



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Chess Room Newsletter



GM Sam Shankland crushes a 26-board simul!!

Issue #1054 | September 28th, 2024 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Christian Brickhouse

The Mechanics' Chess Club wrapped up a busy October with the 52nd Capps Memorial Tournament, a 2-day FIDE rated tournament honoring Bay Area writer and chess Master Carroll Capps. In the top section, MI Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2397) and **CM Pranav Senthilkumar** (2167) were tied going into the second day with 2 points each. The pair faced-off to start the second day and drew their head-to-head match leaving the result up to their 4th round performance. While Senthilkumar's draw kept him undefeated, it left him a half-point behind Cremisi who took first with his final round win. In the second and third sections, **Robert Crompton** (1767) and **Varad Yatin Korde** (1486) took the top spots with perfect scores.

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Scott Mason.

The Fall Fast Blitz at the end of the month had a strong field with 4 NMs, 2 FMs, and 2 IMs contesting the top section. **IM Mark Heimann** (2552) and **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2396) split the top prize with 6 points each, 1.5 points above the triplet tied for third place.

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Scott Mason.

Earlier in the month we celebrated National Chess Day with a bunch of events including two tournaments. The Blitz Tournament saw a tight race for the top between **IM Ladia Jirasek** (2433) and **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2396) who ultimately tied for first on points. After dropping the first round, Cremisi fought back to face the undefeated Jirasek in round 5, delivering Jirasek his only loss of the night. The two went on to win their final rounds, finishing with 6 points, a full point clear of third place **Jay Kumar** (2017).

In the Scholastic Tournament earlier that day, **Adam Tennant** (1190) won the open section with a perfect score while **Abhi Arun Kumar** (967) took clear second with 2.5 points. The remaining trophies were given based on tie breaks using head-to-head record and strength of schedule. **Kepler McTiernan** (1094), **Anders Soli** (665), and **Jacob Gould** (678) took home the third, fourth, and fifth place prizes respectively. It was a strong tournament, and we look forward to seeing everyone again!

These tournaments were directed by Senior TD Scott Mason and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

The Fall Tuesday Night Marathon ended with **NM Jimmy Heiserman** (2303), **NM Alexander Markovits** (2210), and **Anthony Ivanenko** (1976) tying for first in the 2000+

section, the largest tie for the top prize since Spring 2023. **Adam Mercado** (1806) won the second section, edging out **Phineas Horowitz** (1649) whose final round draw left him a half-point shy of the lead spot. The third section top prize was taken home by **Sohan Zaveri** (1465) who was half a point ahead of the twin runners-up. And last but not least, laurels for the under-1200 section were shared by **Andrew Singer** (947) and **John Pirone** (900) whose efforts climbing the rating ladder are paying off!

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Scott Mason.

For the Monthly Scholastic Swiss tournament, **Gautham Gurujal** (829) took home first in the over-600 section with a perfect 4 points. **Bailey Shapiro** (922) and **Arjun Patil** (979) both finished with 3 points, but the silver went to Shapiro based on the head-to-head win over Patil in the 3rd round. **Sicheng Ao** (1002) took 4th on a clear 2.5 points, and **Milan Patel** (1097) took 5th.

In the under-600 section, **Raymond Liu** (493) took first with a perfect score. Second, third, and fourth went to **Linus Dow** (unr.), **Jaylan Patel** (569), and **Anna Bogdanova** (unr.) respectively, with order determined by tie breaks. Fifth place was taken home by **Josh Kyauk** (500) who edged out **Wesley Lau** (unr.) on tie breaks. Another strong tournament, and we look forward to seeing your chess skills develop!

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Rounding out our coverage the 2nd Alan Benson Memorial Tournament was held October 5th to honor the memory of the local master and tournament organizer. Among his credits, Benson helped organize the early Capps memorial tournaments and the Berkeley People's Chess Tournament. In the top section, **NM Richard Yi** (2314) took the top spot with a perfect score, a clear point ahead of the 3-way tie for second. The second section was won by the pair of **Philip Johnson** (1950) and **Mikhail Molodyk** (1920) who tied on 3.5/4. **Jimmy Sanchez** (1220), a regular of our scholastic and quads tournaments, pulled off a major upset in the third section winning outright on 3.5 points despite coming in as the 2nd lowest rated player in the section. Impressive! The under-1200 section was won by **Matthew Ong** (693) whose two wins and no losses put him above the rest of the field.

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

In addition to the above tournaments we also ran our monthly Quads, and results can be found [here](#).



Above: A strong Fast Fall blitz at the top with Board 1 (foreground) IM Elliott Winslow vs IM Mark Heimann and Board 2 NM Daniel Cremisi vs Sivavishnu Srinivasan!

My First Chess Conference

Alex Robins

Last weekend I had the honor of attending the first ever Chess Conference held by the St. Louis Chess Club! First, I'd like to thank the organizers for putting on such a wonderful event. It was a great opportunity to learn from and meet chess organizers from around the world. Stay tuned for some programs coming out of this! Second, I'd like to share some photos with our readers with some of the chess stars that I got to meet. My apologies in advance for the poor quality of my photos.



Me with GM Judit Polgar



Ok even Hikaru said that's not a great picture of you when I took it.



GM Yasser Seirawan is just as nice in person as on TV!



My Great Predecessors: Judit Sztaray, myself, Andrew Schley, and Abel Talamantez

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](#).

Bambou, Christophe **C02**
2109

Heiserman, Jimmy **2303**
 2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 01.10.2024
[Winslow, Elliott]

A great demonstration by Christophe Bambou of why he is dangerous. Heiserman never quite seemed to establish balance. Very nice. **1.e4** 5:35
e6 19 **2.d4** 18 **d5** 6 **3.e5** 23 **c5** 10 **4.c3**
 6 **Nc6** 8 **5.Nf3** 4 **Bd7** 10 **6.Be2** 17 **f6**
 22 **7.0-0** 36 **fxe5** 22 **8.Nxe5** 23 **Nxe5**
 10 **9.dxe5** 3 **Qc7** 57 **10.Re1** 13

The new trend. **10...0-0-0** 5:11

C02: French: Advance Variation.

11.Nd2!? 1:05 This whole system for White isn't about pawns; it's about the initiative. **11...Ne7** 10:02

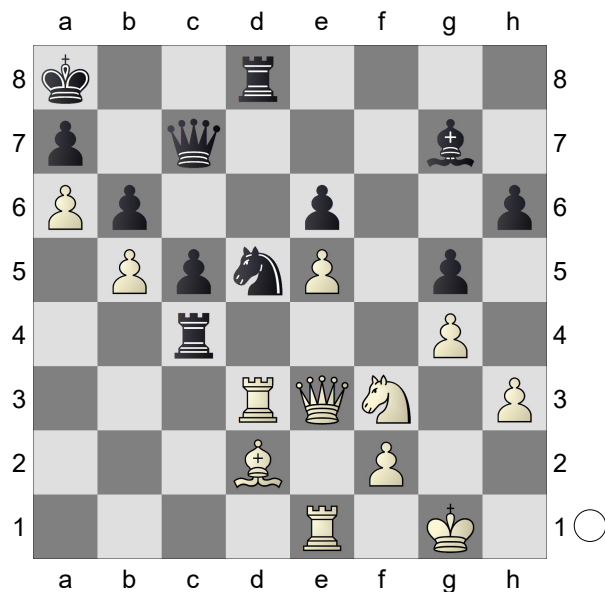
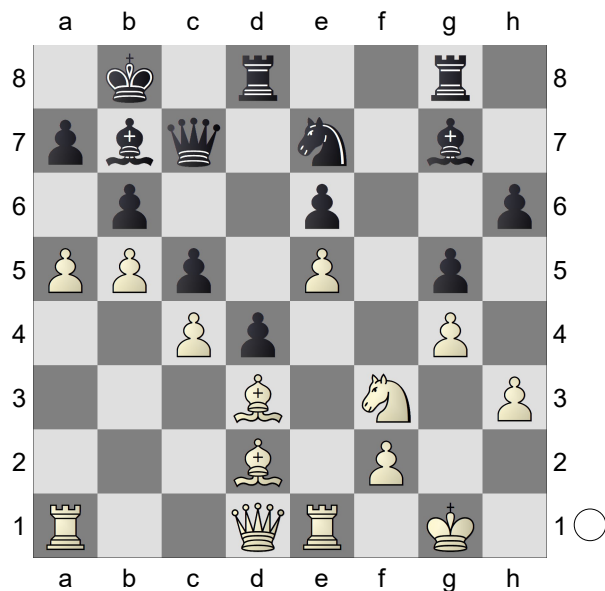
[**11...Qxe5?** **12.Nf3±** **Qd6** **13.g3!?**
 (**13.b4!?**; **13.Ng5!?** **Nh6** **14.Bf3**)
 [**11...Nh6** **12.Nf3** **Nf7** **13.Bg5!?**]

12.Nf3± 42 h6 29 Dodges Ng5. White is slightly better.

[Here's a game just a few months ago by the Indian superstar featured on the cover of the current New In Chess ("Inner calm takes 'Madman of Chess' to world #4"): **12...Nf5!?** **13.Ng5** **Kb8**
14.Bd3 **g6** **15.Bd2** **Bc8** **16.Nf3** **h6**
17.b4 **g5** **18.h3** **Rg8** **19.g4** **d4**
20.c4 **Ne7** **21.b5** (Does it look like White is doing fine?) **b6** **22.a4** **Bb7**
23.a5 **Bg7**

(Diagram)

A) Stockfish strongly favors **24.a6!±** when the b7-square will be a constant danger once White trades off the light squared bishops: **Ba8** **25.Qe2** **Rgf8** **26.Be4** (**26.Nh2!?** **Rf7** **27.f4!?**) **26...d3!?** **27.Qe3** **Rf4** **28.Bxa8** **Kxa8** **29.Ra3** **Rxc4** **30.Rxd3** **Nd5**

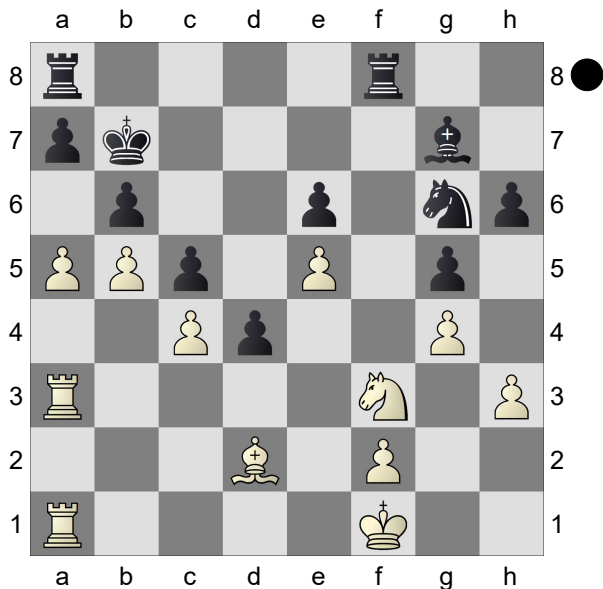


31.Rxd5! **Rxd5** **32.Qb3** **Qf7**
33.Kg2! White recovers the exchange with still a significant pull.;

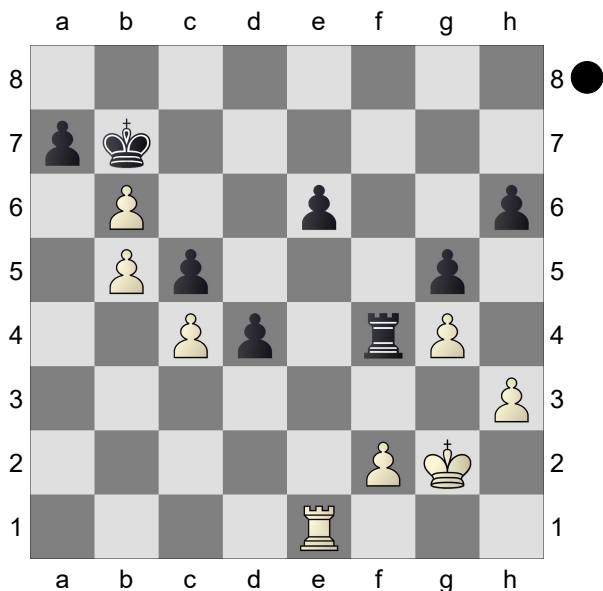
B) **24.Qe2?! Rdf8** Yes, that rook
25.Be4 Bxe4 **26.Qxe4 Qb7!**
27.Qxb7+?! (27.Nh2 Qxe4±)
27...Kxb7 **28.Ra3 Ng6** It slides in
 Black's favor. **29.Kg2 Ra8!?**
30.Kf1 Rgf8 **31.Rea1**

(Diagram)

Rxf3!-+ 32.Rxf3 Nxe5 33.Kg2!
Nxf3 (33...a6!/-+) 34.Kxf3 Rf8+



35.Kg2 Be5 36.Re1? (36.axb6
axb6 37.Re1 36...Bf4 37.Bxf4
Rxf4 38.axb6



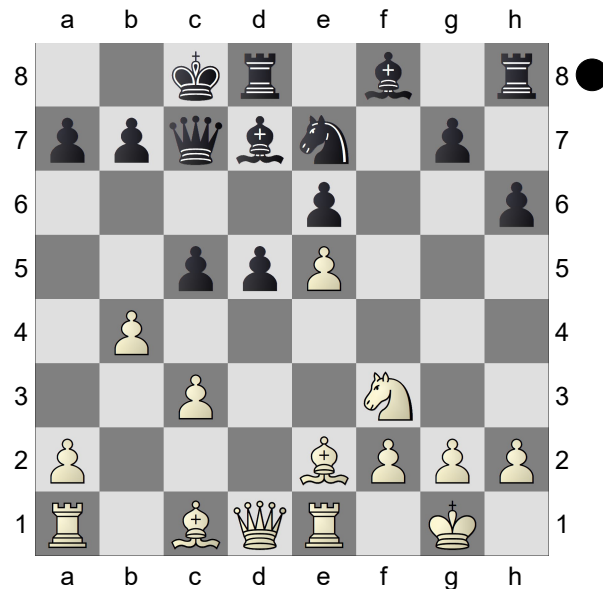
Kxb6! 39.Rxe6+ Ka5 40.Ra6+
Kb4 41.Rxa7 Kxc4 42.b6 Rf6
43.Ra6 Rf8 44.b7 Rb8 45.Rb6 d3
46.Kf1 Kc3 0-1 Petrosyan,M
(2618)-Erigaisi,A (2762) Sharjah
Masters 7th 2024 (4)]

13.b4!? 1:41

(Diagram)

g5?!N 9:13

[13...Nc6± 14.Rb1 Nxe5 15.Nxe5

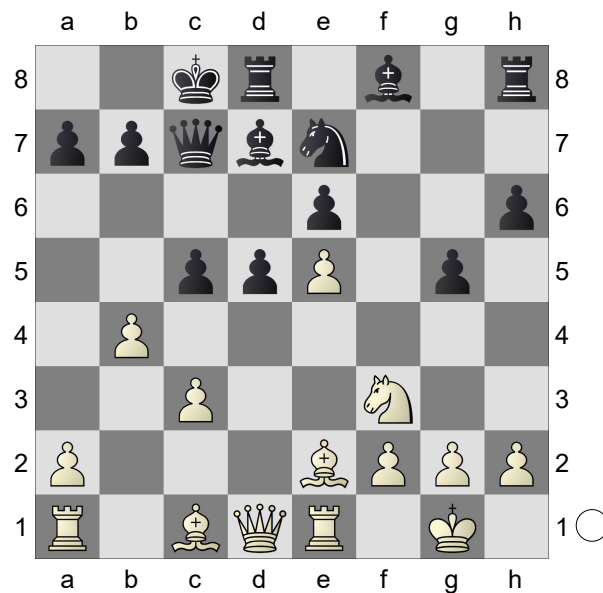


Qxe5 16.Bg4

A) 16...Qf6 17.Be3 h5 18.Bf3
Bd6 19.c4! (19.bxc5 Bc7 20.c4)
19...cxb4 (19...Bc6 20.b5)
20.cxd5 exd5 21.Rc1+ (21.Bxa7)
21...Bc6 22.Qa4;

B) 16...Qc7 17.Bxe6 Bxe6
18.Rxe6 Qd7]

[Predecessor: 13...Nc6 14.bxc5 Bxc5
15.Bf4? (15.Bf1=) 15...g5 16.Bg3
h5 17.Nxg5 h4 18.Bf4 Rdf8 19.Nh3
Nxe5 20.Bxe5 Qxe5 0-1 (59) Lucas,
A (2323)-Kuhn,C (2350) FRA-chT Top
16 GpB Chartres 2024 (7.23)]



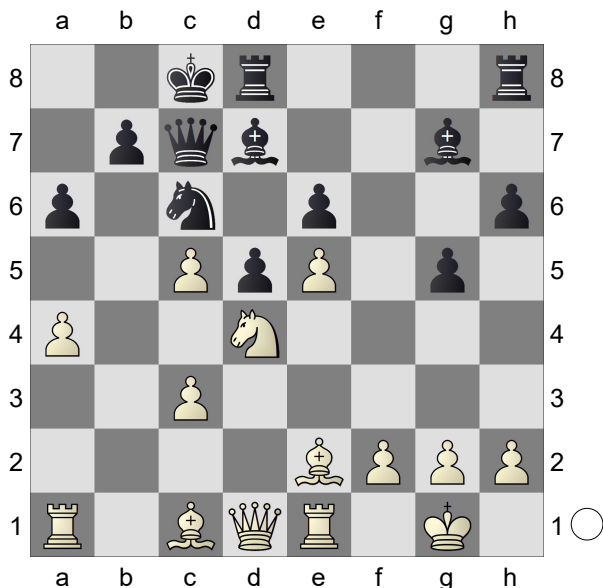
14.bxc5!± 1:43 Bg7?! 8:16

[14...Nc6± might work better.]

