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CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1012 | April 2, 2022

Gens Una Sumus!

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Falconer TNM Round Five Report

Expert **Eugenio Garcia**, defending tenaciously, defeated the up-to-now-perfect **Edward Lewis** on 1st board in the top section and blew the tournament wide open. Garcia now shares the lead at 4.5 points with NM **Michael Walder** who won a quick game against an out-of-form **Nathan Fong**. Lewis is all alone at 4 points, while right behind him at 3.5 points are IM **Elliott Winslow** and **Nicholas Weng**, who defeated **Mikhail Molodyk** and **Stephen Parsons** respectively.

In the Under 1800 Section **Karl Stuart Kingma** widened his lead even further by defeating **Paul Reed** who blundered the game away on the 12th move. His perfect 5-0 score puts him a full point ahead of **Dean Guo**, **Venugopol Mani**, and **Rishabh Bhatnagar**.

Neil Falconer (1923-2014) was a Mechanics' Institute trustee. A remembrance penned by former Chess Room Director **IM John Donaldson** can be found here:
<http://www.uschess.org/index.php/April/Neil-Falconer-1923-2014.html>

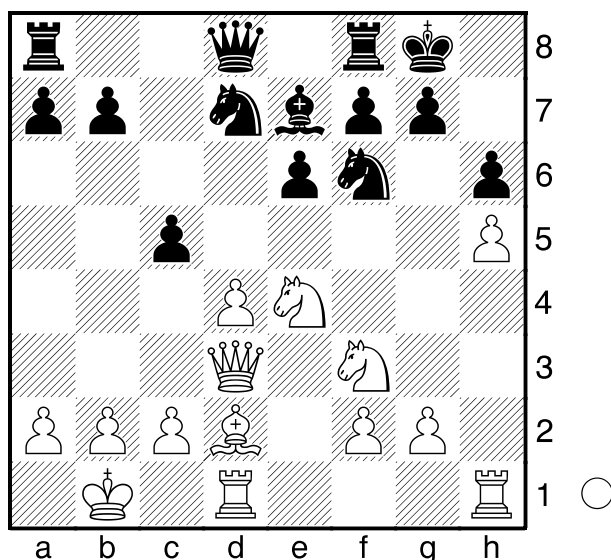
For TNM info, standings and results:
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

Follow the DGT action:
<https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tnm-2022/2/1/1>

Lewis,Edward
 Garcia,Eugenio
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (5.1) 29.03.2022
[de Firmian]

B19
1982
2103

1.e4 1:52 c6 9 2.d4 8 d5 6 3.Nc3 8
dxe4 9 4.Nxe4 5 Bf5 12 5.Ng3 6 Bg6
5 6.h4 2 h6 26 7.Nf3 8 Nd7 25 8.h5 9
Bh7 4 9.Bd3 1:43 Bxd3 15 10.Qxd3 10
 The most classic line of the Caro-Kann,
 played like this for over a half century.
10...e6 18 11.Bd2 5 Ngf6 22 12.0-0-0
24 Be7 31 13.Kb1 14 0-0 1:26 14.Ne4
 2:18 The proscribed plan here, and in
 general with opposite sides castling:
 throw the pawns at their king! **14...c5!?**
 4:16



15.Nxf6+?! 6:44
 [15.g4 This is the maximalist try. It
 gets the attack started right away.
 Nxg4 16.Qe2 Qb6 17.Bc3
 is active play for White]
15...Nxf6?! 12
 [Negi in his first Grandmaster
 Repertoire book in 2014 preferred
 15...Bxf6! and shows that Black is
 fine.]
16.g4! 33 Nxg4 6:25 17.Qe2 2:57
 "White gets a more pleasant position

without too much effort." (Negi) **17...Qd5**
 3:02

[17...cxd4 might be best: 18.Rhg1 d3
 19.cxd3 f5 is close to equal, but
 20.Qxe6+ Kh8 21.Bc3 Bf6 22.Nh4!
 Bxh4 23.Rxg4 Bf6 24.Rg6 Bxc3
 25.bxc3 is something, what with the
 passed pawn and a bit of a bind on
 the kingside.]

18.Rdg1? 3:22 It's so easy to say
 "Wrong rook!" but here it is.

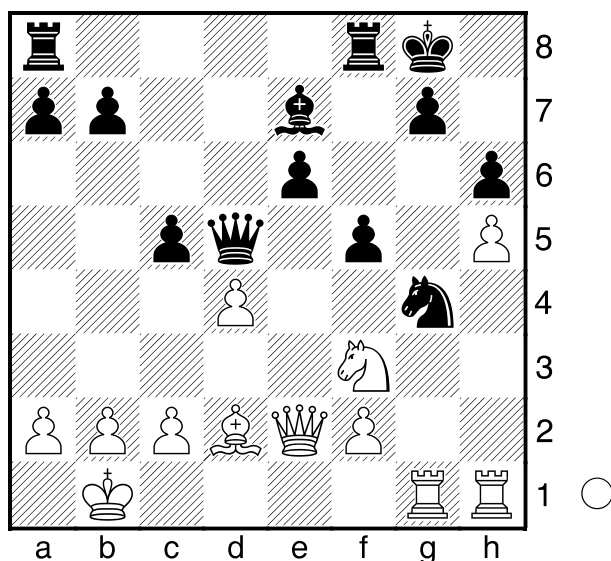
[18.Rhg1!± has some lines where
 there is play down d-file, plus no rook
 hanging on h1.

A) 18...f5 19.c4 even better than
 the two games here, although
 they're discouraging: (19.dxc5 Bf6
 20.Bxh6 Qxc5 21.Qxe6+ Rf7?!
 22.Ng5!+- Bxg5 23.Bxg5 Rc8
 24.h6 1-0 (24) Dobrowolski,P
 (2416) -Guzewicz,R (2045)
 Wroclaw 2015; 19.Ne5 cxd4
 20.Ng6 Rf7 21.f3 Nf6 22.Bxh6
 Bd6 23.Bxg7 Kh7 24.h6 Nh5
 25.Rxd4 Qc5 26.Qxe6 Nxg7
 27.hxg7 Qxd4 28.g8Q+ Kxg8
 29.Ne7+ Kh8 30.Rh1+ Rh7
 31.Rxh7+ Kxh7 32.Qg6+
 1-0 (32) Ni,H (2710) -Ruck,R (2574)
 Beijing 2008) 19...Qd6 (19...Qc6
 20.d5!) 20.Ne5 White pries open
 the g-file Bf6! 21.Nxg4 fxc4
 22.Rxg4 Kh8 23.Bf4 Qe7 24.d5±;

B) 18...Qxh5? 19.Rh1! (19.Rg2
 cxd4 20.Rdg1 f5 21.Nxd4 Bf6
 22.Qxe6+ Kh7 23.Qxf5+ Qxf5
 24.Nxf5 Be5 0-1 (53) Horton,A
 (2092)-Houska, J (2416) BCF-chT
 1314 (4NCL) , England 2013)
 19...Qf5 20.Nh4 Bxh4 21.Rxh4 h5
 22.f3 Nf6 23.Rg1+- Black has a
 couple pawns, but White's attack is
 going to be irresistible.]

18...f5!± 2:27

(Diagram)



The only defense but it's solid with no rook on d1. **19.dxc5** 4:30

[There has been a game: 19.c4

A) or **19...Qd7** 20.Nh2 (20.Ne5 Nxe5 21.dxe5 f4 sets up ...Bg5 to seal the g-file) 20...Nxh2 21.Rxh2 f4;

B) **19...Qc6** 20.Nh2?! (20.d5 Qd6 21.Re1 Bf6 22.Qxe6+ Qxe6 23.Rxe6 Nxf2 24...Bf6 21.Nxg4 f4; 22.Qxg4 Rad8? (22...Kh8) 23.Bxh6 Rxd4 24.Qg6 Rd7 25.Bc1 Qf3 26.h6 Qxf2 27.Qh7+ Kf7 28.hxg7 Rg8 29.Qxg8+ 1-0 (29) Alonso,S (2497) -Gomez Baillo,J (2376) Mar del Plata 2019]

19...Bxc5 4:13 Targeting f2, when suddenly Black has connected passed pawns

[Black could try 19...Rf7!-+ right away (an all-purpose defensive move) 20.Ne1 Rd8]

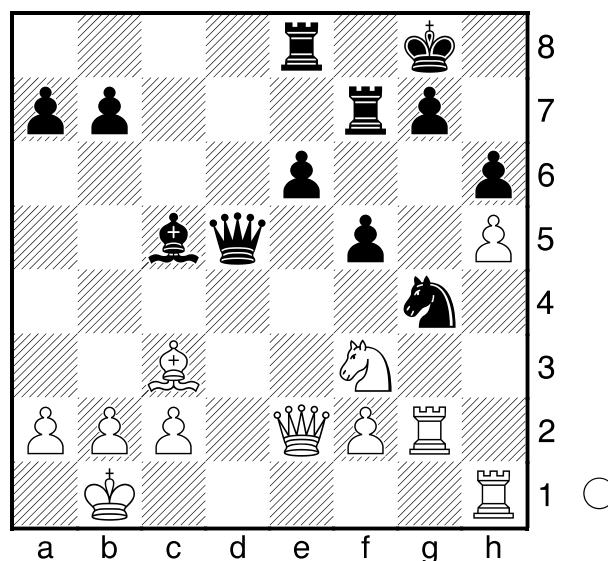
20.Bc3 15

[20.c4 21.Bc3 is more than a bit better, but still it's Black on top.]

20...Rf7! 2:33

[20...Bxf2?? 21.Qxf2! Nxf2 22.Rxg7+ Kh8 23.Rhg1!+- is the White Dream in this whole line.]

