

Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1043 | November 11, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



October 14, and the National Chess Day Scholastic Swiss gets underway.

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Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

It was **National Chess Day** on October 14, and we celebrated the day with three tournaments: our regular **October Scholastic Swiss** and **October Quads**, as well as a new **National Chess Day Blitz** tournament. There were great turn-outs for all events, and the Chess Room, Chess Room Annex, and Meeting Room were buzzing with activity all day.

The Scholastic Swiss had 31 participants in two sections.

The 600+ section was won outright by **Kepler McTiernan** (1196) with a perfect 4-0 score. In clear second a point behind was **Noah Chiu** (662). Rounding out the prize-winners with 2.5 points apiece were **Zane Chu** (858), **Keshav Raman** (948), and **Peter Xu** (538).

In the u600 section, **Maxim Dennis** (538) also scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear first, with six players a full point behind: **Nikhil Sangani** (unr.), **Valentino McKenna** (568), **Sasha Dennis** (377), **Jaylan Patel** (400), **Keanu Chow** (466), and **Sebastian McKenna** (255).



The National Chess Day October Scholastic Swiss was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, shown above handing out trophies and medals to the winners.

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

SwissSys Standings. National Chess Day -- Mechanics' Blitz: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total	Prize
1	MAKSIM MANAKOV	30783890	1388	W22	W22	W23	W23	W12	W12	X7	X7	8.0	133.00
2	IM MARK HEIMANN	12802899	2520	W27	W27	W33	W33	W3	L3	W13	W13	7.0	83.00
3	IM WILLIAM JOHN DONALDSON	10270294	2414	W40	W40	W9	W9	L2	W2	W6	D6	6.5	30.00
4	Mansoor Taj Mohammed	16086550	1918	W29	W29	W25	W25	D6	L6	W15	W15	6.5	30.00
5	IM LADIA JIRASEK	14196222	2433	W19	W19	W16	W16	L7	L7	W17	W17	6.0	
6	GM Jacek Stopa	13485890	2427	W28	W28	W10	W10	D4	W4	L3	D3	6.0	
7	FM Ryan Goldenberg	12631594	2322	W34	W34	W18	W18	W5	W5	F1	F1	6.0	
8	NATHAN FONG	13001390	2159	W26	W26	W14	L14	L17	W17	W19	W19	6.0	
9	DANIIL KARDAVA	15961344	1652	W38	W38	L3	L3	W31	W31	W18	W18	6.0	25.00
10	HAYES ALEXANDER MARVIN	30636603	1597	W36	W36	L6	L6	W35	W35	W16	W16	6.0	25.00
11	IM Elliott Winslow	10363365	2174	W20	W20	W15	D15	L13	L13	W23	W23	5.5	
12	Tim Liao	31479094	unr.	D24	W24	W27	W27	L1	L1	W30	W30	5.5	33.00
13	BEILIN LI	13450652	2187	W35	W35	W17	L17	W11	W11	L2	L2	5.0	
14	ETHAN MA	30021432	1533	W37	W37	L8	W8	L15	L15	W28	W28	5.0	
15	VENUGOPAL MANI	16419753	1550	W32	W32	L11	D11	W14	W14	L4	L4	4.5	
16	GEORGE A SANGUINETTI	10478103	1900	W31	W31	L5	L5	W34	W34	L10	L10	4.0	
17	MATTHEW MA	30022553	1594	W42	W42	L13	W13	W8	L8	L5	L5	4.0	
18	NGUYEN HOANG DUY PHAM	30742570	1575	W21	W21	L7	L7	W26	W26	L9	L9	4.0	
19	YEDI CHAN	30616476	1270	L5	L5	W38	W38	W33	W33	L8	L8	4.0	
20	ROMEO NEHME	16271243	1181	L11	L11	W21	L21	L24	W24	W36	W36	4.0	
21	SHANE ANTHONY CUEVA	31433064	unr.	L18	L18	L20	W20	W22	L22	W34	W34	4.0	
22	Danny Wong	31481880	unr.	L1	L1	W30	L30	L21	W21	W35	W35	4.0	
23	FREDERIC DUTTER	12343420	1900	W30	W30	L1	L1	D25	W25	L11	L11	3.5	
24	GLENN KAPLAN	12680193	1572	D12	L12	L28	W28	W20	L20	W25	L25	3.5	
25	PHIL PLOQUIN	12535882	1488	W39	W39	L4	L4	D23	L23	L24	W24	3.5	
26	PARDHU SAI KANAPARTHI	30250581	1137	L8	L8	W37	W37	L18	L18	W33	D33	3.5	
27	KEYAN RAAHEMIFAR	30931036	1273	L2	L2	L12	L12	W42	W42	L31	W31	3.0	
28	MATTHEW LOGBACK	30849944	1262	L6	L6	W24	L24	W32	W32	L14	L14	3.0	
29	DOMINIC A VAZQUEZ	30703139	1066	L4	L4	W32	L32	L30	L30	W39	W39	3.0	
30	Jason Haas	14239125	994	L23	L23	L22	W22	W29	W29	L12	L12	3.0	
31	KESHAV V RAMAN	30692470	948	L16	L16	W39	W39	L9	L9	W27	L27	3.0	
32	BOWIE MENGHERMANN	31445290	unr.	L15	L15	L29	W29	L28	L28	W38	W38	3.0	
33	PRESCOTT YU	16009618	1699	X41	X41	L2	L2	L19	L19	L26	D26	2.5	
34	Paul Apostolicas	14407338	1217	L7	L7	W36	W36	L16	L16	L21	L21	2.0	
35	KEPLER MCTIERNAN	31099018	1196	L13	L13	W42	W42	L10	L10	L22	L22	2.0	
36	ANDERS SOLI	16775925	639	L10	L10	L34	L34	W37	W37	L20	L20	2.0	
37	STANISLAV MOREINIS	13252894	unr.	L14	L14	L26	L26	L36	L36	W42	W42	2.0	
38	JILLIAN STEVENS	30140630	762	L9	L9	L19	L19	W39	L39	L32	L32	1.0	
39	ALEJANDRO PEREZ	17116882	unr.	L25	L25	L31	L31	L38	W38	L29	L29	1.0	
40	Patrice Binaisa	12601668	1233	L3	L3	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0	
41	ALEX MENDES DA COSTA	16672672	888	F33	F33	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0	
42	Zhanxi Ni	31173125	101	L17	L17	L35	L35	L27	L27	L37	L37	0.0	

They say every picture tells a story, and the snapshot of the cross table above shows how – with a bit of luck in the shape of his last round opponent not showing up – unheralded class “D” player **Maksim Manakov** (1388) leap-frogged over four International Masters and a Grandmaster to take first place in our 1st National Chess Day Blitz tournament!

Second place went to IM **Mark Heimann** (2520), and tied for third were IM **John Donaldson** (2414) and **Manssor Taj Mohammed** (1918). **Danill Kardava** (1652) and **Hayes Alexander Marvin** (1597) tied for best under 1800, while **Tim Liao** was best under 1300.

42 players participated, and the tournament was directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

Complete results for the 1st National Chess Day Blitz tournament can be found [here](#).

The last round: **Maksim Manakov** (upper left) waits in vain on board one for his opponent, while in the foreground IM **John Donaldson** (left) battles GM **Jacek Stopa** (right).



Top seed and second place finisher IM **Mark Heimann** eyeballs the photographer as the tournament is about to start.



The Chess Room Annex also saw plenty of action on National Chess Day, with Mechanics' Institute Chess Coach **Zorba Hughes** (left) playing an offhand game with **Aaron Wright**.



National TD **Scott Mason** can barely be seen as he posts up pairings in the crowded hallway.

We finished up National Chess Day with the October Quads, where 47 players competed in 11 sections.

The top quad was won by **Abhishek Handigol** (2177) with a perfect 3-0 score.

The National Chess Day October Quads were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

Complete results for the National Chess Day October Quads can be found [here](#).

The **2023 Fall Tuesday Night Marathon** ran from September 5 until October 17, and 85 players competed in four sections.

Despite needing to take three half-point byes in the final three rounds because of her participation in the [2023 U.S. Women's Championship](#), top-seed FM **Ruiyang Yan** (2357) won the 2000+ section outright with an unbeaten 5.5 point from 7 games. Coincidentally, she won the TNM on the same day that she [defeated](#) WGM **Carissa Yip**, the new U.S. Women's Champion!



Round One of the
2023 Fall TNM:
Jeremy Cawthon vs.
FM Ruiyang Yan.

IM **Elliott Winslow** (2192) took clear second place with 5 points, while there was a three-way split for third place and best u2200 at 4.5 points between **Christophe Bambou** (2093), **Archit Dasika** (2223), and **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (1809).

Wilson Wong (1794) took clear first in the 1600-1999 section with 5.5 points. Tied for second, third, and best under 1800, all with 5 points, were **Marlon Rigel** (1821), **Christopher Powers** (1740), **Kristian Clemens** (1906), and **George Sanguinetti** (1900).

Sheng Jian (1336) dominated the 1200-1599 section with 6.5 points, a full point and a half ahead of second and third place finishers **Stanislav Perumov** (1463) and **Nicholas Morello**. There was a three-way split with 4 points apiece for the best u1400 prize between **Thu Le** (1005), **Tyler Baker-Williams** (1310), and **Ahir Bala** (1240).

The u1200 section also had a clear winner in **Oliver Burke** (unr.) who scored 6 points. Tied for second and third with 5 points each were **Steven Myers** (919), and **Nikhil Sangani** (unr.), while **Sean Land** (459) was best u1000 with 4.5 points.

Complete results for the 2023 Fall Tuesday Night Marathon can be found [here](#).

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

On October 21, we hosted the **21st St. Amant Memorial**, with 57 players competing in four sections.

FM **Baasansuren Erdene** (2269) scored a perfect 4-0 to take first place in the 2000+ section. Finishing in clear second was **Hayden Karkainen** (1997) with 3 points, and tied for third with 2.5 points apiece were **Dmitry Vayntrub** (2232) and **Alex Shrauger** (2047).

Liri Dancig-Perlman (1683) also scored a perfect 4-0 to win the 1600-1999 section. Tying for second and third places a full point behind were **George Sanguinetti** (1900), **Prescott Yu** (1699), **Rayna Yan** (1680), and **Swagatha Selvam** (1658).

In the 1200-1599 section **Gilberto Hernandez** (1582) took first place with 3.5 points, and second place was taken by **Sanushya Subramaniam** (1223) with 3 points. There was a large 5-way tie for third place at 2.5 points between **Sam Nolen** (1435), **Tao Ni** (1299), **Vidyuth Harish** (1239), **Clem Yue** (1171), and **Timmy Fan** (1043).

David Vayntrub (1102) scored a perfect 4-0 to win the u1200 section by a full point. In second was **Tim Liao** (unr.), while **Mason Phan** (unr.) and **Giacomo Marocco** (unr.) tied for third with 2.5 points each.

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

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

GM **Christopher Yoo** (2690) destroyed the competition in our **2023 Fast Fall Blitz** tournament held on Tuesday, October 24. His perfect 10-0 score was a point and a half ahead of second place finisher GM **Jacek Stopa** (2427), while IM **Ladia Jirasek** (2433) took clear third with 8 points. Rounding out the prize-winners were **Ryan Winstead** (1747) who took the best under 1800 prize with 6 points, and **Rajiv Chockalingam** (1296), best under 1300.

The tournament had a great turnout of 49 participants. Two Grandmasters, four International Masters, plus a FIDE Master made for a memorable evening.

Before the event we were treated to an author talk by IM **Ladia Jirasek**, whose new book *How to Chess* has just been [published](#).



GM Christopher Yoo (left) prepares to take on **Abel Talamantez** (right) in round one.

Complete results for the 2023 Fast Fall Blitz can be found [here](#).

The 2023 Fast Fall Blitz was directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

On October 28, we hosted the **October Full Day Quads**, with 34 players competing in 8 sections.

The top quad was won jointly by **Hanchi Yao** (2090) and **Max Hao** (2016) with 2 points apiece.

Complete results for the October Full Day Quads can be found [here](#).

The October Full Day Quads were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by **Anthony Simich**.

The **2nd Irving Chernev Memorial** held on November 4 had a great turnout of 62 players competing in four sections.

Baasansuren Erdene (2283) took clear 1st in the 2000+ section with 3.5 points out of four, and tied for 2nd and 3rd places were **Arun Dixit** (2211), **Vedant Talwalkar** (2065), and **Alex Shrauger** (2030) with 3 points apiece.

Kar Lun Cheng (1570) scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the 1600-1999 section. **Fredrick Dutter** (1914) and **Mohammad Soltani** (1600) tied for 2nd and 3rd with three points each.

Gilberto Rico Hernandez (1582) topped the 1200-1599 section with 3.5 points, and tied for 2nd and 3rd were **Albert Starr** (1500) and **Timmy Fan** (1052) with three points apiece.

David Kuperman (1055) scored 3.5 points, winning the u1200 section outright. Tied for 2nd and 3rd with three points each were **Gautham Ramalingam** (1038) and **Caelin Jackson-King** (unr.)

Complete results for the 2nd Irving Chernev Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 2nd Irving Chernev Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

The **2023 Winter TNM** kicked off on November 7 and runs through December 19. XX players are competing in four sections.

Information and current standings for the 2023 Winter TNM can be found [here](#).

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

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from round seven of the Fall TNM, and round one of the Winter 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](#).

Winslow,Elliott **D46**

Dasika,Archit **2192**
2223
 2023 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 17.10.2023
[Winslow,Elliott]

This game settled first and second.
 Remember that Ruiyang Yan had won her first four games then took three (!) half-point byes so that she could play in the U.S. Women's Championship in St. Louis, held during October. (She did well, finished in the middle but beat the tournament winner Carissa Yip in the last round!) Dasika needed a win to tie with her; I needed a win to get above the various (it turned out to be three) players getting 4.5-2.5. And a draw would reverse our standings, i.e. Archit would be clear second. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2**

[I've been thinking the old main move 6.Bd3 could well be a better way to play for a win -- except I have yet to feel comfortable with anything in the line played by Anand to win a fantastic game against Aronian in 2013: dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 Bb7 11.a3 and now Rc8! 12.Ng5 (The first point being 12.b4 c5!) 12...c5! Here also! Now the complications would test my hard disk's limitations (well all right, I have an SSD), but this is how the game went: 13.Nxh7 Ng4! 14.f4 cxd4 15.exd4 Bc5! 16.Be2 Nde5!! Best to look it up: 17.Bxg4 Bxd4+ 18.Kh1 Nxg4 19.Nxf8 f5 20.Ng6 Qf6 21.h3 Qxg6 22.Qe2 Qh5 23.Qd3 Be3 0-1 Aronian,L (2802)-Anand,V (2772) Tata Steel-A 75th Wijk aan Zee 2013 (4)]

In any case, you can perhaps see my reticence (I have no idea how much of this Archit knows). **6...Bd6 7.Bd3**

[7.Be2]
 [Nor am I au courant with 7.g4!? which is still happening in some high-level games: h6 (7...Nxg4 8.Rg1 Qf6 9.Rxg4 Qxf3 10.h3 Qf6 11.e4 h5 12.Rg2 Bf4 13.Bxf4 Qxf4 14.Rxg7 dxc4 15.Bxc4 Nb6 16.Bb3 Bd7 17.a4 c5 18.dxc5 Qe5 19.Rg3 Qxc5 20.a5 Nc4 21.Bxc4 Qxc4 22.0-0-0 0-0-0 23.Rd4 Qf1+ 24.Rd1 Qc4 25.Rd4 Qc5 26.Ne2 Qxc2+ 27.Kxc2 e5 28.Rd5 f6 29.f4 Bc6 30.Rc5 Kb8 31.fxe5 Bxe4+ 32.Kc3 fxe5 ½-½ Abdusattorov,N (2731)-Gukesh,D (2732) Norway Chess 11th Stavanger 2023 (5)) 8.g5 (8.Rg1 dxc4 9.e4 e5 10.Be3 b5 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.h4 h5 13.gxh5 Nxh5 14.Bh3 exd4 15.Nxd4 Bf4 16.Kb1 a6 17.Nf5 g6 18.Bd4 Ne5 19.Bc5 Nd3 20.Rxd3 cxd3 21.Qxd3 Be6 22.Nd6+ Bxd6 23.Bxd6 Qd7 24.Bxe6 Qxe6 25.e5 0-0-0 26.Ne4 Nf4 27.Qa3 Qc4 28.Qxa6+ Kd7 29.Nc5+ 1-0 Wei,Y (2726)-Vidit,S (2719) Global Chess League Final Dubai rapid 2023 (1.3); 8.h3 dxc4 9.e4 e5 10.Be3 b5 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.Bg2 Bb7 13.Kb1 0-0 14.Ne2 exd4 15.Nfxd4 Rfe8 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.f3 Ne5 18.h4 Rad8 19.Rdg1 Nfd7 20.g5 h5 21.Nf4 g6 22.Nh6+ Bxh6 23.gxh6 Nf6 24.Bh3 c5 25.Be6 Kh7 26.Bf5 Rg8 27.Nh3 Nxf3 28.Ng5+ Nxg5 29.hxg5 gxf5 30.Ka1 Bxe4 0-1 Ter Sahakyan,S (2604)-Bacrot,E (2662) Julius Baer Play In Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (7.30)) 8...hxg5 9.Nxg5 Qe7 10.Bd2 e5 11.0-0-0 e4 12.h4 b6 13.Kb1 Bb7 14.Be2 Nf8 15.f3 exf3 16.Bxf3 Ne6 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Qa4+ Kf8 19.Rdf1 Kg8 20.Qb3 Bb4 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Qxd5 Rd8 24.Bxb4 Qxb4 25.Qb7 Nxg5 26.hxg5 Rf8 27.g6 Rh6 28.Rxh6 gxh6 29.g7 Kxg7 30.Qg2+ Kh7

31.Rg1 1-0 Mamedyarov,S (2734)-Sarana,A (2693) Al Cup Play In Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (6)]

7...dxc4!?

[Much more common is just 7...0-0 but it's noteworthy that this is one of those positions where everything has been tried. Well, twelve moves. And after castling, White has played thirteen moves! But here also, 8.0-0 is far and away the most played.]

8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3

[About as popular is 9.Be2]
[But it's noteworthy that 9.Bb3 while barely a dozen games, has a much bigger percentage result. But a lower grade of players.]

9...a6 Now we start to head away from mainstream praxis. (62 games in Mega 2023)

[9...Bb7 with over 700 games is the Big Move, with games by all the superstars.]

10.Ne4

[10.0-0 Bb7 11.e4 e5]
[10.Bd2]
[10.a4]
[10.e4!?]

10...Nxe4

[10...Bb4+ even has a plus score 11.Bd2 was 2-2, (while 11.Ke2!? was ambitious -- but 0-1.)]

11.Bxe4

[11.Qxc6!? Bb4+ 12.Ke2

A) 12...Nxf2! 13.Kxf2 (13.Qxa8 Nxd3) 13...Rb8 14.Qc2 Bb7

B) 12...Bb7 13.Qxb7 Nd6 14.Qc6 Rc8 15.Qxa6 Ra8 is already drawn. That won't do!]

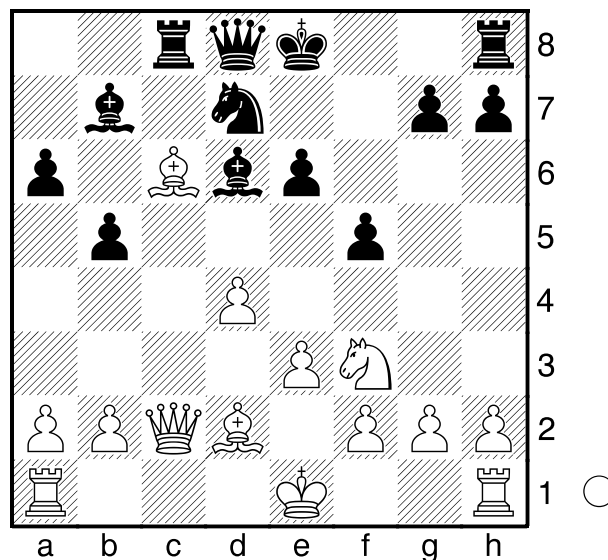
11...Bb7 12.Bd2

[12.a3 Rc8 (12...f5!?) 13.b4 Nf6 (13...h6) 14.Bd2 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Qe7 16.Qg4 0-0 17.0-0 f5 18.Qh5 (18.Qg5)]
[12.0-0]
[12.a4]

12...f5!? Only one previous game!

[12...Rc8 13.b4 Qe7 (13...f5) 14.Rb1 Nf6 15.Bd3 0-0 16.0-0 h6 17.h3 Nd7 18.Bc3 Rfe8 19.Nd2 e5 20.Bf5 exd4 21.exd4 Rcd8 22.Nb3 Nf6 23.Bd2 Bc8 24.Rfe1 Qf8 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.Na5 Bxf5 27.Qxf5 Ne4 28.Be1 Bc7 29.Nxc6 Qd6 30.Ne5 Qd5 31.Qd7 Qxd7 32.Nxd7 Rd8 33.Nc5 Rxd4 34.Nxa6 Bb6 35.Rc1 Rd6 36.Nc5 Rc6 37.Nd3 Rd6 38.Ne5 f6 39.Nf3 Kf7 40.Kf1 Ke8 41.Nh4 Kd7 42.Nf5 Rd5 43.Nxg7 Rg5 44.Ne6 Rf5 45.g4 Rf3 1-0 Stefansson,H (2508)-Thorgeirsson, S (2292) ISL-chT 1718 Reykjavik 2017 (4.3)]

13.Bxc6 Rc8



14.d5!? Best but just even ("0.00" SF16)

[14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Qd1 0-0 16.0-0 Rf6 (16...f4!?) 17.Kh1 Rh6 18.e4 Rg6 19.e5 Be7 20.h3 Bd5 21.a3 Qb7 22.Rg1 Rc4 23.Rc1 Bxf3 24.Qxf3 Qxf3 25.gxf3 Rxd1+ 26.Kxg1 Rxd4 27.Rc8+ Kf7 28.Be3 Rc4 29.Ra8 f4 ½-½ Hernaez Fernandez,C (2210)-Glaser,K (2167) Mostert mem WS op-6 email ICCF email 2006]

14...0-0?!

[14...exd5 15.Bxd7+ Qxd7
16.Qb3!=]

15.Qd1?! Looking now I don't know where this move came from, unless maybe my sense of humor.

[15.Bc3! was some plus: Bxc6
16.dxc6

A) 16...Nb8 17.Qb3 Qe7 18.Nd4 b4 (18...Rf6 19.Rc1±) 19.Bd2 Nxc6 20.Nxe6±;

B) 16...Nc5! 17.0-0 (17.Be5 Qc7 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Nd4 e5 20.Rc1±) 17...Rxc6 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.b4 Qc8! 20.Rac1 Kg8± (SF16 +0.42/d42) White's pawns are ever so slightly healthier, but Black's majority will have to be watched.]

15...Bxc6 16.dxc6 Nc5?!

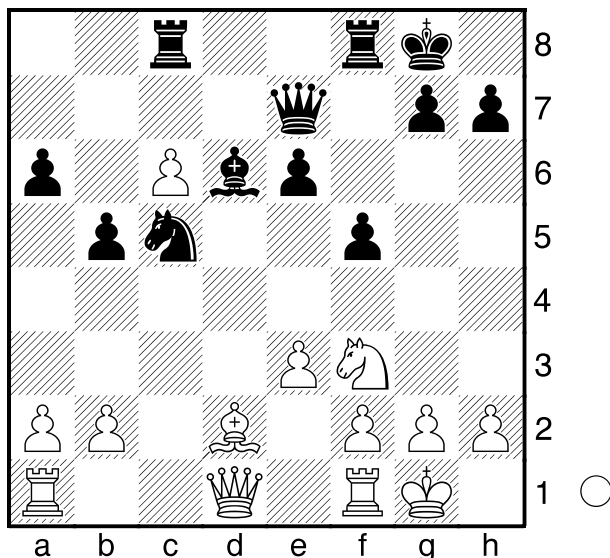
[16...Ne5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Bb4! The best, but not much Bxb2 19.Rb1 Qxd1+ 20.Kxd1 Rfd8+ 21.Ke2 Be5 22.Rhc1=]

17.0-0=

[17.Qc2±]

17...Qe7?!±

[17...Qe8]



18.Bb4?

[18.Rc1! Nd3 19.Rc2 e5 20.e4! (20.Ne1±) 20...fxe4 21.Ng5+- e3 22.Bxe3 e4 23.f3]

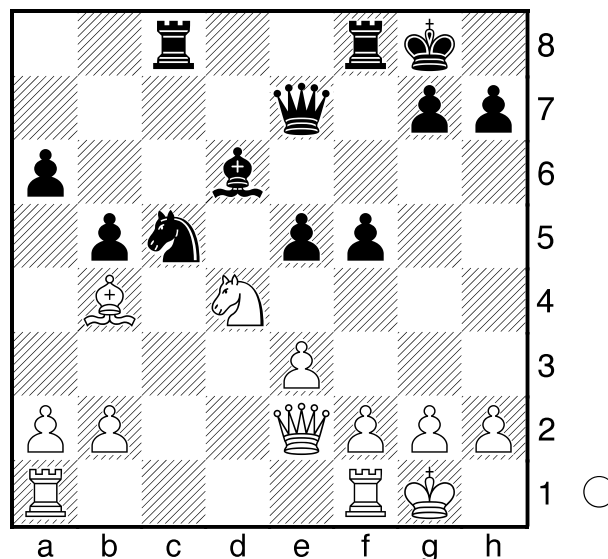
18...Rxc6 19.Nd4?!

[Δ19.Rc1 Rcc8 20.Bxc5 Rxc5 21.Rxc5 Bxc5±]

19...Rcc8!= 20.Qe2?!

[20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Nf3= /± Rcd8 (21...g5!?)]

20...e5



And any advantage has evaporated ("0.00"). **21.Bxc5 Rxc5**

[Δ21...Bxc5 -- maybe he dreamed of ...e4 and ...Qe5, not that that can't be deflected.]

22.Nb3 Rc4 23.a4!?

