



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Chess Room Newsletter



The Clash of the US Champions!

Issue #1055 | November 30th, 2024 | Gens Una Sumus!

Contents

[Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute by Alex Robins](#)

[Meet the Mechanics' with Phineas Horowitz and Alex Robins](#)

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

[The COAT by Zorba Hughes](#)

[Live from the Fall Break Chess Camp, it's a d5 Knight by Christian Brickhouse](#)

[Wolff vs Shankland at the Mechanics' Institute by Alex Robins and Elliott Winslow](#)

[Book Review by IM John Donaldson](#)

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

[Solutions - Contact Us](#)

Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club finished November with the 18+ Tournament on November 23rd. Stay tuned for these as we also have a bar opening on our block very soon and they may turn into 21+ tournaments! In the top section, MI Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2404), **Arun Dixit** (2232) and **Carson Armstrong** (1713) tied, splitting the first, second and third place prizes. **Liwei Yang** (1810) and **Kar Lun Cheng** (1673) took the u2000 and u1800 prizes respectively.

In the under section, **Randy Z Wu** (1318) and **Satyakam Dash** (1281) tied for first place. **Charlie Schaezlein** (1270) came in third place and **David Ryan Man** (896) and **Felix Rodriguez** (1111) took the u1200 and u1400 prizes respectively.

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our flagship event for the month was the Special Lecture and Blitz with **GM Sam Shankland**! Not only did **GM Sam Shankland** (2745) play in the blitz, we were also honored to have **GM Patrick Wolff** (2586) play as well - that's two former US Champions here at the club! To nobody's surprise, **GM Sam Shankland** won the tournament with a perfect score. **GM Patrick Wolff** (2586) and **IM Mark Heimann** (2534) were right at his heels with six points each. **Samarth Ram Bharadwaj** (1353) and **Joshua Harrell** (unr.) took the u1800 and u1300 prizes respectively.

Unfortunately, the two former US Champions did not get paired in the tournament, BUT we were able to arrange an exhibition blitz game after the tournament - check out below in the newsletter.

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

Earlier in the month we celebrated women in chess with our 2nd Ruth Haring Memorial Tournament! We were lucky to have Theodore Biayasas, her son, make a generous donation so that we could offer prizes for the top performing woman in each section. In the top section **Liwei Yang** (1810) and **Rayna Yan** (1776) tied for the top performing woman. There were no women in the middle section and **Elena Hingyi Pang** (1334) was the top female player in the bottom section.

The top section of the tournament was won outright by MI Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2396) with a perfect score. **Zhouyuan Wu** (2001) took second place and **Shubham Patankar** (1750) took third.

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

At the beginning of the month we held our 2nd Annual Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial Tournament. Vladimir was a member of our board and a supporter of the chess club. Additionally, he is the father of the well-known GM Daniel Naroditsky who grew up playing at our club. First place was taken by **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2396) with second and third place split between **Jimmy Heiserman** (2309), **Sebastian Suarez** (2210), and **Patrick Beatrez** (2106).

Full results can be found [here](#).

These tournaments were directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

For the Monthly Scholastic Swiss tournament, **Si Hao Huang** (1066) took home first in the over-600 section with a perfect 4 points. **Jacob Gould** (759) and **Shubham Patankar** (1750) both finished with 3 points, but the silver went to Gould based on the tiebreaks. **Zane Chu** (1103) took 4th on a clear 3 points, and **Anna Bogdanova** (512) took 5th.

In the under-600 section, **Linus Dow** (unr.) took first with a perfect score. Second, third, and fourth went to **Wesley Lau** (unr.), **Anton Kojoukhov** (464), and **Ary Cheng** (189) respectively, with order determined by tie breaks. Fifth place was taken home by **Michael Puterman** (324).. Another strong tournament, and we look forward to seeing your chess skills develop!

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](#).

Meet the Mechanics'

Alex Robins with Phineas Horowitz

There are a lot of folks that work at the Mechanics' and in this new column, I'll be introducing our readers to some of our Tournament Directors, Coaches, Librarians, and other staff members that have a connection to the chess club. In this month's newsletter you'll get to know Phin Horowitz better, our Membership and Donor Database Administrator who has been on a warpath in our chess tournaments lately. Read on to get to know more about him and visit him on the 5th floor to join up and become a member!

Alex:

So I wanted to interview you because you've been doing so well in our tournaments and I found a couple of our tournament players actually didn't know that you work here. So, could you start by just telling us a little bit about how long you've worked here and what you do at Mechanics'?

Phin:

So I started, that's how I actually found this job, because I was looking for just a place to come play chess, and I was a couple of months out of school and looking for my first full time job. I've been working here since February of last year, and I started playing in the tournaments soon after. I work in the membership office. So I help manage our database of members and then process memberships and also reach out and try to promote the Mechanics Institute, get more people to join.

Alex:

So all those tournament players that aren't members should come up and talk to you?

Phin:

All those tournament players that aren't members should talk to me at the, at any tournament, or any other time, and they should all join and donate as well!

Alex:

One of the main things I wanted to ask you about is your background and history playing chess because I think you came into our tournaments rated around 1000 and now you're up to almost 2000, and that usually takes people years and years of work. Can you tell us a little about your background playing chess?

Phin:

Well, I think I was accidentally sandbagging when I first started, because I had my rating left over from when I was 10 or 11, in New York and then I moved out here and I kind of stopped playing. So I had my rating left over from when I was 10, but I kept playing for fun. Though I got really back into it over COVID and then was looking when I moved back here for a place to play in person. I think my rating is probably a little high now too, so I hope it will fluctuate back down to probably something more realistic.

Alex:

When you were a kid there, did you have a coach? What was your experience playing as a scholastic player in New York?

Phin:

Well, my dad was a big chess fan, so he taught me how to play. I played at the Marshall a couple of times and I, I'm not sure how we found it but I had an old Russian grandmaster chess coach,, for a year or two, GM Yury Lapshun, super nice guy.

Alex:

My last question is: do you have any words of wisdom for people that are trying to climb that TNM ladder now that you've pretty successfully done it?

Phin:

Words of wisdom, when I was playing as a kid, I was really stressed out about the competition side of it. And now that I started again, I have been playing more for fun and I think I've been doing better because I'm less stressed out about the end result. So I'm not sure if that's realistic but don't focus on the competition, just focus on enjoying the game.

Annotated Games from the TNM

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from round one of the 2024 Winter TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and the players. All the games from the current TNM can be found here, and games from previous TNMs are in the [Tournament Archive](#).

□ Mercado,Adam

■ Winslow,Elliott

2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 05.11.24

[Winslow,Elliott]

B08

1937

2200

Hello all! Here are games from Rounds 1-4 of the current Winter Tuesday Night Marathon. Now there are some who are wondering (well, me) why this is the Winter TNM when it *ends* before Winter even starts, but so it goes. And it is getting "cold" if you're acclimatized to the Bay Area. Those of us (me again) who have lived in places like Chicago and Cleveland and New York (and worse) would be offended, if I weren't the guy who always shuts the window before the round starts.

So you may notice that I've included mostly games from the top boards; those players do play better and maybe even more interesting chess! But I asked people to indicate on their scoresheets if they think it's the case: please let me know if you have a game that might be worth considering for Newsletter attention!

Somehow, I am on Board 1 for a couple rounds, so you get a couple of my games there before I forget how to play in Round 2. Let's go... **1.e4 4 d6 38**

2.d4 15 Nf6 16 3.Nc3 11 g6 12 4.Nf3 1:08

[Consider 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.Qe2 Nc6 6.e5!? Nxd4!? 7.exf6 Nxe2 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.Ngx2♗]

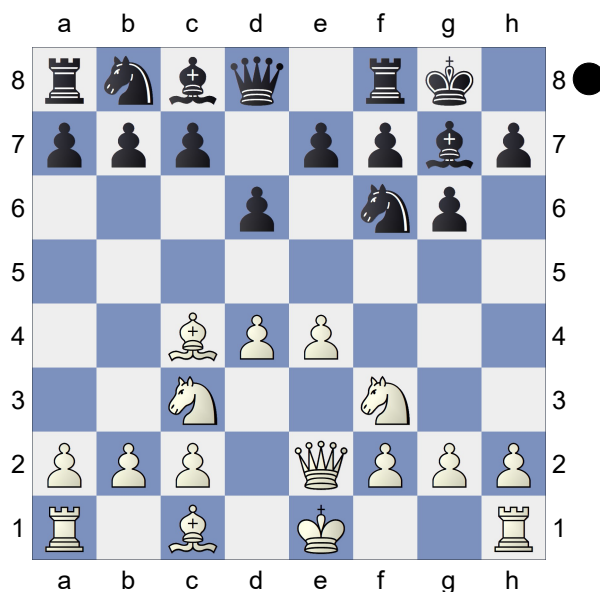
4...Bg7 8 5.Bc4 56 Not seen so much at higher levels, if only because of "fork tricks" (...Nxe4) equalizing. But (1) the game gets less interesting (2) the Pirc has the intention of complicating the game (at the cost of maybe objectively not quite equalizing at all?).

[5.Be2 was seen on Board 11,

Vandenhoven vs. Admassu, where 0-0 6.0-0 Bg4 was played. I remember seeing all sorts of games from this position, mostly Karpov wins on the White side. (So I was probably going to play 6...Nc6)]

[5.Be3 is still an uncomfortable big deal, and every young player seems to know it (or on move 4). I'm learning (and still have a way to go -- see Round 4)]

5...0-0 1:11 6.Qe2 3:29



Nc6 4:32 I think I had a ghost memory of the queen-sac line, see White's move 4.

[Marin just gives 6...Bg4 which is logical in that if White plays h3 and Black takes, the queen recapture "would involve White losing a full tempo." (Marin). Try losing half a tempo...]

7.Bg5 2:30

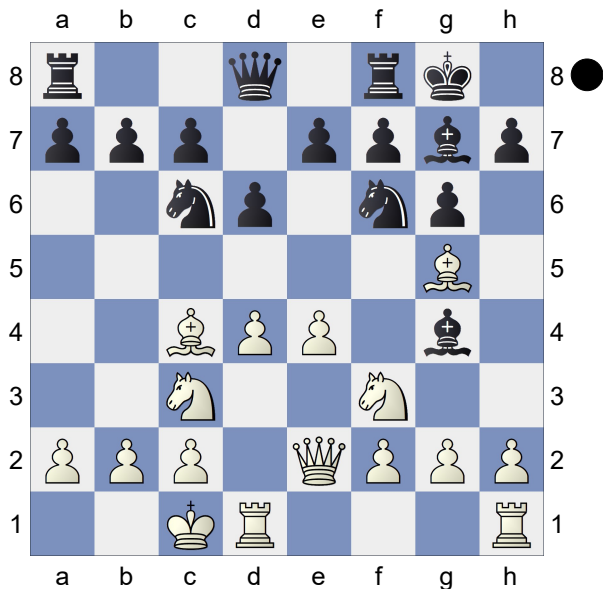
[I rather expected 7.Be3]

[7.h3!?± is Stockfish 17's best try for some advantage. (In the +0.3 or so range)]

7...Bg4 2:11 8.0-0-0 11:14

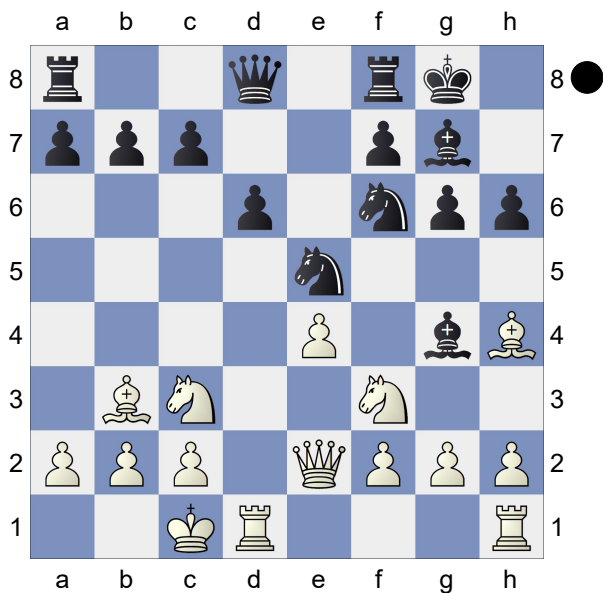
(Diagram)

e5?! 1:34



[SF17 is steadfast: 8...h6 is the move, with full equal chances. 9.Be3 (9.Bxf6 exf6!? 10.h3 Bd7 11.g4 a6≠ White's pawns are somewhat stalled, while Black's are just getting started.) 9...e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.h3 Bh5!? when 12.Rhg1 (12.g4?? Nfxg4-+ totally fails.) 12...Nxf3 13.gxf3 Qe7= and g6 is conveniently covered.]

9.dxe5 20:59 **Nxe5** 55 **10.Bb3?! 3:39**
[10.h3 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Nxc4 12.Qxc4 Re8 13.h4± is just a typical position, but White has some plusses.]
10...h6! 4:11 **11.Bh4** 1:24



c6?! 3:20 Voluntary weakening d6.

[11...Bh5!? Really??]

12.h3 44

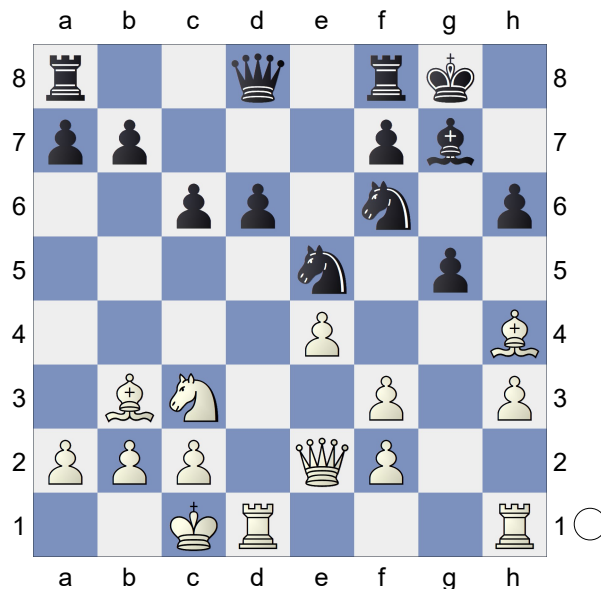
[12.Qe3!± Qe7 13.Rd2]

12...Bxf3 1:45

[12...Nxf3 13.gxf3 Bh5 14.Rd3

P/d6 is pathetic. Still, Black has resources. Qe7 15.Qd2 Rfe8!?=]

13.gxf3 8 **g5**± 1:10



14.f4?! 27

[14.Bg3 Nh5 15.h4 Nf4 16.Qd2 (16.Bxf4?! gxf4±; 16.Qe3; 16.Qf1; 16.Qe1)]

14...Ng6?! 42

[14...gxf4! 15.Rhg1 Kh7±]

15.fxg5?! 3:29 Nxf4 6:27 **16.gxf6** 30

Qxf6± 31 [White: 47 min Black: 69 min]

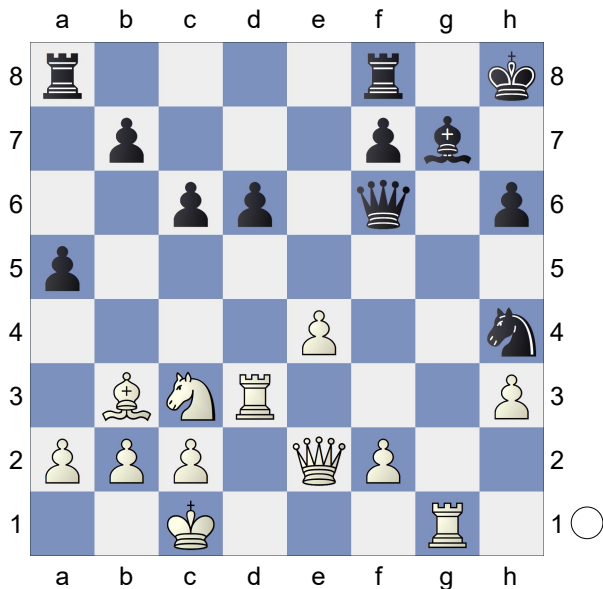
17.Rd3 4:09 **a5** 3:53 **18.Rg1** 4:28

[18.a4 b5 (18...Rae8) 19.Rg1 Kh8 20.Rdg3 Ng6 21.Qe3 d5 22.exd5 cxd5±]

18...Kh8 1:53

(Diagram)

19.Kb1 13:51 Avoiding untimely checks on f4. But it does make b2 quite a bit more sensitive, as in if I ever break through on the long diagonal it's going to be mate, not just sending the king to



the d-file. And the move cost him 14 minutes, which will press further as the game goes on.

[Δ 19.a4!? -- See comment next b5]
19...b5 9:03

[Computer actually preferred 19...Rae8!? for a while before, after the following analysis, returning to the played move.

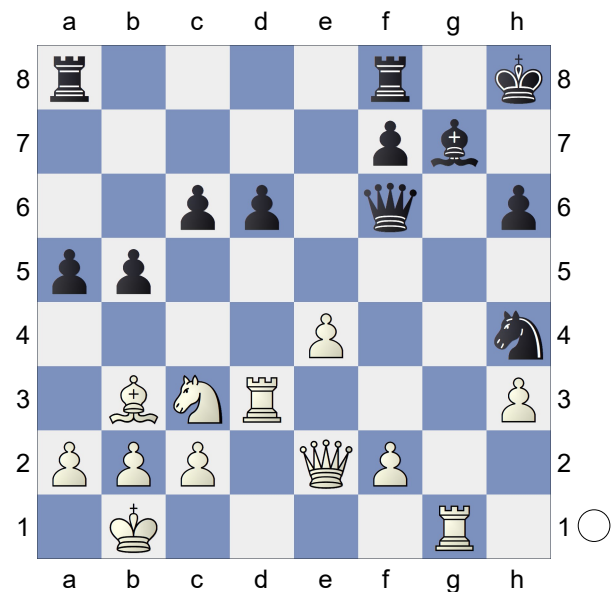
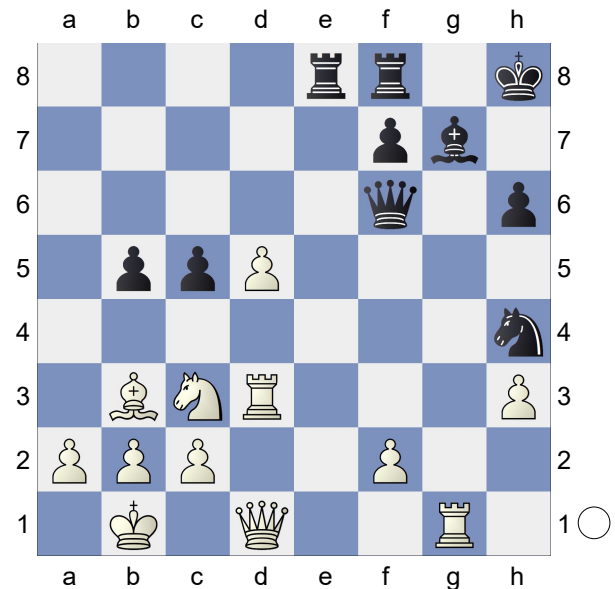
A) 20.Rdg3 Nf5!! 21.Rg4 (21.exf5 Rxe2 22.Rxg7 Qxg7) 21...d5 22.Qd1 Rxe4! 23.Rxg7! Nxc7 24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.a4! b5!

when White's plus is negligible, in spite of having quite the better minor piece at the moment.;

B) 20.Qd1!?± Here Black has an incredible pawn-swarm sequence (which Stockfish 17 makes as best): 20...d5! 21.exd5 a4! 22.Nxa4 b5 23.Nc3 c5!

(Diagram)

24.Rdg3! Rg8 25.a3! c4 26.Ba2 Nf5 27.Rf3 Qe5 and where Fish gets 28.Ka1!?± from is baffling to me. Perhaps Anand has been consulting. (+0.50/27)]



20.a4!± 3:47 Like Black's 13...g5 earlier, one is always hesitant about pushing pawns in front of one's own king's defence, but sometimes it's indicated or even necessary. Here it's the only way "forward."

[20.Rdg3 Ng6

A) 21.Bxf7 Nf4-+;

B) 21.Qd2!? Δ Bxf7 b4!?

A move from the computer -- I wasn't sure *what* I was going to do! 22.Na4 Qd4 23.Qxd4 Bxd4 24.Rf3 Rab8!? 25.Rf5!? (25.Rxf7? just activates Black's pieces: Rxf7 26.Bxf7 Nf4);

C) 21.a4]

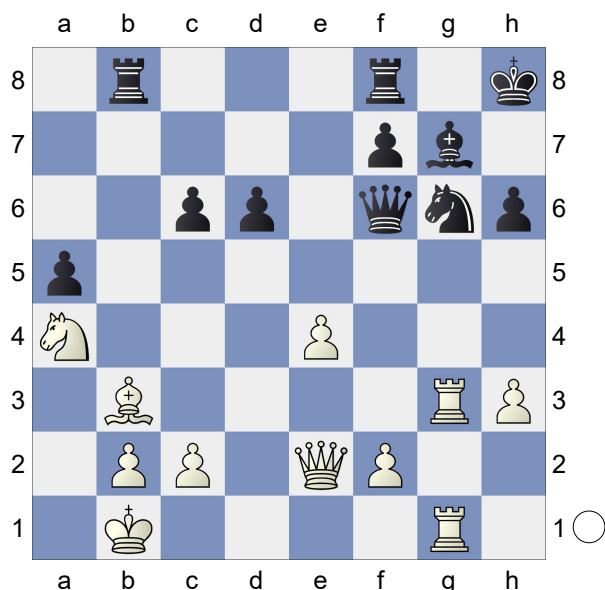
20...bxa4 1:41 21.Nxa4 20 Rab8 2:05

I was still angling for some breakthrough on the long diagonal! But I was always wondering when Adam was just going to sac the exchange on g7 and ruin my fun...

[Δ21...Ng6 22.Rf3 Qe7 23.c3 d5!?±
/=]

22.Rdg3!? 3:09 Maybe it was time to think more about the weak d-pawn.

22...Ng6! 7:04



At least I don't have to worry about any Bxf7 shots when ...Rxb2 is on But Black's pieces on the kingside are somewhat petrified for now. 23.Qd2? 3:07 And now the serious advantage shifts to Black.

[As so often, Stockfish inexplicably makes 23.Ka2!? as the only move with any plus for White at all.]

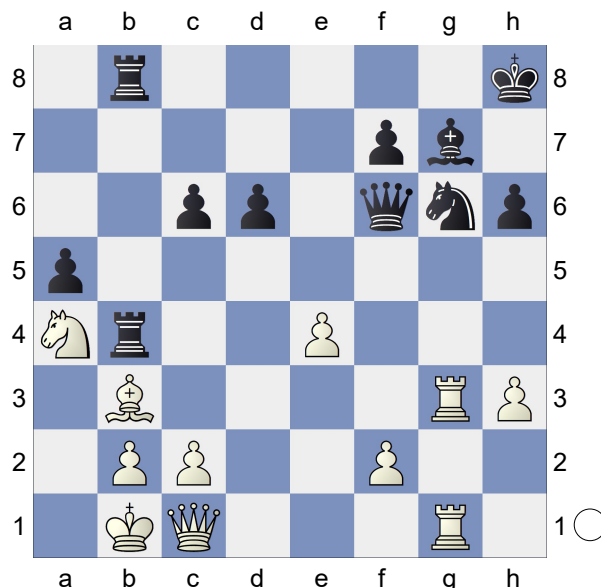
23...Rb4!± 3:02 24.Qc1?! 29

[24.Qc3!? c5 (or 24...Qe5)]

24...Rfb8 40

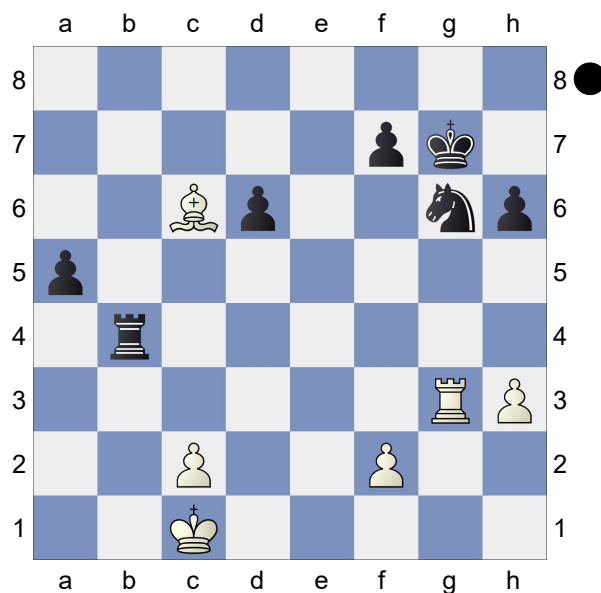
(Diagram)

There is a sort of symmetry to both sides' attack and defence. But now White seems to crack under pressure.



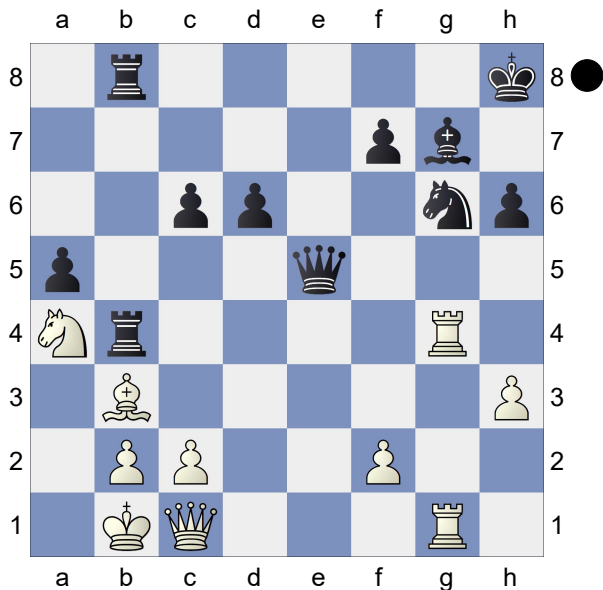
(White: 18 min Black: 43 min) 25.e5? 5:48

[Perhaps he had seen 25.Qe3 Rxa4 26.e5 and got the move-order wrong? Qxe5 it all leads to a flurry of captures: 27.Qxe5 Bxe5 28.Bxa4 Rxb2+! (28...Bxg3 29.Rxg3 c5±) 29.Kc1 Rb4 30.Bxc6 Bf4+! 31.Kd1 Bxg3 32.Rxg3 Kg7 33.Kc1 (33.Rd3? Ne5 34.Rxd6 Rb1+ 35.Ke2 Rb6-+; 33.Ba8!?)



33...-- Black's plusses (extra pawn, participating king) are somewhat off-weighted by all the isolanis (for both sides!). But Stockfish is making it -1.

25 or so. And it's a toss-up to come up with Black's next move! (33...Kf6±; 33...Kf8±; 33...Rc4±)]
25...Qxe5 1:28 26.Rg4 23

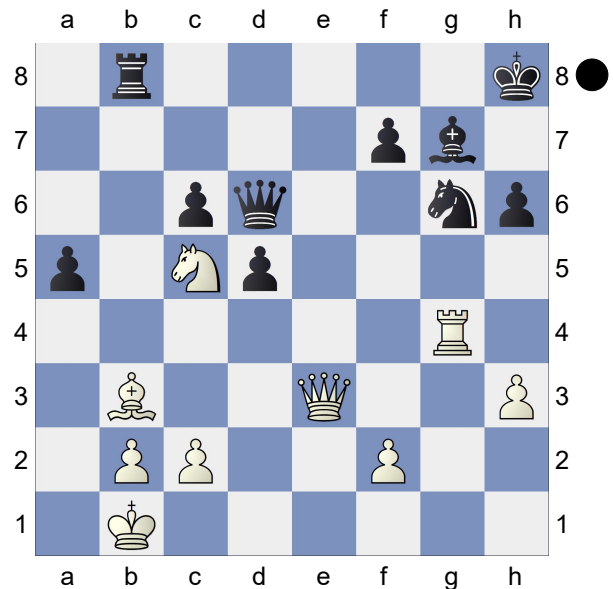


Rxg4? 7:09 I should let him take on b4, when I can take with either the a-pawn (and his knight is permanently banished) or ...Rxb4(!) with threats still (...c5, ...d5, ...Qb5!)

