

# Chess Room Newsletter



GM Priyadharshan Kannappan and Lead Tournament Director Scott Mason  
Issue #1063 | August th, 2025 | Gens Una Sumus!

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## Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

August began with our **2nd John Grefe Memorial** - an 18 and up tournament. John was a Bay Area master, an early coach of Hans Neimann, and the only ever player to become US Champion as an IM. The top section was won by **Kshitij Tomar** (1908) with 2.5 points. In second and third place we had a 4-way tie between **Theodore Biyiasas** (2165), **Guatam Koshik** (2008), **Hovik Manvelyan** (1924), and **Marlon Rigel** (1822). In the under section, **Bennet McCutcheon** (1461) won outright with a perfect score. Behind him, we again had a tie between **Kain Namiranian** (1321), **Trent Park** (1298), **Maxwell Sills** (1155), and a special shoutout to Mechanics' Chess Coach **Andrew Braithwaite** (1288) who also tied for second!

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

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

Our **August Monthly Scholastic Swiss** was, as usual, a lot of fun and we had a great turnout - we hope to see you all back this month! In the over 600 section, first through fifth went to: **Raymond Shao** (1185), **Blouin Morin** (1079), **Shane Davis** (674), **Daniel Navi** (497), and **Oliver Vankov** (621). In the under section, **Julian Coll Liang** (489) took first with 4 out of 4 points and was followed by **Ilan Ram Kumar** (440), **Alon Doitel** (224), **Jordan Thach** (512), and **Daniel Navi** (511). A big thank you to all of our scholastic players and their families for their continued support!

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

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

Our next big tournament was the FIDE Rated **2nd Koltanowski Memorial**. For those that don't know Koltanowski, or "Kolti" was a legendary Bay Area master and expert at the blindfold simul. He also wrote a lot about the Colle System, so you can blame him if you lose to it. In the top section we had an unusual three way-tie for first with **Dmitry Vayntrub** (2220), **Pranav Sairam**

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(2212), and **Sanat Singhal** (2068) taking home the prizes for first through third place. Shoutout in the bottom sections to **William Timothy, Iii Obrien** and (1776) and **Jack March Soloway** (1226) who both won their sections undefeated!

Full results can be found [here](#). The games from the top 6 boards can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Abel Talamantez and FA Scott Mason.

One week later we held our **23rd J.J. Dolan Memorial Tournament** on August 23rd. Congratulations to MI Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2349) who won the top section with a clean sweep. Behind him **Kanwar Sethi** (2111), **Rehaan Malhotra** (1987), and **Daniel Videna** (1926) tied for 2nd and 3rd with three points each. In the middle section, TNM regular **Yonathan Admassu** (1781) went 4 for 4 and took home first place. Behind him was a 4-way split for 2nd and 3rd place between **Xiaoshan Chen** (1827), **Richard Jiang** (1599), **Samidh Saxena** (1538), and **Pranav Db** (1329). In the bottom section we again had an undefeated player take it home, well done **Aneesh Banerjee** (1302)! Right behind him with 3.5 points was **Laksh Sharma** (1389). And rounding out the tournament we had a three way tie for third between **Eugenio Ferrari** (1278), **David Vayntrub** (1245), and **Maksym Tsebrii** (unr.). Full results can be found [here](#).

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

Last but not least, we finished the month with our Sizzling Summer Blitz. In the over section we had a tie with **GM Fidel Corrales** (2618) and **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2349) both scoring 6.5 points and their only tie coming from each other. Following them was a strong performance from **Daniel Sevall** (1804) with 5 points and **Breakwell Loyolla** (1729) winning the best under1800 prize. In the under section, **Robert Berry** (1692) took home first place with 6.5 points. **Sriaditya Pendala** (1696) was right behind him with 6 points in second place and there was a three-way tie for third between **Hoa Long Tam** (1605), **Satyakam Dash** (1505), and **David Siegel** (1473).

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## Three New Book Reviews

By IM John Donaldson

*Openings for Amateurs - Theory vs Practice* (Mongoose Press, 2024, paperback, 300 pages, \$24.95) by Pete Tamburro is the final volume of a trilogy following *Openings for Amateurs* and *Openings for Amateurs-Next Steps* (also published by Mongoose). Aimed at the average-to-advancing club player, *Openings for Amateurs - Theory vs Practice* offers a wealth of practical advice.

Tamburro, a U.S.C.F. rated expert, who has been a chess player for six decades, knows how to write for the amateur. Unlike many internationally titled players he understands the strengths and weaknesses of his intended audience. He emphasizes understanding by providing plenty of explanatory prose.

*Openings for Amateurs - Theory vs Practice* features 85 well-annotated games in which Tamburro not only examines different openings but also the typical middlegames that arise from them.

Players from 1800 to 2200 are the intended target for this book, the most advanced in the trilogy, but those in the 1600 to 1800 range may also find it useful.

*Tackling the Trompowsky & Torre Systems* (Russell Enterprises, 2025, paperback, 336 pages, \$29.95) by Vassilios Kotronias and Mikhail Ivanov covers more than its title implies. The authors offer readers two choices against the Trompowsky (1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 and 2...e6) and the Torre (1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 and 2...e6) which should fit comfortably into the repertoires of players that meet 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 with either the King's Indian/Grünfeld or the Nimzo-Indian/Queen's Indian.

As a bonus the two collaborators offer advice on how to combat the Barry-Tarzan Attack, sometimes called the Jobava, by 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5, which could also arise via 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 g6. Their mainline runs 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Be2 c5!, answering 7.dxc5 with 7...Nbd7 with equal chances.



An additional bonus chapter covers 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 (Other 1.d4 d5 lines without c4 are covered in *The London Files* by Kotronias and Ivanov and *Fight 1.d4 with the Tarrasch!* by Kotronias – both published by Russell Enterprises.) which Kotronias suggests be met by the surprising 3...c5 4.e3 cxd4 4.exd4 h6!?. After 6.Bxf6 exf6!! (exclamation marks by V.K.) leads to a Caro-Kann ...exf6 structure that engines evaluate highly for Black.

*Tackling the Trompowsky & Torre Systems* covers a lot of ground but the authors help readers orient themselves with QuickStarter sections that teach the basics in an abbreviated format.

Those rated 1800 on up will find this book a helpful guide to combating systems that are no longer sidelines.

Players today, overwhelmed with the huge amount of opening theory to be mastered, will be envious to know that 60 years it was possible to hold in one hand all essential knowledge. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of *Modern Chess Openings* (or *MCO* as it was better known) was published in 1965 and quickly became the go to resource for tournament players. Authored by Larry Evans it covered all opening in a little over 500 pages. Flash forward to today and a single variation of a popular opening could easily exceed that.

Can a work exactly like MCO be produced today and cover everything essential in a little over 500 pages? The answer has to be no, but Ukrainian Grandmaster Martyn Kravtsiv has bravely attempted the impossible and produced something quite useful with *Practical Chess Openings* (Gambit Publishing, 2025, paperback, 540 pages, \$34.95).

Reuben Fine wrote a book with this title that was published back in 1948, when it was a competitor for *MCO*. The new *PCO* more closely resembles another book by Fine – *Understanding the Chess Openings*. Kravtsiv has wisely emphasized explaining the plans for both sides over trying to give lines going to move thirty in every opening with little explanation. Some times that means the author offers just an over view, ending a line by move ten. In other instances, the analysis can go 17 moves deep. What is common to all are Kravtsiv's wise comments summarizing each variation.

*Practical Chess Openings* offers an excellent overview of modern theory and will be a most useful guide to players rated under 2000. This is particularly

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true for the legions of newcomers to the game this decade, many of whom only play online. Stronger players will also find items of interest, but are not the primary audience for this book.

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## **Annotated Games from the TNM**

By IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from the Silman TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow. All the games from the current TNM can be found here, and games from previous TNMs are in the [Tournament Archive](#).

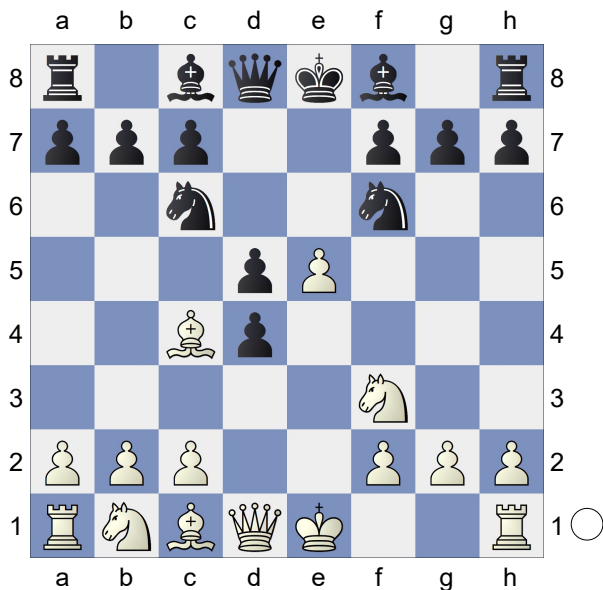
□ Shrauger, Alex Hayden

■ Achuthan, Aryan

2025 Summer TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 12.08.25

[Winslow, Elliott]

A key game! With one round to go after this, Aryan Achuthan brought Alex Shrauger back into range with a turnaround that easily could have seen Shrauger running away with the whole tournament. But some floundering and a shock or two in the endgame brought Achuthan the point. **1.e4 e5 3:47 2.Nf3 12 Nc6 4 3.d4 3 exd4 10 4.Bc4 2** The Scotch Gambit. These days it's played to get into an interesting positional struggle, mostly. (White gets the pawn back in the meantime.) **4...Nf6 8 5.e5 8 d5**



**6.Bb5 2 Ne4 6 7.Nxd4 3 Bd7 7 8.Bxc6 3 bxc6 5 9.0-0 7 Bc5 5 10.f3 3** The most common little "getting f4 in for free" **10...Ng5 4 11.f4 1 Ne4 8** seems to beat out the retreat

[ 11...Ne6 12.c3 f5 13.Be3 ( 13.Na3!? ) ]

**12.Be3 2 Bb6 22**

[ 12...Qb8!? now that the square g5 doesn't need covering ]

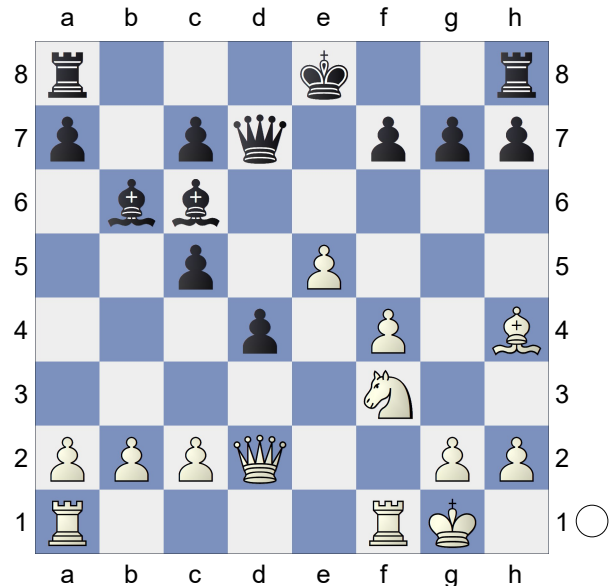
C56

2200

2264

**13.Nd2 26 Nxd2 1:31 14.Qxd2 3 c5 8**

**15.Nf3! 2 d4 34** Through to here, players on both sides have had (and have played) many interesting alternatives, but this is still one of the main positions reached. **16.Bf2 3 Bc6 1:19** (Every which bishop move has been tried as well, but this seems to be the consensus move) **17.Bh4 52 Qd7 36**



White is slightly better, nothing special.

**18.Kh1 7:59** Over 100 games here, this has been played: once.

[ 18.Rad1!? 0-0 19.f5 Qxf5 20.Nxd4 Qd7 21.Nxc6 Qxc6 22.c4 Qe4 23.Qf4 Qxf4 24.Rxf4 Rae8 25.Re1 Re6 26.Rg4 Rfe8 27.Re3 f5 28.Rf4 Rxe5 29.Rxe5 Rxe5 30.Bg3 g6 31.Kf1 Kf7 32.Rh4 Re4 33.Rxh7+ Kf6 34.b3 f4 35.Be1 g5 36.h3 Re3 37.Rd7 a5 38.Bd2 Rg3 39.h4 gxh4 40.Bxf4 Rc3 41.Bxc7 Bxc7 42.Rxc7 Rc1+ 43.Kf2 Rc2+ 44.Kf3 Rxa2 45.Rxc5 Ra3 46.Ke4 Rxb3 47.Rxa5 Rb2 Jones, G (2670)-Amin, B (2686) Playchess.com INT 2020 ½-½ (62) ]  
[ 18.c4!? dxc3 19.Qxc3 0-0 ]  
[ 18.b3!? ]

**18...0-0N 4:17**

[ 18...Qg4!? 19.Bg3 h5 20.Nh4 0-0-0

21.a4 a5 22.b3 Bd5 23.f5 c4  
 24.bxc4 Bxc4 0-1 (52) Kiefhaber,V  
 (2267)-Theissl Pokorna,R (2376)  
 Germany 2008 ]

**19.b3 7:35**

[ 19.a4 a5 20.b3 ]

**19...Qf5 9:30 20.a4 2:58 a5 6 21.Rae1  
 6:01 Rae8?! 2:49**

[ 21...Rfe8!? ]

**22.Bg3 9:54**

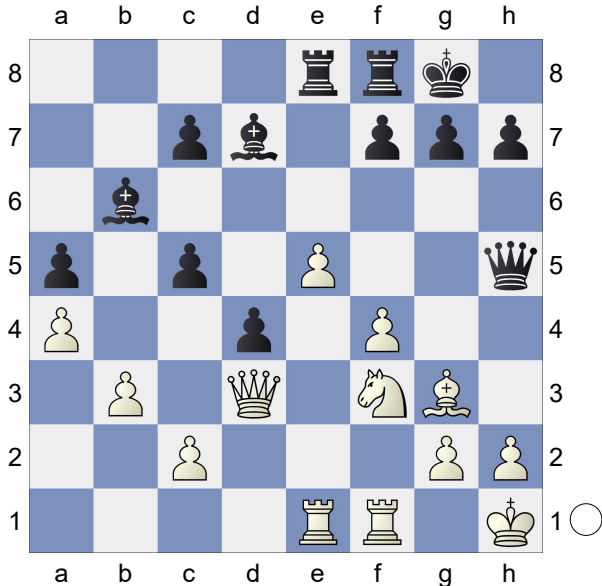
[ 22.h3 ]

**22...Qh5 3:00 23.Qd3 2:57**

[ 23.h3!? ]

[ 23.Qe2!? Bd7!? 24.Nxd4 Qxe2  
 25.Nxe2 c4! ]

**23...Bd7!= 13:01**



**24.Nh4 3:32 f5**

[ 24...f6! ]

**25.exf6 1:44**

[ 25.Nf3!? ]

**25...gxf6 48**

[ 25...Rxf6 ]

**26.f5 8:08 Qf7 8:09**

[ 26...Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Re8 ]

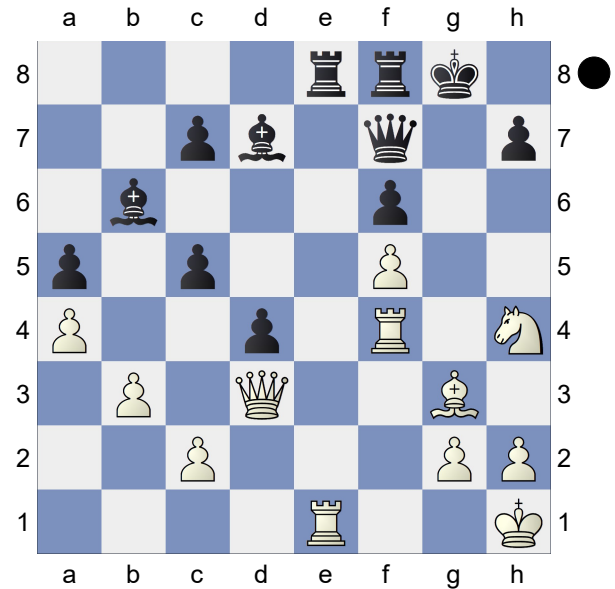
**27.Rf4?! 6:14**

[ 27.c4 ]

[ 27.h3 ]

[ 27.Bf4 ]

(Diagram)



**27...Qd5? 9:07**

[ 27...Rxe1+ and Black is okay.

28.Bxe1 Re8= ]

**28.c4!+-** Black's pawn majority  
 completely loses flexibility (but at least  
 the passed pawn is there). **28...Qa8?!  
 10:53**

[ 28...Rxe1+ 29.Bxe1 Qe5 ]

**29.Qd1?!± 5:02**

[ 29.Re6!+- Rxe6 ( 29...Bxe6

30.Rg4+ Kf7 31.fxe6+ Rxe6

32.Qxh7+ Ke8 33.Ng6+- ) 30.fxe6

Bxe6 31.Nf5! Bxf5 32.Qxf5 Qc8

(The "TA" had this "=") 33.Qd5+-

acc. to Stockfish 17.1. The f-pawn is

in trouble, and after it falls it's more

about Black's exposed king than the

passed but going nowhere d-pawn.

Hard for us humans to see! ]

**29...Rf7 6:54 30.Rg4+ 8:20 Rg7 15**

**31.Rxg7+ 1:20**

[ 31.h3± ]

**31...Kxg7= 2 32.Qg4+ 2:16 Kh8 6**

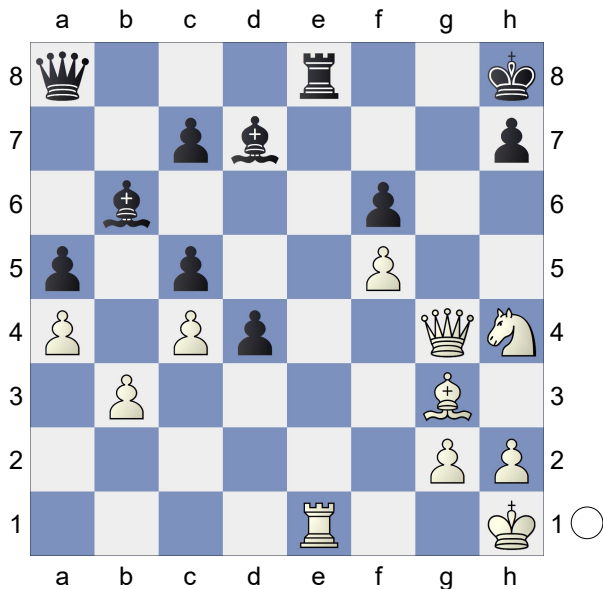
[ 32...Kf7!± ]

(Diagram)

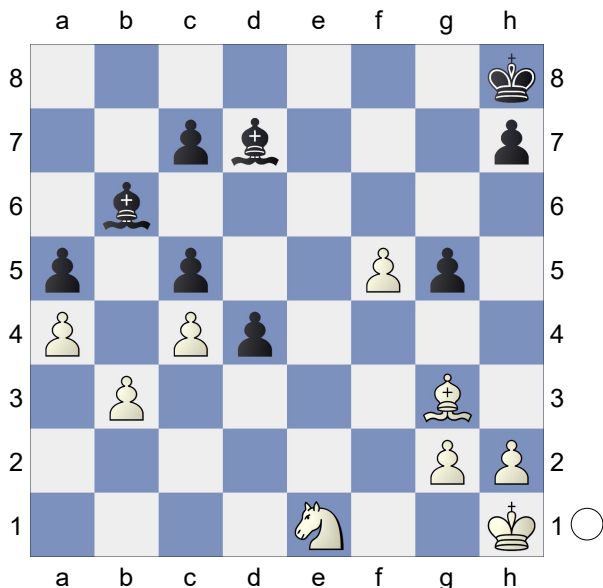
**33.Nf3!± 3:29 Rxe1+ 1:56 34.Nxe1? 5**

[ 34.Bxe1± And now Bd2 would win.





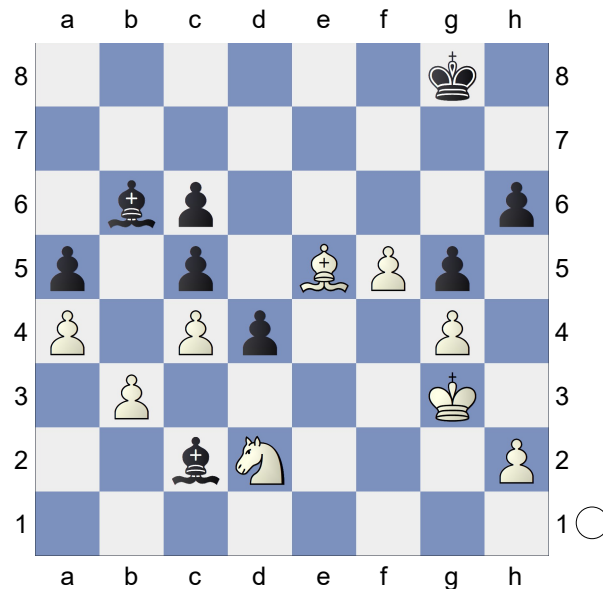
Qg8 and now keeping the queens on board is a clear plus 35.Qh5! is best (But not 35.Qe4?! Qe8= ) 35...Qe8?? 36.Qh6+- ]  
**34...Qg8!= 5:50 35.Qf4 59 Qg5 2:30**  
**Against Bh4 36.Qxg5 54 fxg5 2**



And it's into this difficult endgame, KBB-KBN. **37.Be5+ 11 Kg8 5 38.g4 4 Bc6+ 14 39.Kg1 3 Be4 22 40.Kf2 2:38 Bb1 5 41.Nf3 14 h6 5 42.Kg3 2:12 Bc2 23 43.Nd2 56 c6 2:22**

(Diagram)

**44.h4?! 1:06 gxh4+ 16 45.Kxh4 33**

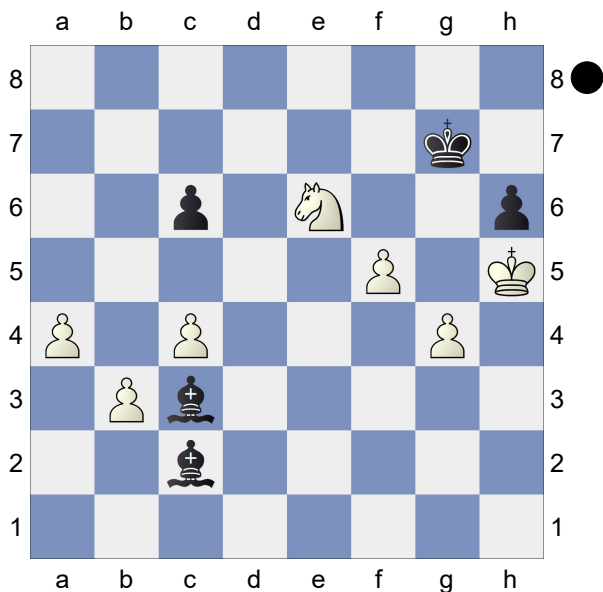
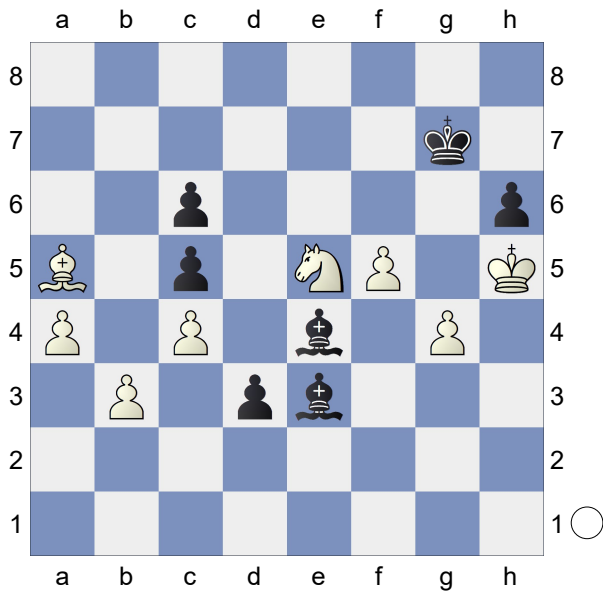


**Bd8+ 6 46.Kh5?! 52**  
 [ 46.Kg3 Bg5 47.Bf4 ]  
**46...Bg5! 1:56 47.Nf3 27 Be3 6:23**  
 This pair of bishops is nice.  
 [ 47...Bxb3?! 48.Nxg5 hxg5 49.Kxg5 Bxa4 50.Bc7± it appears Black is okay here as well ]  
**48.Bc7! 1:54 Be4 8:02**  
 [ 48...Bxb3 49.Ne5! Bf4 50.f6 Bxe5 51.Bxe5 Bxa4 52.Bc7!= ]  
**49.Ne5 40 Kg7?! 1:17 Hoping for ... d3.**  
 [ 49...d3 50.Bxa5 d2 51.Bxd2 Bxd2 52.Kg6 Bc3 53.Kf6 Bc2 54.a5! Bxa5 55.Ke7!= ]  
**50.Bxa5 5:50 d3 5**

(Diagram)

**51.Bc3?? 42**  
 [ 51.Nxd3!± and White stays safe. Bxd3 52.Bc7 ]  
**51...Bd4+- 1:50 52.Nxd3 1:34**  
 [ 52.Bxd4? cxd4 53.Nxd3 Bxd3+- ]  
**52...Bxc3 1:11**  
 [ 52...Bxd3 53.a5 Bxc3 54.a6+- ]  
**53.Nxc5 14 Bc2 34 54.Ne6+ 1:21**

(Diagram)



**Kf6? 30**

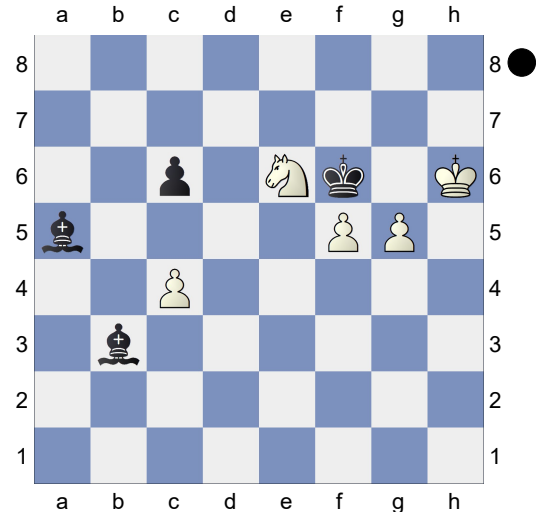
[ 54...Kh7!-+ has better winning chances. 55.Nf8+ Kg8 ]

**55.Kxh6 1:02 Bxb3 6 56.Nd8? 1:28**  
[ 56.a5 7 Bxa5 ( 56...Bxc4? 57.a6= )  
57.g5+

(Diagram)

Ke5! ( 57...Kxf5 58.Nd4+ Ke4  
59.Nxb3= ) 58.g6 Bd2+ 59.Kg7  
Bxc4 7 ]

**56...Bd2+-+ 55 57.Kh5 11 Bxa4 4**  
[ 57...c5-+ ]  
[ 57...Bxc4?! 58.Nxc6 7 ]



**58.c5 3 Be3 29 59.Nb7 42 Bb3 40**  
**60.Nd6 29 Bd5 20**

[ 60...Bxc5?? 61.Ne4+ ]

[ 60...Bf7+! ]

**61.Ne8+ 40 Ke7 33 62.Nd6 1:11 Bxc5**  
**29 63.Nb7 5 Bb4 1:58 64.g5 36 c5 27**  
**65.f6+ 7 Kf8 28 66.Nd6 41 c4 4**  
**67.Nf5 6 Bc3 1:00 68.Ne3 1:03 Be6 4**  
**69.Kh6 40 Be5 26 70.Kg6 46 c3 8**  
**71.Kh7 25 Bf4 44 72.g6 2:58**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/  
Black=0.15

[ 72.g6 Bxe3 73.g7+ Ke8 74.g8Q+  
Bxg8+ 75.Kxg8 Bh6 ]

**0-1**

**E35**

□ **Achuthan,Aryan**

**2264**

■ **Diller,Bradley R**

**2069**

2025 Summer TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 19.08.25  
[Diller,Brad]

So close for Brad! Achuthan lost his way  
(and a couple pawns) on move 12, but  
then Diller couldn't bring himself to play  
for a win (and at least a tie for 1st) when  
a draw by repetition presented itself.

