



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Since 1854

Chess Room Newsletter



"It's a great huge game of chess that's being played—all over the world—if
this is the world at all, you know."

Issue #1057 | January 31st, 2025 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

Alex Robins

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club started off 2025 with our 24th Bob Burger Memorial on January 4th. The top section had a tie for first with both **Pranav Sathish** (2332) and **Sricharan Pullela** (2230) scoring 3.5 points. Their only draw in the tournament was against each other, and I think we need a rematch! **Yuvraj Sawhney** (2048) and **Zee Chin** (1961) also had strong showing and split the third place prize with 3 points each.

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

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

We had a light month of tournaments due to the holidays but held our first Thursday Night Rapid of the year on January 23rd. We'll be switching up the format coming soon but more Thursday Rapids will also be scheduled for 2025. In the top section, MI Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2398) came in a clear first place with a perfect score. **Beilin Li** (2185) came in second with his only loss coming to Daniel and tournament regular **Hayes Marvin** (1905) secured third place. In the under 1600 section, **Aron Sarmasi** (unr.), **Shradul Golwalkar** (1457), **Andrew Linzer** (unr.) took first through third respectively.

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

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

Our flagship event for the month was our 22nd Annual Konig Memorial Tournament. We've moved to holding more of these 2-day FIDE tournaments this calendar year so if you enjoy the longer time controls you are in luck. First place was a three way tie between **FM Patrick Peijun Liu** (2279), **Joseph Karthi** (2140), and **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (2092) with 3 points each. **Varun Agrawal** (1913), **Zlata Agrawal** (2038), and **Jacob Chiang** (2156) took the u2200 prizes.

In the 1600-1999 section, **Cailen Jeremiah Melville** (1770) won the section outright with a perfect score. **Yali Dancig Perlman** (1836) and **Robert Huskins** (1683) were right on his heels with 3.5 points each and split the prizes for second and third. **Xiaoshan Chen** (1613) took home the best under 1800 and **Raajas Kunal Dixit** (1517) got the under 1600 prize.

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

These tournaments were directed by IA Judit Sztaray, Senior TD Abel Talamantez, and National TD Scott Mason.

For our Monthly Scholastic Swiss Tournament, **Adler Benaman** (1143) took home first in the over-500 section with 3.5 points. **James Fu** (1054), **Linus Dow** (836), **Harrison Lin** (unr.), and **Kendall Poon** (653) came in second through fifth respectively.

In the under-500 section, **Vincent Ford** (394) took first with 3.5 points, and again barely edging out our longtime after school chess participant **Ronan Peterson** (unr.) on tiebreaks. Keep playing Ronan and the tiebreaks will go in your favor sooner or later! Third, fourth, and fifth went to **Luke Sullivan Roldan** (unr.), **Evan Tsao** (unr.), and **Oliver Vankov** (546) respectively, with order determined by tie breaks. Thanks to all of our scholastic players and their families for participating in our monthly tournament and please save the date for our Scholastic Championship on March 29th!

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

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

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](#).

□ Diller,Bradley R

■ Cremisi,Daniel

2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 7.1.25

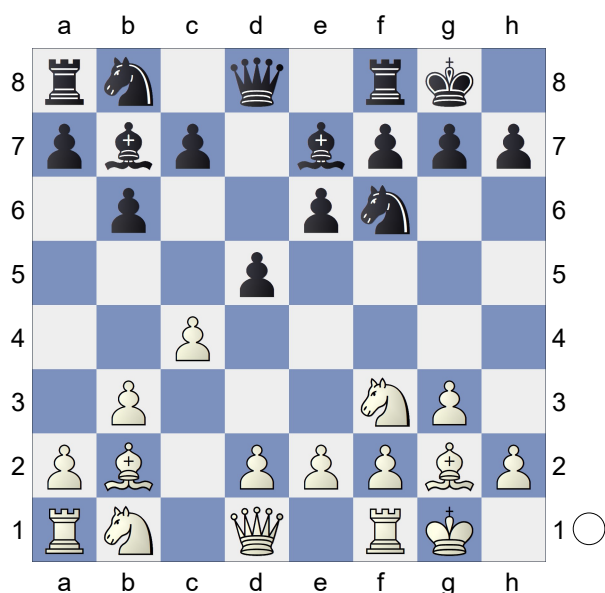
[Diller,Bradley/Winslow,Elliott]

E17

2089

2398

A full-scale battle. White even had a little pull off and on, but as the clock ran down he succumbed to an attack. And not necessarily a sound one! **1.c4 0 e6 0 2.g3 0 d5 0 3.Bg2 0 Nf6 0 4.Nf3 0 b6 0 5.b3 0 Bb7 0 6.0-0 0 Be7 0 7.Bb2 0 0-0 0**



The Reti/English/Double Fianchetto has to be taken seriously. Do note Agrawal-Chan from Round 3! (in this newsletter)

8.d4?! 0

[8.cxd5!? Nxd5 9.d4 Nd7 10.Re1 c5 11.e4 N5f6 12.Nc3= (0.20/24)]

8...Nbd7 0

[8...dxc4 9.bxc4 c5 Stockfish already has Black holding a smidgen of a plus.]

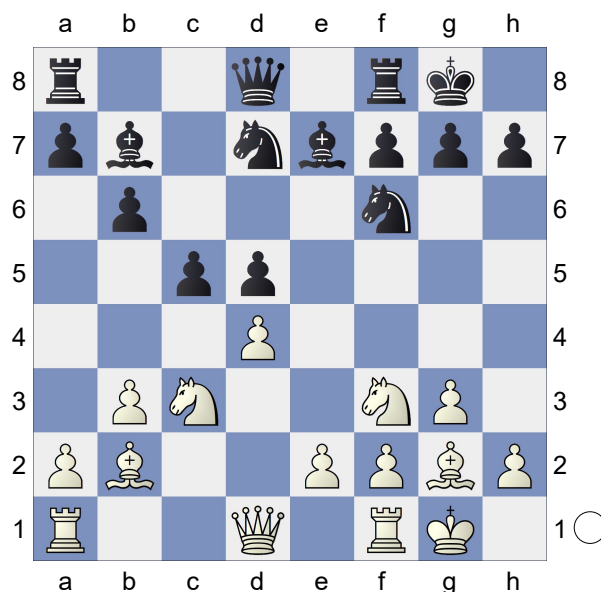
9.Nc3 0 c5 0 10.cxd5 0

[10.Ne1!? -- Stockfish again -- Ne4!? and again: some pull.]

10...exd5 0

[10...Nxd5 on the other hand plays it more lightly. Here it's more likely to lead to the "no center pawns"

formation (Well, just e-pawns back on e2 and e6.).]



Heading for a "hanging pawns" formation, perhaps. The advantage for this is its full-scale combative nature. **11.dxc5 0**

[Relevant: 11.Nh4!? Re8 12.Nf5 Bf8 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.Rc1 g6 15.Ne3 Bg7 16.Na4 Nce4 17.Bd4 Qd7 18.Rc2 Rac8 19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Qa1 Qe6 21.Nc3 h5 22.Rd1 Rd8 23.h4 Bh6 24.Nxe4 Nxe4 25.Nf1 Rc8 26.Qb2 Qc6 27.Ne3 Qe6 28.Nc2 Nxc3 29.fxc3 Qxe2 30.Re1 Qxc2 31.Qxc2 Rxc2 32.Re8+ Bf8 33.Rb8 Ba6 34.Ra8 Rc7 35.Be5 Rd7 36.Bb2 Bb7 37.Rb8 Rc7 38.Be5 Rc1+ 39.Kh2 Bc8 40.Bxd5 Rc2+ 1-0 (60) Nihal,S (2694)-Huschenbeth, N (2605) FIDE Grand Swiss Douglas 2023 (8)]

11...Nxc5!? 3:38 Or there is this. It's a curious Isolated Queen Pawn structure in that Black's pieces don't seem that aggressively posted. But one can always move things around...

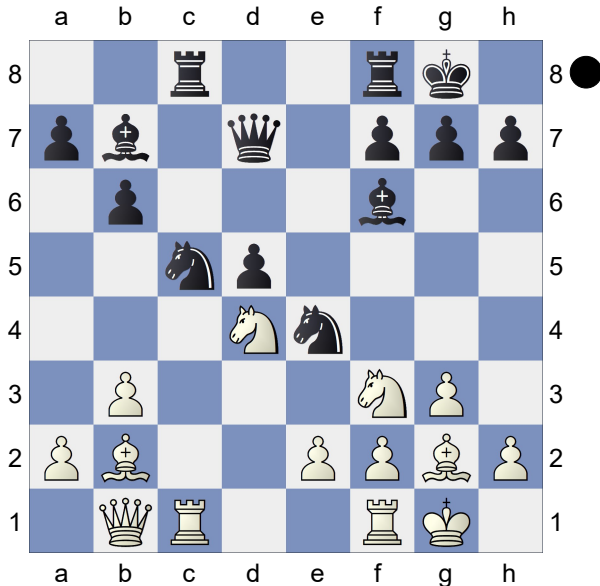
[11...bxc5 12.Nh4!± there is pressure.]

12.Nb5 0 Jumping straight away on a massive lockdown of d4. **12...Nfe4 0**

13.Rc1 0 Qd7 0 14.Nbd4 0 A bit too simple (and passive).

[14.a4!? a6 15.Ne5 Qf5 16.Nc7 Rad8 17.b4± Qc8! 18.Qd4! is a complicated mess! But Stockfish: ± (0.33/28)]

14...Bf6 0 15.Qc2?! 0 Rac8 0 16.Qb1 0



Ba6N 0

[16...a5!?]
[Predecessor: 16...Rfe8 17.Rfd1 Ng5 18.Nxg5 Bxg5 19.Rc2 Ne4 20.Nf3 Qf5 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Qd3 h6 23.Bd4 Bf6 24.Rf1 Bxd4 25.Nxd4 Qf6 26.f3 Nc3 27.Bh3 Qxd4+ 28.Qxd4 Nxe2+ 29.Kf2 Nxd4 30.Bxc8 Bxc8 31.Rd1 Ne6 32.Rxd5 Kf8 33.f4 Ke7 34.Ke3 Bb7 35.Rd2 f5 36.b4 Bc6 37.a3 Nc7 38.Kd4 Kd6 39.Kc3+ Nd5+ 40.Kd4 g5 41.fxg5 hxg5 42.h4 gxh4 43.gxh4 Nf6 44.Rf2 Ke6 45.Rf1 Nh5 46.Rc1 0-1 (60) Cuellar Gacharna,M (2385)-Gutierrez Herrera,J COL-ch28 Manizales 1979 (7)]

17.Rc2= 0 It's quite balanced at this point. **17...Rfe8 0 18.Rfc1 0 g6 0**

19.Ba1 0 Bg7 0 20.b4!? 0 Na4! 0

21.b5 0 Bb7?! 0 Yes, c5 and c4 are now weak -- but c6 is now White's.

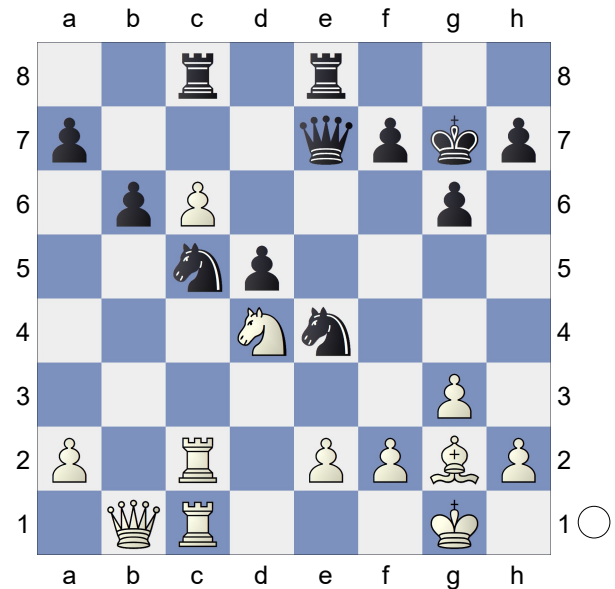
Black could have found a stopper -- on c3!

[21...Rxc2! assures control of c3: 22.Rxc2 Bb7= 23.Nc6? Nac3 24.Bxc3 Nxc3 25.Qb3 Bxc6 26.bxc6 Qxc6]

22.Nc6 0 White now develops a little something. **22...Bxc6?! 0** Now it's something not-so-little. This passed pawn is the proverbial thorn in Black's game.

[22...Bxa1 23.Qxa1 Nac5 24.Nfd4 (24.Nxa7 Ra8 25.Nc6 Nb3!? 26.axb3! Rxa1 27.Rxa1=) 24...a6 25.a4 Ra8 26.Ra2 axb5 27.axb5 Rxa2 28.Qxa2 h5 White has some plus, but there are fewer pieces such that Black can play around the knight at c6, which has nothing to attack.]

23.bxc6 0 Qe7 0 24.Bxg7 0 Kxg7 0 25.Nd4 0 Nac5 0



26.Qb2?! 0

[26.Rd1 intends e2-e3]

[26.a4!? looks to loosen up Black's queenside. Nxa4?? 27.Qa1+- So often it's the strategic advance backed up with "little tactics".]

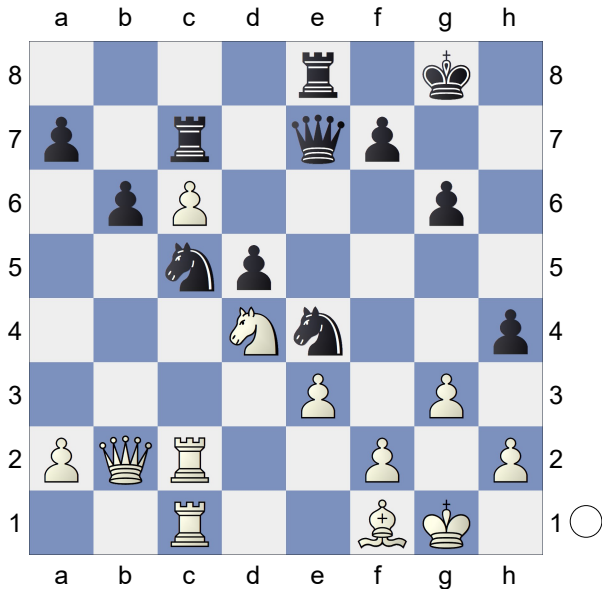
26...Kg8?! 0

[26...Qf6±]

27.Bh3?! 0

[27.Rd1!± again: preparing e3, so that the R/c2 defends f2.]

27...Rc7 0 28.Bf1 6:05
 [28.Rd1!]
28...h5 0 29.e3 20 h4 0



With this thematic advance Black sets up all sorts of possible piece sacrifices on g3 or f2. **30.Nf3?** 3:38 In time trouble White loses his head, abandoning the knight on d4 *and* the pawn on c6 in one move.

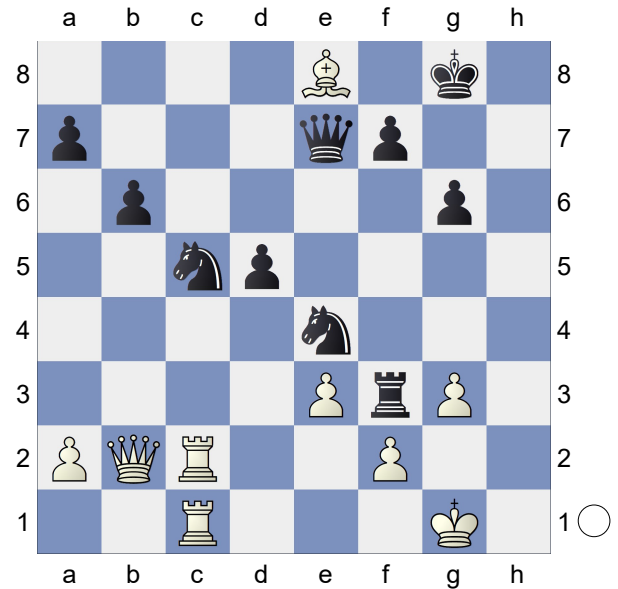
[30.Rd1 hxg3?! 31.hxg3 Nxg3? 32.fxg3 Qxe3+ 33.Kg2 Qe4+ 34.Nf3 Qg4 35.Qf6!+- Qxg3+ 36.Kxg3 Ne4+ 37.Kf4 Nxf6 38.Nd4 White's extra piece outruns the pawns easily.]

30...hxg3 1:26 31.hxg3 17 Rxc6 0
32.Bb5 1:33 Rf6 0 33.Bxe8 2:39 Rxf3 0

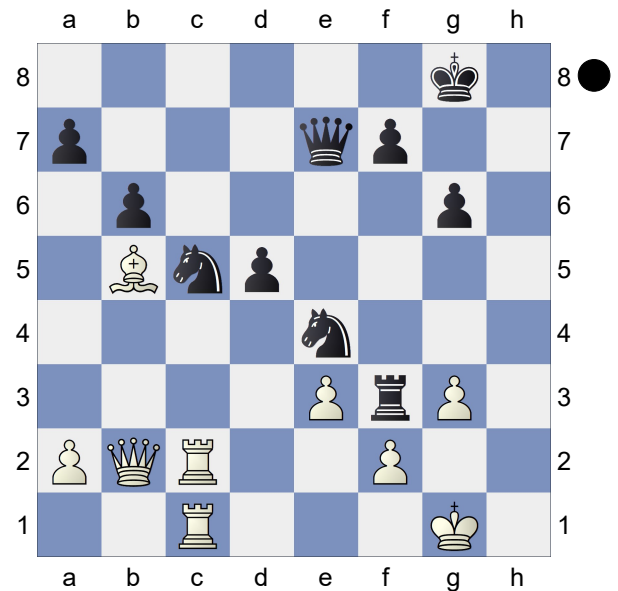
(Diagram)

34.Bb5?? 1:01

[34.Kg2! (only move) Ng5 35.Qd4 Qxe8 36.Rh1 f6 37.Rxc5 bxc5 38.Qxd5+ Kg7 39.Qb7+ Qf7 40.Qa8 Rxf2+! 41.Kxf2 Qxa2+ 42.Ke1 Qb1+ 43.Ke2 Qc2+ 44.Ke1 and there doesn't seem to be anything more than perpetual, unless Black wants to



take a swing at ...Nf7 and the knight and two pawns vs. a rook.]

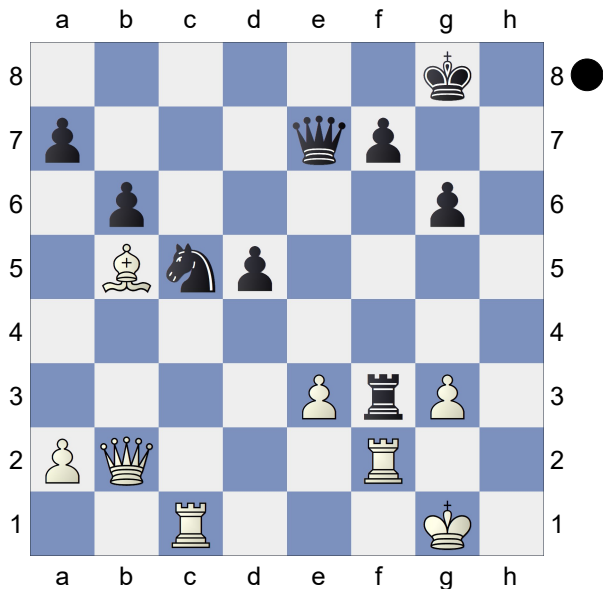


Brad was burning up his last few minutes to no avail. **34...Nxf2? 0**

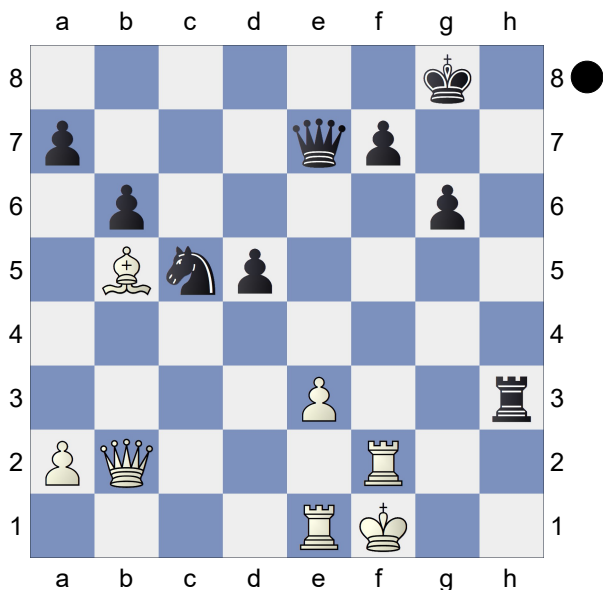
[34...Nxg3 35.Kg2 (35.fxg3? Rxc3+! (another only move) 36.Kf1 Qxe3 37.Rf2 Rh3 38.Rc3 Qxc3+-)]
35.Rxf2 51

(Diagram)

Rxc3+! 0 Another only move, but it should be a draw. **36.Kf1! 24 Rh3? 0**
 [36...Qg5!= 37.Rg2 Rf3+ 38.Rf2

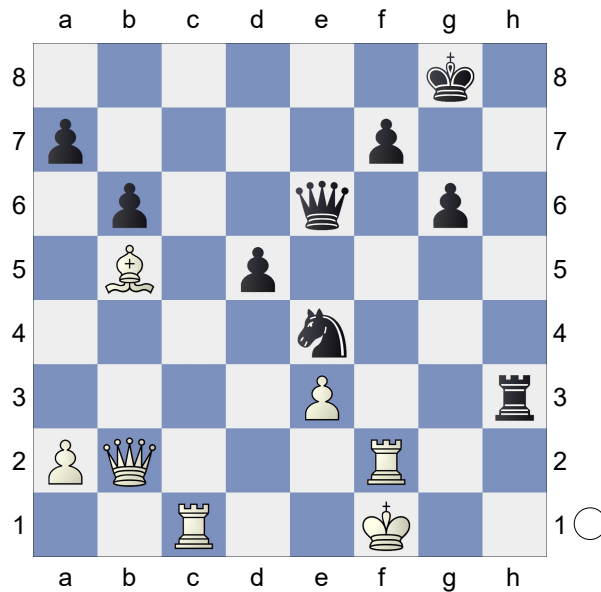


Rg3 39.Rg2= (39.Rxc5=)
37.Re1? 1:59
 [37.Rh2± Qxe3 38.Rxh3 Qxh3+
 39.Qg2 Qf5+ 40.Kg1+- Stockfish
 believes in the extra rook here, and
 I'm inclined to agree. Those pawns
 just aren't anything yet or ever.]



37...Ne4?? 0 Here almost anything else
 draws, for example
 [37...Qh4! 38.Qf6! (only move) Rh1+
 39.Ke2 Rxe1+ 40.Kxe1 Qb4+
 41.Kf1! (yes, only move) Qxb5+
 42.Kg1 Qd7]
38.Rc1?? 1:00

[38.Rh2! (only) is won.]
38...Qe6!= 0

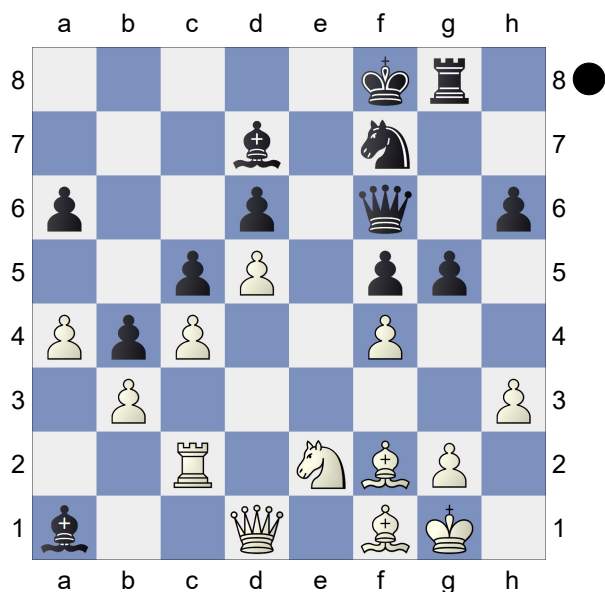


39.Qc2?? 43
 [39.Rh2!= d4! (only) 40.Rxh3 (only)
 Qxh3+ 41.Ke1! (only) Qxe3+
 42.Kd1=]
39...Rh1+- 0 **40.Kg2?** 16 and here
 Brad notice mate in 1 and resigned.
0-1

E90
 2298
Bayaraa, Chinguun 2083
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 7.1.25
 [Winslow, Elliott]

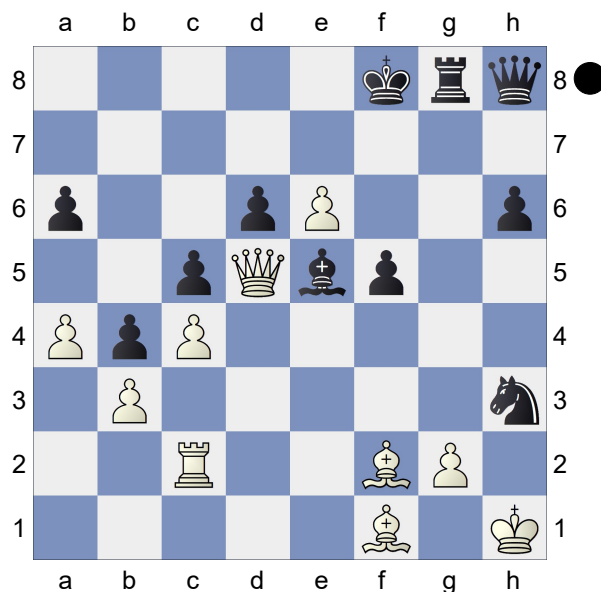
The Return of Chinguun! **1.d4** 3
 He's older, twice as big, solid as ever.
1...Nf6 16 **2.c4** 7 **g6** 5 **3.Nc3** 5 **c5** 39
4.d5 14 **d6** 6 **5.e4** 55 **Bg7** 7 **6.h3** 53
0-0 27 **7.Nf3** 25 **e6** 42 **8.Be2** 3:36
exd5 8 **9.exd5** 6 One problem with the
 delayed ...e6 and ...exd5 is that White
 can take with the e-pawn. The space
 alone is worth a solid plus. **9...Nbd7** 1:28
10.0-0 1:21 **Ne5** 28 **11.Bf4?!** 1:59
 [11.Nxe5!? dxe5 12.a3 White can
 get the queenside pawns moving fairly
 fast.]