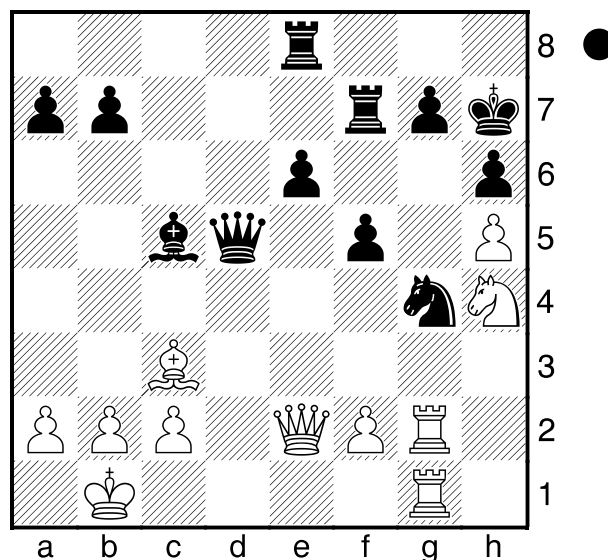
21.Rg2 5:43 **Re8** 14:42



Black has jammed up White's kingside play, and is ready for a winning counterplay. **22.Rhg1** 6:14 **Kh7?! 9:56** [22...e5!-+ 23.Nh4 Nxf2 (23...Bxf2!) 24.Rxf2 Bxf2 25.Qxf2 f4]

23.Nh4 15:08

[23.Ne5 Nxe5 24.Bxe5 Ree7 24...a4] [Better is 23.a4]

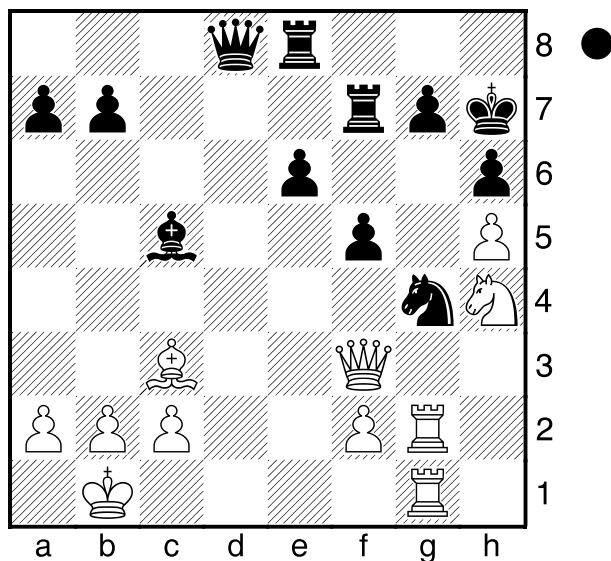


23...Qd8! 3:13 Black covers against White's attempts.

[23...Be7! 24.Rxg4 f4 25.Qxg4 Bg5! 26.f4 Qe4! 27...]

24.Qf3 10:48

[The breakthrough fails: 24.Rxg4 fxc4
25.Qxg4 Qe7 26.Qe4+ Kg8 27.Ng6
Qc7 28.Ne5 Rxf2]
[24.Ng6 runs into e5 25.a3 e4-+]



24...Ree7?! 10:58

[24...Qxh4?? 25.Rxg4 fxc4
26.Qxf7±]
[24...Bxf2? 25.Qxf2! is too easy.]
[24...Kg8!-+ (since there's no threat to
h6 any more) 25.Ng6 Qd5 and ...e5.]

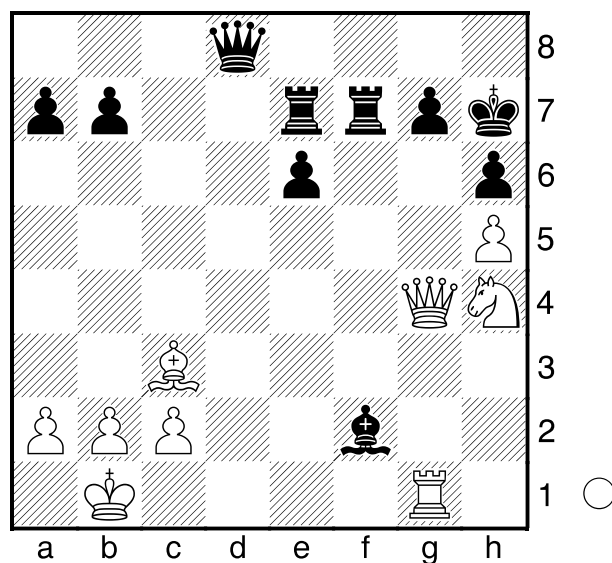
25.Rxg4? 6:58 Badly timed as it turns
out.

[25.Ng6 Rd7 26.a3 could well
hold!]

**25...fxg4-+ 2:22 26.Qxg4 2:54 Bxf2
3:03**

(Diagram)

What went wrong? White is an Exchange
and a pawn down and falling apart. The
danger on the back rank doesn't help,
either! **27.Qe4+ 10:13 Kg8 18 28.Rc1
5:10** Giving up. **28...Qd5 5:38 29.Qxd5
7:54 exd5 2 30.Ng6 2 Re2 1:21
31.Bb4 53 Be3 8:40 32.Rd1 17 d4 4:08
33.c3 1:19 Rff2 1:17 34.Ba3 2:45 dxc3
2:25 35.Rd8+ 2:45 Kf7 10 It's Black
who mates. 36.Rd7+ 1:37 Kf6 1:59**



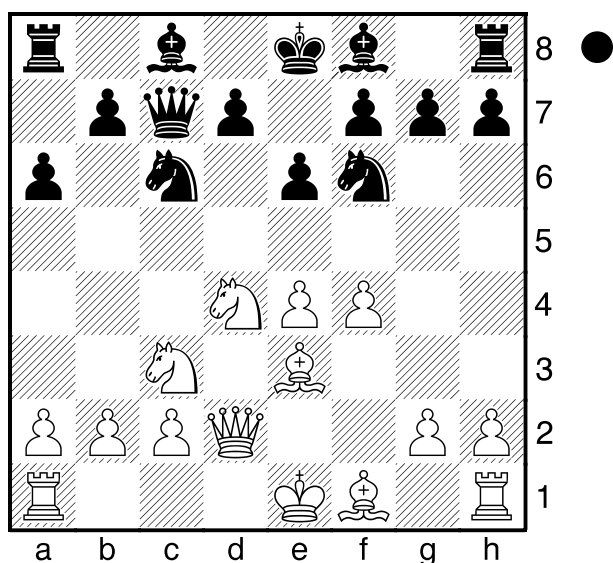
**37.Be7+ 2:52 Ke6 2:44 38.Rd6+ 43
Kf5 2 39.Nh4+ 1:51 Kg4 1:30**
Fantastic defense by Garcia!
0-1

B48
Walder, Michael **2073**
Fong, Nathan **2082**
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (5.2) 29.03.2022
[de Firmian]

**1.e4 10:51 c5 9 2.Nc3 43 e6 2:15
3.Nf3 54 Nc6 24 4.d4 29 cxd4 6
5.Nxd4 5 Qc7 7 6.Be3 1:19 a6 8
7.Qd2 2:21 Nf6 1:18** Sicilian Defense,
Taimanov Variation, English Attack: still
popular! **8.f4 1:43** Nowhere near as
frequent but seems to be making up for
lost time.

[The database pops up a fairly recent
2700+ game with the standard
English Attack formation: 8.0-0-0 Be7
9.f3 b5 10.g4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bb7
12.Kb1 0-0 13.h4 b4 14.Na4 d5
15.Nb6 Rad8 16.e5 Ne4 17.fxe4
dxe4 18.Qe2 Rxd4 19.Rxd4 Qxb6
20.Rd7 Bc5 21.Bg2 Bd5 22.Bxe4
Qc6 23.Rxd5 exd5 24.Bf3 5.08
So managed to turn some advantage

to a win: 1-0 (65), So,W (2772) - Artemiev,V (2704) Chessable Masters KO Rapid, chess24.com]



8...Ng4?!N 17:33 A long think by Fong, and a probable error!

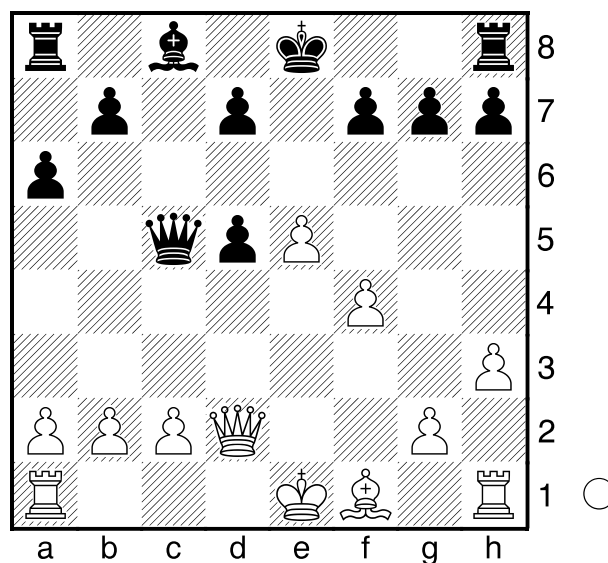
[8...b5 9.e5 Ng4 10.Bg1!]
[8...Bb4!? 9.Bd3 b5 10.a3 Be7
11.e5 Ng4 12.Nxc6 dxc6 13.Ne4
(13.Bg1!) 13...Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Bb7
15.b4 c5 16.Nxc5 Bd5 17.0-0 0-0
18.Ne4 Rfd8 19.Rae1 a5 20.Qh3
Bc4 21.Nf6+ Bxf6 22.Qxh7+ Kf8
23.exf6 gxf6 24.Kh1 axb4 25.axb4
Bxd3 26.cxd3 Rac8 27.Qh4 Ke7
28.f5 Rh8 29.Qf4 Qxf4 30.Rxf4 e5
31.Rfe4 Rhd8 27.10 but 1-0 (49)
Guseinov,G (2609)-Walder,M (1886)
Ray Conway Memorial TNM, Chess.
com]

9.Bg1 12:00 **Nxd4** 29
[9...b5 10.Be2!]

