.d5 e6 8.Nf3 exd5 9.cxd5 b5?!

[9...Re8 10.Nd2 a6 11.a4 Nbd7 has done fairly well, typical Benoni.]

10.e5! dxe5

[10...Ng4!? 11.Bg5 gets exciting: Qb6 12.exd6 b4 (12...a6; 12...Re8

13.Be7)]
11.Bxc5 Re8 12.Bxb5 Nbd7



13.Bc6? But this is going to run into big trouble!

[White has scored well here, just retreating the bishop to e3: 13.Be3 Ng4!]

A) Stockfish isn't thrilled but Sarana chooses **14.Qd2!? e4 15.Nd4**

A1) 15...Nxe3 16.fxe3
 (16.Qxe3! \pm) 16...Qb6 17.0-0 Rb8 18.b3 Rf8 19.Rac1 Ne5 20.Nxe4 Ng4 21.Rc6 Qd8 22.Be2 Qxd5 23.Bxg4 Qxe4 24.Bxc8 Bxd4 25.exd4 Qxc6 26.Bg4+- but 1-0 (97) Sarana,A (2668)-Jones,G (2617) PRO League Prelim Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (2.3);

A2) 15...Nde5 16.0-0 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Bd7 18.Rac1 Bxb5
 (18...Bh6=) 19.Ncxb5 Nd3 20.Rc2 Bxd4 21.Nxd4 Qxd5 22.Rc7 Ne5 23.Qc3 Qxa2 24.b3 Qa6 25.Nc6 Qd3 26.Ne7+ Rxe7 27.Qxd3 exd3 28.Rxe7 Nc6 29.Rexf7 Re8 30.Rd7 Nb4 31.Ra1 a6 32.Ra4 a5 33.Rxa5 1-0 Sarana,A (2668)-Firat,B (2471) EU-ch 23rd

Vrnjacka Banja 2023 (2);

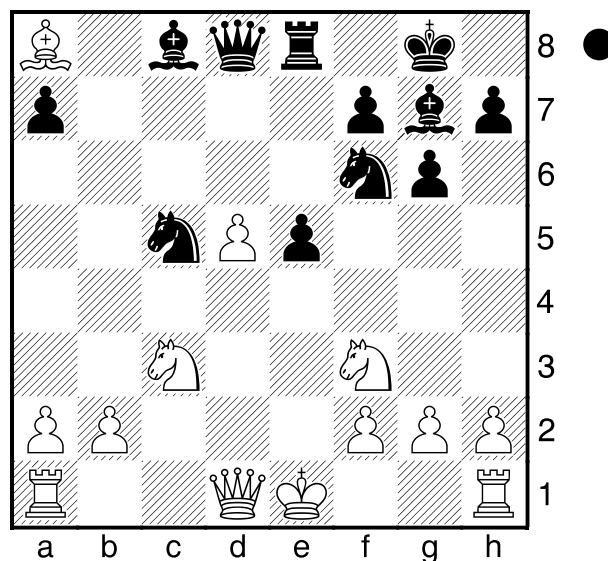
B) 14.0-0 \pm Nxe3 15.fxe3 Rb8 \pm]

13...Nxc5+

[13...e4!]

14.Bxa8?!

[14.0-0 e4]



14...Ba6! 15.Bc6 Nd3+ 16.Kd2 Bh6+!
 best of all

[16...Qb6!?]

17.Kc2 Nxf2?!

[17...Qb6!]

18.Bxe8 Nxd1

[18...Nxe8!]

19.Bxf7+ Kxf7 20.Nxe5+ Kg8

21.Raxd1 Bc8 22.b3 Bf5+ 23.Kb2

Bg7+- 24.g4 Nxg4 25.Nxg4 Bxg4

26.Rd3 Bf5 27.Rd2 Qf6 28.Rc1 Bh6

[28...Qg5!]

0-1

□ **Krayushkin,Igor**

■ **Rex,Tobiah**

C47

1726

1556

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (7.14)

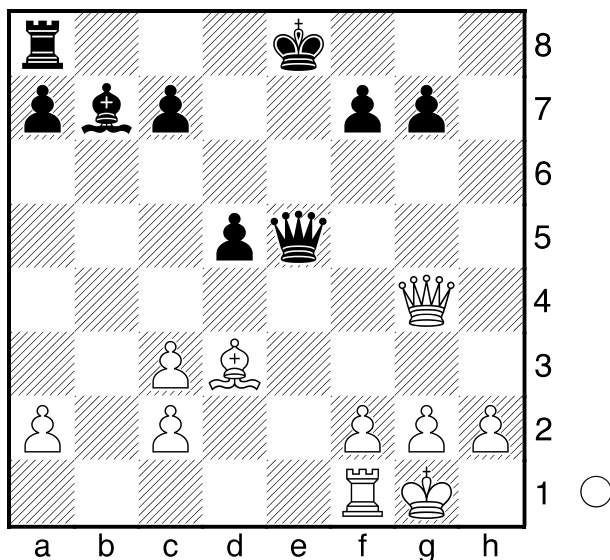
[Krayushkin,Igor]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 Bxc3+

To my mind Black's dark squared bishop is a much more valuable piece than White's knight on c3 plus the doubled c2 and c3 pawns. Instead of 6... Bxc3+ I expected the much more natural sequence 6...bxc6 7.Bd3 0-0 or even 7... d5.

[6...bxc6 7.Bd3 d5]
7.bxc3 bxc6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Bg5 Re8
10.0-0 d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.Bxf6 Qxf6
13.Qh5 Re5?! It doesn't seem like the best decision to shield a d5-pawn at the cost of giving up an h7-pawn and significantly weakening the king's safety. A better and less binding continuation would be 13... g6. **14.Qxh7+ Kf8**
15.Qh8+ Ke7 16.Rae1

[Less strong is 16.Bb5 c6 17.Bd3 g6 and Black is more or less Ok.]
16...Bb7 17.Rxe5+ Qxe5 18.Qh4+ Kd7 19.Qg4+ Ke8



20.Qe2? Here is where I had tunnel vision again! Having one extra pawn, I was searching exclusively to trade as many pieces as possible; however, despite this logic being correct in general, I had to better consider two specifics of the position: 1) Black's bishop on b7 is not guarded; 2) Black's king is vulnerable. Therefore, 20. Qa4+

was a significantly stronger move and would lead to more material gains for White.

[20.Qa4+ Kd8 (20...c6 21.Rb1 Rb8 22.Qxa7 Qc7 23.Ba6 and Black suffers material losses.; 20...Kf8 21.Qb4+ Kg8 22.Qxb7 and White wins.; 20...Ke7 21.Qb4+ Kf6 22.Qxb7 and White wins.) 21.Rb1 Rb8 22.Qxa7 Kc8 23.Ba6 winning.]

20...Qxe2 21.Bxe2 c5 22.Rb1 Bc6

23.Bb5 I keep following the logic of endless trading, but the Rook ending appeared not so easy to win.

[23.h4!?]

23...Kd7 24.f3

[It was not too late yet to give up the idea of endless trading by playing 24.Be2 Re8 25.Bf3]

24...Bxb5 25.Rxb5 Kc6 Now to play this Rook ending properly both players have to have a strong theoretical knowledge and practical experience in these types of endings. I cannot judge my opponent's skills, but I myself currently cannot be proud of my skills and a deep knowledge of the Rook endings. **26.Rb1 Rh8 27.g3** Now my opponent finds a very interesting maneuver to use weaknesses of my pawn structure on the queenside. Honestly, I overlooked it. **27...Rh6**
28.Kg2

[The engine suggests here 28.a4]
28...Kc7 29.Rd1 Ra6 30.Rxd5 Kc6
31.Rd2 Rxa2 Now it was the time for me to start an active play on the kingside.
32.h4 a5 33.g4 Ra3 34.h5 Strongly threatening g5. **34...Rxc3**

[Better was 34...f6! preventing immediate g4-g5.]

35.g5! Re3!

[Of course not 35...a4? because of 36.h6 Re3 37.Rd8 gxh6 38.gxh6 and Black is unable to prevent White's promotion.]

36.Rd8

[Mistake would be 36.h6? gxh6
37.gxh6 Re6 and White gradually
loses the game.]

36...Re7?

[Better is 36...Re2+ 37.Kg3 Re1
with playable position. (ik) White is
still solidly better, but lots of work for
a win. (ew)]

37.h6? Premature move and mistake!
Now Black could save the game.

[White had to play 37.c4! in order to
prevent Black's king option to hide
from the White Rook's checks: Kc6 -
Kd5(b5) - Kc4 (ew) but! a4! 38.Ra8
Kd6 39.Kg3 White is probably
winning regardless]

37...gxh6 38.gxh6 f6 39.Rh8 Kb7??
Terrible tactical blunder!

[To save the game Black had to play
39...Kd5=]

[or 39...Kb5 (ew)]

40.h7 Now the Rook check is
unavoidable. The White's h7-pawn
promotes. Black resigned.

1-0

□ **Starr,Albert Martin**

■ **Gay,John**

A00

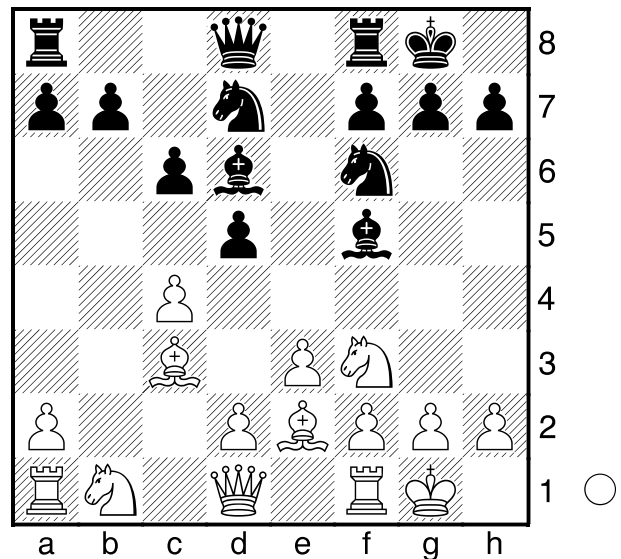
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2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (7.22) 18.04.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

John Gay may be unrated, but his
handling of Black's play against Albert
Starr's Orangutan is a seasoned
performance. White never quite got on
his feet. **1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5**
Nf6 4.c4 0-0 5.e3 c6 6.Nf3 d5 7.Be2
Bf5 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Bc3 Bd6

(Diagram)



10.g3?! There wasn't any threat (yet), so
this is just a voluntary weakening of the
light squares. **10...Re8**

[10...dxc4!? 11.Bxc4 b5 12.Be2
Rc8± White's center isn't matching
Black's queenside advances.]

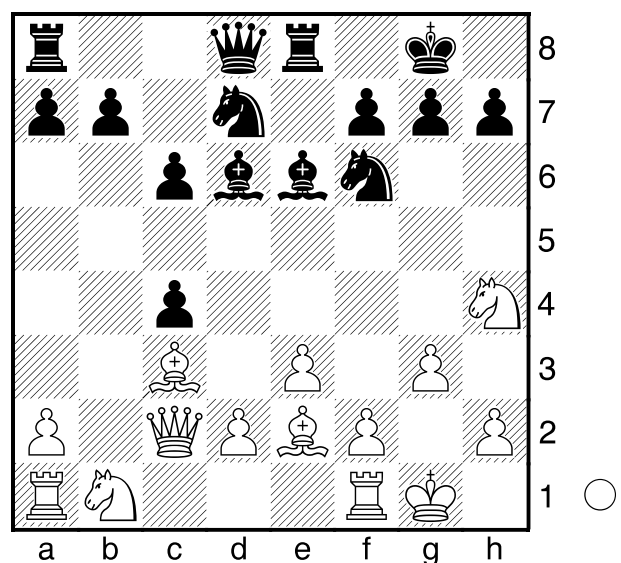
11.Nh4

[11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bb2 Rc8]

11...Be6 12.Qc2

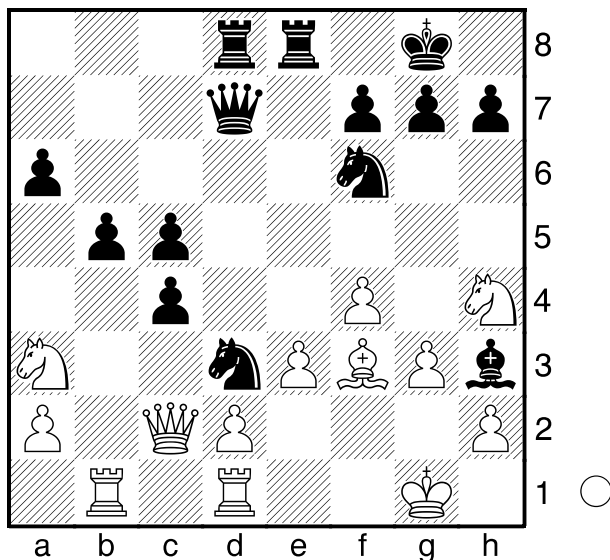
[12.cxd5 Nxd5± is already good for
Black.]

12...dxc4



13.Nf5 Be5 14.f4 Bxc3 15.Nxc3 Nc5
16.Rab1 Nd3 17.Nd4 Bh3 18.Rfd1 c5

19.Nf3 b6 20.Nh4 Qd7 21.Bf3 Rad8
22.Nb5 a6 23.Na3 b5



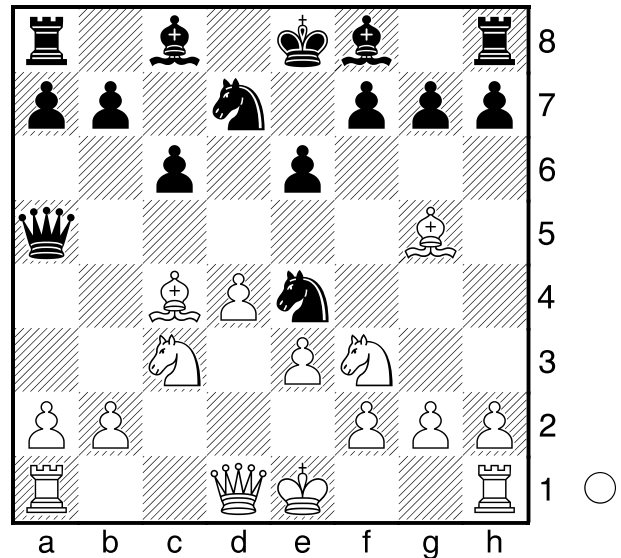
24.Be2 h6 25.Bxd3 cxd3 26.Qxc5
Qg4 27.Re1 Rd5 28.Qc6 Red8
[28...Rh5!]
29.e4 Rh5 And White comes undone
around his king. 30.Ng2 Bxg2 31.Kxg2
Qh3+ 32.Kf3 Qxh2 33.e5 Rh3 34.Rg1
Qe2#
0-1

D52
 Brown, Nicholas M 1480
 Sisti, Daniel J 1276
 2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (7.28) 18.04.23
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6
5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 The Cambridge
Springs Variation! Famously rolled out
to meet a young upstart Kasparov by the
resurgent former world champion
Vassily Smyslov in 1982, it is nowhere
near as popular now as so many other
systems Black can choose. But like
Smyslov, it's deeper than it looks.
7.Bd3?!

[7.cxd5]
[7.Nd2]

7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 Ne4!



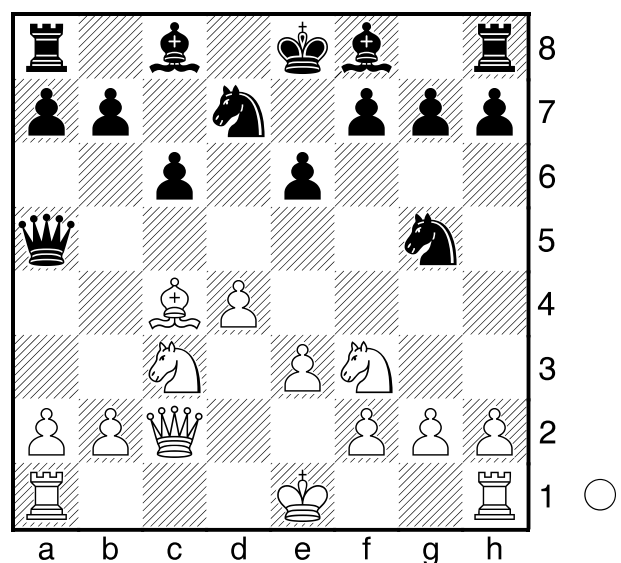
Double Attack! White has to notice...

9.Qc2?? And he didn't.

[9.Bh4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Qxc3+ 11.Nd2
Bb4 12.Rc1 Qxd2+ 13.Qxd2 Bxd2+
14.Kxd2 is adequate compensation in
the two bishops, center, development
(look at that Black bishop!), but Black
has a nice procedure here: e5!=
fixes everything in one move.]

[Similarly 9.Bf4 e5 10.Bg3 Nxc3]

9...Nxg5-+

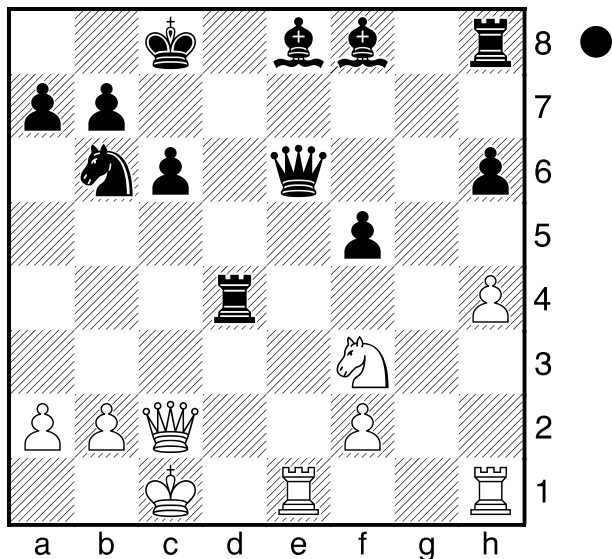


10.Nxg5?!

[10.Nd2!? threatens 11.h4 or 11.f4

winning the knight! But it's hard for Black to move now without answering the threat and winning. e5!? for example.]

10...Qxg5 11.Ne4?! Qxg2 12.0-0-0 Qg6 13.Bd3 f5 14.Rdg1 Qf7 15.Ng5 Qe7 16.Bc4 Nb6 17.Bb3 Bd7 18.h4 0-0-0 19.Re1 h6 20.Nf3 g6 21.Ne5 Be8 22.e4 Rxd4 23.exf5 gxf5 24.Bxe6+ Qxe6 25.Nf3



Qxe1+

[25...Re4 is simpler!]

26.Rxe1 Rc4 27.Rxe8+ Kc7!

[27...Kd7?? 28.Ne5+-]

28.Ne5 Rxc2+ 29.Kxc2 Nd7

[29...Bg7 30.Re7+ Kd6 31.Ng6

(31.Rxg7 Kxe5 32.Rxb7 Ke4

33.Rxa7 Kf3 Δ ...f1Q) 31...Bd4

(31...Rg8) 32.Rxb7 Rg8 33.h5 Nd7]

30.Nf7

[30.Ng6 Rg8 31.h5 Nf6! 32.Rxf8

Rxf8 33.Nxf8 Kd6 (33...Nxh5)]

30...Rh7 31.Nd8 Be7

[31...Re7]

32.Ne6+ Kd6 33.Nf4

[33.Nd4 Ke5]

33...Bxh4 34.Re6+ Kc7 35.Nd3 Bg5

36.a4 Re7 37.Rxe7 Bxe7 38.Nf4 Nf6

39.f3 Kd6 40.b3 Nd5 41.Ne2 h5

42.Ng3 h4 43.Nxf5+ Ke5 44.Nxh4

Bxh4 45.Kd3 b5 46.axb5 cxb5 0-1

D42

Winslow,Elliott 2193

Suarez,Sebastian 2049

2023 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 02.05.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1

[10.Bb1 b6 11.Re1 Bb7 12.a3 Bf6

13.Ne4 Be7 14.Qd3 g6 15.Bh6

(15.b4 Nf6 16.Neg5 Rc8 17.Ra2

Qd6 18.Rae2 Nd8 19.Ne5 Qd5

20.Qh3 Rc3 21.Be3 Qd6 22.Qh6

Re8 23.Nxh7 Nxh7 24.Nxf7 Nxf7

25.Qxg6+ Kf8 26.Bh6+

1-0 Dandridge,M (2215)-Kreiman,B

Midwest Class M/X USA 1993 (5))

15...Re8 1-0 De Vreugt,D (2378)-

L'Ami,E Utrecht Keres Memorial op

1999 (2)]

10...Ncb4

[10...Nf6 11.a3 b6 12.Bb1 Bb7

13.Qd3 g6 14.Bh6 Re8 15.Ba2

½-½ Le Blancq,S (2270)-Campora,D

(2370) Olympiad-28 Thessaloniki

1988 (1)]

[10...Bf6 11.Be4 Nce7]

11.Bb1 b6

[11...Nf6]

12.a3

[12.Ne5!]

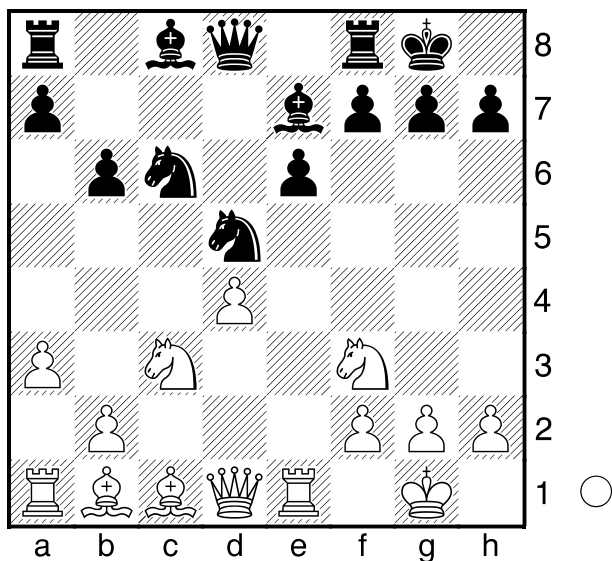
12...Nc6?!N

[12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nd5 14.Qd3

A) 14...Nf6 15.Bg5 (15.Ne5!);

B) 14...g6]

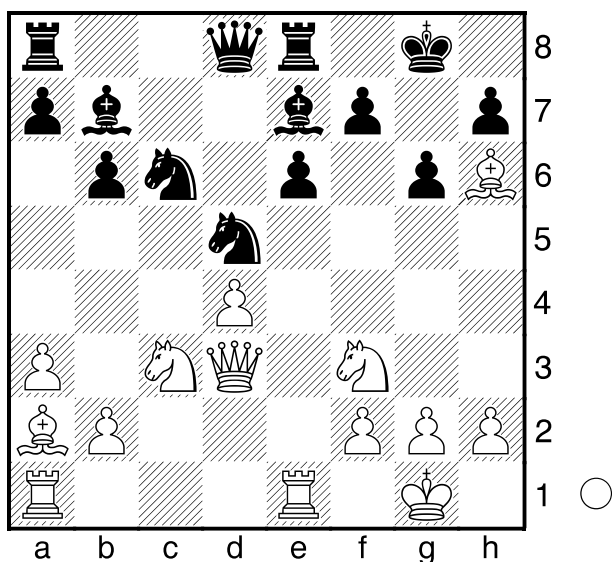
(Diagram)



13.Qd3

[How did I miss 13.Qc2! g6 14.Bh6 Re8? 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Ba2 Qd6 17.Rad1!+- when 18.d5 is decisive. Na5 18.b4 Nb7 19.d5 e5 20.Qc6 (20.Rxe5)]

13...g6 14.Bh6 Re8 15.Ba2 Bb7



16.Ne4N

[16.Nxd5 exd5 17.Ne5 Bf6 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.Rxe8+ Qxe8 20.Qd2 Qd7 21.Be3 h5 22.Rc1 Rc8 23.h3 Bb7 24.Bb1 Qe8 25.Ba2 Rxc1+ 26.Qxc1 Qb5 27.Qc3 Kg7 28.b4 Ba6 29.Kh1 Qd7 30.Bb3 Bc4 31.Bd1 h4 32.Qd2

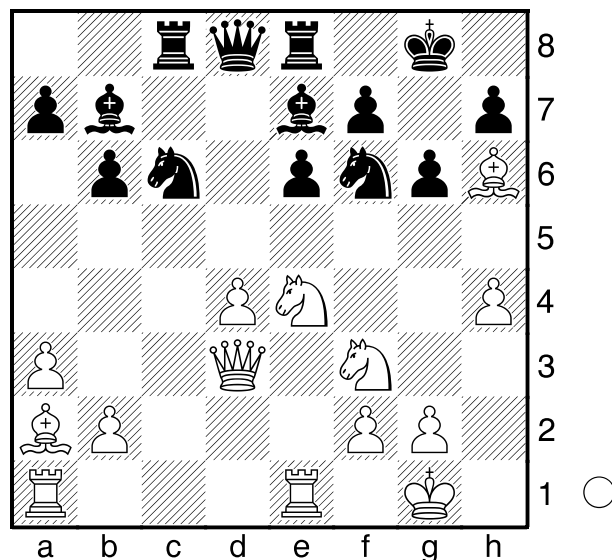
b5 33.Bg5 Qf5 34.Kg1 Qe6 35.Bxf6+ Qxf6 36.Qe3 Qe6 37.Bg4 Qd6 ½-½ Le Blancq,S (2270)- Campora,D (2370) Olympiad-28 Thessaloniki 1988 (1)]

16...Rc8N

[16...Qd7 17.Rad1 (17.b4) 17...Rad8 18.Nfg5 f5 19.Nc3 Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Rc8 21.h4 Nd8 22.Qg3 Nf7 23.Bd2 Nxc3 24.Bxc3 Bd5 25.Bb1 Qc7 26.Qh3 Qf4 27.Bd3 a5 28.Ba6 Rc7 29.Bd2 Qd6 30.Bd3 Qd7 31.Bf4 Rcc8 32.Bb1 a4 33.Rd2 Nd6 34.Qg3 Ne4 35.Bxe4 Bxe4 36.f3 Bd5 37.Kf2 Qg7 38.h5 Rc4 39.hxg6 hxg6 40.Rh1 Rxd4 41.Re2 Rxf4 42.Qxf4 Rc8 43.Rd1 b5 44.Qd6 Qa7+ 45.Kg3 Qc5 46.Qe5 Qc7 47.Kf4 Kf7 48.Qxc7+ Rxc7 49.Kg5 Rc8 50.Rh1 Ke7 51.Rh7+ Kd6 52.Kxg6 Rc1 53.Kf6 Ra1 54.Rc2 Ra2 55.Rh8 1-0 De Vreugt,D (2378)- L'Ami,E Utrecht Keres Memorial op 1999 (2)]

[16...Bf8 17.Bg5 Be7 18.h4±]
[16...Bf6!?]

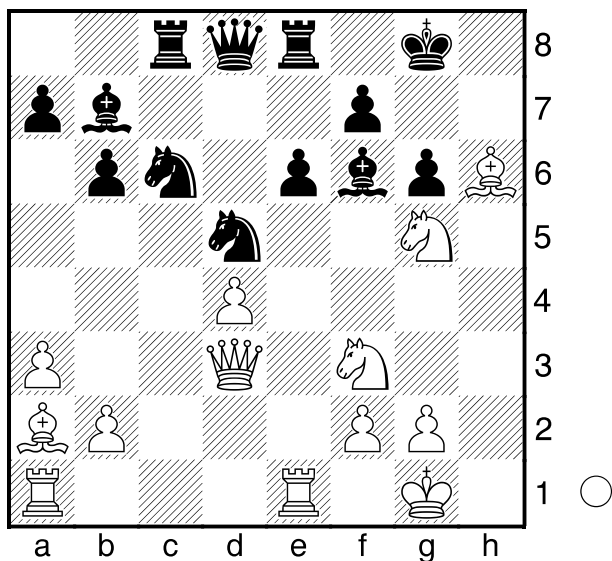
17.h4! Nf6?!



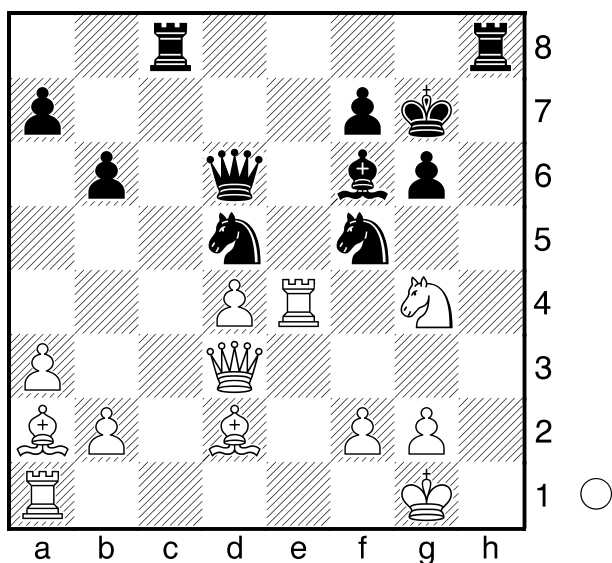
18.Neg5!+- Nd5 19.h5

[19.Nxe6!?]

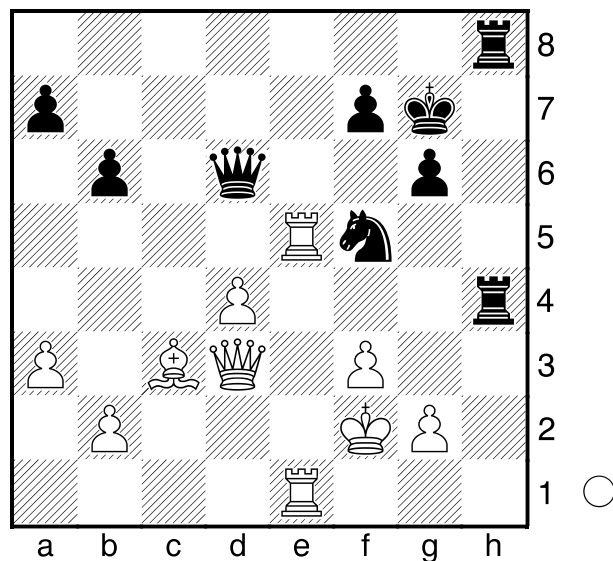
19...Bf6 20.hxg6 hxg6



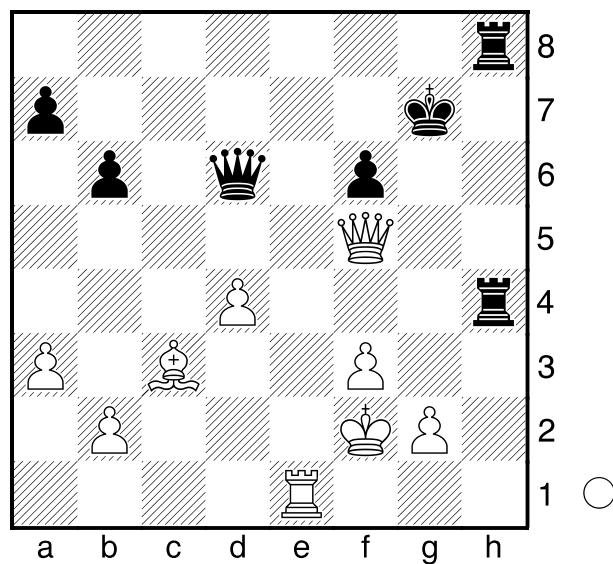
21.Nxe6! Qd6
 [21...Qd7]
 22.Neg5 Nce7 23.Ne4 Qe6 24.Nc5
 Qc6 25.Nxb7 Qxb7 26.Bg5 Qc6
 27.Ne5 Qd6 28.Bd2
 [28.Qf3!]
 28...Nf5 29.Re4 Kg7 30.Ng4
 [30.g4! Nfe7 31.Bh6+ Kg8
 32.Rae1]
 30...Rh8



31.Bxd5 Qxd5 32.Nxf6 Kxf6 33.Bc3
 Rh5 34.Rae1 Rch8 35.f3 Kg7 36.Kf2
 Rh4 37.Re5 Qd6
 (Diagram)

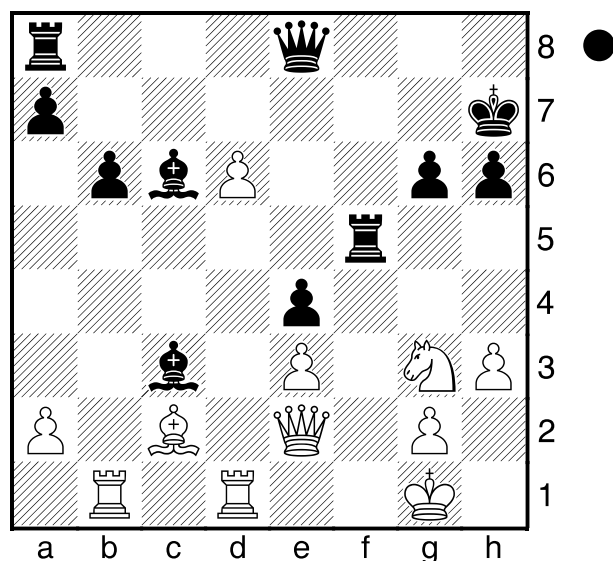
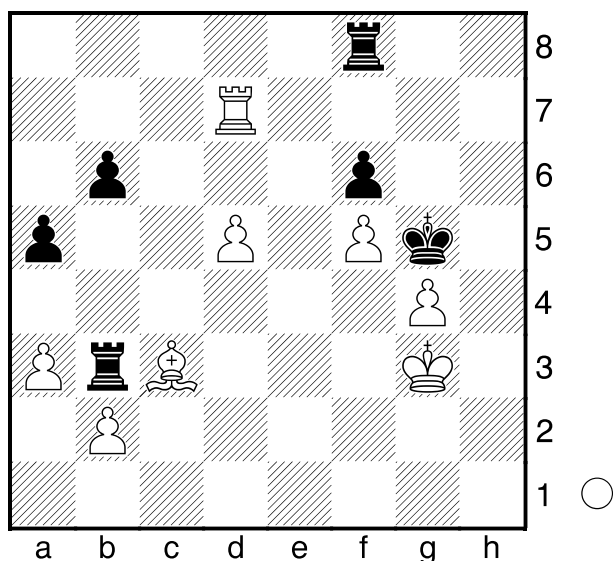


38.Rxf5 gxf5 39.Qxf5 f6



40.Re6 Rf4 41.Rxd6 Rxf5 42.g4! Rb5
 43.d5! Rf8 44.f4 Kg6 45.f5+ Kg5
 46.Kg3 Rb3 47.Rd7 a5

(Diagram)



48.Rg7+?

[48.Rh7! and mate on h5!]

**48...Kh6 49.Rg6+ Kh7 50.Kf4 Rb5
51.Bxf6 Rxd5 52.Rg7+ Kh8 53.Rd7+
Rxf6 54.Rxd5 Rc6 55.g5**

[55.Kg5!]

55...Rc7 56.g6 Rc6 57.Kg5 Rc2

58.Rd8+ Kg7 59.f6# 1:56

1-0

Nathan, Nitish Sg **A80 2151**
 Anderson, Michael Gene **1936**
 2023 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 02.05.23
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 f5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 b6

[3...g6?! 4.h4!]

[3...d6! (Marin)]

4.Nd2 Bb7 5.h3 g6 6.Ngf3 Bg7

7.Bc4 e6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bb3 Nc6 10.c4

Ne7 11.Rc1 h6 12.Bh2 Kh7 13.Bc2

d6 14.Re1 Ne4 15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.Nd2

d5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.f3 c5 19.dxc5

Bxb2 20.Rb1 Bc3 21.fxe4 dxe4

22.Bd6 Rf5 23.Qe2 Nc8 24.Red1 Qe8

25.Nf1 Bc6 26.Ng3 Nxd6 27.cxd6

(Diagram)

Rg5??

[27...Rc5!= 28.d7 (28.Qg4 h5

29.Qh4 Be5 30.Rbc1 Qd8) 28...Qe7!

29.d8Q Rxd8 30.Rxd8 Qxd8

31.Nxe4 Bxe4 32.Bxe4 Bg7]

28.d7 Black lost on time. The difference is:

[28.d7 Qe7 29.Nxe4! Bxe4 30.Bxe4 Qxe4 (30...Rd8 31.h4 (tempo!))

31.Rbc1! (another tempo!)

