

Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1033 | January 14, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



Two attendees at the Chess Social on January 6 prepare to cross swords.

Contents

[Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute](#)

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

[Three Studies from Uruguay – IM John Donaldson: New Books from New in Chess](#)

[Sarah Beth Cohen on Pierre St-Amant – The Chess Scuttlebutt – Seeking Scholastic Coaches](#)

[Recent Games from Around the World – San Francisco Scholastic Championship](#)

[Richard Hack: Tales from the Chess Café – A Puzzle in the Library – Tony's Teasers](#)

[Upcoming Events – Solutions – Contact Us](#)



Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

The Felix German Memorial TNM wrapped up on December 20, with FM **Richard Chen** the clear winner of the 2000+ section with an undefeated 5.5 points from seven games. Tied for 2nd and 3rd were **Luke Widjaja** and **Steve Sobel** with 5 points each. Best under 2200 was **Siddharth Arun** with 4 points, and **Kevin Sun** was best under 2000 with 3.5 points.

The 1600-1999 section saw **David Li** take clear 1st with 5.5 points, and **Stephen Parsons** tied with **Victor Briancon-Marjollet** for 2nd and 3rd with 5 points each. The best under 1800 prize was split between **Karl Stuart Kingma** and **Aung Tun Lin** with 4.5 points each, while best under 1600 was **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** with 4.5 points.

The under 1600 section also saw a clear winner, with **Fernando Toledo Guerrero** scoring an impressive 6-1 score. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places were **Chunhui Gu** and **Nicholas Ayala** with 5.5 each. **Pratyush Hule** and **Sam Calvert** tied for best under 1400 with 5 points apiece, and **Richard Ahrens** rounded out the prize-winners by taking best under 1200 with 4 points.



Felix German (pictured above), a Mechanic's Institute stalwart of tournaments and match play, passed away unexpectedly in 2020.

The final standings and list of prize-winners can be found [here](#).

The tournament was co-directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and FIDE Arbiters **Abel Talamantez** and **Richard Koepcke**.

On December 10, the Mechanics' Institute hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, Quads in the afternoon.

The Scholastic Swiss had sixteen players in two sections, with **James Moore** and **Jillian Stevens** tying for 1st and 2nd in the 500+ section with 3-1 points apiece, while **Jake Brody**, **Bradley Harger III**, and **Sebastian Ghoussaini** all tied for 3rd through 5th with an even 2-2 each.

The under 500 section was won decisively by **Juan Codino** with a perfect 4-0. Tied for 2nd and 3rd were **Thomas Moore** and **Neeraj Rao**, each with 3-1 scores, and **Oliver Wallace** tied with **Thomas Wasserman** for 4th and 5th places with 2 points each.

Complete results for the December Scholastic Swiss can be found [here](#).

The December Quads saw 50 participants competing in 13 sections, with **Lucas Lesniewski** the winner of the top Quad.

Complete results for the December Quads can be found [here](#).

Both tournaments were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by **Michael Hsu**.

The 4th FIDE-Rated Donaldson Championship was a 4-round event held on December 17 and 18, with 70 participants competing in 3 sections.

The hard-fought 2000+ section saw a tie for 1st and 2nd places between **Andrew Yun Wong** and **Daniel Tuapen Videna**, each scoring 3-1, while **Ivan Zhou** picked up clear 3rd with 2.5 points. There was a six-way split for best under 2200 and best under 2000, shared by **Jashith Karthi**, **Kevin Sun**, **Theodore Biyiasis**, **Jayden Xu**, **Hanchi Yao**, and **Stewart Katz**, each scoring 2 points.

Laurie Qiu was the clear winner of the 1600-1999 section with a perfect 4-0 score. A half a point behind in clear 2nd was **Srikrishnan Madhavan**. Tied for 3rd were **George Sanguinetti** and **Zachary Filler**, tied for best under 1800 were **Christopher Powers** and **Greg Zhou**, and best under 1600 was **Adithya Chitta**. All scored 3 points.

The under 1600 section also saw a clear winner, with **Oleksii Shchashchenko** scoring a perfect 4-0. Clear 2nd with 3.5 was **Benchly Buccat**, while tied for 3rd and best under 1400 with 3 points each were **Sandesh Aher**, **Lee Cooper**, and **Roger Pan**. Rounding out the prize-winners was **Kenneth Geng** who won the best under 1200 prize, also with 3 points.

IM John Donaldson was the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1998 to 2018. The author of numerous books, he captained the winning U.S. Olympic team in 2016.

Complete results for the 4th Donaldson can be found [here](#).

The 4th Donaldson Championship was directed by FIDE Arbiter **Abel Talamantez**.

The 22nd Robert Burger Memorial held on January 7 saw a nice turnout of 49 participants in three sections.



Robert Burger (1931-2019), pictured above, was a member of the Board of Trustees for Mechanics' Institute and noted problemist.

IM **Kyron Griffith** posted a perfect 4-0 score to take clear 1st in the 2000+ section. A full point back in clear 2nd was **Suyuan Gui**. Tied for 3rd were **Sebastian Suarez** and **Daniel Videna** with 2.5 points apiece.

Kian Jamali was clear 1st in the 1600-1999 section with a perfect 4-0, with **George Sanguinetti**, **Christopher Powers**, and **Arjun Muthukumaran** all tying for 2nd-3rd places with 2.5 points apiece.

In the u1600 section **Clarke VandenHoven** also scored a perfect 4-0, taking clear 1st place. A half-point behind in clear 2nd was **Liri "Gogo" Dancig-Perlman**. Splitting 3rd place with 3 points each were **Ansh Shrivastava**, **Sam Calvert**, **Pablo Abad**, and **Steven Hicks**.

Complete results for the 22nd Robert Burger Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 22nd Robert Burger Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

The New Year Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off January 10 with 80 players participating in three sections. The tournament runs until February 21.

Information, standings and results can be seen [here](#).

The New Year TNM is being co-directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and FIDE Arbiter **Richard Koepcke**.

IM Elliott Winslow: Annotated Games from the TNM

A selection of games from round one of the New Year Tuesday Night Marathon, and rounds 6 and 7 of the Felix German TNM.

Suarez, Sebastian **B56**
1871

Winslow, Elliott **2241**
 MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (6.4)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6

[2...Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5
 5.Nb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Nc3 d6
 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 Nf6 10.f3 0-0
 TP Gawel-Zielinski below]

3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3

[5.f3
A) 5...e5!? 6.Nb3 (6.Bb5+ Nbd7
 7.Nf5 d5 8.exd5 a6);
B) 5...Nc6 6.Nc3 (6.c4!?) 6...e5
 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Be6
 TP Caruana-Topalov below]

5...Nc6 6.Be3 e5 It seems like this is all
 I've been playing lately, so-called
 Boleslavsky systems.

[6...e6 is a Scheveningen,]
 [6...g6 a Dragon -- but one thing I've
 seen about Sebby's play is he plays
 Yugoslav Attack lines pretty well.]
 [I know that the "Theo" move is
 6...Ng4! but it's been years since I've
 looked at it, and then it was only for
 White; back then I gave up on White's
 game and if I wanted an English
 Attack, I'd play 6.f3. In fact, I did
 quite well with this, even making it into
 a book by Soltis on the English Attack
 three times, including a curious win
 against Josh Waitzkin.]

7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7 9.Qd2 0-0

10.Nd5

[10.0-0-0 a5 (10...Na5)]

10...Bxd5

[10...a5!?

A) 11.Bb6 Qb8 12.Nc7 (12.Bc7
 Qa7 13.Bb6 Qb8) 12...a4 13.Na5
 d5±;

B) 11.c4 a4 12.Nc1

B1) 12...b5! 13.Nxe7+ (13.cxb5
 Bxd5 14.exd5 Nd4 15.Bxd4

exd4±) 13...Nxe7 14.cxb5 d5±;
B2) 12...Bxd5 13.cxd5 Nd4
 14.Ne2± 1-0 Caruana, F (2823)-
 Topalov, V (2760) Saint Louis
 Showdown Blitz 2016 (10) /=]

11.exd5 Nb8 12.0-0-0

[12.Be2!?

12...Nbd7

[12...a5]

13.Kb1

[13.Qf2!? Qc7 14.g4 Nc5 15.Nxc5
 dxc5 16.g5 Nd7 17.d6 1-0 Gawel, L
 (1800)-Zielinski, P (2174) POL-chT2
 South U19 Rudnik 2000 (4.1)]

13...a5 14.c4

[14.Qd3!? ΔNd2]

14...b6 15.Bd3

[15.g4]

[15.Nc1]

15...a4 16.Na1 Nc5

[16...e4!?

17.Nc2 Qd7?!

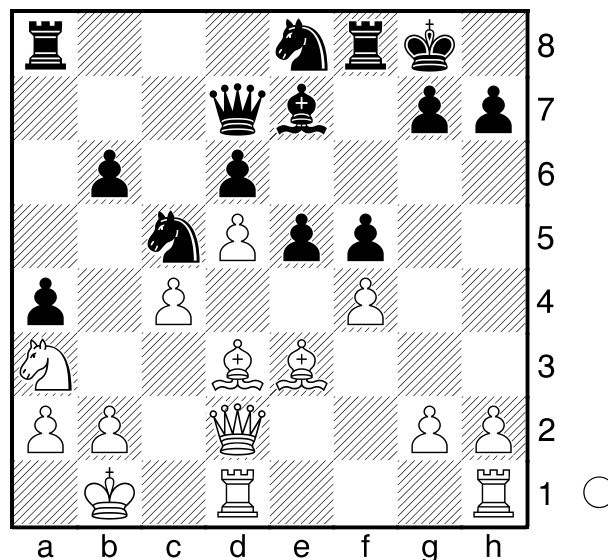
[17...e4! 18.Be2 exf3 19.gxf3 Re8]

18.Na3 Ne8 19.f4?=-

[19.g4]

[19.Bc2]

19...f5



20.Bxc5?

[20.Nb5±]

20...bxc5± 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Rhf1 e4

23.Be2 Nd6 24.Nb5

[24.Qe3?]

24...Nxb5?!

[24...a3! 25.b3 (25.Nxa3? Rxa3
26.bxa3 Rb8+ 27.Kc1 Qa4-+)
25...Nxb5]

25.cxb5 Bd6

[25...a3? 26.d6]
[25...Qd6!]

26.g3?!

[26.a3]

26...a3 27.b3 Kh8

[27...g6!]

28.Bc4 Qe7 29.Rde1 Qe5 30.Re3

Be7 31.Qc3 Qd6 32.Qc2 Bg5 33.Re2

Qe5 34.g4 Bf6 35.Kc1 g6 36.h4

Bxh4 37.Rh1 Bg5+ 38.Kb1 Bf6

39.Kc1 Rae8 40.Reh2 Re7

[40...h5!? 41.gxh5 (41.gxf5 Bg5+
42.Kb1 Rxf5) 41...g5!]

41.gxf5 gxf5 ...Rg7 42.d6 Qxd6

43.Rh6? Bg5+

0-1

□ **Sun, Kevin**

■ **Walder, Michael**

MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (6.6)

[Winslow, Elliott]

B67

1870

2042

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4

Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6

8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 Not a great choice if
you don't know it.

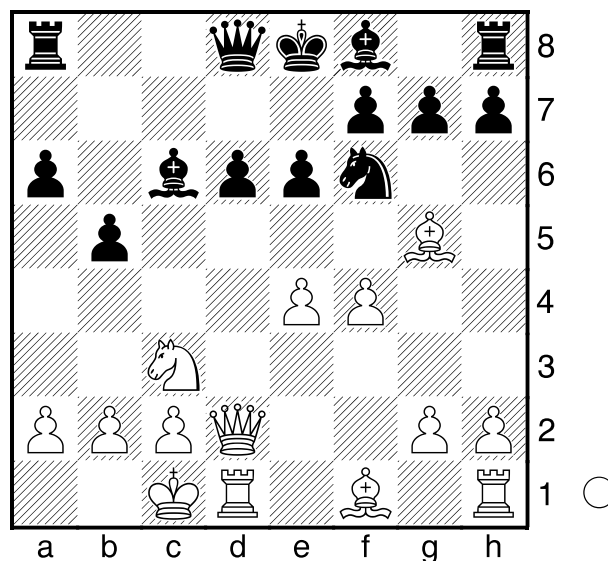
[9.f3 is seeing a return to prominence,
with Carlsen's last-round victory in the
World Rapid Championship against
Maghsoodloo an impressive
demonstration: Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be7
11.Kb1 b5 12.h4 Rb8 13.g4 b4
14.Ne2 a5 15.Ng3 Qc7 16.Be3 Rc8
17.Rh2 d5 18.e5 0-0 19.Ba6 Ra8
20.Bd3 Rfc8 21.Qf4 Ne8 22.g5 Bc5
23.Bxc5 Qxc5 24.h5 Bb5 25.Bxh7+
Kxh7 26.g6+ fxg6 27.Qf7 g5 28.h6

1-0 Carlsen, M (2834)-Maghsoodloo, P
(2656) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (13)]

9...b5 10.Nxc6

[10.Bxf6 gxf6 (10...Qxf6 11.e5 dxe5
12.Ndxb5) 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Qe3
Qe7!?]

10...Bxc6



11.e5?!

[11.Qe1 is the modern continuation.]

[11.Qe3]

[11.Bd3]

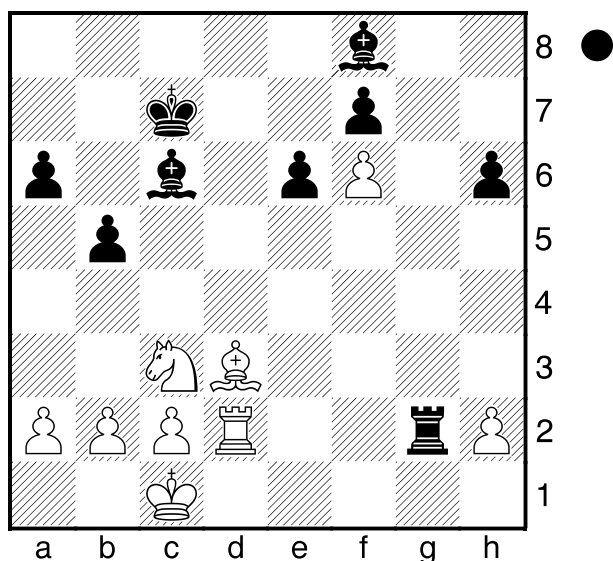
11...dxe5 Black is already better.

12.Qxd8+ Rxd8 13.Rxd8+ Kxd8

14.fxe5 h6 15.Bxf6+

[15.Bh4!? g5 16.Bg3 Nd7 17.a4 b4
18.Nd1 White drew this blitz game,
but Stockfish makes Black won at this
point. a5 (18...h5!) 19.Ne3 Bxa4
20.Nc4 Bg7 21.Nxa5 Nxe5 22.Be2
Ke7 23.Bf2 Rc8 24.b3 Bd7 25.Rd1
Ng6 26.g3 Bc3 27.Nb7 Ra8
28.Bc5+ Kf6 29.Bd4+ Ne5 30.Bxc3
bxc3 31.Kb1 Bc6 32.Nc5 g4 33.Nd3
Rd8 34.Rf1+ Nf3 35.h3 h5 36.Ne1
Ke5 37.Nxf3+ gxf3 38.Bxf3 Bb5
39.Re1+ ½-½ Bocharov, I (2563)-
Alekseenko, K (2639) RUS-ch blitz
Sochi 2018 (9.4)]

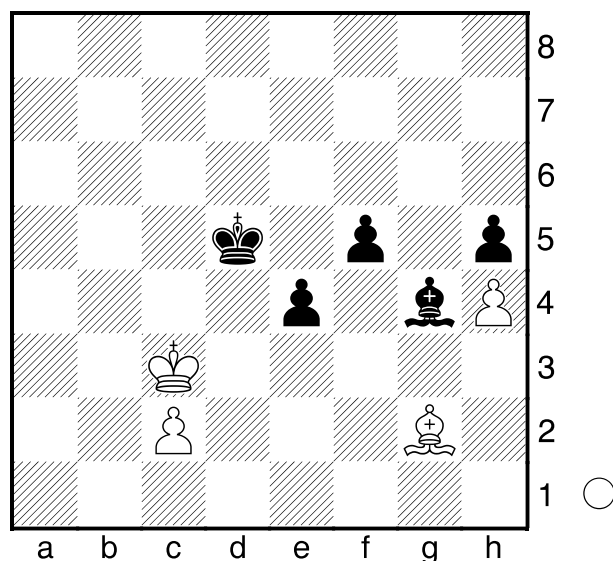
**15...gxf6 16.exf6 Rg8 17.Bd3 Rxd2
18.Rd1 Kc7 19.Rd2**



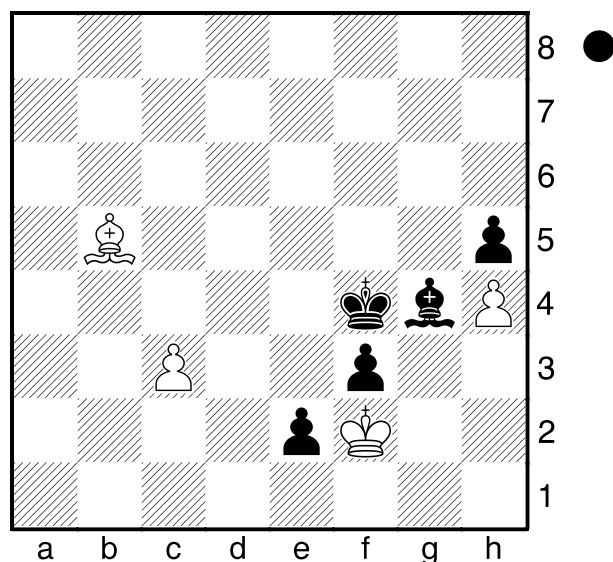
Rxd2N Walder shows endgame confidence, eventually bringing the point home. **20.Kxd2 Bb4 21.a4 Kd6 22.axb5 axb5 23.Kc1 Bxc3 24.bxc3 Ke5 25.Kb2 Kxf6 26.Kb3 Ke5 27.Kb4 f5 28.Kc5 Be8 29.Bf1 Kf6 30.Bg2 e5 31.c4 bxc4 32.Kxc4 Bf7+ 33.Kd3 Ke7 34.Ke3 Kd6 35.Kd3 Bd5 36.Bh3 Be4+ 37.Kc3 Kc5 38.Bf1 h5 39.h4 Bf3 40.Kd3-+ Bg4 41.Bg2 e4+?** If Black can't enforce ...f4, then this is going to create headaches.

[41...Kd6 is better, technically speaking.]
42.Kc3?
 [42.Ke3!± Kc4 Black wins the c-pawn -- but then what? It looks like a blockade on the dark squares.]
42...Kd5

(Diagram)



43.Kd2 f4 44.c3 Ke5 45.Bf1
 (else ...f3 and ...Kf4) **45...Bc8 46.Bg2**
 [46.Bb5 e3+ 47.Ke2 Bg4+ 48.Kd3 e2 49.Kd2 f3 50.Ke1 Kf4 51.Kf2



e1Q+!]
46...f3 47.Bf1 Kf4 48.Bb5 e3+ 49.Kc2 Kg3 50.Kd1 Kf2
0-1

 **Horde, Nicolas T**
 **Singer, Andrew**

B12
1413
0

MI Felix German TNM: Under 1600 (6.26)
[Horde, Nicolas/(Winslow, Elliott)]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5
5.Nf3?! A bit of a mishmash of systems!
 Without h4 and ...h5 this quiet move has
 been at the center of the Advanced
 Caro Kann theory. (EW)

[5.c4]

[5.Bd3!? Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Bg5!?

is John Shaw's recommendation

against the Caro Kann in his

Grandmaster Repertoire books; I

can't say I quite trust it (there's a

poisoned pawn at the heart of it), and

can't quite bring myself to see if

anyone has refuted it. (EW)]

5...e6 6.c4 c5 This is already a serious
 mistake. Black is either going to get an
 IQP position with zero activity or fall
 even further behind in development

[6...Bg4 Using the pin]

7.cxd5 exd5

[7...Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qd7]

8.Nc3 cxd4

[8...c4 9.b3! What I was planning]

9.Qxd4

[9.Nxd4 My initial thought, blockade
 the IQP and just play to start targeting
 it.]

9...Be6 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.Qa4

This variation illustrates why 9.Nd4 was

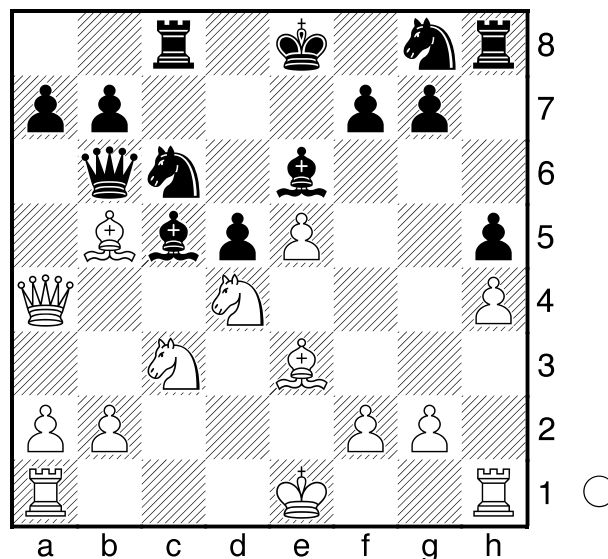
better, I don't lose 2 tempi with the

queen + Nd4 **11...Qb6 12.Nd4**

[12.Be3 Bc5! That's why I started
 with Nd4 first]

12...Rc8 13.Be3 Bc5

(Diagram)



Already an important moment. Black has
 consolidated the entire queenside so I
 spent a lot of time on evaluation; 14.

Rc1 (continuing to mass on the
 queenside), 14.Nxe6 with 15.Qc2 then
 Qg6 and start transferring my pieces to
 the kingside having served all purposes
 on the queenside. Or just 14.0-0 and
 continue playing against the IQP.

14.0-0?! Releasing the pressure on
 Black, the game still goes on.