Instead that result went to Aryan. **1.d4 4**  
**Nf6 2.c4 16 e6 3 3.Nc3 5 Bb4 3**  
**4.Qc2 6 d5 5 5.cxd5 7 exd5 51 6.Bg5**  
**7 h6 1:03 7.Bh4 1:33 g5 10 8.Bg3 5**

**Nc6 18 9.e3 11 h5 7:45 10.f3?! 16:04**  
 I have not seen 10 f3 before but it has been played before in GM play. It seems to me suspect because White weakens his e3 pawn in order to secure his bishop on f2 after h4.

[  $\Delta$ 10.Bb5 10 Bb5 is typically played here and Black is able to achieve equality. Here is a sample line that has been played in GM play h4 11.Be5 0-0 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.h3 Rb8 14.Nge2 ]

**10...Qe7 14:04** Qe7 was the logical continuation to exploit the weakness of the e3 pawn after f3, ostensibly preventing 0-0-0 because of a tactic.

**11.0-0-0?! 45 Qxe3+ 6:43 12.Rd2? 2:06**

[I did not consider 12 Rd2 in my analysis, but it turns out to be an error where I win a couple of pawns with a clear advantage. I thought 12 Kb1 was not possible because of these key lines that I analyzed after 12 ... Nxd4. 12 Qa4+ loses because of 14 ... Bf5+ and 12 Bb5+ is refuted by 13 ... c6. However, White has an astonishing resource 13. Rxd4 that I did not consider which seems to almost equalize. Although White is down an exchange and a couple of pawns, Black's queen can be harassed by White's dark-squared bishop and Black's king is weak.

12.Kb1 Nxd4

**A) 13.Bb5+ c6-+;**

**B) 13.Qa4+ Bd7 14.Qxb4 ( 14.Bb5 Nxb5 15.Nxb5 Qc5-+ ) 14...Bf5+ 15.Ne4 dxe4 16.Qxd4 Qxd4 17.Rxd4 exf3+ 18.Kc1-+;**  
**C) 13.Rxd4!! Qxd4 14.Bf2 Qf4 15.Bd3**

**C1)  $\Delta$ 15...Bxc3 $\bar{f}$  16.Qxc3 Bf5 17.Nh3 Bxd3+ ( 17...Bxh3?? 18.Bg3+- ) 18.Qxd3 Qd6**

19.Nxg5 b6 20.Bd4 Kf8 21.Qf5 Rh6 22.Bxf6 Rxf6 23.Nh7+ Kg7 24.Nxf6 Qxf6 25.Qxd5=;  
**C2) 15...c6?! 16.Nh3! Bxh3 17.Bg3! ( 17.gxh3 h4-+ ) 17...Qd4 18.Re1+ Be6 19.Bf2 Qf4 20.Bg3 Qd4 21.Bf2 Qf4 22.Bg3 Qd4 23.Bf2 1/2-1/2 Predke, A (2657)-Sarana, A (2651) FIDE World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk 2019 (1.2) With a perpetual. ]**

**12...Nxd4 17:42 13.Qa4+ 30 Nc6 8 14.Bf2 1:29 Qf4 39 15.Bg3 38 Qe3 44 16.Bf2 45 Qf4? 2** Here, I should have gone for the win with 16... Qe7 but I did not feel comfortable because of the potential tactical complications with the advanced h and g pawns and took the draw which guaranteed me at least 3rd place. In the words of Craig Mar, I chickened out in a better position where I was up material.

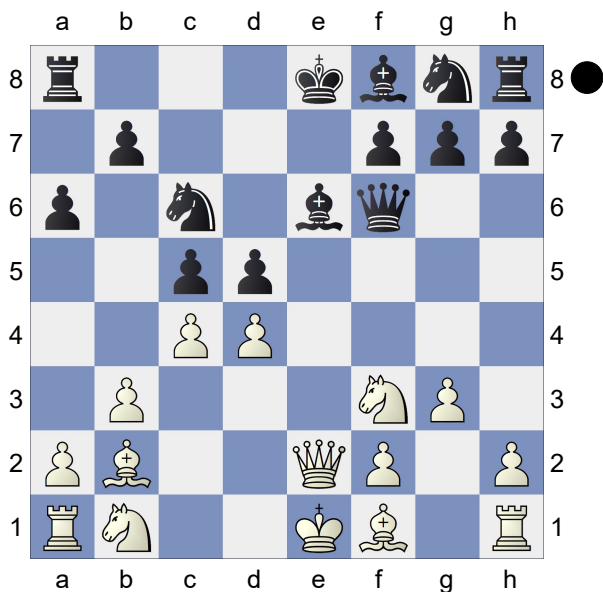
[  $\Delta$ 16...Qe7 17.Bb5 0-0 18.Nge2 Ne5 $\bar{f}$  ]

**17.Bg3 26:10 Qe3 17 1/2-1/2**

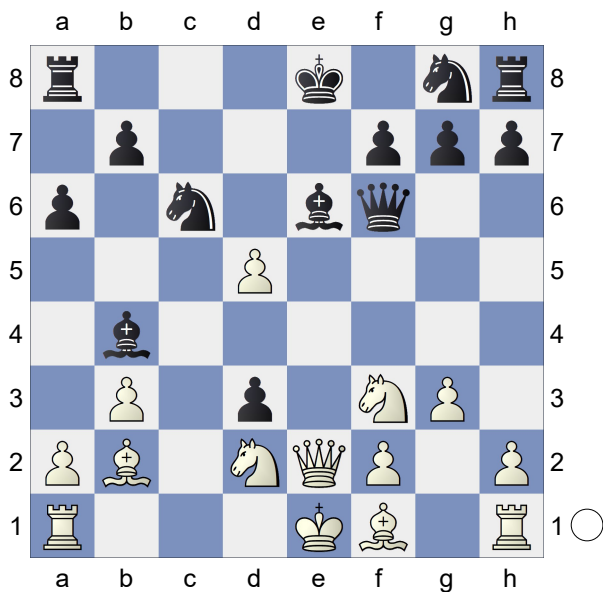
	<b>B40</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tsodikova, Natalya</b>	<b>2254</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Shrauger, Alex Hayden</b>	<b>2200</b>
2025 Summer TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 19.08.25 [TA/Winslow, Elliott]	

In a bumpy ride, Shrauger secured the first-place tie with a win vs. the routinely dangerous Natalya Tsodikova after among other things, she missed a nice shot on move 12. **1.e4 2 c5 12 2.Nf3 7 e6 2 3.b3 11 a6 2 4.Bb2 22 Nc6 2 5.g3 2:56 d5 58 6.exd5 2:03 exd5 8 7.Qe2+ 2:57 Be6 20 8.d4 -0.37/31 7:59 [White should play 8.Bg2= 0.29/31 ] 8...Qf6 0.08/32 3:02 [ 8...cxd4 $\bar{f}$  -0.37/31**

is more appropriate. 9.Bxd4 Bb4+  
10.c3 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qf6 ]  
**9.c4!= 4:29**



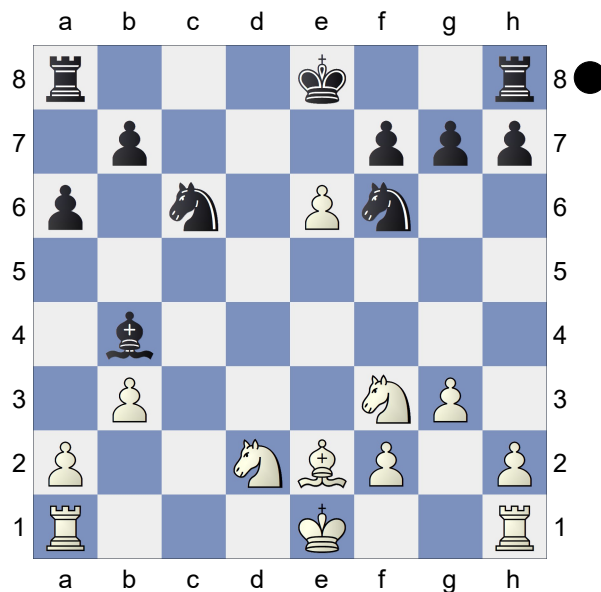
**cx d4? 3.52/24 3:04**  
[ 9...0-0-0= 0.00/31 and Black has  
nothing to worry. ]  
**10.cxd5+- 11:58 Pin 10...Bb4+ 11:51**  
**11.Nbd2 3:27 d3 2:33**



**Exciting!! 12.Bxf6!? 0.31/27 3:21**  
[ 12.Qxd3? Qxb2 13.Rb1 Bxd2+  
( 13...Qxa2 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.Rd1 )  
14.Nxd2 Qe5+ ( 14...Qxa2 15.dxc6  
Qa5 16.cxb7 ) 15.Be2 Qxd5  
( 15...Bxd5? 16.0-0-+ ) 16.Qxd5  
Bxd5-+ ]

[ So what did White miss? A winning  
move! It's not exactly Ivanchuk vs.  
Karjakin, Amber (rapid) Nice 2008, but  
it is the same move: 12.Qxe6+!+-  
4.70/25 fxe6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.dxc6  
Totally winning with an extra piece. ]

**12...dxe2± 2 13.Bxe2 -0.18/30 7:59**  
[ 13.Bxg7± 0.32/31 exf1R+  
( 13...exf1Q+ 14.Rxf1 Bxd5 15.a3= )  
14.Rxf1 Bxd5 15.a3 Bxd2+  
16.Nxd2 ]  
**13...Nxf6= 10 14.dxe6? -1.77/23 1:56**  
[ 14.dxc6= -0.24/30 and White has  
nothing to worry. 0-0-0 ( 14...bxc6  
15.0-0= ) 15.cxb7+ Kxb7 16.a3 ]

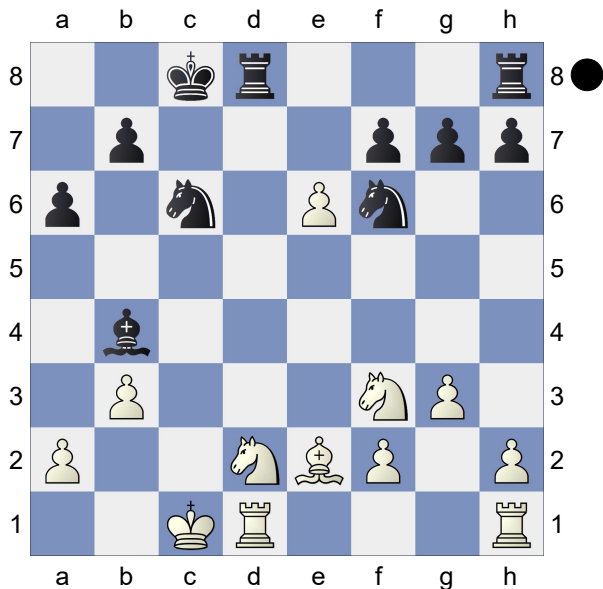


**14...0-0-0? -0.12/31 35** Black should  
have struck immediately:  
[ 14...Ne4!+- -1.77/23 15.exf7+ Ke7 ]  
**15.0-0-0 -1.47/25 2:10**  
[ 15.exf7 Ne4 16.Rd1 Rhf8-+ ]  
[ 15.a3!= -0.12/31 Bc3 16.Ra2 ]

(Diagram)

**15...Ba3+!± 4:57 16.Kb1 -1.88/24 34**  
[ 16.Kc2± -1.50/27 Rhe8 17.Bc4 fxe6  
18.Kb1 ]  
**16...Nd5-+ 32 17.Rc1 -2.54/24 9:07**





Against Nc3+

[ 17.Rde1 -1.72/27 Nc3+ ( 17...fxe6 18.Ne4= ) 18.Ka1 ( 18.Kc2 Nxa2 19.b4 Bxb4 $\mp$  ) ]

17...Bxc1 28

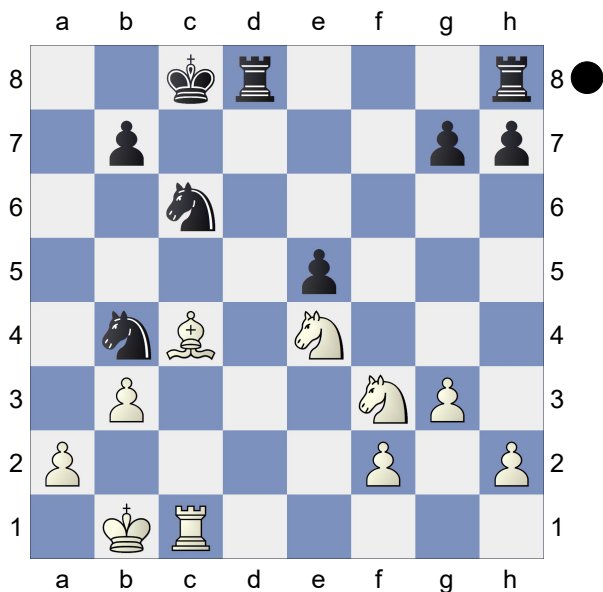
[ 17...fxe6 18.Rc4= ]

18.Rxc1 2 fxe6 1:31 19.Bxa6 4:18

Ndb4 2:47 20.Bc4 1:22 e5 -1.25/30 32

[ 20...Nd3+ -2.75/26 has better winning chances. 21.Rf1 Rhf8 22.Bxe6+ Kb8 ]

21.Ne4 $\mp$  2:05



h6 -0.36/30 5:24 Dodges Nfg5

[ 21...Kb8! $\mp$  -1.22/32 and ...h6 would now be decisive 22.Nfg5 Na5 ]

22.a3 $\mp$  1:50 Nd3 1:14 23.Rc3 -3.28/23

1:47 Black converts the advantage convincingly.

[ 23.Bxd3! $\mp$  -0.45/28 Rxd3 24.Nxe5 Rxb3+ 25.Ka2 ]

23...Rh8! $\mp$  54 24.Rxd3 -4.49/25 3:38

[ 24.Bxd3 -3.19/26 keeps fighting. Rxf3 25.Bc2 Rxc3 26.Nxc3 ]

24...Rxd3 28 25.Bxd3 2 Rxf3 12

26.Bc4 36 Kc7 6:00 27.Kb2 36 Nd4

1:10 28.a4 2:52 Kc6 3:35 29.h4 3:32

b5 2:56 30.axb5+ 18 Nxb5 4 31.Be2

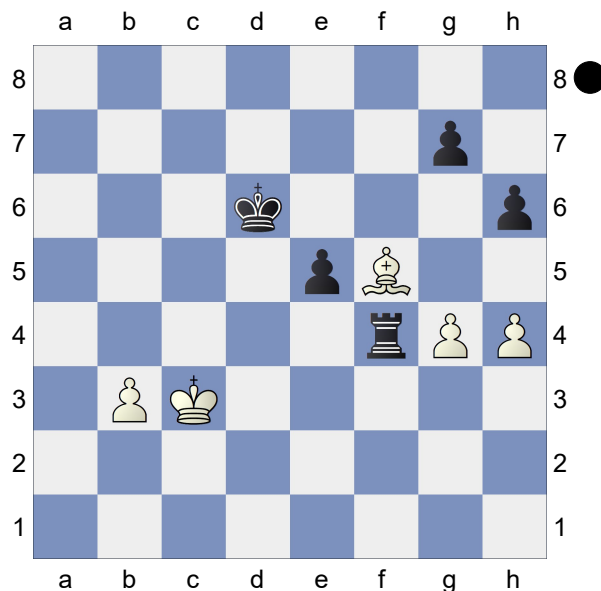
41 Rf8 5 32.Bc4 2:35 Nd6 1:25

33.Bd3 49 Kd5 35 34.Nxd6 2:54 Rxf2+

3 35.Kc3 27 Kxd6 3 36.Be4 34

Inhibits Rf3+. 36...Rf1 42 37.g4 58 Rf4

5 38.Bf5 1:11



h5! 5 Weighted Error Value: White=1.01/ Black=0.48

0-1

A38

□ Diller,Brad

2069

■ Bambou,Christophe

2130

2025 Summer TNM: 2000+ (5.8) 05.08.25

[Diller,Brad]

Here are a couple of Brad Diller's wins, with his own notes, which I dare not edit.

**:-) 1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 h5**

This is a very interesting idea which I have never seen but it is nothing new and has been played since 1979. One of the ideas of this move is to provoke either h4 or h3. If I proceed normally and castle, then h4 followed by possibly h3 is annoying (See Meier-Sindarov 2024 cited below). I chose h3, intending to respond to h4 with g4. However, the h3 pawn is weak. If Black develops his bishop leaving the b7 pawn undefended, White can't win the b7 pawn outright with his king-side bishop, because Black can take the h3 pawn with his bishop which is now undefended with an attack on the rook. Thus, Black can freely develop his light squared bishop which is normally a problem in typical lines.

### **8.h3**

[ 8.0-0 h4 9.c5 h3 10.Bh1 0-0 11.Bf4 Ng4 12.Ndb5 b6 13.Bc7 Qe8 14.cxb6 axb6 15.a4 Bb7 16.Bxb6 Qc8 17.a5 Nb4 18.e4 Ne5 19.Nc7 Rb8 20.Qe2 d6 21.Ra4 Na6 22.N3d5 Qd7 23.Raa1 Nxc7 24.Nxc7 Rfc8 25.Rac1 Bc6 26.b4 Rxc7 27.Bxc7 Rxb4 28.Bb6 Bb5 29.Qd2 Rb3 30.Rfd1 Ba6 31.Rc3 Qb5 32.Rxb3 Qxb3 33.Qe3 Qxd1+ 0-1 Meier,G (2591)-Sindarov,J (2677) Julius Baer GenCup Pl/In Chess.com INT rapid 2024 (6) ]

**8...Nxd4 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.Qd3 d6**

**11.0-0 Be6 12.Bg5** The cost of h5 is that I can plant my bishop on g5 without being harassed by his h pawn. **12...Qc8 13.Nd5** This is one of the ideas of Bg5, to prevent the capture of the h3 pawn because of the weakness of the e7 pawn, but Black blithely proceeds! **13...Nxd5?**

[  $\Delta$ 13...Re8= ]

**14.cxd5 Bxh3 15.Bxe7 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Re8 17.Bxd6±** After the dust settles, I

am significantly better because of control of the center, better piece activity and the passed d-pawn is strong.

**17...h4?** This seems to be an error because because Black is not sufficiently developed to support the flank attack, and as the game unfolds, ironically, the black king becomes weak.

**18.Rh1?!**

[  $\Delta$ 18.e4!± is significantly better supporting to d pawn while controlling the center. But Rh1 is not entirely bad, intending to turn the tables by controlling the h file. ]

**18...Bxb2?!**

[  $\Delta$ 18...Qd7 19.Bf4 Bxb2 20.Rad1± with a clear advantage but not yet "won" ]

**19.Rab1 Bf6 20.Qf3!** This is a crucial intermezzo before capturing the h-pawn to prevent the queen check on g4 after gxh4. I recalled Sam Shankland's motto stated many time during his class: "Avoid automatic moves".

[ 20.gxh4? Qg4+± ]

**20...Kg7?!** 20 ... Qf5 is better, but I still have a very strong advantage.

[  $\Delta$ 20...Qf5 21.Bc7 Qxf3+ 22.Kxf3 Re7 23.Rxb7 hxg3 24.d6 Rd7 25.fxg3± ]

**21.gxh4+- Qc4 22.h5 gxh5**

This loses quickly, but the alternatives are no better. These are the variations that I considered when playing 22 h5. My analysis was refreshingly correct thanks to Sam Shankland's class on calculation that I completed last week!

[ 22...Qe4 23.h6+ Kh8 24.Qxe4 Rxe4 25.Rxb7 Rd8 26.Bg3 Rxd5 27.Rxf7+- ]

[ 22...Rxe2 23.h6+ Kh7 24.Qxf6 Qxd5+ 25.Kg3+- ]

[ 22...g5 23.h6+ Kg6 24.Qh5+ Kf5 25.Rh3 This move that I analyzed also wins, but when I examined the line

with the engine, I found Rb4 wins more quickly. ( 25.Rb4 Qxd5+ 26.e4+- ) 25...Qxd5+ ( 25...Qg4+ 26.Qxg4+ Kxg4 27.e4 Rxe4 Black is forced to give up his rook to avoid checkmate with f3. 28.f3+- ) 26.Rf3+ Ke6 27.Ba3+- ]

**23.Rxh5 Qe4 24.Rg1!** This is a cute move that I found that forces the loss of Black's queen to prevent mate after 25 Kf1. To be honest, I did not calculate this move when I played 22 h5, but there was no reason to. The position after 23 Rxh5 was crushing because of the exposure of black's king and activity of my pieces. **24...Qg6+ 25.Kf1 Rac8 26.Rxg6+ fxg6 27.Rh1 Rc4 28.Bf4 Rc2 29.Bh6+ Kf7 30.Bg5 Rc3 31.Qxf6+ 1-0**

□ **Diller,Bradley R**

■ **Lee,Andy C**

2025 Summer TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 12.08.25  
[Diller,Brad]

(EW) Brad Diller started really badly with a draw and a loss, but then four wins in a row, capped with this game, put him in 2nd-3rd going into the last round. Lee played the sharp Keres idea ...e5, ...c6 and ...d5 against Diller's English Opening, with sharp play. White refused to equalize with d2-d3, coming under fire down the central files. But Andy completely lost his way, sacrificing a bishop, only to have Brad deftly stop any play. There followed an exchange of missteps by them both, until the last 21... Qxd2?? allowed White to end it. **1.c4 e5 8 2.g3 12** So White is committed now to a fianchetto.

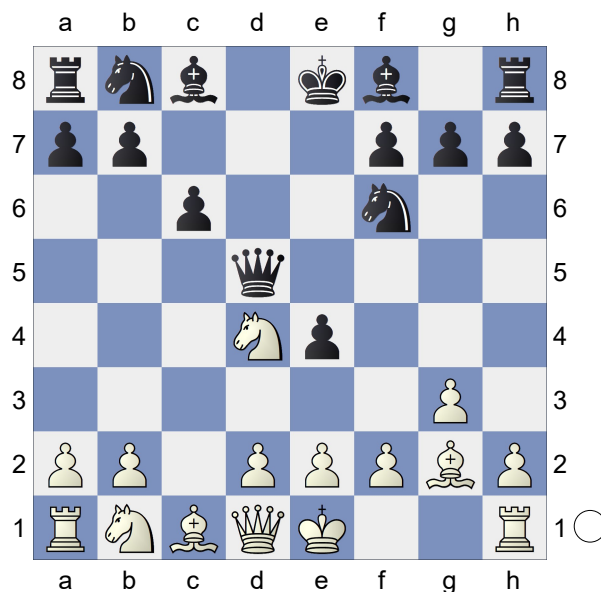
[(EW) The alleged point is to avoid

2.Nc3 Bb4 (not that that is such a big deal any more). ]

**2...Nf6 8**

[Some sources recommend the immediate 2...c6 ]

**3.Bg2 13 c6 7 4.Nf3 26 e4 9 5.Nd4 3 d5 16 6.cxd5 10 Qxd5 12**

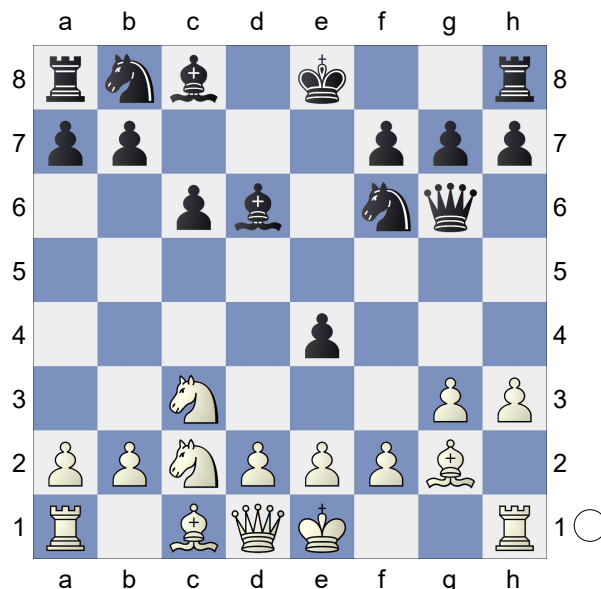


**A20**

**2069**

**2313**

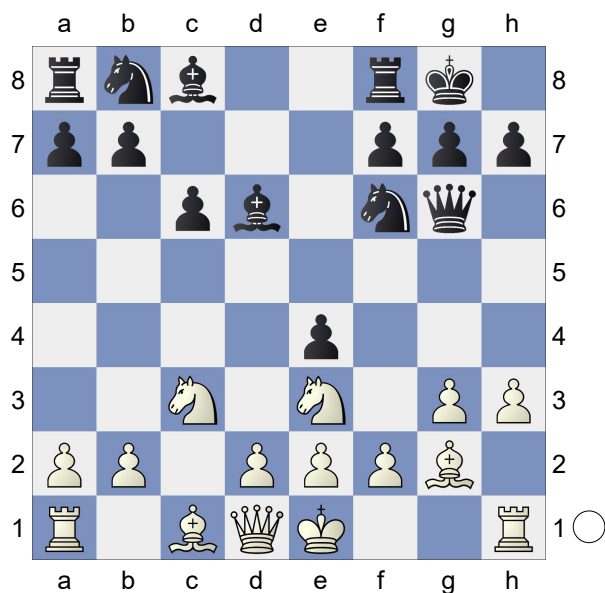
**7.Nc2 1:07** In retrospect, I should have played the e3 line that I successfully played against William Gray in the 2024 Silman memorial, but decided to go for the Nc2 line which is also popular but less familiar. **7...Qh5 3:19 8.h3 3:10 Qg6 3:00 9.Nc3 2:16 Bd6 1:45**



(EW) Mikhalevski in his 2016 book

"Beating Minor Openings" gives Black's last three moves "!"s **10.Ne3 8:24**  
 I should have refreshed my notes: Gadir recommended the following interesting line to achieve a dynamically equal position. I did not sufficiently see the gravity of my position with Black's stranglehold on the kingside. The continuation that I selected is plausible, but White is fundamentally worse.

