



MECHANICS'
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Since 1854

Chess Room Newsletter



Falconer Award Winner IM Vyom Vidyarthi Takes on his Great Predecessor,
Former Falconer Award Winner GM Vinay Bhat!
Issue #1060 | June 6th, 2025 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

Alex Robins

It's been a long time since our last newsletter, and so we have a suitably long list of tournaments to recap. This Chess Room Newsletter is also a little lighter on content than usual but we will be fully back in the next issue - and with some exciting announcements and a guest writer coming who you have definitely heard of and whose articles I know you will want to read!

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club launched into April with a fascinating lecture from **former US Champion GM Joel Benjamin**. After Joel regaled us with games and stories of Bobby Fischer (who played here in 64'), we were lucky enough to have Joel play in our blitz tournament! **NM Richard Yi** (2310) took first place in the tournament with his only loss coming from the former US champion. Second place was a six(!) way tie between **GM Joel Benjamin** (2552), **IM Ladia Jirasek** (2433), **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2384), **NM Dipro Chakraborty** (2268), **CM Rohan Rajaram** (2220), and **Jay Kumar** (2037).

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

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

Our next tournament in April was the **2nd Shorman Memorial**. If you didn't know Richard, he was active for many years in the chess scene in the Bay Area. You can find an obituary for him [here](#) and still learn from him [here](#). **FM Baasansuren Erdene** (2342) took first place in the top section, with a perfect score. **FM Patrick Liu** (2269) **NM Hanchi Yao** (2206), **Zhouyuan Wu** (2015), and **Roger Smith** (1836) all split both the second and third place prizes with three points each. Congratulations to all of our winners and we hope to keep Richard's memory alive here with this tournament in years to come.

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

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

Our Thursday tournament in April was the Mechanics' Institute **Thursday Night Rapid**. We're taking a little break from these but hope to do more Thursday events and more rapid tournaments this Summer. First place went to Mechanics' Institute Chess Coach and National Master, **Daniel Cremisi** (2384) with a perfect score. **Hugo Santiago** (1960) and **Arjun Panickssery** (1886) split the second and third place prizes with three points each.

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



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

On April 12th, we held one of our **18+ Tournaments**. We get a lot of requests for these, but then not so many signups. Vote with your wallet if you want us to keep holding these! First place was a clear win by **NM Jimmy Heiserman** (2316) who got a perfect score. In second and third we had a tie between **Phillip Seitzer** (2000) and **Phil Ploquin** (1607). Shoutout to Phil who had a great performance as the lowest rated player in the top section. Finally, the under2000 prize was split between Mechanics' Institute Chess Coach **Raghu Rajaram** (1812) and our friend **Lauren Goodkind** (1845). Check out Lauren's website [here](#)!

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

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

A few weeks after the 18+ Tournament we held our seasonal **2025 Spring Splash Blitz** and were lucky enough to have a GM come and play. To nobody's surprise **GM Mark Heimann** took first place with a 6.5 out of seven. I'd like to also give a shoutout to **Dave Mohan** (2221) who was the only one to draw Mark. In second place, **FM Baasansuren Erdene** (2320) scored 5.5 with his only loss coming from GM Heimann. Third was taken by **NM Richard Yi** (2310). Full results for the lower section can be found in the link below but a special shoutout to my colleague **Christian Brickhouse** (1270) who split the best u1300 prize with **Eric Liu** (882). Don't spend it all in one place! (Editor's note: too late!)

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

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

We ended April with our 2-day FIDE tournament, the **24th Addison Memorial Tournament**. Congratulations to **CM Pranav Senthilkumar** (2201) who went four for four in a tough field and was the clear first place winner. After Pranav we had a four-way split for 2nd place with **Reynash Paragiri** (2001), **Liam Liu** (1991), **FM Baasansuren Erdene** (2320), and **Yuvraj Singh Sawheny** (2042) each scoring three points. Full results are linked below but I also want to give a shoutout to **Curtis Lee** (929) who scored three points and will be taking home some rating points as well!

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

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



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And now for a special tournament, not that the others are not, but the **19th Annual Steve Brandwein/Ray Schutt/Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz** will always hold a special place in our hearts. We were even lucky enough to have former Chess Room Coordinator **FM Paul Whitehead** join us via satellite for some opening remarks. For those of you who do not know, **Steve Brandwein** was the Chess Room Coordinator before Paul and an [exceptionally strong blitz player](#). **Ray Schutt** was another strong Bay Area player and longtime friend of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room. **IM Jay Whitehead** was another strong player who can be sighted on the walls of the hallway leading to the Chess Club beating Smyslov in a simul at the age of 14 and in the Chess Room Annex in full robes. This unrated tournament was won by **Eitetsu Potharam** (1905) who scored 9 points. **IM Rostislav Tsodikov** (2460) and **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2380) came in second place with 8.5 each, just barely edging out a whole host of masters who scored 8. It was all in all a very strong field and a fitting reflection of Steve, Ray, and Jay's memory.

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

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray.

May continued onward with a **Special Lecture and Blitz with GM Fidel Corrales**. **GM Fidel Corrales** (2621) showed us how he won the World Open in the lecture and then proved it with an outright first place performance in the blitz tournament. Fidel's only loss came at the hands of **NM Aadit Bhatia** (2242), who split second place alongside **Jacob Chiang** (2153). **Isaac Mays-Smith** (1643) took the best under 1800 and Mechanics' Institute Chess Coach **Thu Le** (1217) took home the best under 1300! It was a great event and we hope to have Fidel back again soon!

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

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray.

On May 17th, we held our **3rd Ray Conway Memorial Tournament** and had a nearly full house. **NM Jacob Chiang** (2153) went undefeated and took first place. **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2380), **Dylan Tang** (2298), **Kanwar Sethi** (2134), and **Reynash Paragiri** (2015) all split the second and third place prizes with three points each.

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

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

We ended the month of May and began June with our FIDE rated **3rd Ruth Haring Memorial Tournament**. Judit has written a more in-depth review of Ruth's legacy below but suffice it to say here that Ruth Haring was a prominent Bay Area chess organizer and we're honored to have the tournament in her name. We also were honored to have



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the blessing of her son **Theodore Biyassis** who played and donated \$400 as a prize for the top performing women in each section. **Theodore Biyassis** (2144) also went on to win the tournament outright with 3.5 points. Second place in the top section was split between **Neil Bhaduri** (2162), **Tapas Natraj** (1899), **Jimmy Heiserman** (2306), and **WFM Olivia Smith** (2137). **WFM Olivia Smith** (2137) was also the top performing woman in the 2000+ section. In the 1600-1999 section **Fan Jin** (1591) was the top performing woman with 3 points, and in the under 1600 section we had a three way tie for the top performing women between Mechanics' regulars **Dahlia Quinn** (1329), **Renate Otterbach** (1113), and **Joylin Li** (1265). We hope to do more to support women in chess in the next year and honoring Ruth Haring's legacy is one part of that.

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

These tournaments were directed by IA Judit Sztaray and IA Abel Talamantez.

In the last two months we have also had two of our **Monthly Scholastic Swiss** Tournaments. For our May Monthly Scholastic Swiss Tournament, **Kendall Poon** (954) took home first in the over-600 section with a perfect score of 4 points. **Anna Bogdanova** (1120) took second with 3 points, and **Linus Dow** (964) took third with two-and-a-half points. **James Fu** (1184) and **Wesley Lau** (936) came in fourth and fifth respectively with 2 points each based on tie breaks.

In our under600 section, **Cong Hai (Beo) Nguyen** (unr.) took first with 4 points. **Michael Puterman** (533), **Wen Larson** (596), and **Shane Davis** (298) took second, third, and fourth respectively with two-and-a-half points, and order based on tiebreaks. **Preston Lung** (unr.) took fifth on tie breaks with 2 points.

For our April Monthly Scholastic Swiss Tournament, **Wesley Wongchenko** (827) swept his four games and was the undisputed winner of the 600+ section. **Harrison Lin** (872) was right at his heels in second with his only loss coming from Wesley. Third through fifth were decided by tiebreaks and went in order to **Neev Patel** (671), **Kepler McTiernan** (1090), and **James Fu** (1119).

In our under600 section **Silas Lin** (unr.) went four for four and took first place. **Beo Nyugen** (unr.), **Vincent Ford** (591), and **Shane Davis** (298), all scored three points and took second, third, and fourth respectively. Last but not least **Hunter Lee** (456) took fifth place with two wins and a bye.

Congratulations and a big thank you to all of our players and their families in the last two months. We appreciate your support!

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

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

Both of these tournaments were directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou



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Remembering WIM Ruth Haring with a Special Event and a Special Winner!

By. IA/NTD Dr. Judit Sztaray

Originally posted on [Chess.com/blogs](https://chess.com/blogs) on June 6, 2025.

Since 2023, the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is hosting a [Ruth Haring Memorial Tournament](#), a FIDE-rated event honoring the life and legacy of [Woman International Master \(WIM\) Ruth Haring](#). The 3rd edition was held from May 31 to June 1, 2025, the tournament featured close to 80 players across three sections—2000+, 1600–1999, and under 1600—competing in four rounds of classical chess. The [top 6 boards were broadcasted on Chess.com](#).

In a heartfelt and memorable tribute, Ruth's son, [Theodore Biyiasas](#), took [clear first place](#) in the top (2000+) section—and what a moment it was! This marked his first-ever clear tournament victory at the Mechanics' Institute, made all the more meaningful as it came in an event honoring his mother. Theo played with poise, confidence, and consistency, embodying the determination Ruth was known and admired for. It was a truly beautiful way to honor her memory.

As someone who was honored to serve on the arbiter team for this year's memorial, the experience was both meaningful and deeply personal. I also take great pride in having helped establish this annual event in Ruth's name at Mechanics'—a lasting tribute to a woman who gave so much to our community, both at the board and beyond, and inspired so many of us to continue her work.

Champion for Women and Girls in Chess

Ruth Haring was more than just a strong competitor—she was a trailblazer. A five-time U.S. representative at the Women's Chess Olympiads in the 1970s and '80s, she stood out not only for her play but for her steadfast strength in a field that still skews male today.

When Ruth moved into leadership, she didn't just participate—she reshaped the landscape. As President of the U.S. Chess Federation (2011–2015), she championed policies and initiatives focused on increasing visibility and participation of women and girls in chess. She advocated tirelessly for fair representation, equal opportunity, and greater access to resources for female players at every level. Under her leadership,



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programs to support girls' involvement in chess flourished and became more prominent nationwide.

In recognition of her contributions, the [National Girls Tournament of Champions was renamed in 2019](#) to honor her legacy as the Ruth Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions (RHNGTOC). This event continues to inspire and empower the next generation of female talent.



Playing in the Women's Championship in 2016 at Berkeley Chess Club.

This year's memorial tournament at Mechanics' proudly continued in that spirit. Theo Biyiasas donated a \$400 prize fund dedicated to female players, a gesture that served not only as financial support but also as a symbolic continuation of Ruth's mission. It was a powerful reminder that real progress in gender equity requires both belief and tangible support.



As someone lucky enough to have been mentored by Ruth, I can say with full certainty: she believed in people before they believed in themselves—especially girls. She recognized talent, potential, and worth, and worked—often behind the scenes—with quiet persistence to ensure that young women were seen, heard, and supported in the chess world.

I vividly remember when we faced challenges at organizations we both belonged to and volunteered for. In those moments, she would always remind me: “Nothing is impossible — we just have to find the way to do it!” She had an incredibly innovative mindset, always able to figure out solutions to even the most daunting problems. She was both my mentor and a dear friend. Her passing came as a profound shock to me and to so many others. I will always remember her on November 29, which is also my mother's birthday, and now, Ruth's anniversary. Not a year goes by that I won't pause to think of her — and reflect on all that I've been able to accomplish, inspired by her guidance and mentorship.

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](#).

□ Srinivasan,Sivavishnu

■ Heimann,Mark

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 06.05.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

B06

2068

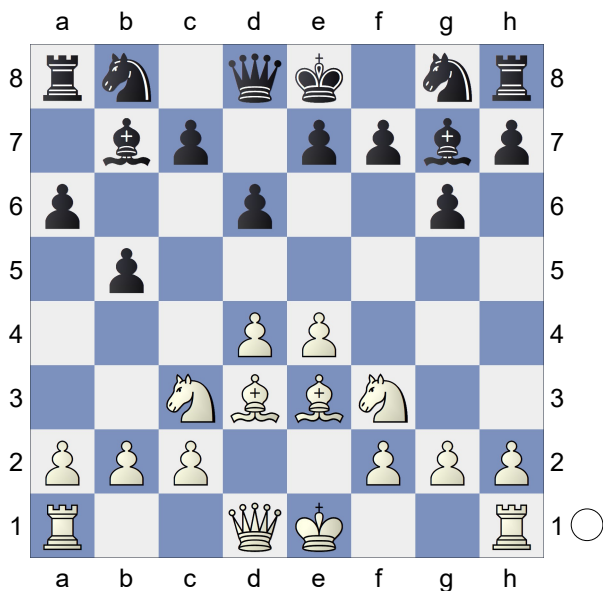
2597

With some *very* high-rated "new blood" in the TNMs, we might have to keep our eyes open for some excellent games! But as it turns out it won't be easy for him. Still...

Heimann got off to a strong start, beating Srinivasan briskly (he had half his time left still at the end of the game).

1.e4 3 g6 8 Heimann appears to be someone who plays a lot of openings, including some of the less regarded first moves. **2.d4 7 Bg7 5 3.Nc3 7 d6 6 4.Nf3 7 a6 28 5.Be3 9 b5 22**

We used to call this "The Rat" fifty years ago. But in any case, White's unpretentious start has proven to be a real problem for rat lovers, once it was appreciated that ...Ng4 wasn't necessarily any problem. **6.Bd3 56 Bb7 22**



7.Qd2 58 "7.a4 is the modern continuation" is the current comment by the "Novelty Annotation" function in ChessBase (AI!), but then that move is

always a plausible reaction to Black's early b-pawn advance -- and note that White is by no means committed to queenside castling, one of the features of White's opening. Note the game reference given: this was the "Bullet Chess Loser" tournament, so now we're getting 1-minute "evidence"...

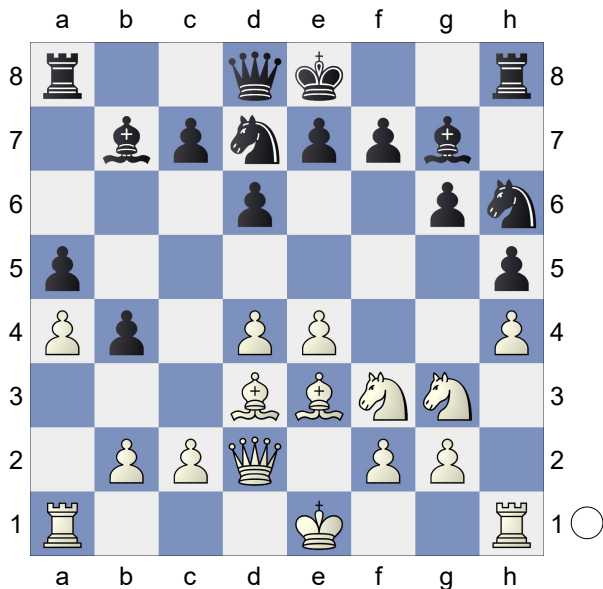
[7.a4 b4 8.Nb1 Nd7 9.Nbd2 c5 10.c3 Ngf6 11.h3 0-0 12.a5 e6 13.0-0 Rc8 14.Qe2 d5 15.e5 c4 16.Bc2 Ne8 17.cxb4 Bc6 18.Nb1 Nc7 19.Bd2 Nb5 20.Nc3 Rb8 21.Nxb5 Bxb5 22.Bc3 Qe7 23.Qd2 Rbc8 24.Rfe1 Nb8 25.Re2 Nc6 26.Ba4 Rb8 27.Ne1 Bxa4 28.Rxa4 Rb7 29.Nc2 Rfb8 30.g3 Bf8 31.Kg2 Qd7 32.Ra1 Nxb4 33.Nxb4 Bxb4 34.h4 Qe7 35.h5 g5 36.h6 Kh8 37.Rh1 Rg8 38.Rh5 Rb5 39.Re3 Bxc3 40.bxc3 Rxa5 41.Rf3 Rg6 42.Rf6 Rxf6 43.exf6 Qxf6 44.Rxg5 Rb5 45.Rg7 Rb8 46.g4 Rg8 47.Rxg8+ Kxg8 48.Qe3 a5 49.g5 Qd8 50.Qe5 Qf8 51.Qc7 a4 52.Qa7 a3 53.f4 f6 54.Kg3 fxg5 55.fxg5 Kh8 56.Kg2 Qg8?? (56...Qg8=; 56...a2 57.Qxa2 Qg8=) 57.Qe7 **11.06** 1-0 Giri,A (2745)-Caruana,F (2805) Bullet Chess Losers, Chess.com]

[Meanwhile, in standard computer fashion, 7.h4!? is Stockfish 17.1's preference, (probably Kamran Shirazi was playing this decades ago), competing for best with just 7.0-0. Practice has been rough for White though, probably because Black mostly greatly outrated White.] [7.0-0 The a4-attack isn't going away.]

7...Nd7 16 8.a4 2:33 b4 54 9.Ne2 33 a5 1:14 10.Ng3 1:49

[10.Rd1!?]

10...h5 8:33 11.h4 3:03 Nh6 57



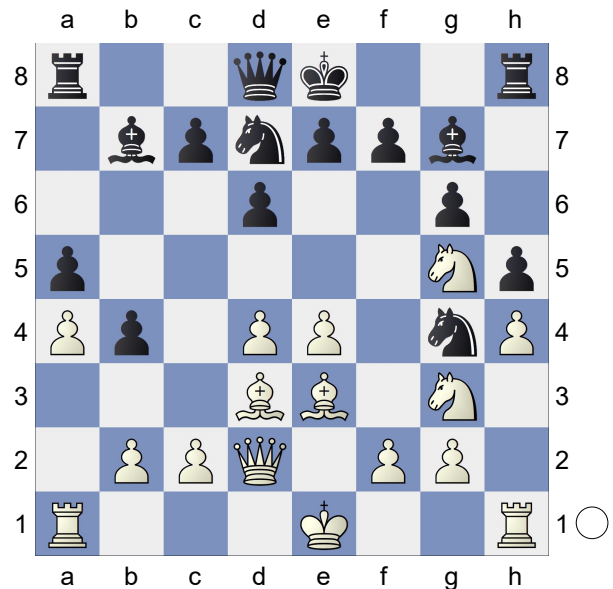
I just played the U.S. Open 50th Anniversary tournament in Lincoln, Nebraska where I had a quick draw in a Saemisch King's Indian, followed by a long lunch discussing many things both chess and not, with Dr. Loren Schmidt, originally of Nebraska but the last 30 years in Yakima, Washington. I told him I don't understand the whole Nh3-g5 thing after h4/h5. And I still don't. Of course in the Saemisch Black is rather unlikely to be playing it (4.f3) but I/we concluded it's just a cozy square for a knight. Here it's a race to KN5! **12.Ng5?! 4:53** Except White loses his best bishop now.

[12.Nh2!± If you can't beat 'em, don't let 'em join ya.]
12...Ng4± 43

(Diagram)

13.c3N 17:23

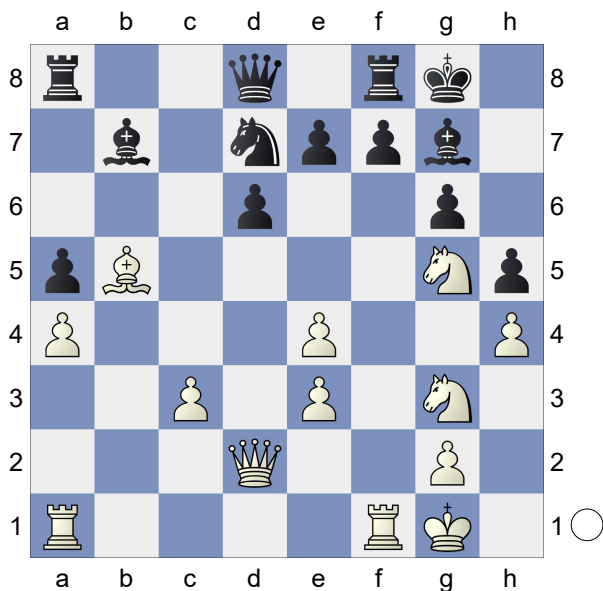
[13.e5 dxe5 14.Bxg6 Did this "leetteeny tiny master" (Jacques) think Sethuraman hadn't completely seen this coming and worked it out cold? fxe3 15.Ne6 Qc8 16.d5 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Bf6 18.0-0 Nf8 19.Qd3 Ba6 20.Qe4 Bxf1 21.Rxf1 Kf7 22.Qxe5



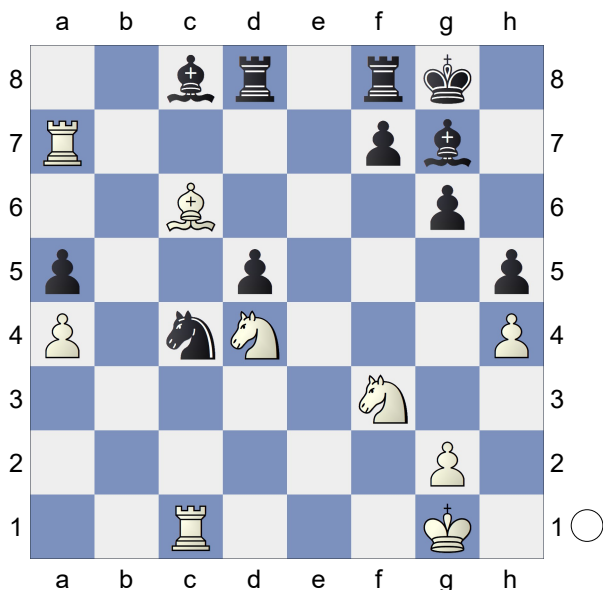
Nxe6 23.Ne4 Ng7 24.Rxf6+ exf6 25.Qxf6+ Kg8 26.Qxg6 Qf5 0-1 (26) Roinos,I (2206)-Sethuraman, S (2625) Achaia 2017]
 [13.0-0 0-0 14.c3]
 [13.Bc4 d5 14.Ba2]
13...c5 5:20 I've probably used this cliché before, but White's center appears to have been built on landfill. **14.dxc5?! 4:49**
 [14.0-0 0-0 15.Bb5 Nxe3±]
14...bxc3 40 15.bxc3 9 Nxe3 29
16.fxe3 3:53 Nxc5 1:49
 [16...0-0!-+ is somewhat better]
17.Bb5+ 2:45 Nd7 11 18.0-0 13:18
 [18.e5!? Bxe5 19.0-0 0-0 20.Nxh5!? Rc8!± (20...gxh5?? 21.Qd3 f5 22.Rxf5+-)]
18...0-0-+ 12

(Diagram)

19.Ne2 4:58 Ne5 1:00 20.Nd4 1:23 Qc7 2:03 21.Rac1 2:03 Bc8 4:52 22.c4 2:09 Ng4 1:22 (Black would love to get ...d5 in) **23.Nc6 8:16 Bb7 1:44 24.Nd4 8:40 d5 46** (he did!) **25.e5 1:21 Qxe5 2:01 26.Ngf3 22 Qxe3+ 3:47 27.Qxe3 2 Nxe3 4 28.Rfe1 6 Nxc4 16 29.Rxe7 3:51 Ba6 17 30.Bc6 38 Rad8 45**



31.Ra7 17 Bc8 16



32.Bxd5 1:46

[32.Bb5]

32...Nb6 16:42

[32...Rxd5! 33.Rxc4 Re8-+]

33.Nc6 20 Nxd5 40

[33...Rxd5!]

34.Nxd8 7 Rxd8 4 35.Ra8?! 3:27

[35.Rd1 Bc3 36.Ra8 Kg7]

35...Ne7?!-+ 7

[35...Nc3!]

36.Rc7 31 Bf6 40

[36...Kf8]

37.Rxa5?! 26 (A pawn is nice, but now the pin is gone and Black grabs the

moment to mobilize.)

[37.Kf1]

[37.g3]

37...Bg4 1:08 38.Rb5 4:38 Bxf3 2:14

39.gxf3 1 Nf5 46 40.a5 59 Black easily stops this pawn from being a problem.

40...Rd1+ 20 41.Kf2 1:35 Rd2+ 1:02

42.Ke1 10 Ra2 4 43.Rc6 24 Bxh4+ 19

44.Kd1 3 Nd4 1:27 45.Rb8+ 18 Kg7 10

46.Rc4 7 Bf2 1:03 47.Rd8 2:27 Ra1+

1:27 48.Kd2 1 Be1+ 16 49.Ke3 44

Nf5+ 12 50.Ke2 10 Ng3+ 50

0-1

D10

□ Cremisi, Daniel

2380

■ Seshadri, Sudarshan

2022

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 06.05.2025

[Winslow, Elliott]

Cremisi outplays Sedarshi in the a quiet queen's gambit line, but then ...

something happens, Sedarshi gets

behind lines, White's king is a

permanent liability, and it's Cremisi who

is losing! Alas for Sudarshan, he leaves

the window open to a holdable ending,

and of course the master is ready to hop

through it. 1.d4 1 d5 7 2.c4 3 c6 1:49

3.Nc3 1 Nf6 9 4.e3 2 a6 1:42 5.Qc2 43

e6 45 6.b3 1:09 c5 45 7.dxc5 2:08

Bxc5 22 8.Bb2 4:12 dxc4 2:15 9.Bxc4

36

(Diagram)

This looks like the Spassky Variation, or "Let's play tennis" of the Queens' Gambit

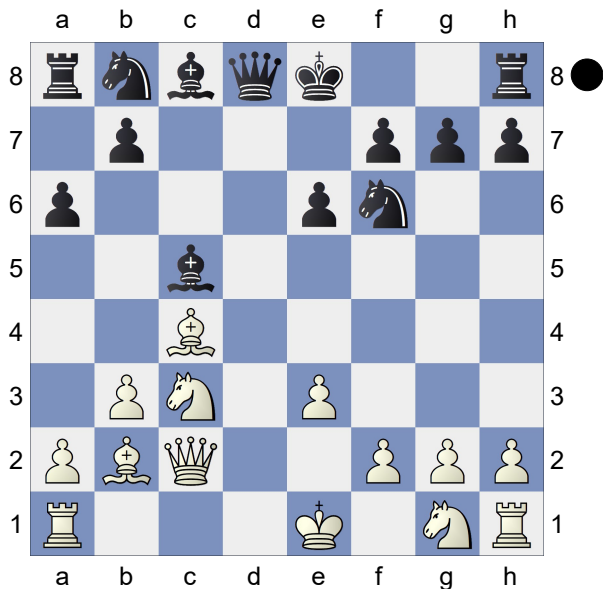
-- but one must pay attention even with

"boring" symmetry. 9...0-0N 2:54

[9...b5!? 10.Bd3 Nbd7=]

10.Nf3 1:29 b5 2:03 11.Bd3 2:50 Qe7? 4:10

[11...Bb7 fairly even]



12.a4?! 3:30

[12.Ne4!± Nbd7 (12...Bb4+ 13.Ke2 is no problem, the rooks come out, the king will be safe.) 13.Bxf6 wins the h-pawn, for some clear advantage. (0.99/26 Stockfish 17.1)]

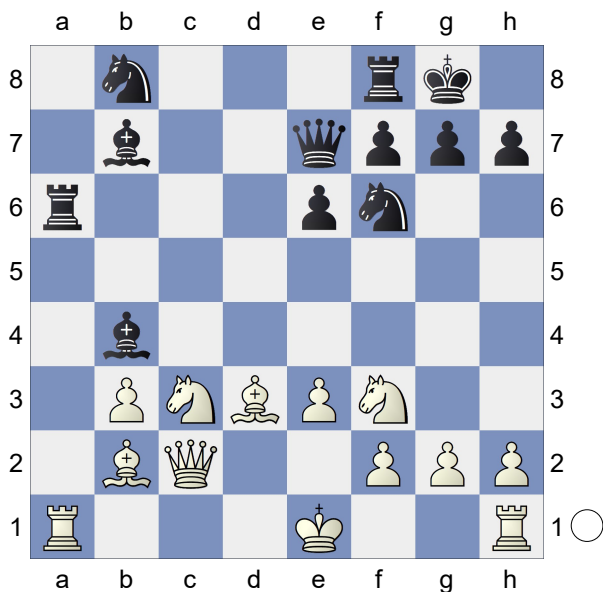
12...Bb4? 12:28

[12...bxa4!± 13.Rxa4 Nbd7 Black has the slightly weaker pawn, nothing much else going on.]

13.axb5± 2:24 Bb7 34 14.bxa6 1:07

[14.0-0!]

14...Rxa6!? 4:44



15.Bxa6 3:57

[15.0-0!?]

15...Bxa6 5 16.Nd2 4:42

[16.Rxa6! Nxa6 17.0-0±]

16...Qc5± 1:58 17.Nc4?! 1:01

[17.Rxa6! Nxa6 18.0-0±]

17...Bxc4 25 18.bxc4 7 Qxc4 10

19.0-0-0= 4:43

[19.Rc1]

19...Rc8 4:41

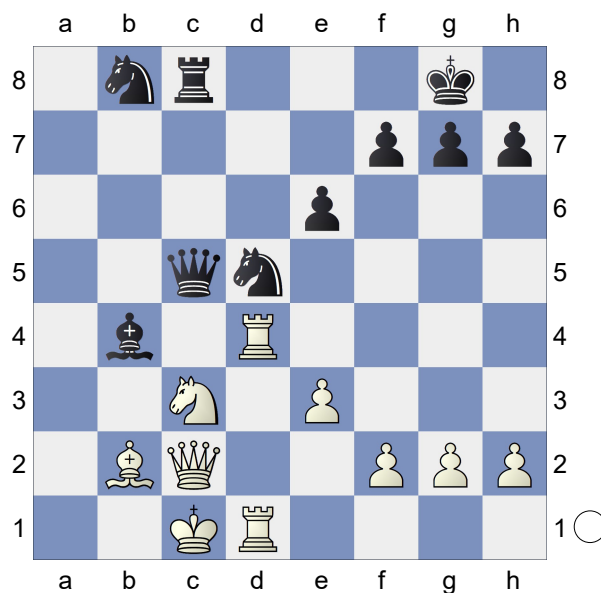
[19...Qa6=]

20.Rd4 10:08 Qc5 15 21.Rhd1 3:54

[21.Kb1! Nc6!]

21...Nd5 15:39

[21...Nc6]



22.Rxd5 10:33 exd5 8 23.Rxd5= 2:27

Qc7 1:19 24.Rd3? 1:46 It's hard to say what goes wrong now, but White, extra pawn and all, gets a lost position in a couple moves.

[24.Kb1=]

[24.Rd4=]

[24.Kd1 Qc4! 25.Qd3 Qb3+

26.Qc2=]

24...Nd7!?± 6:18

[24...Qxh2!±]

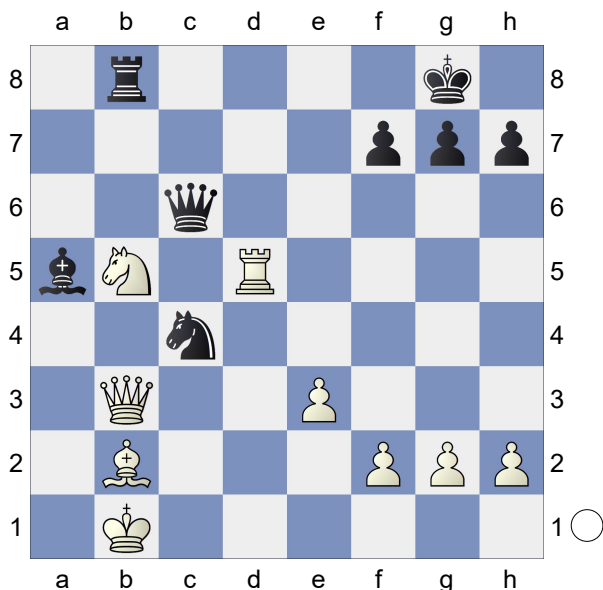
25.Kb1? 2:59

[25.Kd1! Ba5! 26.Rd2! Nf6! 27.Qd3 h5±]

25...Ne5!-+ 13:30

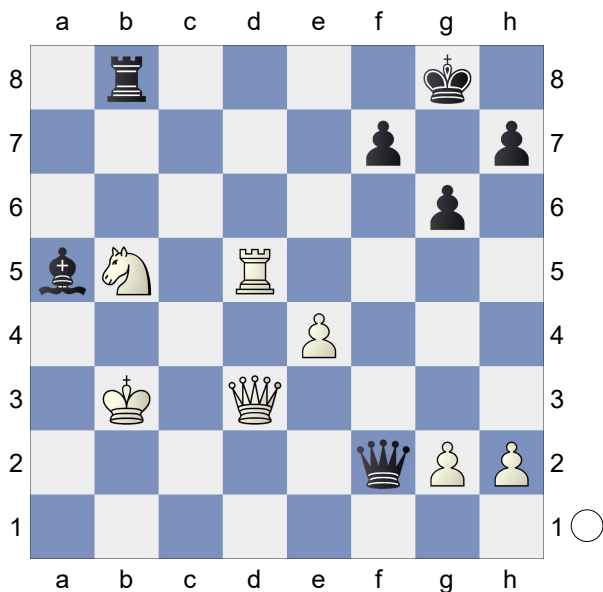
[25...Qb8!-+]

26.Rd4 1:17 Ba5! 3:32 27.Qb3?! 5:02
Rb8! 2:32 28.Nb5 3:46
 [28.Nd5 Rxb3 29.Nxc7 Bxc7]
28...Qc6! 2:32 29.Rd5 1:29 Nc4! 1:38



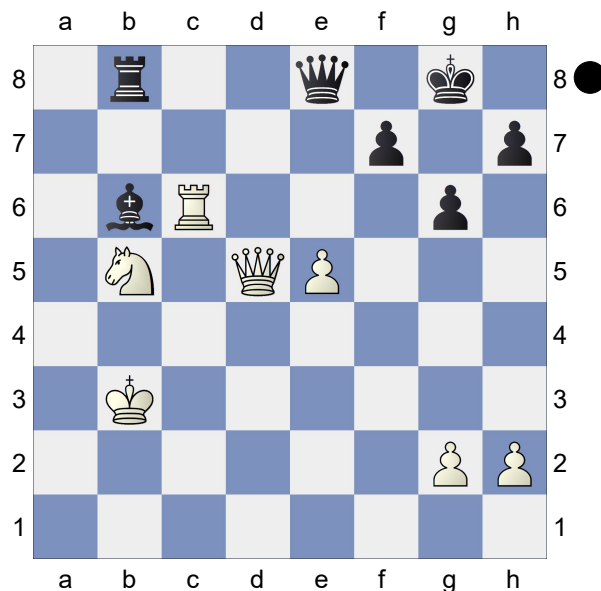
A long string of only moves, but now it's just won. **30.Qd3 1:29 Nxb2 1:36**

[30...h6!]
31.Kxb2 12 g6?! 1:45
 [31...Qf6+!]
32.e4?! 1:48
 [32.Kb3 Qc1-+]
32...Qf6+ 1:05 33.Kb3 54 Qxf2 53



White's king continues to be an embarrassment. **34.Qg3 1:03 Qb6 1:58**
35.Qe5?! 2:05

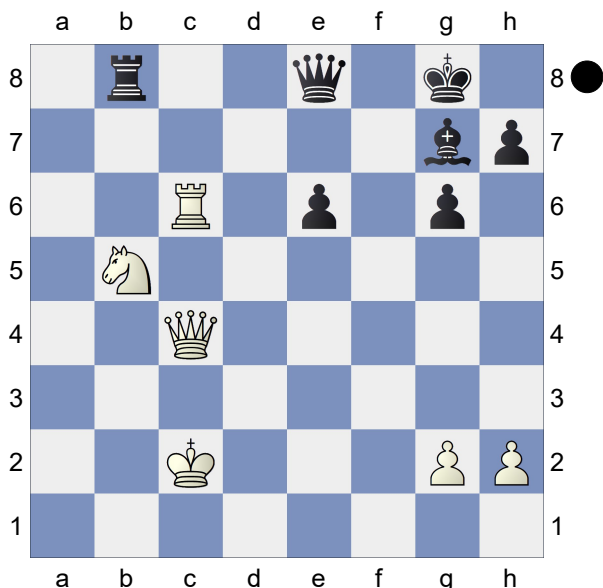
[35.Qf4]
 [35.Qd3]
35...Rc8?! 1:20
 [35...Qe3+! Stockfish makes this over minus eight!]
36.Qd4 1:24 Qc6 1:30 Of course keeping the queens on the board is mandatory... **37.Qd3 1:46 Rb8 3:56**
38.Qc4 1:07 Qb6 1:15
 [38...Qe6!]
39.Rc5 22 Qd8 1:31 40.Qd5 2:53
Qe8?! 1:04
 [40...Qf6! 41.Qc4 Kg7 Black is *still* winning.]
41.e5?! 1:14
 [41.h4!?]
41...Bb6! 1:01 42.Rc6 46



Bd4!-+ 1:25 A splendid shot! Seshardi is not averse to finding testing moves for Cremisi! **43.e6!? 43 fxe6 10 44.Qc4! 53** (All the best try) **44...Bg7 1:01**
 [44...Be5!]
45.Kc2 37

(Diagram)

Kh8? 39 *Finally* Seshadri slips up -- and Cremisi grabs the lifeline!
 [45...Qf8! is still a won game -- even with the pawn returned, Black's king is



out in the open.]

