



MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE  
Since 1854

# Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1049 | May 11, 2024 | Gens Una Sumus!



## Contents

[Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute by FA, SrTD Scott Mason](#)

[Annotated Games from the TNM by IM Elliott Winslow](#)

[Richard Shorman Memorial Brilliancy Prize Winning Games by IM John Donaldson](#)

[Celebrating Judy Viertel by Alex Robins](#)

[I Play Chess. Chess Doesn't Play Me. by Zorba Hughes](#)

[The Unknown Fischer by IM John Donaldson](#)

[Chess Chatter - Tony's Teaser - A New Puzzle in the Library](#)

[Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches - Solutions - Upcoming Events - Contact Us](#)

## Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

FA, SrTD Scott Mason

On April 20, Mechanics' Institute hosted our monthly duo of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning and **Quads** in the afternoon.

The April monthly Scholastic Swiss had 28 players competing in two sections. This recurring event gives scholastic players a chance to compete in a fun and friendly environment while earning a rating and getting accustomed to tournament conditions.

In the 600+ section five players tied for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> with 3 points out of the 4 rounds. Taking the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy on tiebreaks was **Neha Sharan** (1338). In 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place were **Miles Krepelka** (803), **Dylan Wan** (822), **Bailey Shapiro** (880), and **Bryn Killingsworth** (623).

The u600 section was won with a perfect score by **Sicheng Ao** (479) going 4-0. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places with 3 points each were **Liam Creasey** (unr.) and **Oscar Von Brockdorff** (unr.). Topping a 2-way tie for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place on tie-breaks was **Nicholas Sun** (593) and **Adrian Levy** (583) with 2.5 points.

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

We had another great turnout for the Quads! A total of 65 players competed in 16 sections. The top Quad had two players tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place with 2 points. They are **Daniel Cremisi** (2391) and **Rohan Das** (2098).

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

Both the April Quads and the April Scholastic Swiss were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou** with volunteer TD Neha Sharan.

An amazingly strong field of players participated in the **2024 Spring Splash Blitz** held on Tuesday evening, April 23. **GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez** (2630) took clear 1<sup>st</sup> place with 9.5/10 points just edging out GM Christopher Yoo by a half point. With 9/10 points, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo** (2660) took clear 2<sup>nd</sup> with 9/10 points. Three players tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 8.5/10 points. They are **IM Josiah Stearman** (2510), **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2389), and **FM Arun Dixit** (2225).



There was a tie for best u1800 with **Hayes Marvin** (1752) and **Joshua Lamstein** (1733) each scoring 6/10. Clear winner of the u1300 prize was **Phineas Horowitz** (1209) with 5/10 points.

Complete results for the 2024 Spring Splash Blitz can be found [here](#).

The 2024 Spring Splash Blitz was directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason**. Judit also ran the DGT Boards during the event allowing the top six boards to be broadcast on [Chess.com](#).



GM Christopher Yoo (front right) battles Max Hao (front left) on Board 1 while GM Fidel Corrales (rear left) plays Mika Elias Laitinen (rear right) on Board 2 in Round 2 of the 2024 Spring Splash Blitz.

The **23<sup>rd</sup> William Addison Memorial Tournament** was held over the weekend of April 27-28, 2024. This four round FIDE-rated Swiss with a time control of G/90+30 had a turnout of 67 players competing in three sections.

**Daniel Cremisi** (2389) scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1<sup>st</sup> in the 2000+ section. Trailing a full point behind at 3 points each in a four-way split of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and best u2200 were **Theodore Biyiasas** (2142), **Abhishek Mallela** (2168), **Neil S. Bhaduri** (2096), and **Max Hao** (2079).

**Caleb Martinez Cespedes** (1830) and **Adam Mercado** (1781) each scored 3.5 points to share 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1600-1999 section. Tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and best u1800 with 3 points were **Ansh Shrivastava** (1703), **Sean X Zhang** (1701), and **Rehaan Malhorta** (1662). **Ethan Ma** (1455) won the best u1600 prize with 3 points.

With a perfect score of 4/4 the u1600 section saw **Angela Zixi Wang** (1293) win clear 1<sup>st</sup> place. Four players tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Best u1400, and Best u1200 with a score of 3 points. They were **Dev Sangal Lopez** (1259), **Pedraam Nikzad** (unr.), **Binh Khac Nguyen** (1206), and **Fadi Arodaki** (1101).

Complete results for the 23<sup>rd</sup> William Addison Memorial can be found [here](#).

The top six boards were broadcast on [Chess.com](#).





The 23<sup>rd</sup> William Addison Memorial Tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

On May 4, Mechanics' Institute hosted the **2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Conway Memorial tournament**. It was a full house with 81 players competing in four sections.

The 2000+ section was won by **Jiangwei Yu** (2267) with an undefeated 3.5 points from 4 games. Sharing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place were **Ethan Guo** (2239) and **Kanwar Sethi** (2015), each posting up a 3 point score.

**Mathew Ma** (1707) took clear first in the 1600-1999 section scoring a perfect 4 points. There was a 2-way split for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, with **Tapas Natraj** (1785) and **Ansh Shrivastava** (1703) scoring 3.5 points each.

**Shane Cueva** (1532) scored a perfect 4-0 to take 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1200-1599 section. In clear 2<sup>nd</sup> scoring 3.5 points was **Derek Lin** (1187). Three players ended in a 3-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place between **Steven Whitney** (1357), **Vedant Verma** (1336), and **Nicholas Delateur** (1325).

The top prize in the under 1200 section went to **Aaron Rumph** (unr.) who scored 3.5 points remaining undefeated during the event. Three players tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. These prizes were split between **Pedraam Nikzad** (unr.), **Jean-Marc Ruffalo-Burgat** (unr.), and **Justin Rezende** (unr.) who all scored 3 points.

Complete results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Conway Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Conway Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

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## **Annotated Games from the TNM**

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from round one of the 2024 SUMmer 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](#).

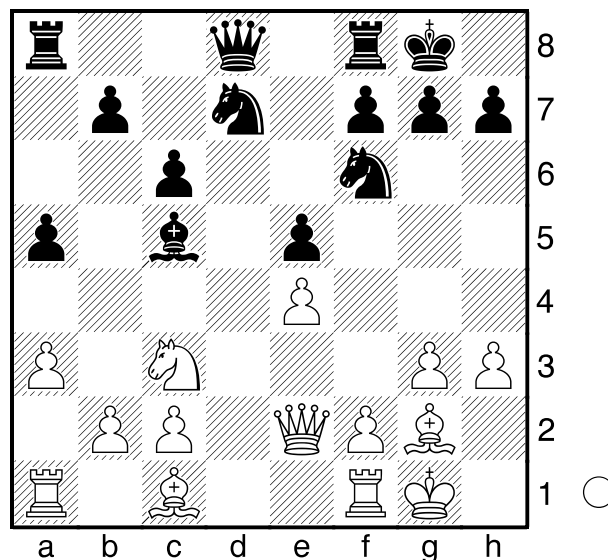
**Srinivasan,Sivavishnu** **B11**  

**Dasika,Archit** **2029**  
**2224**  
 2024 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 07.05.24  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Here we go, Round 1 of the Summer Tuesday Night Marathon! Well, at least it ends close to Summer (June 18). Then again, with Ozone depletion and carbon emissions, Summer came early this year! Anyway, the first round often has the most unbalanced pairups, but with sections it's not so drastic. On Board 1 though, it did seem that top-rated Archit Dasika out-classed Sivavishnu Srinivasan in an epic, one might say too-epic battle. In his typical style, Dasika played Pressure Chess, and indeed the boy slipped up positionally, letting his pawns be damaged -- although it was ultimately his c-pawn that cost him. There was a chance, though, when Sivavishnu missed a fine shot that would have brought the balance back to the fore; after that was missed, it was the Long Over. **1.e4** 10:34 **c6** 24 **2.Nc3** 5 **d5** 19 **3.Nf3** 5 **Bg4** 29 **4.h3** 7 **Bxf3** 43 **5.Qxf3** 8 **e6** 32 **6.g3** 13 **Nf6** 45 **7.Bg2** 14 **Bc5** 54

*[Relevant: 7...Nbd7 8.Qe2 d4 9.Nb1 e5 10.d3 h5 11.f4 h4 12.g4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Nc5 14.0-0 Ne6 15.Bh2 Bb4 16.Nd2 Bxd2 17.Qxd2 Nd7 18.e5 Qe7 19.Kh1 a5 20.c3 Ndc5 21.Rf5 Rd8 22.c4 0-0 23.Raf1 a4 24.Bf3 g6 25.Bd1 gxf5 26.gxf5 f6 27.fxe6 Nxe6 28.Bg4 Ng7 29.Re1 fxe5 30.Bxe5 Rde8 31.Qg2 Qg5 32.Qe4 Rf2 33.Qxd4 Ref8 34.Rg1 Rf1 35.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 36.Kg2 Rf7 37.Qe4 0-1 Nakamura,H (2768)-Fedoseev,V (2688) Titled Tuesday intern op 15th Nov Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (6) ]*

**8.d3** 2:22 **Nbd7** 1:31 **9.Qe2** 1:38 **dxe4** 4:40 **10.dxe4** 1:13 **e5=** 22 **11.0-0** 1:27 **0-0** 1:20 **12.a3** 3:24 **a5** 3:14



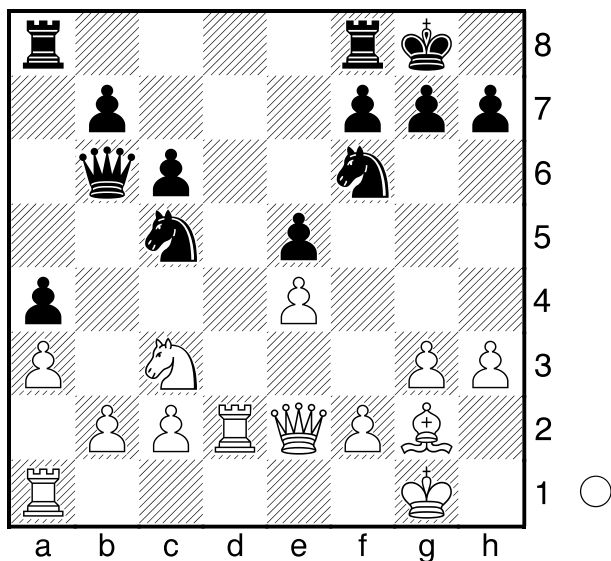
**13.Rd1N** 1:26

*[Predecessor: 13.Bd2 b5 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.Bc1 Rfe8 16.a4 b4 17.Nb1 Nb6 18.b3 Bd4 19.Nd2 c5 20.Nf3 Nfd7 21.Kh1 Nf8 22.Nh4 c4 23.f4 Rac8 24.Nf5 Ne6 25.Qg4 Kh8 26.Ne3 cxb3 27.cxb3 Nc5 28.Nf5 Ne6 29.Nxd4 Nxd4 30.fxe5 Nxb3 31.Bf4 Qc4 32.Rd6 Nxa4 33.Qh4 Rc6 34.Qe7 Rcc8 35.Qh4 Rc6 36.Qe7 Rcc8 37.Qg5 Nac5 38.Rh6 Re6 39.Rh4 Nd4 40.Qh5 h6 41.Qxf7 Nxe4 42.Kh2 Nc5 1-0 Kleiman,J (2399)-Ter Sahakyan,S (2605) Titled Tuesday intern op 20th Dec Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (6) ]*

