

# Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1044 | December 9, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



Mechanics' Institute chess coach **Quinn Ni** prepares to reset the wrongly set up chess board at Landing at Leidesdorff in downtown San Francisco.

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## Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On November 18, Mechanics' Institute hosted our monthly double-header of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, **Quads** in the afternoon.

The Quads had a nice turnout of 62 players competing in 11 sections, with **Alex Shrauger** (2030) taking clear first in the top quad with 2.5 points.

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

The monthly Scholastic Swiss continues to grow, and we had 24 participants in two sections.

**Jimmy Sanchez** (629) took clear first in the 500+ section with 3.5 points from four games. Tied for second through fourth with 3 points apiece were **Maxim Dennis** (726), **Ian Kartiwa** (827), and **Dylan Wan** (763). Rounding out the prize-winners on tie-breaks with two points was **Miles Krepelka** (835).

The u500 section was won by **Benton Ayer** (395) with a perfect 4-0 score. Tying for second through fourth with 3 points each were **Mihir Somani** (325), **Jack Abrams** (331), and **Josh Kyauk** (484). **Michael Puterman** (306) scored 2 points and took fifth place on tiebreaks.

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

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

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On Saturday, December 2, we hosted the **22nd Guthrie McClain Memorial**, with 57 participants competing in four sections.

**Jimmy Heiserman** (2335) took clear first in the 2000+ section with a score of 3.5-.5. In clear second with 3 points was **Jeremy Cawthon** (1999). There was a 5-way tie for third place between **Alex Shrauger** (2073), **Suyuan Gui** (1965), **Yuvraj Sawhney** (1916), **Ranen Lardent** (1905), and **Kian Jamali** (1902), all scoring 2.5 points.

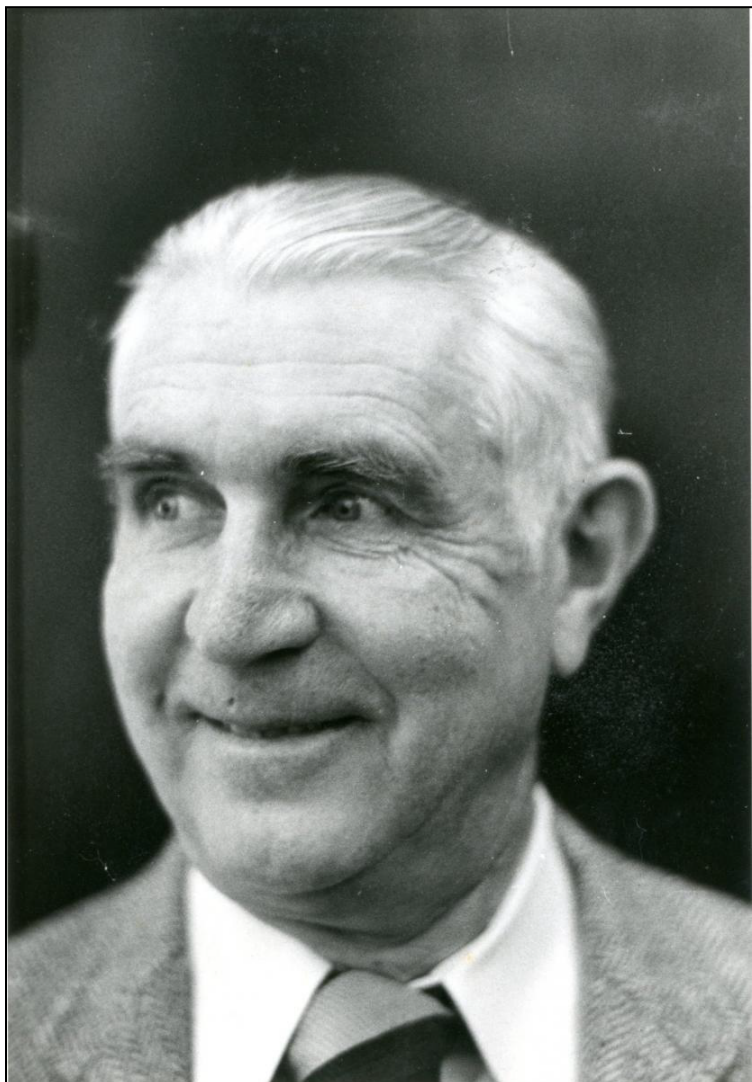
**Tapas Natraj** (1683) scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear first in the 1600-1999 section, and a full point behind in a 5-way split for second and third were **Prescott Yu** (1720), **Sriaditya Pendyala** (1717), **Liri Dancig-Perlman** (1703), **Rehaan Malhotra** (1627), and **Ansh Shrivastava** (1527).

**Tingxuan Liu** (1200) scored 3.5 points to take clear first in the 1200-1599 section, and **Vidyuth Harish** (1310) took clear second with 3 points. Tied for second and third with 2.5 points each were **Tingshun Liu** (1261) and **Pardhu Kanaparthi** (1241).

The u1200 section also had a clear winner in **Anthony Khudov** (998) who scored 3.5 points. In clear second with 3 points was **John Pirone** (736), and clear third with 2.5 points was **Varad Korde** (786).

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

The 22nd McClain Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by **Anthony Simich**.



Guthrie "Mac" McClain (1910-1991) was a chess master and organizer, a Mechanics' Institute trustee, and longtime editor of the *California Chess Reporter*.

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The **2023 Winter TNM** kicked off on November 7 and runs through December 19 with 84 players 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**.

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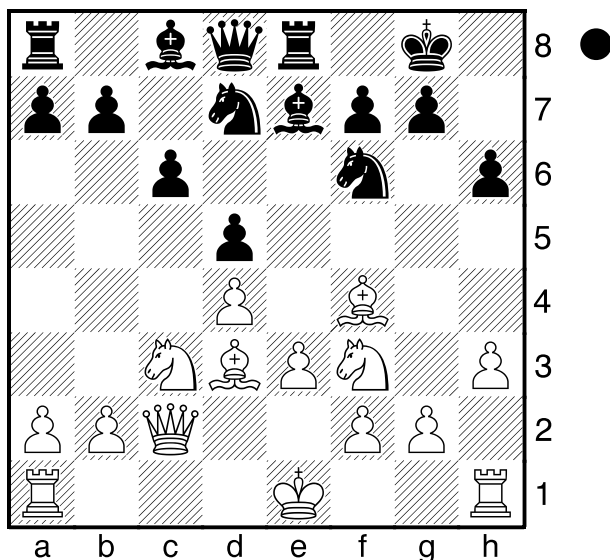
### **IM Elliott Winslow**

A selection of annotated games from rounds two through five 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** **D36**  

**Parsons, Stephen** **2174**  
 Winter TNM: 2000+ (2.1) **1802**  
 [Winslow, Elliott] 14.11.2023

My "opening addiction" -- castling queenside in the Exchange Queen's Gambit. It's quite double-edged, and I might misplay here and there, but it's fun and leads to the occasional exceptional game (as in brilliancy prizes!). Also, this was my last game before what is probably RSV (I had my flu shot!) laid me down. Not my swan song! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Nf3 h6 10.Bf4**  
 [ 10.Bh4 ]  
**10...Re8 11.h3**



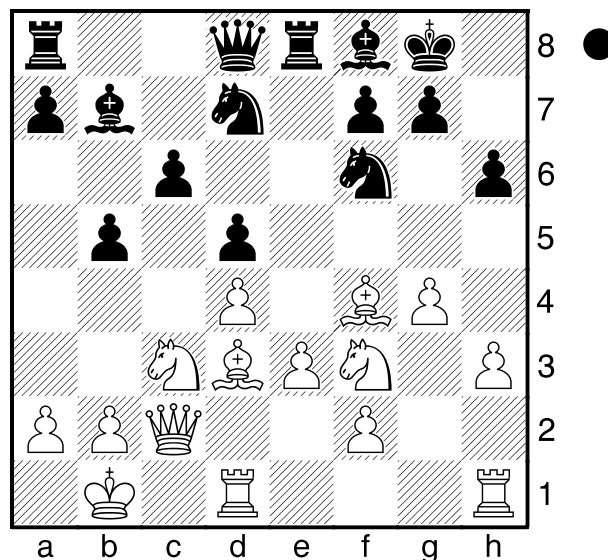
**Bf8 12.0-0-0**  
 [ 12.g4 ]  
 [Stockfish prefers 12.0-0 -- bah! ]

**12...b5**  
 [ 12...g6 13.g4 Bg7 14.Kb1 Kh8 15.g5 Ng8 16.gxh6 Nxh6 17.h4 Nf8 18.Rdg1 Bf5 19.h5 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Kh7 21.hxg6+ Nxg6 22.Ng5+ Kg8 23.Nxf7 1-0 (28) Sachdev, T (2397)-Bandodkar, V IND-chT (Women) 11th

Hyderabad 2013 (2.2) ]  
**13.Kb1**  
 [ 13.g4 b4 14.Na4 c5 15.dxc5 Qa5 16.Kb1 Ne4 17.Nd4 Ndxc5 18.Nxc5 Nxc5 19.Bb5 Re4 20.Bc6 Bb7 21.Bxb7 Nxb7 22.Qc6 Qb6 23.Qxd5 Rae8 24.Qc6 Bc5 25.Qxb6 Bxb6 26.Nf5 1-0 (40) Di Berardino, D (2517)-Aguirre Contreras, C (2308) Arica op 5th 2018 (6) ]

**13...Bb7N**  
 [ 13...a5 14.g4 a4 15.Rc1 Nb6 16.Ne5 Bb7 17.Ne2 Rc8 18.g5 hxg5 19.Bxg5 c5 20.Bxb5 cxd4 21.Qf5 Rxc1+ 22.Rxc1 Bc8 23.Qf4 dxe3 24.Bxe8 1-0 (66) Mkrtchian, L (2388)-Mamedjarova, T (2309) Djerba Online (Women) Lichess.org INT blitz 2020 (10) ( 24.Bxf6! ) ]

**14.g4**



**Rc8?!**

[ 14...b4 15.Na4

**A) 15...c5**

**A1)** I was caught up on **16.Nxc5**  
 Nxc5 17.dxc5 d4? ( 17...Rc8!=  
 18.Rhg1! g5!? ) 18.c6+-;

**A2) 16.g5!± c4 17.Bf5;**

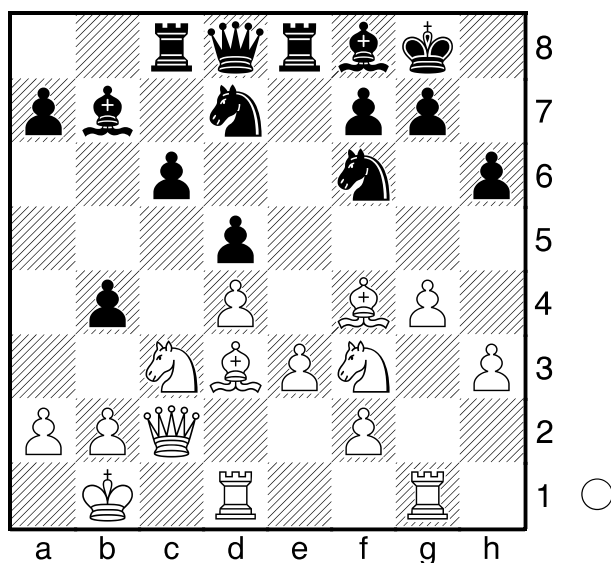
**B) 15...Ne4 ]**

**15.Rhg1?!±**

[ 15.g5!+- Nh5 16.gxh6 Nxf4



17.exf4 ]  
15...b4



16.Na4?

[ Here Stockfish 16 goes wild: 16.g5!!  
bxc3 17.gxh6!! ( 17.gxf6 Nxf6  
18.Bxh6± != ) 17...Ne4 best try  
18.Ng5± Qb6 19.h7+ Kh8 20.Nxf7+  
Kxh7 21.f3 Kg8 22.Nh6+ Kh8  
23.fxe4 c5! 24.e5!± Crazy. gxh6  
25.Bf5 Re7 26.Rg6 Rc6 27.e6 ]

16...c5 17.Nxc5

[ 17.dxc5 Bxc5± ( 17...g5!? 18.Bg3  
Qa5 19.Nd4 Nxc5 20.Nxc5 Bxc5  
21.Nb3 Qb6 22.Bf5 Rc6 23.Qd2= ) ]

17...Nxc5?!

[ 17...Bxc5 18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Bf5  
b3!± ]

18.dxc5 Bxc5

[ 18...g5!?= ]

19.Qb3?!

[ 19.Qe2! d4 20.g5 hxg5 21.Nxg5  
dxe3 22.fxe3± ]

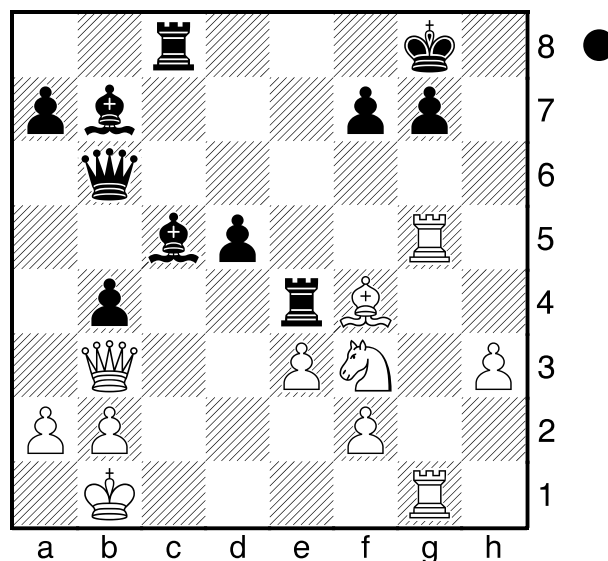
19...Qb6

[ 19...g5! 20.Bh2 d4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4  
22.exd4 a5!= 23.Be5 Bd5 24.Qa4  
Ne4 25.Rc1 Nxf2 26.Ba6 ]

20.g5 hxg5 21.Rxg5 Ne4= /± 22.Bxe4  
Rxe4!

[ 22...dxe4? 23.Rdg1! ( 23.Be5  
Qe6! ) 23...Bf8 24.Be5!+- Qh6

25.Bxg7 Bxg7 26.Rxg7+ Qxg7  
27.Rxg7+ Kxg7 28.Qxb4 Ba6  
29.Ne1!+- ]  
23.Rdg1



g6?+-

[ 23...Bf8! 24.h4!?= ( 24.Ne5 Qe6  
25.f3 f6 26.fxe4 fxg5 27.Rxg5 Be7  
28.Rg6 Bf6 29.Qxb4= ) ]

24.Ne5!+- Rxe5

[ 24...Kg7 25.Qd1! ( 25.Qa4;  
25.Rxg6+? fxg6 26.Rxg6+ Qxg6  
27.Nxg6 Kxg6= ) 25...Be7 26.Rf5!  
Rxe5 27.Bxe5+ Kf8 28.Rf4+- ]

25.Bxe5 Kf8 26.R5g4

[ ⊔26.Rc1 ]

26...Qe6 27.Bd4

[ 27.Rxb4! ]

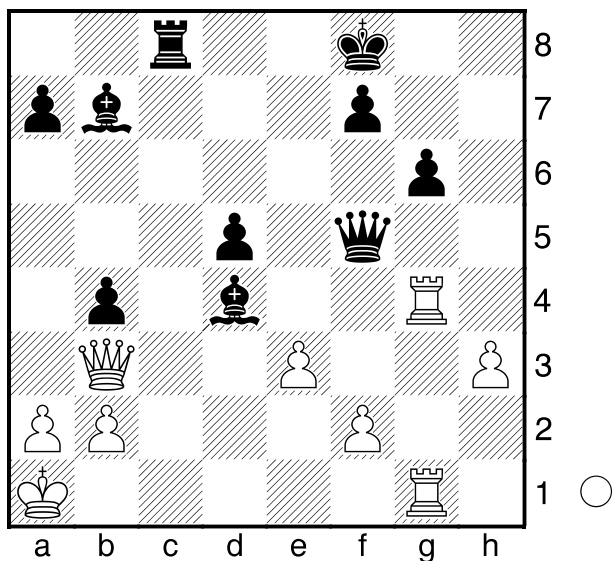
27...Qf5+ 28.Ka1?!

[ 28.e4! dxe4 29.Rg5 ]

28...Bxd4

[ 28...Bd6 ]

(Diagram)



**29.Qxb4+**

[ 29.Rxd4 a5 ]

[ 29.exd4! ]

**29...Ke8?**

[ 29...Bc5 30.Qxb7 Bd6+- ]

**30.Rxd4**

[ 30.exd4! ]

**30...Qxf2 31.Rdd1 Rc7 32.a3**

[ 32.Qd4 ]

[ 32.h4 ]

**32...Bc8 33.Qd6 Rb7 34.Qc6+ Ke7**

**35.Qc5+ Kd8 36.Qf8+ #11**

[ 36.Rxd5+! #6 ]

**1-0**

□ **Lewis,Edward**

■ **Wu,Zhuoyuan**

Winter TNM: 2000+ (2.2)

[Lewis,Edward]

**A88**

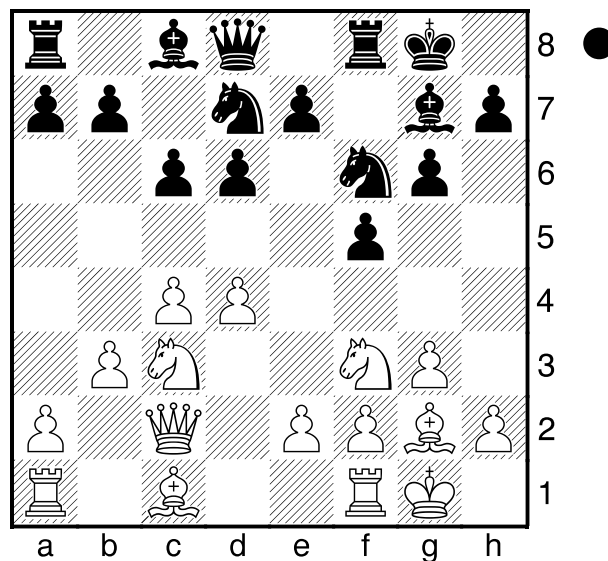
**1932**

**1802**

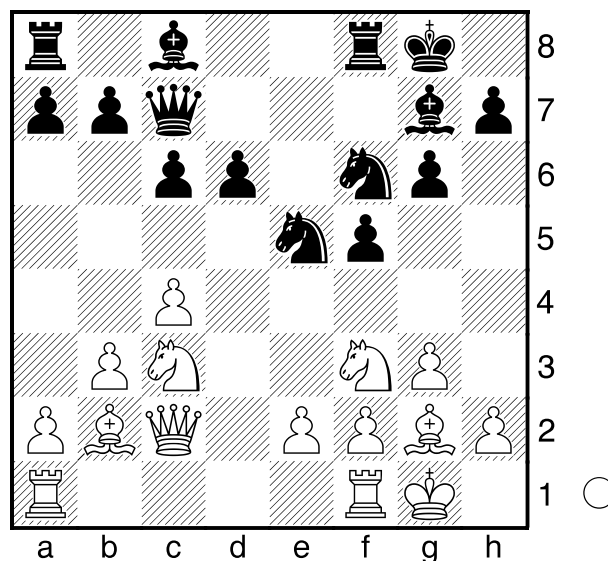
14.11.2023

**1.c4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 g6  
5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2  
Nbd7 9.b3**

(Diagram)

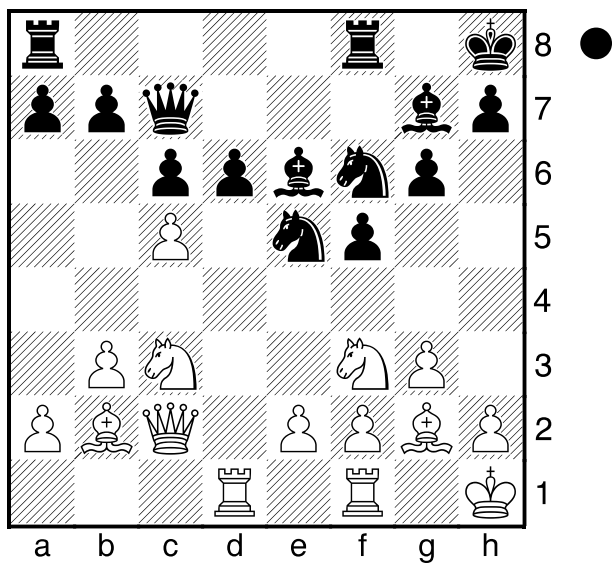


**e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Bb2 Qc7**

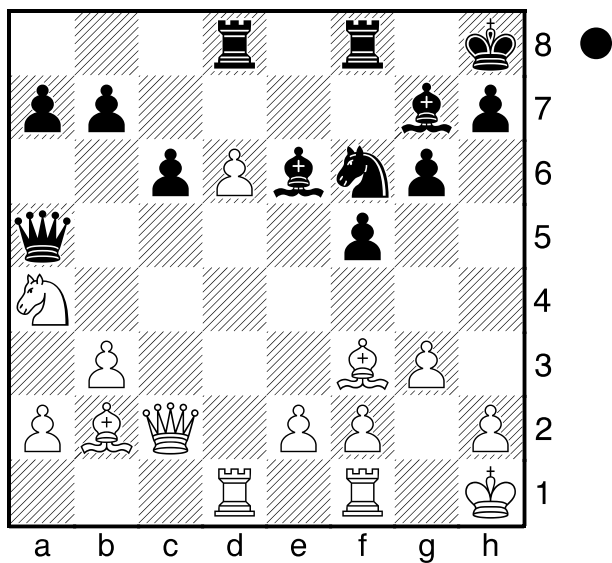


**12.Rad1 Kh8 13.Kh1** Black played Kh8 then White played Kh1, but White has an idea to change the dynamics of the game, can you find the move? **13...Be6 14.c5!**

(Diagram)

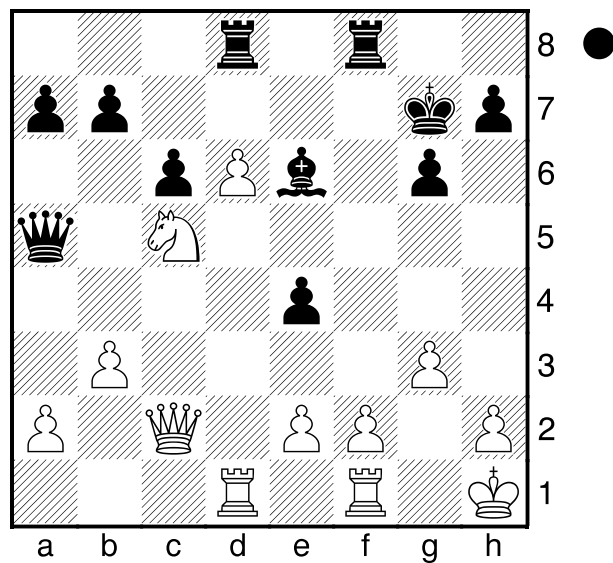


**Nxf3 15.cxd6 Qa5 16.Bxf3 Rad8  
17.Na4**



**Ne4 18.Bxg7+ Kxg7 19.Bxe4 fxe4  
20.Nc5**

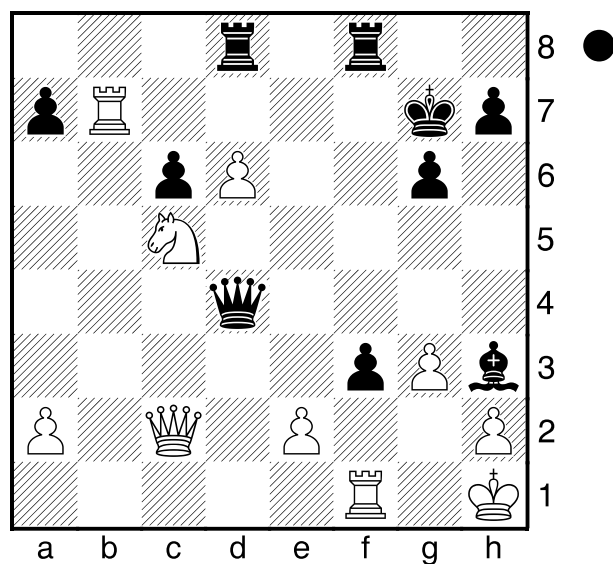
(Diagram)



**Bh3**

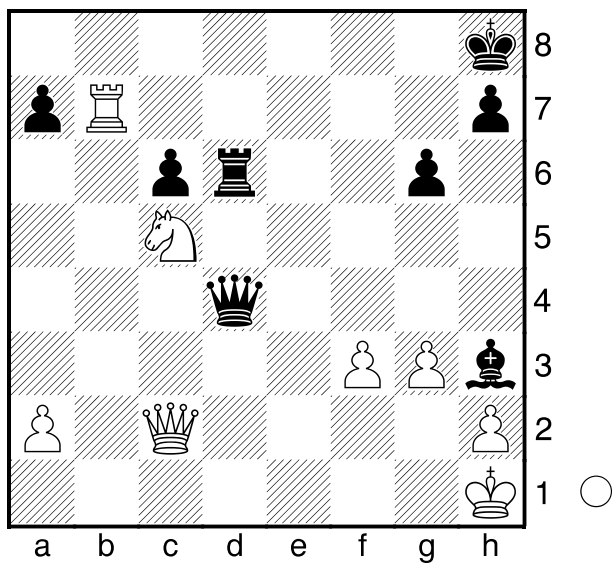
[ 20...Bh3 21.Nxb7 Qf5 22.Nxd8  
Is just winning +5 ]

**21.b4? Qxb4 22.Rb1 Qd4 23.f3 exf3  
24.Rxb7+**

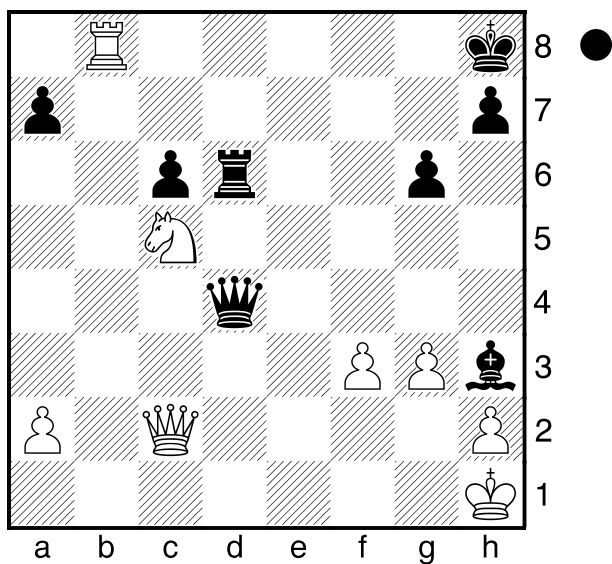


**Kh8 25.Rxf3 Rxf3 26.exf3 Rxd6**

(Diagram)

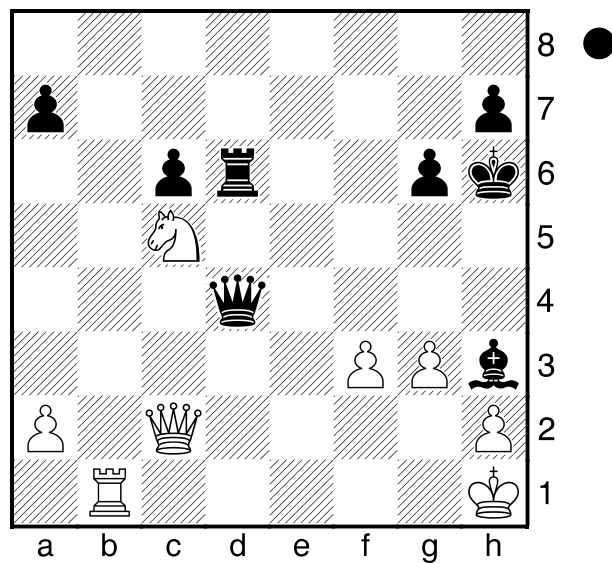


Black has the initiative **27.Rb8+**

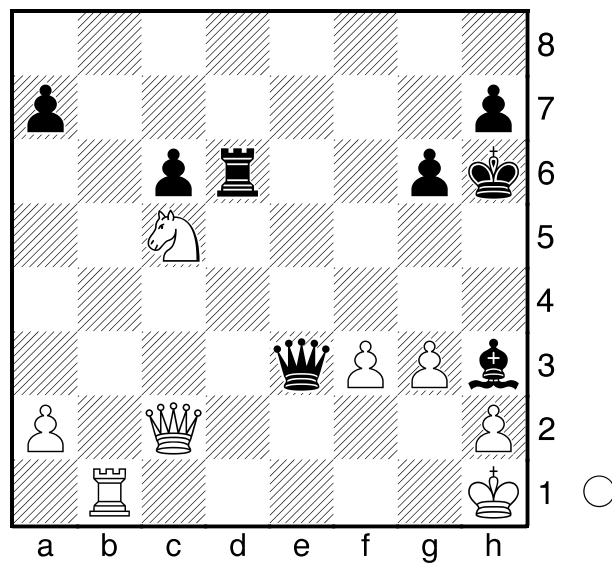


White wants to check the Black king to a square where he can attack later, h6 looks like a good candidate. **27...Kg7**  
**28.Rb7+ Kh6 29.Rb1**

(Diagram)



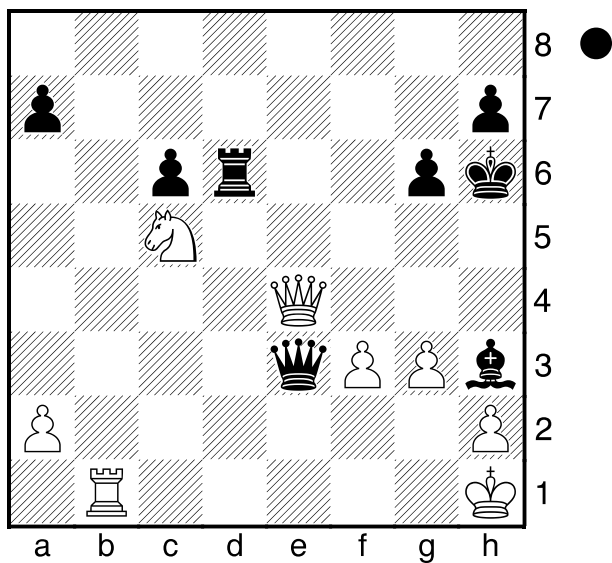
White brings the rook back to protect checkmate **29...Qe3**



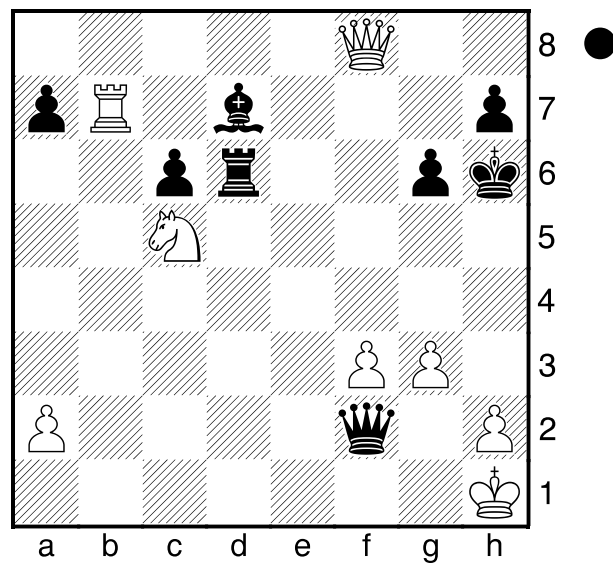
White seems to be in trouble, perhaps there is a move to get out of this bind? **30.Qe4?!**

(Diagram)

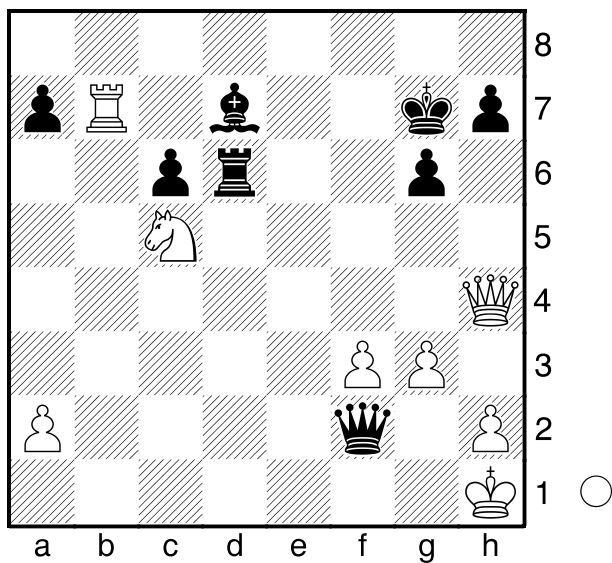




**Qf2 Threatens mate on the move**  
**31.Qh4+ Kg7 32.Rb7+ Bd7**

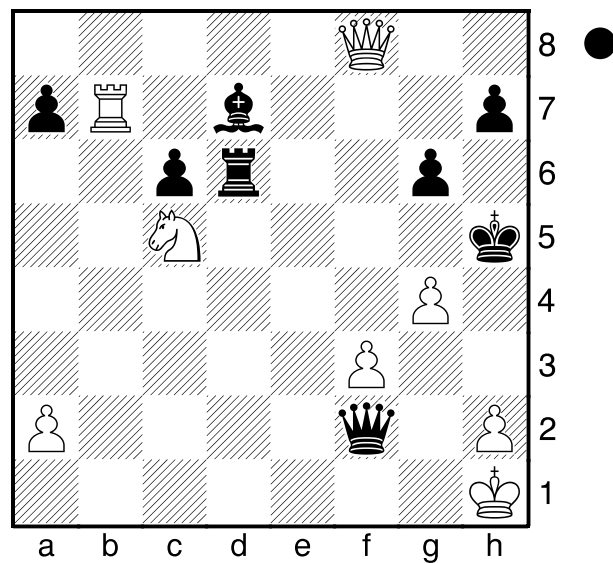


**Where to go? G5 is off limits 34...Kh5**  
**35.g4+**



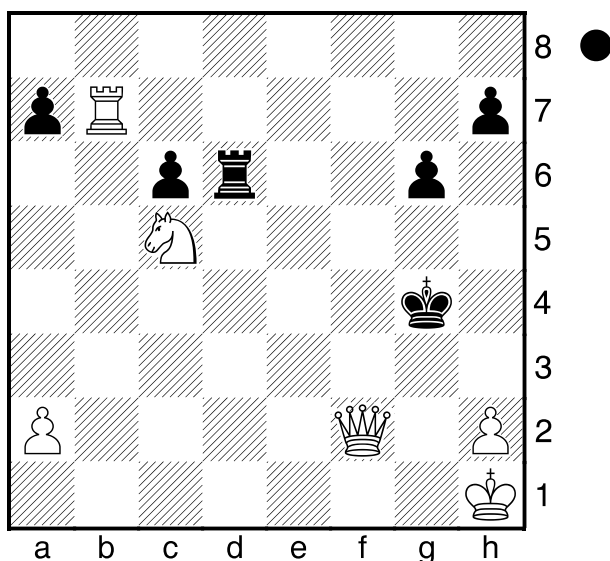
**33.Qe7+ Kh6 34.Qf8+**

(Diagram)

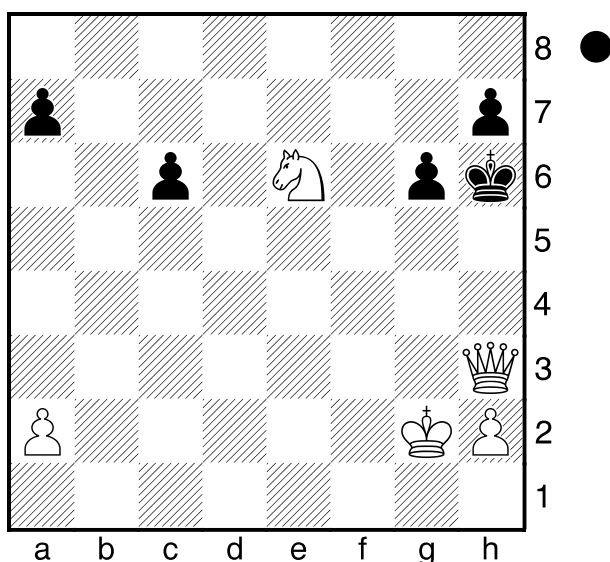


**Bxg4 36.fxg4+ Kxg4 37.Qxf2**

(Diagram)



**Rd1+ 38.Kg2 Rd5 39.Rb4+ Kg5  
40.Ne6+ Kh6 41.Rh4+ Rh5 42.Rxh5+  
Kxh5 43.Qf3+ Kh6 44.Qh3#**



Mate and the end to a great game by Mr.  
Wu.  
**1-0**

**B14**  
 1900  
 2218  
 Winter TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 14.11.2023  
 [Riese,Kayven]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4  
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Qb3 Bg7 7.cxd5 0-0  
8.Be2 Nbd7**

[ 8...Na6 is better.. 9.Nh3 would fail to  
Bxh3 ]

**9.Bf3**

[Because the text move blocks the  
Bc8, white could try 9.Nh3 Nb6  
10.Nf4

**A) 10...g5 11.Nh5 Nxh5 12.Bxh5  
h6 13.Be2 ( 13.Be3 Qd6 )**

**A1) 13...Bxd4 14.h4 Nxd5  
15.hxg5 ( 15.Nxd5 Be6 )  
15...Be6 16.Nxd5 Qxd5  
17.Qxd5 Bxd5 18.gxh6  
=+ the h6 pawn should be  
overextended.;**