[26...Qf6 27.Rxb4 Rxb4
 (27...axb4-+)]
 [26...Kh7! 27.Rxb4 Rxb4 28.Ka2
 (28.Rg4 d5) 28...Qb5!]
27.Rxg4± 13 d5 33 28.Nc5 58 Qd6 31
 [⊲28...Qf5]
29.Qe3 1:48

(Diagram)

Qf6? 4:07
 [29...Ne5! 30.Rg1 Qf6 31.Qc3 Rb5
 32.Ka2 Nf3 33.Qxf6 Bxf6 34.Rg3
 Nd4 35.Nd3 a4!? 36.Bxa4 Ra5
 37.b3 Nxc2±]
30.c3? 31
 [30.Nd3!= (if you can believe that!)]
30...Ne5-+ 5:54 31.Qg3 1:01 Rb5 1:44
32.Qe3 1:27 Bf8 3:04
 [both 32...Qd6]
 [and 32...Qf3 have a bigger number



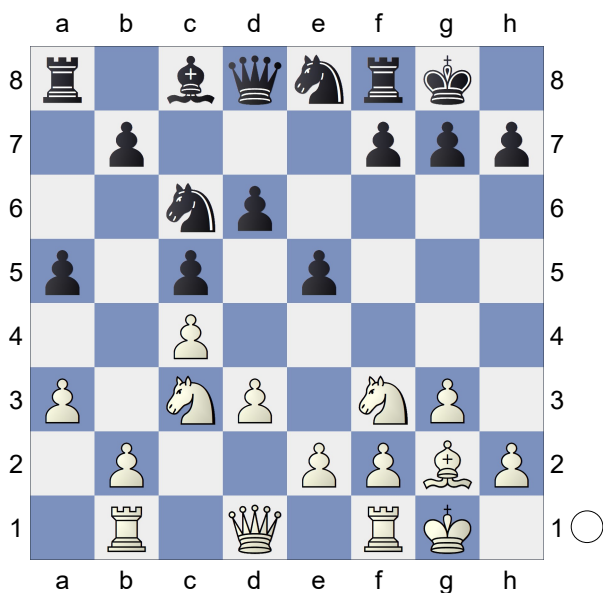
by them, but this is fine.]
33.Bc2 8:45 Bxc5 1:04 34.Qg3 1:10
Nxg4 2:19 35.Qxg4 15 Rb8 4:57
 [Of course I saw that I could play
 35...Qxc3 36.Qc8+ Kg7 37.Qg4+
 Kf6 and get away, but I wasn't sure --
 and why give someone forced moves
 in their time trouble? (He had 1m04s
 at this point to my 20m45s)]
36.Qg3 12 Bd6 10 37.Qd3 9 Kg7 16
38.h4 32 Kf8 37 39.h5 18 Ba3 1:39
40.Qh7 52 Rxb2+ 1:56 41.Ka1 8 Qxc3
11 42.Qxh6+ 13 Ke8 9
0-1

A34
 □ **Senthilkumar,Pranav** **2158**
 ■ **Parsons,Stephen** **1926**
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 05.11.24
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.Nf3 21 A fairly balanced game, for a while, until... **1...c5 43 2.g3 12 Nc6 50**
3.Bg2 43 Nf6 49 4.0-0 49 e5 4:15 5.c4
1:54 d6 2:50 6.d3 1:49 Be7 56 7.Nc3
51 0-0 2:02 8.Bg5 1:21 Ne8 2:13
 [Relevant: 8...Be6 9.Nd2 Nd7
 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.a3
 a5 13.Rb1 h6 14.Ne4 Nb6 15.Nxb6

Qxb6 16.Nxd6 Nd4 17.Ne4 Rad8
 18.Nc3 Bg4 19.h3 Bh5 20.g4 Bg6
 21.Nd5 Qd6 22.b4 cxb4 23.axb4 a4
 24.e3 Ne6 25.Ra1 b5 26.cxb5 Nc7
 27.Nxc7 Qxc7 28.Qxa4 Bxd3
 29.Rfc1 Qb8 30.Rc5 e4 31.Qa7
 Qd6 32.b6 Rb8 33.b7 Qe7 34.Qxb8
 Rxb8 35.Rc8+ Kh7 36.Rxb8 Kg6
 37.Ra7 Qxb4 38.Rc8 1-0 Tabatabaei,
 M (2696)-Aravindh,C (2662) Titled
 Tuesday intern op 09th Jan Late
 Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (7)]

9.Bxe7 51 Nxe7 14 10.Rb1 47 a5 4:40
11.a3 2:57 Nc6 1:03



12.Nd5N 4:51

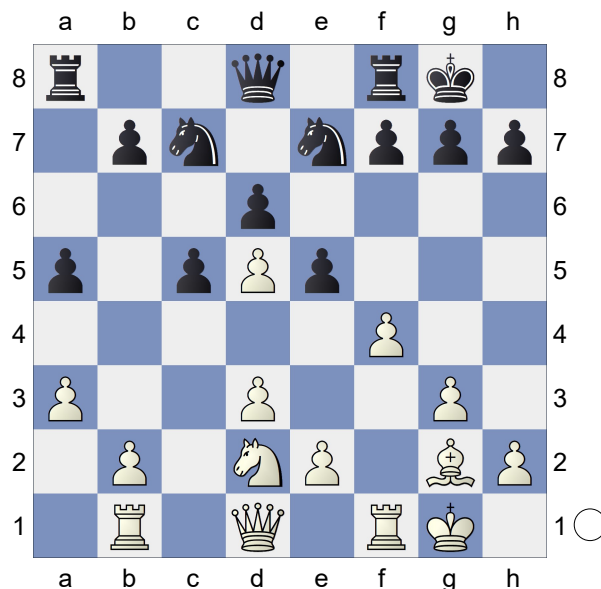
[Predecessor: 12.Ne1 f5 13.Nc2 f4
 14.b4 cxb4 15.axb4 fxg3 16.fxg3
 Nf6 17.bxa5 Qxa5 18.Nb5 Qd8
 19.e3 Kh8 20.Nb4 Nxb4 21.Rxb4
 Ra2 22.Nc3 Ra3 23.Rb3 Rxb3
 24.Qxb3 Ng4 25.Rxf8+ Qxf8
 1/2-1/2 (45) Khokhlova,D (2142)-
 Manakova,M (2192) Cheliabinsk
 Panchenko Memorial op-B 2022 (9)]

12...Nc7 5:55 13.Nd2 2:04

[13.Nb6!? Rb8 14.Nxc8 Qxc8
 15.Ne1 Qd7 16.Nc2 b5±]
 [13.b4? axb4 14.axb4?! (14.Nxc7
 Qxc7 15.axb4 Nxb4±) 14...Nxd5-+]

13...Be6 4:24 14.f4 7:25 Bxd5 3:54

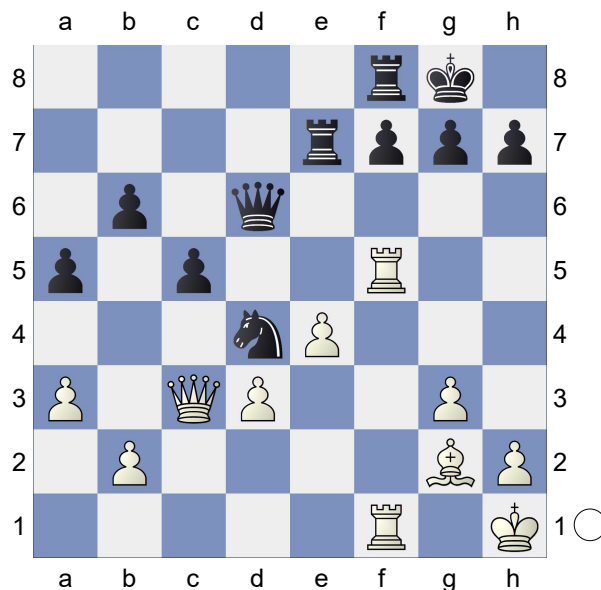
15.cxd5 25 Ne7 1:03



16.fxe5 1:14

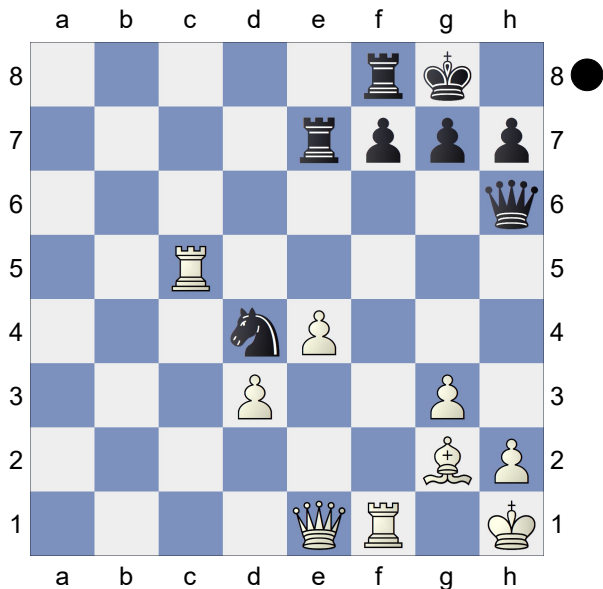
[16.e4]

16...Nexd5 40 17.exd6 3:18 Qxd6 2:28
18.Ne4 3:02 Qe5 10:12 19.Qc1 5:47 b6
3:56 20.Nc3 6:02 Rad8 1:25 21.Rf3
3:26 Nxc3 3:33 22.Qxc3 54 Qd6 3:24
23.Rbf1 9:22 Rd7 4:31 24.Kh1 4:53
Re7 1:34 25.e4 3:15 Ne6 40 26.Rf5
1:02 Nd4 2:59



27.Rd5 46 Qh6 1:01 28.b4 2:59 axb4
2:33 29.axb4 18 Ne2 5 30.Qe1 1:04
Nd4 39 31.bxc5 5:43 bxc5 1:22
32.Rxc5 2:28

(Diagram)

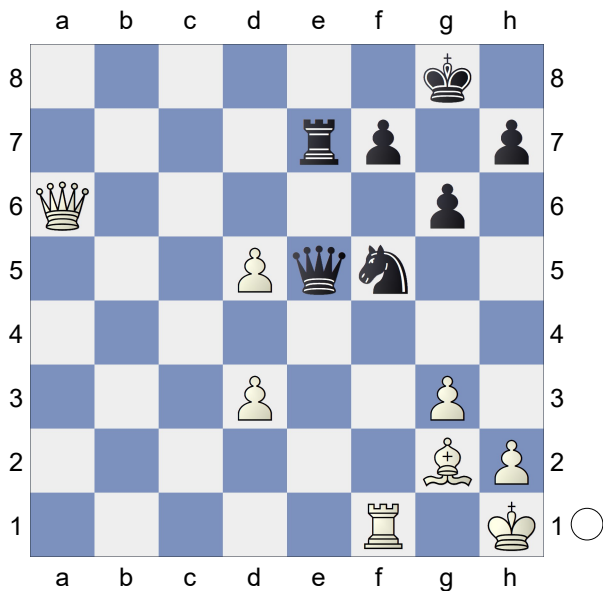


Rd8 5 33.Qf2 2:53 Qe6 5:08 34.Rd5 4:03

[♖34.Rfc1]

34...Rxd5 7 35.exd5 1 Qe5 1:30

36.Qa2 4:00 g6 2:37 37.Qa6 3:16 Nf5= 3:38



38.g4? 3:44 Anything else is equal!

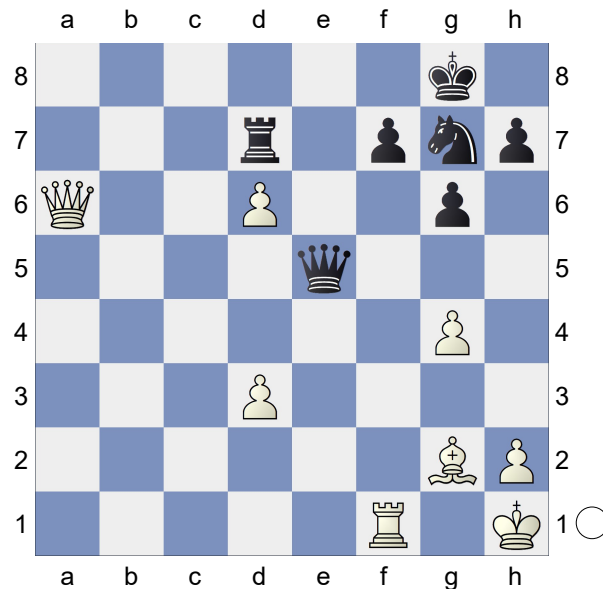
38...Ng7? 5:42

[38...Ne3! 39.Re1 ♖ Qc3 ♜ 40.Qa8+ Kg7 41.Qa1 Qxa1 42.Rxa1 Nxd4 ♜]

39.d6 3:57 Rd7? 56

[39...Re8=]

(Diagram)

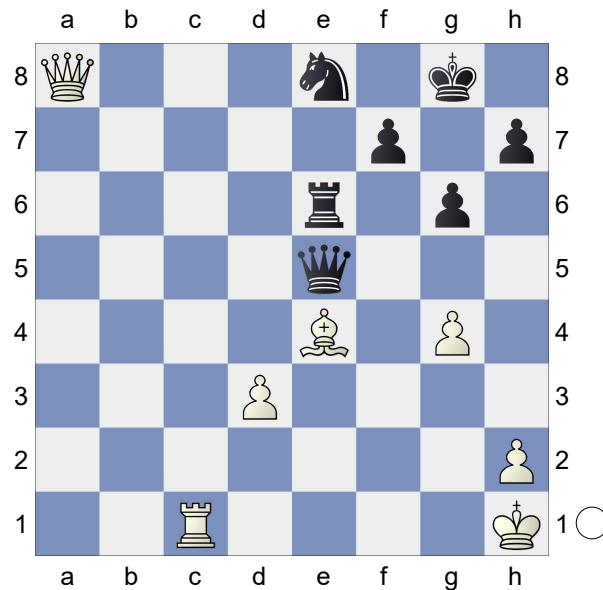


40.Rc1? 2:24

[40.Qc8+ Qe8 41.Qxe8+ Nxe8 42.Bc6 Rd8 (42...Rxd6 43.Bxe8 Rxd3 44.Bxf7+-) 43.d7!+- Nc7 (43...Nd6 44.Rf6!) 44.Re1 Ne6 45.d4+-]

40...Rxd6 3:00 41.Qa8+ 1:40 Ne8 1:26

42.Be4 46 Re6 1:28



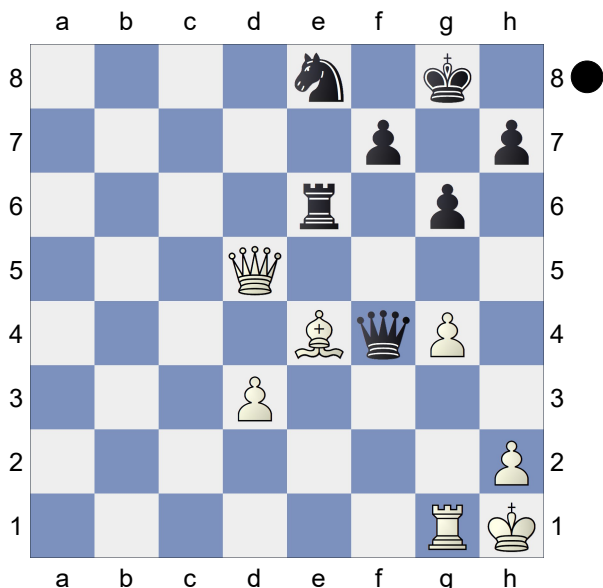
43.Qd5? 1:06

[43.Rf1! Kg7 44.Qa1=]

43...Qf4!+- 54 44.Rg1 35

(Diagram)

Nd6? 2:33



[44...Nf6!-+]

45.Qa8+ 23 Kg7 46 46.Qa1+ 8 Qe5
 2:47 **47.Bd5 57 Re7 1:00** It's quieted
 down, and eventually a draw. **48.Kg2 47**
f6 30 49.Qxe5 7 Rxe5 1 50.Bf3 7 Kf7
 1:15 **51.Rb1 16 Ke6 59 52.Kf2 32 f5**
 1:14 **53.d4 36 Ra5 18 54.Re1+ 46 Kf6**
 20 **55.d5 35 Ne4+ 30 56.Bxe4 32 fxe4**
 4 **57.Rd1 14 Ra3 1:44 58.d6 21 Rd3**
 16 **59.Rxd3 1:11 exd3 60.Ke3 12 Ke6**
 35 **61.Kxd3 31 Kxd6 7 62.Ke4 20**
 1/2-1/2

□ **Clemens,Kristian**

E94

1924

■ **Tsodikova,Natalya**

2138

2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 05.11.24
 [Winslow,Elliott]

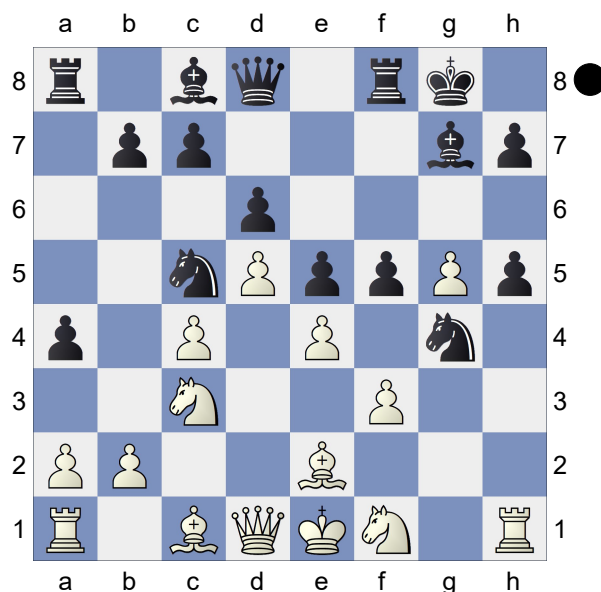
Tsodikova and the King's Indian is a
 frequent and dangerous match. **1.Nf3 10**
Nf6 8 2.c4 13 g6 16 3.Nc3 12 Bg7 10
4.d4 31 d6 9 5.e4 38 0-0 6.Be2 32
Nbd7 27 A move order to prevent the
 queens coming off after

[6...e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8
 9.Bg5 when it's still quite
 complicated!]

[6...e5 7.d5 (7.0-0; 7.Be3)

A) 7...a5!? is the modern
 interpretation, with lots of games at
 the highest level still. Here's one
 from a few months ago: 8.Nd2 Na6
 9.g4

A1) And here's Kasparov in high-
 energy mode (and playing the
 better move) -- a clock simul
 game against the French
 national team at the time:
9...Nc5! 10.h4 (10.g5 Nh5!f
 When Stockfish makes Black
 better in the King's Indian,
 something has definitely gone
 awry.) 10...a4!f 11.h5 gxh5
 12.g5 Ng4 13.Nf1 f5 14.f3



Nf2! 15.Kxf2 fxe4 16.Kg2 a3!
 17.Rxh5 exf3+ 18.Bxf3 e4
 19.Be2 Bf5 20.Qd2 Bg6
 21.Rh3 Qd7 22.Rg3 Qf7
 23.Qe1 Rae8 24.Be3 Nd3
 25.Qd2 axb2 26.Rb1 Be5
 27.Rg4 Nf4+ 28.Bxf4 e3
 29.Bxe3 Bxc3 30.Qxc3 Bxb1
 31.Rf4 Rxe3 0-1 Kouatly,B
 (2470)-Kasparov,G (2775) Evry
 sim 1989 (2);

A2) 9...c6 10.h4 So much for
 quiet castling kingside! cxd5
 11.cxd5 Bd7 12.h5 Nc5 13.a4

Rc8 14.g5 Ne8 15.Nc4 f5
 16.gxf6 Qxf6 17.Be3 gxf5
 18.Rxh5 Qe7 19.Nb6 Rc7
 20.Nxd7 Nxd7 21.Nb5 Rc8
 22.Bg4 Nef6 23.Be6+ Kh8
 24.Rh3 Rc4 25.Bf5 Nc5 26.f3
 b6 27.Ke2 Rb4 28.b3 Rxb3
 29.Qc2 Rxe3+ 30.Kxe3 Nxd5+
 31.exd5 Qg5+ 32.Kf2 e4
 33.Rxh7+ Kg8 34.Rxg7+ Kxg7
 35.Rg1 Rxf5 36.Rxg5+ Rxg5
 37.fxe4 Rh5 38.Qc3+ Kg6
 39.Nxd6 1-0 Erigaisi,A (2762)-
Shevchenko,K (2677) Warsaw
Superbet Blitz 2024 (3);

B) 7...Nbd7 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5
 10.Bg3 Nh5 11.h4! is possible
 when White hasn't castled.]

7.0-0 1:23 **e5** 47 **8.d5** 56 **Nc5** 2:12

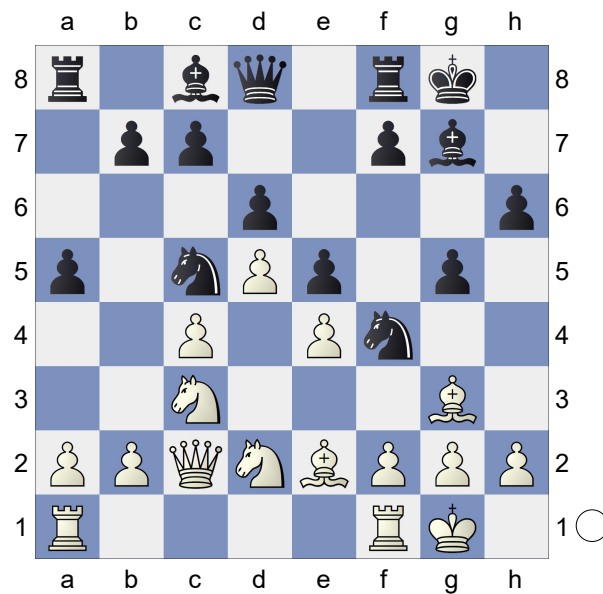
9.Qc2 2:19 **a5** 18 **10.Bg5** 32 **h6** 48

11.Bh4 1:21

[Historical Reference: 11.Be3 Ng4?!
 (11...Nh5; 11...b6; 11...Nfd7;
 11...Ne8) 12.Bxc5 dxc5 13.h3 Nf6
 14.Nxe5 Nxd5 15.cxd5 Bxe5 16.f4
 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Qh4 18.Qd3 c6
 19.Qf3 h5 20.f5 Bd7 21.Bc4 g5
 22.Rad1 Rae8 23.dxc6 Bxc6 24.Bd5
 Re5 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Rd3 Rfe8
 27.Qg3 Qxg3 28.Rxg3 f6 29.Rd3 h4
 30.b3 Rb8 31.g3 hxg3 32.Kg2 Rb4
 33.Rc1 Kf7 34.Kxg3 Ke7 35.Re1
 Kd6 36.Rh1 Re7 37.h4 Rh7 38.h5
 Rh6 39.Kf3 Ke5 40.Ne2 a4 41.Ng3
 c4 42.bxc4 Rb2 43.Nf1 Rxh5
 44.Rxh5 Rf2+ 45.Kg3 Rxf1 46.Rh8
 Kxe4 47.Ra3 Rg1+ 48.Kh2 Rc1
 49.Rxa4 Rc2+ 50.Kh1 c5 51.Ra3
 Kxf5 52.Rh2 Rc1+ 53.Kg2 g4
 54.Rh1 Rc2+ 55.Kf1 Kg5 56.Rh8 f5
 57.Rg8+ Kh4 58.Ke1 f4 59.Kd1
 Rg2 60.Ra6 f3 61.Rh6+ Kg3
 62.Rhg6 Kf4 63.a4 Rg1+ 64.Kd2 f2
 65.Rf8+ Kg3 0-1 Gligoric,S-Fischer,R
Olympiad-19 Final A Siegen 1970 (8)]

11...g5 2:36 **12.Bg3** 16 **Nh5** 3:50

13.Nd2 2:26 **Nf4** 1:11



14.b3 3:54

[Relevant: 14.Rfe1 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5
 16.Nde4 Qe8 17.f3 Qg6 18.Bf2 b6
 19.Bf1 h5 20.Kh1 Rf7 21.g3 Nh3
 22.Bxc5 bxc5 23.Bg2 g4 24.Qe2
 Ng5 25.Nxg5 Qxg5 26.Ne4 Qg6
 27.Rf1 Raf8 28.Kg1 Bh6 29.fxg4?!
 (29.Nf2!) 29...Bxg4 30.Qd3 Kg7?
 (30...Bf5 and ...h4 next.) 31.Rxf7+
 Rxf7 32.Rf1 Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Qf5+
 34.Ke1 h4 35.Qf1 Qg6 36.Bf3 hxg3
 37.hxg3 Bf5 38.Qg2 Bxe4 39.Bxe4
 Qg5 40.Qe2 Qxg3+ 41.Qf2 Qg5
 42.Qg2 Qxg2 ½-½ Bui,V (2390)-Lee,
J (2375) Hanoi GM 11 2023 (4)]

14...Nxe2+ 5:32 **15.Nxe2** 12 **f5** 1:01

16.f3 1:39 **f4** 38

[Comp gives 16...g4! 17.fxg4 f4
 the edge over the text (-0.72/30)]

17.Bf2 1:15 **g4?** 3:47

[17...b6]

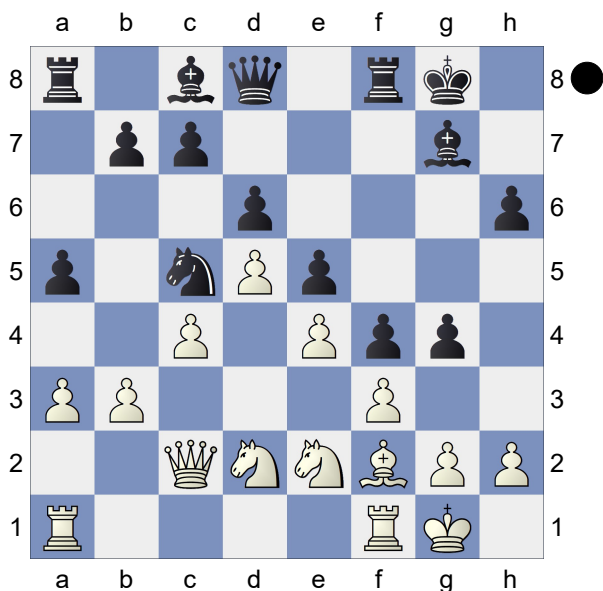
[17...Nd7]

[And good heavens, this position has
 already been in a TNM game eight
 years ago -- by me: 17...h5
 (I've just done a deep run on Stockfish
 -- 45 ply! -- and this came out its
 favorite at -0.78) 18.a3 g4 19.Kh1

Bf6? (19...b6 20.b4 Nd7) 20.b4= Nd7 21.c5 Bh4 22.Bg1 g3 23.cxd6 cxd6 24.Nc4 gxh2 25.Bxh2 axb4 26.Nxd6 bxa3 27.Nf5 Nb6 28.Nxh4 Qxh4 29.Qc3 Qe7 30.g3 fxg3 31.Bxg3 Nd7 32.Bh2 Kh7 33.Nc1 b6 34.Qc6 Ba6 35.Rg1 Rg8 36.Qe6 Rxcg1+ 37.Kxcg1 Rg8+ 38.Kh1 Qg7 39.Qf5+ Kh6 40.Qe6+ Nf6 41.Qh3 Qg5 42.Nb3 Qe3 43.Qf5 Nh7 44.Bxe5 Rf8 45.Qe6+ Rf6 46.Bxf6 Qxf3+ 47.Kh2 Nxf6 48.e5 Qf2+ 49.Kh1 Qf3+ 50.Kh2 Qf2+ 51.Kh1 Qf3+ 52.Kh2 ½-½ Gaffagan,S (2096)-Winslow,E (2321) Mechanics' Fall TNM; G/2 d5 San Francisco 2016 (5.3)]

18.a3? 2:41

[18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.fxg4 Bxg4 20.Nf3 keeps a lid on it -- Black's plus is minimal.]



18...gxf3!N 1:56

[Predecessor: 18...b6 19.b4 Nb7 20.c5 bxc5 21.bxc5 g3 22.hxg3 Nxc5 23.Bxc5 dxc5 24.g4 Ba6 25.Rfe1 Rf6 26.Qxc5 Bf8 27.Qc3 h5 28.gxh5 Rh6 29.Nb3 c6 30.Qxe5 Bd6 31.Qd4 Rxh5 32.Nc5 Be5 33.Qf2 Bxe2 34.Ne6 Qf6 35.Rab1

Ba6 36.Red1 Qh8 0-1 Saxton,G (1908)-Spencer,E (2196) East of Scotland Grangemouth 2006 (2)]

19.Nxf3? 1:35 3rd best!

[19.gxf3 Bh3]

[19.Nc3!]

19...Nxe4! 56 Natalya had to find this -- but she did, and White collapses.

20.Bh4 11:46

[20.Qxe4 Bf5 is the amusing but actually fairly common tactical point -- we King's Indian players are always looking for these shots!]

20...Ng5 1:55

[20...Qe8!]

21.Kh1 2:32

[21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.Nc3 e4!]