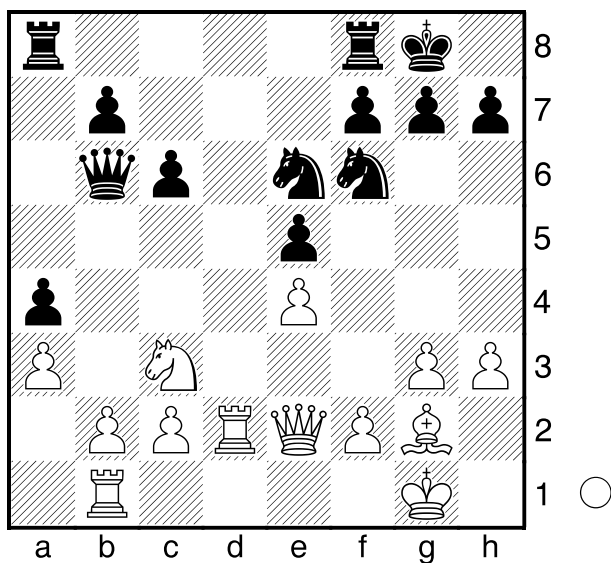
**13...a4** 5:19 **14.Be3** 52 **Qc7** 7:52  
**15.Rd2** 2:03 **Qb6** 4:30 **16.Bxc5** 7:30  
**Nxc5** 13

(Diagram)

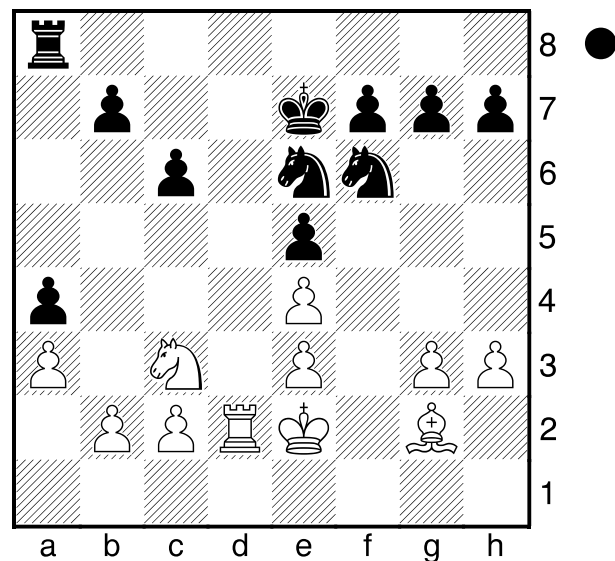




This reminds me of the first game in Michael Stean's excellent "Simple Chess" (by the way, chess isn't): Botvinnik-Szilagyi, Amsterdam 1966. Extremely instructive how he makes something out of nothing. **17.Rb1** 1:26 **Ne6** 3:44



**18.Qe3?** 14:26 Sometimes it's nice to shut down the d4 square to Black's knights. It's not worth it here. **18...Qxe3** 4:06 **19.fxe3** 29 **Rfd8** 47 **20.Rbd1** 51 **Rxd2** 1:41 **21.Rxd2** 3 **Kf8** 21 **22.Kf2** 1:10 **Ke7** 1:20 **23.Ke2** 2:59



**b5?** 1:21 Ooops.

[ 23...Nc5+ ]

[ 23...h5+ ]

**24.Na2?** 7:49

[ 24.Nd5+! cures a lot of problems!

Black's advantage is now merely in

the ♖ range, i.e. symbolic. cxd5

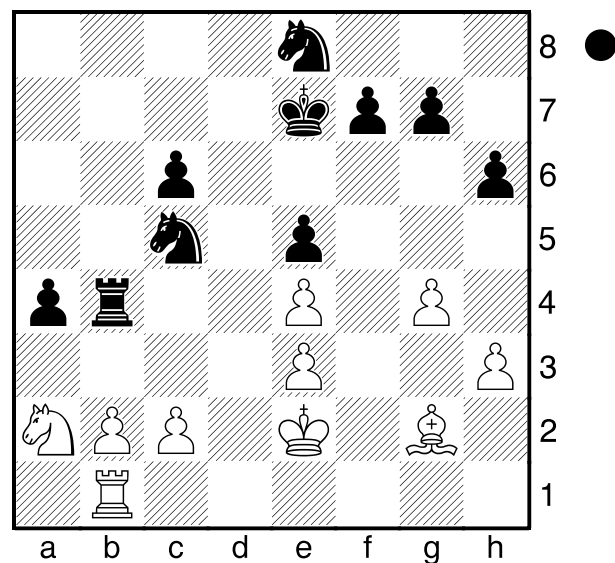
25.exd5 Rc8 26.dxe6 Kxe6 27.Kd1 ]

**24...Nc5** 1:21 **25.Nc3** 1:53 **Rb8** 26

**26.g4** 10:58 **h6** 5:23 **27.Rd1** 1:55 **b4**

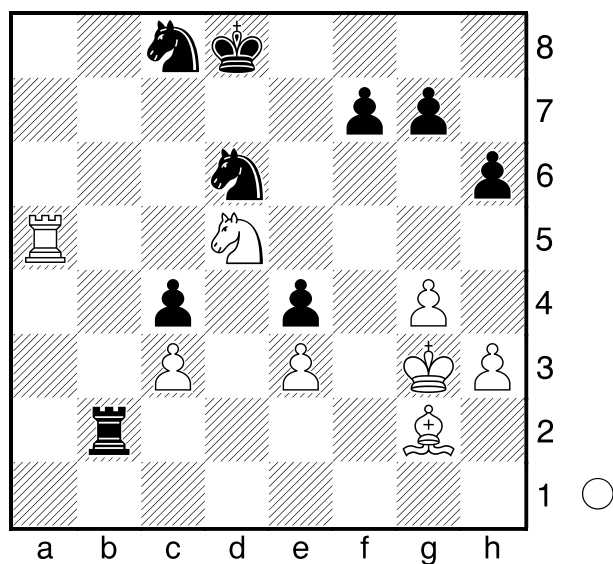
2:32 **28.axb4** 3:33 **Rxb4** 6 **29.Rb1** 39

**Ne8!** 4:01 **30.Na2** 2:38



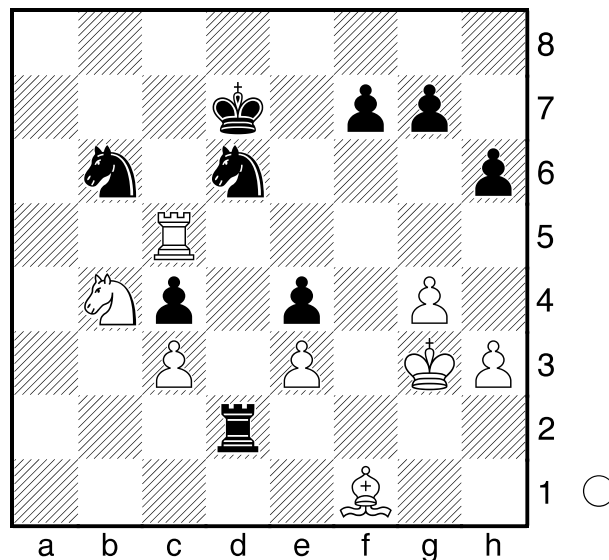
**Rb6?!** 2:07

[ 30...Rb8!-+ ]  
**31.c3?** 5:12  
 [ 31.Nc1! Nd6 ( 31...Kf6!? 32.h4 g5 33.h5 a3 $\bar{f}$ ) 32.Nd3! a3!? ( 32...Nxd3 33.Kxd3 similar )  
**A)** 33.Nxc5 Rxb2 34.Ra1 ( 34.Rc1 a2 35.Nb3 Rb1 ) 34...Rxc2+;  
**B)** 33.b3 Nxd3 34.Kxd3 Ra6 35.Ra1 $\bar{f}$  ]  
**31...Nd6** 3:38 **32.Nb4** 9 **Nc4** 7:29  
**33.Bf3** 1:32 **Nb3** 3:37 **34.Bg2** 37 **Ke8** 1:29 **35.Kd3** 57 **Nbd2?!** 10:29  
 [ 35...Nba5-+ ]  
**36.Ra1** 50 **c5** 24 **37.Nd5** 22 **Rxb2** 4:03  
**38.Rxa4** 15 **Nd6** 1:09 **39.Ra8+** 2:12 **Kd7** 10 **40.Ra7+** 3 **Kd8** 11:11 **41.Ra8+** 1:37 **Nc8** 10 **42.Ke2** 5:07 **Nxe4+** 1:49  
**43.Kf3** 6 **Ned6** 1:18 **44.Kg3** 2:42 **e4** 34  
 [ 44...g5!? not the easiest move to believe in. ]  
**45.Ra5** 2:25 **c4** 1:03



**46.Rc5?!** 1:45 The rook was well placed, stopping ...Nb6-a4.  
 [ 46.Bf1! Rd2 ( 46...Nb6 47.Ra6! $\bar{f}$ ) 47.Nb4 ]  
**46...Rd2!** 59 **47.Nb4** 3:45 **Kd7?!** 1:23  
 [ Black should get right to the point: 47...Nb6! and I get to play with circles and arrows (for those who can't see

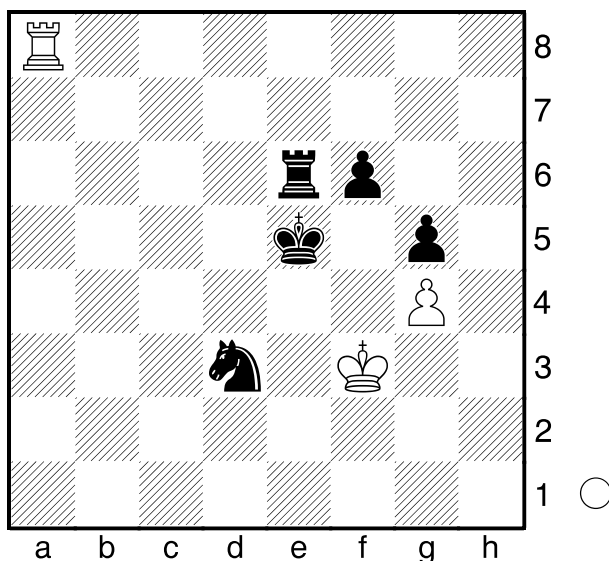
them: "intending ...Na4xc3, and queen the c-pawn"). ]  
**48.Bf1** 1:17  
 [ 48.h4!? ]  
**48...Nb6!** 1:04