15.a4+- 4:55 Nc6 23:03 16.Nd4 7:19

a6 3:09

[16...Bxe5 17.Nb5! (17.g3? Bxd4 18.cxd4 e5) 17...Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 Qb8 19.Be3±]



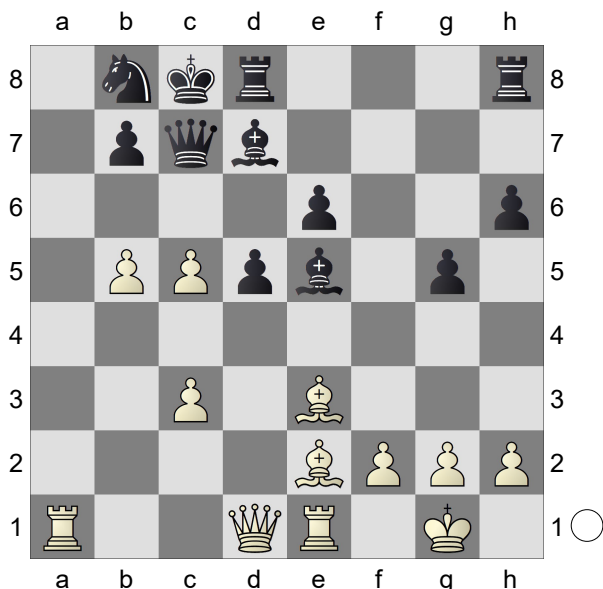
Prevents Nb5. **17.Nb5! 2:33**

[Even better: 17.Bb5!]

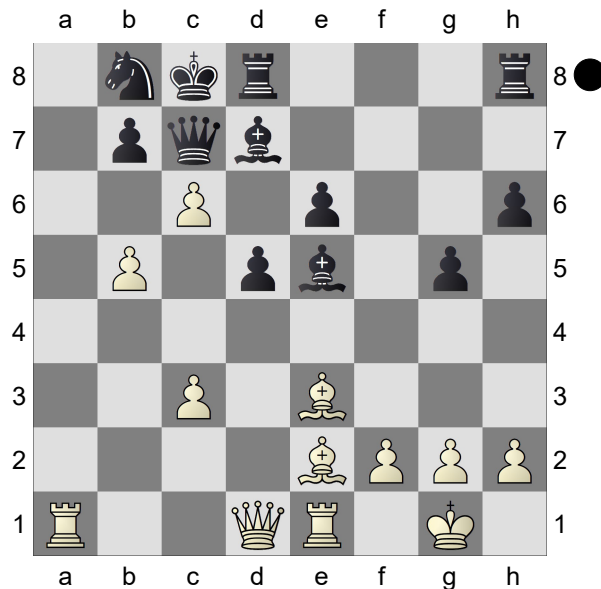
17...axb5 27 18.axb5 2 Nb8 17

19.Be3+- 7:36 Bxe5 52

[19...Qxe5 20.Bd4]



20.c6! 13:30



Bxc6 14:33

[20...bxc6 21.b6 Qd6 22.Ra5 Bxh2+ 23.Kh1+-]

[20...Bxh2+ 21.Kh1 Bxc6 (21...bxc6 22.b6±) 22.bxc6 Nxc6 23.Bg4+- (23.g3 Bxg3 24.fxg3 Qxg3 25.Bg1+-)]

21.bxc6 43 Nxc6 43

[21...Bxc3? 22.cxb7+ Kd7

A) 23.Rc1 Qa5+- 24.Rxc3 (24.Bb5+);

B) 23.Bb5+ Nc6 24.Ra6 Bxe1 25.Bxc6+ Qxc6 26.Rxc6 Kxc6 27.Qxe1+-]

[21...Bxh2+ 22.Kh1 Nxc6 23.Bg4 (23.g3 Bxg3 24.fxg3 Qxg3+-)]

22.Qb3 2:47 Qf7?! 2:37

[22...Bxh2+ is a better defense.

23.Kh1 (23.Kf1) 23...Be5 24.Bb6]

23.Ra8+ 6:56 Bb8 1:27 24.Bb6 4:18

Rde8 3:54 25.Bb5 3:35 Qd7 1:38

26.Qa3 15:39 Prevents Qd6. **26...Qe7**

1:56 **27.Bc5 37** This pair of bishops is nice. **27...Qc7 4:36 28.Bd6 9 Qb6 7**

29.Bxc6 4:21 Qxc6 16 Black is weak on the dark squares **30.Rxb8+ 13 Kd7 3**

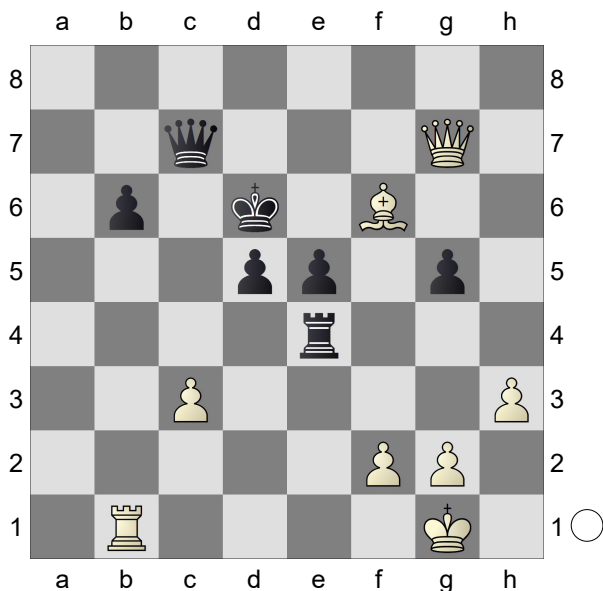
31.Rxe8 23 Rxe8 6 32.Be5 18 Rc8 37

33.Qb4 2:01 Ra8 25 34.Rb1 26 b6 35

35.h3 11

[35.Qxb6? is the wrong capture.

Qxb6 36.Rf1 g4-+]
35...Ra4 1:04 **36.Qf8** 1:01 **Re4** 12
37.Bf6 58 **Qc7** 53 Repels Qd8+
38.Qxh6 1:29 **e5** 1:23 **39.Qg7+** 1:04
Kd6 19

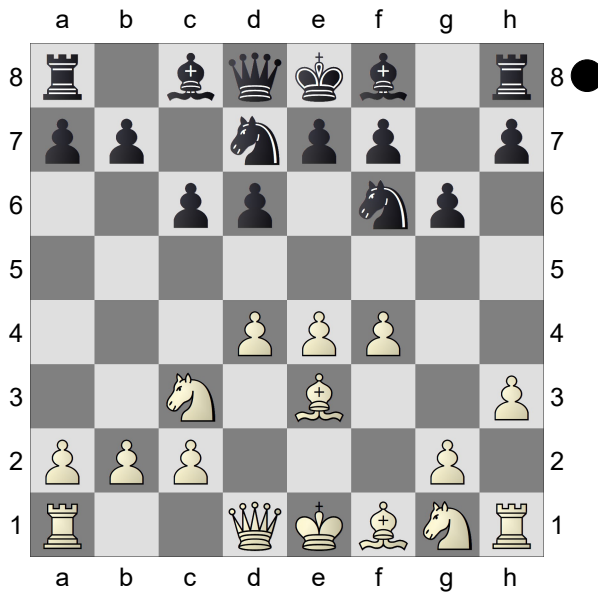


40.Be7+! 2:35 **Kc6** 58
 [40...Kd7 41.Bxg5+]
41.Qxg5 23 **Kb7** 14 **42.Bd8** 35 **Qxc3**
 32 **43.Qe7+** 1:13 **Kc8** 51 **44.Bxb6** 17
Re1+ 21 **45.Rxe1** 7 **Qxe1+** 5 **46.Kh2** 3
Qc3 21 Inhibits Qc7+. **47.Qc5+** 10
 Superbly played by Bambou!
1-0

B07
 □ **Markovits,Alexander** **2210**
 ■ **Winslow,Elliott** **2201**
 2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 01.10.2024
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Markovits played an interesting sharp attacking line, catching me off guard. Or rather, unprepared. There are a lot of lines I haven't studied intensely, thinking "Oh, I'll muddle through." Not this time!
1.e4 5 **d6** 37 **2.d4** 9 **Nf6** 43 **3.Nc3** 11
g6 5 **4.Be3** 41 **c6** 57 **5.h3** 1:09
 First time I'd seen this over the board!
 But I knew it was a significant line (and

now I know why). **5...Nbd7** 5:18 **6.f4** 1:16



About time someone played this against (and thus encouraged me to maybe learn something about it!) **6...b5** 30
 Marin: "I had played 6...b5 many times until I faced..."

[6...e5 was Marin's move in his Everyman Series book on the Pirc; "Black's problems in the above game were caused by the weakness of the b5-pawn, so he should keep ...b5 in reserve and start with the central plan. " Moskalenko gave a line or two he thought improved for White.]
 [6...Bg7!? was Moskalenko's move in his "Perfect Pirc-Modern, 10 Years After" quite a few years later, but he's one of those obstinate sorts who ignore computer evaluations of their favorite openings (think Kotronias vs. everyone else on the King's Indian, which one might believe to be unsound). It's all still up in the air to me.]

7.a3!± 53 I always feel when I see this that my opponent is slouching -- here Stockfish 17 says "best" by a lot!

[A distant 2nd is 7.Bd3 b4 8.Nce2 c5 with some little plus number, hardly

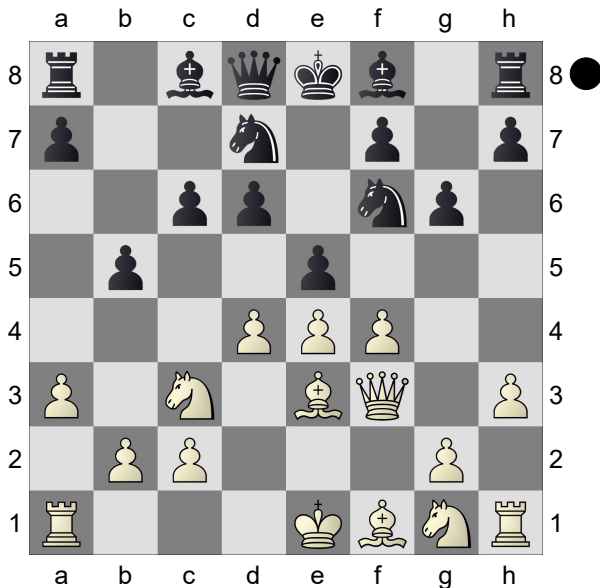
enough to call it \pm even.]

7...e5 5:15 Now, the computers all love this. (but not by enough to like the position overall...) **8.Qf3** 0.26/26 12:25

[8.Nf3 \pm Qe7 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.d5 "in Fressinet-Marin, Andorra 2004, which I lost quickly. Many hours of analysis have revealed a paradox: White can control Black's counterplay with two apparently modest pawn moves, h2-h3 and a2-a3!" (Marin)]

[8.Qd2 \pm 0.77/27]

[8.fxe5 dxe5 9.Nf3 \pm]



An unusual move that threw me for a loop. Normal development seems to be out the window for both sides! **8...a6?!N** 1.14/24 16:02

[Predecessor: 8...Bb7 0.89/25

A) 9.Rd1 -0.41/27

A1) 9...Qe7 0.17/26 10.dxe5= dxe5 11.f5 b4 1.20/25

(11...0-0-0!= 0.17/24) 12.axb4 \pm Qxb4 13.Bd2 h5 1.34/24

(\triangle 13...0-0-0 0.80/24) 14.fxg6 \pm fxg6 0-1 (46) Plachetka,J (2389)-

Skoberne,J (2471) Mitropa Cup 28th Rogaska Slatina 2009 (8)

15.Nb5 Qxe4+ 16.Qxe4 Nxe4

17.Nc7+ Ke7 18.Nxa8 Nxd2

19.Rxd2 Bh6 20.Rf2 Rxa8

21.Bd3 c5 22.Bxg6 Rg8

23.Bxh5 Nf6 24.Bg4 Ne4

25.Rf5 Bd2+ 26.Kd1 Bf4

27.Rxf4 exf4 28.Ke1 Ng3

29.Rh2 Be4 30.Ne2 Nxe2

31.Kxe2 Rb8 32.Bf3 Bh7

33.Kd2 Rxb2 34.Bd1 a5 35.h4

f3 36.gxf3 a4 37.Rg2 Kf6

38.Rg4 a3 39.Kc1 Rb4

40.Rxb4 cxb4 41.Be2 Ke5

42.Bd3 Bxd3 43.cxd3 b3 44.h5

Kd4 45.h6 Kc3 46.f4

0-1 Plachetka,J (2389)-Skoberne,

J (2471) Mitropa Cup 28th

Rogaska Slatina 2009 (8);

A2) Black should try 9...exd4 \bar{f}

-0.41/27 10.Bxd4 Qe7;

B) 9.0-0-0 Qe7 10.g4 h6 11.Rh2

a5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.g5 Nh5

14.Nxb5 cxb5 15.Bxb5 Bc8

16.Rhd2 exf4 17.e5 Rb8 18.Rxd7

Bxd7 19.Bxd7+ Qxd7 20.Rxd7

Kxd7 21.Qd5+ Kc7 22.Qxf7+ Kc8

23.e6 1-0 Fogarasi,T (2429)-

Burnett,R (2437) Budapest FS02

GM 2000 (6);

C) 9.dxe5 \pm 0.89/25 9...dxe5

10.Rd1]

[8...Be7! \pm 0.26/26 is coming out best on a lot of computers, with a nominal disadvantage. In fact, there are quite a few moves with that sort of eval. My move was not one of them.]

9.0-0-0 \pm 10:17

(Diagram)

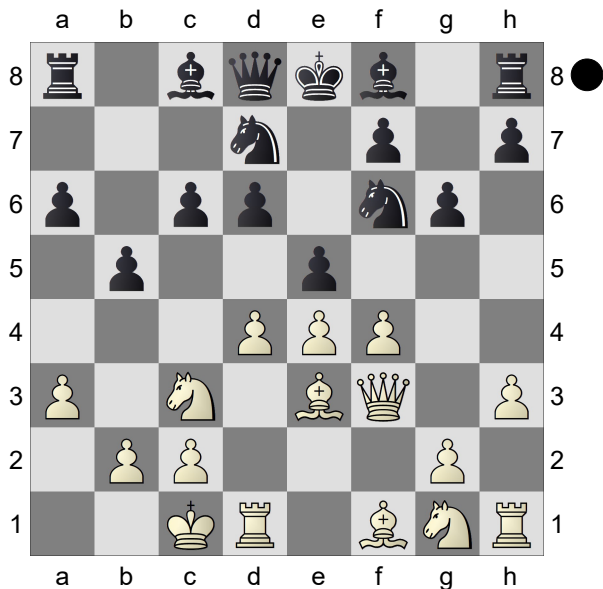
The numbers have jumped to around a pawn. **9...Qe7** 1.47/22 3:58 Worse and worse.

[Better is 9...exf4

A) 10.Bxf4?! Nh5 (10...Bb7 \pm)

11.Be3 Qf6 (11...Be7!?));

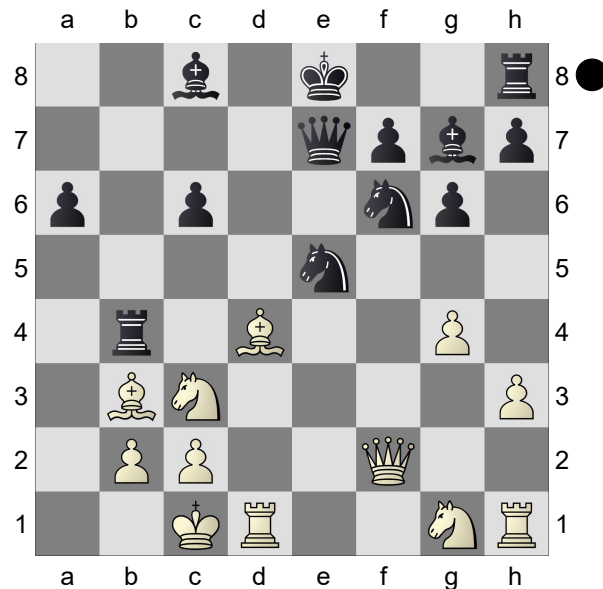
B) 10.Qxf4 Qe7 1.57/24



($\Delta 10...a5$ 0.76/24)]
 [$\Delta 9...exf4$ 0.85/28 10.Qxf4 (10.Bxf4 Bb7 \pm) 10...Qe7]
10.g4!± 9:09 **b4?** 2.32/23 7:56
 [10...exd4 \pm 1.38/25 was worth a try.
 11.Bxd4 Bg7]
11.axb4+- 2:35 **Rb8** 1:04 **12.Bc4** 29:37
 [12.g5?! Nh5 \pm]
12...Rxb4 3:59 **13.Bb3?!** 1.36/29 24
 [13.Ba2+- 1.95/29]
13...exd4± 7:24 **14.Bxd4** 8:16 **Bg7** 4:08
15.e5? 0.09/28 8:38 White is more active.
 [15.Qe3 \pm 0.99/26]
15...dxe5= 50 **16.fxe5** 59
 [16.Qxc6? -5.03/26 Bb7-+]
 [16.Qxc6? Bb7-+]
16...Nxe5 3:53 **17.Qf2** -0.24/36 14:36
 [$\Delta 17.Qe3$ 0.13/28 Nfd7 (17...Rxd4?
 18.Qxd4 \pm)]
 [17.Qg3 Nfd7 18.Nf3 Nxf3 19.Bxg7
 Qe3+ 20.Kb1 Nd2+ 21.Rxd2 Qxg3
 22.Bxh8=]

(Diagram)

17...Nfd7? 1.57/31 5:10 Inhibits Bc5, but
 [I had to venture out with 17...Nfxg4 ;
 18.hxg4 Nxg4 19.Qf4 Be5 20.Qe4