[23.Rac1]

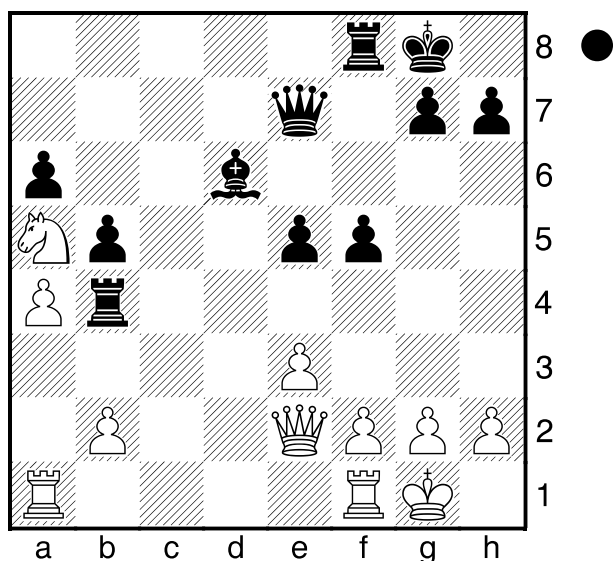
23...Rb4

[23...Rxa4 24.Rxa4 bxa4 25.Qc4+ Qf7 26.Qxa4 Qd5=]

[23...f4!? 24.axb5 axb5 25.exf4 exf4 26.Qd3 f3 27.g3 Bc5 28.Rfe1 Qd6 29.Nxc5 Qxc5 30.Rad1=]

24.Na5

(Diagram)



(best) **24...e4?!**

[24...Qd7 25.Qd2 Rf6 26.Rfd1 Qe8]

25.g3

[25.axb5 Rxb5 26.g3±]

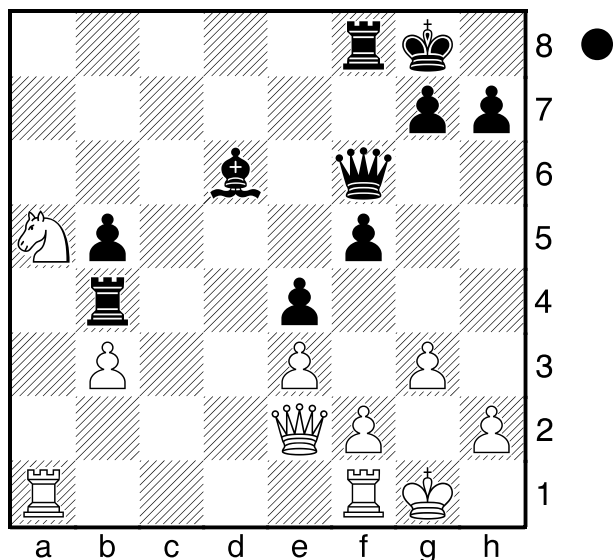
25...Qf6?!

[25...Qe6 26.axb5 Be5 27.bxa5
Rxb2= 28.Qc4 Rb6 29.Qxe6+
Rxe6=]

26.axb5 axb5?

[26...Rxb5!±]

27.b3!±



/+- (SF16 +1.59/28) White's rook has oddly found itself trapped in a cage. Back before I paid any attention to the

endgame I used to do that to my own rooks all too often. **27...Ra8?+-**

This turns out to be another unsafe rook!

[27...Bc7!? 28.Rfc1! Bxa5 29.Rxa5
Rxb3 30.Qa2! Qb2! 31.Rc7! Qxa2
32.Rxa2 Kh8 33.Raa7 Rg8 34.Rf7+-
is a different sort of bind. Down a
pawn, White is close to if not simply
winning.]

28.Qd1 "1/2?" I was pessimistic of my winning chances before now; I had meant to offer a draw earlier, not realizing how tricky it could be -- and so offered one now, not appraising just how **strong** my position is! SF16 (+3.89/25) after a minute or so on a cloud engine.

[28.Qd2! is even better! SF16 (+4.25/27) but playing to d1 again amused me, so...]

28...Qe6?!

[28...Ra6 when I wonder if I'd have found either of the winning computer lines:

A) 29.Rc1! is, frankly according to Frank Stockfish the 16th, even stronger Rxa5 30.Qd5+ Kf8 (30...Qf7 31.Qxd6) 31.Rc8+ Ke7 32.Qc6 when Black's king (and queen and bishop and rooks) has a problem. Qg6 33.Rd1 Ra7 34.Rxd6 Qxd6 35.Re8+ Kf7 36.Qxd6;

B) 29.Nb7! Rxa1 30.Qxa1 Qxa1 31.Rxa1 Bc7 32.Rc1! Bb6 33.Rc8+ Kf7 34.Rc6! Ba7 35.Nd6+ Kf8 36.Rc7! Bb6 37.Rf7+ Kg8 38.Rb7 and through all these lines, all the attempts to give up the bishop for pawns fail. (38.Rxf5 Rxb3 39.Rxb5 also wins)]

29.Nc6 A damned tricky knight -- and the hero of the game. **29...Rxa1 30.Qxa1**

Rxb3 31.Nd4+- Relatively easy now.

31...Qf7 32.Nxb3 Qxb3 33.Rb1

As we both start getting down into the teen minutes, this seemed simplest. One

key factor is Black's king's exposure, so of course I should keep queens around until their trade is a lock won ending.

33...Qc4

[33...Qa4

A) 34.Qb2 b4 always gets into trouble, unless I lose my head and trade queens with the b-pawn still on with (34...g6 35.Qd2!) 35.Qb3+??± (35.Qd2 Qc6 36.Rc1);

B) 34.Qc3]

34.Qa6

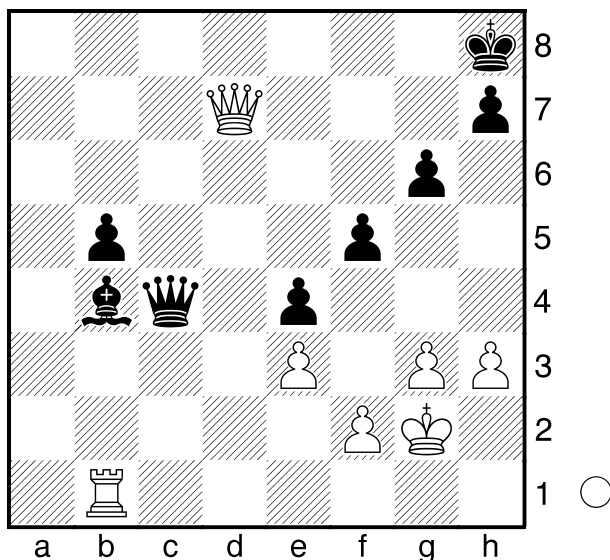
[34.Rd1!]

34...Bb4 Confession: I didn't notice this.

35.h3?!

[35.Rd1 Bf8 36.Rd4 Qb3 37.Qc6 There's an interesting maneuver, Rd5 and then Qe6+ etc. (37.Qc8; 37.Kg2)]

35...Kf7 36.Kg2 g6 37.Qa7+ Be7 38.Qa6 Bb4 39.Qb7+ Kg8 40.Qd7 Kh8



41.Qd4+

[41.Ra1 collects a much bigger Stockfish score but win is win.]

41...Qxd4 42.exd4 Bc3 43.d5 Kg7

[43...b4 44.d6 Kg7 45.d7 Bf6 46.Rxb4]

44.Rxb5 Kf6 45.Rb7 Ke5 46.Rxh7 Kxd5 47.Rh6 g5 48.Rg6 Bd2 49.Kf1

[My original intention was 49.h4 but domination is always a good theme.]

49...e3 50.f3 Kd4 51.Ke2 (10:25-11 :30) time trouble never figured.
1-0

B22

Bambou, Christophe

2093

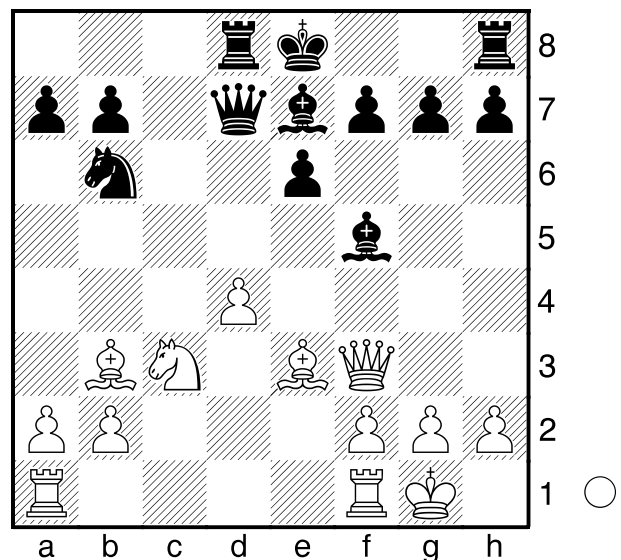
Parsons, Stephen

1845

2023 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 17.10.2023

[Winslow, Elliott]

This was an interesting game, but the end was unconvincing... **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 Bf5 9.d4 Rd8 10.Be3 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 e6 13.Nc3 Be7 14.Qf3± Qd7 [14...0-0]**



15.d5!± 0-0! 16.g4

[16.Rfd1!]

16...Bg6 17.Rfd1 Nxd5

[17...e5!±]

18.Bxa7?!

[18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Rxd5 Qc6

20.Rc1! Qf6 21.Qxf6 Bxf6 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.f4 Be4 24.Rc7±]

18...Kh8?!

[18...Bf6±]

19.Nxd5 exd5 20.Bxd5?!

[20.Rxd5 Qc7 21.Qc3]

20...Qa4?!

[20...f5±]

21.Bb6 Rd6 22.Bb3

[22.Bc7!]

22...Qb4 23.Rxd6?

[23.Bc7±]

23...Bxd6= 24.Ba7??

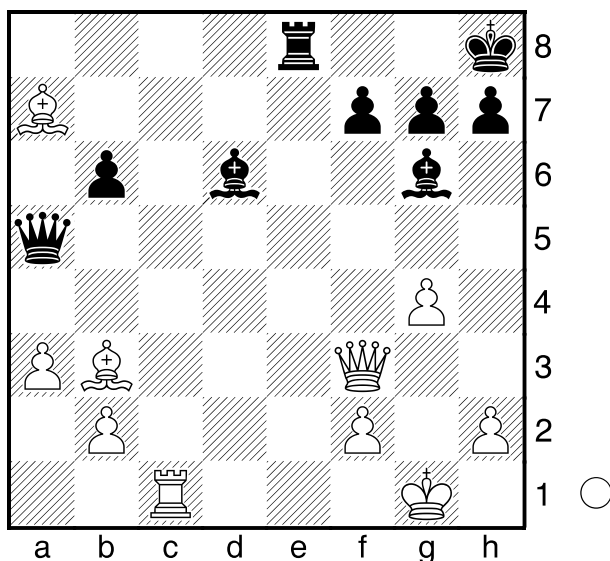
[24.Be3]

24...b6+ 25.Rc1 Re8?

[25...f5+]

26.a3!± Qa5?!

[26...Qd4!]



27.Qc6??

[27.Bxf7! Rf8 28.Qd5 Bc5

29.Bxb6!=]

27...Qe5+ 28.Qg2 Qxb2 29.Qc6 f6

[29...Qe5!]

30.Qc3 Qe2

[30...Bxh2+]

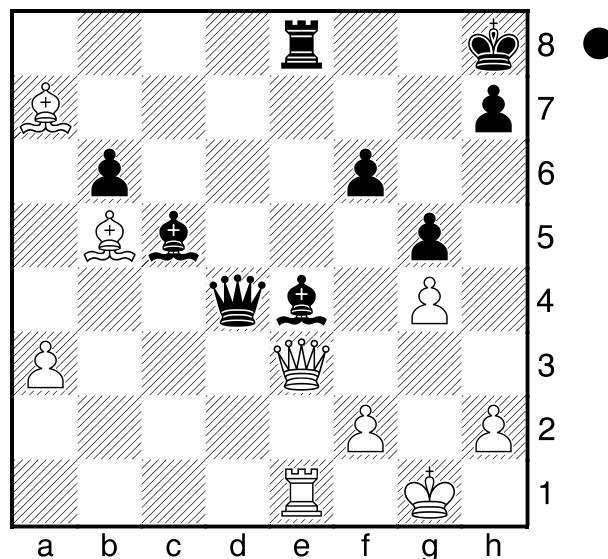
31.Qd4 Bc5 32.Qf4 Be4

[32...Re4 33.Bc4 Bxf2+ 34.Kg2 Qb2]

33.Bc4 Qb2 34.Re1 Qd4

[34...g5!]

35.Bb5?! g5 36.Qe3



Re7??

[36...Bc6!]

37.Qxd4 Bxd4

[There was a time scramble, and White won. At this point it's quite drawn: 37...Bxd4 38.Bc6 Rxa7 39.Rxe4=]

1-0

B48

Wong, Wilson

1794

Tirouvingadame, Arivoli

1650

2023 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (7.7) 17.10.23

[Wong, Wilson]

(EW:) With this win Wilson was able to edge out a crowd who finished 5-2 and take clear first! And opposite sides castling was the appropriate vehicle (although Oli might have sneaked in ... 0-0-0 as well, notes Wilson). 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 [5.Bd3 is the other main line.] [5.c4 A positional approach.] 5...Nc6 6.Be3 Qc7 7.a3 Not ideal, but this is an idea to handle the annoying ... Bb4. 7...d6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.0-0-0 Nf6 10.f3 Just going for an English attack setup. Black is unlikely to 0-0-0. 10...b5

11.Nxc6 I like this trade. Black's knight supported a quick ...b4 and I don't want Black to develop their light-squared bishop to then recapture with that, supporting a central break. My d4-knight wasn't very effective and I don't want to recapture and move either my bishop and queen to worse squares.

[11.Ndxb5 axb5 12.Nxb5 Qd7 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.Qxd6 I looked at this but don't think I'll have enough play to go for a win. I'd rather keep pieces on the board and incrementally improve my position.]

11...Qxc6 12.g4 e5?! Black creates a weakness while wasting time with more pawn moves. Black having already moved their a- and b-pawns is less likely to 0-0-0. Black keeps delaying castling but I don't think Black will be happy with their king in the center, obstructing their pieces and struggling with a huge space disadvantage. **13.h4** Not allowing 13.g5 Nh5. **13...Be6 14.h5 Nd7** Black can't just keep his king in the center, the rooks are disconnected and Black is increasingly losing space. At this point maybe Black can 0-0-0 and try to hold the position together and trade into an endgame since 0-0 looks dire.

[14...h6!]

15.Nd5 Getting a d5-pawn does get White more space and makes Black's bishops very dead, making White's king much safer.

[15.g5!]

15...Bxd5 16.exd5! Keeping queens on the board makes White's space advantage and Black's unsafe king bigger plusses. **16...Qb7 17.g5 a5**

[17...f5!? 18.gxf6 Bxf6 19.Bh3+-]

18.b3?! I didn't realize how deadly f4 was and that ...Ne5 was nothing to worry about because of tactics. Since I failed to find winning lines, I opted to secure my king, choosing between the

best move Kb1 and b3 but ultimately ended up choosing b3 because it allowed the option of permanently locking the queenside.

[18.f4 exf4 19.Bxf4 Ne5

I was worried about this move since I thought my passed d-pawn would simply be blockaded. 20.Bxe5 dxe5 21.d6 Rd8 (21...Bd8 Avoiding losing a piece still leads to at least an exchange loss and a dead lost position. 22.d7+ Kf8 23.Bg2) 22.Bg2 Qd7 23.dxe7]

[18.Kb1]

[18.Bd3]

[18.Qd3!]

18...f5 19.gxf6 I liked opening up the position for my pieces.

[19.f4!?]

19...Bxf6 20.Qd3

[20.Rg1]

20...b4?!

[20...Rb8±]

21.a4 Nc5?

[21...0-0]

22.Qf5?

[22.Bxc5!+- Winning move, but once again I did not see the winning lines, only blockades. dxc5 23.Qf5! Qc8 24.Qe4!]

22...Qe7?

[22...Qc8! I missed this defense. This forces queens off the board and Black's pawns and minor pieces do a good job of keeping the position closed.]

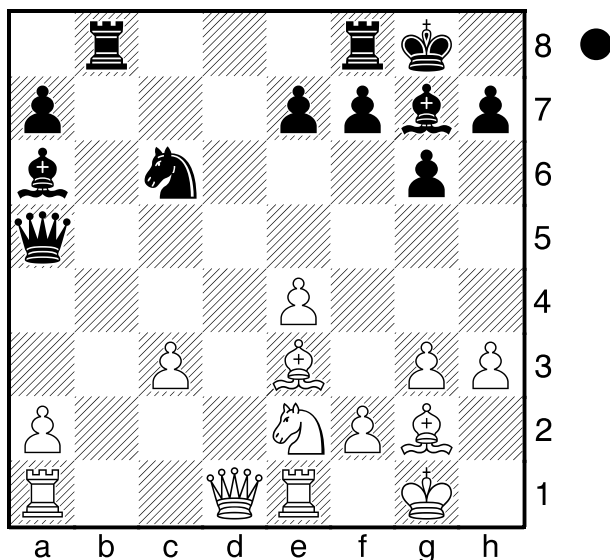
23.Bxc5 While I'm not queening, the very far advanced d-pawn controls important squares and ties Black's pieces down a little bit. **23...dxc5 24.d6 Qd8 25.Qe6+ Kf8 26.Bc4 Qe8**

27.Qd5 Black's pieces are reduced to passivity, while White still has lots of improving moves. **27...g6?** Best Black can do is just to shuffle their rook on the back rank but that would only delay the

inevitable. Black opening up their king just accelerates the end. **28.hxg6 Bg5+ 29.Kb1 Kg7 30.gxh7 Rxh7 31.d7 Qf8 32.Qxe5+ Qf6 33.Rxh7+ Kxh7 34.Qe4+ Kg7 35.Qxa8 Qc3 36.Qg8+ 1-0**

A36
 1906
 1999
 2023 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (7.8) 17.10.23
[Stockfish 16]

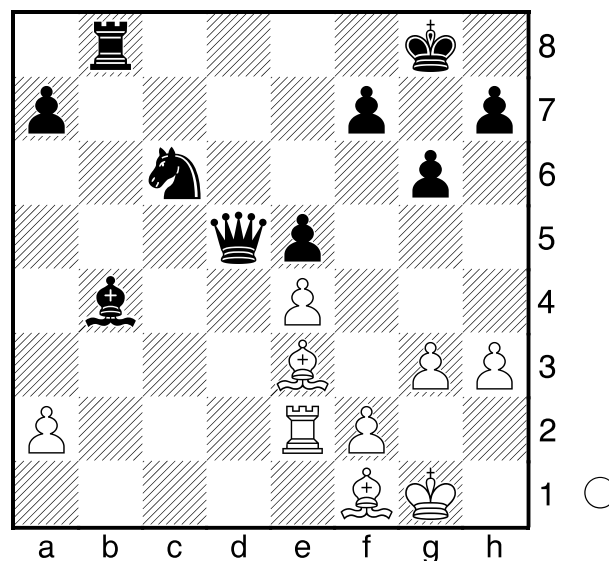
Not a happy result for either player: Kristian needed that extra half point to tie for first, while Mike would have joined the prize-winners with 5-2 had he won. Still, there was excitement. **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d3 Rb8 9.h3 Ne8 10.Be3 Nc7 11.d4 b5 12.cxb5 Nxb5 13.dxc5 dxc5 14.Bxc5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qa5 16.Be3 Ba6 [16...Ne5!? 17.Re1 Rd8 18.Nd4 Ba6 19.Qd2 Nc4 20.Qc1 Rbc8 17.Re1**



Bxe2?!N

[17...Rfd8 18.Nd4 Ne5 18.Rxe2 Bxc3 19.Rb1 e5?

[19...Rbd8 20.Qb3 Rd7 20.Rxb8 Rxb8 21.Qd6 Qb5?? [21...Qa4! 22.Qf6 Bb4 23.Rb2 Qd1+ 24.Bf1 Nd4 25.Bh6 Nf3+ 26.Kg2 Ne1+ 27.Kh1 Qf3+] 22.Bf1 [22.Rc2! Nd4 23.Rxc3 Ne2+ 24.Kh2 Nxc3 25.Qf6+-] 22...Bb4 [22...Nd4!? 23.Re1 Qb4 24.Qxb4 Rxb4=] 23.Qd5 Qxd5



Removing the defender. The position is equal. **24.exd5 Nd4 25.Bxd4 exd4 26.Rb2 Rb6 27.Bc4 Bc5 28.Rxb6 axb6 1/2-1/2**

B08
 2181
 1932
 2023 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 07.11.2023
[Winslow, Elliott]

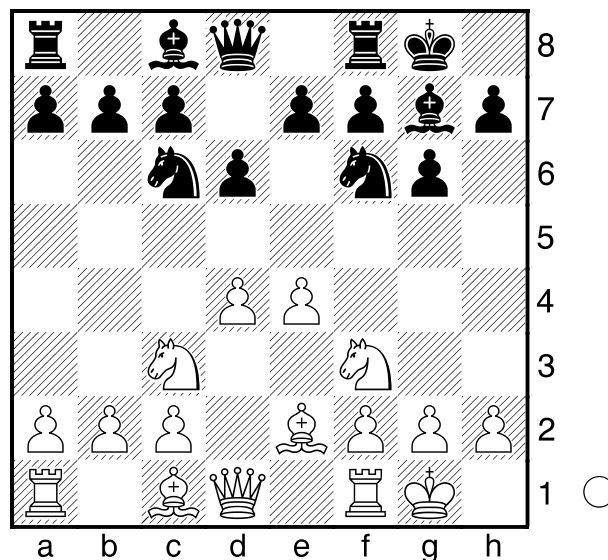
Natalya just played this weekend in the first U.S. Senior Women's Championship held at the Berkeley Chess School building in Berkeley, after a more than three year hiatus. She had an even

score there and lost a few rating points. But there was nothing there to prepare her for the Ed Lewis Juggernaut! **1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6**

[The old 6...Bg4 has pretty much been mothballed, perhaps for being too bland.]

[The classic 6...c6 is still seen at high levels: 7.a4 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qxd8 Rxd8 10.Bc4 Nbd7 11.Be3 Ng4 12.Bg5 Re8 13.h3 Ngf6 14.Be3 Bf8 15.Ng5 Re7 16.Rfd1 h6 17.Nf3 Re8 18.a5 Kg7 19.Nd2 Bc5 20.Bxc5 Nxc5 21.b4 Ne6 22.Bb3 Nd4 23.Nc4 Be6 24.a6 b6 25.Rd2 Bxc4 26.Bxc4 Kf8 27.f3 Nh5 28.Nd1 Rad8 29.Kf2 Nf4 30.h4 Nb5 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Ne3 Rd2+ 33.Ke1 Rd4 34.Bxb5 cxb5 35.g3 Ne6 36.Nd5 Rc4 37.c3 Nc7 38.Nxc7 Rxc7 39.Kd2 Ke7 40.g4 Rd7+ 41.Kc2 f6 42.h5 g5 43.Rd1 Rxd1 44.Kxd1 Kd6 45.Kc2 Kc6 46.Kb3 Kd6 47.Kc2 Kc6 48.Kb3 Kd6 49.Kc2 ½-½ Carlsen,M (2839)-So,W (2753) Chess.com Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (3.29)]

[6...a6 7.a4 e6 (7...Nc6 scores pretty well except for 8.a5!/?) 8.h3 b6 9.Re1 Bb7 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Be3 Kh7 13.Bc1 Nb4 14.Bf1 c5 15.Bd3 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Rc8 17.Nf3 d5 18.e5 Ne4 19.Ne2 Qc7 20.c3 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Bxe5 22.Nxe5 Qxe5 23.Qe3 Qg7 24.Qxb6 Ba8 25.Be3 Rb8 26.Qxa6 Rxb2 27.f3 Nxc3 28.Nf4 e5 29.Nd3 Rc2 30.Bc5 Rg8 31.Nxe5 Ne2+ 32.Rxe2 Rxc5 33.Rae1 Rc7 34.Qd6 Rgc8 35.Nd7 Qd4+ 36.Kh2 Kg7 37.Re8 Rxe8 38.Rxe8 Rxd7 39.Qf8+ Kh7 40.Qg8# 1-0 Firouzja,A (2777)-Carlsen,M (2835) Bullet Chess Winners Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (3.26)]



This fairly popular line dares White to kick the knight around. **7.h3**

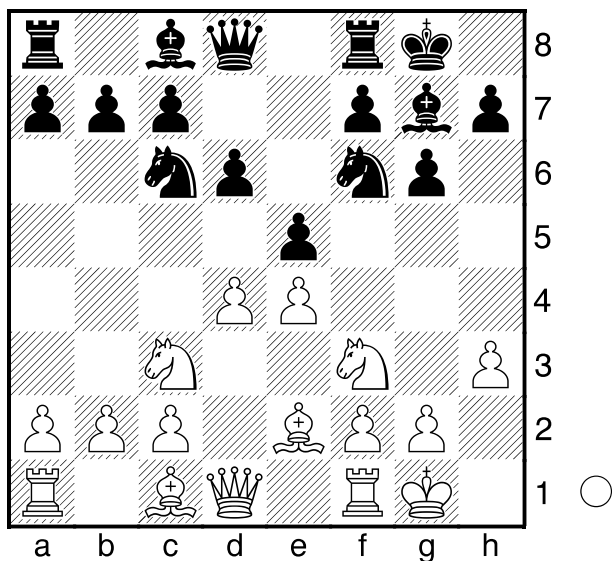
[If White is thinking advantage, they pretty much have to play 7.d5! e.g.