[14.Rc1! Nge7 (14...Bxd4 15.Bxd4
 Qc7 16.Qxa7 Wins a pawn and
 Black's queenside is collapsing
 Nge7) 15.Ne4! (missed that one)
 dxe4 16.Rxc5 a6 17.Bxc6+ bxc6
 18.Nxe6 fxe6 Black's pawns are a
 mess, with 4 pawn islands]

[14.Nxe6 My other idea fxe6
 (14...Bxe3?? 15.Nxd5! Bxf2+ 16.Ke2
 White wins a piece.) 15.Bxc6+ bxc6
 16.Bxc5 Qxc5 Black has solved their
 development problem]

14...a6

[14...Nge7 15.Qd1]

15.Bxc6+ The most forcing line

[15.Nxc6

A) 15...bxc6 16.Bxa6 Ra8

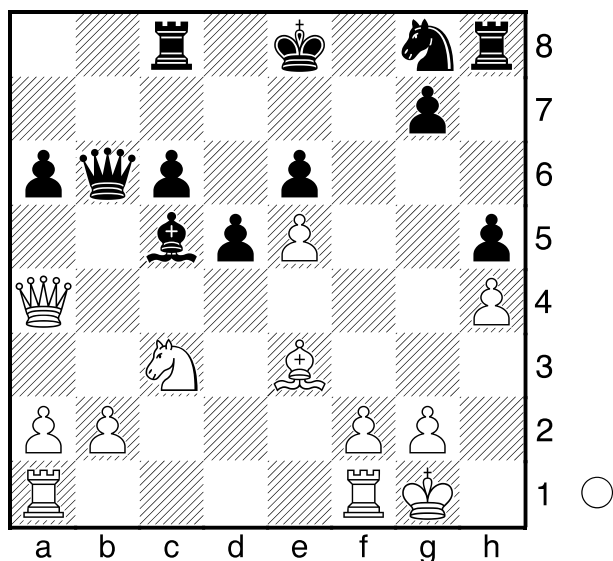
17.Bxc5 Qxc5 (17...Qxa6??

18.Qxa6 Rxa6 Black is positionally

lost, a weak c6 pawn vs 2 strong a and b pawns) 18.b4 Qa7
 19.Qxc6+ Bd7 20.Qxd5 Ne7
 21.Qd2 Qxa6 Crazy variation
 where the game is well balanced,
 Black is ready to castle but must
 meet the threat of the connected
 passed pawns on the queenside;
B) 15...axb5! 16.Nxb5 Rxc6
 17.Nd6+ Ke7 I estimated Black
 has enough compensation]

15...bxc6 16.Nxe6 fxe6

[16...Bxe3?? 17.Nxd5!]



17.Bxc5

[17.Ne4!! Beautiful tactic dxe4
 (17...Bxe3? 18.Nd6+ Kd7 19.Nxc8)
 18.Qc4! Kf7 (18...Bxe3 19.Qxe6+
 Ne7 20.fxe3 Qxe3+ Black is toasted
 with the open f file; (EW) Actually the
 best try is 18...Qb5! 19.Qxe6+! Ne7
 20.Rad1! Rc7 21.a3!! (solidly the
 best) and despite his extra piece,
 Black can't put together a defence.)
 19.Bxc5+-]

17...Qxc5 18.Qxa6?!

[18.Rac1 SF prefers keeping the a file
 close and start targeting the c6 pawn
 Qb6 19.Ne2 Ne7 20.Nd4]

18...Ne7 19.Qe2 3 ideas: if Black castle

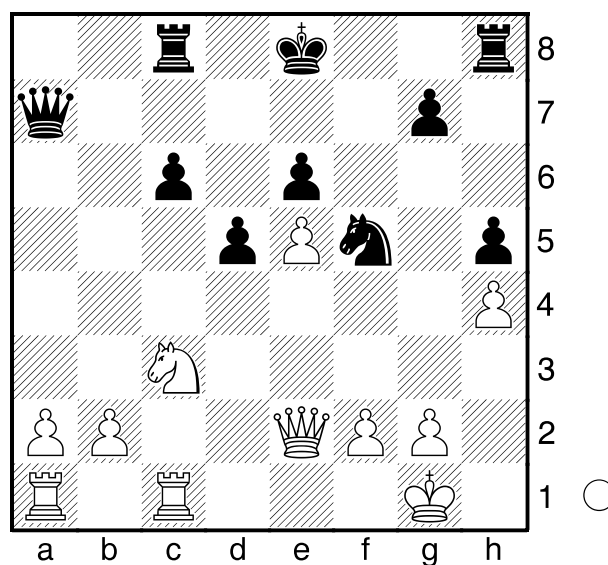
then Qxh5, I defend both e5 and b2

19...Nf5

[19...0-0 20.Qxh5 Rf5 21.Qe2 Rcf8]

20.Rfc1 Qa7

[20...Qb4 21.Nb5 0-0 22.Nd6 Nd4
 The game is still balanced (22...Nxd6
 23.exd6 Qxd6 Looks very scary for
 White with the 3 center pawns against
 the 2 connected pawns on the a and b
 file.)]



21.Kh2? My only real blunder of the
 game. The idea is that Nb5 should be
 played immediately to use the pin
 against the c6 pawn. If Black can get the
 c8 rook on the b file, there's plenty of
 counterplay in the center even if they
 lose more pawns on the kingside. My
 idea is that I want to play g3 and protect
 my h4 pawn. However, my opponent
 was down to < 5 minutes so
 psychologically it's a good move
 because it sets up a decisive blunder.
 There's a free candy on h4. :)

21...Nxh4?? I knew he was going to
 grab it because his eyes were targeting
 this pawn for too long.

[21...Rb8! 22.f4 (22.g3?? Nd4!)
 22...Nxh4]

22.Nb5! Killer move played a tempo. My

opponent went down from 5 minutes to 1 second after that move. I had ~30 minutes left and the position is absolutely crushing now for White
22...Qd7 23.Nd6+ Ke7 24.Nxc8+ Qxc8 25.Qe3 Nf5 26.Qc5+ Kf7 27.Qxc6 Qb8 28.Qc7+ Qxc7 29.Rxc7+ Kg6 30.a4 d4 31.Rd7 Rc8
 My kingside is safe, Black can't mate or get a perpetual with just rook + knight
32.a5 Rc2 33.a6 Rxf2 34.a7 Ne3 35.a8Q Rxc7+ 36.Qxc7+ Black resigns.
 A tactically very rich game that forced my opponent into time trouble very fast. I am still reviewing this game a lot as there are a lot of concepts/tactics/motifs that are very interesting IMO.

1-0

□ **Hilliard, Michael R**

■ **Tam, Hoa Long**

D03

1400

1465

MI Felix German TNM: Extra Rated (6)

[Winslow, Elliott]

Trustee Hilliard plays a fairly fine game before missing a shot, then slipping on the ice at the end. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Nf3 d5**

[3...Nxc5 4.Nxc5 g6]

4.Nbd2 g6 5.c3 Bg7 6.Nxe4 dxe4

7.Nd2 Qd5 8.Bf4 c5 9.e3!

[Grabbing a pawn with 9.Bxb8?!

Rxb8 10.Qa4+?! requires a closer

look: Bd7! 11.Qxa7 (11.Qb3!)

11...Rc8 12.e3 (12.dxc5 e3!)

12...cxd4! (covering c4) 13.exd4

0-0! ♣ Black's development plus bears fruit, with ...Bh6 and/or ...e3 coming.]

9...0-0 10.Bc4 Qc6 11.d5 Qb6 12.Rb1 e5 13.Bg3

[13.dxe6 Bxe6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6

and e4 is still defended]

13...f5 14.0-0

[14.d6+ Kh8 15.Nb3 Rd8 16.Qd5

Qxd6 17.Qxc5]

14...Qd6 15.a4 b6 16.f3 exf3 17.Rxf3

[17.Nxf3 Ba6 18.Bxa6 Nxa6 19.c4]

17...Nd7

[17...f4?? 18.exf4 Bg4 19.fxe5 Bxe5

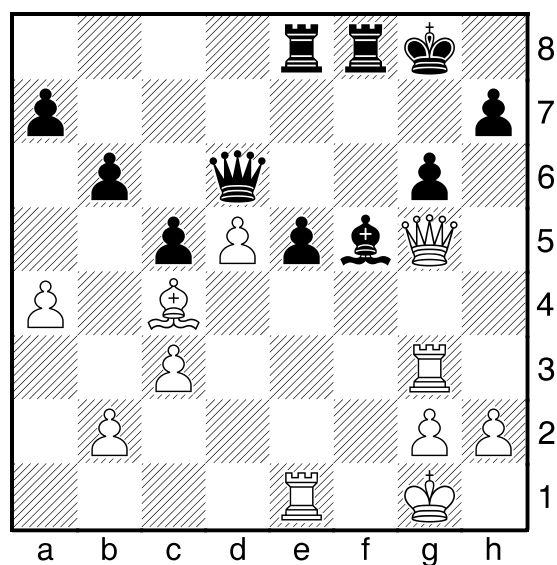
20.Rxf8+]

18.e4 Nf6 19.Qe1 Bh6 20.exf5 Bxd2

21.Qxd2 Bxf5 22.Re1 Ne4 23.Qe3

Nxc3 24.Rxc3 Rae8 25.Qg5?!

[25.Qh6]



25...Re7??

[25...Bd7]

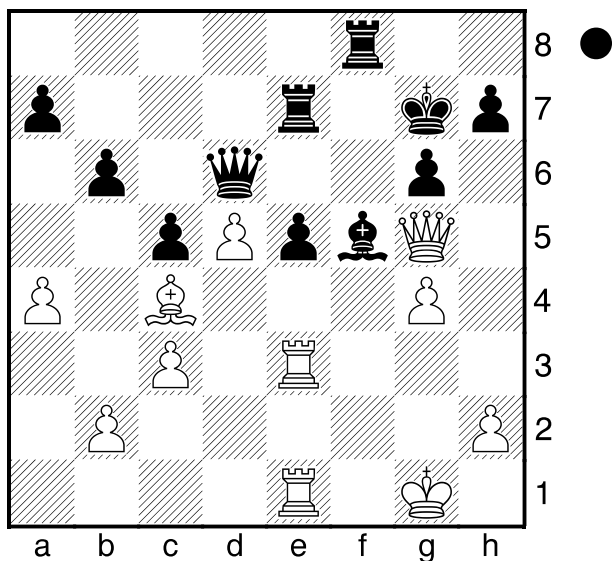
26.Rge3??

[26.Qxe7!+-]

26...Kg7 27.g4?!

[27.Qg3±]

(Diagram)



27...Bc8?

[27...h6! 28.Qh4! Bd7 keeps the e-pawn with the better side of equality]

28.Rxe5± Rxe5 29.Rxe5 Rf7 30.h3 a6 31.Kg2 Bb7 32.Re6??

[32.Qe3!±]

32...Qxe6 Hoa-Long missed one shot in this neighborhood on move 25-26, but this one he noticed.

0-1

□ Sobel,Steve

■ Seitzer,Phillip

MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (7.1)

[Winslow,Elliott]

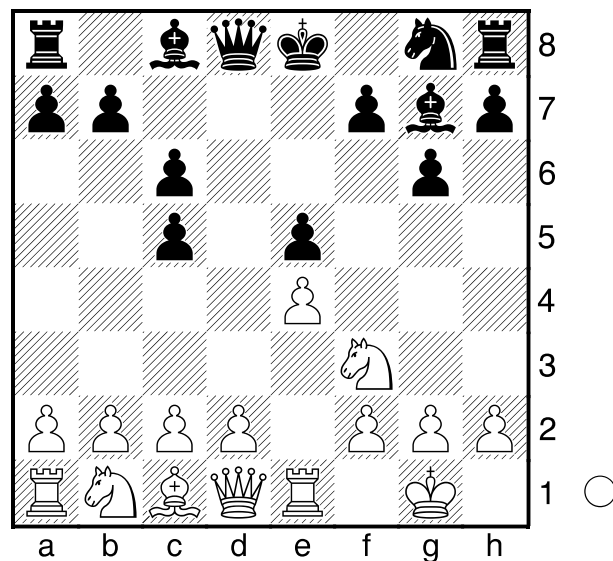
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 e5 6.Bxc6 dxc6

(Diagram)

B31

1933

2129



This position has been reached by an illustrious panel of superstars -- Carlsen even multiple times on both sides!

Black players who were hoping for an exciting Sveshnikov, Dragon, the Lowenthal even, are instead leaned on positionally. 7.d3 Ne7 Development for its own sake, maybe not good enough. Even if Kramnik played it (it was a speed game, his opponent was Anand, he did draw)...

[7...Qe7! prepares 8...Nf6 and 9...Nd7, hoping it's more solid -- and it is.]

8.Be3 As per Anand

[but mostly scoring *much* better is 8.Nbd2!? I have to mention that the one bright light has been h6!? -- 0-3! -- except that it's three decidedly non-world-class games...]

8...b6 9.a4 As per Anand-Kramnik but nobody else noteworthy.

[9.a3!? doesn't have any GM games but has scored well (obviously the intention is b2-b4, busting it up! ("Letting" Black get rid of the doubled pawn is really besides the point.) If we ignore B-player 0-1 A-player, then it's 5.5-.5!]

[9.Qc1!?

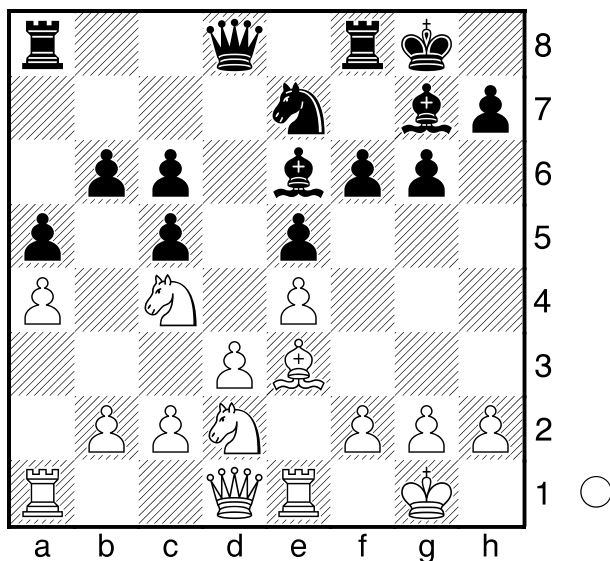
A) 9...0-0 10.Bh6 (10.a3!?:

10.a4) 10...f6 makes sense but doesn't solve anything.;

B) 9...h6!? was Padevsky vs. the "Yugoslav Tal," Dragoljub Velimirovic. Look how the Bulgarian technician's careful play gives Velimirovic no angle for attack, as one pawn and another fall off.
 10.a4 a5 11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.h3 Be6 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.b3 g5!? 15.c3 Rd8 16.Qc2 0-0 17.b4 f5 18.bxa5 b5 19.Ncd2 Qd6 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Ne4 Qg6 22.Bxc5 Rf7 23.Bxe7 Rxe7 24.axb5 cxb5 25.Qb3+ Kh7 26.Qxb5 Rf8 27.Re3 Bd7 28.Qb4 Ref7 29.Qd6 1-0 Padevsky,N (2475)-Velimirovic,D (2525) Majdanpek 1976 (11)]

9...0-0

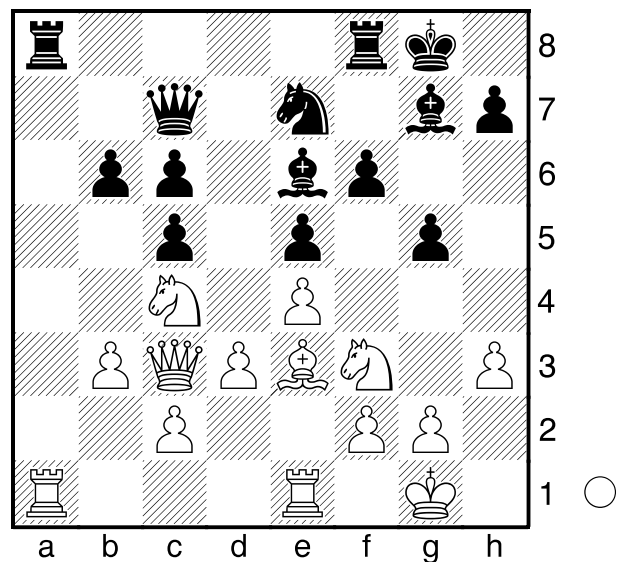
[9...a5 was Kramnik (and others of course) keeping a lid on it. Anand and he drew in 67 moves. Oh, did I mention they were playing blindfolded? The famous Melody Amber tournaments in Monte Carlo.
 10.Nbd2 f6 11.Nc4 Be6 12.Nfd2 0-0



13.b4!? A nice move for a blindfold game. But Vlad's vision remained clear... axb4 14.a5 bxa5 15.Bxc5 Bh6 16.Qb1 Qc7 17.Ra4 Bxd2

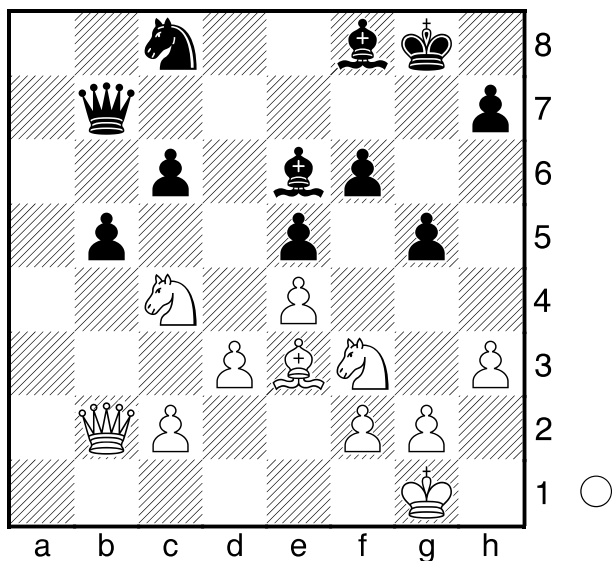
18.Nxd2 Rfb8 19.Qa1 Qd8
 ½-½ Anand,V (2770)-Kramnik,V (2790) Amber-blindfold 07th Monte Carlo rapid 1998 (11)]

Back to Sobel-Seitzer: **10.a5 Rb8 11.Nbd2 Qc7 12.Nc4 Bg4 13.h3 Be6 14.axb6 axb6 15.b3 Ra8 16.Qd2 f6 17.Qc3** White pushes here and there, Black keeps having to choose one minor negative or another (Trade on c4? Bad bishop remains. Guard e5? Bad bishop gets worse. See how wrong that knight on e7 is?) **17...g5**



Black tries to get some play, and a square for that knight. This provides Sobel with a "Grand Plan". **18.Rxa8 Rxa8 19.Ra1 Rxa1+ 20.Qxa1 Qb7 21.Qa3 Nc8 22.b4 cxb4 23.Qxb4** Having first handled some preliminaries (exchanging "irrelevant" pieces)... **23...Bf8 24.Qb2 b5**

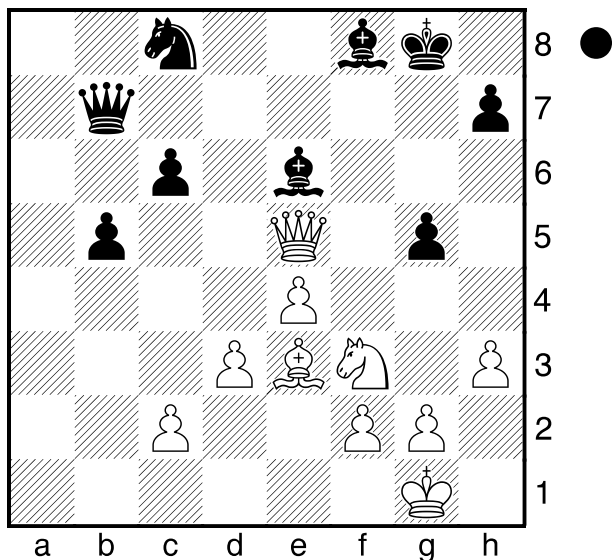
(Diagram)



25.Ncxe5!? "Hard to resist" here has a double meaning: Sobel couldn't restrain himself and finally forces play, while Seitzer will find the ongoing defense hard to maintain.

[25.Ncd2± is the dry preferred computer play.]

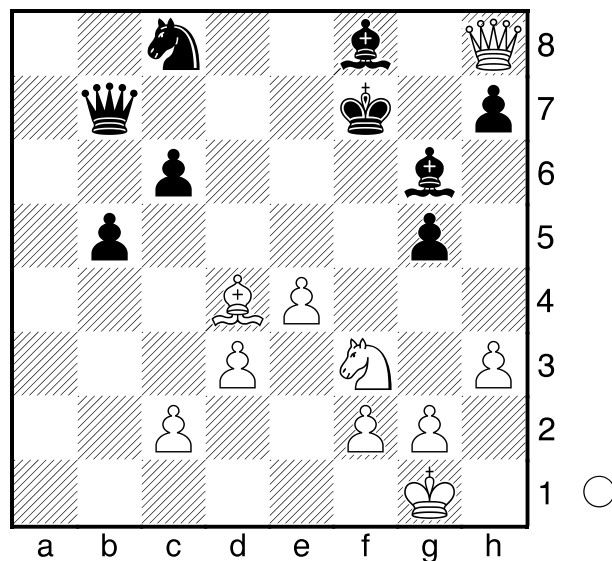
25...fxe5 26.Qxe5



Bf7?? Blocking defense of g7 by the queen is fatal.

[The only, or at least best defense is
 26...Qe7! 27.Nxg5 (27.Bd4 Bg7=)
 27...Bd7! 28.Qg3 (28.Qf4!)
 28...Qg7! (28...Bg7 29.f4±) 29.Bd4!