10.Bxd4+- 21 The time lost by that knight (without White having compromised his center some with e4-e5) will be fatal. **10...Bc5** 1:47

It's hard to call this a mistake as White is winning already, but many moves were at least incrementally better. **11.h3** 7:10 **Nf6** 14:16 **12.Bxc5** 6:54 **Qxc5** 7 **13.e5**

6 Nd5 2:43 **14.Nxd5** 1:32 Simpler than heading to d6 -- White will win a pawn for nothing. **14...exd5** 7



15.0-0-0 31 **0-0** 3:41 **16.Qxd5** 3:34
Qe3+ 7 **17.Qd2** 24 **Qg3** 36 **18.Bc4** 1:31
Everything wins. White has every trump.
18...b5 56 **19.Bd5** 53 **Ra7** 23 **20.Rhf1**
4:03 **Bb7** 3:24 **21.Rf3** 5:31 **Qg6** 2:13
22.f5 6:50 **Qb6** 12 **23.f6** 4:24 **gxf6** 1:56
24.Rg3+ 2:12 **Kh8** 5 **25.Qh6** 22 **Rg8** 5
26.Rxg8+ 11 **Kxg8** 4 **27.exf6** 8 **Qxf6**
14 **28.Qxf6** 10 **Bxd5** 10 **29.Rxd5** 27
Ra8 9 **30.Rg5+** 48 **Kf8** 5 **31.Rg7** 12
[31.Qd6+ Ke8 32.Rg8#]
31...Ke8 6 **32.Qxf7+** 7 **Kd8** 5 **33.Qxd7#**
11
1-0

B92
□ **Molodyk,Mikhail** 1851
■ **Winslow,Elliott** 2258
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (5.3) 29.03.2022
[Winslow/de Firmian]

1.e4 3 **c5** 10:05 **2.Nf3** 14 **d6** 22 **3.d4** 8
cxd4 8 **4.Nxd4** 7 **Nf6** 5 **5.Nc3** 9 **a6** 14
6.Be2 11 **e5** 8 **7.Nb3** 9 **Be7** 7 **8.0-0** 21
0-0 4 **9.Be3** 11
[9.Kh1 b6 was quite the rage a few

years ago.]

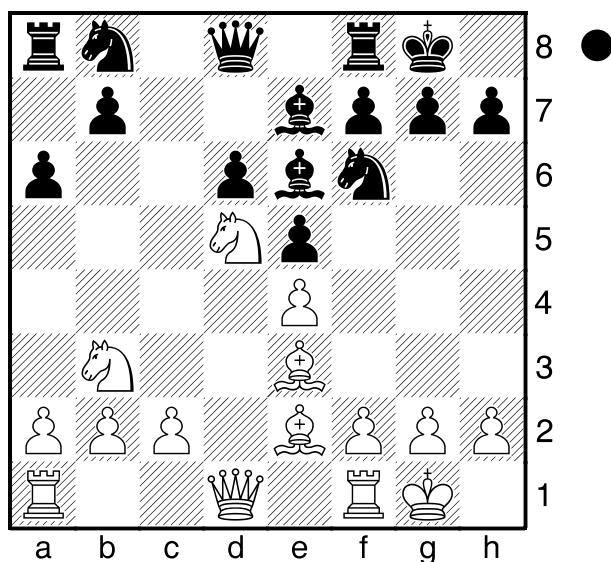
9...Be6 15 10.Nd5 31

[10.f4 exf4!? 11.Bxf4 (11.Rxf4 Nc6
12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne5) 11...Nc6
12.Kh1 Rc8 13.Qe1 Ne8!]

[10.Qd2!?]

[10.a4]

[10.Qd3 Nbd7 11.Nd5]



10...Nxd5 3:22 You get old, the memory goes! At least there is consolation seeing this played a couple times by Boris Gelfand, one of the Najdorf heroes, in some older games.

[But 10...Nbd7 is now the accurate continuation, not worrying at all (as I did) about NxB. 11.Qd3 (Guarding e4, and covering f5 so now Black can't take and play ...Bf5 anyway) (11.f3; 11.Nxe7+!? Qxe7) 11...Bxd5 12.exd5 Rc8 (12...Ne8; 12...g6!?; 12...Nc5)]

11.exd5 10 Bf5 5

[11...Bc8!?]

12.Qd2 56 Most popular

[12.f4!? exf4 13.Bxf4 Nd7 14.Nd4 Bg6 15.c3 Nf6 16.Bf3 Qd7 17.a4 Rfe8 18.a5 Bd8 19.Qa4 Qxa4 20.Rxa4 Be4 21.c4 Bxf3 22.gxf3 b5 23.cxb5 Nxd5 24.b6 Nxf4 25.Nc6 Rc8 26.b7 Bb6+ 27.axb6 Rxc6

28.Rxa6 Kf8 29.Rfa1 Nd5 30.Ra8 Rxb6 31.Rxe8+ Kxe8 32.Ra8+ Ke7 33.b8Q Rxb8 34.Rxb8 Nf4 35.Kf2 Nd3+ 36.Ke3 Ne5 37.b4 Ke6 38.b5 Kd5 39.Rc8 Nd7 40.Rc7 Ke6 41.h4 g6 Ter Sahakyan,S (2645)-Aditya,M (2438) Chess.com INT 2021 1-0]

12...Nd7?! 45

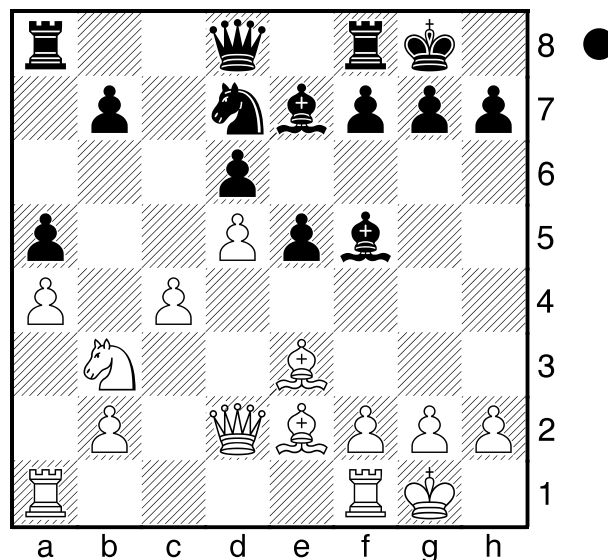
[12...Bg6!?]

[12...a5!? 13.f4 exf4 14.Rxf4 Bg6 15.Ra4 b6 16.Nd4 Bf6 17.Rc4 Re8 18.Re1 Bxd4 19.Bxd4 Na6 20.Bf3 Rxe1+ 21.Qxe1 Nb4 22.Qg3 b5 23.Rc3 Qf8 24.Bb6 Nxc2 25.Rc6 Qe7 26.Rxd6 Rc8 1/2-1/2 (26) Svidler,P (2650)-Gelfand,B (2665) Tilburg 1996 CBM 056 [Svidler,P]]

13.c4 1:46

[13.Na5! Qc7 14.c4 is annoying, and is probably why the other 10th move is what is seen most now.]

13...a5!? 5:11 14.a4 4:10



g5?!N 10:18 Wait, what!?!?

[Predecessor: 14...Bg6 15.Kh1 Qc7 16.Rfd1 b6 17.f4 Bf6 18.fxe5 Bxe5 19.Bd4 Rfe8 20.Bxe5 Rxe5 21.Nd4 Rae8 Black has traded such that the c6 outpost is irrelevant, and looks even better what with that bad White bishop as well. But 1/2-1/2 (71), Abdulla,

K (2214)-Idrisov,T (2289) Baku 2016.]

15.Rac1? 5:14 White fails to adjust to the radically changed circumstances!

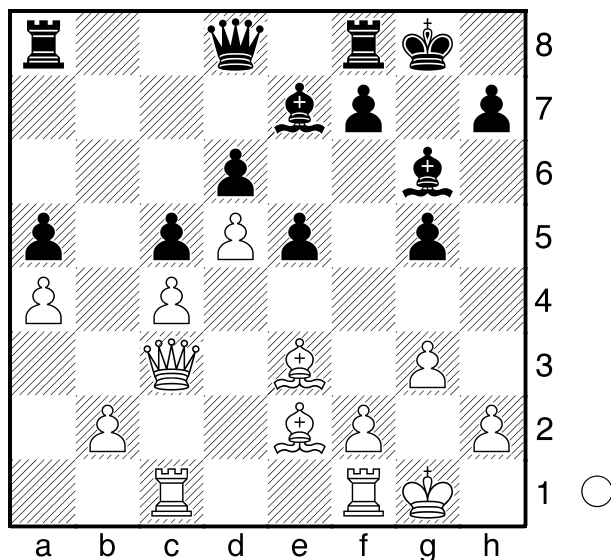
[First some preparation: 15.c5! Nxc5
16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Rad1! b6 18.d6
Bf6 and now: 19.h4! h6 20.Qd5
Black is up a pawn but the passed
pawn (and shaky king position of
course) puts him in a close to critical
mess.]

15...b6 2:34 **16.Qc3?** 3:30

[16.h4!? g4 17.f4!?= still tries to play
up Black's kingside overplay.]

16...Bg6 5:07 **17.g3** 2:28 Black's 14th is
a psychological success -- White even
catches the same madness! But ...f5 is
going to be problematic anyway.