A) 7...Ne5 8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.Be3 (9.Bg5);

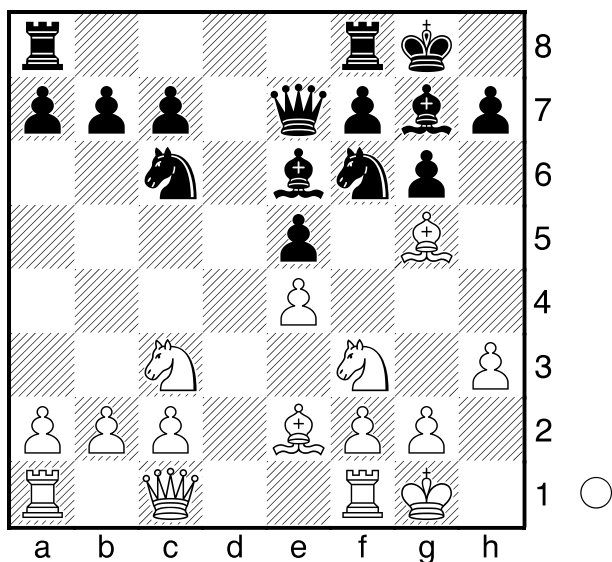
B) 7...Nb8 8.Be3 when here's a rating topper: e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Qd2 The computer favorite (10.Nd4!?) 10...Nc6 11.h3 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Qxd5 Bxd5 15.c3 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Rfd1 c6 18.Bd4 Rfe8 19.Bf1 Bxd4 20.Rxd4 Be6 21.b3 a5 22.Rad1 a4 23.bxa4 Bxa2 24.Bc4 c5 25.Rf4 Rxa4 26.Bxf7+ Bxf7 27.Rxa4 Bb3 28.Raa1 Bxd1 29.Rxd1 b5 30.Rd5 Re1+ 31.Kh2 c4 32.Rxb5 Rc1 33.Rc5 Rxc3 34.Rc7 h5 35.h4 Kf8 36.Rc6 Kf7 37.f3 Rc2 38.Kg3 c3 39.Kf4 Rxg2 40.Rxc3 Kf6 41.Rc6+ Kf7 42.Rc3 Kf6 43.Rc6+ Kf7 44.Rc3 ½-½ Giri,A (2764)-Carlsen,M (2861) Julius Baer GenCup Prelim chess24.com INT rapid 2022 (2)]

7...e5

(Diagram)

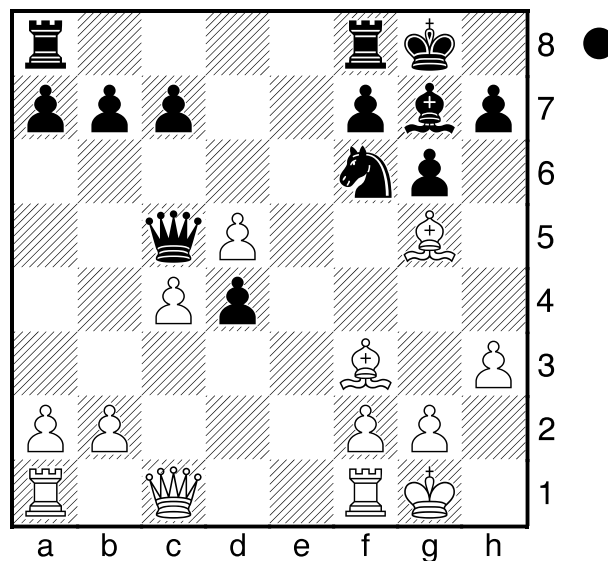


8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Bg5± Well okay, this is a sort of small advantage as well.
9...Be6 10.Qc1 Qe7

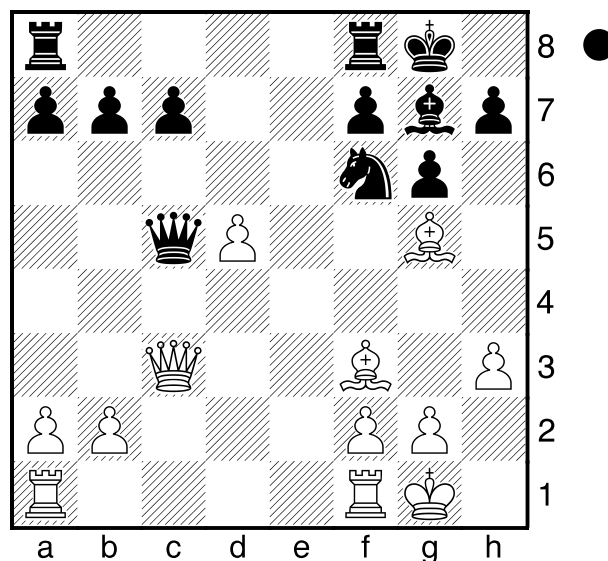


11.Nd5?! Bxd5! 12.exd5 Nd4
13.Nxd4
 [13.Re1!? really isn't anything either:
 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Qd6 and ...Nd7]
13...exd4 14.Bf3 Qc5
 [14...Rfe8=]
15.c4

(Diagram)



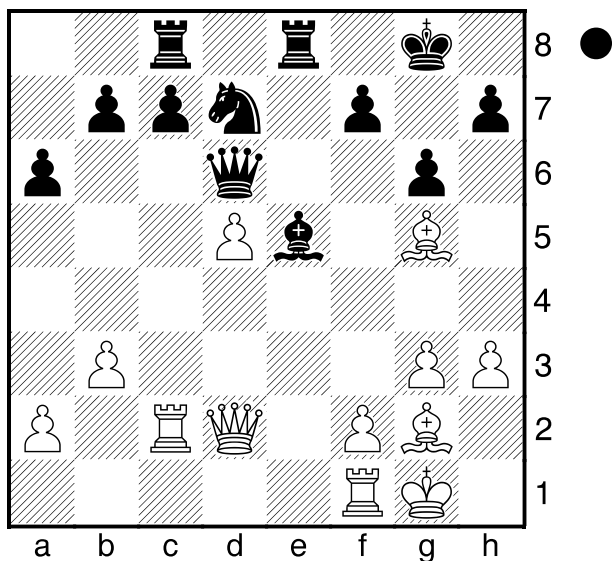
dx c3 16.Qxc3



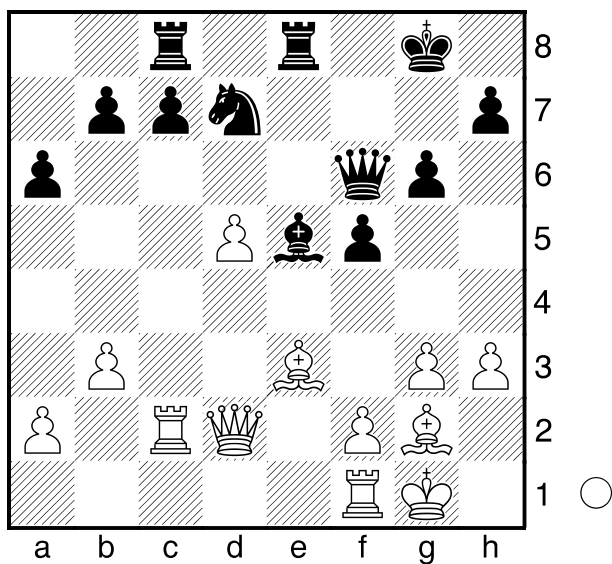
Qd6?!

[16...Qxc3 17.bxc3 Rac8=]
17.Qd2± Nd7 18.Rac1 Rac8 19.g3
Rfe8 20.b3 a6 21.Rc2 Be5 22.Bg2

(Diagram)



f5 23.Be3 Qf6



24.f4?±

[24.d6!+-]

24...Bd6 25.Bd4 Qf7 26.Re1

[26.Bf3±]

26...h6

[26...Rxe1+ 27.Qxe1 Re8=]

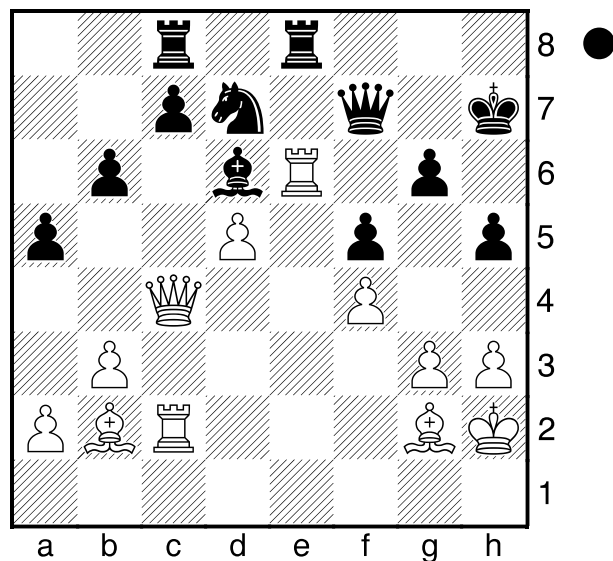
27.Qc3 b6 28.Be5 Bc5+ 29.Kh2 a5

30.Ree2 Kh7 31.Qc4 h5

[31...Nxe5! 32.fxe5 Re7=]

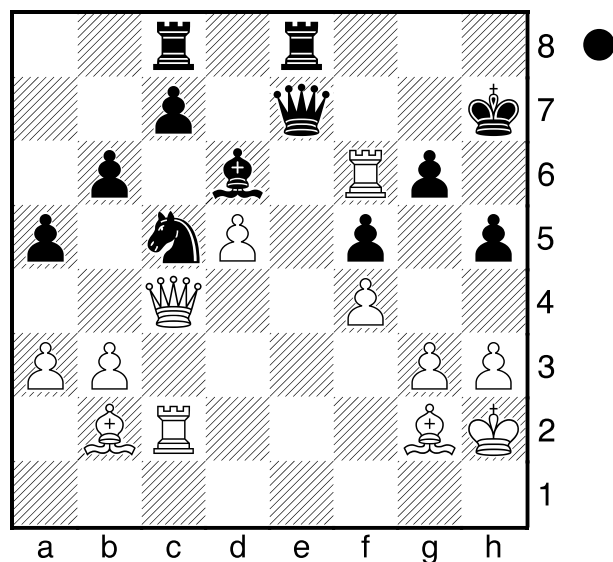
32.Bb2 Bd6 33.Re6

(Diagram)



Nc5 34.Rf6 Qe7 35.a3?

[35.h4!±]



35...h4± The Rook Pawns Attack strikes.

36.gxh4 Rf8

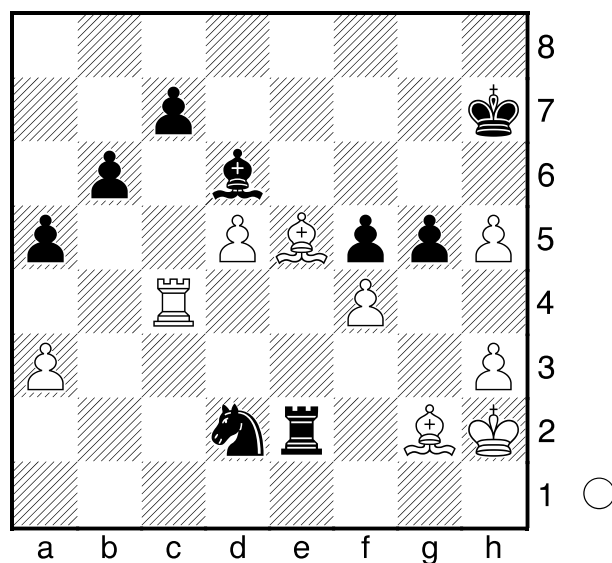
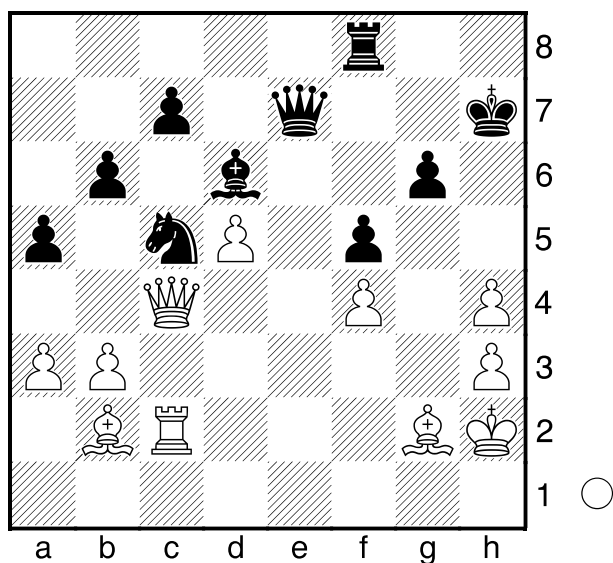
[36...Nd7 37.Re6 Qxh4±]

37.Rxf8

[37.Re2!=]

37...Rxf8±

(Diagram)

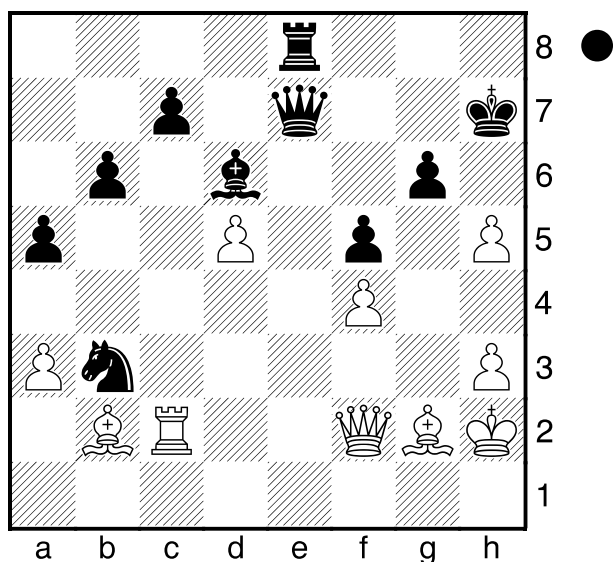


38.Qd4? Finally fatal.

[38.h5 gxh5 39.Re2 Ne4 40.Bxe4 Bxf4+ 41.Kh1 fxe4 \bar{f}]

[38.Re2! Qxh4 39.Be5=]

38...Nxb3+ 39.Qf2 Re8 40.h5



g5! 41.Rc4?! Qe2 42.Qxe2 Rxe2 43.Be5 Nd2?!

[43...b5! 44.Rxc7+ Bxc7 45.Bxc7 gxf4-+]

(Diagram)

44.Rc3

[44.Rxc7+!? Bxc7 45.Bxc7 gxf4 46.Bxf4 Ne4 47.d6 Nc5-+ but nowhere near as bad.]

44...gxf4

[44...Rxe5! 45.fxe5 Bxe5+ 46.Rg3 Bd6 47.a4 Kh6 \bar{f}]

45.Bxd6 f3 46.Bxc7 Rxc2+ 47.Kh1 f2

48.Rc1 Rg7 49.h6 Rd7 White resigns 0-1

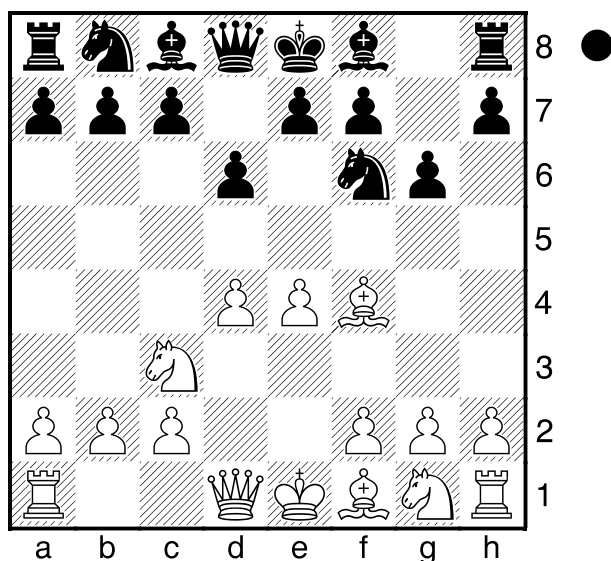
B07
 1922
Peterson, Jared E
Winslow, Elliott
 2174
 2023 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 07.11.2023
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6!? Refusing to be "threatened" by e2-e4

[2...d5 is standard, when the classic Veresov is 3.Bg5 (but lately it's been the Jobava, with 3.Bf4!?)]

3.e4 d6 So it's a Pirc **4.Bf4**

(Diagram)



There was a time when this line wasn't taken seriously, even left out of books on the Pirc -- in fact, the latest Pirc book, "The Perfect Pirc-Modern: New Edition 10 Years Later" by Moskalenko even manages to sneakily not mention it. I just got that book on my computer and phone via the Forward Chess app and am not amused. Especially with all the recent books on the Jobava-London (1. d4 Nf6 (1...d5) 2.Bf4 and 3.Nc3). Moska even has a book from 2022 on the London & Trompowski, but he delicately avoids Nc3 and any transposition into this game. How annoying... **4...a6!?** Not mentioned anywhere and barely played, compared to the main moves.

[4...Bg7 is well noted as a slight mistake, as one of White's main plans here and in the related systems 4.Be3 and 4.Bg5 is 5.Qd2 and Bh6 at some point. Thus 4...Bg7 would lose a tempo if Black were to then play ... Bxh6.]

[And so 4...c6 has been the main idea, but there is another possible loss of time, if Black later plays ...c5.]

[4...Nbd7!?

A) 5.Nf3!? Bg7 6.Qd2 0-0 7.0-0-0 c5 8.dxc5 Nxc5 9.e5

A1) 9...Nfe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Qe3 d5± 12.Bd3 (12.Bc4 Be6 13.Nd4 Rc8) 12...Qa5 13.Kb1 Qb6 14.Qxb6 axb6 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Ng5 Bf5 17.Rhe1 Ra5 18.Nxe4 Bxe5 19.Bxe5 Rxe5 20.Nc3 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 e6 22.f3 h5 23.Nb5 Rd8 24.Kc1 Rc8 25.Nd4 Kg7 26.c3 Kf6 27.Nxf5 gxf5 28.f4 h4 29.g3 hxg3 30.hxg3 Rh8 31.Kc2 Rh2+ 32.Kb3 Rg2 33.Re3 Kg6 34.a4 Kh5 35.Ka3 Kg4 36.Rd3 Rxg3 37.Rd7 Kxf4 38.Rxb7 e5 39.Rxb6 e4 40.a5 e3 41.Rb8 e2 42.Re8 Re3 43.Rxe3 Kxe3 44.a6 e1Q 45.Kb4 Qh1 0-1 Osmonbekov,T (2136)-Matinian,N (2436) Titled Tuesday intern op 03rd Aug Chess.com INT blitz 2021 (1);

A2) 9...Nh5? 10.Bh6 Bg4 11.Bxg7 Nxg7 12.exd6 Bxf3 13.gxf3 exd6 14.Qxd6 Qxd6 15.Rxd6± 1-0 (65) Rosen,E (2353)-Svidler,P (2729) Chess24 Banter Blitz Cup chess24.com INT 2019 (1.3);

B) 5.e5 Nh5!? 6.Be3 dxe5 7.dxe5 Nxe5 ½-½ (112) Girya,O (2489)-Bok,B (2607) Tata Steel-B 80th Wijk aan Zee 2018 (5)]

5.Qd2

[5.Be2 Nc6 6.e5 Nd7 7.Nf3 1-0 (36) Vachier Lagrave,M (2778)-Aitbayev,A (2457) Titled Tuesday intern op 21st July Chess.com INT blitz 2020 (4)]

[5.a4 1-0 (50) Abasov,N (2664)-Bernasek,J (2498) World Corporate East A Chess.com INT rapid 2021 (3. 8)]

5...b5 6.a3?! White ends up crossing himself up. You don't have to tell your opponent, but you do have to tell yourself: what am I doing with my king?

[6.f3]

[6.0-0-0!? Nbd7 7.e5 b4]

6...Bb7 7.f3

[White could still favor the other plan kingside castling with 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 but there's no Ne2-g3 (hangs the e-pawn here). (I lost to Mike Anderson in this line, since I'd played...c6...]

7...Nbd7 8.0-0-0

[8.Nge2 c5 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.a4 b4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bg7 13.Bh6 Bxb2 14.Rb1 Bf6 15.Rxb4 Qd7 16.Nc3 Rc8 17.Bc4 Qf5 18.0-0 Qe5 19.Ne2 Qh5 20.g4 Qh3 21.g5 Be5 22.f4 Qa3 23.fxe5 Ne4 24.Qd4 1-0 Mansner,H (2234)-Montonen,S (1919) FIN-chT2 Gp1 1617 Finland 2016 (5.1)]

[And it's definitely worth noting that Stockfish 16 gives White a little something after 8.Nh3 -- like a quarter of a pawn, whatever that means.]

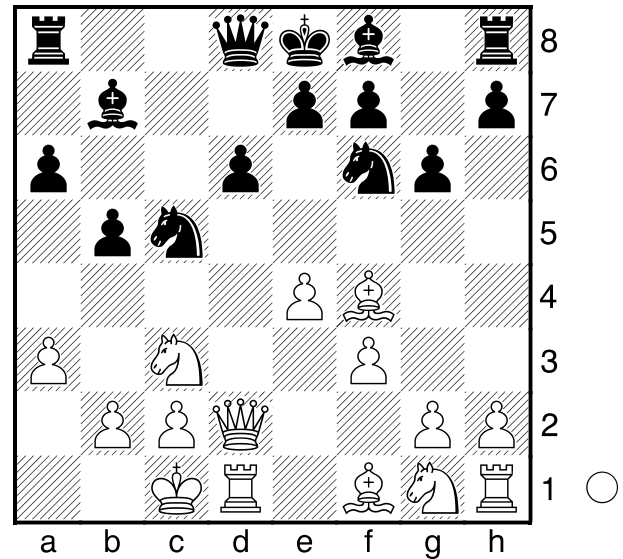
8...c5 This has actually occurred before!

[And so has 8...h6 9.g4 Nb6 10.h4 h5 11.Bd3 e6 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Nh3 d5 14.e5 Nfd7 and it's a French!: 0-1 (34) Csiki,E (2266)-Martic,I (2386) Paracin Orbis IM 07 2020 (3)]

[Even 8...Nb6 9.Bd3 Nfd7 10.h4 h6 11.Nh3 e6 12.Be3 Qe7 13.Qe2 Bg7 14.f4 0-0-0 0-1 Otruba,M (2103)-Jasny,S (2347) CZE-ch Ostrava 2019 (1) for another creative approach:]

9.dxc5 Nxc5

(Diagram)

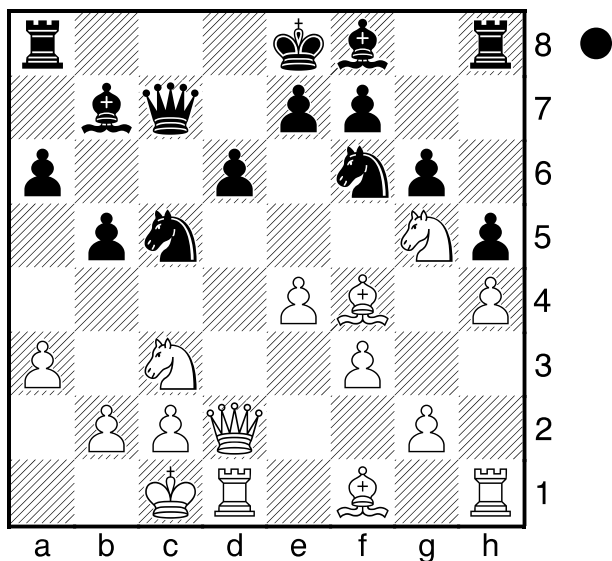


10.h4N

[10.g4 Rc8 11.h4 Qa5 12.Kb1 b4 13.axb4 Qxb4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Qb6 16.Qd4 Rg8 17.c3 Bg7 18.Qb4 Qc7 19.Bd3 Bxd5 20.Bxg6 Rb8 21.Qa3 Rb3 22.Qa1 hxg6 23.Rxd5 Bxc3 24.Rxc5 Qxc5 25.Qxa6 Rxb2+ 26.Kc1 Bd4+ 0-1 Font Font,J (1801)-Triadu Cassa,J (2143) Palafrugell Gelpi Memorial 27th 2012 (1)]

10...h5 Already Black is comfortable -- and the "hook" provided by a2-a3 will, coupled with White's hesitant central play, leads to a nice attack for Black. **11.Nh3 Qc7 12.Ng5**

(Diagram)



Rc8?!

[12...Bg7!]

[12...Rb8!?]

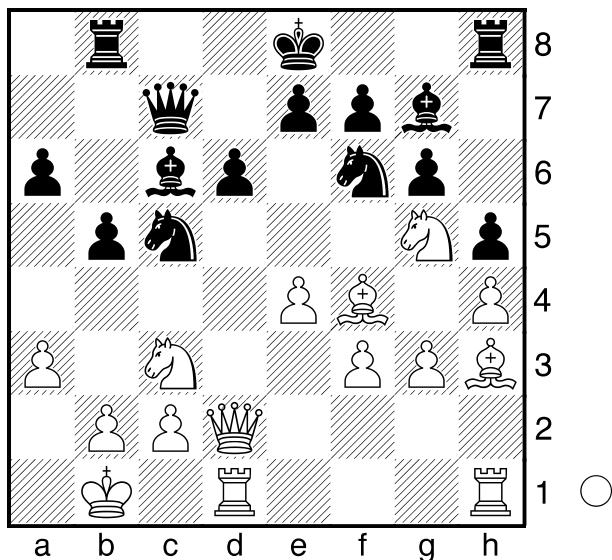
13.Kb1 Bg7 14.g3?!

Another insufficiently quick response.

Perhaps my 12...Rc8 provoked this?

[14.Be3 Nfd7 15.Be2=]

14...Bc6 15.Bh3 Rb8

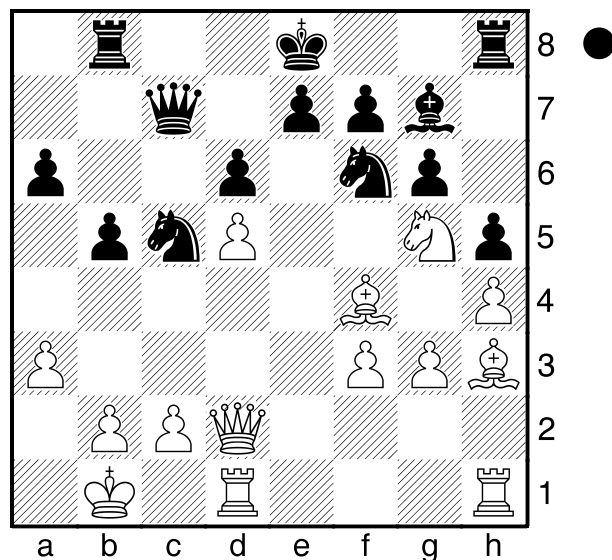


16.Nd5? We both just weren't seeing what was going on.