A) 31...Rd8 32.Rxc3 Qe7 33.Rc6!
(33.Rc7; 33.Qd3) 33...Rxd7

(or else Rcd6/Qd3 locking down the almost-a-queen on d7) 34.Rxd7

Qxd7 35.Qc2!+- A three-way move, threatening Rc7, attacking g6 (so

no 35...Rc5), stopping any ... Qd1+ counterplay or ...Rxc2+ and ... Qd2+ perpetual try.;

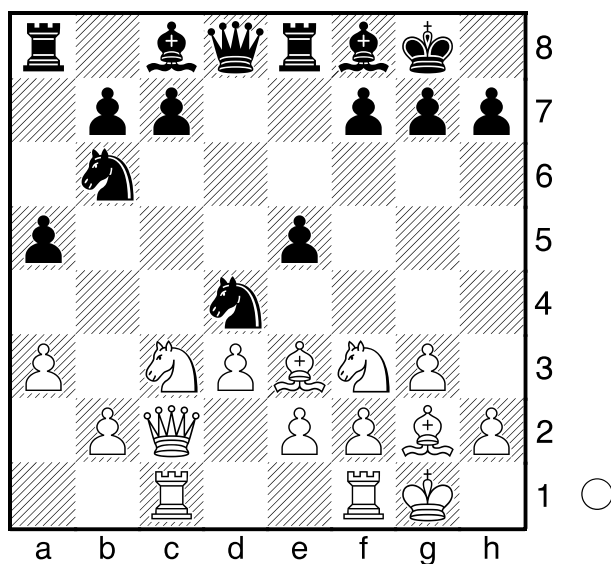
B) 31...Bf6 32.Rc8 Black's up a bishop, but White is winning.

Stockfish was finicky about this, but it didn't take much jiggling for us both to be convinced. Kg7 33.Rf1! (setting up a simple 34.Qf3). Black keeps on losing a rook for the d7-pawn.]

1-0

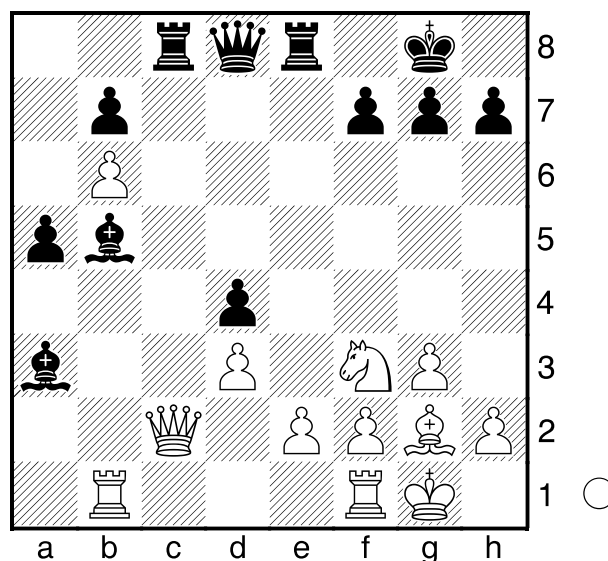
A29
 1869
 2143
 2023 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 02.05.23
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3
 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.0-0
 Be7 8.a3 a5 9.d3 0-0 10.Be3 Re8
 11.Rc1 Bf8 12.Qc2
 [12.Bxb6 cxb6 13.e3±]
 [12.d4 Nc4 13.dxe5 Nxe3 14.fxe3±]
 12...Nd4



13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Nb5
 [14.Nxd4!? Qxd4 15.Nb5 Qd8
 16.Nxc7±]
 14...c5 15.b4! Bd7 16.bxc5 Bxb5
 17.cxb6?
 [17.Qb2! Bc6! 18.cxb6!=]
 17...Bxa3! 18.Rb1± Rc8?!
 [18...Bc6]
 [18...Ba6]

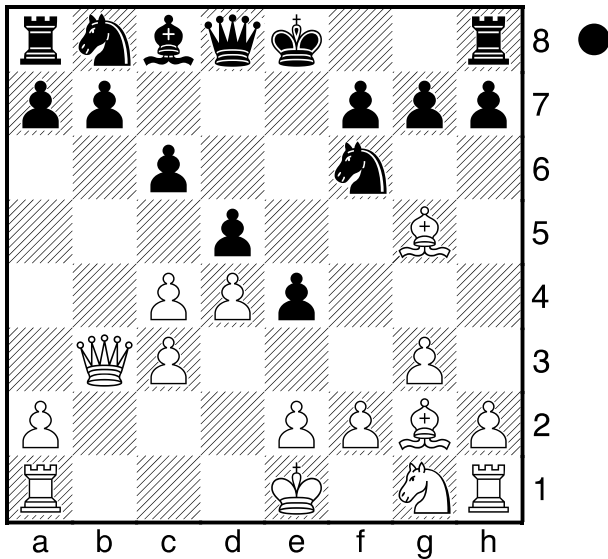
(Diagram)



19.Qa2?
 [19.Qxc8! Qxc8 20.Rxb5 Bb4
 21.Nxd4±]
 19...Bb4± 20.h4?!
 [20.Rxb4 axb4 21.Qb2 Bc6
 22.Nxd4!±]
 20...h6
 [20...Qxb6]
 21.Rfc1
 [21.Rxb4 axb4 22.Rb1 Qd6
 23.Qb2 Red8-+]
 21...Rc3 22.Rxc3 dxc3 23.g4 Qxb6
 24.g5 Qe6 25.Qxe6 fxe6 26.Nd4 Ba4
 27.Bxb7 Rd8 28.Nc6 c2 29.Rc1 Rd6
 0-1

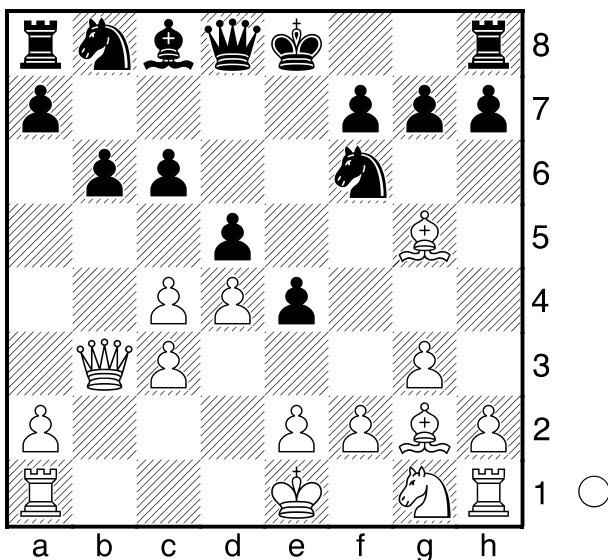
A20
 1988
 1600
 2023 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (1.6)
[SF 15.1 TA/Winslow, Elliott]

You've always got to be alert! White
 nearly gave this the win away! 1.c4 e5
 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.d4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3
 e4 6.Bg5 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d5 8.Qb3?!
 -0.57/32
 [8.Bxf6= 0.29/33 Qxf6 9.f3]



8...b6?! N 1.31/32

[Predecessor: 8...Nbd7! 9.Nh3 0-0 10.0-0 h6 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.c4 dxc4 14.Qxc4 Bg4 0-1 (53) Gagunashvili,M (2573)-Paichadze,L (2566) Tbilisi 2022]

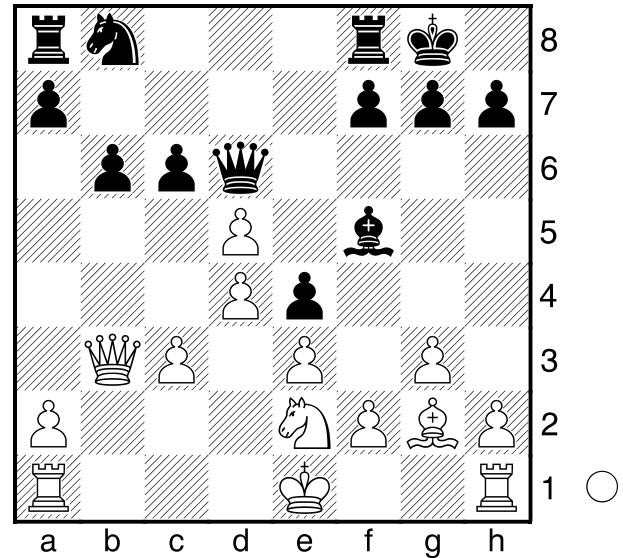


9.Bxf6± White leans in 9...Qxf6

[9...gxf6 is almost too horrible for words. But it's about the same evaluation.]

10.cxd5 Maybe because this just loses the pawn immediately? 10...Bf5 11.e3 0-0 12.Ne2 Qd6?!

[Black should just "force" White to clarify: 12...Rd8 13.dxc6 Nxc6 14.h3 Na5 White does have difficulties cashing in (the c4 square!).]



13.dxc6 Nxc6 14.0-0?! 1.29/36

[Better is 14.Qb5+- 1.74/26 g6 15.0-0]

14...Rfe8 1.90/31

[14...Rac8± 1.29/36]

15.Rac1+- h6 16.c4 Qd7 17.Nf4 Kh8

18.f3? 1.32/33

[18.c5+- 3.31/30]

18...exf3± 19.Bxf3 aiming for c5.

19...Nxd4? 4.11/29 20.exd4+- Qxd4+

21.Rf2 Re3 22.Qd1

[22.Rd1!]

22...Qxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rae8

[23...Rxf3 24.Rxf3 Bg4 25.Kf2]

24.Re2?? 0.00/39

[White has various winning moves, especially 24.Ng2+- 4.27/30]

24...Rxe2?? 4.27/30

[24...g5!= 0.00/39 and the game is equal! 25.Rd5 Bb1= 0.00 (25...gxf4= 0.00)]

25.Nxe2

[Weaker is 25.Bxe2 g5 although 26.Bd3! should still win.]

25...g5 26.Kf2 No more tricks: White will

win. 26...g4 27.Bd5 Kg7 28.Nd4 Bd7
29.Re1 Rc8 30.Re7 Kf6?! 31.Rxd7
1-0

□ Gu, Chunhui

■ Clemens, Kristian

2023 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (1.9)

[Clemens, Kristian/(Winslow, Elliott)]

C42

1581

1865

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3
Nc6 8.h3 Dr. Gu is the first to deviate
from our previous game, in which he
continued 8. Qd2 and got a fine but
unbalanced game 8...Be6 9.Qd2 Qd7
10.Ng5 Bf5 11.0-0-0 Bf6 12.Bd3
Ne5? Too fancy- I should have just
traded on d3. 13.Bxf5 Qxf5 14.g4!
Very energetic- even if this isn't 100%
correct, I still like the way White played
against my dubious idea Ne5?. 14...Qd7
15.f4 Nc4 16.Qe2 Nxe3 17.Qxe3+
Qe7 18.Qxe7+

[18.Ne4]

[18.Rhe1]

[18.Qf2]

18...Bxe7 19.Rhe1 h6 20.Nf3 Kf8

[20...Kd7 21.Ne5+ Ke8 22.Nd3

The computer line, but I'm not sure
what it accomplishes for Black besides
losing castling rights.]

21.Re4 Bf6 22.Rde1 d5 23.R4e3 g5

[23...g6 24.g5 hxg5 25.fxg5

and Bg7 allows Re7, while Bd8 allows
Re8+ followed by trading rooks and
Re8+ again with a nasty pin on the
eighth rank.]

24.fxg5 hxg5 25.Nd4 Rd8

[25...Bxd4 26.cxd4 and Black can
play for a draw, but this feels like
"groveling" and I wanted to play
something less bleak.]

26.Nf5 My plan was Rd7, but that is met
by Re8#. Dr. Gu magnanimously called

my defense "effortless", but it was far
from that. I had to keep a rook off of e7
while keeping control of f6 and f7 and
guarding against a battery on the f-file,
which actually happened in the game.

26...Kg8 27.Re8+ White played the last
5-7 moves very well, and I think Black is
barely hanging on here. Ever since I
played 12... Ne5, I was on the back foot
and playing with "the courage of
despair". 27...Kh7 28.R8e3

After outplaying me by a considerable
margin from move 12 to move 28. White
offered a draw here. It took a lot of
willpower to decline and play on. As
Oscar Wilde said, "I can resist
everything except temptation". 28...Rd7
29.Ng3 Rhd8 30.Rf3 Kg6 31.Ref1
Bh8 32.Nf5 Bf6 33.Ng3 Be5 34.Nf5
Rh8 35.Nd4 a6 Preparing c5, but I also
wanted to play a "slow move" to see
what White would do next. 36.Rf5?
Bf4+ 37.Kd1 Rxh3 38.Ne2 Be3
39.Rf6+ Kg7 40.Nd4

[40.R1f3 Rh1+ 41.Rf1]

40...Bxd4 41.cxd4 Rg3 42.c3 Rxg4
43.Kc2 Rg2+ 44.Kb3 c6 45.R6f5 Re7
46.a3 Kf8 47.a4 a5 48.c4 Rg3+
49.Ka2 dxc4 50.Rxa5 Rg2 51.Ka3
Re3+ 52.Kb4 Rxb2+ 53.Kxc4 Rc2+
54.Kb4 Rg2 55.Raf5 Rg4 56.Kc5
Here the quality of my scoresheet (and
my memory) goes downhill rapidly. The
rest of the game may not be totally
accurate. 56...Rc3+ 57.Kb6 (Actually
this is the last move on Clemens's
scoresheet.) 57...Rb3+ 58.Kc7 Rb4
59.Rxf7+ and a big time scramble.

Black's king slips out of the checks via
the f8-e8-e7-e6-d5-c4 (!) highway.

0-1



Ross,Max L



Horde,Nicolas T

E01

1668

1465

2023 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (1.16)

[Horde,Nicolas T]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qc2 e6

[4...dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.g3 e6

This is what "theory" dictates as we enter a normal Slav position]

5.g3 Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nbd2 Nbd7

8.0-0 e5?! I think this is too early as White can play against an IQP with an ideal bishop on g2 to pressure the d5 pawn

[8...Re8 Continuing development]

9.e4? Too premature as it allows Black to liquidate everything in the center

[9.cxd5 cxd5 10.dxe5 Nxe5

11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Nf3 Bc7

And White has achieved an ideal position against the IQP]

9...dxe4! 10.Nxe4

[10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Bxe5

12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 With a small edge for Black as White's LSB is biting on granite]

10...Nxe4?! Loses material by force

11.Qxe4 Nf6 12.Qc2 exd4 13.Nxd4

Bxg3! 14.hxg3

[14.Rd1 Bd6 My plan]

14...Qxd4 Black is up a nice pawn and still has the activity. On the other hand White has the bishop pair but no clear target as the a7-b7-c6 pawn formation is rock solid **15.Be3 Qe5! 16.Bf4 Qh5!** The threat is now Bh3 to exchange the LSB then Ng5. White just helped me reposition my vulnerable queen **17.f3?** Preventing any Ng5 but now the king is extremely weak **17...Be6**

[17...Qc5+! 18.Kh2 Nh5! This is what I missed 19.Bd2 Re8 20.Rfe1 Bf5 21.Qc3 Qd6]

18.b3 Qc5+ 19.Qf2 Qxf2+ 20.Kxf2

[20.Rxf2 Nh5 White has a problem

with the DSB now]

20...Rfd8 21.Bg5 Rd7

[21...h6 22.Bxf6 Rd2+ 23.Kg1 gxf6]

22.Bxf6 gxf6 Making it harder for Black to use its kingside majority. However all of White's pawn are on light squares so the endgame is still winning **23.Rad1**

Rad8 24.Rxd7 Rxd7 25.Ke3 Bf5

26.Rf2 Kf8 27.Kf4 Bg6 28.Ke3 c5!

There's no need to rush, I am first fixing all pawns on light square to remove any type of counterplay for White. If I manage to exchange the rooks then the entire queenside collapses **29.Rb2**

Trying to force b4 **29...a5!** Stopping this idea **30.f4 b6**

[30...Rd3+ I realized after playing b6 immediately that his intermezzo was stronger 31.Kf2 b6]

31.Bh3

[31.Bf1 Rd4 And now I infiltrate along the e file]

31...Rd3+ 32.Kf2 Rc3 33.f5 Bh5

34.Rd2 Ke7 Preventing any counterplay along the d file **35.Kg2 Bf3+ 36.Kf2**

Be4 37.Rd1 Rf3+ 38.Ke1 Rxd3

39.Bf1 Bxf5 40.Rd2 Up 3 pawns so

this is completely winning. My plan is to push the kingside pawns and exchange

material **40...Bg4 41.Kf2 Rf3+ 42.Kg2**

Re3 43.Kf2 Re6 44.Kg3 h5

[44...f5 Practically better as Black's king can go to the kingside]

45.Kf4 Re5 46.Bd3 Ke6 47.a3 Re1

48.a4 Rd1 49.Bf5+ A nice "tactic" but does not work **49...Ke7!**

[49...Bxf5 50.Rxd1 And it's equal]

50.Rf2 Bxf5?! I hesitated before exchanging the bishops. The problem is that now all my kingside pawns are weak and difficult to defend. My idea is to sacrifice all of them to gain time to target the c3 pawn.

[50...Rd4+ 51.Ke3]

51.Kxf5 Rd3 52.Rb2 Re3 53.Kf4 Re5

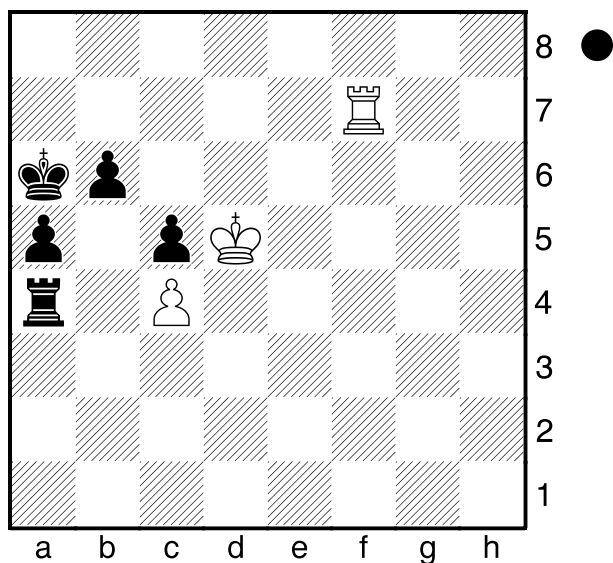
54.Rd2 h4 55.Rd3 Re1 56.Rh3 Rb1

**57.Re3+ Kf8 58.Kg4 Rh1 59.Rd3 Ke7
60.Re3+ Kd6 61.Kf5 Rg1 62.Rd3+
Kc6 63.Rh3 Rg3! Finally making
progress 64.Rxh4 Rxb3 65.Rh6 Rf3+
66.Ke4 Rf1 67.Rh7 Ra1**

[67...Rd1! Much easier 68.Rxf7 Rd4+
69.Ke3 Rxc4 70.Rxf6+ Kb7

The same position as in the game
except that White's king is cut off]

**68.Rxf7 Rxa4 69.Rxf6+ Kb7 70.Rf7+
Ka6 71.Kd5**



Rb4?? After 3 hours of game, I
completely lost lucidity. I did not realize
that White has a perpetual idea once the
king sneaks on c6. It's critical to free the
b4 square for the king

[71...Ra3! 72.Kc6 a4 73.Rf8 Ka5
74.Ra8+ Kb4 This is why it's so
important that b4 is available]

72.Rf8 a4 73.Kc6 Ka7

[73...Rxc4 This is what I calculated
when I played Rb4?? but I completely
missed that White mates first...

74.Ra8#]

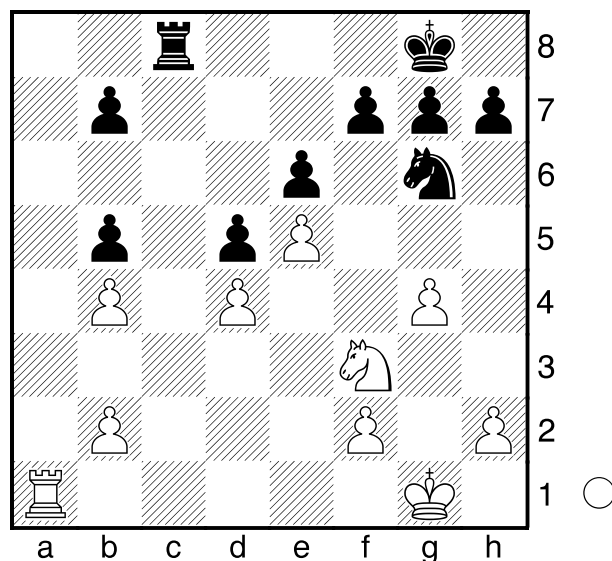
74.Rf7+ Kb8 75.Rf8+ Ka7 76.Rf7+

A frustrating draw for sure. I had
everything under control until I lost the
thread at the end by entering
unnecessary complications.

1/2-1/2

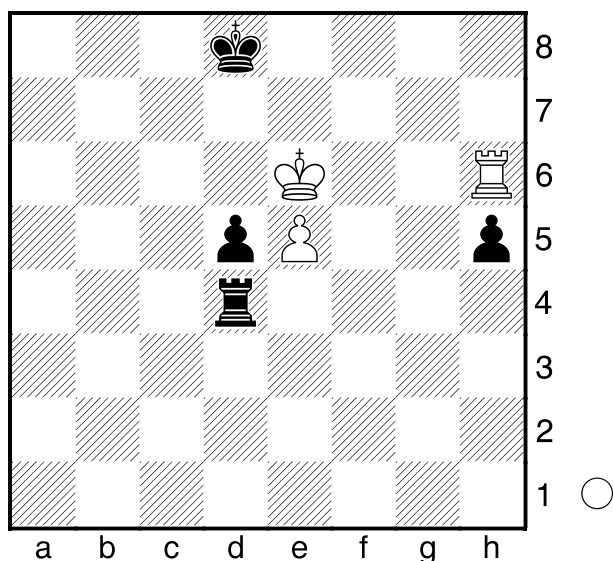
C02
1536
1316
2023 Summer TNM: 1200-1599 (1.18)
[Winslow,Elliott]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6
5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Qb6
8.Be2 Nh6**
[8...Nxd4?? 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Qa4+]
[8...Nge7]
**9.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 10.Qd2 Nf5 11.Qxb4
Nxb4 12.Na3 Bd7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Rfc1
Rac8 15.Rxc8 Rxc8 16.g4 Ne7
17.Nb5 Bxb5**
[17...Rc2]
18.Bxb5 Ng6 19.a3 a6 20.axb4 axb5



**21.Ra5 Nf4 22.h4 Kf8 23.Rxb5 Rc1+
24.Kh2 Rb1 25.Rxb7 h6 26.g5 h5
27.b5 Rxb2 28.b6 Nd3 29.Nd2 Rxd2
30.Rc7 Nb4 31.b7 Na6 32.Rc6 Rxf2+
33.Kg3 Rb2 34.Rxa6 Rxb7 35.g6 Ke7
36.gxf7 Kxf7 37.Kf4 Rb4 38.Ke3
Rb3+ 39.Kf4 Rh3 40.Kg5 g6 41.Ra7+
Ke8 42.Rg7 Rg3+ 43.Kf6 Kd8
44.Rxg6 Rg4 45.Rh6 Rxh4 46.Kxe6
Rxd4**

(Diagram)



47.Rxh5?

[47.Kd6! wins -- the h-pawn isn't the main thing, stopping the Philidor Position is. Black needs to be ready with the side-check from the queenside, ideally the a-file but the b-file works in a pinch. And here he's a move short.

A) 47...Ke8 48.e6 Kf8 (48...Rf4 49.Rh8+ Rf8 50.Rxf8+ Kxf8 51.Kd7) 49.e7+

A1) 49...Kg7 50.e8Q (50.Re6) 50...Kxh6 51.Qh8+ Kg5 52.Qxd4;

A2) 49...Kf7;

B) 47...Kc8 48.e6 Re4 49.e7 Rxe7 50.Kxe7]

[But! After 47.Rxh5? Black has three moves that work:

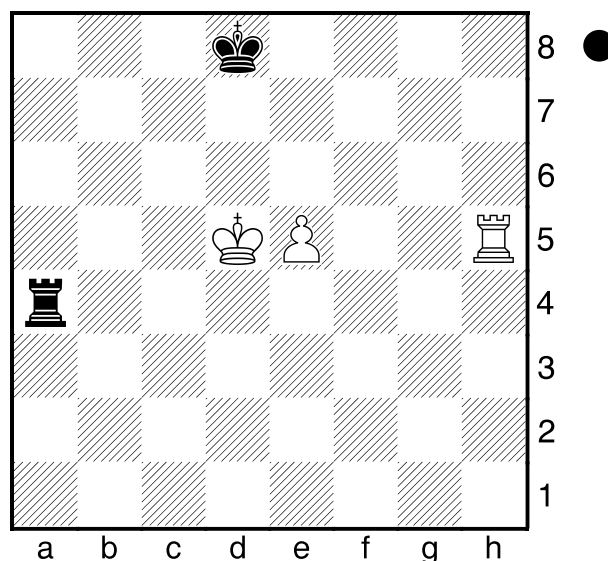
A) or 47...Rb4! but slightly less clear;

B) In fact 47...Kc7! also works, as 48.Rh7+ Kc6 49.Rh8 Black is drawing with four moves Rd1 (49...Kc5; 49...Rd2; 49...Kc7) 50.Rc8+ Kb5 51.Kd7 d4 (again, many moves work);

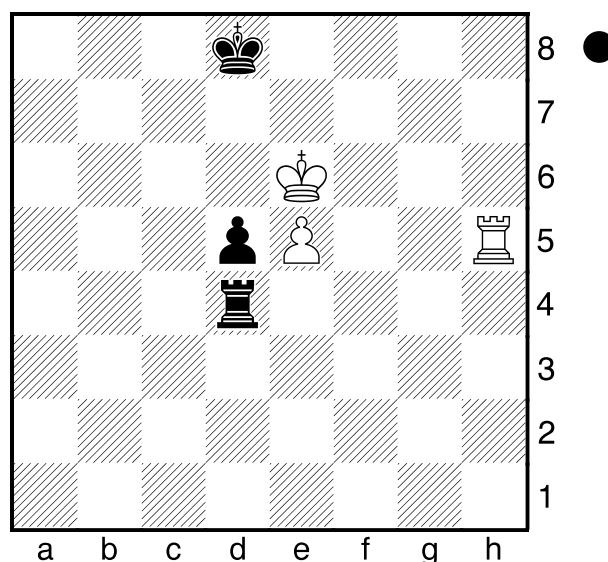
C) 47...Ra4!

C1) 48.Rh8+ Kc7 49.Ke7= d4?? (49...Ra1; 49...Ra2;

49...Ra3; 49...Rg4; 49...Rf4; 49...Re4; 49...Rd4) 50.Rd8+-; **C2)** 48.Kxd5



Ra6 In fact, almost anything here) is the famous drawing system noted by Philidor in the 1700s.]



1-0 ?? Black resigned in a drawn position!

1-0



Olson,David



Brickhouse,Christian

C44

1400

1228

2023 Summer TNM: 1200-1599 (1.22)

[Brickhouse,Christian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6

I haven't faced a Ponziani OTB so I spent some time thinking through my options. I decided on a counter attack rather than a mainline.

[3...d5 4.Qa4 Nf6 5.Nxe5 Bd6
6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.d3 (7.Qxc6+? Bd7
8.Qa6≠ Black wins back one pawn
and Black's better development is
compensation for the other.) 7...0-0
8.Be2 Re8 9.Nd2 Bg4 10.Qd1
Nakamura - Svidler, 1/2-1/2, Norway
Chess, 2013]

4.Bb5 Nxe4 5.Bxc6N bxc6?!

Black wanted the open b-file for his rook, but taking with the b-pawn creates three pawn islands after Nxe5. Better is dxc6 which leads to only two pawn islands and creates immediate control over the center.

[5...dxc6]

6.Nxe5 Qe7

[6...Qg5!? More threatening 7.Ng4 d5
8.d3 Qxg4 9.Qxg4 Bxg4 10.dxe4
dxe4 Black has won a pawn.]
[6...Ba6!? prevents castling 7.d3
but white can't actually take because
after Qe7 the a6 bishop blocks
castling again 8.dxe4? Qxe5]

7.0-0 Qxe5 8.Re1 Bd6 9.g3 0-0

10.d3 Nxf2! A desperado! Black gives back the knight but takes a pawn for his trouble. White needs to take the knight, as trading queens would be a disaster given White's lack of development.

11.Kxf2

[11.Rxe5? Nxd1 12.Re1 Nxb2
(12...Nxc3?! Black shouldn't help
white develop the knight 13.Nxc3)
13.Bxb2 Rb8-+ Black is up two

pawns, leads in development, and has the bishop pair.]

11...Qf5+ 12.Qf3 Qxf3+ Black doesn't actually need to trade queens here, but being up a pawn I wanted to simplify.

13.Kxf3 Ba6 14.d4

[14.c4!?]

14...Rfe8 15.Be3! Black wants the open file and is willing to trade rooks to get it, but White wisely blocks. Down a pawn, white should avoid trades, and the Bishop (as we'll see) does a very good job stabilizing White's center. **15...Rab8 16.b3 Bb7 17.c4 Bb4**

[17...c5+!? but I didn't like the position after 18.d5 since my dark-square bishop is tied down to c5 and my light-square bishop is blocked, but Bf8!?
19.Nc3 d6 20.Bf4 g6∞ and Black seems to have stabilized and even won the long diagonal]

18.Re2 d5 19.a3

[19.c5!? Ba6 20.Rb2 otherwise the b-pawn hangs in various lines Bd3
21.a3 Be1∞ and Black's bishops are way offside, though White's going to have trouble developing in the near future]

19...Bf8 20.c5 Ba6 21.Rb2 g6 22.Nd2 Bg7 23.b4 Bd3 There are two tactics here, one I only saw later and one I analyzed incorrectly.

[23...Be2+! 24.Kxe2 Bxd4
I saw this, but got the continuation wrong 25.Rab1? (25.Kd3 Bxb2
26.Ra2 Bg7≠ Black is up the exchange and has two extra pawns)
25...Bxb2? (25...Rxe3+! don't take the rook, exploit the pin (and then take the rook) 26.Kd1 Bxb2 27.Rxb2 Rxa3-+ Black is up the exchange and has 3 extra pawns.) 26.Rxb2
and I didn't like trading two bishops for a rook and a pawn, but d4!≠ wins the bishop]
[23...Rxe3+! sac the exchange

24.Kxe3 Re8+ removes the king from defense of the d4 square 25.Kf3 Bxd4-+ and black is not only winning back the exchange, but won a pawn and created a protected passed pawn in the process]

24.g4 Re6 Here Black starts playing without a plan, and starts to lose his grip on the position as White mounts a strong defense. **25.Rb3 Rf6+ 26.Kg3 Be4 27.Bf4!**

[27.Nxe4!? dxe4 28.Bf4 Re6 29.Bxc7 Rc8± Black would probably have an easier time given the passed pawn, but White's 4-on-2 is dangerous.]

27...Re6 28.Bxc7 Rc8 29.Bd6

[29.Be5?? Rxe5! 30.dxe5 Bxe5+ 31.Kf2 Bxa1-+ Black has won a full rook.]

29...Bxd4 30.Rf1 Be5+!? Computer seems to hate this. With the passed pawn and the 3-on-2 I like my chances in an end game, so I prefer to simplify.

31.Bxe5 Rxe5 32.Kf4 Rce8 33.Re3 g5+ 34.Kg3 Bg6 35.Rxe5 Rxe5

36.Nb3 White is going to threaten Black's backwards c6 pawn. **36...Bc2**

37.Nd4 Ba4 38.Rf6 Kg7? 39.Rf5

[39.Rd6! Re3+ 40.Kf2 Black has no more checks and can't defend the c6 pawn. White's pawn advance will be fast and dangerous.]

39...Rxf5 40.Nxf5+ Kf6 41.h4 Ke5 42.Nd6 gxh4+ 43.Kxh4 d4 44.Nc4+ Ke4 45.Nb2 Bb5 46.Kg5 Be2

Tactically defends the h- and f-pawns **47.Na4**

[47.Kf6 Bxg4 48.Kxf7 h5-+ White cannot catch both passed pawns.]

47...a6 Prevents b5, which would create a passed pawn for White. **48.Kh5 Kd3 49.Kg5 Kc2** Black's King now dominates the knight, forcing it to go backwards if it wants to stop the pawn.

50.Kf4 Bxg4 51.Kxg4 d3 52.Kf3 d2 0-1

D02

□ **Cao,Danny Du Uy**

1014

■ **Maheshwari,Anubhav**

1332

2023 Summer TNM: 1200-1599 (1.27)

[Cao,Danny Du Uy/Winslow,Elliott]

Danny Cao teaches chess for the Mechanics' in San Francisco schools (when he's not teaching trumpet or playing in bands in the Bay Area). I wonder if this game is a high water mark -- he really hits some wild notes here!

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e3 c5

5.Nbd2 Qb6 6.Rb1 Nc6 7.c3 Bd7

8.Bd3 Be7 9.Ne5 cxd4

[9...0-0]

[9...Nxe5 10.dxe5 Ne4!? 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bxe4 0-0-0 13.Qc2!

(13.Qe2? Bb5 14.c4 Qa5+±) 13...g5 14.Bg3 h5 15.h3 h4 16.Bh2 Qa6 17.c4±]

10.exd4 h6 11.h4 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nh7

13.Qg4 Bc5

[13...0-0-0±]

14.0-0 0-0-0 15.b4

[15.Qxg7 Rdg8

A) 16.Qxh6 Bf8 (16...Nf8 17.Qf6 Rg6);

B) 16.Qxf7 Be8]

15...f5 16.Qh3

[16.Qxg7 Rdg8 17.Qxh6 Bf8 18.Qh5]

[16.exf6 e5 17.Qxg7 Rdg8 18.Qxh6 Bf8 19.Qh5]

16...Be7 17.Be3 Qc7 18.Bd4

[18.Rfc1]

18...g5 19.h5!?

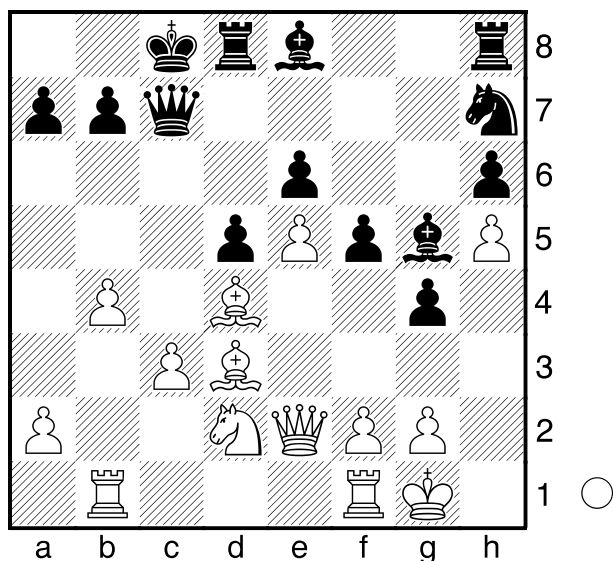
[19.hxg5? hxg5! keeps the pawns in motion, favoring Black.]

[19.c4! keeps the momentum going.

gxh4 20.cxd5 Ng5 21.Qe3 f4 22.Qxf4 Nh3+!? 23.gxh3 Bg5

24.Qxg5! Rhg8 25.Qxg8 Rxc8+
26.Kh1+- White's multiple pieces (and
pawn on d6!) will overrun Black's
position.]

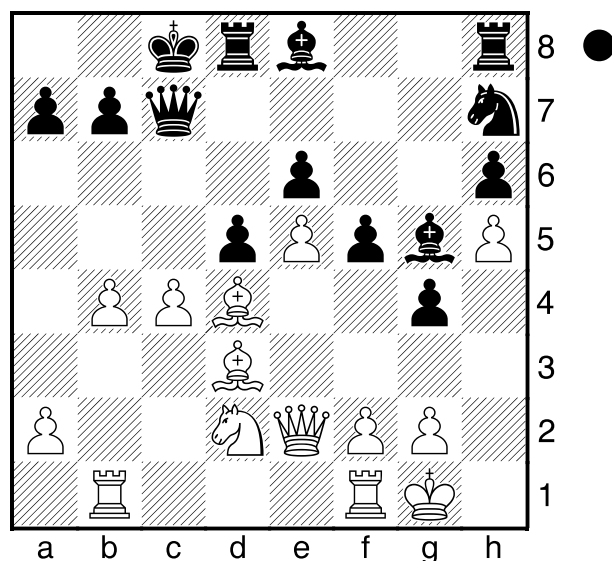
19...g4 20.Qe3 Bg5 21.Qe2+-
Still pretty good! 21...Be8



22.c4??