46.Nd6!= 1:43 Cremisi masterfully takes the moment to head for a drawable pawn-down knight vs. bishop ending with all the pawns on the same side -- the sort of thing experienced masters won't pass by. **46...Qf8 37 47.Rc8! 41 Rxc8 4 48.Qxc8! 33 Qxc8+ 3 49.Nxc8 3 Be5 21 50.h3 10 Kg7 25 51.Kd3 33 Kf6 35 52.Nb6 1:17**

[52.Ke4]

[52.Ke3]

[even 52.Na7]

52...Kf5 1:05 53.Ke3 1:09 Bf4+ 46 54.Kf3 6 Bc7 33 55.Nc4 10 h5 40 56.g4+ 2:06 hxg4+ 4 57.hxg4+ 2 Kg5 29 58.Nd2 10 Kf6 49 A close call for Cremisi -- that hanging king could have cost him.

1/2-1/2

□ Paragiri,Reyansh

■ Heiserman,Jimmy

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 06.05.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

Jimmy Heiserman, another new TNM regular (the last four), warded off

Reyansh Paragiri's Scotch Gambit 5.e5 line, taking and losing the initiative before some excellent tactics leading to a won ending -- for a first round win. **1.e4 49 e5 6 2.Nf3 12 Nc6 6 3.d4 10 exd4 5 4.Bc4 7 Nf6 25 5.e5 19 d5 6 6.Bb5 32 Ne4 8 7.Nxd4 1:03 Bc5 6 8.0-0 4:25 0-0 11 9.Bxc6 2:59 bxc6 2:28 10.b4?! 12:00** A less healthy development of White's bishop, where Be3 blunts Black's B.

[10.f3]

[10.Be3=]

10...Bb6! 2:00 (Black is already better.)

11.Bb2N 2:31

[11.Be3 2:31]

[Predecessor: 11.f3 Ba6 12.fxe4

Bxf1 13.Kxf1 f5? (13...dxe4!-+)

14.Be3? (14.exd5 Qxd5=) 14...f4!-+

15.Bf2 dxe4 16.c4

A) 16...Bxd4! 17.Bxd4 (17.Qxd4 e3) 17...f3;

B) 16...c5 2:31

B1) 17.bxc5 Ba5 (17...Bxc5 18.Nc3 f3 2:31);

B2) 17.Nc3 cxd4 2:31 18.Nxe4 a5 19.c5 Ba7 0-1 (27) Kaczmarek,A (2345)-Dragun,K (2561) Kozminski Univ. vs. U Texas RGV, chess24.com 2020]

11...Qe8 12:12

[11...Qg5!-+ 12.a4 a5 (12...Qxe5 13.a5 2:31) 13.Nxc6 axb4]

12.f3 5:54

[12.Nc3 2:31]

C56

2015

2306

(Diagram)

12...f6! 6:00 13.exf6 4:13 Nxf6 31

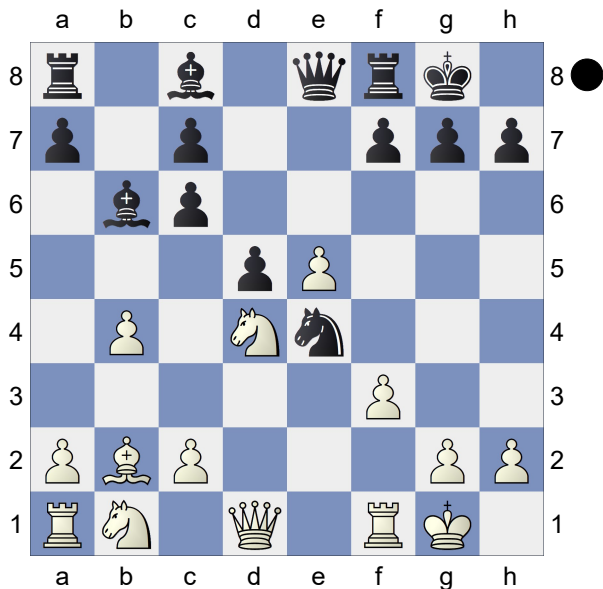
14.Re1 1:02

[14.Kh1 2:31]

14...Qg6-+ 52 15.Kh1 3:08 Nh5 15:20

16.Qd3 9:20

[16.Qd2 might work better.]



16...Qg5? 5:51

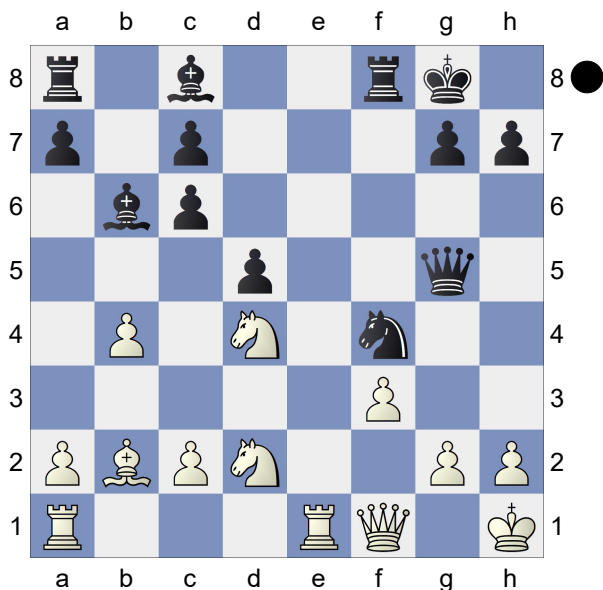
[16...Qxd3-+ 17.cxd3 Nf4]

17.Nd2 8:49 **Nf4** 3:47

[17...a5! (Setting up ...Nf4) 18.a3
(18.Nxc6?? Ng3+ 19.hxg3 Qh6#)

18...c5 19.bxc5 Nf4 (19...Bxc5
20.Qb5=) 20.Qf1 Bxc5

18.Qf1 1:08



Ba6? 1:45

[18...c5

[18...a5!

19.Qf2= 8:27 **Rae8** 2:17 **20.a4?!** 6:36

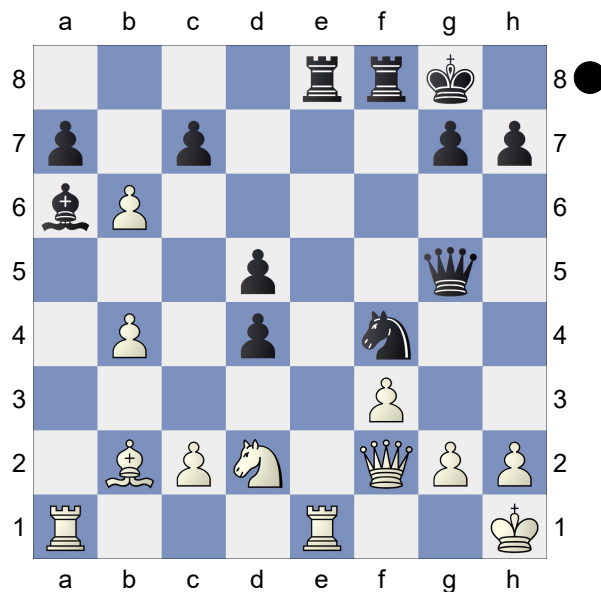
[20.N2b3!?

20...c5 17:59 Standard in this line:
Black uses all those center pawns to

clear lines for the two bishops. **21.a5!**

3:47 White plays a sharp response.

21...cxd4 5 **22.axb6** 10



axb6! 4:05 **23.Bxd4!** 2:12

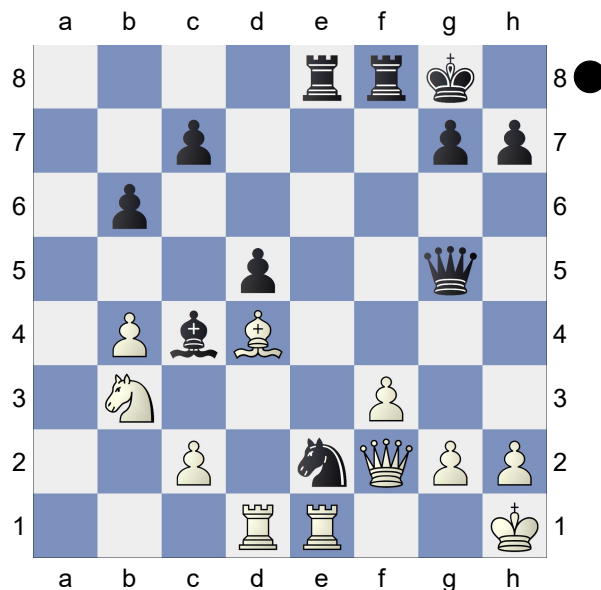
[23.Rxa6? Rxe1+ 24.Nf1 Rfe8-+]

23...Ne2!? 1:19 **24.Nb3** 4:35 **Bc4** 15

White is weak on the light squares

25.Rad1?! 45

[25.Bb2!



25...Re7 6:54

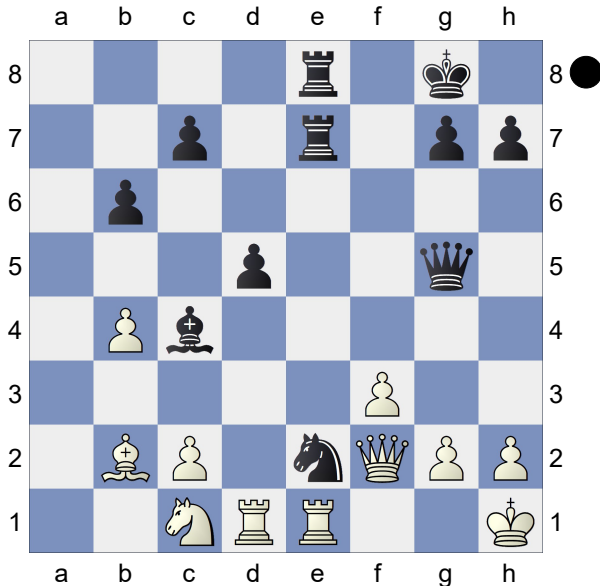
[25...Qg6! 26.Ba1 Re7 (26...Qxc2
27.Nd4

26.Nc1 2:40 Staying afloat. **26...Rfe8**
42

[26...Nxd4 27.Qxd4 Rfe8 28.Rxe7 Qxe7 (28...Rxe7 29.Kg1) 29.Nd3
White hasn't quite equalized, but shouldn't lose.]

27.Bb2 2:31

[27.Nxe2 keeps the balance. Rxe2 28.Qg1]



TA: "Opposite bishops and equal position" And then "Black converts with some help." **27...h5?! 2:19** This didn't help! It's now close to even.

["TA" ran and said "Better is 27...h6! 28.Bd4? Nxd4 29.Rxe7 Qxe7 30.Qxd4 Qxb4-+ "]

[Except that 27...h6 28.Nxe2 Rxe2 29.Qg1 is, again, a relatively minor something for Black, White holds, even losing the c2-pawn.]

[27...Kf7!]

28.Nd3?? 1:18 Perhaps White missed some tactical point -- I thought the whole point of this knight maneuver was to trade off that monster on e2!

["Tactical Analysis" gave "White should try 28.Nxe2 Rxe2 29.Qg1 ", when it might have noted the further 29...Qxg2+ (29...c5!?) 30.Qxg2 Rxe1+ 31.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 32.Qg1 Rxg1+ 33.Kxg1 pawn up, totally

drawn.]

28...Bxd3-+ 33 29.cxd3 7 h4 1:23

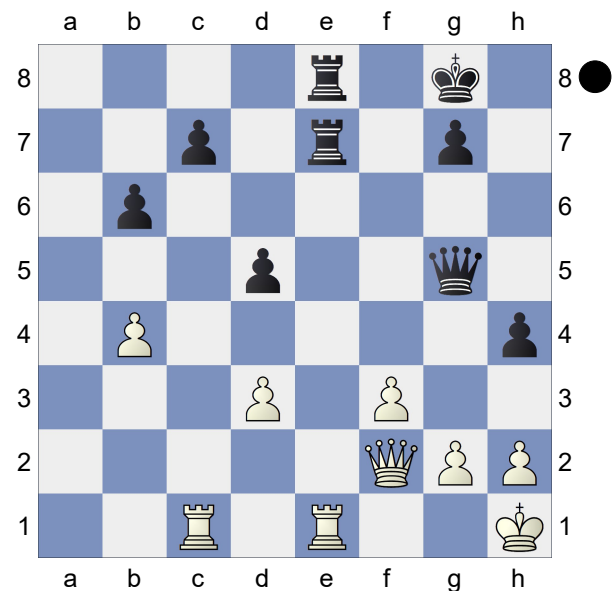
30.Bc1 50

[The threat was 30.-- Ng3+ 31.Kg1 (31.hxg3 hxg3) 31...Re2 and the queen dare not move.]

30...Nxc1 1:31 This wins, nicely! -- but just moving the queen does too.

[30...Qh5 and White loses to ...Ng3+ and ...Re2 after everything except 31. Rxe2 (which also loses).]

31.Rxc1 10 The players are starting to run a bit low on time: White 13:04, Black 14:30

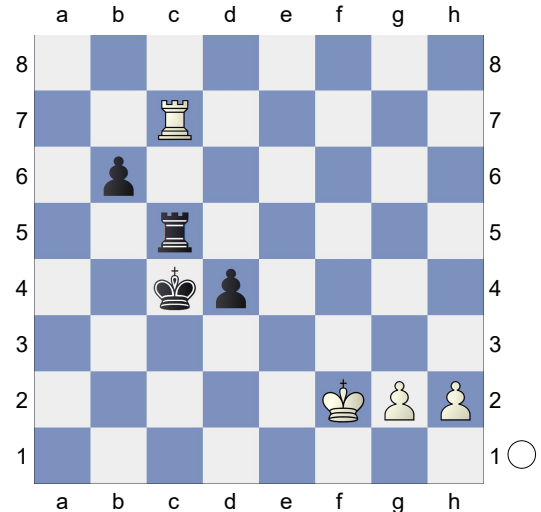
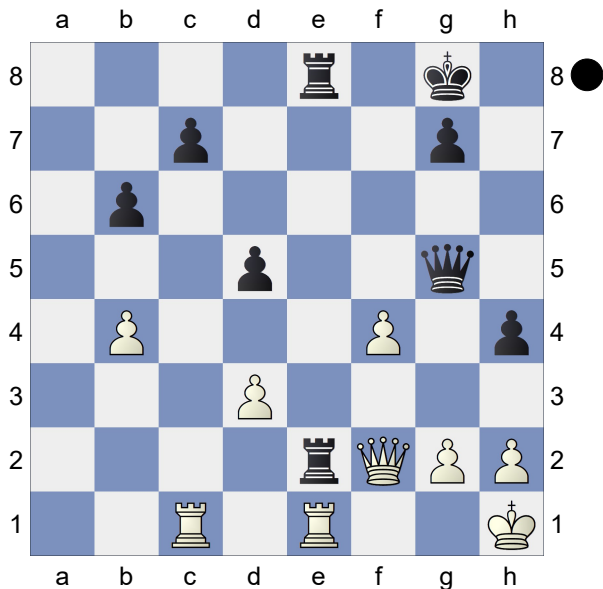


31...Re2! 14 "TA" calls this a skewer, which it is not, but it is a tactic :-) and much better than anything else. **32.f4!? 1:58**

[32.Qg1 Qd2]

(Diagram)

White isn't idle! This is as good a try (best even) as the two queen retreats, offering to go into a pawn-down queen ending. Lost, but worth avoiding if you can... **32...Qxf4! 1:00** And he can! **33.Qxf4 28 Rxe1+ 4 34.Qf1 5 Rxf1+ 6 35.Rxf1 4** Thanks to back-rank problems



Black has a big headstart in this race.) 46.Rxh4+ Kd3 47.Rh7]

45...Ke4 15

[45...Rxb5?? 46.Rg5+ Ke4
47.Rxb5+-]

**46.Re7+ 17 Kd3 15 47.Rxc7 3 Rxb5
15 48.g4 25 hxg3+ 16**

[48...Kd2 and ...d3 is quibblingly
better]

49.hxg3 4 Rf5+ 2:13 50.Ke1 7 b5 8
[50...Re5+ 51.Kd1 Rg5]

51.g4 3 Rg5 6 52.Rb7 4 Kc4 2:19
[52...Rxd4 53.Rxb5 Rg1+ 54.Kf2=]

53.Rc7+ 9 Kb4 5 54.Kd2 7 Rxd4 5
55.Kd3 5 Kb3 21 56.Rb7 11 b4 7
57.Rb8 2 Rg3+ 2:38 58.Kxd4 1:25
Black mates. 58...Ka3 4 59.Ra8+ 1:15
Kb2 7 60.Kc4 11 b3 9 61.Rh8 1:02
Ka2 14 62.Ra8+ 34 Kb1 5 63.Rb8 41
b2 6 64.Kd4 4 Ra3 28 65.Rh8 16 Ka1
6 66.Rh1+ 4 b1Q 5

[Weaker is 66...b1B 67.Rh2#]

67.Rxb1+ 6 Kxb1 3 KR-K 68.Kc4 8
Kb2 11 69.Kc5 3 Kc3 6 70.Kc6 13
Kc4 6 71.Kc7 4 Kc5 4 72.Kb8 3 Kc6 4
73.Kc8 7 Ra8# 3 Well done by
Heiserman! White=0.68/Black=0.29
(precise)
0-1

for White, Black can get there a lot
faster. **35...Re3 59** This is fine.

[35...c5!? leads to a "pure" rook vs.
rook, extra pawn, rook behind the
pawn: Game over.]

36.Rd1 9 The proverbial Passive Rook --
so in comes Black's king.

[or 36.Kg1 Rxd3 37.Rc1 Rb3
38.Rxc7 Rxb4]

36...Kf7 40 37.Kg1 6 Ke6 13 38.Kf2 43
d4 11 39.Rc1 1:19 Kd6 4:10 40.b5 20
Rxd3 59 41.Rc6+ 40 Kd7 36 42.Rg6 8
Rb3 25 43.Rxg7+ 5 Kd6! 4 best by a
lot 44.Rg6+ 8

[44.Rg4 Rb2+ 45.Kf3 h3!
(although it hardly matters)]

44...Ke5 49

[44...Kd5! *is* surprisingly better (but
as I say almost as often as
"surprisingly," Lost is Lost. (which
isn't really true)]

45.Rg7?! 17

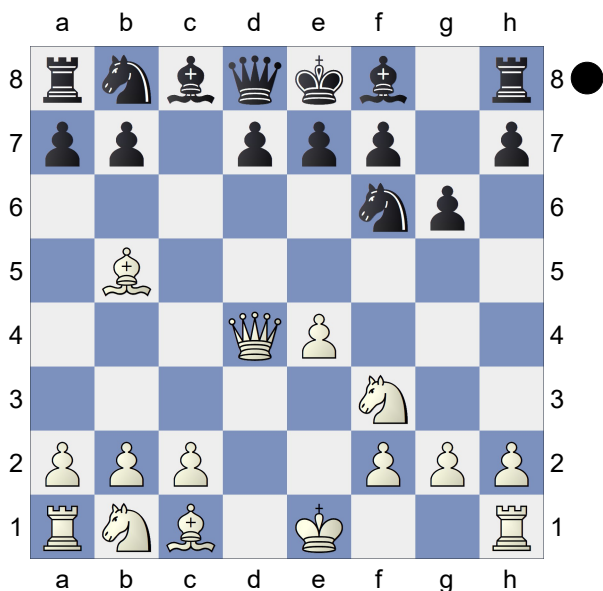
[TA gives 45.Rh6 Ke4! (45...Rxb5??
46.Rh5+ Skewer Ke4 47.Rxb5+-;
45...Rb2+?! 46.Kf3#; but Stockfish 17.
1 returns with 45...Kd5! 46.Rxh4 Kc4
47.Rh7 Rxb5 48.Rxc7+ Rc5+-

(Diagram)

Lewis, Edward **B27**
 Winslow, Elliott **1950**
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.7) 06.05.2025 **2200**
[Winslow, Elliott]

The Lewis-Winslow blood feud (not really!) continues. Ed was holding until he put the wrong piece (his king) on c3, meaning -- he couldn't get a knight there in time. Meanwhile a pawn dropped, and while stopping it from turning into a queen, awful things happened (finally!) on the kingside... **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4**

[4.Nxd4]
4...Nf6 5.Bb5!?
[5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Qa4 d6 7.e5 dxe5 8.Nxe5]
[5.e5 Nc6 6.Qa4 Nd5 7.Qe4 Nb6!?]



I remember seeing this move played by Bronstein in some game in 1971 or so -- and there it is! **5...Nc6**

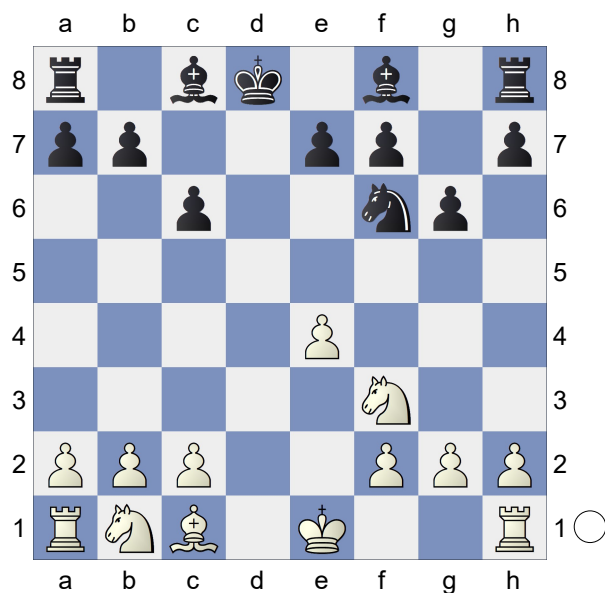
[5...a6!? Stockfish has this the only plus for Black, such as it is. **6.Be2 (6.e5!? axb5 7.exf6 Nc6 8.Qd3 b4?**) **6...Nc6]**
[5...Qa5+ 6.Qc3 Qd8?! (6...Nc6!

7.Qxa5 Nxa5 8.e5 Nd5 9.Bd2 Nc6 10.Nc3±) 7.Bc4 e6 8.e5 Ne4 9.Qd3 f5 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Nc6 12.0-0 Bg7 13.Re1 Qa5 14.Bb5 0-0 15.a4 Qc7 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 17.Nd4 Qd5 18.Nb5 Qxd3 19.cxd3 d5 20.exd6 a6 21.Nc7 Bxc3 22.Nxa8 Bxa1 23.Bg5 Bd4 24.Be7 Rf7 25.Rc1 Bd7 26.Rc7 Bxa4 27.Rc4 Bc6 28.Rxd4 1-0 (28) Bronstein, D-Zhidkov, V Baku 1972]

6.Bxc6 dxc6!?

[6...bxc6]

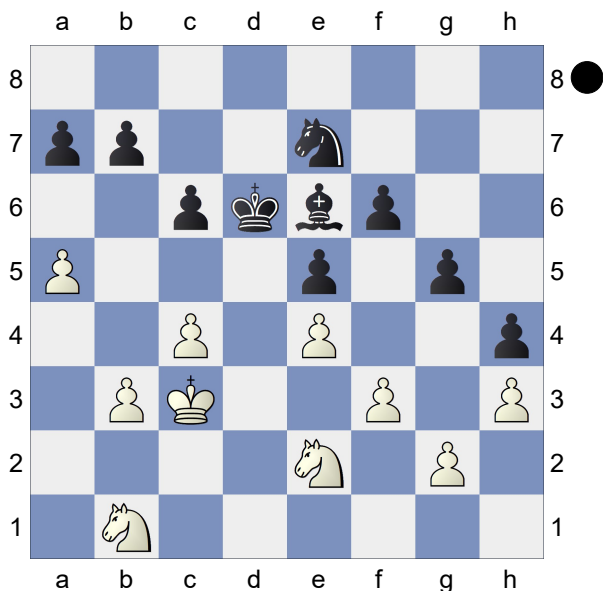
7.Qxd8+ Kxd8



There was a time when I'd never do this. I suspected this was a "level" situation, where a 2500+ would squash me here but if my opponent (Ed) doesn't play sharply and accurately I'd get away with it. **8.Nc3 Nd7!? 9.Bd2 Bg7 10.0-0 e5 11.Be3 f6 12.h3 Kc7 13.Nd2 Nb6 14.f3 Be6 15.b3 h5 16.a4 Bh6 17.Bf2 Rad8 18.a5 Nc8 19.Rhe1 Rd7 20.Be3 Bxe3 21.Rxe3 Rhd8 22.Ndb1 Rd4 23.Ree1 g5 24.Ne2 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 26.Kxd1 h4 (setting up "latent" possibilities, which indeed come to fruition 23 moves later(!)) 27.Kd2 Kd6 28.c4 Ne7 29.Kc3? (now a knight can't go there for a move...**

)

[29.Nbc3 a6 (29...Kc5 30.Na2 Ng6
31.Nec1 Kd6 32.Nd3=) 30.Nc1 c5
31.Nd5 Nc6 32.Nxf6 Nxa5=]



29...c5!-+ (... so I can sneak this in)

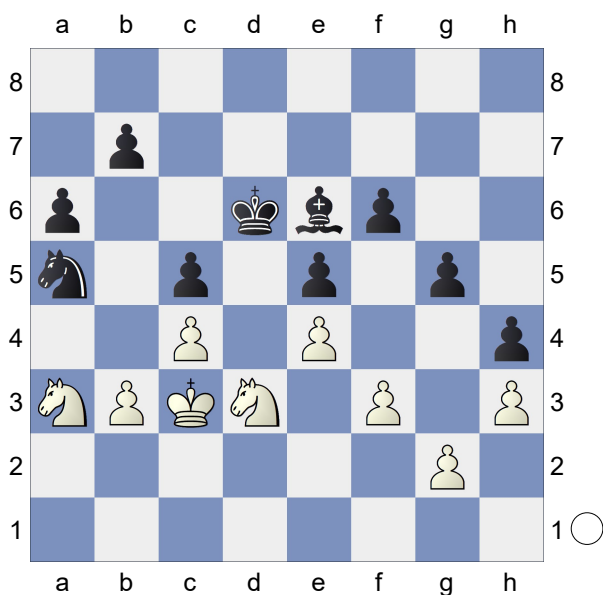
30.Na3?

[30.a6! bxa6! is good enough for
Stockfish to call it won after a long
think]

30...a6!

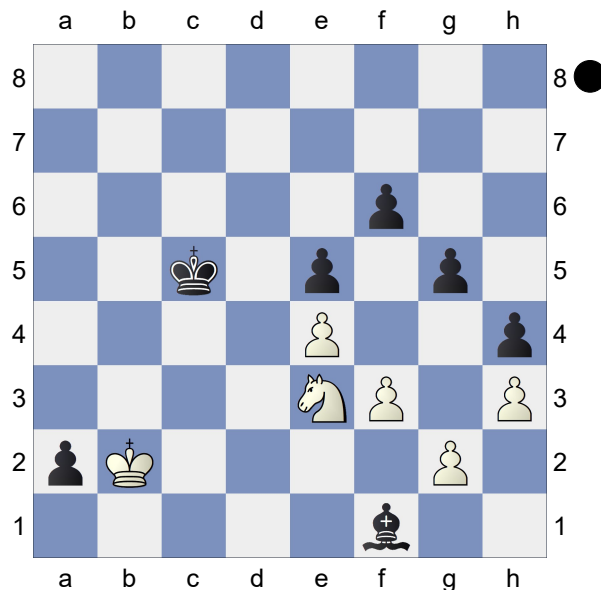
[30...Nc6 31.a6 bxa6]

31.Nc1 Nc6 32.Nd3 Nxa5



33.Nxc5?! This just simplifies Black's
task in a way. Lost is lost though, so no

**"?" 33...Kxc5 34.b4+ Kb6 35.bxa5+
Kxa5 36.Nc2 Kb6 37.Nb4 Kc5
38.Nd3+ Kd6 39.Kb4 Kc6 40.Kc3 a5
41.Ne1 b5 42.cxb5+ Kxb5 43.Nc2
Kc5 44.Ne1 Bc4 45.Nc2 a4 46.Ne3
a3 47.Nc2 a2 48.Kb2 Bf1 49.Ne3**



Stockfish thinks for a LONG time
without seeing the key move here!

49...Bxg2! But as soon as I put this on
the digital board it zooms in value! And
then if I back up a move, it "remembers"
it as hugely the best move. Interesting.
Note that Ed was stunned, but quickly
gave my move a "!" on his scoresheet!
And once it shows up, SF 17.1 doesn't
take too long to see that it's mate -- in
27 at first, then down to 23. :-)

**50.Nxg2
Kd4 51.Kxa2 Kd3 52.Kb2 Ke2**

At this point the engines are quibbling
over how few moves mate will take -- but
Ed was visibly amused to see he was
now losing his knight. **53.Kc2 Kf2**

**54.Kd2 Kxg2 55.Ke2 Kxh3
0-1**

□ Senthilkumar,Pranav

D00

■ Zavgorodniy,Andrew

2198

1937

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.8) 06.05.2025

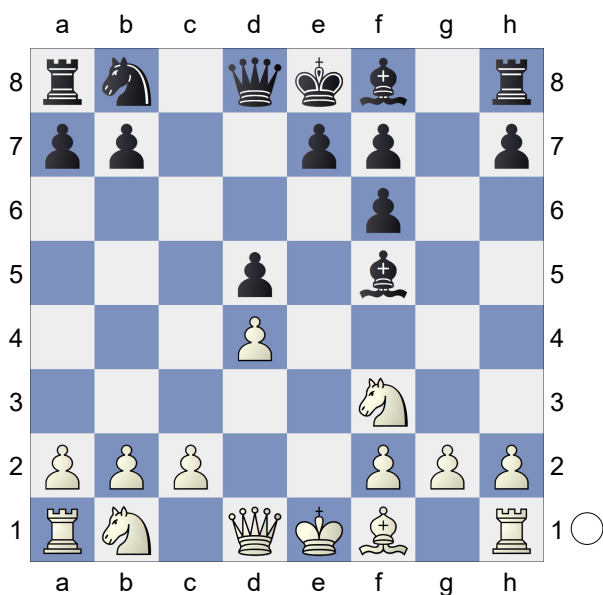
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 How far the Tromp has come! At first just quirky, it showed its strength in sharp lines as well as careful positional struggles where the better player wins. Don't you just hate it when that happens? **2...d5 3.Bxf6 gxf6**

4.Nf3 c5 5.e3 cxd4

[Relevant: 5...e6 6.c3 Nc6 7.Nbd2 Bd6 8.g3 Bd7 9.Bg2 cxd4 10.exd4 Qb6 11.Qc2 0-0-0 12.0-0 Kb8 13.a4 a6 14.Rfc1 Rc8 15.Qd1 h5 16.c4 Nxd4 17.cxd5 exd5 18.a5 Qb4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Nb3 Qxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Be5 22.Bxd5 Bg4 23.Rd2 Rhd8 24.Bxf7 Rxd2 25.Nxd2 Bxb2 26.Rb1 Bc3 27.Nc4 Bf3 28.Rb3 Rd8 29.Ne3 Bxa5 30.h3 Bd2 31.Kh2 a5 32.Nc4 Bc6 33.Bxh5 a4 34.Ra3 Bb4 35.Ra1 1-0 Nakamura,H (2794)-Firouzja,A (2737) Chess.com INT 2024]

6.exd4 Bf5



7.Bd3N

[Predecessor: 7.c4 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Qb6

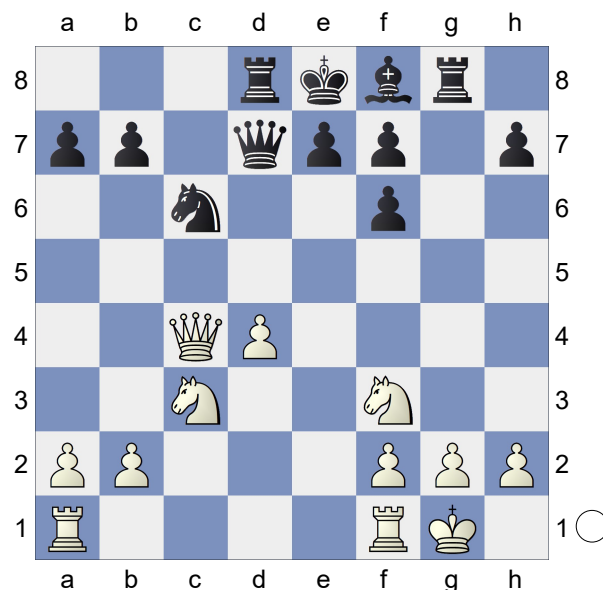
9.Qe2 Nc6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Bb5+ Kd8 13.0-0 Rg8 14.Nc3 Bh3 15.g3 Bxf1 16.Qxf1 a6 17.Rd1 Qb6 18.Ba4 Qxb2 19.Qd3 b5 20.Bb3 Rc8 21.Nxb5 Rc1 22.Na7 Rxd1+ 23.Bxd1 Qb6 24.Nc6+ Kc7 25.Qxh7 Rg5 26.Bf3 Bg7 27.Qg8 Kd6 28.Qxf7 Qb1+ 29.Kg2 Qe1 30.h4 Rf5 31.Nd4 Re5 32.Qxg7 Qa1 33.Qg4 Re1 34.Qf4+ Kd7 35.Bg4+ Ke8 36.Qb8+ Kf7

1-0 Ratkovic,M (2401)-Shundi,M (2223) Ecka 2023]

7...Qd7 8.0-0 Nc6 9.c4 Bxd3

10.Qxd3 dxc4 11.Qxc4 Rd8 12.Nc3 Rg8?!±

[12...Nxd4! 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Qb5+ (14.Qe2!?) 14...Qd7 15.Qa5 Bh6! 16.Rad1 Bd2!±]