**49.Nc6?** 2:47  
 [ 49.Ra5! when Stockfish can't decide if it's best to play Rd3!? (There are also 49...Rd1; and 49...g5 ) 50.Bxd3 cxd3 51.Ra7+ Ke6 52.Kf2 Ndc4 $\bar{f}$  ]  
**49...Rc2** 3:39  
 [ 49...Rd3! when taking is a subtle suicide, and in fact Stockfish 16.1 puts it 10th or so (!) on its list of losing moves. 50.Kf2 comes out "best" but after Na4! ( 50...Rxc3 51.Ne5+ Ke6 52.Nc6 Rc1 works but for some reason not as well ) 51.Ra5 Nxc3 and again, taking the rook, either way (Ne5+xd3) gives Black that monster. ]  
**50.Ne5+?!** 59  
 [ 50.Nb8+ Ke7 51.Nc6+ Ke8 and the c-pawn goes anyway, with a likely win. ]  
**50...Ke6** 1:02 **51.Nc6** 3:58 **Rxc3** 29  
 "and Black won." Young Sivavishnu is definitely not a "play til mate" youngster, but he definitely wastes a scoresheet on



this one. 52.Nd4+ 3 Kd7 31 53.Kf2 9  
 Ra3 20 54.Nb5 44 Ra2+ 12 55.Kg3 3  
 Nxb5 30 56.Rxb5 2 Kc6 19 57.Rb1 58  
 g5 13 58.Bg2 1 Kc5 36 59.Bxe4 2 c3  
 41 60.Bd3 Nc4 15 61.Rc1 1 Kb4 4  
 62.Kf3 2 Nd2+ 24 63.Kg3 3 Kb3 14  
 64.h4 2 c2 14 65.hxg5 2 hxg5 2  
 66.Bxc2+ 1 Rxc2 2 67.Rh1 1 Rc6 12  
 68.Rh7 3 f6 3 69.Rd7 1 Kc3 2 70.Kf2  
 2 Ne4+ 13 71.Kf3 Nc5 13 72.Rf7 3  
 Re6 4 73.Rc7 1 Kc4 1 74.e4 2 Kd4 5  
 75.Rc8 3 Nxe4 3 76.Rd8+ 1 Rd6 2  
 77.Rf8 2 Nd2+ 2 78.Kf2 1 Ke5 5  
 79.Re8+ 2 Re6 1 80.Rd8 1 Ne4+  
 81.Kf3 Nc5 11 82.Ra8 2 Nd3 9



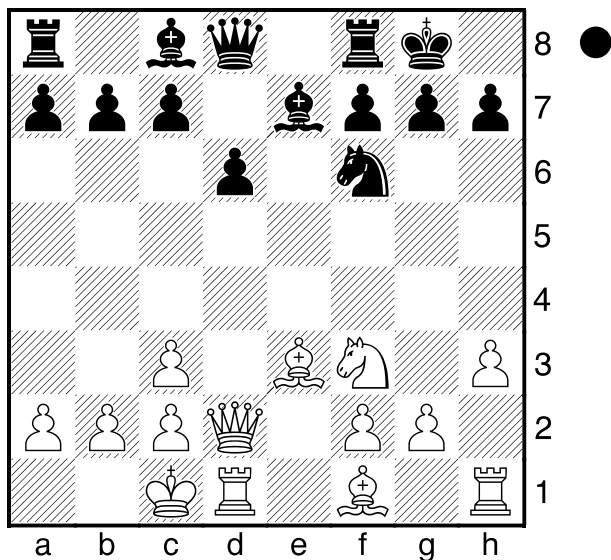
Around here even the DGT board loses its way -- giving 83.Ra6(!). The players had bare seconds (plus the delay, for what that's worth), so we can just say Sivavishnu "didn't have time to resign." I'm guessing on how the game proceeded for the next couple moves, but then it's back on track. 83.Ra5+ Kd6 84.Ra6+ Ke7 85.Ra7+ Kf8 86.Ra8+ Kf7 87.Ra7+ 2 Re7 88.Ra3 Ne5+ 1 89.Kg3 Kg6 2 90.Ra6 1 Rc7 3 91.Ra3 3 Rc4 2 92.Ra8 2 Rxg4+ 1 93.Kh3 1 Rf4 2 94.Rg8+ 1 Kf5 1 95.Ra8 g4+ 1 96.Kh2 Rf3 1 97.Ra2 3 g3+ 6 98.Kh3

Kg5 9 99.Ra5 2 Kf4 14 100.Ra4+ 2 Ke3 1 101.Ra3+ 1 Nd3 102.Ra8 2 f5 103.Re8+ Kf2 1 104.Ra8 2 f4 3 105.Ra2+ 1 Ke3 1 106.Ra3 4 Rf2 1 107.Kg4 4 g2 2 108.Ra1 Rf1 1 109.Ra3 g1Q+ 4 110.Kf5 Ra1 4 111.Rb3 2 Ra5+ 2 112.Kf6 2 Qg5+ 0-1

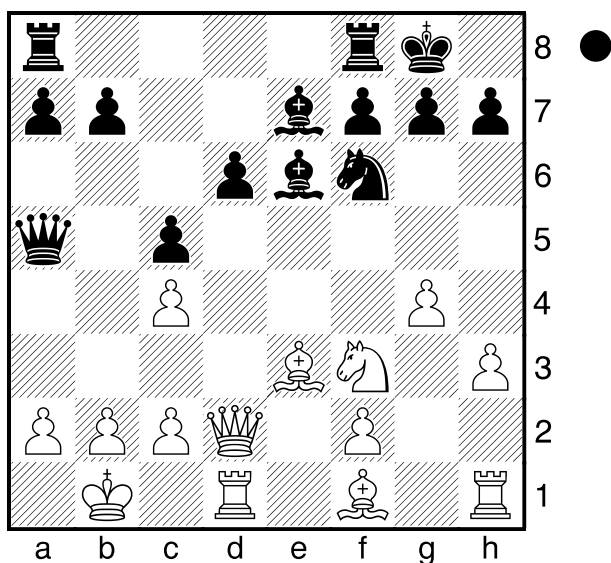
☐ Suarez, Sebastian C42 2209  
☒ Smith, Olivia 2013  
 2024 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 07.05.24  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

Newly minted National Master Alex Shrauger is finding out: it's not so easy to \*keep\* the rating up there. Here he is nicely undone by Women's FIDE Master Olivia Smith of Wales (!) -- what brings her to the Bay Area I don't know yet, but she's played a few tournaments here over the last year. The finish to this game is just splendid (unless you're Alex!), and worth seeing how it came out of nowhere. 1.e4 7 e5 26 2.Nf3 8 Nf6 6 3.Nxe5 40 d6 12 4.Nf3 4 Nxe4 10 5.Nc3 18 Nxc3 7 6.dxc3 7 Be7 12 7.Be3 22 Nd7 58 8.Qd2 3:09 Nf6 19 9.0-0-0 56 0-0 24 10.h3 2:45

[Relevant: 10.Bd3 Re8 11.Rhe1 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.gxf3 d5 14.h4 Bf8 15.Rg1 Kh8 16.h5 h6 17.Rg2 Re5 18.f4 Rxh5 19.Bd4 Qd6 20.Be5 Rxe5 21.fxe5 Qxe5 22.Re1 Qh5 23.Kb1 Bd6 24.Reg1 g5 25.f3 Qh4 26.f4 Qxf4 27.Qd1 Qe3 28.Re2 Qb6 29.Qf1 Bf4 30.Rh1 Kg7 31.a3 Re8 32.Rg2 Qd6 33.Qf2 c5 34.Rh4 Be3 35.Qf3 c4 36.Bf5 Re5 37.Rh1 Bf4 38.Qh3 h5 39.Rf1 Re3 0-1 Aronian,L (2742)-Nepomniachtchi, I (2779) Julius Baer Rapid Div 2 W Chess.com INT 2023 (5.2) ]



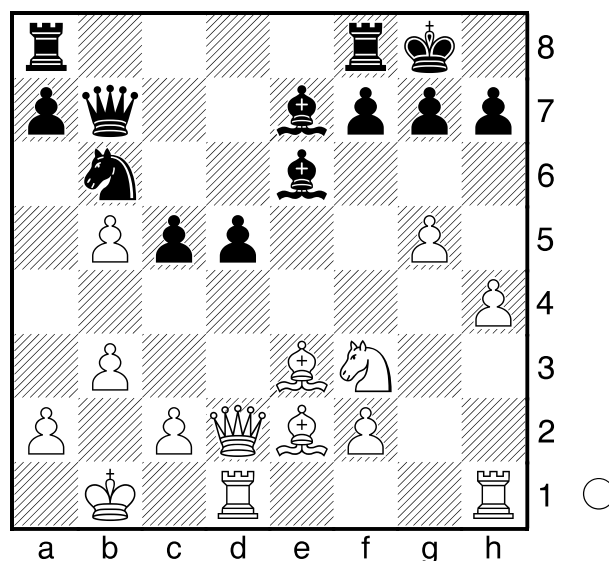
10...c5 1:48 11.g4 13:48 Be6 3:18  
12.Kb1 1:02 Qa5 1:51 13.c4 9:59



**Qa6N** 5:14

[Predecessor: 13...Qb6 14.Bd3 d5  
15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.Ne5 Bf6 17.Nc4  
Qa6 18.Na3 Qa4 19.Bb5 Qb4  
20.Qxb4 cxb4 21.Nc4 a6 22.Bd7  
Bxd7 23.Rxd5 Bc6 24.Rhd1 Bxd5  
25.Rxd5 Rad8 26.Nd6 Be7 27.Nf5  
Bf6 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Kc1 g6  
30.Ng3 Bd4 31.Bd2 Bxf2 32.Ne4  
Bd4 33.b3 a5 34.Bg5 Re8 35.Nd6

Re2 36.Nb5 Bc3 37.Nxc3 bxc3  
38.Kd1 Rh2 39.Bd8 Rd2+  
0-1 Ai,E (2159)-Frolyanov,D (2485)  
Titled Tuesday intern op 18th Jul  
Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (7) ]  
**14.g5** 4:24 **Nd7** 11:28 **15.b3** 2:55 **b5**  
1:49 **16.cxb5** 1:41 **Qb7** 22 **17.Be2** 2:56  
**d5** 2:21 **18.h4** 12:53 **Nb6** 8:49



**19.c3?** 10:08

[ 19.h5! d4! 20.h6!

**A)** 20...dxe3?? 21.Qc3 f6  
( 21...gxh6 22.gxh6 f6 23.Qxe3  
is, so I'm informed by Stockfish 16.  
1, winning for White. );

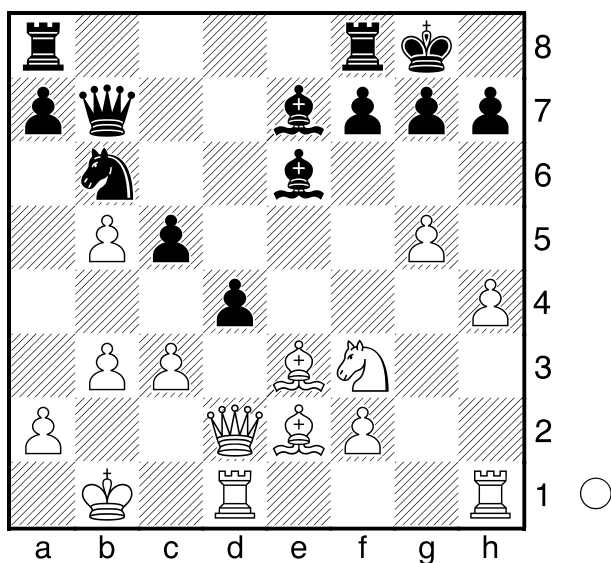
**B)** 20...g6!? 21.Nxd4! cxd4  
22.Qxd4 f6 23.Bg4 Bxg4 24.Qxg4  
fxg5 25.Qe6+ Rf7 26.c4±  
White has pawns! Lots of pawns!;

**C)** 20...Rfd8! 21.g6!/? ( 21.Bf4 g6±  
/= White's attack is shut down,  
although there is still the pawn up  
business. ) 21...fxg6! 22.Bg5 Nd5!  
23.Rde1 Nc3+ 24.Kb2= ]

