



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
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CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1009 | March 12, 2022

Gens Una Sumus!

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Falconer TNM Round Two Report

The 2nd round brought one major surprise, as A-Class player **Nicholas Weng** held **IM Elliott Winslow** to a draw in a game where Weng was lost almost the entire way. On board two, **Kristian Clemens** wasted too much time in the opening and went down to **Nathan Fong**. Joining Fong at a perfect 2-0 are **Sean Kelly** and **Edward Lewis**, who defeated **Joshua Lamstein** and **Stephen Parsons** respectively.

In the Under 1800 Section there are nine players with perfect 2-0 scores. Of note were **Nursultan Uzakbaev's** sharp win over top-seed **Yonathan Admassu**, and club stalwart **Richard Hack's** loss to **Christian Brickhouse** – rated only 701.

IM John Donaldson gave the pre-game lecture, which touched upon the Ukraine and the controversy around **GM Sergey Karjakin**, as well as other world events in chess. Signed copies of his book, *Bobby Fischer and His World* were available.

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

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

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



2nd Falconer Memorial Round Two

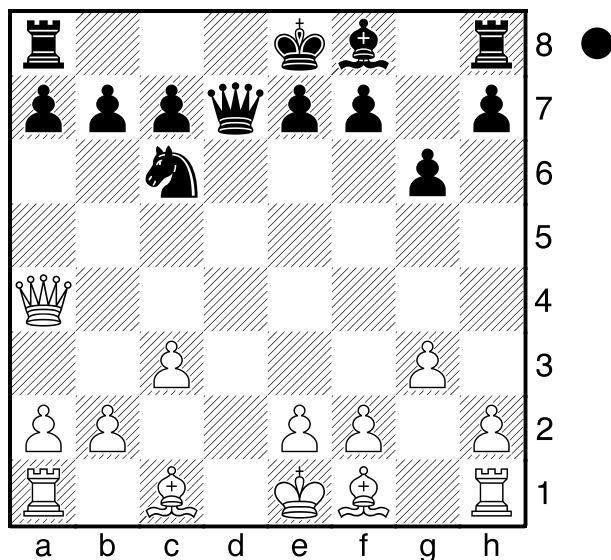


Elliott Winslow vs Nicholas Weng and Nathan Fong vs Kristian Clemens

Winslow, Elliott A16 2258
 Weng, Nicholas 1974
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (2.1) 08.03.2022
[Winslow/de Firmian]

1.Nf3 9 Nf6 7 2.c4 4 g6 7 3.Nc3 7 d5
 11 These players' only previous game was an exchange Gruenfeld, so this is a logical development from both sides.
4.cxd5 4:33 Nxd5 6 5.Qa4+!? 3:18
 A bit of an experiment.

[But then again, the current computers go with 5.h4 ...]
5...Nc6 7:01 6.Ne5 6:27 Nxc3 39
7.dxc3 3:19 Bd7 27 8.Nxd7 1:18
 White is more active. **8...Qxd7 10 9.g3 3:13**



e5N 15:33

[9...Ne5± 10.Qxd7+ Nxd7]
 [Predecessor: 9...Nb8 10.Qb3 c6
 11.Bg2 Bg7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rd1 Qc7
 14.Bf4 e5 15.Be3 Nd7 1-0 (26)
 Kveinys,A (2542)-Capone,N (2329)
 Charleroi 2017]
10.Bg2+- 46 Bc5 4:03 11.Bh6 3:16
 One of many profitable continuations.
11...0-0-0 1:55 12.0-0 1:39 Rhe8? 2:56
 [12...Qe6 was necessary. 13.b4 Bb6]

13.Bg5 2:51 Black has coordination problems after this move.
 [13.b4! Bb6 14.c4! Bd4 15.Rad1 poses even more problems for Black.]

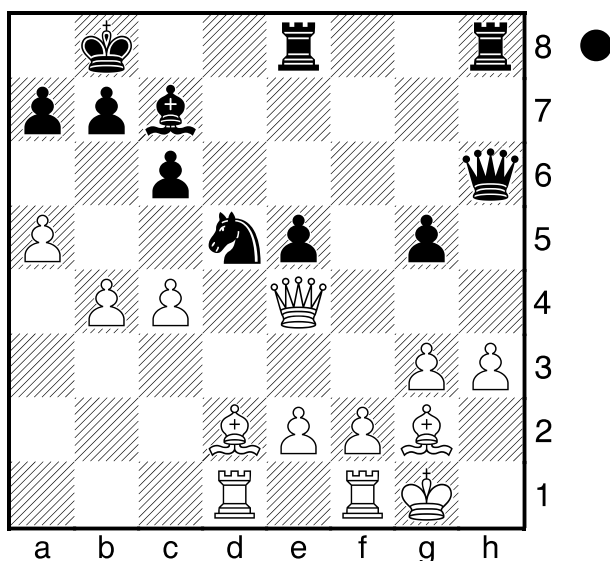
13...Ne7 38
 [Δ13...Be7]
14.Qc4 2:30 Qd6 4:54 15.b4 1:51 Bb6 2:04 16.Qxf7 1:22
 [Less strong is 16.Qe4 c6±]
16...h6 1:28 17.Bxh6 4:17 In theory still crushing, but now Weng can dream of an attack down the h-file -- which comes true!

[17.Rad1!? Qxd1 18.Bh3+ Kb8 19.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 20.Kg2 might have ended it right there.]
17...Ng8?! 1:36 Lulling White into some stupor? This can't be very threatening!
18.Bg5 1:19 Rf8 6 19.Qc4 22 Rde8 40
20.Qe4 1:49 c6 29 21.Bh3+ 2:33 Kb8 3:09
22.a4 2:38 Ne7 3:15 23.a5 2:25 Bc7 58 24.Rad1 10:12 Nd5 28 25.Bd2 41

[25.Rd3!]
25...Rh8 1:39 26.Bg2 44 g5!? 2:03
 h-file! **27.c4?! 5:43**
 [27.b5 Qh6 28.h4 (28.h3) 28...Nf4 29.bxc6 gxh4 30.Bxf4 exf4 31.Qb4 b6 32.axb6 axb6 33.g4!]
27...Qh6 29 Here White noticed that ... Nf4 was going to be trouble!
 [In fact right away, 27...Nf4 might work better. 28.gxf4 exf4]
28.h3 10:47

(Diagram)

Nf4! 2:14 Maybe Black is still lost, but certainly it's the best chance. And the psychology of surprise attacking moves works its magic. **29.gxf4! 1:27 gxf4 32**
 [29...exf4 30.Qf5 still quite winning for White. (or 30.Qf3)]
30.Kh2 4:10
 [30.Bc3! Reg8 31.Rd3+-
 Like on move 25, White

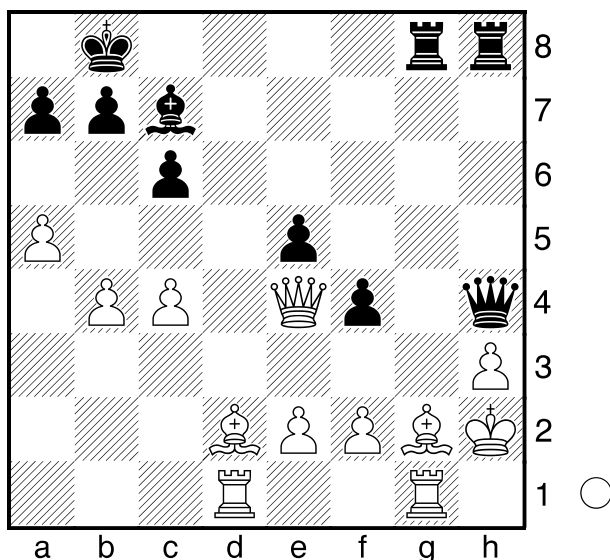


underestimated and/or missed this defensive motif.]