**A2) 13...Re8;**

**B) 10...Bf5 11.0-0 a5 12.a4 ]**

**9...Nb6 10.Nge2 Bg4 11.Bxg4 Nxg4  
12.Bg5**

[ 12.a4 Nf6 13.Nf4

**A) 13...g5 14.Nfe2 Nbx d5  
( 14...h6 15.h4 g4 16.Nf4 )  
15.Bxg5;**

**B) 13...a5 ]**

**12...h6 13.Bh4 Qd7 14.Bg3 Rfd8  
15.d6 exd6 16.0-0 Nf6 17.Rad1 Re8  
18.Nf4 g5 19.Nfd5**

[ I did consider 19.Nd3 , but was  
worried about relinquishing the e4  
square. I saw silly lines trying to  
double attack d6, but missed how my  
opponent avoided them. I worried  
about blocking the rook from the  
protection of d4, but the text blocks  
the Bg3's attack on d6. ]

**19...Nbx d5**

[ 19...Nfx d5 I think the doofus thought  
I had was that I didn't need to take

back here. 20.Nxd5 ( 20.Nb5?? double attack on d6! lol )]

**20.Nxd5 Ne4** My opponent gets the knight hop I thought I had! lol **21.f4**  
 [ 21.f3 Nf6 ( 21...Nxc3 22.hxc3 Re2 23.Rf2 Rae8 24.Rxe2 Rxe2 25.Nc3 ) 22.Ne3 Nh5 23.Qd3 ]

**21...Rac8 22.f5 Nxc3 23.hxc3**  
 [ I rejected 23.Qxc3 Rc2 but didn't consider 24.f6 Bf8 25.h4 Re4 26.Ne3 Re2 27.Nf5 g4 ]

**23...Re2 24.Nc3 Re3 25.Kh2 Qc6 26.Qc2 d5 27.Qd2?**  
 [ I kicked myself so hard for not playing 27.Qf2 I decided to play it anyway. Rce8 28.f6 Bh8 ( 28...Bf8 29.Qf5 Qe6 30.Nxd5 Qxf5 31.Rxf5 Re2 ) 29.Qf5 Rd8 30.Qh3 Bxf6 31.Qxh6 Be7 32.Qh3 Qe6 33.Qxe6 fxe6 ]

**27...Rce8 28.Qf2**  
 [ 28.Rf3 Rxf3 29.gxf3 b5 30.Kg2 b4 31.Ne2 Bf8 32.Kf2 ]

**28...b5 29.f6 Bf8**  
 [ 29...b4? 30.fxc7 R8e7 ( 30...bxc3? 31.Qxf7+ Kh7 32.g8Q# ) 31.Nb1 ]

**30.Qf5 Rd8 31.Rf3?**  
 [ 31.Rd2 ]

**31...Rxf3 32.gxf3**  
 [ I feared 32.Qxf3 b4 33.Ne2 Qc2 ]

**32...b4 33.Ne2 Re8 34.Rd2 Re6**  
 [ better was 34...Qc4 35.Ng1 Re1 36.Nh3 ( 36.f4? Rxc1 37.Kxc1 Qc1+- ) 36...Re2+ 37.Rxe2 Qxe2+ 38.Kg1 Qe3+ 39.Kg2 Qxd4 ]

**35.f4 Qa6**  
 [ 35...Rxf6  
**A) 36.Qg4** Qe8 37.Qf3 ( 37.fxc5 h5 38.Qxh5 Rf2+ 39.Kg1 Qe3+- ) 37...Bd6 38.Kg2;  
**B) 36.Rc2** Qa4 37.b3 Rxf5 38.bxa4 Rf6+- ]

**36.Nc1?** very bad knight lol  
 [ 36.Ng1 Rxf6 37.Qxd5 gxf4 38.gxf4 Rxf4 39.Rg2+ Kh7 40.Ne2 Rf1 41.Ng3 Bd6+- ]

**36...Rxf6 37.Qxd5**

[ 37.Qg4 Qc4 38.Ne2 Rg6 39.b3 Qc6 40.fxc5 Rxc5 41.Qf3 ]

**37...Qf1**  
 [ 37...gxf4 38.Rg2 fxc3+ 39.Rxc3+ Rg6 40.Rxc3+ Qxc3+- ]

**38.Nd3 gxf4 39.gxf4**  
 [ 39.Nxf4? Rxf4 40.gxf4 Qxf4+ 41.Kg1 Qxd2+- ]

**39...Rg6 40.Qh1 Qxh1+ 41.Kxh1 f6 42.f5?**  
 [ Best is 42.Rc2 Bd6 43.Rc6 Rg3 44.Rxd6 Rxd3 45.Rxf6= ]  
 [ I saw I could force the rooks off, so I got excited by the idea. It wasn't terrible to try 42.Rg2 Kf7 43.Rc2 (The problem with 43.Rxc6 Kxc6 44.Kg2 Kf5 45.Kf3 h5 is black's king is too active. ) ]

**42...Rg5 43.Rg2?**  
 [ I should have given up on the unforced expectation for black to stupidly take on g2 43.Rf2 Kf7 44.Nc5 Bd6 45.a3 a5 46.Nb7 Rh5+ 47.Kg2 Bc7 48.Nc5 ]

**43...Kf7 44.Rf2**  
 [ 44.Rxc5?? fxc5 and black now has TWO connected passed pawns, not to mention the absurd weakness of his f5 pawn. ]

**44...Bd6 45.Nc5 Rg4 46.Ne6 h5 47.Rg2 Re4 48.Rg7+ Ke8 49.Rxa7 h4 50.Ra8+ Kf7 51.Kg2 Re3 52.Kf2 Rh3 53.b3 Rh2+ 54.Kg1 h3 55.Ra7+ Ke8 56.Ra8+ Kd7 57.Rd8+ Ke7!**  
 [ I thought I had him with 57...Kc6?? 58.Rxd6+ Kxd6 59.Kxh2+- ]

**58.Rh8 Rg2+ 59.Kf1 Rg3 60.Rh7+ Ke8 61.Rh8+ Kf7 62.Rh7+?**  
 [ 62.Nc5 Bxc5 63.dxc5 Rc3 64.Ke2 Rxc5 65.Rh7+ Ke8 66.Rxh3 Rxf5 67.Re3+ Kd7= ]

**62...Kg8 63.Rh6?**  
 [ 63.Rh4 Rc3 64.Nc5 Rc1+ 65.Kf2 h2 66.Ne4 Bb8 67.Nxf6+ Kg7 68.Nd5 h1R 69.Rxh1 Rxh1 70.Nxb4 Rh3 71.Ke2 Kf6 and the pawns aren't

quite strong enough. ]

**63...Rc3 64.Kf2**

[ 64.Rxf6 Rc1+ 65.Ke2 h2 66.Rh6  
h1Q 67.Rxh1 Rxh1 68.Kd3 Rc1-+ ]

**64...h2 65.Kg2 Rc2+ 66.Kh1 Rc1+**

**67.Kg2 Rg1+**

**0-1**

□ **Argo,Guy**

■ **Casares,Nick**

**C33**

**1767**

**1610**

Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (2.9) 14.11.2023  
[Argo,Guy]

**1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d4 d6**

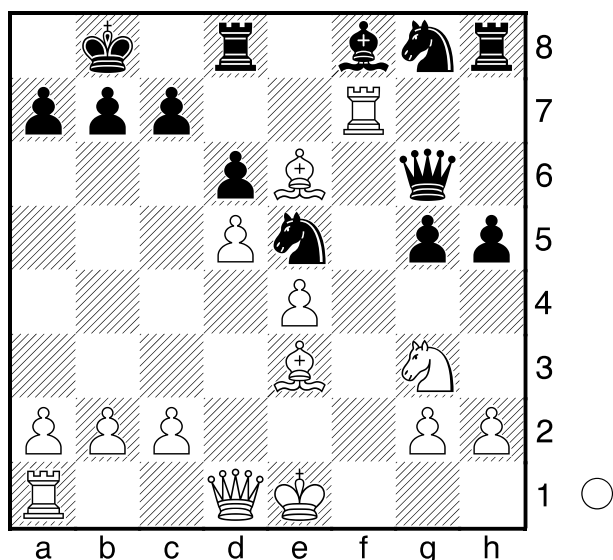
**5.Bxf4 Qf6 6.Ne2 Bg4 7.Nbc3**

[ 7.0-0! ]

**7...Bxe2 8.Nxe2 g5 9.Be3 0-0-0**

**10.Ng3 h5 11.Rf1 Qg6 12.Bxf7 Qg7**

**13.Be6+ Kb8 14.Rf7 Qg6 15.d5 Ne5**



**16.Bxa7+!? Kxa7 17.Rxc7 Rh7**

**18.Rc3 Kb8 19.Qd4 Rc7 20.Ra3±**

[ 20.Qb6!+- ]

**20...Rc4??**

[ 20...Rc5! ]

**21.Qa7+ Kc7 22.Qa5+**

**1-0**



**Crompton,Robert**



**Arivoli,Sadhana**

**C54**

**1563**

**1621**

Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (2.14) 14.11.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

It's worth noting that the whole Arivoli family was 45 minutes late; APEC demonstrations have had an effect on travel on the Bay bridge and elsewhere.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3  
Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5**

[The not-quite-eternal 6.cxd4 Bb4+ has, after a few hundred years, been pretty well rendered toothless (if Black knows a few tricks!). Too bad! But don't worry, we still have ...

**A) 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ ( 7...Nxe4 )**

8.Nbxd2 d5 has always been the quiet alternative, but White's knight on d2 is misplaced. In fact, though, this is a quite popular invitation to a three-fold repetition: 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Qb3 Na5 11.Qa4+ Nc6 ( 11...c6 would be Black trying to continue, but now the knight on a5 is even more misplaced (and White has the score to match). )

**A1) 12.Bb5 Qe7+! 13.Ne5! Bd7 ( 13...0-0!? ) 14.0-0□=;**

**A2) 12.Qb3 Na5** Had enough?

Over 1000 games have ended here or on the next move.;

**B) 7.Nc3!?** is the Moeller Attack, and here is the sequence that finally got a grip on it: Nxe4 8.0-0! Bxc3!

9.d5! Bf6! 10.Re1 Ne7 11.Rxe4

d6 12.Bg5! Bxg5 13.Nxg5 h6

14.Qe2!? hxg5 15.Re1 Be6

16.dxe6 f6 Stockfish in 2023 says Black is comfortably better; humans might not be comfortable at all.;

**C) 7.Nbd2!?** has appeared out of nowhere (well not quite) with the usual suspects playing it (mostly in blitz): 7...d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0



0-0 10.a3 Bxd2 11.Bxd2 Bg4  
12.h3 Bh5 13.g4 Bg6 14.Re1  
Nb6 15.Bf1 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd4  
17.Bc3 Qxd1 18.Raxd1

Black was unable to grind out a win:

Rfe8 19.f3 f6 20.h4 h6 21.Kf2 c6  
22.h5 Bf7 23.Bd3 Nd5 24.Bd2  
Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Rd8 26.Bf5 Kf8  
27.a4 b6 28.Be4 Ne7 29.Bf4 Nd5  
30.Bd2 c5 31.Rc1 Nc7 32.Be3  
Ne6 33.a5 Nd4 34.axb6 axb6  
35.Ra1 Bd5 36.Bxd5 Rxd5  
37.Ra8+ Ke7 38.Rg8 Ne6 39.Rb8  
Rd6 40.Rb7+ Kf8 41.b4 cxb4  
42.Bxb6 Rd3 43.Be3 Rb3 44.Rb6  
Ke7 45.f4 Rb2+ 46.Kf3 b3  
47.Ke4 Re2 48.Rxb3 Nc5+ 49.Kf3  
Nxb3 50.Kxe2 Na5 51.Kf3 Nc6  
52.Ke4 Ke6 53.Bc5 Ne7 54.f5+  
Kf7 55.Bxe7 Kxe7 56.Kd5 Kf7  
57.Kd6 Kg8 58.Ke7 Kh8 59.Kf8  
Kh7 60.Kf7 Kh8 61.Kf8 Kh7  
62.Kf7 Kh8 63.Kf8 ½-½ Caruana,F  
(2766)-Carlsen,M (2859) Speed  
Chess Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (2.  
24) ]

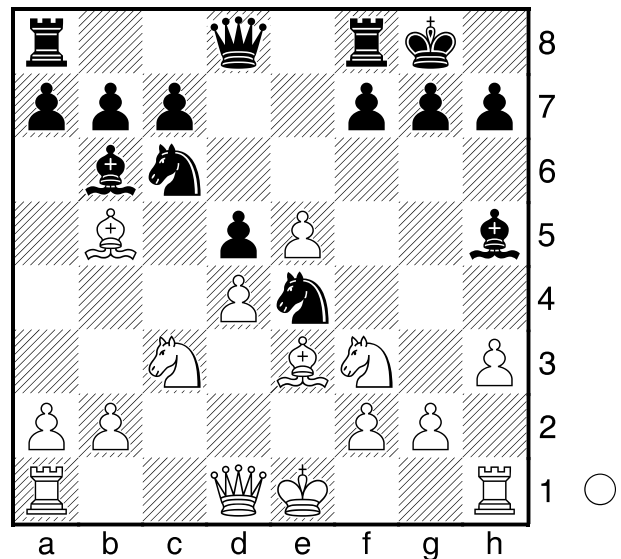
[ 6.0-0 seems best answered by Nxe4!  
7.cxd4 d5! ]

**6...d5** Necessary to maintain balance

**7.Bb5 Ne4** Same here; in fact Stockfish  
favors 7...Ng8 (?!?) over 7...Nd7 for 2nd  
best, but they're both way up in the +=  
world. **8.cxd4 Bb4+**

[ General consensus including a lot of  
rapid and blitz games by Magnus,  
have 8...Bb6 as the more sensible  
retreat. 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be3 Bg4  
( 10...f5!? ) 11.h3 Bh5

(Diagram)



stays quite tense! Perhaps that alone  
is a factor that attracts our  
superstars... ]

**9.Bd2** The transpositions and almost-  
transpositions are everywhere -- White  
has gone Bf1-c4-b5, Black ...Bf8-c5-b4.

**9...Nxd2**

[ 9...Bxd2+ wasn't necessary  
10.Nbxd2 ]

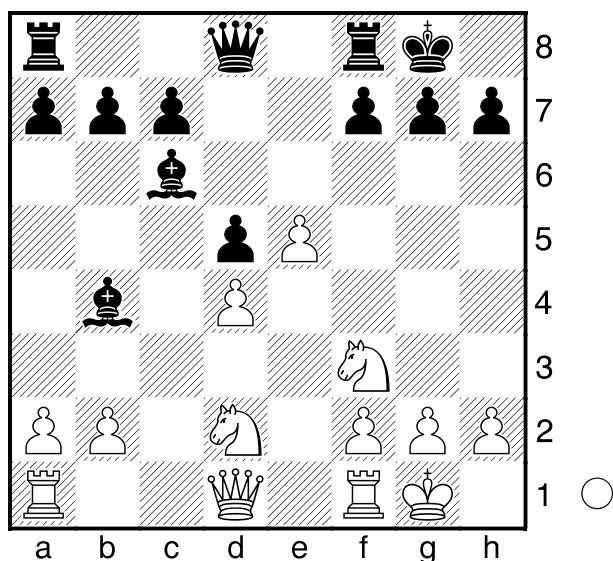
[ But how do you like 9...Be7!?  
(played 25 times) for transposition  
questions?? Dizzying. ]

**10.Nbxd2 Bd7**

[ 10...0-0 is, as one might expect, a bit  
more exciting. 11.0-0 ( 11.Bxc6 bxc6  
12.0-0 c5 ) 11...Ne7!? ( 11...Bg4 ) ]

**11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.0-0 0-0**

(Diagram)



An extreme case of bishops vs. knights with a somewhat blocked center. Most of the grandmasters have found alternate futures, but one local Bay Area GM is still with us: **13.a3** The most commonly played.

[ 13.Rc1!? Be7 14.Nb3 Bd7 15.Nc5 Bc8 16.Qd3 a5 17.Rfe1 b6 18.Na4 Bd7 19.Nc3 Be6 20.Ne2 c5 21.dxc5 bxc5 22.Nf4 d4 23.Nxe6 fxe6 ½-½ Zierk,S (2488)-Melikyan,G (2238) Titled Tuesday intern op 18th Oct Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (10) Stockfish makes it very even after 24. Nd2 ]

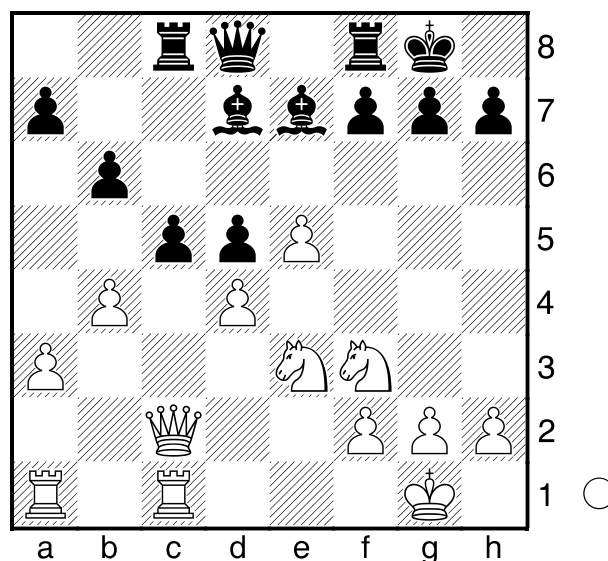
**13...Be7! 14.Qc2** Stockfish follows rules and puts a rook on c1 or e1, with equality. And humans have preferred as well, scoringly better accordingly. But objectively it's all rather the same.

**14...Bb5N**

[ 14...a5!? preempts any Minority Attack ]

**15.Rfc1 Rc8 16.b4 Bd7 17.Nf1 b6 18.Ne3 c5!**

(Diagram)



Principled central play. **19.bxc5 bxc5 20.Nxd5 cxd4 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Qd3 Rxc1+**

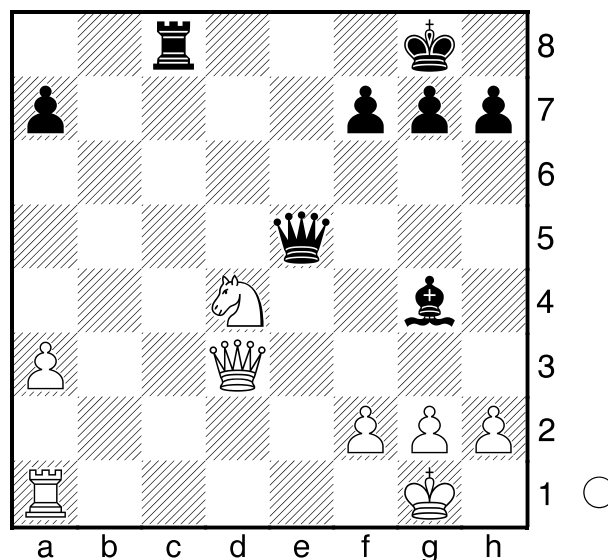
[ 22...Bg4 ]

**23.Rxc1 Rc8 24.Ra1 Bg4 25.Nxd4**

[ 25.Qxd4 Bxf3 26.gxf3 Rc1+!

27.Rxc1 Qg5+ 28.Kf1 Qxc1+ 29.Kg2 Qxa3 is nothing but "0.00"s ]

**25...Qxe5**

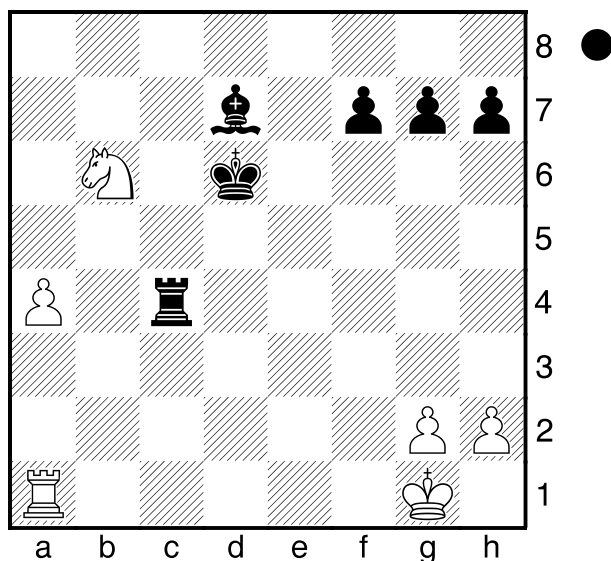


**26.Qe3** I don't know why this isn't at least as good as the many other moves; the e-pawn is insignificant, there is no longer a danger of back rank mate (for White!), and the knight on d4 is

supported. **26...Qxe3 27.fxe3 Rc3**  
 But now White comes away with a  
 passed pawn, not that it should sway  
 the needle off "draw." **28.Nb5 Rxe3**  
**29.Nxa7 Bd7** some back rank  
 alleviation is called for **30.a4**

[ 30.Rd1 Be8 31.Rd8 Kf8 32.Nc8  
 Rxa3 33.Nd6 Ke7 34.Rxe8+ Kxd6  
 these positions are optically nice but  
 draw, draw, draw. ]

**30...Rb3 31.Nb5 Kf8 32.Nd6**  
 "32.Nd7 Ke7 33.Ne5 Rb4 34.Nc3" on  
 Crompton's scoresheet ordinarily  
 wouldn't throw me off but I have the flu;  
 consultation with the Arivoli family set it  
 straight! **32...Ke7 33.Ne4 Rb4 34.Nc3**  
**Rc4?! 35.Nd5+ Kd6 36.Nb6**



**Rc6??** This is like tripping over the one  
 rock on the Bonneville Salt Flats.

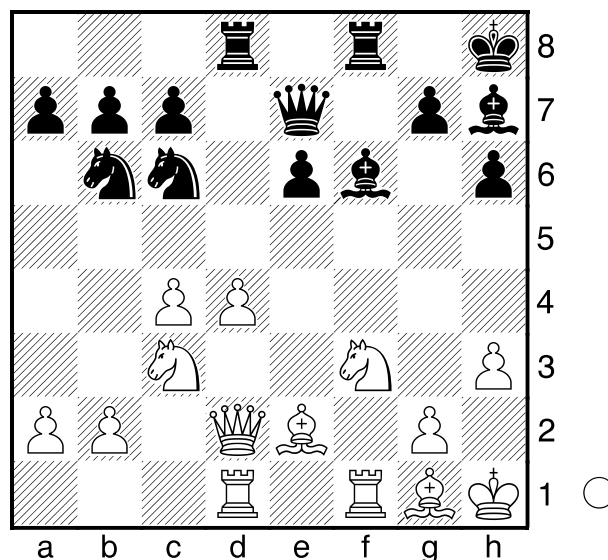
[ 36...Rd4 is the only way to avoid  
 losing the bishop 37.Nxd7 Kxd7  
 38.a5 Kc6 39.a6 Rd8 Still drawn. ]

**37.Rd1+- Kc7 38.Nxd7 Rd6 39.Rxd6**  
**Kxd6 40.Nb6 Kc5 41.a5 Kb5 42.Nc4**  
**Ka6 43.Kf2 f6 44.Kf3 Kb5 45.Kf4 g6**  
**46.g4 Kc5 47.a6 Kc6 48.h4 Kc7**  
**49.Ke4 Kc6 50.Kd4 Kc7 51.Kd5**  
**1-0**

**B03**  
**Wong, Wilson 1863**  
**Dutter, Frederic 1914**  
 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (2.16) 14.11.23  
 [Wong, Wilson]

**1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6**  
**5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Be3 Bf5**  
**8.Nc3 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.Be2 0-0**  
**11.0-0 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qd2 Qe7**  
**14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Kh1 h6 16.h3 Kh8**  
**17.Bg1** Last move in master database.  
**17...Bh7**

[ 17...Rd7 Every master game  
 continued with this move. An idea is  
 for Black to double rooks on d-file to  
 force White to take action in the  
 center. ]



Black should be trying to dismantle  
 White's center as soon as possible and  
 this move doesn't help with that. Maybe  
 Black retreated the bishop preemptively  
 to prepare ...e5, not wanting their light-  
 squared bishop to be hanging. **18.b3**  
 Securing the queenside pawns before  
 reorganizing my pieces. This is a  
 common prophylactic move and I played  
 it because I thought the tactics with B-  
 or Nxd4 then ...c5 or ...e5 worked out for

me, but I might be mistaken.

[ 18.Qe3 This seems better, just getting out of tactics on d-file. White can still play b3 next turn but at least with this move order there are no tactics to worry about. ]

**18...Rfe8** Black needs a pawn break otherwise Black's position is miserable but Black has spent too many turns doing nothing.

[ 18...Nxd4 Because White wasted a move on b3, Black had a chance to equalize here by grabbing d4-pawn then pinning the piece on d4-square with ...e5. 19.Bxd4 e5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Rxf8+ Qxf8 22.Qe3 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Rxd4 24.Qxd4 ]

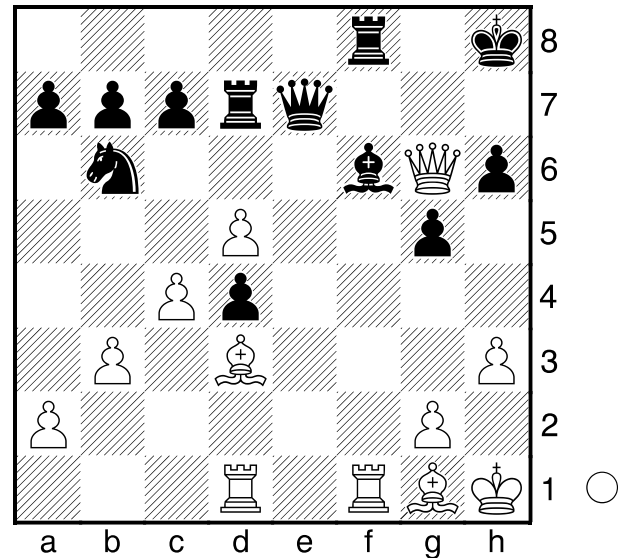
**19.Qe3** A move I should've done earlier but now that I have been able to make this move, White's center is now sturdier. White wants Ne4 next, threatening Nxf6 to remove Black's annoying dark-squared bishop which applies lots of pressure to White's center. Black's dark-squared bishop is also a defender of Black's king and currently closing the f-file. **19...Rd7** Black might be trying to double rooks but Black's play is very inconsistent and wasting valuable time. Black gave up the center but needs to be quick to counter-attack.

[ 19...g5 This was the move I thought Black should've made. Black can maintain pressure on White's center and keep the strong dark-squared bishop. If Black went for this, I would try to re-route my c3-knight: Ne4-f2 and head for e5. If possible, I'd also like to swap my light-squared bishop for Black's and try to get something going against Black's king and the e6-pawn. ]

**20.Ne4 Bxe4** As ugly as this is, I think it's necessary. If Black didn't trade, White had Nxf6 and if queen recaptures, Ne5 discovered attack on Black queen, and if

instead Black recaptures White's knight with ...gxf6, then h6-pawn drops.

**21.Qxe4 e5 22.d5 Nd4** This just loses tactically. **23.Bd3 g5 24.Nxd4 exd4 25.Qg6** Black can't stop material loss and Black's king is chronically weak. **25...Rf8**



**26.Bxd4 Rd6**

[ 26...Bxd4 27.Qxh6+ Kg8 28.Bh7+ **A) 28...Kh8** 29.Bf5+ Kg8 30.Be6+ Rf7 31.Rxf7 Qxf7 32.Bxf7+ White just has a winning material advantage. (EW: 32.Rf1 8 is mate in );

**B) 28...Qxh7** 29.Rxf8# ]

**27.Qxh6+** Just going for simplification into a winning endgame. There is a forced mate here but I couldn't find it and didn't want to spend so much time looking for a very complicated checkmate that might not even be there when I'm 100% sure I can convert the reduced material endgame. EW: I don't know, it's pretty straightforward! And endgames are never 100%, while MATE is. :-)

[ 27.Rde1! is mate in six: Qg7 28.Rxf6 Rdx6 29.Bxf6 Rxf6 30.Re8+ Rf8 31.Rxf8+ Qxf8 32.Qh7# ]

**27...Kg8 28.Bxf6 Rxf6 29.Qxg5+ Qg7**

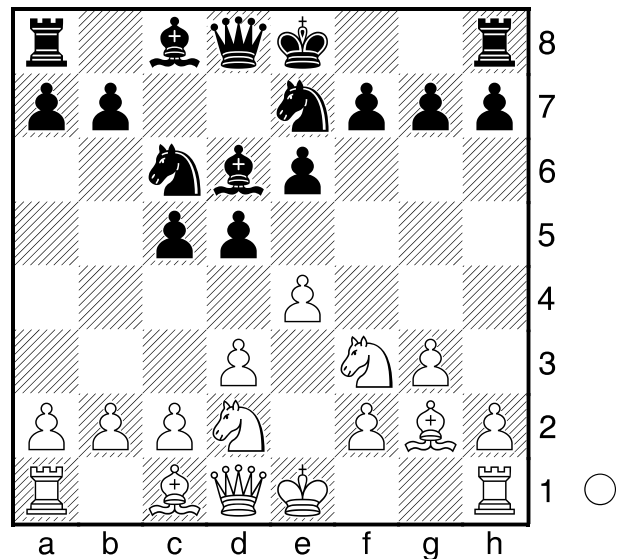


**30.Qxg7+ Kxg7** White is just up 3 pawns, with 2 passed pawns on the kingside. White still needs to play accurately but I find a great way to simplify. **31.c5** All pieces but one rook for each side will remain after the forcing sequence. **31...Rxf1+ 32.Rxf1 Rxd5 33.cxb6 Rxd3 34.bxa7 Rd8 35.Rc1 c6 36.Rc4 Ra8 37.Ra4** Black is just dead lost here. **37...Kf7 38.g4 Ke7 39.Kg2 Kd6 40.h4 b5 41.Ra6 b4 42.Kf3 Kc5 43.Ke3 Kb5 44.Ra4 c5 45.Kd3 c4+ 46.Kc2 c3 47.a3 bxa3 48.Rxa3 Kb6 49.Kxc3 Kb7 50.h5 Rc8+ 51.Kd4 Ka8 52.Ke5 Rg8 53.Kf5 Rf8+ 54.Kg5 Rg8+ 55.Kh4 Rf8 56.h6 1-0**

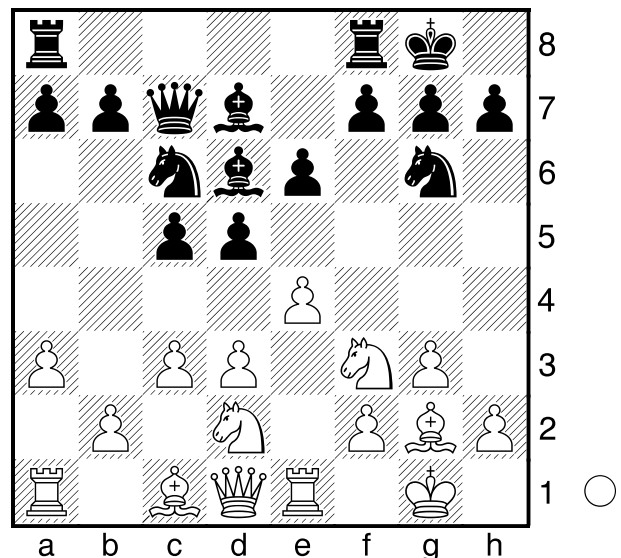
**Bambou, Christophe** **A08**  
 **Lewis, Edward** **2107**  
 Winter TNM: 2000+ (3.1) **1932**  
 21.11.2023  
*[Lewis, Edward/(Winslow, Elliott)]*

Ed Lewis and I (EW) were the only perfect scores already, but I was waylaid by flu/RSV, so Christophe Bambou was the one to wonder: "What is he \*doing\*??" **1.e4 e6** Surprise! No Pirc, Modern or KID today. **2.d3 d5** Black has already equalized (0.00) **3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.g3 Bd6 6.Bg2 Nge7**

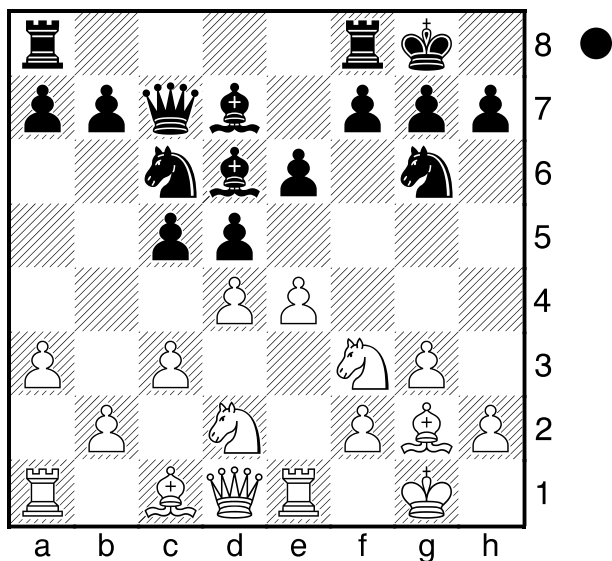
(Diagram)



The set of knights, for both sides, seem offset from the development of their natural squares but perhaps could yield greater outposts in the near future. **7.0-0 Qc7 8.Re1 0-0 9.c3 Ng6** Not the greatest square for the N, +0.35 White gains a small initiative back. **10.a3 Bd7**



?? A cluster development concept of the minor pieces. I first noticed this type of development style in a GM Walter Browne game. The stage is set, how will White continue? **11.d4!±**  
(Diagram)



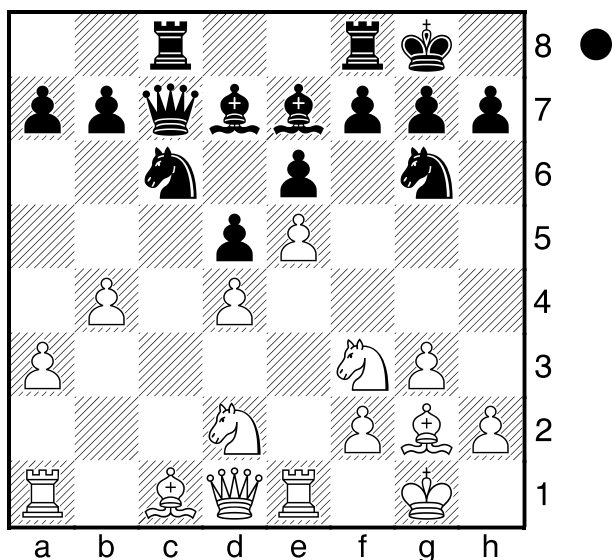
White tries to collapse the center.

**11...cxd4 12.cxd4 Rac8** 0.65

Better was ...h6 or ...Qb6, after which ... Rc8 looks plausible; now White gains even more of an initiative.

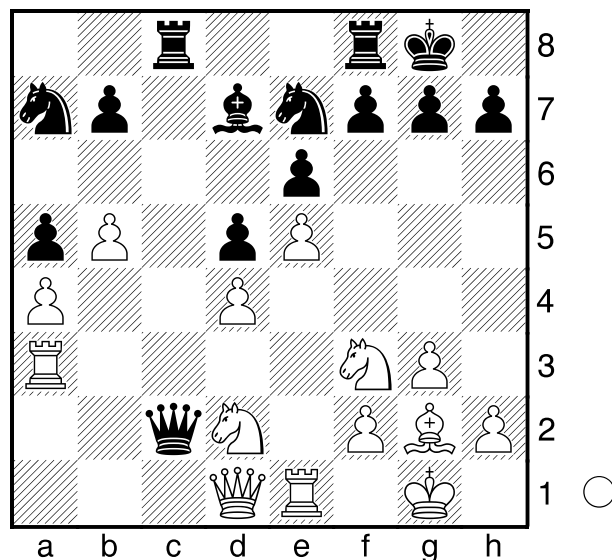
[ (EW -- note 12...dxe4 13.Nxe4 Be7 14.h4 gets pushed further back, what with h5 and Bf4 coming) ]

**13.e5 Be7 14.b4**

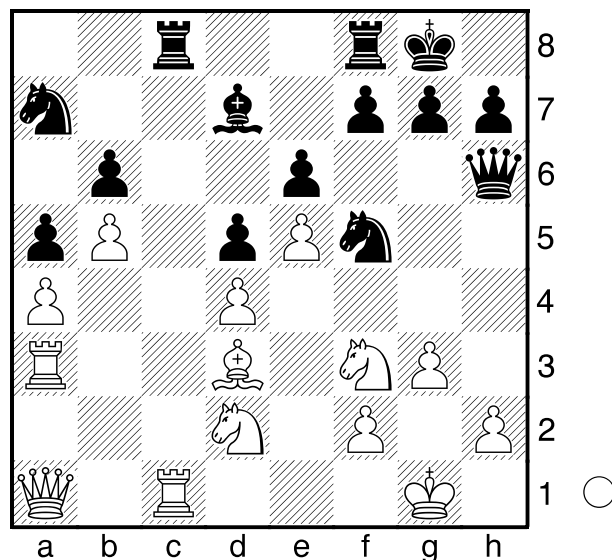


**a5?** 0.65 Now Black's knight is misplaced, where it is inactive and a bit of a hindrance. I thought I could reroute in time for the endgame. **15.b5 Na7 16.a4 Qc2 17.Ba3 Bxa3 18.Rxa3**

**Ne7?!**

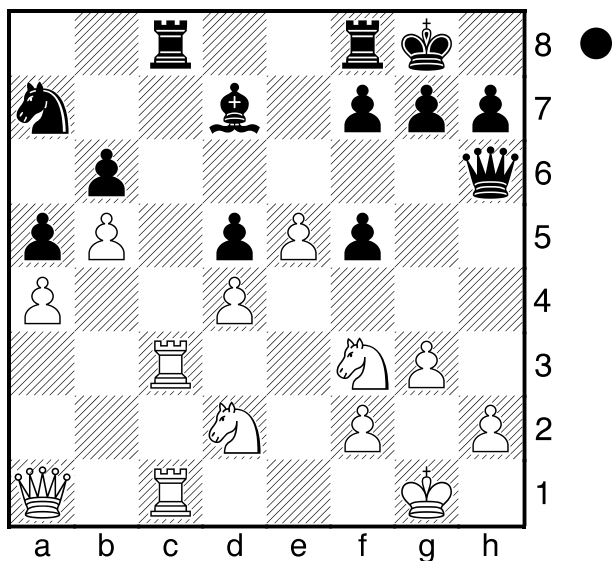


+1.70 White is better but redeveloping Ne7 seemed so natural. **19.Bf1 b6 20.Qa1 Qg6** Time to leave and find work elsewhere. **21.Rc1 Nf5 22.Bd3 Qh6**

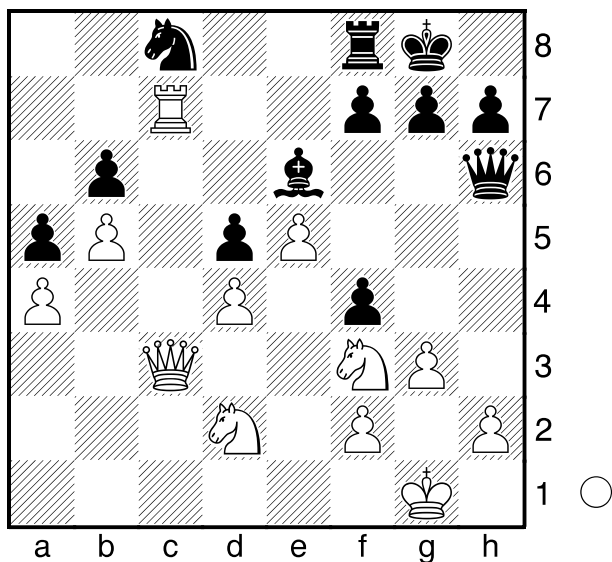


(+3.66) Black is in trouble positionally. White is on fire and coming. Can Black create a way out of this mess? **23.Bxf5 exf5 24.Rac3**

(Diagram)



**Rxc3 25.Rxc3 Be6 26.Rc7 Nc8**  
**27.Qc3 f4** Black is trying to creep like a spider on the f-file. Hopefully White gets lost somewhere else on the board and doesn't see me sneaking towards his king.