13.d5 Ne5 14.Nxe5 fxe5 15.Rfe1 Qg4

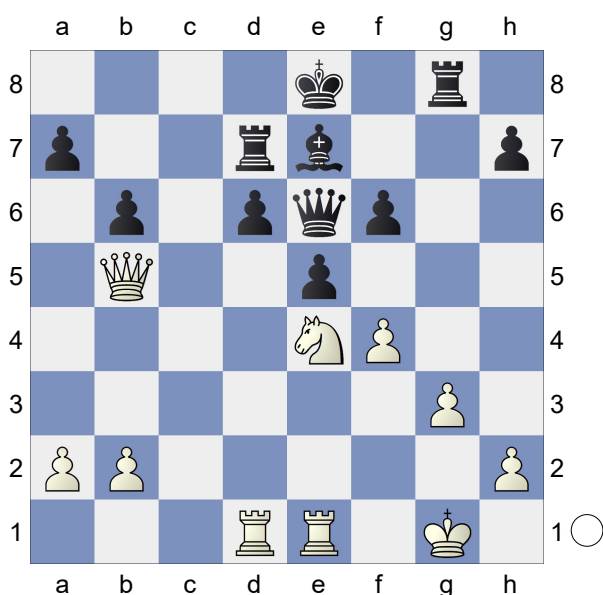
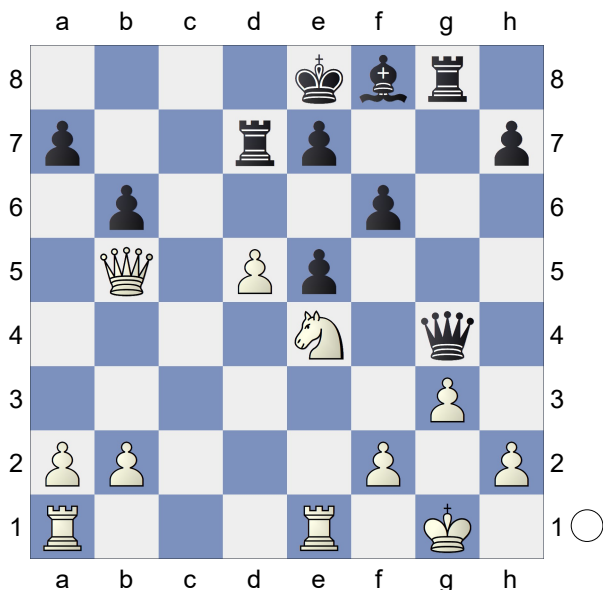
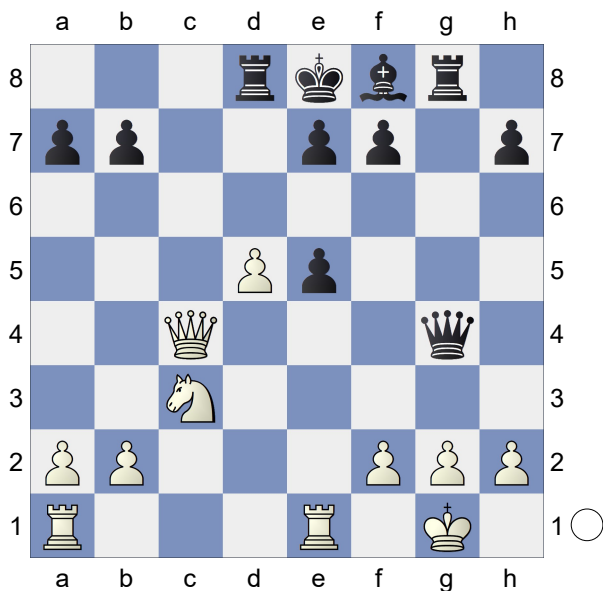
(Diagram)

16.Qb5+ Rd7 17.g3 f6 18.Ne4 b6

(Diagram)

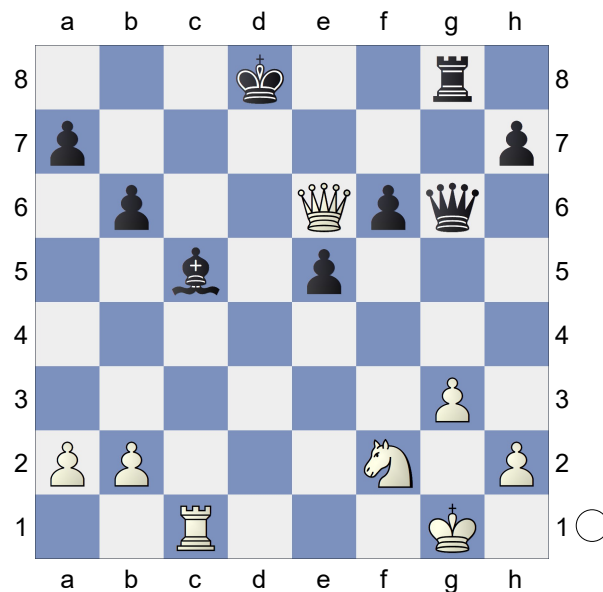
19.d6 Qe6 20.Rad1 exd6 21.f4 Be7

(Diagram)



22.f5 Qxf5 23.Rxd6 Kd8 24.Rxd7+

**Qxd7 25.Qb3 Qg4 26.Nf2 Qg6
27.Qe6 Bc5 28.Rd1+ Bd4 29.Rc1
Bc5**



**30.b4 Qg5 31.Rc2 Qg6 32.bxc5
1-0**

A32
 2597
 2198
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 13.05.2025
[Winslow, Elliott]

**1.Nf3 8:30 Nf6 5 2.c4 7 c5 32 3.g3 22
Nc6 12 4.d4 1:06 cxd4 1:06 5.Nxd4 6
e6 4 6.Bg2 17 Qc7 5:12 7.0-0 3:57
Nxd4?! 2:13**

[7...a6 far and away the most
common, but almost entirely
transpositions 8.Nc3 Bb4 compared
to the other bishop moves and 8...d6,
this has scored the best by a lot]

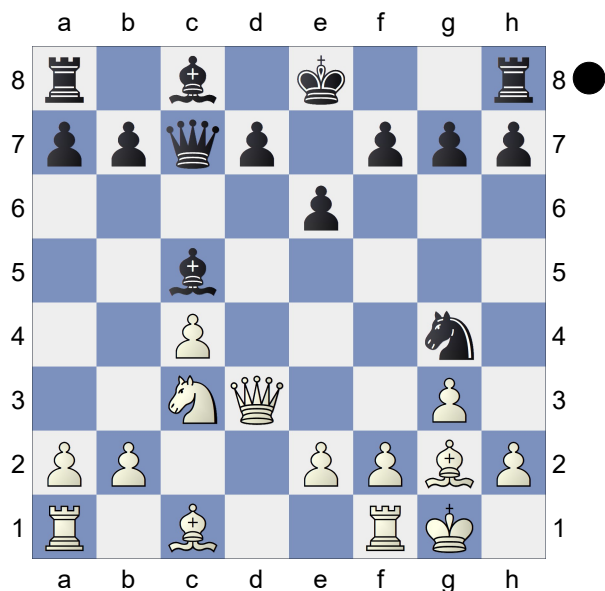
**8.Qxd4± 8 SF17.1 (1.00/d28) 8...Bc5 22
9.Qd3 1:13 Ng4 7:22**

[9...a6 9...a5 1.08 10.Bf4 d6 11.a3
e5 12.Bg5 Ng4 13.Nc3 Be6 14.Nd5
Bxd5 15.Qxd5 Rb8 (15...h6)
16.Qf3+- Qd7 17.Rad1 h6 18.Bc1
b4 would now be deadly. f5? (18...a5
19.Bd2 a4) 19.b4+- Bd4 20.Qd3 0-0

21.h3 Nf6 22.e3 Ba7 23.Qxd6 Qxd6
 24.Rxd6 e4 25.Bb2 Rbc8 26.c5
 Ne8 27.Rd7 Rf7 28.Rfd1 Rxd7
 29.Rxd7 Rc7 30.Rd8 Kf7 31.Bd4
 1-0 (31) Claridge Hansen,W (2296)-
 Blackburn,J (2226) Newcastle on
 Tyne 2021]

[9...a5±]

10.Nc3± 4:23



Ne5N 5:10 Best; White is clearly better,
 or maybe all the way...

[10...0-0 11.Ne4 (11.Bf4+- Ne5
 12.Na4) 11...f5? (11...Be7±)
 12.Nxc5+- Qxc5 13.b4 Qe5 14.Bf4
 Qb2 15.Bd6 Rf7 16.f4 g6 17.h3
 Nh6 18.Rfd1 a6 19.Bc5 a5 20.Qe3
 axb4 21.Bd4 Prevents Qc3 Qa3
 22.Qe5 Wards off Qxe3+ Kf8
 23.Qh8+ Ke7 24.Bc5+ d6 25.Bxd6+
 1-0 (25) Tudor,V (1665)-Gurgui,D
 ICCF email 2011]

11.Qc2?! 42

[11.Bf4!+- ...to won?]

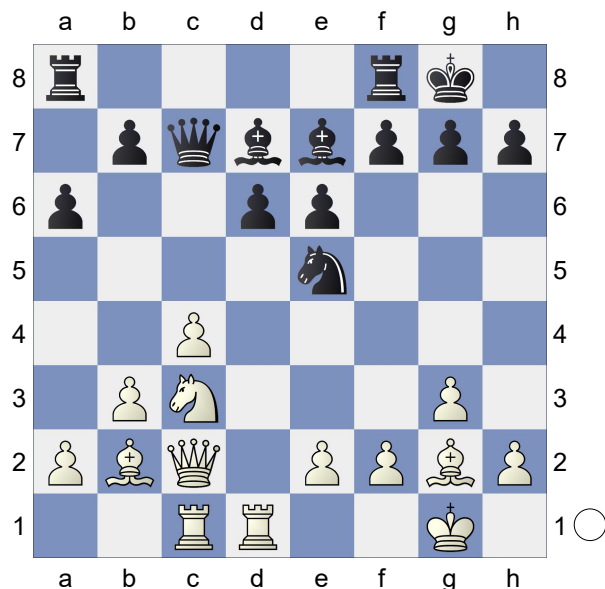
11...a6 1:00 12.b3 31 Black has a bad
 bishop

[12.Na4]

12...Be7 3:59 13.Bb2 18 0-0 18

**14.Rac1 39 d6 1:48 15.Rfd1 1:25 Bd7
 2:29**

[15...Rb8]



16.Qd2 1:35

[♞16.Qe4!]

16...Rfd8± 5:24 17.Qd4 3:44 Bf8 10:40

18.Ne4 2:49 Bc6 4:51 19.Rd2 9:16

[19.Ba3±]

19...Ng6 6:21 20.Qe3↑ 3:44 b6 11:58

[Better is 20...Ne7±]

21.h4 5:16 White is much more active.

21...Qb7 2:10 This move loses the game
 for Black.

[21...Ne7±]

22.Rcd1 1:48 d5? 9:27

[22...b5?! 23.h5! (23.Nxd6? Rxd6
 24.Rxd6 Bxd6±; 23.c5+- d5)
 23...Ne7+- 24.Nxd6 (24.h6)
 24...Rxd6 25.Rxd6 Bxg2 26.Rd7
 Qe4 27.Ba3 Nc6 28.Qxe4 Bxe4
 29.Bxf8 Kxf8 30.f3]

23.h5+- 7:47 Ne7 3:06 24.Qf4! 1:48

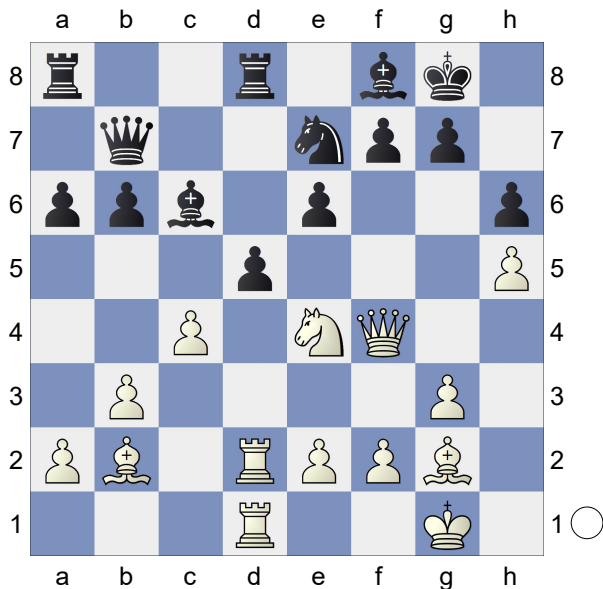
[24.Qg5 h6 25.Qf4 (25.Nf6+-)
 25...d4 26.Rxd4!+- (26.Nd6?? Rxd6
 27.Qxd6 Bxg2±; 26.Bxd4 Nf5
 27.Bb2+-)]

24...h6 3:43

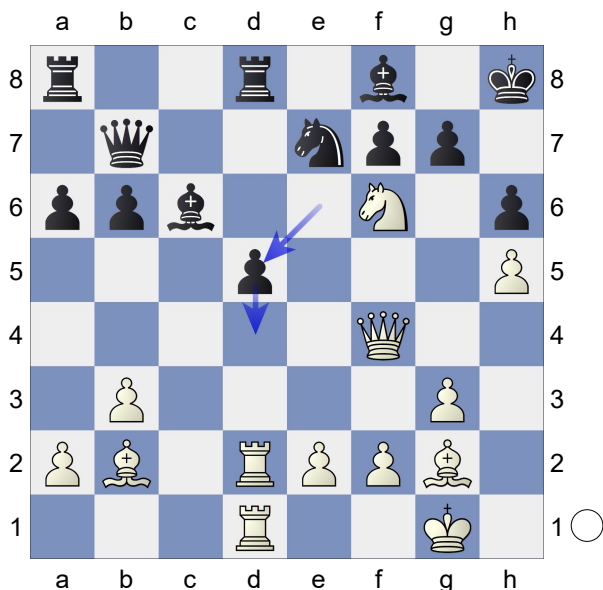
(Diagram)

25.Nf6+! 52 Kh8 5

[25...gxf6? loses. 26.Qxf6]



26.cxd5 8 exd5 1:11



27.e4! 1:23 d4 1:17 28.Ng4 2:17

Tough decision (sarcasm but indeed, probably best), considering that the following are also quite overwhelming:

[28.Rxd4 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Ng8+-]

[28.Nd5+-]

[28.Bxd4+-]

28...f5 1:40

[28...f6 29.Bxd4 (29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Bxd4 Kg8±) 29...Ng8]

29.Ne5 19 White is clearly winning.

[29.exf5?? Bxg2 30.Bxd4 Rxd4! 31.Rxd4 Nd5= (!)]

[29.Nxh6!? gxh6?! 30.Rxd4]

29...fxe4 2:40 30.Nf7+ 36 Kg8 22

31.Nxd8 5 Rxd8 7 32.Rxd4 6 Re8?! 1:07

33.Bxe4 1:21 Bxe4 13 34.Qxe4 6

White=0.13/Black=0.40

1-0

E27

□ **Heiserman, Jimmy**

2306

■ **Bayaraa, Chinguun**

2176

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 13.05.2025

[Winslow, Elliott/TA]

Heiserman and Chinguun battled in the Saemisch(via Knoch's line) Nimzoindian, and it never quite fell one way or another, until the very end, in a basic rook ending.

1.d4 1:12:34 Nf6 2:32 2.c4 5 e6 8

3.Nc3 7 Bb4 22 4.f3 9 This variation of the Nimzoindian is usually named after Hans Knoch; it often turns into some sort of Saemisch. **4...d5 1:42**

The Main Line, although Black scores well with all the less traditional replies.

5.a3 7 Bxc3+ 1:37 6.bxc3 6

White can always exchange one of his doubled pawns, but weaknesses remain, notably c4. **6...0-0 6**

[Black really should be hitting White in the center right away, with 6...c5

-- the crazy continuation is often

7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.e4

when all three knight retreats are

quite plausible. The earliest games

are in the 1940 but let's note a local

battle of note. Nick de Firmian was

often at the opening vanguard and this

is no exception: Ne7 10.Be3 0-0

11.Qb3 Qc7 12.a4 e5 13.Bc4 Nec6

14.Qa3 Na5 15.Bd5 Na6 16.Rb1

Be6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Qa2 Nxc5

19.Bxc5 Qxc5 20.Qxe6+ Kh8

21.Ne2 Qe3 22.Qxe5 Rad8

"!!" (Gelfand)

A) 23.Qxa5 Rd2 24.Qb5 Rfd8!

when four "0.00" lines appear via Stockfish 17.1 (Gelfand also mentions 24...Rc8? 25.f4! with a plus; or first 24...a6! 25.Qc4 Rfd8);

B) 23.Qxa5 ½-½ (23) Gelfand,B (2615)-De Firmian,N (2565) Moscow 1990. Black's relaxed attack is good enough to force a perpetual, which Gelfand appreciated and drew immediately. The continuation might have been]

7.cxd5 22 exd5 16 8.e3± 7 Bf5 2:07

[8...c5 9.Bd3 b6 10.Ne2 Ba6 is the main deployment. For some reason it reminds me of Botvinnik-Capablanca, AVRO 1938, even though in that game White didn't play f2-f3 until move 18 (!). By the way, I've this before: if you don't know this game, find it NOW and go over it (you'll have no trouble seeing multiple videos of it). It's got everything: the end of one era and the beginning of another; theoretical heavyweight, central mass, and a winning whole-board sacrificial combination that Botvinnik thought was just a draw when he initiated it!]

9.Ne2 1:56 Re8 2:44 In practice #1; Stockfish 17.1: #7 (!) 10.Ng3?! 7:22 Too modest?

[10.g4!± Bg6 (10...Bxg4? 11.fxg4 Nxc4 12.Rg1! Nxe3 13.Qd3 Qh4+ 14.Rg3 Nxf1 15.Kxf1+-; 10...Nxc4?! 11.fxg4 Qh4+ 12.Kd2 Be4 13.Rg1 Qxh2 14.Qe1! c5 15.Qg3 Qh6 16.g5±; 10...Be6!?) 11.Nf4 (11.h4!?)]

10...Bg6 26 Black already has the better side of equal. **11.Bd3?!± 7 c5 50**

12.0-0 1:26 Nc6 47 13.Ra2 3:10

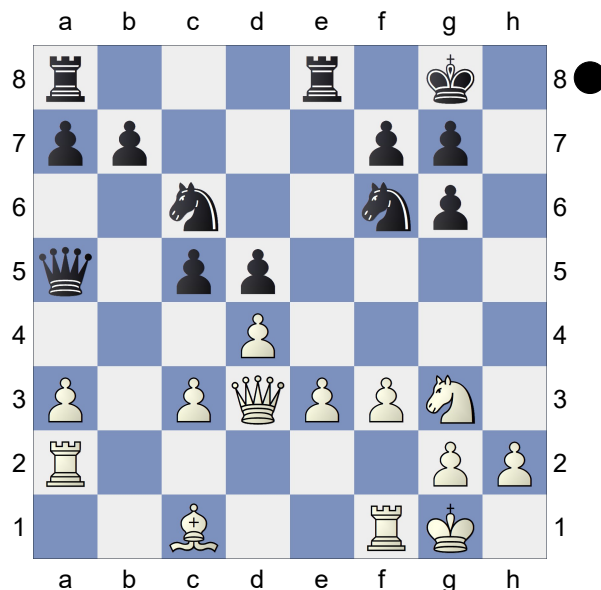
I've always enjoyed playing this move

13...Qa5?! 2:18

[13...a6± 14.Re1 b5]

14.Bxg6?! 3:10 White blinks first.

[14.Nf5=]
14...hxg6± 7 15.Qd3 29



Black is slightly better. **15...Rad8N 4:41**

[15...c4? 16.Qc2 b5 17.e4 Qb6 18.Bg5 a5 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Rb2 Rad8 21.Ne2 b4 22.axb4 axb4 ½-½ (40) Biolek,R (2404)-Zwardon,V (2383) Czech Republic 2013]
[15...Qa4!]

16.Re2 1:18

[16.Bd2=]

16...b6 2:02 17.Bb2?! 53 Qa4 1:35

[17...b5!±]

18.Rd1 11:27 Na5 17:06 19.e4 7:12

[19.Rde1± was worth a try.]

19...dxe4-+ 40 20.fxe4 11 Nc4 2:27

(Diagram)

21.Bc1 1:35 cxd4 10:46

[21...Nxa3? 22.Ra2+-]

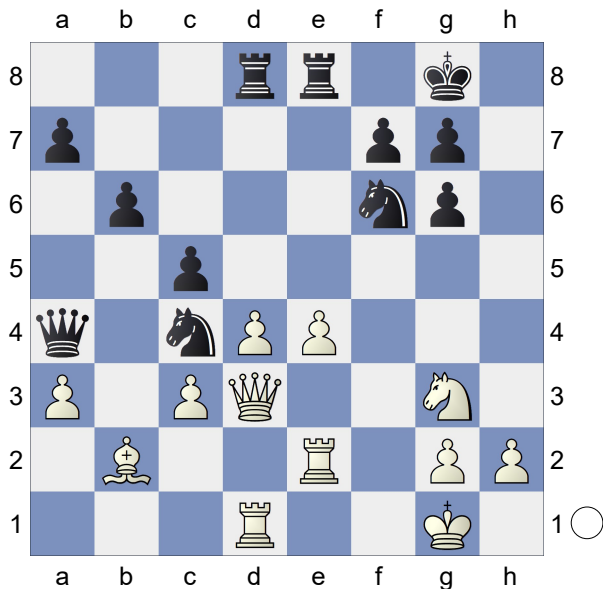
[21...Ne5± 22.Qc2 Qxc2 23.Rxc2 Nc6]

22.cxd4± 8 Ne5 4:02 A dynamic duo of knights. **23.Qd2 27 Nc4 22 24.Qc2 6:42 Qxc2 17 25.Rxc2 4 b5 13 26.Re2 2:50**

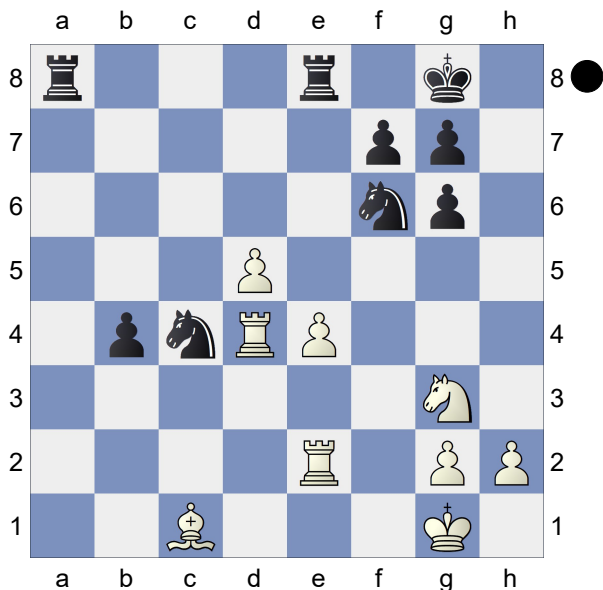
[26.a4!=]

26...a5 58

[26...Nd7±]



27.Rd3= 8:10 b4 1:20 28.axb4 22 axb4 6 29.d5 3:15 Ra8 6:51 30.Rd4 7:42
 [30.Rb3= remains equal.]



30...Ne5 2:06
 [Black should play 30...Rec8!± aiming for ...Ra1. 31.e5 Ra1 (31...Nxe5 32.Bb2±) 32.exf6 (32.Rc2? b3-+) 32...Rxc1+ 33.Kf2 gxf6]
31.Bf4 23:25 Ra1+ 3:57 32.Nf1 4 Rb1 55
 [Δ32...Ned7 33.Bd6 (33.Rxb4? Nxd5 34.exd5 Rxe2-+) 33...b3]
33.d6 4:22

[White should play 33.Bxe5= Rxe5 34.Kf2]

33...Nfd7 36

[33...Ned7!± should be considered. 34.e5 Nc5]

34.h3 3:06

[34.Bxe5= Nxe5 (34...Rxe5 35.Kf2=) 35.Kf2]

34...b3 3:20 Black plays on the queen side and is better

[34...f6!± 35.Kf2 Rb8]

35.Bxe5! 19 Nxe5 1:25 36.Rb4 1:41

Prevents Rb8 **36...Re6 3:09 37.Rd2 41**

Rf6 1:09 38.d7 1:20 Nxd7 8 39.Rxd7 4

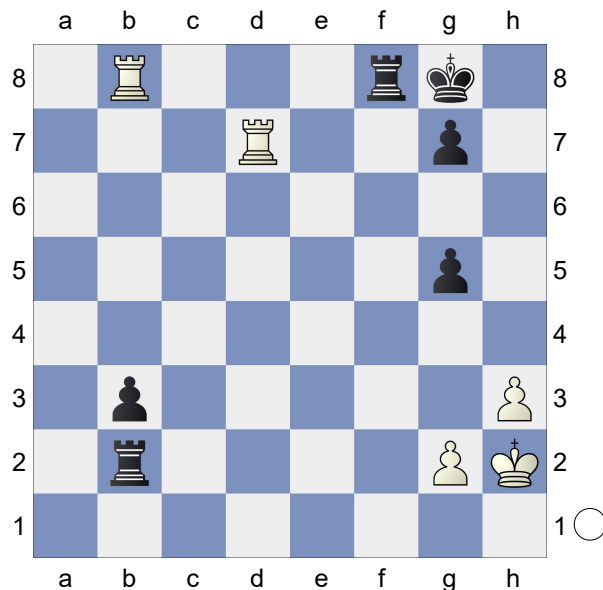
Rxf1+ 6 Endgame KRR-KRR. Black is

a pawn up. **40.Kh2 4 Rf2 3:59 41.e5 22**

White wants to mate with Rd8+. **41...g5**

3:47 42.e6 5 Rbb2 2:57 43.exf7+ 1:07

Rxf7 48 44.Rb8+ 12 Rf8 14



45.Rbb7 15

[45.Rb5=]

45...Rf5? 1:56

[45...Kh7±]

46.Rxg7+- 5 White is clearly winning.

46...Kf8 1:30 47.Rgc7 5

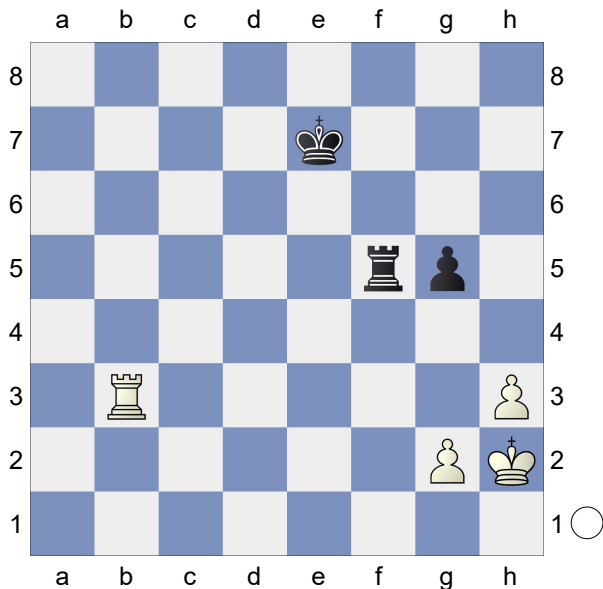
[47.Rh7 Kg8±]

47...Re2 1:25

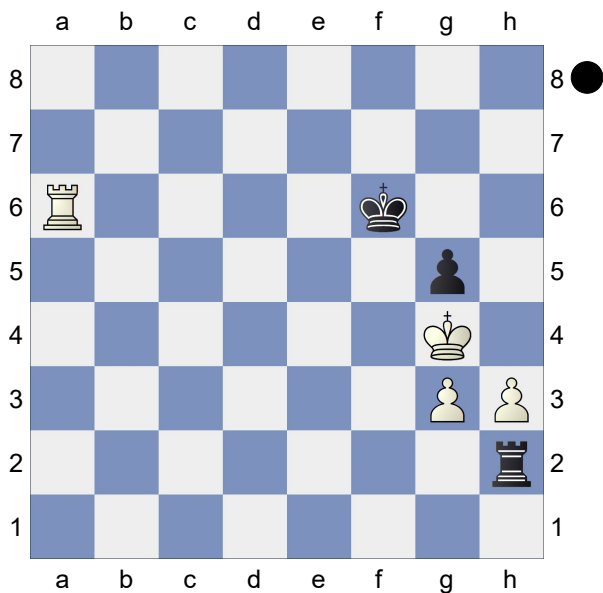
[Δ47...Re5 48.Rf7+ Kg8]

48.Rxb3 23 Strongly threatening Rb8+.

48...Re7 1:57 49.Rxe7 1:04 Kxe7 16



KR-KR. White is a pawn up. 50.Kg3! 38
Ra5 5:46 51.Rf3 10 Ke6 2:55 52.Kg4
10 Ra2 1:56 53.g3 11
 [53.Kxg5 Rxg2+ 54.Kh4 Kd5=]
53...Rh2 3 54.Rf8 11
 [54.Kxg5 Rxh3 55.Rf6+ Ke5+-]
54...Rg2 33 55.Rf1 1:32
 [55.Kxg5 Rxg3+ 56.Kh4 Rg7=]
55...Rh2 3:23 56.Ra1
 [56.Kxg5 Rxh3 57.Rf6+ Ke5+-]
56...Kf6 33 57.Ra6+ 9
 [Less strong is 57.Ra5 Re2 58.Rf5+
 (58.Rxg5 Re8±) 58...Kg7 59.Rxg5+
 (59.Kxg5 Re3±) 59...Kh6±]



57...Kf7 5 58.Ra5 5

[Stronger than 58.Kxg5 Rxh3 59.g4 Rd3=]

58...Kf6 40 59.Rf5+ 4 Know your ending patterns!

White=0.28/Black=0.66

1-0

□ Winslow,Elliott **D58**
 ■ Das,Rohan **2200**
2099
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (2.4) 13.05.2025
 [Winslow,Elliott/TA]

1.d4 1:19 Nf6 5 2.c4 28 e6 5 3.Nf3 18
d5 5 4.Nc3 12 Be7 13 5.Bg5 39 h6 5
6.Bh4 1:02 0-0 26 7.e3 2:11 b6 5
8.Bxf6 3:33 I really fumbled the opening here.

[Talking with Loren Schmidt a week ago, we liked 8.Qc2 Bb7 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.0-0-0]

8...Bxf6 5 9.Qd2 1:47 Bb7 3:26

[9...dxc4!]

10.cxd5 27 White has an edge.

10...exd5 5 11.0-0-0 1:22

[⚡11.h4]

11...Nd7!= 7:21 12.h4 4:58 c5 8:28

[12...g6!=]

13.g4± 6:14 g6 57

[13...Be7±]

(Diagram)

14.Bd3? 3:50

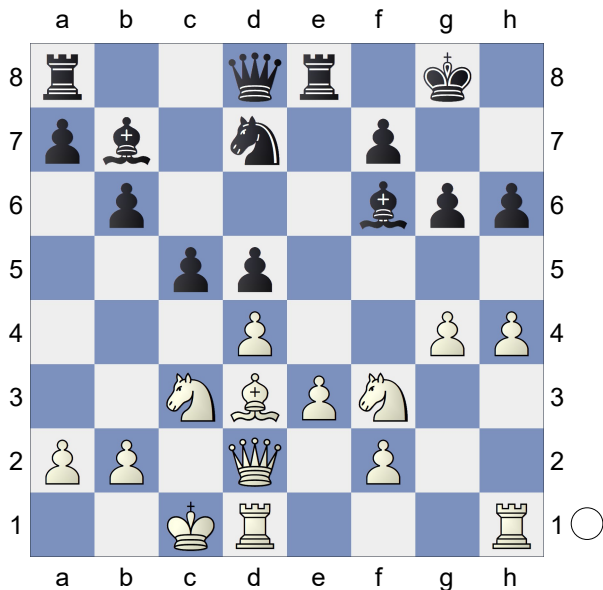
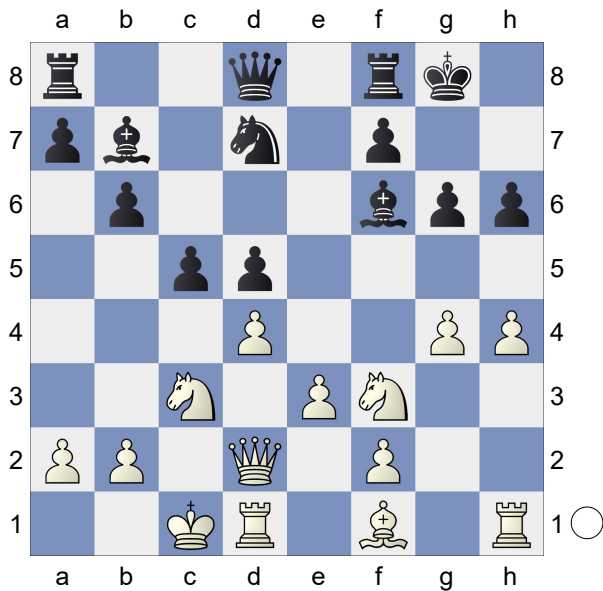
[14.g5!±]

14...Re8? 3:43

[14...Bg7± keeps the upper hand.]

(Diagram)

15.g5!+- 24:14 hxg5 3:41 16.hxg5 6:51



[16.Nxg5+- aiming for Rdg1. Bxg5
17.hxg5]

16...Bxg5N 50

[16...Bg7±]

[16...Bg7 17.Ne2 c4 18.Bc2 b5
19.Nh2 Qe7 20.Ng4 b4 21.Nh6+
Kf8 22.Nf4 c3 1-0 (43) Steflitsch,E
(2382)-Kuba,G (2387) Austria 2012]

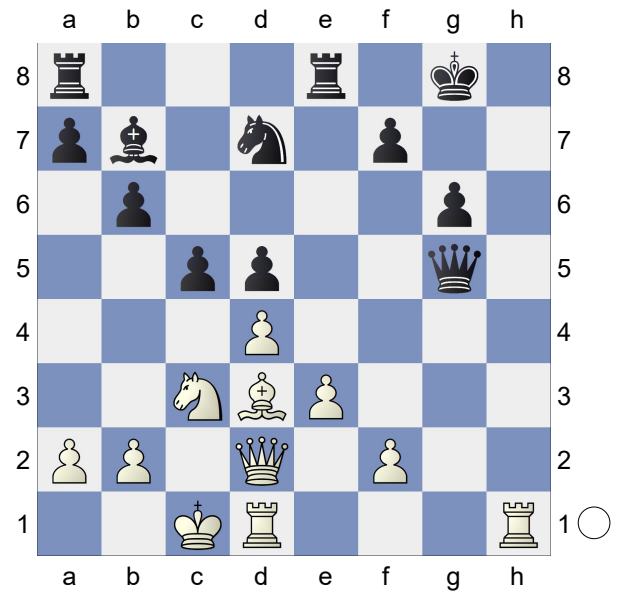
17.Nxg5 2:30 Qxg5 8

(Diagram)

18.Bb5 31

[18.Rdg1 Qf6=]

[18.f4! Qf6 (18...Qg3 19.Bf5!+-)



19.f5]

18...Red8 4:24 19.dxc5? 5:44

[19.Rdg1 Qf6±]

[Better is 19.f4+- Qf5 20.Rdg1

(20.Qh2 Kf8±)]

19...Nxc5= 2:10

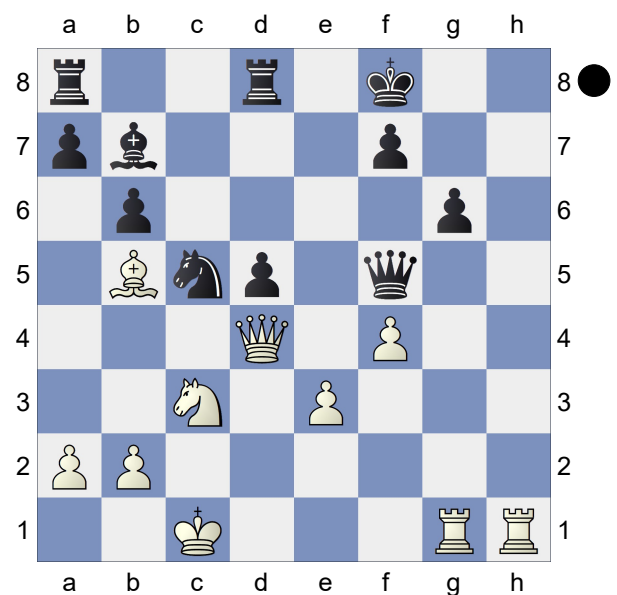
[Don't blunder 19...d4? 20.c6]

20.Qd4 9:41 Kf8! 6 21.Rdg1 2:12 Qf5

29 White must now prevent ...Ne6!.

22.f4? 22

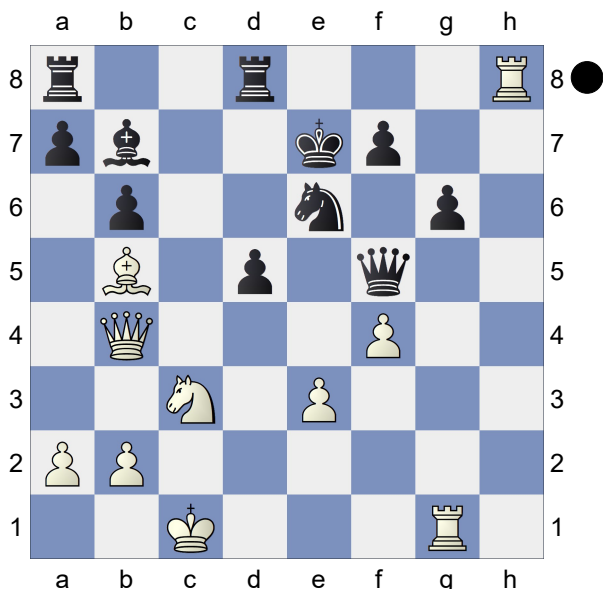
[22.Rh4= and White has nothing to
worry. Ne6 23.Qb4+ Nc5 24.Qd4]



Now this stinks! 22...Ne6!+- 5:26

23.Rh8+ 47

[Δ 23.Qh8+ Ke7 24.Qh4+ Qf6
25.Bd3 (25.Qxf6+? Kxf6 26.f5
gxf5+-) 25...Qxh4 26.Rxh4]
23...Ke7 **14** Black is clearly winning.
24.Qb4+ 7



Kf6! 2:18 25.Rxd8 4:24 Rxd8 6 26.Ne2
55 d4 5:16 27.Qd2 3:42
[Δ 27.exd4 Kg7 (27...Nxf4?
28.Nc3+-) 28.Rf1]
27...Qxb5 25 Excellent defence and
counterattack by Das!
White=1.06/Black=0.55
0-1

□ **Stults,Sawyer**

■ **Tam,Hoa Long**

2nd Silman TNM: 1600-1999 (2.26)

[*Tam,Hoa-Long/Winslow,Elliott*]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3
e6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Bb4 7.0-0 Nge7
8.Qe2 0-0 9.Bf4 d5 First move out of
the master database. I wanted to get rid
of the hole on d6 so I can start trading
down by taking on c6. **10.Rfd1 Bxc3**
[10...d4 11.Nb5 Ng6 12.Bg5
(12.Bg3 e5 \bar{f} ; 12.Nbxd4 Nxf4
13.Nxc6 Nxe2+-) 12...Qb6

13.Nbxd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 \bar{f}]
11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Bb3 dxe4 Simplifying
the position, but keeping my c8 bishop
weak.