17...Nc5 10:56 **18.Nxc5** 2:23 **bx c5** 22



19.f4?+- 3:21 White needed to stay put
and see what happens.

[19.Qd2]

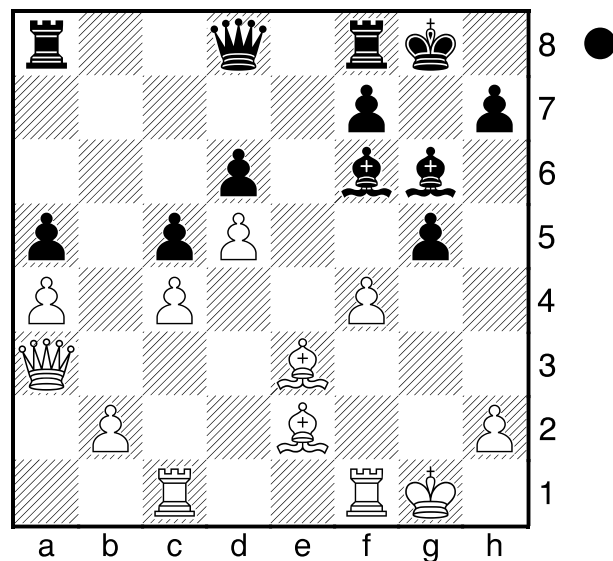
[19.b3]

19...exf4 2:41 **20.gxf4** 10 **Bf6!** 51

21.Qa3?! 4:30

[21.Qd2 gxf4 (21...Re8! 22.f5 Bh5!
23.Bxh5 Rxe3!)]

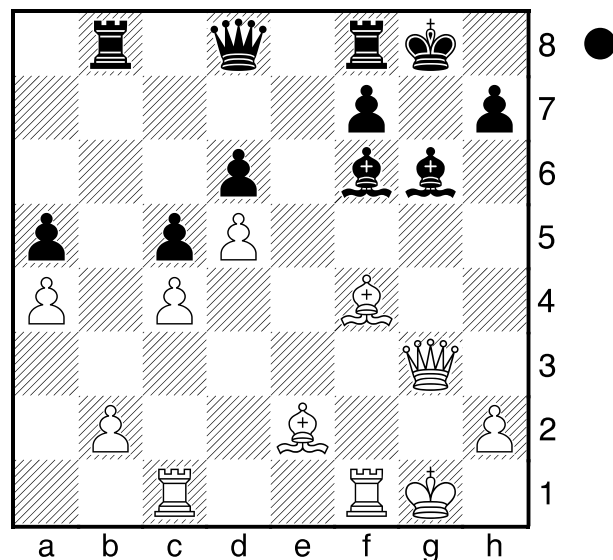
(Diagram)



21...gxf4?! 45 You get old, the tactical
sharpness goes, too.

[21...Re8! wins instantly. 22...Rxe3 is
dastardly.]

22.Bxf4 2:53 **Rb8** 18 **23.Qg3!** 16:35



Now White's play revs up; Black is won,
but will have to defend carefully.

23...Rxb2 52 **24.Bg4** 4:37

[24.Bd3 Rb3 25.Rf3 Kh8! 26.Bxg6
Rxf3 27.Qxf3 and either recapture
or ...Rg8 are all good.]

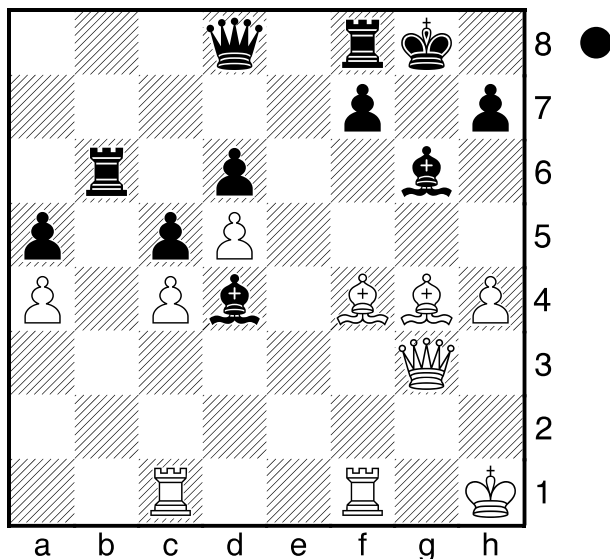
24...Bd4+?! 22:14 Loses the ...Bh4
option!

[24...Re8! 25.Bxd6 Re3! (25...Bh4)

26.Bf3 Bh4 27.Bc7 (27.Qf4 Bg5
28.Qg3 Rxf3 29.Rxf3 Bxc1
(woops!)) 27...Qe7 28.d6 Qf6 29.d7
Bxg3 30.d8Q+ Qxd8 31.Bxd8 Bxh2+
32.Kh1 Rxf3 33.Rxf3 Be4 34.Rcf1
Ra2]

25.Kh1 34 **Rb6!** 2:23 (Else the
advantage seriously dwindles) **26.h4?!**
7:36

[26.Bf5 Re8 27.Bg5 Qb8
it's still a narrow win.]



26...Kh8! 2:26 The only move, but quite
strong: Black is comfortably winning
now. **27.Rce1** 6:02 **Rg8** 7:22 **28.Bg5**
8:25 **f6** 1:29 **29.Bd2** 1:27 **Bh5!** 10:21
30.Re4 7:13 But even more convincing
was **30...Rb2** 6:21 Plenty good.

[30...f5! 31.Rxf5 Bxg4 32.Rxg4
Rxg4 33.Qxg4 Rb1+ 34.Kh2 Rb2-+
and in the end it's White's king that's
exposed (well, more exposed), mostly
thanks to the defensive favor of the
bishop on d4.]

31.Bc1 10:28 **Rb7** 1:20

[Stockfish 14.1 significantly favors
the mundane 31...Rc2! 32.Bh6
Rxc4]

32.Qh3 2:08 **Bxg4** 2:52 **33.Rxg4** 6
Rxg4 4 **34.Qxg4** 6 **Rg7** 16

[34...Rb4 is circumstantially pretty
annoying as well.]

35.Qf5?! 2:15 Makes Black's task of
lining up his queen and rook immediate,
but there was ultimately no avoiding it:

[35.Qf3 Qd7]

[35.Qe6 Re7 36.Qf5 (36.Qg4 Qe8)
36...Qg8]

35...Qg8 30 **36.Qh3** 10:02

[36.Bg5!? fxg5 37.h5 Qe8]

36...Rg3 15 **37.Qh2** 6 **Qg4** 37
0-1

C54

□ Kelly, Sean

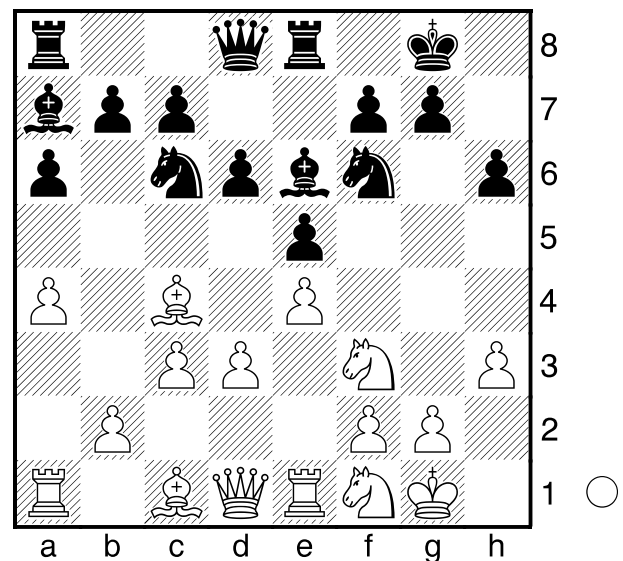
2008

■ Bowen, James

1813

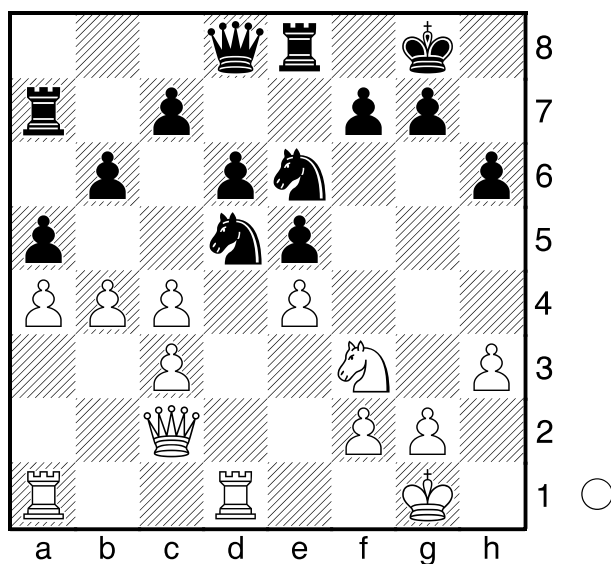
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (5.4) 29.03.2022
[de Firmian]

1.e4 1 **e5** 8 **2.Nf3** 8 **Nc6** 4 **3.Bc4** 34
Bc5 7 **4.d3** 7 **Nf6** 14 **5.0-0** 21 **h6** 33
6.c3 1:29 **d6** 10 **7.Re1** 2:07 **0-0** 59
8.h3 12 **a6** 24 **9.a4** 1:11 **Ba7** 37
10.Nbd2 18 **Re8** 23 **11.Nf1** 2:31 **Be6**
16



Thus far both sides have played
excellent opening moves. **12.Be3?!** 9:39
There's no grounds for harming your own
pawn structure here.