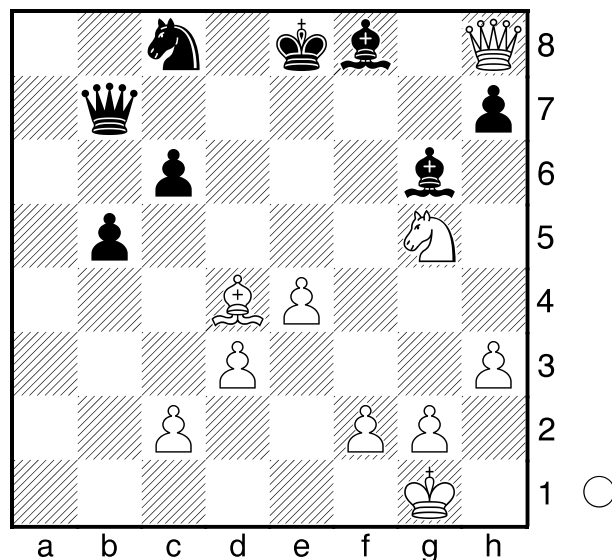
Qg6! (29...Bd6!?) 30.Qe5 Qg7!
 31.Qf4 Qg6 32.h4!? h6 33.Nf3 Bd6
 34.Be5 Bf8 35.Bb2 White can press
 with that lava flow of pawns.]
27.Bd4+- Bg6 28.Qh8+ Kf7



29.Nxg5+

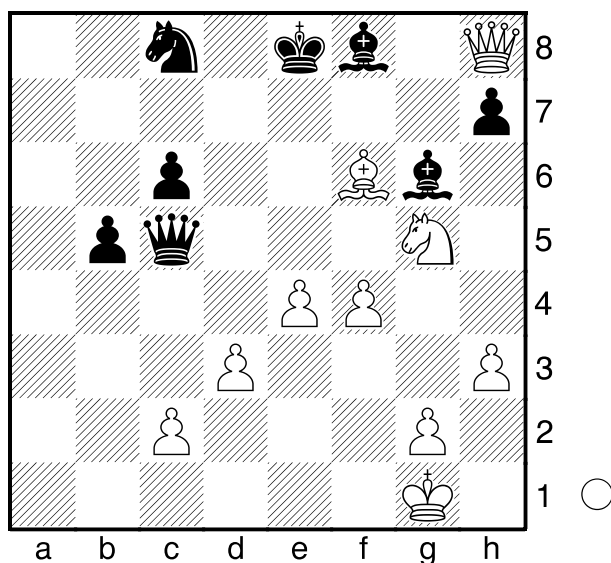
[29.Bc5! wins immediately: Be7
 (29...Bxc5 30.Nxg5+ Ke7 31.Qg7+)
 30.Bxe7 Qxe7 (30...Kxe7 31.Qg7+
 Bf7 32.Nxg5 Ke8 33.Qh8+ Kd7
 34.Qxh7!) 31.Qxc8+-]

29...Ke8



White will win, but it requires some precision. Sobel fumbles a bit. **30.f4**

[30.h4]
30...Qe7 31.Bf6 Qc5+



32.d4? Now it gets somewhat difficult.
 [32.Kh1 Qa3 33.Ne6 Bf7 34.Bb2!
 Qd6 35.Nxf8 Qxf8 36.Qxh7]
32...Qa3!± (and barely that!) **33.Ne6?**
 [33.Kh2! Qd6! Now something to e5,
 White could win - but Black could draw;
 the days of "+-" have slipped away.]
33...Kf7?? They're back!
 [33...Bxe4! and -- yes, let the
 computer look long enough and it's "0.
 00" down the line. 34.Qg8 Bd5!
 35.Nc7+ Kd7 36.Nxd5 cxd5=
 Still, Seitzer couldn't be comfortable
 even here.]
34.f5! This is over though. **34...Qe3+**
35.Kh2 Bxf5 36.exf5 Bd6+ 37.Be5
Bxe5+ 38.dxe5 And with this win Sobel
 ties for 2nd-3rd with Luke Widjaja at 5-2,
 behind Richard Chen at 5.5. Both Chen
 and Widjaja had earlier requested last-
 round byes, so this was Board 1. Steve
 continues fine performances after the
 previous TNM, which he won with a
 round to spare.
1-0

D24
1893
2078

□ **Urquhart, Joe S**
 ■ **Bambou, Christophe**
 MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (7.4)
[Winslow, Elliott]

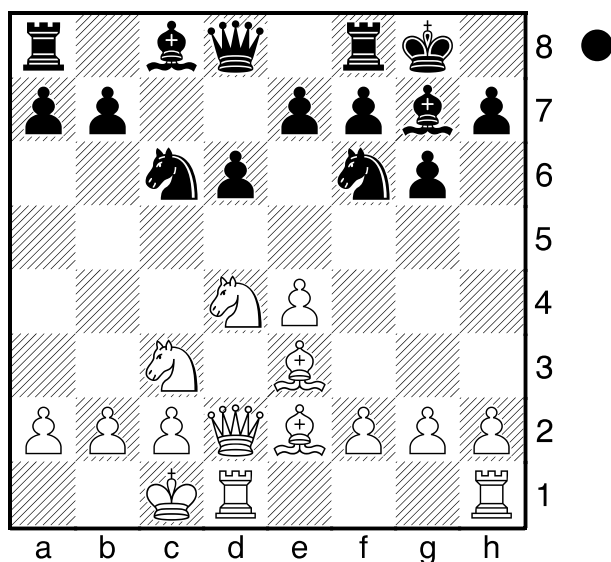
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 a6
5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4
g5 9.Nxg5

[In comparison with the Cheap Trap
 line in the Anti-Meran (I've won a
 couple games this way :-), 9.exf6?
 gxh4 10.Ne5 Qxf6!± keeps White's
 queen off f3 (well, it gets traded).
 (10...Bb7?? is the trap: 11.Nxf7!
 wins the Exchange, as taking loses
 Kxf7? 12.Qh5+ either mate or the
 queen. When I first saw this (again, in
 the Anti-Meran or Botvinnik Variation,
 that is with Black's pawns on a7 and
 c6), I couldn't believe it. (I think I'd
 only been playing in tournaments a
 few months at the time -- 1966!))]
9...hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6 Bb7=
 What a great bishop! This has got to be
 an improvement over the Botvinnik --
 not only can't White fianchetto, but also
 Black can save a move with ...c7-c5.

12.d5?!
 [12.Be2!? In some openings, speed
 is more important than pawns. And not
 just in the King's Gambit! b4!±]
 [12.h4 Bh6 (12...Nxf6)]
12...Nc5!± 13.dxe6! Nxe6 14.Qe2?
 [14.Qxd8+ Rxd8 15.Be3]
14...Bh6 15.Rd1 Bxg5 16.Rxd8+
Rxd8 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Bd2+
19.Kd1 Rh4 20.g4 Bf4+ 21.Kc2 Rd2+
22.Kc3 Rxf2 23.Bg2 Bd2+ 24.Kc2
Bg5+ 25.Kb1 Bxf6 26.h3 Rxb2+
27.Kc1 c3 28.Re1 Bg5+ 29.Re3
Bxe3+ 30.Qxe3 Rxc3 31.Qxc3 Rh2
32.Qc6+ Ke7 33.Qxa6 R4xh3
34.Qxb5 Rc2+ 35.Kb1 Rh1+
0-1

Powers, Christopher 1704
 Lin, Aung Tun 1641
 MI Felix German TNM: 1600-1999 (7)
[Winslow, Elliott]

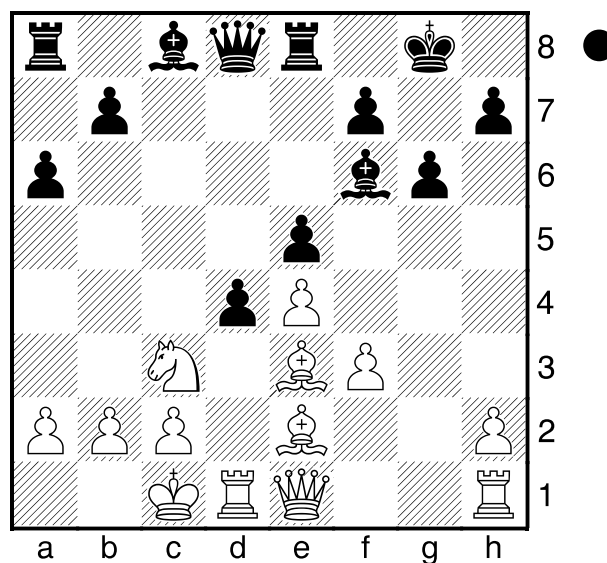
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
d6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 Bg7
8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0



Re8?±

[9...d5!? 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6
 bxc6 12.Nxd5 (12.Bd4 e5 13.Bc5
 Be6) 12...cxd5 13.Qxd5 Qc7
 14.Qxa8 Bf5 15.Qxf8+ Kxf8 16.Rd2
 h5=]
 [9...Ng4!? 10.Bxg4 Bxg4 11.f3
 Be6!? (11...Bd7)]
10.f3 a6 11.g4 d5? 12.g5!+- Nxd4
13.Bxd4 e5 14.Be3?! d4 15.gxf6
Bxf6 16.Qe1
 [16.f4]

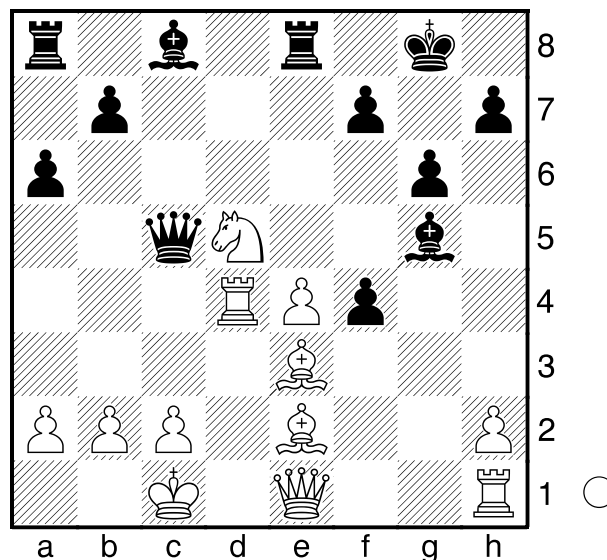
(Diagram)



16...Bg5?

[16...Bh4!]

17.f4!+- exf4 18.Rxd4 Qb6 19.Nd5
Qc5



20.Rd3?? fxe3 21.h4

[21.Qg3!±]

21...Bd8! 22.Rxe3 Be6 23.Rc3 Qd6

[23...Qd4!]

24.Rd3?!

[24.Bc4±]

24...Qe5 25.Qf2 Bxd5 26.Rxd5 Qxe4
27.Bf3 Qf4+ 28.Kb1 Re3 29.Rd3
Rxd3 30.cxd3 Rc8 31.Qe2 Bxh4
32.Bxb7 Rc7 33.Bxa6 Bg5 34.Bc4

Qd4? 35.Rd1?

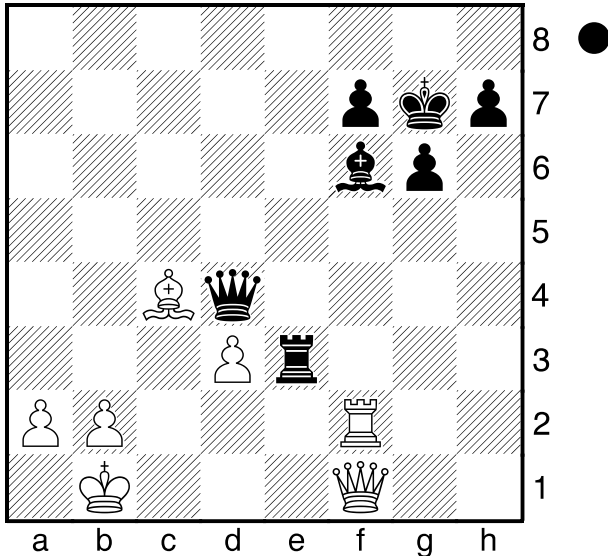
[35.Qh2!=]

35...Bf6 36.Rd2 Rb7 37.Bb3 Re7

38.Qf1 Re3 39.Rf2? Kg7

[39...Rf3!]

40.Bc4?



Rf3!

0-1

□ **Hule,Pratyush**

B22

1268

■ **Ayala,Nicholas**

1391

MI Felix German TNM: under1600 (7.13)

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5

Qxd5 5.d4 Bg4 6.Bb5? This has a horrible track record.

[6.Be2 is far and away "the move played" cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.Nc3]

[but 6.dxc5!? Qxd1+ (6...Qxc5!/?)

7.Kxd1 0-0-0+ is an interesting unbalanced challenge.]

6...Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qxf3 8.gxf3 cxd4

9.cxd4 e6 Not much question that

White's pawns, even if Bxc6 bxc6, are the worse collection. **10.Be3 Nge7**

Now that isn't even happening. **11.Nc3**

a6 12.Ba4 b5 13.Bb3 Rd8 14.Rd1

Na5 15.Bc2 Nd5 16.Bd2 Nc4

17.Nxd5 Rxd5 18.Bc3 b4 19.b3? Na3

and into the fire. Black wins. **20.Be4**

bxc3 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Rc1 Bb4

23.Ke2 0-0 24.Kd3 Rc8 25.Rhe1 f6

26.Re6 a5 27.Rb6 c2 28.Re6 Rc3+

29.Ke2 Nb5 30.Re3 Nxd4+ 31.Kf1

Rc8 32.Rd3 Ba3 33.Rxd4 Bxc1

34.Ke1 Bb2 35.Rd1 Bc3+ 36.Ke2

Re8+ With this win Nicholas stepped

over Pratyush and into 2nd-3rd with

Chunhui Gu.

0-1

B80

□ **Gu,Thomas**

1248

■ **O'Farrell,Trevor**

1474

MI Felix German TNM: under1600 (7.17)

[Winslow,Elliott]

Thomas shows he's becoming a

dangerous attacker, not to mention a

Theory Consumer... **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6**

3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6

6.Be3 Be7 7.f3 The English Attack, so-

called for being molded into a dangerous

line in the 1980s by Nunn, Short and

others, bears a resemblance to the

Yugoslav Attack in the Dragon, and has

really been taken to heart by the

youngsters, to the peril of all. **7...a6**

8.Qd2 0-0 9.g4

[Twice as common is 9.0-0-0]

9...b5

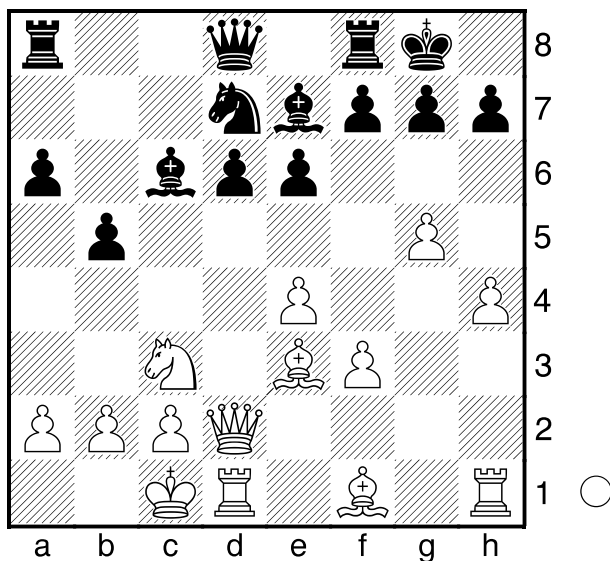
[And here exactly twice as common in

Mega 2022 is 9...Nc6]

10.0-0-0 Bb7 11.g5 Nfd7 12.h4 Nc6

13.Nxc6 Bxc6

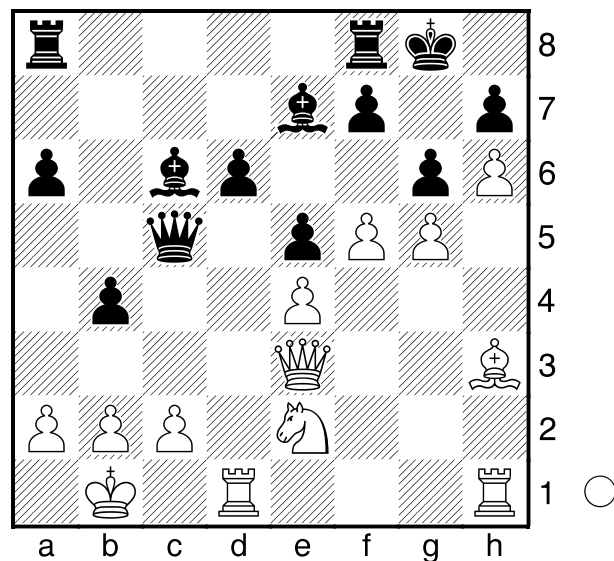
(Diagram)



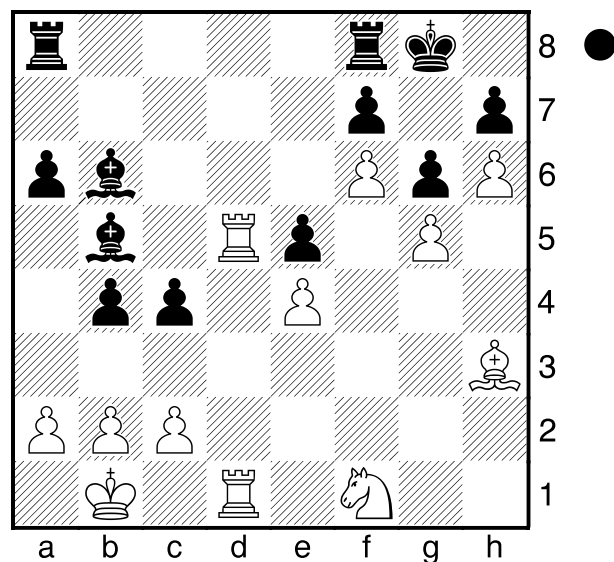
14.h5 Most played, best stats.
 [14.Ne2!? d5 15.Nd4 Bb7 16.Bh3
 Ne5 17.Qe1 Nc4 18.f4 Nxe3
 19.Qxe3 Qa5 20.Kb1 dxe4 21.Nxe6
 1-0 Short,N (2615)-Ljubojevic,L
 (2620) Reykjavik 1987 (1) is an early
 success against a formidable
 opponent.]

14...g6?? Suicide, which Thomas
 sharply takes advantage of.
 [Walter Browne found himself here
 (via a transposition from the Najdorf
 Sicilian of course!), and was doing
 okay but eventually couldn't keep it
 together: 14...Ne5 15.f4! Ng4
 16.Bh3 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 b4 18.h6! g6!
 19.Ne2 e5 20.Kb1 Qa5 (20...Qc7)
 21.f5! Qc5

(Diagram)

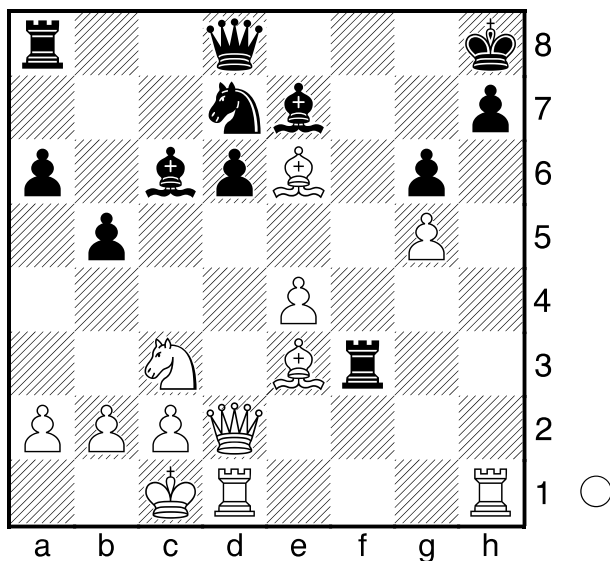


22.Qxc5! dxc5 23.f6! Bd8 24.Ng3
 c4! 25.Rd6 Bb5 26.Rhd1 Bc7
 27.R6d5 Bb6 28.Nf1



Bd4? (28...c3!= A sort of symmetry!)
 29.Bd7!± 1-0 Barbulescu,D (2370)-
 Browne,W (2585) Olympiad-26
 Thessaloniki 1984 (7)]
15.hxg6 fxg6 16.Bh3+- Rxf3
 [16...Kf7 17.f4 (17.Nd5!?)]
17.Bxe6+ Kh8

(Diagram)



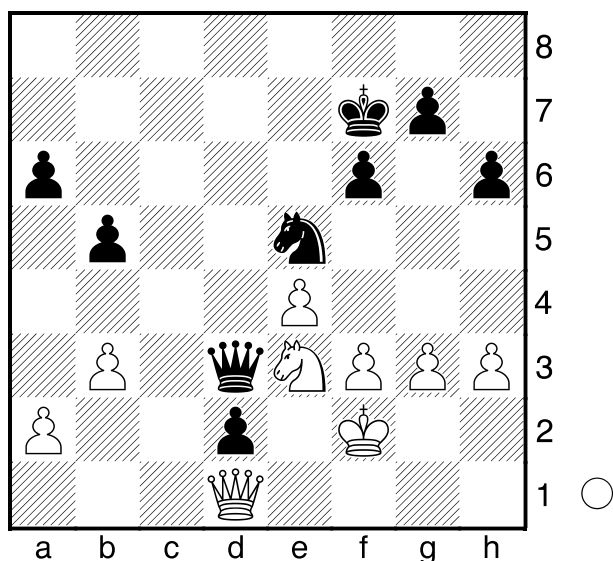
18.Rxh7+! Kxh7 19.Qh2+ 1-0

Hao,Max **E03**
IM Griffith,Kyron **2023**
2450
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 10.1.23
 [Griffith,Kyron/(Winslow,Elliott)]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Nf3?! [6.Qxc4 is more accurate a6 7.Qc2 and now black doesn't get b5 and Bb7 in so easily] 6...a6 7.Qxc4 b5 8.Qc2 Bb7 9.0-0 c5 Black has neutralized white's queenside pressure and is already slightly better. 10.e3 Rc8 11.Qe2 Qb6 12.b3 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Be7 [14...h5! is the computer suggestion 15.h4 Bb4 16.Bb2 0-0] 15.Bb2 0-0 16.Nd2 Nc5 I was struggling to find a plan at this point. 17.Rac1 Rfd8 18.N2f3 Qb7 19.Rfd1 h6 20.h3 Nfe4 21.Kh2 Bf6 [21...a5!? with b4 and a4 coming is interesting] 22.Ne1 Rd7? Now white finds some accurate moves to put black's position

under pressure. 23.f3! Nd6 24.e4! e5 25.Ndc2 Bg5 26.Ne3 f6 27.N1g2 Bxe3 28.Nxe3 Ne6 29.Rxc8+ Nxc8
 The game peters out to a symmetrical endgame. **30.Nd5 Nb6 31.Ne3 Qc7 32.Rxd7 Qxd7 33.Qd1 Qc6 34.Qc2 Qd7 35.Qd1 Kf7**
 [35...Nd4?! allows a forced draw 36.Bxd4 exd4 37.Nd5 Nxd5 38.Qxd4 Nb6 39.Qxb6 Qd2+ 40.Kg1 Qxa2 41.Qe6+=]
36.Kg2 Nd4 Now the aforementioned line doesn't work due to a ...Nf4+ intermezzo. **37.Bxd4?** The engine says that White is still holding but I think this is a bad practical decision since White needs to be very careful to survive now.
 [(EW) White can play carefully with 37.h4]
 [(EW) Or even 37.Kf2!? since Qxh3?! 38.Bxd4 exd4 39.Qxd4 favors White if anyone Qe6 (39...Qh2+?? 40.Ng2+-)]
37...exd4
 [37...Qxd4?? 38.Qxd4 exd4 39.Nf5 d3 40.Kf2+-]
38.Nc2 d3 39.Nb4?
 [39.Ne3 was the only path to complete equality]
39...d2 40.Nc2! White must get the knight around to an effective route.
40...Qd3 41.Kf2 Nd7 42.Ne3 Ne5

(Diagram)



43.Nf1??

[43.f4! is the last chance to hold Nc6 and now 44.Nf1 Qxe4 45.Qxd2 Nd4 Black is still dictating the play but white should hold without too much trouble]

43...Nxf3! (better than taking with the queen) **44.Ne3 Ng5** White falls apart. **45.Qh5+ g6 46.Qe2 Nxe4+ 47.Kf3 Ng5+ 48.Kf2 Nxh3+ 49.Kf1 Qxe3 50.Qxe3 d1Q+ 51.Kg2 Qg1+ 0-1**

D30

Winslow, Elliott **2223**
 Sobel, Steve **2012**
 2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 10.1.23
[Sobel, Steve / Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.b3 SS: Recommended by Boris Avrukh in his Grandmaster Repertoire book.
5...Bb4+ SS: I aim for a setup proposed by Shankland in his Semi-Slav course, but I butcher the move order.