[I looked at 16.b4 Ncd7! (16...Na4 isn't bad, but there's no breakthrough or anything.) 17.Be6 0-0 says Stockfish.]

[I never even remotely considered 16.Bxd6!? exd6 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 and indeed, after Bb7! 19.e5! Nh7! Black has the upper hand (and the extra piece).]
[And also 16.Rhe1 0-0! (16...b4!? was my intention, but I hadn't considered 17.axb4 Rxb4 and now 18.Bxd6! exd6 19.Qxd6 Qxd6 20.Rxd6 Still, Nfd7!) 17.e5 b4!! 18.exd6! exd6 19.Qxd6 Qa5!-+ Crazy! And a bit of a sign of things to come...]
[The engine (but not I!) saw 16.Qd4! Qb6! 17.Rhe1 0-0 (17...e5?? 18.Qxd6 exf4 19.Nd5+- ouch!) 18.e5 dxe5 19.Bxe5 Rb7=]

16...Bxd5-+ 17.exd5



a5? I was so elated at this move but maybe it's just a mistake bordering on blunder.

[17...0-0! (Stockfish) is just more accurate. 18.Be3 b4! 19.axb4 Na4 20.Bd4 a5! 21.Be6! Rxb4!-+]

The attacking motifs are instructive.]

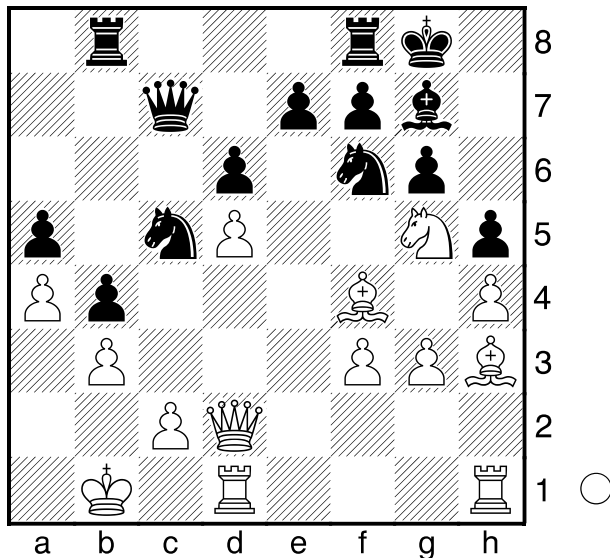
18.b3?

[18.Be3! answers b4 with 19.Bxc5! Qxc5 20.a4 shutting down Black's attack, mostly. 0-0 (20...Qc3!?)]

18...b4!?

[Well guess what? 18...Na4!!-+
This might just be better. Of course
the capture is suicide, but so is
everything else.]

19.a4 0-0!±



20.Bf1?

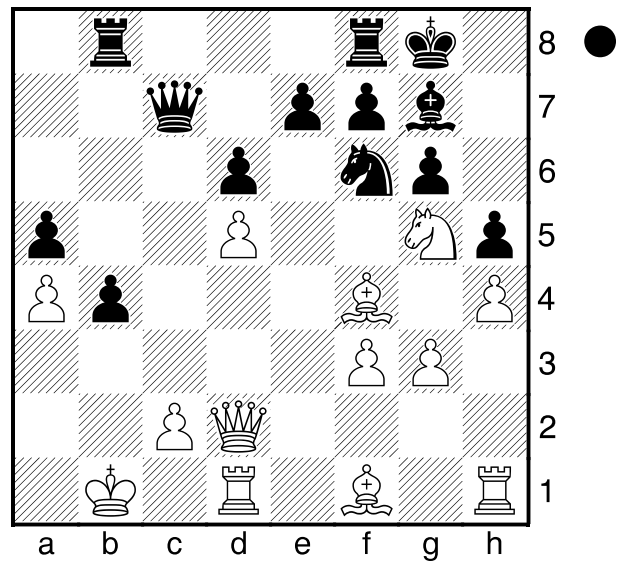
[The only chance was 20.Qe3
(which I hadn't properly assessed)
when Nfd7!? and *then* (20...Qb7
might also be as good,; 20...Nxa4!?
21.bxa4 Nd7! is scary (but not as
much so as the game).) 21.Bf1±
-- it's still dangerous, and Black seems
to be the only one attacking, but the
game goes on.]

20...Nxa4!

[20...Qd7! is on par with the game but
less fun. Note 21.Bb5 Rxb5 22.axb5
a4]

21.bxa4

(Diagram)

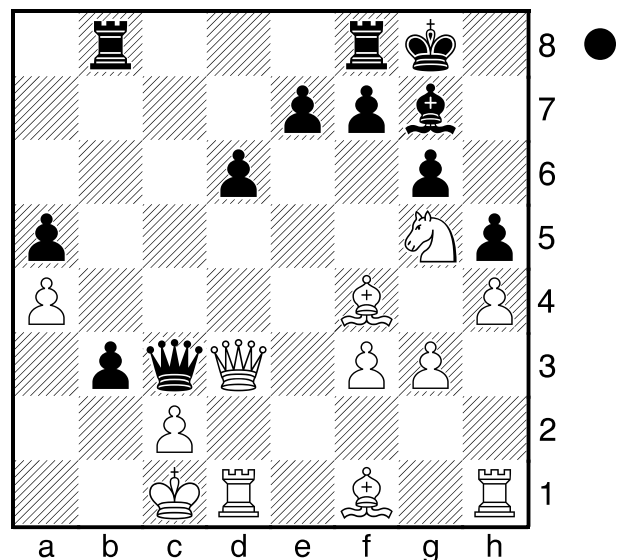


Nxd5? If I believe Stockfish (which I
usually do...)

[21...b3! 22.c3 (or on 22.Bb5)
and NOW 22...Nxd5-+]

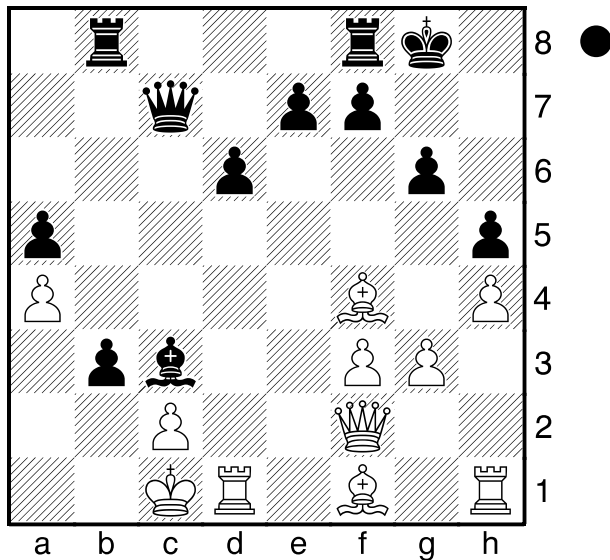
22.Ne4??

[22.Qxd5! Qc3 23.Kc1 b3 24.Qd3



Here I saw two continuations, but
neither of them leads to more than
equality: bxc2 (24...Qa1+ 25.Kd2
Qxd1+ 26.Kxd1 b2 27.Bc1! b1Q
28.Qe3!= (0.00) Is that so!?) 25.Qxc3
(25.Qxc2??? Rb1+ 26.Kxb1 Qa1#)
25...cxd1Q+ 26.Kxd1 Bxc3 27.Bb5
is also a row of "0.00"s.]

22...Nc3+ 23.Kc1 b3 24.Nxc3 Bxc3 25.Qf2

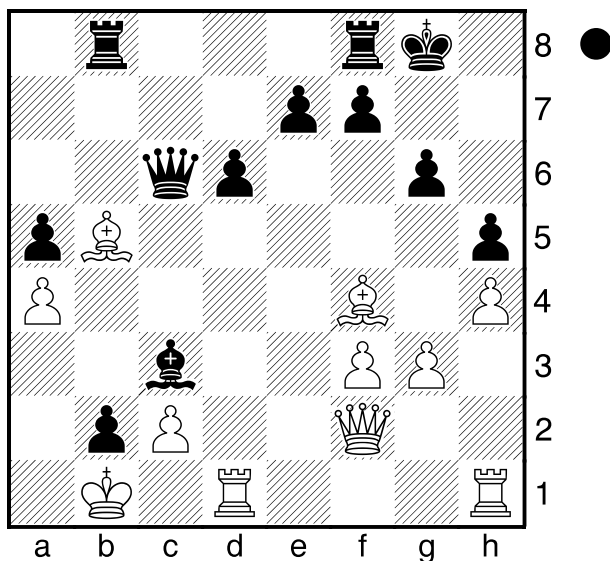


b2+ At first I was afraid Stockfish had refuted this, but it quickly rose to second (grrr)...

[25...Rfc8 is "even stronger" (they're both in the -6 range)]

26.Kb1 Qc6 27.Bb5

[27.Rd4 Qc5 (27...Bxd4)]



Now I must find (it wasn't too hard)

27...Rxb5! 28.axb5 Qc4! A bit more accurate

[28...Qxb5 29.Qd4 (29.Rd4 Qc5)]
0-1

B92
Arivoli,Sadhana **1621**
Wong,Wilson **1863**
Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (1.7) 07.11.2023
[Wong,Wilson]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.0-0 b5 I weaken c6-square but thought the space was really important. I didn't give much thought that the b5-pawn would be a hook down the line.

[9...0-0 is standard (ew)]

10.f3? I didn't like this move since it lets Black break in the center, not having to worry about trades on d5-square followed by Bc3. **10...0-0 11.Nc1?!**

I think White should undermine White's a6-b5 pawn chain with a4, which activates the a1-rook and gives a a6-pawn weakness to target. **11...d5?**

I just want to get rid of my weakness while I still can but this often leads to a bunch of trades which make it hard to have much to fight for. **12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Qxd5 Bxd5 15.Nd3 Nc6 16.c3 f6 17.Nc5 Rfd8**

[17...Na5 I dismissed this since b3stops takes c4-square, the knight ends up misplaced, and x-rayed by a1-rook. I think White really should be blasting open the a-file, with good chances to win my a6-pawn or at least force my pieces to be tied up. White's pieces are very active and has a clear plan to undermine my queenside pawn chain then target the weakness.]

18.Nb7 Rdb8 19.Nc5 Rd8 20.Nb7 Rd7 Avoiding perpetual. **21.Nc5?! Rc7 22.Rfd1 Bf7 23.Nd7** Its really hard for

me to keep my bishop pair. **23...Be8?! 24.Nb6** Now I'm losing my bishop pair to Nd5 and White controls the d-file. Given how strong White's counterplay is on the queenside with a4 and the bishop pair advantage ideally placed to destroy my queenside, I have to get rid of White's bishop pair and rooks. **24...Rd8 25.Nd5 Rcd7 26.Nxe7+ Nxe7 27.a4 Rxd1+ 28.Bxd1 bxa4 29.Bxa4 Bxa4 30.Rxa4 Nf5** The bishop is just way stronger than the knight so I'm forced to get rid of White's bishop. **31.Kf2 Nxe3 32.Kxe3 Rd6** Black has to play a little carefully but should draw. A dream scenario would be White being careless allowing Black king to invade queenside and scoop both pawns then make a passed d-pawn in the center for the win. **33.c4** Unfortunately, Black's king is just so badly positioned and the queenside majority will also force Black to run to queenside to then also be as far as possible and struggle to help kingside. **33...Kf7 34.c5 Rc6 35.b4 Ke6 36.Ra1 Kd5 37.Rd1+?! Kc4 38.Rd6 Rc7 39.Rb6 a5 40.bxa5 Kxc5 41.Re6** Sadhana shows good technique and resourcefulness. Black could win the a5-pawn but then Black will lose a pawn on the kingside, and with Black's king so poorly positioned, Black can't hope for any chances for a win. **41...Kb5?! 42.a6 Ra7 43.h4 h5?! 44.g4? hxg4 45.fxg4 Rxa6 46.Re7 g6 47.h5 gxh5 48.gxh5 Ra3+** After this move, there were many notation errors on my part but the position ended in a quiet draw. Sadhana played well to hold.

1/2-1/2

A00
1159
1403

☐ **Le,Thu Anh**
☒ **Hilliard,Michael R**
 Winter TNM: 1200-1599 (1.24) 07.11.23
[Le,Thu Anh]

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Nd7 5.g3 Ngf6 6.Bg2 Bc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.c3

[8.exd5 Cleanest way to relieve center pressure. cxd5 9.d4 exd4 10.Nb3 Bb6 11.Nbxd4]

8...Re8 9.d4?! dxe4 10.dxc5
[10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.dxc5 Nexc5]

10...exf3 11.Nxf3 e4!
[11...Nxc5 What I calculated and thought would have been equal. 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Nxe5]

12.Nd4
[12.Nh4]
12...Nxc5 13.Bg5 Qd6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Re1 Qg6 16.Nf3? I was trying too hard to be clever, but again, at the wrong time.

[16.Nb3 Nd7 17.Nd2 White wins back the pawn.]

16...Bg4!
[16...exf3 17.Rxe8#]
17.Nh4 Bxd1 18.Nxg6 hxg6
[18...Bg4 19.b4 Na4 20.Nf4]

19.Raxd1 f5
[19...Kf8]

20.Rd6?
[20.f3 e3 21.b4 Na4 22.Rd3]

20...Kf7 21.Red1?!
[21.Bf1]

21...Nd3! 22.Bf1 Rad8 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Bxd3

[24.f3 Black cannot move the e-pawn else the knight hangs.]

24...exd3?! 25.Kf1?!
[25.a4 I still don't understand why SF recommends this as the best line. The end result looks terrible for White. c5 26.b3 d2 27.Kf1 Rd3 28.c4 Rxb3 29.Rxd2]

25...Ke6 26.Ke1 Ke5 27.Kd2?!

[27.f3]

27...c5? 28.c4 A huge miss for White to equalize the game.

[28.Re1+ Kd5 (28...Kf6) 29.Kxd3

Kc6+ 30.Kc2]

[28.b3]

28...Rd4 29.Kc3

[29.b3]

29...d2? 30.Rxd2?!

[30.f4+ I rejected this line because Black king can advance further down the board and take the K-side pawns. Ke4 31.Rxd2 Rxd2 32.Kxd2 Kf3 33.Kd3! Kg2]

30...Rxd2 31.Kxd2?

[31.f4+ Ke4 32.Kxd2 Kf3]

31...Kd4! 32.a3

[32.b3]

32...a5

[32...Kxc4 33.Kc2]

33.a4 b6 The game is drawn again, but only if White finds the next only-moves.

34.b3! g5 35.h4?

[35.h3 g4 (35...g6 36.f3! Ke5 37.Kd3 Black king has no way to get in.) 36.hxg4 fxg4 37.Kc2! Ke4 38.Kd2 Kf3 39.Ke1 Kg2]

35...g4! 36.Ke2 Ke4 37.h5 f4 38.gxf4 Kxf4 39.Kf1

[39.Kd2 Does not work anymore. Kf3 40.Ke1 g3 41.fxg3 Kxg3]

39...g3 40.fxg3+ Kxg3?! 41.Kg1 Kh4

42.h6 gxh6 43.Kh2 Kg4 44.Kg2 Kf4

45.Kh3 Ke3 46.Kh4 Kd3 47.Kh5 Kc3

48.Kxh6 Kxb3 49.Kg5 Kxc4 50.Kf4

Kd3 51.Kf3 c4 52.Kf2 Kd2 53.Kf3 c3

54.Ke4 c2

0-1

The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

WGM Carrisa Yip [wins](#) her second U.S. Women's Champion, and GM Fabiano Caruana [wins](#) his third U.S. Championship.

Magnus Carlsen loses on time? World #1 player [“derailed”](#) by opponents' watch.

Simon Williams, AKA the “Ginger GM”, is ordered to repay nearly [\\$900,000](#) in a long-running “pension liberation scheme.”

Kudos to the [Berkeley Chess School](#) and [FEMchess](#), two local organizations [awarded](#) grants from the U.S. Chess Federation for their efforts in promoting women and girls in chess.

A dangerous sport? A man says he was [shot](#) in Atlanta while watching a chess game.

The hashtag [#harrypotterchessscene](#) has more than 13 million views on TikTok.

Big Chess: Magnus Carlsen's net worth is now [estimated](#) between 25 and 50 million dollars.

Breaking the Silence: a blog [post](#) explains how women face harassment in online chess.

A scam using a 12 year old Peruvian chess players' image was [exposed](#) by internet sleuths.

A [deep-dive](#) into the controversy around the chess tables on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

WIM Alexey Root weighs in on the phenomenal [success](#) of chess at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Combating [loneliness](#) in England with chess.

Best-selling rom-com author Ali Hazelwood goes for the Young Adult market with [Check & Mate](#).

Qualifying for the 2024 Candidates by [winning](#) the FIDE Grand Swiss are Indian stars GM Vidit Gujrathi and IM Vaishali Rameshbabu. American ace GM Hikaru Nakamura [finishes](#) 2nd and also qualifies.

There will always be an England: GM Michael Adams and GM John Nunn [win](#) the World Senior Championships 50+ and 65+ respectively.

Celebrate [Veterans Day](#) in Richmond, CA by playing some chess.

Kids [weather the weather](#) to play chess up in Oregon.

Workers at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico are [‘doing nothing’](#), and that ‘nothing’ apparently includes playing chess.

Tennis hot-shot Carlos Alcaraz is [‘caught’](#) playing chess in a viral social media post.

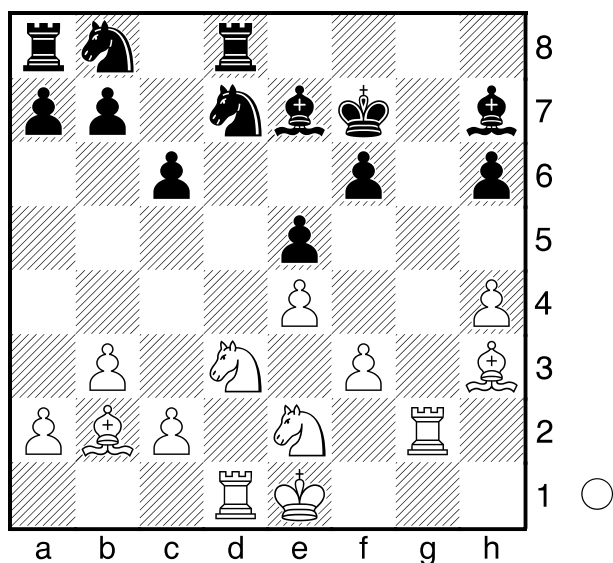
Finally, the Botez sisters answer that [crucial](#) question: “Would you ever date a chess player?”

Recent Games

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

Yakubboev, Nodirbek **A01**
 Garv Gaur **2616**
2401
 Qatar Masters 2023 (1.14) 11.10.2023
[TA]

The winner of the Qatar Masters uncorks a stunning sacrifice to encircle the enemy king. 1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Bg4 3.f3 Bf5 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nc3 e3 6.dxe3 Qxd1+ 7.Rxd1 c6 8.e4 Bg6 9.h4 Nf6 10.Nce2 h6 11.Nf4 Bh7 12.g4 Nfd7 13.g5 e5 14.Nd3 Bd6 15.Bh3 Ke7 16.Rh2 Rd8 17.Rhd2 f6 18.Rg2 Kf7 19.gxf6 gxf6 20.Ne2 Be7

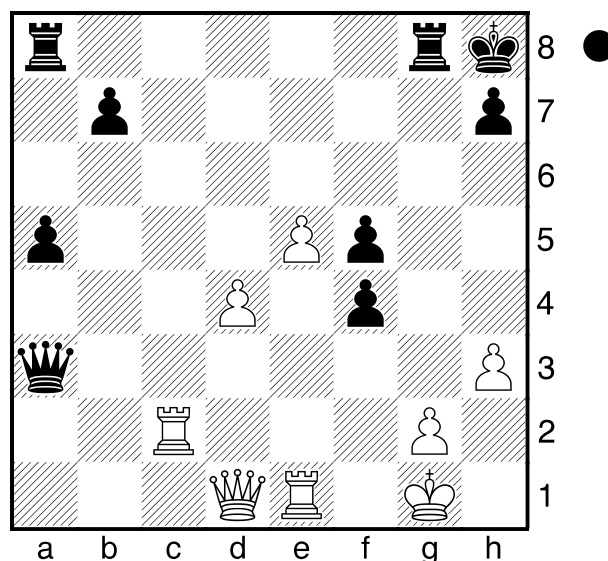


21.Be6+!! Kxe6 22.Rg7 Bxe4 23.fxe4 Bd6 24.Ndf4+ exf4 25.Nd4+ Ke5 26.Nf5+
1-0

Hans Niemann **C54**
 Fabiano Caruana **2674**
2782
 US Championship (9.4) 15.10.2023

Caruana thought this was his best game en route to his 3rd U.S. Championship. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 a5 6.0-0 d6 7.Re1 Ba7

8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3 Be6 10.Bb5 Ne7 11.d4 Ng6 12.Ba4 Nh5 13.Nf1 Nh4 14.Ng3 exd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.cxd4 d5 17.e5 f6 18.Bxf4 Nxf4 19.Nh5 Nxh5 20.Qxh5 f5 21.f4 Qe7 22.a3 c5 23.Rac1 c4 24.Qd1 Kh8 25.Bb5 g5 26.b3 gxf4 27.bxc4 Rg8 28.Rc3 dxc4 29.Bxc4 Bxc4 30.Rxc4 Qxa3 31.Rc2

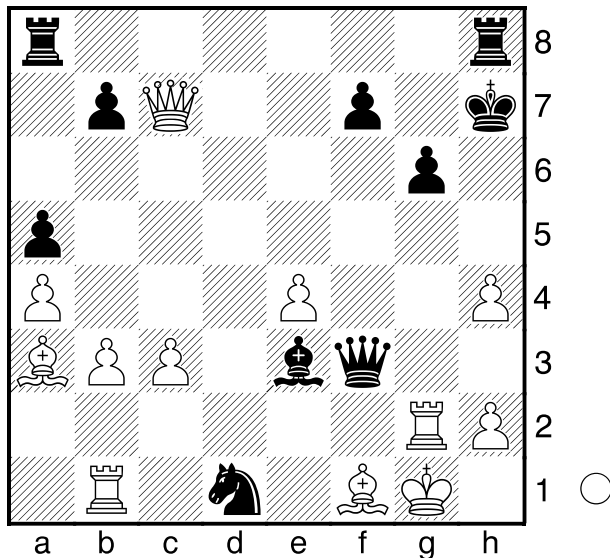


f3 32.e6 fxe4 33.Qe2 Qxh3 34.Qe5+ Rg7 35.Rcc1 Qh1+ 36.Kf2 Qh4+ 37.Ke2 f4 38.Rg1 Qg4+ 39.Kd2 f3 40.Ke3 Kg8 41.Rc2 Rf8 42.Rf2 h5 43.Qd5 Re8
0-1

Anna Zatonskih **B07**
 Carissa Yip **2364**
2369
 US Championship (Women) (10.3)

The newly minted U.S. Womens Champion wins in style. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nbd2 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.c3 e5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Nc4 Nh5 11.g3 Qe7 12.Qe2 h6 13.a4 a5 14.Rd1 Nf6 15.b3 Re8 16.Ba3 Qe6 17.Rab1 Qh3 18.f3 h5 19.Qf2 Bh6 20.Bf1 Qe6 21.Ne3 h4 22.gxh4 Kg7 23.Ng2 Nh5

24.Bb5 Rh8 25.Bc4 Qf6 26.Qc5 Bh3
27.Qe7 Qxf3 28.Qxe5+ Kh7 29.Bf1
Nf4 30.Rd2 Bxg2 31.Rxg2 Nh3+
32.Kh1 Be3 33.Qxc7 Nf2+ 34.Kg1
Nd1+

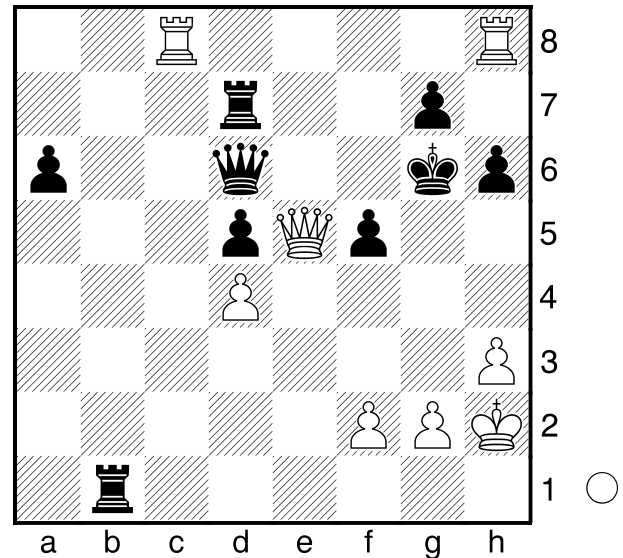


0-1

A40
 Tang, Andrew **2504**
 Swiercz, Dariusz **2621**
 USA Championship 2023 (10.6) 16.10.23

A brilliant attacking game from the U.S. Championship. 1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 c5 3.e3 Qb6 4.b3 Nf6 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Nh5 7.Bg5 d5 8.Nbd2 h6 9.Bh4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nf6 11.Bg3 Be7 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Qc2 Rac8 15.Qb2 Nxd4 16.exd4 Bb5 17.Bxb5 Qxb5 18.a4 Qa5 19.Rfc1 Rfd8 20.Rc2 Qa6 21.Rac1 Nh5 22.Be5 Bg5 23.Re1 Nf4 24.Bxf4 Bxf4 25.Nf3 Qd3 26.h3 Rd7 27.Ne5 Bxe5 28.Rxe5 Rdc7 29.Re3 Qf5 30.Rce2 a6 31.a5 Rc6 32.b4 Qf4 33.Rg3 Rd6 34.Ree3 b6 35.Ref3 Qh4 36.Qd2 bxa5 37.Rg4 Qh5 38.Qf4 Rd7 39.Rfg3 f5 40.Rg6 Kh7 41.Qe5 Rcc7 42.Rxe6 axb4 43.cxb4 Rb7 44.Re8 Rxb4 45.Rc3 Qg6 46.Rcc8 Rb1+