[  $\Delta$ 10.h4 h5 11.d3 exd3 12.0-0 0-0  
 13.Qxd3 Qxd3 14.exd3= Guseinov ]  
**10...0-0 1:58**



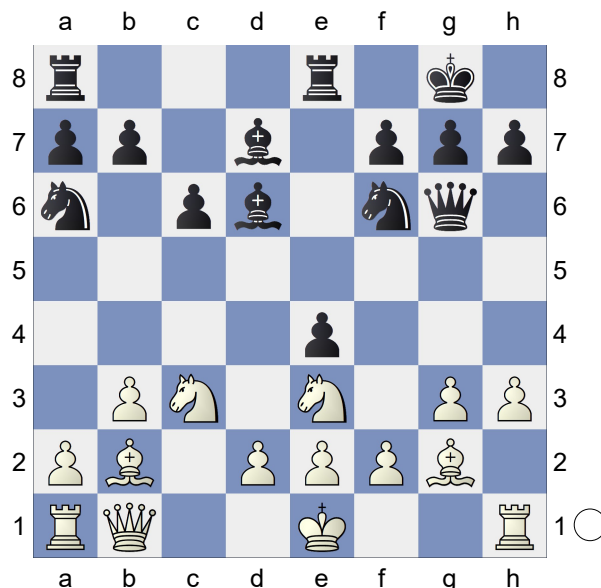
**11.b3? 4:11**

[The sad truth is that I should have played 11.d3 to exchange the annoying e4 pawn for equality, but I was not at all pleased with the position where I have little or no chance for advantage with the isolated d pawn. exd3 12.Qxd3 Qxd3 13.exd3= ]

**11...Re8 6:27 12.Bb2 1:26 Na6 10:27**  
**13.Qb1 25:11 Bd7 8:27**

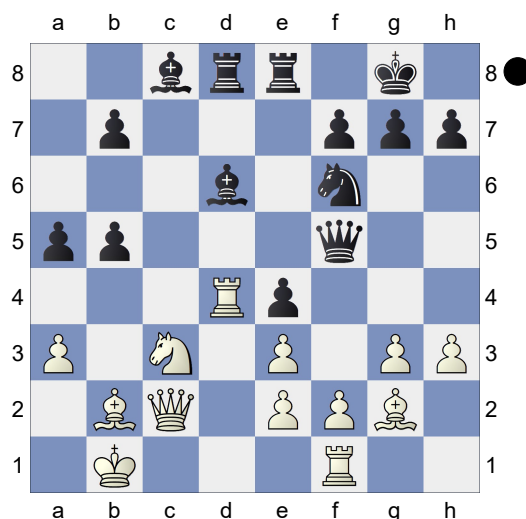
(Diagram)

**14.Ng4? 8:13** I was enthralled with this move with the idea of exchanging the g-pawn for the e-pawn and activating my



dormant pieces, but I did not carefully consider a simple rejoinder that leaves me much worse. Fortunately for me, neither did Black.

[ 14.a3 Predecessor: Rad8 15.b4 Bc8 16.Qc2 Nc7 17.0-0-0 Ncd5 18.Kb1 a5 19.b5 Nxe3 20.dxe3 0-1 Linares Napoles,O (2276)-Zawadzka,J (2429) Olympiad Women-42 Baku 2016 (5.2) Qf5 21.Rhf1 cxb5 22.Rd4



Bxa3 23.g4 Qc5 24.Bxa3 Qxa3 25.Nxb5 Qe7 26.Rfd1 Rxd4 27.Rxd4 Be6 28.g5 Nd5 29.Bxe4 Nb4 30.Qd2 Qxg5 31.Nd6 Rf8 32.f4 Qf6 33.f5 Ba2+ 34.Kb2 Bd5 35.Bxd5 Nxd5 36.Ne4 Qb6+ 37.Ka3 Nb4



38.f6 g6 39.Rd6 Qc7 0-1.]

**14...Nxb4 11:06**

[ 14...Bxb4 15.hxb4 h6!-+ -2.04/24 ]

**15.hxb4 1:05 f5?! 1:24** Black missed a chance to get a very strong advantage with 15 ... Bxb4 followed by f5 a move that I overlooked in my analysis.

[ 15...Bxb4 16.Bxb4 f5 17.Bd3 Nc5 18.Qc2 Rad8 19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.a4 Ne6 21.Bxe6 Rxe6-+ ]

**16.Rh4 5:51 Bxb3?? 12:01** Black goes bonkers (Lee called this "insane" in his blog!) with this piece sacrifice which has an easy retort. He still missed a chance to get an advantage with 16 ... Nb4.

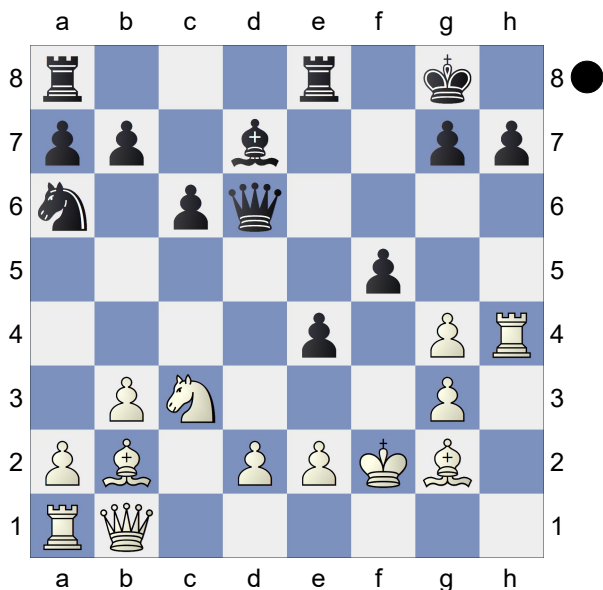
[ 16...Nb4 17.Kf1 Re7 18.gxf5 Bxf5 19.Nxe4 Rf8 20.Kg1 Nd5 21.Bd4+ ]

[ 16...Nc5 17.b4 Nd3+? ]

[ 16...fxg4 17.Bxb4 ]

[ 16...Rad8! 17.gxf5 Bxf5 18.Bxb4 Rxe4! 19.Nxe4 Nc5 20.d3 Bxb4 21.dxe4 Bxb3! (Lee) ]

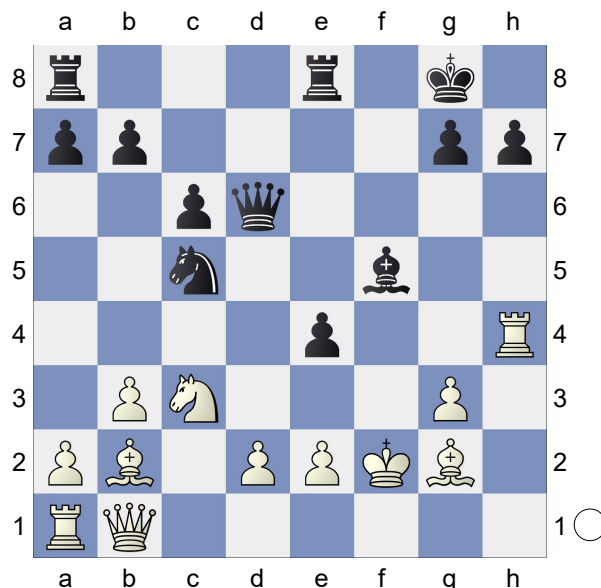
**17.fxb3+- 2:57 Qd6 11 18.Kf2 3:18**



**Nc5 11:02 19.gxf5 3:10 Bxf5 55**

(Diagram)

**20.Nxe4?? 2:03** We both played much too quickly with about 30 minutes left on the clock and missed a rather



straightforward line exploiting the weakness of the king on the f-file. Simply, 20 Kg1 moving off the king off the f-file, simultaneously avoiding the discovered check with e3+, wins easily.

[ 20.Kg1 Qxg3 21.Qe1 Qg5 22.Qf2+- ]

**20...Nxe4+?? 3:17**

[ 20...Rxe4 Black has an amazing tactical resource with 22 ... Rf8 which forces me to give back the piece with equality. 21.Bxb4 Nxe4+ 22.Rxe4 Rf8 23.Kg2 Qd5 24.d3 Bxb4+ 25.dxe4 Qd2 26.Qd3 Qxb2 27.Rf1 Rxf1 28.Kxf1= ]

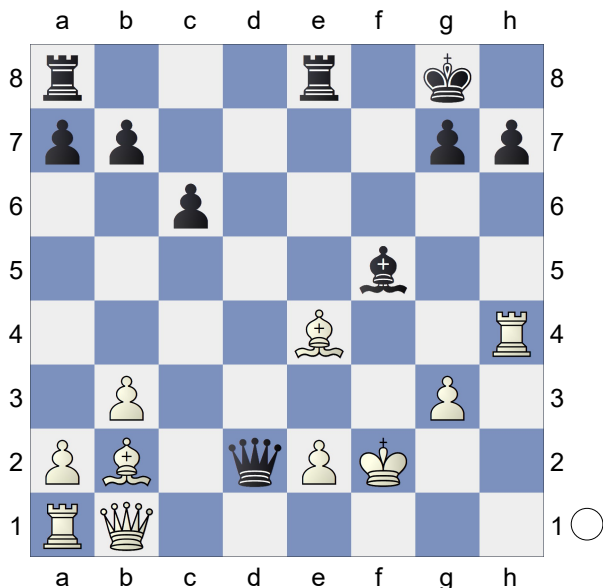
**21.Bxb4?? 2**

[ 21.Rxe4! Rf8 22.Bf3 Qxd2 ( 22...Rad8 23.Qc2 Bxb4 24.Qxe4 Qxd2 25.Qe5 Rf7 26.Kg2 Qd7 27.Rh1+- ) 23.Rd4 Qxd4+ 24.Bxd4+- ]

**21...Qxd2?? 48**

[ 21...Rxe4 22.Rxe4 Rf8 23.Kg2 Qxd2 24.Qd3 Bxb4+ 25.Qxe4 Qxb2 26.Qe6+ Kh8 27.Rf1 Rb8 28.Rf7 h6 29.a4 a6= Although White is a pawn down, White can force an exchange of rooks with perpetual on the back rank. This is a disappointment to both me and Black that we both missed

these straightforward drawing lines in these adjacent positions. It is important even in mild time pressure to carefully evaluate positions like these and follow Sam Shankland's terse motto of avoiding automatic moves. ]



As Tartakower famously said, "The winner of the game is the player who makes the next-to-last mistake." After this oversight by Black, White wins quite easily. **22.Bc1! 5:24**

[ 22.Qd3 ]

[ 22.Bxf5 ]

**22...Qd4+ 9:11**

[ 22...Qd1 23.Be3 Qxb1 24.Bxb1+- ]

**23.Be3 19 Qc3 49 24.Bxf5 5:35 Qxe3+**

**22 25.Kg2 10 Qxe2+ 27 26.Kh3 2 h6**

**1:45 27.Qd3 1:25 Qb2 2:47 This loses**

quickly, but the alternatives were also losing.

[ 27...Rad8 28.Bh7+ Kh8 29.Qxe2 Rxe2 30.Re4+- ]

[ 27...Qxd3 28.Bxd3+- This is a technical win for White. ]

**28.Qc4+ 2:27 Kh8 21 29.Qf7! 24**

Threatening 30 Rxf6 gxf6 31 Qh7#

**29...Qf6 2:01 30.Qxf6 2 gxf6 9**

**31.Rxf6+ 8 Kg7 5 32.Rh7+ 32 1-0**

□ Winslow,Elliott

■ Nguyen,Darian

2025 Summer TNM: 2000+ (5.7) 05.08.25

[Winslow,Elliott]

**B94**

**2200**

**2092**

A flash of a game! What started out as a 21st-century Najdorf becomes more of a Dragon after Black's fianchetto and opposite sides castling (Hey, I got there first!). I knew I was in trouble until I saw my own attack "succeeding," except that success was only as far as a perpetual.

That pretty much put my hopes to slip into the prize fund list to bed. Nguyen probably also had the "grabbed a tiger by the tail" feeling that I did, so fair enough.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4**

**4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7**

**7.Qe2 g6 8.0-0-0 Bg7 9.f4**

[ 9.h4! (Negi and then Jarmula 2021) ]

**9...Qa5**

[ 9...Qc7 (leaving the knight on the more aggressive d4 square) has fared less well after 10.g4!±

**A) 10...h6 11.Bh4 e5!? 12.fxe5**

**A1) 12...Nxe5 13.Nf5! Bxf5!**

( 13...gxf5? 14.gxf5+- ) 14.gxf5

g5 15.Bg3 ( 15.Be1!? ) 15...0-0

16.h4 g4 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.h5

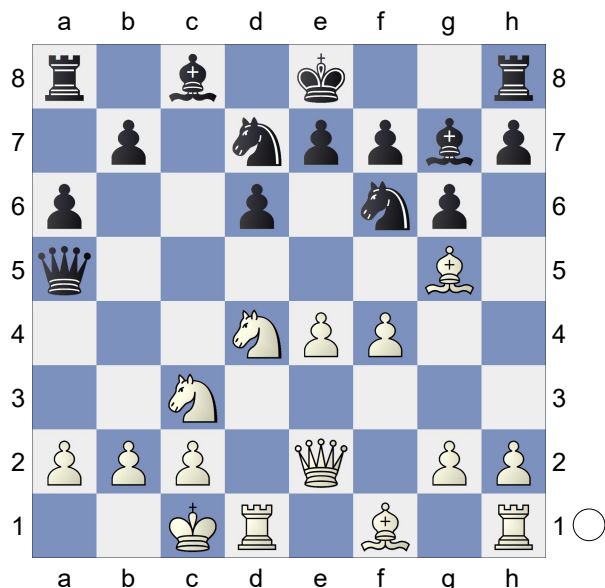
Qa5 19.a3 Rfd8;

**A2) 12...dxe5;**

**B) 10...0-0 11.f5 ( 11.h4; 11.Rg1; 11.Bg2 )]**

(Diagram)

Ftacnik in the notes to this game gave this as "Naka's move" or something to the effect -- but it was seemingly first



(and second) played by the ill-fated  
Sebastien Muheim a few years before.  
Same result twice (2009 & 2010)(2-0).  
An experiment that just needed more  
tests. Note that that is Sebastien  
(France) and not Sebastian (Swiss) (!!).

### 10.Nb3?

[ 10.g3 h6 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.Bg2 Bg4  
13.Bf3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 0-0 15.Rhe1  
Nd7 16.Nb3 Qc7 17.Nd5 Qd8 18.h4  
Rc8 19.h5 e6 20.Nc3 Bxc3 21.bxc3  
Qf6 22.hxg6 fxg6 23.Rxd6 Ne5  
24.Qh1 Nc4 25.e5 Qf7 26.Rd4 h5  
27.Qe4 b5 28.Red1 Rc7 29.Nc5  
Rxc5 30.Rd7 Rc7 31.Rxf7 Kxf7  
32.g4 hxg4 33.Rh1 Kg7 34.Qg2  
Rh8 35.Rxh8 Kxh8 36.Qxg4 Rh7  
37.Qd1 Rf7 38.Qd4 Kg7 39.Kd1 g5  
40.fxg5 Kg6 41.Qh4 Nxe5 42.Qh3  
Kxg5 43.Qxe6 Rf5 44.Qxa6 Nc4  
45.Ke2 Re5+ 46.Kf2 Ne3 47.Qa7  
Ng4+ 48.Kf3 Rf5+ 49.Ke2 Re5+  
50.Kd2 Rd5+ 51.Kc1 Kf4 52.Qf7+  
Ke4 53.Qh7+ Kf4 54.Qh4 Re5  
55.Kb2 Kf3 56.c4 Ne3 57.Qf6+ Ke4  
58.Qc6+ Kd4 59.Qd6+ 1-0 Karjakin,  
S (2767)-Nakamura,H (2775)  
Stavanger 2013 ]

[ 10.Kb1!± h6 ( 10...e5 11.Nb3 Qc7  
12.fxe5 Nxe5 13.Qd2 ) 11.Bh4 Qc7

12.g4 e5 13.Ndb5!? axb5 14.Nxb5  
Qc5 15.Nxd6+ Kf8 16.f5 ]  
**10...Qc7 11.Bxf6?** A misstep, which I  
recognized right after and avoided the  
next (mis)step.

[ 11.g3 was for some reason seen in a  
few games ]

[ 11.g4! 0.41/28 is Engine #1; ]

### 11...Nxf6 12.Qd2N

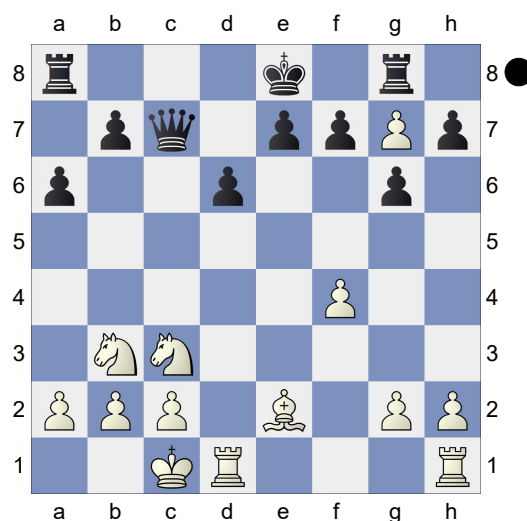
[I saw that 12.e5? was no good, even  
if this guy Rudd had a wonderful time:

#### A) 12...dxe5

**A1) 13.fxe5** Bg4! 14.Qe1  
( 14.exf6 Bh6+ ) 14...Nd7;

**A2) 13.Qxe5** Qxe5 14.fxe5 Ng4  
15.Nd5 Bxe5-+;

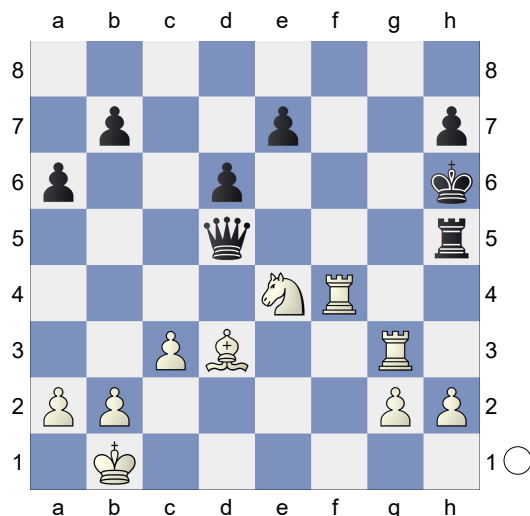
#### B) 12...Bg4? 13.exf6! Bxe2 14.fxg7 Rg8 15.Bxe2



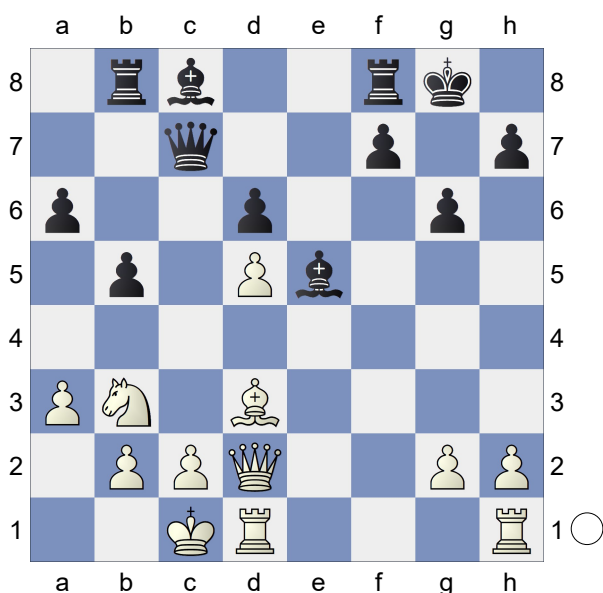
Rc8 ( 15...Rxc7 16.Rd3± ) 16.Nd4  
Rxc7 17.Bg4 f5 18.Ne6 Qc4  
19.Nxc7+ Kf7 20.Nxf5 Qxf4+  
21.Kb1 gxf5 22.Bxf5 Rc5 23.Be4  
Kg7 24.Bd3 Qb4 25.Ne4 Re5  
26.c3 Qa4 27.Rde1 Qd7 28.Re3  
Qe6 29.Rf1 Qd5 30.Rf4 Rh5  
31.Rg3+ Kh6

(Diagram)

32.Nf6 1-0 (32) Rudd,J (2296)-  
Muheim,S (2040) Hastings 2009 ]  
**12...0-0 13.Bd3 b5 14.a3 Rb8 15.Nd5**



**Nxd5 16.exd5 e5 17.fxe5 Bxe5**

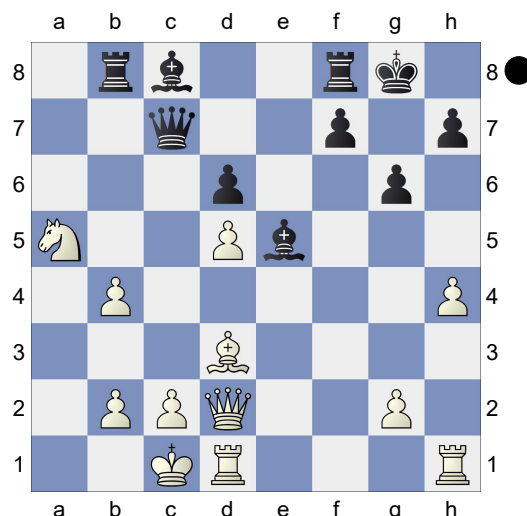


**18.h4!?** b4 **19.a4?!** I thought this would slow his attack, but perhaps it's the other way around.

[ 19.axb4! a5!? ( 19...Qb7 20.Na5 Qxb4 21.Qxb4 Rxb4 22.Nc4= Maybe Black has some sort of advantage -- two bishops! As Fischer said to one of the tailenders at dinner after he (not Fischer) agreed to a draw against a Soviet player during an Interzonal: "You've got the two bishops! Just make moves!" )

**A) 20.b5?** Ra8!-+ ( 20...a4? 21.Qa5! Qb7 22.Qxa4 h5 23.Nd4 Qxd5 24.Nc6 Bxb2+! 25.Kb1 Rb7!≠ != );

## B) 20.Nxa5



now Black has three ways to keep the game "balanced" ("0.00"):

**B1) 20...Bd7!?** 21.Nc4 Qa7= ( 21...Bg7=; 21...Ra8= );

**B2) 20...Bxb2+!?** 21.Kxb2 Qxa5 22.c3 Bg4! 23.h5! Bxd1 24.hxg6 hxg6 ( 24...Qa4 25.gxh7+ Kh8 26.Qxd1+- ) 25.Bxg6 fxg6 26.Rh8+! (or else!) Kxh8 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.Qxg6+=;

**B3) 20...Qxa5!?** 21.bxa5 Bxb2+ 22.Kb1 Bc3+ 23.Ka2 Bxd2 24.Rxd2 Ra8 25.Kb3 Rxa5 26.c4= ]

**19...Bd7 20.a5! Ba4! 21.Kb1 Bxb3 22.cxb3 Qxa5!**

[ 22...Rb7!?

**23.h5! Rfc8?** Having grabbed the pawn, Black needed to defend a bit (...a5-a4 can always happen later).

[ 23...Rb7!?

[ 23...Qd8!?

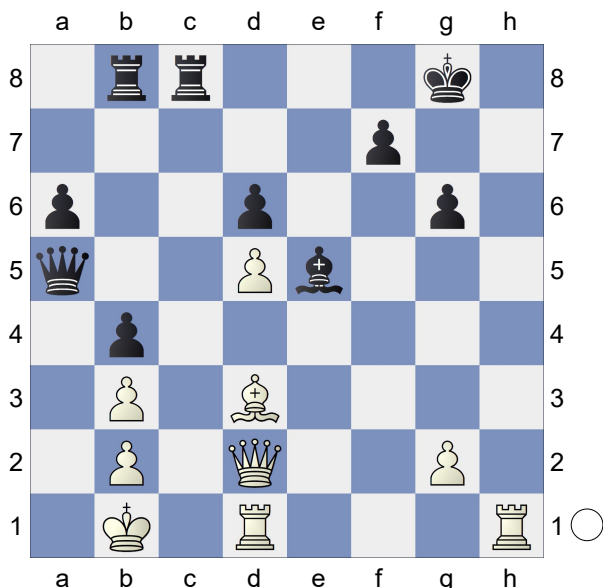
[ 23...Qb6 ]

**24.hxg6! hxg6!**

(Diagram)

Now it happens that either White or Black is forcing a perpetual. Just like too many Dragon Sicilian lines. **25.Bxg6!=**





I had been thinking I was winning with this earlier, but hardly.

[The inevitability of blowing out to a perpetual shows up in a lot of alternatives here: 25.Rh6 Bg7 26.Bxg6= ]

[ 25.Qh6 Bxb2 26.Kxb2 Qa3+ 27.Kb1 Qxb3+ 28.Ka1 Qc3+ 29.Kb1= So Black has stopped mate on h8, but Qh7+ and then Qh8+ trades queens with some (vague) danger of Black losing, so: perp. ]  
[ Stockfish kicks up a couple slow moves, like 25.g4 which still reach "0.00" but are just asking for trouble; I just headed straight for what is in fact a draw. ]

**25...fxg6 26.Qd3**

[ 26.Qg5 Qc7 ]

[ 26.Qh6 Qc7 ]

**26...Qc7! (the only move!) ... and I'm lucky I have a perpetual: 27.Qxg6+ Qg7 28.Qe6+ Qf7 29.Qg4+ Qg7 30.Qe6+ Qf7**

1/2-1/2

**A70**  
 ☐ **Horowitz, Phineas F** **1912**  
 ■ **Winslow, Elliott** **2200**  
 2025 Summer TNM: 2000+ (7.4) 19.08.25  
*[Tactical Analysis/Winslow, Elliott]*

At least I went out with a fun game...

**1.d4 2 Nf6 14 2.c4 7 e6 1:06 3.Nf3 56 c5 37 4.d5 2:09 exd5 8 5.cxd5 18 d6 27 6.Nc3 1:01 g6 22 7.e4 2:07 Bg7 30 8.Bd3 1:48**

[ 8.h3!? ]

**8...a6 2:44 9.a4 31 Bg4 30** I used to like to keep pieces on the board, and was always surprised to see that Nick De Firmian, former US Champion, former MI Grandmaster in Residence, and former housemate, went out of his way to trade off this bishop. Oddly it was one of those "Play the..." series books on the Alekhine Defense that reminded me of the principle: "When short on space trade a minor, even bishop for knight." No more logjams on d7, no more rooks still languishing on a8. Easy!  
**10.h3 2:24**

[I was surprised to see this game in the Mega database. Watson! And as late as 2019. And in Denver! 10.Bf4 0-0 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Qe7 13.0-0 Nbd7 14.Qe2 (This game even surprised me \*more\*: 14.Rfe1 Ne5 15.Bxe5 Qxe5 16.Qe3 Rfe8 17.a5 Rac8 18.f4 Qe7 19.Kh1 Nd7 20.Qf3 c4 21.Bc2 Rc5 22.Ra4 f5 23.Rb4 Rxa5 24.Rxb7 Qh4 25.Rd1 Nc5 26.Rc7 fxe4 27.Nxe4 Nxe4 28.Bxe4 Rb5 29.Rxc4 Rxb2 30.Rf1 a5 31.Rc7 Rb4 32.Bb1 Re1 33.Rc8+ Bf8 34.Rc1 Rxc1 35.Rxc1 Qxf4 36.Qxf4 Rxf4 37.Ba2 Bh6 38.Rc2 Rf1+ 39.Kh2 Bf4+ 40.g3 Be5 41.Rg2 g5 42.Bc4 Rc1 43.Be2 a4 44.Bd3 a3 45.Ra2 Rc3 46.Bf5 Rxc3 47.Bg4 Rxc3+ 0-1 (47) Hakobyan, S

(1980)-Winslow,E (2321) Alan Benson Memorial TNM, San Francisco 2016 )  
 14...Rfe8 15.Rae1 Nh5 16.Bh2 Be5  
 17.f4 Bd4+ 18.Kh1 Qh4 19.Qf3 f5  
 20.Re2 Bxc3 21.bxc3 fxe4 22.Bxe4  
 Nhf6 ½-½ (22) Gimbutas,Z-Watson,J  
 (2208) Denver 2019 ]

**10...Bxf3 6 11.Qxf3 14 0-0 22**

[ 11...Nbd7 12.Bf4 Qe7

was my Hakobyan game move order ]

**12.0-0 4:35 Nbd7 2:54 13.Bf4 2:40**

It's a bit complicated. White's primary plan, dictated by the pawns, is e4-e5 and a dangerous d-pawn. Getting in f2-f4 could be a useful addition. But the f-file is collecting obstacles. Still, Stockfish goes for piece play with this move.