[5...c5]

[5...Nbd7]

[5...Ne4!? SS: Shankland states (in his Chessable Lifetime Repertoire

course): "This is a very important idea, and a very important move order to execute it in. Black prepares to play a sort of stonewall, and often plays Bb4+ to provoke White into playing Nbd2. Avrukh analyzes this idea well, but only does so with a 5... Bb4+ move order" 6.Bd3 (SS: 6.Nbd2 Nd7 7.Bb2 f5 8.Be2 Bd6 9.0-0 Qf6 is the correct way to enter this structure. (EW: Well, maybe!) 6...Bb4+ EW: Did Shankland forget his own course? (6...Nd7 7.0-0 f5 8.Qc2 a5 9.Ba3!? EW: Before Black even moves the bishop! This was a decade ago, maybe Giri is more sophisticated now? No wait, he was 2714 then :-) Bxa3 10.Nxa3 0-0 11.Nb1 Qf6 12.Nc3 b6 13.Ne2 Bb7 14.a3 c5 15.cxd5 exd5 16.Bb5 Rfd8 17.Rac1 Rac8 18.dxc5 bxc5 19.Nf4 Nf8 20.Rfd1 Ng6 21.Nxg6 ½-½ Giri,A (2714)-Ivanisevic,I (2636) EU-chT (Men) 18th Porto Carras 2011 (4.1)) 7.Nbd2

A) 7...f5 8.Ne5 Nd7 9.Qh5+

EW: Shirov of course! (EW: Just 9.Nxd7 is a moderate plus (±)) 9...g6 10.Nxg6 Ndf6 11.Qh3 Rg8 12.Ne5 (EW: Stockfish 15.1 (new version, different concept of what "+1" means) is equal or even a touch more after 12.Nf4 Bc3 13.Rb1) 12...Bc3 13.Bxe4? dxe4! 14.Rb1 c5! 15.f4 cxd4 16.exd4 (16.Bb2!?) 16...Qxd4+- 17.Ke2 e3?! (17...Nd7+-) 18.Ndf3 Qxf4? (18...Qe4) 19.Bb2!= Bxe5? (19...Qe4) 20.Bxe5+- Qe4 21.Rbc1 Nd7 22.Bd6 f4 23.Rhd1 (23.g3!) 23...e5?? 24.Qe6+ 1-0 Shirov,A (2662)-Zherebukh,Y (2620) FIDE World Cup Krasnaya Polyana 2021 (2.1);

B) 7...Nd7 8.0-0 f5 9.a3 Bc3 10.Ra2 Ba5 11.b4 Nc3 12.Qc2

Nxa2 13.Qxa2 Bc7 14.a4 0-0
 15.b5 Nf6 16.Ba3 Bd6 17.Ne5
 Qe7 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.c5 Qc7
 20.Ndf3 Bd7 21.Rc1 Be8 22.Qb3
 Bh5 23.Ng5 Rae8 24.b6 axb6
 25.cxb6 Qe7 26.a5 Ne4 27.Nh3
 Ra8 28.a6 bxa6 29.Nxc6 Qd6
 30.b7 Rae8 31.Nf4 Bf7 32.Bxa6
 Nd2 33.Qb4 Qxb4 34.Nxb4 Nc4
 35.Nfd3 1-0 Caruana,F (2781)-
 Shankland,S (2709) American Cup
 Blitz Saint Louis 2022 (8) EW: Okay,
 so it's a blitz game. But some
 explaining is needed on Sam's
 part!]

6.Nbd2 Ne4

[6...Bc3 7.Rb1 Ne4 (7...Nbd7;
 7...0-0; 7...Nbd7) 8.Bd3 Na6!? 9.0-0
 (+- sf15, ± sf15.1)

A) 9...Bxd2 10.Bxd2 Nxd2
 11.Qxd2 Nc7 (11...Nb8!?);

B) 9...f5?! 10.Ne5 0-0 11.f3 dxc4
 12.Ndxc4 Nf6 13.Ba3 c5 14.Rc1
 Nd5 15.Qe2 b5 16.Nc6 Qg5 17.f4
 Qg4 18.N4e5 Qxe2 19.Bxe2 b4
 20.Bf3 Bb7 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.Bxd5
 Bxd5 23.Kh1 Bd2 24.Rcd1 Bxe3
 25.Rd3 cxd4 26.Bc1 Nc5 27.Rdd1
 Be4 28.Bxe3 dxe3 29.Rde1 Rae8
 30.N7c6 Nd3 31.Rxe3 Nxe5
 32.Nxe5 Kg8 33.Rc1 Rd8
 0-1 Vasileva,V (1680)-Galunova,T
 (1984) BUL-ch op (Women) 20th
 Vratsa 2010 (5)]

7.Qc2

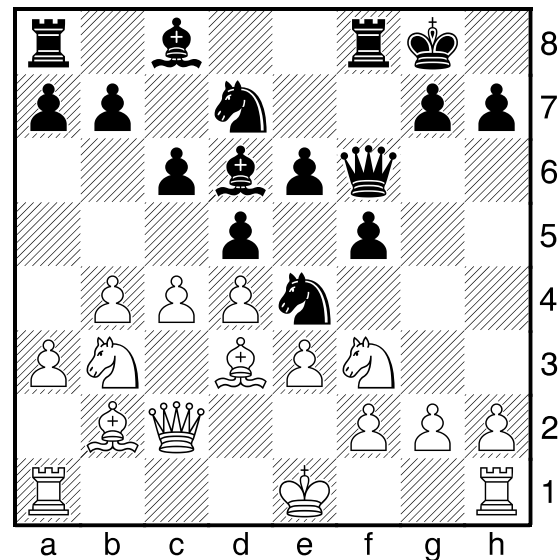
[7.a3 Bd6 8.Bb2 f5 9.Be2
 "This is the crux of Avrukh's plan.
 Rather than automatically putting the
 Bishop on d3, he instead puts it on e2.
 As a result, White will be able to play
 the typical stonewall regrouping with
 O-O and Ne1-d3..." - Shankland]

7...Nd7 SS: 'Shankland stresses that
 black cannot allow Ne5 or they will suffer.
 Hence why I opted for this developing
 move against the e5 square before f5.'

8.Bd3 f5 9.a3 Bd6 10.Bb2 Qf6

SS: 'Well, we resume our regularly
 scheduled programming after all...'

11.b4 0-0 12.Nb3



g5N SS: Believe it or not, this is
 apparently still theory.

[12...Qg6 13.0-0 Qh5 14.Ne5 Rf6
 15.Qe2 Qh4 16.g3 Qh3 17.f3 Nxc3
 18.hxc3 Qxc3+ 19.Qg2 Qh4 20.Qh1
 Qg3+ 21.Qg2 Qh4 22.Qh1 Qg3+
 23.Qg2 Qh4 24.Qh2 Rg6+ 25.Kh1
 Rh6 26.Qxh4 Rxh4+ 27.Kg2 Bxe5
 28.dxe5 dxc4 29.Kg3 g5 30.Nd4
 cxd3 31.Nxe6 Nxe5 32.Nxc5 Ng6
 33.Rh1 f4+ 34.exf4 Rxh1 35.Rxh1
 Bf5 36.Bc3 Ne7 37.Ne4 Rd8 38.Kf2
 Kf8 39.Rd1 h5 40.Bf6 Kf7 41.Be5
 b6 42.Ke3 1/2-1/2 Nguyen,N (2632)-
 Sengupta,D (2586) Asian Continental
 op 16th Chengdu 2017 (9)]

13.0-0-0 SS: I underestimated the
 possibility of white castling this way.

13...b6?! SS: '?'

[13...g4! 14.Ne1 Qh6! A useful move
 - prophylaxis against both f3 and
 various tempi if the a1-h8 diagonal
 ever opens.

A) 15.Qe2 g3!? 16.Bxe4 fxe4
 17.f4 (17.fxc3 b6 18.Nc2)
 17...Rf7 18.Nc2 Nf6 19.hxc3 Qg6

SF considers this slightly better for *black*. In the abstract I can see white's cramped queenside pieces but honestly it's over my head.;

B) 15.g3 a5! 16.Nxa5 b6 17.Nb3 Ba6 18.c5 bxc5 19.Nxc5 Bxd3 20.Nexd3 Nb6 Black claims compensation by heading for the c4 outpost.]

14.c5 Bc7 15.cxb6 Nxb6

[15...Bxb6]

[15...axb6 SS; ! 16.Qxc6 Ra7

17.Qc2 g4 18.Ne1 Qh6 is my last chance to trip white's knight up.]

16.Ne5 Na4 SS: Aiming for tricks, but even the tricks don't work. **17.f3**

[17.Qxc6 Nxb2 18.Kxb2 (18.Qxa8 Nxd1 19.Rxd1 Bxe5; 18.Qxc7 Nxd1)

18...Bxe5 19.Bxe4 fxe4 20.Qxa8 Bd6 21.Qxa7 Qxf2+ 22.Rd2 Qxe3

SS: I thought this would be an interesting exchange sacrifice, but objectively speaking black loses here as well.]

17...Nxb2 18.Qxb2 Nd6 19.Nc5

SS: My position is ugly, but my defense even uglier and I quickly lose. EW: Somehow White has stumbled onto a dream position against the Stonewall!

19...Rd8 SS: ??

[EW: But after 19...a5! White can win the Exchange with 20.Ncd7 (20.Kc2!? first could put White over the top!) 20...Bxd7 21.Nxd7 Qe7 22.Nxf8 Qxf8± and advantage, but (finally!) Black is the one with play against the opponent's king, and that could be significant. (Of course the computers favor White, but not overwhelmingly) 23.Kc2 f4!?]

20.Nxc6 Re8 21.Kb1

[EW: White could toss in 21.h4]

21...a5 22.b5! EW: Obviously White has no interest in seeing any files opening up -- and that passed pawn in fact decides

the game. **22...a4?! 23.b6** EW: It's a Lava Pawn, pushing pieces away. (I may have to change my analogy to Surging Floodwater Pawn -- or is it too soon?) **23...Bb7** EW: Collapse **24.Nxb7 Nxb7 25.bxc7 Na5 26.Nxa5 Rxa5 27.Rc1 Qf8 28.Qb4 Raa8 29.Bb5** EW: A rough start for the star of the last couple TNMs, but (1) there are six more rounds ("Swiss Gambit!" Steve noted after the game), and (2) I'm not done yet either!

1-0

	Toledo Guerrero, Fernando	B11
	Maliev, Anton	1597
		1783

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (1.10)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Be2 e6 5.d4 Bb4 6.e5 c5 7.a3 Ba5 8.dxc5!?

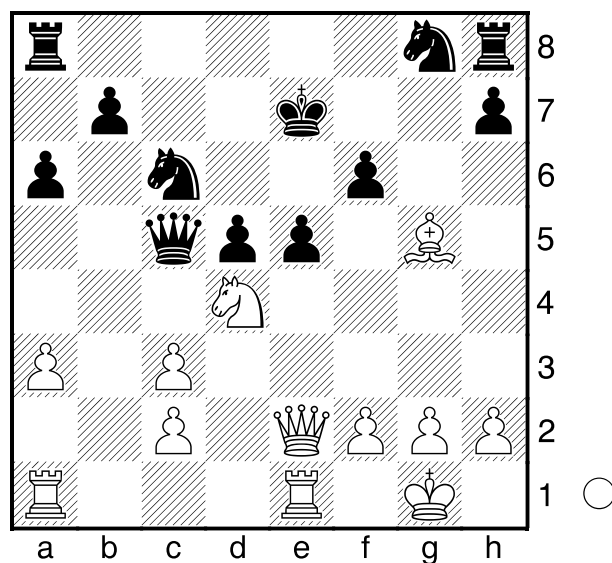
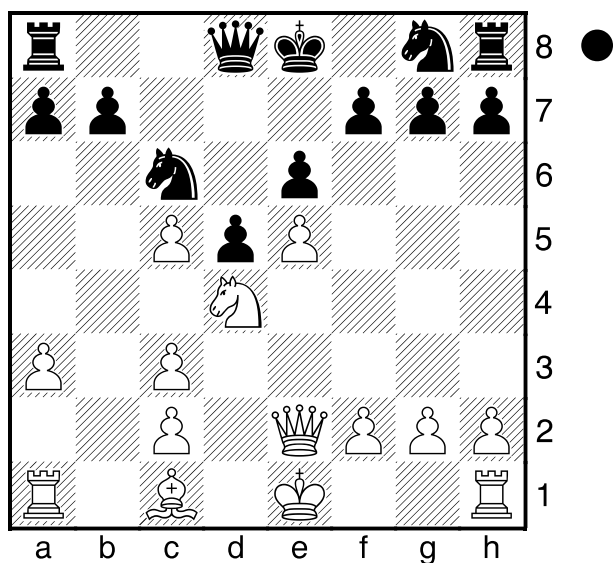
[8.b4!? in comparison with the French Winawer line: 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5]

8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nc6?!

[9...Ne7 Black will be surprised how quickly his king will get stuck in the center.]

10.Nd4! Bxe2 11.Qxe2

(Diagram)



Qa5?

[11...Nge7! -- last chance! --
guaranteeing that ...0-0 happens.]

12.Nb5! Not so much hanging onto the
pawn as pursuing the initiative (what
these Winawer French's are all about).

12...Ke7? Doing White's dirty work for
him!

[12...Nge7!? 13.Nd6+! Kf8
and both ways to play are pretty good
for White: 14.Rb1! (and 14.0-0!?)]

**13.0-0 a6 14.Bg5+ f6 15.exf6+ gxf6
16.Rfe1**

[16.Nd4! Nxd4 17.cxd4 fxg5 18.Qe5
Nf6 19.Rab1 b5 20.f4]

16...e5 17.Nd4 Qxc5

[17...Qxc3 18.Nf5+ Kd7 19.Bh4]

(Diagram)

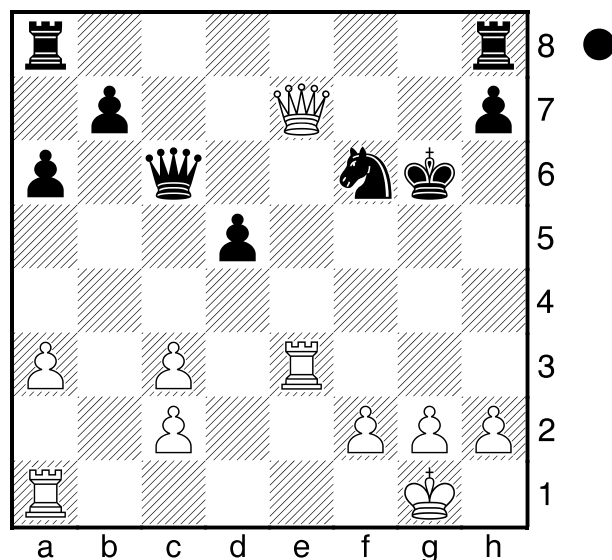
18.Bxf6+?

[18.Qg4! fxg5 19.Rab1 Qa7
20.Qe6+ Kf8 (20...Kd8 21.Qd6+
Ke8 22.Nxc6) 21.Qd7! exd4
22.Rxb7 Nge7 23.Rxe7]

18...Nxf6= 19.Nxc6+ Qxc6

[19...bxc6 20.Qxe5+ Kf7 21.Qc7+!
Kg6 22.Qg3+=]

20.Qxe5+ Kf7 21.Qe7+ Kg6 22.Re3



Ne4?

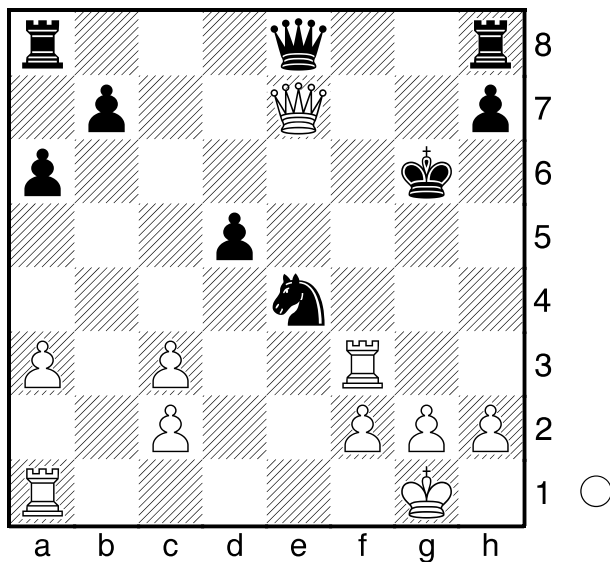
[22...Rhg8!=]

23.Rf3?

[23.Rxe4! dxe4 24.Rd1+-]

23...Qe8

[23...Ng5!? 24.Rg3 h6 25.Qe3]



24.Qxb7?

[24.Qh4 h5 25.Re1 Qe5 26.Rg3+ Kf7 27.Rf3+ Kg6= (27...Ke6? 28.Rfe3+-)]

24...Qe6??

[24...Rf8!±]

25.Re1+- Rhg8 26.Rg3+ Kh6 27.f3 Rab8 28.Qc7 Rxg3 29.hxg3 Rf8 30.fxe4 dxe4 31.Rf1 e3 32.Rxf8 e2 33.Qf4+ Kg7 34.Qf7+ 1-0

☐ Phillips,Michael

■ Morris,Daniel

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (1.24)
[Morris,Daniel]

EW: One of the features of increasing computer use in chess is people analyzing their games, right away after they happen, with strong programs ("engines"). Online it's almost instantaneous; with the TNM I, as Games Enterer/Analyst, might get them in the email the next day -- but sometimes before I get home! So let's

see a few of these works. Here Daniel Morris shows us his lesson in the form of a loss to Michael Phillips. The rating difference was extreme, but with diligence like what Daniel is showing here that gap should narrow (and pass by!?) quickly. He's been playing in Mechanics' tournaments for eight months now, so we'll see how it goes for him.

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 cxd4

I take us out of theory. The main move here is 4...Nc6.

5.exd4 Nf6 6.Bd3

Be7?! I was immediately regretful of this move. I had considered the correct 6...Qb6 here, but rejected it in favor of castling sooner — which is ironic, because I never do castle in this game.

7.Nd2 Nc6 8.Ngf3 Bd6 My dark-squared bishop moves for a second time, but I wanted to get rid of White's bishop.

[8...Nh5 9.Be3 Qc7 I actually looked at this line, but it didn't seem to lead anywhere.]

9.Bg5 White's move did not look right to me. 9...h6 10.Bh4 g5 My first candidate here was simply to castle. But I worried that I might be "castling into danger" from the classic London attack scheme, so I decided instead to throw Phillips out of his book with an aggressive g5 push. (In our post-mortem chat, he confirmed that he was on his own after this.) 11.Bg3 Nh5 I thought a bishop trade was all but forced here, but Phillips instead played the one other move I'd looked at — and I was ready for it. 12.Ne5?

[12.Bxd6 Qxd6±]

12...Nxc6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 I had seen all of this before playing my 11th move.

14.fxg3± Now Black is slightly better, and my aggressive 10...g5 has been justified. 14...c5? This steps into a tactical minefield... 15.0-0?

...but fortunately Phillips misses the shot. Black is better once again.

D03
1420
864

[15.Qh5! Qe7 16.0-0!]
15...cxd4? 16.cxd4? Again we trade the same mistake, and Black is in fine shape. Now here I thought hard about castling, and if I had done so, I would have been in an excellent position — but I balked because of the weird array of kingside pawns. **16...Qb6?!**

[16...0-0= It looks awkward, but Black's "inflatable castle" is actually quite sturdy.]

17.Nb3 This is my last chance to simply castle with an equal-ish position, but I feared 18.Rf6. **17...Ba6?** Here I simply missed the tactics that follow after a bishop trade on the a6 square. Of course, all of these tactics are made possible by the fact that my king is still in the center.

[17...0-0 18.Rf6 This was the response I was worried about. Kg7! I completely missed this elegant defending move.]

18.Qf3? Yet again we trade mistakes. Now Black should take the enemy bishop, because White's Qxf7 doesn't win anything more than a pawn. But I failed to calculate very far, and instead I made the faulty assumption that Black cannot allow Qxf7.

[18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Qh5! Rh7 20.Rf6 Be7 21.Rf2 The a1-rook is coming to the party, and things are starting to unravel for Black.]

18...Rf8?? I didn't even consider 18...Bxd3 because I feared that 19.Qxf7+ was winning. But 19.Qxf7+ actually loses for White!

[18...Bxd3 19.Qxd3 (19.Qxf7+ What I feared, but... Kd8 20.Qg7 Re8 21.Rf7 Be7-+ I just didn't bother to calculate beyond Qxf7+ — if I had, I might well have won this game.) 19...0-0!±]

19.Bxa6 Qxa6 20.Rfe1 Qc8??
 The losing move.

[20...Ke7 21.Qxd5 Kf6 22.Qf3+ Kg7 Still bleak for me, but much more resilient than what I played in the game. Again, a failure to calculate, as I didn't bother looking beyond Qxd5.]

21.Qxd5 Ke7 22.Rac1 Qd7 23.Nc5

From here it's just going to be a mop-up operation for White. I'd seen enough, and resigned. The lesson: Just castle, folks.

1-0



Brown, Samuel



Horde, Nicolas

D02

751

1356

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (1.27)

[Horde, Nicolas]

EW: Another well-annotated game by Nicolas Horde, who has been putting himself out there and sending them in now for a couple TNMs. **1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Be5?!**

Awkward **5...0-0 6.Bd3 c5 7.Bxd6**

This highlights than 5.Be5 was just a loss of tempo **7...Qxd6 8.b3** Preventing c4 but creating big holes on the queenside **8...cxd4 9.exd4 Nc6**

10.Nbd2? e5

[10...Qb4! 11.c4 Qc3 For some reasons I was calculating 12.Nd2 to f1 or back to b1 then 12.Qxd4 13.Bxh7 winning the queen and overlooked that the knight is just pinned.]