47.Kh2 Qd6 48.Rh8+ Kg6

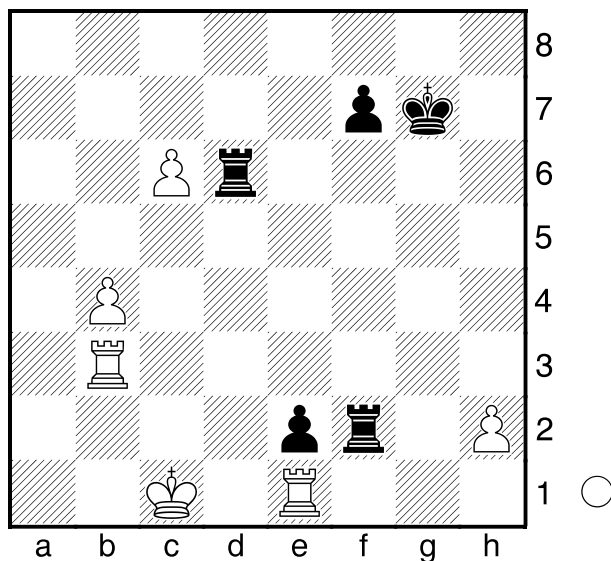


49.Rc6!! Qxc6 50.Qe8+ Kg5 51.f4+ Kxf4 52.Qe5+ Kg5 53.h4+ Kxh4 54.Qf4+ Kh5 55.Qxf5+ g5 56.Qh3+ Kg6 57.Rxh6+
1-0

B45
 Yip, Carissa **2372**
 Yan, Ruiyang **2205**
 USA-ch Women 2023 (11.1) 17.10.2023

Local star Ruiyang Yan defeats the U.S. Champion in the last round. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 Bc5 7.Nd6+ Ke7 8.Bf4 e5 9.Nf5+ Kf8 10.Bg5 d6 11.Ne3 Be6 12.Qd2 h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Ncd5 Qd8 15.Bc4 Rc8 16.Bb3 Kg8 17.c3 Kh7 18.Bc2 Ne7 19.0-0-0 b5 20.Kb1 a5 21.f4 b4 22.Qe1 Qe8 23.Nxe7 Qxe7 24.f5 Bxe3 25.Qxe3 Bc4 26.b3 bxc3 27.bxc4 Qb7+ 28.Bb3 a4 29.Qxc3 axb3 30.axb3 Rb8 31.Kb2 Qxe4 32.Qc2 Qxc2+ 33.Kxc2 Rb6 34.Rd3 Ra8 35.Kb2 g6 36.Rhd1 Raa6 37.fxg6+ Kxg6 38.Rg3+ Kh7 39.Rf1 Rb7 40.Rf6 Rc6 41.Kc3 Rcb6 42.Kc2 Ra6 43.Rh3

**Kg7 44.Rfxh6 Ra2+ 45.Kc3 Ra3
46.Kc2 Ra2+ 47.Kb1 Rxc2 48.Rxd6
Rf2 49.c5 Ra7 50.b4 Raa2 51.Rb3
e4 52.Rd1 e3 53.Re1 Rad2 54.c6 e2
55.Kc1 Rd6**



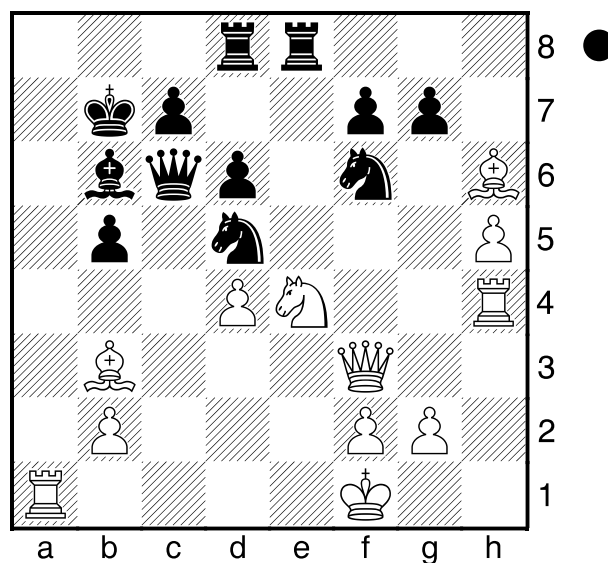
56.b5?

[56.Re3 Rxc6+ 57.Kd2=]
**56...Rf1! 57.Rg3+ Kf6 58.Rf3+ Rxf3
59.Rxe2 Rc3+ 60.Kb1 Rb3+
0-1**

C77
 Carlsen, Magnus **2839**
 Karthikeyan, Murali **2611**
 Qatar Masters 2023 (7.1) 18.10.2023

Carlsen opts for a losing material imbalance. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.Nd5 d6 8.c3 Be6 9.d4 exd4 10.cxd4 Bxd5 11.exd5 Bb4+ 12.Kf1 Ne7 13.Qd3 Qd7 14.h4 h6 15.h5 Nexd5 16.Rh4 0-0-0 17.a3 Ba5 18.a4 Bb6 19.Nd2 Rhe8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Ne4 Kb7 22.Qf3 Qc6 23.Bxh6?**
 [23.Nxf6 Nxf6 24.Qxc6+ Kxc6 25.Bxf7=]

(Diagram)

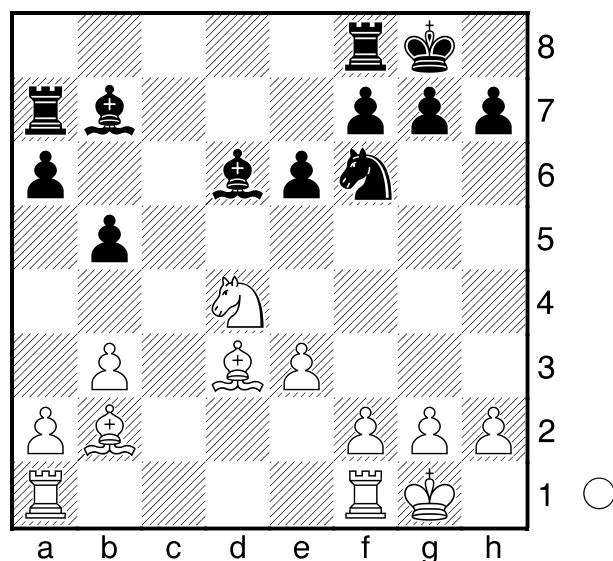
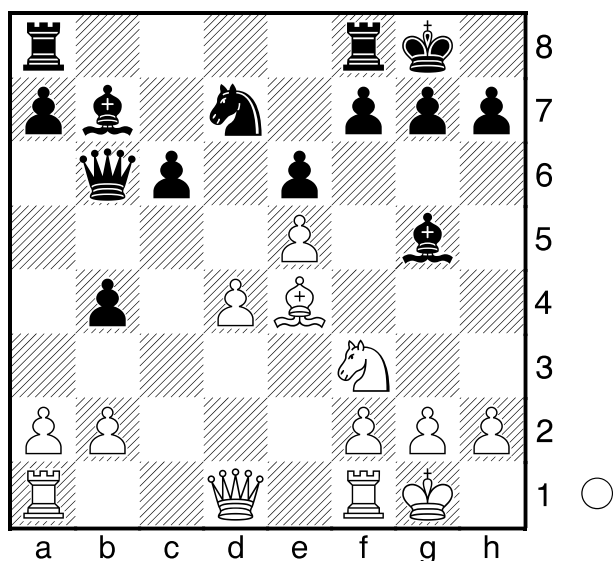


**23...Rxe4! 24.Rxe4 gxf6 25.Ree1
Kb8 26.Re2 Qb7 27.Bxd5 Nxd5
28.Qxf7 c6 29.Qxb7+ Kxb7 30.Rd1
Kc7 31.Re6 Rf8 32.Rd2 Rf6 33.Re4
Kd7 34.g3 Rf5 35.g4 Rf7 36.Rd3
Nc7 37.Ree3 Ne6 38.d5 cxd5 39.Rf3
Rg7 40.Rxd5 Rxc4 41.Rf6 Bd4
42.Rxh6 Rf4 43.Rxb5 Rxf2+ 44.Ke1
Nc5 45.Kd1 Be3
0-1**

D47
 Kaidanov, Gregory **2554**
 Van Foreest, Jorden **2707**
 Qatar Masters 2023 (7.8) 18.10.2023

The classic bishop sac on h7 appears yet again. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 b4 9.Ne4 Nbd7 10.Nxf6+ Nxf6 11.e4 Bb7 12.0-0 0-0 13.e5 Nd7 14.Be4 Qb6 15.Bg5 Bxg5**

(Diagram)



16.Bxh7+! Kxh7 17.Nxg5+ Kg6 18.Qg4 f5 19.Qg3 Qxd4 20.Ne4+ Kh7 21.Qh4+ Kg6 22.Qg5+ Kf7 23.Rad1 Qxe5 24.Rxd7+ Kg8 25.Rxb7 Qxb2 26.Nc5 Rf7 27.Rxf7 Kxf7 28.Rd1 Qe5 29.Rd7+ Kg8 30.h4 Re8 31.Qg6
1-0

17.Bxb5! axb5 18.Nxb5 Ra6 19.Nxd6 Rxd6 20.Ba3 Rd2 21.Bxf8 Kxf8 22.f3 g5 23.e4 g4 24.a4 gxf3 25.gxf3 Ke7 26.Rfd1 Rb2 27.Rab1 Ra2 28.Rbc1 Ne8 29.Rd4 Ba6 30.Rb4 e5 31.Rc5 f6 32.Rc6 Be2 33.Rb7+ Kd8 34.Re6 Nc7 35.Rxf6 Kc8 36.Rbb6 Ra1+ 37.Kf2 Ra2 38.Ke1 Ne8 39.Rf8 Kc7 40.Rh6 Nd6 41.Rff6 Nc8 42.Rxh7+ Kb8 43.Rh5 Bd3 44.Rxe5 Re2+ 45.Kd1 Rxh2 46.Rd5 Bc2+ 47.Kc1 Na7 48.Rd2
1-0

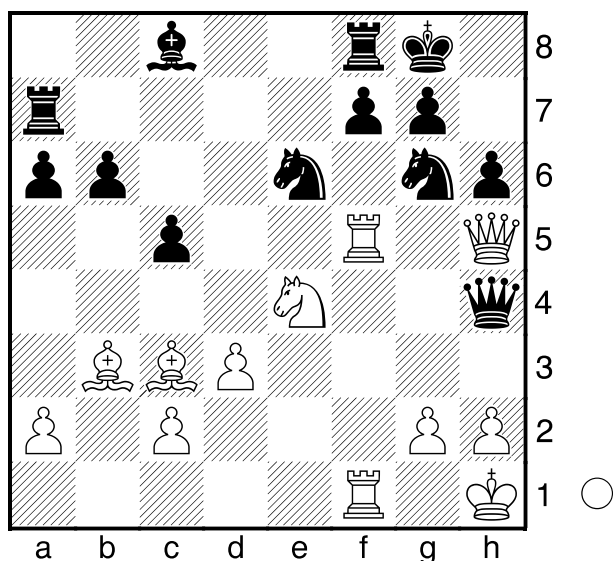
□ **Arjun Erigaisi** **D27**
 ■ **David Paravyan** **2712**
 Qatar Masters Open 2023 (8.3) 19.10.23 **2599**

□ **Chen,Qi b** **C77**
 ■ **Raahul V S** **2465**
 Qatar Masters 2023 (9.3) 20.10.2023 **2340**

A petite combination leads to a winning endgame of rook + 2 pawns vs 2 minor pieces. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.Nbd2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 b5 11.Qf3 Ra7 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Ne4 Nbd7 14.Nxf6+ Nxf6 15.Qg3 Qd6 16.Qxd6 Bxd6

A pretty queen sacrifice is the highlight here. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.d3 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bg5 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qe7 10.Nd2 Nd8 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 Ne6 13.Bg3 d5 14.e5 Nd7 15.Kh1 Qc5 16.Bb3 Qxc3 17.Bxd5 Nxe5 18.Ne4 Qd4 19.Bb3 Ng6 20.Qh5 h6 21.Rae1 Qd8 22.Rf5 b6 23.Ref1 Ra7 24.Be1 c5 25.Bc3 Qh4

(Diagram)

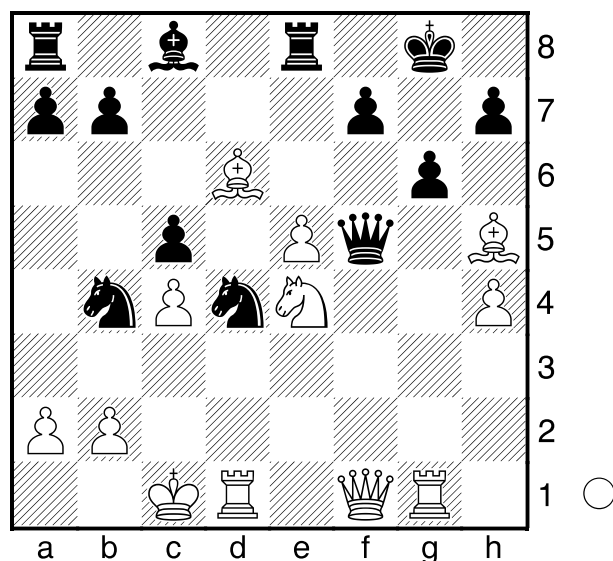


26.Qxg6!! fxg6 27.Rxf8+ Kh7 28.Rxc8
Qe7 29.Nf6+ gxf6 30.Bxf6
1-0

□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **D31**
 ■ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2716**
 Qatar Masters 2023 (9.3) 20.10.2023

A wild game with numerous tactical motifs. 1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 Na6 9.Bd6 Qxg2 10.Bf3 Qg5 11.Ne2 Ne7 12.Ng3 e5 13.Qb3 0-0 14.h4 Qf6 15.Ne4 Qe6 16.0-0-0 Re8 17.Rhg1 Nf5 18.Bh5 Nd4 19.Qd3 g6 20.f4 c5 21.fxe5 Nb4 22.Qf1 Qf5

(Diagram)

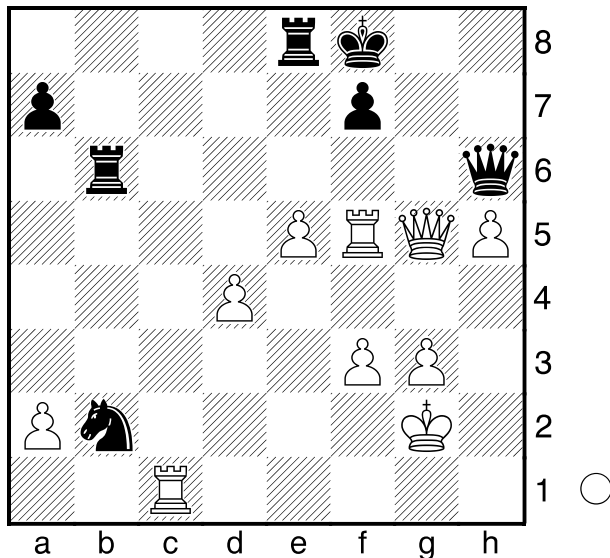


23.Rxd4! cxd4 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Bxb4
Rxe5 26.Bd1 Be6 27.Bd6 Bxc4
28.Ng4 Qxf1 29.Bxe5+ Kg8 30.Rxf1
Bxf1 31.Nf6+ Kg7 32.Kd2 Bg2 33.b4
h6 34.Bb3 Kf8 35.Bxd4 Ke7 36.Ke3
b6 37.Ng4 Bh3 38.Kf4 g5+ 39.hxg5
hxg5+ 40.Kg3 Bxg4 41.Kxg4 Rd8
42.Ba1 Rd3 43.Kxg5 a5 44.bxa5 bxa5
45.Bc4 Rd2 46.Kf4 a4 47.Bc3 Rh2
48.Kf5 Rh4 49.Bf6+
1-0

□ **Duda,Jan-Krzysztof** **A29**
 ■ **Tari,Aryan** **2726**
 German Bundesliga 2023-24 (1.2) **2619**

White has 4 pawns for a knight on move 23 and crashes through with a pseudo-rook sacrifice on move 37. 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Bc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 h6 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Bd2 Rd8 11.Bc3 Qe6 12.Nd2 Qe7 13.Nc4 Bd6 14.e3 Be6 15.Qh5 Qd7 16.h3 b5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 Bd5 19.Bf4 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 g5 21.Bxc7 Qxc7 22.Qxh6 Ne5 23.Qxg5+ Kf8 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.d4 Qb7+ 26.f3 Nd3 27.Rfd1 Nxb2 28.Rdb1 Na4

29.Qg5+ Kf8 30.Rxb5 Qc6 31.h4
Rdb8 32.Rf5 Rb6 33.h5 Re8 34.e4
Nb2 35.Rc1 Qd6 36.e5 Qh6



37.Rxf7+! Kxf7 38.Rc7+ Kf8 39.Qf5+
Rf6 40.Qxf6+ Qxf6 41.exf6 Re2+
42.Kh3 Re6 43.h6 Rxf6 44.h7 Rh6+
45.Kg4
1-0

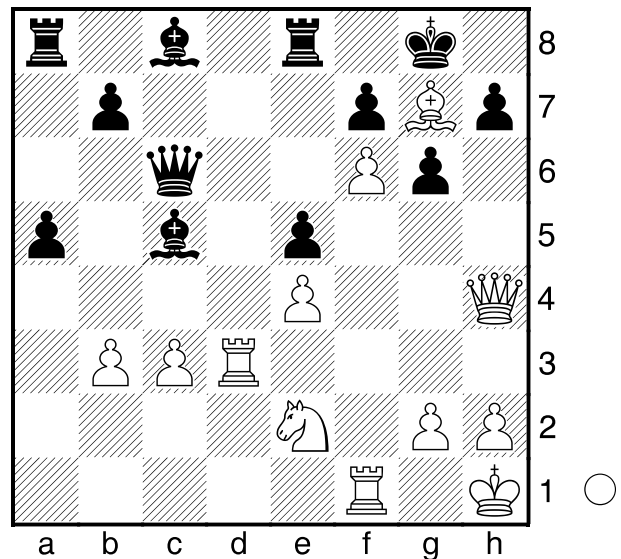
□ Maghsoodloo,Parham
■ Ragger,Markus

German Bundesliga 2023-24 (1.4)

D87
2707
2615

A beautiful interference sacrifice sets up the threat of 25.Qxh7+!! and black is helpless. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 e6 11.dxc5 Ne5 12.Bb3 Qa5 13.f4 Rd8 14.Qe1 Nd3 15.Qh4 Nxc5 16.f5 Nxb3 17.axb3 Qc7 18.Rad1 Re8 19.f6 Bf8 20.Kh1 a5 21.Rd3 e5 22.Bh6 Bc5 23.Bg7 Qc6

(Diagram)



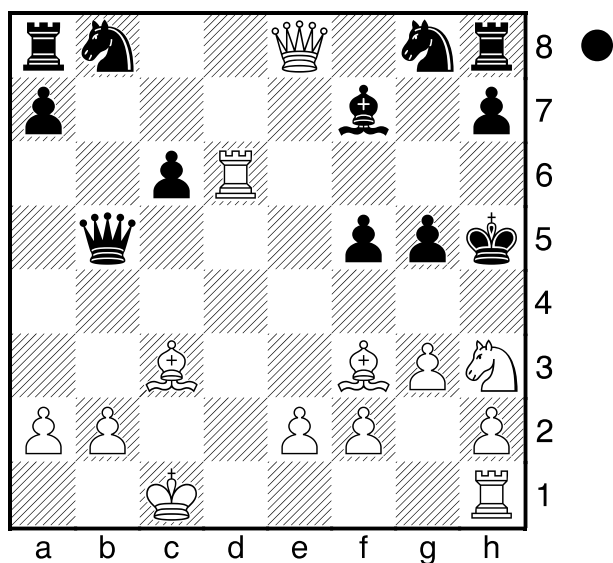
24.Rf5!!
1-0

□ Paetz,Elisabeth
■ Lee,Alice
FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 (1)

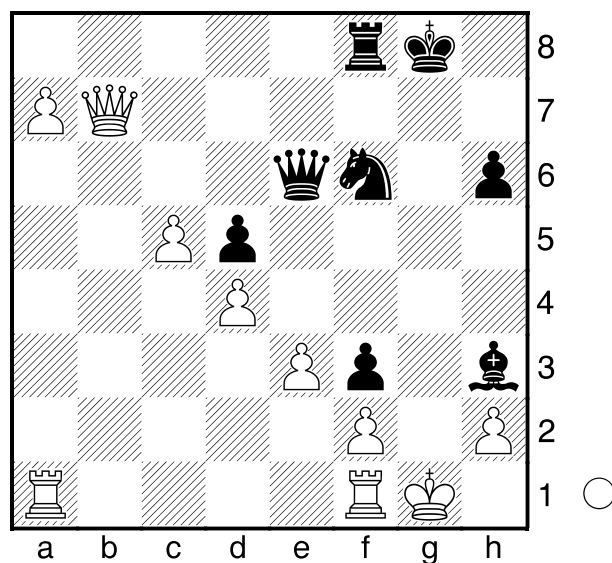
A20
2484
2388

Black mishandled the opening and was swiftly overwhelmed. 1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.d4 e4 4.Nc3 d5 5.Nh3 Bb4 6.Qb3 Ba5 7.Bg5 f6 8.Bd2 dxc4 9.Qxc4 b5 10.Qb3 Qxd4 11.0-0-0 Qe5 12.Nxe4 Qxe4 13.Bxa5 Be6 14.Bg2 Qe5 15.Rd8+ Kf7 16.Qa3 b4 17.Bxb4 g5 18.Bc3 Qb5 19.Qf8+ Kg6 20.Qe8+ Bf7 21.Be4+ f5 22.Rd6+ Kh5 23.Bf3+ [23.Bf3+ g4 24.Qxf7#]

(Diagram)



1-0



31.Qb8! Bxf1 32.a8Q
1-0

Duda, Jan-Krzysztof **D37**
2726

Idani, Pouya **2633**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (1.10) 25.10.23

A race between queenside and kingside is decided by the slimmest of margins.
 1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 h6 4.Nf3 Nf6
 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Bxd6 Qxd6 7.c5 Qe7
 8.e3 0-0 9.b4 c6 10.Be2 a6 11.0-0
 Nbd7 12.a4 e5 13.Qc2 e4 14.Nd2
 Nh7 15.b5 f5 16.Nb3 a5 17.Qd2 g5
 18.Nxa5 Rxa5 19.Nxd5 cxd5 20.Qxa5
 Ndf6 21.Qb6 f4 22.a5 f3 23.gxf3 Bh3
 24.a6 exf3 25.Bxf3 bxa6 26.bxa6 g4
 27.Qb7 Qe6 28.Bh1 Ng5 29.a7 Nf3+
 30.Bxf3 gxf3

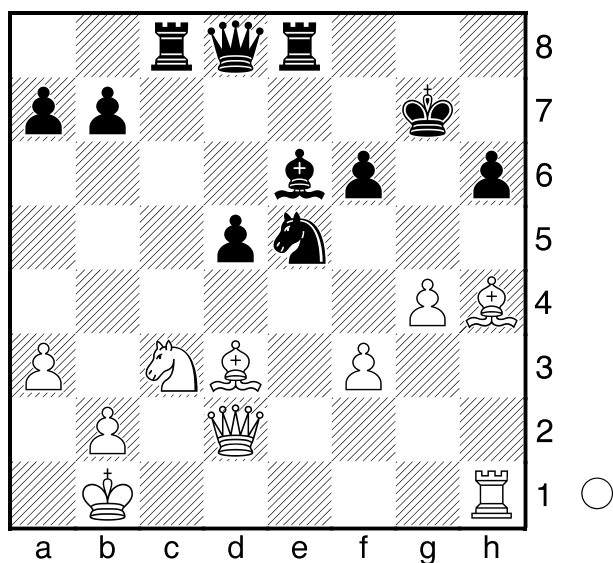
(Diagram)

Erigaisi Arjun **D38**
2712

Svane, Frederik **2626**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (1.16) 25.10.23

A wonderful attacking game. 1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3
 Bb4 6.Bf4 Ne4 7.Rc1 Nd7 8.Nd2
 Nxd2 9.Qxd2 c6 10.a3 Be7 11.e3
 Nf6 12.h4 0-0 13.Bd3 g6 14.Bg5 Re8
 15.f3 Kg7 16.Kd1 Ng8 17.Bf4 Bxh4
 18.e4 Be6 19.Kc2 h6 20.g4 Rc8
 21.e5 c5 22.Be3 g5 23.Kb1 cxd4
 24.Bxd4 Ne7 25.Rxh4! gxh4 26.Rh1
 Nc6 27.Bf2 Nxe5 28.Bxh4 f6

(Diagram)



29.Qxh6+!! Kf7

[29...Kxh6 30.Bxf6#]