**13...Qc7 4:45 14.Rae1?! -0.38/28 15:35**

Everyone knows "knights before bishops," but do they also know "queen before rooks"? (Not that either of those hold all that often)

[ 14.a5= 0.25/29 ]

[ 14.Qe2!?± ]

**14...Rfe8?! 1:10**

[ 14...c4! 15.Bc2 Rab8 16.a5!?

( 16.Qg3 Nh5! see game! ) 16...Ne5!?

17.Bxe5 dxe5 I still have ...Ne8-d6, very harmonious. ]

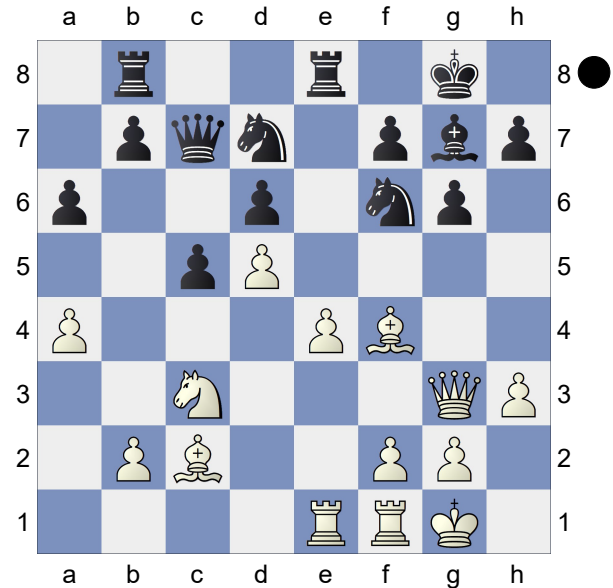
**15.Bc2 6:00**

[ 15.Bb1!? ]

**15...Rab8 1:18 16.Qg3? -2.23/23 3:41**

[ 16.Qe2!= -0.16/30 "and White has nothing to worry." (TA) (EW: But SF17. 1 has a small plus for Black after 16...c4 (or maybe first 16...Nh5 17.Bh2 c4 18.a5 b6 19.axb6 Rxb6 20.Ba4 Reb8 ) 17.a5 b6 18.axb6 Nxb6 19.Be3 Nbd7 (I misread and had 19...Nfd7 for a while. I know it's all going to turn into "0.00" but at least it's taking a while. Oh wait, it's \*White\* with +0.15 or so. Anyway, wrong knight. ) 20.Rb1 a5 21.Rfc1 White abandons (postpones!?) f4/e5

etc. to first neutralize Black's queenside play. Rb4 22.b3 cxb3 23.Rxb3 Nc5 24.Rxb4 axb4 25.Nb5 It's still fairly even, but at least it's Black striving. ]

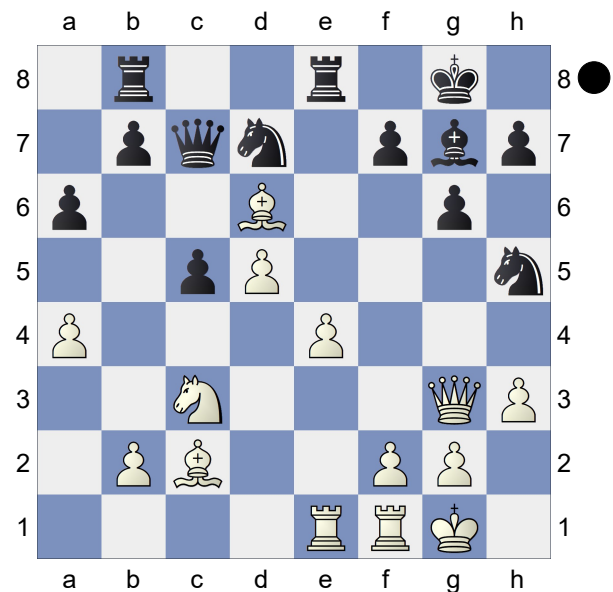


Phineas didn't fully appreciate the tactical morass we were now entering! (And honestly, neither did I fully!)

**16...Nh5!-+ 4:24 (But enter it I did)**

**17.Bxd6 -3.16/26 7:25**

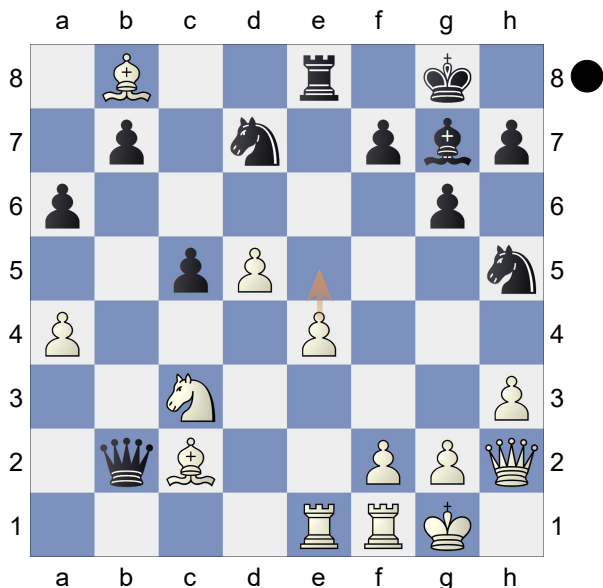
[ 17.Qg4 -2.20/28 can't be right ]



**17...Qb6! 1:36 18.Qh2 4:17 Qxb2! 1:20**

**19.Bxb8 53**

[ 19.e5 is "less lost" Qxc2! don't ask me why this now! 20.Rc1 Qb2 21.f4 Ra8! Never entered my calculations! 22.g4 Qxh2+ 23.Kxh2 Nxf4 24.Rxf4 Bh6 Ooh! But hardly necessary ]  
 [As is 19.g4 Qxc3 20.Bxb8 Nxb8 21.gxh5 Qxc2 ]



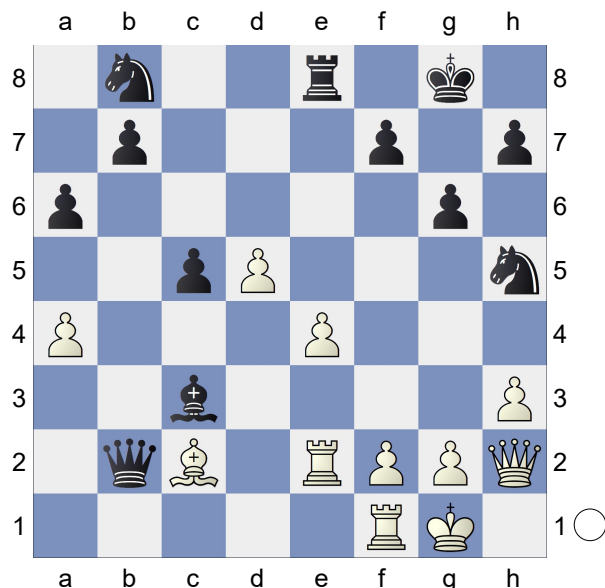
How can you not grab a rook! But  
**19...Bxc3!? 6:01** Not what I was originally looking at.

[Less convincing is 19...Qxc3?!  
 20.Bd6 ( 20.Qc7± ) 20...Qxc2 21.e5 g5± radical, but comes out on top ]  
 [ 19...Rxb8 20.Nd1 Qxc2 21.Qc7 Qxa4 22.e5± ]  
 [ 19...Nxb8! is best after all: 20.e5 Qxc3 21.e6 fxe6 ( 21...Qxc2? 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Qc7+ Deflection Kf6 24.Rxe8+- ) 22.Bd1± (TA) e5!-+ (SF17.1) ]

**20.Re2 17:20** I confess, this was a surprise. (You see, I get surprised a lot.)  
**20...Nxb8 4:45**  
 [ 20...Rxb8? 21.Qc7 Nhf6 22.f4= ]

(Diagram)

**21.Qc7? -4.61/19 1:57**

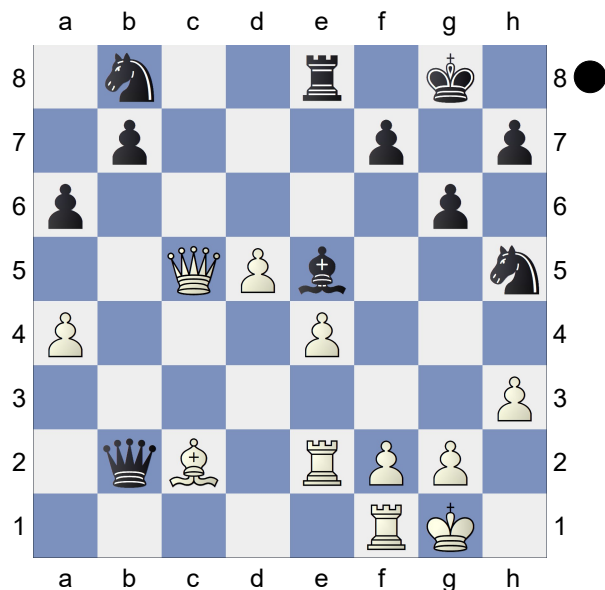


[ 21.Rb1 -2.86/24 keeps fighting. (TA) And might well have caught me! I was intending Qa3 ( 21...Qa2! 22.Qc7 ) 22.Re3! ( 22.Rb3 Qc1+ ) ]  
 [ 21.Rb1 Qa2! 22.Rxb7 Nd7! ( 22...Qa3!? ) ]

**21...Be5 2:03 22.Qxc5 1:41**

Ah! And now I get to play...

[ 22.Qa5 Nf4 23.Rd2 b6 ]



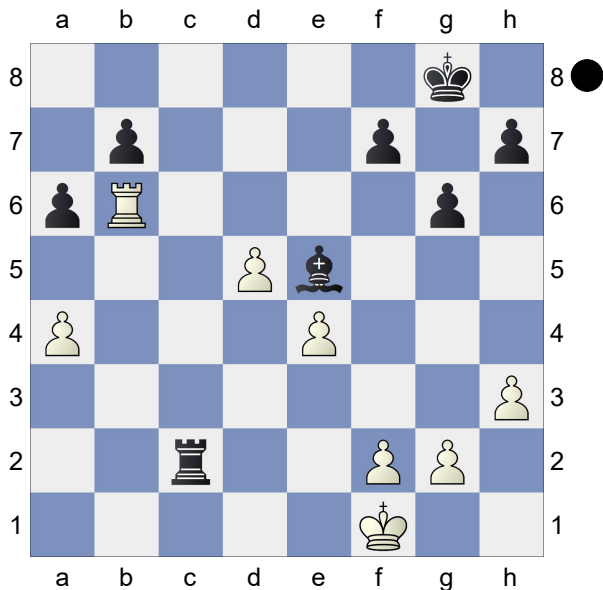
**22...Ng3! 1:03** Double Attack This got a bit of a double take from Phineas!

**23.Ree1 4:45**

[ 23.Qc4 Qd4 ]

**23...Nxf1 42 24.Kxf1 13 Nd7 19**

25.Qc4 29 Nb6 37 26.Qd3 53 Rc8 19  
27.Rb1 3:06 Qxc2 7 28.Qxc2 6 Rxc2 6  
29.Rxb6 5 He kept walking into my little  
cheapos!



29...Rxf2+! 6 Decoy. KRB-KR. The  
"Tactical Analysis" was actually giving  
this "!!" which seems rather ridiculous.  
But it is a nice little shot, 30.Kg1 1:03  
[ 30.Kxf2 Bd4+ ]

30...Rb2 7 31.Rxb2 57 Bxb2 7 32.Kf2  
4 Kf8 9 33.Ke3 4 Ke7 16 TA: "White  
did not feel at home in the position after  
the opening.

A cool game by Winslow."

EW: I thought so too!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.85/  
Black=0.10

0-1

□ Jones, Clarence

■ Liu, Serena

2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.5)

[TA/Winslow,Elliott]

Jones makes the most of an extra  
Exchange (as in rook for knight) against  
Serena Liu. 1.d4 21 Nf6 5 2.c4 12 e6 2  
3.g3 32 d5 9 4.Bg2 19 Bb4+ 7 5.Bd2

16 Be7 5 6.Nf3 24 0-0 18 7.0-0 31 c6  
5 8.Qc2 37 Nbd7 45 9.Nc3 35 b6 1:16  
10.cxd5 2:11 cxd5 19 11.e4?! -0.27/35  
5:16 Just gives Black an edge.

[ 11.Qb3 0.14/32 isn't much, but it  
leans in the right direction. ]

11...dxe4 24 12.Nxe4 1:36

[ 12.Ng5!? ]

12...Nxe4N 0.00/39 2:52

[ 12...Bb7 ̄ -0.39/33 13.Nc3 Rc8 ]

[ 12...Bb7 13.Nxf6+ Nxf6 14.Bc3

Rc8 15.Rfd1 Nd5 16.Qd2 Rc7

17.a4 Qc8 18.Rdc1 Rd8 1-0 (71) Da  
Rocha,J (1832)-Souza Jr,H (1729) Rio  
de Janeiro 2019 ]

13.Qxe4 22 Ba6 21 14.Rfc1 2:00 Nf6  
15:44 15.Qc6 5:40 Qd5? 1.37/32 11:44

[ 15...Bd6= 0.12/33 keeps the  
balance. ]

16.Ne5± 6:00 Qxd4 18:06 17.Bc3 35

[ 17.Qxa8 Rxa8 ( 17...Qxe5?

18.Qxa7 Bc5 19.Qxa6+- ) 18.Bc3

Qc5 ( 18...Qd8 19.Nc6 ̄ ) 19.Bxa8

Bf8= ]

17...Qd6 12 18.Qxd6 16

[ 18.Qxa8 Rxa8 19.Bxa8 Qc7± ]

18...Bxd6 3 19.Bxa8 15 Rxa8 4

20.Rd1 0.60/29 2:14

[ 20.Nc6± 1.43/25 ]

20...Nd5± 51 Repels Bb4 21.Nd3  
0.22/31 7:34

[ 21.a4± 0.60/24 ]

21...Rc8 1.31/30 7:19

[ 21...Nxc3= 0.22/31 22.bxc3 Be7 ]

22.Be5↑ 1:00 White is in control.

22...Bxd3 1:50 23.Bxd6 21 Ba6 11

24.Rac1 41 Wards off Rc2 24...h6

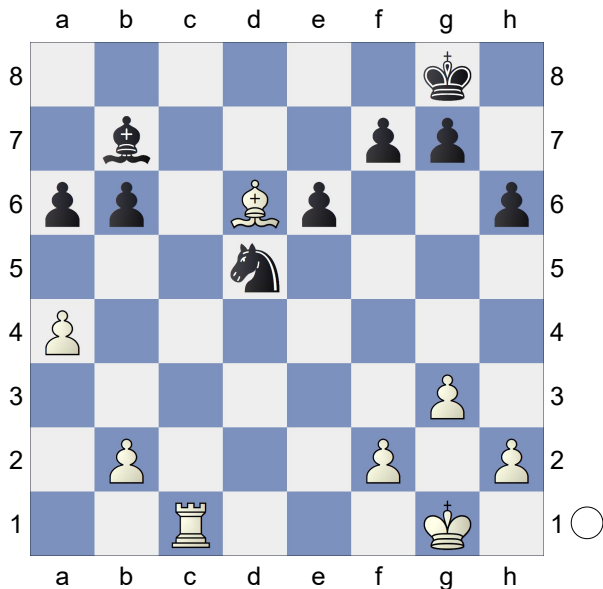
2.90/24 1:45

[ 24...Ra8± 1.43/29 25.a4 f6 ]

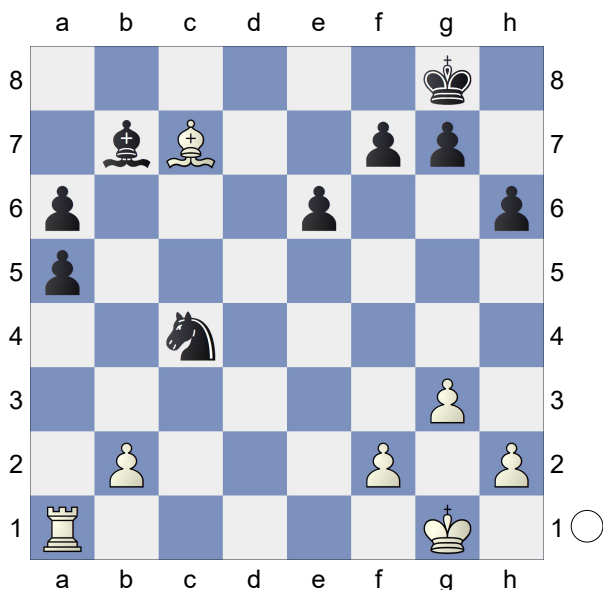
25.Rxc8+- 27 Bxc8 6 Endgame KRB-  
KBN 26.Rc1 30 Bb7 6 27.a4 45 a6  
8:38

(Diagram)





**28.a5! 4:03 bxa5 4:09 29.Ra1 34 Nb6 4:18 30.Bc7 1:46**  
 [ 30.Rxa5 Nc4 31.Bc7 Nxa5  
 32.Bxa5 e5± ]  
**30...Nc4 8:04**



**31.Bxa5 0.61/34 1:33**  
 [White should play 31.Ra2!± 1.48/25  
 b3! would now be deadly. Nd2 32.h3  
 ( 32.Rxa5 Nf3+ 33.Kg2 g6± )]  
**31...Nxa5 5.25/23 40**  
 [Black should play 31...Nxb2± 0.61/34  
 32.Bc3 Nc4 ]  
**32.Rxa5± 15 KR-KB 32...Kf8 53 33.Rc5 56 Bd5 37 34.Rc7 23 g6 48 35.f4 19 h5 1:17 36.Kf2 27 Bb3 1:41 37.Ke3 17**

**Kg7 5:20 38.h3 2:28 Kf6 1:37 39.g4 11 hxg4 9 40.hxg4 10 g5 2:42 41.Rc5 1:11 gxf4+ 26 42.Kxf4 17 Ba4 48 43.Rh5 7.03/18 1:59**  
 [ 43.g5+ 51.45/19 Kg6 44.Rc8 ]  
**43...Kg7 2:01 44.Ke5 1:10 Bc2 2:27 45.g5 18 Kg6 12 46.Rh2 28 Bd3 16 47.Rg2 15 Bf1 30 48.Rg3 16 Bc4 10 49.Kf4 18 Bf1 53 50.Kg4? 3.93/23 47**  
 [ 50.Ke5 53.89/21 Be2 51.b4 ]  
**50...Be2+? 17.01/23 13**  
 [ 50...f6 3.93/23 51.gxf6 Bc4 ]  
**51.Kh4? 2.44/24 11**  
 [ 51.Kf4 17.01/23 f6 52.gxf6+ Kxf6 53.Ke4 ]  
**51...Bb5? 45.24/20 59**  
 [ 51...f6 2.44/24 52.Re3 fxf6+ 53.Kg3 Bc4 ]  
**52.Rf3+- 14 Bc4 20 53.Rf6+ 9 Kg7 5 54.Kg4 13 Bd3 11 55.Kf4 7.84/20 40 Bc4 55 56.Ke5? 3.71/25 14 Bb5? 64.14/24 17**  
 [ 56...a5 3.71/25 57.Kd6 Bd3 ]  
**57.Kd6 25 Bd3 27 58.b4 26 Be4 39 59.Ke7 29 Bg6 11 60.Rf4 29 Bh5 1:16 61.Kd6 24.19/23 37**  
 [ 61.Rf6 71.58/20 Bg6 62.Rf3 ]  
**61...Be2 20 62.Rf6 18 Bd3 17 63.Kc5 7 Be2 20 64.Rf2 13 Bb5 6 65.Kd6 14 Bd3 51 66.Ke7 10 Bg6 61.00/19 16 67.Rd2 22 Be4 1:51 68.Rd6 23 Kg6 39 69.Rxa6 28 Kxg5 7 70.Kxf7 27 e5 4 71.b5 1:20 Bd5+ 26 72.Ke7 20 Kf4 1:31 73.Kd6 14 Bb7 20 74.Ra7 22 Bf3 34 75.Rf7+ 24 Weighted Error Value: White=1.13/Black=1.53 1-0**



☐ Chernobilskiy, Mikhail

■ Jones, Clarence

2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (7.5)

[Winslow, Elliott]

C36

1889

1758

Ah, a peaceful King's Gambit... A win for Chernobilsky would have taken clear first putting Jones in the tie for 2nd-4th, but Jones played solidly, not allowing any double piece sacrifices. **1.e4 7 e5 14 2.f4 46 exf4 25 3.Nf3 5 d5 1:09**

This was called the Modern Defense 60-plus years ago, when I played it (I think as Black!) in a Golden Knights postal tournament in the 1960s.

Probably contributed to my repertoire for the first few years of my chess life: 1.d4 and 1.e4 c5 or ...d6. **4.exd5 2:08**

Best, but Stockfish in 2025 is already

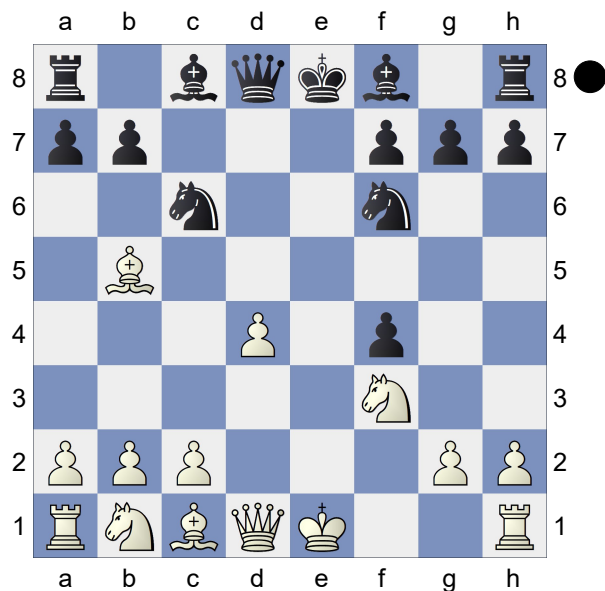
giving Black better than equality! **4...Nf6! 22 5.Bb5+ 6:27**

[SF17.1 has White hang on to the pawn a little longer with 5.c4 c6 6.d4 and of course we have the de rigueur "Magic" Magnus "Contrary" Carlsen blitz game: cxd5 7.c5 Nc6 8.Bb5 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bxf4 Bg4 11.Nc3 Ne4 12.Qd3 Bf5 13.Qe3 Bf6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Ne5 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Bg6 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Qg3 f6 19.Bd6 Re8 20.b4 Bg6 21.a4 a6 22.h4 Qd7 23.h5 Bxh5 24.Rxf6 Qg4 25.Qxg4 Bxg4 26.Rf4 Bh5 27.Raf1 h6 28.Be5 Ra7 29.b5 axb5 30.axb5 cxb5 31.c6 Raa8 32.c7 Kh7 33.Rb1 Be2 34.Rf7 Rg8 35.Re7 Bc4 36.Kh2 Rae8 37.Rd7 Ra8 38.Rb2 Raf8 39.g4 Ra8 40.Rf2 b4 41.Rff7 h5 42.Rxg7+ Rxg7 43.Rxg7+ 1-0, Carlsen, M (2837)-Chadaev, N (2580), Wch (blitz), Astana 2012 ]

**5...c6 5:52 6.dxc6 3:43 Nxc6 6:43**

**7.d4?! -0.84/30 11:10**

[ 7.Nc3= -0.30/29 ]



**7...Qa5+?! 0.17/32 10:02**

[ 7...Bd6! 7 -0.84/30 ]

**8.Nc3= 14 Bb4! 16 9.Bxc6+ 9:32 bxc6**

**29 10.0-0! 1:43 Bxc3 0.21/33 3:16**

[ 10...0-0 -0.17/33 ]

**11.bxc3 7 Qxc3 2:43 12.Bd2! 10:24**

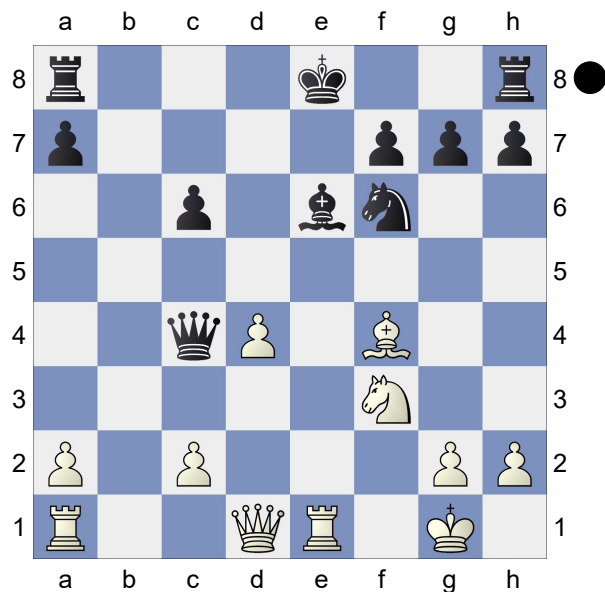
White sacrificed a pawn

[ But not 12.Bxf4 0-0= ]

**12...Qc4 2:00 13.Re1+ -0.10/32 3:19**

[ 13.Qe1+± 0.55/29 Be6 14.Bb4 ]

**13...Be6 1:38 14.Bxf4 2:45**



**0-0 2:24 15.Ne5 2:04 Qa4 2:33 16.Qd2 -0.20/32 10:08**

[ 16.c4 0.20/31 Qxd1 17.Rexd1

( 17.Raxd1 Rac8± )]

16...Ng4 11:53 17.Nxg4 7:25 Bxg4 19  
18.Bd6 24 Rfe8 1:29 19.c3 3:35  
aiming for Qg5. 19...Qc4 2:22 20.Bc5  
5:08 Opposite bishops and equal  
position 20...Be6 2:36 21.a4 1:38 a6  
0.00/39 15

[ 21...a5± -0.42/28 is superior. ]

22.a5 15 Bd5 43 23.Be7 2:21 Be6 2:31  
24.Bd6 4:06 Bd5 2:16 25.Be5 55 Re6  
56 26.Re3 1:16 Rae8 2:26 And now ...  
f6 would win. 27.Rae1 3:10 Qa2 3:36  
28.Qxa2 2:03 Bxa2 31 29.Kf2 58 Bc4  
1:08 30.g4 29 f6 20 31.Bg3 17 Kf7 12  
32.h4 22 Rxe3 40 33.Rxe3 7 Rxe3 10  
The position is equal. 34.Kxe3 7  
Endgame KB-KB 34...Ke6 12 35.Bf4  
24 g6 30 36.Bh6 28 Bb5 1:20 37.Ke4  
17 f5+ 49 38.gxf5+ 25 gxf5+ 16  
39.Kf4 2 Bd3 53 40.Bg7 25 h5 47  
41.Ke3 1:23 Bc4 22 Weighted Error  
Value: White=0.12/Black=0.15. So the  
"TA" summary has them playing this  
quite well.  
1/2-1/2

□ Schaezlein,Charlie

■ Sevall,Daniel

2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (7.18)  
[Winslow,Elliott]

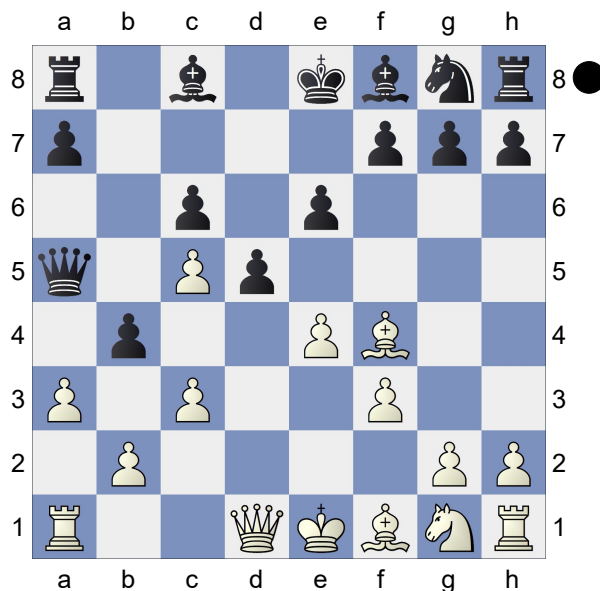
After two half-point byes and a played  
draw, Daniel Sevall propelled into the  
money with this interesting and pretty  
well controlled win against Charlie  
Schaezlein. (Charlie could have  
swapped places with a win, and missed  
his shot on move 11!) 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5  
3.f3 I've never known why this is called  
The Fantasy Variation! But maybe it's  
that the positions are foggishly dreamlike,  
where it's hard to say what matters. Or  
am I describing the Caro-Kann in

general? 3...Nd7

[ 3...dxe4 and ]

[ 3...Qb6 are the main lines. ]

4.Nc3 e6 5.Bf4 Qb6 6.Na4 Qa5+  
7.c3 b5 8.Nc5 Nxc5 9.dxc5 b4 10.a3



The players are fighting tooth and nail  
over the fate of the pawn at c5. Here  
Black loses his footing: 10...bxa3?