30...Reg8 1:34 31.Rg1 7:07

[31.b5! White hallucinated, thinking f3 32.Bxh6 Rxc2+ 33.Kh1 and 33...Rxc3 jumps over the bishop for checkmate!]

31...Qh4 2:10

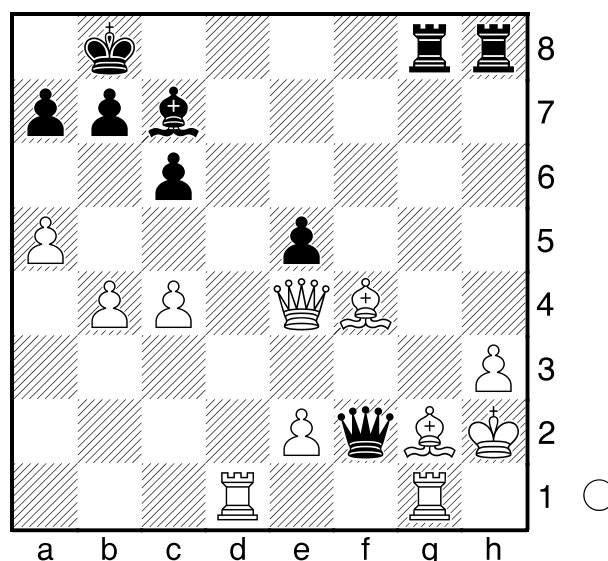


32.Bxf4? 15:37 White thought he'd found a great defence, but the win is starting to become in doubt.

[32.Be1! and Rd3 defends in every direction.]

32...Qxf2?! 3

[32...Rg4± is more resistant. 33.Bg3! Rxe4 34.Bxh4 Rxc4 35.Rc1! keeps some advantage.]



33.Qe3!? 4:34

[33.Rgf1! Qh4 34.Bxe5!+- Rxc2+ 35.Qxc2 Bxe5+ 36.Kg1 Qxc4 (36...Qh7 37.Kh1) 37.Qg4 Rg8? 38.Rd8+]

33...Qxf4+± 3:09 34.Qxf4 8 exf4 3

35.Bf3!+- 14 a6 6:21 Black offered a draw. **36.Rxc8+ 54 Rxc8 1**

White's chances to win this endgame are hampered by bishops of opposite color and the targetable queenside pawns.

37.h4! 48 Be5 2:03 38.h5?! 3:14

[38.b5!]

38...Kc7 1:02

[Black should play 38...Bc3 right away.]

39.b5 37 Bc3 4:32 40.bxc6?! 1:30

[40.h6!? Rh8 41.Kg2! Rxc6?? 42.b6+ Kc8 43.Bg4+ Kb8 44.Rd8#]

40...bxc6 8 41.c5!? 11 Rg5! 1:47

Black offered another draw. **42.Rd6 2:49**

Rxc5± 20 43.Rg6 4 Bxa5= 49

The position is equal, and in fact White has to be careful as well. **44.h6 2:30**

Bc3 8 Against Rg7+ **45.h7 8** aiming for Kg2. **45...a5 11 46.Rg8 37 a4 50**

47.h8Q 30 Bxh8 5 48.Rxh8 3 Ra5 25

49.Rh6 32 Rc5 1:06

[49...Ra6 50.Kg2 a3 51.Rh1= (or 51.Bd5=)]

50.Kg2 37 Rc1! 31 Threatens to win with ...a3. 51.Bg4 48 a3 4:47 52.Be6 4 a2 6:18 Forcing a theoretical draw.

53.Bxa2 13 Rc2 4 54.Bg8 12 Rxe2+ 6

55.Kf3 2 Re8 37 With about a minute on the clock White didn't have enough time to even come up with some plan to win the pawns and then outplay Black in rook and bishop vs. rook, so he just gets rid of everything. 56.Bf7 12 Rf8 17 57.Bb3 3 Rf5 1:18 58.Ba4 20 Rc5 6 59.Rf6 3 Rc4 5 60.Bxc6 4 Weng's dogged defence worked! The old saw "The hardest game to win is a won game" strikes again.

1/2-1/2

□ Fong,Nathan

■ Clemens,Kristian

C42

2082

1935

MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (2.2) 08.03.2022
[Winslow/de Firmian]

1.e4 14:25 e5 1:01 2.Nf3 8 Nf6 9

3.Nxe5 16 d6 19 4.Nf3 6 Nxe4 5 5.d4

11 d5 33 6.Bd3 10 Bd6 6 7.0-0 19 0-0

1:03 8.c4 27 c6 30 9.Re1 24 Bf5 2:24

10.Qb3 48 Qb6 13:00

[10...Na6!±]

(Diagram)

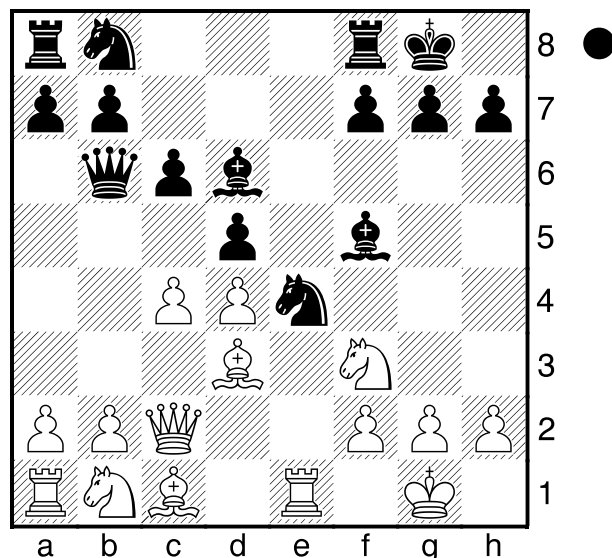
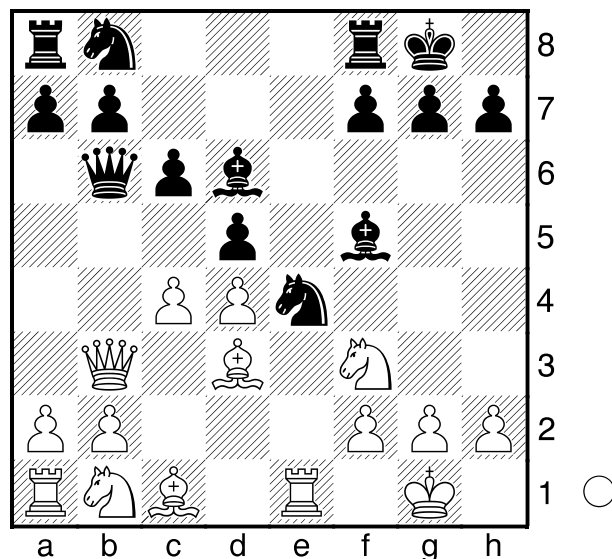
10.. .Qd7 is becoming the main line.