[12.Bxe6 Rxe6 13.b4!? (13.Be3;
13.Qc2!?) 13...d5! 14.Qc2
with White having what tiny advantage
there is in these Giouco positions.]
12...Bxc4 3:08 13.dxc4 7 a5?! 1:49
[13...Bxe3 14.Rxe3 a5 is a tad better
for Black]
14.Qd3 4:58 Nd7 3:31 15.Bxa7 2:38
Rxa7 11 16.Ne3 20 Nc5 2:22 17.Qc2 5
b6 2:34 18.Nd5 8:36 The strong white
knight on d5 gives White fully equal
chances. **18...Ne7 4:59 19.b4 4:43 Ne6**
1:12 20.Red1 2:20 Nxd5 4:45



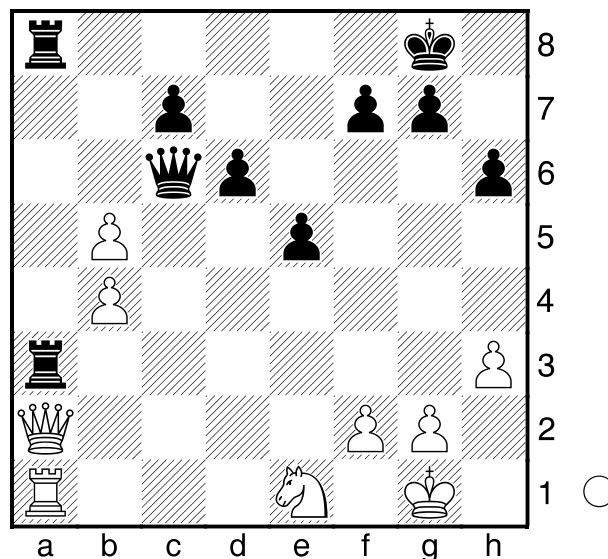
21.Rxd5? 1:45

[21.cxd5! to straighten out the
pawns]

21...Nf4 1:20 22.Rdd1 1:50 Qf6 1:52
23.Kh2 3:34 Ne6 8:11 24.Ne1?!-+ 1:24
axb4 8:00 25.cxb4 23 Nd4 7 26.Qb2
18 Qf4+ 1:17 27.Kg1 1:42 Qxe4 34
With a pawn up and the strong knight on
d4 James should be winning. **28.Rd3**
4:35 Qc6 4:43 29.Qa2 2:23 Rea8 2:38
30.Ra3 b5 9:31 31.cxb5 1:31 Nxb5 33
32.axb5 32 Rxa3 18

(Diagram)

33.Qb2! 5 Sean is still lost but this gives
him chances. **33...Rxa1 1:00**



[33...Qe4! 34.Rxa3 Rxa3 35.Qxa3
Qxe1+ 36.Kh2 Qxf2 37.Qa8+ Kh7
38.Qc6 is lost but there can be
practical chances in the queen
ending]

34.bxc6 5 Rxe1+ 8 35.Kh2 2 Rea1?! 4:41

[35...Raa1]

36.b5 58 R1a2 2:39 37.Qb3 2:24 R2a3 3:39
38.Qb2 22 Ra2 2:07 39.Qb3 15
R2a3?! draw agreed

[39...Rxf2 40.b6 cxb6 is still very
good for Black]

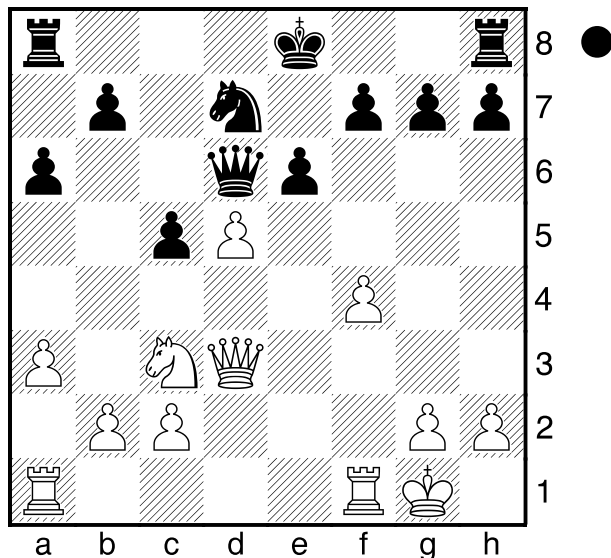
1/2-1/2

B01
□ **Dutter,Frederic 1900**
■ **Suarez,Sebastian 1601**
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (5.12) 29.03.22
[de Firmian]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8
4.d4 Nf6 5.Bf4 Bf5 6.Nf3 e6
White is a little freer in this position and
so has some edge, but the black setup is
solid. **7.a3!? a little slow 7...c6 8.Bd3**
Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Bd6 10.Bxd6 Qxd6
11.Ne5 Nbd7 12.f4 a6

[12...0-0]

13.0-0 c5 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.d5!



A nice move to get the white pieces and pawns working together. **15...0-0**
16.dxe6 Qxe6 17.Rae1 Qc6 18.Nd5
Kh8 19.Ne7 c4! The best defense, keeping the disadvantage to only a little.

20.Qd5 Qc5+

[20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Rad8 22.Qxc4 Qxb2]

21.Qxc5 Nxc5 22.Re5 Nd7 23.Rd5 Nf6 24.Rc5 Ne4

[24...b5]

25.Re5 Nf6 26.Rfe1 b5 27.Nd5 Nxd5

28.Rxd5 g6 A rook endgame with slightly more active white rooks. **29.Re7 Kg7 30.Rdd7 Rad8 31.Kf2**

[31.Rxf7+ Rxf7 32.Rxd8 Rxf4 is equal]

31...a5 32.Ke3 b4

(Diagram)

33.axb4?!

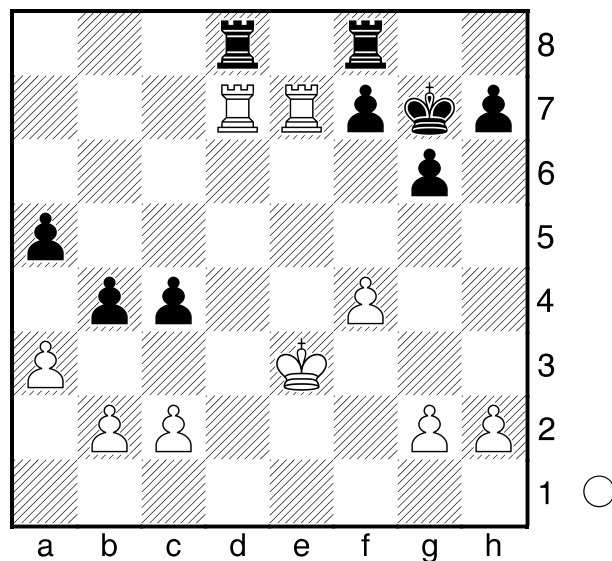
[33.Rxf7+! Rxf7 34.Rxd8 Re7+ 35.Kd2 c3+ 36.bxc3 bxa3 37.Rd4 is a clear edge for White]

33...axb4?!

[33...Rxd7 34.Rxd7 axb4]

34.Rxd8?

[34.Rxf7+! Rxf7 35.Rxd8]



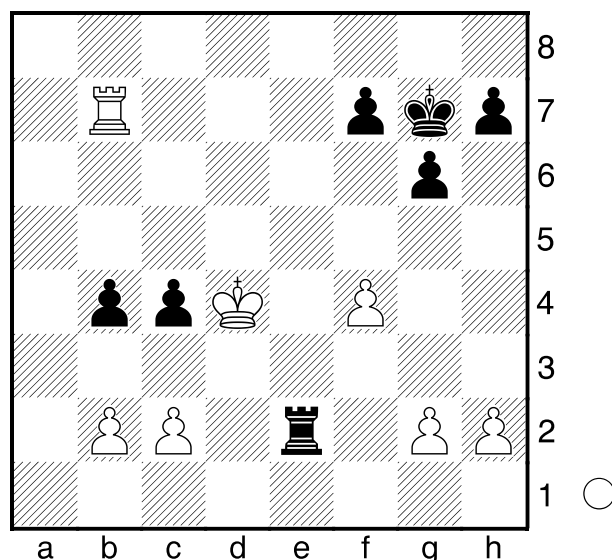
34...Rxd8 35.Rb7 Re8+?!

[35...c3 36.Rxb4 Rd2=]

36.Kd4

[36.Kf3!]

36...Re2



37.Kxc4? after this White is suddenly in big trouble

[37.Rxb4 Rxc2 38.g4 Rxh2 39.g5=]

37...Rxc2+ 38.Kb3 Rxc2-+ 39.Rxb4

Rxc2 40.Rd4 h5 Black is a pawn up with a fast running h-pawn. **41.Kc3 h4**

42.b4 h3 43.Rd1?!

[43.b5!]