**19...d4!** 9:48

(Diagram)





**20.cxd4?! 9:50**

[ 20.Nxd4! cxd4 21.Bxd4+ clearly favors Black ("a piece is" to imagine Giri in Clockwork Orange). But the game continuation is swiftly destroyed: ]

**20...c4!-+ 1:05** I don't know how early she saw how strong this is, but it's an "only move" and a winner. **21.Qb2 2:22**

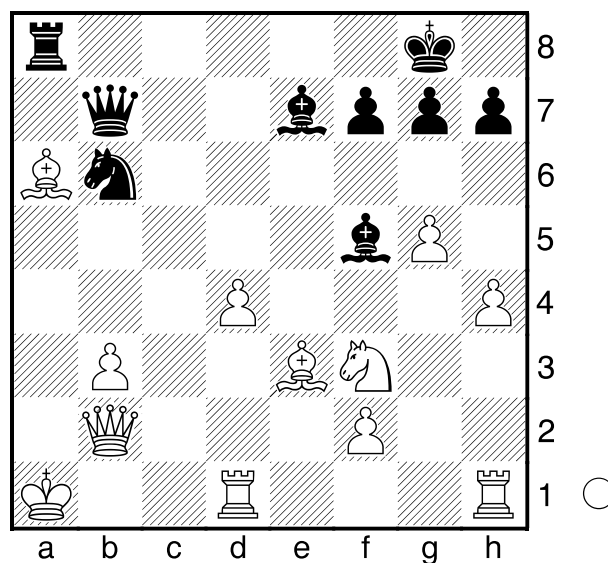
**22.axb3 2:12 22...axb3 50 Bf5+ 1:21**

**23.Ka1 1:14 a6! 3:18 24.bxa6 15**

**Rxa6+ 22 25.Bxa6 21 Ra8 56**

[ 25...Ra8 26.Qe2 Rxa6+ 27.Kb2 Ba3+ is actually mate in a few. ]

(Diagram)



**0-1**

**B22**  
**2000**  
**Winslow,Elliott**  
**2178**  
 2024 Summer TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 07.05.24  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Yet another fishy win by Winslow! (oh, that's me...) **1.e4 3 c5 7 2.c3 7 Nf6 4 3.e5 14 Nd5 5 4.d4 9 cxd4 7 5.cxd4 13 d6 40 6.Nf3 1:28 Nc6 14 7.Bc4 8:07 e6 31**

[For years I've been a big fan of 7...dxe5!? when the three central captures are the lines.

**A) 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6!**

**10.d5 Nd4! 11.Nxd4 exd4**

**12.Qxd4 e5!** can be blinding to a player of White if they have no idea what's going on: Black is thinking ... f5 and ...Kf7 (!).;

**B) 8.Nxe5;**

**C) 8.dxe5 Ndb4!?** ( 8...Be6 9.0-0 Nc7 isn't so bad ) **9.Qb3 e6 10.0-0 Na5!** doesn't lose and even turns out okay. I saw this in an "SOS" opening book years ago. :-);

**D)** 8.Nxe5 was also covered (and might be best), when Black just plays e6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.0-0 Bd6 (or 10...Be7);

**E)** 8.-- ]

**8.0-0 22 Be7** 10 The preferred way to play Black in Kotronias's "Grandmaster Repertoire 6A: Beating the Anti-Sicilians." Yes, it's that esoteric! But that's what it's come to these days. **9.Re1** 50 There are a \*lot\* of moves here for White!

[ 9.Qe2 is the main line, when White still can play the rook to d1 -- or, for that matter any of the other plans. ]

[ Those plans are such as 9.exd6 ]

[ 9.a3 (intending an unharassed Bd3) ]

[ 9.Nc3 bringing about some unique pawn structures, ]

[ and 9.Bd2 , presumably to be able to recapture on c3 with the bishop (not that that's any hot piece there). ]

**9...0-0** 1:00 **10.a3** 4:10

[ Relevant: 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Nc3 h6 12.a3 b6 13.Qd3 Nce7 14.Ne5 Bb7 15.Ne4 Nf5 16.Bd2 Rc8 17.Rad1 Nf6 18.Nxd6 Nxd6 19.Ba2 Bd5 20.b3 Be4 21.Qh3 Bf5 22.Qf3 a5 23.b4 Bc2 24.Rc1 Be4 25.Qh3 Rxc1 26.Bxc1 axb4 27.axb4 Qa8 28.Bb3 Nf5 29.g4 Nxd4 30.g5 hxc5 31.Bxc5 Nh7 32.Bd2 Bf5 33.Qe3 Nxb3 34.Qxb3 Nf6 35.Qe3 Rd8 36.Bc1 Rd5 37.Qg3 Ne4 38.Qf4 Qb8 39.Bb2 Qd8 0-1 Svane,F (2618)-Kramnik,V (2753) Titled Tuesday intern op 25th Jul Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (11) ]

**10...dxe5** 4:43

[ 10...Bd7 ]

[ 10...a6!? ]

[ 10...b6 is clearly the favored move.

**A)** 11.Ba2 Bb7 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.Nc3 is an interesting turnabout, but dxe5 14.dxe5 d4 15.Nb5 Rc8

16.Nbxd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 ( 17.Qxd4 Bxf3= ) 17...Qd7 18.Be3 Rc4 as often in these Alapin lines, two bishops are adequate compensation for the pawn.;

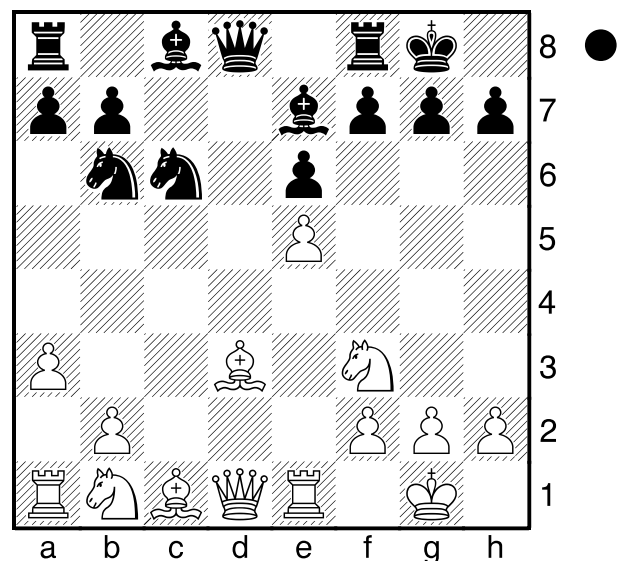
**B)** 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 dxe5 13.dxe5 d4 14.Nb5 d3;

**C)** 11.Qe2 dxe5 12.dxe5 Bb7 13.Bd2 Bc5 14.Nc3 Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.Bxd4 Qxd4 18.Rad1 Qc5 19.Ba6 ( 19.Bd3 ) 19...Bxa6 20.Qxa6 g6 21.g3 Rfd8 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Qxa7 Rd2 24.Qa8+ Kg7 25.Qf3 Rxb2 26.h4 h5 27.Qf6+ Kg8 28.Qd8+ Qf8 29.Rd1 Qxd8 30.Rxd8+ Kg7 31.Rb8 ½-½ Howell,D (2688)-So,W (2775) Qatar Masters op Doha 2015 (3) ]

**11.dxe5** 12 **Nb6?** 1:51 As often in theoretical openings, if I haven't gone over the material a dozen times, I don't remember anything. (Of course the position is right in front of me...)

[ 11...b6 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Qa4 could be problems associated with Qg4, but objectively Black is okay. ]

**12.Bd3±** 2:49



**Qd7N** 2:07 Well, not horrible! But it's a

little too brilliant.

[Predecessor: 12...Nd7 13.Qc2 h6  
14.Nc3 a6 15.Bf4 Nc5 16.Bh7+ Kh8  
17.Rad1 Qb6 18.b4 Nd7 19.Be4  
Rd8 20.Qc1 Kg8 21.Be3 Qc7  
22.Bxh6 Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Nxe5  
24.Nd5 Qxc1 25.Nxe7+ Kf8  
26.Rxd8+ Kxe7 27.Rxc1 Kxd8  
28.Bxg7 Nc6 29.Bf6+  
1-0 Van Oosterom,C (2420)-  
Morawietz,D (2449) NRW Class2  
0809 Germany 2008 (8.1) ]  
[ 12...Kh8!? ]

**13.Qc2** 1:23 **g6** 1:35

[ 13...h6 ]

**14.Nc3** 45 **Nd5?** 3:30

[ 14...Rd8 15.Be4 ( 15.Rd1 Qc7  
16.Bf4 Nd5 17.Nb5 Qb6 18.Bg3  
Bd7 19.Nd6± ) 15...Nd4 16.Nxd4  
Qxd4 17.Be3 Qc4 18.Qc1± ]

**15.Nxd5** 3:13 Stockfish has a number of moves as winning:

[ 15.h4 ]

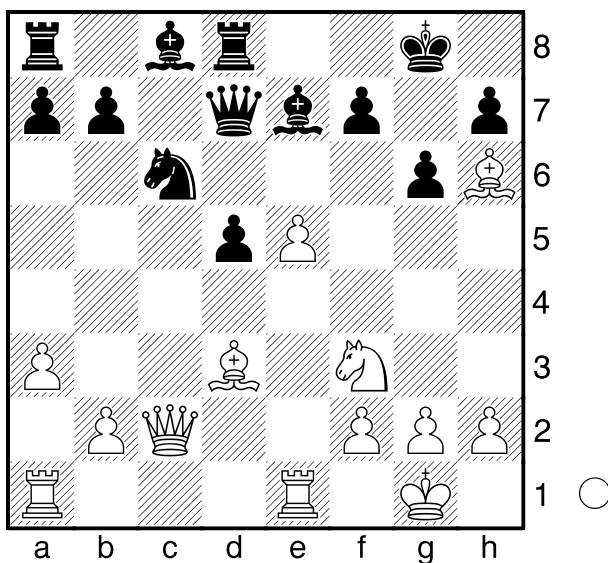
[ 15.Bh6 ]

[ 15.Be4 ]

[ 15.Ne4 ]

**15...exd5** 3:25 **16.Bh6** 1:01 And this.

**16...Rd8** 1:06



**17.e6!** 3:44 Best of many **17...fxe6** 5:14

[ 17...Qe8 18.exf7+ Qxf7  
19.Rxe7!?+- ]

**18.Bxg6!** 1:45 **Bf8** 3:38

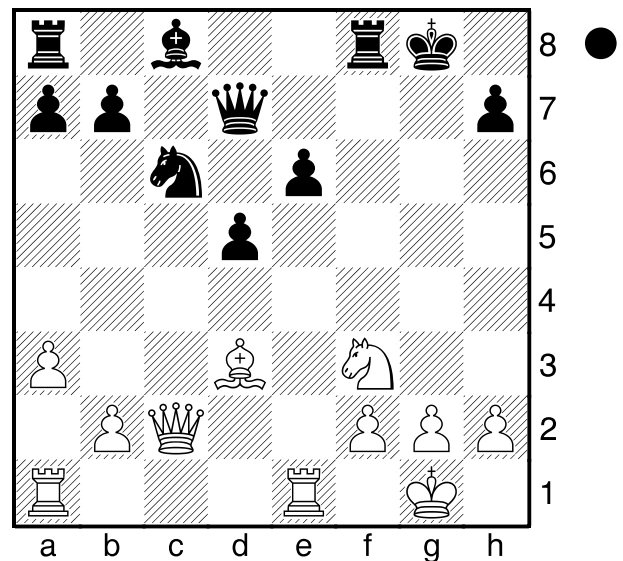
[ 18...Bf6 ]

**19.Bxf8** 3:13

[ 19.Ng5! Bxh6 20.Bf7+! overlooked  
Qxf7 ( 20...Kf8 21.Bxe6 ) 21.Nxf7  
Kxf7 22.Qxh7+ Bg7 23.Re3+- ]

**19...Rxf8** 10 **20.Bd3?!** 22

[ 20.Ng5! Qg7 ( 20...hxc6 21.Rxe6!  
overlooked ) 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Qc3+-  
Qxc3 23.bxc3 e5 24.Rad1 Bf5  
25.Bxf5 Rxf5 26.h4 ]



**20...Rxf3??** 4:11 /!? (I have to give myself at least one exclamation point among all the question marks!) Actually I blame John Donaldson. He did the pregame lecture, and showed some game by Axel Smith where Smith sacrificed a rook for a bishop seemingly unnecessarily. And won nicely! I was "influenced."