11.Qc2!± 53

(Diagram)

Not a lost tempo, since Black has to deal with 12.c5. 11...Bb4N 3:15

[Previously 11...Qc7 12.Nc3 Na6



13.a3 Bg4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Rxe4

Bxf3 16.gxf3 Bxh2+ 17.Kg2 Bd6

18.c5 Be7 19.Bf4 Qd7 20.Rxe7!

Qxe7 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Rh1 f5

23.Bxf5+ Kg8 24.Bh7+ 1-0 (24)

Cardona,A (2070) -Badillo,J (1824)

Manizales 2014 (mate happens)]

12.Nc3 1:56 Excellent opening preparation, if indeed Fong had planned this based on Clemens' previous play: it's move 12 and White is won. 12...Qd8 5:25

[12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nd7]

13.Re3?! 12:41 But he still has to win it!

[13.Nxe4!+- Bxe1 14.Neg5 Bxd3
15.Qxd3 Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2 g6 17.cxd5
cxd5 18.Kg1 isn't a foregone
conclusion, but that bishop is itching to
take advantage of Black's king
position.]

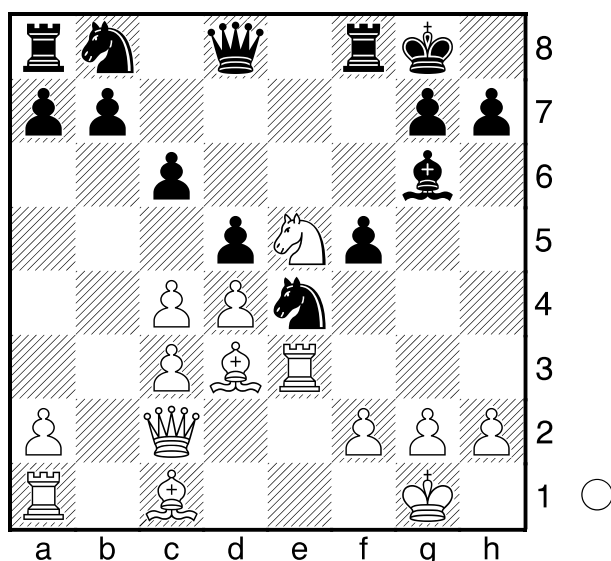
13...Bxc3 2:04 **14.bxc3** 22 **Bg6** 1:55

15.Ne5 2:23

[\triangle 15.Ba3]

15...f5? 5:24

[15...Nf6± is a better chance.]



Out of the frying pan... **16.f3** 23:39 **Ng5**
10:38

[\triangle 16...Nf6 17.Rb1 Qc8]

17.Nxg6 1:52 White is clearly winning.

[17.Ba3]

17...hxc6 54 **18.Ba3** 1:16 **Re8** 6:57

19.Qe2 3:23 **Rxe3** 2:56 **20.Qxe3** 6 **Nf7**

3:00 **21.Qe6** 3:54 **Nd7** 13:16 **22.Qxg6**

2:22 **Nf6** 2:53 **23.Re1** 1:52 **Qa5** 9:05

24.Bb4 24:43 **Qxa2** **25.Bxf5**

[25.Re7 is the other, better on paper
only, way to win.]

25...Qd2 **26.Kf1** **Nh6** **27.Be6+** **Kh8**

28.Be7 **Nhg8** **29.Bxg8** **Nxg8** **30.Bg5**

Qxc3 **31.Qh5+** **Nh6** **32.Bxh6** **Qd3+**

33.Kf2 **gxh6** **34.Qxh6+**

[34.Qe5+]

34...Qh7 **35.Qxh7+** into the rook ending;

Not always drawn at all! **35...Kxh7**
36.cxd5 **cxn5** **37.Re7+** **Ng6** **38.Rxb7**
a5 **39.Rb3** **a4** **40.Ra3** **Kf5** **41.g3** **Ke6**
42.Ke3 **Kd6** **43.f4** **Kc6** **44.f5** **Re8+**
45.Kf4 **Kb5** **46.f6** White frequently
gives up his rook (not right away!) but
marauds his pawns on the kingside.
46...Kb4 **47.Re3** **Rc8** **48.Kf5** **a3** **49.f7**
a2 **50.Re1** **Kc4** **51.Rc1+** **Kxd4**
52.Rxc8 **a1Q** **53.f8Q** **Qb1+** **54.Kg5**
Qe1 **55.Qc5+** **Kd3** **56.Qxd5+** **Ke3**
57.Re8+ A well-controlled win by Fong!
1-0

Argo, Guy A02
1874
Walder, Michael 2073
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (2.3) 08.03.2022
[Tactical Analysis 5.1 (9s)]

1.f4 10:45 **c5** 16 **2.Nf3** 1:18 **Nc6** 9

3.b3 58 **g6** 1:25 **4.Bb2** 3 **Nf6** 6

The "Tactical Analysis" feature in
ChessBase for some reason wants us to
note this knight's trajectory in the first 14
moves of this game! **5.e4** 5:50 **Bg7** 22
6.d3?! 44

[6.Bb5 to try and trade before d2-d3
makes sense, but maybe Black
doesn't let the bishop off the hook:
Nb8!?]

6...0-0 2:16 **7.Be2** 10:34 **d5** 3:23

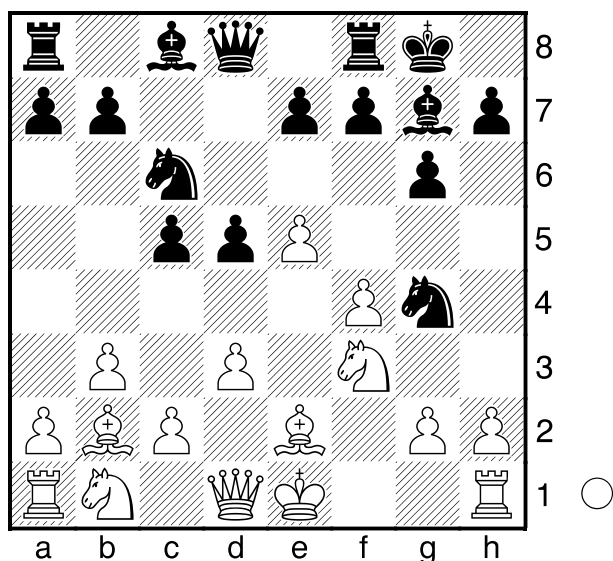
So it's a Dutch Reversed, but White's d3/
e4 and fianchettoed bishop don't go
together well at all -- Black is already
clearly better. **8.e5?** 9:11 White all but
caves in on this.

[8.Nbd2?]

8...Ng4 2:51

(Diagram)

9.Bc1N 5:02 This can't work! But nothing
is good here; between ...Ne3, ...d4, and
the move played ...f6, White's position is



breaking apart.

[The "predecessor" entry isn't much help -- 9.Qd2 d4 10.0-0 Bh6 11.Ne1 Ngxe5 0-1 (30) Jerez Perez,A (2270)-Komljenovic,D (2450) Zaragoza 1993. Ugh.]