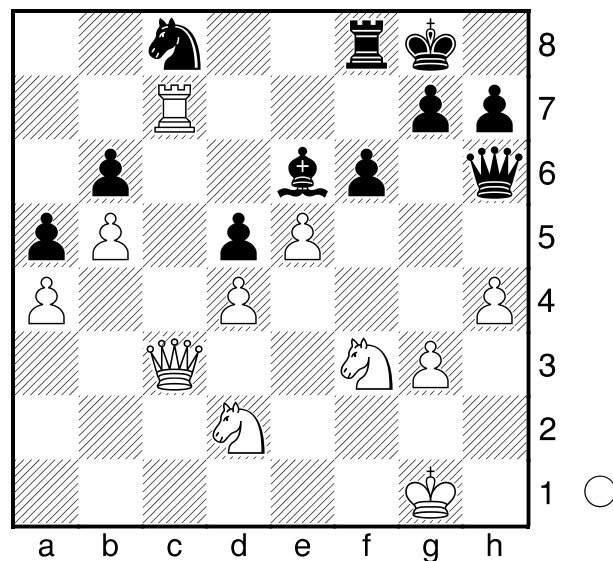
**28.h4?!** And just like that, Black is equal due to White's miscalculation.

[ (EW -- Stockfish has 28.Nf1 as +- even, but I don't know why.) ]

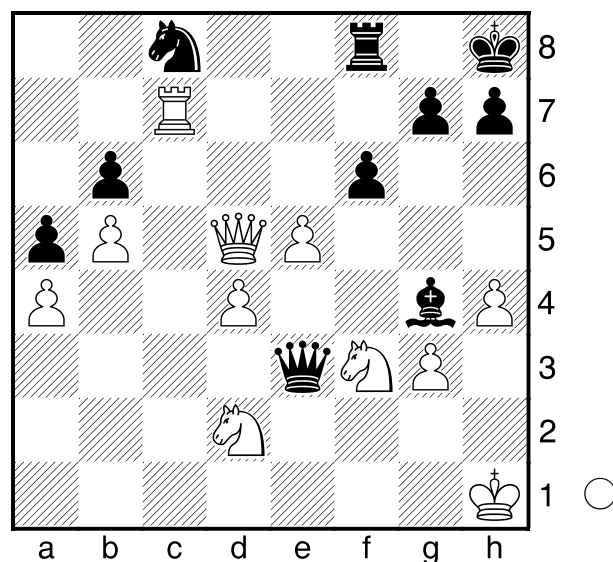
**28...fxg3! 29.fxg3 f6??**

[ 29...Qg6! 30.Nf1 f6± ]

(Diagram)



And just like that, black is in trouble again. +3.00 Funny how chess is like that sometimes. However, the show must go on. **30.Qc6! Qe3+! 31.Kh1!+- Bg4! 32.Qxd5+ Kh8**

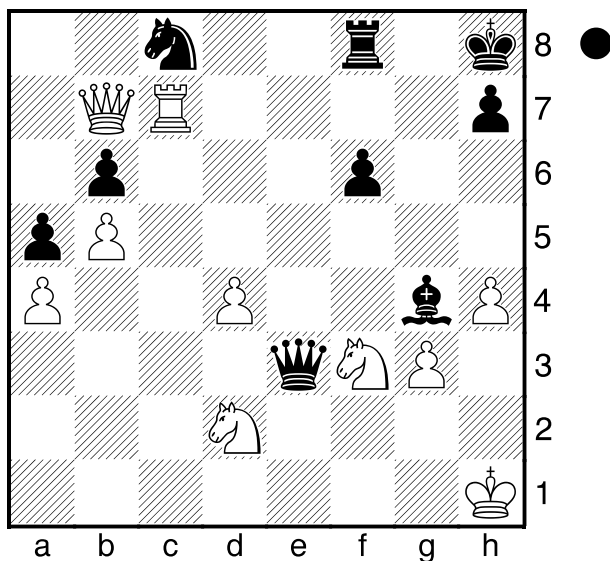


**33.exf6??** Yet again, Black is equal 0.00, this game has been a twist of ideas and choices.

[ 33.Rf7!+- (EW -- the only, winning, move) ]

**33...gxf6 34.Qb7**

(Diagram)



**Qd3?? 2.73 ??** White is now on top

[ 34...Bf5□= ]

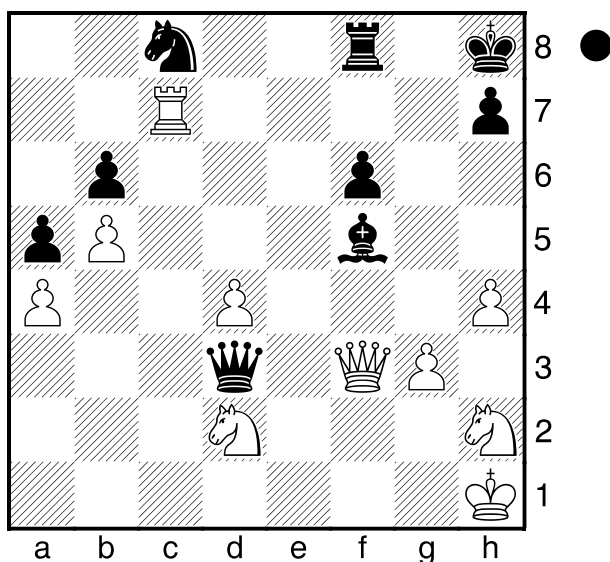
**35.Nh2??** -1.80 Now Black is on top!

**35...Bf5?**

[Black missed 35...Nd6!±

Time is short for both. ]

**36.Qf3!± 0.85**



White is better **36...Qxf3+?!**

[ 36...Nd6 37.Qxd3 Bxd3 38.Nhf3  
Rd8 39.Kg1± ]

**37.Nhxf3+- Re8 38.Kg1?**

[ 38.d5!+- ]

**38...Kg8?**

[ 38...Ne7!± ]

**39.Kf2?!]**

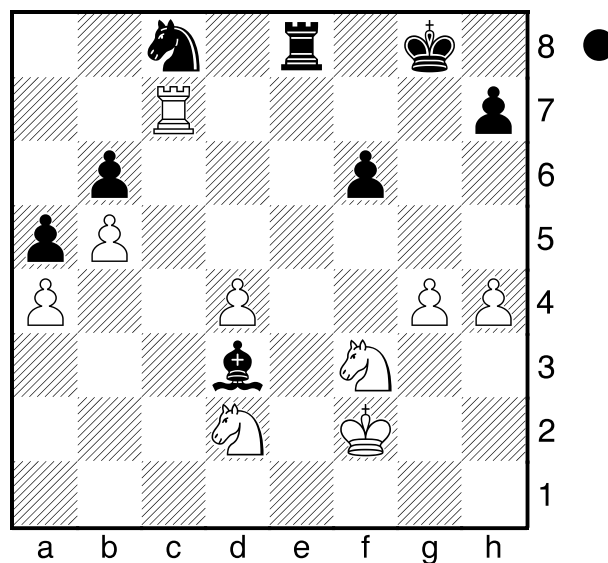
[ 39.d5+- ]

[ 39.Nc4! ]

**39...Bd3?**

[ 39...Ne7 40.Nc4 Nd5 41.Rc6!± ]

**40.g4**



Everything is winning for White at this moment. **40...Ne7 41.Rc3?!]**

[ 41.Rd7 Nc8 42.d5 ]

**41...Bg6± 42.Rc7 h5?!]**

[ 42...Nd5! ]

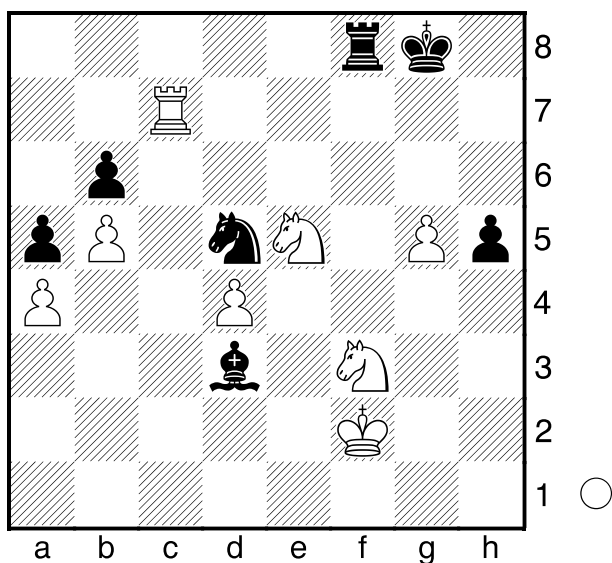
**43.g5! fxg5 44.hxg5+- Bd3 45.Ne5  
Rf8+ 46.Ndf3?!]**

[ 46.Kg3! Nf5+ 47.Kh3+- ]

**46...Nd5!?**

(Diagram)





**47.Rc6 Be4 48.Kg3 Kg7 49.Rd6**

[ 49.Nh4! Rf1 50.Nef3 ]

**49...Nc3!? 50.Rxb6?!**

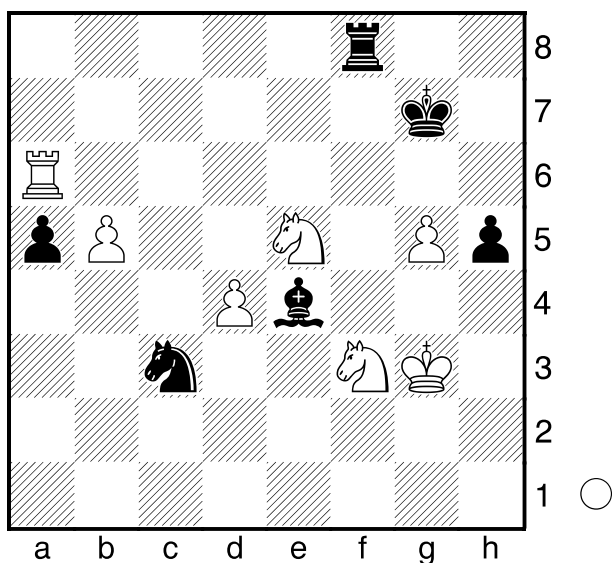
[ 50.Nd2! Ne2+ 51.Kh3! ( 51.Kh4 Rf4+ 52.Kxh5?? Ng3# ) 51...Bd5!!

52.Rd7+ Kg8 53.Kh4 Be6! 54.Rb7 Rf2± ]

**50...Nxa4?**

[ 50...h4+!= ]

**51.Ra6+- Nc3**



**52.Rxa5?**

[ 52.Ra7+! Kg8 53.b6 Ra8 54.Re7 somehow White weaves ...

\*something\* ... with a win. But that a-

pawn sure looks dangerous! ]

**52...Ne2+ 53.Kf2 Bxf3?** Black is

creating complications (but for himself!). Now king to e3 is key, but White reacted with low-time logic.

[ 53...Nxd4!= ]

**54.Ra7+?**

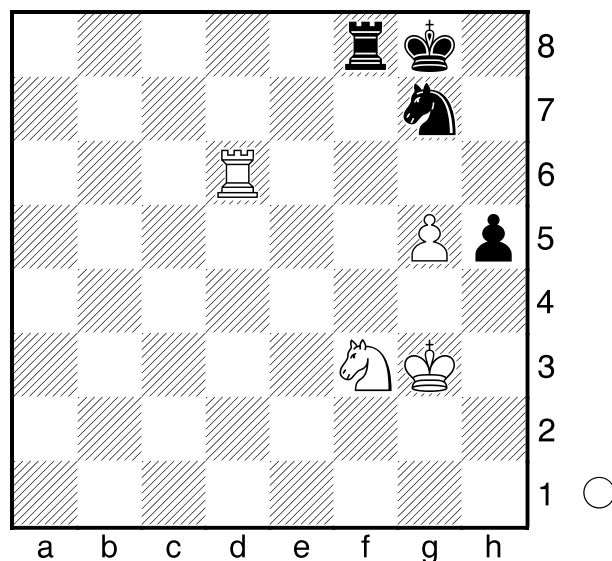
[ 54.Ke3!+- ]

**54...Kg8 55.Nxf3**

[ 55.Ke3!? Nc3! 56.Nxf3 Nxb5± ]

**55...Nxd4= 56.Ra3 Nxb5 57.Rd3 Nc7**

**58.Kg3 Ne6 59.Rd6 Ng7**



With 3 minutes on Black's clock, 34 seconds on White's clock. What a game on Board #1!! Thank you Christophe Bambou, till next time.

1/2-1/2



**Dasika, Archit**



**Gray, William**

Winter TNM: 2000+ (3.2)

[Winslow, Elliott]

**D07**

**2218**

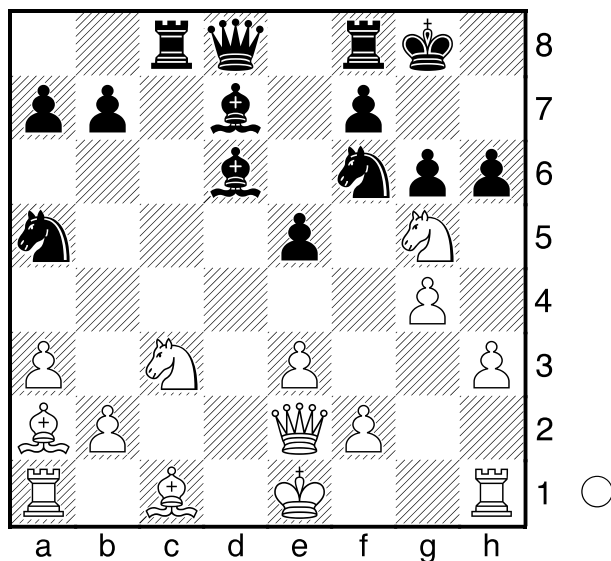
**1964**

21.11.2023

Business as usual for Dasika, who has a won game before move 20 without any heavy lifting. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e3 e5 5.d5 Na5 6.Qa4+ c6 7.dxc6 Nxc6 8.Bxc4 Nf6 9.Nf3 Bd6**

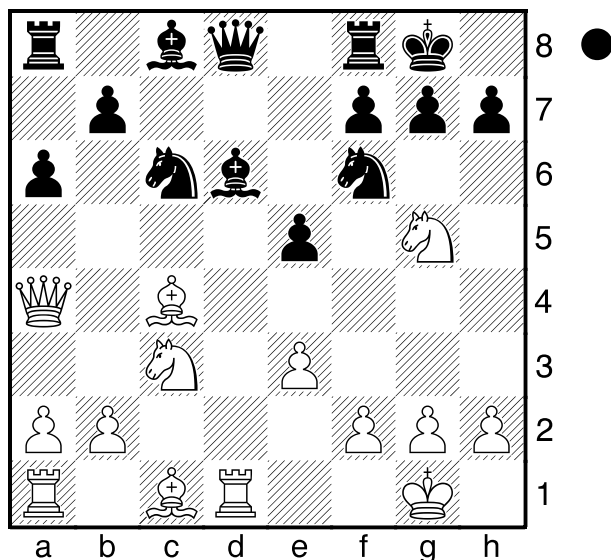
## 10.0-0

[Kuzubov got it started even earlier:  
10.Ng5 0-0 11.Qc2 g6 12.h3 Bf5  
13.Qe2 Rc8 14.g4 Bd7 15.a3 Na5  
16.Ba2 h6



17.Qd3 hxcg5 18.Qxcg6+ Kh8  
19.Qh6+ Nh7 20.Qxd6 1-0 Kuzubov,  
Y (2639)-Christiansen,J (2590) NOR-  
UKR Solidarity m Tornelo INT 2022 (1.  
3) ]

10...0-0 11.Rd1 a6 12.Ng5



## Qe7?!N

[Predecessor: 12...Bg4 13.f3 Bf5  
14.Qb3 Bg6 15.Bd3 Bxd3 16.Rxd3

e4 17.Ncxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Bxh2+=  
½-½ Jones,P (2200)-Broniek,M (2209)  
IECG email 2008 ]

13.Nge4 Nxe4 14.Nxe4± Bb8?!

15.b3± b5 16.Bxb5 axb5 17.Qxa8+-  
Bb7 18.Qa3 Qh4?!

[ 18...b4!? ]

19.Nc5?±

[ 19.Ng3+- ]

[ 19.f3+- ]

19...Bc8?

[ 19...e4! 20.g3 Qh5 21.Bb2□±

else Black is winning b4! 22.Qa4

Qxc5 23.Rac1 Qb6 24.Rd5! Ne5!

25.Rxe5 Bxe5 26.Bxe5 White will be  
hard pressed to make something of  
that extra pawn. ]

20.Bb2 e4 21.g3 Qh3

[ 21...Qg4 22.Qa8! ]

22.Nxe4 Bb7 23.f3 b4 24.Qa4 h5

25.Qb5 Ba8 26.Qg5

1-0

B07

□ Walder,Michael

1922

■ Admassu,Yonathan

1663

Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (3.8) 21.11.2023

[Stockfish 15/Tactical Analysis 4.6]

Walder plays the central attack nicely;  
Admassu played a bit too avant-garde  
and never found safety for his king,  
which led to some sharp blows. 1.e4 d6  
2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 This simple  
move is a thorn in the side for Pirc  
lovers. 4...c6 5.Qd2 b5 The problem is  
that White isn't at all committed to  
queenside castling. 6.Bd3 a6 1.25/12

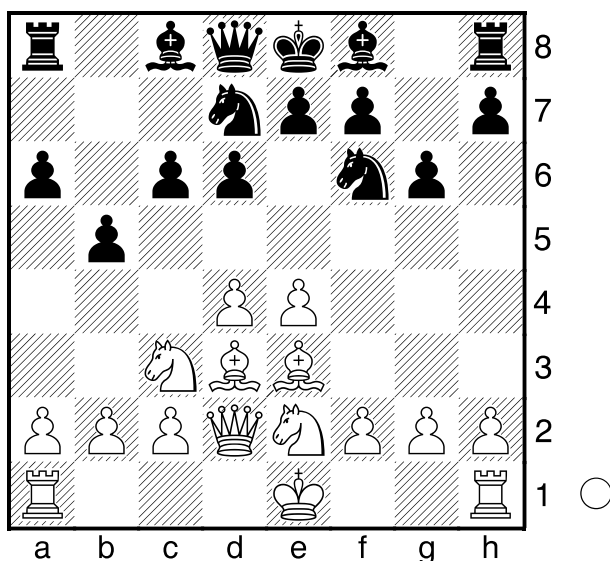
[ Black should play 6...Nbd7± 0.53/16 ]

7.Nge2 0.49/16

[ 7.Nf3± 1.25/12 ]

7...Nbd7±

(Diagram)



### 8.a4N

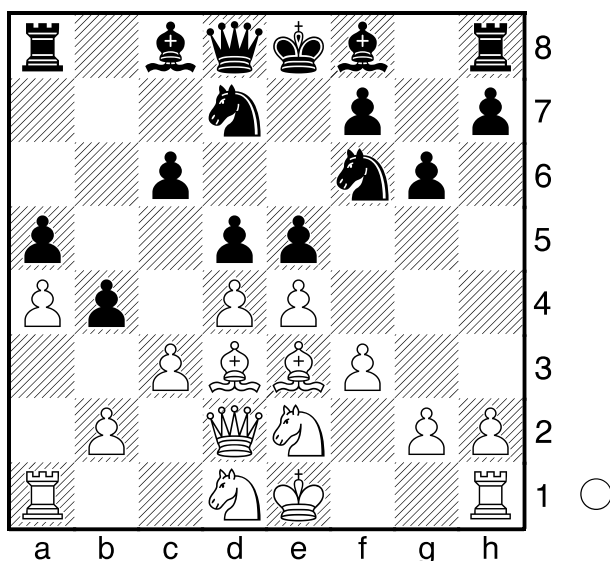
[ There was a lame game: 8.h3 c5  
9.e5 cxd4 10.Bxd4 Nxe5 11.Bxe5  
dxe5 12.0-0-0 Qc7 13.Ng3 Bd7  
14.Nge4 ½-½ Lima,K (2089)-Martins  
Jr Sobrinho,M (2002) Florianopolis  
Winter op 6th 2022 (9) ]

**8...b4** White is slightly better. **9.Nd1 a5**  
**10.f3 e5 11.c3** 0.25/18

[ White should try 11.Nf2± 0.84/14 ]

**11...d5** 0.78/14

[ 11...Bg7= 0.25/18 remains equal. ]

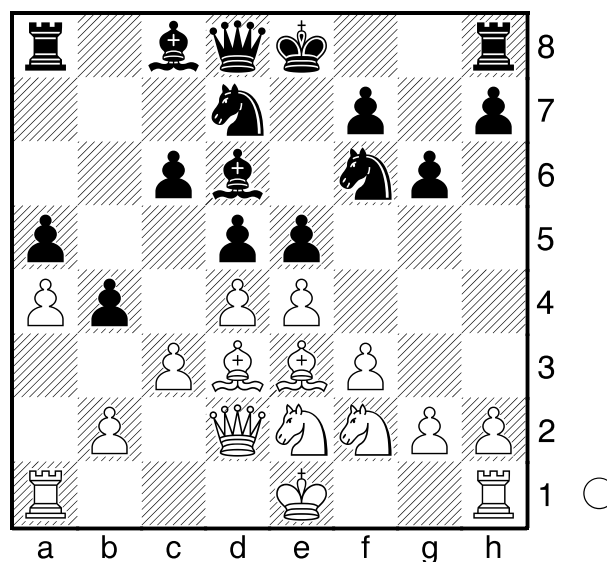


**12.Nf2** 0.30/17

[ 12.0-0!± 0.78/14 ]

**12...Bd6** 1.75/16

[ 12...bxc3!= 0.30/17 and Black is  
okay. 13.bxc3 ( 13.Nxc3 exd4  
14.Bxd4 Bc5= ) 13...dxe4 14.Bxe4  
( 14.Nxe4 Nd5=; 14.fxe4 exd4  
15.Bxd4 Qe7= ) 14...Nxe4 15.Nxe4  
Ba6 ]



**13.Bh6** 1.01/18

[ Better is 13.exd5!+- 1.75/16 bxc3  
14.bxc3 ( 14.Qxc3? too greedy.  
Bb4+ Pin ) 14...Nxd5 15.Bh6 ]

**13...Qe7** 2.45/16

[ 13...dxe4± 1.01/18 14.Nxe4  
( 14.Bxe4 Bb7±; 14.fxe4 bxc3  
15.bxc3 exd4± ) 14...Nxe4 15.Bxe4  
( 15.fxe4 bxc3 16.bxc3 exd4± )  
15...Bb7 ]

**14.0-0** Hoping for exd5. **14...Nb6** 4.23/16

[ 14...dxe4 1.95/16 is a better defense.  
15.fxe4 ( 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.fxe4  
Bb7± ) 15...Bb7 ]

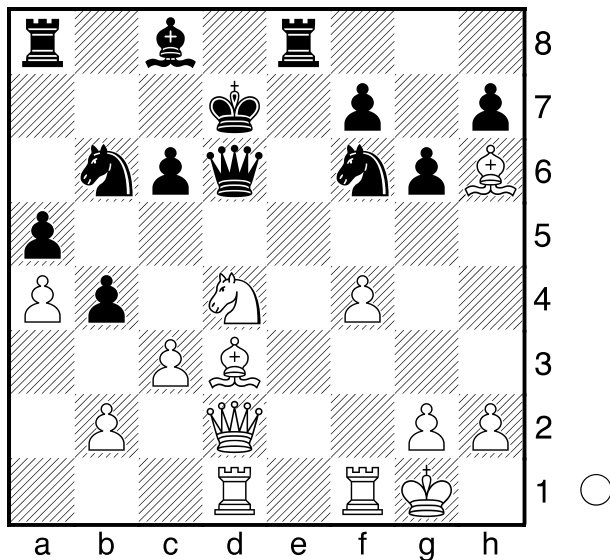
**15.f4+- dxe4 16.Nxe4**

[ Weaker is 16.Bxe4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4  
exf4+- ]

**16...exd4 17.Nxd4 Kd7**

[ 17...Nxe4? 18.Bxe4 Bd7  
19.Rae1+- ( 19.Nxc6 Bc5+ 20.Nd4  
Nc4+- ) ]

18.Nxd6 Qxd6 19.Rad1 Re8

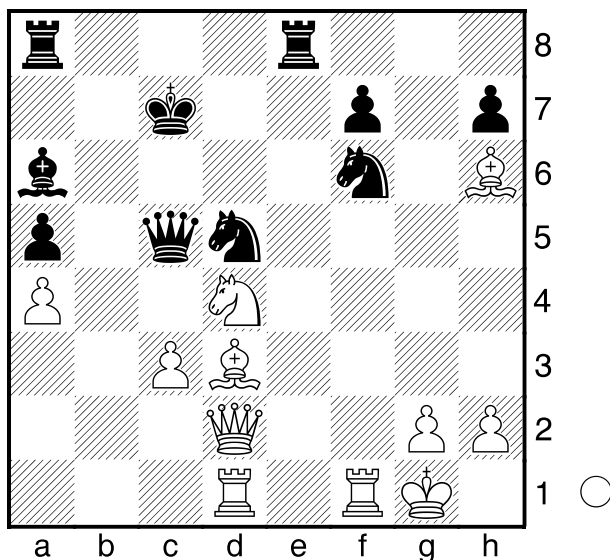


20.Nxc6! Qc5+

[ 20...Kc7 21.cxb4 ]

21.Nd4 Kc7 22.f5 gxf5 23.Bxf5 bxc3

24.bxc3 Ba6 25.Bd3 Nbd5



26.Rxf6!

1-0

C78

White Nystrom Burke, Oliver Peter 1276

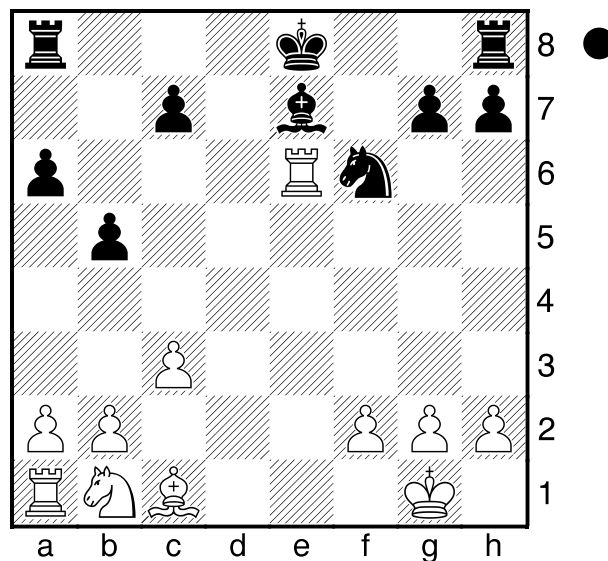
Black Hollon, Nick 1226

Winter TNM: 1200-1599 (3.20) 21.11.23

[Winslow, Elliott]

Oliver has been on a tear since discovering the Tuesday Night Marathon! Here he shows endgame maturity in grinding this bishop vs. knight ending.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.c3 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Re1 Qd6 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nf6 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Qe2 Be6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.Qxe6 fxe6 16.Rxe6



Rd8?!

[ 16...Kf7!?± Surprising how the extra pawn here isn't so overwhelming. ]

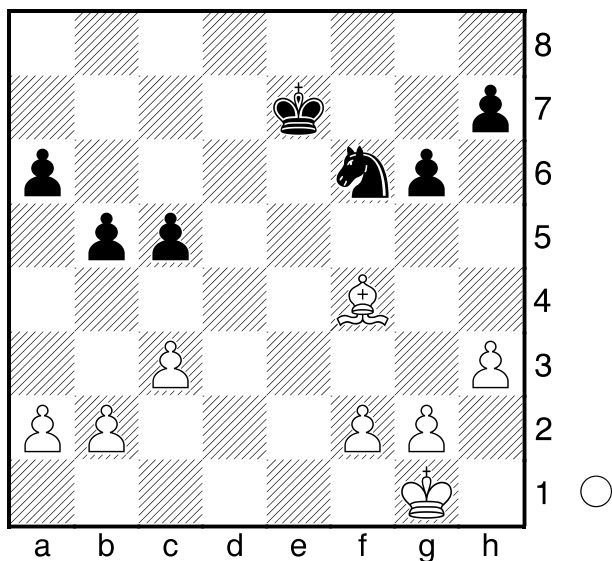
17.Re1 Kf7 18.Bf4 c5 19.Na3 Rhe8

20.Nc2 Rd7 21.h3 Rd8 22.Ne3 g6

23.Rad1 Rd2 24.Rxd2 Rxd2 25.Nf5

Rd7 26.Rxe7+ Rxe7 27.Nxe7 Kxe7+-

(Diagram)



**28.f3?!**

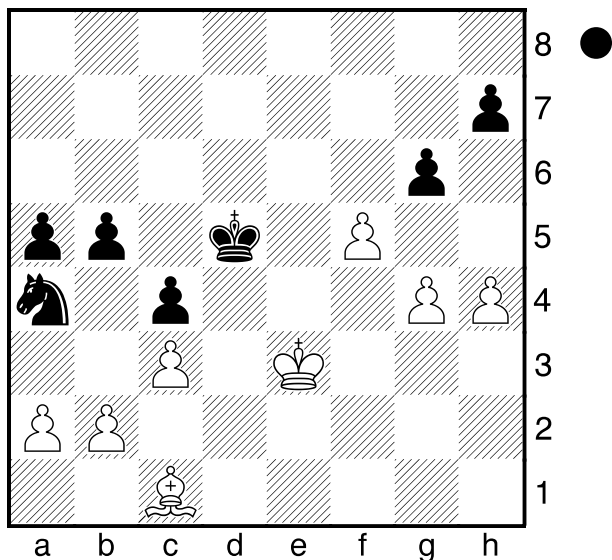
[ 28.Bg5!+- But a pawn up in a pawn ending? Of course! ]

**28...Nd5±** It's going to be a lot harder with a slippery knight still on the board.

**29.Bg5+ Ke6 30.Kf2 c4 31.g4 Nb6**

**32.h4 Na4 33.Bc1 Ke5 34.Ke3 a5**

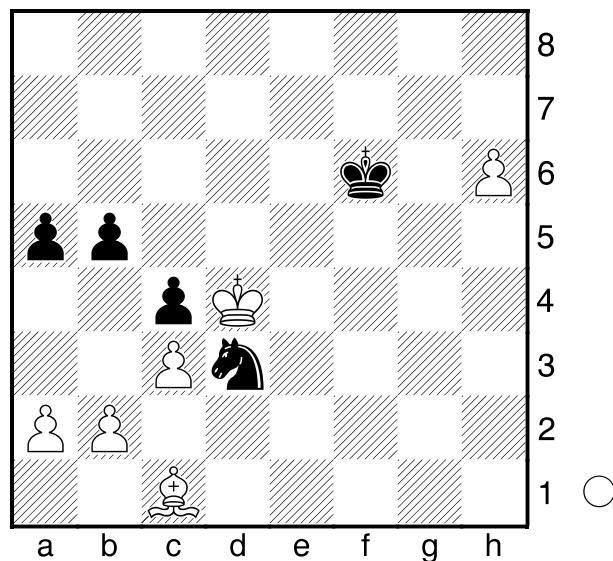
**35.f4+ Kd5 36.f5**



**Ke5??**

[ 36...gxf5= 37.gxf5 Nc5!=  
( 37...Ke5?! 38.f6 Kxf6 39.Kd4 Ke6  
40.b3 ) ]

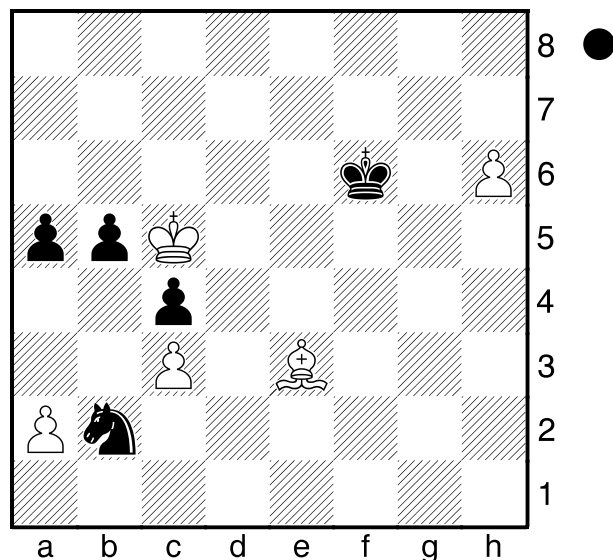
**37.fxg6 hxg6 38.h5 gxh5 39.gxh5  
Nc5 40.h6 Kf6 41.Kd4 Nd3**



**42.Be3?**

[ 42.Bd2 Nxb2 43.Kc5 mops up ]  
[ 42.Bg5+!? and b3 ]

**42...Nxb2 43.Kc5**

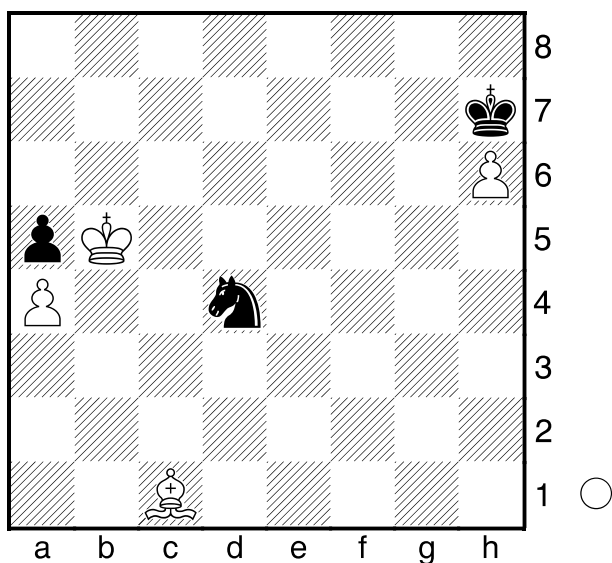


**b4?**

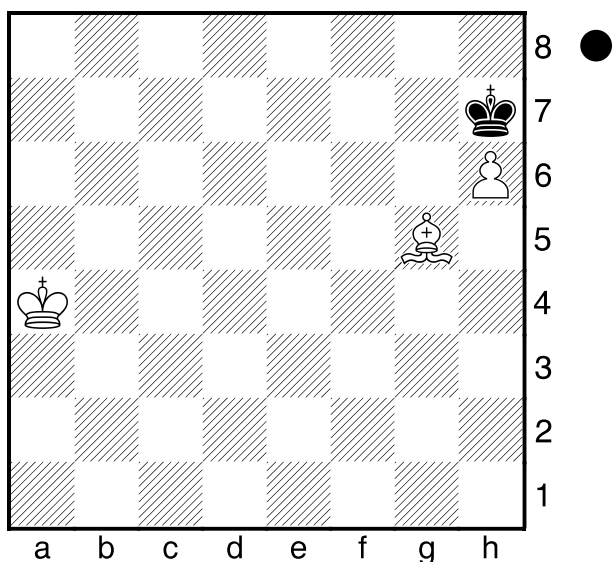
[ 43...Na4+! 44.Kd4 Nb2± is up to the  
edge -- but Black is holding. ]