30.Bg6+ Nxg6 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qxg6

Rc6 33.Bxf6 Bf5+ 34.Qxf5 Rxf6

35.Rh8+ Ke7 36.Nxd5+! Qxd5

37.Rxe8+ Kxe8 38.Qxf6

1-0

□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham**

D35

2707

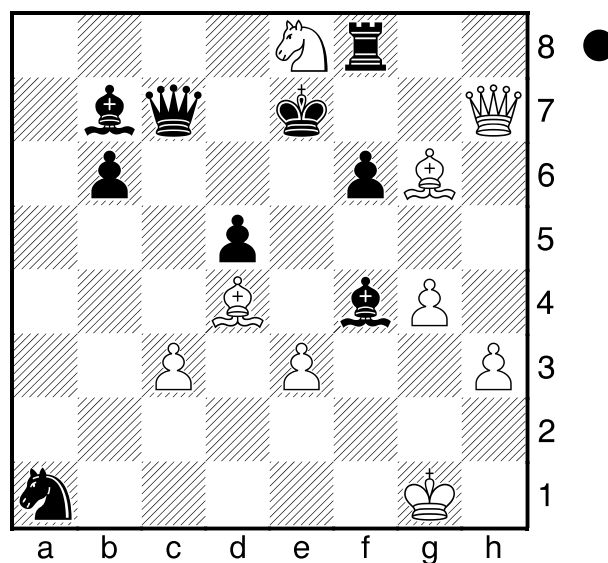
■ **Kuzubov,Yuriy**

2625

FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (1.18) 25.10.23

A picturesque final position. 1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.h3 0-0 9.Bf4 c5 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Bc2 Qb6 12.Rb1 Rd8 13.Nge2 Nce4 14.Be5 Qe6 15.Bc7 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Rf8 17.0-0 b6 18.Nf4 Qc6 19.Be5 Ba6 20.Ba4 Qc8 21.Bb5 Bb7 22.Qc2 Nd7 23.Bd4 Nc5 24.a4 Bd6 25.Nh5 f6 26.g4 Qc7 27.a5 Bc6 28.axb6 axb6 29.Qf5 Bb7 30.f4 Ra2 31.Ra1 Rxa1 32.Rxa1 Nb3 33.Bd3 Nxa1 34.Qxh7+ Kf7 35.Nxg7 Ke7 36.Bg6 Bxf4 37.Ne8+

(Diagram)



1-0

□ **Predke,Alexandr**

D24

2656

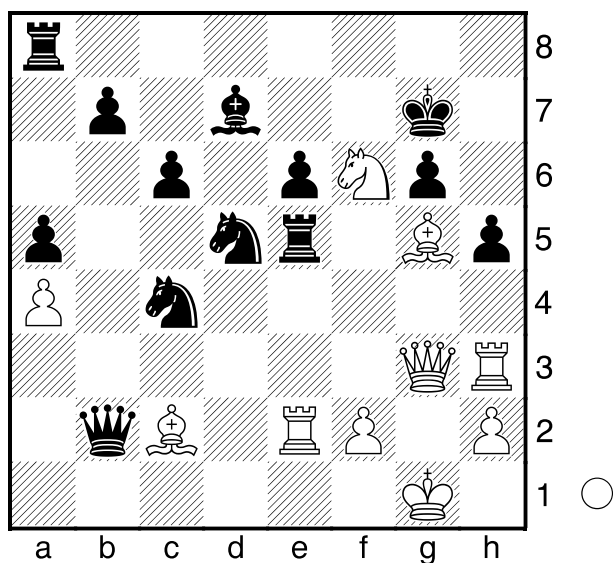
■ **Duda,Jan-Krzysztof**

2726

FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (2.4) 26.10.2023

A textbook kingside attack. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Rd1 Nbd7 10.Ne5 Be7 11.Rd3 Nb6 12.Bb3 Nfd5 13.Rh3 f5 14.Qe2 Qe8 15.Bd2 a5 16.a4 Bf6 17.Re1 c6 18.g4 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Bd7 20.gxf5 Rxf5 21.Ne4 Qe7 22.Qg4 Rxe5 23.Bc2 Nc4 24.Bg5 Qb4 25.Re2 g6 26.Qh4 h5 27.Qg3 Qxb2 28.Nf6+ Kg7

(Diagram)

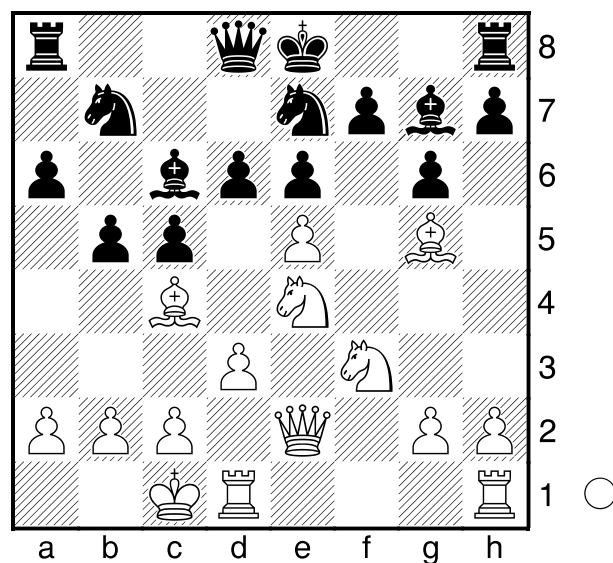


29.Nxh5+! gxh5 30.Bh6+ Kf7 31.Qg7+
1-0

B23
2448
2402
FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 (3)

A flashy attacking game by the winner of the Women's Grand Swiss. 1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.d3 Na5 8.Bd2 e6 9.Qe2 Ne7 10.0-0-0 a6 11.f5 b5 12.f6 Bxf6 13.e5 Bg7 14.Ne4 Nb7 15.Bg5 Bc6

(Diagram)

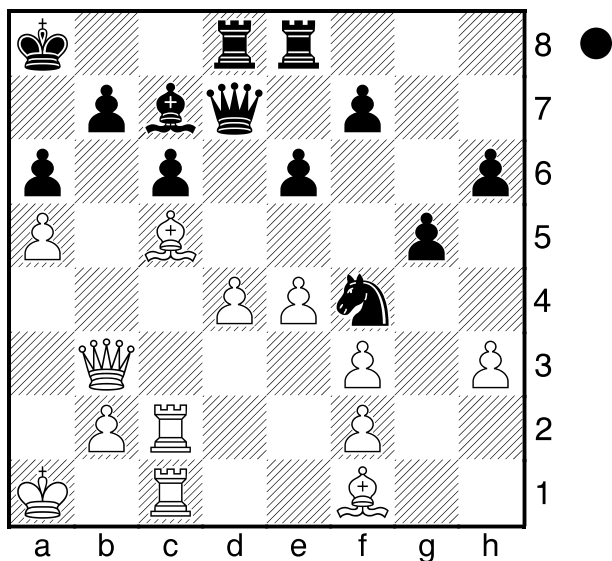


16.Bxe6!! Bxe4 17.exd6 Nxd6 18.dxe4 Qb6 19.e5 Ndf5 20.Bd7+ Kf8 21.g4 Nd4 22.Nxd4 cxd4 23.Qf3 Ra7 24.Rhf1 Nf5 25.gxf5
1-0

D12
2667
2752
FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (4.9) 28.10.2023

Black commits hara-kiri by snatching a pawn. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Qb3 Qc7 8.Bd2 Ne4 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.cxd5 Bxd5 11.Bc4 Be7 12.Nf3 Nd7 13.Qc2 Nf6 14.Bd3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nd5 16.a3 0-0-0 17.0-0-0 g5 18.Kb1 Kb8 19.Rc1 h6 20.Qb3 Ka8 21.Bc4 Qd7 22.Ba5 Rc8 23.Rhd1 Bd8 24.Be1 Bc7 25.h3 Rhd8 26.a4 Bb8 27.Ba5 Bc7 28.Bd2 Bb8 29.Ka1 Qe7 30.Ba5 Bc7 31.Bd2 Bb8 32.Rc2 Bd6 33.Ba5 Re8 34.e4 Nf4 35.Bf1 Bc7 36.Bb4 Qd7 37.a5 a6 38.Bc5 Rcd8 39.Rdc1

(Diagram)

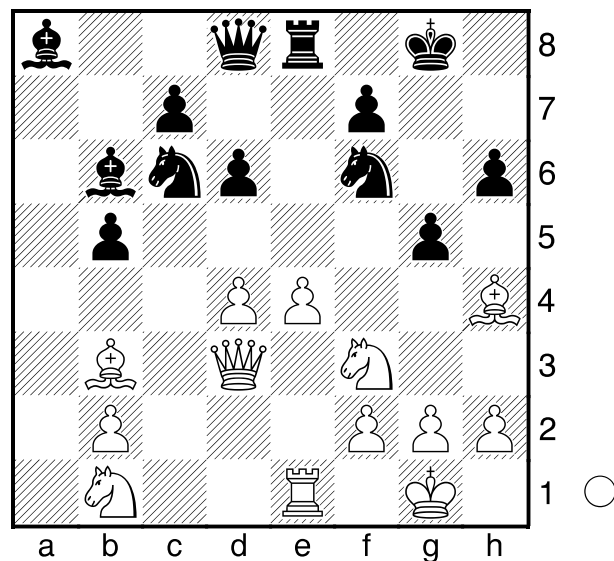


Bxa5? 40.Qa4 Qc7 41.b4 Bb6
42.Bxa6 Kb8 43.Ra2 Rxd4 44.Bb5
Kc8 45.Bxb6 Qxb6 46.Bxc6 Nd3
47.Qa8+ Kc7 48.Bxe8+ Nxc1 49.Rc2+
Kd6 50.Qb8+ Ke7 51.Rc7+
1-0

Perez Ponsa, Federico **C78**
 Villca, Julian **2527**
2383
 98th Argentine Championship 2023 (2.5)

A brilliant attacking game from the Argentinian Championship. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.a4 Bb7 8.Re1 d6 9.c3 0-0 10.d4 Bb6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Re8 13.axb5 axb5 14.Rxa8 Bxa8 15.Qd3 exd4 16.cxd4 g5

(Diagram)

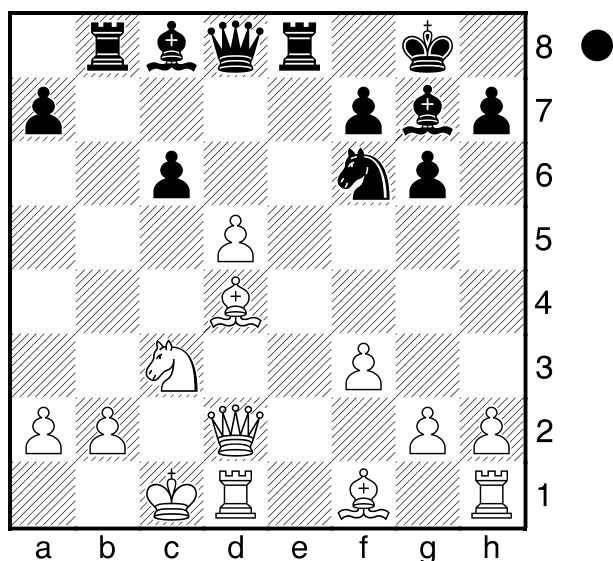


17.e5! Kf8 18.Nxg5 hxg5 19.Bxg5
dxe5 20.Qh3 Qd6 21.Qh6+ Ke7
22.Qg7 Kd7 23.Bxf7 Kc8 24.Bxf6 Rf8
25.Nc3 Nxd4 26.Ra1 Bb7 27.Nd5 Nf5
28.Nxb6+ cxb6 29.Be6+
1-0

Sevian, Samuel **A10**
 Sindarov, Javokhir **2698**
2658
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (6.7) 30.10.2023

Black brings his entire army to bear in a furious queenside attack. 1.c4 g6 2.e4 e5 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Be3 c6 8.Qd2 Re8 9.f3 d5 10.exd5 cxd5 11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Bd4 Rb8 14.cxd5

(Diagram)

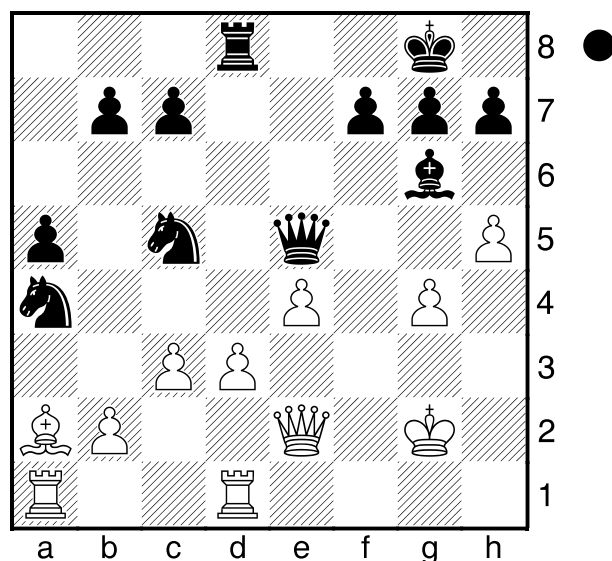


c5! 15.Bxc5 Qa5 16.Bd6 Bf5 17.g4
Rbc8 18.gxf5 Nxd5 19.fxg6 hxg6
20.Bh3 Nxc3 21.Bxc8 Rxc8 22.Qd3
Qxa2 23.Bc7 Nxd1
0-1

Sindarov, Javokhir **C54**
 Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi **2658**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (7.3) 01.11.2023 **2716**

Breaking down the barricades. 1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 d6 5.c3
Bb6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.a4 a5 8.Be3 Bxe3
9.fxe3 0-0 10.Nbd2 Ne7 11.Nh4 d5
12.exd5 Nexd5 13.Qf3 Nb6 14.e4 Qd6
15.Qe2 Bg4 16.Nhf3 Rad8 17.h3 Bh5
18.g4 Bg6 19.Rfd1 Nfd7 20.Bb3 Nc5
21.Nc4 Qf6 22.Ba2 Rfe8 23.Kg2
Nbx a4 24.h4 Qf4 25.Ncxe5 Rxe5
26.Nxe5 Qxe5 27.h5

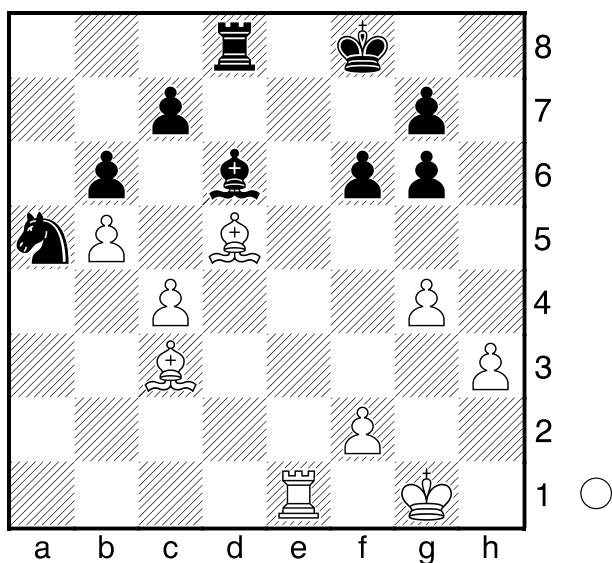
(Diagram)



Rxd3! 28.Bxf7+ Kf8 29.Rxd3 Nxd3
30.Qe3 Qxe4+ 31.Qxe4 Bxe4+ 32.Kg3
Kxf7 33.Rxa4 Bc6 34.Rxa5 Nxb2
35.Rf5+ Ke7 36.Re5+ Kf7 37.Rf5+
Kg8 38.Re5 Na4 39.c4 Nb6 40.g5 Kf7
41.Rf5+ Ke7 42.Re5+ Kd8 43.Rf5 Ke7
44.Re5+ Kd6 45.Rf5 Ke6 46.Rf8 Nxc4
47.Rh8 Nd6 48.Rxh7 Be4 49.g6 b5
50.Kf4 b4 51.Rh8 b3 52.Rb8 Bd5
53.Ke3 b2 54.h6 gxh6 55.Kd4 Nf5+
56.Kc5 c6 57.Rxb2 Kf6
0-1

Tan, Zhongyi **C67**
 Goryachkina, Aleksandra **2517**
 FIDE Womens Grand Swiss 2023 (8.3) **2558**

A technical masterclass by the former
Women's World Champion. 1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4
5.Re1 Nd6 6.a4 Be7 7.Nc3 a6 8.Bf1
e4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Rxe4 d5 11.Re1
Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.c3 d4 14.b4 0-0
15.g4 Bg6 16.Bb2 dxc3 17.dxc3 Qxd1
18.Raxd1 Bd6 19.b5 axb5 20.axb5
Na5 21.c4 Rfe8 22.Ne5 f6 23.Nxg6
Rxe1 24.Rxe1 hxg6 25.Bg2 Rd8
26.Bc3 b6 27.Bd5+ Kf8

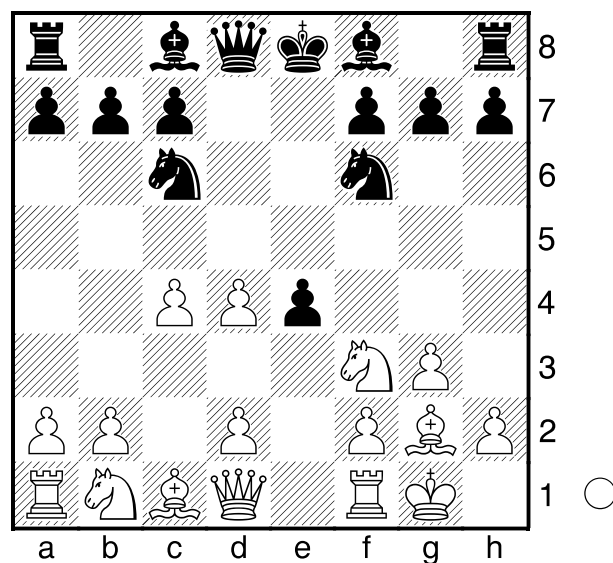


28.g5! Re8 29.Rxe8+ Kxe8 30.gxf6
gxf6 31.Bxf6 Nb3 32.Kg2 Nc5 33.Kf3
Nd7 34.Bh4 Kf8 35.Be6 Nc5 36.Bg4
Kf7 37.Ke3 Be5 38.f3 Nb7 39.Ke4
Bh2 40.Kd5 Bf4 41.Be6+ Ke8 42.Bf6
Be3 43.Be5 Nd6 44.Kc6 Ke7 45.Bd5
Ne8 46.f4 g5 47.fxg5 Bxg5 48.Bg3
Kd8 49.Bf7 Nd6 50.Bxd6 cxd6
51.Kxb6 Kd7 52.Bd5 Bh4 53.Kb7 Bg3
54.b6 Bf2 55.h4
1-0

□ **Esipenko, Andrey** **A13**
 ■ **Keymer, Vincent** **2683**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (8.3) 02.11.2023 **2717**

A stunning piece sacrifice on the 7th
move. 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5
4.Bg2 d4 5.0-0 Nc6 6.e3 e5 7.exd4
e4

(Diagram)

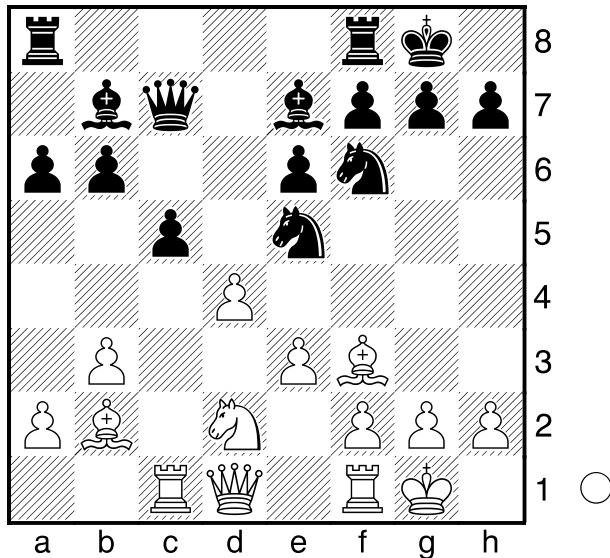


8.d5! exf3 9.Qxf3 Ne5 10.Re1 Qe7
11.Qd1 Bg4 12.f3 Bxf3 13.Qa4+ Kd8
14.d4 Bxg2 15.Rxe5 Qd7 16.Qxd7+
Nxd7 17.Kxg2 Nxe5 18.dxe5 f6 19.e6
c6 20.Bf4 cxd5 21.cxd5 Rc8 22.Nc3
Bb4 23.Ne4 Rc4 24.Kf3 Rd4 25.a3
Rd3+ 26.Kg2 Ba5 27.Nd6 Ke7
28.Nf5+ Kd8 29.Nd6 Ke7 30.Nf5+ Kd8
31.d6 g5 32.Be3 Re8 33.e7+ Kd7
34.Bxa7 Rxd6 35.Nxd6 Kxd6 36.b4
Bc7 37.Bc5+ Kc6 38.Rc1 Kd5 39.Bd4
Rxe7 40.Bxf6 Rf7 41.Rc5+ Ke4
42.Bxg5 Bb6 43.Rb5 Bd4 44.Bd8 Rd7
45.Bb6 Be5 46.Kh3 h5 47.Rc5 Rd3
48.Bc7 Bd4 49.Rxh5 Rc3 50.Bd6
Rxa3 51.Bc5 Be5 52.Rh7 b5 53.Rb7
Kf3 54.Rxb5 Ra1 55.Ra5
1-0

□ **Mareco, Sandro** **D27**
 ■ **Xiong, Jeffery** **2606**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (8.38) 02.11.23 **2693**

An old story: a careless capture followed
by a jolting intermezzo. 1.d4 d5 2.c4
dxc4 3.Nf3 a6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Bxc4 e6
6.0-0 c5 7.b3 Nbd7 8.Bb2 Be7 9.Be2
0-0 10.Nbd2 b6 11.Ne5 Bb7 12.Bf3

Qc7 13.Rc1 Nxe5



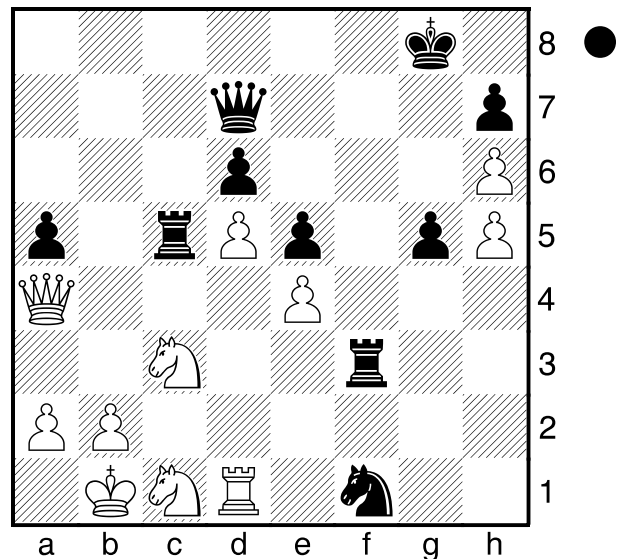
14.Bxb7?? Neg4
0-1

Shankland, Sam **D02**
Yakubboev, Nodirbek **2698**
FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (9.19) 03.11.23 **2616**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Nc6
5.Nbd2 e6 6.c3 cxd4 7.exd4 Nh5
8.Be3 Bd6 9.Bb5 Nf4 10.0-0 a6
11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Ne5 Ng6 13.Qh5
0-0 14.b4 Qe8 15.Nb3 f6 16.Nxg6
hxc6 17.Qd1 e5 18.Qd2 e4 19.Bf4
Be7 20.h4 g5 21.hxc6 fxc6 22.Bxg5
Bd6 23.f4 Bg4 24.f5 Qh5 25.Bf4 Be7
26.Na5 Rac8 27.Nb7 Rxf5 28.Nd6
Bxd6 29.Bxd6 Bf3 30.Bh2 Rg5 31.Rf2
Re8 32.Re1 e3 33.Rxe3 Rxe3
34.Qxe3 Bxg2 35.Qd2 Bh3+ 36.Kh1
Bf5
0-1

Royal, Shreyas **E71**
Murzin, Volodar **2407**
FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (9.44) 03.11.23 **2633**

A fun game with a nice finish. 1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be3 d6
6.h3 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.g4 Nc5 9.f3 c6
10.Qd2 cxd5 11.cxd5 Ne8 12.h4 f5
13.g5 fxe4 14.fxe4 Bg4 15.Be2 Bxe2
16.Ngxe2 Rc8 17.h5 Rf3 18.Rh4 Bh6
19.Rh2 Nf6 20.Bxc5 Ng4 21.gxh6
Nxb5 22.0-0-0 Nf1 23.Qc2 Rxc5
24.Qa4 a5 25.Kb1 g5 26.Nc1 b5
27.Nxb5 Qd7 28.Nc3

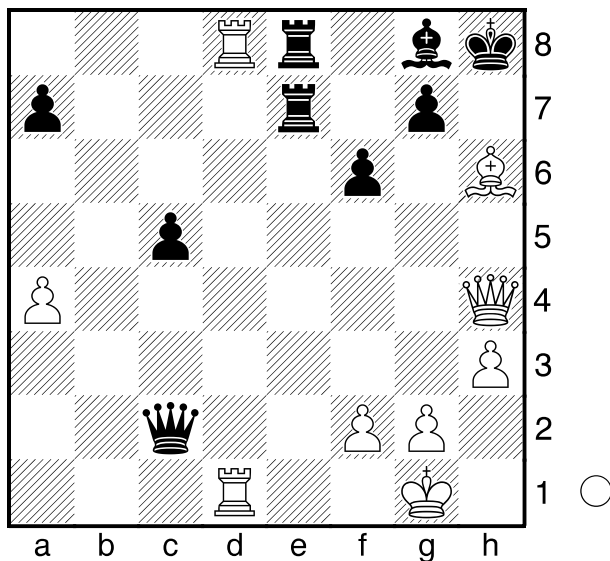


Rfxc3! 29.Qxd7 Nd2+ 30.Rxd2 Rxc1#
0-1

Nakamura, Hikaru **C47**
Caruana, Fabiano **2780**
FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (10.1) 04.11.23 **2786**

A brilliant victory over his top American rival sees Nakamura into the 2024 Candidates Tournament. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 0-0 9.0-0 cxd5 10.h3 Be6 11.Qf3 c5

12.Rd1 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qa5 14.Bg5
Ne4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qg3 Kh8 17.a4
Rfe8 18.Rd6 h6 19.Bf4 Re7 20.Qe3
Rc8 21.Bxh6 f6 22.Qxe4 Qxc3
23.Rad1 Rce8 24.Rd8 Bg8 25.Qh4
Qxc2