[The players go a bit off the rails, but
Stockfish seems to as well: it gives as
best 22.Nb3! Qf7 23.Nc5 Kb8
and here 24.Nxb7!? (24.Rb3
is a big advantage without going all
in) 24...Kxb7 25.Qb2
with a borderline won game.
Inexplicable!]

(Diagram)



22...Bxd2?? And back to a won game
for White.

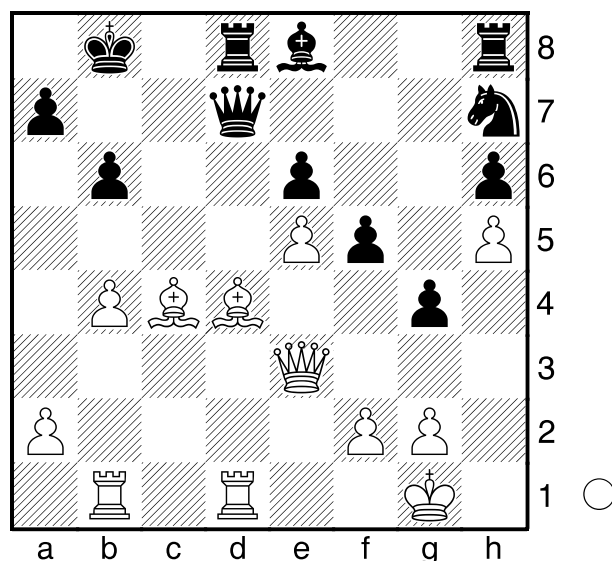
[22...Bxh5 23.g3? (Cao) (23.cxd5+-)
23...dxc4!± again]

[22...g3 (Cao) 23.f4!+-]

[Stockfish 15.1: 22...dxc4!!-+]

and when SF gives as best 23.Nb3!
(but still +- (-3.30)) you know to just
throw up your hands.]

23.Qxd2+- Now White's action is way
ahead and better coordinated than
Black's. 23...dxc4 24.Bxc4 Qd7
25.Rfd1 Kb8 26.Qe3 b6



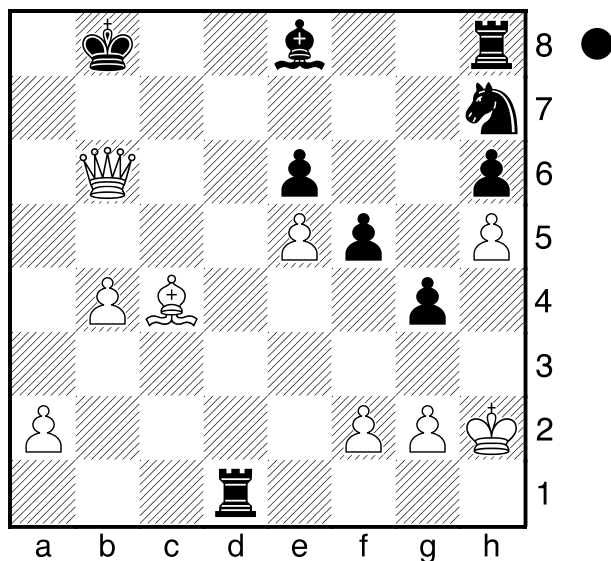
27.Bxb6! A classic crazy imbalance

sacrifice: Black gets two rook and a knight for his queen, but also three pawns...

[27.Ba6?! Bxh5 (27...Qe7 28.Bxb6 axb6 29.Qxb6+) 28.Bxb6 axb6 29.Qxb6+]

[27.Bb3!? is the "safe" (and clearly quite good) way to go.]

27...Qxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 29.Kh2 axb6 30.Qxb6+



... and as we see, there's more: Black's king is completely uncovered, and White's going to have a lot of passed pawns. Not to mention Black's scattered pieces. **30...Ka8**

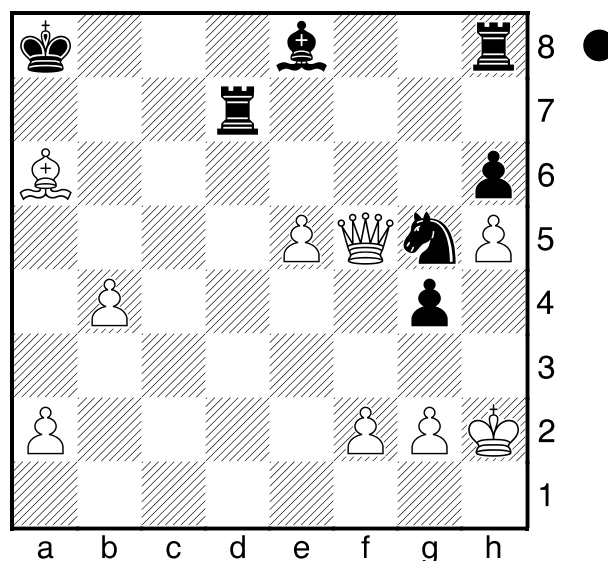
[30...Kc8 31.Bxe6+ and back to c4, +7 on the Computer Richter Scale.]

31.Ba6

[31.Qxe6! is even better -- d5 is a much more dangerous post for White's bishop.]

31...Rd7 32.Qxe6 Ng5 33.Qxf5

(Diagram)



The prospect of having four, even five extra pawns (most of them passed) was hard to pass up. **33...Ka7 34.Bb5** Less organized (but still excellent) than either of

[34.Bc4]

[34.e6]

34...Rf7 (Doesn't really help) **35.Qc8! Bxb5**

[35...Re7 36.Qc5+]

36.Qxh8 g3+ 37.Kxg3 Ne4+ 38.Kh2 Nxf2 39.e6!

[39.Qxh6?? Ng4+]

39...Rf4 40.Kg3 Nd3 41.e7 Re4

42.Qh7 Kb8?

[42...Re3+]

43.Qxe4

1-0

B52

□ **Widjaja,Luke**

■ **Winslow,Elliott**

2023 Summer TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 09.05.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

This is my "working" entry in my "EW" database, so I've piled in lots of game references. You can just run past those pages (!) and get to our game, which

has plenty to it as well... **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7**

[3...Nd7 is "the rage" now for a while. I've played it, but (1) I haven't caught up on theory (2) those lines where Black plays ...g5?!? are just too much for me. I feel like the old guy who hears the music and says "That's not music! There's no melody!" And for me that ...g5 stuff is atonal.]

4.Bxd7+ Qxd7

[Nick de Firmian has a lot of games with 4...Nxd7 , and I've played it some as well. Black aims to set up a "Hedgehog" without the bishop on b7. Sometimes the queen goes there. Black just stays out of White's way and stays on alert. There is some sort of similarity to Nick's liking Benoni lines with ...Bg4 and ...Bxf3; Black doesn't have quite the downtown traffic problems he might with that piece still on the board.]

5.c4 g6

[The below game references were reached every which way: 5...Nc6

A) 6.0-0 g6 7.d4;

B) 6.Nc3 Nf6 (6...g6 7.d4 Bg7 8.Be3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nf6

1-0 Caruana,F (2807)-Kasparov,G (2812) Saint Louis Rapid 2017 (9)) 7.d4;

C) 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nf6 (7...g6 1-0 Mamedov,R (2701)-Gaehwiler, G (2414) EU-ch 20th Skopje 2019 (11)) 8.Nc3 g6 9.f3 Bg7 10.Be3 ½-½ Akopian,V (2689)-Kasparov,G (2838) Olympiad-35 Bled 2002 (5. 1)]

[5...Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4]

6.Nc3 Bg7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6

9.f3 Over the years this solid line has been played, White has varied in the primary path forward.

[9.h3]

[9.Nde2]

9...0-0 10.0-0

[10.Be3 Nc6]

10...Nc6

[I haven't studied this 3.Bb5+ stuff in so long I've forgotten everything. (That means it's been more than a few days.) I was trying to remember the amazing line involving 10...Rc8 11.b3 d5!! but: (1) I couldn't (remember that is) (2) I seemed to think it just leads to a pretty dead drawn position (it does) (3) I thought I could just do what I did with no problems (I was wrong.)]

11.Be3 Rfd8

[11...a6!? If I would have properly prepared for Luke, I'd have noticed that Kasparov has played this a few times. But he did lose to Caruana with it in 2017 (15 years after his other occasions)...

A) 12.a4 e6 (12...Qc7 13.b3 Qa5 14.Qd2 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Nd7 16.Rfd1 Bxd4+ 17.Qxd4 Nf6 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.exd5 Qc5 20.Qxc5 dxc5 21.a5 Rfd8 22.Re1 Rd7 23.Kf2 Kg7 24.g4 g5 25.Kg3 Kf6 26.f4 h6 27.h4 gxh4+ 28.Kxh4 e6 29.dxe6 fxe6 30.Re5 Rc8 31.Rae1 Rc6 32.Kh5 Rd3 33.Kxh6 Rxb3 34.g5+ Kf7 35.Kh5 Rh3+ 36.Kg4 Rc3 37.Rh1 Rxc4 38.Rh7+ Kg6 39.Re7 Rb4 40.R5xe6+ Rxe6 41.Rxe6+ Kf7 42.Rf6+ Kg7 43.Rd6 Rb5 44.Rd7+ Kf8 45.g6 c4 46.Rc7 Rxa5 47.f5 Ra1 48.f6 Rg1+ 49.Kf5 Rf1+ 50.Ke6 Re1+ 51.Kd5 c3 52.g7+ Kg8 53.Rc8+ 1-0 Dzagnidze,N (2524)-Krush,I (2429) Nations Cup Online Prelim Chess.com INT rapid 2020 (9.4)) 13.Nde2 (13.Rc1 Ne5 14.b3 d5 15.cxd5 exd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Rfe8 18.Bf2 Qxd5 19.Qc2 Ng4 20.fxg4 Bxd4 21.Qc4

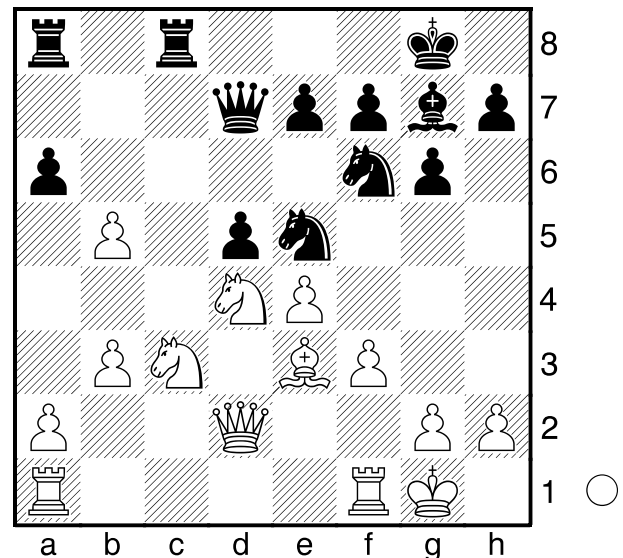
Bxf2+ 22.Rxf2 Qxc4 23.Rxc4 Re7 24.h4 ½-½ Akopian,V (2689)-Kasparov,G (2838) Olympiad-35 Bled 2002 (5.1))

A1) 13...Rfe8!? 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4 g5 16.Bf2 d5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Ng3 dxe4 19.Qxd7 Nxd7 20.Ncxe4 Nf6 21.Nd6 Re7 22.Ngf5 Rd7 23.Rad1 Kh7 24.g4 Ne7 25.Nxe7 Rxe7 26.Nf5 Re6 27.Rd3 Rc8 28.Rfd1 b5 29.axb5 axb5 30.Rb3 Rb8 31.h4 Bf8 32.Kg2 b4 33.Rbd3 Ree8 34.R1d2 Ra8 35.Nd6 Re7 36.Bc5 gxh4 37.Bxb4 Rd7 38.Bc3 Ra6 39.Nf5 Rxd3 40.Rxd3 Rb6? (40...h5 41.Rd8 Bh6±) 41.Rd8+- Bb4 42.Bd4 Re6 43.Kh3 h5 44.gxh5 Nxh5 45.Rh8+ Kg6 46.Nxh4+ Kg5 47.Rg8+ Kh6 48.Nf5+ Kh7 49.Rh8+ Kg6 50.Kg4 Nf6+ 51.Bxf6 Kxf6 52.f4 1-0 Ivanchuk, V (2764)-Dominguez Perez,L (2725) Capablanca Memorial Elite 47th Havana 2012 (2);

A2) 13...Qc7 14.b3 Rfd8 15.Kh1 d5 16.cxd5 exd5 17.exd5 Nb4 18.Rc1 Qe7 19.Bg5 Rac8 20.Qd2 Qe5 21.Rcd1 a5 22.Rfe1 h6 23.Bf4 Qf5 24.Nd4 Qd7 25.d6 Re8 26.Rxe8+ Nxe8 27.Ndb5 Rc5 28.Bxh6 Bxc3 29.Nxc3 Qxd6 30.Qe3 Qe5 31.Qxe5 Rxe5 32.Bf4 Re6 33.Kg1 Ng7 34.Rd8+ Re8 35.Rxe8+ Nxe8 36.Ne4 b6 37.Kf1 f5 38.Nd6 Nf6 39.Nc4 Nfd5 40.Bg5 Nd3 41.Bd8 Nc5 42.Nxb6 Nb4 43.Nc4 Nxb3 44.Bxa5 Nc6 45.Bc3 Kf7 46.Ne5+ Nxe5 47.Bxe5 Ke6 48.Bc3 Kd5 49.Kf2 Nc1 50.a5 Kc5 51.Ke3 Kb5 52.h4 Na2 53.Bd2

1-0 So,W (2776)-Shevchenko,K (2644) Warsaw Superbet Classic Blitz 2022 (5.2);

B) 12.Qd3 is another way to try to restrain Black on both b5 and d5 and has been quite popular. Here are Gadir Guseinov and Wesley So as Black: *Rfc8 (12...Rab8 13.a4 Qc7 14.b3 e6 15.Rac1 Qa5 16.Rfd1 Rfd8 17.Qd2 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Nxd5 Qxd5 22.Qxd5 cxd5 23.Rd3 d4 24.Bf2 h5 25.Kf1 Rdc8 26.Rxc8+ Rxc8 27.Ke2 Rc2+ 28.Rd2 Rc3 29.Rd3 Rc2+ 30.Rd2 Rc3 31.Rd3 ½-½* Esipenko, A (2713)-Guseinov,G (2665) EU-chT 23rd Terme Catez 2021 (5.4)) 13.b3 b5! 14.cxb5 Ne5 15.Qd2 d5!

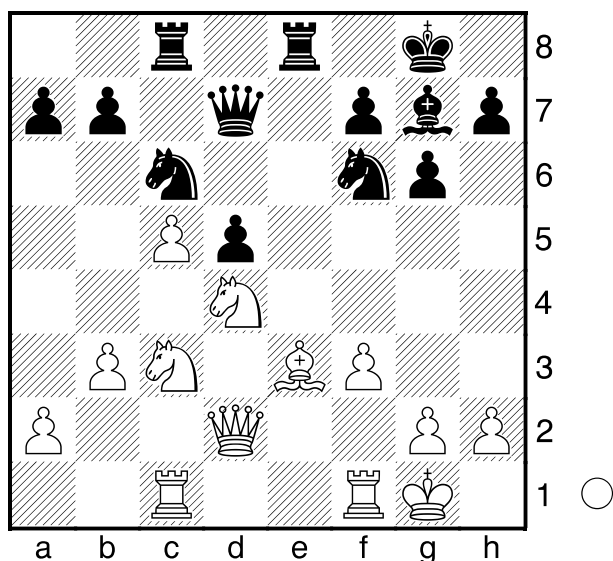


The invention of correspondence master (from where?) Neil Kulick. 16.Nxd5 (16.Nc6!? Nxc6 17.bxc6 Rxc6 18.e5± Ne8= Stockfish 15.1 This will look very familiar in a moment!) 16...Nxd5 17.exd5 axb5 18.Qe2 Qxd5 19.Rad1 Nc6 20.Nxb5 Qe6 21.Kf2 Nb4 22.Rd2 Nd5 23.Bd4 Bxd4+ 24.Nxd4 Qb6 25.Qb5 Rxa2 26.Rxa2 Qxd4+

27.Kg3 Qe5+ 28.Kf2 Qe3+
 29.Kg3 Nc3 30.Qb7 Qe5+ 31.f4
 Ne4+ 32.Kf3 Nd2+ 33.Kg4 Qf5+
 34.Kh4 Nxf1 35.g4 Qf6+
 0-1 Xiong,J (2687)-So,W (2772)
 Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz
 2021 (1.14);
C) 12.Rc1;
D) 12.Qd2;
E) 12.Nb3;
F) 12.Nd5?! Nxd5 13.cxd5 Nxd4
 (13...Bxd4 14.Bxd4 Nxd4
 ½-½ Anisimov,P (2523)-
 Schekachikhin,M (2376) Ayvalik
 Akasya 2023 (5)) 14.Bxd4 Bxd4+
 15.Qxd4 Rac8 (15...Rfc8 16.Rac1
 Qb5 17.h4 Qe2 18.Rfe1 Qb5
 19.h5 Rc5 20.b4 Rcc8 21.f4
 0-1 (38) Remizov,Y (2389)-Khegay,
 D (2532) RUS-chT Blitz Sochi 2022
 (9.4)) 16.Rac1 Rc7 17.Qd2 Rfc8
 18.a3 (18.h3 Qb5 19.Kh2 Qb6
 20.Rxc7 Qxc7 0-1 (67) Varitski,I
 (2212)-Vulfson,V (2421) Marianske
 Lazne IM2 15th 2016 (3)) 18...Kg7
 19.Rfd1 (19.Qd4+ Kg8
 ½-½ Anisimov,P (2523)-
 Schekachikhin,M (2376) Ayvalik
 Akasya 2023 (5)) 19...h5 20.h4
 Qd8 21.Kh2 e5 22.dxe6 Qxh4+
 23.Kg1 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+
 25.Qxc1 fxe6 26.Qc7+ Kh6
 27.Qxd6 Qe1+ 28.Kh2 Qh4+
 29.Kg1 Qe1+ 30.Kh2 Qh4+
 31.Kg1 ½-½ Shaposhnikov,E
 (2545)-Kokarev,D (2624) RUS-ch
 Higher League 69th Kolomna 2016
 (3);
G) 12.Nxc6;
H) 12.Na4 Rab8 13.Nxc6
 (13.Nb6!? Qd8 14.Nxc6 bxc6
 15.Na4 Nd7 Again Black is fine,
 again the higher rated player won.
 16.Rb1 f5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.b4
 Qe8 19.Qe2 f4 20.Ba7 Rb7
 21.Bf2 Ne5 22.c5 Qg6 23.Rb3

Rf5 24.Kh1 Rg5 25.g3 fxc3
 26.Bxc3 Rh5 27.Rg1 Qf5 28.Nb6
 Rb8 29.Bxe5 Qxe5 30.Qg2 Rd8
 31.f4 Qd4 32.Rg3 1-0 Mamedov,R
 (2701)-Gaehwiler,G (2414) EU-ch
 20th Skopje 2019 (11)) 13...Qxc6
 14.Nb6 (Fabi and some experts.
 (Stocky: 14.Rc1!? some subliminal
 plus. Some 2200 draws.) 14...Nd7
 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Rf2 b5 17.c5!
 Qa7! 1-0 Caruana,F (2807)-
 Kasparov,G (2812) Saint Louis
 Rapid 2017 (9) Stockfish makes
 Black on the better side of equality.
 But Gary went down. It was a rapid
 game...]
 [11...Rfc8]
 [11...Rac8 12.b3 Rfd8 ½-½ Gelfand,
 B (2675)-Shirov,A (2710) Hoogovens
 Blitz Wijk aan Zee 1998 (3) (12...e6
 13.Qd2 ½-½ Keller,P (2253)-Kieslich,
 A (2027) GER-chT U20 Borken 2016
 (6.1))]
 [11...e6]
12.Qd2
 [12.Rf2!?]
12...Rac8?!
 [12...e6]
13.b3 e6 14.Rfd1?! I don't think to use
 those colored arrows very often, but in
 this position I'll send one across the
 board...
 [14.Rad1 a6 15.Nde2 Qe7 16.Bg5
 b5 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Nxb5 d5
 19.Ned4 Nxd4 20.Qxd4 dxe4
 21.Nd6 Ra8 22.fxe4 Qxd6 23.Qxd6
 Rxd6 24.Rxd6 Nxe4 25.Rd8+ Rxd8
 26.Bxd8 Bd4+ 27.Kh1 Nf2+
 ½-½ Seret,J (2350)-Schmidt,W (2505)
 Bagneux Librairie Saint Germain 1978
 (8)]
 [14.Rac1 d5 15.exd5 exd5 16.c5
 Re8

(Diagram)



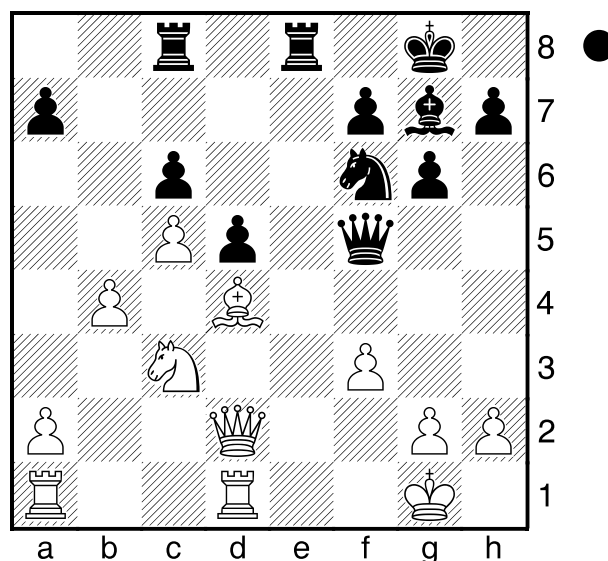
I was working in the press room at the 1990 World Championship in New York, and remember when Kasparov sacked a rook for Karpov's bishop in a Kings Indian that was very similar to this. Gelfand steps away of course... 17.Bf2 a6 (17...Bf8!= SF15.1) 18.Rfd1 Rcd8 19.Nce2 Ne5 20.Bh4 Rc8 21.Bg5 Qe7 22.Qf4 h6!= ½-½ (74) Gelfand,B (2675)-Shirov,A (2710) Hoogovens Blitz Wijk aan Zee 1998 (3)]

14...d5

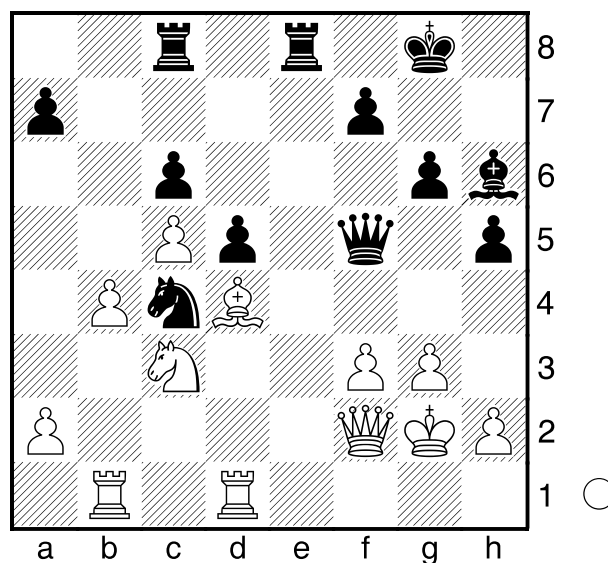
[14...Qe7 15.Rac1 d5 16.exd5 exd5 17.c5 Re8 18.Bf2 Qf8 19.Ndb5 d4 20.Nxd4 Bh6 21.f4 Ne4 22.Nxe4 Rxe4 23.Nxc6 bxc6 24.g3 Bg7 25.Re1 Qe8 26.Qd3 Re6 27.Rxe6 Qxe6 28.Re1 Qf6 29.Qd7 Rd8 30.Re8+ Rxe8 31.Qxe8+ Bf8 32.Kg2 h5 33.Qd7 a6 34.Bd4 Qe6 35.Qxe6 fxe6 36.Kf3 Kf7 37.Ke4 Be7 38.h4 Bd8 39.a3 Ke7 40.Kd3 Kd7 41.Kc4 Kc7 42.b4 Be7 43.Bg7 Kd7 44.Kd4 Ke8 45.Ke5 Kf7 46.Bh6 a5 47.Bg5 axb4 48.axb4 Bf8 49.b5 Bxc5 50.bxc6 1-0 Rachels,S (2388)-Apicella, M (2290) World U16-ch10 Champigny sur Marne 1984 (7)]

15.Nxc6

[15.exd5 exd5 16.c5 Re8 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Bd4 Qf5 19.b4?! (19.Re1; 19.Ne2!?)



It is unlikely that White will be able to advance his pawns on the Q-side any further while his last move already weakened the c4-square, which can be occupied by Black's Knight later. 19...h5 20.Qf2 Bh6 21.Rab1 Nd7 22.g3 Ne5 23.Kg2 Nc4

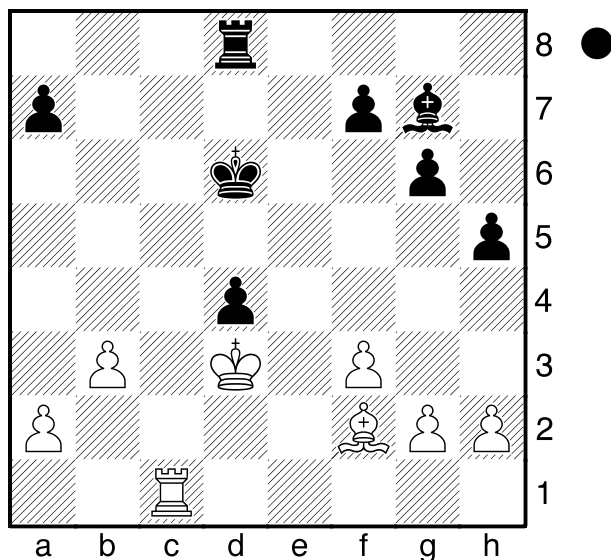


Black's Knight has reached its destination and will threaten to go further. This is the result of the careless move b3-b4; pawns do not

come back! 24.f4 Bg7 25.b5 Bxd4
 26.Rxd4 Ne3+ 27.Kg1 cxb5 28.Rxb5
 Re6 29.Rd2 Rce8 30.Rb1 Ng4
 31.Qd4 Re3 32.Rf1 h4 33.Nxd5
 Re1 34.h3 Rxf1+ 35.Kxf1 Qb1+
 36.Kg2 Qe1 37.Qd3 Ne3+ 38.Nxe3
 Rxe3 39.Qd8+ Kg7 40.Qd4+ Kh7
 41.Rf2 Rxc3+ 0-1 Vartapetyan,A
 (2375)-Guliev,L (2345) Nikolaev zt
 1995 (3)]

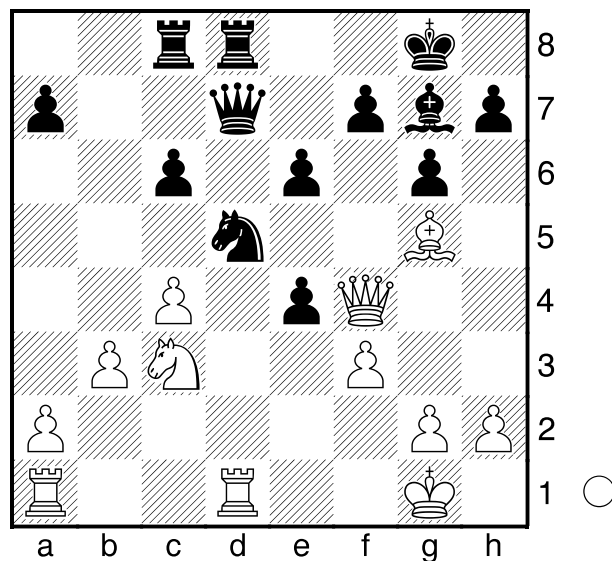
15...bxc6 16.e5

[Frankly, I expected something like
 the following game: 16.exd5 exd5
 17.cxd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Qxd5
 19.Qxd5 cxd5 20.Rac1 d4 21.Rxc8
 Rxc8 22.Rc1 Re8 23.Bf2 h5 24.Rd1
 Rd8 25.Kf1 Kf8 26.Ke2 Ke7 27.Kd3
 Kd6 28.Rc1



1/2-1/2 (55) Manukian,A (2196)-
 Deviprasath,S (2290) Titled Tuesday
 intern op 14th Jun Early Chess.com
 INT blitz 2022 (6). This is the problem
 that Black faces. Not just to
 generate winning chances, but even to
 avoid getting ground down. In fact
 here White just has a working plus,
 and only slipped up later.]
 [16.Bg5 dxe4 17.Qf4 Nd5!

(Diagram)



18.Bxd8! Bxc3! 19.Rab1 Rxd8
 20.Qxe4 Qc7 21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Qd3
 d4 1/2-1/2 (60) Keller,P (2253)-Kieslich,A
 (2027) GER-chT U20 Borken 2016 (6.
 1)]

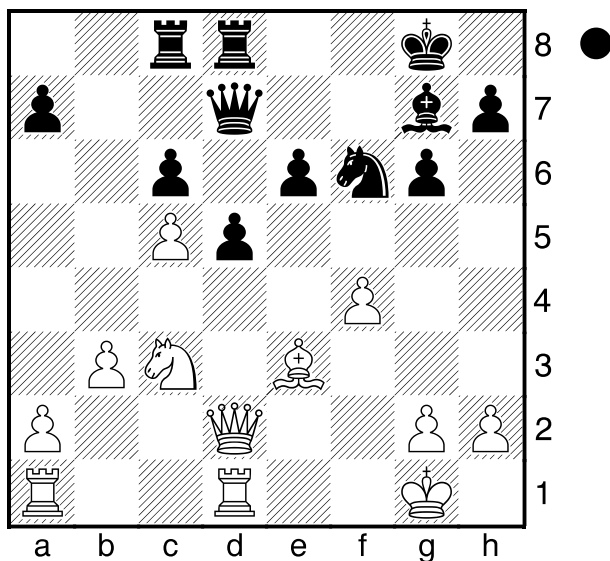
16...Ne8 17.f4

[17.Bg5 f6 18.Bh4 isn't so
 comfortable either. Qc7 19.Qe3 Qf7
 20.Na4 h6 21.f4 fxe5 22.fxe5 g5
 1/2-1/2 (51) Mrva,V (2138)-Micek,J
 (2083) SVK-chT2D 1213 Slovakia
 2012 (2.2)]

17...f6 18.exf6 Nxf6 19.c5?!

[19.Rac1 Ng4 20.Bd4 Bxd4+
 21.Qxd4 c5 22.Qd3 d4 23.Ne4 Kg7
 24.Rd2 Ne3 25.Re1 Qe7 26.Ng5 h6
 27.Nf3 Rf8 28.Nxd4 Rcd8 29.Qxe3
 cxd4 30.Rxd4 Rxd4 31.Qxd4+ Kh7
 32.g3 Rd8 33.Qe4 Qc5+ 34.Qe3
 Rd4 35.Kf1 1-0 Gao,R (1661)-Hua,M
 (1535) Ontario-ch U20 U1800
 Mississauga 2018 (4). Wait, I'm
 quoting B-players?]

(Diagram)

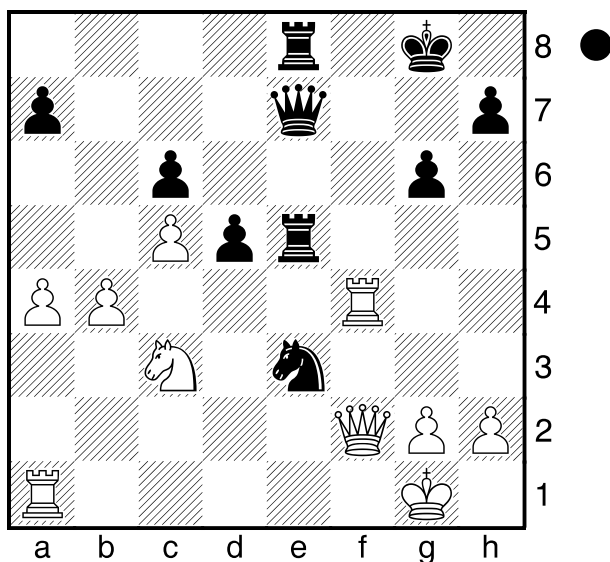


19...e5 20.fxe5 Ng4 21.Bd4 Re8
22.Rf1 Bxe5 23.Bxe5 Rxe5 24.Rf4
Rce8 25.b4 Ne3 26.a4 Qe7!

[26...g5!]

27.Qf2

[27.Rc1! Qg5 28.g3 Nf5 29.Rf2
Qe7+]

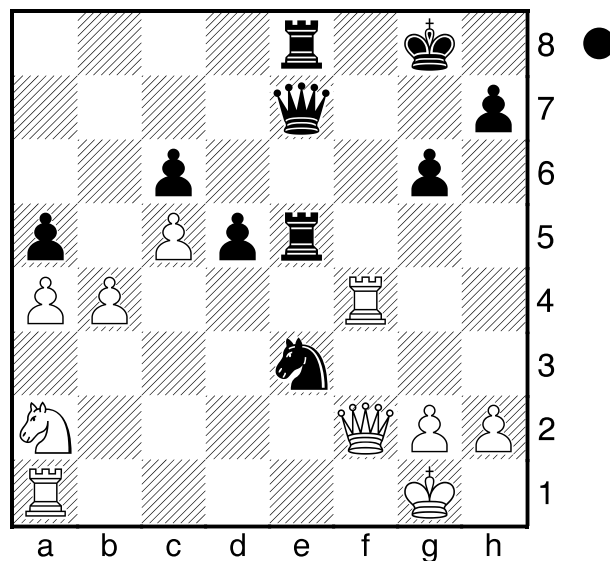


27...a5!-+ A much bigger advantage.

[27...Nf5?! 28.Rf1 (28.g4 d4!+)
28...h5+]

28.Na2!

(Diagram)



I had just concluded that this might be his best, and he played it. The computer took a while to come around as well.

28...axb4?? Not even in the top 15. Let's put it shortly: One a-pawn strong, two a-pawns weak. The front one just gets in the way. I was "concerned" about b4-b5, but should have looked deeper. I think I "forgot" that with his knight on a2, b5 ain't happenin'.

[Best of many is 28...Nf5 and ...Re2. 29.g4 Re2! Anyway. 30.gxf5 Rxf2 31.Rxf2 gxf5 ...Qg7+ and ...Qxa1 is not a threat. 32.bxa5 (there're those a-pawns!) Kh8 Now it's a threat. White is a mess. Black wins easily.]

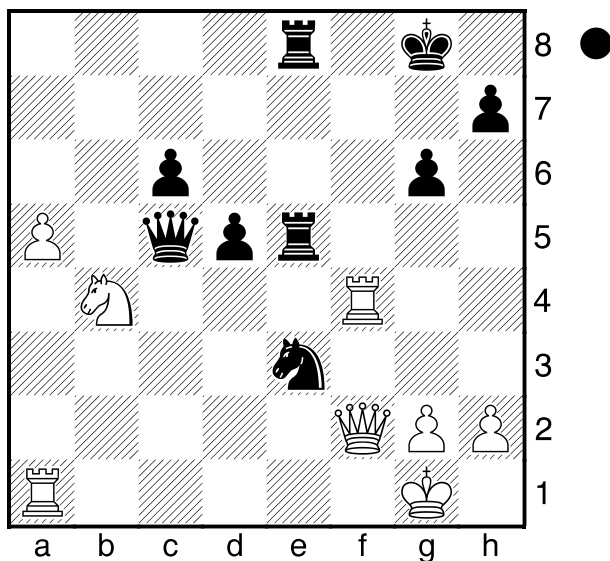
[28...h5!+]

29.Nxb4 Qxc5 Now it gets mucky.

30.a5?!

[30.Rf1 Rg5! 31.g3 Rf5 32.Rxf5
gxf5-+]

(Diagram)



30...d4?

[I saw 30...Qc3!

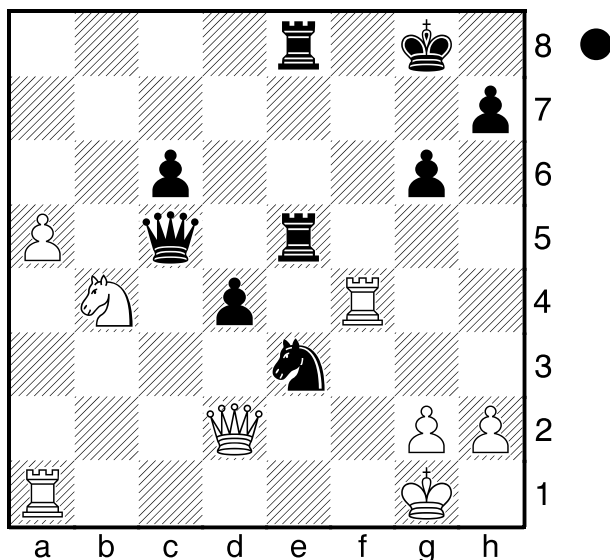
A) 31.Qe1 bugged me, but Qb2! threatens mate! 32.Ra2 (32.Rf2 Ng4!) 32...Nc4!-+;

B) 31.Re1 d4! 32.Qa2+ Kh8]

[30...g5!-+]

31.Qd2?