**44.cxb4** But not now! Nystrom keeps his  
eye on bishop and the right rook pawn vs.  
king... **44...Nd3+ 45.Kxc4 Nxb4 46.a3  
Nc2 47.Bc1 Kg6 48.a4 Kh7 49.Kb5  
Nd4+**

(Diagram)



White just has to be careful not to get forked! **50.Kc4 Ne6 51.Be3 Nc7 52.Kc5 Ne6+ 53.Kb5 Nc7+ 54.Kxa5 Nd5 55.Bg5 Nc3 56.Kb4 Nxa4 57.Kxa4**

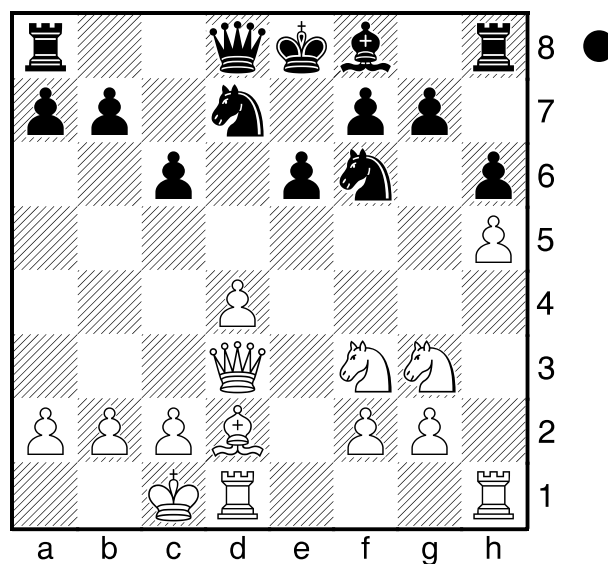


**Kg6 58.Kb5 Kh7 59.Kc5 Kg6 60.Kd5 Kh7 61.Ke5 Kg6 62.Kf4 Kh7 63.Kg4 Kg6 64.Kh4 Kh7 65.Kh5 Kg8 66.Kg6 Kh8 67.Bf6+ 1-0**

**Lewis,Edward**  
**Dasika,Archit**  
 Winter TNM: 2000+ (4.1) [Winslow,Elliott]

**B19**  
**1932**  
**2218**  
 29.11.2023

Dasika is unfazed by the "Ed Lewis Shuffle" (sorry, I just saw a Mohammad Ali clip on YouTube) and lets it come to him. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.0-0-0**



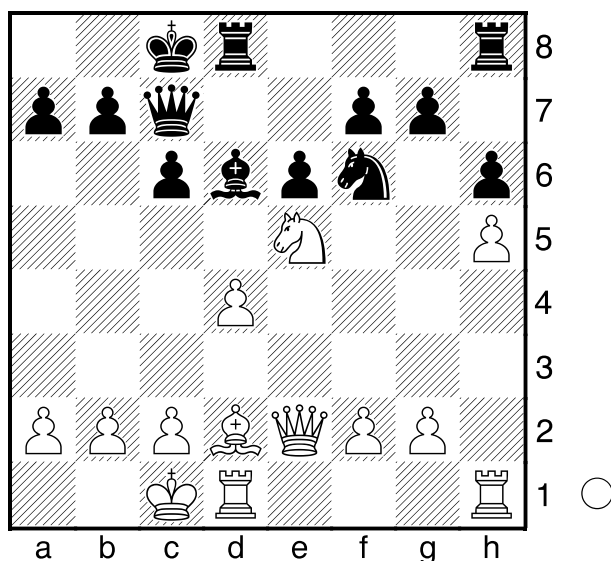
## Bd6

[ 12...Be7 is mainly seen, at least with this move order. ]

[ 12...Qc7 used to be "it" and still, with transpositions, leads the pack with number of games. ]

**13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Nf6 15.Qe2 Qc7** One reason is that, with the B/e7, Black had 15...Qd5!? **16.Ne5 0-0-0**

(Diagram)

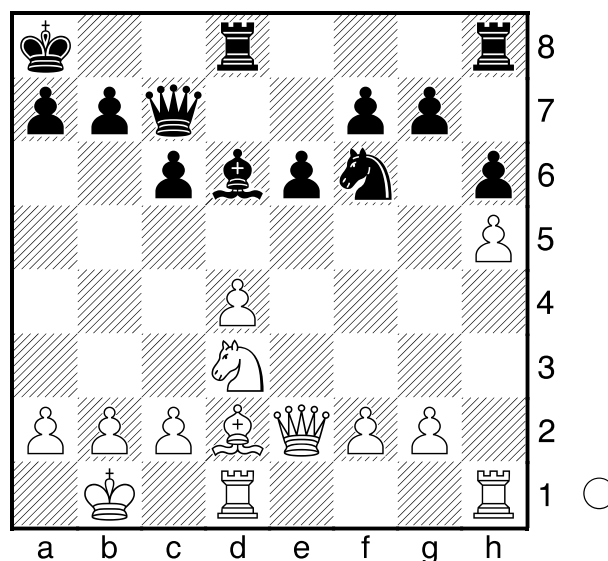


### 17.Nd3?!N Why leave!

[Relevant: 17.g4 Kb8 18.Kb1 Ka8 19.f4 c5 20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.Be3 Bd6 22.Bd4 Nd5 23.Rhf1 f6 24.Nd3 Rhe8 25.Qf2 e5 26.fxe5 fxe5 27.Bc5 e4 28.Bxd6 Rxd6 29.Rfe1 Qd7 30.Qe2 Re7 31.Nc5 Qc6 32.Nxe4 Rxe4 33.Qxe4 Nc3+ 34.bxc3 Qxe4 35.Rxe4 Rxd1+ 36.Kb2 a6 37.Re7 Rg1 38.Rxg7 Kb8 39.c4 Rg3 40.c3 Rg1 41.c5 Re1 42.Rg6 Re4 43.Kc2 Ra4 44.Kd3 Rf4 45.Rxh6 Rxg4 46.Rh8+ Kc7 1-0 Muzychuk,M (2563)-Gunina,V (2506) Hengshui IMSA blitz (Women) 2019 (21) ]  
[and 17.f4! scores quite well, in the 70%+ range. ]

**17...Kb8 18.Kb1 Ka8**

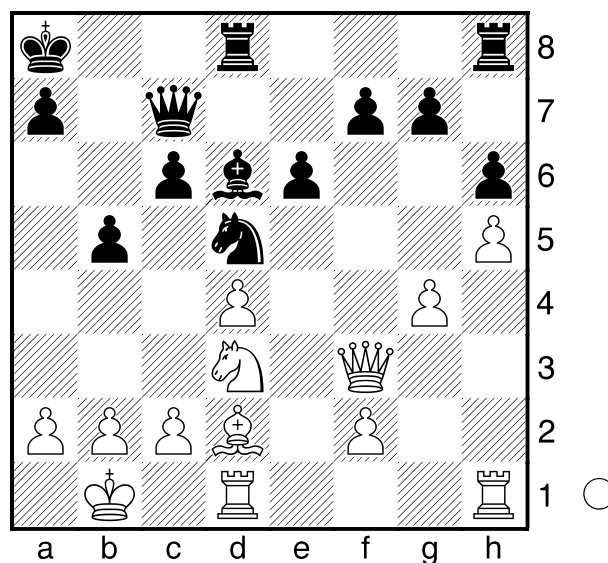
(Diagram)



### 19.g4N

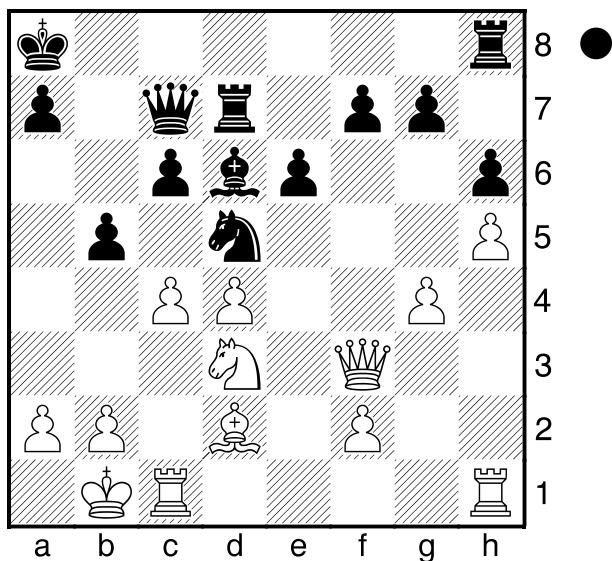
[Predecessor: 19.c4 Qe7 20.f4 c5 21.Ba5 Rc8 22.dxc5 Bxc5 23.Bc3 Rhg8 24.Ne5 Bd6 25.Rd2 Bxe5 26.fxe5 Nd7 27.Rhd1 Nb8 ½-½ Feco,J (1874)-Peter,J (1951) SVK-chT2C 1213 Slovakia 2012 (10. 6) Nice trek -- but White is solidly better. ]

**19...Nd5 20.Qf3 b5**

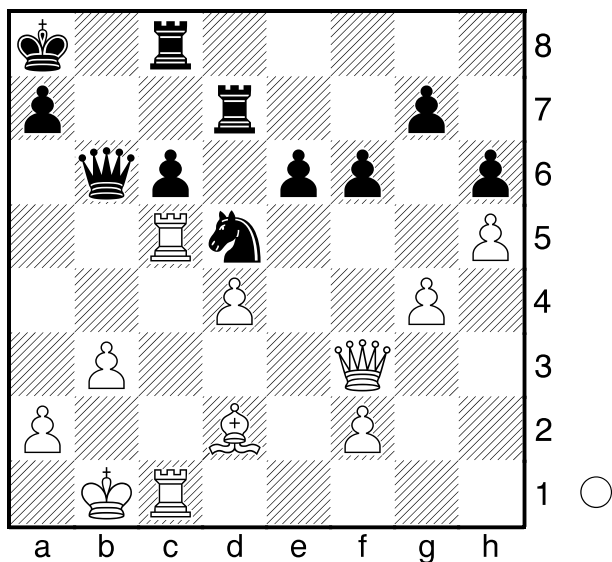


**21.Rc1 Rd7 22.c4±**

(Diagram)

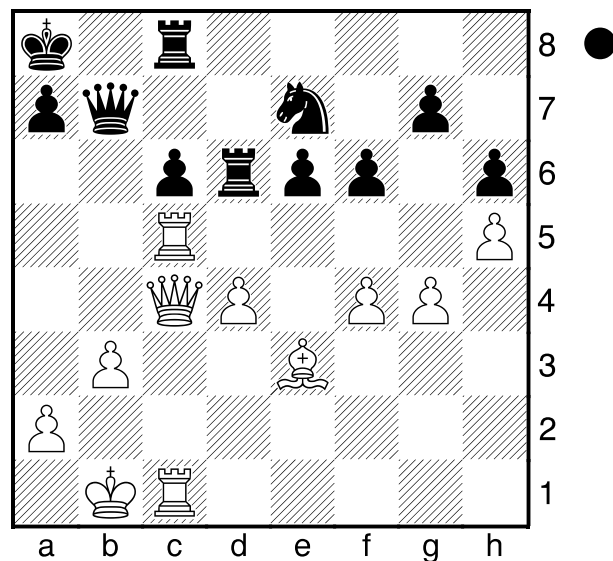


Two weak pawns -- Black's c-pawn is weaker than White's d-pawn. **22...bxc4 23.Rxc4 Qb6 24.Nc5?! Bxc5 25.Rxc5 Rb8 26.b3 Rc8 27.Rhc1 f6?!**

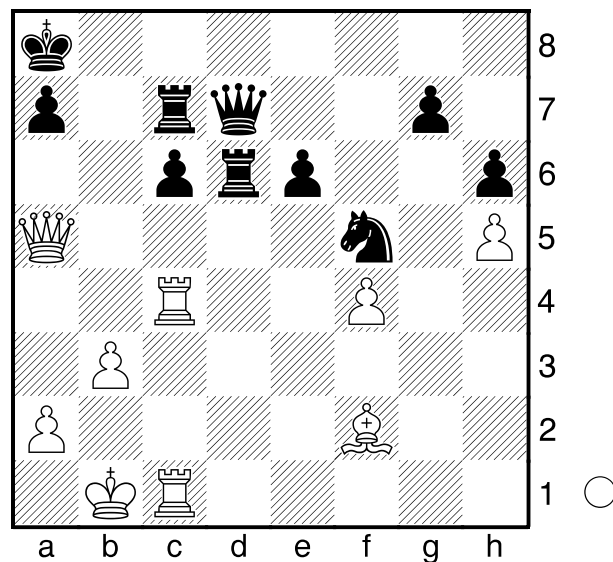


**28.Qe2 Rd6 29.f4?**  
 [ 29.f3! and bring the bishop to g3:  
 clear advantage. ]  
**29...Ne7?! [ 29...Qd8 ]**  
**30.Qc4?! Qb7 31.Be3**

(Diagram)



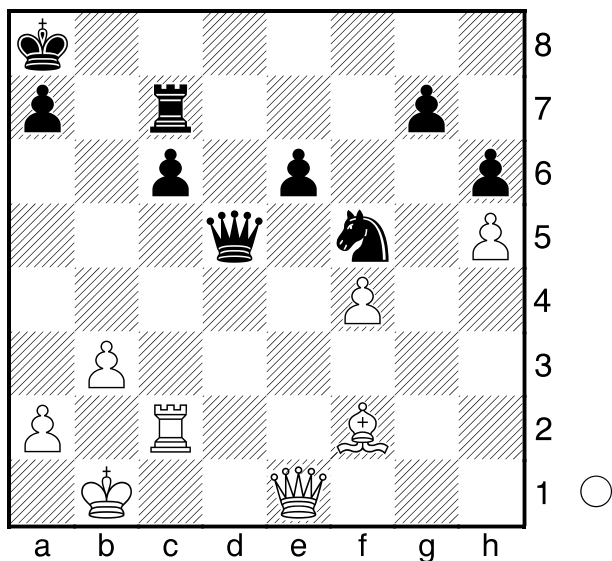
**f5?!**  
 [ 31...Rd5= was objectively better. ]  
**32.gxf5?!**  
 [ 32.g5± ]  
**32...Nxf5 33.Bf2 Qd7 34.Qa6 Rc7**  
**35.Qa5 Nxd4= 36.R5c4 Nf5**



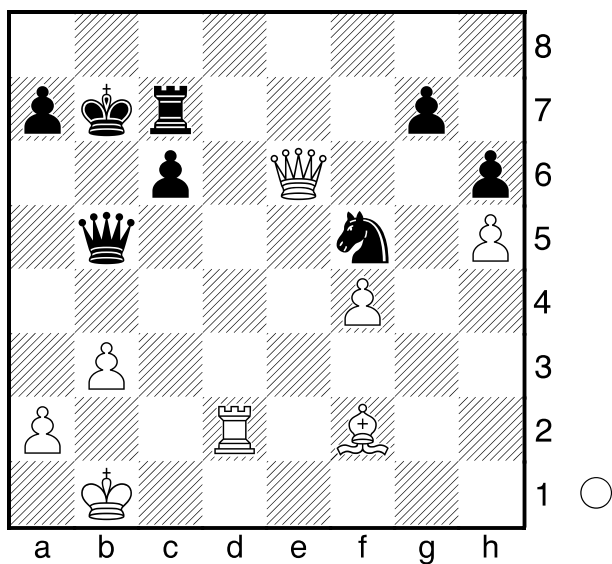
**37.Qe1 Rd2 38.R4c2 Rxc2 39.Rxc2 Qd5?!**

(Diagram)





**40.Rd2 Qb5 41.Qxe6 Kb7±**



**42.a4 Qf1+?**

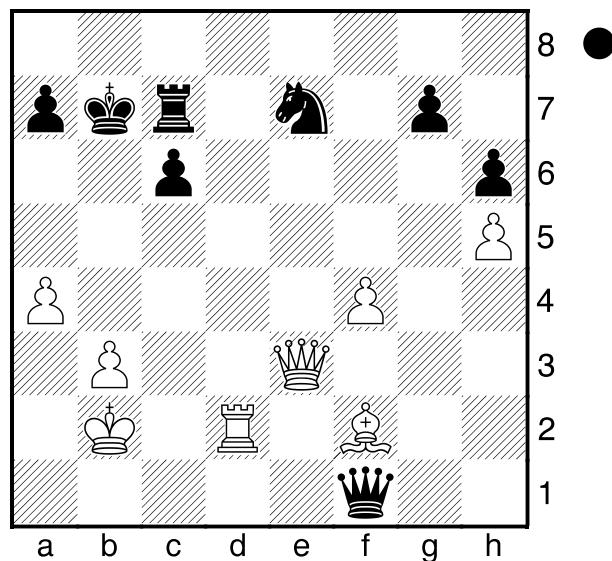
[ 42...Qb4± ]

**43.Kb2+- Ne7 44.Qe3**

[ 44.Qd6! ]

[ 44.f5! ]

(Diagram)



**44...Qa6± 45.Ka3? Extraneous.**

[ 45.Qc5 ]

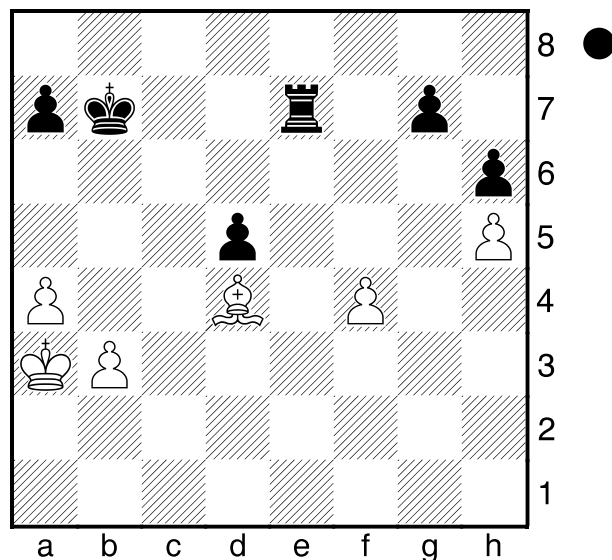
**45...Nd5= 46.Qd4 Rd7 47.Qc5 Qb6**

**48.Qf8 Qd8 49.Qc5 Qe7= 2 minutes**

**on clock 50.Rxd5?? Ed goes off the**

**rails. 50...cxd5+ 51.Qxe7 Rxe7**

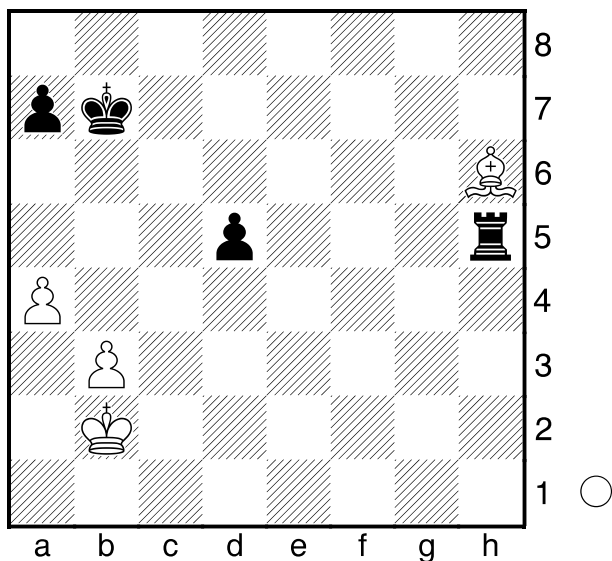
**52.Bd4**



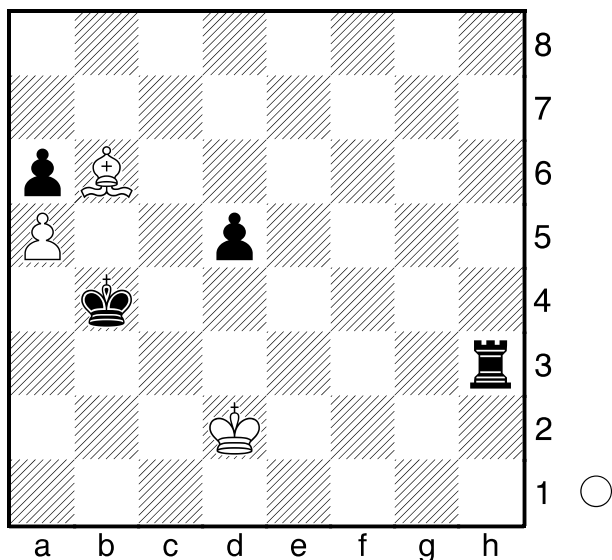
**Re4 53.Bxg7 Rxf4 54.Bxh6 Rh4**

**55.Kb2 Rxh5**

(Diagram)



**56.Be3 Rh2+ 57.Kc3 a6 58.b4 Kc6  
59.a5 Rh3 60.Kd2 Kb5 61.Bb6 Kxb4**



White resigns.  
**0-1**

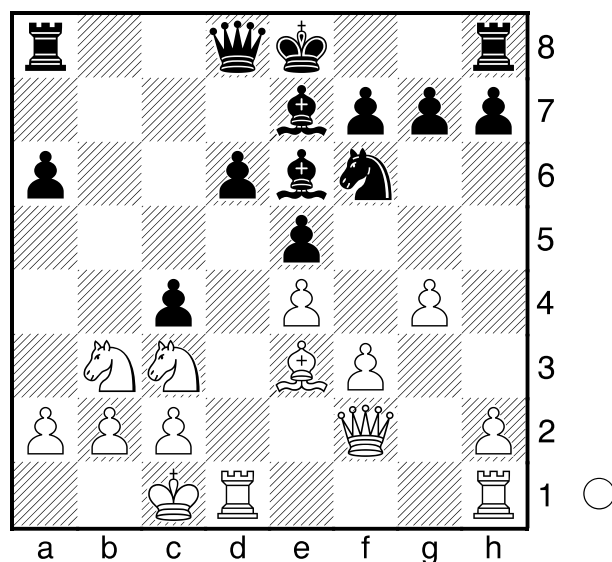
**Chin,Zee** **B90**  
 **Srinivasan,Sivavishnu** **1852**  
 Winter TNM: 2000+ (4.6) **1962**  
 [Winslow,Elliott] 29.11.2023

Srinivasan is starting to become a constant threat -- if he survives the flu

season! (His cough is even worse than mine!) **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Qd2 b5 10.g4 Nbd7 11.0-0-0 Nb6 12.Qf2 Nc4**

[Relevant: 12...Nfd7 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Nc4 15.Kb1 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Bh4 17.f4 0-0 18.Bd3 Re8 19.Rhf1 Rb8 20.Qh3 exf4 21.Rxf4 h6 22.Nd4 Ne5 23.Nc6 Nxc6 24.dxc6 Bg5 25.Rf5 Rc8 26.Qf3 Re3 27.Qd5 Qe7 28.a4 g6 29.Rff1 Re5 30.Qf3 Re3 31.Qd5 Re5 32.Qf3 Kg7 33.c3 Re3 34.Qd5 Re5 35.Qf3 Qe8 36.axb5 axb5 37.Bc2 Rxc6 38.Bb3 Rc7 39.Rxd6 b4 40.cxb4 Re3 41.Qd5 Re4 42.Qd3 0-1 Sjugirov,S (2699)-Sarana,A (2685) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Jun Late Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (7) ]

**13.Bxc4 bxc4**



**14.Bb6?N**

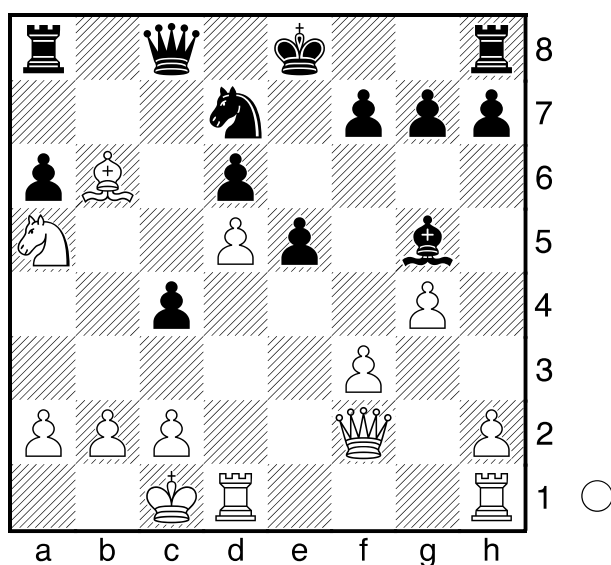
[Supposedly 14.Nc5 is better, but 0-0 ( 14...Qc8 15.g5 Nh5 16.N5a4± although those knights don't look comfortable at all... ) 15.Kb1?! ( 15.N5a4 ) 15...Qc7 ( 15...Rb8 16.Nxa6 Rb7 17.Nc5 Rb8 18.Na6 draw anyone? ) 16.N5a4 Nd7 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 Rab8 19.Ka1 Qa5

20.b3 cxb3 21.cxb3 Rfc8 22.Qd2  
Qb5 23.Qd3 Qb7 24.Rc1 Nf6  
25.Rxc8+ Rxc8 26.Rd1 e4 27.fxe4  
Nxc4 28.Bd4 Bf6 29.Bxf6 Nxf6  
30.Qd4 Re8 31.Nc3 Re5 32.Rf1  
Qe7 33.Rf4 g6 34.Kb2 Nd7 35.b4  
Qd8 36.a4 a5 37.Nb5 Qg5 38.Qf2  
Qe7 39.bxa5 Nc5 40.Nc3 Nd3+  
0-1 Yagupov,I (2357)-Potkin,V (2583)  
Wch Blitz Moscow 2019 (8) ]

**14...Qc8**

[ 14...Qb8! 15.Na5 Nd7 16.Na4!  
Qc8!± ]

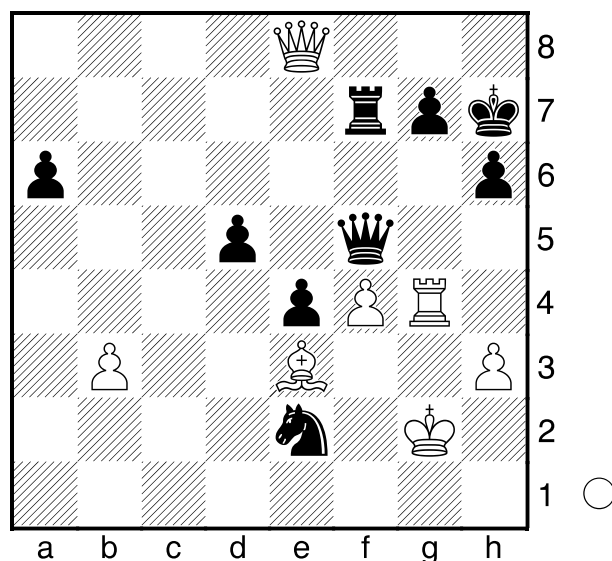
**15.Na5 Nd7 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5  
Bg5+**



**18.Be3??**

[ 18.Kb1= ]

**18...Qc5! 19.Nxc4 (best try) 19...Qxc4  
20.Bxg5 Qxa2+ 21.c3 Rb8 22.Qc2  
Nc5 23.Qb1 Nb3+ 24.Kc2 Qa4  
25.Kd3 Nc5+ 26.Ke2 Qc4+ 27.Kf2 h6  
28.Be3 Na4 29.Rd2 0-0 30.Re1 f5  
31.gxf5 Nxc3 32.Qc2 Qh4+ 33.Kf1  
Qh3+ 34.Kg1 Nb5 35.Rg2 Kh8  
36.Rg3 Qxf5 37.Qg2 Rb7 38.Qd2 Rf6  
39.Re2 Rbf7 40.Rf2 Rg6 41.Rfg2  
Rff6 42.Qd1 Rxc3 43.Rxc3 e4 44.f4  
Nc7 45.Bd4 Qxd5 46.Qa4 Rf7 47.b3  
Nb5 48.Be3 Nc3 49.Qe8+ Kh7  
50.Kg2 Ne2 51.Rg4 Qf5 52.h3 d5**

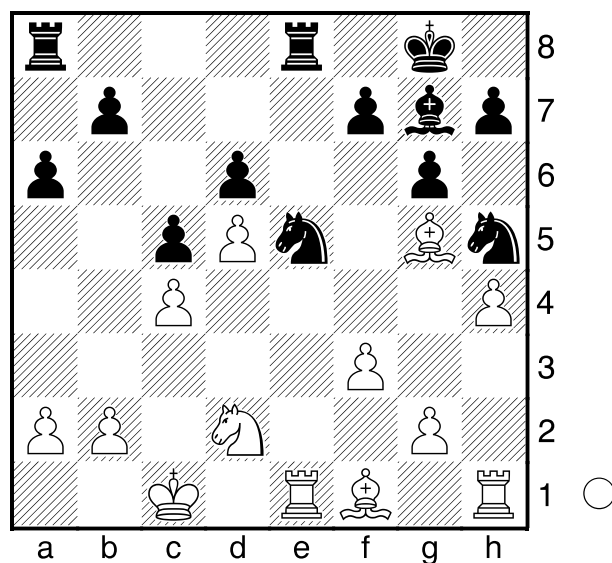
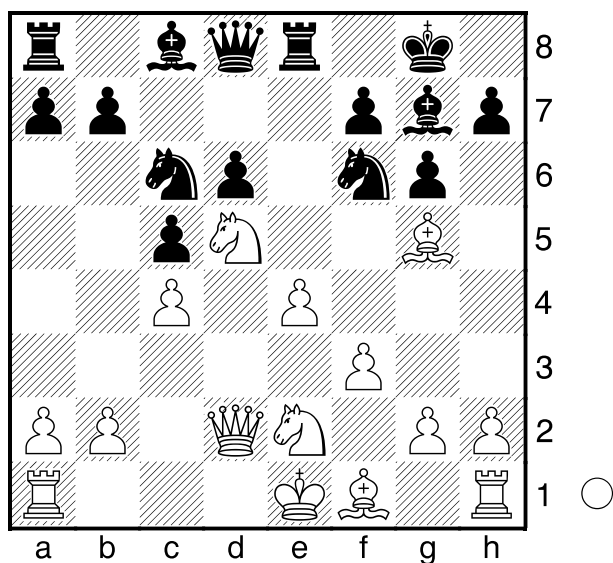


**53.Kf1 Nc3 54.Bd4 Nb5 55.Be5 e3  
56.Ke2 d4 57.Qc6 Nc3+ 58.Kf3 e2  
59.Kf2 Qc2 60.Rg2 Nd1+  
0-1**

**E81**  
**Argo,Guy 1767**  
**Walder,Michael 1922**  
Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (4.8) 29.11.2023  
[Tactical Analysis 6.4]

With this win, taking out his #1 rival,  
Walder went to clear first. **1.d4 Nf6  
2.Bg5 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4  
d6 6.f3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Nge2 Re8  
[ 8...h6= -0.06/30 9.Be3 exd5  
10.cxd5 ( 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Qxd5  
Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Qd8= ) 10...Nbd7 ]  
9.Qd2± exd5 10.Nxd5 Nc6**

(Diagram)



White is slightly better. **11.0-0-0N**

[Predecessor: 11.Nec3 Be6 12.Bd3 Bxd5 13.cxd5 Nd4 14.0-0 Qa5 15.Rad1 Nd7 16.Nb5 Qb6 17.Nxd4 cxd4 ½-½ Dragomarezkij,E (2465)-Filippov,V (2405) RUS-chT 02nd Kolontaevo 1994 (2) ]

**11...Be6 12.h4** -0.20/31

[Better is 12.Nef4± 0.84/34 ]

**12...Bxd5= 13.exd5 Ne5 14.Nc3 a6** 0.37/31

[ 14...Qd7= -0.14/35 ]

**15.Re1** -0.16/33

[White should try 15.h5!± 0.37/31 ]

**15...Qa5 16.Ne4 Qxd2+ 17.Nxd2 Nh5**

(Diagram)

**18.Ne4 f6**

[ 18...Nxf3!? 19.gxf3 f5= ]

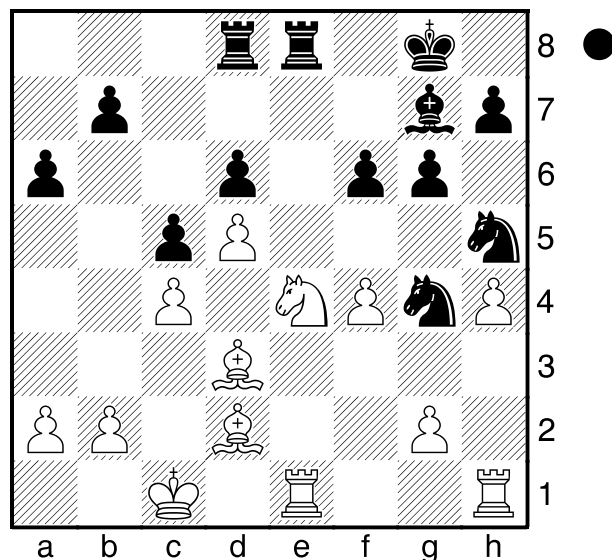
**19.Bd2 Rad8 20.f4** -0.35/32

[White should play 20.Nxd6± 0.56/33 Rxd6 21.f4 ]

**20...Ng4** There are threats... **21.Bd3?** -1.92/29

[But not 21.Ba5 Rd7 22.Be2 Rxe4

21.Be2 Rxe4 22.Bxg4 Rxc4+ 23.Kb1 ]



**21...f5-+ 22.Ng5 Nf2!** Excellent horsemanship. **23.Ne6?** -5.74/27

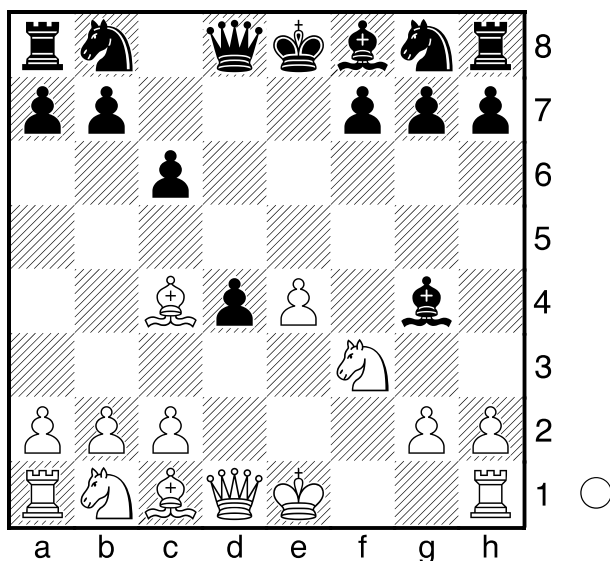
[ 23.Kc2 -1.87/32 nothing else works. ]

23...Nxd3+  
0-1

McKemey, Hector  
Walters, Mitchell

Winter TNM: u1200 (4.30) 29.11.2023  
[Winslow, Elliott]

Unrated players are wild cards. Are they "post-beginners"? Or maybe they're seasoned online players just getting into live play? In this case, Hector McKemey has 5 out of 5. But what do we make of this game? 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3 exd4 6.Bc4 Bg4??



7.Bxf7+! Kxf7 8.Ng5+??

[ 8.Ne5+!+- ]

8...Ke8??

[ 8...Qxg5!+- ]

9.Qxg4+- Be7 10.Qe6

[ 10.Ne6! ]

10...Nh6 11.0-0 Rf8 12.Rxf8+ Kxf8

13.Nxh7+ Ke8 14.Bxh6 gxh6 15.Nf6+

Very nice -- except for that glaring misstep on move eight! So we still don't know -- but 5-0 "speaks for itself" (H. Niemann).