21...Bf5 34 **22.Qd2?** 7:14 **Nxf3** 1:34

23.Bxd8 2:44 **Nxd2** 7 **24.Bxc7** 34 **Nxf1** 38 **25.Rxf1** 26 **Bd3** 1:11

[I shouldn't even be analyzing any more (a rook is a lot) but interesting is Stockfish's "best": 25...a4! 26.bxa4 Rfc8 27.Bxd6 Rxc4]

26.Rf2 36 **Ra6** 4:27 **27.Nc3** 1:20

[27.c5 dxc5 28.d6 Rf7]

27...e4! 32 **28.Nb5** 1:26 **e3** 19 **29.Ra2** 27 **e2** 12

0-1

A12

□ **Diller,Bradley R**

2119

■ **Viadiu-Illaraza,Hector**

1907

2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 05.11.24

[Diller,Bradley R]

Diller defended mostly well against Viadiu-Illaraza's sacrifice. Here are his notes: **1.c4 Nf6** 51 **2.g3** 14 **c6** 2:57 **3.Nf3** 1:38 **d5** 2:45 **4.b3** 1:02 **Bf5** 2:58 **5.Bg2** 35 **Bxb1?!** 27 **6.Rxb1** 35 **Nbd7** 46 **7.Bb2** 3:51 **e6** 1:41 **8.0-0** 17 **Bd6** 42 **9.d4** 48 [9.d3 Qe7 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.e4±]

9...0-0 10 10.Qc2 7:09

[Simply Nd2 is better preventing Ne4 and preparing e4. Δ10.Nd2 Re8 11.e4±]

10...Ne4 1:07 11.Ne5 6:06 f5 15:49

12.Nxd7 16 Qxd7 2 13.f3 11 Nxg3?

11:53 Black does not have much compensation for the sac as the attack is easily neutralized.

[Δ13...Nf6 14.e4 fxe4 15.fxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qxe4 I evaluated this position as slightly better for white because of the centralized Queen and better pawn structure, but in reality I do not have much.]

14.hxg3 2:52 Bxg3 2 15.f4 13:06 Qe7 9 16.Rf3 3:39 Qh4 18 17.Bc1 3:03 Rf6 1:34 18.Kf1 13:14 Rg6 1:12 19.e3 2:20 Rf8 54 20.Qe2 41

[Qe2 was unnecessary and I should have played Bd2 followed by Be1 immediately. Δ20.Bd2]

20...Rg4 11:40 21.Bd2 3:52 Rf6 10:26 22.Be1 3:42 Bxe1 5:01 23.Qxe1? 35

[I should have rechecked my analysis before this move, because I missed the not too difficult to find Rh3 which guarantees me a strong if not winning advantage. 23.Rh3! Rfg6 24.Rxh4 Bxh4 25.c5 Rxg2 26.Qxg2 Rxg2 27.Kxg2 g5 28.Rh1 h6+-]

23...Qh2 10:22 24.Rb2 1:06 Rh6? 2:12

[Hector missed this continuation which both of us thought was not possible. I saw most of this line when I played 20 Qe2, but missed 28 ... Rg3 which equalizes. The move that he selected Rh6 simply loses because I am able to trade a pair of rooks and neutralize his attack. Δ24...Rfg6 25.Rh3 Qxh3 26.Bxh3 Rg1+ 27.Ke2 Rxe1+ 28.Kxe1 Rg3=]

25.Qf2 3:28 Qh5? 8:23

[This move allows me to exchange a pair of rooks with Rg3 neutralizing the

attack. The remaining rook is out of play. Δ25...a6]

26.Rg3 1:43 Rh4 1:20 27.Qf3 3:04 Qf7 1:52 28.Rh3 12 Qe7 1:09 29.Rxh4 18 Rxh4 17 30.c5 2:26 b6 2:28 31.Rc2 52 b5 12 32.b4 1:11 Qb7 22 33.Qd1 2:00 Qa6 52 34.Rb2 17 Rg4 1:55 35.Kf2 20 Qb7 51 36.Bf3 1:59 Rg6 1:33 37.a4 35 a6 13 38.axb5 4 axb5 4 39.Ra2 22 Rf6 29 40.Qa1 12 Rf8 50 41.Ra7 18 Qc8 1:59 42.Qa5 34 Qe8 2:50 43.Qa6 32 h5 59 44.Rc7 28 h4 25 45.Qxc6 2:08 Qg6 46.Re7 1:11 Qg3+ 2:10 47.Ke2 1 Qh2+ 1:48 48.Kd3 Qg1 2:11 49.Qxe6+ 21 Kh7 11 50.Qxd5 48 Qf1+ 52 51.Kd2 39 Qb1 1:07 52.Qe5 1:31 Qxb4+ 3 53.Ke2 36 Qb2+ 1:40 54.Kf1 18 Qb1+ 17 55.Kf2 2 Qc2+ 14 56.Be2 15 Rg8 1 It is true Qf6 forces mate in fews moves, but e4 which I saw much earlier also wins easily. **57.e4 28 Qxe4 1:00 58.Qxe4 9 fxe4 1 1-0**

B33

□ **Crompton,Robert**

1782

■ **Ivanenko,Anthony**

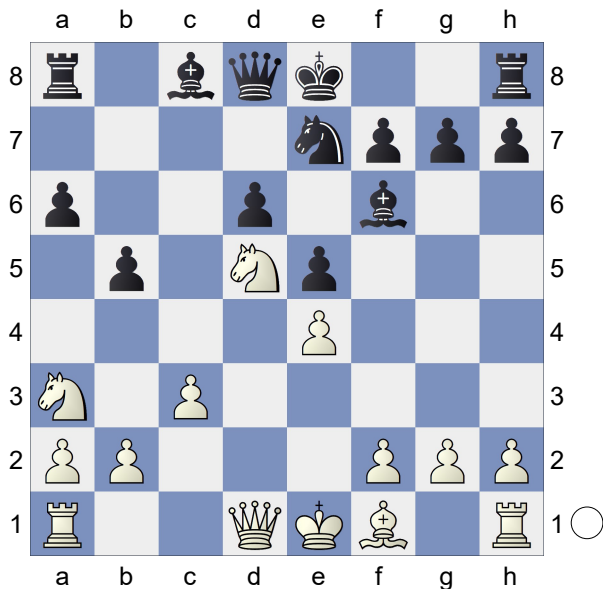
2023

2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.7) 05.11.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

Ivanenko stumbles in the late opening, but makes up for it in the queenless middlegame further on. The motifs involved are worth study. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Ne7**

[Not as popular as the Main Line, it being 11...Bg5 12.Nc2 0-0 with various other possibilities]

(Diagram)



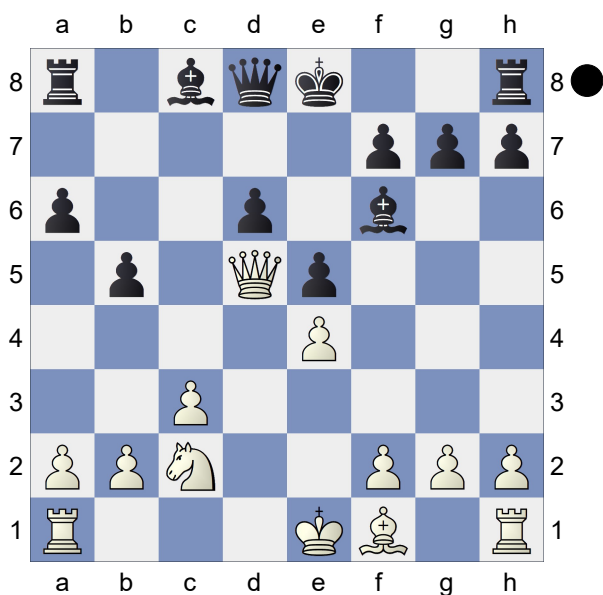
12.Nc2

[12.Nxf6+ gxf6

A) 13.Be2 d5! 14.exd5 Nxd5
15.Bf3 Be6 16.Nc2 0-0
(16...Nf4!? Black is okay whether
White takes the exchange or
castles or not) 17.Qd2! f5 18.0-0-0
e4! 19.g4!±;

B) 13.Bd3!? d5! 14.Qe2
remains quite complicated! But
White seems to have some
advantage with precise play.]

12...Nxd5 13.Qxd5



Ra7 There might yet be useful play for
this rook, both supporting the a-pawn

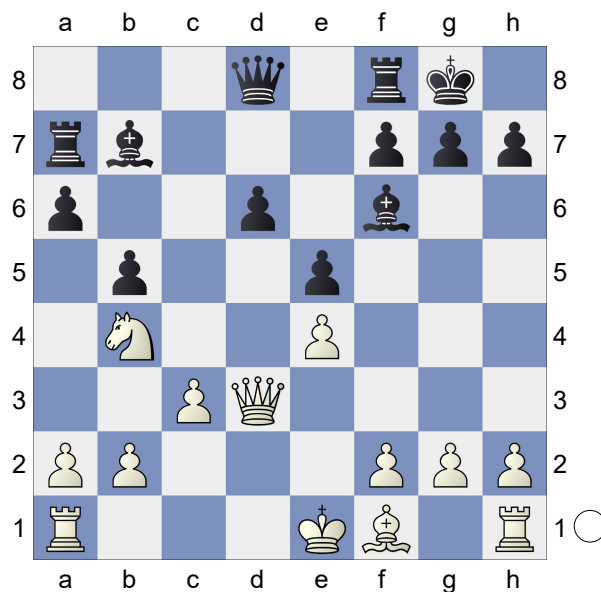
and lateral moves.

[13...Rb8 (The main move -- curiously
and atypically more games were
played with this *before* Carlsen
played it than after!) 14.Nb4 Bb7
15.Qd3 0-0 16.Be2 a5 17.Nd5 b4
(17...Bg5!/?) 18.0-0 bxc3 19.bxc3
Bg5 20.Rab1 Qd7 21.Rb3 Bc6
22.Rfb1 Rxb3 23.Rxb3 g6 24.Rb6
Rc8 25.h3 Bxd5 (25...h5!/? 26.Ra6
Bxd5 27.Qxd5 Rc5! 28.Qxd6 Qxd6
29.Rxd6 Rxc3=) 26.Qxd5 Rxc3
27.Rxd6 Qe7 28.Bd1 Rc7 29.g3
Kg7 30.Ba4 Bc1 31.Rc6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Giri,A
(2793)-Carlsen,M (2853) Sinquefield
Cup 3rd Saint Louis 2015 (4)]

14.Nb4 Bb7

[14...0-0 15.Qd3 Bb7 was "Fed's"
order]

15.Qd3 0-0



16.Be2?!

[16.Nd5 Bg5 17.Be2 g6 18.0-0 Bc8
19.a4 bxa4 20.Rxa4 a5 21.b4 Bd7
22.b5 Qb8 23.c4 Be6 24.Rd1 Bd8
25.Ne3 Rd7 26.Nd5 Qa7 27.Qe3
Qxe3 28.Nxe3 Bb6 29.Nd5 Bxd5
30.Rxd5 Ra8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Shamkovich,L
(2495)-Fedorowicz,J (2435) Edward
Lasker Memorial New York 1981 (2)]

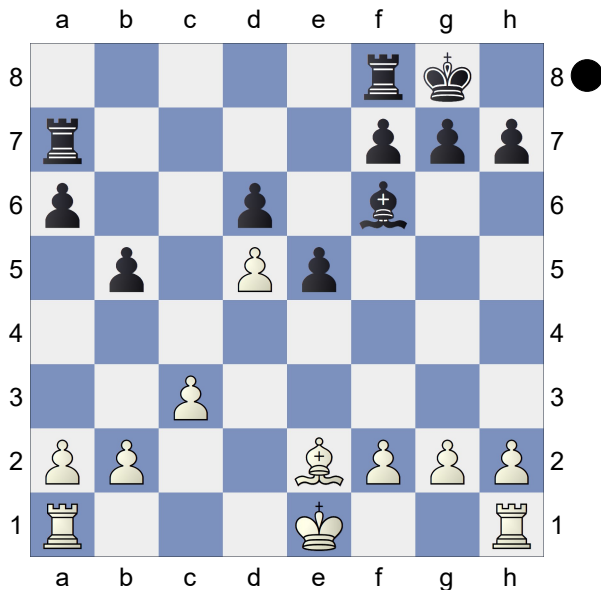
16...Qa8! Already played 6 times (at

least), with great results for Black.

17.Nd5

[17.Bf3 hasn't fared well either.]

17...Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Qxd5 19.exd5



a5?N This must be some sort of oversight, as it gives White a pawn and a clear plus. Black can both prepare a minority attack and advance his own majority -- for a clear advantage. The two games in the database showed Stockfish's two favorite moves:

[19...Rb8 20.a3 Bd8?! (20...e4!)
21.0-0 (21.Kd2!) 21...f5 22.g3 Rc7
23.Kg2 Rc5 24.Rfd1 Kf7 25.Rac1
Kf6 26.b4 Rc7 27.a4 bxa4 28.Bxa6
a3 29.Be2 ½-½ Rawicz,K (2186)-
Gbioreczyk,M (1781) Lazy Baltic Pearl
op-A 18th 2022 (2)]

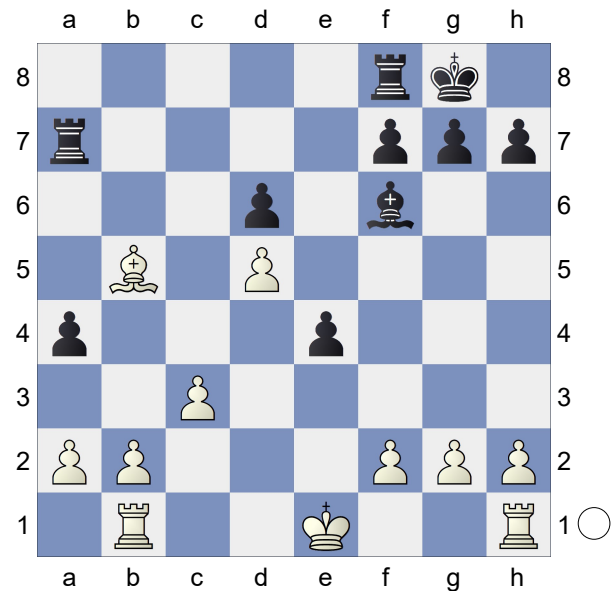
[19...e4 20.0-0 (20.Kd2; 20.a3)
20...Rb7 21.Rac1 Rc8 22.a4 Rc5
23.axb5 axb5 24.Rfd1 g6 25.Ra1
b4 26.Ra6 bxc3 27.bxc3 Be5 28.c4
Rb2 29.Kf1 Rc7 30.g3 Kg7 31.Rda1
Bd4 32.R1a2 Rb1+ 33.Kg2 Bc5
34.Ra1 Rb2 35.R1a2 Rb3 36.f3
exf3+ 37.Bxf3 Rcb7 38.Re2 Rc3
39.Ra4 Rb1 40.Be4 Rbc1 41.Kh3 f5
42.Bg2 f4 43.Re7+ Kf6 44.Re6+
Kg5 45.Re4 f3 46.Rg4+ Kh6
0-1 Petrik,T (2289)-Vlcek,S (2326)

SVK-chT 0001 Slovakia 2000 (9)]

20.Bxb5± a4 21.Rb1

[21.Bc6! Rb8 22.0-0-0± (a stronger plus)]

21...e4



Now commences a string of mutual oversights: **22.c4?**

[22.Kd2!± securing c3 so that ...a3 isn't a problem.]

22...a3?

[22...Bd4 and ...f5]

[22...Be5 and ...f5]

23.b3?

[23.b4!+- White gets to this square first!]

23...Bc3+! 24.Ke2 f5?

[24...Bb4!=]

25.Ke3?? Worse than just the best; worse than most any move. White is leading with his king, not recommended.

[25.b4!±]

25...Re7?

[25...f4+!? 26.Kxe4 f3! 27.g3 Re7+ 28.Kd3 Bb4=]

[25...Bb4!±]

26.g3

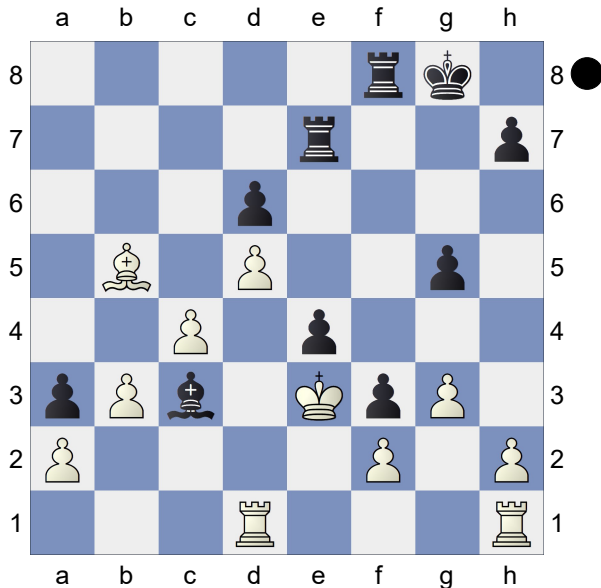
[26.b4±]

26...g5

[26...Bb4±]

27.Rbd1?

[27.b4 f4+ \bar{f}]
27...f4+ 28.Ke2 f3+?!
 [28...Bb4!-+]
29.Ke3

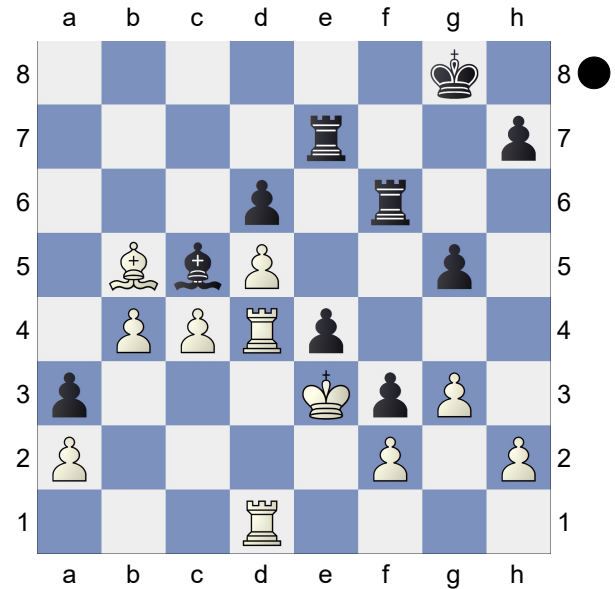


Bb4?! After all those chances to play this, now it's second best!
 [29...Rb8! when 30.Rd4!? \bar{f} could be White's best chance, praying for a successful blockade.]
30.Rd4! Bc5 31.Rhd1?!
 [31.Rb1! \bar{f} and b4 next, with hope to mobilize the queenside majority some day, when the bishop might be useful - or it might just be in the way, compared to, say, a rook behind a passed pawn...]

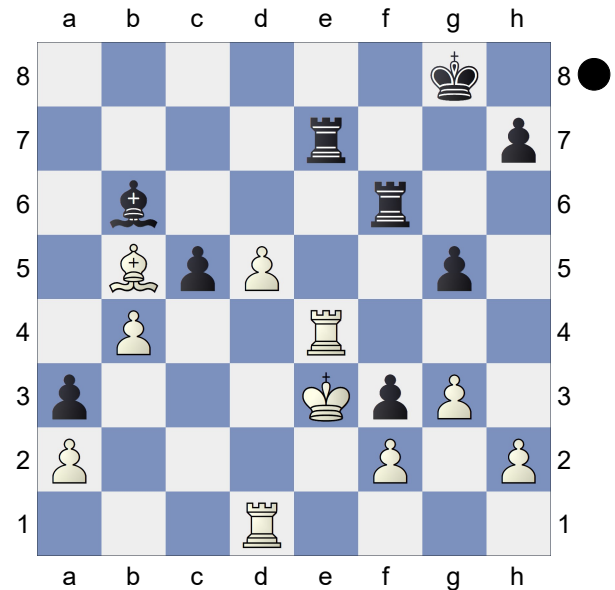
31...Rf6
 [31...g4!]
32.b4!

(Diagram)

Bb6?
 [32...Bxb4! 33.Rxe4 Bc5+ 34.Kd3 Rxe4 35.Kxe4 Rf7!-+]
33.c5? Shades of 19...a5! White chucks his majority, a pawn, and hands Black a win.
 [33.Bc6! when Black's only move to keep the balance even is 33...Rf5!]



34.c5 dxc5 35.bxc5 Bxc5 36.d6=]
33...dxc5 34.Rxe4?!
 [34.bxc5 Bxc5-+]



34...c4+! Sweeps the board of any problems. **35.Rdd4 Bxd4+ 36.Kxd4 Rxe4+ 37.Kxe4 c3 38.Kd3 Rb6 39.Bc6 Rxb4 40.Kxc3 Rb2 41.d6 Kf8 42.Bxf3 Rxa2! 43.Bd5 Rxf2 44.Kb4 a2 45.Bxa2 Rxa2 0-1**

□ Winslow, Elliott

■ Srinivasan, Sivavishnu

2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 12.11.24

[TA 6.4/Winslow, Elliott]

E51

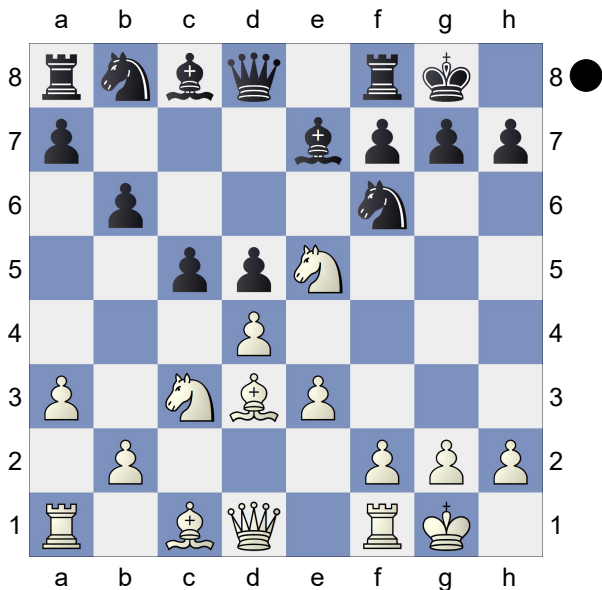
2200

2028

An annoying game for me -- a series of conspicuous inferior moves (6...cxd4?!, 12...h6?, and then later 14...a6?! and 15...Re8?!) afforded me a number of opportunities to destroy Black on the kingside with effective sacrifices -- which I couldn't quite bring myself to put on the board. Further fumbling led to complete loss of coordination and a zero after Sivavishnu's excellent counterplay. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.a3 Be7**

[There's nothing wrong with 6...Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 as long as Black tosses in dxc4 (7...c5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne2 is a legendary line that still is disputed, but I like White) 8.Bxc4 c5= 0.16/20 with ...Qc7 next]

7.Nf3 b6 8.cxd5 is now more promising than 8.0-0. **8...exd5 9.Ne5** Trying to inject more imbalance. **9...c5 10.0-0** [10.b3!?]



10...cxd4?N Giving White natural

options for his dark squared bishop.

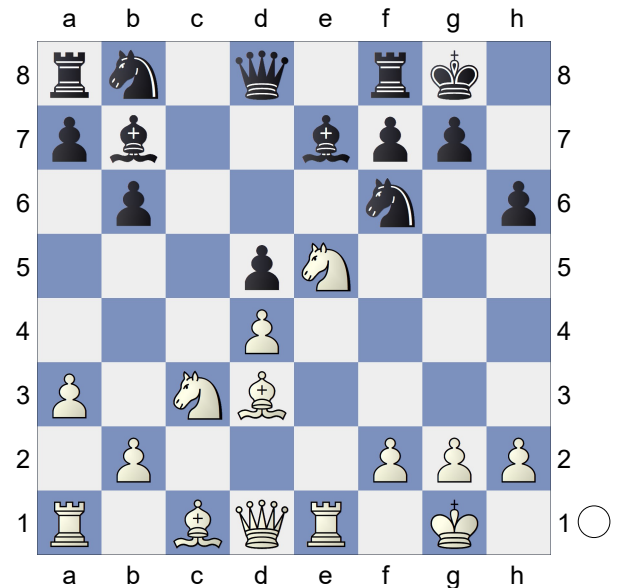
[10...Bb7= 11.Qf3?! Nc6 12.Rd1

A) 12...Qd6 13.Nxc6 (13.Qg3 Qe6) 13...Bxc6;

B) 12...Qc7?! 13.Qg3 (13.Ng4 Nxg4 14.Qxg4=) 13...Nxe5 (13...Rad8) 14.dxe5 Nh5 (14...Ne4!= -0.12/20) 15.Qh3 g6 16.f4 Rad8 ½-½ Aleksandrov, A (2653)-Khismatullin, D (2576) Moscow Aeroflot op-A 2006 (1)]

11.exd4± Bb7 12.Re1 h6?+-

[12...Nbd7± 13.Qf3 a6]



Prevents Bg5, but there's no justification for weakening the kingside and neglecting development. More specifically, it should lose instantly! (well...) **13.Bc2?!+-** So many moves were better. But one...

[I couldn't make it work but Δ13.Bxh6! 4.12/25 appears now (thanks a LOT, computer!) to be winning. gxh6 14.Re3!+- (best of the +- moves) and Stockfish 17 makes this +4.32/24. Why? Where? (14.Qf3+-; 14.Qd2+-; even 14.Qc1+- Kg7 15.Qf4 Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Bxe4) Back to 14. Re3, I was concerned with 14...Kh8 (Here: 14...Nbd7 15.Rg3+ Kh8

16.Qf3 Ne4 17.Qxf7! Again, best of quite a few... Rxf7 18.Nxf7+ Kh7 19.Nxd8 Rxd8 20.f3) 15.Rh3 Ng8 but shouldn't have been. Here's a simple enough line: 16.Qf3 Nd7 (16...Bg5 17.Qf5) 17.Nxf7+ (or 17.Ng4!) 17...Rxf7 18.Qxf7 Ndf6 19.Rg3 Qf8 20.Rxg8+ Qxg8 21.Qxe7 Simple.]

13...Nbd7 14.Bf4

[14.Bf5!+- (sf17) is rather funny...]

14...a6?!

[14...Nxe5± 15.dxe5 (15.Bxe5 Rc8 16.Qd3±) 15...Ne4± 16.Qd3±]

15.Qd2?!

[15.Bf5+-]

[15.Qd3+-]

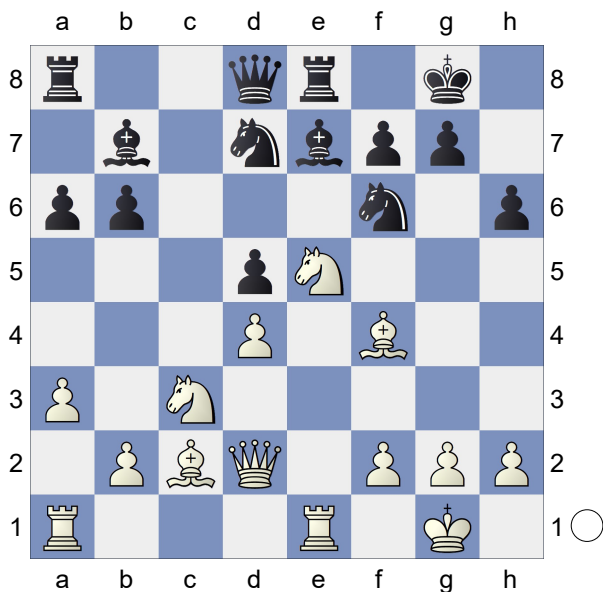
[15.Bf5!+-]

15...Re8?!

[15...Nxe5± was necessary. 16.dxe5

A) 16...Nh5 17.Bxh6 (17.Qd3 g6 18.Bxh6);

B) 16...Ne4□± 17.Qd3 Bc5 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Qg3 Kh8 20.b4 Be7 21.Bb3± (21.Bxe4?! Bxe4 22.Rxe4 a5 23.Rae1 axb4 24.axb4 Qd5±)]



16.Bf5?!

[16.Bxh6+- gxh6 17.Nxd7 (17.Qxh6

Bf8=) 17...Qxd7 18.Qxh6]

[16.Bxh6+-

A) 16...Nxe5 17.dxe5+-

(17.Rxe5+- Ng4 18.Qd3 g6

19.Re6!) 17...gxh6 18.Qxh6! Bf8!