11...Nfd7 56 **12.Qd2** 6:14 **Nxf3+** 2:50
13.Bxf3 5 **Ne5** 10 **14.Be2** 5 **a6=** 16
15.Rfe1 2:30 **Bd7** 44 **16.a4** 6:19 **f5**
 1:42 **17.Bg5** 5:37 **Qc7** 23
 [17...Bf6]
18.Bf1 6:49 **Nf7** 3:57 **19.Bh4** 6:27 **Rfe8**
 2:41 **20.f4** 4:34 **Qa5** 24 **21.Qc2** 10:34
Bd4+ 17 **22.Bf2** 2:09 **Bf6** 12 **23.Re2**
 8:40 **Rxe2** 2:20 **24.Nxe2?! 45**
 [24.Bxe2]
24...b5!? 27 **25.Be1** 2:07 **b4** 12
26.Ra2?! 4:16 **Re8** 1:36 **27.b3** 17 **Qd8**
 21 **28.Bf2** 44 **h6** 1:53
 [28...g5!?]
29.Ng3 1:09 **Kg7** 46 **30.Qd3** 27 **Bc3?**
 48
 [30...h5!]
31.Re2?! 3:02
 [31.Qd1 and 32.Bd3]
31...Rg8 1:21 **32.Re3** 5:02 **Kf8** 1:28
 [32...h5]
 [32...Bd4]
33.Re2 2:57 **Qf6** 1:38 **34.Rc2** 1:09 **g5**
 2:01 **35.Ne2** 1:19 **Ba1** 59 **36.Qd1** 33



Qg7?! 1:54 Black has a definite initiative
 on the kingside, but couldn't find an
 inroad. (...Ba1 is *not* an inroad)
 [36...gxf4! 37.Nxf4 Be5 38.Ne6+!
 Bxe6 39.dxe6 Ng5! (39...Qxe6)
 40.Kh1 Nxe6 41.Qd5 Kg7]

37.Ng3 1:33 Heiserman also can't seem
 to focus on Black's weaknesses.
37...gxf4 1:02 **38.Nh5** 8 **Qh8** 7:43
39.Nxf4 32 **Be5** 17 **40.Ne6+** 1:00 **Bxe6**
 1:37 **41.dxe6** 3 **Ng5** 9 **42.Qd5** 3:53
Nxh3+ 1:31 **43.Kh1** 4



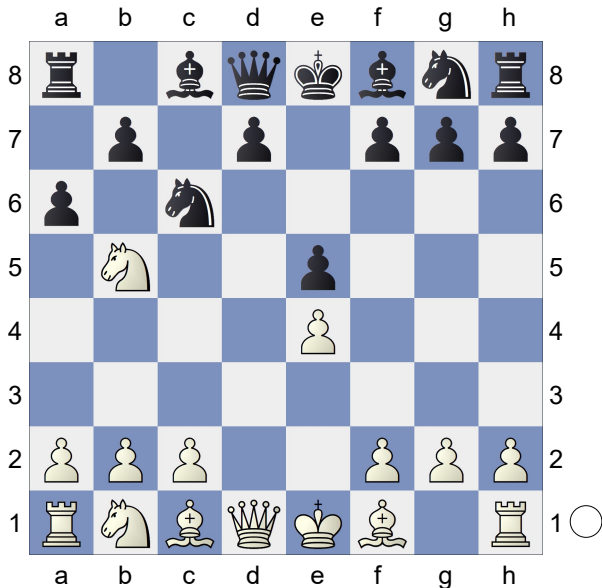
Nxf2?! 4:35
 [43...Ng5! 44.e7+ Kxe7 45.Bd3
 Qg7 46.Bxf5 Qf7
 47.g4 Qxd5+ 48.cxd5 Nh3]
44.Rxf2= 5 **Qf6** 18 **45.Bd3** 2:15 **Rg5**
 3:32 **46.Qa8+** 2:16 **Kg7** 1:42 **47.Qe8** 59
Bg3 5:51 **48.Rf3** 1:18 **Rg4** 1:26
49.Qd7+ 2:31 **Kg6** 1:03 **50.Qe8+** 1:58
Kg7 6 **51.Qd7+** 11 **Kg6** 46 **52.Qe8+** 2
Kg7 6 **53.Qd7+** 11 **Kg6** 19
 1/2-1/2

B32
 Winslow, Elliott 2215
 McCollum, Patrick M 2010
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 7.1.25
 [Winslow, Elliott]

There is a pervasive fear of lower-rated
 players who play hyper-sharp (if maybe
 unsound) openings, that you are not
 prepared for. And with my memory as it
 is these days, no preparation is

remembered anyway. So I stumble on...

1.e4 2 c5 11 2.Nf3 59 Nc6 13 3.d4 6 cxd4 11 4.Nxd4 20 e5 11 5.Nb5 13 a6 13

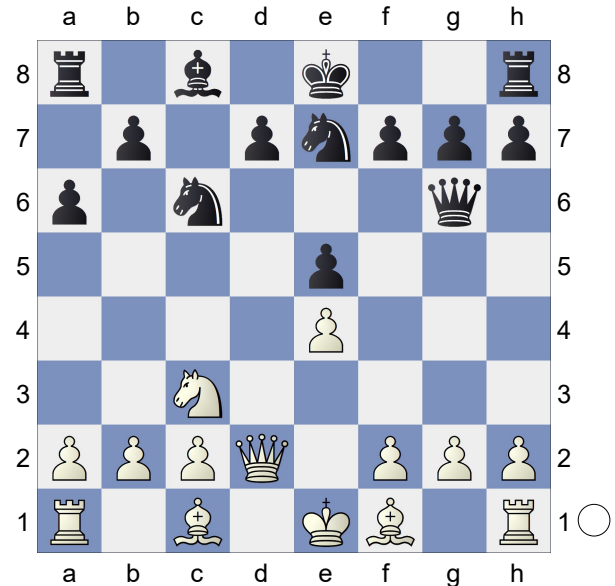


Oh good heavens! The Lowenthal! (Excuse me for not finding the umlaut on the keyboard.) White has so many tries, many of them good -- or are they?

6.Nd6+ 7 Bxd6 16 7.Qxd6 4 Qf6 13 8.Qd2 10:01 Aha! I'd looked at this just a few days before! But plenty of time to forget everything. In fact, I don't even remember where I was looking! My two go-to sources for 1.e4 are Negi and Shaw's series (both on Quality Chess, which is called something else now); I mentioned Negi's cop-out above, and Shaw plays 8.Qc7!? (which I haven't looked at for 50 years).

[Negi in his 1.e4 series uncharacteristically sidesteps all the nonsense with 8.Qxf6 Nxf6 and somehow tries to convince his readers that White has something. I couldn't for the life of me realize *what* during this game.]
[I used to play 8.Qd1 but *that* analysis has *definitely* left the house. I think I once drew Ming Chen in this (and I don't have the game).]

8...Nge7 1:21 9.Nc3 3:16 Aha: it was a new book (2024), "Reimagining 1.e4" by Nikolaos Ntirlis. These days publishers have sample chapters online; for this book it was the Lowenthal, Kalashnikov & Sveshnikov. **9...Qg6 1:15**
[9...0-0 10.b3]



10.h4! 1:43 It's in the book by transposition, so maybe I remember after all! But it'd help if I knew the ideas!
[10.f4!?]

10...Nd4?! 3:46
[10...h5 11.Qg5! "± Black's dynamic counter-chances are diminished if the queens leave the board." Hmm. Nb4!? 12.Qxg6 Nxd6 13.Kd2!± (13.Kd1±; 13.Nd5!?!; 13.Bd3?±)]

11.Rh3?! 11:16 I get esoteric.
[11.h5! Qg4 12.h6!]

11...d5 7:10 12.Rg3± 1:52 Qc6 33
[12...Qf6! 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.c3 Qxh4! 15.exd5 Nf5 16.Rh3 Qe4+ 17.Kd1 Ne7]

13.exd5 6:42 Nxd5 35 14.Nxd5 2:54 Qxd5 24 15.Bd3 4:18 Be6 12:05 16.c3 8:38 Nc6 1:14 17.Qe2 4:20
[17.Rxg7!?]

17...f5 4:06 18.Bc2 13:02
[18.Rxg7! 0-0-0 19.Bxa6!+-]

18...0-0-0 1:54 19.Bg5? 5:50

[19.Rxg7 I don't know why I didn't believe in this. I *like* pawns. Rhg8 20.Rxg8 Rxg8 21.f3±]

19...Rde8 2:05 20.Bb3 4:02 Qd7 54

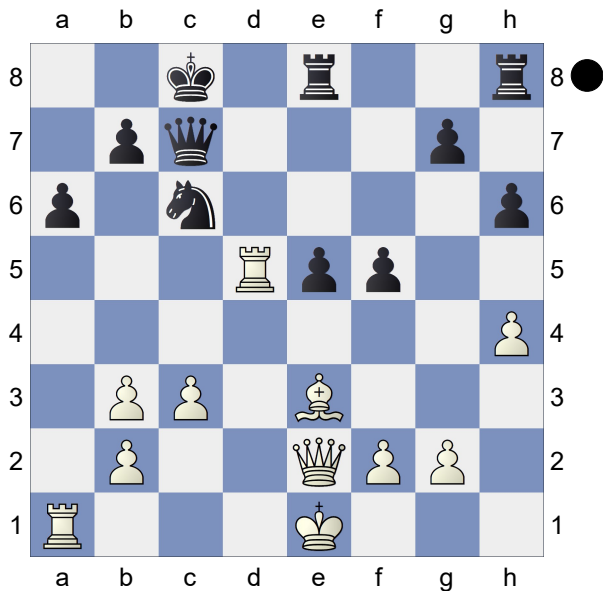
21.Rd3 2:34 Qf7 27 22.Rd6 2:53 Bxb3 1:23 23.axb3 8 Qc7? 4:24

[23...Nd4! 24.cxd4! exd4 25.Bf4 Rxe2+ 26.Kxe2 Re8+ 27.Kf1 Re7 28.Rc1+ Rc7 29.Rd1 Rd7 30.Rc1+ draw.]

24.Rd5? 5:13

[24.Qd3! Nd4! 25.Rd5! Qc6! (25...Nxb3? 26.Rxa6! bxa6 27.Qxa6+ Qb7 28.Qc4+ Qc7 29.Qxb3+-) 26.c4±]

24...h6± 2:09 25.Be3 40



Here come the blunders... **25...f4? 1:05**

[25...Rd8 26.0-0-0 Ne7 27.Rc5 Nc6 28.g3± Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Rd8 30.Rd5 Ne7 31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.Qh5 Kd7!]

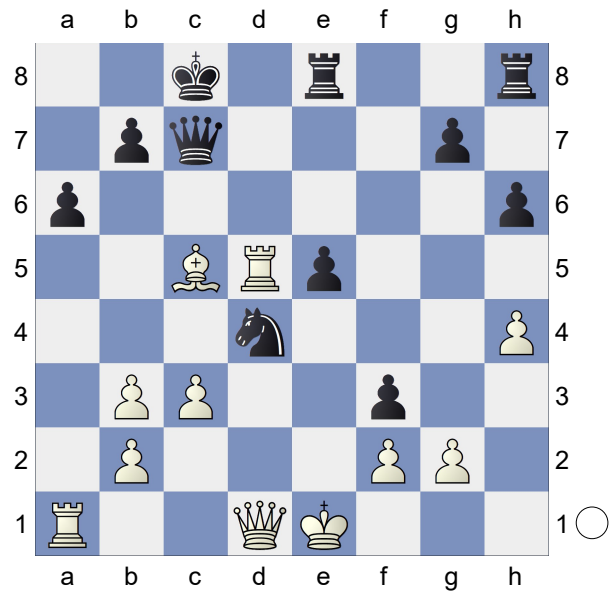
26.Bc5 2:01 Nd4 5:11 27.Qd1?? 1:52

[27.Qg4+- Ne6 28.0-0-0 (28.Bd6)] [27.Qe4+-]

27...f3?? 3:11

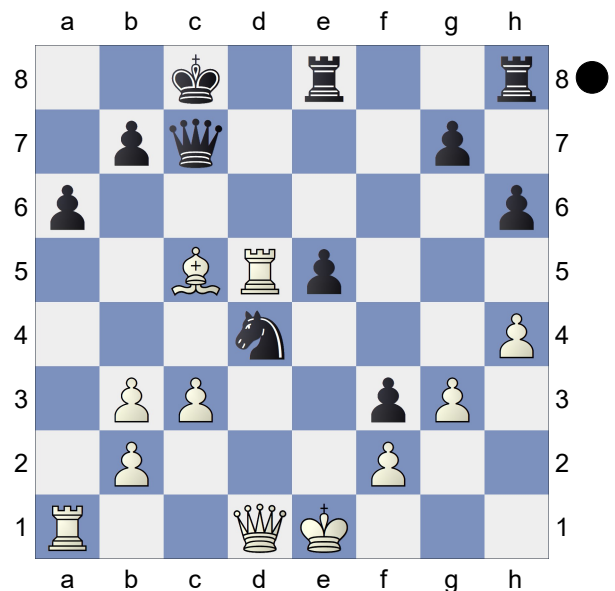
[27...Qf7 28.c4 f3=] [27...Qc6 28.c4 Qf6=]

(Diagram)



28.g3?? 50

[28.Bd6!+- fxg2 29.Qg4+]



28...Ne6?? 2:03

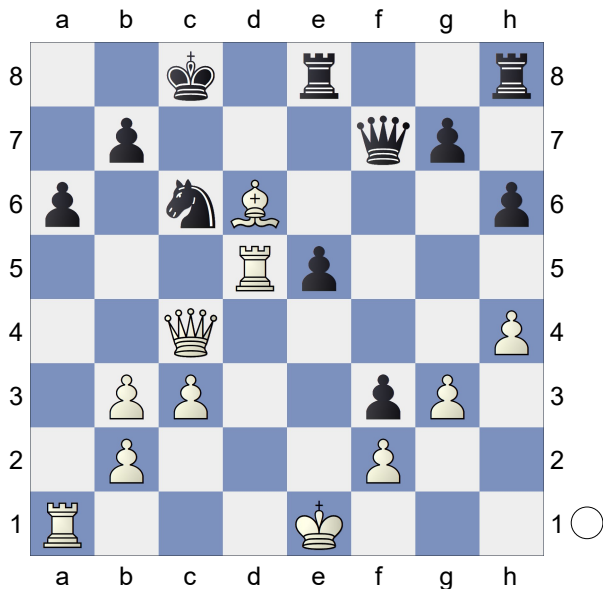
[28...Qf7 29.c4□= Qf5 30.Rc1! (0.00) (30.Kd2?! Rd8)]

29.Bd6+- 4:13

[29.b4] [29.Ba7] [29.Ba3] [29.Be3]

29...Qf7 30.Qd3 48 Nd4 1:03 31.Qc4+ 30 Nc6 23

(Diagram)



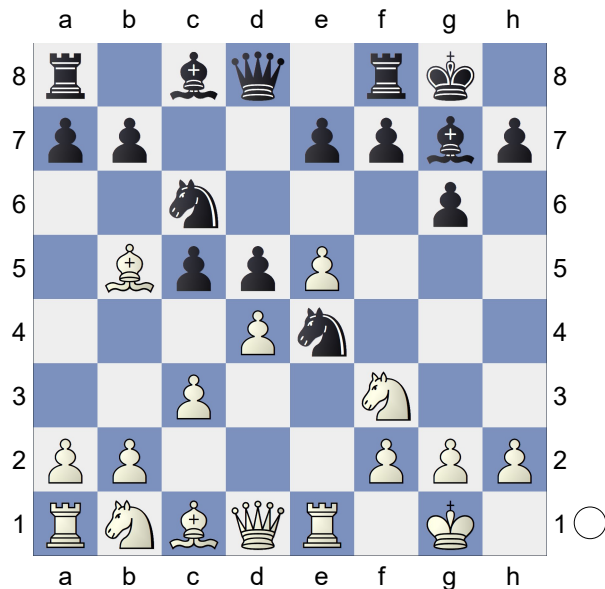
32.Rxa6 44 Finally, a tactic! **32...Kd7**
 3:06 **33.Rb6** 24 **Qf5** 2:41 **34.Rxb7+**
 1:08 **Ke6** 16 **35.Rxe5+** 42
1-0

□ **Tsodikova, Natalya** **B31**
 2177
 ■ **Ivanenko, Anthony Vladimir** **1969**
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.8) 7.1.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

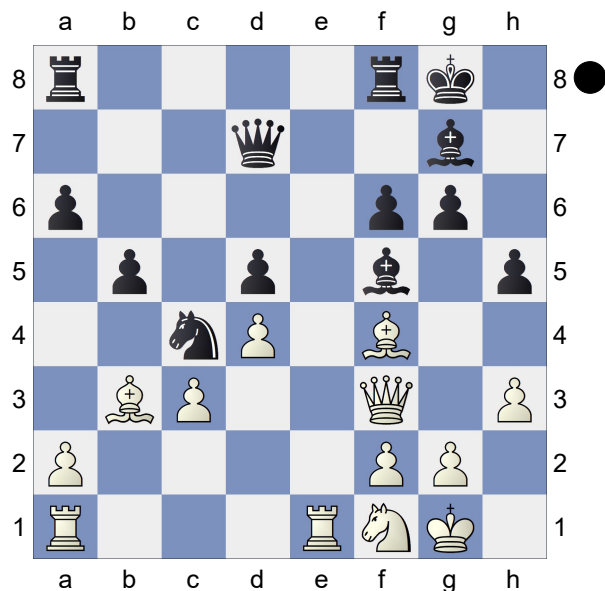
The Rossolimo Sicilian continues to be a major alternative to 3.d4. One is less likely to need to sacrifice all sorts of material to win. (But that's half the fun!) Here Tsodikova seems to know it better than regular openings expert Ivanenko.
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 d5 8.e5 Ne4

(Diagram)

9.Ng5 Nxc5 10.Bxc5 f6 11.exf6 exf6 12.Bf4 c4 13.b3 Na5 14.bxc4 a6 15.Ba4 Nxc4 16.Qf3
 [16.Bc2± (0.53/24)]
16...Bf5 (0.27/28) 17.Bb3 b5 18.Nd2 Qd7 19.h3 h5 20.Nf1



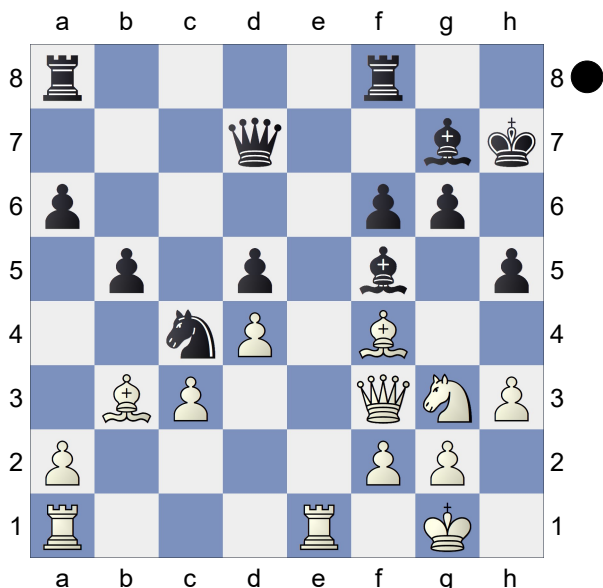
[20.a4]



20...Kh7?!
 [20...Be4 (0.06)]
21.Ng3±

(Diagram)

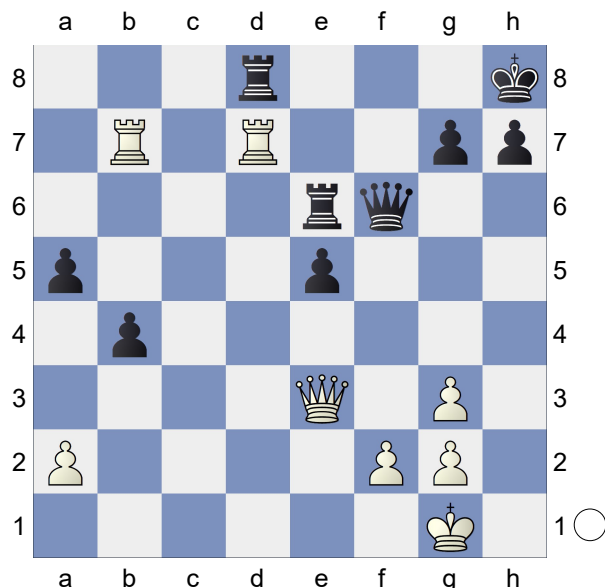
Rfe8?
 [21...Be6]
22.Nxf5+- Qxf5 23.g4 hxg4 24.hxg4 Qd7 25.Bc2 Qf7 26.Kg2 Kg8 27.Qd3 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Re8 29.Rxe8+ Qxe8 30.Qxg6 Qxg6 31.Bxg6 Bf8 32.Be8 b4 33.cxb4 Bxb4 34.Bc6 Na3



35.Bxd5+ Kf8 36.Bb3 Nb5 37.d5 Ke7 38.Kf3 a5 39.Ke4 a4 40.Bc4 Nd6+ 41.Kd4 f5 42.f3 fxe4 43.fxe4 Kf6 44.Bd3 a3 45.g5+ Kg7 46.Be5+ Kg8 47.g6 Ne8 48.Bf5 Ng7 49.Bd7 Kf8 50.d6 Ne8 51.Kd5 Ng7 52.Bc8 Nh5 53.Bg4 Ng7 54.d7 Be7 55.Bd6 1-0

White: Bambou, Christophe 2137
Black: Agrawal, Varun 1913
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.10) 7.1.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

Christophe overlooks a curious tactic.
 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.c5 Be7 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Bxd7+ Nbx7 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 Ne4 11.Re1 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Rc8 13.Qa4 b6 14.c6 Nb8 15.Ne5 Qc7 16.Rb1 Rfe8 17.Bf4 Bd6 18.Bg3 f6 19.Nf3 Nxc6 20.c4 Bxg3 21.hxg3 dxc4 22.Qxc4 Qd7 23.Rbd1 Qd5 24.Qa4 a5 25.Rb1 Rb8 26.Rb5 Qd6 27.d5 Ne5 28.Nxe5 fxe5 29.dxe6 Rxe6 30.Qb3 Kh8 31.Rd1 Qe7 32.Rbd5 Rf8 33.Qe3 Qf6 34.Rd7 b5 35.Rb7 b4 36.Rdd7 Rd8=
 (Diagram)

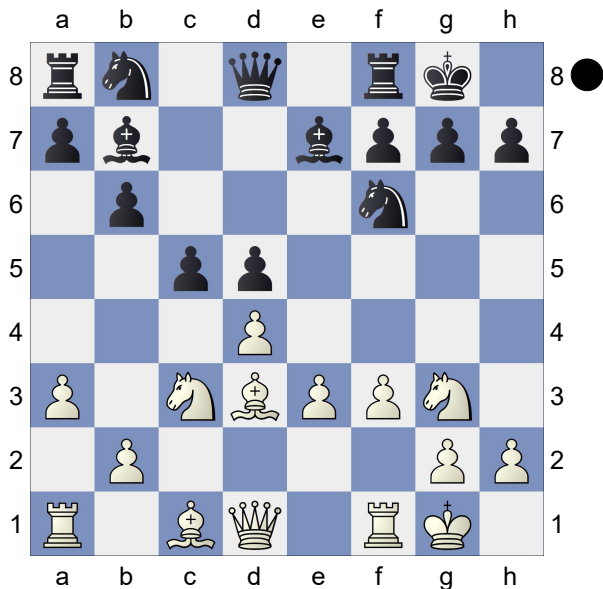


For some reason Stockfish 17 makes the pawn irrelevant, +0.00 across the (6 best) board. But: 37.Rxg7?? Rd1+ 0-1

White: Horowitz, Phineas F 1859
Black: Srinivasan, Sivavishnu 2092
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.11) 7.1.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

Siva with a shot! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Be7 6.e3 b6**
 [Relevant: 6...0-0 7.Bd3 c5 8.Nge2 cxd4 9.exd4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 b6 11.0-0 Ba6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6 13.Qd3 Nc7 14.Be3 Qd7 15.Rad1 Rfd8 16.Rfe1 Rac8 17.Nf4 h6 18.Kh1 Bf8 19.Rd2 Ncd5 20.Nfxd5 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 Qxd5 22.Red1 b5 23.Rc2 Rc4 24.Rxc4 bxc4 25.Qc3 Rb8 26.Rc1 Rb3 0-1 Aldokhin, I (2413)-Dmitrenko, V (2395) Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Jan Early Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (9)]
7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c5 9.Nge2 Bb7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Ng3

(Diagram)



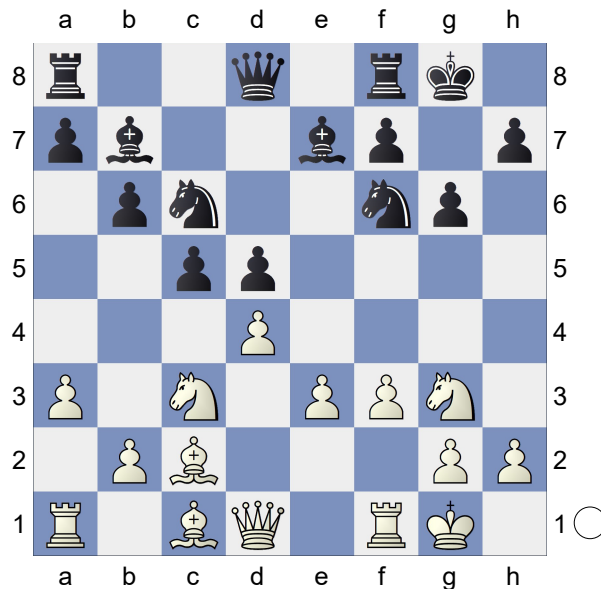
g6N

[Predecessor: 11...Re8 12.b4 cxb4 13.axb4 Bxb4 14.Qb3 Bf8 15.Nce2 Nc6 16.Kh1 Nb4 17.Bb5 Bc6 18.Bxc6 Nxc6 19.e4 dxe4 20.fxe4 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Qxd4 22.Bb2 Qb4 23.Qa2 Re6 24.e5 Ne4 25.Rxf7 Nxg3+ 26.hxg3 Rh6+ 27.Kg1 Bc5+ 28.Rf2+ Kh8 29.Ba3 Qxa3 30.Qxa3 Bxa3 31.Rxa3 Kg8 32.Rc2 Re6 33.Rc7 Rxe5 34.Rcxa7 Rxa7 35.Rxa7 Re2 36.Rb7 Rb2 37.g4 h6 38.Kh2 Rb3 39.g3 Rb2+ 40.Kh3 Kh7 41.Rc7 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (53) Meskovs,N (2273)-Kulhanek,T (2375) Pardubice Czech op 22nd 2011 (8)]

12.Bc2 Nc6

(Diagram)

13.f4? cxd4 14.exd4 Nxd4! 15.Be3 Nxc2 16.Qxc2 Bc5 17.Bxc5 bxc5 18.Rad1 Re8 19.Qf2 Ng4 20.Qxc5 Qh4 21.h3 Ne3 22.Nce2 Nxd1 23.Rxd1 Qe7 24.Qb5 Rac8 25.Kh2 Qc7 26.Nd4 Re3 27.Nge2 Re7 28.Qb4 Ba6 29.Rc1 Qd7 30.Nc3 Rc4 31.Qa5 Rxd4 32.Qxa6 Rxf4 33.Qd3 d4 34.Nb5 a6 35.Rc7 Qd8 36.Qc2 d3 37.Qc5 Rxc7 38.Nxc7 d2 39.Nd5



d1Q 40.Ne7+ Qxe7 41.Qxe7 Qd4 0-1

D76
 Boyer,John **1638**
 Dutter,Frederic **1900**

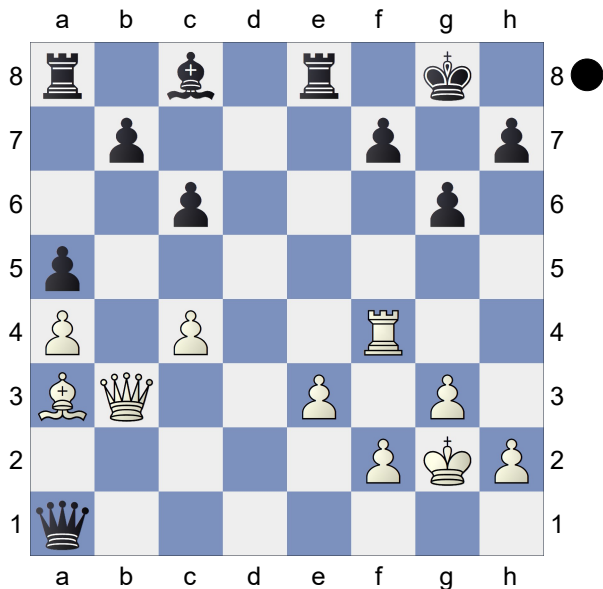
2025 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (1.15)
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.d4 Bg7 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0 Nb6 9.e3 Re8!?
 [9...e5 10.d5 still gets work.]
10.a4

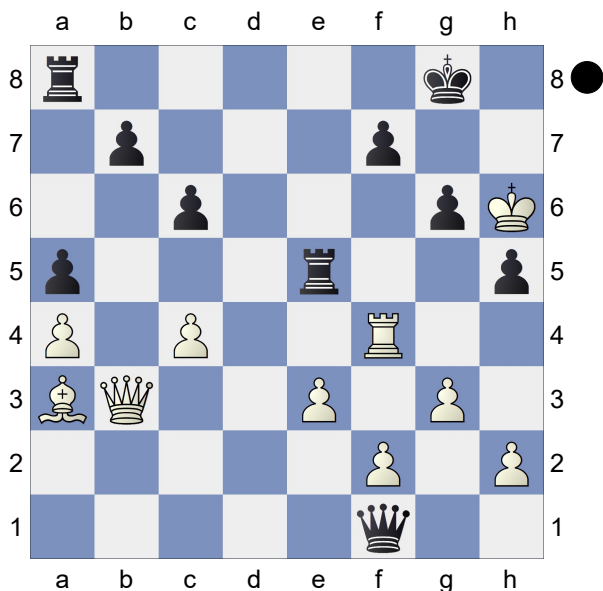
[10.Nh4!? intending f2-f4, is the amazing move here.]
10...a5 11.Rb1 e5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.Qc2 c6 15.Rd1 Qe7 16.Qb3 Qb4 17.Qa3 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qxb1 19.Bf3 Qf5 20.Bg2 Nc4 21.Qb3 Ne5 22.Rd4 Nf3+ 23.Bxf3 Qxf3 24.Rf4 Qd5 25.c4 Qc5 26.Ba3 Qh5 27.Qc3 Qe5 28.Qb3 Qa1+ 29.Kg2

(Diagram)

Bh3+?! 30.Kxh3 Qf1+ 31.Kg4 h5+
 [31...h6! is, if you're a computer-believer, a lot better.]



