

Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1041 | September 9, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



The newly-painted Chess Room Annex.

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Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On August 12, Mechanics' Institute hosted our monthly double-header of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, **Quads** in the afternoon.

The Quads had a nice turnout of 61 players competing in 15 sections, with **Patrick Liu** (2218) and **Aryan Achuthan** (2157) tying for first in the top Quad with 2 points each.

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

The August Scholastic Swiss saw 21 players competing in 2 sections.

In the 600+ section, **Tanav Kyabarsi** (770) and **Keshav Raman** (750) tied for 1st and 2nd places with 3-1 points apiece. Tied for 3rd through 5th places with 2.5 points each were **Neeraj Rao** (770), **Zane Chu** (659), and **Rishab Sehgal** (1010).

Jimmy Sanchez (370) scored a perfect 4-0 and won the u600 section outright. Tied for 2nd through 4th places with 3 points each were **James Zukin** (584), **Nicholas Sun** (540), and **Josh Kyauk** (339). **Bailey Shapiro** (434) took 5th place with 2 points.

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

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



A great turnout of ninety-one players turned out for the **17th Bernardo Smith Memorial**, divided into 4 sections and held on August 19.

The 17th Bernardo Smith Memorial gets underway.

Abhishek Handigol (2114) won the 2000+ section with a perfect 4-0, and tying for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points apiece were **Patrick Liu** (2218), **Tony Kukavica** (2136), and **Alex Shrauger** (2017).

The 1600-1999 section saw a tie for 1st and 2nd places between **Jayden Lee** (1756) and **Kanwar Sethi Jr.** (1636), both players scoring 3.5 points. Splitting 3rd place with 3 points apiece were **Christophe Powers** (1747) and **Kian Jamali** (1584).

Ansh Shrivastava (1318) won the 1200-1599 section with a perfect 4-0, and clear 2nd was **Nguyen Pham** (1569) with 3.5 points. There was a six way tie for third place with 3 points each between **Romeo Barreyro** (1523), **Drew Clark** (1401), **Chain Singh** (1394), **Tao Ni** (1298), **Maksim Manakov** (1239), and **Shanhuan Fan** (1163).

The under 1200 section saw a five-way split for 1st through 3rd places. Scoring 3 points each were **Andrew Harms** (862), **Charles Zuo** (unr.), **Eric Ji** (unr.), **Timothy Taylor** (unr.), and **Tess Alexander** (unr.).

Complete results for the 17th Bernardo Smith Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 17th Bernardo Smith Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

Bernardo Smith (1875-1952) was the Mechanics' Institute's key organizer and tournament director in the early 20th century.

The **WIM Ruth Haring Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon** ended on August 22, with 108 players competing in four sections.

Abhishek Handigol (2073) took clear 1st in the 2000+ section with an impressive 6-1 score, and **Alex Shrauger** (1996) took clear 2nd with 5.5 points. Tied for 3rd and best under 2200 with 4.5 points apiece were IM **Elliott Winslow** (2182), NM **Archit Dasika** (2204), and **Rishabh Gokhale** (2149).

William Gray (1948) and **Christopher Powers** (1764) split 1st and 2nd places in the 1600-1999 section with 5.5 points each. Tied for 3rd and best under 1800 with 5 points each were **George Sanguinetti** (1900), **Wilson Wong** (1794), and **Karl Kingma** (1794).

The 1200-1599 section also saw a tie for 1st and 2nd places, with **Sam Calvert** (1474) and **Aradhana Arivoli** (1140) both scoring 5.5 points. In clear 3rd was **Sheng Jian** (1336) with 5 points. Tying for best under 1400 with 4.5 points apiece were **Nick Hollon** (1086), **Shiv Sohal** (1285), and **Martin Long** (1256).

Romeo Nehme (1175) took clear 1st in the under 1200 section with 6 points. Tied for 2nd and 3rd with 5 points each were **Jack Conklin** (1082), **Matthew Ahearn** (1066), and **Caleb Kim** (unr.).

John Pirone (675) won the best under 1000 prize with 4 points.

Complete results for the WIM Ruth Haring Memorial TNM can be found [here](#).

The WIM Ruth Haring Memorial TNM was co-directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

WIM Ruth Haring (1955-2018) represented the United States five times in the Chess Olympics and was a frequent contestant in the U.S. Women's Championship during the 1970s and 80s. Her many contributions to chess included a service of four years as President of the United States Chess Federation.

On Tuesday, August 29 we hosted the **Sizzling Summer Blitz**, as we took a week's break between the WIM Ruth Haring TNM and Fall TNM.

47 players showed up to do battle in one open section, and when the dust settled GM **Vinay Bhat** (2570) took clear 1st with an impressive 9-1 score. Vinay was nicked for draws by IM **Ladia Jirasek** (2433) and NM **Dipro Chakraborty** (2278), who both tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 8.5 points apiece. **Rajiv Arun Chockalingam** (1296) was best under 1800 with 7 points, while **Sabeek Pradhan** (1089) and **Maksim Manakov** (1239) both scored 6 points and shared the best under 1300 prize.

Complete results for the Sizzling Summer Blitz can be found [here](#).

The Sizzling Summer Blitz was directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

The **2023 Fall Tuesday Night Marathon** kicked off on September 5 and runs until October 17 with 85 players competing in four sections. There is still room to join the Fall TNM and information may be found [here](#).

Current standings for the 2023 Fall TNM can be found [here](#).

The 2023 Fall TNM is co-directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from rounds six and seven of the WIM Ruth Haring TNM, and round one of the Fall TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and the players. All the games from the current TNM can be found [here](#), and games from previous TNMs are in the Tournament [Archive](#).

Shrauger, Alex Hay

Handigol, Abhishek

E04
1996
2073

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (6.1)
[Winslow, Elliott]

Two rounds to go, and a face-off between the two players with four from five. Handigol started fast with three wins, then a draw with Russell Wong and another half point bye gave Shrauger, who had lost to Russell but then an impressive three wins (including against Winslow and Hao) a chance to catch up to even first-second. And Dasika is alone at half a point off, above five with three.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Alex plays the Catalan. Ages ago thought to be a "quiet" opening but no more: the pawn sacrifices for long-term pressure on the queenside (The long diagonal! The c-file!) plus Black's myriad tries to make something of that extra pawn, lead to plenty of chances for the whole point for both sides. **3...d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Nf3 a6 6.0-0**

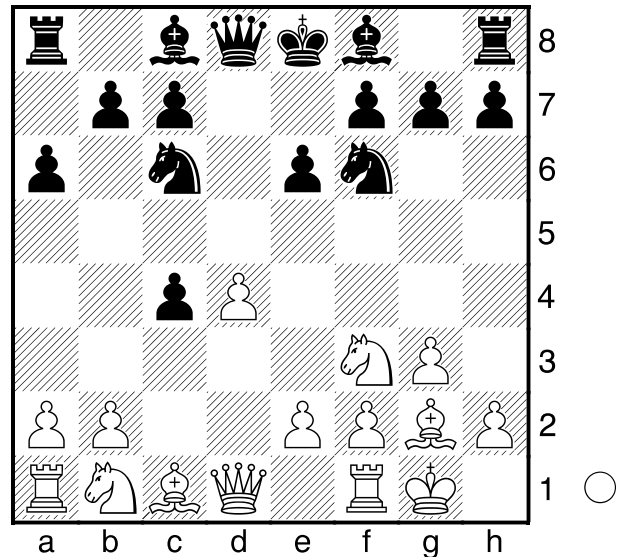
[6.Ne5 is a contender, stopping Black's ...b5 for now, but

A) 6...c5 is another heavily investigated line, when White has really gambited it up with 7.Na3 cxd4 8.Naxc4 Bc5 (8...Ra7!?) 9.0-0;

B) 6...Bb4+ 7.Nc3 Nd5 "That's my plan, and if you refute it, I've got another plan." (Groucho, if he played chess.) 8.0-0! and a *lot* of pawns go, with a mess.]

6...Nc6

(Diagram)



Quite a popular line against the Catalan, and quite a pedigree. First seen (at least in the big database) in a game by Gligoric in 1955, then sparse occasions until Karpov played it against Sosonko in 1977; then it got popular (as did a lot of opening variations, right after Karpov played them!). It is still now especially favored by Firouzja and Grischuk. **7.e3** And this is the main line as well, although mind you, everything under the sun has been tried.

[Let's just mention Carlsen, who as usual finds a rare way to play (and turns it into gold): 7.Be3 Bd7 8.Qc1 b5 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 Nd5 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Ncxe7 13.Nbd2 b4 14.Ne5 Bb5 15.Re1 0-0 16.Ne4 Qb8 17.h4 Qb6 18.e3 a5 19.Nc4 Bxc4 20.bxc4 Nf6 21.Nxf6+ gxf6 22.Bxa8 1-0 Carlsen, M (2835)-Duda, J (2732) Zagreb SuperUnited Blitz 2023 (2)]

7...Rb8 What a concept! Step off the long diagonal and play ...b5. **8.Qe2**

[8.Nfd2 is actually the most common move here! But then you have to be ready to deal with e5!? (and also 8...Qd7!?)]

8...b5

[And here's Duda on the other side(!) and on the same day(!)(July 8):
 8...Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bd6 10.Nbd2 0-0
 11.Qc2 Qe7 12.Nc4 Nb4 13.Qb3
 Nbd5 14.Bd2 Ne4 15.Rfd1 f5
 16.Nfe5 b5 17.Nxd6 cxd6 18.Nxd7
 Qxd7 19.Be1 Rfc8 20.f3 Nef6
 21.Bd2 Nb6 22.Qd3 Nc4 23.Bc1 d5
 24.b3 Nd6 25.Bd2 Rc6 26.Rac1
 Rbc8 27.Bf1 g5 28.Rxc6 Rxc6
 29.Rc1 g4 30.Be2 gxf3 31.Bxf3
 Nde4 32.Kg2 Qc7 33.Ba5 Qc8
 34.Rxc6 Qxc6 35.Bd2 Ng4 36.Kg1
 Ngf2 37.Qe2 Qc2 38.Be1
 ½-½ Duda,J (2732)-Firouzja,A (2777)
 Zagreb SuperUnited Blitz 2023 (9)]

9.b3 Again the main move. Clearly Shrauger and Handigol know their Catalan! (Well, more than me (Winslow), making note to catch up.) **9...cxb3**

10.axb3 Bb7 Black has a pawn, is well on the way to completing development -- but the usual problems (a- and c-files, backward pawns) persist. A clear case of "Pawn gone = half-open file".

11.Rd1!? The old adage "rooks before bishops" (or do I have that wrong...) -- nowhere near as often played, but looks sensible (and also keeps open a possible Ba3). Probably the lure of the c-file.

[11.Bb2 has done rather badly]
 [Still, 11.Bd2 hasn't done all right, if not particularly earth-shaking. It's more on point, with a better rook play in mind.

A) 11...Be7 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Ne1
 White focuses on the weakness on the c-file. Nd5 14.Nd3 (14.Nc3!? Ncb4 15.Ne4!);

B) 11...Bd6!? (probably better! Black has the "other plan," ...e5. If later dxe5 happens, Black's 3-to-1 queenside majority (he *is* up a pawn!) could become serious. Still, there's something cinematic about

that sole pawn on b3 holding back Black's three pawns...) 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Ne1 (the only move played -- 24 times!) when Black has done well here, with various moves: Qe8 intending ...e5 (13...Qd7!? 14.Nd3 Rfe8 ("Ditto!"); 13...Nd5; Even 13...Ne7 14.Bxb7 Rxb7 15.Rxa6 Ne4)]

11...Nb4 12.Bb2

[12.Ba3!? Be7 13.Nc3 Nbd5
 14.Bxe7 Nxc3 15.Qc2 Qxe7
 16.Qxc3 Nd5 17.Qd2 0-0 18.Rdc1
 Rfc8 19.Rc5 Nf6 20.Qc2 Ne4
 21.Re5 Nf6 22.Rc1 Nd7 23.Ng5 g6
 24.Bxb7 Rxb7 25.Qe4 Rb6 26.Qh4
 f5 27.Rec5 Nxc5 28.Rxc5 Rd6
 29.b4 c6 30.Re5 Re8 31.Rc5 Rc8
 32.Re5 Ra8 33.Qf4 h6 34.Nf3 g5
 35.Qxf5 exf5 36.Rxe7 a5 37.bxa5
 Rxa5 38.Ne5 Ra8 39.Rc7 Ra6
 ½-½ Garriga Cazorla,P (2392)-Lianes
 Garcia,M (2236) ESP-ch 81st Linares
 2016 (4)]

12...Be7 13.Nbd2

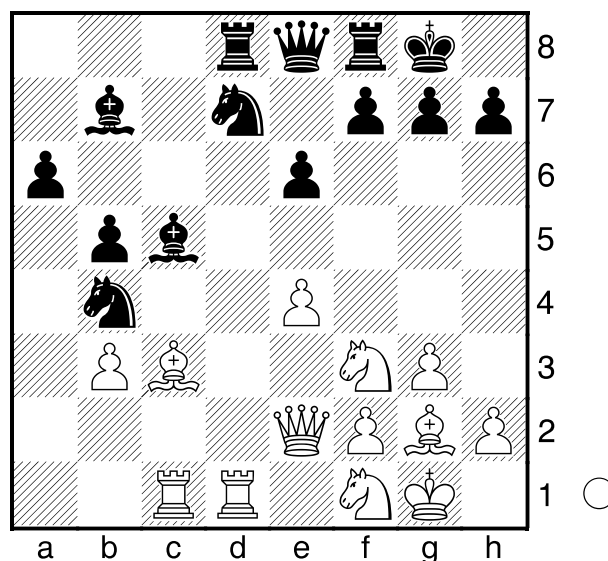
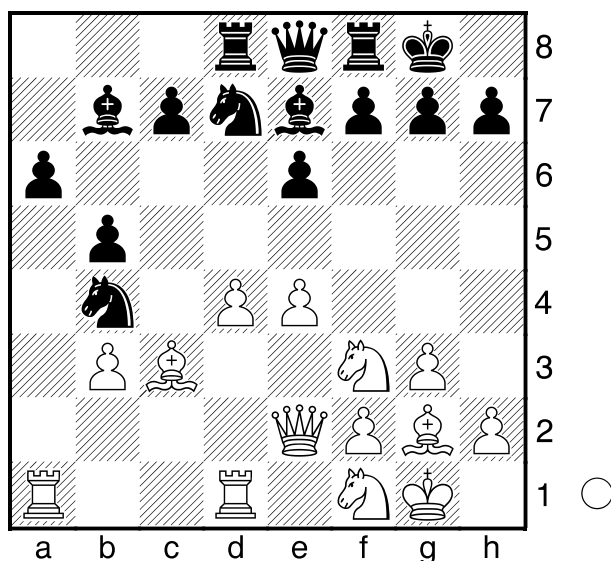
[13.Nc3 has been played a couple times]

13...0-0 14.e4 Nd7

[14...c5!± No more fooling around.]

15.Nf1 Qe8!? #1 Actually the Stockfish
16.Bc3 Rd8

(Diagram)



How they managed to play this far without a new move is -- what, impressive? Curious? In any case, Stockfish 16 has no problem giving Black an advantage (-0.46/26). "Clear pawn up." Is it so easy? **17.Rac1N**

[Predecessor: 17.Nh4 c5 18.dxc5 Bxc5 19.Qg4 g6 20.Ne3 Nc6 21.Qf4 e5 22.Qh6 f6 23.Nd5 Bd4 24.Rac1 Rf7 25.Bh3 Nf8 26.Be1 Rd6 27.Nf3 Qd8 28.Rc2 Ba7 29.Rdc1 Ne6 30.Kf1 Qf8 31.Qh4 Ned4 32.Nxd4 Bxd4 33.Nb4 Qe8 34.Nd5 Qf8 ½-½ Smirnov,A (2428)-Frolochin,V (2328) St Petersburg-ch sf 2011 (7)]
17...c5 18.dxc5 Bxc5

(Diagram)

19.Qb2!?

[SF16 #1: 19.h4! Ah, those computers and their rook pawns!]

19...Bxe4? Black hits the "complications!" button, inappropriately.

[19...f6

20.Bxg7! Nd3! 21.Rxd3! Bxd3

22.Bh6! The mate threat provokes some further loosening of the kingside.

22...e5!?

[22...f6 23.Bxf8 Bxf8= (-0.12/28 down from higher) -- but Black has what edge there is (and still! -- a pawn).]

23.Bxf8?

[23.Bh3!= Qe7! (23...f6 24.Bxf8 Bxf8 and here Stockfish solidly prefers 25.Qa2!? incredible.) 24.Bxf8 Nxf8 25.Qxe5=]

23...Bxf8 With ...e4 available, Black's extra pawn is mattering. **24.Ra1?!**

[24.Qc3 e4 25.N3d2 Bc5 keeps the queen out? 26.b4! Bd6 27.Rd1!? Be5 28.Qc1 The result? quite unclear if Black can turn it into a win or White can hold.]

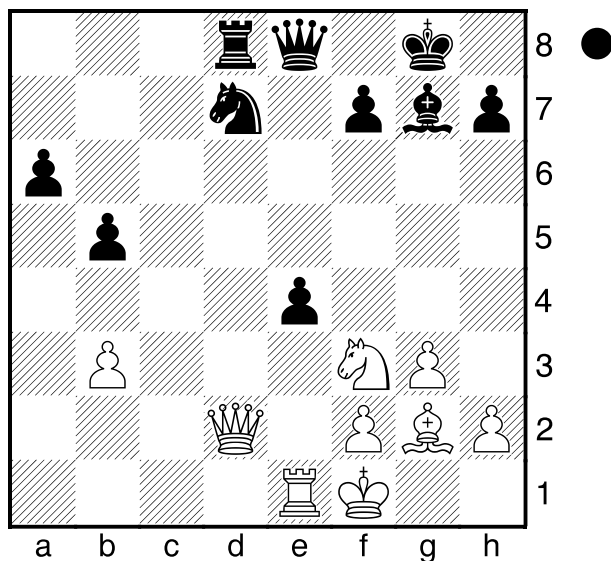
24...e4!-+ 25.Re1 Bg7?!

[25...Bb4! 26.Re3 Qe7-+ thinks about contesting the *dark* long diagonal with ...Qf6.]

26.Qd2? Staying on the bishop in fact costs White.

[26.Qc1!± Qe7 (26...Bxf1? 27.Bxf1= makes no sense now.) 27.N3d2]

26...Bxf1! 27.Kxf1



Ne5! Black in two moves clears the d-file for the rook to attack the queen, and unpins the e-pawn to take on f3! **28.Nd4 Qd7** And the pin wins. So Handigol at 5, Dasika 4.5 (on an unplayed point, when Brad Diller had to call in sick).

[White should play one more move:
28...Qd7 29.Rxe4 Ng6! (Well, 29...f5 wins also; 29...Nc6? 30.Nf3! Qxd2 31.Nxd2 Rxd2 32.Re8+ Bf8 33.Bxc6)]

0-1

Wong,Russell

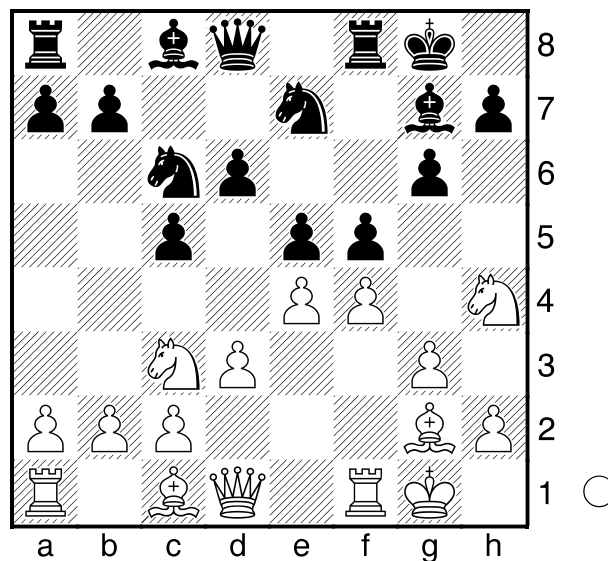
Kagle,Sasha

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (6.3)

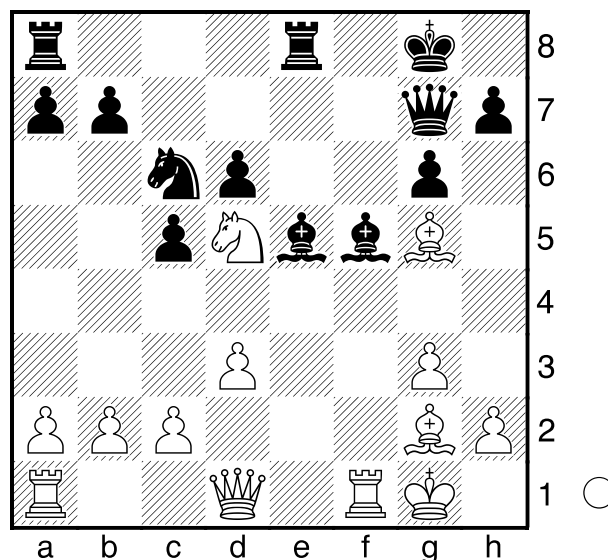
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Nh4 d6 9.f4 f5

(Diagram)



10.fxe5 Bxe5 11.Bh6 Re8 12.Bg5 Qc7 13.exf5 Nxf5 14.Nxf5 Bxf5 15.Nd5 Qg7



16.g4+- h6?!

[16...Be6 17.Qd2 Qd7 18.h3 Bd4+ 19.Kh1 Nb4 20.Nxb4 cxb4 21.Qxb4]
17.Bh4 g5 18.gxf5 gxh4 19.f6 Qf7 20.Qg4+ Kh8 21.Qxh4 Qg6 22.Kh1 Rg8 23.Qh3 Qxg2+ 24.Qxg2 Rxg2 25.Kxg2 Rg8+ 26.Kh3 Nd4 27.Ne7 Rg5 28.f7 Rh5+ 29.Kg4 Rg5+ 30.Kh4 Ne6 31.f8Q+ Nxf8 32.Rxf8+ Kg7 33.Raf1
1-0

B25

2200

1939

Winslow, Elliott
 Hao, Max

E04
 2182
 2054

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (6.4)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3

Spur of the moment. I've played Max five times before, four wins as White then one as Black. But I didn't do a proper preparation before the game: I remembered he knew the latest ("Dubove stuff") on the Tarrasch Queen's Gambit (although I'd handled the theory better the time he played that against me -- that wouldn't happen again!), but I didn't think to see what he plays as White. In general, unless you **really** know your openings, it doesn't seem like a good idea to play what your opponent plays. He might know what he's been worried about seeing -- and play it against **you**... **4...dxc4 5.Bg2 Bb4+** Of course Black has a huge selection of continuations here. **6.Bd2 a5** A principled and interesting followup. Who knows, Black might play the "beginner's move" ...Ra6 down the line... **7.0-0** Natural, but maybe not best. I'm hesitating giving it a "?!" since I'm friends with the player of White, yet there are quite a few other moves, essayed by the very top players, which have done a bit better as well.

[7.Qc2!?]

[7.a3!?]

[7.Qc1!? even]

7...0-0 8.Qc2

[8.Bg5!?]

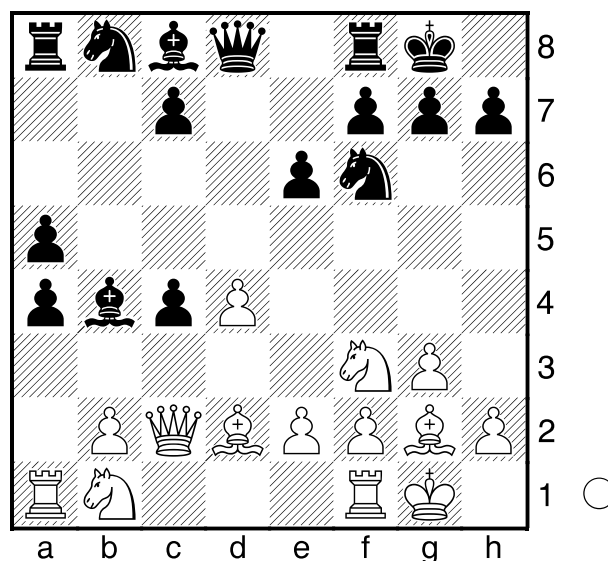
[8.e3!?]

8...b5

[8...b6! was the move worrying me,
 and indeed it scores quite well.]

9.a4! bxa4!

(Diagram)



10.Ne5!? We're already in rarefied territory.