(18...Ne4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Bxe4

Bxe4 21.Rxe4 Bg5 22.Rg4 Rxe5

23.h4) 19.Qxf6 Qxf6 20.exf6

Rad8 (20...d4 21.Ne4 Re6

22.Rad1) 21.Bd3+-;

B) 16...gxh6 17.Nxd7! Qxd7

(17...Nxd7 18.Qxh6 Nf8

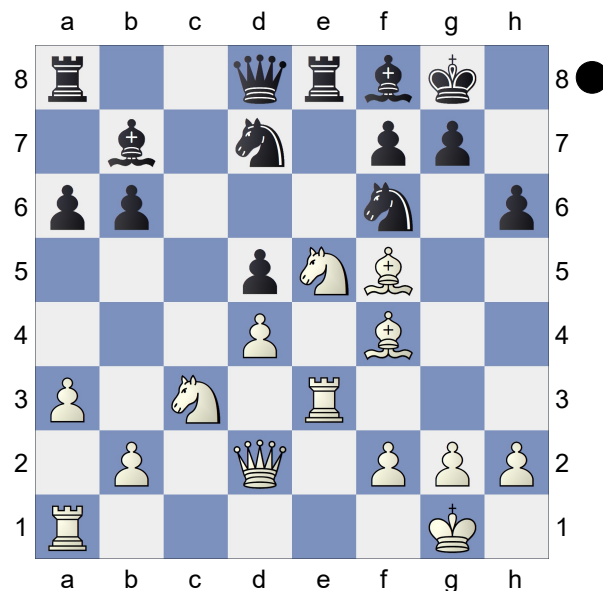
19.Re3+-) 18.Qxh6 Bd8 19.Qg5+

Kf8 20.Bf5+-]

16...Bf8 17.Re3

[17.Nxd7 Rxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Nxd7

19.Ne2±]



17...Re7?!±

[17...Nxe5 18.Rxe5!? b5 19.Rae1 Qb6± /=]

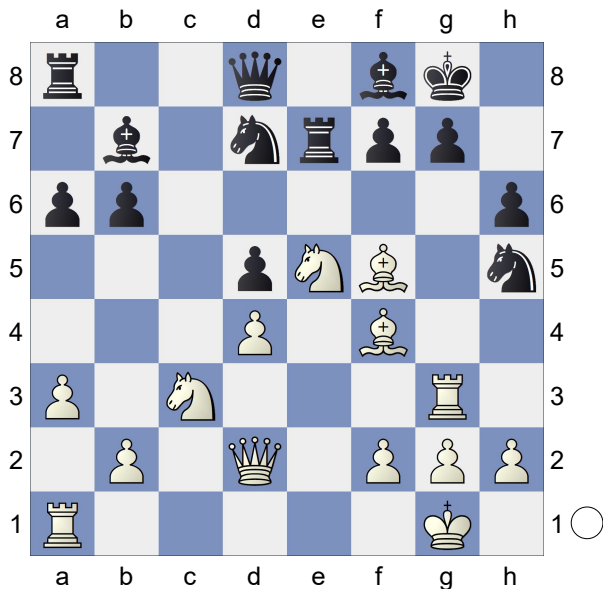
18.Rg3 aiming for Nxd7.

[18.Nxd7 Nxd7 19.Rg3 Kh8 sf17 best 20.Rf1 is enigmatic]

18...Nh5

(Diagram)

Strongly threatening ...Nxe5. **19.Rg4?** White now commences fumbling with



rooks -- my "specialty."

[19.Nxd7±

A) 19...Nxc3 20.Nf6+! gxf6
21.fxg3! (21.hxc3 Bc8±) 21...Bc8
22.Bc2 h5 23.Qd1;

B) 19...Rxd7 20.Rg4! Nxf4!
(20...Rd6 21.Bxd6) 21.Bxd7 Nh3+
22.gxh3 Qxd7 23.Re1±]

19...Ndf6= 20.Rh4

[20.Bxh6!? Nxc4 21.Bxc4=]

20...Nxf4 21.Rxf4?!

[21.Qxf4 g5 22.Qg3 Bg7 23.Rh3=]

21...Qd6 22.Re1?

[22.Bc2 g6±]

22...Rae8 aiming for ...g6. **23.Re3?!**

[23.Re2±]

23...g6± 24.Bd3

[Δ24.Bb1]

[Δ24.Bc2 h5 25.Re3]

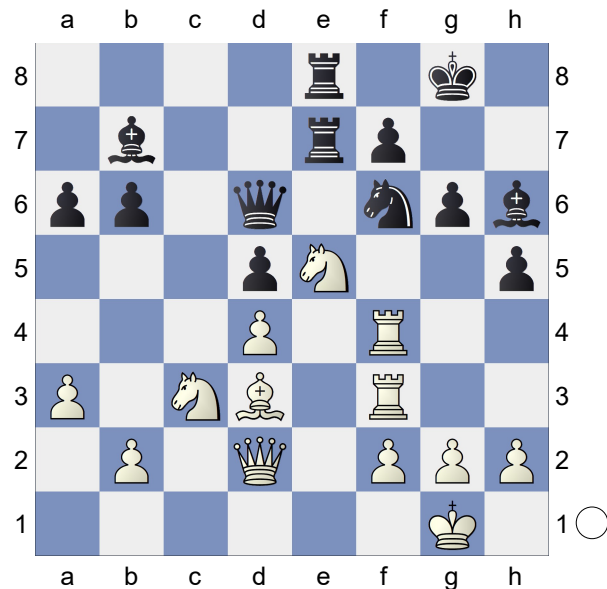
24...h5

[24...Nd7!-+ is more deadly. 25.Bf1
(25.Rxf7? Rxf7 26.Nxf7 Kxf7-+;
25.Nxd7 Qxf4) 25...Nxe5 26.dxe5
Rxe5 27.Rxe5 Qxe5-+]

25.Re3 Bh6

[Black should try 25...Re6±
aiming for ...Bh6. 26.Qc2 Bh6]

(Diagram)



26.Rxf6± Qxe5! 27.dxe5

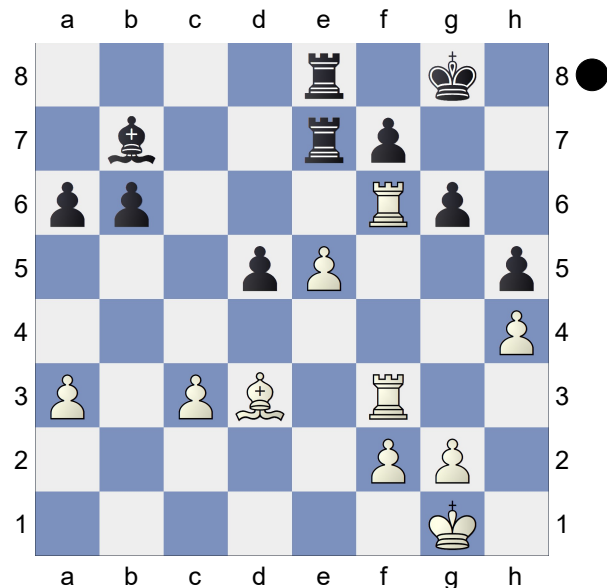
[27.Qxh6? Qe1+ 28.Bf1 Qxf1+
29.Kxf1 Re1#]

27...Bxd2 28.h4! Bxc3

[28...Rxe5?! 29.Rxf7 Re1+
30.Kh2±]

[28...d4 29.Ne4 Bc1 (29...Rxe5
30.Nxd2 Re1+ 31.Kh2±; 29...Bxe4
30.Bxe4 Rxe5 31.Bd3±) 30.Rxb6=]

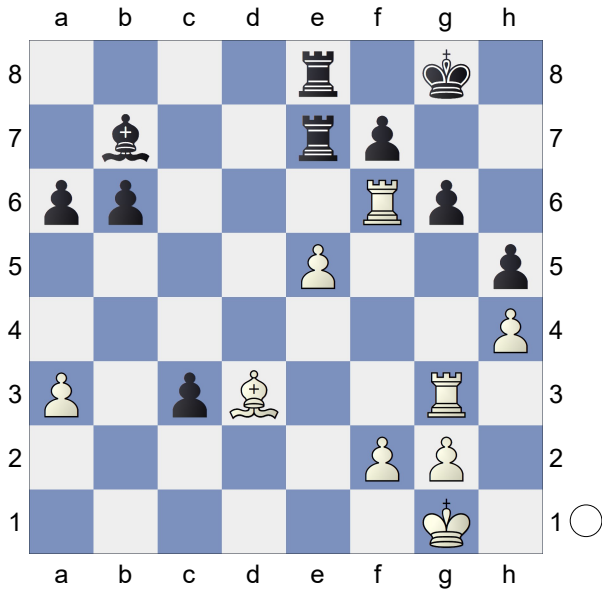
29.bxc3



d4!±

[29...Rxe5? 30.Rxf7 (30.Rxb6 Re1+
31.Kh2 Bc8±) 30...R8e7 31.Rxe7
(31.Bxc3 d4+-) 31...Rxe7
32.Bxc3+-]

30.Rg3 dxc3



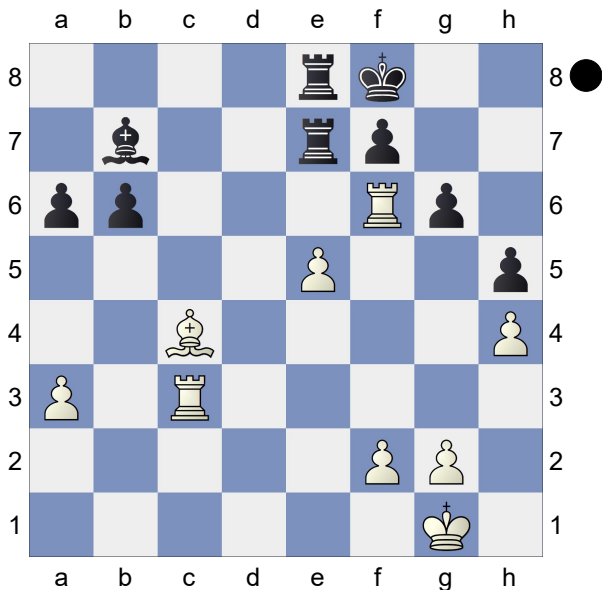
31.Bc4?

[31.Bc2! Re6 32.Rxc3! Rxf6
33.exf6 Re1+ 34.Kh2 Re6 35.Bb3
Rxf6 36.Rc7 Be4 37.f3 Bf5
38.Kg3]

31...Kf8-+

[31...Rxe5? 32.Bxf7+ (32.Rfxg6+?
Overreaches. is the wrong capture.
Kh7-+) 32...Kg7 33.Rgxc6+ Kh7
34.Rg3±]
[31...c2 32.Rc3♣]
[♠31...Kg7]

32.Rxc3



Rc8!-+ The only move. From here to the

end, Siva is flawless. **33.Rxb6 Bd5**

34.Bxd5 Rxc3 35.Rxa6

```
[ 35.e6 fxe6 36.Be4 ( 36.Bxe6 a5 )
36...Rxa3 37.Bxg6 Ra7 38.Rxe6
a5 ]
```

35...Rxe5+ Endgame. KRR-KRB **36.Bf3**
[♖36.Ba8]

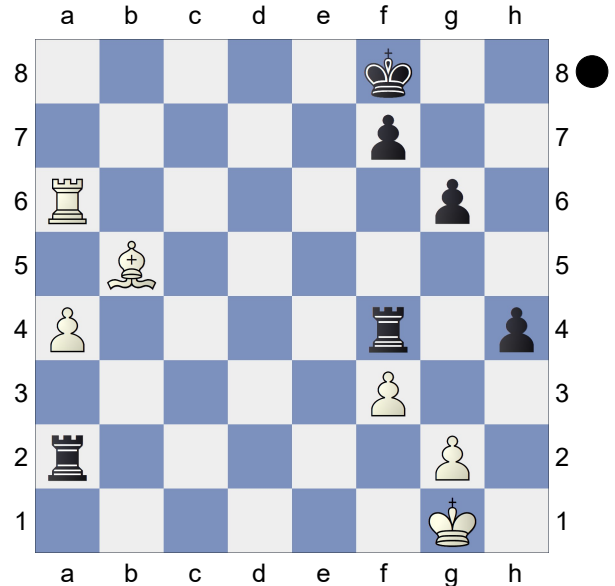
36...Re1+ 37.Kh2 Ra1

[Δ37...Rd3 Threatens to win with ...
Rd4. 38.Rf6 Ra1 (38...Rxa3?
39.g3-+)]

38.a4?

[38.Rf6]

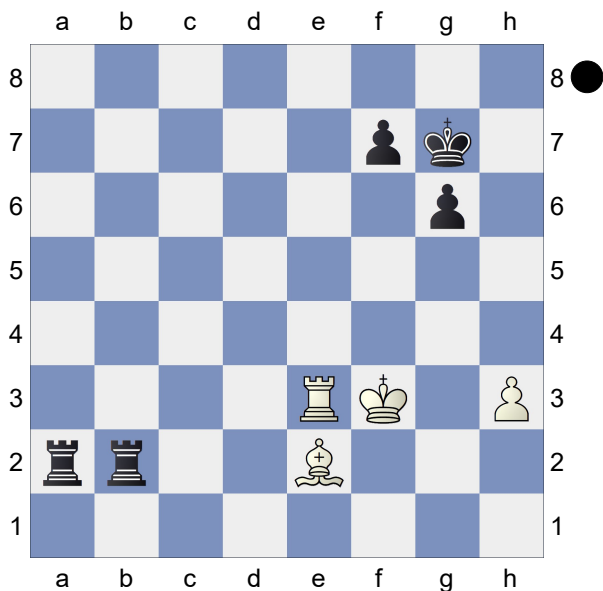
38...Rc4 39.Bc6 Rxh4+ 40.Kg3 Rg4+
41.Kh2 Ra2 42.Kg1 h4 43.Bb5 Rf4
44.f3



**h3! 45.gxh3 Rxf3 46.Ra8+ Kg7 47.a5
Rg3+ 48.Kf1 Rb3 49.Be2 Rb1+
50.Kf2 Rbb2 51.Re8 Rxa5 52.Re3
Raa2 53.Kf3**

(Diagram)

**Rxe2! 54.Rxe2 Rxe2 55.Kxe2 Kh6
56.Kf3 Kh5 57.Kg3 g5 A wild game.
0-1**



□ Tsodikova, Natalya

■ Lewis, Edward

2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 12.11.24

[Winslow, Elliott]

B11

2138

2006

Meanwhile on Board 2, Tsodikova was, you might say, goaded into a suspect piece sacrifice in the opening by Ed Lewis's standard provocative play, but inaccurate defence led to success. An inversion of my game on Board 1... **1.e4**
1 c6 57 2.Nc3 2:00 d5 5:11 3.Nf3 13 dxe4 22 4.Nxe4 10 Nd7 1:14 5.Bc4 2:06 Nb6 59

(Diagram)

6.Bxf7+? 5:46

[6.Bb3!± 1.12/21]

6...Kxf7 11 7.Ne5+ 13 Ke8! 7:56

[7...Ke6?? 8.d4!+- 7.00/22]

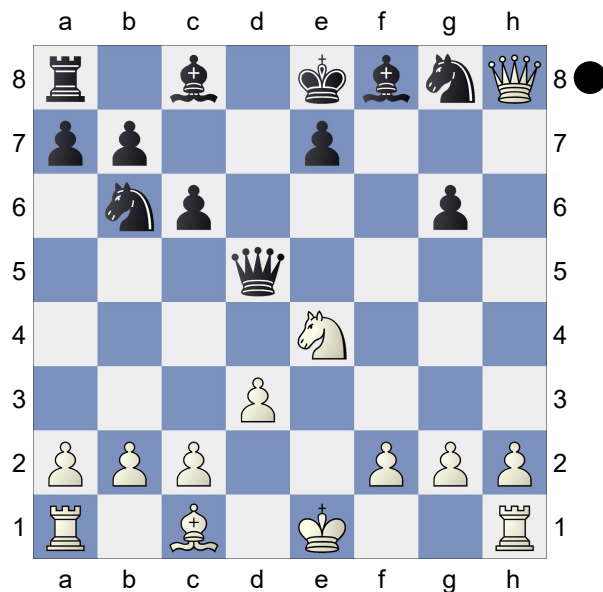
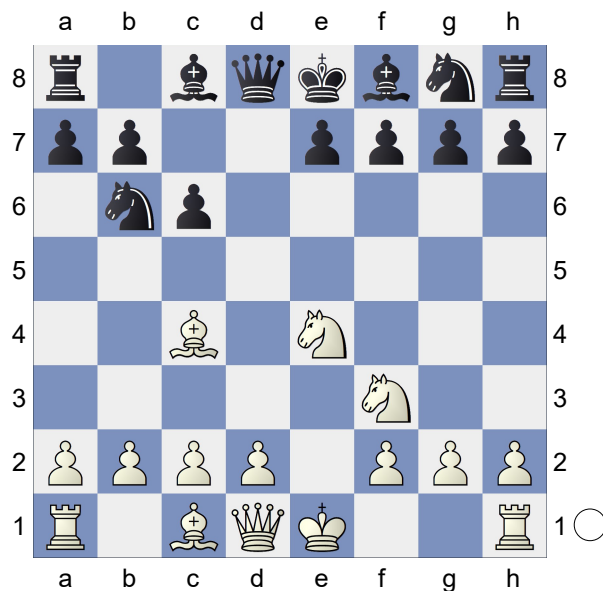
8.Qh5+ 1:57 g6 4 9.Nxg6 57 hxg6 8:32

[9...Qd5!? 10.Ne5+ Kd8 11.Nf7+ Ke8 12.Ne5+□=]

10.Qxh8 1:58 Qd5?

[10...Nf6=]

11.d3± 1:27



Bf5 1 12.0-0 1:42 Bxe4 1:23 13.dxe4 11 Qf7 8 14.Qh3 2:35 Bg7 53 15.Be3 2:23 Nf6 3:09 16.Rad1 7:16 Nbd7 18:52 17.f4 Nf8 5:54 18.Qf3 3:59 Qe6 20 19.e5 2:18 Nd5 3:02 20.Bc1 2:05 b5 15 21.g4 3:26 Kd8 1:40 22.Rfe1 3:16 Nd7 2:41 23.h3 2:42 Kc7 2:27 24.c4 10:04 bxc4 34 25.Re4 57 N7b6 5:37 26.f5 3:22 gxf5 52 27.gxf5 11 Rf8 41 28.Rf1 50 Qf7 2:02 29.Kh1 1:39 Rh8 21 30.Rg1 3:12 Nb4 1:35 31.e6 2:29 Qf8 2 32.Bf4+ 4:43 Kb7 1 33.Rxg7 56 Qxg7 7:52 34.Be5 20 Rxh3+ 7:44 35.Qxh3 52 Qg5 1:03 36.Qg4 2:00 Qc1+ 41 37.Kh2 37 N4d5

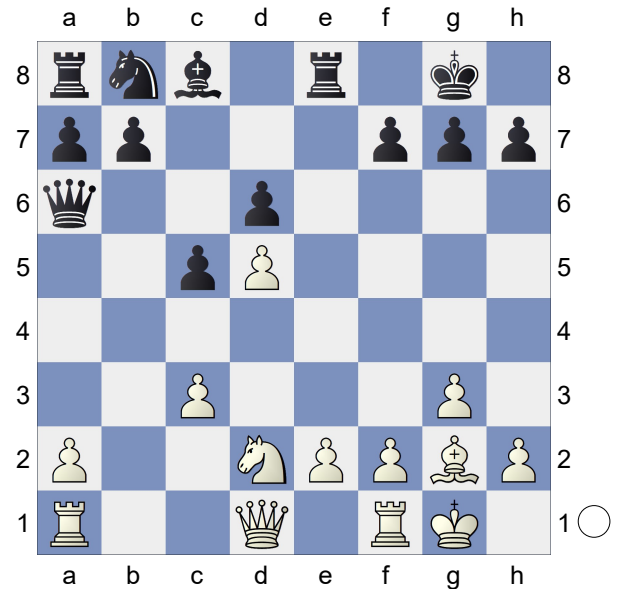
17 **38.Re2** 2:03 **Qh6+** 2:03 **39.Kg3** 1:08
Qc1 16 **40.f6** 3:51 **Qg1+** 2:34 **41.Kh4**
 1:14 **Qh1+** 1:43 **42.Kg5** 4:09 **exf6+** 58
43.Bxf6 13 **Nxf6** 2:15 **44.Kxf6** 2 **Nd5+**
 1 **45.Kg7** 33 **Qf1** 29 **46.Kh6** 14:17
Qf6+ **47.Kh7** 17 **Ne7** 21 **48.Rd2** 1:30
Nf5 55 **49.Rd7+** 37 **Kb6** 2 **50.Qg1+**
 1:51 **c5** 14 **51.Qh1** 36 **Nd6** 1:53
52.Rxd6+ 27
 1-0

E00
2065

□ **Hao,Max**
 ■ **Diller,Bradley R** **2119**
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 12.11.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 2 **Nf6** 5 **2.c4** 5 **e6** 4 **3.g3** 3 **Bb4+**
 14 **4.Bd2** 2 **c5** 9 Diller's favorite line of
 the Bogo Catalan (or whatever one calls
 it). **5.Bg2** 1:09
 [5.Bxb4 cxb4 6.Bg2 0-0 7.e4
 I'd intentionally played 3.g3 knowing
 he would play into this-- it was 1-0 31,
 Winslow-Diller, Spring TNM 19 March
 2024. Surely Brad has an
 improvement on that debacle.]
 [The "Novelty Annotation" function in
 Chessbase brings up the following
 game, with what must be an inferior
 7th move: 5.Bxb4 cxb4 6.Bg2 0-0
 7.e3 a5 8.Ne2 d6 9.0-0 e5 10.a3
 Na6 11.Nd2 Qc7 12.h3 Re8 13.Kh2
 h5 14.h4 Bd7 15.b3 bxa3 16.Rxa3
 Nb4 17.Nc3 Bf5 18.Qf3 Bd3 19.Rc1
 d5 20.Nb5 Qb6 21.dxe5 Rxe5
 22.Nd4 Rae8 23.cxd5 Nbx d5
 24.Nc4 Bxc4 25.bxc4 Ng4+ 26.Kg1
 Ndxe3 27.c5 Qb2 28.Rac3 Nd1
 29.Rxd1 Re1+ 30.Bf1 Rxd1
 0-1 Iturrizaga Bonelli,E (2591)-
 Martinez Alcantara,J (2612) Chess.
 com Classic Play In Chess.com INT
 rapid 2024 (5)]

5...Qb6 1:07 **6.d5** 2:09 **exd5** 4:56
7.cxd5 4 **0-0** 14 **8.Nc3** 1:36 **Re8** 2:28
9.Nf3 44 **d6** 2:16 **10.0-0** 1:10 **Bxc3**
 2:53 **11.Bxc3** 9 **Ne4** 8 **12.Nd2** 1:54
Nxc3 3:18 **13.bxc3** 16 **Qa6** 17



14.Qc2N 2:55

[Predecessor: 14.e4 Nd7 15.Re1
 Ne5 16.f4 Bg4 17.Qc2 Nd3 18.Re3
 c4 19.Nxc4 Nxf4 20.gxf4 Qxc4
 21.Qf2 Qc5 22.Rae1 Rac8 23.Rg3
 Qxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Bd7 25.e5 Rc4
 26.Rf3 Ra4 27.Kg3 Rxa2 28.Rfe3
 g5 29.fxg5 dxe5 30.c4 Rc2 31.Bf1
 a5 32.Rxe5 Rd8 33.R1e3 a4
 34.Ra3 b6 35.Bd3 Rc1 36.Kf2 Kf8
 37.Re1 Rxe1 38.Kxe1 Ke7 39.Bxh7
 Rh8 40.Bc2 Kd6 41.Kf1 Kc5 42.Rf3
 Rxh2 43.Bxa4 Bxa4 0-1 (49)
Alekseenko,M (1889)-Gitelson,A
(2207) Cheliabinsk Panchenko
Memorial op-A 2023 (8)]

14...b5 11:56 **15.e4** 6:15 **Nd7** 8:14
16.a4 2:05 **b4** 1:45 **17.Rfb1** 4:41 **Rb8**
 1:25 **18.a5** 3:46 **Ne5** 10:17 **19.Bf1** 1:40
Qb7 23 **20.cxb4** 6:14 **cx b4** 2 **21.Ra4** 7
Bd7 3:40 **22.Raxb4** 55 **Qxb4** 2
23.Rxb4 6 **Rxb4** 2 **24.Qc7** 1:29 **Bg4**
 3:34 **25.Qc3** 6:47 **Reb8** 2:40 **26.h3**
 2:07 **Nf3+** 3:05 **27.Nxf3** 1:29 **Rb3** 23
28.Qxb3 1:43 **Rxb3** 54 **29.Nd4** 54 **Ra3**

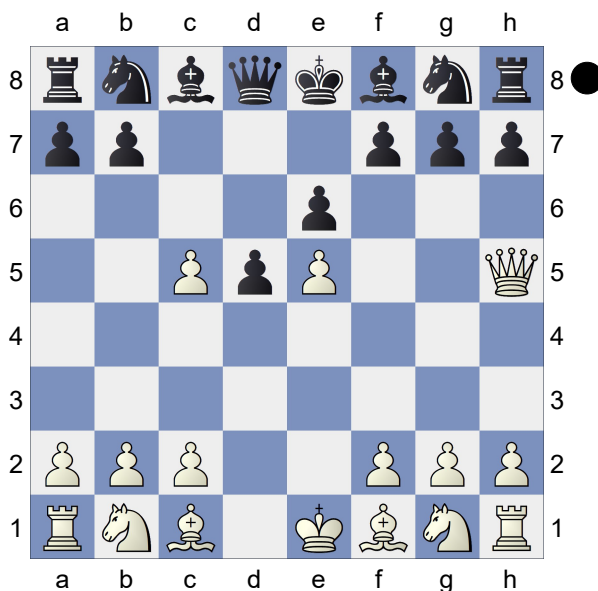
2:45 30.hxg4 8 Rxa5 23 31.Nf5 40
 Ra1 1:32 32.Nxd6 4 a5 23 33.Nb7 19
 Kf8 44 34.d6 7 Ke8 1:13 35.Kg2 5
 Rb1 1:53 36.Nxa5 6 Kd7 4 37.Nc4 35
 f6 11 38.f4 1:25 Rb3 46 39.Kf2 1:18
 Rc3 32 40.e5 51 fxe5 26 41.fxe5 37
 g5 42.Nb6+ 34 Ke6 40 43.d7 12 Ke7
 10 44.Nd5+ 4
 1-0

Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir **B12**
 Bambou,Christophe **2023**
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (2.4) **2130**
 [Winslow,Elliott] 12.11.24

In looking at this game as a whole I'm hesitant to include it, but it was quite interesting to a point. Especially the opening! White's fifth would be a "patzer move" but for a few factors: (1) it's 80% in the database -- an impossibly high score! (2) Nepo played it (albeit in a speed game) (3) all the games (admittedly just a few, eight I think it was) happened this year (4) Ivanenko played it, and his openings are impeccably prepared! So one must wonder, what happened? **1.e4 1 c6 3:53 2.d4 6 d5 4 3.e5 6** I've never been able to play this, even thinking about it makes me cringe. It's a space thing, I guess, which never makes a big deal for me (I play King's Indian, Pirc, etc.). **3...c5 18** In the database this is 4.5 times as frequent as the main 3...Bf5, but in the Bay Area it's more like one to one or even higher. Maybe it has to do with the bewildering selection of dangerous lines White has at their disposal (there's a new one every Informant!), but 3...Bf5 has to be the principled move. Still, I ponder the classic quandary of players of Black: does the bishop belong stuck

behind the pawn chain f7-e6-d5? Or does it venture outside of the fence, hoping for free-range status, but often hunted down by White's g- and h-pawns? Moot for me, I play the Panov-Botvinnik as White, and no French's or Caro Kann's.

[3...Bf5]
4.dxc5 6 e6 28 5.Qh5!? 30



And there it is. Letting Stockfish run for a bit with the number of lines increased far more than I usually permit, it takes a while to break the top 10 but eventually creeps up to 5th(!), after the usual suspects (5.Be3 topping the list, with a ± attached). This reminds me of Nakamura's little "experiment" in the first few years of this millenium: 1.e4 e5 2. Qh5. He did okay with it (in blitz games of course) before Sasikiran put him away -- but Naka reverted to it in a game in 2019 -- and won. But seriously...

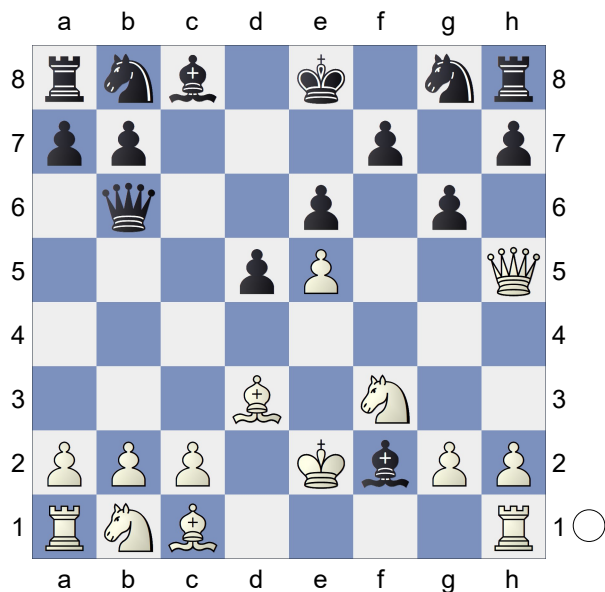
5...Bxc5 21 6.Bd3 13 Qb6 20

The computer roams all over the place and I don't have the sitzfleisch (Yiddish -- look it up) to wait for the calm; have to like how Christophe handled it. I am surprised to see how little time they're both taking for all this.

[6...Nc6 7.Nf3 h6 8.0-0 Nge7 9.Nc3

g6 10.Qh3 Nf5 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxe7
 Qxe7 13.Bxf5 gxf5 14.Nb5 Kf8
 15.c4 dxc4 16.Rad1 b6 17.Rd6 Ba6
 18.Nbd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 c3 20.Rd1
 cxb2 21.Qa3 Bb7 22.Qxb2 Qg5
 23.f3 Rg8 24.Kh1 Qe3 25.Qb4 Kg7
 26.Nxe6+ fxe6 27.Rd7+ Kg6
 28.Rxb7 Rad8 29.Rg1 Qc5 30.Qh4
 Rdf8 31.Re7 Qxe5 32.Re1
 1-0 Nepomniachtchi,I (2770)-Ratkovic,
 M (2489) Titled Tuesday intern op
 23rd Jul Early Chess.com INT blitz
 2024 (8)]

7.Nf3!? 2:27 Bxf2+ 1:10 8.Ke2 5 g6
 2:31



Black already has the better side of
 equality (-0.23/21) acc. to Stockfish 17.
 9.Qh3 6 Nc6 4:29 10.Nc3 10

(Diagram)

Bd7? 5:58

[10...Bd4!]