1-0

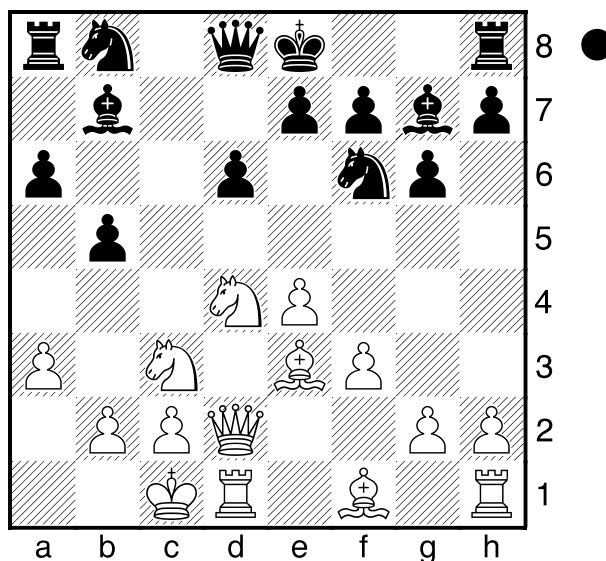
B12

Srinivasan, Sivavishnu  
Lewis, Edward

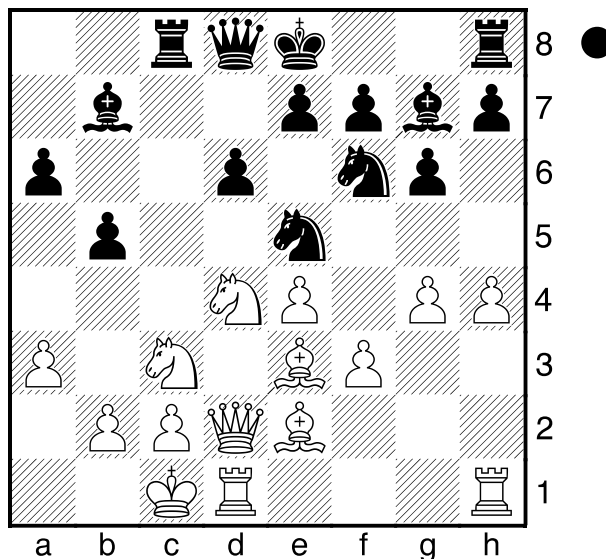
B75  
1962  
1932

Winter TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 05.12.2023  
[Lewis, Edward/(Winslow, Elliott)]

Sometimes Ed's opponents are thrown off balance by the Ed Lewis Reality Distortion Field, but also sometimes it's Ed. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 a6 8.Qd2 b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.0-0-0



Dragodorf. 10...Nbd7 11.g4 Ne5  
12.Be2 Rc8 13.h4



Looks scary, but Black now equalized:

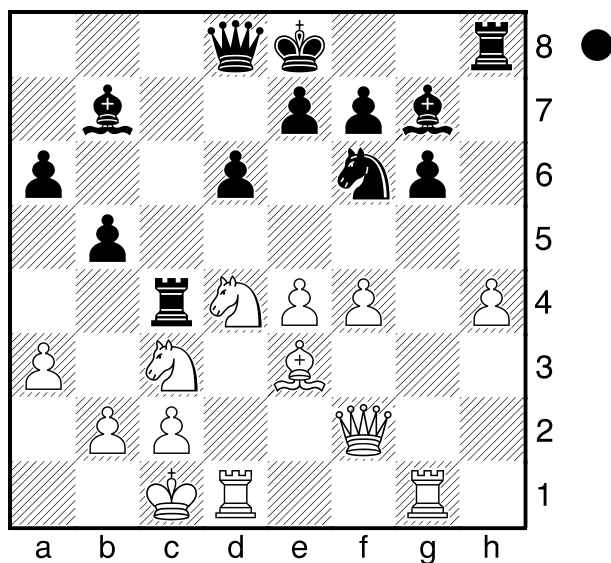
**13...h5! 14.gxh5 Nxh5**

[ 14...Rxh5 15.f4? Nc4!-+ ]

**15.f4? Nc4** Black has the initiative.

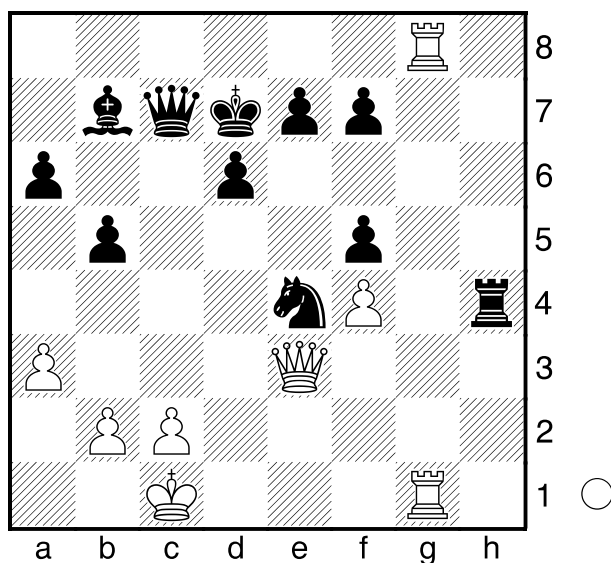
**16.Bxc4 Rxc4 17.Qf2 Nf6 -3.20**

**18.Rhg1**



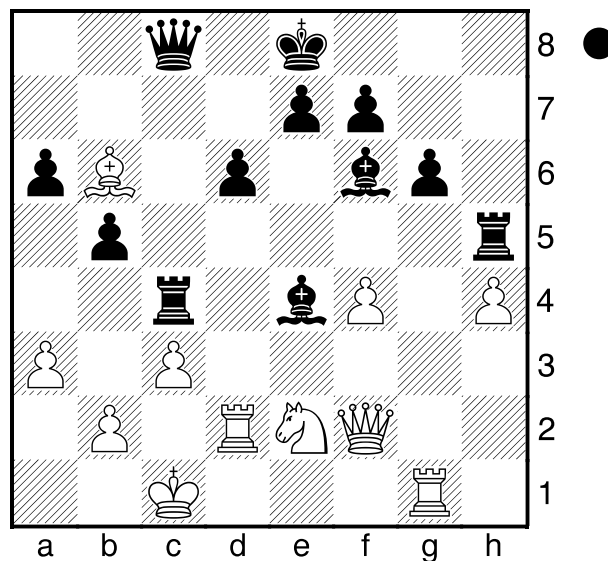
**Nxe4**

[ 18...Rxc3 19.Nf5 gxf5 20.Rxg7  
Nxe4 21.Qg1 Rxe3 22.Qxe3 Qc7  
23.Rdg1 Rxh4 24.Rg8+ Kd7 -7.30



**19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Rd2 Rh5 21.Ne2  
Bf6 22.Bb6 Qc8 23.c3**

(Diagram)

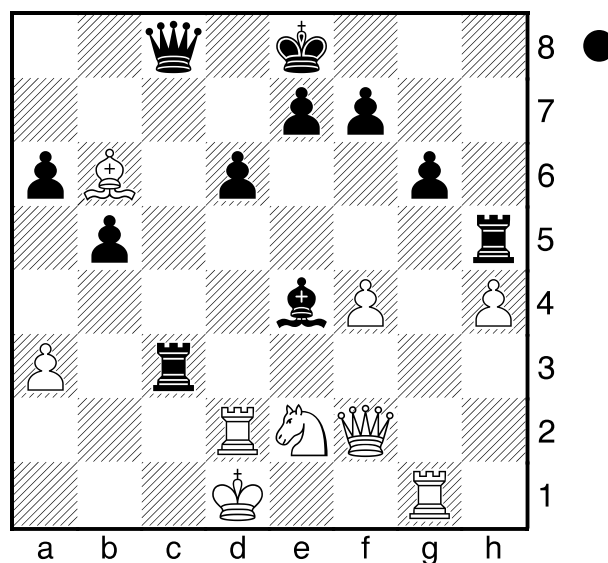


**Bxc3!** (EW: Flashy, and still winning, but lots of routine moves were significantly better.

[ 23...b4 for instance. ) ]

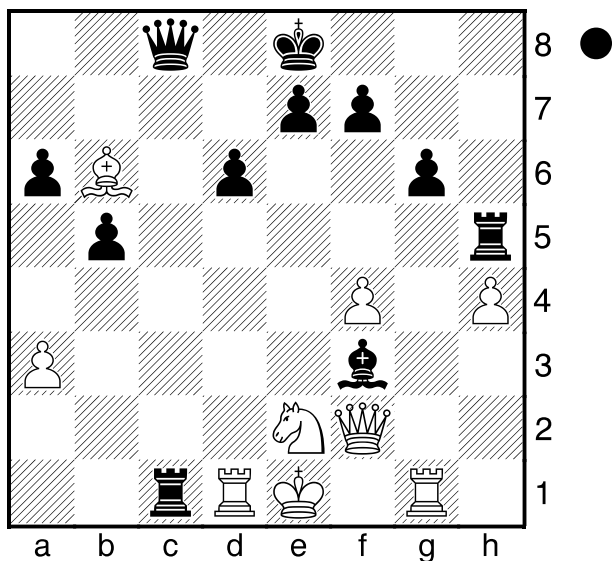
**24.bxc3 Rxc3+ 25.Kd1**

[ 25.Nxc3 Qxc3+ 26.Rc2! Qxa3+!  
27.Kd2 Qd3+ 28.Kc1 Qxc2+  
29.Qxc2 Bxc2 30.Kxc2 Rxh4  
This isn't bad for Black either! ]



(EW: ?) **25...Bf3!! 26.Ke1 Rc1+  
27.Rd1**

(Diagram)



**Qc3+??** Glitch in the Matrix.

[ 27...Rd5!! 28.Qxf3 Rxd1+ 29.Kf2 Rxg1 30.Nxg1 Rc3 31.Be3 Rxa3 32.Ne2 Ra2 33.Kg3 b4 34.Nd4 Ra3 ]

[EW: Even better says Stockfish (-6.65 vs. -4 something) is 27...Rxd1+! 28.Kxd1 Rd5+ 29.Bd4 ( 29.Ke1 Qc1+! 30.Nxc1 Rd1# ) 29...Qc3 ]

**28.Nxc3 Bxd1 29.Nxd1 Rd5 30.Qf3 e6 31.Kf2 Rc6 32.Ne3 Rd2+ 33.Ke1**  
Black resigns.

**1-0**

**B22**  
**1583**  
**1863**  
Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (5.8) 05.12.2023  
[Wong,Wilson/(Winslow,Elliott)]

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Qd5 9.Nf3 Bf5 10.0-0**

Last move in masters database. **10...Nc6**  
Developing and staying flexible. There isn't a great diagonal for my dark-squared bishop, so I'm learning towards fianchettoing the bishop for the long haul. **11.a4** This is very weakening while

White still hasn't dealt with the backward d-pawn.

[ 11.b3 I like chipping Black's center to free the d-pawn. White needs to finish developing or deal with their backward d-pawn. ]

**11...g6**

[ 11...Bxc2 I didn't want to force trades to free d1-square for White's rook. There is a plus though having a stronger grip on b3-square but I can't stop White's breaks so I want White to have to spend a turn moving their queen. ]

**12.Na3** White tries to develop. **12...a6**

Stopping Nb5. I want to fianchetto my bishop then get castled. **13.Bxf5 Qxf5**

[ 13...gxf5 This looked interesting but I didn't want to take the risk. My queenside pawn structure isn't fit for my king and White can open my queenside with b3. ]

**14.Qe2 Qd5 15.Rd1 Rd8 16.Nc2**

My c4-pawn is a little loose and I'm no longer going to be able to keep White's d2-pawn restricted. I'm not able to hold back d3/d4 and stop a5 after ...Na5. My knights would become loose after White's queen attacks them or after White frees their dark-squared bishop then use it to attack my knights. **16...Bg7**  
Continuing development. **17.Ne3 Qd3**

The only way for me to hold onto my pawn. **18.Qxd3 cxd3** Forced to hold onto pawn. **19.b3** White has good queenside square control. **19...0-0**

Finishing developing then deciding what to do in the position. **20.Ba3**

White finally activates their bishop. My d3-pawn is buying me space for the meantime but it can become a long-term weakness. **20...Nd5** Freeing my b7-pawn to move. I want ...b5 then ...b4 to soften the long-diagonal. **21.Bc5 b6**  
Gaining tempo on White's bishop to force it to a worse square. I'm also willing to

trade my d5-knight for Black's bishop for a potential long-term small plus. There could be positions in the future where my dark-squared bishop could be sacrificed or apply pressure on dark-squares uncontested. **22.Nxd5 bxc5** I'm unsure where White should place their knight and how to progress. Black does have many weak squares on the queenside so White can have nice outposts like c4-square but what does progress for White look like? The b3-pawn could be a liability for White. **23.Nb6** I don't get what the point of this knight jump was since it risks getting stranded and being forced to trade and damage White's pawn structure. **23...Na5** I went for this to at least cause White to damage their pawn structure, though White's pawns won't be easy to attack. The way I saw my position, my d3-pawn is a long-term weakness that will be lost if I'm not proactive since White could get their king into the game. It'll be hard to make my dark-squared bishop effective but this goes in that direction as the position opens up. I won't be able to control the later opened b-file but my bishop will become a stronger piece as I try to open the position up and there is the possibility for a bishop sacrifice down the line for c3- and d2-pawns. **24.Rab1** White is prepared for the opening of b-file, which control I can't take. **24...Rd6** Forcing matters and going for a potential plan of a bishop sacrifice on c3-square later. **25.Nc4 Nxc4 26.bxc4 Rf6** Going after c4-pawn. **27.Rb7 Rf4 28.Ra7 Rxc4** I have to be conscious this rook lacks many squares but I think it's fine. **29.Rxa6 Rb8** Grabbing the open-file. I need to play actively to survive this endgame. I'm open to a potential bishop sacrifice on c3-square then have my central pawns be menacing, with threats

of advancement. I'm also considering double-attacking d2-pawn if White's knight moves. I want to push ...e5, ...e4, and then after ...Bxc3 to have connected passed pawns which might compensate for the piece. **30.g3** Giving room for their king is a good idea. **30...e5** White's knight isn't doing a great job and is lacking squares. **31.Ra1** White abandons the defense of d2-pawn, wanting to support their passed a-pawn. With ...e4 deflecting White's knight and my bishop targeting d2-pawn, I could win the pawn, or make White waste time moving their rook again to defend. **31...e4** White's knight is very ineffective. **32.Nh4** White might be trying to get Ng2, Ne3 but this is too slow. **32...Bh6** [ 32...Bxc3 33.Rc1 I didn't go for this because I didn't know what the follow-up was in this position. Rbb4 I didn't consider this move. 34.dxc3 ( 34.Rxc3 Rxc3 35.dxc3 Rb1+ 36.Kg2 d2 wins. ) 34...Rxc3 35.Rxc3 d2 36.Rd6 Rd4 queens. ] **33.f4 Bg7** I think my best shot at not losing is to sacrifice my bishop for c3- and d2-pawns. [ 33...exf3 34.Nxf3 Rb2 35.Rd1 Re4 36.Rd6 c4 This looked no good to me. ] [ 33...e3 34.Rd6 I didn't know what to do from here. exd2 35.Rxd3 Bg7 36.Nf3 Bxc3 37.Nxd2 Black has a stronger minor piece for a slight edge. ] [ 33...Rb2 34.Ra8+ I dismissed my move because of the check which makes my bishop very bad. ] **34.Rd6** EW: "??" **34...Bxc3** [ 34...e3 EW: "!" 35.Rxd3 exd2 (EW: -+) This wasn't on my radar since I didn't see the bishop fork. (EW: 36.Rxd2 Bxc3 when there's no pin because of ...Bd4+: 37.Rc2 ( 37.Rc1 Bd4+ ) 37...Bd4+ ) ]



**35.dxc3 Rxc3 36.a5** White's a-pawn threatens to tie down my rook. I need to make my passed pawns work or I will lose. **36...Rc2** I wanted to stop White's king from invading Kg2, Ke3. Next, I want to march my c-pawn down the board to hopefully force White to sacrifice a rook or to tie down White's rooks.

[EW: Here's the computer's best line for Black: 36...Rcb3 37.Ng2 c4 38.Rc6 c3 39.Ne3 Rb1+ 40.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 41.Kf2 Rb2+ 42.Ke1! Re2+ 43.Kd1 Rxe3 44.Rxc3 Re2 45.Ra3 Rxh2 46.a6 e3 47.Rxd3 Ra2 48.Rxe3 Rxa6 with 3 vs. 2 in a rook ending, White should hold. ]

**37.Nf3** (EW: "?? -+") This leads to a worse endgame for White.

[ 37.a6 (EW: "? -+") c4 38.a7 Ra8 I'm not sure if this is winning but I thought it was my best try. ]

[ 37.Ng2 (EW: "! = Only move") Re2 This is how I planned to deal with White's knight. ]

**37...exf3** The game could end in a draw but I think only Black is playing for a win, thanks to tactics. (EW: No, Black is winning.) **38.Rxd3 Rg2+ 39.Kh1**

[ 39.Kf1 Rxh2 Threatening to skewer White's king and rook. 40.Kg1 White would've lost a pawn for nothing. EW: Looking further, Rbb2 41.Rxf3 Rbg2+ 42.Kf1 Ra2-+ and Black will be two pawns up. ]

**39...Ra2** Taking advantage of back-rank issues to win a pawn. **40.Rdd1 Rbb2**

**41.Rxa2 Rxa2** I will be up a pawn.

**42.Kg1 Rxa5 43.Kf2 Ra2+** EW: ? =

[EW: 43...Kf8 44.Kxf3 Ke7 is bordering on won. ]

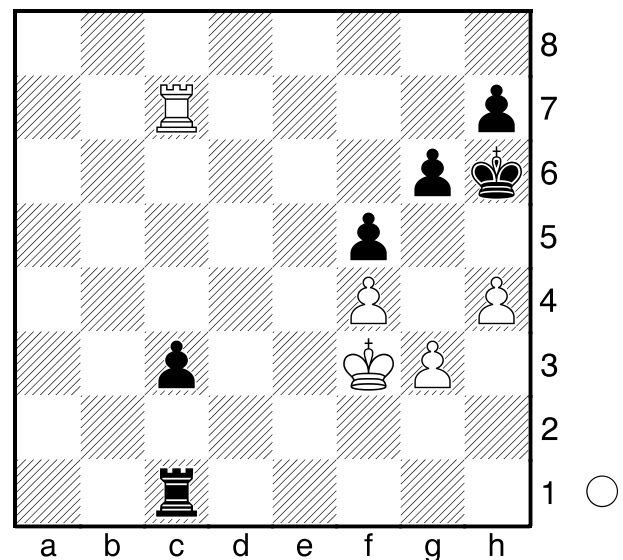
**44.Kxf3 Rc2** Stockfish can draw this but I'm not sure White's best defense. My plan is to get c-pawn to c2 then sacrifice it for a kingside pawn, but would also like to, if possible, have my king support

the c-pawn. **45.h4** I don't like this since it allows me to freeze White's pawns and improve my king position, and now g3-pawn becomes a great pawn to win, exchanging my c-pawn to win White's g-pawn which would leave two useless split pawns. **45...f5** I don't know why this is so bad (EW: it's not :-)). I can see White holding by keeping their king on 2nd rank, not allowing Black from getting to make any progress with c-pawn.

**46.Rd5 c4 47.Rc5**

[EW: The move played is fine, but 47.h5! reduces pawns and has Stockfish 16 declaring "0.00" on all replies. ]

**47...Kg7 48.Ke3 Rc3+ 49.Kf2 Kh6 50.Rc7 Rc1 51.Kf3 c3**

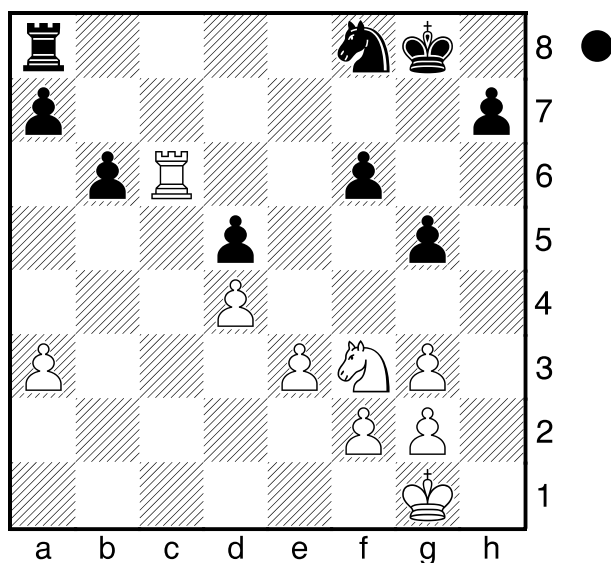


Now White holds by keeping their king on 2nd and first rank so Black can't gain a tempo. **52.Ke3?? c2 53.Kd2 Rg1 54.Rc3 c1Q+ 55.Rxc1 Rxg3** This is easily winning. **56.Rh1 Rf3 57.Ke2 Rxf4 58.Ke3 Re4+ 59.Kf3 Kh5 60.Kg3 Rg4+ 0-1**

**Daily, Brian**  
 **Persidsky, Andre**  
 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (5.14) 05.12.2023  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

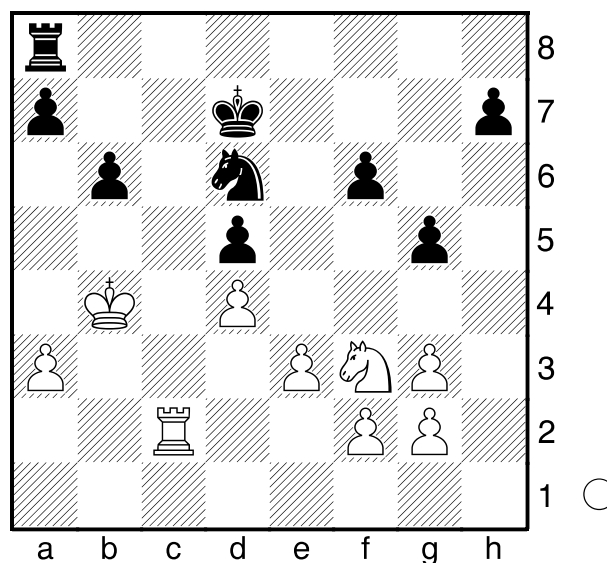
**D38**  
**1663**  
**1781**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3  
 Bb4 5.Qb3 Qe7 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3  
 0-0 8.Bf4 b6 9.e3 Bb7 10.c5 Ba6  
 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Qa4 Nb8 13.cxb6  
 cxb6 14.0-0 Nbd7 15.Rfc1 Nh5  
 16.Bg5 f6 17.Bh4 g5 18.Bg3 Nxg3  
 19.hxg3 Rfc8 20.c4 Nf8 21.cxd5  
 exd5 22.Rc6 Qd7 23.Rac1 Rc7  
 24.Qc2 Rxc6 25.Qxc6 Qxc6 26.Rxc6



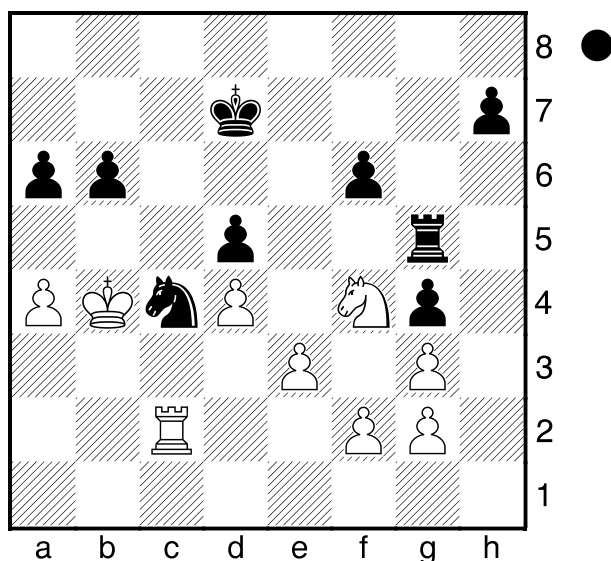
This is an advantage, but it still teeters  
 on drawn. **26...Kf7! 27.Kf1**  
 [ 27.Rc7+ Ke6 Black has ...Nd7 if the  
 rook tries to stay on the 7th, otherwise  
 a perpetual with ...Kd6-e6 to Rf7-c7. ]  
 [ 27.Rd6 Rc8 28.Rxd5 Ke6 29.Rb5  
 Rc1+ 30.Kh2 Rc2 ]  
**27...Ke7 28.Ke2 Ne6 29.Kd2 Kd7=**  
**30.Rc2 Nc7 31.Kc3?!**  
 [ 31.Kd3 ]  
 [ 31.g4 ]  
 [ 31.Ng1 ]  
**31...Nb5+**  
 [ 31...Rc8! 32.Kd3 Nb5 33.Rxc8  
 Kxc8 34.a4 Nd6 Black's knight is

the first to make threats. ]  
**32.Kb4 Nd6**



**33.Nd2?**  
 [ 33.g4= ]  
 [ 33.Ng1? ]  
**33...g4**  
 [ 33...h5! ]  
**34.a4?!**  
 [ 34.Nb1 Ne4 35.f3 gxf3 36.gxf3  
 Nxg3 37.Nc3 a5+ 38.Kb3 Ke6  
 39.Rh2= ]  
**34...Rg8**  
 [ 34...a5+ 35.Kb3 Rc8! ]  
**35.Nb1 Rg5 36.Nc3= a6 37.Ne2**  
**Nc4?!**  
 [ 37...a5+ ]  
**38.Nf4±**

(Diagram)



**Kd6?? 39.Nxd5?** Any other move was still a clear plus for White,

[but 39.e4!+- puts it to bed. White wins a big pawn. ]

**39...a5+?**

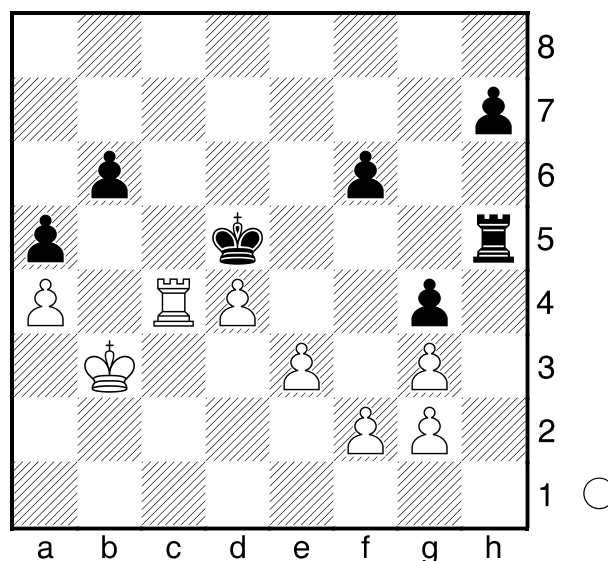
[ 39...Kxd5 40.Rxc4 Ke4! Between ...Rf5 and ...Kd3, Black has counterplay; White will have significant difficulty turning this into a win. As it went though... ]

**40.Kb3?!**

[As Brian noted in his submission of the moves, 40.Kxc4! Rxd5 41.Rb2 picks off the b-pawn with a routinely won two-pawns-up ending, pointing out that ...Rh5; Rb1 Rh2 Rg1 is a sort of "stalemate" of the rooks, and the king ending part is won. ]

**40...Kxd5 41.Rxc4 Rh5**

(Diagram)



**42.Kc3?**

[Even here that maneuver works:

42.Rc1! Rh2 43.Rg1 f5 44.Kc3 h5

( 44...Ke4 45.Kc4 Rh6 46.Kb5 Kd3

47.Rc1 Ke2 48.Rc2+ Kf1 49.d5 Rd6

50.Kc4 and after all that, Ke5 will do

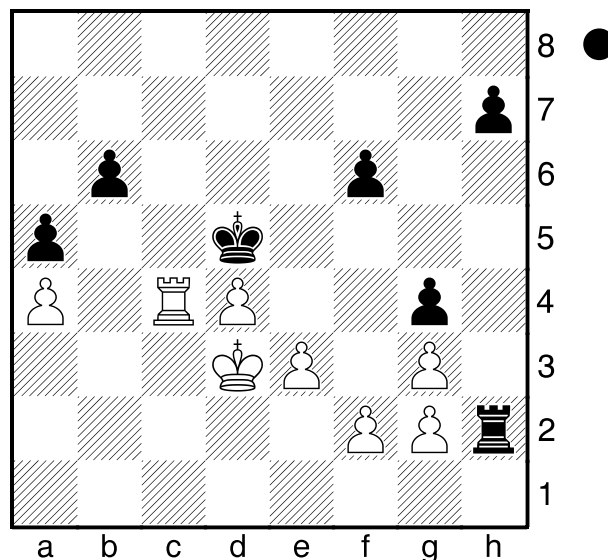
it. ) 45.Kd3+- ]

**42...Rh2?!**

[ 42...Rh1! ]

[ 42...Rf5! ]

**43.Kd3!**

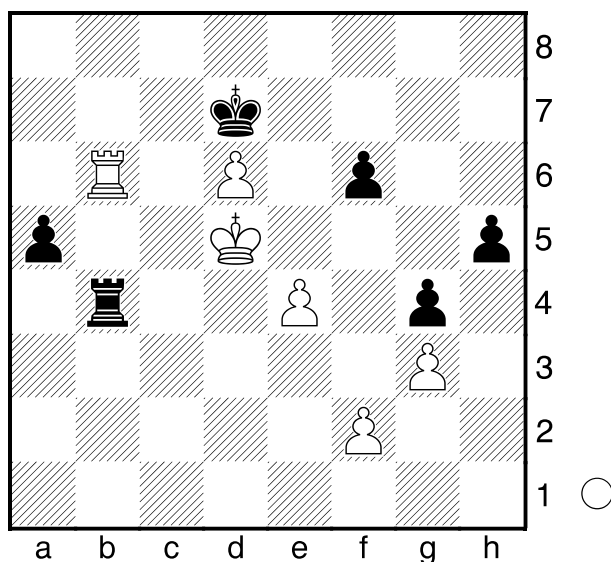


**Rxg2**

[ 43...f5!? 44.Rc1! Rxg2 45.Ke2 Rh2

46.Rb1 Kc6 47.Rb5 Rh1 48.Rxf5

Ra1 49.d5+ Kc5 50.Rf4± ]  
**44.e4+- Kd6 45.Ke3 Rg1 46.d5 h5**  
 [ 46...Ke5!? 47.Rc8! Re1+ 48.Kd3  
 Rd1+ 49.Ke2 Rd4 50.Re8+ Kd6  
 51.Re6+ Kc7 52.Ke3 ]  
**47.Rc6+! Ke7 48.Rxb6?!**  
 [ 48.Rc7+  
**A) 48...Kd6** 49.Rf7 Ke5 50.Re7+  
 Kd6 51.Re6+ Kc5 52.Rxf6+-  
 ( 52.Rc6+ Kb4 53.Rxf6+- );  
**B) 48...Ke8** 49.Kf4+- as in the  
 famous Capablanca-Tartakower  
 game. ]  
**48...Ra1 49.d6+?!**  
 [ 49.Kf4 Ra2! 50.Kf5! Rxf2+ 51.Kg6  
 h4 52.gxh4 Rf4± 53.Rb3 Rxe4  
 54.Rg3 Rd4□ 55.h5 Rxd5 56.Rxg4  
 Kf8□ ]  
**49...Kd7!**  
 [is a bit more complicated, but also  
 drawn: 49...Ke6 50.d7+ Kxd7  
 51.Rxf6 Rxa4 ]  
**50.Kd4 Rxa4+ 51.Kd5 Rb4!=**



Another "only" move, but it works.

**52.Ra6□ Rb5+ 53.Kd4 Re5**  
 Blockade: Black does "nothing" and  
 there's no way in for White. **54.Rb6 Rg5**  
**55.Ra6 Rb5 56.Kc4 Re5 57.Kd4 Rb5**  
**58.Kc4 Re5 59.Kd4 Rg5 60.Kc4 Re5**  
 ½-½

**B01**  
 □ **Nystrom Burke, Oliver Peter** **1276**  
 ■ **Marvin, Hayes Alexander** **1593**  
 Winter TNM: 1200-1599 (5.21) 05.12.23  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

Nystrom Burke Finally Stopped! Hayes  
 takes his Center Counter seriously,  
 neutralizes White's opening advantage,  
 and shortly after gets the better of it, a  
 plus he fritters away but regains, and  
 brings home the point. Thus they are  
 both tied for 1st-2nd with two rounds to  
 go! **1.e4 d5** When Magnus played this  
 in 2014 (see below), some theorized it  
 was a show of regional unity (remember,  
 in most of the world it's the  
 Scandinavian Defence). **2.exd5**

[Nakamura has played 2.Nc3  
 a few times to out-dodge theory. He  
 got a point against Carlsen with it. Out  
 of three games. ]

**2...Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8** At first it's hard to  
 believe this could be as good a square  
 as a5 or even d6, but if/when Black plays  
 ...c6 and ...Qc7, it's all the same. (I still  
 think the Center Counter is "rubbish" as  
 Silman used to love to say about almost  
 anything...) **4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3**  
**Bxf3 7.Qxf3 c6 8.Bf4**

[Carlsen as Black: 8.Ne2 e6 9.g4  
 Qd5 10.Bg2 Nbd7 11.Qg3 Qc4  
 12.Qb3 Qxb3 13.axb3 Bd6 14.c4 a6  
 15.Be3 0-0-0 16.0-0-0 Rhe8 17.Ng3  
 Nf8 18.Bf3 Ng6 19.h4 Bf4 20.h5  
 Bxe3+ 21.fxe3 Ne7 22.e4 h6 23.e5  
 Nh7 24.Ne4 Rf8 25.Nd6+ Kc7  
 26.Bg2 Ng5 27.Rhf1 f6 28.Kc2 fxe5  
 29.dxe5 Nc8 30.c5 Ne7 31.b4 Nd5  
 32.Bxd5 cxd5 33.b5 axb5 34.Nxb5+  
 Kc6 35.Nd6 Nf3 36.b4 Ra8 37.Ra1  
 Rxa1 38.Rxa1 Nxe5 39.Ra7 Rb8  
 40.Ra3 b6 41.Ra7 bxc5 42.Ra6+  
 Kc7 43.bxc5 Nd7 44.Ra7+ Kc6  
 45.g5 Nxc5 46.Nf7 d4 47.Ne5+ Kd5  
 48.Nd7 d3+ 49.Kc1 Nxd7 50.Rxd7+

Ke4 0-1 Caruana,F (2801)-Carlsen,M (2877) Olympiad-41 Tromsø 2014 (6. 1) ]

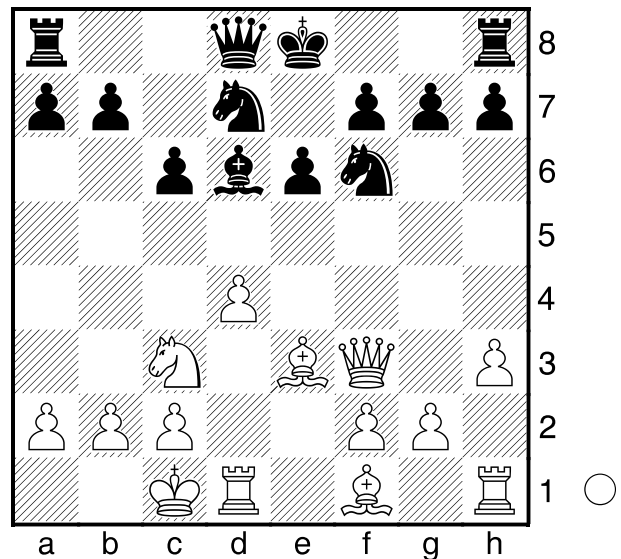
[ 8.Be3 is far and away the most common. e6 9.0-0-0 Bb4 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Qxe4 Qd5 12.Qxd5 cxd5 13.c4! dxc4 14.d5 exd5 15.Rxd5 0-0 16.Bxc4 Rc8 17.Kb1 Nc6 18.Bb3 Na5 19.Rb5 Nxb3 20.axb3 a5 21.Rxb7 Rab8 22.Rxb8 Rxb8 23.Rc1 f6 24.Rc4 h5 25.Kc2 Kf7 26.Bd4 Ke6 27.Bc3 Rb6 28.Bxb4 axb4 29.Kd3 Kd5 30.Rd4+ Ke5 31.g4 hxg4 32.hxg4 g5 33.f4+ gxf4 34.Re4+ Kd5 35.Rxf4 Ke5 36.Rf5+ Ke6 37.Kc4 Rc6+ 38.Kxb4 Rc2 39.Rc5 Rxb2 40.Ka4 Rg2 41.Rc4 Kd5 42.Kb5 Rg3 43.b4 Rg1 44.Rc5+ Kd6 45.Rc4 Kd5 46.Rf4 Ke5 47.Rf5+ Ke6 48.Rc5 Rxc4 49.Ka5 Rg1 50.b5 Ra1+ 51.Kb6 f5 52.Kc6 f4 53.b6 Rb1 54.b7 f3 55.Rc2 Rxb7 56.Kxb7 Ke5 57.Kc6 Ke4 58.Kd6 Ke3 59.Ke5 f2 60.Rxf2 Kxf2 ½-½ Carlsen,M (2835)-Le,T (2557) Bullet Chess Winners Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (2.7) ]

### 8...e6 9.0-0-0 Bd6 10.Be3

[ Carlsen as White: 10.Be5 Qc7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qxf6 Rg8 13.Ne4 Be7 14.Qe5 Qb6 15.Nf6+ Bxf6 16.Qxf6 Nd7 17.Qh4 Qa5 18.a3 h5 19.Be2 Rxc2 20.Rhg1 Qd5 21.Bxh5 Kf8 22.Qf4 Rxc1 23.Qxf7# 1-0 Carlsen,M (2835)-Le,T (2557) Bullet Chess Winners Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (2.3) Clearly Black had run out of steam in this bullet match... ]

### 10...Nbd7

(Diagram)



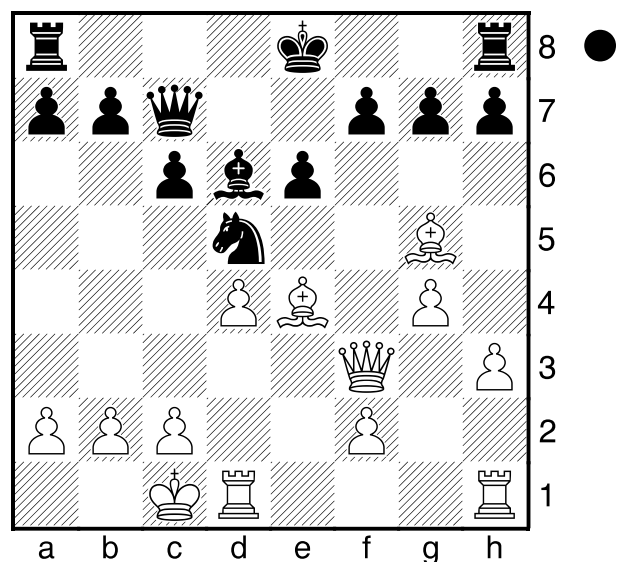
### 11.Bd3N

[ Meaningless First Predecessor: 11.Bc4 0-0 12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 Nf6 14.Qh4 ½-½ Swinkels,A-Etmans, M NED-ch30 corr Netherland 1999 ]