[10.Rxa4 is the more staid move:
 Bb7 11.Bxb4 axb4 12.Rxa8 Bxa8
 13.Qxc4 Bd5! 14.Qxb4 (14.Qc5!?
 Nc6 15.Nbd2 Qd6 16.Qxd6 cxd6
 17.e3 Ra8= /±) 14...Nc6=]

10...Ra7

[10...Ra6!? 11.Rd1 c5 12.Rxa4 Nd5
 13.dxc5 Qc7± sayeth Stockfish.
 Stockfish 16: 14.Nxc4 Qxc5 15.Rc1
 Nc6 16.Qd1 Qa7 17.Nc3 Nxc3
 18.Bxc3 Rd8 19.Qe1 Bxc3 20.Rxc3
 h6 21.Bxc6 Rxc6 22.Rxa5 Ba6
 23.Qa1 Qb7 24.b3 Bxc4 25.bxc4
 Rcd6 26.Rc1 Rd2 27.Re5 Rb2
 28.Re3 Rdd2 29.c5 Qc6 0.38/26]
 [10...Qxd4!? 11.Bxa8 Qxe5 12.Bf3!±
 certainly sets up an imbalance.]

11.Rxa4

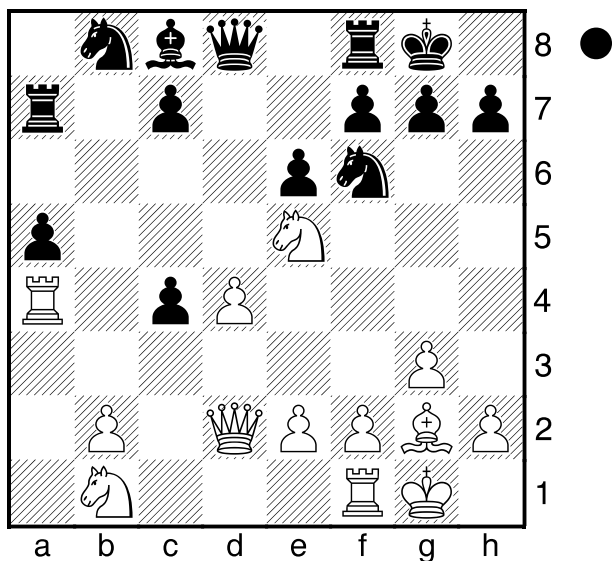
[11.Qxa4!? c5! (11...Qxd4??
 12.Bxb4 Qxe5 13.Bxf8; 11...Bxd2?!
 12.Nxd2 Qxd4 13.Ndxc4±)]

11...Bxd2

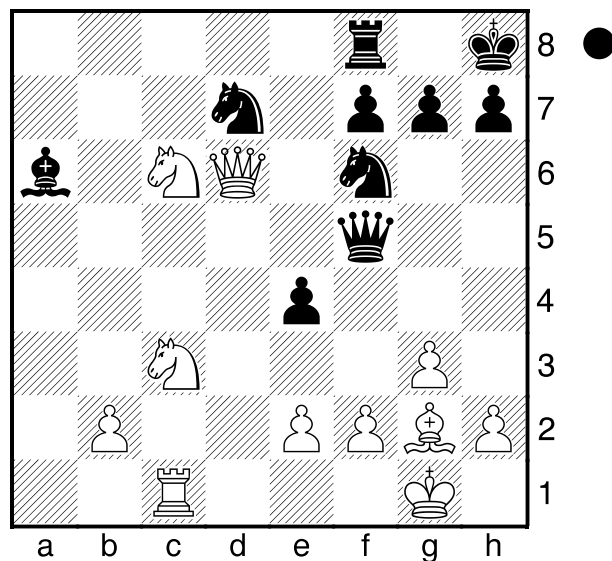
[11...Qxd4!? 12.Nxc4 Nd5=]

12.Qxd2

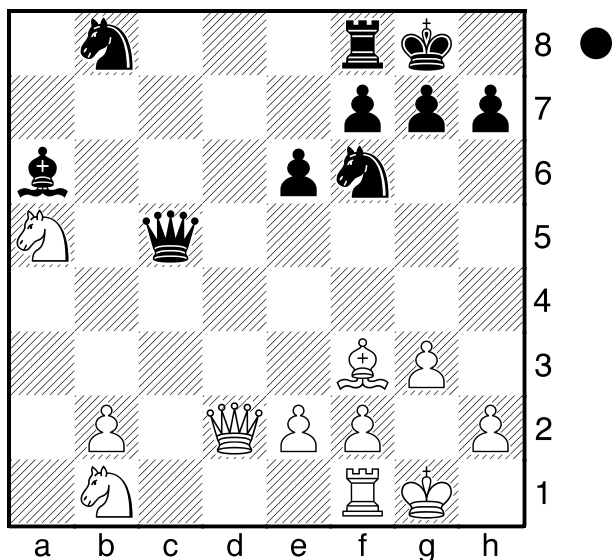
(Diagram)



**c5? 13.dxc5! Qc7 14.Nxc4 Qxc5
15.Rxa5 Rxa5 16.Nxa5 Ba6 17.Bf3!?**

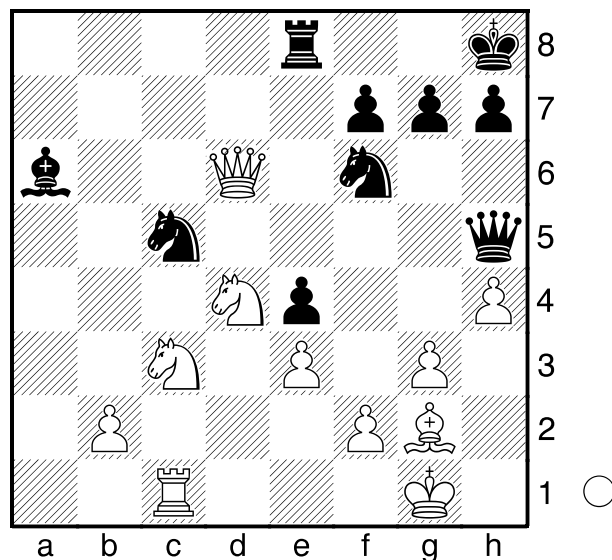


**Re8 23.Nd4 Qg5 24.e3 Nc5 25.h4
Qh5**



**Nbd7?!
[17...Qb6]
[17...Rc8]
18.Rc1 Qf5 19.Nc6! Kh8 20.Nc3 e5
21.Qd6 e4 22.Bg2**

(Diagram)



**26.Nxe4!? Ncxe4 27.Bxe4 Bc8
28.Bc6 Rg8 29.Bf3 Qg6 30.Nc6
1-0**



Sanguinetti, George



Wong, Wilson

B50

1900

1794

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 1600-1999 (6.7)

[Wong, Wilson/Winslow, Elliott]

This win put Wilson Wong in clear first, half a point ahead of the field, going into the last round. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3** This "delayed Alapin" (until after ... d6) has been quite popular of late at the club level. Black's 2nd move provides White some nice tactical opportunities. **3...Nf6 4.Be2** Of course the e-pawn isn't hanging!

[The same could be said for 4.h3]

[Even with 4.Bc4 since Nxe4!

walks into 5.Qa4+! Nc6 6.Bxf7+!

although it might be noted (by Stockfish of course) that Kxf7 7.Qxe4 d5 8.Qf4+ Kg8 is just an even game by the number, even if the position is anything but.]

4...g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 0-0 7.Bf1 Nc6

8.h3 d5? I knew I could play 8..e5 and clamp down on d4 but I didn't trust myself to play a stonewall pawn structure. Instead, I made sure my opponent wouldn't be able to do the same.

[8...e5! Mainline. (Black is slightly better even.)]

9.e5 Nd7 10.d4!± e6 11.Be3 a6

12.Na3?! b5?! 13.Nc2 b4

[13...c4 I could've gone this route and continue pushing my queenside pawns and leave White with an isolated a-pawn which I could try to win, as well as having a protected passed pawn on c4 as an endgame threat.]

14.Qd2 Qa5?

[14...Qa5 15.cxb4 cxb4 16.a3 bxa3 17.b4 Qb6 18.Rxa3 This would've allowed White to maintain a strong d4 pawn to take advantage of a big

space advantage while still having Bh6 as an option.]

[14...Qa5 15.cxb4 cxb4 16.Bh6 b3 17.axb3 Qxd2 18.Bxd2]

[14...bxc3 15.bxc3 Qa5 Better move order than the game continuation.]

15.Bh6 bxc3 16.bxc3 cxd4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Ncxd4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Qc7 20.Nh2 a5 21.Re3? Ba6 22.Qf4 Kg8?!

[22...Bxf1 Better to include this move first to make my king safer and avoid scenarios where White can trade his bishop for my knight.]

23.Qh6 Nxe5

[23...Nxe5 24.Qf4 f6 25.Ng4 Qg7

26.Nxf6+ Qxf6 27.Qxf6 Rxf6

28.Rxe5 White had the option of winning back the pawn.]

24.Ng4?! Nxg4 25.hxg4 Bxf1 26.Rxf1 Ra6 27.Rfe1?! Rc6 28.Rh3! f5?!

[28...f6 29.Qd2 -0.52 (29.Rf3 e5 30.Rd3 This pawn structure is a lot more mobile and secure.)]

29.gxf5 Rxf5 30.Qd2 Rf8 31.Rhe3 Re8 32.g3 Rd6 33.Qd4 Rc6 34.Kg2 Qd6 35.Rd1 Rec8 36.Rdd3 Qa3 37.Qf6 Rf8 38.Qe5 Qd6 39.Qd4 Rb6 40.Re2 Qc6 41.Rde3 Re8 42.f4 Qb7 43.g4 Rb2?! 44.Kg3 Rxe2 45.Rxe2 Qc7 46.Re5 Kf7 47.Kf3 Rc8 48.Re3! Qd6 49.g5 Rc4 50.Qf6+ Kg8! 51.Kg3 Re4 52.Rf3?

[52.Rxe4 dxe4 Tricky to play but best drawing chance for White.]

52...Qf8! 53.Qxf8+ Kxf8 I have good chances of winning the endgame.

54.Kf2?

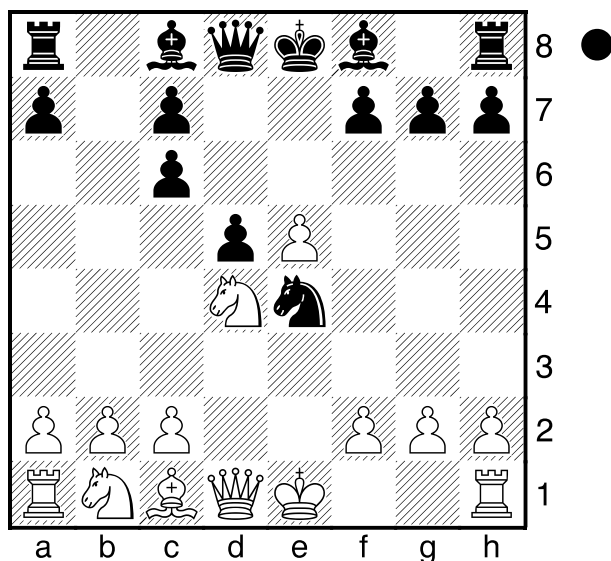
[54.Kf2 Ke7 55.a3 Kd6 56.Kg3 Ra4 57.Kf2 Rxa3]

54...Ra4 55.Ke3 Rxa2 56.Kd4?! Ra4+ 57.Ke5?! Ke7!

0-1

Kingma, Karl
 Horde, Nicolas
 Ruth Haring mem TNM: 1600-1999 (6.8)
[Horde, Nicolas]

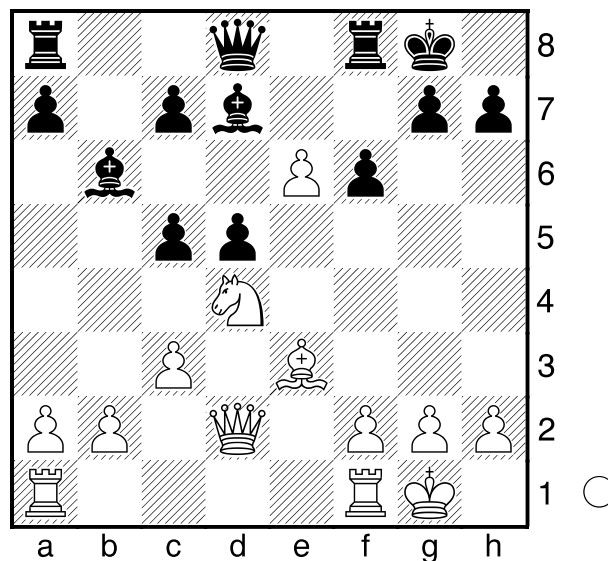
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Bxc6+?!
 Never saw that move before and it's actually an inaccuracy
 [7.Nxd4 The correct move order]
7...bxc6 8.Nxd4**



Bc5!? I was debating between Bc5, c5 or Ba6. I decided for that move because worse case scenario I just transpose into a position I've had before in the TNM. It's actually SF 2nd choice but only if Black finds the correct continuation (which I did not)

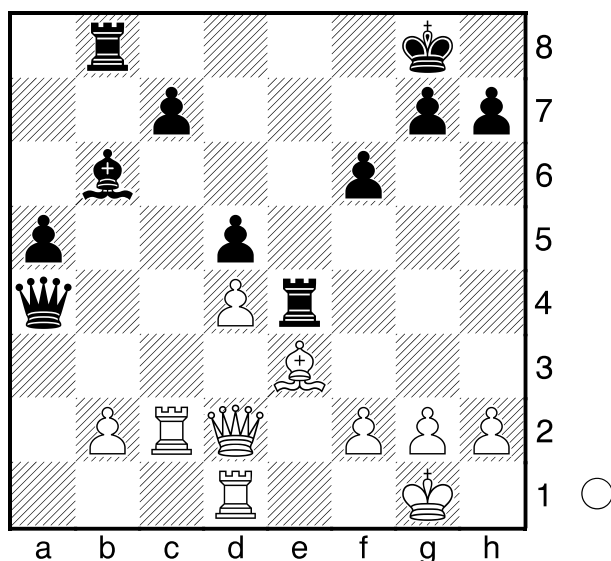
[8...Ba6 My initial intuition because White loses kingside castling right.
 Not sure why I chickened out]
9.Be3 Bd7?! Too early/committal as the bishop would be more active on a6
 [9...Bb6]
10.0-0 0-0 11.Nd2
 [11.f3 Ng5 12.f4 Ne4 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bb6 15.c3 I had the exact same position without f2-f4 in a previous TNM game vs young

Thomas Gu.]
11...Nxd2 12.Qxd2 Bb6 13.c3
 And we've transposed into a position I've had a couple of TNM before with the omission of f4 for White so I am up a tempo. So I knew I had a good position
13...f6
 [13...Re8! More precise to avoid trading pieces 14.f4 f6]
14.e6 c5!



I knew it was a key move because I deeply analyzed my loss against T. Gu.
15.exd7 cxd4 16.cxd4?! I think my opponent wanted to keep pieces. SF does not dislike taking with the pawn but I think it's not a good practical choice. Black's DSB is much more active than White's who is tied to the defense of the d4 pawn. On top of it I don't see a way for White to make progress as they need their DSB to release protection of d4 in order to target the a and c pawns. Hence I concluded Black has the initiative now
16...Qxd7 17.a4 a5
18.Rac1? Just dropping a pawn
 [18.Qd3 The only counter play is on the light squares]
18...Qxa4 19.Rc2 Rfe8 20.Rfc1 Re4 21.Rd1 Rb8!?
 [21...Rae8 22.Rcc1 h5

SF recommendation. White is paralyzed so the idea is just to grab as much space as possible. This looks too complicated for me]



22.b3? I think they were trying to open the b file to generate some counter play. White's problem is that they have no active plan otherwise **22...Qxb3 23.Rb2 Qa4 24.Rdb1 Ree8** The initial plan was to load against the d4 pawn but now Black is just up two clear pawns so there's no need to complicate the position. The idea is to keep the d4 pawn for White as it paralyzes their bishop, double everything on the a file and push the a pawn **25.Rb5** Targeting d5 but they missed that Black can force exchanges now **25...Ba7!** There's no intermediate shenanigan against the a5 pawn because of back rank mate issues **26.Qd3**

[26.Qxa5?? Qxa5 Back rank mate issues]

[26.Rxa5?? Rxb1+ 27.Qc1 Rxc1+ 28.Bxc1 Re1#]

26...Rxb5 27.Qxb5

[27.Rxb5 More resilient to keep pieces OTB Bxd4]

27...Qxb5 28.Rxb5 Rb8! I think they

missed that move when playing Qxb5. They are targeting a4 and c7 but Black has a nice way to save them both due to back rank mate **29.Rxb8+ Bxb8**

Forcing a very easy endgame with 2 extra pawns with 1 passer **30.Bd2 a4 31.Kf1 Ba7 32.Bc3 Kf7 33.Ke2 Ke6 34.Kd3 c5 35.dxc5 Bxc5 36.f3 a3 37.g4 d4 38.Ba1** White's bishop is trapped **38...Kd5 39.h4 g5** I can also move my bishop back and forth to a7-b6 <> c5 until White is in zugzwang but this is faster **40.h5**

[40.hxg5 fxg5 Zugzwang]

40...h6 Zugzwang **41.Ke2 Bb4 42.Kd3 Bc3** Finishing cleanly **43.Bxc3 dxc3 44.Kxc3 Ke5 0-1**

C52
 Yu, Prescott **1695**
 Powers, Christopher **1764**
 Ruth Haring mem TNM: 1600-1999 (6.9)
 [Winslow, Elliott]

Powers, a half point behind four players, wins again, continuing his leaping dash to the top. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4** The Evans Gambit! **4...Bxb4** Free pawn!

[Nowadays at the top more common is 4...Bb6 but gambit play is still just around the corner. For example, a game by another Yu/Yoo: 5.a4 a6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 exd4 8.e5 d5 9.exf6 dxc4 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.Re1+ Be6 12.Bg5 Qd6 13.Nbd2 Qxb4 14.Ne4 Rxg7 15.Nf6+ Kf8 16.Bh6 Qc5 17.Rxe6 fxe6 18.Nd7+ 1-0 Yoo, C (2589)-Radjabov, T (2747) Airthings Play In Match Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (1.1)]

5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 Qe7 Relatively rare.

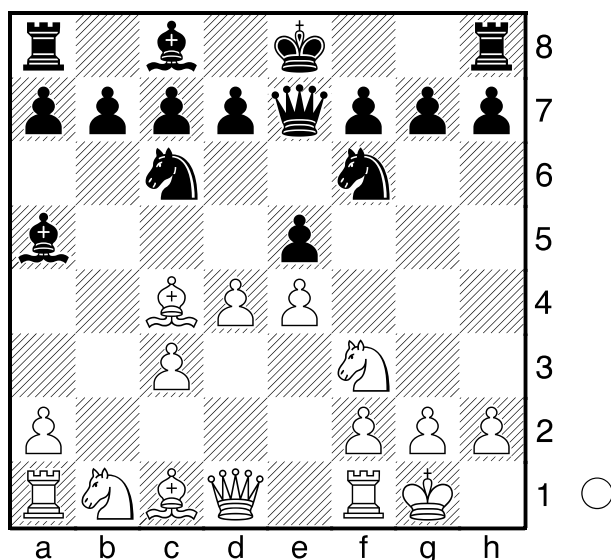
[Many games have gone 6...d6 7.Qb3 Qd7 8.0-0 Bb6 9.Bb5 (9.Nbd2!?

does much better) 9...a6 10.Ba4 Ba7
 11.Qb2 b5 12.Bc2 Nf6 13.a4 0-0
 14.axb5 axb5 15.Be3 Ng4 16.d5
 Nxe3 17.dxc6 Qxc6 18.fxe3 Bxe3+
 19.Kh1 Rxa1 20.Qxa1 Be6 21.Na3
 Ra8 22.Qb2 Bc5 23.Qxb5 Qxb5
 24.Nxb5 Bb6 25.Ba4 Rxa4
 0-1 Yoo,C (2606)-Svidler,P (2692)
 Aimchess Play In op Chess.com INT
 rapid 2023 (5)]

[In perusing the games in the
 database I see that 6...b5!?
 has a plus score! (Well, okay, if White
 takes it goes to 52.6%) 7.Bxb5 Nxd4
 8.Nxd4 exd4 9.0-0!?]

7.0-0 Nf6?

[7...Bb6 frees a5 for the knight]

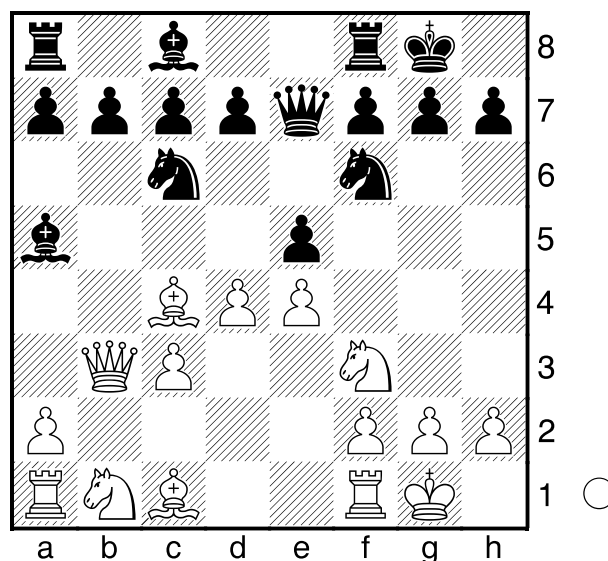


8.Qb3?

[White has an enviable 80% with
 8.Ba3! d6 (8...Qd8 ugh) 9.d5
 picks off the bishop on a5 with
 Qa4+. (9.Qa4 similar)]

8...0-0

(Diagram)



Black has slipped by the danger and is
 now doing very well. **9.Ba3**

[Here's quite an upset, even though
 it's an online blitz game: 9.d5 Nb8
 10.d6 Qxd6 11.Ba3 c5 12.Nbd2
 Qe7 13.Rad1 d6 14.Bb5 a6 15.Be2
 Bc7 16.Qc2 Nc6 17.Nc4 b5 18.Ne3
 Bb7 19.g3 Na5 20.Nf5 Qe6 21.Nd2
 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Qxf5 23.Bd3 c4
 0-1 Sarkar,J (2365)-Jiang,A (1715)
 PNWCC Online Blitz JP 22 Chess.
 com INT 2021 (3)]

9...d6 10.Nbd2 Bb6N And what does
 White have for the pawn? Not much at
 all.

[In fact, after 10...exd4! 11.cxd4
 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Qxe4 13.Bb2
 (13.Rad1 Bb6+) 13...Qf5
 it's (1) two pawns (2) even less than
 not much.]

11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nd4?! Nfg4?!

[12...Nxe4! 13.Nxe4 Nxc4 14.Qxc4
 Qxe4+]

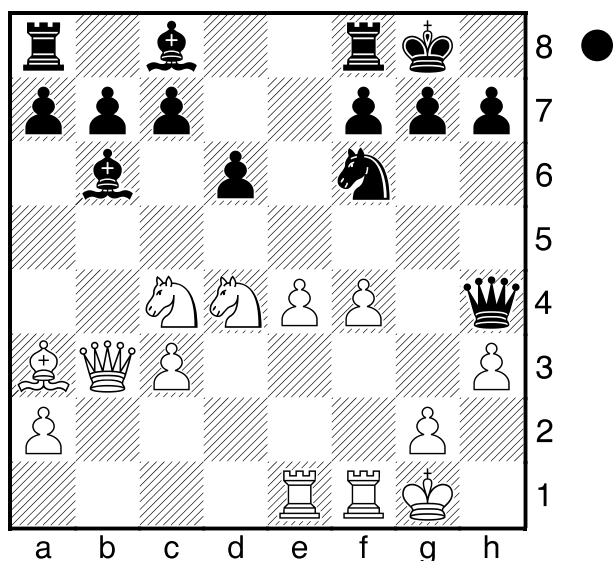
13.Rae1 +/- 13...Qh4?!

[13...c5 14.N4f3 Nxc4 15.Nxc4
 Be6+]

14.h3 Nf6 15.f4?!

[15.N2f3 Nxf3+ 16.Nxf3 Qh5 17.e5
 Bxh3!]

15...Nxc4 16.Nxc4



Nh5

[16...Bxh3! 17.gxh3 Qg3+ 18.Kh1 Qxh3+ 19.Kg1 Qg3+ 20.Kh1 Rfe8-+]

17.Nxb6 axb6 18.e5?! Nxf4 19.exd6?