43...Rf2 44.Rh1 Rf3+! 45.Kc4 Rxf4+

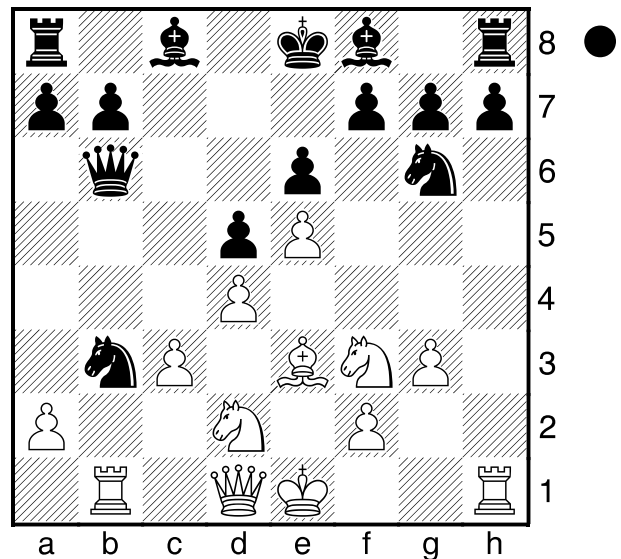
46.Kc5 Rf3 47.b5 g5 48.Rb1 g4
49.b6 Rc3+ 50.Kd4 Rc8 51.Rg1 f5
a strong chain of black pawns 52.Ke3
Kf6 53.Kf4 Rc4+ 54.Kg3 Rb4
White resigned. A well played endgame
by Sebby.
0-1

Clarke VandenHoven **C02**
 Nelson Sowell **1680**
 Mechanics Quads (2) **1700**
 03.03.2022
[de Firmian]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Ne7
5.Bd3 Ng6 6.h4!? An interesting if
slightly speculative sacrifice. Makes for
fun. 6...Nxb4 7.g3 Ng6 8.Nf3 Nc6
9.Be3! c4
[9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Nb4 (or 10...Bd7
would be normal queenside play)]
10.Bc2
[10.Bxg6 fxe6 11.Ng5 (11.Nh4 Rg8
12.b3) 11...h6 12.Qc2 Ne7
is an edge for Black]
10...Qb6 11.b3 cxb3 12.Bxb3?!
[Better is to recapture with the pawn -
12.axb3 The b3-pawn is well defended,
the a file is open for the rook, it's
difficult for black to generate
counterplay on the queenside. You
keep your pawn chain intact. Qc7
13.Kf1 h6 14.Nbd2 Bd7 15.Kg2 a6
16.Bd3 is a good game for White]
12...Na5! 13.Nbd2 Nxb3+ 14.Rb1?
[14.axb3 Qc6 15.Rc1 Ba3 16.Rc2
a5 is a pawn up for Black but that's
all]

(Diagram)

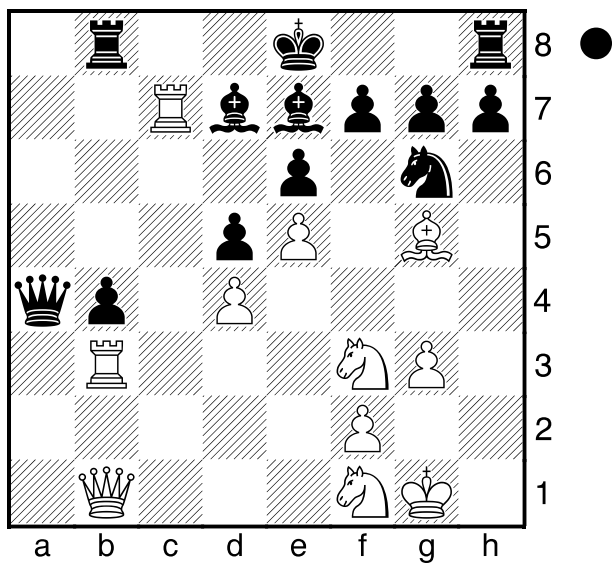
14...Qc7?
[14...Nxd2! 15.Rxb6 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3
axb6 is a bishop, knight and rook for



the queen. Black would be clearly
winning.]
15.Rxb3 Bd7 still Black is better 16.Qb1
b5
[16...b6]
17.0-0
[17.Ke2!?]
17...a5 18.a4 b4
[18...bxa4 19.Rb7 Qc8 is also good]
19.cxb4 axb4 20.Rc1 Qa5 21.Nf1?!
[21.Rb2 Bxa4 22.Nb3 gives some
play on the queenside]
21...Qxa4?!
[21...Bxa4 22.Rb2 b3! is very good
for Black]
22.Bd2 Rb8 23.Rc7 Be7 24.Bg5

(Diagram)

0-0
[24...h6! 25.Bxe7 Nxe7 is a solid two
pawn advantage]
25.Ne3 Rfc8 26.Rxc8+ Rxc8?!
[26...Bxc8 27.Bxe7 Nxe7 28.Ng5
Ng6]
27.Bxe7 Nxe7 28.Rxb4 Qa3
So now it is just one pawn ahead for
Black 29.Ng4? Oops, that's the queen
and the game. A good active battle
ended by a blunder.



[29.Kg2 Ng6 30.Rb3 Is still very much a game. It would take a long time for Black to try to convert the extra pawn.]

29...Rc1+

0-1

GM Nick de Firmian

The Roaring Twenties Will Begin Soon

There is still a fair amount of gloom and doom around the world with the two-year-old pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. This will hopefully end soon though, just as the Spanish flu and World War I gave way to a bright and lively decade of the 1920's. We may optimistically predict that our pandemic is fading away, and the war will be in a stalemate phase where a peace settlement is negotiated. Therefore, it is time to think about planning for more fun days to come.

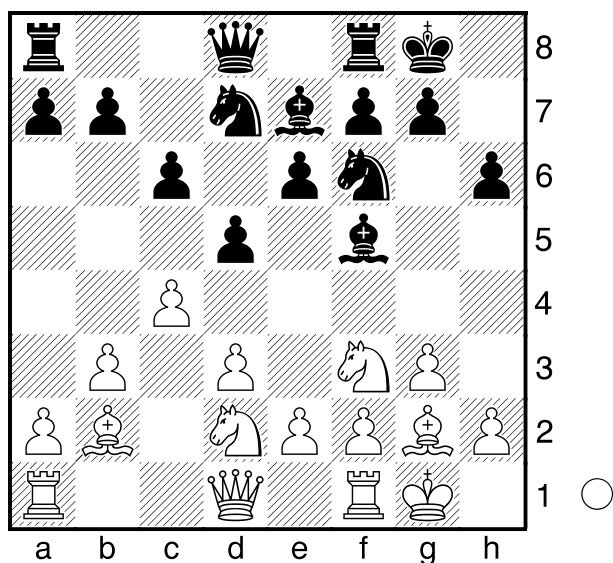
Chess will have the great entertainment of the Candidates Tournament this summer, and that emphatically moves on from the gloomy times to normal, enjoyable competition. The last Candidates Tournament, two years ago, was halted at the halfway stage at its depressing Russian location. Players such as Ding Liren and Caruana couldn't focus well under the circumstances and played well below their usual level. The next location will be sunny Madrid from June 16 to July 5. The field finally includes some young, fresh talent who are making their mark on the chess world. Alireza Firouzja (world #3) is all consumed with chess, like Bobby Fischer and Kasparov before him. The teenage super talent may well become the challenger. Young Richard Rapport from Hungary is another newcomer to the Candidates along with Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda. The others are the "old" veterans – Caruana, Nakamura, Nepomniachtchi, Radjabov, and probably Ding Liren.

Though I have great respect for the "old" veterans (only around 30-35), I am rooting for fresh talent and ideas and a new order. Carlsen doesn't want to play a challenger from his generation, and I hope he doesn't have to. Here's to a new era and a fresh new world. On this note we show two games of the new generation taking down the current champ.



Richard Rapport **A12**
 Magnus Carlsen **2702**
 Tata Steel Masters (8) **2840**
 [de Firmian] 22.01.2017

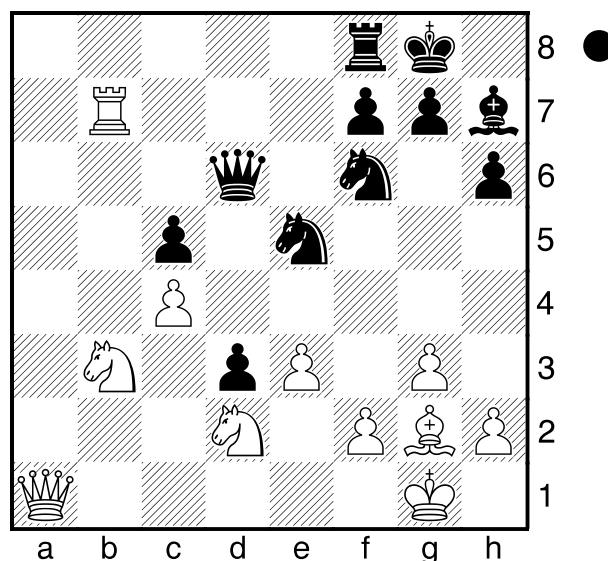
This was played at the great Tata Steel tournament in Wijk aan Zee, so a high profile game. **1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Bf5 3.Bb2**
 The opening begins with a Nimzovich/Larsen Attack, but both sides still have options as the central pawns have not fixed their place. **3...e6 4.d3 h6 5.Nbd2 Nf6 6.c4 c6 7.g3 Be7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Nbd7**



Now this would be classified as a Reti system, named after the Austro-Hungarian hypermodern player who was also named Richard. **10.a3 a5 11.Qb1 Bh7 12.b4!? immediately starting queenside action 12...axb4 13.axb4 Qb6**

[13...Bxb4? 14.Bxf6]
14.Bc3 Rxa1 15.Qxa1 Bxb4 16.Bxb4 Qxb4 17.Rb1 So White gets the pawn back on b7. The opening is about equal but Rapport was probably happy to have a solid game and a slight initiative on the queenside. **17...Qd6 18.Rxb7 e5 19.d4 exd4**

[19...e4?! 20.Ne5 is an edge to White]
20.Nxd4 c5 21.N4b3 d4 22.Bh3 d3 23.e3! The black pawn on d3 looks very strong but it is well blockaded.
23...Ne5?!
 [23...g5!?]
24.Bg2!