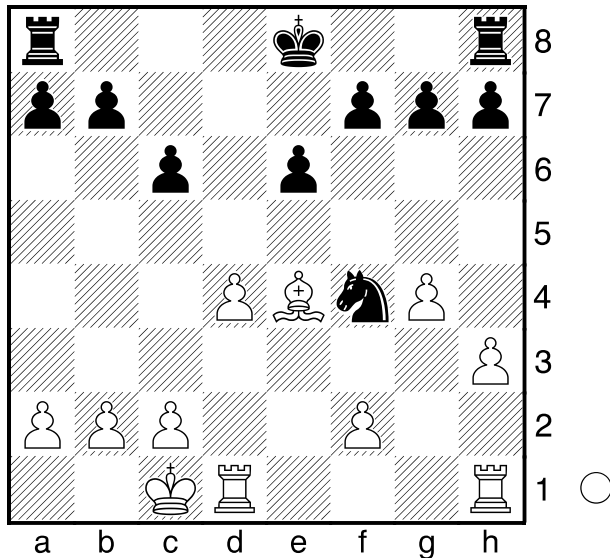
### 11...Qc7 12.g4 Nb6 13.Bg5

[ 13.g5 So help us, we've transposed into this: Nfd5 14.Ne4 Nxe3 15.Nxd6+ Qxd6 16.fxe3 Qd5 17.Rhf1 Rf8 18.Qg3 Qxa2 19.g6 hxg6 20.Bxg6 Nc4 0-1 Dobsa,E (1449)-Cinkova,V (1285) CZE-ch U16 Girls Teplice 2023 (5) ]

### 13...Nbd5 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4



**Bf4+!= 16.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 17.Qxf4 Nxf4**



**18.b4?!**

[ 18.Kd2!= "(0.00)" ]

**18...0-0-0?!**

[ 18...a5!± ]

**19.Bf3**

[ 19.c3 gives White the worse side of even. ]

**19...Nd5**

[ Black should pick on either knight-pawn: 19...a5!? ]

[ or 19...h5!? ]

[ or just prepare for either with 19...Kc7 ]

**20.a3= b5 21.Kb2 Rd6 22.Rc1?!**

[ 22.Bxd5 is the computer's only "0.00" move. A human might have a preference for one or the other minor piece here. ]

**22...Nf4**

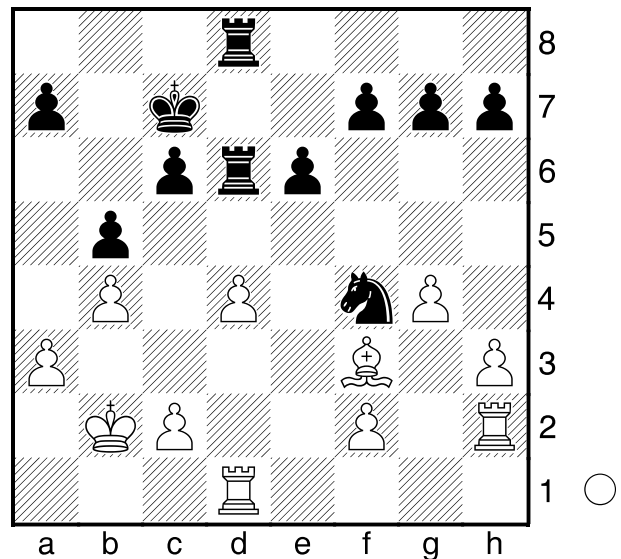
[ 22...Nb6!± ]

**23.Rcd1 Kc7 24.Rh2?** I had a hard time believing this move! And sure enough, the other (Nystrom Burke's) scoresheet says -- Ra2 :-)

[ 24.c3 when Black's advantage is insignificant. ]

**24...Rhd8+!**

(Diagram)



**25.Be4** since the pawn is going anyway.

[ 25.c3 e5 26.Be4 exd4 27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.cxd4-+ when Black can stop for a kingside pawn move before taking. h5 ( 28...h6; 28...g6 ) ]

**25...Rxd4 26.Rxd4 Rxd4 27.f3**

[ 27.Bxh7 g6 28.h4 Kd6 29.h5 Ke7-+ This is no Spassky-Fischer, first game 1972 (you all know that was a draw and RJF only threw it away later, right?). ]

**27...g6 28.g5 Nh5 29.Kb3 Ng3 30.c3 Rd1 31.Rf2 Rh1 32.c4 Rxh3 33.Bd3 bxc4+ 34.Bxc4 Ne4 35.Rc2 Rxf3+ 36.Ka4 Rc3 37.Rxc3 Nxc3+ 38.Kb3 Ne4 39.Kc2 Nxg5 40.Kd3 Kd6 41.Ke3 e5 42.a4 Ne6 43.Ba6 f5 44.Bc4 h5 45.b5 0-1**

**B13**

□ **Fisher,Brett**

■ **McKemey,Hector**

Winter TNM: u1200 (5.29)

05.12.2023

[Winslow,Elliott]

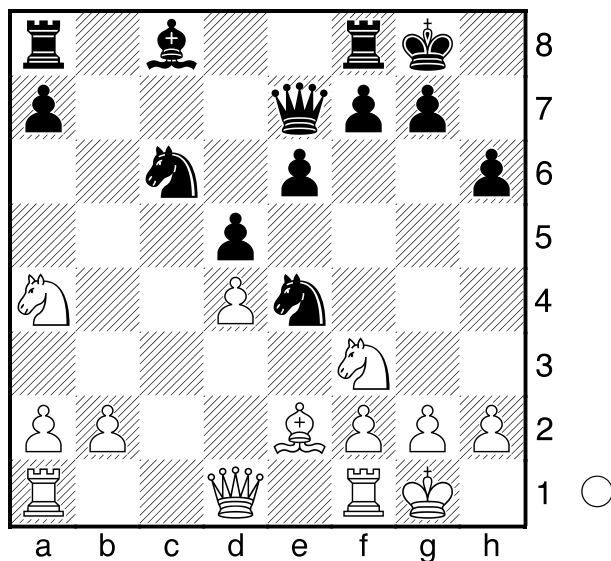
Hector McKemey solidifies his lead, a perfect 5-0, a clear point ahead of Mitchell Walters (and they've already

played) with two rounds to go. In this game Fisher trips himself up in the exchanges, coming out with a trapped bishop. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.exd4 d5 6.c5**

I would have thought this premature, but it's Stockfish's #1.

[ 6.Nc3 is the Caro Kann Panov-Botvinnik system, or is it some Queen's Gambit Semi-Tarrasch, or (after ...Bb4) a generic NimzoIndian. If you don't know what all those are, don't worry, but do look them up! ]

**6...Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nc3 b6 10.cxb6 Qxb6 11.Na4 Qc7 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Ne4 14.Bxe7 Qxe7**



**15.Ne5?**

[ 15.a3 ]

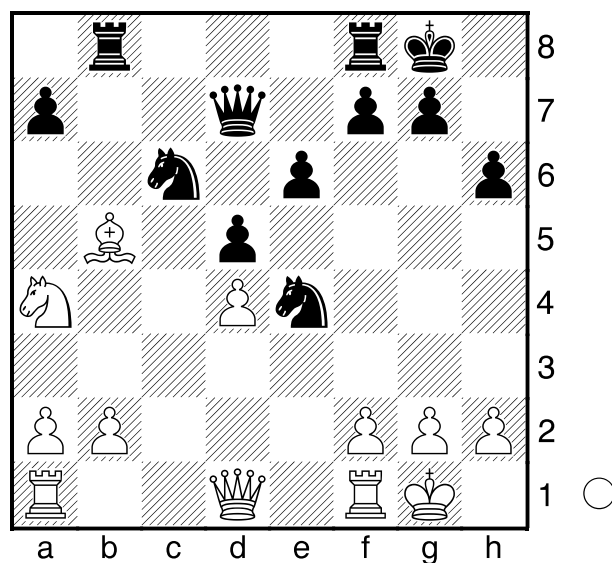
**15...Bd7?!**

[ 15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 Bd7+ ]

**16.Nxd7 Qxd7+ 17.Bb5?! Rab8**

[ 17...Rfc8 ]

(Diagram)



**18.Qd3?**

[ 18.Bxc6 Qxc6+ ]

**18...Nb4!-+ 19.Bxd7 Nxd3 20.b3 Rfd8**

**21.Bc6 Rd6 22.f3 Nf6**

**0-1**

## IM John Donaldson

### Remembering Steve Brandwein

December 12<sup>th</sup> will mark the eighth anniversary of Steve Brandwein's death which was written about in the [Mechanics' Chess Room Newsletter](#) and [Chess Life](#).

As good as these articles are they fail to convey what a unique and special person Steve was. The closest anyone has come to capturing him on the printed page is Jeremy Silman's tribute to his good friend which can be found in *Silman's Chess Odyssey*.

Steve was the last person to toot his own horn and to call him self-effacing would be a serious understatement. One literally had to pry details about his life and short-lived career as a tournament player out of him. What is known is that Steve grew up in New York City but left when his father Peter, an award-winning sports writer for the *New York Times*, died of a heart attack at the age of 45 in 1955.

The Brandwein family moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts. It was here Steve learned to play chess but he only first appeared on the USCF rating list in August of 1959 with a provisional rating of 1960. This was just about the time he was heading to Boston University.

There were few tournaments held in New England in the late 1950s and early 1960s so Steve's progress was slow and mostly based on study rather than practical play. He crossed 2000 on the December 1961 list (2055) and 2100 on the October 1963 list (2120).

It has long been known Steve faced Bobby Fischer twice and drew both games during the latter's 1964 transcontinental simul tour around North America. Sadly, it appeared both games had been lost but one of the scores turned up a few years ago and now a photograph of the two in action during that struggle has surfaced!

Steve was rated 2132 USCF when this game was played. He would earn his master's rating at the US Open in Boston later in the year and soon cross 2300 earning a place on the USCF list for the top 50 players in the country.

Two Knights C59

#### **Fischer - Steve Brandwein**

Fitchburg, Massachusetts (simul), March 2, 1964

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nh3.**

Fischer reintroduced 9.Nh3 into Grandmaster play against Bisguier in the 1963 New York State Open where he met 9...Bc5 with 10.0-0. A few rounds later he varied against Radojcic with 10.d3, a move he gave an exclamation mark in *My 60 Memorable Games*. Present theory holds the two moves to be of equal value.





Fischer has just played 9.Nh3. (Photo by Glen Wheeler. *Boston Globe*, April 5, 1964)

**10...0-0 11.Nc3.**

11.0-0 Bxh3 transposes to Fischer-Bisguier which continued 12.gxh3 Qd7 13.Bf3 Qxh3 14.Nd2 with White relying on his bishop pair for a small advantage.

**11...Bxh3 12.gxh3 Qd7 13.Bg4.**



This is Bobby's idea. By delaying castling, he is not forced to return the pawn as he was against Bisguier.

**13...Qe7?!**

Taking on g4 and meeting either recapture with ...f5 looks more natural.

**14.0-0.**

14.Qf3 and 14.Rg1 were both interesting alternatives. White's king may be better placed on f1 and it saves time compared to activating the rook with castling, followed by Kh1 and only then Rg1.

**14...Nd5.**

Here 14...Rad8, 14...Rab8 or 14...Nb7, planning to bring the knight back into the game on d6, were all worthy alternatives. With the text Black prepares ...f5 and clears the way to the kingside for his queen.

**15.Bf3.**

Another plan was Bd2, Qe2 and Rae1.

**15...Nxc3 16.bxc3 Rac8?!**

This looks slow. A more natural follow-up was 16...f5 with equal chances.

**17.Bg2 f5 18.Kh1 Qf6.**

18...Nb7 and ...Nd6 would have been more consistent with Black's 16th move. The knight on a5 can be Black's Achilles' heel in the Two Knights and spending several tempi to bring it into play is often necessary.

**19.Qe1 Nb7**

19...f4 or placing a rook on e8 was needed to stop f4.

**20.f4! Rce8 21.fxe5 Rxe5 22.Qg3 Re2 23.d4 Bb6 24.Bf4 Nd8 25.Be5.**

Even stronger is inserting 25.Bf3 and only after 25...Re6 (as 25...Rxc2 26.Bd1 Rb2 27.Bb3+ Kh7 28.Be5 Qg5 29.Qf3, with Rg1 looming, gives White a crushing attack.) 26.Be5 with a decisive advantage.

**25...Qg5 26.Rae1 Qxg3 27.hxg3 Rxc2 28.Bd6 Rf7 29.g4 Rxc3.**



**30.Rxf5?**

One mistake by Bobby and Steve escapes. Instead, 30.Re8+ Kh7 31.gxf5 is winning. White is threatening f6 and Be4+ and Black has no satisfactory answer.

**30...Rxf5 31.gxf5 Nf7.**

Black's knight is back in play and this makes all the difference.

**32.Re8+ Kh7 33.Be5 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 Re1! 35.Bxc6.**

35.Re7 Bxd4 is the point behind Black's last move.

**35...Nxe5 36.dxe5 Rxe5 37.Rxe5 Bc7 ½–½.**

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## **In Memoriam: Kenneth Hills (1961-2023)**

USCF Master Kenneth Hills of Danville, California, died November 13 at the age of 62.

Mechanics' Institute chess club members will remember Kenneth as a regular at events from the late 1990s to the early 2010s. It was at the end of this run that he won the [2012 Lovegrove Senior Championship](#) ahead of International Master Walter Shipman. Kenneth was well-liked by all in the chess community and known for his good sportsmanship.

Born in Yokosuka, Japan, on a US naval base but raised in England from the age of three, Kenneth took advantage of his US citizenship to move to the United States and settle in California in the late 1990s. Previously, he had earned a BA (Honors) degree in Philosophy from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom and an MBA from the Open University. Originally a software engineer, Kenneth later moved into digital marketing where he developed advanced skills in Conversion Rate Optimization (CRO) and worked as an AI-Enabled Funnel Growth Marketer who specialized in utilizing cutting-edge technology to optimize and scale marketing funnel performance.

Chess was Kenneth's first love, but he had many other interests including golf, poker, and bridge. A talented blues guitarist, he was also a huge soccer fan with an affinity for both Brighton & Hove Albion and Liverpool.

Kenneth Hills will be missed by all who knew him.

- John Donaldson

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## **Thanks!**

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Newsletter was started back in 2000 by former Chess Room Director IM **John Donaldson**, then taken over by his successor **Abel Talamantez** in 2018. The newsletter fell into my hands in early 2022 upon Abel's departure. Whereas John was "sole proprietor" – writing the entire content – Abel handed off some of the responsibilities to his staff: myself, GM **Nick de Firmian**, and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaaray**.

I have followed Abel's example, envisioning the Newsletter as a kind of community bulletin board, encouraging and seeking out contributions far and wide. With that said, and with the end of the year approaching, I'd like to acknowledge the people who have helped this past year in making the Mechanics' Institute Chess Newsletter the informative and colorful publication that it is.

I'd like to start off by thanking Mechanics' Institute Senior Director of Programs and Community Engagement **Alyssa Stone**, my editor. Many of the photographs you see every month were taken by her, and [here](#) is a piece she wrote about ensuring safe play at Mechanics' Institute.

Next I'd like to thank IM **Elliott Winslow**, IM **John Donaldson**, **Richard Hack**, **Steven Dunlap**, and **Tony Lama** - they are the Newsletter's regular contributors whose columns one sees every month. Elliott annotates games from the Tuesday Night Marathon, John reviews the latest chess books (and much more), Richard sums up the goings-on at the weekly Chess Cafe, Steven does the Library Puzzle, and Tony stumps us with his Teasers.

Here is the list of our some-time contributors over the past year, each with their unique take on the Royal Game. Find their contributions [here](#). Thanks to all!

**Ian Wessen**, **Henry Lien**, **Alexander Avedisian**, **Sara Beth Cohen**, **Alan Freberg**, **Danny Cao**, **Tilden Stadtmiller**, IM **Yian Liou**, **Bruce Radaikin**, NM **Kerry Lawless**, **Renate Otterbach**, **Heather Saunders Estes**, **Kristian Clemens**, **Quinn Ni**.

Finally, I wish to thank Mechanics' Institute Chess Program Manager and friend **Alex Robins**. Not only does he bear the burden of sharing an office with me, he has to endure other hardships - like schooling **Stephen Curry** when the NBA legend [dropped into the club](#) on June 12:





# The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

Chess.com was [hacked](#), and 800,000+ users' personal data was compromised.

Mechanics' Institute's [Chess Cafe](#) gets a shout-out in WIM Alexey Roots's [column](#) for SparkChess.

A [network](#) of chess friends are helping Russians and Ukrainians flee the conflict.

Chess is being played via [ham radio](#).

Chess Chief has been put out to [stud](#) for \$5,000.

["Cultural factors"](#) might be influencing your chess moves.

The top chess players of all time based on the [length](#) of their articles in Wikipedia.

A new cheating [scandal](#) involves Nakamura, Kramnik, Nepomniatchi, and Carlsen.

GM Irina Krush has a great [YouTube channel](#) for players of all strengths.

The Vice President of the Ukrainian Chess Federation was [killed](#) in action.

FIDE [announces](#) a Gender Equality in Chess Index, ranking chess federations around the globe. Mongolia gets the highest mark, Denmark the lowest. The report in full can be found [here](#).

Hans Niemann destroyed the field at the [Peace Tournament](#) in Zagreb, finishing with 8 points from 9 games and a performance rating of 2946.

[Marin Chess Club](#) is looking for coaches.

Vaishali Ramesbabu earns the GM title, [joining](#) her brother Praggnanandhaa to become the first brother/sister Grandmaster duo in history.

Finally, GM Fabiano Caruana wins the [Sinquefield Cup](#) - and the [Grand Chess Tour](#).

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## Recent Games

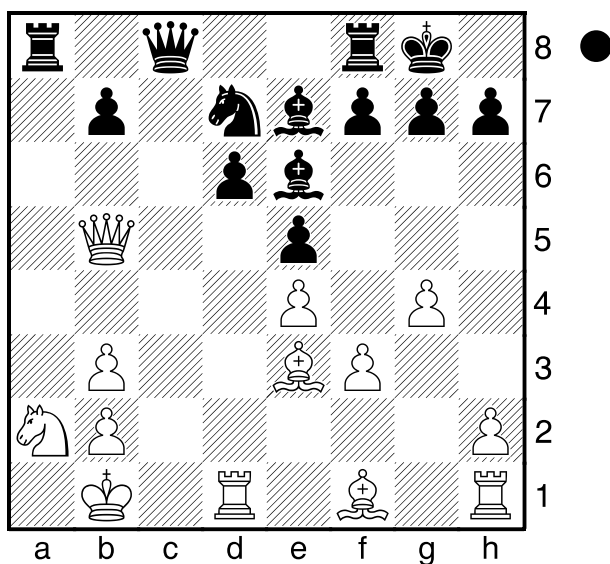
A selection of games from around the world that have caught our attention.

**Griffith, Kyron**  

**Stearman, Josiah**  
 1000GM NY GM-A Fall 2023 (4.6)

**B56**  
**2358**  
**2451**

A flashy finish in a game between two Mechanics' Institute veterans. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Qe2 0-0 10.0-0-0 Qc8 11.g4 a5 12.Na4 Nd7 13.Qb5 Nb4 14.Nc3 Nxa2+ 15.Nxa2 a4 16.Kb1 axb3 17.cxb3



Rxa2!  
**0-1**

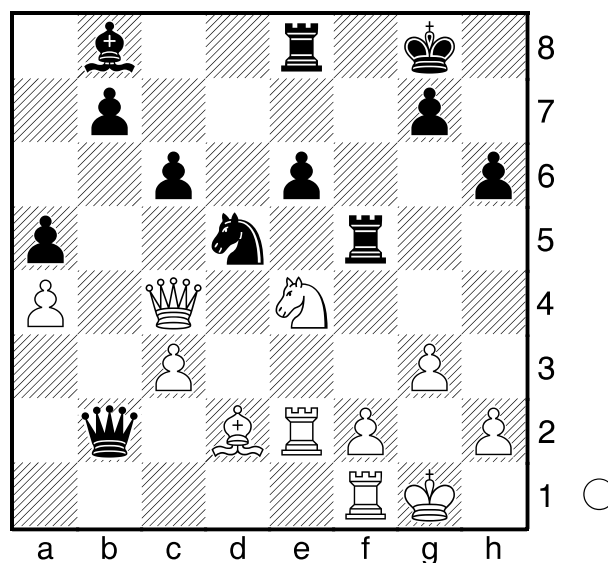
**Carlsen, Magnus**  

**Pechac, Jergus**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (1.9)

**C65**  
**2829**  
**2580**

Another Carlsen master-class in positional and tactical play. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d4 Nxd4 5.Nxd4 c6 6.Bc4 exd4 7.Qxd4 Qb6 8.Qe5+ Be7 9.0-0 d6 10.Qg3 0-0 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.e5 Ne8 14.Qg4 Rf5 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Qc4 Nc7 17.Ne4 Be5 18.a4 Nd5 19.c3 a5

20.g3 h6 21.Bd2 Re8 22.Rae1 Bb8 23.Re2 Qxb2



24.Bxh6! Qa3 25.Be3 Nxe3 26.Rxe3 Qe7 27.h4 Qd7 28.Ng5 Ba7 29.Rd3 Rd5 30.Rf3 Rf8 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.Qe4 Ke7 33.Qg6 Kd8 34.Nxe6+ Kc8 35.Nxg7 Re5 36.Qf6  
**1-0**

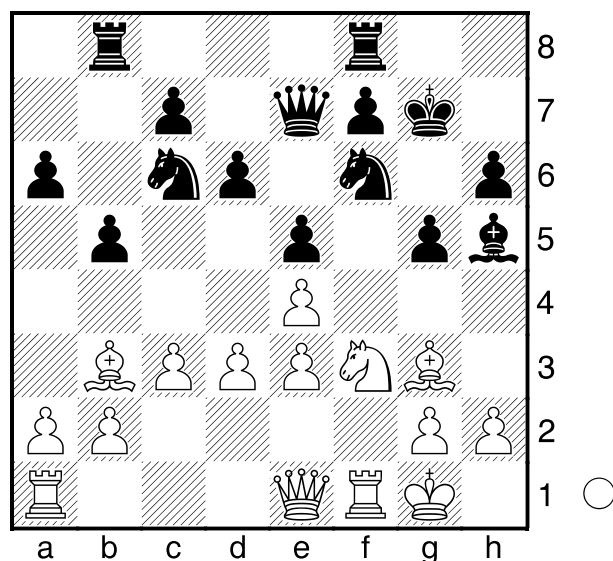
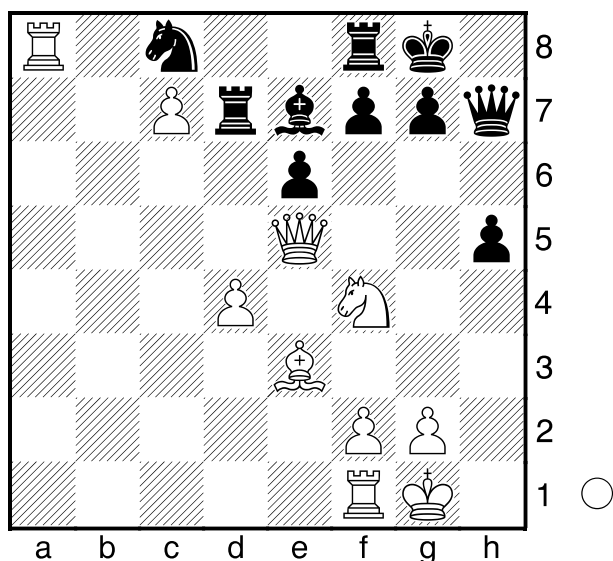
**Shirov, Alexei**  

**Pultinevicius, Paulius**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (1.27)

**B12**  
**2668**  
**2589**

Black finally castled on the 32nd move - too late. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 Qa5+ 7.Nd2 e6 8.Ngf3 Nh6 9.0-0 Nf5 10.Nb3 Qa6 11.Qd1 b6 12.a4 c5 13.a5 c4 14.axb6 Qxb6 15.Nbd2 Be7 16.b3 c3 17.Nb1 Nc6 18.Be3 Rc8 19.Nxc3 Nxh4 20.Nxh4 Bxh4 21.Ne2 Qb7 22.c4 Rd8 23.Nf4 dxc4 24.bxc4 Nxe5 25.Qa4+ Nd7 26.c5 Qe4 27.c6 Nb6 28.Qxa7 Nc8 29.Qc5 Be7 30.Qe5 Qh7 31.c7 Rd7 32.Ra8 0-0

(Diagram)



33.Nxe6! Re8 34.Qb5  
1-0

**C77**  
 **Carlsen,Magnus** **2829**  
 **Gretarsson,Hjorvar Steinn** **2518**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (3.9) 13.11.2023

Nobody applies pressure like Carlsen.  
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4  
 Nf6 5.d3 Bc5 6.c3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.Bg5  
 h6 9.Bh4 Ba7 10.Nbd2 g5 11.Bg3  
 Qe7 12.Nf1 Be6 13.Ne3 Rb8 14.0-0  
 Bxe3 15.fxe3 0-0 16.Nd2 Bg4 17.Qe1  
 Bh5 18.Nf3 Kg7

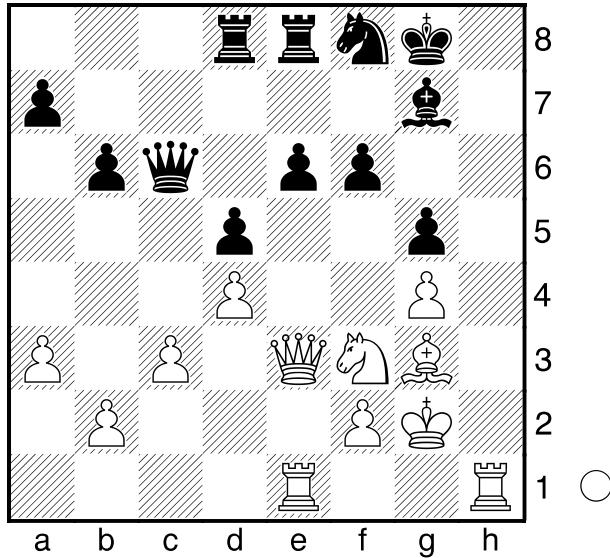
(Diagram)

19.Nh4! Bg6 20.Nf5+ Bxf5 21.Rxf5  
 Nd7 22.Qe2 Qe8 23.Raf1 f6 24.h4  
 Ne7 25.R5f2 Nc5 26.Bc2 Ng6 27.h5  
 Ne7 28.d4 Nd7 29.Bb3 Rd8 30.a4 f5  
 31.dxe5 Nxe5 32.exf5 Kf6 33.Be6 Qc6  
 34.axb5 Qxb5 35.Qd1 a5 36.b3 Rb8  
 37.Ra2 N7c6 38.e4 Qc5+ 39.Bf2 Qxc3  
 40.Rc2 Qb4 41.Bd5 Ne7 42.Rxc7  
 Rfc8 43.Ra7 Rc3 44.Bc4 Rb6 45.Bd4  
 Rxc4 46.bxc4 N7c6 47.Rh7  
 1-0

**B13**  
 **Papaioannou,Ioannis** **2623**  
 **Pultinevicius,Paulius** **2589**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (3.47) 13.11.2023

A pretty sacrifice breaks down black's  
 defenses. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5  
 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Qc7 6.h3 g6  
 7.Ne2 Bf5 8.Nf4 Nf6 9.0-0 Bxd3  
 10.Nxd3 Bg7 11.Bf4 Qc8 12.Nd2 0-0  
 13.Re1 Re8 14.Qf3 b6 15.Re2 Qa6  
 16.a3 Nh5 17.Be5 Rad8 18.Rae1 Qb5  
 19.g4 Nf6 20.Bc7 Rc8 21.Bf4 h5  
 22.Re3 Rcd8 23.Kg2 Qa4 24.Bg5 Qc2  
 25.R3e2 Nh7 26.Bh4 hxg4 27.hxg4 g5  
 28.Bg3 Qa4 29.Rh1 Nf8 30.Qe3 Qa6  
 31.Nf3 f6 32.Ree1 e6 33.Nb4 Qb7

34.Nxc6 Qxc6

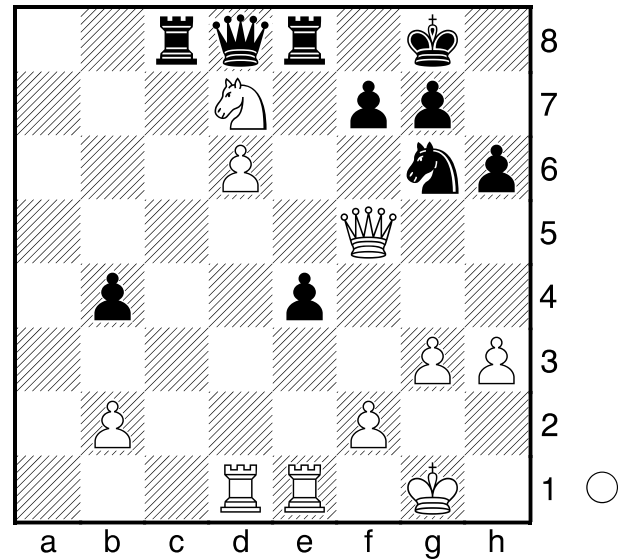


35.Nxg5! fxc5 36.Be5 Ng6 37.Qxg5  
Nxe5 38.Rxe5 Rf8 39.Rh6 Rde8  
40.Qg6 Rf6 41.Qh7+ Kf8 42.Rg5 Rf7  
43.Rxg7 Rxg7 44.Rf6+ Ke7 45.Qxg7+  
1-0

□ **Le,Quang Liem** **D38**  
 ■ **So,Wesley** **2731**  
 GCT Saint Louis Rapid 2023 (1.2) **2752**

A nice pseudo-sacrifice brings home the point. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.e3 0-0 7.Qc2 Re8 8.Bd2 a6 9.a3 Bd6 10.Rd1 h6 11.h3 Bd7 12.Be2 dxc4 13.Bxc4 b5 14.Bd3 e5 15.0-0 Qe7 16.d5 Nd8 17.e4 c6 18.Rfe1 Nb7 19.dxc6 Bxc6 20.Nh4 Bd7 21.Qc1 Rac8 22.Bc2 Bc5 23.Nf3 a5 24.Qb1 b4 25.axb4 Bxb4 26.Nd5 Nxd5 27.exd5 Qf6 28.Bxb4 axb4 29.Nd2 Qb6 30.Nf3 Qf6 31.Nd2 Nd6 32.Ne4 Qg6 33.Nc5 Bf5 34.Bxf5 Nxf5 35.Nd7 Qg5 36.Qe4 Nh4 37.g3 Ng6 38.d6 Qd8 39.Qf5 e4

(Diagram)



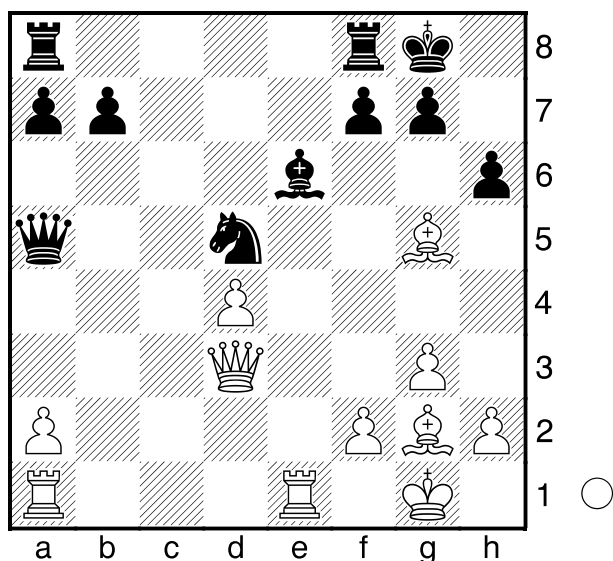
40.Nf6+! Qxf6 41.Qxf6 gxf6 42.d7 Ne5  
43.dxc8Q  
1-0

□ **Sevian,Samuel** **A22**  
 ■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2696**  
 GCT Saint Louis Rapid 2023 (1.3) **2771**

White pounces after black's error on the 17th move. 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 Bb4 4.Bg2 0-0 5.e4 Bxc3 6.bxc3 c6 7.Nf3 d5 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Re1 e4 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Bf5 14.d3 exd3 15.Qf3 Qa5 16.Bg5 Be6 17.Qxd3 h6?