Nxh3+ The open a-file assures this works. **20.gxh3**

[20.Kh2 Nf4+ 21.Kg1 Qg3]

20...Bxh3

[20...Qg3+]

21.Re2 Qg3+ 22.Kh1 Bxf1 23.Rh2

Bd3 24.Re2 Bxe2 25.Nxe2 Qf3+

26.Kg1 Qxe2 27.dxc7 Rfe8

0-1

□ **Jian,Sheng**

■ **Athreya,Nagendra**

C44

1336

1051

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 1200-1599 (6.20)

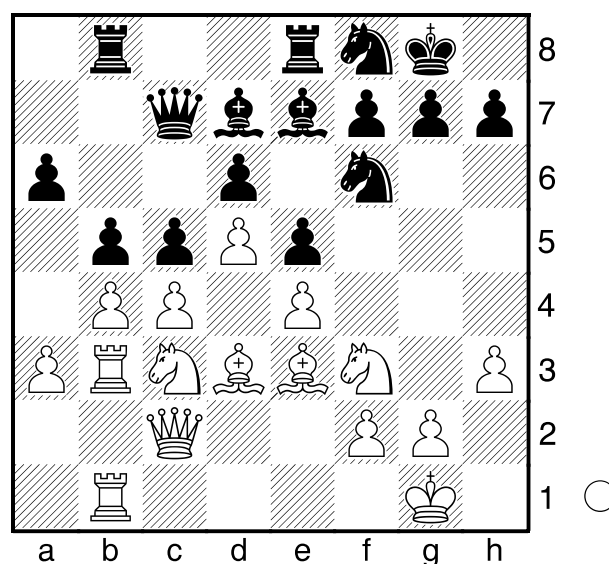
[Winslow,Elliott]

After five rounds three players had 4-1 -- and two of them took half point byes! This left the path open for Sheng Jian to take the post by winning -- which he did here. Note that in the Round 6 file three weeks ago, this game was somehow erroneously a copy of another game. Here now is the correct score. White

played an excellent game! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 d6 5.h3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.d5 Nb8 8.c4**

White's advantage in space is typically a game-long problem for Black in these lines, and the current game was no exception -- in fact an exemplary example of how to play for White.

8...Nbd7 9.Nc3 c5 10.0-0 a6 11.Be3 Re8 12.a3 Rb8 13.b4 White gets there way ahead of Black. **13...b6 14.Qc2 Nf8 15.Rfb1 Bd7 16.Rb3 Qc7 17.Rab1 b5?**



18.bxc5 dxc5 19.Qb2?!

[19.cxb5! c4 20.b6! Qc8 21.Bxc4 Qxc4 22.Nd2 Qc8 23.b7 Qc7

24.Qd3 is overwhelming, piece down notwithstanding.]

19...Rb7?

[19...b4!? 20.axb4 cxb4 21.Na2 a5 22.c5±]

20.Qe2 Rc8 21.cxb5+- c4? 22.Bxc4

[22.b6!]

22...Qxc4?!

[22...axb5!?]

23.Qxc4 Rxc4 24.bxa6 Rxb3 25.Rxb3

It's fairly over. **25...Bd6 26.a7 Rc8**

27.Rb6 Ra8 28.Rxd6 Bc8 29.Nxe5

N8d7 30.Nxd7 Ne8 31.Rb6 Rxa7

32.Nc5 Rxa3 33.Rb8 Kf8 34.Rxc8

**Rxc3 35.Nd7+
1-0**

C28
1256
Long,Martin
Clark,Drew
1401

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 1200-1599 (6.21)
[Long,Martin]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3
Be7 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 d6 7.f5 Na5
8.Nd5?!**

[Alekhine vs. Kalnins (1921) instead
continued 8.Qe2 c6 9.a3 Nxc4
10.dxc4]

8...Nxd5

[8...Nxc4 9.Nxf6+ Bxf6 10.dxc4 b5
11.cxb5 Bb7+]

**9.Bxd5= c6 10.Bb3 b5 11.Be3 Qc7
12.0-0**

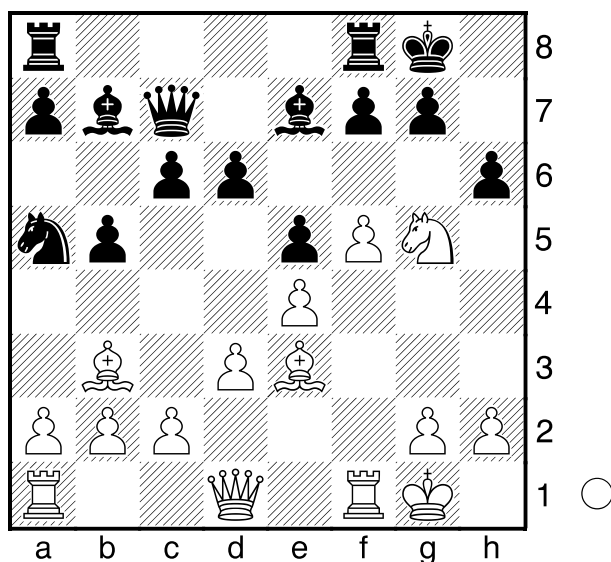
[12.h4 Nxb3 13.axb3 d5 14.Ng5]

12...Bb7

[12...d5]

13.Ng5?! h6?

[13...Nxb3 14.Nxh7 Kxh7 (14...Nxa1
15.f6+-) 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Rf3 f6±]
[13...Bxg5! 14.Bxg5 Qb6+ 15.Kh1
Nxb3 16.axb3 f6 17.Bd2 d5=]



**14.Bxf7+! Rxf7 15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Qh5+
Kg8 17.b4**

[I had intended to play 17.f6!

here, but lost my nerve and went for
the safe material instead. Stockfish
far prefers f6, giving the following line
Bxf6 18.Rxf6! gxf6 19.Rf1 Qf7
20.Qh4 Rf8 21.Bxh6+-]

ecw: There's hardly anything wrong with
17.b4 though, with a solid material
advantage. **17...c5**

[17...Bf6]

18.bxa5 Qxa5 19.f6! Bxf6 20.Bxh6
[20.Rxf6 gxf6 21.Qg6+ with mate in
11 apparently]

20...Qc3 21.Rac1 Qd4+ 22.Kh1 Rf8

23.Qg6 Qb2! My opponent sets up a
cunning trap and I fall straight into it.
(Luckily for me, it doesn't quite work.)

24.Rxf6?

[24.Rf3 is safer]

24...Qxc1+! 25.Bxc1 Rxf6 forking the
queen and Rf1# **26.Qe8+ Rf8 27.Qe6+**
I didn't notice I had this saving resource
when I played 24. Rxf6. I was feeling
very lucky here. **27...Kh8 28.Kg1 Rf6**
29.Qd7 Ba6 30.Qxa7 Bc8 31.Qb8 Rf8
32.Qxd6

1-0

B23
1066
Ahearn,Matthew
Nehme,Romeo
1175

Ruth Haring mem TNM: u1200 (6.30)
[Nehme,Romeo]

(ew: With a burst of energy in the last
two rounds, Romeo Nehme took clear
first in the under 1200 section by a
whole point. Here are both games, with
his own notes. **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6**
3.f4 the Grand Prix Attack! Unexpected,
but I had prepared for this for my game
of two rounds ago. **3...g6 4.Nf3 Bg7**
White now has a choice of where to

develop their LSB **5.Bc4**

[5.Bb5 is the other option]

5...e6 6.f5 Nge7 the main line

[Recently, albeit in Titled Tuesdays and other Blitz games, Black has had a lot of success after 6...gxf5 7.d3 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 with per SF16]

7.0-0

[7.fxe6 is the main line, where Black has the option of how to recapture fxe6 leads to very forcing lines such as (7...dxe6 8.d3 0-0 9.0-0 Na5 10.Bb3 Nxb3 11.axb3 appears to be the calmer route) 8.d3 d5 9.Bb3 b5 10.0-0 c4 11.dxc4 dxc4 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Nxb5 cxb3 14.axb3 as played twice in Titled Tuesdays by FM Dragan Popadic]

7...0-0 a safe route avoiding complications

[7...d5! 8.fxc6! and now Black has a big choice to make hxc6!? (8...dxc4 9.gxf7+ Kf8 leads to a very double edged game and was first tested out in 1974! by WIMs Wagner Michel and Porubszky Angyalosine) 9.Bb5 a6 10.Bxc6+ Nxc6 was the choice of Super GM Grischuk in a round of the Speed Chess Championship against GM Artemiev]

8.Qe1?

[8.fxc6 relieving the tension fxc6 9.d3 b6 (9...d5!? 10.Bb3) 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Bb7 is a line foreseen by SF16 with equal chances for both sides]

8...exf5?

[8...d5! first, and Black is on the cusp of winning 9.Bb3 c4 10.f6! an necessary pawn sacrifice to stop the LSB from developing (10.Ba4 exf5 11.exf5 Bxf5-+ and Black is up a pawn with extremely active pieces in a great position) 10...Bxf6 11.Ba4 d4 12.Nd1 Qa5 13.Bxc6 Nxc6]
[8...gxf5!? is another option 9.d3 fxe4

10.dxe4 d5 11.exd5 exd5 12.Bb3 and Black controls the center and will develop his LSB]

9.Ng5?

[simply 9.d3 fxe4 10.dxe4 Nd4 11.Qh4 with complications abound]

9...h6 10.Nxf7 Rxf7 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7-+ 12.Qh4

[12.exf5!? gxf5 trying to open the king up]

12...Kg8 13.d3 Qf8 14.Nb5 Nd4

15.Nxd4

[15.Nc7!? an interesting forcing line Nxc2 16.Nxa8 Nxa1 17.Be3 g5 18.Qh5 Nc2 19.Bxc5 d6! freeing the LSB 20.Bxd6 Bd7 21.Nc7 the White knight escapes but Black can force the Endgame Qf7 22.Qxf7+ (22.Qe2 Bd4+ 23.Kh1 Ne3-+ and Black has a great attack on the king) 22...Kxf7-+]

15...Bxd4+ 16.Kh1 g5?!

[16...Bg7 bringing the bishop back to defend is safer]

17.Bxg5? too rash in my opinion

[17.Qh5!?]

[17.Qg3!? either move keeps the tension, and the game is far from over]

17...hxc6 18.Qxc6+ Qg7 19.Qxc6+

[19.Qh5 in my view, keeping the queens on the board is necessary to give White any chance]

19...Bxg7 20.exf5 White gets three pawns for the bishop, but Black's piece activity will more than compensate

20...Kf7 21.c3 b6 22.Rf2 Bb7 23.Raf1 Bf6 24.c4?!

[24.h3!? with the idea of playing Kh2 and g4, trying to give White some counterplay]

24...Rg8 and White's position is more or less frozen **25.h4**

[for example if a random move like 25.a3 Black has Nxf5 and White can't take due to 26.Rxf5 Bxg2+ 27.Kg1

Be4+ 28.Kf2 Bxf5 nor can he free his king due to all the pins]
25...Rg4 26.Kh2 Bxh4 27.Kh3 Bxf2
 now it's simply a matter of conversion
28.Kxg4 Bd4 29.b3 Bxg2 30.Re1 Kf6 31.Re2 Nxf5 32.Re8
 [32.Rxg2 Ne3+]
32...Ne7 33.Rf8+ Ke6 34.Kg3 Bc6 35.Kg4 Ng6 36.Rf1 Ne5+ 37.Kh5 Nxd3 38.Kh6 Nb4 39.a3 Nc2 40.Kh5 Nxa3 41.Rf8 Nb1 42.Rc8 Nd2 43.Rc7 Nxb3 44.Rxa7 Nd2 45.Ra6 Nxc4 46.Ra2 b5 47.Rc2 b4 48.Rxc4 b3 49.Rc1 b2 50.Re1+ Kd5
0-1

□ Conklin, Jack
 ■ Nehme, Romeo

B72
1082
1175

Ruth Haring mem TNM: u1200 (7.33)
[Nehme, Romeo]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 In Rd.2 I played a Najdorf, so I decided to switch it up to avoid prep. **6.Be3 Bg7** Move order is important here.

[Keep in mind the following trap:
 6...Ng4?? 7.Bb5+! Bd7 (if 7...Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bxc6+ Bd7 10.Bxa8+-) 8.Qxg4+- and White is up a piece.]

7.Qd2

[7.f3 The critical move, controlling g4, and leading to the Yugoslav Attack. 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 (A) 9.Bc4 Bobby Fischer's preference, where Black has several options to chose from (B) 9.0-0-0 the positional choice, which continues d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4 e5 13.Bc5 Be6!! 14.Ne4 Re8 with a complicated game ahead) 9...Bd7 (9...Nxd4 an old line which Brent Larsen used against Fischer in

Portoroz 1958 in the 2nd of Fischer's 60 memorable games. More recently Anish Giri has tried resurrecting it in his book on the Dragon) 10.0-0-0 Rc8 (10...Rb8 the Chinese Dragon; 10...Qa5) 11.Bb3 Ne5 the main line]
7...Ng4 this is possible because the White queen no longer attacks g4, nullifying the Bb5+ trap
 [7...0-0 8.f3 and we're back in main line territory]

8.0-0-0?!

[Keeping the bishop pair is a must 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Nc6 10.Nb3 Be6∞]

8...Nxe3? 9.Qxe3 Nc6 10.Nb3!

[avoiding 10.Nxc6?! bxc6 11.Bc4 0-0? weakening White's long castle, while Black's king is completely safe]

10...0-0 11.Kb1 Bd7 12.h4 h5 13.f3 Ne5

[13...Rc8! inviting 14.g4 hxg4 15.h5 gxf3 16.hxg6 where Black is doing good after Ne5! 17.gxf7+ Rxf7?]

14.Be2

[14.g4!? immediately hxg4 15.f4 Nf3 16.Be2= (16.h5?! is met by Qb6!?! taking the venom out of White's attack)]

14...a6? this takes away the b6 square from the Queen, which we will see is crucial

[14...Rc8= continuing to develop, and if 15.Qxa7 Black has the thematic sac Rxc3!?! 16.bxc3 Qc7 17.Qa5 b6 18.Qb4 Nc6 19.Qa3 Rc8= and a great attack]

15.Nd5?

[15.g4! hxg4 16.f4 Nf3 17.h5! except this time there is no Qb6 to exchange queens e5 18.f5 gxf5 19.Bxf3 gxf3 20.h6 Bf6 21.Rxd6+- and Black's position crumbles]

15...Rc8 16.Nb6 Rc6 17.Nxd7 Qxd7= 18.g4 hxg4 19.h5

[19.fxg4! and if Black takes back Nxg4 White can mount an attack with

(19...Rfc8 20.c3 Nc4 21.Bxc4 Rxc4=) 20.Qg1 Ne5 21.h5 e6 22.Nd4 Rc7 23.Qe3 Qe7 24.Rdg1±]

19...gxh5? 20.Rxh5± Rfc8!?

trying to create counterplay **21.Nd4?**

[21.c3 and Black's counterplay is dead, and White must convert after something like gxf3 22.Bxf3 Ng6 23.Rg1+-]

21...gxf3? unnecessary complications

[21...Rc5 22.Rdh1 Ng6 23.fxg4 Bxd4 24.Qxd4 Rxh5 25.gxh5 Ne5 26.Rg1+ Kh7= and Black holds]

22.Bxf3+-

[during the game, I was quite worried about 22.Rg1!? which threatens fxe2 (however after 22...Ng6! 23.Nxc6 fxe2 24.Nd4± White doesn't have enough to win) 23.Rxg7+ Kxg7 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Qh8#]

22...Ng4?? more unnecessary complications

[22...Rc5 and White's path to victory is very complicated, even to SF16 who proposes 23.Rh2 Qa4 24.Bh5 Ng6 25.Bxg6 fxg6 26.Qg3 Qe8+-]

23.Qg5 Ne5 24.Bg4??

[White wins on the spot after 24.Nf5 Ng6 25.Nxg7 Kxg7 26.Qh6+ Kf6 (26...Kg8 27.Rg1! and the pin on the knight means Black can't stop Qh8#) 27.e5+!! and Black has to give up the queen or get checkmated on the next move]

24...Qxg4+- 25.Nf5?

[playing out the Endgame following 25.Qxg4 Nxg4 26.Rg5 Ne5 27.Rdg1 Ng6 28.Nxc6 Rxc6+- is White's only hope]

25...Qxd1+ 0-1

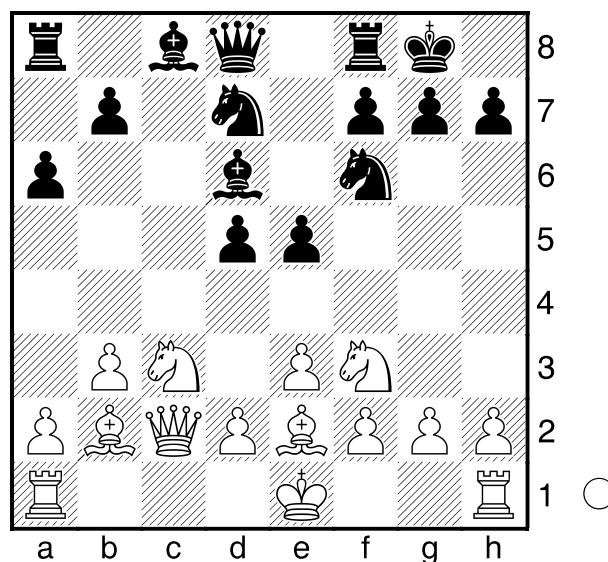
□ **Handigol,Abhishek**
 ■ **Dasika,Archit**

A11
2073
2204

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (7.1)
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Going into the last round in the top section it was Handigol a half point ahead of Dasika, who was a half point ahead of Shrauger and Russell Wong (and Gokhale, but he had already taken a half-point bye). In a rather cruel finish, Handigol crushed Daika quickly, Shrauger got a forfeit win when Laurie Qiu didn't make the game, and Russell found the rare occasion that even the current engines didn't like h4-h5 against a fianchetto Jobava London System.

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.b3 e5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Qc2 a6 8.Bb2 Bd6 9.Be2 0-0

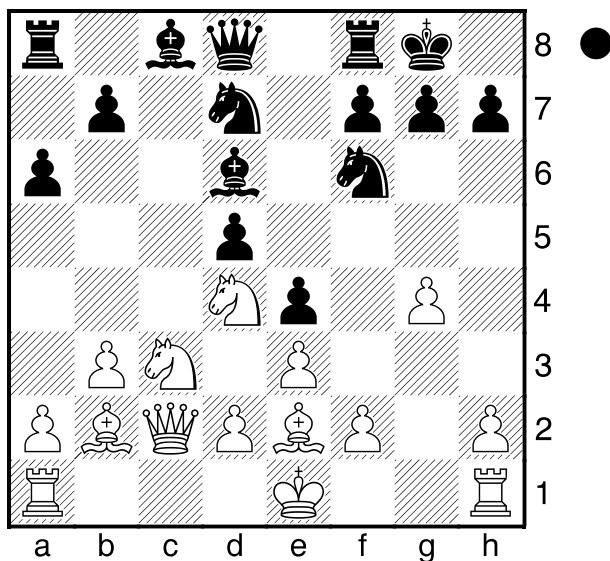


It should be noted that Stockfish decidedly prefers Black here. **10.g4!?** But -- these are humans, and confusion reigns! **10...e4**

[Stockfish 16: 10...b5!]

11.Nd4

(Diagram)



Nb6? and White equalizes, as we like to say.

[11...Ne5 12.g5 Nfd7 sees Black heading for d3 after 13.Nxd5 Nc5+ 14.Nf4 b5 Very derivative -- and hard to find!]

12.Rg1

[12.h3± followed by 0-0-0 isn't so bad or anything.]

12...Be6

[12...Bxh2!]

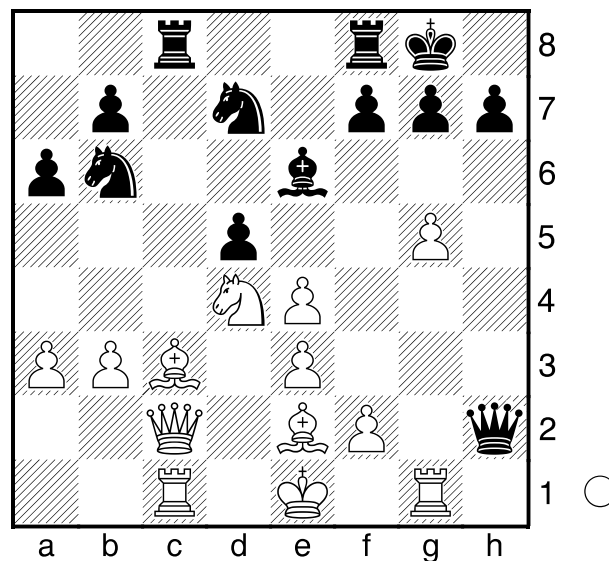
13.g5 Nfd7 14.d3± White continues to press the initiative. **14...Rc8 15.dxe4**

[15.0-0-0!]

15...Bb4 16.a3 Bxc3+ 17.Bxc3 Qc7

With this double attack Black is awarded "0.00" by Stockfish, but it's a treacherous path... **18.Rc1 Qxh2!**

(Diagram)



19.Kd2?

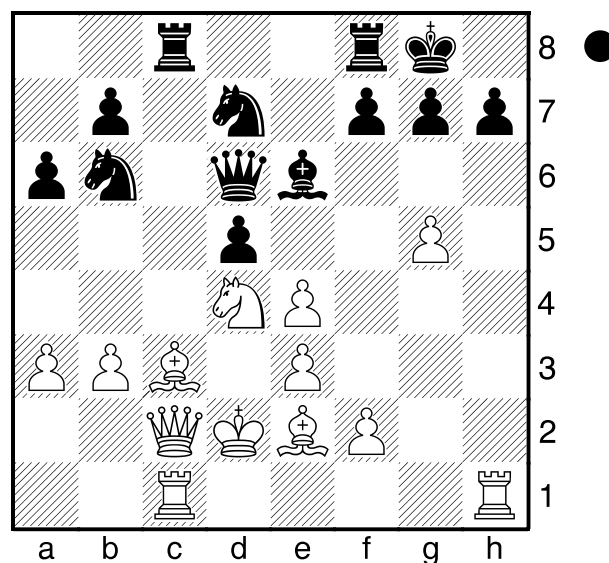
[19.Nf3! Qh3 20.Rg3 Qh5 (20...Qh1+ 21.Rg1) 21.Qd3 dxe4 22.Qxe4 Nd5 23.Bb2 Rxc1+ 24.Bxc1 Nc3 25.Qd4 Nxe2 26.Kxe2 f6 27.Bb2=]

19...Qd6?

[19...Nc5! 20.Rh1 Qxf2± at least]

20.Rh1

[20.e5! Qxa3! 21.Bd3 g6 22.f4± with thoughts of kingside attack for the pawn.]

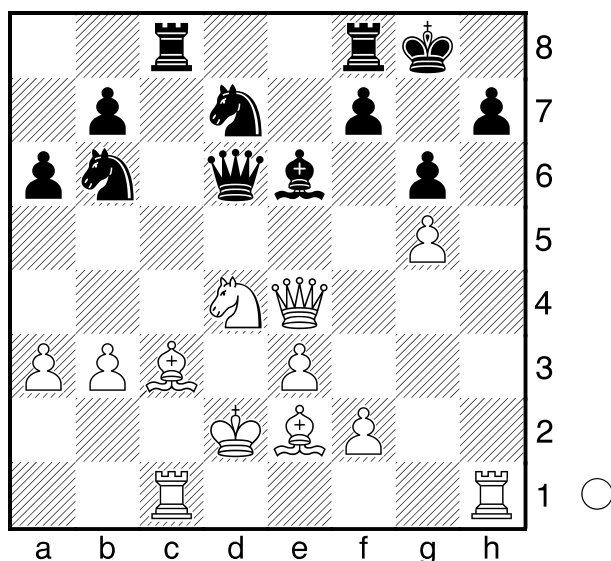


20...dxe4??

[20...g6! 21.Rh4 Rfe8 22.Rch1 Nf8=
23.e5! Qxa3! (23...Qxe5 24.Nxe6
Qxe6 25.Bg4)]

21.Qxe4 The smoke clears, White
crashes through. **21...g6**

[21...Rfe8 22.Qxh7+ Kf8
is no defense.]



**22.Rxh7! Rxc3 23.Rch1! Rc2+
24.Qxc2 f5?! 25.gxf6
1-0**

Wong, Russell
Winslow, Elliott

A46
2200
2182

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (7.2)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 d6 2.Bf4 London? **2...Nf6 3.e3**
[3.Nc3!? The Jobava might not make
sense with the bishop diagonal
already cut off, but the idea is e2-e4
and transposition into a Pirc, when d6-
d5 costs an important tempo. There
was a time when Bf4 against the Pirc
was thought to be nothing, but no
more -- it's one of the three moves
(Be3, Bf4, Bg5) that among other
things contemplate setting up Qd2

and Bh6.]