[12...Qxc3 13.Rac1 (13.exd5 Nxd5
14.Bxd5 exd5 \bar{f}) 13...Qf6 14.Bg5
(14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 exd5
16.Bg3 Be6 \bar{f}) 14...Qg6 \bar{f}]

13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4

[14.Rxd4 Qxc3 (14...e5?
15.Rxe4=) 15.Rad1 Ng6 16.Qxe4 \bar{f}]

14...Nd5 15.Qxe4 Nc3 I missed that
Qe1 allows White to keep the exchange,
though I don't think I have a better move
since I don't want to allow an opposite-
bishop ending after Bxd5. **16.Qe1 Qf5**
17.Qxc3 Qxf4 18.Rac1 Bd7 19.Qc7

[19.d5 exd5 20.Bxd5 Rac8 21.Qb2
Rxc1 22.Rxc1 (22.Qxc1 Qxc1
23.Rxc1 b6 24.Rc7 Rc8 25.Rxc8+
Bxc8 \bar{f}) 22...b6 \bar{f}]

19...Qxc7 20.Rxc7 Bc6 21.d5 exd5
22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Rfc8 24.Rdd7
Rxc7 25.Rxc7 b5 26.Kf1 g6 27.Ke2
a5?! In the king race that occurs later, it
winds up helping White that the pawns
are further forward.

[27...a6 28.Kd3 Rd8+ 29.Kc3
Rd6 \bar{f}]

28.Kd3 Rd8+ 29.Kc2 Rd5 30.Rc3 h5
31.Rd3! Re5 32.Re3 Rf5 33.Rf3

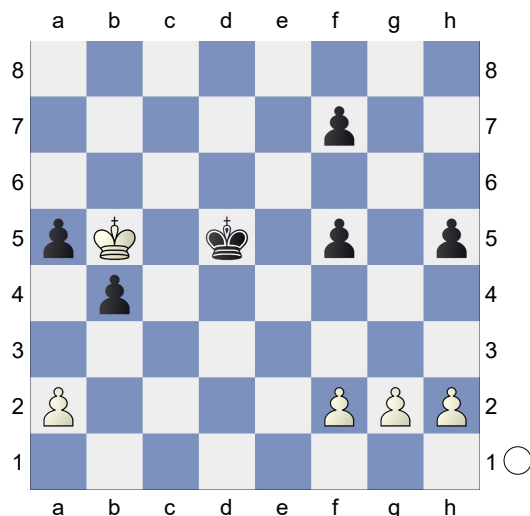
Rxf3?! I calculated that we would both
queen at the same time, but just
assumed that in the Q+2P v Q endgame
that White would eventually run out of
checks. (EW: No, it's totally winning.)

[33...Kg7! (EW: ??) 34.Rxf5
SF: "0.00" gxf5 35.Kd3 Kf6 36.Kd4=
Ke6??+- (36...h4=; 36...f4=;
36...b4=) 37.Kc5+- b4 38.Kb5 Kd5

(Diagram)

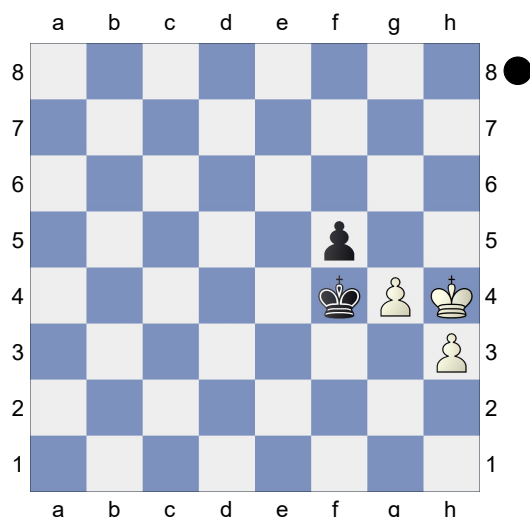
39.Kxa5?? (39.g3+-) 39...Kc4=
This looks really tempting, but it

B21
1471
1564



doesn't quite work after 40.f4 h4
 (40...b3! 41.axb3+ Kxb3=) 41.h3 f6
 42.Ka4 Kc3 43.Ka5 b3 44.axb3
 Kxb3 45.Kb5 Kc3 46.Kc5 Kd3
 47.Kd5 Ke3 48.Ke6

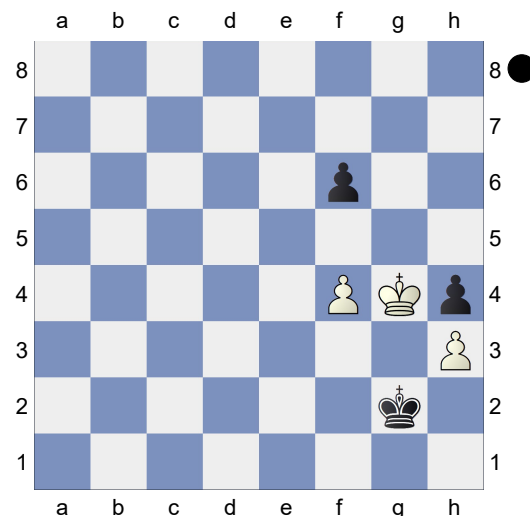
A) 48...Kxf4 49.Kxf6! Ke4!
 (49...Kg3 50.Kxf5 Kxg2
 51.Kg4+-) 50.Kg5 Ke5! 51.Kxh4
 Kf4= 52.g4!?



Ke5! I (EW) had this very endgame
 a few years ago against Ruiyang
 Yan and failed to notice this
 drawing move. 53.g5 f4 54.Kg4
 Ke4 55.g6 f3 56.g7 f2 57.g8Q
 f1Q= not that it's any fun...;

**B) 48...Kf2! 49.Kxf5 (49.Kxf6
 Kxg2 50.Kxf5 Kxh3=) 49...Kxg2
 50.Kg4**

(Diagram)



Kf2! 51.Kxh4 Kf3 52.f5 Kf4=]
34.gxf3 Kg7?!

[34...Kf8! gets to d6 with a
 straightforward win.]

35.Kd3 Kf6 36.Kd4 Kf5 37.Kc5 Kf4
 38.Kxb5 Kxf3 39.Kxa5 Kxf2 40.a4 f5
 41.Kb4 f4 42.a5 f3 43.a6 Kg1 44.a7
 f2 45.a8Q f1Q 46.Qe4 Kxh2 47.Qh4+
 Kg1 48.Qg3+ Qg2 49.Qe1+ Qf1
 50.Qg3+ Kh1 51.Qh4+ Kg2 52.Qg5+
 Kf2 53.Qxg6 Qe1+ 54.Kc5 Qc3+
 55.Kb6 Qb4+ 56.Kc7 Qc5+ 57.Kb7
 Qd5+ 58.Kb6 Qd4+ 59.Kc6 h4
 60.Qf5+ Kg3
 0-1

C60
 Suarez, Sebastian **2200**
 Heimann, Mark **2597**
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 20.05.2025
 [Winslow, Elliott/TA]

A key game for the eventual standings
 as of this Newsletter, since these two
 players are tied for 1st-2nd after five
 rounds. But forget that, the story is how
 close now-master Sebbby Suarez came
 to beating now-*GM* Mark Heimann!
 Okay, earlier he came rather close to
 losing as well. And in the ending he
 certainly fumbled the ball at the goal line

this game! Still, Even bringing a grandmaster to the brink of defeat is an achievement, and a mark (argh!) in his progress. As for Mark, he's got to wonder what happened, and recognize how close he came to losing there! **1.e4**

15 e5 2:43 2.Nf3 7 Nc6 2 3.Bb5 7 a6 5 4.Ba4 4 Nf6 5 5.0-0 51 d6 7

This hybrid Ruy (not really a Chigorin, not really a Modern Steinitz) is being seen in games by the heavy hitters (mostly blitz games of course) and even articles written about lately. At least Black doesn't have to worry about his queenside pawns being picked on (as after ...b5). **6.Re1 37 Bd7 5 7.c3 6:15 g6 55 8.h3 2:07 Bg7 8 9.d4 1:54 0-0 9 10.Nbd2 21:11 Re8 33 11.Bc2 2:03 a5 25 12.Nf1 1:46 a4 28 White is slightly better. 13.a3?! 2:03**

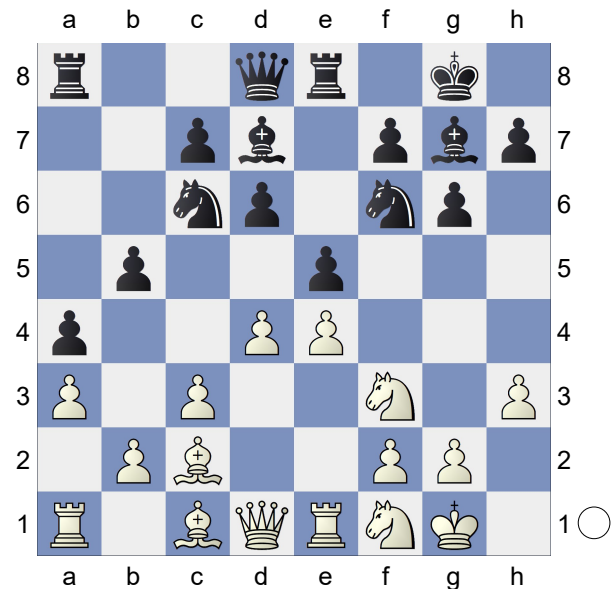
[13.Bxa4 exd4 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.Nxd4 Bxe4 (15...Nxe4 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.a4=)]

[White has universally played 13.Ng3± Here's some 1-minute chess between a former Peninsula boy and a former ... well... b5 14.Be3 Na5 15.Bd3 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Qe2 Bb5 19.Rad1 Qb8 20.a3 Qb7 21.Bg5 h6 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Nf1 Rad8 24.Ne3 Rd3 25.Nd5 Bg7 26.Nb4 Red8 27.Nxd3 cxd3 28.Qe3 Bc4 29.Nd2 Be6 30.Nf3 Qxb2 ½-½ (94) Carlsen,M (2835)-Naroditsky,D (2619) Bullet Chess Losers, Chess.com 2023]

13...b5= 43

(Diagram)

Stockfish 17.1 makes Black better than equal already. **14.dxe5 8:35** Not too ambitious, but perhaps sensible in that Black might be pulling ahead spacewise. **14...dxe5 5:19 15.c4N 3:38**



It's getting a bit worse further.

[15.Bg5 h6 (15...Na5!) 16.Bh4 (16.Bxf6!?) 16...Qc8?! 17.Ne3 (17.c4!=) 17...Na5 18.Bg3 Nh5 19.Bh2 c6 20.Qe2 Nf4 21.Bxf4 exf4 0-1 (60) Alekseenko,K (2702)-Sjugirov, S (2680) Chess.com INT 2022]

15...Qb8 5:04

[15...bxc4! 16.Bxa4 Nd4 17.Bxd7 Nxd7 The forward c-pawn helps Black's knights aim at d3 and b3.]

16.cxb5 3:20 Qxb5 37 17.Bd2? 10:01

[17.b4!?=]

[17.b3]

[17.Bd3!? when all three straight-back retreats are miniscule plus Black.]

17...Nd4 2:10 Black has a strong knight and is better 18.Bc3 1:29 c5 3:29

19.Bd3 58 Black has space advantage and is better 19...Qb7 1:01

[19...c4!]

20.Bc4?! 17

[20.N1d2]

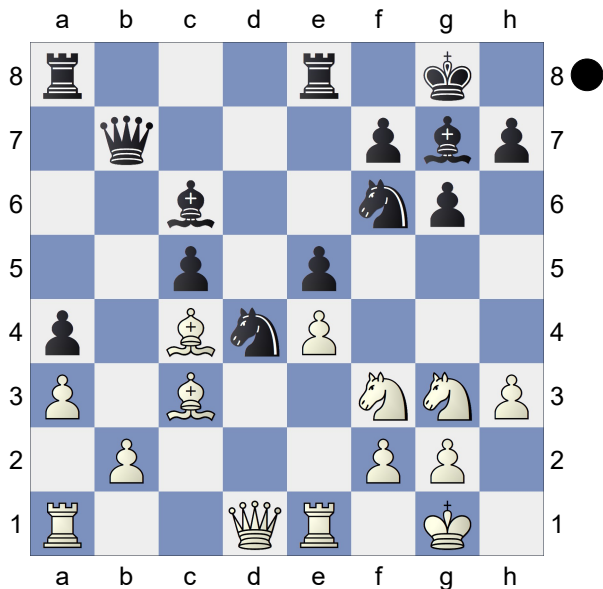
20...Bc6 7:59

[20...Nxe4!? 21.Rxe4 Qxe4 22.Bxf7+ Kh8 23.Ng3 Qc6]

[20...Bb5!]

21.Ng3 3:03

[21.N1d2]



21...Rad8!-+ 2:01 Avoiding any tactical sequences (for a move at least), and just upping the pressure.

[21...Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Bxe4 23.Rxe4 (23.Bxf7+ Qxf7 24.Rxe4 Rf8 \bar{f}) 23...Qxe4 24.Bxf7+ Kh8 25.Bxe8 Rxe8 26.Bxd4 (26.Qxa4? Nxf3+ Discovered Attack 27.gxf3 Qxa4-+) 26...cxd4 27.Qxa4 \pm]
 [21...Bxe4 22.Rxe4 (22.Bxf7+ Qxf7 23.Nxe4 Nxe4=) 22...Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Qxe4 24.Bxf7+ Kh8 25.Bxe8 Rxe8 26.Bxd4 cxd4 27.Qxa4=]

22.Qb1?! 31

[\triangle 22.Rb1 \bar{f}]

22...Bh6-+ 5:50 23.Nd2 12:20 Bxd2?! 3:50

[23...Bb5-+ 24.Ngf1 Bxc4 25.Nxc4 Qb5 26.Nfd2 Nh5 27.g3 Bxd2 28.Nxd2 Ne2+]

24.Bxd2 \bar{f} 3

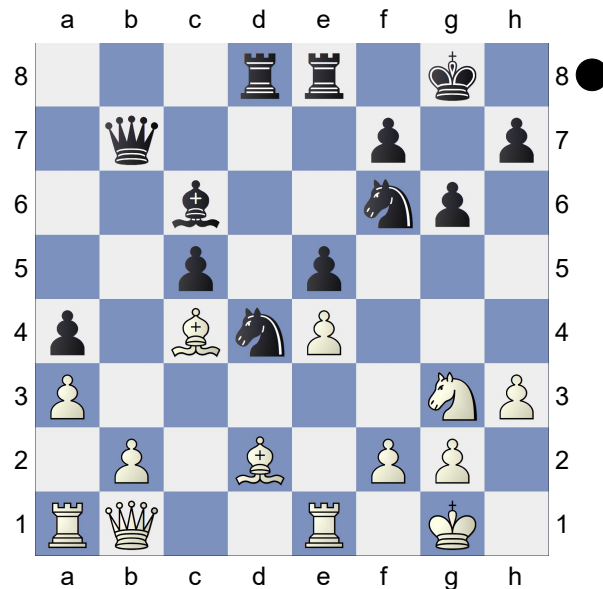
(Diagram)

Nf3+?! 24

[24...Bb5 25.Ba2 Qa6 26.Qc1 Bd3 \bar{f}]

25.gxf3 13 Rxd2 4 26.b4! \bar{f} 2:47 Rd4! 11:47 27.Qa2?! 48

[27.Rc1 \bar{f}]



27...cxb4 1:44

[27...Red8! \bar{f} with various threats via b4 and d2 (and ...Qe7 and ...h5-h4!?). 28.bxc5 Qe7]

28.axb4 2 Red8 22 29.Rab1? 10:05

[29.Rec1 \bar{f}]

29...Bb5-+ 1:08 30.Rec1 1:33

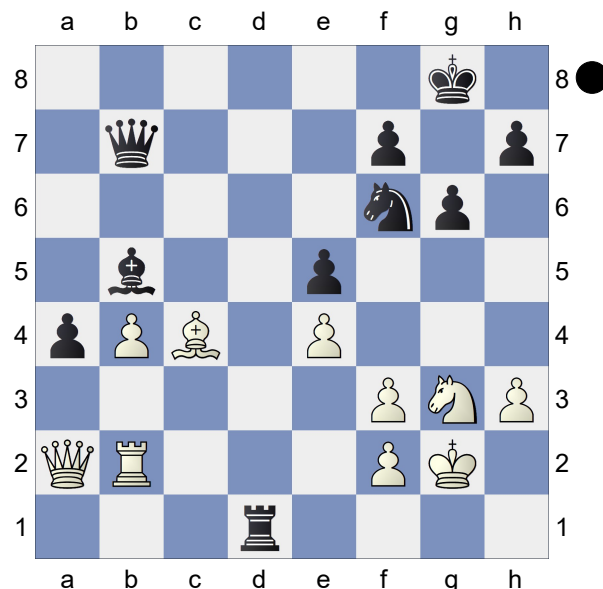
[30.Bxb5 doesn't really help]

30...Rd2 9:21

[30...Qa7!]

31.Rb2 25 Rd1+ 44 32.Rxd1 2 Rxd1+ 4 33.Kg2?! 20

[33.Kh2 was a better defense.]



33...a3? 3:06

[33...Nh5! is a shot of sorts. 34.Nxh5 gxf4 White's knight was the last defender 35.Re2 Qc7! (35...Qe7 36.f4 exf4 37.Bxb5 Qg5+ 38.Kf3 still lost, but squirming) 36.Rc2 (36.Bxb5 Qc1) 36...Qe7]

34.Bb3= 1:36

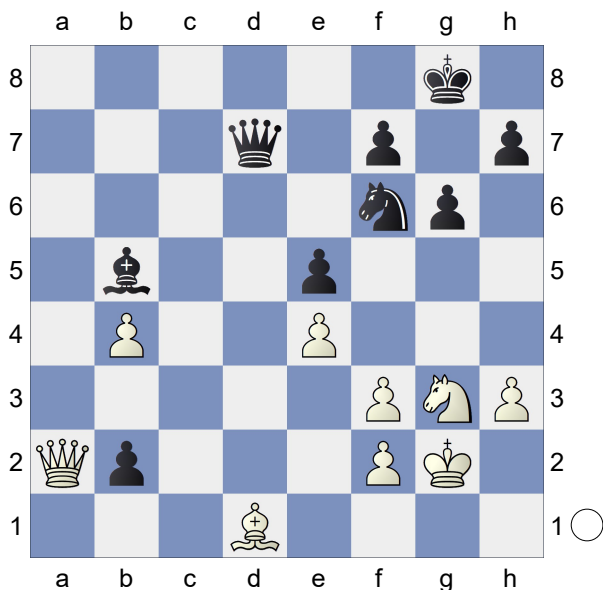
[34.Rc2 Bxc4 35.Qxc4 Rb1 36.Qc8+ Qxc8 37.Rxc8+ Kg7 38.Ra8=]

34...axb2 42

[34...Nh5!? deserves consideration. 35.Nxh5 Bf1+ 36.Kg1 (36.Kg3? Qe7+-) 36...Bc4+ (36...axb2 37.Bxd1 Qxb4 38.Qa8+ Qf8 39.Nf6+ Kg7 40.Qxf8+ Kxf8 41.Bc2±) 37.Bxd1 Bxa2 38.Rxa2 gxf4 (38...Qxb4 39.Nf6+ Kg7 40.Nd5±) 39.Rxa3 Qxb4 40.Ra8+ Kg7]

35.Bxd1= 2 White is holding 35...Qd7? 30

[35...h5= 0.00 36.Qxb2 h4]



But now the tide turns. 36.Qxb2!± 46 Qxd1? 5:59

[36...Qe7! might work better. 37.Be2 Bd7!± (37...Bxe2? 38.Nxe2 Nd7 39.Qc3+-)]

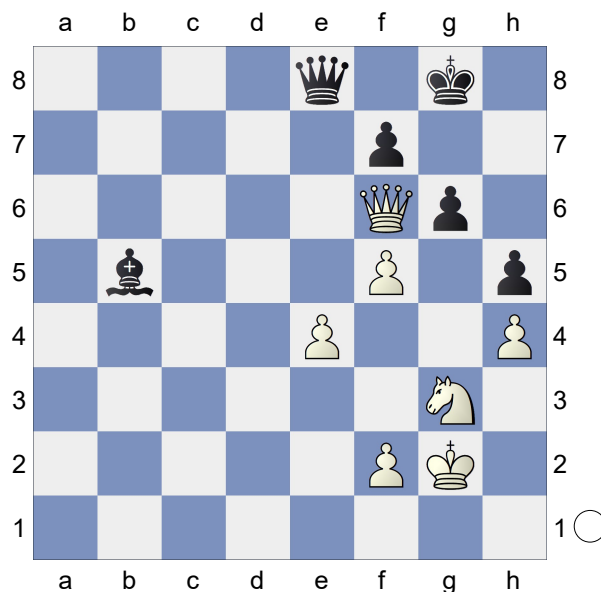
37.Qxe5+- 2 Qa4 49 38.Qxf6 5 Qxb4 3 White is a pawn up in this endgame, with

a knight vs. a bishop and the action on just one side. 39.h4 38 h5 29 40.f4 39 [40.e5!]

40...Qf8? 4:06 The eval jumps from -2 to -4 or so.

[40...Bc4 41.f5 Kh7]

41.f5 24 Qe8 15



42.e5 2:25

[42.Kf3! Shades of the famous Short-Timman king march!]

42...Qa8+ 3:57 43.Kh2 13 Qf3 36

44.fxg6 17 Discovered Attack 44...Qxf6 5 45.exf6 2 fxg6 9 KB-KN. White is a pawn up. 46.Ne4 12 Bd3 2:02 47.Ng5 23

[47.Nd6 Kf8 48.Kg3 Kg8 49.Kf4 Kf8 50.Kg5 Kg8 51.f4 Bc2 52.Nc4]

47...Kf8 51 48.Kg3 4 Bb1 49 49.Kf4 5 Bc2 6 50.Nf3 19 Kg8 55 51.Kg5 13 Kh7 5 52.Nd4 19 Bb1 10 53.Kf4 1:12 Kg8 6 54.Nc6 2:30 Kf7 25 55.Kg5 2:41 Kg8 3 56.Ne5 38 Kh7 3 57.f7 24 Kg7 2 58.Nxg6 13 Kxf7 3 59.Nf4 5

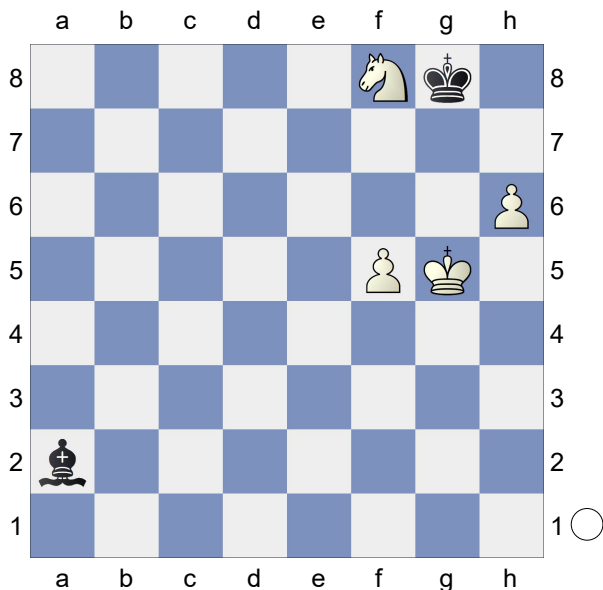
[Not 59.Kxh5 Bxg6+ 60.Kg5 Bd3=]

59...Bc2 52 60.Nxh5 9

[60.Kxh5 Bh7 61.Kg5 Be4+-]

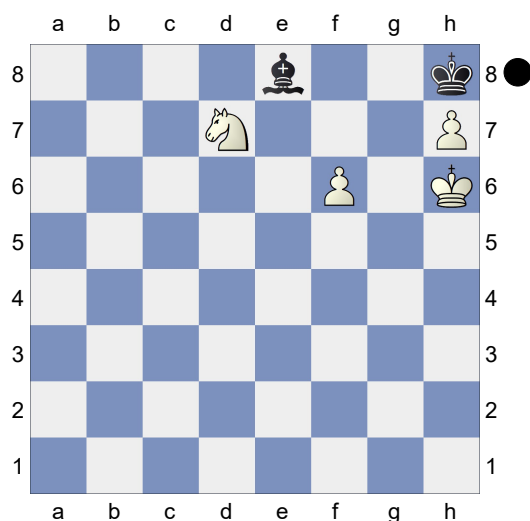
60...Bb1 21 61.f4 8 Bc2 16 62.f5 11 Bb1 9 63.Nf4 8 Bc2 13 64.Ng6 6 Bb3 17 65.Ne5+ 15 Kg7 5 66.h5 25 Ba2 9 67.Nd3 4:09 Bb3 10 68.Nb4 46 Bc4 14

69.Nc6 10 Bb3 9 70.Nd4 1:10 Ba2 5
 71.Ne6+ 10 Kh7 11 72.Nd4 1:39 Bc4
 22 73.Kf6 35 Bg8 11 74.Kg5 29 Bc4 4
 75.Nc6 12 Bb3 16 76.Ne7 15 Ba2 10
 77.h6 34 Bb3 14 78.Ng6 7 Ba2 10
 79.Nf8+ 7 Kg8 4



This should be mate in ten moves or so
 80.Kf6?? 57 Sebastian had less than
 two minutes plus the 30-second
 increment, so it was probably just too
 much for him; this was his last moment.

[80.h7+! is quickest: Kh8 81.Kh6 Bf7
 82.f6 Be8 83.Nd7!]



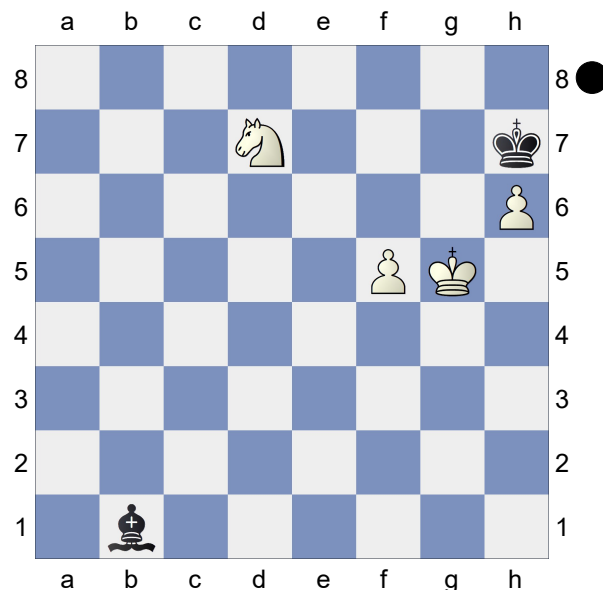
The idea is 84.Ne5 and 85.f7!]

[80.f6]

[80.Ng6 and other knight moves...]

80...Bb1!= 17 There it is! White can no

longer keep it together. 81.Nd7 37 Kh7
 7 White's poor king can't save a pawn.
 82.Kg5 1



Bxf5! 11 Deflection 83.Nf8+ 16 Kg8 2
 84.Kxf5 13 Kxf8 2 85.Kg6 8

[85.Ke6!?]

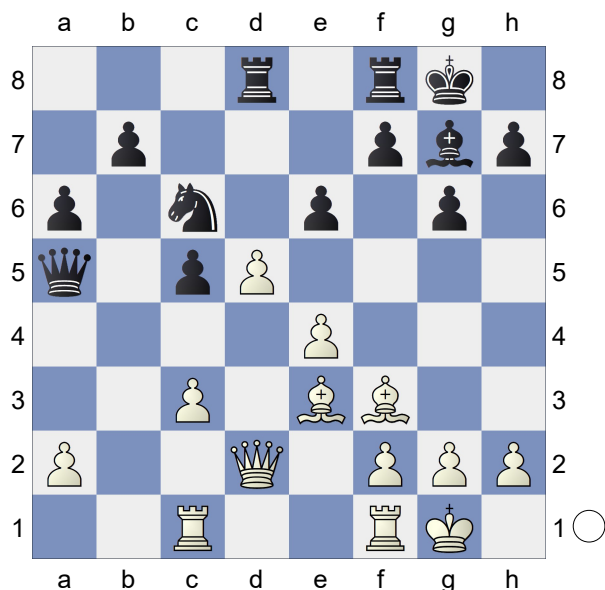
85...Kg8 2 86.h7+ 6 Kh8 2 87.Kh6 5
 Heimann defended stubbornly and sure
 enough, a tiny path appeared. That's
 part of what being a grandmaster is
 about! White=0.36/Black=0.56

1/2-1/2

D85
 2099
 2306
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 20.05.2025
 [Winslow,Elliott/TA]

Heiserman had his opportunities, but
 Das kept his cool and it just didn't
 happen this time. Still, an interesting
 game. 1.d4 16:09 Nf6 10 2.c4 4 g6 6
 3.Nc3 1 d5 6 4.cxd5 2 Nxd5 5 5.e4 4
 Nxc3 6 6.bxc3 4 Bg7 4 7.Be3 3 c5 6
 8.Qd2 2 Qa5 6 9.Nf3! 3 is now more
 promising than 9.Rc1. 9...Nc6 3:31
 10.Rb1 6 a6 11 11.Rc1 10 This finesse
 has been around for decades.

[11.dxc5? Bxc3 12.Bc4 Bxd2+-+]
11...Bg4 18
 [11...cxd4= 12.cxd4 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 e6!]
12.d5± 3:24 White plays in the center
12...Rd8 1:15 White is slightly better.
13.Be2 3:21 0-0 3:43 14.0-0 54 Bxf3 1:29 15.Bxf3 43 e6 44



16.Qb2N 22:20

[16.Rfd1± exd5 (16...Rfe8!) 17.exd5 Ne5? 18.c4 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3± Qc7 20.d6+- Qd7 21.Bxc5 Rfe8 22.Be3?! (22.Re1!) 22...Qh3± 23.Bf4 Qxf3 ½-½ (23) Khenkin,I (2659)-Zhao,Z (2537) Cammeray 2013 odd, since 24. Bg3 is still good]

16...exd5= 7:41 (-0.15/d27) 17.exd5 3:56 Ne5 17 18.Qxb7 17:48

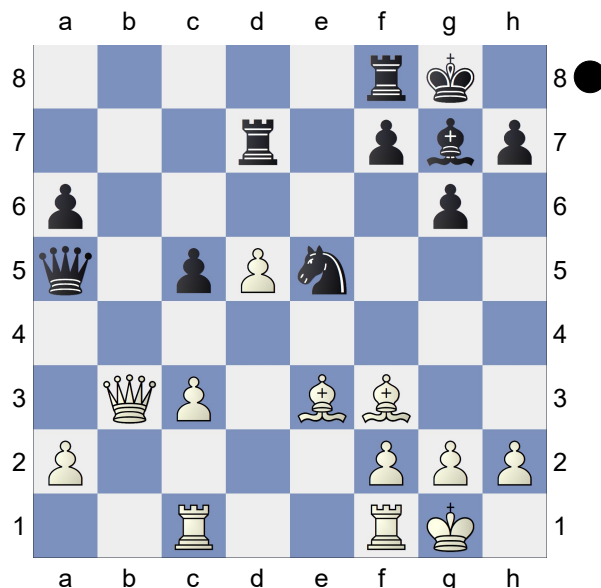
[18.Be2=]
18...Rd7 5:56 19.Qb3 15:21

(Diagram)

and c4 would now be decisive **19...c4 27 20.Qb4 2:22**

[20.Qd1 Nxf3+ (20...Qxa2 21.g3=) 21.Qxf3 Rxd5± (21...Bxc3 22.Rfd1±)]

20...Nxf3+ 2:24 21.gxf3 28 Qxd5 6:46 22.Rfd1 2:57 Qxf3± 13 Black attacks



[22...Qxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 24.Kg2=]

23.Rxd7 19 Qg4+ 5 24.Kf1? 12:09

[24.Kh1± nothing else works. Qxd7 25.Qxc4]

24...Qxd7+-+ 45 25.Qxc4 37 Qb7 7:27 Prevents Qe4.