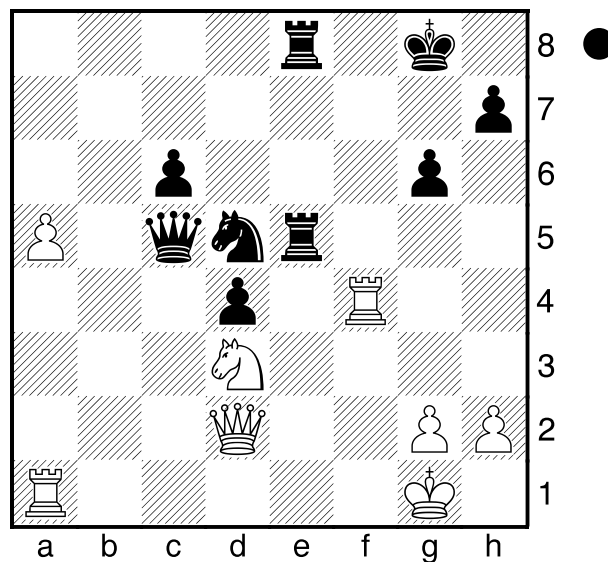
[31.Qa2+ R5e6 32.Nd3 Qc3 33.a6 Nd5 34.a7 Ra8 35.Rf3=]



31...Nd5

[31...Qc3! 32.Qxc3! dxc3 33.Rf2 Rb5 34.Nc2 Nd5+]

32.Nd3



Qd6?

[32...Qc3 33.Qxc3 dxc3 34.Rc4 Re3 35.Nc5! (35.Rd1 Re2 36.Rxc6 Rd2-+) 35...Re2+]

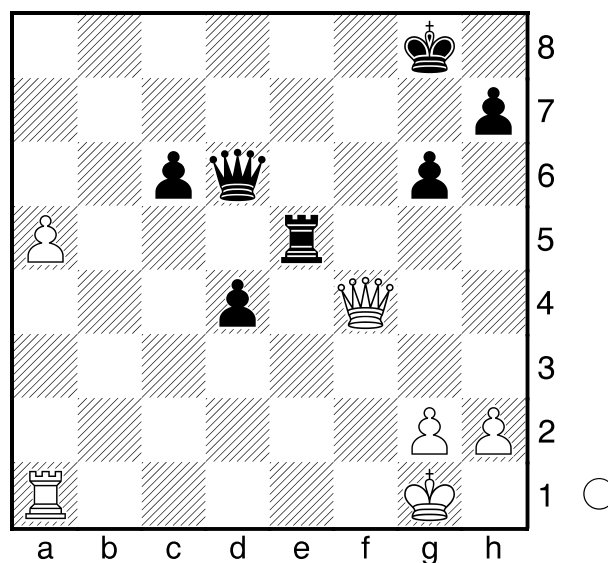
33.Nxe5 Nxf4 34.Qxf4

We just assumed.

[34.Nc4]

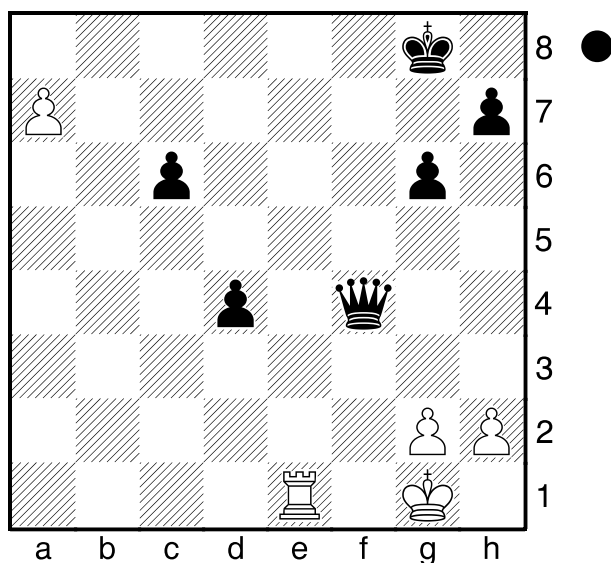
[34.Nf3!=]

34...Rxe5



35.a6?? I so often ignore my opponents queening on the other side of the board, but on this occasion I saw a flaw. He missed it.

[35.Rf1=]
35...Re1+! 36.Rxe1 Qxf4 37.a7

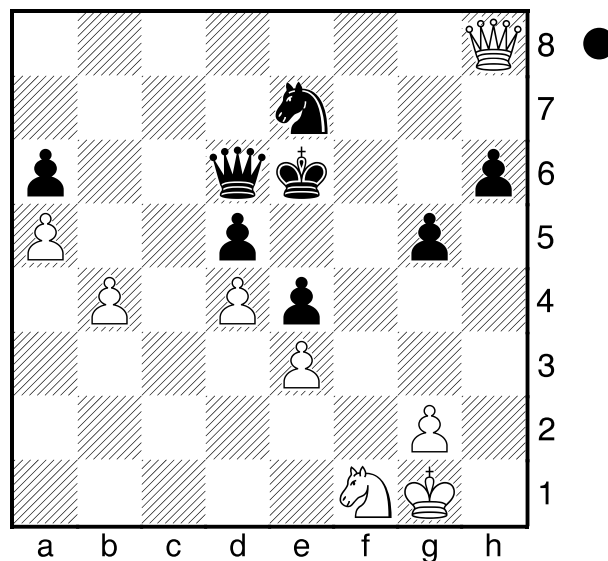


Qf8! (well, forced) **38.Rb1 Kg7! 39.Rb8**
 holding the a-pawn doesn't work either,
 but we were both pretty short on time so
 not working things out ... **39...Qe7!**
40.Rg8+ Kh6
0-1

Dasika,Archit **D13**
 Nathan,Nitish Sg **2174**
2151
 2023 Summer TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 09.05.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3
 Nf6 5.Bf4 Nc6 6.e3 a6 7.Nf3 Bf5
 8.Be2 e6 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Bxd6 Qxd6
 11.Na4 0-0 12.Nc5 Rfb8 13.Rc1 Nd7
 14.Qd2 Nxc5 15.Rxc5 e5 16.Rfc1 e4
 17.Ne5 Ne7 18.h3 f6 19.Ng4 Rc8
 20.b4 b6 21.R5c3 Kf7 22.Qb2 Rxc3
 23.Rxc3 Bc8 24.Nh2 Bb7 25.Nf1 Rc8
 26.Ra3 Ra8 27.Nd2 Nc6 28.Rb3 Ne7
 29.Rc3 Rc8 30.Nb1 Rxc3 31.Nxc3 f5
 32.Qb3 g5 33.Qa4 f4 34.Bh5+ Ng6
 35.Ne2 fxe3 36.fxe3 Qc6 37.Qd1
 Qd6 38.a3 Kg7 39.Qe1 Nh4 40.Bg4
 Qc7 41.Qf2 Ng6 42.Qf5 h6 43.Qf2

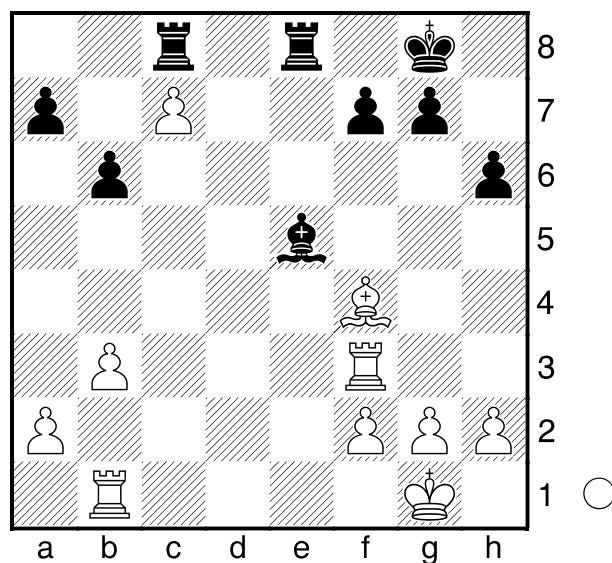
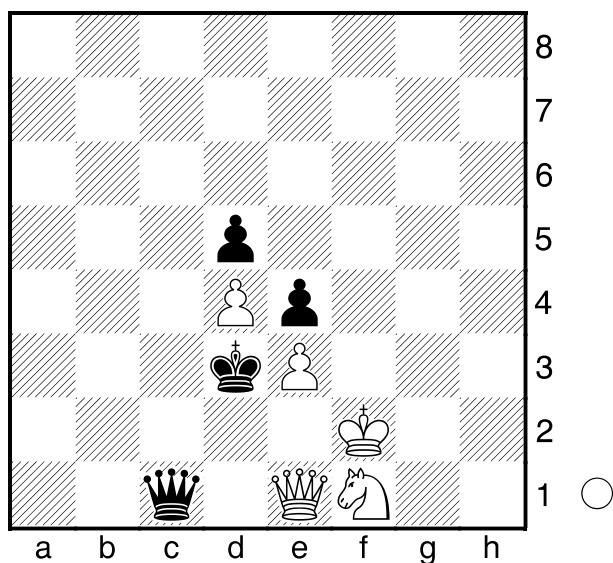
Qf7 44.Qe1 Ne7 45.Ng3 Bc8 46.Qc3
Bxg4 47.hxg4 Qe6 48.Qc7 Kg6 49.a4
Qxg4 50.Qxb6+ Kf7 51.Nf1 Qe6
52.Qb8 Qc8 53.Qa7 Qc6 54.a5 Ke6
55.Qb8 Qd6 56.Qh8



Qxb4? Nitish was holding on so well,
 but here he falls victim to Dasika's
 patient pressure.

[56...Kd7=]
 [56...Kf7= 57.Qh7+ Ke6!? (57...Kf8;
 57...Ke8) 58.Qxh6+ (since the a-
 pawn can't yet be taken) Kd7=]
57.Qxh6+ Kd7 58.Qxa6!+- Nc6
59.Qe2 Qxa5 60.Qg4+ Kc7 61.Qxg5
Qa2 62.Qf4+ Kb6 63.g4 Qe2 64.Qg3
Qd1 65.g5 Ne7 66.g6 Nxc6
67.Qxg6+ Kb5 68.Qe6 Kc4 69.Qa6+
Kc3 70.Qc6+ Kd3 71.Qb5+ Kc3
72.Qa5+ Kd3 73.Qa2 Qg4+ 74.Qg2
Qd1 75.Qg3 Kc4 76.Kg2 Kd3 77.Qf2
Qc1 78.Kg3 Qc7+ 79.Kg2 Qc1
80.Qa2 Qd1 81.Kf2 Qc1 82.Qe2+
Kc3 83.Qe1+ Kd3!

(Diagram)



84.Qe2+ Kc3 85.Ng3 Qa3 86.Qe1+
Kc4 87.Ne2 Qf8+⊕ (Black's flag)
1-0

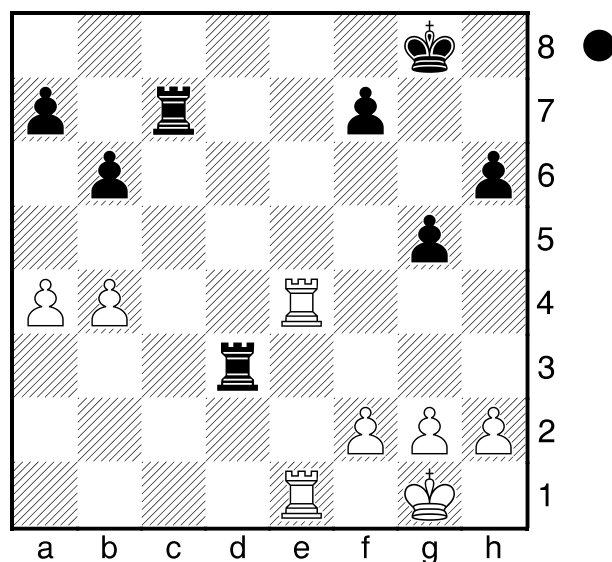
25.Rc1?!
[25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.Rc3! Rc5!
27.Rxc5 bxc5 28.Re1 Rxc7
29.Re4±]
25...Bxf4 26.Rxf4 Rxc7 27.Rd1 Re2
28.a4 Rd2 29.Re1 Rd3 30.b4 g5
31.Rfe4

□ Sawhney,Yuvraj Singh B05 1866
■ Wong,Russell 2200
2023 Summer TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 09.05.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

Young Yuvraj refused to give an inch, all
the way to a 3-vs-3 rook ending with
almost nothing to play for. But then it
got very complicated for both of them...

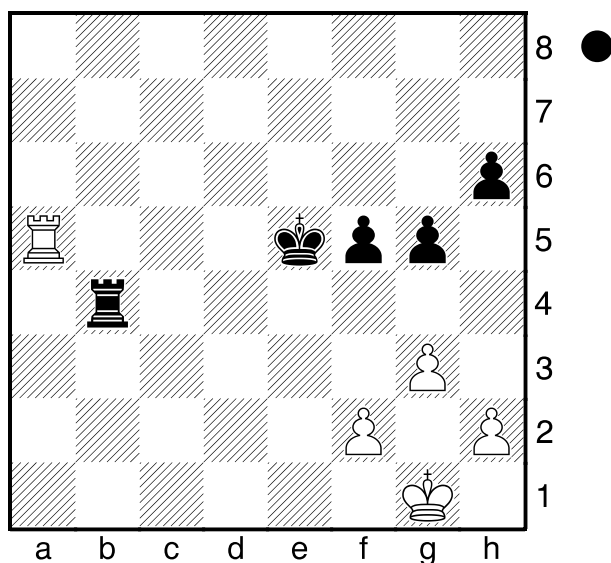
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6
5.exd6 exd6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7
8.Be2 0-0 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.b3 Re8
11.0-0 Bf6 12.Rc1 Bf5 13.c5 dxc5
14.dxc5 Bxc3 15.Qxd8 Raxd8
16.cxb6 Bb2 17.bxc7 Rc8 18.Rc5
Be4 19.Bf4 b6 20.Rg5 h6 21.Rg3
Bxf3 22.Bxf3 Ne5 23.Rb1 Nxf3+
[23...Rxc7!? 24.Rxb2 Nd3 25.h4!=]
24.Rxf3 Be5

(Diagram)

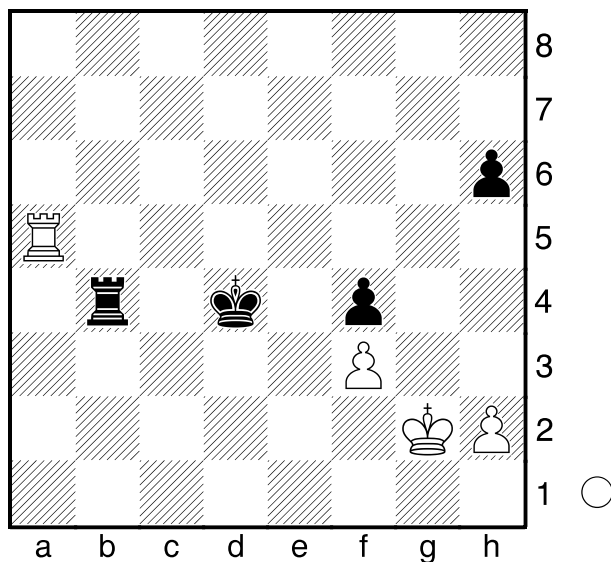


f5?!
[31...Ra3]
[31...Kg7]
32.Re8+ Kf7 33.g3 Rd4 34.Rh8 Kg7
35.Rhe8 Rxb4 36.R8e7+ Rxe7
37.Rxe7+ Kf6 38.Rxa7 Ke5 39.a5
bxa5

[39...b5=]
40.Rxa5+

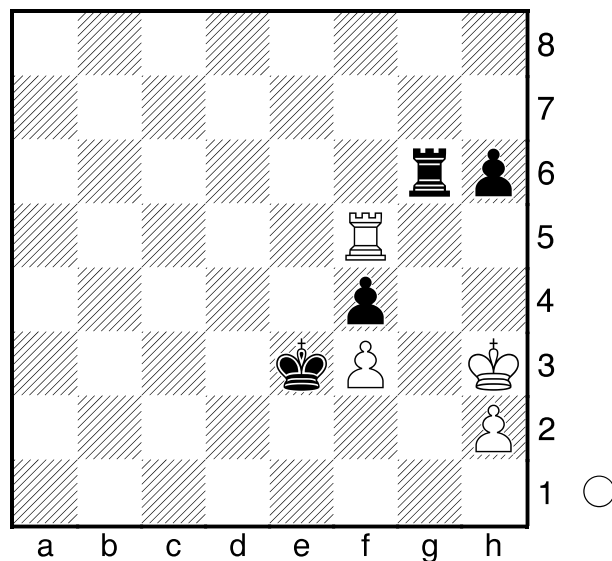


Ke4 41.Kg2 f4 42.f3+ Kd4 43.gxf4 gxf4=



44.Rf5 Rb2+ 45.Kh3 Ke3 46.Kg4 Rg2+ 47.Kh3 Rg6

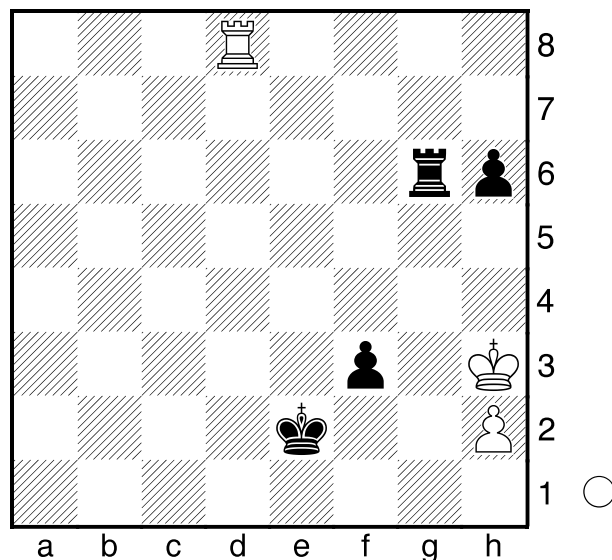
(Diagram)



48.Rf7?? Anything else, almost. Rook moves to the left. King up. 0.00.
48...Kxf3-+ 49.Rf5 Ke4??= (Any of five lateral rook moves would win) **50.Rf8??**
 And here the three left-most rook moves draw. **50...f3??**

[The only move to win was 50...Kf3! (so this is why you study rook endings!) Black sets up ...Re6 to block checks, maybe with ...h5 and ...Re5 in too.]

51.Re8+ Kd3 52.Rd8+ Ke2



53.Rf8?? Here again: head to the side! For some reason in *this* position only

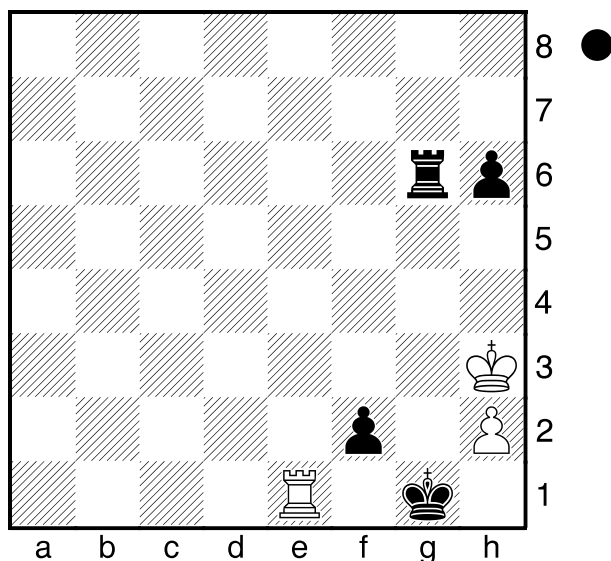
the *two* leftmost rook moves draw (per a tablebase, i.e. perfect information):

[53.Rb8=]

[53.Ra8=]

53...f2 54.Re8+ Kf1 55.Re7 Kg1

56.Re1+!



**f1Q+ (ratz) 57.Rxf1+ Kxf1 58.Kh4 Kf2
59.Kh5 Rf6 60.h4 Ke3 61.Kg4 Ke4
62.Kh5 Ke5 63.Kg4 Ke6 64.Kh5 Kf7
65.Kg4 Kg7 66.Kh5 Rf5+ 67.Kg4 Rc5
68.Kf4 Kg6 69.Kg4 Rc4+ 70.Kg3 Kh5
71.Kg2 Kxh4 72.Kh1 Kg3 73.Kg1
Rc1#
0-1**

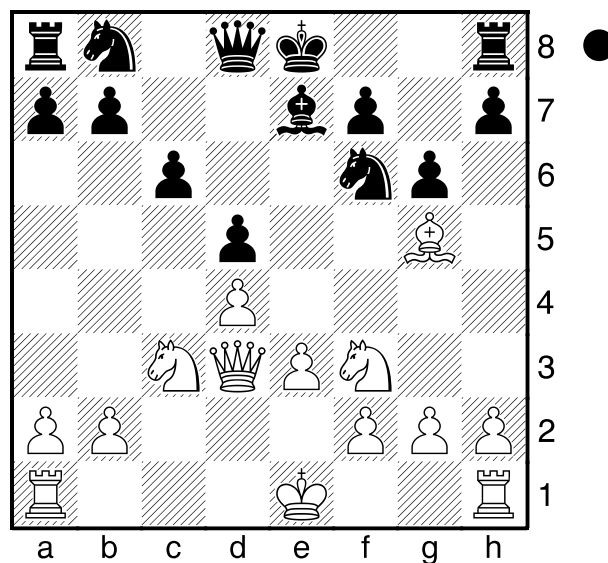
D36
 Karthi,Jashith **2020**
 Indukuri,Suhas Varma **1832**
 2023 Summer TNM: 2000+ (2.5) 09.05.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6
5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qc2 g6 7.Bg5 Be7
8.e3**

[8.e4 is the radical way to go, which led to madness in a previous TNM game: dxe4 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Qxe4+ Kf8 11.0-0-0?! (11.Bc4 is the main move, with about a hundred games,

including some heavies) **Kg7 12.0-0 Re8 13.Qf4 Nd7 14.Ne4 Nb6 15.Bb3 Be6 16.Bxe6 Rxe6 17.Nc5 Re7** 1-0 Sevian,S (2687)-Keymer,V (2698) MrDodgy Online Inv Finals 3rd Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (1.11) but) 11...Kg7 12.h4 h5 13.Ne5 Bf5 14.Qe3 Bxh4?! 1-0 48, Winslow,E-Griffith,K, MI New Year TNM 2000+ 22 Jan 2023.]

8...Bf5 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3

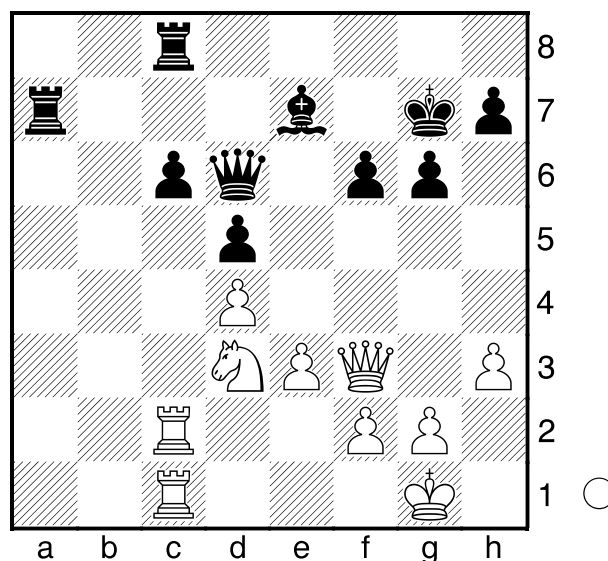
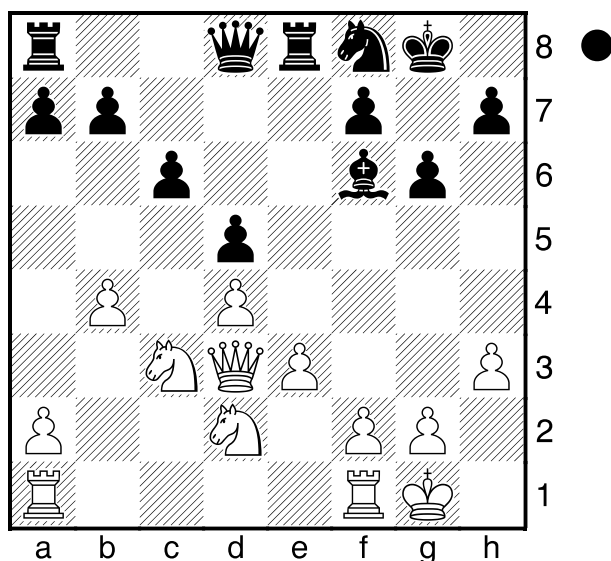


0-0 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Nd2 Re8 13.h3 Nf8

[Relevant: 13...Nh5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.b4 a6 16.a4 Nh6 17.Rab1 Rac8 18.Qc2 h5 19.Ne2 Ne4 20.Nxe4 Qxe4 21.Qxe4 Rxe4 22.Nc3 Ree8 23.b5 axb5 24.axb5 Kf8 25.bxc6 bxc6 26.Rb7 Ke7 27.g4 hxg4 28.hxg4 Rb8 29.Ra7 Ra8 30.Rfa1 Rxa7 31.Rxa7 Kd6 32.Kg2 Re7 33.Ra6 Kc7 34.Ra8 Kb7 35.Rh8 Nf6 36.Kf3 Kc7 37.Kf4 Re8 38.Rh1 Kd6 39.Kg5 Ne4+ 40.Nxe4+ Rxe4 41.Rc1 Kd7 42.Rc2 Kd6 43.Rc3 1-0 Aravindh,C (2572)-Basso,P (2470) Wch U20 56th Tarvisio 2017 (5)]

14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.b4

(Diagram)



Ne6N

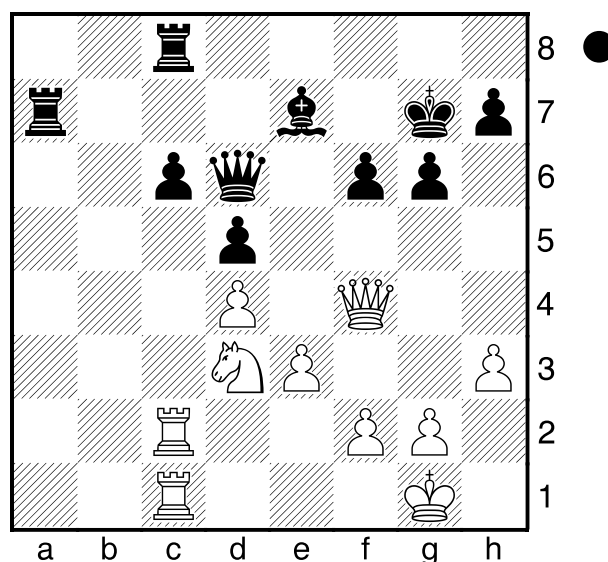
[Jashith has been here before! 15...a6
16.a4 Ne6 17.Nb3 b6 18.Rac1 Qd6
19.b5 axb5 20.axb5 Qb4 21.Nd2
Ra3 22.bxc6 Bxd4 23.exd4 Nf4
24.Qb5 Qxd4 25.Nf3 Qf6 26.c7 Rf8
27.Nxd5 Nxd5 28.c8Q 1-0 Karthi,J
(1696)-Eswaran,A (1853) Milpitas
SJCC 1000 GM Winter 2023 (5) It
was January 22:]

**16.Rab1 a6 17.Rfc1 Rc8 18.a4 Qd6
19.b5 axb5 20.axb5 Kg7 21.Rc2 Re7
22.bxc6 bxc6 23.Rbc1 Rec7 24.Nb3
Rb7 25.Na4 Qb4 26.Nbc5 Nxc5
27.Nxc5 Ra7 28.Qe2 Be7 29.Nd3
Qd6 30.Qf3 f6?!**

[30...Rac7 and it's relatively
insignificant.]

(Diagram)

White has the classic pull from a
Minority Attack -- but this just makes it
worse. **31.Qf4**





Not the best -- White could lean on the
kingside a bit, try to open up a second
front (standard procedure) -- but Jashith
is comfortable in the endgame.

31...Qxf4?

[31...Rac7 is a tedious defense, but
as played something gives right
away.]

32.Nxf4 Bd6 33.Nxd5 It will take a lot
of moves, but White will be taking this
one down. **33...Ba3?!**

[33...Ra6 34.g4 etc.]
34.Rxc6 Rd8 35.Rc7+ Rd7 36.Rxa7 Rxa7 37.Ra1 Bc5 38.Rxa7+ Bxa7 39.Kf1 Kf7 40.Ke2 Ke6 41.Nf4+ Kd6 42.Kd3 Bb8 43.g4 Ke7 44.Ke4 g5 45.Nh5 Kf7 46.Kf5 Bh2 47.Nxf6 Bg1 48.Nxh7 Bxf2 49.Nxg5+ Kg7 50.Kf4 Bh4 51.Nf3 Bf6 52.e4 Kf7 53.e5 Be7 54.d5 Bc5 55.g5 Kg6 56.d6 Kf7 57.Kf5 Bxd6 58.g6+ Kf8 59.exd6 Ke8 60.g7 Kd8 61.g8Q+ Kd7 62.Qe6+ Kd8 63.Qe7+ Kc8 64.Qc7#
1-0

 **Dutter,Frederic** **B31**
 **Parsons,Stephen** **1900**
 2023 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (2.9)
[Parsons,Stephen]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.d3 Qb6 7.e5 Nh6 8.Nbd2 Ba6 9.c4 Nf5 10.Re1 0-0 11.Rb1 Rab8 12.Ne4 d5 13.exd6 exd6 14.g4? The move 12...d5 was intended to provoke. This is where things start to go wrong for White, as his King safety will be an issue later on.
14...d5! 15.gxf5 dxe4 16.Rxe4 Rbe8 17.Qe2 Rxe4 18.Qxe4 Bc8! 19.f6 Bxf6 20.b3 Bf5 21.Qe3 Qd8! 22.Ba3 Re8 23.Qd2 Bg4 24.Kg2 Qd7?
 [24...Bxf3+ 25.Kxf3 Qd7 Threatening Qh3, but Black played the wrong move order and allowed White a defense.]
25.Ng1! Qf5 26.Re1! Rd8 Somewhere around this move White's clock fell below 5 minutes, but this did not stop him from setting up some clever tactical ideas. **27.Bc1! Qd7** Admitting the mistake of 25...Qf5 and giving the square to the bishop instead.
 [Don't blunder the game with 27...Rxd3 28.Re8+ Kg7 29.Qh6#]

[or your queen with 27...Qxd3 28.Re8+ Rxe8 29.Qxd3]
28.a4 Bf5 29.Nf3 White blunders a forced mate, but Black was playing quickly to keep the time pressure on White **29...Bg7**
 [29...Bh3+ 30.Kh1 Qg4 31.Nh4 Bxh4 32.f3 Qxf3+ 33.Kg1 Bxe1 34.Qe2 Qxe2 35.Bd2 Qg2#]
30.Kg1 Bxd3 Black should have good winning chances here **31.Qf4 Bh6!!**
 A satisfying move to play OTB, because the bishop absolutely cannot be taken.
32.Qg3
 [32.Qxh6 Qg4+ 33.Kh1 Qxf3+ 34.Kg1 Qg4+ 35.Kh1 Be4+
A) 36.Rxe4 Qxe4+ (36...Rd1+ 37.Re1 Rxe1#) 37.Kg1 Rd1#;
B) 36.f3 Bxf3#]
32...Bxc1 33.Rxc1 The position is still playable but time pressure gets the best of White and Black manages to convert his small advantage. **33...Be4 34.h4 Qf5 35.Ng5 Rd3 36.Qb8+ Kg7 37.Nxe4 Qxe4 38.Qh2 Rxb3 39.h5 Qg4+ 40.Qg2 Qxh5 41.Qxc6 Qg5+ 0-1**

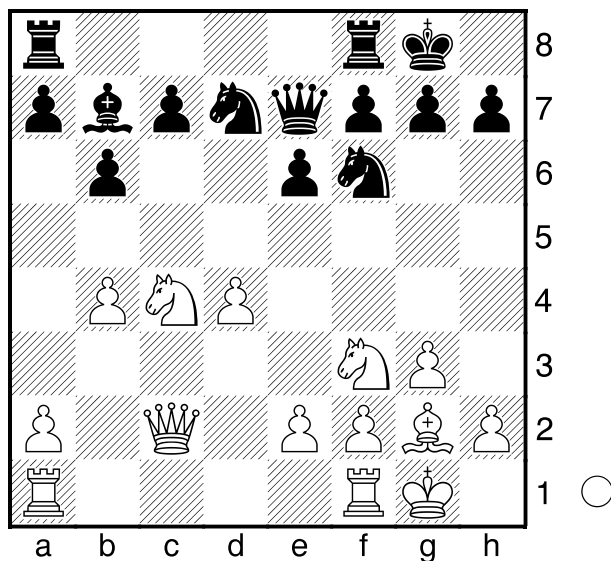
 **Daily,Brian** **E11**
 **Chitta,Adithya** **1539**
 2023 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (2.19)
[Winslow,Elliott]

A nice liquidation into a won rook ending clinched this for returning player Brian Daily. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb4+**
 [4...Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 (5...Bb4+) 6.0-0 (6.d5!)]
 [4...Ba6 5.b3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Bg2 Bb7]
5.Bd2 Bxd2+
 [5...Qe7]
 [5...Be7]

**6.Nbxd2 Bb7 7.Qc2 0-0 8.Bg2 d5
9.0-0 Nbd7 10.b4**

[Relevant: 10.Rac1 c5 11.cxd5 Nxd5
12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Qb1 Qe7 14.e4
N5f6 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Ne5 Rfd8
17.b4 Na4 18.Qb3 b5 19.Qe3 Rxc1
20.Rxc1 Qxb4 21.Nb3 Nb6 22.Nc5
Ba8 23.Ned3 Qa3 24.e5 Nfd5
25.Qg5 Rf8 26.Re1 h6 27.Qg4 Ne7
28.Bxa8 Rxa8 29.Re3 Nf5 30.Rf3
Rd8 31.Qe4 Qxa2 32.Kg2 Qd5
33.Qxd5 Rxd5 0-1 Degardin,S (2278)-
Sanal,V (2593) Titled Tuesday intern
op 05th Apr Late Chess.com INT blitz
2022 (1)]

10...dxc4 11.Nxc4 Qe7



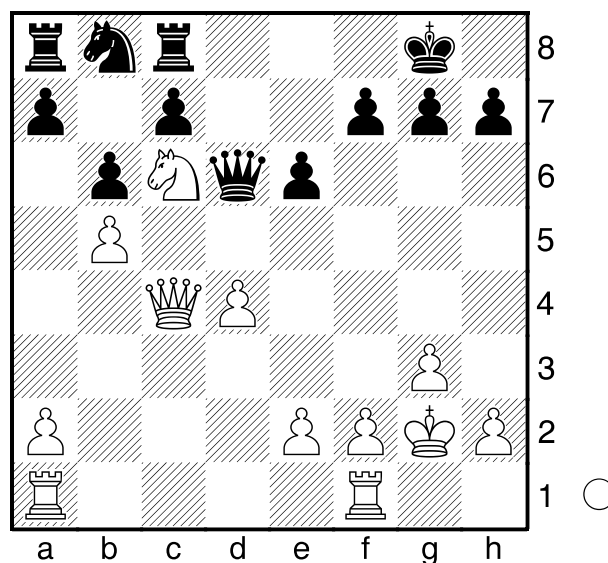
12.b5N

[12.a3]

[Maybe best is 12.Qb2 Rac8 13.Rfc1
c5 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.b5 Nb8 16.a4
Nd5 17.a5 f6 18.Ne1 Rfd8 19.a6
Ba8 20.b6 axb6 21.e4 b5 22.Qxb5
Nc7 23.Qb6 Nc6 24.a7 Nd4 25.Ra2
Ncb5 26.Qa5 Nb3 27.Qxb5 Nxc1
28.Ra1 Ne2+ 29.Kf1 Nd4
½-½ Skalkotas,N (2325)-Alexakis,D
(2225) Athens op 1989]

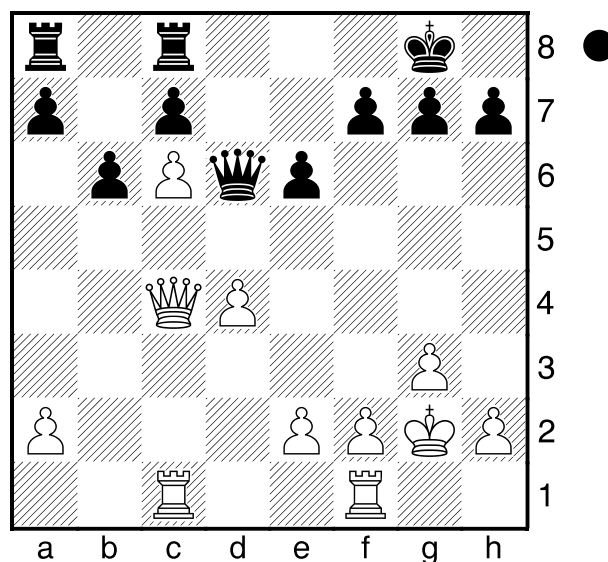
**12...Rfc8 13.Nce5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5
Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Nd7 16.Nc6 Qd6
17.Qc4**

[17.Rfc1]
17...Nb8



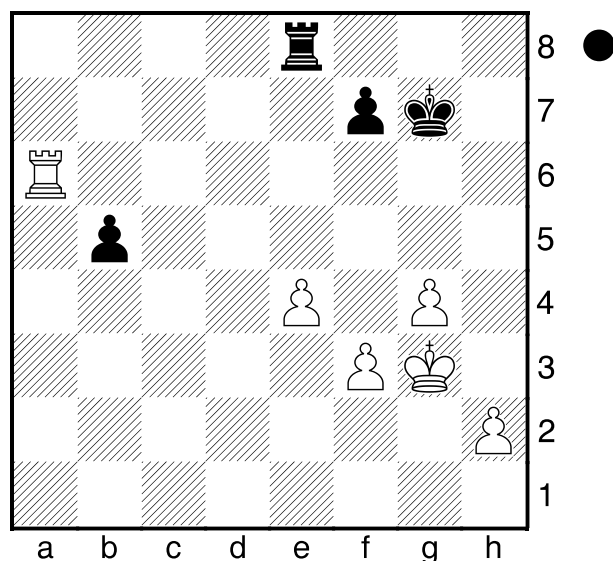
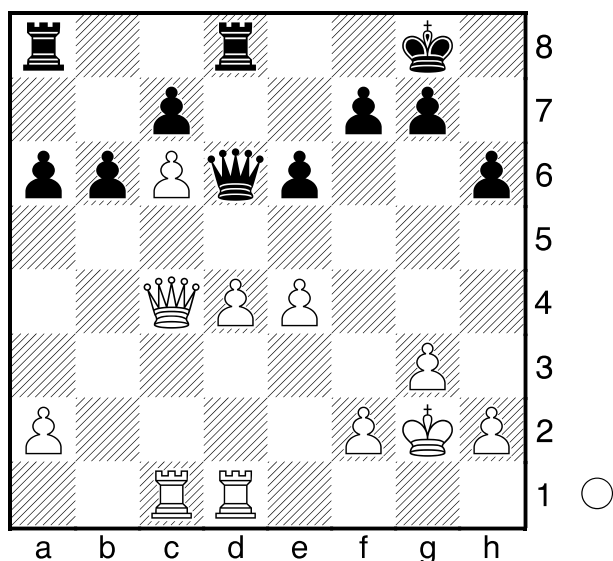
18.Rac1?