[10...Qf4]

11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.0-0 Bg4

[12...Nxd3 13.cxd3 Bf5 14.d4 Symmetrical position which I wasn't a big fan of (14.Qc2 Rac8 15.Qb2 Black has a slight edge but I was not a big fan of creating a symmetrical pawn chains for both players)]

13.Be2 Ng6 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Ne3 Be6

16.Nd4 Ne4 Black slight advantage is gone and we reach a normal IQP

position **17.Nb5**

[17.Nxe6 fxe6 SF gives it equal, I like Black better because of the open f file and the strong center]

17...Qe5 18.Qd4 Qg5 Obviously not trading queens in this IQP **19.Nc3?? Nxc3??**

[19...Nf4! 20.Bf3 (20.Nxe4?? Nxe2+ 21.Kh1 I thought 22.Nxd4 23.Nxg5 and White is fine but forgot I can just grab White's knight. dxe4) 20...Nh3+ 21.Kh1 Nxf2+ 22.Rxf2

Wins material]

20.Qxc3 Rfd8 21.Rfd1?! I didn't see a way to continue the kingside attack so I switched to doubling on the d file and push d4 to force the knight away

21...Rd7

[21...f5 With the idea of pushing f4, dislodge the knight from e3 thus weakening g2 with a Nh4 coming in but I was a little hesitant to weakness my kingside that much]

22.Qa5 a6 Preventing 23.Bb5 which is not a real problem because of 24.d4!

[22...Nf4! 23.Bf3 Nh3+ 24.Kf1 I did not see a continuation but the key idea is that Black can exchange a lot of pieces and completely destroy White's pawn chain d4! 25.Qxg5 Nxg5 26.Nc4 Nxf3 27.gxf3 Bxc4+ 28.bxc4 This is completely crushing for Black, White has too many weaknesses]

23.Qb4 White continues moving the queen around instead of targeting the d5 pawn **23...Rad8 24.Rd4 Qe5**

25.Rad1 Ne7 The plan is to reroute the knight to c6 and then forces d4 which will open the center of the board

26.g3?? Nc6 27.Qc3 Nxd4 28.Kf1?? Nc6 Black is up a clean full rook so White resigns.

[28...Nxe2 29.Qxe5 White is hoping for this tactic]

0-1

□ **Aldenderfer,Kris**
■ **Wilson,John**

B06

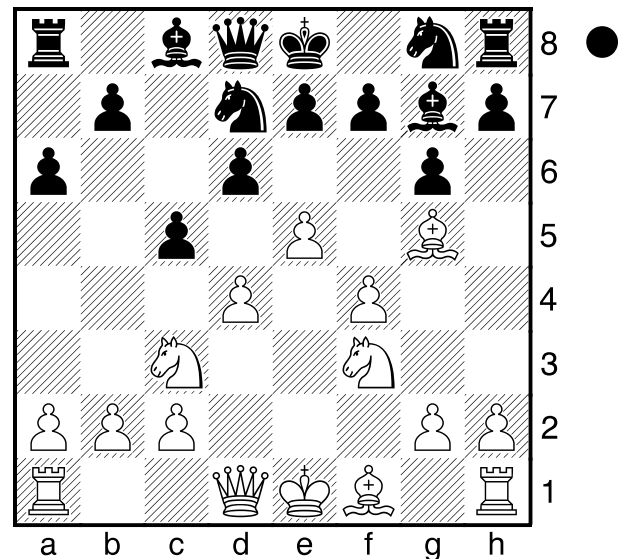
1196

0

2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (1.36)

[Aldenderfer,Kris]

EW: Even on the lowest boards, interesting games happen! Kris Aldenderfer sent in this game with his notes and thoughts, blemishes and blunders as well, instructive for him as well as us. The overlooked perpetual at the end is worth playing through to! **1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 Nd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 a6 7.e5**

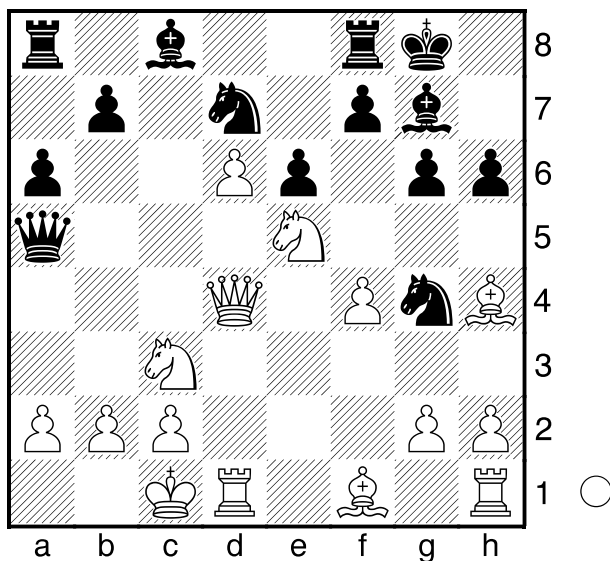


h6 8.Bh4 Qa5 9.exd6 e6 10.Qd2 Ngf6 11.0-0-0

[11.dxc5! Qxc5 (11...Nxc5 12.0-0-0 0-0 13.Ne5 Ncd7 14.Kb1 Nxe5 15.Bxf6! Bxf6 16.Ne4 Qxd2 17.Nxf6+ Kg7 18.Rxd2 Nd7 19.Nxd7 Bxd7+-) 12.0-0-0 0-0 13.Ne5+-]

11...0-0 12.Ne5?! This almost works, but it was important to take the pawn on c5 first. **12...cxd4 13.Qxd4 Ng4**

(Diagram)



14.Qa4? Trading queens like this was the wrong idea. At the time, I thought the passer on d6 was enough to be better in an endgame.

[14.Be7 Re8 (14...Ngxe5 15.Bxf8 Kxf8 16.fxe5 Bxe5 17.Qe3) 15.Be2 Ngxe5 16.fxe5 Nxe5 17.Qa4 Qxa4 18.Nxa4]

14...Qxa4 15.Nxa4 Ngxe5 16.fxe5 b5 17.Nc3 Nxe5 18.Ne4

[18.Be7 Re8 19.Ne4 Bb7 20.Nf6+ Bxf6 21.Bxf6=]

18...Nd7

[18...Bb7 19.Nc5 Bd5+]

19.Be2 Bb7 20.Bf3 f5 21.Nd2 Bxf3

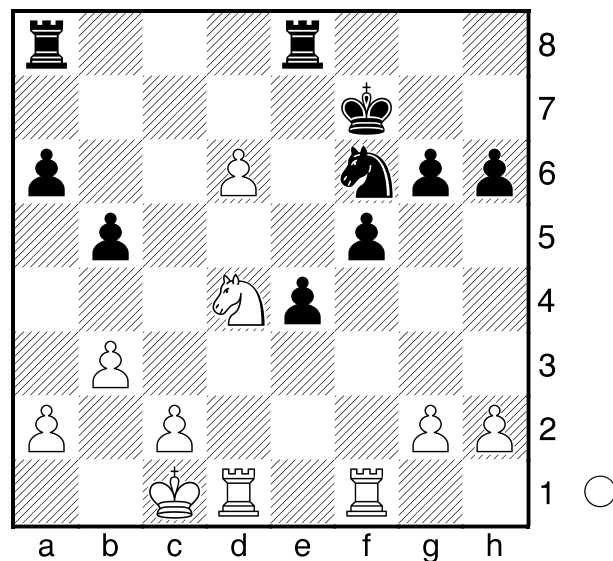
22.Nxf3 e5 23.Be7 Rfe8 24.b3 e4

25.Nd4 Kf7 26.Rhf1 Bf6? 27.Bxf6

Nxf6

[27...Kxf6 28.g4 e3 29.Ne2]

(Diagram)



28.d7! Nxd7 29.Nxf5

[29.g4 Nf6 30.gxf5 g5]

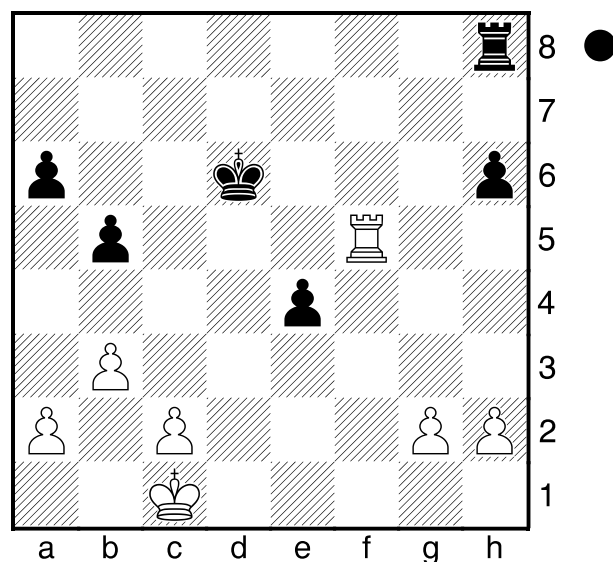
29...gxf5 30.Rxd7+ Ke6 31.Rh7 Rh8

32.Rc7

[32.Rb7]

32...Rad8 33.Rc6+ Rd6 34.Rxd6+

Kxd6 35.Rxf5



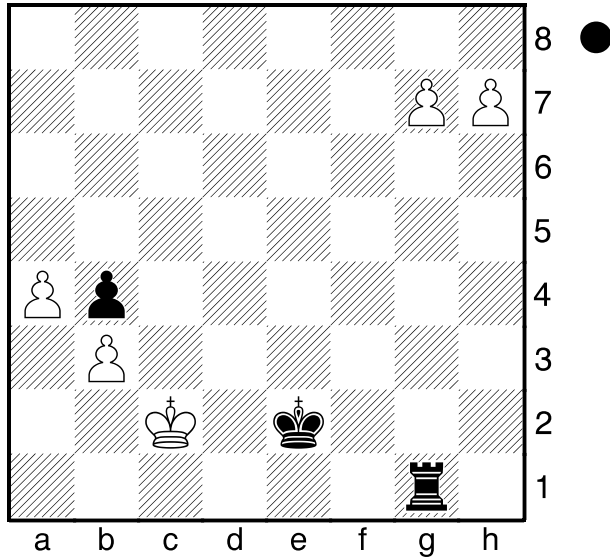
Ke6 36.g4 Rh7? Mysterious Rook Move 37.Kd2 Rc7 38.Rh5

[38.a4 bxa4 39.bxa4 e3+ 40.Kxe3 Rxc2 41.Rh5]

38...b4 39.Rxh6+ Ke5 40.Rxa6?

Greedy of me. Should have calculated g5 here. **40...Kf4 41.Re6**

[41.Rf6+! Kxg4 (41...Ke5 42.g5
 Rg7 43.h4) 42.Ke3 Rxc2 43.Rf2]
41...Rc3 42.a4 e3+ 43.Kd1 Rc5 44.h4
Rd5+ 45.Ke1 Rd2 46.g5 Rxc2 47.g6
Rc1+ 48.Ke2 Rc2+ 49.Kd1 Rg2 50.h5
Kf3 51.h6 Rg1+ 52.Kc2 e2 53.g7 Kf2
54.Rxe2+??
 [54.h7 e1Q 55.Rxe1 Rxe1 56.g8Q]
54...Kxe2 55.h7



Rxg7??
 [55...Rd1! 56.g8Q Rd2+=]
56.h8Q
1-0

Three Studies

In late November the Uruguayan problemist Alexander Avedisian and his wife Flavia visited the club on a visit to the United States, and Alexander showed us several beautiful studies that he composed. In the short amount of time we had together they proved too difficult to solve, and we asked that he send us the solutions (given here). Alexander later wrote to us:

Dear Chess Program Manager Alex Robins and Chess Coordinator Paul Whitehead of Mechanics' Institute Chess Room:

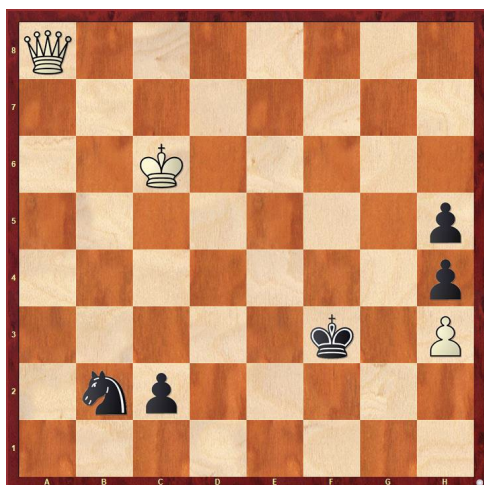
I attached my 3 chess studies with the solutions.

Alex and Paul you are good people and you treated me excellent.

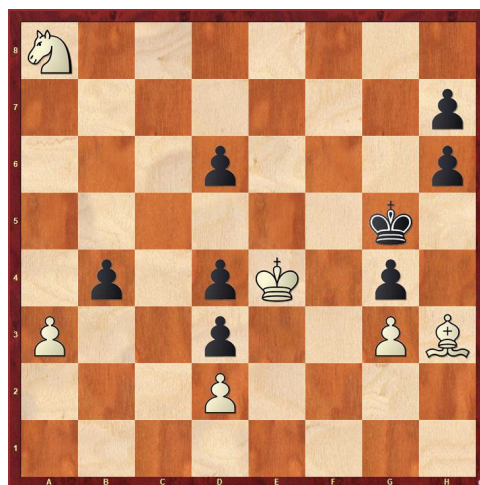
Paul I couldn't be on Friday to watch the Capablanca movie and eat the cookies.

My advice to you Paul is: always follow your intuition.

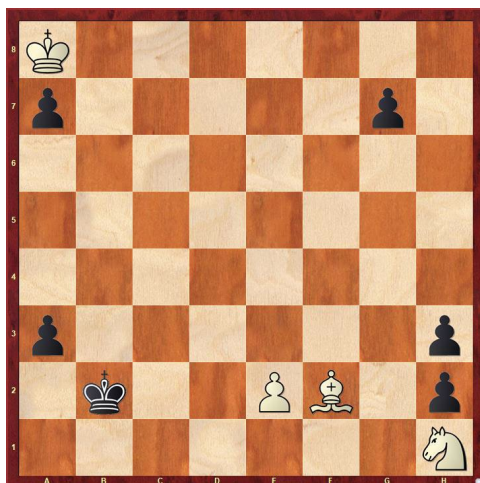
Thanks, Alexander.



1. A. Avedisian 2020, White wins.



2. A. Avedisian 2020. White wins.



3. A. Avedisian 2022. White wins.

IM John Donaldson

Recently Published Books by New in Chess

Today is truly the gold age for chess players who want to be improve. Not only are more books being published than ever before in a variety of formats, but the quality has improved markedly in recent years. This is due in part to the number of tools that help authors in their job. These include powerful computer engines for analysis, databases with millions of games, and special software like ChessBase. The result is a number of outstanding works and few lemons which makes would be buyers spoiled for choice.

One case in point are books on the endgame. Fifty years ago, there were few works on the subject in English and most, like *Basic Chess Endings*, were designed more for reference than teaching. Even two decades later the number of good endgame books was still relatively small. Not so any more. Today there are dozens of good ones covering the subject from a variety of angles for players of all strengths. The question now is how can the serious student find what they need.

One way is to check out trusted reviewers. Another way is to test drive a prospective title before making the purchase. This used to be possible by going to tournaments and checking out the book dealer's stock, but for all but the biggest events those days are long gone. Online stores with discount prices have made it all but impossible for small local dealers to compete.

Fortunately, most publishers these days offer readers ways to check out their offerings by providing sample chapters from them. Such is the case with New in Chess - <https://www.newinchess.com>.

The Dragon Sicilian: A Take-No-Prisoners Repertoire Versus 1.e4 by Anish Giri (hardcover, 224 pages, \$30)

Life at Play a Chess Memoir by Lubomir Kavalek (hardcover, 400 pages, \$40)

The Ink War Romanticism versus Modernity in Chess by Willy Hendricks (hardcover and paperback, 480 pages, \$43 and \$35 respectively)

1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Beginners: The Tactics Workbook that Also Improves Your Endgame Skills paperback by Thomas Willemze (paperback, 312 pages, \$27)

Chess Endgames for Club Players: The Essential Skills for a Forceful Finale by Herman Grooten (paperback, 400 pages, \$35)

The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook by Davorin Kuljasevic (paperback, 240 pages, \$28)

The Hidden Laws of Chess: Mastering Pawn Structures by Nick Maatman (paperback, 256 pages, \$27)

Keep it Simple for Black: A Solid and Straightforward Chess Opening Repertoire for Black by Christof Sielecki (hardcover, 416 pages, \$38)

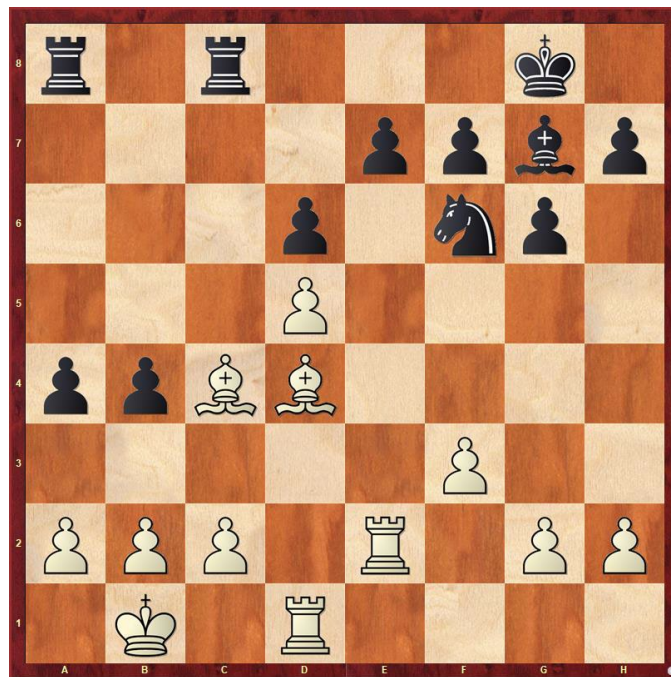
The Chess Battles of Hastings by Jürgen Brustkern and Norbert Walleit (hardcover, 384 pages, \$35)

One of the bright spots for chess during the first stages of the pandemic, when over the board play was shut down, was the number of top-level players who, with plenty of time on their hands, started to write and lecture. One of them was the great Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri who did a Chessable course on the Dragon Sicilian which now appears in print form in a handsome hardcover edition.

Occasionally top ten players have essayed the Dragon (Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura are two who come readily to mind), but it has never enjoyed the popularity of the Najdorf or Sveshnikov among the world's top ten. The same is not true of the lower ranks where the sharp and dynamic play found in the Dragon, especially in the Bc4 lines of the Yugoslav Attack, have always enjoyed a dedicated following.

This makes it somewhat ironic that the anti-Yugoslav Attack variation of the Dragon that Giri proposes for Black could hardly be considered daring. That said it is solid, easy to learn and in good theoretical shape.

The line in question, first played during the 1950s, commences with **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.Bb3 Qa5 12.0-0-0 b5 13.Kb1 b4 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Qb5 16.Rhe1 a5 17.Qe2 Qxe2 18.Rxe2 a4 19.Bc4 Rfc8.**



Here White, with his two bishops and space advantage, was long thought to have an advantage, but Giri demonstrates Black's position is quite defensible.

He then goes on to analyze not only all the relevant Dragon lines but also provides a complete Sicilian repertoire for Black starting at move 2 with coverage of the Alapin, Closed, Grand Prix, 3.Bb5+, 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 and even 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3.

This book, which is highly recommended, will interest a wide audience. Club players will find it provides all the detail they need while higher rated players are pushed the right direction for further investigation. Giri's assessments are clear and to the point.

Anyone with an interest in the Dragon, including Sveshnikov players who meet 3.Nc3 with 3...g6, heading into the Accelerated Dragon, will want this material whether as a book or a Chessable course with or without video.

The Czech-American Grandmaster Lubomir Kavalek, who died in early 2021, is remembered both as a top player (he was rated in the top ten in the world on the January 1974 FIDE rating list) and as one of the finest writers on the game. He had a long running column in the *Washington Post* (and later the *Huffington Post*), wrote often for *Chess Life & Review* in the 1970s and did much good for RHM Press – his book on the 1975 Wijk aan Zee tournament is well remembered.

His last parting gift to the chess world is *Life at Play a Chess Memoir* which is the rare chess book that can be read cover to cover. Kavalek had a full and memorable life from his days as a junior player to playing for the US Olympiad team. He shares his memories of seconding both Bobby Fischer (games 13-21 in Reykjavik) and Nigel Short who he helped earn the right to play a World Championship match with Garry Kasparov. The biographical section of this book is nicely supplemented by a selection of his best games with his notes. This beautiful hardcover is a book to be treasured.

Dutch International Master Willy Hendriks, known for his original thoughts in books like *Move First, Think Later: Sense and Nonsense in Improving Your Chess*, and *On the Origin of Good Moves: A Skeptic's Guide at Getting Better at Chess* is back again with more of his iconoclastic views in *Romanticism versus Modernity in Chess*. This time around he traces the rise of professional chess in the 19th Century as it butted heads with amateur players who held antiquated views about the game they didn't want challenged.

Hendriks devotes much of his book on the first World Championship match between William Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort which was held in New York, St. Louis, and New Orleans in 1886. This coverage not only ties in with the themes of his book, but fills a gap as previous works in English on this match like the 1952 work by the *California Chess Reporter* (Chigorin's notes translated from Russian by Albrecht Buschke) are long outdated.

The title of this book (*The Ink Wars*) references the polemics waged in 19th Century chess magazines and newspaper columns. Steinitz was in the thick of these battles through his writings in the *International Chess Magazine*, a publication loved by Bobby Fischer who was a big fan of the first American World Champion.

New in Chess publishes books on all aspects of the game but its bread and butter has always been instructional works for the masses and the following four titles all fit in this category.

The title of Dutch IM Thomas Willemze's latest book perfectly describes its contents: *1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Beginners: The Tactics Workbook that Also Improves Your Endgame Skills*. This is the perfect book to give to someone who is just starting out and doesn't know much beyond the rules of the game.

The noted trainer Herman Grooten, who worked with Grandmasters Loek Van Wely, Benjamin Bok, and Robin Swinkels in their formative years, has written a number of instructive works for amateur players and his latest, *Chess Endgames for Club Players: The Essential Skills for a Forceful Finale* will add to his reputation. This book, which is arranged by theme rather than material, is considerably more advanced than Willemze's work and best suited to players rated in the top end of the club player range - roughly 1800-2300.

Croatian Grandmaster Davorin Kuljasevic, who hit the ball out of the park with his first two books (*Beyond Material* and *How to Study Chess on Your Own*) has narrowed his target audience with his latest - *The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook: Exercises and Training for Club Players (1800 - 2100 Elo)* which provides plenty of exercises for amateurs looking for a well thought out study plan.

Dutch International Master Nick Maatman offers advice on how to handle typical pawn structures (isolated pawn, hanging pawns, mobile pawns, doubled pawns, hanging pawns, etc.) in his first book, *The Hidden Laws of Chess: Mastering Pawn Structures*. Maatman writes clearly and uses fresh and well-chosen examples in this work aimed at players in the 1600 to 2200 range.