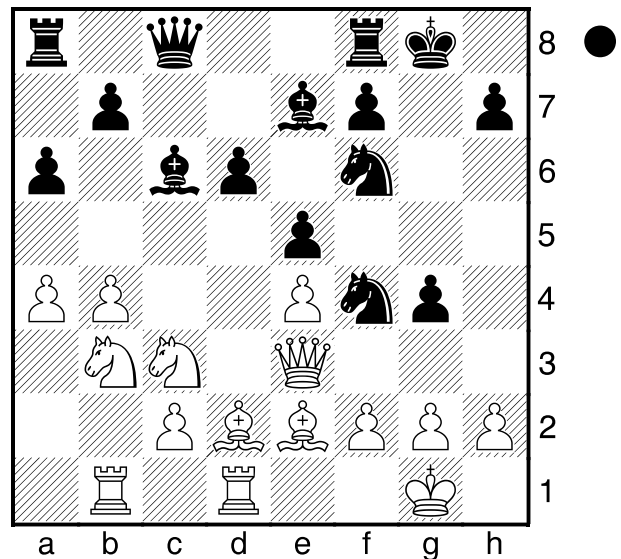


26.R1d3! Bh7 27.R3d7 g5 28.Qg3
Qb1+ 29.Kh2 Qf5 30.Rxe7 Rxd8
31.Qc7 Qf4+ 32.Qxf4 gxf4 33.Bg7+
Kg8 34.Bxf6 Bb1 35.Rg7+ Kf8
36.Bxd8 Kxg7 37.Bg5 f3 38.g4! c4
39.Kg3 Be4 40.Bd2
1-0

B51
Deac,Bogdan-Daniel **2701**
Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi **2716**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (10.2) 04.11.23

Vidit took clear 1st in the FIDE Grand Swiss with this sharp last round victory.
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4
cxd4 5.Qxd4 a6 6.Be2 Ngf6 7.0-0 e5
8.Qe3 Nc5 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Rd1 Bd7
11.a4 0-0 12.Nd2 Bc6 13.b4 Ne6
14.Nb3 Nf4 15.Bf3 Qc8 16.Rb1 g5
17.Bd2 g4 18.Be2

(Diagram)

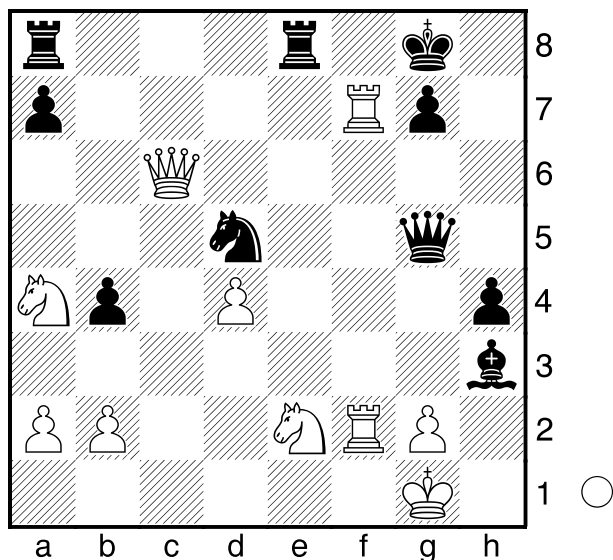


Bxe4! 19.Nxe4 N6d5 20.Nf6+ Bxf6
21.Qe4 Bg7 22.Bf1 Nf6 23.Qe1 Qxc2
24.Na5 Rab8 25.Nc4 Nd3 26.Bxd3
Qxd3 27.Rbc1 Qg6 28.Nxd6 Nd5
29.Nc4 Rfe8 30.g3 Rbd8 31.b5 axb5
32.axb5 Qe6 33.Qe2 h5 34.h3 gxh3
35.Qxh5 Nf6 36.Qe2 Rd4 37.Ne3 Ne4
38.Be1 Ng5 39.Kh1 Red8 40.Qh5 Qg6
41.Qxg6 fxc6 42.Ba5 Rf8 43.Rxd4
exd4 44.Ng4 Nf3 45.Nh2 Ne5 46.f4
Nd3 47.Rf1 Rf5 48.Rb1 Nf2+ 49.Kg1
Ne4 50.Be1 Rc5 51.Nf3 Rc2 52.Ra1
Re2 53.Ra3 Bf8 54.Ra8 h2+ 55.Kh1
d3
0-1

D36
Predke,Alexandr **2656**
Kuzubov,Yuriy **2625**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (10.6) 04.11.23

A fantastic interference sacrifice and a piquant finish. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3
d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0
7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 c6 9.Qc2 Re8
10.Nge2 Nbd7 11.0-0 Ne4 12.Bxe7
Qxe7 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Ng3 Nf6 15.h3
h5 16.f3 exf3 17.Rxf3 h4 18.Nge2 b5
19.Raf1 b4 20.Na4 Nd5 21.Rxf7

Qxe3+ 22.R1f2 Qg5 23.Qxc6 Bxh3

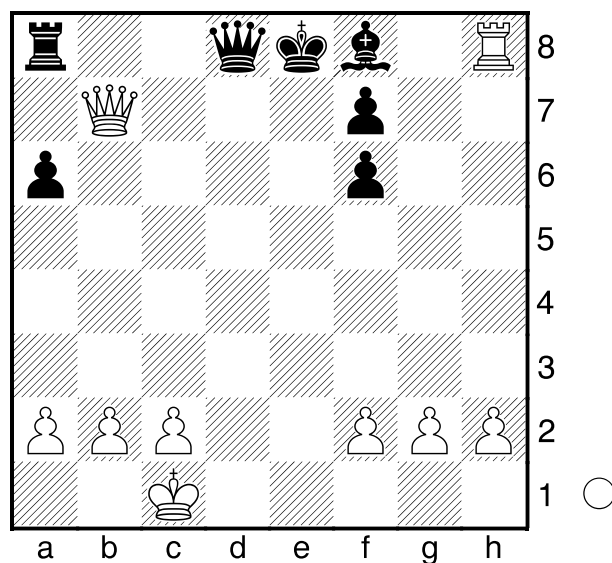


24.R7f5!! Bxf5 25.Qxd5+ Kh7 26.Rxf5
Qe3+ 27.Kh2 g6 28.Rf4 h3 29.Qf7+
Kh6 30.Qf6 Qxe2 31.Rh4+ Qh5
32.Rxh5+ Kxh5 33.Kxh3 Re3+ 34.g3
g5 35.Qg7!
1-0

B66
 Mishra,Abhimanyu **2592**
 Ivanchuk,Vasyl **2653**
 FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (10.39) 04.11.23

The American prodigy takes down the living legend. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.Qe3 Be7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Bc4 Bb7 13.Rhe1 h5 14.exd5 cxd5 15.Bxd5 exd5 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Qc7 18.Rc5 Qd8 19.Rd5 Qc7 20.Rc5 Qd8 21.Qf3 Kf8 22.Rxh5 Rxh5 23.Qxh5 Kg7 24.Re3 Bd6 25.Qg4+ Kf8 26.Rh3 Ke7 27.Qe4+ Kd7 28.Qb7+ Ke8 29.Rh8+ Bf8

(Diagram)

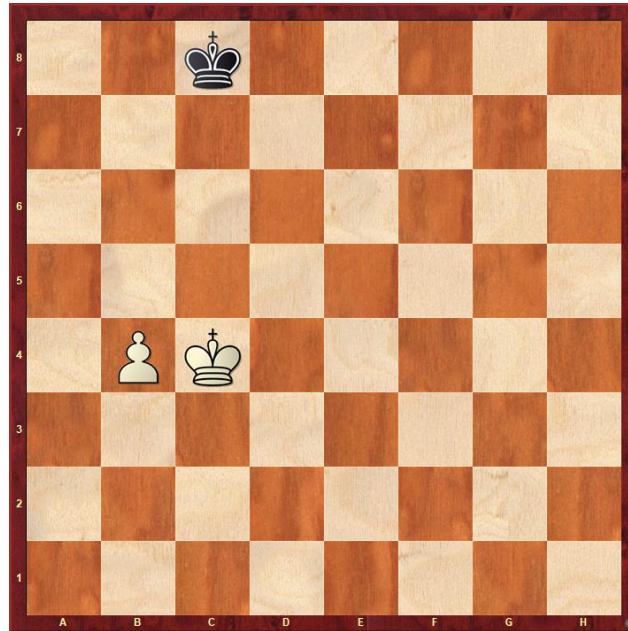


30.Rh7! Be7 31.Qc6+
1-0

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with

FM Paul Whitehead



**Gligoric-Fischer
1959.
Black to play and
draw.**

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A Complete Opening Repertoire for Black after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6! (Volume 2) Ragozin and Anti-Catalan by Dariusz Swiercz (456 pages \$45 paperback and \$50 hardback)

The Nimzo-Indian Bible for White (Volume 1) by Milos Pavlovic (420 pages \$45.95 paperback)

The Nimzo-Indian Bible for White (Volume 2) by Milos Pavlovic (289 pages \$39.95 paperback)

The French Defense Revisited by Dragoljub Jacimovic and Boroljub Zlatanovic (298 pages hardback \$45.95 hardback and \$41.95 paperback)

Rolf Martens: Chess Genius – Maoist – Rebel by Axel Smith, Fredrik Danelius, & Calle Erlandsson (384 pages hardback \$58.95)

The Exchange Sacrifice Unleashed by Georg Mohr (494 pages hardback \$49.95)

Bishop Versus Knight: The Eternal Battle (Volume 1) by Boroljub Zlatanovic (230 pages paperback \$33.95)

The long-awaited companion volume to Grandmaster Dariusz Swiercz's *Complete Opening Repertoire for Black After 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6! - Nimzo-Indian* is now out and well worth the wait. The two volumes, totaling roughly 800 pages, provide a world class repertoire for Black against 1.d4.

Volume 2 primarily covers the Ragozin Defense 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4, with about 70 percent of the book devoted to it. The Ragozin, a favorite of Bobby Fischer in his youth, is currently very popular among the world elite and the theory is developing very rapidly, so much so that recent works on the subject – *Playing the Ragozin* by Nicholas Pert (Quality Chess 2016) and *The Complete Ragozin* by Matthieu Cornette (Chess Evolution 2017) – are starting to feel a little dated.

Besides the Ragozin proper this book deals with other White tries after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6. This includes an attempt to sidestep the Ragozin with 3.Nf3 d5 4.Bg5 when Swiercz recommends 4...Bb4+ 5.Nbd2 (5.Nc3 transposes to the Ragozin proper) 5...dxc4.

The capture on c4 is a recurring theme throughout this book and occurs throughout, especially in the proposed answer to the Catalan: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 (3.g3 is also covered) 3...d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 a5. This move, which has recently become popular at the top level, is well-motivated. If White captures on b4 Black's queen rook comes into play and White's knights don't have access to the c3 square. If White plays a3 Black retreats the bishop to e7 reaching a position that has occurred many times, but with one big difference – the pawns on a3 and a5. This small detail in the position is clearly in Black's favor. The move a3 does nothing for White whereas ...a5 is a typical space grabbing move in the Closed Catalan.

A Complete Opening Repertoire for Black after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6! (Volume 2) Ragozin and Anti-Catalan and its companion volume on the Nimzo-Indian cover a lot of ground but Swiercz, who has been rated over 2600 the past decade (peak 2670), does a good job of making the repertoire more accessible by

repeatedly selecting certain ways to handle similar positions. This is an opening book, but there is explanatory prose to guide the reader.

This book, and the series, will best serve players from 2200 to top grandmasters. Highly recommended.

Those who want to play the Nimzo-Indian from the White side have two new books to choose from, both by the Serbian Grandmaster Milos Pavlovic. The first one examines 4.Qc2 and 4.Bd2 while the second is devoted exclusively to 4.e3.

Anyone who wonders what White's most popular choices to combat the Nimzo are can look at the amount of space Pavlovic devotes to 4.e3 and 4.Qc2 – both close to 300 pages. The interest in 4.Bd2, which was never taken very seriously until the past few years, is in part because the aforementioned moves have been analyzed into the ground with White having great difficulty obtaining anything tangible against one of Black's most solid answers to 1.d4.

Pavlovic, who has devoted over 100 pages to 4.Bd2 incorporating lines where White plays 4.e3 and plays Bd2 later, dubs the hitherto nameless variation after Savielly Tartakower and Marcel Duchamp who dabbled with the line in the 1930s. To this reviewer's knowledge this is the first serious examination of 4.Bd2.

Those looking for a refutation of the Nimzo-Indian will not find it as it doesn't exist, but anyone looking for a good overview of the state of theory in 2023 will find these books helpful. Pavlovic, who is nearing 60, has a great deal of personal experience with these lines and it's interesting to read how his opinion of certain variations has changed over time.

The French Defense Revisited: A Practical Guide by Dragoljub Jacimovic and Boroljub Zlatinovic, is, as the title implies, not an encyclopedic work on the subject. The two authors, both veteran French players, offer the following repertoire for Black:

3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5 and 6...Ne7

3.Nd2 Nc6 and 3...c5 4.exd5 Qxd5

3.e5 c5 4.c3 Bd7 5.Nf3 Nc6

The book is divided into three parts. Roughly half the book is theoretical coverage which is followed by 40 model games which are well-analyzed with plenty of prose explanation. Finally, the book ends with exercises and solutions to test the reader's knowledge.

The French Defense Revisited: A Practical Guide is not the book for top level Grandmasters looking for the latest analysis of a key position on move 30 in the mainline of the 7.Qg4 Winawer, but it is an excellent introduction to the variations covered and well-suited to the needs of players rated up to about 2300 FIDE, with stronger players also able to find inspiration.

Exchange sacrifices have always held a special interest for chess players of all strengths, particularly stronger ones. There is something about breaking the rules regarding the standard values of the pieces that grabs one's attention.

Few books have dealt with the subject in a systematic way, but in the past year two excellent books have appeared on the subject. First out, last year, was Vasilios Kotronias' homage to the great master of the exchange sacrifice, Tigran Petrosian. His work, *The Exchange Sacrifice According to Petrosian* (Russell Enterprises) dealt solely with the late World Champion. Now Slovenian grandmaster Georg Mohr has produced a massive (close to 500 page) work on the subject.

This book, which consists of complete games and fragments, features a great deal of explanatory prose that addresses what the conditions were (or what was lacking) to make the exchange sacrifice successful.

This is an advanced book, made more accessible by Mohr's clear explanations. Players rated 2000 on up will find this book a stimulating and helpful reading.

Bishop versus Knight: The Eternal Battle (Volume 1) by Boroljub Zlatinovic deals with one of the most fundamental subjects in chess: the value of bishops and knights. Today, there is no question that modern chess players hold a well-founded bias in favor of the former. That said there are still many positions where the knight is the better piece.

Zlatinovic deals with his subject by presenting 64 examples where the bishop is superior and then another 64 where the knight is better. The examples, a mixture of new and older games, are primarily annotated with words with concrete variations confined to the most essential lines. Players who have a basic understanding of the fundamentals of chess (approximately 1800) to 2400 FIDE will find this book useful.

Rolf Martens: Chess Genius – Maoist – Rebel by Axel Smith, Fredrik Danelius, & Calle Erlandsson is a marvelous tribute to a man who marched to his own drummer. Rolf Martens (1942-2008) never became an international master much less a grandmaster, but he enjoys a mythic status in his native Sweden.

Martens made his debut on the world stage when he represented his country in the 1960 World Student Team Championship in Leningrad but it would not be until 1967 that he was really heard of outside Scandinavia. That year he beat Vlastimil Hort, rated in the top ten in the world, in another World Student Team Championship and finished half a point behind Efim Geller in a 10-player round robin in Gothenburg, making an IM norm in the process.

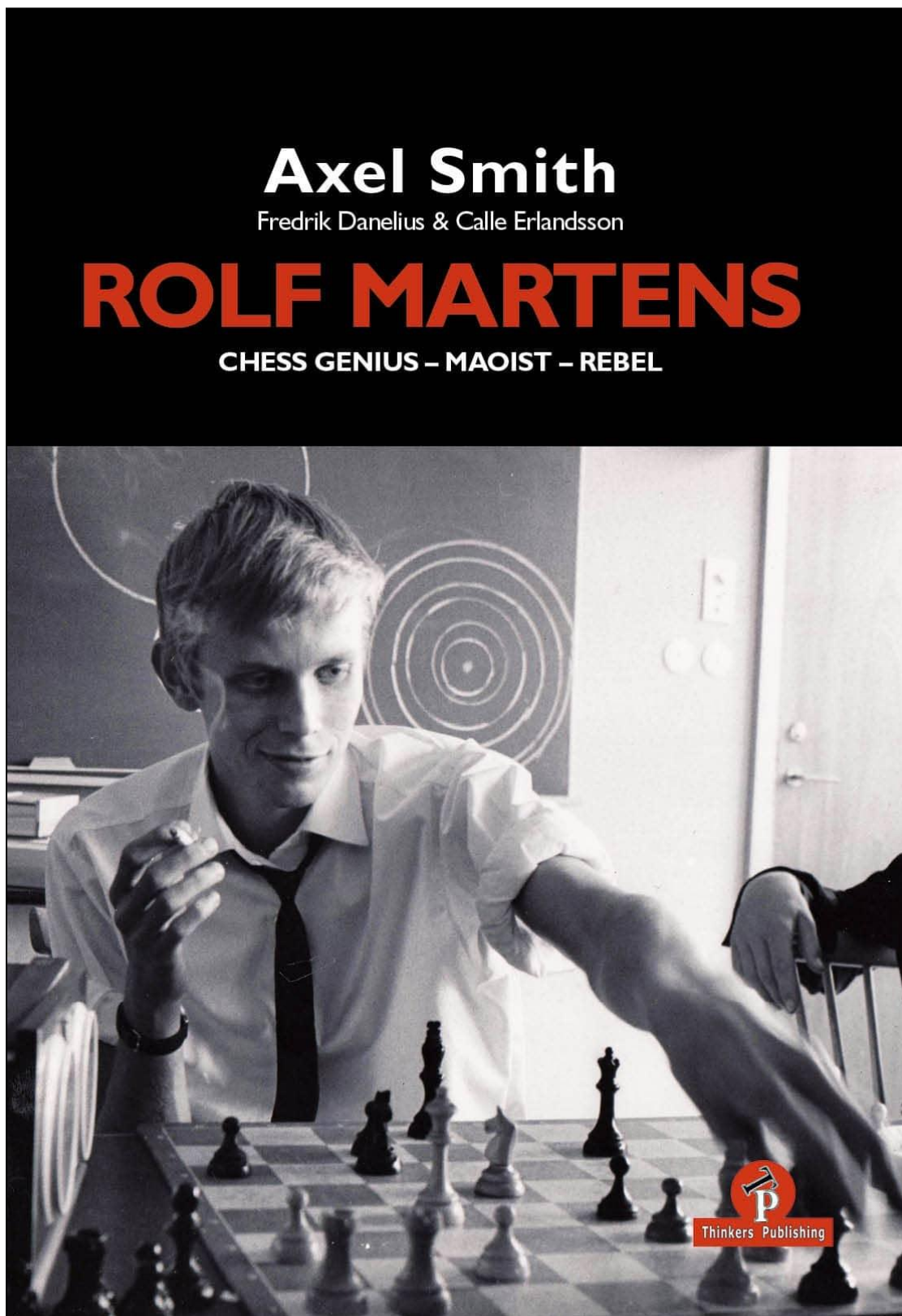
Big things were predicted for Martens but he chose to turn his back on competitive chess for most of the remainder of his life, preferring to concentrate his energies on political activism on the far left. Many talk the talk, but Martens also walked the walk as Swedish Grandmaster Axel Smith (a 2:28 marathoner!) relates in this book which is part biography, part game collection, and part opening survey.

Martens did return to chess, but it was an opening analyst, not so much as a player. His ever-inventive mind came up with a number of new opening variations – not just new moves. This included the Kamchatka variation (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 a6) which he first developed in the late 1960s and the Snake Benoni (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6) which replaced his old love, the Czech Benoni.

These variations as well as the GawPaw (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Qb6) and Norwegian Rat (1.e4 g6 2.d4 Nf6 3.e5 Nh5) are now deservedly in the theoretical doghouse, but

others like the Cobra (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 Bc5) are still alive and well.

Rolf Martens: Chess Genius – Maoist – Rebel is a beautiful hardcover book printed on good paper with many crisp color and black and white photos that are some of the nicest to ever appear in a chess book. Highly Recommended.



Renate Otterbach

Remembering William Lombardy

Sometimes, people touch our lives and forever change them—many times without knowing the impact they have. For me, William Lombardy was one of these people. Though it has been nearly six years, I still think of him often. We had met once before, but the real story began when he came to the Mechanics' Institute chess club. I will tell the story as I experienced it—a set of puzzle pieces that became the picture of a person over time.

Puzzle Piece 1: Meeting Lombardy[1]

I was watching the Imre Koenig Memorial. September 17, 2017—a double round robin among four grandmasters scheduled over two days. After lunch, I watched the games on the demonstration board when a stranger walked in and sat in the chair next to me. I was a little surprised as there were chairs available with a better view, but what caught my eye was the purple tie.

He always seemed to wear a purple tie. It was like a symbol that had a special meaning to him. The color reminded me of the poem's opening lines: "When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple..." I never read the whole poem, but I decided to look it up. Somehow, I think it captures a lot of Lombardy. The young Lombardy in the movie Pawn Sacrifice dignified the epitome of a cultured person, and the Lombardy who checked himself out of the hospital in New York, abandoned teaching a chess camp somewhere in the Midwest, and jumped on the Cypher train in the spur of the moment to come to San Francisco, impulsive and advantageous.

Warning

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.*

*But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.*

*But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.*

- Jenny Joseph[2]

....Here he was, a stranger with a purple tie, sitting next to me on a Saturday afternoon, watching the games. Who was he?

Puzzle Piece 2: Mystery solved.

I did not have to wonder for long. Soon after he sat down, John Donaldson walked over and welcomed him. He had no problems identifying him. John invited Lombardy to the grandmaster luncheon scheduled for the following days. Lombardy hesitated; he wasn't sure as it was scheduled for the grandmasters who were playing. John reassured him, reminding him that he also was an international grandmaster and that it would be an honor if he attended. Being reassured that he would not intrude, he gladly accepted.

John disappeared only to reemerge a few minutes later with a picture showing it to Lombardy. I glanced at it. It was a black-and-white photograph of a group of people. John pointed at a person sitting in the front row. "Do you know that person?" Lombardy smiled. John and Lombardy continued reminiscing in barely audible whispers for a while, and then John left.

Puzzle piece 3: The Luncheon

After the luncheon, the players had already left to return to the playing hall, but Lombardy remained behind, enjoying his dessert. I joined him at his table; this was an excellent opportunity to get expert advice on improving my chess. I told him my challenges in chess and eagerly asked him for advice.

"Each day, spend 10 minutes going over games," he said.

"It takes me an hour just to go through one game." I countered, somewhat dismayed.

"Try it," he replied. "You should be able to do that with a little practice; you have a good mind."

"What makes you say that?" I asked.

"It takes a good mind to organize all of this," he replied, pointing to the remains of the luncheon.

"Hmm."

A reflective pause in which I wondered how a Catholic priest was preparing luncheon. During our conversations, I discovered that Lombardy was well-versed about nearly everything. But at the time, I only had one agenda—how to improve my chess.

"Well, it does not work for me; it takes me too long to analyze it.

"Just go through them quickly, experience them."

"I don't understand them unless I analyze them." I retorted.

"Trust me, I have a master's degree in counseling."

"So do I."

Stalemate. Our conversation had become a chess game, and we both were enjoying ourselves.

"I have to analyze each game to understand the games." I returned to the subject.

Lombardy leaned back reflectively,

"When you listen to music, you don't stop the music to analyze it." Switching tactics.

"Nooo..." I said thoughtfully.

"Well?"

He followed up quickly before I had time to analyze too deeply. I later remembered that while I did not analyze the music, I constantly analyzed the words to songs while listening. I do not understand music sufficiently to analyze it.

But he had made his point.

People came in and started to talk to Lombardy, but I still think often about our conversation. As I learn more about chess, I can go faster through games and enjoy them with time. I have discovered that I enjoy seeing combinations and ideas; it is much less exhausting than constant analysis. Maybe Lombardy was right—it is like music. And maybe we both were right. For some, like Lombardy, seeing comes naturally; for others, like myself, it must be learned through extensive practice. It might also be the case that a certain level of understanding is a prerequisite for seeing—another puzzle piece to explore.

Puzzle piece 4: Looking for Lombardy.

Lombardy was supposed to give the Tuesday Night lecture, but there was no Lombardy. Somebody remembered seeing him earlier, and someone else mentioned that he went out to get cigars, but that was a while ago. Thinking he might have gotten lost on his way back, some of us looked for him. I saw him slowly shuffling down the street when I went out the door. I ran up to him. He immediately took in the situation.

"Am I late?" he asked, distressed. I reassured him that John would take care of things until he arrived; however, it was evident that he felt bad about running late. "Don't worry, nobody will leave. Students must wait for their professors with a Ph.D. for 15 minutes," I joked.

Lombardy got into the spirit of things. "Well, I don't have a doctorate, but I do have three master's degrees. After reflecting for a minute, I told him, "That should do," and asked him what his degrees were. English, Counseling, and Divinity, he responded. At that point, we reached the door.

When we opened the door, John pointed to a position he had set up on the demonstration board. "Do you remember that?" he asked Lombardy. Lombardy's face lit up.

Puzzle piece 5: The Lecture

Lombardy started with the position; after a while, the conversation shifted to his life and career. People had many questions. Not surprisingly, one of the questions was about his relationship with Bobby Fischer. "It was complex." It was clear that he did not plan to provide any further details.

At that time, I thought it was because of their misunderstanding about the article he wrote about Fischer and that Fischer had cut off relationships with him as he did with so many others, but that does not seem to be the case. In his book *Bobby Fischer: The Final Years: A Personal Memoir*, Gardar Sverrisson talks about how he and Bobby would discuss things, and at some point, Bobby would suggest that they call Lombardy and get his opinion. Sverrisson mentioned that he felt that Lombardy had been a mentor to Bobby and that after Bobby died, he came to say a prayer at his grave.

From the description by Sverrisson, I get the feeling that he was like an older brother, and even though Bobby had died, Lombardy was reluctant to talk about their relationship because it was very personal.