[18.Nb4 a6 19.bxa6 c5 20.Rfc1±]
18...Nxc6 19.bxc6



a6 20.e4 Rd8 21.Rfd1 h6

(Diagram)



22.d5?! exd5 23.Rxd5 Qe7 24.Rcd1
 Rxd5 25.Qxd5
 [25.exd5±]
 25...Re8 26.f3 g6 27.Qd7 Kf8 28.Qd4
 Kg8 29.Qe3 Qe6= 30.Qf4?!
 [30.Qxh6 Qxa2+ 31.Rd2 Qe6 32.h4
 Qxc6 33.h5=]
 30...Qxc6 31.Rc1?!
 [31.Qxh6 Qf6 32.Rd7=]
 31...Qa4 32.Rxc7?!
 [32.Qxc7 Qxa2+ 33.Rc2 Qa5
 34.h4±]
 32...Qxa2+± 33.Kh3 Qe6+ 34.g4 g5
 [34...Kg7]
 [34...b5]
 35.Qc1 Qb3?=
 [35...Qf6 36.Kg2 a5 37.Rc6 Re6-+]
 36.Kg3?
 [36.Rc3=]
 36...Qa4?=
 [36...a5 37.Rb7 a4±]
 37.Rc6 b5??
 [37...Kh7]
 [37...Re6]
 38.Rxh6! Qd4□ 39.Qxg5+ Qg7
 40.Qxg7+ Kxg7 41.Rxa6+-

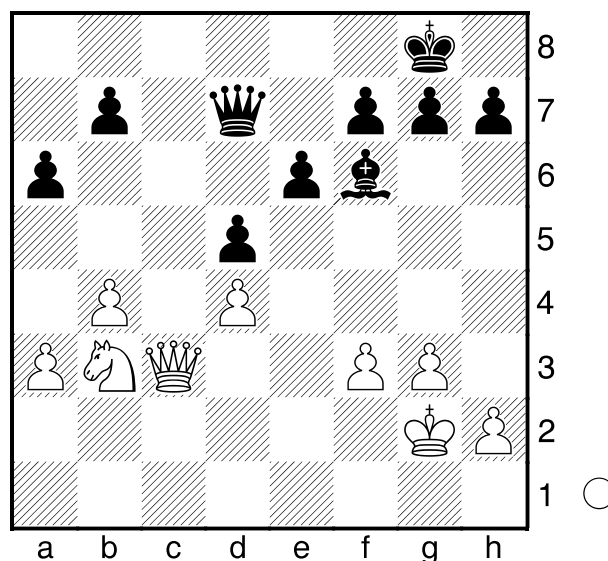
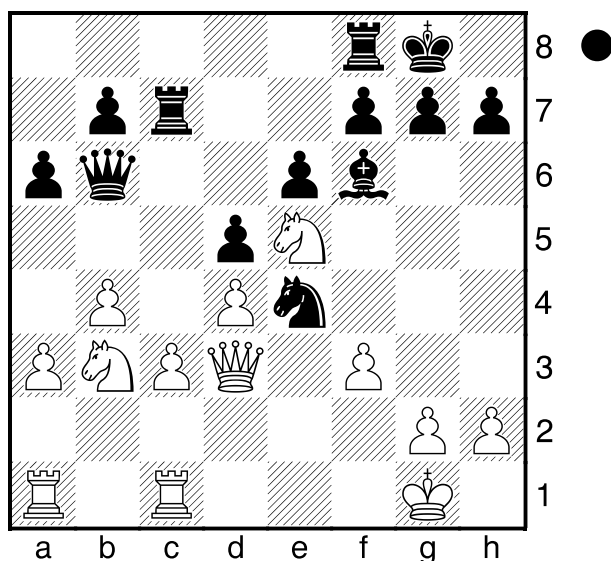
(Diagram)

Rb8 42.Ra3 Kg6 43.h4 b4 44.Rb3
 Kh6 45.Kf4 Kg6 46.Ke5 Rb7 47.Kd4
 Kf6 48.f4 Ke6 49.Kc4 Rb8 50.Rxb4
 Rg8 51.g5 Rh8 52.Rb6+ Ke7 53.Rh6
 Rc8+ 54.Kd5 Rc3 55.f5 Rd3+ 56.Ke5
 Ra3 57.h5 Ra5+ 58.Kf4 Kf8 59.Rd6
 Kg7 60.h6+
 1-0

D00
 Morello,Nicholas 1347
 Tsolias,Yorgos 1536
 2023 Summer TNM: 1200-1599 (2.23)
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Qb6
 5.b3 Bf5 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 Nc6
 8.Nf3 e6 9.Nbd2 cxd4 10.exd4 Be7
 11.0-0 Rc8 12.b4 a6 13.Rfe1 0-0
 14.a3 Na7 15.Rec1 Nb5 16.Ne5 Nd6
 17.Bg5 Rc7 18.Nb3 Nde4 19.Bxf6
 Bxf6 20.f3?

(Diagram)



Nxc3?!

[20...Nd6! 21.Nc5 (21.f4 Rfc8 22.Nc5 Qa7) 21...Bxe5 22.dxe5 Nf5
Somehow Stockfish has this as better than the game -- I can't see why!]

21.Rxc3?

[21.Ng4! Nb5 22.Nxf6+ gxf6 23.Nc5 24.Bf6 Black is better, but it's not as much as in the game.]

21...Bxe5

[21...Rxc3 22.Qxc3 Bxe5-+]

22.Nc5

[22.Rxc7 Bxc7 23.Rc1+- (winning but just)]

22...Bf6 23.Kh1?! Qd6

[23...Qb5!]

24.Rac1 Qf4

[24...e5!]

25.Nb3 Rfc8 26.g3 Qd6 27.Kg2 Rxc3

28.Rxc3 Rxc3 29.Qxc3 Qd7-+

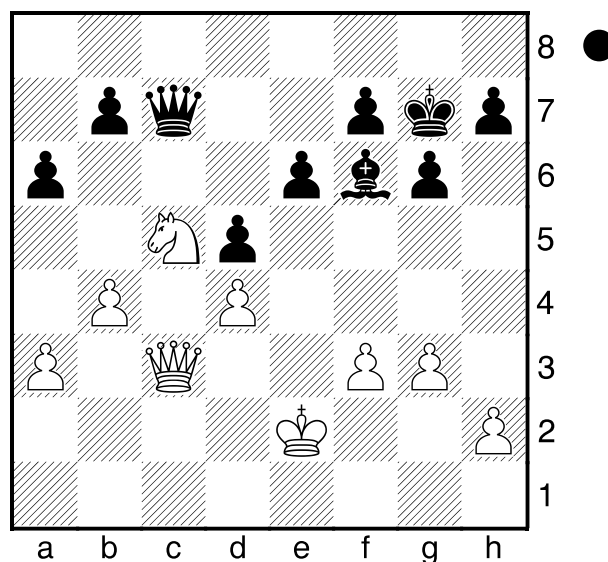
(Diagram)

A clear pawn and a target, but there's still winning to do. **30.Kf2 g6 31.Ke3 Kg7**

[31...Qa4!?]

[31...b6!?]

32.Nc5 Qb5 33.Qd3 Qc6 34.Ke2 Qc7 35.Qc3



h5?? 36.Nxe6+ 1-0

□ **Morris, Daniel** **B12**
■ **Jian, Sheng** **976**
2023 Summer TNM: u1200 (2.37) 9.5.23
[Morris, Daniel]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5

The Botvinnik-Carls Defense, which used to give me headaches until I studied up on it. **4.Nf3 Nc6 5.dxc5**

Bg4 6.Bb5 Qa5+ 7.Nc3 e6 8.Bxc6+?!

This is an inaccuracy, and it takes us out of theory. But it's not a serious mistake.

[8.Bd2 Qc7 9.b4]

8...bxc6 9.0-0 Bxc5 10.Bd2 Qc7

11.Re1 Ne7 This knight is heading to g6 to attack my e-pawn. **12.Be3**

The engine says this is a blunder, but only because of an eight-move computer variation that collects White's e-pawn. Ignore.

12...Bxf3 13.Qxf3 d4

I'd seen this possibility before making my previous move, and I correctly calculated that White is okay -- the position should be equal after 14.Ne4.

14.Ne4= Perfectly equal, according to the engine. Chalk one up for my evaluation skills. **14...Bb4 15.Bd2**

[15.Bxd4 Bxe1 16.Nd6+ Kd7

17.Rd1 Bb4 18.Bc3 Bxd6 19.exd6

Qxd6 20.Rxd6+ Another silly engine line.]

15...Bxd2 16.Nxd2 0-0 17.Rad1

Both of my rooks are centralized, with Black's d-pawn in the crosshairs.

17...Ng6 18.Nc4 Protecting my e-pawn, while dreaming of the outpost on the d6 square. Black's d-pawn is now attacked.

18...f6?? This move looked wrong to me. Indeed it's a serious mistake, and although I didn't punish it with total accuracy, my response is good enough to create major problems for my opponent. **19.exf6**

[19.Qg4 Rae8 20.exf6 e5 21.fxg7+-

This is a messy line, which is why I

didn't bother looking this way. The move I played is plenty good enough to give White a big advantage.]

19...Rxf6 20.Qe4 Targeting Black's e-pawn with check.

[20.Qg3 Qxg3 21.hxg3 I looked at this line, but didn't like the

complicated position that results. From a practical perspective I think the text move was just as good.]

20...Raf8 21.Rxd4! I'm proud of this move — the top engine

recommendation. I take Black's pawn while ignoring my hanging f-pawn, because eventually I've got Ne3!

protecting my c-pawn. **21...Rxf2**

22.Qxe6+ Qf7?? The losing move. After the queen trade, Black faces an endgame down a pawn.

[22...Kh8 23.Qe4 This is what I was expecting, and I thought it looked a bit better for White. Stockfish gives +0.7 here.]

23.Qxf7+ Forced, otherwise Black plays Rf1+ with checkmate following.

23...R8xf7 24.Rd8+ Nf8 25.Ne3

Protecting my c-pawn. I knew I was much better here, as my extra pawn should prove decisive.

[25.Ne5 R7f4 26.g3 Rf5 27.Nxc6]

25...g6 My opponent frees his king to move out of the pin, so that he can bring his knight back into the game. **26.Rc8**

R2f6?? At first, I thought my opponent had made a good move to defend his c-pawn. But then I looked for candidate moves and quickly found the death blow.

27.Ng4! Crushing. Black will lose an exchange, because White has now got Nh6+ forking the king and the f7-rook.

27...Rd6 28.Nh6+

1-0

The Chess Club, Past and Present

Former Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director IM **John Donaldson** dropped off a flyer from 1996 extolling the virtues of membership.

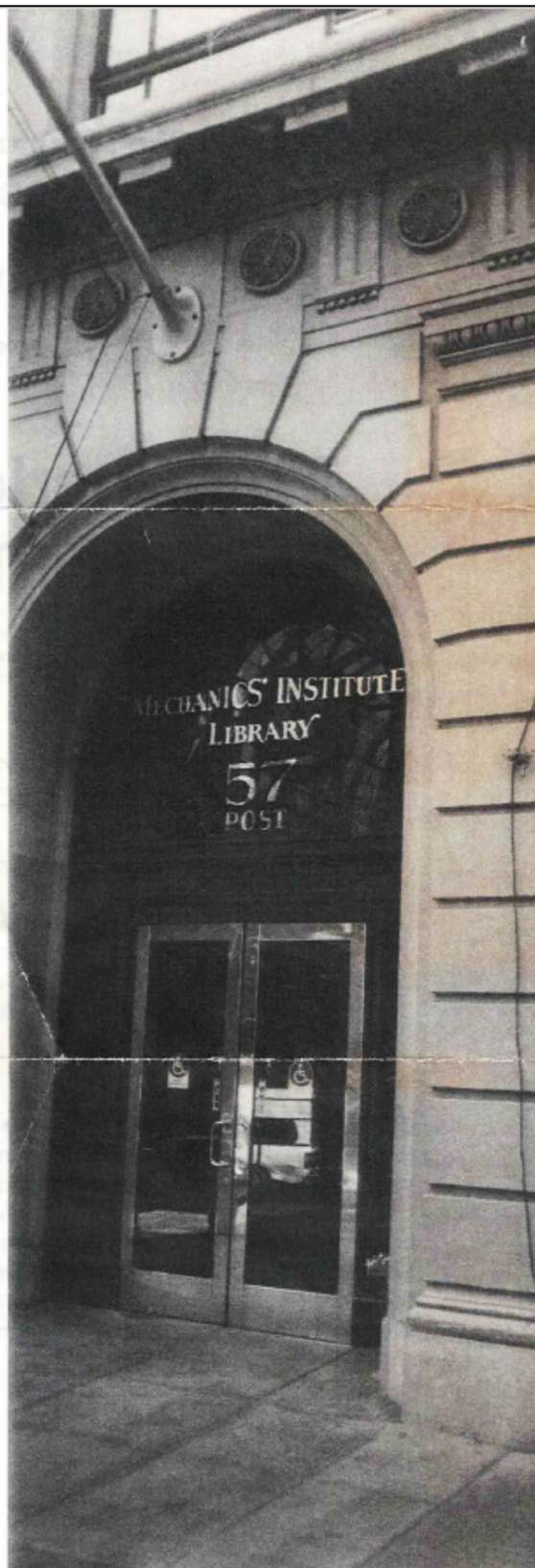
**If you play chess, you
belong at Mechanics'
Institute!**

- Special 21-and-under rate of \$20 per year -- one of the great bargains in Northern California
- Regular chess tournaments open to all members on Tuesday evenings - ongoing throughout the year
- Free beginner instruction classes
- Extraordinary hours: 11 a.m. to 10:50 p.m. every day of the week!
- The finest library of chess literature throughout the West
- Many extras -- magazines, world-wide news, computer-chess

And on top of all this: your membership entitles you to all the privileges of the world-renowned Mechanics' Institute Library, second and third floors

The Mechanics' Institute Chessroom

*57 Post Street (near the Market/
Montgomery BART and Muni stations)
San Francisco*

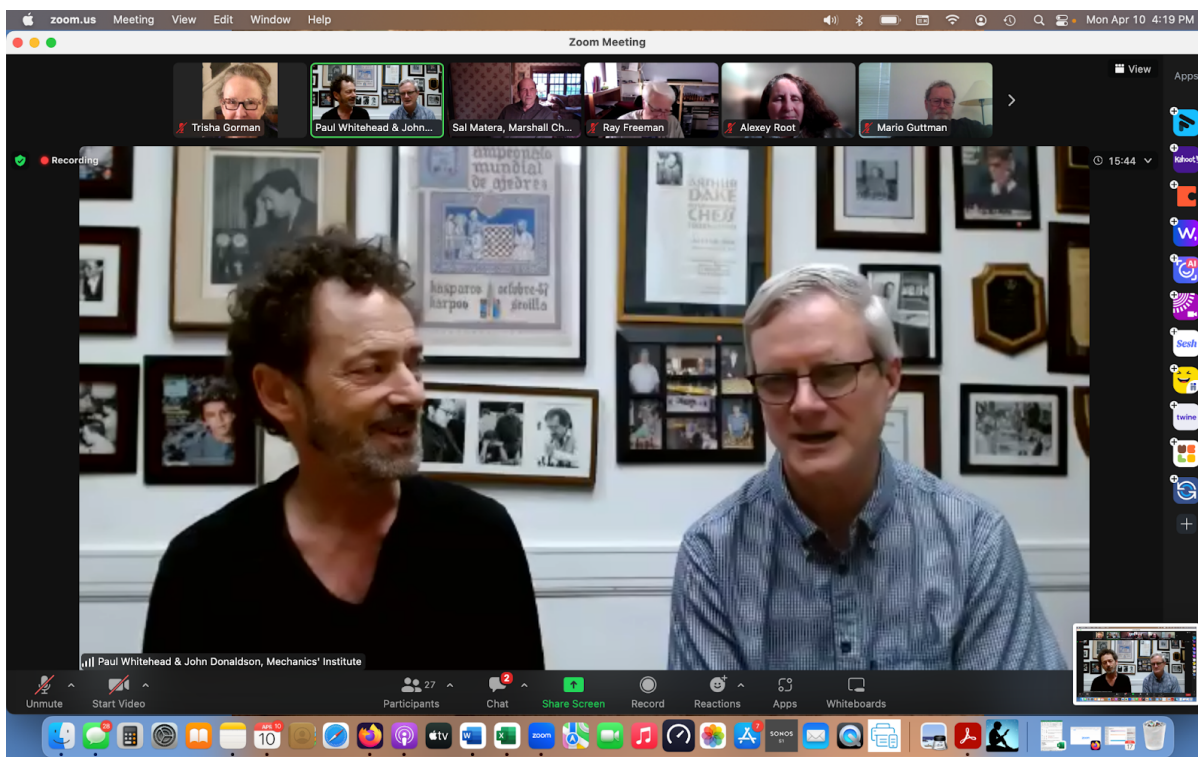




FM **Doug Eckert** and GM **Sam Shankland** dropped by the club for a friendly game, under the watchful eye of World Champion **Mikhail Tal**.

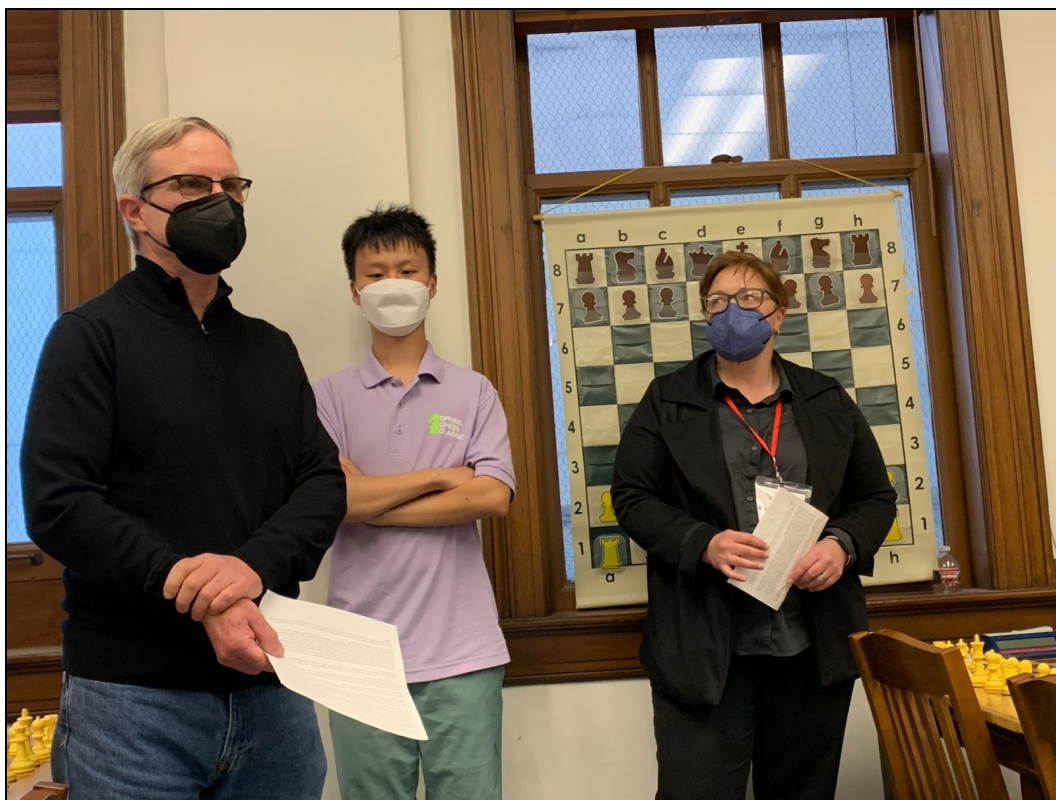


The April Chess Social brought out participants of FIDE Trainer **Sophie Adams'** Women's Class. In the background runs The West Wing episode, "Hartsfield's Landing" which features many allusions to chess.



The special April 10 edition of our weekly Chess Cafe covered the opening two games of the World Championship match between **Ding Liren** and **Ian Nepomniatchi**. Our panel of commentators were FM **Paul Whitehead** and IM **John Donaldson** (above), with IM **Sal Matera** of the Marshall Chess Club (below) joining in from New York. Screenshots by Trisha Gorman.





Mechanics' Institute CEO **Kimberly Scrafano** (right) and former Chess Room Director IM **John Donaldson** (left) present the 2023 Falconer Award to GM **Christopher Woojin Yoo** (center).



Christopher shows his win over GM **Wesley So** from the 2022 US Championship.



KRON-TV were on hand to record the event.



Christopher wowed the fans by playing a few blitz games before the Spring Splash Blitz, spotting 25 seconds to 3 minutes without an increment! Here he prepares a “pre-move” against Mechanics’ Institute Scholastic Chess Coach **Nate Lalau**.

**The Mechanics' Institute
Chessroom**
**57 Post Street, near Market & Montgomery
San Francisco**

presents...

The Charles Linklater Memorial Tournament 1996

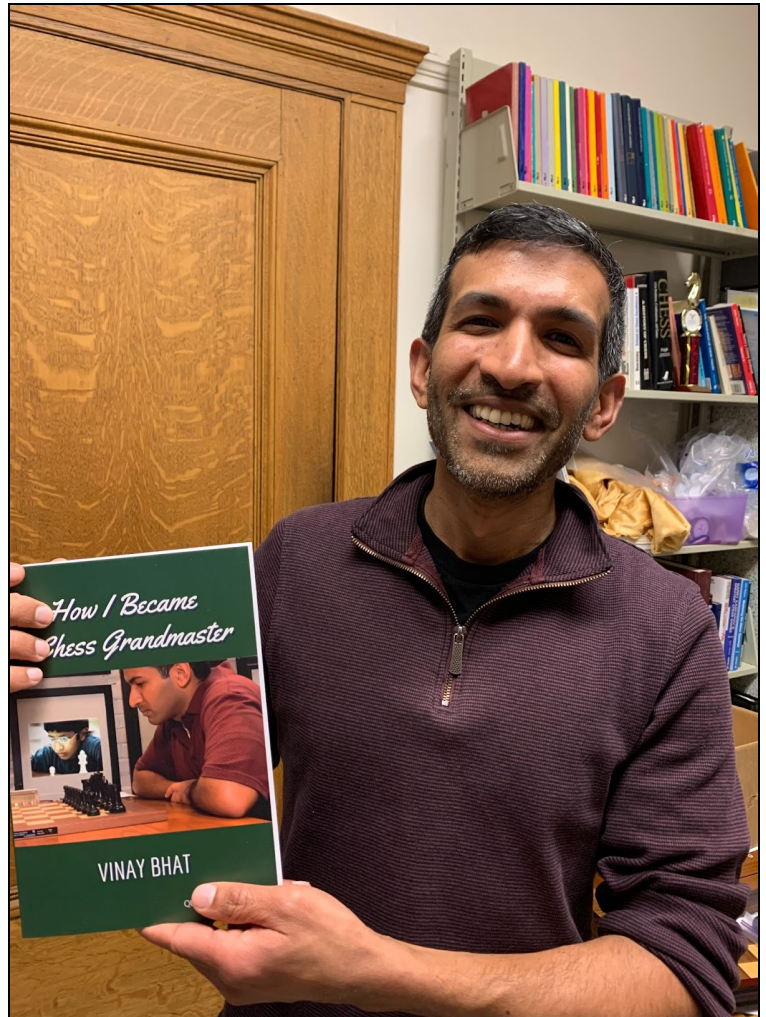
*Second Annual Invitational
In conjunction with the CalChess Mid-Winter Chess Festival*

*First-Third Rounds: January 13-15
Holiday Inn, 1221 Chess Dr., Foster City.
Fourth and Fifth Rounds: January 20-21, starting at Noon
Mechanics' Institute
Sixth and Seventh Rounds: January 27-28, starting at Noon
Mechanics' Institute*

Come and watch Northern California's leading players in action! This seven-round Invitational is the premier round-robin event of 1996 -- and introduces you to the Mechanics' Institute Chessroom -- the oldest chess club in continuous existence in the United States! MI goes back to 1854 and has been visited by World Champions Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Euwe, Smyslov, Tal, Fischer, and countless other Grandmasters. MI sponsored the great PanPacific Grandmaster Tournaments in 1987, 1991, and 1995. We invite you to join MI and be a part of the history of the game.

The flipside of the flyer above.

GM **Vinay Bhat** gave the pre-TNM lecture on May 2 and showed us his new book, *How I Became a Chess Grandmaster*. The Mechanics' Institute will host a book-signing for Vinay on June 20th at 6pm, to be followed by the Summer Celebration Blitz Tournament at 7pm.



William Thibault looks on, as **Juniper**, the youngest person we've seen in the club in recent memory, poses for a photo with her father **Jonathan Lifflander**.

IM John Donaldson and Alyssa Stone

2023 Falconer Award

In 1999, [Neil Falconer, by then longtime Mechanics' Institute Trustee](#), established the Falconer Award at the Institute awarding a cash prize to the highest-rated player under Age 18 in Northern California.

Neil Falconer's engagement with Mechanics' Institute spanned nine decades, from his first visit in 1938 as a Berkeley High School student to the end of his life on April 5, 2014, just after celebrating his 91st birthday.

A native Californian, Neil first joined the Institute in 1945 after finishing his service in the U.S. Army and soon after established himself as one of the strongest chess players in California, finishing third in the state championship in 1946. When former World Champion Max Euwe visited the Mechanics' Institute in 1949 Neil was one of those who held him to a draw. That same year, Neil graduated from the Boalt School of Law at UC Berkeley, passed the bar, and started working at the firm where he would later rise to named partner - Steinhart and Falconer. New responsibilities did not slow down Neil's rise as a chess player, and in 1951 he won the California Open title at Santa Cruz.

Joining the Board of Trustees in 1973, Neil immediately became a member of the Chess Committee and also served as Board President, first in 1988 and again from 1993 to 1995. Neil performed his role with distinction and was so successful that the events were able to attract players the caliber of former World Champion Mikhail Tal, the great Viktor Korchnoi, and Womens World champions Zsuzsa Polgar and Xie Jun.

Neil did not confine his role to top-level chess. Ahead of his time, he teamed up with the New York based American Chess Foundation in the 1980s and 1990s to bring chess instruction to under-resourced inner-city schools in San Francisco, Oakland, and Richmond.

In 1999 Neil established the Falconer Award at the Mechanics' Institute which awards a cash prize to the highest-rated junior player under 18 in Northern California. Grandmasters Vinay Bhat, Sam Shankland, and Daniel Naroditsky are among those who have won the Falconer Award, which has awarded more than \$35,000 to support excellence in chess.

This year's Falconer Award was presented to **Christopher Woojin Yoo**, a 16-year-old American Grandmaster from Northern California. Christopher was the highest-rated player under 18 by his December 2022 rating, with a rating of 2664.

He made waves as the youngest International Master in American history in 2019, before being surpassed by Abhimanyu Mishra. Christopher has competed in a number of distinguished events, such as tying for first at the Memorial Day 2021 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational tournament, winning the Labor Day 2021 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational tournament, tying for third place at the 2021 US Masters and earning his third GM norm with a score of 2604, achieving a live FIDE rating of 2500.2 at the Marshall Chess Club Championship and thus fulfilling the last requirement for the Grandmaster

title, tying for first place at the 2021 Charlotte Open, winning the US Junior Chess Championship, defeating GM Wesley So at the 2022 US Chess Championship, and tying for first at the 2022 US Masters with a rating of 2653 then claiming the 2022 US Masters title after winning a blitz playoff.

Christopher was presented the Falconer Award in a ceremony at Mechanics' Institute in April. He gave a presentation and game analysis of his 2022 US Chess Championship victory game. Christopher joined the Spring Splash Blitz and handily took first place in the tournament, with much awe and admiration from the packed house of players.

GM Christopher Woojin Yoo joins a long list of now celebrated players:

2000-2002 Vinay Bhat

2003 Michael Pearson

2004 Nicholas Yap

2005-2006 Matthew Ho

2007 Nicholas Yap

2008-2009 Sam Shankland

2010 Steven Zierk

2011-2013 Daniel Naroditsky

2014-2015 Yian Liou

2016-2018 Cameron Wheeler

2019 Andrew Hong

2020 Christopher Woojin Yoo

2021-no award was given out due to closures

2022-Andrew Hong

2023-Christopher Woojin Yoo

GM Christopher Woojin Yoo



The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

A male chess player is caught [sneaking](#) into a women's tournament in Kenya.

Tired of losing? Then play [Martin](#), the world's worst chess-bot.

Chess might get you into an [Ivy League](#) college.

The Washington Post seems surprised to learn that kids are [obsessed](#) with chess.

A look inside China's [change of heart](#) about chess.

New York Knicks ace Derrick Rose [hypes](#) a chess tournament in Las Vegas.

Carlsen [loses at poker](#) while sitting out the World Championship match.

Gukesh D. [wins](#) the Menorca Open in Spain on tiebreaks, ahead of Hans Niemann and eight others.

Was Ding Liren's opening preparation [leaked](#) ahead of the World Championship Match?

Women in Latvia lead the way in [chess composition](#).

A certain ex-President of the United States sees himself as a [gold chess piece](#).

Petaluma builds [two new](#) chess tables by the waterfront, but you must bring your own pieces.

Yet another mouth-watering recipe for [Chess Pie](#).

Are you a gamer? Resident Evil 2 Remake has a [chess puzzle](#) for you. In a sewer.

A comprehensive [update](#) on the Carlsen/Niemann affair.

Both Nepo and Ding say cheating at OTB play is well-nigh [impossible](#), as Hans Niemann shows up in Kazakhstan to play in the Astana Open.

Also in Astana is GM Timur Gareyev, [wowing](#) everyone with his blindfold prowess.

Chess Cafe habitue WIM Alexey Root, reporting for the USCF on the National Middle School Championship, gave the Mechanics' Institute a shout-out [here](#) and [here](#).

San Francisco based musician Lisa Willis [writes](#) about chess and chance.

There is a [cheating problem](#) in Go that might sound familiar to chess players.

"I was the King, and she was the Queen". A couple in Florida start a [non-profit](#) promoting chess.

Yet another multi-million dollar lawsuit rocks the chess world, with allegations of [racism](#) at Success Academy in NYC.

Are you thirsty in Michigan? Visit the [Dearborn Brewing Chess Club](#).

Chess, plaid shirts, and [ripped jeans](#).

KRON4 visits the Mechanics' Institute and the Scholastic Championship - article and video [here](#).

Time bandits: thieves set up a chess endgame to [steal](#) a Rolex watch.

Learn more about the “hoax chess move” Il Vaticano [here](#).

The Mechanics’ Institute and its Scholastic Chess Program were featured on local [radio station](#) KALW.

Chess and alcohol do not mix well, as Magnus Carlsen can [testify](#).

Technology has [created](#) a global chess network...

...and it’s [teenagers](#) who are leading the surge.

Ouk chaktrang is a version of chess from [Cambodia](#).

FIDE [twiddles](#) its thumbs on the Carlsen/Niemann affair.

Chess is huge with children on the island of [Corsica](#).

Chess in [space](#): the International Space Station clobbers Mission Control.

GM Vladimir Kramnik will [lead](#) the Iranian national chess team.

Meet [Delilah Sadvakassova](#), the 9-year old chess influencer from Kazakhstan.

Are you in the dark? Try playing with a [Light-Up](#) Chess set.

FIDE and the city of Chicago will [host](#) a Chess for Freedom conference.

A 99-year old chess player from Rhode Island has a tournament [named](#) in his honor.

GM Raymond Keene remembers [sharing a bathroom](#) with King Charles III.

Vandals [target](#) a public “chess bench” in England.

Finally, Ding Liren [defeats](#) Ian Nepomniatchi to become the World Chess Champion.

Recent Games

All of the games from the Ding - Nepomniatchi World Championship Match, plus a few more that have recently drawn our attention.

□ Uz,Kagan
 ■ Zilberstein,Dmitry

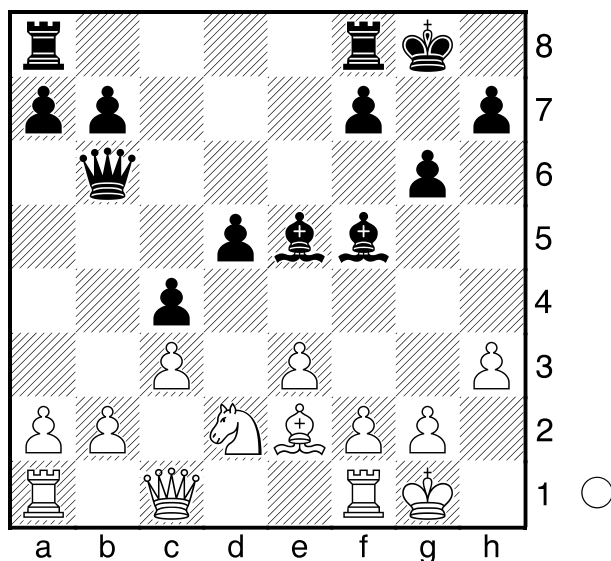
Larry Evans Memorial (2)
 [IM John Donaldson]

04.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 d5
 5.Be2 c5 6.c3 Qb6 7.Qb3 0-0 8.0-0
 Nc6 9.h3 c4 10.Qc2

[10.Qa3 Bf5 11.b3 cxb3 12.axb3
 offers White a small advantage.]