11.Rf1? 13:50

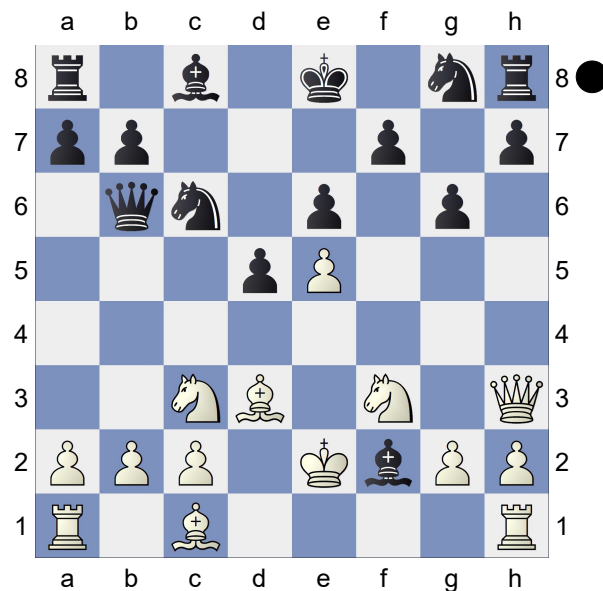
[11.Na4! Qa5 12.Kxf2 Qxa4
 13.b3±]

11...Bc5? 2:23 12.Na4 2:27 Nd4+! 1:14

13.Nxd4 1:01 Bxa4 15 14.Nb3 5:29

Bxb3 18:15

(Diagram)



Now the game veers off course like a
 Cape Canaveral disaster... 15.cxb3?
 2:55 Play on the c-file? More important is
 c2-c3 and control of d4 (see game -- not
 really). Although with b3 hanging that
 might be hard to engineer.

[15.axb3 Ne7 16.Bg5 h6

is unbalanced enough to let White
 ignore the minus in front of the
 computer evals.]

15...Ne7 8:35 16.Bg5 1:35 h5 4:44

17.g4?+ 12:23 Nc6 2:44 18.Qf3??

16:51 Nd4+ 39 A hard game to explain;
 Tony just had a really bad day.

0-1

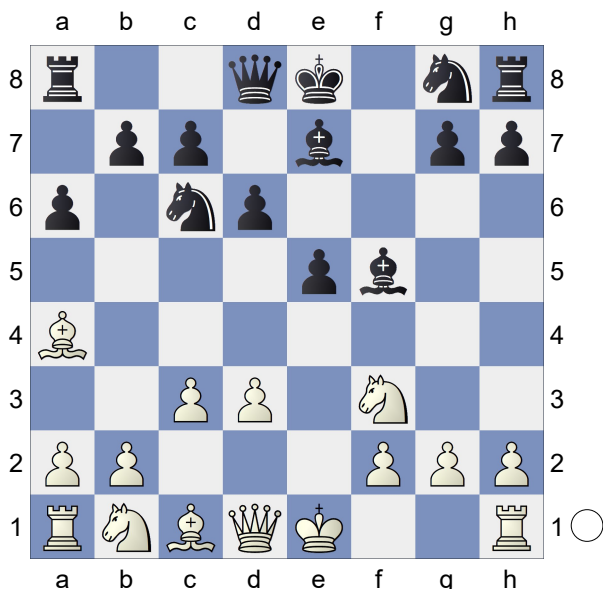
Srinivasan,Sivavishnu **C74**
 Tsodikova,Natalya **2028**
2138
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 19.11.24
[TA 4.6/Winslow,Elliott]

A common enough phenomenon: youngsters surprised by fairly rare lines from before their parents were born. In this case it interested me (who used to know this stuff for White): the computer (Stockfish 17) showed me some new ideas. In *any* case, Srinivasan kept his head above water and was even winning, but lost his way as well for a draw. Actually rather fortunate for Natalya! **1.e4 8 e5 7 2.Nf3 7 Nc6 4 3.Bb5 6 a6 8 4.Ba4 11 d6 10 5.c3 42 f5!?** 40
 The Siesta Variation! No idea why it's called that. **6.exf5 1:29 Bxf5 41 7.d3 2:46 C74: Ruy Lopez: Deferred Steinitz: 5 c3 f5.**

[Stockfish favors 7.0-0 Bd3 8.Re1 Be7]

[Human analysis over the years favored 7.d4 e4 8.Ng5 so humans with computers have something to think about. (8.d5!?)]

7...Be7 1:18



8.Bc2N -0.51/23 4:36

[8.0-0= 0.05/25]
 [8.a3 Nf6 9.Bb3 d5 10.Qe2 Qd6
 11.Nbd2 0-0-0 12.Bc2 Rhe8 13.0-0
 Nh5 14.g3 Bh3 0-1 (100)
Deviprasath,S (2381)-Toniutti,E
(2204) Titled Tuesday intern op 30th
Apr Late Chess.com INT blitz 2024
(7)]

8...Nf6 41 9.Nbd2 1:49 Black is slightly better. **9...0-0 42 10.0-0 -0.70/23 2:31**

[\triangleleft 10.Nf1 -0.33/26]

10...d5 4:06 **11.h3 5:04 Bd6 -0.55/25 6:09**

[11...h6 -0.96/24]

12.Re1 -0.98/27 11:15

[12.c4! -0.55/25]

12...Qd7 4:15 13.Nf1 2:27 e4? 0.00/28 7:17

[13...h6 -0.89/25]

14.dxe4 10:54 dxe4 1:48 15.Nd4 1:18

Nxd4 5:21 16.Qxd4 49 Kh8 6:24

17.Bg5 7:55 e3 0.85/29 11:09 18.Bxf5 5:53 Qxf5 11 19.Bxe3 5:56

[19.Nxe3? Qxg5 20.Qd3 Bc5-+]

[19.Qxe3 Bc5 20.Qf4 Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2

Qc5+ 22.Ke2 Qb5+ 23.c4 Qxb2+

24.Nd2 Rae8+ 25.Kd3 Rd8+ 26.Ke2

h6-+ (26...Nd5 27.cxd5 Rxf4

28.Bxf4 -+]

19...Rae8 1.43/26 1:35

[\triangleleft 19...Rad8 0.74/24]

20.f3 0.00/34 3:23

[20.Rad1± 1.43/26]

20...Nd5= 11:19 Threatens to win with ...

Nxe3. **21.Kh1 14:03 Nf4 1.45/23 6:51**

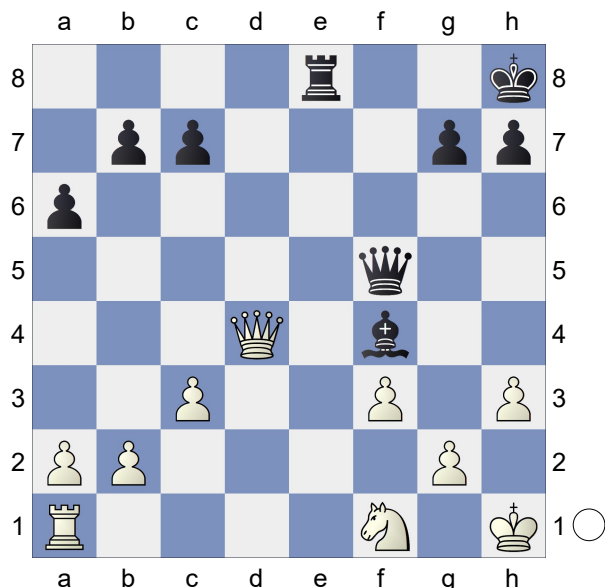
[21...Nxe3= 0.00/29 22.Nxe3 Qg5]

22.Bxf4!± 2:38 Bxf4 3 23.Rxe8 45

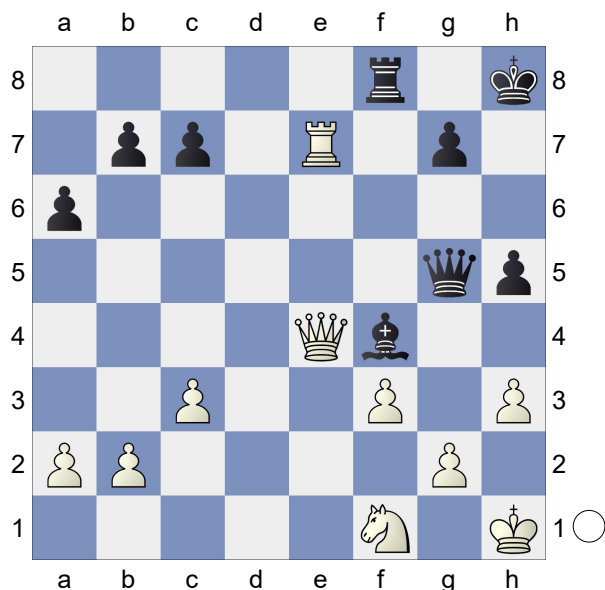
Rxe8 2

(Diagram)

24.Re1!→ 16 The Tactical Analysis is trying to sound human; on that it fails, but this *is* an interesting move. **24...Rf8 3:40 25.Re7 2:04 Qg5 39 26.Qe4 4:44**

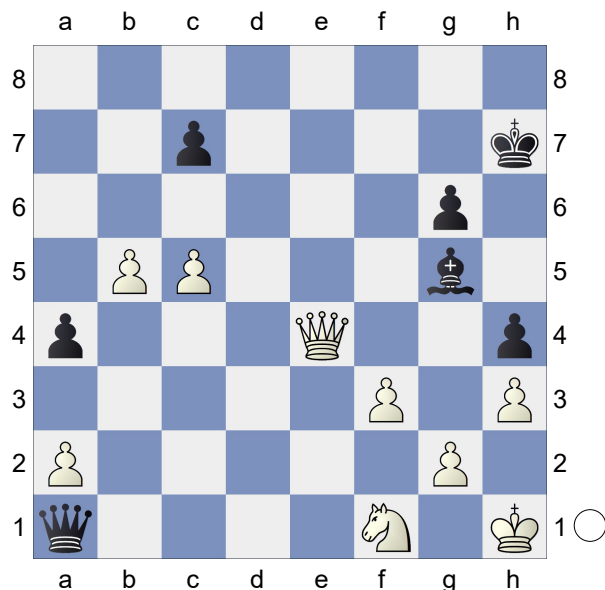


White is more active. Black must now prevent Re8! **26...h5** 1.40/27 4:48
 [Better is 26...Bd6!± 0.67/29 27.Re6 Qb5]

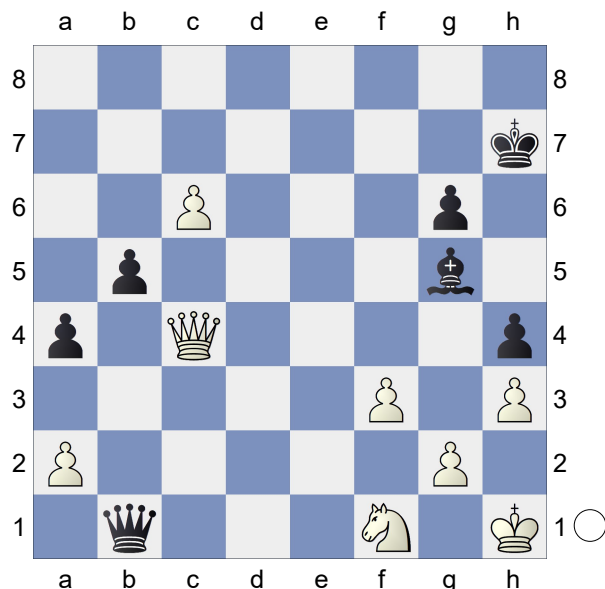


27.Re8! 1:26 **Rxe8** 32 **28.Qxe8+** 2
 Endgame. KQB-KQN **28...Kh7** 1
29.Qe4+ 2 **g6** 2:26 **30.Qxb7** 1:28 **a5**
 3:31 **31.Qe4** 1:00 **h4** 2.54/27 47
 [31...Bd6± 1.11/27]
32.b4 1:02 bxa5 would now be deadly.
32...a4 4:27 **33.c4** 0.19/30 47
 [33.Kg1± 1.53/26]
33...Qf6= 2:10 **34.c5** 43 **Bg5** 0.88/34
 3:44

[34...c6= 0.09/35 keeps the balance.]
35.b5± 1:04 **Qa1?! 1.68/25** 34
 [35...Qb2± 0.80/30]



36.Qc4!+- 16 Black must now prevent b6!
36...Qb1? 3.36/23 1:11
 [36...Bf6 1.72/31 37.b6 cxb6]
37.b6? 0.80/31 1:19
 [37.f4+- 3.36/23 Bh6 38.b6]
37...cxb6± 30 **38.c6?** 0.00/57 7
 [White ought to consider. 38.cxb6± 0.83/33 Strongly threatening Qc7+. Qxb6 39.Qxa4]
38...b5= 29



The position is equal. **39.Qf7+** 1:50

[39.Qe2 Bf4=]
39...Kh6 29 **40.Qf8+** 28 **Kh7** 34 **41.Kg1**
 55 **Qc1** 2:31 **42.Qf7+** 2:31 **Kh6** 22
43.Qf8+ 53 **Kh7** 29 **44.Qf7+** 39
 An interesting game.
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/
 Black=0.32.
 1/2-1/2

□ **Yan,Ruiyang** **B33**
 ■ **Parsons,Stephen** **2345**
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 19.11.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

Ruiyang took half point byes in Rounds 1 and 2 to join in now. She told me she hasn't played since July -- is that so long ago? These days it is. Two wins and now (going into December) she's paired on Board 1. Here's her first, in one of her favorite opening scenarios... **1.e4** 2 **c5** 36 **2.Nf3** 11 **Nc6** 14 **3.d4** 9 **cxd4** 6 **4.Nxd4** 5 **Nf6** 11 **5.Nc3** 4 **e5** 17 **6.Ndb5** 5 **d6** 8 **7.Nd5** 8 **Nxd5** 15 **8.exd5** 4 Ruiyang is fond of this pawn structure in several Sicilians. **8...Nb8** 1:17

[8...Ne7 appears to have fallen by the wayside.]

9.a4 5

[9.c4 The Old Move.]
 [9.Qf3!? a6 10.Qa3!? is a recent idea -- which didn't take long to be played hundreds of times.]

9...a6 1:29 **10.Na3** 7 **Be7** 31 **11.Be2** 7 **0-0** 58 **12.0-0** 7 **f5** 2:04 **13.f4** 11
 13.Nc4 is more fashionable. **13...e4** 1.35/21 1:45

[13...Nd7± 0.42/25]

14.Nc4 0.88/25 43

[Δ14.Be3 1.35/21]

14...Nd7 1.61/22 1:20

[14...a5± 0.88/25]

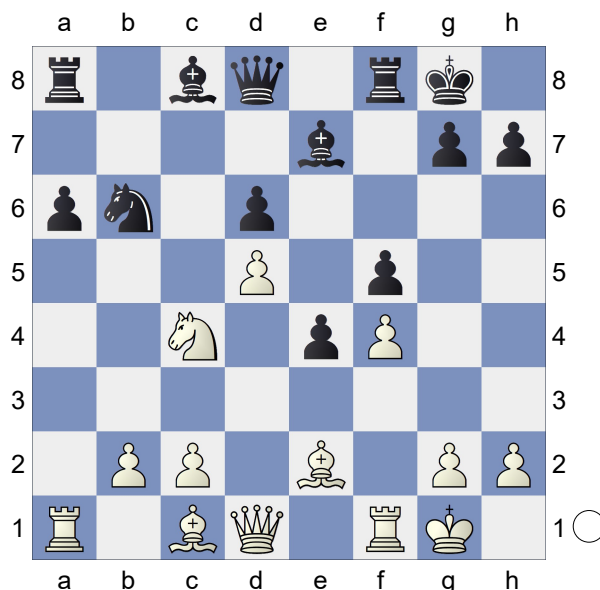
15.a5+- 16 **b5?** 0.03/26 55

[Better is 15...b6± 1.57/30]

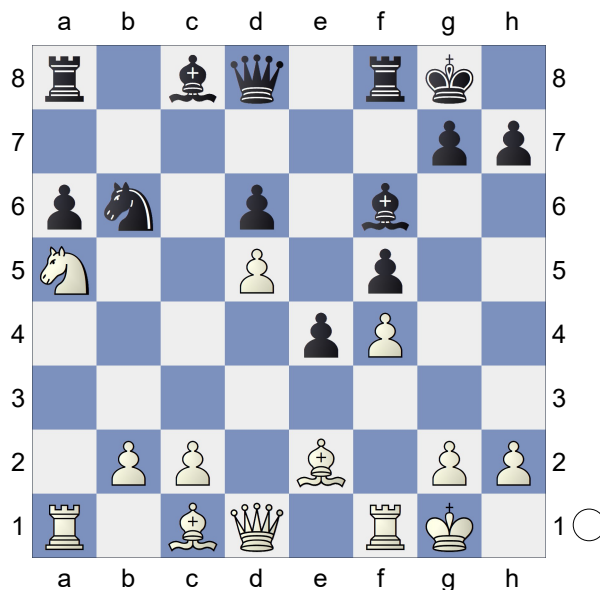
16.axb6? 1.58/23 34

[Preferable for White is to pursue.
 White should try 16.Ne3= 0.03/26]

16...Nxb6± 15



17.Na5 1:22 White is more active -- and that c6 square, which never quite matters for the knight. **17...Bf6** 2:12



18.Ra2N 4:06

[The "Predecessor" is curious -- look at that upset!: **18.Be3 Bxb2** **19.Qb1 Bxa1** **20.Nc6 Qf6** **21.Qxa1 Qxa1** **22.Rxa1 Nd7** **23.Ne7+** **Kh8** **24.g4** 0-1 (56) Baylav,C (2176)-Iren,M

(1698) TUR Cup Antalya 2020 (2)]
18...Qc7 1.96/22 6:11
 [18...Bd7± 1.55/26]
19.Be3+- 1:04 **Nd7** 8:14 **20.Qd2** 10:41
Kh8 2.64/23 5:10
 [Δ20...h6 1.89/26 21.c4 Bb7]
21.c4 52 **Rb8** 6:41 **22.b4** 27 **Bb7** 3:59
23.c5 22:35 **dx c5** 5:25 **24.bxc5** 8 **Nxc5**
 7:30 **25.d6** 2:59 **Qb6** 4:43 **26.Rc1** 55
Rbc8 3:27 **27.Nxb7** 1:24 **Qxb7** 1:10
28.Rxc5 2:00 **Rxc5** 6 **29.Bxc5** 3 **Rd8**
 51 **30.Rxa6** 49 **Qb1+** 1:21 **31.Bf1** 5 **h6**
 59 **32.Bb6** 7:37 **Rd7** 51 **33.Qd5** 19
Qb4 3:59 **34.Ra8+** 7 **Kh7** 8 **35.Qxf5+** 9
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.09/
 Black=0.76
1-0

□ **Diller,Brad** **A12**
 ■ **Mercado,Adam** **2119**
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (3.7) 19.11.24
 [Diller,Brad] **1937**

(ew: Another Diller win as White. I'd almost take up flank openings! But I'm addicted to theoretical lines...) In my game against Adam, I tried the b3 setup in the English advocated by Shankland. Adam made some mistakes early in the opening with 8... Bc7 and 9... h6, allowing me to play e4, but I made a few critical inaccuracies and Adam missed opportunities to equalize. Adam's fundamental error was 15... Rb6 allowing me to play 16 Nd6 with a winning position. **1.c4 c6 2.g3 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.b3 Bf5 5.Bg2 Nbd7 6.Bb2 e6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.d3 Bc7?** Adam presumably played this move prevent a potential e5 pawn fork, but the bishop is awkwardly placed on this square. Simply castling avoids the pawn fork.
 [Δ8...0-0]

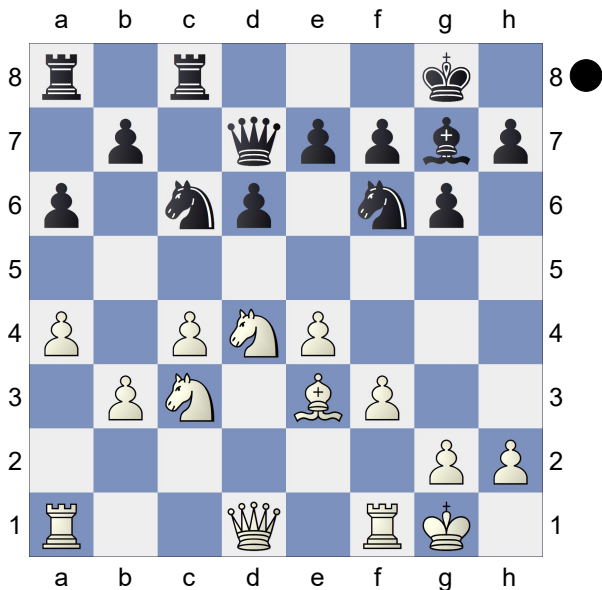
9.Nbd2 h6?! 10.e4? The e4 push was the correct idea, but I should have prepared this move with 10 cxd5 to support the devastating Ba3 preventing my opponent from king-side castling.
 [Δ10.cxd5! cxd5 11.e4 Bg4 (11...dxe4 12.dxe4 Bg4 13.Ba3+-) 12.exd5 exd5 13.Re1+ Kf8±]
10...dxe4 11.dxe4 Bh7 12.e5 Ng8?
 [Δ12...Ng4 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Rad1 Qb8 15.Nd4 Ndx e5 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Bxe4 Nf6 18.Bb1 Ned7 19.f4±]
13.b4?! b4 was intended to prevent Nc5, but Qe2 was much better preventing Nc5 and supporting Ne4.
 [Δ13.Qe2 Nc5 14.Rfd1±]
13...Ne7 14.Re1?! This was the right idea to support Ne4, but Qe2 was much better because the Queen will be strongly positioned after a Bxe4 recapture. Secondly, Qe2 connects the rooks and in the ensuing variation Rd1 is played to support the knight anchor on d6.
 [Δ14.Qe2 a5 15.a3 axb4 16.axb4 Rxa1 17.Rxa1 Qb8 18.Ne4 0-0 (18...Bxe4 19.Qxe4±) 19.Rd1 Rd8 (19...Nxe5? 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Nc5 Bxb2 22.Nd7+-) 20.Nd6±]
14...0-0 15.Ne4 Nb6?? This was a serious error allowing to me plant the knight on d6 and achieve a winning position. Black missed the following continuation which equalizes.
 [15...a5 16.a3 axb4 17.axb4 Bxe4 18.Rxa8 Qxa8 19.Qxd7 Bxf3 20.Bxf3 Qd8 21.Rd1 Ng6=]
16.Nd6+- Bxd6 17.exd6 Nf5
 [17...Nxc4 18.dxe7+-]
18.c5 Nd5 19.a3 a5 20.Qd2 b6 21.Ne5 bxc5 22.bxc5 Qc8 23.Nc4 a4 24.Rac1 Rb8 25.Ba1 Rb5 26.Be4 Rd8 27.Qd3 Rxc5?? This loses at least a piece, but black is still lost after the best move 27... Rb3.

[27...Rb3 28.Qc2 h5 29.Rb1 Qa6
30.Rxb3 axb3 31.Qxb3 f6 32.Bc3
Qa7 33.Na5 Qd7 34.a4+-]

**28.Bxf5 Nf6 29.Bxh7+ Nxh7 30.Qd4
Rg5 31.Ne5 Qa8 32.h4 Rf5 33.Nxc6
Nf6 34.Ne7+ Kh7 35.Nxf5 exf5
36.Qf4 Qd5 37.Rcd1 Qb3 38.Qxf5+
Kh8 39.Bxf6 Rg8 40.d7 gxf6 41.d8Q
Rxd8 42.Rxd8+ Kg7 43.Qg4+
1-0**

B52
 Tsodikova,Natalya **2138**
 Hao,Max **2065**
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 26.11.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

Tsodikova grinds the life out of Max Hao in a Sicilian, Maroczy Bind via the Moscow. She finally cashed for a pawn on move 27 and probably had a zugzwang towards the end, but it was fine as it went. **1.e4 c5 6 2.Nf3 5 d6 5 3.Bb5+ 9 Bd7 4 4.Bxd7+ 10 Qxd7 3 5.c4 15 Nf6 5 6.Nc3 15 g6 6 7.d4 23 cxd4 5 8.Nxd4 5 Bg7 9 9.f3 40 0-0 5 10.Be3 1:47 Rc8 6 11.b3 1:50 a6 5 12.a4 42 Nc6 2:28 13.0-0 46**

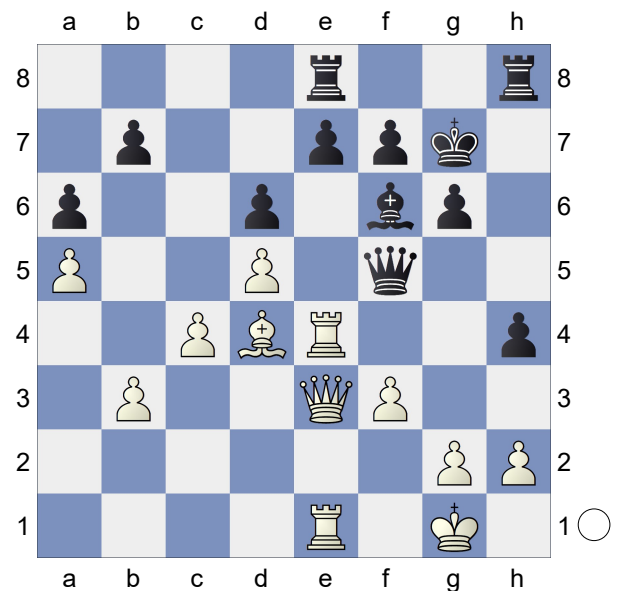


h5N 4:06 Sometimes prevention is more

an ouch than an ounce (sorry, I really had to work on that); this pawn never quite "happens."

