

Chess Canada May 2014





Next Month...

2014 Edmonton International

Vladimir Pechenkin report, games by Richard Wang & Raja Panjwani

NAYCC 2014

report by Victoria Doknjas, games by the players!

2014 World Open

games by Bindi Cheng and Razvan Preotu

Cover: Josh Sommers, soundtrack album cover for "Bobby Fischer Against the World"

Chess Canada (CCN)

is the monthly newsletter of the Chess Federation of Canada. Opinions expressed in it are those of the credited authors and/or editor, and do not necessarily reflect those of the CFC, its Governors, agents or employees, living or dead.

Submissions

The CCN is, of course, looking for contributions: tournament reports, photos, annotated games. For examples, see this issue or read the June Appendix for other ideas.

Deadlines

Currently on a case-by-case arrangement with each contributor. But chess games aren't bananas: good articles can be shelved without going bad.

Suggestions

If you have an idea for a story you would like to write, email me:

cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca

- John Upper
editor CCN

Chess Canada

2014.05

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The PDF has bookmarks.



Sambuev tops Trois-Rivieres

The Mauricie Open in Trois-Rivières attracted 196 players, huge by national standards but inexplicably the lowest since 1992. **GM Bator Sambuev** won with 4½/5. **Maii-Jade Ouellet** won the U2000 section with a perfect 5/5.

<http://www.clubechecs3r.com/com/ListeSection.php>

2014 NAYCC

The 2014 North American Youth Chess Championship was contested in Tarrytown, New York, June 12–16, 2014.

Two Canadians won their sections: **Kylie Tan** (U10g) **Julia Kuleshova** (U8g).

In total, 53 Canadians played, with 13 returning home with trophies for top 5 finishes:

U18g: Qiyu Zhou 2nd, WFM title.

U18: FM Jason Cao 5th.

U16: John Doknjas 3rd, CM title.

U14: Richard Chen 3rd, CM title.

U14: Kevin Wan 5th.

U12g: Lily Zhou 3rd, WCM title.

U10g: Kylie Tan 1st, WCM title.

U10: Nicholas Vettese 2nd, CM.

U10: Kevin Low 5th.

U8g: Julia Kuleshova 1st, WCM.

U8g: WCM Mysha Gilani 2nd.

U8: Nameer Issani, 2nd, CM title.

U8: Aahil Noor Ali 3rd, CM title.

A full report by NAYCC HoD **Victoria Jung-Doknjas**, and games annotated by the players (!) will appear in the next *CCN*.

Edmonton Chess Festival

The Edmonton Chess Festival took place June 20-29. The main event — a 10-player RR featuring international GMs Ivanchuk, So, Bruzon and Krush, against Canadians Kovalyov, Panjwani, Wang, Pechenkin Haessel — was won by **Vasily Ivanchuk**, with 8/9, ½ a point ahead of **Wesley So**.

A full tournament-diary-style report by **FM Vladimir Pechenkin**, and annotated games by IMs Panjwani and Wang will appear in the next *CCN*.

<http://edmonton-international.com/>

Preotu Scores GM Norm

FM Razvan Preotu played 8 GMs at the World Open and notched a GM norm! 24 Canadians played, including GM Anton Kovalyov (15th), IM Bindi Cheng (32nd) and IM Richard Wang (40th).

Report with games by Raz and Bindi in the next *CCN*.

July 11-13

2014 New Brunswick Open

Super 8 Motel, Campbellton, NB
<http://reallyhightech.ca/chess/nbop14.html>

July 15-18

CYCC

Montreal

July 19-26

Canadian Open/CoQ

Montreal

July 30 - Aug. 4.

Kitchener Chess Festival

Walper Terrace Hotel, Kitchener
Includes:

Canadian Amateur, Canadian Senior, and North American Junior (U20) Championship

NA Junior U20 Ch: 9 Rounds, FIDE IM titles and GM norms *guaranteed*.

<http://www.chessfest.ca/najunior.html>

August 8-10

Draggin' them out of da Woodwork Open

Memorial University, Nfld.
Fr: 7; Sat: 10, 1; Sun: 10, 1.
TC: 60m+5s
Chris White
cwnlca@gmail.com

August 15-17

PEI Open

UPEI, Charlottetown
Schedule: choice of two (!?)
TC: depends on schedule chosen
<http://reallyhightech.com/chess/peiop14.html>

August 16

Campbellville Summer Active

Mohawk Inn & Convention Centre
Sat: 10, 11:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4pm
TC: G/25
CFC Membership not required
<http://www.miltonchess.ca>

August 23-24

Hamilton Summer Open

Emmanuel United Church
Sat: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30; Sun 11, 4.
<http://www.chesstalk.info/forum/showthread.php?11417-Hamilton-Summer-Open-Aug-23-24>



August 29-31**Tournoi Fetes du Travail**

Centre Noël-Brûlart, Québec
Ven: 19h; Sam: 10, 16; Dim:9,
15:30h

TC: 30m/75m + 30s; apres:
G/40m + 30s

<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/activite/tournoi-de-la-fete-du-travail-2014>

August 30-Sept 1**Paul Hake Labour Day Open**

Mount Saint Vincent University
Sat-Sun-Mon: 10, 4.

TC: 120m + 30s

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NSChess/upcoming.html>

August 30 - Sept.1**Langley Open**

Brookwood Senior Centre,
Langley B.C.

Sat: 10, 4; Sun:10, 4; Mon: 9, 2.

TC: G/90 + 30

<http://langleychess.com/events/langley-open/>

September 5-7**Montreal Open**

College Jean-de-Brébeuf

V: 19; S: 10:30, 16; D: 10, 15:30

http://echecsmontreal.ca/chom/index_en.html

CHOM

2014

www.echecsmontreal.ca

Brebeuf College - september 5, 6, 7

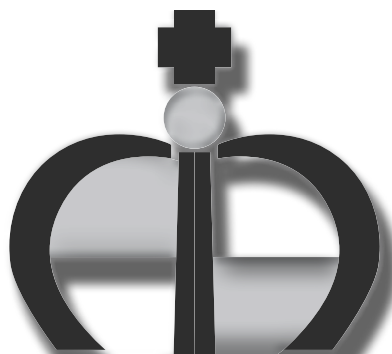
Montreal Open Chess Championship



Club
d'échecs
Ahuntsic



Chess Canada
May 2014



Canadian Open Chess Championship

July 19 to 26, 2014

Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel
900 René-Lévesque West
Montréal, Canada

Projected Prizes : \$ 25 000
\$ 20 000 guaranteed

Canadian Open 2014

9 rounds swiss sys.

Schedule : Round 1 - 1pm (July 19); Rounds 2-3 - 11am and 6pm (July 20); Rounds 4 to 8 - 6pm (July 21-25); Round 9 - 11am (July 26).

Time control : 40/90+30 KO with 30 sec incr.

Accommodation : Queen Elizabeth Hotel special rate \$135/night.
Info : 1-800-441-1414

Other events : **Simul** on July 18; **Bughouse** tournament on July 18; **Mini-CO** on July 19-20; SS 4 rounds open to all with 600 \$ in prizes. **Blitz** tournament on July 26.

Byes : Possibility of 3 byes (½ point) in the first 4 rounds.



Five Sections					
R	A 2400+	B -2400	C -2000	D -1700	E -1300+U
1 st	\$4000	\$1500	\$1000	\$750	\$600
2 nd	\$2000	\$900	\$600	\$500	\$400
3 rd	\$1200	\$600	\$300	\$250	\$200
4 th	\$700	\$500	\$200	\$100	\$100
5 th	\$400	\$400			
6 th	\$300	\$200			
7 th	\$200	\$100			
Class 1st		<2200: \$300	<1900: \$250	<1600: \$150	<1200: \$100
Class 2nd		<2100: \$225	<1800: \$150	<1500: \$100	<1100: \$75
					Unrated: \$50
1 st Junior		\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
1 st Women		\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
1 st Senior		\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
1 st Cadet		\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
Gowlings	\$1500	Mini-CO : \$300, 200, 100			
Registration fees (\$20 discount for juniors in all sections)					
Regular	2400 - Fide	\$105	\$90	\$80	\$70
<June 1st	2400 - Fide	\$120	\$110	\$100	\$90
On site		\$135	\$125	\$115	\$105

+ info : http://echecsmontreal.ca/co/index_en.html / info@fqechecs.qc.ca / 514-252-3034



CANADIAN YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 15 to 18, 2014

Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel
900 René-Lévesque West
Montréal, Canada

Sections
U18 Open + Girls
U16 Open + Girls
U14 Open + Girls
U12 Open + Girls
U10 Open + Girls
U8 Open + Girls

Schedule
Rounds 1 - 2 : July 15, 10am - 3pm
Rounds 3 - 4 : July 16, 10am - 3pm
Rounds 5 - 6 : July 17, 10am - 3pm
Round 7 : July 18, 9am
Tie breaks and Simul : July 18, 2pm
Closing ceremony : July 18, 4pm

How to qualify - Qualifier
Consider running a qualifier! Check the CFC web site (chess.ca) for a list of CYCC qualifying events and players qualified to the CYCC!

Accommodation
Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, 900 René-Lévesque West (site of the tournament) - Special rates: \$135/night.
More info : http://echecsmontreal.ca/co/lieu_en.html

Prizes* (Trophies to the 3 first places)
First: Official representative for the World Youth Championships in South Africa (Accommodation + travel stipend).
Second: Official representative for the Pan-American Championships (Accommodation).
Third: Official representative for the North American Youth Championships (Accommodation).
**Important note : Players can decline their prize and have access to the next one (i.e., the second place could decide to be the representative for the NAYCC and leave the Pan-American Championships to the third place. Subject to CFC approval; There is also a special prize for the best score combined for those who plays both the CYCC and the Canadian Open.*

Entry fee
Before June 10 : \$225 / After June 10 : \$250
Players who register before June 10, 2014 will also benefit from a free registration for the 2014 Canadian Open in Montreal (July 19-26, 2014) if they play in their respective section. \$150 per registration will go to the Chess Federation of Canada, in order to cover the expenses for the travel to the WYCC.

Info : 514-252-3034 / http://echecsmontreal.ca/cycc/index_en.html



Winners will represent Canada at the 2014 World Youth Chess Championships in





2014 Canadian Youth Chess Championship

Your path to the World Chess Championship

Sponsored by the Chess Federation of Canada

CYCC 2014 How to qualify

All players must be qualified. The direct way to qualify is to participate in a qualification tournament. Other qualified players are :

- The qualifiers from that year's YCC's
- The qualifiers from the CYCC to the WYCC of the previous year.
- The highest rated of each age category {open & female} of each Province {as of May 1st prior to the CYCC}
- The host organizer may nominate three players for each category from the host location.
- The former CYCC Champions
- Where there is no provincial qualifier, up to 3 players may be qualified at the discretion of the provincial Youth Coordinator. In the absence of a Provincial Coordinator, players would apply to the CFC Youth Coordinator.
- The top ten rated players in each age category in the country (as of May 1st prior to the CYCC).
- Information about the CYCC : 514-252-3034 / info@fquechecs.qc.ca
- Information about YCCs : info@chess.ca



CYCC and Canadian Open Accommodation

The Queen Elizabeth Hotel is the location of both the CYCC 2014 and the Canadian Open 2014.

- **Downtown Montreal**
- **Situated above the train station (Via Rail & Amtrack)**
- **Connected to the extensive underground city, consisting of thousand of boutiques, restaurants and cafés.**
- **982 rooms**
- **Connected to a metro station (Bonaventure)**
- **Indoor pool**
- **Health Club**
- **Special rate for the tournament : \$135/night**

Booking information

Online : https://aws.passkey.com/event/10806999/owner/17625/home?lang=en_CA

Phone (Canada & USA) : 1-800-441-1414

Phone (Overseas) : 1-506-863-3601



Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel
900, René-Lévesque West
Montreal

Near :
Metro Station
Square-Victoria
Bonaventure
and
Central train station

Other activities during the Canadian Open

GM SIMUL

Date : Friday July 18, 2014 at the tournament site

Schedule : At the end of the CYCC

Fee : \$15 ; Free for CYCC players

MINI CO

(Mini Canadian Open)

Date : July 19-20, 2014

Site : Hotel Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, Montreal
900 Boul. René-Lévesque West (Metro Bonaventure)

System : Swiss System of four (4) rounds; one round (round 2) independent + 3 rounds included in the CO 2014.

Prize fund : \$ 600 (1st 300, 2nd 200, 3rd 100).

Entry fee : \$ 40 for all (\$ 45 on site). By mail : Fédération québécoise des échecs 4545, Pierre-de-Coubertin, Montréal (QC) H1V 0B2.

Schedule : Saturday July 19 - rounds 1 CO and 2 : 1pm and 7pm ;
Sunday July 20 - rounds CO 3 and CO 4 : 11am and 6pm.

Bye : Possibility of one bye (round 1 or 2).

Continuation : It will be possible to continue playing in the Canadian Open after the Mini-CO with an adjusted score. The entry fee is the one of the corresponding section (on site) minus 10%.

Membership : According to the CFC-FQE agreement.

Rating : The most recent ratings will be used : FQE for Quebec residents. CFC for the other Canadian residents. FIDE for non-Canadian residents. Players without any of those ratings will be considered Unrated.

Information : FQE / 514-252-3034 / info@fquechecs.qc.ca / http://www.fquechecs.qc.ca

BUGHOUSE TOURNAMENT

Date : Friday July 18, 2014 at the tournament site

Schedule : Registration - 6pm; Round 1 - 7pm

Fee : \$10 per team ; Free for the CYCC players

Sections : Two sections (Championship and Amateur)

Prizes : Chess material

BLITZ TOURNAMENT

Date : Saturday July 26, 2014 at the tournament site

Schedule : Registration - 6pm; Round 1 - 7pm

Fee : \$ 20 for all

Sections : One section only

Prizes : \$ 1 000 guaranteed(400, 300, 200, 100)

System : SS of 6 double rounds



The purity of children lies, not in the innocence of their will, but in the weakness of their limbs.

- St. Augustine, Confessions

I like this quote from Augustine, and wheel it out whenever subjected to moralizing mush about the pure souls of children and the corrupting effects of society.

But I've never had a chance to use it at a youth chess tournament. Augustine may have been right about *infants*, but by the time children can use their limbs well enough to play tournament chess, they are already remarkably well-behaved. Yes, they run around a lot and may analyze too loudly, but that's *enthusiasm* rather than *malice*, and for most of them that enthusiasm will soon be either mastered or re-directed or burnt-away.

For dazzlingly eye-catching examples of bad behaviour, you have to look at the long-limbed adults, not the kids. I've seen parents angrily berating tournament directors who were (in fact) not only *correctly applying* the rules but *politely explaining* them, I've seen many adult players complain about pair-

ings when they didn't get the result they wanted, I've heard adults swearing loudly when their cell-phone went off, of course I've met bad losers... but also *bad winners*, who complained about *my* play after I'd been nice enough to lose to them. It is even *possible* that *I* may have dented a thermos (or two) of my own after particularly unlucky and undeserved losses...

When things go bad for chess kids, they cry. When things go bad for chess adults, they can attack.

C-3PO: He made a fair move. Screaming about it can't help you.
Han Solo: Let him have it. It's not wise to upset a Wookiee.
C-3PO: But sir, nobody worries about upsetting a droid.
Han Solo: That's 'cause droids don't pull people's arms out of their sockets when they lose. Wookiees are known to do that.
C-3PO: [warily glances at Chewbacca] I see your point, sir. I suggest a new strategy, R2: *let the Wookiee win.*



Of course, not all chess adults are Wookiees, and even the ones who are aren't like that all the time. FWIW, all the GMs I've met have been thoroughly nice. At the 1994 Canadian Zonal, Spraggett and Lesiege let me interrupt their post-mortem and seriously (and politely) analyzed a suggestion I made. Bator Sambuev did something similar a few years ago.

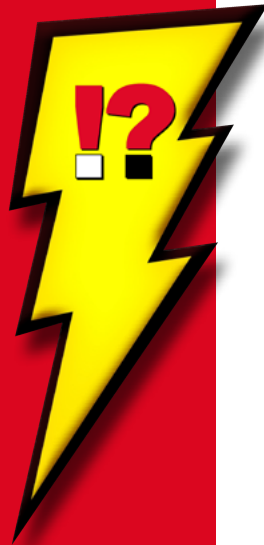
Then again, I've never played Spraggett, and I haven't taken even 1/2-point off Sambuev. Who knows what might happen if I ever *successfully* opposed them? To haul out the chess annotator's most common cliché: it all depends on the particulars of the position.

New Contributors

I'm again happy and proud to introduce new writers and annotators to *Chess Canada*. This month, three strong juniors have annotated games for us: **Mark Plotkin**, **Joey Qin**, and **Qiyu Zhou**. **IM Bindi Cheng** is also on board, with two games from the Ontario Open. Bindi returns next month with two games from the World Open, as does Razvan Preotu. **Victoria Jung-Doknjas** contributes the first of three articles. This month she writes about the 26th Canadian Chess Challenge; next month she reports on the BC Senior Championship (which she organized) and the 2014 NAYCC, where she was Canada's HoD. Finally, two games and a long conversation with 2014 RACC Champion **Vasil Khachidze**. I was uncomfortable about doing a story on the RACC — it's my club and I don't want to play favourites — but it *is* a big busy club, and I found our conversation a fascinating cultural clash. To me, some of it seems unwarrently conspiratorial... but then he did grow up in a Soviet state, and (as he says) it's hard for someone who has always lived in a stable and peaceful democracy (Canada) to appreciate the difference. If nothing else, that may explain my "Trotsky" caption. ...there's also a nice anecdote reminding us that Tal was not a Wookiee.

- John Upper





Critical Positions



selected by the editor

The following diagrams are critical positions from this issue of *Chess Canada*. You can treat them as exercises or as a teaser introduction to what you'll find this month.

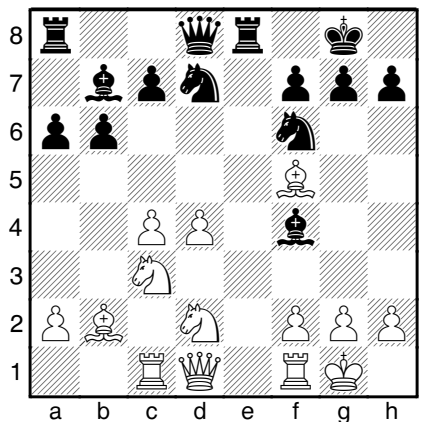
These "critical positions" can be:

- winning combinations
- surprising tactics
- endgames requiring precise play
- simple calculation exercises
- variation-rich middlegames
- moments when one player went badly wrong.

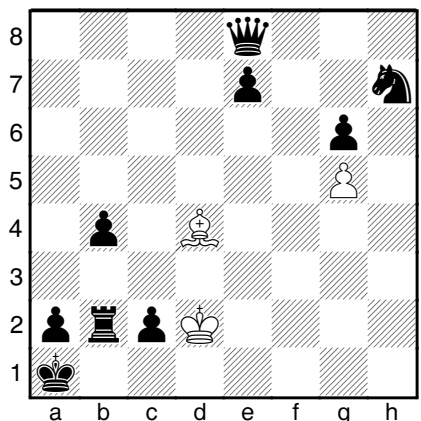
The black and white squares next to each diagram indicate the player to move.

Diagrams are (very subjectively) sorted in order of difficulty: easiest at the start, to hardest at the end.

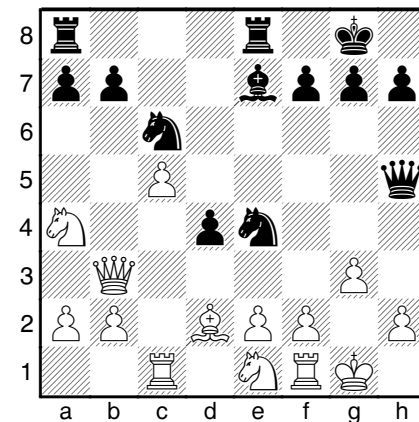
Solutions appear in the game analysis in this month's *CCN*, in the red diagrams in the stories identified below the diagrams. Usually with significantly more analytical commentary than the rest of the game.



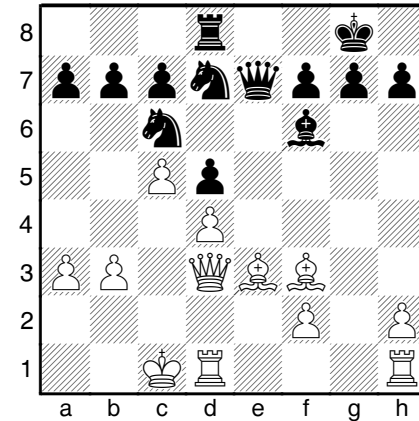
see: **TORO**



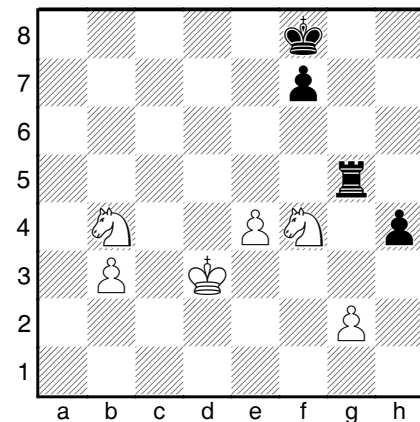
see: **Nadareishvili**



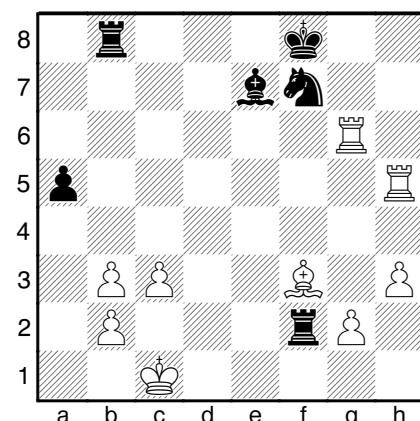
see: **TORO**



see: **TORO**



see: **TORO**



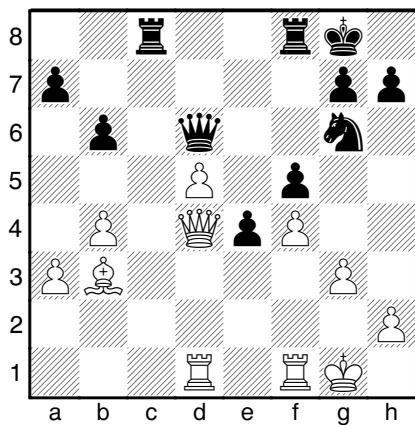
see: **TORO**

Pick one: ♔d3, ♕xb7, ♖f4, ♞f3.

Calculate: 21. ♕xd5 ♞xc5...

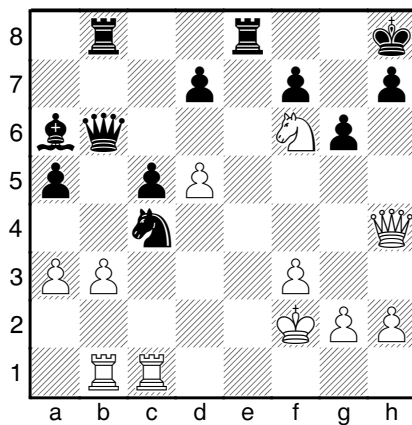


Chess Canada May 2014

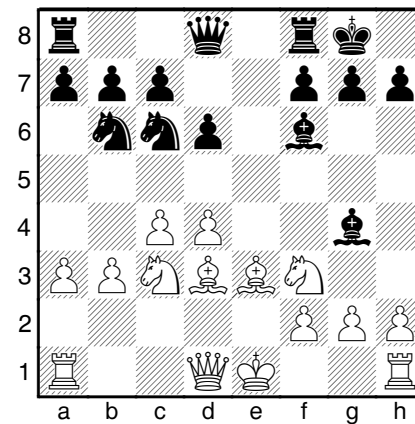


Pick one: ...♖fd8 or ...♖c7

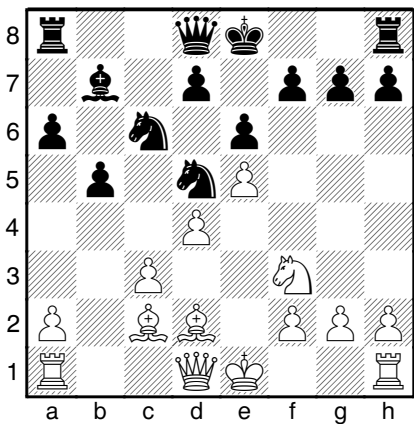
see: next month...



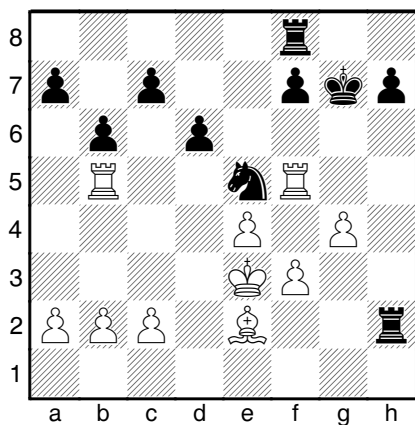
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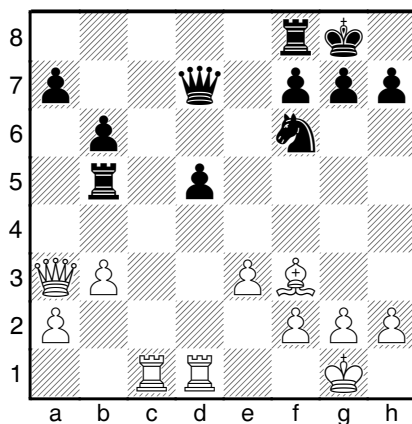


see: Toronto Open

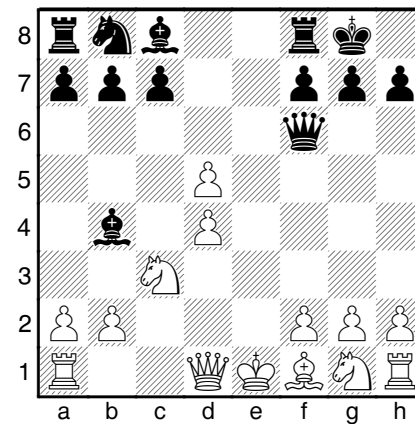


If White plays f3-f4...?

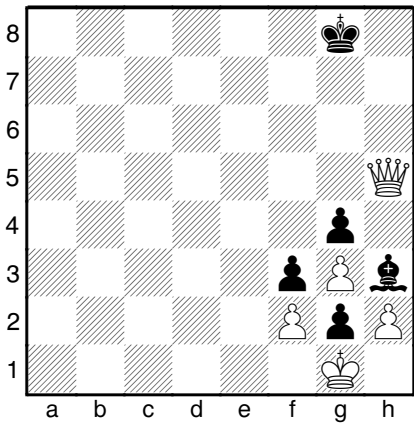
see: TORO



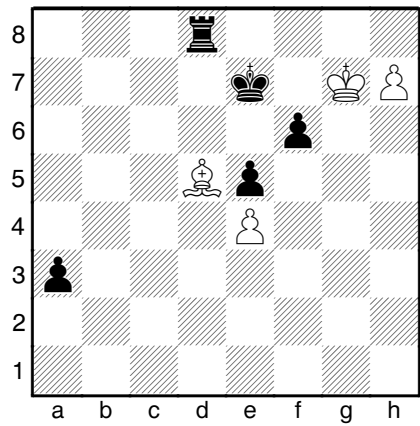
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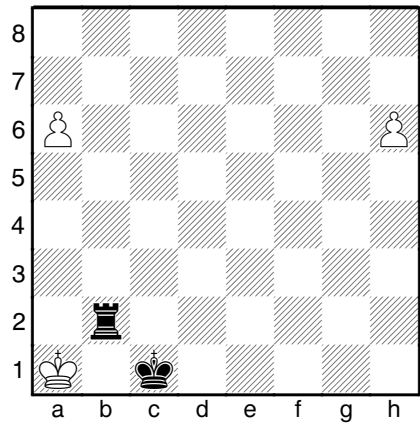
see: Toronto Open



see: Nadareishvili



What happens on ...♖h8?
see: Nadareishvili



see: Nadareishvili



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MAP US	MAP US	MAP US





Sunningdale Sequel



by IM Aman Hambleton

As reported in the previous issue of *Chess Canada*, IM Aman Hambleton won the e2e4 Sunningdale Open in England, May 23-26, 2014.

Aman scored 6/7, including a win over GM Nicholas Pert and draw with GM Keith Arkell, to win the event by a full point and notch a TPR of 2647!

Aman won Sunningdale last year too, making this win a sequel of sorts. Here's hoping it represents a fresh start to what has been a difficult transitional year to European professional chess.

Aman has annotated three of his wins from Sunningdale 2014 for this issue of *Chess Canada*.

Notes: IM Aman Hambleton Hambleton, Aman (2453) Constantinou, Peter (2298)

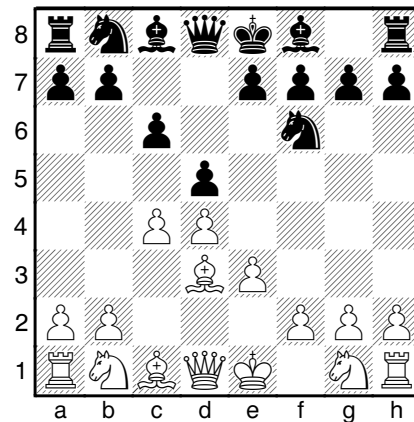
D10

Sunningdale Open (2), 24.05.2014

In round 2 I played against local

FM Peter Constantinou. Having just arrived the evening previous I did not have a lot of energy to stay up preparing. Instead I decided to play old analysis of mine resulting in an equal yet complicated position.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4. Qd3!?



This move will transpose favourably to the main lines of the Semi-Slav unless Black plays actively.

4...e5!

This is why White always starts with Nf3 or Nc3. After this central break there are many forced

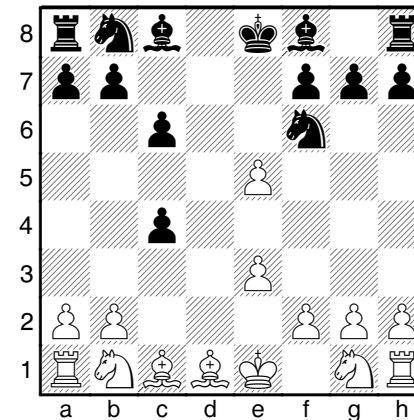
lines which lead to an exchange of Queens and a balanced endgame.

4...e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.b3 Qd6 7.Qb2± Delaying Nc3 has the advantage of controlling e5 before castling, and continuing Nbd2 if necessary.

5.dxe5 dxc4 6.Qe2

6.Qxc4 Qxd1+ 7.Qxd1 Ng4± is already slightly better for Black.

6...Qxd1+ 7.Qxd1



This is the end of the forced sequence, resulting in a trade of Queens and an equal yet very imbalanced endgame. White has

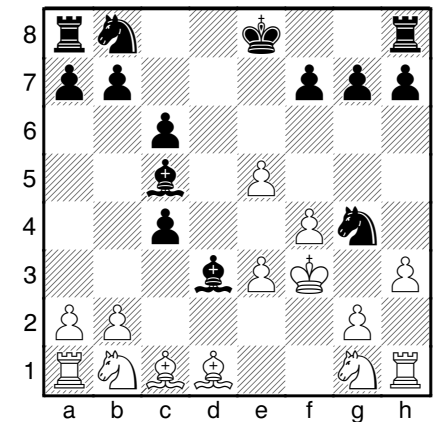
a 5v3 majority on the Kingside and Black has a 4v2 majority on the Queenside.

7...Ng4 8.f4 Qc5 9.Qe2

The only plausible way to keep all 5 pawns.

9.Qxg4 Qxg4± gives up too many light squares.

9...Qf5 10.h3 Qd3+ 11.Qf3!



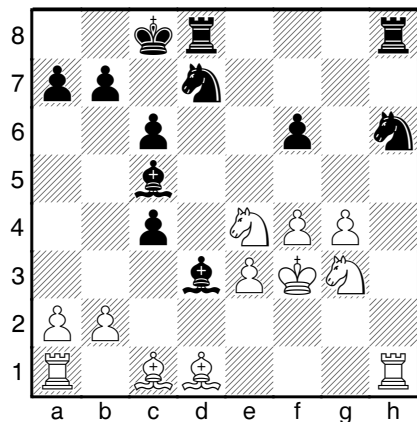
Despite having no pieces developed, White is very close to playing g4 and controlling every important square with his pawns alone.





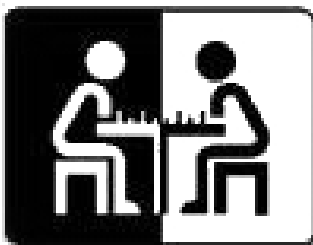
11...h5 12.♘e2 ♘h6 13.♘bc3
13.g4 ♘xg4 14.hxg4 hxg4+
15.♙g2 ♙e4+-+.

13...f6 14.exf6 gxf6 15.g4
♘d7 16.♘g3 hxg4+ 17.hxg4
0-0-0 18.♘ce4

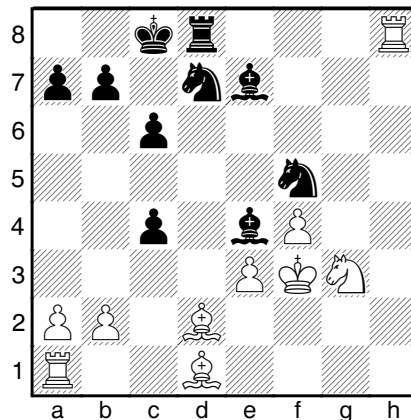


White's King is completely safe and although it's still awhile before the Rooks are connected, White intends ♙d2-c3 with pressure on the h-file and the f6 pawn.

18...♙e7 19.♙d2 f5 20.gxf5
♘xf5 21.♖xh8 ♙xe4+



e2e4 Chess



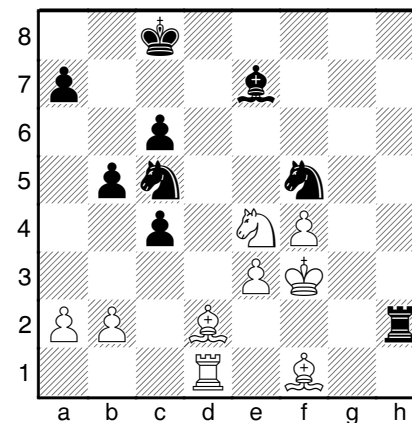
22.♘xe4

22.♙xe4 ♘xg3+ 23.♙f3 ♖xh8
24.♙xg3 ♙h4+ 25.♙f3 ♖g8=
Black's lead in development and pressure on the g-file should be sufficient counterplay for the connected passed pawns and Bishop pair.

22...♖xh8 23.♙e2?

This move was a mistake. I should have played ♙c2 in order to remove Black's ♘f5. I completely underestimated how strong this piece would become. ♙e2 gains time by attacking c4 but it doesn't solve White's lack of coordination.

23...b5 24.♙f1 ♖h2 25.♖d1
♘c5

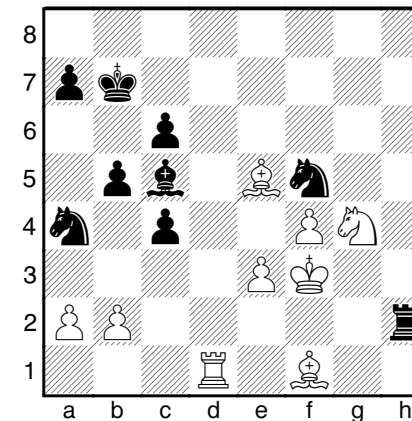


26.♘f2

26.♘xc5 ♙xc5 27.♙c1 ♙c7=
White cannot advance either of the passed pawns and all of my pieces are stuck on the first rank!

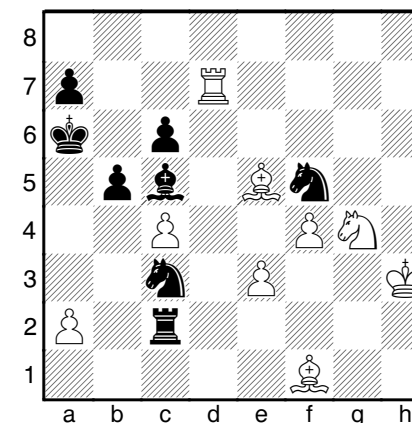
26...♙b7 27.♙c3 ♘a4 28.♙e5
28.e4 ♙c5 29.♘g4 ♖xb2∞
30.♙xb2 ♘xb2∞ is a crazy variation which I did not know how to evaluate. Black's pawns and 3 minor pieces are dangerous while White's pawns are far from becoming a threat.

28...♙c5 29.♘g4



The position is a complete mess. With my time getting low and having made the mistake of not playing ♙c2 to remove the strong ♘f5, I thought I could already be worse.

29...♖c2 30.♖d7+ ♙a6 31.b3
♘c3 32.bxc4 ♘h4+ 33.♙g3
♘f5+ 34.♙f3 ♘h4+ 35.♙g3
♘f5+ 36.♙h3

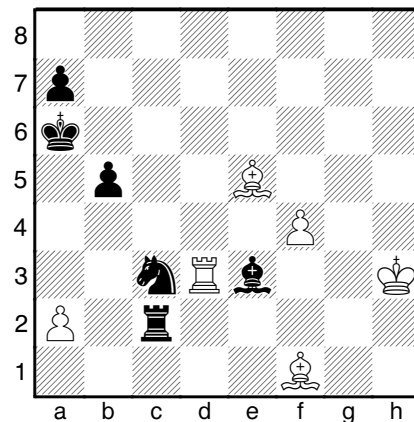


Despite being low on time, I felt inclined to push against my lower-rated opponent for the win. I also did not see a way that he can avoid ♕d3 as well as cxb5 and ensuing tactics.

36...♞xe3

The key idea that both my opponent and I missed was 36...♞e2! 37.cxb5+ cxb5= and White has to take the ♞ before ...♞g1 checkmate happens.

37.cxb5+ cxb5 38.♞xe3 ♕xe3 39.♞d3



39...♕xf4?

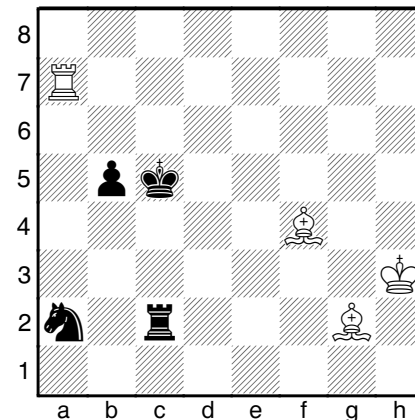
A mix of low time and panic. There are a number of ways to give up a piece for that pawn. Leaving White with the two

Bishops is certainly the least desirable.

39...♕d2 40.♞d6+ ♔b7 (40...♔a5 41.♞xd2+-) 41.♕g2+ ♔c8 42.♕c6 is still extremely complex.

White's pieces have great coordination and the Bishop pair offers a lot of checkmate possibilities.

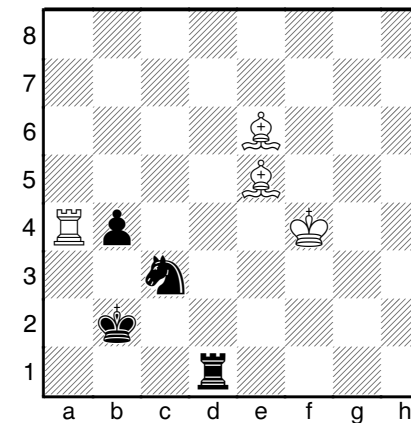
40.♕xf4 ♞xa2 41.♞a3+ ♔b6 42.♕e3+ ♔c6 43.♕g2+ ♔d6 44.♕f4+ ♔c5 45.♞xa7



The a7-pawn is won by force. I'm not sure what the tablebase evaluation of this endgame will be, but it certainly felt like I could force a win over the board. The two bishops are able to control so many important squares at

once.

45...♞c3 46.♞c7+ ♔b4 47.♕f3 ♔b3 48.♞c5 b4 49.♕e5 ♞d2 50.♔g4 ♞d3 51.♞c6 ♔b2 52.♞c4 ♔b3 53.♞c8 ♔b2 54.♔f4 ♔a2 55.♕g4 ♔b2 56.♞b8 ♔a3 57.♕e6 ♞d1 58.♞a8+ ♔b2 59.♞a4



59...♞f1+

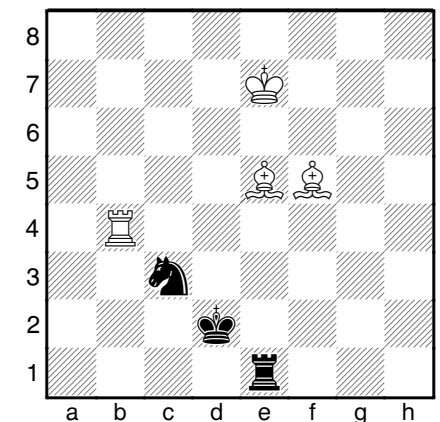
59...♔c2 was more precise, intending ♞d5+ after ♞xb4 with a theoretical draw, however difficult. I would have to undo my ♞a4 attempt by playing ♕f5+ and ♞a8 if I want to keep 2 Bishops on the board. 60.♞xb4 ♞d5+ 61.♕xd5 ♞xd5=.

60.♔g4 ♞g1+ 61.♔f5

Now the b4 pawn is also won by

force with the control and pins the Bishops offer. After winning both pawns the remaining position is actually quite easy to win. The ♞ is no match for White's ♕-pair.

61...♞f1+ 62.♔g6 ♞g1+ 63.♔f7 ♞f1+ 64.♔e7 ♞e1 65.♞xb4+ ♔c2 66.♕f5+ ♔d2



67.♔d6

67.♞b2+ ♔c1 68.♞c2+ ♔d1 69.♔e6 was also possible but having one Bishop pinned and the other defending my rook seemed very fragile.

67...♞e2 68.♞b3 ♞f1 69.♕e4 ♔e1 70.♞b2 ♞g1 71.♕f3 ♞g6+ 72.♔d5 ♞g1 73.♕e4 ♞g8 74.♕c3+ ♔d1 75.♕d3 ♞d8+





76.♔e4 ♖e8+ 77.♕f5 ♜e2
78.♞d2+

The Bishops are too strong in the endgame; Black's ♞ could hardly move.

I was happy with my unusual opening choice because I think the resulting position is unexplored and very imbalanced. I didn't know what to expect from the coming rounds if it took me 78 moves to win in round 2!

1-0

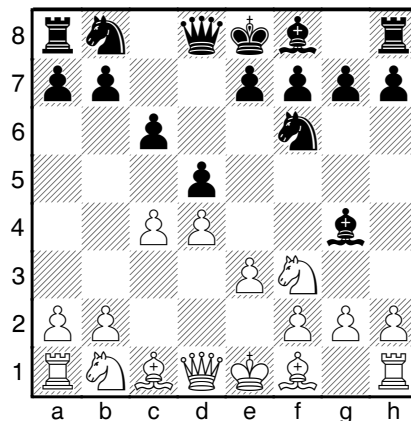
Notes IM Aman Hambleton
Hambleton, Aman (2453)
Pert, Nicholas (2560)

D11

Sunningdale Open (4),
25.05.2014

In round 4 I played against GM Nicholas Pert from England, a new opponent for me although he has played this tournament before. I expected this to be the toughest match for me, as he was the #1 ranked in the event.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♞f3 ♞f6
4.e3 ♟g4

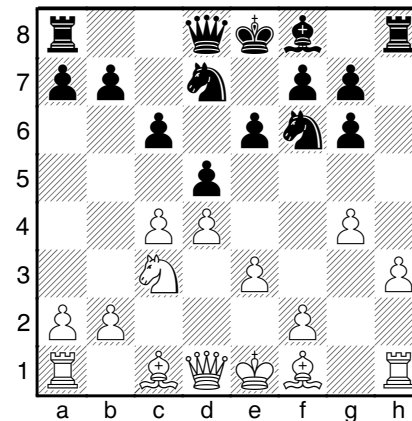


Black has two main options in 4...♟f5 and 4...♟g4 if he wants to develop the light squared Bishop. Otherwise ...e6 leads to a Semi-Slav position where the Bishop usually develops to b7.

5.♞c3 e6 6.h3 ♟h5
7.g4

There are a number of ways to play as White, but I prefer to establish an imbalance immediately by trading my ♞ for the light-squared ♟.

7...♟g6 8.♞e5 ♞bd7
9.♞xg6 hxg6



10.a3!