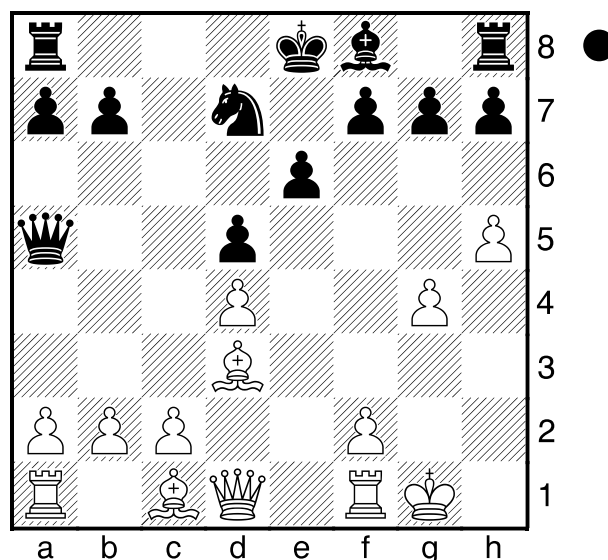
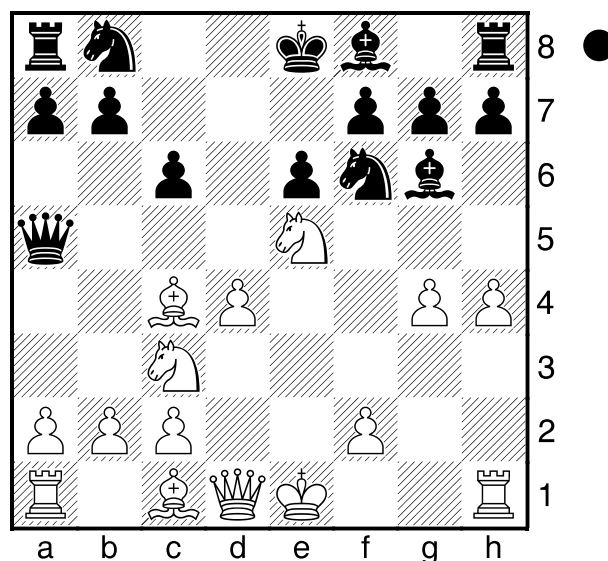
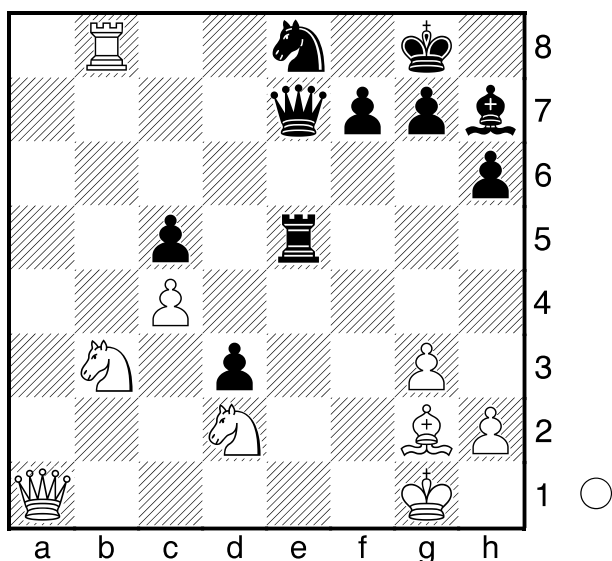


The position is worse for Black and also more difficult to play (even for a world champion). White controls many central squares and there is no easy plan for Black. **24...Rc8?**

[24...Ned7 keeps Black in the game]
25.f4! Neg4 26.e4 The white center pawns, which were so slow to advance, now take over the game. Black must lose material. **26...Re8 27.e5 Nxe5 28.fxe5 Rxe5 29.Rb6 Qe7**
 [29...Qxb6 30.Qxe5]
30.Rb8+ Ne8

(Diagram)

31.Bc6! Re1+ 32.Qxe1 Qxe1+ 33.Nf1 Magnus resigned. After 33...d2 34. Nxd2 Kf8 35. Rxe8+ White is a clear knight up in the endgame. This game somehow reminds me of Richard Reti's great victory over Capablanca at New York



1924.
1-0

□ Alireza Firouzja
■ M Carlsen

B01
2759
2847

Aimchess US Rapid Prelim (4) 28.08.21
[de Firmian]

1.e4 d5 This was a rapid game so Carlsen felt free to use an alternative opening. The Center Counter is alright, but I doubt Magnus would ever try it in a world championship match. **2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Ne5 c6 7.Bc4 e6 8.g4 Bg6 9.h4**

(Diagram)

What is so enjoyable about Firouzja's games is that he plays with full spirit and no fear. This aggressive line gives White some opening edge. **9...Nbd7 10.Nxd7 Nxd7 11.h5 Be4 12.0-0! Bd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Bd3**

(Diagram)

A curious position. White has castled on

the side where he has advanced his g and h pawns. Yet the bishop pair, space and development keep the white king safe enough. **14...Bd6 15.Qf3 0-0-0!? 16.Be3**

[16.Qxf7 Rde8 17.Qf3 e5 give Black play for the pawn]

16...g6 17.h6 Rhf8

[17...e5! would have been a good chance for activity]

18.a3?! f5! 19.c4 e5

[19...dxc4!]

20.b4!? Qc7 21.c5 Be7 22.Bb5 e4 23.Qh3 f4 24.Bd2 Bg5?! The champ

has outplayed his young opponent but the game is complex and easy to make an error, especially in rapid chess. With [24...Kb8 Black would be in very good shape.]

25.c6! Nf6?!

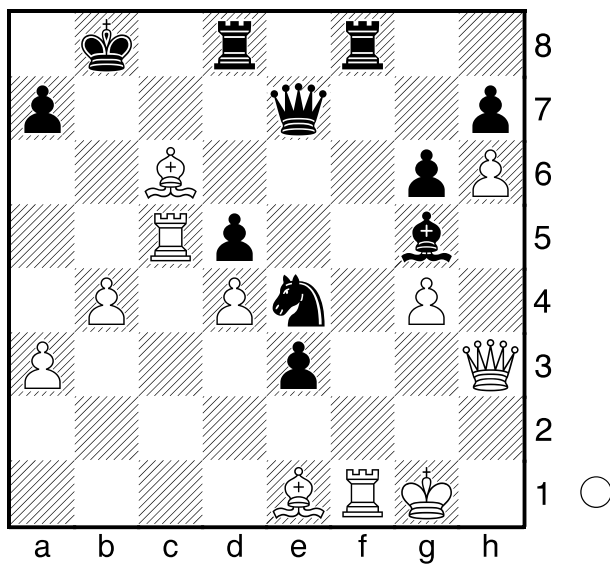
[25...Nb6 for defense]

26.cxb7+ Qxb7 27.Rac1+ Kb8 28.Bc6

Qe7 29.Rc5! White is taking over the initiative. **29...e3 30.fxe3**

[30.Rb5+]

30...fxe3 31.Be1 now Black needs to play **31...Rd6 31...Ne4?**



32.Qh2+! A deadly check from accross the board! **32...Kc8 33.Bd7+! Kxd7**

34.Rc7+ Ke6 its hopeless anyway

35.Qe5# Thus a great victory for young Firouzja. It will not be nearly so easy to take down the champ in a classical match, but this bodes promise for the rising teenager.

1-0

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

A Ukranian GM lands in Palo Alto - we remember him giving a lecture at the Mechanics' Institute not so long ago:

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/03/28/ukrainian-chess-grandmaster-who-escaped-war-passes-on-skills-to-palo-alto-youth/>

Top Twitch streamer GM Hikaru Nakamura and Hungarian GM Richard Rapport both qualify for the 2022 Candidates Tournament:

<https://www.chess.com/news/view/nakamura-rapport-qualify-for-2022-fide-candidates>

Former MI Chess Room Director Abel Talamantez pens an article for Chess Life – on Chess Clubs and Community:

<https://new.uschess.org/news/listening-and-learning-how-chess-clubs-build-community>

A new study seems to show that Grandmasters live longer than the rest of us:

<https://www.tetongravity.com/story/culture/why-you-dont-have-to-be-a-chess-legend-to-live-longer>

A UK jeweler has started a collection called Lets Play Chess:

<https://www.jckonline.com/editorial-article/chess-mini-nevernot/>

Colorado teen becomes a chess master after major brain surgery:

<https://www.ncadvertiser.com/news/article/Teen-who-underwent-major-brain-surgery-now-a-17030558.php>

FIDE's Podcast Episode 3 continues to celebrate the Year of the Woman in Chess, and features GM Hou Yifan:

<https://www.fide.com/news/1667>

The Preston Chess Club in the UK has a trophy dating back to 1450 – but nobody is exactly sure what it's for:

<https://www.lep.co.uk/news/people/chess-has-a-beauty-to-it-putting-the-mate-back-in-checkmate-with-the-historic-preston-chess-club-3631714>

The Dutch like to play chess outside:

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/features/2022/03/an-orange-revolution-filled-with-chess-space-and-machines/>

Chess, crosswords and military intelligence:

<https://gulfnews.com/games/play/crossword-why-the-british-recruited-chess-players-during-world-war-ii-1.1647977783870>

This website is doing a nice job explaining simple chess motifs for novices:

<https://dotesports.com/chess/news/what-is-a-pin-in-chess>

Will GM Sergey Karjakin appeal the 6-month ban by FIDE? He's thinking it over:

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/chess-karjakin-mulling-appeal-against-six-month-ban-pro-russia-comments-2022-03-29/>

A small town in Iowa has formed a chess club:

<https://decorahnews.com/news/4592/in-decorah-chess-is-kingand-queenand-rookand/>

Is Netflix's hit series The Queen's Gambit about to become "downloadable game software"?

<https://www.whats-on-netflix.com/news/could-a-the-queens-gambit-chess-game-be-headed-to-netflix-games/>

Chinese ace GM Ding Liren is once again World #2, and he wants into the 2022 Candidates Tournament:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/mar/25/chess-china-ding-liren-could-make-unlikely-late-bid-for-candidates-place-magnus-carlsen>

Finally, surprise! World Champion GM Magnus Carlsen wins yet another top-notch event:

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/charity-cup-2022-d8>

Chess is everywhere.