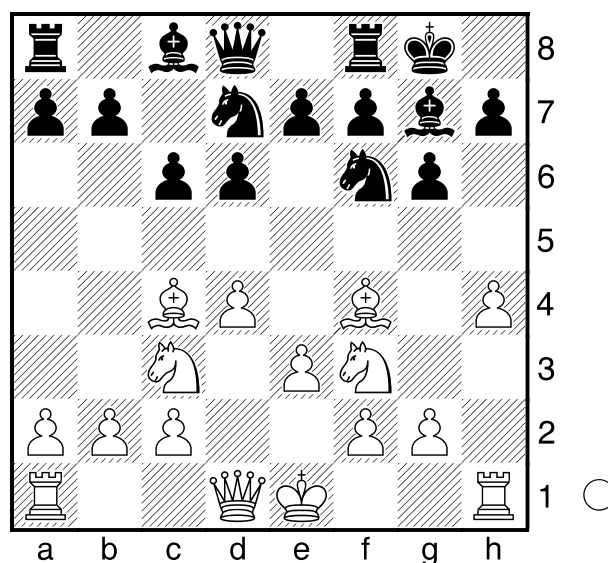
3...Nbd7 4.Nf3 g6 5.Nc3

Now I'm really confused. And I might not
be the only one. **5...Bg7 6.Bc4**

Also an odd square for the London --
but with my knight on d7, he's got me
worrying about Bxf7+! **6...0-0 7.h4?!**
Everybody's 3400 engine these days,
throwing the h-pawn up the board?

[No, actually Stockfish prefers one
square less: 7.h3 with the "normal"
line b6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.a4 a6 10.Re1
d5 11.Bf1 c5 12.Nb1 (!) Re8
13.Nbd2 and everything has come
around (N/d2, P/d5) to just another
(balanced) London System.]

7...c6



Black's already better (what is White
doing?). **8.h5? Nxh5 9.Bg5 Nh6**
[9...b5!]

10.Qd2 d5 11.Bd3 Re8 12.0-0-0 Qa5
I have a bad habit of sticking my queen
out on a5, in the way of my pawns
running down at White's king.
[12...b5!?]

13.Kb1?

[But in any case, 13.Bh6 Bxh6
(13...Bh8!?) 14.Rxh6 b5
gets there first.]

13...e5? I was thinking "Center counter

vs. wing attack" but better is "Faster wing attack vs. wing attack."

[13...b5+ 14.Rh4 b4 15.Ne2+ -- when all three implementations of the attack are quite good: (15...Ne4; 15...Rb8; 15...c5)]

14.Bh6?! This doesn't cut it.

[White needs to deal with the "loose end" in the center first: 14.dxe5 Nxe5 (14...Ng4 15.e6 Rxe6 16.Nd4 Re5±) 15.Bxf6! Bxf6 16.Ne4! Qd8 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Rh6!= (White finally makes the h-file count!) Bg4! 20.Rdh1 Rae8!

A) 21.Rxh7?? Bh5+;

B) 21.f3? Bh5± 22.a3 (22.e4 dxe4 23.Bxe4 Qg5) 22...Qg7 (22...R8e7!?) 23.e4 dxe4 24.Bxe4 f5 25.Bd3 Re3;

C) 21.a3! c5 22.Ka2 c4 23.Bxg6! fxc6 (23...hxc6? 24.Qd4±) 24.Qd4 Qxf2 25.Qxg4 Qf7=]

14...Bxh6 15.Rxh6 Qc7±

[15...Ng4 16.Rh4 h5]

16.Nxe5

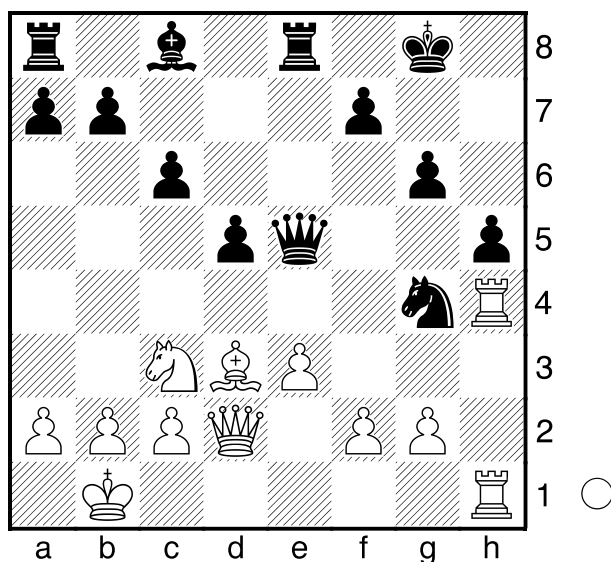
[16.Ng5]

16...Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ng4?!

[17...Qxe5 18.Rdh1 Bf5]

[17...Qxe5]

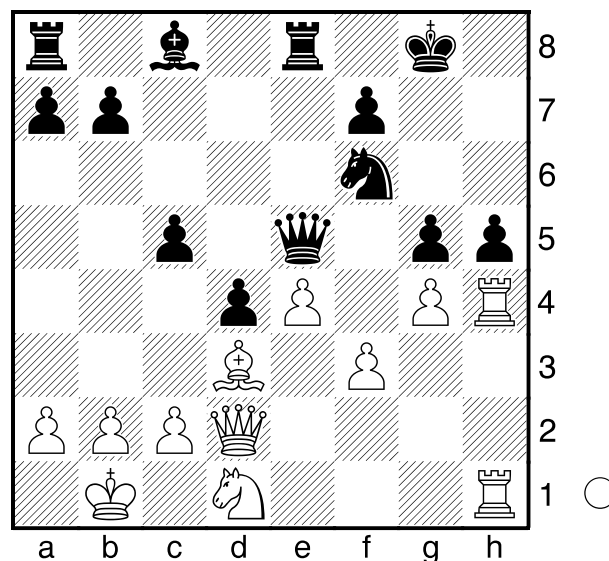
18.Rh4! Qxe5 19.Rdh1 h5!



The attack is fairly shut down; Black has a pawn. **20.e4 d4?**

[20...dxe4 21.Nxe4 Bf5 22.f3! Bxe4 23.fxg4 Bxg2! and ...Bf3, keeping the defense.]

21.Nd1!± c5 22.f3 Nf6 23.g4 g5!



Out of nowhere Black gets desperate.

24.f4?!

[24.Rxh5! Nxh5 25.Rxh5 f6 26.Qg2± and double on the h-file, so the Jobava h-file attack after all!]

24...Qxf4= 25.Qxf4 gxf4 26.gxh5 Nxe4 27.Rxf4 f5= 28.Nf2?!± Nd6

29.b3?! Kh8

[29...Bd7]

30.Nh3 Bd7 31.Rhf1 White is slipping in the ending... **31...Re3± 32.Rh4 Rae8 33.Kb2 b5?**

[33...Re1 34.Rxe1 Rxe1 35.Nf4 Kh7 36.h6 b5]

34.Nf4

[34.Rg1!=]

34...Re1

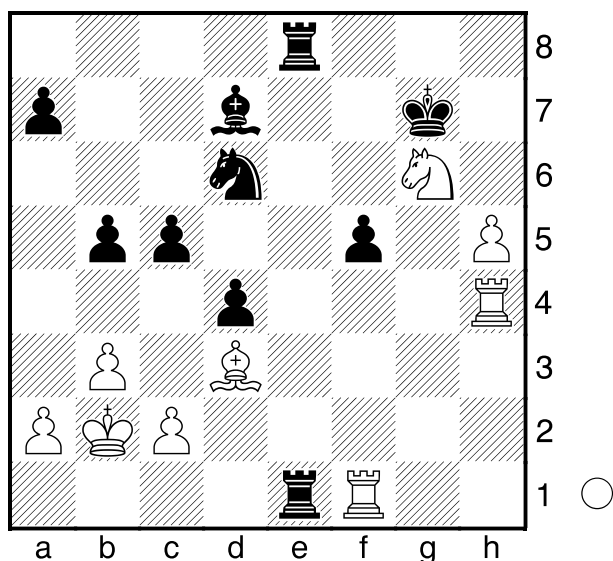
[34...Rg3!±]

35.Ng6+

[35.b4! c4 36.Rxe1 Rxe1 37.Ng6+ Kg8 38.Rxd4 cxd3 39.Rxd6 dxc2 40.Kxc2 Be6 41.h6=]

35...Kg7

(Diagram)



36.Rf2? and over the edge.

[36.Rxe1 Rxe1 37.b4!=]

36...Kh6! 37.Rg2 Ne4

[37...Bc6!]

38.Bxe4 R8xe4 39.Nf4 Be8 40.Rg8

Rf1 41.Ng2 Rxh4 42.Nxh4 Bxh5

One of those games that, when you put it through the engine ringer, it's not so convincing -- but at the time it felt like a good fight!

0-1

□ **Cawthon,Jeremy David**

■ **Yan,Ruiyang**

2023 FALL TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 05.09.2023

[Winslow,Elliott]

B22

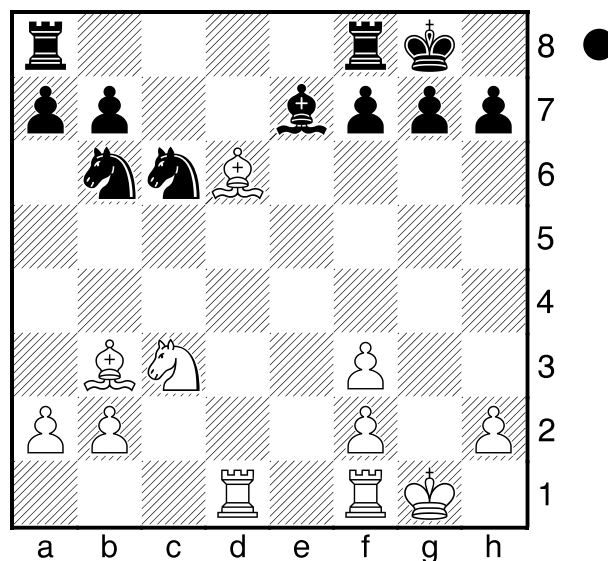
1964

2357

It's great to have Ruiyang back at a TNM! The bad news is, she's taking three byes in the last three rounds. But then the good news is, it's to play in the U.S. Women's Championship! (I think -- I should verify that.) Her first round game is her grinding away against another player that I don't think has ever played a TNM -- Jeremy was a star player at Lowell High School quite a few years ago when the Mechanics' had

chess there; they've always had a well-attended "chess social" going on, with a lot of blitz and even some teaching. We may be going back there again this year? He looked to be holding on very well in this game, but some endgame slips (by them both) led to his demise.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 dxc3 [9...Be6] 10.Qxd6 exd6 11.Nxc3 Be7 12.Bf4 0-0 13.Rad1 Bg4 14.Bxd6 Bxf3 15.gxf3



Bxd6 16.Rxd6 Rfd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.Rxd6 Kf8 19.f4 Ke7 20.Rd3 Na5

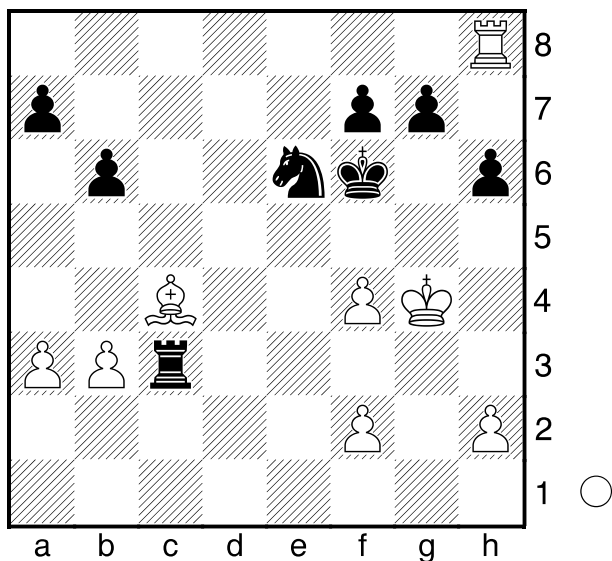
[20...Rd8+]

21.Nd5+= Nxd5 22.Bxd5 Rc8 23.Kg2 b6 24.b3

[24.b4 Nc4 25.Rg3 Kf6 26.Rc3 Nd6 27.Rxc8 Nxc8 28.Kf3=]

24...Rc2 25.Kf3 Nc6 26.a3 Nb8 27.Bc4 Nd7 28.Re3+ Kf6 29.Re8 Nc5 30.Rf8 Rc3+ 31.Kg4 Ne6 32.Rh8 h6

(Diagram)



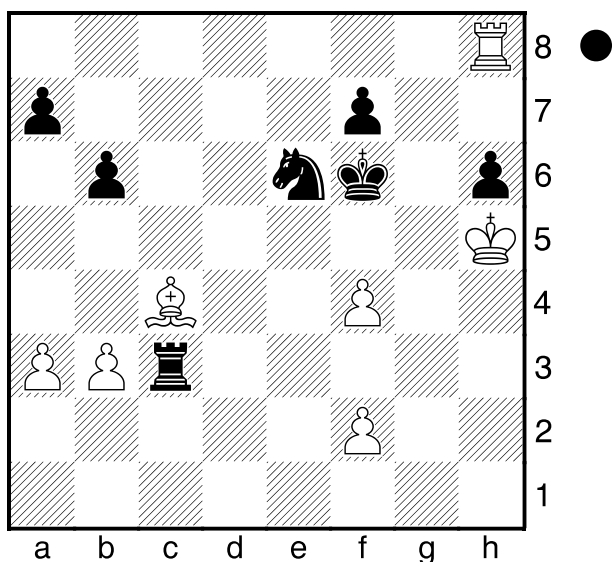
33.h4? g6+ 34.h5?!

[34.f3]

34...gxh5+?!

[34...Kg7! 35.Bxe6 (35.Ra8? f5+ 36.Kh4 g5+ 37.fxg5 hxg5#; 35.hxg6 Kxh8) 35...gxh5+ 36.Kxh5 Kxh8]

35.Kxh5



Ng7+??

[35...Kg7 36.Rc8 Nxf4+-+]

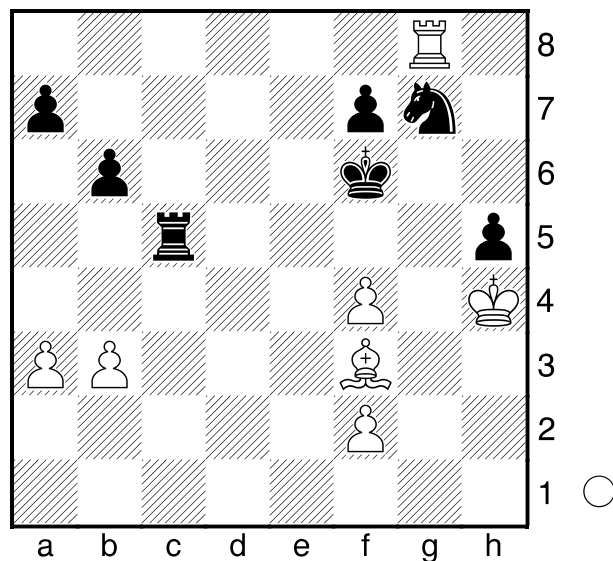
36.Kh4!= Kg6 37.Rg8! h5 38.Bd5

Rc5 39.Bf3

[39.Bc4]

[39.Rd8]

39...Kf6

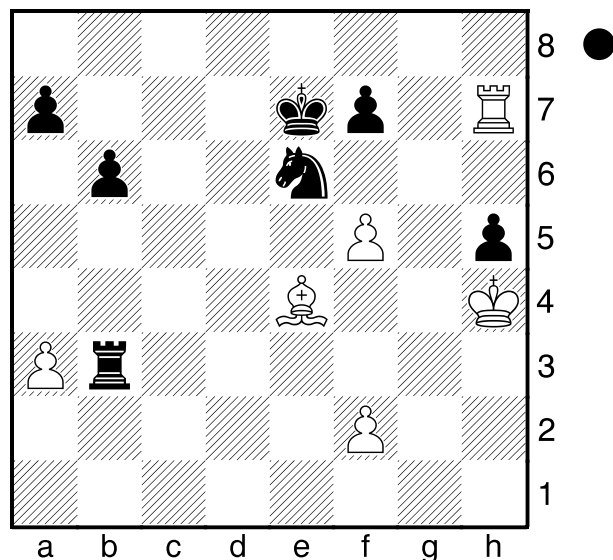


40.Rh8?

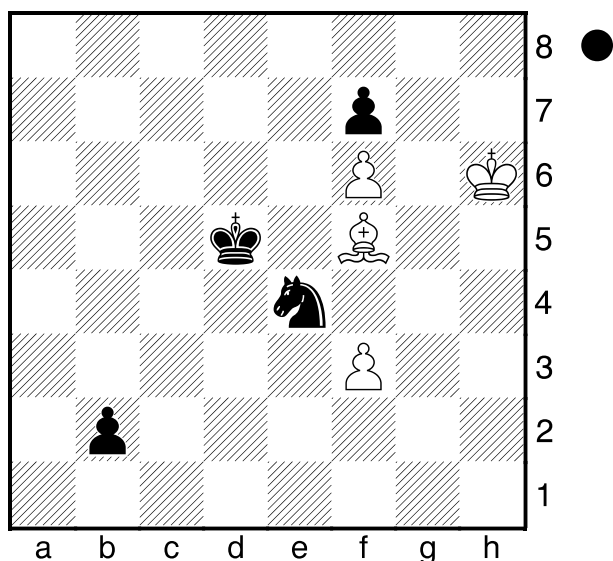
[40.Ra8=]

40...Rc3 41.Rh6+ Ke7 42.Be4 Rxb3

43.Rh7 Ne6 44.f5



Rh3+! Classic liquidation tactic; the pawn endings are won for Black what with that outside majority on the queenside. **45.Kxh3 Ng5+ 46.Kh4 Nxb7 47.Bf3 Nf6 48.Kg5 b5 49.Bc6 a6 50.Bb7 a5 51.Ba6 b4 52.axb4 axb4 53.Bc4 Ne4+ 54.Kxh5 Nd2 55.Bd3 b3 56.Kg5 b2 57.f6+ Ke6 58.Bf5+ Kd5 59.Kh6 Ne4 60.f3**
(Diagram)



**Nxf6 61.Kg7 Ne8+ 62.Kf8 Nd6
63.Bb1 f5 64.Ke7 f4
0-1**

Macnee,Felix **A06**
 Horde,Nicolas T **1647**
 2023 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (1.16) **1469**
[Horde,Nicolas] 5.9.23

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.e3 d5 3.b4

Felix's signature move so I wasn't too surprised **3...Bg4**

[3...e6 SF prefers transposing into a slav structure as b4 is usually not a good move in those positions]

4.Be2 e6 5.a3 Bd6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.c4!

A good move that asks a question to Black. If c6, White can push to c5 and get some play on the queenside. Black can also take, surrender the center and get the initiative. I heavily analyzed this position from my first game against Felix a couple TNM before so I knew both options were fine **7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nbd7 9.d4 Qe7** Preparing e5 under better conditions

[9...a5 Also good]

[9...e5 I thought this was too

premature but SF proves me wrong
10.dxe5 Bxe5 11.Bxe5 Nxe5
12.Qxd8 Rfxd8 I saw until here and thought that White is just going to grab my knight on e5 and be up a piece. If I had seen one move further I would have noticed they are hanging a Morphy mate... **13.Be2 (13.Nxe5??**
 What I saw **Rd1#** And what I missed) **13...Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Be6**
15.Nc3 Black keeps the initiative]
10.Nbd2 e5! 11.dxe5 Bxe5 12.Qb3! Bxb2! Disrupting the annoying battery along the a2-f7 diagonal **13.Qxb2 Ne4**
 [13...c5 Probably better, playing on the queenside. I wanted to punish White for not castling though]

14.0-0 Rad8 15.Nd4 White is threatening f3 **15...Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Ne5**
 [16...c5 Still a move]

17.Ba2 Nf3+! The idea behind Ne4. This is SF first line but in practice is not the easiest decision as White is going to get a lot of activity if I let them regroup which happened in the game. Practically I would have been better with continuing developing and putting more pressure on the queenside but my mind was already made up after Ne4. I also think not playing this move would have put me in a tough psychological spot as this is too tempting **18.gxf3 Bxf3**

[18...Bh3?? 19.Kh1 Bxf1 20.Rxf1 Black's attack stops net and White is winning now as their pieces are almost ideally placed for the counterattack]

19.Nxf3 Rxd2 20.Nxd2 White has a rook, a bishop and a knight against a queen and a pawn so in theory the position is still complex. In practice Black has to play only-moves to maintain the balance and prevent White from regrouping **20...Rd8**

[20...Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Rd8

(21...Qd5+?? Felix told me after the

game this would have won the knight but he forgot that there's an annoying bishop on a2) 22.Nf3 Qf5]
21.Nf3 Rd6 My first real mistake of the game and is already positionally decisive. The idea is to move the rook to the h or g file and avoid exchanging it but it's way too slow

[21...Qe4!! At this point the correct plan is to realize that Black does not have enough material to win and has to settle for a draw 22.Nd4 (22.Rfd1?! If White still wants to play, however Black stands better as the queen is more mobile Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Kf8 24.Bd5 Qg4+) 22...Qg4+ 23.Kh1 Qe4+ And take the draw]

22.Rfd1 Rg6+

[22...Qf6 I spent a long time analyzing this move 23.Rxd6?? (23.Kg2 This is the move that made me discard this variation. I thought that White will trade a pair of rooks and be better. However White's activity comes from the pair of rooks so exchanging one actually makes the queen stronger as the remaining rook, bishop and knight need to find harmonious placement to cover each other so it was definitely the last change to save the game) 23...Qxa1+ 24.Kg2 cxd6]

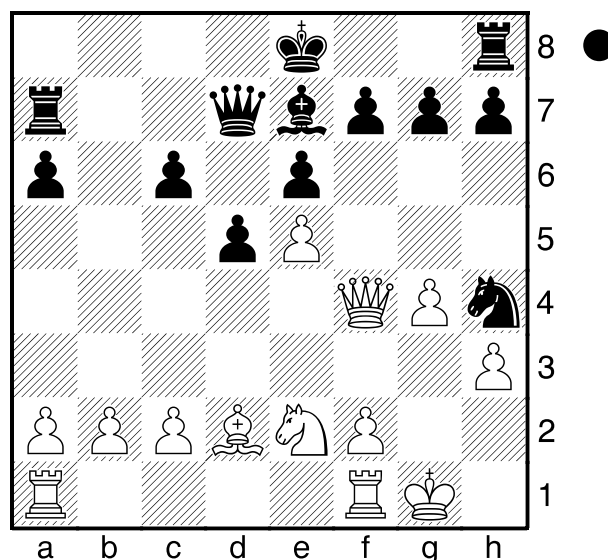
23.Kf1 The rest of the game is not that interesting as White's plan is very simple: double on the d file and brute force target f7. Black does not have any active plans at this point **23...h5 24.Rd4 Rc6 25.Rad1 g5 26.Rd7 Qe4 27.Rxf7 Re6 28.Bxe6** SF gives it as the only blunder from White but this is exaggerated as this is the fastest win. **28...Qxe6 29.Rd8+ Kxf7 30.Nxg5+** Hats off to Felix for playing a perfect defense → counterattack game. I had the initiative the entire game but he waited patiently until I slowly lost the

thread so kudos to him.