Christof Sielecki, following his well-received opening repertoire books based on 1.e4 and 1.d4, has now written a book from Black's perspective. *Keep it Simple for Black: A Solid and Straightforward Chess Opening Repertoire for Black* provides answers to all White's opening moves in a little over 400 pages. This includes the Caro Kann against 1.e4 (1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6) and the Queen's Gambit Declined against 1.d4 (1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxc4 and 4.Nf3 a6). One unifying theme of the repertoire is the adoption of both sides of the Carlsbad pawn structure (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 and 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3). This book offers the basics for a repertoire that should last a longtime.

Last but not least, *The Chess Battles of Hastings* by Jürgen Brustkern and Norbert Walleit takes a look at one of the most famous and well-known tournaments in the world. The English coastal town of Hastings has hosted an annual tournament for over 100 years, interrupted only by World War II. German FM Jürgen Brustkern, who has made Hastings his second home having played in the event 40 (!) times, is the perfect guide to explain the mystique behind this event which at one time was one of the premier events in the world despite often offering winter weather reminiscent of Siberia. Stories of colorful incidents and of elite players who have made these events so memorable can be found throughout along with a selection of games.

Sarah Beth Cohen

Pierre Charles Fournier de Saint-Amant (1800-1872)



(Image from Wikipedia)

This item originally appeared in the *MI Newsletter* #395 of April 30, 2008 (https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/395#395_2):

"It's long been theorized, but with no concrete evidence, that he [Pierre Charles Fournier de Saint-Amant] must have played chess during his stay in San Francisco. Now NM John Blackstone has uncovered the proof and the beginning of what was quite possibly the first formal chess club in San Francisco."

Then it goes on to give the two interesting accounts from the "Daily Alta California" found by NM Blackstone outlining a proposed match of 15 games between Saint-Amant and 15 members of the newly formed San Francisco Chess Club and then followed up with the progress of the match three days later.

The introduction to presenting this discovery the Newsletter states, "Every year the Mechanics' holds a tournament to honor the great Pierre Saint-Amant who served as French consul for California during the Gold Rush." But no one thought to consult Saint-Amant's own account of his diplomatic visit.

Both Saint-Amant and his wife, Françoise, published accounts of their stay in North America and both mention chess.

In M. Saint-Amant's "*Voyages En Californie Et Dans L'orégon*" (published 1854), he wrote (in French. My imprecise translation hopefully gets to the heart of the meaning) about chess in San Francisco:

"During the winter of 1851 to 1852 twenty to twenty-five chess enthusiasts had formed the habit of choosing my home for a chess club. We played every evening and, by means of a monthly dues, the rental of the place of our meetings, which was a bedroom, a living room and a cellar, was paid for. One could mention that at these meetings two players, one English and the other American were of second strength; another Englishman, a Frenchman and a Mexican were in the third class, and there were a few other distinguished players. There are certainly very few of our own provincial towns, and I don't even know of any, that can field such a contingent."

San Francisco isn't the only place chess comes into the narration. About his short stay with "l'ancien président du Mexique le célèbre Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna," in Mexico, Saint-Amant wrote:

"I tried to offer the general the less bloody arena of the chessboard, but although a former subscriber to the Palamède and just appreciator, he assured me, of the struggles that I had supported for a quarter of a century, he flatly and positively refused me to play a single bout of the noble game about which. he nevertheless told me. he had taken part in Mexico in games covered with gold up to 100 ounces, more than 8,000 francs, stake on each side. I had, despite my entreaties, no chance of bringing this barbarian to substitute, even for a moment, chess for his cockfighting games. May the Ghost of Philidor forgive this impotency of my efforts."

Under the heading: GAMES AND HORSE RACES AMONG THE INDIANS, the Frenchman wrote (apparently taken by the comparison between American Indian and Indians from India):

"I have never studied their games but they have nothing approaching Chess. It is correct to recognize that they did not have the same motivation for indulging in these combinations as did the Hindus among whom this game arose. I always recall the stories of M. de Jouy [author of "*Tippo-Saëb Tragédie En Cinq Actes*"], repeated so many times, about watching from the top of his palanquin the chess games played by his porters at each stop during his crossing of the Indian peninsula. Did it not add to work of the witty author of Tippo Saëb? I will not say that I was expecting something similar, for I would have been more than a little surprised to see there Philidors and Labourdonnais reincarnated and as skillfully able as my European contemporaries to dispute my superiority on improvised chessboards in the sands of the Columbia."

Saint-Amant gave the following description of San Francisco's chess-like geometry:

"The houses, as if perched on the high streets of the city, which have been hollowed out so as to approach the level of the lower city, seem to remain there as if to attest to the human works carried out in order to give San Francisco the shape and the horizontality of all the cities of America. We know that they are generally a compound of straight streets intersecting vertically, forming as many squares (quadrants) and presenting the appearance and arrangement of a chessboard. To complete the comparison, the streets are commonly given names which are in one sense only numbers, and in the other only the letters of the alphabet, from A1 to Z and an indefinite number. It is simply what we chess players call Philidor's notation. This style, rather sad and monotonous, is convenient for the foreigner, who is thus immediately oriented. In San

Francisco, it has been preferred so far to give its straight streets and square squares the names of the heroes of independence: Washington. LaFayette. Franklin, Montgomery, or we go down to the celebrities of the locality, more modest but no less estimable: Stockton, Kearney, Frémont, Vallejo, Sutter etc."

Saint-Amant had planned on leaving for America prior to the 1851 International Chess Tournament in London but couldn't leave as scheduled due to lack of funding for the consulate position he was awarded by Louis Napoleon in gratitude for his help during the 1848 riots. Although he had declined his invitation to participate the tournament, he ended up attending as a spectator for a few days. However, he sent Madame de Saint-Amant on to America as scheduled, almost a year before he could leave, to pave the way and to get everything set up but also to light a fire under Louis Napoleon to release the funds. (Madame de Saint-Amant left in mid July 1850; her husband at the end of May, 1851).

Taking the quickest, though a most arduous route, Madame de Saint-Amant, traveling unaccompanied, sailed to Panama, crossed it by river boat, then caught the steamer Republic to San Francisco. Her husband would take the overland route.

Françoise de Saint-Amant wrote many letters to her husband, most full of wit and charm with comments such as, "The crocodiles with which the Chagres river is infested, are said to be more teeth than bite. But I wasn't prepared to test that reputation."

She even had something clever to say chess-wise:

"It's amazing how the sea is favorable to religious feelings, especially heavy seas! It must be as rare to meet an atheist sailor as to meet a chess player with no excess of self-esteem. What do you say?"

And:

"We have already arrived. I found a great chess fan here, Mr. Cairry. Your name has earned me a most gracious welcome from him and his wife, who is charming and highly educated; she speaks four languages. I had a lot of fun in their company. Chess, for which you steal so many hours from your wives, and which have so often made me curse, have therefore procured me, indirectly, some pleasant moments? It's the first time. and certainly this compensation was due to me... at least in the other world. Mânes de Palamède, réparation!"

These excerpts are from letters included in her book, "*Voyage en Californie, 1850 et 1851*" (published 1854) and some were published in the Parisian press as well.

On his departure trip in 1852, Saint-Amant stopped in New York and played Charles Stanley, the unofficial U.S. Champion. They played eight games, each winning four. But his chess adventures there don't seem to have been limited to this one match. In his chess column for "Porter's Spirit of the Times" March 7, 1857, replying to a correspondent, Charles H. Stanley wrote:

"A FRENCHMAN'---Your informant didn't deceive you: M. Saint Amant did favor the amateurs of New York with a specimen of his great attainments, on his way home from California. He was not,

however, beaten on any occasion in New York; that is to say, in the course of a whole setting, he never lost a majority of the games to any other player."

Saint-Amant seems to have had fairly fertile chess life in North America, at least far more so than normally considered, since documented accounts are usually just the iceberg's tip.

Vive la France! Vive les Échecs.

The Chess Scuttlebutt

Links to some of the news that make up our world.

[Chess Club](#), profiled [here](#), is a group in Seattle that meets at different venues for over-the-board play.

Nigerian chess prodigy Tanitoluwa Adewumi and his family are [granted asylum](#) in the US.

GM Hikaru Nakamura takes down GM Magnus Carlsen in yet [another online](#) blitz championship.

A chatbot [writes a chess program](#) in one hour.

GM Sergey Karjakin [fails](#) to upend Andrey Filatov as president of the Russian Chess Federation.

Journalist IM Tania Sachdev is also well known as a [style maven](#).

Chess boxing is a [thing](#), and International Arbiter Judit Szta ray makes sure the players keep it honest.

FIDE [announces](#) that they are still in the process of investigating the Carlsen/Niemann scandal.

It's official: chess.com now [owns](#) PlayMagnus, and membership soars to 100,000,000.

In Florida? Coral Springs has a [chess meet-up](#) on Mondays.

Or maybe you're in [Coconut Creek](#).

Chess Café habitue IM Sal Matera was in [conversation](#) with FM James Eade.

Stefan Zweig's classic novel *The Royal Game* (1943) is now a [film](#).

A new trend for the chess elite? GM Arjun Erigaisi [signs](#) a 1.5 million dollar deal with Quantbox.

At the World Rapid and Blitz Championships held in Kazakhstan, Iranian women [compete](#) without wearing the hijab.

Big-time [betting](#) on chess enters the distinct realm of possibility.

Refusing a body scan can lead to your getting [kicked out](#) of a tournament.

GM Raymond Keene [sums up](#) the year in chess 2022 in English-style fashion.

The Carlsen/Niemann brouhaha was not the only [sports cheating](#) scandal in 2022.

Magnus Carlsen and Tan Zhongyi are the [winners](#) in the World Rapid Championship.

Carlsen also [wins](#) the World Blitz Championship in Kazakhstan, and Bibi Assaubayeva repeats as Women's Champion on her home turf.

An old [blog post](#) about chess players getting in trouble with the law is oddly hilarious.

FIDE moves towards [integration](#) with cryptocurrency.

Chess hits the [schools](#) in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Play chess on the [Isle of Wight](#).

Here's a [recipe](#) for Lemon Chess Pie.

FIDE [announces](#) the 1st Chess Workshop for Women in Stockholm, Sweden.

GM Alexandra Kosteniuk will now [play for](#) Switzerland.

Chess is part of the scene in the [trendiest bar](#) in Los Angeles.

Iranian International Arbiter Shohreh Bayat [receives](#) the Women of Courage award from the US State Department.

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics' Institute? The Institute is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. Candidates should also have a basic foundation in classroom management and conflict resolution strategies, particularly working with children. This is an in-person position and candidates must be able to commute to schools in San Francisco. If you're interested follow the link below or reach out to our Chess Program Manager, Alex Robins, at arobins@milibrary.org.

[Employment Opportunities | Mechanics' Institute \(milibrary.org\)](#)

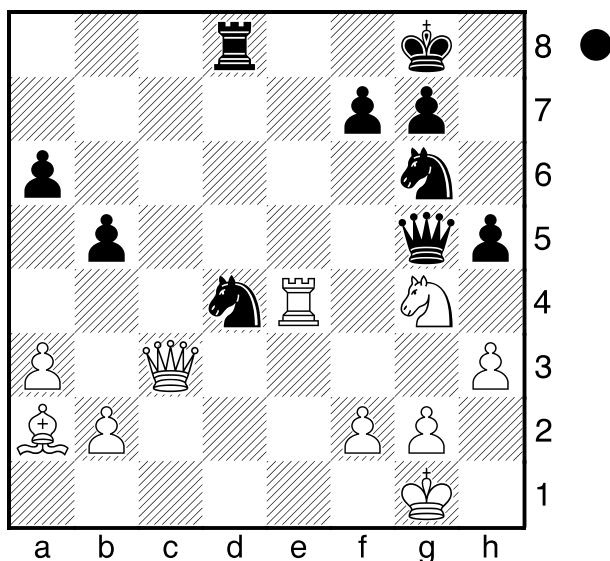
Recent Games

A selection of games played around the world that have caught our attention.

V Pranav
 R Pragganandhaa
 Julius Baer Challenger Championship (1.1)

C70
2545
2684

White's high-wire balancing act ultimately falls apart on the 26th move, leading to an amusing finish. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5 5.c3 Nge7 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Nbxd2 d5 10.0-0 dxe4 11.Nxe4 0-0 12.h3 Bf5 13.Re1 h6 14.Rc1 Bxe4 15.Rxe4 Qd6 16.a3 Rad8 17.Qc2 Qf6 18.Rce1 Rd6 19.Ne5 b5 20.Bb3 Rxd4 21.Ng4 Qg5 22.Rxd4 Nxd4 23.Qxc7 Ng6 24.Ba2 h5 25.Qc3 Rd8 26.Re4



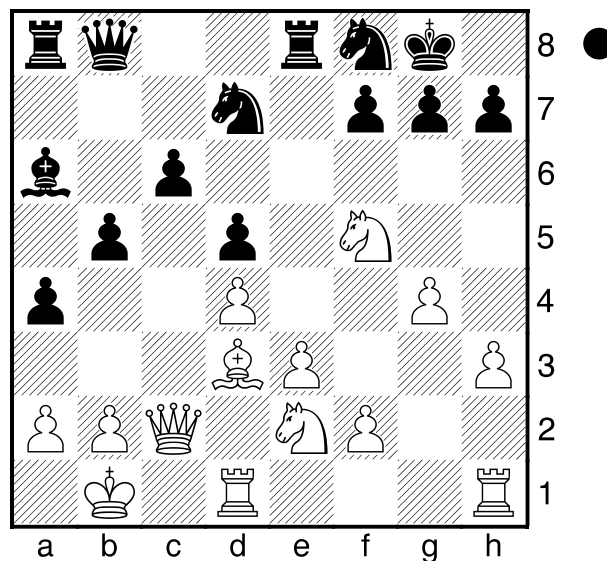
Nf4! 27.Qe3 hgx4 28.Bxf7+ Kh7
 29.Kh2 Nf3+ 30.gxf3 gxh3
0-1

Aleksey Grebnev
 Ivan Popov
 Dvoretzky Memorial (3.3) 11.12.2022

D35
2486
2627

Blacks commits the classic error of unnecessarily weakening his own king position. 1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6

4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bd6 7.Bd3
 0-0 8.Nge2 Re8 9.h3 Nbd7 10.Qc2
 Nf8 11.0-0-0 a5 12.g4 b5 13.Bf4 a4
 14.Kb1 Ba6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Ng3
 N6d7 17.Nf5 Qb8 18.Ne2



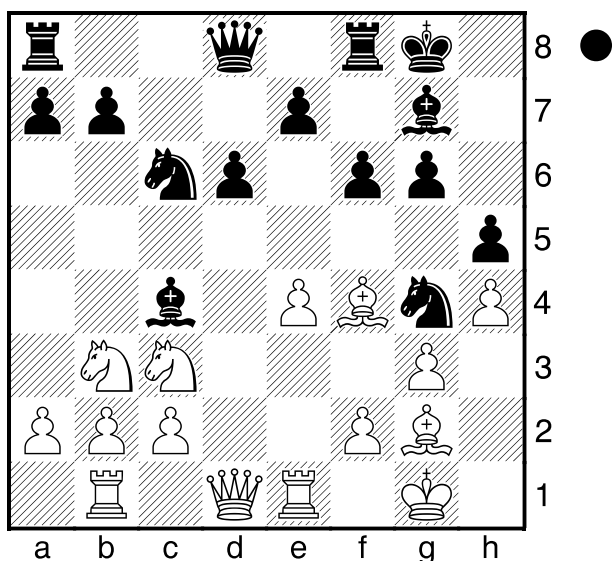
g6? 19.Nh6+ Kg7 20.g5 Rc8 21.f4 b4
 22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.Qd2 f5 24.h4 Qb5
 25.h5 Nb6 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Ng3 b3
 28.Nhxf5+ gxf5 29.Nxf5+ Kg6 30.Nd6
 bxa2+ 31.Ka1 Qb3 32.f5+ Kg7 33.Qh2
1-0

Susanna Gaboyan
 Hans Moke Niemann
 Chessable Sunway Sitges (1.2) 12.12.22

A04
2200
2698

Black's creative play leads to a mating attack. 1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7
 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Nb3 Nf6
 7.Nc3 d6 8.0-0 h5 9.h4 0-0 10.Bg5
 Be6 11.e4 Ng4 12.Rb1 Bc4 13.Re1 f6
 14.Bf4

(Diagram)



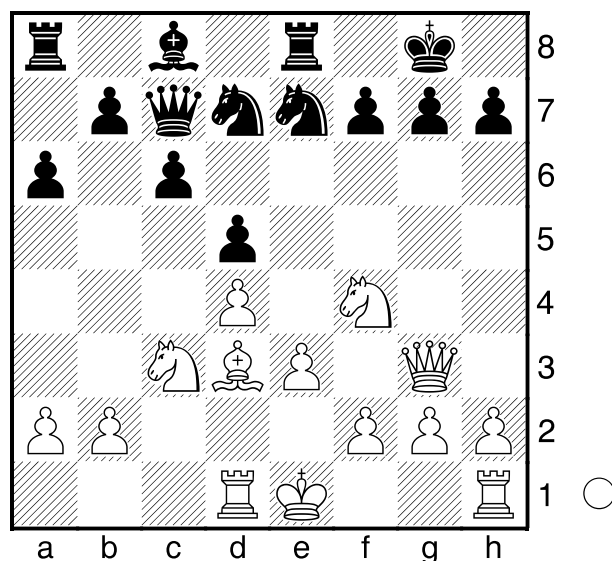
g5! 15.hxg5 fxg5 16.Bxg5 Rxf2
 17.Nd5 Qf8 18.Be3 Bh6 19.Nf4 Rxc2+
 20.Kxg2 e5 21.Nxh5 Nxe3+ 22.Rxe3
 Bxe3 23.Qg4+ Kh7 24.Qd7+ Kh8
 25.Rh1 Qf2+ 26.Kh3 Rg8 27.Qxd6
 Bf1+
0-1

□ **Van Foreest, Jorden** **D31**
 ■ **Rishi Sardana** **2690**
 Chessable Sunway Sitges (3.3) 14.12.22 **2460**

A pretty and unusual combination nets
 white a pawn - and ultimately the game.

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 a6 4.cxd5
 exd5 5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 Bd6 7.Qf3 Ne7
 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Nge2 Nd7
 11.Qg3 Bxf4 12.Nxf4 Re8

(Diagram)

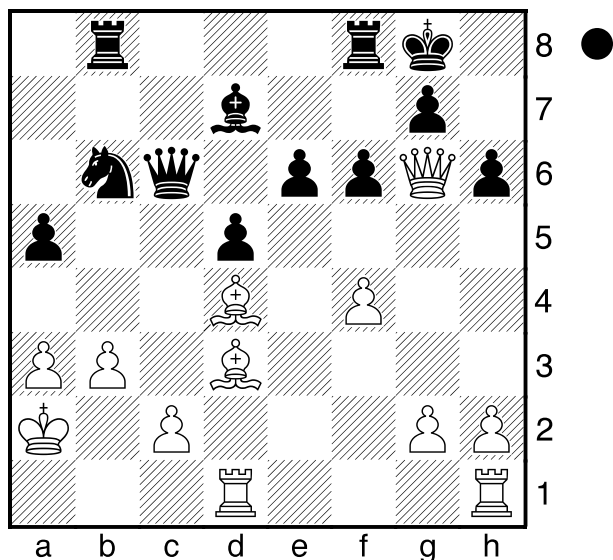


13.Bxh7+! Kxh7 14.Ne6 Qxg3
 15.hxg3+ Kg8 16.Nc7 Nf6 17.Nxa8
 Bg4 18.Nb6 Bxd1 19.Kxd1 Nf5 20.Kd2
 Ng4 21.Rf1 Re6 22.Nd7 Rh6 23.Nd1
 a5 24.Nc5 b6 25.Nd7 b5 26.b3 a4
 27.Rg1 axb3 28.axb3 Re6 29.Nc5
 Re7 30.Nd3 Ra7 31.Nc3 g6 32.Re1
 Ra3 33.Kc2 Kg7 34.Kb2 Ra8 35.Na2
 Rh8 36.Nab4 Rh2 37.Rg1 Ne7 38.Kc2
 Nf6 39.Ne5 Ne4 40.Nbd3 f6 41.Nf3
 Rh8 42.Ra1 Nf5 43.Ra7+ Kh6 44.Rc7
 Ra8 45.Kb2 Ra6 46.Nc5 Nxc5
 47.dxc5 g5 48.g4 Nh4 49.Nd4
1-0

□ **Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime** **C15**
 ■ **Richard Rapport** **2737**
 13th Hainan Danzhou Super Grandmaster (7.1) **2740**

A game between two super-GMs ends
 suddenly with black unable to stave off
 catastrophic loss. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5
 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nge2 Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.a3
 Be7 7.Be3 c5 8.f4 Nc6 9.dxc5 Nxc5
 10.Qd2 0-0 11.0-0-0 Bd7 12.Kb1 b5
 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 a5 15.Qe3 Na4
 16.Nxb5 Rb8 17.Nd6 Qc7 18.b3 Bxd6
 19.exd6 Qxd6 20.Ka2 Qc6 21.Bd3

Nb6 22.Qh3 h6 23.Qg3 f6 24.Qg6



1-0

□ Liren Ding

■ Dmitry Andreikin

13th Hainan Danzhou Super Grandmaster (7.2)

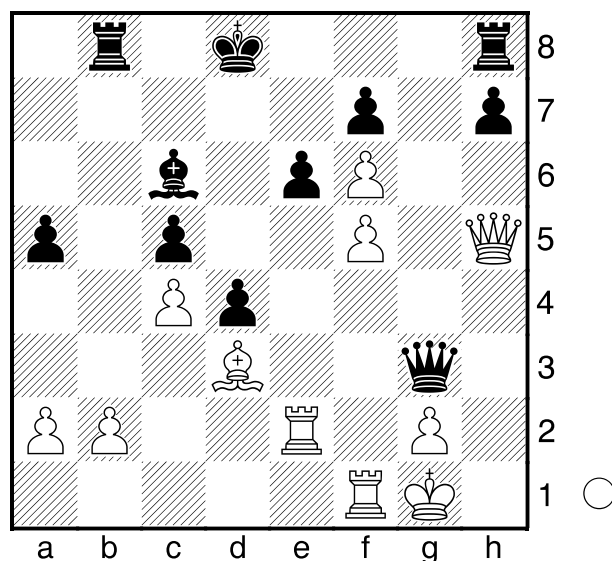
B46

2811

2729

A brilliant attacking game by the Chinese #1 and World Championship contender Ding Liren. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Re1 Be7 10.e5 Nd7 11.Qg4 g6 12.Bh6 Rb8 13.Nd1 Bf8 14.Qf4 c5 15.c4 d4 16.f3 Qc7 17.Re2 Bb7 18.Nf2 Bc6 19.Ng4 a5 20.Rf1 Qd8 21.h4 Bxh6 22.Qxh6 Qe7 23.h5 gxh5 24.Nf6+ Kd8 25.f4 Qf8 26.Qxh5 Qg7 27.f5 Nxf6 28.exf6 Qg3