A subtle move. I think ♟d3, ♞b3, or ♟d2 are more

10...g5

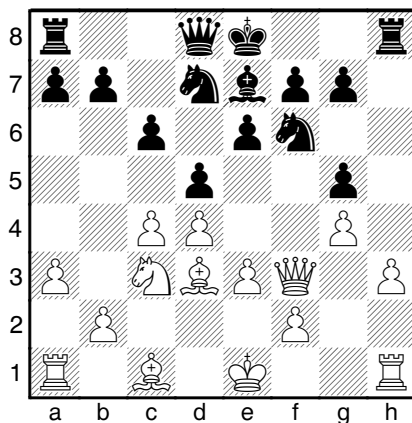
This is a noteworthy plan, securing the dark squares and preventing White from continuing to expand on the Kingside with g5 and h4.

10...♟d6 11.♟d2 ♞e7
12.♟d3 dxc4 13.♟xc4
0-0∞ leads to imbalanced play. White has a Kingside initiative while Black intends to open up the center and expand on the Queenside.

11.♞f3 ♟e7 12.♟d3

?????????





Neither of Black's most common central breaks (...c5 or ...e5) work because of the pressure ♖f3 has on the ♔d5.

12...♔f8?!

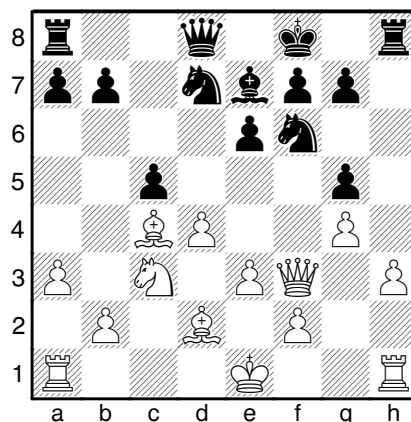
The idea of this peculiar move is g6-♔g7 while leaving the h8 rook to pressure h3 and prevent h4.

It is definitely better than 12...0-0 13.h4 gxh4 14.g5 ♘e8 15.♖h5+- which leads to checkmate.

13.♕d2 dxc4

13...g6 14.0-0-0 ♔g7 seemed much more consistent. Black achieves his plan and although White is preferred the middle-game is balanced.

14.♕xc4 c5?



I do not agree with opening the center after playing a move like ...♔f8.

15.h4!

My opponent certainly had not considered this move. Although ...♔f8-g7 is sometimes a core idea, the timing did not make sense because of White's ♖f3 creating tactics along the f-file.

15.d5? ♘e5 16.♖e2 exd5+-

15...cxd4

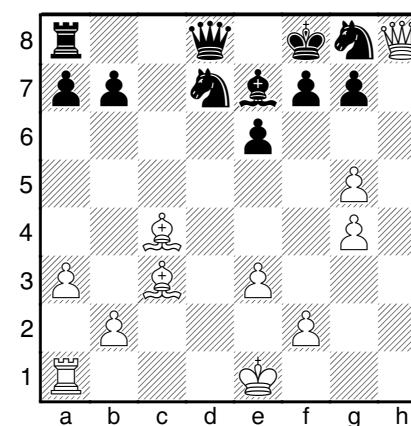
15...gxh4 16.g5 ♘h7 17.g6 ♘g5 18.♖f4♞; although the computer evaluates this as equal, it certainly looked to favour White

over the board.

16.hxg5!

Incorrect would be 16.exd4 ♘b6 17.♕d3 ♖xd4- where Black has a lot of activity and White's King is still in the center.

16...♖xh1+ 17.♖xh1 dxc3 18.♖h8+ ♘g8 19.♕xc3±



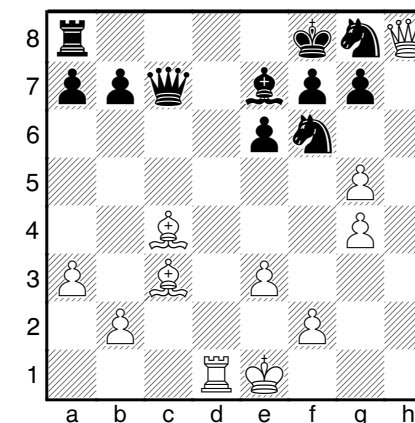
This was the point of the combination that began with 15.h4: White's two Bishops exert immense pressure on the position and Black's pieces lack coordination.

19...♘df6

19...e5 is the only way to prevent ♖xg7+ but there are too

many threats to deal with after 20.g6!+-.

20.♖d1 ♖c7



21.♕d3

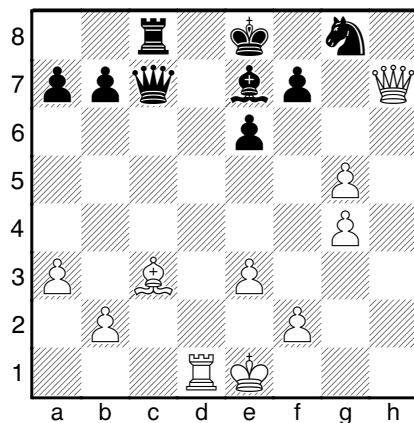
A patient move. There is no rush to take the free ♘f6, so instead ♕d3 creates a more powerful threat of ♕h7xg8. All of White's pieces are optimally placed.

21...♖c8 22.♕h7 ♘xh7

22...♖h2 23.gxf6 ♖g1+ 24.♔d2 ♖d8+ 25.♕d4 ♖xf2+ 26.♔c1+- and Black's checks will run out.

23.♖xg7+ ♔e8 24.♖xh7



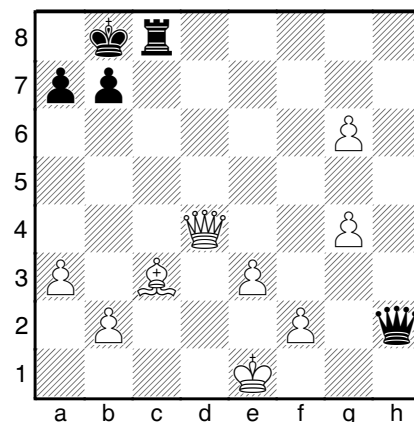


The remaining ♖ is trapped and ...♔f8 doesn't change matters. After White regains the piece he will still be ahead two pawns with a strong attack.

24...♔f8 25.♖xg8 ♖h2
26.♖d4

26.♔e2 ♖g2 27.♖d4 e5
28.♔b4+- was more accurate.

26...e5 27.g6 exd4 28.♖xf7+
♔d8 29.♖xf8+ ♔c7 30.♖c5+
♔b8 31.♖xd4

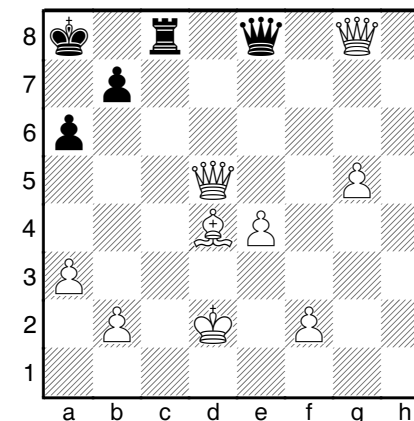


After giving up the exchange for 2 more pawns White has an easy endgame to convert.

31...♔a8 32.♖d7 ♖f8 33.♔f6
♖h1+ 34.♔e2 ♖e4 35.g7

Reykjavik 2013.

♖e8 36.♔d4 a6 37.♔d2
♖b8 38.♖f5 ♖e8 39.g5 ♖c8
40.♖d5 ♖g6 41.e4 ♖e8
42.g8♖



Although not the most precise, time was getting low and I knew that the Bishop + 3 pawns vs. Rook endgame was a win.

42...♖xg8 43.♖xg8 ♖xg8
44.♔f6 ♔b8 45.♔e3 ♔c7
46.♔f4 ♔d7 47.♔f5 ♖c8 48.f4
♔e8 49.e5 a5 50.e6 ♖c5+
51.♔g6 b5 52.f5 b4 53.axb4
axb4 54.♔h8 ♖c6 55.f6 ♖xe6
56.♔g7

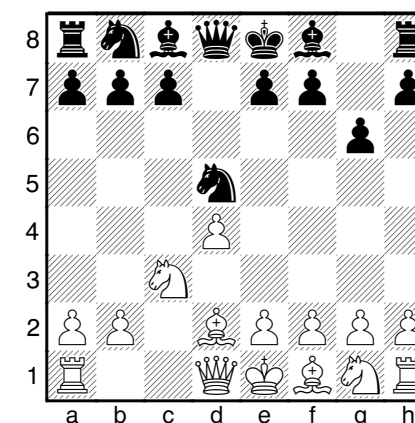
This was the first time I played against GM Pert and with my victory I maintained first place in the tournament.

1-0

Notes IM Aman Hambleton
Hambleton, Aman (2453)
Fernandez, Daniel (2367)
D85
Sunningdale Open (6),
26.05.2014

In round 6 I played against IM Daniel Fernandez of Singapore. So far he was undefeated in the tournament and my main rival for first place. Although I expected the Grunfeld I did not expect the specific variation played in the game.

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 d5
4.cxd5 ♖xd5 5.♔d2



This is a variation I have been playing for a few years now, with great results. ♔d2 is a sideline

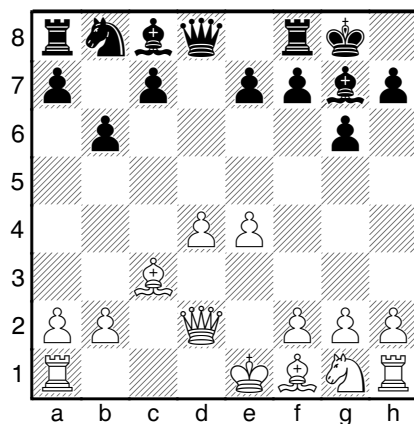


but has seen high level play from Anand, Dreev, and especially Svidler during the 2013 Candidates.

5...♙g7 6.e4 ♘xc3

6...♗b6 7.♙e3 0-0 is the other main alternative, intending a central break with ...e5 or ...f5.

7.♙xc3 0-0 8.♙d2 b6



This was the move I did not expect. Although ♙d2 is not a popular Grunfeld system, this is an even more unlikely variation. More common is ...c5 and Black tries to fight for dark square control; e.g. 8...c5 9.d5 e6 10.♙c4 exd5 11.♙xd5 ♗d7=.

9.♙c4

I could have also chosen a setup with ♙d3 and ♗f3, but since I am a KID Saemisch player ♗e2 and f3 seemed more familiar.

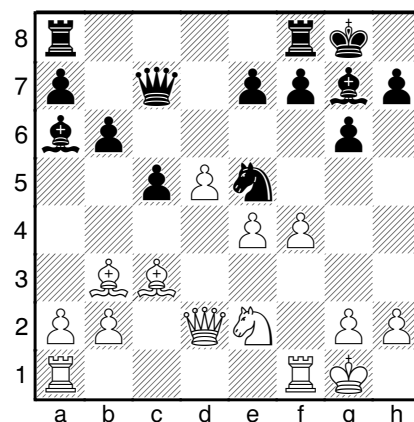
9...♗d7 10.♗e2 c5 11.d5

11.0-0 ♙b7 12.f3 cxd4 13.♗xd4 ♗e5 14.♙e2 ♖c8= gives White no advantage at all.

11...♗e5 12.♙b3 ♙a6 13.0-0

Castling is imperative because of ...♗d3+, and now Black needs to think about where to put his ♗ after f4.

13...♙c7 14.f4



14...♙h6

14...♗c4? loses a piece: 15.♙xc4 ♙xc4 16.♙xg7 ♙xe2 (16...♙xg7

17.♙c3+-) 17.♙e5+-.

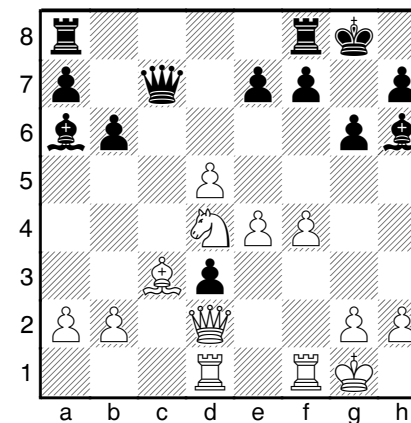
15.♙ad1 ♗d3

15...♗c4 doesn't work any better now because after 16.♙d3 the ♗ is pinned and the doubled pawns after ...b5 only serve to block off Black's ♙a6: 16...b5 17.♙xc4 bxc4 18.♙h3 ♙g7 19.f5+-.

16.♙c2 c4

16...♗b4 17.♙b1 ♙xe2 18.♙xe2 ♙xf4 19.d6! ♙xd6 20.e5+-.

17.♙xd3 cxd3 18.♗d4



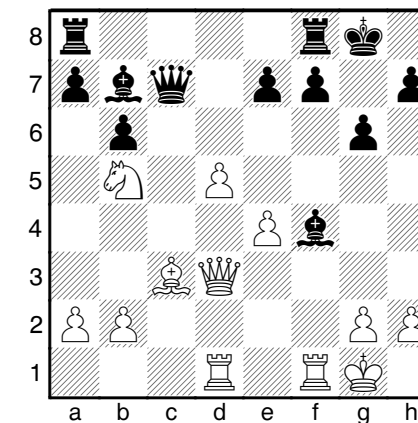
White has a preferable position due to the strong ♙c3 and mobile pawn center. Black needs to try to open the position and play very actively to stay in the game.

From a human point of view I think this position is very tough to play for Black.

18...♙b7?

Somehow the ♙a6 needs to come back into the game from b7, but 18...♖ac8 19.♖f3 ♖fe8 20.♙f2 e6∞ was a better continuation, opening up the center and putting pressure on White's pawns.

19.♙xd3 ♙xf4 20.♗b5!



This was the continuation that my opponent missed. Now Black will lose the ♙f4 unless he enters the tactical variations, which are all in White's favour.

20...♙b8



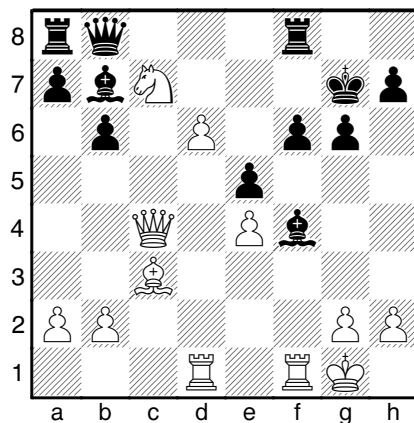


20...♙xh2+ 21.♔h1 ♚b8 22.♖d4 f6 23.d6 ♙xd6 24.♘xd6 exd6 (24...♖xd6 25.♖c4+) 25.♖xf6 will lead to a huge material loss, if not checkmate.

21.♖d4 f6 22.d6! e5

22...♙xd6 23.♘xd6 exd6 (23...♖xd6 24.♖c4+) 24.♖xf6 is the same variation mentioned above, at least leading to some material loss.

23.♖c4+ ♔g7 24.♘c7+-



Black's pieces have no coordination. ♘e6 is a threat, the ♖a8 is trapped and en prise, meanwhile there are tactics surrounding ♖xf4 and e5.

24...b5 25.♖c5 ♙xe4 26.d7

♔h6

26...♙f5 27.♘xa8 ♚xa8
28.♖e7+-.

27.♘xa8 ♙xa8 28.♖xf4

28.♖xf4 exf4 29.♖xf8+ ♖xf8
30.d8♖+- Black has no more attacking chances and remains a

rook down.

1-0

This win ensured at least a share of first place, but having played all of the strong contenders I was con-

fident I'd make at least a draw in the last round to win the tournament, and that's exactly what I did. I won the tournament in 2013 with 6½/7 and returned to do it again with 6/7 in 2014!

- Aman Hambleton

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Canadian Chess Challenge



by Victoria Jung-Doknjas



The **Chess 'N Math Association** (CMA) held its **26th Annual Canadian Chess Challenge** (CCC) on May 18-19, 2014 at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

The CCC is a ten-team round robin: each province sends their provincial champions (or alternates) from grade 1 to grade 12, and players compete only against opponents in their own grades.

Games for the players in grade 4 to 12 use a time control of 25 mins + 5 sec delay. The younger players in grades 1 to 3 start the game with-

out clocks and if their game goes longer than 40 minutes, a clock with 10 mins + 5 sec delay comes on to encourage them to complete their game in a timely fashion.

As games are completed, players notify the arbiters in charge of their match to have their results immediately posted on huge scoreboards similar to baseball scoreboards. During the team match, each team member can add 1 pt (win), 1/2 pt (draw), or 0 pt (loss) to their team's cumulative score. A team has to score 6 1/2 pts or more to win the match.

There are several unique things about the CCC. Aside from the rare opportunity to play a normally individualistic game in a team setting, the opening ceremony is quite the spectacle. As per usual in all the 26 years since its inception, CMA Executive Director, **Larry Bevand**, who first dreamed up the idea of the CCC so many years ago, announces and welcomes each and every member on the 10 pro-

vincial teams as the players march in team by team led by a bagpiper. The grade 12 players lead in their teams, proudly carrying their provincial flags. Once the players are in the tournament hall and standing in front of their boards for the first round, **Grace Ma** sang the national anthem.



Chess Canada
May 2014



At the start of each round, as a goodwill gesture, players shake hands and exchange provincial pins. What a wonderful keepsake for each player to have a collection of all 10 provincial pins.

This year saw many siblings playing on the same teams, including Mark and Brent Russell (NL), Lucas and Adam Dorrance (NS), Anya and

Opening Ceremony,
not pictured: bagpipe sounds.



Sasha Sasata (SK), Sofia and Benjamin Lortie (SK), Patrick and Andre Angelo Tolentino (AB), and Neil, Joshua, and John Doknjas (BC). This was the first year that the 3 Doknjas Brothers played together on Team BC at the CCC. Joshua and John Doknjas hold the record for being the only two siblings to win CCC Championships in the same year (in 2011 and 2012). This year

the 3 Doknjas Brothers won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (tied) in their respective grades and beat/tied the record for the most number of siblings on the same team at the CCC.

Marathon, then Sprint

Day 1 of the CCC is a bit of a marathon with 6 rounds. Day 2 sees the final 3 rounds played. The last round pairings are forced based on

the previous year's first place team playing the previous year's second place team; then #3 plays #4, #5 plays #6, etc. The colours for the final round are based on the previous year, giving repeat players the opposite colour from the year before. The actual pairing numbers that decide the pairing and colours for earlier rounds were chosen randomly.

Playoffs

At the end of the 9 rounds, often playoff games are required to determine some sections' first, second, and third places. This year was no different. There were *seven* hotly contested playoff games. Time controls of 25 mins + 5 sec delay were used. If a draw occurred, the time control would shorten.





above: CTV Winnipeg at the playoffs.

I see dad people...

The running of the cameras marks the unofficial start of each round.

Bonus Events

Before and after events included the traditional Blitz and Bughouse tournaments.



Left: **Tanraj Sohal** vs **Mark Plotkin** on Blitz Board 1.

Right: Grade 8 champ **Qiyu Zhou** and CCC MVP **Adam Dorrance** played so fast in the blitz that one spectator's lips turned orange.



Prizes

Tanraj Sohal now holds the record for the most championship wins (9). He is also the only player who has played in 12 consecutive CCCs. For setting this unbreakable record, Tanraj received both a plaque, and (from Chess 'N Math head honcho Larry Bevand) a bonus of \$1,200: \$100 for each year he competed in the CCC.

Michael Yip generously donates royalties from his book, *Checkmate University V 1 and V 2*, given out each year to the grade 1 player from B.C. This year **Jason Qian** received the \$100 cheque.

Adam Dorrance (Nova Scotia) won the Most Valuable Player award.

Nigel Reynoldson (Sask.) won the Most Sportsmanlike Player award.

Chris Dawson (Nfld & Lab.) got the Yves Casaubon Award for Outstanding Contribution to the CCC.

Team Saskatchewan won the best shirt contest, followed by Team Manitoba (2nd), and Team Quebec (3rd).



**Chess Canada
May 2014**



Top Teams

1st Ontario

2nd Quebec

3rd British Columbia

Ontario Strikes Gold in Manitoba.

Team Quebec takes team uniforms to the next level: sporting lucky hats for thier last round match vs Ontario.

Team B.C. sorts its players in the shape of a smile! (Just like last year!)



Individual Winners

Even though all players compete together as a team, they *also* compete to win the championship for their individual grade. The player with the most points for their grade wins the Canadian National Championship title for his/her specific grade.



2014 CCC Champions

Grade	Name	Prov.	Score
1	Tigran Ghazarian	ON	9/9
2	Julia Kuleshova	QC	8/9
3	Qiuyu Huang	QC	9/9
4	Nicholas Vettese	ON	8/9
5	Luke Pulfer	BC	8½/9
6	Joshua Doknjas	BC	8/9
7	Jeffrey Xu	ON	9/9
8	Qiyu Zhou	ON	9/9
9	Razvan Preotu	ON	8/9
10	Mark Plotkin	ON	8½/9
11	Jingtian (Kevin) Li	MB	8½/9
12	Tanraj Sohal	BC	8½/9



One of the players on this page will not win another CCC trophy.

*That is, so long as **Tanraj Sohal**, (left, with his 12 CCC trophies) passed his grade 12 exams. (Sohal photo)*



Thank You

And a big Thank You to the Organizers from the Manitoba Scholastic Chess Association, **Josh Henson** and **Jeremie Piché**, along with their many helpful and capable volunteers for hosting the 2014 CCC.

TD **Jeff Coakley**, who was on hand to judge the proceedings during the 2-day event.

Photos

Changrong Penny Yu & **Victoria Jung-Doknjas**



Organizer and Captains, Josh Henson (MB Org.), Justin Deveau (NB), Robert Pulfer (BC), Leslie Armstrong (ON), and Lefong Hua (QC).

Links

Results and final standings
<http://www.chess-math.org/ccc/national/results/2014/English/index.xml>

The 2014 CCC Booklet, has facts about the CCC, players' names, schedule, and full list of previous champions
<http://chess-math.org/ccc2014/2014%20CCC%20Booklet%20-%20Livret.pdf>

CTV News Winnipeg video (6:18 minute mark to see players). Requires ISP login.
<http://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=366658&binId=1.1206950&playlistPageNum=1>

Global News Story on Tanraj Sohal
<http://globalnews.ca/video/1351340/young-chess-champion-tanraj-sohal/>

**Chess Canada
May 2014**

2014 Canadian Chess Challenge



120 school-age kids...

*...indoors
...on a weekend
...sitting quietly*

...and no one is texting?!!

Well... OK: none of the kids are texting :)



The **RA Chess Club** is one of the largest and most active chess clubs in Canada.

It meets twice a week at the RA Centre. On Thursday evenings (7:00 – midnight) the Club holds a series of CFC rated tournaments, most with long time controls. The Club is also open Sunday afternoons (1–4 p.m.) for pick-up games, mostly speed chess.

World-Class Events

Members of the RACC were instrumental in organizing the Canadian Open and CYCC in Ottawa, most recently in 2013 and 2007.

The RACC has been host to a number of GM simuls and lectures, most recently:

- **Eric Hansen** (2014)
- **Reinaldo Vera** (2012)
- **Nigel Short** (2012, 2011, 2010)
- **Alexi Shirov** (2012, 2011, 2010)

The RACC will host GM **Elshan Moradiabadi**, July 17, 2014.

Juniors

The RA Chess Club has many active young players, some of whom have had notable national success.

Among them:

- **Sonja Xiong**: CYCC Champion U18g (2010), U16g (2007), U16 & U14 (2006), U12g (2004).
- **Karoly Szalay**: Ontario High School Champion (2011, 2010), CYCC U16 Champion (2009).
- **Joey Qin**: North American Youth Champion U14 (2010), CYCC U12 Champion (2008), and three-time RACC Champion.
- **Kevin Wan**: CYCC U12 Champion (2013).

Currently, the RACC junior player making the most news is 14-year-old **Qiyu Zhou**, who won the CYCC U14g (2013). This Spring, Qiyu was selected to represent Canada in the 2014 Chess Olympics in Tromsø, Norway. Since then, she has picked up the WFM title at the 2014 NAYCC U18g, and raised her CFC rating to 2295, which ranks her as the #2 woman in Canada.

Club Champions

The RACC can trace its championship back to 1954, and counts among its multiple winners:

- **Ron Rodgers** (1954, '56, '57, '58, '59, '60, '63)
- **Lawrence Day** (1966, '67, '68)
- **Ken Winterton** (1962, '74=, '80, '81=, '86, '89=)
- **Deen Hergott** (1989=, '90=, '97, '99)
- **Kevin Pacey** (1993, '94=, 2002)
- **Miladin Djerkovic** (1995, '96, 2000=, '03)
- **David Gordon** (2006, '09, '13=)
- **Joey Qin** (2010, 2011=, 2012)

Vasil Khachidze is the 2013-14 RA Chess Club Champion, a title he won by scoring a perfect 7/7, including wins over Masters David Gordon (2264), Robert Gelblum (2236) and Kevin Pacey (2216).

Although exceptional, the result is no fluke: Vasil won the RACC's 2012 Ron Rodgers Memorial with 5½/7,

including a last-round win over Aman Hambleton (2568).



Notes by Vasil Khachidze

Khachidze,Vasil (2221)

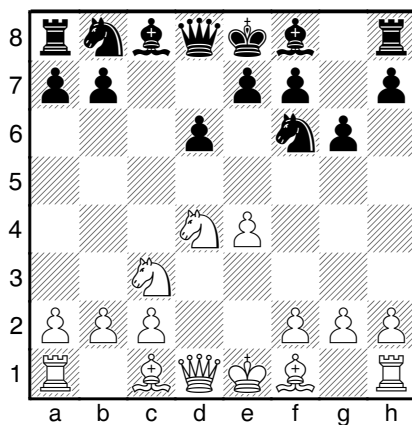
Gelblum,Robert (2236)

B92

RACC Ch. Ottawa (5),

06.02.2014

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6



At this point you may wonder why the name of the opening is cited as the Najdorf variation instead of the Dragon. The game transforms in a position which has an opening classification B92 (Najdorf, Opocensky variation). You will be surprised to learn that the Black bishop will never end up on g7 in this game! However in the variation which is eventually played by Black, it

is not rare that the bishop is not fianchettoed. But formally this opening can also be classified as a Dragon because of Black's specific pawn structure, and how the game starts. Maybe it should be renamed Dragon–Najdorf?!

6.♙e3 a6

Probably an attempt to surprise the opponent with less theoretical and unusual setup. Only in 1% of games this move is played here.

7.f3

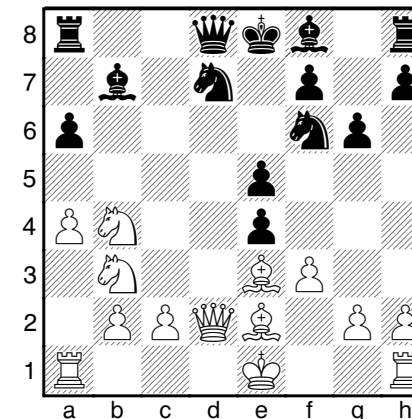
According to statistics, this natu-

ral move scores a healthy 65% for White.

7...b5 8.♙d2 ♙b7 9.♙e2
♘bd7 10.a4 e5

10...b4 transposes to the same variation.

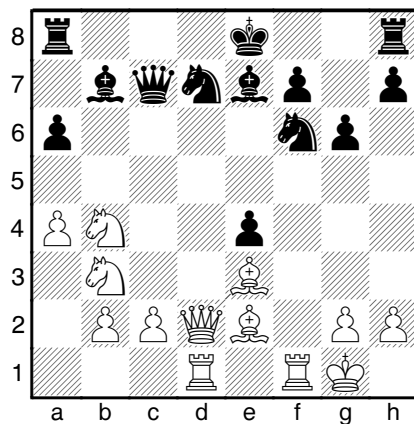
11.♘b3 b4 12.♘a2 d5
13.♘xb4 dxe4



In the only recorded game with such a variation (Zelcic–Ruck, Porec 1998), White opted for a plan with long castling 14. 0-0-0. That hard-fought game ended in Black's win, after White rejected a repetition at some point.

14.0-0N ♙c7 15.♙ad1 exf3
16.♙xf3 e4 17.♙e2 ♙e7





Playing 17...♗g7 here would badly expose the dark squares in Black's queenside. But, seeing such sudden alteration of the dark-squared bishop's trajectory, how to not remember GM Eduard Gufeld's lifelong loyalty to ♗g7 and his masterpieces with that bishop? Anyway, as seen below, Black could not escape the consequences of his weakened pawn structure introduced by g6 in this particular case.

18. ♔c3!

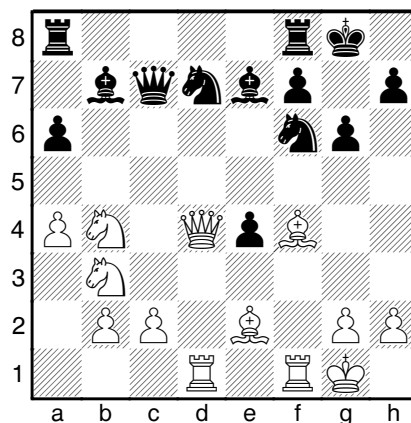
The best "machine" move here is 18. ♔c3!?, but from a "human perspective" 18.a5 or first 18.c4 then 19.a5 deserved attention. The text move aims to introduce some tactical threats due to the weakness of the dark squares

on Black's kingside, and fight for the control of the important e5 square.

18...0-0

If 18...a5 then 19. ♗b5 axb4
20. ♖xf6 0-0-0 21. ♗xd7+ ♖xd7
22. ♗xd7+ ♗xd7 23. ♖xd7 ♔xd7
24. ♘c5+± or 24. ♖xf7±.

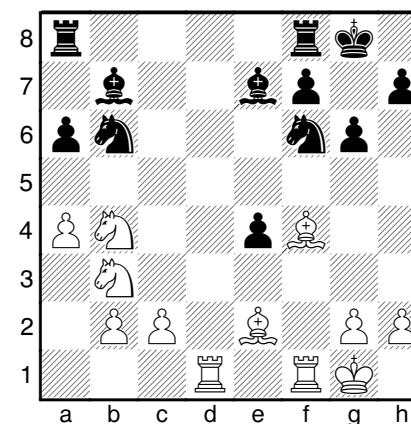
19. ♗f4



19...♔b6?

Black's desire to exchange the queens is understandable, but he underestimated the consequences of White's 21st move. It was necessary to play 19... ♔c8, even though after 20.a5 White would have a space advantage, the chances are roughly equal.

20. ♖xb6 ♘xb6



21. ♗d6!

After this move material losses are unavoidable for Black. It is interesting that the weakness introduced by g7-g6 is employed by White in the same, but symmetrical way as in Dragon variation (i.e. exchanging the bishops with ♗d6 vs ♗h6).

21...♗xd6 22. ♖xd6 ♘bd5

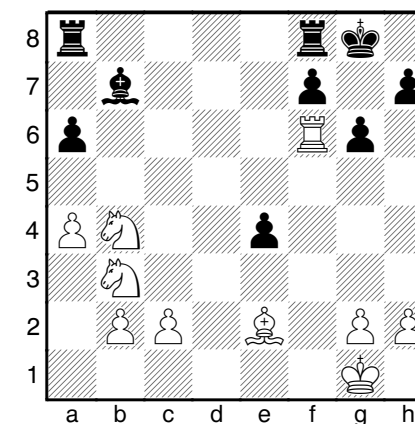
23. ♖dxf6

Also possible was: 23. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 24. ♘a5 ♘e3 25. ♘xb7 ♘xf1 26. ♔xf1 ♖fb8 27. ♘c5 ♖xb2 28. ♘xe4 ♖xc2 29. ♗xa6±.

23...♘xf6

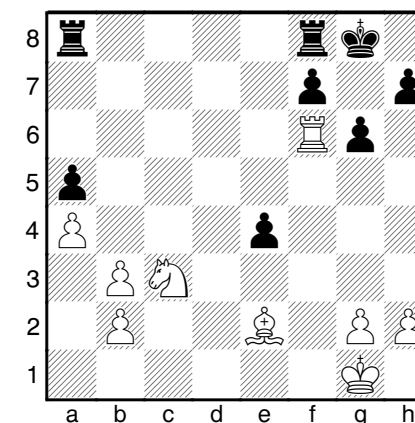
If 23... ♘xb4 then 24. ♖b6± winning a piece.

24. ♖xf6±



With White's material advantage, the rest is a matter of technique, even though generally in the endgame the rooks' value increase significantly compared to minor pieces (especially versus knights).

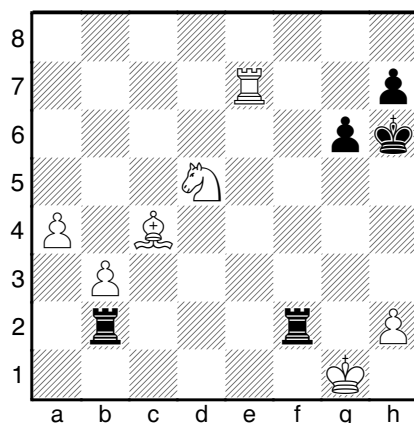
24...a5 25. ♘a2 ♗d5 26. ♘c3 ♗xb3 27. cxb3



27...e3?

Better was 27...♔g7! when the white rook should retreat and Black can play ...f5 to protect his pawn on e4. White cannot capture the pawn after 27...♔g7, for example: 28.♘xe4 ♖ae8 29.♖f4 g5 30.♖g4 f5 31.♖xg5+ ♔h6 32.♖h5+ ♔g6 33.♖g5+ ♔h6=.

28.♖f3 ♖ad8 29.♖xe3 ♖d2
30.♙c4 ♖xb2 31.♘d5 ♔g7
32.♖e7 ♔h6 33.♖a7 f5
34.♖xa5 f4 35.♖a7 f3 36.gxf3
♖xf3 37.♖e7 ♖ff2



38.♘e3

Black's position is hopeless.

38...♖fd2 39.a5 ♖b1+ 40.♘f1
♖d4 41.a6 ♖a1 42.♔f2
1-0

Conversation with Vasil Khachidze

June 12, 2014. RA Centre, Ottawa.

John Upper: *You don't seem to play a whole lot, but you scored 7/7 including beating three masters. How do you play so well when you play so little? Or do you play somewhere else? Online?*

Vaskil Khachidze: I understand that playing is very important, you cannot replace playing with preparation. But I put my emphasis on preparation.

Be Prepared

J: *Tell us about how you prepare.*

VK: Not just by studying openings. The Opening is only a little part of preparation.

My background is as a scientist, and I bring that to chess as well. My approach is scientific, like Botvinnik.

Always, I try to understand. Not just to solve, but to understand. Chess is a concrete game, and there are rules, and I try to understand the rules, and even in the

cases where there are exceptions I try to find the rules for those exceptions. *[laughter]*

You can approach chess as sport, as an art, or a science. You can find anything in chess, so you will find whatever you are looking for. I am trying to find everything – sometimes art, sometimes sport – but in everything my approach is scientific.

If my approach is successful, then playing is just checking “did I prepare well or not?”. If I did, then the result will be there, so the result is just the proof that you did your work well.

J: *So the tournament is just a laboratory to test whether your preparation went well.*

VK: Absolutely. And then to [help you] find what you missed.

J: *Did you learn anything from winning the Club Championship? Were you ever in a position where you might have lost?*

VK: Yes. There were a couple of games where I could have lost, where there was a struggle up un-

til the end, were you could not say what would happen and it wasn't decided until the last couple of moves. This is interesting when this happens, and when you win it is a “double-win”: you get the result and you learn [about what you need to understand better].

J: *Let's go back to how you prepare. When you're studying games or practicing tactics, do you use a board, or do you solve it from the diagrams, or do you use a computer or some sort of handheld device?*

VK: For practicing I have board, and not just any board – it should be like a tournament set, not decorative pieces; it should be wooden pieces, not cheap plastic pieces; something aesthetic, since you are looking at this for hours.

J: *There are players today who never use board when they study, they do it all on computers.*

VK: Well, there are times when you use a computer to look at games, but that is just skimming, it is not for serious preparation.



J: There are even some GMs who prepare without boards...

VK: Well, I guess they are youngsters mostly, they grew up with computers.... they are used to this. But for me, this link – this real world link – should be there. To play chess I need a real chess board.

J: One of the problems some people who don't play much have is with time trouble. I know that happens to me. How did you avoid it?

VK: Sometimes it happens. You get a bad position and you think a long time and you get in time trouble. This happens to anybody. When this happens to me it is an indication that I wasn't prepared.

This comes back to my preparation process: if I am well prepared I should play quickly. If you get in time trouble it means you've already screwed something up before: either in the preparation process or playing process [lack of discipline]. It may be that your opponent is playing very well...

which is good for you: if it happens that you lose, you learn. If you win all the time you don't learn. This is why we love chess: there is always something to learn.

If you could learn it all then... what would you do? You'd have to quit... Fischer quit, Kasparov quit.

where he says something like "this is among the finest endgames I have ever played and the student will learn much from studying it", and that's all he says!

VK: Lasker does the same. At one point he says, "Now I have taught you how to play, the rest is up to you". But for him this was

normal, he was a genius — he could just learn the basics of how to play

and then discover all the abstract rules about the game. He was teaching Einstein...

J: He thought he was... I think Einstein was just being polite.

VK: He was one of the greatest brains of humanity.

J: Lasker!?

VK: Lasker, yes. And we have had other great brains in chess, which is natural since chess is an intellectual game and many smart people find chess as their object

of study because they can find what they look for in it: Alekhine could find art... Botvinnik could find science, Tal could find sport, Kasparov could find sport, Karpov could find... maybe everything. You can find whatever you look for in chess. But this is also a danger: you have to have a balance between chess and life.

J: OK, so tell us something about your life. You moved here from Georgia. Why?

VK: There was a point in my life when I wanted a change. I knew Canada, I visited Ottawa in 2003 as the Georgian representative at an IT conference on strategic information management. I spent three weeks here and I liked it. So when I decided to change something in my life, I was living in France in 2008, working as a research engineer at the University of Versailles, and when I was approved as a "skilled worker" I decided to emigrate here. I made this decision for my son. My wife and son came with me. Since then we got divorced, but my son is still here with me.

You can find anything in chess, so you will find whatever you are looking for.

J: Tell me about the chess books you read.

VK: I read classic books, books with games. Always by studying classics. Classical games and mostly just reading: analysis and books. I like to take the raw information [the games] and analyze them myself, and then compare the analysis to those of the players/annotators. If you can find games annotated by the players, then that is best.

J: I find Capablanca's comments are not all that helpful. There's one



J: How old is he?

VK: He is ten. I think for him (and myself) I made a good decision. It is a nice country: peaceful, a stable democracy. You maybe don't notice this, but I grew up in Communist times...

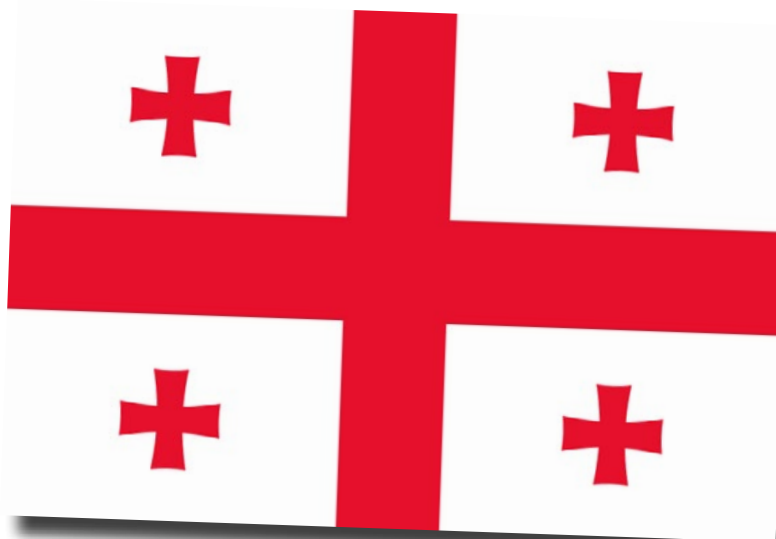
J: How old were you when the Berlin Wall came down and the Communist countries started to disintegrate?

VK: This was 1992... I was 28. Then there were several years almost lost during the transition as those countries were unstable and being reformed.

I come from Georgia, which is a very old country, several thousand years, the Soviet time was only 70 years. Not long [by the standards of an ancient civilization] but it takes a long time to fix that.

J: Is there much of a Georgian community in Ottawa?

VK: No. Only a few people. But Georgia is a small country, only a few million.



J: Have you been back?

VK: No. My sisters are there, but both of my parents died suddenly, but I couldn't go back. This was hard.

But chess helped me.

It helped me in some of these "life traps". You can become a chess-aholic, but [in the right doses] chess can help you out. I discovered this side of chess here in Canada, not when I was younger.

When I was young, a teenager, I used to play like everyone: for adrenaline, just for a result, to win. But now I don't play just for a result. My goal now is to get the most out of chess: to understand it and to make a contribution to it.

1963 WCh, Bykova & Gaprindashvili.

J: How did you learn chess?

VK: My father taught me the moves before I was ten, and took me to some chess circles, but I didn't [really] play. But when I was a teenager I started to play, and suddenly I became champion of Georgia amongst school students.

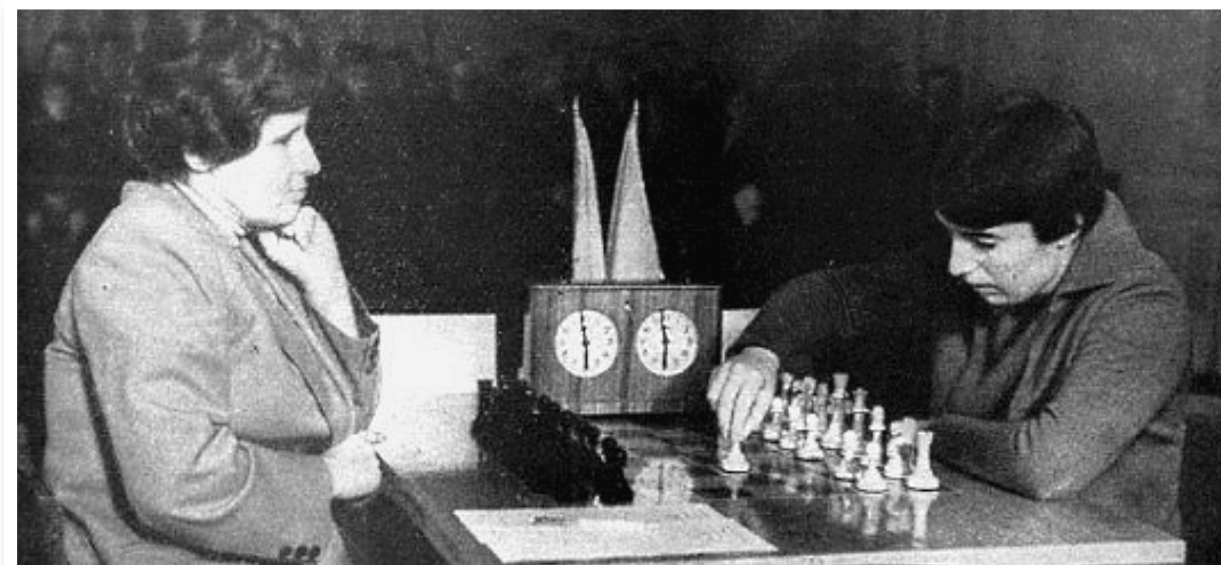
Then I started to play. This was when chess was really popular in the Soviet Union and Georgia.

J: Georgia is famous for producing a lot of great women players, including the first Women's World Champions.

VK: Yes, for 25 years the Women's World Champions were Georgian. And not only the champions, but *also the challengers.*

J: Why does Georgia have so many strong women chess players?

VK: [thinks]... they're smart. And they have this near-adrenaline, so they don't panic. And they're hard-working. Also, they had this first success — [Nona Gaprindashvili](#) — and that opened the doors for others to follow. We have nobody here in Canada. If Canada had one world champion, we would have 10 more follow. Like Alekhine did: his success was a locomotive that pulled the whole Soviet Union toward chess.



J: When you competed in chess tournaments in Georgia, were there girls playing in them, or were they segregated?

VK: It was mixed. In individual championships of the country it was separated. But in team tournaments, if girls were playing well they could play on their school's first board, for example, and I played against some girls. In other events, in the city Championship of Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, I played against women. You had to qualify, but if you did, you could play.

Problems

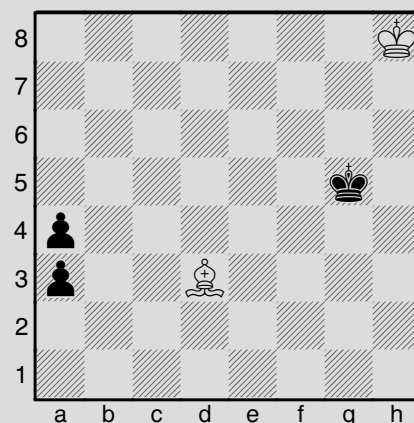
VK: We also had some great chess composers in Georgia. Nadareishvili. In many tactics manuals you will find his studies. Even in endgame theory his studies are very important. [Gia Nadareishvili](#). He was really... maybe the best in the Soviet Union. In the 1970s, Botvinnik said, "now we can speak of the Georgian School of Chess Studies".