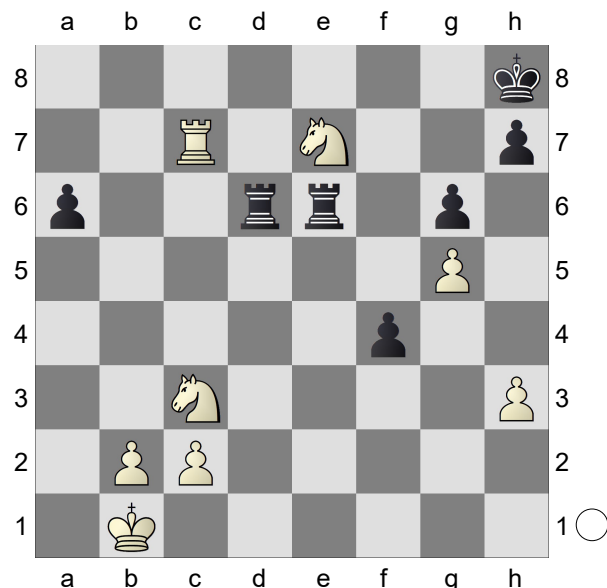


0-0 21.Rd2! Bb7!±]
 [17...Nexg4= -0.24/36 18.hxg4 Nxg4
 is the same]
18.Nf3± 2:57 White has strong
 compensation. **18...0-0** 2:29 **19.Rhe1**
 1:14 **Kh8?** 4.03/26 2:43
 [19...a5 2.12/23 19...Rxd4 1.63
 20.Kb1 Rxd4 21.Qxd4 Nxf3
 22.Qxg7+ Kxg7 23.Rxe7 Nde5
 24.Ne2+-]
 [$\Delta 19...Rxd4$ 1.93/31 20.Qxd4
 (20.Rxd4 Qf6 $\bar{=}$) 20...Qf6]
20.Kb1? 1.33/30 1:58
 [20.Nxe5+- 4.03/26 is the precise
 move to win. Bxe5 21.Rxe5 Nxe5
 22.Bc5 Qg5+ 23.Kb1]
20...f6 1.72/25 3:47
 [20...Rxd4 \pm 1.33/30 was called for.
 21.Qxd4 (21.Rxd4 Qf6=) 21...h6]
21.Qg3+- 4:20 **Re8** 3.02/22 3:11
 [$\Delta 21...h6$ 22.Nh4 1.36/27
 (White should play 22.Na2+- 1.78/29)
 22...Kh7]
22.g5 3:08 **f5?** 7.87/33 3:25
 [22...fxg5 23.Na2 1.13/28
 (23.Nxg5+- 2.74/28 and White stays
 clearly on top. aiming for Nf7+! Rf8
 24.Ne6) 23...Rxd4 \pm 24.Nxd4 h6
 1.84/31 (24...Nc5 \pm 1.45/26)]
23.Bxe5 2:31 **Nxe5** 4:25

24.Rxe5! 3.10/30 6 **Bxe5** 1:00
25.Qxe5+ 41 **Qxe5** 6 **26.Nxe5** 11 **Be6?**
 3.43/26 1:06
 [Stronger than 26...Rxe5? #3/27
 27.Rd8+]
 [Δ 26...f4 2.08/30 27.Nxc6 Rb6]
27.Nxc6 1:01 A dynamic duo of knights.
 Excellent horsemanship. **27...Rb6** 1:08
28.Bxe6 4 **Rxe6** 8 **29.Rd8+** 27 **Kg7** 4
30.Rd7+ 12 **Kh8?** 5.19/26 56
 [30...Kf8 2.49/27 keeps fighting.]
31.Ne7 29
 [Δ 31.Nd8]
31...Rbd6 43 **32.Rc7** 1.18/28 17
 [32.Rxd6+- 2.77/26 is more deadly.
 Rxd6 33.Kc1]
32...f4? 3.72/23 32
 [32...Re5 \pm 1.18/28]

(Diagram)

Loses the game. **33.Ned5!** 42 **h6** 1:45
34.h4 29
 [Less strong is 34.Nxf4 Re1+ 35.Ka2
 hxg5+-]
 [Not 34.gxh6 2.18/27 34.h4 3.75
 g5±]
 [34.Rc8+ Kg7 35.gxh6+ Kxh6
 36.Nxf4 Rc6+-]



34...hxg5 41 35.hxg5 2 Kg8 1:15
36.Nxf4 16 Re5 27 37.Nd3 1 Rxg5 6
38.Ne4 7 Rg1+ 4 39.Ka2 1 Re6 1:14
40.Ndc5 1 Rb6 15 41.Nd7 5 Re6 11
42.Ndf6+ 7 Kf8 6 43.Nh7+ 20 Ke8 5
44.Nhf6+ 2 Kd8? 5.44/24 23
[Δ44...Kf8 3.60/25 45.Ra7 Re1]
45.Rd7+ 1 Kc8 5 46.Nd6+ 6 Kb8 12
47.Nfe4 9 Rd1 30 48.Rb7+! 3 Ka8 5
49.Rb6 4 Ka7 11.42/27 16
[Δ49...Rd4 4.34/30 50.Rxa6+ Kb8]
50.Nc8+ 3 Ka8 7 51.Rxe6 1 Kb8 15
52.Nb6 4 Re1 15 53.Nc5 8 Rg1 18
54.Re7 2 g5 10 55.Rb7# 1 Weighted
Error Value: White=0.44/Black=0.57.
1-0

☐ **Lewis, Edward** **B90**
1976
☒ **Qi, Jenny** **1957**
 2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 01.10.2024
[Winslow, Elliott]

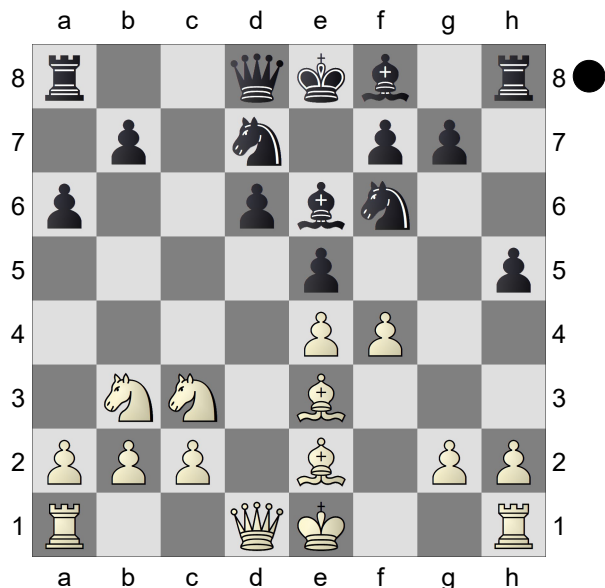
If I didn't know any better, I'd say Ed has played here a "normal" game! The opening is mainstream, the queens came off early, White won on technique. Where is the Lewiserator? This just means he's more dangerous than

previous. 1.e4 39 c5 6 2.Nf3 18 d6 5
3.d4 9 cxd4 6 4.Nxd4 2 Nf6 8 5.Nc3
19 a6 5 6.f3 15 e5 25 7.Nb3 3 Be6 12
8.Be3 3 h5 14 9.Be2 28 Less common
than the two main moves

[9.Qd2]

[9.Nd5 and]

9...Nbd7 1:38 10.f4 3:00



exf4N 4:05 White did lose a tempo
moving this pawn twice; some theorists
consider the trade all but mandatory.
But Black does have options.

[Predecessor: 10...Rc8 11.f5 Bc4
12.Bxc4 Rxc4 13.Qd3 Qc8 14.0-0
Be7 15.h3 b5 16.a3 0-0 0-1 (61)
Sjugirov,S (2692)-Muradli,M (2561)
Sharjah Masters 7th 2024 (3)]

11.Bxf4 17 White is slightly better.

11...Ne5 1:43 12.Qd4 3:00 Nc6?!

1.24/22 11:49

[12...Be7± 0.39/27]

13.Qe3± 3:22 Be7 3:08 14.h3 44 Bxb3

15:12 15.axb3 1:04 d5 1.47/33 2:25

[15...Nb4 0.85/27 16.Qc1 Qb6]

16.exd5 6:21 White is more active.

16...Nxd5 46 17.Nxd5 19 Qxd5 17

18.Bc4 3:42 Qd4 9:50 19.Qxd4 3:34

Nxd4 6 20.0-0-0 7 Nc6 1.81/28 2:51

[20...Ne6± 1.34/30]

21.Rhe1 59 0-0 3.04/23 9:02

Black is weak on the light squares

[21...Rd8 1.81/29 was worth a try.

22.Bd5 Kf8]

22.Rd7+- 1:48 Bb4 4.48/27 11:12

[22...Bf6 2.93/29 was called for.

23.Rxb7 Na5]

23.c3 26 White is clearly winning.

23...b5 3:58 24.Bd5 1:26 Rac8 1:16

25.Kb1 26

[Weaker is 25.cxb4 Ne5+ 26.Kb1

Nxd7±]

25...Bc5 16:10 26.b4 1:38 Bf2 2:43

27.Rf1 1:00 Bh4 55 28.Bd6 55 Rcd8

6:09 29.Rxf7 15:18

[Less strong is 29.Bxc6 Rxd7

30.Bxf8 (30.Bxd7 Rd8±) 30...Rc7±]

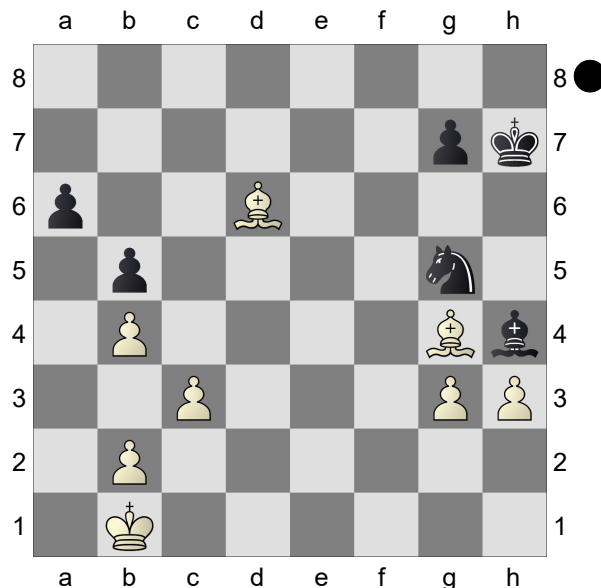
29...Rxf7 2:23 30.Bxf7+ 2 A strong pair

of Bishops. 30...Kh7 1:04 31.Rxd8 2:11

Nxd8 21 32.Bxh5 28 KBB-KBN

32...Ne6 15 33.Bg4 23 Ng5 23 34.g3

38



Trapped Piece 34...Nf7 32 35.Bc7 55

Bf6 12 36.Bc8 3 Ng5 1:39 37.Bf4

1-0

□ Srinivasan, Sivavishnu

■ Dasika, Archit

2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (5.5) 01.10.2024

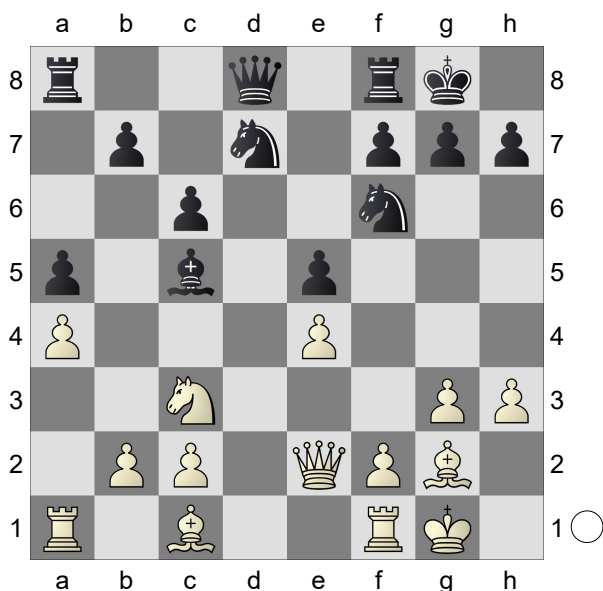
[Winslow, Elliott]

B11

2031

2241

An interesting case of the up-and-coming youngster showing more patience than the seasoned master. 1.e4 2.c6 8:28 2.Nf3 5 d5 7 3.Nc3 3 Bg4 8 4.h3 3 Bxf3 6 5.Qxf3 3 e6 10 6.g3 3 Nf6 16 7.Bg2 4 Bc5 22 8.0-0 14 Nbd7 14 9.d3 6 0-0 11 10.Qe2 3 dxe4 25 11.dxe4 11 e5 7 12.a4 4 a5± 53



13.Nb1 8 Qe7 4:05 14.Nd2 32 Rfe8 1:57 15.Nb3 59

[15.h4!/?]

15...Bb6 33 16.Rd1 3:22 Nf8 2:59

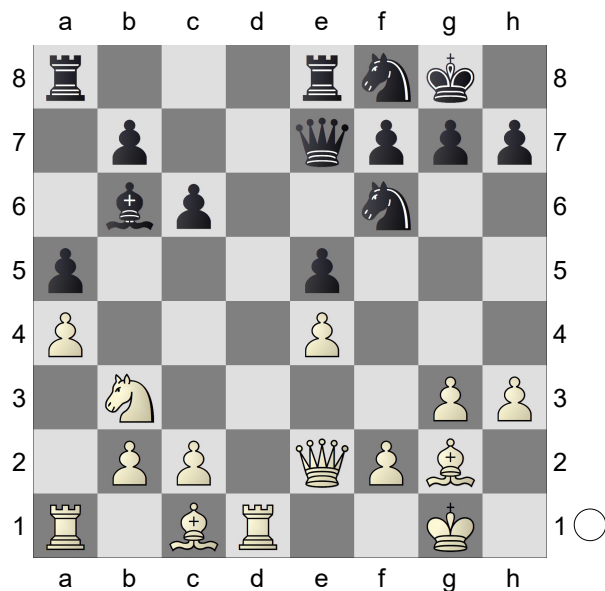
(Diagram)

17.c3 2:40 A sort of provocation, which Dasika accepts -- e6 is for the knight, not the queen. 17...Qe6 3:05 18.Nd2 4:07 Rad8 56

[18...N8d7!/?]

19.Nf1?! 2:51

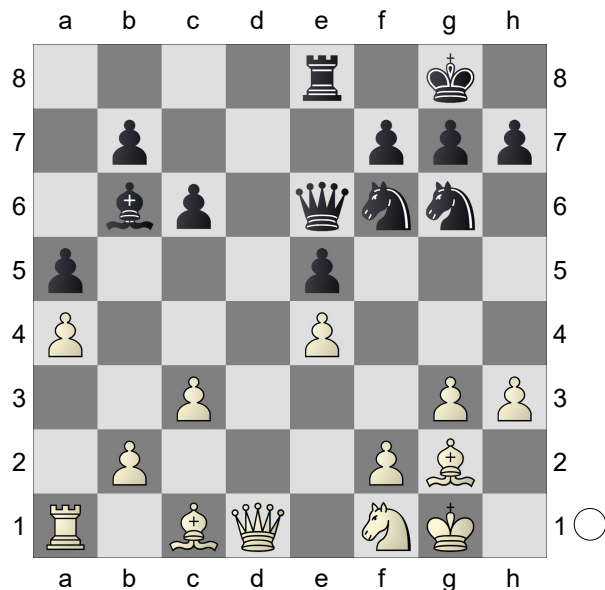
[19.Re1! Rd7 20.Nc4 Bc7 21.Be3 Red8 22.b4! Rd3 23.Nb6!± strives to get something, anything



going on the queenside.]

19...Rxd1 6:06 20.Qxd1 8 Ng6?! 37

[20...h5 is full equality.]



21.Ra3?! 6:43 Now *this* is convoluted.

21...Rd8?! 9:45

[21...Bc5 22.Rb3?! (22.Ra1 h5=) 22...b5! 23.Be3! Be7!±]

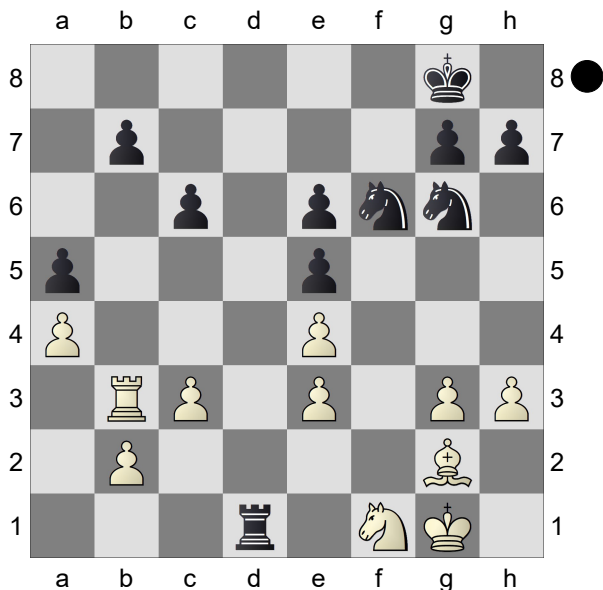
22.Qb3!± 2:20 Bc5 1:14

[22...Qxb3 23.Rxb3 Nd7± 24.Ne3 (or 24.Nd2; but 24.Be3?! Bxe3 25.Nxe3 Nc5= is quite nothing.)]

23.Qxe6 7 fxe6 4 24.Rb3?!= 2:13

[24.Ra1! Rd1 25.Bf3 Re1 26.Kg2± Nd7! 27.Nd2 Be7! 28.h4 Ngf8 29.b3

Nc5 30.Bb2 Rxa1 31.Bxa1±
and it's Black suffering softly.]
24...Rd1 26 25.Be3! 6:30 Bxe3 25
26.fxe3 10
[26.Bf3!?]