(Diagram)



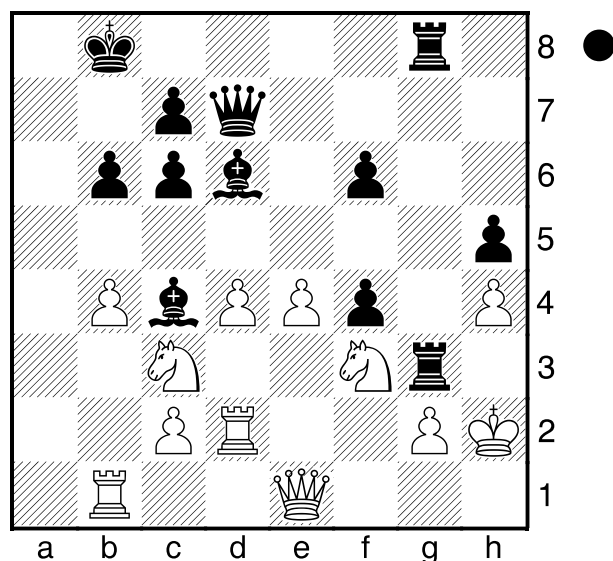


18.Bxh6! gxh6 19.Rxe6 Nb4 20.Rg6+!  
fxg6 21.Qxg6+ Kh8 22.Qxh6+ Kg8  
23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Be4 Qc7 25.a3 Nc6  
26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Bd5+ Rf7 28.Re1  
Ne7 29.Bxf7+ Kxf7 30.Qe6+  
**1-0**

**Caruana,Fabiano** **C65**  
**2795**  
 **Firouzja,Alireza** **2777**  
 GCT Saint Louis Rapid 2023 (1.5)

White is unable to withstand black's relentless king-side pressure. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.h3 Qe7 7.Nc3 Bd7 8.Qe2 0-0-0 9.Be3 Bd6 10.a3 Kb8 11.Nd2 Be6 12.b4 g6 13.Rb1 Nh5 14.0-0 f6 15.Rfd1 Qf7 16.f3 Nf4 17.Qf2 b6 18.a4 g5 19.a5 h5 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.d4 g4 22.h4 Rhg8 23.axb6 axb6 24.Qf1 gxf3 25.Nxf3 Bc4 26.Qe1 Rg3 27.Rd2 Rdg8 28.Kh1 Qd7 29.Kh2

(Diagram)

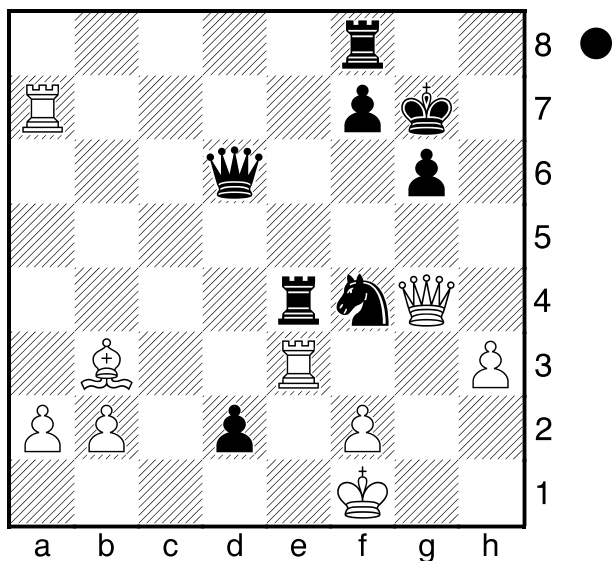


Rxf3! 30.gxf3 Rg3 31.Kh1 Rxf3  
32.Rh2 Rf1+ 33.Qxf1 Bxf1 34.Rxf1 f3  
35.e5 fxe5 36.Ne4 exd4 37.Nxd6  
Qxd6 38.Rxf3 Qxb4 39.Rhf2 Qe1+  
40.Kg2 Qe4 41.Kf1 Qxh4 42.Ke2 c5  
43.Kd3 Kb7 44.Rf1 Qg4 45.Rf7 h4  
46.R1f4 Qg6+ 47.Kd2 h3  
**0-1**

**Melkumyan,Hrant** **A20**  
**2650**  
 **Bluebaum,Matthias** **2670**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (5.3) 15.11.2023

Both sides go all-out, but black gets the final say. 1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.d4 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Bxd2+ 5.Qxd2 d6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg2 0-0 8.e4 b5 9.Nge2 bxc4 10.0-0 Qe7 11.h3 Nbd7 12.g4 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Nc3 Bb7 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Bxd5 Rad8 18.Rfe1 Qd6 19.Bxc4 exd4 20.Qg5 Nb6 21.Bb3 Nd5 22.Re4 Nf6 23.Re5 g6 24.Rd1 Kg7 25.Ra5 h5 26.gxh5 Nxh5 27.Rd3 Rde8 28.Rf3 Re1+ 29.Kg2 Re4 30.Rxa7 Nf4+ 31.Kf1 d3 32.Re3 d2 33.Qg4

(Diagram)

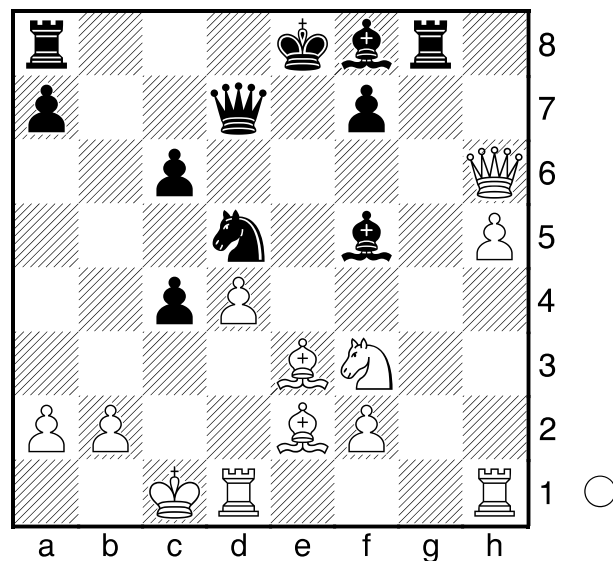


Qd3+! 34.Kg1 Rxe3 35.fxe3 Qxe3+  
36.Kh1 Nxh3 37.Kh2 Qxa7  
0-1

□ **Vocaturio,Daniele** **B15**  
 ■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2632**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (5.21) 15.11.2023 **2700**

A harsh lesson in the dangers of pawn-grabbing. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Be3 Bd6 7.Bd3 Nd7 8.Qf3 Nf8 9.0-0-0 Be6 10.c4 Ng6 11.h4 Qd7 12.h5 Bg4 13.Qe4+ Ne7 14.Be2 Bf5 15.Qh4 b5 16.g4 Be6 17.g5 fxg5 18.Qxg5 bxc4 19.Qxg7 Rg8 20.Qxh7 Bf5 21.Qh6 Nd5 22.Nf3 Bf8

(Diagram)

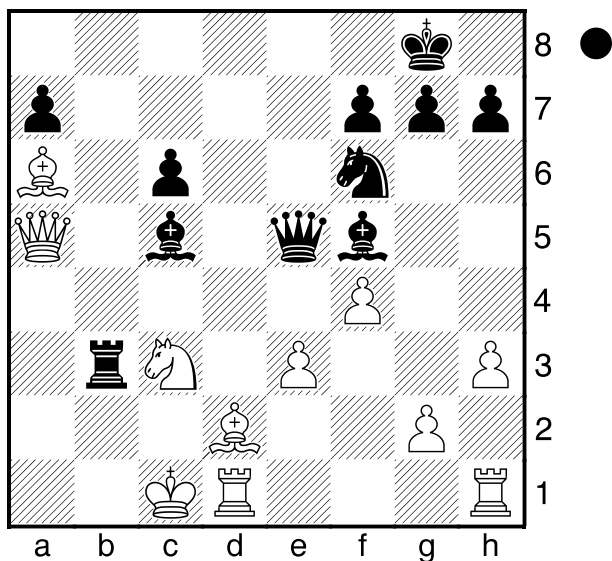


0-1

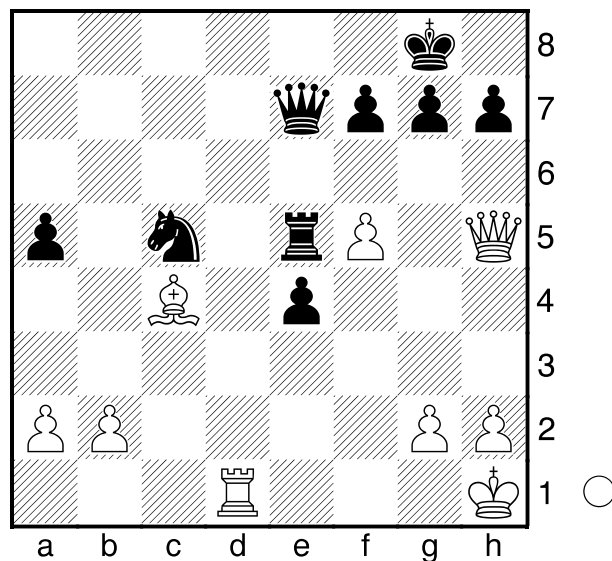
□ **Medic,Mirjana** **D38**  
 ■ **Georgescu,Lena** **2166**  
 ETCC Women 2023 (5.29) 15.11.2023 **2284**

A game right out of a puzzle-book. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.e3 0-0 7.Qc2 Qe7 8.Bd2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.0-0-0 Bf5 13.Qb3 Bc5 14.h3 b5 15.Bxb5 c6 16.Ba6 Rab8 17.Qa4 Rb4 18.Qa5 Rfb8 19.b3 Rxb3 20.axb3 Rxb3 21.f4

(Diagram)



Qxc3+!! 22.Bxc3 Bxe3+  
0-1



28.Qxf7+!  
1-0

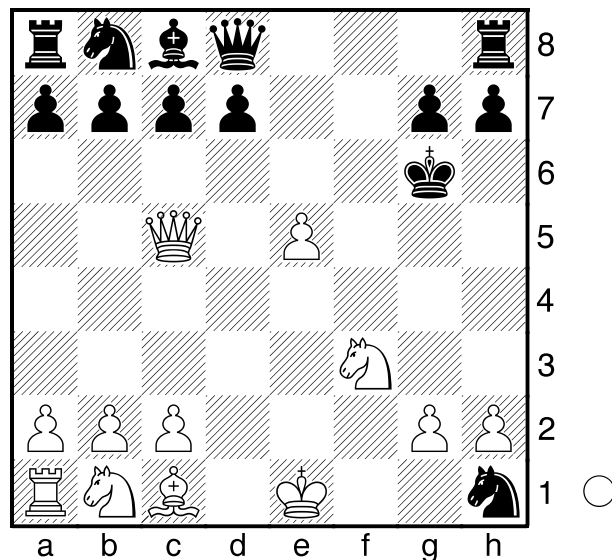
**Draganic, Veljko** **B43**  
 **Kurmann, Oliver** **2294**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (5.59) **2436**  
 15.11.2023

**Theodorou, Nikolas** **C43**  
 **Radjabov, Teimour** **2619**  
 ETCC Open 2023 (6.25) **2745**  
 17.11.2023

Another problem-like finish. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Re1 d6 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Kh1 0-0 11.f4 Nc5 12.Bd2 e5 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Rfe8 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.Bg5 e4 17.Bc4 b5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd5 Qd6 20.Nxf6+ Qxf6 21.Bd5 Rad8 22.Rad1 Re5 23.c4 bxc4 24.Bxc4 a5 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8 26.Rd1 Qg5 27.Qh5 Qe7

(Diagram)

This was all preparation, but impressive nevertheless. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.dxe5 Bc5 5.Bc4 Nxf2 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Qd5+ Kg6 8.Qxc5 Nxh1



9.Nc3 h6 10.Nd5 Re8 11.Qd4 Kh7

12.Bxh6 gxh6 13.0-0-0 Re6?

[ 13...Nc6 is apparently equal! ]

14.Nf6+ Kh8 15.Nh4 d6 16.Qf4 Kg7  
17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Ng6+ Kg7 19.Nf8+  
1-0

□ **Giri,Anish**

■ **Duda,Jan-Krzysztof**

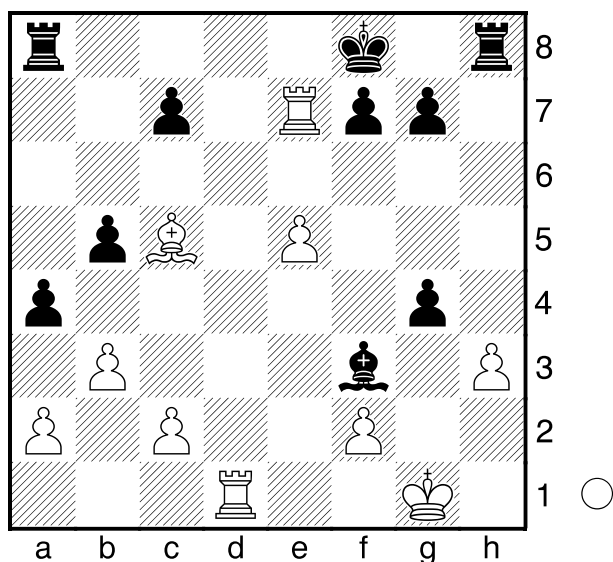
GCT 10th Sinquefield Cup 2023 (1.4)

**C67**

**2752**

**2731**

An entertaining draw. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3  
Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6  
6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+  
Kxd8 9.h3 Ke8 10.Nc3 a5 11.Rd1 a4  
12.Bf4 h6 13.b3 b5 14.g4 Bb4 15.Bd2  
Ne7 16.Nxb5 cxb5 17.Bxb4 Nc6  
18.Bc5 h5 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.Rxd4 hxg4  
21.Rad1 Bb7 22.Rd7 Bf3! 23.Re7+  
Kf8



24.Rd8+! Rxd8 25.Rd7+ Ke8 26.Re7+  
Kf8 27.Rd7+ Ke8 28.Re7+ Kf8  
29.Rd7+  
1/2-1/2



**Maghsoodloo,Parham**



**Koelle,Tobias**

Austrian Bundesliga 2023-24 (3.8)

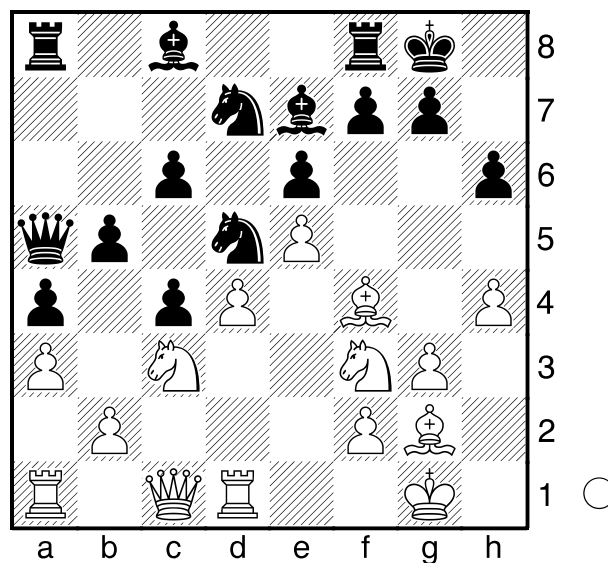
**E11**

**2732**

**2453**

Another crash-through on the king-side.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+  
5.Bd2 a5 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc1 Be7 8.0-0  
c6 9.Rd1 Nbd7 10.Bf4 a4 11.a3 h6  
12.Nc3 Qa5 13.h4 dxc4 14.e4 b5  
15.e5 Nd5



16.Bxh6! gxh6 17.Qxh6 Re8 18.Ng5  
Nf8 19.Be4 Bxg5 20.hxg5 Ne7 21.g4  
Nfg6 22.Bxg6 fxg6 23.Ne4 Rd8  
24.Kg2  
1-0



**Aronian,Levon**



**Firouzja,Alireza**

GCT 10th Sinquefield Cup 2023 (5.2)

**E21**

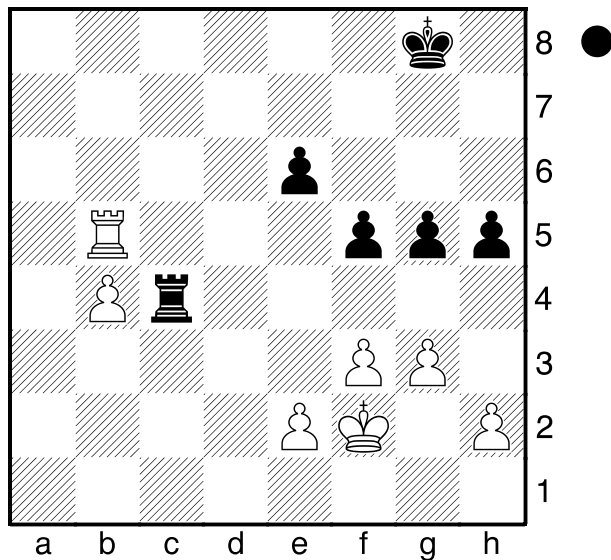
**2727**

**2777**

Precise play in a rook ending earns white  
the full point. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3

Bb4 4.Nf3 b6 5.Qb3 a5 6.g3 Bb7  
7.Bg2 d6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qc2 0-0  
10.Rd1 Qe7 11.b3 c5 12.Bb2 d5  
13.cxd5 Bxc3 14.d6 Qxd6 15.Qxc3  
Qe7 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.Ne5 Bxg2

18.Kxg2 Qb7+ 19.Qf3 Nfe4 20.Bd4 f5  
21.Nc4 a4 22.b4 Nd7 23.Kg1 Ndf6  
24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Qe3 Rc8 26.Rac1 b5  
27.Ne5 Rff8 28.f3 Nf6 29.Rxc8 Qxc8  
30.Rc1 Nd5 31.Rxc8 Nxe3 32.Rc5  
Rb8 33.Nc6 Rb6 34.Nd4 a3 35.Nxb5  
Nd5 36.Nxa3 Rxb4 37.Nc2 Ra4 38.a3  
g5 39.Kf2 h5 40.Rb5 Rc4 41.Nb4  
Nxb4 42.axb4

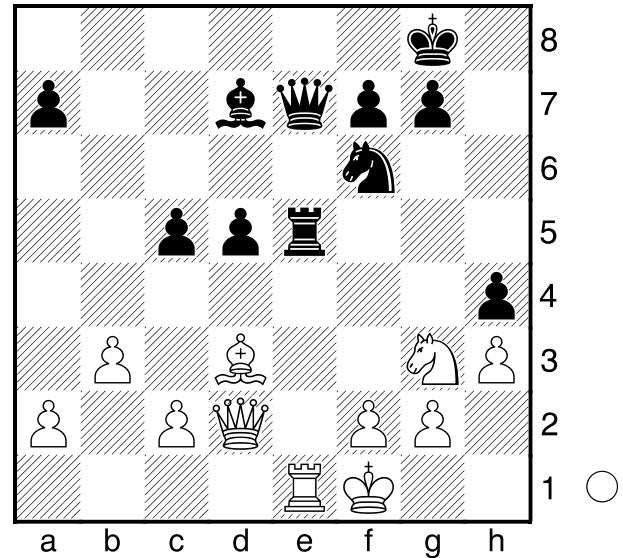


Kf7 43.Ke3 Rc3+ 44.Kd4 Rc2 45.Kd3  
Rb2 46.Rb7+ Kf6 47.b5 Ke5 48.b6  
Kd6 49.Rb8 Kc6 50.b7 g4 51.Ke3  
gxf3 52.Kxf3 Rb6 53.Kf4 Rb4+ 54.Kg5  
Re4 55.Rc8+ Kxb7 56.Rc2 h4 57.gxh4  
Rg4+ 58.Kf6 Rg2 59.h3 f4 60.Rc4  
Rxe2 61.Rxf4 e5 62.Rc4 Re3 63.h5  
e4 64.Kg5 Kb6 65.h4 Kb5 66.Rc8  
Re1 67.h6  
**1-0**

□ **Nisipeanu,Liviu-Dieter** **C47 2591**  
■ **Esipenko,Andrey** **2677**  
Austrian Bundesliga 2023-24 (5.17)

White fails the tactical test and loses a piece. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 0-0 9.0-0 cxd5 10.h3

c6 11.Qf3 Bd6 12.Re1 Be6 13.Bf4  
Re8 14.Rad1 Qb8 15.Bxd6 Qxd6  
16.b3 Bd7 17.Rxe8+ Rxe8 18.Ne2 c5  
19.Qf4 Re5 20.Qd2 h6 21.Ng3 Qe7  
22.Kf1 h5 23.Re1 h4

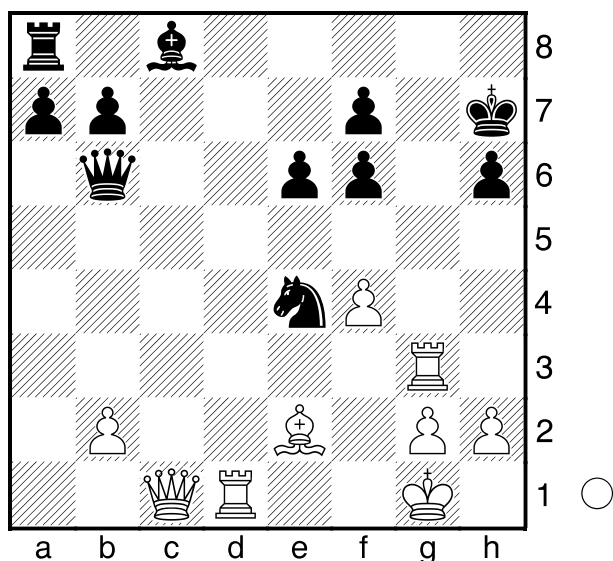


24.Nf5? Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Qxe1+  
26.Kxe1 c4!  
**0-1**

□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **E21 2734**  
■ **Pechac,Jergus** **2580**  
Austrian Bundesliga 2023-24 (6.19)

Self-pinning is white's salvation. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Bg5 c5 6.Rc1 h6 7.Bh4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 d5 9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.e3 Rd8 12.Be2 Qxa2 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.Rxc3 Nc6 15.Qc1 Qa5 16.Nb3 Qb4 17.Nc5 Ne5 18.e4 Kg7 19.f4 Nd7 20.Rd1 Nxc5 21.Rxd8 Qb6 22.Rg3+ Kh7 23.Rd1 Nxe4+

(Diagram)

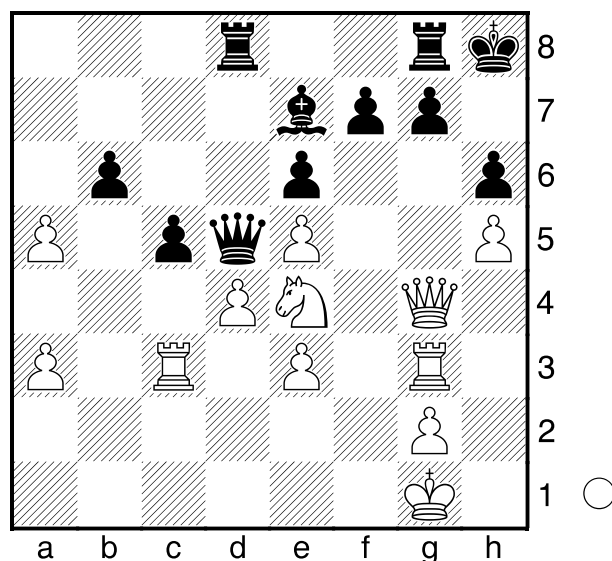


24.Re3! e5 25.Rf1 Bf5 26.Bd3 Rc8  
27.Qe1 Nd6 28.fxe5 Bxd3 29.Rxf6  
Qxb2 30.Rxd3 Rc1 31.Rd1 Rxd1  
32.Qxd1 Ne4 33.Qd3 Qxe5 34.Rxf7+  
Kg8 35.Rf3 Qc5+ 36.Qe3 a5 37.Qxc5  
Nxc5 38.Rf5 b6 39.Rf6  
**1-0**

**Esipenko, Andrey** **B12**  
 **Bures, Jaroslav** **2677**  
**2421**  
 Austrian Bundesliga 2023-24 (6.23)

A flurry of tactics and then it's over. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 Qc7 5.c4 e6 6.Nc3 h6 7.Be3 Ne7 8.Rc1 Qa5 9.a3 Nd7 10.Nf3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nb6 12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nf5 14.h5 Nxe3 15.fxe3 Na4 16.Nd2 Nxc3 17.Rxc3 Rd8 18.0-0 Qd5 19.Qe2 Be7 20.Qg4 0-0 21.Ne4 Kh8 22.Rf3 b6 23.b4 a5 24.bxa5 c5 25.Rg3 Rg8

(Diagram)



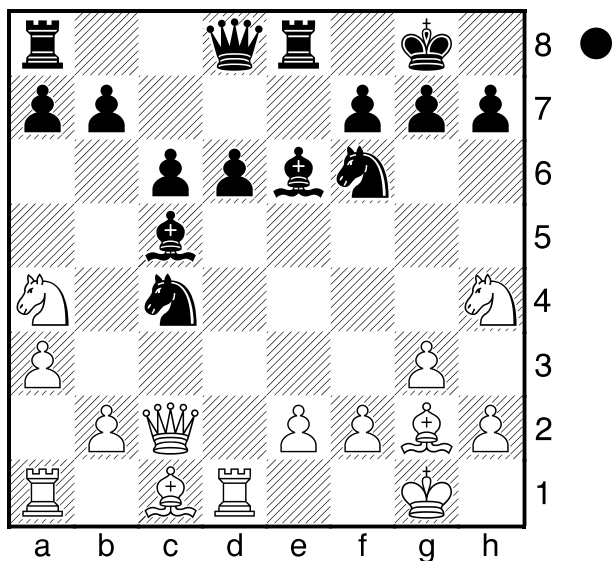
26.axb6! cxd4 27.Rc7 dxe3 28.Rxe7  
Qd1+ 29.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 30.Kh2 e2  
31.Re3 e1Q 32.Rxe1 Rxe1 33.Nd6  
Ra1 34.Ra7 Rb8 35.b7  
**1-0**

**A29**

**Cheparinov, Ivan** **2649**  
 **Niemann, Hans Moke** **2659**  
 Peace Tournament 2023 (6.3) 27.11.2023

White's king gets caught in the cross-fire.  
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Nd5 e4 6.Nh4 0-0 7.a3 Bc5 8.Bg2 d6 9.0-0 Re8 10.d3 exd3 11.Qxd3 Ne5 12.Qc2 c6 13.Nc3 Nxc4 14.Na4 Be6 15.Rd1

(Diagram)

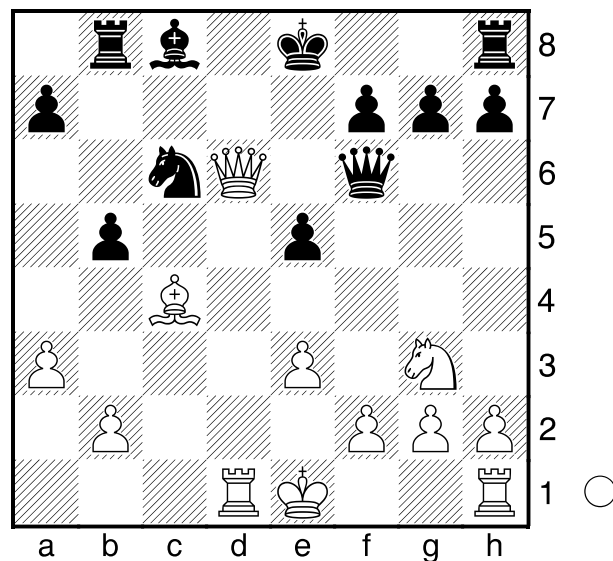


Bxf2+! 16.Kxf2 Ng4+ 17.Ke1 b5  
18.Rd4 Nce3 19.Bxe3 Nxe3 20.Qc3  
Bd5 21.Be4 Bxe4 22.Qxe3 Bd5  
23.Qd2 bxa4 24.Rxa4 Re5 25.Rd4 g5  
**0-1**

**Caruana, Fabiano** **E42**  
 **So, Wesley** **2795**  
**2752**  
 GCT 10th Sinquefeld Cup 2023 (7.1)

A brilliant victory by the winner of the Sinquefeld Cup. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Nge2 d5 6.a3 Ba5 7.dxc5 dxc4 8.Bd2 Nbd7 9.Ng3 b6 10.Qf3 Rb8 11.c6 Ne5 12.Qf4 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Nxc6 14.Rd1 Qe7 15.Bxc4 b5 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Qd6 e5

(Diagram)

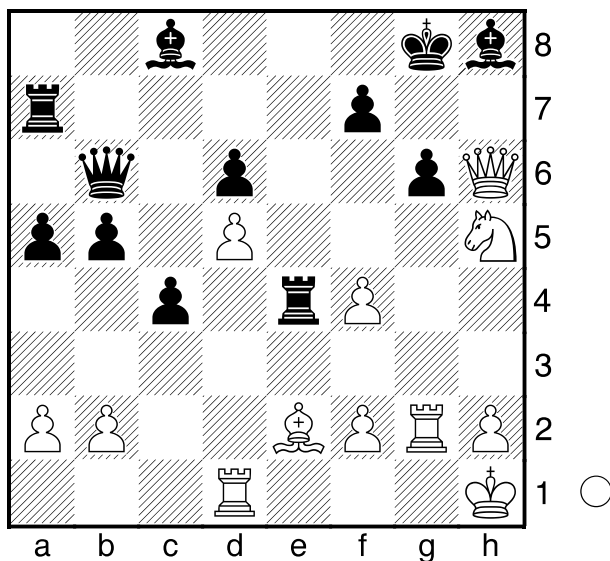


18.Bxf7+! Kxf7 19.Qc7+ Qe7 20.Qxc6  
Bb7 21.Qxb5 Bxg2 22.Qc4+ Kf8  
23.Nf5 Qf6 24.Qc5+ Kg8 25.Qc7  
**1-0**

**Niemann, Hans Moke** **B51**  
 **Korobov, Anton** **2659**  
**2667**  
 Peace Tournament 2023 (9.2) 30.11.2023

A crushing last-round victory by the winner in Zagreb. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.0-0 a6 5.Bd3 Ngf6 6.Re1 e6 7.Bf1 b6 8.c4 Bb7 9.Nc3 Ne5 10.d4 Nxf3+ 11.gxf3 g6 12.Be3 Bg7 13.Qd2 0-0 14.Rad1 Bc6 15.Bg5 Qb8 16.d5 exd5 17.cxd5 Bd7 18.Ne2 Re8 19.Bg2 b5 20.Kh1 a5 21.Ng3 h5 22.Rg1 Ra7 23.Bf1 c4 24.Be2 Bc8 25.Bxf6 Bxf6 26.Nxh5 Bh8 27.Qh6 Qb6 28.Rg2 Ree7 29.f4 Rxe4

(Diagram)



30.Rxg6+! fxg6 31.Qxg6+ Kf8 32.Qh6+ Bg7 33.Nxg7 Rxg7 34.Rg1 Bg4 35.Bxg4 Qd4 36.Be6 Qxb2 37.Qh8+ Ke7 38.Rxg7+ Kf6 39.Qh6#  
1-0

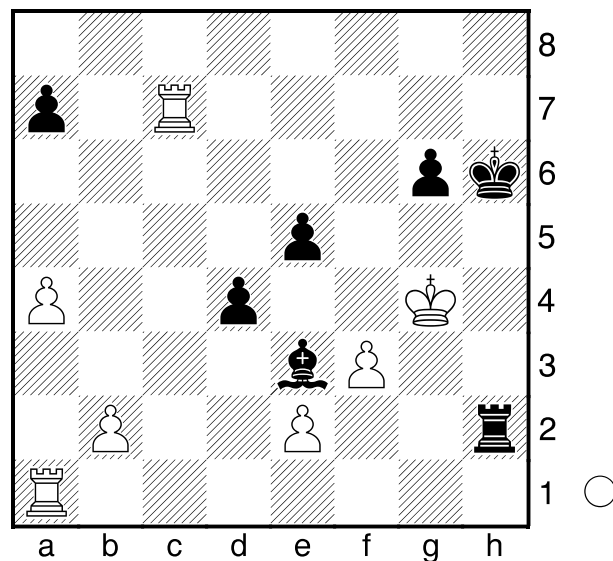
□ **Kempinski,Robert**  
■ **Gupta,Abhijeet**

**E67**  
**2554**  
**2609**

German Bundesliga 2023-24 (4.4)

An amusing self-mate is the highlight of this game. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.h3 Re8 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3 c6 11.Qd2 Qe7 12.Rfd1 Nc5 13.Qd6 Qxd6 14.Rxd6 Nce4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Rdd1 f5 17.Ne1 f4 18.Bxe4 fxe3 19.f3 Bxh3 20.g4 Red8 21.Nc2 Rd2 22.Kh2 Rad8 23.Nxe3 Bh6 24.Bd5+ cxd5 25.Rxd2 d4 26.Kxh3 Bxe3 27.Rc2 Kf7 28.a4 h5 29.c5 hxg4+ 30.Kxg4 Rh8 31.c6 bxc6 32.Rxc6 Rh2 33.Rc7+ Kf6 34.Rc6+ Kg7 35.Rc7+ Kh6

(Diagram)



36.Rxa7? Bf2! 37.f4 e4  
0-1

□ **Naiditsch,Arkadij**  
■ **Winterberg,Lukas**

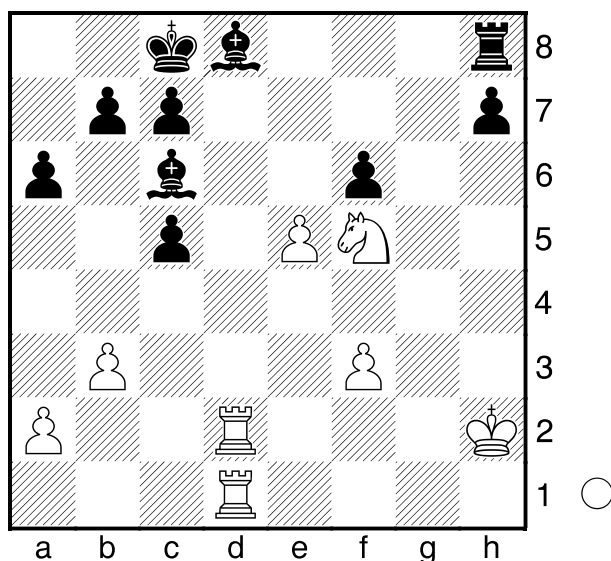
**C68**  
**2653**  
**2410**

German Bundesliga 2023-24 (4.14)

Another flashy finish. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Qf6 6.d4 exd4 7.Bg5 Qd6 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Nc3 Ne7 10.Be3 0-0-0 11.Qe1 Qg6 12.f3 f5 13.e5 f4 14.Bxf4 Bh3 15.Qg3 Qxg3 16.hxg3 Bxg2 17.Rfd1 Bh3 18.Ne4 Ng6 19.Kh2 Nxf4 20.gxf4 Rxd4 21.Rxd4 Bf5 22.Ng3 Bxc2 23.f5 c5 24.Rd2 Ba4 25.b3 Bc6 26.Rad1 Be7 27.f6 gxf6 28.Nf5 Bd8

(Diagram)





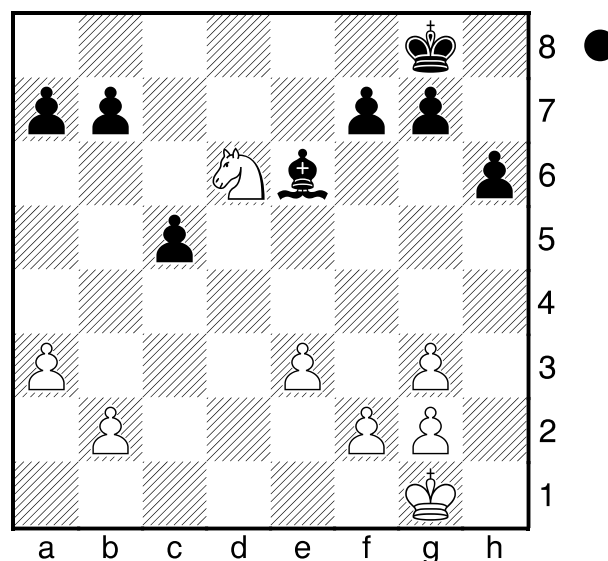
29.Rxd8+!  
1-0

 **Nihal Sarin**  
 **Yu, Yangyi**

## Alef Super Stars Rapid 2023 (2.2)

A textbook example of the bishops power over a knight with pawns on both sides. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.Bd3 Bg6 6.O-O Bd6 7.Bg3 Bxg3 8.hxg3 Nbd7 9.c4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 O-O 11.Nc3 c5 12.Qb3 Qb6 13.d5 exd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Rab8 16.Rfd1 Qc7 17.Qa4 Nb6 18.Qf4 Rbc8 19.Ne5 Bc2 20.Rd2 Nxd5 21.Rxd5 Rfd8 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Rc1 Rd1+ 24.Rxd1 Bxd1 25.Qe4 Bc2 26.Qd5 Bf5 27.a3 h6 28.Nc4 Be6 29.Qd6 Qxd6 30.Nxd6

(Diagram)

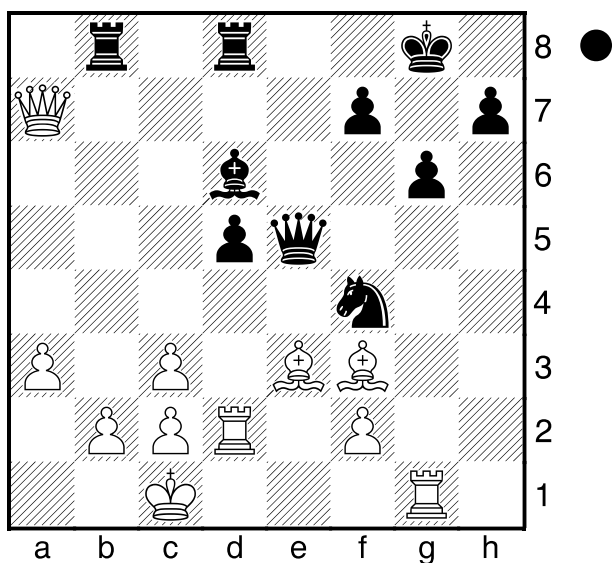


b6 31.e4 Kf8 32.Nb5 a6 33.Nc3 Ke7  
34.f3 Kd6 35.Kf2 b5 36.Ke3 Kc6  
37.Ne2 a5 38.Nf4 Bc4 39.g4 b4 40.g3  
Kb5 41.Kd2 Ka4 42.Kc2 g5 43.Nd5  
Be2 44.f4 gxf4 45.gxf4 Bxg4 46.f5 h5  
47.Nf6 Bf3 48.axb4 h4 49.bxc5 h3  
50.c6 h2 51.b3+ Ka3  
**0-1**

**Gukesh D** **C42**  
 **Moussard, Jules** **2746**  
**2639**  
 13th London Chess Classic 2023 (4.5)

A brilliant take down of one of the top juniors in the world. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Nf6 10.Bd3 Re8 11.a3 d5 12.Rhe1 Bg4 13.h3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qd7 15.Rg1 Qxh3 16.Bd4 g6 17.Qf4 Nh5 18.Qxc7 Qxf3 19.Bb5 Rac8 20.Qxb7 Rb8 21.Qa6 Red8 22.Be2 Qf4+ 23.Be3 Qe5 24.Qxa7 Nf4 25.Bf3 Bd6 26.Rd2

(Diagram)



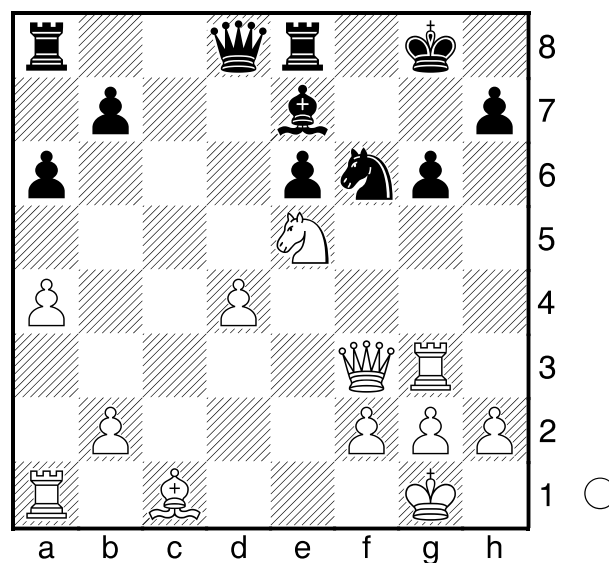
Bxa3!! 27.Rd4 Bxb2+ 28.Kd2 Ne6  
29.Rd3 Bxc3+ 30.Rxc3 d4 31.Rd3  
dxe3+ 32.Qxe3 Rxd3+ 33.cxd3 Nd4  
**0-1**

**Salem,A.R. Saleh**  
**Nihal Sarin**  
 Alef Super Stars Rapid 2023 (4.1)

**D27**  
**2635**  
**2692**

Black is in trouble on move 13, lost on move 15, and destroyed utterly on move 19. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.Qe2 cxd4 8.Rd1 Be7 9.a4 0-0 10.exd4 Nc6 11.Nc3 Nb4 12.Ne5 Nbd5 13.Rd3 Bd7 14.Rg3 Re8 15.Qf3 g6 16.Nxd5 exd5 17.Bxd5 Be6 18.Bxe6 fxe6

(Diagram)



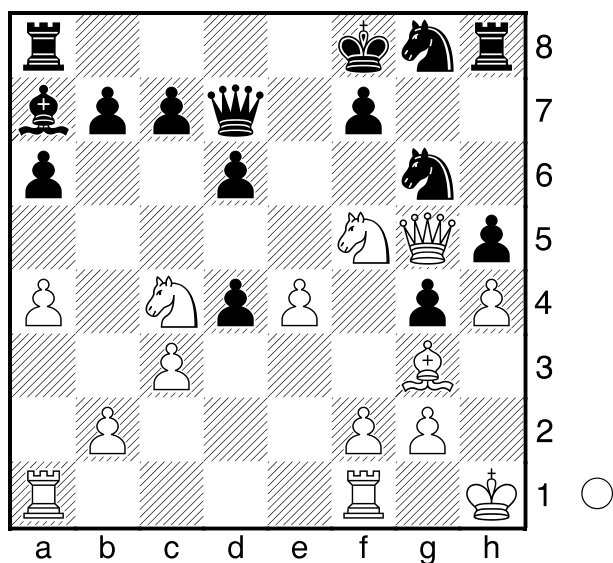
19.Nxg6! hxg6 20.Qd3  
**1-0**

**Nihal Sarin**  
**Sjugirov, Sanan**  
 Alef Super Stars Rapid 2023 (6.2)

**C65**  
**2692**  
**2703**

White crashes through with devastating effect. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 d6 7.c3 Bb6 8.Nbd2 Bd7 9.Nc4 g5 10.Bg3 Ne7 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 Qc6 14.a4 a6 15.h4 g4 16.Nh2 h5 17.Kh1 Ba7 18.Qd2 Kg7 19.Qg5+ Ng6 20.Nf1 Rh8 21.Nfe3 Ng8 22.Nf5+ Kf8 23.Rf1 Qd7 24.d4 exd4

(Diagram)

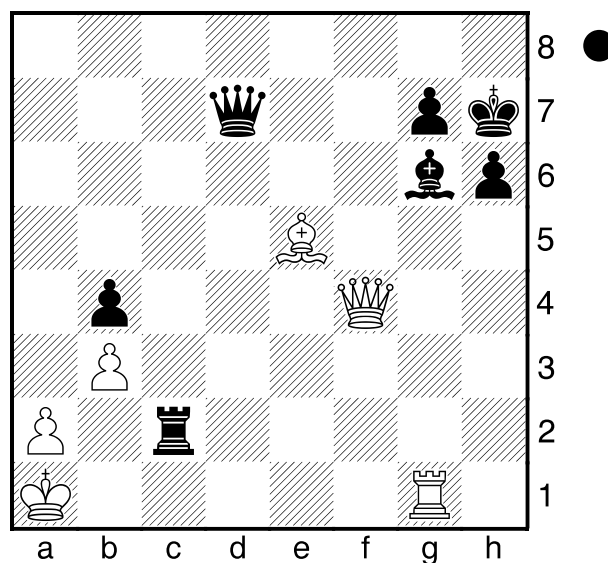


25.Ncxd6! N8e7 26.cxd4 cxd6 27.Bxd6 Rh7 28.Rac1 Bb6 29.f3 Bd8 30.fxg4 Kg8 31.Rc7 Nxf5 32.Rxd7 Bxg5 33.gxf5 Nxh4 34.g3 f6 35.Rxh7 Kxh7 36.gxh4 Bxh4 37.Kg2 Bg5 38.e5 fxe5 39.dxe5 Rc8 40.f6  
1-0

**A11**  
 **Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar** **2723**  
 **Erigaisi Arjun** **2727**  
 Vugar Gashimov Memorial Rapid 2023 (3.1)

A wonderful game with competing bishops of opposite color attacks, decided by a pretty finishing tactic. 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.e3 d5 4.b3 Bd6 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Nc3 c6 7.Be2 Re8 8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bd3 Nc5 12.g5 Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 Nd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Rg1 b4 16.h4 Bc7 17.Ne5 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 Qb6 19.Qe2 Ba6 20.d3 Rac8 21.h5 d4 22.exd4 Rc3 23.Rd1 Qc6 24.Qe3 Rc8 25.g6 fxg6 26.hxg6 h6 27.d5 exd5 28.Qxa7 Bb7 29.Qd4 Rc1 30.Ke2 Rxd1 31.Rxd1 Qxg6 32.Kd2 Ra8 33.Ra1 Qg5+ 34.Bf4 Qe7 35.Be5 Kh7 36.f4 Ra6 37.Qe3 Qh4 38.Qe2 d4 39.f5 Qg5+ 40.Kc2 Qxf5

41.Bxd4 Qd7 42.Qf2 Rd6 43.Be5 Rxd3 44.Rg1 Be4 45.Qf4 Rd2+ 46.Kc1 Rc2+ 47.Kb1 Bg6 48.Ka1



Rxa2+!! 49.Kxa2 Qa7+ 50.Kb2 Qa3#  
0-1

## IM John Donaldson

### Four New Books by Russell Enterprises ([www.russell-enterprises.com](http://www.russell-enterprises.com))

*Technique in Chess*, by Mark Dvoretsky with Artur Yusupov  
176 pages \$24.95 paperback

Mark Dvoretsky, arguably the most famous trainer in the history of chess, died in 2016 but new books bearing his name continue to appear.