In Georgia we had problem solving championships, and I was Georgian problem solving cham-

peon. Twice champion, by the way.

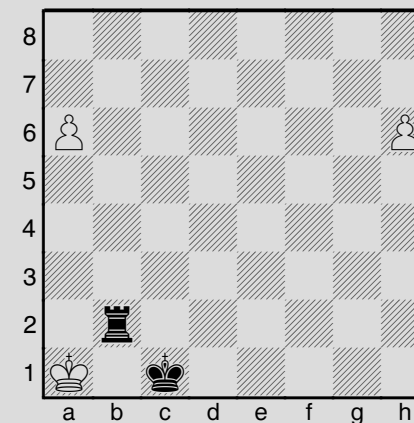
VK: Railway school. In Georgia, the railways have schools.

Lelo, 1951



1/2-1/2

Achalgazdra Kommunisti, 1955



1-0

Endgame Studies by Nadareishvili

Left: uncharacteristically easy.

Right: the opposite of easy.

For solutions, and *many* more, see the Appendix.

J: How did you get so good so fast? You said you learned as a child but didn't play much until highschool.

VK: This happened very quickly actually. I was just playing for myself. Then we had a tournament in the railway section of schools...

J: The what?

J: [puzzled noises]

VK: These were public railways, and the schools were named after them and they were (maybe) funded by them. I grew up in Khashuri, and I had a coach when I was there. When I played in this tournament I didn't even have a Category — they had 4th, 3rd,

2nd, and 1st [which would be about 1800+] — and I didn't even have a 4th Category. But this Georgian chess coach came just to watch — [Mihail Shishov](#), he was the first coach of Nona Gaprindashvili and a strong master [editor – very strong: three-time Georgian Champion: 1948, '52, '56] — and he saw me playing well and although I didn't have the right to get a 1st Category until I had earned the others, Shishov said that he had seen me play and he would give me the 1st Category.

But in one game, I made this terrible strategic mistake — I castled in an endgame — and Shishov couldn't believe it! How could I not know that the King belongs in the center in the endgame?! So he showed me a few things... but unfortunately he died soon after.

The next year I won the championship. In fact, this is my second chess interview; my first chess interview was 35 years ago: I was interviewed after I won the schools tournament.

J: Probably that interview was a lot more professional than this one...



VK: No, no, this was with a school teacher, and she didn't know what to ask and I didn't know what to say. So I just said what I had read in books: I quoted Lenin...*[laughter]*... I quoted Goethe ["chess is the gymnasium of the mind"]...

J: *I'm sure they loved that.*

VK: Oh, they did. They published it in the newspaper.

J: *I wonder if chess players realize how much of Russian chess literature has been larded by ideological cliches. There will be comments that get translated as, "a superficial glance would lead one to believe *[insert positional maxim]*, but Comrade Botvinnik has seen that in the concrete particulars of this position *[insert variation that contradicts the maxim]*", and people might not know that this was also a style of political apologetics, explaining why "in the concrete particulars of the situation" the Soviet Union was not going to do things the way Marx said.*

VK: But this is the way it was in Stalin's time. Stalin was also from

Georgia and he loved chess, respected chess, and supported chess players, and that may have given a push to chess in Georgia. So when Soviet players like Botvinnik thank Comrade Stalin for his support, this was actually true. He was not just ingratiating himself with Stalin.

The Soviet championship of 1937 was held in Tbilisi, Stalin's home country. Everybody played, except Botvinnik and Bondarevsky, and the conditions... this will never happen again. They played in an opera/concert hall, noiseless carpets, special lights with fine green silk shades, publicity in newspapers. And when it was written about in the magazine "Chess in the USSR", they said "the players have all the necessary conditions to work". Work. They had salaries. Botvinnik would say, "we are workers, we work for the good of society". *[laughter]*

After Stalin, everything started to decline, even chess crashed. But this Soviet chess phenomenon was mostly because of Stalin.

What happened to Alekhine...

VK: What do you think happened to Alekhine?



Alekhine delivers message to Trotsky.

[I mention the various theories about Alekhine's death and say that I think there's no compelling evidence to conclude that he was killed.]

VK: I think he was killed by the Soviets.

J: *Why?*

VK: Because they needed someone to become Champion.

J: *But... but... he'd already agreed to a match with Botvinnik, and Botvinnik would have crushed him. Alekhine hadn't played any good*

opposition for years, and he was drinking and living in poverty in Spain, and Botvinnik had already shown he was better by finishing ahead of Alekhine at Nottingham in 1936.

VK: But a match would be different. Read the Soviet chess magazines at the time Alekhine died in 1946. They say, "a Soviet must be World Champion and will be World Champion". This was in the time of Stalin, who said "Die, but do!" And there was another Georgian: the Chief of KGB, Beria. And he could easily get Alekhine.

J: *Well, I wouldn't put anything past Beria. But it boggles the mind to think that they would consider this a good way to ensure a Soviet World Champion, because with Alekhine dead the World Championship would not automatically go to a Soviet citizen, but would probably be decided by a tournament or a match, and Botvinnik would be less likely to win than a match against the ailing and out-of-form Alekhine. Even worse, there would probably be an American playing in it: Reshevsky.*



The real catastrophe for the Soviets was something different: if Alekhine played (and lost) a match against someone else first... and that almost happened before the war. Do you know who Alekhine had agreed to play in 1939?

VK: Botvinnik.

J: No. He agreed to play Flohr. Thomas Bata [of the shoe company] put up the money for a match, and Alekhine had agreed to play, but WWII broke out and the match never took place.

VK: I did not find this information in other sources. In the Soviet Chess Encyclopedia, published in 1990, chief editor Anatoly Karpov, it says that a match between Botvinnik and Alekhine was arranged for 1939... I think the only way for Alekhine to survive Stalin was if he forfeited this match to Botvinnik.

[We went back and forth on this. VK being more confident that the line "Alekhine died because of his political instability" in Soviet chess press means Alekhine was killed

by the KGB and they wanted their readers to believe it. I suggested alternative interpretations.]

VK: Chess was very political in Soviet times.

J: It still is today: where is the World Championship being held? [A: Sochi; possibly Putin bailing out Ilyumzhinov for failing to get bids!?!]

VK: But not as much as before. Today there is not an ideological rivalry between systems, and there is no Stalin to support chess. Chess was much more popular in those times. Chess is not popular now.

J: Well... chess is still popular, it's just not respected the way it used to be.

VK: Now chess is a game. Now [GM Mark]

Taimanov says, I would not advise my children to play chess as professionals because chess has lost its status. It's nothing now.

J: Well... in the ex-Soviet Union countries chess has become what it has always been in the West: it's a marginal occupation that is very hard to make a living at unless you're one of the world's top 20 or 30 players.

VK: Now chess is just a game. But in Soviet times you

could make a living with it, be respected with it.

J: No, no. Only Soviets could live that way. You know what Reshevsky did? **Reshevsky** couldn't make money playing chess even though he was clearly one of the top three players in the world. So he worked as an accountant his entire adult life. He was a chess amateur every year he was winning in the States. [ditto Max Euwe, who taught math at a girls' school from 1926-1940.]

VK: In Stalin's time it was not a game. By its nature chess is an intellectual game, and a Soviet World Chess Champion was a way to prove the superiority of the Soviet system.

J: It also had the advantage of being very cheap to fund: a little money goes a long way.



Con: Your office backlog grows while you're away. **Pro:** No Gulag if you lose 0-6. Khrushchev poses with the US Chess Team in Moscow, 1955.



VK: It was cheap, but they still put millions into it. After the death of Stalin, this system started to decline, but by inertia it produced such players as Karpov and Kasparov. It produced so many great players, and those two were on the peak, but it was on the decline for thirty years.

J: It also produced Fischer.

VK: The Soviet system?

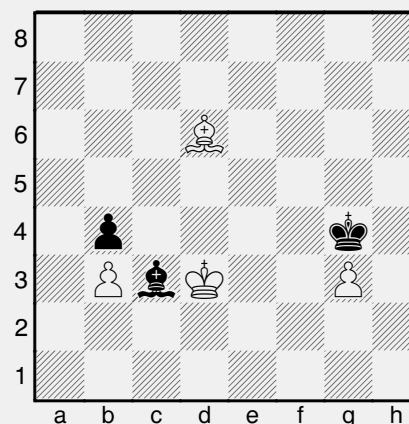
J: Fischer lived in New York and went to the Russian Bookstore to buy Soviet chess magazines like *64* and *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, and inexpensive Russian chess books from Moscow Press. So Soviet chess subsidies and propaganda actually helped Fischer get better.

VK: And he went to play in Moscow...



Fischer at the Strand Next stop: Astrology section.

Taimanov – Fischer Buenos Aires (9), 04.07.1960



74. ♖c4 ♕e1! 75. ♕xb4 ♕xg3
76. ♕c3 ♕d6 77. ♖d5 ♕e7
78. ♕d4 ♕b4 79. ♖c4 ♕a5
80. ♕c3 ♕d8! 81. b4 ♖f4 82. b5
♖e4 83. ♕d4 ♕c7 84. ♖c5 ♖d3!
85. ♖c6 ♖c4 86. ♕b6 ♕f4 87. ♕a7
♕c7! (½–½)

After the game, Taimanov asked Fischer how he was able to save the game and do it so quickly. The 18-year-old Fischer said: I didn't have to do any thinking. Seven years ago your magazine *Shakhmaty v SSSR* printed a detailed analysis of this ending and I just knew all the variations.

J: Yeah, in 1958 when he was about 15 he played in the Moscow Chess Club. He was beating all the other masters, so they called in Petrosian to play him. I'll send you the pictures...

VK: And then they kicked him out. He said something like "I hate Russians" and they kicked him out. But this was in Khrushchev's time. In Stalin's time this would not have happened.

Speaking of simuls....

VK: One time when I was home from my studies in Tbilisi, David Bronstein was going to give a simul at the local chess club, and my coach asked me to come and play. Bronstein was friends with the factory owner there, and made quick draws to some of his opponents, but not with me: he wanted to defeat me.

J: Do you have that game?

VK: No [disappointed]. It was a very well played Sicilian. We got a position where he had a Rook and pawn and I had a Rook and

Knight, but he was playing for a win. His friends had already made plans for dinner at a restaurant, but our game was making them late. So they came up to me and said, "give up! Resign. They are late for dinner... Georgian hospitality... they are already waiting for us...". And I said, "No. If he wants to leave for dinner, let *him* resign". [laughter] And then Bronstein starts telling me how he is going to win; he says... I will go here and here and queen my pawn. And I say, then my Knight will mate your king before you can promote your pawn. [laughter]

J: Did he offer you a draw, or just say it's a draw?

VK: No, he said, "It's a draw. And now we have the "Goodwill Games" here too."

I remember it because he was so motivated— and I was motivated too, I was about 20 and a candidate master.

Before the simul Bronstein



gave a lecture about preparation. He told us about a game he played against Karpov after the World Championship match against Fischer had fallen through. Bronstein played a line that Fischer had played (and won), but late late in the opening, around move 20, Karpov played a move... and there was no save! He had this Novelty prepared against Fischer, but used it years later against Bronstein, and not just any move, a complete refutation.

VK: In 1984/85 Tal went to Tbilisi, and gave a lecture and a simul at a chess public university. Not like a normal university with exams, but if you attended and learned they awarded certificates for instructors.

J: How was Tal's lecture?

VK: It was good. He was funny, and smart. He said something about Karpov, who was still champion, and about Spassky, who was then living in France.



When he realized he had underestimated his opponent he started to use a weapon I hadn't expected: he started to stare at me.

J: Another thing that wouldn't have happened in Stalin's time.

VK: Yes.

In the simul Tal made a mistake in the opening. Well... when you're playing a simul you don't know how strong your opponent is, and if you play someone who is much stronger than average there is a risk you will get a bad position because you underestimate him. And he sacrificed two or three pawns — in a closed position — and was this was already losing. And then an interesting thing happened. When he realized he had underestimated

his opponent he started to use a weapon I hadn't expected: he started to stare at me. Like this... not blinking. I didn't know this

was normal for him, but I read about it later from Kasparov.

J: Oh yeah, Tal was famous for staring at his opponents. There's the famous story about Benko wearing mirrored sunglasses during a game so that Tal would be staring back at himself...

VK: This is a violation of chess ethics. It is an attack.

J: It's not as bad as kicking someone under the table.

VK: It is even worse than kicking: it is a physical *and* psychological

attack.

I was angry. What is he doing, why is he doing it? So I started staring back. And we are just there, staring at each other...

Eventually, he got was I was doing. *And he chuckled*, made a move, and lost quickly. [laughter] He signed the scoresheet after the simul.

J: Did he sign with his left or right hand?

VK: [Thinks]... with his left hand. He was left-handed.

J: Did he shake hands? I ask because I know Tal had a deformed right hand, which was usually holding a cigarette or which he held under the table, but I was wondering if he shook hands with it.

VK: He could shake hands... [thinks]... but did he... No. He didn't shake hands. I remember Bronstein did.

VK: The worst thing that happened to me was in a simul against [Lilienthal](#). He showed his win against Capablanca and gave



a simul. He blundered a rook: I could take it with my pawn, it wasn't even a complicated position. He made his blunder, then stopped. I thought "OK, he sees the blunder and will change his move". But he didn't. He just kept going. Now I have time to think, and I think 'he's a grandmaster, maybe I shouldn't say anything...' So when he gets back to my board I take his rook. And he goes, "What! Did I blunder a rook?" I said, "yes". And he says, "I don't remember this, and goes [makes sweeping gesture]..."

J: He knocked the pieces over?

VK: Yes. This was the worst. There are ethical problems in simuls.

J: Yeah. [Nigel Short](#) told me about the time he beat [Petrosian](#) in a simul. Petrosian's response was [gestures] clumping

all the pieces in the middle of the board.

VK: If you blunder, just say you blundered. If the player cheats... this is nothing bad for the simul giver.

J: We have a new tradition at the RACC where the winner of the Club Championship has to give a simul after the AGM. What did you think about your simul? Had you ever

given a simul before?

VK: Not officially. I have played several friends at once for fun, but this was official: announced before hand, sets and scoresheets.

J: Did you enjoy it?

VK: No. It is not fun. It is difficult. I even think it is harmful to your chess. I know that giving blindfold simuls was considered danger-

ous in the Soviet Union. Imagine that you are fighting 10 boxers at once, and they are all trying to hit you. You can get hurt.

J: How did you do?

VK: I won. I scored 7 wins, 5 losses, and 3 draws.

J: That's pretty good! There were a number of experts and players who were over 2200 in it. You know there are some players who won't give simuls against opponents who are rated over 2000. Garry Kasparov won't: he puts it in his contracts that the organizers will not allow players rated over 2000 to enter his simuls. So you were playing tougher opponents than Kasparov! [laughter]

VK: This is normal. It is harmful to play simuls. It's not just the physical strain, I allowed one "pass" and we finished after 1 a.m.

J: That happened to [Shirov](#) in one of his simuls here. He started at around 7:15 and didn't finish until nearly 1:30 a.m.



RACC 2014 Champion's Simul

back: David Gordon

right: Bill Doubleday



VK: That is why Kasparov does it his way.

J: How did you feel the next day?

VK: I was tired. But this is really harmful. If they were just light games, you don't care, but in this case...

J: If it's really harmful then maybe we should cancel them.

The idea of the Champion's simul is that, in our club we have so many Swiss events that a player who regularly loses in the early rounds could play for a whole year and never get a chance to play the tournament leaders or the Club Champion. The simul gives everyone at least one chance to play the Champ.

VK: This is actually a good reason. You should continue to do it. After all, it doesn't happen every day.

J: Do you ever play online?



VK: No. First of all, I don't like it. But I have a project I am working on that takes all my time: a fully commented tactics database made of all the tactics from FIDE tournaments in one month. It's a huge project, and it will take all my free time, but it is in my field: knowledge based information systems.

J: There is a freeware program that makes studying chess tactics quite easy. It's called YATT – which stands for Yet Another Tactics Trainer – it reads fen positions, but its distinc-

tive feature is that it uses spaced repetition (of failures) to efficiently learn and correct your errors. It's not the same think you're working on, and you couldn't sell it, but you might want to try it as an interface to run the database of tactics that you'd supply.

VK: I could provide feeds for this if this software, if it is popular. But what is most

interesting for my project is developing the software to detect the combinations. There are too many games – thousands per week – to do this by hand, so I will develop software to do it automatically.

J: That will be challenging. So far there is no software that can do this. You'd need something much better than the Fritz "blunder-check" feature... something that can distinguish between an obviously stupid move (like hanging you Queen for nothing) versus a

not-so-obvious but more costly blunder (like falling into a difficult-to-see mate in 3) then you will have added something very valuable to chess software.

VK: I have my theory about how to do this. It's a synthesis of chess knowledge and information processing; it's not easy, which is why it doesn't exist yet.

J: What you're trying to do is not model chess truth – what is the objectively best move – but you're trying to model human ignorance: what seems good but isn't.

VK: Yes. This is what I am trying to do. It is my business to do this.

J: Here's my pessimistic estimate: there's only one truth, but there are infinitely many ways to be humanly ignorant, and I don't think you'll be able to model them all. [laughs]

VK: I'll tell you what, we'll do a Turing Test: when I have it set up, I'll send you some tactics and you try to tell which were selected by the computer and which were from the human.



J: Great! Maybe we can run some of them in the Newsletter or on the Webfeed to get more responses than just mine; make that part of your beta-testing.

VK: Then I could have a discount for CFC members, or for Strategy Games, and maybe translations to offer them in different languages...

J: Or just use Informant symbols, that way anybody can read them.

VK: But people like language.

J: I know. And that's why I think they'll like your annotations. I particularly like the second one, where you show how there is a possible fortress... and then show how that fortress is busted. It's the kind of analysis that Dvoretsky calls "thinking in schemas", which I use all the time.

VK: Unfortunately, I couldn't find a way of including the fortress diagram in the game.

J: Leave that to me. That's my job.

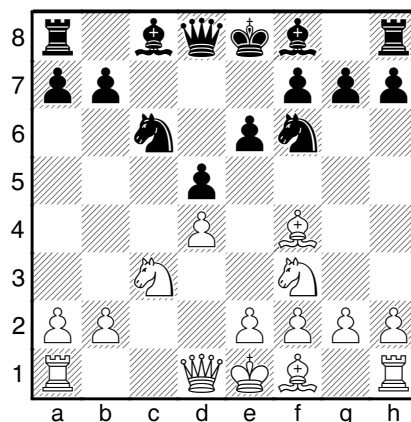
Notes by Vasil Khachidze

Gordon, David (2264)
Khachidze, Vasil (2221)

D13

RACC Ch. Ottawa (4),
30.01.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6
4.cxd5 cxd5 5.♘c3 ♘c6
6.♙f4 e6

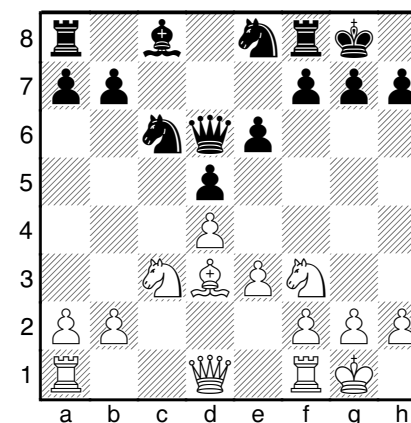


This move is not the most popular. It has two main advantages and one main disadvantage: it avoids often dull symmetric variations which arise after the most popular 6...♙f5, and accelerates Black's kingside development, but shuts in his light square bishop.

7.e3 ♙d6 8.♙xd6

Even though this move is most popular, White scores substantially lower than 6.♙g3 (52% vs 58%). And one interesting detail: 6.♙g3 was favored at the same time by such giants of positional play as Petrosian and Portisch, and by such kings of attack as Tal and Geller. However, the statistics offer another object for reflection: third and much less popular 6.♙d3 scores even higher: almost 64%. The break-up of White's pawn structure after 8...♙xf4 9.exf4 in this case is only temporary, and White advantageously employs his doubled f4 pawn for an attack in the center and kingside.

8...♙xd6 9.♙d3 0-0 10.0-0
♘e8

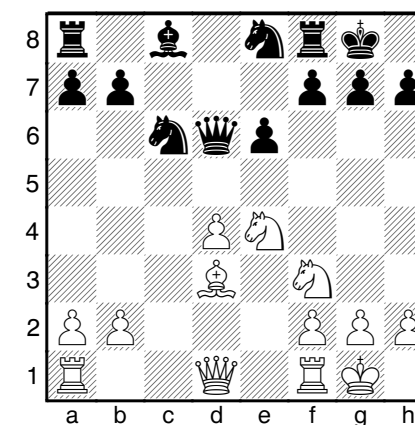


A rare and risky move. A normal move in this position is 10...♙d7. Another move is the immediate 10. ...e5 when Black frees his bishop at the cost of getting an isolated pawn on d5. With the text move Black wants to play ...f7-f5, however decentralizing his knight allows White to strike in the center and to get a positional advantage. What does Black then obtain? Black obtains the opening of the game, because soon the central pawns disappear altogether.

11.e4

The most principled move.

11...dxe4 12.♘xe4



12...♙d5



Another possible move, though not consistent with the Black's plan, is 12...♖b4 with the possible variation 13.a3 ♕xb2 14.♖a4 (threatening to trap black queen with 15.♖fb1) 14...♖b6 15.♖ac1 ♕d7 16.♖c5 ♖c7 17.♖xd7 ♖xd7 18.♕e4 ♖f6 19.♕xc6 bxc6 20.♖e5 ♖d5 21.♖xc6 ♖fe8±.

13.♖c1!

Developing the rook and setting a trap (see the comment on Black's move).

13...f5

13...♖xd4? 14.♖xd4 ♖xd4 15.♖g5 g6 (or 15...f5 16.♕xf5!±) 16.♖xh7!±.

After 13...♖xa2?! 14.♖e2± White would have a very strong initiative and a big lead in development for a pawn.

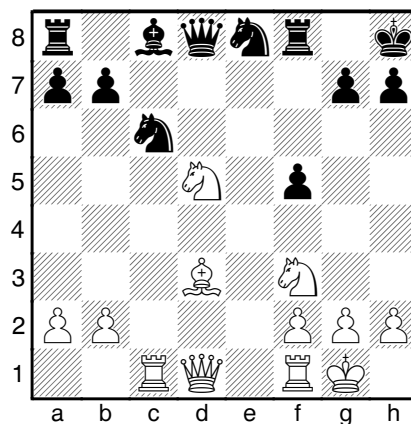
14.♖c3

14.♖c5 Black can obtain three pieces for the queen: 14...fxe4! (On the other hand, 14...♖xa2 also leads to complications. For example: 15.♖eg5 ♖xb2 16.♕c4♞ with positional com-

pensation for the two pawns and better chances to White.) 15.♖xd5 exd5 followed by capturing a third piece on the next move. One possible variation runs as follows: 16.♖b3 exd3 17.♖xd5+ ♖h8 18.♖g5 ♖f6 19.♖f7+ ♖g8 20.♖h6+ ♖h8 21.♖f7+ draw (no smothered mate though: 21.♖g8+?? ♖xg8+).

14...♖d8 15.d5 exd5 16.♖xd5 ♖h8

Of course not 16...♖xd5 17.♕c4+- winning the black queen

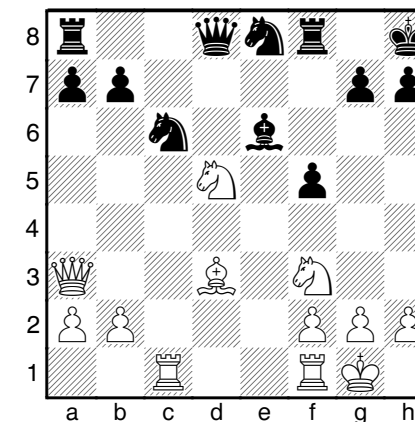


.The middlegame position that arose is interesting in that there is no standard plan for it, mostly due to its pawnless center, lack of apparent weaknesses, and

the direct contact between the pieces of the sides. For that reason, playing such positions may be formidably difficult for both sides, notwithstanding which side has the initiative. Yet one can formulate some general strategic guidelines for playing them: a battle will be of a tactical nature, there is no room for lengthy maneuvers. Every move preferably should either create a direct threat or defend from it, or do both if possible. The crisis and transformation may occur very quickly, and because there may be lots of reasonable alternatives and complications, mistakes are "normal" and the balance can easily swing from one side to other, and therefore a search in width rather than in depth should be applied in calculations. The next few moves show that the game continuation conforms to those strategic particularities.

17.♖b3 ♕e6

18.♖a3



18...♖c7?!

Allows a combination for White.

18...♖d6 deserved a serious consideration. For example: 19.♖f4 ♕g8 20.♖fd1 ♖f6 and

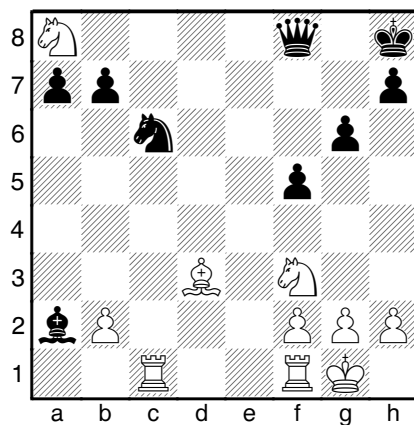


The guy just could not help himself. Tal stares at daughter Zhanna during a "friendly" game.



the discovered attack by the white bishop is not dangerous: if 21.♔a6 then 21...♖ad8 (Black threatens 22. ...bxa6 23.♖xc6 ♘c4) 22.h4 ♖fe8 (renewing the threat ...bxa6) 23.♔d3 a6 with approximate equality.

19.♙xf8+! ♙xf8 20.♘xc7
♙xa2 21.♘xa8 g6?



The idea of this move is to consolidate the kingside and open the way for the king, as the ♘a8 cannot run away. However, this move has a tactical flaw. The computer suggest the non-obvious move 21....♙g8 when White still gets two rooks for the queen with a clear advantage.

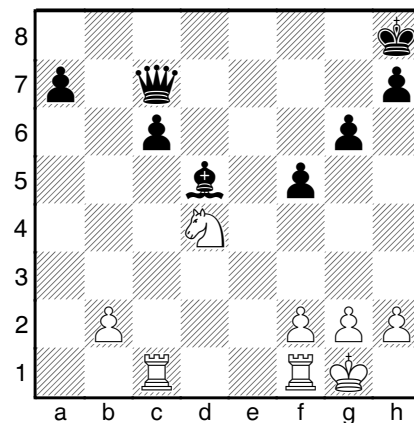
22.♘c7?

22.b3 is the correct move, with a big advantage to White. For example: 22...♙xb3 (or 22...♙xa8 23.♙c4!+- Isolating the black bishop and achieving a winning position) 23.♘c7 ♙d8 24.♖c3± and Black cannot win a piece back.

22...♙d6 23.♙b5 ♙xc7
24.♙xc6?!

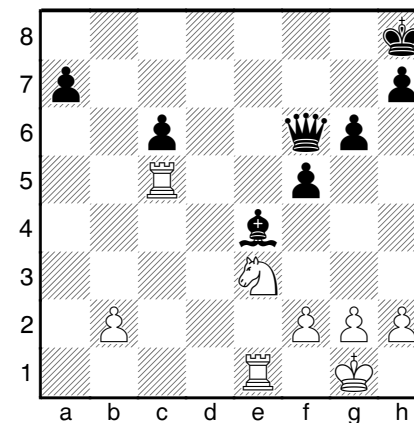
Better is 24.♖fd1.

24...bxc6 25.♘d4 ♙d5



The resulting position is between middlegame and endgame and a maneuvering play begins. White needs to activate his rooks, and Black needs to provoke a weakness in White's king position.

26.♖fe1 ♙f4 27.♘c2 ♙g5
28.♘e3 ♙e4 29.♖c5 ♙f6



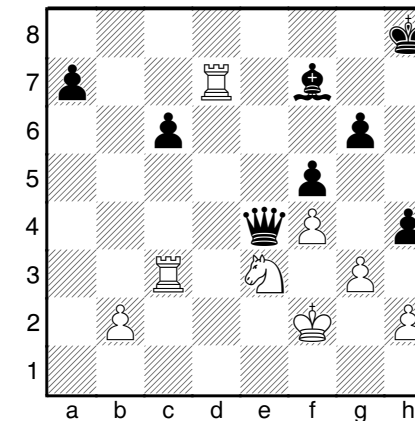
30.f3?!

The position is equal and could end up in a draw by repetition: 30.♖a5 ♙d4 31.♖d1 ♙b6 32.♘c4 ♙b3 33.♘e3 ♙b6.

But the move played introduces a weakness in the white king's position.

30...♙d5 31.♖c3
31.♘xd5? ♙d4+±.

31...♙f7 32.♖d1 h5 33.f4 ♙e7
34.g3 h4 35.♙f2 ♙e4 36.♖d7



36...♙e6?!

Better is 36...♙g8.

37.♖xa7?!

Allows Black's breakthrough on the kingside.

The computer suggests 37.♖e7 with equality. For example: 37...♙h1 38.♖xe6 ♙xh2+ 39.♙f3 ♙xg3+ 40.♙e2 ♙h2+ 41.♙d3 ♙xf4 etc. with a forced draw in some 30 moves!

37...g5! 38.fxg5 f4 39.♖a8+
♙g7 40.gxf4 ♙xf4+ 41.♙e1?!

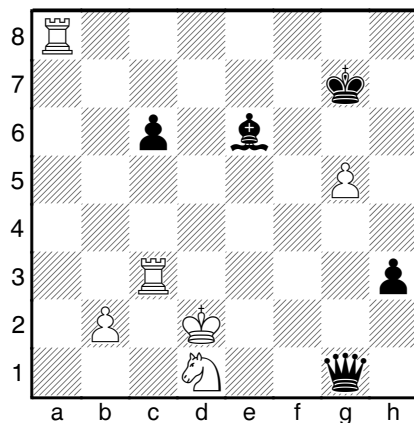
Loss of the ♖h2 is decisive. White was in time trouble. Better is 41.♙g1 ♙xg5+ 42.♙f2.

41...♙xh2 42.♘d1?



42. ♖a6 is the correct move.

42... ♔g1+ 43. ♔d2 h3

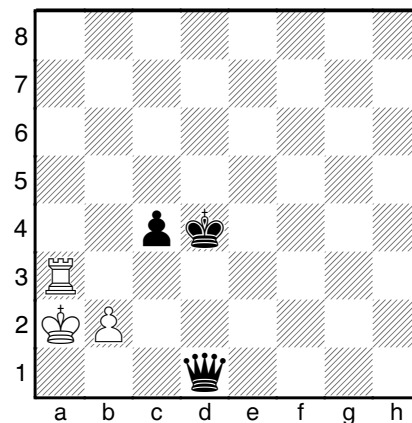


44. ♖a7+??

White would have some practical chances to save the game if he could exchange his rook and knight for Black's bishop and h-pawn in order to build some kind of a fortress. Consider a pos-

sible position: White: King on a2, Rook on a3, pawn on b2, Black: King on d4, Queen on d1, pawn on c4, Black to move.

Analysis Diagram



In such a case Black can still win with ... ♔d3!, when White's fortress falls. However, in practice, in an overtime game, White's drawing chances by building a fortress could be considerable.

But unfortunately for White, it is not possible to build a fortress. For example, if 44. ♖e3 then 44... h2 45. ♖a7+ ♕f7 46. ♖xf7+ ♔xf7 47. ♖f3+ ♔g6 48. ♖f2 ♕xg5+ 49. ♖e3 ♕f6-+ winning.

44... ♖xa7

0-1

Links

RACC

<http://ottawarachessclub.pbworks.com/>

Alekhine – Flohr match

Edward Winter's Chess History site reproduces a letter from Alekhine to the magazine *Chess* (June 14, 1938) confirming and commenting on their arrangement:

“Dr Alekhine and Flohr have signed a contract for a world's championship match in the autumn (fall) of 1939. The match will be played at various places in Czechoslovakia.”

http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/winter82.html#7063._A_letter_from_Alekhine

Taimanov - Fischer

The Bishop ending excerpt is discussed by endgame guru Karsten Mueller on the recent Chessbase DVD about Fischer. You can view their free sample here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siME6pm95UM>

YATT

at bottom of page, arrow on right.
<https://sites.google.com/site/fredm/>

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For chess players, there is only one ACC in Toronto: the **Annex Chess Club**, which hosted the 2014 Toronto Open, April 18-20.

IM Leonid Gerzhoy won the Crown Group with 5/6 to take the \$1000 first prize. Four players tied a full point back: FM Roman Sapozhnikov, GM Bator Sambuev, IM Artiom Samsonkin, and IM Bindi Cheng. The Crown group had 15 players all over 2200 which meant no easy rounds and a lot of games between the top finishers; e.g. Roman played all of the other top-5 finishers, beating Sambuev and Samsonkin, and losing to Gerzhoy and Cheng.

Yongjoo Kim won the **U2200** with 5/6, and **Jess Mendoza Armand** won the **U1600**, also with 5/6. Section winners in U2200 and U1600 won \$400 each.

In addition to section prizes, there was a “best dressed” prize — won by **Steve Vettese**, who showed up wearing a tux! — and four “best games” prizes, one for each 300 point rating slice.

Games

Chess Canada has eight games from the Tronto Open: Sapozhnikov’s upset win over Sambuev, games by each of the section winners, and all the “best game” prize winners, starting with the winner of the “best game” prize in the Crown group, annotated by the winner.

Notes by Mark Plotkin

Plotkin, Mark (2247)

Cheng, Bindi (2522)

B85

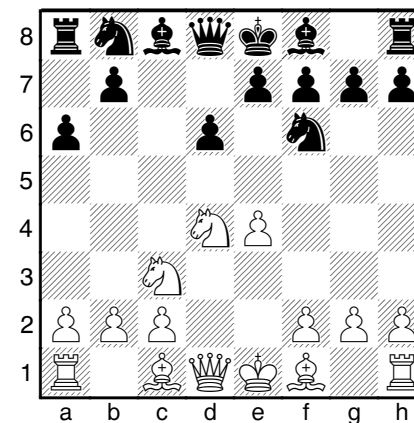
*Toronto Open Annex CC (1),
18.04.2014*

Before this game, I knew Bindi was a tough opponent, as he smashed me in the Pirc last time. I prepared for his line, and he wanted to surprise me with the Sicilian. Unfortunately for him, I knew theory there as well.

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 ♘f6
4.♘c3**

4...dxc5 ♘xe4 5.cxd6 ♘xd6=.

4...cxd4 5.♘xd4 a6



This is a normal theoretical line in the Najdorf. The most popular response is either ♗g5, or ♗c4. I decided to play a line that Karpov used to play most regularly.

6.♗e2

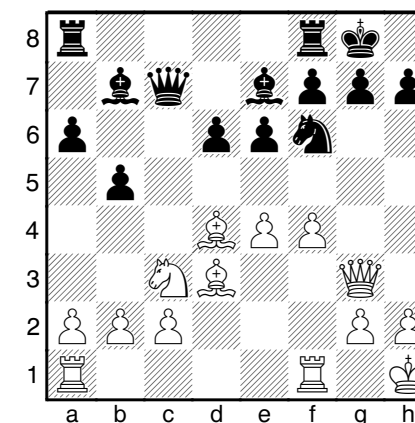
This was Karpov's calm move, with no real intention of attacking, just attempting to get a positional edge over your opponent. After ♗e2, there are two good responses for Black: ...e6 or ...e5. ...e5 usually leads to boring positions, and knowing Bindi, I wasn't afraid of his response.

6...e6 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.♗e3 0-0

9.f4 ♘c6 10.♔h1

This is still theory, and I probably still played ♔h1 prematurely, but I just wanted to keep my king safe from the a7-g1 diagonal.

**10...♙c7 11.♙e1 ♘xd4
12.♗xd4 b5 13.♗d3 ♗b7
14.♙g3**



My bishops are placed very well, and after ♙g3 I am ready to attack my opponent's king. The only piece defending his ♔ is his knight, but White has two ways of attacking the ♘f6: pushing e5, or playing ♘c3-d5 as a sac to open lines for the bishops. That is a very typical idea. For example: 15...♗c6 16.♙h3 ♖ac8 17.♘d5. With ideas of 17...exd5

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18.exd5 and threatening mate on h7.

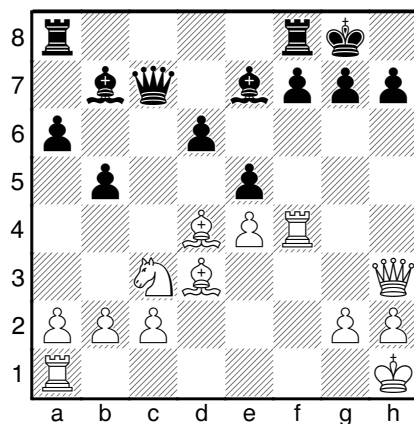
Also, if Black goes ...b4, the Knight goes from c3-d1-e3-g4 and trades the ♘f6. The e4 pawn isn't hanging after ♘d1 because there's a mate: 14...b4 15.♘d1 ♙xe4? 16.♙xe4 ♘xe4 17.♙xg7#.

Knowing Bindi though, he wasn't going to allow me to have *all that*, but these tactical threats may force Black to weaken his kingside position with ...g6.

14...♘h5??

A huge error. The only piece that was defending his king, and with one move, Bindi puts his best piece out of play.

15.♙h3 ♘xf4 16.♖xf4 e5



It seems that here Black is able to recover the strong bishop, but there was a tactic that Bindi missed...

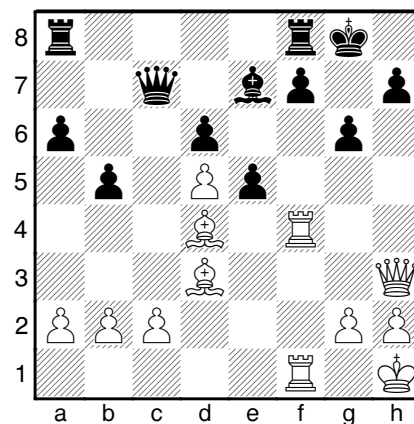
17.♘d5!!

A strong in-between move forcing Black to give up his strong bishop. If Black doesn't take the knight, (e.g. 17...♙d8) White goes 18...♙b6 and is up a piece, or even more.

17...♙xd5 18.exd5 g6

The only move to defend from mate. White just got everything he wanted. Opening up the light-squared bishop, weakening the opponent's king.

19.♖af1!!



19...exf4

If Black takes the bishop he gets mated after ♖xf7!

editor – Here's the mating attack Mark mentioned: 19...exd4 20.♖xf7 ♖xf7 21.♖xf7 ♔xf7 22.♚xh7+ ♔e8 23.♙xg6+ ♔d7 (23...♔d8 24.♚g8+ #2) 24.♙f5+ ♔e8 25.♙e6 ♙d8 26.♚g8+ ♔e7

27.♚f7# ...every single attacking move was on a light square!

editor – The computer says Black's best chance was 19...f5, though after 20.♙xf5 ♖xf5 21.♖xf5 gxf5 (21...exd4 22.♖f7) 22.♚xf5:

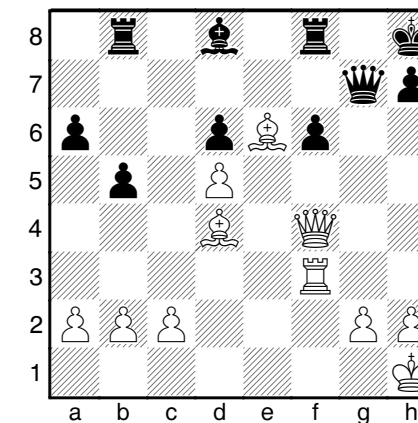
A) 22...exd4 23.♚g4+ ♔g5 ♔ (23...♔h8 24.♖f7

♖g8 25.♚xd4+ and mate) 24.♚xg5+-.

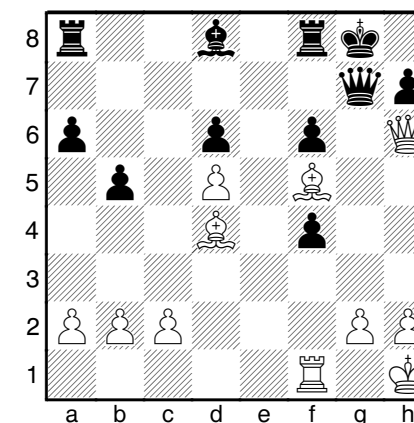
B) 22...♖f8! 23.♚g4+± White has an extra pawn and a Black's exposed ♔ will probably cost more.

20.♚h6 f6 21.♙xg6 ♙d8

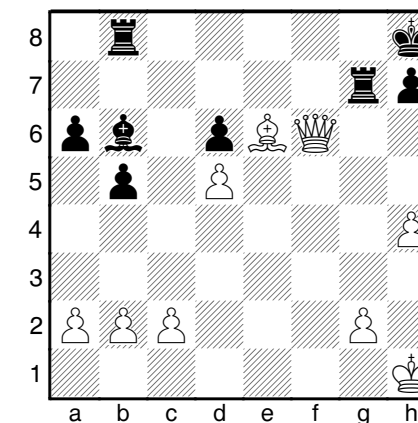
editor – 21...hxg6 22.♚xg6+ ♔h8 23.♖xf4 is mating.



Threatening ♖g3, and after ...♚e7, White is dead won after ♚h6.

22.♙f5 ♚g7**25...♙b6 26.♖g3 ♚e7 27.♖g8+**

Winning the Queen for a Bishop and a rook.

27...♖xg8 28.♙xf6+ ♚xf6 29.♚xf6+ ♖g7 30.h4

All forced moves for Black. White wins a lot of pawns for the exchange and it is obvious that the White bishops overpower the black rooks.

23.♙e6+ ♔h8 24.♚xf4 ♖b8 25.♖f3

Bindi has had better days...

May 17-19, for instance.

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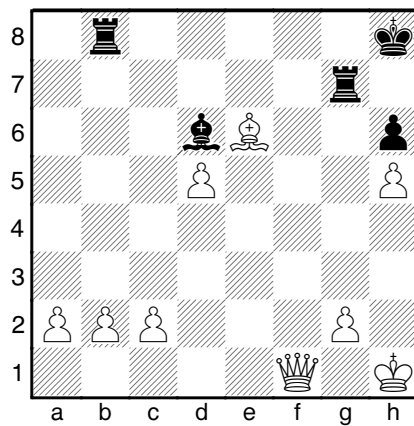
Chess Canada May 2014

The game is practically over: White is up two pawns, Black doesn't have a lot of play, and the opposite color bishops actually increase White's advantage because of king-side play. I'm threatening to push the pawn to h6, but Black finds a way to stop that.

30...♖e8 31.h5 ♕d8 32.♖f4
♕g5 33.♖xd6

Now White is just gonna take all of Black's pawns. Despite not having any king side play anymore, White is up too many pawns for Black to handle.

33...h6 34.♖xa6 ♕f4 35.♖xb5
♖b8 36.♖f1 ♕d6



37.♖f6?

I thought I was just gonna win the h6 pawn because after 37...♖h7 38.♕f5+ I have ♖xh6 next. But Black has an unexpected response.

37...♖f8!

Fighting on, and playing for one last chance.

38.♕f7!!

This move puts the dagger in my opponent's heart. The game is over, and Black has no way of fighting any more.

Much worse was: 38.♖xh6+ ♖h7 39.♖c1 ♖xh5+ and Black has a lot more play than White needs to give.

editor – according to my computers, White has to play precisely to keep *any* advantage: 40.♕h3 ♕g3 41.c4 ♕. Computers say White is winning, but FWIW, I don't trust them here. One of their few remaining weaknesses is evaluating fortresses, and this position seems like an "anti-fortress": White pawn advances risk allowing Black to coordinate ♖'s to go after e1.

38...♕e7 39.♖xe7 ♖gxf7
40.♖e5+ ♖h7 41.d6 ♖f5
42.♖e4 ♖g7 43.d7

The game is over as Black has no real way of stopping White from promoting to another queen.

Overall, I'm pretty happy with this game despite making the ♖f6 blunder. Other than that, I was able to capitalize very effectively on my opponent's errors.