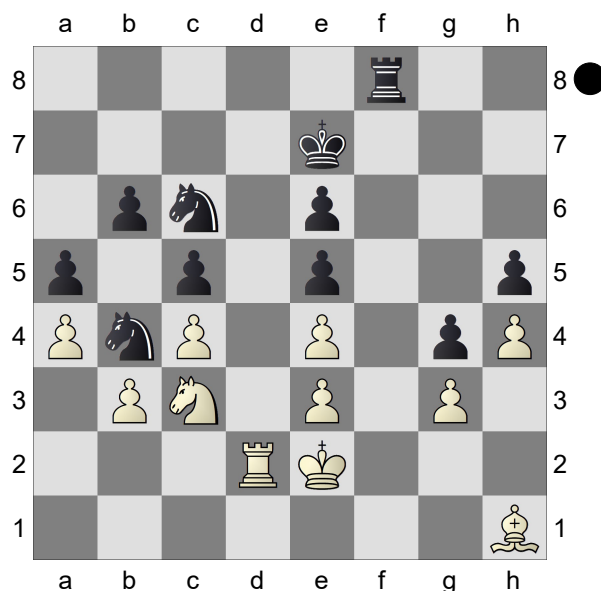
A remarkable position in its own weird way. White's bishop and rook are hardly radiating power. But especially remarkable is that Sivavishnu *wins* this ending... **26...Rd7 14 27.Kf2 7:35 Ne7 1:19 28.Ke2 2:15 Nc8 37**

[28...Rc7 29.Nd2 Nd7±]
29.Nd2 2:13 Nd6 56 30.c4 4:26 c5 1:53 31.Rd3 10:27 A trapdoor to the center! **31...Kf8 1:12 32.b3?! 2:32**

[32.g4 locks up dead equality. Perhaps.]
32...Ke7 1:06 33.Bf3 3:11 h5?! 2:16
[33...Rc7]
[33...Rd8]

34.Bg2 3:51 g5 28 35.Bh1 1:28
Deadlock! **35...Rd8 21 36.Rc3 3:24 Rf8 1:46 37.Rc1 50 g4 2:03 38.h4 30 Nd7 34 39.Rf1 1:12 Rd8 7 40.Rc1 8 Nb8 17 41.Rd1 3:40 Nc6 7 42.Nb1 17 Nb4 45 43.Nc3 13 Rf8 20 44.Bg2 2:52 Nc8 3:39 45.Rf1 2:38 Rg8 1:05 46.Rd1 45 Na7 30 47.Rd2 47 Rf8 57 48.Bh1 25 Nac6 2:04 49.Bg2 17 b6 2:41 50.Bh1**

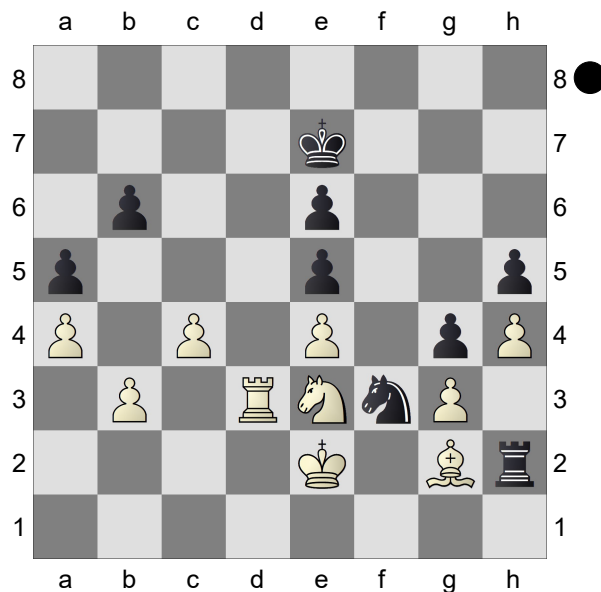
36



Archit is a very patient player most of the time -- but here he cracks! Perhaps he overlooked something. **50...Nd4+?**

7:46 51.exd4 1:46 cxd4 6 52.Nd1± 1:33 d3+? 35 53.Ke3!+- 42

[53.Ke1?? Nc2+]
53...Rf1 15 54.Bg2 41 Nc2+ 4:16 55.Kxd3 18 Ne1+ 34 56.Ke2 2:00 Rg1 17 57.Bf1 6:41 Nf3 36 58.Rd3 2:02 Rh1 2:27 59.Ne3 5:06 Rh2+ 6:34 60.Bg2 1:43

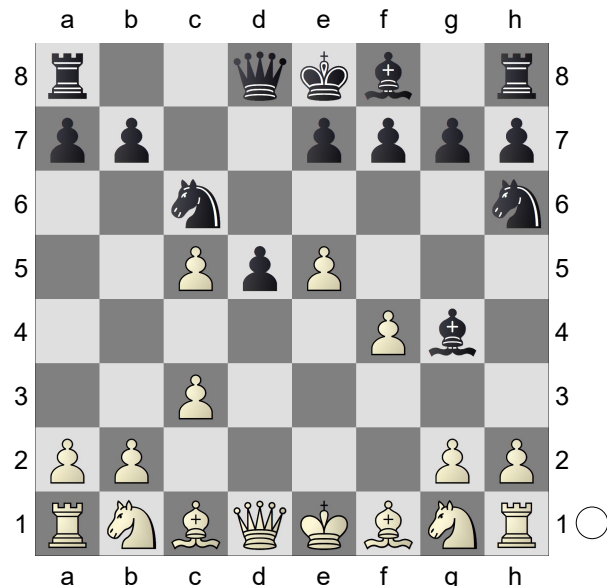


Enough already. The rook is doomed.
60...Nd4+ 4:02 61.Kf1 1:10 Nf3 11 62.Rd1 9 Nxh4 1:15 63.gxh4 6 Rxh4 7

64.Kf2 16 g3+ 39 65.Kxg3 13 Rf4 5
 66.Rf1 15 ... or traded. 66...h4+ 14
 67.Kh3 8 Kd6 22 68.Rxf4 22 exf4 5
 69.Nc2 5
 1-0

□ Ivanenko,Anthony B12
 1976
 ■ Bambou,Christophe 2109
 2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 08.10.2024
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 2 c6 9:28 2.d4 13 d5 6 3.e5 5
 [3.Nc3]
 [3.Nd2]
 [3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 (4.c4)]
 3...c5 12
 [3...Bf5]
 4.dxc5 7
 [4.Nf3]
 [4.c4!?]
 4...Nc6 4
 [4...e6]
 5.f4!? 16
 [5.Nf3]
 [5.Bb5]
 [And then there's the best-scoring (but
 not in this game): 5.a3 e6 6.b4?!
 (6.Nf3!) 6...a5 7.b5 (7.Nd2 axb4
 8.Nb3 bxa3 7) 7...Nxe5 8.Bb2 Nd7
 9.c6 Nc5 10.Nf3 Nf6 11.cxb7 Bxb7
 12.Bd3 Bd6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Re1 Re8
 15.Nbd2 Nfe4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Nc4
 Bc7 18.Nfe5 f6 19.Nc6 Bxc6
 20.bxc6 Ra6 21.Qh5 Rxc6
 22.Re3?!-+ 0-1 (44) Dubov,D (2701)-
 Predke,A (2685) CrunchLab Masters
 PlayIn Chess.com INT rapid 2024 (5)]
 5...Nh6 13
 [5...e6]
 [5...Bf5]
 6.c3± 1:14 Bg4 47
 [6...e6!?]



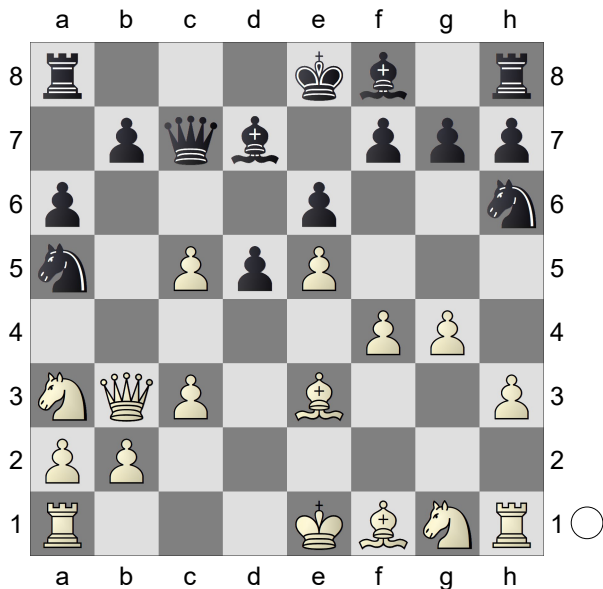
7.Qb3!?N 7

[White does pretty well with 7.Nf3 e6
 8.Be3 Nf5 9.Bf2 Bxf3 (9...d4
 10.cxd4 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nfxd4 12.Qd1
 Bxc5 13.Nc3 1-0 (62) Mikaelyan,A
 (2483)-Antal,G (2571) Titled Tuesday
 intern op 5th May Chess.com INT blitz
 2020 (6)) 10.Qxf3 g5 11.Bd3 Nh6
 12.g3 Bg7 13.0-0 gxf4 14.gxf4 Qe7
 15.b4 Qd7 16.Na3 Ne7 17.Bb5 Nc6
 18.Rad1 a6 19.Ba4 Nf5 20.c4 d4
 21.Nc2 0-0 22.Kh1 1-0 Skliarov,V
 (2384)-Valle,L (2268) Titled Tuesday
 intern op 27th Sep Early Chess.com
 INT blitz 2022 (1)]

7...Qc7 45 8.h3 11:04 Bd7 3:35 9.Na3
 8:13 a6 3:24 10.g4 1:22
 [10.Be3]
 10...e6 58
 [10...f6!?]
 11.Be3 1:47 Na5 13:59

(Diagram)

12.Qb6?! 9:27
 [12.Qb4 Nc6 13.Qb6 Qxb6 14.cxb6
 Bxa3 15.bxa3 Ng8 16.Nf3±]
 12...Qxb6 12 13.cxb6 5 Bxa3 1:51
 14.bxa3= 33 Rc8 1:18 15.Kd2 2:36
 Nc4+ 1:29 16.Bxc4 6 Rxc4 40 17.Ne2



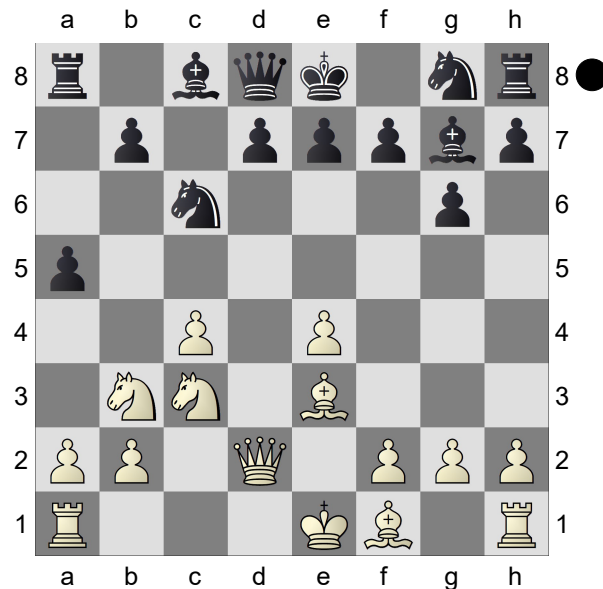
1:21 **Ng8** 3:46 **18.Rab1** 9:25 **Ra4** 28
19.Bc5 6:20 **Ne7** 5:55 **20.Nd4** 11:26
 ½-½

B38
 □ **Lewis,Edward** **1976**
 ■ **Markovits,Alexander** **2210**
 2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 08.10.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 6 **c5** 5 **2.Nf3** 26 **Nc6** 7 **3.d4** 42
cx d4 3 **4.Nxd4** 16 **g6** 16 **5.Be3** 19
Bg7 47 **6.c4** 41
 [6.Nc3]
6...Qb6!? 38 Interestingly Stockfish has
 this as Black's best -- and it scores
 better
 [than the far more popular 6...Nf6]
7.Nb3 53 **Qd8** 34 **8.Qd2!** 1:49
 8.Qd2 scores better than 8.Nc3. **8...a5**
 6:11 **9.Nc3** 1:24

(Diagram)

Nf6N 10:18
 [Predecessor: 9...a4 10.Nd4 Nf6
 11.Be2 Qa5 12.f3 d6 13.Ndb5 0-0
 14.Nd5 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Be6
 16.Rac1 Nd7 17.Rb1 Rfc8 18.Rhc1



Kf8 19.**Ke1** f5 **20.Ndc7** Bf7 **21.exf5**
 gxf5 **22.Nxa8** Rxa8 **23.f4** Rc8
24.Nc3 Ra8 **25.a3** Na5 **26.Nd5** Nb3
27.Rd1 Rc8 **28.Kf2** e6 **29.Nb6** Nxb6
30.Bxb6 Rc6 **31.Be3** Ke7 **32.Rd3**
 Bf6 **33.Rbd1** Na5 **34.Rxd6** Rxd6
35.Bc5 1-0 Santos Latasa,J (2653)-
 Rodshtein,M (2604) Krakow Euro
 Pairs Blitz-B 2023 (1.2)]
10.Na4 12:11 **0-0** 3:37 **11.f3** 2:38 **d6**
 19:54 **12.Nb6** 3:24 **Rb8** 2:52 **13.Be2**
 5:17 **Nd7** 3:00 **14.Na4** 10:21 **b6** 2:49
15.0-0 7 **Nc5** 1:55 **16.Nc3** 2:53 **Ba6**
 11:40 **17.Nd4** 2:59 **Nxd4** 5:25 **18.Bxd4**
 11 **Bxd4+** 8:09 **19.Qxd4** 13 **Bb7** 7:06
20.Rfd1 35 **Qc7** 11:01 **21.Qd2** 2:14
Bc6 1:30 **22.b3** 3:39 **Rbd8** 2:14
23.Rac1 1:48 **e5** 3:16 **24.Bd3** 3:12 **Qe7**
 1:04 **25.Bc2** 25 **Ne6** 1:11 **26.Ne2** 25
Qg5 4:56 **27.Qxg5** 1:15 **Nxg5** 3
28.Rd2 3 **Rd7** 15 **29.Rcd1** 1:53 **Rfd8** 4
30.a3 27 **Kf8** 33 **31.Kf2** 22 **Ke7** 1:02
32.Ke3 22 **Ne6** 31 **33.g3** 3:11 **Rf8**
34.b4 9:21 **axb4** 45 **35.axb4** 1 **Ra8** 15
 ½-½

□ Winslow, Elliott

■ Ni, Leo

2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 08.10.2024

[Winslow, Elliott]

D85

2201

1918

1.d4 9 Nf6 11 2.c4 26 g6 10 3.Nc3
2:11 d5 13 4.cxd5 2:44 Nxd5 21 5.e4
32 Nxc3 27 6.bxc3 3 Bg7 17 7.Nf3 49

[7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0

10.0-0 (10.h4; 10.Rc1) 10...Bg4

(10...Qc7 11.Rc1) 11.f3 Na5

12.Bxf7+ Rxf7 13.fxg4]

[7.Be3 c5 8.Qd2]

7...c5 17 8.Rb1 11

[8.Be3]

[8.Bb5+!?]

[8.h3!?]

8...cxd4 1:49

[8...0-0 9.Be2

A) 9...Bg4 10.0-0! (10.Be3 Nc6

11.Rxb7 Bxf3) 10...Bxf3 11.Bxf3

cx d4 12.cxd4 Bxd4 13.Rxb7±;

B) 9...Nc6 10.d5

B1) 10...Bxc3+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+

12.Qxd2 Na5 (12...Nd4

13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.Qxd4) 13.h4

Bg4 14.h5!;

B2) 10...Ne5 is drastically
complicated as well.;

C) 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2

(11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Bxd2 b6=)

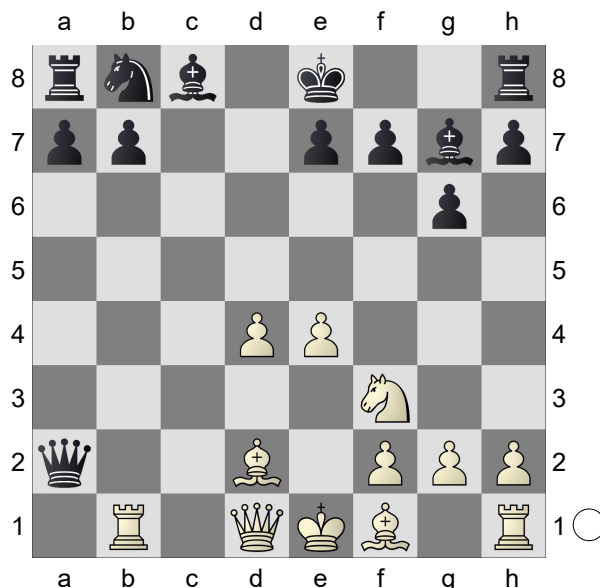
11...Qxa2 12.0-0∞]

9.cxd4 8 Qa5+ 12 When Leo played
this way without castling first I had no
idea where it stood. Did he just forget to
include those moves? Or is this some
big novelty, maybe he's another
Tuesday Night Marathoner working with
opening theorist and author of the
Grandmaster Repertoire book on the
Gruenfeld, Boris Avrukh?

[9...0-0±]

10.Bd2± 2:33 Qxa2 58

(Diagram)

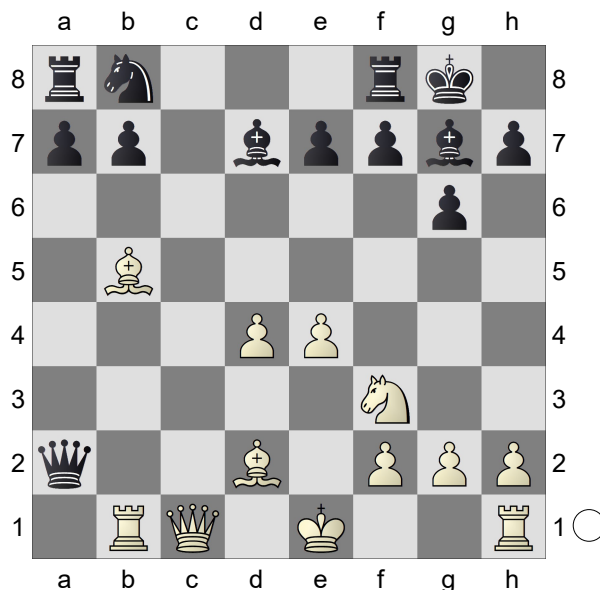


11.Bb5+? 2:05 Unfortunately for the
"purity" of the game, I only noticed the
key idea a move later.

[Here 11.Qc1!± does a better job of
harassing the Black queen. This is,
after all, or rather with 9... 0-0 10.Be2
added, the Gruenfeld "Poisoned
Pawn" variation, as well as Boris
Gelfand's pet variation. 0-0 12.Bc4
Qa4 13.0-0 Bg4 14.Rxb7 Bxf3
15.gxf3± says Stockfish 17 (+1.15/
d24). Nd7 16.Bb5 Qb3 17.Qd1]

11...Bd7= 3:24 The position is equal.

12.Qc1!? 11:16 White has
compensation. 12...0-0! 9:48



...Rc8 is the strong threat. **13.Bc4N** 6:01
Stockfish is with me here after my
screwup on move 11...