[Relevant: 13...Qd8 14.Qd2 Qa5
15.Rab1 Nd7 16.Nde2 Rab8
17.Rfd1 Qd8 18.h3 Qf8 19.f4 Rd8
20.Nd5 Nc5 21.e5 e6 22.Nf6+ Bxf6
23.exf6 d5 24.Qc3 Ne4 25.Qb2
Qh6 26.Bb6 Re8 27.cxd5 exd5
28.Rxd5 Qh4 29.Rbd1 Rbc8 30.Rd7
Qxf6 31.Qxf6 Nxf6 32.R7d2 Re4
33.Bc5 Rce8 34.Nc3 Rxf4 35.Nd5
Nxd5 36.Rxd5 h5 37.Rd7 b5
38.axb5 axb5 39.Rb7 b4 40.Rf1
Ree4 41.Rxf4 Rxf4 42.Rb6 Nd4
43.Bxb4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (72) Alsina Leal,D
 (2500)-Bernadskiy,V (2587) Cattolica
op-A 8th 2021 (3)]

**14.Qd2 2:13 h4 6:47 15.a5 11:07 Qd8
7:04 16.Nxc6 9:39 Rxc6 8 17.Nd5 6:54
Nxd5 6:27 18.exd5 20 Rcc8 46
19.Rae1 3:58 Bf6 10:25 20.Re2 1:34
Qd7 1:33 21.Rfe1 2:10 Re8 2:23
22.Qd3 4:38 Kg7 3:39 23.Bd4 2:01
Qf5 4:44 24.Re4 5:50 Rh8 1:11 25.Qe3
2:22 Rae8 7:26**



**26.Rxe7 4:53 Rxe7 43 27.Bxf6+ 9
Qxf6 5 28.Qxe7 9 Qc3 10 29.Qe3 39
Qb2 1:28 30.h3 1:47 Rh5 1:30 31.f4 44
Rf5 45 32.Kh2 5:01 Rf6 5:40 33.Rd1**

1:41 **Qc2** 2:04 **34.Rd2** 36 **Qc1** 1:07
35.Qd4 3:15 **Qb1** 4:27 **36.Rd3** 3:37
Qc2 2:13 **37.Rc3** 2:14 **Qb2** 4:22
38.Rd3 39 **Qc2** 7 **39.Rf3** 2:26 **Qe2** 8:39
40.b4 1:19 **Qe1** 57 **41.c5** 2:12 **dx5** 29
42.bxc5 19 **Qxa5** 25 **43.d6** 1:10 **Qd8**
34 **44.d7** 4:43 **Kg8** 45 **45.Rb3** 4:17
1-0

□ **Horowitz, Phineas F** **E27**
■ **Yan, Ruiyang** **1839**
2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 26.11.24
[Winslow, Elliott]

Horowitz was way outrated but brought the fight to the game, playing 4.f3 against Ruiyang's Nimzo, but she knew the positions better than he and eventually it mattered. The fact is it's a tough line, for both sides. **1.d4** 2 **Nf6** 9 **2.c4** 8 **e6** 10 **3.Nc3** 10 **Bb4** 9 **4.f3** 14
I think this is the Knoch Variation, although there are no games with it by him in the Mega database. Odd as it might look, it has an excellent percentage over the 12,000 games or so. Others call it the Gheorghiu Variation -- he played it quite a few times and famously beat Fischer with it in the Havana Olympiad of 1966, costing Bobby first board gold. **4...0-0** 10:36
5.a3 2:18 **Bxc3+** 20 **6.bxc3** 10 **Nh5** 1:32

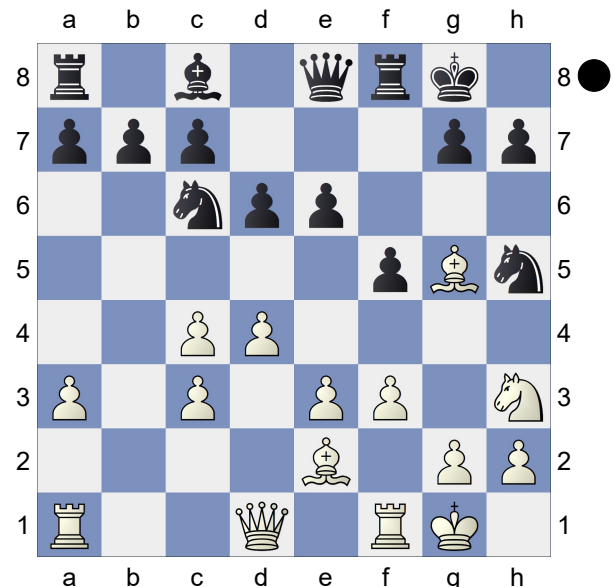
[**6...Ne8** 7.e4 **Nc6** 8.Bd3 **b6** 9.f4 **Ba6** 10.Nf3 **Na5** 11.Qe2 **c5** 12.d5 **exd5** 13.cxd5 **Bxd3** 14.Qxd3 **c4** 15.Qc2 **f5** 16.e5 **d6** 17.Nd4 **Nc7** 18.Nxf5 **Nxd5** 19.0-0 **dx5** 20.fxe5 **Qe8** 21.Qe4 **Nxc3** 22.Qe3 **Qe6** 23.Nd4 **Rxf1+** 24.Kxf1 **Rf8+** 25.Kg1 **Qg4** 26.Nf3 **Nd5** 27.Qd2 **Nf4** 28.h3 **Nxh3+** 29.Kh2 **Nf4** 30.Qc2 **Nxg2** 31.Ng5 **Qh4+** 32.Kxg2 **Nb3** 33.Ra2

Nxc1 34.Qxc1 **Rf4** 35.Ne6 **Qg4+** 36.Kh2 **0-1** (42) Erigaisi, A (2778)-Antipov, M (2602) CrunchLab Masters PlayIn Chess.com INT rapid 2024 (9)]

7.Nh3 6:46 **f5** 19 **8.Bg5** 12:49
Actually played by a seriously strong player? It loses as much time if not more than it gains. **8...Qe8** 6 **9.e3** 8:32

[Of course Carlsen has been there: **9.g4** **Nf6** 10.gxf5 **exf5** 11.Rg1 **d6** 12.Nf4 **Nc6** 13.Kf2 **Nh5** 14.c5 **dx5** 15.e3 **Kh8** 16.Bc4 **h6** 17.Nxh5 **Qxh5** 18.Bf4 **g5** 19.Bxc7 **f4** 20.exf4 **Qxh2+** 21.Rg2 **Qh4+** 22.Kg1 **Bh3** 23.Rh2 **gxf4** 24.Kh1 **Rac8** 25.Bd6 **Rf6** 26.dxc5 **Rg6** 27.Qe2 **Qg3** 28.Re1 **Rg5** 29.Qf2 **Qxf2** 30.Rxf2 **Bd7** 31.Rh2 **h5** 32.Rg1 **Rxg1+** 33.Kxg1 **Be8** 34.Rg2 **b6** 35.Rg8+ **Kh7** 36.Rg5 **Bg6** 37.Bb5 **Na5** 38.Re5 **Nc6** 39.Re6 **bx5** 40.Bxf4 **Rg8** 41.Kf2 **Nd8** 42.Rd6 **Bf5** 43.Bc4 **Rh8** 44.Bg5 **Nb7** 45.Rf6 **Bc8** 46.f4 **Kg7** 47.f5 **h4** 48.Rf7+ **1-0** Carlsen, M (2861)-Yoo, C (2563) Julius Baer GenCup Prelim chess24.com INT rapid 2022 (13)]

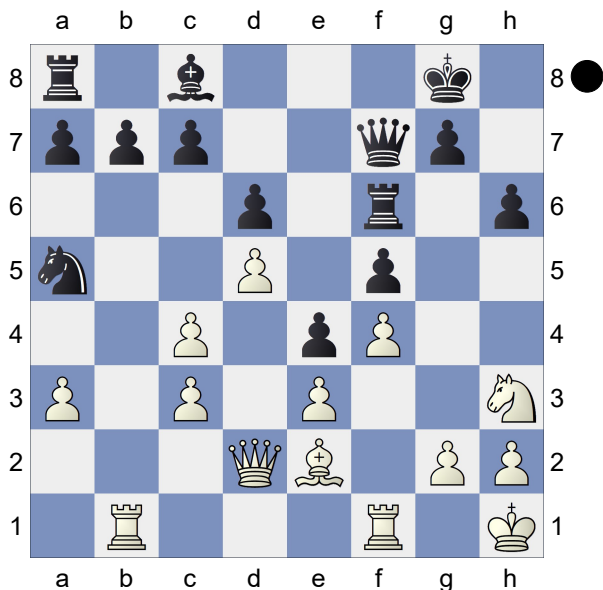
9...d6 22:06 **10.Be2** 6:09 **Nc6** 12:27
11.0-0 20:14



h6N 6:07

[11...e5 12.c5 dxc5 13.f4 Nf6
 14.fxe5 Ne4 15.Bf4 Be6 16.Qc2
 Na5 17.c4 c6 18.Rad1 Rd8 19.Ng5
 b6 20.Nxe4 fxe4 21.Bg5 Rd7
 22.dxc5 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Qg6 24.Be7
 Re8 25.Bd8 Bh3 26.Bf1 Bg4
 27.Rd6 Qf5 28.h3 Bh5 29.g4 Qxe5
 30.gxh5 Nb7 31.Bc7 Nxd6 32.Bxd6
 Qg5+ 33.Kf2 Re6 34.Bf4 Qxc5
 35.Qd2 Qe7 36.c5 Rf6 37.Bc4+
 Kh8 38.Kg3 Rf8 39.Qd6 Qf6 40.h6
 Qxd6 41.cxd6 1-0 (42) Belous,V
 (2566)-Levin,E (2508) Chigorin
 Memorial blitz 23rd St Petersburg
 2015 (7)]

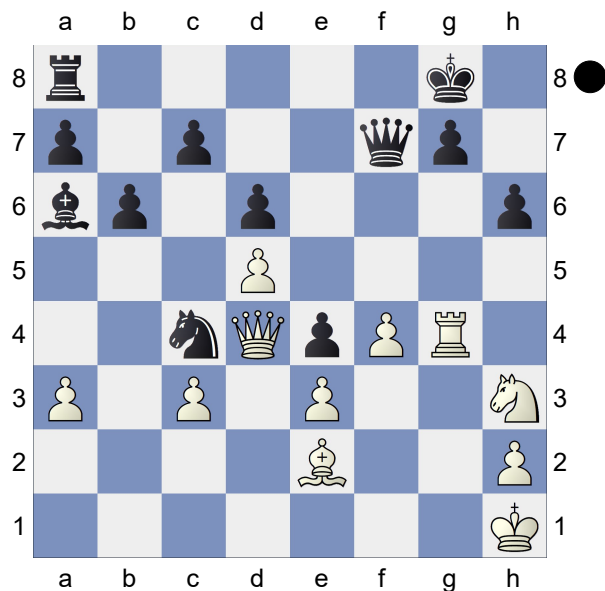
12.Bh4 5:09 **e5** 3:28 **13.f4** 6:12 **Nf6** 6
14.Bxf6 48 **Rxf6** 8 **15.Qd2** 3:15 **e4** 47
16.Kh1 4:45 **Na5** 1:27 **17.Rab1** 2:22
Qf7 58 **18.d5** 50



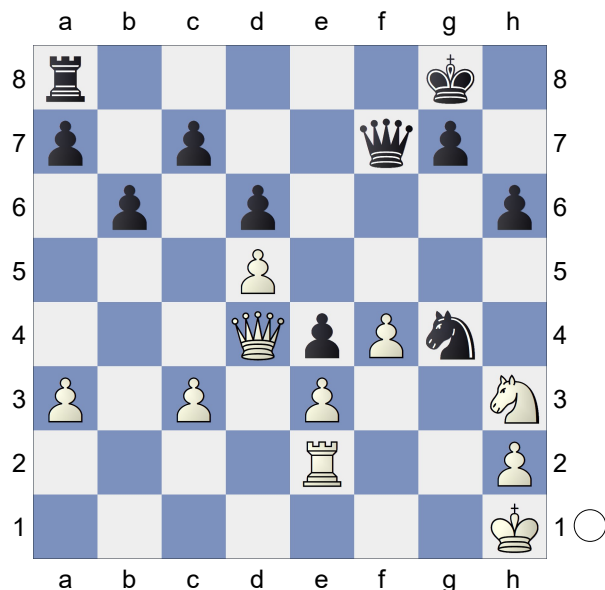
It's all gone wrong now... **18...b6** 56
19.Rg1 2:15 **Ba6** 1:55 **20.g4** 1:50 **fxg4**
 5 **21.Rxg4** 36 **Rg6** 6:41 **22.Rbg1** 42
Rxg4 1:23 **23.Rxg4** 3 **Nxc4** 7:30
24.Qd4 2:23

(Diagram)

Ne5 6 Of course she had seen that
 scooping the pawn was safe (for Black).
25.Rg2 7:50 **Bxe2** 6 **26.Rxe2** 16 **Ng4**



1:49



27.Qxe4?! 1:12

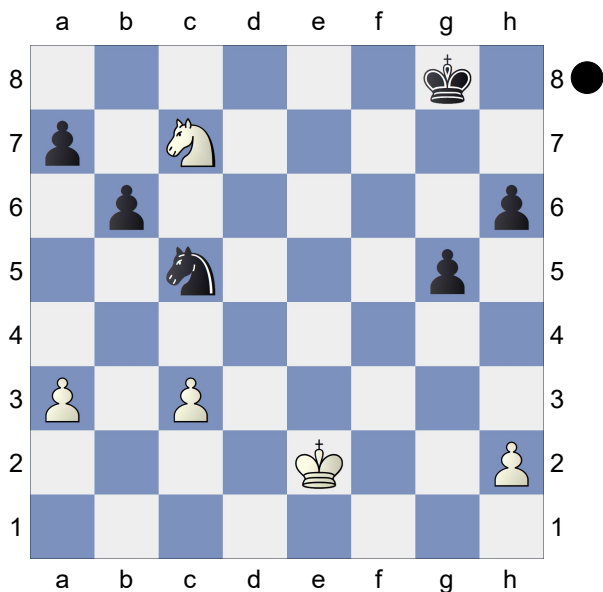
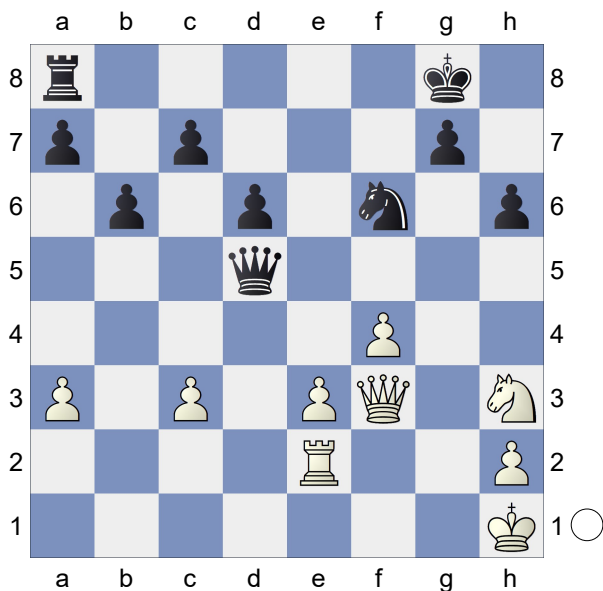
[**27.Rg2!?**]

27...Nf6 24 **28.Qf3** 2:04 **Qxd5** 38

(Diagram)

We can get away with "just a matter of
 technique" here... **29.e4** 43 **Qc6** 4:12
30.Kg2 2:22 **Re8** 13 **31.e5** 25 **Qxf3+** 6
 [**31...Qb5!**]

32.Kxf3 5 **dxe5** 13 **33.fxe5** 7 **Nd7** 48
34.e6 1:12 **Nc5** 58 **35.Nf4** 18 **g5** 2:13
36.Nd5 1:08 **Rxe6** 6 **37.Nxc7** 34 **Rxe2**
 12 **38.Kxe2** 2



Kf7 1 39.Nb5 48 a6 5 40.Nd4 24 Kf6 29 41.Kf3 59 Na4 3:09 42.Ne2 Kf5 15 43.h3 9 Kg6 1:35 44.Ke4 1:12 Kh5 8 45.c4 40 Kh4 6 46.Ng1 49 Kg3 10 47.Kf5 24 Kf2 36 48.Kg6 5 Kxg1 5 49.Kxh6 18 Kg2 11 50.Kxg5 11 Kxh3 3 51.Kf4 39 Nb2 4 52.c5 44 bxc5 4 53.Ke4 14 Kg4 9 54.Kd5 24 Na4 5 55.Kc4 23 Kf4 5 56.Kb3 14 Nb6 5 57.a4 11 a5 5 0-1

B07
1926
2200
 2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (4.7) 26.11.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

Parsons was "motivated" to play the Neo-Austrian Attack (via 4.Be3 against my Pirc after seeing me fall apart vs. Markovits in the previous TNM; I dodged that game with 4...a6 (without knowing it at all -- been meaning to learn it though!), I bluffed a pawn sac on move 7 which he declined, losing the initiative; the game got sharp, we both built and built, (I had some sort of aversion to ...b5, he to Bh4), it finally blew up in the center and on the queenside, I won a piece and it was checkmate very quickly. The Pirc is a risky business. I might play it again. **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 a6 5.h3 Bg7**

[5...b5]
6.f4 0-0 7.Qf3
[7.Nf3 b5]
7...c5
[7...Nfd7!?]
8.0-0-0?! [8.dxc5! Qa5 9.cxd6!? (9.0-0-0!? Nfd7!? 10.cxd6 Bxc3 11.bxc3! exd6 12.Bc4±) 9...exd6 10.0-0-0±]
8...cxd4 9.Bxd4 Nc6 10.Bf2 Qc7 11.g4 e6 12.Bg3 Rd8 [12...b5]
13.Bg2 Bd7 14.Nge2 Rac8 [14...Na5]
15.Rhf1 [15.f5 Ne5 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Rhf1]
15...Be8 [15...b5!]
16.Rd2 [16.f5]
16...Na5 [16...b5!]

17.Nd4

[17.Bh4?]

17...Nc4 18.Rd3 b5

[18...Nd7]

19.f5?

[19.a3 Nd7]

19...b4 20.fxe6 Ne5?!

[20...bxc3 21.Rxc3 Nxg4 22.hxg4

Bxd4 23.Bh4 Bxc3 24.Qxc3 Ne3

25.Qxc7 Rxc7 26.Bxd8 Rxc2+

27.Kb1 Rxc2]

21.Bxe5 dxe5 22.exf7+ Bxf7 23.g5

exd4 24.gxf6 Bh6+ 25.Kb1 bxc3

26.b3 Qc5 27.Ka1 Qa3 28.Rb1 Bc1

0-1

□ Yang, Liwei

■ Mercado, Adam

2024 Winter TNM: 2000+ (4.9) 26.11.24

[Winslow, Elliott]

B30

1810

1937

An exciting game all the way! Livia's sacrifice should have worked; when she slipped Adam jumped in to secure everything and turn it around. 1.e4 c5

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 The Rossolimo

System 3...e6 4.0-0 Nge7 5.d4

[5.Re1 was Viadui-Illaraza - Ivanenko, Board 8 (!)]

5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qc7 7.Be3 a6 8.Be2

Ng6 9.c4 Bd6 10.h3 Nxd4 11.Bxd4

Be5 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qd2 Nf4 14.Rfd1

f5 15.Bf3 fxe4 16.Bxe4 Bf6 17.Qc2

(Diagram)

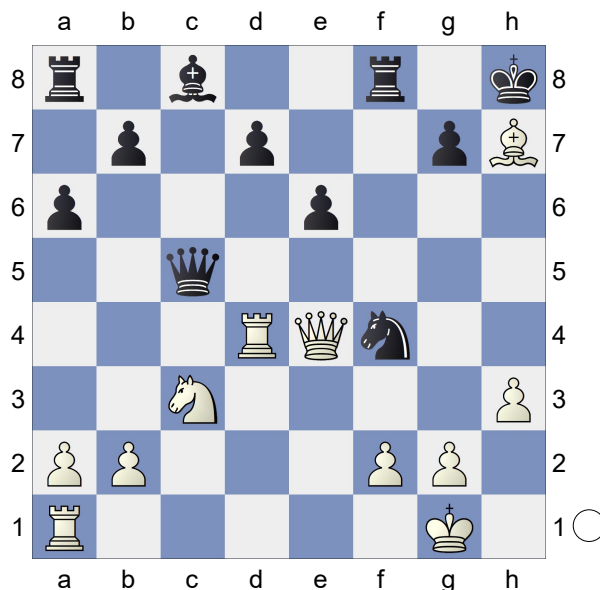
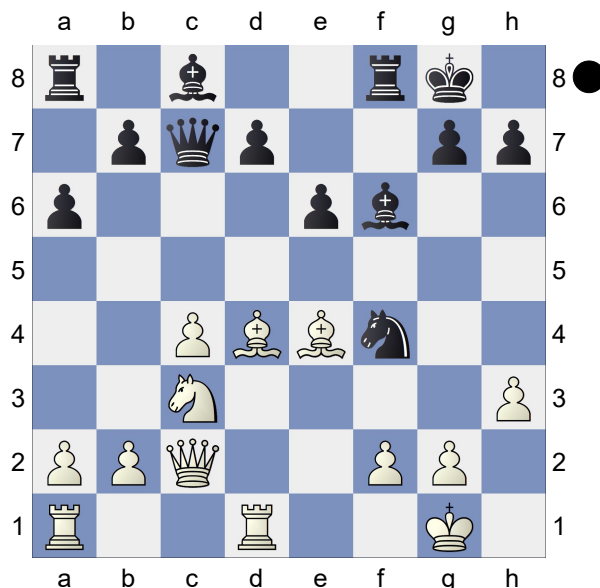
Qxc4 18.Bxh7+ Kh8 19.Qe4 Bxd4

20.Rxd4 Qc5

(Diagram)

21.g3?

[21.Qe3! Qg5!? (21...Kxh7 22.Rxf4



Qxe3 23.fxe3 Rxf4 24.exf4 b5=)

22.Be4 d5 23.Bf3 Nxh3+ 24.Kh2

Qxe3 25.fxe3 Ng5?]

21...Nxh3+!

[21...d5!]

22.Kg2 Ng5 23.Qh4

(Diagram)

Rf6? A should-be-fatal misstep.

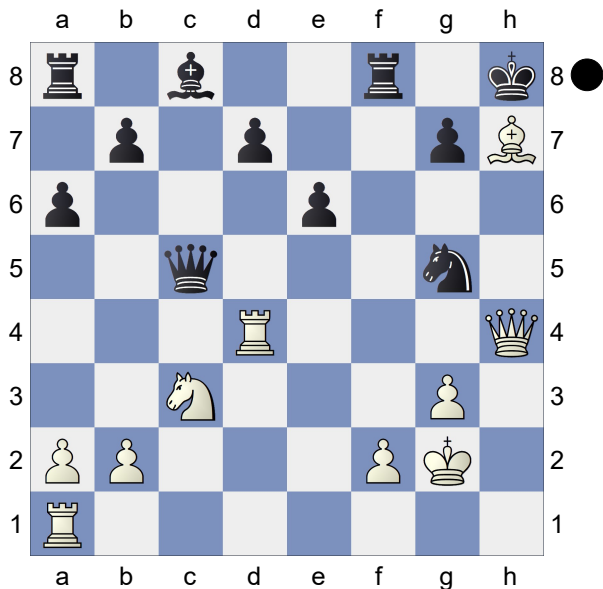
[23...Nf3! 24.Qh3

A) or simply 24...Ng5 25.Qh4□

(25.Qh5? Qxd4-+) 25...Nf3=

26.Qh1? Qxd4 27.Be4+ Kg8?;

B) 24...Qxd4 25.Ne4! (25.Bg6+??

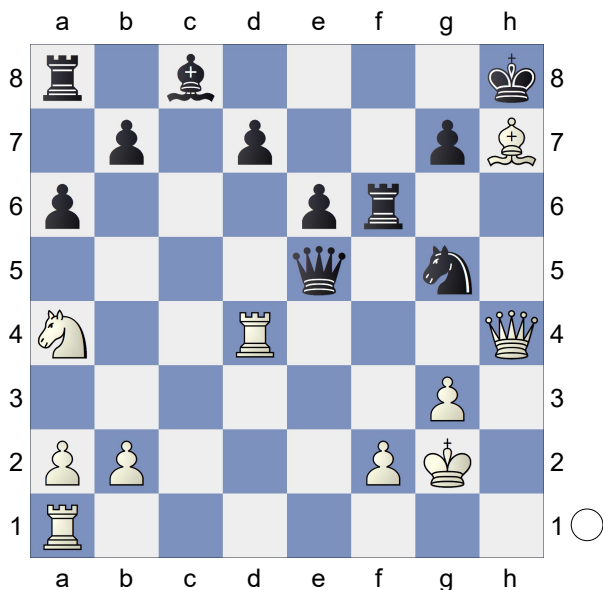


Nh4+!-+; 25.Be4+? Kg8 26.Qh7+ Kf7 27.Bxf3 Qe5!-+ 25...g5!

B1) 26.Rh1 Qg7= (26...d5= 27.Qh5 Qg7; 26...d6= 27.Qh5 Qg7) 27.Bg6+ (27.Qh5 Nh4+ 28.Kf1 Qxh7 29.Qxg5 Qxe4 30.Rxh4+ Qxh4=) 27...Nh4+ 28.gxh4 Qxg6=;

B2) 26.Qh5]

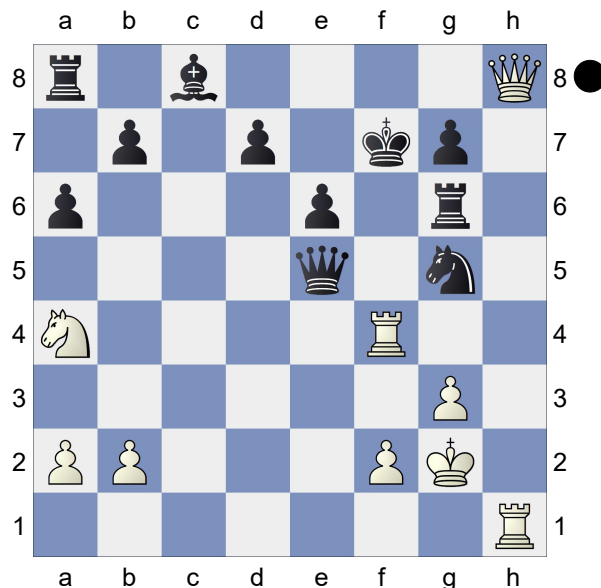
24.Na4! Qe5!



25.Bg6+?= Probably the critical mistake.

[25.Bd3+! Kg8 (25...Rh6 26.Qf4 Qxf4 27.gxf4+-) 26.Nb6! Qc5 27.Rf4! Qc6+ 28.Kf1 Qxb6 29.Qxg5 Rxf4 (29...Qxb2 30.Rb1! Qc3

31.Rb3+-) 30.gxf4 Qxb2 31.Qd8+ Kf7 32.Re1+-]
25...Kg8 26.Rh1
 [26.Nb6]
26...Rxb6 27.Qh8+?!
 [27.Nb6! Qc5! 28.Qh8+ (28.Nxa8?? b5!-+ (others are good as well))]
27...Kf7 28.Rf4+



Rf6+-

[28...Qxf4! 29.gxf4 b5!-+]
29.Qh5+ Ke7 30.Qh8
 [30.Nb6 Rh6! (30...Qc5!?)]
30...Rxf4 31.gxf4 Qd5+ 32.Kf1 Qd1+ 33.Kg2 Qg4+ 34.Kf1 Ne4 35.Rg1 Nd2+ 36.Ke1 Nf3+ 37.Ke2 Nxb1+ 0-1

□ **Smith,Roger Christopher**

■ **Chan,John**

2024 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (4.5)

[Winslow,Elliott]

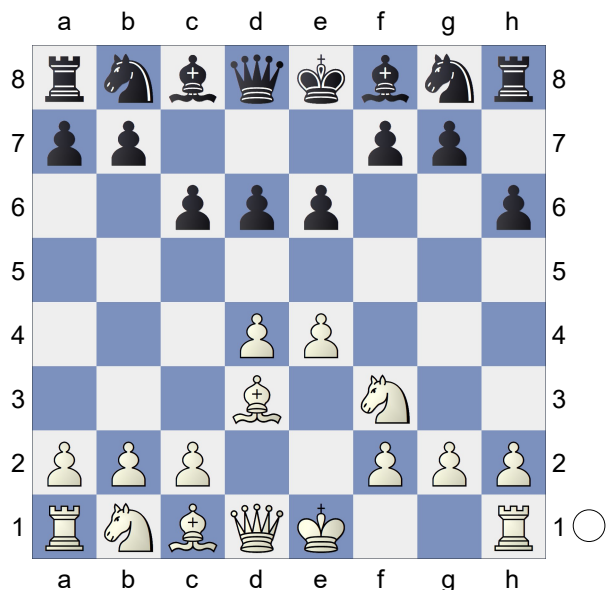
C01

1808

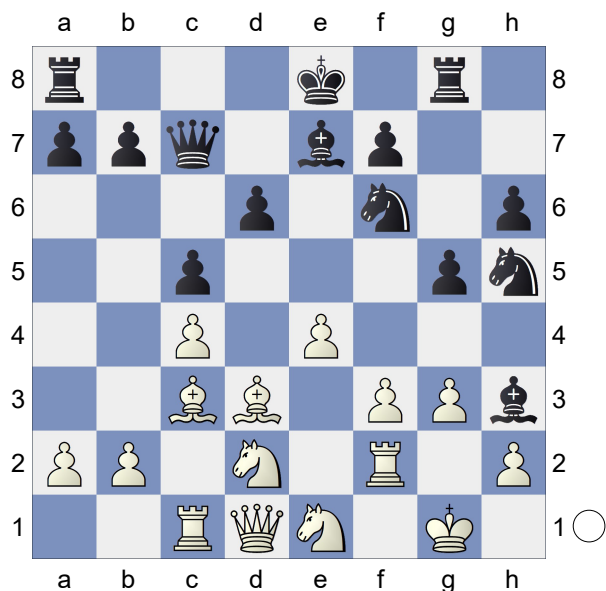
1657

Rapid 1min+30sec Roger Smith, here now from New York where he was a student of Asa Hoffman's, took nice advantage of John Chan's also-idiosyncratic opening play, breaking things open with a pawn sacrifice for

permanent inroads. 1.e4 0 e6 0 2.Nf3 0 c6 0 3.d4 0 h6 0 4.Bd3 0 d6 0



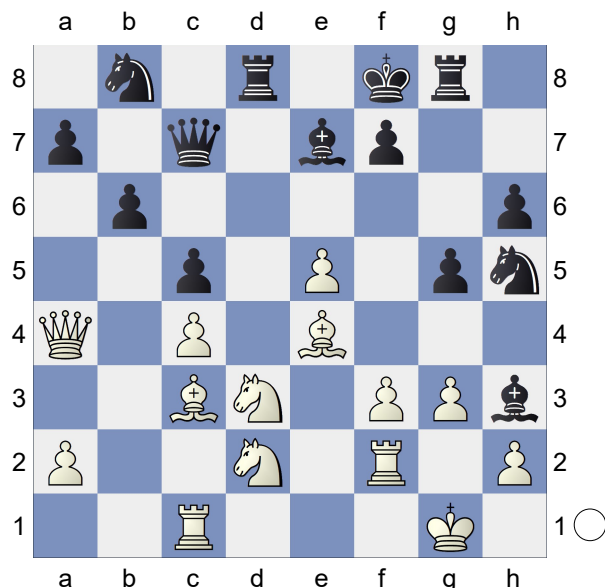
5.0-0 0 Nd7 0 6.Bf4 0 Be7 0 7.Nbd2 0 g5 0 8.Be3 0 Ndf6 0 9.c4 0 Qc7 0 10.Ne1 0 e5 0 11.f3 0 Nh5 0 12.g3 0 Bh3 0 13.Rf2 0 Ngf6 0 14.Rc1 0 exd4 0 15.Bxd4 0 c5 0 16.Bc3 0 Rg8 0