1-0

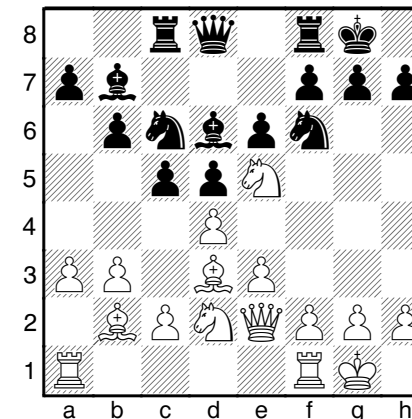
Sambuev, Bator (2727)
Sapozhnikov, Roman (2385)

D05

Toronto Open Annex CC (5),
20.04.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♖f3 e6 3.e3 c5
4.♕d3 d5 5.b3 ♖c6 6.0-0
♕d6 7.♕b2 0-0 8.a3 b6
9.♖bd2 ♕b7 10.♖e2 ♖c8
11.♖e5



This position was analyzed in CCN 2014.02 (see [Sambuev – Lusza, Montreal 2012](#)).

11...♖c7

It might be better not to define the ♖'s position until after ...♖c6-e7-g6, since it might be better on e7 or c7 (or even a8), depending on where White's ♖s go.

11...♖e7! 12.♖ad1 ♖c7 13.f4
♖e4 14.♕xe4 dxe4 15.dxc5
♕xc5 16.b4 ♕xe3+!! ♖ (0-1, 46)
Sambuev, B (2523)–**Gundavaa, B**
(2519) Istanbul, 2012.

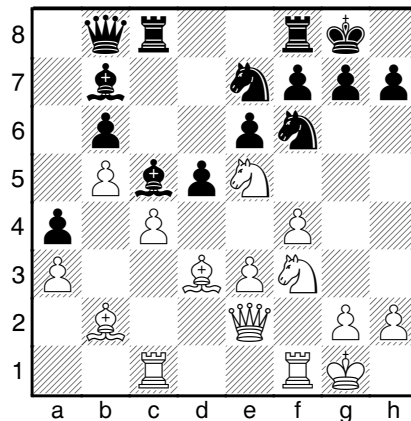
12.f4 ♖e7 13.dxc5 ♕xc5
14.b4 ♕d6 15.c4 a5

15...♖g6 16.♖ac1 ♖xe5 17.cxd5
♖b8 18.fxe5 ♕xe5 19.♕xe5

♙xe5 20.dxe6 fxe6=.

16.♖ac1 ♔b8 17.b5 a4
17...♘g6.

18.♞df3 ♕c5



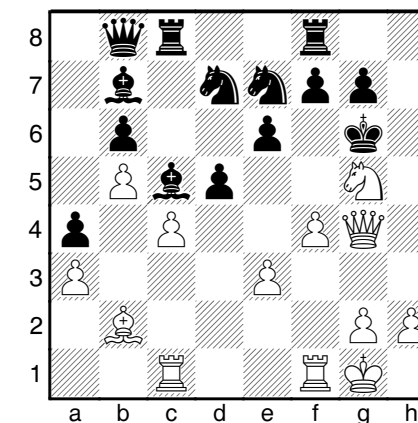
19.♞d7??

Bator didn't get the move order backwards, because this 19.♕xh7+? loses too: 19...♞xh7□ (19...♔xh7?? 20.♞g5+ ♔g8 21.♞d7+-) 20.♞d7 ♔d6 21.♞fe5 ♞f5-+.

Bator blowed up good!

Roman told me that Bator said that in calculating the following sac he had forgotten that he'd already given up a second piece on d7.

19...♞xd7+- 20.♕xh7+ ♔xh7
21.♞g5+ ♔g6 22.♔g4



22...f5

22...♕xe3+ also wins, but it's scarier: 23.♔h1 f5 24.♔g3 ♕xc1 25.♞xe6+ ♔f7 26.♔xg7+ ♔e8□-+ (26...♔xe6?? 27.♖e1+ ♔d6 28.♔xe7+ ♔c7 29.♕e5#).

23.♔g3 ♞f6 24.♕e5 ♞h5!
25.♔h3

Round 3, L2R: Filipovich, Ivanov, Sapozhnikov, Sambuev, Gerzhoy, Derraugh, Itkin.

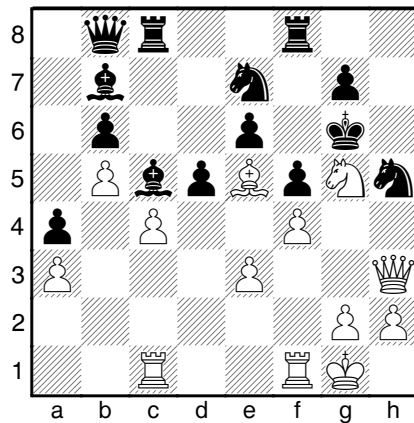
(photo: Upper)



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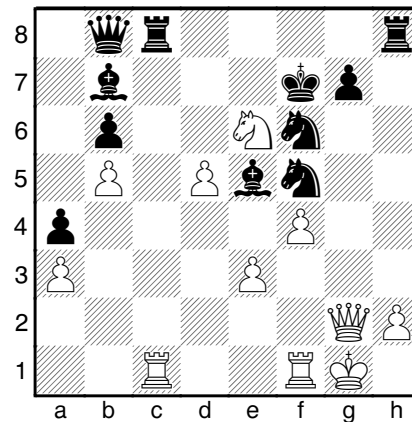
The position looks very dangerous for Black, but (surprisingly) he almost always has more than one way to defend. For some players that might turn out to be the biggest problem: knowing you're winning but having to choose between "better" or "worse" wins. If Roman found that a problem... well, it's best possible problem to have OTB, and he managed to cope.

25...♙d6

Black even wins with 25...♙xe5! 26.fxe5 ♖xg5 with four minors (and lots of good squares for them) for the ♙.

26.g4 ♜f6 27.gxf5+
27.♙xf6 ♜h8-+.

27...♜xf5 28.♜xe6 ♜h8
29.♙g2+ ♖f7 30.cxd5 ♙xe5



31.♜xc8 ♜xc8

Or, 31...♙xc8 32.fxe5 ♙xd5
33.♜g5+ (33.e4 ♙xe6-+)
33...♖g8 34.♙f2 ♜xe3-+.

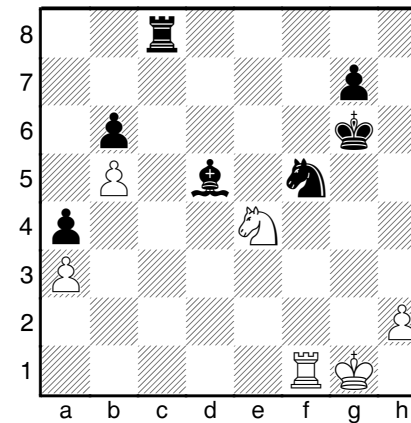
32.fxe5 ♙xe5

Or, 32...♙xd5 33.e4 ♙xe5!-+.

33.e4

33.♜xf5 ♙xe3+ 34.♙f2
♜c1+ 35.♖g2 ♙xe6!-+.

33...♜xe4 34.♙xe4 ♙xe4
35.♜g5+ ♖g6 36.♜xe4
♙xd5



37.♜f2

37.♜xf5 ♜c1+ 38.♜f1 ♜xf1+
39.♖xf1 ♙xe4-+.

37...♜c2 38.h3 ♖g5 39.♜d1
♙f3 40.♜d3 ♖f4 41.h4 ♜e3
42.♜d7 g6 43.♜d6 ♖g3



IM Leonid Gerzhoy

44.♜xg6+ ♜g4 45.♜d3 ♜g2+
46.♖f1 ♙e2+ 47.♖e1 ♙xd3
48.♜xb6 ♜e3

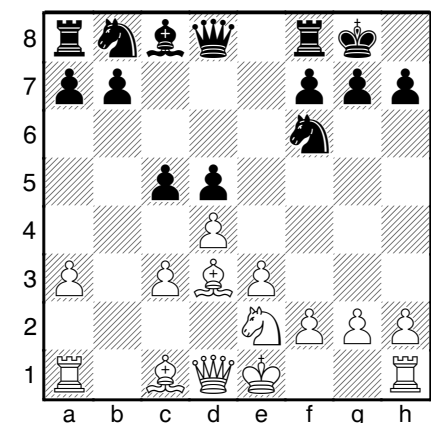
0-1

Gerzhoy, Leonid (2583)
Zhang, Yuanchen (2305)
E49

Toronto Open Annex CC (6),
20.04.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜c3
♙b4 4.e3 0-0 5.♙d3 d5 6.a3
♙xc3+ 7.bxc3 c5 8.cxd5
exd5 9.♜e2

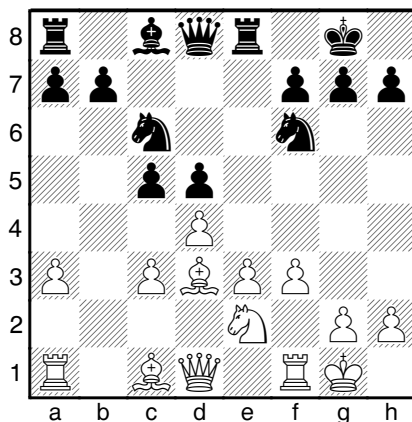


9...♜e8

Here's the start of a classic game which originated the plan

seen in this game: centralize ♖s, ♙b2 to stabilize the dark squares, ♘e2-g3 and then f3 and e4 to control the center before a king-side attack. 9...b6 10.0-0 ♙a6 11.♙xa6 ♘xa6 12.♙b2 ♖d7 13.a4 ♖fe8 (♘13...cxd4 14.cxd4 ♖fc8) 14.♖d3 c4? 15.♖c2 ♘b8 16.♖ae1 ♘c6 17.♘g3 ♘a5 18.f3 ♘b3 19.e4 ♖xa4 20.e5→ (1-0, 41) [Botvinnik,M-Capablanca,J AVRO, 1938.](#)

10.0-0 ♘c6 11.f3



11...♖c7

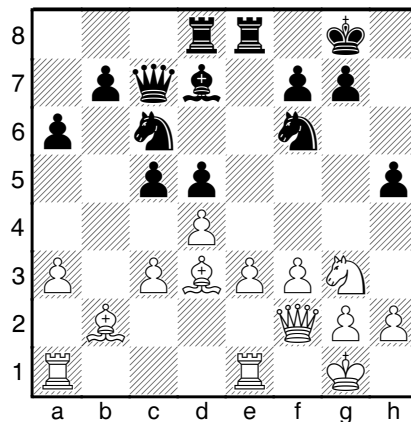
11...♘h5 12.g4 ♘f6 13.♘g3 g6 14.♖a2 ♖a5 15.♙d2 ♖b6 16.♙h1 ♖e7 17.♖a1 c4 18.♙c2 ♘a5 19.♖b2 ♖c7 20.a4 ♙d7 21.♖a3 ♙c6 22.g5! ♘e8 23.e4 dxe4 24.fxe4± (1-0, 58) [Gerzhoy,L \(2448\)-Gusev,N](#)

(2117) [Montreal, 2012.](#)

12.♘g3

12.♖a2 ♙d7 13.♘g3 ♖ad8 14.♖e2 ♘e7 15.♖e1 ♖a5 16.e4↑ dxe4 17.♘xe4! ♘xe4 (17...♘fd5? 18.c4+-) 18.♖xe4± (½-½, 54) [Alexandrova,O \(2427\)-Socco,M \(2431\) Warsaw, 2013.](#)

12...♙d7 13.♖e1 ♖ad8 14.♙b2 a6 15.♖c2 h5!? 16.♖f2



16...♙c8?!

The start of a poor *and slow* regrouping (...b5, ...♙b7) which will cede control over f5 *and* give White time to push e3-e4.

Better was: 16...♘a5.

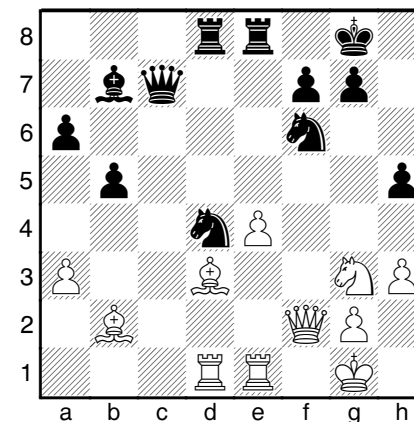
17.h3 b5 18.♖ad1 cxd4

18...♙e6.

19.cxd4 ♙b7?!

19...b4!? or 19...♘a5!?

20.e4 dxe4 21.fxe4 ♘xd4!?



This loses, but Black's position may be lost already.

22.e5□+-

22.♙xd4? ♖xd4 23.♖xd4 ♖xg3 24.♖e2±.

22...♖xe5

23.♙xd4 ♖g5

23...♖xe1+ 24.♖xe1 Δ♖xd4

25.♖xd4 ♖xg3 Black has comp, except... 26.♖d8+ ♘e8 27.♖xe8#.

24.♙b6

or 24.♙xf6+-.

24...♖b8 25.♙xd8 ♖xg3 26.♙f1!

1-0

Yuanchen Zhang, lost to the #1 seed in round one, and the #2 seed in round six, but 3½/4 in between.



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Yongjoo Kim won the U2200 section, and the prize for best U2200 game for this win over Rodrigo Oliveira.

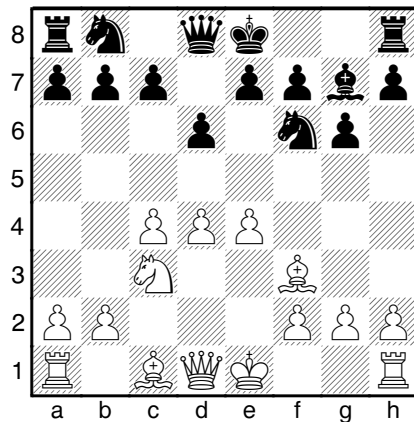
**Kim, Yongjoo (2015)
Oliveira, Rodrigo (2077)**

E90

Toronto Open U2200 Annex CC
(3), 19.04.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d6
4.e4 ♕g7 5.♘f3 ♕g4 6.♕e2
♕xf3 7.♕xf3



Although ...♕xf3 has been tried now and then, I think it just concedes White an easy advantage. Unlike lines in the Benoni (*where Black equalizes with ...♕g4xf3/e2*) the center hasn't been fixed

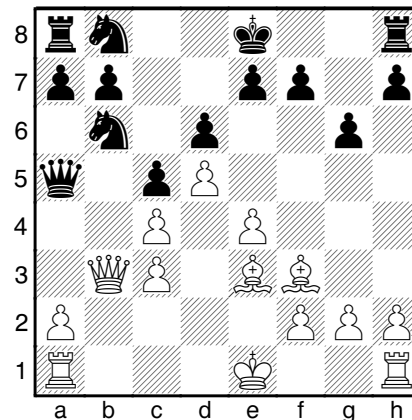
yet, and conceding the ♕-pair against a flexible center is a recipe for trouble (see Porper-Hansen, below).

7...♘c6

7...e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 10.♕e3 c6 11.0-0-0 ♗c7 12.h4? (12.g4!?, ○) 12...h5 13.♕e2 ♘bd7 14.f3 ♕h6̄ (0-1, 60) Volkov, S (2628)–Andreikin, D (2503) *playchess.com* (blitz), 2006.

7...♘fd7 8.♕e3 c5 9.d5
♕xc3+ 10.bxc3 ♖a5 11.♖b3
♘b6

Analysis Diagram



If Black had a half-open c-file his position might be OK, but this looks extremely suspect:

A) 12.0-0 ♖a4 13.♕e2 ♘8d7 14.f4 0-0-0 15.e5! f5 (15... dxe5 16.fxe5 ♘xe5 17.♕xc5± ♘exc4 18.♕xe7) 16.♖ab1 ♖he8 17.♖fe1 dxe5 18.fxe5 ♘xe5 19.♕xc5 ♘exc4 20.♖xa4 ♘xa4 21.♕xa7 ♘ab2□ 22.♖xb2! ♘xb2 23.♖b1± and the ♘b2 is trapped in (1-0, 70) Flear, G (2365)–Westerinen, H (2410) London, 1982.

B) 12.a4 ♘8d7 13.♕e2 f5 14.exf5 gxf5 15.0-0 ♘e5 16.♕h6! (16.♕h5±) 16...♖g8 17.♖fb1 0-0-0 18.♖c2! ♘bxc4 19.♖xf5+ (19.♕c1!+- Δf4, and if 19...♘b6 ♖b5 wins the ♖.) 19...♗b8± (0-1, 61) Berg, K (2350)–Westerinen, H (2390) Hamburg, 1985.

8.♕e3

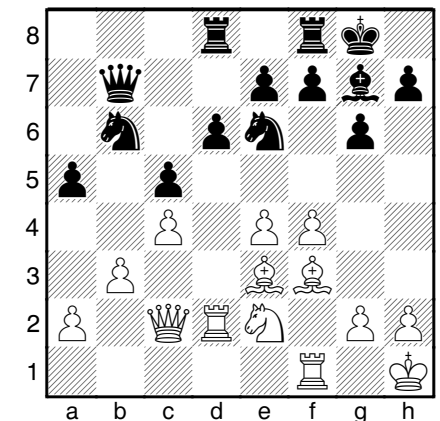
8.d5 ♘e5 9.♕e2 ♘ed7 10.0-0 0-0 11.♕e3 e5 12.b4 a5 13.a3 axb4 14.axb4 ♖e7 15.♖d3 ♖fd8 16.♖fc1 b6 17.♘b5± ♘e8 18.♘a7 ♘b8 19.♘c8!+- (1-0, 33) **Short, N** (2635)–Picha Prague (simul), 1990.

8...e5

In the following game, Eduard

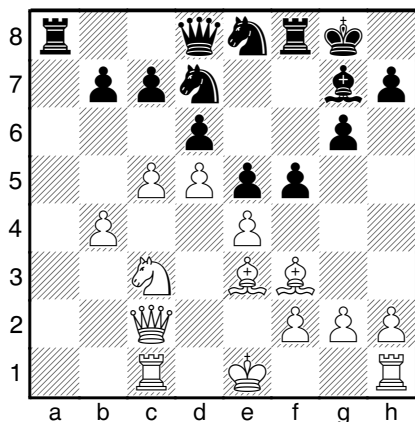
Porper squeezes a young Eric Hansen's pieces out of the center before turning to a kingside attack: 8...0-0 9.0-0 ♘d7 10.d5 ♘ce5 11.♕e2 ♘b6 12.♖b3 (12.c5±) 12...c6 13.f4 ♘ed7 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.♖ad1 ♖c7 (15...♖b8 16.♖c2 ♕xc3!? 17.♖xc3 ♘a4∞) 16.♖d2 ♘c5 17.♖c2 ♘e6 18.♗h1 ♖b7 19.b3± c5?! 20.♕f3 ♖ad8 21.♘e2 a5:

Analysis Diagram

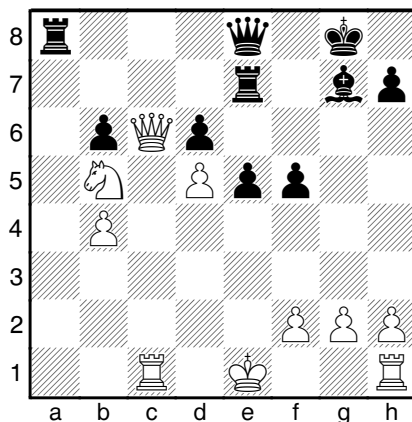


22.f5! ♘c7 23.♕g5 (23.e5 ♖c8 24.exd6 exd6 25.♕g5+-) 23...♘a6 24.e5!+- ♖c7 25.e6! fxe6 26.fxg6 h6 27.♖e4! ♖d7 (27...hxg5 28.♖xe6+ ♗h8 29.♖h3+ and mate.) 28.♖h4! ♖f6 29.♕xf6 exf6 30.♖fd1 ♖e7 31.♘g3 (1-0) **Porper, E** (2476)–**Hansen, E** (2349) Red Deer (Battle of Alberta), 2008.

9.d5 ♖b8 10.♔c2 ♘bd7
11.♞c1 a5 12.a3 0-0 13.b4
axb4 14.axb4 ♘e8 15.c5 f5

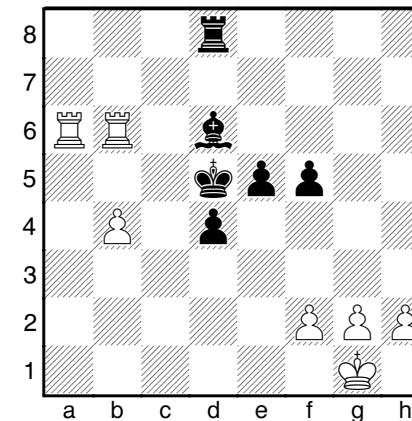
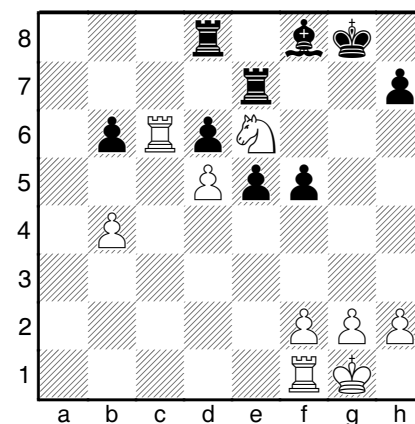


17.♘b5 bxc6 18.♞xc6 ♞f7
19.exf5! gxf5 20.♙h5! ♞e7
21.♙xe8 ♞xe8 22.♙xb6 cxb6



Not the computer's top choice (♘xd6), but a good human move: Black can't save both his b and d pawns, and White will win them once he's activated his last piece.

23...♞d8 24.♞xe8+ ♞exe8
25.♞c6 ♙f8 26.♘c7 ♞e7
27.♘e6



35.♞xd6+!

The no-nonsense way to win: "Black's ♔ can't dance at two weddings" (b8 and h8).

35...♞xd6 36.♞xd6+ ♔xd6
37.h4 e4 38.g3

38.h5 is more no-nonsense, as the Black ♔ can't stay in the square of both White passers.

38...♔e5 39.♔f1 f4 40.gxf4+
♔xf4 41.h5 d3 42.♔e1 ♔f3
43.h6 ♖d2+ 44.♔xd2 ♔xf2
45.h7 e3+ 46.♔d3 e2 47.h8 ♞
47.h8 ♞ e1 ♞ 48.♞h4+ forces
off Black's ♞.

1-0

White's queenside play is miles ahead of any central or kingside counterplay Black might have hoped for. The next stage is a model of how to turn that into a winning positional bind.

16.c6! ♘b6!

≤16...bxc6 17.dxc6:

17...♘b8 18.b5 the so-called ♘ on b8 is worth a pawn.

17... ♘df6 18.exf5 d5
19.♙xd5+ ♘xd5 20.♞b3
♘ef6 21.♞d1+-.

17...♘b6 18.♙xb6 cxb6+
♔c, Xd5, X♙g7.

23.0-0!



Yongjoo Kim clear 1st U2200

ACC

Chess Canada
May 2014

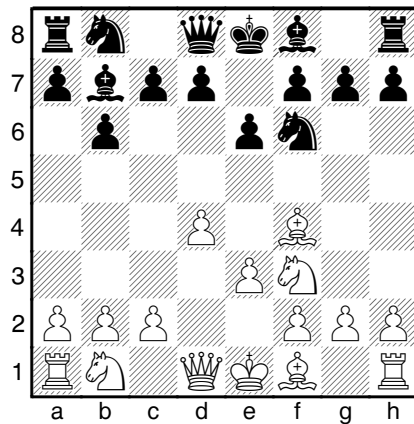
Amir Docheshme won the best U1900 game prize for this win.

**Docheshme, Amir
Mohammad (1636)
Stefanovic, Miroslav (2044)
A47**

Toronto Open U2200 Annex CC
(2), 18.04.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f4 e6 3.♘f3 b6
4.e3 ♗b7

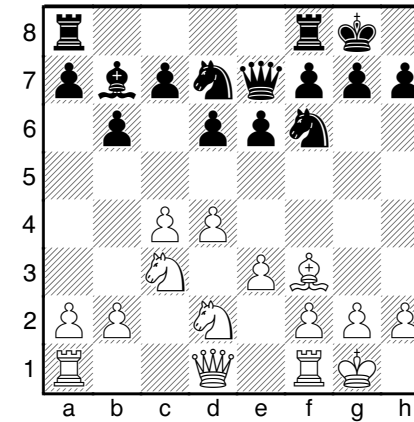


5.♗e2

Gata Kamsky is the only top GM who regularly plays the London system, and he always plays 5.h3 to save the ♗. 5...c5 6.c3 ♘c6 7.♗d3 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a3 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♖c8 11.♘c3 d5 12.♖c1± (½-½, 69) [Kamsky,G](#)

(2741)–Sargissian,G (2671)
Khanty–Mansiysk (World Rapid),
2013.

5...♘h5! 6.♗g5 ♗e7 7.♗xe7
♖xe7= 8.0-0 0-0 9.c4 d6
10.♘c3 ♘d7 11.♘d2 ♘hf6
12.♗f3



12...d5 13.♖c1 c5! 14.dxc5
♘xc5

14...bxc5 is reasonable too, aiming for hanging pawns rather than the isolated pawn.

15.cxd5

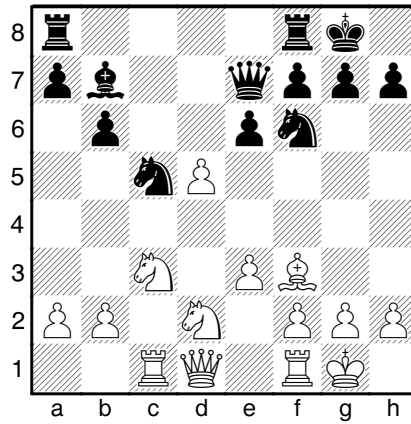
The ACC is reversible, and functions as an ark in case of flooding.



ACC

**Chess Canada
May 2014**

ACC

Chess Canada
May 2014**15...exd5**

15...♖ad8!? Δ16.dxe6 ♗xf3
17.exf7+ ♕xf7 18.gxf3 ♘d3
19.♖c2 (19.♖b1? ♘e5!-+)
19...♘b4 20.♖c1=.

16.♘b3 ♖ac8

16...♘ce4= the use of e4 compensates Black for his blockaded IQP.

17.♘xc5 ♖xc5

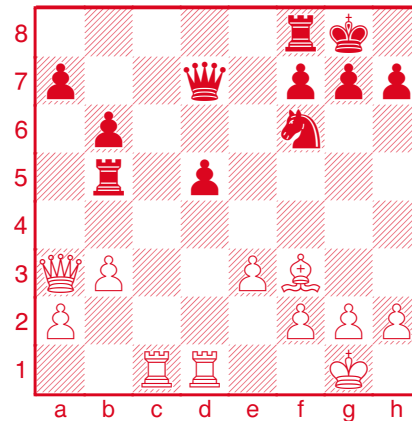
17...bxc5!? Δ18.♘xd5 ♘xd5
19.♗xd5 ♖fd8 20.e4 ♗xd5
21.exd5 ♕b7 22.d6 ♕c6!± Black is worse, but should hold.

18.♕b3 ♗a6 19.♖fd1± ♗c4?

19...♗b7 keeps the ♗ on the board.

20.♕a3 ♕d7 21.b3!±

Forces Black to exchange another minor piece.

21...♗b5 22.♘xb5 ♖xb5

The exchange of two pairs of minor pieces leaves White with a clear advantage: the better minor piece and better structure. A big problem with defending the IQP with major pieces and only one minor piece is that if Black defends from behind, then the ♖d5 might get pinned on the d-file, and e3-e4 creates a winning lever against it. But if Black defends the ♖d5 from the side (as he's doing now with the ♖b5) it can run short of squares after b3-b4 (see [Korchnoi – Karpov, Merano g.9](#)).

23.h3

23.♕a4! threatens b3-b4 then ♗e2, winning the ♖, so 23...♖a5 (23...a5 24.♗e2 wins the d-pawn) 24.♕xd7 ♘xd7 25.♖xd5 with good winning chances.

23.e4! good, but trickier and less clear cut than 23.♕a4. 23.e4 doesn't just threaten to win the d-pawn, but White threatens 24.e5 when ♘g4? 25.e6! ♕xe6 26.♕a4 wins a piece.

23.e4!:

a) 23...♖d8 24.exd5 ♘xd5
25.♕b2+- Δa4 and b4.

b) 23...♖e8 24.exd5 ♘xd5
25.♕a4+-.

c) Black's best may be 23...d4 when 24.♖c4± and Black can't hold the d-pawn.

23...♖d8 24.♖c2

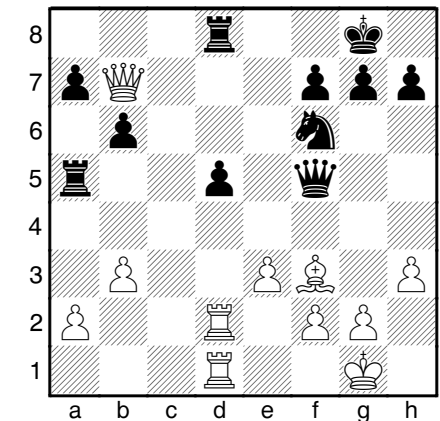
White keeps the option of doubling on the c-file.

24.♖d4 allows White to pile up on the d-file with a ♖ at the front.

24...♖a5 25.♕b2

25.♕b4! controls c5 and d4.

25...♖c5 26.♖cd2 ♕f5 27.♕d4 ♖e8 28.♕a4 ♖a5 29.♕c6 ♖c8
Δ29...♕e6.

30.♕b7 ♖d8?**31.b4□+- ♖a4**

31...♖a3 32.♗xd5+- as in the game..

31...♖b5 32.a4 ♖xb4 33.♕e7+- forks the ♖s.

32.♗xd5 ♖e8 33.♗b3

Winning, as is the more obvious:
33.♗xf7+ ♔f8 34.♗xe8.

33...♘e4

33...♖xb4 34.♕xf7+ ♔h8 35.♖d8

♖be4 36.♔f8+ ♘g8 37.♔xg8+
♖xg8 38.♖xg8#.

34.♔xa4 ♘xd2 35.♖xd2
♔b1+ 36.♔d1

△36.♖d1 and Black's last two
pieces are both hanging.

36...♔xb4 37.♖e2 ♔c4
38.♔d7

1-0

Armand Jess Mendoza

Top U1600



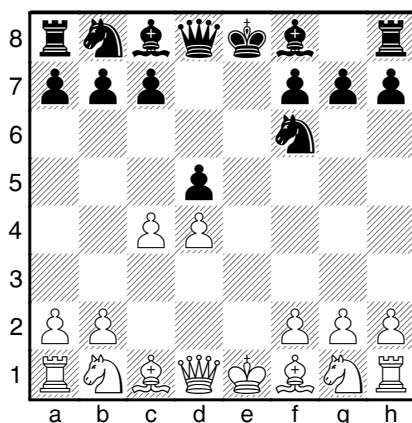
Armand Jess Mendoza won the
U1600 section, in part because of
this win over an opponent who fin-
ished only one point behind.

Korcsak, Andrei (1591)
Mendoza, Armand (1553)
C01

Toronto Open U1600 (5),
20.04.2014

Notes by John Upper

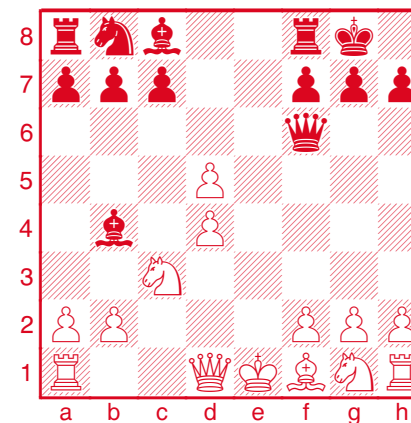
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5
4.c4 ♘f6



5.♔g5

More common is: 5.♘c3 ♔e7
6.♘f3 0-0 7.♔e2 dxc4 8.♔xc4
♔g4 9.♔e3 ♘c6 10.0-0 ♖b8
11.♔e2 ½-½ Mieziš, N (2527)–
Solozhenkin, E (2508) Jyvaskyla,
2006.

5...♔b4+ 6.♘c3 0-0 7.♔xf6
♔xf6 8.cxd5



8...♖e8+

This gets the ♖ back and leaves
Black with better development
and a safer ♔, but Black has
better.

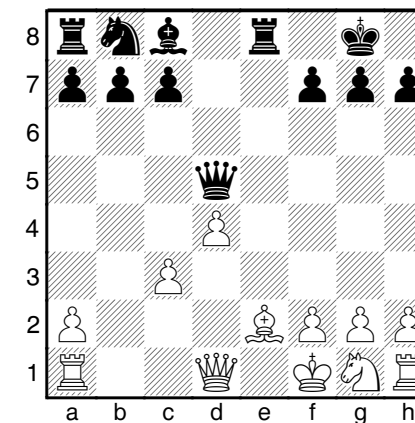
After 8...c5! Black is almost win-
ning:

A) 9.dxc6? ♘xc6→ 10.♘f3
♔h3!! 11.gxh3 (11.♔e2 ♔xg2
12.♖g1 ♔xf3 13.♔xf3 ♘xd4
14.♔xb7 ♖ab8 15.♔g2 ♔xc3+
16.bxc3 ♖fe8+ 17.♔f1 ♔a6+)
11...♖fe8+ 12.♔d2 (12.♔e2
♔xc3+ 13.bxc3 ♔xf3-+)
12...♘xd4 13.♘xd4 ♖ad8→

Black wins back one piece and
still has a colossal attack.

B) 9.♘ge2 ♖e8!→ 10.a3 cxd4
11.♔a4 ♘c6!!-+ 12.dxc6 (12.
axb4 dxc3-+) 12...♔xc3+
13.bxc3 d3 14.♔c4 dxe2
15.♔xe2 ♔e6-+.

9.♔e2 ♔g5 10.♔f1 ♔xc3
11.bxc3 ♔xd5



Black is a bit better because
White's ♔f1 prevents him from
activating the ♖h1, but over the
next few moves White develops
at the expense of the Black ♔.

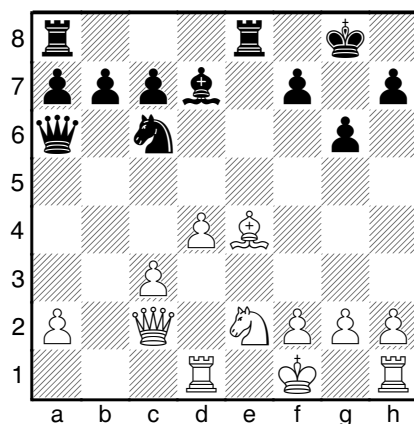
12.♔b3 ♔e4 13.♔f3 ♔d3+
14.♘e2 ♘c6 15.♖d1 ♔a6
16.♔c2 g6

16...♔d7 getting the ♖s con-
nected as fast as possible while
White has one stuck on h1.

ACC

Chess Canada
May 2014

17. ♖e4 ♗d7



White has just about equalized, and after ♗d3 then (maybe) h2-h4-h5 should be fine. Instead...

18. ♖b1?? ♖xe4!-+ 19. ♗xe4 ♗f5 20. ♗f4 ♗xb1 21. ♗xc7 ♗d3

Wins another piece, but 21... ♗d3! threatening mate wins a ♖: 22.g4 ♗d1+ 23. ♖g2 ♗xe2 24. ♖xb1 ♗e4+-+.

22.d5 ♗xe2+ 23. ♖e1 ♗f3!

Not just flashy but faster than ... ♗h5, which allows White to play f3 and prolong the game by desperately squirming away through f2.

24.gxf3 ♖e8+ 25. ♖d1 ♗d3+ 26. ♖c1 ♖e2 27. ♗c8+ ♖g7 28.dxc6 ♗c2#

0-1

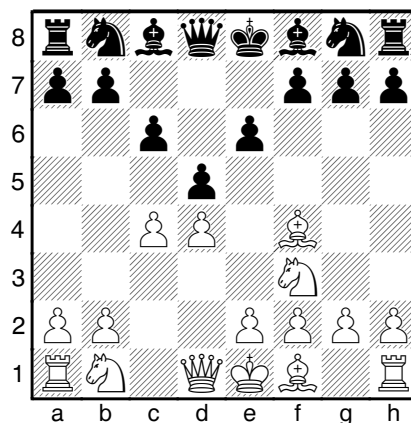
Daniele Pirri won the Best U1600 game prize for skillfully exploiting Black's slow opening play.

Pirri, Daniele (1472)
Archibald, Colin B (1393)
D30

Toronto Open U1600 Annex CC (2), 18.04.2014

Notes by John Upper

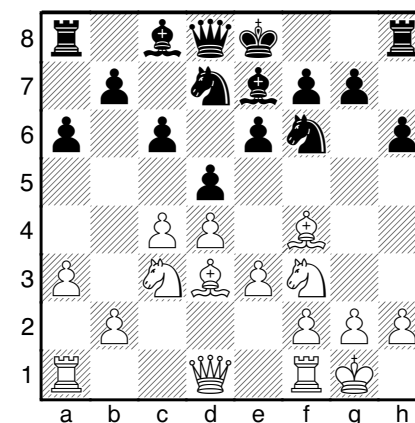
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♗f3 c6 4. ♗f4



4...h6?!

4... ♗f6 would be a normal developing move, and 4... dxc4! is a good way to unbalance, as White will probably lose a tempo defending the ♗f4 after an eventual ... ♗d5.

5.e3 ♗f6 6. ♗c3 ♗e7 7. ♗d3 ♗bd7 8.0-0 a6 9.a3



9...b5

Black plays in the style of the Chebanenko Slav (...a6, ...b5), but this is pretty comfortable for White with the ♗f4.

Black could get a bit more space with 9... dxc4 10. ♗xc4 and ... ♗d5 or ...b5.

10.c5 a5

10... ♗h5 11. ♗e5 and Black can't take the ♗e5 without stranding his ♗h5.

11. ♖e1 ♗f8?

Gives up control of e5 and strands the ♗ on e8. ◻11...0-0

12. ♗e5±

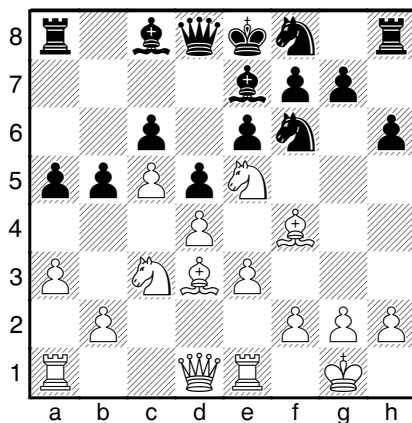


Colin Archibald may be rethinking 4...h6

ACC

Chess Canada
May 2014

ACC



12...♙b7

12...♙d7 prevents what follows, but leaves Black with no moves.

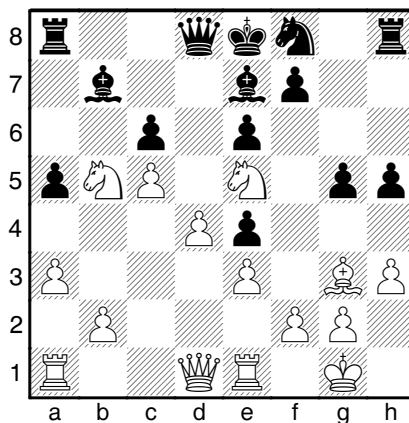
13.♘xb5!+- g5

13...cxb5 14.♙xb5+ ♘d8d7 15.c6 and if Black saves the ♘d7 he loses the ♙ to c7+.

14.♙g3 h5 15.h3

15.♘xc6 ♙xc6 16.♘c7+ ♔d7 17.♘xa8+- also wins.

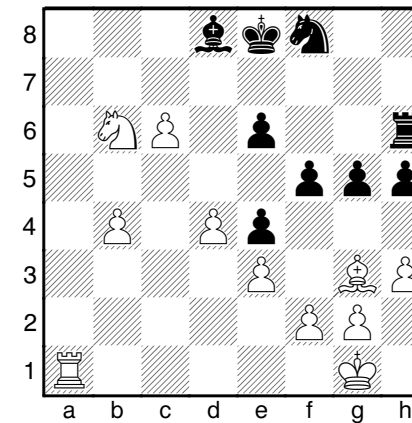
15...♘e4 16.♙xe4 dxe4



17.♘c3

17.♘c7+!? ♙xc7 18.♘xf7 ♙xg3 19.fxg3 ♔xf7+- White wins the ♖e4 and Black's minors have no prospects.

17...f5 18.♘a4 ♖a6 19.♙b3 ♖a7 20.♘b6 ♗h6 21.♙a4 ♖a6 22.♘xc6 ♙xc6 23.♙xc6+ ♔f7 24.♙b5



30.♖a8!

30.c7 wins too, but the ♖c6 is worth more than the ♙d8.

30...♔f7 31.♖xd8 ♘g6 32.c7

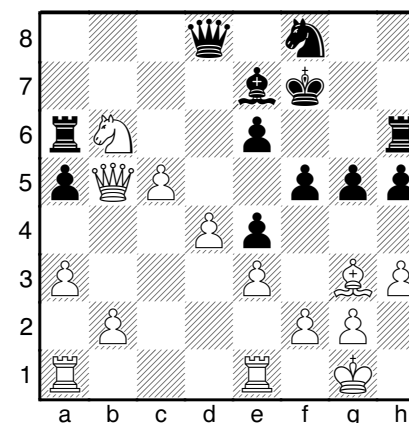
1-0

Finally, a big upset (and miniatur) from the U1600 section.

Pamwar, Manish (1075)
Kurkowski, Ken (1479)
C00

Toronto Open U1600 Annex CC (3), 19.04.2014
Notes by John Upper

1.e4 e6 2.♙b5 a6 3.♙a4 c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3 b5 6.♙c2



White is up two pawns and Black's pieces could hardly be less effective.

24...♖a7 25.b4 axb4 26.axb4 ♖xa1 27.♖xa1 ♙e8 27...f4 28.♖a8+-.

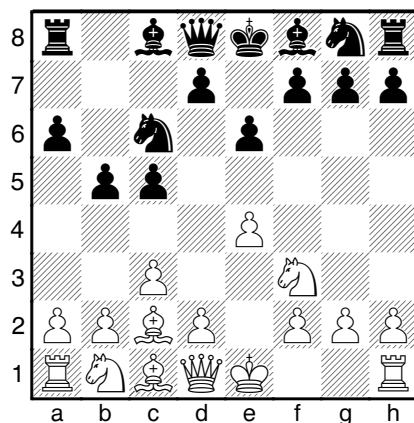
28.♙xe8+ ♔xe8 29.c6 ♙d8



Nice Job ACC!
When did you last see a poster for a CFC weekend event?

Chess Canada
May 2014

ACC

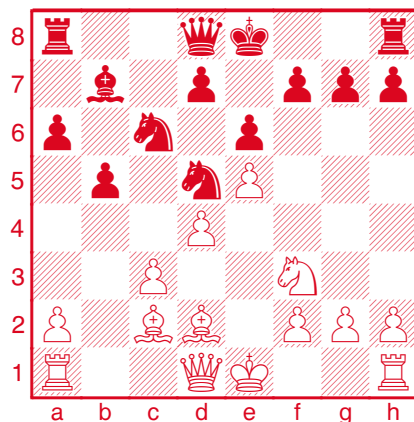


Transposing to a b5 Sicilian.

6... $\text{d}f6$

6... $\text{b}7$ 7. $\text{e}2$ c4? 8.b3 d5
9.exd5 $\text{c}xd5$ 10.bxc4 $\text{c}xc4$
11. $\text{c}xc4!$ bxc4 12. $\text{a}3$ $\text{a}xa3$
13. $\text{a}3$ $\text{g}e7$ 14. $\text{b}1$ $\text{b}8?$
15. $\text{d}6$ 1-0 **Spraggett, K**– Perez
Garcia, R Dos Hermanas, 1998.

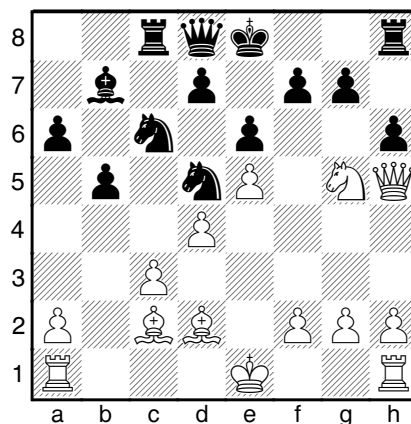
7.e5 $\text{d}d5$ 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4
 $\text{b}7$ 10. $\text{c}3$ $\text{b}4$ 11. $\text{d}2$
 $\text{c}c3$ 12.bxc3



12... $\text{R}c8?$

12...0-0? 13. $\text{g}xh7++$ $\Delta\text{c}xh7$
14. $\text{g}5+$ $\text{c}g6$ 15.h4 $\square+-$
(15. $\text{g}4?$ f5 \square 16. $\text{g}3$ $\text{e}7!$ ∞).
12...h6! ∞ $\Delta\text{a}5$, ... $\text{R}c8$.