[ 10...bxc3 11.b4 Qd8 12.exd5 exd5  
13.Ne2

A) 13...Nh6!? 14.Nxc3 ( 14.Nd4!?!;  
14.Bxh6? Qh4+± ) 14...Be7±;

B) 13...a5!? 14.Nd4!± ( 14.Nxc3  
g5! 15.Bd2 Bg7± )]

As does White: 11.Rxa3?

[ 11.b4!+- keeps the c-pawn and  
leaves Black's front a-pawn weak.  
Stockfish has White already winning  
after Qd8 12.exd5 exd5 13.Ne2 a5  
14.Nd4 Qf6 ( 14...axb4 15.Nxc6 Qf6  
16.Bb5 Black's king is in a lot more  
danger than White's (which is set to  
castle). ) 15.Qa4! ]

11...Qxc5 12.b4 Qb6 Still, Black's plus  
is not quite anything special, or so it  
would have been... 13.Bd3?

[ ...after 13.exd5 exd5 ( 13...cxd5  
14.Qa4+ Bd7 15.Qa6= ) 14.Ne2 ]

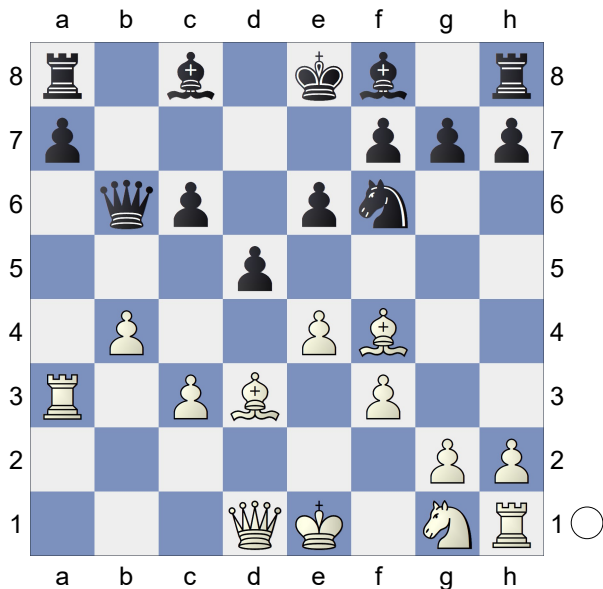
13...Nf6-+

(Diagram)

B12

1484

0



Amazingly \*now\* White is lost. There is the extra pawn, plus Black is just going to bring out the bishop and castle, while white? Uh-oh. **14.Ne2 Be7 15.Qc1**

[ 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Bg3 Ne3 ]

**15...0-0**

[ Even better is 15...dxe4 16.Be3 c5! The pin can't be exploited. 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.fxe4 Qc6 ]

**16.Be3 Qc7** Black's advantage slips a bit, but is still there.

[ 16...c5! ]

**17.0-0**

[ 17.Ra5! ♣ rejoins the fight for square c5, which might even be \*more\* valuable to White with no pawn there. ]

**17...c5-+**

[ 17...dxe4! Black should resolve the tension, says Stockfish 17.1. It doesn't matter which way you go, the pundits and puter chips will say it's better the other way. Kind of like "Wrong Rook!" ]

**18.Qb2** (slipping into oblivion) **18...dxe4!**

**19.fxe4?!**

[ 19.Bxe4 is better, but Nxe4 20.fxe4 Bd7 and ...Bb5 will shake the tree. ]

**19...Ng4! 20.Bf4 Bd6**

[ 20...Qb6! is the best followup! ]

21.Kh1 cxb4 22.cxb4 Nf2+

**A) 23.Kg1** Nxd3+ ( 23...Nh3+ 24.Kh1 Qg1+?? 25.Nxg1 oops! );

**B) 23.Rxf2** Qxf2 ]

**21.h3**

[ 21.Kh1 ]

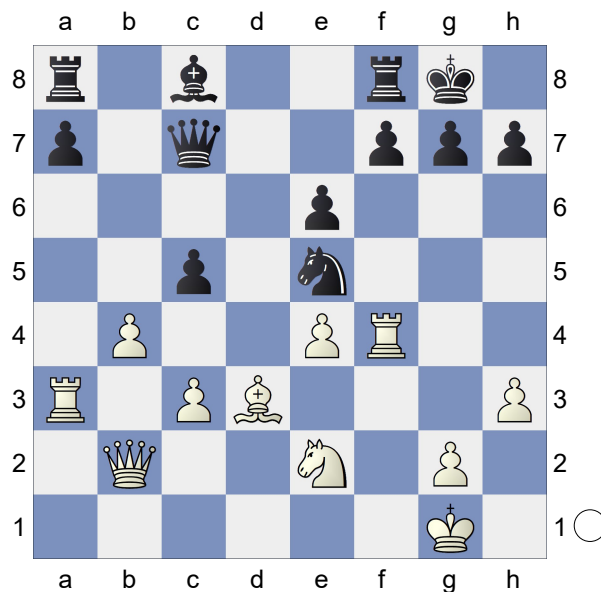
**21...Bxf4?!** (Thinning Black's plus again.)

[ 21...Ne5 ]

**22.Rxf4?!** (Thickening it (this metaphor is falling apart) even more than it's been. White is, maybe a bit surprisingly, completely lost.

[ 22.Nxf4 Ne5 is won, sort of. ]

**22...Ne5**



**-4.65/20 (SF17.1) 23.Qb1 Rb8**

[ 23...Rd8! ]

**24.Ba6 cxb4 25.cxb4 Qb6+ 26.Kh1 Bxa6 27.Qa1 Bxe2 28.Qxe5 a6**

**29.Rg3 g6**

[ 29...f6! 30.Rxf6 Rxf6 31.Qxf6 Rb7 ]

**30.Rh4** In spite of all that firepower, Black's castle stands. **30...Rbd8 31.Qf4 Rd1+ 32.Kh2 Qg1#**

**0-1**

□ Santiago, Hugo Osmar

■ Argo, Guy

2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.17)

[TA/Winslow, Elliott]

Hugo Santiago went on to tie for 2nd-4th.

Here's his win against Guy Argo again.

The advantage flipped more than a few

times! But in the end it was Hugo. 1.e4

d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 e5

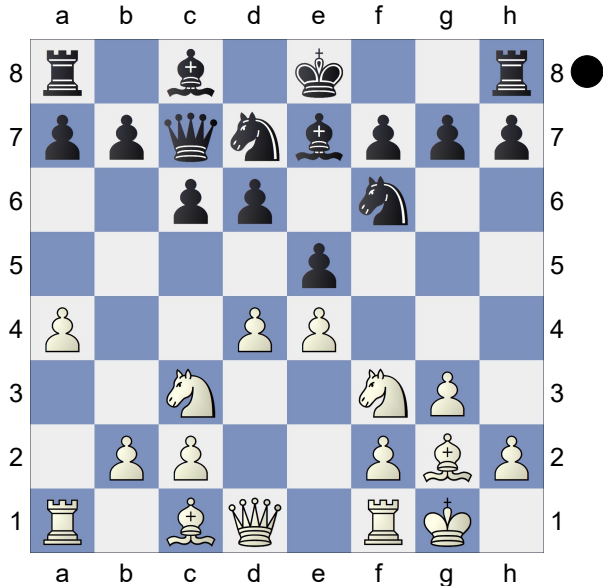
5.g3 Not the most pertinent development

against the Philidor, but not to be

underestimated. Similar to the situation

in the Pirc Defense. 5...Be7 6.Bg2 c6

7.a4 Qc7 8.0-0



White is slightly better. 8...h6?!

Argo opts to toss his pawns at White's fianchettoed king position, where it works less well than usual.

[ 8...0-0 would be normal. ]

9.b3 g5?

[ 9...0-0± ]

10.Ba3N

[ 10.Bb2 b6 11.Qd3 a5 12.Ne2 Bb7

13.Rfd1 0-0-0 14.c4 Rhe8 15.c5

dxc5 16.dxe5 1-0 (33) Kuckel, A-

Oortwijn, R IECG email 1997 ]

10...Nf8 11.Qd2

[ 11.Qd3 ]

C41 11...Ng6± 12.d5

[ 12.a5± ]

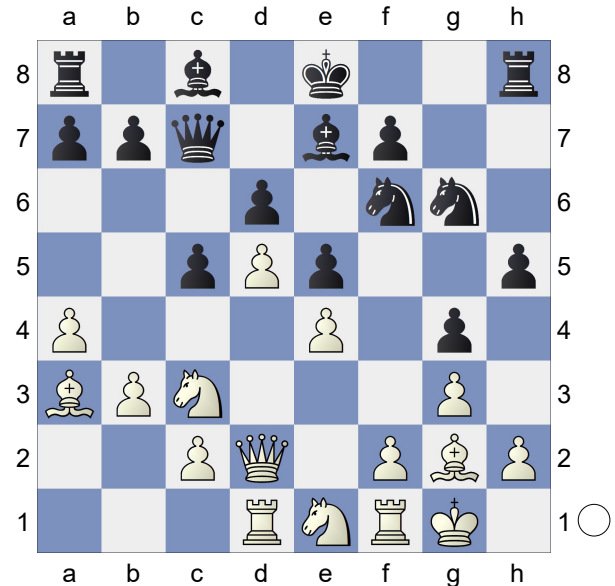
12...g4

[ 12...0-0± ]

13.Ne1 h5 Here they come. But to what end? 14.Rd1

[ 14.Nd3± ]

14...c5



15.f4? Justifying Black's radical pawnstorm. This would be great if the en passant rule hadn't been invented yet.

[ 15.Nd3± with thoughts of Nxc5. ]

15...gxf3! 16.Nxf3 h4 17.Ng5 hxg3

18.hxg3 Bg4

[ Black could stop for 18...a6! ]

19.Ra1

[ 19.Bc1!± ]

19...a6 20.Rf2

[ 20.Bc1± ]

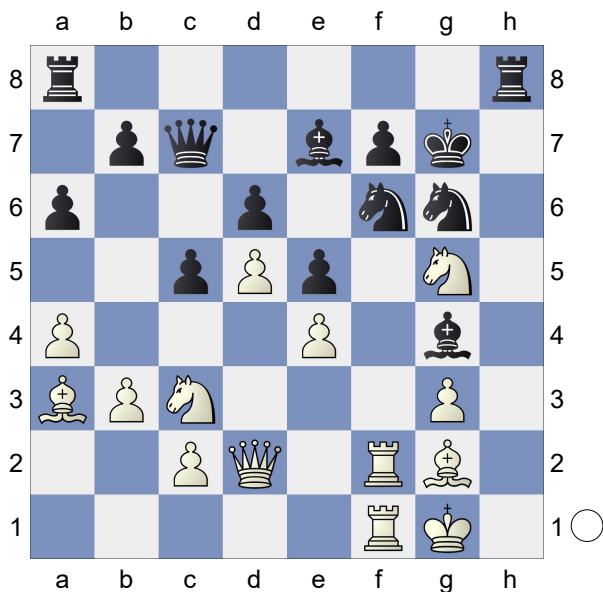
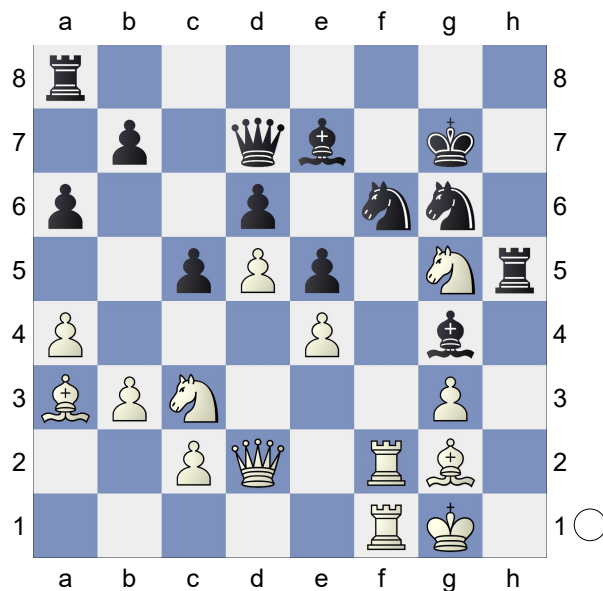
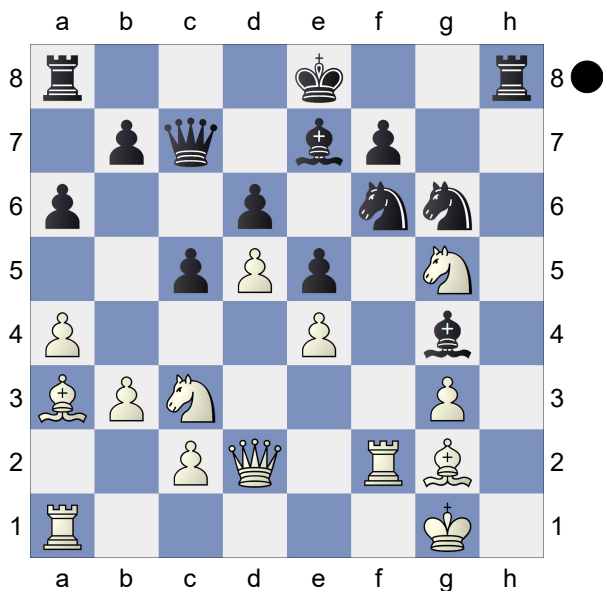
(Diagram)

20...Kf8?

[ 20...Rg8!-+ ...Nh5 would now be deadly. 21.Raf1 Nf8 ]

21.Raf1 Kg7

(Diagram)



**22.Nxf7?**

[ 22.Nd1= ]

**22...Rh5??**

[ Just take it! 22...Kxf7+- 23.Rxf6+  
( 23.Qg5? Nf4+- ) 23...Bxf6 ]

**23.Ng5+- Qd7**

(Diagram)

**24.Ne6+! Bxe6 25.dxe6 Qxe6 26.Nd5  
Nxd5 27.Rf7+**

[ 27.exd5+- Qg4 28.Qd3 ]

**27...Kg8± 28.Qxd5** Black is weak on  
the light squares

[ 28.exd5 is interesting. Qg4 29.Qd3

Re8 30.R7f2 ]

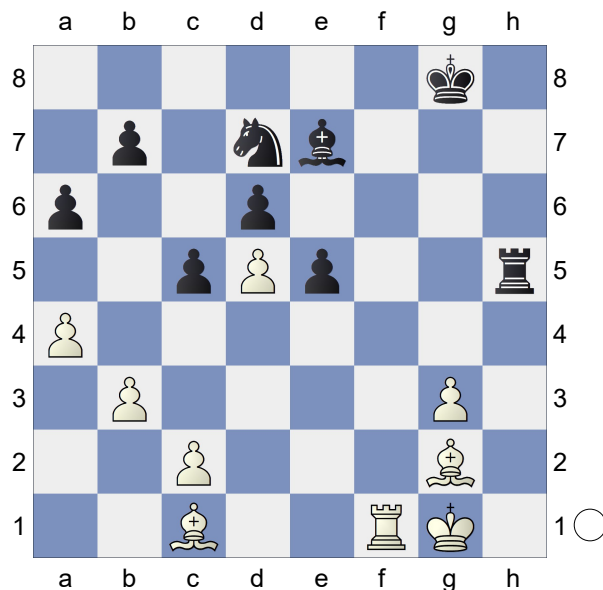
**28...Qxd5 29.exd5 Be4** would now be  
deadly. **29...Rf8 30.Rxf8+ Nxf8**

**31.Bc1** White is more active.

[ White should try 31.a5 ]

**31...Nd7**

[ 31...Kg7 ]



**32.Bf3! Rf5**

[ 32...Rh8± 33.Bg4 Nf6 ]

**33.Kg2 Nf6?**

[ 33...c4 was called for. 34.Rh1  
( 34.bxc4 e4+- ) 34...Nc5 35.bxc4  
Nxa4 ]

**34.g4+-** White is clearly winning.



34...Rxf3 35.Kxf3 Nxd5 36.g5 Nb4  
37.c3 Nd5 38.Bd2 c4 39.Ke4  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/  
Black=0.46  
1-0

□ Jones, Clarence

■ Santiago, Hugo Osmar

2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (6.5)

[Winslow, Elliott]

Santiago stops the Clarence Express,  
thus keeping the race for first up in the  
air. It was an odd King's Indian Defense,  
Exchange Variation, with h4 h5 thrown in;  
as so often when White trades and  
trades, Black has a slim plus (the d4  
square!) but White should be able hold --  
and yet often doesn't. That was the case  
here... 1.d4 49:11 Nf6 4:28 2.c4 19 g6  
9 3.h4 30 Well, it's easy to remember!  
Black plays ...g6, White plays h4. Voila!  
An opening system! 3...Bg7 1:35 4.Nc3  
32 d6 4:03 5.e4 1:42 h5 4:49 6.Nf3  
2:06 0-0 29 7.Be2 1:30 e5 0.81/25 1:11  
Since those h-pawn moves, it's been a  
rather pedestrian King's Indian variation.  
8.dxe5N 0.06/30 3:40

[Stockfish likes 8.d5 Ng4 9.Ng5 Qe7  
10.f3 Nh6 11.Be3 f6 12.Ne6 Bxe6  
13.dxe6 Qxe6 14.Qd2 Nf7  
0-1 (43) Vantika,A (2371)-Lagno,K  
(2547) Chess.com INT 2022 ]  
[ 8.Bg5 is a toss-up for best. ]

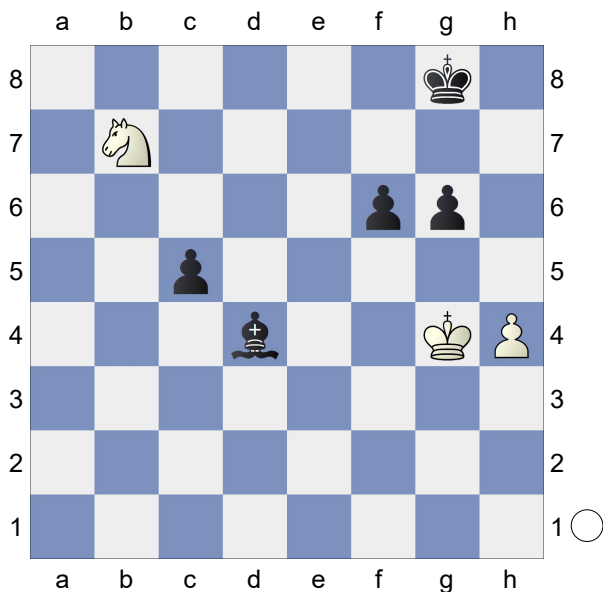
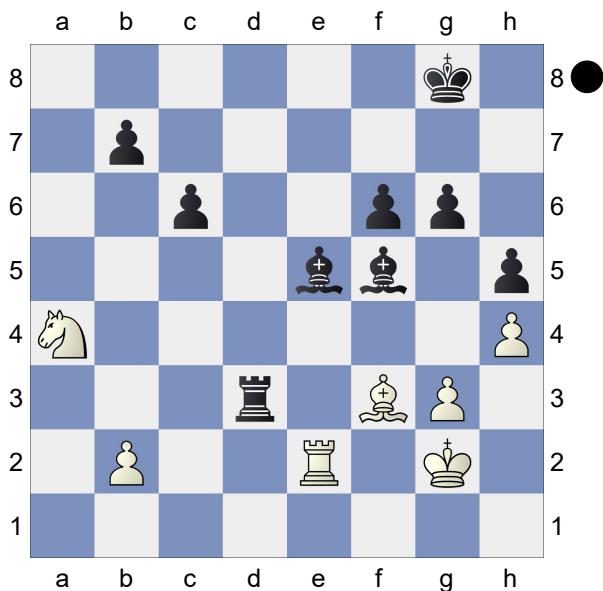
8...dxe5= 21 The Exchange Variation?  
Now who will miss the possibility of P-  
KR3 more? 9.Qxd8 25 Rxd8 2 10.Bg5  
25 c6!? 4:07 11.Nxe5 4:48 Re8! 2  
12.Nf3?! -0.32/30 5:37  
[ 12.Rd1= 0.06/37 is superior. ]  
[ Or 12.Bf4 (no ...Nh5) ]  
[ Or 12.0-0-0 ]  
12...Na6?! 0.40/35 10:28

[ 12...Nxe4= -0.32/30 was so hard?  
13.Nxe4 Rxe4 14.0-0-0 Re8 ]  
13.Nd2!± 6:07 Nc5 16:26 14.f3 1:54  
Nfd7 33 15.Nb3 5:31  
[ 15.Be3! ]  
15...Nxb3 8:32 16.axb3 14 Nc5 1  
17.b4 1:02 Nb3 0.89/28 6  
[ 17...Ne6!= 0.30/31 ]  
18.Rd1?! 0.00/53 1:32  
[ 18.Ra3± 0.89/28 Nd4 19.Bd3 ]  
18...Be6 3:10 19.Be3 1:57  
[ 19.Kf2 ]  
19...a5 5:10 20.bxa5 3:03 Nxa5 6  
21.c5 38 Nb3 1:57 22.0-0 2:06 Bf8  
5:36 23.f4  
[ 23.Rd6!? ]  
23...Nxc5 2:45 24.Ra1 3:09 Rxa1 5:27  
25.Rxa1 18 Bb3 1:05 26.e5 4:20 Bc2  
4:51 27.Bf3 1:36 f6 1:23 28.Rc1  
-0.58/28 5:18  
[ White should play 28.b4= -0.05/35  
Nd3 29.Ne4 ]  
28...Bf5= 1:10 29.Bxc5?? -3.35/28 5:48  
This costs White the game.  
[ 29.Nd5? Nd7 30.Nc7 Rc8= ]  
[ 29.Rf1!= -0.66/29 ]  
29...Bxc5+-+ 2 30.Kh2 44 Be3 36  
[ Weaker is 30...fxe5 31.Ne4 Be7  
( 31...exf4? perishes. 32.Nxc5 b6  
33.Na4+- ) 32.fxe5= ]  
31.Re1 59 Bxf4+ 16 32.g3 16 Bxe5 44  
[ And not 32...Rxe5 33.Ne4= ]  
33.Re2 53 Rd8 3:02 34.Na4 1:30 Rd3  
1:20 35.Kg2 1:55

(Diagram)

Bh3+! 1:27 Deflection 36.Kxh3 18 Rxf3  
2 37.Rg2 38 Rb3 41 38.Nc5 35 Rxb2  
26 39.Rxb2 22 Bxb2 1 40.Nxb7 21  
Bd4 46 41.g4 40 hxg4+ 30 42.Kxg4 14  
c5 1:10

(Diagram)



43.Nd6 30 Kf8 22 44.h5 33 gxf5+ 14  
 Black mates. 45.Kxh5 21 Ke7 10  
 46.Nf5+ 1:45 Ke6 19 47.Ng3 35 Kd5  
 30 48.Kg4 20 Be5 59 49.Nf5 43 Ke4  
 33 50.Ne7 47 c4 44 51.Nc6 7 c3 13  
 52.Nb4 6 Bd6 1:45 53.Na2 38 Kd3 48  
 54.Kf5 21 Be5 38 55.Nb4+ 57 Kd2 40  
 56.Ke4 1:43 c2 1:21 Weighted Error  
 Value: White=0.49/Black=0.10  
 0-1

D24  
 1625  
 1615

□ Liu,Jinfeng  
 ■ Touset,Stephen  
 2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.22)  
*[Stephen Touset/Winslow,Elliott]*

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3  
 dxc4 My first time playing the QGD  
 Vienna! 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 c5?!  
 Oops. Like I said, my first time playing  
 the QGD Vienna. I neglected to realize  
 that 6. Bg5 was not on the board.

[ 6...Nxe4 is the correct continuation.  
 (EW: 730 vs. 18 games in Mega  
 2025) ]

7.0-0! Bxc3

[ 7...cxd4 ]

8.bxc3 Nxe4 9.Qc2

[ 9.Re1! ]

9...Nf6 10.dxc5?! White gets his pawn  
 back on paper, but the doubled and  
 isolated c5 pawn will be difficult to  
 defend in practice.

[ 10.Bf4!± White should prioritize his  
 lead in development in order to  
 punish black's lack of it. ]

10...Bd7?! In my prep, I'd seen that  
 black often wants a setup with Bc6, Nd7,  
 and Qa5. But some of that is predicated  
 upon white having already played Bg5.

[ 10...Qc7! Denying white's bishop the  
 active f4 square. ]

11.Bg5?! Pinning the queen.

[ 11.Bf4! ]

11...Qc7 Or not! Black invites white to  
 damage his pawn structure.

[ EW; but 11...Bc6! to play ...Nbd7  
 limits White's advantage to  
 manageable dimensions. ]

12.Bxf6?! White takes the bait. But  
 black's kingside is not weak!

[ 12.Rfe1 Qxc5 13.Qd3

**A) 13...Bc6? 14.Bxe6! 0-0**

( 14...fxe6?! 15.Rxe6+ Kf7 16.Re5  
 Qf8 17.Qc4+ Kg6 18.Nh4+ )

15.Bxf6 fxe6 16.Re5+-;  
**B) 13...Nc6 14.Rab1± ]**  
**12...gxf6± 13.Rfd1 Qxc5 14.Rd4 Bc6?!** Black missed an opportunity to simplify with a good amount of pressure aimed at white's king.