10...Bf5 11.Qc1 Nd7 12.Nbd2 e5
 13.dxe5 Ncxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5
 15.Bxe5 Bxe5



Black has the bishop pair and more space but as compensation White is very solid. 16.Nf3 Bc7 17.Rd1 Rad8 18.Rd4

[18.b3 , nibbling at Black's center, made a lot of sense. Note that after cxb3 19.axb3 Qxb3? (19...a6=) 20.Nd4 Qb6 21.Nxf5 gxf5 leaves Black with horrible pawns.]

18...Qf6 19.Qd1 Be6 20.a4 g5!? 21.a5 h5 22.h4? The text, aimed at gaining g5 for White's knight, is not the right way to handle the position. The computer solution is

[22.Ne1 Qe5 23.Bxh5 Qh2+ 24.Kf1 Bxh3 25.Bg4 Qh1+ 26.Ke2 Bxg4+

27.Rxg4 Qh5 28.Kd2 while human beings do better with the simpler] [22.g3 Bxh3? 23.Rxd5 , in both cases with equal chances.]

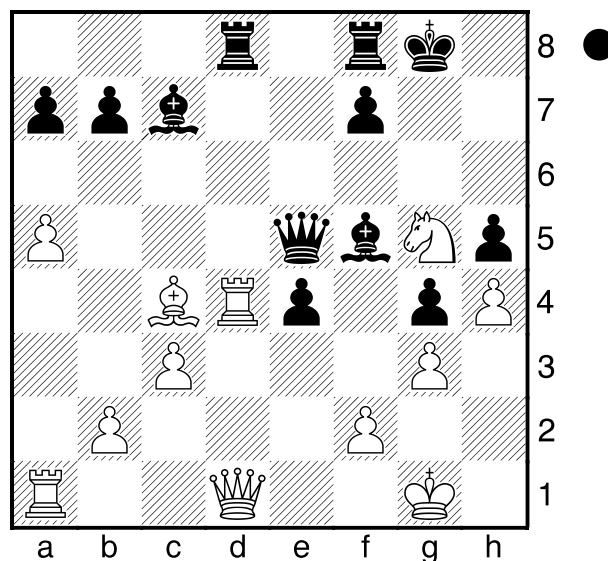
22...g4 23.Ng5?

[23.Ne1 Qxh4 24.g3 Qe7 25.Ng2 although clearly in Black's favor, offered better chances to resist.]

23...Qe5 24.g3 Bf5

[24...Bc8 followed by ...f6 is a simpler way to capture the knight.]

25.e4 dxe4 26.Bxc4



Bg6

[The solid move and quite understandable. Stockfish 15 prefers 26...e3! but after the sdeemingly forced liquidation 27.Bxf7+ Kg7 28.Qe1 Rxf7 29.Rxd8 Bxd8 30.Nxf7 exf2+ 31.Qxf2 Kxf7-+ 32.Rf1 Kg6 33.Qe1 Qxe1 34.Rxe1 Bxa5 35.Re7 b5 36.Kg2 Bb6 although the Oracle claims Black is winning the human still needs to find the plan.]

27.Rd5 Rxd5 28.Qxd5 Rd8?

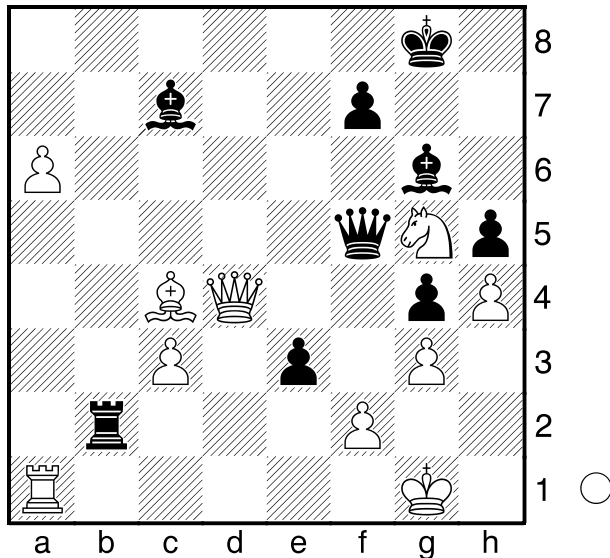
[Black had better in 28...Qxd5 29.Bxd5 Re8]

29.Qxb7 Rd2?

[29...e3! 30.Qxa7 exf2+ 31.Qxf2 Qxg3+ 32.Qxg3 Bxg3 is assessed by the Oracle as offering equal

chances.]

30.Qxa7 Rxb2± 31.Qd4 Qf5 32.a6
 [32.Re1 was more circumspect.]
32...e3



33.Rf1?

[33.Qxe3 Bb6 34.Qe8+ Kg7 35.Kh1 Qxf2 36.Qe5+ Kg8 37.Qe8+= leads to a draw by perpetual check.]

33...Bb6

[33...e2! 34.Bxe2 (34.Re1 Qb1!) 34...Rxe2 35.Ra1 Re8 36.a7 Ra8 leaves White with insufficient compensation for the missing piece.]

34.a7 Bxd4 35.a8Q+ Kg7 36.cxd4

Rxf2 37.Qa1 Qc2 38.Bd5? Both sides have navigated the complications of the past few moves very well but now things start to go astray.

[38.d5+ Kg8 39.Qa8+ Kg7 40.Qa1+ Kg8= with a draw by perpetual check would have been the logical end to the game. (40...f6? 41.Qa7+-)]

38...Bd3?

[38...Rxf1+ was a straight forward win. The variation continues ten moves but it's not hard to find if you know it is there. 39.Qxf1 e2 40.Qe1 Qd1 41.Kf2 Qxd4+ 42.Kxe2 Bd3+ 43.Kd2 Bc4+ 44.Kc2 Qd3+ 45.Kc1 Qa3+ 46.Kd2 Qa5+ 47.Kd1 Qxe1+

48.Kxe1 Bxd5-+ is winning as the knight is trapped.]

39.Rc1 Qd2?

[39...e2 40.Rxc2 Rf1+ 41.Kg2 Rxa1 42.Rxe2 Bxe2 43.Bxf7 should be drawn.]

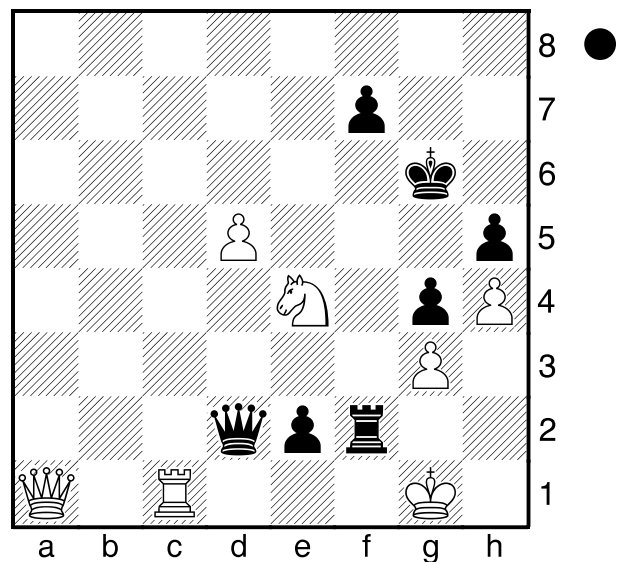
40.Bh1?

[40.Be4 held the balance but was not easy to see.]

40...e2 41.d5+ Kg6 42.Be4+

Again this was the only way to draw and White does not miss his chance.

42...Bxe4 43.Nxe4



Rg2+?? Black is drawing, but the

spectacular text is not the way to do it.

The two ways to split the point were

[43...Qe3 44.Nxf2 Qxg3+ 45.Kh1 Qf3+ and]

[43...Rf1+ 44.Rxf1 Qe3+ 45.Nf2 (45.Kh2 exf1Q 46.Qxf1 Qxe4 47.Qd1 Qe3 48.d6 Qf2+) 45...Qxg3+ 46.Kh1 Qf3+]

[After 43...Rg2+ 44.Kxg2 e1N+ 45.Kf1 Qg2+ 46.Kxe1 Qxe4+ 47.Kd2 Qxd5+ 48.Ke3 Qf3+ 49.Kd4 Qf2+ 50.Kd5 Qf3+ 51.Kd6 Qxg3+ 52.Kd7 Qd3+ 53.Kc7 Qg3+ 54.Kc8

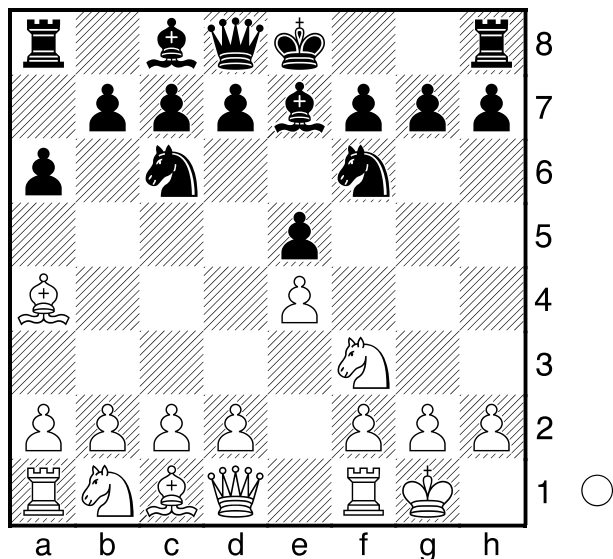
Black has run out of checks.]

1/2-1/2

Nepomniachtchi, Ian
 Ding, Liren
 FIDE World Championship 2023 (1.1)

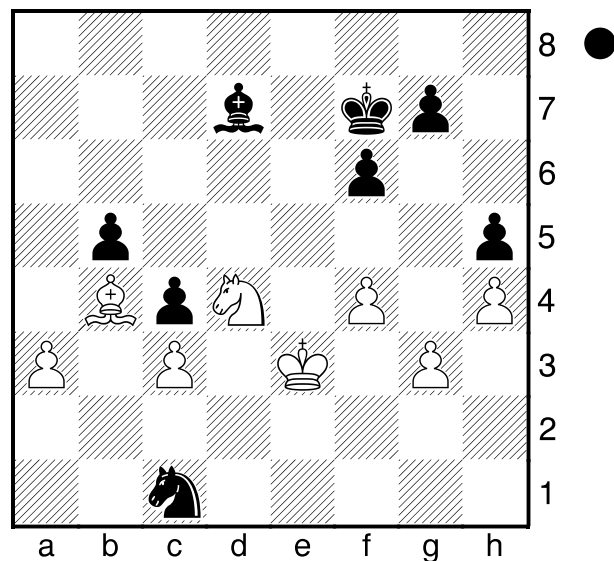
C85
2795
2788

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7



6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Re1 Nd7 8.d4 exd4
 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.Bf4 Nc5 11.Qe3 Bg4
 12.Nd4 Qd7 13.Nc3 Rad8 14.Nf5 Ne6
 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Bg3 Bh5 17.f3 f6
 18.h3 h6 19.Kh2 Bf7 20.Rad1 b6
 21.a3 a5 22.Ne2 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Rd8
 24.Rd3 c5 25.Qd2 c6 26.Rxd8+ Nxd8
 27.Qf4 b5 28.Qb8 Kh7 29.Bd6 Qd7
 30.Ng3 Ne6 31.f4 h5 32.c3 c4 33.h4
 Qd8 34.Qb7 Be8 35.Nf5 Qd7 36.Qb8
 Qd8 37.Qxd8 Nxd8 38.Nd4 Nb7 39.e5
 Kg8 40.Kg3 Bd7 41.Bc7 Nc5 42.Bxa5
 Kf7 43.Bb4 Nd3 44.e6+ Bxe6 45.Nxc6
 Bd7 46.Nd4 Nxb2 47.Kf3 Nd3 48.g3
 Nc1 49.Ke3

(Diagram)

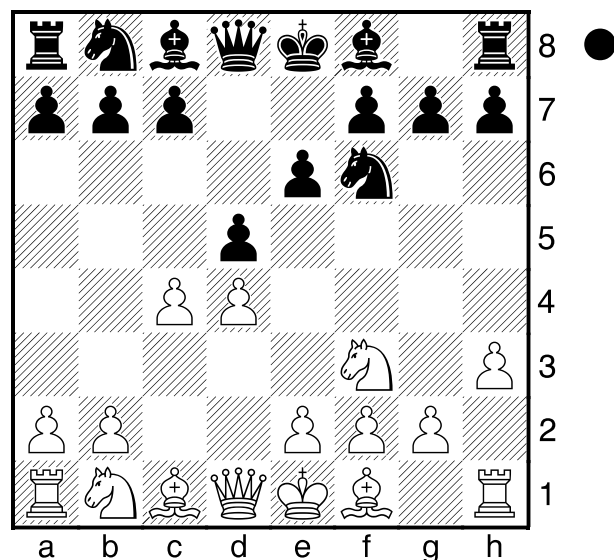


1/2-1/2

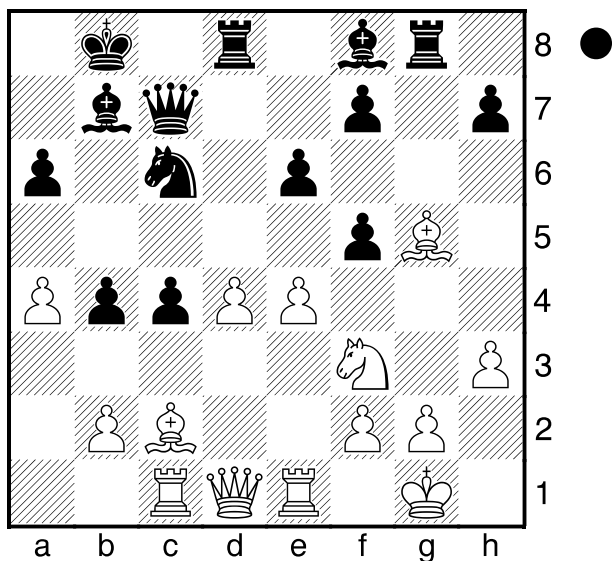
Ding, Liren
 Nepomniachtchi, Ian
 FIDE World Championship 2023 (2.1)

D30
2788
2795

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.h3?!



dxc4 5.e3 c5 6.Bxc4 a6 7.0-0 Nc6
 8.Nc3 b5 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.a4 b4 11.Ne4
 Na5 12.Nxf6+ gxf6 13.e4 c4 14.Bc2
 Qc7 15.Bd2 Rg8 16.Rc1 0-0-0 17.Bd3
 Kb8 18.Re1 f5 19.Bc2 Nc6 20.Bg5

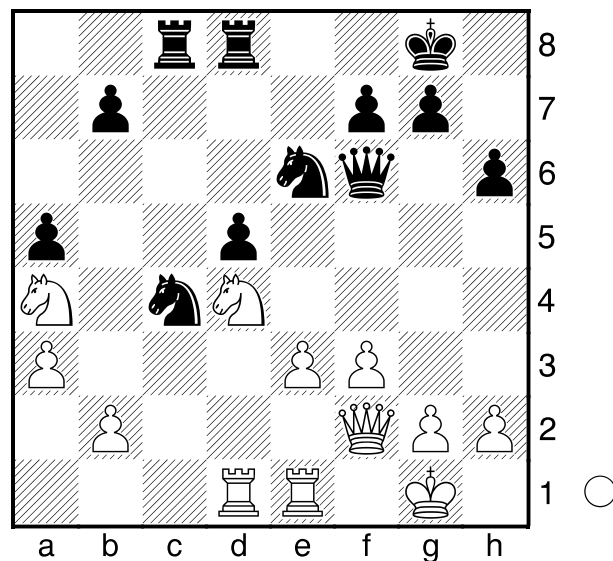


Rxg5! 21.Nxg5 Nxd4 22.Qh5 f6 23.Nf3
Nxc2 24.Rxc2 Bxe4 25.Rd2 Bd6
26.Kh1 c3 27.bxc3 bxc3 28.Rd4 c2
29.Qh6 e5
0-1

□ **Nepomniachtchi, Ian** **D36**
 ■ **Ding, Liren** **2795**
 FIDE World Championship 2023 (3.1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 Be7
8.Bd3 0-0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.Nge2 Nbd7
11.0-0 a5 12.a3 Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7
14.Rae1 Nf8 15.Nc1 Nf6 16.f3 Ne6
17.N1e2 c5 18.Bb5 Rd8 19.dxc5 Qxc5
20.Qd2 Bd7 21.Bxd7 Nxd7 22.Nd4
Nb6 23.Rd1 Nc4 24.Qf2 Rac8 25.Na4
Qe7 26.Rfe1 Qf6 27.Nb5 Nc7 28.Nd4
Ne6 29.Nb5 Nc7 30.Nd4 Ne6

(Diagram)

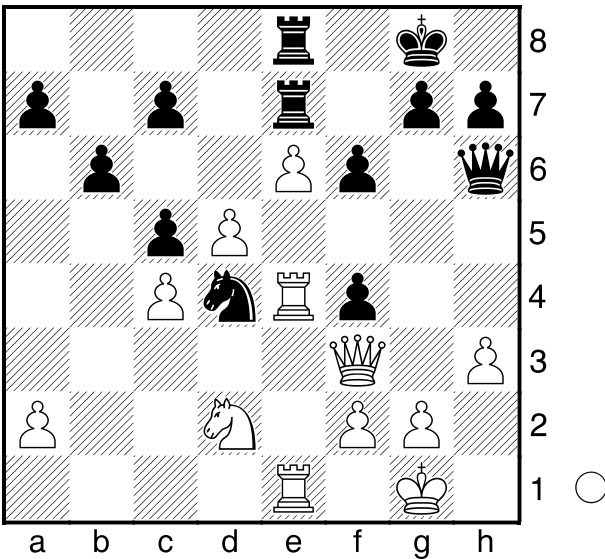


1/2-1/2

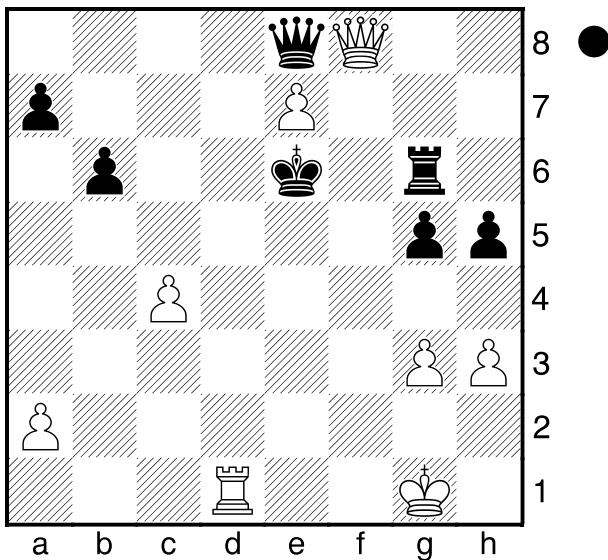
□ **Ding, Liren** **A28**
 ■ **Nepomniachtchi, Ian** **2788**
 FIDE World Championship 2023 (4.1)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e3
Bb4 5.Qc2 Bxc3 6.bxc3 d6 7.e4 0-0
8.Be2 Nh5 9.d4 Nf4 10.Bxf4 exf4
11.0-0 Qf6 12.Rfe1 Re8 13.Bd3 Bg4
14.Nd2 Na5 15.c5 dxc5 16.e5 Qh6
17.d5 Rad8 18.c4 b6 19.h3 Bh5
20.Be4 Re7 21.Qc3 Rde8 22.Bf3 Nb7
23.Re2 f6 24.e6 Nd6 25.Rae1 Nf5
26.Bxh5 Qxh5 27.Re4 Qh6 28.Qf3
Nd4

(Diagram)



29.Rxd4! cxd4 30.Nb3 g5 31.Nxd4
Qg6 32.g4 fxg3 33.fxg3 h5 34.Nf5
Rh7 35.Qe4 Kh8 36.e7 Qf7 37.d6
cxd6 38.Nxd6 Qg8 39.Nxe8 Qxe8
40.Qe6 Kg7 41.Rf1 Rh6 42.Rd1 f5
43.Qe5+ Kf7 44.Qxf5+ Rf6 45.Qh7+
Ke6 46.Qg7 Rg6 47.Qf8

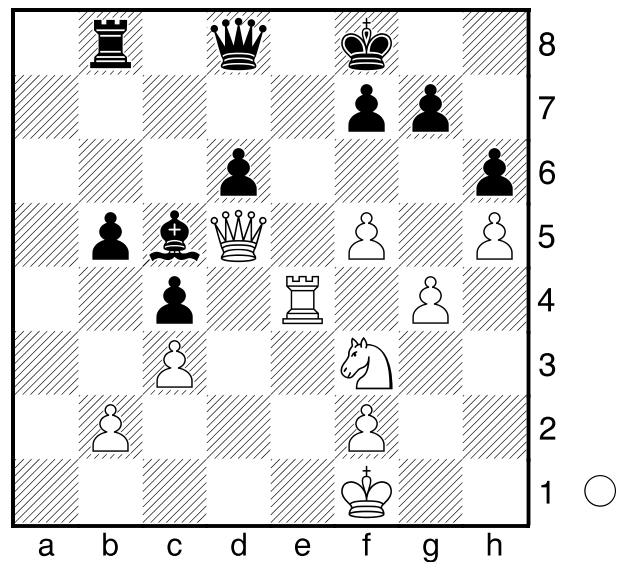


1-0

□ Nepomniachtchi, Ian
■ Liren, Ding
FIDE World Championship 2023 (5)

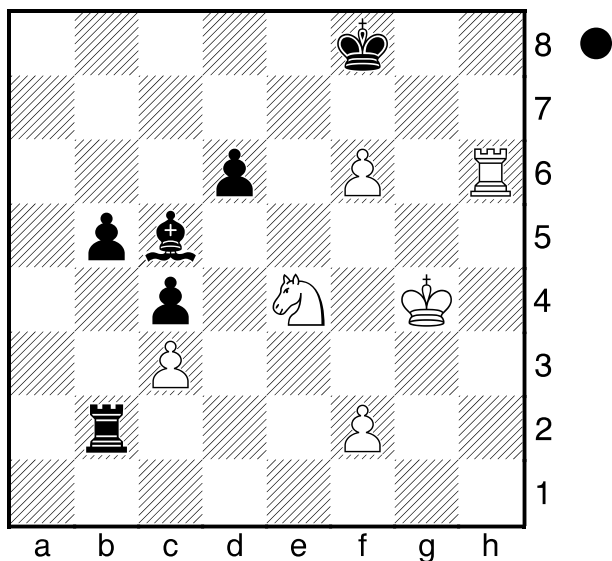
C84
2795
2788

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3
0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.a4 Na5 11.Ba2 c5
12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.axb5 axb5
15.Nbd2 Nc6 16.Bd5 Rxa1 17.Qxa1
Qd7 18.Re1 Ra8 19.Qd1 Bd8 20.Nf1
Ne7 21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.Ne3 Bb6 23.h4
Qc6 24.h5 c4 25.d4 exd4 26.Nxd4
Qc5 27.Qg4 Qe5 28.Nf3 Qe6 29.Nf5
Nxf5 30.exf5 Qf6 31.Qe4 Rb8 32.Re2
Bc5 33.g4 Qd8 34.Qd5 Kf8 35.Kf1
Rc8 36.Re4 Rb8



37.g5! hxg5 38.Rg4 Ra8 39.Nxg5
Ra1+ 40.Ke2 Qe7+ 41.Ne4 Qe8
42.Kf3 Qa8 43.Qxa8+ Rxa8 44.f6 g6
45.hxg6 fxg6 46.Rxg6 Ra2 47.Kg4
Rxb2 48.Rh6

(Diagram)



1-0

□ Liren,Ding

■ Nepomniachtchi,Ian

FIDE World Championship 2023 (6)

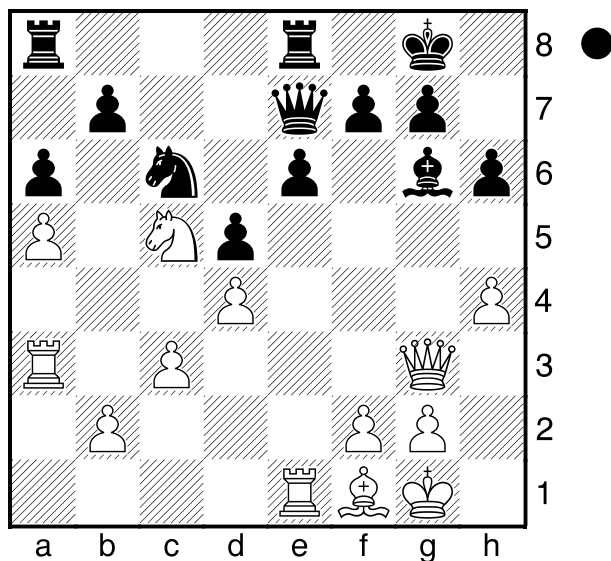
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Nc6
5.Nbd2 cxd4 6.exd4 Bf5 7.c3 e6
8.Bb5 Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.0-0 0-0
11.Re1 h6 12.Ne5 Ne7 13.a4 a6
14.Bf1 Nd7 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.a5 Qc7
17.Qf3 Rfc8 18.Ra3 Bg6 19.Nb3 Nc6
20.Qg3 Qe7 21.h4 Re8 22.Nc5

(Diagram)

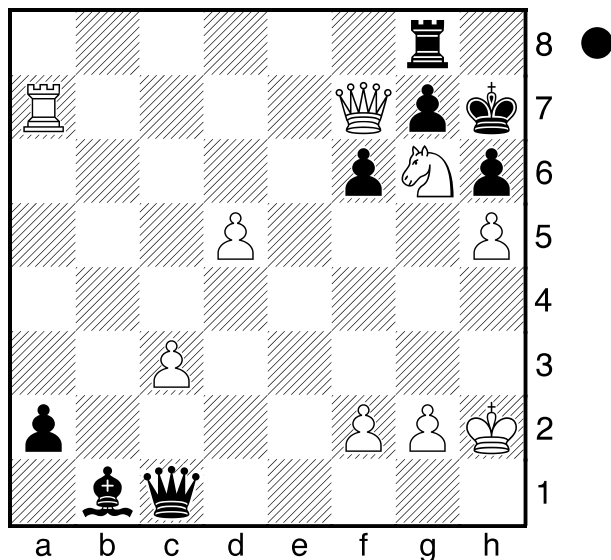
D02

2788

2795



e5!? 23.Rb3 Nxa5 24.Rxe5 Qf6
25.Ra3 Nc4 26.Bxc4 dxc4 27.h5 Bc2
28.Nxb7 Qb6 29.Nd6 Rxe5 30.Qxe5
Qxb2 31.Ra5 Kh7 32.Rc5 Qc1+
33.Kh2 f6 34.Qg3 a5 35.Nxc4 a4
36.Ne3 Bb1 37.Rc7 Rg8 38.Nd5 Kh8
39.Ra7 a3 40.Ne7 Rf8 41.d5 a2
42.Qc7 Kh7 43.Ng6 Rg8 44.Qf7!



1-0

□ Nepomniachtchi,Ian

■ Ding,Liren

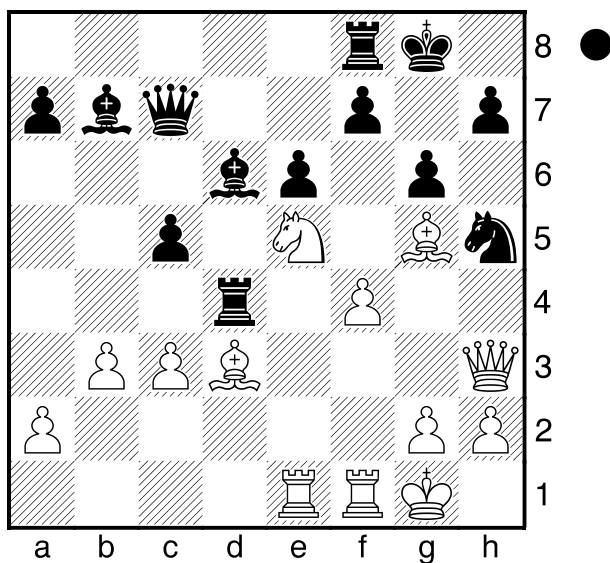
FIDE World Championship 2023 (7.1)

C07

2795

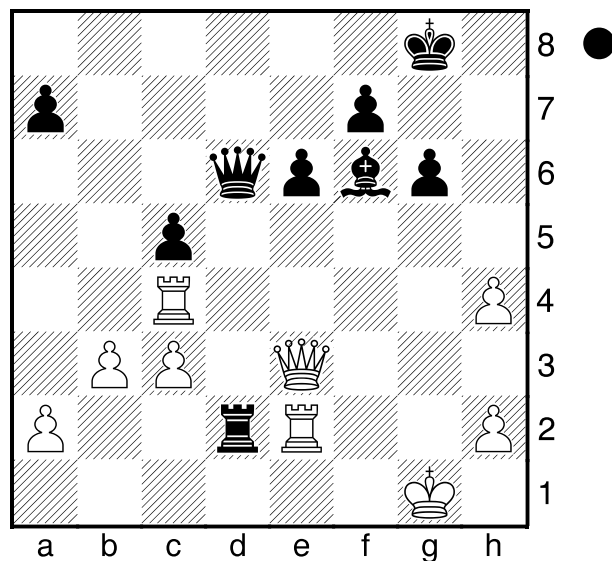
2788

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.N2f3
Be7 8.Bc4 Nc6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.0-0
0-0 11.Qe2 Bb7 12.Bd3 Qc7 13.Qe4
Nf6 14.Qh4 c5 15.Bf4 Qb6 16.Ne5
Rad8 17.Rae1 g6 18.Bg5 Rd4 19.Qh3
Qc7 20.b3 Nh5 21.f4 Bd6 22.c3



Nxf4! 23.Bxf4 Rxf4 24.Rxf4 Bxe5
25.Rh4 Rd8 26.Be4 Bxe4 27.Rhxe4
Rd5 28.Rh4 Qd6 29.Qe3 h5 30.g3
Bf6 31.Rc4 h4 32.gxh4 Rd2 33.Re2

(Diagram)



Rd3? 34.Qxc5 Rd1+ 35.Kg2 Qd3
36.Rf2 Kg7 37.Rcf4 Qxc3
1-0

□ Ding,Liren

■ Nepomniachtchi,Ian

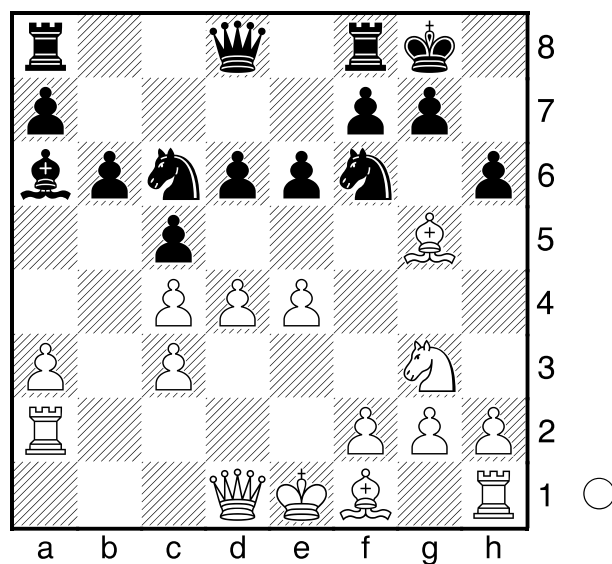
FIDE World Championship 2023 (8.1)

E28

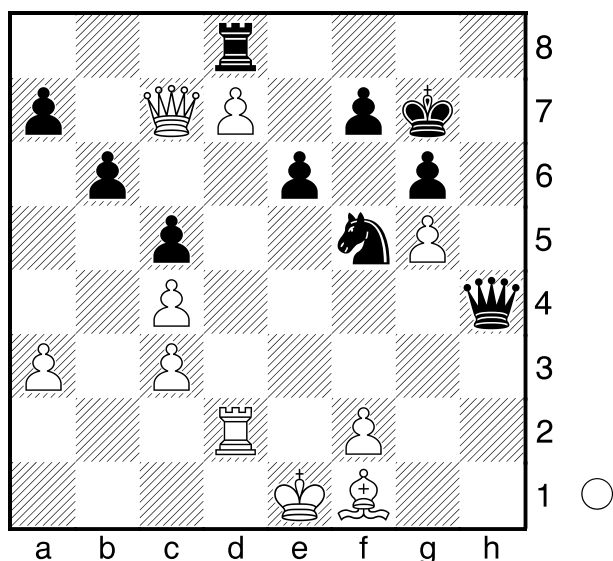
2788

2795

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7.Ne2 c5
8.Ng3 Nc6 9.Ra2 b6 10.e4 Ba6
11.Bg5 h6



12.h4 hxg5 13.hxg5 g6 14.gxf6 Qxf6
15.e5 dxe5 16.d5 Ne7 17.d6 Nf5
18.Ne4 Qd8 19.Qd3 Kg7 20.g4 Bb7
21.Rh3 Nh4 22.g5 Bxe4 23.Qxe4 Nf5
24.Rd2 Rh8 25.Rxh8 Qxh8 26.d7
Rd8 27.Qxe5+ Kh7 28.Qh2+ Kg7
29.Qe5+ Kh7 30.Qh2+ Kg7 31.Qc7
Qh4



32.Kd1?