13. $\text{g}5!$ h6 14. $\text{h}5\rightarrow$



14... $\text{R}f8$

14...0-0 \square 15. $\text{h}7+$! $\text{c}h8$ 16. $\text{d}3!$
gaining time on the c to put the
 d on a safe square, avoiding
... $\text{d}d4$:

A) 16... $\text{e}7$ 17. $\text{h}7!$ (17. $\text{e}4\pm$)
 Δ 17... $\text{f}e8$ 18. $\text{g}xh6!$ gxh6 (18...
g6 19. $\text{h}3+-$) 19. $\text{c}xh6+-$.

B) 16... $\text{c}g8$ 17. $\text{e}4\pm$ White
has a terrific position, but Black
has a better chance to survive
this than the game line.

15. $\text{e}4\square+-$

Black pays dearly for the weak
dark squares.

15... $\text{R}c7$ 16. $\text{d}6+$ $\text{c}e7$

17. $\text{g}5+!?$ f6

17...hxg5 18. $\text{c}xg5+$ $\text{c}f6!$
19.exf6+ (19. $\text{c}xg7??$ $\text{d}e8$) 19...
gxf6 (19... $\text{c}xd6?$ 20. $\text{c}5\#$)
20. $\text{c}5+-$ e.g. 20... $\text{d}e5$ 21. $\text{d}f5+$
 $\text{c}e8$ 22. $\text{d}g7\#$.

18. $\text{g}6!$ $\text{a}8$ 19. $\text{c}xg7+$ $\text{f}7$ 20. $\text{c}xf7+$

1-0

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The Pump pub food and craft
beers, just south of the Annex
Chess Club.

<http://www.thebrunswickpump.com/>

The Regency Chess Company Canada
donated a Garde analog clock
and three chess tubes for the best
games winners.

Tom's Place (designer men's ap-
parel) donated a \$100 gift certifi-
cate to the "best dressed" player.
<http://www.toms-place.com/>

Pizza Pizza donated a free pizza
each day for the volunteers!
<http://www.pizzapizza.ca/>

Thanks to

the organizers for posting many of
the games from the Crown group
on their website, and for mailing
me the scoresheets of the others.

FM Michael Humphreys for judging
the best games of the tournament,
which made selecting games for
the CCN much easier for me.

Egis Zeromskis for the photos.

Links

Annex Chess Club

[http://annexchessclub.com/
toronto-open/#standings](http://annexchessclub.com/toronto-open/#standings)

Zeromskis' Photos

[https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?
set=a.697105213661341.1073741842.1000
00856054741&type=1&l=813c8f7bd9](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.697105213661341.1073741842.100000856054741&type=1&l=813c8f7bd9)

Toronto's Macedonian Community Centre hosted the **Ontario Open**, May 17-19. **IM Bindi Cheng** won the top section and \$1000 with 4½/6.

Other winners:

U2100 **Yinshi Li & Rebecca Giblon**

U1800 **Andrei Korcsak, Joey Orozso** and **Andrew Giblon**.

U1500 **Zhan He Liu (+215 CFC!)**.

Chess Canada has two games annotated by the Open winner.

Notes by IM Bindi Cheng

Cheng, Bindi (2509)
Southam, David (2231)

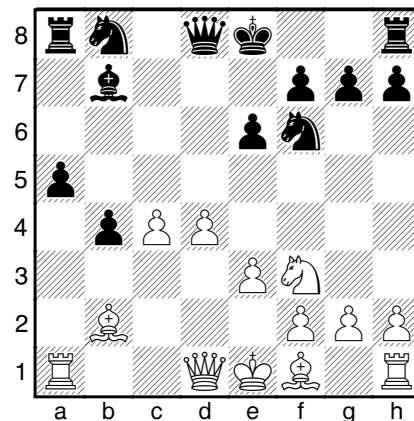
D31

Ontario Open Toronto (1),
17.05.2014

Last time I played David, we played a Reti system in which I played slowly and inaccurately, which eventually fizzled out to a draw. Seeing that he plays a lot of London and Colle systems, I figured he wouldn't know much mainstream theory. Unfortunately, I was incorrect in my assessment.

1.♘f3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.c4 c6
4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♘b4 6.e3

b5 7.♙d2 a5 8.axb5 ♙xc3
9.♙xc3 cxb5 10.b3 ♙b7
11.bxc4 b4 12.♙b2 ♘f6



Up to this point my only exposure to this line was from the Conrad Holt – **Edward Porper** game (below). White can also go for the standard ♙d3, 0-0, ♘d2 plan, but I wanted to see why Conrad liked c4-c5.

13.c5

13.♙d3 0-0 14.0-0 ♘bd7 15.♘d2
♙c7.

13...0-0 14.♙b5 ♙c6

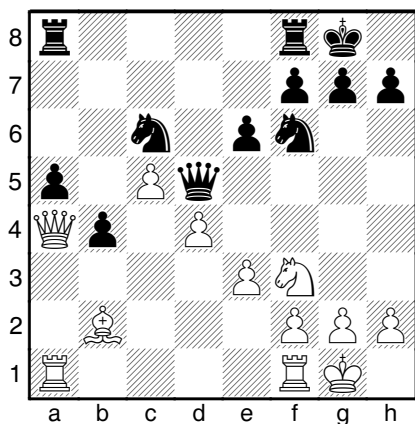
editor – *CCN 2013.09* featured Porper's notes to his win over Conrad Holt, which continued:
14...♙d5 15.0-0 ♙c6 16.♙a4



Chess Canada
May 2014

Nbd7?! ($\Delta 16... \text{Qxa4}$ $17. \text{Wxa4}$
 Nc6=) $17. \text{Qxc6}$ Wxc6 $18. \text{Wa4}$
 Wd5 $19. \text{Rfd1}$ Rfb8? ($19... \text{Wc4!}$)
 $20. \text{Nd2?}$ ($20. \text{Ne5!}$ Nf8 $21. \text{f3}$
 Ra6 $22. \text{e4}$ "Black is miserable."
 – Porper) $20... \text{Nf8}$ $21. \text{Re1}$ Ne4
 $22. \text{Nxe4}$ Wxe4 $23. \text{f3}$ Wd3 $24. \text{c6?}$
 Wd2! ↑ (0-1, 46) Holt,C (2513)–
 Porper,E (2423) Wheeling, 2013.

15. Qa4 Qxa4 16. Wxa4 Wd5
17. 0-0 Nc6



So at this point, it's important to come up with a plan of controlling e4, securing the queenside blockade, and possibly stopping Black from playing ...e5.

editor – In his notes to his game against Holt, Porper gave this exact line, and concluded here "White has absolutely nothing".

Roman Sapozhnikov

18. Rfc1?!

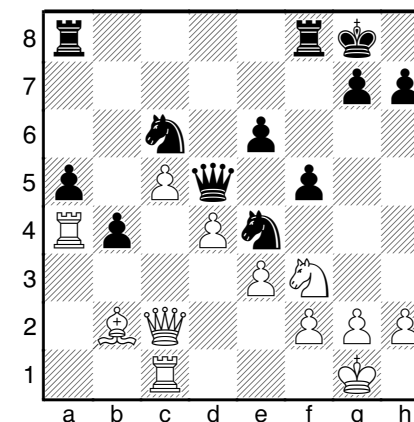
$18. \text{Rfd1}$ Ne4? ($18... \text{Rfc8}$ $19. \text{Nd2}$
 Ne4 $20. \text{Nb3}$ $\text{Wg5!} =$ stopping f3,
 but I'm not sure if David would have found this move.) $19. \text{Ne1}$
 with a very typical way of re-rout-
 ing the knight and playing
 f3, thus securing white a decent
 advantage $19... \text{Rfc8}$ $20. \text{f3}$ Nf6
 $21. \text{e4}$ $\text{Wd8}\pm$.

18... Ne4 19. Wc2 f5

$19... \text{b3!}$ $20. \text{We2}$ $\text{Rfb8}\mp$ This
 was the line I was most wor-
 ried about, since here I can only
 blockade the pawns and there's

little chance of me actually win-
 ning them.

20. Ra4



20... Rfc8

$20... \text{f4!}$ $21. \text{Re1}$ Rf6 Black's at-
 tack is surprisingly strong since
 all his pieces are already on the
 kingside and doubling up on the
 f-file isn't too difficult to achieve.

21. Rca1 Rab8

$21... \text{e5}$ $22. \text{Rd1}$ Rd8 This is a
 nice move, essentially killing my
 pawn action in the centre since I
 can never take on e5 and Black
 is still threatening some un-
 pleasant f4 pushes.

22. Ne1 Rb5?!

This move is
 kind of silly since
 Nd3 easily stops
 any ... Nxc5 sac
 ideas.

23. Nd3

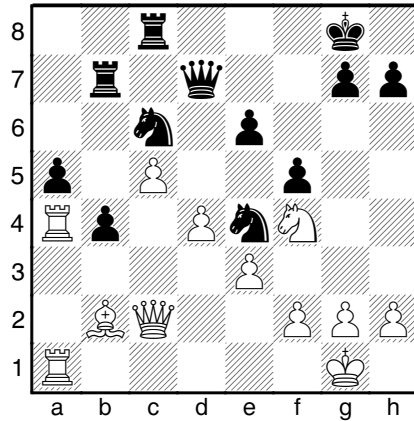
$23. \text{f3}$ Nxc5
 $24. \text{dxc5}$ Rxc5
 $25. \text{Wf2}$ I have to
 assume this was
 his idea since he
 does get some
 compensation
 here, but there's
 no need to com-
 plicate matters
 since I thought I

David Southam



was already better.

23...♖b7 24.♘f4 ♔d7



25.g4!?

This may not be the best move but I thought the psychological effect of a move like this would push my opponent to make worse moves than normal since it does look like I'm going to have a strong attack.

25.♔c4 ♖e8 26.f3 ♘f6 27.♖xa5 ♘xa5 28.♖xa5 ♔c6 was a fairly interesting exchange sacrifice, but I didn't like playing down material unless I have an outright attack.

25...b3 26.♔e2

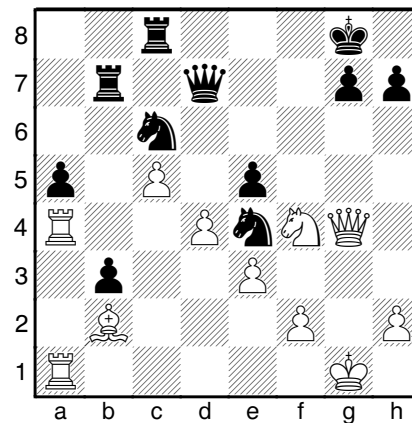
There were a number of interesting lines:

26.♔c4 fxc4 27.♔xe6+ (27.d5 exd5 28.♘xd5 I really wanted this to work, but White is just much worse if Black finds the saving ...♘d2 move: 28...♘d2 29.♘f6+ ♔h8 30.♘xd7 ♘xc4 31.♖xc4 ♖xd7 32.♖xg4; 27.♘xe6? ♘d2+ is even worse.) 27...♔xe6 28.♘xe6 ♘b4 29.♖xa5 ♘d3 30.♖a7 (30.d5 ♘xb2 31.c6 ♖bb8 this was too confusing to analyze.) 30...♖xa7 31.♖xa7 ♘xb2 32.♖xg7+ ♔h8 33.♖b7

Houdini thinks this is = but I really have no clue if we would get to this point.

26...♔f7

26...fxg4 27.♔xg4 e5



Apparently I'm just worse here since I'm forced to either take on

e5 after or allow him to take on d4:

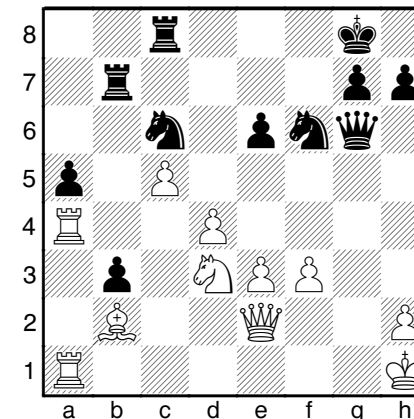
28.♔e6+ ♔xe6 29.♘xe6 exd4 30.exd4 ♘f6 31.♘f4 ♖d8 the blockade is too strong.

28.♔xd7 ♖xd7 29.dxe5 ♖d2 30.♖xe4 ♖xb2 31.e6 ♖b8, this is complicated but Black is much better: his two passed pawns are stronger than my pawn on e6 since it can be blockaded by his king.

27.gxf5 ♔xf5 28.f3 ♘f6

I still felt I was better but apparently Houdini thinks the position is close to equal since my pawn chain can be broken up at any time and his passed pawns are still strong as ever.

29.♘d3 ♔g6+ 30.♔h1

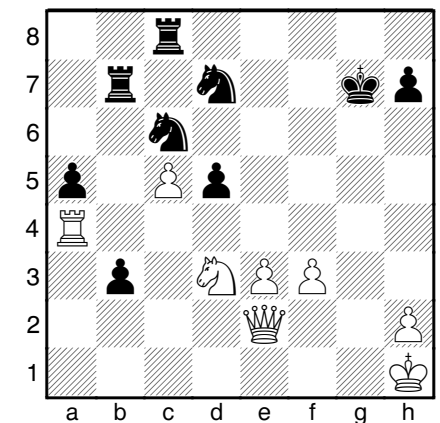


30...♘d7??

This was just a really unfortunate blunder but because he felt he was under a lot of pressure due to my g4 move (judging from his facial expressions), it's possible he just cracked under it all.

30...♔f7 31.♖g1 ♖f8 It's difficult to say who's better; probably equal chances for both sides but I like White since there's always a slim chance my bishop on b2 can be unleashed.

31.♖g1 ♔h6 32.d5!+- exd5 33.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 34.♔xg7 ♔xg7



Now there's a lot of ways to win but I completely messed it up due to being overconfident and



thinking I would mate in a few moves.

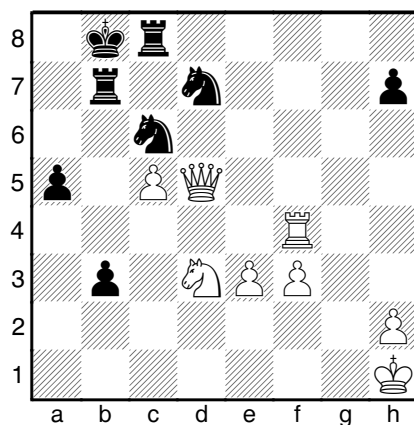
35. ♖g4+

35. ♖g4+ ♔f7 (35... ♔h8 36. ♖b2+ d4 37. exd4 ♔g8 38. d5+-)
36. ♖f4+ ♘f6 37. ♖g5+-.

35... ♔f7 36. ♖f4+ ♔e7 37. ♖g2 ♔d8 38. ♖g8+??

38. ♖f7! ♘e7 39. ♖g7 ♘g6
40. ♖g8+ ♔c7 41. ♖xd7+ ♔xd7
42. ♖xd5+ picking up the rook and ending the game.

38... ♔c7 39. ♖xd5 ♔b8



For some reason I thought either the knight on c6 or d7 would hang if he moves his king but yeah...

40. ♖a4??

40. ♖g4 ♖cc7 41. ♖g1 was the right way to blockade the pawn but I wanted to get the game over with.

40... ♖cc7??

40... b2 41. ♘xb2 ♖xb2 And here I thought I could take his knight (probably what he thought too) but... 42. ♖xd7? (♔42. ♖d6+ ♖c7 43. ♖h4±) 42... ♖d8-+ this would be a sad conclusion to this game.

41. ♖a1 ♖b5 42. ♔g2 a4?

Unfortunately, now that he missed his chance, it's difficult to push his pawns without dropping them.

43. ♖g8+ ♖c8 44. ♖c4

Followed by picking up both pawns.

1-0

Notes by IM Bindi Cheng

Yuan, Yuanling (2331)

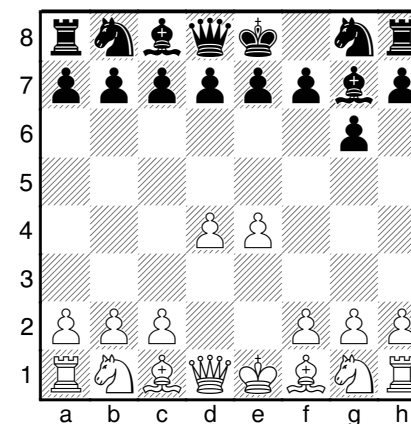
Cheng, Bindi (2509)

B06

Ontario Open Toronto (2),
17.05.2014

Last time I played Yuanling, we played a sharp Najdorf in which I was much worse and had to trick her into a drawn ending. I wanted to avoid all kinds of theory the second time through.

1. e4 g6 2. d4 ♖g7



3. f4?!

3. ♘c3 was more accurate, giving her the option to go f4 the turn after, since ...c5 would not be as strong with the pawn on f2 protecting her king.

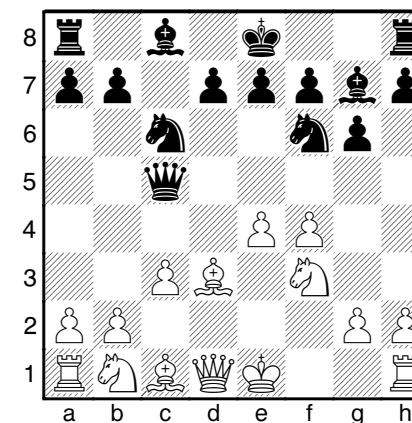
3. ♘c3 c5 4. dxc5 ♖xc3+ (I remember going through some games in blitz where I didn't

take on c3 after going ...c5, this is what might happen in the worst case scenario: 4... ♖a5?! 5. ♖d2 ♖xc5 6. ♘d5 ♘a6 7. ♖e3 ♖c6 8. ♘f3) 5. bxc3 ♖a5, apparently there's some theory here... but I was not a good student in school.

3... c5 4. dxc5 ♖a5+ 5. c3 ♖xc5 6. ♘f3 ♘c6

6... d6 I should go ...d6 before developing my knights, which I will do so next time I encounter this variation.

7. ♖d3 ♘f6?!



8. ♖e2

8. e5 ♘d5? (8... ♘g4 9. ♖e2 0-0 10. h3 ♘h6 11. ♖e3 ♖a5 12. ♘bd2 d6 13. exd6 exd6 14. ♘b3 ♖c7



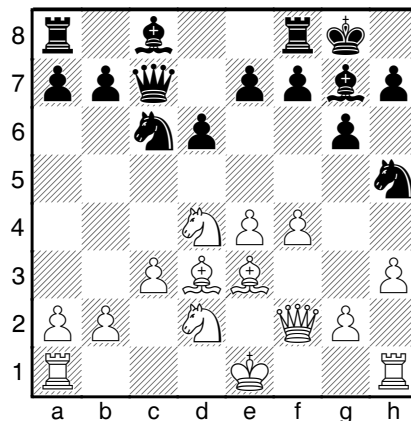
Chess Canada
May 2014

15.0-0 ♖f5 16.♗f2 would be what I was intending to play into, although White has a slight advantage here due to my isolated d-pawn.) 9.b4! ♖b6 10.b5 ♘a5 11.c4 ♘c7 I would be very unhappy if I reached this position in a real game.

8...0-0 9.♗e3 ♖a5 10.♘bd2 ♖c7 11.♘d4

So now I have to play ...d6.

11...d6 12.h3 ♘h5 13.♖f2



13...e5

13...♘xd4 14.cxd4 e5 15.fxe5
(15.dxe5 dxe5 16.f5 ♘f4 17.♗f1
♖c2 18.g3 ♘d3+ 19.♗xd3 ♖xd3

20.g4 b6 White's in a lot of trouble here, her attack is going nowhere and my light-squared bishop is going to be a god.) 15...dxe5 16.d5 ♘f4 17.♗xf4 (17.♗f1 ♖c2 18.g3 ♘d3+ 19.♗xd3 ♖xd3 20.♖e2 ♖xe2+ 21.♗xe2 f5 I wasn't sure how to evaluate this position.) 17...exf4 18.0-0 ♗xb2 19.♖ad1 ♗d7 I thought White has some compensation due to her rolling pawns in the centre but again, wasn't sure how to evaluate this.

14.♘b5?!

A bit of an inaccuracy, especially considering what happened afterwards as now my queen gets to go where she wanted in the first place.

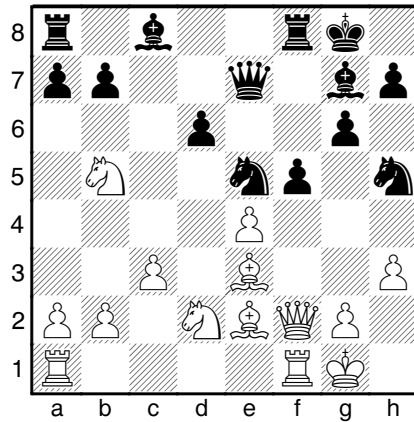
14.fxe5 ♘xe5 15.♗c2 b6 Here the knight doesn't have to move from the strong square on d4 and the bishop stays on c2, stopping ...f5 as well. Compare this to what happens in the game.

Macedonian Community Centre, wedding music not pictured.



14...♔e7 15.fxe5?! ♘xe5
16.♙e2 f5 17.0-0

Not 17.♙xh5?? ♘d3+-+.



At this point I fell into a deep think since I have two appetizing moves: one wins the pawn on e4 and the other goes for a dubious-looking but threatening attack.

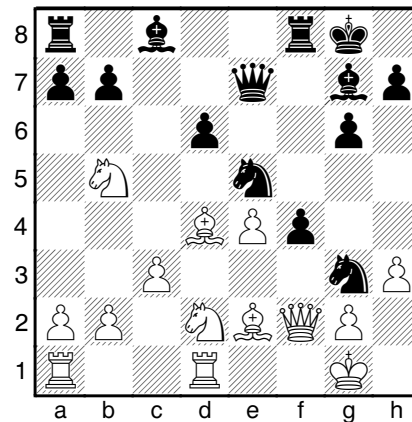
17...f4!?

17...fxe4 18.♖e1 ♖xf1+ 19.♘xf1 a6 20.♘d4 ♘f6 I felt Black was better here, but I didn't want to give her a chance to attack, and felt that she would be more uncomfortable defending with even material rather than attacking a pawn down.

18.♙d4

18.♙xa7 was interesting, but only if she sacs the exchange: 18...♘g3 19.♖fe1 (19.a4! ♘xf1 20.♖xf1 White has some comp.) 19...♘xe2+ 20.♖xe2 ♙xh3 21.gxh3 f3 22.♖h2 ♖g5+ 23.♔h1 ♘d3 24.♖f1 ♖xb5-+ something like this could happen if she decides to keep the exchange and win a7.

18...♘g3 19.♖fd1

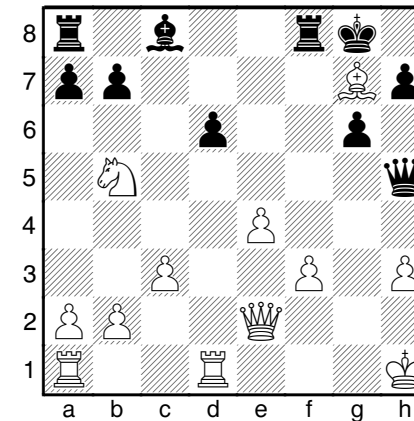


19...♘xe2+?!

19...a6! was a very important intermezzo as it forces the knight to a worse square on a3 rather than the dominant one on b5: 20.♙xe5 (20.♘a3 b5 21.♘c2 ♙b7♣) 20...dxe5 21.♘a3 ♘xe2+ 22.♖xe2 ♙e6 23.♘c2♣.

So here I decided to go into a forcing line that looked like it was good, but I wasn't sure. I decided to fully trust my intuition in this game.

20.♖xe2 f3 21.♘xf3 ♘xf3+
22.gxf3 ♖g5+ 23.♔h1 ♖h5
24.♙xg7

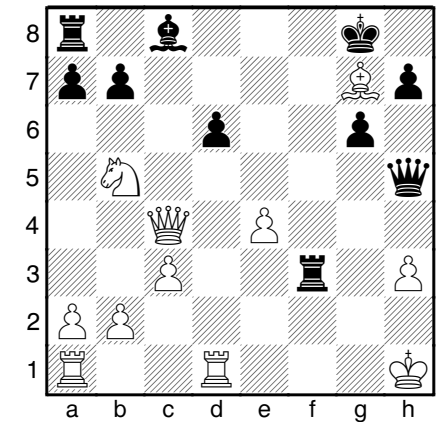


24...♖xf3!

A nice intermezzo that should be good for a transition into a better endgame or winning position.

24...♔xg7 25.♘d4 ♙xh3 26.♖d2 I probably should have paid more attention to this line, but I thought ♘d4 gave White better defending chances.

25.♖c4+



25...♔xg7

There are a couple lines here that I could have played, but I was so excited by my ...♖xf3 move that I didn't look at anything else.

25...♙e6!! 26.♖xe6+ ♔xg7
27.♔g2 ♖af8 28.♘d6 ♖f2+
29.♔g1 ♖g5+ 30.♖g4 ♖e5
31.♘f5+ ♖8xf5 32.♖d7+ ♔g8
33.♖d8+ ♔f7-+. Apparently this long line is winning (according to Houdini) but I was lazy and didn't bother calculating.

25...♖f7! 26.♖f1 (26.♙d4 ♖xh3+ 27.♔g1 ♖g4+ 28.♔h1 ♙e6 29.♖d3 ♖f3-+) 26...♖xh3+ 27.♔g1 ♙e6 28.♖e2 ♔xg7



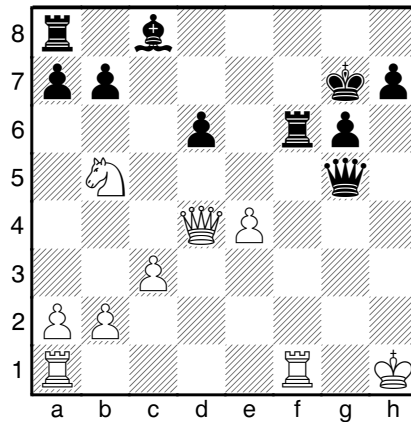
29. ♖xf7+ ♜xf7 30. ♔f2 ♜f8
31. ♜f1 ♔g4+ 32. ♔g2 ♔h5.

Again, I was too bull-headed to consider other opportunities and thought my move was winning by force.

26. ♔d4+ ♜f6 27. ♜f1

The following continuation is basically forced.

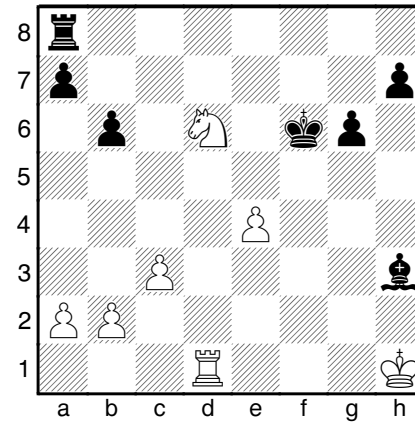
27... ♔xh3+ 28. ♔g1 ♔g3+
29. ♔h1 ♔h4+ 30. ♔g1 ♔g5+
31. ♔h1



31... ♜h3

31... ♔e5?! 32. ♜xf6 ♔xf6
33. ♘xd6 Since White doesn't have to take on e5 I'll be obliged to capture on d4 and give her connected pawns in the centre.

32. ♔xf6+ ♔xf6 33. ♜xf6 ♔xf6
34. ♘xd6 b6 35. ♜d1



At this point I wasn't too surprised that all I got was a better ending, but was a little disappointed I didn't get to checkmate my opponent.

There are plenty of options here, but one thing is for sure: I have to activate my pieces and prevent my opponent from activating hers.

35... ♔e7

35... ♜e6:

A) 36. ♘b5 ♜xa2 (36... ♔e5
37. ♘c7 ♜f8 38. ♘xe6 ♔xe6
Rook endings are mostly drawn, I didn't have as much faith in this as with the minor pieces on.) 37. ♜d7 I was reluc-

tant to allow her rook into my base and so rejected this line.

B) 36. b3 ♔e5 37. c4 this would be my dream position, but I had faith that my opponent wouldn't go down quietly.

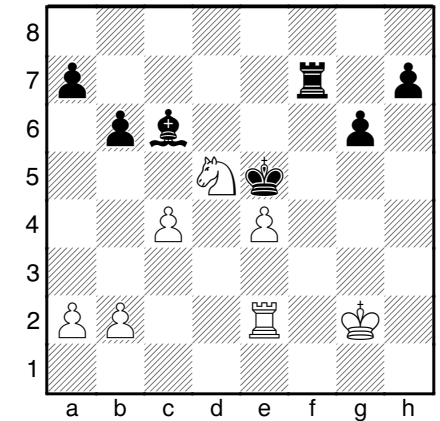
36. ♘b5 ♜f8!

Even though there are plenty of other moves possible, the thought of sacrificing a pawn to activate my rook would never have occurred to me before reading *Endgame Strategy* by Shereshevsky as recommended by Raja.

37. ♜d2

37. ♘xa7 ♜f2 38. ♘c6+ ♔e6 I'll get my pawn back and maintain a threatening rook and bishop combo against her king. I found out that activity is more important than anything in endings, even pawns at times.

37... ♜d7 38. ♘c7 ♜c6 39. ♔h2
♜f3 40. ♘d5+ ♔e6 41. ♔g2 ♜f7
42. c4 ♔e5 43. ♜e2

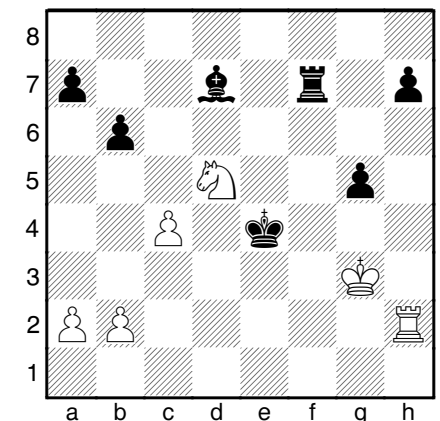


I got my dream position.

43... ♔g5 44. ♔g3 ♜d7?!

44... h5 45. ♜h2 h4+ 46. ♔g4 ♜g7
This was what I was afraid of but apparently after I play ... ♜d7, my pawns are too strong for her to handle.

45. ♜h2 ♔xe4



46. ♖xh7??

This was the line we *both* calculated, but it is *just plain losing*. Much more challenging would be the following variations:

46. ♖h6 ♔d4 47. b3 b5 48. ♗f6 bxc4 49. ♗xd7 ♖xd7 50. bxc4 ♔xc4 51. ♔g4 ♖g7 I don't know if this is winning for Black... maybe someone with better endgame skills than me could verify?

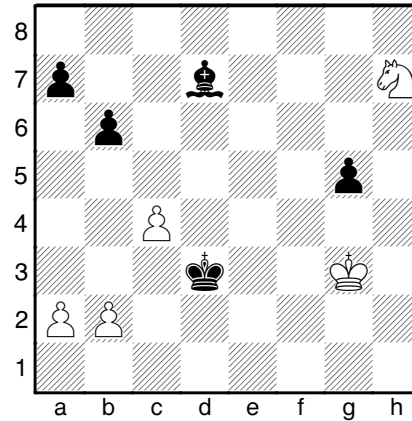
46. b3 ♔d4 47. ♖h5 g4 48. ♗f4 ♣ In any case, White doesn't have to go into such a forcing line and can transition into a blocking position where Black still has to show technique – something that is a rarity these days.

46... ♖xh7 47. ♗f6+ ♔d3?

Making life difficult for myself. Much easier was: 47... ♔f5 48. ♗xh7 ♕c8 followed by ... ♔g6-

g7 and trapping the knight.

48. ♗xh7



48... ♔c2

I'm sure there's more than one way to win but accuracy is still important.

49. b4 ♔c3 50. c5

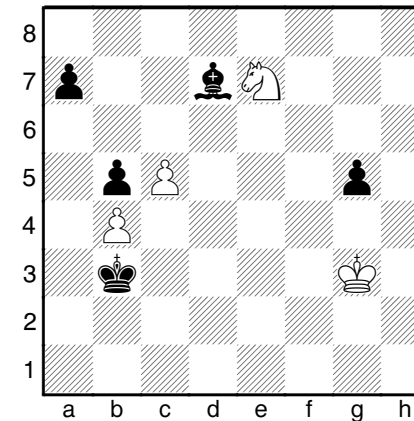
50. ♗f6 ♕e6 51. c5 ♔xb4 52. cxb6 axb6 and because I keep g5,

she can't just sac her knight on b6 and expect to draw.

50... b5!

50... ♔xb4 51. cxb6 axb6 52. ♗xg5 this would be the draw I mentioned in the previous note, since after taking g5 White will just sac on b6.

51. a3 ♔b3 52. ♗f6 ♕e6
53. ♗e8 ♔xa3 54. ♗c7 ♕d7
55. ♗d5 ♔b3 56. ♗e7



56... ♔xb4 57. c6 ♕e6 58. c7 ♔c5 59. c8 ♖+ ♕xc8 60. ♗xc8

The ♗ has no way back.

60... b4 61. ♗e7 b3

I didn't play the best in this game as I overlooked a number of better variations, but because I was relying fully on my intuition I rejected most other moves that I felt were too confusing to analyze and simplified into a position I could understand better.

0-1

Thanks

Bryan Lamb who stepped in late to organize the event.

Photos

Egis Zeromskis



The **Open de Sherbrooke** was held May 23-25, 2014. It attracted 48 players in three sections.

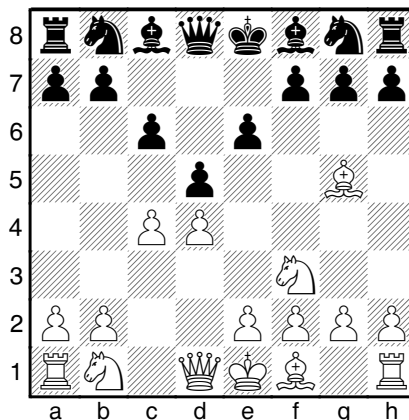
Francis Durette won the C- section with 4½/5.

Quebec juniors **Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux** and **Malli-Jade Ouellet** tied for first in the B-section with 4/5; with SRL gaining 80 rating pts!

IM Jean Hébert lived up to his status as top seed, winning 5/5. Jean chose this win against the clear second-place finisher as his most interesting of the event.

Notes by IM Jean Hébert
Larochelle, Martial (2188)
Hébert, Jean (2439)
D52
Open de Sherbrooke (3),
24.05.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 e6
4.♙g5



I was aiming at 4.e3 f5 with a Stonewall formation in a rather favourable set-up (e2-e3 instead of g2-g3). The move chosen by Martial forces me into a Queen's Gambit in which I have limited theoretical knowledge. This time things turned out alright anyway.

4...♘f6
4...♙a5+ 5.♙d2 ♖d8 is not particularly bad if Black is content with an early repetition.

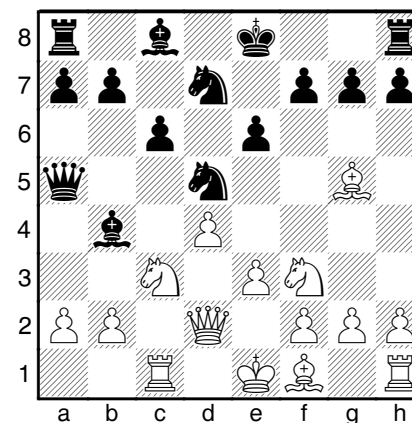
5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♘c3 ♙a5
The Cambridge Springs defense, which attempts to get something out of the pinned ♘c3. The second most common move is: 6...♙e7 transposing to the classical Queen's gambit

declined, which to this day is still a reliable defense.

7.cxd5
The other main line is: 7.♘d2 ♙b4 8.♙c2 0-0 9.♙e2 and then Black can break out with either 9...e5 or 9...c5.

7...♘xd5
7...exd5 is also playable and after 8.♙d3 ♘e4 White can defend with 9.♙c2 or sacrifice a pawn with 9.0-0.

8.♙d2 ♙b4 9.♖c1

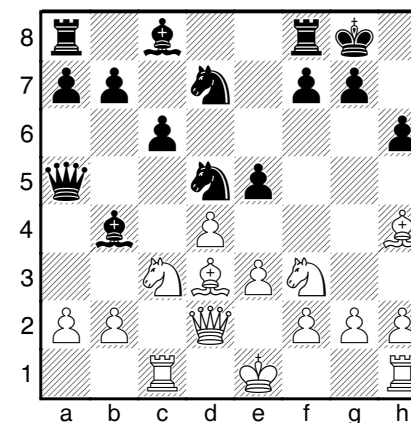


9...0-0
The database appears to speak in favor of an early ...c6-c5: 9...

h6 10.♙h4 c5 11.♙c4 cxd4 12.♙xd4 ♙xc3+ 13.bxc3 0-0 14.0-0 ♘5b6 15.♙b3± and White may be a bit better with his bishop pair and greater freedom. 15...♖e8 (1-0, 53) **Aronian, L – Shirov, A** Wijk aan Zee, 2011.

However there is nothing wrong with the text move. That is the advantage of going for main lines even if you don't master them that much. Generally, they contain enough secondary lines that are fully acceptable.

10.♙d3 h6 11.♙h4 e5



I saw no tactical reason to refrain from this liberating push which turns out to be the main



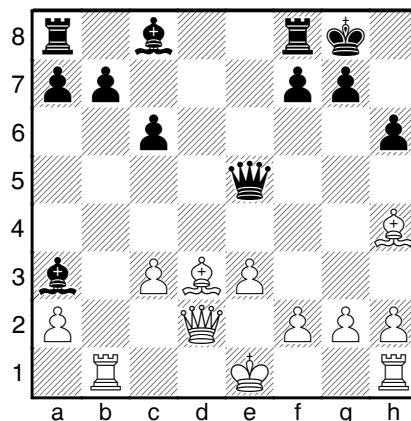
move here.

12.dxe5

This seems to give Black easy equality and even chances for a bit more.

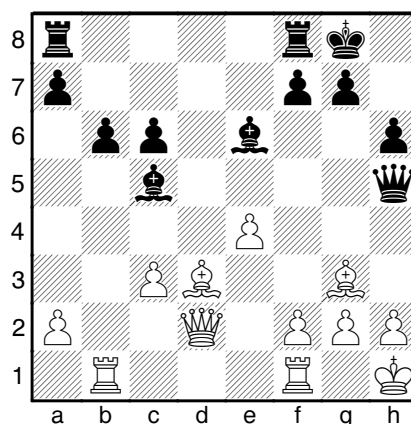
12.0-0 ♖e8 13.♔c2 exd4
14.♘xd5 ♕xd5 15.♘xd4 (White managed to win after 15.♖fd1 ♘e5 16.♙h7+ ♚h8 17.♘xe5 ♕xe5 18.♖xd4 ♙e7 19.♖cd1 ♙e6 20.♙xe7 ♖xe7 21.♙d3 (1-0, 68) Jobava (2566)–Gurevich, M (2641), Batumi 2002, but surely Black is OK now.) 15...♘b6 16.♖fd1 ♕h5 (16...♕xa2!?) 17.♙g3± ♙g4 18.f3 ♙d7 19.♕f2 ♙e7 20.♙b1 g6 (20...♙g5 21.♖e1 ♙f6 22.♕c2 g6=) 21.e4 c5 22.♘e2± and along with White's central superiority, Black's queen problems became significant in Moiseenko (2715)–Esen (2543) Khanty Mansiysk, 2011, (1-0, 30).

12...♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♙a3
14.♖b1 ♘xe5 15.♘xe5 ♕xe5



Black has the better pawn structure to compensate for White's central potential.

16.0-0 ♙c5 17.e4 b6 18.♚h1
♕h5 19.♙g3 ♙e6



20.♕c2

It turns out not to be so easy to push the central pawns: 20.f4? ♖fd8 21.♕c2 ♙g4! and Black can

quietly follow up by doubling on the d-file with pressure.

20...♖ad8 21.♖bd1 f6!

Intending ...♕f7 with pressure on the weak Q-side pawns.

22.♙e2

Something like: 22.f4 ♕f7 23.f5 ♙xa2 24.c4 would be refuted by 24...♖xd3! So the attack against ♙a2 turns out to be a real threat.

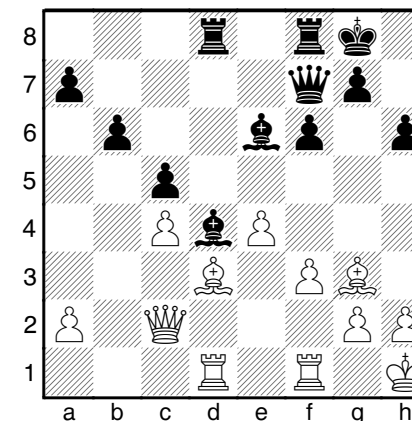
22...♕f7 23.c4

Giving up square d4 but there was no real choice.

23...♙d4

The question was: was it preferable to allow a pair of rooks to be traded first with 23...♖d4!? According to the engines the difference is hardly significant.

24.f3 c5 25.♙d3



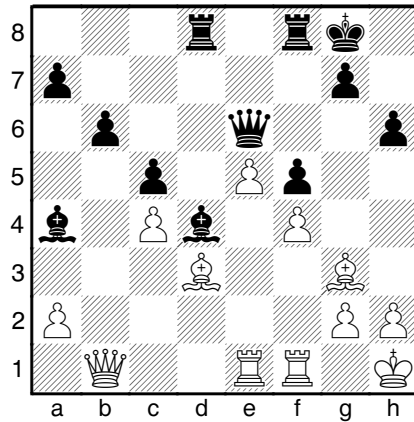
Black now stands clearly better strategically but how am I going to make progress? Of course there is the ...b6-b5 lever that is appealing at some point, but first I decided to soften White up a bit on the d-file by preparing the manoeuvre ...♙d7-a4.

25...♕e8 26.f4

Even if this has the appearance of activity, not sure it helps. White's ♙g3 stays more active with the pawn structure as it was. But then White would have had to find ways to defend passively which is always an unwelcome task.

26...♙d7 27.♖de1 ♙a4
28.♕b1 ♕e6 29.e5 f5





Now White's activity stands on the g2-g4 break, not an easy task to achieve favourably.

30. ♙f2

During the game I thought that 30. ♙h4 was a better idea, followed by h3, ♖h2 and eventually g2-g4. The fact is that I don't mind exchanging my ♙d4: it opens up the d-file and leaves me the d4-outpost for my rooks.

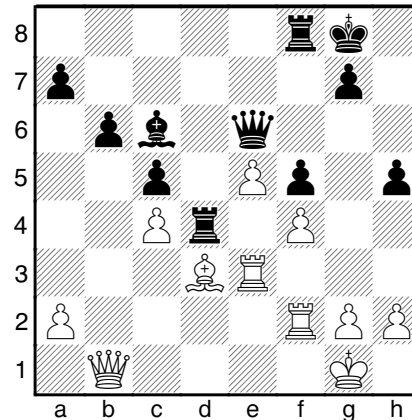
30... ♙xf2 31. ♖xf2 ♙c6 32. ♖g1 h5?!

This was hardly necessary. After 32... ♖d4 33.g4? ♙b7 White would suffer lethally on the long white diagonal.

33. ♖e3

33. ♙e2!? h4 34. ♖d1 and Black is contained in his d-file ambitions.

33... ♖d4



34. h3

Sticking to his active, aggressive plan of pushing the g-pawn.

A better way was to simply defend against the effects of the doubled black rooks on the d-file: 34. ♙e2 g6 35.a4!? ♖fd8 36. ♖a3 ♙e4 37. ♗b3 and even though White's position appears prospectless, it remains a tough nut to crack.

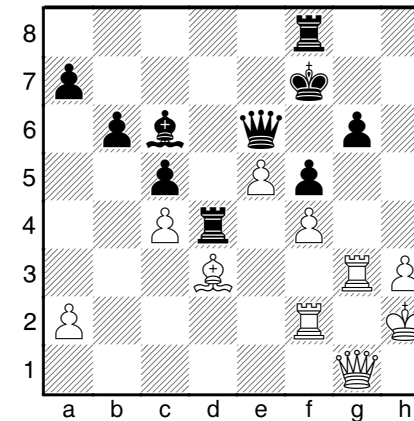
34... h4 35. ♖h2 g6 36. g3

Achieving the plan only creates more weaknesses in White's position.

36... h×g3+ 37. ♖×g3 ♖f7

The idea being ... ♖h8-h4, hitting the now vulnerable f4-pawn.