32.Kg5 Re5+ 33.Kh6
[33.Kf6 Rae8]



33...h4! (only move) 34.g4
[34.Rxf7!? Rh5+! (another only move) 35.Kxg6 Qh3!! (and *this* is *definitely* the only move (and wins).
A) 36.Rg7+ Kh8 37.Kxh5 hxc3+ 38.Kg5 (38.Kg6 Qg4+) 38...g2!;
B) 36.Kxh5 hxc3+ 37.Kg5 g2+ 38.Rg7+ Kh8! (38...Kxg7?? 39.Qxb7+) 39.Qb1 Qxh2 40.Kf5 Rg8]
34...Qe2! (*another* only move) 35.Rxf7 Rh5+ 36.Kxg6 Qxg4+ 37.Kf6 Rf5+

White resigned, it's mate in four more, but there were *four* faster mates [-- with 37...Rh6+ (and mate next) the fastest.]

0-1

E63
2398
2177
2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 14.1.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 8:20 Nf6 14 2.c4 6 g6 8 3.Nc3 11 Bg7 3 4.g3 40 d6 25 5.Bg2 13 0-0 17 6.Nf3 8 Nc6 21 7.0-0 21 a6 31 8.a3 4:34 A hard move to believe in; I wonder what inspired Cremisi! Naka playing it in a Titled Tuesday blitz game a year ago against someone almost 500 rating points below him?? **8...Rb8 2:57**

[8...Na5 9.Nd2 c5 (9...Nd7 10.e3 c5 11.Ne2 Rb8 12.b4 Nc6 13.bxc5 dxc5 14.Nb3 cxd4 15.exd4 Nb6 16.c5 Nd5 17.h3 b5 18.Bd2 Be6 19.Rb1 Qd7 20.Kh2 Rfd8 21.Be3 a5 22.Nd2 b4 23.axb4 Ndx4 24.Nf3 Bd5 25.Re1 e6 26.Bg5 Rdc8 27.Bf4 Ra8 28.Ra1 Ra7 29.Bd6 Ne7 30.Nc3 Bxf3 31.Bxf3 Nf5 32.Be5 Nxd4 33.Bxg7 Kxg7 34.Ne4 Nbc2 35.Nd6 Rxc5 0-1 Hort,V (2530)-Shirov,A (2715) Bundesliga 9394 Germany 1993 (13.2)) 10.e3 Bg4 11.Ne2 cxd4 12.exd4 Rc8 13.h3 Bf5 14.b4 Nxc4 15.Bxb7 Rc7 16.Bg2 Qd7 17.Nf4 Nxd2 18.Bxd2 e5 19.Ne2 Bxh3 20.dxe5 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 dxe5 22.Be3 Nd5 23.Bc5 Rd8 24.Kg1 Qb5 25.Qb3 Rxc5 One of Panno's first attempts with -- the Panno Variation (I always wonder why someone gets their name on an opening -- there were others a few years before Oscar, who even lost his

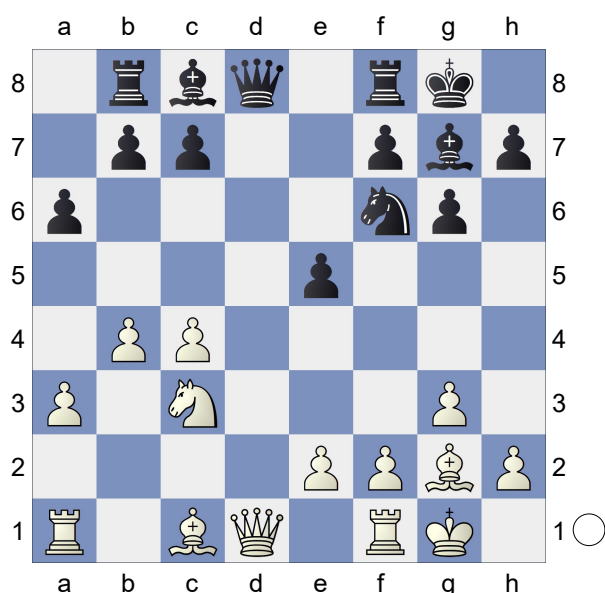
first game with it (this was his second, according to Mega)). 0-1 Donner,J-Panno,O Interzonal-03 Gothenburg 1955 (10)]

[8...Bg4 9.Be3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.h3 Be6 12.Qa4 Qc8 13.Kh2 Re8 14.Ng5 Bd7 15.Qb3 Na5 16.Qb4 Nc6 17.Qb3 Na5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Olafsson,F-Tal,M Candidates Tournament Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959 (25)]

9.b4 1:55 e5 9:13

[9...b5 10.cxb5 axb5 11.Bb2 Bd7 12.d5 Na7 13.Nd4 Qc8 14.Rc1 c5 15.dxc6 Bh3 16.Qd3 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 e5 18.Nb3 Qxc6+ 19.e4 Qc4 20.Qxc4 bxc4 21.Na5 Rfc8 22.Rfd1 Nb5 23.Nxb5 Rxb5 24.Rxc4 Rxc4 25.Nxc4 Nxe4 26.Nxd6 Nxd6 27.Rxd6 Rb8 28.Rd5 Ra8 29.b5 Kf8 30.b6 Ke7 31.Rxe5+ Kf8 32.b7 Rb8 33.Rb5 1-0 Nakamura,H (2788)-Berezin,V (2307) Titled Tuesday intern op 02nd Jan Late Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (1)]

10.dxe5 3:39 Nxe5 2:17 11.Nxe5 3:09 dxe5 37



12.Bg5N 1:10

[12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Bg5 Re8 14.Rad1 h6 15.Be3 Bf8 16.c5 c6 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bg4 19.Bd3

Be6 20.Bc1 Rbd8 21.Bc2 Bc4 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Rd1 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 f5 25.f3 Kf7 26.Kf2 Ke6 27.Bc2 h5 28.e4 Be7 29.Be3 Bd8 30.Ke1 Bc7 31.Kd2 f4 32.Bf2 fxg3 33.Bxg3 Bd8 34.Bf2 Bg5+ 35.Be3 Bf4 36.h4 Bg3 37.Bg5 Kf7 38.Bd3 Bxd3 39.Kxd3 Be1 40.Bd8 Bf2 41.Bg5 Ke6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (49) Savvopulo,A (2100)-Kutsyj,A (2343) UKR-ch Alushta 2010 (9)]

12...Qxd1 10:39 13.Rfxd1 2:22 Bf5 15:56 14.Rac1 2:17 h6 4:38 15.Be3 41 c6 6:44 16.Na4 1:44 Rfd8 1:52 17.Nc5 3:31 Ng4 5:42 18.Rxd8+ 57 Rxd8 2 19.Nxb7 37 Rb8 1:47 20.Bxc6 1:00 Nxe3 13 21.fxe3 8 Bf8 1:11 22.Bd5 3:38 Be6 4:56 23.Na5 2:03 Bd6 1:35 24.Bxe6 41 fxe6 2 25.Rd1 15 Bc7 33 26.Nc6 26 Rb6 4:30 27.Ne7+ 29 Kf8 1:10 28.Rd7 26 Bb8 42 29.Nxg6+ 1:53 Ke8 1:45 30.Rh7 15 1-0

B90

□ **Srinivasan,Sivavishnu 2092**
 ■ **Winslow,Elliott 2215**
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 14.1.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

Sivavishnu has become an annoying opponent for me! He knows his openings, he's solid, he's going to just get better and better. This was a missed opportunity for me, as he slightly mangled his handling of his knights, and then I didn't take advantage. A curious repetition appeared and we both took it.

1.e4 1:48 c5 27 2.Nf3 10 d6 20 3.d4 3 cxd4 11 4.Nxd4 3 Nf6 6 5.Nc3 6 a6 35 6.h3 5 e5 55 7.Nde2 5 h5 20 8.Bg5 5
 [Relevant: 8.g3 b5 9.Nd5 Nbd7 10.Bg2 Bb7 11.Nec3 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Qxd5 h4 14.Be3 Be7

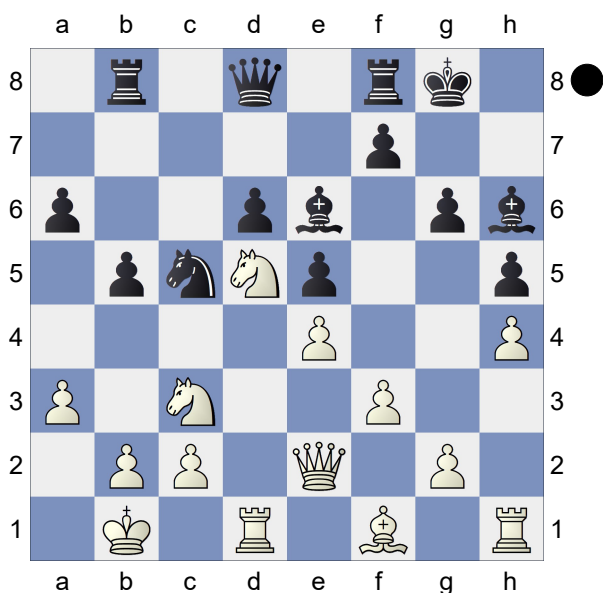
15.Qd2 Rc8 16.g4 0-0 17.g5 Qc7
 18.c3 Qc4 19.Bf3 Nc5 20.Bxc5
 Rxc5 21.Rg1 d5 22.exd5 e4 23.Be2
 Qxd5 24.Qxd5 Rxd5 25.Rg4 Re5
 26.a4 Bxg5 27.axb5 axb5 28.Ra5
 Rb8 29.c4 Bd8 30.Rxb5 Rxb5
 31.cxb5 g5 32.Bc4 Kg7 33.Ke2 Bb6
 34.f4 exf3+ 35.Kxf3 Re3+ 36.Kg2
 Kg6 37.Bf1 Rb3 0-1 Abdusattorov,N
 (2783)-Wei,Y (2763) London TechM
 GCL Final 2024 (1.2)]

8...Be6 30 9.Bxf6 16 Qxf6 11 10.Nd5 9
 Qd8 6 11.Qd3! 11

Anand's improvement on the direct 11.
 Nec3. 11...Nd7 1:43 12.Nec3 1:36

[12.0-0-0! is the whole point of the
 previous move, keeping open Qa3
 possibilities.]

12...g6 24 13.0-0-0 10 b5 2:23 14.a3
 2:56 Nc5 7:39 15.Qe2 16 Bh6+ 2:28
 16.Kb1 2:03 0-0 12 17.h4 1:06 Rb8
 14:04 18.f3 2:23



Bxd5N 6:26

[Predecessor: 18...Rb7 19.g4 a5
 20.Nxb5 hxd4 21.Ndc3 gxf3 22.Qxf3
 Rd7 23.Bh3 Kg7 24.h5 Rh8 25.Nd5
 Bxh3 26.Rxh3 Ne6 27.Qg4 Qg5
 28.Rg3 Qxg4 29.Rxg4 Bg5 30.hxd6
 fxd6 31.Nb6 Rdd8 32.Rxd6 Rxd6
 33.Nxd6 Rh1+ 34.Ka2 Rh2 35.c4

Bc1 36.Na4 g5 37.Rg1 Bd2 38.c5
 Bf4 39.c6 Rc2 40.Nc3 Kf8 41.Kb1
 Rh2 42.Nd5 Rh7 43.Nb5 Rg7 44.c7
 Nxc7 45.Nbxc7 Kf7 46.Rg4 Rh7
 47.Nxf4 gxf4 48.Rg5 1-0 Polterauer,
 C (2150)-Gueci,T (2261) AUT-chT
 (Women) 2223 Austria 2022 (3.1)]

19.Nxd5 6:46 Ne6 3:50 20.Qd3 1:45
 Nc5 5:22 21.Qe2 13 Ne6 1:19 22.Qd3
 "1/2?"
 1/2-1/2

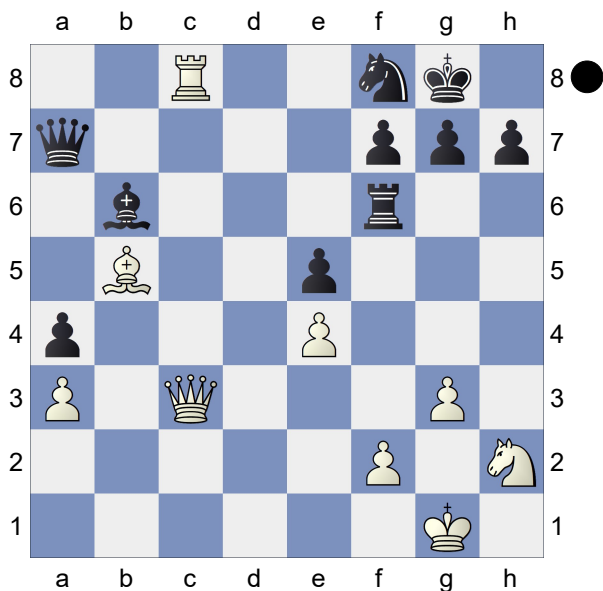
A05
 Bayaraa,Chinguun 2083
 Das,Rohan 2146
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.8) 14.1.25
 [Winslow,Elliott]

A narrow escape for Chinguun -- Das
 had a fairly straightforward capture on f2
 with check and then a double attack
 winning; instead he took *without* check;
 later avoided perpetuals, and things
 went downhill. 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 a5
 3.Bb2 a4 4.b4 e6 5.a3 c5 6.bxc5
 Bxc5 7.d4 Be7 8.c4 d6 9.Nc3 Qa5
 10.Qd2 0-0 11.e3 Nbd7 12.Bd3 Nb6
 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rab1 Rfc8 15.Qe2
 Qh5 16.Bc1 Bd8 17.Nb5 Ne8 18.e4
 e5 19.Be3 Bg4 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.c5
 Nd7 22.Nd6 Nxd6 23.cxd6 Rc6
 24.Rxb7 Rxd6 25.Bb5 Nf8 26.h3 Bc8
 27.Ra7 Rxa7 28.Bxa7 Rg6 29.Nh2
 Qxh3 30.Qf3 Qh4 31.g3 Qe7 32.Rc1
 Qxa7 33.Rxc8 Rf6 34.Qe3 Bb6
 35.Qc3

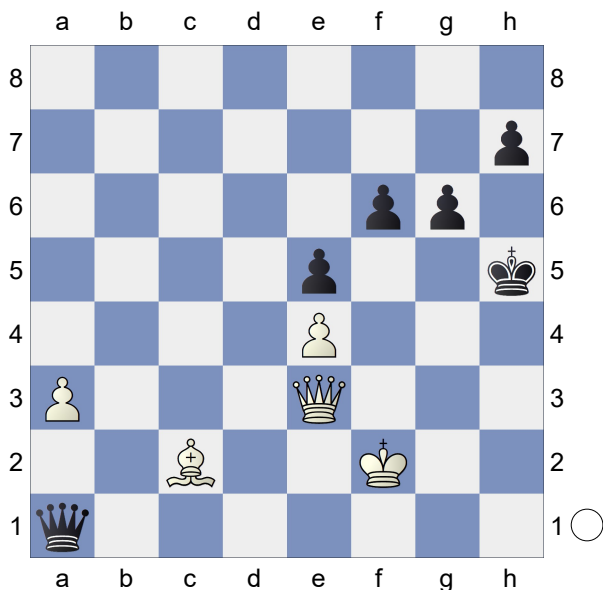
(Diagram)

Rxf2?

[35...Bxf2+ 36.Kg2 Qb7-+]
 36.Rxf8+ Kxf8 37.Qc8+= Ke7
 38.Qe8+ Kf6 (Trying to win? The other
 way is just a perpetual.) 39.Ng4+ Kg5



40.Nxf2 Bxf2+ 41.Kg2 Bxg3=
42.Kxg3 Qe3+ 43.Kh2 Qf2+ 44.Kh1
Qe1+ 45.Kh2 Qh4+ 46.Kg1 Qe1+
47.Kh2 Qd2+ 48.Kg1 Qd4+ 49.Kh2
f6 50.Qd7 Qb2+ 51.Kg1 g6 52.Qd3
Kf4 53.Bxa4 Qc1+ 54.Kf2 Qb2+
55.Bc2 Kg5 56.Qb3 Qa1 57.Qe3+
Kh5



Black should have taken the perp! Now
White has a brisk liquidation: 58.Bd1+
Qxd1 59.Qe2+ Qxe2+ 60.Kxe2 Kg4
61.a4 h5 62.a5 Kf4 63.a6 Kxe4
64.a7 f5 65.a8Q+ Kf4 66.Qf3+ Kg5
67.Qg3+ Kf6 68.Qh4+ Kf7 69.Qg5 e4
70.Ke3 Kg7 71.Kf4 Kf7 72.Ke5 Kg7

73.Qe7+
1-0

□ Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir A43
1969
■ Lewis,Edward 2024

2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.10)
[Ivanenko,Tony]

(EW: Tony Ivanenko has been having a rough time in the last couple TNMs; known for his thorough opening preparation but slipping up in the followups, sometimes even in tactics that he really should be okay in.

Paradoxically here he gets the better of Ed Lewis, who himself is known for unusual, complication-inducing novelties and such -- who played an unusual opening for *anyone*, thus putting them both on their own. Tony reverted to his "bad" pattern against, for example, *me* in Round 4, but I'm confident he'll straighten up and be a major force again.) __ Ed and I have already developed a history of clashes -- in fact, at the present moment, he is my most frequent challenger at four (4) classical games. Our current record stands at 2+ 2= for me, though not without chances for him! Most of my previous games were rather dull, so I didn't bother to commentate, but this one featured a very interesting and instructive endgame, so I figured I would return to my roots.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 c5!? Ed deviates from his usual Pirc and decides to play this unorthodox sideline. In principle, it is nothing much (and leaves Black with a terrible game, provided White responds appropriately), but Ed had two things going for him: a) he never played this in a game, and b) I never studied it because which absurd person would

attempt this in a classical match!?

3.dxc5 The best try, though I was considering transposing to a regular Open Sicilian with 3.Nf3 or playing an Old Benoni structure with 3.d5. Actually, his surprise shook me a little and my prerogative was to simplify the position into something recognizable. **3...Qa5+ 4.Nc3 Qxc5 5.Bb5+?!** The first misjudgment of the position. I wanted to swap off the light squared bishops to a) reduce potential play against the kingside pieces, and b) simplify the position a little. But the bishop actually controls a number of squares and I only help Black develop his pieces.

[The correct try and the move I so wanted to play was 5.Be3! but for some reason I could not solve that after

A) 5...Qa5 could be responded to with the simple plan 6.Qd5 Qxd5 (6...Qd8 7.Bb5+-; 6...Qc7 7.Nb5+-) 7.Nxd5 Kd8 8.f4± with easy play for White.;

B) 5...Qb4 6.Nf3 Qxb2 White could just go the simple 7.Nd5!+- D'oh!]

5...Bd7 6.Bxd7+?! Again, this just gives Black a tempo. White spent two tempi moving one piece; Black: two pieces.

[6.Be3! Qb4 7.a3 Qxb2 and now White can play 8.Bxd7+ Nxd7 9.Nge2±]

6...Nxd7 7.Nf3 Ngf6 8.0-0 e6 9.Be3 This move arrives a little too late. Black's queen was not well posted on c5 anyway so White does not even win any important tempi here. **9...Qa5 10.a3** Preventing the knight jump to c5. **10...a6** Played instantly. Black also prevents the knight jump to b5 in the future. **11.Nd4** I could not find a better plan than to simply go f4-f5 here, at least with the attempt to create a weakness on d6.

11...Be7

[I was expecting 11...g6 12.f4 Bg7 13.f5 exf5 14.exf5 0-0 15.Nb3 Qc7 16.Qd2∞ with an unclear position.]

12.f4 Rc8!?

[I was expecting 12...0-0 13.f5 e5 14.Nb3 Qc7 15.g4± But Ed played something even better!]

13.f5 e5 14.Nde2 Not the better move, but I was a little concerned about the knight on c3. I could even envision a sacrifice coming my way, although there was probably nothing worrying in the actual position.

[Probably better was 14.Nb3!? Qc7 15.Kh1!= Perhaps with the plan of Qd2 followed by Rfd1, Bg5, Rac1, maybe Nxc5 if the knight arrives on c5 and play for the d5 square.]

14...Ng4 15.Qd2?! Perhaps not the best move, but only for technical reasons. Typically White wants to trade off his dark squared bishop for the knight in this type of structure, but with the king still on g1, Black has a threat.

[Better was 15.Ba7 Ngf6 16.Kh1= with a small advantage for Black.]

15...Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Qb6 The issue here is that the queens come off and now the c2-pawn is a little flaky.

[Even stronger was 16...Qc5 17.Qxc5 Rxc5 18.Rad1♣]

17.Nd5?-+ Good idea, bad execution!

[Better was just 17.Qxb6 Nxb6 18.a4 Nd7 (18...a5 19.Rf3=) 19.a5 Nf6 20.Ra4♣ and Black has a small advantage due to the skewer onto the c2-pawn, but not more than that.]

17...Bg5?!♣ Ed was really proud of this beautiful move, but it actually squanders the advantage!

[Black outright wins a pawn after 17...Qxe3+! 18.Nxe3 Bg5 19.Rf3 Bxe3+ 20.Rxe3 Rxc2 21.Rc3 Rxc3 22.Nxc3-+ and White has to work to

hold this.]

18.Qxb6

[Another interesting try was 18.Qf2 Qxf2+ 19.Rxf2 Rxc2 20.Nec3 Rxf2 21.Kxf2± But dropping a pawn like this is not the best feeling. I wanted a bit more than that.]

18...Nxb6 19.h4!? Another interesting move, but technically an inaccuracy. I wanted to gain a tempo by moving this pawn forward and also free the h2-square for the king.

[Better was 19.Nxb6 Be3+ (19...Rxc2?? 20.Kf2+-) 20.Kh1 Bxb6 21.c3 The computer says Black has an advantage, but only if he notices the following combination: Rc4 22.Ng3 h5 23.Rfe1 Bf2 24.Re2 Bxg3 25.hxg3± and the double pawns and more active rooks means Black has better play.]

19...Nxd5

[19...Bd2 can simply be rebuffed with 20.Nxb6 Be3+ 21.Kh2 Bxb6 22.c3= and here White's position is a lot better, because his pawns will no longer be doubled like in the above variation!]

[19...Bh6 will also be met by 20.Nec3 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 Rxc2 22.Rf2 and now Rxf2? 23.Kxf2± is even nearly winning for White due to the poor position of the bishop]

[However, Black had the excellent 19...Bd8!! 20.Nec3 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 Bxh4± when Black actually wins a pawn. Neither Ed nor I noticed this in game, probably because backwards bishop moves (especially one you just moved forward) are difficult to see]

20.hxg5 Ne3 21.Rf3! Of course the rook goes onto the third rank where it becomes active **21...Nc4** Ed tends to overdo things sometimes

[Better was to just take the pawn with

21...Nxc2 22.Rd1 Kd7 23.Rfd3 Rc6 24.R1d2= and White's active pieces yield some compensation, but nothing more.]

22.Rc3

[I wasn't a fan of 22.Rb3 Nd2 23.Rxb7 Nxe4± where play becomes unclear]

[However, the computer is suggesting 22.Nc3! h6!? (22...Nxb2? 23.Rb1 Nc4 24.Rxb7+-) 23.Rh3!! Kd7! 24.Nd5 hxg5 25.b3! Rxh3 26.gxh3 Nd2 27.Nb6+± Picking up the exchange with a plus. Needless to say, I didn't see this and I imagine most players wouldn't either.]

22...Kd7 23.Kf2 Bringing the king closer to the center to guard the e4-pawn

[23.b3? Nd2 24.Rd1 Nxe4+-]

23...b5

[23...Nxb2 24.Rb1 Rxc3 25.Nxc3 Rc8! 26.Rxb2 Rxc3 27.Rxb7+ Rc7=]

[23...d5! is another interesting drawing attempt, though I planned 24.Rd3 d4 25.c3 Nxb2 26.Rd2 Nc4 27.Rd3= with a perpetual.]

24.b3 So Ed and I have finally reached the endgame. This is completely equal (maybe with a slight advantage for White). But I was feeling confident here -- I survived that disastrous middlegame and Ed is not well-known for his technical skills. I felt Lady Caissa's winds steering my sail... **24...Nb6**

25.Ke3?! Wasted a tempo, but I discovered the necessary plan a move later

[25.Rxc8! Rxc8 26.Rh1 Rh8 27.g4±]

25...f6?! Just an ugly looking move in general

[25...d5!? is an interesting computer suggestion: 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.c3±]

[25...h6! is the natural move Black

wants to play to open the h-file for his rook and after 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.gxh6 gxh6 28.Kd2= play is completely equal]

26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.Rh1! It's important to move the rook first -- move order does matter here!

[I saw that after 27.gxf6 gxf6 28.Rh1?! Rxc2!= should bring equality for Black]

27...Rh8

[Now the issue is that 27...Rxc2 28.Rxh7 fxg5 29.Rxg7+ Ke8 30.f6± leaves White with a critical passed pawn to exploit]

[However, the best try was to liquidate the kingside as much as possible: 27...h6! 28.gxh6 gxh6 29.Rxh6 Rxc2 30.Rxf6 Rb2 31.g4± with an advantage for White, but rather unclear play]

28.gxf6 gxf6 29.Rh6 Tying up Black's pawns **29...Ke7 30.Ng3 d5**

[30...Nd7 31.Nh5+-]

31.Nh5 27 This is the position I envisioned on move

[Also interesting is 31.exd5!? Nxd5+ 32.Kf3 Nc3 33.Nh5+-]

31...d4+ 32.Kd3?! Wrong direction: this just gives an extra tempo to Black in the form of a check.

[32.Kf3! Nd7 33.b4 a5? 34.bxa5+-]

32...Nd7 33.b4 a5 Probably, the best try, otherwise g4 followed by relocating the king to the kingside just wins

34.bxa5? I thought I had counted enough tempi, but this makes play unclear if Ed plays precisely.

[34.g4! was better, with slow play axb4 35.axb4 Kf7 36.Ke2 Ke7 37.Kf3 Kf7 38.g5 fxg5 39.Kg4+- and White breaks through after Ra6 and f6]

34...Nc5+

[34...Ra8! was the move to keep the

position combative: 35.Rxh7+ Kd6 36.Rf7 Rxa5 37.Nxf6 Rxa3+ 38.Ke2 Nc5 39.Ne8+ Kc6 40.Rc7+ Kb6 41.f6 Re3+ 42.Kf1±]

35.Ke2 Nxe4 Now things are easy for White **36.a6 Rg8**

[36...Nc3+ 37.Kd3 Nd5 38.a7+- Threatening Rxh7]

37.Rxh7+ Kd6 38.a7 Kd5

[38...Rxg2+ 39.Kf3!+-]

39.Rb7 Forcing, although playing slower with moves like g2-g4 also worked

39...Nc3+ 40.Kf1 Stepping away from any checks **40...Ra8 41.Nxf6+**

Now White is two pawns up **41...Kc6**

42.Re7 Kb6 43.Ne8? Wrong decision.