9...f6! 4:19 The thematic bust-up of White's center. **10.h3** 24 **Nh6!** 7:39 [Worth a look, but just a look, is 10...fxe5? 11.hxg4 e4 but after 12.dxe4! Bxa1 13.exd5!± (13.Qxd5+?? Qxd5 14.exd5 Nb4-+) 13...Nd4 14.Ng5! Nxe2 15.Qxe2 Qxd5 16.Rxh7 White has somewhat the better of it]

11.exf6 13:20 **Bxf6** 3:28 The dreadful situation on the queenside has Black with a won game. **12.c3** 21 **Nf5** 3:56

13.Kf2?! -9.03/12 2:15 [13.0-0 -3.53/15 d4 14.Bd2]

13...e5 6:52 [13...d4! 14.g4 Ne3! 15.Bxe3 dxe3+ 16.Kxe3 b5 pries open the long diagonal with ...b4, and ...e5 has only gained in strength with White's king on e3 (!).]

14.g4 4:04 **Nd6** 1:07 Not that the f-file looks so good either! **15.fxe5** 4:16 **Nxe5** 1:55 **16.Bh6** 2:51 **Rf7** 11:35 **17.Kg2** 1:53 **Be6?!** -2.51/16 1:59 The long

diagonal!

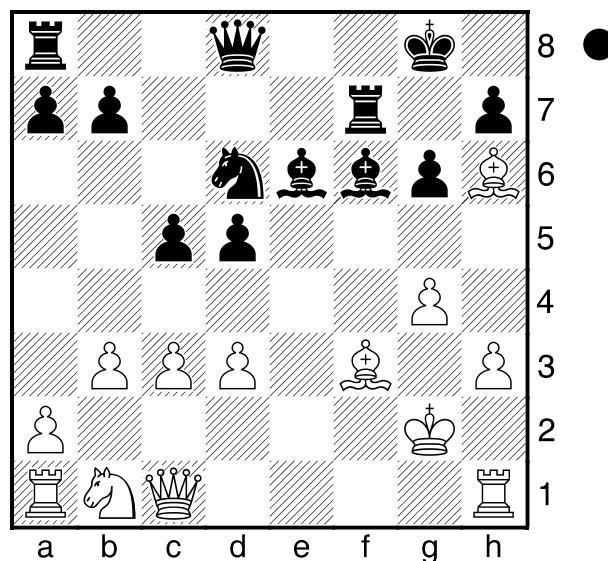
[17...Bd7 and ...Bc6]

[17...b6 and ...Bb7]

18.Qc1 -5.92/15 44 Inhibits g5.

[18.Rf1 Qe7 with further massing for the attack is not much improvement.]

18...Nxf3 4:39 **19.Bxf3** 3



Be5?? -0.03/35 54 Black sets himself up!

[19...Bh4! was the strongest of many winning moves. 20.Qe3 Qf6 21...d4! will be devastating.]

20.Qe3!= 1:18 **Qf6** 5:28 **21.Bg5** 7:42 **Bf4?** 2:31

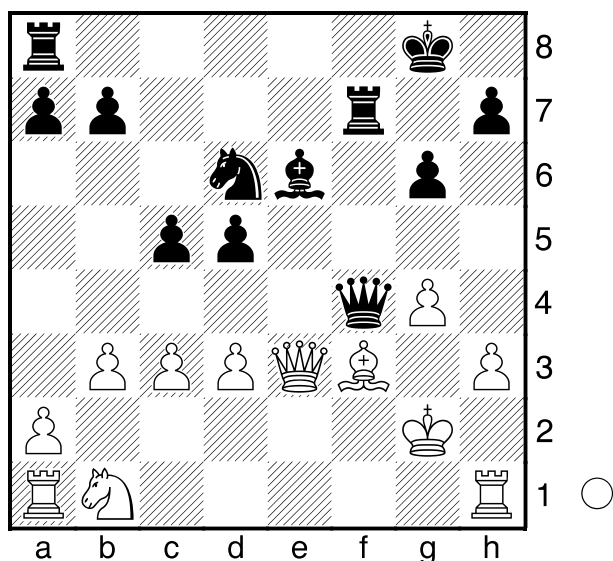
[Black needed to stay cool with 21...Qg7! when the dynamics keep Black going:

A) **22.Bh6** Rxf3! 23.Kxf3 Qf6+ 24.Ke2 (24.Kg2?! d4!-+) 24...Re8! 25.Rf1 Bf5!;

B) **22.Re1!** Ne4! 23.dxe4 d4! 24.Qe2 h6! 25.Bh4 dxc3 26.Na3 (26.Qc2? h5!-+) 26...c2 27.Rac1 g5 28.Bg3 Bxg3 29.Kxg3 Raf8 30.Rf1 Qb2! 31.Qxc2! (31.Nxc2 Rxf3+!) 31...Qxa3 32.Be2 and Black stands fine.]

22.Bxf4 4:20 **Qxf4** 7

(Diagram)



23.Re1?! 8

[23.Qxf4! Rxf4 24.Re1 Bf7 25.Kg3 Rf6 26.c4! with -- advantage White!]

23...Qf6 6:59 Black tries to muster advantages still on the dark squares, but the queen can't really do it alone. Note the knight on d6 not being so happy now!

[23...Qxe3 24.Rxe3 Re8 Black is okay, but still White is no worse.]

24.Nd2 9:34 **Re8** 2:32 White must now prevent ...Bxg4!

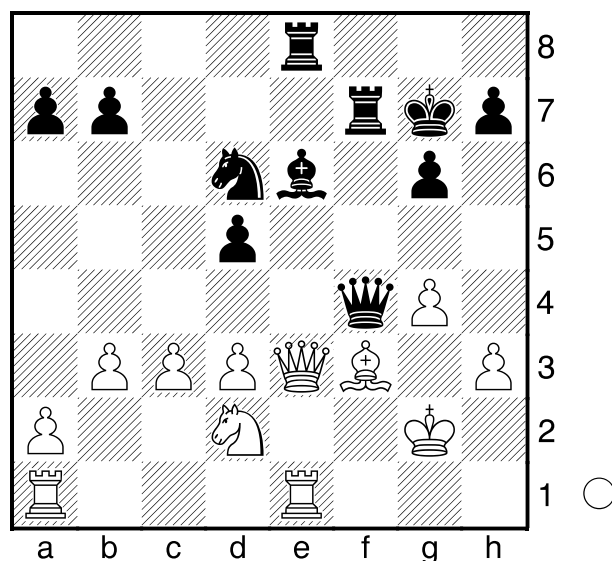
[24...Qxc3?! 25.Rac1 Qb2 26.Qxe6 Re8 (26...Qxd2+ 27.Qe2±) 27.Qxe8+ Nxe8 28.Rxe8+ Kg7 29.Rd1 Qc2 30.Be2 Qxa2 31.d4= A strange material imbalance, but it's going to be hard to avoid up-and-down repetitions on the e- and f-files.]

25.Qxc5 34 **Qf4** 3.30/17 7:28

[25...Qg5!? is more active, still thinking about the fragile White kingside, but 26.Qe3! (26.Rad1 Nf5! 27.Kg1 b6 28.Qc6 Ng7 One more surprising square for the knight!) 26...Qd8 27.Qf2 h5 28.gxh5! Qg5+ 29.Kh1 Qxh5 30.Qg3 defends just as precariously; plus White.]