[32.Qxd8+-]

32...Qxg5 33.Kc2 Qe7 34.Bg2 e5
35.Be4 Nh6 36.Qxa7 Ng4 37.Bf3
Nxf2 38.Rxf2 e4 39.Re2 f5 40.Qxb6
Rxd7 41.Qb8 Qd6 42.Qxd6 Rxd6
43.Bxe4 fxe4 44.Rxe4 Kf6 45.Re8
1/2-1/2

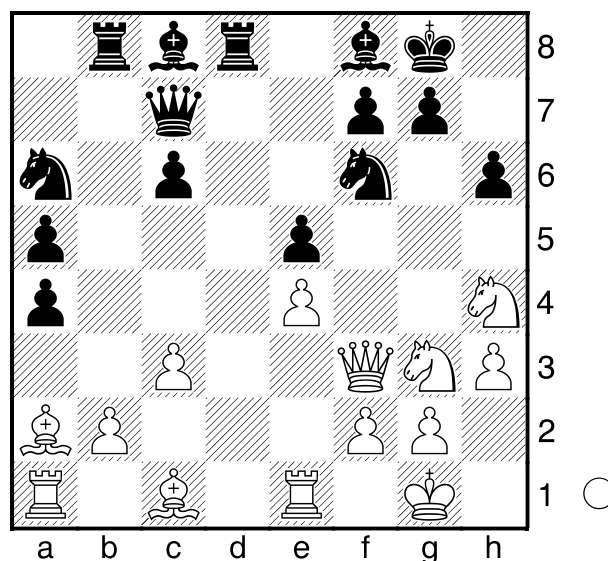
□ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

■ Ding, Liren

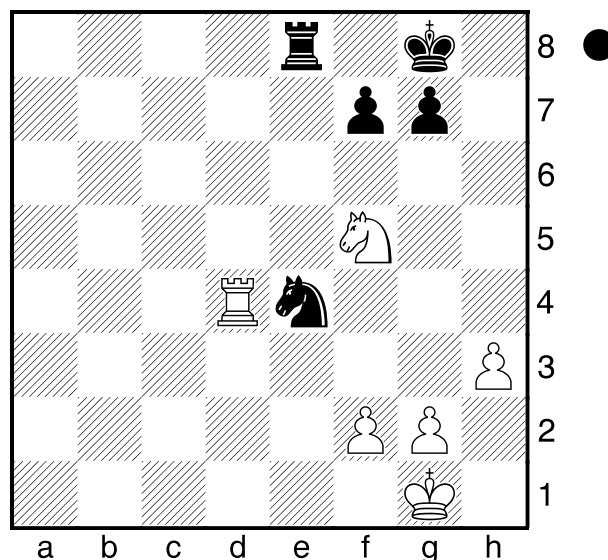
FIDE World Championship 2023 (9.1)

C65
2795
2788

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3
Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.Nbd2 dxe4
8.dxe4 a5 9.a4 Qe7 10.Qc2 Nb8
11.Re1 Rd8 12.h3 h6 13.Nf1 c6
14.Bc4 Na6 15.Ng3 Qc7 16.Ba2 b5
17.Qe2 Rb8 18.Nh4 Bf8 19.Qf3 bxa4
(Diagram)

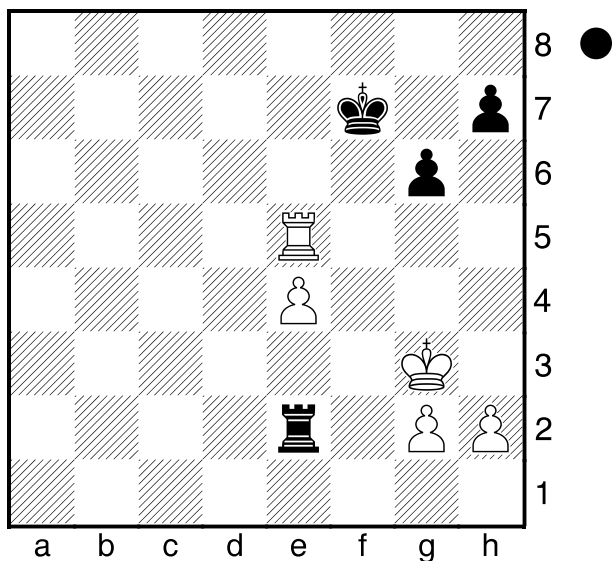


20.Bxh6 Nc5 21.Ng6 Rxb2 22.Nxf8
Rxf8 23.Bg5 Nh7 24.Bc1 Rb5 25.Ba3
Re8 26.Bc4 Be6 27.Bxe6 Nxe6 28.Nf5
c5 29.Qe2 Rb3 30.Qc4 Qc6 31.Bc1
Nf6 32.Qxa4 Qxa4 33.Rxa4 Rxc3
34.Bb2 Rb3 35.Bxe5 Rb4 36.Rxa5
Rxe4 37.Rxe4 Nxe4 38.Ra4 Nd4
39.Bxd4 cxd4 40.Rxd4



g6 41.Ne3 Kg7 42.Rb4 Ng3 43.Rb7
Nf5 44.Ng4 Re7 45.Rb5 Re1+ 46.Kh2
Re2 47.Rb7 Nd6 48.Ra7 Kf8 49.Kg3
f5 50.Kf3 Re7 51.Ra8+ Re8 52.Rxe8+
Kxe8 53.Ne5 g5 54.h4 gxh4 55.Kf4
h3 56.gxh3 Ke7 57.Nc6+ Kf6 58.Nd4

(Diagram)



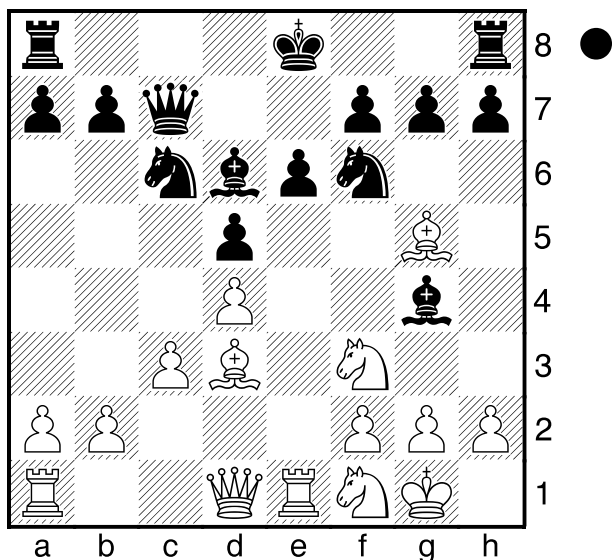
1/2-1/2

□ Ding,Liren

■ Nepomniachtchi,Ian

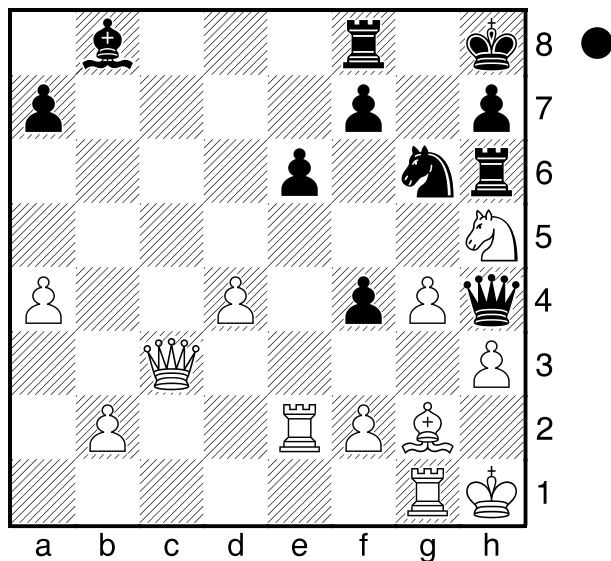
FIDE World Championship 2023 (12.1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Nbd2
cxd4 5.exd4 Qc7 6.c3 Bd7 7.Bd3 Nc6
8.0-0 Bg4 9.Re1 e6 10.Nf1 Bd6
11.Bg5



0-0 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Ng3 f5 14.h3
Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Ne7 16.Nh5 Kh8 17.g4

Rg8 18.Kh1 Ng6 19.Bc2 Nh4 20.Qe3
Rg6 21.Rg1 f4 22.Qd3 Qe7 23.Rae1
Qg5 24.c4 dxc4 25.Qc3 b5 26.a4 b4
27.Qxc4 Rag8 28.Qc6 Bb8 29.Qb7
Rh6 30.Be4 Rf8 31.Qxb4 Qd8 32.Qc3
Ng6 33.Bg2 Qh4 34.Re2



f5? 35.Rxe6 Rxh5 36.gxh5 Qxh5
37.d5+ Kg8 38.d6
1-0

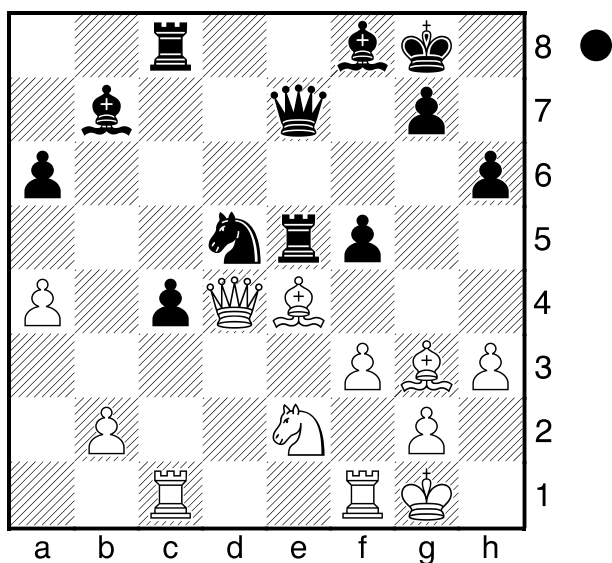
□ Nepomniachtchi,Ian

■ Ding,Liren

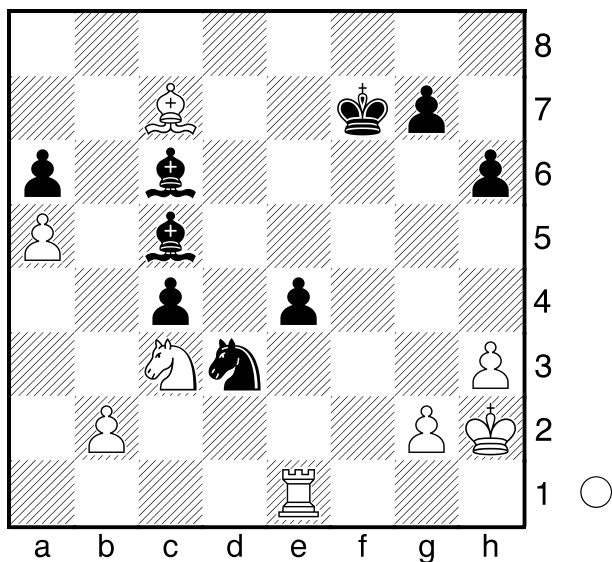
FIDE World Championship 2023 (13.1)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3
0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.Be3 Na5 11.Bc2 c5
12.Nbd2 Re8 13.a4 h6 14.d4 exd4
15.cxd4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nc4 17.Nxc4
bxc4 18.f3 Bf8 19.Bf2 d5 20.exd5
Nxd5 21.Be4 Re5 22.Rc1 Rc8 23.Ne2
Qe7 24.Qd4 f5 25.Bg3

(Diagram)



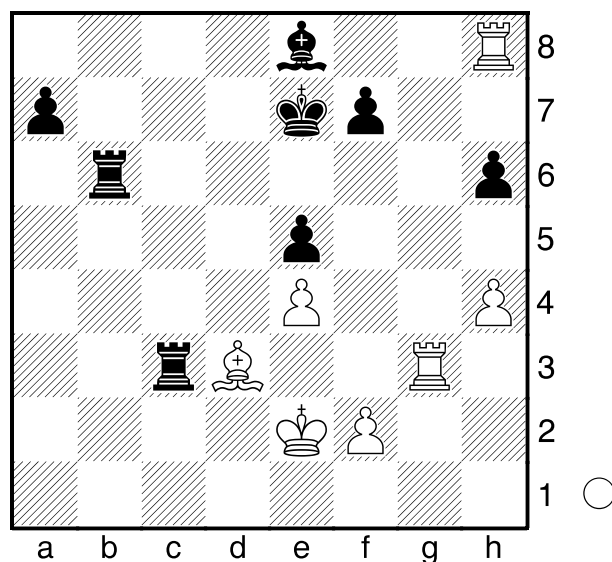
Rxe4 26.fxe4 Qxe4 27.Qxe4 fxe4
28.Rfd1 Nb4 29.Rd7 Bc5+ 30.Kh2 Bc6
31.Rc7 Rxc7 32.Bxc7 Bd5 33.Nc3
Nd3 34.Rc2 Bc6 35.a5 Kf7 36.Re2
Nc1 37.Re1 Nd3 38.Re2 Nc1 39.Re1
Nd3



1/2-1/2

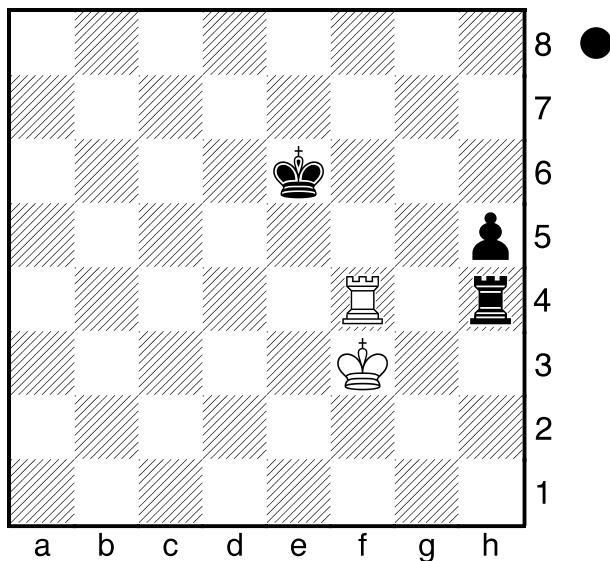
E46
2788
2795
Ding,Liren
Nepomniachtchi,Ian
FIDE World Championship 2023 (14.1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.Bd2 d5 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf3 c5 8.dxc5
Bxc5 9.Qc2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nbd7
11.Rd1 Be7 12.Ng5 h6 13.h4 Qc7
14.Be2 Rd8 15.Rc1 Nf8 16.Nge4
Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Qxc2 18.Rxc2 Bd7
19.Bb4 Bxb4+ 20.axb4 Bc6 21.Nc5
Bxg2 22.Rg1 Bd5 23.e4 Bc6 24.b5
Be8 25.Nxb7 Rd4 26.Rc4 Rd7 27.Nc5
Rc7 28.Rc3 Rac8 29.b4 Nd7 30.Rcg3
Nxc5 31.bxc5 Rxc5 32.Rxg7+ Kf8
33.Bd3 Rd8 34.Ke2 Rc3 35.Rg8+ Ke7
36.R1g3 e5 37.Rh8 Rd6 38.b6 Rxb6



39.Rxe8+ Kxe8 40.Bb5+ Rxb5
41.Rxc3 Kd7 42.Rf3 Ke7 43.Rc3 a5
44.Rc7+ Kf6 45.Rc6+ Kg7 46.Ra6
Rb2+ 47.Kf3 Ra2 48.Kg3 h5 49.Ra8
Ra1 50.Kg2 a4 51.Ra5 f6 52.Kf3 a3
53.Ra6 Kf7 54.Ke3 Ke8 55.Ke2 Ke7
56.Kf3 Ra2 57.Ke3 Ra1 58.Ke2 Kf7
59.Kf3 Ra2 60.Ke3 Ke7 61.Kf3 Kd7
62.Rxf6 Rb2 63.Ra6 Rb3+ 64.Kg2
Kc7 65.f4 exf4 66.e5 Kb7 67.Ra4 Kc6
68.Ra6+ Kb5 69.Ra7 Kb6 70.Ra8 Kc5
71.Ra6 Kb5 72.Ra7 Kb6 73.Ra8 Kc6

74.Ra6+ Kd7 75.Kf2 Ke7 76.Kg2 Re3
 77.Kf2 Rg3 78.Kf1 Rc3 79.Kf2 Re3
 80.Kg2 Kd7 81.Kf2 Kc7 82.e6 Kd8
 83.Ra7 Ke8 84.Kg2 Rxe6 85.Rxa3
 Rg6+ 86.Kf2 Rg4 87.Ra5 Rxh4 88.Kf3
 Ke7 89.Rf5 Ke6 90.Rxf4

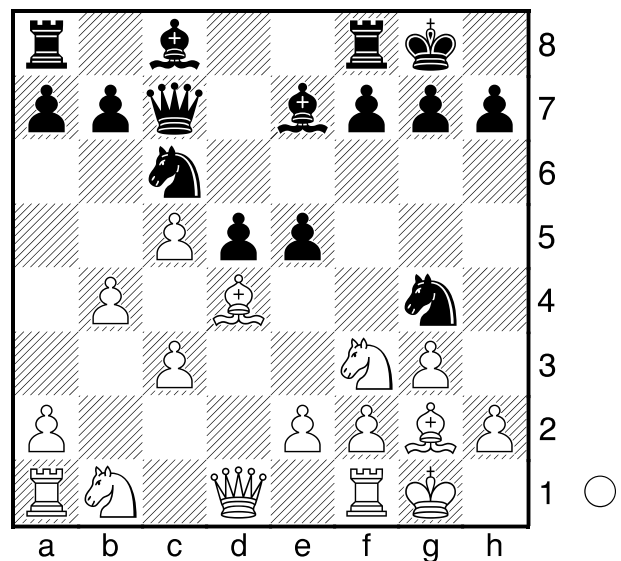


Rxf4+
 1/2-1/2

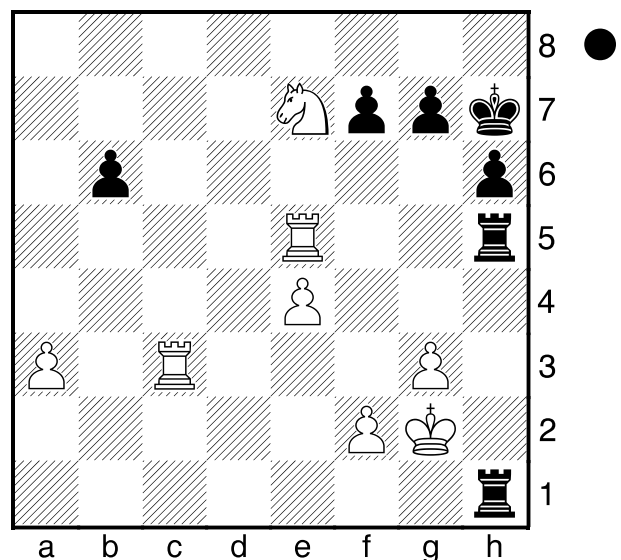
□ **Ding,Liren** **D02**
 ■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2788**
2795
 FIDE World Championship 2023 (15.1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c3 c5 4.dxc5 e6
 5.Be3 Be7 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 0-0 8.b4
 Ng4 9.Bd4 Qc7 10.0-0 e5

(Diagram)



11.h3 exd4 12.hxg4 dxc3 13.Nxc3
 Nxb4 14.a3 Bf6 15.Rc1 Bxc3 16.Rxc3
 Nc6 17.Qxd5 Bxg4 18.Ng5 h6 19.Ne4
 Rae8 20.e3 Re5 21.Qd2 Rd8 22.Nd6
 Rh5 23.Rb1 Ne5 24.e4 b6 25.cxb6
 axb6 26.Nb5 Rxd2 27.Nxc7 Bh3
 28.Bxh3 Rxh3 29.Kg2 Rh5 30.Rb5
 Rd1 31.Nd5 Rdh1 32.Ne7+ Kh7
 33.Rxe5 R1h2+ 34.Kg1 Rh1+ 35.Kg2



1/2-1/2

□ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

■ Ding, Liren

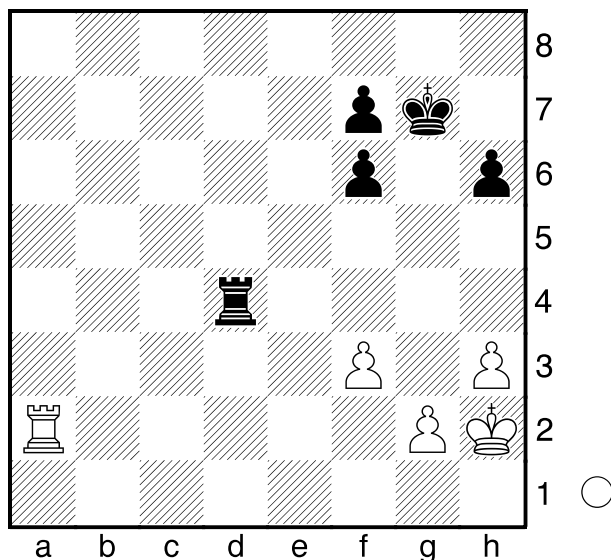
FIDE World Championship 2023 (15.2)

C84

2795

2788

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4
Bd7 9.h3 0-0 10.Be3 Na5 11.Ba2
bxa4 12.Bd2 Nc6 13.Nc3 Rb8
14.Nxa4 Nd4 15.Bc4 c6 16.Nxd4 exd4
17.Bf4 Be6 18.Re1 a5 19.Qf3 Rb7
20.e5 Nd5 21.exd6 Bxd6 22.Bxd6
Qxd6 23.Qe4 Nf4 24.Qe5 Qxe5
25.Rxe5 Bxc4 26.dxc4 Rb4 27.Rc5 d3
28.cxd3 Nxd3 29.Rxc6 Ne5 30.Rc7
Nxc4 31.Nc5 Nxb2 32.Nd7 Re8
33.Rxa5 Nd3 34.Rg5 Rf4 35.f3 h6
36.Rd5 Nb4 37.Rd6 Rf5 38.Rb7 Rd5
39.Rdb6 Rd8 40.Nf6+ gxf6 41.Rxb4
Rd4 42.Rxd4 Rxd4 43.Kh2 Kg7
44.Rb2 Rd5 45.Ra2 Rd4 46.Rb2 Rd5
47.Ra2 Rd4



1/2-1/2

□ Ding, Liren

■ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

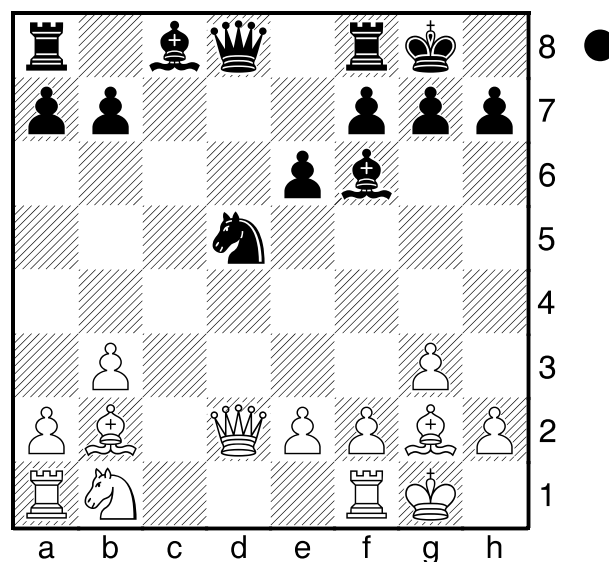
FIDE World Championship 2023 (15.3)

A14

2788

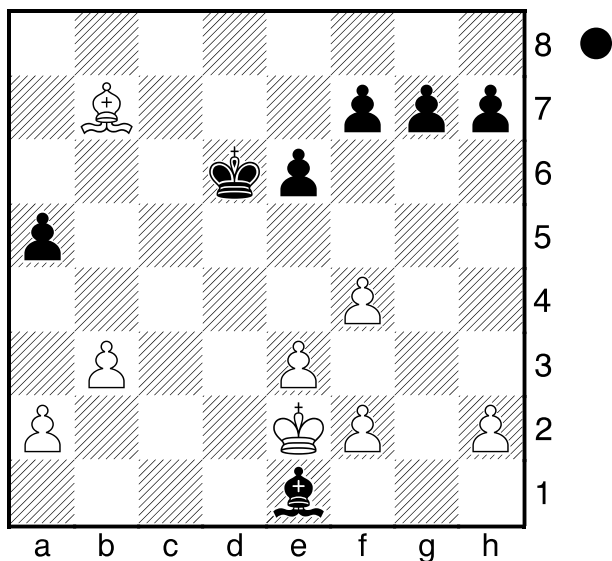
2795

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0
Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5
8.Bb2 Nc6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4
11.Qxd4 Bf6 12.Qd2



Nf4 13.gxf4 Qxd2 14.Nxd2 Bxb2
15.Rad1 Bf6 16.Nc4 Rb8 17.Ne5 Rd8
18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Rd1 Be7 20.Nd7
Bxd7 21.Rxd7 Kf8 22.Bxb7 Rd8
23.Rc7 a5 24.Rc4 Bb4 25.Rc2 Rd2
26.Rxd2 Bxd2 27.e3 Bb4 28.Kf1 Ke7
29.Ke2 Kd6 30.Kd3 Be1 31.Ke2 Bb4
32.Kd3 Be1 33.Ke2

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

□ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

■ Ding, Liren

FIDE World Championship 2023 (15.4)

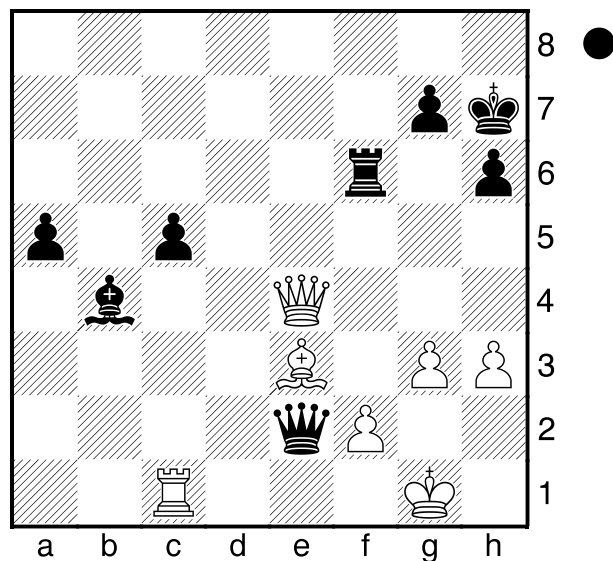
C84

2795

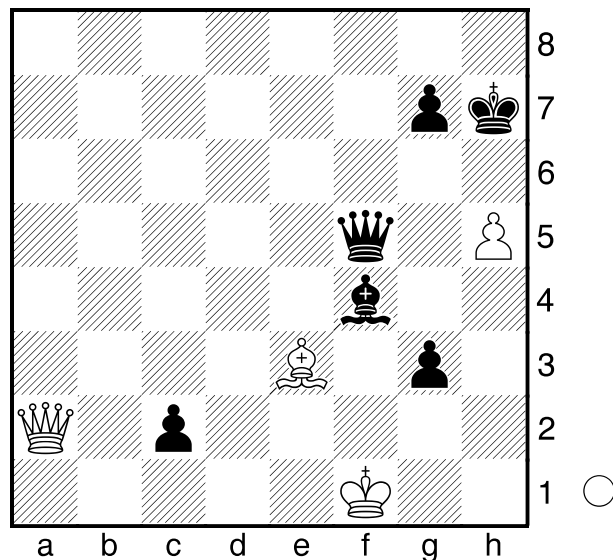
2788

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4 Bd7 9.h3 0-0 10.Be3 Na5 11.Ba2 bxa4 12.Nc3 Rb8 13.Bb1 Qe8 14.b3 c5 15.Nxa4 Nc6 16.Nc3 a5 17.Nd2 Be6 18.Nc4 d5 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Bd2 Nxc3 21.Bxc3 Bxc4 22.bxc4 Bd8 23.Bd2 Bc7 24.c3 f5 25.Re1 Rd8 26.Ra2 Qg6 27.Qe2 Qd6 28.g3 Rde8 29.Qf3 e4 30.dxe4 Ne5 31.Qg2 Nd3 32.Bxd3 Qxd3 33.exf5 Rxe1+ 34.Bxe1 Qxc4 35.Ra1 Rxf5 36.Bd2 h6 37.Qc6 Rf7 38.Re1 Kh7 39.Be3 Be5 40.Qe8 Bxc3 41.Rc1 Rf6 42.Qd7 Qe2 43.Qd5 Bb4 44.Qe4+ Kg8 45.Qd5+ Kh7 46.Qe4+

(Diagram)



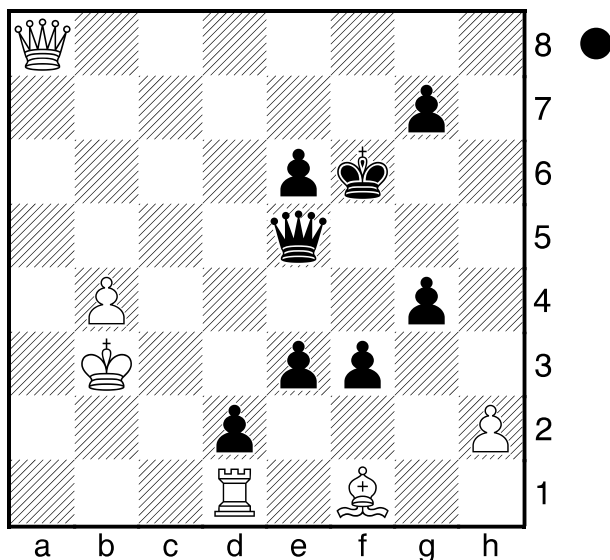
Rg6! 47.Qf5 c4 48.h4 Qd3 49.Qf3 Rf6 50.Qg4 c3 51.Rd1 Qg6 52.Qc8 Rc6 53.Qa8 Rd6 54.Rxd6 Qxd6 55.Qe4+ Qg6 56.Qc4 Qb1+ 57.Kh2 a4 58.Bd4 a3 59.Qc7 Qg6 60.Qc4 c2 61.Be3 Bd6 62.Kg2 h5 63.Kf1 Be5 64.g4 hxg4 65.h5 Qf5 66.Qd5 g3 67.f4 a2 68.Qxa2 Bxf4



0-1

Yoo,Christopher Woojin **B99**
 Mishra,Abhimanyu **2591**
 Spring Chess Classic-A 2023 (2.5) 6.4.23 **2548**

There are FIVE queen promotions in this wonderful game between two of the top juniors in the United States. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 h6 11.Qh3 Nc5 12.Bg2 Rg8 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.b4 Nd7 15.g5 hxg5 16.e5 Nxe5 17.fxe5 Bxe5 18.Rhe1 Bd7 19.Rxe5 dxe5 20.Nb3 Rd8 21.Nc5 Bc8 22.Rf1 Rd4 23.N3e4 b6 24.c3 bxc5 25.cxd4 cxd4+ 26.Kb2 Qe7 27.Rc1 Bd7 28.Nc5 f5 29.Qh7 Qf7 30.a4 Ke7 31.Qh3 Qf6 32.Nxd7 Kxd7 33.Qd3 e4 34.Qxa6 d3+ 35.Kb3 Rd8 36.a5 d2 37.Rd1 Ke7 38.Bf1 Qe5 39.Qc4 f4 40.a6 f3 41.Qc6 g4 42.a7 e3 43.Qb7+ Kf6 44.a8Q Rxa8 45.Qxa8

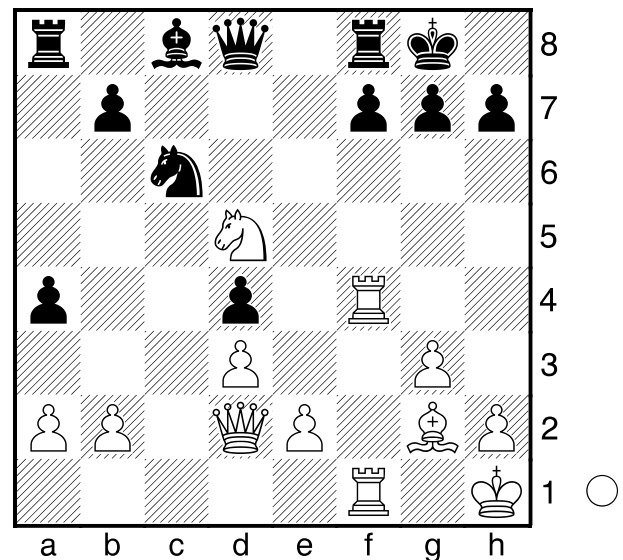


e2 46.Qd8+ Kg6 47.Qxd2 exd1Q+
 48.Qxd1 Qxh2 49.Qd3+ Kg5 50.Qd8+
 Kf4 51.Qd4+ Kf5 52.Bd3+ Kg5
 53.Qxg7+ Kf4 54.b5 Qg1 55.Qf7+ Kg3
 56.Qc7+ Kh3 57.b6 Qd1+ 58.Bc2
 Qd5+ 59.Kb4 Qd4+ 60.Ka3 f2
 61.Qh7+ Kg2 62.Qe4+ Qxe4 63.Bxe4+

Kg1 64.Bd3 g3 65.b7 g2 66.b8Q f1Q
 67.Bxf1 gxf1Q
 1/2-1/2

Gledura,Benjamin **A20**
 Swiercz,Dariusz **2637**
 Spring Chess Classic-A 2023 (8.4) **2646**

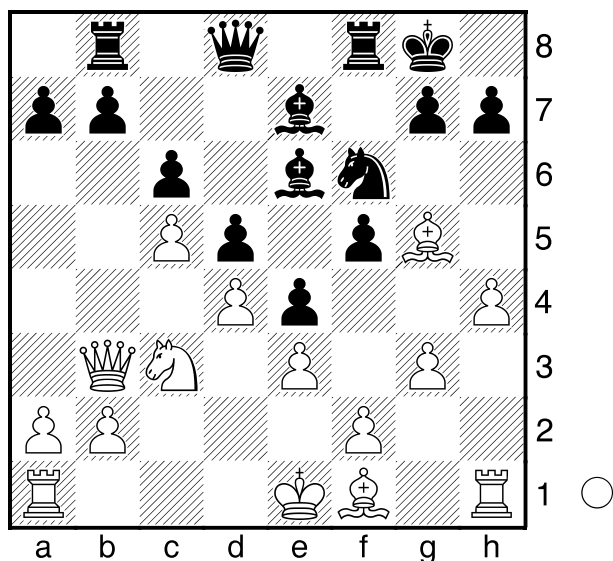
A wonderful attacking game from the young Hungarian GM. 1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 Qb6 6.Nb3 a5 7.d3 a4 8.N3d2 Bc5 9.0-0 e3 10.fxe3 Bxe3+ 11.Kh1 Ng4 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Nde4 d5 14.cxd5 Bxc1 15.Qxc1 Ne3 16.Rf3 Nxd5 17.Qd2 Qd8 18.Raf1 Nd7 19.Nxd5 cxd5 20.Nc3 d4 21.Nd5 Ne5 22.Rf4 Nc6



23.Nf6+! gxf6 24.Rh4 Re8 25.Qh6 f5
 26.Be4! Rxe4 27.dxe4 Ra5 28.Rh5 f6
 29.Qxh7+ Kf8 30.Rh6 Re5 31.Qg6
 Ke7 32.Qxf6+ Kd7 33.Qd6+ Ke8
 34.Rh8+
1-0

Peter Svidler **A21**
2683
 Arjun Erigaisi **2701**
 TePe Sigeman & Co (3) 06.05.2023

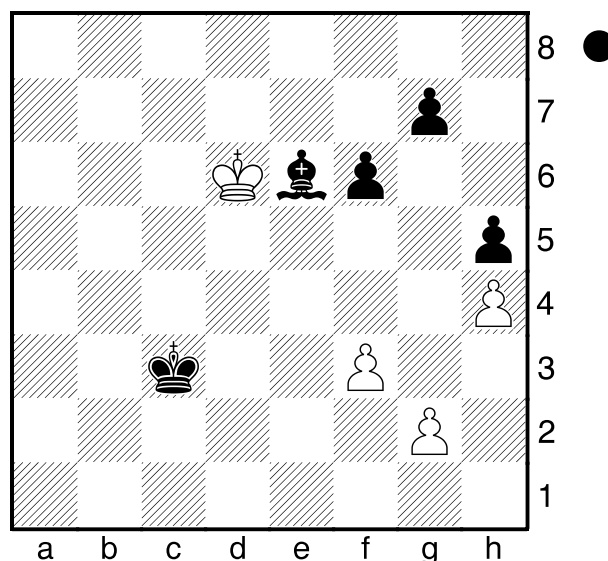
White cleverly wins the Exchange and then gives a master-class in winding the game up. 1.c4 e5 2.g3 d6 3.Nc3 f5 4.d4 Be7 5.Nf3 e4 6.Nh4 c6 7.Ng2 Na6 8.h4 Nc7 9.Qb3 Nf6 10.Bg5 0-0 11.e3 Rb8 12.Nf4 Ne6 13.c5! d5 14.Nxe6 Bxe6



15.Bf4 b6 16.Bxb8 Qxb8 17.Na4 Nd7
 18.cxb6 axb6 19.Rc1 Qd6 20.Be2 c5
 21.Bb5 c4 22.Qa3 Qxa3 23.bxa3 Nf6
 24.Rb1 Rb8 25.Kd2 Kf8 26.Bc6 Bd8
 27.Nc3 Ke7 28.Rb4 Kd6 29.Bb5 Kc7
 30.Ra4 Kb7 31.Rb1 g6 32.Ra6 Bd7
 33.Ra4 Be6 34.Kc2 Bc7 35.Ba6+ Kc6
 36.Kd1 Bd8 37.Ke2 Bc7 38.Nb5 Bd8
 39.Na7+ Kc7 40.Bb5 Ra8 41.Rbb4
 Bd7 42.Bxd7 Kxd7 43.Nb5 Ra5
 44.Nc3 Kc6 45.Rxa5 bxa5 46.Rb8
 Be7 47.Rb5 Bd8 48.Rc5+ Kd6 49.Rc8
 Kd7 50.Ra8 Bb6 51.Na4 Bd8 52.Nc5+
 Ke7 53.Ra7+ Ke8 54.Ne6
1-0

Vladislav Artemiev **C65**
2701
 Sergey Karjakin **2747**
 Russian Team Chess Championships (6)

The 2016 World Championship contender returns to chess with a technically virtuostic performance. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nbd2 Nd4 6.Nxd4 Bxd4 7.c3 Bb6 8.d4 c6 9.dxe5 cxb5 10.exf6 Qxf6 11.0-0 0-0 12.a4 bxa4 13.Nc4 d5 14.exd5 Bd7 15.Be3 Rfe8 16.Nxb6 axb6 17.Qd2 b5 18.Rfe1 h6 19.h3 Qg6 20.Kh2 Re5 21.Bf4 Rxd5 22.Qe3 Rd3 23.Qe4 Qxe4 24.Rxe4 Bc6 25.Re2 f6 26.Kg1 Rad8 27.Rae1 b4 28.cxb4 R8d4 29.b5 Bxb5 30.Re4 Rxe4 31.Rxe4 Rd1+ 32.Kh2 Rb1 33.Rb4 Bc6 34.h4 Kf7 35.Be3 b5 36.Kg3 Ke6 37.f3 Bd7 38.Kf2 Kf7 39.Bd4 Rc1 40.Be3 Rc2+ 41.Kg1 Ke6 42.Kf1 Ke7 43.Kg1 Kd6 44.Rd4+ Kc6 45.Rd2 Rxd2 46.Bxd2 Kc5 47.Kf2 Kc4 48.Be3 b4 49.Ke2 a3 50.bxa3 bxa3 51.Bc1 Kb3 52.Be3 Kc3 53.Bd2+ Kc2 54.Be3 a2 55.Bd4 h5 56.Ke3 Kb1 57.Ke4 Be6 58.Bc3 a1Q 59.Bxa1 Kxa1 60.Kd4 Kb2 61.Kc5 Kc3 62.Kd6