[ 20...Qg7! is actually just fine! Look at this line: 21.Qe2 e5! 22.Nxe5 Bh3! 23.g3 Rae8 24.f4 Rxe5! 25.fxe5 Nd4 26.Qd1 Nf3+ 27.Kh1 Nxe1 28.Qxe1 Rf3= Just like that. ]

**21.gxf3+-** 1:18 This reminds me of the



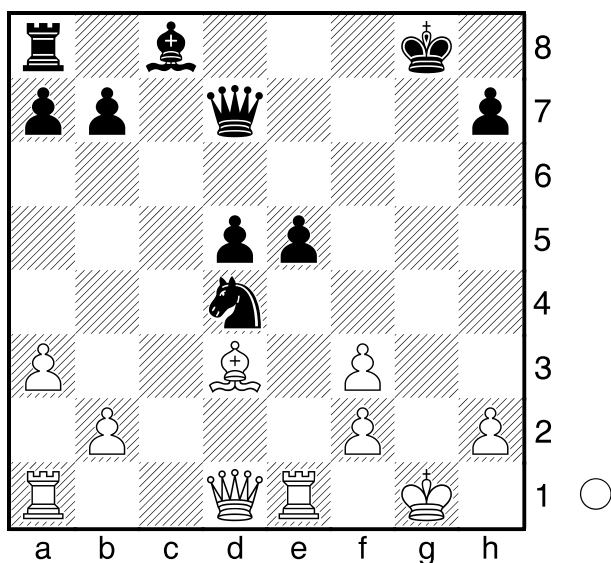
Tarrasch French with 3...Nf6, where Black also sacrifices the exchange on f3. Very similar. Shaw (my main repertoire man) gives some convincing analysis showing how to crush the sac -- but it's hard to remember, and indeed when Doug Root surprised me and played into it, I quickly fumbled and lost (Senior Tournament of Champions, Cherry Hill NJ 2021). **21...Nd4** 28

[  $\triangle$ 21...Qf7 ]

**22.Qd1** 59

[ 22.Qc5! Nxf3+?! 23.Kh1 Nxe1 24.Rxe1+- Black is really dead here! I hardly even considered it (or any) alternative to the move played (which is still good). ]

**22...e5** 2:57



**23.Rxe5??** 1:08 I guess James and I have the same hypnotist; we were both in a cloud about the real nature of the position.

[ 23.Kh1 Qd6 24.Rg1+ Kh8

25.Rg3+- ]

[ 23.Re3+- ]

[ 23.Rc1 Qf7 24.Kh1 ( 24.Rc3 )

24...Qxf3+ 25.Qxf3 Nxf3 26.Re3 e4

27.Be2 Nd4 28.Rg3+ Kh8 29.Bh5

( 29.Bg4; 29.Bd1; 29.Bf1 )]

**23...Qg7+** and he resigned with a smile. It was only after getting home and firing up the computer the next day that I saw how absurd it all was. First round jitters...

**0-1**

**B12**

$\square$  **Vazquez,Dominic A**

**1251**

$\blacksquare$  **Hilliard,Michael R**

**1400**

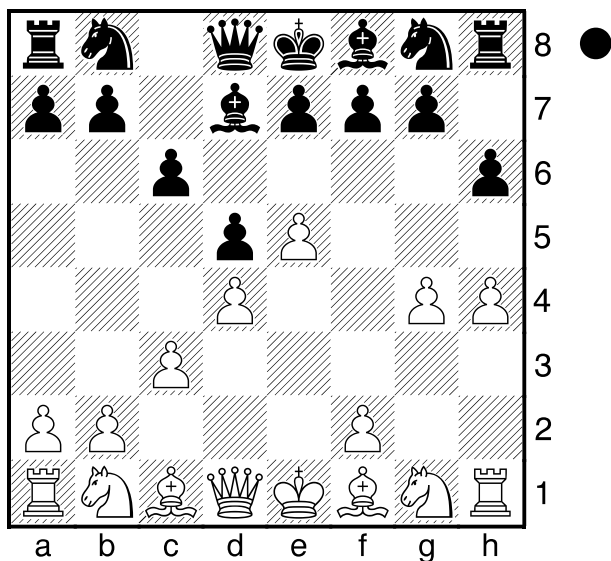
2024 Summer TNM: 1200-1599 (1.27)

[Winslow,Elliott]

This is a classic: "Resigning in a won position." I'll give the whole game, but really it's the final position that matter. Neither player thought there was anything going on, that White had played a nice combination. When Dominic sent me the game he alerted me that something was going on without being specific, and I confess I didn't notice either! **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h6 5.g4 Bd7 6.c3**

[Relevant: 6.h5 c5 7.c3 Qb6 8.dxc5 Qxc5 9.Be3 Qc7 10.f4 e6 11.Nf3 Bc5 12.Nd4 Ne7 13.Nd2 Bb6 14.Qb3 Na6 15.a4 0-0 16.a5 Bxa5 17.Qa3 Nc6 18.N2f3 Bb6 19.b4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Rac8 21.b5 Nb8 22.Bd2 a6 23.g5 hxg5 24.Nxg5 Bxb5 25.Bxb5 axb5 26.Rc1 Qd7 27.Qd3 Rxc1+ 28.Bxc1 f5 29.exf6 gxf6 30.Qg6+ Kh8 31.Rg1 Bxd4 32.Nf7+ Qxf7 33.Qh6+ 1-0 Sevan,S (2698)-Kamsky,G (2641) Julius Baer Rapid Div 3 W Chess.com INT 2023 (3.3) ]

(Diagram)

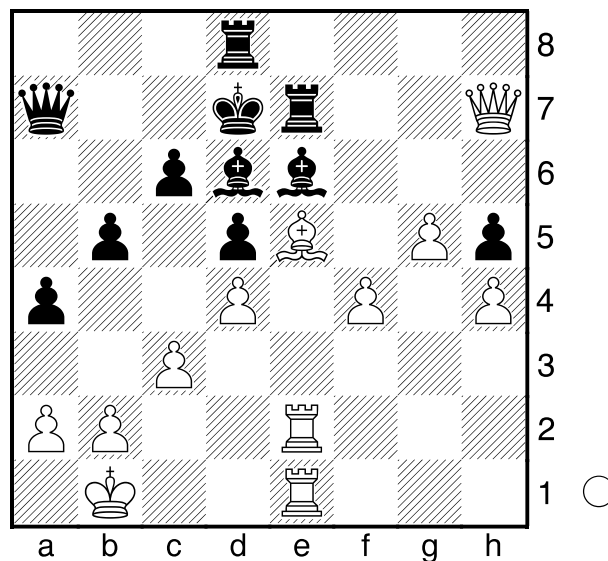


### 6...f6N

[Predecessor: 6...e6 7.h5 c5 8.f4 Qb6 9.Nf3 Bb5 10.Bxb5+ Qxb5 11.Na3 Qb6 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.b4 Be3 14.Qd3 Bxc1 15.Rxc1 a6 16.f5 Ne7 17.Rh2 exf5 18.gxf5 f6 19.Rg2 fxe5 20.Nxe5 0-0 21.Kd2 Rxf5 22.Rcg1 Rf2+ 23.Kc1 Rxc2 24.Rxc2 Qf6 25.Ng6 Nbc6 26.Nc2 Rd8 27.Nxe7+ Nxe7 28.Nd4 Rf8 29.Kb2 Kh8 30.Qg3 Nc6 31.Nf5 d4 32.cxd4 Nxd4 33.Qxg7+ Qxg7 34.Nxg7 Rg8 35.Rd2 Nf3 36.Rf2 0-1 Kotronias,V (2626)-David,A (2560) EU-chT (Men) 14th Plovdiv 2003 (8.1) ]

7.Bd3 Be6 8.Qe2 fxe5 9.Qxe5 Bf7 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Qe3 Ndf6 12.f3 e6 13.Nd2 Bd6 14.Be5 Bf8 15.Ne2 Qe7 16.Nb3 0-0-0 17.Nc5 Nd7 18.Nxd7 Qxd7 19.Nf4 Ne7 20.Qe2 h5 21.g5 Nf5 22.Ng2 Rg8 23.Ne3 g6 24.Nxf5 exf5 25.f4 Bd6 26.0-0-0 Rge8 27.Qc2 b5 28.Rhe1 a5 29.Kb1 Qa7 30.Re2 a4 31.Rde1 Kd7 32.Bxf5+ gxf5 33.Qxf5+ Be6 34.Qh7+ Re7

(Diagram)



### 35.Qxh5? =

[ 35.Bg7!! Kc8! 36.Rxe6 Rxc7 37.Qd3± and White's pawns are worth more than a bishop! ]

### 35...Bf5+ 36.Ka1 Rh7! 37.Qf3 Rxh4

### 38.Qf2?!

[ 38.Bf6= ]

[ 38.g6= ]

[ 38.Bxd6 Kxd6± ]

### 38...Rh7?!

[ 38...Rh3!± ]

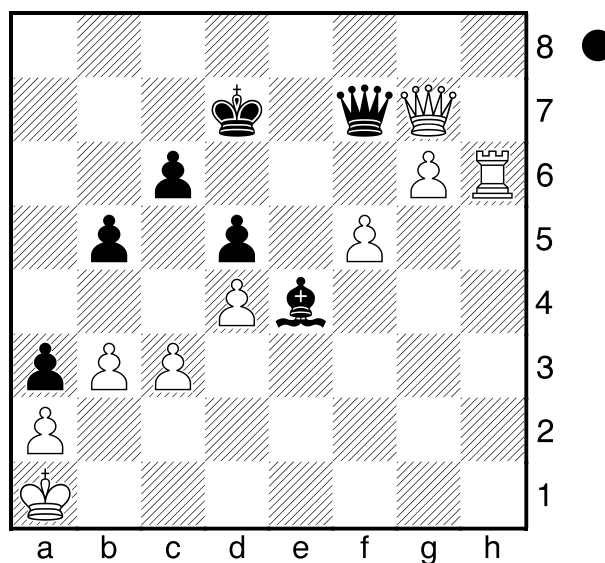
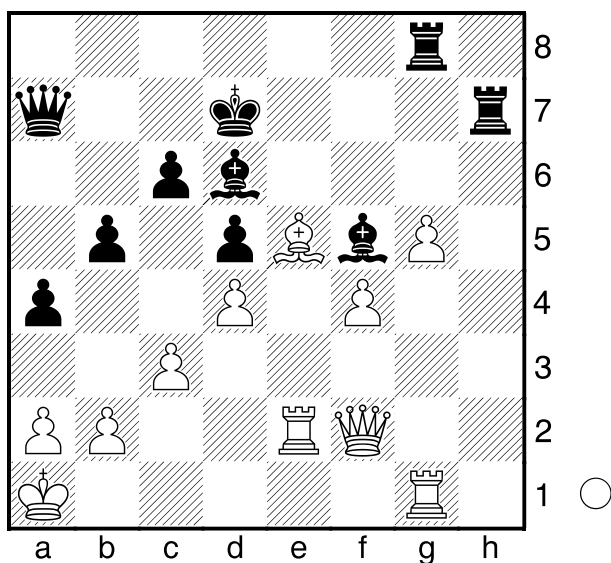
### 39.Rg1?