26.Qe3!+- 49 **Kg7** 2:47

(Diagram)



27.Qe5+?? 0.02/20 2:49 Overlooking a shot!

[27.Qxf4+- 4.13/15 Rxf4 28.Kg3 is just very good for White, a pawn up with a probable win. (or 28.Re5)]

27...Qxe5= 1:35 **28.Rxe5** 3 **Bxg4!** 1:16

29.Rxe8 54 Argo heads to a drawish ending.

[29.Rxd5?? Bxf3+ 30.Nxf3 Re2+ 31.Kg1 Rxf3 32.Rxd6 Rg3+ 33.Kf1 Rgg2+-]

29...Bxf3+ 16 **30.Nxf3** 4 **Nxe8** 20

31.Re1 2:36 **Nf6** 6:20 **32.c4** 2:53 **Nh5** 8:01 1/2-1/2

C56

□ **Mercado,Adam**

1800

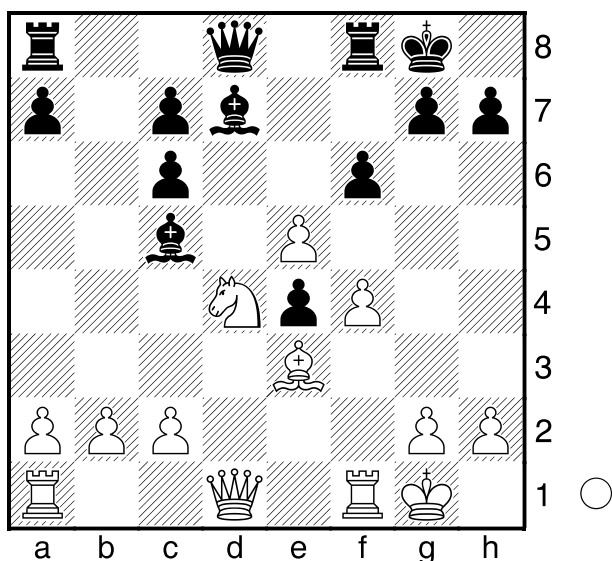
■ **Widjaja,Luke**

1901

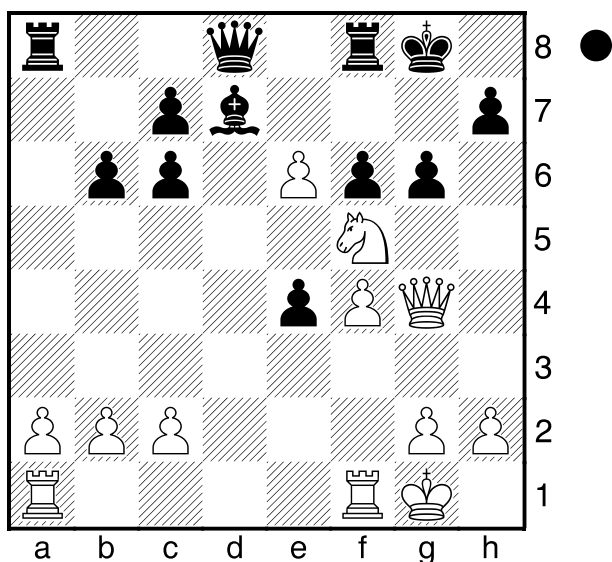
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (2.14) 08.03.22 [de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 Bc5 10.f3 Ng5 11.f4 Ne4 12.Be3 0-0 13.Nd2 f6
A well played opening by both players.
14.Nxe4 dxe4

(Diagram)



15.Nf5 The most aggressive move.
15...Bb6! 16.Bxb6 axb6 17.Qg4!?
 again and aggressive move though
 perhaps not objectively best **17...g6**
 [17...Bxf5! 18.Qxf5 Qd4+ 19.Kh1
 fxe5 would be an edge for Black]
18.e6



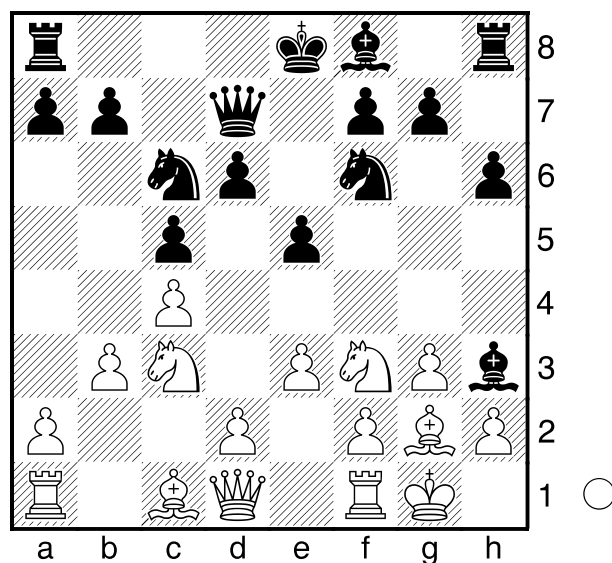
Bc8?? backing down loses here
 [18...Bxe6 19.Nh6+ Kg7 20.Qxe6
 Kxh6 21.Qxe4 Qd5 is just equal]
19.e7 Bxf5?!
 [19...Qe8 20.Nh6+ Kg7 21.exf8Q+
 Qxf8 22.Qh4 Qc5+ 23.Rf2 Qh5
 wins the knight on h6 and gives some

hope, though the exchange down
 ending should be lost]
20.exd8Q Rfxd8 21.Qe2
 Black resigned. Aggressive, fighting play
 by Adam. Luke was very accurate for 17
 moves, but the 18th killed him.

1-0

A34
1400
970
 MI Falconer TNM: u1800 (2.30) 08.03.22
 [de Firmian]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2
Nc6 5.0-0 e5! A nice idea to take a
 stake in the center. The d5 square is a
 little weak but Black has a nice grip on
 the central dark squares to compensate
 for that. **6.Nc3 Be6 7.b3 Qd7 8.Ng5**
Bf5 9.e3 This seems to weaken the light
 squares in the center. Safer would be 9.
 e4 or 9. d3 **9...h6**
 [9...Bd3! is also pretty good]
10.Nf3 Bh3



This goes for the attack. It is a
 dangerous situation for White but
 positionally it's quite alright for White to
 trade the light-squared bishops.

11.Nh4?!