38. ♗g1



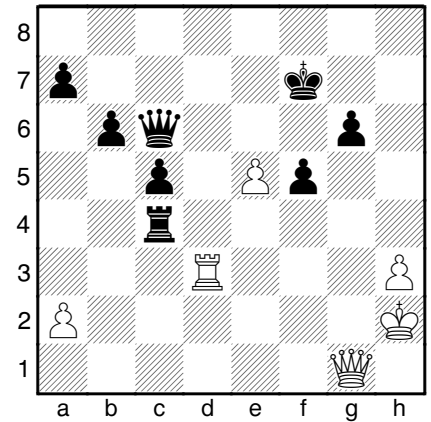
38... ♖h8

The stunning 38...g5! as found by the engines is even stronger, since 39. ♖×g5 ♖xd3 40. ♖g7+ ♖e8 leads to no compensation for the piece.

39. ♙f1?

This shortens White's suffering, since now the f4 pawn is undefendable.

39... ♖h4 40. ♙g2 ♖hxf4 41. ♖xf4 ♖xf4 42. ♙xc6 ♗xc6 43. ♖d3 ♖xc4



44. ♗d1

44. ♖d6 ♖c2+ 45. ♖g3 ♗e4 wins quickly.

44... ♖d4

There are other winning moves but this is a good practical decision.

45. ♖xd4 cxd4 46. ♗xd4 ♖e6 47. ♗d8 ♖xe5 48. ♗e7+ ♖f4 49. ♗h4+ ♖f3 50. ♗g3+ ♖e2

0-1

Link

Crosstable

<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/cotes/tournois/id/4660/10495>





TORO (Le Tournoi Ouvert Régional de l'Outaouais) continues its momentum: the ninth tournament of the Tour du Québec took place June 6-8 June in Gatineau, as always in the magnificent Salle des Fêtes de la Maison du Citoyen.

This year's competition attracted 84 highly motivated participants, divided into three sections to give everyone a fair shot at the big pile of beautiful greenbacks: a **guaranteed prize fund of \$5000**.

I managed to retain the services of the same duo of competent referees of the previous edition of TORO: National Arbiter Jean-Roger Boutin, and Major Régis Bellemare. They worked well, posting the correct pairings on time, and there were no unpleasant disputes or incidents.

This year we also had the Gatineau

room, which gave us more space for the U1500 section, and the Mont-Bleu dining room for analysis, which was equipped with two oversized chess sets and twelve regular sets. The Fontaine room belonged to the tournament directors, and the adjacent cafeteria was available at all times. Like last year, all the necessary equipment was provided, including the DGT North American clocks (all pre-programmed for G/90 + 30), and a rule prohibiting drawn games by mutual agreement before the thirtieth move.



Passion and Order, Bellemare, Boutin, Laurin

Open Section

At the head of the competitors there was Canadian Champion GM Bator Sambuev of Montreal, as well as IM Jean Hébert of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu. They were surrounded by many National Masters: John Upper (Gatineau), Nikita Kraiouchkine (Montreal), and Ontarians Joey Qin, Ramon J. Cova, Miladin Djerkovic, Robert Gelblum and the 14-year-old young rising star Qiyu Zhou, who was recently selected for the 2014 Canadian Olympic Team.

Things got tough in the third round for Jean Hébert. He was upset by Joey Qin, whose loss in the subsequent round to Bator seemed to open the door to reserve Sambuev his usual solo first-place finish. But Jean had not said *his* last word, and once again faced his long-standing adversary in the final round. A mistake by Bator in the early game forced him to play on his heels just trying to equalize... but Jean converted his advantage to enjoy a

victory that created a **three-way tie for first place** between **Hébert, Qin and Sambuev**, who each went home with \$600. Gelblum, Upper, and the talented Qiyu Zhou each pocketed \$67 for sharing fourth, and Montreal expert Felix Dumont grabbed the \$125 awarded to the best player under 2100.

In the **U1900**, **David Gunapalan** (Montreal) and **Guillaume Mathieu** (la Montérégie) fought a great battle in the final round which resulted in them splitting the point to finish undefeated and tied for first with 4½/5. This fine run earned each a check for \$575. They were followed by Radoslav Guentchev (la Montérégie), and David Fei and Terrence Ju (both Ottawa), who finished with 4 points, each collecting \$134. Joel Lecorre (Ottawa) and Daniel Raymond (Gatineau) finished half a point behind and split the \$100 for best U1700.

In the **U1500**, **Yanick Lépine** (la Montérégie) and **Lucas Bernatchez** (Levis) were unbeatable, and finished with 4½/5 to win \$425 each. They outpaced Sam Marin (Ottawa)

wa) and Richard Gunn (Montreal) by half a point, and who had to be content with \$150. **Milan Soskic** (Sherbrooke) won \$75 for the top **U1300**.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the chess players who were part of the 2014 edition of TORO for coming here and for their fair play; I hope to see you all again next year. A big thank you to Jean-Roger Boutin and Major Régis Bellemare for their excellent work as referees! Congratulations to all the winners for their good performance!

A big big thank you to the City of Gatineau, which allowed us to use the Maison du Citoyen and its various rooms for our big tournament. It is an inspiring place, and made-to-measure for any (inevitable!?) expansion while providing optimal conditions for games in a dream setting. We're building a reputation in the Tour of Quebec by offering players the chance to live their chess passion in such a fine environment.

Bravo to Madame Karine Bujold,

logistics technician at the Maison du Citoyen for a flawless job and all the staff involved in the smooth running of TORO for their excellent service.

Thank you to Gilles G. Jobin, Pierre Traversy and Fabien Gagnon for converting the carbons to PGN. See you next year!

Marcel Laurin



Notes by Keith MacKinnon

Sambuev, Bator (2695) Kraiouckine, Nikita (2339)

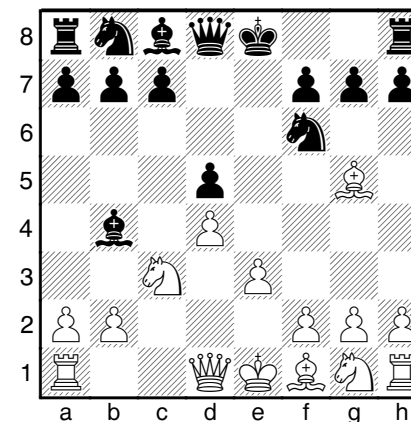
D35

TORO 2014 (Open) Gatineau (3),
07.06.2014

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5
4.♙g5 ♗b4 5.cxd5 exd5

The exchange variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined.

6.e3



6...c5

6...♘bd7 7.♗f3 c5 8.♙d3 ♖a5
9.♖c2 c4 10.♙f5 main line, but
White's results aren't great.

7.♙b5+

Staying away from the transpo-

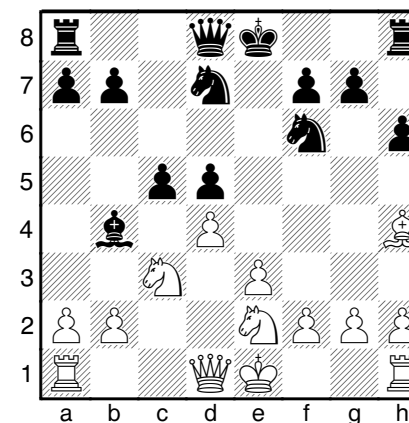
sition back into the main line that would arise after 7.♗f3.

7.dxc5 is somewhat tempting also – especially if you enjoy playing against isolated queen pawns.

7...♙d7 8.♙xd7+ ♘bxd7
9.♗ge2 h6

9...♖a5 10.♙xf6 ♘xf6 11.dxc5.

10.♙h4



10...♖b6N

10...c4 11.0-0 ♖a5 12.a3 ♙xc3
13.bxc3 0-0 14.♖c2 ♗fe8
15.♗fb1 ♖a6 16.♖b2 b6 17.♙xf6
♘xf6= but eventually (1-0, 41)
Zhou Jianchao (2660)–Lu,S
(2456) Tianjin, 2011.



11.0-0

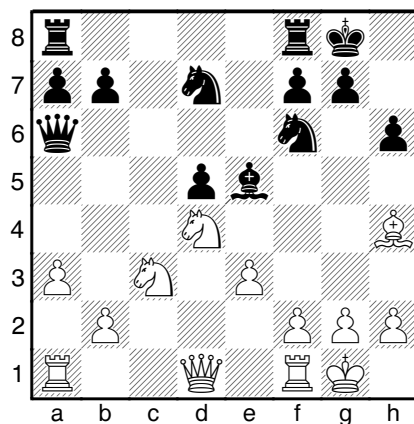
11.dxc5 ♖xc5 12.0-0 0-0

13.♖c1±.

11...cxd4 12.♘a4 ♖a6

13.♘xd4 0-0 14.a3 ♙d6

15.♘c3 ♙e5



16.♙g3

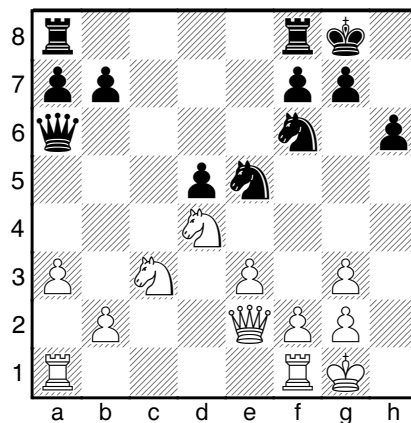
16.f4 looks interesting at first, but Black gets good play: 16...♙xd4 17.♖xd4 ♖fe8 18.♖fe1 ♖ac8, and now:

A) 19.♘xd5 ♖c4 (19...♘xd5 20.♖xd5 ♘b6 21.♖d4 ♖c2=).

B) 19.♖ad1 ♖c4 20.♖d3 ♘c5 21.♖e2 ♘ce4=.

16...♙xg3 17.hxg3 ♘e5

18.♖e2



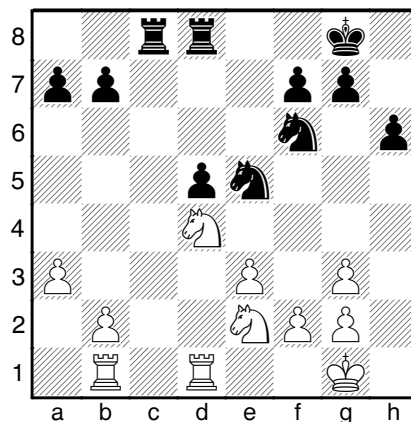
Isolated pawns are often a bigger disadvantage in the end-game, so it is logical that Bartor would seek to exchange Queens.

18...♖xe2 19.♘ce2

19.♘dx2 ♘c4=.

19...♖fd8 20.♖fd1 ♖ac8

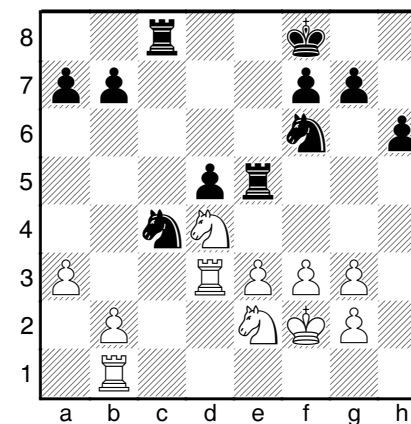
21.♖ab1



Black has full equality, so it will be interesting to see how the game develops from this point onward.

21...♖f8 22.f3 ♘c4 23.♖f2

♖e8 24.♖d3 ♖e5



25.b3

25.♖c1 ♖ee8 26.♖dc3 ♘d6 27.♖xc8 ♖xc8 28.g4 and White will be the one playing for the win due to Black's pawn on d5, but the draw should be easily attainable.

25...♘d6

The pawn is immune: 25...♘xa3 26.♖a1 ♘c2 27.♖c1+-.

26.g4 ♖e7 27.♖c1

Exchanging one pair of rooks may make Black's defensive task more difficult.

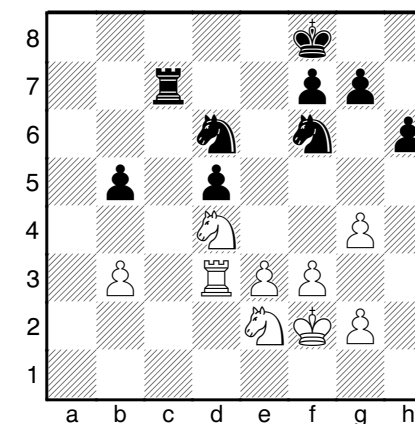
27...♖xc1 28.♘xc1 ♖c7

29.♘ce2 a6 30.a4 b5

30...g6 31.♖e1 ♖c8 32.♖d1 ♖g7

33.♘f4±.

31.axb5 axb5



32.♖d2?!

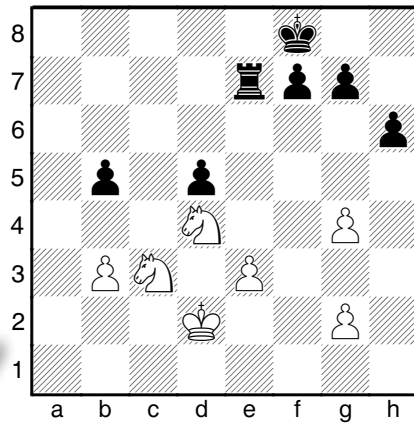
32.♖d1 would have been a lot cleaner. Black would have had a very difficult defensive task ahead: 32...♖a7 33.♖c1 ♖a2 34.♖c2 ♖a5 35.♘f4 g6 36.♘d3±.

32...♘xg4+ 33.fxg4 ♘e4+

34.♖e1 ♘xd2 35.♖xd2 ♖e7

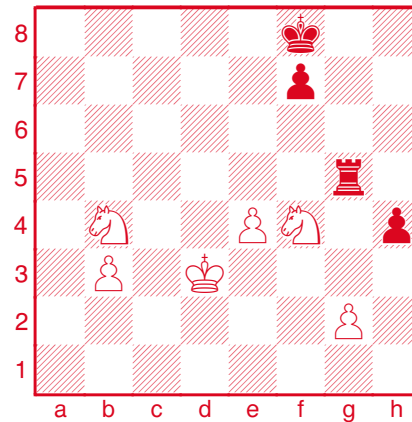
36.♘c3



**42. ♖c6**

There were easier ways to go about the win, but this does the trick.

42.g3 (preparing to play ♖d5 and take b4) 42...♔e8 43.♖d5 ♖g5 44.♖f5+.

42... ♖g5 43. ♖xb4 h4

Do you see the threat?

44. ♔e2

The only winning move!

44.♖bd5? ♖xg2!= the rook is immune as Knights are really bad at defending against outside passers: 45.♖xg2 (45.b4[∞]) 45...h3 46.♖gf4 h2 47.e5 h1♔ 48.e6=, when the only surprise

is that White isn't lost even here.

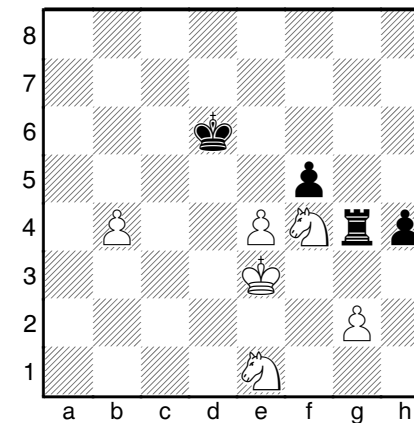
44... ♖g3

44...♖xg2+ 45.♖xg2 h3 46.♖d3□ (this is why 44.♔e2 wins) 46...h2 47.♖f2+-.

45. ♖bd3

White confidently converts his advantage from here on out.

45...f6 46.♔d2 ♔e8 47.♔c3 ♔d7 48.♔d4 ♔d6 49.b4 ♖g5 50.♖e1 ♖g4 51.♔e3 f5



52.exf5 ♔e5 53.♖ed3+ ♔xf5 54.b5 ♖g8 55.♔d4 ♔f6 56.b6 ♔e7 57.♔d5 ♔d8 58.♔c6 ♖h8 59.♖c5 ♖h6+ 60.♖fe6+

1-0

Notes by Joey Qin

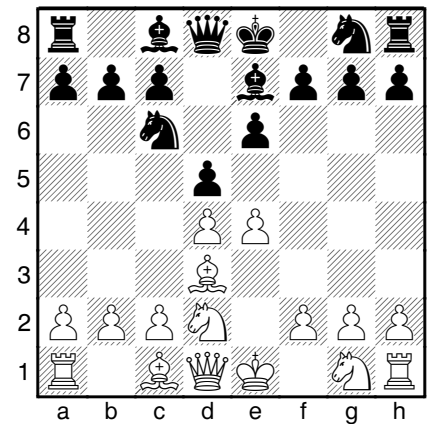
Qin, Joey (2431)

Hébert, Jean (2446)

C03

TORO 2014 (Open) Gatineau (3), 07.06.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♖d2 ♔e7 4.♔d3 ♖c6



This is a slightly awkward move with the bishop already on e7. After ♖gf3, White has an advantage in all transposing lines.

5.c3?!

∞5.♖gf3 ♖f6 (5...♖b4 6.♔e2 c5 7.dxc5) 6.e5 ♖d7 7.c3.

5...dxe4 6. ♖xe4 e5=

With this break Black obtains an

36...b4

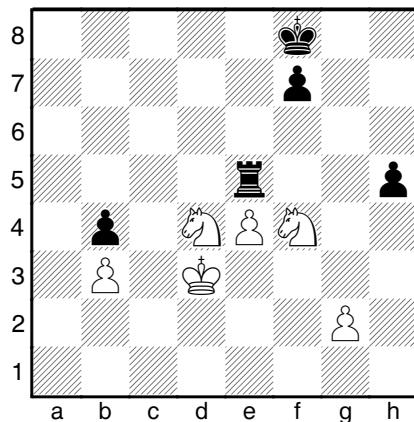
36...♖e5 37.♔e2 the b5 pawn isn't going anywhere, and this way, he can defend g4 on ...♖g5.

37. ♖xd5 ♖e4 38. ♖f4 g6

38...g5 39.♔d3±.

39. ♔d3 ♖e5 40.e4 h5

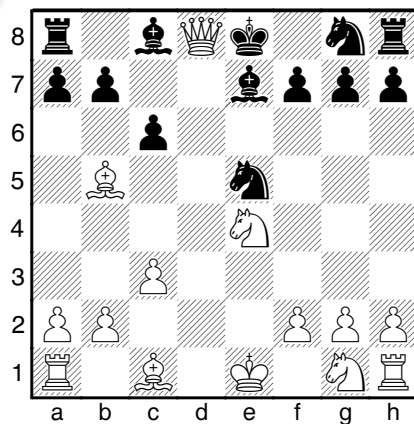
41.gxh5 gxh5



equal position.

7.dxe5 ♘xe5 8.♔b5+ c6
8...♔d7 9.♖d5.

9.♖xd8+



9...♔xd8

9...♔xd8 10.♔e2 Were the Black bishop on e7 (defending against ♘d6+) it would be a symmetrical position where Black is a tempo up. However with the bishop on d8, White gets in ♔f4, threatening the ♘e5 and ♘d6+. 10...♔e7 11.♔f4.

10.♔e2 ♘f6 11.♘g5

An attempt to keep some pieces and utilize the positioning of the Black king. If 11.♘xf6 ♔xf6



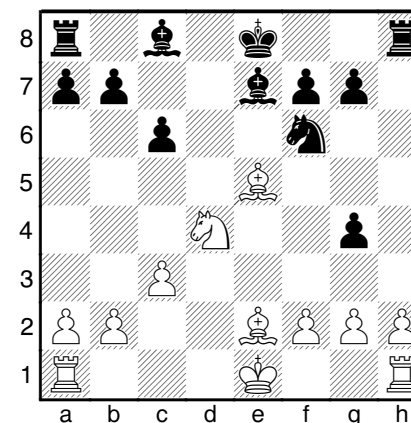
Dramatic Black Curtains and Jumbo Pieces, Qin-Hebert.

12.♔f4 ♔e6=.

11...h6 12.♔f4 hxg5 13.♔xe5
♔e8

13...g4!? 14.♔c4 ♔e8 15.♘e2=.

14.♘f3 g4 15.♘d4



White has some pressure here, planning 0-0-0 and ♖he1 to target the Black king.

15...a6 16.0-0-0

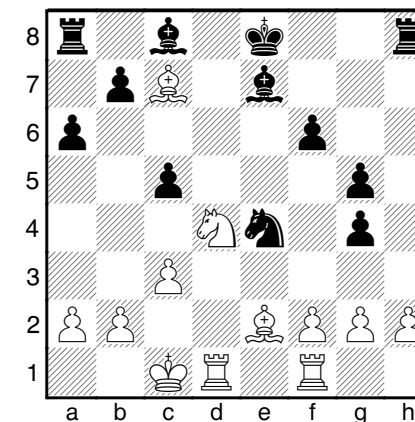
16.f3! This is more of a test, opening up the position to White's advantage; e.g. 16...c5 17.♘c2 and ♘e3.

16...♘e4 17.♖hf1 f6

17...♔g5+ 18.♔c2 c5 19.♔d3±.

17...c5 18.♔d3 ♘xc3 19.bxc3
cxd4 20.cxd4=.

18.♔f4 g5 19.♔c7 c5



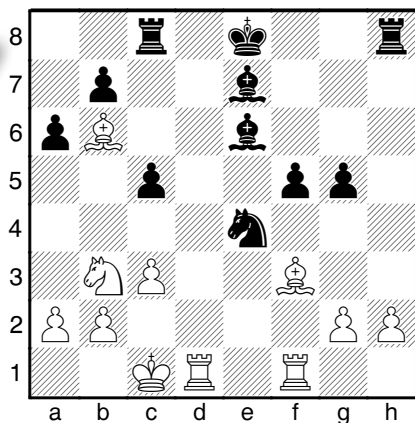
20.♘b3?!

It seems as though Black's knight is in some trouble, but he can use the bad placement of



the White bishop on c7: 20. ♖d3
 ♗xc3 21. bxc3 cxd4 22. ♖fe1±.

20... ♖e6! 21. f3 ♖c8 22. ♖b6
 gxf3 23. ♖xf3 f5



24. h3?

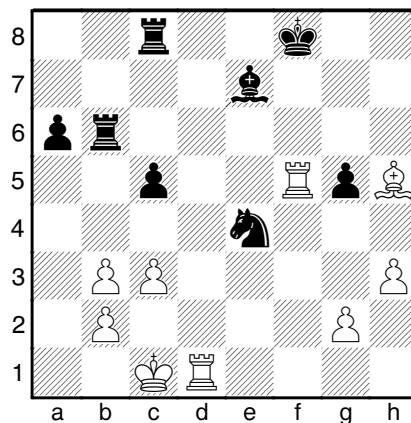
This is too passive and allows Black to trap the bishop on b6. White had to play actively with g4 and a complicated position: 24. g4 ♖xh2 25. gxf5 ♖xf5 26. ♖de1∞.

24... ♖xb3

Maybe it would have been better to play ... ♖h6 first and keep the threat there: 24... ♖h6 25. ♖a5 ♖c4 26. ♖fe1 b6♣.

25. axb3 ♖h6 26. ♖a5 b6

27. ♖xb6 ♖xb6 28. ♖h5+ ♖f8
 29. ♖xf5+



At first it seems that White is just down a piece for two pawns, but on second glance he has quite a bit of compensation: his pieces are more active with strong light square control and the Black pawns are isolated and weak. In addition, the Black pieces are not coordinated at the moment.

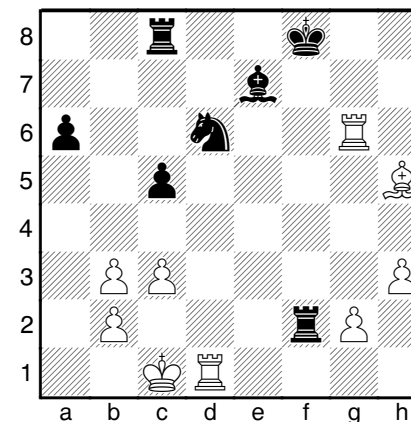
29... ♖f6

29... ♖f6 30. ♖d7.

30. ♖e5 ♖d6

30... ♖g3 31. ♖xg5 (31. ♖f3 ♖d6
 32. ♖ed5 ♖f4+ 33. ♖c2) 31... ♖xh5
 32. ♖xh5=.

31. ♖xg5 ♖f2 32. ♖g6



Black had around 8 minutes and White had 20. Although this position is equal, with the time difference, Black has a difficult task of defending.

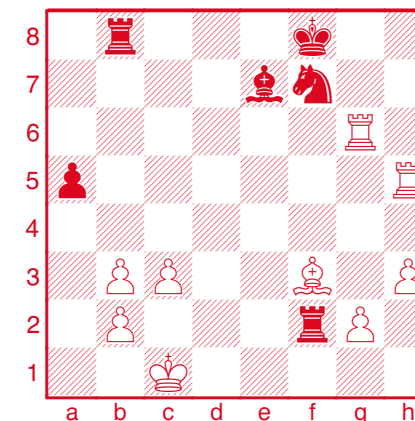
32... ♖d8 33. ♖f3 a5 34. ♖d5

(see photo) ♖b8?!
 ♖34... ♖f7=.

35. ♖xc5 ♖f7

35... ♖xb3?? 36. ♖d5+- threatens
 ♖g8# and ♖xb3.

36. ♖h5!?



Time Trouble = Trouble, in Qin-Hebert.



Complicating the position when Black is short of time.

Also good was: 36.♖xa5 ♖xb3
37.♖a8+ ♕d8 38.♖f6 ♖bxb2
39.♕h5 ♖xf6 40.♔xb2±.

36...♕d6?

A blunder but in any case Black's position is difficult and made worse by his time trouble.

36...♖xb3? 37.♕d5 ♖bxb2
38.♖h8+! ♖xh8 39.♖g8#.

36...♕g5+? 37.♖g5g5 ♖xg5
38.♖h8+-+.

36...♖e8 keeps Black alive.

37.♖xd6 ♖+- ♖xb3 38.♖d2

The simplest way to win.

38...♖xd2 39.♔xd2 ♖xb2+
40.♔c1 ♖a2 41.♖f5

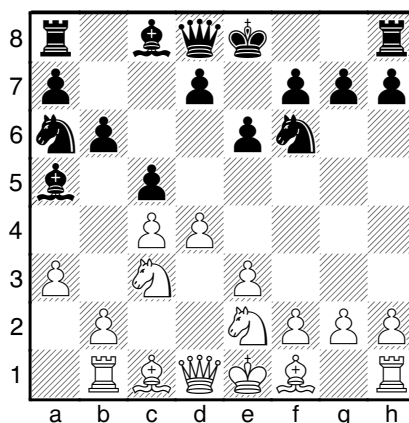
With the threats of ♖xf7 and ♕d5.

1-0

Notes by IM Jean Hébert Hébert, Jean (2446) Djerkovic, Miladin (2242) A10

TORO 2014 (Open) Gatineau (4),
08.06.2014

1.c4 ♖f6 2.♖c3 e6 3.d4 ♕b4
4.e3 c5 5.♖ge2 b6 6.a3 ♕a5
7.♖b1 ♖a6



8.♕d2

If I had been prepared for this line I most probably would have avoided this move that gives White just about 42%! Some other moves do a lot better.

8.g3 ♕b7 9.d5 looks dangerous as White is threatening to establish a bind in the center which

would be bad news for Black with his minor pieces stuck on the Q-side. Let us a bit further without turning this into an article on opening theory. Black must react energetically: 9... b5 (9...exd5 10.♕g2 0-0 11.0-0 ♕xc3 12.♖xc3 ♖c7 13.cxd5±) 10.♕g2 bxc4 11.0-0 0-0 12.e4 exd5 13.e5 (13.♖xd5!?) 13...♖g4 14.♕xd5 ♕c6 15.f4 and White to my judgment may have the more pleasant position.

8.f3 0-0 9.d5 exd5 10.cxd5 b5
11.♔f2 b4 12.♖b5 d6 with a complex struggle ahead, Aleksandrov (2591)–Milos (2633), Shenyang 2000, (0-1, 41).

8...♕b7

8...0-0 9.d5 exd5 10.cxd5 ♕b7
11.♖f4 ♕xc3 12.♕xc3 ♖e4 led after 13.♕d3 to a rather unclear position in Harikrishna (2673)–Ivanisevic (2588) Reykjavik 2006, (½-½, 29). White however had the improvement 13.♕xg7!? ♔xg7 14.♕xa6 ♕xa6 15.♖a4 ♖xf2 16.♔xf2 ♕c8±.

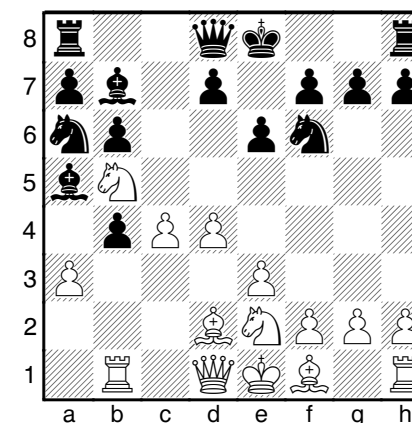
9.f3

Unusual even if somewhat logi-

cal in this particular position. In the line: 9.♖g3 0-0 10.d5 White might develop nicely without f2-f3 which would be an improvement.

During the game, looking for a way to exploit ♕d2, I looked for a while at 9.b4!? cxb4 10.♖b5 which amounts to an attempt at refuting Black's setup:

Analysis Diagram



I finally rejected it mostly on the basis that this theoretical position should not contain a refutation. I also looked at some concrete moves like 10...♖e4 (10...♖e7!? 11.axb4 ♖xb4 12.♖b3 ♖a6 13.♕xa5 bxa5 is unclear.) 11.axb4 ♖h4? 12.♖g3± which is actually pretty good for White. But in this line I missed the real moves that makes the whole idea nothing special and

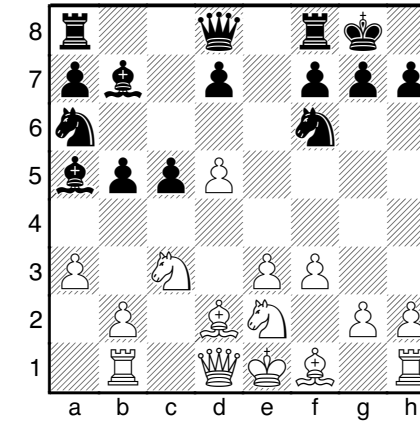


possibly very risky: 11...♔f6!
 12.f3 ♖xd2 13.♔xd2 ♘xb4
 14.♖xb4 ♔e7! 15.c5 0-0 is good
 for Black.

Instead, I chose to follow my
 intuition.

10.♘f4 d5 11.cxd5 cxd4 12.exd4
 ♙xc3 13.bxc3 exd5 14.♙e2
 ♘c7 15.0-0 ♔c8 16.a4 ♖e8
 17.♖e1 ♙a6 18.♙d3 ♖xe1+ ½-½
 Berezjuk,S (2448)–Babula,V
 (2581) Luhacovice, 2003.

11...b5



Again a thematic move in such
 positions, even if there are

plenty of other ways. My op-
 ponent and I play the opening
 at the same level: we both know
 what to do *generally* but without
 precise knowledge of the theory,
 so dangers lurk at every move.

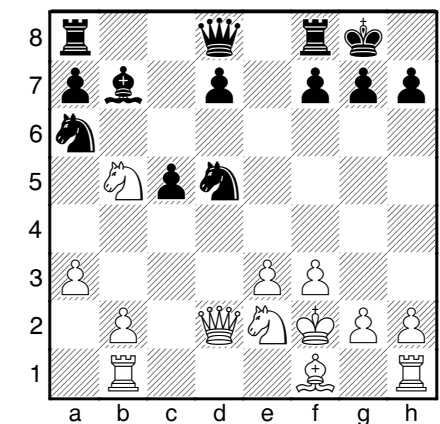
12.♘xb5

After 12.e4 b4 13.♘b5 ♔b6
 14.a4 ♖fe8 White has serious
 problems to continue his devel-
 opment with his e4 pawn indi-
 rectly pinned.

12...♘xd5 13.♔f2

The best square for the King...
 when one cannot castle.

13...♙xd2 14.♔xd2



14...♔b6

9...0-0 10.d5!?

Again natural and tactically justi-
 fied as the ♗d5 is sufficiently
 defended. However, White has
 to deal with a slow-developing
 K-side.

10...exd5 11.cxd5

11.♘xd5 is also playable but not
 better. After all, the plan was to
 set up a pawn center, so what
 would be the point of taking with
 the knight and invite exchanges?



Hebert - Djerkovic



I approve of this move even if the engines slightly disagree. It is very human to put the Queen on the same diagonal as the opposing king.

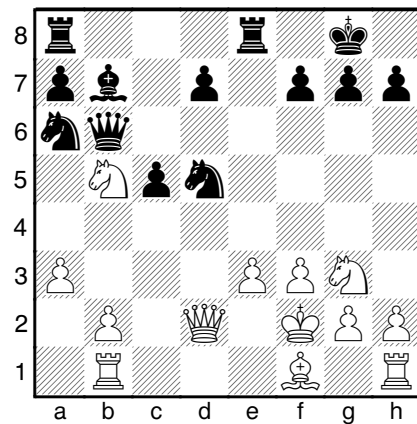
14...♖ac7 15.♘d6 ♕c6 16.e4 (16.♘g3) 16...♞f6! 17.♘f5 ♘e7=.

14...♕c6 appears less desirable: 15.♘g3 ♘ac7 16.e4±.

15.♘g3?!

Probably a bit too ambitious. The straightforward: 15.♘ec3! was better, when 15...♘ac7 16.♘xc7 ♘xc7 17.b4 ♕c6 18.b5 ♕b7 19.♘a4 ♞g6 20.♕e2 and White's game is certainly now the most pleasant.

15...♞fe8?



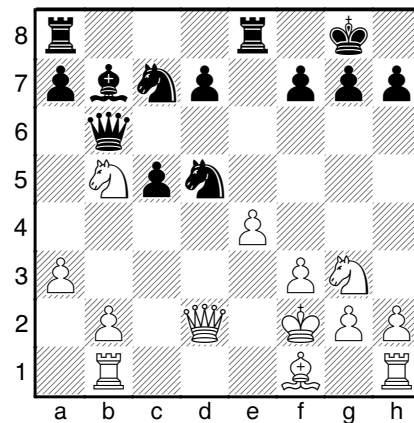
15...♘ac7 was correct with

equality, relieving the pressure against square d6.

16.e4?

I did not even consider: 16.♘f5! Otherwise I would have played it! Black then has serious problems; e.g.: 16...g6 17.♘fd6 ♜e6 18.♕c4 ♞xd6 19.♘xd6 ♞xd6 20.♞bd1 ♘ac7 21.e4 and White ends up the exchange.

16...♘ac7



Now follows two most natural moves which nonetheless turns out to be mistaken.

17.exd5?

17.a4 ♘xb5 18.a5! True, such moves are difficult to see and

even more difficult to foresee. (18.♕xb5? c4+! 19.♞e2 ♘c7 20.♕xc4 d5 and Black is clearly better, even strategically winning.) 18...♞f6 19.♕xb5 ♘c7∞.

17...♘xb5?

Now it's Black's turn to miss a very strong move pointed out by the engines: 17...a6!! regains the piece in very favourable circumstances. 18.♘d4 Unpleasant but the lesser evil. (Of course if 18.♘xc7?? c4+-+ wins.) 18...cxd4 19.♞b4 ♞xb4 20.axb4 ♘xd5.

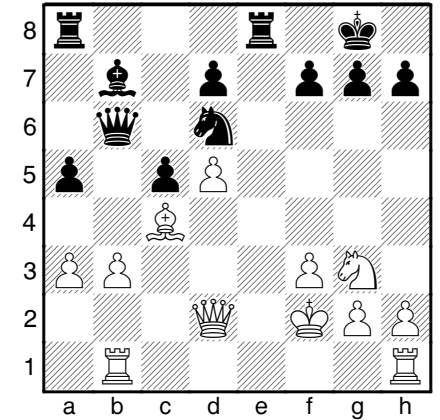
18.♕c4□

At the last moment I saw 18.♕xb5? c4+ and White is in big trouble with no way to get his ♞h1 out.

18...♘d6

Black wants to put pressure on d5, but 18...♘d4 and 18...♕a6 felt just as reasonable.

19.b3 a5



20.♞f4!

A nice positional move. I rejected 20.a4 because of 20...♞b4 but 21.♞f4 retained approximate equality.

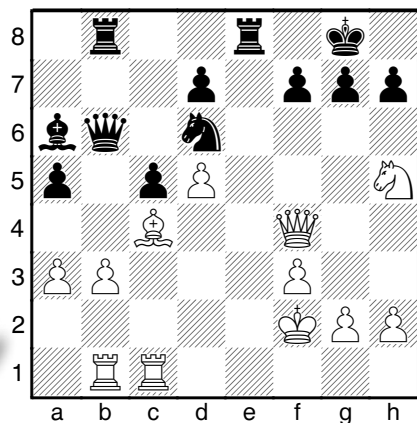
20...♕a6 21.♞hc1 ♞ab8?

The wrong track. Black's only potential danger lies in his underdefended K-side. He had to go for either 21...g6 preventing ♘h5 or 21...♘b5 allowing the Queen to defend on the 6th rank, if needed.

22.♘h5!

(see diagram next page)





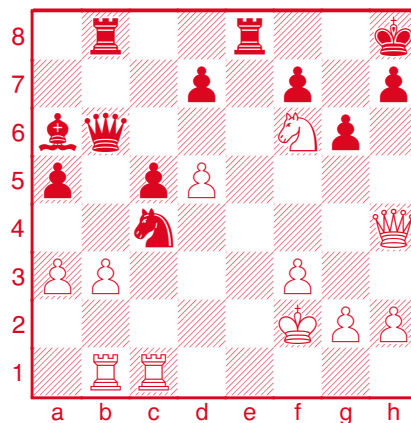
I could barely believe my eyes when I realized how much play this move would give me. Black's king is now facing great dangers.

22...♖ec8?

22...♖ed8 is OK because after 23.♔g5 ♘e8 24.♖e1 Black has 24...♔g6 25.♔xg6 hxg6 since ♙xa6 will not attack a rook!

22...♔h8 was also playable but only if one calculates like a computer: 23.♔g4 g6! (*I had seen 23...♖g8 24.♔xd7 with advantage for White.*) 24.♘f6 ♘xc4 25.♔h4!

Analysis Diagram

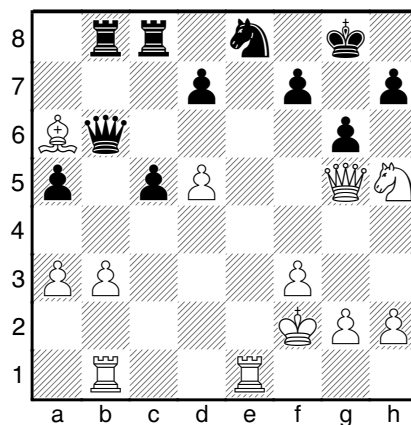


25...♖e2+!! the only saving move 26.♔xe2 (26.♔g1? ♔g7) 26...♘xa3+ 27.♔e1 ♔g7 28.♘xd7 ♔b5 29.♔f6+ ♔g8 30.♔f2 ♔xd7 31.♖a1 ♔xd5 32.♖d1 ♔xb3 33.♔xa6 with unclear play.

23.♔g5+-

The game is practically over.

23...♘e8 24.♖e1 g6 25.♙xa6



25...♔xa6

During the game I tried to calculate what could happen after the best try: 25...c4+. I came to the partly intuitive conclusion that somehow it would not save Black. The engines confirm it easily: 26.♔g3 ♔xa6 27.♔h6 ♔d6+ the black Queen only looks defended: 28.f4 gxh5 (28...♔f8 29.♖xe8) 29.♖xe8+ and wins.

26.♔h6

Flawed but interesting stuff I believe. This gave me the chance to play the leader (Sambuev) in the last round and catch up with a win.

1-0

Notes by Qiyu Zhou

Kraiouckine, Nikita (2339)
Zhou, Qiyu (2262)

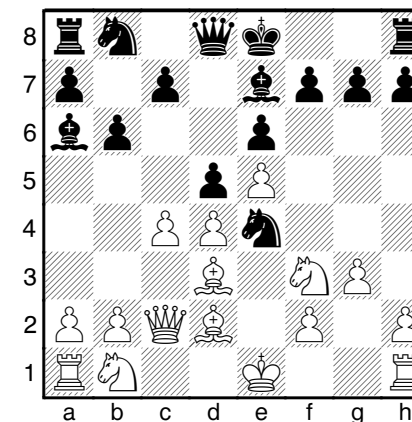
E15

TORO 2014 (Open) Gatineau (4),
08.06.2014

I had played against Nikita Kraiouckine twice before, los-

ing both times. In the previous game I had a preferable position but got careless in the end, so I was going to be more careful this game. The opening was a bit of a surprise for me, and I was not sure about what to do.

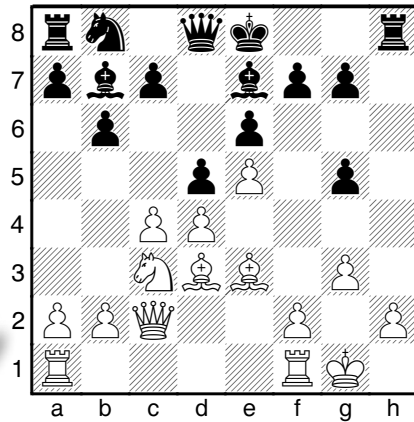
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6
4.g3 ♙a6 5.♔c2 ♙b4+ 6.♙d2
♙e7 7.e4 d5 8.e5 ♘e4 9.♙d3



9...♙b7

Interesting was 9...c5 10.♙xe4 dxe4 11.♔xe4 ♙xc4 12.♘c3 (12.♔xa8 ♙d5 13.♔xa7 ♙xf3 14.0-0 ♘c6) 12...♙d5 13.♘xd5 ♔xd5 14.♔xd5 exd5.

10.0-0 h6 11.♙e3 ♘g5
12.♘g5 hxg5 13.♘c3

**13...c5**

This leads to unfavourable exchanges for Black in the center. A better move was 13...dxc4
14.♙xc4 a6 15.♖ad1.

14.cxd5 exd5 15.♖ad1

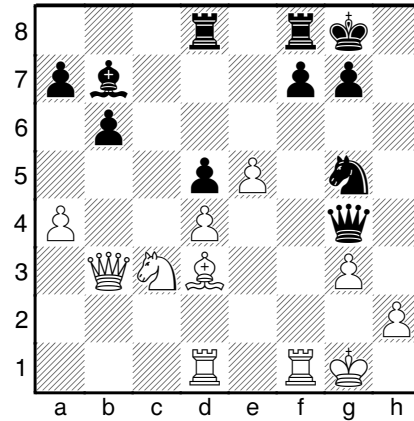
15.♙b5+ and Black has serious problems with the king: 15...♘d7
16.e6.

15...c4 16.♙e2

White's position up to this point has been pretty good. However 16.♙f5 was better, completely stopping any ...♗d7 ideas.

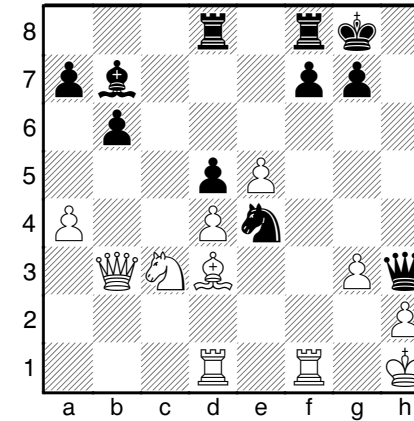
**16...♗d7 17.f4 gxf4 18.♙xf4
18.♖xf4 0-0 19.♙g4 ♗c6±.**

18...♘a6 19.♙f3 ♘c7 20.b3
cxb3 21.♗xb3 0-0 22.♙e2
♖ad8 23.a4 ♘e6 24.♙e3 ♙g5
25.♙xc4 ♘xc4 26.♙d3 ♗g4

**27.♙g2**

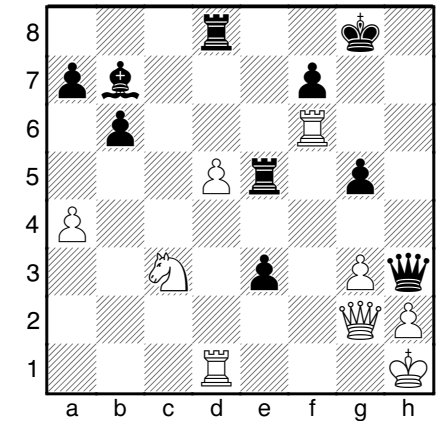
27.♘b5 was much more active: 27...♙c8 28.♘xa7 (28.♙h1
♗h5∞) 28...♗xd4+ 29.♙h1 ♘e4

30.♘c6 ♗e3 31.♘xd8 ♙g4∞.

27...♗h3+ 28.♙h1 ♘e4**29.♙xe4**

29.♙g1 was the best move. Black does not have much initiative after this move, unless I sac on g3: 29...♘xg3 30.♖f3 ♗g4

31.♖xg3 ♗xd4+ 32.♙g2 ♗xe5∞.