[Predecessor: 13.Bxd7 Nxd7
14.Rxb7 Rfc8 15.Qb1 Qxb1+
1/2-1/2 Jajonek,R (2105)-Eckert,F
(1950) Duesseldorf Nord Cup 1st
1995 (6)]

13...Qa4 2:06 **14.Rb4?!** 9:18

[14.0-0!=]

14...Qc6 2:33 **15.Qb1?!** 23

I was amusing my self with White's side-
stepping queen, but objectively I was
slipping further.

[15.0-0

15...Na6?! 4:10

[15...a5 16.Bd5 (16.Rxb7? Qxc4
17.Be3 Bg4-+) 16...Qd6 17.Rxb7
e6

[Even better is 15...Qc8! Hoping for
...a5. 16.Bd3 Nc6]

16.Bd5!= 2:08

[16.Rxb7? Qxc4 17.Qb3 (17.Rxd7?
Rfb8-+) 17...Qxb3 18.Rxb3 Bc6-+]

16...Qc7 2:12 **17.Rxb7** 1:32 **Rab8** 45

18.0-0! 26 Black is under pressure.

18...Qd6 12:03

[18...Rxb7= keeps the balance.
19.Qxb7 (19.Bxb7? Rb8-+)
19...Qxb7 20.Bxb7 Bb5]

19.Qa1 5:46 White has more active
pieces.

[19.Bc4± aiming for e5. Rxb7
20.Qxb7]

19...Rxb7 4:27 **20.Bxb7** 9 **Bc8?** 1:21

A mistake that costs the game.

[20...Nb4± 21.Qxa7 Qb8 22.Qxb8
(22.Qb6 Bc8) 22...Rxb8 23.Bxb4
Rxb7 24.Bxe7 Bc6 25.d5±]

[Better is 20...Nb4±]

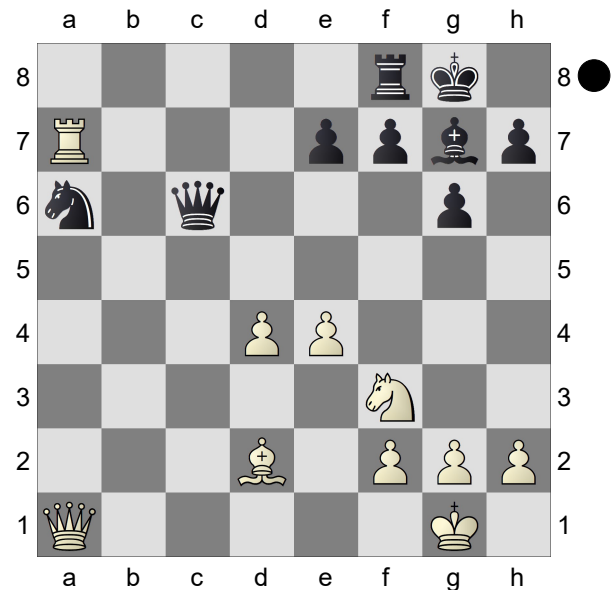
21.Rb1 8:07 **Bxb7** 13:55 **22.Rxb7** 34

Strongly threatening e5! **22...Qc6** 5:13

[22...e6 23.Qa4 (23.Rxa7 Nb8±)
23...Rc8]

23.Rxa7 1:58

[23.Rxe7 h4! would now be deadly.
Qb6 24.h3]



Black is weak on the dark squares

23...Nc5? 28

[23...Nc7 keeps fighting. 24.Qb1
Nb5]

24.Qc3+- 1:13 Pin

[Less strong is 24.Rxe7 Bf6±]

24...Qxe4 5:26 **25.Qxc5** 14

He was honored to play me, and as it
turned out, put up more than enough of
a battle to acquit himself -- I was lucky
to get out alive myself!

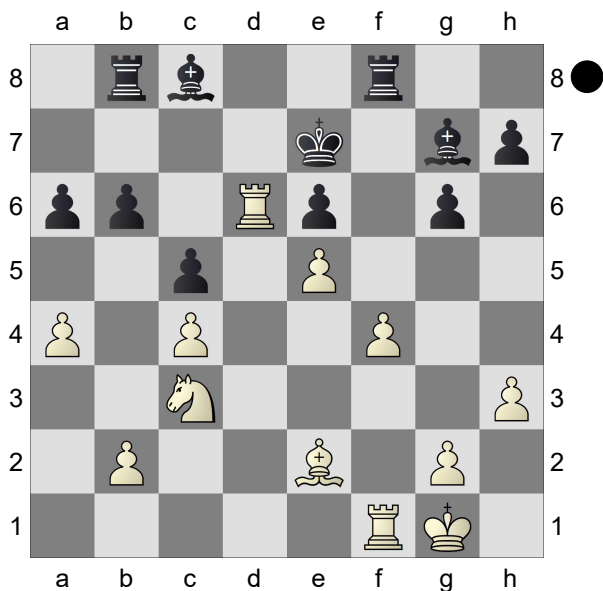
1-0

E91
2303
2017
2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (6.4) 08.10.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

Heiserman picks apart this all-too-
common development frequently seen
when Black players don't quite know
theory. ...Nbd7 and ...c5 sometimes
works out, but far more often it's just
trouble. As here. **1.d4** 2 **Nf6** 2:33 **2.c4** 7
g6 5 **3.Nc3** 5 **Bg7** 5 **4.e4** 5 **d6** 5 **5.Nf3**

6 0-0 9 6.Be2 4 Nbd7 6:28 7.0-0 41
c5 2:57 8.d5 2:00 a6 1:39 9.a4 32 Qc7
2:27 10.h3± 1:00 e6 11:00

[I'm surprised to see Aronian going this way. For him, 2400 isn't reason to play too carefully in the opening during a blitz game? 10...b6 11.Bf4 Ne8 12.Qd2 e5 13.dxe6 (13.Bg5!/?) 13...fxe6± 14.Rad1 Rb8 15.Bxd6?! Premature, letting Black "off the hook." (15.Bg3±) 15...Nxd6 16.Qxd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 Ne5 18.Ng5?! (18.Rfd1±) 18...Nf7 19.Nxf7 Kxf7 20.f4 Ke7 21.e5

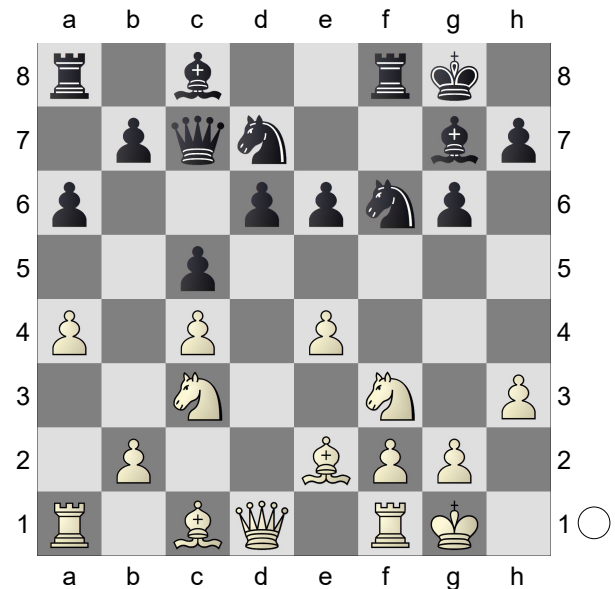


Rxf4! 22.Rxf4 Bxe5= 23.Rh4 Kxd6 24.Ne4+ Kc6 25.Rxh7 Bd7 26.Bf3 Kc7 27.Bg4 Rh8 28.Rxh8 Bxh8 29.b3 Bc6 30.Bf3 b5 31.axb5 axb5 32.Kf1 bxc4 33.bxc4 Bd4 34.Ke2 Ba4 35.Kd3 Kd7 36.g4 Ke7 37.h4 Bb3 38.h5 gxh5 39.gxh5 Ba2 40.Kc2 0-1 (53) Panda,S (2404)-Aronian,L (2725) Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Jan Early Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (1)]

11.dxe6 6:35 fxe6 51

(Diagram)

12.Be3N 26



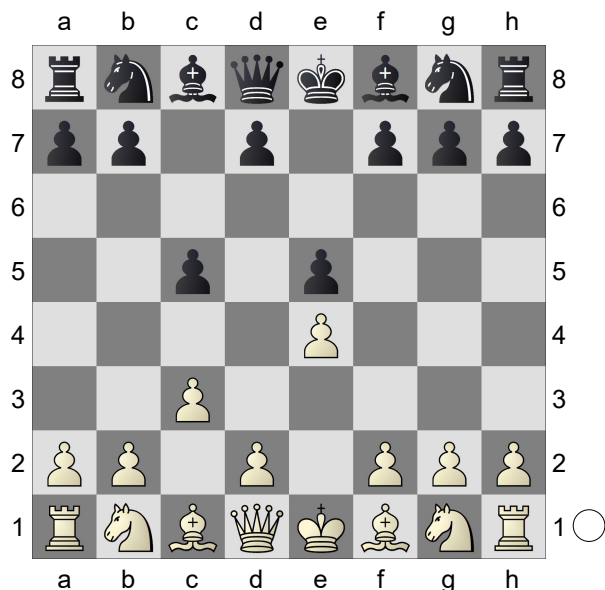
[Predecessor: 12.Bg5 b6 13.Qd3 Bb7 14.Rad1 Ne8 15.Bh4 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Bg4 Ng7 18.Bg3 Bxg3 19.Qxg3 e5 ½-½ Druska,J (2460)-Petenyi,T (2462) SVK-chT 1516 Slovakia 2015 (2.2)]

12...Re8 10:09 13.Qd2 1:28 b6 2:02 14.Rad1 1:17 Bf8 1:08 15.Bf4 12:18 Ne5 2:17 16.Nxe5 1:21 dxe5 9 17.Bg5 2:48 Nd7 7:01 18.h4 7:58 Nb8 2:34 19.f4 3:03 Nc6 8:28 20.f5 9:15 Nd4 4:28 21.Bg4 3:41 gxf5 17:43 22.exf5 36 exf5 19 23.Nd5 1:06 Qc6 9 24.Nf6+ 4:14 Kh8 25 25.Nxe8 22 Qxe8 7 26.Bf6+ 3:48 Kg8 4:22 27.Bf3 10:38 e4 2:15 28.Qg5+ 1:07 Qg6 15 29.Bxe4 2:07 fxe4 5:42 30.Qd5+ 7 Be6 1:15 31.Qxa8 8 Nf5 8:21 32.Be7 1:13 1-0

B22
□ Bambou,Christophe 2109
■ Markovits,Alexander 2210
2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 15.10.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

Bambou, half a point ahead of the field, stays true to his principles. But it doesn't turn out well... 1.e4 c5 1 (2,603,087 in

online database) **2.c3** 6 185,141 games
(in ChessBase's online database) **2...e5**
6



Rare! (3661 games in same) but perhaps
for a good reason. **3.Nf3** 10 **Nc6** 8
4.Bc4 7 **Nf6!?** 14 Logical enough (and
best) but *not* the most common move...

[That would be 4...Qc7!?, with the
quirky followup 5.Ng5!? (5.0-0
is just as good (about +0.82))

5...Nd8!± But guess what: White is still
clearly (well, to Stockfish 17) better!
Oh well, nice try.]

[4...Be7!? is pretty much just as good,
and avoids the excitement. If that's a
good thing.]

5.Ng5! 7

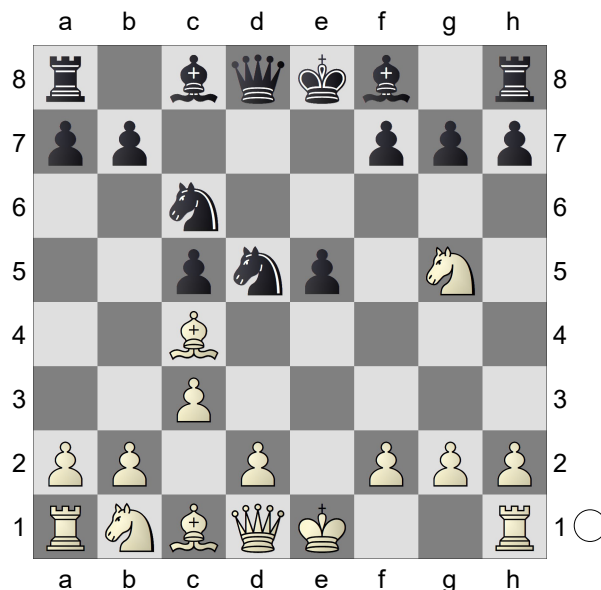
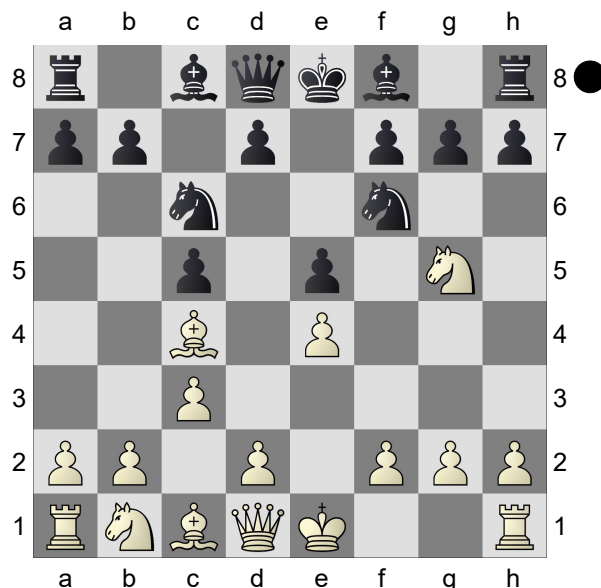
(Diagram)

Not quite the Fried Liver Attack! **5...d5!**
14 **6.exd5** 9 **Nxd5!** 14

(Diagram)

7.Qh5 9

[No surprise that Carlsen made an
appearance in this line: 7.d4!? cxd4
8.Qb3 (8.Nxf7!? Kxf7 9.Qf3+ Ke6
and there's no Nc3 followup. But then



again, nor is there ...c6. **10.a4!**
keeps the bishop on the key diagonal
(vs. ...Na5), so Black is still having a
hard time consolidating.) 8...Be6
9.Nxe6 fxe6 10.Qxb7 Rc8 11.0-0
Qd7 12.Qb5 Be7 13.Bb3 0-0
14.Qd3 Na5 15.Bd1 Rfd8 16.Bf3
dxc3 17.Nxc3 Nxc3 18.Qxd7 Rxd7
19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Bb2 Rc5 21.Rad1
Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Nc4 23.Bc3 e4
24.Bd4 Ra5 25.Bxe4 Rxa2 26.g3
Nd2 27.Bc6 a5 28.Kg2 Kf7 29.Bc3
Nc4 30.Rd7 Ne3+ 31.Kf3 Ra3
32.Bb2 Rb3 33.fxe3 Rxb2 34.Ra7
Rxb2 35.Rxa5 h5 36.Ra6 Bd6

0-1 Nepomniachtchi,I (2779)-Carlsen, M (2853) Global Chess League Dubai rapid 2023 (6.1)]

7...g6 34 8.Qf3 6 Qxg5 28 9.Bxd5 4 Nd8 26 10.0-0 24 Qe7 34 Consensus results and Stockfish are with this, but superstars aren't:

[Caruana and Andreikin (!) both went with 10...Qf5 here, and 11.Re1 Bg7 12.d4 cxd4 13.cxd4 0-0 14.dxe5 White's advantage is minimal.

Fabi won after 14...Qxf3 (The other game not so good: 14...Re8 15.Qxf5 Bxf5 16.f4 Nc6 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Bd2 Rad8 19.Bc3 Bh6 20.g3 g5 21.fxg5 Bxg5 22.Na3 1-0 (35)

Zhigalko,S (2572)-Andreikin,D (2726)

Clash of the Titans blitz Lichess.org

INT 2020 (7)) 15.Bxf3 Re8 16.Nc3

Rxe5 17.Bf4 Rxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Ne6

0-1 (49) Jones,G (2618)-Caruana,F

(2782) Julius Baer Play In Chess.com

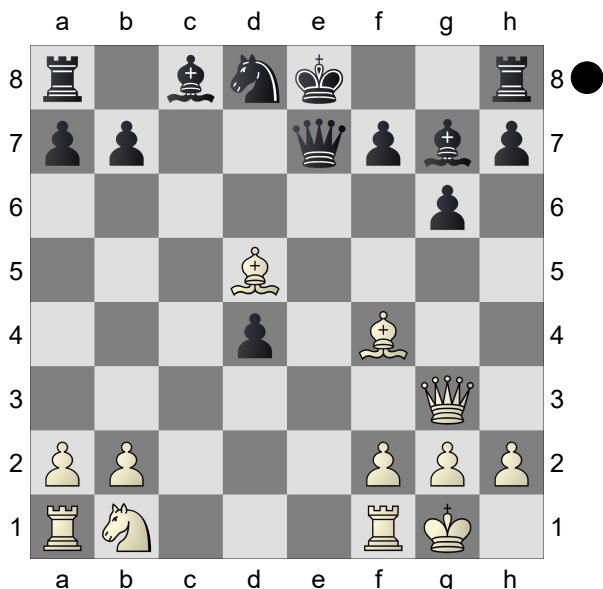
INT rapid 2023 (1.2)]

11.d4 17 cxd4 44 12.cxd4 5 exd4 30

13.Bf4 5 Bg7 4:28

[13...g5!? 14.Bg3 Bg7]

14.Qg3! 2:13



Else Black takes over. **14...0-0!? 31** /?! Markovits gives up a bit of material to finally get his king out of danger.

[14...Be6 15.Bd6 Qd7 16.Re1 Bf8 17.Be5 Bb4 18.Nc3! dxc3 19.Bxe6 Nxe6 20.bxc3! isn't much but White's on the high side of equality. f6!

A) 21.Bxf6 0-0! 22.Qe5 Be7!

23.Bxe7 Qxe7 24.Qxe6+ Qxe6

25.Rxe6 Rac8 Black will hold.