[ 39.Bxd6 Kxd6 40.g6 Bxc7

41.Re6+± ]

### 39...Rg8±

(Diagram)



The game now wobbles between drawn and winning for Black, at least half a dozen times, until the final "ultimate error..." **40.Ree1 a3 41.b3 Rg6 42.Rh1 Rf7 43.Rh2 Bxe5 44.Rxe5 Re6 45.Rxe6 Kxe6 46.Rh6+ Kd7 47.g6 Rg7 48.Qg3 Ke6 49.Qe3+ Be4 50.Qh3+ Kf6 51.Qh4+ Ke6 52.Qg5 Qe7 53.Qe5+ Kd7 54.f5 Qf7 55.Qxg7?**

[ 55.Qb8!= with a perpetual. ]

[ 55.Qxg7 The players might not have realized that \*Black\* is winning now! Qxg7 56.Rh7 and now the move they both missed at the board: Qe7!!-+ and Black stops the pawns! Note 57.f6 Qxh7 58.gxh7 Bxh7 ]

(Diagram)

I will note that if there is anyone who would take this with a good nature, it's Mike. I don't even know if he's seen it yet!  
**1-0**

## Richard Shorman Memorial Brilliancy Prize Winning Games

Notes by IM John Donaldson (unless otherwise indicated)

*We were excited to have seven submissions for the Shorman Brilliancy Award, made possible by the generous support of Kenn Fong. The winning prize was shared by Sivavishnu Srinivasan and Hayden Karkainen for each of their round 4 games. Additional submissions were received from Vedant Verma, Sarvagnya Brahmanapally, Rehaan Malhotra, Charles James, and Veera Nanugonda. We applaud all players for their brilliance!* - Alyssa Stone

Sicilian Richter Rauzer B67

**Sivavishnu Srinivasan (2029) - Jacob Chiang (2270)**

1st Richard Sherman Memorial San Francisco (4) 2024

I think this game should win because it shows how even a 2270 rated player can be in deep trouble when they forget the theory in an attacking line like the Richter-Rauzer. Black plays 9...Nxd4 when normally he plays this move earlier.

His position further deteriorates after 10...Be7, which is too passive. I punish it with 11.e5! breaking open the center before he can castle. He then falls into a trap after 14.Ne4 as Black's king can't escape with 14...0-0 (which he played) because of 15.c4! winning a piece in any variation or even more.

After this, things went downhill for me. On the 18th move, I meant to take on a4 and then play Qb2, but instead accidentally played Qb2 first, losing most of my advantage. Even after that, I should have played 21.Nd6!, then captured on f1, which would have at least given me a rook for a piece and a pawn. Then I tried to get an advantage with g4-g5.

This failed really badly as he got one rook to d2 and another to f2, pinning my knight. I thought I was going to lose my knight and lost all hope, but 28.Nd3!! would have saved it - I am still losing, but still have some chances. After that he converted his advantage to a win quite easily.

Sivavishnu Srinivasan

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 Nxd4?!**

9...Be7 10.Nf3 b5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 is a well-tested line that offers equal chances.

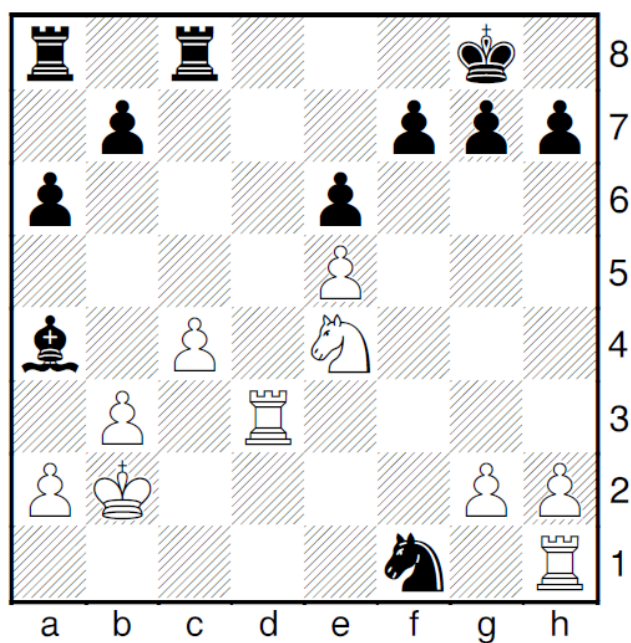
**10.Qxd4 Be7?**

10...Qc7 had to be played.

**11.e5! dxe5 12.fxe5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4!**

White has played wonderfully to this point and reached a winning position.

**14...0-0 15.c4 Rfc8 16.Kb1 Ba4 17.b3 Qa3 18.Qb2 Qxb2+ 19.Kxb2 Ne3 20.Rd3 Nxf1**



**21.bxa4?**

21.Nd6!! Bc6 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Rxf1 Bxg2 24.Rfd1 g6 25.Rd8+ wins.

**21...Rxc4 22.Nf2**

22.Nd6 Rf4 rescues the knight.

**22...Nxh2 23.Rxh2 Rxa4 24.Rdh3 h6 25.g4 Rd8 26.g5?**



26.Kb3 Rf4 27.Kc3 still offered equal chances.

**26...Rd2+ 27.Kb1 Rf4 28.gxh6?**

28.Nd3 Rf1+ 29.Nc1 Rxh2 30.Rxh2 hxg5 31.Kc2 offered chances to resist.

**28...Rfxf2 29.h7+ Kh8 30.Rh1 Rb2+ 31.Kc1 Rxa2 32.Kb1 Rfb2+ 33.Kc1 Rb5 34.Rh4 Ra1+ 0-1**

Benko Gambit E60

**Arvin Agrawal (1888) - Hayden Karkainen (2051)**

1st Richard Shorman Memorial (4) 2024

I'm submitting this game because I think it was interesting tactical battle which started with the opening. It switched from an intended Grunfeld to a Benko Gambit like position because of White's early h4.

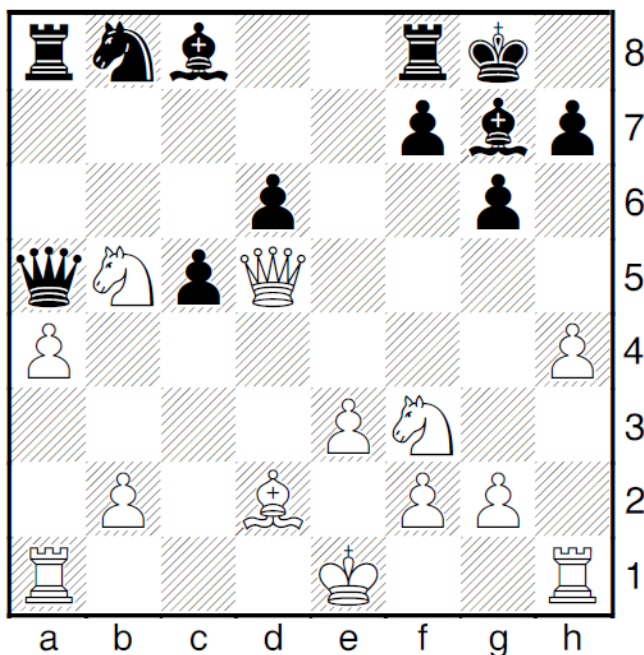
The concept of seeing the idea of ...Qxb5 after 10...axb5 showed some nice calculation. My ...Qxb5 was both a queen sacrifice and an exchange sac with the important move 15...Qd3.

Hayden Karkainen

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.h4 c5 4.d5 b5 5.cxb5 a6 6.e3 d6 7.a4 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Nf3 e6 10.Bc4**

10.h5 Nxh5 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.e4 Nf6 13.Ng5 Qe7 14.Be2 axb5 15.Nxb5 Nc6 16.Bf4 Rfd8 17.Bxd6 Qb7 18.Qc2 Rxd6 19.Nxd6 Nd4 20.Qd1 Qxb2 21.Nxe6 Nxe2 22.Rb1 Qe5 23.Nxg7 Nd4 24.Nb5 Rxa4 25.0-0 Kxg7 is a wild computer-generated line that ends with an equal position.

**10...axb5 11.Nxb5 exd5 12.Bxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Qa5+ 14.Bd2??**



14.Qd2 Nc6 15.0-0 was correct with equal chances.

**14...Qxb5!! 15.Qxa8**

15.axb5 Rxa1+ 16.Ke2 Rxh1 17.Qxd6 Bg4 and Black has way too much material for the queen.

**15...Qd3 16.Ng1**

16.Qxb8 Ba6 17.Qxf8+ Kxf8 18.0-0-0 Qb3 wins.

**16...Bxb2 17.Rc1 Ba6 18.Kd1 Bxc1 19.Kxc1 Qa3+ 20.Kd1 Qxa4+**

20...Qb3+ 21.Kc1 Bd3 was an alternative I saw after taking on a4. It wins faster, but taking the queen is equally game over - Karkainen.

**21.Kc1 Qa1+ 22.Kc2 Bd3+ 23.Kxd3 Qxa8 24.Nf3 Qa6+ 25.Kc2 Nc6 26.Rb1 Qa4+ 27.Kc1 Nb4 28.Bxb4 cxb4 29.Nd4 Rc8+ 30.Kd2 Qa2+ 31.Ke1 Qxb1+ 32.Ke2 b3 33.Nxb3 Qxb3 34.e4 Rc2+ 35.Ke1 Qb1 0-1**

[Richard Shorman](#) (1938-2023) was a legend as a stalwart member of the San Francisco Bay Area chess community. He was known for his tactical and aggressive approach to chess, which he developed and taught to thousands of past and current students. His impact went beyond chess lessons, as he also imparted valuable life lessons to his students. Richard's contributions to the chess community earned him numerous friends and admirers both within and outside the chess world.

Richard was an inspiring member of the Mechanics' Institute chess community and a [prolific chronicler of chess events](#) across the Bay Area and major contributor of photographs to most of the Northern California chess magazines.



## **Celebrating Judy Viertel**

### **Finalist for the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education**

Alex Robins

Our Chess Team would like to give a warm congratulations to Judy Viertel, Teacher/Librarian and Chess Coordinator at Marshall Elementary, for being a finalist for the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education. This annual award is given by Chess in the Schools, a nonprofit in New York that does fantastic work, you can find out more about them [here](#). Mr. Lerner, the award's namesake, seems like a swell guy, and established the award in the "hope that this award will highlight the invaluable work that chess educators are doing in underserved communities across the US." I can assure Mr. Lerner that awarding Judy Viertel as a finalist fits his vision perfectly.