**29...dxe4 30.♖f4 g5 31.♖f6
e3+ 32.d5 ♖fe8 33.♗c2 ♖xe5
34.♗g2****34...♗xg2+**

Here I missed 34...♖dxd5
35.♘xd5 e2 36.♖e1 ♙xd5 but
34.♗xg2 wins anyways.

**35.♙xg2 ♖c8 36.♘e2 ♖c2
37.♙f1 ♙xd5 38.g4 ♙c4
39.♖e1 ♖e4 40.♖f3 ♖f4**

In general, the opening was pretty badly played by me (Black), so that is one thing I have to fix.

0-1



Kraiouchkine - Zhou



Sambuev, Bator (2697) Hébert, Jean (2446)

E14

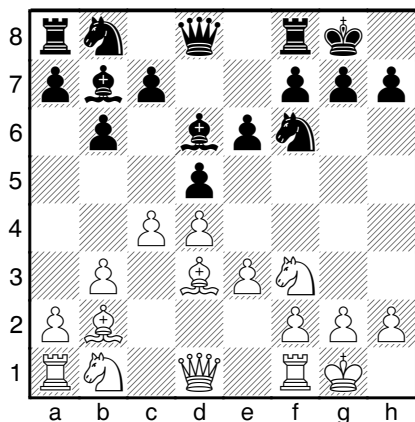
TORO 2014 (Open) Gatineau (5),
08.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

Bator and Jean both told me that the following game wasn't worth annotating: Bator blunders early and Jean plays a second-best refutation well enough to win.

But, as editor, I'm *always* going to include a decisive game between tournament co-winners, and if they're also both titled... it's a no-brainer.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.e3 b6
4.♕d3 ♕b7 5.0-0 d5 6.b3 ♕d6
7.♕b2 0-0 8.c4



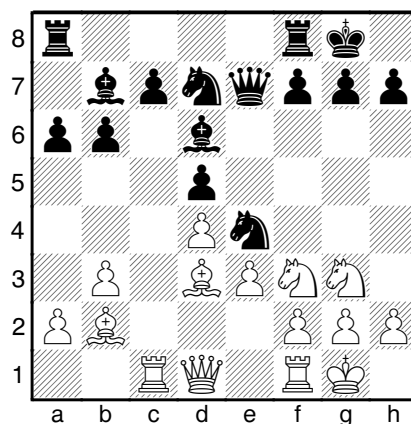
As you'll see from the supplemental games, this is already the *third* time Bator and Jean have played this position in 2014.

8...♗bd7

8...dxc4 9.bxc4 ♗bd7 10.♖e2
♖e7 11.♘e5 ♖fd8 12.f4 (12.
e4?! c5) 12...♗e4 13.♘c3 ♗df6
14.♖c2 ♗xc3 15.♕xc3 c5
16.♖ad1 (16.♕e1!?) 16...g6= (1-0,
60), Sambuev, B–Hebert, J, Car-
nival Quebec, 26/01/2014.

9.♗c3 a6 10.♖c1 dxc4
10...♖e7 11.cxd5 exd5
12.♗e2 ♗e4 13.♗g3

Analysis Diagram



13...f5:

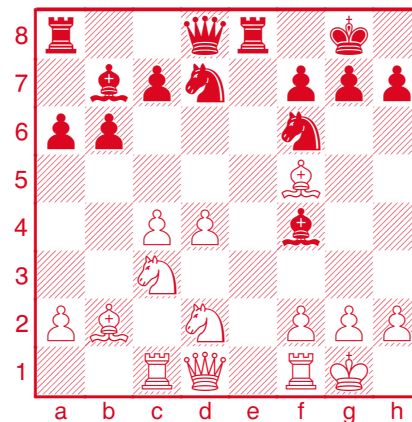
A) 14.♖c2 ♖f7 15.♖e1 g5
16.♗d2 ♖af8 17.♖e2 g4 18.♕xe4
(18.♗dxe4!?) 18...fxe4 19.♖xg4+
♗h8 20.f4! ♕c8!♞ (½-½, 26)
Bruzon, L–Kramnik, V Wijk aan
Zee, 2005.

B) 14.♖c2 c5 15.♖fe1 ♖e6
16.♖e2 ♗df6 17.♗h4 ♗xg3
18.hxg3 ♗e4 19.♗f3 ♖a7!?=
(1-0, 61) Sambuev, B–Hebert, J
Trois–Rivieres, 16/03/2014.

11.bxc4 e5 12.♕f5 ♖e8
13.♗d2

13.♖e1 exd4 (13...e4 14.♗d2
g6 15.♕h3±) 14.exd4 ♖xe1+
15.♗xe1 g6 16.♕h3 ♖e7∞ (½-½,
48) Rindlisbacher, L (2370)–
Pelletier, Y (2604) Zuerich, 2012.

13...exd4 14.exd4 ♕f4



15.g3??

▷15.♖c2 or 15.♗e2.

15...♕xd2 16.♖xd2 ♗e5!-+
17.♖f4

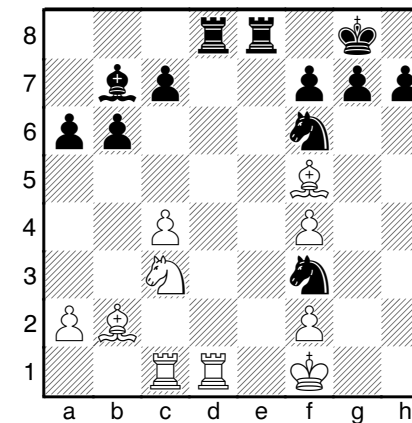
17.f3 ♗xf3 or ...♗xc4-+.

17...♖xd4

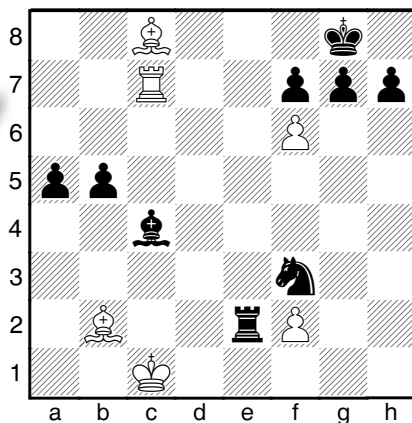
This wins two pawns and wrecks White's Kingside, so it's plenty good enough to win, but Black had much better:

17...♗f3+ 18.♖g2 ♗h5!-+ and the White ♖ has no squares which are safe from the ♗f3-discovered check. Also winning is: 18...♗e1+! 19.♖h3 ♕g2+ #3.

18.♖fd1 ♖xf4 19.gxf4 ♗f3+
20.♖f1 ♗xh2+ 21.♖g1 ♗f3+
22.♖f1 ♖ad8



23. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 24. ♘d5 ♘xd5
 25. cxd5 ♙xd5 26. ♖xc7 ♙xa2
 27. ♔e2 ♙d5 28. ♙c8 a5 29. f5
 ♖e8+ 30. ♔d3 b5 31. f6 ♙c4+
 32. ♔c2 ♖e2+ 33. ♔c1

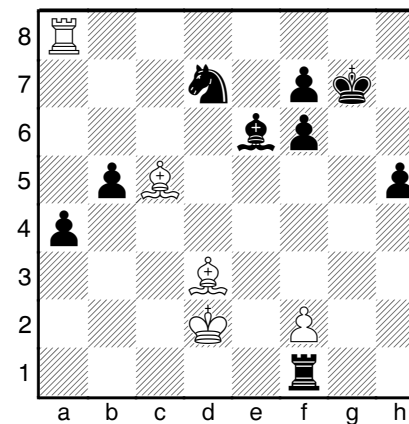


33... ♘e5

33... ♖xf2?! wins, but requires precision: 34. ♙f5 ♖f1+ (34... gxf6? 35. ♙xf6 ♙e6 36. ♖b7 ♖f1+ 37. ♔b2 ♖f2+ 38. ♙c2 ♖xc2+ (39. ♔xc2 h5)) 35. ♔c2 gxf6 36. ♙xf6 ♙e6+- defends ♖c8# and threatens ... ♙xf5 with check (which is why Black had to force the ♔ onto a white square with 34... ♖f1+).

34. ♙d4 gxf6 35. ♙f5 ♔g7
 36. ♔d1 ♘f3 37. ♙e3
 37. ♖xc4 ♖d2+-.

37... ♖e1+ 38. ♔c2 a4 39. ♖a7
 h5 40. ♖a8 ♙e6 41. ♙e4 ♘e5
 42. ♔d2 ♖f1 43. ♙c5 ♘d7
 44. ♙d3



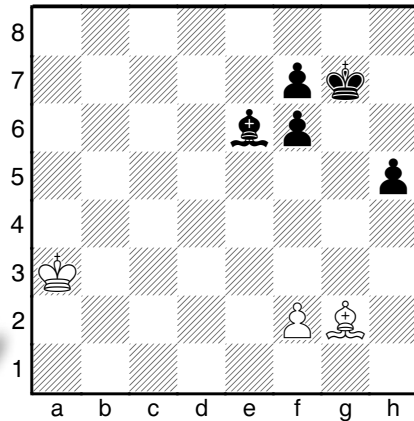
44... ♘xc5!

Black has other ways to win, but this exchange sac is the most clear cut... assuming you can correctly calculate and evaluate the next ten moves.

45. ♙xf1 b4 46. ♔c2 a3
 47. ♔b1 ♘e4 48. ♙g2 ♘d2+
 49. ♔a1 b3 50. ♖xa3 b2+
 51. ♔xb2 ♘c4+ 52. ♔b3
 ♘xa3+ 53. ♔xa3

Round 5 Panorama





Black would have had to correctly evaluate this position when playing 44...dxc5.

53...♔g6 54.♔b4 ♕f5 55.♔c3
♕f4 56.♔d2 h4 57.♔e2 h3
58.♕c6 ♕g4+ 59.f3 ♕d7!

0-1

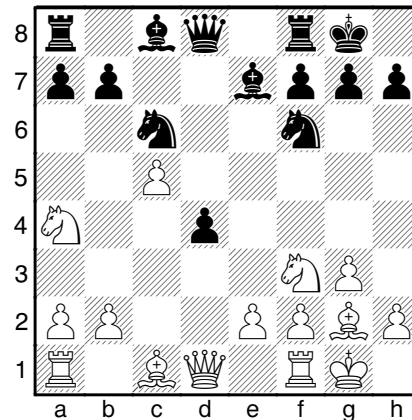
Villeneuve, Luc (1823)
Gunapalan, David (1867)
D34

TORO U1900 Gatineau (4),
08.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.♗f3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.c4 c5
4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 ♖c6 6.♕g2
♗f6 7.0-0 ♕e7 8.♗c3 0-0

9.dxc5 d4 10.♗a4

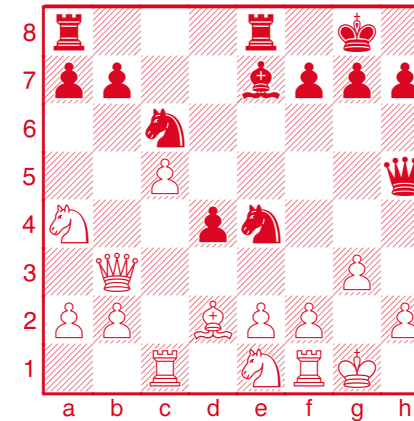


10...♕f5 11.♕d2

11.a3 ♕e4 (11...♗e4 12.b4
♕f6 13.b5 ♗a5 14.♕f4 ♖e8
15.♖c1 ♖c8 16.♗e1 g5! ♞ (0-1,
42) *Porper, E* (2429)–Zubov, A
(2492) *Dos Hermanas*, 2003.)
12.b4 ♖d5 13.♕b2 ♖ad8 14.♖d2
♗e5 15.♖xd4 ♗xf3+ 16.exf3
♖xd4 17.♕xd4 ♕c2 18.♕xf6
♕xf6 19.♗b2 ♕xb2 20.♖a2
♕d3 21.♖xb2 ♕xf1 22.♕xf1∞
(0-1, 42) Barcenilla, R (2502)–
Bluvshstein, M (2453) Internet,
2004.

11...♕e4 12.♖c1 ♖e8 13.♗e1
♗13.b4±.

13...♖d5 14.♖b3 ♖h5
15.♕xe4 ♗xe4=



Pick one: ♖d3, ♖xb7, ♕f4, ♗f3.

16.♖d3??

16.♖xb7? ♗xd2 17.♖xc6 ♖xe2!-+.

16.♕f4 ♖xe2 17.♖xb7 ♖ac8
18.♖c2∞.

16.♗f3 ♗xd2 17.♗xd2 ♕g5
18.♖cd1 ♖xe2 19.♖xb7
(19.♖fe1 ♖xe1+ 20.♖xe1 ♖xe1+
21.♔g2 ♕xd2 22.♖xb7∞) 19...♗a5
(19...♕xd2? 20.♖xc6±) 20.♖b4
♗c6 21.♖b7∞=.

16...♗xd2 17.♖xd2 ♕g5 18.e3
18.f4 ♖xe2+ attacks the ♖ and
threatens mate on h2.

18...dxe3 19.♖d5 e2-+

20.♗f3

20.f4 exf1♖+ 21.♔xf1 ♖e2+ and
White doesn't even win the ♕g5.

20...exf1♖+ 21.♖xf1 h6 22.h4
♖ad8 23.♖b3

23.♖f5 g6-+.

23...♕f6 24.♔g2 ♖d7 25.♗c3
♕xc3

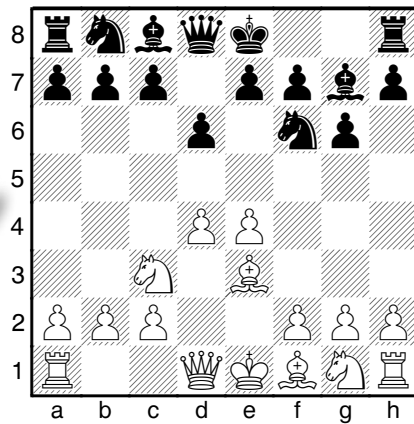
0-1

Gunapalan, David (1867)
Mathieu, Guillaume (1747)
C41

TORO U1900 Gatineau (5),
08.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

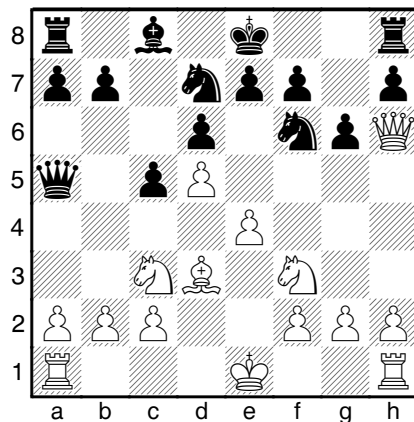
1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.♘c3 ♕g7
4.♙e3 ♖f6



5.f3

5.♙d2 c6 6.♙h6 ♙xh6 7.♙xh6
♙a5 8.♙d3 c5 9.d5 ♘bd7
10.♘f3:

Analysis Diagram



A) 10...b5!? 11.♙xb5 (11.e5!?)
11...♖b8 12.♙xd7+ ♙xd7♞ (1/2-1/2,
42) Nguyen,A (2465)–Marin,M
(2545) Kolkata, 1997.

B) 10...c4! This diffuses White's
attack but leaves White with
a slightly better endgame:
11.♙xc4 ♙c5 12.♙d3 ♙xf2+
13.♙xf2 ♘g4+ 14.♙g3 ♘xh6±
(1/2-1/2, 43) Van Kampen,R
(2572)–Cuijpers,F (2445) Neth-
erlands, 2012.

5...♘c6?!

Although this has been played
by some strong players ...♘c6
makes it harder to start queen-
side counterplay, which Black
usually does with ...c6 and ...b5
and/or ...♙a5, like this:

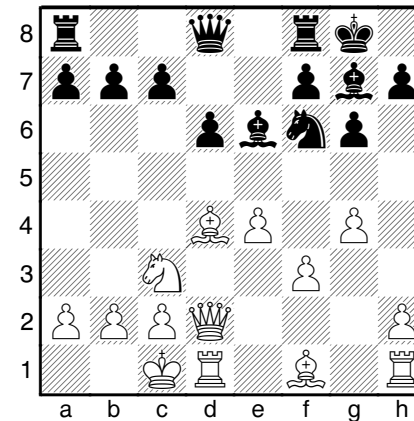
5...c6 6.♙d2 b5 7.a4 b4 8.♘d1
a5 9.♘f2 ♘bd7 10.♙d3 0-0
11.♘e2 e5 12.c3 d5!↗ 13.0-0
♖e8 14.♙h6 bxc3 15.bxc3 ♙a6
16.♙xg7 ♙xg7 17.♙xa6 ♖xa6
18.♘g3?! (18.f4!↑) 18...dxe4
19.fxe4 h6= (1/2-1/2, 36) Yu,Y
(2688)–Giri,A (2722) Reykja-
vik, 2013.

Here's an example of the Drag-
on-style attack that wins almost
automatically if Black doesn't
know what he's doing:

5...0-0 6.♙d2 c6 7.♙h6 ♘bd7
8.h4 b5 9.h5 b4 10.♘ce2 ♘xh5?
11.g4?± (♞11.♖xh5+- Δgxh5

12.♙g5 it's mate next.) 11...♘hf6
12.♙xg7 ♙xg7 13.♙h6+ ♙g8
14.♘g3 ♙a5 15.b3 ♖e8 16.g5
♘f8 (16...♘h5 17.♖xh5+-)
17.gxf6+- (1-0, 30) Kasparov,G
(2785)–Karambinas,A Corfu
(simul), 1996.

6.♙d2 e5 7.♘ge2 exd4
8.♘xd4 ♘xd4 9.♙xd4 0-0
10.0-0-0 ♙e6 11.g4

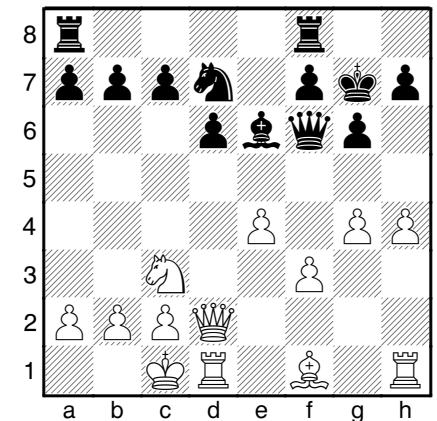


11...♘d7?!

11...c5!? 12.♙e3! (12.♙xf6?
♙xf6!↗ Δ13.♙xd6?? ♖ad8-+
14.♙g3 ♙h6+ 15.♙b1 ♙xc3!!-+)
12...♙a5 13.♙h6 ♖fd8 14.♙xg7
♙xg7 15.h4 ♙xa2 16.♘xa2 (16.
h5→) 16...♙xa2 17.♙c3 d5 18.g5
♙a1+ 19.♙d2 dxe4+ 20.♙d3□
♙a4 (20...♙a6□∞) 21.b3 ♙e8
22.♙xf6+- (1-0, 28) Najer,E
(2633)–Mamedyarov,S (2753)

Khanty–Mansiysk (Blitz WCh),
2013.

12.♙xg7 ♙xg7 13.h4 ♙f6?!
13...♘e5±



14.h5?

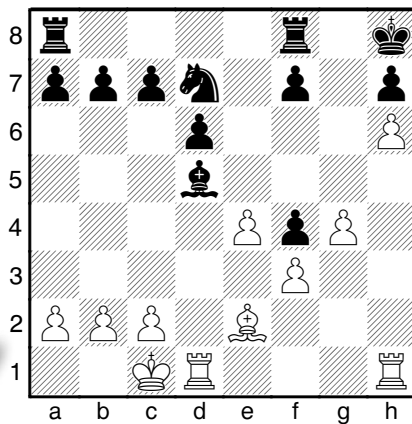
Black has long-term dark-
square weaknesses around
his ♙ and no way to generate
threats, so White has no rea-
son to rush into the attack but
should simply finish developing.
♞14.♙e2± and then possibly f4-
f5, or g5 then h5.

14...g5!

14...♙xf3? 15.♙b5!+-.

15.h6+ ♙h8 16.♙e2 ♙f4
17.♙xf4 gxf4 18.♘d5± ♙xd5

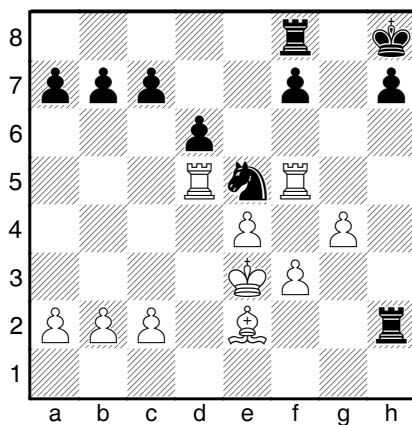




19. ♖xd5

19. exd5! would allow White's ♖ to attack the weak ♖f4 from the 4th rank, and open a diagonal for the ♙.

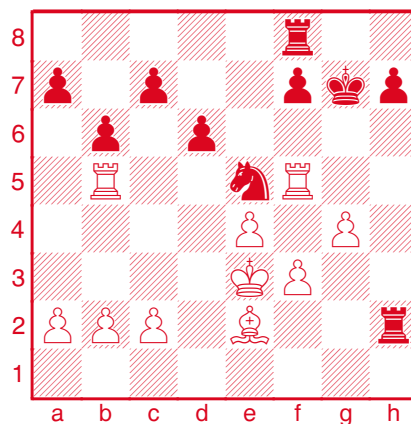
19... ♗e5 20. ♖h5 ♖ae8 21. ♖f5 ♖e6! ⇌ 22. ♖xf4 ♖xh6 23. ♖f5 ♖h2 24. ♙d1 ♖h1+ 25. ♙d2 ♖h2 26. ♙e3



26... ♙g7

26... ♖h3 (threat ... ♗xg4) 27. ♙f1 (Δ27. ♙f4? ♗g6+ 28. ♙e3 ♗e7+) 27... ♖h1 28. ♙f2±.

27. ♖b5 b6



White has the better pawn structure, more active ♙, and can kick Black's ♗ away from its central outpost. What happens if White plays f3-f4 now?

28. f4 ♖h3+! = 29. ♙d4??

○29. ♙d2 ♗g6=.

29... ♗c6+! 30. ♙c4 ♗a5+?

Black misses his chance to go 5/5 and take clear first!

30... a6+ White's ♙ is in a mat-

ing net, and the only escape is to give up a ♖: 31. ♖b3 b5+ 32. ♙d5 ♗e7+ 33. ♙d4 c5+-+.

1/2-1/2

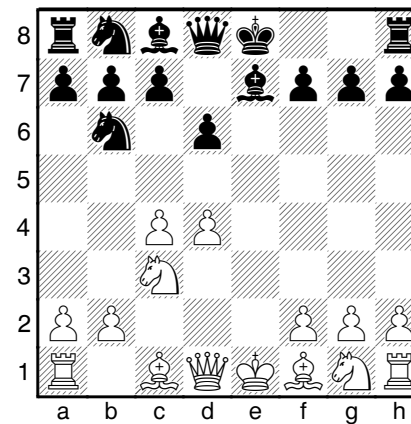
Lépine, Yanick (1409) Liboiron, Alain (1273)

B03

TORO U1500 Gatineau (3),
07.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. e4 ♗f6 2. e5 ♗d5 3. c4 ♗b6
4. d4 d6 5. exd6 exd6 6. ♗c3
♙e7



7. ♗f3

7. ♙d3 0-0 8. ♗ge2 ♙g4 9. 0-0
♗c6 10. f3 ♙h5 11. b3 (11. ♗f4± ○)
11... ♙g6 12. ♙e3 ♖e8 13. ♙xg6
hxg6 14. ♖d2 ♙f6± (1/2-1/2, 46)
Leko-Ivanchuk, Odessa, 2007.



7...♙g4 8.♙d3

This is natural, but not as good as the more common alternatives: h3 and ♙e2, both of which make it easier to stabilize White's center. Compared to the Leko-Ivanchuk game above, White cannot so easily break the pin on the ♘f3.

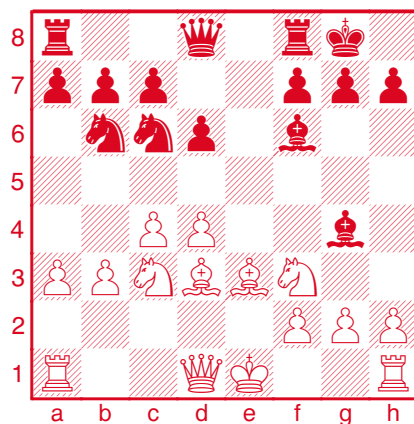
8...♘c6 9.♙e3 0-0 10.a3?

Slow, better is 10.0-0.

10...♙f6!?

Black exploits White's slow a3 to pressure d4.

11.b3



White's ♙ is still in the center and Black's pieces are fully

developed and pressuring d4. It's sharp, and on the next few moves both players miss some improvements.

11...♖e8

11...♘xd4! 12.♙xd4 ♙xd4
13.♙xh7+ ♖xh7 14.♗xd4 ♖e8+?

If White was already castled then the d4/h7 pawn trades would favour White as Black's ♖ would be weaker and the half-open d-file is more useful to White than the half-open h-file is for Black (as in the note to move 12). But here White is a bit worse, as ♖d2 leaves the White ♙ exposed, and ♖f1 leaves the ♖h1 out of play.

11...d5!?

12.c5 (12.cxd5 ♘xd5 is a bad IQP for White.) 12...♙xf3!?

(12...♘c8! Δ...♘8-e7-f5 Xd4)

13.♗xf3 ♙xd4! 14.♙xd4 ♘xd4
15.♙xh7+ (15.♗h3? ♖e8+ 16.♖f1 g6 17.cxb6 ♘xb3 18.♖d1 axb6 19.♙c4 ♖xa3 20.♙xd5 ♗e7

Black already has ♖♖ for the ♙ and White's ♖h1 is missing in action.) 15...♖xh7 16.♗d3+ ♖g8 17.♗xd4 ♖e8+ 18.♖f1 ♘d7 19.♘xd5 c6 20.♘e3 ♘f6!♞ Black has a lot of development for the ♖, and may be a bit better after

the ♖ exchange.

12.♙e2

♖12.0-0 and now executing the double-attacks on d4 would actually leave Black worse:

12...♙xd4 13.♙xd4 ♘xd4
14.♙xh7+ ♖xh7 15.♗xd4 ♙xf3
16.♗d3+±.

12...♙xf3 13.♗xf3 ♘xd4
14.♙xh7+ ♖xh7 15.♙xd4 ♙xd4
16.♗d3+±.

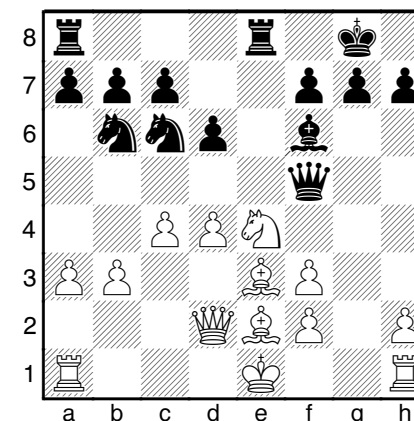
12...♗c8

12...♙xf3! 13.gxf3 (Δ13.♙xf3? ♙xd4-+) 13...d5?

13.♗d2 ♙xf3! 14.gxf3 ♗f5

15.♘e4

♖15.0-0-0



15...♖xe4?!

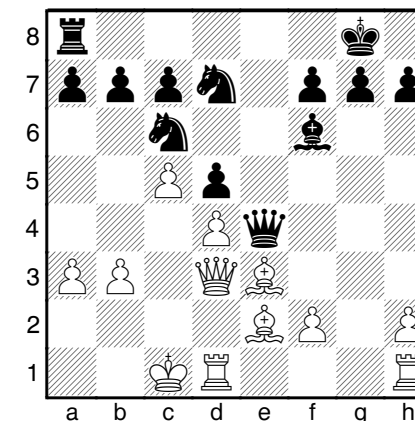
15...a5 16.0-0-0 d5? 17.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 18.c5 ♘d7? 19.♙g5? ♖xe2+.

15...d5! 16.♘xf6+ (Here's an example of how fast things can go badly for White: 16.♘c5? dxc4 17.bxc4 ♙xd4!! 18.♙xd4 ♗xf3 19.♖f1 ♘xd4-+) 16...♗xf6 17.c5 ♘d7 18.0-0-0? White has the ♙ pair, but Black has a choice of ways to open the queenside: ...♖ab8, ...b6, or ...♘f8.

16.fxe4 ♗xe4 17.0-0-0!± d5

With the ♘e4 having been traded, this pawn push doesn't gain a tempo and so allows White to keep his pawn structure intact.

18.c5 ♘d7 19.♗d3

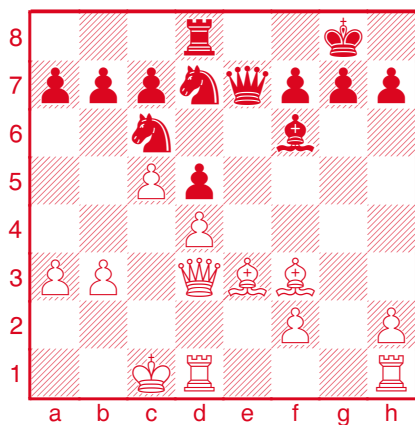


19. ♖c2! avoids the tactic analyzed in the next note.

19... ♖e7

Black has the Tal-like: 19... ♘xc5! 20.dxc5 (20. ♖xe4 ♘xe4 with more than enough comp for the exchange.) 20... ♖e5 Black has only ♖♗ for the ♖, but lots of play: 21. ♖dg1 (21. ♖c2 d4↗ the only safe square for the ♘e3 is d3, which drops the ♘e2.) 21... ♖e8!↗ Black threatens ... ♖b2+ then ... ♘d4 or ... ♘c3.

20. ♘f3 ♖d8



What happens on 21. ♘xd5 ♘xc5?

21. ♖hg1

White can take the pawn, but the following forcing line is not so easy to calculate. 21. ♘xd5! ♘xc5 22.dxc5 ♖e5 23. ♖d2 ♖+ ♘e7 (23... ♖a1+ 24. ♖b1 ♖xa3+ 25. ♖d1+-) 24. ♘xf7+ ♖xf7 25. ♖xd8 ♖a1+ 26. ♖c2 ♖xh1 27. ♖xc7+- White is up an exchange and a pawn.

21... ♘f8 22.b4 ♘e6 23. ♖c3 ♘g5 24. ♘h1 ♘e4 25. ♖b2

25. ♖c2 unpinning the ♖d4 (and stopping ...b6) looks more natural.

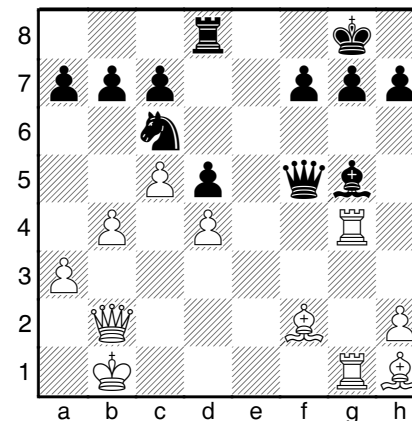
25... ♘h4

25...b6!↗.

26. ♖g4 ♘xf2??

Maybe Black missed that the ♖b2 also defends f2?

27. ♘xf2 ♘g5+ 28. ♖b1 ♖f6 29. ♖dg1 ♖f5+



30. ♖a1

30. ♘e4! is pretty and strong, but the game move is obviously winning too.

30... ♘f6 31. ♘h4 h5 32. ♘xf6 hxg4 33. ♘xd8 ♘xd8 34. ♖e2 ♘e6 35. ♖xg4 ♘xd4 36. ♖xd4

1-0

Links

report and games <http://www.matoutaouais.org/?p=3648>

Notes by **Keith MacKinnon** originally appeared on the **CFC Newsfeed**. <http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/352>

Translation & Photos
John Upper

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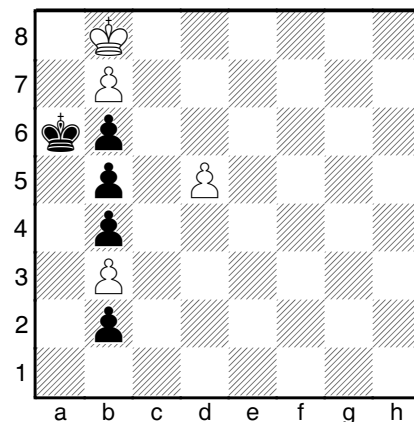
1. "Easy" ones
2. Crazy draws
3. Rook endings
4. Two Epics

The names and dates are publishing credits. For several I have added "hints". In every position it is **White to move**.

- John Upper

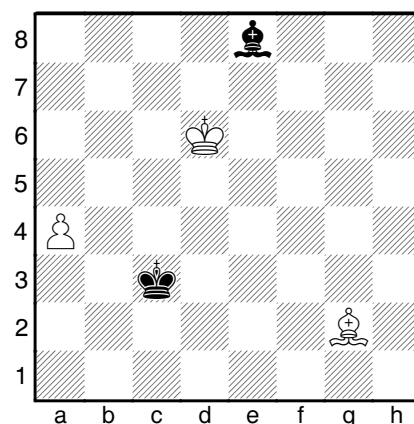
"Easy" Ones

Kommunist, 1965



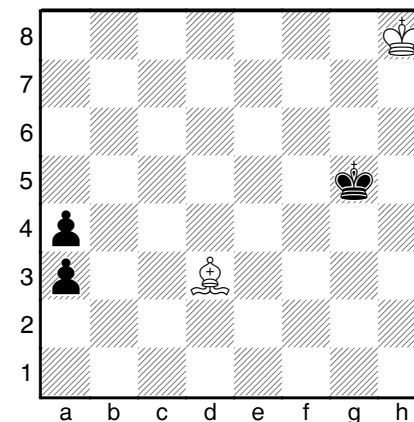
1-0

Ceskoslovensky Sach, 1964



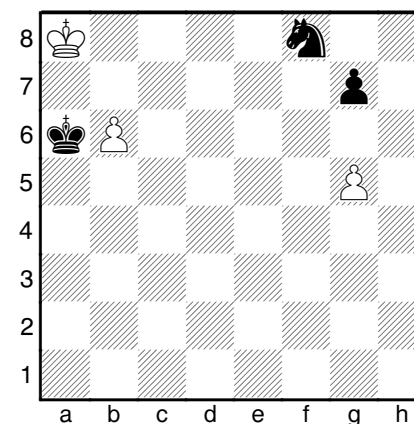
1-0

Lelo, 1951



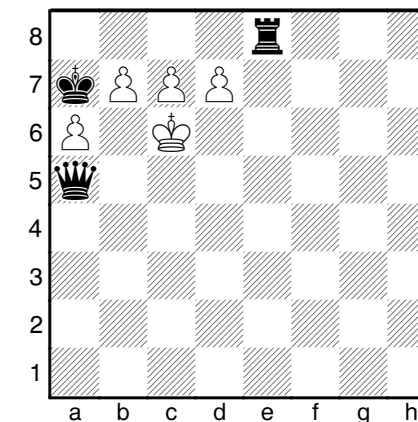
1/2-1/2

Thèmes 64 #2149, 1970



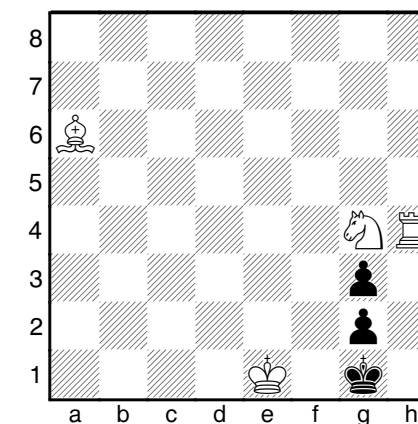
1/2-1/2

Etyudeby, 1962



1-0

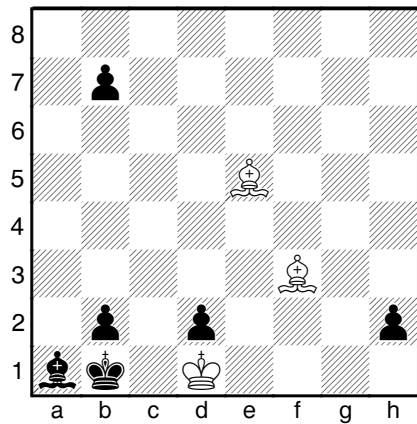
Norchi Lenineli, 1946



1-0

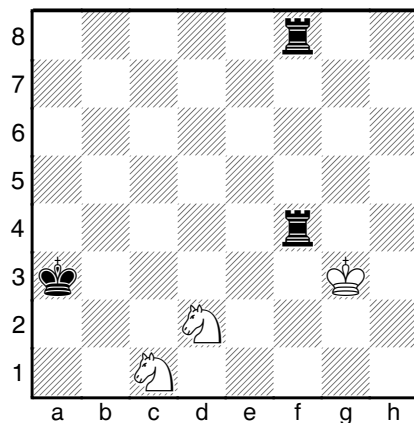


Achalgazdra Kommunisti, 1937



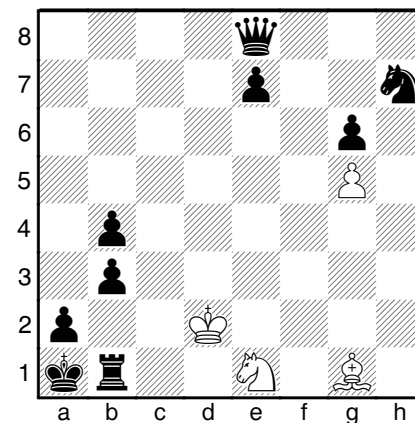
1-0

Mkhedruli, 1975



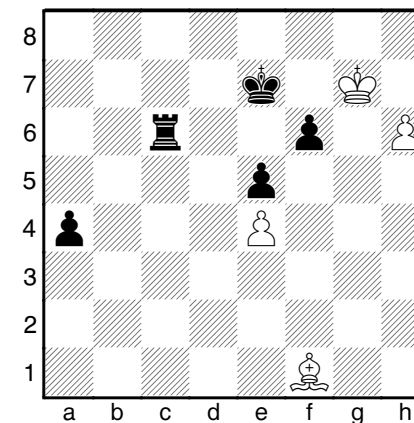
1/2-1/2

Krivogo Roga, 1976



1/2-1/2

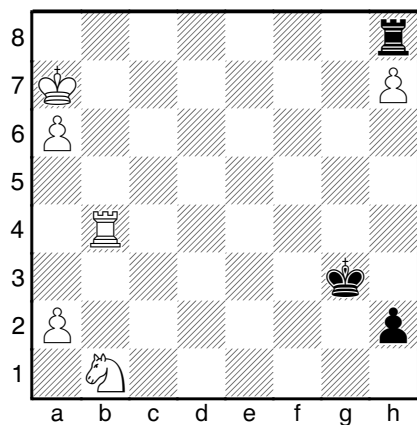
Ceskoslovensky Sach, 1954



1/2-1/2

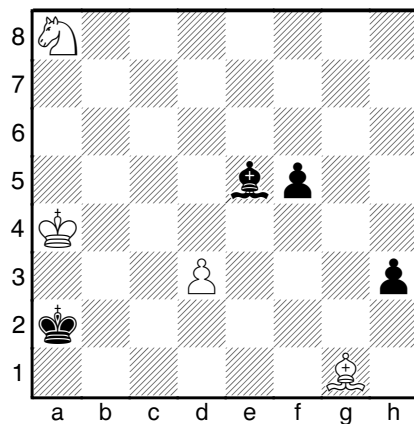
Crazy Draws

Shakhmatnye Etyudy, 1952



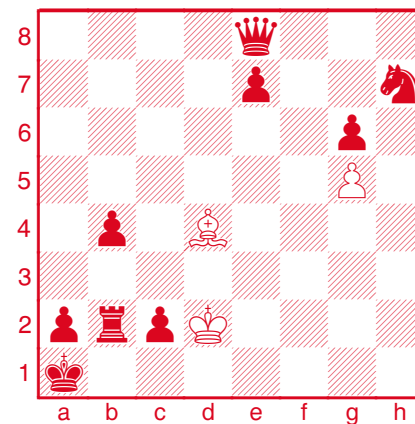
1/2-1/2

Drosha Ty, 1957



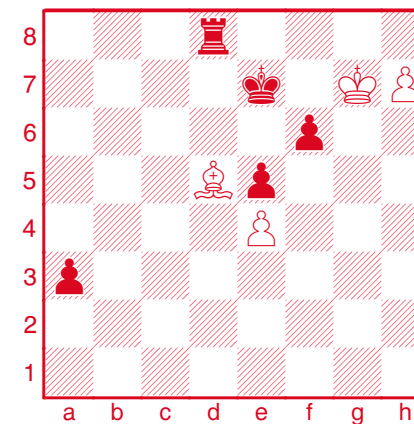
1/2-1/2

Hint:



1/2-1/2

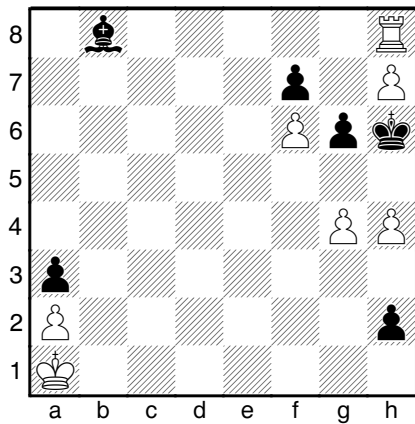
Hint:



What happens on ...♖h8?