[25...Qh3+-+ 26.Ke2 Qh5+ (26...Qxh2? 27.Qe4+-+) 27.Kf1 Qh3+ (27...Qxh2? 28.Qc6+-+)]

26.h4? 4:15

[26.Kg1±]

26...Re8 1:06 And now ...Qh1+ would win. **27.Re1 54 Rc8 8:49 28.Qd3 1:00 Bf6 1:53**

[Less strong is 28...Bxc3 29.Rc1 Bg7 (29...Qh1+ 30.Ke2±) 30.Rxc8+ Qxc8 31.Qe4±]

[28...Qh1+-+ 29.Ke2 Qxh4 30.Qxa6 Qh5+ (30...Rxc3? 31.Qa8+ Bf8 32.Qd5±) 31.Kf1 Qh3+ (31...Rxc3 32.Qa8+ Bf8 33.Qe4±) 32.Kg1 Qg4+ (32...Rxc3 33.Qa4±; 32...Bxc3 33.Rc1±) 33.Kf1 Rxc3 (33...Bxc3 34.Rc1±) 34.Qa8+ Rc8]

29.Rb1? 2:05

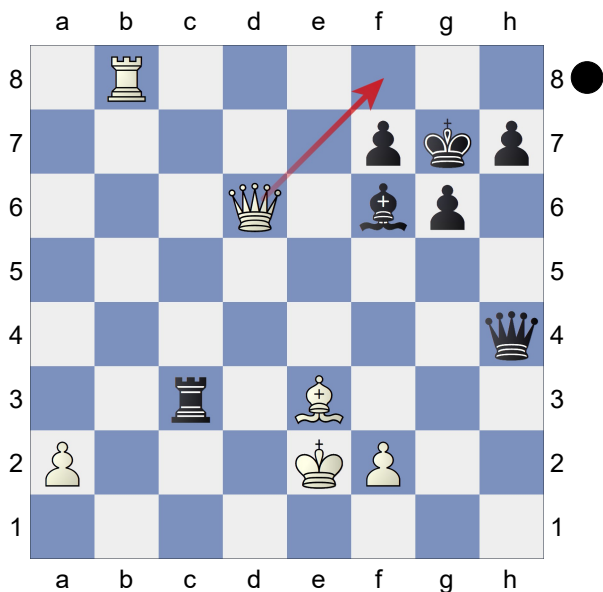
[29.Kg1±]

29...Qh1+ 4:04 30.Ke2 4 Qxh4+-+ 9

31.Qxa6 4 Rxc3? 10:04

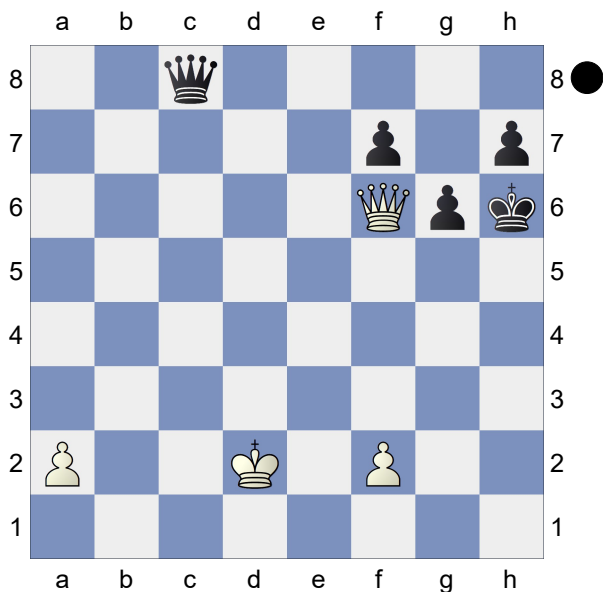
[31...Qh5+-+ 32.Kf1 Qh3+]

(32...Rxc3 33.Qxf6 Qh1+ 34.Ke2=)
 33.Ke2 Qf5 (33...Bxc3? 34.Qb7-+)]
 [31...Rd8-+]
32.Rb8+! 2:18 Kg7 7 33.Qd6 46



Rc2+? 13:25

[33...Qc4+! 34.Ke1 Rxe3+! 35.fxe3
 h5 36.Qf8+ Kh7 37.Qg8+ Kh6
 38.Qf8+ Bg7 39.Qe7 Qxa2 2]
**34.Kd1 1:12 Really sharp! The position
 is equal. 34...Rc8 5 35.Rxc8 2:39**
**Qg4+ 5 36.Kd2 47 Qxc8 5 37.Bh6+
 19 Deflection 37...Kxh6 6 38.Qxf6= 2**



Endgame KQ-KQ. Black is a pawn up,
 but it's completely drawn. (one of those
 "0.00 everywhere" things) **38...Qc4 38**

39.a3 2:46 Qa2+ 41 40.Ke1 5 Qxa3 50
41.Qxf7 22 Qc1+ 27 42.Ke2 4 Qc2+ 12
43.Kf1 32 Qf5 11 44.Qe7 33 g5 11
45.Qd6+ 37 Kg7 44 46.Qe7+ 1:35 Kg6
10 47.Qd6+ 22 Qf6 27 48.Qd3+ 4 Kg7
1:26 49.Qd7+ 13 Kg6 6:09 50.Qd3+ 6
Qf5 11 51.Qd6+ 22 Kf7 6 52.Qc7+ 15
Kf6 26 53.Qd8+ 26 Ke5 57 54.Qa5+
1:05 Ke6 Black had all the chances to
 win. White=0.39/Black=0.41
 1/2-1/2

C40
 2030
Liou, Arthur
Coyne, Theodore James 2263
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 20.05.2025
 [Winslow, Elliott/TA]

I'm not at all sure what happened here;
 neither was Liou, who slid to a halt in
 the ending. **1.e4 3 e5 8:56 2.Nf3 8 f5?!
 12** He warned us at the Sunday
 chessplayers' gathering at Cafe Reveille,
 that the Latvian was on the plate...
3.Nxe5 9 Nc6?! 5 Making absolutely
 certain: Black *will* be down a pawn.
4.Nxc6 35 dxc6 5 5.exf5 33 Bxf5 5
6.d4?! 28 A common suspect move in
 this and similar positions: White tries to
 hard to make the extra pawn matter,
 while solidity and development matter
 more for now.

[6.d3± has been known for a long
 time to be the way to go. The light
 squared bishop will be happy on e2,
 blocking the e-file in any case.]
6...Qf6± 5 White doesn't have all that
 much. **7.Bd3 2:42 0-0-0 7:28 8.Be3**
1:55 White is slightly better. **8...Ne7 3:39**
 Black sacrificed a pawn **9.0-0 13:18**
Qg6N 4:25

[9...Kb8 10.c3 h5 11.Bxf5 Qxf5
 12.Nd2 g5 13.Qf3 g4 14.Qxf5 Nxf5
 15.Rae1 c5 1-0 (25) Farley, T (2210)-

Durant,N St Helier 2000]

10.Bxf5+ 2:50 Nxf5 6 11.c3 42 c5 7:25
12.d5 3:13 Nxe3 14:36 13.fxe3 9 Qe4
11 14.Qf3 32 Qxd5 41 15.Qxd5 16
Rxd5 6 16.Na3 15 Be7 2:30 17.Rad1
37 Rhd8 1:29 18.Rxd5 47 Rxd5= 9
Endgame KRB-KRN 19.e4 3:40 Re5
5:19 20.Re1 15 a6 57 21.Nc4 1:10
Re6 15 22.a4 14 b5 21 23.axb5 8
axb5 8 24.Na3 25 c6 14:55 next ...c4 is
good for Black. 25.Kf2 42

[25.Nc2= remains equal.]

25...Rd6 1:28

[25...Rf6+ 26.Ke3 Rh6]

26.Re2 42 Rd3 3:27 27.Re3 6:01 Rd2+
42 28.Re2 7 Rd1 19 29.Re1 11 Rd2+
3:49 30.Re2 8 Rd3 5:35 31.Re3 14
Rd8 2:26 Strongly threatening ...Bg5.
32.Re2 8:44 Bg5 2:04 33.Nc2! 3:10
Kd7 1:19 34.Ne1 1:01 Ke6 51 35.Nf3
17 Be7 58 36.Ke3 2:25 Rd1 38 37.Kf4
1:12 Bd6+ 1:20 38.e5 1:23 Be7 9
39.Ke4 20 h5 1:33 40.Ne1 2:12

[40.Re1= Rd8 41.b4]

40...g5 2:38 Black is more active.

[Better is 40...Rd5! 41.Kf4 g5+

42.Kf3 Rxe5 43.Rxe5+ Kxe5

44.Nd3+ Kd5]

White does not recover from this.

41.Nf3? 54

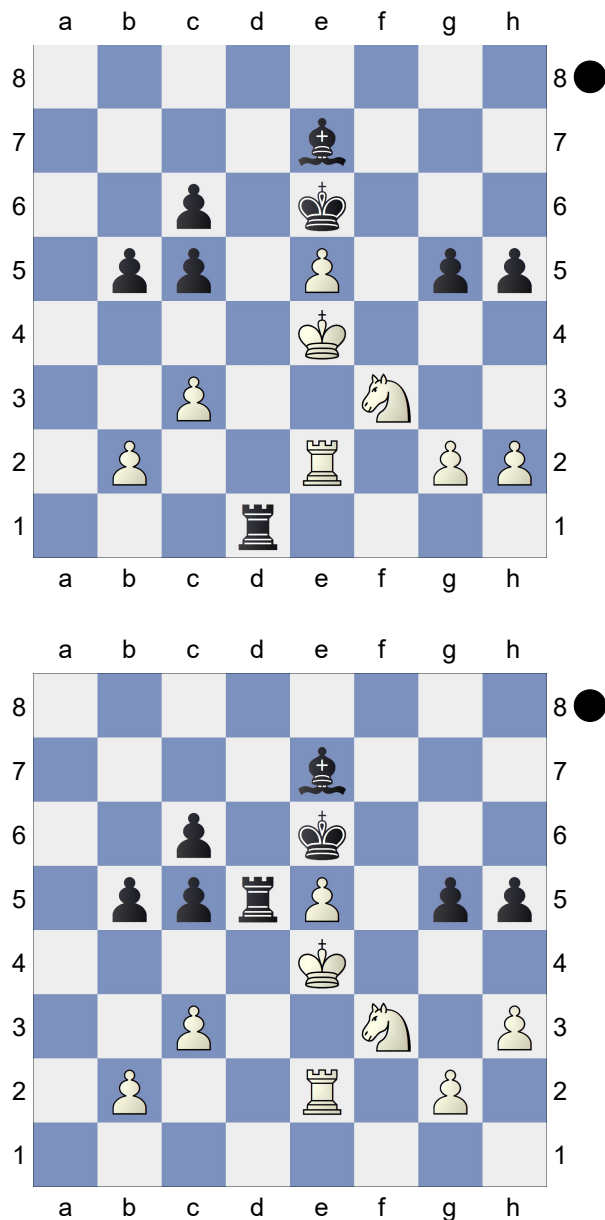
[41.Nd3!=]

(Diagram)

41...Rd5!-+ 1:29 42.h3 2:00

(Diagram)

g4! 14 43.hxg4 37 hxg4 14 44.Nd2 44
Bg5 56 45.Nf1 1:30 Rxe5+ 6 46.Kd3 6
c4+ 12 White=0.66/Black=0.21
0-1



□ Clemens,Kristian

■ Shrauger,Alex Hayden

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.7) 20.05.2025
[Winslow,Elliott/TA]

Shrauger showed a better feel for the
King's Indian than Clemens, and
crashed through in the endgame. 1.d4
Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.h3 e5 8.d5
Nc5 9.Qc2 Nh5! 10.b4 Nd7 11.a3
[11.Be3±]

E93

1965

2206

11...a5 The position is equal. **12.Rb1**

Nf4 13.g3N

[White should play 13.0-0=]

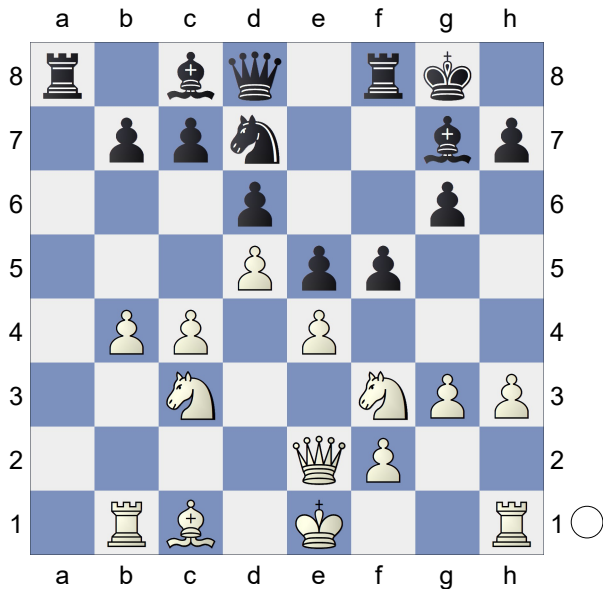
[Predecessor: 13.0-0 h6 14.Rd1

Nxe2+ 15.Qxe2 b6 16.Bd2 f5

17.Nb5 Rf7 18.bxa5 bxa5 19.Be1

½-½ (76) Buczinski,H (1968)-Grbac,B
(2372) ICCF email 2018]

13...Nxe2 14.Qxe2 axb4 15.axb4 f5



16.Ng5 Threatens to win with Ne6.

16...Nf6 17.Kf1

[17.Ne6 Bxe6 18.dxe6]

17...h6

[17...Qe7 18.exf5 Bxf5]

18.Nf3?

[18.Ne6 Bxe6 19.dxe6]

18...fxe4 19.Nd2 Bf5

[19...e3+ 20.Qxe3 c6]

20.Ndxe4 Bc6 21.Kg2

[21.Rb2]

21...cxd5 22.cxd5 Rc8

[22...Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Ra2]

23.Rb3

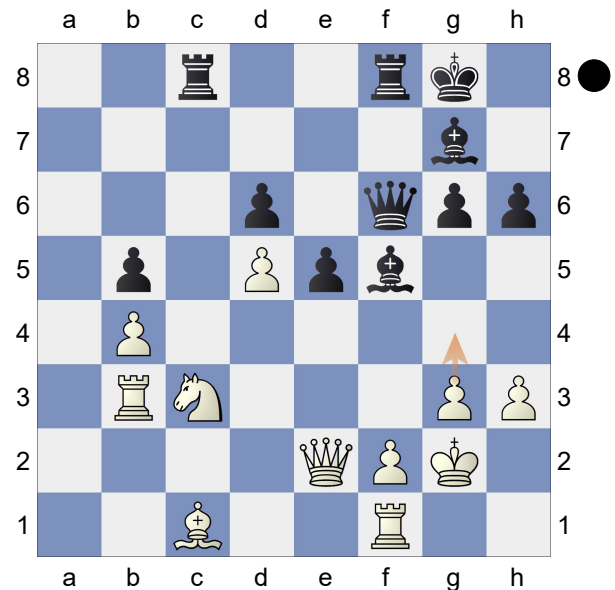
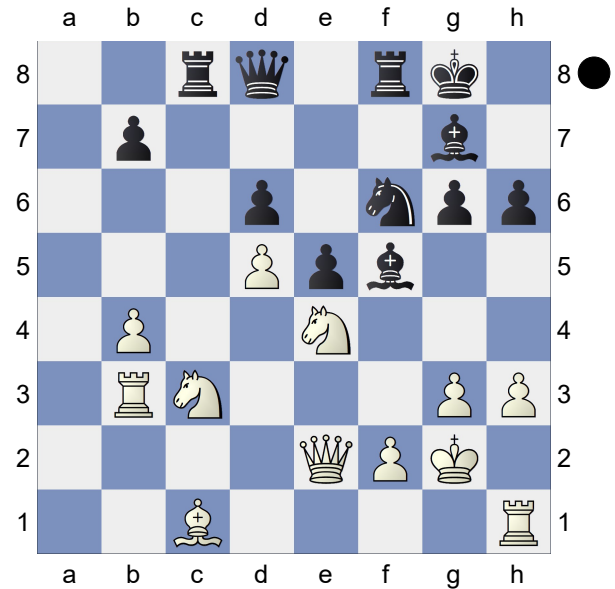
(Diagram)

b5 24.Nxf6+

[24.f3 Bf7]

24...Qxf6 25.Rf1

(Diagram)



Qf7?

[25...Rc4! and ...Qf7 would now be
decisive 26.Nxb5 Rfc8]

26.g4!= Bd7↑ Black has good play.

27.f3 Rc4 28.Ne4?

[28.Rd1= and White is okay.]

28...Qxd5+ 29.Rd3 Rd4 30.Rfd1

[30.Rc3 keeps fighting.]

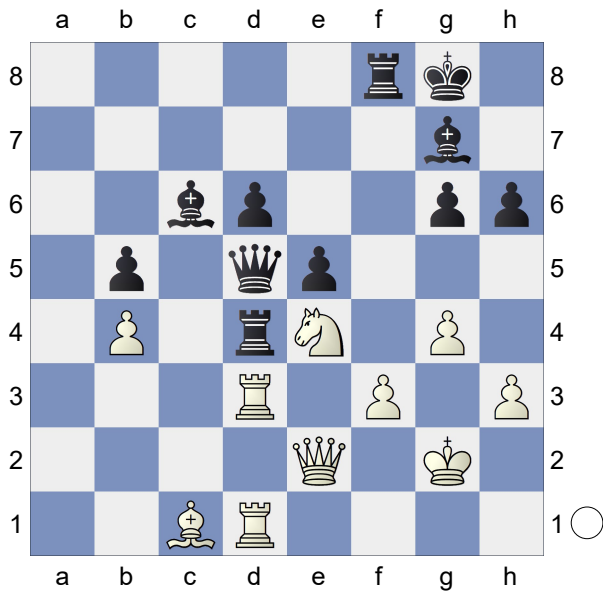
30...Bc6

(Diagram)

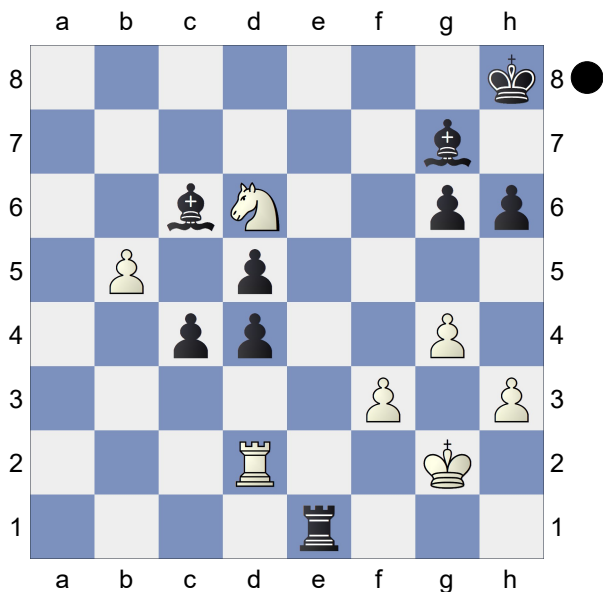
31.Rxd4 exd4 32.Rd3 Qc4 33.Bd2

Kh8 34.Be1 Re8 35.Rd2 d5

[35...Qxb4? 36.Rc2 Qb3 37.Rxc6]



36.Qxc4 bxc4 37.Nd6 Rxe1 38.b5



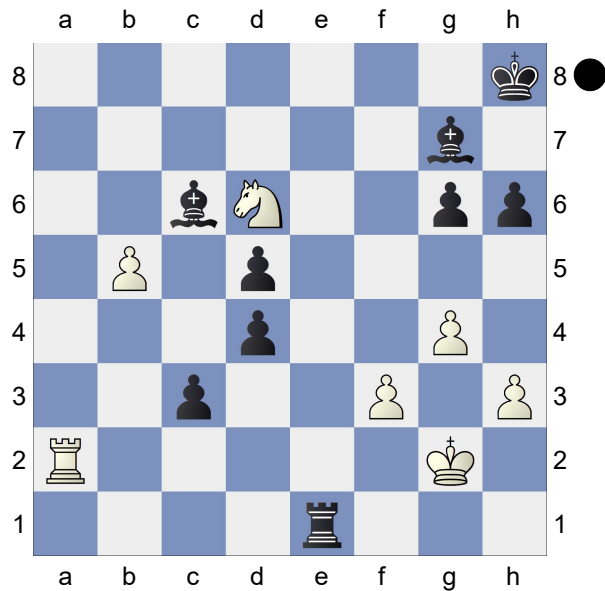
c3 39.Ra2

(Diagram)

Bxb5! 40.Nxb5

[40.Kf2 Rf1+]

40...d3 41.Ra7 c2 White=0.88/Black=0.24
0-1



Wickliffe,Zachary C25 1347
Fitzgerald,William 1263
2nd Silman TNM: u1600 (3.27) 20.05.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

I'm not quite sure why I included this game; lots of mistakes, including not anybody giving the last move(s) of the game (but I have a guess!). Still, there were some instructive aspects, including noting that bishop and knight vs. lone king *does* happen. Oh, and after five rounds, William is tied for 2nd-4th. 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.Nge2 Be7 5.d3 Bg4 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 Bd7 8.Qd2 Na5 9.0-0-0

(Diagram)

Nxc4?

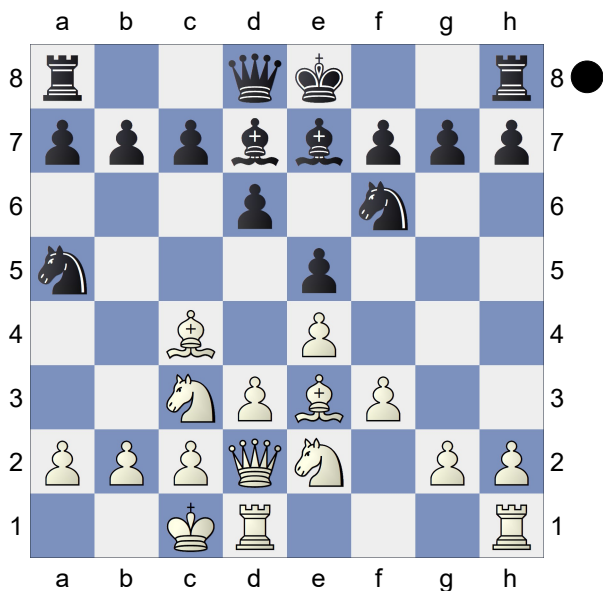
[9...c6! 10.a4

A) 10...a6!?

B) 10...Rb8!? 11.Ba2 (11.Bxa7? Ra8 12.Bf2 b5 13.Ba2 b4 14.Nb1 c5-+);

C) 10...0-0 11.g4 Be6=]

10.dxc4 Be6 11.Nd5 Nd7



[11...Nxd5 12.cxd5 Bd7±]

12.Qa5?!

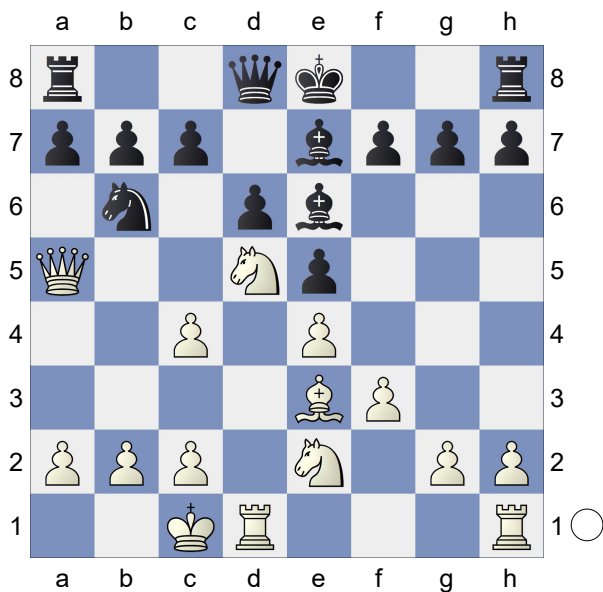
[12.Kb1±]

[12.g4±]

[12.b3±]

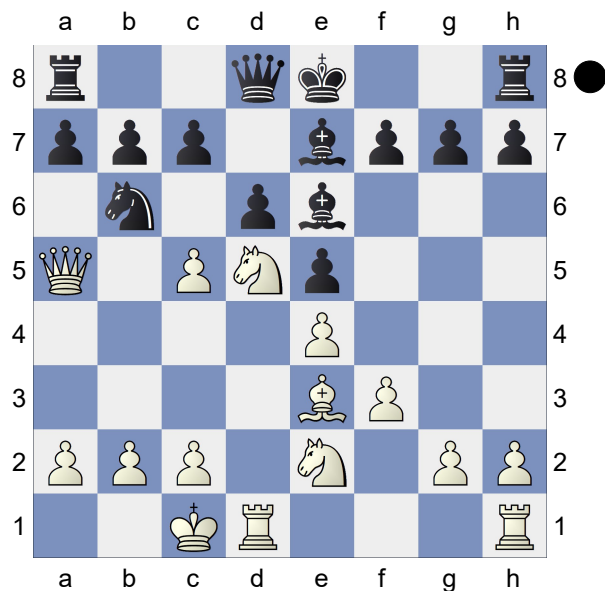
12...Nb6??

[12...Bxd5 13.cxd5 Bg5 14.Qd2 Bxe3 15.Qxe3 0-0±]



13.c5??

[13.Bxb6!+- cxb6 14.Qa4+ Kf8 (14...Qd7?! 15.Nc7+; 14...Bd7 15.Qa3 Bc6 16.Nec3) 15.Qa3 Bxd5 16.Rxd5+-]



13...Nc4??

[13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Bd7=

as in: "0.00"]

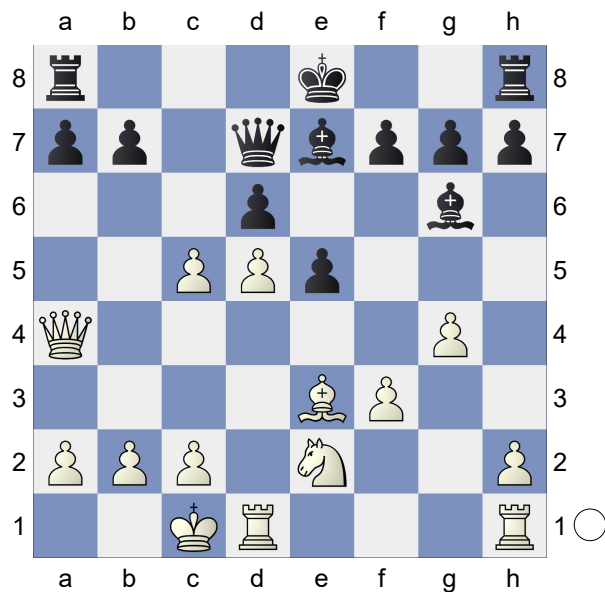
14.Qa4+ c6 15.Qxc4 cxd5 16.exd5

Bf5 17.g4 Bg6 18.Qa4+

[18.h4 h6 19.Qa4+]

18...Qd7

[18...Kf8 19.f4 exf4 20.Nxf4 Kg8 21.c6]



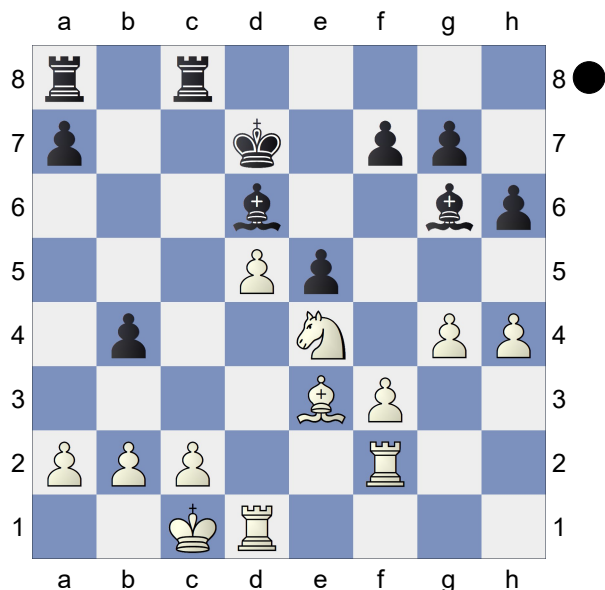
19.Qxd7+??

[19.c6! bxc6 20.dxc6 Qc7 21.b4! 0-0 22.Nc3]

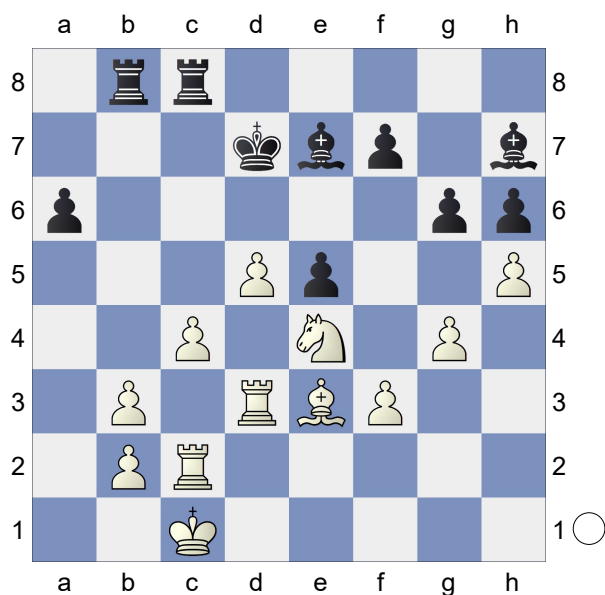
19...Kxd7 20.cxd6 Bxd6 21.h4 Rhc8

22.Nc3 h6 23.Rhf1 b5 24.Rf2 b4

[24...a6!?]
25.Ne4
 [25.Na4!?]

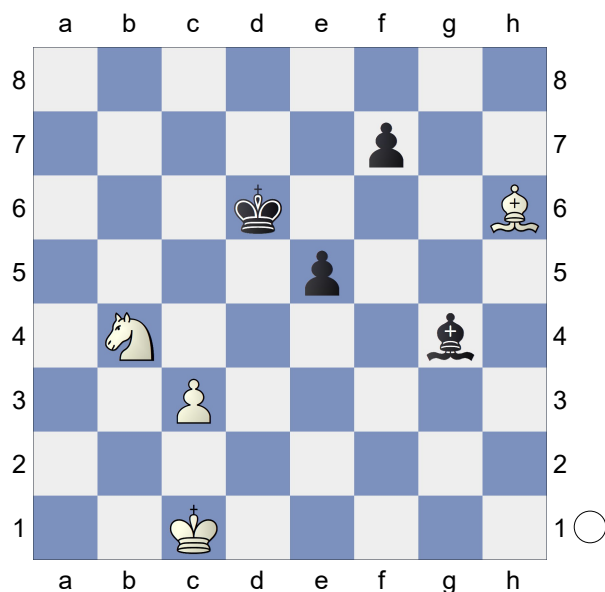


25...b3??
 [25...f6± only! (on the high side at first but it drops, +0.36/32)]
26.axb3+- Rab8 27.Rd3
 [27.Nxd6! Kxd6 28.h5 Bh7 29.f4! f6 30.fxe5+ fxe5 31.c4! Rxb3 32.c5+ looks risky but is computer-best]
27...Be7 28.h5 Bh7 29.c4 a6 30.Rc2 g6



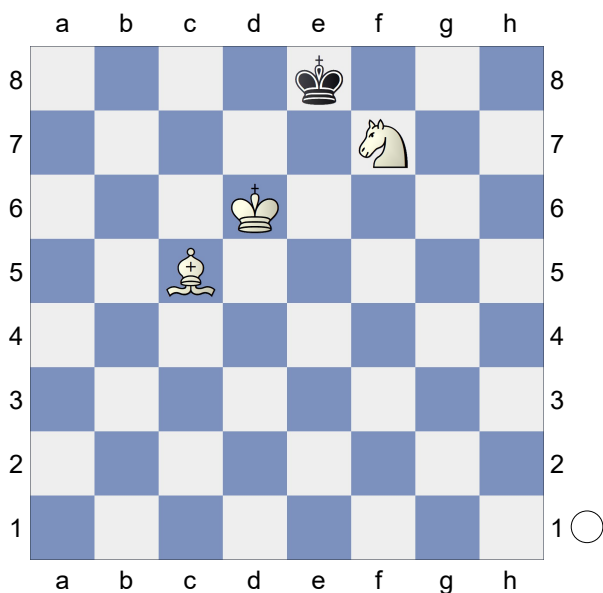
31.c5 gxf5 32.c6+ Kc7 33.d6+ Bxd6 34.Rxd6 Rxb3?!

[34...Rd8 35.Rf6 Bg6 36.gxf5 Bxf5 37.Nc5 Rb6 38.Rh2! Bg6 39.Rxg6]
35.Rd7+ #7 35...Kb8 36.c7+ Kb7 37.Nc5+?
 [37.Nd6+ and #4]
37...Kc6 38.Nxb3+ Kxd7 39.Rc3 hxf4 40.fxf4
 [40.Nc5+ Kd6 41.Nxa6]
40...Rxc7 41.Nc5+ Kd6 42.Nxa6 Rxc3+ 43.bxc3 Bd3 44.Nb4 Be2 45.Bxf6 Bxf4



White is winning -- but he better know how to checkmate with bishop and knight! **46.Kd2 f5 47.Bg7 f4 48.Nd3 f3 49.Nxe5??**
 [49.Bxe5+]
 [49.c4]
 [49.Ke3]
49...Bh5??
 [49...f2! 50.Nc4+ Kd5! 51.Ne3+ Ke4! everything is drawn. 52.c4 Bh5 (52...Bd1! even)]
50.Ke3+- (back to quite lost) 50...Kc5 51.Nxf3 Bf7 52.Bd4+ Kd6 53.Kf4 Kc7 54.Ke5 Bc4 55.Bc5 Bg8 56.Nd4 Bc4 57.Bd6+ Kb6 58.Ne6 Kc6 59.Nf4 Kb6 (Here both scoresheets show White's 60th move as: 60.Nd2. For those who wish to see the remaining moves after that:

60.Nd2 Bf7 61.c4 Bxc4 62.Nxc4 Kb5 63.
Kd5 Ka4 64.Kf4 Kb5 65. Ne5 Kb6 66.
Kc4 Kb7 67.Kc6 Kc8 68.Kc6 Kd8 69.Bc5
Ke8 70.Kd6 Kd8 71. Nf7+ Ke8 1/2-1/2.
If you must see it on the board (if you're
looking at this on a computer with the .
pgn file), here is a "transposition" to the
game: **60.Ng2 Bb5 61.Ne3 Bd3 62.c4
Bxc4 63.Nxc4+** (Same position with an
extra move) **63...Kb5 64.Kd5 Ka4
65.Kd4 Kb5 66.Ne5 Kb6 67.Kc4 Kb7
68.Kc5 Kc8 69.Kc6 Kd8 70.Bc5 Ke8
71.Kd6 Kd8 72.Nf7+ Ke8**



(it's mate in 18, after any of the three
knight moves But: I'm guessing that
White played the less-than-optimal
73.Ke6?? which is stalemate!

[73.Ne5]
[73.Nh6]
[73.Nh8 (!)]
[73.Ng5?! and this is #20]
1/2-1/2

A09
2597
2137
2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 27.05.2025
[Winslow,Elliott]

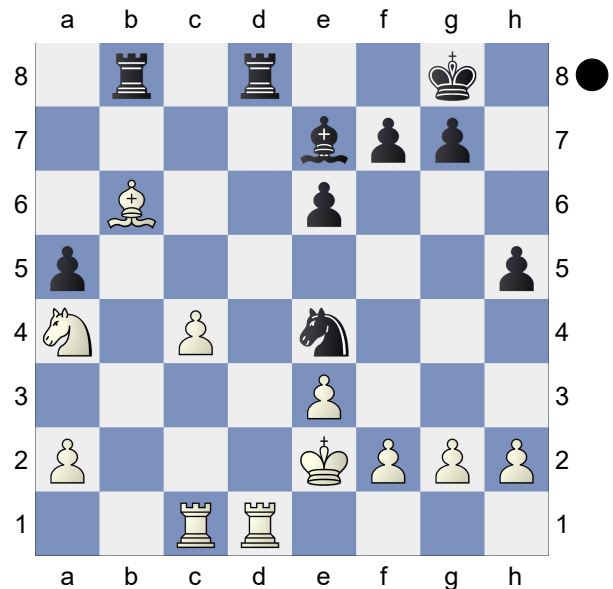
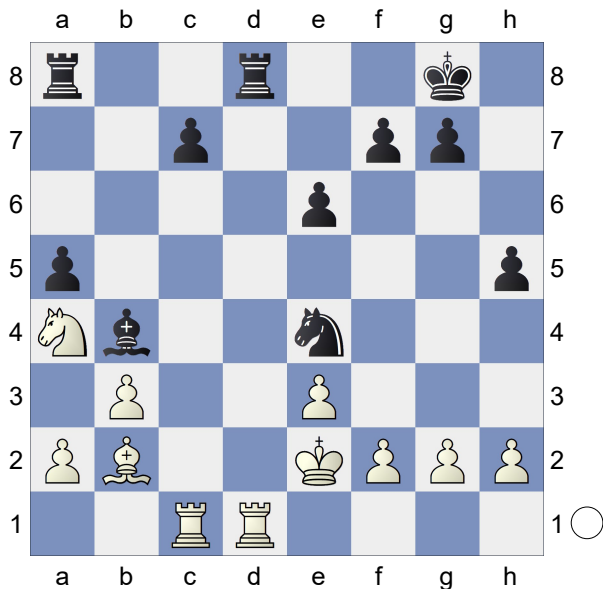
Olivia Smith succumbs to positional
pressure in this Queen's Gambit
Accepted-like queenless middlegame by
Mark Heimann. The GM is now tied for
the lead with his last-round opponent
Sebastian Suarez and now NM
Theodore Coyne, see next game. **1.Nf3
2 d5 11 2.c4 34 dxc4 37 3.Qa4+ 2:46
Nc6 1:50 4.e3 1:45 Nf6 7:51 5.Bxc4 37
e6 1:42 6.Ne5N 4:47**

[6.a3 Bd7 7.Qc2 Na5 8.Be2 c5
9.d3 Bd6 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.b3 Re8
12.Bb2 1-0 (36) Zhao,X (2506)-
Nadirjanova,N (2159) Ha Long City
2009]
**6...Bd7 36 7.Nxd7 2:13 Qxd7 14 8.Bb5
9:14 White is slightly better. 8...Be7 5:24
9.d4 3:02 0-0 2:24 10.Nc3 1:18 a6 2:51
11.Bxc6 1:28 Qxc6 10 12.Qxc6 5
Successful Defense White 12...bxc6 3
13.Ke2 2:59 c5 1:36 14.dxc5 11 Bxc5
12 15.b3 30 Rfd8 4:30 16.Bb2 55 Bb4
11:58 17.Rhd1 2:44 h5 1:52 18.Rac1
3:33 a5 15:37 19.Na4 3:47**

[19.Rxd8+± Rxd8 20.Nb1]
19...Ne4 5:15
[Black should try 19...Rxd1± 20.Rxd1
(20.Kxd1 Rd8+ 21.Kc2 Rd2+
22.Kb1 Rxf2-+) 20...Nd5]

(Diagram)

20.Bd4 4:48
[20.Rxc7 Rxd1 21.Kxd1 Rd8+
22.Kc1 (22.Bd4? e5-+ Pin)
22...Nxf2±]
[White should play 20.Rxd8+! Rxd8
21.Rc2 (21.Rxc7? Rd2+ 22.Kf1



Rxf2+ 23.Kg1 Re2+-]
20...c5? 3:06 A mistake that lets White lock it up.
 [20...Bd6 21.g3 Nf6 22.f3 Nd7 23.e4±]
21.Bb2!+- 57
 [21.Nxc5? Nxc5 22.Bxc5 Rxd1 23.Kxd1 Rd8+ 24.Ke2 (24.Bd4? e5-+ Pin) 24...Rc8 25.Bxb4 Rxc1 26.Bxa5 Rc2+ 27.Bd2 Rxa2±]
 [21.Bxc5? Rxd1 22.Kxd1 Rd8+ (22...Nxf2+ 23.Ke2±; 22...Nxc5 23.Nxc5 Rd8+ 24.Ke2=) 23.Ke2 (23.Bd4? e5-+ Pin) 23...Rd2+ 24.Kf1 Rxf2+ (24...Nxf2 25.a3±) 25.Kg1 Rxa2 26.Bxb4 axb4-+]
21...c4 2:38 **22.bxc4** 1:36
 [Weaker is 22.Rxc4 Rxd1 23.Kxd1 Rd8+ 24.Rd4 (24.Bd4? e5-+ Pin) 24...Nxf2+ 25.Ke2 Rxd4 26.Bxd4 (26.exd4 Ne4=) 26...Ne4±]
22...Be7 3:24 **23.Bd4** 7:12 **Rab8** 1:43
24.Bb6 1:34

(Diagram)

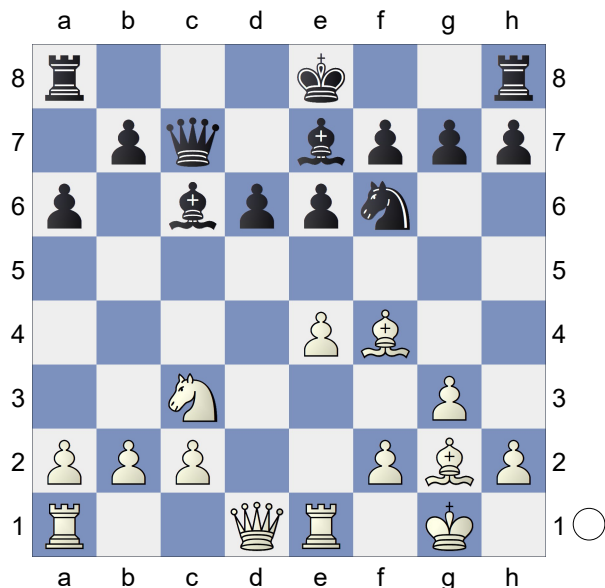
Discovered Attack **24...Rxd1** 2:43
25.Rxd1 19 **Nc3+** 17 **26.Nxc3** 5 **Rxb6** 4
 Endgame KRB-KRN. White is a pawn up. **27.Nb5** 7 And now Rd7 would win.