1-0

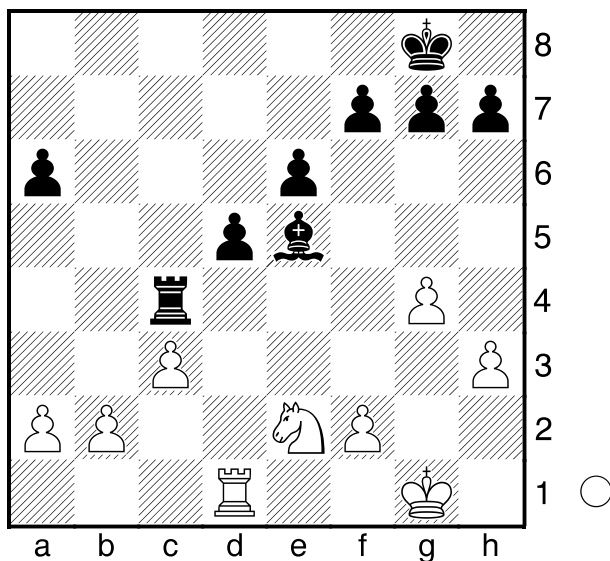
	Barreyro,Romeo Belmes	B10
□		1523
■	Raahemifar,Keyan	1380
	2023 Fall TNM: 1200-1599 (1.17)	5.9.23
	[Winslow,Elliott]	

After who knows what, the players find themselves in over their heads in a delicate pawn ending! **1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 Bg4 4.d4 c5 5.Bb5+ Nc6 6.0-0 e6 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 cxd4 9.Qg4 Nge7 10.Qxd4 Nf5 11.Qa4 Qd7 12.Nc3 a6 13.Bd2 Ra7 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.g4 Nh4 16.Qf4 Be7 17.Ne2**



Bg5 18.Qg3 Bxd2 19.Qxh4 0-0 20.Rad1 Ba5 21.Ng3 Qe7 22.Qxe7 Rxe7 23.Rd3 Bc7 24.Rc3 Bxe5 25.Rxc6 Rc7 26.Rxc7 Bxc7 27.Rd1 Rc8 28.c3 Be5 29.Ne2 Rc4

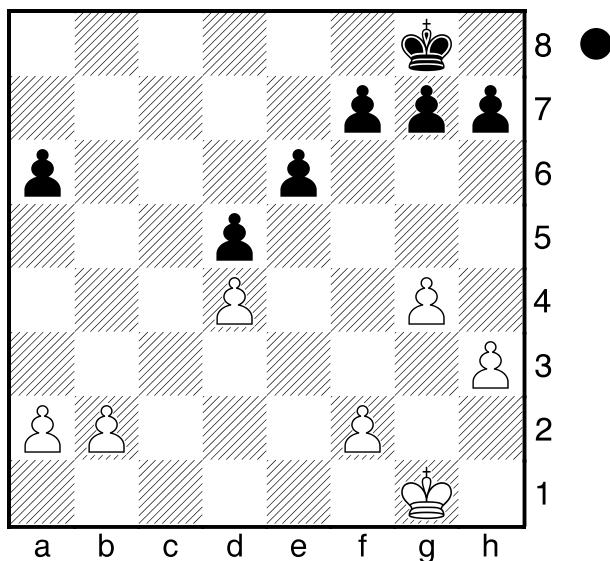
(Diagram)



30.Nd4 Bxd4?! 31.Rxd4!±

[31.cxd4? Rc2 32.Rb1 Kf8±
(32...Rd2±)]

31...Rxd4!? Nothing wrong with the retreats, either. It so happens this is okay, but the proverb is, "Make sure that you know what's happening in the pawn ending before you trade rooks." (Which is a bit more reliable than "All rook endings are drawn.") **32.cxd4**



The problem is the outside majority. Stockfish is telling us "draw," but in practice Black is the one needing precision. **32...Kf8?**

[32...g5! 33.b4

A) 33...f6 34.a4 Kf7 35.b5?

(35.a5! Ke7 36.b5 Kd7! 37.b6!±)

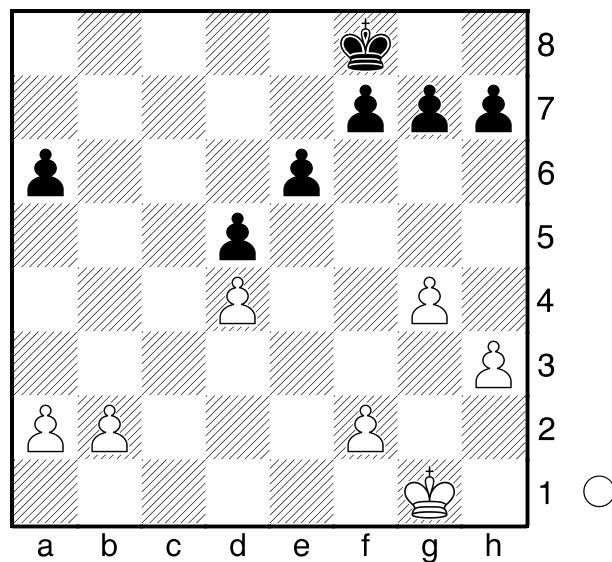
35...axb5 36.a5 b4±;

B) 33...Kf8!=]

[32...f6!± is about as good (as 32...

g5): 33.b4 Kf7 34.a4 Ke7 35.h4

Kd6 36.f3 Kc7]



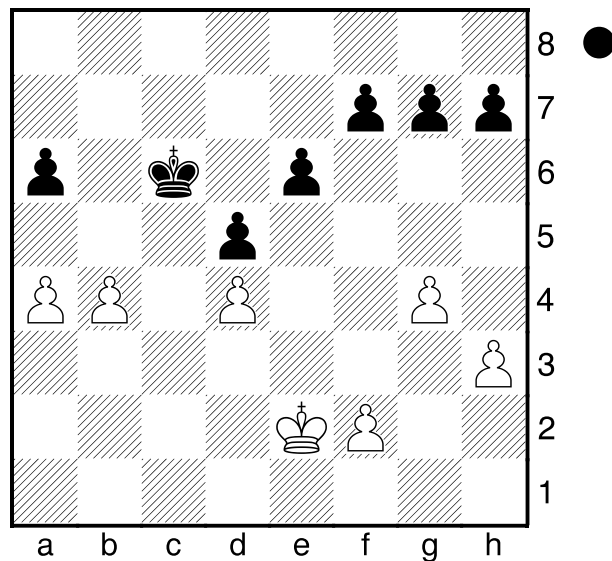
33.b4?=-

[33.f4!+-]

[33.h4!+-]

33...Ke7 34.Kf1 Kd6 35.Ke2 Kc6

36.a4



Kb6?

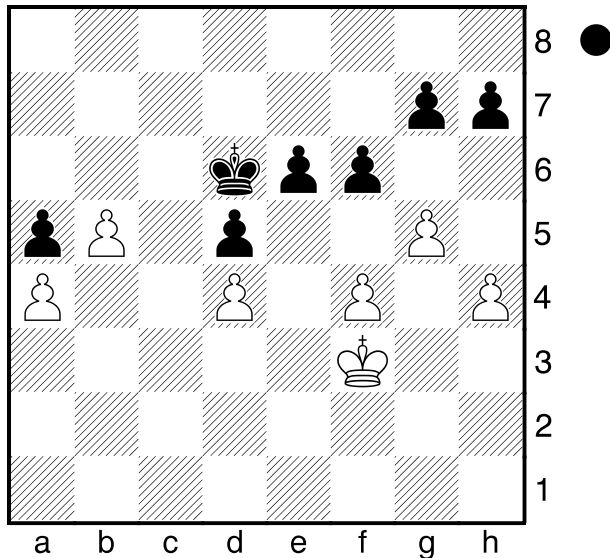
[36...g5 37.f4 f6=]

37.f4?

[37.g5!+-]

37...a5! 38.b5= Everything else *loses*

38...f6 39.Kf3 Kc7 40.h4 Kd6 41.g5



fxg5??

[41...f5= Total blockade.]

42.fxg5! e5 43.dxe5+ Kxe5 44.Ke3 d4+ 45.Kd3 Kd5 46.h5

[46.b6 Kc6 47.Kxd4 Kxb6 48.Kd5+-]

46...h6 47.g6 Kc5 48.Kc2 Kd5

49.Kd2 Kc5 50.Kd3 Kd5 51.b6 Kc6

52.Kxd4 Kxb6 53.Kd5 Kc7 54.Ke6

Kc6 55.Kf7

1-0

□ **Braithwaite,Andrew**

■ **Tibrewall,Araddhya**

C43

268

1038

2023 Fall TNM: u1200 (1.27) 05.09.2023

[Braithwaite,Andrew/Winslow,Elliott (ew)]

ew: Andrew is taking his game seriously: His real (not "published") rating is already 400, and even so this is one heckuvvan upset! Not quite a model of precision, but that could well come

along shortly. Look out! **1.e4** Arrived 5 minutes late to the board, so I'm already in time trouble! **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nf6** Knights readying their lances in the middle. **3.d4** Fighting for the center. **3...Nxe4 4.Nxe5** I considered 4.Bd3 here to develop with tempo, which in retrospect I think is better. I decided I wanted the bishop on c4 if Black would allow it. **4...Qe7?!** Though there might be threats around Qb4+ or down the e-file if White can't get castled, I felt this was a positional mistake, blocking in the DSB. Black is going to have trouble castling anytime soon.

[4...d5 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.0-0 0-0=]

5.Bd3 I considered 5. Bc4 here which is what I had wanted, but then had a brain cramp where I thought Qb4+ picks up the bishop. The knight on e5 defends! Missed a better move due to seeing ghosts.

[5.Bc4 Nd6 6.Bb3± Black is very cramped here.]

5...Nf6± Black misses a chance to open up his LSB. White feels slightly better already. **6.0-0 Qd6** Avoid the peril of queen-king alignment on the e-file. I wonder if 6... Qb4 is better? Runs into c3, but after something like Qb6 at least Black's DSB has a destination on d6.

[6...Qb4 7.c3 Qb6 8.Bg5 Bd6]

7.Re1 Threatening a deadly double attack with Nc4+, and defending the pawn on d4. **7...Be7** The only good defensive resource, though the bishop remains pretty unhappy on e7 as things stand.

[7...Qxd4?? 8.Nf3!+-]

8.Bc4 Threatening the fork with Nxf7. **8...0-0 9.Nc3** I considered Bxf7+ here but decided to keep developing, given Black's space/development constraints.

[9.Bxf7+ Rxf7 10.Nxf7 Kxf7∞]

9...Nc6 10.Bxf7+ Still looking at Bxf7+ and now taking a moment to consider

my clock: I'm down nearly 1/3 of my time and we're only on move 10 (nearly 25 minutes over my usual "budget"). So I decide to trade pieces on f7, partly to simplify the position without untangling Black's queenside and partly to weaken Black's king safety. (In postmortem, opponent said he was terrified of Nb5 here where the queen is in real danger. I didn't give this proper consideration in-game. Let's see ...)

[10.Nb5 (ew: ! So much better now!) Qb4 11.Bd2 Qa4 12.b3 Qa6 13.Nxc7+- Entirely forced queen hunt to this point, and we're winning the rook, plus the queen is still pretty misplaced. Much better than the route I chose, though it would have burned more clock (and risked errors) to calculate the entire forcing line.]

10...Rxf7

[10...Kh8 11.Bb3 Not any better.]

11.Nxf7 Kxf7 Really the only advantage here for White is Black's open king. So the position is worse, but the clock pressure feels slightly eased. **12.Nb5** This was a better attacking move before I traded off my best pieces! Helps him get queen cleared out to free DSB, plus I'm not completing my kingside development which is neglecting my dynamic advantage. But I do fork the pawn on c7 which he has no way to defend, plus I'm defending my d4 pawn. Alternative option was Be3 but I didn't love blocking the e-file, and it's met by Qb4 which forks my knight and b2 pawn.

[12.Be3 Qb4 13.d5 Ne5 14.Qd4]

12...Qb4

[12...Qd5 13.Re5 Nxe5 14.Nxc7 Qc6 15.Nxa8 b6 16.dxe5 Qxa8=]

13.Nxc7 Rb8 (! ew)

[13...Qxd4 14.Qxd4 Nxd4

With no good way to defend the pawn on c2 15.Rb1 Nxc2 16.Re2 (16.Rxe7+! Kxe7 17.Nxa8+-

(by a lot more than 13...Rb8 - ew)) 16...Nd4±]

14.d5 I had been waiting to push this pawn because I spotted a tactic of attracting the king with Rxe7 and then forking the queen with Ne5+, but it required displacing both knights which seemed a big lift. **14...Nd4 15.Bf4** Threatening a discovered attack on the rook (not Na6? which can be met by bxa6 and the queen defends the rook, but Ne6 where dxe6 Bxb8 exd5 leaves Black two points of material down but massively freed up). **15...d6** Again, not sure Black needed to defend against the discovered bishop attack. Simply Qb2 better here? What about Nxc2 which seems to win a pawn?

[15...Qxb2 16.Ne6 ? (ew)

(16.Be5+-; 16.d6+-) 16...dxe6

17.Bxb8 exd5= (ew: 18.Rb1±)]

[15...Nxc2 16.Qxc2 Qxf4= (ew No, 17.g3!± is still a healthy plus.)]

16.c3

[(ew) 16.Be3!+-]

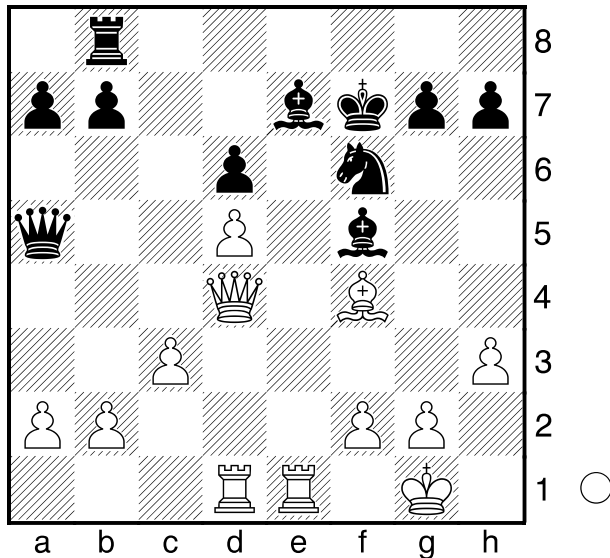
16...Qa5?! Black defends my attack on his knight by targeting my knight.

[16...Qc5 17.Be3! Qxc7 18.Bxd4±

"But this is just B+N v R+P!" Yes, but here the rook and pawn matter. (Okay, I'm a little surprised as well - ew)]

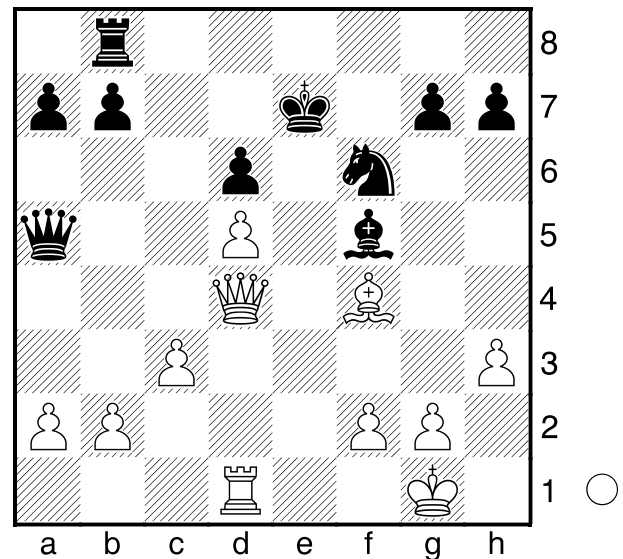
17.Qxd4 Taking with the queen was key here, gaining activity for the trade of knights. **17...Qxc7 18.h3** Here I wanted to activate my rook with Rd1 but it runs into Bf4 which is quite annoying. The knight can also be fairly dangerous on f4. So I decided to slow down a moment and play a prophylactic pawn move which also gives my king some luft in case my rooks need to abandon the back rank for an attack, which feels like it's imminent. **18...Bf5 19.Rad1** And now all my pieces are on nice squares, and I'm up a point of material but those pawns on d5/d6 are still kind

of gumming up the middle. **19...Qa5**



I think the purpose of this move is to target the a2 and d5 pawns? But it leaves the bishop on e7 only defended by the king ... **20.Rxe7+** "!!" (ew -- I *like* this shot! But...) I found this candidate check/capture quickly but spent 9 minutes calculating: not recapturing seems foolish after Bxd6, so Kxe7 Re1+ which forces another king move and no matter where he goes Bxd6 creates a monster passed pawn on d5 and allows a blistering attack down the e-file. I liked the position after Bxd6 so I made the move. **20...Kxe7**

(Diagram)



21.Re1+??

[Here Andrew just didn't get to 21.Bxd6+!! Kxd6 22.Qf4+ Ke7 23.Qxb8 is a favorite sort of proverb of mine: "Queen and rook vs. a king in the open is a win." :-) (ew)]
 [(ew -- by the way, 21.g4!? is pretty good, but not on the scale of 21.Bxd6+!!)]

21...Kd7 (? ew)

[21...Kf7! is safer and leaves d7 for minors (ew)]

22.Bxd6?

[(ew Here 22.g4!± is the only advantage left.]

22...Kxd6?? Opponent thought for 7 minutes here before recapturing, surely knowing that Qe5+ or Qf4+ was coming next. In portmortem we discussed whether he had a better move here — not many good squares for his rook (Re8 maybe?). Just seeing this now: what if he plays Qxd5 to halt the attack with a queen trade?

[22...Qxd5 23.Bxb8 Qxd4 24.cxd4+- Seems like a very winning endgame for White.]

[(ew Not just maybe: 22...Re8!= leads -- for White -- to just enough (two pawns vs. a knight) for equality.)]

23.Qe5+ Now the rook falls and Black is in trouble. **23...Kc5 24.b4+!**

At an earlier point in my chess development, I would have snapped up the rook instantaneously. But "if you see a good move, find a better one" caused me to scan the board and find this move after only a minute, winning the White queen. **24...Kc4** "If you see a good move (say, capturing your opponent's queen), find a better one."

Qd4+ Kb5 Qc5+ Ka4/a6 Qxa5# so Black resigned following Qd4+. **25.Qd4+**

1-0

CHESS VOICE

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John Grefe, Northern California Champion

The Charles Bagby Memorial/Northern California State Championship was held at the Mechanics' Institute from 1976 until 1987. IM **John Grefe** was clear 1st in 1981.



In 1984 FM **Paul Whitehead** took 1st, after swindling GM **Peter Biyiasis** for a draw (above). IM **Elliott Winslow**, playing FM **Richard Lobo**, stares back at the camera in disbelief.
 Photograph by Alan Benson, courtesy of chessdryad.com.





Above and below: scenes from the monthly Chess Social on Friday, August 4.





The **Sizzling Summer Blitz** on August 29. Above, In the foreground **Joe Urquart** is black vs. IM **Ladia Jirasek**, while in the background **Henry Benaïd** is black vs. the tournament winner GM **Vinay Bhat**.





Attending the Beginners Class for Mechanics' Members are **Sheryl Kim** and **Darius Johnson**.



IM **Elliott Winslow** teaching a class on Chess and Computers.



From a tournament in the 1980s.
Above: NM **Ziad Baroudi** vs IM **David Strauss**.
Left: NM **Victors Pupols**.

Photographs by Alan Benson, courtesy of
chessdryad.com



The Chess Social on Friday, September 1.





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5-6pm

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November 3

December 1

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Questions?

Contact chessroom@milibrary.org



In Memoriam: Richard Russel Shorman (1938-2023)

By Kerry Lawless

Richard Shorman was born on August 21, 1938 to Harry and Verna Shorman in Oakland, the eldest of four children. An early memory of Richard's was of the family housekeeper, Rowiner, reading Indian spiritual books to him.

Richard read his first book of chess when he was 15 years old. A little later, he started playing at the Oakland YMCA Chess Club run by George Koltanowski. In 1958, his first published rating by the Chess Friends of Northern California (CFNC) was 1555. In 1959, at Kolty's request, he became the editor of the *Oakland YMCA Chess Bulletin* (1959-1960), and officially joined the Hayward Chess Club. In early 1960, he played in his first and only USCF tournament in Portland, Oregon and received a 1757 rating. About this time, he came to an agreement with George Koltanowski to help write and edit some of George's daily chess columns in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. I don't know if Richard was the first to do this, but he wasn't the last.

Richard, a Kenpo Karate practitioner, joined the Army in 1960. Singled out as an outstanding boot camp cadet from among 3,000 men, he was recruited to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey to learn Russian, graduated in 1962, and finally leaving military service in 1966.

Richard started attending the Cherryland Café in Hayward. Harold James (proprietor and cook) had opened the Café in 1962, and it soon became a Bay Area chess hot-spot: Harold served up the food with a sarcastic wit, while Richard countered with chess and his own dry wit.

Richard resumed helping George Koltanowski with his column. While he was associating with George, Richard noticed how Kolty mowed down his simultaneous exhibition opponents tactically. This led Richard to start playing gambits, and his rating jumped to expert after only two or three CFNC tournaments.

Richard developed his writing skill during this period and enjoyed himself so much that he was loath to turn the column back to George, which eventually led George to one day exclaim in exasperation, "Why don't you start your own column?" George then called the *Hayward Daily Review* and persuaded them to let Richard write a chess column, which then ran from 1967 to 1981. Richard's column also ran in the *Fremont-Newark Argus* and the *Dublin-Livermore-Pleasanton Herald & News* from 1968 to 1974, while also occasionally ghost-writing, proofreading, and correcting Jude Acers' *Berkeley Barb* chess columns from 1972 to 1975.

In 1972 Richard discussed the Spassky-Fischer Match at Cal State Hayward, at the same time doing behind the scenes Russian translations of Soviet chess publications for KQED's Friday and Saturday programs on the match.

Richard began teaching chess classes at Chabot Junior College in 1974. Attendance was high despite the dense curriculum: *Pawn Endings* by Maizelis, *Masters of the Chessboard* by Reti, and *Chess the Easy Way* by Fine were some of the required textbooks.

Richard served at various times as the Central California Chess Association's Publicity and League Director, and as Director and Instructor of the LERA late night chess group. Richard was the Hayward Chess Club's President, Instructor and Lecturer, and the Games Editor for Northern California publications *Chess in Action* and *Scacchic/Chess Voice*. Tournament Director of the Junior Divisions for Chess Friends of Northern California, Richard taught chess to thousands of East Bay adults and kids for over 60 years.

Richard was a major photo contributor to Northern California chess magazines from 1968 to 2023, and held the title of "Official Photographer" for both CalChess and ChessDryad.com.



Richard Shorman (Photo courtesy chessdryad.com)

Richard was a legendary member of the San Francisco Bay Area chess community where he developed and taught a "tactical" aggressive approach to chess. He leaves behind generations of past and current students who were enriched not only by his chess lessons but life lessons as well.

Editor's note:

Richard seemed to be everywhere, and at every tournament, during the 1970s as I developed as a player. I particularly remember a conversation with him where we both lamented our inability to no longer see the chess pieces as little wooden figures, but now could only see their possibilities, their geometric range. [Here](#) is a charming portrait of Richard Shorman and the Cherryland Cafe from the pages of *Chess Voice*, way back in April/May 1975.

The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

FIDE [bans](#) transgender women from competing in women's events.

[Chess.com](#) joins [lichess.org](#) in cutting ties with the St. Louis Chess Club due to allegations of sexual harassment.

Sabrina Chevannes, another top woman player, [speaks up](#) against the 'toxic culture' in chess - and much worse.

Culture, hormones, endurance? A FIDE official wants more research into [how gender](#) might influence results in chess.

A Chess Olympiad for [preschoolers](#) was held in Poland.

Defeating 18-year old Indian wunderkind GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in the final, Magnus Carlsen [wins](#) the 2023 World Cup.

GM Aleksandra Goryachkina [wins](#) the 2023 Women's World Cup, defeating dark-horse IM Nurgul Salimova in the final.

Apparently chess is now America's [favorite](#) board game.

Arnold Schwarzenegger plays chess with a pig named [Schnelly](#).

GM Vinay Bhat hangs out at the Mechanics' Institute with columnist Katy Atchison of [Broke-Ass Stuart](#). Vinay shares stories of growing up in the world of chess.

Elon Musk thinks chess is '[too simple](#)', but we've yet to see him play a single game.

The Carlsen/Niemann affair is [settled](#), and Carlsen says he will play Niemann again if paired up.

Hans then goes on Twitter and [asks](#): "Did you miss me?"

Local star [Laurie Qiu](#) takes the Silver in the Under-10 Female section of the XXXIII Pan American Youth Festival held in Chicago.

Now you can [replace](#) the evaluation bar on lichess or chess.com with GM Hikaru Nakamura's facial expressions.

The Pawn Shop Chess Club [meets](#) at Alamo Square Park in San Francisco and has 396(!) members.

And 300 '[zillennials](#)' show up at a bar in downtown Manhattan to party - and play chess.

In a bombshell letter, WGM Jennifer Shahade [resigns](#) from U.S. Chess over their failure to adequately address the issues of sexual harassment and violence towards women in the chess world.