I nominated Judy for this award in the previous cycle as the work she does with her students at Marshall Elementary is phenomenal and she really works to spread the joy of chess to students who may otherwise not have this opportunity. I'm glad to see that her work is being officially recognized and am proud to be associated with her!

In addition to being flown out and put up in New York City, Judy was also awarded \$2000 to split with an institution of her choice, which she has generously donated to our Scholastic Chess Program. Judy shared the honor of being a finalist for the award with former Chess Room Director Abel Talamantez, the Lerner Award committee clearly knows how to pick them!

Another big congratulations to Judy Viertel, we hope this is the first of many awards for her work proselytizing for the Royal Game!



*Judy Viertel receiving her Lerner award and with NM Bruce Pandofini*

## **I Play Chess. Chess Doesn't Play Me.**

Zorba Hughes

I play chess. Chess doesn't play me. I am meticulous when it comes to chess. I make people with OCD look like Oscar the Grouch. Why? Because I'm addicted to the game. Read bios on grandmasters like I'm producing a Ken Burns documentary. Study chess games like I'm taking the S.A.T. openings for white/black. Anything I can use to check my opponent like a ballot box.

Having said that, I make sure to take time out for life. Smell the roses. Enjoy the little moments. Although I walk around with a chess set in a chess bag slung over my shoulder like a mercenary prepared for battle, I realize there are more important things in life than chess (heaven forbid), like relationships.

I once played a Filipino guy in the park. His wife called him during our game. She was snapping like a turtle. I didn't understand the language, but I do know an angry woman when I hear it. Didn't bother him in the least. He hung up on her mid-sentence. Fellas: don't ever do that!! Come home and find out you've been replaced like double AA batteries by a guy named Armando Dela Vega.

I know you have passion for the game. Others may not get that. But keep your priorities in check (pun intended). Some people will think you're wasting time playing chess. Doing something irrelevant...like voting. Not everyone will get the sweet science of attacking a king/queen and rook with knight knowing the king must move and the queen shall be relieved of her duties like a soldier standing post. Or a smothered mate, fork, pin, the bishops from a distance keeping the king from escaping.

Only people who play enjoy things of that nature. Nonetheless, take a break. I knew I had to stop playing for awhile when I couldn't look at a checkerboard floor without thinking e4/d4 or the kings Indian opening for black. Some of my friends stopped talking to me because of my love for the game. When something overwhelms your very being, you may want to reevaluate that. Step back from it. Check yourself (again, pun intended). I'm not saying quit playing. That's never an option nor should it be. But remember: you play chess, chess doesn't play you.



## ***The Unknown Fischer***

IM John Donaldson

Bobby Fischer is on the short list of contenders vying for the title of the greatest chess player who ever lived, with Magnus Carlsen and Garry Kasparov his principal competitors. One can argue who should be the king, but there is one area where Bobby dominates his rivals – the number of books written about him.

Judging by the [list compiled by Edward Winter at his website](#) it's not close. Well over 100 books have been written on the 11th World Champion and the number continues to grow although Fischer's career effectively ended over 50 years ago. The latest book on Bobby, *The Unknown Fischer* (Everyman Chess, 2024, 384 pages, paperback, figurine algebraic, \$29.95), is International Master Cyrus Lakdawala's second book on the American World Champion, following his 2015 work *Fischer: Move by Move*.

Fischer wrote two books on his games. The first, *Bobby Fischer's Games of Chess*, is a slim volume that was published early in his career and the only annotated games are from the 1957/58 U.S. Championship and his win over Donald Byrne in the so-called Game of the Century played in the 1956 Rosenwald Trophy tournament. That book was published in 1959 and ten years later Bobby produced his magnum opus, *My 60 Memorable Games*, which brought his career up to the end of 1967. Sadly, Fischer never wrote about the period in the early 1970s when he climbed the mountain and became World Champion.

Books on Fischer's games tend to be of two types. The first are giant tomes that aim to present all his games. Among the titles in this category are *The Games of Robert J. Fischer* by Wade and O'Connell and *Bobby Fischer: Complete Games of the World Chess Champion* by Lou Hays. These books did the heavy lifting of assembling all known Fischer games. A three volume languageless work edited by a team of Russian Grandmasters published in 1992 and *Bobby Fischer: The Career and Complete Games of the American World Chess Champion* by Karsten Mueller provide not only Fischer's games, but many with annotations.

The second type of book, not as encyclopedic in scope, examines Fischer games not covered in *My 60 Memorable Games*. This approach got a boost with Andy Soltis' *Bobby Fischer Rediscovered*. It is in this group that Lakdawala's two books on Bobby belong.

Fischer's active playing career was primarily between 1955 and 1972 during which time he played roughly 800 tournament games. This modest number by today's standards

can be attributed to many fewer events being held in the 1950s to 1970s and Bobby taking a break from competition several times during his career.

These points are mentioned because the number of games Lakdawala had to choose from for his latest book is smaller than one might initially suspect. The introduction to *The Unknown Fischer* (not to be confused with this reviewer and Eric Tangborn's 1999 work *The Unknown Bobby Fischer*) mentions the author's aim is to find fresh examples, not selecting from the same 150 games, classics from the Fischer canon, that tend to appear again and again.

The good news for Lakdawala was that Fischer made few short draws in his career, the bad news was that until the summer of 1956 he was not a rated master. Generally speaking, until Fischer won his first U.S. Championship a year and a half later, Bobby was not yet Bobby and his play was understandably inconsistent.

Taking this into account an alternate title for this book could potentially have been the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, with an emphasis on the latter two. Fortunately, that is not the case. Lakdawala has done an excellent job of selecting 81 interesting games and game fragments, most of which will be new for all but the most ardent Fischer fan.

All of the games are carefully annotated in the author's engaging style which combines first rate instruction with humor. While there are no new Fischer games (they are lesser known, not unknown), Lakdawala in some cases has fresh information to offer about Bobby's opponents. This is particularly true about those he faced in his 1964 exhibition in Montreal, the city where the author started his chess career.

Fischer has been called the first professional chess player by no less than Garry Kasparov and his approach to the game is still felt today. One example was his aversion to draws, even when playing Black. Fischer played until there were only kings left, plugging away in equal endgames that his contemporaries dismissed as drawn. If one wants to see a direct similarity between Bobby and Magnus check out Szabo-Fischer, Buenos Aires 1970 (game 26), where Fischer wins two rooks and a knight versus two rooks and a bishop with 4 pawns apiece on the kingside. Another example of their being kindred spirits is Yanofsky-Fischer, Stockholm (Interzonal) 1962 (game 39), a 112-move marathon where Bobby wins rook, knight, and three pawns on the kingside versus rook, bishop, and two kingside pawns. Fischer could grind! Magnus has been quoted as saying he would happily play an extra two hours if it increased his chances of winning by two percent. He and Bobby would have been in total agreement.

Not all the games in *The Unknown Fischer* are so technical. Lakdawala includes several games from Fischer's 1964 exhibition tour around North America including the miniature Fischer-Rouse, Chicago 1964 (game 40), where Bobby uses an improved Fried Liver Attack to win a miniature: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.d4 exd4? 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nxf7! Kxf7 9.Qf3+ (9.Qh5+ as seen in Larry Parr-Moks, Seattle U.S. Open 1966 is equally good) Ke6 10.Re1+ Ne5 11.Bf4 Bf6 12.Nc3! and the end was in sight.

Invariably in a work of this length a few technical errors are bound to creep in. The first of these can be blamed on Mega Database 2024. It is an indispensable resource but occasionally falls short when it comes to small details.

Game 48 in *The Unknown Bobby Fischer* is from a simultaneous exhibition in Houston and gives Fischer's opponent as J. N. Jacobs. This is very likely a reference to John N. Jacobs of Dallas who was born in 1951 and developed into a strong master in the 1970s. It's conceivable his parents drove him the 300 miles from Dallas to the exhibition in Houston and he played Bobby as a 13-year-old, but not likely.

*Bobby Fischer: Complete Games of the American World Chess Champion* by Lou Hays provides a more plausible explanation. It was not J.N. Jacobs but S. Jacobs who faced Bobby. Hays obtained Fischer-Jacobs and other Houston exhibition games scores from the late Billy Patteson in the early 1990s. Patteson, who played in the exhibition and preserved the games from it, was known for his attention to detail thanks to a series of booklets on Bobby Fischer he edited for *Chess Digest* in the 1970s.

This is one other good reason for believing S. Jacobs and not J.N. Jacobs played Bobby. S. Jacobs of Texas (rated 1716) appears on the US Chess Federation's fall rating list that appeared in the October 1964 issue of *Chess Life* and the name of J.N. Jacobs is nowhere to be found. The evidence, while not 100 percent conclusive, strongly suggests S. Jacobs was Bobby's opponent.

The game Bandal-Fischer, Manila 1967 (page 119) is given as having been played in a simul, but this is definitely not the case. Instead, it was played one on one, part of an event called "Beat Bobby Fischer".

As Jimmy Adams writes in the June 1980 issue of the *British Chess Magazine*:

"These games - previously unpublished in the West - were played directly after Bobby's victory in the strong Monte Carlo tournament of 1967. Fischer had flown on from the French Riviera thousands of miles to the Philippines, in anticipation of competing in an

international tournament in Manila. However, the failure of grandmasters Boris Ivkov and Arturo Pomar to arrive gave the sponsors an alternative brainwave to hold a "Beat Bobby Fischer" contest instead. This was a series of individual games, mostly held under proper international match conditions with a time limit of 40 moves in 2.5 hours, in which Bobby would face some of the best Filipino players. This fascinating event was staged and sponsored by Meralco, the Manila Electric Company....."

These two technicalities are small potatoes but Bobby's performance in game 19 of his 1992 rematch with Boris Spassky (game 37) deserves a little more explanation than is given in *The Unknown Fischer*. Bobby played the first part of this game brilliantly but then collapsed, failing to convert a queen and pawn endgame two pawns up. Lakdawala praises Bobby's creativity early on but then, like most other commentators, attributes Fischer's running out of gas to his age. While it is true Fischer was 49 there is another consideration to factor in.

The 1992 match between Spassky and Fischer was the first major chess event to use an increment time control and they were guinea pigs. Today, game in 90 minutes plus 30 seconds a move increment from the start is the standard time control. Sometimes an extra 30 minutes are given to both sides at move 40. Games normally last no more than four hours with five hours being a long one. Exceptionally long games lasting over 100 moves will go six hours, but this is very rare.