[ 14...Nc6! 15.Rh4 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 Bc6 is next, after which black will be very comfortable with attacking chances on the kingside. ]

**15.Qd3** White is building a battery against black's uncastled king. **15...Nd7 16.Rd1 0-0-0** Black castles in the nick of time. **17.Ne1** White is hoping to get his knight to b4. **17...Qa5** The queen is a superstar. She's guarding d8 which unpins black's knight, she's eyeing the weak pawns on a2 and c3, and she's free to reposition along the entire 5th rank should the need arise. **18.Bb3 Ne5**  
 [ 18...Nc5! ]

**19.Qe3 h5 20.Nc2 Rhg8?** The right idea but the wrong rook. This all but forces white to exchange rooks along the d file. Black will be a pawn up in the endgame.

[ 20...Rdg8!-+ The correct rook. White is now forced to contend with black's kingside pressure instead of being able to trade rooks as an escape hatch. ]

**21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Nd4**  
 [ 22.Nb4! ]

**22...Ba4** Forcing more simplifications.  
**23.Rc1 Bxb3 24.axb3 Qd5 25.h3 Rg8** Forcing white to make additional concessions on the kingside. **26.f3 a6 27.Kf1 Nc6?** Black should keep the pressure up rather than aim for more simplification.

[ 27...Ng6! Nh4-Qg5 are coming. ]

**28.Nxc6 Qxc6 29.c4 Qd6!**  
 Again black's queen is controlling all the important squares. **30.f4 h4 31.Qf2 Rg3**

[ 31...Qd3+! 32.Kg1 ( 32.Ke1 Rd8! 33.Qe2 Qg3+ 34.Qf2 Qxb3 ) 32...Qxh3 33.Qc5+ Kb8 34.Qd6+ Ka8 35.Qd2 Qxb3 ]  
**Qxh2 32.Re1 Qd3+ 33.Kg1 Qxb3 34.Qc5+ Kb8 35.Qf8+ Ka7 36.Qxf7 Qb2**  
**0-1**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sisti,Daniel J</b>	<b>A07</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Siegel,David</b>	<b>1444</b>
<b>1473</b>	
2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.23)	
[Siegel,David]	

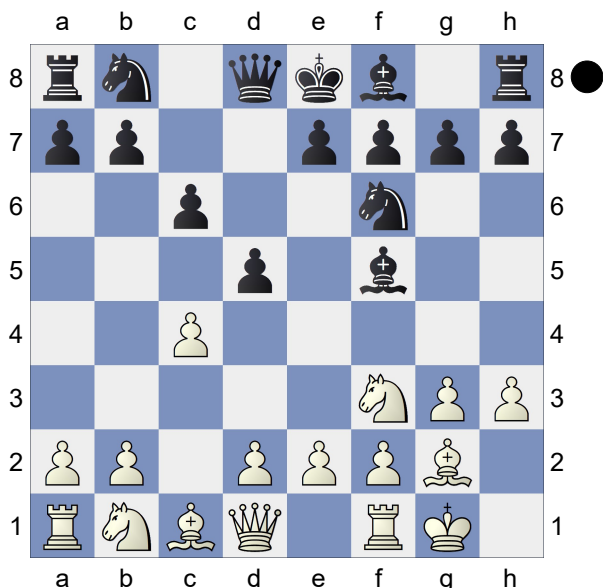
**1.Nf3** This was an opening I hadn't faced over the board recently. I saw that my opponent has played it in the past, so I did a bit of prep. My main idea was to start with ...d5, and if my opponent fianchettoes to play ...c6 at some point to blunt the bishop. This takes away the c6 square from my queenside knight, which would go to d7 and maybe f8 after castling. In the game it felt like I had no hope, and in fact I was thoroughly crushed out of the opening. In blitz I tend to play ...c5, and the fianchettoed bishop is a monster but at least I gain some space. **1...d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0 Bg4 5.h3 Bf5 6.c4**

(Diagram)

**e6**

[ The computer finds an interesting line here: After 6...dxc4 7.Na3 , Black can play e5! If 8.Nxe5 then 8...Bxa3 9.bxa3 Qd4 is a brutal fork. ]

**7.Qb3 Qc8 8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.d4 dxc4 10.Qxc4 Nb6 11.Qb3** Although my queenside knight is now on the third rank, I think it's misplaced. **11...Be7**  
 Already the computer evaluation is



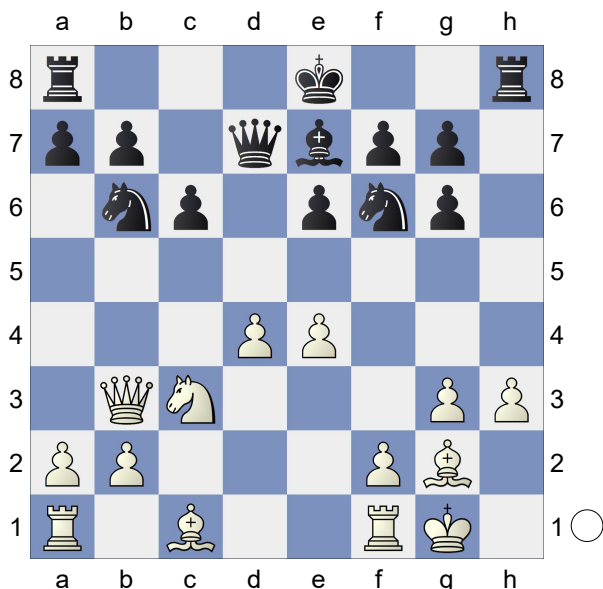
worse than +1 for me.

[I could have played 11...h6 here to give my light squared bishop an escape square but I thought I would try to develop.]

**12.Nh4 Bg6**

[I actually had 12...h6 here. If White captures then my f5 pawn will be unprotected, but it's actually hard to capture it immediately, and my pieces would have more space.]

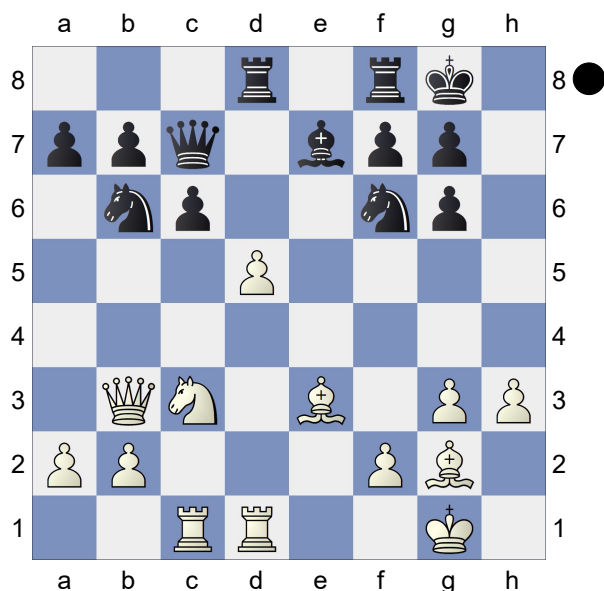
**13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.e4 Qd7**



Material is equal but the computer evaluation is +2. I knew I was in trouble.

**15.Be3 Rd8 16.Rfd1 Qc7 17.Rac1**

**0-0 18.d5 exd5 19.exd5**



There are no good options for Black, I'm losing at least a pawn here and my position is falling apart. **19...c5 20.Nb5 Qe5 21.Bf4 Qf5 22.d6** A crushing move. After this point the game is no longer in doubt. I felt like this was a game where I made a series of logical moves and got absolutely destroyed. Excellent play by my opponent!

**22...Bxd6 23.Nxd6 Qh5 24.Nxb7 c4 25.Qc2 Rde8 26.Re1 Rc8 27.Nd6 Rcd8 28.Nxc4 Rc8 29.b3 Nbd5 30.Re5 Nxf4 31.Rxh5 N4xh5 32.Qc3 Nd7 33.Qd4 Nb6 34.Qe3 Rfe8 35.Qd2 Rcd8 36.Qb2 Nd7 37.Rd1 Nhf6 38.Ne3 Rc8 39.b4 Rb8 40.a4 Nb6 41.a5 Nbd7 42.b5 Re5 43.Bc6 Re7 44.Qb4 Rbe8 45.b6 axb6 46.a6 1-0**

□ Kalonaris,Zeno

■ Yan,Rayna

2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (4.24)

[Winslow,Elliott]

**C18**

**1667**

**1722**

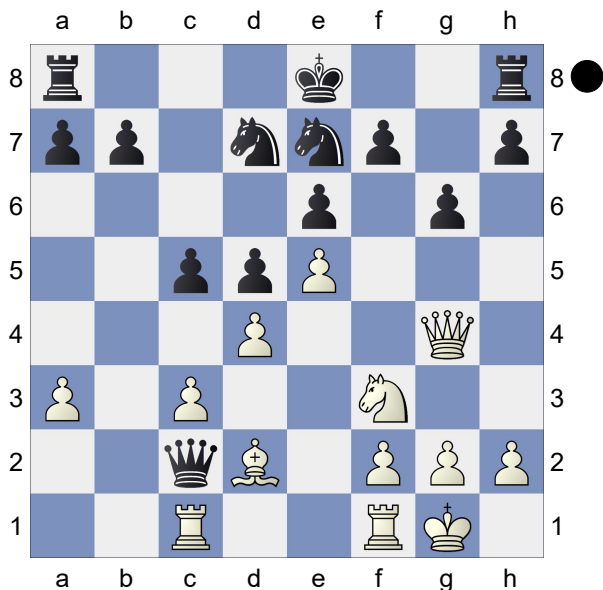
This game has something incredible that was missed. I don't remember seeing



anything like that before but I must have. In any case, nice game by Zeno! 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5 7.Bd2 Qa4 8.Qg4 g6 9.Nf3

[Relevant: 9.Qd1 Nc6 10.Nf3 c4 11.h4 h6 12.Nh2 Bd7 13.Ng4 0-0-0 14.Be2 Rf8 15.0-0 Qa5 16.g3 Qd8 17.Qc1 h5 18.Nh2 f6 19.exf6 Nxf6 20.Nf3 Ne4 21.Ng5 Nd6 22.a4 Qa5 23.Bf3 Nf5 24.Re1 Rf6 25.Bg2 Re8 26.Rb1 Qxa4 27.Qb2 Qa6 28.Ra1 Na5 29.Bf4 b6 30.Reb1 Bc6 31.Qc1 Re7 32.Qe1 Nxh4 33.Qe5 Rxf4 34.Qxf4 Nxg2 35.Qd6 Qb7 36.Rxa5 1-0 (36) Caruana,F (2766)-Kovalenko, I (2674) Chess.com INT 2023 ]

9...Qxc2 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Nxd7 12.0-0 Ne7 13.Rac1



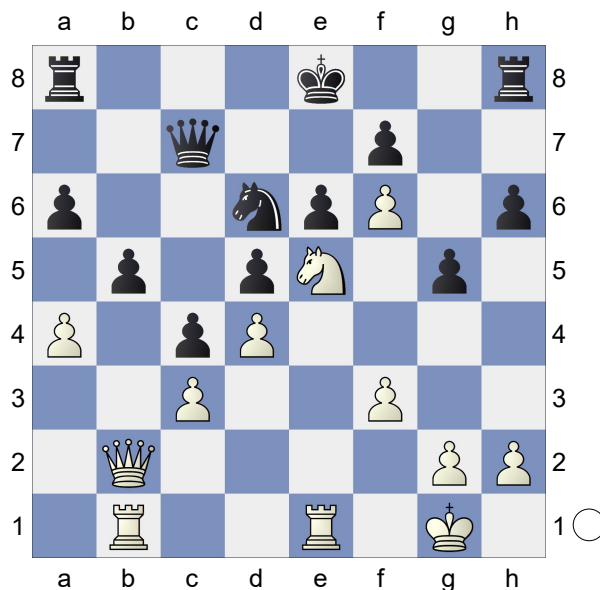
## Qa4N

[Predecessor: 13...Qf5 14.Qg3 h6 15.Rfe1 c4 16.Rb1 0-0-0 17.Rb2 g5 18.Reb1 b6 19.a4 Nc6 20.Bc1 Qd3 21.Nd2 Qxg3 22.hxg3 Kb7 23.Ra2 Na5 24.Ba3 Kc6 25.Bb4 Rb8 26.g4 h5 27.Nf3 Rbg8 28.Bxa5 bxa5 29.gxh5 Rxh5 30.g3 g4 31.Nh4 f5 32.Rab2 Nb6 33.Rb5 Rh7 34.Rxa5 f4 35.Rc5+ Kd7 36.a5 fxg3 37.fxg3 Rb8 38.axb6 axb6 39.Rcb5 Kc6

40.Ng6 Ra7 41.Nf4 Ra3 42.Ne2 Ra2 43.R5b2 Debrececi,M (1918)-Daroczy,S (1814) Hungary 2017 1-0 (65) ]

14.Rb1 Qc6 15.Bg5 Nf5 16.Bf6 Nxf6 17.exf6 c4 18.Qf4 b6 19.a4 Nd6 20.Ne5 Qc7 21.f3 h6 22.Rfe1 g5 23.Qd2 a6 24.Qb2 b5?

[ 24...Rb8!= that's 0.05/52 (!). I left the computer on. Rerunning, I see White is the one pressing all the way. ]



## 25.axb5

[White had an incredible move, which is a motif worth noting: 25.Ng6!!

**A)** The answer is the same on 25...Rh7;

**B)** White can play this because 25...fxg6 26.Rxe6+ wends its way to a win:

**B1)** 26...Kf7 27.Re7+ Qxe7 28.fxe7+- +4.22/25;

**B2)** 26...Kd8 27.Qb4!

Doubling rooks is less effective but good enough (but 27.Re7 Qc6!= sees Black holding on. ) 27...Nb7 28.axb5 a5 ( 28...Qf7 29.Rbe1+- ) 29.Qa4+- (+6.23/22) Now a nice line is Re8 30.Rxe8+ Kxe8 31.b6+ Qd7



32.f7+ Ke7 33.Re1+ Kd6

34.f8Q+ Rxf8 35.Qa3+

and there goes the rook.;

**B3)** 26...Kf8 27.Re7 Qc6

I'm still not so clear why this is so much worse than with the king on d8, but the engine is adamant (+7.06/46) 28.Rbe1 Nf5 ( 28...Re8 29.Rxe8+ Nxe8 30.Qa3+ ) 29.R1e6! and if 29...Qxe6 is the best Black has (+5.44/25 a la comp), then it's bad.;

**C)** 25...Rg8 26.Ne5!! The inability to castle (and use that rook) is fatal. (+3.68/37) ]

25...Nxb5?!

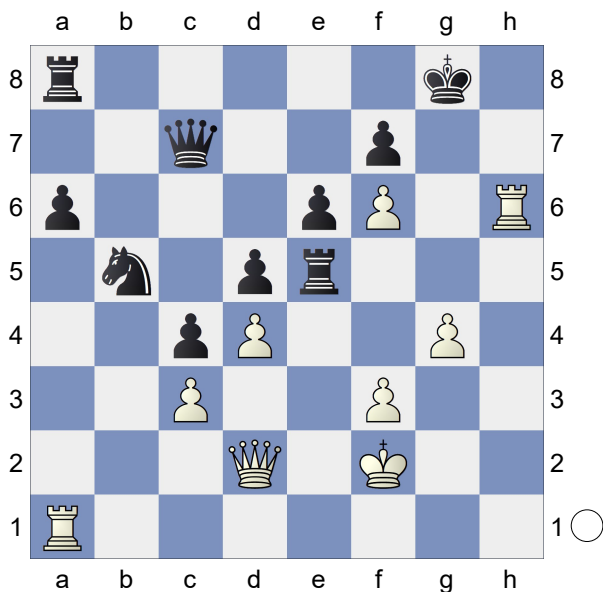
[ 25...axb5!? 26.f4!± ]

26.Ra1 0-0 27.Qd2 Kh7 28.h4 Rg8

29.hxg5 Rxd5 30.Kf2 Rg8 31.g4

Ra8 (I had put in 25...axb5 without taking a closer look at the scoresheets (Rayna writes very small!), and wondered how this could be the move... Zeno found my error.) 32.Rh1 Kg8 33.Rxh6 Rxe5

(Black could only delay mate by a few moves)



34.Rh8+ Kxh8 35.Qh6+  
1-0

□ Yan, Rayna

■ Chan, John

2025 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.26)

[Winslow, Elliott]

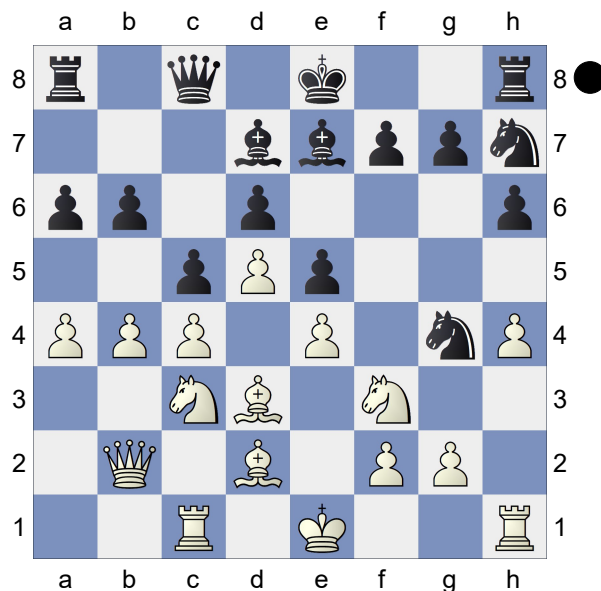
A53

1722

1600

Rayna Yan plays quite a game to beat John Chan -- it gets a little out of hand, but then John forgets to keep pushing forward, and Rayna sets up a light-square grip that can't be surprised. And the final shot is nice!

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 h6  
5.h3 Qc7 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 e5 8.d5  
a6 9.Be3 c5 10.a4 Be7 11.Qc2 Nf8  
12.h4 Bd7 13.Rc1 N8h7 14.Qb1 Ng4  
15.Bd2 Qc8 16.b4 b6 17.Qb2

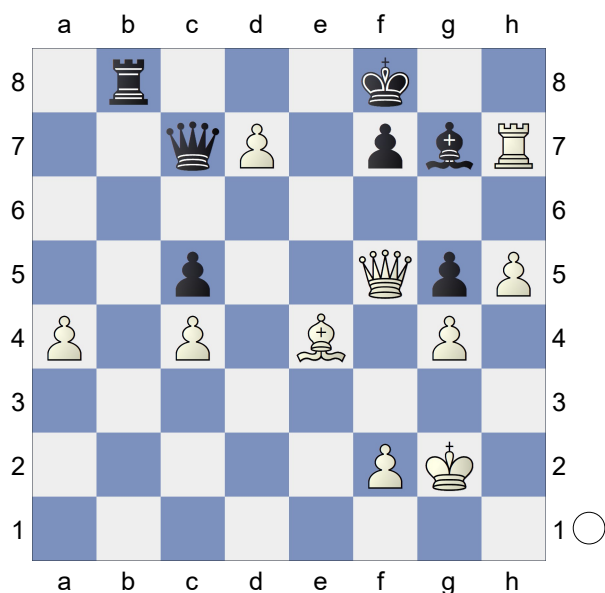


0-0 18.0-0 Qd8 19.g3 Ngf6 20.Kg2  
Qc8 21.Rh1 Bg4 22.Be2 Bh5 23.Rb1  
cxb4 (Neither of them got around to  
pushing their respective a-pawns...)  
24.Qxb4 Nd7 25.Qb3 Rb8 26.Rb2  
Nc5 27.Qb4 Bxf3+ 28.Kxf3 Nf6  
29.Kg2 Nfxe4 Something has gone  
wrong for White. But as is her hallmark,  
Rayna takes things in stride, and is back  
on top in a few moves. 30.Nxe4 Nxe4  
31.Be3 Nc5

[ 31...f5! ]

32.Rhb1= Qf5? 33.Qa3

[ 33.a5! ]  
**33...e4?! 34.Bxc5 dxc5 35.Rxb6**  
**Rxb6 36.Rxb6 a5 37.Qe3 Rc8**  
**38.Rb5 Qg6 39.Kh2 Qf5 40.Rxa5 g5**  
**41.h5 Kg7 42.Kg2 Bd6 43.Ra6 Be5**  
**44.g4 Qd7 45.Qxe4 Re8 46.Bd3 Kf8**  
**47.Qf5 Qe7 48.Rxh6 Bd4 49.Rh7**  
**Rb8 50.d6 Qa7 51.d7 Bg7 52.Be4**  
**Qc7**



**53.Rxg7**  
**1-0**

□ **Toczyski,David Paul**

■ **Wickliffe,Zachary**

2025 Summer TNM: u1600 (5.29) 5.8.25  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Well, (1) they did tie with each other for  
 1st-3rd in the section (2) it's short **1.e4**  
**c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6**  
**5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0**  
**8.Bb3 Re8**

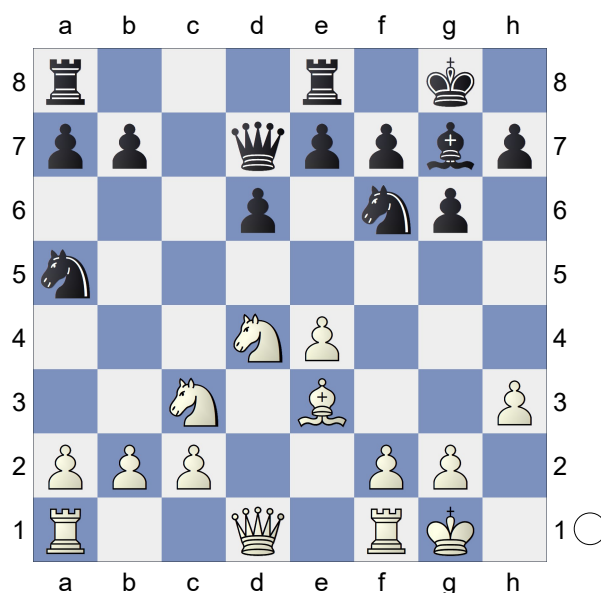
[Relevant: 8...d6 9.h3 Bd7 10.0-0  
 Na5 11.Qd2 Rc8 12.Bh6 Nc4  
 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7  
 15.Rfe1 Qb6 16.Nb3 a5 17.a4 Rfc8  
 18.e5 dxe5 19.Rxe5 e6 20.Rxa5  
 Qc7 21.Rg5 e5 22.Qe3 Re8 23.Re1

**Bxa4 24.Rxe5 Rxe5 25.Qxe5 Qxe5**  
**26.Rxe5 Bxb3 27.cxb3 Rb4 28.Rb5**  
**Rxb5 29.Nxb5 Ne4 30.Kf1 Nd2+**  
**31.Ke2 Nxb3 32.Kd3 Kf6 33.Kc4**  
**Na5+ 34.Kd5 Ke7 35.Nd6 f5 36.h4**  
**Kd7 37.h5 gxh5 38.Nxf5**  
 Vachier Lagrave,M (2723)-Caruana,F  
 (2776) Chess.com INT 2025 ½-½  
 (73) ]

**9.0-0**

[ 9.f4!/? ]

**9...d6 10.h3 Na5 11.Ba4 Bd7**  
**12.Bxd7 Qxd7**



**B35**

Stockfish 17.1: -0.26/31 **13.b3N**

[Predecessor: 13.Qd3 Rac8 14.b3  
 Nc6 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Nb4  
 17.Qe4 Bxd4 18.Bxd4 Nxc2  
 19.Rac1 Nxd4 20.Qxd4 b6 21.Rfe1  
 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rc8 23.Re1 Rc7  
 24.a4 Qf5 25.Re3 Qb1+ 26.Kh2  
 Qc1 27.Qh4 f6 28.Qe4 Qd2  
 29.Qe6+ Kg7 30.Rf3 Qd4 31.Rd3  
 Qxd3 0-1 (31) Miroshnichenko,P  
 (2239)-Petrov,M (2520) Chess.com  
 INT 2020 ]

**13...Rac8**

[ 13...Nc6 14.Nde2 b5!/? -0.30/25 ]

**14.Qd2 Nc6 15.Rac1 a6 16.f3 d5**  
**17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Rfd1 h5 19.exd5**  
**cxd5 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Qxd5 Nxd5**

22.Rxd5 Bb2 23.Rb1 Rxc2 24.Ra5  
Ra8

[After 24...Ra8 White could try  
25.Rc5 Re2 26.Kf1 Rxe3 27.Rxb2  
with a possible passed pawn on the  
queenside, but we all know how to  
defend against that, right? ]

1/2-1/2

□ Wickliffe,Zachary

C29  
1408

■ Tsebrii,Max

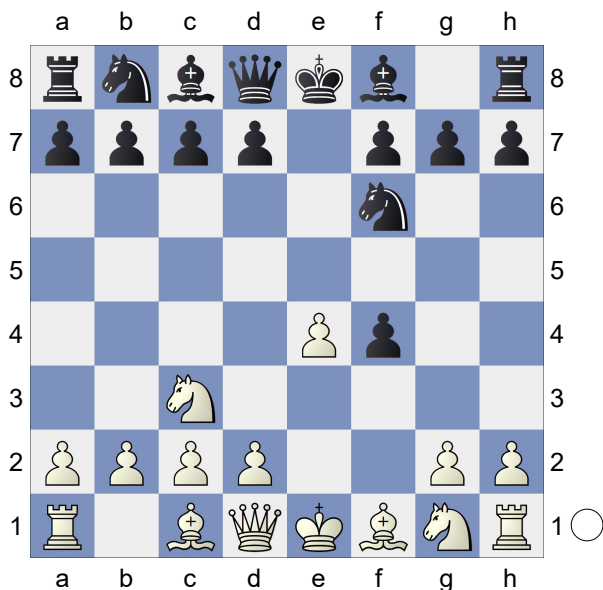
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2025 Summer TNM: u1600 (6.31) 12.8.25

[Winslow,Elliott]

Zachary Wickliffe also tied for 1st-3rd.  
Here he left no room for Max Tsebrii to  
get in the game after a couple very early  
missteps. 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4  
exf4?

[ 3...d5! 4.fxe5! Nxe4! ]

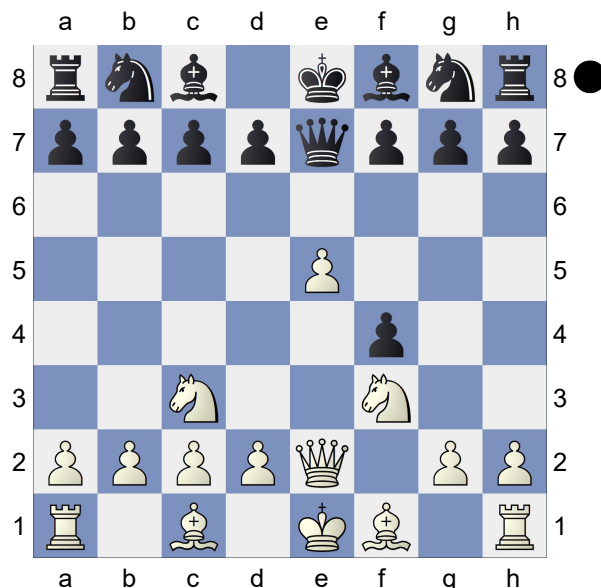


The Vienna Gambit trips a lot of people  
up -- until they learn the best way to play.  
The two knight moves change  
everything. 4.e5!± Qe7?!