Black's pieces are beautifully tied up, why relieve the pressure?

[I only realized on the next move I could've played the easy 43.g4! e4 44.Nxe4 Nd5 45.f6+-]

43...Nd5 44.Rxe5

[44.Re6+ Kxa7 45.f6+-]

44...Ne3+ 45.Ke2 Rxa7 46.Re6+?!

Another poor move, bringing the king closer to the center

[46.Nd6! is just begging to be played]

46...Kc5 47.f6? Another error from my part, although the position was now a little messy **47...Nd5**

[47...Nxg2! gives Black some hope, and after 48.Kf3 Nh4+ 49.Kg4 Ng6 50.Kf5+- White's only saving grace is his activated king]

48.Re5! Pinning the knight (and stepping away from checks) **48...Kc6 49.g4**

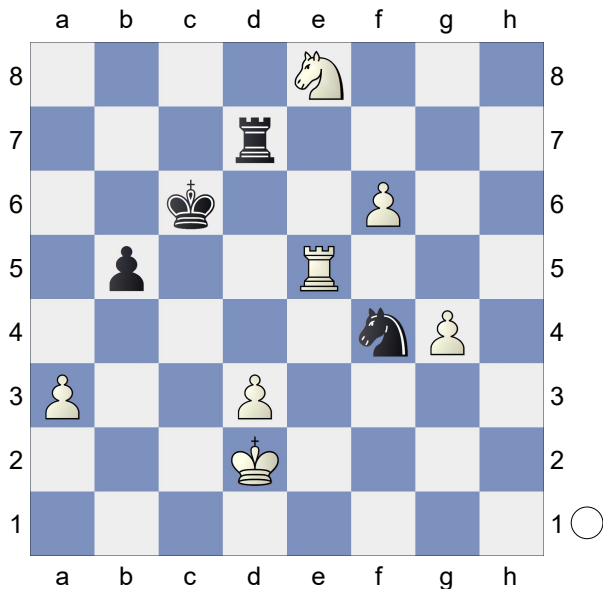
Nf4+ 50.Kd2! Of course White does not want to be checked on the third rank

[50.Kf3 Ng6 51.Rg5 Rxa3+- is annoying]

50...d3 51.cxd3 Rd7

(Diagram)

52.Ke3! I was pleased to see Ed guffaw



at this one

[52.Rf5! is another try though]

52...Ng6

[The point is that 52...Nxd3 falls into the cheeky 53.Re6+

A) 53...Kb7 54.Re7 Rxe7+ 55.fxe7+-;

B) 53...Kc5 54.Re7 Rd8 (54...Rd4 55.Rc7+-) 55.f7+-;

C) 53...Kd5 54.Rd6+ Rxd6 55.f7!!+- and White wins]

53.Re6+ Kd5

[53...Kc5 54.f7 Nf8 55.Nf6+-]

[53...Kb7 54.Nd6+ Kc6 55.Ne4+-]

54.Re4

[54.Ng7!? was begging to be played]

54...Ra7 55.Rb4 Ke6 56.g5 Kd7

57.Ng7 Kc6 58.Nf5 Rxa3 59.Nd4+

[Stockfish points out this line: 59.Re4 Ra8 60.Ne7+ Nxe7 61.Rxe7+- but what was played in the game was good as well]

59...Kd7 60.Rxb5 Ra7 61.Ke4 Nh4

62.Re5 Ng6 63.Rd5+ Ke8 64.Nc6

Rc7 65.Rd8+ Kf7 66.Ne5+ Nxe5

67.Kxe5 Rc5+ 68.Rd5 Rc1 69.Rd7+

Ke8 70.Re7+ Kf8 71.g6 Rc8

[71...Re1+ 72.Kd6 Rg1 73.g7+ Kg8 74.Re8+ Kh7 75.Rh8+-]

72.d4 No more tricks and it was time for

this 4-hour long battle to come to a close.

1-0

C08

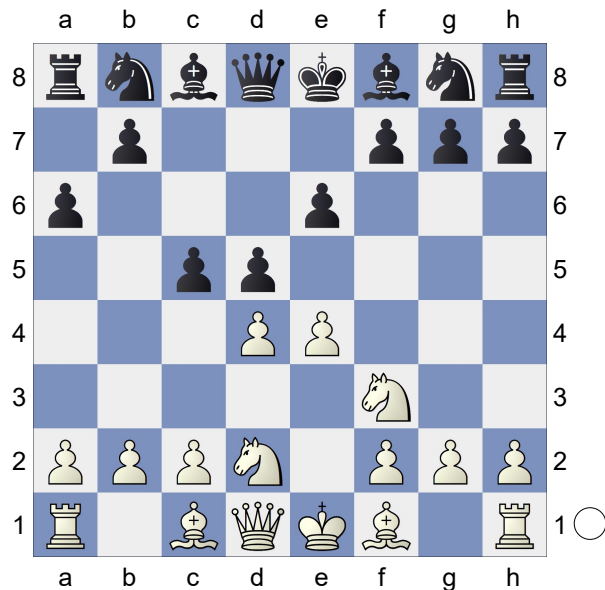
□ **Atkeson, Christopher Timothy 2181**

■ **Cremisi, Daniel 2398**

2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 21.1.25

[Winslow, Elliott]

Tense struggle; up-and-down middlegame; White was doing well but lost his way in the queen and rook "endgame." **1.e4 e6 5:21 2.d4 12 d5 2 3.Nd2 13 c5 10 4.Ngf3 23 a6 19**



5.exd5 4:12 exd5 8 6.Bd3?! 2:05

Losing a move provoking a plan Black was likely to be aiming at anyway.

[6.c4!? Well that's one way to stop ... c4! (Worth noting this began 1.d4 a6(!) 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nbd2 c5.) It's the engine's top move, but it's not much -- as so often is the case in the Tarrasch French with ...c5 (I speak from sad experience). Nf6 7.cxd5 cxd4 8.Bc4 Bd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bb3 b5 11.a4 Bb7 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8 Bxa8 14.Nxd4 Nxd5 15.Nxb5 Be7 16.Nf3 Bf6 17.Re1 h6

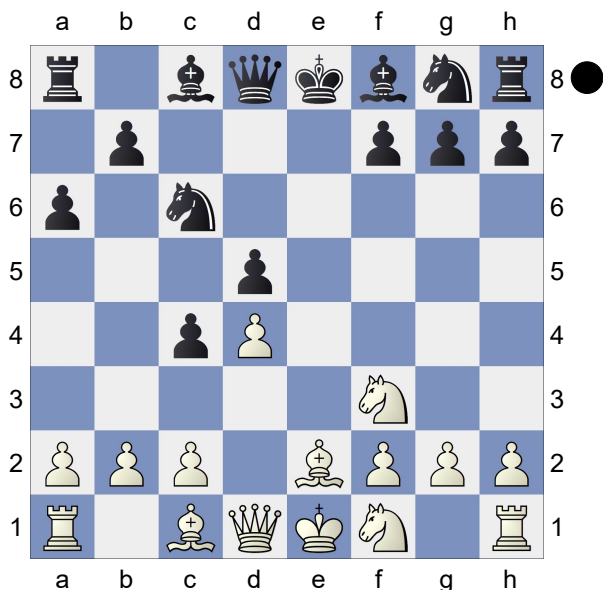
18.h3 Na6 19.Bc4 Nc5 20.b3 Nc3
21.Qxd8 Rxd8 22.Be3 Nd3 23.Bxd3
Rxd3 24.Nxc3 Bxc3 25.Rc1 Bd5
26.Ne1 Bxe1 27.Rxe1 Rxb3 28.Kh2
f5 29.Rd1 Rb5 30.Rc1 g5 31.Rc5
Rxc5 32.Bxc5 Kf7 33.f3 Kg6 34.Be3
f4 35.Bf2 Kf5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (43) Navara,D
(2679)-Carlsen,M (2830) Titled
Tuesday intern op 02nd Jan Early
Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (7)]

[6.Be2!?]

6...c4 1:01 7.Be2 34 Black is already a
bit better! 7...Nc6 46

[7...Bd6!±]

8.Nf1?! 2:45



Be6N 3:17

[8...Bd6! 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 Qb6
11.Ne3 Nge7 12.Rb1 Qa5+ 13.c3
Qxa2 14.Nd2 Bf5 15.Bh5+ g6
16.Rc1 0-0 17.Bf3 Bd3 18.Be2
Bxe2 19.Qxe2 Rae8 20.Ng4 Nf5
21.Nxf6+ Kf7 22.Nde4 Bf4 23.Rd1
Nxb4 24.Qg4 Nxg2+ 25.Kf1 dxe4
26.Nxe8 Rxe8 27.Kxg2 Bh6 28.d5
Ne5 29.Qh4 Bg7 30.d6 Nd7
31.Rhe1 Qa4 32.Kh3 Qb5 33.Kg2
Qf5 34.Re3 h5 35.Rde1 Bf6 36.Qh3
Bg5 37.R3e2 Qxh3+ 38.Kxh3
0-1 (40) Hess,R (2590)-Shulman,Y
(2613) USA-ch Saint Louis 2010 (4)]

9.Ng3 1:39 Nf6 4:41 10.0-0 1:32 Bd6
1:05 11.Ng5?! 2:30 0-0 1:27

[11...Bd7!]

12.Nxe6 2:11 fxe6 3 13.Re1 1:32 Qc7
6:59 14.Bf3 5:50 Rae8 1:39 15.c3 5:21
Bf4 2:32

[15...e5!]

16.Be3 8:19 Bxe3 2:18 17.Rxe3!± 1:59
Kh8 3:37

[17...e5±]

18.Nh5!± 10:12 Nd7 5:12 19.Qe2 3:04
Qd6 2:49 20.Rd1?! 5:09

[20.Bg4!±]

20...Re7?! 4:46

[20...g6! 21.Ng3 Re7]

21.Bg4?! 4:46

[21.g3!]

21...Nf6? 2:02

[21...Rfe8 22.g3 e5±]

22.Nxf6 2:36 Rxf6 9 23.Re1± 1:24 Nd8
55 24.g3 3:09

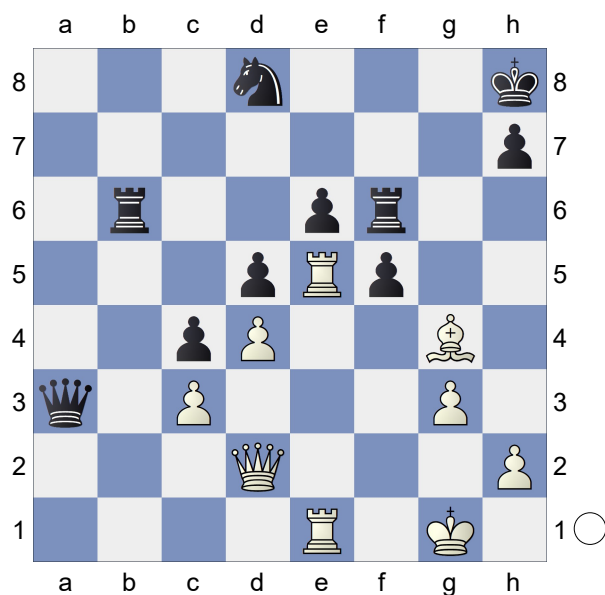
[24.h4!]

24...b5 2:46 25.a3 2:19 a5 45 26.f4?!
1:25 g6 36 27.Re5 1:26 b4 2:06

28.axb4 12 axb4 12 29.Bf3= 27 bxc3
1:29 30.bxc3 31 Rb7 2:34 31.Bg4 3:00

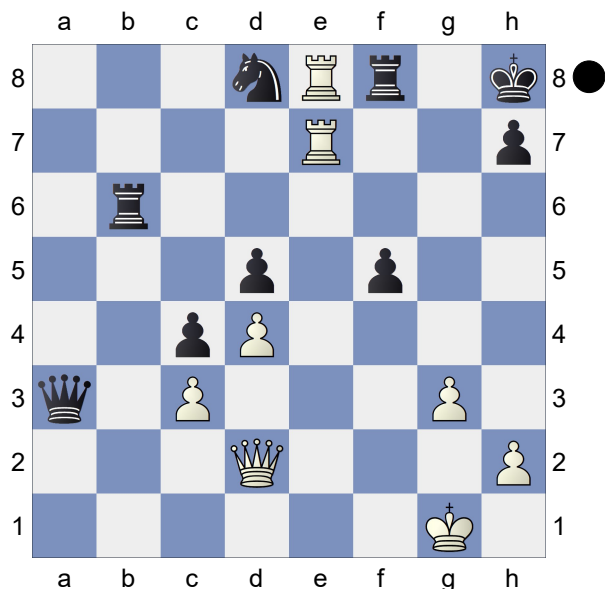
Rb6 1:14 32.Qd2 10:04 Qa3 2:27

33.f5?! 3:35 gxf5± 1:08



34.Bxf5?? 4:39 exf5+ 2:53 35.Re8+ 21
[35.Qg5 Rf8]

35...Rf8 1:37 36.R1e7 42



Ne6? 16:48

[36...Kg8! 37.Qg5+ Rg6 38.Qh5 Qc1+ 39.Kg2 Qd2+ and ...Qh6]

37.Qh6?? 1:54

[37.Rxe6 Rb1+ 38.Re1 Rxe8 39.Rxb1 f4=]

37...Qa1+ 2:31 38.Kg2 1:22 Rb2+ 1:02

39.Kh3 19 Qf1+ 13

0-1

□ Heiserman, Jimmy

E91

2298

■ Dzhanhirov, Dmytro

2238

2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 21.1.25

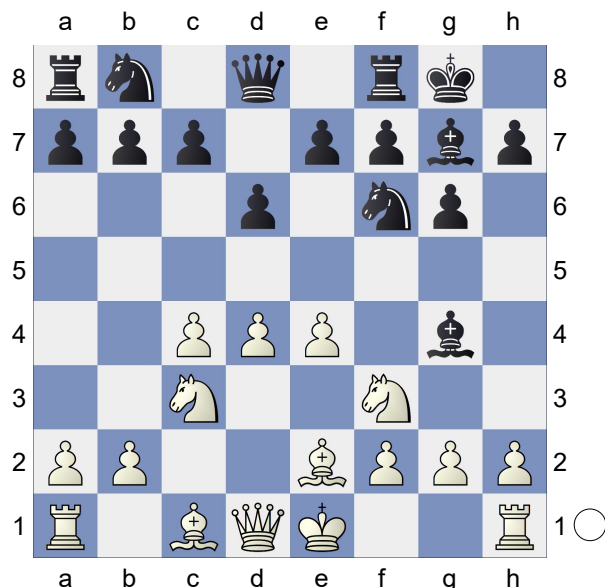
[Winslow, Elliott]

A couple first-time (I think) participants in the Tuesday Night Marathons have a scrap. Heiserman seems to attract off-beat King's Indian and Benoni lines?

1.d4 3 Nf6 7 2.c4 5 d6 22 3.Nc3 17 g6 6 4.e4 7 Bg7 9 5.Nf3 8 0-0 8 6.Be2 6 Bg4 10

(Diagram)

7.Be3 35 Nfd7 43 8.0-0 1:03 Nc6 20 9.d5 26 Bxf3 8 10.gxf3 41 Ncb8 1:51



11.Qd2 3:41

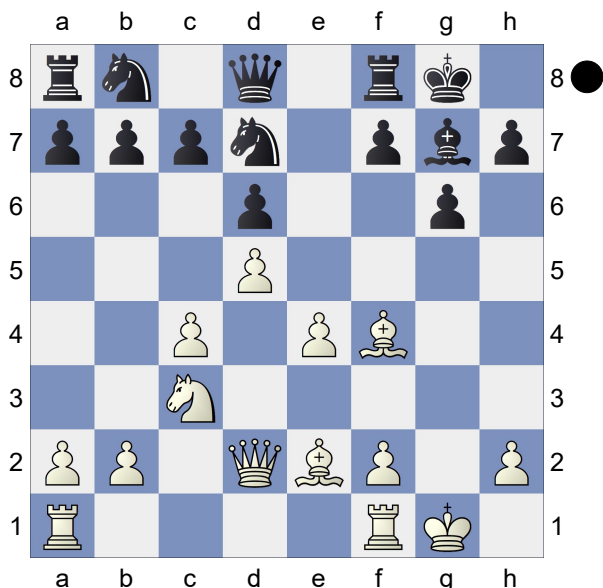
[11.Rc1!? e5 12.b4 a5 13.a3 axb4 14.axb4 Na6 15.Rb1 Qh4 16.c5 dxc5 17.Bxa6 bxa6 18.bxc5 Bh6 19.Bxh6 Qxh6 20.c6 Nf6 21.Rb7 Rfc8 22.Qc1 Qh3 23.Qe3 Nh5 24.Ne2 a5 25.Ra1 a4 26.Ra3 Qh4 27.Qc3 Qe7 28.Kf1 Rcb8 29.Qb2 Rc8 30.Qa1 Qf6 31.Qc3 Nf4 32.Nxf4 Qxf4 33.h3 f5 34.Qc4 fxe4 35.d6+ Qf7 36.Qxe4 Qe6 37.d7 Rf8 38.Kg2 Rf4 39.Rxa4 Raf8 40.Qd3 Qxc6 1-0 Esipenko, A (2636)-Sadik Sadikhov, U (2502) EU-Cup 35th Ulcinj 2019 (4.1)]

11...e5 30 12.f4 3:16 exf4 3:33 13.Bxf4 6

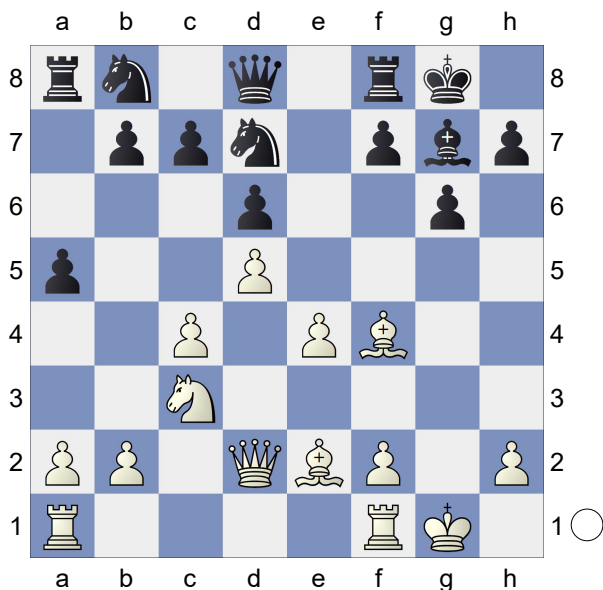
(Diagram)

a5N 14

[13...f5 14.exf5 Rxf5 15.Bg4 Rf8 16.Ne4 Qh4 17.h3 Ne5 18.Bg5 Qxg4+ 19.hxg4 Nf3+ 20.Kg2 Nxd2 21.Bxd2 Nd7 22.Ng5 Bh6 23.Ne4 Bxd2 24.Nxd2 Rae8 25.Rfe1 Ne5 26.f3 Nd3 27.Rxe8 Rxe8 28.Ne4 Nxb2 29.Nf6+ Kf7 30.Nxe8 Kxe8 31.Rb1 Nxc4 32.Rxb7 Ne3+ 33.Kg3



Nxd5 34.Rxa7 Kd7 35.f4 Ke6 36.a4 c5 37.Rxh7 c4 38.a5 c3 39.a6 Nb6 40.Rc7 d5 41.Rxc3 Kd6 42.a7 d4 43.Rb3 1-0 (47) Sowa,A (1910)-Mathews,J (1701) Windsor NAYCC U18 2016 (9.15)]
[13...Nc5! 14.e5!? Bxe5! 15.Bxe5 dxe5 16.Qe3=]



14.Bg3 5:51 Perhaps to support a later f4 and e5 -- but it ends up fairly passive in a few moves.

[14.Bg5!]

14...Nc5 28 **15.Bd3** 7:23

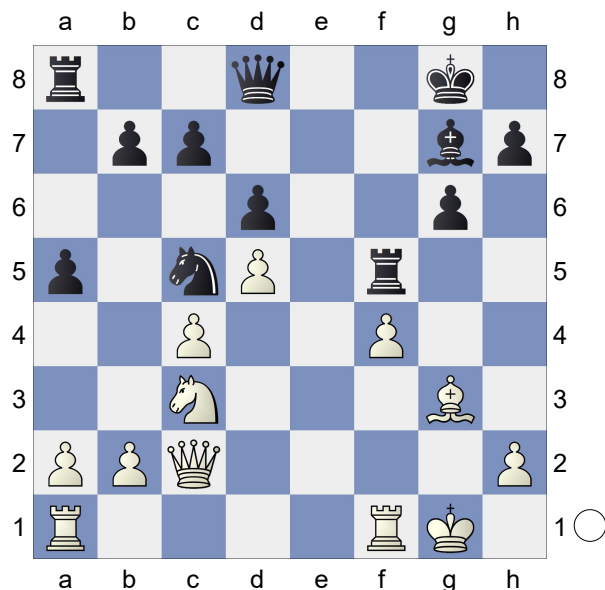
[15.f3]

15...Nxd3 57 **16.Qxd3** 5 **Nd7** 8

Black has equalized and then some.

17.f4 1:00 **f5!** 2:20 **18.exf5** 2:17 **Nc5**

9:10 **19.Qc2** 1:19 **Rxf5** 2:48



20.Rfe1 7:40 **Qf6** 11:29 **21.Rad1** 6:27 **h5?!** 22:01

[Better first 21...Rf8 22.Nb5 Qf7]

[or even 21...Bh6!]

22.h4!= 5:04 **c6** 11:38 **23.Ne4** 5:28

Nxe4 45 **24.Rxe4** 5 **cxd5** 3:25 **25.cxd5**

4:13 **Qxb2** 4:54 **26.Qxb2** 12 **Bxb2** 6

27.Rb1 50 **Ba3** 8:16 **28.Rxb7** 1:19 **Rf7**

3:10 **29.Rb5** 9:05 **Bb4=** 1:45 **30.Kg2**

2:57 **Rc8** 4:17 **31.Kf3** 3:27 **Rc3+** 3:24

32.Re3 11 **Rxe3+** 23 **33.Kxe3** 6 **Bc5+**

4 **34.Kf3** 1:50 **a4** 19 **35.Be1** 3:49 **Rc7**

1:53 **36.Ra5** 6:47 **a3** 10 **37.Ra8+** 10

Kf7 54 **38.Rh8** 10 **Re7** 35 **39.Rh7+**

3:26 **Ke8** 17 **40.Rxe7+** 12 **Kxe7**

41.Ke4 21 **Kf6** 25 **42.Bc3+** 26 **Kf7** 8

43.f5 29 **Bf2** 10 **44.fxg6+** 24 **Kxg6** 2

45.Bb4 20 **Bxh4** 22 **46.Bxd6** 7 **Kf7**

1:24 **47.Bxa3** 13 **Ke8** 2:32 **48.Bd6** 30

Kd7 9 **49.Bf4** 21 **Be1** 22 **50.Kf5** 1:09

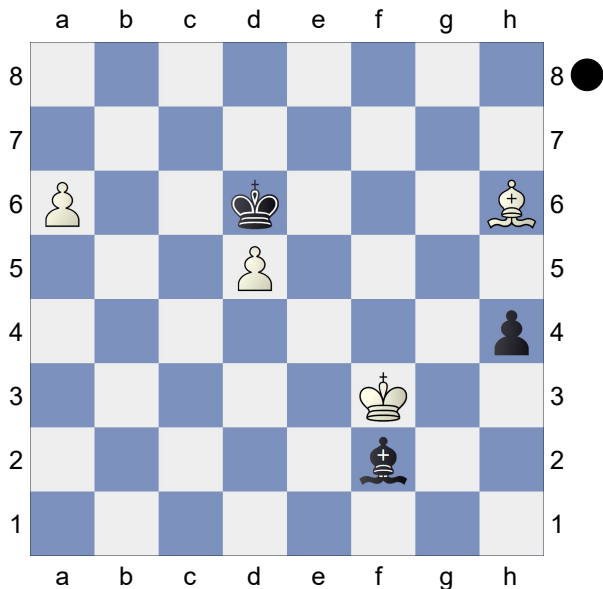
h4 16 **51.a4** 57 **Bb4** 3:03 **52.Kg4** 40

Bd6 1:55 **53.Bh6** 5:23 **Bg3** 28 **54.a5**

2:07 **Kd6** 17 **55.a6** 1:13 **Bf2** 15 **56.Kf3**

23

(Diagram)



Kxd5! 1:19 It was drawn anyway, but bishop and rook pawn (the wrong pair) is always entertaining. **57.Kxf2** 13 **Kc6** 3 **58.Be3** 8 **Kc7** 4 **59.Ba7** 10 **Kc6** 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

□ **Smith,Olivia**

■ **Srinivasan,Sivavishnu**

B12

2144

2092

2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 21.1.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

Another bewildering game! The advantage seemed to slip around until finally Smith delivered. **1.e4** 1 **c6** 2:37 **2.d4** 13 **d5** 4 **3.e5** 9 **c5** 5 **4.dxc5** 5 **e6** 5 **5.a3** 11 **Bxc5** 10 **6.b4** 25

[6.Nf3 f6 7.b4 Be7 8.Bb2 a5 9.b5 Nd7 10.Bd3 Nh6 11.Qe2 0-0 12.c4 Nf7 13.cxd5 Ndx5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 fxe5 16.Nc3 exd5 17.Nxd5 Bc5 18.0-0 Be6 19.Ne3 Bd4 20.Qh5 g6 21.Bxg6 Qe7 22.Be4 Rf4 23.Bd5 Raf8 24.Rae1 Kh8 25.g3 R4f6 26.Bxe6 Qxe6 27.Re2 b6 28.Nc2 Bb2 29.Qh4 Qd5 30.a4 Rf4 31.Qh6 Qc4 32.Qh5 R8f5 33.Ne3 Rxh5 34.Nxc4 Rxc4 35.Rxb2 Rxa4 1-0 (48) Erigaisi,A

(2797)-Andreikin,D (2729) EU-Cup
39th Vrnjacka Banja 2024 (5.1)]

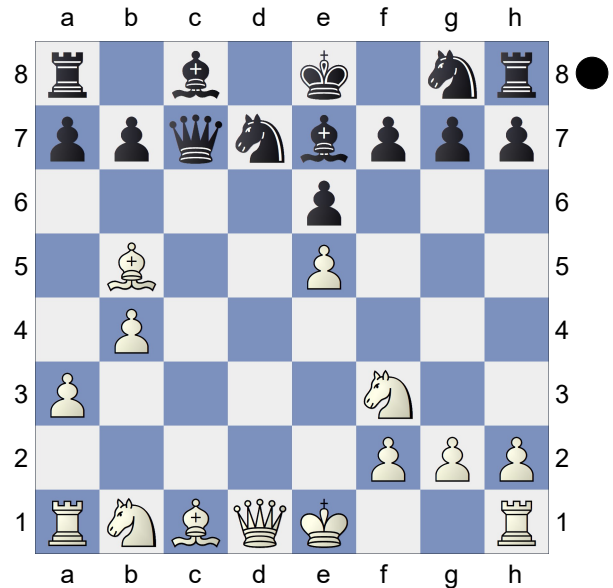
6...Be7 5 **7.Nf3** 2:13

[7.Qg4!?]

7...Nd7 1:18 **8.c4** 1:51 **dxc4** 2:31

9.Bxc4 1:15 They don't call it the Advance Variation for nothing! I just can't believe White can get away with this wanton expansion. **9...Qc7** 1:14

10.Bb5 4:30



f6??-+ 3:03 Black hasn't got a sterling development yet -- this is a bit too far.

[10...a6! 11.Bxd7+ Bxd7 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Be3 Nh6 14.Qc1 Bc6 15.Nd4 Nf5 16.Nxf5 exf5 17.Re1 0-0 18.Nc3 Rc8 19.Bd4 Qd7 20.Qe3 Qe6 21.Bc5 Bxc5 22.bxc5 Rfe8 23.Rad1 Qb3 24.Rd3 Qc4 25.f4 g6 26.Red1 Kg7 27.Nd5 Bxd5 28.Rxd5 Re7 29.h3 Rcc7 30.g4 fxg4 31.f5 f6 32.exf6+ Kxf6 33.Rd6+ Kf7 34.Qh6 Qxc5+ 35.Kh1 Qxd6 36.Qxh7+ Ke8 37.Qh8+ Kd7 38.Rxd6+ Kxd6 39.Qd4+ Kc6 40.f6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (44) Fedorov,A (2454)-Karthik,R (2303) Tamil Nadu IM 9th Chennai 2023 (3)]

11.0-0 1:25

[11.Ra2!]