Prior to the use of the increment clock, the introduction of which was essential with the evolution of ever stronger chess engines, high level chess was played at a time control of 40 moves in 2 ½ hours. This was the time control Bobby and Boris used in 1972. It was not what they used in 1992. The time control for the rematch was:

- Each player starts with 110 minutes
- After each move 1 minute is added
- After move 40, 40 minutes are added
- After move 60, 30 minutes are added
- After move 80, 20 minutes are added

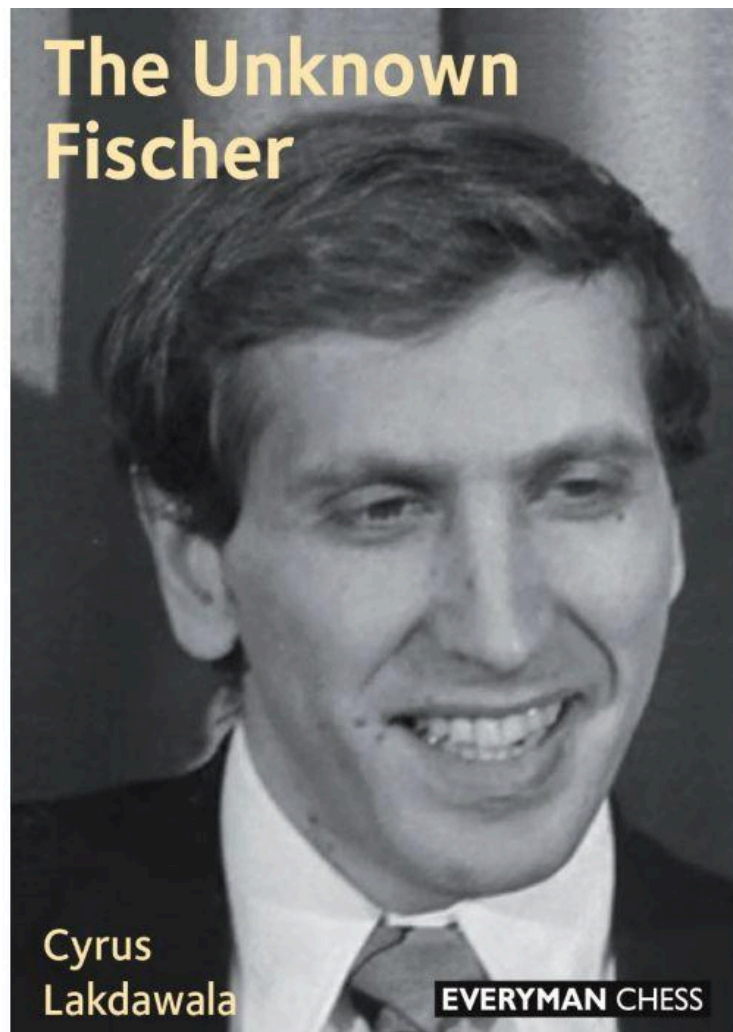
This meant that each player had 150 minutes, or two-and-half hours, for the first 40 moves. A 60-move game would give each player three-and-a-half hours each; an 80-move game four hours and twenty minutes apiece.

Fischer and Spassky played games that were 84, 80, 68, 67, 61, 59, 58, 54, 50, and 50 moves long. Game 19, which appears in *The Unknown Bobby Fischer*, went almost nine hours!

By comparison Garry Kasparov, who retired at forty-one, never came close to playing a game as long as the ones Boris and Bobby, nor did all of the World Champions who came before him. Their maximum time spent in one sitting would have been no more than 5 ½ hours.

No one would claim Fischer and Spassky played better in 1992 than they did twenty years earlier, but the time control they played with should be factored in when evaluating the quality of their play. Bobby was not tired at the end of game 19 - he was totally exhausted. Top grandmasters today would be as well.

Serious Fischer's fans who want to expand their knowledge of his games beyond the well-known classics will find *The Unknown Fischer* a fascinating read.





## Chess Chatter

*With the departure of Paul Whitehead, The Chess Scuttlebutt has been renamed and rebranded, but not reconceptualized. Check out below for links to some of the chess news that makes up our world. - Alex Robins & Alyssa Stone*

The New York Times chronicles Gukesh's win at the Candidates Tournament in an article, [The Next Winner of the World Chess Championship Could Be the Youngest Ever](#).

Dommaraju Gukesh was also trained in a new and increasingly rare way: [unplugged](#).

While elsewhere, [FIDE's Call For World Championship Bids Sparks Reactions](#).

[Daniel Dardha wins the Sardinia World Chess Festival](#) - which we screened in the chess room. Who wants to visit beautiful Sardinia?! We think a chess team retreat is in order!

Coming to the silver screen: Emma Stone and Nathan Fielder partner with A24 for Ben Mezrich's Carlsen-Niemann Chess Scandal Story as reported in numerous sources including [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [Variety](#), and more.

Chess tables each costing £2,500 have been [installed in parks](#) across the North West in England as part of the government's leveling up investment program. If anyone is visiting England soon, please let us know how the tables are working out.

Carlsen, Nakamura, Anand, and Amin set for an [epic showdown in Casablanca](#), playing positions from historic games. They've missed an opportunity to invite Shankland, "play it again Sam!"

Controversial League of Legends streamer Tyler1 crosses 1900 on chess.com and explains how chess makes him [a better father](#).

Business Insider's journey into the heart of darkness of contemporary chess starts with [losing to kids at our favorite chess club \(ours\)](#).

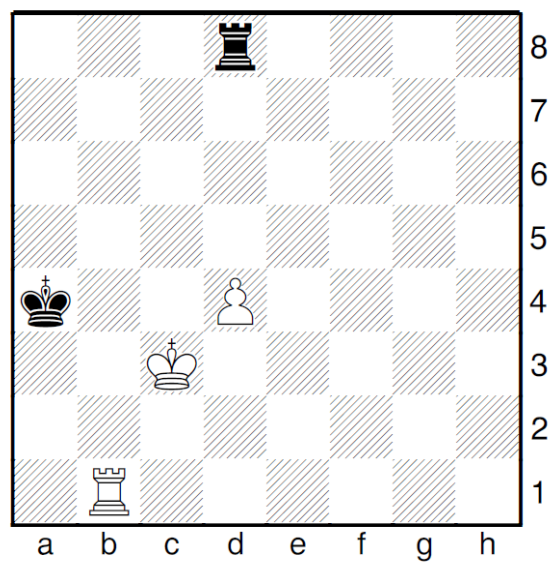
Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, and our other politicians duke it out at a [congressional tournament](#). Maybe next year they opt for a congressional tightrope race over a volcano.

Nakamura Pushes [Bullet Brawl Earnings](#) Over \$10,000.

## Tony's Teasers

Tony Lama

This month's teaser comes from Irving Chernev and picked by the teaser master himself, Tony! White to play and win.



## 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.



## 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 \(milibrary.org\)](#)

## Solutions

For Tony's Teaser: **Chernev, 1961. 1. d5!, Rxd5** if 1...Ka5 2.Kc4 wins **2. Kc4** and there's no way to save the rook and prevent Ra1#

For the Puzzle in the Library:

Continuation but probably losing. See 1st round of chess  
 (-1) **Wilson Wong v. Karl Kingma** Ruth Haring memorial  
 TNM Aug 1, 2023  
 Annotated by Wilson Wong



**10...Rxe3!!** (ecw to the end): The only move, but winning. **11.Kxe3 Bc2!!**  
 Not the only move, but definitely the best. **12.Qd2**  
 [ 12.Qxc2 Qxd4+ 13.Ke2 Re8+ (Better even than 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Re8+ which is very much winning as well.) 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.fxe4 Rxe4+ 16.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 17.Kf2 Bc5+ 18.Kg3 Nd4 mate soon. ]  
**12...Ng4+!!** And again: the only move to put the point away. **13.fxg4 Qg5+!**  
**14.Kf3 Qxd2 15.Nge2 Re8**  
 0-1



## Upcoming Events



# Scholastic Summer Chess Camps

Spend your summer playing chess with Mechanics' Institute!



Mechanics' Institute holds Scholastic Chess Camps throughout June, July, and August for different grade groups.

Camps are an opportunity for youth 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. 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.

Summer Camp sessions include:

- June 10-14 for Grades 1-12
- June 24-28 for Grades K-5
- July 8-12 for Grades 6-12
- July 22-26 for Grades 1-12
- July 29-August 2 for Grades K-5
- August 5-9 for Grades 6-12
- August 12-16 Grades 1-12

*\*Please double check grade group when registering.*

Camps run from 9:30 am-3:30 pm. Full-day and half-day (pro-rated) camps available.

Cost: Member \$550; Non-Member \$675



**Learn more and enroll at [milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess](https://milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess)  
Questions? Call 415-393-0110 or email [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)**

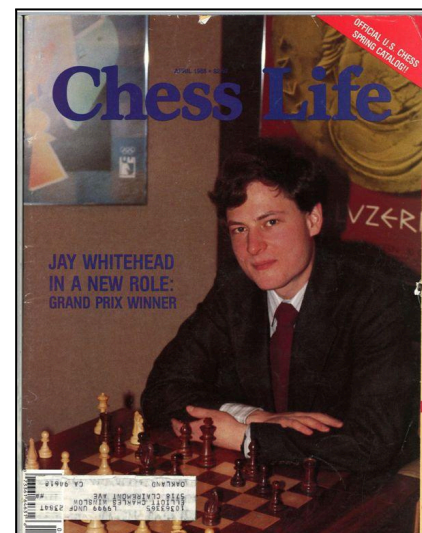




# Tournaments in May

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

<b>2nd Ray Conway Memorial</b> Saturday, May 4 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>Summer Tuesday Night Marathon</b> Tuesdays, May 7-June 18 6:30 pm   7 rounds   G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>18th Brandwein/Schutt/Whitehead Memorial Blitz</b> Saturday, May 11 2:00 pm   6 rounds DSS   G/4+2	All \$15
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, May 18 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, May 18 3:00 pm   3 rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40



Photos left to right: Steve Brandwein, Ray Schutt, and Jay Whitehead



# Tournaments in June

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

<b>Summer Tuesday Night Marathon</b> Tuesdays, May 7-June 18 6:30 pm   7 rounds   G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>1st Mike Goodall Memorial</b> Saturday, June 1 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>Scholastic Bughouse Tournament</b> Monday, June 3 4:00 pm   4 rounds DSS   G/5;d0	Individuals \$20 Teams of Two \$35
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, June 15 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, June 15 3:00 pm   3 rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>58th Arthur Stamer Memorial (FIDE)</b> Saturday-Sunday, June 22-23 10:00 am & 2:00 pm   4 rounds   G/90+30	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>Summer Celebration Blitz</b> Tuesday, June 25 7:00 pm   5 rounds DSS   G/3+2	Members \$20 Non-Members \$30
<b>Thursday Night Rapid</b> Thursday, June 27 7:00 pm   4 rounds rolling schedule   G/15+2inc	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>23rd Henry Gross Memorial</b> Saturday, June 29 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50



Arthur Stamer (left) was the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1951-1964.  
Henry Gross (center) was California State Champion in 1952.  
Charles Bagby (right) was a Board Trustee of Mechanics' Institute.



# Tournaments in July

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

<b>1st Jeremy Silman Tuesday Night Marathon</b> Tuesdays, July 9-August 20 6:30 pm   7 rounds   G/90+30	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>Simultaneous Exhibition with GM Sam Shankland</b> During Open House on Saturday, July 13 12:00 pm   Limited boards!	All \$65 per board
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, July 20 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, July 20 3:00 pm   3 rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>Thursday Night Rapid</b> Thursday, July 25 7:00 pm   4 rounds rolling schedule   G/15+2inc	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>23rd Max Wilkerson Memorial (FIDE)</b> Saturday-Sunday, July 27-28 10:00 am & 2:00 pm   4 rounds   G/90+30	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100



Jeremy Silman (photo by James F. Perry)



Max Wilkerson is in the back row on left (photo: unknown)  
 Wilkerson was the Chess Room Director from 1980-1996.





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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)

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