Dr. Judit Sztaray

The Scoresheet

Scoresheets are important, we all know that. That little piece of paper is very important both for the player as well as for the organizer. But why exactly? We have examined this topic before, read the TD corner in Newsletter #983.

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/983#TD>

To summarize:

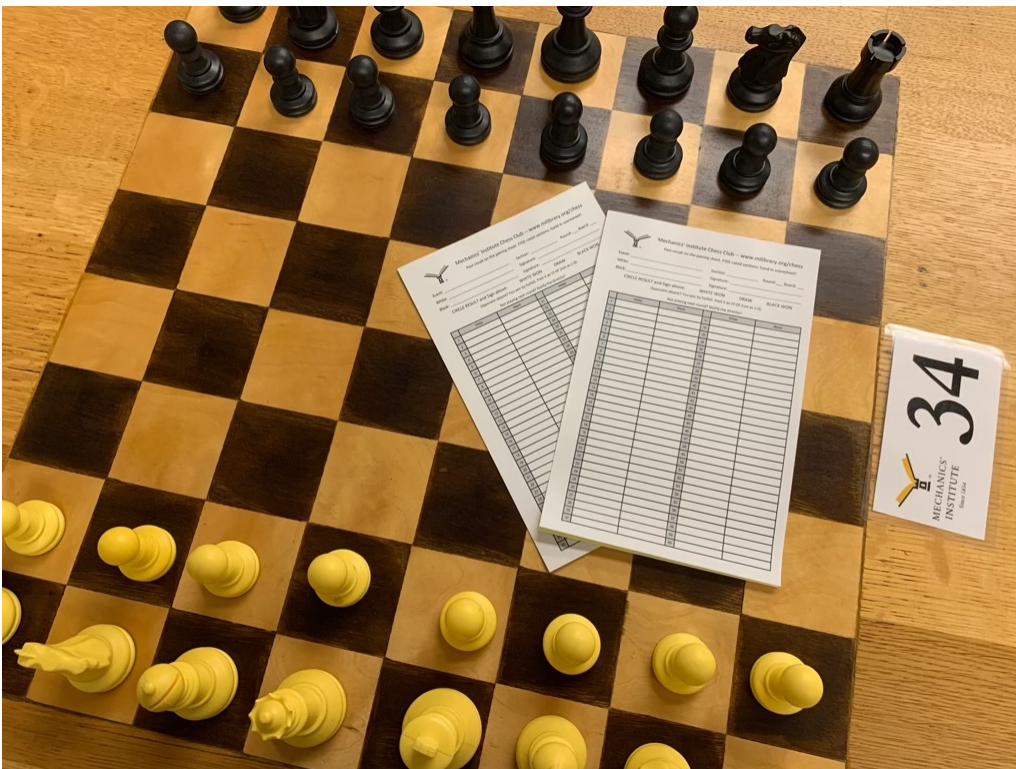
For the player it's a tool to request various draw and other claims, as well as being the official record of the results of the game, provided both players sign the scoresheet.

For the organizer, they have to supply carbon copy scoresheets, but it's their property so they have every right to claim it back. Most organizers ask for the "white" page, which is the top page, and the player keeps the yellow "carbon copy" sheet. Mechanics' Institute is nicer to the players by asking for the yellow sheet, and then using those to input the games from each Tuesday Night's round. (One more reason to write neatly, since we have to be able to read the copied sheet!)

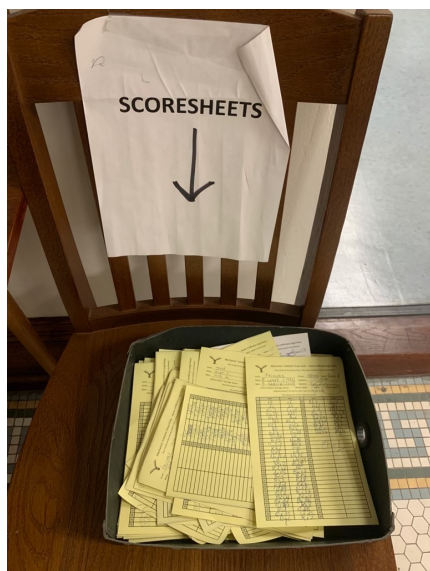
If you go around the country playing in various chess tournaments, you can see what type of sheets organizers use. Some use the standard US chess carbon copy stack, and some, like Mechanics' Institute, have custom made scoresheets. I recently took a bit of

time to redesign our scoresheet template, based on some examples I collected from other organizers, like Continental Chess Association or Vegas Chess Festival or Capital Chess.

I realized that the old format had bad setup for signatures and names, and left little space for any additional information.



I hope that players enjoy this new format and find them better and easier to use. Not only do you have proper space for names and signatures, now we have a clear place to mark the result on the top, as well as quick reminders and notes.



Per FIDE rules, organizers must collect and keep the scoresheets for their records, in case any dispute occurs post tournament.

So next time you use your notation sheet, please think about the importance of keeping an accurate and readable record of your moves!

Any questions? Our inbox is always open!

And, speaking of scoresheets, the Mechanics' Institute just happens to own this one.

For the full story go here:

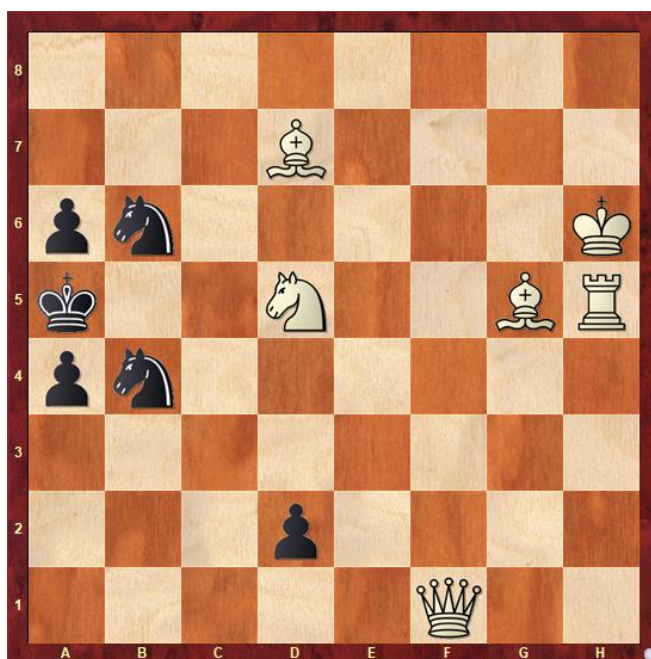
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/749>

⑤ 58th ANNUAL U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
 August 5 to August 17, 1957
 HOTEL MANGER CLEVELAND, OHIO
 White I. GARAI Round No. 7
 Black R. FISHER Date 8-11-57

Opening

| | (White) | (Black) | | (White) | (Black) |
|----|---------------|---------|----|---------|---------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-QB4 | 31 | | |
| 2 | N-KB3 | P-Q3 | 32 | | |
| 3 | P-Q4 | PxP | 33 | | |
| 4 | NxP | N-KB3 | 34 | | |
| 5 | N-QB3 | P-QR3 | 35 | | |
| 6 | P-KN3 | P-K4 | 36 | | |
| 7 | KN-K2 | B-K2 | 37 | | |
| 8 | B-N2 | O-O | 38 | | |
| 9 | O-O | QN-Q2 | 39 | | |
| 10 | P-KR3 | P-QN4 | 40 | | |
| 11 | B-K3 | B-N2 | 41 | | |
| 12 | P-B4 | B-B2 | 42 | | |
| 13 | P-KN4 | P-N5 | 43 | | |
| 14 | N-Q5 | NxN | 44 | | |
| 15 | PxN | PxP | 45 | | |
| 16 | RxP | B-N4 | 46 | | |
| 17 | R-K4 | BxBch | 47 | | |
| 18 | RxB | QR-K1 | 48 | | |
| 19 | RxR | RxR | 49 | | |
| 20 | Q-Q2 | Q-B4ch | 50 | | |
| 21 | R-R1 | B-B7 | 51 | | |
| 22 | White Resigns | | 52 | | |
| 23 | | | 53 | | |
| 24 | Bobby Fischer | | 54 | | |
| 25 | | | 55 | | |
| 26 | | | 56 | | |
| 27 | | | 57 | | |
| 28 | | | 58 | | |
| 29 | | | 59 | | |
| 30 | | | 60 | | |

Tony's Teasers



1. Michael Schlosser, 1983. White to play and mate in 2.



2. Norman Macleod, 1950/51. White to play and mate in 3.

Richard Hack's Stories from the Chess Café

(Stories from the Chess Café will resume next week)

Editor's Note: Information for joining the Chess Café is here:

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe>

Upcoming Events

Ongoing Tuesday Night Marathon:

Falconer Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon,

March 1 - April 12, 2022, 6:30PM. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7SS G/120;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon>

20th Imre Konig Memorial

April 2, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4SS G45;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-konig-memorial-championship-g45-person>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/20thKonigMemorialChampionshipG45>



Imre Konig at the Mechanics' Institute in the 1950s (Photo: Mechanics' Chess Club Archives)

Mechanics' Institute April Championship Quads

April 9, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 3RR G/30;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsApr2022>

Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

April 9, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G30;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissApr2022>

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Qb1! Nb6xd5 2.Bd8#. Or 1...Nb4xd5 2.Bxd2#.

Problem #2: 1.Nf4! Intending 2.Be6+. 1...f5 (1...Nf5 2.Ne2! and then 3.Nc3 or 3.Nc1#) 2.Nd3! Nxb7 (2...Nxf1 3.Nc1#) 3.Nb4#.

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA>

Newsletter



In This Issue

- TNM Report & Annotated Games
- GM de Firmian and FM Whitehead on Politics and Chess
- Dr. Szta ray on the rating of FIDE events

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