11...a6 3:39 **12.Bxd7+?!** 3:32

[12.Ba4 b5 13.Bb3 Nxe5 14.Re1+ hangs on to a winning advantage.]

12...Bxd7 2:18 **13.Bb2** 3:34 **Nh6±** 3:56

Black is worse, but is putting pieces to better use. **14.Nbd2** 9:43 **0-0** 5:19

15.Rc1 3:50 **Qd8** 1:29 **16.exf6** 3:35 **gxf6?! 2:10**

[16...Bxf6 17.Bxf6 gxf6±]

17.Qb3 3:00 **Kh8?** 2:03

[17...Nf5]

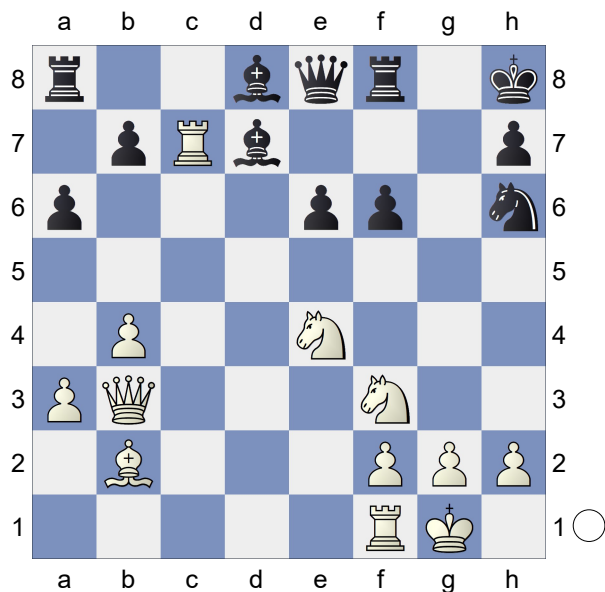
18.Ne4+- 2:26

[18.Nc4!]

18...Qe8 16:29 **19.Rc7** 20:40

[19.Nfg5!]

19...Bd8 8:09



20.Rxd7? 26:08 There were some seriously better tactical shots here:

[20.Nxf6! Bxf6 21.Bxf6+ Rxf6

22.Qb2 Qd8 23.Rxd7 Qxd7

24.Qxf6+ Qg7 25.Qxe6+-]

[20.Bxf6+ leads to the same.]

20...Qxd7± 26 **21.Rd1?! 32**

[21.Nc5 Qd5 22.Qxd5 exd5 23.Ne6

Rf7 24.Nfg5! Kg8! 25.Nxf7 Kxf7

26.Nf4±]

21...Qc6 6:35 **22.Nc5** 2:05

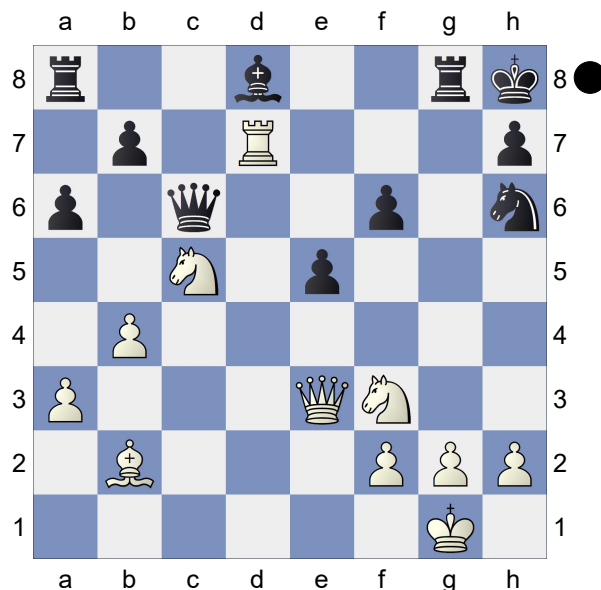
[22.Nfg5!?±]

22...e5 7:20 Black's minors might look raggedly placed, but the e5-f6 chain is powerful (if it isn't destroyed by some

sacrifice). **23.Qe3??** 8:22 Something to d7 is best. **23...Rg8?** 4:31

[23...Nf7!]

24.Rd7 1:06



Nf5?! 7:01

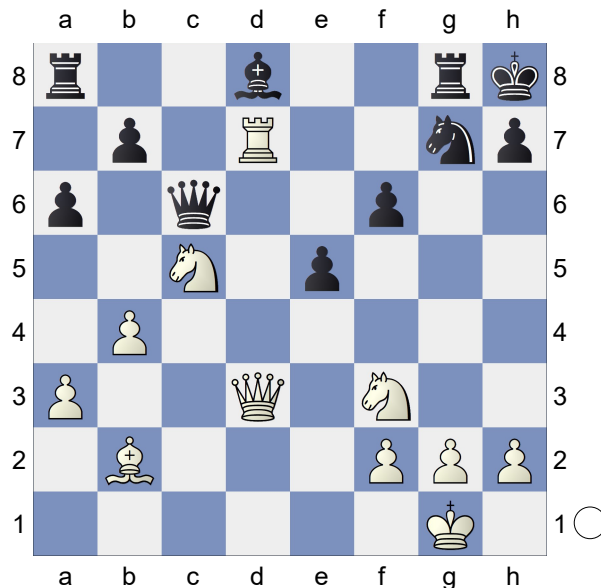
[24...Be7!! 25.Rxe7 Nf5 26.Rxh7+

Kxh7 27.Qd3 e4 28.Qxe4 Qxe4

29.Nxe4 Kg6 30.Nxf6 Rgf8

Quite the unbalanced material!]

25.Qd3 33 Ng7 2:56



26.Bxe5?! 42

[26.h4!± Re8 27.Nxe5! fxe5 28.Rd6

Qc8 29.Nd7! Bxh4! 30.Rh6 e4

31.Qh3 Bxf2+! 32.Kh1!±]

26...Re8?? 3:09

[26...fxe5 27.Nxe5 Re8! 28.Nf7+ Kg8 29.Kf1!!= (only move) (29.Qd2 Qf6+)]

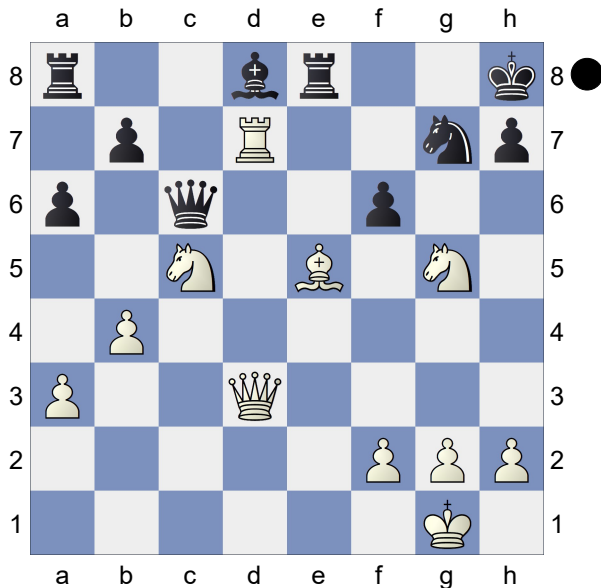
27.Bb2?± 42

[27.Rxg7]

[27.Bc3]

[27.Rd6]

[27.Ng5!!+-



]

27...b6! 1:26 28.Nb3? 39 Rc8? 30

[28...Be7!±]

29.h4?! 48

[29.g3]

29...Qc2± 1:52 30.Qxc2 29 Rxc2 7

31.Bd4 17 Ra2? 30

[31...Kg8± 32.Ra7 a5]

32.Nbd2? 46

[32.Ng5! Kg8 33.Nf7 Re1+ 34.Kh2 Be7 35.Nh6+ Kf8 36.Bxb6 Re4=]

32...Rxa3? 17

[32...Kg8±]

33.Nc4! 21

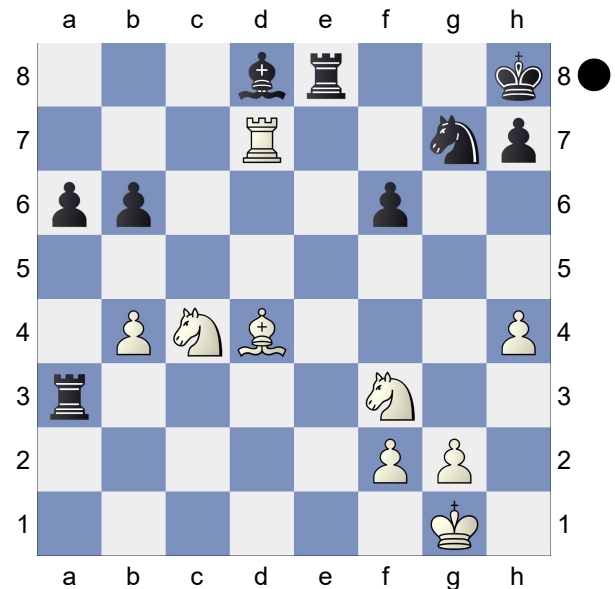
(Diagram)

Rb3? 1:33

[33...Rxf3! 34.gxf3 Kg8 35.Nd6 Re1+ 36.Kg2 Ne6 37.Nf5±]

34.Nd6 8 Rf8 1:12 35.Nf7+ 55

[35.Ng5!]



35...Kg8 51

[35...Rxf7!? 36.Rxd8+ Ne8

37.Rxe8+ Kg7]

36.Nxd8 22 Rxb4 7 37.Nc6 29 Rb1+

18 38.Kh2 5 Rf7 1:28 39.Rd8+ 35 Rf8

6 40.Rd6 40 Nf5 37 41.Rd7 55 Rf7 38

42.Rd8+ 20 Kg7 38 43.Rd5 36 Nxd4

47 44.Ncxd4 10 Ra7 2:13 45.h5 37 a5

16 46.Nh4 29 a4 50 47.Nhf5+ 19 Kf7

8 48.Nd6+ 36 Kf8 37 49.Rf5 48 a3

2:01 50.Rxf6+ 6 Kg8 7 51.Ne6 42

Mating net. 51...Ra8 5 52.Rf7 34 Kh8

1:21 53.Rg7 30 Rf8 44 54.Nf7+ 8 Rxf7

6 55.Rxf7 3 h6 17 56.Ra7 45 Rb3 2:12

57.Nd4 52 Rc3 1:15 58.Nb5 44

1-0

E91

□ Tsodikova,Natalya

2177

■ Bayaraa,Chinguun

2083

2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.4) 21.1.25

[Winslow,Elliott]

Chinguun is a grinder... **1.e4 6 g6 1:23**

2.d4 21 Bg7 7 3.c4 43 c5 7 4.d5 1:05

d6 7 5.Nf3 55 Nf6 8 6.Nc3 22 0-0 8

7.Be2 2:27 Bg4 25 8.Bf4 6:29

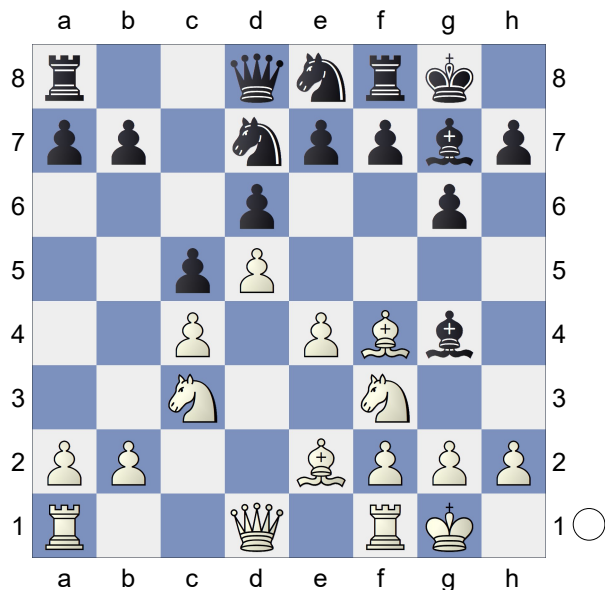
[8.Be3 e6 9.dxe6 fxe6 10.e5 Bxf3

11.Bxf3 dxe5 12.Qxd8 Nbd7

So much for premove...

1-0 Shankland,S (2712)-Wieczorek,O (2504) Titled Tuesday intern op 25th Oct Early Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (3)]

8...Nbd7 2:51 9.0-0 1:59 Ne8 51

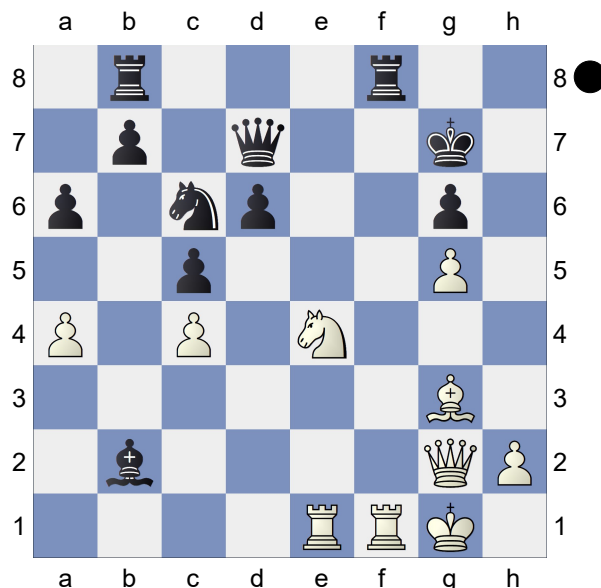


10.Ne1N 2:20

[10.Qd2 a6 11.a4 Nc7 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 ½-½ Gladyshev,O (2472)-Okhotnik,V (2447) FRA-chT2 0910 France 2009 (5.2)]

10...Bxe2 16 11.Qxe2 22 a6 3:11 12.Nd3 2:28 Nb6 6:51 13.Ne1 12:58 Nc7 1:59 14.a4 1:59 Nd7 20 15.Nd3 1:19 Nb6 28 16.Ne1 3:22 Rb8 52 17.Nf3 2:12 f6 46 18.Nd2 1:25 Nd7 7 19.Bg3 1:45 Re8 4:30 20.f4 2:23 e6 54 21.dxe6 1:31 Nxe6 10 22.Qd3 4:25 Nd4 3:27 23.Nf3 1:37 f5 1:27 24.exf5 2:23 Nxf5 3:02 25.Qd5+ 2:50 Kh8 1:24 26.Ng5 1:59 Bd4+ 9 27.Bf2 2:13 Nf6 2:57 28.Qf3 4:43 Kg7 2:18 29.Rae1 2:34 Qd7 45 30.Nd5 7:23 h6 6:39 31.Nxf6 6:23 Bxf6 10 32.Ne4 17 Bxb2 3:02 33.g4 1:08 Nd4 7 34.Qg2 31 Nc6 6:10 35.g5 1:37 hxg5 4:38 36.fxg5 1:32 Rf8 3:12 37.Bg3 6:11

(Diagram)



Be5? 1:05 38.Nf6? 1:59

[38.Bxe5+ Nxe5 39.Nf6 Qe6 40.Re4±]

38...Qe6? 54

[38...Bxf6 39.Rxf6 Rxf6 40.gxf6+ Kxf6 41.Qd5 Re8 42.Rf1+ Kg7 43.Bxd6 Qg4+=]

39.Re4 1:27

[39.Bxe5±]

39...Rh8 45 40.Ng4 48 Rbe8 1:54

41.Bxe5+ 1:41 Nxe5 45 42.Nxe5? =

2:15 dxe5 10 43.Rfe1 1:56 Qd7 9:08 44.Qb2 1:37 Rh5 5:46 45.h4 1:06 Kg8 2:07 46.Qb6 45 Qf5 1:16 47.Qxc5 1:23 Rf8 3:21 48.Qd5+ 4 Rf7 9 49.Qd2 50 Qh3 1:08 50.Qg2 44 Rxh4 13 51.Qxh3 51 Rxh3 7 52.Rxe5 7 Rg3+ 24 53.Kh2 10 Rg4 2 54.Re8+ 33 Kg7 5 55.R1e5 51 Rxc4 6 56.a5 20 Rc6 10 57.Rb8 24 Rd7 56 58.Ree8 1:21 Kf7 6:12 59.Rf8+ 5 Ke7 8 60.Rbe8+ 1:26 Kd6 7

(Diagram)

61.Rg8? 1:00

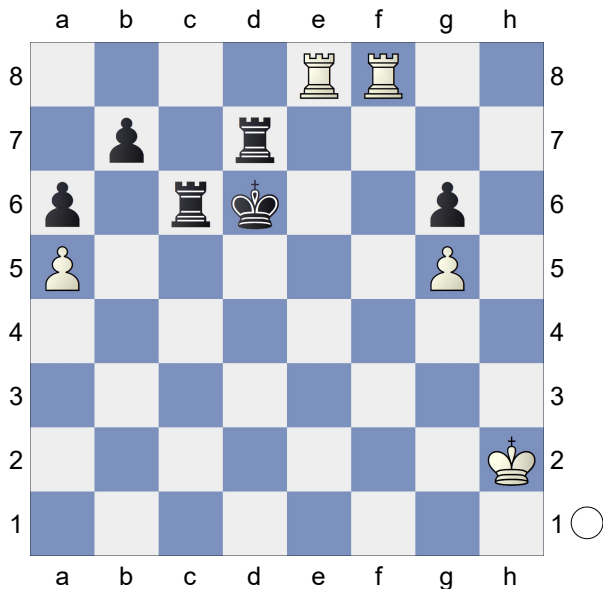
[61.Rf6+ Kc5 62.Rg8=]

61...Kc5+ 58 62.Re5+ 59 Kb4 1:54

63.Rf8 20 Rc5 3:15 64.Rf4+ 8 Kb5 6

65.Rxc5+ 1:05 Kxc5 5 66.Rf6 28 Rd6

9 67.Rf7 10 b5 18 68.axb6 28 Kxb6 6



69.Kg3 28 a5 5 70.Kf4 30 a4 52
 71.Ke5 33 Rc6 14 72.Rf1 13 Ka5 2:06
 73.Kd5 1:07 Rb6 30 74.Kc4 30 Rb4+
 47 75.Kc3 6 Rg4 7 76.Rf8 31 Rxg5 6
 77.Ra8+ 7 Kb5 7 78.Rb8+ 13 Kc5 9
 79.Ra8 49 Rg3+ 15 80.Kc2 44 a3 5
 81.Ra4 9 a2 1:08 82.Kb2 1:20 Kd5
 2:56 83.Kxa2 6 Rc3 12 84.Rg4 55
 Rc6 5 85.Kb3 3 Ke5 3
 0-1

□ Agrawal, Varun **A14**
 ■ Chan, Kyle **1913**
2048
 2025 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.7) 21.1.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

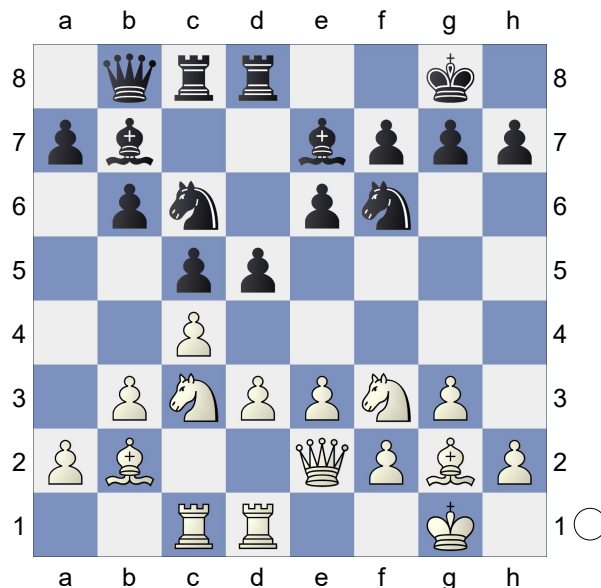
This game is an incredible story, albeit with a sad ending. Varun Agrawal, whom I've yet to meet or talk to, plays a quintessential Flank Opening, and at a critical moment finds a decisive sacrifice that cuts across half a century and a handful of games, including one by the author of "Flank Openings" himself, Raymond Keene. I need to ask him: where did it come from!? Did he know that it was an iconic opening system from years ago? Had he found the move

19.Nxf7!! previously? Is there some article it's mentioned in? Was it pure inspiration of the moment?

The sad part is that, after springing this move he followed up flawlessly for twenty-one moves, only to lose his nerve and claim the material back -- into a dead drawn bishop ending -- which he then, in panic state from no time on the clock, managed to lose. A masterpiece gone horribly awry.

In any case, appreciate his conception and subsequent incisive -- to a point! -- play.

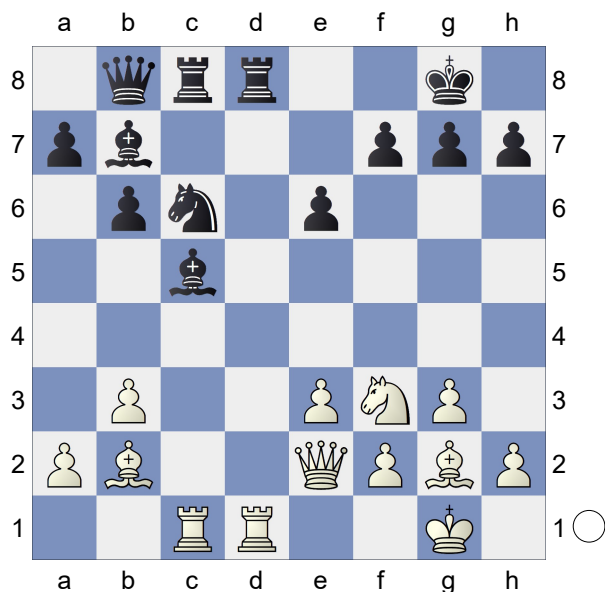
1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2
 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 b6 7.c4 Bb7
 8.d3 c5 9.e3 Nc6 10.Nc3 Rc8
 11.Qe2 Qc7 12.Rac1 Qb8 13.Rfd1
 Rfd8



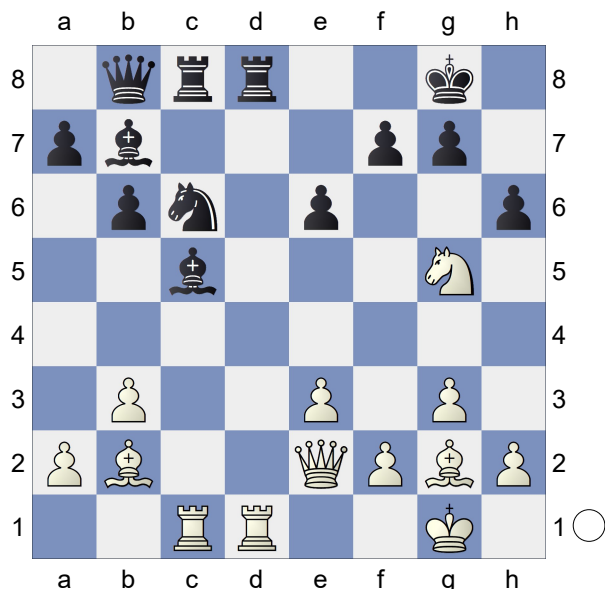
Black has tucked his queen out of trouble on b8, but it's a bit far from the kingside. So the following trades (finally!): **14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Rxd5 16.d4 Rdd8 17.dxc5 Bxc5?** One more piece to the queenside, the last defender.

[17...bxc5 is in fact the right move; yes it's a weak pawn, but it's center-

bound, and the bishop on e7 stops immediate intrusion. Stockfish 17 gives White +0.24 (up and down) after its "best move" 18.Ba1! (or maybe better is 18.Ne5!/? (but less comical).))



I used to hate positions like this, where the center pawns are all but gone. Over time (and we're talking about a *lot* of time), I've come to see that things can happen. Like our game here... **18.Ng5!** SF 17 has White already winning! **18...h6**



19.Nxf7!!

[In the Mega database, there are three games, which all went 19.Ne4 I almost didn't even notice that the Inheritor of the Mantel of Flank Openings (Keene also wrote a book on Nimzovich) had played one of them (it was before standard ratings in the databases), and even then at first I hadn't played through this game. But I had left the cursor on the last move, and the engine running, and was surprised to see that maybe Bellin had resigned a bit too early:

A) 19...Rxd1+?! 20.Rxd1 Rd8?! 21.Nxc5 bxc5 22.Qg4± (22.Rc1! even better) 22...g6 23.Bf6

The computer makes two moves winning: (23.h4!; 23.h3!)

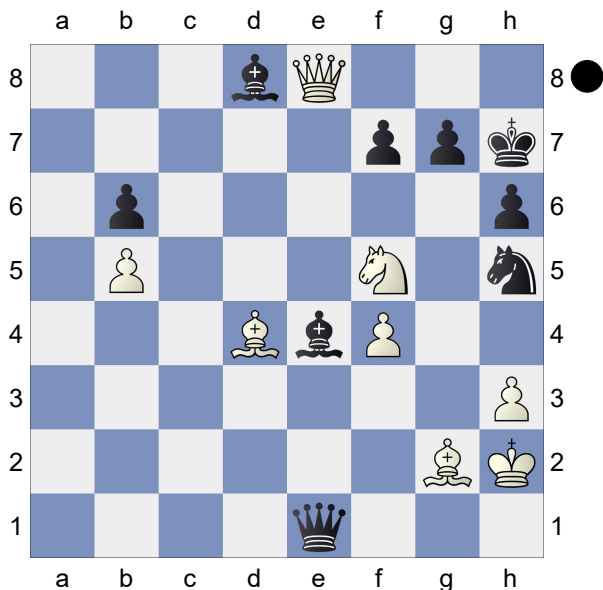
23...Rxd1+ 24.Qxd1 Qc7 25.Qd3 (25.h3!+- -- I don't know what this is about) 25...Kh7 26.h4 a6

27.Qc3± Strange draw, what with the handful of advantages White has here (maybe a team thing).

1/2-1/2 Kanellopoulos,P (2218)-Tassopoulos,M (2220) GRE-chT 34th Ermioni Argolidas 2005 (8) (27.Qd1! h5 28.g4!+-);

B) 19...Be7!? (I'll just give the moves to the end without too much comment) **20.a3 Ne5 21.Rxc8 Bxc8 22.Rxd8+ Bxd8 23.Qb5 Nd7 24.Qc6 Qc7 25.Nd6 Ba6 26.b4** (surprisingly White's advantage is almost insignificant) **Bd3? (26...Qxc6 27.Bxc6 Nb8!=) 27.b5+- Nf6 28.h3 a6 29.a4?!± (29.Bxf6 gxf6 30.Qe8+ Kg7 31.bxa6 Bxa6 32.Nxf7!+- (our favorite square)) 29...axb5 (29...Qxc6 30.bxc6 Bc2) 30.axb5 Qe7 31.e4 e5 32.f4?! exf4 33.gxf4 Nh5 34.Be5 Qh4? (34...Kh7 35.Nf5 Qe6=) 35.Qe8+? (35.Qc3!+-) 35...Kh7= 36.Nf5**

Qe1+ 37.Kh2 Bxe4?! (37...Qf2=;
 37...Bh4=; 37...Bf6=; 37...Qe2=)
 38.Bd4 and Black resigned
 1-0 Keene,R-Bellin,R Teeside
 International 1972 (1)
 (But why resign? 38.Bd4



Bc7!! 39.Qxe4 Bxf4+ 40.Ng3+
 Qxe4 41.Bxe4+ f5! 42.Bxf5+ g6!±
 43.Bg4!? Nxg3 44.Bxb6±
 (+0.75 Lc0 v0.26.1) White might still
 win, but certainly worth playing on
 (if you could find all those
 moves!).]]