27...Rc6 6:26
 [27...Rb7 is a better defense. 28.Kd3 g6]
28.Rd7 36 **Bc5** 3:11 **29.Rd8+** 56 **Kh7** 7
30.Kd3 14 **Kg6** 30 **31.Ra8** 38
 White is clearly winning. **31...e5** 3:02
32.Rxa5 27 **f5** 40 **33.Ra8** 2:00 **f4** 2:30
34.a4 1:20 **fxe3** 2:33 **35.fxe3** 4 **Kf5** 33
36.a5 45 **e4+** 42 **37.Ke2** 6 **Rg6** 2:09
38.Kf2 21 **h4** 4:47 **39.a6** 12 **h3** 34
40.gxh3 10 **Kg5** 30 **41.Rc8** 18 **Rf6+** 32
42.Ke2 5 White=0.14/Black=0.42
 1-0

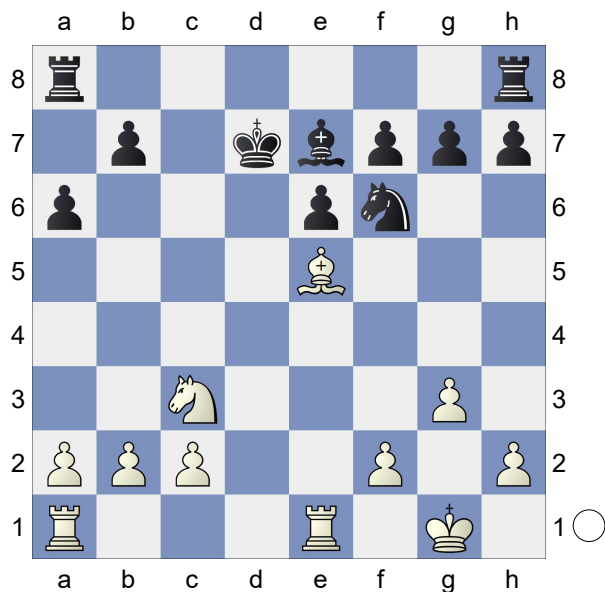
B80
 □ Heiserman, Jimmy **2306**
 ■ Suarez, Sebastian **2200**
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 27.05.2025
 [Winslow, Elliott]

Sebby grinds down Jimmy! At first it looked like it might be the other way around, as Heiserman got a typical fianchetto Scheveningen Sicilian position with the e4-e5 liquidation. But when he slipped up on move 22, it was Suarez gently pushing for a while. In a tricky knight vs. bishop endgame Heiserman misplaced a bishop, it

actually got trapped! -- and that was that.
 1.e4 2 c5 47 2.Nc3 9 e6 9 3.Nf3 12 a6
 10 4.g3 16 Nc6 1:46 5.Bg2 39 d6 6:03
 6.d4 4:41 cxd4 25 7.Nxd4 5 Bd7 12
 8.0-0 1:15 Nf6 48 9.Nxc6 9:28
 9.Be3 is the new trend. 9...Bxc6 44
 10.Bf4 7 Qc7 4:27 11.Re1 1:19 Be7
 20:03



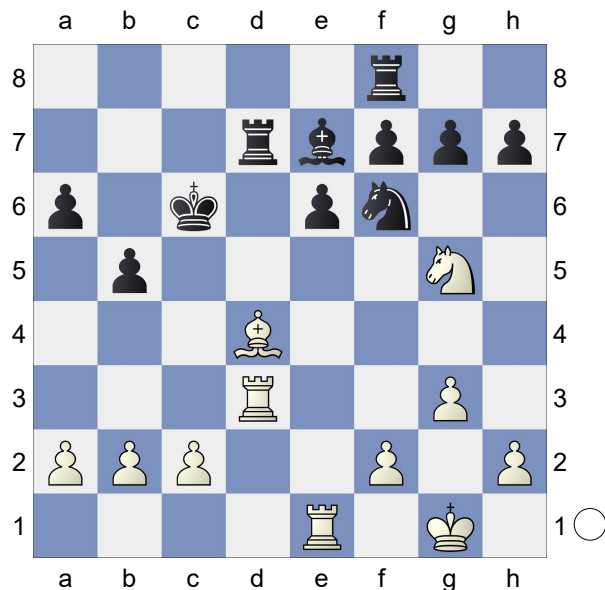
12.e5 20 The position is equal. 12...dxe5
 5 13.Bxe5 4 Qb6 1:24 14.Qd4 4:59
 Qxd4 5:04 15.Bxc6+ 59 Qd7 5:28
 16.Bxd7+ 8 Kxd7 5



17.Rad1+N 9:59

[17.Na4 Kc6 18.c4 Rhd8 19.Rab1
 a5 20.a3 b6 21.Red1 Rxd1+

22.Rxd1 ½-½ (31) Gesicki,J (2234)-
 Liberadzki,S (1983) Jastrzebia Gora
 2019]
 17...Kc6 5:54 18.Ne4 12 Rad8 3:55
 19.Ng5 7:57 Rhf8 13:20 20.Bd4 13:50
 Rd7 6:56 21.Rd3 4:48 b5 2:40



22.Red1 2:46

[Heiserman was onto something, a
 positional advantage he could have
 worked with 22.Nf3± Bd6 (22...Rc7
 23.Be5) 23.a4 bxa4 24.Ra1 Kb5
 25.b3!]

22...Ne8 17:05

[22...Rd5!=]

23.Be3 12:17

[23.Nxh7? Rh8 24.a4 (24.Rc3+?
 Kb7-+) 24...b4-+ (24...Rxh7?
 25.axb5+ axb5 26.Ra1-+)]

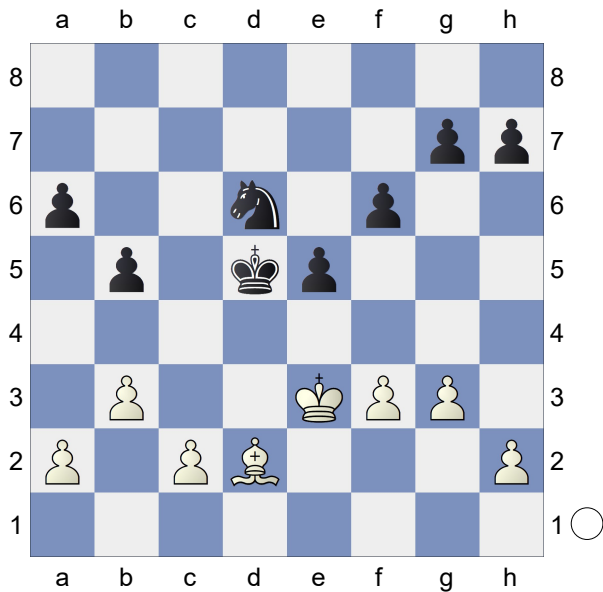
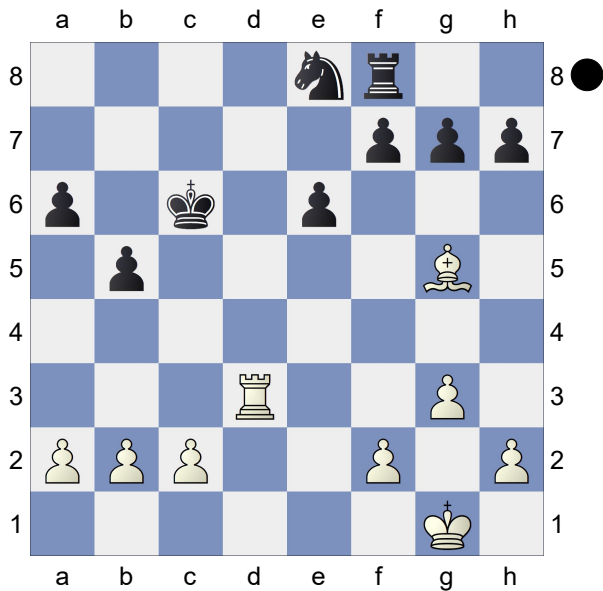
23...Rxd3 29 24.Rxd3 1:35 Bxg5 4

25.Bxg5= 5

(Diagram)

Endgame KRB-KRN 25...f6 10 26.Bd2
 6 Rf7! 53 27.Rd8 20 Nd6 47 28.b3
 1:52 Rd7 17 29.Rxd7 6:13 Kxd7 2
 KB-KN 30.f3 7 Kc6 27 31.Kf2 18 Kd5
 6 32.Ke3 22 e5 1:41

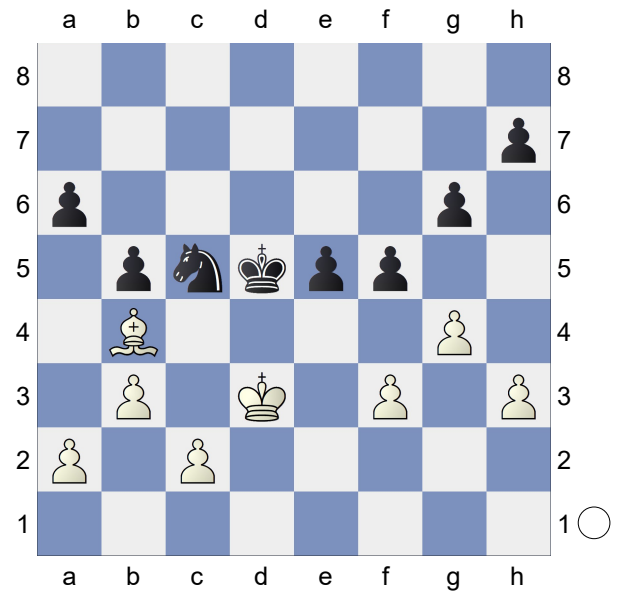
(Diagram)



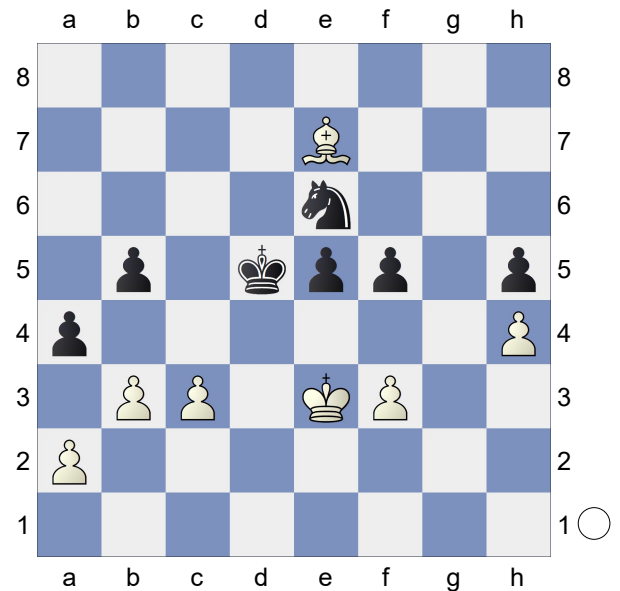
Black's king assumes the higher ground,
but it's not enough to win (or shouldn't
be) 33.Bb4 34 f5 43 34.h3 3:40 g6 47
35.g4 5:09 Ne8 1:59 36.Kd3 45 Nd6 37
37.Ke3 2:18 Nb7 15 38.Kd3 22 Nc5+ 5

(Diagram)

39.Ke3?! 18
[39.Bxc5!= 0.00]
39...Ne6 5 40.Be7 1:18 Nd4?! 1:27
[40...f4+!f̄]
41.c3□f̄ 17 Ne6= 9 42.h4 27 a5 50
43.Bf6 34 a4 13 44.Be7 2:41 Nf4 1:06
45.Bg5 6 Ne6 7 and ...f4+ would now be



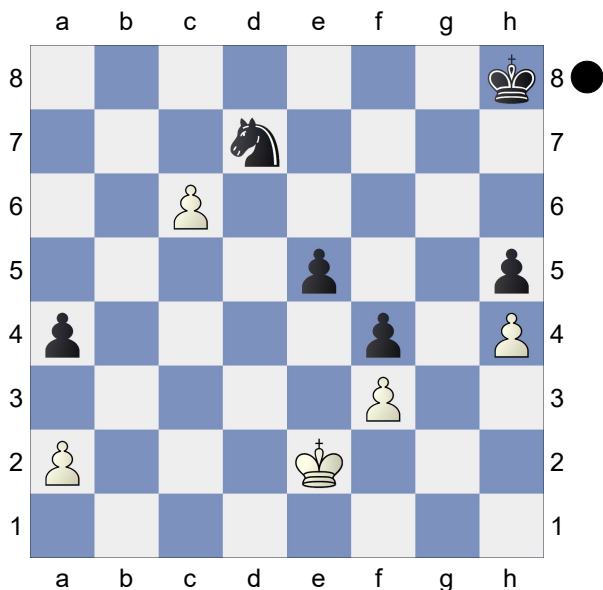
decisive 46.Be7 6 h5 24 47.gxh5 18
gxh5 2



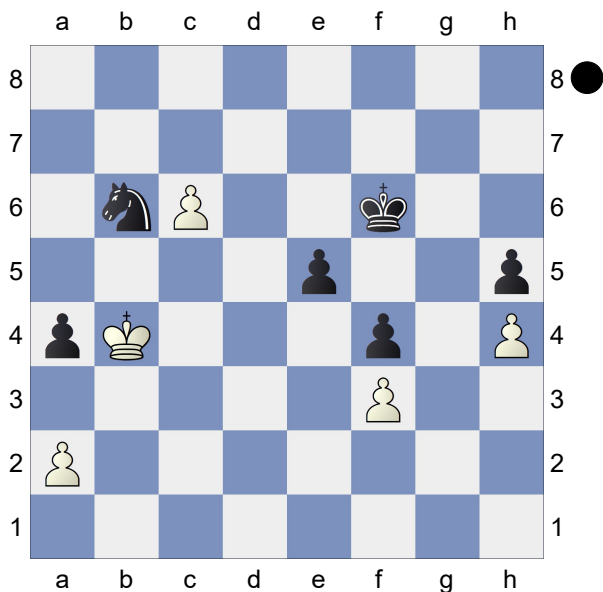
White loses it after a tough but held (so
far) ending. 48.Bf6? 40

[48.Bb4=]
48...Nc5+ 1:13 49.c4+ 18
[49.bxa4 f4+! (49...Nxa4 50.Kd3f̄;
49...bxa4 50.Kd2f̄) 50.Kd2 Nxa4!
(50...bxa4 51.Be7=) 51.Bg5 Ke6+
switching to f5, so f4 is guarded and ...
e4 can be played]
49...Ke6! 37
[Worse is 49...bxc4 50.bxc4+ Ke6
51.Bd8=]
50.Bg7 58 f4+ 1:41

[Weaker is 50...axb3 51.axb3 f4+ 52.Ke2+]
51.Kf2 1:39 bxc4 44 52.bxc4 7 Kf7 8 53.Bh8 30 Kg8? 21
 [53...Nd7-+ (-> ...Kg8) 54.c5 Nxc5]
54.Bf6= 4 Kf7 6 55.Bh8 4
 [55.Bd8+]
55...Nd7-+ 1:04 56.Ke2 55 Kg8 2
Trapped Piece. Black mates. 57.c5 5 Kxh8 9 58.c6 5



Nb6! 16 59.Kd3 18 Kg7 1 60.Kc3 9 Kf6 12 61.Kb4 3



e4! 34 62.Kc5 35
 [62.fxe4 f3]

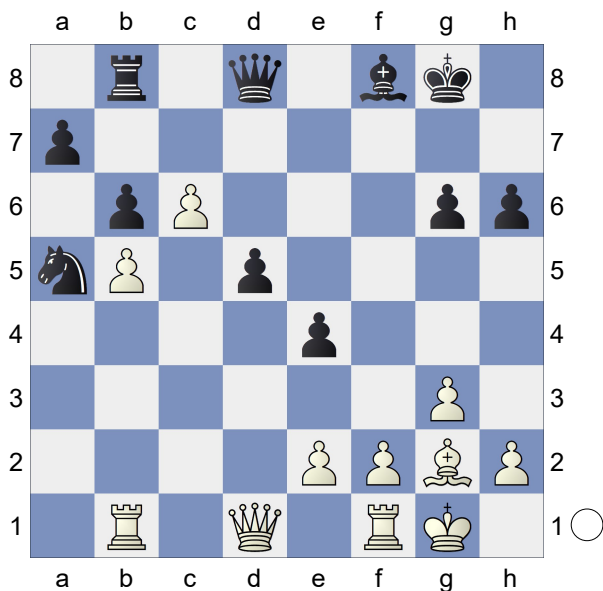
62...Nc8 10 White=0.58/Black=0.20 0-1

A37
 ☐ **Coyne, Theodore James** **2263**
 ■ **Seshadri, Sudarshan** **2022**
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.3) 27.05.2025
 [Winslow, Elliott]

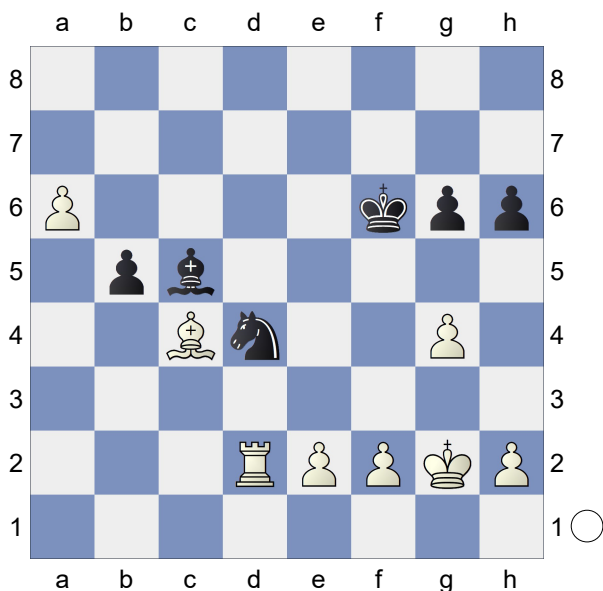
Coyne kept abreast with this English effort. **1.c4 2 c5 22 2.g3 9 Nc6 25 3.Bg2 5 g6 44 4.Nc3 23 Bg7 8 5.Nf3 11 d6 5:28 6.0-0 10 e5 3:54 7.a3 4:38 Nge7 1:33 8.b4 56 0-0 5:25 9.Rb1 35 cxb4 6:47 10.axb4 17 Be6 7:44**
 [10...a6]
11.d3 1:09 And now b5 would win. White is clearly better. **11...h6 7:34**
 [11...a6±]
12.b5+- 3:31 Na5 2:40 13.Ba3 1:37 f5N 52
 [13...b6 14.Bb4 f5 15.Nd2 Rc8 16.Qa4 e4 17.Qa3 Rf7 18.Rfc1 Bd4 19.Nd1 exd3 20.Qxd3 1-0 (40) Claridge Hansen, W (2299)-Graham, D (2152) Bournemouth 2016]
14.Ne1 7:51 Rb8 7:49 15.Nc2 1:31 b6 10:35 16.Nb4 5:12 e4 30 17.Ncd5 1:26 Nxd5? 1:49
 [17...Rc8 18.Qa4 (18.dxe4 Nxc4 19.Qd3 Nxa3±) 18...Qd7]
18.cxd5 27 Bd7 6:08 19.Nc6 13:16
 White is clearly winning.
 [Not 19.dxe4 Bxb5 20.Nc6 Nxc6+-]
 [19.Na6 Rc8±]
19...Bxc6 2:22 20.dxc6 15 d5 8:31 21.Bxf8 5:24 Bxf8 33 22.dxe4 57 fxe4 20

(Diagram)

23.c7! 15 Deflection 23...Qxc7 11 24.Qxd5+ 5 Kh7 45 25.Rbc1 53 Bc5 39 26.Qxe4 1:45 Nb3 41 27.Rcd1 32



Rd8 4:27 28.Rxd8 56 Qxd8 4 29.Qd5 15 Qxd5 24 30.Bxd5 8 Endgame KRB-KBN 30...Nd4 21 31.Bc4 7 Nc2 1:11 32.Rd1 18 Nd4 3:24 33.Kg2 15 Kg7 26 34.g4 1:08 Kf6 39 35.Rd2 20 a6 2:06 36.bxa6 32 Rxd4! would kill now. 36...b5 6



37.Bxb5! 2:16 White=0.13/Black=0.39 1-0

□ **Rajaram,Raghu**

■ **Heimann,Mark**

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 03.06.2025
[Winslow,Elliott/TA]

B01

1848

2597

Confession: Out of time for this newsletter! I propose I add the Round 5 games to the "End of TNM" newsletter for balance. But here are the games I intend to give, with those silly "Tactical Analysis" computer-generated notes.

1.e4 1 d5 30 2.exd5 28 Qxd5 5 3.Nc3 8 Qd6 47

[3...Qa5]

[3...Qd8]

4.Nf3 1:15 Nf6 10 5.d4 3:50 a6 1:04

6.Be2 5:07 Nbd7 2:41 This has lost popularity

[6...Nc6± should be considered.]

7.0-0± 4:12 e6 56 8.Ng5 13:04 c5 1:44

9.dxc5N 5:08 White is slightly better.

[9.Be3 cxd4 10.Bxd4 Be7 11.Nge4 Qc7 12.Nxf6+ Nxf6 13.Na4 Bd7 14.c4 0-0 15.Qc2 0-1 (55) Pedersen, D (2275)-Hansen, S (2325) Copenhagen 2014]

9...Qxc5 59

[9...Nxc5± 10.Qxd6 Bxd6]

10.Nge4 16:14

[10.Bh5!± Nxh5 11.Qxh5]

10...Qc7± 21 11.Bf3 9:27 Be7 1:33

12.Re1 7:36 0-0 25 13.Bg5 2:13 Rd8! 2:29 14.Qe2 2:24 Nxe4 48 15.Bxe7 1:40 Nxc3 6 A dynamic duo of knights.

16.Qd2 3:06

[16.bxc3= Re8 17.Bh4]

16...Na4 5:09

[16...Nd5!± 17.Bxd8 Qxd8]

17.Bxd8= 37 Qxd8 4 18.Qb4 1:01

[18.b3= Nac5 19.Rad1]

18...Nac5± 54 19.Rad1 2:03 Black must now prevent Qxc5! **19...Qc7 2:42**

[Black should try 19...Qf8±]

20.Qd4 1:47

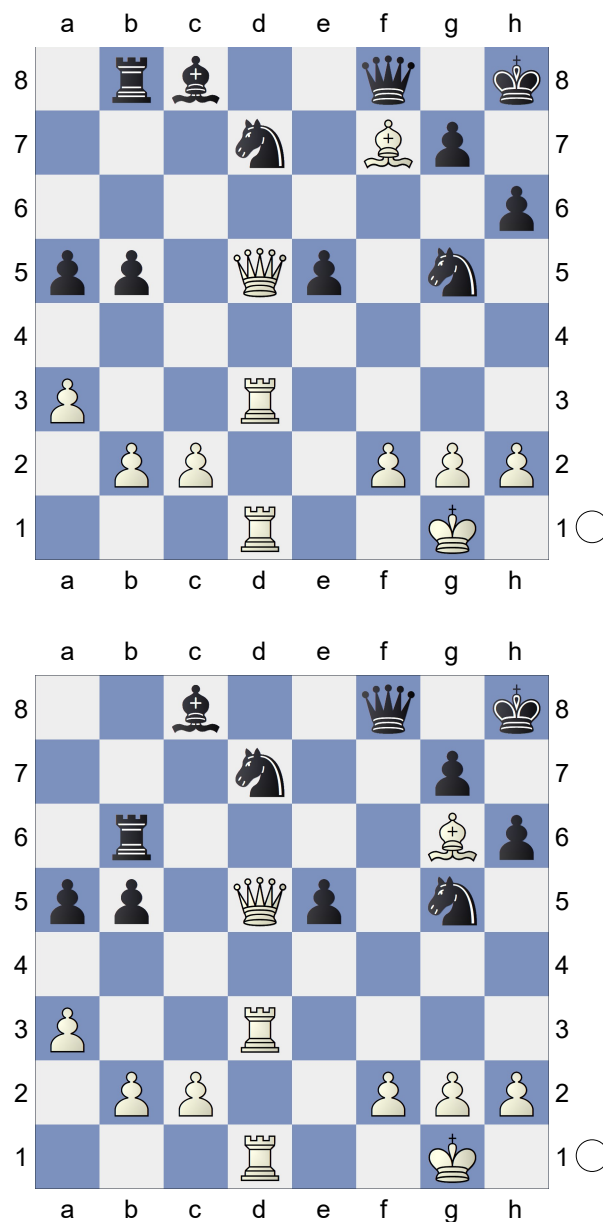
[20.Qc3= a5 21.a3]
20...a5 1:16 **21.Re5** 4:39 **h6!-+ 1:54**
 [21...Qxe5? 22.Qxe5 h6 23.Qd6+-]
 [21...Nb3? 22.cxb3 g6 (22...Qxe5?
 23.Qxe5 g6 24.Qc7+-) 23.Re3+-]
22.Re3 2:45 **Rb8** 1:10
 [22...Ra7+- 23.Bh5 b6]
23.a3 1:04 **b5!** 1:21 **24.Bh5?** 2:28
 [24.Rc3 might work better. b4
 25.axb4 axb4 (25...Rxb4 26.Rxc5
 Qxc5 27.Qxc5) 26.Rc4]
24...e5? 4:09
 [24...b4+- and ...Ba6 should not be
 overlooked 25.Rg3 f6]
25.Qd5!= 57 Ne6 21 26.Rc3! 3:37 **Qd8**
10:55
 [26...Ndc5= 27.b4 Bb7]
27.Rf3! 1:20
 [27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Qxd7 Qxd7
 29.Rxd7 Rxc2 (29...g6 30.Bd1=
 30.Bxf7+ Kf8=)
27...Ng5 2:12
 [27...g6? 28.Bxg6 Qf8 29.Bxf7+
 (29.Rxf7 Qxf7 30.Bxf7+ Kxf7+-)
 29...Qxf7 30.Rxf7 Kxf7 31.Re1+-]
28.Bxf7+ 30 Kh8 16 29.Rfd3 22
 [29.Rf5± Qf8 30.h4]
29...Qf8 5:47
 [29...Qe7= remains equal. 30.Bg6
 Qf6]

(Diagram)

30.Bg6 2:27
 [Better is 30.Bh5!±]
30...Rb6 1:08

(Diagram)

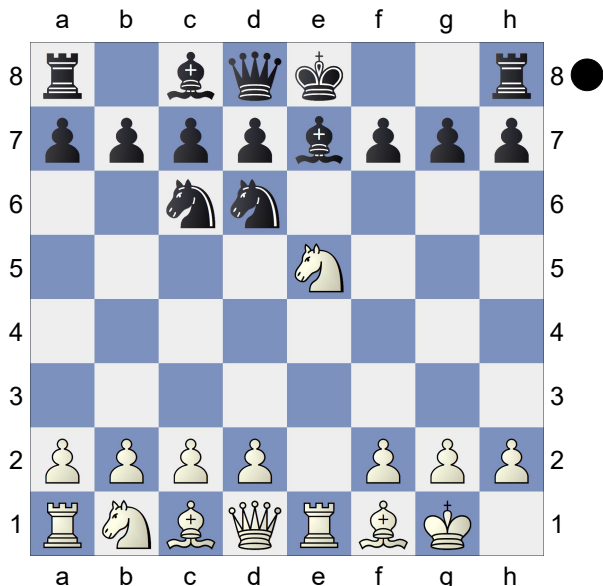
Against Qc6 **31.Qa8?** 1:30 **Rxg6-+ 54**
32.Rxd7 38
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/
 Black=0.32



32...Nh3+ 1:04 Deflection, Double Attack
 0-1

C67
 □ Suarez, Sebastian 2200
 ■ Coyne, Theodore James 2263
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 03.06.2025
 [Winslow, Elliott]

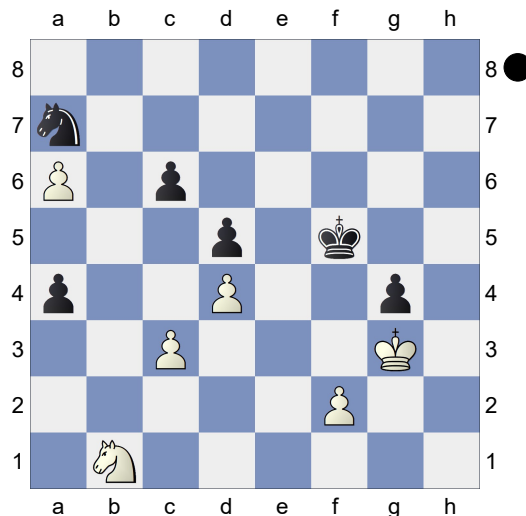
This game will also be further "un-TA'ed"
 in the Newsletter... **1.e4 3 e5 6 2.Nf3 9**
Nc6 6 3.Bb5 9 Nf6 16 4.0-0 19 Nxe4 7
5.Re1 14 Nd6 7 6.Nxe5 11 Be7 9
7.Bf1 21



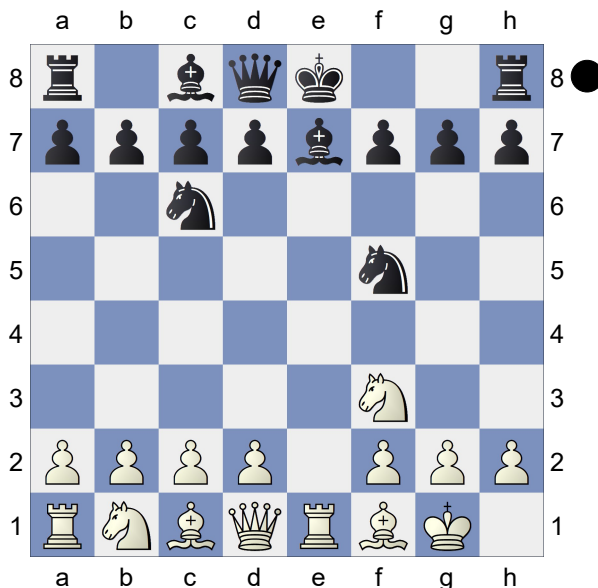
This has been such a stable line, "the Death of Chess 17.0" -- but in fact "things" do happen (i.e. wins/losses). It's a sort of acquired taste, to play to trick up opponents in some of the quiet pawn structures that arise. Just look... **7...Nf5** **15** This is a surprisingly successful alternative

[... to the "standard" 7...Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 when there are a LOT of draws. 9.d4 (9.Nc3 is even more "drawful": almost four out of five games (over more than a thousand).) 9...Bf6 10.Re1 Re8 11.c3 Rxe1 12.Qxe1 Ne8 13.Bf4 d5 14.Bd3 g6 15.Nd2 Ng7 16.Nf3 Bf5 I'll spare you the bulky end of this noteworthy game which featured a lot of king shuffling in a totally blocked pawn ending: ½-½ (87) Carlsen,M (2830)-Niemann,H (2692) Titled Tuesday (blitz) 2024 but anything can happen: 17.Qd2 Bxd3 18.Qxd3 c6 19.Re1 Qd7 20.Be5 Bxe5 21.Rxe5 Re8 22.Kf1 f6 23.Rxe8+ Nxe8 24.h3 Nd6 25.Nd2 Qe6 26.Qe2 Kf7 27.Qxe6+ Kxe6 28.Ke2 h5 29.g4 hxg4 30.hxg4 f5 31.gxf5+ Kxf5 32.Kf3 g5 33.a4 a5 34.Kg3 b5 35.b3 Nc8 36.Kf3 Nb6 37.b4 bxa4 38.bxa5

Nc8 39.Nb1 Na7 40.a6 g4+ 41.Kg3=

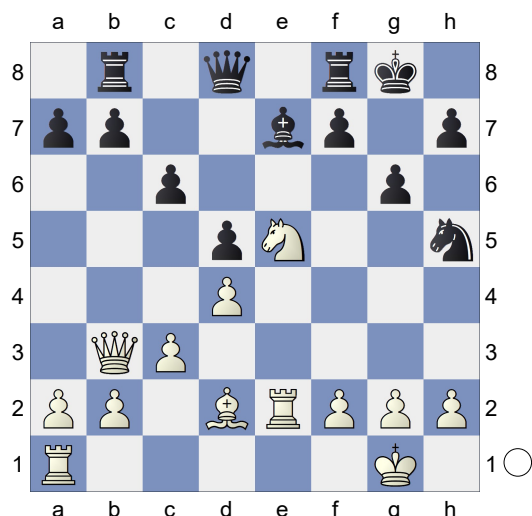


Ke4?? 42.Kxg4+- Kd3 43.f4 Kc2 44.Na3+ Kb3 45.f5 Kxa3 46.f6 1-0 (46) Erigaisi,A (2689)-Niemann,H (2688) FTX Road to Miami Prelim, chess24.com INT 2022] **8.Nf3** **20:05**



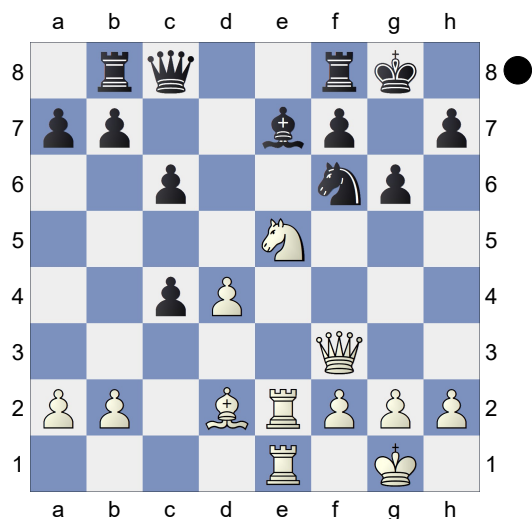
(most common -- if Black doesn't want to trade, neither does White!) **8...0-0** **23** [8...Ncd4!? is 2-4 in the database -- including a game relevant for our **TNM**: 9.Nxd4 (9.c3 Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Nh4) 9...Nxd4 10.c3 Nf5 11.d4 d5 12.Qc2 0-0 13.Bd3 g6 14.Nd2 Nd6 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Ne5 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Qb3 Rb8 19.Bf4 Ng7

20.Re2 Nh5 21.Bd2 c6



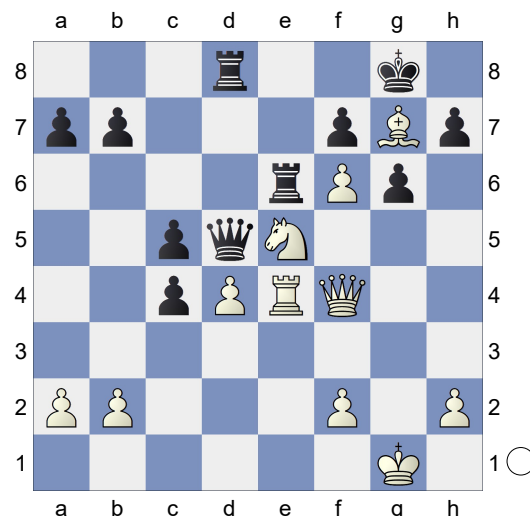
22.c4? = (22.Rae1± is quite unexpected: SF17.1 +1.00/d31 but suddenly dropped to +0.85/d32 when it clicked into the next iteration.)
 22...Nf6??+- (22...Bg5 Stockfish steadfastly refuses to reduce White's edge to nothing, but at depth 37 it dropped from +0.07 to +0.04....
 23.Bxg5 Qxg5 24.g3 Nf4 25.Ree1 dxc4 26.Qxc4 Nh3+ 27.Kf1)

A) 23.Bf4! dxc4 (23...Bd6 24.Bg5) 24.Nxc4;
B) 23.Rae1 dxc4 24.Qh3! Qc8 25.Qf3!