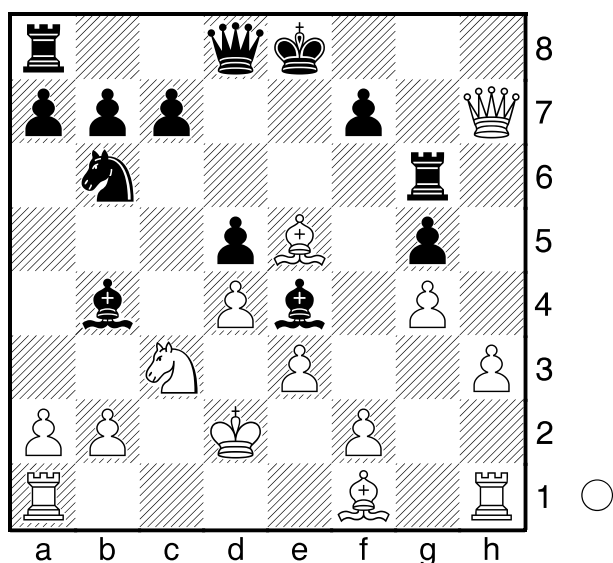
Recent Games

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

Goryachkina, Aleksandra **D35**

Batsiashvili, Nino **2557**
2474
 FIDE World Cup (Women) (4.2) 10.08.23

A powerful game by the winner of the 2023 Women's World Cup. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Bf4 Bb4 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 Ne4 8.Qc2 g5 9.Be5 Rg8 10.h3 Nb6 11.Nd2 Nxd2 12.Qxh7 Rg6 13.Kxd2 Bf5 14.g4 Be4



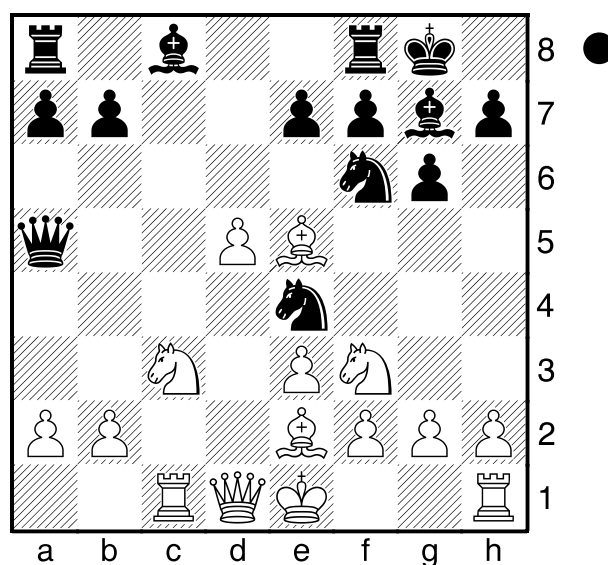
15.f3! Bxf3 16.Bb5+ c6 17.Raf1 cxb5 18.Rxf3 Nc4+ 19.Ke2 Nxe5 20.Qh8+ Bf8 21.Qxe5+ Re6 22.Qxd5 b4 23.Qxb7 Be7 24.Nd5 Rc8 25.Rhf1 f6 26.Nxf6+ Bxf6 27.Rxf6 Rxf6 28.Rxf6 Rc2+ 29.Kd1 Qxf6 30.Qe4+ Kd8 31.Kxc2 Qd6 32.Qa8+ Ke7 33.Qxa7+ Kf6 34.Qc5 Qh2+ 35.Kb3
1-0

Chasin, Nico **D83**

Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar **2450**
2747
 4th Mohammed VI Trophy 2023 (1.1)

The young American IM blunders into a cute tactic. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Rc1 c5 7.dxc5

Na6 8.cxd5 Nxc5 9.Nf3 Qa5 10.Be2 Nce4 11.Be5?

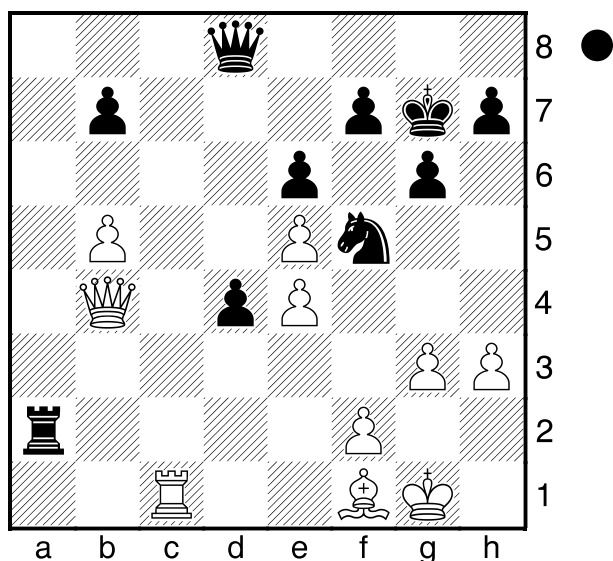


Nxf2! 12.Kxf2 Ng4+ 13.Kg3 Nxe5 14.Qa4 Qb6 15.Qd4 Qd8 16.Nxe5 Qd6 17.Kf2 Bxe5 18.Qd2 Bxh2 19.Ne4 Qe5 20.g3 Bf5 21.Rxh2 Bxe4 22.Rd1 Rfd8 23.Bc4 Rac8 24.Bb3 Rd6 25.Rh4 g5
0-1

Praggnanandhaa R **D78**

Erigaisi Arjun **2690**
2710
 FIDE World Cup 2023 (6.1) 15.08.2023

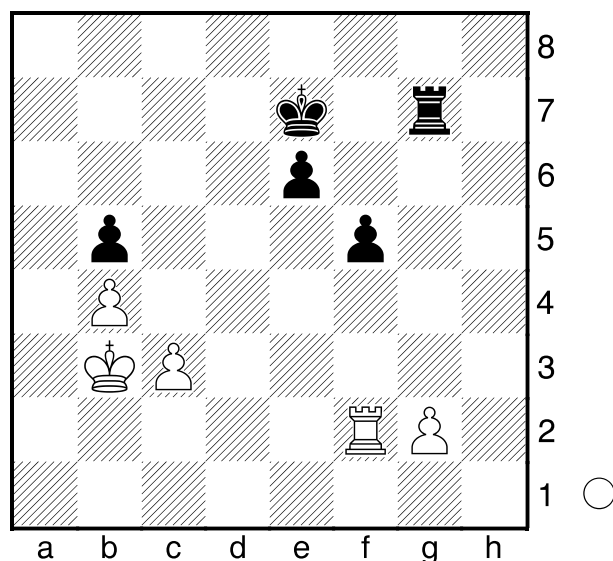
A blitz attack seemingly out of nowhere rocks white back on his heels. 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 c6 7.Qa4 Nfd7 8.Qb3 a5 9.cxd5 a4 10.Qd1 cxd5 11.Nc3 Nb6 12.Bf4 Nc6 13.Rc1 Ra5 14.b3 axb3 15.axb3 Bg4 16.Ne5 Be6 17.Qd2 Qa8 18.e3 Rc8 19.Nd3 Bf5 20.h3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 e6 22.Rfd1 Bf8 23.Bf1 Nb4 24.Qe2 Ra3 25.Qb2 Na2 26.Nxa2 Rxa2 27.Rxc8 Nxc8 28.Qc3 Ne7 29.b4 Nf5 30.Rc1 Bd6 31.Be5 Bxe5 32.dxe5 Kg7 33.b5 Qd8 34.Qb4 d4 35.e4



Nxg3! 36.fxg3 d3 37.Bg2 Qb6+
38.Kh2 Qf2 39.Rg1 Re2 40.Qe7 d2
41.Qf6+ Qxf6 42.exf6+ Kxf6 43.Rf1+
Ke5 44.Kg1 Kd4 45.Bf3 Ke3 46.Bg4
h5 47.Bxe2 Kxe2 48.Rf2+ Kd3 49.Rf1
Kc2 50.Rf2 Kc1 51.Rxf7 d1Q+ 52.Rf1
e5 53.b6 Qxf1+
0-1

A45
 2744
Gukesh D
 2835
Carlsen, Magnus
 FIDE World Cup 2023 (6.1) 15.08.2023

Carlsen wins the 2023 World Cup.
 White's failure to get in c4 in the rook
 ending led to his downfall. **1.d4 Nf6**
2.Bf4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.f3 e6 5.e4 a6
6.Qd2 d5 7.0-0-0 Bb4 8.a3 Bxc3
9.Qxc3 dxe4 10.d5 Nxd5 11.Qxg7
Qf6 12.Qxf6 Nxf6 13.Be5 Ke7
14.Bxc7 Nbd7 15.Bg3 Rhg8 16.Be2
Ke8 17.fxe4 Nxe4 18.Bf3 Nxg3
19.hxg3 Bxf3 20.Nxf3 Rxg3 21.Rxh7
Ke7 22.Nd4 Ne5 23.Re1 Rg4
24.Rxe5 Rxd4 25.Re2 Rad8 26.c3
Rf4 27.Kc2 Rg8 28.b4 b5 29.Kb3
Rfg4 30.Rf2 R8g7 31.Rxg7 Rxg7
32.a4 f5 33.axb5 axb5

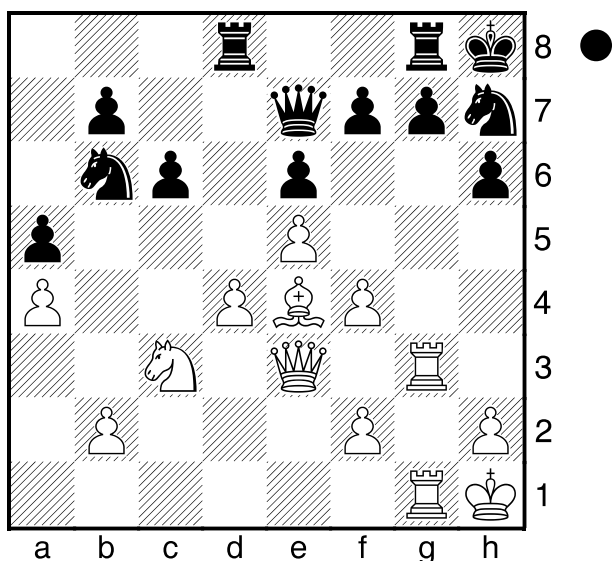


34.Ra2
 [34.c4! Rg3+ 35.Rf3 bxc4+ 36.Kxc4
 Rxg2 37.Rb3!=]
34...Rg5 35.Ra7+ Kf6 36.Ra2 f4
37.Rc2 Rg3 38.Ka2 Ke5 39.Kb2 Kd5
40.Rd2+ Ke4 41.Kb3 e5 42.Re2+ Kf5
43.Rd2 e4 44.Rd5+ Kf6 45.Rxb5 e3
46.Rb6+ Kf5 47.Rb5+ Ke4 48.Rb8 e2
0-1

E05
 2646
Abasov, Nijat
 2782
Caruana, Fabiano
 FIDE World Cup 2023 (8.1) 22.08.2023

Black misplaces his queen and is
 destroyed in short order. **1.d4 Nf6**
2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2
0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7
9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Nc3 h6
12.Bf4 Bd6 13.Qd3 Bxf4 14.gxf4 a5
15.Kh1 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 c6 17.Rg1 Kh8
18.e4 Qe7 19.Rg3 Rad8 20.Rag1
Rg8 21.e5 Nh7 22.Qe3 Nb6 23.Be4

(Diagram)



Qb4?

[23...f5=]

24.Bxh7 Kxh7 25.Ne4 Qe7 26.f5!

[26.f5! exf5 27.Nf6+ gxf6 (27...Kh8

28.Qxh6+! gxh6 29.Rxg8+ Rxg8

30.Rxg8#) 28.Qxh6+ Kxh6 29.Rh3#]

1-0

□ **Praggnanandhaa R**

C50

2707

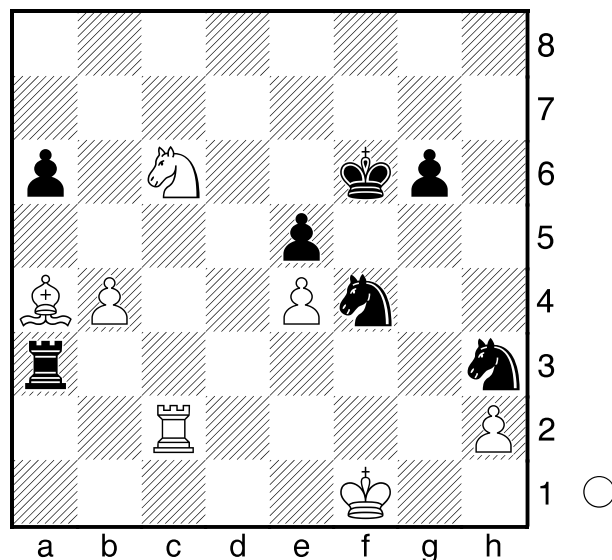
■ **Carlsen, Magnus**

2835

FIDE World Cup 2023 (8.3) 24.08.2023

Carlsen works his magic in the endgame. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.a4 d6 6.0-0 a5 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Ne7 10.Nh4 c6 11.Qe1 d5 12.Bb3 Qd6 13.Qg3 Nh5 14.Qg5 g6 15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.exf5 Kg7 17.Kh1 Qf6 18.Qxf6+ Nxf6 19.fxg6 hxg6 20.e4 dxe4 21.dxe4 Rad8 22.Rf2 Rd4 23.Raf1 Neg8 24.c3 Rd7 25.Re2 Re7 26.Bc2 Nd7 27.Nc4 Ra8 28.g4 f6 29.Rg2 Nh6 30.g5 fxg5 31.Rxg5 Nf7 32.Rg2 Re6 33.Rd2 Rf6 34.Rxf6 Nxf6 35.b4 axb4 36.cxb4 Kf8 37.Kg2 Ke7 38.a5 Rh8 39.Re2 Nh5 40.Kg1 Nf4 41.Rd2 Rh3 42.a6 bxa6 43.Ba4 Rc3 44.Na5 Ng5 45.Rc2

Ngh3+ 46.Kf1 Ra3 47.Nxc6+ Kf6



0-1

□ **Timo Leonard**

A43

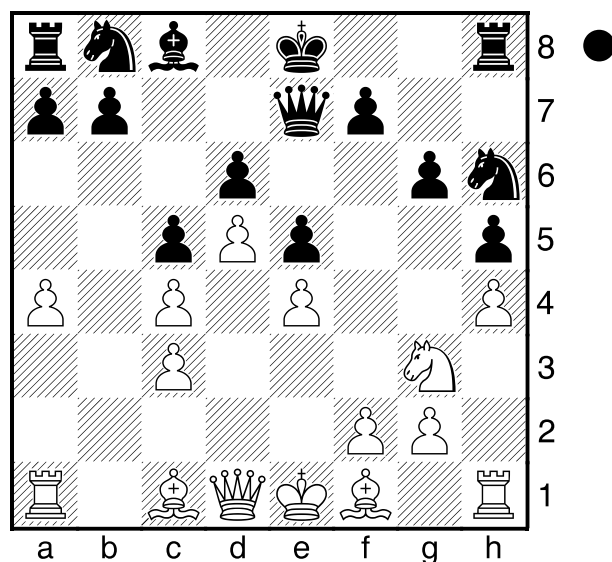
2223

■ **Alexander Grischuk**

2736

The World Rapid Team Championship (1.3)

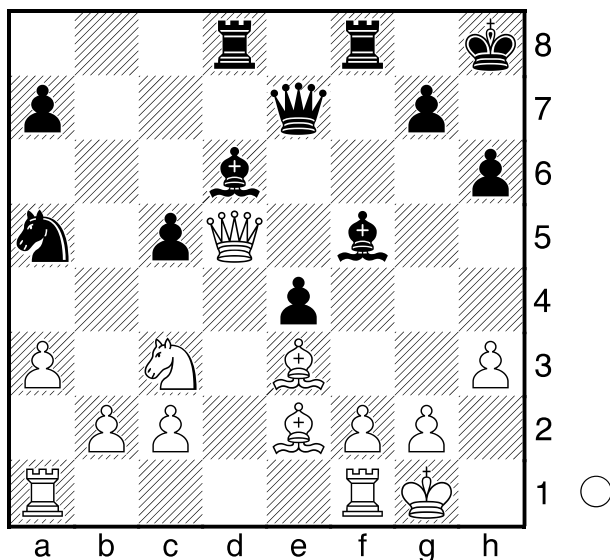
Black is clearly channelling Nimzovitch with 5...Bxc3+! and the eccentric looking 10... Kd8!/? 1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 c5 5.d5 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 e5 7.Ne2 Qe7 8.Ng3 h5 9.h4 Nh6 10.a4



Kd8!? 11.a5 Kc7 12.Be2 Na6 13.Nf1
Bd7 14.Ne3 f5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.Bxh5
f4 17.Nf1 Rag8 18.g3 Nf5 19.gxf4
exf4+ 20.Kd2 Nxh4 21.Kc2 Qe4+
22.Kb3 Qxh1 23.Bxf4 Nf5 24.Bf7 Rg7
25.Be6 Qe4 26.Qd2 Rh4
0-1

Wesley So **C58**
 Victor Bologan **2769**
2574
 The World Rapid Team Championship (1.9)

White finds a nice positional queen sacrifice to take control. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.0-0 h6 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 0-0 12.d3 f5 13.Bf3 e4 14.dxe4 fxe4 15.Be2 Qc7 16.h3 Qe7 17.Qd4 Rb8 18.a3 c5 19.Qd5+ Kh8 20.Nc3 Bf5 21.Be3 Rbd8



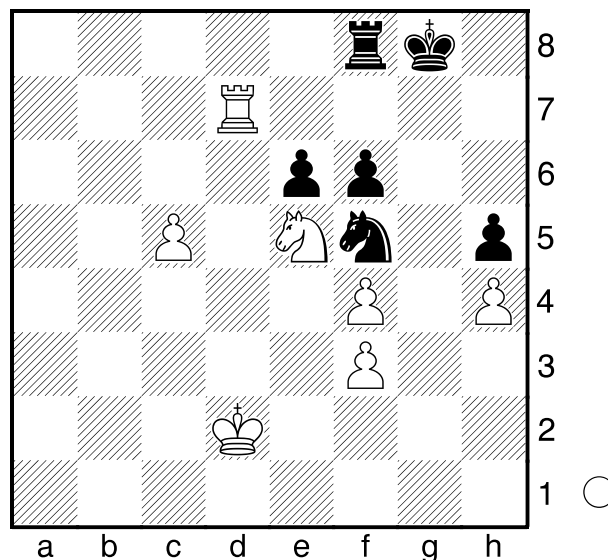
22.Rad1! Bh2+ 23.Kxh2 Rxd5 24.Rxd5 Nb7 25.g3 Qe6 26.h4 Bg4 27.Bxg4 Qxg4 28.Re5 Qg6 29.Nxe4 Re8 30.Rxe8+ Qxe8 31.Nc3 Qg6 32.Rc1 Qf5 33.b4 cxb4 34.axb4 a6 35.Ne2 Nd6 36.c4 Qg4 37.Nd4 Ne4 38.c5 g5 39.hxg5 Nxg5 40.c6 Nf7 41.Bf4 Nd6

42.Bxd6 Qxd4 43.Be5+! Qxe5 44.c7
1-0

Sarin Nihal **A12**
 Levon Aronian **2684**
2742
 The World Rapid Team Championship (3.2)

Black falls into a curious zugzwang.

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Bf5 3.Bb2 e6 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.d3 h6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 Bh7 9.c4 c6 10.a3 a5 11.Ra2 Nbd7 12.Qa1 Ne8 13.Rc1 Bf6 14.b4 Nd6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Qxf6 Nxf6 17.Rb2 axb4 18.axb4 Ra4 19.Ne5 Rfa8 20.f4 Ra2 21.Rcc2 Rxb2 22.Rxb2 Ra1+ 23.Kf2 dxc4 24.Ndxc4 Nxc4 25.dxc4 Be4 26.b5 cxb5 27.Rxb5 g5 28.h4 gxf4 29.gxf4 h5 30.Bf3 Ra8 31.Ke3 Bxf3 32.exf3 Ne8 33.Rxb7 Nd6 34.Rd7 Nf5+ 35.Kd2 Rf8 36.c5 f6

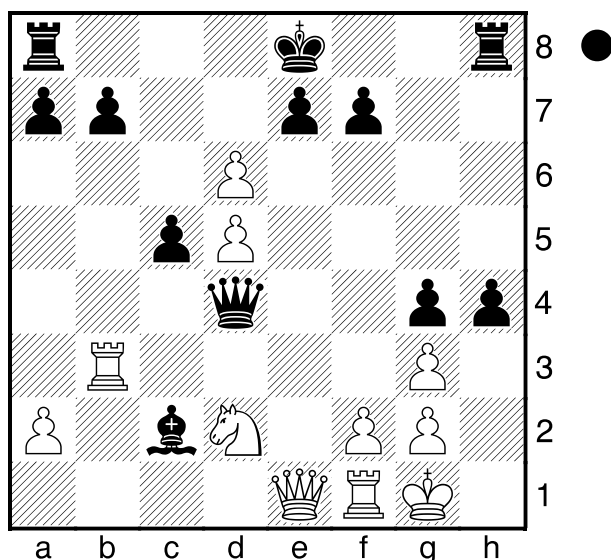


37.c6!! fxe5 38.c7 exf4 39.Ke1 e5 40.Kf2 e4 41.fxe4 Ng3 42.Kf3
1-0

Fabiano Caruana **A45**
2782
 Ahmed Adly **2596**
 The World Rapid Team Championship (5.7)

Black gets bamboozled in the middle game. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 Nh5 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 g5 7.Bg3 Bg7 8.e4 c5 9.d5 Qa5 10.Nd2 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qxc3 12.Be2 Ndf6 13.0-0 Nxc3 14.hxc3 g4 15.Rb1 h5 16.Rb3 Qe5 17.Nc4 Qd4 18.e5 Ne4?

[18...Qxd1 19.Rxd1 dxe5 20.Nxe5 Ne4+]
 19.Bd3 h4 20.Qe1 Bf5 21.Bxe4 Bxe4 22.Nd2 Bxc2 23.exd6

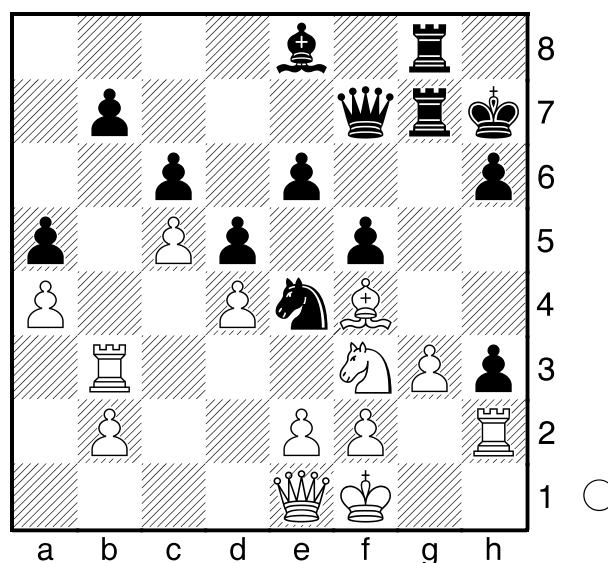


e5 24.Re3 0-0-0 25.Ne4 Bd3 26.Qa5 Kb8 27.Qc7+ Ka8 28.Nxc5 Ba6 29.Nxa6 Qb6 30.Qxb6 axb6 31.Nc7+ Kb8 32.Ra3 1-0

Jan-Krzysztof Duda **E11**
2732
 D Gukesh **2751**
 The World Rapid Team Championship (8.9)

White needed nerves of steel to rebuff black's attack. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3

d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Rd1 a5 10.Bf4 h6 11.h4 Nh5 12.Bc1 f5 13.Ne5 Bd6 14.Bf3 Qe8 15.Nd3 Qg6 16.Bxh5 Qxh5 17.Bf4 Be7 18.Nd2 g5 19.Bc7 gxh4 20.Nf3 Kh7 21.Kg2 h3+ 22.Kh2 Bg5 23.c5 Nf6 24.Rh1 Bd7 25.Nf4 Bxf4 26.Bxf4 Rg8 27.Kg1 Rg4 28.Qc1 Rag8 29.a4 Ne4 30.Ra3 Be8 31.Rb3 R4g7 32.Kf1 Ng5 33.Rh2 Ne4 34.Qe1 Qf7

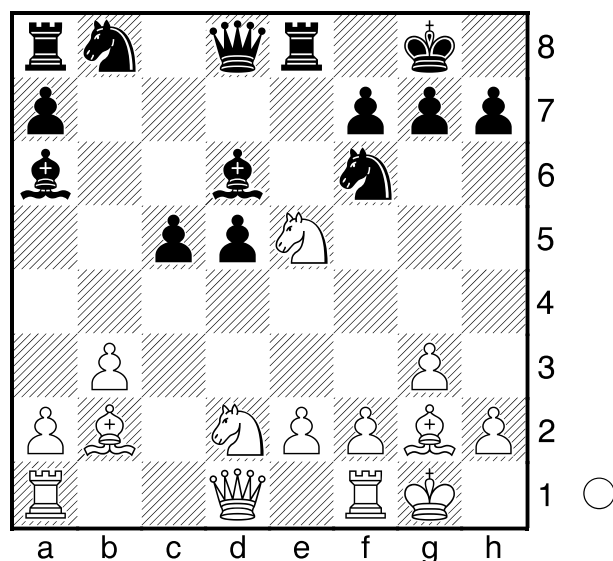
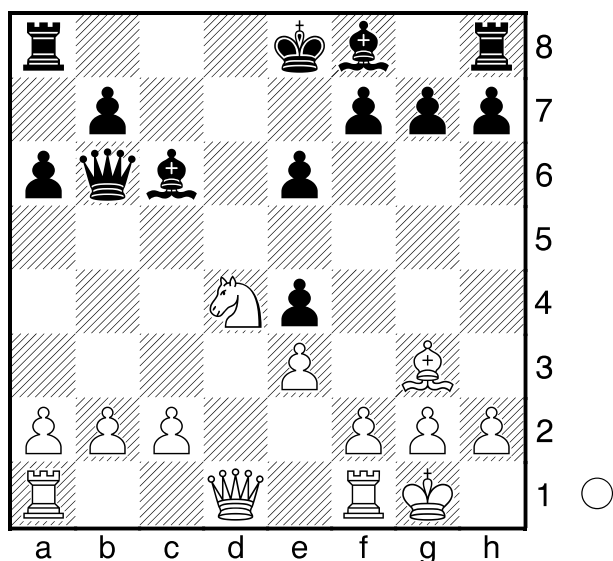


35.Bxh6! Rxc3 36.fxc3 Nxc3+ 37.Kf2 Ne4+ 38.Ke3 Rg3 39.Bf4 1-0

Abdusattorov, Nodirbek **D03**
2724
 Rabiega, Robert **2468**
 World Rapid Team Championship 2023 (12)

Black is destroyed in this opening debacle. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Ne4 4.Bh4 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Nxd4 Qb6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Bg3 e6 11.0-0 a6 12.Bxc6 Bxc6? [12...bxc6 13.Qg4±]

(Diagram)



13.Nxe6! Rc8

[13...fxe6 14.Qh5+ Kd8 15.Rfd1+ Kc8 16.Qf7+-]

14.Qg4

1-0

13.Nxf7! Kxf7 14.Bxf6 Kxf6 15.Bxd5

Bxe2 16.Qc2 Bxf1 17.Rxf1 Na6

18.Ne4+ Rxe4 19.Qxe4 Nc7 20.Qf3+

Kg6 21.Bf7+

1-0

□ Andreikin,Dmitry

■ Kovalenko,Igor

Julius Baer Div-3 2023 (51.1) 30.08.2023

E15

2729

2674

□ Nepomniachtchi,Ian

■ Fedoseev,Vladimir

Julius Baer Div-2 2023 (2.1) 31.08.2023

C43

2779

2676

After blundering on the 12th move black goes down a dark tunnel and never returns. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Nbd2 Be7 6.Bg2 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne5 c5 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.b3 Re8 12.Bb2 Bd6?