[11.d4! would give White a very nice game with good central activity, e.g. exd4 12.exd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Be7 15.Re1 with an edge]

11...g5 12.Bxh3 Objectively not a bad move, but it's dangerous to bring the black queen to a nice post near the white king. **12...Qxh3 13.Nf3?!**

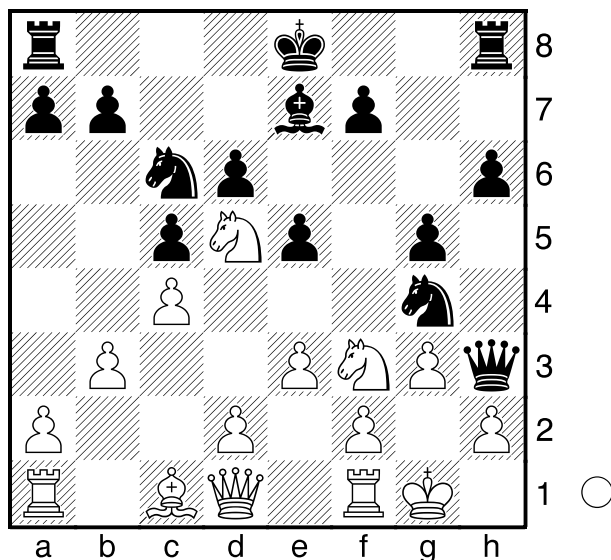
[13.Qf3! Ng4 14.Qg2 would stop Black's attack and leave even chances]

13...Be7

[13...e4! when the Nf3 can't run away because of 14...Ng4]

14.Nd5?! This wonderful looking move is actually a mistake, even though it threatens a fork on c7 **14...Ng4!**

[also 14...e4! would be very good]



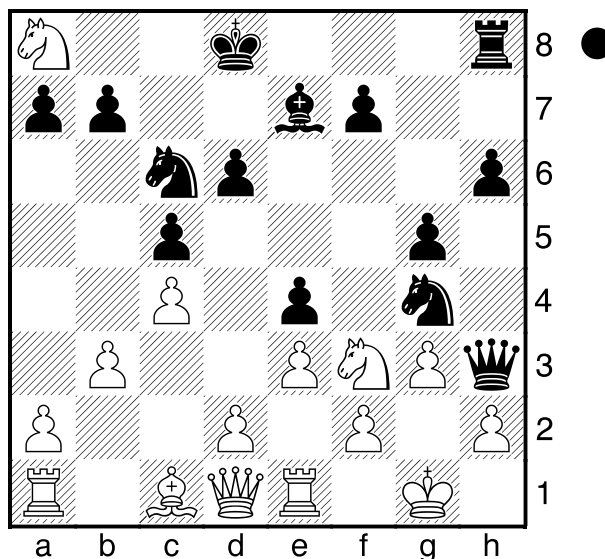
ignoring White's threats and concentrating fully on the attack

15.Re1?

[Needed was 15.Qc2 Though White was in trouble in any case.]

15...e4! Now there is no escape for White **16.Nc7+ Kd8 17.Nxa8**

(Diagram)



Nce5! The killing blow

[17...exf3 18.Qxf3 Qxh2+ 19.Kf1 and White survives]

18.Nh4 Qxh2+

0-1



Rishabh Bhatnager vs Albert Starr



Yonathan Admussa vs Nursultan Uzakbaev

A.J. Fink Memorial Amateur

The G/45 A.J. Fink Memorial Amateur (Under 2000) was held on Sunday March 6th and brought in 54 players competing in two sections. The outright winner in the 1800+ section was Expert **Advay Bansal** with a perfect 4-0, and duplicating that result in the Under 1800 Section was **Ivan Zhou** - rated only 1371! TD **Dr. Judit Sztaray** was assisted by **Allyson Wong**, **Austin Mei**, and **Abhinav Penalagapati**.

www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/aj-fink-amateur-u2200-championship-g45-person

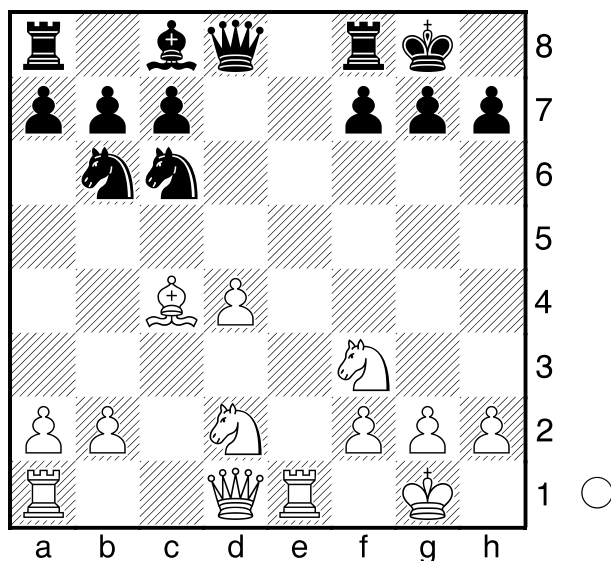


Mika Laitinen vs Dylan Tang, Round 3 Board 1

Ballantyne, Andrew **C54**
1483

Chin, Zee **1370**
 A.J. Fink Memorial Championship (u2200) (3)
[Whitehead, Paul]

Here is an instructive game from the 3rd round. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 8 Nc6 2 3.Bc4 12 Bc5 4 4.c3 8 Nf6 4 5.d4 6 exd4 4 6.cxd4 7 Bb4+ 1 7.Bd2 8 Bxd2+ 30 8.Nbxd2 7 d5 2 9.exd5 27 Nxd5 3 10.0-0 34 0-0 18 11.Re1 27 Nb6 5**



In this sideline of the Giuoco Piano black is equal. **12.Bb3!?** 1:00 An interesting pawn sacrifice.

[12.Re4!?
12...Nxd4 18 13.Nxd4 8 Qxd4 5 14.Qf3 1:47 Setting a fiendish trap. **14...Qxd2?? 18**

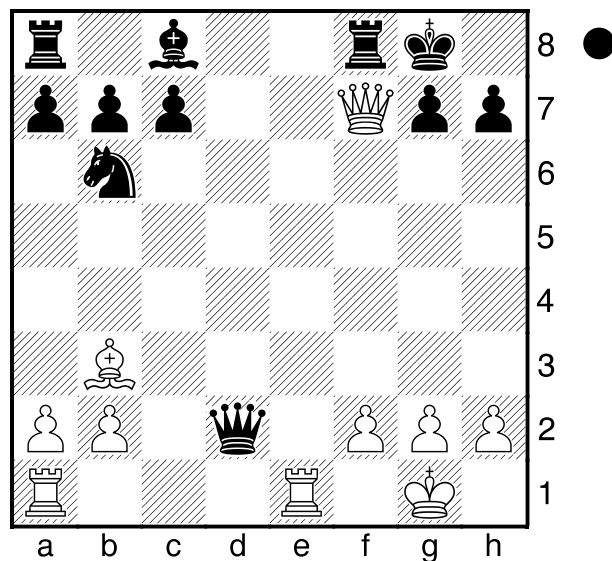
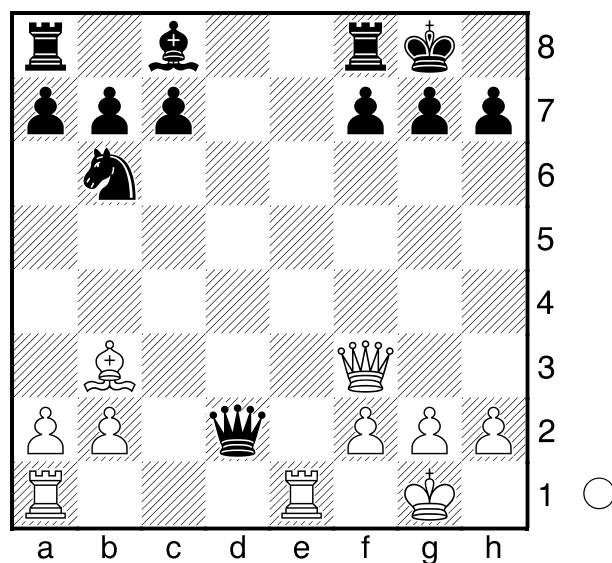
[14...Bg4 and black is just a pawn ahead.]