19...Kxf7 20.Qg4!+- Bf8

[20...e5 fails on the light squares:
 21.Qf5+ Kg8 22.Rxd8+

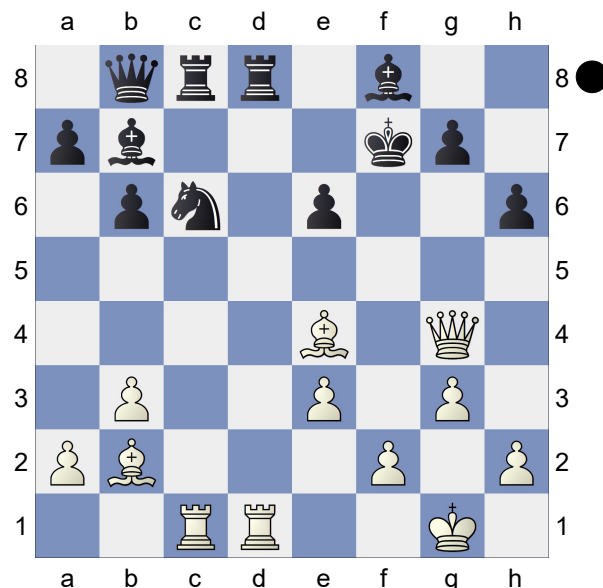
A) 22...Nxd8 23.Bxe5 Bd6
 24.Rxc8 Qxc8 (24...Bxc8 25.Bd5+
 Kh8 26.Qg6 Bxe5 27.Be4)
 25.Bd5+ Kh8 26.Qxc8 Bxc8
 27.Bxd6;

B) 22...Rxd8 23.Bxc6 Bxc6
 24.Qe6+ Kh8 25.Qxc6]

21.Be4!

(Diagram)

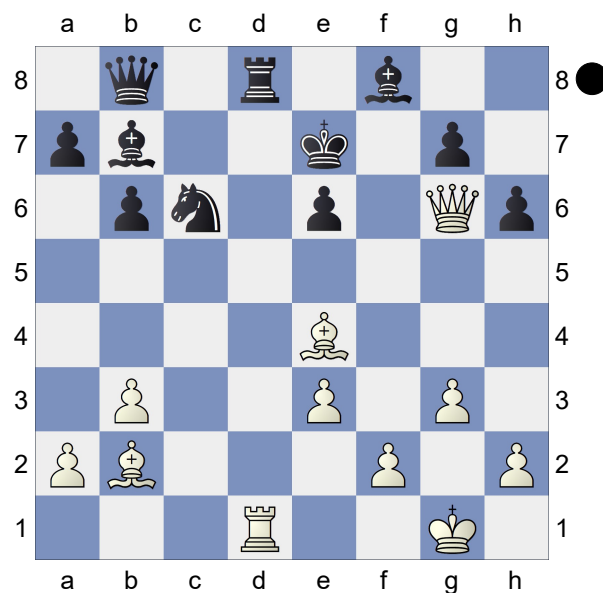
I'm always amused when the Catalan
 bishop returns to its "natural" attacking
 diagonal b1-h7! :-) **21...Ne7** Stockfish 17



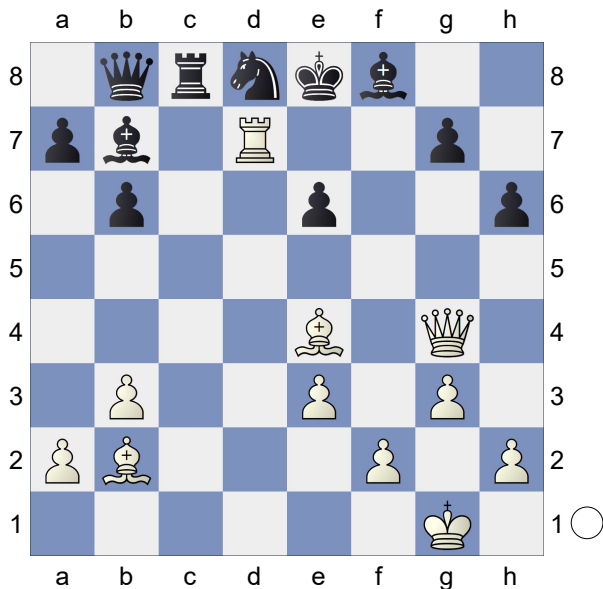
makes it uncannily close (one hundredth
 of a point at times!) between this and
 that.

[21...Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1

A) 22...Rd8 23.Qg6+ Ke7
 (23...Kg8 24.Qxe6+ Kh8
 25.Qxh6+ Kg8 26.Qh7+ Kf7
 27.Bg6+ Ke7 28.Qh4+ Ke6
 29.Qc4+) 24.-- (24.Ba3+
 is good, but; 24.Bf6+!! gxf6
 25.Qh7+ is a lot faster!)

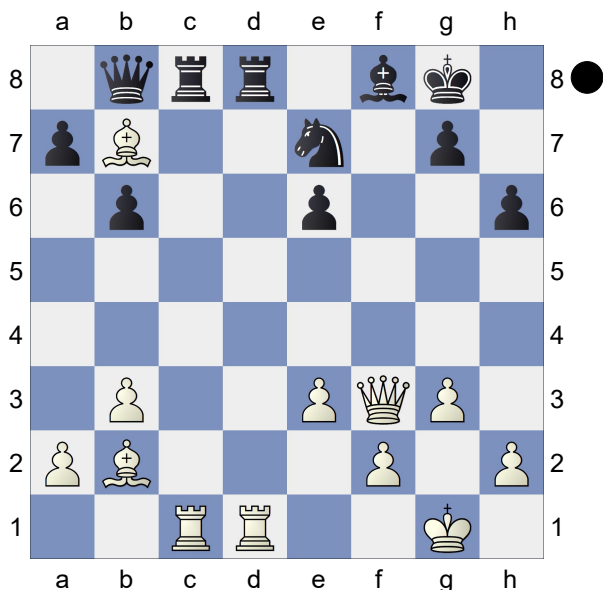


B) 22...Nd8 Nothing else is as
 "good" 23.Rd7+ Ke8
 (Diagram)



24.Rxb7! Nxb7 25.Qxe6+
B1) 25...Be7 26.Bg6+ Kd8
 27.Bf5 Nc5 (27...Rc7
 28.Qg8+) 28.Qg8+ Kc7
 29.Qxg7;
B2) 25...Kd8 26.Qf7! Be7
 27.Qg8+ Kc7 (27...Kd7 28.Bf5+
 Kc7 29.Qe6) 28.Qxg7 Kd8
 29.Qg8+ Kc7 30.Qe6 Re8
 31.Qc6+ Kd8 32.Qxb7+-
 This is the best Black could hope
 for -- a rook for bishop and
 three healthy pawns about to
 march.]

22.Qf3+ Kg8 23.Bxb7+-



White "settles" for what is obviously a
 won position: pawn up, two bishops,
 healthier pawns, safer king, more active
 pieces. **23...Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rd7?!**

[Black could have gotten the pawn
 back: 24...Rd2 25.Bc3 Rxa2 26.Be4
 only for his rook to get sidelined as
 well. There are ways to squirm (...Ra6
 and ...b5!?) but it's ultimately
 hopeless.]

**25.Ba6 Qd6 26.Bc4 Rd8 27.Qg4 Kf7
 28.h4 Nd5 29.Rd1 Qe7 30.h5**

[30.e4]

[30.Bd3!]

30...Rd7 31.Qg6+ Kg8 32.Be5 Qf7?!

[When the engine has 32...Nf4

33.Rxd7 Nxg6 34.Rxe7 Nxe7

35.Bxe6+ as best (to get queens off
 the board and not get mated?), you
 know it's bleak.]

33.e4 Qf3 Black tries to get some sort
 of counterplay -- and there *are* some
 tricks! But White keeps a lid on it.

[33...Qxg6 34.hxg6 Nf6 35.Rxd7
 Nxd7 36.Bxe6+]

34.Rd3!

[34.Rd2!]

34...Qe2 35.Qxe6+ Rf7 36.Bf4!

[36.Bd4! Bc5]

36...Bc5 37.Re3 We can imagine what
 this is doing to White's time situation.

[37.Be3]

[37.Rd4! Qe1+ (37...Qf3 38.Rd2)
 38.Kg2 Bxd4 39.Qxd5 Black keeps
 running out of checks.]

37...Qd1+ 38.Kg2 Nxe3+ 39.fxe3

[39.Bxe3?? Qf3+]

39...Qxh5 40.Qe8+

[40.g4! ends it.]

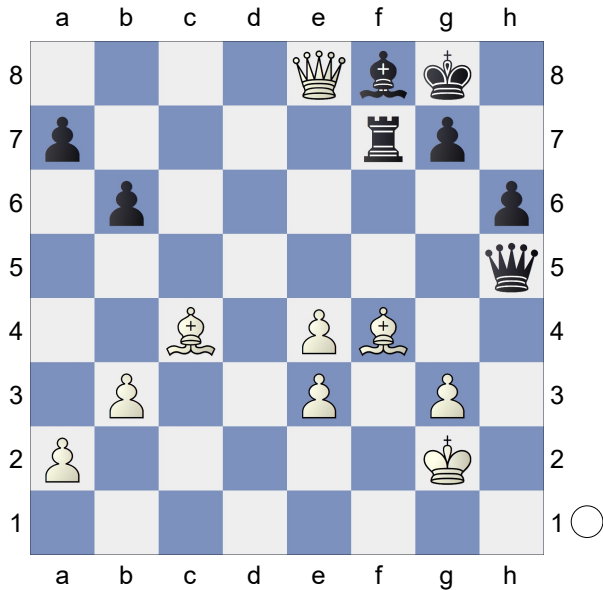
40...Bf8

[40...Kh7 41.Bxf7 Qe2+ 42.Kh3

Qf1+ 43.Kg4 #6]

[40...Bf8 41.Qe6!+- is the direct win,
 admittedly by Zugzwang. 42.g4 is a
 problem.

(41.Qxf7+?? Qxf7=)]



Did White lose on time?? One scoresheet, very neat, stopped keeping moves here. The other scoresheet, my guess is White's, turned to scribble but continued to move 60. I suspect (1) White traded on f7 and lost the ending a pawn up but dead even. (2) Black stopped keeping score with a lot more time on the clock than White, in order to "blitz" him (Illegal -- at this time control you must -- both! -- keep score). Sad really -- such a well-played game! Stockfish has very little to complain about the whole game (I was more flabbergasted than anything else!). The one scoresheet is just scribble but I suspect it went **41.Qxf7+?? Qxf7=** (0.00 across the board) **42.Bxf7+ Kxf7** **43.Kf3 Ke6** Soon Black got in ...Be5 and traded bishops, and the outside majority won the pawn ending for Black.

Next round Agrawal found himself in a difficult pawn ending *again*, and lost his way. Study endgames!

0-1

□ Bayaraa,Chinguun

■ Smith,Olivia

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (4.1)

[Winslow,Elliott]

A30

2083

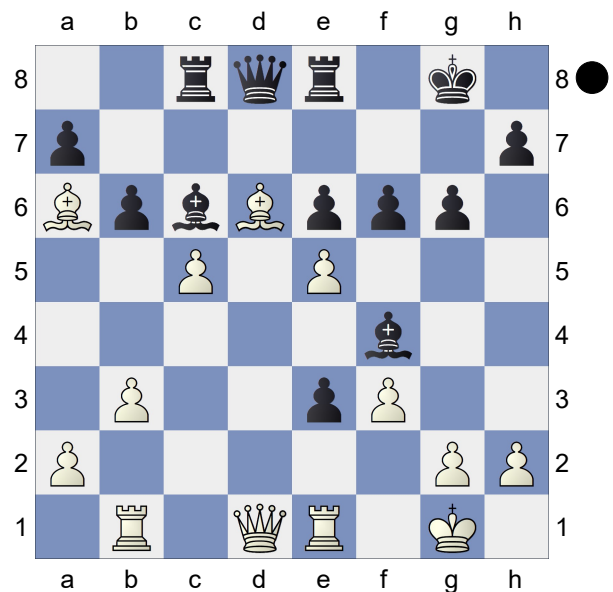
2144

28.01.2025

Chinguun Bayaraa shows knowledge of modern opening systems (this 1.Nf3/2. e3 thing) and cool under tense conditions to outlast Olivia Smith, winner of the Summer 2024 TNM. The key meeting between him and Cremisi should have this coming Tuesday...

1.Nf3 11 **Nf6** 7 **2.e3** 5 **g6** 1:12 **3.b3** 9 **Bg7** 22 **4.Bb2** 5 **0-0** 32 **5.Be2** 17 **b6** 4:01 **6.0-0** 1:07 **Bb7** 1:07 **7.c4** 8 **c5** 2:49 **8.d4** 9 **cxd4** 1:46 **9.exd4** 2:12 **d5** 1:16 **10.Nc3** 11:00 **Nc6** 11 **Rc1** 5:47 **Bh6** 12:05 **12.Rb1** 9 **Rc8** 1:11 **13.Re1** 2:40 **e6** 10:01 **14.Ba3** 2:51 **Re8** 1:07 **15.Ne5** 3:36 **Nxe5** 2:32 **16.dxe5** 9 **Ne4** 3:24 **17.Nxe4** 3:12 **dxe4** 12 **18.Bd6** 57 **f6** 14:05 **19.c5** 4:05 **e3** 3:39 **20.f3** 1:56 **Bf4** 4:23 **21.Bb5** 6:41 **Bc6** 2:53 **22.Ba6** 9:35

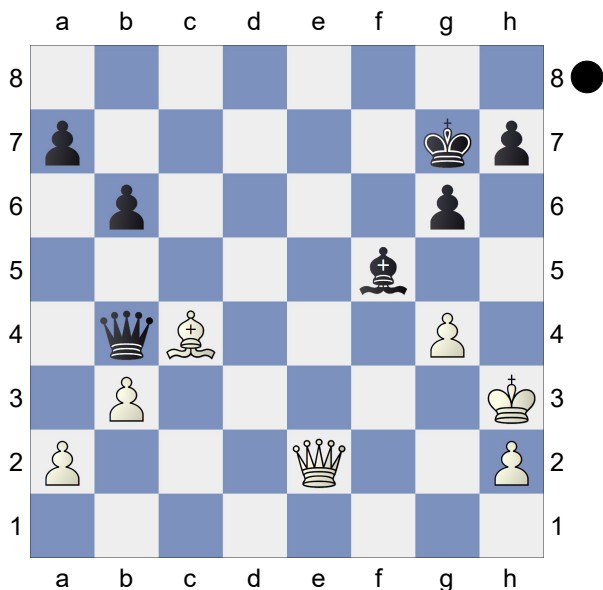
[**22.Bxc6!** **Rxc6** **23.b4** **Bxe5** **24.Qa4** **Qa8** **25.Bxe5** **fxe5** **26.Rbc1±**]



22...Ra8? 3:45

[**22...fxe5!** **23.g3** **Qg5** **24.Qe2!=**]

23.g3 4:41 Bxe5 45 24.Bxe5 16 fxe5 4
 25.Rxe3 1:26 Qd4 1:15 26.Qe2 10:52
 Qxc5 2:48
 [26...b5!??]
 27.Kg2 1:52 Rf8 5:02 28.Bc4 3:53
 Rad8 6:42 29.Rf1 2:21 Qb4 1:42
 30.Bxe6+ 3:40 Kg7 9 31.Rf2 9:36 Rf6
 32.Bc4 11:27 e4 10 33.fxe4 20 Rxf2+
 40 34.Qxf2 13 Rd2 23 35.Re2 2:01
 Bxe4+ 13 36.Kh3 58 Bf5+ 2:20 37.g4
 4 Rxe2 1:59 38.Qxe2 2:30



Bc8?? 1:10 An unfortunate gaffe after so much.

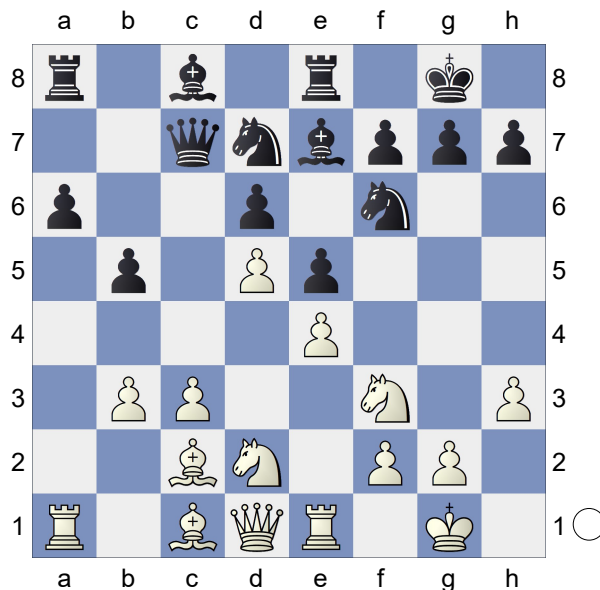
[Black holds after 38...Qc3+ 39.Kg2 Bb1! 40.g5! Kf8! 41.Bb5 Qc8!±]
 39.Qe5+ 52 Kf8 34 40.Qh8+ 52 Ke7 10
 41.Qxh7+ 1:16 Kd8 27 42.Qxg6 17
 Qe1 1:03 43.Qd3+ 6
 1-0

Chan, Kyle **C95**
 2048
 Atkeson, Christopher **2181**
 2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (4.3) 28.01.2025
 [Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 2 e5 8 2.Nf3 10 Nc6 6 3.Bb5 3
 a6 7 4.Ba4 4 Nf6 8 5.0-0 6 Be7 5
 6.Re1 5 b5 9 7.Bb3 5 d6 11 8.c3 6

0-0 8 9.h3 3 Nb8 7 10.d4 12 Nbd7 7
 11.Nbd2 9 c5 23 12.d5 1:22
 [12.Bc2 Qc7 13.d5 c4 14.Nf1 a5
 15.Ng3 Nc5 16.b3 Bd7 17.Be3 Rfc8
 18.bxc4 bxc4 19.Nd2 Rab8 20.Rb1
 Bb5 21.Nf5 Bf8 22.Qf3 Ne8 23.Qg3
 Kh8 24.f4 g6 25.fxe5 gxf5 26.Bd4
 f6 27.exf6 Qf7 28.Nf3 Nxe4
 29.Bxe4 fxe4 30.Ng5 Qg6 31.f7+
 Ng7 32.Rxe4 Bd7 33.Rf1 Bf5
 34.Rh4 Rb1 35.Rxb1 Bxb1
 36.Rxh7+ Qxh7 37.Nxh7 Bxh7
 38.h4 Bd3 39.Qg4 Rb8 40.Qh5+
 Bh7 41.g4 Rb1+ 1-0 (47)
 Maghsoodloo, P (2701)-Kovalev, V
 (2623) Chess.com Rapid Wk4 Swiss
 Chess.com INT 2022 (2)]

12...c4 1:58 13.Bc2 4 Re8 15 14.b4
 3:42 cxb3 2:08 15.axb3 8 Qc7 2:08

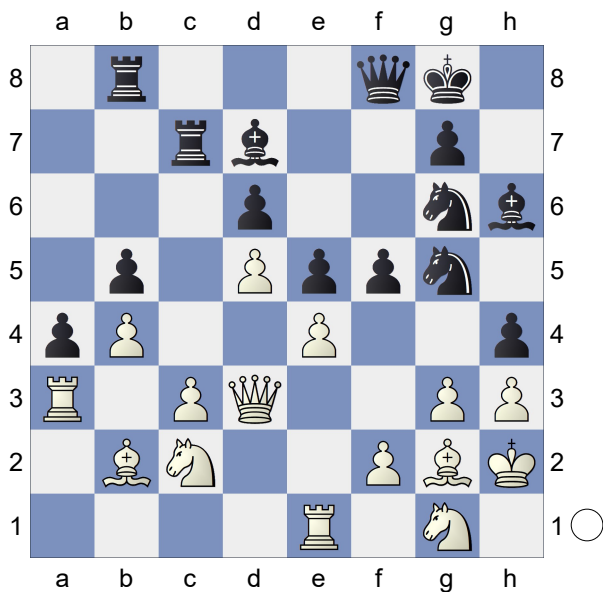


16.Bb2N 1:50

[16.Nb1 Bd8 17.Bd2 Qb8 18.Na3
 Nb6 19.Bd3 Bd7 20.Nh2 Qb7
 21.Nf1 g6 22.Ne3 Nh5 23.Bf1 Ng7
 24.c4 b4 25.Bxb4 Nxc4 26.Nec2
 Nxa3 27.Rxa3 a5 28.Qa1 Rc8
 29.Bc3 f5 30.Ne3 fxe4 31.Bxa5 Be7
 32.Bc3 Ra8 33.Ba6 Qb8 34.Bc4
 Rxa3 35.Qxa3 Nf5 36.Bxe5 Nxe3
 37.Rxe3 Bf8 38.Ba1 Qd8 39.Qb2
 Qh4 40.Qd4 Re5 41.Qa7 Re7

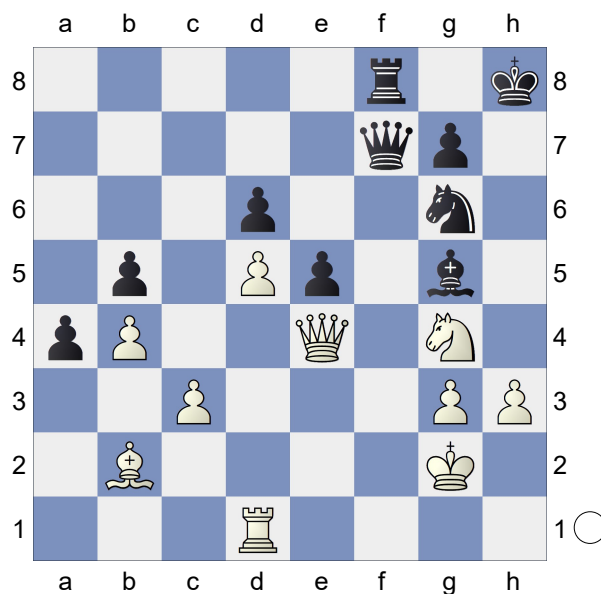
42.Bd4 Rf7 43.Rg3 Qe7 44.Qa8
Bf5 45.b4 Qh4 1-0 (60) Ortiz Suarez,
I (2526)-Veiga,J (2378) Olympiad-44
Chennai 2022 (10.3)]

16...Nf8 1:51 17.Kh2 10:50 Ng6 1:54
18.g3 2:05 Bd7 4:07 19.Qe2 2:02 a5
2:07 20.Bd3 1:19 Reb8 33 21.Rec1
1:34 Qc8 6:08 22.Qf1 2:24 h6 3:54
23.b4 3:12 a4 1:18 24.Nb1 3:00 Qe8
1:54 25.Na3 56 Nh7 1:11 26.Qg2 3:31
Ra7 4:33 27.Rc2 3:35 Rab7 26 28.Rf1
3:32 Nf6 2:23 29.Rcc1 2:19 Nh5 51
30.Ng1 3:40 Bg5 1:41 31.Rcd1 1:16
Qc8 4:03 32.Rfe1 3:55 Qd8 17:55
33.Bf1 5:04 Nf6 6:35 34.Nc2 5:24 h5
46 35.Nf3 6:13 Bh6 1:09 36.Nd2 56
h4 43 37.Qf3 6:21 Nh7 3:53 38.Qe2
4:01 Qc8 2:26 39.Nf3 4:45 Nf6 2:10
40.Ng1 1:23 Rc7 1:20 41.Qd3 1:36
Nh5 1:46 42.Qf3 2:18 Nf6 3:36 43.Ra1
1:13 Nh7 57 44.Qd3 1:09 f5 1:19
45.Ra3 2:09 Ng5 54 46.Bg2 1:29 Qf8
5:00



47.exf5 2:35 After a *lot* of maneuvering
around, the f-file opens to Black's
advantage. 47...Bxf5 18 48.Qe2 10 Rf7
2:08 49.Ne3 1:47 Be4 4:00 50.Ng4
2:12 Kh8 2:43 51.Rf1 2:10 Nf3+ 51
52.Bxf3 48 Bxf3 10 53.Nxf3 20 Rxf3 7
54.Kg2 27 hxg3 1:39 55.fxg3 32 Rxf1

25 56.Qxf1 1 Ne7 3:25 57.Qd3 2:03
Qf7 43 58.Ra1 21 Rf8 3:00 59.Rd1 48
Ng6 1:02 60.Qe4 2:11 Bg5 27

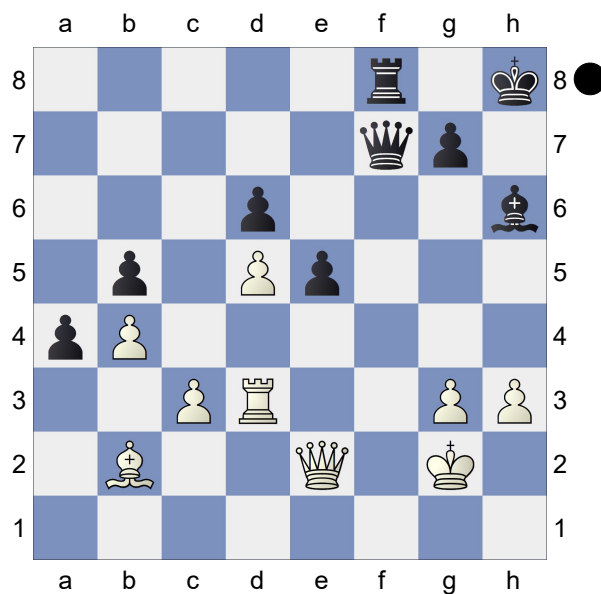


61.Qe2? 1:05

[61.h4]

[61.c4!]