26.Re7 (26.Re3 Rc7 27.Rd1 Rf4 28.Kf1 Rfc4 29.Rdd3 Ra4)

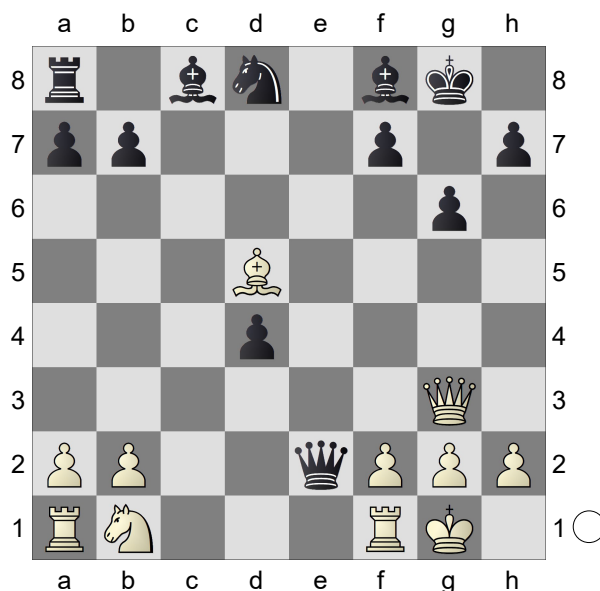
26...Rf7 27.Rxf7 Kxf7 28.Rb1 b6

29.Rb3 Rc4;

B) 21.Rad1]

15.Bd6 1:09 Qe2! 23 16.Bxf8 3:02

Bxf8 20



17.Na3N 9:56

[There are actually a couple of games here! 17.Qb3!± Bf5!? (17...Be6

18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.Qf3 Qc6 20.Qd1

Ne6 21.Nd2 Nf4 22.Qg4 Bd6

23.Rac1 Qd5 24.Rc8+ Rxc8

25.Qxc8+ Kg7 26.Nf3 h5 27.Rd1 g5

28.h3 Ne6 29.Qc2 Be7 30.Qd2 Bf6

31.b3 Nf4 32.h4 Nh3+ 33.gxh3

Qxf3 34.hxg5 Be5 35.Qd3 Qf4

36.Kf1 Qxg5 37.Qe4 Qf6 38.Rd3

Kh6 39.Rf3 Qe6 40.Qxb7 Qg6

41.Qxf7 1-0 Goossens,H (2127)-

Liessens,T (1963) Ghent op 45th

2024 (6)) 18.Na3 Qe7 19.Rfe1 Ne6

20.Rad1 Rd8 21.Qxb7 Qxb7

22.Bxb7 Rb8 23.Be4 Bxe4 24.Rxe4
Rxb2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (48) Skonieczna,B (2325)-
Keyserlingk,C BdF-Diamant 09 email
GER email 2018]

17...Qxb2= 6:20 So says the computer,
but the asymmetric material means
plenty still possible! 18.Nc4 1:50 Qb5
5:28 19.Qf3?! 7:56

[19.Qe5 Be6 20.Bxe6 Qxe5
21.Nxe5 Nxe6=]

19...Be6 26:53

[Δ 19...Bg4! 20.Qxg4 Qxd5 21.Nd2
Ne6 \bar{f}]

20.Bxe6 1:33 Nxe6 52 21.Rfc1 3:58

[Δ 21.Nd2]

21...Rc8 19:34 22.a4

[22.Nd2]

22...Qc6 10:17

[22...Qc5! \bar{f}]

23.Qxc6 2:45 Rxc6 7:28 24.Ne5 2:14

Rc3 10:53 25.Kf1 8:38

[25.a5!]

25...Nc5 4:03 26.Rd1?! 14:54

[26.Rxc3 dxc3 27.Ra2=]

26...Bg7! \bar{f} 10:15 27.f4?! 2:13

[27.Nf3 Kf8 28.Rdc1 d3 29.Rab1
Rxc1+ 30.Rxc1 Nxa4 31.Rc8+ Ke7
32.Rc7+ Kd6 33.Rxb7 a5 \bar{f}]

27...f6 2:02

[27...Bxe5 28.fxe5 Nb3 29.Ra2
d3 \bar{f}]

28.Nf3 32 Nb3 1:19

[28...f5]

[28...d3]

29.Rab1?! 2:25 Now Bambou starts to
slide.

[29.Ra2= (as in "0.00")]

29...f5= 14

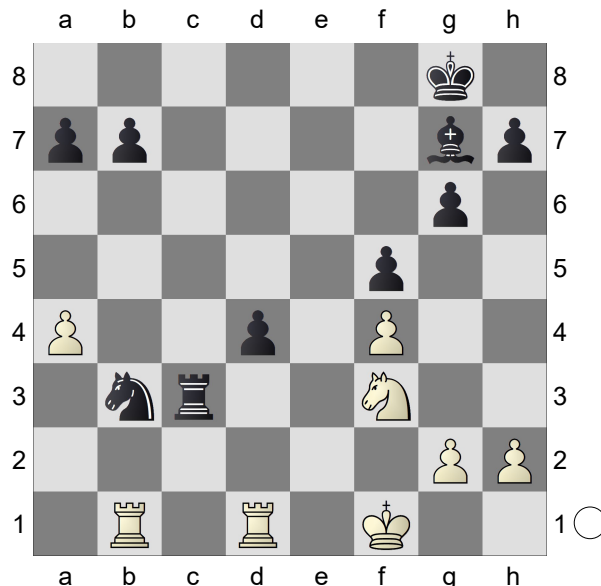
(Diagram)

30.Ke2? 7:34

[30.Re1 Kf8 31.Rbd1]

30...b6 \bar{f} 1:05 31.Ne5? 4:01 Bxe5 1:28

32.fxe5 5 Kf7 30 33.Rd3?! 1:43 Nc1+



58 34.Rxc1 9 Rxc1 2 35.Rxd4 52

Ke6+ 2:11 36.Rd6+ 51 Ke7! 1

[36...Kxe5 37.Rd7 a5 38.Rxh7 Rc4
39.Rb7 Rb4]

37.Rd5?! 1:23 Rc5 56 38.Rd3 5:14

Rxe5+ 2 39.Kf3 20 Re4 11 40.Ra3 13

a5 18 41.g3 37 h5 30 42.h4 23 Kd6 5

43.Ra2 51 Ke5 23 44.Ra1 4:03 Rb4

45.Ra3 37 Kf6 3 46.Rc3 28 Rxa4 25

47.Rc6+ 4 Kg7 32 48.Rxb6 6 Rg4 3

49.Ra6 23 a4 2 50.Ra8 4:14 Kf6 3

51.Ra5 17 Ke6 3 52.Ra8 24 Kd5 4

53.Rc8 46 Rc4 8 54.Rg8 2:08 a3 5

55.Ra8 9 Rc3+ 2 56.Kf4 10 Kc4 5

57.Ra6 36 Kb3 4 58.Rxg6 31 a2 2

59.Rb6+ 2:34 Kc2 5 60.Ra6 45 Kb2 1

61.Rb6+ 1:15 Rb3 2 62.Rh6 59 a1Q 4

63.Rxh5 11 Qa4+ 4 64.Kg5 34 Qg4+ 2

65.Kh6 3 Rb6+ 3

0-1

E90

□ Heiserman,Jimmy

2303

■ Lewis,Edward

1976

2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 15.10.2024

[Winslow,Elliott]

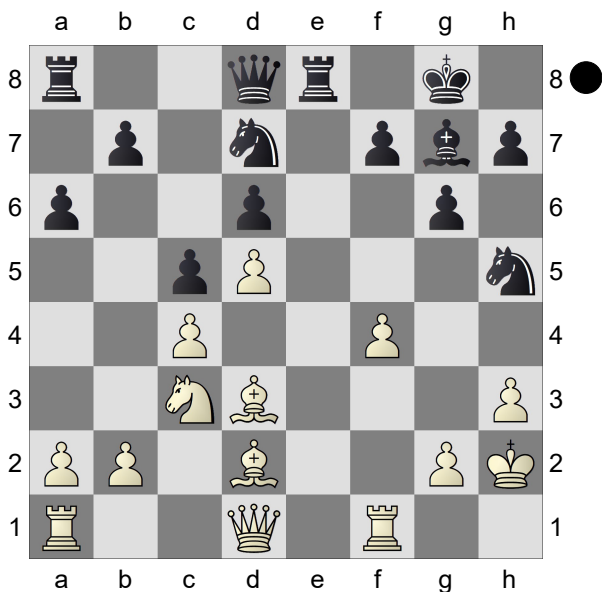
Heiserman picks at Lewis's Benoni and it
eventually falls apart. 1.d4 4 Nf6 18

2.c4 9 e6 38 3.Nc3 7 c5 29 4.d5 12 g6 1:43 5.e4 1:01 d6 41 6.Nf3 10:24 exd5 20 7.exd5± 6 The "dry" line. White has some space, and Black has to be careful, but it really shouldn't be anything for White, should it? (Well Stockfish 17 thinks it is!) **7...Bg7 7**

[7...Bg4]
8.Bd3 14
 [8.Qe2+! Kd7 9.h3 Re8 10.Be3]

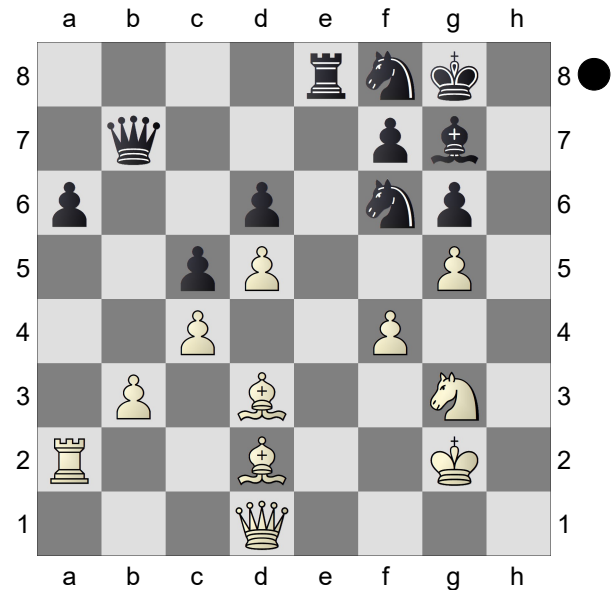
8...0-0 7 9.0-0 9
 [9.h3!? Re8+ 10.Be3 Bh6!?
 11.0-0!? Bxe3 12.fxe3±
 Black famously isn't so badly off as long as he doesn't take on e3! Rxe3?
 13.Qd2 Re7 14.Rf2±]

9...Re8 1:49
 [A friendly blitz game by Indian superstar Erigaisi: 9...Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nbd7 12.Qd1 Nh5 (Actually I've pulled this stunt (that is, exd5) as well, in one of the IM norm tournaments held by Guillermo Rey in the 1980s in San Francisco, where I (1) got my 3rd and final norm (2) beat Rey himself (or rather, he beat himself): 12...a6 13.f4 Re8 14.Bd2 Nh5 15.Kh2



f5?? 16.Bxf5 gxf5 17.Qxh5
 1-0 (36) Winslow,E (2340)-Rey,G

(2245) San Francisco Intl 2nd 1986
 (6)) 13.g4 Nhf6 14.Kg2 a6 15.a4 Re8 16.Bd2 Qb6 17.a5 Qc7 18.f4 b5 19.axb6 Qxb6 20.Ra2 Re7 21.Re1 Rxe1 22.Bxe1 Re8 23.Bd2 h6 24.b3 Nh7 25.Ne2 Nhf8 26.Ng3 Qb7 27.h4 Nf6 28.g5 hxg5 29.hxg5

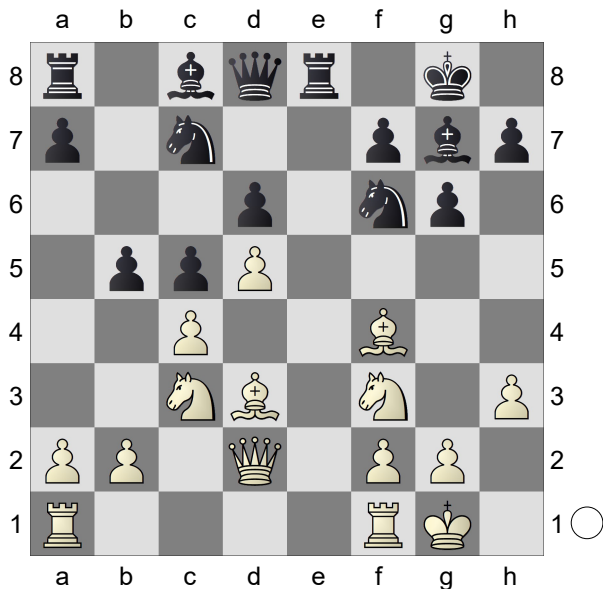


Nxd5 30.cxd5 Qxd5+ 31.Qf3 Qxb3 32.Rxa6 c4 33.Be4 Qb2 34.Qf2 c3 35.Be3 d5 36.Bxd5 Rxe3 37.Ra2 Qxf2+ 38.Kxf2 Bd4 39.Ne2
 0-1 Gareyev,T (2602)-Erigaisi,A (2701) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Mar Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (3). White must have lost on time. (Titled Tuesday events are 3 minute *1* second...)]

10.h3 23 Na6 3:14 11.Bf4 1:11 Nc7 4:19 12.Qd2 13:30 b5 4:25

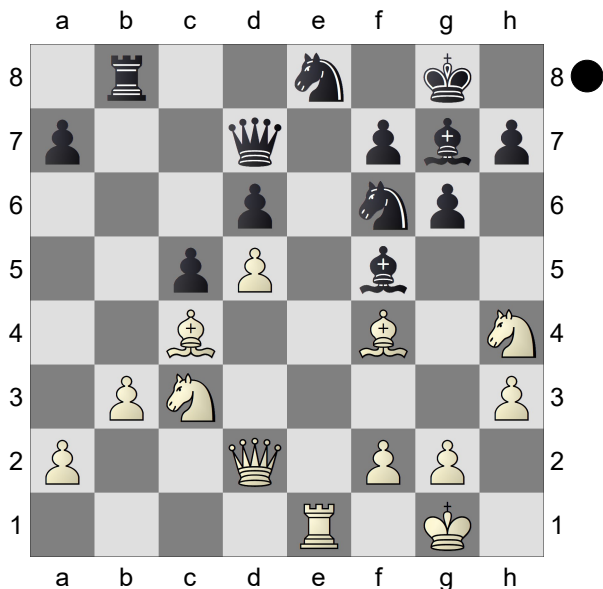
(Diagram)

13.Rae1N 6:00
 [Predecessor: 13.cxb5 Ncxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bg5 Qb6 16.Bc4 Nc7 17.a4 Be6 18.Bxe6 Nxe6 19.Bh6 Nd4 20.Nxd4 Bxd4 21.Rfe1 a6 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Re1 Ra8 24.Qe2 Bg7 25.Qe8+
 1-0 Pragganandhaa,R (2612)-Harika,



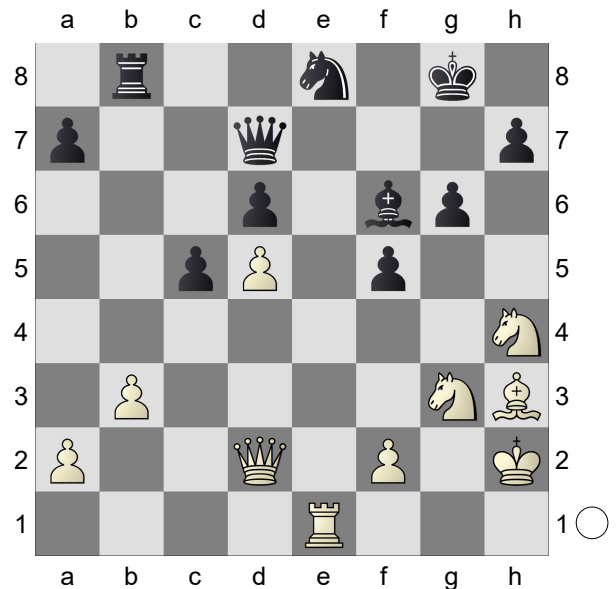
D (2517) Titled Tuesday intern op
08th Feb Early Chess.com INT blitz
2022 (3)]

13...bxc4 2:42 14.Bxc4 8 Rb8 5:32
15.b3 2:57 Bf5 58 16.Rxe8+ 11:28
Ncxe8 1:11 17.Re1 1:49 Qd7 13:16
18.Nh4 10:13



Bxh3 22:26 19.gxh3 9 Qxh3 10
20.Bg3 5:02 Nh5 3:25 21.Bf1 58 Qd7
1:41 22.Ne4 3:39 Rb4 3:05 23.Bc4
3:59 Bd4 2:55 24.Kh2 2:32 Rb8 9:08
25.Bf1 12:48 f5 1:57 26.Bh3 6:03
Nxg3 9:46 27.Nxg3 1:23 Bf6 5:55

(Diagram)



28.Ngxf5 5:20 Qb5 4:02 29.Nh6+ 4:21
Kg7 1:25 30.Ng4 30 Qb4 2:05
31.Qh6+
1-0

B52
□ **Ivanenko,Anthony** **1976**
■ **Winslow,Elliott** **2201**
2024 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.3) 15.10.2024
[Ivanenko,Tony/Winslow,Elliott]

EW: Last round, "must win" if I want a chance to tie for first as well as be in the money at all. And Black against theoretically well-prepared Tony Ivanenko. But he beat me to the punch, or rather pulled the punch, avoiding sharper lines. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6**
I wonder what Elliott was thinking about for 7 minutes before he played this move -- I was even starting to wonder if 2...e6 or 2...Nc6 were going to come out... and how I would react to them? Well, I suppose the answer to that question will come another time. **3.Bb5+** Regardless, I was suddenly spooked, recalling how Elliott surprised me with 1.Nf3 in our previous game, and lost any fighting mood, so I steered the game into the

calmer waters of 3.Bb5. It also helps I never actually played this over the board, so I was confident Elliott would not have anything special prepared for me here.

EW: Well he certainly surprised me!