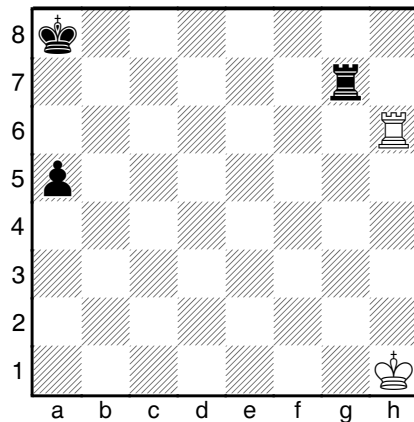
Bulletin Central Chess Club
USSR#12, 1974



1/2-1/2

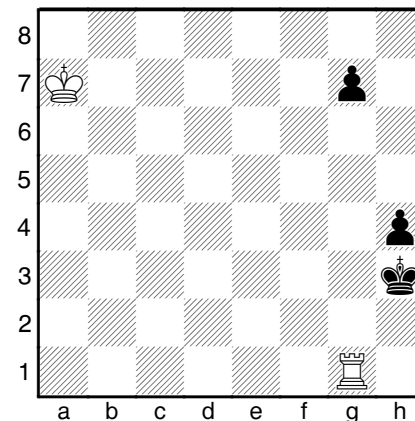
Rook Endings

64 1974, #28



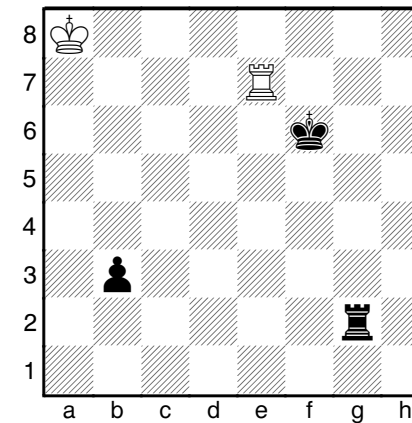
1/2-1/2

Shakhmaty v SSSR #46,
1961



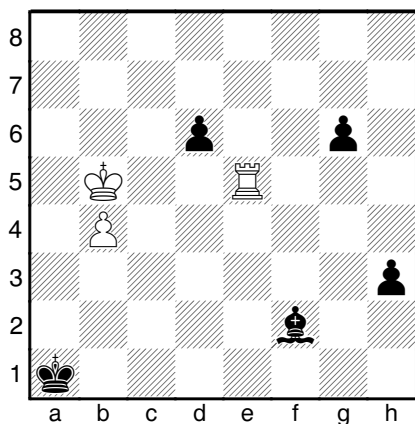
1-0

64 #50, 1979



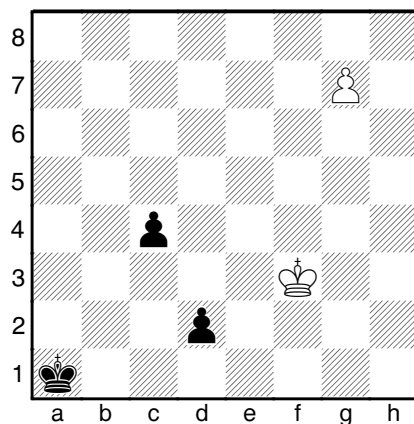
1/2-1/2

Shakhmatna Misl #18, 1959



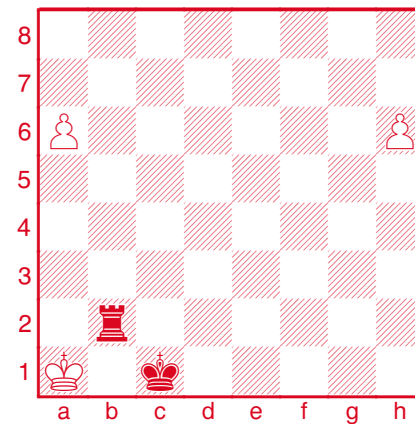
1/2-1/2

Thèmes 64 #1028, 1963



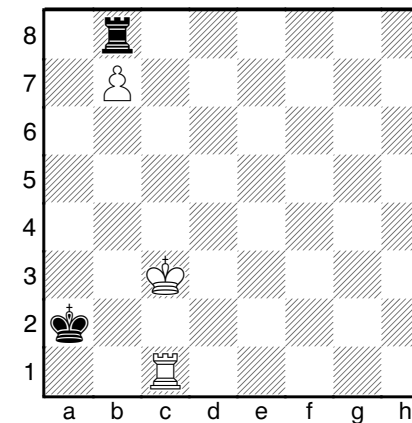
1-0

Achalgazdra Kommunisti,
1955



1-0

Shakhmaty v SSSR #01,
1988



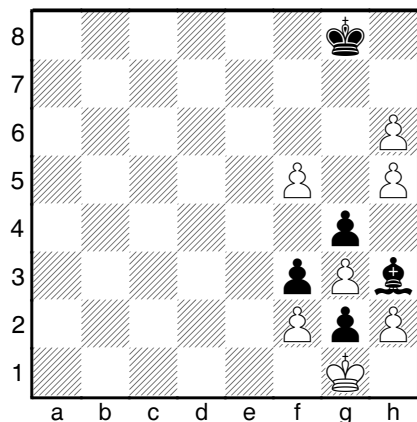
1-0



Epic Studies

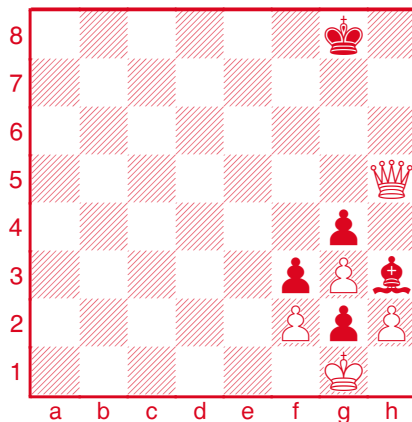
(mate in 50 or more)

Schach (1986/12)



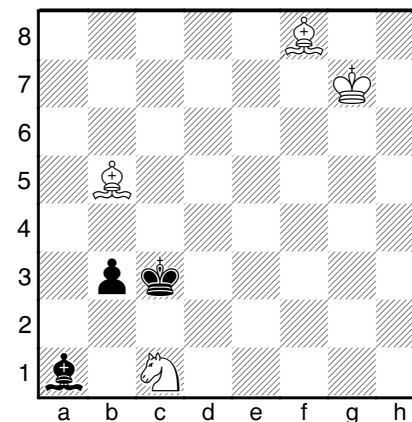
1-0

Hint:



1-0

Lelo, 1951



1-0

Hint 1:
Mate in 50.

Hint 2:
Mate is on g8.

Hint 3:
Preserve sanity: do not attempt to solve.

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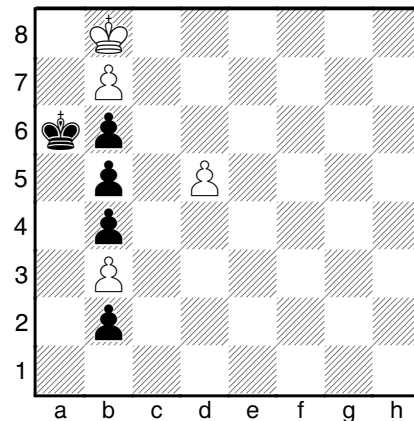
1. "Easy" ones
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- John Upper

Easy Ones

Kommunist, 1965



1. ♖a8

1. ♖c7? b1♚ 2. b8♚ ♚h7+=.

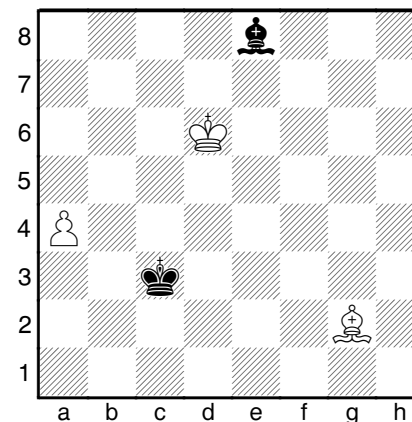
1...b1♚ 2. b8♘+!

2. b8♚? ♚h7 3. ♚c8+ ♖a5 4. d6 ♚a7+ 5. ♖xa7=.

2...♖a5 3. ♘c6+ ♖a6 4. ♘xb4+ ♖a5 5. ♘c6+ ♖a6 6. b4 ♚xb4□ 7. ♘xb4+ ♖a5 8. ♘c6+ ♖a4 9. d6

1-0

Ceskoslovensky Sach, 1964



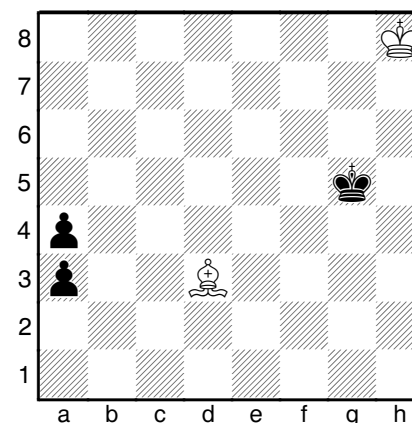
1. a5 ♖b4

1...♙b5 2. ♖c5 ♙a6 3. ♙h3 ♖b3 4. ♙d7 ♖a3 5. ♖b6 ♙e2 6. ♙b5 ♙f3 7. a6 ♙a8 8. a7 ♖b4 9. ♙c6+-.

2. a6 ♖b5 3. a7 ♙c6! 4. ♙xc6+ ♖b6 5. a8♘+□

1-0

Lelo, 1951



1. ♙c4□

1. ♙b1? gives Black two ways to win:

1... ♖f4 2. ♖g7 ♖e3 3. ♖f6 ♖d2 4. ♖e5 ♖c1 5. ♙a2 ♖b2 6. ♙g8 a2 7. ♙xa2 ♖xa2-+, and

1... ♖f6 2. ♖g8 ♖e5 3. ♖f7 ♖d4 4. ♖e6 ♖c3 5. ♖d5 ♖b2-+.

1... ♖f6!

Shoulder check to keep the ♖h8 away. 1... ♖f5 2. ♖g7= is too easy.

2. ♙g8□

Keeps the ♙ on the critical diagonal and puts it on the only square where Black's ♖ can't gain a tempo by attacking it.

2... ♖e5

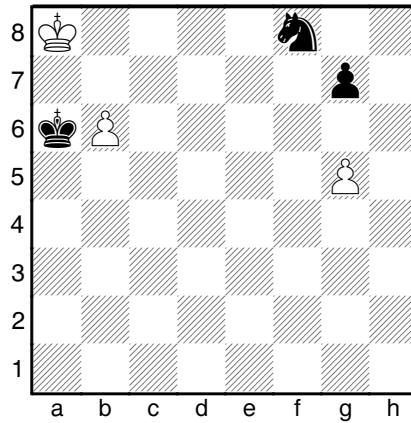
2... ♖g6 3. ♙h7+ ♖f6 4. ♙g8□=.

3. ♖g7 ♖d4 4. ♖f6 ♖c3 5. ♖e5 ♖b2 6. ♖d4 a2 7. ♙xa2 ♖xa2 8. ♖c3 a3 9. ♖c2

1/2-1/2



Thèmes 64 #2149, 1970



1. b7 ♖d7 2. b8 ♖+!

2. b8 ♖? ♖b6+! (2... ♖xb8?
3. ♖xb8=) 3. ♖xb6+ ♖xb6 4. ♖b8
♖c6 5. ♖c8 ♖d6 6. ♖d8 ♖e6
7. ♖e8 ♖f5 8. ♖f7 g6-+.

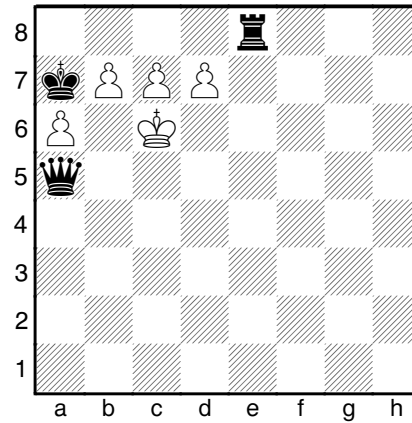
2... ♖xb8 3. ♖xb8 ♖b6 4. ♖c8
♖c6 5. ♖d8 ♖d6 6. ♖e8 ♖e6
7. ♖f8 ♖f5

7... g6? 8. ♖g7 ♖f5 9. ♖h6 ♖+.-.

8. ♖xg7

1/2-1/2

Etyudeby, 1962



1. c8 ♖+!

1. dxe8 ♖? ♖xa6+ 2. ♖d7 (2. ♖c5
♖a5+=) 2... ♖b5+ 3. ♖d8 (3. ♖e7
♖e5+ 4. ♖f8 ♖h8+=) 3... ♖d5+
4. ♖d7 ♖g5+ 5. ♖c8 ♖g8+ 6. ♖d7
♖d5+ 7. ♖c6 ♖c4=.

1... ♖xc8+

1... ♖xa6 2. b8 ♖#.

1... ♖b8 2. a7+ ♖xa7 3. ♖xa7 ♖d8
4. ♖b6! and ♖c6#.

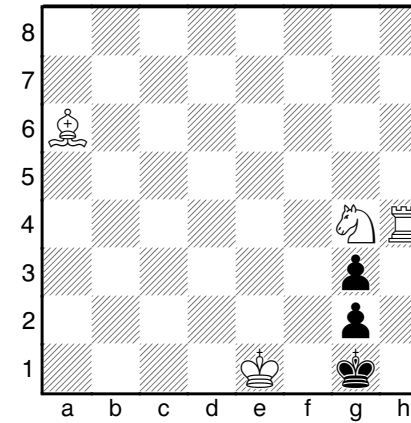
2. dxc8 ♖+! ♖b8

2... ♖xa6 3. b8 ♖#, a third un-
derpromotion to a ♖.

3. a7+ ♖xa7 4. ♖xa7 ♖xa7
5. ♖c7

1-0

Norchi Lenineli, 1946



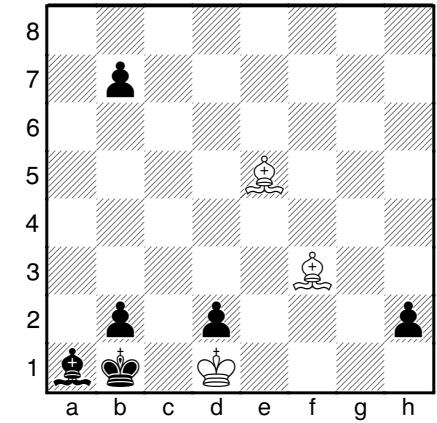
1. ♖h2!

1. ♖h2? gxf2 2. ♖b7 ♖=.

1... gxf2 2. ♖e5 ♖h1
2... h1 ♖ 3. ♖f3#.

3. ♖b7 ♖g1 4. ♖f3+ ♖h1
5. ♖f2 g1 ♖+ 6. ♖xg1#

1-0

Achalgazdra Kommunisti,
1937

1. ♖d6 b5 2. ♖b4

2. ♖e4+? ♖a2 3. ♖d5+ ♖b1
4. ♖xh2? b4 5. ♖xd2 b3=.

2... h1 ♖+ 3. ♖xh1 ♖a2 4. ♖d5+
♖b1 5. ♖a3! b4 6. ♖b3! bxa3
7. ♖g8

or 7. ♖xd2

7... a2 8. ♖h7#

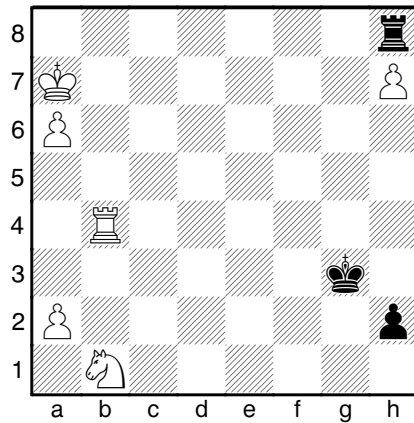
1-0

Margin Bug:

*Folded Chess Set
by Sandro delle Prette*

Crazy Draws

Shakhmatnye Etyudy, 1952

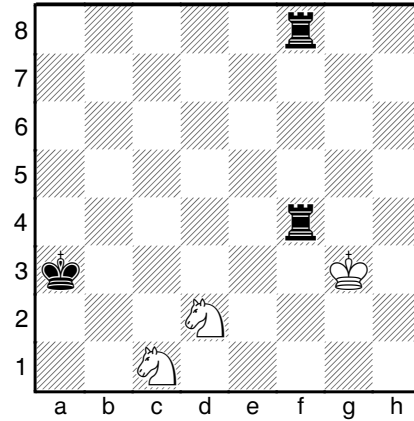


1. ♖b3+ ♔g4 2. ♖b4+ ♔g5
 3. ♖b5+ ♔g6 4. ♖b6+ ♔xh7
 5. ♘a3!
 5. ♖b7+? ♔g6 6. ♖b6+ ♔f5
 7. ♖b5+ ♔e6.

- 5...h1♔ 6. ♖b7+ ♔g6 7. ♖b6+ ♔f5
 8. ♖b5+ ♔e4 9. ♖b4+ ♔d3
 10. ♖b3+ ♔d2 11. ♖b2+ ♔c3
 12. ♖b3+

1/2-1/2

Mkhedruli, 1975



1. ♘b1+ ♖= ♔a4
 ♔ moves to b-file gets forked.

2. ♘c3+ ♖ ♔a5 3. ♘b3+ ♖ ♔a6
 4. ♘c5+ ♖ ♔a7 5. ♘e6 ♖
 5. ♘b5+? ♔b6 6. ♘d7+ ♔xb5!-+.

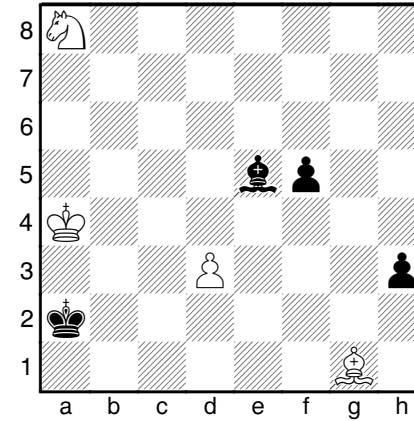
- 5...♖f3+ 6. ♔g4 ♖
 6. ♔g2? ♖f2+ 7. ♔g1 (7. ♔g3 ♖8f3+) 7...♖f1+ 8. ♔g2 ♖8f2+-+.

- 6...♖8f7
 6...♖8f6 7. ♘d5 ♖6f5 8. ♘d4=.
 6...♖8f5 7. ♘b5+ ♔b6 8. ♘bd4=.

7. ♘b5+ ♖ ♔b6 8. ♘d6 ♖ ♖7f6
 9. ♘e4 ♖ ♖6f5 10. ♘d6 ♖f6
 11. ♘e4 ♖

1/2-1/2

Drosha Ty, 1957



1. d4!
 1. ♘b6? ♘d4 --+.
 1. ♔b4? f4 --+.

- 1...♘xd4
 1...h2 2. ♘xh2 ♘xh2 3. ♔b4 ♔b2
 4. ♘b6=.

2. ♘h2 ♘g1!
 2...♘e3 3. ♘c7 f4 4. ♘d5=.

3. ♘xg1
 3. ♘g3? ♘e3 4. ♘c7 f4--+.

- 3...f4 4. ♘b6
 4. ♘c7 f3:
 A) 5. ♘b5? h2 6. ♘xh2 f2
 7. ♘c3+ ♔a1 8. ♘d6 (8. ♘e5 f1♔
 9. ♘e4+ ♔a2 10. ♘c3+ ♔b2-+)

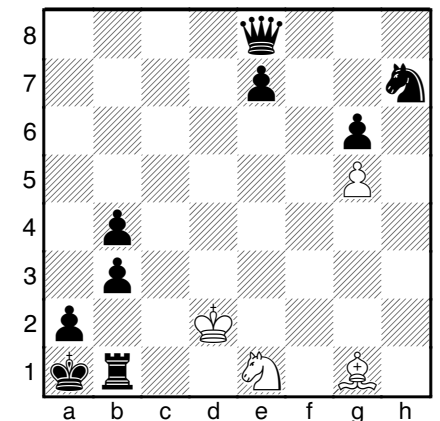
- 8...f1♔ 9. ♘a3 ♔c4+-+.
 B) 5. ♘d5 f2 6. ♘c3+! ♔a1
 7. ♘xf2 transposes to the mainline.

- 4...f3 5. ♘d5 f2 6. ♘c3+!
 6. ♘xf2? h2 7. ♘c3+ ♔b2 8. ♘d1+ ♔c2-+

- 6...♔a1 7. ♘xf2 h2 8. ♘c5!
 h1♔ 9. ♘a3! ♔b7 10. ♘c1
 White's minors keep Black's ♔ in a box, and there's no zugzwang possible because the ♘ can oscillate between c1 and a3 while the ♔ defends the ♘ from b3 and c2.

1/2-1/2

Krivogo Roga, 1976



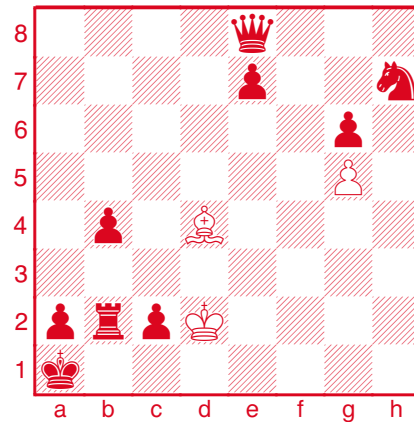
1. ♖c2+!

1. ♕d4+? ♖b2+ 2. ♘c2+ ♔b1!-+

1...bxc2

1...♔b2? 2. ♕d4#

2. ♕d4+ ♖b2



3. ♔c1 ♖h8□ 4. ♕c3□

Taking the ♕ is stalemate, but allowing ♕xb2 is mate.

4. ♕xh8? ♘f6!-+ 5. gxf6 ♖b1+ 6. ♔xc2 b3+-+.

4...♖g7! 5. ♕d4□

5. ♕xg7? ♘f6-+.

5...♖h8 6. ♕c3 b3 7. ♕d4 e6

7...♖xd4=.

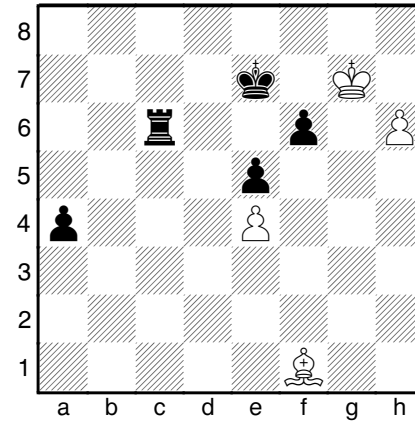
7...♘xg5?? 8. ♕xh8+-.

8. ♕xh8 ♘f6 9. ♕xf6 e5

10. ♕xe5

1/2-1/2

Ceskoslovensky Sach, 1954



1.h7!

1. ♕b5? ♖c2 2. ♕xa4 ♖g2+ 3. ♔h8 f5 4. exf5 ♔f6 5. ♕c6 ♖g4 Δ6.h7 ♖d4-+ #2.

1...♖c8 2. ♕b5!

2. ♕c4? a3 3. ♕f7 (3. ♕g8 ♖c2; 3. ♕b3 ♖c3; 3. ♕g6 ♖h8 4. ♔g7 ♖xh7+ 5. ♔xh7 f5) 3...♖b8! 4. ♕d5 ♖b1 5. h8♖ ♖g1+ 6. ♔h7 ♖h1+ 7. ♔g7 ♖xh8 8. ♔xh8 f5.

2. h8♖? ♖xh8 3. ♔xh8 f5 4. exf5 ♔f6 5. ♕g2 a3 6. ♕d5 e4-+.

2...a3

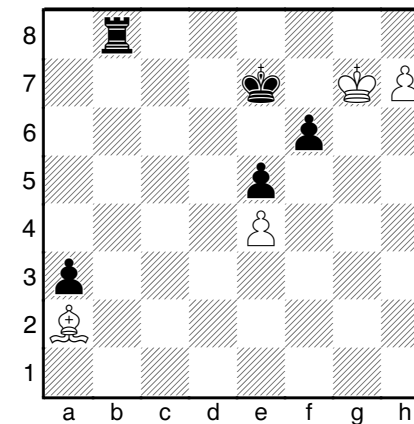
2...♖c3 3. ♕xa4 ♖g3+ 4. ♔h6 ♖h3+ 5. ♔g7=.

3. ♕c4□ ♖a8 4. ♕a2□

4. ♕g8? a2 5. ♕xa2 (5. h8♖ a1♖ 6. ♖h7 ♖g1+-+) 5...♖xa2 6. h8♖ ♖g2+ 7. ♔h7 ♖h2+ 8. ♔g7 ♖xh8 9. ♔xh8 f5-+.

4. ♕d5? ♖d8□ 5. ♕f7 ♖b8□ 6. ♕c4 ♖b2-+

4...♖b8



5. ♕f7□

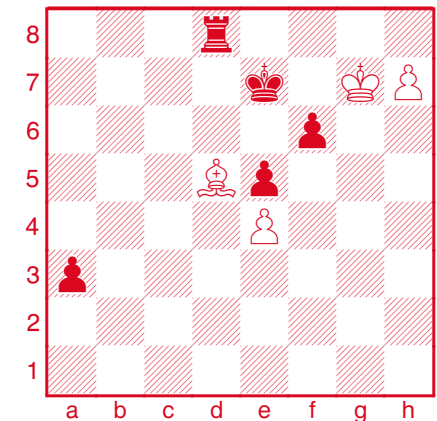
The ♕ must go here to be able to block checks on the g-file so that Black cannot play ...♖b2 (supporting ...a2 and preparing to skewer after a promotion on the h-file).

5. ♕g8? ♖b2 6. h8♖ ♖g2+ 7. ♔h7 ♖h2+ 8. ♔g7 ♖xh8 9. ♔xh8 f5 10. exf5 ♔f6!-+.

5...♖c8

5...♖b1?? 6. h8♖ ♖g1+ 7. ♕g6+-.

6. ♕c4□ ♖d8 7. ♕d5□



What happens on ...♖h8?

7...♖h8! Best try.

8. ♔xh8□ ♔f8□ 9. ♕g8□

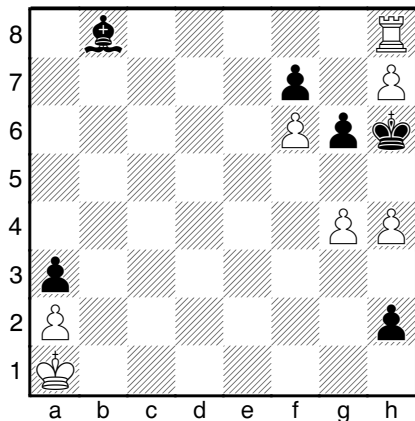
9. ♕a2? f5 10. exf5 e4-+ there's no stalemate or stopping the ♖s.

9...f5 10. exf5 e4 11. f6 e3

12. f7 e2

1/2-1/2

**Bulletin Central Chess Club
USSR#12, 1974**



1.g5+

1. ♖xb8? h1♔+ 2. ♖b1 ♕a8 3. ♖b7 ♔xh7 4. ♖xf7+ ♔g8-+.

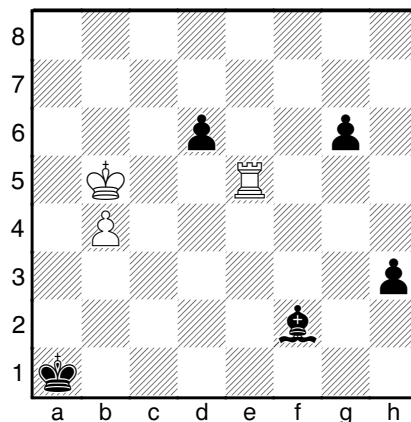
1...♔h5 2. ♖xb8 h1♔+ 3. ♖b1 ♕a8 4. h8♔+!

4. ♖b4? ♕h8! 5. ♔b1 ♕c8 (5... ♕xh7? 6. ♔a1 ♕g8 7. ♖b8=) 6. h8♔+ ♕xh8 7. ♔a1 ♕d8-+.

4...♕xh8 5. ♖b8! ♕h7 6. ♖b4! ♕g8 7. ♖b8! ♕h7 8. ♖b4! ♕g8 9. ♖b8 ♕xb8

1/2-1/2

Shakhmatna Misl #18, 1959



1. ♖d5!

1. ♖e8? g5--+.

1...h2 2. ♖d1+ ♔a2! 3. ♖h1 ♔g1

3... ♔g3 4. ♔c4 g5 5. ♔d5 g4 6. b5 ♔f4 (6... ♔f2? 7. ♖xh2 g3 8. ♖g2 ♔b3 9. ♔xd6+-) 7. ♔e4! ♔g3 8. b6 d5+! =.

4. ♔a6!

4. ♔c4? g5 5. b5 g4 6. b6 g3 7. b7 ♔a7--+.

4...g5

4...d5 5. b5 d4 6. b6 d3 7. b7 d2 8. b8♔ d1♔ 9. ♕xh2+! =.

5. b5 g4 6. b6 g3 7. b7 g2

8. b8♔

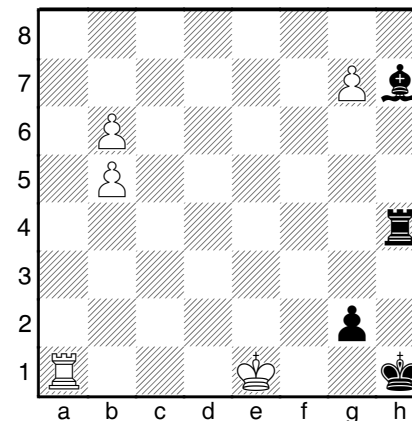
8. ♖xh2? ♔xh2 9. b8♔ g1♔-+.

8...gxh1♔ 9. ♕g8+! =

and on any move 10. ♕d5!.

1/2-1/2

**Shakhmaty v SSSR #15,
1960**



1. 0-0-0+

It turns out there's an alternate solution:

1. ♔f2+ ♔h2 2. b7 ♖f4+ 3. ♔e3 ♖e4+:

A) 4. ♔f2? ♖e8 5. ♖g1 (5. ♖a8 g1♔+ 6. ♔f3 ♕g3#) 5... ♔e4□-+.

B) 4. ♔f3□ (cook, JKU) 4... ♖e8

5. b8♔+! ♖xb8 6. ♖a2□ ♔h1

7. ♖xg2□ ♔e4+ 8. ♔xe4□ =.

1...g1♔

1... ♔h2? 2. b7+-.

2. ♖xg1+ ♔xg1 3. g8♔+!

3. b7? ♖c4+□ 4. ♔b2 ♖b4+ 5. ♔a1 ♖b1+! 6. ♔a2 ♖xb5-+.

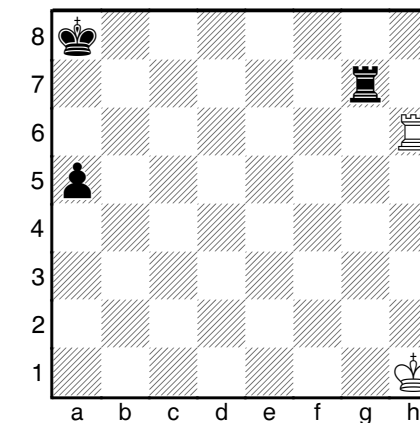
3... ♔xg8 4. b7 ♖c4+ 5. ♔b2

♖b4+ 6. ♔a1 ♖xb5 7. b8♔ ♖xb8

1/2-1/2

Rook Endings

64 1974, #28



1. ♖h5!

1. ♖a6+? ♖a7! 2. ♖e6 a4 3. ♔g2
a3 4. ♖e1 a2 5. ♖a1 ♔b7 6. ♔f2
♔b6 7. ♔e2 ♔b5 8. ♔d2 ♔b4
9. ♔c2 ♔a3!-+.

1...a4

1... ♖a7 2. ♔g2 a4 3. ♔f2 a3
4. ♖h1! a2 5. ♖a1 ♔b7 6. ♔e2 ♔b6
7. ♔d2 ♔b5 8. ♔c2 ♔b4 9. ♔b2=.

2. ♖h8+!

2. ♖a5+? ♖a7-+.

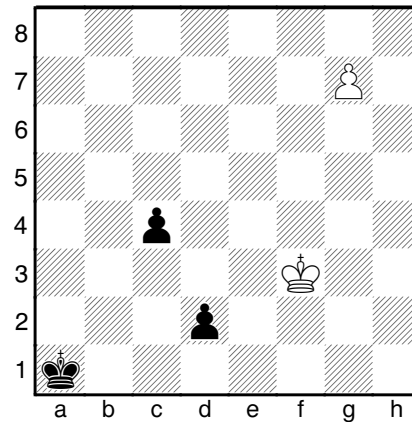
2...♔b7 3. ♖h4! a3 4. ♖h3!

4. ♖a4? ♖g3! #25 5. ♔h2 ♖c3
6. ♔g2 ♔b6 7. ♔f2 ♔b5 8. ♖a8
♔b4 9. ♔e2 ♔b3 10. ♔d2 ♔b2-+.

4...a2 5. ♖a3

1/2-1/2

**Reminder: you can
review these using
the PGN...**

Thèmes 64 #1028, 1963**1. ♔e2 c3 2. g8♖!**

2. g8♖? d1♖+! 3. ♔xd1 c2+!
4. ♔xc2=.

2...♔b2 3. ♖g1

3. ♖c8? ♔c2 4. ♖d8 ♔c1=.

3...♔c2 4. ♖f1

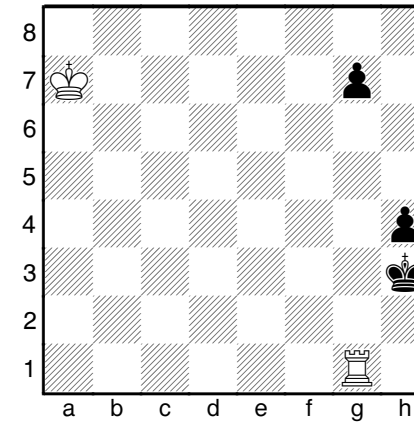
or 4. ♖h1+-.

4...♔b3 5. ♔d3 ♔b2 6. ♖g1 ♔b3

6...d1♖+ 7. ♖xd1 c2 8. ♖d2+-.

7. ♖b1+ ♔a2 8. ♔c2

1-0

**Shakhmaty v SSSR #46,
1961****1. ♖g5□**

1. ♖xg7? ♔h2 2. ♔b6 h3 3. ♔c5
♔h1 4. ♔d4 h2 5. ♔e3=.

1. ♔b6? g5! 2. ♔c5 ♔h2 3. ♖a1
g4 4. ♔d4 g3 5. ♔e3 g2 6. ♔f2 h3
7. ♖d1 g1♖+ 8. ♖xg1=.

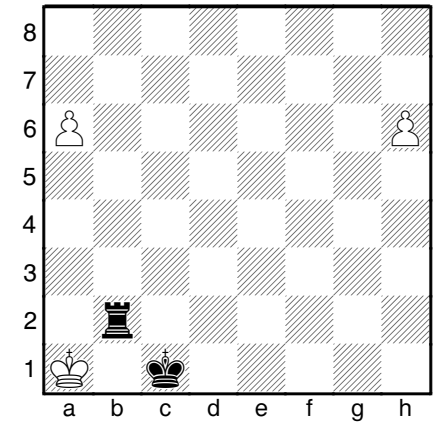
1. ♖g6? ♔h2 2. ♔b6 h3 3. ♔c5
♔h1 4. ♔d4 h2 5. ♖g3 g5 6. ♔e3
g4=.

1... ♔h2 2. ♔b6 h3 3. ♔c5 ♔h1
4. ♔d4 h2 5. ♔e3 g6 6. ♖g3□
g5 7. ♔f2 g4 8. ♖a3

(♖ anywhere from a3-e3)

8...g3+ 9. ♔xg3 ♔g1 10. ♖a1#

1-0

**Achalgazdra Kommunisti,
1955****1. a7!**

1. h7?? ♖b6-+ or 1... ♖b8-+.

1... ♖b1+ 2. ♔a2 ♖b2+ 3. ♔a3
♔b1 4. h7 ♖a2+

4... ♖h2 5. ♔b4.

5. ♔b4 ♖b2+ 6. ♔a5 ♖a2+
7. ♔b6 ♖b2+ 8. ♔c7 ♖c2+
9. ♔d7 ♖d2+ 10. ♔e7
10. ♔e6? ♖d8=.

10... ♖e2+ 11. ♔f7

11. ♔f6? ♖e8=.

11... ♖f2+ 12. ♔g6 ♖g2+

12...♖f8 13.♔g7!+-.

13.♕h5 ♖a2 14.♕g4 ♖a4+

14...♖g2+ 15.♕f3+- #9.

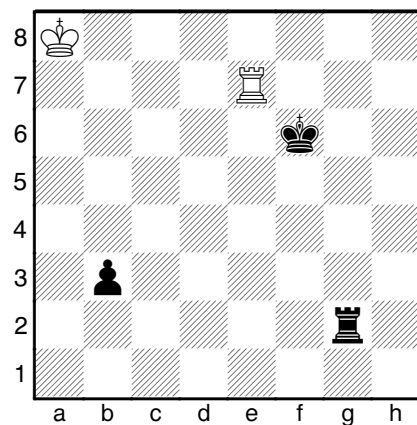
15.♕f5 ♖a5+ 16.♕e4 ♖a4+

17.♕d5 ♖a5+ 18.♕c4 ♖a4+

19.♕b5 #23.

1-0

64 #50, 1979



1.♖e4!

1.♖e1? b2 2.♕b7 ♖c2 3.♖b1 ♕e5 4.♕b6 ♕d4 5.♕b5 ♕c3+-.

1.♖e3? b2 2.♖b3 ♕e5 3.♕b7 ♕d4 4.♕b6 ♕c4+-.

1.♖b7? ♖g8+ 2.♕a7 ♖g7+-.

1...b2 2.♖b4 ♕e5 3.♕b7 ♕d5

3...♕d6 4.♕b6 ♕d5 5.♕b5 ♖g8

6.♕a6 ♖a8+ 7.♕b7 ♖a2 8.♕b6

♖a8 9.♕b7=.

4.♕b6 ♖h2

4...♖g8 5.♕a6 ♖a8+ 6.♕b7 ♖a2

7.♕b6! ♖a8 8.♕b7! =.

5.♕b5 ♖h8 6.♕a6!

6.♕a4? ♖a8+-+.

6...♖a8+ 7.♕b7 ♖a2 8.♕b6!

♖a8

8...♕d6 9.♖b5 or ♖b3 (9.♖d4+?

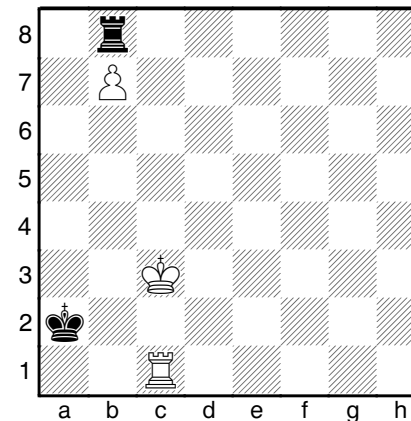
♕e5 10.♖b4 ♕d5-+) 9...♖a8

10.♕b7□ =.

9.♕b7

1/2-1/2

Shakhmaty v SSSR #01, 1988



1.♖c2+□ ♕a1!

1...♕a3 2.♖b2+-.

1...♕b1 2.♖b2+! ♕a1 3.♖b6+-.

2.♖b2! ♖c8+!? 3.♕d2!

3.♕b3? ♖c3+! 4.♕a4 ♖a3+

5.♕b4 (5.♕xa3=) 5...♕xb2

6.♕c5=.

3...♖d8+ 4.♕c1! ♖c8+

5.♖c2 ♖b8 6.♖c8!

6.♖c7? ♕a2=.

6...♖xb7 7.♖a8+ ♖a7

8.♖xa7#

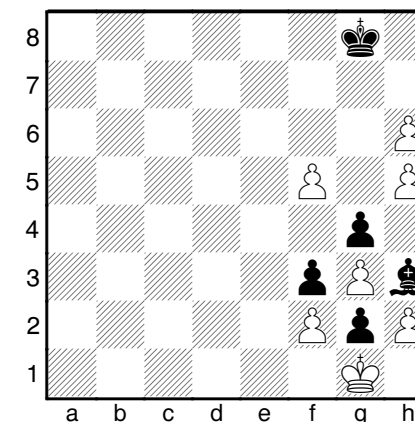
1-0

Epic Studies

(mate in 50 or more)

The following is a cleaner version of a theme Nadareishvili first explored in a 1947 study.

Schach (1986/12), 1985



1.f6 ♕h8

1...♕h7 2.f7 ♕xh6 3.f8♖+.

2.f7 ♕h7 3.f8♖

3.f8♗? is stalemate.

3...♕xh6 4.♖f5 ♕g7 5.♖a5

♕h6 6.♖b5 ♕h7 7.♖b6 ♕g7

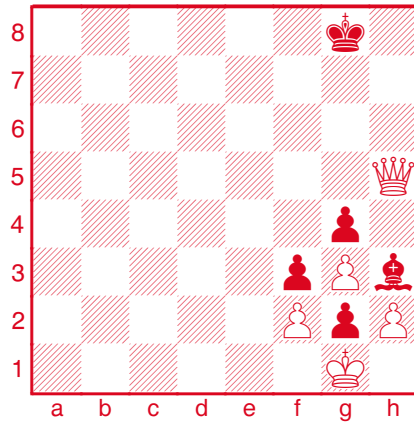
8.h6+ ♕h7 9.♖a6 ♕g8 10.♖a5

♕h7 11.♖h5 ♕g6 12.h7 ♕xh5

13.h8♗+ ♕g6 14.♗h4 ♕g7

Suggestion/Caution: checking the Epic ones using the PGN and your computer may promote skepticism...

15. ♖h5 ♔g8



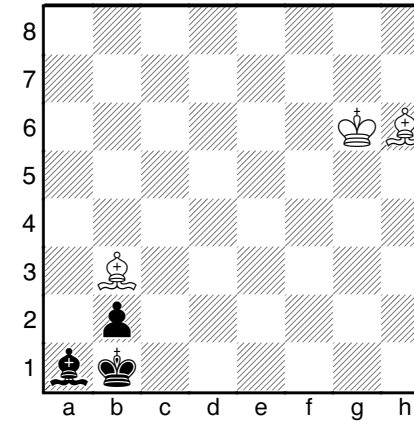
follow the original solution, which pushes the ♔ to a1.

33... ♔a5 34. ♖b3 ♔a6
35. ♖b8! ♔a5 36. ♖b7 ♔a4
37. ♖b6 ♔a3 38. ♖b5 ♔a2
39. ♖b4 ♔a1 40. ♖d2 ♔b1
41. ♖h6 ♔c2 42. ♖xh3!

The point.
42... gxf3 43. g4 #15.

1-0

4. ♕c4+ ♔b1 5. ♕b3 ♔c1
6. ♕h6+ ♔b1



Now that the ♔b2 is permanently blockaded (and the ♕a1 locked in), White's ♖♕♕ force Black's ♔ to the only square where it can be mated by a ♕ waiting on b1.

22... ♔d2 23. ♕b4+ ♔d1
24. ♕e7 ♔d2 25. ♕f6 ♔e3
26. ♔b3 ♔d2 27. ♕g5+ ♔e2
28. ♔c3 ♔f3 29. ♔d2 ♔g4
30. ♕h6 ♔h5 31. ♕e3 ♔g4
32. ♔e2 ♔h5 33. ♔f3 ♔h4
34. ♕c5 ♔g5 35. ♕e7+ ♔h5
36. ♔f4 ♔h6 37. ♕f6 ♔h5
38. ♔f5 ♔h6 39. ♕g5+ ♔g7
40. ♔e6 ♔f8 41. ♔d7 ♔f7
42. ♔d6 ♔f8 43. ♔e6 ♔e8
44. ♕g6+ ♔f8 45. ♕h6+ ♔g8
46. ♕b1 ♔h8 47. ♔f6 ♔g8
48. ♔g6 ♔h8 49. ♕g7+ ♔g8
50. ♕a2#

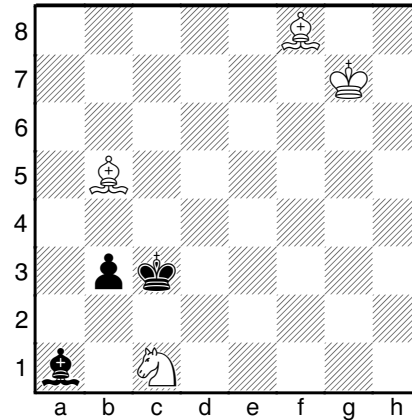
16. ♖h6

White keeps the ♖ a knight-jump from ♔ to shepherd it toward the bottom left corner, where it will be "outside the square" of the ♔g3.

16... ♔f7 17. ♖g5 ♔f8 18. ♖g6 ♔e7 19. ♖f5 ♔e8 20. ♖f6 ♔d7
21. ♖e5 ♔d8 22. ♖e6 ♔c7
23. ♖d5 ♔c8 24. ♖d6 ♔b7
25. ♖c5 ♔b8 26. ♖c6 ♔a7
27. ♖c8 ♔b6 28. ♖d7 ♔c5
29. ♖e6 ♔d4 30. ♖f5 ♔c4
31. ♖e5 ♔b4
31... ♔d3 32. ♖f4 ♔c3 33. ♖e4+-.

32. ♖d5 ♔a4 33. ♖b7
33. ♖c5 is slightly faster, but we'll

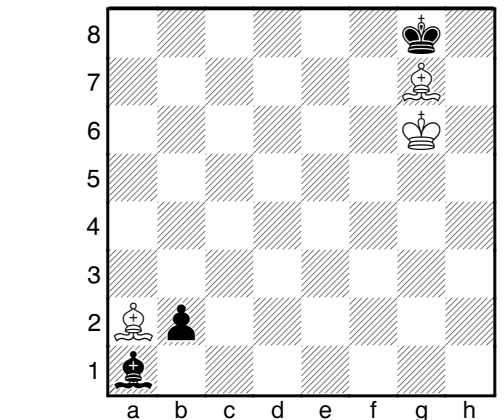
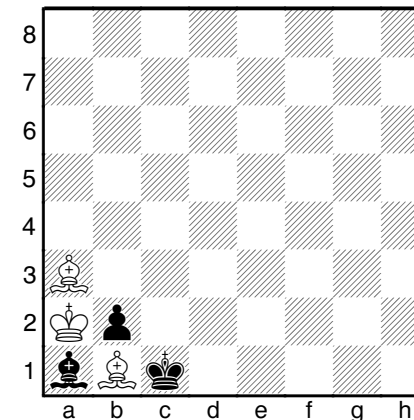
Lelo, 1951



1. ♔g6 b2 2. ♖a2+! ♔b3
2... ♔c2 3. ♕a4+ ♔d2 4. ♕b4+ ♔d3 5. ♖c3 ♔c4 6. ♕a5 b1 ♖+ 7. ♖xb1 #25.

3. ♕d3 ♔xa2 #47
3... b1 ♖ 4. ♕xb1 ♔b2 5. ♖c3 ♔xc3 6. ♕g7+-.

7. ♔g5 ♔c1 8. ♔f5+ ♔b1 9. ♔f4 ♔c1 10. ♔e4+ ♔b1 11. ♔e3 ♔c1 12. ♔d3+ ♔b1 13. ♕f8! ♔c1 14. ♕a3 ♔b1 15. ♔d4 ♔c1 16. ♔c3 ♔b1 17. ♕f7 ♔c1 18. ♕h5 ♔b1 19. ♔b3 ♔c1 20. ♕g6 ♔d2 21. ♕b1 ♔c1 22. ♔a2



1-0