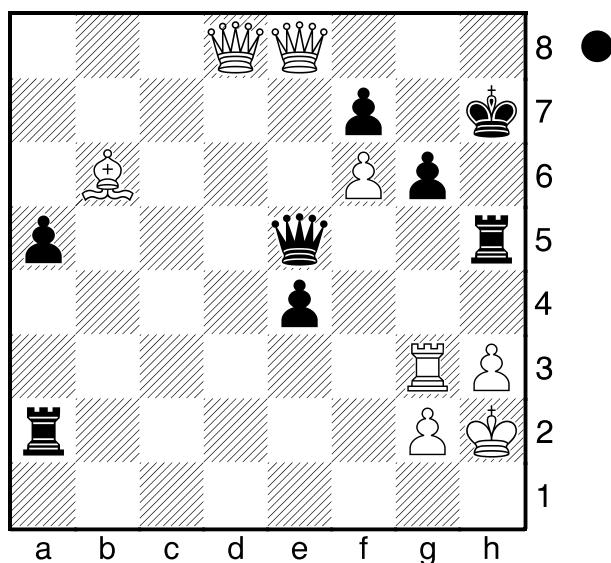
(Diagram)

White had it all his way until... 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7 6.Nc3 Nxe5 7.dxe5 Bb4 8.0-0 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bxc3 10.Rb1 0-0 11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 12.Qd3+ Kg8 13.Qxc3 a5 14.Qd3 Qd7 15.Rb5 Qc6 16.Ba3 Re8 17.Rc5 Qb6 18.f4 c6 19.h3 Qa6 20.Qg3 Bf5 21.Qg5 Be4 22.Bb2 Qb6 23.Bd4 Qd8 24.Qg4 Re6 25.f5 Rh6 26.Rf4 Qf8 27.Kh2 b6 28.Rc3 c5 29.Be3 Rh7 30.Rb3 Qd8 31.f6 Qe8 32.e6 Rb8 33.Bxc5 g6 34.Bd6 Rc8 35.e7 Rc6 36.Be5 Rh5 37.Bd4 Rxc2 38.Rg3 Kh7 39.Bxb6 Rxa2 40.Qd1 Qb8 41.Rxe4 dxe4 42.Qd8?

[42.Qd7!+-]

42...Qe5 43.e8Q??

[43.Qc8!]



43...Rxb3+!! 44.Kg1 Qa1+
0-1

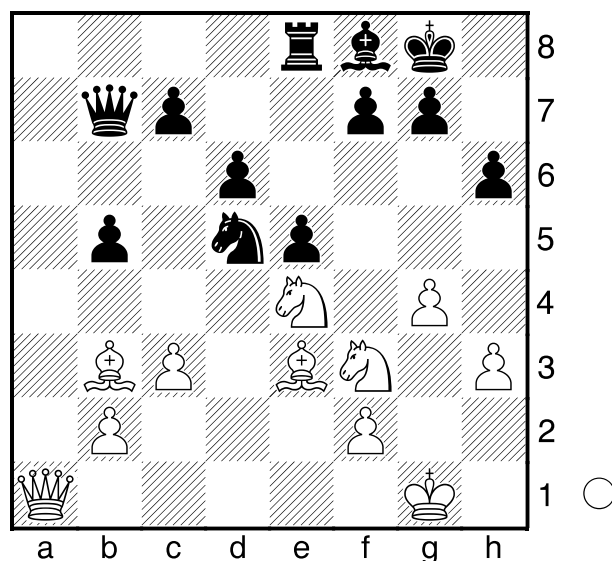
Firouzja,Alireza C84 2777

So,Wesley 2769
 Julius Baer Div-1 2023 (2.4) 31.08.2023

Black mistakenly opts for rook vs two minor pieces on the 16th move and falls under a powerful attack. 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 Re8 10.Re1 h6 11.a4 Rb8 12.axb5 axb5 13.d4 Bf8 14.d5 Ne7 15.Be3 Nxe4!? 16.Ba7 Ra8?

[16...Bf5 17.Bxb8 Qxb8 18.Bc2 Nf6 19.Bxf5 Nxf5 with compensation for the exchange.]
 17.Rxe4 Bf5 18.Nbd2 Bxe4 19.Nxe4 Qc8 20.g4 Qb7 21.Be3 Rxa1 22.Qxa1 Nxd5

(Diagram)



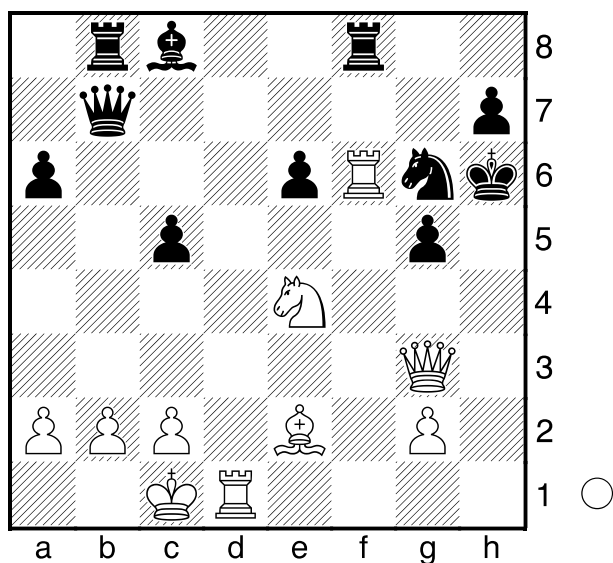
23.Bxh6! Nf6 24.Nxf6+ gxf6 25.Qb1 e4 26.Bxf8 Kxf8 27.Nd4 d5 28.Nf5 Re5 29.Qc1 Ke8 30.Qh6 Qa6 31.Qh7 e3 32.Qg8+ Kd7 33.Qxf7+ Kc8 34.Nxe3 Rxe3 35.Qg8+ Kb7 36.Qxd5+ c6 37.Qd7+ Kb8 38.fxe3 Qa1+ 39.Bd1 1-0

Mamedov,Rauf B98 2633

Sarin,Nihal 2684
 Julius Baer Div-2 2023 (51.1) 31.08.2023

White's rarely played 8th move throws black for a loop. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.e5!? dxe5 9.fxe5 Nfd7 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Qh5 0-0 12.0-0-0 g6 13.Qh6 Nxe5 14.Be2 Nbc6 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.h4 Rb8 17.Qf4 f6 18.Ne4 c5 19.Rhf1 Kg7 20.h5 g5 21.Qg3 Qb7 22.h6+ Kxh6 23.Rxf6+ Ng6

(Diagram)



24.Rxg6+!

[24.Rxg6+! hxg6 25.Rh1+ Kg7
26.Qe5+ Kf7 27.Rh7+ Ke8 28.Nd6+
Kd8 29.Qxg5+ and mate in two.]

1-0

□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek**

C77

2725

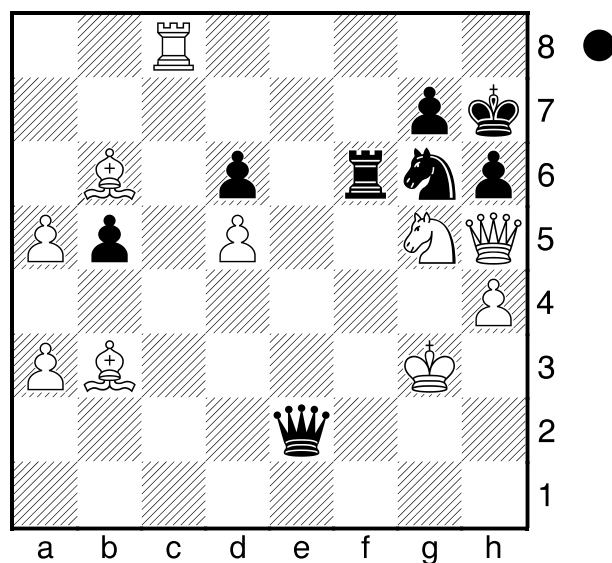
■ **Eljanov,Pavel**

2695

Julius Baer Div-1 2023 (51.2) 31.08.2023

Mate on the board. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3
b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 h6
10.Be3 Re8 11.h3 Bf8 12.Nd5 Be6
13.Nd2 Na5 14.Ba2 c5 15.b4 Nc6
16.c3 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.Qf3 Ng6
19.g3 cxb4 20.cxb4 a5 21.Bb3 Qd7
22.Kh2 Nh7 23.Rac1 f5 24.Bb6 Qf7
25.bxa5 Be7 26.Rc7 Rf8 27.h4 Qe8
28.Rfc1 e4 29.Qh5 Kh8 30.dxe4 f4
31.e5 fxg3+ 32.fxg3 Bxh4 33.gxh4 Rf4
34.Nf3 Nf6 35.exf6 Qe2+ 36.Kg3 Rxf6
37.Rc8+ Rxc8 38.Rxc8+ Kh7 39.Ng5#

(Diagram)



1-0

□ **Gledura,Benjamin**

A13

2637

■ **Kramnik,Vladimir**

2753

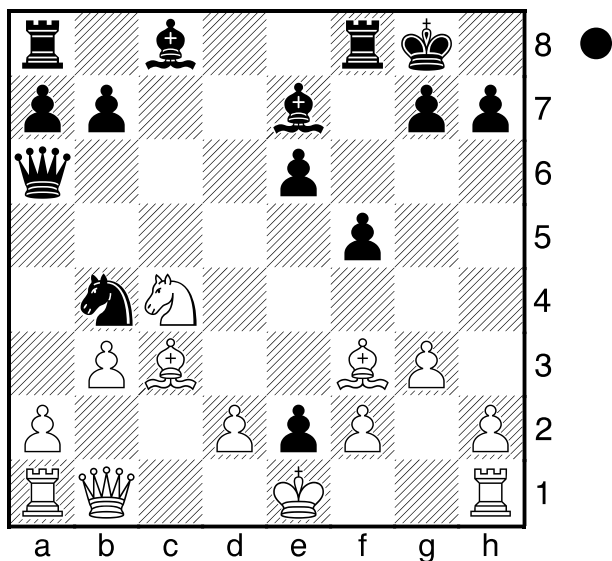
Julius Baer Div-3 2023 (52.2) 31.08.2023

A lesson in forceful attacking play by the
former World Champion. 1.c4 e6 2.g3
d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.b3 0-0
6.Bb2 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nc3 Nc6
9.Qc2?

[9.0-0]

9...Ndb4 10.Qb1 Nd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4
12.Nd1 d3 13.Ne3 dxe2 14.Bc3 Qd6
15.Nc4 Qa6 16.Be4 f5 17.Bf3

(Diagram)

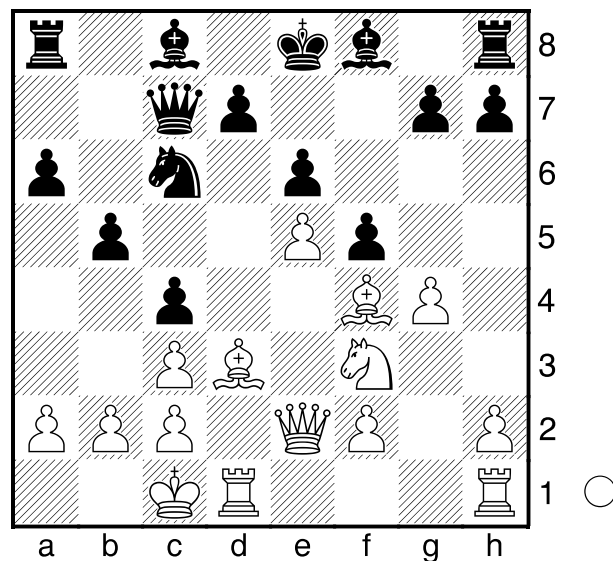


**b5! 18.Bxa8 bxc4 19.a3 Nd3+
20.Kxe2 Rd8 21.b4 e5 22.Bg2 e4
23.Rf1 Qh6 24.h3 Qh5+ 25.f3 Qg5
26.Rg1 Qxg3 27.Qf1 Nf4+ 28.Kd1 e3
29.Qxc4+ Be6 30.Qc7 Bb3+
0-1**

□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **B29 2782**
 ■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2725**
 Julius Baer Div-1 2023 (52.1) 01.09.2023

A nice miniature with some amusing tactics. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3 e6 5.Ne4 f5 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.dxc3 Nc6 8.Bf4 Qc7 9.Bd3 b6 10.Qe2 a6 11.0-0-0 b5 12.g4 c4

(Diagram)

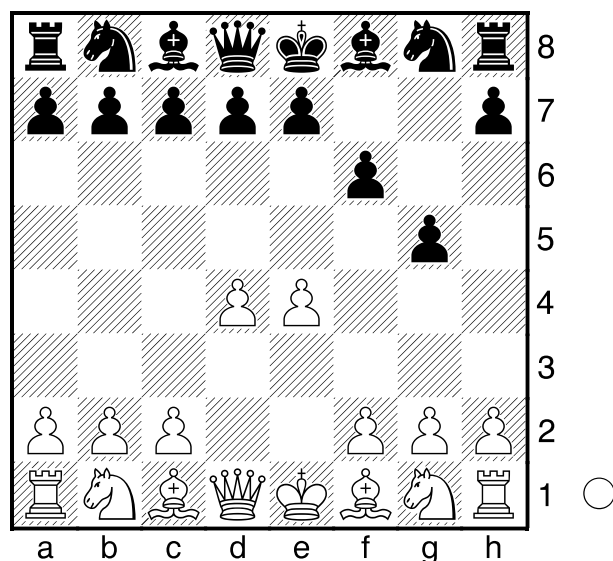
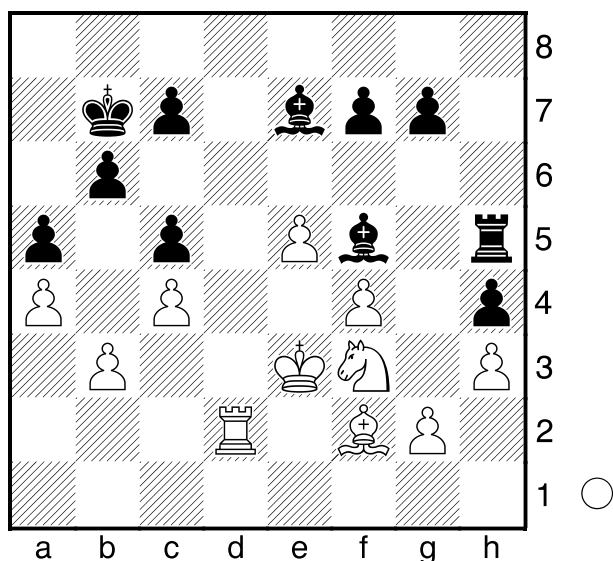


**13.Bxf5! exf5 14.gxf5 Bb7 15.Ng5 Ne7
16.Rhe1 Nxf5 17.Nf7! g6 18.Nxh8 Bg7
19.Nf7
1-0**

□ **VladimirKramnik** **C67 2978**
 ■ **HansOnTwitch** **3049**
 Live Chess Chess.com 02.09.2023

The 'enfant terrible' of the chess world successfully uses Kramnik's own Berlin Wall against him. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.h3 Be7 10.Nc3 Nh4 11.Nxh4 Bxh4 12.Be3 h5 13.Rad1+ Ke8 14.Ne2 Bf5 15.Nd4 Bd7 16.f4 c5 17.Nf3 Be7 18.Rfe1 Bf5 19.c4 Rd8 20.b3 b6 21.Bf2 h4 22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 23.Rd1+ Kc8 24.Kf1 a5 25.Ke2 Kb7 26.Rd2 Kc6 27.a4 Kb7 28.Ke3 Rh5

(Diagram)



29.Re2

[29.Bxh4! Rxh4 (29...Bxh4 30.g4+-)
30.Nxh4 Bxh4 31.g4±]

29...Kc8 30.Ng5 f6 31.exf6 Bxf6

32.Ne4 Bd4+ Black, with the two
bishops, gradually seizes control.

**33.Kf3 Rh8 34.Ng5 Bf6 35.Rd2 Bd7
36.Be3 Re8 37.Kf2 Bf5 38.Nf3 Bc3
39.Rd1 Bf6 40.Rd2 Kb8 41.Re2 Rd8
42.Rd2 Rxd2+ 43.Nxd2 Bc2 44.Ke2
Kc8 45.Bf2 Kd7 46.Nf3 Bxb3 47.Kd3
Bxa4 48.Bxh4 Bc6 49.Bxf6 gxf6
50.Nh4 a4 51.g4 Be4+ 52.Kc3 c6
53.g5 fxg5 54.fxg5 Ke6 55.g6 Kf6
0-1**

□ **HansOnTwitch**

**B00
3039**

■ **VladimirKramnik**

2988

Live Chess Chess.com

02.09.2023

Kramnik, clearly incensed by Hans' win
in the previous game, tries to use
Carlsen's ploy - but Hans beats him to it.

1.e4 f6 2.d4 g5

[2...g5 3.Qh5#]

(Diagram)

Hans will have none of it, and resigned
here.

0-1

□ **Firouzja,Alireza**

**B40
2777**

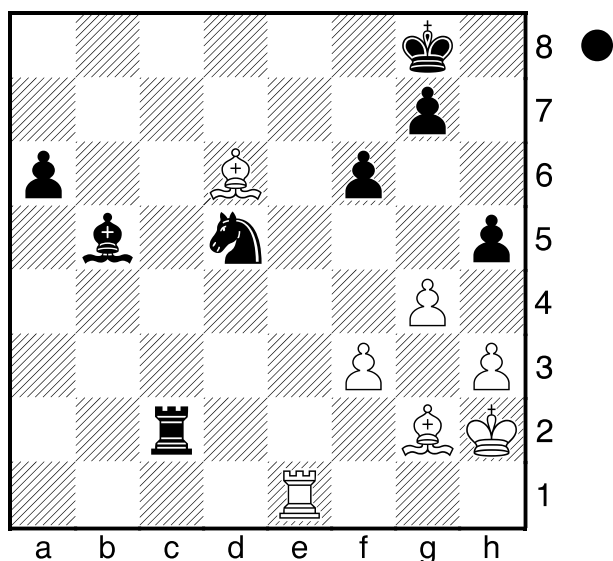
■ **Carlsen,Magnus**

2835

Julius Baer Div-1 2023 (4.5) 03.09.2023

Carlsen wins the Julius Baer Generation
Cup with yet another artfully played
game. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 a6 4.g3
d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7
8.d4 0-0 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Na4 cxd4
11.Nxd4 Bg4 12.Ne2 Re8 13.f3 Bd7
14.Be3 b5 15.Nac3 Rc8 16.Bf2 Ba3
17.Rb1 Nb4 18.Re1 h5 19.Qd2 Nxc2
20.Qxc2 b4 21.Qd3 bxc3 22.Nxc3
Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Bb4 24.Bd4 Qa5
25.Re3 Bxc3 26.Bxc3 Qxa2 27.h3
Qxb3 28.g4 Qc4 29.Qd2 d4 30.Bxd4
Qc1+ 31.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 32.Kh2 Rc2
33.Re7 Bb5 34.Re1 Nd5 35.Be5 f6
36.Bd6

(Diagram)

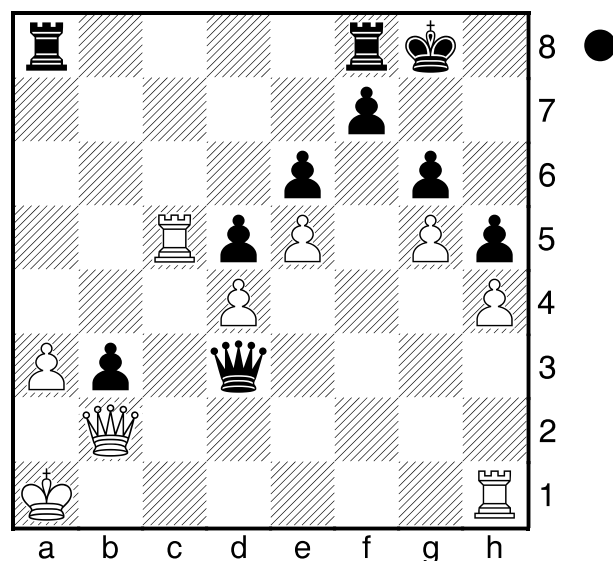


Ne3! 37.Rxe3 Bf1 38.Kg3 Rxc2+
39.Kf4 Rd2 40.Bc5 Rd5 41.Re8+ Kh7
42.Bf8 g5+ 43.Kg3 Rd2 44.f4 h4+
45.Kf3 Bxh3 46.Be7 Bg2+ 47.Ke3 Rd1
48.Kf2 h3 49.Bxf6 gxf4 50.Be5 Rd2+
51.Ke1 f3 52.Re7+ Kg8 53.Kxd2 f2
54.g5 f1Q 55.g6 Qf2+ 56.Kd3 Qf5+
0-1

□ Erigaisi Arjun **B13**
 ■ Keymer,Vincent **2712**
2717
 Tata Steel India Open Rapid 2023 (1.4)

Black gets a free hand after the kingside gets locked up. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 Bg4 6.Be2 Bxe2 7.Qxe2 a6 8.g4 h6 9.0-0-0 e6 10.h4 Nc6 11.Qf3 g6 12.Nge2 Be7 13.Qg3 b5 14.Kb1 Rc8 15.Nc1 b4 16.N3e2 h5 17.g5 Ne4 18.Qe3 Nd6 19.Bxd6 Bxd6 20.Nd3 a5 21.f4 Ne7 22.Rc1 0-0 23.Ne5 a4 24.c3 Nf5 25.Qd3 Bxe5 26.fxe5 Qb6 27.cxb4 Qxb4 28.a3 Qb7 29.Rc5 Rb8 30.b4 axb3 31.Ng3 Nxc3 32.Qxc3 Qa6 33.Qf2 Ra8 34.Qb2 Qd3+ 35.Ka1

(Diagram)

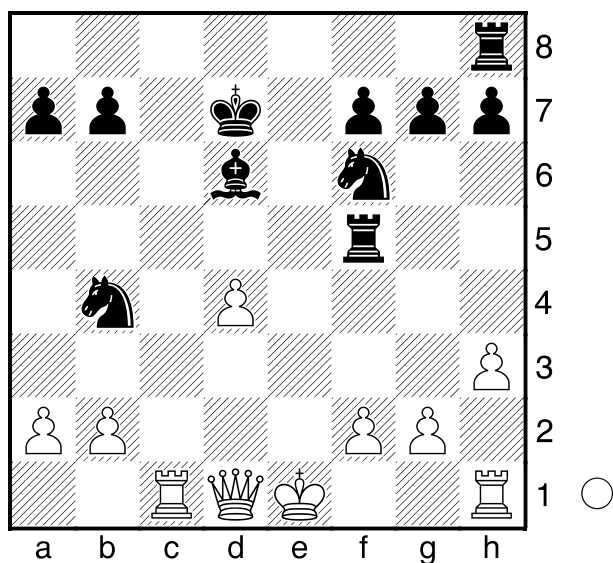


Rxa3+! 36.Qxa3 Qxd4+ 37.Kb1 Qe4+
38.Kb2 Qg2+ 39.Kc3 Qxh1 40.Qb4
Qb1 41.Qxb3 Qc1+ 42.Qc2 Qe3+
43.Kb4 Qd4+ 44.Ka5 Qa1+ 45.Kb6
Rb8+ 46.Kc6 Qa8+ 47.Kd6 Rd8+
48.Ke7 Re8+ 49.Kd7 Qd8+ 50.Kc6
Qc8+ 51.Kb6 Qb8+ 52.Kc6 Rc8+
53.Kd7 Qb7+ 54.Rc7 Rxc7+ 55.Qxc7
Qxc7+ 56.Ke8 Qxe5
[56...d4? Stalemate!]
0-1