61...Ne7 28 62.Qe4 26 Nf5 19 63.Qe2
31 Nh6 58 64.Nxh6 23 Bxh6 7 65.Rd3
30



e4! 35 66.Rd1 59 e3 54 67.Rf1 1:17
Qxd5+ 12 68.Rf3 1:28 Ra8 69.Kg1 36
Qd2 1:01 70.Kf1 46 a3 19 71.Ba1 11
a2 30 72.h4 20 Qc1+ 37 73.Qe1 6 e2+
33 74.Kf2 38 Re8 75.Rd3 1:36 Be3+
43 76.Rxe3 23 Qxe3+ 7 77.Kg2 14

Rf8 15 78.c4 53
0-1

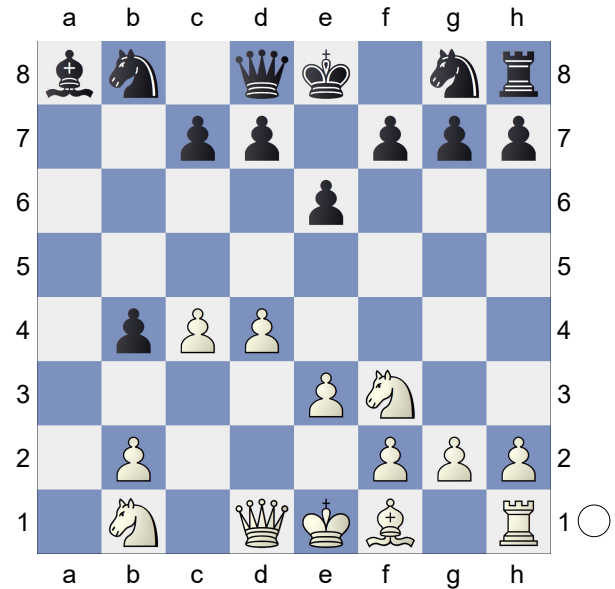
A40
1359
1530
2025 NY TNM: u1600 (4.6) 28.01.2025
[Winslow,Elliott]

Bilguun, Chinguun's sister (I think!),
showed form in the 1600-1999 section,
smoothly dispatching Albert Starr's
Orangutan Defense. **1.d4 2 b5 5 2.e3**
38 Bb7 7 3.Nf3 28 a6 5 4.c4 27 b4 30
[4...bxc4 5.Bxc4 e6 6.0-0 Nf6
7.Nc3 d5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Ne5 c5
10.f4 cxd4 11.exd4 Be7 12.Kh1 0-0
13.Qf3 Rc8 14.Qh3 Ne4 15.Ne2
Ndf6 16.b3 a5 17.g4 Qd6 18.g5
Ne8 19.a4 Qd8 20.Rf3 N8d6
21.Ng3 g6 22.Qh6 Qb6 23.Nxe4
dxe4 24.Rh3 exd3+ 25.Kg1 Qxd4+
26.Kf1 Rxc1+ 27.Rxc1 Qxf4+ 28.Nf3
Qxc1+ 29.Ne1 Qf4+ 30.Nf3 Qxf3+
31.Rxf3 Bxf3 0-1 Sarana,A (2693)-
Nihal,S (2694) Chess.com Speed
Chess Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (1)]
5.a3 6:43 e6 9 6.Bd2 1:40 a5 22
7.axb4 7:57 Bxb4 27 8.Bxb4 20 axb4
8 9.Rxa8 2:50 Bxa8 7

(Diagram)

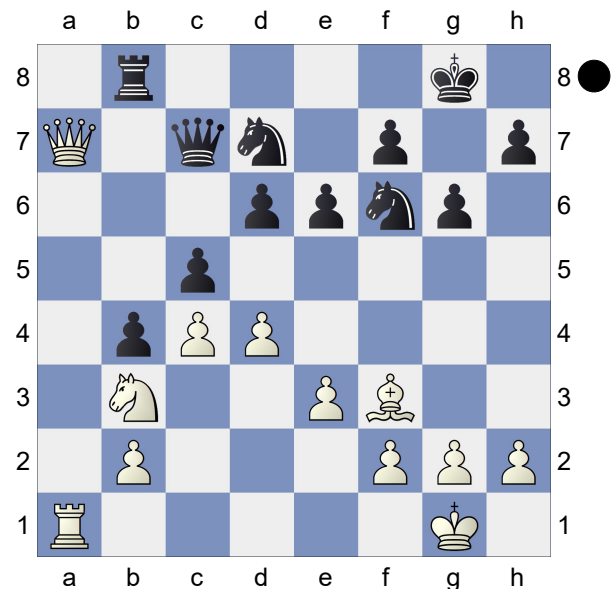
10.Be2N 5:10

[Admittedly this opening reference
game was even smoother... 10.Qa4
Nc6 11.Nbd2 Nf6 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0
Qe7 14.Ra1 g6 15.Ne1 Bb7 16.Nd3
Ra8 17.Qd1 d6 18.Rxa8+ Bxa8
19.Qa4 Qd8 20.Bf3 d5 21.cxd5
Nxd5 22.Bxd5 exd5 23.Nc5 Qb8
24.Nf3 Kg7 25.Ne1 Ne7 26.Ned3
1-0 Burmakin,V (2504)-Wheeler,C
(2406) Titled Tuesday intern op 6th



Nov Chess.com INT blitz 2018 (6)]

10...Nf6 13 11.0-0 1:01 0-0 6 12.Nbd2
7:49 d6 8 13.Qa4 4:10 Bxf3 9 14.Bxf3
6:34 c5 8 15.Nb3 1:08 Nbd7 25
16.Qb5 12:25 Qc7 1:50 17.Ra1 2:46
Rb8 34 18.Qa6 2:35 g6 1:11 19.Qa7
2:15



Qxa7 35 20.Rxa7 Nb6 17 21.Nd2 3:01
Nc8 3:50 22.Ra5 4:02 Nd7 3:46 23.b3
1:45 e5 21 24.Bc6 2:37 Ndb6 48
25.dxc5 8:50 dxc5 8 26.Rxc5 7 Ne7 7
27.Bd5 46 Rd8 57 28.e4 31 Kf8 2:10
29.Rb5 1:46 Nd7 1:32 30.Rxb4 1:15
Nc5 1:17 31.Kf1 2:19 f5 1:21 32.f3 39
Nd3 1:42 33.Rb6 1:53 Nxd5 1:25

34.exd5 3:47 Rd7 31 35.g3 1:59 Kf7
4:45 36.Ke2 15 Nc5 26 37.Rc6 32
Nb7 12 38.b4 22 g5 44 39.Re6 1:06
Re7 1:03 40.Rxe7+ 3 Kxe7 7 41.c5 15
h5 1:15 42.Nc4 16 e4 1:42 43.fxe4 10
fxe4 8 44.Ke3 5 g4 44 45.Kxe4 9 Nd8
20 46.Ne5 26 Nb7 38 47.Kf5 44
1-0

□ **Agrawal, Varun**

■ **Das, Rohan**

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (4.9) 28.01.2025
[Winslow, Elliott]

C54

1913

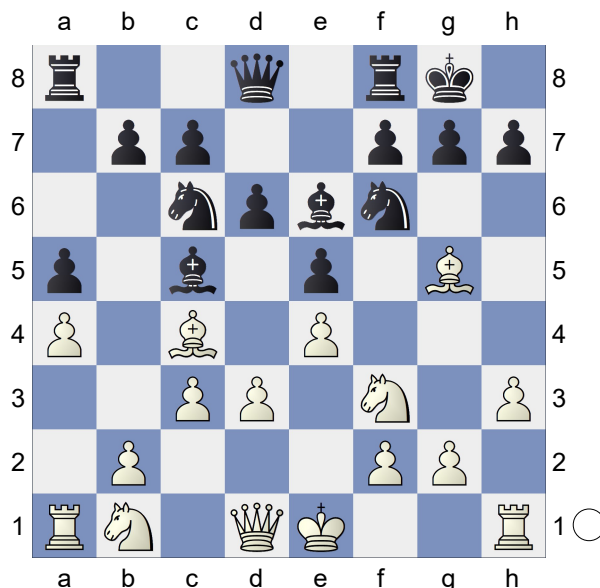
2146

After the previous round and now this,
 Agrawal must draw the cause-and-effect
 conclusion that ****ENDGAMES**
MATTER** !!! He threw away another
 one deep in the game. I don't know if
 time trouble affected him here (I would
 not want to have to figure that ending
 out with little time!) but knowing your
 way around the endgame would have
 saved him here. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6**
3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.h3 a5

[Relevant: 6...a6 7.Bb3 h6 8.Nbd2
 Ba7 9.Nf1 d5 10.Qe2 Be6 11.Ng3
 0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.Rd1 Qe7 14.d4
 dxe4 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Bxb3
 17.axb3 Qxe5 18.Be3 Bxe3 19.Qxe3
 Rad8 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Re1 Re8
 22.b4 h5 23.Rd1 h4 24.Nf1 Nd5
 25.Qc5 c6 26.Ne3 Nxe3 27.Qxe3
 g5 28.Rd7 Re7 29.Rxe7 Qxe7 30.f3
 f5 31.fxe4 fxe4 32.Kf2 Qf7+ 33.Ke2
 Qc4+ 34.Ke1 Qd5 35.g3 hxg3
 36.Qxg3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (62) Aronian, L (2730)-
 So, W (2757) Chess.com Classic Div 2
 L Chess.com INT rapid 2024 (5.1)]

7.a4 0-0 8.Bg5 Be6

(Diagram)



9.Qb3N

[Predecessor: 9.Nbd2 h6 10.Bh4 g5
 11.Bg3 Ne7 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.d4
 exd4 14.Nxd4 Qd7 15.0-0 c6 16.e5
 Bxd4 17.cxd4 dxe5 18.dxe5 Nfd5
 19.Qg4 Nf5 20.Ne4 Qg7 21.Rad1
 Kh8 22.Rfe1 Kh7 23.Qe2 Rad8
 24.Qc2 Kh8 25.Qb3 Rd7 26.f3
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Raahauge, L (1952)-Nielsen, A
 (1951) DEN-ch Kort2 Gr-1 Svendborg
 2022 (4)]

9...Bxc4 10.Qxc4 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6
12.0-0 Qe6 13.Nbd2 Qxc4 14.Nxc4
f5 15.exf5 Rxf5 16.Ne3 Rf7 17.Rae1
Ne7 18.d4 exd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd4
20.cxd4 Rf4 21.Rc1 c6 22.Rfd1 Nf5
23.Nxf5 Rxf5 24.Rc3 Re8 25.Re3 Kf8
26.Rde1 Rxe3 27.fxe3 d5
 [27...Ke7!#]

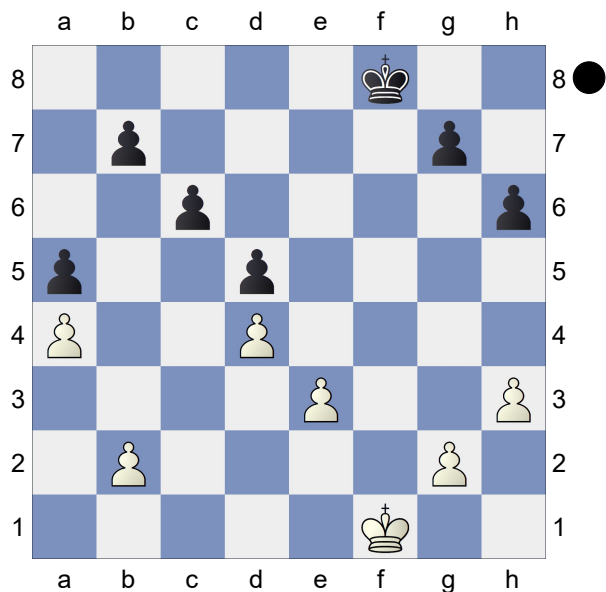
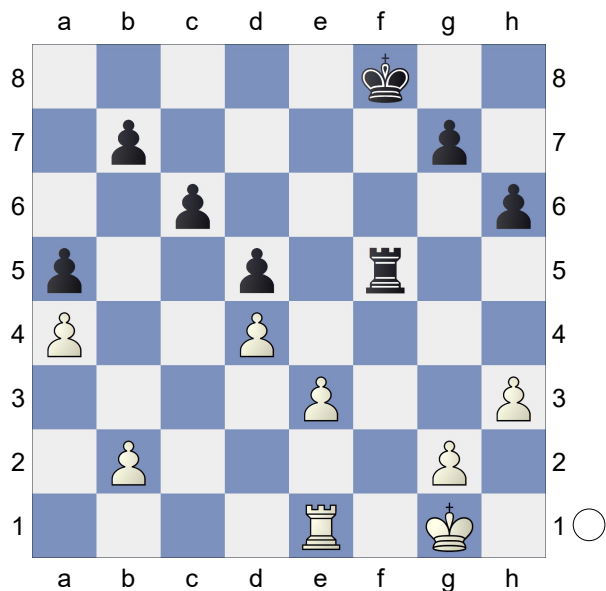
(Diagram)

28.Rf1 Equal but tricky.

[28.Rc1!? Rf6 29.Rc5 b6 30.Rc3
 Ke7 31.Rb3 c5 32.dxc5 (32.Rb5
 cxd4 33.exd4 Rd6=) 32...bxc5
 33.Rb5 Kd6 34.Rxa5 Rf7=]

28...Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1

(Diagram)

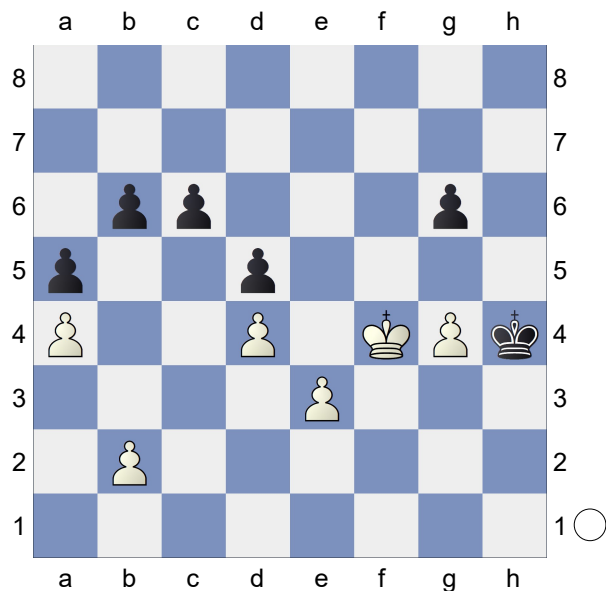


**Kf7 30.Ke2 Kf6 31.g3 h5 32.Kf2 Kg5
33.Kf3 Kf5 34.g4+ hxg4+ 35.hxg4+
Kg5 36.Kg3 b6 37.Kf3
[37.Kh3]
37...Kh4 38.Kf4 g6**

(Diagram)

39.b3??

[39.g5! Kh5 40.e4!? (40.b3 Kh4
41.e4 dxe4 42.Kxe4= White: 7
moves to queen; Black: 7 moves to
queen.) 40...dxe4 41.Kxe4 Kxg5
42.Ke5 Kh5 43.Kd6 g5 44.Kxc6 g4
45.d5 g3 46.d6 g2 47.d7 g1Q



**48.d8Q Qc1+= (48...Qc5+??
49.Kb7+-)]**

39...Kh3??=

[39...g5+! 40.Kf5 b5!-+ Sometimes
in these positions you have to wonder
about

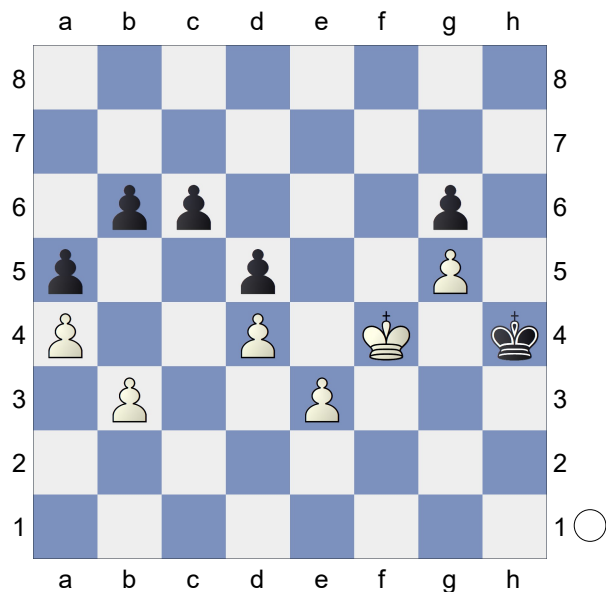
**A) 41.axb5 cxb5 42.e4 a4!-+
(42...b4 43.exd5 a4-+);**

**B) 41.b4?! but not here: 41...axb4
will queen with check.]**

40.g5!

[40.e4! dxe4 41.g5!= the only
move!]

40...Kh4□



41.Ke5??

[41.e4! still draws.]

41...Kxg5 Finally! Black is ahead in the race. **42.Kd6 Kf5 43.Kxc6 Ke4 44.Kxb6 g5 45.Kxa5 g4 46.Kb6 g3 47.a5 g2 48.a6 g1Q 49.a7 Qg8 50.b4 Qc8 51.b5 Kxe3 0-1**

□ **Admassu,Yonathan**

■ **Krishnan,Sreyshtaa**

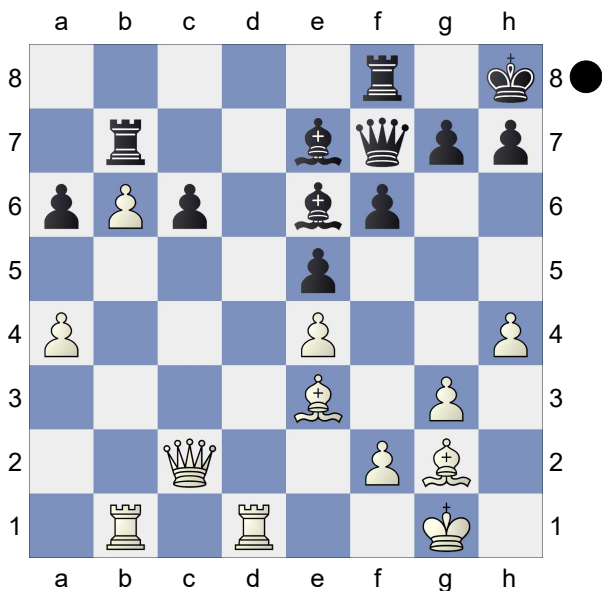
2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (4.17) 28.01.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

A33

1765

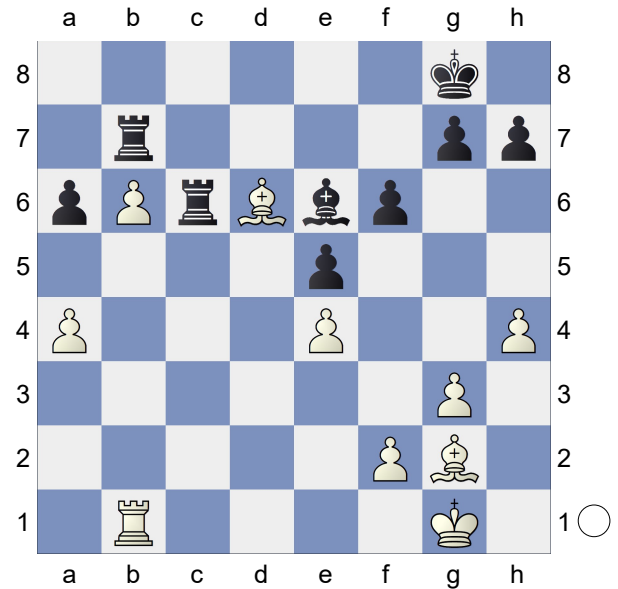
1435

A curious game all round. Krishnan's maneuvering was mesmerizing. 1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.g3 Bb4 7.Bg2 Qa5 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bd2 Qd8 10.Qa4 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.b4 Bb7 13.e4 a6 14.Rfe1 Ne8 15.Qb3 Nc7 16.Bf4 Bc8 17.Rab1 Kh8 18.Red1 Ra7 19.Qa4 Rb7 20.h4 f6 21.a3 e5 22.Be3 Qe8 23.Qc2 Qf7 24.Na4 d6 25.Nb6 Be6 26.a4 Na8 27.c5 dxc5 28.bxc5 Nxb6 29.cxb6



c5 30.Bxc5 Rc8 31.Bxe7 Rxc2 32.Rd8+ Qg8 33.Rxg8+ Kxg8 34.Bd6 Rc6

(Diagram)



35.a5 Rxd6 36.Bf1 Rd4 37.Bxa6 Rb8 38.Bf1 Ra4 39.a6 Bc8 40.a7 Rb7 41.Bc4+ Kf8 42.Bd5 Raxa7 43.bxa7 Rxb1+ 44.Kg2 1/2-1/2

C47

□ **Horde,Nicolas T**

1584

■ **Ploquin,Phil**

1682

2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (4.22) 28.01.25
[Horde,Nicolas T]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 Bxc3+?! There's no reason to give up the bishop pair, c4 fixes the structure after bxc6

7.bxc3 bxc6 8.Bd3 d6?! [8...d5?! I thought he would play that move but turns out d6 is actually more precise 9.e5 Ne4 10.0-0 0-0 11.f3 Nxc3 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Qd3+]

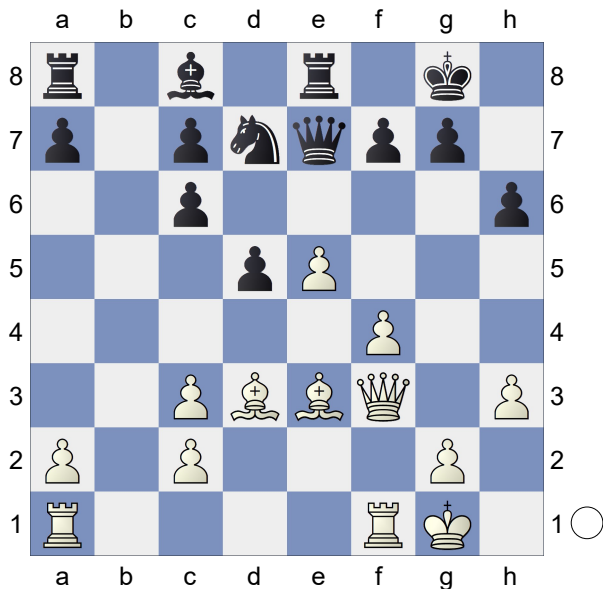
9.0-0 h6 10.h3 0-0 11.f4 Re8 12.Qf3 d5 13.e5 Nd7 14.Be3 Qe7

15.c4 [15.Rae1 a5 16.Qg3 This plan makes way more sense, Black is

(Diagram)

15.c4

[15.Rae1 a5 16.Qg3 This plan makes way more sense, Black is



really struggling to redeploy their pieces]

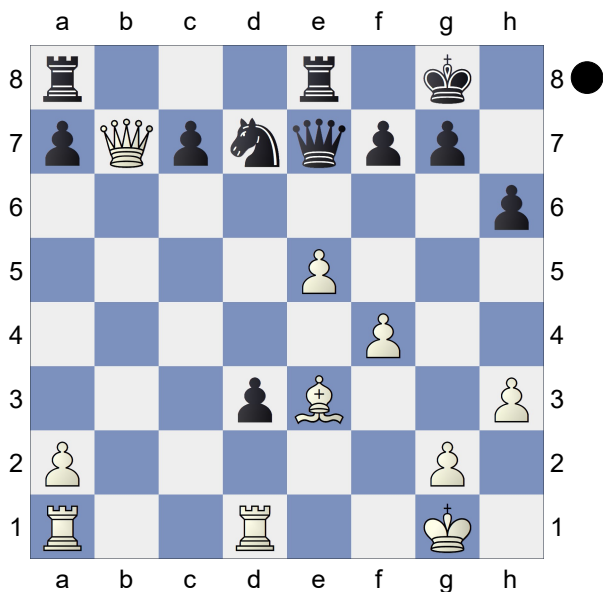
15...Bb7 16.cxd5

[16.Rab1 Reb8 17.Rfd1 Nb6
18.cxd5 cxd5 19.Qf2]

16...cxd5 17.c4? Just the wrong idea, I was obsessed with my development that I forgot that Black is really disorganized and this simplifies everything **17...dxc4** I just forgot Black can just take on c4 instead of pushing on d4

[17...d4? 18.Qxb7 dxe3 19.Qe4]

18.Qxb7 cxd3 19.Rfd1



Nc5?!

[SF loves 19...g5 to force the

simplifications 20.Qxc7 gxf4 21.Bxf4 Nxe5 22.Bxe5 Qxe5 23.Qxe5 Rxe5 24.Rxd3]

20.Qc6! Ne6 21.Rxd3 Rad8 22.Rad1

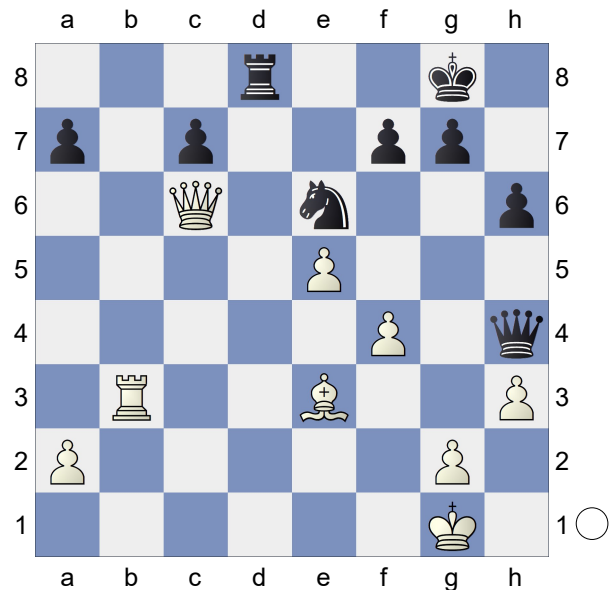
[Perhaps 22.Rc3 Nd4 23.Bxd4!? (23.Qc4) 23...Rxd4 24.Rf1 Rc8 White has a little something (less weak pawns) but it's not much.]

22...Rxd3 23.Rxd3 Rd8 24.Rb3

Very risky because Black gets counterplay

[24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Qe4 With the threat of f5 (Or just 25.Bxa7 Nxf4 26.a4)]

24...Qh4



25.f5??

[25.Qc1 Nd4 26.Bxd4 Rxd4 27.e6 fxe6 28.Rb8+]

25...Nd4!! White is in deep trouble

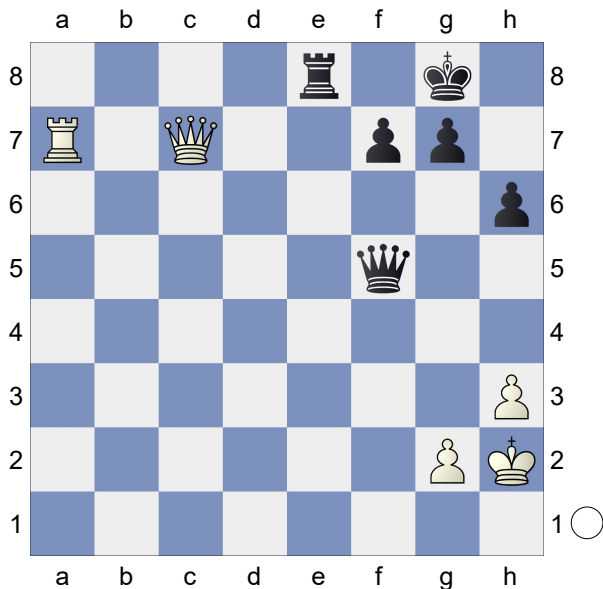
26.Bxd4 Qxd4+ 27.Kh1 Qxe5?

Quite good ("-+" SF)

[but 27...Qa1+! wins an obvious tempo which means quite a bit here! 28.Kh2 Qxe5+ 29.Kg1 Rd1+ And White's king gets out in the wild (SF: -7.55/28!)]

28.Qc2 Re8 29.Rb7 Qd5 30.Qxc7 Qxa2 31.Rxa7 Qb1+ 32.Kh2 Qxf5

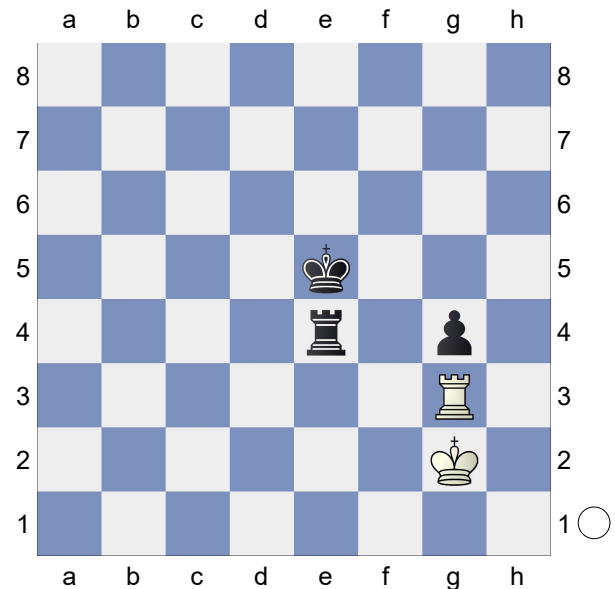
(Diagram)



This is an easy draw but Black wanted to double check I knew how to defend
33.Rb7 Qe5+ Makes it even easier
34.Qxe5 Rxe5 35.Rb4 The plan is just to trade all the pawns and set up a Philidor position **35...h5 36.g4 Kh7 37.Rf4 Kg6 38.Kg3 hxg4 39.hxg4 f5 40.gxf5+ Rxf5 41.Rb4**
 [41.Rxf5?? Kxf5 42.Kh4 Kf4]
 [41.Rg4+ Rg5 42.Kh4! Rxc4+ 43.Kxc4 Would had spared me 30 more defensive moves]
41...Kg5 42.Rg4+ Kf6 43.Rb4 Kg6 44.Kg4 Rf1 45.Rb6+ Kh7 46.Rb7 Kh6 47.Rb6+ g6 48.Rc6 Rd1 49.Rc4 Rg1+ 50.Kf3 Kh5 51.Kf2 Rg4 52.Rc5+ Kh4 53.Rc7 Rf4+ 54.Kg2 g5 55.Rc3 Rb4 56.Rh3+ Kg4 57.Rg3+ Kf5 58.Rf3+ Rf4 59.Rb3
 [59.Rxf4+ Kxf4 60.Kf2 Kg4 61.Kg2]
59...Re4 60.Rf3+ Ke5 61.Rg3 g4

(Diagram)

The Philidor position is set up **62.Rb3 Kf4 63.Ra3 Re2+ 64.Kf1 Re3 65.Rxe3 Kxe3 66.Kg2 Kf4 67.Kf2 Ke4 68.Kg2 Kf4 69.Kf2 g3+ 70.Kg1 Kf3 71.Kf1 Kg4 72.Kg2 Kh4 73.Kg1!**
 [73.Kh1?? Would had been



embarrassing **Kh3 74.Kg1 g2 75.Kf2]**
73...Kh3 74.Kh1 g2+ 75.Kg1 Kg3
 ½-½

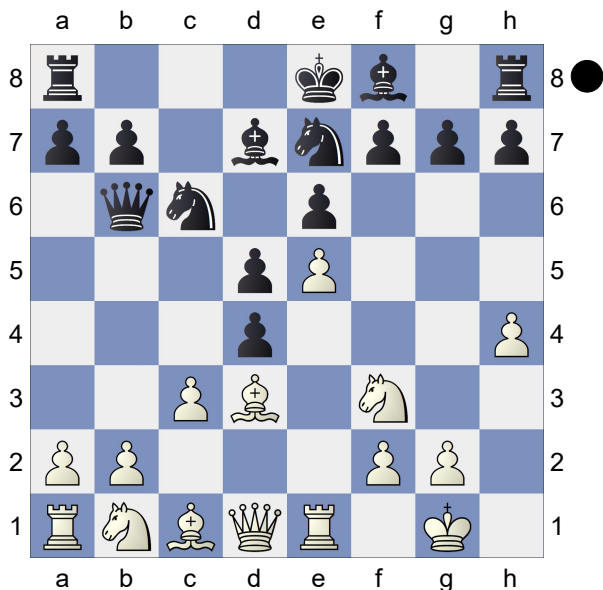
□ **Hollon,Nick** **C02 1295**
 ■ **Madden,Dahlia** **1195**
 2025 NY TNM: u1600 (4.27) 28.01.2025
 [Winslow,Elliott]

A critical game, putting Nick Hollon in a tie for 1st-2nd with Bilguun Bayaraa. But it wasn't very likely: Madden had played an excellent attack, complete with a knight sacrifice on g2 and a rook going wild as well -- until in a relatively technical position material up Black walked into a knight fork. Still three rounds to go... **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.0-0!** is recently more successful than 7. cxd4.