(Diagram)

One should look before one leaps! Now black is checkmated. **15.Qxf7+! 17**

[15.Qxf7+ Rxf7 16.Re8#]

(Diagram)



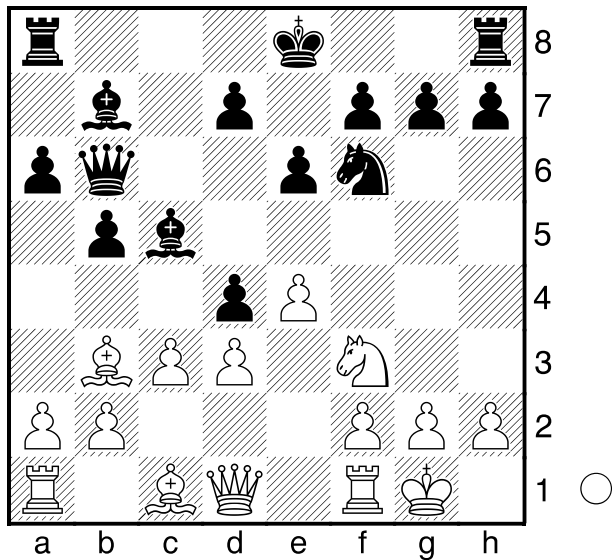
1-0

Bansal, Advay **B30**
2041

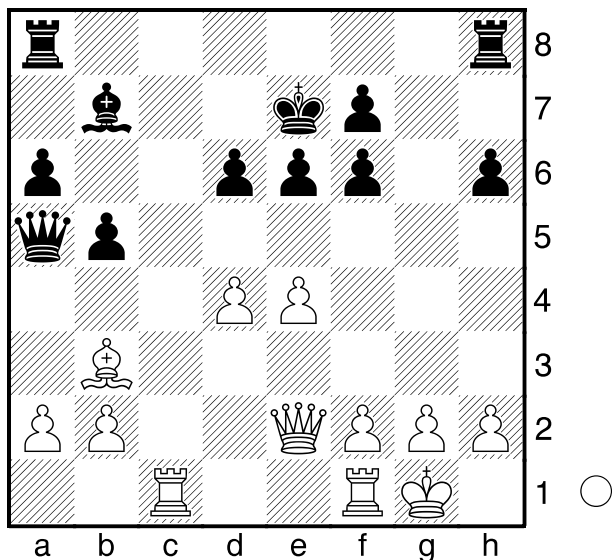
Handler, Andrew **1750**
 A.J. Fink Memorial Championship (u2200) (1)
[Whitehead, Paul]

A nice game from the winner of the top section, showing his active style. **1.e4 2 c5 10 2.Nf3 4 Nc6 8 3.Bb5 6 Nd4 18 4.Nxd4 22 cxd4 7 5.0-0 1:01 e6 6 6.d3 1:28 a6 35 7.Ba4 26 b5 6 8.Bb3 6**

Bb7 9 9.Nd2 1:40 Nf6 1:19 10.Nf3 33
Bc5 15 11.c3 22 Qb6 18
 [Easier was 11...dxc3 12.bxc3 0-0
 with equality.]

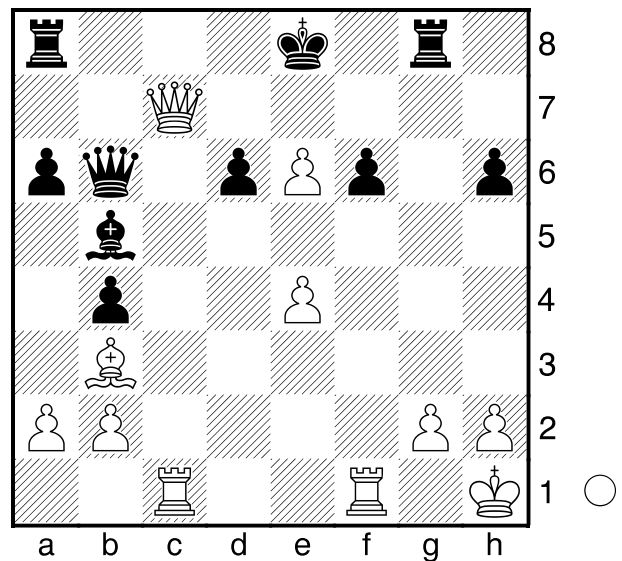


12.Qe2 33 d6? 1:03 Black needed to
 take on c3. **13.cxd4 49 Bxd4 9**
14.Nxd4 39 Qxd4 7 15.Be3 1:52 Qb4
 2:33 **16.Rac1 1:46** With the 2 bishops
 and a lead in development white is close
 to winning. **16...Qa5 20 17.Bg5! 6:06**
h6 3:36 18.Bxf6 47 gxf6 6 19.d4 44
Ke7 29



Trying to find safety in the center. **20.d5**

58 Rhg8 3:01 21.Kh1 54 Qb6 2:43
22.f4 47 b4 1:07 23.dxe6 4:15 fxe6 16
24.Qc4 20 Bc8 1:05 25.f5! 1:22
 Black is busted. **25...Bd7 22 26.fxe6 58**
Bb5 17 27.Qc7+ 1:21 Ke8 1:52
 [27...Ke8 28.Qf7+ hurts too much.]



1-0

GM Nick de Firmian

(GM Nick de Firmian's column will resume March 26th)

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

My column feels as scattered as my thoughts and the world itself today, from Ukraine to Santa Monica, from the richest man on the planet to a murderer imprisoned for life.

The common thread that seems to weave it all together is of course, chess.

A nice rundown of how **AI are besting humans at our favorite pastimes** – including chess, of course:

https://yorknewstimes.com/news/how-computers-have-mostly-conquered-chess-poker-and-more/collection_df8b6e7d-9c5c-53fd-9372-be86996b0d5e.html#1

Have you ever heard of a **Mr. Claude Bloodgood**? In 1997 he was the **2nd ranked player in the U.S.** with a **rating of 2759**:

https://www.cracked.com/article_32824_a-murderer-gamed-the-system-to-become-a-chess-champion.html

In Milwaukee there is a **'German immersion' chess club**:

<https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2022/03/06/milwaukee--german-immersion--chess-club-mixes-language--chess-for-success>

A **Chess Park** gets torn town in **Santa Monica** amid much hubbub:

<https://www.smdp.com/chess-community-reacts-to-chess-park-dismantling/213839>

Teach your kids chess and watch them **crush you**:

<https://www.popsci.com/diy/how-to-teach-kids-to-play-chess/>

An **NY University Law student** is attempting to become the country's **first Black American female chess master**:

<https://nationaljurist.com/dean-moves-cross-country-the-first-black-female-chess-master-and-a-bar-exam-takers-removal/>

Elon Musk thinks **chess is "simple,"** but stands to **lose a Tesla** if he tries to back it up:

<https://www.essentiallysports.com/us-sports-news-chess-news-if-you-loose-i-get-a-tesla-elon-musk-openly-challenged-by-chess-world-over-a-shocking-tweet-against-the-sport/>