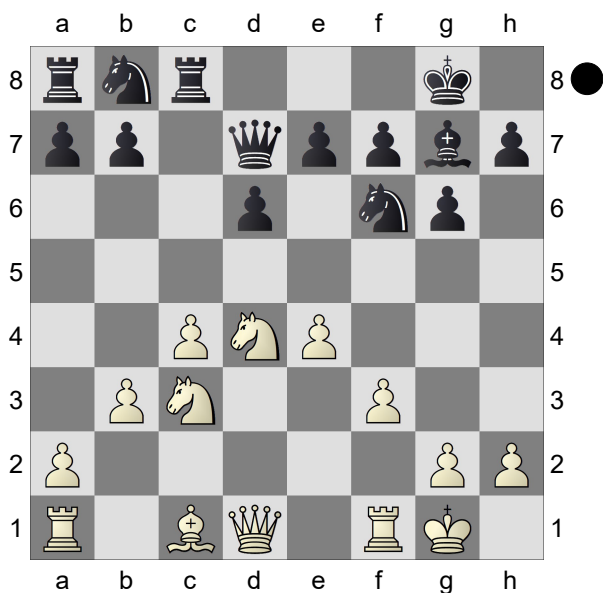
Enough so that I chose a line ill-suited for the tournament situation. **3...Bd7**

Guess Elliot wasn't in a combative mood either! Otherwise the more risky 3...Nd7 would have appeared on the board.

4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 EW: This also is a wet blanket of sorts; the c3-d4 lines are more combative. And I had no idea how well he knew these lines. **5...Nf6**

EW: So I had the thought to head for the Ivanchuk line. I don't even remember where I'd seen it. I had the backup thought that even if it leads to an even endgame, I could still get the better of that. **6.Nc3 g6 7.d4**

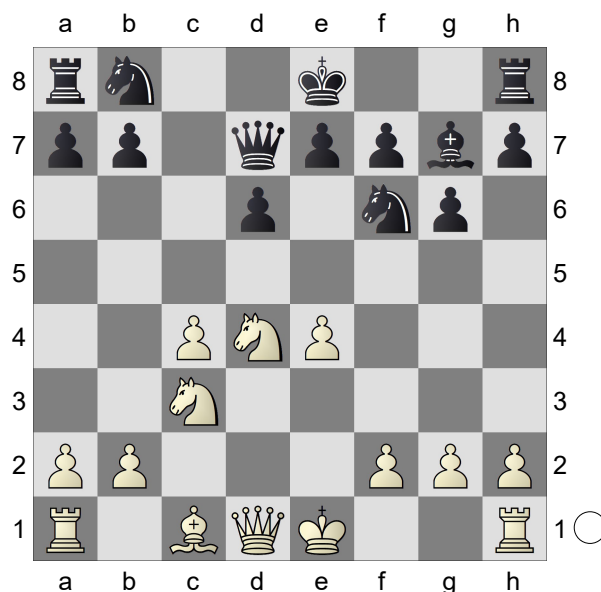
[EW: Ah, here it is. I still don't remember what book or course had it: it was a Black repertoire thing, and this concept was there, getting ...d5 in tactically. Like this: 7.0-0 Bg7 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.f3 Rc8 11.b3



d5! 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 e6 14.Be3 exd5 15.cxd5 Na6 16.Rc1 Rxc1 17.Qxc1 Nb4 18.Qd2 Nxd5 19.Ne2 Qe7 1/2-1/2 Delchev,A (2577)-

Ivanchuk,V (2704) EU-ch 4th Istanbul 2003 (8)]

7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bg7



9.h3 A very topical variation, although most top players have preferred 9.f3 here. Still, it is a decent alternative and has been essayed by Magnus Carlsen.

[9.f3 0-0 10.Be3 Nc6 (Here Irina Krush crossed wires and misplayed the combination: 10...Rc8 11.b3 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 e6 14.Nc3 Nc6 15.Nde2 1-0 (44) Predojevic,B (2601)-Krush,I (2429) PNWCC Online blitz JP 12th Lichess.org INT 2020 (2)) 11.0-0 is "normal" -- and I would have been in with that. Or should have been.]

9...0-0 10.0-0 I thought it did not matter whether White played this or 10.Be3 first and did not realize it added another option for Black.

[10.Be3 Nc6 11.0-0 Rfc8 12.b3 would transpose into the main line, which avoids the game's move order issues.]

10...Rc8 Suddenly I started feeling that something was off -- did I misplay? Yes, yes I did! But fortunately I also remembered that 3.Bb5 is such a solid (and some would say dull!) opening that

it didn't even matter!

[I was expecting 10...Nc6 11.Be3 with transposition]

11.b3 No choice left other than this one.

[I was considering 11.Qd3 which is typical in a few lines but here Nc6 almost forces 12.Nxc6 since 12.Nf3 (12.Be3?! Ne5 is even worse.) 12...Nb4 13.Qe2 Qe6 looked very irritating from a distance.]
[11.Qe2 looks good at first but I noticed that unfortunately it runs into a similar problem as all lines when the d4-knight is left undefended... Nxe4! (EW: only played once) 12.Qxe4 Rxc4 and Black emerges a pawn up. EW: It's not at all that simple! Here's a game: 13.Rd1?? (13.Be3 Nc6 14.Nce2! Bxd4! 15.Nxd4! Nxd4 16.Qd3! Nf3+! 17.gxf3 Rh4 18.Bg5! Rxh3 19.Bd2!= Black moves the rook back to give h3 for the queen, White plays 20.f4, Black plays ...Rc8 or ...Qc6 and has some eventual perpetual (according to Stockfish 17). Precarious!)

A) 13...Nc6! 14.Be3 (14.Nce2 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 e5) 14...Nxd4 15.Bxd4 e5-+;

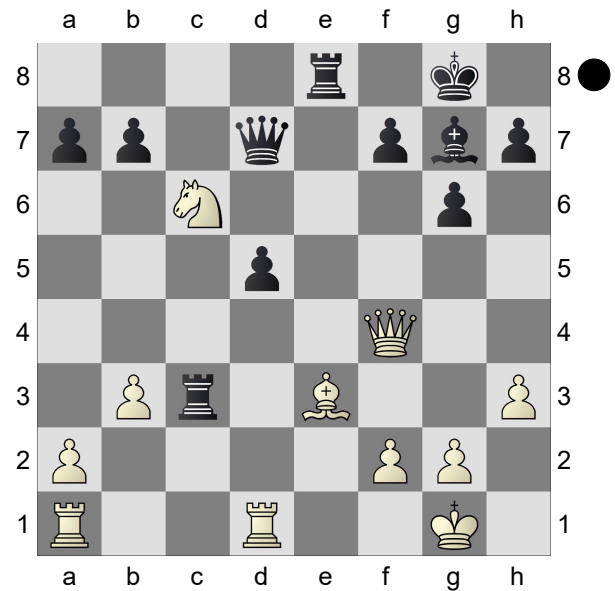
B) 13...e5? 14.Nce2! exd4! (14...Nc6? 15.Qd3!±) 15.b3 Rc5 16.Nxd4 Nc6 17.Be3 Re8 18.Qf3 Rc3 19.Qf4 d5 20.Nxc6

(Diagram)

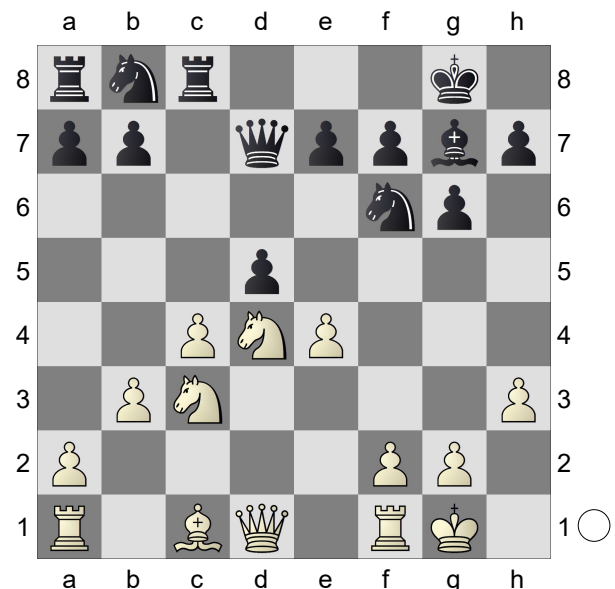
Rcxe3!? 21.fxe3 Bxa1=
1/2-1/2 (61) Schmid,T (2192)-
Neumeier,K (2353)
Niederoesterreich Landesliga 1011
Austria 2010 (3.2)]

11...d5

[I was actually expecting 11...b5 since 12.e5 was what I was personally thinking, and after (12.Ncxb5 Nxe4



13.Bb2 a6 14.Na3 virtually solves Black's problems and leaves White's minors a bit disjointed.) 12...dxe5 13.Ndxb5 a6 14.Na3 Nc6 15.Be3∞ the game seems to be rather unclear]
[11...a6 Typically I don't like to push a2-a4 early in Maroczy Bind structures since b3 can feel a little soft but here it appears warranted: 12.a4 leaves Black with issues to solve.]
[11...Nc6 12.Be3 was the last chance to transpose to territory of the main line]



came completely out of the blue for me!

EW: Yes, this was the idea, that somewhere in my memory I was attributing to Ivanchuk, but apparently that wasn't the case. **12.exd5**

After thinking for a bit, I decided to go with the more solid variation.

[Surprisingly, none of the top players in my database have chosen to go 12.Nxd5!? Nxe4 even though after 13.Ba3! the position looks rather unclear. After Nc5 White even has 14.Qf3!? Bxd4 15.Rad1♞

Though maybe from a practical standpoint the main line is better since it produces a match where White is only playing for two results. I had actually seen this over the board but could not make heads or tails of it so decided to steer clear of what looked like a dangerous line for both sides.]

12...Nxd5 13.Nxd5 e6 14.Bh6

I had already foreseen this move before I played 12.exd5 (and ultimately ended up why I selected that line). I only really stopped to evaluate the alternatives here.

EW: I think 14.Bh6 is the only way to a balanced game (and a try for an advantage).

[14.Be3 exd5 15.Rc1 dxc4 16.bxc4 looked rather appealing to Black -- White's pawn structure is fractured and it is difficult to imagine him ever playing for a win here.]

[14.Nf6+ Bxf6 15.Be3 was another idea I had -- preserving the queenside majority. However, after Nc6 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.Rc1 Rd8 18.Qe2 White's loss of tempo is felt and it looked like the activity of Black's majors compensated for any pawn asymmetry.]

[I thought about 14.Nb5 as well, followed by either Bxa1 (or 14...exd5 15.Ba3 Bxa1 16.Qxa1 and this is

also very unclear, but probably not better than equal at most.) 15.Bf4 exd5 16.Qxa1 Nc6 17.Nd6

But this all felt too artificial to me.]

14...exd5

[14...Bh8? was another interesting idea that I saw before playing 14.Bh6, but then saw that 15.Nxe6!

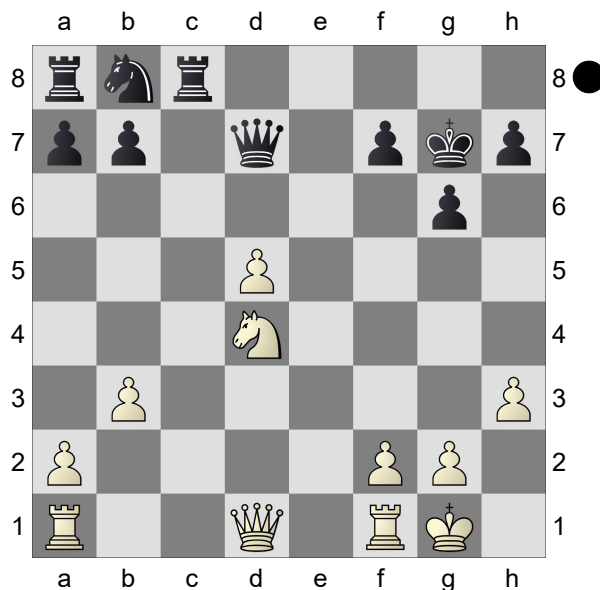
is quite strong, opening the diagonal.

This position resembled a Grunfeld-esque type structure to me where the dark-squared bishop is worth more than the rook on a1. fxe6 16.Ne3

Bxa1 17.Qxa1+- The repositioning of the knight via g4-f6 looked very strong in my eye. At the very least, I could not see how White could ever be worse in such a position.]

15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.cxd5

[I somewhat considered 16.Qd2 dxc4 17.Qc3 Kg8 18.bxc4 but this looked ugly to my eye.]

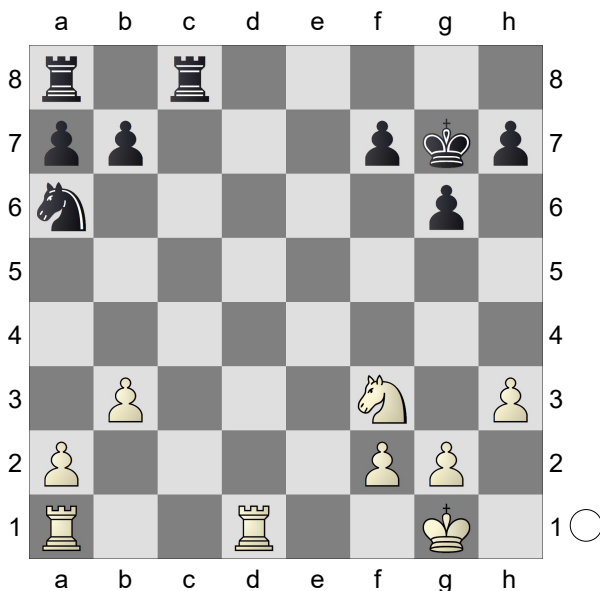


I'm glad to say that I had been following Magnus' footsteps for the entire 16 moves! **16...Rc5??** Suddenly Black steps into a puddle! I suppose Elliott probably overthought some idea where he wanted to set up a strong battery with the queen behind the rook on the d-

file. A high-level idea, but unfortunately it completely loses to the following move! Interestingly enough, earlier that day I had been going over the chapter in Invisible Chess Moves by IM Yochanan Afek and FM Emmanuel Neiman that discussed the topic of major pieces on the same file and combinations that stemmed from them, so I did not dawdle in playing...

[I was fully expecting 16...Qxd5 after which I had the idea of 17.Nf3 (17.Qg4 Nc6 18.Nxc6 Qxc6 19.Rad1 didn't seem as fruitful.)

A) or 17...Qxd1 18.Rfxd1 Nc6?! (ew: 18...a5 saw Duda get a lost ending and win it in a blitz game...; EW: 18...Na6!=



secures Stockfish's fabled/dreaded "0.00" in no time -- and for someone playing this line, worth remembering. "Knight on the rim makes White's chances dim.") 19.Rd7 Rab8 20.Rad1= which appears equal but it is White having all the fun from a practical standpoint.;

B) 17...Rd8 18.Qxd5 Rxd5 19.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Nc6 21.Rd7= which amusingly enough

is what Magnus played in his game against Peter Heine Nielsen! This seemed like a position that White could not lose.]

[16...Rd8 17.Nf3 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 Rxd5 19.Rfd1 would transpose to 16...Qxd5]

17.Ne6+! with 18.Qd4+ to follow, picking up the rook. EW: As the last John Grefe noted: one must master their one- and two-move tactics.

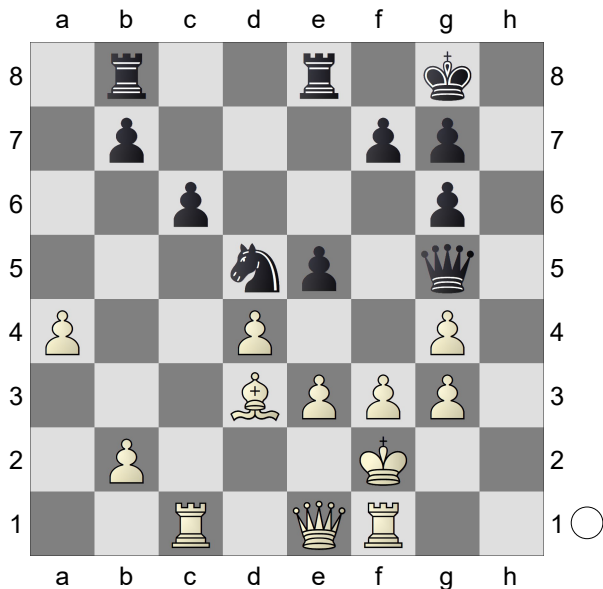
[EW: As it happens, 17.Nf5+! is in the same league (totally won that is). Pretty bad missing the idea, just worse that there were *two* ways to implement it. Then there's the question of what I was doing playing a line (this ...Nf6 ...R/f8-c8 and ...d5!!) if it leads to a fairly dry equality, in a tournament situation where a win is all but mandatory. I have no explanation.]

1-0

D18
1910
1806
 Sankar, Arvind
 Mercado, Adam
 2024 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (7.10)
 [Winslow, Elliott]

EW: I'm pretty sure Adam just blundered a pawn in the opening! But he plowed forward, eventually winning. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.a4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bd2 Nbd7 10.Qb3 a5 11.Ne2 Rb8 12.Bxb4 axb4 13.Qxb4 Ne4 14.Ng3 Nxc3 15.hxc3 Nf6 16.Ne5 Ne4 17.g4 Bg6 18.Nxc6 hxc6 19.Qe1 Qh4 20.Bd3 Nf6 21.f3 Qg5 22.Rc1 Nd5 23.Kf2 Rfe8 24.g3 e5

(Diagram)



25.e4 exd4 26.Rc5 Qe7 27.Qc1 Ne3
28.Re1 Rbd8 29.Rxe3 dxe3+ 30.Qxe3
Rxd3
0-1

□ **Horowitz, Phineas**

■ **Finacom, Richard**

2024 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (7.11)

[Winslow, Elliott]

D11

1649

1953

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 4.c4 c6

By transposition a line of the Slav, where White plays e3 to defend the c-pawn, but hems in the dark-squared bishop for a while. Typically Black's last move here would have been the bishop move, and the other one (4...Bf5) is the main line. **5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 e6 7.Nc3 Bd6** A nice example of "knights before bishops." Black has three options for the bishop, but he's pretty sure that knight is going to d7 -- so play that first and keep your options for the bishop, or at least keep yourself guessing.