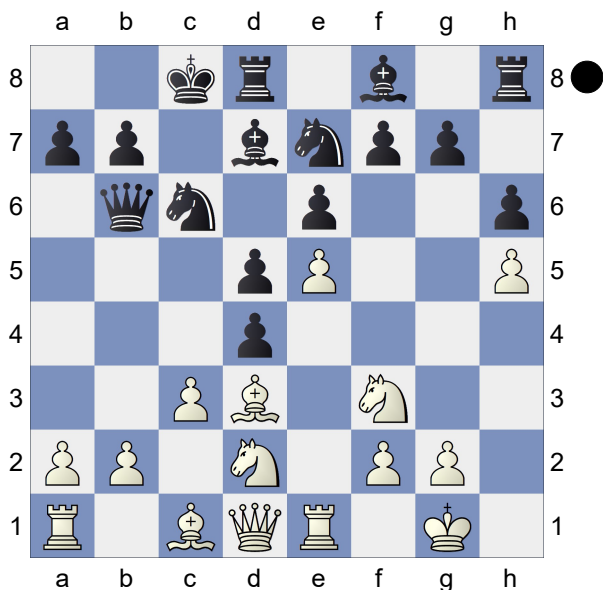
[7.cxd4 Bd7 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Nbd2 Nxf3+ 10.Nxf3 Bc5 11.b4 Qxb4 12.Rb1 Qa4 13.Qe2 Bc6 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Ne7 16.Nd4 0-0 17.Rf4 Qa3 18.Rb3 Qc1+ 19.Rf1 Qc5 20.Qh5 g6 21.Qg5 Rae8 22.h4

Nc8 23.h5 Qe7 24.Rf6 Nb6 25.hxg6
fxg6 26.Bxg6 Qg7 27.Bxh7+ Kh8
28.Rg6 Qxh7 29.Rh6 Rf7 30.e4
1-0 Ivic,V (2620)-Tregubov,P (2554)
Titled Tuesday intern op 07th Jan
Early Chess.com INT blitz 2025 (7)]

7...Bd7 8.Re1 Nge7 9.h4



h6 10.h5 0-0-0 11.Nbd2±



g5! ?N

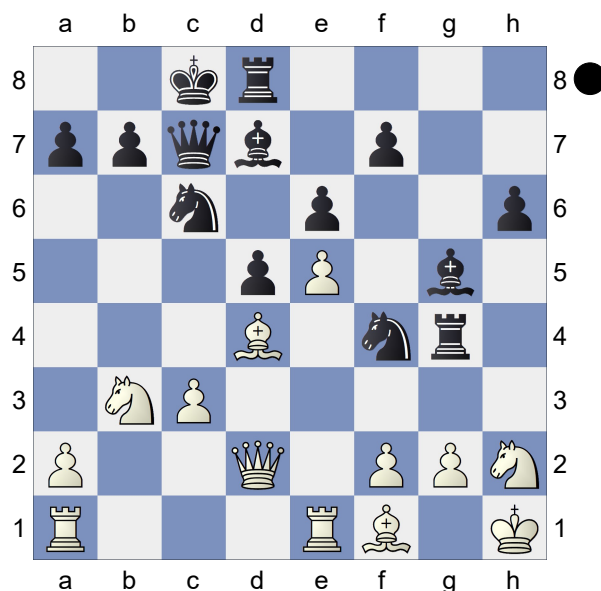
[11...f6 12.a4 fxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5
14.Rxe5 Nc6 15.a5 Qc7 16.Re1 e5
17.cxd4 Nxd4 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.Qxb3
e4 20.Bf1 Bc6 21.g3 Bd6 22.Be3
d4 23.Bxd4 Bxg3 24.Bh3+ Kb8
25.Qe3 Bh2+ 26.Kf1 Bf4 27.Bxa7+

Ka8 28.Bb6 Qd6 29.Qa3 Qd3+
30.Qxd3 Rxd3 31.Bf5 Re8 32.Red1
Bb5 33.Kg1 Re5 34.Rxd3 Bxd3
35.Bg6 Be2 36.Ra3 Rg5+ 37.Kh1
Bf3+ 38.Rxf3 exf3 39.Be4 Rxh5+
40.Kg1 Rb5 41.Bxf3 0-1 (77)
Kovalskyi,R (2056)-Tichy,S (2207)
Pardubice rapid op 33rd 2022 (6)]

12.hxg6?!

[12.Nb3! dxc3 13.bxc3 Nf5
14.Nfd4]

**12...Nxc6 13.Nb3 dxc3 14.bxc3 Rg8
15.Be3 Qc7 16.Bd4 Nf4 17.Bf1 Be7
18.Qd2 Rg4 19.Kh1 Bg5 20.Nh2**



Nxc2! 21.Qd1 Rxd4

[21...Rh4! 22.Bxg2 (22.Kxg2 Bf4)
22...Bf4]

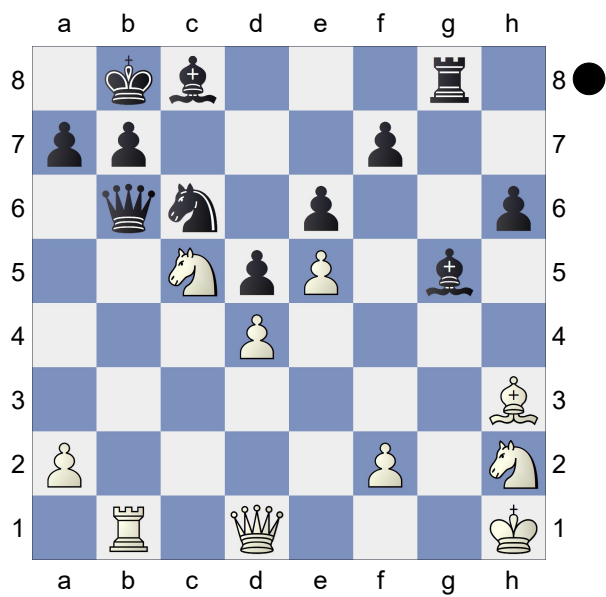
**22.cxd4! Nxe1 23.Qxe1 Rg8 24.Bh3
Qb6 25.Qd1 Kb8 26.Nc5 Bc8 27.Rb1**

(Diagram)

Qc7??

[27...Qa5+]
[27...Qd8+]

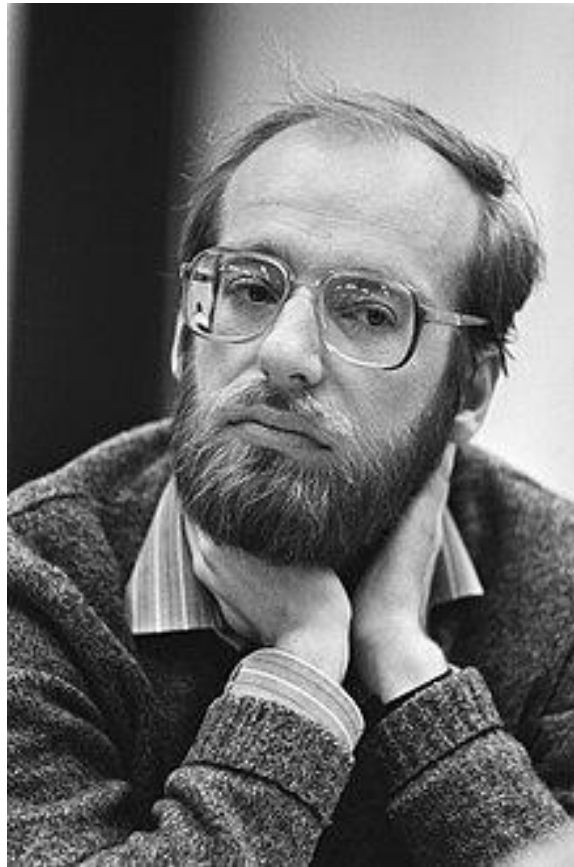
**28.Na6+ Ka8 29.Nxc7+ Kb8 30.Nb5
1-0**



Robert Huebner: An Appreciation

Ray Freeman

German Grandmaster Robert Huebner died on January 5, 2025 of stomach cancer after a long illness. Huebner was an elite player in the 1970s and 80s. He was famous for deep and meticulous analysis. His seminal book on his own games, *Twenty Five Annotated Games*, was published in 1996. Its English translation is 416 pages long. For twenty five games!! I was fortunate enough to find a like-new copy at Moe's Books in Berkeley about a year ago. He spoke at least 12 languages and was a papyrologist and had work as a translator.



Huebner was born just outside of Cologne in 1948. He learned chess from his father at the age of five. He finished 4th at the 1967 World Junior Championship, behind Julio Kaplan, Raymond Keene, and Jan Timman.

He burst into international prominence in the Interzonal Tournament in 1970, played in Palma de Mallorca, where he finished tied for second with Bent Larsen and Efim Geller. This, the last Interzonal Tournament played to qualify for the World Championship cycle was won, going away, by a certain Robert James Fischer, starting his incredible run to becoming World Champion.

Other also-rans at this Interzonal included Mark Taimanov, Wolfgang Uhlmann, Lajos Portisch, Vasily Smyslov, Lev Poluaevsky, Svetozar Gligoric, Oscar Panno, and Henrique Mecking, just to name those who finished with plus scores. Needless to say, this was a very strong event. Huebner faced Tigran Petrosian in the Candidates quarterfinals, drawing the first 6 games. He blundered a piece in game 7 and withdrew from the match, disturbed by the noise levels in the playing hall. As we know, Petrosian made it to the final Candidates match, the only candidate to take ANY points from Fischer.

Huebner won a gold medal playing for Germany on Board One at the Skopje Olympiad in 1972, beating Petrosian in the process, and finishing +12 =6 -0. He played for the German Olympic team 11 times, the last in 2000.

In the 1981 Candidates, Huebner made it to the final match, beating Adorjan and Portisch along the way. But, as in 1971, he blundered in game seven against Korchnoi on move 63 and also lost in the following round and resigned the match. In July of the same year (1981), Huebner was ranked third in the world behind Karpov and Korchnoi.

In 1983, Huebner again qualified for the Candidates by virtue of being a Candidates finalist in the previous cycle. He was matched with Smyslov in the first match. He lost game four and won game nine. Beginning round 11 was a four game playoff. All 4 games were drawn. FIDE rules called for the drawing of lots to decide the winner, but it was determined to instead decide the winner on a roll at the local casino's roulette table. The first roll landed on Green! The second on Red, allowing Smyslov to advance.

Huebner again qualified for the Candidates in 1991, by finishing 5th in the 1990 Interzonal Tournament. He lost in his first match to Timman who then beat Korchnoi and Yusupov before losing to Short.

Huebner was known for his deep analytical ability. Huebner wrote several Books: *Twenty Five Annotated Games* and the mind-bogglingly named *55 Fat Blunders* in 1990, which featured only losses by himself. He also wrote a deep analysis of all of

Bobby Fischer's My 60 Memorable Games (*Material Related to Fischer's Games*) in 2004, as well as a book on the Lasker-Steinitz World Championship Match.

He also developed a variation of the Nimzo-Indian which bears his name. The line runs **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bxc3+**. Fischer used it to beat Boris Spassky in Game 5 of their World Championship match in 27 moves. I have played this line a few times myself, probably inspired by the Fischer-Spassky game.

Perhaps his most famous quote was "Those who say they understand chess, understand nothing."

I have selected a miniature of his from the 1987 Interpolis Chess tournament held in the Netherlands. His opponent was an old nemesis, Korchnoi. This event was an 8 player double round robin. The Interpolis Chess Tournament ran from 1977-1994. The tournament was held with a different sponsor 3 more times. The format has changed several times over the years, but the field was consistently world class. Anatoly Karpov won this event seven times. Both Huebner and Korchnoi finished in a 3-way tie for first in 1985 with Tony Miles. Huebner tied for 2nd in 1987. Korchnoi was 4th.

Here is the game:

Huebner-Korchnoi Tilburg 1987 Round 3 C82

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. OO Ne4 The Open Defense to the Ruy Lopez
6. d4 The sharpest response. **6. ... b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. de5 Be6 9. c3**



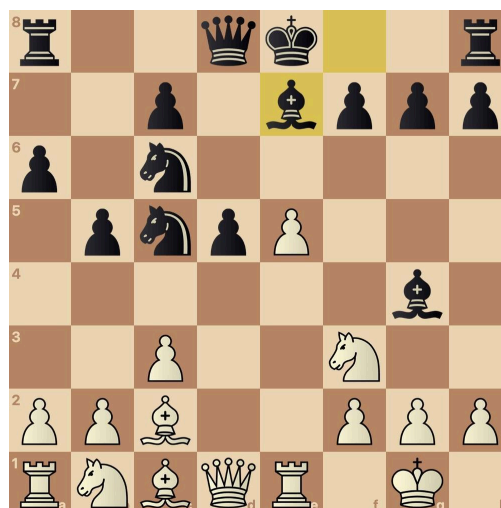
Against Ljubojevic in Tilburg, 1985, Huebner played 9. Nbd2 Nc5 10. c3 d4 11. Be6 Ne6 12. cd4 Ncd4 13. Ne4. In his own notes to the game, Huebner said he now considers 13. a4 to be more promising.

9. c3 has the obvious advantage of preserving White's Bishop pair. Now the two most common moves for Black are 9. ... Be7 and 9. ... Bc5, which are played equally frequently. Stockfish prefers the latter. For example, 9. ... Bc5 10. Nbd2 OO 11. Bc2 Bf5 12. Nb3 Bb6 13. Nfd4 Ne7 14. Nf5 Nf5 15. a4 +0.5. But 9. ... Be7 10. Nbd2 Nc5 11. Bc2 d4 is also +0.5

Black's next is much rarer.

9. ... Nc5 10. Bc2 An obvious and logical continuation, although 10. Nbd2 is about 10 times more common. BTW, I am using Chessgames.com Opening Database as my source for move frequency.

10. ... Bg4 11. Re1 Be7.



Stockfish rates 11. ... d4 as slightly better. 12. h3 d3 13. hg4 dc2 14. Qc2 Qd3 15. Na3 h5 16. g5 OOO 17. b4 Ne6 18. Be3 +0.5.

12. Nbd2 Qd7 [12. ... d4 and OO are also book moves] **13. Nf1 Rd8 14. Ne3 Bh5 15. Nf5** [The Chess.com database claims that 15. b4 Ne6 16. g4 Bg6 17. Nf5 OO 18. a4 is the way to go, citing, among others, a couple of games by Shabalov from 1992-93 and one by Khalifman in 2000. Obviously, those games were played years after this one.]



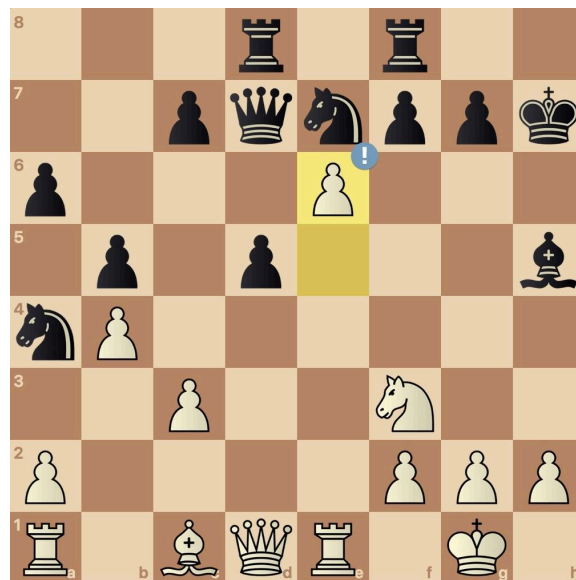
To this point the players have been following Bronstein-Makogov, SSSR Ch 1944. Now Korchnoi deviates **15. ... OO 16. Ne7+ Ne7** [Qe7 is much inferior +1.5] **17. b4?!** [= Stockfish's evaluation. It claims that 17. Be3 Ne6 18. Bh7+ Kh7 19. Ng5+ Kg6! 20. g4! is +0.6]

17. ... Na4? +1.5 Korchnoi goes badly wrong. [Much better was 17. ... Ne4 18. Be4 de4 19. Qd7 Rd7 20. Nd4 Nd5 =] The Knight needs to stay centralized. To be fair, Korchnoi had a horrible start in this event, scoring only ½ from his first 4 games. Perhaps he was not feeling well? He rallied and went on to finish one point out of the lead, only losing one more game...to Huebner in Round 10!]



18. Bh7+!! Kh7? The losing move. [Better was 18. ... Kh8 19. Bc2 Nc3 20. Qd3 Ne4 21. Ng5 Bg6 22. e6 fe6 23. Hh3+ Kg8 24. Be4 de4 25. Ne6 Rde8 26. Nf8 Qh3 27. gh3 Rf8 28. Be3 +2.2]

19. e6! Korchnoi spent 50 minutes at the board analyzing the possibilities, considering the zwischenzug 19. ... Bf3. When he realized that instead of 20. Qc2+, White could play 20. Qd3+ Be4 21. Qh3+ Kg8 22. ed7 winning Black's Queen, **Black resigned.**



The game could have continued 19. ... fe6 20. Ng5+! Kg8 21. Qh5 Rf6 22. Re6!! Qe6
[22. ... Re6 does not work either. 23. Qf7+ Kh8 24. Ne6 Nc8 25. Nd8 Qd8 26. Bg5 Qg5 27. Qf8+ Kh7 28. Qc8 and White is up an exchange and a pawn, and Black's Knight has difficulty getting back into the game. Black can not play 28 ... Nc3 due to Qh3+ picking up the Knight.]

After 22. ... Qe6, there follows 23. Qh7+ Kf8 24. Ne6+ Re6 25. Be3 Kf7
[Or 25. ... c5 26. bc5 Nc3 27. Kf1 Ne4 28. Bd4 Nf6 29. Qh8+ Neg8 +4.5]

26. Bd4 Rg8 27. Qh4 Nb2 28. Qf4+ Kg6 29. h4 Nc4 30 h5+ Kh7 31. Qf7 Re4
32. Bc5 +5.2

After this debacle, Korchnoi told Huebner. "Well played. It's a pity you did not play like this in 1980." Referring to their Candidates match that year.

I never had the opportunity to meet Huebner, who came to North America to play at Houston 1974, Montreal 1979, and Chicago 1982. I don't believe he ever visited the Mechanics, but he did manage to play three individuals associated with The Institute, John Grefe, Sal Matera, and Walter Browne.

Houston 1974 Huebner Won with +5 =6 -0
Grefe-Huebner French Winawer 1/2
Matera-Huebner Sicilian Kan 0-1

Montreal 1979 Karpov and Tal tied for first with 12/18
Huebner finished 8/18
10 of the 12 strongest Grandmasters in the World participated.

Chicago 1982 Huebner Won with +6 =4 -0
Huebner-Browne 1-0 Sicilian Najdorf
Browne-Huebner ½ Kings Indian Defense

Huebner played Browne in two other tournaments
Tilburg 1982 Huebner-Browne 1-0 English Symmetrical
Lucerne Olympiad 1982 Browne-Huebner 0-1 Queens Indian

Three New Books from Thinkers Publishing

IM John Donaldson

Lessons on Uncompromising Play (2024, 350 pages, hardback, \$49.95) by David Navara

Reloaded Weapons in the Benoni: Second Revised and Extended Edition (2024, 158 pages, hardback, \$34.95) by Milos Pavlovic

The Scheveningen Sicilian Revisited A Complete Repertoire for the Sicilian Player (2024, 176 pages, hardback, \$34.95) by Daniel Gormally

Czech Grandmaster David Navara, who turns 40 in late March, is one of the kindest and best-liked players on the international circuit. He is also known for his fighting spirit which combined with hard work and talent helped him maintain a FIDE rating over 2700 for more than a decade peaking at 2751.

Players of this rank (Navara was routinely rated in the top 20 players in the world in the 2010s) normally focus exclusively on playing but the Czech Grandmaster is an exception. His latest offering, *Lessons on Uncompromising Play*, follows his well-received work *My Chess World* (also from Thinkers Publishing), and like its predecessor is centered around well annotated games played by the author - in this case around 100 games and game fragments.

Navara has arranged these games around various themes. Some topics, like the fight for the initiative, tenacious defense and attacking chess, have been written about before. Others, like winning on demand and winning drawish positions have seldom been addressed and offer a wealth of practical advice for the tournament player.

The author of *Lessons on Uncompromising Play* offers plenty of variations in his annotations, but rather than overwhelm the reader with masses of computer-generated analysis, confines the lines he presents to those that are most pertinent. The part of this book that will be most useful to serious students of the game is the author's explanatory prose.

The following comment, taken from the game Navara-Swinkels, Rhodes 2013, is a typical example of Navarra's ability to clearly explain things in a way that is accessible to a wide readership.



Here White is a doubled f-pawn up. Is the position winning? Stockfish certainly thinks so, offering an evaluation of +2.50 for the first player. But what is the winning plan? Navara presents an easy-to-understand roadmap.

The main idea behind 23.h4! transpires now. If Black succeeds in playing ...g7–g6 andh7–h5, he will improve his position considerably, as his king can breathe freely. He nevertheless lacks one tempo. In the given position White wants to exchange neither queens nor rooks. My plan was to push the pawn to h5 to press Black's king, then improve the position of White's queen, advance the queenside pawns, then eventually exchange queens at the right moment and win an endgame with an active rook against a passive one.

Lessons on Uncompromising Play is a book that deserves a wide audience. Tournament players from 1800 on up will benefit from studying this book while armchair Grandmasters will enjoy playing over the games and reading about the life of a top-level professional.

Highly recommended

The Modern Benoni, a favorite of Bobby Fischer and the young Garry Kasparov remains one of Black's sharpest answers to 1.d4 this century. This opening can cover a lot of ground as Black often has several ways to meet major White systems. For example after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3

g6 7.e4 Bg7 8. Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Black can develop his queen knight to d7 or a6 or play ...Bg4 – all with or without ...Re8.

The Serbian Grandmaster Milos Pavlovic, in a follow up to his 2017 book on the same subject, has chosen to write a book from Black's perspective offering a narrow repertoire in which all of White's tries: from the Four Pawns Attack to the Classical variation are dealt with. In so doing he has produced a very personal book that is not overwhelming for newcomers to the opening yet also offers fresh ideas for experienced users.

The Scheveningen is not only a variation in the Sicilian (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 but also a complex (pawns on ...e6 and ...d6) which can come about from a variety of Sicilian variations including the Najdorf, Taimanov and Paulsen (Kan). As such it is a system that anyone with has a mainline 1.e4 repertoire or who plays Sicilians with a ...e6 and ...d6 pawn structures needs to be familiar with.

English Grandmaster Danny Gormally's *The Scheveningen Sicilian Revisited A Complete Repertoire for the Sicilian Player*, which centers around well-annotated model games, is not so much a theoretical work as a guide to typical middlegame positions that arise from the Scheveningen. It should prove useful for players rated below 2400 FIDE who want to understand the typical plans for both sides in this opening.

Chess in the Community

By Alex Robins

Do you ever get tired of playing chess in the oldest Chess Room in North America surrounded by history and a warm and welcoming community? Then don't worry the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club has the program just for you. All jokes aside, over the past couple of years we've greatly expanded our partnerships with nonprofits and city organizations to provide chess out in the streets!

We're extremely grateful to all of our partners including the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy, Parks Alliance, Downtown SF Partnership, and Biederman Redevelopment Ventures for making these programs possible. Whether you come and stop by on your lunch break or come down on the weekend, come and join us

for a game of chess. Find below a schedule of our upcoming Chess in the Community Programs with weather permitting.

Thursdays

12pm-1pm

At Mechanics Monument Plaza

March 20th-June 26th

Fridays 10am-1pm

At Union Square

February 7th - and onward!

Saturdays 11am-2pm

At Yerba Buena Gardens

June 7th-August 30th

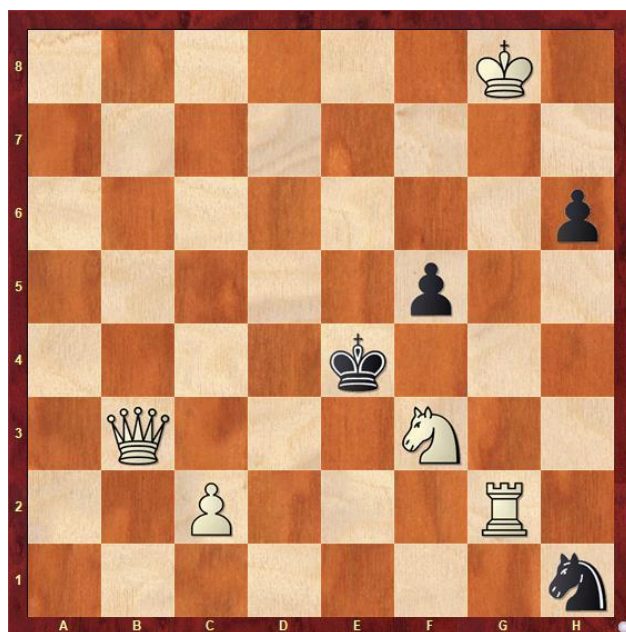
Sundays 11am-2pm

At UN Plaza

Through March 9th (and hopefully beyond!)

Tony's Teasers

William A. Shinkman 1876-1877
White to move and mate in three



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 win material



Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1.Qc3! is the magic move! And I'm confident you can solve the rest yourself from there.

For the Puzzle in the Library:

1.Nxe6+

Here we see a lesson in good vs bad development. Black has 2 pieces and a Rook cornered on the Queenside while White lined up a deadly attack. Now the White Knight forks the King and Queen. Knight takes Queen also threatens Black's Rook. Even worse, if the f-pawn takes Black discovers an attack on their own Queen. In the game, Black resigned.

From *Baterdene v. Robertson* August 29, 2017

Peter Grey Tuesday Night Marathon

Annotated by Steven Dunlap



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Contact Us

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

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Submit yours today at chessroom@milibrary.org

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