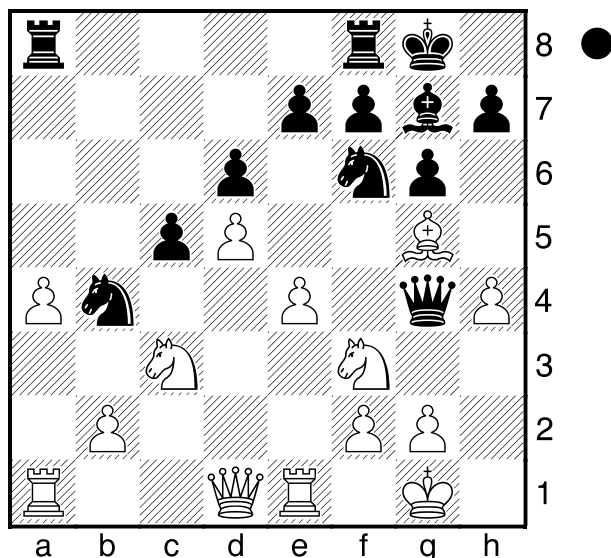


Bh3! 63.gxh3 Kd4 64.Ke6 Ke3 65.Kf7

Kxf3 66.Kg6 Kg3 67.Kxh5 Kxh3
0-1

Caruana,Fabiano **E73**
 Vachier Lagrave,Maxime **2764**
 GCT Superbet Romania 2023 (3.4) 8.5.23 **2742**

The US Champion takes advantage of overly aggressive play by MVL to score a quick victory. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.h4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 c5 7.d5 b5 8.cxb5 a6 9.a4 axb5 10.Bxb5 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Nf3 Qd7 13.0-0 Qg4 14.Re1 Nb4 15.Bg5

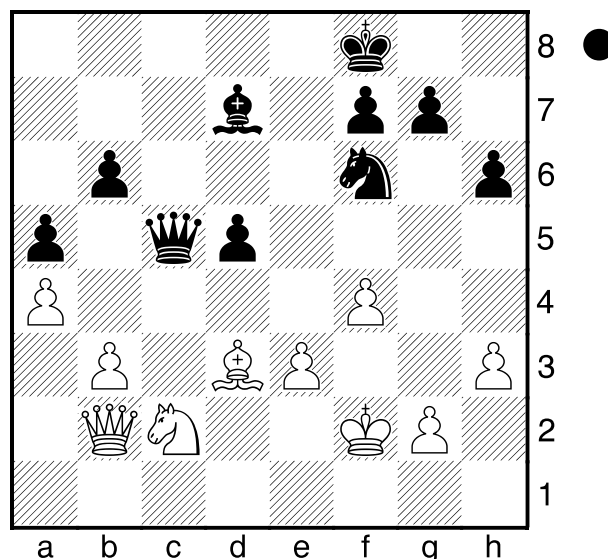


Nh5?! 16.Bxe7 Nf4 17.g3 Rfe8 18.Bxd6 Nfd3 19.Re3 Nxb2 20.Qb3 N2d3 21.e5 f5 22.Nh2 Qh3 23.Ne2
1-0

Caruana,Fabiano **D32**
 Nepomniachtchi,Ian **2764**
 GCT Superbet Romania 2023 (4.2) 9.5.23 **2794**

The impatient Nepo is outplayed in a good knight vs bad bishop scenario with queens on the board. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3

d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bb5 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Nf3 Be6 11.b3 a6 12.Bd3 Ne5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.Bb2 Rc8 15.Rc1 0-0 16.f4 Bc7 17.Ne2 Bb6 18.Bd4 Bxd4 19.Nxd4 Qa5 20.Qe2 Rfe8 21.h3 Bd7 22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Qb2 Qc5 24.a4 a5 25.Qd2 b6 26.Rb1 Qa3 27.Kh2 h6 28.Rb2 Qe7 29.Rc2 Rc5 30.Nf3 Rxc2 31.Bxc2 Qc5 32.Bd3 Kf8 33.Nd4 Kg8 34.Kg1 Kf8 35.Kf2 Ke7 36.Qb2 Kf8 37.Nc2



Ne4+ 38.Bxe4 dxe4 39.Nd4 Bc6 40.Qe2 Qc3 41.Qa6 Qd2+ 42.Ne2 Qb4 43.Qc8+ Be8 44.Qc2 Bd7 45.Nd4 f5 46.Qc7 Qd2+ 47.Ne2 Be6 48.Qxb6 Kf7 49.Qd4 Qa2 50.Qa7+ Kg8 51.Qa8+ Kh7 52.Qxa5 Kh8 53.Qd8+ Kh7 54.Qa5 Kh8 55.b4 Bc4 56.Qd8+ Kh7 57.Qd1 Bb3 58.Qd7 Be6 59.Qb5 Kh8 60.Qc5 g6 61.Ke1 Kg8 62.Qd6 Kf7 63.Qd2 Qxa4 64.Nd4 Bc4 65.Kf2 h5 66.Kg3 Qa3 67.b5 Qd3 68.Qc1 Bxb5 69.Qc7+ Kf8 70.Qc5+
1-0

□ Firouzja,Alireza

■ Ding,Liren

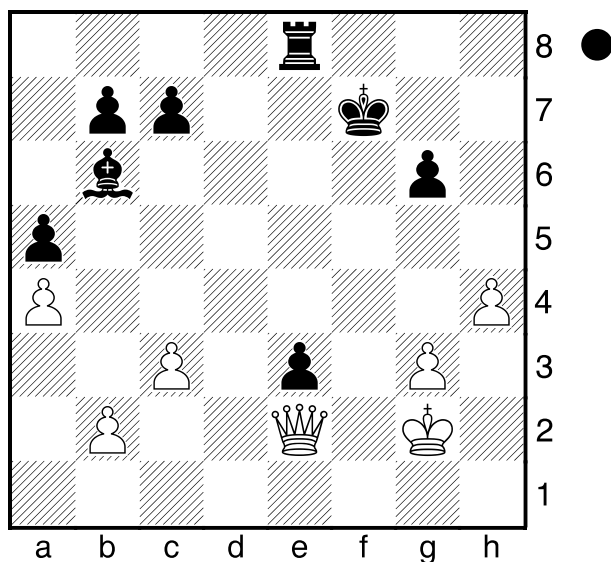
C65

2785

2789

GCT Superbet Romania 2023 (5.2)

The newly crowned World Champion gets bamboozled in this entertaining game. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.Nbd2 dxe4 8.dxe4 a5 9.Qc2 Qe7 10.a4 Nb8 11.h3 Rd8 12.Be2 Nbd7 13.Re1 Nf8 14.Nb3 Bb6 15.Nfd2 Be6 16.Nc4 Bxc4 17.Bxc4 Ne6 18.g3 h5 19.Kg2 h4 20.Qe2 g6 21.Nd2 Nc5 22.Nf3 hxg3 23.fxg3 Ncxe4 24.Ng5 Nd6 25.Ba2 Re8 26.h4 Kg7 27.Rf1 Rad8 28.Bd2 e4 29.Bf4 e3 30.Rad1 Nfe4 31.Bxd6 Nxd6 32.Bxf7 Nxf7 33.Rxf7+ Qxf7 34.Nxf7 Rxd1 35.Qxd1 Kxf7 36.Qe2



Ke7 37.Kf1 Rf8+ 38.Ke1 Rf2 39.Qg4 Kf6 40.Qg5+ Kf7 41.Qd5+ Kf6 42.g4 Rxb2 43.g5+ Ke7 44.Qe5+ Kd7 45.Qg7+ Kd6 46.Qxg6+ Ke5 47.Qe8+ Kf4 48.g6 Rb1+ 49.Ke2 Rb2+ 50.Kd3 Rd2+ 51.Kc4 Rg2 52.Qf7+
1-0

IM John Donaldson

10th Larry Evans Memorial Open

The 10th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open, held April 7-9, attracted 197 players to its new home at the Circus Circus Hotel in Reno. Fran and Jerry Weikel, who have organized and directed tournaments in northern Nevada for over 40 years, once again put on a first-class event that attracted 197 entries including over 30 players representing the Mechanics' Institute.

The open section was won by US Chess Hall of Famer James Tarjan who scored 5-1 (four wins and two half point byes). The veteran Grandmaster from Portland, Oregon defeated 14-year-old Rose Atwell in the last round to take home the \$2000 first prize.

The rapidly improving Atwell had a brilliant tournament, defeating Grandmaster Sergey Kudrin and NM Ruiyang Yan as well as drawing Grandmaster Melik Khachiyan enroute to tying for second with Yan and International Master Dmitry Zilberstein.

The latter was involved in one of the more spectacular games of the event. His opponent, a high school student from Reno, is rated 2100 USCF but only 1674(!) FIDE.

Is it any wonder older players' FIDE ratings are dropping?

On a final note, congratulations to long-time Mechanics' Institute member Samuel Agdamag who won the Class C section. Well done, Sam!

(IM John Donaldson annotates the aforementioned Uz vs Ziberstein game in the Recent Games section above.)

Danny Cao

Chess Room Fairytale, Part 2 - relive Part 1 [here](#)

True to his name, Headwhite the Dragonmaster had an enormous white head shaped like a lightbulb and a large gaping mouth: perfect for devouring a child in one single bite, and Ralex Obins the Dungeonmaster was a fearsome orc known far and wide for his large mouth and even larger appetite.

"RAAAAWWWRRRRR! We are grumpy and hungry, hangry and frumpy.
We heard you children and now we start munching!!!!"

The monsters leapt, and the children scattered. The child with the highest USCF rating at camp bravely stood firm (become a member or renew your [USCF membership](#) today). "Surely there must be something more tasty to you than we innocent children having some innocent fun."

The monsters thought for a moment.

"One tasty treat that we certainly like
are dark chocolate chess pieces and marzipan light"

Fortunately for the children (in these olden times) plastic/polycarbons were not yet "a thing" and the chess pieces at the Mechanics' Institute in those days were made by the finest chocolatiers and marzipaniers in San Francisco: wood fired, hardened, and lacquered, so that humans could not bite them but for monsters with large mouths and teeth to match, the pieces would make for delicious munching.

"Silly monsters, don't eat us kids,
there are marzipan pieces and dark chocolate nibs."

The monsters agreed to spare the children and began devouring all the chess pieces in the chess room. The monsters, with their greedy hands and mouths, were a frenzy of munching and crunching, the bone breaking sounds of crackling chess pieces and the flying saliva, a truly disgusting spectacle.

It was clear that no chess piece would be spared and that once finished there would be no chess pieces to use for chess camp, leaving the kids with absolutely nothing to do. For a chess room is not a chess room without chess pieces - and for children, the only thing worse than being eaten by monsters is dying of boredom.

"Surely there must be something more tasty to you monsters than children and chess pieces!!!"

"One tasty treat that we'd like the mostest,
is sinking our teeth into delicious chess coaches!!!"

The children gleefully exclaimed,

"The coaches, chess coaches. They'll be back soon.
If you stop eating pieces, we'll catch them for you!!!!"

Headwhite and Ralex Obins had their doubts. "How could you children possibly trap the mighty coaches: Malyssa and Manny?"

"We will assemble into a horde of impenetrable pawn children from which there will be no escape for our dear chess coaches."

Headwhite and Ralex roared:

"Horde of pawn children, catch them you must!!!!
Or else all pieces and children, we will munch into dust!!!"

Headwhite and Ralex Obins retreated behind the dungeon door. Their impatient appetites eagerly awaiting either children, pieces, or coaches.

Coaches Malyssa and Manny returned with the barrels of beverages and were immediately rushed by the horde.

"This horde of pawn children, what evil has ensued.
Fortunately we chess coaches know what to do."

In a flash, the coaches transformed into knights, leaping in L shapes to and fro. At first it was confusing for the horde as they did not know which way(s) to go. But as they learned the knights' movements their senses became sharp, and soon the pawn children had trapped both their marks.

Sensing their imminent capture the coaches transformed into bishops and slid out of trouble along the long diagonals in the chess room. Though much faster than the knights, the children soon realized that one bishop was limited to only dark squares, and the other was limited to light squares, and that thoughtful coordinated placement of their pawn horde would limit and eventually trap the two bishops.

But once again, just before being captured, coaches Malyssa and Manny turned into rooks and slid back and forth, left and right, horizontal and vertical, to and fro. They now were even faster than the bishops and could access any area of the chess room quickly in no more than two moves. But quantity over quality, and numbers over might, the horde clogged all the files and ranks, and the rooks lost all their fight. Just as the coaches were to be trapped, a FLASH and a new dramatic transformation.

Coach Malyssa turned into a queen. By combining the powers and movements of both the rook and bishop, coach Malyssa's transformation into the goddess of the chessboard was complete and the horde of pawn children were astonished as queen Malyssa flew over them out of reach and out the open window onto the scaffolding of the next door McKesson Castle (which had been under construction/renovation for what seemed centuries).

Coach Manny turned into a king of course and roared at the children. "Beware my infinite might!!!"

The horde of children laughed, for the rules of chess they knew. The value of the king was great, but as for powers, the king had few.

As King Manny lunged towards the children, he felt a disturbing sensation. As if anvils were stuck to his kingly feet. Gone was the cunning of the knight, gone the speed of the bishop, gone the daring of the rook. He could barely get his feet off the ground, and his lunge towards the children only produced a feeble hop to an adjacent square.

The horde of pawn children surrounded King/coach Manny, checkmated him with ease and dragged him to the dungeon door.

Knocking on the huge imposing door the horde chanted,

"Eating children and pieces, that isn't nice.
We offer up Coach Manny, our exchange sacrifice."

The door blew open wide again, and this time the children were able to see the disturbing chaos that existed behind the dungeon door.

To one side: Dragons, Accelerated Dragons, and Hyper-Accelerated Dragons running roughshod out of control everywhere with the so-called Dragonmaster - Headwhite running from chess board to chess board in a hellish simul, facing losing positions versus every dragon in the dungeon.

And to the other side, the dungeon zoo, a giant litter box of shredded papers: old tournament pairings, confusing timesheets, bounced tournament prize checks, and inaccurate event flyers. The area overcrowded with sickly animals: hippopotami, orangutans, hedgehogs, rats, birds, chameleons, lions, mustangs, snakes, elephants, crabs, and more in the most dubious of conditions. Next to them, the so-called Dungeonmaster Ralex Obins was fiddling away on yet another failed spreadsheet.

"Headwhite the Dragonmaster!!! Ralex Obins the Dungeonmaster!!!" the children called out.

"Headwhite the dragonmaster??!!" Hissed the dragons. "Headwhite is no dragonmaster! He is the worst chess player at the Mechanics' Institute. We dragons are the true chess masters!"

"Ralex Obins the Dungeonmaster??!!" The animals snickered. "This dungeon is more of a pigsty with garbage and litter piled as high as the seventh rank."

Hearing the dragons and animals speak so indignantly only made Headwhite and Ralex Obins more irritable, and more hungry. They leapt towards the door, ready to make a quick meal of coach Manny.

"There must be something more tasty than children, pieces, and coaches" Coach Manny pleaded.

After consulting for a moment the monsters agreed.

"One thing we would surely like to eat and cook
are roomfuls of librarians, periodicals, and books."

Coach Manny and the children were dumbfounded.

"Oh monsters oh monsters, say don't you know:
The floors underneath offer so much below.
Librarians, periodicals and books on display.
For fierce beasts like you, a tasty buffet."

Headwhite and Ralex Obins hung their heads in sadness for they could not access the library floors below as both of their Mechanics' Institute memberships had been revoked. Headwhite had eaten too many chess books (instead of studying them) and Ralex Obin's renewal notices had gone unheeded and were lost in the litter box that was the dungeon zoo floor.

Coach Manny sympathized with the monsters for he too had had his membership transgressions (794.12 Y959bu v.1 LOST AND PAID; 794.15 P76h LOST AND PAID). But luckily for coach Manny, his membership was currently in good standing ([Mechanics' Institute memberships](#) are readily available and affordable for even the fiercest of monsters), and he quickly pulled out his magical Mechanics' Institute member card and made a proposal: If the monsters would spare the children, pieces, and himself, he would use his member card to allow the monsters to access the the feast in the library floors below.

The monsters, children, and coach Manny agreed that this was a win-win-win for everyone (except the librarians) and the deal was struck. Coach Manny escorted the monsters out of the chess room, and down the spiral staircase to the third floor. With a swipe of the card, Headwhite stormed through the third floor library door.

As Headwhite's rampage began, Coach Manny and Ralex Obins descended to the second floor. With a swipe of the card Ralex Obins stormed into the lower floor. With both floors being breached, there would be no escape for the librarians nor the riches of available reading/feeding materials.

As current Mechanics' Institute members are aware, between the main second and third floors of the Institute library are the "middling floors", filled with a wide variety of nonfiction books, but in those times the middling floors were the domain of sorcerers, wizards, and mystics. Every book in the middling floors told tales of fantasies, spells, and wondrous things both beautiful and terrifying. The middling floors were shrouded in a spell of invisibility, so as to keep its secrets safe from those who might use them for selfish/evil purposes.

It was here on the invisible middling floors that the guardians - the crafty GrandSorcerer Welliott Inslow, the sagely GrandWizard Salburt Tarr, and wise GrandMystic Lonytama - became aware of the chaos on both main floors. They immediately ceased their cataloging and research and headed to location 794.124, the most powerful and sacred bookshelf deep within the invisible floors.

As they shuffled through the powerful spell books, the screams of the librarians and the sounds of books being devoured en masse told them that time was of the essence or all would be lost.

At last, Lonytama found the volume that was needed. He pulled down the sacred tome, "Dilman's Complete Wizardry Course" ([794.124 S584](#) currently available!). The graded table of contents made it easy for him to find the appropriate spell. He called out to his friends and brought the spell book over.

"I've found the spell, a mate in 3: to end this savage gore."

Wizard Salburt smiled and said, "I've cast this 1.b4."

And so the spell began. As Welliott stood above them adding precise spell annotations and analysis, Salburt and Lonytama sat across from one another chanting each line of the 38 step spell, eventually reaching the decisive mate in 3. With their eyes rolling back into their heads and their voices growing louder, "36.g4+ Kh4 37.Bg3+ Nxg3 38.fxg3# CHECKMATE!"

And just as the mighty king was toppled by the humble pawn so too were Headwhite and Ralex Obins. The simple mate in 3 bringing both monsters to their knees and the sounds of their ferocious roars replaced by a soft "rrri-bit" and giggles of a teenage girl: Headwhite the frog and princess Ralex Obins.

While the librarians were grateful to the sorcerers for saving them, they did call into question the specific choice of spell. The frog / princess scenario reeked of plagiarism and perhaps outright copyright infringement. Additionally, the administration and staff questioned the usefulness of a frog and a princess in day to day operations.

The spell-casters concurred. A more powerful solution would need to be employed and it would require the help of everyone at the Mechanics' Institute.

A plan was formulated. The frog and princess were to be placed in the center of the chess room and everyone at the Mechanics' Institute was to sit at the boards, ready to make their contribution in the casting of a new spell. Welliott, Salburt, and Lonytama made their way back to location 794.124 and pulled down the most powerful spell book on the shelf, the much heralded yet seldom opened Svoretsky's Wizardry Manual ([794.124 D98](#) currently available!).

The heavy spell book was brought to the chess room and the perfect spell was found. Under the guidance of Welliott, Salburt, and Lonytama, coaches Malyssa and Manny were tasked with the mainline of spell, the children of the chess camp were tasked with the variations of the mainline, and all others (dragons, animals, librarians, administration, and staff) were assigned the sub-variations of the variations of the mainline.

There would be no flash, no puff of smoke, no simple tactic to find. For a spell so great, with so much beauty needed care, patience, and time. And beautiful it was, for after many hours of spell casting, the gradual transformation was complete and in the center of the chess room stood the handsome and dashing Chess Coordinator FIDE Master Paul Whitehead, and the equally handsome and dashing Chess Program Manager Alex Robins.

No longer the chaotic disorganized beast, like a master choreographer, Alex Robins began organizing everyone in the chess room.

"Everyone! Boards in the starting position, and so begins, our simultaneous exhibition"

No longer the blundering chess monster to be made fun of by dragons but a figurative chess monster, Paul Whitehead made his way from board to board with the grace of a belly dancer, moving from table to table, easily dispatching each and every human, animal, and dragon at the Mechanics' Institute.

With the last checkmate Paul Whitehead roared, "Now I AM the true DRAGONMASTER!"

And with the last result of the expertly organized simul recorded and tabulated Alex Robins roared, "Now I AM the true DUNGEONMASTER!"

But the taming of the dragons was just the beginning. There was more work to be done. And Chess Coordinator Paul and Chess Program Manager Alex set off to do just that. The dungeon was cleaned up and transformed into two rooms: The chess office and adjoining chess annex, very similar to how it is today. The results of the simul told them that more educational programs for both [adults](#) and [children](#) would be needed.

The finest [chess tournaments](#), such as the regular Tuesday Night Marathon would be held at the Mechanics' Institute under the watchful eyes of renowned FIDE Arbiters such as the lasersaber-wielding Jedilorian Sudit Jztaray and formerly Swordsman Zalamantez, their sharp blades, quick intuition, and even quicker reflexes deterring any player from seeking an unfair advantage from portable magic devices, lest they lose a hand, arm, or worse.

A regular [chess newsletter](#) was to be published featuring chess news both near and far.

And finally, all the dungeon animals (orangutans, hippopotami, and more) were cured of their dubious conditions and trained to be chess instructors. The happy, healthy, friendly animals were then sent out each weekday to teach chess to children in the schools of San Francisco culminating in a [yearly children's chess event](#), their teaching hours automatically tracked by the centerpiece of the chess room office, the hovering magical all-knowing CHEXPAY orb.

All are encouraged to visit both the chess room and the library during [regular hours](#) and [events](#).

And should you find yourself on the street below, when the Mechanics' Institute is closed, say in the late evening or early morning hours, listen closely. For in the shadows, you may hear the heavy fire-breathing of the dragons, and the ghosts of Headwhite and Ralex Obins howling and groaning as they tilt on 3+0 blitz.

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Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Cafe

It's been an active month for the Chess Cafe, starting with March 27:

Alexey Root made her first trip to Western Europe, presenting some of her Chessable research. She and Doug went to Paris and spent two hours at a place known as "The Blitz Society." Doug won every game. "Pia Cramling was there, Sophia was there, Mikhail Korenman." Korenman worked with Karpov to found the Anatoly Karpov International School of Chess in Lindsborg, Kansas (pop. 3,500). The December 25, 2004 *New York Times* ran a nice feature on the visit of 15 GMs to Lindsborg at that time; festivities included the first-ever exhibition games between a former women's world champion (Judith Polgar) and a former men's champ (Anatoly Karpov).

Paul mentioned an outdoor club in London with 500 members.

It was said that the recidivism rate is lower for prisoners who are chess players.

We played through a recent Aaron Adams game, which was "focused as much at the end as at the beginning." Then Michael Walder-Stephen Parsons from the TNM. "I wanted to get to Giri-Topalov. . . . Black's Nb6 loses to a tactic" that produces a protected pawn at e7 backed by a bishop at b4. We saw Michael Anderson-Brendan Lacounte. There were comments about a club player who never wore shoes. And loud snoring during one of the lectures. We also watched Petrosian-Gennadi and Whitehead-Danny Kopec.

Mechanics' Institute has 3,000 members, but not all use the chess club. The Marshall C.C. in N.Y. has 1,000. Sophia Rohde: "There's a girl's and women's tournament tomorrow at the Marshall with \$800 in prizes." And Trish came up with an answer to a question put by the previous speaker: "The Boy Scouts have a chess badge."

On April 3, Mike Walder said, "Nepo is one of the fiercest attackers I've seen in a long time." Mike Anderson on what we were watching: "Easy chess. Nothing dominant, but very accurate." Charles James updated us on progress in Hans Niemann's case against Chess.com. Sophia: "Hans tied for first in Spain."

On April 10, there was a special program on the 14-game World Championship match that began on April 7. Twice as many people as usual came to hear a trio of masters talk about the match and its first two games: IM John Donaldson, prolific author, U.S. team captain, longtime director and historian of the Mechanics' Institute club, and dedicated world-class chess researcher; IM Sal Matera of the Marshall Chess Club.; and FM Paul Whitehead. Alyssa Stone, Mechanics' Institute Senior Director of Programs and Community Engagement, made the introductions, beginning with Mr. Azamat Abraimov, Honorary Consul at the Consulate General of Kazakhstan on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. He spoke of how good the game is for kids there, learning how to win and how to lose, and

how well one of the Kazakh girls is doing in a tournament in India. "Nepo looks incredibly relaxed," said John Donaldson. "Ding looks a little star-struck. . . Historically many challengers did not win the Championship on their first try." He noted that Spassky beat Keres, Geller, and Tal in the Candidates matches, but lost to Petrosian. The next time they met three years later, he won. But few players have won the Candidates twice. China, he said, has already had six women's world champions, but chess is not a national sport there, like table tennis, gymnastics, and track and field. Paul Whitehead agreed, saying they have a relatively small pool of players.

The three panelists looked with us at Game 1 of the current match, a Delayed Exchange of the Ruy Lopez. John ribbed, "Paul used to play this." Mike Walder said 11. . . Bg4 was a novelty. On move 14, Nepo moved Nf5. Sal mentioned Anish Giri and others calling for a Nd5 shot. And 16. Qg3. Apparently Ding thought it was weakening. Paul: "A lot of interesting moves beneath this calm surface." By move 27, John said, "Black has no chance to win this anymore." A draw. Paul: "This game was somewhat exciting, but the next one is very exciting."

The friendship between Richard Rapport and Ding Liren was discussed. Sal: "Ding is a very classical player . . . Rapport has a very unusual style." One mentioned being reminded of Karjakin's influence on Nepo last time. In Game 2, the 18th move, . . . f5, breaks open the position. Sal said the game reminded him of Rotlewi vs. Rubinstein. Paul showed how the White king would be mated at e3 or f4 if he let the light diagonal be opened up. At move 25 he said, "This is just bad, horribly bad." John: "A very one-sided game. But Ding has shown great resilience throughout his career. More so than Nepo, who has a kind of tradition of melting down when things don't go his way. Ding's not playing at his normal level so far. That's because Nepomniatchi has a way of getting him into positions where he feels uncomfortable."

When these games start in Astana, it's 5am for Sal, Sophia, and others on the East Coast, and 2am for us on the West Coast. Kazakhstan is so much farther away. One mentioned that in traveling there, if you can stay awake until you arrive at midnight, you'll be very tired and can sleep and feel good for the 9am round.

John: "If Ding loses another game, he may not recover." Sal: "Maybe he needs a boring draw [to gather his forces]." John: "They seem to defend uncomfortable positions effortlessly. It takes a lot to beat them." He also thought Nepo would have lost if he were playing Magnus. "When you're World Champion for a decade, you wind up playing extra matches. Preparation for one now takes six to nine months, compared to [four or five] for Kasparov. Carlsen was playing one every two years."

Randomly heard: John Ward always played the London System, which was called the Pensioner's Opening, then it became the rage. Three of Ward's games are at Chessgames.com. In one he plays an Evans Gambit which he wins in 14 moves. Tisdall said if you could take anything back in this life, it would be engines. Larry Christiansen called the first users of ChessBase "the army of iron butts." Now = can mean easy moves or perfect ones. Sal: "In over-the-board play, you can tell what your opponent is feeling. . . Spassky was so deadpan, I didn't know if he hung a piece or sacked it."

John: "I know of no bad relations between these two opponents." Paul: "The top players seem more collegial now." John: "They play each other more frequently, and there's more money around."

The official Chess Cafe special event wraps up.

Vinay Bhat has a book out now: *How I Became a Chess Grandmaster* (Quality Chess paperback, 12 April 2023).

Paul: "Tarjan won Reno."

Aaron mentioned the size of the prize (\$2 million) and the split, 60/40. Sophia said they're not playing enough games.

Recently I started thinking a lot about Ingmar Bergman's powerful early film *Sawdust and Tinsel* (1953, *Gycklarnas afton* in Swedish), which I only saw once decades ago. Yet now it seems to apply to my chess playing and much more. In it a traveling circus performer meets up with an actor in a dark theater who tells him in the middle of what John Simon calls "his great speech" (which he quotes in its entirety in his 2007 review for [Criterion](#)), "You only risk your lives. We risk our pride." This double-edged locution "crystallizes the correspondence of human interaction and humiliation that Bergman would continue to define in his work. . . . Isn't life more precious than vanity? Not to the supercilious artist. . . . And yet this shrewd insight may cloak an error in judgment: life is more essential than art, and its sacrifice greater than that of pride."

At the April 17 Cafe, people talked about the different presentations of the World Championship match on many different channels of the Web.

Sophia: "Speelman at 5am is the most entertaining." Paul Whitehead: "A great player." "Krush has been great." "She's FIDE's official commentator." It's been her throughout, first with Anand and Daniil Dubov. There are also Anish Giri, Peter Svidler, Tania Sachdev, Levy Rozman, Daniel Naroditsky, Jovanka Houska, Kaja Marie Snare, David Howell, Antonio Redic, Fabiano Caruana, et al. Someone said that Nakamura talks too fast, another saw Dubov alone on YouTube, and said he covers a game in half the time that others take. Mike Walder: "Decisive results. (Laughs). We haven't seen that in a World Championship for a while." Four wins in a row by White in rounds 4-7, leaving Nepomniatchi with a 3-2 lead. Then, after four draws in a row, Ding won the 12th game to tie the match, 6-6, which eventually ended 7-7 with two more draws, setting the stage for the four rapid-play games that decided it on the last day.

"Let's start with Mike's puzzle." "From Gadir. It's very hard." After a while with no draw in sight, he adds: "This is what he does to see if students are using an engine. If they solve it in less than 20 minutes, he knows they probably are. Here it's Black to play and draw. This one took a 2700 player 40 minutes to solve."

Then we covered the 4th, 5th, and 6th games in the World Championship. Paul called the 6th (won by Ding) "the prettiest of all the games" to that point. I've played through it several times and will share its final tactical possibilities with my public school students. Sophie: "In the last two games, the knights are more important than the bishops."

Mike made a whole PGN of knight dominating bishop stuff that he offered to Paul. Paul: "All the Russians and Ukrainians who were playing at the club are gone. Did something similar happen at the Marshall?" Sophie: "I don't think so." Paul: "Are they at each other's' throats?" Sophie: "I don't think so. . . We have a lot of refugees."

Alexey is writing a Chess Life Online article on the national middle school tournament at Success Academy Midtown West, 439 W. 49th St., New York.

On April 24, Paul loaded all the World Championship games played since the last Cafe. "Ray Freeman sent in a lot of puzzles, and Mike sent in his usual, incredibly difficult ones." Maybe later we can show some of these here. "A bad plan is better than no plan, right?" "Yes."

Today, April 30, the big match was concluded. Media wrap-ups included the following from *The Guardian*: "The bloody, back-and-forth showdown extended into a rapid tiebreak playoff. . . The 30-year-old from Zhejiang province, who never once led in the three-week match at the St. Regis Astana Hotel until victory was in hand, boldly played for a win from what looked to be a drawn position in the last of four rapid games. That fighting spirit paid off handsomely when a stunned Nepomniachtchi resigned after 68 moves, making Ding the first Chinese man to become world chess champion." "The Anti-Marshall was the arena for the 18th game. After finding success with the opening in earlier games where he had, in his own words, 'had every chance,' Nepomniachtchi declared his intent to play for a win with the unusual 13.Bb1. . . ."

"Both Caruana and Hess were alert to the fact that Ding's best remaining chance was to play into an ending where the a-pawn could become dangerous, and it seemed that Ding had the same intuitive feeling. "Then, the unexpected happened. With two minutes and 30 seconds left on the clock, Ding played the brilliant 42... Qe2!!, a move that Caruana suggested 'Nepo might have missed.' The move, which left Ding's bishop en prise with a dangerous threat of a king and rook fork, shifted the momentum. . . ."

"Chess has never been more alive than now, and the 2023 FIDE World Championship was an absolute testament to the excitement that chess can provide." More from Chess.com [here](#).

More information about the Chess Cafe, including the link to join in the conversation, can be found [here](#).

A New 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.

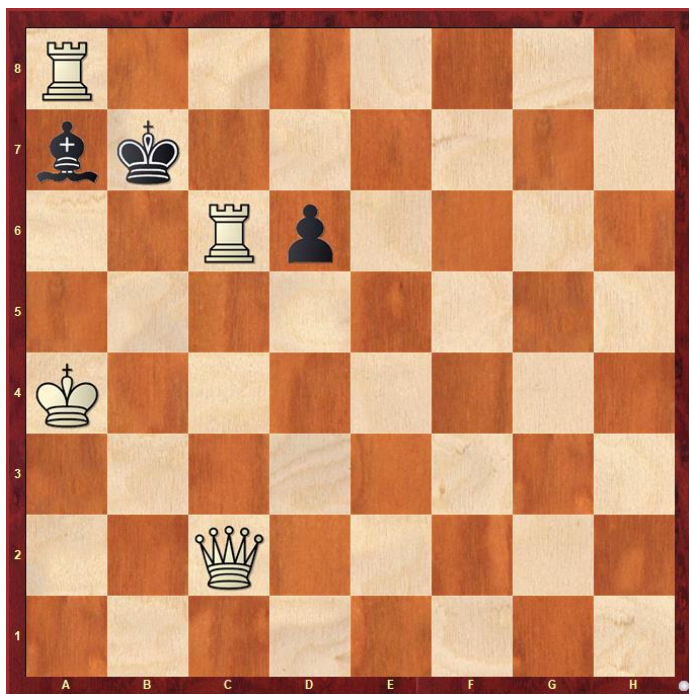


This position is taken from *Combination Challenge!* (1991), by Lou Hayes and John Hall. Black is curiously helpless after 1.Ng5!, threatening both 2.Nf7# and 2.Qxh7+! Qxh7 3.Nf7#.

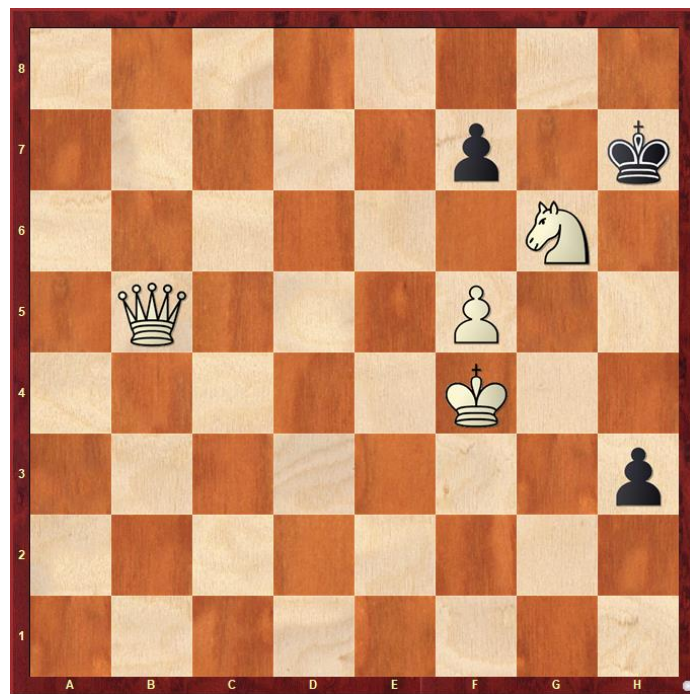
Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

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

Tony's Teasers



1. G. Mott-Smith, 1942.
White mates in 2 moves.



2. J. Grande, 1972.
White mates in 3 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 Mechanics' Institute 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. **G. Mott-Smith**, 1942. **1.Ra6!** Threatens both **2.Qc8#** and **2.Qc6#**. If **1...Kxa8 2.Qc8#**. Or **1...Kxa6 2.Qc6#**. Blocking the queen with **1...Bc5** is met by **2.Qh7#!**
2. **J.Grande**, 1972. **1.f6!** Threatens **2.Qh5+** and **3.Qh8#**. If **1...Kxg6 2.Qg5+ Kh7 3.Qg7#**. Or **1...fxg6 2.Qd7+! Kh6 (2...Kg8/h8 3.Qg7#) 3.Qxh3#**. Finally, if **1...Kh6** then **2.Ne7! h3 (or 2...Kh7 3.Qh5#) 3.Qg5#**.

Contact Us

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

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

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