(Diagram)



29.Qxf7! Qxd3 30.Qe7+ Kc8 31.Rxe6 Bd7 32.Qxc5+ Kd8 33.Qxa5+ Kc8 34.Qc5+ Kd8 35.Re5 Qg3 36.Rf3 Qxf3 37.gxf3 Rg8+ 38.Kf1 Rxb2 39.Qa5+ Kc8 40.Rc5+

1-0

□ Nodirbek Abdusattorov

■ Rauf Mamedov

8th Vugar Gashimov Memorial (7.3)

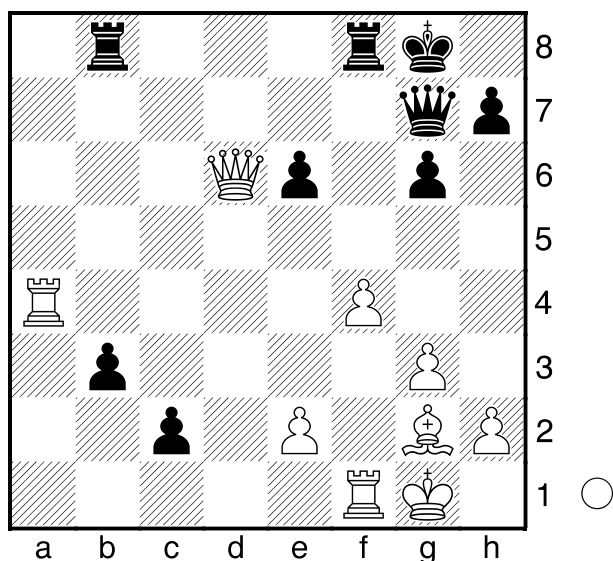
E63

2713

2646

Black's passed pawns prove to be not quite enough in this long and tense struggle. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.d5 Na5 8.b3 c5 9.Bb2 a6 10.0-0 Rb8 11.a4 e6 12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.Ra2 b5 14.axb5 axb5 15.Nd5 bxc4 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Rxa5 cxb3 19.Nd2 Qc3 20.Ra4 c4 21.Ne4 Qe5 22.f4 Qg7 23.Ng5 c3 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Qxd6 c2

(Diagram)

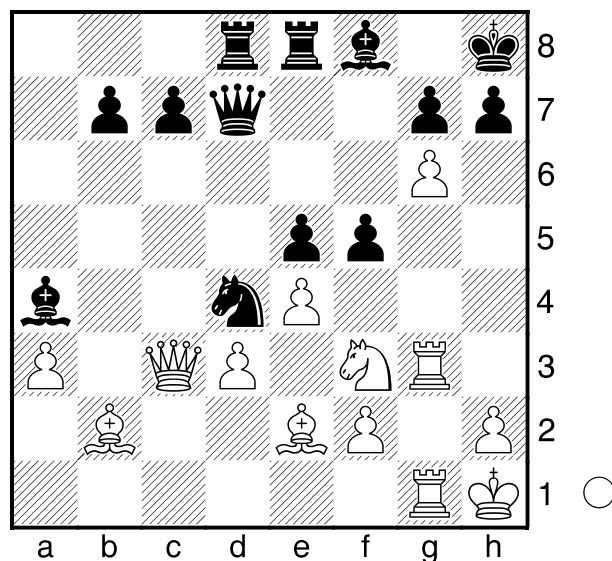


26.Be4 Rbc8 27.Qxe6+ Kh8 28.Rc4 Rce8 29.Qc6 Qa7+ 30.Kg2 Rc8 31.Qd5 Qg7 32.Qe6 Rce8 33.Qc6 Qb2 34.Bd3 Rc8 35.Qxc8 Rxc8 36.Rxc8+ Kg7 37.Rc7+ Kf6 38.Bc4 g5 39.fxc5+ Ke5 40.Bd3 Kd6 41.Rc4 Qe5 42.Rf6+ Ke7 43.Rfc6 Kd7 44.R6c5 Qe3 45.Rc3 Qd2 46.Kf3 Qe1 47.Bxc2 Qf1+ 48.Ke3 Qg1+ 49.Kd2 bxc2 50.Kxc2 Qxh2 51.Re5 Qh1 52.Rd3+ Kc6 53.Kd2 Qa1 54.Re6+ Kc5 55.Ke3 Qc1+ 56.Ke4 Qf1 57.Re5+ Kc6 58.Ke3 Kb6 59.Rd6+ Kc7 60.Rf6 Qg1+ 61.Kf3 Kd7 62.Rh6 Qb1 63.Kg4 Qb4+ 64.e4 Qe1 65.Rxh7+ Kd6 66.Rd5+ Ke6 67.Rh6+ Ke7 68.Re5+ Kd7 69.Kf5 Qxg3 70.Rhe6 Qh4 71.Kg6 Qh8 72.Re8 Qh2 73.Kg7 Qb2 74.g6 Qh2 75.Kg8 Qa2+ 76.R8e6
1-0

Carlsen, Magnus **A01 2859**
 Abdusattorov, Nodirbek **2713**
 World Rapid Open Championship 2022 (4.1)

Carlsen gets revenge against the 2022 World Rapid Champion. 1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.c4 0-0

6.d3 Re8 7.a3 a5 8.Be2 Bf8 9.0-0 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nbd2 f6 12.Qc2 Bf5 13.Rfe1 Bg6 14.g4 Qd7 15.Kh1 Rad8 16.Ne4 Kh8 17.Rad1 Bf7 18.Rg1 Nb6 19.Rg3 a4 20.bxa4 Na5 21.Rdg1 Bd5 22.g5 f5 23.Nc3 Bc6 24.e4 Nxa4 25.Nxa4 Bxa4 26.Qc3 Nc6 27.g6 Nd4



28.Ng5! Nxe2 29.Nf7+ Qxf7 30.gxf7 Nxc3 31.fxe8Q Bxe8 32.Bxc3 Bg6 33.exf5 Bxf5 34.Bxe5 Bxd3 35.Rxg7 Bxg7 36.Bxg7+ Kg8 37.Bf6+ Kf7 38.Bxd8 Be4+ 39.Rg2
1-0

A68

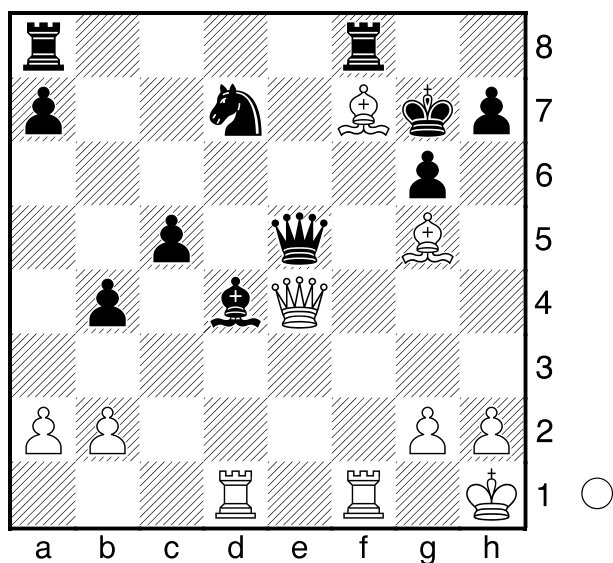
Van Foreest, Machteld

Eline Roebers

NK Vrouwen 2022 (4)

27.12.2022

A fine attacking game from the winner of the Dutch Women's Champion. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Be2 b5 10.e5 Nfd7 11.0-0 b4 12.Ne4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Nxe5 14.d6 Nbd7 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Bg5 Qb6 17.Bc4 Bb7 18.Qf3 Bxe4 19.Bxf7+ Kg7 20.Qxe4 Qxd6 21.Rad1 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 Qe5
(Diagram)



23.Qh4! Rxf7 24.Rxf7+ Kxf7 25.Re1
Qd6 26.Qxh7+ Bg7 27.Rf1+ Nf6
28.Rxf6+
1-0

□ **Dubov, Daniil**

D28
2708
2670

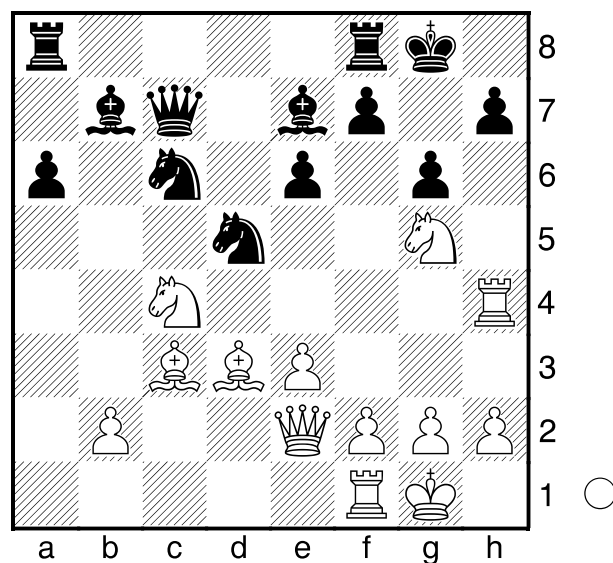
■ **Nihal, Sarin**

FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship 202 (7)

A beautiful shot instantly ends the game.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6
5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.Qe2 b5 8.Bd3
cxd4 9.a4 bxa4 10.Rxa4 Be7 11.Rxd4
Qb6 12.Nbd2 Nc6 13.Rh4 Bb7 14.Nc4
Qc7 15.Bd2 0-0 16.Bc3 g6 17.Ng5
Nd5?

(Diagram)



18.Qh5!!
1-0



Niemann, Hans Moke

E11

2699



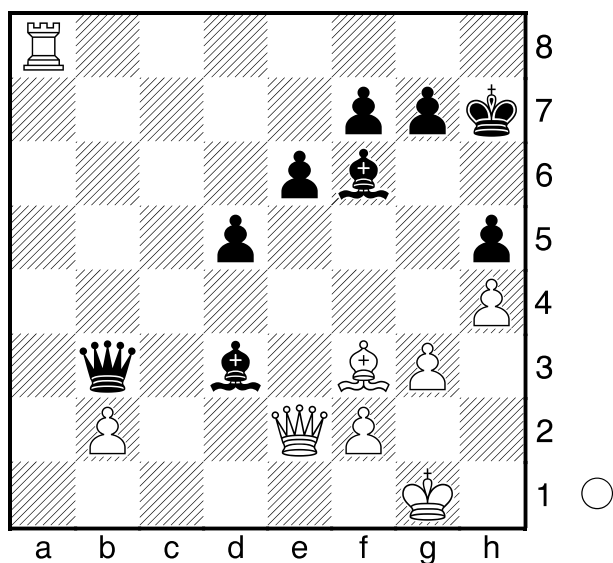
Maghsoodloo, Parham

2720

World Rapid Open Championship 2022 (8.8)

White misses a pretty mate in 3 on the
46th move. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3
Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.g3 d5 6.a3 Be7
7.Qc2 c6 8.Bg2 Nbd7 9.Bf4 0-0
10.0-0 Nh5 11.Bc1 Nhf6 12.Nbd2 b6
13.e4 Ba6 14.e5 Ne8 15.Re1 Rc8
16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Qd1 Bd3 18.Nf1 Bg6
19.Bf4 b5 20.Ne3 Nb6 21.Qe2 Nc4
22.Rac1 Nc7 23.h4 Na8 24.Nh2 h6
25.Nhg4 Nab6 26.Bf1 a4 27.Red1 h5
28.Nxc4 Rxc4 29.Ne3 Rxc1 30.Rxc1
Nc4 31.Bg2 Qb6 32.Rd1 Rc8 33.Bf3
b4 34.axb4 Nxe3 35.Bxe3 Qxb4
36.Qa6 Rc4 37.Ra1 Kh7 38.Bg2 Rxd4
39.Bxd4 Qxd4 40.Qxa4 Qxe5 41.Qb5
Qd4 42.Qe2 Bf6 43.Ra2 Qb6 44.Bf3
Qb3 45.Ra8 Bd3

(Diagram)

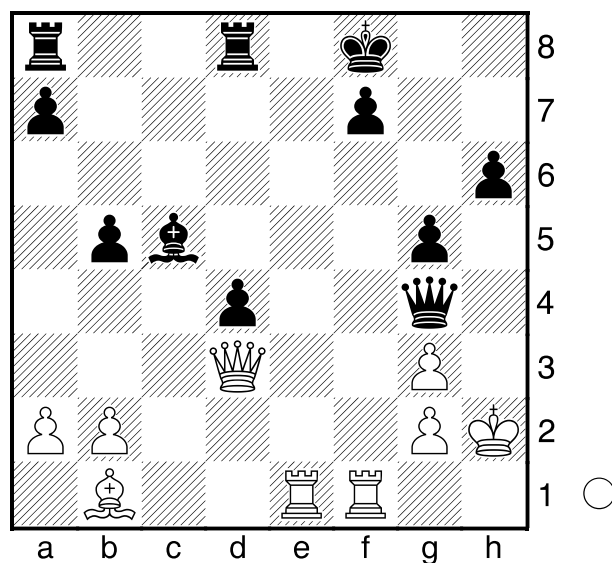


46.Qe3? Qc2 47.b4 Qb1+ 48.Kh2 d4
49.Qd2 Bg6 50.Qd1 Qb2 51.Qe2 Qb1
52.Qd1 Qb2 53.Qe2 Qb1 54.Qd1 Qf5
55.Qe2 Qb1
1/2-1/2

□ **Tan,Zhongyi** **D36**
 ■ **Batsiashvili,Nino** **2514**
2467
 World Rapid Women Championship 2022 (11.3)

A nice attack by the winner of the Womens World Rapid Championship.
 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 c6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Qc2 Ne8 10.Bg3 Nd6 11.Nf3 Be6 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Rad1 Qc8 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nf5 16.Bf4 g5 17.Bg3 Rd8 18.Qe2 Nxg3 19.hxg3 b5 20.Bb1 Bf5 21.e4 Bg4 22.f3 d4 23.Nd5 cxd5 24.fxg4 Bc5 25.Kh2 Qe6 26.exd5 Qxd5 27.Qd3 Kf8 28.e6 Qxe6 29.Rde1 Qxg4

(Diagram)

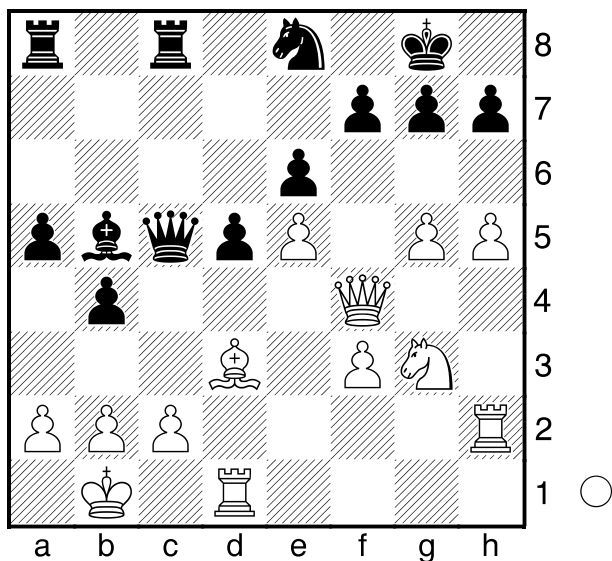


30.Rxf7+!
1-0

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **B67**
 ■ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2859**
2720
 World Rapid Open Championship 2022 (13.1)

White is just too far ahead of black in this game with opposite sides castling, and ends it with a crushing blow. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f3 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be7 11.Kb1 b5 12.h4 Rb8 13.g4 b4 14.Ne2 a5 15.Ng3 Qc7 16.Be3 Rc8 17.Rh2 d5 18.e5 0-0 19.Ba6 Ra8 20.Bd3 Rfc8 21.Qf4 Ne8 22.g5 Bc5 23.Bxc5 Qxc5 24.h5 Bb5

(Diagram)



25.Bxh7+! Kxh7 26.g6+ fxg6 27.Qf7
g5 28.h6
1-0

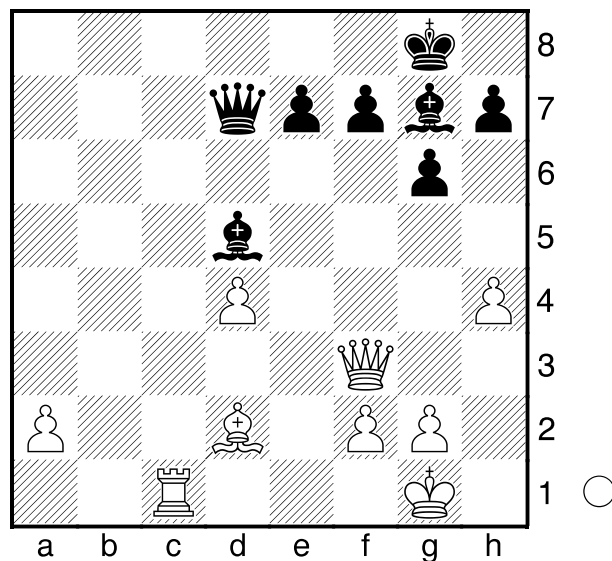
□ Yu, Yangyi
■ Ivic, Velimir

D91
2728
2572

FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship 202 (3)

White finishes black off with a classic sacrifice. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.Nf3 Ne4 6.Bf4 0-0 7.e3 c5 8.cxd5 Bf5 9.Bc4 cxd4 10.exd4 Nd7 11.0-0 Nb6 12.Bb3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nxd5 14.Bd2 Rc8 15.Rc1 Qd6 16.Re1 b5 17.Ne5 a6 18.Qf3 Be6 19.h4 a5 20.c4 bxc4 21.Nxc4 Qa6 22.Nxa5 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Rd8 24.Nc6 Rd7 25.Nb8 Qb7 26.Nxd7 Qxd7 27.Bxd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)

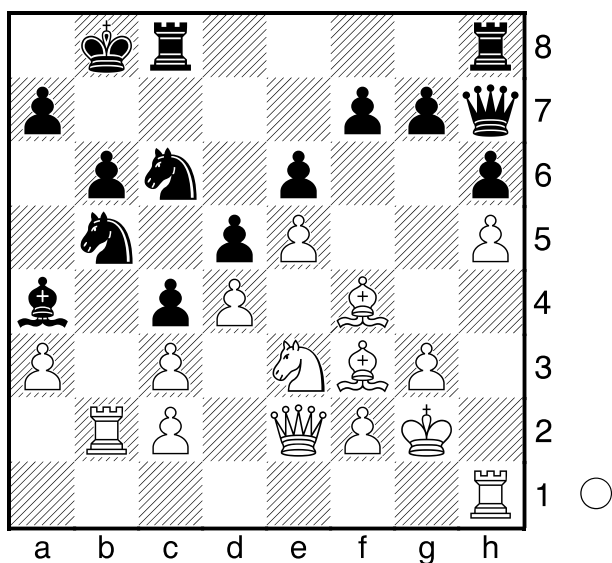


28.Qxd5! Qxd5 29.Rc8+ Bf8 30.Bh6
1-0

□ Carlsen, Magnus **C19**
■ Rapport, Richard **2859**
2740
FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship 202 (14)

A fantastic and topsy-turvy game from the World Blitz Championship. 1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.h4 Ne7 8.h5 h6 9.Nf3 b6 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bd3 c4 12.Be2 Ba4 13.Bf4 Na6 14.Qd2 0-0-0 15.Nh2 Kb7 16.Nf1 Qd7 17.Ne3 Nc7 18.Kf1 Nc6 19.g3 Qe8 20.Kg2 Qg8 21.Rab1 Qh7 22.Bf3 Kb8 23.Qe2 Rc8 24.Rb2 Nb5

(Diagram)



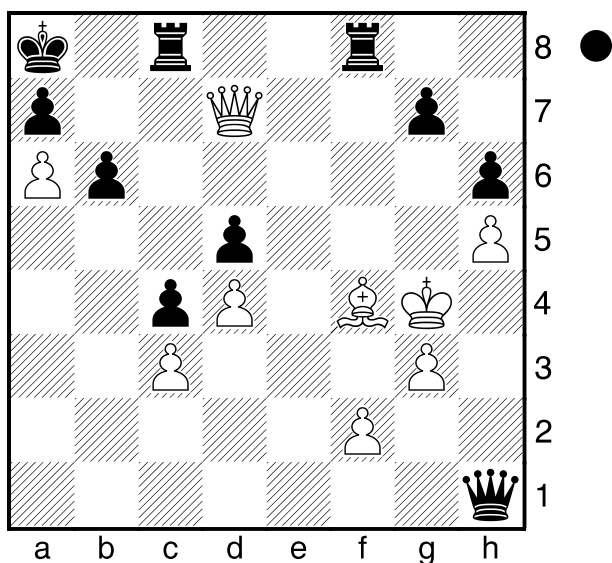
25.Nxd5!? exd5 26.e6+ Kb7 27.exf7
Qf5 28.Rb4 Nxb4 29.Qe7+ Ka6
30.Qxb4 Bxc2 31.a4 Nc7 32.Bxc7
Be4 33.Bf4 Bxf3+ 34.Kxf3 Qe4+
35.Kg4 Qxh1 36.Qb5+ Kb7 37.a5
Rhd8?+-

[37...g6!]

38.a6+ Ka8 39.f8Q?