17.b4 0 b6 0 18.bxc5 0 dxc5 0 19.e5 0 Nd7 0 20.Be4 0 Rd8 0 21.Qa4 0 Kf8 0 22.Nd3 0 Nb8 0

(Diagram)

23.e6 0 f6 0 24.Bd5 0 Rg7 0 25.Ne4 0 Bxe6 0 26.Bxe6 0 Nc6 0 27.Bg4 0

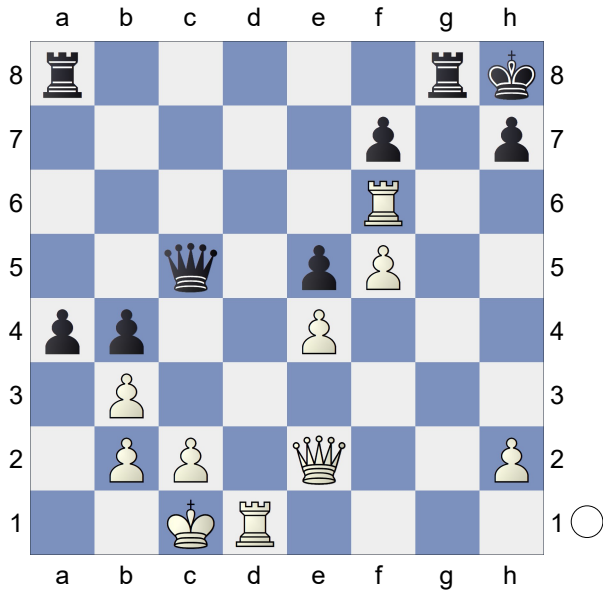


Nxg3 0 28.Nxg3 0 Rxd3 0 29.Nf5 0 Rg8 0 30.Nxe7 0 Nxe7 0 31.Bxf6 0 Re3 0 32.Rd1 0 Kf7 0 33.Bb2 0 Rd8 0 34.Rxd8 0 Qxd8 0 35.Bh5+ 0 Kf8 0 36.Qxa7 0 Re1+ 0 37.Kg2 0 Rd1 0 38.Be5 0 Rd7 0 39.Qb8 0 Nf5 0 40.Qxd8+ 0 Rxd8 0 41.f4 0 Nh4+ 0 42.Kh3 0 Rd3+ 0 43.Kg4 0 Ke7 0 44.fxg5 0 hxg5 0 45.Kxg5 0 Ke6 0 46.Bg7 0 Re3 0 47.Kxh4 0 Re4+ 0 48.Bg4+ 0 Ke7 0 49.Re2 0 1-0

B88
 1624
 1734
 2024 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (4.12)
[Winslow, Elliott]

Marlon was doing all right until he overlooked a classic rook sacrifice leading straight to checkmate. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 a6 9.f4 0-0 10.Qf3 Na5 11.g4 Nxb3 12.axb3 e5 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.gxf5 Qc7 15.0-0-0 Rfc8 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.Qg2 b5 18.Bg5 Kh8 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Nd5 Qc6 21.Nxf6 gxf6 22.Rd3 Rg8

23.Qe2 b4 24.Rhd1 a5 25.Rd6 Qc5
26.Rxf6 a4=

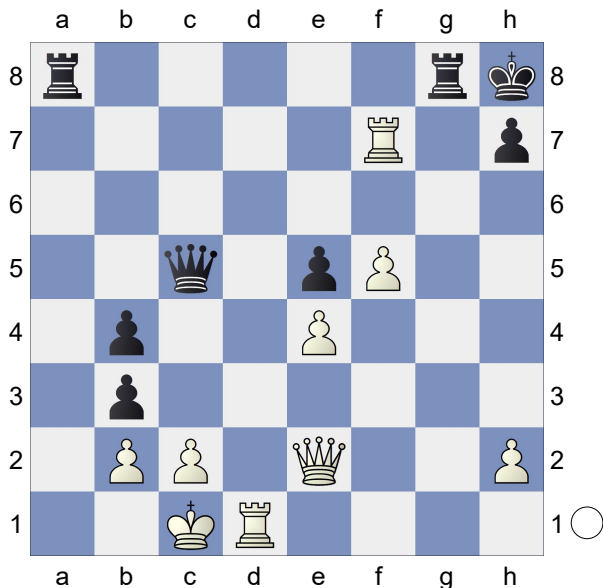


27.Rxf7?!

[27.bxa4 Rxa4 28.Ra6 Rxa6
29.Qxa6 Rg1=]

27...axb3??

[27...Rg1 28.Kb1 (28.Qh5??
Rxd1+ 29.Kxd1 Rd8+-) 28...axb3
29.cxb3 Rd8 30.Rf1!#]



28.Rxh7+! Kxh7 29.Qh5+ Kg7
30.Rd7+ Kf6 31.Rf7#
1-0

□ Schuster,Zack

■ Casares,Nick

2024 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (4.19)

[Winslow,Elliott]

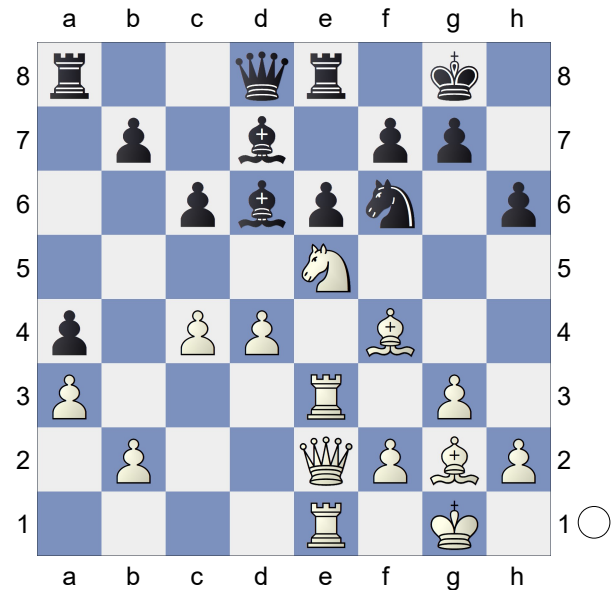
E09

1488

1600

Sometimes landing a "knockout blow" isn't enough; it still takes a high degree of accuracy to "Clinch It" (as the title of a pretty good book by Cyrus Lakdawala calls it). As it went, this just meant White got to land another nice shot later on!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 e6
5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Nbd7
8.Qd3 h6 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4
11.Qxe4 Nf6 12.Qe2 Qc7 13.Bf4 Bd6
14.Ne5 Qe7 15.Rfe1 Bd7 16.a3 a5
17.Rad1 Rfe8 18.Rd3 a4 19.Re3
Qd8??



20.Nxf7!+- Kxf7

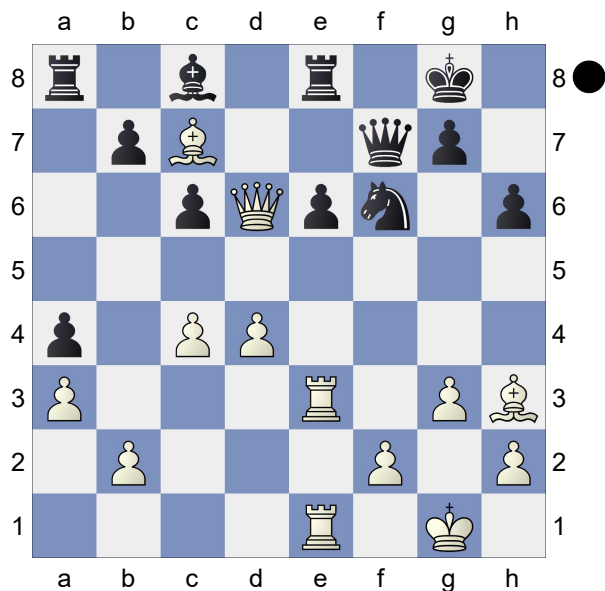
[20...Bxf4 21.Nxd8 Bxe3 22.Qxe3
Raxd8+-]

21.Bxd6 Bc8 22.Be5 Nd7 23.Qh5+
Kg8 24.Bc7

[24.Qg6! Qe7 25.Bxg7]

24...Nf6 25.Qe5 Qe7 26.Bh3 Qf7
27.Qd6?!

(Diagram)



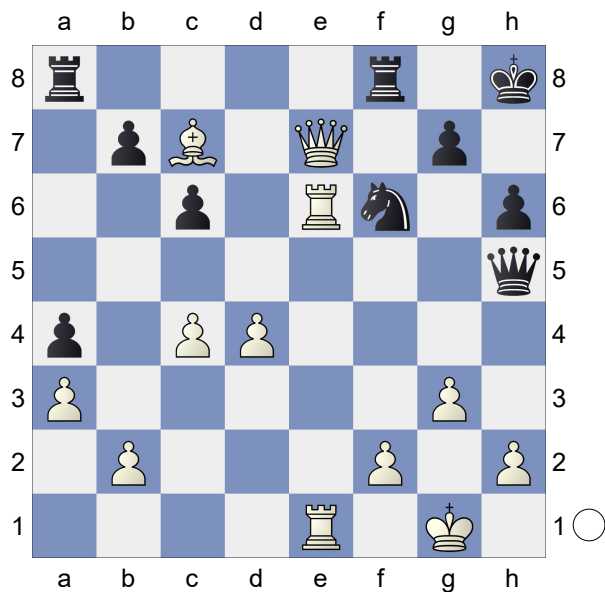
Kh8?

[27...e5! 28.dxe5! Bxh3 29.exf6 gxf6 30.Bb6±]

28.Bxe6 Bxe6 29.Rxe6 Rf8?

[29...Rxe6 30.Rxe6 Ng4 31.Re2! Qxc4 32.Qe6! Qxd4 (32...Qxe6+-) 33.Bf4 Nf6 34.Rd2!±]

30.Qe7 Qh5



31.Bd6??

[31.Be5!]

31...Ng4??

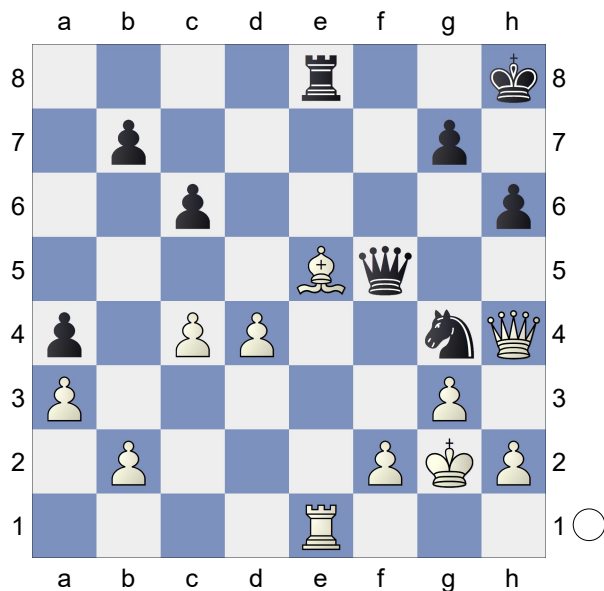
[31...Rf7-+]

32.Qh4! Qf5

[32...Qxh4 33.gxh4+-]

33.Bf4 Rf6 34.Rxf6 Nxf6 35.Be5 Re8

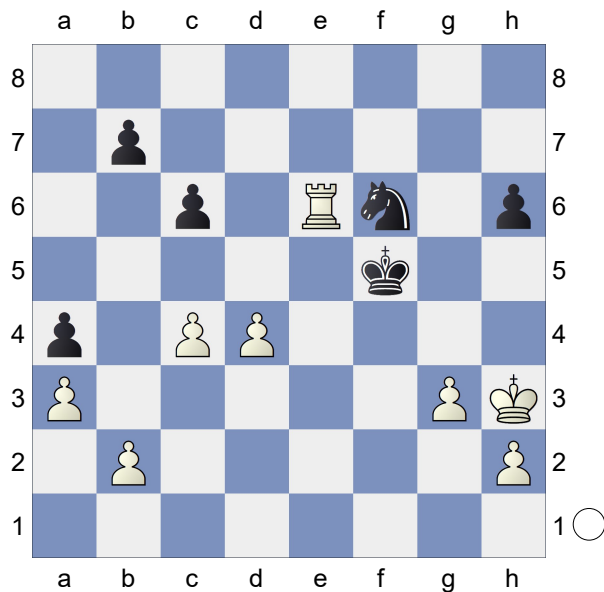
36.Kg2+- Ng4?!



37.Bxg7+! Kxg7 38.Rxe8 Qxf2+

39.Kh3 Nf6 40.Re7+ Kg6 41.Qf4 Qc2

42.Re6 Qf5+ 43.Qxf5+ Kxf5



44.Rxf6+ Kxf6 45.Kg4 Kg6 46.d5 c5

47.d6 Kf7 48.Kh5 Ke6 49.Kxh6 Kxd6

50.g4 Kc6 51.g5 b5 52.cxb5+ Kxb5

53.g6 Kc4 54.g7 Kb3 55.g8Q+ Kxb2

56.Qc4

1-0

Cao,Danny Du Uy **D05**
1226

Ahrens,Richard William **1087**
 2024 Winter TNM: 1200-1599 (4.24)
[Cao,Danny]

(ew: I don't quite know why I'm including this game, Danny just hung an exchange for no reason, but Richard's bringing it home was pretty nicely done, and there were some moments before and after of note. There is no question that Ahrens is improving!) **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Bd6 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 8.dxc5**

[8.Qe2 b6]
8...Bxc5 9.Qe2 e5 10.e4 Bg4 11.exd5 Bxf3 12.Nxf3

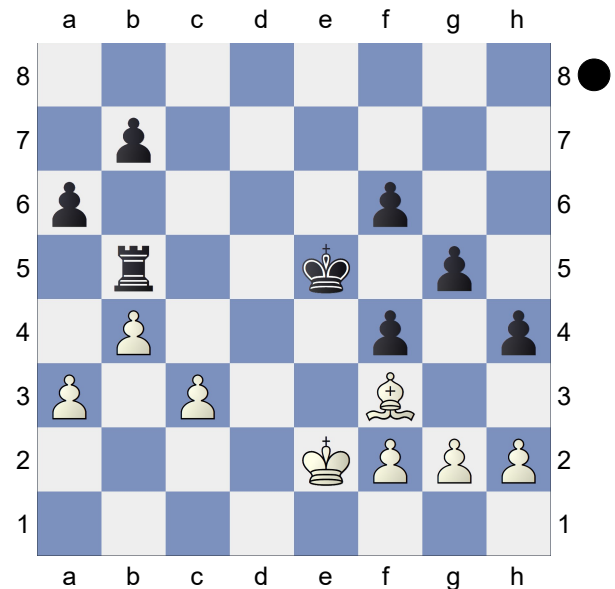
[12.Qxf3]
12...Qxd5 13.Re1 Rfe8 14.Bc4
 1 hour white... 1 hour 4 min black
14...Qd6 15.Ng5 Nd8 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Qf6 18.Be3

[18.Bf4 Bxf2+! 19.Kxf2 g5=]
18...Bxe3 19.Rxe3 Rb8 20.Rd1 a6 21.Rd5 Nc6 22.Rd7 Re7 23.Red3
 white 29 min... black 32 min **23...Rxd7 24.Rxd7 Nd8 25.Bd5 Qf4 26.Qxf4**

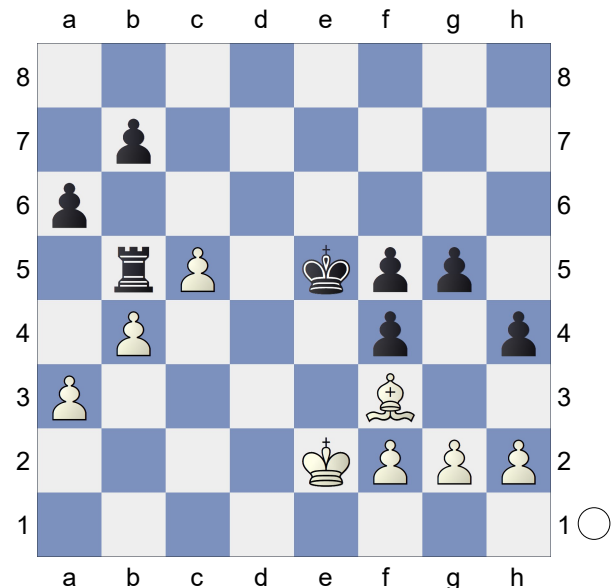
[26.Bxf7+ Nxf7]
26...exf4 27.Kf1 g5 28.Ke2 Kg7 29.Kf3 Kf6 30.Be4 white 17 min... black 18 min

[30.Kg4]
30...Ke6 31.Rd5 f6 32.Kg4 [32.Bxh7 Kxd5]
32...Nf7 33.Rd3?? moved the rook to "active" square... oopsy
[33.Rd4 Nh6+ (33...Ne5+ 34.Kh5) 34.Kh5 Nf5 35.Bxf5+ Kxf5]
33...Ne5+ 34.Kh5 Nxd3 35.Bxd3 h6 36.Kg4 Ke5 37.Kf3 Rd8 38.Ke2 h5 39.Bg6 h4 40.Bh5 Rd5 41.Bf3 Ra5 42.a3 Rb5 43.b4

(Diagram)



f5?? 44.c4!± Rb6 45.c5 Rb5



46.c6??

[46.Kd2= this looks much better Kd4 47.Be2 g4 48.Bxb5 axb5]
46...bxc6 47.Bxc6 Rb6 48.Be8 Kd4 49.Kd2 Rd6 50.Kc2 Re6 51.Bh5 Re1 52.Kd2 Ra1 53.b5 axb5 54.Be8 Rxa3 55.Bxb5 Ra2+ 56.Ke1 Ra1+ 57.Kd2 Rg1 58.Bc6 g4 59.g3 fxg3 60.hxg3 h3 61.Ke2 h2 62.f4 h1Q 63.Bxh1 Rxh1 64.Kf2 Ke4 65.Kg2 Ra1 66.Kh2 Ra2+ 67.Kg1 Kf3 68.Kh1 Kxg3 69.Kg1 Ra1# 0-1

Live from the Fall Break Chess Camp, it's a d5 Knight!

Christian Brickhouse

Those of you who came by the 4th floor last week may have been greeted by the youngest members of our chess community. Students in our Fall Break Chess Camp filled the chess room for two full days of games and lectures led by Coaches Marcie Yang, Sophie Adams, and Daniel Cremisi. The Mechanics' Institute Chess Camps are an opportunity for students with an interest in chess to make friends and improve their game during school breaks here in our historic chess room. If you have scholastic players you know who may be interested please let them know about our program!

This week our campers were lucky enough to play in a simul with National Master Daniel Cremisi, and afterwards Daniel analyzed the games live for the group. A major theme we saw in the games was how Daniel (playing White) managed to exploit a *relative pin* on the students' knights with a well timed Nd5! Below are two games where our campers played Black against Daniel. In the first game, Holden meets Nd5 with a counter attack but isn't fast enough to overcome the kingside weaknesses. In the second game, Vincent takes the opposite approach and tries to defend, but cannot muster enough forces to stop all of Daniel's threats.



Daniel Cremisi (center) gives a simultaneous exhibition for the Fall Break Campers

Daniel Cremisi (2396)

Holden (unrated)

November 26, 2024

1. **e4 e5**
2. **Nf3 Nc6**
3. **Nc3 Nf6**
4. **Bc4 Bc5**
5. **d3 O-O**
6. **Bg5 d6?!**

Holden seems to have done everything right. He developed his pieces. He castled quickly. 6. d6 defends his e5 pawn and opens up his light-squared bishop for development. Why is this move dubious? There are two ways to think about it.



One way is to think about pieces and tactics. Our campers learned about basic tactics, and the key problem in this position is one of those basic tactics: a pin. Holden's knight on f6 is pinned to his queen, so if he moves it, the queen is lost. Black should consider how to break the pin, but d6 lets it just sit there. Worse, it locks out the dark-squared bishop! With the pawn on d6, black can never play Be7 to break the pin.

Another way to think about this position is by looking at *key squares*. The goal of the opening is to control the center, so who controls the center? Look at e4 and e5. How many attackers and defenders are pointed at each of those squares? Take e4 as an example: Black has 3 attackers (pawn, knight, and bishop) and white has 1 defender (knight). Now what about e5? White has 3 attackers. It *looks like* black has 1 defender, but the defending knight is pinned. If it moves, the queen is lost, so its defense is an illusion.

7. **Nd5! ...** (Diagram)

Daniel notices that e5 is undefended and occupies it. He could, for example, occupy it with 7. Bd5, but Daniel demonstrates another principle: put pressure on pinned pieces. Occupying the d5 square with his knight adds an attacker on Holden's f6 knight, and because Holden played 6...d6, his bishop can't come back and help defend.

- 7 ... **Bg4!?**

Holden tries an active defense, and pins the pins Daniel's knight to his queen, but after

8. **Bxf6 gxf6**

Holden's king is uncovered.

9. **Qd2 ...**

Breaks the pin, and with

9. ... **Bxf3**

Holden cashes-in on his pin to try and damage Daniel's pawn structure. The problem is that Daniel doesn't have to take back yet.

10. **Qh6 Nd4!?**

Holden goes for a tactic of his own and threatens to fork Daniel's king and rook. But Daniel continues with his plan anyway.

11. **gxf3 ...** (Diagram)

Only now does Daniel take back, and we see the problem with trading the bishop on f3. There's an open file leading directly to Holden's king!

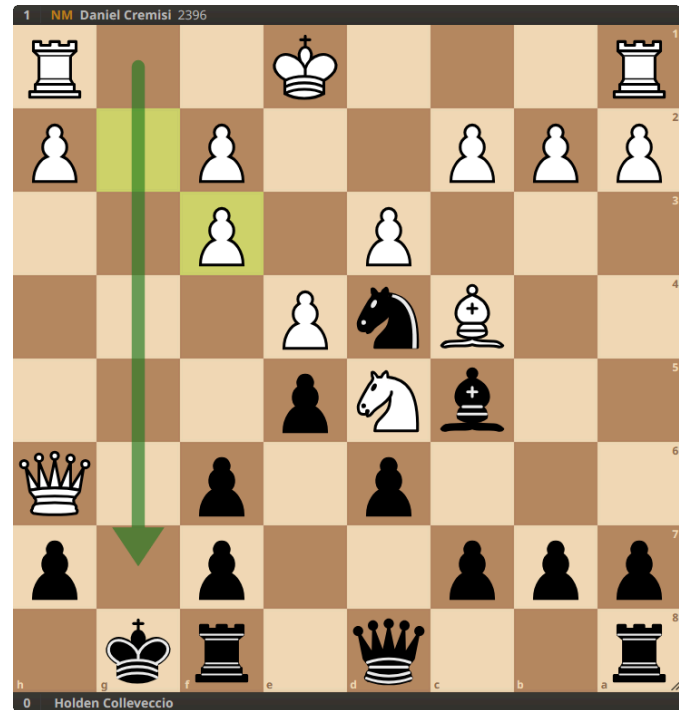
11. ... **Nxc2+**

12. **Kd2 Nxa1**

Holden manages to win the rook, but it's not enough to stop Daniel's attack.

13. **Rg1+ Kh8**

14. **Qg7#**



Daniel Cremisi (2396)

Vincent (405; P16)

November 26, 2024

1. **e4 e5**

2. **Nf3 Nc6**

3. **Nc3 Nf6**

4. **Bc4 Bb4!**

Vincent pins Daniel's knight. Having seen the power of a pin in the previous game, this is a good idea to limit White's play.

5. **d3 d6**

Unlike the last game, d6 is fine here because there's no pin on the knight...yet.

6. **O-O O-O?!**

On day 1, Coach Sophie told the kids that castling within the first 10 moves is safe, and Vincent learned his lessons well! So why mark castling as dubious? The problem is one of *initiative* and *tempo*. By castling, White has briefly given up the initiative and given Black time to do whatever he wants. For example, in this position Hikaru Nakamura has

played 6...Bxc3 taking Levon Aronian's knight and *then* castling. Another idea played by Jan-Krzysztof Duda (also against Aronian) was 6...a5, trading the knight for the bishop.

These examples are played by the top grandmasters in the world, and their expertise allows them to break Coach Sophie's advice to castle quickly. Still, thinking about *why* these top players go against the principles can help us improve. For more advice on using *tempo* in your games, see the August 2024 and June 2022 issues of *Chess Life Kids*.

7. Bg5 ...

Daniel has the initiative again, and takes the opportunity to pin Vincent's knight.

7. ... Be6!?

Is an interesting idea to both defend the f6 knight and the d5 square. After 8. Bxe6 fxe6 Vincent's rook defends the f6 knight at the expense of doubled pawns. But Daniel doesn't have to take, and the bishop only makes the d5 fight 3-on-1.

8. Nd5 ... (Diagram)

Vincent's e6 bishop is well placed here to blunt the power of Daniel's Nd5, but after 8...Bxd5 9. exd5 Vincent's knight needs to move and the position will start to crumble. Scary, but still in the fight.

8. ... Re8

9. Bxf6 gxf6

Daniel has once again succeeded in using the pin and Nd5 to trade the bishop and open up Black's king.

10. Nh4 Bxd5

Vincent trades off the knight, but now it's actually more dangerous because it lets Daniel's bishop into the attack after.



11. Bxd5 f5

Is interesting. Vincent opens up his queen to help defend and attacks Daniel's knight.

12. Qh5 Qf6

13. Nxf5 Rad8

14. Bxf7+ Qxf7

15. Nh6+ Kg7

16. Qxf7+ Kxh6

17. Qf6+ Kh5

18. g4+! ...

Daniel sacrifices a pawn and opens up his own king. Why? As we saw in Holden's game, having an open file for the rook is a good thing in this kind of kingside attack. By sacrificing the pawn, Daniel can move his king into the corner and get his rook into the game faster as we see in the diagram.

18. ... **Kxg4**

19. **Kh1** ... (Diagram)

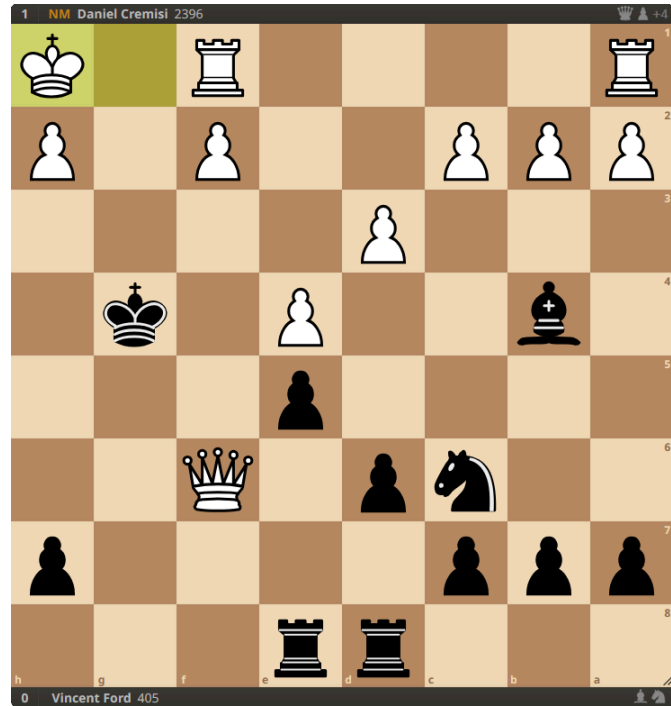
19. ... **Bd2**

Attempts to protect the h6 square to avoid mate, but there are too many threats after.

20. **Rg1+ Kh5**

21. **Qf3+ Kh6**

22. **Qh3#**



Daniel Cremisi (standing) analyzes a game from the simul for the campers.

The COAT

Zorba Hughes

How young is too young to be a rated chess player? Bobby Fischer was a grandmaster at 15. Judit Polgar at 14, Magnus Carlsen 13, and Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa, Gukesh Karlsruhe, and Abhimanyu Mishra were all 12. But there is a 3 year old rated chess player that's 1555! You heard me right 3!!!

He's no master yet but still... His name is Anish Sarkar. When I was coloring, he's studying openings. When asked who his favorite player is, it's not the usual suspects. Hikaru, Fabiano, Magnus Pragg even.. no. It's Anish Giri.(might be the name). Did he show an interest in chess or was he made to learn? He does look adorable sitting on plastic chairs beating adults without a care in the world. The pressure to be good let alone rated in chess is an overwhelming accomplishment for anyone, let alone a 3 year old.

Though impressive, it's also worrisome, could he suffer burnout? We all recall the Polgar sisters. Laszlo Polgar believed genius is made, not born. He had 3 daughters as we know. Sofia, Susan, and Judit. 2 became Grandmasters. One is an IM. They went through misogynistic trials and tribulations. But they became powerful players. Judit being the strongest. How did being so young play on their psyche? They all went on to have families and retire from chess. Judit became number 61 out of 100 greatest players and only female of all time.