The other part I remember from his lecture was the comment about mental illness. He said that psychologists/psychiatrists tried to deal with mental illness with drugs when often all that was needed was love and compassion. The comment resonated with me as I often wondered if psychologists have replaced friendships—a paid version of someone who listens to you and understands. If so, it is a poor replacement, and I think Lombardy thought the same. But I also wonder if he was not thinking about Bobby; maybe having friends who understood him would have helped. But then, where does a genius find friends who understand?

Puzzle piece 5: My Lost Game

I was dejected as I walked into the Skittles room; I had lost another game—too many losses. The person was rated 300 points higher, but I felt I played better than he did. Lombardy saw me and offered to go over the game with me. Who could refuse such an offer? So, we sat at one of the wooden tables, and Lombardy started reviewing the moves. After several moves, I heard Lombardy say, "You know chess, but your opponent doesn't." That startled me. "But he won," I responded. "I thought so," Lombardy said with a sad voice. His hands flew over the game, and then it stopped.

"Here, you should have castled queenside!" I remembered that position. I had spent a long time trying to figure out how to get the rook into the middle. Queenside castling would do it—in one move, the move that I had been looking for and that eluded me. I was delighted.

I told Lombardy that I tend to forget about queenside castling. "They don't teach castling queenside to beginners," was his comment—and then he returned to analyzing the game. He stopped again at a critical position. "Here, you should have done this." Again, it was a position that I recognized—I knew what needed to be done and what I wanted to do, but I did not know how to do it. This happened several times. It was as if he could read my thoughts; he understood what I was trying to do and showed me how to do it. I had never experienced anything like this before. He understood.

As he reviewed my moves, I heard him repeat, "You are only a beginner." It was as if he felt my frustrations, my internal conflict with what I saw, understood, and performed. It was as if he was trying to put his frustration into perspective. Unspoken, he sent me a message: "You see, you understand, but you are a beginner. Learn, and you will be able to succeed." It gave me hope. Often, when I go through a series of losses and feel like giving up chess, I remember Lombardy's comment: You understand, but you are a beginner, and I pick up my chess pieces and return to my study. Thank you, Lombardy, for this great gift.

Puzzle piece 6: The Bobby Fischer Poem

Lombardy often visited the Mechanics' Institute, and friends and strangers were delighted, often challenging him to a game of blitz, reminiscing over past experiences, or sharing chess anecdotes. This was especially true on Tuesday nights when the place was buzzing with people. On Tuesday nights, the room is packed as the players of the Tuesday Night Marathon stream in. "What would you have done if I played this?" "Why did you play this move?" "What were you thinking here?" "You nearly got me there." "Why didn't you play this move?"

These questions buzz around the room as players analyze their games at each table—a chess community filled with camaraderie and fellowship. Lombardy and I were sitting at one of the tables across from each other. He had been talking to one of his friends, who had just left. So, I sat across from him, handing him a poem I wrote about Bobby Fischer. I always wondered if my portrayal of Bobby Fischer was accurate, and here I had someone who knew him well. I was not going to let this opportunity slip by.

At first, he was reluctant to read it, but he agreed. As he started reading the poem, I heard him comment, "I like this..." "The wording here needs to be changed..." etc. When he had finished, I looked eagerly at him. "Did I capture Bobby Fischer?" He nodded; there was a pause, and then I heard him quietly say, "It could have been me."

Puzzle piece 7: I Am Going to Be Rich

Lombardy was full of surprises; one never knew what to expect. This should not be astonishing—one does not become an International Grandmaster of Lombardy's strengths by making conventional moves. One day, I came into the chess room, Lombardy rose, kissed my hand with the old-fashioned courtesy of a courtier, and sat down next to me as if this was everyday behavior.

After I sat down next to him, still a little startled, he started telling me that he would be rich as his book was selling well. Yet I perceived a twinkle of humor in his comment. Somehow, I felt he knew that John was encouraging people to buy his book to help Lombardy. John was discreet about it, but I think Lombardy figured it out. I think that he was both bemused and appreciative.

Puzzle piece 9: I'll See You Soon

For me, this is the most difficult part to write. It was the last Tuesday of the TNM, just before the two-week break. Lombardy was holding court in John's office. People were asking questions, and he answered them. One of the questions that I remember was about him leaving the priesthood. "I never left the priesthood; once a priest, always a priest." He stated to the astonishment of those surrounding him. "I did leave the Catholic church, however." It was quite apparent that there was a big difference. As the discussion emerged, it became clear that his disillusionment with the church politics made him leave, not a change of his biblical beliefs.

There was a lull in the conversation, and I decided to leave. "I'll see you soon," Lombardy said, followed by words that sounded like a blessing but which I can no longer remember. I was startled by his eyes. For a moment, the eyes were a brilliant sapphire blue—not the eyes of a 79-year-old man but the eyes of a young person.

[1] Actually, I had met Lombardy earlier at a tournament, but then I did not know who he was until later

[2] For more background on the author of the poem see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenny_Joseph



GM **William Lombardy** and Mechanics' Institute Chess Coordinator FM **Paul Whitehead** at the Mechanics' Institute, 2017.

2023 U.S. Senior Women's Championship

The [1st U.S. Senior Women's Championship](#) was held at the [Berkeley Chess School](#) over the weekend of November 3-5.

With support from the [US Chess Women's Program](#) and the [Eade Foundation](#), 12 of the top women in the country over the age of 50 competed in a five-round swiss in this ground-breaking event.

All of the games were [live-streamed](#), and expert commentary was provided by FM **James Eade**, IM **Elliott Winslow**, and others on the Berkeley Chess School's [Twitch channel](#).

The tournament was won convincingly by top-rated WGM **Anjelina Belakovskaia** with 4.5 points, her only draw vs 2nd ranked WIM **Beatriz Marinello**.

Complete results for the 1st U.S. Senior Women's Championship can be found [here](#).

WIM **Alexey Root** dropped by the Mechanics' Institute on Friday, November 3, on her way to participate in the tournament and to do a [book-signing](#). While here she signed our register:



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.

**Every Sunday
on Zoom
from
10 am to 12 pm**

**Register at
milibrary.org/chess**

**Questions?
chessroom@milibrary.org / (415) 393-0110**

**Chess Match, San Francisco
Mechanics' Institute, 2023**

Twelve or fourteen year old girls
going brain against brain,
nerve against nerve with older men.
It is a rated, open chess tournament
in the oldest continuously operating
chess club in the country.

The wood is oak. Enameled black and clear
chess pieces with green felt bases keep the quiet.
Room filled close with 50 chess boards,
tiny tables, just enough space for clocks and elbows.
Until 50 years ago, it was filled with cigar smoke.

Friends and anxious parents wait on hard chairs
in another room — 10 minutes to 4 hours per game.
A middle-aged man with silver sparkle shoes
grey in his beard, walks over to me.
“I used to be the security guard over there,”
he nods to a tall building out the 4th floor window.

I'm waiting for my family friend,
one of the only 4 or 5 women playing.
So is Mr Sparkle Shoes. Both of us are poets.
He does stand-up comedy at the Mission BART station.
Shows me the cover of his book
and a picture of his gray cat asleep in his arms.
After twenty minutes of chatting,
we learn our two chess-playing friends
are both trans women.

Grandparents are in the corner at a small table.
One watches Chinese TV on his cellphone,
the other naps with her head on her arms.
Their 11 year old grandson dashes in,
out on bathroom break. Rushes away.
Waiting resumed

By the windows, a mother and daughter
prepared with headphones, thermos and computers.
Golden earrings dangle against dark, braided hair.
I think an older sister is competing

but I can't understand their words.

A universal, global language, chess.

Don't need years of college, lots of money,
or equipment. Don't need privilege, or permission,

just a strategic brain for puzzles,
desire and drive.

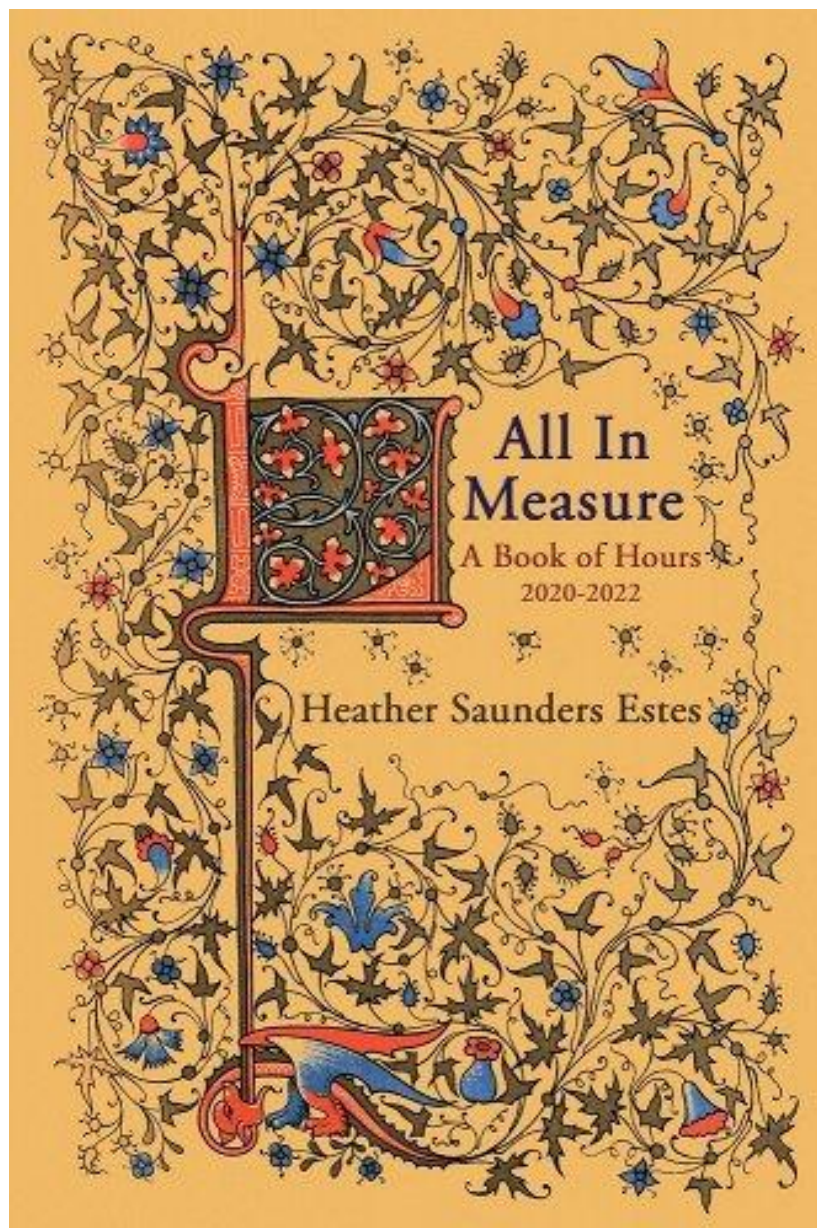
My friend decisively beats her opponent in 30 minutes.

Studies their moves in the car home.

She has the will to learn. Passion to win.

Human.

- Heather Saunders Estes



Kristian Clemens

Sants Open, Barcelona 2023

The idea of playing serious chess on vacation never really appealed to me that much. I know people who run “destination marathons”, and as much as I respect them, I feel like I’d much rather be doing anything else than running for hours (or sitting at the chessboard all day, for that matter) when I’m on vacation. But the same lifelong travel bug that led my late grandfather (a very serious chess player, rated about 1500 after he retired from work) to travel the world seems to affect me more and more every year, so I found myself in Barcelona last summer to attend a [village festival](#) (it was spectacular!) and play in the B section of the Sants Open in Barcelona. I wrote about that experience [here](#).

GM Greg Serper wrote some [great advice](#) which I try to follow in chess and in life: do more of what works and less of what doesn’t. I had such a great time last year that I decided to go back and do it again, with a short trip to Madrid before the tournament this time. Last year, I sailed through the tournament without working very hard, picking up three wins and playing a lot of short, rather easy draws, until I lost a tough queen endgame in my last game. This year was very different. I started with two wins, but I had to work for my points, and I played some very interesting and rich games. I finished with four wins, three losses, and two draws (and -15.6 FIDE rating points). Many times I found myself at the playing hall after sunset, sometimes eating dinner as late as 10:30 pm, which isn’t that uncommon in Spain. My games this year were very combative, and I don’t think I’ve ever had seven decisive games in a tournament.

I think my overall chess level was lower this year than last year, despite the fact that I’m generally playing much better in 2023 than I did in 2022. The first reason was the extreme heat—it was over 90 degrees almost every day, and I simply got worn down. I had a pretty ambitious sightseeing plan, and I also found myself taking day trips to other towns and hurrying back in time for a cold shower and a nap. The village festival also ran VERY late for a few nights—the music kept me awake until after 4:00 am one night! Fortunately, I viewed the tournament as just a small part of my trip, and I wasn’t taking it nearly as seriously as the top pros. If I had really wanted to play my best chess, I would have approached things differently, but I figured I’d get more out of exploring cathedrals or walking around small towns and practicing my Spanish than sitting in front of my laptop preparing, and I don’t regret that.

The A section was won by GM-elect Elham Amar of Norway and GM Alberto David of Italy, ahead of GMs like Kirill Alekseenko, Bobby Cheng, Simen Agdestein, and Brandon Jacobson. I sometimes wandered over to the area where the top boards were to watch these living legends. I played seven games in a smaller playing hall which was clean and quiet but much less “prestigious” than the main tournament hall. I’m proud to say that in my only game on a DGTboard, I got a draw against a strong local expert!

The tournament was held in a civic center in Sants, a district of Barcelona that was once its own town. This district also had its annual festival that week, so the sounds of drums and music filtered in from outside on a few occasions. The main playing hall had national flags hanging from the ceiling, while every player had a name plate with their rating, country, and club, and there was a table with fruit, traditional Peruvian sandwiches, cheap beer, and candy bars at the back of the room. After wrapping up a quick win in round two, I packed a dinner from the tournament hall, hurried to the train station, and made it to Sitges, 40 minutes south of Barcelona, just in time for a quick sunset swim at the beach, where I sat on a rock wall and ate while listening to a concert by a local band at the other end of the beach. I’m not exactly Jack Kerouac or Hunter S. Thompson, but I really enjoyed being “on

the road,” writing in my travel journal on the train (in Spanish, of course!) and seeking new experiences and places while trying to forget my blunders, and I was always happy when my games finished early (assuming I didn’t lose them, of course). It’s a lot easier to get over a bad game at the beach than at work!



Photo of the playing hall from the tournament website.

Non-chess highlights, for those who are interested, included the Prado Museum, Plaza Mayor in Madrid, and the bullet train to Barcelona. As I stared at famous paintings by Goya and Velázquez, it was amazing to think I had been writing work emails in my apartment just 48 hours earlier. In Barcelona, I visited main attractions like the Sagrada Família, Picasso Museum, and the Archaeology Museum (with preserved Roman ruins below the streets of the city), but I also visited some small towns, and the highlight was the Roman amphitheater in Tarragona, built in the second century. My once-fluent Spanish has also improved quite a bit after a long period of decline, and by the end of the trip I was chatting with cashiers in bakeries and analyzing my games in whispered Spanish in the tournament hall (everybody was so nice to me at the tournament, even when I was struggling to make sense while talking!). I could go on, but I won’t because this is a chess newsletter. Overall, it was a great trip, and I’m very grateful to the friends and relatives who encouraged me to go!

Here are a few tactics from my games:



1. Round 5: **Carlos Batista Pérez – Kristian Clemens.**
White to move after **16...c5**.

I didn't work hard enough to figure out why White played **16.Rd1**, and I carelessly played **16...c5?** on the last move. White played **17.Bxf7+!** winning a very important pawn. If **17...Rxf7** **18.Rd8+** and mate next move.



2. Round 5: **Carlos Batista Pérez – Kristian Clemens.**
White to move after **27...Bg6**.

Again, I wasn't tactically sharp enough, forgetting that my king couldn't escape via g6 after **28.Rxg6!** If **28...hxg6** **29.Qh3+** and mate next move.



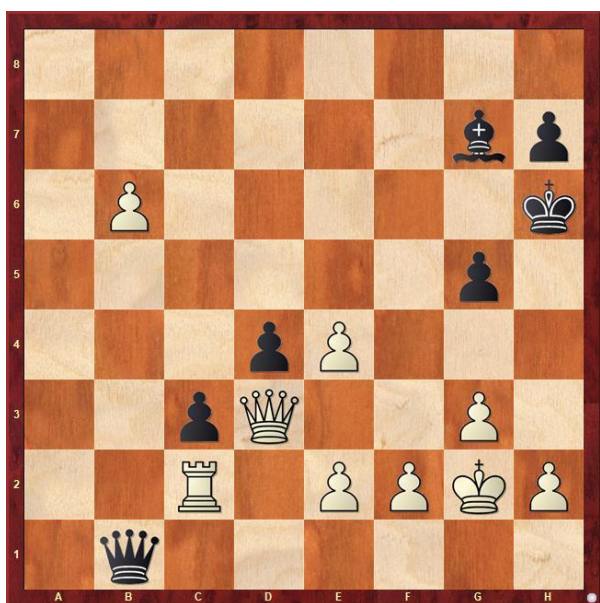
3. Round 6: **Kristian Clemens – Santiago Gomila Martí.**
White to move after **34...Qg7-b2**.

This was one of my best attacking games ever, and I could have finished in style with **35.Rh8+ Kg7** (if **35...Qxh8** **36.Qxh8#**) **36.Rh7+ Kg8** **37.Qh6!** threatening **Rh8#**. I didn't see this and instead played **35.Rh8+ Kg7** **36.Qh6+ Kf6** **37.Rh7**, cutting off the king's retreat square on g7 with a huge attack on the dark squares. White won by checkmate on move 43.



4. Round 7: **Thomas Fjellheim – Kristian Clemens.**
White to move after **37...e5**.

I had been outplaying my opponent positionally, but he dug in and started defending like a brick wall. I started to lose the thread in time trouble, and when he played **38.Nxe5!** taking advantage of the pinned bishop on d4, I knew I was doomed. I lost on time on move 40. This was by far my most painful loss of the year.



5. Round 8: **Kristian Clemens – José María Martínez Balaguer.** White to move after **42...Qb1**.

This is already won for White, but I simplified the position with **43.Rxc3!**, uncovering an attack on the Black queen (**43...dxc3 44.Qxb1**) and cutting off Black's counterplay. Black resigned after **43.Rxc3 Qxb6 44. Rb3**.



6. Round 9: **Álex Cassi de la Viuda - Kristian Clemens.**
Black to move after **9.h3**.

In chess, nobody ever tells you when you're going to get your big chance at greatness. I thought for seven minutes and played **9...Qg3?** If I had played **9...Bxh3!!** my attack could have crashed through and this would certainly be the best game of my life. Instead, I had to settle for perpetual after **9...Qg3 10. fxe4 Qh2+ 11.Kf2 Qg3+ 12. Kg1**. The winning line from the diagram, according to the computer, is **9...Bxh3!! 10.fxe4 Bg4** (threatening Bh2+, Bg3+, then Qh2#) **11.Rf3 dxe4 12.Bxe4 O-O**. I felt better finding and evaluating this line: the non-threatening moves dxe4 and O-O were well beyond my ability, and I wouldn't have found it during the game.

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.



Deflection is the theme this week.

Black to move and win. From *The Giant Chess Puzzle Book* (2010) by Zenon Franco.

1...f5+! 2.gxf5 gxf5+ and white loses their queen, as both **2.Kxf5** and **2.Kf4** are met by **2...Qxd4**. White is mated after **2.Kd3 Rd2#**. Position from **Tan-Mecking**, Manila Interzonal 1976.

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://www.milibrary.org/employment-opportunities)

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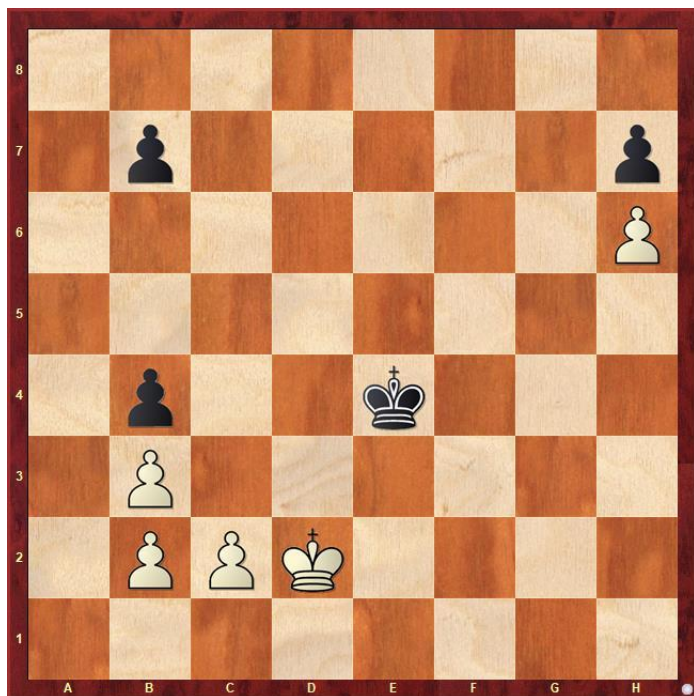
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Thanksgiving Camp
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(Pro-rated Half-Days Are Available)

Tony's Teasers



1. T. Lama 2023
White to play and draw.



2. T. Lama 2023
Black to play and draw.

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](#).



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Winter Tuesday Night Marathon Tuesdays, November 7-December 19 6:30 pm 7 Rounds G/120;d5	Members \$65 Non-Members \$95
Monthly Scholastic Swiss Saturday, November 11 10 am 4 Rounds G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
Monthly Quads Saturday, November 11 3 pm 3 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
22nd Guthrie McClain Memorial Saturday, December 2 10 am 4 Rounds G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
Monthly Scholastic Swiss Saturday, December 9 10 am 4 Rounds G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
Monthly Quads Saturday, December 9 3 pm 3 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
5th Donaldson (FIDE-Rated) December 16 & 17 10 am 4 Rounds G/90+30	Members \$65 Non-Members \$95

Solutions

Tony's Teasers:

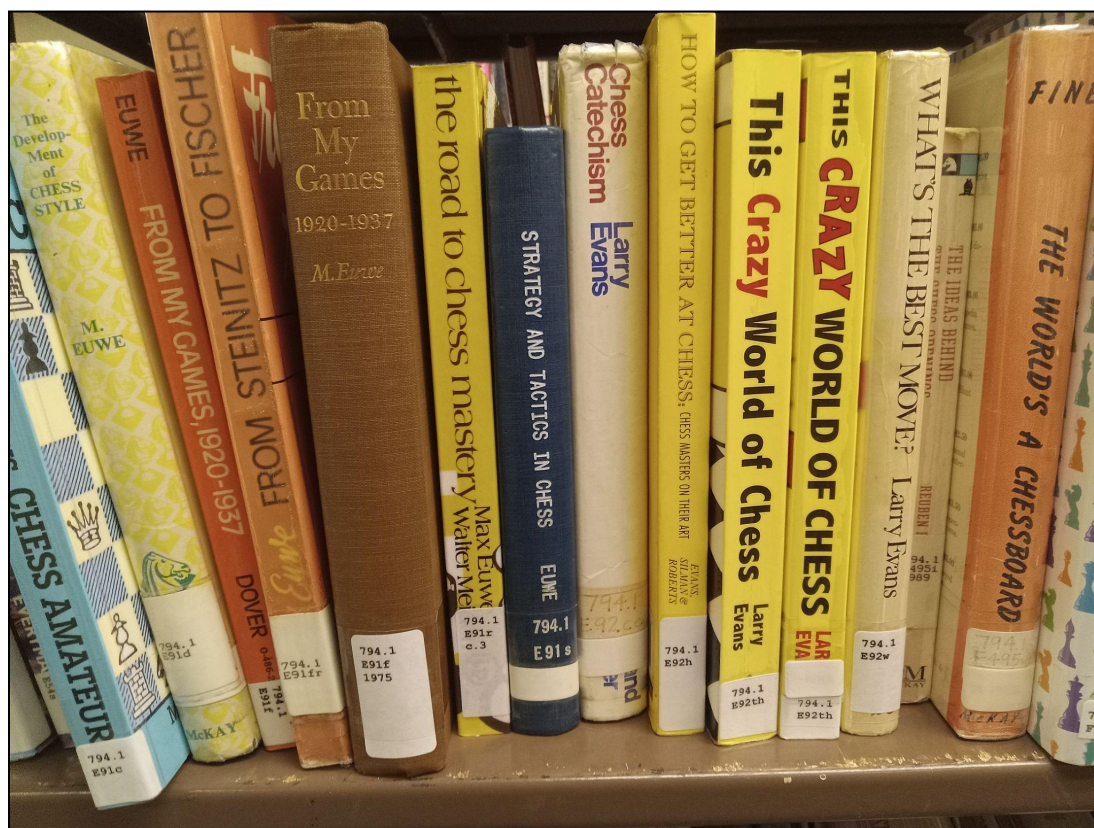
1. **T. Lama**, 2023. Tony is trying his hand at original compositions. White has only one move to draw: **1.c4!** 1.Ke2? is hopeless: 1...Kf5 2.Kf3 Kg6 3.Kg4 Kxh6 -+ and 1.c3? is too slow: 1...Kf5 2.Kd3 Kg6 3.Kc4 Kxh6! 4.Kxb4 Kg5 5.Kc5 h5 -+. **1...Kf5 2.Kd3 Kg6 3.Kd4 Kxh6 4.Kc5 Kg5 5.Kb6 h5 6.c5 h4 7.Kxb7 h3 8.c6 h2 9.c7 h1=Q 10.Kb8=.**
2. **T. Lama**, 2023. **1...Qg5! 2.Qxe3+ Qxe3 3.Bxe3+ Kxe3.** White is up 3 pawns but the position is drawn, for example: **4.Kg2 Kxe2 5.f4 Kxd3 6.Kf3 Kd4 7.Kg4 Ke4 8.f5 Ke5 9.Kg5 Ke4 10.f6 exf6+ 11.Kxf6 Kf4 12.Kg6 Ke5 13.Kg5 Ke6 14.Kxh4 Kf6=.**

Contact Us

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

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

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



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Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!

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5-6pm

First Fridays of the month:

December 1

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

Questions?

Contact chessroom@milibrary.org