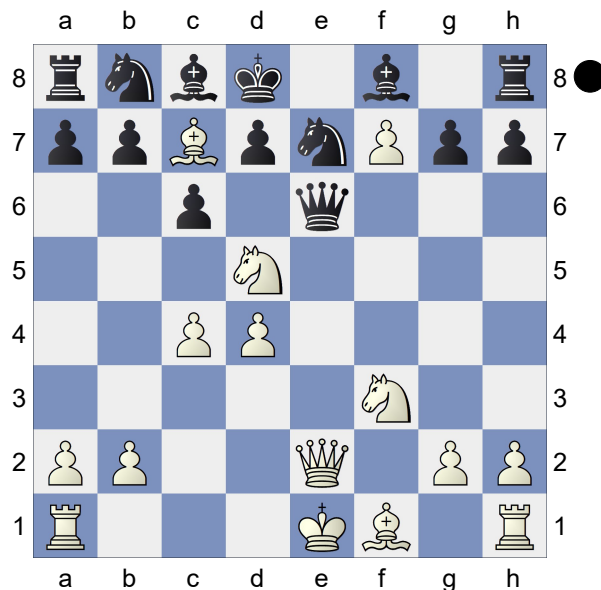
[ 4...Ng8 ]

5.Qe2! Ng8 6.Nf3

(Diagram)



Now Zack jumps all over Black's queen --  
and king. 6...f6 7.Nd5 Qc5 8.exf6+  
Kd8 9.f7 Ne7 10.c4 c6 11.d4 Qd6  
12.Bxf4 Qe6 13.Bc7#



1-0

□ Wickliffe,Zachary

C02  
1408

■ Tobias,Mason

1057

2025 Summer TNM: u1600 (7.6) 19.08.25

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 5 e6 10 2.d4 4 d5 5 3.e5 5  
Bd7!? 8 A different idea to mobilize and/

or trade off the traditional "bad bishop" -- but it is a bit slow!

[ 3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 ]

**4.Nf3 13 a6 8 5.c4 20**

[Of \*course\* there's a Magnus game where the idea works just fine: 5.Bd3

Bb5 6.0-0 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 c5 8.c4

Nc6 9.cxd5 Nb4 10.Qe2 Nxd5

11.Nc3 cxd4 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Rd1

Bc5 14.Be3 Ne7 15.Bxd4 0-0

16.Bc3 Qc6 17.Ng5 Nf5 18.Ne4

Rfd8 19.Nxc5 Qxc5 20.Qe4 Qb5

21.g3 h6 22.Kg2 Rac8 23.h4 Ne7

24.a4 Qb3 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Ra3

Qd5 27.Qxd5 Nxd5 28.Rb3 Rd7

29.Bd4 h5 30.Bc5 Kh7 31.Kf3 Kg6

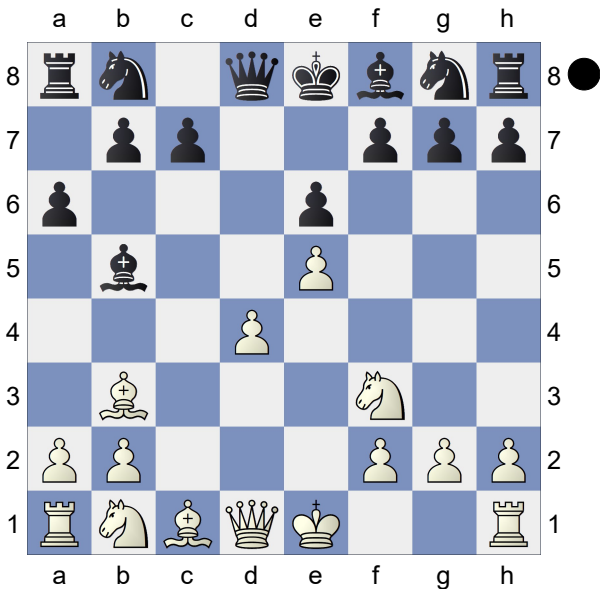
32.Bd6 Kf5 33.a5 f6 34.exf6 Rxd6

Shirov,A (2660)-Carlsen,M (2830)

Chess.com INT 2024 0-1 (69) ]

**5...dxc4 15 6.Bxc4 9 Bb5 6**

was the old line (6...Bc6). **7.Bb3 33**



**c5N 1.60/26 2:11**

[Better is 7...Bb4+± 0.60/27 8.Nc3 Ne7 ]

[Predecessor: 7...Bb4+ 8.Nc3 Ne7

9.a4 Bc6 10.0-0 h6 11.Be3 Nd7

12.d5 exd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5

Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qxd5 16.Nxc6 Qxd1

17.Rfxd1 bxc6 18.Rac1 Rd8

19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.Rxc6 a5 21.Kf1

Kd7 22.Ra6 Rb8 23.Ke2 Bd6

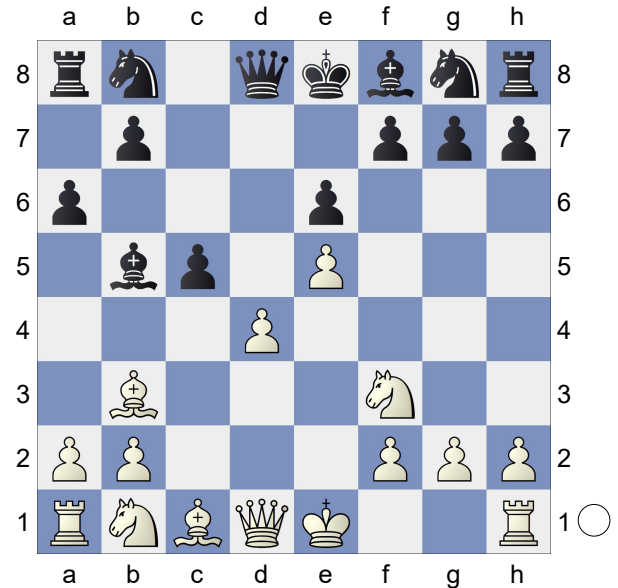
24.Rxa5 Rxb2+ 25.Kf3 Ra2 26.h4

Ke6 27.g4 c5 28.Ke4 Rb2 29.Rb5

Ra2 30.Ra5 Rb2 31.Rb5 Ra2

½-½ (31) Lavrov,M (2369)-Santos

Latasa,J (2567) Minsk 2017 ]



**8.Nc3 1.04/28 9:31**

[ Δ8.d5! 1.60/26 c4 9.dxe6 ]

**8...Nc6?? 4.17/28 6:48** Cutting off the bishop's retreat!

[ 8...cxd4± 1.04/28 is more resistant.

9.Nxd4 Bd7 ]

**9.a4!+- 7:58** Nicely noticed! **9...cxd4**

**7:03 10.axb5 1:19 dxc3 1:17 11.bxc6**

**1:10 Bb4 11 12.Qxd8+ 4:15 Rxd8 14**

**13.0-0 11** For humans: Piece Up. Game Over.

[ 13.bxc3!? Bxc3+ 14.Ke2 Bxa1

15.cxb7 is "better" if you're a computer. ]

**13...Ne7 4:06 14.cxb7 1:22 a5 19**

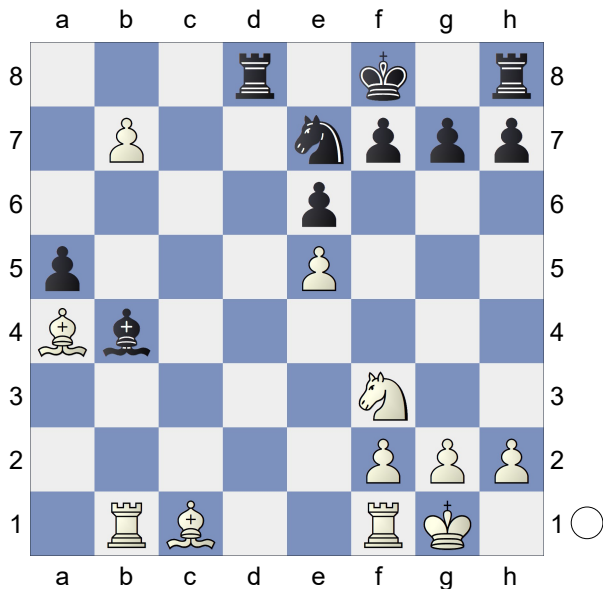
**15.Ba4+ 2:01 Kf8 19 16.bxc3 17 Bxc3**

**15 17.Rb1 38 Bb4 24**

(Diagram)

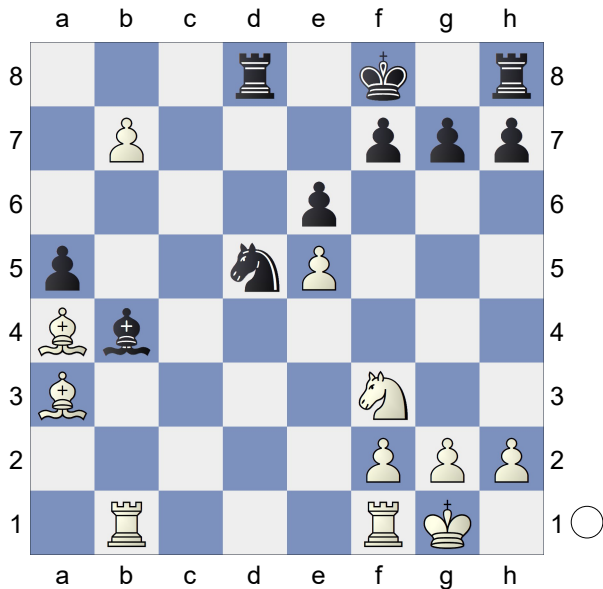
**18.Ba3!? 2:21** Cute, but all the mundane moves

[ 18.Rd1 ]



[ 18.Bg5 ]  
 [ 18.Bd2 ]  
 [ 18.Be3 are just as good -- well,  
 actually better even (but  
 insignificantly so: won is won). ]

18...Nd5 58



19.Bc6! 3:48 As before, White could  
 throw a rock and hit a good move.

[ 19.Bxb4+ ]  
 [ 19.Nd4! ]  
 [ 19.Rfd1! ]

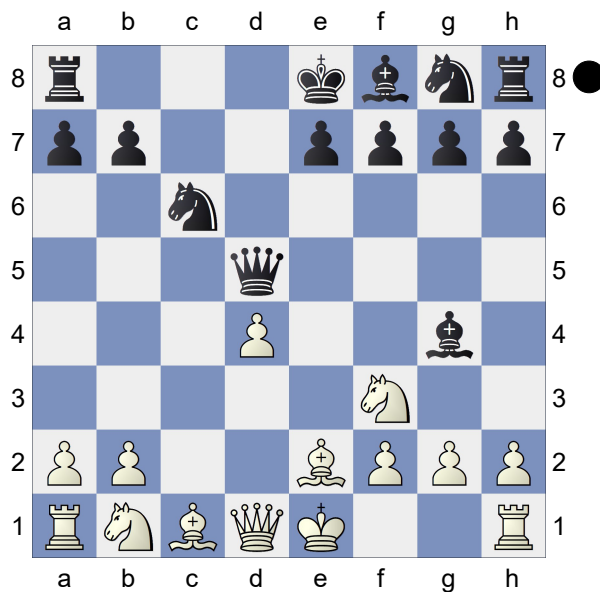
19...Ke7 56 20.Bxd5 2:03 Bxa3 14  
 21.Be4 2:49 Kd7 2:23 22.Nd4 3:28 f6  
 35 23.Rfd1 2:21  
 [ 23.Nc6 ]

23...Bb4 2:29 24.Nc6+ 1:24 Weighted  
 Error Value: White=0.10/Black=0.77  
 1-0

**B22**  
 □ Toczyski, David Paul 1375  
 ■ Coghlan, Tomas 1310  
 2025 Summer TNM: u1600 (7.29) 19.8.25  
 [Winslow, Elliott]

Toczyski leaves no loose ends to bring  
 this one home in the last round.  
 Coghlan's knight wandered far from  
 home, but the damage was done a lot  
 earlier.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4  
 Nc6 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2  
 [ 7.Nc3!? Bxf3! ( 7...Qa5 8.d5+- )  
 8.gxf3 ( 8.Nxd5 Bxd1 9.Nc7+ Kd7  
 10.Nxa8 Bh5 11.d5 Nd4= 12.Bf4  
 e5! 13.dxe6+ fxe6 14.f3 Bd6= )  
 8...Qxd4 9.Qxd4 Nxd4 10.Nb5!± ]



7...Bxf3? Perhaps Coghlan overlooked  
 that the d-pawn couldn't be taken:

[ 7...e6! 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.0-0 Nf6  
 is completely viable for Black. ]

8.Bxf3 Qd6  
 [ 8...Qxd4?? 9.Bxc6+ ]



**9.d5 Ne5 10.Qa4+ Advantageous, but**

[ 10.Nc3! ]

[ 10.O-O! ]

[ 10.Be2! ]

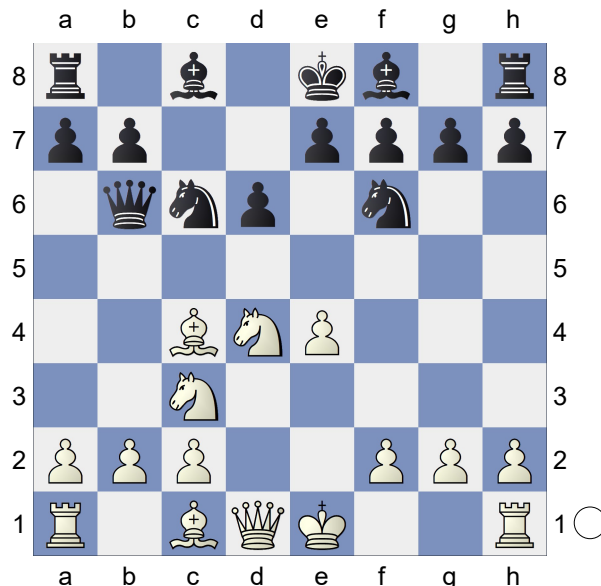
**10...Qd7 11.Qxd7+! Nxd7**

[ 11...Kxd7!? 12.Be2 e6 wasn't great, but at least it would have gotten rid of the d-pawn that causes so much grief as the game went on. Still, in time Engine #17.1 decides this is close to winning as well. 13.Nc3! ]

**12.O-O Ngf6 13.Re1 Rd8 14.Bf4 Nc5 15.Rd1 g6 16.Nc3 Bg7 17.Rac1 O-O 18.Nb5 Na4 19.b3 Nb2 20.Rd2 a6 21.Nc3 e5 22.Bg5 e4 23.Bxf6 Nd3 24.Rxd3 exd3 25.Bxd8 Rxd8 26.Nb1 Re8 27.g3 Bh6 28.Rd1 f5 29.Kg2 g5 30.Rxd3 g4 31.Bd1 Re1 32.d6 Bg5 33.d7 Bd8 34.Nc3 f4 35.Bxg4 Rc1 36.gxf4 1-0**

□ **Sloan,Sacha Marino** **B57**  
 ■ **Fees,Holden** **1333**  
 2025 Summer TNM: u1600 (5.6) 05.08.25  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Holden Fees was the third player in the tie for 1st-3rd, and showed the best chess, winning every game he played. His provisional rating will be jumping some 180 or so points! Here he handles the opening fairly well, really coming into his own after Sacha Sloan's premature central advance. Holden's play is close to faultless from that point on. (Well, we'll see what Stockfish has to say about \*that\*...) **1.e4 3 c5 4 2.Nf3 42 d6 3 3.d4 28 cxd4 11 4.Nxd4 13 Nf6 10 5.Nc3 14 Nc6 10 6.Bc4 2:50**  
 The Sozin Variation, very associated with the more recent Robert J. Fischer.  
**6...Qb6 21**



This move is recognized with the name of Pal Benko (perhaps not as famous as the Benko Gambit, 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3. d5 b5 going for longterm pressure on the b-file and the long a1-h8 diagonal).

**7.Nb3 4:01** The standard save of the knight, with engines giving it as best for a nominal plus.

[ 7.Nde2 was Fischer-Benko, Candidates Yugoslavia 1959, which Fischer won with an orchestra of attacking variations after Benko hesitated trading off White's bishop on b3. ]

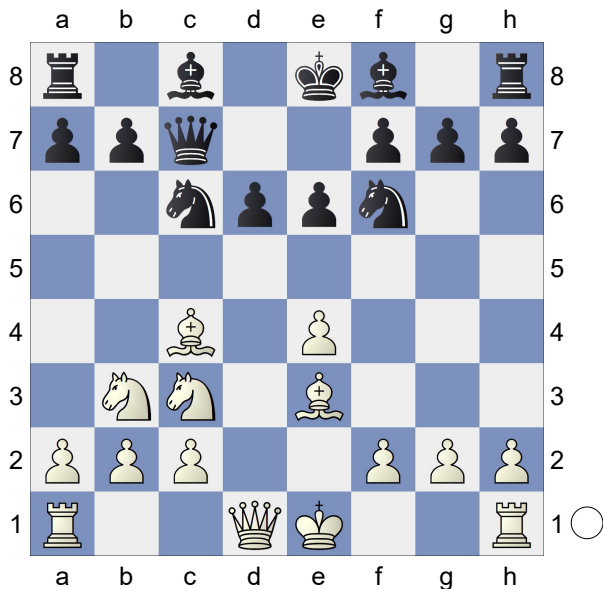
[ 7.Nxc6 bxc6 used to be thought as a naive trade (bringing the b-pawn up to secure d5), but can you imagine some pull after 8.O-O g6 9.Qe1!? ]

**7...e6 10 8.Be3 59 Qc7 11**

(Diagram)

**9.Qd2?! 1:14** White reverts to an English Attack formation with f3 and g4 in a moment, but here the knight on b3 feels left out, and Black cuts across with central counterplay.

[ Usually it's some combination of 9.Bd3 ]  
 [with 9.f4 ]



[and 9.0-0 ]

[but one also can play 9.Be2 with a classical deployment vs. the Scheveningen setup for Black, except (if I've counted right) White has N/d4-b3 "for free" (and for better or worse). ]

**9...a6 48 10.f3?! 2:45** White has too many ideas going at once.

[ 10.a4 b6 11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.f4 and now the maneuver 13...Na5!? has always somewhat baffled me ]

**10...b5 1:11 11.Bd3 2:05 Be7 1:16**

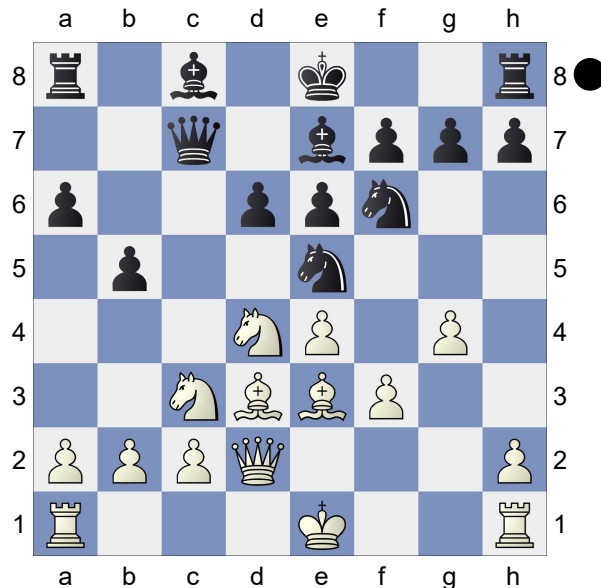
**12.g4?!N 1:09**

[For the record, a Titled Tuesday blitz game by a then 10-year-old Faustino Oro against the impressive Anton Korobov: 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nd4 Bb7 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Rae1 b4 16.Ne2 d5 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Bf2 Rfd8 19.Qc1 Bb5 20.Rd1 Bxd3 21.Rxd3 Rac8 22.c3 Qc4 23.Rfd1 Qxa2 24.Nd4 bxc3 25.bxc3 h6 26.R1d2 Qc4 27.Ne2 a5 28.Rd4 Qa6 29.Rg4 Bf6 30.Qd1 Nxc3 31.Nxc3 Rxd2 32.Qxd2 Rxc3 33.Qxh6 Qe2 34.h4 Rc2 35.Qxf6 Qxf2+ 36.Kh1 Qf1+ 37.Kh2 Rxc2+ 38.Rxc2 Qxc2+ 39.Kxc2 gxf6 0-1 (39) Oro,F (2211)-

Korobov,A (2649) Titled Tuesday 7 Feb 2023 ]

**12...Ne5 4:19 13.Nd4 4:42**

[ 13.Be2 b4 14.Na4 Rb8 15.a3 d5! ]



**13...Nc4? 3:49** Okay, so much for

"faultless." The picking up the two bishops is worthwhile, but there were more urgent matters.

[Stockfish 17.1 is flickering between 13...h6 ]

[ 13...Nfd7!? ]

[ 13...b4!? ]

[and just 13...Bb7 ]

**14.Bxc4 22 Qxc4 10 15.Qe2?! 1:39**

[White should "get it going" right away with 15.g5 Nd7 16.h4 with quite a balanced (but hardly quiet to come!) game. In fact so many "0.00"s has me thinking "Is Stockfish on a fast computer finally going \*ALL THE WAY\* over the horizon!? Just kidding. I hope! ]

**15...Qc7 1:53**

[SF17.1 has a slight preference for 15...Qxe2+ 16.Kxe2 Bb7 and I am a mere messenger. ]

**16.g5 1:48**

[ 16.a3!? Nd7 17.h4 Ne5 18.0-0-0 ]

**16...Nd7** 46 **17.f4?**! 1:14 **Bb7?**! 7:06  
[ 17...b4 18.Nd1 a5 with a superior  
development on a6. ]

**18.f5?**! 6:44  
[ 18.a3 ]

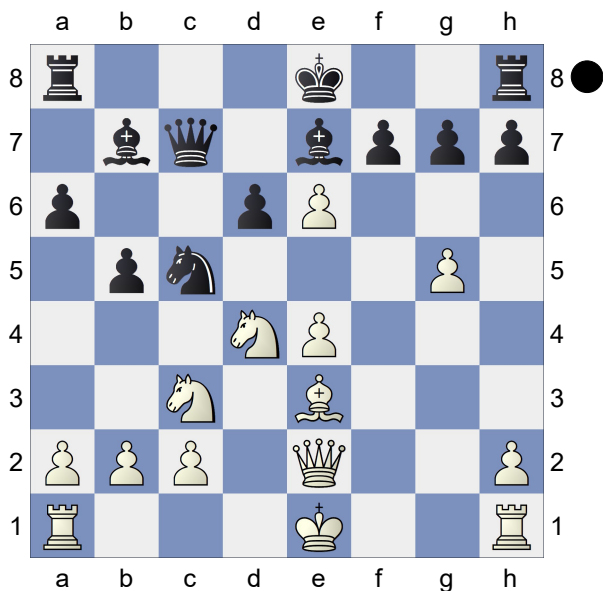
**18...Nc5?**! 10:36 The attempt at a stable  
move, but the complications were good  
for Black. And this isn't so stable either!

[ 18...b4! 19.fxe6!? bxc3! 20.exf7+!  
( 20.exd7+ Qxd7-+ ) 20...Kxf7

21.0-0+ Ke8! 22.Ne6! Qc6 23.Bd4  
Ne5+ has turned in Black's favor.

( 23...cxb2-+ )]

**19.fxe6** 1:45



**Nxe6?**! 3:19

[ 19...fxe6 20.a3 e5 21.Nf5 Nxe4  
22.Nxg7+ Kf7 23.Nf5 Nxc3 24.Qh5+  
Ke6 25.Ng7+ Kd7 26.Qg4+ Kc6  
27.bxc3 ]

**20.Nd5?** 50 Prematurely jumping in, to  
which Black shows a tactical flaw.

[ 20.0-0-0 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 ( 21.Rxd4  
0-0 22.h4 Rae8 23.Nd5 Qd7= )  
21...Bxg5+ ]

[ 20.Rg1 and White can proceed with  
all the usual moves, 0-0-0, h4, some  
knight move into a nice square. Rc8  
21.0-0-0 Qc4 now might be a good  
peace offer. ]

**20...Bxd5** 6:10 **21.exd5** 9 **Nxd4** 22

**22.Bxd4** 13 **0-0** 16 **23.Qg2** 7:46 **Qc4!**  
**1:48 24.0-0-0!** 4:04 Everything else is  
really bad

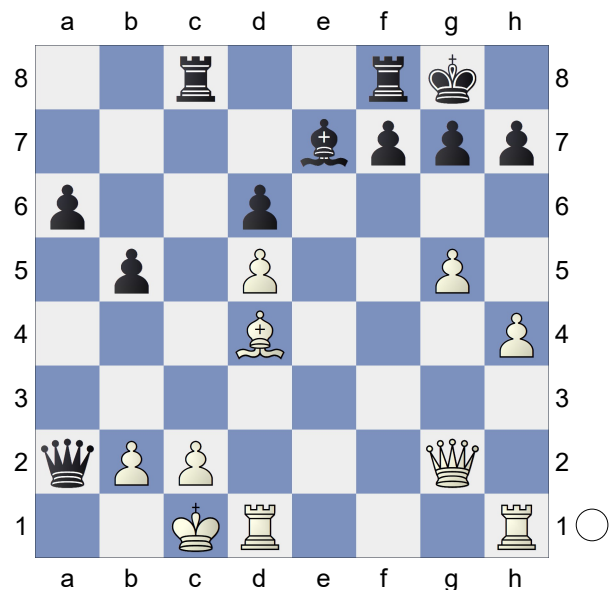
[ 24.Be3? Bd8! ]

**24...Qxa2** 4:03 **25.h4** 35

[ 25.Rhe1 Bd8 26.Re3 Qa1+ 27.Kd2  
Ba5+ 28.Ke2 Qa2 ]

**25...Rac8** 4:20

[ 25...Bd8! 26.Rd3 Rc8 27.Ra3 Qc4  
28.Rd1 b4 ]



**26.h5?** 1:03

[ 26.Rh3!? b4 27.b3 a5 28.Rd2  
Rc3! 29.Re2 Rfc8 30.Rxc3 Qa1+  
31.Kd2 bxc3+ 32.Ke3 Bf8 ]

**26...Rc4+** 8:04 **27.g6?**! 52

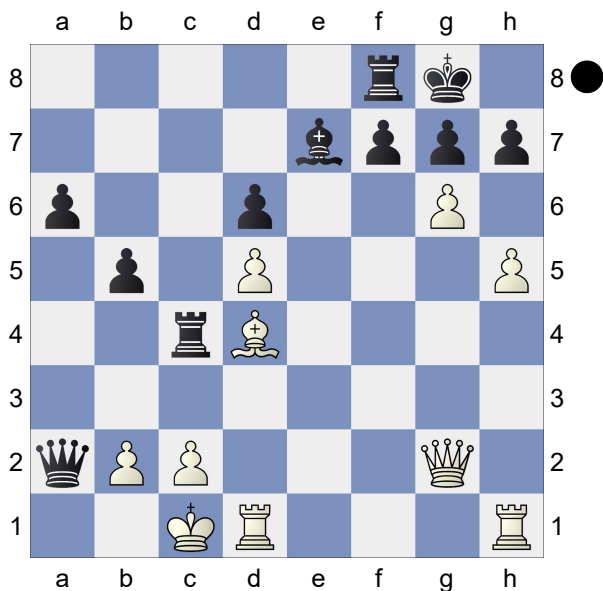
[ 27.c3 b4 ]

(Diagram)

**27...Qa1+** 2:09 Simple, wins a bishop  
when there is no attack.

[ 27...Bg5+! makes it a rook: 28.Qxg5  
Qa1+ 29.Kd2 Rxd4+ 30.Ke2 Re8+  
31.Kf2 Rxd1 ]

**28.Kd2** 8 **Rxd4+** 14 **29.Ke2** 27 **Qxb2+**  
**1:14 30.Rxd4** 2:12 **Qxd4** 33 **31.gxh7+**  
**31 Kxh7** 1:18 **32.h6** 22 **g6** 9 **33.Rd1**