No one does anything alone. Even Mozart's dad worked with him though he had a gift to make him better. I hope Anish adapts and has a childhood and fun along with chess as he grows up. LL Cool J is called the GOAT (greatest of all time). Anish is called the COAT (cutest of all time). Eventually cuteness wears thin. Hopefully he doesn't become a tragic story like Morphy or Fischer. As Magnus said in a recent interview, As long as he enjoys the process in his chess journey and not worry about achieving titles, or ratings, he'll be fine. I concur. Only time will tell. Until the meantime, let's enjoy Anish Sarkar aka the COAT.

Wolff vs. Shankland at the Mechanics' Institute

Alex Robins with annotations by IM Elliott Winslow

As mentioned above, we were thrilled to have former US Champion GM Sam Shankland here for a lecture and Blitz Tournament. We were also extremely excited to have another former US Champion, GM Patrick Wolff join us. The two didn't get paired in the game but did play an exhibition game.

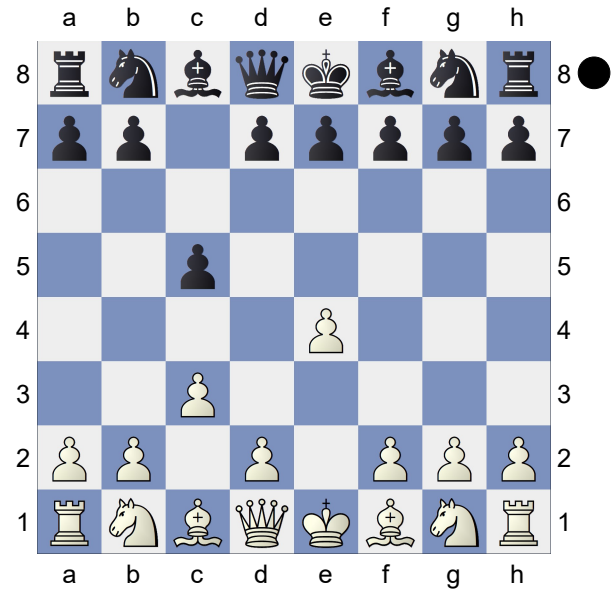
□ Wolff, Patrick
 ■ Shankland, Sam
 Post-Blitz Blitz (1.1)
[Winslow, Elliott]

Okay, so this was a post-tournament friendly battle, and not the most exciting game! Heimann's win against Wolff in Round 5 kept the two grandmasters from playing, so this matchup was suggested. It was more Wolff playing not to lose rather than to create dynamic chances. I've long thought there is a place for a book, "White To Play And Draw," a repertoire book of sorts, full of lines where the first player essentially "sits on the ball" and reduces the win-draw-loss graph to »0%, »100%, »0%. Some annotators talk about opening lines that "play for two results" -- I'm talking about playing for *one* result. Some other writers will tell you that playing for a draw is an excellent way to lose; Patrick is too good for *that* to happen. And there are some opportunities for a frustrated second player to try too hard. But as it went, it came close to slipping away from Patrick! **1.e4 30 c5 5 2.c3 1**

[2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 in fact discourages d5?! 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.cxd4 and White gets Nc3 in without having to provoke ...cxd4 (it's already happened!) -- but there *is* the little matter of Black accepting the gambit...]

(Diagram)

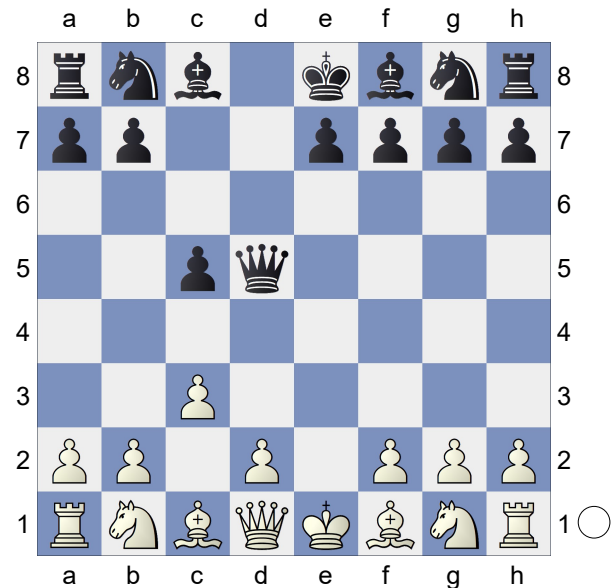
I think Patrick has mostly played open Sicilians, but he's shown a fondness for this (the Alapin System) on quite a few occasions. I think it grew out of Morra



Gambit days (if I'm not mistaken). Ah, youth! (I knew Patrick when he *was* a teenager) **2...d5 2**

[2...Nf6]

3.exd5 2 Qxd5



4.d4 2 Nf6 1 5.Nf3 e6 3

[5...Nc6]

[5...Bg4!?]

[5...g6!?]

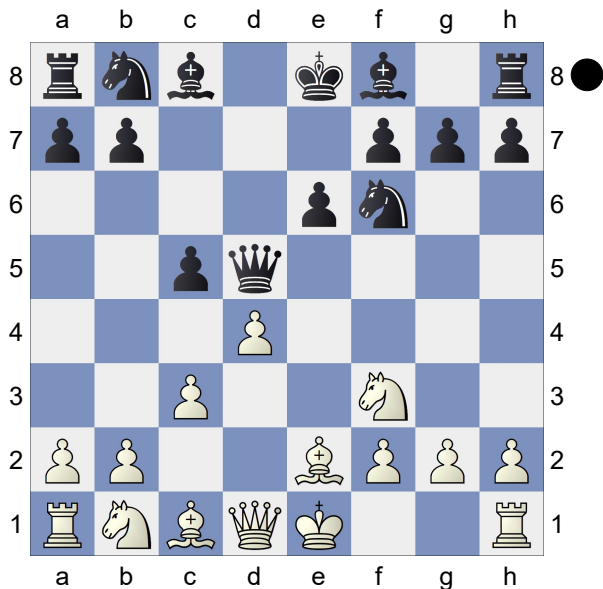
6.Be2

[6.Na3!?]

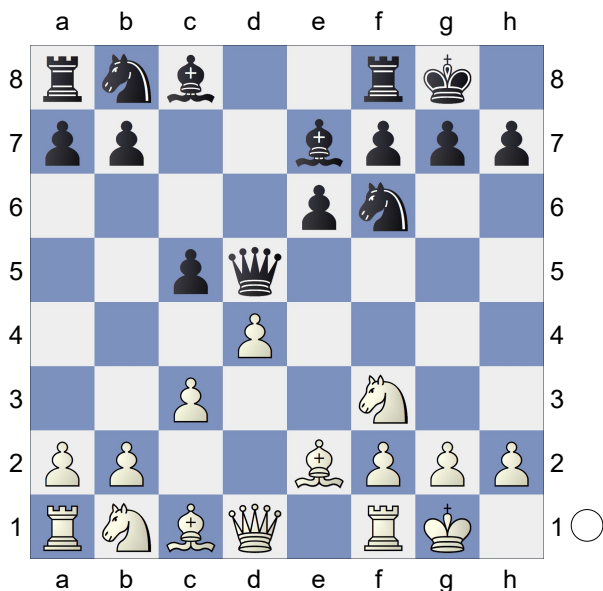
[6.Be3!?]

[6.Bd3!?]

(Diagram)



There are more aggressive move, so I give them all "!?": **6...Be7 7 7.0-0 2 0-0 1**



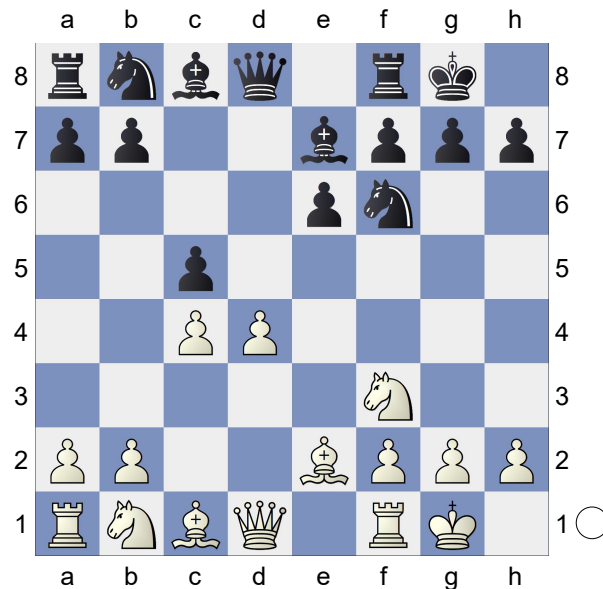
8.c4 20 Qd8 6

[8...Qc6!? could well be best, even if it takes away the obvious square for the N/b8]

(Diagram)

9.Nc3 4

[9.dxc5 scores so much higher (60% vs. 48%) than the text move that it'd take some investigation to understand



why! But this was a friendly blitz game so I'll leave that to the more awake theoreticians.]

9...cxd4 7

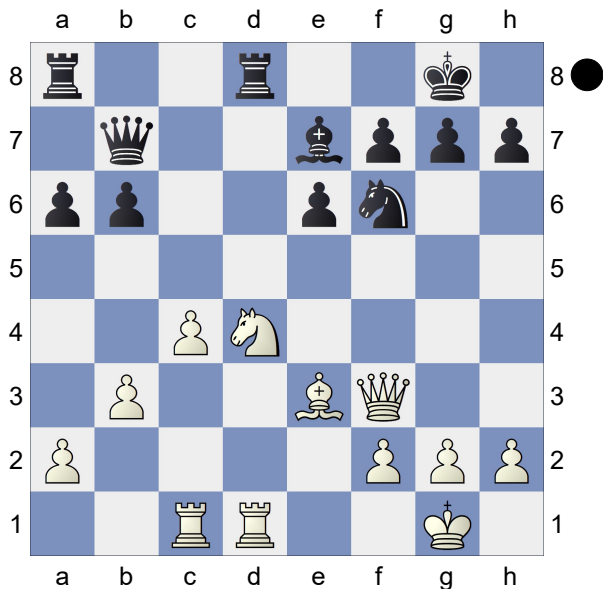
[Or there is 9...Nc6 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nb4 12.Bc4 Bg4 13.a3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Na6 15.Ne4 Ne8 16.Bf4 Nd6 17.Bxa6 bxa6 18.Nxc5 Nf5 19.Ne4 Qb6 20.Rb1 Rad8 21.Qd3 Rd7 22.Rfd1 Rfd8 23.Nc3 Qg6+ 24.Kh1 Bf6 25.Ne4 Rxd5 26.Qxa6 Rxd1+ 0-1 Karthikeyan,M (2624)-Lazavik,D (2578) Titled Tuesday intern op 20th Aug Early Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (9)]

10.Qxd4 14

[Here's Caruana standing up to play for a win vs. a superstar (as usual, a *blitz* game): 10.Nxd4 Bd7 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Rc1 Qb8 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Bf3 Rd8 15.Qe2 Qc8 16.b3 b6 17.Rfd1 Qb7 18.Bxc6 Qxc6 19.Nb5 a6 20.Nd4 Qb7 21.Qf3

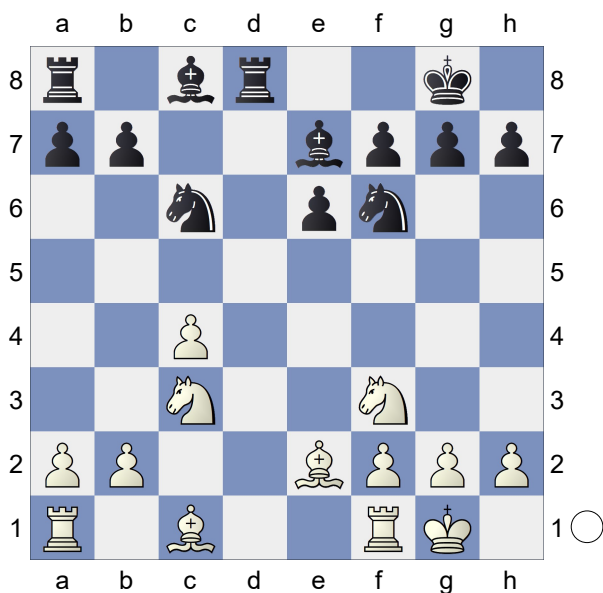
(Diagram)

or is he? Ne4 One might assume the pawn structure encourages White to head for an endgame, Black to keep queens on the board. 22.Ne2 Rxd1+



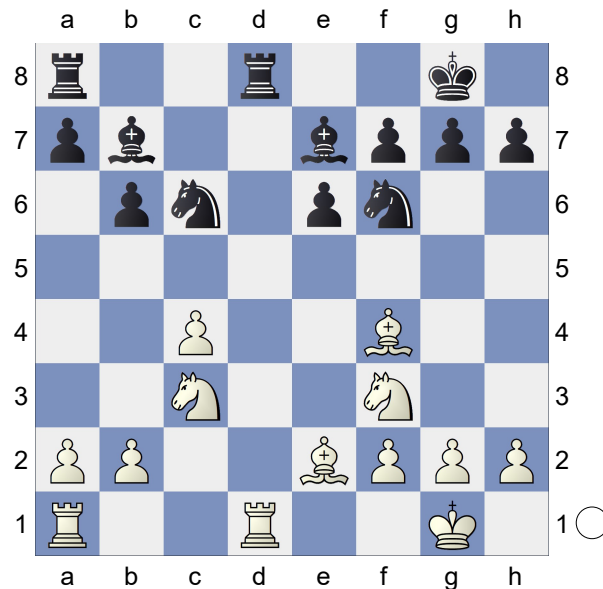
23.Rxd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Bxd8
 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Qxb7 Nxb7 27.Na4
 b5 28.cxb5 axb5 29.Nc3 b4 30.Nb5
 two holding one? Be7 31.Kf1 Nd8
 32.Ke2 Nc6 33.Na7 Nb8 34.Kd3 f5
 35.Kc4 Nd7 36.Nc6 Bd6 37.h3 Kf7
 38.Nxb4 1-0 Caruana,F (2783)-
 Andreikin,D (2729) Chess.com Rapid
 Wk22 Swiss Chess.com INT 2022
 (7)]

10...Nc6 20 11.Qxd8 4 Rxd8 3



12.Bf4 5 b6 5 13.Rfd1 9 Bb7 2

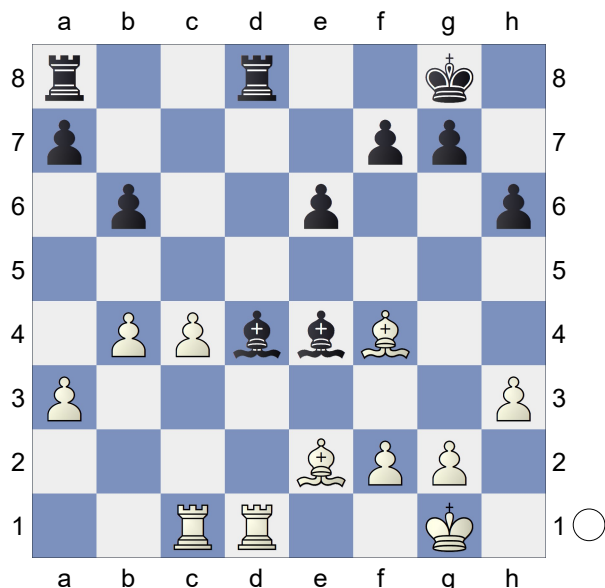
(Diagram)



14.h3N 9

[Predecessor: 14.a3 Ne8 (14...Rac8
 15.Rab1 h6 16.h3 Na5 17.Rxd8+
 Rxd8 18.c5 Bxc5 19.b4 Bxf3
 20.Bxf3 Bd4 21.Bc7 Rd7 22.bxa5
 Bxc3 23.axb6 axb6 24.Bxb6 Nd5
 25.Bc5 ½-½ Thomas,G (2075)-
 Soreghy,J (1679) SC-2015-0-00267
 LSS email) 15.Rxd8 Rxd8 16.Rd1
 Rxd1+ 17.Nxd1 f6 18.Be3 Nd6
 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.Bxd4 Nf5 21.Bc3
 Kf7 22.b4 Ke8 23.f3 h5 24.g3 Bd6
 25.Kf2 h4 26.f4 Kd7 27.Ne3 Nxe3
 28.Kxe3 hxg3 29.hxg3 Bc6 30.Bd3
 Ke7 31.Bc2 Bg2 32.Bd3 Bc6
 ½-½ Seyb,D (2265)-Koehler,G (2201)
 WchT Seniors 50 Radebeul 2016 (5.
 3)]

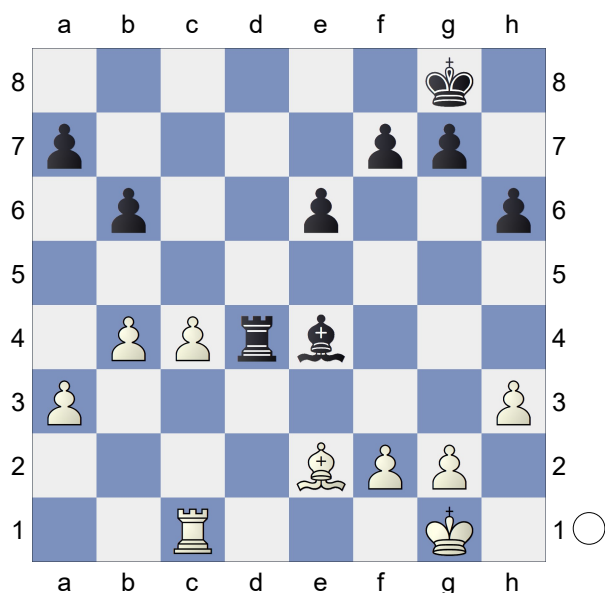
14...Bc5 9 15.a3 21 Nd4 44 trade trade
trade 16.Nxd4 3 Bxd4 17.Rac1 35
 I call these positions "43 32" -- White
 has the queenside majority, Black the
 only center pawn, sorta. Usually even if
 it trades down further Black is okay,
 unless White is Karpov or Ulf Anderssen
 (in my day). **17...h6** 14 and Stockfish
 makes it 0.00 after a sit. **18.b4 9 Ne4 11**
 A slight needle move before settling
 down to 0.12 or so. **19.Nxe4 25 Bxe4**
 (Diagram)



And now: a bit of excitement! **20.Bc7!? 7 Rd7 1** Party-poop! And in fact, injects a bit of risk, since with further trades the QSM (queenside majority) could still matter. If Sam falls asleep. Stockfish 17: +0.33/34.

[20...Bb2!? 21.Bxd8 Bxc1 22.Rxc1 Rxd8 23.f3 Bb7 24.Kf2! (24.Rd1 Rxd1+ 25.Bxd1 g5=) 24...Rd2 25.Ke1 Rd7! (25...Ra2?? 26.Rd1 Rxa3 27.Rd7+-) 26.h4 Kf8 27.h5 Ke7 28.Rc2 e5 29.Kf2 Rc7 30.Ke3 Kd6 It's *still* +0.12!]

21.Be5!± 1 Rad8 2 22.Bxd4 2 Rxd4 1 23.Rxd4 3 Rxd4



24.Rd1?! 8

[24.c5!?]

[24.f3!? Bb7 25.c5!? Kf8 26.Kf2

Rd2 27.Ke1! (so the a-pawn doesn't go with check, say if Ke3) Ra2 28.c6!

Bc8 29.Rc3 Ke7 30.b5 g5 31.g3 h5 32.f4 It's still some pull for White.]

24...Rxd1+ 7 25.Bxd1 Kf8= 1

With a pawn push Black could be putting White to task (but not really):

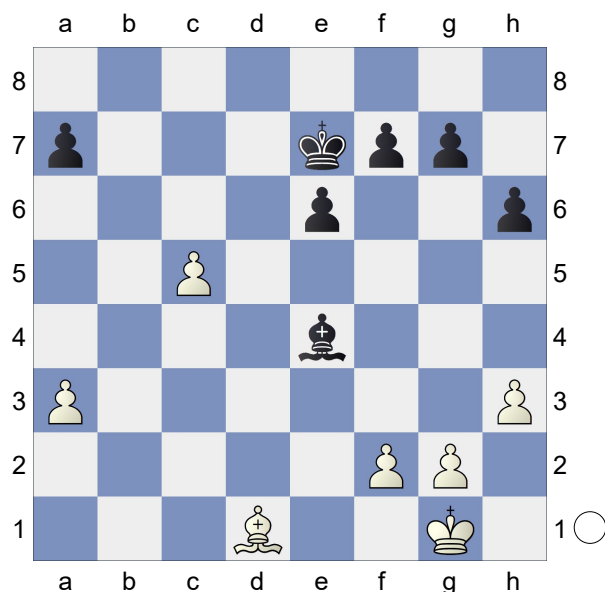
[25...e5!?]

[25...g5!?]

26.c5?! 17 bxc5 4 27.bxc5 2 Ke7

[27...e5!?]

[27...g5!?]



and now it's Black edging for something

28.Ba4?! 4

[28.f3 Bd5 29.Kf2 -0.24/32 SF17:]

28...g5 4

[28...e5!?± This is getting serious! (-0.80/27)]

29.g3 3 e5 5 30.Kf1 4 f5 2 31.Ke2 3 f4 6

[31...Ke6! 32.Bb3+ Bd5±]

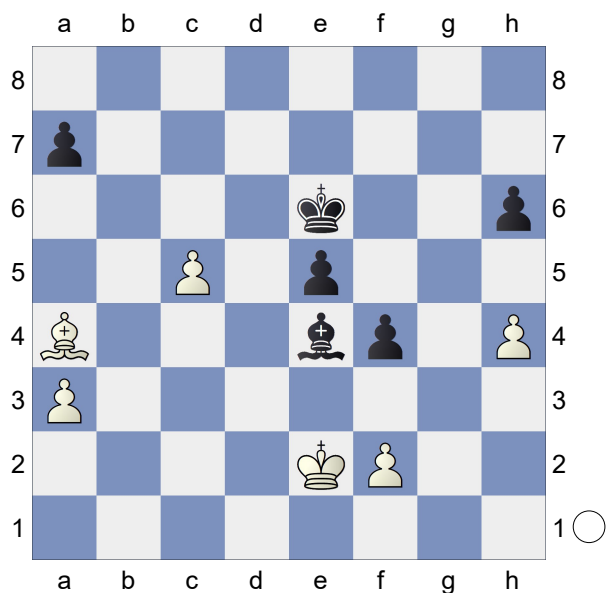
32.h4?! 2

[32.Bb5 Ke6 33.Bc4+ Bd5 34.Bb5

All the numbers look the same suggesting "No Progress"]

32...Bd5? 9

[32...gxh4 33.gxh4 Ke6!-+



34.Bb3+ Bd5 35.Ba4 Bc4+ 36.Kf3
Kd5 37.c6 Kd6 38.Ke4 Ba2! 39.Kf5
Bb1+ 40.Kf6 e4 Maybe White can
hold, maybe not.]

33.Kd3 6 e4+ 7 34.Ke2 12 Ke6 2
35.hxg5 1 hxg5 1 36.gxf4 gxf4 2
37.Kd2 3 Ke5 3 38.Kc3 1 Be6 27
39.Bc6 2 a5 7 40.Bb7 1 Bd5 15
41.Ba6 2 Bc6 3 42.Bc4 1 f3 4 43.Bg8
4 e3 2 44.fxe3 3 Bd5 23 So difficult!
1/2-1/2

Book Review by IM John Donaldson

IM John Donaldson

The Belgian firm Thinkers Publishing (www.thinkerspublishing.com) has recently released a book on the second president of FIDE who played a major role in the chess world for half a century.

FIDE President Folke Rogard: The lawyer who organized modern chess in the shadow of the cold war (2024, hardback, 336 pages, \$56) by Henrik Malm Lindberg. This is the rare chess book that can be read cover to cover as 99.9 percent of it is prose accompanied by many photographs – there is one previously unpublished game between Akiba Rubinstein and Rogard from a simul.

FIDE, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, has had only seven presidents in its existence. One of them, the Swede Folke Rogard, is the focus of this book which covers not only his activities with FIDE but his work with the Swedish chess federation, career as a lawyer, and his private life – the latter including his marriage to the Hollywood actress Viveca Lindfors.

Rogard was the FIDE president from 1949-1970, a period of dramatic change and turmoil for that organization. Among the challenges FIDE faced after World War Two were formalizing the World Championship cycle, restarting Olympiads, establishing the criteria and the awarding of titles for exceptional play (GM and IM), and introducing new events like the Student Olympiad and World Junior Championship.

All these developments, which happened during the cold war, are extensively covered by the author, Henrik Malm Lindberg, who relies extensively on primary sources, principally Rogard's personal correspondence.

Rogard's job was not an easy one as he had to balance the interests of the powerful Soviet Chess Federation and other members of FIDE. One of these was the US Chess Federation, which in the 1950s was a financially challenged organization, perpetually short of funds. This resulted in it failing to send participants to major FIDE events, including Olympiads, on several occasions.

FIDE President Folke Rogard: The lawyer who organized modern chess in the shadow of the cold war mentions that in 1946 there were actually two US organizations applying to be the official American FIDE representative – the newly formed (1939) USCF and the Association of American Chess Masters, an organization headed by Edward Lasker. The situation was chaotic enough that in 1950, when Yugoslavia hosted the first post-World War Two Olympiad, the organizers ended up contacting Al Horowitz. The long-time publisher of *Chess Review* and a member of several US gold medal winning teams in the 1930s, Horowitz held no formal position with the USCF, but was

asked to form a US team. The organizers provided him with travel money and honorariums.

There is much more on US chess in this book, particularly regarding the four team matches between the United States and Soviet Union held in 1945, 1946, 1954, and 1955. Bobby Fischer's rise is examined and includes not only well-known episodes like the 1962 Candidates and the 1967 Interzonal but also earlier events in Fischer's career from the late 1950s.

This book not only deals with Rogard's job as FIDE president, but also looks at his activities with the Swedish Chess Federation which included a great deal of work as an organizer as well as an administrator. Sweden hosted four Interzonals, two Student Team Championships, and a World Junior Championship under Rogard's watch – a period when the United States didn't host a single FIDE event.

Rogard was not only FIDE president and a successful organizer, he was also a high-powered lawyer who represented Ingrid Bergman in her divorce from Roberto Rossellini. Rogard's career as a lawyer not only gave him the diplomatic skills required of a FIDE president but also provided him the necessary financial means and administrative help required of the position. Lindberg gives many examples of the numerous times Rogard was forced to dip into his own pocket to fund FIDE events. The support staff at his law firm doubled as unofficial FIDE employees at a time when there was little money in chess.

FIDE President Folke Rogard: The lawyer who organized modern chess in the shadow of the cold war includes dozens of black and white photos, many of which were new for this reviewer. Among the highlights are one of Fischer and Rogard taken during the 1962 Stockholm Interzonal which Bobby won. Vassily Smyslov, Max Euwe, Reuben Fine, Mikhail Botvinnik, and Mikhail Tal are featured in a 1961 photo taken at Schiphol Airport while the Soviet team was passing through on their way to the European Team Championship. Fine was living in Amsterdam at the time doing research.

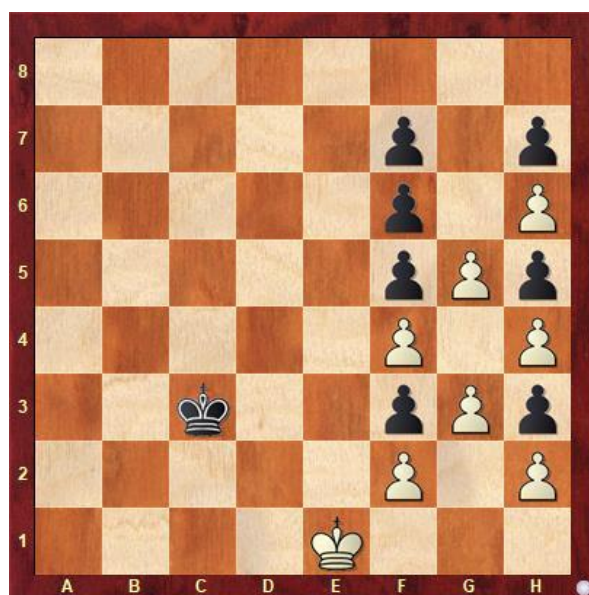
FIDE President Folke Rogard: The lawyer who organized modern chess in the shadow of the cold war is a well-researched book on an important figure who was active at a time when world and chess politics frequently intersected. Those with an interest in chess history during the cold war will find it a fascinating read.

This handsome and sturdily bound hardback book is well produced with a clean layout and numerous black and white photographs.

Tony's Teasers

Tony Lama

Black to play and is this a draw or a win and for who?



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.

White to move and play for a decisive advantage:



Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1...fxg5 is the start of a very long and drawn out draw!

For the Puzzle in the Library:

1.Qf6+!

In this game Black resigned because 1...gxf6 2.Kf8, Rh8#.

From *A Modern Guide to Checkmating Patterns* by Vladimir Barsky. The book is available at our library for **794.12B28 Level 2B**



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Since 1854

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

With more than 4,000 books and periodicals, Mechanics' Institute boasts one of the
largest chess book collections in the U.S.

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