Bd8?! 26.Bh6 Re8 27.g4 (27.Ng4 Rxe2 28.Rxe2) 27...Re6 28.g5 Ba5 29.gxf6 (29.Rd1!) 29...Bxe1 30.Rxe1 Qd8 31.Re4! Qd5

(31...Rxf6 32.Rf4 Rxf4 33.Qxf4 f5 34.Nd7!) 32.Bg7 (32.Qf4) 32...Rd8 (32...Rxe5) 33.Qf4 c5



34.Ng4! h5 35.Qh6 1-0 (35) Siddarth,M (2159)-Heimann,M (2403) Las Vegas 2022. But that leaves even more Black wins (still, a tiny sample).]

9.d4 6:40 d5 13 10.c4 6:34 At least injecting some nice IQP imbalance to the game. But probably not such a great idea.

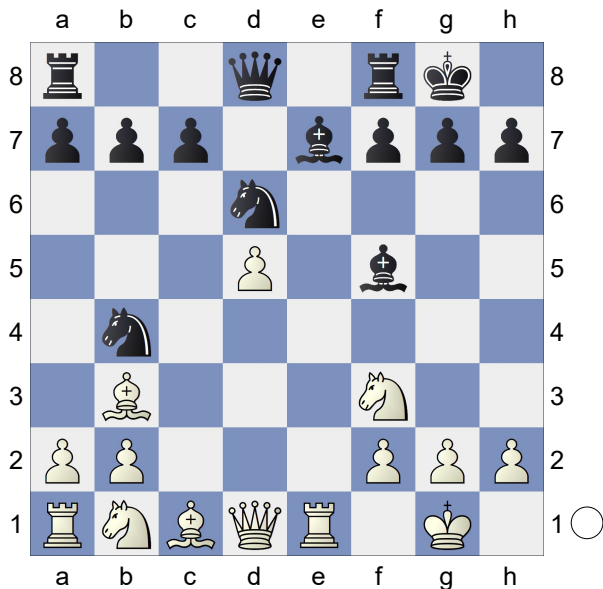
[10.h3±]
 [10.c3±]
10...dxc4 21:56
 [10...Be6]
 [10...Bf6]

11.d5 1:24 Nb4 54 12.Bxc4 2:33 Nd6 2:44 13.Bb3 3:35 Bf5 3:43

(Diagram)

14.Be3? 13:17
 [14.Ne5= with Black completely fine.]
14...Bf6 4:15 15.Nd4 59 Bg6 1:24
 Wait, what? *Black* has a clear advantage? Out of nowhere! **16.Nc3 2:54 Re8N 3:51**

[16...Nd3 17.Re2 Ne5 (17...Re8!) 18.Bf4?! (18.Bc2 Re8) 18...Nd3 19.Be3 Ne5? (19...Re8) 20.Bf4 Nd3 21.Be3 Ne5 22.Bf4 ½-½ (22)

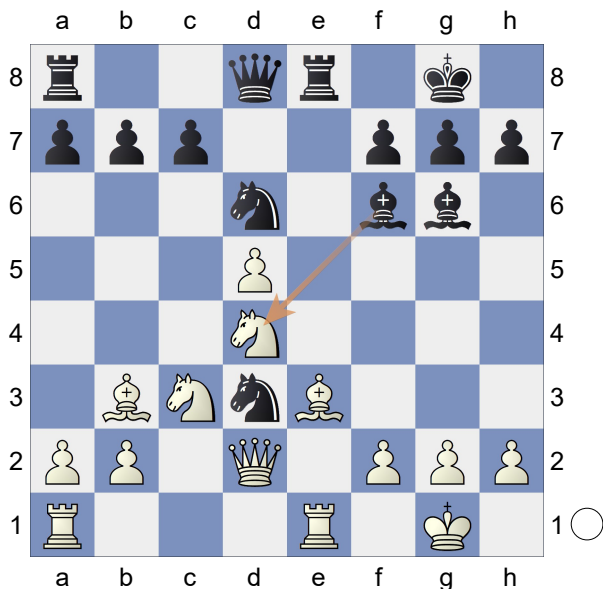


Macias Pino,D (2479)-Javakhishvili,L (2425) Melilla 2024. Clearly, as in a lot of Berlin Ruys, the result is predetermined.]

17.Qd2? 8:09

[17.Re2]

17...Nd3 4:25



18.Red1 4:21

[18.Re2 was worth a try.]

18...Ne5 3:18

[18...a5+- and ...a4! should not be overlooked 19.a3 Bxd4 20.Bxd4 a4]

19.Qe2 3:44 Qc8 6:47 20.h3 1:42

Wards off Ng4 20...Nf5 1:14

[20...a6!]

21.Nxf5± 1:58 Qxf5 15 22.Rd2 7:43

[22.g4± Qf3 23.Qxf3 Nxf3+ 24.Kg2 Bxc3 25.bxc3 (25.Kxf3? Bxb2 26.Rac1 Bxc1)]

22...Bg5 10:50 23.Bc2 10:59 Qf6 16

24.Bxg6 47 Nxg6 34 25.Re1 19 Bxe3

5:51 26.fxe3 2 Qe5 1:06 27.Qf2 1:01

Rad8 1:13 28.e4 44 a6 32 29.Na4 1:30

Rd6 3:36 30.Nc5 25 Nf4 1:33 31.Nd3

1:43

[31.Nxb7 Rg6 32.Qe3 Rg3 33.Qxg3 Ne2+ 34.Rexe2 Qxg3]

31...Nxd3 28 32.Rxd3 1 c6 10:14

33.Rde3 47 Rf6 1:42 34.Qc2 32 h5

1:45

[34...cxd5 35.exd5 Qd4

(35...Qxe3+? 36.Rxe3 Rf8

37.Qc7+-) 36.Qc3]

35.Qc3 14 Qxc3 3:29 36.bxc3 39 cxd5

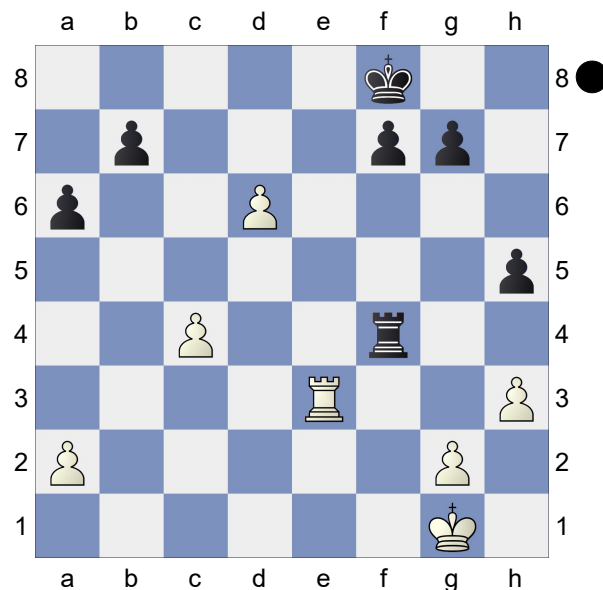
14 37.exd5 2 Rxe3 28 38.Rxe3= 1

Endgame KR-KR 38...Kf8 58 39.c4 9

Rf4 33

[39...b6=]

40.d6± 41



d7 would kill now. 40...Rd4 1:29

[40...Rxc4 41.d7 g6 42.d8Q+- (42.d8R+ Kg7+-)]

41.c5 2 Rd5 1:50 42.Kf2 12

[42.h4±]

42...g6? 2:42

[42...Rxc5? is the wrong capture.
 43.d7 Kg8 44.d8Q+- (44.d8R+
 Kh7+-)]
 [42...f5 is more resistant. 43.h4 Kf7]
43.Kf3+- 20 b6 2:58 44.cxb6 14 Rxd6
6 45.b7 25 Rd8 14
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very
 precise) /Black=0.57
46.Rc3 15
1-0

□ Cremisi,Daniel

■ Das,Rohan

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 03.06.2025
 [Winslow,Elliott/TA]

1.d4 d5 7 2.c4 1 e6 5 3.Nc3 5 Nf6 3
4.cxd5 4 exd5 4 5.Bg5 3 c6 6 6.e3 5
Be7 3 7.Bd3 5 Nbd7 4 8.Qc2 7 0-0 5
9.Nge2 7 Re8 4 10.0-0 8 Nf8 2
11.Rad1 30 Be6 5 12.f3 24 Rc8 19
13.e4 1:27 D36: Queen's Gambit
 Declined: Exchange Variation: Main line
 (5 Bg5 c6 6 Qc2). **13...dxe4 3:25**
14.fxe4 12 Ng4 5 15.Bc1 3:40
 [15.Bf4=]
15...c5! 15:27 16.Bb5 4:57 cxd4! 5:02
17.Bxe8 1:47
 [17.Kh1 18.Bf4]

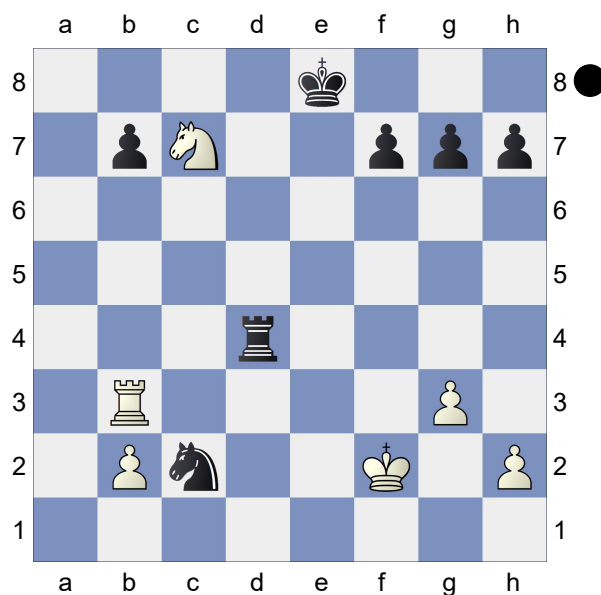
17...Bc5N 7:17

[17...Qxe8 18.Nxd4 Bc4 19.Rf4 h5
 20.h3 Ne5 21.Nf5 Bc5+ 22.Be3
 Ne6 23.Bxc5 Nxf4 1-0 (61)
 Mekhitarian,K (2499)-Milos,G (2597)
 Sao Paulo 2011]

18.Nxd4 26:03 Bxd4+ 40 19.Kh1 15
 Strongly threatening h3!. **19...Qb6? 13**
 [19...Qc7!-+ 20.Bf4 Be5 21.Bxf7+
 (21.Bxe5? Qxe5 22.g3 Ne3-+)
 21...Bxf7]

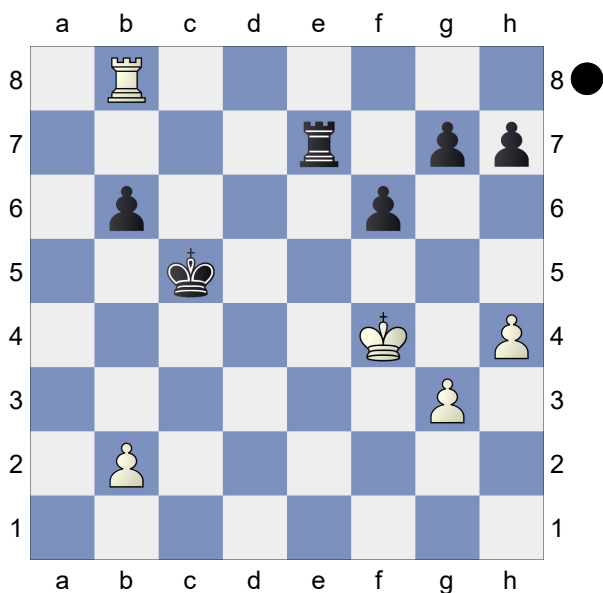
20.Ba4= 4:38 Nf2+→ 3:07 Black has
 some attack. **21.Rxf2! 5 Bxf2 3 22.Bb3**
2:09

[22.Qe2 1]
22...Bxb3! 2:49 23.Qxb3 49 Qxb3
2:00 24.axb3 1 Ne6 45 25.g3 37 Kf8
2:05 26.Bf4 1:26 Ke7 14:18
 Repels Rd7+
 [26...Ke8 27.Nb5 Rc2 28.Nd6+
 Ke7]
27.Bd6+ 2:29
 [27.Kg2= Bd4 28.Rd3]
27...Ke8 6 28.Ba3 1:41
 [28.b4 1]
28...a6!-+ 3:37 29.Kg2 9:23 Bd4 53
30.Rd3 25 Be5 3:11 31.Kf2 1:53 Nd4!
3:21 32.b4 2:08 Nc2 1:49 33.Nd5 2:03
Rc4 1:42 34.b5 3:06
 [34.Rd2 keeps fighting.]
34...axb5 5:27 35.Rb3 8 b4 14:49
 [35...Rxe4-+ 36.Rxb5 Nxa3 37.bxa3
 Bd4+ 38.Kf3 Re5]
36.Bxb4 1:39 Rxe4 4:25
 [36...Nxb4 37.Nxb4 Rxe4]
37.Bc3= 1:14 Bd4+ 1:27 38.Bxd4 3:44
 [38.Kf3= Re5 39.Nb4 Ne1+ 40.Kf4
 Bxc3 41.bxc3]
38...Rxd4 47 Endgame KRN-KRN.
 Black is a pawn up. **39.Nc7+ 1:35**
 [39.Nc3 1]



39...Kd8 35
 [39...Kd7!-+ is more deadly. 40.Nb5

Rd2+ 41.Kf1 Rxh2]
40.Nb5 1:50 Rd2+ 1:03 **41.Kg1** 17 f6 1:50
 [41...Na1 should be considered.
 42.Rb4 Nc2]
42.h4 52
 [42.Na3= remains equal.]
42...b6 39
 [Black should try 42...Na1 43.Ra3 Nc2 (43...Rxb2 44.Nd6)]
43.Nc3 2:01
 [43.Kf1=]
43...Kc7 1:36 **44.Ne4** 15
 [44.Na4]
44...Rd4 1:28 **45.Rc3+** 2:16 **Kb7** 11
46.Rxc2? 33
 [46.Nf2 was the crucial defense.
 Rd2 47.Rd3 Rxd3 48.Nxd3]
46...Rxe4 5 KR-KR. Black is a pawn up.
47.Kf2 4 **Re7** 1:15 **48.Kf3** 33 **Ka6?** 51
 [48...h5+ ...Re5 is the strong threat.
 49.Rd2 Kc7]
49.Rc8 7 **Kb5** 1:41 **50.Rb8** 1 **Kc5** 10
51.Kf4? 1:06
 [51.Rh8=]



51...b5!+ 1:15 **52.g4** 28 **Kc4** 1:53
53.h5 1:26 **Re5?** 1:13
 [53...h6+ 54.Kf5 Re5+ 55.Kg6 Rg5+ 56.Kh7 Rxg4]

54.Rb7= 33 The position is equal.
54...Rg5 40 **55.h6** 18 **gxh6** 31 **56.Rxh7**
8 Rg6 16 **57.Kf5** 6 **Rg5+** 3 **58.Kf4!** 5
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/
 Black=0.43
58...Rg6 19
 1/2-1/2

D76

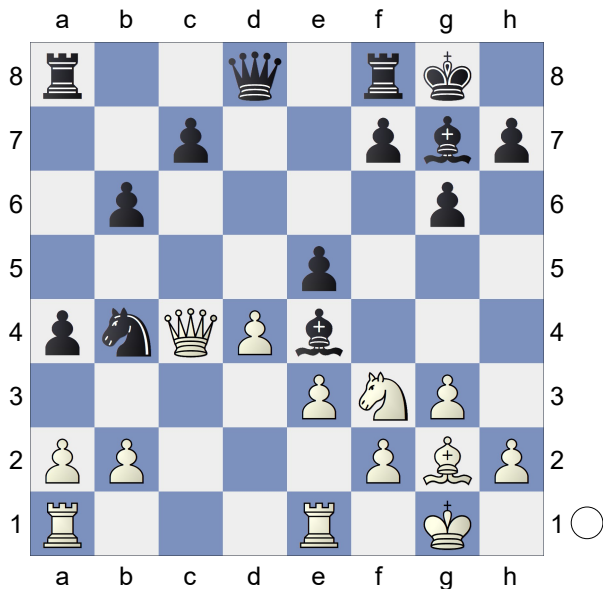
□ Seshadri,Sudarshan **2022**
 ■ Heiserman,Jimmy **2306**
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.4) 03.06.2025
[Winslow,Elliott/TA]

1.d4 3 **Nf6** 1:17 **2.c4** 6 **g6** 6 **3.g3** 21
Bg7 39 **4.Bg2** 14 **d5** 1:07 **5.cxd5** 1:50
Nxd5 5 **6.Nf3** 36 **Nb6** 14 **7.0-0** 2:03
Nc6 15 **8.e3** 2:31 **0-0** 2:21 **9.Nc3** 3:51
a5 3:12 **10.Na4** 6:53 Recently **10.Qe2**
 got a lot of attention. D76: Fianchetto
 Grünfeld: Main Line with **7...Nb6**.
 [**10.Qe2**]
10...Nxa4 9:46 **11.Qxa4** 6 **Bd7** 7
 [**11...e5**]
12.Qb3 4:38 The position is equal.
12...a4N 27:31

[**12...Qc8** **13.Bd2** a4 **14.Qa3** e5
15.d5 Na5 **16.Rfc1** b6 **17.Bb4** Re8
18.Nd2 Qb8 1-0 (50) Kristinsson,J
 (2251)-Chan,J (2038) Reykjavik
 2015]
13.Qa3 4:05 **Be6** 8:45 **14.Bd2** 4:38
Bd5 1:16 **15.Rfe1** 2:20 **Be4** 45 **16.Qc5**
10:44 e5 3:12 White does not recover
 from this. **17.Bb4?** 17:57
 [**17.Bc3=** and White has nothing to
 worry.]
17...b6+ 6:20
 [**17...exd4** **18.exd4** Bxf3 **19.Bxf3**]
18.Qc4 3:54 **Nxb4** 8

(Diagram)

Overworked Piece **19.Qxb4** 8 **Qd5** 9



...exd4 would now be deadly. **20.Nh4**

1:49 Bxg2 11

[20...exd4 21.Bxe4 Qxe4
22.Rad1-+]

21.Nxg2 9 exd4 6 22.Red1 5:59

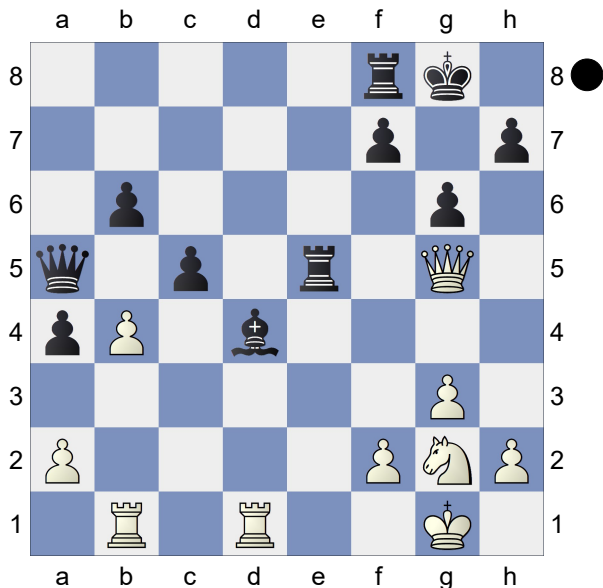
[Δ22.Nf4 Qd7 23.exd4]

22...Qa5 3:29 23.Qe7 6:41 c5 4:47

24.exd4 2:09 Bxd4 9 25.Rab1 2:31

Rae8 44 26.Qg5 6:24 Re5 2:35 27.b4

1:13



and Qxe5 would now be decisive

Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/
Black=0.17 (very precise)

27...axb3 1:56

[But not 27...cxb4 28.Qf4 Bc3

29.Ne3-+]

[Not 27...Rxc5 28.bxa5 bxa5

29.Rb5+]

[Δ27...Qa6 28.b5 Qa8]

0-1

B12

□ Tsodikova,Natalya

2246

■ Bambou,Christophe

2119

2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.7) 03.06.2025

[Winslow,Elliott/TA]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 cxd4

5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qf4 B12: Caro-Kann:

Advance Variation. 6...g6 7.Nc3 d4

Against Be3 8.Nb5 And now e6! would

win. White is slightly better. 8...Bh6

9.Ng5N

[9.Qh4!= Bg7 10.Nbxd4]

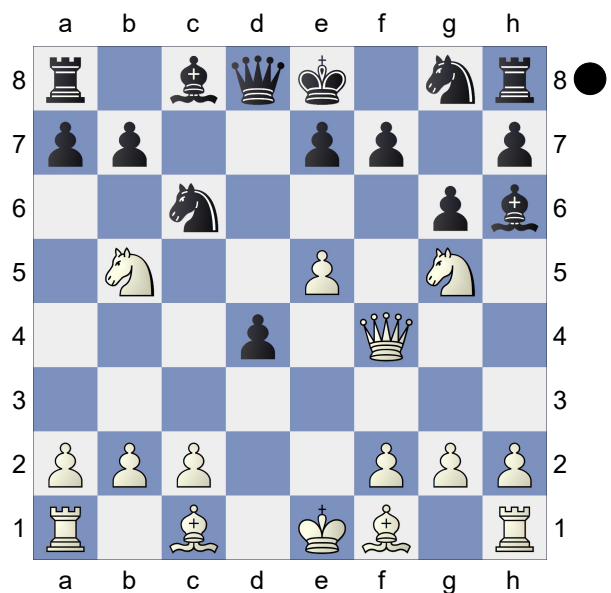
[9.Qh4 Bxc1 10.Rxc1 a6 11.Nbxd4

Nxe5 12.Be2 Qa5+ 13.c3 Nf6

14.0-0 Nxf3+ 15.Nxf3 Qxa2

0-1 (51) Firouzja,A (2760)-Fedoseev,

V (2690) Chess.com INT 2024]



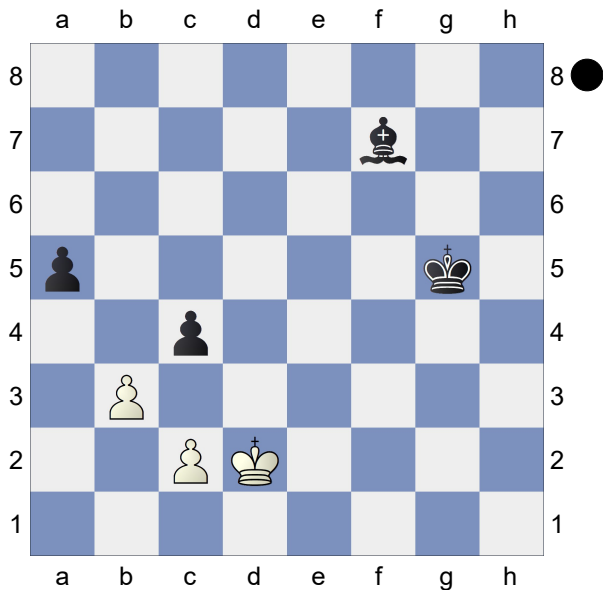
9...Bxg5!+ 10.Qxg5 a6 11.Na3 Qa5+

[Black should play 11...Bf5+]

and ...Qa5+ should not be overlooked

12.Qg3 h5]

12.Bd2 **Qxe5+** **13.Qxe5**
 White sacrificed a pawn **13...Nxe5**
14.Bf4 Nd7 15.0-0-0 e5 16.Bxe5
Nxe5 17.Re1!↑ White is pushing.
17...Be6 18.Rxe5 b5 Against Bc4
19.Bd3 Nf6 20.Rd1 0-0 21.Be4 Nxe4
 [**21...Rad8!** **22.Bf3 h5 (22...Bxa2?**
23.b3+-)]
22.Rxe4= Rac8
 [**22...Bxa2?** **23.b3+-**]
 [**22...d3=**]
23.Rexd4
 [White should try **23.Rdxd4± Bxa2**
24.Rd6]
23...Bxa2 24.Nb1 Be6 25.Nc3 Rc6
26.R1d2 Kg7 27.g4 h6 28.h4 g5
29.f4 gxf4
 [**29...gxh4!?** **30.f5** □ **Bc4** ♗]
30.Rxf4 Rfc8 31.Rg2 Rc4 32.Rgf2
Rxf4 33.Rxf4 Rc4 34.Rxc4 bxc4
 Endgame KB-KN **35.g5 hxg5 36.hxg5**
Kg6 37.Kd2 a5 38.Ne4 Bd5 39.Nd6
Kxg5 40.Nxf7+ Bxf7 KB-KPP 41.b3



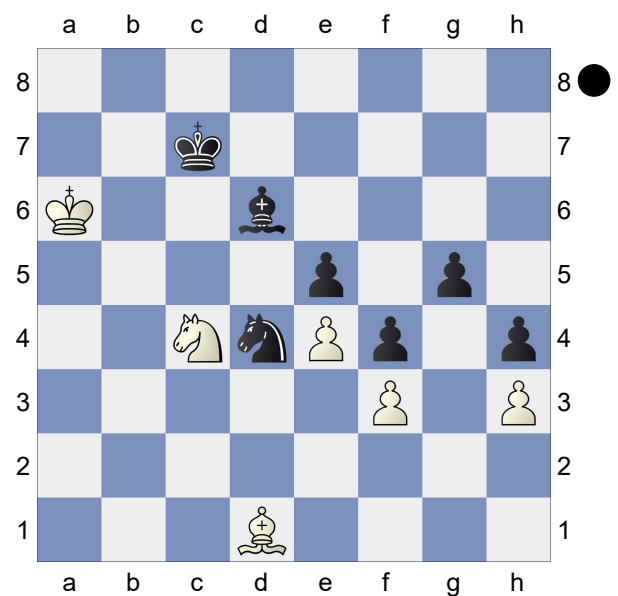
a4! 42.bxc4 Bxc4 ♗ **KB-KP 43.Kc1 Kf4**
 [**43...a3?** **44.Kb1+-**]
44.Kb2 Ke3 45.Ka1 Ke2 46.Kb1 Kd2
47.Ka1 Kc3 48.Kb1 Bf7 49.Ka1 Bb3
50.Kb1 Bd5 51.Ka1 Bf3 52.Kb1 Bd1
53.Ka1 Kxc2 54.Ka2 Kc1 55.Ka1!
Bc2 56.Ka2 Be4 57.Ka1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
57...Bb1
 1/2-1/2

E90
 □ **Gaffagan, Steven** 1956
 ■ **Sawhney, Yuvraj Singh** 2052
 2nd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.11) 03.06.25
 [Winslow, Elliott]

The Importance of Hanging On (and the Importance of Finishing the Game)
 Gaffagan handled the opening very well, to achieve a textbook queenside advantage vs. the King's Indian, while Sawhney's kingside attack was nowhere close to meaning anything. Various ways to clinch it were available, but as he played it Gaffagan had to play quite sharply, and it evaded him. Still, he was winning, until... **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6**
3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.e4 e5 5.Nf3 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.d5 Nc5 8.Qc2 a5 9.Bg5 0-0
10.Nd2 h6 11.Bh4 Qd7 12.b3 Nh7 13.0-0 f5 14.f3 f4 15.a3 g5 16.Bf2 h5 17.b4 axb4 18.axb4 Rxa1
19.Rxa1 Na6 20.c5 Qe7 21.c6 Nb8 22.cxb7 Bxb7 23.Ra7 c6 24.dxc6 Nxc6 25.Nd5 Qf7 26.Rxb7 Qxb7
27.Qxc6 Qxc6 28.Ne7+ Kf7 29.Nxc6 Ke6 It's bad: here is a bit of the "Let's Check Analysis" thing on Chessbase 18:
 [**29...d5 30.b5 Ra8 5.73/30**
 Stockfish 17.1/Elliott Winslow]

30.Bc4+
 [**30.b5 Kd7 31.Ba7 5.72/21**
 Stockfish 17.1/Elliott Winslow]
30...Kd7 31.b5
 [**31.b5 Nf6 32.Ba7 Kc7 5.38/24**
 Stockfish 17.1/Elliott Winslow]
 I think we get the picture. **31...Ra8**
32.Ba7 Nf6 33.Bf7
 [**33.Bd5**]



Kc6

[67...g4! is what it all hinges on:

68.fxg4 f3 69.g5 f2 70.Nd2 Kd7

Stockfish 17.1: 71.Kb7 Ke6 72.Bg4+

Kf7 73.Bh5+ Kg7 74.Nf1 Be7

75.Kc7 Bxg5 76.Kd6 Kf6 77.Bd1

Bf4 78.Kd5 Kg5 79.Bg4 Nc2 80.Be2

Ne1 81.Bg4 Bg3]

68.Ka5?!

[68.Na5+ forces Black back to find

the right idea. Or not! Kc5 69.Nb7+]

68...Kc5 Now Black can win with old-

fashioned king penetration. 69.Nd2

Nc6+ 70.Ka4 Kd4 71.Kb3 Kd3 72.Nf1

Nd4+ 73.Kb2 Bb4 74.Kc1 Ba3+

75.Kb1 Nb5 76.Bb3 Nc3+ 77.Ka1

Ke2 78.Nh2 Kd2 79.Ng4 Kc1

A fantastic turnaround for young
Sawhney -- and a disaster after such
excellent play by Gaffagan; he just
couldn't find the next step, and backing
up cost him, first the win, then the draw.
It's too bad Black didn't find or
sufficiently calculate ...g4!, that was
thematic.

0-1



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Annotated Games from Womens' World Chess Championship

NM Sricharan Pullela

A selection of games from the Womens' World Chess Championship annotated by NM Sricharan Pullela. Scroll down to the next page for the games and annotation!