24 Qe5+ 42 34.Kd3 20 Rc8 49  
0-1

□ Fees,Holden

■ McCutcheon,Bennett

2025 Summer TNM: u1600 (6.6) 12.08.25  
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 2 Nf6 20 2.c4 5 c5 46 3.d5 14 e6  
45 4.Nc3 1:47 exd5 15 5.cxd5 18 d6 8  
6.e4 2:12 g6 24 7.f4 6 Bg7 3:00  
8.Bb5+ 4:52 Nfd7 1:45 9.a4 4:43 0-0  
4:44 A67: Modern Benoni: Taimanov  
Variation. 10.Nge2?! -0.28/32 6:36  
[ 10.Nf3± 0.86/27 ]

10...a6 5:34 11.Bd3 40 Qb6?!N 1.38/24  
7:42

[ 11...Qh4+!= -0.08/29 keeps the  
balance. 12.Ng3 Nf6 ]

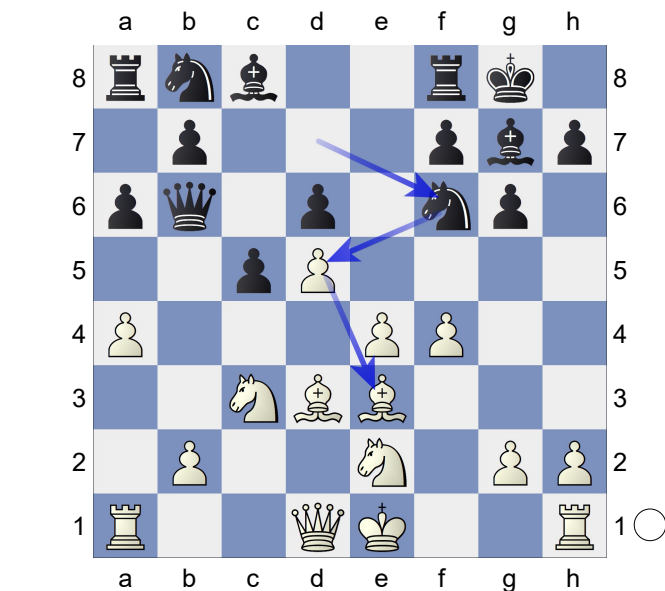
[ 11...Nf6 12.0-0 Bg4 13.h3 Bxe2  
14.Qxe2 Nbd7 15.Qf3 Qc7 16.Be3  
b6 17.Qe2 Qb7 18.Rab1 Rfe8  
19.Qf3 Rac8 20.Bc4 h5 21.Bf2 Ra8  
22.Bg3 Nh7 23.Rbe1 Bxc3 24.bxc3  
½-½ (36) Schultes,C (1915)-Gehann,  
P (1770) Bayern 2013 ]

12.Be3!± 16:33 Nf6 23:11  
(Diagram)

A67

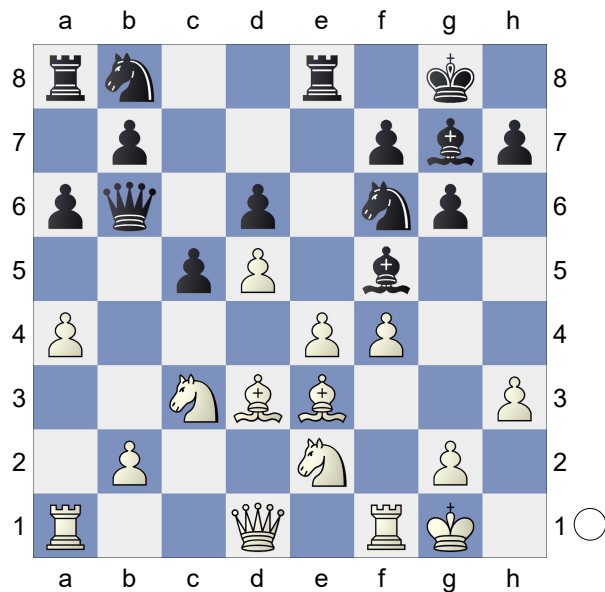
1264

1461



13.h3 12 Re8 4:54 14.0-0 37 Bf5?  
2.11/28 5:58

[ 14...Nbd7± 1.52/26 15.a5 Qc7 ]



15.Qc2?! 0.86/28 1:01

[ 15.a5!+- 2.11/28 Qd8 ( 15...Qb4  
16.Ra4 Qxb2 17.Bc1 ) 16.Bxc5 Bxe4  
( 16...dxc5 17.exf5 Nxd5 18.fxg6± )  
17.Bb6 ]

[ 15.Ng3 Qxb2 16.Bd2 ]

15...Qb4 2:58 ...c4 would now be deadly.

16.Ng3 7:59 Bc8? 2.48/26 4:37

A mistake that costs the game.

[ 16...c4± 0.92/28 was called for.  
17.Be2 Nxe4 18.Ncxe4 Bxe4

19.Nxe4 c3 ]  
**17.Nce2?! 10:53**  
 [ 17.Ra3! ]  
**17...Nxd5?! 6:02**  
 [ 17...Nbd7 18.Bd2 Qb6 19.Kh1+- ]  
**18.Bd2!↑ 41 Bd4+? 3.14/25 7**  
 [ ♞18...Qb6± 1.65/26 19.a5! Qa7  
 20.Bc4!+- Nb4 21.Qb3 Be6  
 22.f5!+- ]  
**19.Kh1+- 6:38 Ne3 37 20.Bxb4 17**  
**Nxc2 8 21.Bxc2 6 Bxb2 3:48 22.Rab1**  
**11 Bg7 4:31 23.Bc3 11 Nc6 12**  
**24.Rfd1 4:11 Bxc3 1:54 25.Nxc3 11**  
**Nd4 6 26.Bd3 11 Rb8 2:43 27.Nge2 59**  
 White is clearly winning. **27...b5 4:03**  
**28.Nxd4 1:37**  
 [ Don't do 28.axb5 Nxb5 29.e5  
 ( 29.Bxb5 axb5 30.Nxb5 Ba6+- )  
 29...Nxc3 30.Nxc3 ( 30.Rxb8 Nxd1  
 31.Bxa6 Bd7<sup>7</sup> ) 30...Rxb1 31.Bxb1  
 ( 31.Rxb1 dxe5 32.fxe5 Bf5+- )  
 31...dxe5+- ]  
**28...cxd4 23 29.Nd5 13 Bb7 1:06**  
**30.Nf6+ 26 Kg7 12 31.Nxe8+ 17 Rxe8**  
**5 32.axb5 23 axb5 40 33.Rxb5 21**  
**Bxe4 1:19 34.Bxe4 8 Rxe4 7 35.g3 4**  
**Re3 57 36.Kg2 7 d3 46 37.Rd5 7**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.18/  
 Black=0.47  
**1-0**



## Interview with GM Priyadharshan Kannappan: Part 1

By Alex Robins

This is part one of a two part interview with GM Kannappan who recently lectured at the club and was generous enough with his time to sit down with me and share some of his wisdom. In the first part of the interview we talked about his advice to both scholastic and older club players, and then about some of his favorite chess books (which you can find in the library - along with his book soon!) If you want to learn more about GM Kannappan and his chess coaching business, check out [ChessGaja](#) or his monthly newsletter [here](#).

Alex:

The first thing that I wanted to ask you was if you could share with us some advice that you have for scholastic players playing in tournaments, specific things they should be thinking about, how they should be learning, and just any general thoughts or advice for our younger players?

GM Priyadharshan Kannappan:

So for young players, I see certain patterns, they repeat mistakes or how they work on chess. And very recently I came up with a mnemonic, I call it the COPY framework. So what COPY means is **C**hess **O**nline, **O**nly **P**uzzles, **Y**ouTube. This is what basically all the kids do as part of their chess work. They go play online chess, they do online puzzles, and then they watch some videos on YouTube. They think this is something that helps them to get better at chess, this COPY framework. I've talked to a lot of kids and most kids go with the same approach. Irrespective of whether they have a coach or not.

What is the C.O.P.Y. Cycle?

	C.O.P.Y. Cycle
C	Chess Online (repetitive play)
O	Only Puzzles
P	Puzzles (unstructured, mindless)
Y	YouTube (passive watching)
—	<i>Entertainment-focused</i>
—	<i>Temporary improvement</i>
	Copying habits, limited growth

Most students are stuck in the C.O.P.Y. Cycle—mimicking activities that feel like learning but are actually blocking real progress.

But I also have a framework for what I think they should be doing. I would say instead of COPY what they should be doing is called the CREATE framework. So the CREATE framework starts with **Calculation**, basically that they should think deeper about their own game in general when they are thinking on the board, during either analysis or training. And R stands for **Reflection**, basically analyzing your game. Review your games, learn from them! And the E stands for **Education**. The source for education could be a chess book or structured video content, but not just random YouTube content. The A part is where you **Analyze** top level player games or study classical players and historic players. And the T comes for **Training**, and having a clear plan for training. And E is for **Endurance**. So endurance means basically most kids want to play blitz or bullet games, but they need to build their endurance to play long games. So the thing is to break the COPY cycle and go towards the CREATE path.

### How the C.R.E.A.T.E. Path Drives Real Growth

	C.R.E.A.T.E. Path
C	Calculation (think deeper, analyze variations)
R	Reflection (review and learn from games)
E	Education (books, structured content)
A	Analysis (study classical and own games)
T	Training (intentional, targeted practice)
E	Endurance (slow games, push your limits)
	Creating real understanding, true progress

What I see time and time again is that kids are able to reach 1000, 1400, 1500, purely based on tactics and solving puzzles on online platforms. But after that, they hit a plateau, and here what the kids think is, ok if I can do even more puzzles then I can keep improving. But, it doesn't generally work, because after that you need to know more technical aspects of the game. And so then generally, the mistake they make is here they think, okay, so now we've done all the tactics. Let me go and play all sorts of openings. So instead of working on their middle or endgame ability, generally when they reach the 1400, 1500 and they hit a plateau, If they are guided by a coach, they tend to learn very classic openings. If they don't have a coach, they end up buying all these classes, or watch videos like "Win in 12 moves in the Opening". They end up playing all these gambits or opening traps. So this is where most kids get stuck in their chess improvement in my opinion.

And most scholastic players place too much emphasis on the rating gain or loss after every game and after every tournament. What they should really understand is that learning is the most important aspect of

improvement. If you learn well, obviously your rating is going to improve. It never works that you improve your rating then you learn the technique. If you put in the effort consistently, the result will come. For example, in the COPY framework, most of it is shallow training, if you can even call it training. Many players just want to do the easiest thing without putting effort into their calculating skills and so on.

Alex:

Do you have any advice for the parents and families of scholastic players that want to support them in their growth as a chess player?

GM Priyadharshan Kannappan:

One thing related to this that I would advise the parents is to give kids the space to make mistakes. If you lose one game then the parent should not immediately say or think that my kid is really bad in this area. What I noticed, especially for young kids, is it is not that they made a mistake, most likely it's a lack of knowledge in that particular area. They don't know the technique so it cannot be counted as a mistake. So this is an area where many parents jump in and they might think their child is bad at this area, so they should fix it. I would say though, not really, right? Give the kid more space to think through it. If they make that mistake repeatedly, yes, it could be a problem. But even in that scenario, I would not label it as a mistake or a weakness on the player. Because the moment we label something as a weakness to a kid, we are also, in a way, subconsciously putting it in the kid's mind that you are bad at this area of chess. And the kid might start to strongly believe that! They might put effort to get better at it, but they might also get strongly stuck in a thought process. "I'm generally a poor positional player", or "I'm generally a poor tactical player". That can harm a kids' improvement in the long term.

Another piece of advice, I would say to kids is just to play actively, don't play passive chess. Kids naturally play active chess. That is, when they feel they're allowed to sack, or, they're allowed to play aggressively. But where they lose this aggressiveness is when they get influenced by their coach, or mentor, or YouTube videos, that say what you're doing is wrong

and they start to lose that aggressiveness. Instead of playing for a win, they start playing not to lose. They decide to play more safely, in closed positions. They don't go for an attack or for initiative.

Let's say if a parent or someone influences a kid and says "you should not lose any game in this tournament." Or, "you should win every game possible." That's not possible. So when the kid loses a game, they feel bad and there is a negative incentive reinforcement. And when that ends up happening, the kid starts to fear losing. When you fear losing, you obviously gravitate more towards draws. You are happy with draws because you think a draw is a much safer option. No one is going to say anything. You can just be. There's a lot more points, but I think these are some areas I would say are definitely important for players to think about.

Alex:

That was all really great stuff. I really enjoyed listening to you talk about it. I like the way that you are thinking about the player holistically, I think it is very realistic. The flip side of the coin is that like a lot of chess clubs, I think we have a young demographic and an older demographic. So for those older club players that rated, let's say somewhere between 1,200 and 1800 and have been playing in tournaments for many years. Do you have any advice, more tailored to them as opposed to the young players?

GM Priyadharshan Kannappan:

Yes. So for players who are older or senior citizens, my general advice is take one topic at a time and study it deeply. Kids can juggle between topics, but, for senior or older players, my suggestion is pick one area of the game that you want to work on, try to work as deep as possible in it, and then move on to the next topic. I've also worked quite a bit with adult players.

Another thing is that as we get older people lose their tactical vision. They're not able to be as sharp as when they were young. So one major focus should always be on visualization. What I mean by that is, without setting up a board or with a fixed static board, figure out in your head where the pieces are moving. Without making moves on the board! I've noticed



when I work with adult players, they generally find it tough. If you Google visualization tools there are a bunch of websites where the board will be static with a position, and then you need to figure out where the pieces are moving in a tactic, like in a puzzle. But the visualization part will also be built-in. This is distinct from a lichess puzzle, where after every move you are making the pieces move and the answer comes. There are certain tools where they pull the puzzle from lichess and then they say that you can't make the move. You still need to keep on calculating further and further. There are sites like [listudy.org](http://listudy.org), which has blind tactics and peaceless tactics. I would say definitely older or like adult players should use this for sure, although it's good for all ages. It's also fully free like lichess.

And another thing is that older club players are generally very good in the opening. They know their first 10, 15 moves, but then they kind of get stuck. They don't know what the position is or what to do there. Or if they're opponent deviates very early on outside of their preparation, they generally quickly collapse because their thought process becomes a bit rigid. So they are good at memorizing that exact pathway, but they still tend to think they can just do the same moves which they had prepared for that opening. But, as you know, it doesn't work out that way. So for adult players, what I would say, one of the things is like, you know, be a bit more flexible in your opening. That means from time to time for one, at least go outside your comfort zone and openings. Do some, you know, one or two games. If you are normally an e4 player, just for fun, once or twice to expand your horizon try d4. You might lose. Obviously, you might not know theory, but at least you are keeping yourself flexible!

Finally, as adult learners, obviously one big issue is that they have limited time to study. So they should have a clear map, like a timetable or a process to follow. So they should not be like, "I'll just go to YouTube and look at every recommendation that comes to me." They should better limit themselves. "These three books. This is what I'm going to study for the rest of the year." If that's all the time they have. And they should just simply focus on it. What generally happens is they have a fear of missing out. They hear at the club "I'm reading this book and it's so much more amazing than the other book" kind of thing. Then they stop reading their original book

and switch halfway through. But, in a way, I would say that it keeps the whole learning incomplete for adult learners specifically. So, you know, keep yourself to a few thrust sources of material that you would read, read books or a YouTube channel or courses, whatever it might be. And believe in that and then put your efforts specifically into that without getting distracted.

Alex:

Well, thank you. That's all really great, and I think it speaks to your experience coaching people that you've thought a lot about different kinds of players as well. You also just brought up books. And one of the things I wanted to ask you, a lot of our members improved their chess through our chess book collection that we have in the library downstairs. And first I wanted to ask you if you have any favorite chess books that you recommend that our players check out?

GM Priyadharshan Kannappan:

So in terms of general chess improvement and for young players, you know, Boost Your Chess by Yusupov, that nine book series. That's a very good series and I think it generally works well from your like 1500 above.

Yeah, that book series is great and obviously Yusupov is an absolute legend of the game. And another, in general, the books that I suggest for younger players or players under 1500, let's say 1400 or 1300 is this move-by-move series of books and where every move they explain in deep type. For example, you know, there's also a lot of books from Irving Chernev, I think some 60 best games or something like that.

Advanced audience, I think there's a John Nunn book on the same concept, like where he has written about every move in detail. And the logic is why I like this kind of format of books. There's also, I think, one book by author Steve Giddens. I believe it's called *50 Ways to Win at Chess*.

So when you play through a move, you know, and let's say you set it up on a physical chessboard and the best approach is to analyze and guess the next move, take a few minutes to do this. Then try to compare your logic with the move that was played in the game and also, as it's the move by

a more book, there's a high probability that whatever move you might have considered might have also been mentioned, at least in analysis or in the notation. Why this move might have been considered, or why this move might not have been considered. So it helps you to kind of compare your thought process with the thought process of the player, as well as maybe the annotator of the book. So that is something I really, strongly suggest, for players generally about 1000 to 1500, or even slightly lower, I think generally these books are very, very good for them to work on.

And for players who are above that rating, who are working with more advanced-level books, generally Aagaard books are very good, but it is generally for slightly more towards the intermediate level. I mean intermediate means slightly above 1800 players. Aagaard books has written a lot of books, not just the new series on the Grandmaster Preparation, but the books that he wrote before that are also very high quality. Ivan Sokolov's books are also very good. Sokolov has written quite a few on middle game topics. And almost all of Sokolov's books were written before computer analysis was very common. And for books written before the engine-era even though sometimes they have mistakes, they have a lot more independent thought of the annotator, on the logic of moves and so on.

In most modern books what ends up happening is they just go with the first line of the engine. That's what they will usually suggest and just say something like, they made a mistake because this is the alternate move. That's it. Right? But we know that it's impossible to always play the first move of the engine in many scenarios, like, especially for players under 2000!

In terms of puzzles, obviously *The Woodpecker Method*. If you are talking about chess psychology, or something that could broaden your horizon, I would really suggest Jonathan Rosen's two books, *Chess for Zebras* and *Seven Deadly Chess Sins*. Those books will expand your logic on chess and give you a new perspective.

And if you are about 2000, if you are looking to become really good at chess and all, um obviously, you know, Dvoretsky's books, not just the *Endgame Manual*. There are so many Dvoretsky books that he has written in collaboration or independently. All these books are tough to learn, but if

you are very serious about chess improvement, once you cross 2000, if you read those books, you know, you are going to be generally good.

Editor's Note: Check out next month's issue for part 2 where we discuss the GM Kannappan's book and India's rise as a chess superpower!

## Works by Design x Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

One thing I love about working here is that you never know who might show up at the Chess Room. In my time, we've gotten visitors from every continent (barring Antarctica), Super-GMs casually pop in, and even a couple players from the Golden State Warriors. Of course we also have our regulars like Tony of Tony's Teasers and Zorba, among many others. They're all characters too and make hanging out at the club a lot of fun and a constant temptation to not do all the office work!

This last week we were lucky enough to be visited by a youtuber, engineer, and all-round nice guy Riley from Works by Design. If you haven't seen Works by Design's original viral youtube video check it out [here](#). Give it a like and subscribe so you don't miss the upcoming video!



Mechanics' regulars try out the set!



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## 60th American Open in Southern California organized by ChessPalace By Charlene Ong

**Editor's Note:** We're not holding a tournament over Thanksgiving so if you're looking for somewhere to play, check out the 60th American Open!

We wanted to share a great opportunity to play in one of the most respected tournaments on the West Coast — the 60th American Open, taking place this November in Southern California.


It's just a few hours' drive from the Bay Area, and the venue is very close to Disneyland, making it a great weekend getaway for both players and families.

The tournament is organized by a dedicated chess family that runs events and after-school programs throughout the year. They truly care about the chess community, and it shows in the professionalism and care they put into every event.


The American Open features excellent playing conditions and with [five GMs already signed up](#), this event regularly draws some of the strongest players in the region. Judit Sztaaray said: "I had the honor of serving as part of the arbiter staff in 2022 and 2024, and I'm looking forward to returning again this year. I know some of our regulars have played in this event before and it's always great to see familiar faces from the Mechanics' community!" Check out all past events [here](#).

Top boards will be broadcast live on Chess.com, so even if you're not playing, you can follow the games online. For more information, please visit American Open website to register: [www.americanopen.org](http://www.americanopen.org). The event will take place at [Hyatt Regency](#) 11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840



*Get Ready!*  **AMERICAN OPEN**  
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP EST 1985

**November 24 - 30, 2025**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	<b>Main Tournament Championship Section (NORM possible - 6 days)</b>					
	<b>Chess Camp</b> 10 am - 3 pm		<b>Main Tournament</b> 4-day Schedule start Thursday   3-day starts Friday			
		<b>Grandmaster Lecture</b>		<b>Scholastic: Novice Tournament</b>	<b>Scholastic: Varsity Tournament</b>	
				<b>Grandmaster Simul Exhibition</b>	<b>Scholastic: Junior Varsity Tournament</b>	<b>Scholastic: Junior Varsity Tournament</b>
					<b>Blitz Tournament at 9:30 pm</b>	<b>ACTION Tournament at 12:00 pm</b>

Hyatt Regency Orange County 11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840  
[www.americanopen.org](http://www.americanopen.org) | [play@americanopen.org](mailto:play@americanopen.org)

## Free Standup Comedy with Chess Coach Zorba Hughes By Alex Robins

If you're looking for something fun to do on 9/14 come and check out Zorba's set at Comedy Day in Golden Gate Park. It's totally free and should be a lot of fun! If you've hung around the chess club then you likely already know Zorba. In addition to being an all-around nice guy and his impeccable style, he's also hysterical so come down and support him next Sunday! Check out the flyer below and hope to see you there!

**1 STAGE! 5 HOURS!**  
**50 COMEDIANS!**  
**A MILLION LAUGHS!**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**  
**NOON - 5**



**ROBIN WILLIAMS MEADOW • GOLDEN GATE PARK • SF**

FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE !



... LAST YEAR'S LINE-UP ...

**CHECK BACK OFTEN FOR THE 44TH LINE-UP**

11:45-NOON  
MUSIC BY SONGSTERS

12:00-12:10  
OPENING • DEBI DURST  
12:10-12:55  
SET ONE  
HOST: FUNNY GUY  
WITTY GAL  
LAFF RIOT  
SIDE-SPLITTER  
AMAZING AMUSER  
HILARITY BEAST  
JOKESTER  
HUMOR QUEEN  
CHUCKLE MONSTER

12:55-1:55  
SET TWO  
HOST: SATIRICAL FAVORITE  
PUNCHLINES APLENTY  
KNEE-SLAPPER  
WHIMSICAL WOMAN  
DELIVERER OF DROLL  
PLAYFUL TEAM  
OFF-THE-CUFFER  
DRY HUMORIST  
MIRTHIER THAN MOST  
SMARTYPANTS  
PRANKSTER

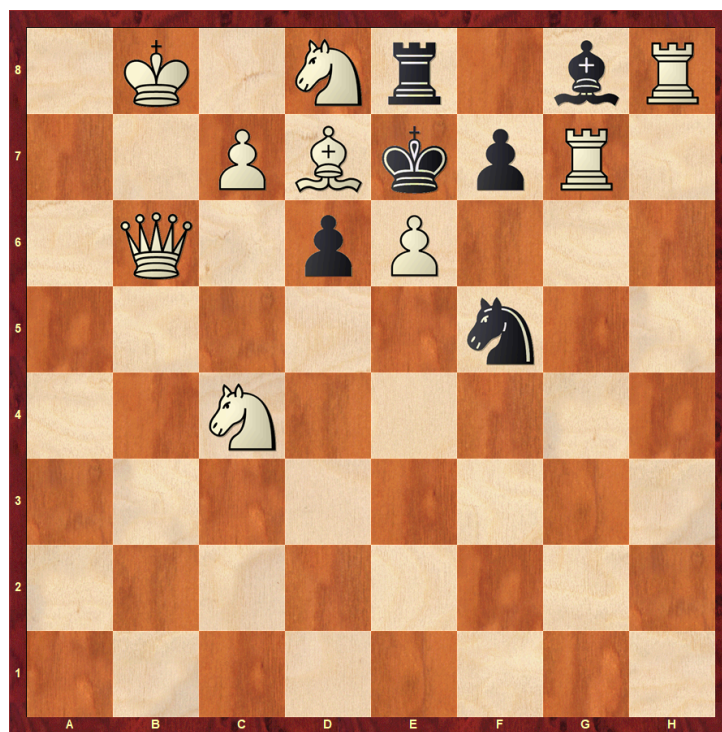
1:55-2:05  
SURPRISE GUEST  
2:05-2:35  
SET THREE  
HOST: LAUGH INDUCER  
JESTER DU JOUR  
MASTER OF SILLY  
DEADPAN DUDE  
CLEVER GIRL  
ANTIC DUO

2:35-3:35  
SET FOUR  
HOST: PITHY PUNSTER  
FARCICAL FELLOW  
SMILE MAKER  
WAGGISH WONDER  
GRIN GIVER  
NATURALLY FUNNY  
TONS OF ONE-LINERS  
CAPTAIN SMIRKS-ALOT  
RAPID-FIRE MASTER  
JOKEY JUGGLER  
PRINCE OF GIGGLES

3:45-5PM  
SET FIVE  
HOST: CROWD PLEASER  
LOCAL FAVE  
CLASSIC CLUB COMIC  
WACKY IMPROVISER  
YUCKSTER  
HAPPY TO BE HERE  
SURE-FIRE PARODIST  
DELIRIOUS DAZZLER  
BIG FINISH HEADLINER  
CURTAIN CALL - EVERYONE!

## Tony's Teasers

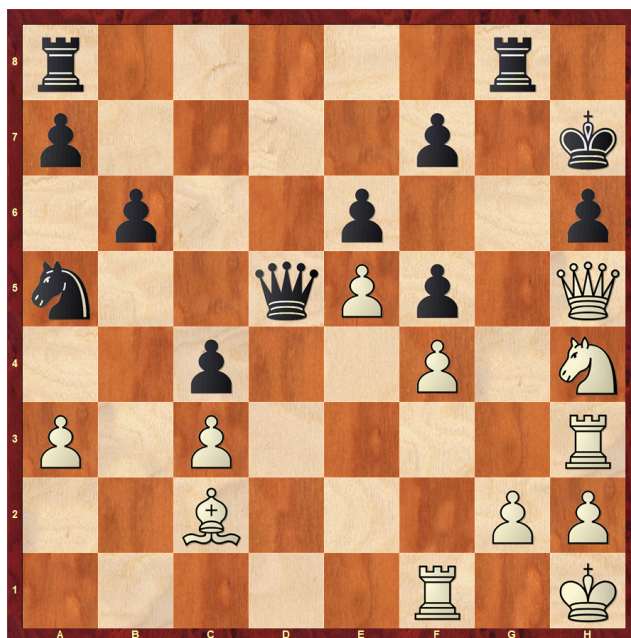
White to play and mate in 2.





## New Puzzle in the Library

Selected By Steven Dunlap  
White to Play and Mate in 3



## Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1. exd7!., if 1... d5 then 2. fxe8=Q# if the knight moves then Qxd6#

For the Puzzle in the Library:

1. Qxh6+!, Kxh6 2. Nxf5+, Kg6 3. Rh6#



## Contact Us

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

Our phone number is 415-393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles, or "Letter to the Editor" piece.

Submit yours today at [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

With more than 4,000 books and periodicals, Mechanics' Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.

You can access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess>