□ Harikrishna,Pentala **D04**
 ■ Gukesh D **2711**
2758
 Tata Steel India Open Rapid 2023 (2.4)

A flurry of early tactics leaves the unusual material balance of three minor pieces for a queen. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c6 4.h3 Bf5 5.Nh4 Bd7 6.Bd3 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Qc7 9.Nbd2 e5 10.e4 cxd4 11.cxd4 Nb4 12.Bb1 dxe4 13.Nxe5 Rc8 14.Nxd7 Kxd7 15.Nxe4 Qxc1 16.Nc5+ Rxc5 17.Bf5+ Rxf5 18.Rxc1 Bd6

(Diagram)

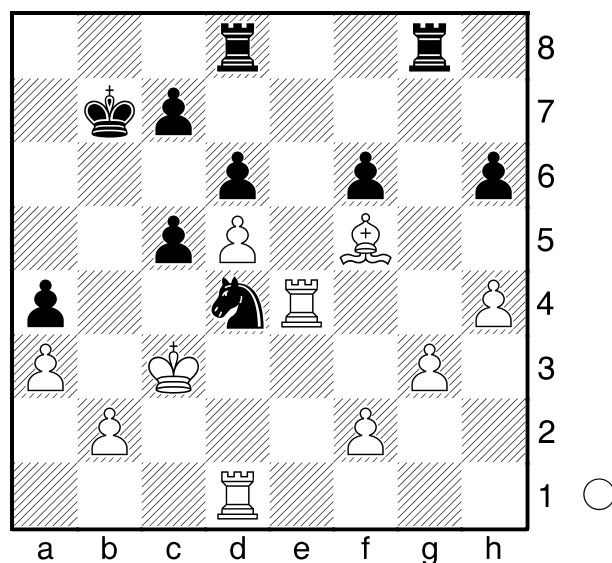


19.0-0 Rb8 20.Re1 Nc6 21.Rc3 Rd5
22.Rf3 Rd8 23.Rxf6 gxf6 24.Qf3 Kc7
25.Qxf6 Rd7 26.g3 Nxd4 27.Kg2 Nc6
28.Re2 Be5 29.Qh6 f5 30.Rc2 f4
31.g4 Kb8 32.f3 a6 33.h4 Ka7 34.g5
Nb4 35.Re2 Nxa2 36.Qe6 Bc7 37.Qf6
Nb4 38.Kh3 Nc6 39.b4 Ne5 40.Qxf4
Ng6 41.Qe3+ Bb6 42.Qc1 Rd1 43.Qc2
Rh1+ 44.Rh2 Rg1 45.Rd2 Nf4+
46.Kh2 Rxd2+ 47.Qxd2 Rg2+ 48.Qxg2
Nxg2 49.Kxg2 Be3 50.Kg3 b6 51.f4
a5 52.bxa5 bxa5
0-1

C45
 Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime **2727**
 Keymer,Vincent **2717**
 Tata Steel India Open Rapid 2023 (4.1)

A powerfull positional performance by the winner of Tata Steel. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.h4 Qe6 9.Nd2 Nb4 10.Nf3 Ba6 11.c4 c5 12.a3 Nc6 13.Bd2 Be7 14.Bc3 f6 15.0-0-0 0-0-0 16.exf6 Qxe2 17.Bxe2 Bxf6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Rhe1 d6 20.Kd2 Bb7 21.g3 a5 22.Kc3 Ne5 23.Ng1 Rhg8 24.Nh3 Bc6 25.Nf4 Kb7 26.Bd3

h6 27.Bf5 a4 28.Nd5 Bxd5 29.cxd5 Nf3 30.Re4 Nd4



31.Rdxd4! cxd4+ 32.Rxd4 c6 33.dxc6+ Kxc6 34.Rxa4 Rge8 35.Rf4 Re5 36.Bd3 Rf8 37.b4 Re1 38.a4 d5 39.a5 Kd6 40.a6 Rc1+ 41.Kb2 Rd1 42.Rf3 Kc7 43.Kc3 Rb8 44.Rxf6 d4+ 45.Kc2 Ra1 46.b5 Rb6 47.Rf7+ Kd6 48.a7 Ke6 49.Rh7 Ke5 50.f3 Ra2+ 51.Kb3 Ra1 52.Kb4 Ra2 53.Kc5
1-0

Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams



Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected, but not required. Registration is needed so we may send the links for players to join.

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on Zoom
from
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IM John Donaldson

Two New Books by Everyman Chess

Strategic Play with 1.d4 by Milos Pavlovic (2023, 279 pages, \$28.95)

The English Defense by Jose Gonzalez (2023, 319 pages, \$29.95)

Everyman Chess (www.everymanchess.com)

Many amateur players today (and not just amateurs!) find opening theory unmanageable. It seems everyone and their brother has not only read the latest opening books but taken endless Chessable courses and watched innumerable YouTube videos. What is a chess player to do?

One useful piece of advice, offered by Lajos Portisch almost half a century ago in the classic book *How to Open a Chess Game*, is to lower one's expectations. Emphasizing simplicity and economy, the Hungarian great suggested the only task in the opening is to reach a playable middlegame.

This advice might sound like a cop out. Surely one should strive for a big, if not decisive advantage, shouldn't they? Or should they? With the democratization of opening knowledge, the days of the booming serve and subsequent short volley are pretty much over. Garry Kasparov and his massive opening assault have given way to Emanuel Lasker's aim to reach a playable middlegame.

While the goal in 2023 is to reach a playable middlegame, one additional aim is to reach a playable middlegame that feels comfortable and familiar. Such is the aim of a new book by the British publisher Everyman Chess.

Strategic Play with 1.d4 by Milos Pavlovic advocates for an opening repertoire based on **1.d4, 2.Nf3** and **3.g3**. If this rings a bell it's because an earlier book by Christof Sielicki (*Keep It Simple – 1.d4* published in 2019) proposed the same first three moves. The books have similarities but also important differences.

Keep It Simple – 1.d4 is structured like most theoretical works and covers all variations with the analysis invariably ending by move 15 to 20. *Strategic Play with 1.d4* is arranged around model games. Both formats have their advantages. *Keep It Simple – 1.d4* can be more theoretical (more on this later) while *Strategic Play with 1.d4* presents entire games with annotations throughout.

Specific opening choices in the two books are often different. The Catalan is at the heart of both repertoires, but after **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6**, *Keep It Simple – 1.d4* advocates for **8.a4** while *Strategic Play with 1.d4* recommends the rock-solid **8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bg5**.

Such choices typify the two books. *Keep It Simple – 1.d4* is definitely the more theoretical. **8.a4** in the Catalan is a current main line while **8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bg5** is known to be drawish when played by elite players.

The tendency to opt for the quieter, less theoretical lines in *Strategic Play with 1.d4* can be seen in its recommendation against the Grunfeld. Both books opt for non-main line approaches against the King's Indian with *Keep It Simple – 1.d4* recommending **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.b3** and *Strategic Play with 1.d4* pitching **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.Nbd2**.

Where they differ radically is if Black plays **5...d5**. Here *Strategic Play with 1.d4* continues to stay on the back roads with **6.Bf4** while *Keep It Simple – 1.d4* jumps on the interstate highway by playing **6.c4** and entering the main lines of the Fianchetto Grunfeld.

In summary, both books are true to their aims. *Keep It Simple – 1.d4* is, despite its title, aiming to get an opening advantage, albeit with a repertoire that is not as labor intensive as one based on main lines with **1.e4** or **1.d4**. The author uses powerful computer analysis to come up with new ideas.

By contrast *Strategic Play with 1.d4* has more modest aims. Following Portisch's advice, the aim here is to reach playable middlegames. While White players might not gain any objective advantage the idea is to reach positions they know better and are more comfortable with.

Both books offer more or less complete repertoires although I don't recall seeing anything against the Old Indian in *Strategic Play with 1.d4*. This book is more complete in its coverage of Hedgehog structures.

For whom is *Strategic Play with 1.d4* aimed? Definitely not beginners of any age who need exposure to playing **1.e4** at the early stages of their career to learn basic chess principles (the importance of development, control of the center, king safety, etc.). Likely the correct audience is players rated roughly 1800 to 2300 who want to improve their positional understanding and/or desire an opening repertoire that demands little maintenance. The heart of this book is the 79 well-annotated games and the interactive questions the author poses.

The English Defense by Jose Gonzalez offers more than its title promises. It does indeed cover the English Defense (**1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6**) in comprehensive fashion but also the English Defense against the English opening (**1.c4 b6**).

One of the many new things I learned from this book is that White can take Black out of the English Defense after **1.d4 e6** with the move **2.Nf3**. Here Gonzalez advocates for the Hungarian grandmaster Richard Rapport's favorite Dutch line and one he has made popular with his success – namely **2...f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 d5 6.c4 Ne4**.

To close out a complete repertoire the author spends his last 56 pages covering the French with the Fort Knox variation **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3/3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7** (envisioning **...Bc6** and **...Bxe4**) as the cornerstone. Once again, this book is arranged around well-annotated model games.

Combine *The English Defense* and *Strategic Play with 1.d4* and you have a complete opening repertoire for White and Black. This would not be my choice for an ambitious, rapidly improving junior, but for an adult club player in the 1800-2300 range, with limited study time, this is a repertoire that could last them for the rest of their career.

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

The Chess Café met on four Mondays in August. Players presented games, questions about strategy, problems, puzzles, studies, and conversation about many topics, including two of the most prominent issues in the chess world, about which more below. On August 7, we struggled with one of the unusual chess problems Ray brings to the meetings. Mike Walder said he showed it to Moscow-born Azerbaijani GM Gadir Guseinov, who saw one move that didn't work, then said, "The only move is this," and solved it in about 8 seconds. The endgame position led to both sides queening, with each player skewering the other, but given the move order, Black won.

The summer featured seven chess camps at the Mechanics' Institute chess club, one of which had 21 kids participating. It was also the season of the World Cup, whose quarterfinals featured 4 Indian and 2 American players. It was finally won by Magnus Carlsen over Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, while Fabiano Caruana came in third. The latter two will enter the 2024 Candidates; at 18 the former will be the third-youngest Candidate ever. The Women's World Cup went to Russia's No 2 seed, Alexandra Goryachkina, who narrowly lost a world title match (8.5-7.5) to Ju Wenjun in 2020. One of the thoughtful Café participants said, "I'm not sure it's a good system. It seems like a ridiculous set-up." I might agree because I don't like No. 1 in the world being decided by rapid and blitz games. One of us suggested that the World Championship be eliminated and make it more like tennis, where the top players are simply ranked as No. 1 or 2 or 3 in the world, etc. One of our world travelers, Quinn, showed a picture of a giant chessboard in Athens. She also wondered what her minimum rating would have to be to enter the Women's World Cup someday, and Alexey offered some advice.

A player brought up Hans Kmoch's amusing parody of Nimzovich's bombast, "The Immortal Overprotection Game." You can find it online. Chess.com notes that it first appeared in the Wiener Schachzeitung in February 1928. It was reprinted in *The Treasury of Chess Lore* (Dover, 1951), Fred Reinfeld, editor, which credits the English version to *Chess Review*, 1951.

Sophia once sent the Cafe a message from the Blitz Society in the 16th arrondissement of Paris. She later gave a good report on them, and I found the following online: "Choose one of the 27 tables with green and white tops [chess boards] and rack your brains! But you need some juice to keep up, so, you better order a board of cold cuts or cheese to share, some quality wine or a beer, and off you go and play another game! All this to well-fitting jazz music, because of the laid-back atmosphere making us travel to the 1930s. Pictures of famous players from the past hung on the walls end up convincing us to put the timer on. Every week, the bar sets up entertainments and tournaments to keep regulars busy!"

www.sortiraparis.com/en/what-to-do-in-paris/unusual/articles/278773-blitz-society-the-parisian-bar-teaching-you-chess. Dates and Opening Time: From September 5, 2022 to July 21, 2024. Blitz Society, 4 Rue du Sabot, 75006 Paris 6. Official website: www.blitzsociety.fr

Alexey spoke about the U.S. Open that just took place in Grand Rapids. She mentioned some of the problems with voting at the meetings that took place during the tournament. A delegates' meeting took the whole first day, deciding such things as who should represent areas like D.C. and Rhode

Island. Sophia mentioned that a lot of people got COVID in Michigan: "You were supposed to mask around people. I didn't want to get on a plane because a lot of people with COVID were going to New York also." She drove back with some other New Yorkers instead of waiting for the next plane.

Lichess was also discussed for recently withdrawing its affiliation with US Chess and the St. Louis Chess Club because of their failure to enforce rules against harassment of girls and women. The Lichess post received 450 comments: "A lot of muddled thinking," said Paul. A good deal of information is provided at <https://lichess.org/blog/ZNTniBEAACEAJZTn/breaking-the-silence> about Alejandro Ramirez and Timur Gareyev, and the failure of US Chess to deal with allegations of their abuse of female players. One of the postings included in the blog is from Jennifer Shahade and says in part: "I notified the org [US Chess] at least four times of Alejandro's alleged abuse of girls/women (including of me and a 15 year old) before he was paid to coach the Women's Olympic Team. I pleaded he not be sent." However, she and others were ignored by the federation. Ryan Velez, a former member of the executive board, told Lichess that US Chess can remove a coach through a majority vote. Velez went on to explain his specific concerns in a statement to Lichess: "I believe US Chess has a blind spot when it comes to dealing with titled players. . . . US Chess is generally an excellent organization with a vibrant chess culture. The staff who work there are amazing and implement policy, but they do not shape the policy (that is the job of the Executive Board). I hope my voice contributes toward positive change within US Chess."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch published an article on this matter which reported a statement by St. Louis Chess that "the Saint Louis Chess Club received no reports whatsoever of any alleged inappropriate conduct on the part of Mr. Ramirez that occurred while he was employed by" the club. However, the next paragraph quotes Jennifer Shahade, "a program director for U.S. Chess, [who] said she reported Ramirez's assault to St. Louis Chess in October 2020, and again to St. Louis and U.S. Chess officials in phone conversations in 2021 and 2022."

"Shahade and another accuser said they were interviewed by lawyers for both St. Louis and U.S. chess last fall after they filed formal complaints, but there was no follow-up. Since her tweet, Shahade said, 10 women have contacted her with accounts of sexual misconduct or assault against Ramirez.

"The Wall Street Journal this week [March 7, 2023] reported accounts from at least eight women who have accused Ramirez of sexual assault. Among those accusers was a third person who was younger than 18 at the time, and two women who said they woke up to Ramirez groping them in shared housing, including in a residence operated by St. Louis Chess.

"Susan Polgar, a chess champion who retired from Webster University in 2021 as the most successful college chess coach in U.S. history, said in a public statement that she heard 'countless horrific stories,' in addition to her own experience, about women facing mistreatment over her decades-long career. 'No matter how often these situations were brought up, members of the brotherhood were protected,' said Polgar, 53."

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/at-least-3-more-women-accuse-st-louis-chess-coach-of-sexual-assault/article_a5596f5a-75c8-5f54-b4cd-8973848e8e39.html

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/alejandro-ramirez-jennifer-shahade-chess-allegations-622263b8>. The Journal also published an article on October 7, 2022 concerning the Niemann-Carlsen affair, with a focus on Chess.com's investigation into cheating by Hans, but not by Magnus, even though video caught the then-World Champion taking a move back in a game with Alexandra Kosteniuk.

It was mentioned that Hans Niemann was recently reinstated to Chess.com. "A lot of peace was made," noted Sophia. "It's good for chess all around." She wondered if FIDE will investigate Carlsen for hurting Hans' reputation, and said she hopes New York will act and take youths cheating in money tournaments and other events off the site for six months or a year. Charles James said Nakamura will name other cheaters. Paul said his dream for Mechanics' Institute is that Hans will come by again someday and show us his win over Magnus, which Niemann père on a recent visit said "would be beautiful."

Some of the contests we watched were "model games," said Paul. "Like watching Carlsen winning a won game . . . To know what good technique looks like and to model your play on it." Someone else remarked that Nakamura analyzes his games on YouTube for 20 minutes right after they're finished.

The term "novotny" was introduced to many of us on August 28. It was defined as a combinative motif where a piece moves to a square that is an intersection of two lines controlled by the opponent, like a diagonal and a file or rank. I found the following in a book of 225 problems called *Seven is the Limit*, published in 1989 by a small publisher in Calcutta, which can be read on the Internet Archive, an interesting source of books, movies, and many other images and texts: " 'Nowotny' theme – In Problem No. 24, the move of the White N, viz. 1.Nc7, blocks the different lines of action of two Black pieces enabling White to set up two threats. The capture of the N by another Black piece nullifies one of the two threats in turn, but not the other. The whole mechanism is known as the 'Nowotny' theme, after its expostulator."

(<https://archive.org/details/seven-is-the-limit/page/n25/mode/2up?view=theater>) No. 24, attributed to Dr. Niels Hoeg and a Deutsche Schachblatter of 1927, has the following position: White Nd5, Qf6, Kg6; Black Ra7, Bb6, Kg8. After 1.Nc7, White's queen mates on g7 if the bishop takes, and on d8 if the rook takes.

And that's the way it is, September 5, 2023. Good night, and good luck. And thanks to those commentators who made these sign-offs their signatures.

Editor's note: The Chess Cafe meets online via Zoom and was started during the Pandemic. The topic is chess and the chess-playing community, with people of all ages and skills participating. The Chess Cafe is free and open to all. You can join the conversation by registering [here](#).

A New Puzzle in the Library

Every week or so Mechanics' Institute's Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.



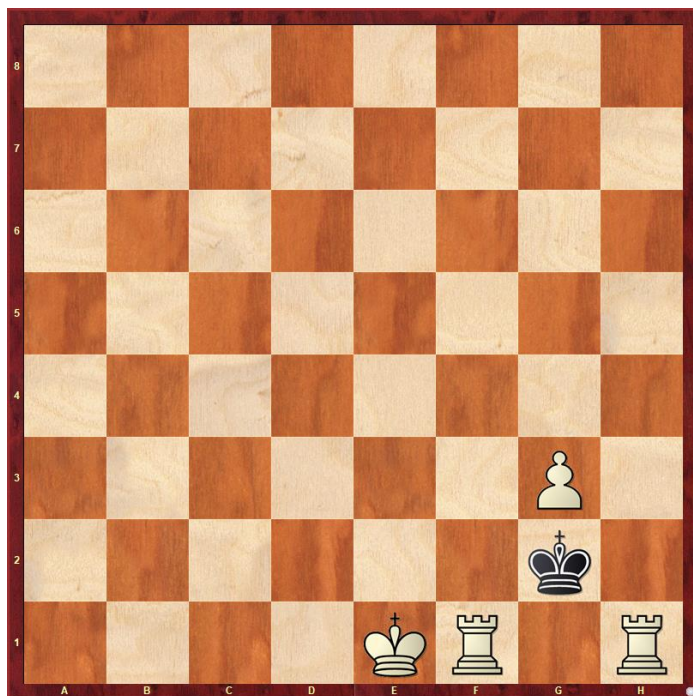
Steven's own composition: "Checkmate by Assassin-Pawn." **1.g4** is checkmate! Black cannot capture *en passant* with **1...hxg3** as the pawn on h4 is pinned by the rook at h1.

For those starting out in chess, Steven guides them to the *US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess* (2023), page 21, where the *En Passant* capture rule is explained.

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. **S. Loyd, 1857.**
White mates in 3 moves.



2. **S. Loyd, 1857.**
White mates in 3 moves.

Tournaments, Classes, and Events

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](#).



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Solutions

Tony's Teasers

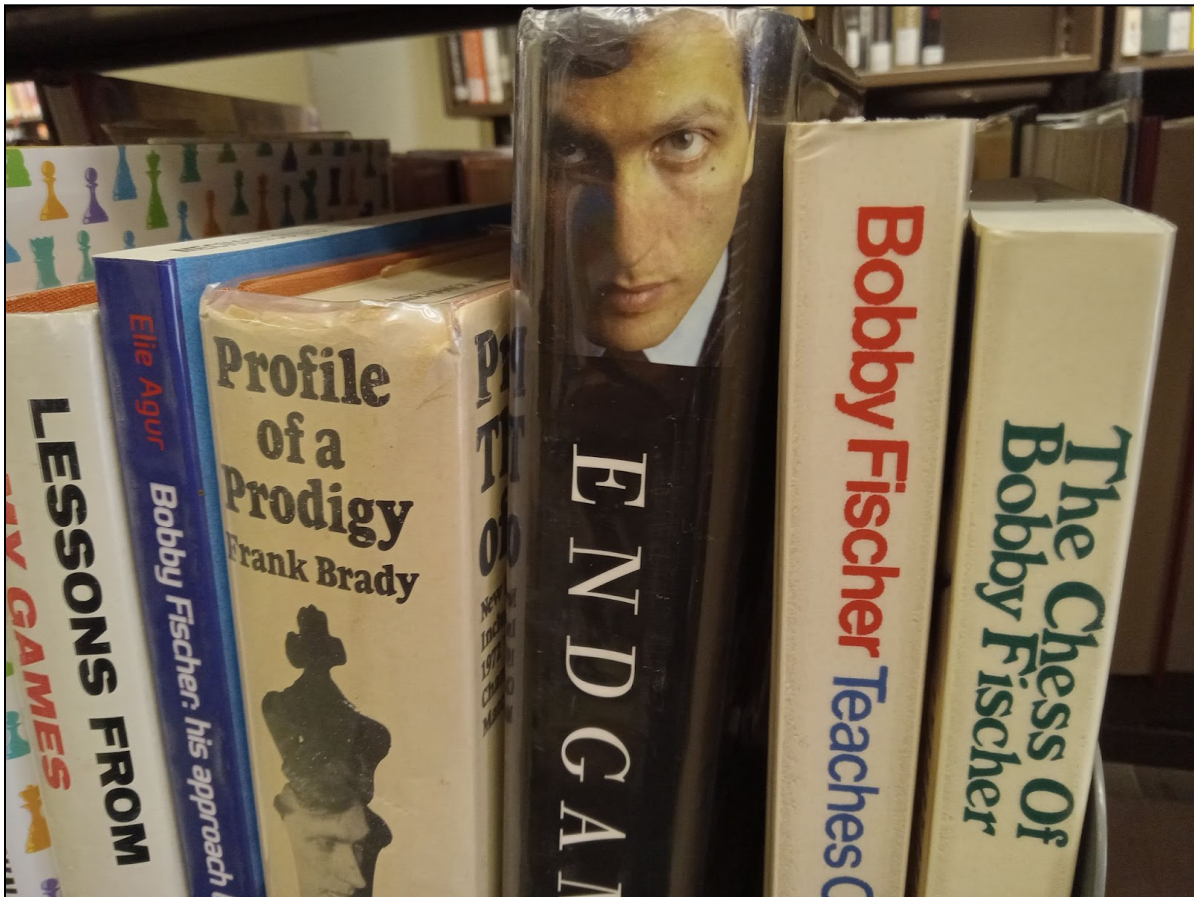
1. **S. Loyd**, 1857. An old chestnut: **1.Rf4! Kxg3 2.0-0! Kh3 3.R1f3#**.
2. **S. Loyd**, 1857. **1.Rb3! Ke5** (If 1...Kc4 2.Qc3# or 1...Kc5 2.Qb4#) **2.Re3! Kd4** (Or 2...Kf4 3.Qg3#) **3.Qc3#**.

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
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Tuesdays, Sep 5–Oct 17	Members	\$65
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Monthly Scholastic Swiss

Saturday, September 9	Members	\$30
10:00 am 4 Rounds G/30;d5	Non-Members	\$35



Monthly Quads

Saturday, September 9	Members	\$30
3:00 pm 3 Rounds G/30;d5	Non-Members	\$35

51st Carroll Capps Memorial (FIDE-rated)

Sat–Sun, September 16–17	Members	\$65
10:00 am 4 Rounds G/60+30	Non-Members	\$95

Full Day Quads

Saturday, September 23	Members	\$40
10:00 am 3 Rounds G/60+5	Non-Members	\$45



22nd J.J. Dolan Memorial

Saturday, September 30	Members	\$40
10:00 am 4 Rounds G/40;d5	Non-Members	\$50