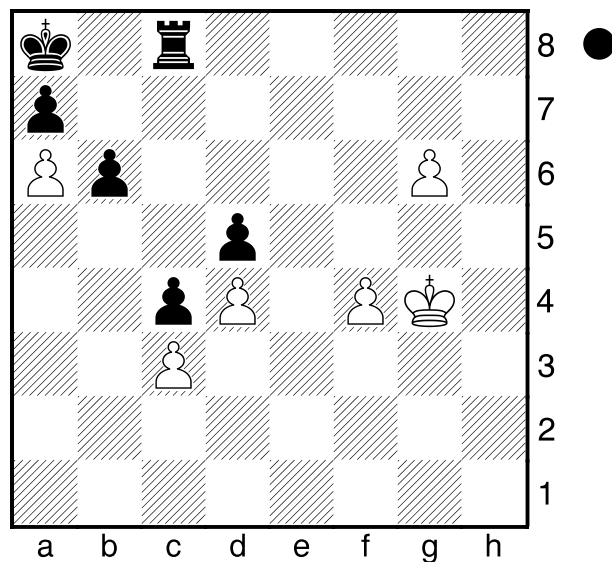
[39.f3!+-]

39...Rxf8 40.Qd7



Rxf4+!-+ 41.gxf4 Qg2+ 42.Kh4 Qxf2+
43.Kg4 Qg2+ 44.Kh4 g5+ 45.hxg6
Qh2+ 46.Kg4 h5+ 47.Kf3 Qh1+
48.Kf2 Qh4+ 49.Kf3 Qg4+ 50.Qxg4

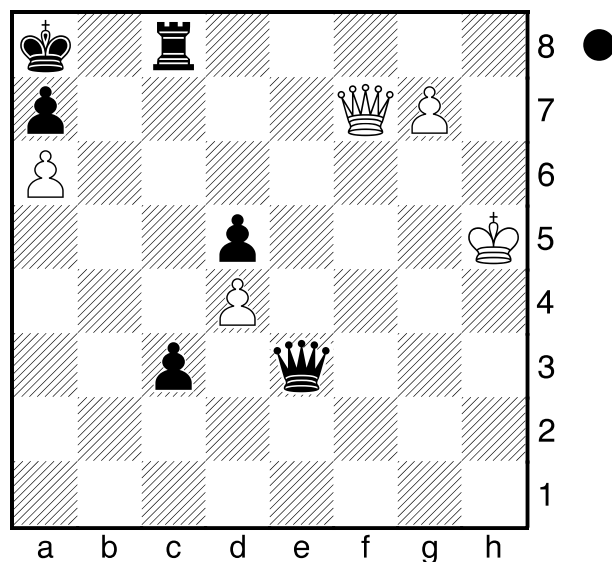
hxg4+ 51.Kxg4



b5! 52.f5 b4 53.f6 bxc3 54.f7 c2
55.g7 c1Q 56.f8Q Qg1+ 57.Kh5
Qh2+ 58.Kg6 Qg3+ 59.Kh6 Qh4+
60.Kg6 Qg4+ 61.Kh6 c3 62.Qf7 Qh4+
63.Kg6 Qe4+ 64.Kg5 Qe3+?

[64...Rb8!]

65.Kh5!=

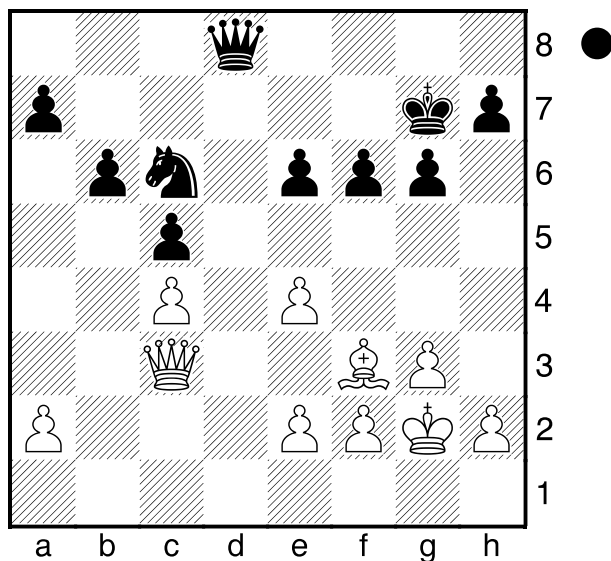


Qe8?+- 66.g8Q Qe2+ 67.Qg4 Rh8+
68.Kg5 Qe3+ 69.Kf6 Qh6+ 70.Ke7
Qc6 71.Qgg8+
1-0

Harika,Dronavalli **A05**

Assaubayeva,Bibisara **2507**
2440
 World Blitz Women Championship 2022 (17.2)

Queen and knight dominate in this game by the winner of the Womens World Blitz Championship. 1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d5 6.c4 dxc4 7.bxc4 c5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.d3 Qc7 10.Nc3 Bg4 11.Rb1 Qd7 12.Ba1 b6 13.Qa4 Rac8 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.dxe4 Qe8 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qa3 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Rd8 21.Rd5 e6 22.Qc3+ f6 23.Rxd8 Qxd8 24.Kg2

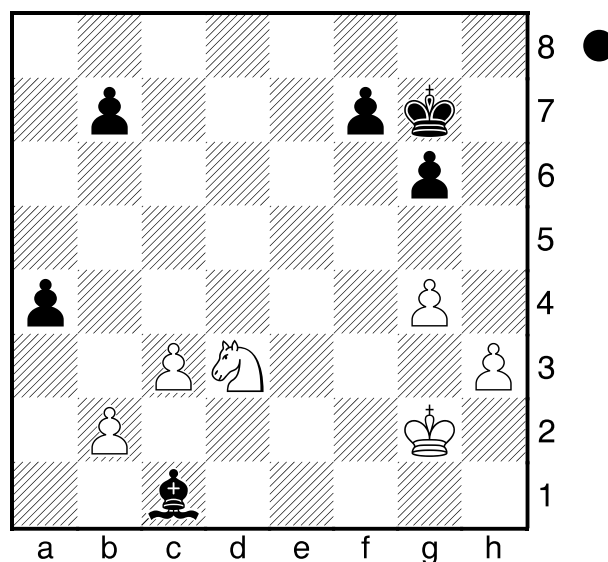


Qd4 25.Qa3 e5 26.Qa4 Qd6 27.e3 Kf7 28.h4 Ke7 29.h5 Qd7 30.hxg6 hxg6 31.Qc2 Nb4 32.Qb1 Qd2 33.Qh1 Nd3 34.Qh7+ Kd6 35.Qxa7 Qxf2+ 36.Kh3 Qxf3 37.Qxb6+ Ke7 38.Qc7+ Ke6 39.Qc6+ Kf7 40.Qd7+ Kg8 41.Kh2 Ne1 42.Qd2 Qh5+
0-1

Shimanov,Aleksandr **C12**

Carlsen,Magnus **2581**
2859
 World Blitz Open Championship 2022 (20.1)

A classic endgame tactic to finish the game. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.a3 Qd8 7.Nf3 c6 8.Bd3 Nd7 9.0-0 Be7 10.exd5 exd5 11.Ne2 0-0 12.Ng3 Nf6 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.Bxf5 Bd6 15.c3 g6 16.Bd3 Qc7 17.Re1 Rfe8 18.Qc2 Kg7 19.g3 h5 20.Kg2 Qd7 21.h3 Rxe1 22.Rxe1 Re8 23.Re2 c5 24.dxc5 Bxc5 25.Ne5 Qc7 26.Nf3 Rxe2 27.Qxe2 Qb6 28.Ng5 a5 29.a4 Qc6 30.Bb5 Qc7 31.Bd3 h4 32.g4 Qf4 33.Nf3 Qxa4 34.Nxh4 Qf4 35.Nf3 Ne4 36.Bxe4 Qxe4 37.Qxe4 dxe4 38.Ng5 e3 39.fxe3 Bxe3 40.Nf3 a4 41.Ne1 Bc1 42.Nd3



Bxb2!
0-1

San Francisco Scholastic Championship Returns to Golden Gate Park

The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship returns to over-the-board play in Spring 2023. “As many youth chess players know, Mechanics’ Institute had to pivot during the pandemic and move most of our classes and tournaments online. Over the past year and a half, the Institute’s staff have



worked diligently to ensure that we have been able to return to more schools and in-person tournaments in our scholastic enrichment program,” said Kimberly Scrafano, CEO of Mechanics’ Institute. “While we have appreciated the opportunity to organize our annual chess championship online for the last three years, we are excited to announce that the Institute is planning to host the 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship in-person and live in Golden Gate Park this spring.”

The Mechanics’ Institute’s San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship has brought together hundreds of young players of all levels annually since 2015. The intent of the event is to foster competition in a friendly environment, and therefore there are both non-rated and USCF-rated sections, engaging players of all skill levels. With past grant support from the Morris and Alma Shapiro Fund, the A.O. Dragge Foundation, the Mary A. Crocker Trust, and First Republic Bank, the Institute has been able to offer this event free to all players.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 4. The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship will take place at 10am at the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park.

For more information, and to register for the Scholastic Championship, go [here](#).

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

(January 5, 2023–San Francisco and All Points)

I'll never know how many wins have been lost to me by trying for too much. It's a familiar idea – trying to be too perfect instead of being just enough.

In December during round 7 of the last TNM, a player nearby was one of two I saw whose 1. d4 2. c4 opening was met by black with a famous but rare and dangerous gambit. While both kings were still on their original squares, three of white's minor pieces were actively cutting and hopping through the half-open middle four files. I watched long enough to believe white was going to exchange pawns at b5 and take the remaining one with his knight, which would then threaten c7, assisted by his bishop at f4, while the other bishop was nearly ready to maneuver onto the open diagonal leading from the center to the black rook at a8.

But it looked like something else was done; and several moves later those original chances had mutated enough not to be called back. It made me think of a player who used to be around decades ago, nicknamed Carefullert, a different kind of player, who often tried to drive one extra nail into the winning process which unwon it. He had a good sense of humor about that, and a philosophical attitude that didn't curse or complain too much when such a disappointing result leveled his hard-won hopes. He always reminded himself that he'd won a lot of games, too, and he went on to win a lot more.

The Chess Café has been going strong for well over two years. It has gathered a core of habitués and a rolling panorama of visitors and guests. It has reinforced and developed our ties with the Marshall Chess Club in New York, players deep in the heart of Texas, and other associations of chess players. All levels of the chess world share the 90-minute space in the Zoom room.

At the last meeting on December 19 (which I noted was Al Kaline's birthday), there was a lot of interesting discussion.

“Did anybody else watch Nakamura beat Magnus by one point? . . . Naka's awfully good in quick games. He always wanted to beat Carlsen in blitz.”

“People seem to be taking a stand against OL chess.”

But, it was noted, Chess.com just passed 100m subscribers, and it has 20m daily users.

There was a comment on the top players at Chess.com who've been caught cheating. And a follow-up noting that a private company determines for them who's cheating, but their algorithms are contested.

Terri sent in a game, Steinitz-Paulsen, 1870, a Vienna with 3. f4 exf; 4. d4 Qh4+. It was noted that Steinitz here would actually put his K on d3 and get good games. He was stubborn and would defend bad positions. In the game under consideration, 8. Ke3 was suggested to get out of the pin by black's Bg4.

Further games were Salangsang vs. Hack from the December 16-17 John Donaldson Championship at Mechanics' Institute (I blundered away my passed pawn on the 6th rank, but he didn't take it, which allowed me to enter a winning queen and pawn endgame.)

Then Mike Anderson vs. David Blohm, 1995. The latter was a Mechanics' Institute regular, too, who later became a professional bridge player. The variation of the Sicilian that was chosen led Sal Matera to recall, "The Wing Gambit and a prayer."

Then Caruana-Liang, Rd. 9 of the U.S. Championship in St. Louis on October 11; Mike Walder vs. Joe Urquhart, and Kevin Sun vs. Walder, both from the Mechanics' Institute.

Paul noted that Karjakin lost his stab at the presidency of the Russian Chess Federation, adding, "I think he was too awed by Carlsen. They all are except for Nakamura."

Alexey noted that Aronian has the most classical wins against Carlsen since he became World Champion: 4. Then the names Vishy Anand, and Jan-Krzysztof Duda, the highest ranked Polish player of all time, were mentioned before adjournment.

The National K-12 Grades Championship occurred from December 9-11 in National Harbor, Maryland along the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge just south of Washington, D.C. 2,463 of the nation's best scholastic players participated, breaking the old record of 1,827 in 2017. They came from 42 states, with 939 from New York and 388 from Florida. There were 13 sections with individual and team champions. Time control was G/90 d 10.

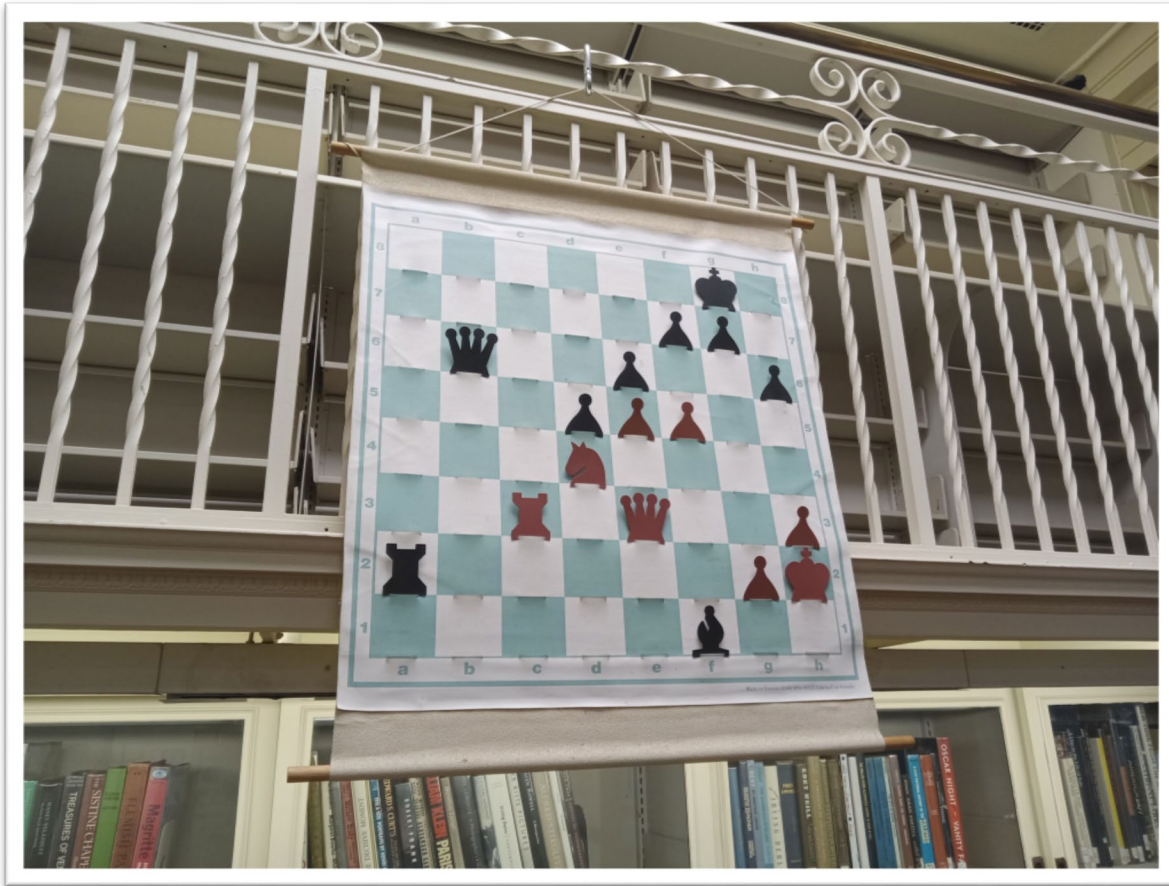
In the 7th grade section, Sebastian Suarez of the Mechanics' Institute finished clear 3rd on tie-breaks after tying for 2nd through 7th out of 219 entrants. Rated 1860 before the tournament, he scored 6 out of 7, one-half point behind the winner, Eric Chang Liu of Texas, rated 2263, and tied with Isaac Wang (2210) of California, the 2nd place finisher. He came out ahead of Alexander Wang (2203), also of California. He won his first three games against lower-rated competition, then beat a 2115 player from Connecticut who finished 9th. In rounds 5 and 6 he drew against no. 14, rated 1937, from Florida, and no. 10, rated 2053, from New Jersey. In round 7 he played black for the second time in a row and beat no. 19, a New Jersey player rated 2074.

We hope to hear more in the future about the drama of winning four consecutive games from the start, his thoughts during some of his games and later, and his observations of the event and some of the other players.

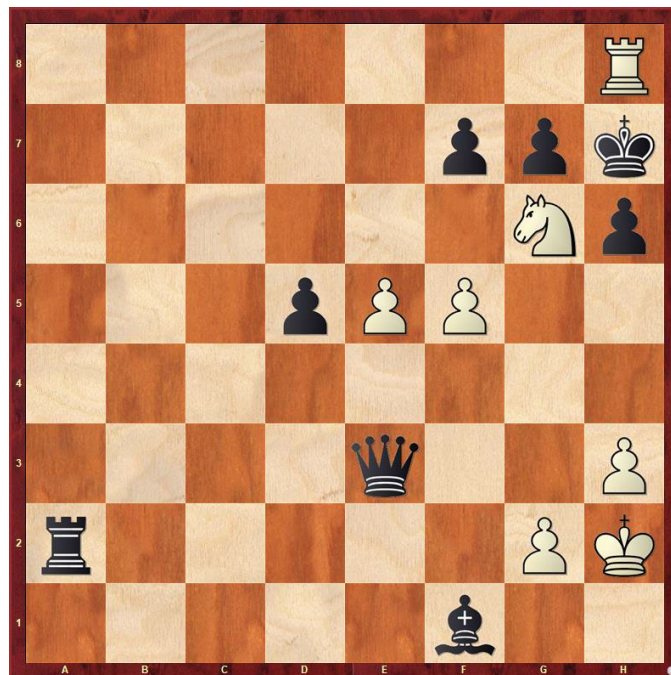
(Information about joining the weekly Chess Café can be found [here](#).)

A Puzzle in the Library

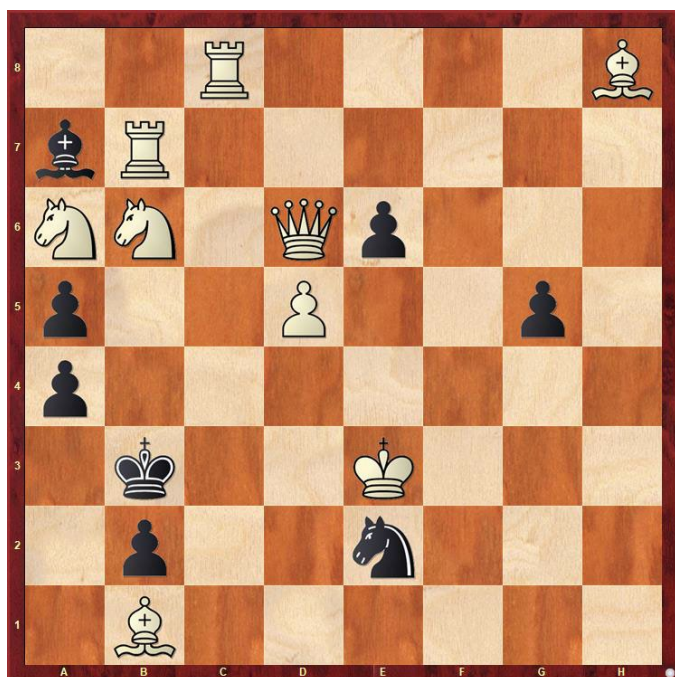
Every week or so the Mechanics' Institute's Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.



White to move. The position is from Aslan–Shley, Peter Grey Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon 2022. Annotating the game in Chess Room Newsletter #1022, IM Elliott Winslow pointed out the beautiful possibility of 1.Nxe6!! Qxe3 2.Rc8+ Kh7 3.Nf8+ Kg8 4.Ng6++ Kh7 5.Rh8# (Diagram)



Tony's Teasers



1. V.L. Eaton, 1957.
White mates in 2 moves.



2. I. Dumitru, 1970.
White mates in 2 moves.

Upcoming Events

Tournaments

2023 New Year Tuesday Night Marathon

Tuesdays, January 10-February 21, 2023. 6:30pm. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5
Information and [link](#) to register.

Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

Saturday, January 21, 2023, 10am. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5.
Information and [link](#) to register.

Monthly Championship Quads

Saturday, January 21, 2023, 3pm. 3 games of G/30;d5.
Information and [link](#) to register.

2023 San Francisco Scholastic Championship

Saturday, March 4, 2023, in Golden Gate Park
Information and [link](#) to register.

Classes

Free Women's Online Class with FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams - Ongoing

Every Sunday from 10am-12pm. Information and [link](#) to register.

Introduction to Chess: Free Class for Mechanics' Institute Members with FM Paul Whitehead

7 classes, in person. Wednesdays, January 11-February 22, 2023, 5-6pm.
Information and [link](#) to register.

Game Analysis Series with FM Paul Whitehead

8 classes, in person. Thursdays, January 26-March 16, 2023, 5-6pm.
Information and [link](#) to register.

Other Offerings

Chess Café, Mondays 4-5:30pm, ongoing.

Information and [link](#) to register.

Chess Social, First Fridays 5-6pm, See attached flyer.

Solutions

Three Studies

1. **A. Avedesian** 2020. **1.Kb5+ Ke3** 1.Qa3+? Ke2 2.Qxb2 Kd1! 3.Qd4+ Ke2 4.Qg1 Kd2 5.Qg5+ Kd1
5.Qxh5+ Kd2 = **2.Qg2! Kd3** 2.Qa7+? Kd2 3.Qa5+ Kd1 4.Qd8+ Kc1 5.Qd4 Kb1 (5.Qxh4 Nd3! =) 6.Qe4
Nd3! 7.Qxd3 Kb2/a1! = 2.Qc8/c6? Kd2! = 2.Qd8/h8/a1/h1? Nd3! = **3.Qf3+ Kd2 4.Qf4+ Kd1** 4.Qf2/g2+?
Kc3! = **5.Qd4+ Kc16.Kb4!** +-

2. **A. Avedesian** 2020. **1.Bxg4!** 1.axb4? d5+!-+ 1.Nc7? gxh3-+ **1...d5+ 2.Ke5!** 2.Kxd3 /d4? bxa3-+

3. **A. Avedesian 2022. 1.Bd4+ Kc2 2.Ba1! Kb1 2.Bxg7? a2! 3.Ba1 Kb1 4.Bd4 Kc2 = 3.Bxg7 a2 4.Kb7! a5 4.Kxa7? Kc2 5.Ba1 Kb1! 6.Bd4 Kc2 = 4.e4? a5! 5.Bd4 a1=Q 6.Bxa1 Kxa1 7.e5 a4 8.e6 a3 9.e7 a2 10.e8=Q Kb1 = 5.Kb6! Kc2 5.Kc6? a1=Q 6.Bxa1 Kxa1 7.Kb5 Kb2! 8.e4 Kb3! = 6.Ba1! Kb1 6.Kc5? Kd2 7.e4 Ke3 8.Bd4+ Kxe4 9.Kc4 Kf3 10.Kd3 Kg2 11.Ke2 Kxh1 12.Kf1 = 7.Bd4! +- (... a4 8.Kb5 a3 9.Kb4 Kc2 10.Bc3 +-)**

1. **V.L.Eaton** 1957. 1.**Qg3!** Intending 2.Kxe2#. 1...Nxb3 2.Rc3#.

2. **I. Dumitru** 1970. 1.**Ng3!** Zugzwang. 1...Kd6 (1...Kf6 2.Bb2#) 2.Bf4#.

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



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Since 1854

Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!

Free and encouraged for MI Members

5-6pm

First Fridays of the month:

January 6th

February 3rd

March 3rd

April 7th

May 5th

Unwind from the week with fellow chess players. We'll have rousing game replays on the big screen, snacks, and lively conversation. Wine available for purchase in the Meeting Room provided before the CinemaLit program. Stick around for CinemaLit at 6pm!

Questions?

Contact chessroom@milibrary.org