The latest, *Technique in Chess*, prepared with the assistance of his best-known pupil, World Championship contender Artur Yusupov, draws from the vast number of training exercises Dvoretsky compiled during his lifetime. The first modern trainer, he was constantly looking for positions that would challenge his pupils, and continually refining the solutions based in part on input he received from many strong Grandmasters.

*Technique in Chess* starts with an explanatory section and is followed by 102 practice positions of increasing difficulty. The comments to the solutions are detailed, explaining not only the main line but also the supplementary side variations.

The phrase, "the rest is a matter of technique", is quite common in chess annotations and yet converting a winning position can be one of the most difficult things to do in chess. This book will help you develop this essential skill. Players from 2000 on up will derive the most benefit from this book.

*Amazing Artist – Dangerous Tactician*, by Sofia Polgar  
288 pages \$34.95 paperback and \$79.95 hardback

The story of the Polgar sisters is well-known and will continue to be for as long as chess is played. Three sisters were raised by parents with no chess background but powerful ideas on how to develop their children's full potential and how they did! Susan, the eldest daughter, became a grandmaster and Women's World Champion. Judit, the youngest, is the strongest woman to ever play chess and the only one to ever crack the world top ten and attain a FIDE rating over 2700.

The middle sister, Sofia, was also a tremendous player in her own right, a 2500 FIDE-rated International Master and member of two gold-medal winning Women's Olympiad Teams who turned in a 2879 performance at age 14 and was second in the 1994 World Junior. Unlike her sisters, she left the game at a much earlier age, effectively retiring in her mid-20s.

*Amazing Artist – Dangerous Tactician* is part autobiography, part art gallery, and part tactical textbook. Polgar traces her life story, gives ample evidence of what a talented painter she is and offers a number of her best efforts over the board – both complete games and fragments. The middle Polgar was always known as an excellent tactician and fine attacker, and it shows in the examples that appear here.

This book appears in two formats. The paperback edition is printed on high quality paper that allows the paintings and photos to really shine. The hardcover edition is limited to 200 numbered copies, each signed and dated by Sofia. Both formats are 7 by 10.

*Amazing Artist – Dangerous Tactician* is the rare chess book that should appeal to players of all strengths and would make a nice Christmas gift for the chess player in the family.

*The London Files: Defanging the London System*, by Vasilios Kotronias and Mikhail Ivanov  
272 pages \$29.95 paperback

When this reviewer first started playing during the Fischer boom the London System (1.d4 followed by Bf4) was considered to be an opening only used by senior citizens who appreciated how White's pieces and pawns were seemingly pre-selected to develop on certain squares (knights on f3 and d2, bishops on f4 and e2, d3 or c4 plus pawns on c3, d4, e3 and often h3). Even a decade later nothing had changed as evidenced and referenced by the name of an article on the London by the American FM John Hoggatt, who referred to it as "The Boring System."

Fast forward to 2023 and times have changed! Top level players all the way up to Magnus Carlsen have employed the London and a number of books have appeared from White's point of view. The London appears frequently enough at all levels that even amateur players need be prepared to meet it. Fortunately, there are now several books out providing guidance on how to respond to the London.

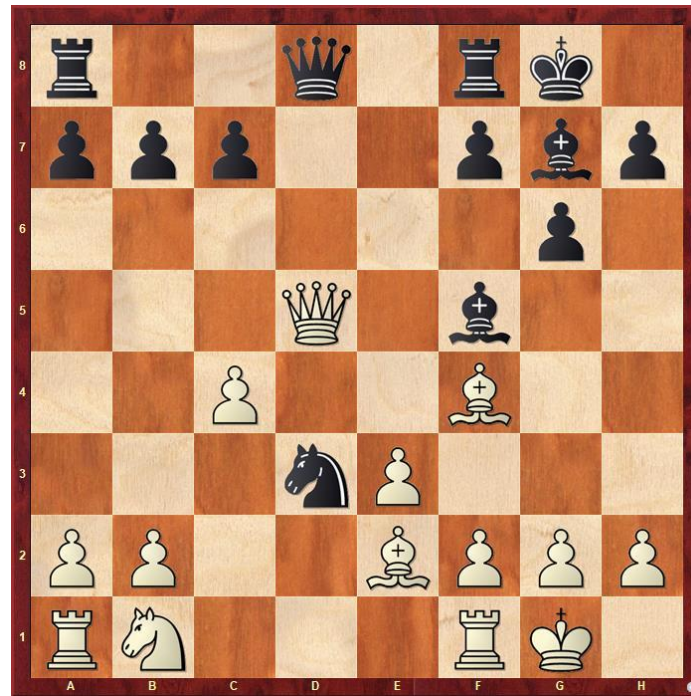
*The London Files: Defanging the London System* by Vasilios Kotronias and Mikhail Ivanov is unusual in that it is a book on how to combat the London, but might be most useful to those who play it as White. This will depend to some extent on how wide the reader's repertoire for meeting 1.d4 is.

Ivanov and Kotronias analyze four different systems against the London based on whether one meets 1.d4 and 2.c4 with the Kings Indian, Benoni, Nimzo/Queens Indian, or 1...d5. The latter was also covered in great detail in Kotronias' books *Fight 1.d4 with the Tarrach!* (also by Russell Enterprises). Here the two authors update and expand on the earlier work.

One idea that caught this reviewer's eye was the suggestion 7...e5!! (the two exclamation marks are by the authors) after **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.c4.**



**7...e5!!** Normally this advance is prepared by ...Qe8 followed by ...e5 and ...Qe7 or ...e6, ...Qe7 and ...e5.  
**8.dxe5.** If White declines the gift with Bg5 Black has saved an important tempo by playing ...e5 in one move or without having to waste a tempo with ...Qe8. Here after 8.Bg3 Ne4 Black is already better.  
**8...Ne4 9.Qc2 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Qxe4 Bf5 12.Qd5 Nd3.**



Black has tremendous compensation for the pawn and is already slightly better.

If you are curious, this idea can be used with colors reversed: 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 Be7 6.Nbd2 c5 7.e4.

It works better when c4 or ...c5 has been played but can be even played when Black has not committed to the advance. One example is 6...h6 7.e4 dxe4 8.Ne5. In this position White has the additional option of 8.dxe4 Nxe4 9.Nh4 Nd6 10.Nxf5 exf5 11.c4 Na6 12.b4 with a nice initiative for the sacrificed pawn.

*The London Files: Defanging the London System* is a useful book for both those who have to meet the London and those who play it. Recommended for players 2000 on up.

*The Queen's Gambit Accepted: A Modern Counterattack in an Ancient Opening*, by Max Dlugy  
 352 pages \$29.95 paperback

Grandmaster Max Dlugy's name may not be well-known to young players today, but it deserves to be. While still a teenager he won the 1985 World Junior Championship, made a +2 score in the Interzonal the same year and was a member of the 1986 US Olympiad team that took home bronze but nearly won gold. He was rated in the top 50 players in the world in 1989, but not long after started to play less frequently, concentrating his attention on a career in business and serving as USCF President from 1990 to 1993. He returned to the tournament arena in 2006, but understandably after the long break from the game not at the same level of play.

Unlike many of his contemporaries as a junior, Dlugy had a well-thought out and rock-solid opening repertoire that suited his positional style. Based on the openings his coach International Master Vitaly



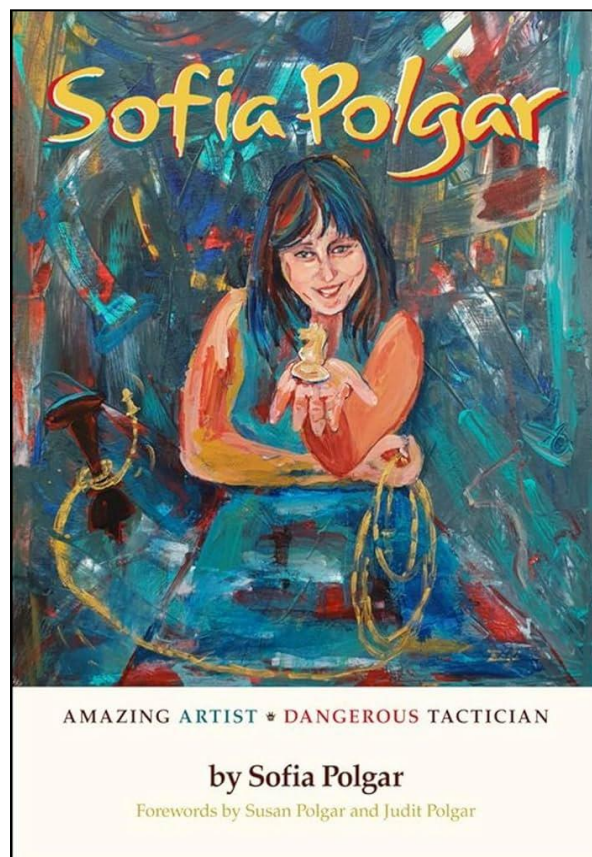
Zaltsman played (1.d4 and 2.c4 as White, the Classical Sicilian and Queen's Gambit Accepted as Black), Dlugy knew his systems inside and out at a time long before computers would make opening preparation much easier.

Fast-forward to 2023 and Dlugy is primarily focusing his energies on coaching but still a formidable blitz player. Understandably, not being a professional player, he no longer plays the main lines with 1.d4 or the Sicilian, but his old love the Queen's Gambit Accepted is still his main weapon against 1.d4, 40 years after he first started playing it. Along with Yasser Seirawan, Dlugy is the great American specialist on this opening and more than qualified to write *The Queen's Gambit Accepted: A Modern Counterattack in an Ancient Opening*.

This massive book is roughly divided into two-thirds theory and one-third illustrative, well-annotated games. This is a repertoire book so sidelines like ...Bg4 or ...g6 in the QGA are not covered but everything Black needs to know is. Main lines are covered (1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5) but also sidelines (1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 – his old trainer Zaltsman's invention).

Note that Dlugy's preferred move order is 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 a6. Delaying the development of Black's king knight takes the sting out of White setups based on an early e4, but transpositionally it runs into 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 when 2...a6 is pretty much a wasted move if White doesn't play 3.c4 (3.Bf4 and 3.Bg5 are two ways to test this). The author addresses this with a chapter on 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6.

Players rated over 2000 will find *The Queen's Gambit Accepted: A Modern Counterattack in an Ancient Opening* the best book on the subject currently available. Recommended.



## Outdoor Chess Activation in San Francisco

Mechanics' Institute is bringing chess to the community throughout San Francisco. Come and join us every week, boards and sets provided. All are welcome!

[UN Plaza](#) on Sundays from 11:00 am-2:00 pm

[Landing at Leidesdorff](#) on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 pm

[Mechanics Monument Plaza](#) on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm



This page: partnering with San Francisco Rec and Park and San Francisco Parks Alliance at UN Plaza.







In collaboration with Downtown San Francisco Partnership, chess at Landing at Leidesdorff (above) and Mechanics Monument Plaza (below).





## Poker Night Fundraiser at Alice Fong Yu Alternative School



The Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Program was honored to have a Poker Night Fundraiser thrown for us by parents at Alice Fong Yu. Pictured above are the parent organizers **Joanne Chang** and **Conor Moore** alongside Chess Program Manager **Alex Robins** and Senior Director of Programs and Community Engagement **Alyssa Stone**. Joanne and Conor have worked tirelessly the past few years to ensure their chess club is a success and we were deeply honored to have them both raise money for us and put on a pretty great party.

The party itself was a great success - raising three thousand dollars for our scholastic program and a great opportunity to mix with the parents of our scholastic players. The money raised will help to ensure that our program continues to provide chess to children all across San Francisco, including providing weekly lessons at no cost to underprivileged youth.

The Poker Night aspect was a lot of fun as well. Alex played a straight draw aggressively and lost to the bottom pair on the first hand - Alex plans on sticking with chess for a while.

Thank you again to Joanne and Conor for putting on such a great event and for their endless support of our program.

- Alex Robins

## Richard Hack

### Tales from the Chess Cafe

Games in tournament rooms. Street games. Our leader announces we are all here “on the path to mastery.” Well, some of us anyway. (Not me, I’m afraid.) Kasparov Chess Academy: “Chess is a lifelong journey.” To what, might be a reasonable question.

On December 11, 1854, the first meeting of Mechanics' Institute was held. On April 24, 1855, Mechanics' Institute was incorporated.

(Bill Wall, Calif. Chess History [http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/wall/art\\_13.htm](http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/wall/art_13.htm))

GM Hikaru: “Everybody gets angry when they lose games of chess.” Yes, I’m always looking for words of wisdom and comfort, which are not always the same thing. In one of my two losses in the current TNM, I allowed my opponent to marshal an active 3-pawn center when I didn’t have to. In the other, he said postgame he thought it was going to be a draw, which I cast away in favor of trying to mate, but never could find the move to begin a winning sequence.

I see a list of ten “Hot Games” on the December 5 homepage of Chessgames.com. It’s fun to play through them; three of the ten are games by our former member Hans Niemann (one win and two draws).

At the Chess Cafe on November 13, we looked at Kyron Griffith vs. Josiah Stearman, a Sicilian that ended in victory for Black, and a game that was part of a 1000GM tournament in New York. The website [1000gm.org](http://1000gm.org) says: “Let’s Create Future Grandmasters: We are confident that a combination of great talent and participating in 30 tournaments annually can lead to achieving the title of grandmaster before entering college.” Pretty ambitious; but not everybody likes what they’re doing. We heard from adults working in student chess that some of these events have been scheduled in open conflict with important student team events like Amateur Team East, the Open at Foxwoods, Connecticut., and the National High School Championship.

Let’s hope it gets worked out.

We moved back to the grassroots with a Sicilian played by Ray Freeman on Telegraph Hill in Oakland. “They still have street chess there, while the activity at Telegraph and Haste in Berkeley was taken down.” The former location of the great Cody’s Books, 1956-2006. When 6. Be2 was played, Paul mentioned that it was the line Karpov used to play so well. Geller was Karpov’s second and gave him great opening ideas. Geller had a winning record against Fischer and many others, and there is some speculation that Bobby didn’t want to play against both Geller and Karpov in 1975. Back to this game: “9. h3 is weird.” Then: “At least you’re playing with ideas. That’s the most important thing here.” He also pointed out several bad moves in a row by White, beginning with 16. Bg5?! “White has no business here playing on the kingside.”

Next was the first-round TNM game by yours truly versus Gagik Babayan—“a hilarious guy who speaks a number of languages.” He has just returned to competition here after a long absence. The first four rounds have been hard on him, as well as others, but we look forward to him playing back into shape. Here, against a Sicilian Najdorf, he played 6. Bd3, “which is now being played by Grandmasters and has some cut-throat variations.”

It's getting expensive to travel and play. One regular put out the figure of \$600-800 for a two-person room, and said with airfare, a player can easily have to put up a thousand dollars to participate.

We heard more about Dolly Teasley, who played in the 1957 U.S. Girls and is said to focus on speed chess in Washington Square Park in New York, a city that used to have a women's chess club. "In 1893 a small group of women who were meeting at Eliza C. Foot's apartment at 28 East 22nd St. in Manhattan to play chess decided to organize something more formal. This group . . . called itself the Women's Chess Association of America. . . . In 1906 The Women's Chess Club of New York, along with Isaac L. Rice, sponsored the 1st American women's chess congress [which took] place in the Hotel Martha Washington, where the club met. . . . In 1918 the club started meeting at the Manhattan Chess Club on Friday afternoons. . . . In the 1950s the women started meeting in the Marshall Club. . . . The last published reference to the Women's Chess Club of New York, other than Julia Paul Harper's history in 1957, that I could locate was in Chess Review, May 1949." (Chess.com)

We heard there are a lot of interesting stories about Sonja Graf-Stevenson (1908-1965). According to the World Chess Hall of Fame, she "was one of the best female chess players of the 1930s and the chief rival of Vera Menchik, who then reigned as Women's World Chess Champion. She learned to play chess during her childhood and later trained with Siegbert Tarrasch."

After finishing the first Senior Women's Championship in Berkeley recently, WFM Natalya Tsodikova recently said she would play again in the Tuesday Night Marathon at Mechanics' Institute. After four of the seven rounds of the Winter TNM, she is tied for 4th through 8th in the 18-player top section.

On November 20, we opened with one of Paul's memorable games from the 1983 CalChess Masters. "I only lost one game and finished clear third behind de Firmian and McCambridge, who tied for first. I beat Larry Christiansen, who did everything he could to beat me. I was content to let him make sure I wasn't getting into trouble." Mike Walder: "Kind of a rope-a-dope." That same year Christiansen tied with Korchnoi for first place in the U.S. Open. This was a d6 Sicilian with White playing 6. f4. "We were out of book at move 7. I just played moves that were good, and knew he wasn't outplaying me . . . I had to figure out how to make a fortress and did . . . He plays a cheapo here, but 30. Rd1 defends everything . . . I had to see all these cheapos—it was tiring!" By move 43 only White could play for a win. "It was bishops of opposite colors, but my technique was good." 66. Rxa5 put White 3 pawns ahead, and it was 1-0 after move 76. Mike: "Nicely done." Paul: "It was a nerve-wracking game with all those mating threats. I realized my good fortune and went for a win after that." When Elliott suggested he check with a computer, Paul said he has never done that with this game: "I'll bet a dollar I didn't miss anything."

He recalled that in 1973 the U.S. Junior Championship was played here at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel. "I realized that's where I wanted to be." The 16-year-old Christiansen (rated 2390) won that tournament, a year after winning the Western High School Championship with a 6-0 score. "Christiansen, twice national high school chess champion and winner of the European Schilde international youth tournament, defeated John Peterson of San Jose, California, in 33 moves Thursday to assure the junior title. He scored six out of a possible seven points in the round robin tournament that began here a week ago." (The New York Times, June 30, 1973, p. 40. The headline referred to him as a "Coast Boy.")

We also followed Elliott's win over Leonid Shamkovich in that same 1983 CalChess Masters. Very exciting! His opponent's nickname was "Prince" because of his aristocratic bearing and manner of speech.

We saw one of Merlin's online correspondence games (one move per day). It was a 4-knight Scotch Game that wound up with two bishops and two rooks on each side; White had six pawns to Black's five, and trapped Black's queen rook with his two bishops.

Then we watched Walder vs. Kushan Tyagi, an expert from Chicago born in 1997. "I had a winning position but drew. [At least] I didn't blow up my position as usual with him." Paul: "I've been playing c4 against these Kan and Taimanov positions . . . [Re Nd5:] Look at that crazy move." The bishop at c6 was now attacked by Rc1. Mike said, "This is why I play chess." Black's Ne5 was met with Bf1 ("more aggressive than Be2"). Elliott chimed in, "I live in constant fear of missing a brilliancy."

On November 27, we looked at Walder-Admassu from the Winter TNM currently unfolding, with the last round scheduled for December 19. Mike: "White gets heavily centralized . . . The correct move here is Nf3 . . . but here I put him in a position I haven't seen before." Paul: "Black is taking a maximalist role in this game."

We then watched Paul's game against Paul Biyiasas at the Bagby tournament here in 1985, from the Masters Database at Lichess. "I keep trying to trade pieces. This game is quite funny here." Someone asked why he didn't pin "your bishop to your rook." There was no good answer. A pawn sac early led to a 40-move win. "You're down a pawn, but you have great practical chances. You have to be confident to play this."

December 4 was quite an enjoyable session of the Chess Cafe. We watched at length a game by Ray Freeman versus a player identified as Rodrigo; what Quinn said was her first win, at the recent McClain Memorial; my draw with Thomas Gu in the fourth round of the TNM on December 3; and a contest in London on December 4 between 17-year-old Gukesh Dommaraju (often called Gukesh D), who became the youngest Indian player to become a Grandmaster, and 28-year-old French GM Jules Moussard. "You've got all the time in the world, and Rd2 is a mistake that loses the game."

Ray on his game: "It wasn't a thing of beauty. I came back from an immediate blunder." The game was an English Opening to which Black responded 1. . . e5. Paul, after extensive analysis: "We're far afield, and it's not a forced variation." Black had two rooks versus one, and a bishop versus bishop and knight (in a center with 4 pawns). One possible line ended with him down two exchanges: "It's unusual to see that." "Bd2 is crushing." "What did you do here, Ray?" "I flagged. I was in desperate time trouble." "You guys need to step up to the plate."

Quinn: "I won my first game. I had a chance to win another game, but accidentally moved one square too far." Oh, I know that one, don't you? Seeing the right move to make, but the hand suddenly betrays the mind. Luckily it doesn't happen often. Paul: "In chess we get a chance to say, 'I'll never do that again.'" Quinn laughs. Later says, "Just don't lose!"

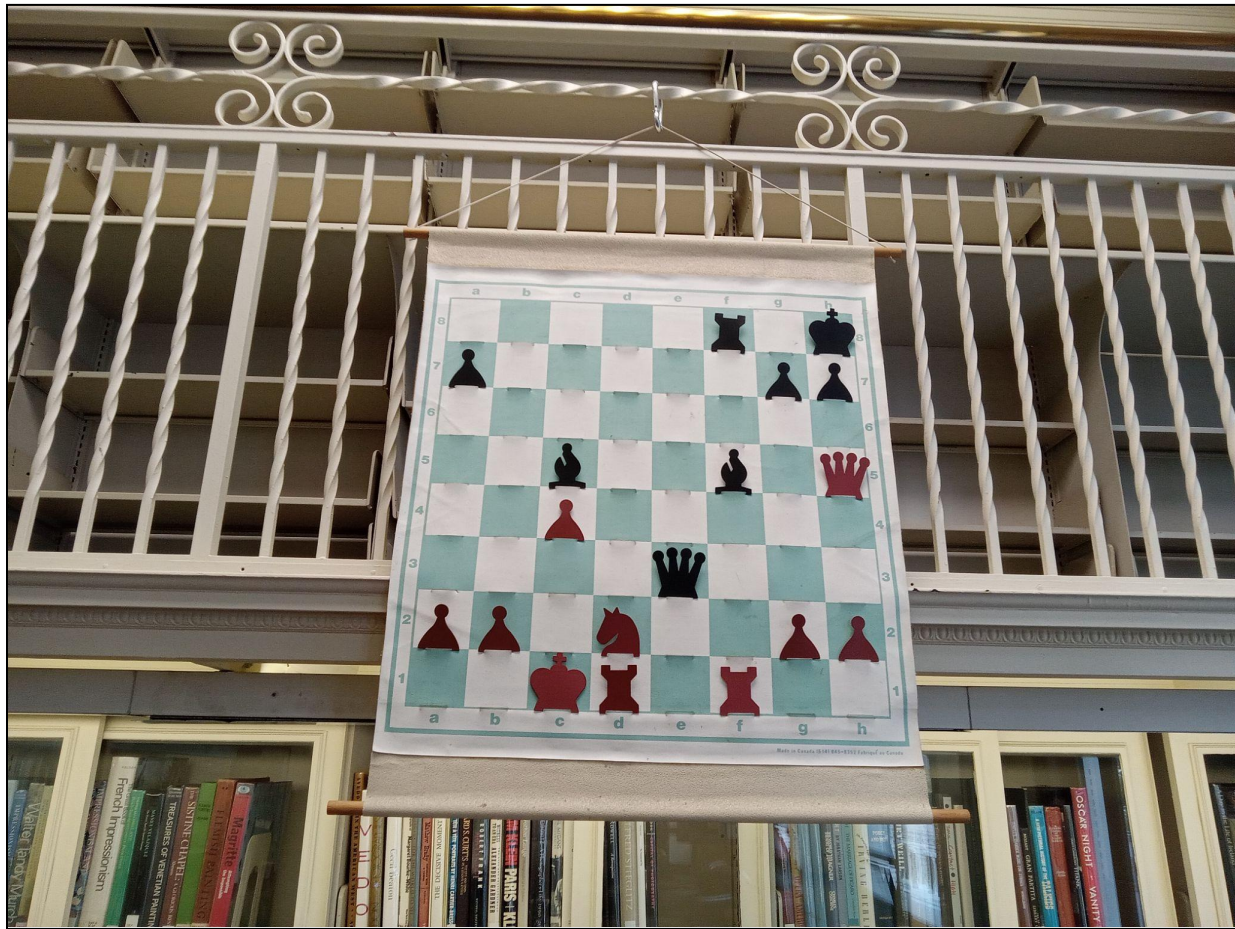
Paul's comments on a game: "You play with ideas. A lot of players don't have ideas. Plans, thoughts, reasoning." Mike Walder: "Ideas, not just moves. Ideas before moves."

Paul recalled a game in Tompkins Square. A friend named Israel introduced him to Judith Polgar when she was 10 or 12, and he was 25. "My star was descending, and hers was ascending." Sometimes he is too self-critical. He and J.P. played a blitz game, and she won. Her attitude at the board was looking away, bored. Unfortunately, I see something similar at times in my opponent when I am losing. But I know I can't expect all others to be courteous and respectful. Chess is a fight after all. Just like the struggle for existence and all the other lessons of life.



## 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.



"Boden's Mate" is the theme this week.

Black to move and win. From *Chess Traveller's Quiz Book* (1993) by Julian Hodgson.

Steven says: "A bishop pair can prove quite deadly enough that you do not need your Queen for checkmate." The solution is **1...Qc3+!! 2.bxc3 Ba3**. Checkmate!

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## Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

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

# Scholastic Chess Camps



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

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

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

Register now for these special Fall and Spring holiday dates.

## Find Out More and Register at:

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

415-393-0110

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

### Winter Camps

#### Wednesday-Friday

December 27-29 (All Ages)

January 3-5 (All Ages)

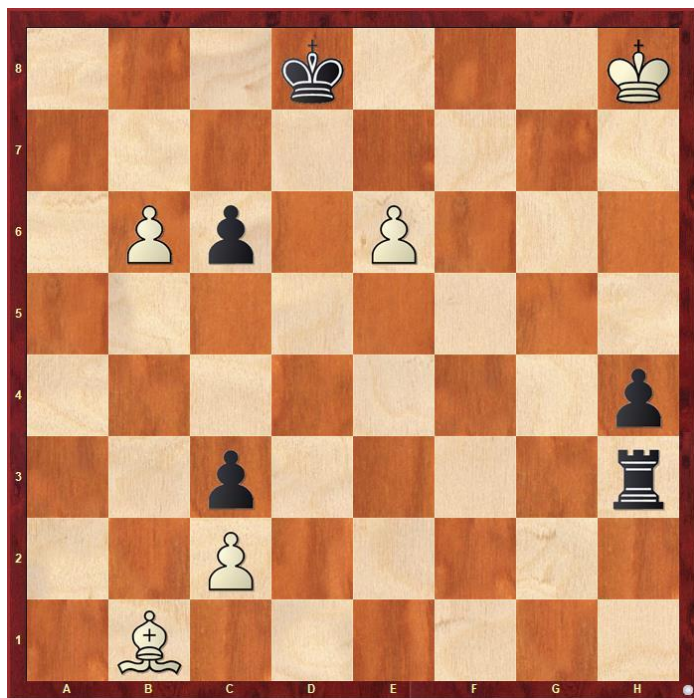
**Cost: \$300**

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

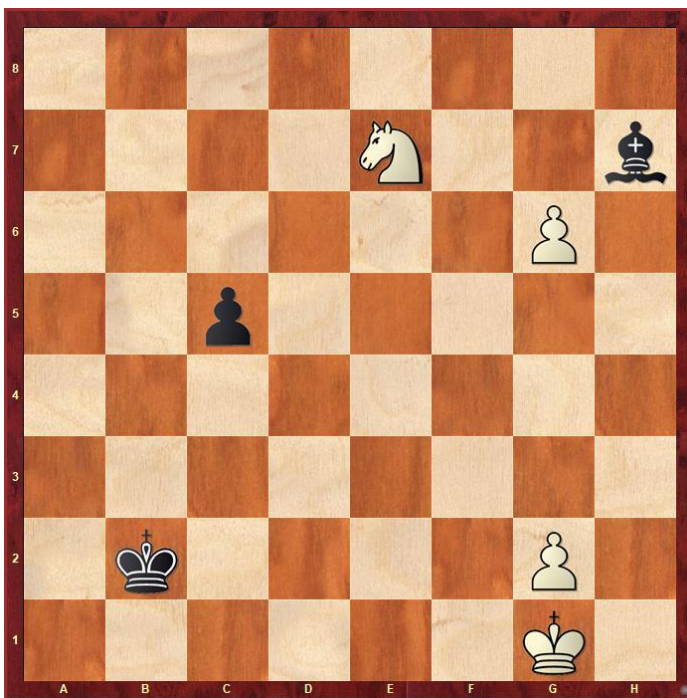
(Pro-rated Half-Days Are Available)



## Tony's Teasers



1. **A. Troitsky** 1925  
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](#).



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

# **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](https://milibrary.org/chess)**

**Questions?  
[chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org) / (415) 393-0110**



# Introduction to Chess: Free In-Person Class for Mechanics' Members



**January 10 -  
February 14, 2024.**

**6 Classes**

**Wednesdays in the  
Chess Room**

**4th Floor  
5 pm - 6 pm**

**Registration:  
[milibrary.org/chess](https://milibrary.org/chess)**



**Join us - beginner or intermediate player, and learn the fundamentals of the Royal Game with Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Coordinator, FIDE Master Paul Whitehead. From the basics: how the pieces move and capture, castling and en-passant; to more advanced strategy: checkmating patterns, how to think in the openings, middle-game strategy, and what to do in the endgame. The goal of the class is to open up a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess!**

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

**(415) 393-0110 | 57 Post Street, San Francisco CA 94104**



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



Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!



# November & December Chess Tournaments



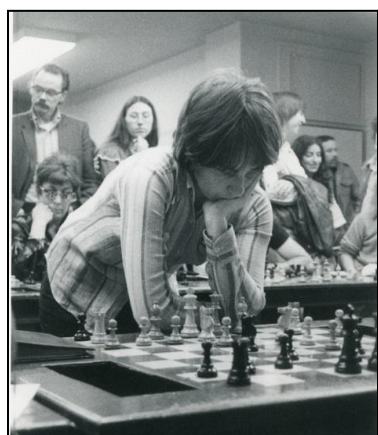
Register for all tournaments at [milibrary.org/chess](https://milibrary.org/chess)



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

# January & February Tournaments

Register for all tournaments at [milibrary.org/chess](https://milibrary.org/chess)



<b>23rd Burger Memorial</b> Saturday, January 6 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>New Year Tuesday Night Marathon</b> Tuesdays, January 9 - February 20 6:30 pm   7 Rounds   G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, January 20 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, January 20 3:00 pm   3 Rounds   G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>At Least Twenty-One Tournament</b> Saturday, January 27 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/60;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>1st Alla Kushnir Memorial</b> Saturday, February 3 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, February 10 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, February 10 3:00 pm   3 Rounds   G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>2nd Falconer Memorial (FIDE-Rated)</b> Saturday & Sunday, February 24 - 25 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/90+30	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>February FIDE Blitz</b> Tuesday, February 27 7:00 pm   5 round double Swiss   G/3+2	Members \$20 Non-Members \$30

## Solutions

### Tony's Teasers:

1. **A. Troitsky**, 1925. **1.e7+! Kxe7 2.b7 Rf3! 3.b8(Q) Rf8+ 4.Qxf8+ Kxf8**. Now what? **5.Ba2 h3**. Or **5...Ke7 6.Bc4** followed by **Bf1** and **Bg2** draws. **6.Bg8!** Intending **Bh7** and then **Be4**. **6...h2 7.Bh7!! h1(Q)**. Stalemate!
2. **T. Lama**, 2023. **1...Bg8!** Not **1...Bxg6?** **2.Nxg6 c4 3. Nf4 c3 4.g4 c2 5.Ne2** wins. **2.Nxg8 c4**. Incredibly, white now loses the knight to a Queen check no matter where he puts it, and the game turns into a theoretically drawn **Q+P v Q** ending, eg: **3.Ne7 c3 4.g7 c2 5.g8(Q) c1(Q)+ 6.Kf2**. If **6.Kh2 Qc7+**. **6...Qc5+ 7.Kf3 Qxe7**. This is a tablebase draw.

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## Contact Us

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](mailto: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.



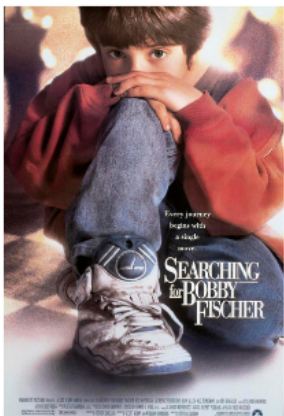
You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!  
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess>



# January 2024 CinemaLit: Chess in the Movies

## Fridays at 6:00 pm (Cafe opens at 5:30 pm)

The renowned Mechanics' Institute Chess Club shares the fourth floor with CinemaLit, it seems only natural we run with the theme of "Chess in the Movies." Chess has appeared in films for a very long time, bringing suspense, intrigue, and humor to a game so seemingly quiet and contemplative. We're featuring three films that treat chess as metaphor, or as a means of personal and social transformation. And a fourth entry in our series is just plain fun, a classic caper film with a memorable (though unfinished) chess game.



January 5



January 12



January 19



January 26  
(ON ZOOM)

Join us for *Searching for Bobby Fischer* (1993), *Queen of Katwe* (2016), *The Thomas Crown Affair* (1968), and *Queen to Play: Joueuse* (2009). View the final film on Kanopy anytime, then join the salon discussion on Zoom. Your move!

**Hosted by CinemaLit Curator Matthew Kennedy**

**Members FREE; Non-Members \$10**

**Register here: [milibrary.org/events](https://milibrary.org/events)**





MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

Since 1854

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

Free and encouraged for MI Members

**5-6pm**

**First Fridays of the month:**

January 5

February 2

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

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

Questions?

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