[7...Be7]

[7...Bb4]

[7...Nbd7! Maybe not "!" but what the heck. Carlsen and every other modern

great player has played this position. He even lost once, to Ding Liren in May 2022! 8.Bd3 Bb4 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1 Re8 11.Qe2 Qe7 12.Bd2 a6 (12...dxc4 13.Bxc4 Bd6 14.e4 e5 15.d5 Bc5 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Qxe3 Qc5 18.Qe2 Nb6 19.Bb3 cxd5 20.Nxd5 Nbx d5 21.Bxd5 Qe7 22.Rac1 Rac8 23.Bb3 Red8 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.g3 g6 26.a3 Kg7 27.Kg2 b6 28.Qf3 Rd8 29.Rd3 Rxd3 30.Qxd3 Qc5 31.Bc4 a5 32.Kf3 Qc8 33.Kg2 Qc6 34.Kf3 h5 35.Bb3 b5 36.Bd5 Qd7 37.Kg2 Kf8 38.b4 a4 39.f4 exf4 40.gxf4 Qc7 41.Qd2 Ke7 42.e5 Nxd5 43.Qxd5 Qd7 44.Qc5+ Ke6 45.Kg3 Qd3+ 46.Kh4 Kf5 47.e6+ Kxe6 48.Qe5+ Kd7 49.Kg5 Qxh3 50.Qxb5+ Ke7 51.Qc5+ Ke8 52.Qe5+ Qe6 53.Qb8+ Ke7 54.Qc7+ Kf8 55.Qe5 Qxe5+ 56.fxe5 Ke7 57.Kf4 Ke6 58.Ke4 g5 59.Kd4 h4 60.Ke4 h3 61.Kf3 Kxe5 0-1 Lazavik, D (2567)-Carlsen, M (2830) Chessable Masters Div 1 Win Chess.com INT rapid 2024 (3.4)) 13.Be1 Rad8 14.Rac1 Bd6 15.c5 Bc7 16.f4 Ba5 Did he *mean* to lose a pawn here? Should White take it? 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Bxa5 Rc8 19.Rc3 Nf8 20.Rb3 Ne6 21.Qf3 Qd7 22.Be1 Nd8 23.Rb6 Ne4 24.Bc2 f5 25.Rd3 Nf7 26.Rdb3 Rc7 27.Kf1 Qc8 28.Ke2 Nh8 29.Kd1 Ng6 30.Kc1 Nf8 31.Ba5 Rf7 32.Kb1 h6 33.a3 Nh7 34.Ka2 Nhf6 35.Be1 g5 36.Bd1 g4 37.hxg4 fxg4 38.Qf1 h5 39.Qh1 Kg7 40.Bh4 Ng8 41.Bc2 Nd2 42.Bg5 Nxb3 43.Rxb3 Nf6 44.Bxf6+ Rxf6 45.Qxh5 Rh8 46.Qe5 Kf7 47.e4 dxe4 48.Bxe4 Re8 49.Qh5+ Ke7 50.d5 Kd8 51.Qg5 Ref8 52.Rd3 Qc7 53.dxc6+ Kc8 54.Qxg4+ Kb8 55.Rd7 Rxf4 56.Qg7 1-0 Ding, L (2806)-Carlsen, M

(2864) Chessable Masters KO
chess24.com INT rapid 2022 (2.14)]

8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.e4 dxe4
11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 g6 13.h4 Re8
14.c5?!N I always think of Fischer's "You gotta give squares to get squares" when White does this to this common Queen's Gambit pawn structure -- but here it's just not good -- Black is quite ready to break it up with ...e5 . o

[14.Bg5 Be7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Rfe1 Rad8 17.Rad1 Nf6 18.Qf4 Rd6 19.Bf1 Red8 20.Rd3 Nh5 21.Qe4 Qf6 22.Red1 Qf4 23.Qxf4 Nxf4 24.R3d2 e5 25.g3 Ne6 26.d5 Nd4 27.Bg2 cxd5 28.cxd5 f6 29.f4 Kf7 30.fxe5 fxe5 31.Re1 Re8 32.Rd3 Rb6 33.b3 Ra6 34.Rd2 Re7 35.g4 Rf6 36.Rf2 Rxf2 37.Kxf2 Nb5 38.g5 Kg7 39.Bh3 Kf8 40.Be6 Nc7 41.Rxe5 Nxd5 42.Rxd5

1/2-1/2 Batsiashvili,N (2436)-Cramling,P (2478) Wch Rapid (Women) Batumi 2012 (10)]

14...Be7! 15.g3 Nf6?!]

[15...e5!?

16.Qe5

[16.Qe3!=]

16...b6?!]

[16...Qd5!?

17.cxb6

[17.Rd1!=]

17...axb6 18.Bh6?! Ra5 19.Qe2 Rd5

[19...Qxd4!]

20.Bc4 Rh5

[20...Rxd4!]

21.Bg5 b5 22.Bb3 Qxd4 23.Rad1 Qg4

[23...Qb6!? 24.Bxe6! h6! 25.Qc2! Kg7! 26.g4 Rxcg5 27.hxcg5 hxcg5=]

24.Qxcg4! Nxcg4 25.Bxe7 Rxe7 26.Rd8+ Kg7 27.Bd1! f5 28.Rd6=

And it gets equal and stays there.

28...g5!? 29.hxcg5 Rxcg5 30.Rxc6 Rg6?!±

[30...Ne5= as in 0.00]

31.Rb6

[31.Re1±]

31...f4

[31...h5!]

32.Bxc4?!]

[32.Bc2! fxg3! 33.f3! Nh2 34.Bxc6 Nxf1 35.Kxf1 Kxc6 36.Kg2±]

32...Rxc4 33.Kg2

[33.Rxb5 fxg3 34.fxc3 Rxc3+ 35.Kf2 Rg4 36.Kf3=]

33...Rg5 34.Re1 Kf7 35.Kf3 fxg3

36.fxc3 Kf6 37.Rh1 h5 38.Rh4 Kg6

39.Re4 Rf5+ 40.Rf4 So Horowitz takes clear 2nd in the 1600-1999 section.

1/2-1/2

B13

□ **Siegel,David**

1272

■ **Zaveri,Sohan**

1465

2024 Fall TNM: 1200-1599 (7.24)

[*Siegel,David*]

DS: This was the final round and the top board in the 1200-1600 section! The TI; dr is I made some miscalculations in the middle game and ultimately a blunder. EW: Still, this win capped a fine surge for Zaveri in the section; after narrowly escaping in the first round 1 with a draw, followed by two half-point byes, he won his last four games for clear first! 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 I was happy with my position here as White. I think my queenside pawns are a bit better, my development is a bit better, but my opponent did have the bishop pair in a fairly open position. 10.Nf3 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.0-0 e6 13.Be3 Be7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Rc1 Qd5 I think my Ne4 was probably premature, especially since Qd5 forces it back to c3. 16.Nc3 Qa5

17.a3 Nc4 18.Qe2 Nxe3 19.fxe3 c5
 20.b4 cxb4 Just a blunder. I had already
 hallucinated a couple of things and I
 somehow didn't see cxb4 here, which
 basically lost the game (with excellent
 play from my opponent!). 21.axb4 Qxb4
 22.Qd3 Bg6 23.e4 Rfc8 24.Ne2 Qb7
 25.d5 exd5 26.Rb1 Qa7+ 27.Nfd4
 Bxe4 28.Qg3 Bxb1 29.Rxb1 Bf6
 30.Rd1 Rc4 31.Qg4 a5 32.Kh1 a4
 33.Qf3 a3 34.Qxd5 Rcc8 35.Nb5 Qe3
 36.Qa2 Bb2 37.Nec3 Bxc3 38.Nxc3
 Qxc3 39.Rd2 Re8 40.Rc2 Qg3 41.Rc1
 Re1+ 42.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 43.Kh2 Qe6
0-1

☐ **Barreyro,Romeo Belmes** **C32**
☒ **Stults,Sawyer** **1522**
 2024 Fall TNM: 1200-1599 (7.25)
[Winslow,Elliott]

An inexplicable Falkbeer Countergambit
 to the King's Gambit, which falls
 eventually to Barreyro -- giving him a tie
 for 1st-2nd in the section. 1.e4 e5 2.f4
 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Bc5
 6.Na4 Bxg1 7.Rxg1 c6 8.Be2 cxd5
 9.b3 0-0 10.g4 d4 11.g5 Nd5 12.Nc5
 e3 13.dxe3 Qa5+ 14.Qd2 Qxc5
 15.exd4 Qc3 16.Qxc3 Nxc3 17.Bd3
 Nc6 18.Bd2 Re8+ 19.Kf2 Ne4+
 20.Bxe4 Rxe4 21.c3 Bf5 22.d5 Rd8
 23.c4 Ne7 24.Rae1 Rxe1 25.Rxe1
 Ng6 26.Kg3 Kf8 27.h4 Re8 28.Bb4+
 Ne7 29.d6 f6 30.dxe7+ Kf7 31.h5 Bd7
 32.Bd6 Bc6 33.b4 a6 34.a3 b5 35.c5
 Ra8 36.Bc7 f5 37.Bd6 Ra7 38.g6+
 hxg6 39.hxg6+ Ke8 40.Re5 Be4 41.c6
 Bxc6 42.Rxf5 Rxe7 43.Bxe7 Kxe7
 44.Rf7+ Ke6 45.Rxg7 Be4 46.Kg4 Kf6
 47.Ra7 Bxg6 48.Rxa6+ Kg7 49.f5 Be8
 50.Kg5
1-0

☐ **Singer,Andrew** **C41**
☒ **Blum,Paul** **947**
 2024 Fall TNM: u1200 (7.30) 15.10.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

Andrew Singer and John Pirone tied for
 1st-2nd in the Under 1200 section; Here
 are the games that put them there: 1.e4
 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bg4
 5.0-0 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Ne5 7.Be2 Nxf3+
 8.Bxf3 Bxf3 9.Nxf3 c5 10.e5 dxe5
 11.Nxe5 Be7 12.Qf3 Bf6 13.Re1 Bxe5
 14.Rxe5+ Ne7 15.Qxb7 f6 16.Rxc5
 0-0 17.Bf4 a5 18.Re1 Rf7 19.Bc7
 Qc8 20.Qxc8+ Rxc8 21.Bd6 Nc6
 22.Re6 Rd7 23.Bf4 Na7 24.Rxc8+
 Nxc8 25.Re8+
1-0

☐ **Pirone,John** **B12**
☒ **Woodworth,Bryce** **900**
 2024 Fall TNM: u1200 (7.31) 15.10.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 Is this really
 called the Khenkin-Arkell Variation?
4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 cxd4 6.Nb5 Bg4
7.Nbxd4 Nxe5 8.Bb5+
 [8.Nxe5 Bxd1 9.Bb5+]
8...Nd7 9.0-0 e5 10.Nb3 Ngf6 11.h3
Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Bd6 13.Bg5 Be7
14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Qxd5 a6 16.Bc4 0-0
17.Qxb7 a5 18.Rad1 a4 19.Rxd7 Qc8
20.Qxc8 Raxc8 21.Nd2 Bg5 22.Rd1
Bxd2 23.Bxf7+ Rxf7 24.Rxf7 Kxf7
25.Rxd2 Ke6 26.a3 Rb8 27.c3 Kf5
28.f3 h5 29.Kf2 e4 30.Ke3 exf3
31.Kxf3 g5 32.g4+ hxg4+ 33.hxg4+
Ke5 34.Ke2 Rh8 35.Kf3 Rh3+ 36.Kg2
Re3 37.Rf2 Ke4 38.c4 Re1 39.c5
Rc1 40.Re2+ Kd3 41.Re5 Rc2+
42.Kf3 Rxb2 43.Rxg5 Rb3 44.c6

Rxa3 45.c7 Rc3 46.Ra5 Kc4+ 47.Kf4
Kb4 48.Ra7 a3 49.g5 Kb5 50.g6 Kb6
51.g7 Kxa7 52.g8Q Rxc7 53.Qg1+
Ka6 54.Qf1+ Ka5 55.Qd3 Ka4
56.Qa6+ Kb3 57.Qb6+ Ka4 58.Qxc7
a2 59.Qc3
1-0

Wigan Chess Club

John Shortt

I would like to thank everyone at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club for making me very welcome when I visited on Friday 4th October. Your club and meeting room is very impressive and was one of the highlights of my trip to San Francisco. I'm sure you are all proud of your interesting history including all the great players who have visited the Mechanics Institute. My visit was reported in Wigan's newspaper:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/community/wigan-chess-enthusiast-visits-historic-mechanics-institute-chess-club-in-san-francisco-4813889>

I traveled from Wigan in the north of England where I am President of the local chess club. Records show that Wigan Chess Club started in 1873. Coincidentally, our club first met at the Mechanics' Institute in Wigan.

Henry Bird visited our club in 1887. Bird was an English chess player who gave his name to an opening which is still played today by many people including your Alex Robins. In 1897 the famous International Master, Joseph Blackburne, visited Wigan Chess Club to give a simultaneous exhibition. Blackburne dominated chess in Victorian England and was given the nickname 'Black Death'.

Today, Wigan Chess Club is thriving after a slump during the Covid years. We have a strong membership and we have recently started an academy for junior players. You must visit us if you are ever in the Wigan area. Please email info@wiganchess.com and a warm welcome will be waiting for you.

Thanks again.

John Shortt

President of Wigan Chess Club

Purity of the Game

Zorba Hughes

Do you play chess for the love of the game? Or monetary gain? Some say play it for fun. Many can, I can't. Although I don't play for money, I can't play for mere enjoyment either. I play for respect. Much like a battle rapper If you're a professional player like Magnus, or Kasparov it makes sense to play for money. They're Super Grandmasters. (Sounds like superheroes). But, for the majority of us we play to get better and the challenge of it. Paul Morphy faced this dilemma often, his parents told him chess was a leisure game to be enjoyed and not gambled upon. He felt guilt at times for playing for money. After all, he was supposed to become a lawyer, not a chess player. Many think of chess as a waste of time. What purpose does it serve? I can understand playing for money to a degree. After all you're studying files, main lines moving pieces in strategic patterns just to mate a king. A game designed to pit opponents' intellectual prowess against each other by studying books, as well as online just to outwit one another over a board to the average person sounds insane.

I understand playing for money to a degree. I used to play on market street years ago. The police stopped it because they say there was illegal gambling involved. I disagree. Chess threatens those who fear learning. You learn your strengths and weaknesses through the game. That scares people. Whatever your reason is for playing, money or not, don't cheat the game for greed. Play for the love.

Something Old, Something New from Gambit Publishing

IM John Donaldson

Two new books from Gambit Publishing (www.gambitbooks.com) are updates of previous released works.

Chess Highlights of the 20th Century (2024, 294 pages, figurine algebraic, hardback, \$30) by Graham Burgess

101 Tips to Improve Your Chess (2024, 115 pages, figurine algebraic, paperback, \$20) by Tony Kosten

It's not often a chess book can improve your knowledge of history but that is the case with FIDE Master Graham Burgess' *Chess Highlights of the 20th Century*. This unique work selects the most important chess and world developments each year over the past century.

The chess portion of the book, which makes up the vast majority, provides yearly coverage of the most important news related to the royal game. This is followed by two to three deeply annotated game fragments with numerous diagrams. The latter enable readers to follow the action without a board. This new edition is a substantial revision of the original published in 2000, with 70 additional pages.

101 Tips to Improve Your Chess by Grandmaster Tony Kosten was originally published in 1996. There are some analytical corrections in the new edition but this is essentially a reprint of this useful instructional work aimed at club players (approximately rated 1400-2200). Kosten, drawing heavily on his own games, offers a wealth of practical information. His examples are well chosen and clearly explained.

Here, in *Tip 51: Keep pieces protected*, he offers what initially appears to be a simple example but in fact has a nice twist to it.

Vassily Smyslov-Johann Hjartarson

Reykjavik 1995

Notes by John Donaldson

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Qe2 Nc6 4.Nc3 d6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nge7 8.d3 h6 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Qd2 Rb8 11.Rab1 Nec6 12.a3 b5 13.b4?



13...Nxf3+! 14.Bxf3 Qf6!

Double attack! Smyslov, known as “the hand” for his profound positional understanding that allowed him to find the right move instinctively, wouldn’t fall into such a simple trap – or could he?

15.Bg2 Qxc3 16.e5

And here it is. The seventh World Champion cuts off the defense of Black’s queen and threatens to capture the knight on c6. Has the trapper (Hjartarson) been trapped?



16...Nd4! 0-1

No! Now 17.Qxc3 would be met by 17...Ne2+ and 18...Nxc3. This appears to be the shortest game Smyslov lost in his illustrious career.

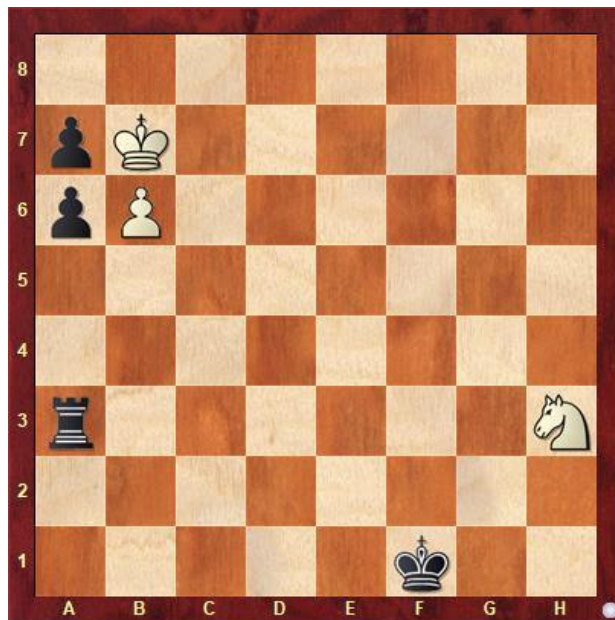
Chess Highlights of the 20th Century and *101 Tips to Improve Your Chess* would both make excellent Christmas presents for the chess player in the family.

Tony's Teasers

Tony Lama

Unkown

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.

Black to move and play for an advantage:



Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1.bxa7!, Rb3+ 2. Kc6, Rc3+ 3.Kd7, Rd3+ 4. Ke7, Re3+ 5. Kf7, Rf7+ 6. Kg7, Rg3+ 7. **Ng5!!**, Rxc5+ 8. Kf7, Rf5+ 9. Ke7, Re5+ 10. Kd7, Rd5+ 11. Kc7, Rc5+ 12. Kb7, Rb5+ 13. **Kc6! And now black can't stop the queening.**

For the Puzzle in the Library:

1...exf3!

Although not a definitive solution, this move gives Black some mating threats and a passed pawn. See Newsletter #1053 for more detailed analysis.

Chan vs Prasad, Summer Tuesday Night Marathon, September 24, 2024. Annotated by IM Elliott Winslow.



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