B40
2561
2555
 FIDE Women's World Championship Match (1.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bf4 d5
 8.Nd2 g6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be7
 11.0-0 a5 12.Qe2 0-0 13.Rad1 Nd7
 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.c4 Ne5 16.exd5
 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 cxd5 18.Qe3 Qg5
 19.Qxg5 hxg5 20.cxd5 exd5 21.Rfe1
 Rb8 22.b3 g4 23.Nf1 a4 24.bxa4 Rb4
 25.a5 Ra4 26.Rxd5 Be6 27.Rc5 Rxa2
 28.Ne3 Ra8 29.Nd5 R8xa5 30.Rxa5
 Rxa5 31.Nf4 Bf5 32.h3 gxh3 33.Nxh3
 Bxh3 34.gxh3 Kg7 35.Kg2 Rg5+
 36.Kf3 Rf5+ 37.Kg2 Rg5+ 38.Kf3 Rf5+
 39.Kg2
 1/2-1/2

A29
2555
2561
 FIDE Women's World Championship Match (2.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3
d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Bc5!?
 Interesting choice from Wenjun, picking
 a move not so up in the database, but
 the idea is clear-pressuring the f2 pawn.
 This also a top engine choice
 [6...Nb6 has been played by Carlsen
 in the past followed by 7.0-0 Be7
 8.a3 a5 9.d3 0-0 10.Be3 Be6
 11.Rc1 a4 12.Nd2 f5 13.Bxb6 cxb6
 14.Nxa4 Bg5 15.Nc3 e4 16.Kh1
 Qd7 17.Rb1 Rad8 18.Nc4 Qf7
 19.b3 exd3 20.exd3 f4 21.Ne4 Be7
 22.gxf4 Qxf4 23.a4 Nb4 24.Qe2

Qh6 25.Rbd1 Nd5 26.Rg1 Kh8
 27.Bf1 Rf4 28.Ne5 Rdf8 29.f3 Rh4
 30.d4 Nf4 31.Qd2 Bxb3 32.Rb1
 Bxa4 33.Bb5 Bxb5 34.Rxb5 Qe6
 35.Qb2 Bd8 36.Ng5 Qe8 37.Rb3
 Bxg5 38.Rxg5 Ne6 39.Rg4 Rxg4
 40.fxg4 Qd8 41.Rh3 Qd5+ 42.Kg1
 Qe4 43.Qb4 Rf6 0-1 (43) Giri,A
 (2777)-Carlsen,M (2843) Shamkir
 2018]

7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 h6
 [8...Bb6 9.Na4 Re8 10.Bg5 Qd6
 11.Nd2 Qg6 12.Ne4 Bg4 13.h3 Be6
 14.Bd2 Rad8 15.Kh2 Kh8 16.a3 f5
 17.Nec5 Bc8 18.b4 e4 19.e3 Bxc5
 20.Nxc5 b6 21.Nb3 Ba6 22.Nc1
 Ne5 23.Qa4 Bxd3 24.Nxd3 Nxd3
 25.b5 h5 26.Qc2 Qd6 27.h4 Qe5
 28.Kg1 Re6 29.a4 Kh7 30.Ra3
 Rdd6 31.a5 c5 32.bxc6 Rxc6
 33.Qd1 Nf6 34.axb6 axb6 35.Qb1
 Red6 36.Rb3 Ng4 37.Bb4 Rd5
 38.Be1 Rc1 0-1 (38) Eljanov,P (2739)-
 Grischuk,A (2761) Geneva 2017]

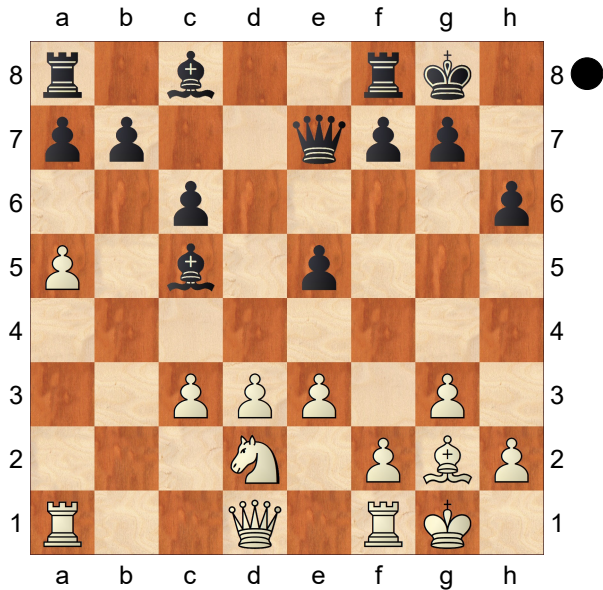
9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Bd2
 [10.a3 seem interesting to me,
 followed by a5 (10...Bb6 11.b4 e4
 12.dxe4 Qxe4 13.Bb2 Rd8 14.Qb3)
 11.Bd2

A) 11...a4 12.Bc3 Qe6 13.e3 Rd8
 14.Qe2 Qe7 (14...b6?! 15.Nxe5
 Nxe5 16.Bxa8) 15.Rfd1∞;
B) 11...Rd8 12.Rc1=]

10...Qd6 11.Bc3 Qe7 12.Nd2 Nd4
13.e3 Nb5 14.a4 Nxc3
 [14...Nd6?? 15.d4 exd4 16.exd4
 Bb6 17.a5]

15.bxc3 leaving white a strong center
 mass to work with, paired with the strong
 g2 bishop, white has the better position
 now **15...c6 16.a5!**

(Diagram)



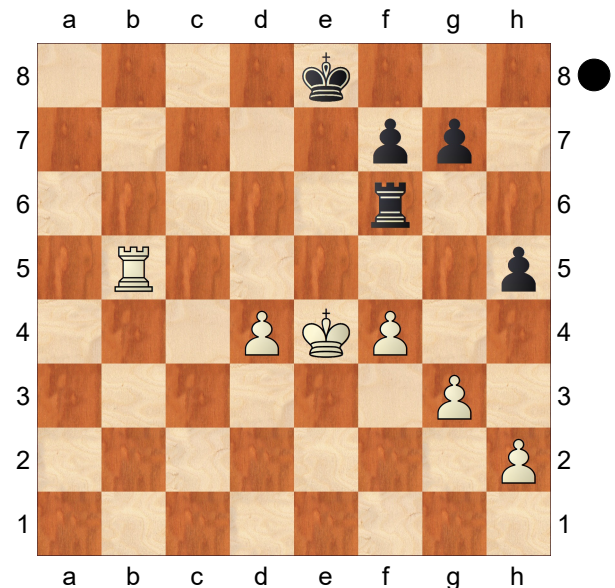
Excellent move from Zhongyi, fixating black's queenside structure, making it hard for black to mobilize there **16...Bd7 17.Qb3**

[17.d4!? Bd6 18.Nc4 Rfd8 19.Qh5]
17...Rab8 18.Ne4 Bd6 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.d4 b6 21.axb6 axb6 22.Ra7 Be6 23.Qa4 Rfc8 24.Rb1 Bd5 25.dxe5 Qxe5 26.Qd4 Qxd4 27.exd4 Bxg2 28.Kxg2 And now we reach a rook and pawn endgame that is objectively equal, but the difference in the strength of the rooks between the sides is unbearably obvious, making black's position quite the task to defend **28...b5 29.Re1 Ra8 30.Ree7 Rxa7 31.Rxa7 c5 32.Kf3 cxd4 33.cxd4 Kf8 34.Rb7 Rc3+ 35.Ke4 Rc2 36.Ke3 Rc3+ 37.Kd2 Rf3 38.Ke2 Rf5?!** This is a clear technical error since in this position it becomes glaringly obvious how difficult it is to defend the pawn from the side, rather than the front **39.Ke3 h5 40.f4 Ke8** and white finally has a clear objective advantage

[The only move to maintain objective equality is the quite counter intuitional **40...b4! 41.Ke4 (41.Rxb4 Ra5)**

41...Ra5 42.Rxb4 f5+ 43.Kd3 h4 44.Kc4 (44.gxh4 Ra3+ 45.Kc4 Rf3 46.d5 Rxf4+ 47.Kc5 Rxb4 48.Kxb4 f4 49.Kc4 Ke7 50.h5 f3 51.Kd3 Kd6=) 44...Ra2 45.Kd5 Re2! And black is maximizing resources here to hold white back from advancing the D pawn]

41.Ke4 Rf6 42.Rxb5



And since white's king can advance along with the D pawn, white is now in a clear advantage **42...g6 43.d5 Ra6 44.Ke5 f6+ 45.Kd4 Ra2 46.Kc5 Rxh2 47.Rb8+ Kd7 48.Rb7+ Kc8 49.Rg7 g5 50.f5 h4 51.gxh4 gxh4 52.Rh7 h3 53.Kd6** And white is finally in with the king, at which point the h pawn is of no use to black **53...Kb8 54.Kd7 Kb7 55.d6 Kb6 56.Kd8 Rh1 57.d7 h2 58.Rh3 Kb7 59.Rb3+ Ka7 60.Rb2 Ka6 61.Re2 Kb7 62.Ke7** And after a long game with a endgame swindle, Zhongyi strikes first in the match!
1-0

B44
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 FIDE Women's World Championship Match (3.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4
 5.Nxd4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Nge7 7.Be2 d5
 8.exd5 exd5 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.0-0 0-0
 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Bf3 Be6 13.Bg5 Bxc3
 14.bxc3 Rc8 15.Qa4 h6 16.Bd2 a5
 17.Rfe1 Rc4 18.Qa3 Nf5 19.Be2 Rc8
 20.Rad1 Qd6 21.Qxa5 Ra8 22.Qb4
 Rxa2 23.Bf4 Qc6 24.Bb5 Qb6 25.Re2
 Rfa8 26.Bd3 Ra1 27.Ree1 Rxd1
 28.Rxd1 Qd8 29.h3 Qf6 30.Re1 Rc8
 31.Be5 Qg5 32.Ba6 Ra8 33.Bf4 Qf6
 34.Bb7 Rd8 35.Bc7 Rf8 36.Rd1 Qg5
 37.Bxd5 Ne3 38.h4 Qg4 39.Qxg4
 Bxg4 40.Rd3 Nxd5 41.Rxd5 Ra8
 42.Bb6 Be6 43.Rd6 Kf8 44.Bd4 Ke7
 45.Rb6 g6 46.Kh2 h5 47.Kg3 Ra5
 48.Kf4 Kd7 49.g3 Rf5+ 50.Ke3 Ra5
 51.Rb4 Bd5 52.Bb6 Ra3 53.Kd4 Be6
 54.Bc5 Ra2 55.Kd3 Bf5+ 56.Ke3 Be6
 57.Bd4 Kc6 58.c4 Kc7 59.c5 Bd5
 60.Kf4 Bc6 61.Kg5 Ra4 62.Be5+ Kd7
 63.Rb2 Ke6 64.Bf4 Rc4 65.Be3 Ke5
 66.Rb8 Bd7 67.Rd8 Be6 68.Rd6 Rc2
 69.Kh6 Kf6 70.Rd1 Rc4 71.Rd6 Rc2
 72.Bd4+ Kf5 73.f3 Rc4 74.c6 Rc2
 75.Kg7 g5 76.hxg5 Kxg5 77.Bb6 Kf5
 78.c7 Rc3 79.Ba5 Rc5 80.Ra6 Rc4
 81.Kf8 Bd5 82.Ke7 h4 83.Rf6+ Ke5
 84.gxh4 Be6 85.h5 Rc5 86.h6 Bc8
 87.h7
1-0

A13
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 FIDE Women's World Championship Match (4.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Qb3 Ba5 4.g3
 c5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.e3 Nge7 7.Nge2 0-0
 8.0-0 a6 9.d4 cxd4 10.exd4 d5
 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Be3 Bxc3 13.Nxc3
 Na5 14.Qb4 Nac6 15.Qc5 b6 16.Qa3
 Be6 17.Rac1 Nf5 18.Bf4 Nfxd4
 19.Rfd1 Nb5 20.Nxb5 axb5 21.Qb3
 Ne7 22.Qxb5 Rxa2 23.Bc7 Qa8
 24.Bd6 Ra5 25.Qb4 Ra4 26.Qb3 Ra7
 27.Rc7 Rxc7 28.Bxc7 Qc6 29.Qxb6
 Qc2 30.Bf3 Bf5 31.Bf4 Be4 32.Rc1
 Qd3 33.Bxe4 Qxe4 34.Qe3 Qxe3
 35.Bxe3 f6 36.Rc7 Nf5 37.Bc5 Rd8
 38.Kf1 Nd6 39.b4 Ne4 40.Bb6 Rb8
 41.Ba5 Rb5 42.Ke2 Nd6 43.Ra7 Nc4
 44.Kd3 Ne5+ 45.Kc2 d4 46.Kb3 Rd5
 47.Bb6 d3 48.Ra1 Nf3 49.Rd1 Kf7
 50.Kc3 d2 51.Be3 Ke6 52.Bxd2 Nxh2
 53.Re1+ Kd7 54.Be3 Ng4 55.Bc5 Ne5
 56.Ra1 Ke6 57.f4 Nd7 58.Re1+ Kf5
 59.Kc4 Rd2 60.Re7 Nxc5 61.bxc5 g5
 62.fxg5 fxg5 63.Rxh7 Rc2+ 64.Kd4
 Rd2+ 65.Kc4 Rc2+ 66.Kb5 Rc3 67.c6
 Rxg3 68.c7 Rc3 69.Kb6 Kf4 70.Rf7+
 Ke4 71.Rg7 Kf4 72.Rg6 Rxc7 73.Kxc7
 g4 74.Kd6 g3 75.Kd5 Kf3 76.Kd4 g2
 77.Kd3 Kf2 78.Rf6+ Ke1 79.Rg6 Kf2
 80.Rxg2+ Kxg2
 1/2-1/2

B42
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 FIDE Women's World Championship Match (5.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.0-0 Ne7
 8.c4 Nbc6 9.Nc3 Ne5 10.c5 N7g6
 11.Be2 b5 12.f4 Nc4 13.a4 b4
 14.Bxc4 bxc3 15.bxc3 Bb7 16.Qe2
 0-0 17.Bd3 f5 18.exf5 exf5 19.Be3
 Qc7 20.Bxa6 Rfe8 21.Bxb7 Qxb7
 22.Qc4+ Kh8 23.Bd4 Re6 24.h3 Rae8
 25.Rf2 Bb8 26.Raf1 Nxf4 27.Rxf4 Bxf4
 28.Rxf4 Re1+ 29.Rf1 Rxf1+ 30.Kxf1
 Qe4 31.Kg1 Qb1+ 32.Kh2 Re1
 33.Qd5 h6 34.Nd2 Rh1+ 35.Kg3 Qe1+
 36.Bf2 Qe2 37.Qd4 Rd1 38.Be3 Kh7
 39.a5 Re1 40.Bf2 Rd1 41.Be3 Re1
 42.Nc4 Ra1 43.Nd6 Ra2 44.Bf2 Qe6
 45.Qf4 Kg6 46.Kh2 Qf6 47.Nc4 Kh7
 48.Bd4 Qe6 49.Nd6 Qg6 50.Qf3 f4
 51.a6 Rxa6 52.Qxf4 Ra2 53.Qf3 Qe6
 54.Nf5 g5 55.Ne3 d6 56.c6 Ra8
 57.Nd5 Rc8 58.Qd3+ Kg8 59.Ne7+
1-0

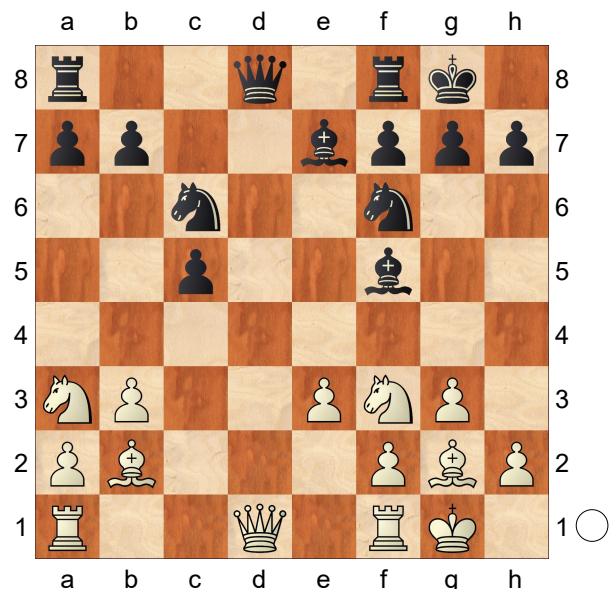
A13
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 FIDE Women's World Championship Match (6.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 d5 4.Bb2 c5
5.cxd5 exd5 6.g3 And Zhongyi elects
 to play a Reti Style double fianchetto set
 up, one that leads to dynamic play
 [Another common approach is 6.e3
 a6 7.Be2 Nc6 And 8.0-0 where Sam
 Shankland wins a great game: d4
 9.d3 Be7 10.exd4 cxd4 11.Na3 0-0

12.Nc2 Bc5 13.b4 Nxb4 14.Nxb4
 Bxb4 15.Nxd4 Bd6 16.Nc2 Nd5
 17.Bf3 Nf4 18.g3 Nh3+ 19.Kh1 Qb6
 20.Rb1 Qa5 21.Ne3 Qg5 22.Bc1
 Bc5 23.d4 Ba7 24.Nd5 Qd8 25.Ba3
 Re8 26.Rc1 Ng5 27.Nc7 Bh3
 28.Rg1 Qd7 29.Bg2 Ne4 30.Rc2
 Qf5 31.Nxa8 Bg4 32.Qf1 Bxd4
 33.Nc7 Bxf2 34.Nxe8 Nxc3+
 35.hxc3 Qh5+ 36.Bh3 Bxh3 37.Qxf2
 Bf1+ 38.Qh2 Qf3+ 39.Rgg2 Bxg2+
 40.Qxg2 Qh5+ 41.Kg1 Qd1+ 42.Kh2
 1-0 (42) Shankland,S (2662)-Gascon
 del Nogal,J (2479) Sitges 2017]

6...Nc6 7.Bg2 d4 8.0-0 Be7 9.Na3
0-0 10.e3 dxe3 I'm not really too fond
 of this move since it gives up a lot of
 central control for no clear reason
 [10...Bg4 seemed more sensible,
 followed by 11.exd4 Nxd4
 (11...cxd4!? 12.Nc4 Bc5 13.h3 Bh5
 14.Rc1 Rc8=) 12.Re1 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3
 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qd5 And black has
 interesting activity in the center
 while white's pieces still need
 coordination]

11.dxe3 Bf5



12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Qc8 14.Qe2

Bh3 15.Qf3 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Qe6 17.Bb2

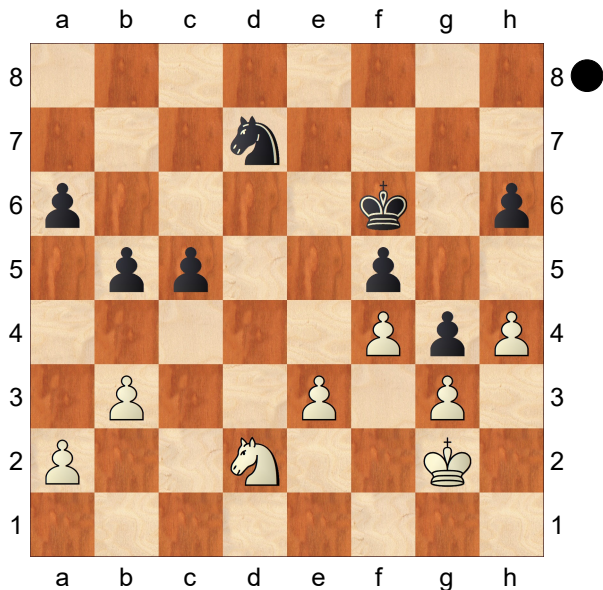
[17.Bxf6!? may have been better after Bxf6 18.Rad1 Qa6 19.Nc4 Qxa2 20.Qxb7 Rab8 21.Qd5 Qxb3 22.Rb1 Qa2 (22...Qxb1 23.Rxb1 Rxb1 24.Qxc5 Rc1 25.Qc6[∞]) 23.Rxb8 Rxb8 24.Rd1[∞]]

17...Ne4 18.Rfd1 Rad8 19.Nc4 b5

20.Ne5 f5 And black's pawn color complex on the light squares seems to serve Wenjun better in the long run- **21.Nd3?** A retreating move is too slow in this position

[21.Qe2 Bf6 22.Nf3 Bc3! 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Bxc3 Nxc3 25.Qc2 and white now has some wiggle room for her pieces]

21...g5 immediately striking with an advance, aimed towards the white queen **22.Ne1 Bf6 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rxd1 26.Qxd1 Qd6 27.Qh5 Kg7 28.Qe8 a6 29.Nf3 Nf6 30.Qa8 h6 31.h4 g4 32.Qb7+ Qd7 33.Qxd7+ Nxd7 34.Nd2 Kf6 35.f4??**



And this decision completely immobilizes white's kingside, leaving black a clear mobility advantage on the queenside

35...Ke6 36.e4 fxe4 37.Nxe4 Kd5

38.Nf2 Nf6 Blockading white's passed pawn **39.Kf1 Kd4 40.Ke2 h5** And with the kingside secured, black is now ready to advance on the queenside

41.a4 Kc3 42.axb5 axb5 43.Nd3

[43.Ke3 Kxb3 44.Ne4 Nxe4 45.Kxe4 c4 46.f5 c3 47.f6 c2 48.f7 c1Q 49.f8Q Qe1+ 50.Kd5 Qxg3-+]

43...Ne4 44.Ke3 Nxg3 45.Nxc5 Nf5+

46.Ke4 Nxh4 47.Ke5 Kb4 48.Ne4

Kxb3 49.Kf6 Nf3 50.f5 h4 51.Ke7 g3

52.f6 g2

0-1

B30

□ **Ju,Wenjun**

2561

■ **Tan,Zhongyi**

2555

FIDE Women's World Championship Match (7.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 And this isn't the first time a Rossolimo has been seen in a world championship! **3...e6**

4.0-0 Nge7 A variation that I've played myself, a very solid system for black and allows for the preservation of the pawn structure while developing pieces in a constructive manner **5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qb6**

[6...Ng6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.c4 b6 10.Nb3 Bf6 11.Nc3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Bb7 13.f3 d6 14.Nd4 Qe7 15.Qd2 Rfd8 16.Rfd1 Rd7 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3 Rad8 19.Rab1 Nf8 20.Qc2 Ng6 21.Qa4 Nxd4 22.cxd4 f5 23.c5 dxc5 24.dxc5 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 26.Bxd1 bxc5 27.exf5 exf5 28.Qc4+ Kh8 29.Qxc5 a6 30.Bc2 Qxc5 31.Bxc5 f4 32.a4 Bc6 33.Bd6 Be8 34.Kf2 h5 35.a5 Kg8 36.Bd3 Kf7 37.Bxa6 Ke6

38.Bb8 Bc6 39.Bc8+ Kd5 40.a6
Kc5 41.Bc7 Ne7 42.Be6 Nd5
43.Be5 g5 44.Bf7 Kb6 45.Bxh5
Kxa6 46.Bf7 Kb5 47.Bxd5 Bxd5
48.Bf6 g4 49.fxg4 Kc6 50.Be5 Kd7
51.Bxf4 Ke6 52.h4 Kf6 53.h5 Bc6
54.Kg3 Bd5 55.Kh3 Be4 56.g3 Bf3
57.Kh4 Bd1 58.Bc1 Be2 59.g5+ Kf5
60.g6 Bd1 61.g4+ Bxg4 62.g7
1-0 (62) Savchenko,B (2633)-

Moiseenko,A (2649) Izmir 2016]
7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Ng6 9.c4 Be7

10.Nc3 0-0 11.Na4!? An interesting
and not as common idea from Wenjun,
pressuring the queen with potenial
queenside expansion

[11.Qe2 Ne5 12.Be3 Qc7 13.Rfd1
Ba6 14.Bf4 Rfd8 15.Rac1=]

11...Qc7 12.c5 d5 13.cxd6 Bxd6
14.Qh5

[14.g3 c5 15.Be3 Ne5 16.Be2 Bb7
17.Rc1 Bxe4 18.Nxc5 Bc6 19.f4
Ng6 20.Ne4 Rfd8 21.Qc2 Bxe4
22.Qxe4 Qa5 23.f5 Qe5 24.Bf3
Qxb2 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Qc2 Qa3
27.Qc3 1-0 (27) Caruana,F (2811)-
Lenic,L (2662) chess.com INT 2018]

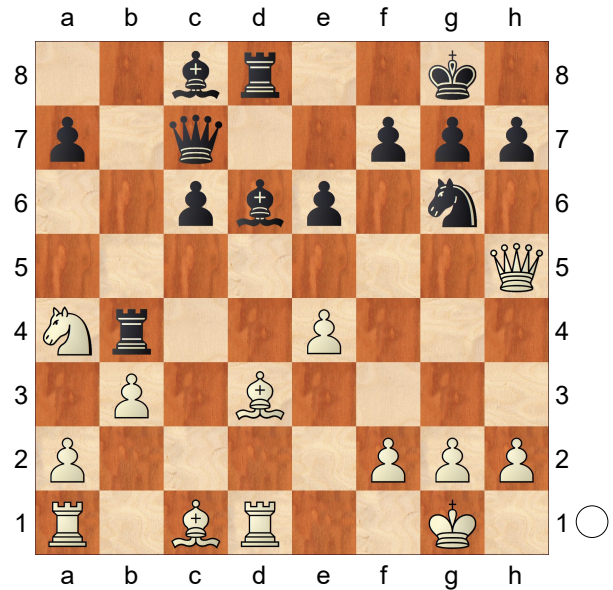
14...Rb8 15.b3 Rd8 16.Rd1 Rb4!?

While this is considered one of the top
moves on the engine, I don't like the
sight of mobilizing a rook amongst a ton
of bishops, instead-

[16...Nf4 seems a lot more plausible,
17.Bxf4 Bxf4 18.Bf1 Bb7 19.g3 Be5
20.Rac1 g6 21.Qg5 Bd4
Leaving black with active pieces,
double bishops, and strong central
control]

(Diagram)

17.Bb2 Nf4 Forcing white to now



sacrifice a pawn, but with compensation

18.Qf3

[18.Qh4?? Nxd3 19.Rxd3 Bxh2+-+]

18...Nxd3 19.Rxd3 Ba6 20.Rdd1
Bxh2+ 21.Kh1 Bd6 22.Qc3 Bf8

23.Nc5 And white's superior space
advantage starts to show impact

23...Rb6

[23...Be2 may have been worth
considering, followed by 24.Rxd8
Qxd8 25.Kg1 (25.Rc1 Rb5 26.Qe3
Bc4!! 27.Rxc4 Qd1+ 28.Kh2 Bxc5
29.Rxc5 Qd6+ 30.Re5 Rxe5
31.Bxe5 Qxe5+) 25...Rb5 26.Qe3
Rxc5 27.Qxe2=]

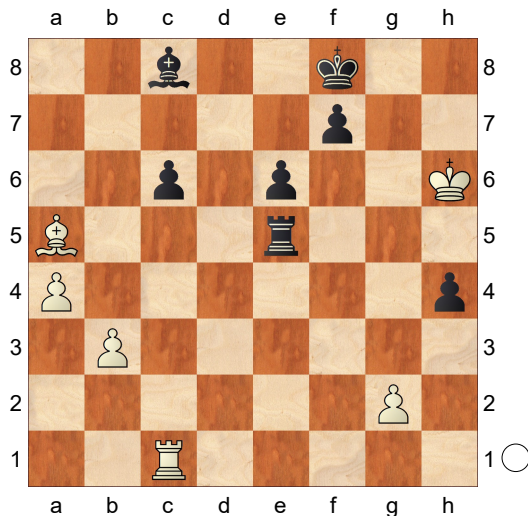
24.Qe5 Qe7 25.Rac1 Rb5 26.Rxd8
Qxd8 27.Qd4 Qh4+ 28.Kg1 Bc8?!

First major inaccuracy from black,
choosing to retreat in a passive manner

[28...e5! 29.Qxe5 Qd8 30.Qd4
Qxd4 31.Bxd4 Rb4 32.Rd1 Rxd4
33.Rxd4 Bxc5∞ Position is unclear,
but black is atleast not passive and
an endgame with double bishops
gives black something to play for]

29.e5 Qxd4 30.Bxd4 a5 31.f4 h5
32.Kf2 Be7 33.Ke3 g5 34.Ne4 gxf4+
35.Kxf4 Bb7 And black incorrectly

chooses to hold onto a weak pawn, when in reality giving the pawn up would've had more benefits in store
 [35...Rb4 36.Bc3 Bg5+ 37.Kxg5 Rxe4 38.Kh6 (38.g4!? h4 39.Kxh4 a4) 38...Kf8 39.a4 h4 40.Bxa5 Rxe5



36.Bc5 Bxc5 37.Nxc5 And white is about to collect the h pawn while having a superior minor piece 37...Kg7 38.Kg5 Ba8 39.Kxh5 Rb8 40.Rc4 Rh8+ 41.Kg4 Rh2 42.Kg3 Rh5 43.Rg4+ Kf8 44.Ra4 Ke7 45.Rxa5 Rxe5 46.Ra7+ Kd6 47.b4 And mate on the next move or a lost rook! A great tactical and positional game from Wenjun, who now completes her 3rd victory in a row with this game!
 1-0

Tan,Zhongyi C42 2555
 Ju,Wenjun 2561
 FIDE Women's World Championship Match (8.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Now being in a near must win situation, Zhongyi

chooses the Italian Game, expecting some dynamic play 3...Nc6 4.d3 Bb4 Generally, Bc5 is more common in these structures, but Bb4 also has its own ideas

[4...Bc5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Na4 Bb6 7.a3 h6 8.h3 0-0 9.0-0 Be6 10.Re1 Bxc4 11.dxc4 Nd4 12.Nh4 Nd7 13.g3 Qf6 14.Nxb6 Nxb6 15.c3 Ne6 16.b3 a5 17.a4 Nc5 18.Be3 Nbd7 19.b4 Nxe4 20.Qg4 Nxc3 21.Qxd7 axb4 22.Qxc7 b3 23.Qb6 Qe6 24.Qxb3 Ne4 25.Qxb7 Nf6 26.Kh2 Qxc4 27.a5 d5 28.Rec1 Qe2 29.Qc6 d4 30.Qc2 Qxc2 31.Rxc2 dxe3 32.fxe3 Ra6 33.Nf5 Rfa8 34.Ne7+ Kf8 35.Nc6 Ne4 36.Nxe5 Rxa5 37.Rxa5 Rxa5 38.Rc8+ Ke7 39.Nc6+ Kd7 40.Nxa5 Kxc8 41.Kg2 Kd7 42.Nb3 Ke6 43.Nd4+ Ke5 44.Nf3+ Kd5 45.Nd4 Nd6 46.Kf3 g6 47.g4 Ne4 48.h4 Nd2+ 49.Kf4 Ne4 50.Nb5 Nc5 51.Nc3+ Kc4 52.Ne2 Ne6+ 53.Ke4 Nc5+ 54.Kf3 Nd7 55.h5 gxf5 1-0 (55) Artemiev,V (2691)- Mamedyarov,S (2799) Huaian 2017]

5.Nf3 d6 A rather solid approach from black 6.0-0 Bxc3 An important move, since castling takes away the pinning effect for black's bishop on white's knight

[6...Na5!?]
 [6...0-0]
 [6...Bg4]

7.bxc3 0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Na5 10.Bb3 Nxb3 Not a bad option, but taking immediately was perhaps not required

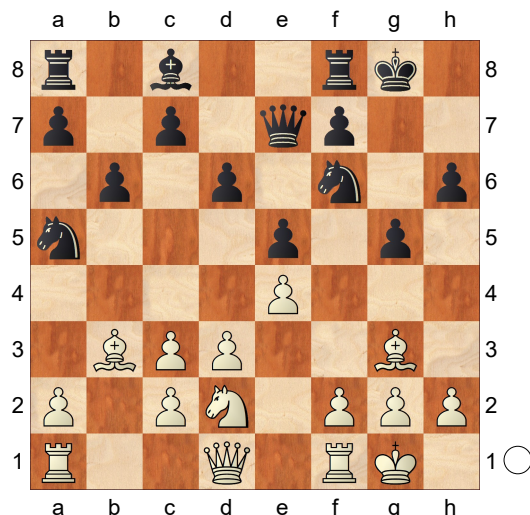
[10...Qe7 11.Nd2 g5 12.Bg3
A) 12...c5 13.h3 Be6 14.Bxe6 (14.c4 Kh7 15.Nb1 Nxb3 16.axb3 a5)

A1) 14...Qxe6 15.a4 b6 16.h4 Ne8 (16...g4 17.f4) 17.Nf3 f6

18.Nh2 Ng7 19.Ng4 Kh7
20.Ne3;

A2) 14...fxe6;

B) 12...b6



13.Ba4 Kh7 14.Re1 Rg8 15.d4
Bg4 16.f3 Be6 17.Nb3 Nc4↑]

11.axb3 Qe7 12.Re1

[12.d4 Bg4 (12...exd4 13.cxd4
Qxe4 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Re1 Qg6
16.Nh4↑ And white has compensation
for the pawn with a strong activity and
attack)]

12...Qe6 13.d4 Nd7 14.Qd3 a6

15.Rad1 Re8 16.Bg3 White has a hard
time mobilizing the bishop since its
locked behind black's pawns **16...b5**

17.Nd2 Nf6 18.b4 Nh5 19.Nb3 Qg6

20.dxe5 Nxg3 21.hxg3 Rxe5

And even in objective equality, white has
a much more difficult time playing since
her pawn structure is in shambles and
has many holes **22.Na5 Bd7 23.Re3
Rae8 24.Rde1 f5** And black throws her
first blow at the center, leaving white in
a very uncomfortable choice **25.Qd4**
And under the pressure, white chooses
slightly inaccurately

[25.exf5□ Bxf5 26.Qd2 Qg5
(26...Bxc2 27.Rxe5 dxe5 28.Qd5+
Kh7 29.Rxe5 Rxe5 30.Qxe5 Qe4

31.Qc5=) 27.f4 Rxe3 28.Rxe3 Qg6
29.Nc6 Kf8 30.Nd4 Rxe3 31.Qxe3
Be4 and white holds equality]

25...Rxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Rxe4

fxe4 28.c4 and now white has a slight
oversight of a key idea for black **28...e3!**

29.Qxe3 Qxc2 30.Qa7

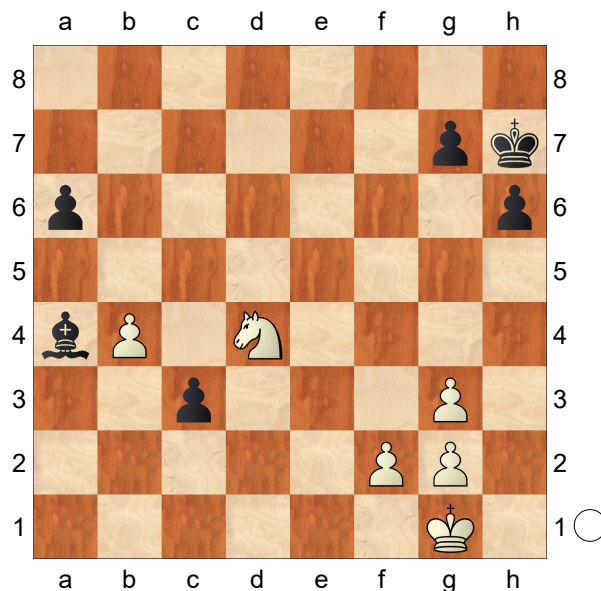
[30.cxb5 axb5 31.Qa7 Kh7 32.Qb7
Qb1+ 33.Kh2 Qxb4 34.Qxc7 Be6
35.Nb7 Qd4 36.Nxd6 b4+]

30...bxc4 31.Qxc7 Bb5 32.Nb7 c3-+

And now black's biggest asset is
running down the board **33.Nxd6 Qd3**

34.Qf7+ Kh7 35.Nf5 Qd7 36.Qxd7

Bxd7 37.Nd4 Ba4



Even after losing the extra pawn, white's
knight is too passive for any counterplay

38.Ne2 c2 39.f3 Kg6 40.Kf2 Bb5

41.Nc1 h5 42.Ke3 Kg5 43.Kd2 Bf1

44.Nb3 Bxg2 45.Nd4 Bxf3!

A great tactical shot to end things quickly
46.Nxf3+ Kg4 47.Nd4 Kxg3

And now the pawns are set to roll

48.Nf5+ Kg4 49.Ne3+ Kf3 50.Nxc2

h4 51.Ne1+ Kg3 52.Ke3 h3 53.Nf3

h2 with promotion the next move. A

great game from Wenjun who now

completes her 4th victory in a row and is

only half a point away from winning the
Women's World Chess Championship
0-1

B30

□ **Ju,Wenjun** **2561**

■ **Tan,Zhongyi** **2555**

FIDE Women's World Championship Match (9.1)

[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0-0
Nge7 5.Re1 Nd4 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.c3
a6 8.Bf1 Nc6 9.Na3 Be7 10.Nc2 d5
11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 dxe4 13.d3
exd3 14.Bxd3 0-0 15.Be4 Bf6 16.Be3
g6 17.Qb3 Bxd4 18.Rad1 e5 19.Bxd4
exd4 20.Qb4 a5 21.Qxd4 Qxd4
22.Rxd4 Be6 23.Bd5 Rfd8 24.Red1
Rac8 25.Kf1 Rd6 26.Bxe6 Rxe6
27.Rd8+ Rxd8 28.Rxd8+ Kg7 29.Rd7
b6 30.g4 Kf6 31.Rb7 h5 32.gxh5
gxh5 33.Kg2 Kg6 34.Kg3 f6 35.h4 Kf5
36.Rh7 Kg6 37.Rb7 Kf5 38.Rh7 Kg6
1/2-1/2



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Photographs from the 2024 Falconer Award

Alex Robins

This year we were lucky enough to have IM Vyom Vidyarthi as the winner of the 2024 Falconer Award. If you're not aware, the Falconer Award is a prize we give out every year to the highest rated scholastic player in good standing who lives in Northern California. Awardees are given their USCF rating as a check to use as they please. Vyom came to the chess club to pick up his well deserved check and also delivered a great lecture. We also learned that Vyom has more achievements on the horizon, including, but not limited to, becoming a GM and a neurosurgeon. We hope to see him again in the future, but in the meantime check out a few photos from the night of the award ceremony!



Vyom shows us his style of play before the TNM.



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Quite a few members were in attendance!



The whole Vidyarthi family came to celebrate!



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After Vyom won the award we put him to the test making him take on GMs Patrick Wolff and Vinay Bhat!



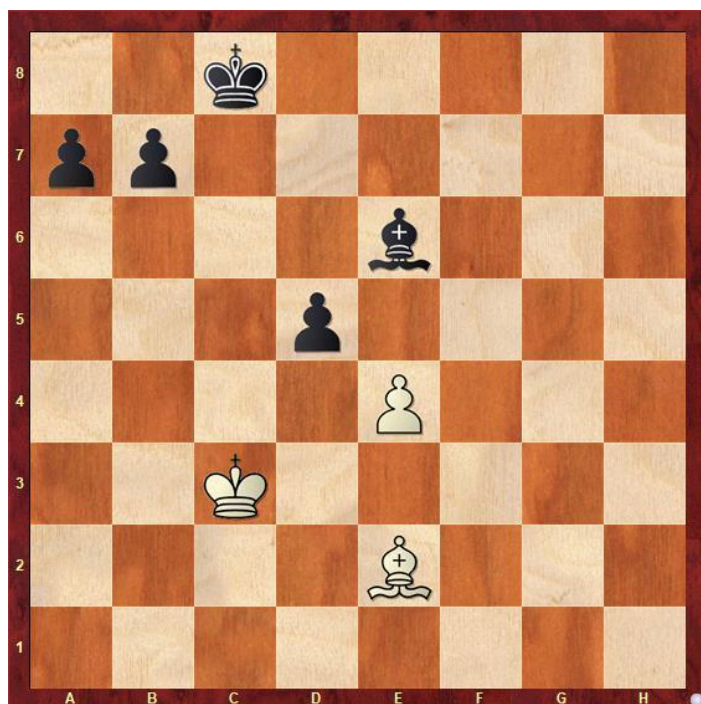
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Tony's Teasers

Tony Lama, 2025.

White to play and draw.





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Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1.exd5, Bxd5 2.Ba6!

Ba6 is the key move if 2...bxa6 now the pawns are on the rook file with a bishop of the wrong color. And if 2...Kc2 or anything else then 3.Bxc7! And black is faced with the same problem of an unpromotable pawn!



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Contact Us

Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA.
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