On **International Women's Day** ChessBase remembers **Vera Menchik**:

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/thoughts-on-international-women-s-day-remembering-vera-menchik>

The World Chess Federation (**FIDE**) **fundraises for Ukraine**:

<https://www.fide.com/news/1620>

A writer wonders if she will find **true love** with her chess partner from **Slovakia**:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/dear-deidre/17850483/chess-lover-move-to-slovakia/>

An incredible **statue in Mexico City** of an Ecuadorian Diplomat and **lover of chess**:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/benjamin-carrion-statue>

Finally, an **Indian International Master** reaches the **Polish border** after fleeing war in the **Ukraine**:

https://www.espn.com/chess/story/_/id/33403834/ukraine-russia-invasion-india-im-reach-poland-headed-warsaw



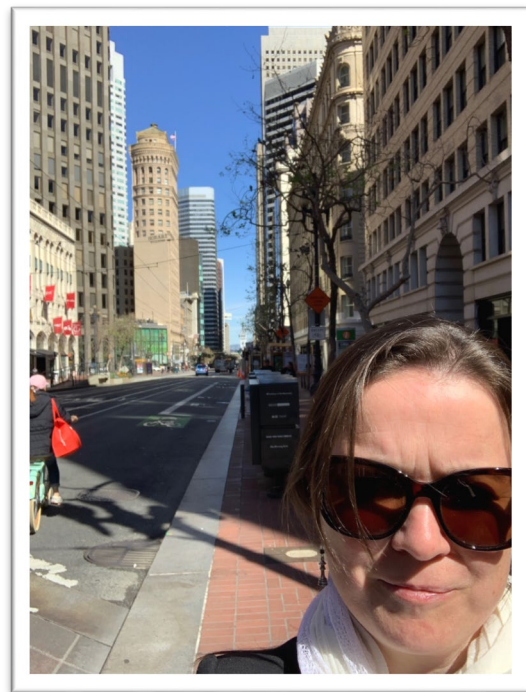
Chess is everywhere.

Dr. Judit Sztaray

International Women's Day, March 8, was a great day for me. I was never fond of celebrating the International Women's Day due to my memories while I was growing up, which goes back to the last decade of communism in Hungary. However, this might just change starting this year.

Tuesday morning started with the great news that I passed the ANTD (Associate National Tournament Director) test. I am forever grateful and thankful for the Mechanics' chess community: your support and kindness helped me through this process – your volunteering to play in round robin blitz tournaments in December so that I can fulfill the last items on the list of required tournaments was not only so much fun, but showed how supportive everyone is in this club. Later when I applied for the ANTD title, I was issued the open book test, and finally I sent it in last week for grading. I received the great news that I passed and got some great feedback from my anonymous grader that I'll be able to use at our in-house tournaments.

Later I received the crisp edition of the FIDE Arbiters' Manual 2022 in the mail that I ordered a few weeks ago. It's a good feeling to be able to look up the current rules when I need it, and I am grateful for good friends across the country who tell me about these resources.



With this good mood, I'd like to bring you something interesting: the process and timeline of getting a tournament rated.

When the tournament is finished, players go home, the director still has work to do: the tournament needs to be submitted for rating. This involves a few steps, each of which takes anywhere from a few minutes to a bit longer.

- Extract the files from the tournament pairing software: It's a fast, quick process, but we do have to make sure that the information we list for each section is correct.
- Uploading it to US Chess' platform: This is a fast step too, only taking about a minute or two.
- Eliminating all the errors that show up during the validation process: After uploading the tournament to US Chess' website, the tournament needs to be validated. This is the process where it's checked if there are any errors, like expired memberships, incorrect results, unauthorized TDs, and so on.

What takes by far the most time is resolving any expired memberships, either by renewing if we have the payment already, or finding out how the membership will be renewed. This is why we are so keen on making sure that all players are current US Chess members. It is not only our wish, but it is an actual US Chess rule (23C). The system also checks for individual player locations and ratings, and if something is out of the ordinary, like a player from NC plays at our Club, or a player with high rating performs badly or player with low rating performs really well, these players get "flagged" and I have to manually click to confirm the validity of the data, basically stating that I'm aware and that's the right information.

- Final validation: Directors have to click the validation once again, until it says "Ready to be released." While it says "Errors found," we have to work our way through the problems, and eliminate them in order to be able to submit the tournament.
- Pay for the rating fee: The tournament will not be rated until it's paid for, with each game costing 25 cents to be rated. The system calculates how much a tournament costs, and the director/organizer have to pay for it if they want to see it getting rated.

After it's been paid for, if it's before 9PM Pacific Time it takes about an hour for the tournament to show up on the MSA database and each players' tournament history.

Wondering what's MSA? Members Service Area. For more information, please visit US Chess FAQs: <https://new.uschess.org/frequently-asked-questions-member-services-area>

Tony's Teasers

Halumbirek/Zepler 1958.
White to move and mate in 3.



Richard Hack's Stories from the Chess Café

"Play with hope and courage," says Paul Whitehead. "Be bold." These and similar admonitions also appear throughout his excellent classes on The Art of Attack and The Art of Defense (or Counterattack).

Our meeting on Valentine's Day was full of news and discussion. (Quotations are from handwritten notes.) The Berkeley Weekender was won by Michael Walder, a hard worker. "Sometimes when my opponent reaches this position," he'll say, "I've already spent a hundred hours on it."

Mario Guttman: "The unconscious can do a lot of cold, hard calculation."

Nick de Firmian: "Sometimes when you're working out long opening variations, you go to sleep and your mind works on it. When you wake up you have some ideas you can use."

Mike Walder: "I love to study and take a nap afterward."

We also talked about the rating system. Paul said it measures wins and losses, but not the creative aspects of the game or the fun.

Ako Heidari: "People care too much about ratings."

Charles James: "Richard Sherman, a coach here, has not played in a tournament in 25 years."

Paul: "As to the question of personal achievement, I've seen 1300 players get more enjoyment from their wins than 2500 players."

Yuri Averbakh had just turned 100; a beloved person in chess. The discussion again turned to Mikhail Tal, who "upset the stodgy way of playing."

Mike Walder: "Tal was mostly a positional player."

Paul: "Karpov looked for a positional advantage, while Tal looked for something interesting."

Juliana Gallin said February 23 was the first monthly chess night at Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Ave. The next will be on Wed., March 23 from 6-8pm, starting with a short presentation. Every Saturday from 3-6pm, the new club meets at Progressive Grounds coffeehouse at 400 Cortland. See bernalchess.com.

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

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

Upcoming Events

Ongoing Tuesday Night Marathon:

Falconer Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon,

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

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

Register: [https://mechanics-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon)

Mechanics' Institute March Championship Quads

March 12, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 3RR G/30;d5

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

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsMar2022>

Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

March 12, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G30;d5

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

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissMar2022>

19th Max Wilkerson Memorial – FIDE rated

March 26 and March 27, 2022. USCF + FIDE Rated. 5SS G90+30

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/19th-wilkerson-memorial-championship-person-fide-g9030>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/19thWilkersonMemorialChampionship>

20th Imre Konig Memorial

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

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

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

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1.f4! Rxf4 2.Qxc7 Rf7 3.Bxc4#.

Submit your piece or feedback

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

<https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA>