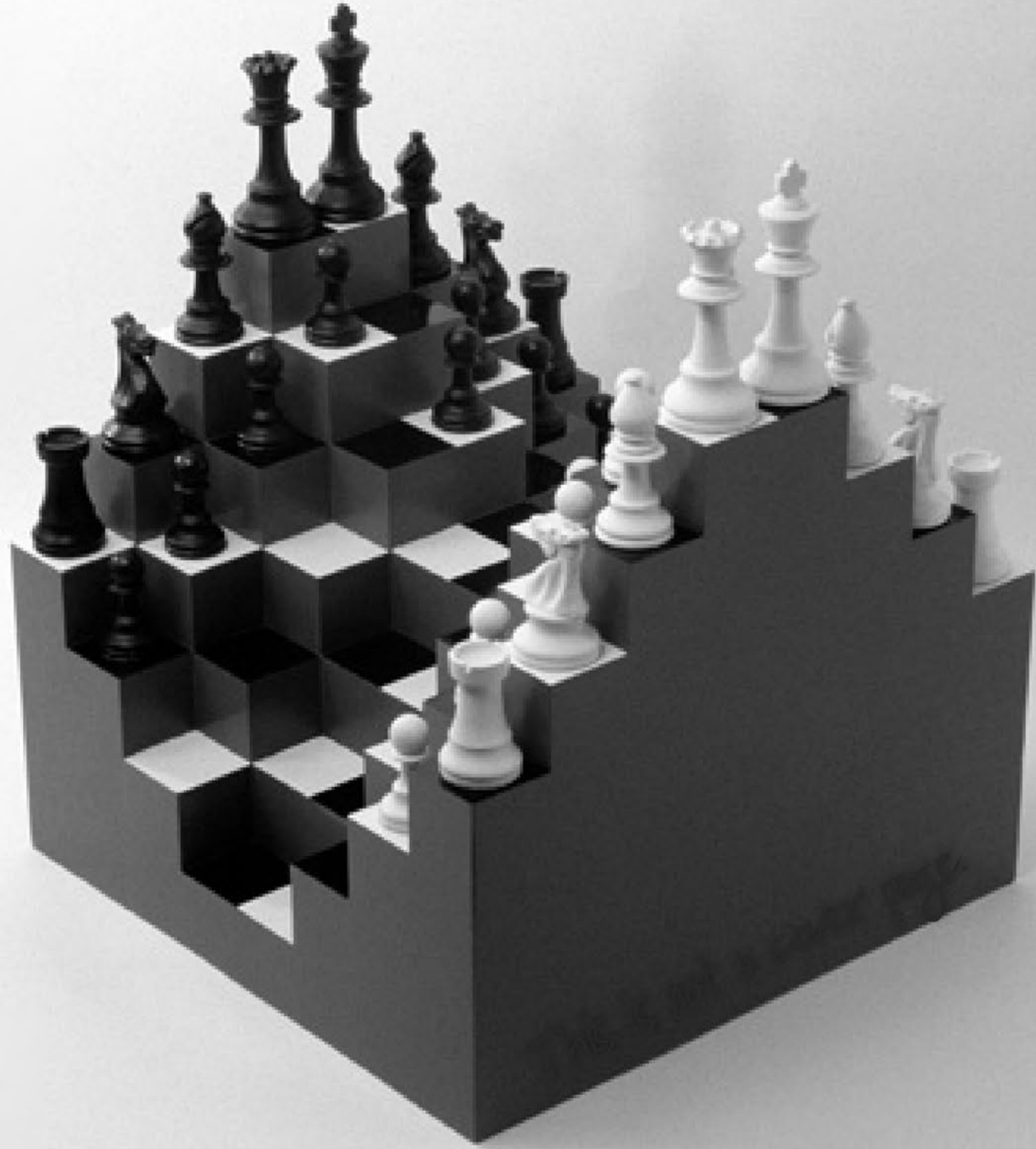


Chess Canada June 2014





Cover: Ji Lee, 3D chessboard

Next Month...

2014 CYCC

IM Deen Hergott annotates all the winners.

2014 Canadian Open

GMs Kovalyov, Hansen, van Kampen and more...

Coming Soon...

Canada's 2014 Olympiad

Eric Hansen, Bator Sambuev, Aman Hambleton, Yuanling Yuan, Qiyu Zhou... more?

Chess Canada

2014.06

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The PDF has bookmarks.

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



2014 CYCC

The CYCC took place in Montreal **July 15-18**. A full report will appear in the next issue of *Chess Canada*.

Here is the Winners List:

- U8: Nameer Issani
- U8g: Mysha Gilani
- U10: Wenxuan Zhong
- U10: Kylie Tan
- U12: Sergei Noritsyn
- U12g: Maili-Jade Ouellet
- U14: Richard Chen
- U14g: Yi Lin Li
- U16: Richard Wang
- U16g: Uranchimeg Nyamdorj
- U18: Cristopher Knox
- U18g: Yan Wang

<https://www.facebook.com/fqechecs>

2014 CO-CoQ

July 19-26, immediately following the CYCC, Montreal hosted a joint Canadian Open/Championnat du Quebec. The top section attracted 11 GMs and 8 IMs. **GMs Sergey Tiviakov** (NL), **Robin Van Kampen** (NL) and **Ehsan Ghaemmagami** (Iran) tied for first with 6½/9, with Tiviakov winning the title on rapid game tie-breaks. **IM Jean Hebert** won the U2400 section.

A full report on the Canadian Open/CoQ, with annotated games by Van Kampen, Kovalyov, Hansen, Hebert and more will appear in the next *Chess Canada*.

<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/article/champ-ouvert-du-canada-canadian-open-prix-prizes>

FIDE Honours Jonathan Berry

Jonathan Berry awarded FIDE Arbiter's Award, one of 8 so awarded at the Tromso FIDE Congress.

The requirements for the Arbiters to be awarded are:

- (a) to have obtained the IA title before 1979 (35 years of service as an IA);
- (b) to have worked as an Arbiter in at least three major FIDE events (Olympiads, World Championships, etc.).

<http://www.fide.com/component/content/article/15-chess-news/8124-2014-arbiters-awards-.html>

Labour Day Events

Août 29-31

Tournoi de la Fête du Travail

Centre communautaire Noël-Brûlart, Ville du Québec

Ven: 19h; Sam: 10, 15h; Dim: 9:30h, 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>

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/>

Toronto Labour Day Open

Macedonian Community Hall
76 Overlea Drive
Sat & Sun: 11, 5:30; Mon: 10, 4:30
TC: 40/2, G/1 (no increment)
<http://gtachessevents.wix.com/labourdayopen>

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

September 12

NATO Blitz Championship

Citadel of Quebec, Quebec City
The NATO Championship is for NATO Teams only, but there will be an Open Blitz, starting at 1330.
<http://www.natochess.com/>

September 13-14

2014 Mississauga Open

UTM Campus
details: TBA
<http://www.mississaugachessclub.ca/>

September 19-21

RA Fall Open

RA Centre, Ottawa
F: 7:30; Sat & Sun: 10, 3.
TC: G/90 + 30
<http://www.eoca.org/resources/2014-RA-Fall-Open.pdf>





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October 4-5
2014 Aurora Fall Open
Royal Canadian Legion
details: TBA
<http://www.aurorachessclub.ca/>


October 11-13
Maritime Open
Fredericton
Details: 506-460-0332

Oct. 31- Nov. 2
National Capital Open
RA Centre, Ottawa
Details: TBA

November 7-9
Remembrance Day Open
Mt. St. Vincent U.
Fri: 6; Sat & Sun: 10, 4.
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NSChess/upcoming.html>

November 22-23
Campbellville Open
Mohawk Inn, Campbellville
Details: TBA
<http://www.miltonchess.ca/>

November 28-30
RA November Open
RA Centre, Ottawa
Details: TBA



CHOM


2014

www.echecsmontreal.ca

Brebeuf College - september 5, 6, 7

Montreal Open Chess Championship



Club
d'échecs
Ahuntsic

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.

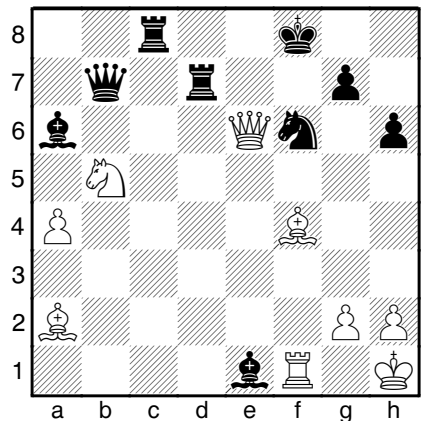
These "critical positions" can be:

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

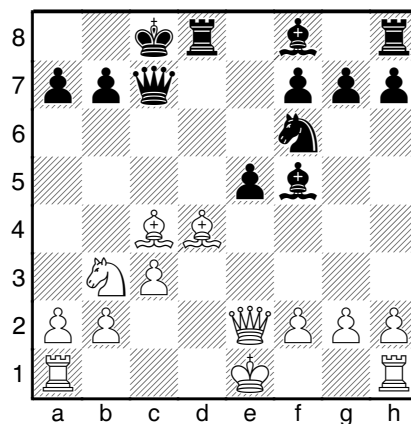
The black and white squares next to each diagram indicate the player to move.

This month, diagrams are *not* sorted in order of difficulty.

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.

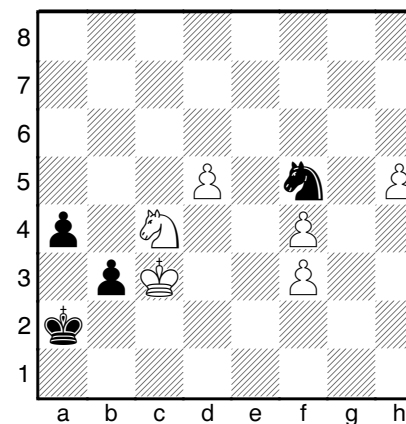


see: NAYCC

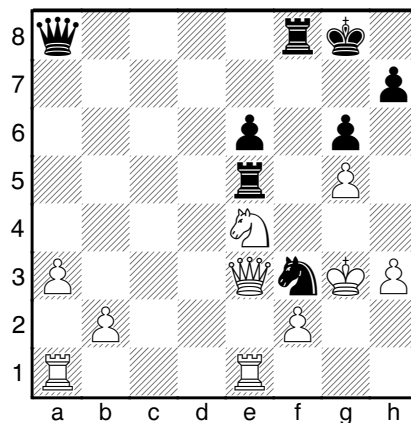


What's better: ♖xe5 or ♖xa7?

see: Edmonton International

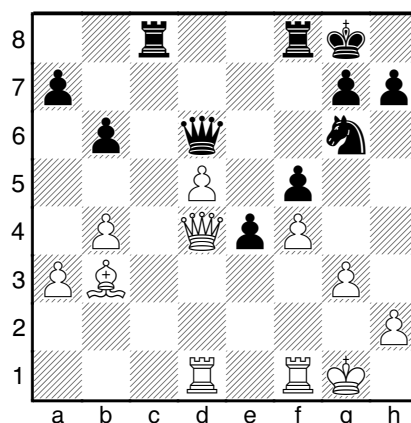


see: Edmonton International

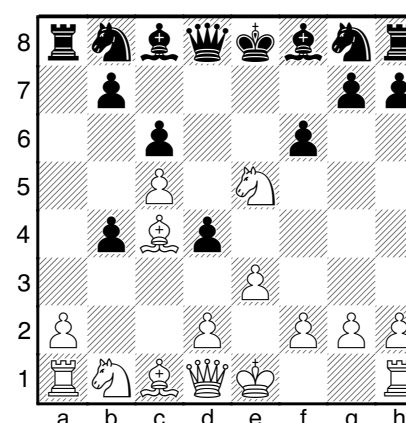


Black has #12

see: NAYCC



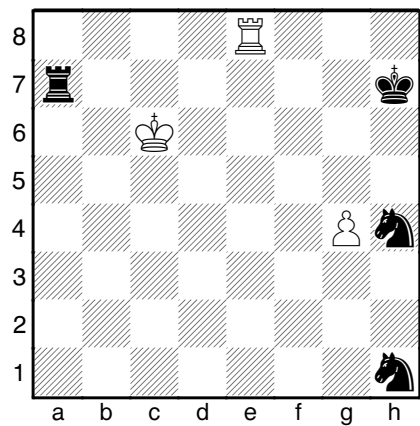
see: Edmonton International



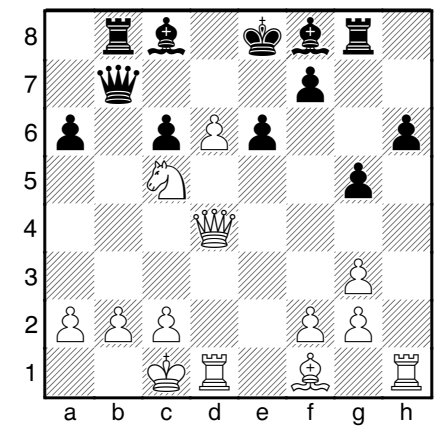
see: Edmonton International



Chess Canada June 2014

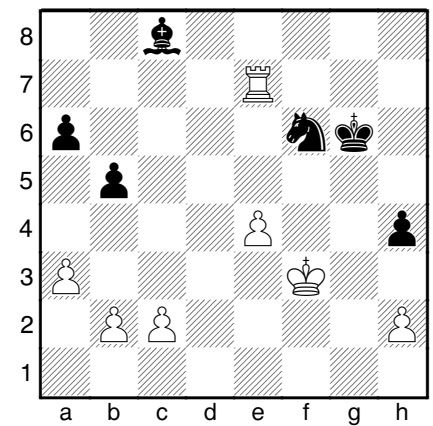


see: Edmonton International



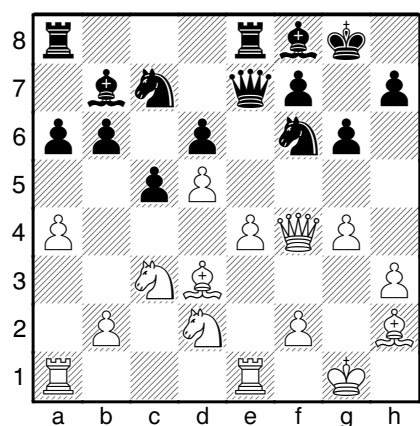
What happens on ...♔g7?

see: Ottawa



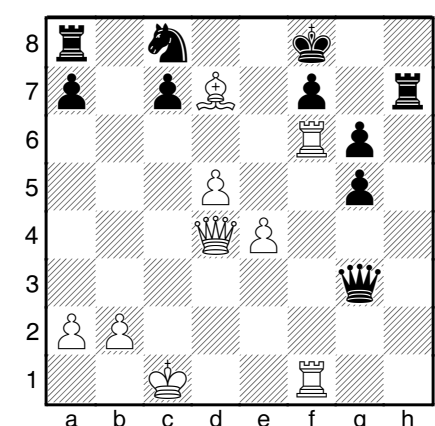
What happens if 38...♘g4?

see: World Open

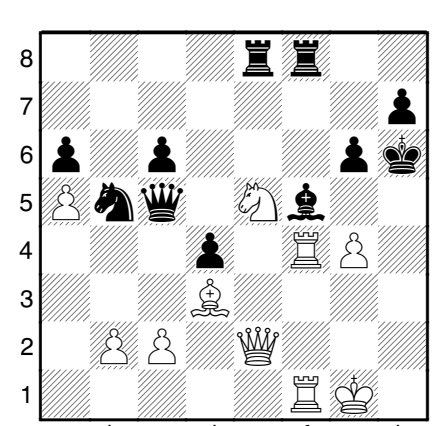


What happens after 19.♘c4
♘cxd5?

see: BC Senior



see: World Open



see: World Open

Skinny Editor's Column

Another chronically obese issue of *Chess Canada* waddles onto the internet. This issue sets two records: one for lateness (boo) the other for number of contributors: 36 games and fragments with 23 different annotators (yea!). Among the titled returnees are: IMs Bindi Cheng, Raja Panjwani, and Richard Wang, and FMs Vladimir Pechenkin, Razvan Preatu and Jason Cao.

About 1/3 of the contributors are *first-timers*, writing about their own games from the 2014 NAYCC. The NAYCC organizers didn't use carbons or smart-boards, so the only way to get games was to ask the players. Thanks to Canada's HoD Victoria Jung-Doknjas for asking, and (of course) thanks to the players who wrote them up!

Styles of Opening Preparation is the emergent Theme of the Month. Compare:

- Richard "no-prep-during-exams" Wang
- Raja & Wesley's dueling Delchevs
- Vladimir P's uncanny ability to predict his opponents' openings.

- John Upper



New York, the Big Apple. The city that never sleeps. If you have never tasted the sights and sounds of New York, when the opportunity to visit presents itself, it is hard to resist. And when you add the prospects of winning a FIDE title, it only beckons a young chess player even more so. And that was the scenario for this year's **2014 North American Youth Chess Championship (NAYCC)** held in Tarrytown, New York.

Host country duties for the NAYCC rotate between Canada, USA, and Mexico. Last year, Chess 'N Math hosted the NAYCC in Toronto and increased the number of rounds to 9 in order to have the NAYCC qualify as a FIDE Continental Tournament and thus, be able to award direct FIDE titles:

- U18: IM/WIM Title
- U16: IM/WIM Norm
- U14 & U12: FM/WFM Title
- U10 & U8: CM/WCM Title

This year's NAYCC was organized again by Chess Educator and International Organizer Beatriz Marinello. Beatriz and her team worked hard to make this event a successful one. Her team included Dora Letica, Chief Arbiter Walter Brown IA, Computer TD Aaron Kiedes, and TDs Aris Marghetis IA, Rudolph Abate, Oscar Garcia FA, and Noreen Davisson.

There were approximately 300 players from Canada (53), Mexico (10), and unsurprisingly the majority coming from the host country, USA (237). 78% of players were in the U8, U10, U12, and U14 sections. There were only 67 players in U16 and U18. This was mainly due to older players having scheduling conflicts to take mandatory school exams. With fewer than nine players in the girls' sections, organizers combined the U8 Open/U8 Girls

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and the U14 Open/U14 Girls, which enabled them to still provide separate awards to the Open players and the Girls Players.

Team Canada Support Team

Months prior to setting foot on-site, various Team Canada Support Team Members were already hard at work in planning sessions to deal with team budget, team polo shirts (custom chess design, contacting 50+ players for sizes, ordering shirts, delivery, etc.), planning Team Canada at NAYCC Facebook content posting and subsequent planning for team photos, organizing the Team Canada Awards and

Celebration Event, confirming official Canadian representation player status, confirming special bursaries, planning for fun team events, and the list goes on and on.

Simply said: GREAT work from a GREAT Team!

This year's outstanding Team Canada Support Team Members are:

- HoD: Victoria Jung-Doknjas
- CFC President: Vlad Drkulec
- CFC Youth Coordinator: Frank Lee
- Assistant HoD and NAYCC Arbiter: Aris Marghetis
- Team Canada Awards and Celebration Coordinators: Christina

Tao and Jennifer Cheong
Official Team Canada Photographer: Jim Foote
Appeals Committee and Designated Person: George Zhou

Funding for Team Canada

Normally, most Canadian youth funding goes to the World Youth Chess Championship (WYCC). For the 2014 NAYCC, the organizers provided 4 free (shared) accommodations nights and breakfast for the 12 official Canadian representatives from each section:

- U18g: Regina-Veronica Kalaydina
- U18: David Itkin
- U16g: Rachel Tao
- U16: John Doknjas
- U14g: No Canadian Players
- U14: Jeffrey Xu
- U12g: Rinna Yu
- U12: Rohan Talukdar
- U10g: Kylie Tan
- U10: Neil Doknjas
- U8g: Mysha Gilani
- U8: Alan Bui

For this year's team, the CFC Youth Fund made provision as part of the budget that was developed at the last WYCC, as authorized by CFC Youth Coordinator Frank Lee, CFC



President Vlad Drkulec, and the CFC Executive. The CFC Governors were also quite supportive of this. This funding allowed Team Canada to get team polo shirts with a cool custom chess design [editor - see margin bug], team awards for the celebration event, and special bursary recipients of \$300 was made available for kids who finished top three at CYCC and had not received official player status at WYCC: Joanne Foote (U18g), Allison Tsy-pin (U12g), and Cindy Qiao (U12g).



left: Jim Foote, George Zhou, Christina Tao, Victoria Jung-Doknjas, Jennifer Cheong, Aris Marghetis

above: Christina Tao, Vlad Drkulec

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Venue

Onsite, the tournament venue was at the DoubleTree Tarrytown Hotel. There were 3 tournament rooms: one for the Merged U8 section, another for the U18 Open and U18 Girls sections, and the main tournament room for the U10 Open/U10Girls, U12 Open/U12 Girls, Merged U14 section, U16 Open/U16 Girls. There were two waiting rooms for the parents and separate skittles room. Good room temperature, air conditioning, good lighting, and ample space.

Tournament Rooms: Combined U8 Section, U18 Open and U18 Girls, and Main Tournament Room for U10 Open/U10 Girls, U12 Open/U12 Girls, Merged U14 section, U16 Open/U16 Girls.



Prep Quiz

One of the challenges with having a large team spread across the many provinces of Canada is to find some way to bond as a team. The NAYCC



Organizers provided a huge meeting room, Salon 5, for our first Team

Canada meeting, where we distributed the Team Canada shirts, took the official Team Canada at NAYCC 2014 team photo, and where the Head of Delegation, Victoria Jung-Doknjas, played a little game called "Team Canada at NAYCC - Q&A Game" with all the players. Players were asked to come up front by section, introduce themselves, and answer questions.

For example, the U10 Open and U10 Girls came up and were asked: "You are getting ready to play Round 1 in the 2014 North American Youth Chess Championship. The start time is 6pm and you are about to leave your hotel room when you see that your favou-

rite TV Show, *Sponge Bob Square Pants is on!* Do you have time to watch the entire 30 mins without getting forfeited?"

After conferring as a team, they provided their answer: "No, because forfeit occurs 30 min. after the start of the round." Yes! Fist-bumps all-around!

The U16 Open and U16 Girls were asked:

Please describe the steps to claim a threefold repetition in the following situations:

- i. When your opponent moves and the position now on the board has appeared (at least) for the third time.



*Top: U18 room
Middle: U8 room
Right: U12 Prep Quiz*

Answer: Pause the clock, call the arbiter over, and claim the draw due to threefold repetition.

ii. You are about to make your move and that move will result in the same position appearing (at least) for the third time.

Answer: Do NOT make the move; but, instead write down your move. Pause the clock, call the arbiter over, show the arbiter the move you are going to make on your notation sheet, and claim a draw due to threefold repetition.

This game with the Team Canada Players had a two-fold purpose: Get our kids to work together and

start to get to know each other by having fun as a team. Another way to bond is to face adversity as a team...

One of the best things about being

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

Ecclesiasties 4:9-10

part of a team is that we can turn to one another if we need help. And that help was needed early on...

Clocks: Much sought after scarce resource!

Players and families were taken by surprise when it was discovered that we were *required to provide our own clocks*. A lesson well-learned for future tournaments played in the U.S. This left the majority of our Canadian crew scrambling for clocks as Round 1 commenced. The

problem facing us was almost like a text book probability and stats question: Given that only 14 of the 53 Team Canada players had brought clocks, what is the prob-

ability that we would require additional clocks to safely cover all 53 players each round? Added to this was that there was a 75% chance if a Canadian was paired with an American player, that the American player would have a clock.

During Round 1, as the players played, Team Canada parents gathered for an emergency meeting to brainstorm and take clock inventory. We came up with ideas including buying 20 clocks (est. \$1000 expense), arranging for overnight delivery of clocks from a Canadian Chess Club willing to lend 20 clocks, checking our NY contacts to see if they were attached to a NY chess club willing to lend clocks (they were, but their clocks did *not* have the increment), seeking assistance from the NAYCC Organizers



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(who did not have enough clocks to lend out), etc.

Eventually, as a group we came up with the following plan: We asked for volunteers to be Section Team Leads (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18). If a Canadian player had a clock, he/she would not put it out and instead wait to see if the opponent produced a clock. If so, the Canadian player gave his/her clock to the Section Team Lead to distribute to another Canadian player in clock-need. Due to the diligent team efforts of our Section Team Leads and parents, Round 2, 3, and subsequent rounds went comparatively smoother. Thank you Section Team Leads and other helpers:

- U8: Noor Issani (Nameer's Dad)
 - U10: James Tan (Kylie's Dad)
 - U12: Qing Ming (Wenyang's Dad)
 - U12g: George Zhou (Lily's Dad)
 - U14: Bo Peng (Richard Chen's Mom)
 - U16: Christina Tao (Kylie's Mom)
 - U18: Penny Changrongyu (Qiyu Zhou's Mom)
- Extra-Ordinary Technical Support: Toto Surya (Benito's Dad)

Masters of Swag!
Jennifer Cheong, Christina Tao
Victoria Jung-Doknjas

Team Canada Awards and Celebration Event

As many families planned to return home right after the NAYCC Awards Ceremonies, we scheduled the Team Canada Awards and Celebration Event between the end of the last round (9) and the start of the NAYCC Awards Ceremonies. Christina Tao and Jennifer Cheong took the lead on planning a wonderful event focussed on celebrating the achievements of our Canadian Team. Lots of hours were dedicated to planning the event; and shopping and negotiating for New York items



for the kids to enjoy. Christina and Jennifer did an excellent job – thank you ladies!



Each Canadian player was presented with a special certificate with their name on it, signed by CFC President Vlad Drkulec (who, by the way, was instrumental in the planning and decision stages, and who provided tremendous support and help in moving the

big administrative road blocks – a big thank you to you Vlad!). In addition, each player was giving two New York souvenirs (a watch, a mug, a mini-note pad or a stuffed animal) to remember their time at the NAYCC where they represented their country proudly.

Certificates were also given to the Section Team Leads in recognition for their help throughout the tournament. Similarly to the Team Canada Support Team; but, in addition, the Support Team received a very special and well-deserved gift: A team photo signed by all the Team Canada players.



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Team Canada at NAYCC Awards Ceremony

The success and accomplishments of our Canadian kids are largely due in part to the love and support they receive from their families. Congratulations to our Canadian players and their families! At the NAYCC Awards Ceremony, 13 Canadians received top 5 trophies. Those who won top 3 places also earned a FIDE title:



U18: FM Jason Cao won 5th place

U14: Kevin Wan won 5th place.



U18 Girls: Qiyu Zhou won 2nd place and the Woman FIDE Master (WFM) title.



U12 Girls: Lily Zhou won 3rd place and the Woman Candidate Master (WCM) title.



U16: John Doknjas won 3rd place and the Candidate Master (CM) title.



U14: Richard Chen won 3rd place and the Candidate Master (CM) title.

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U10 Girls: Kylie Tan won 1st place and is the 2014 North American Youth Chess Champion, and FIDE Woman Candidate Master.



U8 Girls: Julia Kuleshova won 1st place and is the 2014 North American Youth Chess Champion, and FIDE Woman Candidate Master.



U8 Girls: Mysha Gilani won 2nd place to "rewin" the Woman Candidate Master title.



U10: Nicholas Vettese won 2nd place and the Candidate Master title.



U8: Nameer Issani won 2nd place and the CM title.



U8: Aahil Noor Ali won 3rd place and the CM title.



U10: Kevin Low won 5th place.

Final Remarks

In the TV series "Lost" the crash survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 realized early that they would either need to "Live Together or Die Alone". To be part of a team means more than wearing the same red shirt as the next player. It means when spirits need to be lifted, when a lending hand needs to be given, that we are there for our team mates.

I am so proud to be a Member of this Team Canada at the NAYCC 2014. Throughout the tournament, I saw players and families encouraging one another, interested in each other's well-being, and helping and sharing scarce resources. This is a very wonderful thing to see and experience. We are all richer for being part of such a tremendous team effort.

Many, many families have helped in meaningful ways. Thank you all for doing your part. In addition, Team Canada had an A-M-A-Z-I-N-G Team Canada Support Team that often went

above and beyond in order to provide the very best for our Canadian players and their families.

Victoria Jung-Doknjas, Head of Delegation and Member of Team Canada at NAYCC 2014

Great to see, great to be part of. Congratulations Team Canada!

Celebration Dinner Eldorado, a 24-hour diner across from the tournament venue was the setting for the post-NAYCC Team Canada celebration dinner. **Bughouse Fun** in Salon 5.



Canada Imports Precious Medals from USA

back: Lily Zhou, Qiyu Zhou, Richard Chen, John Doknjas, Jason Cao
front: Kevin Wan, Aahil Noor Ali, Nameer Issani, Nicholas Vettese, Kylie Tan, Mysha Gilani



GAMES

Chess Canada is pleased to feature 12 games from the 2014 NAYCC, with 11 of them annotated by *the players!*

Notes by Qiyu Zhou

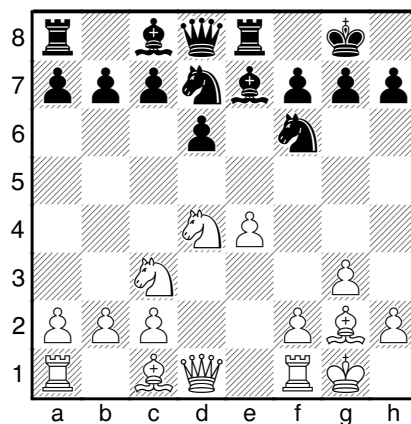
Zhou, Qiyu
Yu, Jennifer

C41

NAYCC 2014 - U18g (1),
12.06.2014

This was the first round of the North American Youth Chess Championship in Tarrytown, New York. It was starting about one hour behind schedule, due to the lack of clocks. The tournament did not provide clocks, and some people of course did not bring any due to the lack of information. The pairings came out right before the game, and since all the players were sitting in the playing hall, no one had time to prepare. My opponent was from the US.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 exd4
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♕e7 6.g3
0-0 7.♕g2 ♖e8 8.0-0 ♘bd7



9.♘f5

I have never seen this opening before so I spent some time on the transition between the opening and middlegame. Another move I considered was 9.b3!?

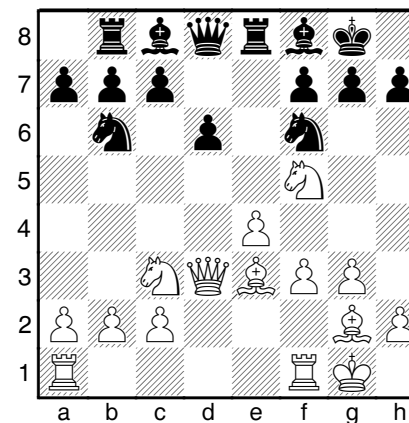
9...♕f8 10.f3

10.♖d4 ♘e5 11.♕f4 ♕xf5 12.exf5
♖d7∞.

10...♖b8

I didn't quite understand this move, as my opponent didn't make any advances in the queenside later either. More positional was 10...♘b6.

11.♕e3 ♘b6 12.♖d3



12...♕e6

I believe 12...♕xf5 would have given Black a small advantage 13.exf5 d5 14.♕xb6 axb6∞.

13.♖fe1 d5 14.♕xb6 axb6 15.e5 ♘d7 16.♘d4 c5

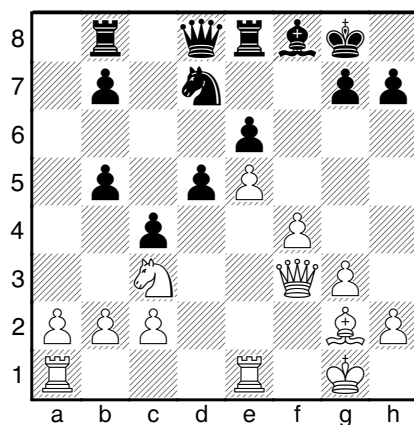
Reinforcing the pawn structure with 16...c6 would have been better: 17.f4 ♕c5 18.♘ce2 f6.



Qiyu Zhou



17. ♖xe6 fxe6 18. f4 c4 19. ♔f3
b5



20. ♖ad1

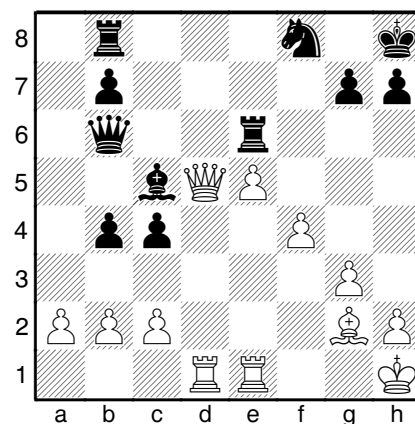
Another move was 20. f5!↑ with initiative.

I had indeed calculated 20. ♖xd5 exd5 21. ♗xd5+ ♔h8 22. ♗xb5 and even though I had three pawns for the knight I wasn't sure I knew how to continue: 22... ♗b6+ 23. ♗xb6 ♖xb6 24. a4±.

20... ♔h8 21. ♔h1 b4 22. ♖b5
♗b6 23. ♖d4 ♕c5 24. ♖xe6

I thought for a while about this move, and decided it was the only way White could keep any bit of an edge. If 24. ♖e2 ♖a8 25. ♖c1♞.

24... ♖xe6 25. ♗xd5 ♖f8



26. ♗xc4

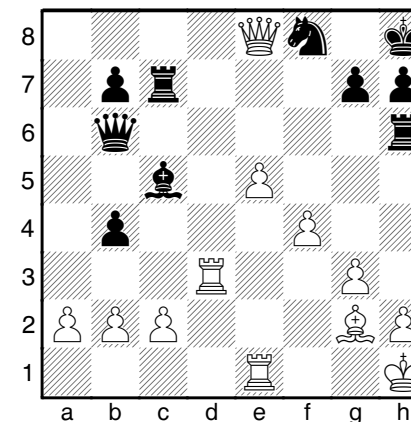
More forceful was 26. f5 ♖e7 27. ♗xc4±.

26... ♖h6

My opponent missed 26... ♕f2 27. f5 (27. ♖e2 ♕xg3 28. ♕d5 ♖h6 29. ♖g2♞ gives *Black chances*.) 27... ♖h6 28. ♖e2 ♕xg3 29. h3 is about equal.

27. ♖d3 ♖c8 28. ♗f7 ♖c7
29. ♗e8

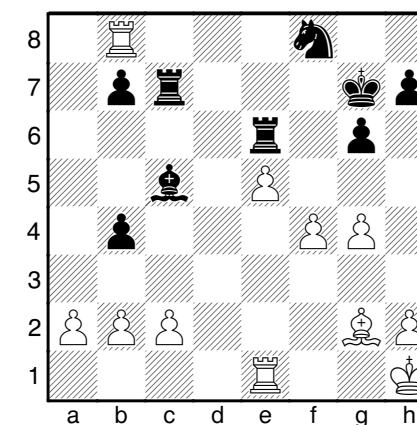
Who you calling "wretched refuse"? Qiyu Zhou tours unspecified location, apparently the set of a "Planet of the Apes" prequel.



29... ♗e6

I believe my opponent should have kept the queens on board with 29... ♖e6.

30. ♖d8 ♗xe8 31. ♖xe8 ♖e6
32. ♖b8 g6 33. g4 ♔g7



34. ♕d5

34. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 35. ♕xb7± with four pawns for the knight White

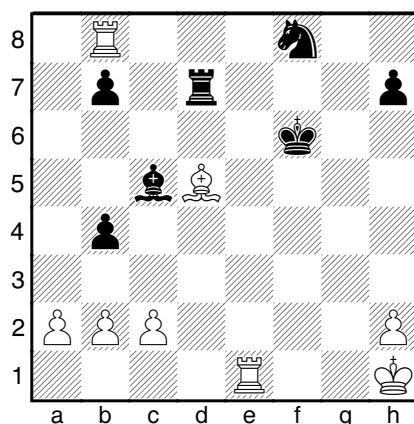


has a nice plus.

34...♖ee7 35.f5 gxf5 36.gxf5
♖ed7 37.f6+ ♔g6 38.e6 ♔+
♔xf6

38...♖xd5 39.e7 ♕xe7 40.fxe7
♖xe7 41.♖xe7+-.

39.exd7 ♖xd7



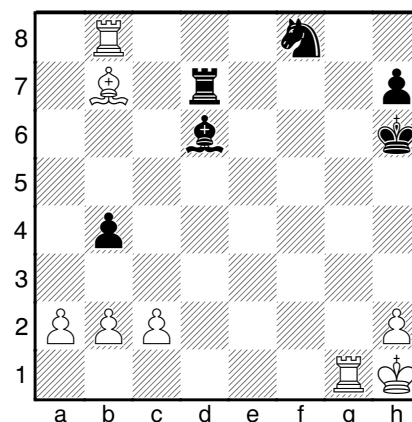
40.♕xb7

Winning immediately was
40.♖f1+ ♔g5 (40...♔g7 41.♖xb7
is a much better version of the
game for White.) 41.♕e4 ♖g6
42.♖f5+ ♔g4 43.♖xc5.

40...♕d6 41.♖f1+

41.♖ee8! ♕xb8 42.♖xf8+ ♔e6
43.♖xb8+-.

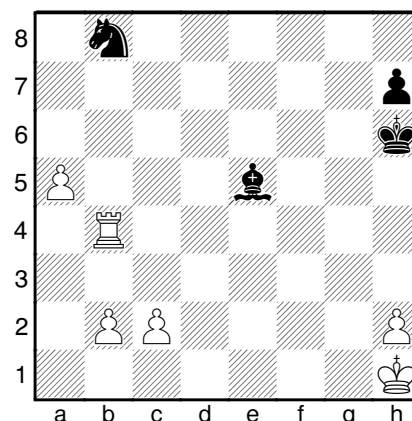
41...♔g7 42.♖g1+ ♔h6



43.♕c6

And White had a nice material
plus for the rest of the game and
won eventually.

43...♕xb8 44.♕xd7 ♖xd7
45.♖g4 ♖f6 46.♖xb4 ♕e5
47.a4 ♖d7 48.a5 ♖b8



49.a6

This allows Black to get two
pawns for the ♖. Keeping the
pawns would have won more
quickly: 49.♖b5 ♕c7 50.b4+-.

49...♖xa6 50.♖b6+ ♔g5
51.♖xa6 ♕xb2 52.♔g2 h6
53.♔f3 ♕d4 54.♖d6 ♕c3
55.♔e4 h5 56.♖d3 ♕b4 57.c4
♔h4 58.♔d5 ♕a5 59.c5 ♕c7
60.h3 ♕g3 61.c6 ♔xh3 62.c7
h4 63.c8 ♖+ ♔h2 64.♖d2+
♕f2 65.♖xf2+ ♔g1 66.♖a2 h3
67.♖c1#

1-0

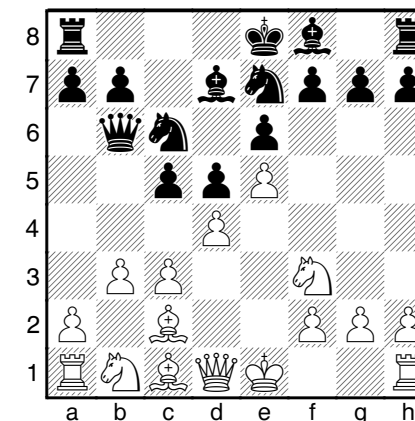
Notes by Rachel Tao

Eng, Rachael (1850) –
Tao, Rachel (1627)

C02

NAYCC 2014 - U16g (1),
12.06.2014

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.c3 e6
4.d4 d5 5.e5 ♖b6 6.♕d3 ♕d7
7.♕c2 ♖ge7 8.b3

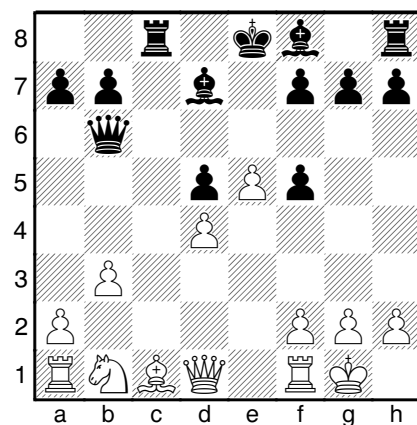


During the game I believed that
the move b3 really weakens the
pawns on c3 and b3. Also, it is
blocking the White Bishop to
move on the a4-d1 diagonal.

editor – Very often the French
defence is a strategic battle
between two bad ♕s: it's well
known that Black's light-squared
♕ has limited prospects behind
the f7-e6-d5 pawn chain, but
it's less well known that White's
dark-squared ♕ is almost as
badly restricted by pawns on
e5-d4 and (often) f4. This game
is eventually decided by the fact
that Black succeeds in activating
her bad ♕ while White does not.

8...♖f5 9.♕xf5 exf5 10.0-0
cxd4 11.♖xd4 ♖xd4 12.cxd4
♖c8





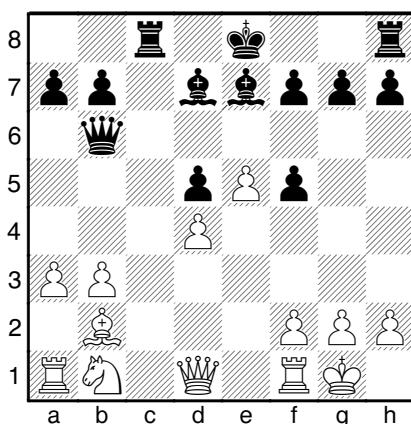
a3; therefore, there will be a weakness in the position. Also, at this time my Bishop pair is much stronger than the undeveloped and weak Knight and blocked Bishop.

15. ♖c3 ♔e6 16. ♕f3 ♘c6
17. a4 0-0 18. ♖fe1 ♙b4

The reason that I delayed castling is because:

- 1) my King is safe so far, and
- 2) I believe that controlling the c-file at this time is important (for later too).

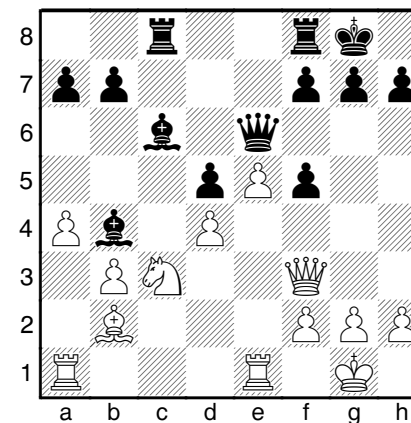
13. ♙b2 ♙b4 14. a3 ♙e7



The reason that I moved ...♙b4 was to trigger the move



Rachel Tao

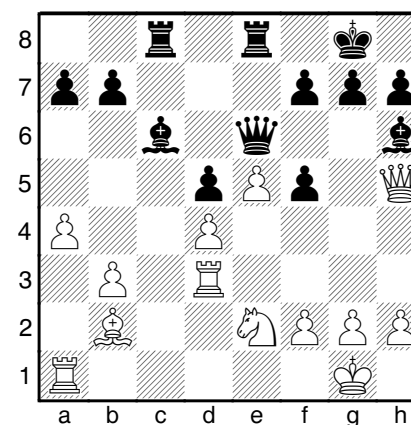
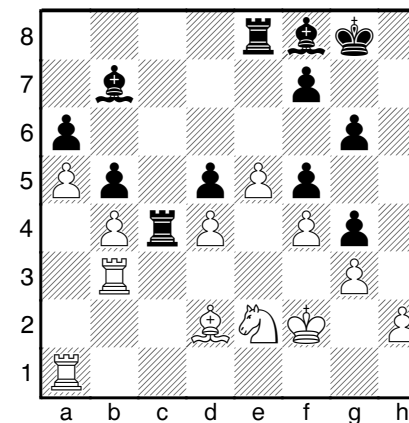


the dark-squared ♙s with ♙c1, which would leave White with the better minor piece.

22... ♔g6 23. ♕xg6 hxg6
24. f4 g5 25. g3 g6 26. ♔f2 b5
27. ♙c1 g4 28. ♙d2 a6 29. a5
♙f8 30. b4 ♙b7 31. ♖b3 ♖c4

Now because the b4 square is not being controlled by the a-pawn, I took advantage and created a pin.

19. ♖e3 ♖fe8 20. ♘e2 ♙d2
21. ♖d3 ♙h6 22. ♕h5

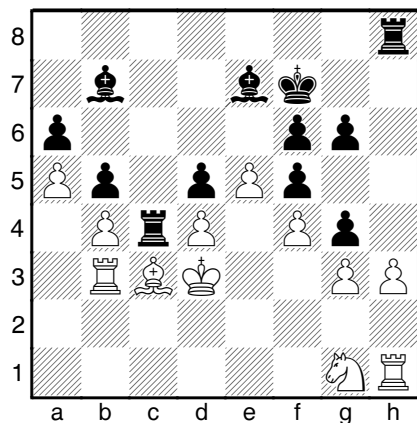


Because I am controlling the c-file, the advantage is leaning my way.

32. ♙c3 ♖ec8 33. ♔e3 f6
34. ♔d3 ♔f7
KING ACTIVITY!!!

35. ♖h1 ♙e7 36. h3 ♖h8
37. ♘g1

editor – Here, or on one of the next few moves White should consider trying to exchange



The White Knight and Rook in the corner is very passive.

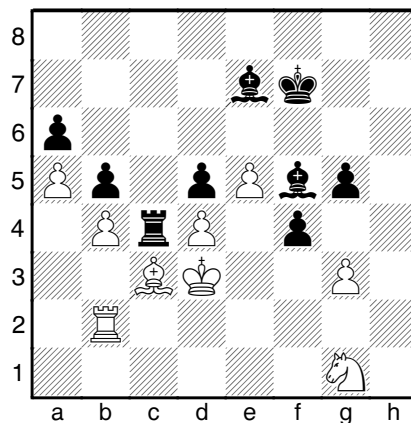
editor – White should have tried 37.h4 and hoped Black would have trouble figuring out how to open lines for her Qs. Black plays the remainder of the game expertly: the Rxc4 and Qe7 keep White tied to the defence of b4 and d4, and her Rh8 keeps the Ng1 and Rf1 tied down, so now she activates her "extra" piece: the bad light-squared Qb7.

37...fxe5

I took this e5 pawn because to open up either the f-file or to open up the fourth rank for my Rook to be active.

38.fxe5 g5 39.Rb2 Qc8

40.Rf2 gxh3 41.Rfxh3 Rfxh3
42.Nfxh3 f4 43.Ng1 Qf5+



editor – The formerly bad light-squared Q now becomes an unstoppable force.

44.Qd2 fxg3
45.Rb3 g4 46.Ne2
Qg5+

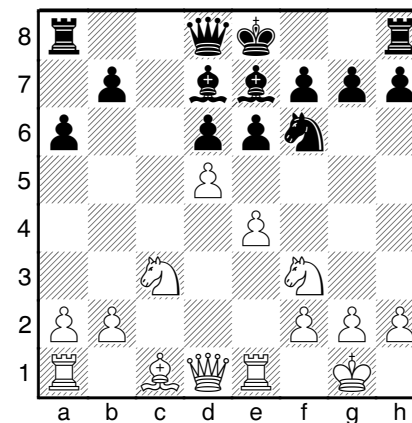
Now I am bringing in my Bishop pair into the endgame.

47.Qe1 Qh4
48.Qf1 Qd3
49.Qe1 Qxe2+

0-1

Joshua Doknjas

Notes by Joshua Doknjas
Doknjas, Joshua (2024)
Zheng, Andrew (2177)
NAYCC 2014 - U12 (3),
13.06.2014

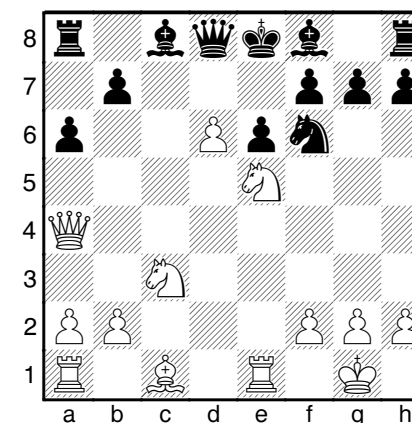


12.Qg5?!=

This leads to an equal position.

I calculated here for almost half an hour, but in the following line: 12.e5! dxe5 13.d6 Qf8 14.Nxe5 Qc8 I missed 15. Qa4! which would easily give White a huge advantage:

Analysis Diagram



A) 15...b5 16.Nxb5+-.

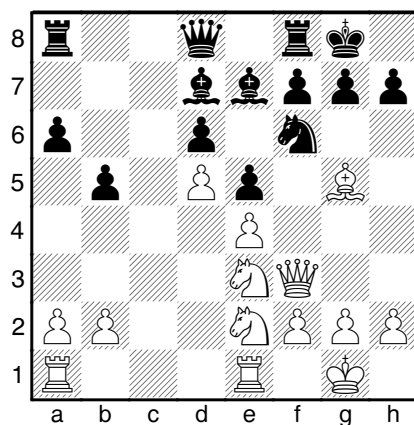
B) 15...Nd7 16.Qg5 (16.Qxg5 17.Nb5!+-) 16...f6 17.Ng6! Δ hxg6 18.Rxe6+ Qf7 19.Qb3 Nc5 20.Re7#.

C) 15...Qd7 16.Qd4 Qc8 17.Rd1+-.

12...e5 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nc4



**♖c7 15.♘e3 b5 16.♙f3 ♔d8
17.♘e2**



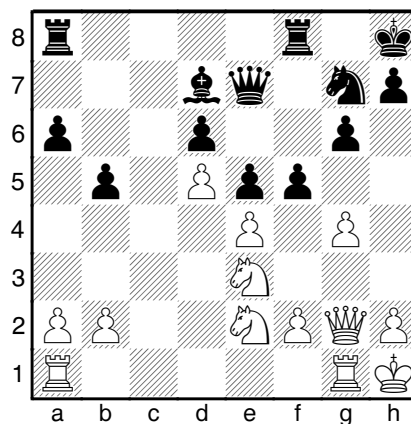
17...♘e8

17...♘e8! We both missed this but it wouldn't give Black a great advantage due to the weaknesses on the d-file. 18.♙xe7 ♘xe7 19.♖ad1 and White has control of the d5 square and will build pressure on the d6 pawn.

18.♙xe7 ♙xe7 19.g4!?

Strange move, preventing ...f5.

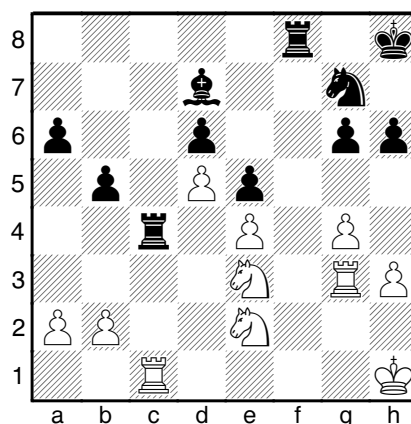
**19...g6 20.♔h1 ♘g7 21.♖g1
♔h8 22.♙g2 f5**



23.f3?! ♖

23.gxf5 gxf5 24.f3= this stops Black from playing ...♙g5.

**23...♙g5 24.♘c2 fxe4 25.fxe4
♖ac8 26.♖ac1 h6 27.h3 ♙h4
28.♙g3 ♙xg3 29.♖xg3 ♖c4
30.♘e3!?**

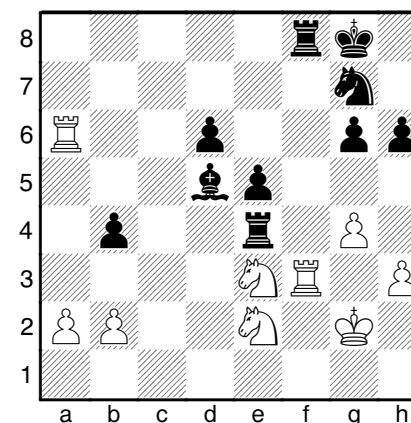


I felt it was time to twist the position, and it turns out this was a good move.

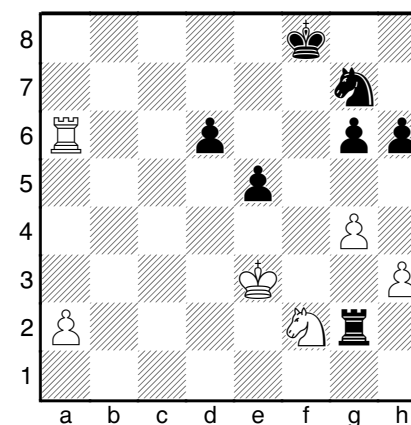
**30...♖xe4 31.♖c7 ♙e8 32.♖a7
b4 33.♔g2 ♙f7?!**

33...♙b5 34.♖f3 ♘f5! 35.gxf5
♙xe2 36.♖g3 g5 and Black has a slight advantage.

34.♖f3= ♔g8 35.♖xa6 ♙xd5



**36.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 37.♘d5
♖xe2+ 38.♔f3 ♖d2 39.♘xb4
♖xb2 40.♘d3 ♖d2 41.♔e3
♖h2 42.♘f2 ♖g2?!?**



Slightly dubious and gives White a small advantage, but probably not enough to win. Also, I was in time trouble.

**43.♖xd6 ♔f7 44.♖d7+ ♔f8
45.♖d5
45.♔f3 ♖g1 46.♘d3±.**

**45...♖g3+ 46.♔e4 ♖a3 47.♖d2
♖a5 48.♘d3 ♘e6 49.h4 ♘c5+
50.♘xc5 ♖xc5 51.♖d5 ♖c4+
52.♔f3 ♖a4**

1/2-1/2

Notes by Joanne Foote

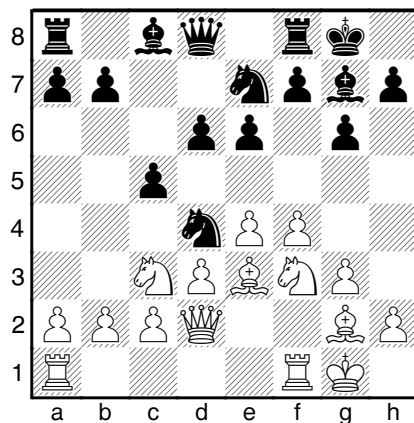
**Foote, Joanne (1757)
Zhou, Qiyu (2262)**

B25

NAYCC 2014 - U18g (4),
14.06.2014

**1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6
4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.d3 e6 6.f4 d6
7.♘f3 ♘ge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♙e3
♘d4 10.♙d2**



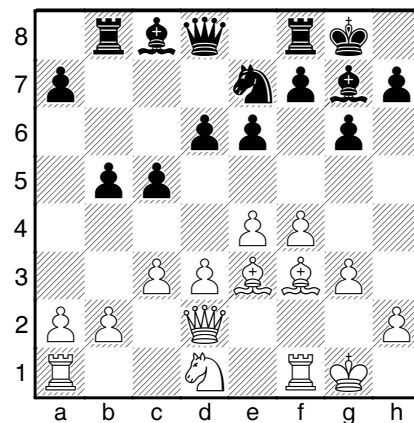


So far the moves have been very standard and in accordance with theory. This move however differs from the main line of Rab1 . I first saw this idea in Spassky–Petrosian World Ch. Match 1966 (1/2-1/2) and decided to use it here. The line was successful for me this tournament, as I in fact used the same move in another game to achieve a win.

10...Rb8 11.Nd1

This, followed by c2-c3 is the main idea of 10. Wd2 . The obvious downside is the inactivity of Nd1 .

11...b5 12.c3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3



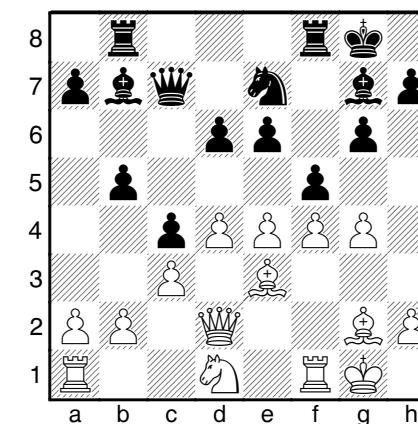
13...Qb7

My other game this tournament with this line continued as follows: 13...b4 14.d4 bxc3 15.bxc3 cxd4 16.cxd4 d5 17.e5.

14.d4 c4 15.Qg2

This move is unnecessarily cautious. 15.d5 exd5 16.exd5 a5 17.Re1 Re8 18.Qf2=.

15...Kc7 16.g4!? f5



This is a necessary move, as one of White's main opening goals in the Closed Sicilian is to push f4-f5. I was surprised by the speed with which my opponent played this move, as I had spent quite a bit of time on g2-g4.

17.Nf2 Qc6?!

It is unclear what the purposes of this move are. ...Qa8 immediately would have been more efficient in clearing the b-file.

17...fxe4 18.Nxe4 Nd5 19.Ng5 Qd7 20.Rae1 b4 21.cxb4 Nxb4 22.Qxb7 Rxb7 23.b3 Nd3 24.Rb1 d5 25.Nf3 In exchange for White's outpost on e5 and



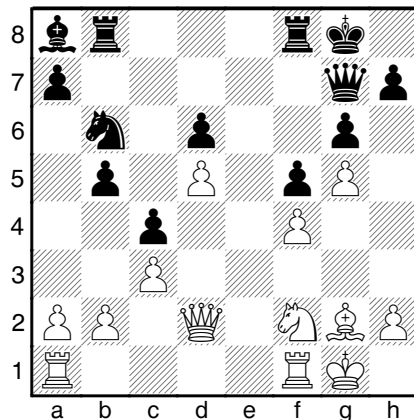
Joanne Foote

the potential target on e6, Black has a very well-placed Knight on d3 as well as pressure on White's Queenside.

18.d5?!

18.gxf5 exf5 19.d5 ♔a8 20.e5 ♖fd8 (20...dxe5? 21.d6) 21.e6 b4↗ Black must try for counterplay on the Queenside since White dominates the center.

18...exd5 19.exd5 ♔a8 20.g5 ♘c8 21.♙d4 ♘b6 22.♙xg7 ♙xg7



23.♖ad1

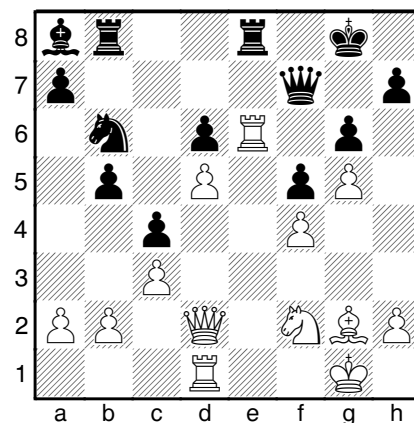
23.♖ae1 ♖be8 24.♖e6 ♖xe6 (24...♙f7 25.♖fe1 ♖xe6 26.♖xe6 ♖e8) 25.dxe6 ♙e7 26.♙xa8 ♖xa8 27.♖e1, and a possible continuation could be: 27...♖e8

28.b3 ♘a8 29.bxc4 bxc4 30.♙d4 ♘c7 31.♙xc4 ♘xe6 32.♘d3 ♙f7 33.♙c6±.

23...♖fe8

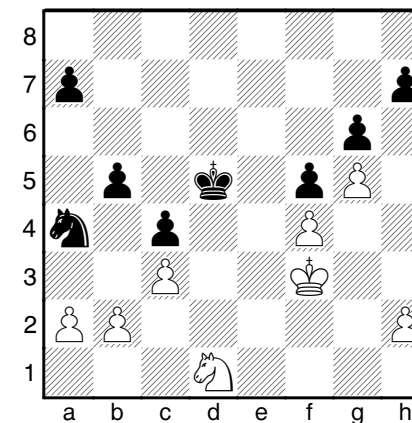
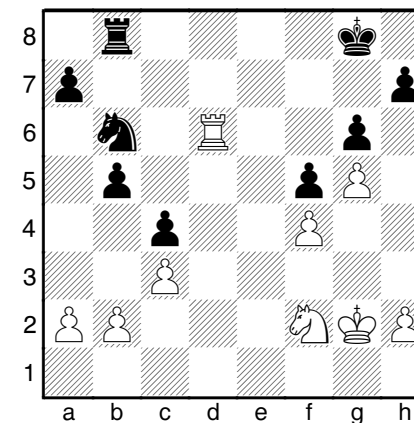
...♘a4 immediately was potentially better for Black; this was not played until much later into the endgame.

24.♖fe1 ♙f7 25.♖e6



Pressure is mounting on d5, and against such a strong opponent, I wanted to trade pieces to reduce this pressure.

25...♖xe6 26.dxe6 ♙xe6 27.♙xd6 ♙xd6 28.♖xd6 ♙xg2 29.♙xg2



There is not much to be said for this endgame now; White's Knight is not ideally placed but as long as White doesn't allow Black's pieces to penetrate, White should be able to hold the position.

29...♖e8 30.♙f3 ♙f7

30...♖e1 31.♘d1 ♖f1+ 32.♙g3 ♖g1+ 33.♙f2 ♖h1 34.♙g3=.

31.♘d1 ♖e7 32.♖d2 ♙e6

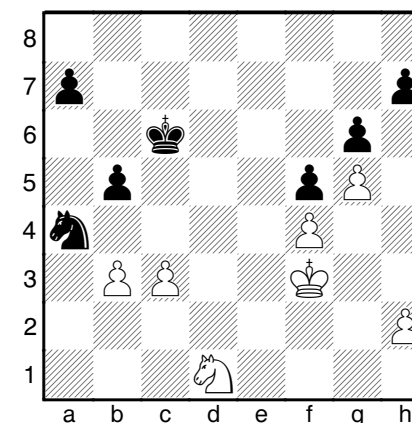
(Here there was an error on my scoresheet. The moves from 32 to 34 are approximate, however the rest of the game is correct.)

33.♖e2+ ♙d6 34.♙f2 ♖xe2+ 35.♙xe2 ♙d5 36.♙e3 ♘a4 37.♙f3

37...♙c6

37...a5 38.♘e3+ (38.b3? cxb3 39.axb3 ♘b6 40.♙e3 a4 41.bxa4 bxa4 42.♙d3 ♘c4 43.♙c2 ♙e4+) 38...♙c5 39.♘d1 b4 40.♙e3 ♙d5 41.h4 ♙c5 42.♙e2 ♙c6 43.cxb4 (43.♙e3? ♙d5□ 44.♙f3 ♘xb2 45.♘xb2 bxc3-) 43... axb4 44.♙f3 ♙c5±.

38.b3 cxb3 39.axb3



39...♘c5

♖39...♘b6 40.b4 ♘d5 41.h3
♙b6 42.h4 a5 43.bxa5+ ♙xa5
followed by ...♙a4 and ...♙b3,
when either ♘c3 or ♘f4 is lost
and Black wins.

40.b4 ♖= ♘e4 41.♙e3 ♙d5
42.♙d3 a6 43.♘e3+

At this point, I finally released
the Knight that had spent the
majority of the game sitting on
the back rank, the trade-off of
my opening novelty of ♖d2 with
♘d1-c3. I offered a draw, which,
after some consideration, was
accepted.

1/2-1/2

Notes by Nameer Issani

Issani, Nameer (1977)

Trakru, Rohun (1625)

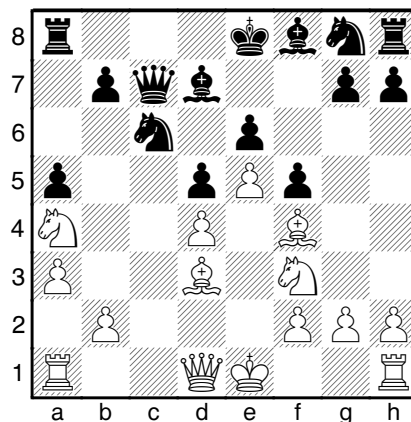
C02

NAYCC 2014 - U8 (5),

14.06.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3
♘c6 5.♘f3 cxd4 6.cxd4 ♖b6
7.♘c3 ♙d7 8.a3 a5 9.♘a4
♖c7 10.♙d3 f6 11.♙f4 f5

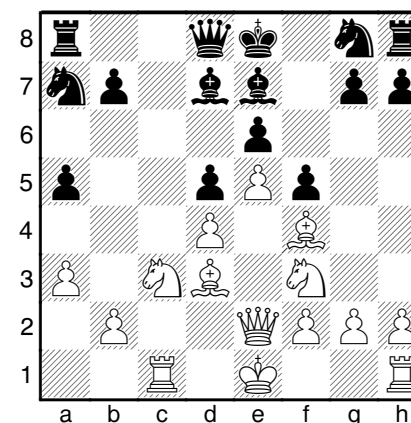
Nameer Issani



After this move, I thought this
is the time to attack because f5
looked like quite a weak move as
his Bishop on d7 was stuck.

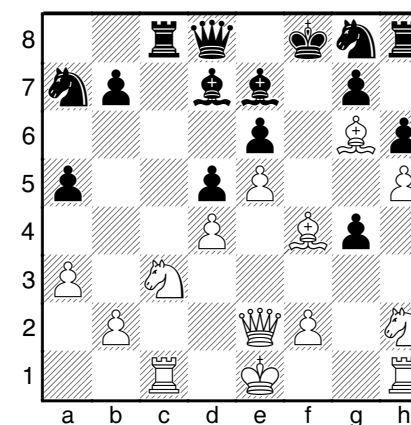


12.♖c1 ♖d8 13.♘c3 ♘a7
14.♖e2 ♙e7



At this point, I decided not to
castle because he could not do
anything to my King. A pawn
storm or a pawn sacrifice looked
like a good plan to me.

15.h4 h6 16.h5 ♖c8 17.g4
fxg4 18.♙g6+ ♙f8 19.♘h2

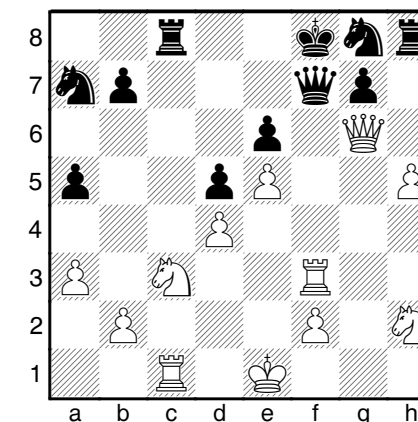


I was expecting ...♙g5 but after
...♙e8 I knew I can win if I play a
few strong moves.

19...♙e8 20.♖xg4 ♙f7
21.♙xf7 ♙xf7 22.♖g6+ ♙f8
23.♖g1 ♙g5 24.♙xg5 hxg5
25.♖xg5 ♖e7 26.♖g3 ♖f7

editor – Black can just about
survive with ...♘h6.

27.♖f3



Instead of ...♘f6 my opponent
decided to play ...♖xf3, but ei-
ther way: White is winning and
the game is over.

27...♖xf3 28.♘xf3 ♖h6
29.♖g4 ♘b5 30.♖f4+ ♙e7
31.♘xb5

1-0

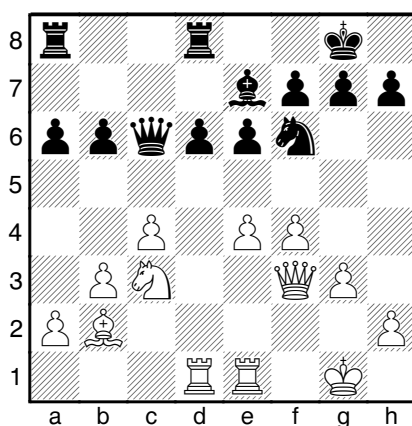


Notes by John Doknjas
Wheeler, Cameron (2395)
Doknjas, John (2171)

A30

NAYCC 2014 - U16g (5),
 14.06.2014

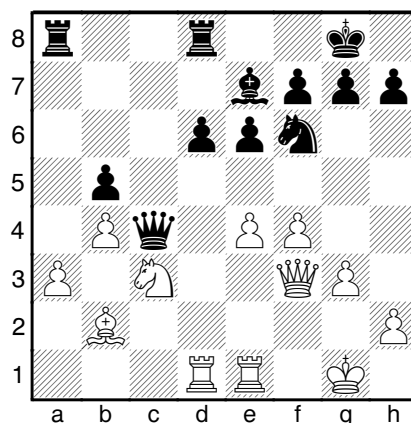
This game was the fifth round of the tournament, and I had 2½ out of 4 points. The leader had 3½ and his pursuer had 3, while six others (not including me) had 2½ points. In order to have a chance at the top 3 places, winning this game was important.



In this position my opponent was going to eventually play e4-e5 with a strong attack in the center and the Kingside. However, he had not taken enough time to defend on the Q-side and I was

able to break with:

20...b5! 21.cxb5 axb5 22.b4
♙c4?! 23.a3



23...♙c6

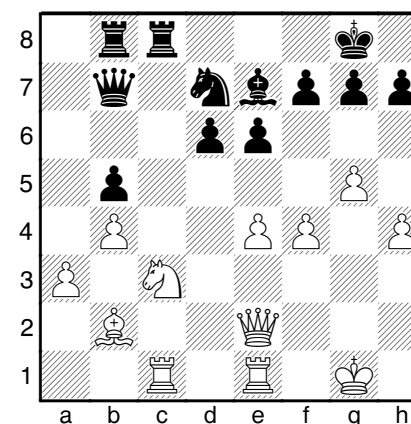
23...♙b3 This was what I was going to play after 22...♙c4. However, I did not see the strong move 24. ♙e2! Keep in mind that I had under 15 minutes here while my opponent had over an hour, so often I was just trying to make moves. 24. ♙e2! Now b5 is hanging and my Queen is out of play. If nothing else, White will be playing e4-e5.

24.g4!

Now I have wasted two moves and the b4 pawn is protected. White has the right idea by

building a strong pawn storm on the K-side. Here I decided to bring my Knight to c4, putting pressure on Bb2 and a3.

24...♞d7 25.♖c1 ♙b7 26.♙e2
♞ab8 27.g5 ♞dc8 28.h4



28...♞c4?

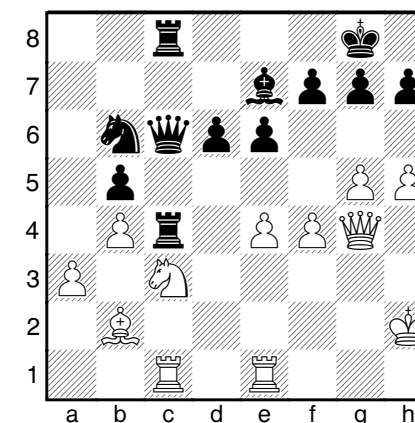
28...♞f8 Avoiding the pin shown in the variation to 29. ♙g4 below. However, it would have been difficult to play such a move as I felt that I needed to play quickly or else I would get mated on the K-side.

29.♙g4?

29.♞xb5! ♞xc1 30.♞xc1 ♙xb5
 31.♙xb5 ♞xb5 32.♞c7 ♞c5
 33.♞xe7 ♞f8 34.♞c7 ♞xe4 Although material is equal, White

is close to winning due to his strong passed pawns on the Q-side.

29...♞bc8 30.h5 ♙c6 31.♙h2
♞b6



I thought that I should be a bit better here. White does not have enough pieces to participate in the pawn storm while Black has plenty of pressure on the Q-side. The only problem was that I had a few minutes left while my opponent still had plenty of time to think.

32.g6 ♞f6 33.♞g1 ♙e8?!

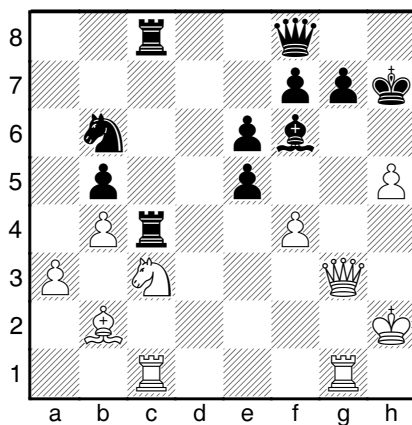
33...♙d7 The engine prefers this move, because now there are no tricks with ♞xb5 and ♞xd6, forking the Queen and Rooks.



34.gxh7+?!

34.♘xb5! ♙xb2 35.♘xd6 White is much better here.

34...♔xh7 35.♙g3 ♚f8 36.e5 dxe5

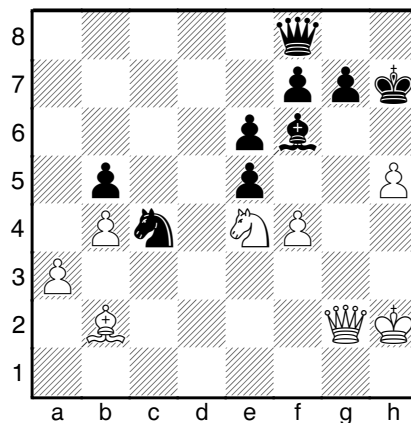


37.♘e4?

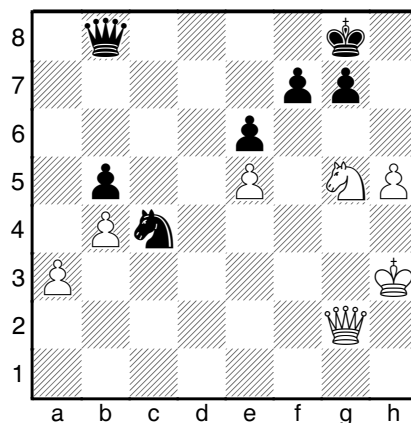
A mistake, as this allows me to play ...♖c2+ and simplify things.

37.fxe5 ♙e7 If I had reached this position in the game I was planning to play ...♖h4+ and grab the pawn on h5: 38.♘xb5 ♖h4+ 39.♔g2 ♖xc1 40.♙xc1 ♖xh5 when the position is probably about equal here.

37...♖c2+ 38.♖xc2 ♖xc2+ 39.♖g2 ♖xg2+ 40.♙xg2 ♘c4

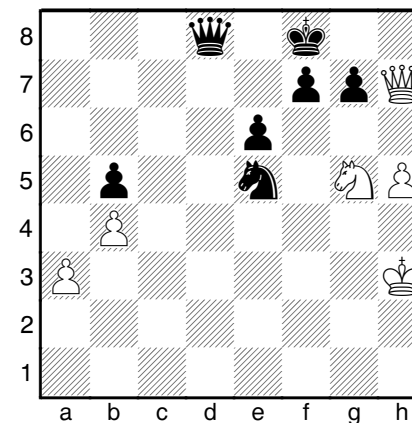


41.♙xe5 ♙xe5 42.fxe5 ♚b8
43.♘g5+ ♔g8 44.♔h3



44...♘xe5
44...♙xe5?? 45.♙a8+ ♚b8
46.♙xb8#.

45.♙c2 ♚d8 46.♙h7+ ♔f8



47.h6??

Simply allowing me to take on g5. I was playing on the 30 second increment here, while my opponent still had minutes left. So, I am not too sure if he thought that this was a better try than 47. ♙h8+ or if he just did not see that I could take g5.

47.♙h8+ ♔e7 48.♙xg7
During the game I thought that I would give checks with my Queen here and some tactic would eventually appear. However, it turns out there is nothing for me here. The best move is 48...♙d4 with a small advantage.

47...♙xg5 48.♙h8+ ♔e7
49.♙xg7 ♙h5+ 50.♔g2 ♙e2+
51.♔h3 ♙f3+ 52.♙g3 ♙h1+
53.♙h2 ♙xh2+ 54.♔xh2
♘g4+ 55.♔g3 ♘xh6 56.♔f4
♔d6

0-1



John Doknjas



Notes by Lily Zhou

Zhou, Lily (1816)

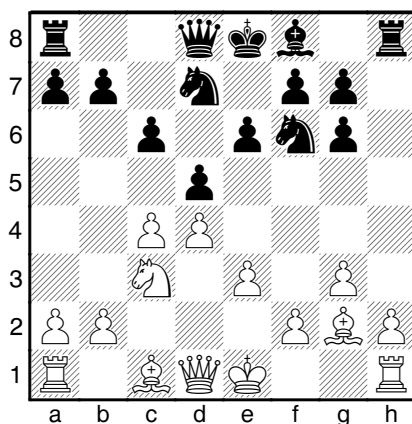
Kao, Camille (1887)

D12

NAYCC 2014 - U12g (6),

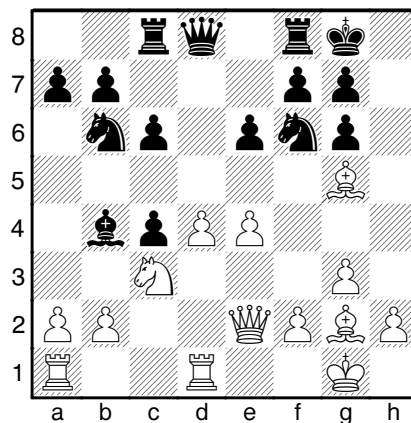
15.06.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6
 4.Nf3 Qf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4
 Qg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.g3 Nbd7
 9.Qg2



I sacrificed the c4 pawn trying to get the Knight stuck on b6, which leads to a bad Knight.

9...dxc4 10.Qe2 Nb6 11.0-0
 Qe7 12.Rd1 0-0 13.e4 Rc8
 14.Qe3 Qb4 15.Qg5



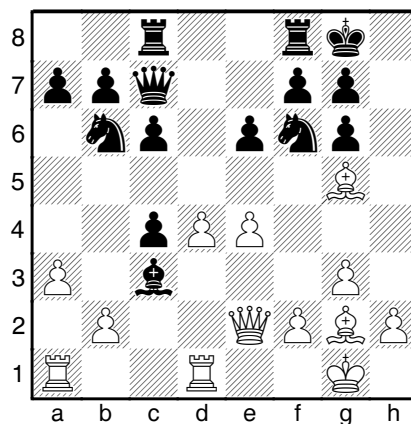
15...Qc7

15...Qe7 She passed the test!
 Now I'll probably just put my
 Bishop on f4. 16.Qf4

16.a3

I guess I could do something like
 this — 16.Qxf6 gxf6 — giving her
 a very weird pawn structure.

16...Qxc3??



I think Black's move is just terrible, letting me push the a-pawn.

editor – I thought this was terrible too, but the line Lily gives in her next note suggests it might actually be (surprisingly) good for Black!

17.bxc3

Q17.Qf4 would be better I think
 17...Qd8 18.bxc3=.

17...Nh7?

A transit from equal to worse.
 Q17...Na4! is a viable option
 18.Qc2 Qa5=.

18.Qf4± Qe7

18...Qd8 19.a4 a5 20.Rdb1+-.

19.a4+- Rfd8

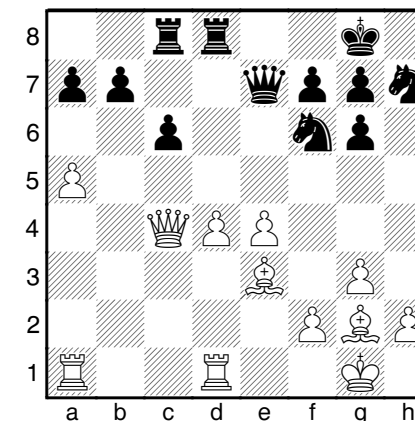
19...Nd7 20.Qxc4 Rfd8 21.Qc1+-

19...a5 obviously, if she does this, then she gets a terrible b6 square, which I can control easily.

20.a5

20.Rdb1 g5 21.Qc1 Qc7+-.

20...Nd7 21.Qxc4 e5 22.Qe3
 exd4 23.cxd4 Ndf6



24.Rab1!?

I'm really not sure about this
 move... sacrificing my Bishop
 pair.

24...Ng4

And, she didn't take: 24...Nxe4
 25.Qxe4 Qxe4 26.Rxb7+-.
 24...Nf8 25.Qh3 Ne6 26.f3+-.

25.Qc1

Giving up my connected Rooks,
 but it doesn't block any pieces.

25...c5??



What? 25...♘f8+-.

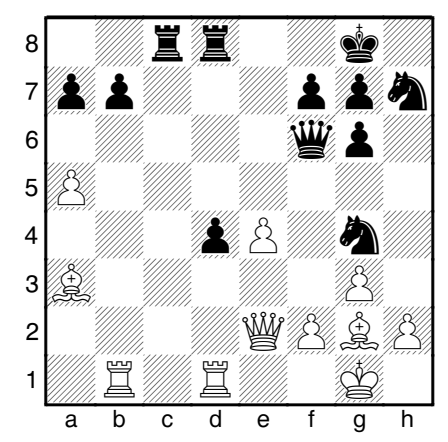
26.♙a3

Pins her Queen.

26...♙f6

26...♘xf2 hardly improves anything 27.♙xf2 ♙f6+ 28.♙g1 cxd4 29.♙e2+-.

27.♙e2 cxd4



28.♙b2?

But I have to admit, this move is pretty bad, giving up a lot of my advantage.

♠28.♙xg4 and White has reached the goal. But I was feeling it was too complicated to risk since I already had better

position. 28...♖c2 29.♙f4 ♙xf4 30.gxf4+-.

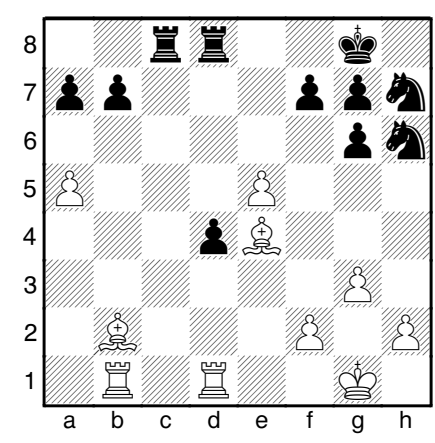
28...♘h6 29.e5

29.f4!?!+- not so sure, so I didn't move it.

29...♙f5± 30.♙e4

30.♖d3 ♘g5 31.♖bd1 ♘e6 32.♙xb7 ♖c4±.

30...♙xe4 31.♙xe4



31...♖c7?

♠31...♘g5 and Black has air to breath 32.♙xb7 ♖c4±.

32.♖xd4+-

Not 32.♙xd4 ♘g5 33.♙xb7 (33.♖xb7 ♖xb7 34.♙xb7 ♘e6-

+) 33...♖cd7 34.♙xa7 ♖xd1+ 35.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 36.♙g2 ♘e6♠.

32...♖dc8

I can see Black is not very bright

33.♖bd1

at endgames: she has no entry point on the c-file, it's all protected.



Lily Zhou



Chess Canada June 2014

33.♖b4!? b6 34.axb6 axb6
35.♖xb6 ♖g5+.

33...♗g5± 34.♕g2 ♖e6
35.♖d7

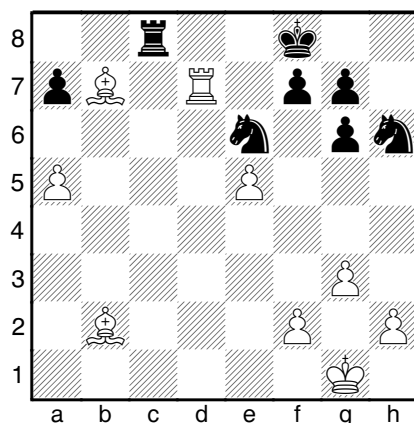
35.♖b4 ♖b8 36.♖d6±.

35...♔f8??

Leads to further unpleasantness.

35...♖xd7 36.♖xd7 b6±.

36.♕xb7+- ♖xd7 37.♖xd7

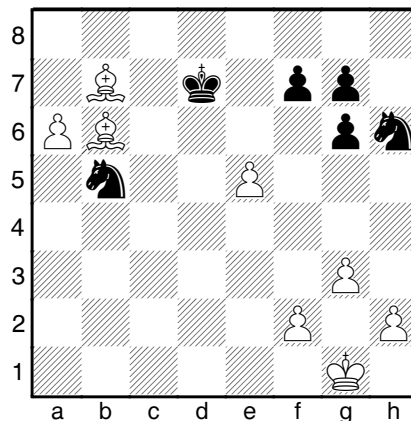


37...♖c7??

Why does she want to exchange? I'm ahead in material!

37...♖c2 the only chance to get some counterplay, though it won't be enough: 38.♕a3+ ♔g8+-.

38.♖xc7 ♗xc7 39.♕d4 ♔e7
40.♕xa7 ♔d7 41.a6 ♖b5
42.♕b6



42...♗g4

I'm guessing, she has nothing to do, but 42...♗f5 doesn't get the cat off the tree 43.a7 ♖xa7 44.♕xa7+-.

editor – I think this and the next few notes (the ones calculating all the way to mate) were generated by the Fritz "autoannotate" feature. I left them in anyway, if only to show a few synonyms for "also losing".

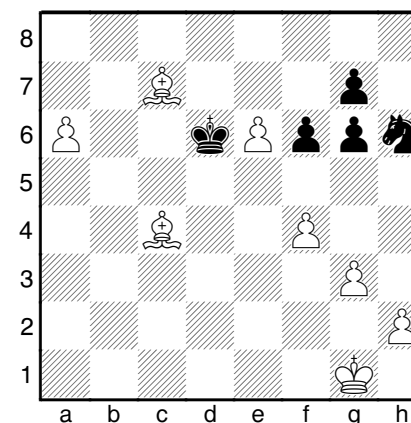
43.f4 ♗h6

43...g5 doesn't change the outcome of the game 44.♕f3 ♗h6 45.fxg5+-.

44.♕d5 f6??

She probably gave up here.

45.e6+ ♔d6 46.♕c4 ♗c7
47.♕xc7+



47...♔xc7

47...♔c5 does not save the day 48.e7 ♔xc4 49.e8♖ ♔b3 50.a7 ♗f5 51.a8♖ ♗d6 52.♖aa4+ ♔b2 53.♖e1 ♗e4 54.♖ea1#.

48.e7 ♔d7

48...♗f7 doesn't improve anything 49.e8♖ ♗d8 50.a7 ♗c6 51.a8♖ ♗d4 52.♖ab8#.

49.a7 ♔xe7

49...♔d6 is not the saving move 50.e8♖ ♗g4 51.a8♖ ♔c5 52.♖ac6+ ♔b4 53.♖e1+ ♔a3

54.♖c3#.

50.a8♖ ♗f5

50...g5 doesn't get the bull off the ice 51.♖c6 f5 52.♖c7+ ♔e8 53.♕b5+ ♔f8 54.♖d8+ ♔f7 55.♕e8+ ♔e6 56.♖d7+ ♔f6 57.♖d6#.

51.♖a6

51.♖c6 ♔f8 52.♕e6 ♗xg3 53.♖d6+ ♔e8 54.♖d7+ ♔f8 55.♖f7#.

51...♗d6

51...♗d4 a fruitless try to alter the course of the game 52.♖a7+ ♔d6 53.♖xd4+ ♔c6 54.♖d5+ ♔c7 55.♖c5+ ♔b7 56.♕d5+ ♔a6 57.♕c6 f5 58.♖b5+ ♔a7 59.♖b7#.

52.♖a7+ ♗b7

52...♔f8 does not improve anything 53.♖b8+ ♗c8 54.♖xc8+ ♔e7 55.♖c7+ ♔e8 56.♕b5+ ♔f8 57.♖d8+ ♔f7 58.♕c4#.

53.♖xb7+ ♔d6 54.♖d5+

54.♖b6+ ♔e7 55.♖c7+ ♔e8 56.♕b5+ ♔f8 57.♖d8+ ♔f7



58. ♖c4#.

54... ♖c7

Queen and Bishop is enough to checkmate a hopeless King now. I plan to leave her pawns to reduce the chance of stalemate. No point on seeing any farther.

1-0



Kylie Tan

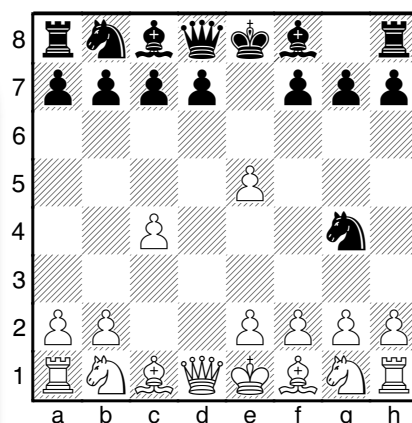
2014 North American Youth Chess Champion U10g

**Notes by Tony Li & editor
Qi, Katherine (1572)
Tan, Kylie (1424)**

A52

NAYCC 2014 - U10g Tarrytown,
NY (7), 15.06.2014

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ♘g4



White has a few options here:

- a) e4 is considered best;
- b) ♘f3 is natural and flexible;
- c) ♖f4 is a little more committal. In many queen's pawn openings White would love to put his dark-squared bishop on b2. More concretely, ...g5 allows Black quick development.
- d) ♖d4 is the sharpest move and should only be played by those familiar with the theory.

For example, after ...d6 (defending the knight) exd6 .. ♖xd6 if ♖xg7 then ... ♖e5 ends the game.

editor – It's true that White has a lot of options, but I'm not sure it's true that 4.e4 is considered best: top GMs play other moves more frequently, and the move White played in this game (4.e3) has been played by both Kasparov and Mamedyarov, who is a specialist in the Black side of the Budapest. It might be TMI, but it's worth considering mentioning that 4. ♖f4 keeps the pawn, since Black almost always has to play ...f6 to avoid getting squeezed.

4.e3 ♖xe5

Black need not hurry to recapture the pawn:

- a) ...d6! continues in the gambit spirit;
- b) ... ♖b4+ and then ... ♖xe5 and now White needs to prepare to get his bishop to b2. The text move allows a3! and White's bishop gets to b2 easily.

5. ♘h3

There can be a few reasons to

move the knight to the edge: attacking another piece with tempo, maneuvering to an outpost, or winning the bishop pair. Since ♘h3 achieves none of these, it has to be considered dubious.

editor – In general, I think Tony's notes are pitched well at a beginner-level players. But at least two of them seem to me more like Tony had a teaching maxim in mind — (♘ on the rim..., capture toward the center...) — and applied it when he found he had the chance, even though in one of those cases the maxim is wrong.

An important one is right here: 5. ♘h3, which Tony says is bad because it puts a ♘ on the edge. That is the sort of advice very commonly given to beginners, and it almost always applies to the staple 1.e4 e5 games annotated for beginners. But here it is bad advice. In fact, 5. ♘h3 is the most popular *and* highest-scoring move for White. Its point is to direct the ♘ to d5, which we might think of as a pseudo-outpost: it's not a true outpost because Black can use a pawn to attack that square, but do-

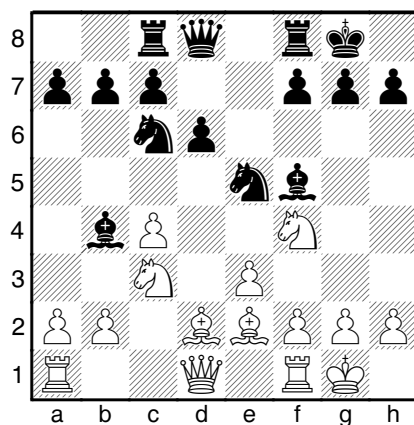


ing so with ...c6 will permanently weaken Black's d6 pawn.

5...♘bc6 6.♘f4 ♘b4+ 7.♘d2 d6

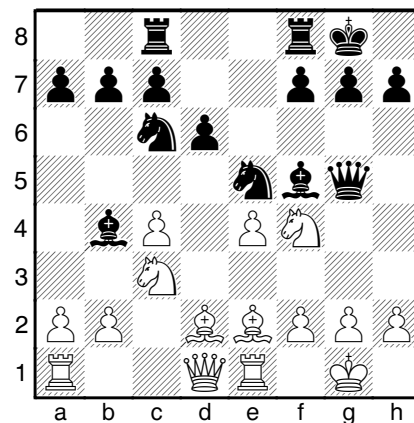
Maintaining the tension and opening the diagonal for the c8 bishop.

8.♘e2 ♘f5 9.♘c3 0-0 10.0-0 ♖c8?



Black's first inaccuracy of the game. They say rooks belong on open files. On the c-file, the rook is biting on granite. Better is connecting the rooks with ...♚d7.

11.♖e1 ♚g5? 12.e4!



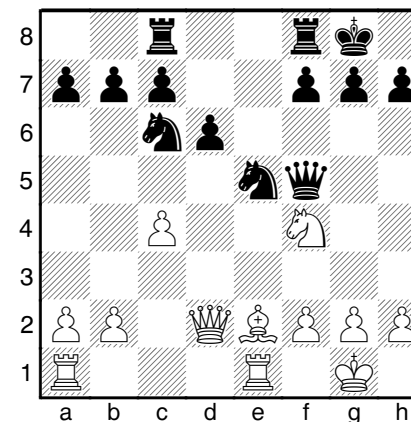
Exploiting the discovery on the queen. If the bishop moves then ♘e6! wins the exchange.

editor – Actually, White doesn't win a full exchange, but an exchange for a pawn (♖ vs ♘♙) and White would also be left with three isolated pawns on the Q-side, which is quite a lot of compensation. So it's not entirely clear that she wouldn't have been better playing something slow like 12.♘fd5 or 12.a3 rather than 12.e4!?

12...♘xc3 13.exf5?

13.bxc3 is best, and after 13...♘xe4 14.f3 ♘g6 15.♘e6 White wins the exchange for a pawn and can prove her advantage by opening the e-file with f4 at some point.

13...♘xd2 14.♚xd2 ♚xf5



Similar to move 4, Black hurriedly takes the pawn. Instead, because the White knight is pinned due to the loose queen on d2, Black can take her time to win the f-pawn:

- a) ...a5 and the knight on e5 is eyeing the c5 square via d7.
- b) ...♖e8 prepares to contest the e-file.

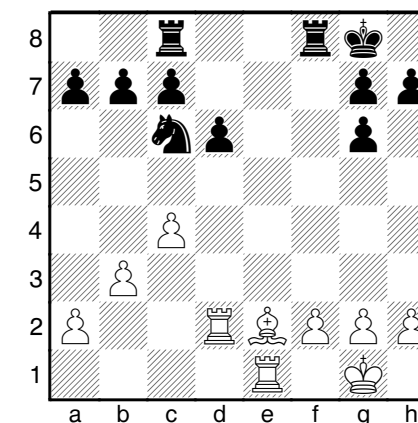
15.b3 ♚g5!

Fortunately for Black, White was not alert to the awkwardness of the knight on g4 and gives her opponent a chance to re-pin the knight. Now White has to guard the loose queen, allowing a series of exchanges.

16.♖ad1 ♘g6 17.♘xg6 ♚xd2 18.♖xd2

editor – 18.♘e7+ is trickier, but not better: 18...♘xe7 19.♖xd2 ♖fe8 20.♘g4 ♘c6♣.

18...fxg6



This is the human move, especially for a youngster. But the threats on f2 are superficial and f3, if forced, isn't particularly weakening. In capturing away from the centre, Black gave her opponent a chance to get back into the game by giving up control of the e6 square. Black should have heeded the time-tested advice: whenever in doubt, capture towards the centre! After ...hxg6!, Black can proceed to win the e-file as White seeks to avoid exchanges.



editor – I agree with Tony's comments about f2 and f3, but I have my doubts about the rest. Capturing toward the center is usually good because the capturing pawn helps control central squares, which are usually slightly more valuable than flank squares. But when there are very few minor pieces on the board (as there are now) centre control becomes less important. Maybe Black thought – quite reasonably – that capturing with the f-pawn allows her to:

- 1) activate her ♖ along the now half-open f-file (not necessarily to win f2, but just to have more squares to move to);
- 2) centralize her ♔ faster and to fight for the e-file with ♔f7;
- 3) possibly shut the e-file by creating a ♞ outpost on e5 (the ♖f8 prevents f2-f4, and if g3 then ...g5!

FWIW, Stockfish and Houdini rate both captures as only a few centipawns apart.

19. ♙g4

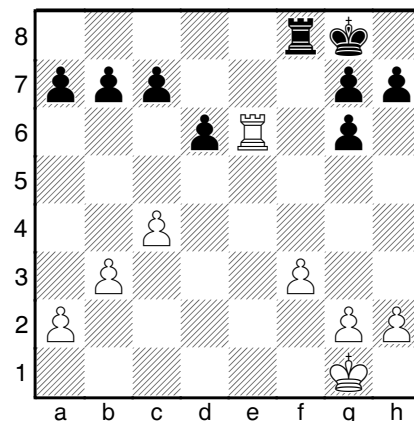
editor – While I think it's true that 18...hxg6 was better, it is actually a much less significant mistake

than this move: 19. ♙f3 – preparing to take the ♞c6 and use the e-file – is much better than ♙g4. White would be down a pawn, but it would be a four-♖ ending where White would have good drawing chances.

**19... ♖ce8 20. ♙e6+ ♔h8
21. ♖de2 ♞d4 22. ♖e4 ♖xe6
23. ♖xe6 ♞xe6 24. ♖xe6**

Black is a pawn up but White controls the only open file and her rook is about to penetrate to the 7th rank.

24... ♔g8 25. f3?



White should seize the opportunity to repeat the position with 25. ♖e7!, when 25... ♖f7 26. ♖e8+ ♖f8 27. ♖e7. To avoid the per-

petual Black would have to play the very passive ...♖c8 when the king is cut off from the activity.

editor – 25.f3 is a terrible move and deserves a "??". The line Tony gives above is correct and actually illustrates why capturing toward the center on move 18 would have been better. If Black had played ...hxg6, then after 25. ♖e7 ♖c8! it would be possible to bring the Black ♔ across to expel the White ♖ without hanging any pawns along the 7th because the White ♖ would be attacking ♖c7 (defended by ♖c8) and ♖f7 (defended by the ♔e8) rather than pawns on c7 and g7. In effect, capturing with ...fxg6 has made White's ♖ on the 7th more powerful because it has made its attack across the 7th rank "longer".

25... ♔f7 26. ♖e4 ♖e8

Black is in control of the only open file and is winning. However, there is some work left before ice cream.

27. ♔f2??

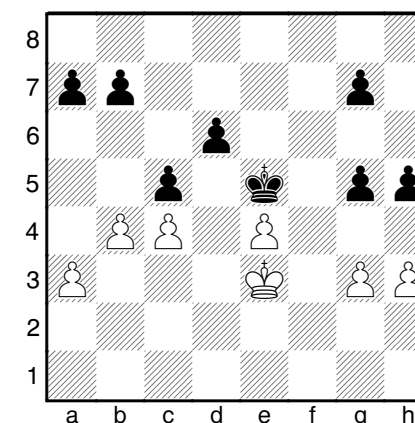
editor – This is the second sig-

nificant mistake in the game and reveals a serious misunderstanding of endgames. White allows Black to trade into a trivially winning pawn endgame when the endgame with ♖s on is much harder to win. Much better is 27. ♖f4+ (keeping the ♖s on) followed by ♔f2 (keeping Black's ♖ out).

27... ♖xe4 28. fxe4

The rooks are off the board and White has an isolated pawn which can be easily blockaded.

**28... ♔e6 29. ♔e3 ♔e5 30. g3
g5 31. h3 h5 32. b4 c5 33. a3**



There is a breakthrough pattern in king-and-pawn endgames known as "The Box". Here 33...



b5? 34.bxc5 dxc5 35.cxb5 introduces unnecessary complications, so Black prepares to answer cxb5 with ...axb5. Thus,

33...a6!

And the rest is technique.

34.bxc5 dxc5 35.a4 b6

36.♔d3 h4 37.gxh4 gxh4

38.♔e3 g5 39.♔f3 ♔d4

40.♔g4 ♔xe4 41.♔xg5 ♔d4

42.♔xh4 ♔xc4 43.♔g4 ♔b4

44.h4 c4 45.h5 c3 46.h6

c2 47.h7 c1♖ 48.h8♗ ♖g1+

49.♔f3 ♔xa4 50.♗h6 ♖f1+

51.♔e4 ♖b1+ 52.♔d4 a5

53.♖c6+ b5 54.♖e8 ♖b4+

55.♔d3 ♔a3 56.♔c2 a4

57.♖e5 ♔a2 58.♔c1 ♖b1+

59.♔d2

Time for ice cream.

59...♖b2+ 60.♖xb2+ ♔xb2

Black came out of the opening in very good shape. She then blundered with 11...♖g5, but her opponent did not see the line which wins the exchange. Instead, White lost a pawn. White then won the open file and could have forced a perpetual with 25.

♖e7, but missed the opportunity and instead allowed her opponent to trade rooks and create an isolated White pawn. At this point, the game was winning for Black and she showed excellent technique to win.

editor – I like the summary at the end. To me what is remarkable about the game is how well both players played the opening and middlegame (5.♖h3!, 12...♔xc3!) and the contrast with the *terrible* decision to exchange ♖s into a trivially losing pawn ending.

0-1

**Notes by FM Jason Cao
Cao, Jason (2330)
Williams, Justus (2366)**

B42

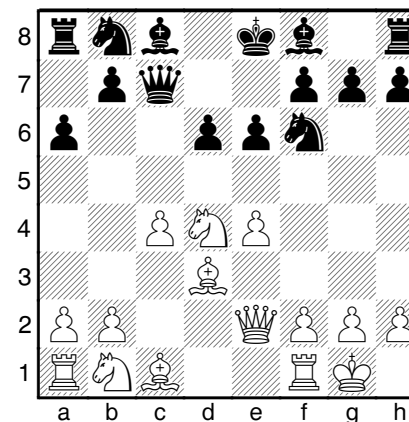
NAYCC 2014 - U18 Tarrytown,
New York (USA) (8), 16.06.2014

Before the game, Justus was tied with Alexander Katz with points. However, those two were a solid point ahead of the rest of the players so I had to win to create chances of playing for first place.

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 e6

Justus has played the Sicilian Paulsen many times before so I was happy to see this move as I had prepared for it.

**3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 a6 5.♔d3
♖f6 6.0-0 ♖c7 7.♖e2 d6 8.c4**



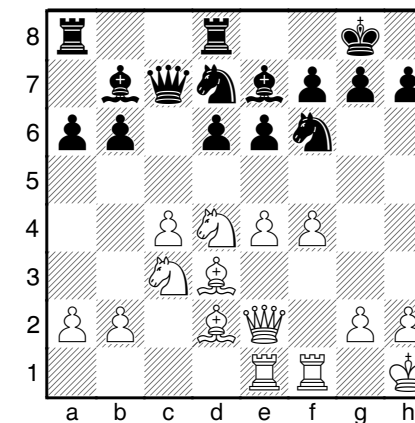
Trying to prevent ...d5 and ...b5 ideas that Black might have.

8...♔e7 9.♖c3 ♖bd7 10.f4 0-0

11.♔h1 ♖d8

11...b6 is the main move but ...♖d8 is fine and can transpose into the 11...b6 line.

12.♔d2 b6 13.♖ae1 ♔b7



14.♖f3

Preparing the move e5.

14.e5 right away drops a pawn because 14...dxe5 15.fxe5 ♖xe5 16.♖f3 (16.♖xe5 ♖xe5 17.♖xe5 ♖xd4) 16...♖xe2 17.♔xe2 ♖c5.

14...♖ac8 15.b3

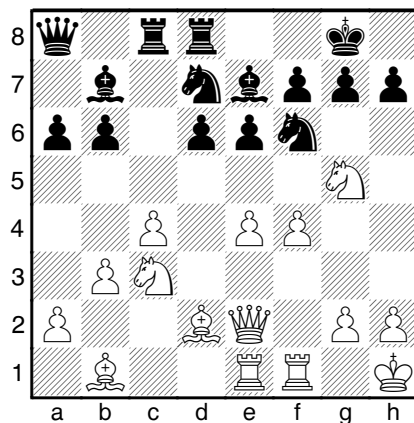
Protecting my c4 pawn as my Bishop on d3 will soon move away.

15...♖b8

Black is going to put his Queen on a8 exerting pressure on the long diagonal.

16.♔b1 ♖a8 17.♖g5

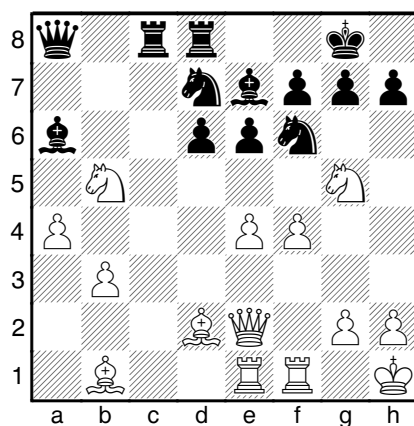


**17...b5?!**

This move is not very sound and Black will have to play precisely in order to gain compensation for the pawn.

18.cxb5 axb5 19.♘xb5 ♔a6?!

19...♙c6 was better, keeping the bishop on the long diagonal.

20.a4**20...h6?**

Here, Black had to play 20...e5 preventing White from playing e5 himself.

21.♘xf7 ♔xf7

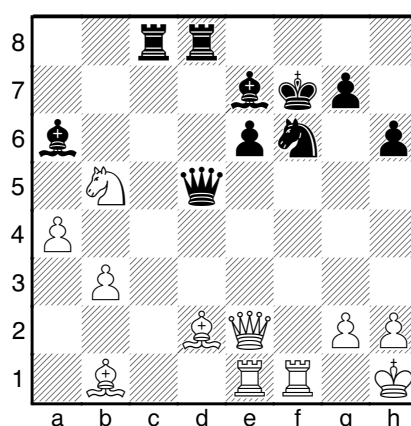
Black is forced to take.

22.e5

The only move that does not get crushed right away. Any Knight move from f6 will be met by 23.exd6 with ♙xe6+ to follow.

22...dxe5 23.fxe5 ♘xe5**24.♙xe5**

24.♙f4 was better but the text move still retains a large advantage.

24...♙d5 25.♙e2

FM Jason Cao

Of course White does not want to trade Queens as Black's King is not very safe.

25...♙d7?

25...♙xd2 26.♙xe6+ ♔f8
27.♙h7+- Better was 25...♙c5.

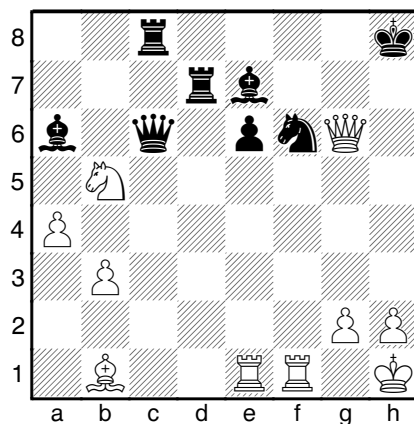
26.b4

With the idea of eventually moving the bishop to a2, attacking the pawn on e6. However the computer pointed out an even stronger move,

26.♙xh6!! After 26...gxh6 27.♙d1 ♙c6 28.♙h5+ Black can move his King to 3 different squares but they all are met by the

same plan from White. 28...♔g7
29.♖g6+ ♕h8 30.♗xh6+ ♔g8
31.♖g6+ ♕h8 32.♖de1

Analysis Diagram

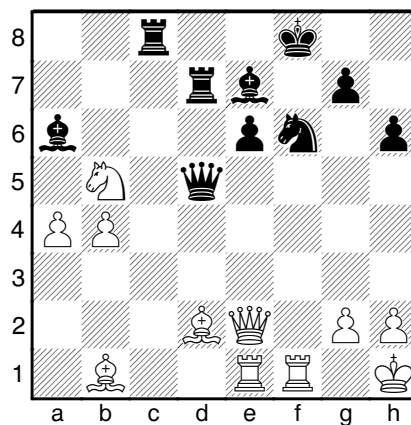


Moving the Rook away to safety and threatening to lift the Rook to the 3rd/4th rank and deliver a check on the h-file. Surprisingly, there is not much Black can do against this.

A) 32...♗b7 is the best 33.♖f4 (33.♖f3?? would be a mistake because of 33...♗xf3 34.♗h6+ ♕g8 35.♖g5+ ♕h8 36.gxf3 ♗xf3+ 37.♕g1 ♗c5+ 38.♔f1 ♖g4 39.♗h4+ ♕g8 40.♗e4 ♖f8!= Black has serious counterplay.) 33...♖xg2+ 34.♖xg2 ♗xg2+ 35.♔xg2 and White should be able to win this ending without too much difficulty.

B) 32...♗d8 33.♗e4! ♖c5
 34.♖xf6 ♗xf6 35.♗xf6+ ♖g7
 36.♗h6+ ♕g8 37.♗xe6+ ♕h8
 38.♗xa6+-.

26...♔f8?!



The King wants to get away from the a2-g8 diagonal in view of my Bishop eventually going to a2 but it was better to offer a trade of Queens with 26... ♖c4.

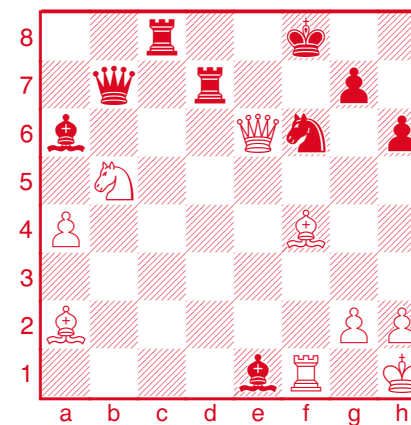
27.♗f4

27.♗xh6! was stronger, as after 27...gxh6 28.♗a2 ♖c6 29.♗xe6 Black's King's exposed position gives White a decisive advantage.

27...♗xb4??

Black had to play 27...♖c4. Justus was in time trouble here and in such a sharp position he misses my nice tactic.

28.♗a2 ♖b7 29.♖xe6! ♗xe1



30.♖g8+!! ♖xg8

If 30...♔e7 31.♖xe1+ ♖e4
 32.♖f7+ ♕d8 33.♖f8#.

31.♗d6+

Black's only move 31...♔e8 will be met by 32.♖f8#.

1-0

Notes by Richard Chen

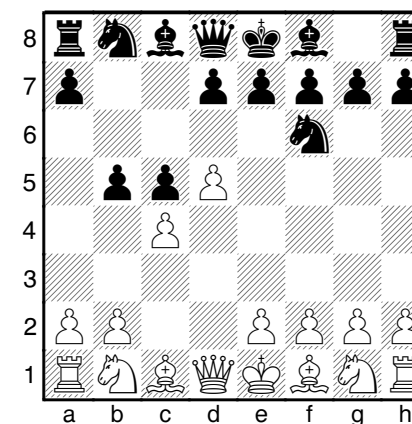
Capocyan, Sam (2098)
 Chen, Richard (2071)

A59

NAYCC 2014 - U14 (8),
 16.06.2014

Hello, welcome to my analysis of my game against Sam Capocyan during the 2014 NAYCC. This round was a crucial round because if I won I would have chances of getting the CM title (which I did).

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5

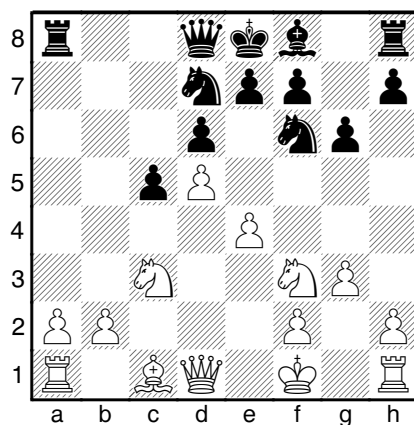


The point of the Benko Gambit is get an early development with lots of attacking chances.

4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.♗c3

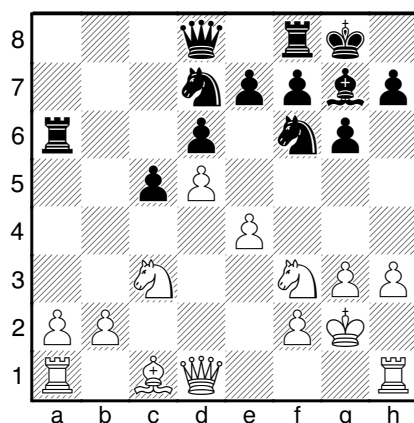


♙xa6 7.♘f3 d6 8.e4 ♙xf1
9.♙xf1 ♘bd7 10.g3



In my opinion h3, ♙h1 then ♙h2 is better because the King is safer compared to the King on g2.

10...♙g7 11.♙g2 0-0 12.h3
♞a6



I like this move because it allows pieces to pile up on the a-file while protecting the d6 pawn. Also, the move ...♙a8 (with ...e6) might have a strong diagonal attack on the ♙g2.

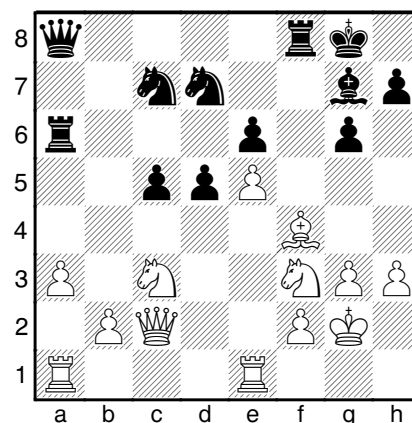
13.♙d2 ♙a8 14.♙c2 e6!

This move opens up the diagonal with lots of attacking threats.

15.dxe6 fxe6 16.♞he1 d5
17.e5 ♘e8

Preparing the Knight to transfer to d5.

18.♙f4 ♘c7 19.a3



Here I calculated that after 19...d4 20.♘e4 ♘d5 would win the pawn back for me.

19...d4 20.♘e4 ♘d5 21.♙c1?
♙g5 seems like the best move here.

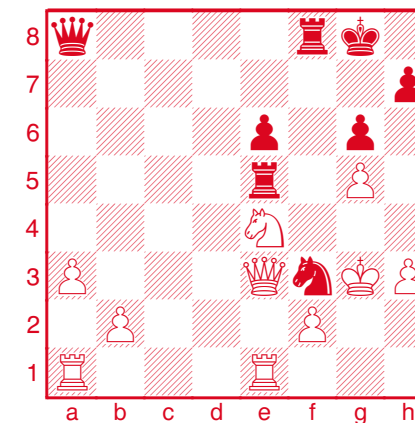
21...♘xf4+ 22.gxf4 ♙h6

Attacking the f-pawn. Immediately taking advantage of the Queen on a8.

23.♘fg5 ♙xg5 24.fxg5 ♘xe5
25.♙xc5
♞a5

...♘f3 immediately would have been better because Black keeps his d4 pawn and plays ...♞a5. The point of ...♞a5 is to transfer it to e5 putting pressure on the Knight.

26.♙xd4
♘f3 27.♙e3
♞e5 28.♙g3



Richard Chen



Notes by Allison Tsy-pin

Tsy-pin, Allison (1320)

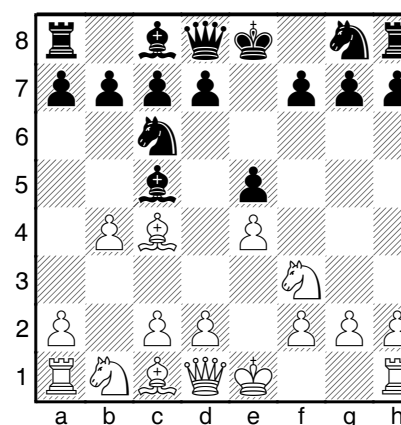
Kao, Camille (1887)

C51

NAYCC 2014 - U12g Tarrytown,
NY (8), 16.06.2014

Camille Kao was the official representative of the USA in our Girls Under-12 group. She has already played in Under-12 in the 2013 NAYCC Toronto last year. For me it was the first tournament in this category, because I am ten years old. I am 1 year and 8 months younger than her!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4
♙c5 4.b4



Camille has a USCF rating of 1887, and my CFC rating is only

28...♘xg5

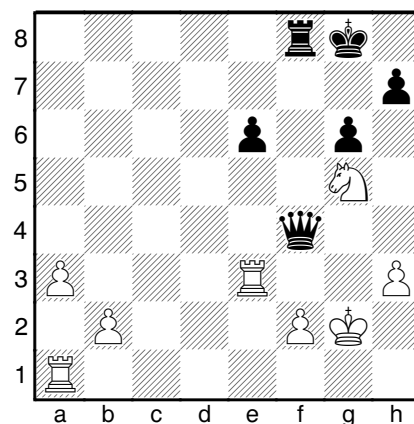
I missed a mate in 12 here. I should have taken the Knight on e4 instead I took the g5 pawn with the Knight. This is the mating combination:

28...♖xe4 29.♗xe4 ♖b8+
30.♔g2 (30.♔g4 ♘h2+ 31.♔h4
♗f4+ 32.♗xf4 ♖xf4#) 30...♗h2+
31.♔f1 ♘d2+ 32.♔e2 ♗xf2+
33.♔d1 ♘xe4 34.♖xe4 ♖d8+
35.♔c1 ♗f1+ 36.♖e1 ♖d3 37.b4
♖c8+ 38.♔b2 ♖c2#.

29.♘xg5

Taking on g5 is forced.

29...♖xe3+ 30.♖xe3 ♖b8+
31.♔g2 ♗f4

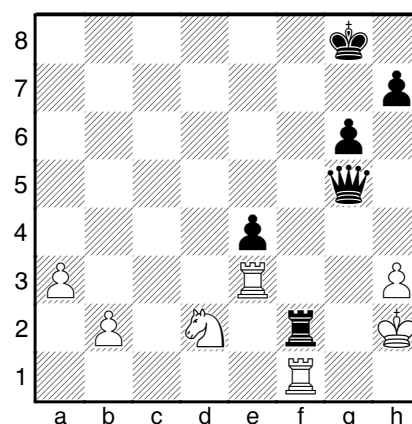


31... ♖xf2 would have been much better. It simplifies to a winning endgame. I played ...♗f4 because I didn't want to trade and instead I wanted to continue to attack.

32.♘f3 e5

White can do nothing to stop the e-pawn for now.

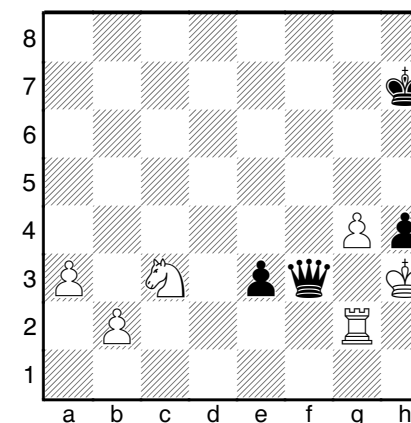
33.♖f1 e4 34.♘d2 ♖g5+
35.♔h2 ♖xf2+



Here I thought Black is completely winning and the game was basically over.

36.♖xf2 ♖xe3 37.♖g2
♗f4+ 38.♔g1 e3 39.♘f1
♗f3 40.♘g3 h5 41.♔h2

♔h7 42.♘e2 ♖e4 43.♘c3
♗e5+ 44.♔g1 ♖d4 45.♔h2
g5 46.♔h1 g4 47.hxg4 h4
48.♔h2 ♗f4+ 49.♔h3 ♗f3+



Setting up a mating net if White takes the pawn.

50.♔h2 ♔g6 51.g5 ♗f4+
52.♔h3 ♗f5+

White has to take here or the game is lost.

53.♔h2 h3 54.♖e2 ♔xg5
55.♖c2 ♔g4

editor - 55...♗xc2+!

56.♖e2 ♗f4+ 57.♔h1 ♔f3
58.a4 ♗g3 59.b4 h2

White resigned here.

0-1



1211. Frankly, I was quite scared of her! When I saw her games in the big American tournaments she won this spring, she played calm strategic positions. I thought that my only chance was to do something sharp, so I chose Evans Gambit.

4...♙xb4 5.c3

There are three possible answers: ...♙a5, ...♙e7 and ...♙c5.

5...♙c5 6.d4 exd4 7.0-0

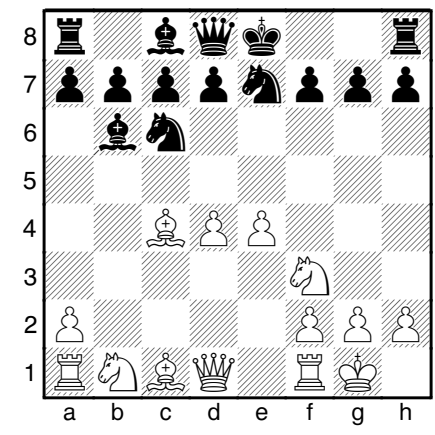
I decided to give another pawn for initiative, trying to take my opponent away from what was comfortable for her.

7...♞ge7

It seemed to work! Camille was thinking for a long time on that move, so I understood she didn't know this opening; ...♞e7 is an imprecision.

8.cxd4 ♙b6

Alison Tsypin



This position is better for me. Even though I am a pawn down, I have the center, more space, more of my pieces are out, and her King is still in the center. This is the key position. I didn't find the best move (9. ♞g5) until later on a computer.

9.♞c3



This is an imprecise move because I could have attacked. The essence of any gambit is to keep the pressure. Instead, I slowed down the attack and let Camille get her piece out. This was my weak moment in the game. I had two better moves: 9. d5 to send her Knight to the edge of the board, or 9.♞g5! with an attack:

9.♞g5 0-0 10.♞h5 h6 11.♞xf7→.

9.♞g5 d5! 10.exd5 ♞xd5? 11.♞xf7! ♙xf7 12.♞h5+→.

9...0-0 10.d5

If she plays 10... ♞b8, then I play 11. d6. If she plays 10... ♞b4, then I respond with ♖b1. 10.♙g5 was also possible.

10...♞a5

Now Black's Knight is not playing at all.

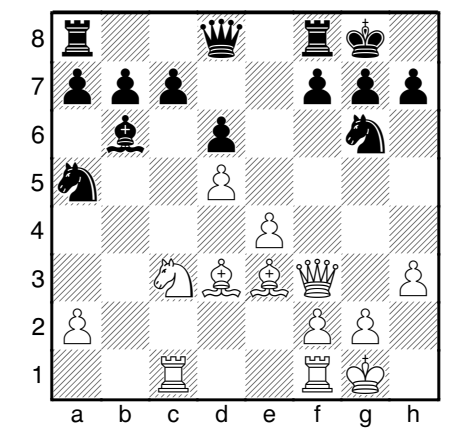
11.♙d3 d6 12.♙e3

I hoped she would play ...♙xe3 and I would get the 'f' file, but Camille was too experienced to fall for that.

12...♞g6 13.♖c1

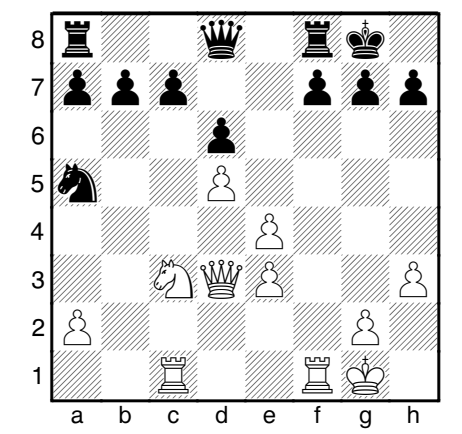
I wanted to attack the c7 pawn.

13...♙g4 14.h3 ♙xf3 15.♞xf3



I think in this part of the game her experience showed. Because I chose the moves that were not strongest, Camille was able to exchange pieces, which benefited her.

15...♞e5 16.♞e2 ♞xd3 17.♞xd3 ♙xe3 18.fxe3



Chess Canada June 2014

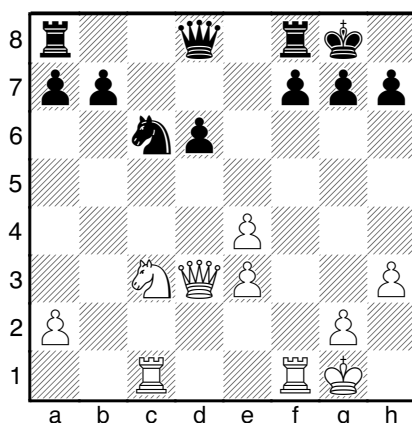
I captured with a pawn rather than Queen because I really wanted that f-file and also didn't want to let her Knight out. Interestingly, the computer indicates that this was objectively worse than capturing with Queen.

18...c6 19.dxc6

At home I saw better moves on the computer: ♖f5, ♞e2.

editor – FWIW, my computer says Allison's move was best.

19...♞xc6

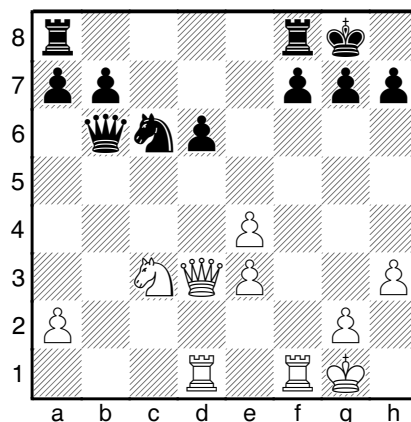


Camille was waiting for so many moves to do something with her Knight, so she captured very quickly and there was a big smile on her face. I think tak-

ing with a pawn, ...bxc6, would be better for her because then my Knight would be restricted!

By capturing with her Knight she gave me access to d5 and b5 squares. I was surprised by her move. Maybe her impatience to get Knight into play impeded her chess judgment?

20.♖cd1 ♔b6



There was a lot of tension in that game. Initially, Camille had to

defend during the whole opening, and it was not pleasant for her. She was sitting hunched

My opponent looked very upset. She was hunched over the board again and was not making her move. She kept glancing at me frowningly every few seconds.

She is so much taller than me, I would feel intimidated... were it not for the situation on the board.

over the board and clenching her fists. By now, she thought her position was equal or better. She relaxed, put her back against the chair, and started making moves fast, looking confidently into my eyes and pressing the clock firmly after every one. I clearly sensed that she was very confident and believed she was on a path to victory over me. It was scary for me... But I forced myself to concentrate on the moves, not her expression, and I discovered that by moving so fast she was still leaving me chance to continue my attack.

21.♖fe1 ♖ad8 22.♞d5

My Knight is very strong on d5 since it attacks both sides of the

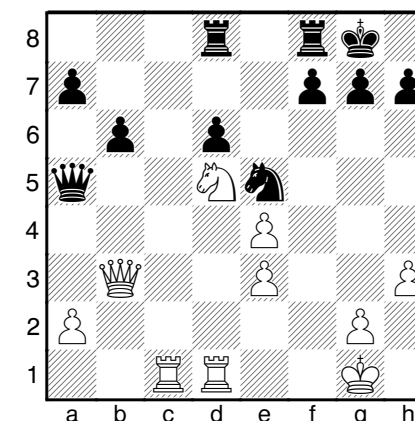
chess-board. Plus, this Knight blocks an isolated pawn on d6.

22...♔a5
23.♔b3
b6

I believe

this move weakened the c6 square; ...♖d7 would be better for Black.

24.♖c1 ♞e5 25.♖ed1

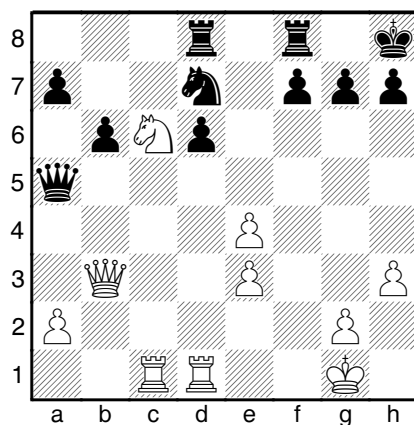


I'm controlling an open file and a lot of squares. It is very hard for my opponent to play. The White Knight on d5 is better than the Black Knight on e5.

25...♘d7?

That was a blunder. Camille probably wanted to move her Knight to d7-c5 to attack my Queen and pawn, but she didn't see my response.

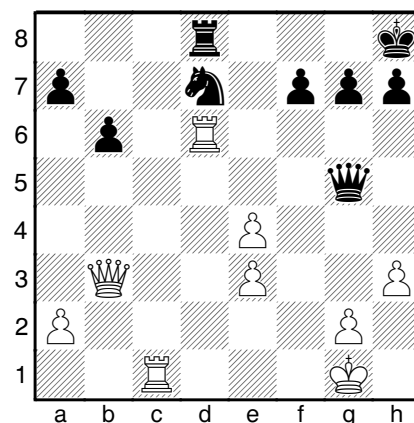
26.♘e7+ ♔h8 27.♘c6



I am winning the Exchange and getting back the pawn I sacrificed in the gambit. This was the moment when for the first time in the game I let myself think that there is a real chance for me to win the game. I was so excited

I couldn't control my emotions. So I did as my Dad always tells me: stood up, got away from the board and walked in the aisle, breathing deeply until I regained composure.

27...♔g5 28.♘xd8 ♖xd8
29.♖xd6



By this moment Camille looked very upset. She was hunched over the board again and was not making her move. She kept glancing at me frowningly every few seconds. She is so much taller than me, I would feel intimidated were it not for the situation on the board.

29...♘e5?

This also feels like a blunder.

29... ♘c6 would attack the Queen gaining a tempo, and would block the c-file that I controlled.

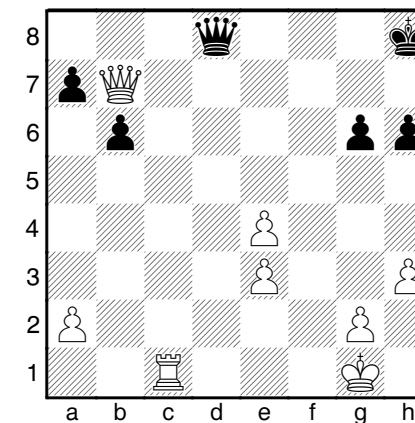
30.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 31.♔c3 h6?

This is also a blunder. 31... ♘g6 would at least save the Knight after 32.♔c8 ♔g8 33.♔b7 etc., although White is still winning. I think that Camille was very upset with her initial mistake 25... ♘d7? She didn't want to resign but she was not putting up a defense that would prolong the game.

32.♔xe5

I am winning the piece and the game. I was able to convert my advantage quickly, although with one imprecision.

32...♔h7
33.♔f5+ g6
34.♔xf7+ ♔h8
35.♔b7



I remembered that while my opponent still has her Queen, there is always a chance of perpetual check, so I didn't want to let Black Queen away from the 8th rank. The computer later showed that I could have won more quickly by playing 35.♖c7,

but during the game I was only thinking of restricting her Queen.

35...♔g8
36.♖c8 b5
37.♖xg8+ ♔xg8
38.♔f2 g5
39.♔f3 h5
40.e5 b4
41.♔e4 b3
42.axb3



Alison Tsy-pin DoubleTree Tarrytown



a5 43.♔f5 g4 44.♔g6 gxh3
45.♚g7#

Camille was a very good sportsman and shook my hand firmly, even though she had tears in her eyes. She ran away from the hall but I still sat at the table and wanted to savour the moment. It felt so good! This is the strongest opponent I ever beat. My two most memorable tournament games so far were when I won against the President of the FQE in 101 moves when I was eight years old, and when, needing only a victory (3½ points against 4), I won with Black against the leader in the fifth round of 2013 Montreal Open to win my section. This victory against Camille felt as good! The best part was how all my friends in Team Canada, both kids and adults, celebrated with me. Everyone was so kind and congratulated me and my Dad: Victoria, Jennifer and James, Toto, Christina, Alex and Marina. They called it the biggest point upset of the tournament. I was so happy I was running and jumping all over the lobby with my friend Kylie, who had a great tournament and became a champion in her section! I learned from this

game that if I choose the right strategy it is possible to overcome even a much stronger adversary, but I need to always stick to my plan. If I let down the pressure and allow the opponent to equalize, she would turn on me. If I decided to attack, I have to do it all the way.

1-0

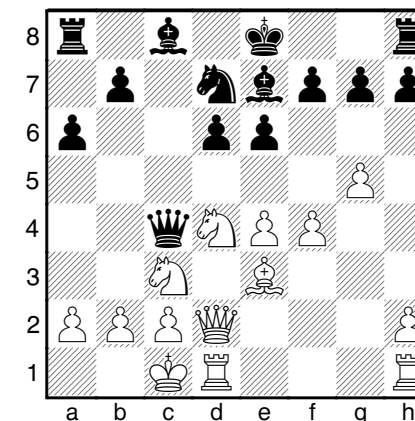
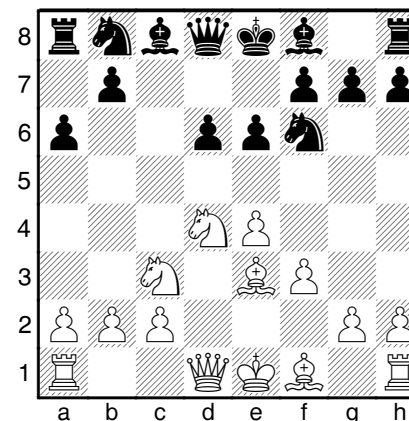
**Notes by Nicholas Vettese
Hong, Andrew (2109)
Vettese, Nicholas (1943)**

B80

*NAYCC 2014 - U10 Tarrytown,
NY (9), 16.06.2014*

Going into the last round, I was certain I was going to be third place, because in order to be second I had to beat a 2100+ opponent. During this game, when I saw my winning chances, I realized that I could become second!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3
e6 7.f3



7...♚c7

7...b5 is maybe what I should have played, because it is more popular and played by many top players.
8.♚d2 ♘bd7

8.♚d2 ♘bd7 9.0-0-0

Theory suggests 9.g4 and I think that move is better for White.

9...♘e5 10.g4 ♙e7
11.g5 ♘fd7 12.f4
♘c4 13.♙xc4 ♚xc4

Nicholas Vettese



14.h4

I think Andrew should have played. 14.f5 because it is more aggressive, and Black has to take caution.

14...b5!

I have to start an attack on White's King before my King starts to get in trouble.

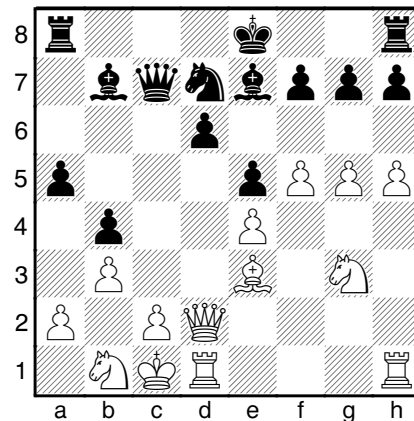
15.f5?

This is a mistake because now ...b4 comes with more force, since the Knight is forced to go to b1. Going to e2 would be dangerous because of my ... cxa2 .

Better was: 15.b3 c7 16.f5 e5 , or 15. b1 b4 16. ce2 .

15...b4 16. b1

Now I am better because the Knight on b1 is misplaced and the King on c1 looks cramped, which will give me some tactical possibilities later in the game.

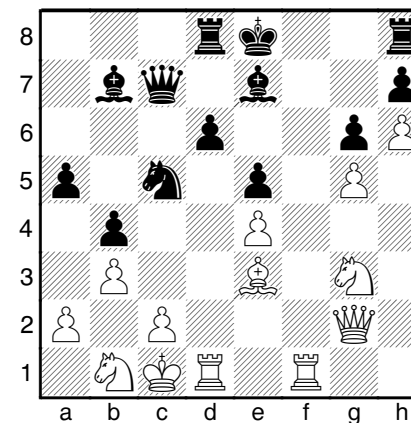
**16...e5 17.b3 c7 18. e2
 b7 19. g3** **19. xb4? d5! 20. e1 d4.****19...a5 20.h5****20... d8? !**

I played this move, because I was worried about f6 and f5 , so I wanted to protect the pawn on d6. However, this appears to be too passive. Therefore 20...a4 was much better, Δ 21.f6?! gxf6 22. gxf6 xf6 23. f5? xe4-+ .

21.h6 g6 22.fxg6?

This move completely slows down White's attack on the King side.

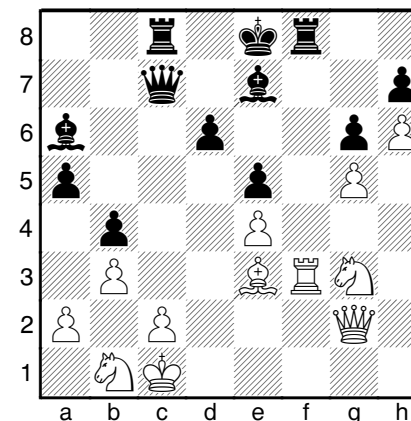
22.f6! was better. Although it blocks the King side pawns, it also buries my pieces on the 8th rank.

**22...fxg6 23. hf1 c5
24. g2?** 

This move blunders a piece, but the position was already very difficult for White.

**24... a6! 25. f3 d3+!!
26. d2 c8!! 27. c1**

27. cxd3 c2+ 28. e1 xcg2-+ .

27... xc1 28. xc1 f8-+ **29. f5**

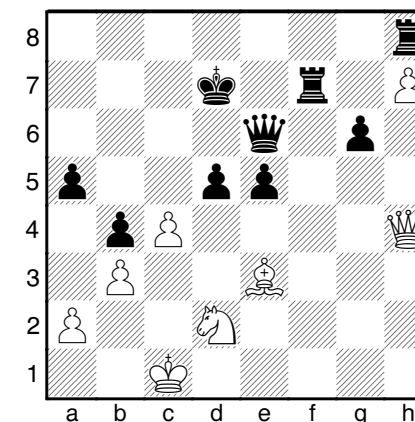
Desperation attempt.

29...gxf5 30.exf5 b7!

Wins another exchange.

31.c4 xf3

31... bxc3 was probably better, because the Rook is not going anywhere.

32. xf3 d7 33.f6 e6 **34. h5+ f7 35.fxe7 xe7** **36. d2 d5 37.g6 hxg6****38. h4+ d7 39.h7 h8** **40.cxd5 xd5 41. g4+ e6** **42. e2 fxh7 43. c4 h1+** **44. b2 1h2 45. f2 f8** **46. d3+**

If 46. xe5+ xe5+ 47. xe5



♖fx2+ 48.♙b1 ♖h1+ 49.♚e1
♖xe1#.

46...♙e7

and here White Resigned.

0-1

Photos

Victoria Jung-Doknjas, Jim Foote, Penny Yu, and various Team Canada families.

Links

Final Standings

<http://www.chesseducators.com/northamericanyouth/standings/>

Team Canada at NAYCC 2014 Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Team-Canada-at-NAYCC-2014/430077317126743>

Player Annotations

FM Jason Cao, Richard Chen, John Doknjas, Joshua Doknjas, Joanne Foote, Nameer Issani, Rachel Tao, Alison Tsy-pin, Nicholas Vettese, Lily Zhou, Qiyu Zhou.

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The **9th Edmonton Chess Festival** took place June 20-29, 2014. The main event was a 10-player RR featuring four international GMs — **Vassily Ivanchuk** (UKR), **Wesley So** (PHIL), and **Sam Shankland** and **Irina Krush** (both USA) — against six Canadians: GM **Anton Kovalyov**, IM **Raja Panjwani**, IM **Richard Wang**, FMs **Vladimir Pechenkin** and **Dale Haessel**, and qualifier **Alex Yam**. **Vassily Ivanchuk won** with 8/9, ½ a point ahead of Wesley So, who had an *identical* result with Ivanchuk, except for one pesky player...

Pechenkin's EI Diary

Last year I was very happy with GM Eric Hansen's EI tournament diary. So, a month before this year's EI began I asked FM Vladimir Pechenkin — who readers will be familiar with as the author of the "Canadians Abroad" column in *Chess Canada* — to write *his* tournament-diary: beginning before the pairings were set and continuing with regular installments until the day it ended. One advantage of this type of report is that the author can't retrospectively rewrite his "expectations" to conform to what

actually happened. When Vladimir says what opening he expects to see in an upcoming round, there's no fudging or disinformation: what you read is what he sent me before the rounds.

This is the chess diary of a player facing some of the best in the world. Vladimir entered near the bottom of the rating list, and so could expect only harsh treatment from the top four GMs (avg. Elo: 2685+) and tough fights from everyone else, who (of course) would have pencilled him in as one of their "easier" games. In such a field, Vladimir could expect to score around 2/9, but if he had had an off week the result could have been *humiliating*.

When I proposed the article I teased him that we should advertise it with the absurd provisional title: "*How I won the 2014 Edmonton International*". As it turns out, he did *not* have an off week, and while we will have to save *that* title for another year, *this* year the title might well be: "*How My Heroic Defending Decided the 2014 Edmonton International*". But that would be bragging, and this is Canada.

- editor

June 12:

Looking Forward, and Back

Edmonton International (EI) has always been the most enjoyable tournament of the year for me ever since my relocation to "The City of Champions" in 2008. The organizers do a fantastic job every single time attracting stronger and stronger players from all around the world. The atmosphere is very friendly, and the GMs willingly engage in extracurricular activities with the general public after the games are over. The tournament is also a lot of fun for spectators to watch as I had a chance to personally attest in 2013.

The main feature of the 2014 edition of the EI will no doubt be **Vassily Ivanchuk**, the legendary grandmaster who needs no introduction and whose name is accompanied by the word "genius" more frequently than any other modern GM's name. These days any conversation about the International at the Edmonton Chess Club inevitably revolves around the Ukrainian GM, while the other participants are hardly ever mentioned. And not because they are

unknown, it's just that the magic of Vassily Ivanchuk's name is simply too strong.

The roster of 10 players was largely determined in advance. The final spot went to the winner of the Qualifying tournament that took place three weeks prior to the beginning of the main event. During the Qualifier it was abundantly clear that an opportunity to play the Ukrainian genius was a great motivational force for most of the participants. For example, I wanted to discuss an important question with one of the players in between the rounds. However, he resolutely turned me down saying that he could not afford any distraction that might prevent him from getting a chance to play GM Ivanchuk. All I could do was to agree.

When I accepted the invitation to play in the 9th EI, a flashback from 2005 crossed my mind. The Canadian Open was held in Edmonton that year, and the organizers managed to attract GMs **Ivanchuk**, **Shirov** and Bologan, among the others. I did have a couple of nice short conversations with



Alexey Shirov during the event but, for the most part, I was just silently watching the super-GMs at work. But after the closing ceremony GM Ivanchuk agreed to take photos with other participants, and I couldn't resist the temptation.

The most interesting part was to come at the airport the following morning, however. I was sitting in a cafeteria before departure when I suddenly noticed the Ukrainian legend at the next table. The position clearly demanded to take the initiative, which is what I did by greeting the grandmaster in Russian. He recognized me and, to my great wonder, quickly reproduced the opening moves from my game with GM Alexander Moiseenko from Round 3 of the tournament. Now, as the photo (right) shows, I got propelled to board



4 in that round, which was close to GM Ivanchuk's board 1. Still, the fact he could recall the moves from some unimportant game played a

whole week before literally made my jaw drop.

It turned out that we were on the same flight to Toronto and had more than half an hour to talk about anything. It was certainly a pleasant conversation although I don't remember much of it now. One interesting detail that I do recall is a discussion of Garry Kasparov's recently announced retirement. Vassily was absolutely sure that the former World Champion would

return to competitive chess sooner or later. It *did* sound plausible then, but now we know that it wasn't meant to be.

June 18: Luck of Lots

Now fast forward to 9th EI in 2014. My previous experience suggests that the course of tournament will depend quite a bit on the drawing of lots that will take place the day

before Round 1. Certainly, it would be nice to get an extra White but there is way more to the pairings than just colors. For example, in



2012 I got the top five players in the first five rounds, and that was not unlike being run over by a bulldozer. The second half of the event then felt like a walk in the park, but it was too late to accomplish anything meaningful, and the motivation was already low.

On the contrary, when high- and low-rated opponents alternated, the tournament was often a success. This yo-yo effect is frequently despised in Open Swisses but it does provide valuable opportuni-

2005 Canadian Open in Edmonton

Top: Shirov and Ivanchuk at work.
Left: Moiseenko - Pechenkin.

Right: Ivanchuk poses with fan.



Chess Canada June 2014

ties to recharge the batteries over the course of a round-robin tournament. So let's see what hand I'll be dealt this time.

Regardless of how the drawing of lots goes, however, my number one goal for the tournament is to play a memorable game against GM Vassily Ivanchuk. White or Black, first or last, this is going to be the game of the event that I am really looking forward to. The other goals seem less significant somehow. Yes, it would be *nice* to get the first GM scalp or an IM norm, but these important accomplishments do not provide nearly as much motivation for the time being.

Preparing to Prepare

Finally, let's talk about preparation. As usual, the openings are going to be the biggest challenge. I know, I know, everybody complains about it over and over. In fact, I don't remember the last time that I met somebody happy with his openings, and that includes 2700+ GMs. Nevertheless, there is a reason to be optimistic. Over the course of the last few years I have noticed a curious trend. Most GMs and IMs

will not even try to give my openings a critical test. Instead, they will look at my games in the database and will opt for a line that they think I haven't faced before. (One notable exception is Eric Hansen who goes straight for a kill.) Therefore, all I need to do is to review such lines and get ready to be tested.

Another big part of the prep is kicking my "variations calculator" into high gear. If anyone wants to have a *chance* against GMs, he must be able to work at least as hard and as efficiently over the board as them. So I am going to work with my former coach's old collection of positions specifically designed for that purpose. There are no particular tactical themes like distraction or decoying, the emphasis is on the ability to organize the calculation process itself. The examples were collected during the pre-computer era so it'll also be interesting to see whether the lines will be able to withstand the test of time.

Once the pairings are out, I'll work out a more specific tournament strategy.

June 19:

Pairings: Good and Bad

The drawing of lots produced mixed results. The good news is that the tournament schedule is almost ideal if we forget about the colors for a moment. The most challenging stretch — So, Kovalyov, Krush — falls on the last three rounds so I have a chance to build some momentum in the first 6 rounds.

The bad news is that I got five games with Black, *four* of them against the top four GMs.

First Three Rounds

The tournament may be divided more or less naturally into 3 blocks of 3 rounds each. Therefore, I'll write mini-reports after rounds 3 and 6, together with a strategic plan concerning the next three games. The plan for rounds 1-3 is as follows:

Rd 1: Black vs FM Dale Haessel

I have had a good score against Dale so far (+6-0=7) but resting on the laurels will be a big mistake. Everybody in Alberta knows that he is capable of delivering an as-

tounding performance out of the blue and against pretty much anyone. In fact, this may be the second most important game of the tournament, as it will set up the tone for the following few rounds.

The opening is almost certainly going to be the Dutch, either Leningrad or Classical. We've accumulated quite a bit of experience in these lines so a lot will depend on who will be able to surprise the opponent first.

Rd 2: White vs IM Richard Wang

Richard is Alberta's young and promising IM who grew up right in front of my own eyes. We've played 25 times since 2008 so we know each other well. While I have a slight plus score (+7-3=15), most of the games ended in a draw.

Richard usually plays solid openings both as Black and as White, which often makes a draw the most likely outcome. In fact, this is my only White game of the tournament where I wish I had Black. Cracking his Symmetric English or Slav will be a big challenge requiring thorough preparation and a surprise in the opening.





Chess Canada June 2014

Rd 3: Black vs GM Sam Shankland

This young American GM was the latest addition to the roster replacing the last year's winner GM Lazaro Bruzon. Superstition suggests that such a participant added at the last moment somehow has a good chance of winning the tournament. I am not superstitious at all, but will be watching GM Shankland's tournament progress with a lot of interest.

This is also the most mysterious opponent for me as I know almost nothing about him. I did annotate a fragment of his game for the CCN but it's clearly not enough. I am not sure yet which opening to opt for; for the time being the idea is to play 1...e6 against pretty much anything and then see how it goes.

Notes FM Vladimir Pechenkin

**Haessel, Dale
Pechenkin, Vladimir**

A85

9th Edmonton International Edmonton (1), 21.06.2014

1. ♘f3 e6 2. c4 f5 3. d4 ♘f6
4. ♘c3

A local surprise. Dale opted for 4. ♘c2 in our previous games in this line.

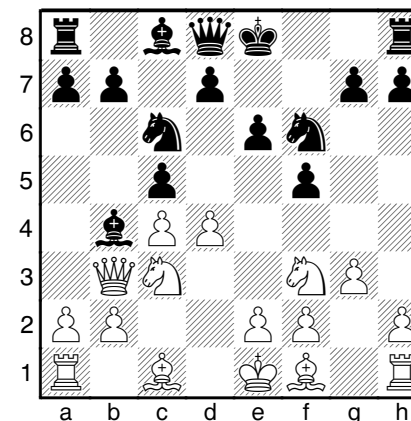
4... ♘b4 5. ♖b3 c5

Looks the most natural as Black wants to immediately put pressure on White's center.

6. g3?!

Too slow to count on an opening advantage. 6. e3 strengthening d4 is more to the point.

6... ♘c6



7. a3?!

7. dxc5 ♘e4 8. ♘g2 0-0 9. ♘e3 doesn't look ambitious but White at least completes his development with an approximately equal position.

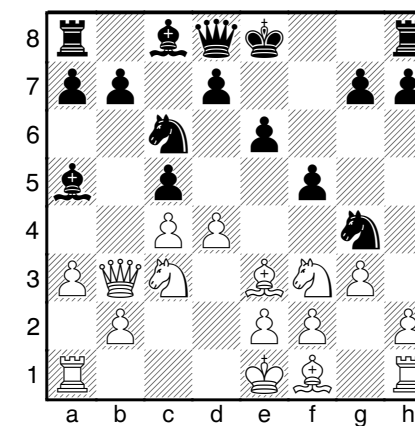
7... ♘a5?

I am not sure why I rejected the natural 7... ♘c3+ as either recapture entails some problems for White. For example, 8. ♖xc3 (alternatively, 8. bxc3 ♘a5 9. ♖a2 b6 and the c4-pawn will give White headaches for a long time.) 8... ♘e4 9. ♖d3 ♖a5+ 10. ♘d2 ♘xd2 11. ♘xd2 ♘xd4 and White loses a pawn for insufficient compensation.

8. ♘e3?!

An inaccurate move order. Correct is 8. dxc5 ♘e4 9. ♘e3 and Black will have difficulties retrieving his pawn.

8... ♘g4



An interesting moment that



demonstrates how games are won or lost by a slight mistake in calculation. Black's last is one of the first moves that comes to mind, and the question is what White has prepared in response. It's unlikely that he will allow his pawns to be doubled so he must have something else in mind...

9. ♖g5?

And I correctly predicted White's reaction. It seems to me that he simply stopped calculating here assuming that Black now has to move his queen. However, I calculated just a little bit further.

White should play something like 9.d5 ♜xe3 10.fxe3 ♜e7 11.0-0-0 when his advantage in development compensates for structural defects.

9... ♞xd4!

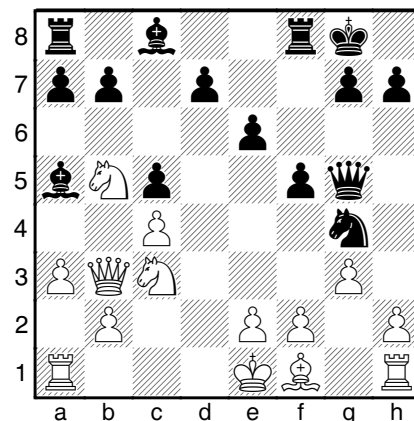
The queen doesn't have to move! Now White loses a pawn without a shred of compensation.

10. ♞xd4

Obviously not 10. ♖xd8 ♞xb3

11. ♖xa5 ♞xa1+.

10... ♖xg5 11. ♞db5 0-0



12.e3

Otherwise, f5-f4 looks deadly. Nevertheless, White may be able to survive after the cold-blooded 12. ♖g2 f4 13. ♖f3! ♞e5 14. ♖e4♯.

12... ♖e7

The computer strongly advocates a piece sacrifice: 12... ♞xe3 13.fxe3 ♖xe3+ 14. ♖e2 f4 15.gxf4 ♜xf4+ claiming an overwhelming advantage. However, during the game I wasn't sure whether Black would be able to bring the sleeping queenside pieces into play before White organizes the de-

fence. Besides, such radical measures seemed unnecessary since Black is up a good pawn for the time being.

13. ♖d1

Obviously, White's idea is to establish a strong blockade on the d6-square so Black hurries to cross this plan.

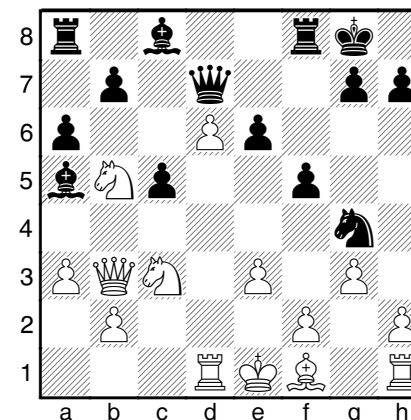
13...d5!

This move looks very logical but it does require precise calculation.

14.cxd5 a6!

The point.

15.d6 ♖d7



16. ♖c4

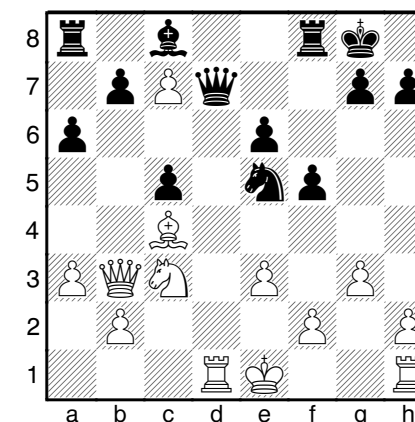
White is trying to maintain as much tension as possible.

After 16. ♞c7 ♖xc7 17.dxc7 ♖c6 18. ♖g1 ♖xc7♯ the position simplifies to Black's advantage.

16... ♞e5

I didn't seriously consider 16... axb5 as after 17. ♖xb5 it looks like White is going to get his piece back. However, Black has a couple of nice intermediate moves 17...c4! 18. ♖xc4 ♖xc3+ 19.bxc3 ♞e5 keeping an extra knight.

17. ♞c7 ♖xc7 18.dxc7



18... ♖c6!



Certainly not 18...♙xc7?
19.♘xe6+ and Black loses all his advantage.

19.♔d2

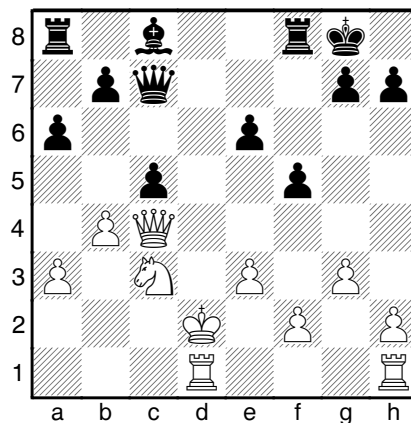
Here White has an interesting resource 19.♘d5 During the game I was intending 19...♔h8 (actually, much stronger is 19...♔f7 avoiding possible back rank tricks) but after 20.♘b6 ♙xh1+ 21.♙f1 the position remains surprisingly unclear.

19...♘xc4+?!

Both players were getting short on time. Black hurries to exchange a dangerous-looking bishop but loses a portion of his advantage.

19...b5 20.♙e2 c4 is natural and good. The c7-pawn isn't going to run away.

20.♙xc4 ♙xc7 21.b4



21...b5!

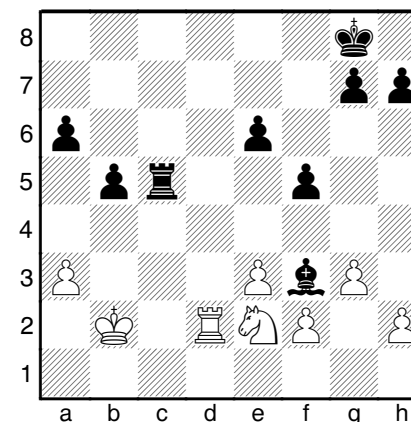
Fortunately, this temporary pawn sacrifice clarifies the position completely.

22.♙xc5 ♙xc5 23.bxc5 ♙b7

24.♙he1 ♙ac8 25.♘e2 ♙fd8+

Further exchanges are inevitable.

26.♔c3 ♙xd1 27.♙xd1 ♙f3 28.♙d2 ♙xc5+ 29.♔b2



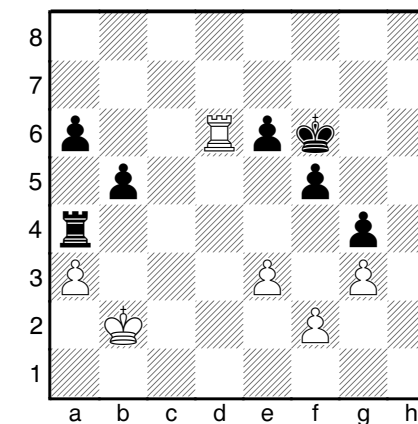
29...♙xe2

This is a good practical decision as the White knight may prove quite annoying. Rook endgames do have a notorious drawish tendency but this one goes smoothly for Black.

30.♙xe2 ♔f7 31.♙d2 ♔e7 32.♔b3 ♙c4

White is not allowed to get rid of his weak a3-pawn. Black's subsequent play is relatively simple: push the kingside pawns to create/fix some weaknesses in White's camp.

33.h4 g6 34.♙d3 h6 35.♙d2 g5 36.hxg5 hxg5 37.♙d1 g4 38.♔b2 ♔f6 39.♙d6 ♙a4



40.♔b3



Round 6: So watches Krush-Ivanchuk



White can try 40.♖d3 ♔e5
41.♔c2 switching the duties
between his pieces. However, it
doesn't make a whole lot of dif-
ference: 41...♔e4 42.♔d2 ♔f3
43.♔e1 e5 etc.

40...♔e5 41.♖b6 ♔d5 42.♔b2

The time control has passed,
and Black was able to calculate
the winning approach.

42...♔e4!

Dale understood everything and
preferred resigning immediately.

After 42...♔e4 43.♖xe6+ ♔f3
44.♖e5 ♔xf2 45.♖xf5+ ♔xg3
Black's g-pawn will soon cost
White a rook.

0-1

Notes FM Vladimir Pechenkin

Yam, Alex (2299)

Panjwani, Raja (2440)

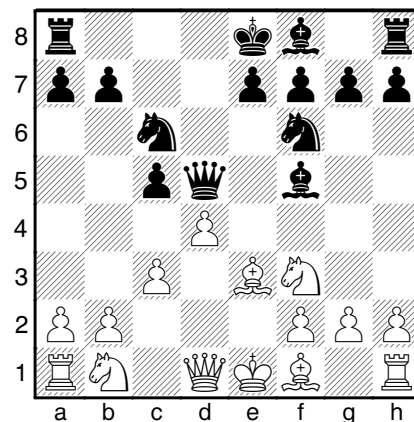
B22

*9th Edmonton International Ed-
monton (2), 22.06.2014*

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3

The c3-Sicilian is a cornerstone
of Alex Yam's opening reper-
toire.

**3...d5 4.exd5 ♖xd5 5.d4 ♘f5
6.♘e3 ♗f6**



7.♗bd2

Another idea is 7.dxc5 but Black
obtains full compensation for
a pawn after 7...♖xd1+ 8.♔xd1
0-0-0+ 9.♗bd2 ♗d5 etc.

7...cxd4

Now that the b1-knight cannot
go to its most natural c3-square,
this exchange looks good.

8.♘c4

Provocative!

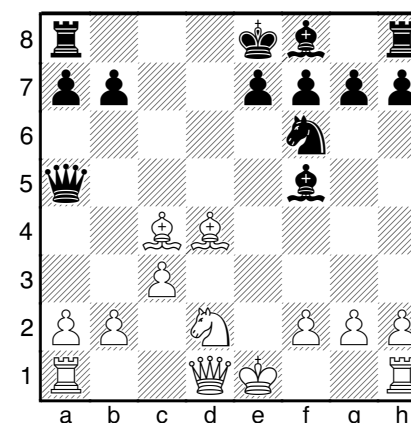
More circumspect is 8.cxd4 with

a relatively normal IQP position.

8...♖a5

So far in practice Black has pre-
ferred 8...dxe3!? 9.♘xd5 exd2+
10.♖xd2 0-0-0 intending to ex-
change the queen for three mi-
nor pieces. I believe that should
such a position ever occur on
the board again, Raja will go for
this line. A good example is the
game Soors – Salem, 2012, that
continued 11.c4 e6 12.♖f4 ♘b4+
13.♔e2 ♘d6 14.♖g5 h6 15.♖xg7
♗h5 16.♖xf7 ♗f4+ 17.♔d1 ♖hf8
18.♖g7 exd5 Black finally man-
aged to pick up a third piece
putting White in a desperate
situation.

9.♗xd4 ♗xd4 10.♘xd4



10...0-0-0

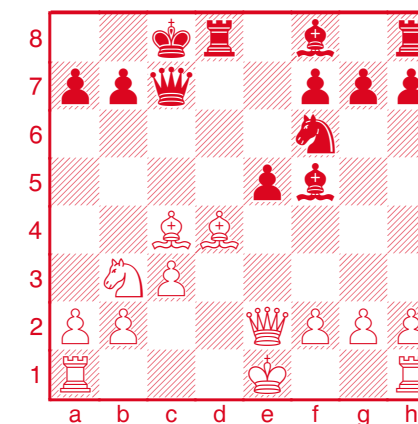
Black sacrifices a pawn for the
sake of rapid development, and
this approach works wonderfully
in the game.

Nevertheless, a more ac-
curate move order is 10...e5
11.♘e3 0-0-0.

11.♖e2

White could have exploited
Black's inaccuracy by a subtle
11.♘e2! intending to meet 11...
e5? with 12.♗c4 ♖c7 13.♗xe5
Here Black doesn't have any
compensation for the pawn.

11...e5! 12.♗b3 ♖c7



What's better: ♘xe5 or ♘xa7?



13. ♖xe5?

Accepting the pawn sacrifice allows Black to seize the initiative and to develop a devastating attack.

The best option is to grab a different pawn: **13. ♖xa7** After 13...b5 14. ♖xb5 ♔xa7 15. ♖a6+ Black can hardly avoid a perpetual check. With the benefit of hindsight, Alex should have gone for this line taking the draw.

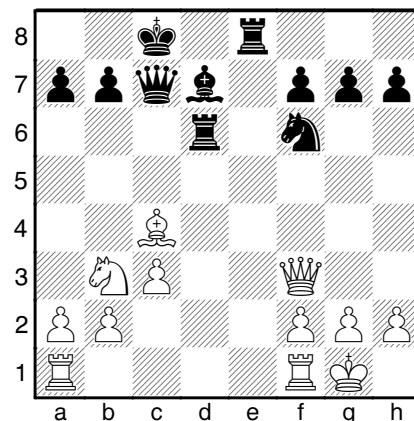
What's amazing about the next stage of the game is that White needs only a tempo to fully consolidate and enjoy his extra pawn. However, Black plays very precisely and denies the opponent such an opportunity.

13... ♖d6 14. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 15. 0-0 ♖e8

The c4-bishop is suddenly in trouble.

16. ♔f3

The only move.

16... ♖d7!**17. ♖d3**

The only move again. After 17. ♖xf7 ♖e7 the bishop is trapped.

17... ♖g4

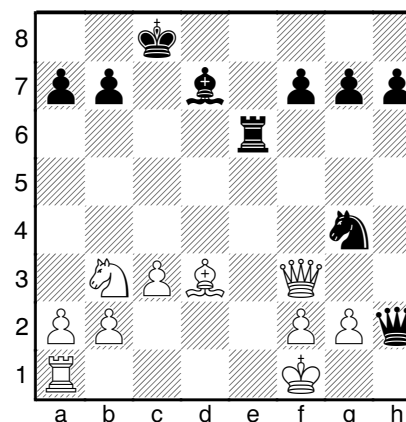
Hard to believe but White is already close to being lost.

18. ♖fe1?

Relatively best is 18. ♖ae1 intending 18... ♖de6 (18... ♖e5 19. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 also leaves Black with extra material) 19. ♖xg4 ♖xe1 20. ♖xg7, though after 20... ♖xf1+ 21. ♖xf1 ♖e1 White has serious problems.

18... ♖de6

Now White cannot avoid major material losses.

19. ♖xe6 ♔xh2+ 20. ♔f1 ♖xe6**21. ♖e4**

Or 21. ♖h3 ♖e3+ 22. fxe3 ♖f6+ and the queen is gone.

21... ♖b5+ 22. c4 ♖xc4+ 23. ♔e1 ♖f6 24. ♖c5 ♖xe4 25. ♖xe4 ♖h1+

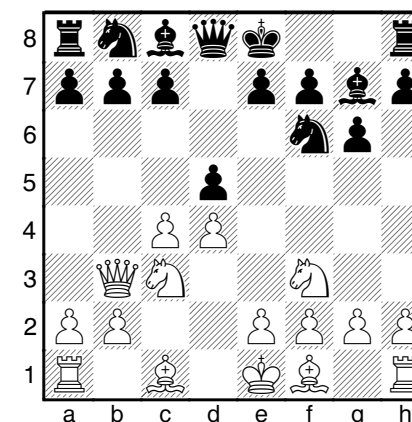
0-1

Kovalyov, Anton Ivanchuk, Vassily

D96

9th Edmonton International
Edmonton, Canada (2.1),
22.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. ♖f3 g6 2. d4 ♖f6 3. c4 ♖g7**4. ♖c3 d5 5. ♖b3**

The Russian System.

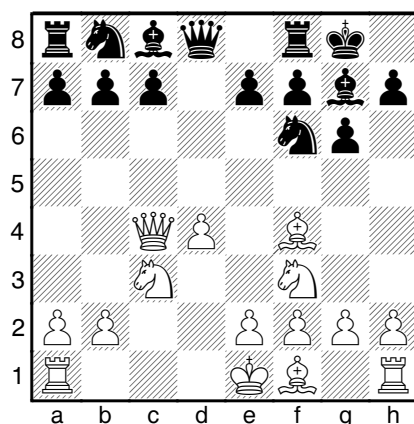
White's goal is to create a two abreast pawn center (d4+e4) without allowing Black to exchange a ♖. If White can do this, then Black will not have enough space for all four minor pieces. Compare that with the main line exchange variation: 5. exd5 ♖xd5 6. e4 ♖xc3 when Black has exchanged one minor piece but gets counterplay against White's center with ...c5. Black's most common maneuvers against this squeeze play — ...♖g4x♖f3 and ...♖e6x♖d5 — both concede White the ♖ pair, but get a big lead in development.

The main problem for White in the Russian System is similar to the ♖c2 systems against the



Nimzo-Indian: Black will gain enough tempi off the exposed White ♖ to break up White's center or even (as in this game) catch White's ♔ in the center.

5...dxc4 6.♖xc4 0-0 7.♗f4



7...e4 is much more common, when Black can choose between ...a6, ...♗g4, ...♘a6 and ...♘c6, each of which scores about equally well.

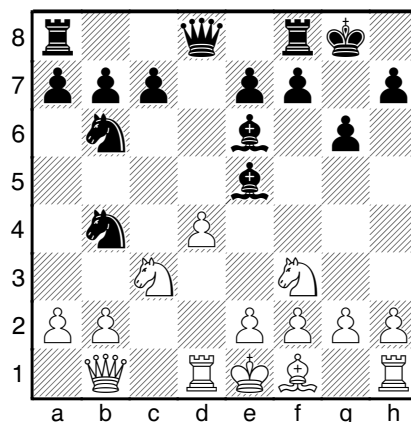
7...♘a6

7...♗e6!? 8.♖xc7 ♘c6 9.♖xb7 ♖c8 10.e4 ♘h5 11.♗e3 ♘xd4 12.♘xd4 ♗xd4 13.♖d1 ♗xc3+ 14.bxc3 ♖a5 (1/2-1/2, 41) Berkes, F (2645)-Vachier Lagrave, M (2681) Paks, 2008.

8.♖d1

Once again, 8.e4 is more common, but doesn't score any better, e.g. 8...c5 9.dxc5 (9.e5 ♗e6!) 9...♗e6 10.♖b5 ♗d7 11.♖xb7 ♘xc5 12.♖b4 ♘e6 13.♗e5 a5 14.♖a3 ♖b6 15.♗c4 ♖fc8 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.♘d5 ♖b8 18.♘xf6+ exf6 19.♗xe6 (19.♗d5!?) 19...♗xe6 20.0-0 ♖b4 21.♖xb4 axb4 1/2-1/2 Topalov-Kasparov Sarajevo, 1999.

8...♗e6 9.♖a4 ♘d5 10.♗e5 ♘b6 11.♖c2 ♘b4 12.♖b1 ♗xe5

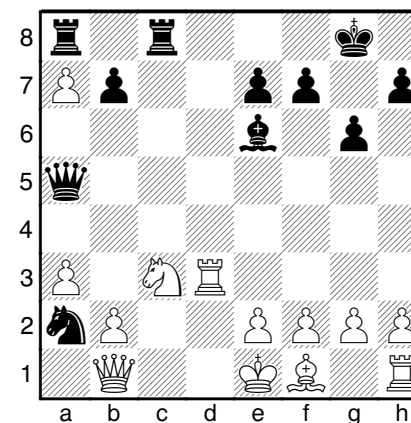


13.♘xe5

13.dxe5 ♖c8 Black's pieces look like they're all just hanging in air, but it's hard for White to turn that into an advantage, e.g.

14.h4 ♗f5 15.e4 ♗g4 16.♗e2 ♗xf3 17.♗xf3 ♖e6

13...c5 14.dxc5 ♖c7 15.cxb6 ♖xe5 16.bxa7 ♖a5! 17.a3 ♘a2! 18.♖d3 ♖fc8!↑



White's next move is a mistake, and I could very well have put "!" on all Black's remaining moves.

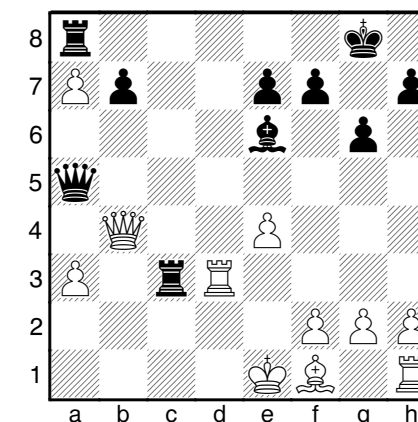
19.e4??

19.♖c2?! ♗f5

19.b4 ♘xc3 (19...♖xa3? 20.♘xa2±) 20.♖xc3 ♖xa7 21.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 22.♖b2 (22.♖a1 ♖c2+) 22...♗f5 Black is down a pawn, but is playing with three pieces against one.

19...♘xc3!-+ 20.bxc3 ♖xc3

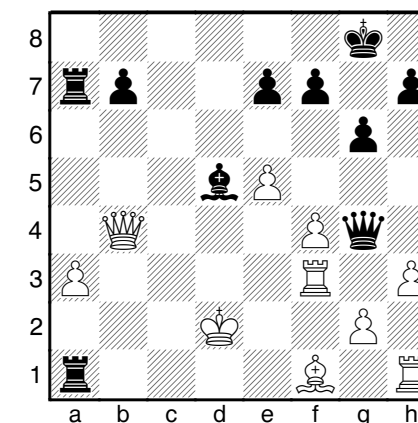
21.♖b4



21...♖c1+!

21...♖xa3 22.♖xa5 ♖xa5

22.♗d2 ♖g5+! 23.♖e3 ♖a1! 24.e5 ♖xa7! 25.f4 ♖g4! 26.♖f3 ♗d5 27.h3



Material is equal, but White has made more moves with his ♔

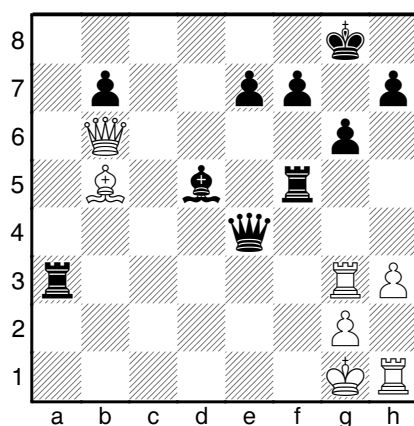


than with his ♕f1 and ♖h1 combined.

27...♙e6-+

27...♙h4! 28.g3 ♙h5 29.♙e2 ♖a2+-+.

28.♖c3 ♖a8 29.♙e3 ♖e1+
30.♙f2 ♖e4! 31.♙c5 ♖xf4+
32.♙g1 ♙xe5 33.♙b5 ♙e4
34.♖g3 ♖f5 35.♙b6 ♖xa3



Black is up three pawns and the ♖h1 still hasn't done anything.

0-1

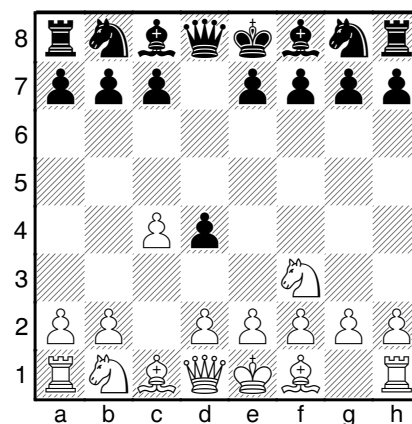
Notes by IM Raja Panjwani
Panjwani, Raja
So, Wesley

A09

9th Edmonton International
Edmonton, Canada (3.2),
23.06.2014

I have now played in the city of Edmonton five times (in years 2000, 2005, 2008, 2009, and 2014) and without exception I've found the atmosphere to be extremely pleasant, and conducive to chess-playing. The Edmonton organizers are doing a great service for Canadian chess. I was happy to be a part of this event and hope to return in the future!

1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 d4



This was my second time playing Wesley, and from our first

encounter a couple years ago (when he was "only" 2650ish) I gathered that he was not afraid to take risks even against much lower rated opponents. In that game I also had White and his king ended up on e6 very early in the game, with complications that could have gone either way (unsurprisingly they went his way!). He (rightly!) seems to trust his ability to navigate his way out of complications, and doesn't feel the need to play cautious chess out of a fear of losing. In keeping with this, he doesn't shy away from entering one of the most complicated opening lines out there.

3.b4!?

If White is content with dry equality, there are various ways of liquidating the position; e.g. 3.e3 ♘c6 4.exd4 ♘xd4 5.♘xd4 ♙xd4 6.♘c3 e5 7.d3 ♘f6 8.♙e3 ♙d6 9.d4 exd4 10.♙xd4 ♙xd4 11.♙xd4=.

However, a year ago I picked up a repertoire book by Delchev which recommends 3.b4 and offers a lot of original analysis. I thought I might be able to catch Wesley in one of Delchev's

dangerous novelties. Little did I know...

3...f6!

I think this is the best move, and one reason this line is a good practical choice for White is that Black players aren't usually prepared well enough to play 3...f6, let alone follow up appropriately in the complications.

3...c5?! 4.e3! Leads to a reversed Blumenfeld gambit, an important tempo up for White over the usual 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.d5 b5!? 4...dxe3 5.fxe3 cxb4 6.d4♞.

Delchev gives 3...g6?! 4.g3 ♙g7 5.d3 e5 6.♙g2 ♘e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.a4 a5 9.b5 c5 10.♖a2! ♖a7 11.e3 dxe3 12.fxe3±.

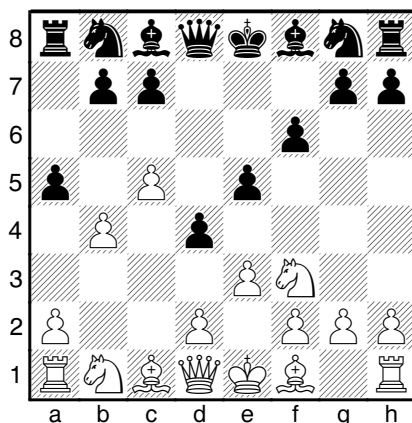
4.e3 e5!

4...dxe3 5.fxe3 e5 6.c5 ♙e6 7.♙b5+ c6 8.♙a4 ♘h6 9.0-0 ♙e7 10.♙b3 ♙d7 11.♘c3 ♘a6 12.d4! Is clearly better for White according to Delchev. This is the sort of position I would have loved to get against Wesley – a real fist fight, where even if I lose



I get the satisfaction of having gone after him.

5.c5 a5



So far still following Delchev. Wesley was playing somewhat quickly up till now, but that didn't intimidate me because I thought there was very little chance he would have come across Delchev's obscure book (most 2700s don't read repertoire books anyway).

6.♖b5+!?

According to Delchev, 6.♘xe5 is a forced draw, but I decided

against it for two reasons:

1) Drawing with White in that manner, even against a player of Wesley's calibre, doesn't give me any satisfaction.

2) contrary to what Delchev says, Black can avoid a draw and dramatically simplify the position in to an unclear end-game. I wanted to keep all the pieces on the board and have a full-fledged fight.

6.♘xe5 fxe5 7.♖h5+ ♔d7 8.♖f5+ ♔e7!?! (8...♖e8 9.♖h5+ ♔d7=) 9.♖xe5+ ♖e6 10.♖c4 ♖d7 11.b5 ♔f7 12.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 13.♖xc7+



Panjwani - So

♖d7 14.♖xd7+ ♘xd7 15.exd4∞

One might objectively prefer White here, but practically speaking Black's moves are all very obvious (blockade on d5 with one knight, put the other on f5, put a rook on the e-file, etc.) while White can very easily go astray and become much worse.

6...c6 7.♖c4 axb4!

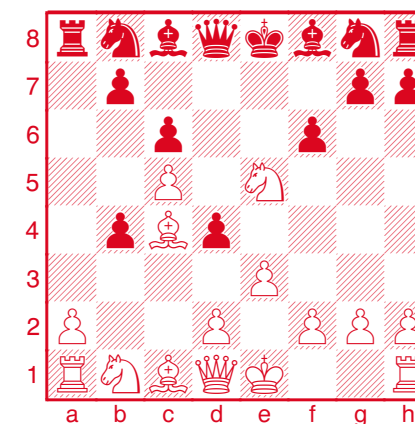
A critical moment.

Wesley thought for some time on this move (enough to make it appear as though he made a genuine decision between possibilities he was consider-

ing). Delchev gives 7...♘e7 as his main line, and I only had a vague recollection of 7...axb4. I remembered 8.♘xe5 was the move, and then Delchev gave 8...♘h6, and I remembered there was some ♘e5-d3 idea. I took on e5 and thought I'd figure it out over the board.

7...♘e7 8.0-0 axb4 9.♖b2∞
Delchev.

8.♘xe5



8...fxe5!N

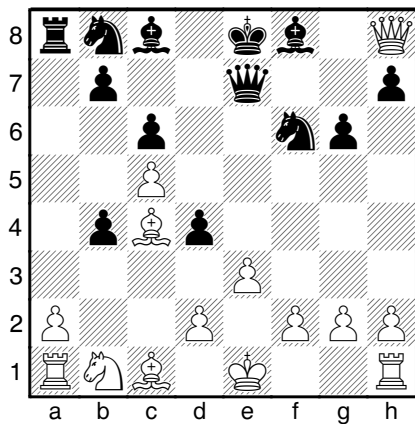
Wesley thought quite a while on this move, but it was all a bluff. In the post-mortem he told me that his friend Ray Robson gave him this idea, after finding this hole in Delchev's preparation. Delchev



doesn't even consider that Black can sacrifice the h8-rook!

I ran into Vassily Ivanchuk on my walk back to my hotel and he said to me: "let me give you some advice: when you have such a line in your opening repertoire, the first thing you check is whether you can successfully grab the material, only then consider what to do if your opponent declines your sacrifice".

9. ♖h5+ g6 10. ♖xe5+ ♔e7
11. ♖xh8 ♜f6



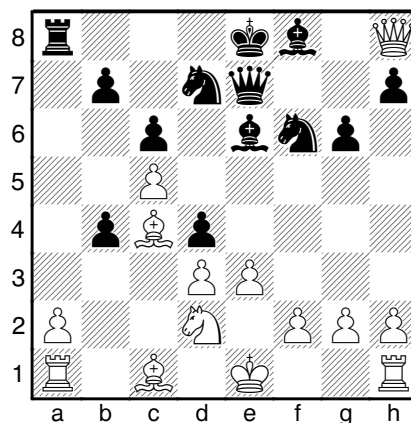
My engine gives this position as more than +2.00 in its initial assessment, and I'm guessing Delchev's did as well which is why he didn't bother with

it.... Alas, computers still have something to learn from humans: concepts like a queen being trapped are not easily reduced to brute force computation. I played the computer's top move from here on in, but it was too late. I think this position is already lost for White (at least practically speaking).

12. d3 ♙e6

I thought that Wesley had gone into this variation missing a pretty trap I set up for him: 12... ♔d7?! 13. 0-0 ♙g7? 14. ♙e6+!! ♔xe6 15. ♖xc8+ ♖d7 16. ♖xd7+ ♜bxd7 17. ♙b2±.

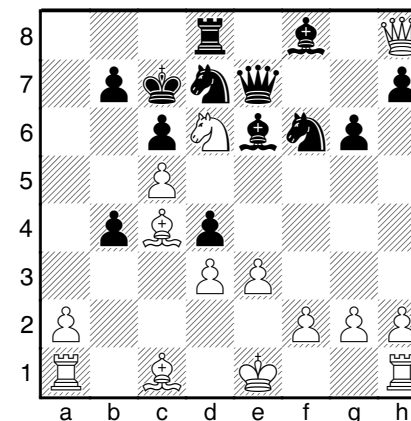
13. ♜d2 ♜bd7



14. a3!?

A creative attempt. My original intention was to play 14. ♜e4, however when I calculated the following: 14. ♜e4 0-0-0 15. ♜d6+ ♔c7!

Analysis Diagram



I thought I have nothing.

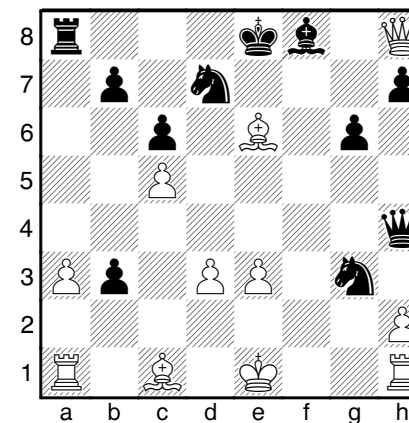
I saw that after: 16. e4 ♙g7 17. ♙f4 ♙xh8?? 18. ♜b5+! ♔c8 I have the pretty finish: 19. ♜a7#.

Then it occurred to me that by kicking in 14. a3 b3 a new diagonal is opened up for me, and in this same variation after ♔c7 I can play ♙d2! heading to a5.

But the story doesn't end there. It turns out both Wesley and I missed a beautiful variation that would have led to a clear advantage for me! Black could still win if he avoided this

variation (as I'll show), but in the post-mortem neither Wesley nor I realized it was necessary to avoid it. 16. e4 ♙g7?? (16... ♜xc5!-+) 17. ♖xg7!! ♖xg7 18. ♙f4+- with the unstoppable dual-threats of ♜f5+ winning the ♖ and my initial idea ♜b5-a7 mate. Wouldn't that have been nice!

14... dxe3! 15. fxe3 b3 16. ♜e4 ♜xe4 17. ♙xe6 ♖h4+ 18. g3 ♜xg3-+



19. ♖g1?

19. ♖d4 ♖xd4 20. exd4 ♜xh1 21. ♖b1 ♙g7 22. ♙e3 b2!-+ is also hopeless for White, but better resistance than what I played.

19... ♜e4+ 20. ♔d1 ♜dxc5!



21.♔e5 ♖f2+ 22.♔e2 ♖fxd3
23.♔d4 ♖f2+

Wesley was kind enough to analyze the game with me afterward. He's a true class act; I was especially impressed by his modesty and kindness. Modesty because he took my opinions of the position seriously, as if he was unaware he is 300 Elo points my superior. Kindness because he took the time to give me a lot of advice regarding training methods I could use to improve my play. This game, and its subsequent post-mortem, was certainly an excellent experience for me.

0-1

Mini-report after Round 3

The first rounds went more or less as expected, and I actually got pleasant opening surprises in all three games. In round 1, FM Dale Haessel blundered a pawn on move 9 without obtaining a shred of compensation. In round 2 IM Richard Wang came up with a novelty 7...e5 that is unlikely to attract followers. In round 3 I managed to nullify the opponent's prepara-

tion by playing 1...e6. Actually, I have been experimenting with the French defence for more than a year but none of the games have made the database so far. As a result, GM Sam Shankland opted for a safe but relatively unambitious line.

The main problem so far has been the clock. I completely misplayed the position in round 2 once I got up a pawn. I should have lost that game but a miraculous 40...Nf3?? (with half an hour on the clock!) granted me half a point. In round 3 I missed a couple of good chances to put up a tougher resistance (28...Re6 and 30...Rc8), the moves that I would have found under less stressful circumstances. Time management will thus be a priority in the next rounds.

Rd 4: White vs. IM Raja Panjwani

We have participated in the same tournaments but never played each other before. IM Panjwani has already faced GMs Vassily Ivanchuk and Wesley So in the tournament, losing both games but making it

very exciting for the spectators. I don't think that these losses will substantially affect Raja's mood before our game and expect a tough fight.

I'll open with 1.c4 but not sure what's going to happen next. My best guess would be 1...e6 with a likely transposition to the Catalan but I'll prepare for 1...b6 as well.

Rd 5: Black vs. GM Ivanchuk

The most important game of the tournament.

Everybody knows that preparing for the Ukrainian genius is futile, and I am not going to be an exception. The plan is simple: have a good night sleep, relax and enjoy the moment. Enough said.

Rd 6: White vs. Alex Yam

Alex has been on a roll this year, winning the Alberta Closed Championship and the Edmonton International Qualifier. His live FIDE rating has just surpassed 2300 meaning that he will officially get an FM title in the nearest future. Our head-to-head score is equal (+1 -1 =2), but Alex's style of play is a little inconvenient for me. The three games where I had White went well up to a certain point but I failed to convert twice. In any case, the initiative is going to be at a premium, and I was quite pleased to get White again. I expect a surprise very early on as Alex cannot be satisfied with the outcome of the opening in our previous encounters.

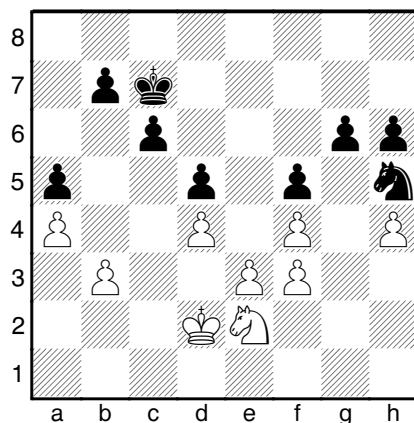
...is it *really* as impossible to prepare against GM Ivanchuk as the conventional wisdom suggests? I have decided to give it a try... Impossible is nothing.



Notes FM Vladimir Pechenkin

Krush, Irina
Shankland, Samuel

D35

9th Edmonton International Ed-
monton (4), 24.06.2014

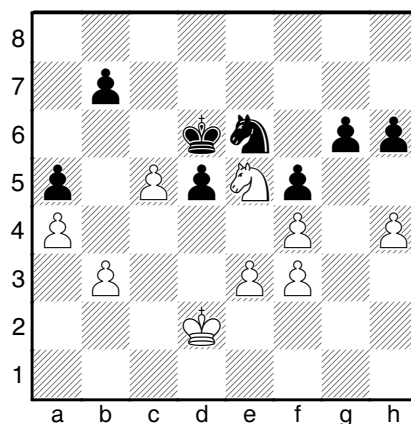
The position looks utterly boring and is evaluated by the computer as being completely equal.

31...d7 32.dxc1 dxe6 33.d3
d6 34.dxe5 c5

Seeking active play.

Certainly, Black did not like the passive 34...d7. However, White has no obvious way of improving her position so there was really not much to worry about.

35.dxc5+

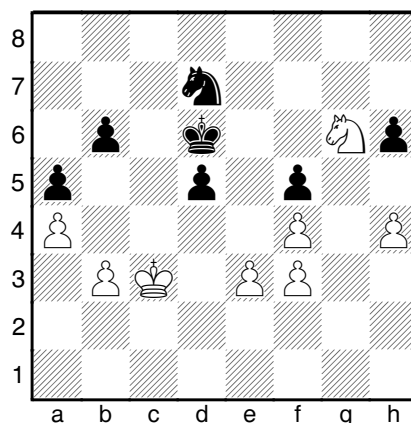


35...cxc5?

Black goes "all in", and the game quickly turns into a thriller.

35...cxc5 is still a draw. After 36.c3 White wins a pawn but Black has 36...d7 37.dxc6 b6:

Analysis Diagram

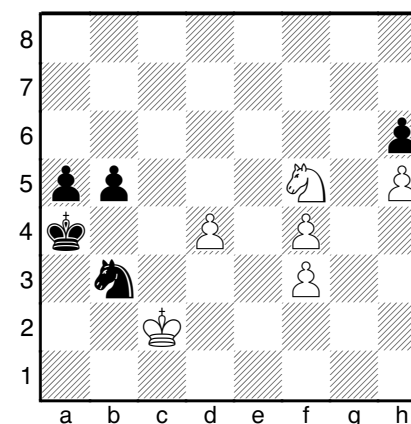


Trapping the opponent's knight and creating some kind of a fortress. White cannot make progress without losing her extra material, and the pawn endgame is drawn: 38.dxe5 (38.h5 dxf6=; 38.cxd4 dxc5=) 38...dxe5 39.fxe5+ cxe5 40.h5 cxd6 41.cxd4 ce6 42.f4 cd6 draw.

36.dxc6 c3 37.c2 d5
38.dxe7 d4

38...dxb3 39.dxf5 ca4 40.h5
d4 41.exd4 transposes.

39.exd4 dxb3 40.dxf5 ca4
41.h5 b5



42.d5

42.cb2 is a more prosaic way to collect the full point, e.g., 42...b4 43.dhx6 dxd4 44.d7 de6

45.h6 d8 46.dg5 cb5 47.h7
etc.

42...ca3 43.dhx6 d4+
44.cd3 b4

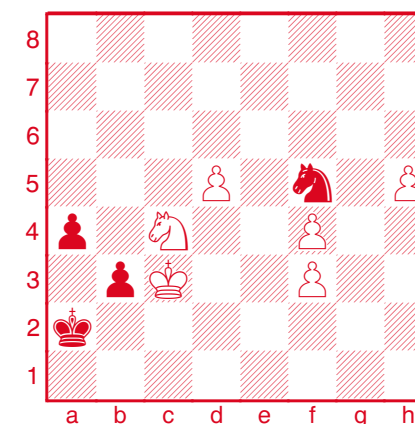
The Black pawns look dangerous but the White knight arrives just in time.

45.dg4 b3 46.de5 ca2

46...b2 47.d4+ ca2 48.dxb2
cb2 49.cxd4 a4 50.h6 a3
51.h7 a2 52.h8 a1 53.cd3+
would have been an entertaining
finish but only for the spectators.

47.d4 d5 48.cb3 a4

Black can try 48...de3 but the queen endgame after 49.d6! dxc4 50.cxc4 b2 51.d7 b1 52.d8 should be a win for White.



Chess Canada
June 2014

49. ♖b4?

Strangely enough, this natural move allows Black to escape with a draw.

The only way to win is **49.h6!!** ♖xh6 50.d6 ♖f7 51.d7

Now that the Black knight is really tied up, White has time to improve her position. For example, 51...♖d8 (51...♖a1 52.♖b2 a3 53.♖c4! is a spectacular way to stop the pawns.) 52.f5 ♖f7 53.f4 ♖d8 54.f6! ♖f7 and now is the time for a decisive strike: 55.♖e5! ♖d8 (55...♖xe5? 56.d8♖) 56.f7 ♖xf7 57.♖xf7 b2 58.d8♖ b1♖ 59.♖d2+ ♖a3 60.♖e5 White's extra knight will decide the outcome of the game quickly. All these lines are certainly not easy to calculate, and it's astonishing that White's seemingly obvious win has been hanging on a thin thread for a long time.

49...a3!

Black doesn't miss his chance.



When compared with the lines above, the White pawns are not close enough to promotion.

Now a draw is inevitable.

57...♖c4 58.♖b6 ♖b3 59.d6 ♖d4 60.♖d1+ ♖b4 61.♖e1+ ♖b3 62.♖b1+ ♖a3 63.♖a1+ ♖b3 64.♖b1+ ♖a3 65.♖a1+

1/2-1/2

53.h7 ♖xa3
54.h8♖ b1♖

It is now White who has to find the only way to avoid checkmate.

Notes FM Vladimir Pechenkin Ivanchuk, Vassily Pechenkin, Vladimir

C14

9th Edmonton International Edmonton (5), 25.06.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♖c3 ♖f6 4.♖g5 ♖e7 5.e5 ♖fd7 6.♖xe7 ♖xe7 7.f4 a6 8.♖f3

50. ♖xa3 b2 51. ♖a4

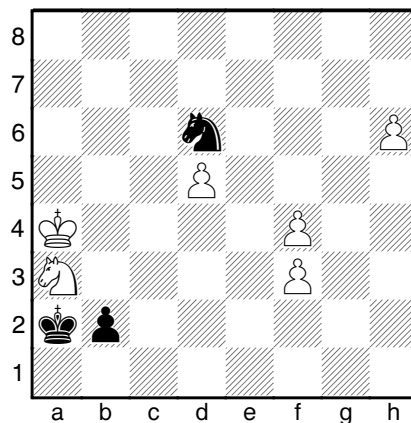
Another try is 51.h6 but 51...♖e3! 52.h7 ♖c2+ 53.♖a4 ♖xa3 transposes to the game.

55. ♖h2+ ♖

55.♖e8? ♖b3+ 56.♖a5 ♖c4+ 57.♖a6 ♖b6#.

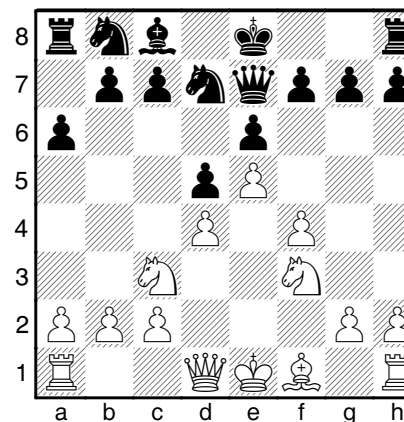
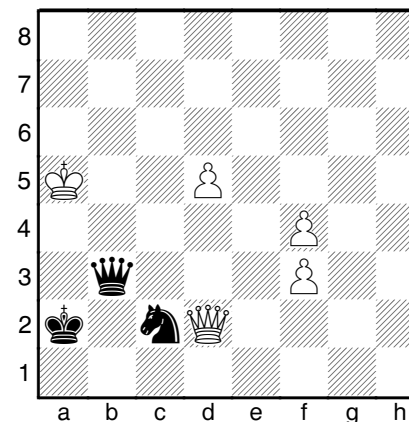
55...♖c2 56.♖d2 ♖b3+ 57.♖a5

51...♖d6! 52.h6



52...♖c4 ♖

The only but sufficient move.



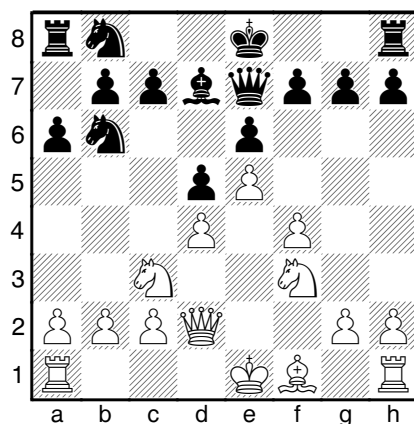
This is the position that I had in mind when preparing for the game.

8...♘b6

8...c5 is the main line, and for a good reason.

I played this rare sideline quickly hoping to surprise the mighty opponent. It did produce some effect, as the Ukrainian legend plunged into deep thought for about 25 minutes.

9.♙d2 ♕d7



This particular move order aims at discouraging White's long castling.

10.♕d3

In the post-mortem GM Ivanchuk mentioned that he recalled the following two games but didn't like White's position in either of them:

Inarkiev – [Morozevich](#), (Russian Ch. 2003): 10.0-0-0 ♕b5 11.♘xb5 axb5 12.♕xb5+ c6 13.♕d3 ♖xa2 14.♙b1 ♖a4 15.g4 ♘c4 16.♕xc4 dxc4 17.♘g5 b5 and Black's attack was faster, (0-1, 28).

White adopted a different approach in Sengupta – [Short](#), (Gibraltar, 2011): 10.a4 c5 11.a5 ♘c8 12.♘a4 cxd4 13.♙xd4 0-0 However, after 14.♙c5?! ♕xa4 15.♙xe7 ♘xe7 16.♖xa4

♘d7 Black had no problems.

The text move is the most flexible one.

10...c5 11.♙e3!?

Quite a unique approach but a strong one, nonetheless. White immediately forces the opponent to clarify the situation in the center.

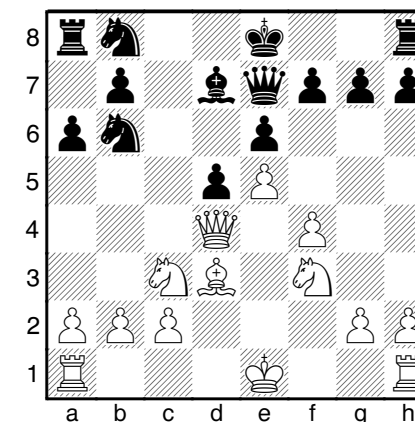
Black was hoping for something like 11.0-0 ♘c6 when he can successfully fight for the key

central squares d4 and c5.

11...cxd4

Played in the spirit of the line. 11...c4 12.♕e2 ♘c6 is possible but White gets a free hand on the kingside.

12.♙xd4



The point of White's previous. Now I must spend a tempo to defend the b6-knight. 12.♘xd4 ♙c5 gives Black an easier life.

12...♙d8

The lesser evil.

12...♘c8 was played in Artemiev – Andersen, 2014, but the early knight retreat kind of defeats



the purpose of the line. Indeed, White castled long and claimed a nice advantage after 13.0-0-0 Nc6 14. Qe3 .

13.a3

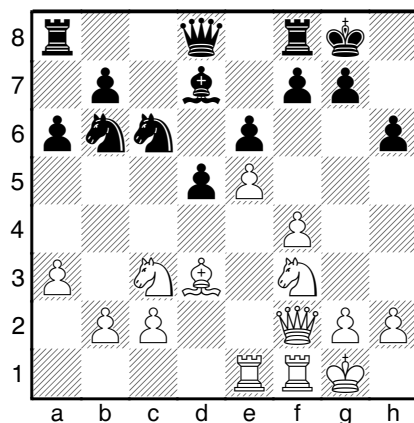
A useful prophylactic move taking the b4-square under control. 13.f5 is premature: 13... exf5 14.e6?! fxe6 15. Qxg7 Rf8 and White's attack is going nowhere.

13... Nc6 14. Qf2 h6

A necessary precaution before castling.

14...0-0? loses immediately to the Greek gift: 15. Qxh7+ Kxh7 16. Ng5+ etc.

15.0-0 0-0 16. Rae1



16... Nc8 ?!

With the benefit of hindsight Black should have preferred 16... Rc8 . The b6-knight may jump to c4 under the right circumstances.

So far everything has developed relatively quietly but now the game takes a sharp turn.

17. Na4 !?

White takes advantage of Black's previous. The knight is going to c5 casually offering a pawn in the meantime.

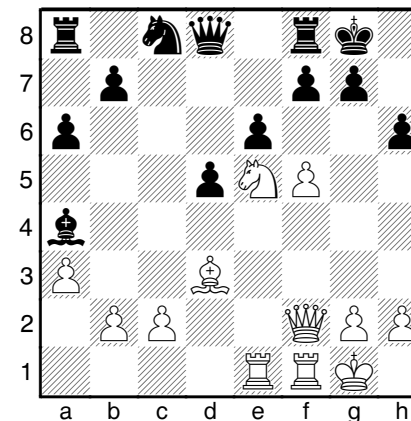
I did spend a lot of time and ultimately decided to accept the offer, for better or for worse:

17... Nxe5

In the post-mortem GM Ivanchuk also regarded this as the critical test of his idea.

Chessbase correctly points out that after 17...b6 18.g4! White's kingside attack is going to be very strong.

18. Nxe5 Qxa4 19.f5



19... Qb6 ?

Originally, I was thinking that 19... Nd6 could repel the attack. However, once the position occurred on the board, I realized that 20.f6 Qxf6 21. Qd4 ! would win a piece so this line isn't even an option for Black. This serves as yet another illustration of how high-rated players win games: they do more work over the board than amateurs and foresee such tactical resources way earlier than the opponent.

To be fair, Black may stay in the game after the computer-recommended 19...f6 intending to sacrifice an exchange: 20. Ng6 e5! 21. Nxf8 Qxf8 with decent compensation. Another tempting option for White is: 20.fxe6!?! fxe5 21. Qxf8+ Qxf8 22. Qh7+ Kxh7 23. Rxf8 exploit-

ing the opponent's lack of coordination. Nevertheless, after 23... Nb6 24.e7 Re8 25. Rxe5 Nc4 26. Rxe8 Qxe8 27. Rxd5 Kg6 the endgame is probably drawn.

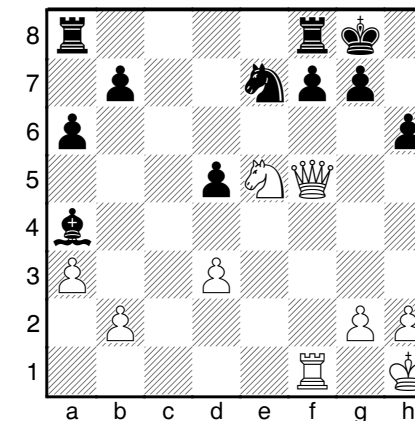
The text move represents a reluctant switch to plan B that brings Black no joy at all.

20. Re3 exf5

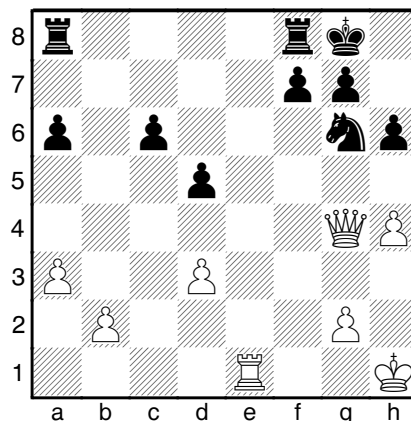
There isn't much else.

GM Ivanchuk also calculated 20... Nd6 21.f6 Nf5 22. Qxf5 exf5 when the computer finds an amazing resource 23. Nd7 !! winning in all lines. For example, 23... Qxd7 24.fxg7 Rfd8 25. Re8+ Qxe8 26. Qxb6 etc.

21. Qxf5 Qxe3+ 22. Kh1 Qxd3 23.cxd3 Ne7



This is all part of Plan B. Black intends to build a fortress and draw even if he loses another pawn. White is fully aware of that and plays very energetically. Black's lack of piece coordination remains a major problem for the remainder of the game and thus the elusive fortress never materializes.



24. ♔g4! ♕c6

In the post-mortem Vassily pointed out that 24... ♕b5 25. a4 ♘g6! must be the most tenacious defence. During the game I clearly underestimated White's technical difficulties after 26. axb5 ♘xe5 27. ♔d4 ♘d7 28. ♔xd5 ♘f6 29. ♔xb7 ♖fb8 30. ♔f3 axb5.

Now White always has an option of exchanging on c6 causing irreparable damage to my pawn structure.

25. h4 ♘g6
Too late.

26. ♘xc6 bxc6 27. ♖e1

27... ♖a7

27... ♖fd8 is the last chance to organize the defence. The rest is a massacre.

28. ♖e3 ♘e7 29. ♖g3 g6 30. h5
♔h7 31. ♔d4 ♖b7 32. ♔f6 g5
33. b4 ♖c7 34. ♖e3
1-0

Dale Haessel had a very rough tournament, and his games against Shankland and Ivanchuk show how bad things can get when you're out of form and up against strong GMs. With apologies to Dale, a bit of strong medicine for everyone:

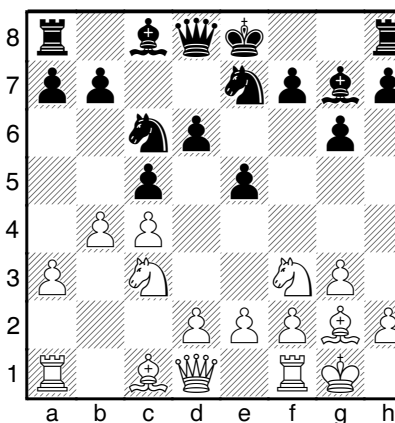
Shankland, Samuel Haessel, Dale

A37

9th Edmonton International
Edmonton, Canada (5.5),
25.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. c4 c5 2. ♘c3 g6 3. g3 ♕g7
4. ♕g2 ♘c6 5. ♘f3 e5 6. 0-0
♘ge7 7. a3 d6 8. b4



8... ♘xb4??

8... e4! 9. ♘g5 h6 Δ10. ♘gxe4 f5̄.

9. axb4+-

One awful possibility is that Dale —Anand-like?— was following this game, which *must* have been misrecorded: 9. ♘b5 ♘bc6̄ 1-0 Steingrimsson, H (2540)–Perelshteyn, E (2536) Beijing, 2008.

9... cxb4 10. ♔a4+! ♘c6
11. ♘d5

11. ♘d5 e4 12. ♘e1 ♕xa1
13. ♔xa1 Δ♘f6+ +-.

11... ♕d7 12. e4

1-0

Shankland - Haessel



Notes by IM Richard Wang

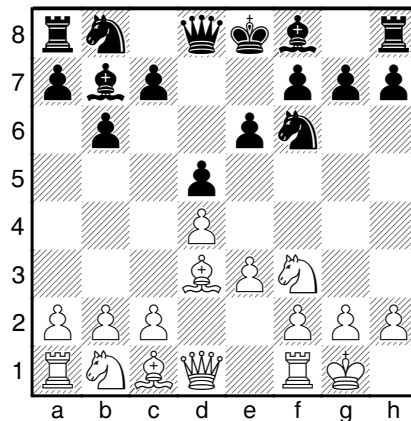
Wang, Richard (2365)
Shankland, Samuel
(2632)

D05

9th Edmonton International (6),
26.06.2014

This was my sixth round game against GM Samuel Shankland. I didn't actually do much preparation for this game. In fact, for all the games in the tournament, I did minimal to no preparation. For the first half of the tournament, this was because I was too busy studying for finals. However, since my performance wasn't too bad, I thought I would try to see how the rest of the tournament would go without opening preparation. Instead, I tried to focus on finding natural moves and using my intuition more in the opening than actually preparing. Thus, I played my usual Colle this game.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.e3 b6
4.♙d3 ♙b7 5.0-0 d5

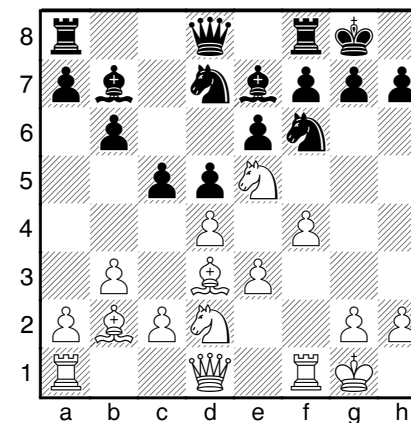


Irina played the exact same thing a couple rounds earlier. I didn't have any trouble at all during that game, so I wasn't too worried about my lack of opening preparation here.

6.b3 ♙e7

Irina played 6...♙d6 here, and I think that's a better square for the bishop than e7. A lot of players are concerned about the potential fork after a later ♘e5 followed by ...♘xe5. However, the bishop is more active on d6 and has a greater central presence. As well, the e7 square can be used for a queen or a knight. If White does play ♘e5, Black can always play around it like this: 6...♙d6 7.♙b2 0-0 8.♘e5 c5 9.f4 ♘c6 10.a3 ♖c8 11.♘d2 ♘e7 12.♙e2 ♘e4 with an unbalanced game, for example.

7.♙b2 0-0 8.♘e5 c5 9.♘d2
♘bd7 10.f4



10...cxd4

I remembered playing this line a few years ago against another opponent and was trying to remember what I did. However, in that game my opponent directly played 10...♘e4 without exchanging pawns. Exchanging on d4 beforehand seems like a better choice as it removes my potential option of dxc5, freeing up my dark-squared bishop. That previous game went:

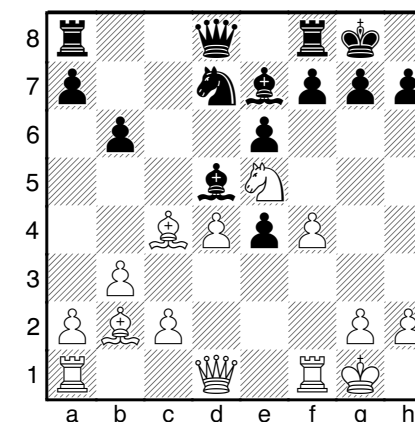
10...♘e4 11.♘xe4 dxe4 12.♙c4
♘xe5 13.fxe5 ♙g5 14.♙e2
a6 15.a4 ♙d5 16.♙xd5 exd5
(16...♙xd5 17.a5±) 17.a5± and I
had some targets on the queen-
side, Wang,R (2190)–Gardner,R

(2151) 5th Edmonton International,
2010 (1-0, 38).

11.exd4 ♘e4 12.♘xe4

12.♙e2 was also possible 12...
f5 13.♘df3 ♘df6 14.c4 ♙d6
15.a4 and it looks like I have
some pressure here. However, I
played many games where, after
exchanging on e4, my central
pawns become very powerful.

12...dxe4 13.♙c4 ♙d5



14.♙e2

I barely considered taking on d5. The whole point of exchanging on e4 was to free my c- and d-pawns to advance, but that won't be very strong if he can maintain a pawn on d5. As well, my bishop would be very bad in that



Wang - Ivanchuk, Richard was 7 when Ivanchuk played in the 2005 Canadian Open.

position.

14. ♖xd5 exd5
15. ♘c6 ♕e8
16. ♗xe7+ ♕xe7
17. ♖e2 ♗f6
18. c4 ♖ac8
19. ♖ac1 ♖fd8
20. ♖fd1 ♖d6
and Black is much better.

14...f5 15. ♖ad1

I was again trying to avoid an exchange on d5.

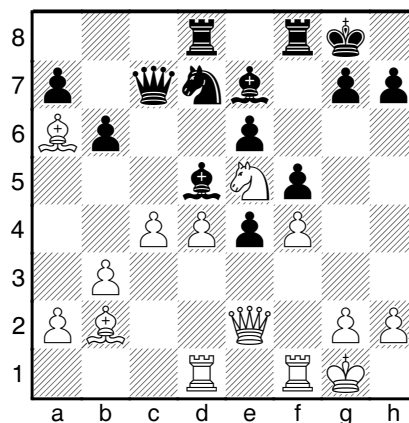
15...♖c7

15...♖xc4 16. ♖xc4 also isn't bad.
15...♗xe5 16. fxe5 16. dxe5 is also an interesting option
16...♖xc4 17. ♖xc4 ♖c8 18. ♖e2 ♖c6 19. c4 This was the kind of position I was looking for. If Black isn't careful, the d4-d5 push will be very strong.

16. ♖a6

Freeing up my c-pawn to advance.

16...♖ad8 17. c4



The drawback to this plan, of course, is that my light-squared bishop is temporarily shut out of play. However, it can't be eas-

ily attacked and can be rerouted with a2-a3, b3-b4, ♖a6-b5-a4-b3 where it will be in an excellent position to support a central advance.

17...♖a8

18. a3

Implementing the plan

outlined above. Fritz gives Black a slight edge in this position, but I find it quite hard for Black to find an active plan.

18...♖f6 19. b4 ♗b8 20. ♖b5 ♖c6

Trying to exchange pieces, which is always a good idea when you have less space.

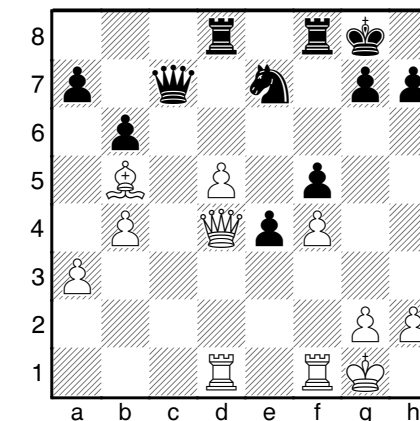
20...♗c6 21. ♖a4.

21. ♗xc6 ♗xc6 22. d5

Simplifying the position into one where I felt that I could maintain

some slight pressure.

22...♖xb2 23. ♖xb2 exd5
24. cxd5 ♗e7 25. ♖d4



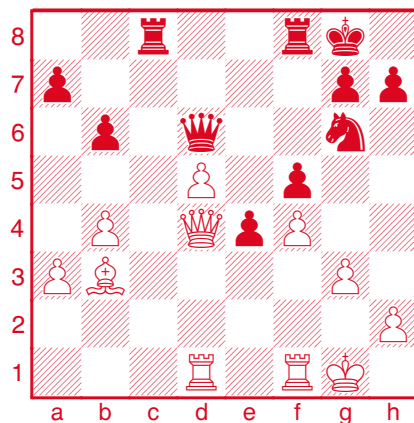
I have a passed pawn and will be able to contest the open c-file. As well, Black has to be wary of the a2-g8 diagonal. On the other hand, my light-squared bishop is blocked by my own d5-pawn and won't be as useful as I would like.

25...♖d6 26. ♖c4

Bringing my bishop to a better diagonal.

26...♖c8 27. ♖b3 ♗g6 28. g3





28...Rc7?

Black's first real mistake in the game. After my next couple moves, he is forced to allow me to infiltrate his position.

○28...Rfd8 29.Rc1 Qf8 30.Rfd1 and I like White's position, although it should be equal.

29.Rc1! Rff7

When he played ...Rc7 Black has missed that if he doubles on the c-file he loses: 29...Rfc8 30.Rc6! winning, as Black is forced to relinquish the blockade and open up the light-squared bishop.

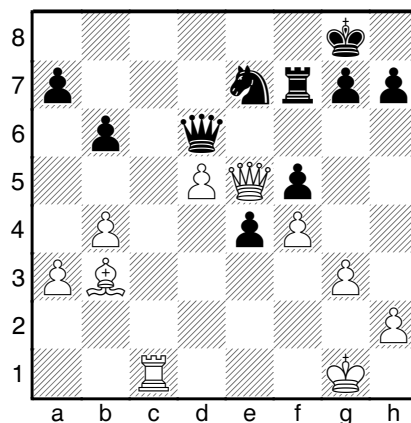
30.Rfd1

Protecting the queen, and thus renewing the threat of Rc6.

30...Rxc1

30...Qf8 is a better defensive try, although White is still much better: 31.Rc6 Rxc6 32.dxc6 Qxd4+ 33.Rxd4 Rc7 34.b5 Qe7 35.Rd5 Qf6 36.Qf2, White should win this position.

31.Rxc1 Ne7 32.Qe5



Moving my pieces deeper into Black's position, and now he's completely lost.

32...Rf6 33.Rc7?!

33.Qxe7 just wins on the spot. Luckily, though, my move still wins.

33...Qf8 34.Rxa7 g5

Desperation, but Black's position

is hopeless anyway.

35.Ra8+ Qf7 36.Ra7 Qf8 37.Rd7!

Deflecting the queen away from the f6 rook. 37...Qxd7 38.Qxf6+ Qe8 39.Qh8+ Qf7 40. d6+ is winning, so Black resigned here.

This was my first ever win against a player rated over 2600, so I was happy with the result. In regards to my "experiment" that I talked about before this annotation, I don't think that preparation is as important as some people are led to believe. I managed to score a respectable 4/9 in a relatively strong field with minimal preparation. Of course it is important to be on top of opening theory, but it's not the end of the world if you don't know theory up to move 15!

I'd like to thank the organizers and the Edmonton Chess Club for a very enjoyable tournament. It was a success as usual, and I look forward to playing again next year!

IM Richard Wang

Mini-Report after Round 6

Unfortunately, the time management problem mentioned before brought me down again in round 4, which is my worst game of the tournament so far. I spent way too much time in the middlegame on contemplating how bad my position was, then quickly produced a series of third-rate moves. 34. Rxe7? was played for the spectators although Raja did burn a lot of time finding one of the winning sequences available.

The following morning an interesting thought crossed my mind: *is it really as impossible to prepare against GM Ivanchuk as the conventional wisdom suggests?* I have decided to give it a try and to look at a few lines. Remarkably, this seemingly futile approach worked! The Ukrainian genius plunged into deep thinking after move 8, while I had the position after move 10 on my board just a few hours before the start of the game. Impossible is nothing. Vassily mentioned in the post-mortem that he recalled games by GMs Alexander Morozevich and Nigel Short that hadn't gone well for White and



Chucky eats chess problems for dessert.



Chess Canada June 2014

opted for a different line. As a result, I got an OK position out of the opening with a significant lead on the clock. Then 17. Na4!? was played. Now, contrary to what some online commentators say, I certainly did not believe White blundered a pawn there. In fact, my original intention was the correct 17...b6 keeping the character of the position unchanged. Then it occurred to me that 17... Nxe5 would clearly make the game more interesting and fun to watch... I did overlook that after the intended 19...Nd6 20. f6 Qxf6 White has 21. Qd4! winning a piece but that wasn't the main reason why I grabbed that hot pawn. Curiously, GM Ivanchuk said in the post-mortem that it must have been the right way for Black to play. He was also quite worried about Black's ability to build a fortress so he found a strong plan h2-h4-h5 that completely disrupted my piece coordination. All in all, a great experience for me anyway.

When preparing for round 6 I found a small trap based on a slightly modified move order. Our previous game went 5. 0-0 Nf6 6. Nc3

Qh5 7. b3 etc. However, Stockfish pointed out that if I play 5. Nc3 right away, then 5...Qh5?! isn't so good because of an odd-looking 6. Qa4N That little wrinkle confused Alex so much that he blundered with 8... Nd7? This time "playing for the spectators" actually netted me a pawn and eventually a whole point.

Before the last three rounds my chances of getting an IM norm are purely theoretical but I'll try to make the most out of it.

Rd 7: Black vs. GM Wesley So

I can't help but think that I'll be playing a version of Magnus Carlsen rated 2744. Or a ruthless terminator. The ease with which the magician from the Philippines creates something from nothing is simply astounding...

In any case, my first move will be 1...e6, hopefully reaching some line from the Classical French.



Rd 8: Black vs. GM Kovalyov

Another participant who needs no introduction. In fact, I have written a big article about him for the newsletter just a few months ago. So far my games with Anton went either very well (meaning that I managed to get a relatively early draw) or very wrong (+0-3=2).

I expect a positional line against the Dutch, similar to what oc-

curred last time. Avoiding the time pressure will again be the top priority. I know from previous experience that playing GM Kovalyov on a 30-second increment is an absolute nightmare.

Rd 9: White vs. GM Irina Krush

Both times that we played so far went quite well for me although the final results was a little disappointing (+0-1=1). The first game was particularly interesting. I got a nice position with Black when White suddenly played what looked a mistake dropping a pawn. I didn't see any tricks and did accept the gift. After a slight inaccuracy, however, my pieces got stuck on the queenside and were unable to defend the king against a rapidly growing White's attack. At that point of the game I was thinking in awe that the pawn offer had actually been a part of Irina's deep plan that I had fallen for. However, when I asked her this question in the post-mortem, Irina said it wasn't the case at all and she simply lost that pawn.

The moral of the story is that the

opponent's abilities must not be overestimated. Unless it is GM Vassily Ivanchuk, of course.

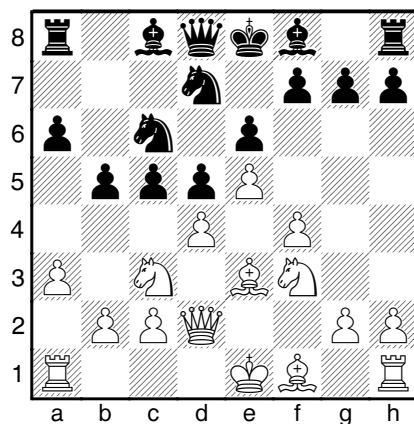
I wouldn't mind repeating the opening of our previous encounter in 2012 as I got an OK position as White and now know where to improve.

Notes FM Vladimir Pechenkin So, Wesley (2744) Pechenkin, Vladimir (2311)

C11

9th Edmonton International
Edmonton (7), 27.06.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5
♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♗f3 ♘c6 7.♕e3
a6 8.♙d2 b5 9.a3



A modern treatment of the po-



sition. White takes preventive measures against b5-b4.

9...♙a5

Black renews the threat.

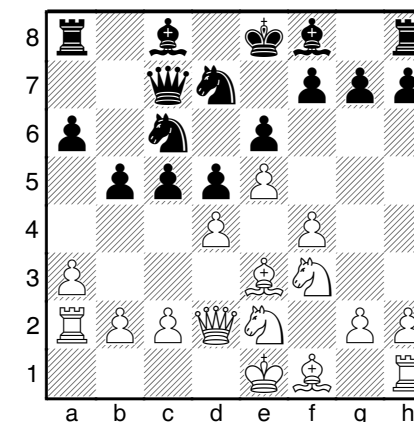
10.♖a2

The purpose of this unusual-looking move is to defend the rook making ...b5-b4 less effective.

10...♙b6

The queen goes back to a normal square. Black's argument in spending a tempo is that the rook on a2 is worse than on a1.

11.♘e2 ♙c7



The computer likes this prophylactic move even though it does look silly at first glance.

12.♘g3

The point of Black's previous is that in case of 12.dxc5?! the knight recapture 12...♘xc5 becomes possible. The knight is then ready to jump to e4. With the Black queen on b6 White would win a piece with a simple b2-b4.

12...h5

Following the computer recommendation again. Black kind of seizes space on the kingside and is about to kick the ♘g3. However, the long-term consequences of the pawn advance will favor White.

Instead, Black may play in a standard fashion: 12...cxd4 13.♘xd4 ♕b7 etc.

13.c3 h4

Otherwise, Black's previous doesn't make sense.

14.♘e2 c4

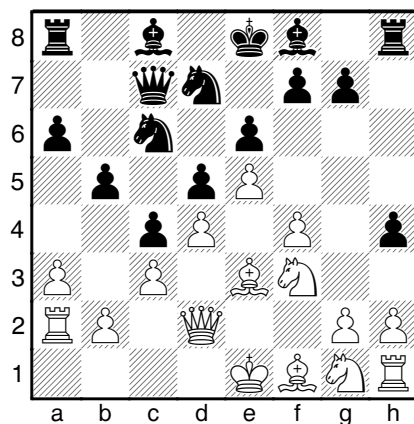
The White pieces are heavily concentrated around the d4-square so Black decides to



make this concentration somewhat useless.

14...♘a5 looks like a more logical follow-up, but White can neutralize the upcoming ...♘c4: 15.♙f2 ♙e7 16.♚c2 ♘c4 17.♘c1; nevertheless, this was probably the way to go.

15.♘eg1



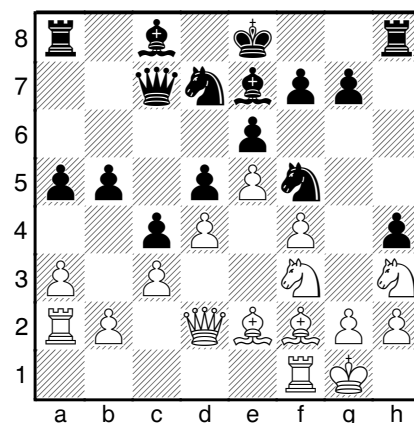
15...♘e7

Black is now too concerned with the fate of the brave h4-pawn. Now White regroups and gradually takes control of the whole board.

The correct way to treat the position is with the unexpected return 15...♚a5! emphasizing

that White cannot prevent ...b5-b4. Play may continue 16.♘h3 b4 17.♙e2 ♘b6 18.0-0 bxa3 19.bxa3 ♘a4 20.♖c1 ♖b8 with sufficient counterplay on the queenside.

16.♘h3 ♘f5 17.♙f2 a5 18.♙e2 ♙e7 19.0-0



19...a4?

Obviously, this move can't be good.

I was afraid that after the natural 19...♘f8 20.♙d1 ♘g6 21.♙c2 my pieces may be too tied up, and White would be able to favourably open up the position on the queenside at the right moment. Certainly, this was way too pessimistic. Black could have played

21...♙d7 keeping the options open for the time being.

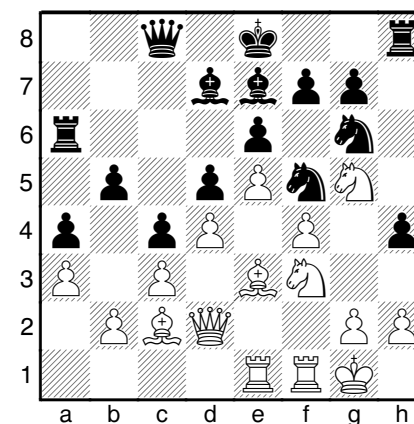
20.♙d1 ♘f8 21.♙c2 ♘g6 22.♖aa1

Now White has all the time in the world to prepare a breakthrough on the kingside.

22...♙d7 23.♘hg5 ♖a6 24.♖ae1 ♚c8

Black anticipates that e6 is going to be the key square and overprotects it as much as possible.

25.♙e3



25...f6?

This impatient move gives White new options.

It is indeed time to improve the position of the king but it should be done by 25...♚f8 going to g8 next. White has got a lot of work to do to break through.

26.♘h3 ♚f7 27.♙f2

Now Black has to worry about both e6 and h4, and it quickly proves to be too much to handle.

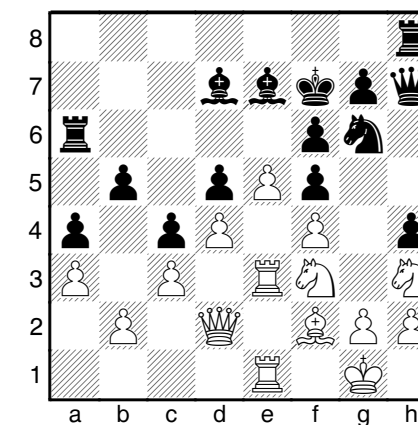
27...♚g8

The point of Black's maneuver. Activating the queen looks like a good idea but the problem is that there is no time for that.

28.♙xf5! exf5 29.♖e3

It turns out that Black cannot defend his two weak spots.

29...♚h7 30.♖fe1



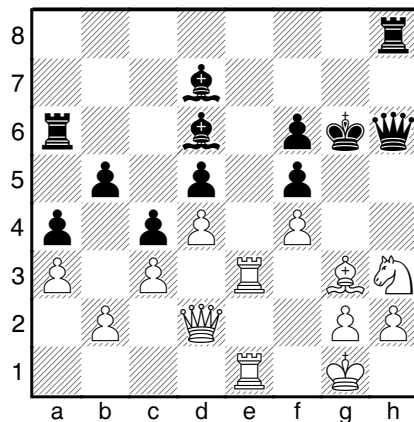
30...♔h6

Relatively best is 30...♗d8 although Black still loses the h4-pawn after 31.♕e2 ♖f8 32.♗xh4.

Here Wesley spent quite a bit of time, apparently choosing between two good continuations.

31.exf6?!

This wins a pawn but White was entitled to more: 31.♕e2! ♖e6 32.exf6 ♖xe3 33.♗fg5+ is killing. Relatively best is: 33...♔f8 34.fxg7+ ♔xg7 35.♕xe3 ♗d6 but the absence of the key f6-pawn will not allow Black to last long.

31...gxf6 32.♗xh4 ♗d6
33.♗xg6 ♔xg6 34.♗g3
**34...♖aa8**

In time pressure Black hurries to contest the e-file and underestimates White's next.

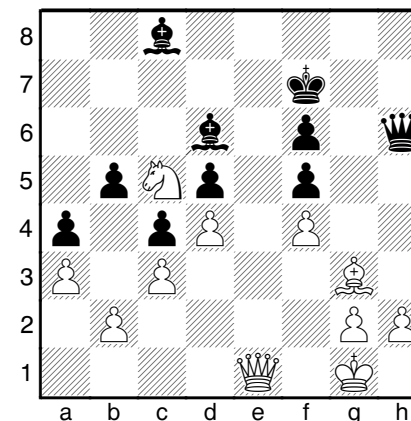
The prophylactic 34...♕h5 is to be preferred.

35.♗g5 ♖ae8

35...fxg5? loses immediately to 36.fxg5 ♕h5 37.♗xd6.

36.♗e6 ♔f7 37.♗c5 ♖xe3
38.♕xe3

Keeping the rooks on the board for the time being with 38.♖xe3 ♗c8 39.♖e1 looks a little more challenging.

38...♖e8 39.♕f2 ♖xe1+
40.♕xe1 ♗c8


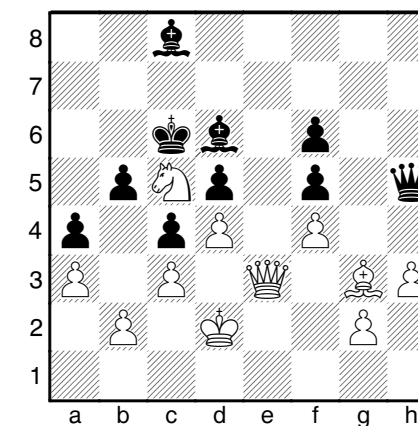
The time control passed, and I suddenly realized that Black's position might not be as bad as I had thought. It is true that the computer gives White a large advantage, but how can he make real progress? His major problem is his seemingly beautiful knight is helplessly stuck in the middle of the board. In fact, White was unable to solve this problem till pretty much the end of the game.

41.♕f1 ♕h5 42.h3 ♔e7

The king goes to c6 in order to overprotect the d5-pawn.

43.♔f2 ♔d8 44.♔e1 ♔c7
45.♔d2 ♔c6 46.♕f2 ♗f8

Black is in no real danger of getting into a zugzwang.

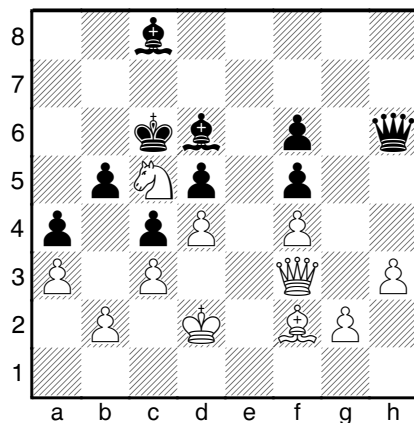
47.♕e3 ♗d6**48.♕f2**

48.♗e6 doesn't accomplish much as Black has a cold-blooded 48...♕g6 forcing the knight back.

48...♗f8 49.♗h4 ♕h6 50.♔c2
♕g6 51.♕e2 ♗d6 52.♕f3 ♗f8
53.♗f2 ♗d6 54.♔d2 ♕h6

The time control passed, and I suddenly realized that my position might not be as bad as I had thought.





Black's defence isn't very difficult as there are only a couple of things to watch out for.

55.♙e3 ♖g6 56.♖g3

White can try 56.h4 but this achieves even less than the continuation in the game:
56...♖g4 57.h5 ♙f8 58.♙g3
♖xf3+ 59.♙xf3 ♙d6 60.♙h4
♙e7 with a dead draw.

56...♖xg3+

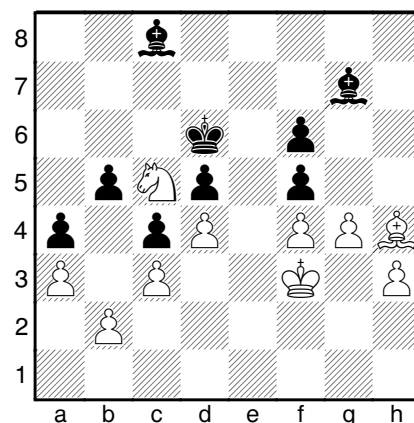
Black is happy to exchange queens. The bishop pair should hold the position.

57.♙xg3 ♙f8

There is absolutely no need to go for 57...♙xc5 58.dxc5 ♙xc5 as the opposite-color bishop do not guarantee a draw at all. After

59.♙h4 Black's position looks worrisome.

**58.♙h4 ♙g7 59.♙f3 ♙d6
60.g4**



White finally puts his kingside pawn majority into motion but Black is ready.

**60...fxg4+ 61.hxg4 ♙e7
62.♙f2**

A necessary precaution. 62.f5? runs into 62...♙h6.

62...f5

I believed this to be an easy way to draw but wasn't entirely correct.

63.♙h4+ ♙f6

I certainly didn't like the fact that after 63...♙f7 64.gxf5 ♙xf5 65.♙a6 the White knight flies out of the cage.

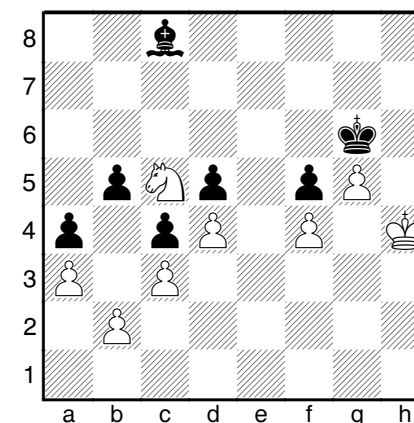
64.♙xf6+

64.g5 ♙h8 65.g6+ ♙f8 66.♙d8
♙g7 is a dead draw.

64...♙xf6 65.g5+

65.gxf5 ♙xf5 66.♙g3 ♙g6 is another dead draw and White doesn't even have any tricks.

**65...♙g7 66.♙g3 ♙h7 67.♙h4
♙g6**



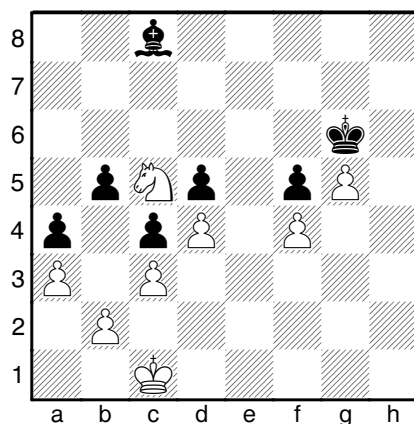
This should have been the end of the game as Black's fortress is unbreakable. However, high-level chess implies that the

stronger side will try everything possible before acknowledging such a fact. The following seemingly pointless maneuvering pursues two goals. The first one is to show the opponent that White doesn't have any winning plan. When Black is lulled into a false sense of security, White will try something unexpected hopefully catching the opponent by surprise. The second goal is to cause Black to burn time thinking how to meet some imaginary threats. Then he won't have enough time to calculate when it's really needed. Fortunately, the position is too simple for either strategy to work successfully: the only chance for White is b2-b3 so until that happens Black may play quickly gaining time on the clock instead of spending it.

**68.♙h3 ♙g7 69.♙g3 ♙h7
70.♙f3 ♙g7 71.♙e3 ♙g6
72.♙e2 ♙g7 73.♙e1 ♙h7
74.♙d2 ♙g6 75.♙c2 ♙h5
76.♙d1 ♙g6 77.♙d2 ♙h5
78.♙c2 ♙g6 79.♙d1 ♙h5
80.♙e2 ♙g6 81.♙f2 ♙g7
82.♙f3 ♙h7 83.♙f2 ♙g7
84.♙e3 ♙g6 85.♙d2 ♙h5**



86. ♖c1 ♔g6

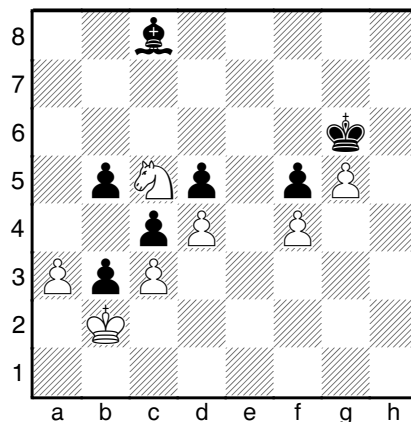


As far as I can tell, White somehow managed to avoid a three-fold repetition. The time has come to try his last resource.

87. b3 axb3

It is interesting that 87...cxb3? does lose to 88.c4! For example, 88...dxc4 89.d5 c3 90.d6 b4 91.axb4 a3 92.♖xb3 and wins.

88. ♖b2 ♔h5
89. ♖b1 ♔g6
90. ♖c1 ♔h5 91. ♖d2
♔g6 92. ♖c1 ♔h5
93. ♖b2 ♔g6

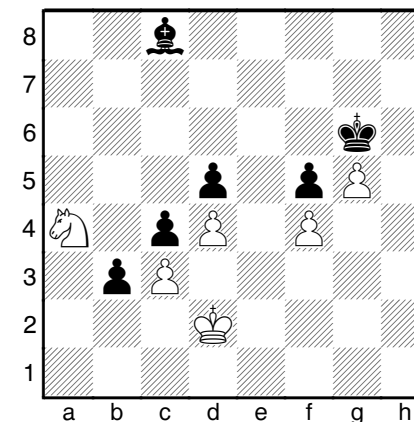


94. ♖b1

94. ♖xb3? is suicidal: 94...cxb3 95. ♖xb3 ♔h5 96. ♖b4 ♔d7 and Black's f-pawn will decide the game.



94... ♖h5 95. ♖c1 ♔g6 96. ♖d1
♔h5 97. ♖d2 ♔g6 98. a4 bxa4
99. ♖xa4



The knight finally gets a taste of freedom. Black has nothing to worry about though as the b3-passer is too strong. White plays on for a few more moves before accepting the inevitable.

99... ♔e6 100. ♖c5 ♔g8
101. ♖d7 ♔g7 102. ♖e5 ♔e6
103. ♖c1 ♔h7 104. ♖b2 ♔g7
105. ♖c6 ♔g6 106. ♖e7+ ♔f7
107. ♖c6 ♔g6 108. ♖e7+ ♔f7
109. ♖c6 ♔g6

Black claimed a draw by a threefold repetition.

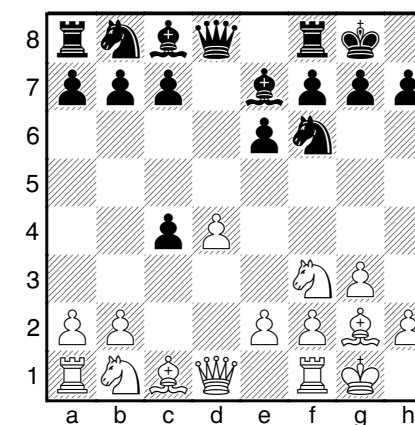
1/2-1/2

Notes FM Vladimir Pechenkin
Pechenkin, Vladimir
Krush, Irina (2484)

E05

9th Edmonton International Ed-
monton (9), 29.06.2014

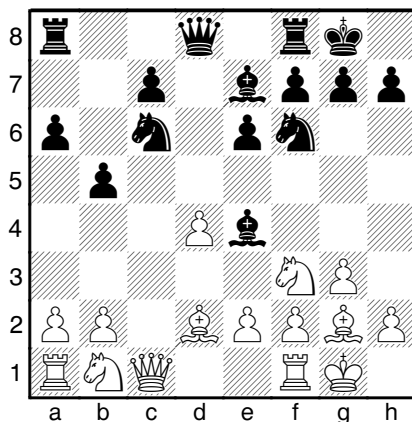
1. c4 e6 2. g3 d5 3. ♖g2 ♖f6
4. ♖f3 ♔e7 5. 0-0 0-0 6. d4
dxc4



This time I was unable to predict my opponent's opening choice and had to struggle a little. Fortunately, the Open Catalan is one of those lines where White can hardly get a worse position even in case of some inaccuracies.

7. ♖c2 a6 8. ♖xc4 b5 9. ♖c2
♔b7 10. ♔d2 ♔e4 11. ♖c1 ♖c6





Irina follows a 2012 game of mine that I actually barely remembered.

12. ♖e3

The engine's first line.

The aforementioned game continued: 12.e3 ♘b4 13.♙xb4 ♙xb4 14.a3 ♙e7 15.♘c3 ♙b7 16.b4 Here Black made a grave positional error 16...♘e4? allowing 17.♘e5 ♘xc3 18.♙xc3 ♙xg2 19.♙xg2 ♙f6 20.♘c6 with a dream position in the Catalan for White in **Pechenkin,V** (2312) –**Kaufman,R** (2336) Calgary, 2012, (1-0, 44).

12... ♖c8 13. ♖d1

White has taken care of the d4-pawn, and now Black has to do

something about her queen's bishop.

13... ♘a5

Black may not be satisfied with 13...♘b4 14.♘c3 ♙b7 15.a3 ♘bd5 16.♘e5 ♘xc3 17.♙xc3 ♙xg2 18.♙xg2 which looks kind of similar to the line above.

14. ♘bd2

White intends to keep the a5-knight at bay for as long as possible.

14... ♙b7

More accurate is 14...♙d5 making it hard for White to achieve 15.a3 in view of 15...♘b3

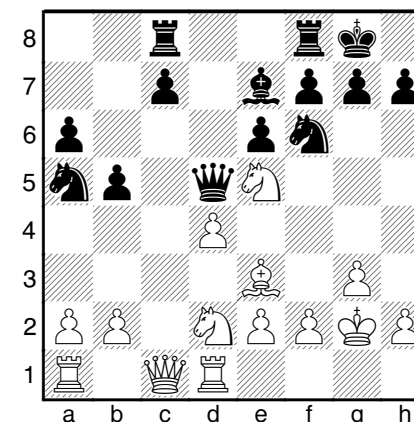
15. ♘e5

Here this thematic thrust doesn't produce the desired effect.

The game **Giri** – **Sanikidze**, 2011, continued 15.a3. Due to the lack of control of the b3-square Black was more or less obligated to go for 15...b4 16.axb4 ♙xb4 17.♖a4 ♘d5 and here White could have tried 18.♙a1!? ♘xe3 19.fxe3 ♘c6

20.♘c4 increasing his grip on the dark squares.

15... ♙xg2 16. ♙xg2 ♙d5+



17. ♘df3

Otherwise, Black will achieve the freeing c7-c5.

17... ♙b7

After this seemingly logical move Black begins experiencing some difficulties. During the game I didn't like 17...♘e4 and it's indeed Black's best. White has problems untangling his pieces.

18. ♙c2!

If Black doesn't do something quickly, White will restore the coordination of his pieces and

will simply stand better. That's why Black opts for a thematic break:

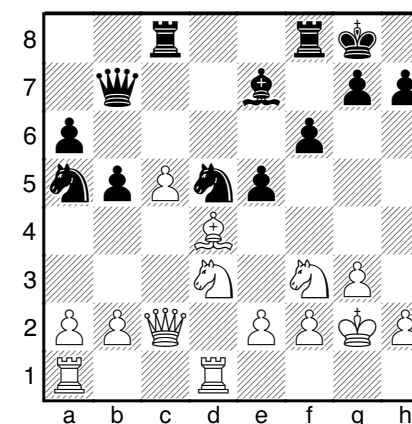
18...c5! 19.dxc5 ♘d5 20. ♙d4 Correct.

After 20.♖xd5 exd5 21.b4 ♘c4 22.♙d4 White gets enough compensation for the exchange but he doesn't need to resort to such drastic measures.

20...f6

Otherwise, Black may not be able to win her pawn back.

21. ♘d3 e5



22.e4!

The only but sufficient continuation.





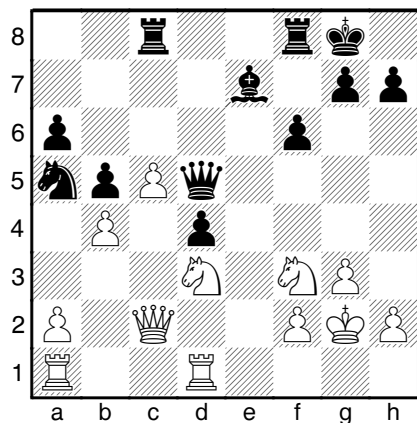
22...exd4?

After this natural capture White obtains a large positional advantage.

22...♘c7? is simply bad in view of 23.♙c3! ♘c6 24.b4+-.

The computer strongly recommends 22...♘b4!? 23.♘xb4 exd4 which may indeed be the only way for Black to keep the position close to equality. After 24.♘d5 ♙xc5 25.♖ac1 ♘c4 the knight is back into play, and White may not have anything special here.

23.exd5 ♙xd5 24.b4



24...♘c6

24...♘c4? is no good as White wins a pawn immediately: 25.♘f4 ♙c6 26.♖xd4+-.

During the game I was a little concerned about 24...g5!? This move is indeed playable but White can preserve the advantage by means of 25.bxa5 g4 26.♖ac1 gxf3+ 27.♙g1

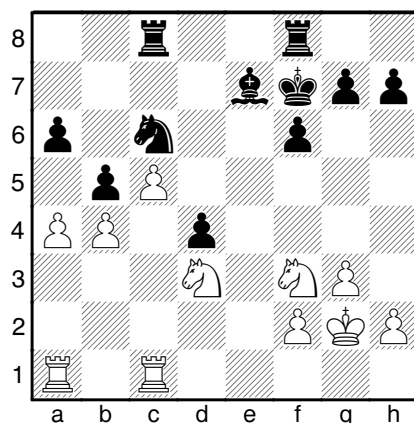
25.♙b3

Another good plan is 25.♘f4 ♙f7 26.a3 intending to win the d4-pawn quickly. Black's best is 26...f5 playing for tricks.

25...♙c4 26.♖dc1 ♙f7

26...♙xb3 27.axb3 ♖a8 is an alternative. White doesn't have the a2-a4 lever anymore but maintains strong pressure after 28.♖a2 ♖a7 29.♖e1 ♙f7 30.♖ae2.

27.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 28.a4



I was tempted to immediately commence operations on the queenside as Black faces a difficult choice.

28...♖b8

Not best.

28...bxa4 29.♖xa4 ♖a8 is worse as White obtains a firm grip on the queenside: 30.♘d2 ♖fb8 31.♘c4 ♖b5 32.♘b6 ♖a7 33.♖ca1 Black can hardly move anything.

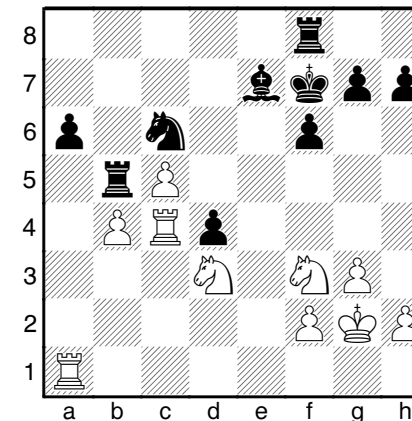
The computer recommends 28...♖a8. For example: 29.♖a3 ♖fb8 30.axb5 axb5 31.♖ca1 ♖xa3 32.♖xa3 ♙e6 33.♖a6 ♙d7 and White maintains a very nice position but has got a lot of work to do to get a full point.

29.axb5

White would certainly like to see 29...axb5? 30.♖a6 ♖fc8 31.♖xc6! ♖xc6

32.♘fe5+ fxe5 33.♘xe5+ ♙f8 34.♘xc6+- but it's too cooperative to hope for.

39... ♖xb5



The critical moment of the game.

30.♖c4?

I briefly considered the correct 30.♖xa6! ♘xb4 31.♘xb4 ♖xb4 32.c6 but rejected it: the

Pechenkin - Krush

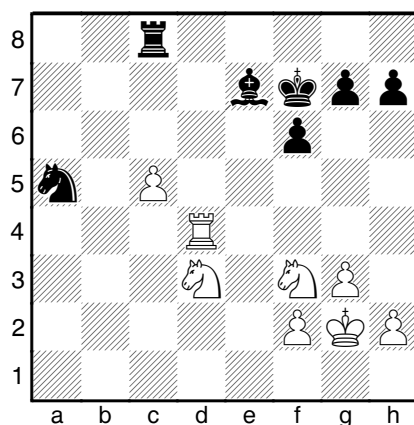


material remains equal, and Black's passed pawn looks more dangerous than before. It was worth calculating further: 32...d3 33.♖a7 ♖b2 34.♞d7! the key maneuver that allows me to win my opponent's d-pawn under more favorable circumstances than the game, 34...♖c8 35.♞xd3 ♖b6 36.♞d4, the c-pawn promises White good winning chances.

30...a5!

The queenside is going to be liquidated.

31.bxa5 ♖xa5 32.♖xa5 ♞xa5
33.♖xd4 ♖c8



34.♞d7

Now Black wins the pawn back with a dead draw.

The best try was 34.♞b4 keeping the pawn for now. After 34...♞c6 (34...♞xc5?? 35.♞b5+-) 35.♞b3 Black still needs to find a way to surround and win White's passer.

34...♞b3 35.c6 ♞a5

The hurried 35...♞xc6? allows 36.♞fe5+ fxe5 37.♞xe5+ ♔e6 38.♞xe7+ ♔xe7 39.♞xc6+ and White can torture the opponent for a while, though without much real hope of winning.

36.♞f4 ♞xc6 37.♞d5 ♔e6
38.♞xe7 ♔xd7 39.♞xc8
♔xc8 40.h4

1/2-1/2

Mini-Report after Round 9

Somewhat surprisingly, the last segment of the tournament turned out to be the best one. I did not expect any points in round 7 [against Wesley So](#) and was just hoping for an interesting game. I got lucky again in the opening as the position after White's 12th move had been on my board the same afternoon. I opted for the computer-

recommended 12...h5 and 13...h4, only to find out a few moves afterwards that the brave pawn became a huge long-term liability. The Filipino star kept building up the pressure relentlessly and could have finished Black off with 31. Qe2 Re6 32. ef Re3 33. Nfg5+ etc. Luckily for me, Wesley grabbed the h4-pawn instead.

White still maintained a large advantage but somehow misplayed the position in my time pressure.

After the time control I suddenly felt like Sarah Connor, who was able to miraculously escape the ruthless Terminator. The super-GM burnt a lot of time trying to find a winning plan but didn't come up with anything special. After the exchange of queens I was almost sure that I'd be able to draw the game and then found 62...f5 and 63...Bf6. The computer gives White a ridiculously large plus score, but the position is clearly drawn at that point!

This draw eventually cost Wesley the main trophy. Had he beaten me, he would have finished in a tie

for the first place with GM Ivanchuk. Their tie-breaks would have been *absolutely identical*, and a coin toss would have been needed to determine the tournament winner.

This draw eventually cost Wesley the main trophy.

In round 8 GM [Anton Kovalyov](#) opted for the same setup against the Dutch as had been predicted. The computer didn't like Black's position at all but Anton somehow misplayed it and gave me all the chances. In fact, 21...f4! 22. gf Qh6 would have put White into a difficult situation. I saw the idea but decided to improve with 21...c5 expecting a natural 22. e3? cd 23. ed f4 when White's position would be pretty much lost. However, Anton is the highest rated player in Canada and he quickly found the only move — 22.g4! — more or less forcing Black to sacrifice a piece. The position remained unclear, but White managed to consolidate and then converted his extra piece.





Chess Canada June 2014

With 3 points out of 8 I needed a win against [GM Krush](#) in round 9 to get an IM norm. Incidentally, that win would have brought me my first GM scalp. The opening didn't go very well, but then everything started working in my favour until the critical position was reached on move 30. Here I briefly considered the correct continuation (30. Ra6!) but judged it to be too risky given my slight time pressure. As often happens however, the safe second line turned out to be significantly weaker, and White's advantage proved insufficient for a much-needed full point. While this was a slightly disappointing end of the tournament, I can hardly complain about the overall result. As usual, there will be another chance to do better next year.

FM Vladimir Pechenkin

Photos
Vlad Rekhson

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

Edmonton 2014	Elo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Ivanchuk, Vassily	2738	*	1/2	1	1	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	8.0
So, Wesley	2744	1/2	*	1	1	1	1/2	1	1/2	1	1	7.5
Shankland, Sam	2632	0	0	*	1	1	1/2	0	1	1	1	5.5
Kovalyov, Anton	2636	0	0	0	*	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	5.5
Panjwani, Raja	2440	0	0	0	0	*	1	1	1	1	1/2	4.5
Krush, Irina	2484	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	0	*	1/2	1/2	0	1	4.0
Wang, Richard	2365	0	0	1	0	0	1/2	*	1/2	1	1	4.0
Pechenkin, Vladimir	2311	0	1/2	0	0	0	1/2	1/2	*	1	1	3.5
Yam, Alex	2299	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	*	1/2	1.5
Haessel, Dale	2168	0	0	0	0	1/2	0	0	0	1/2	*	1.0

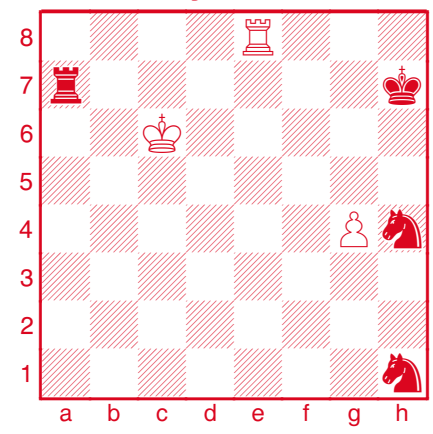
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Chucky's Dessert



1. ♖e5 ♘g3 2. ♖e3 ♘f1 3. ♖h3 ♖a6+ 4. ♔b7! ♖h6 5. ♖c3!

Threatens a perpetual; supporting the ♖ for checks from c8 is why the White ♔ had to go to b7.

5... ♘g6

5... ♔g7 6. ♖c7+= the only way to escape the ♖ checks is to cross the 6th rank, which allows White to exchange ♖s.

6. ♖c5 ♘g3 7. ♖h5! ♘xh5 8.g5

After gxh6 the ♘♘ v ♖ ending is drawn.

1/2=1/2

composer: N.Ryabinin, 1990.
based on: V.Khortov, 1976.



North America's biggest and richest annual tournament took place over Independence Day week in Arlington, Virginia. As always, it attracted dozens of Grandmasters and lots of Canadians (21). Three players tied for first overall with 7/9: GMs **Ilya Smirin**, **Illia Nyzhnyk**, and **Conrad Holt**. GM **Anton Kovalyov** lost to winners Smirin and Holt, but finished as top Canadian with 5½/9. Tied with Anton, but making the biggest splash, was FM **Razvan Preotu**, who played *eight* GMs but still scored 5½/9 to notch a GM Norm! IM **Bindi Cheng** was next, a ½-point behind Anton and Razvan. **Other Canadians:**

Open

- IM Richard Wang 4½/9
- Michael Song 4/9
- IM Raja Panjwani 3/7 WD
- FM Michael Humphreys 3/9
- James Chan 2½/9
- Brian Fiedler 2/7 WD

U2400

FM Y. Zhang 3½/8

U2200

Victor Dzera 6/9
William Graif 6/9

U2000

Peter Bokhout 5/9
Ralph Deline 4½/9

U1800

Dennis Shamroni 6½/9
Mario Piccinin 6/9
S. Humphreys 5/9
George Avery Jones 2½/9

U1600

Ethan Low 5½/9
Hoyin Yong 4/9

U1200

Tani Bercuvitz 4/8

Games

Chess Canada is pleased to present five World Open games from Razvan and Bindi, four of them annotated by the players.

Notes by FM Razvan Preotu Preotu, Razvan (2341) Gonzalez Vidal, Yuri (2546)

B48

*2014 World Open Arlington (2),
03.07.2014*

This was my second-round game against Cuban GM Yuri Gonzalez

Vidal. After being able to escape the first round against a much weaker opponent (I was worse, but my opponent got in a very bad time trouble and lost), this game was not only important point-wise (so I could play another titled player in the 3rd round), but also to get my confidence back.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4

4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♔c7

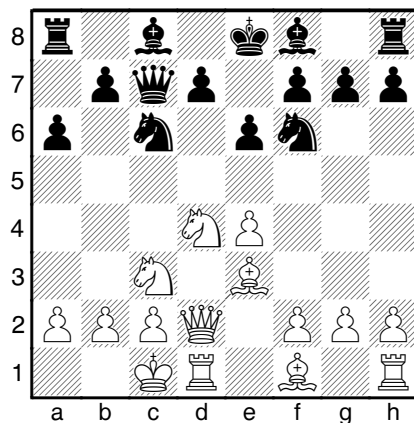
The Sicillian Timanov variation.

6.♙e3 a6 7.♔d2 ♘f6 8.0-0-0



The Huddled Masses ...

... yearning to find their pairings.

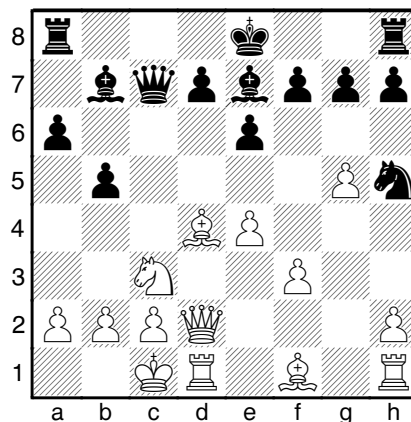
**8...b5**

8...♙b4 9.f3 ♘e5 has been played many more times, but White seems to have the better results after 10.♘b3 b5 11.♙e1 threatening ♘xb5 and planning to place the bishop on d4 and bring the queen to the kingside.

8...♙e7 9.f3 b5 10.g4 ♘xd4 11.♙xd4 ♙b7 is another way to transpose to the game.

9.f3 ♙b7 10.g4 ♘xd4**11.♙xd4**

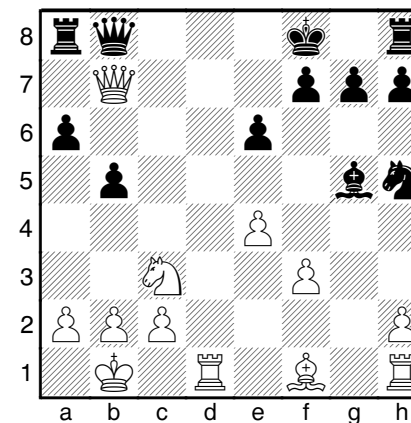
11.♙xd4 seems to be inferior as the queen can be exposed to a center break prepared by ...♞d8 and ...d5, as well as leaving the pawn on c2 unprotected and vulnerable to ...♞c8 and ...b4 ideas.

11...♙e7 12.g5 ♘h5**13.♙b1**

13.♘e2 trying to trade off the knight on h5 by going ♘g3 is too ambitious, as after 13...♞c8! the pressure on the c-file forces White to abandon that plan: 14.h4 (...♙xg5 was a threat) 14...0-0 15.♙h3 ♙d6 16.♙b1 ♘f4=.

13.♙e5!? looks tempting but Black seems to comfortably equalize after 13...♙xe5 14.♙xd7+ ♙f8 15.♙xb7 ♙xg5+ 16.♙b1 ♙b8!

Analysis Diagram



17.♞d7 ♙xb7 18.♞xb7 ♙f6 19.a4 ♙xc3 20.bxc3 bxa4 21.♙xa6 g5 22.♙b5 ♙g7 23.♞d1 ♘f4 24.♞dd7 ♞hf8 25.c4 ♘g6 where the better pawn structure and good dark-square control fully compensates the activity of White's rooks.

17.♙c6 g6 18.♞d7 ♙e8! 19.a4 bxa4 20.♘xa4 ♘f6 21.♞d6 ♙xc6 22.♞xc6 a5 gives Black no problem due to the excellent dark-square control.

13...0-0 14.♘e2 ♞ac8 15.♙h3

Preparing ♙g4 and stopping the threat of ...♙xg5 because the ♞h1 defends the ♞d1.

15...f5!

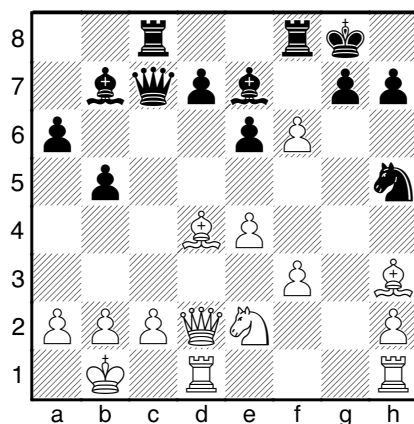
15...g6? 16.♙g4 ♘g7 is another way to save the knight, but after 17.h4 Black has to face a very strong attack.



FM Razvan Preotu



16.gxf6



16...♙xf6

16...♘xf6 is also possible, but it makes more sense to trade off that powerful bishop on d4.

Although after 17.♖hg1 ♘e8

(17...♙xh2?? 18.♙h6

♖f7 19.♖xg7+ ♖xg7

20.♙xe6+-) 18.♙d3

♖f7 (18...♙c4??

is bad tactically

due to 19.♙xg7

♘xg7 20.♙xc4

bxc4 21.♖xd7+-;

18...♙xh2?? 19.f4

♘f6 20.♖g2+-) 19.f4 ♙c4 20.b3

♙xd3 21.cxd3 the position is also

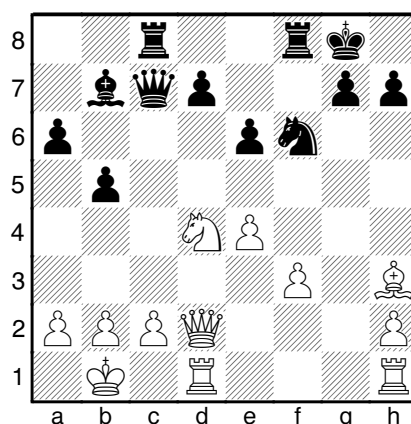
fairly equal.

17.♙xf6 ♘xf6

17...♖xf6?? 18.♙g4 ♘f4 19.♘xf4

♖xf4 20.♙xd7 ♙xc2+ 21.♙a1+-.

18.♘d4



18...♘h5?

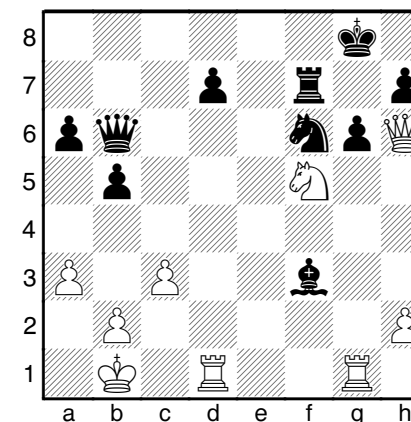
This allows a favourable change in the position for White which could have been avoided.

Want to improve like Razvan?

Try analyzing your own games in this detail.

18...♙b6 19.♖hg1 ♖f7 20.a3 g6= and Black has a very solid position which is hard to break through; for example after, 21.♙h6 ♖c4 22.c3 ♖c5! 23.♙f5 exf5 24.exf5 ♖xf5 25.♘xf5 ♙xf3

Analysis Diagram

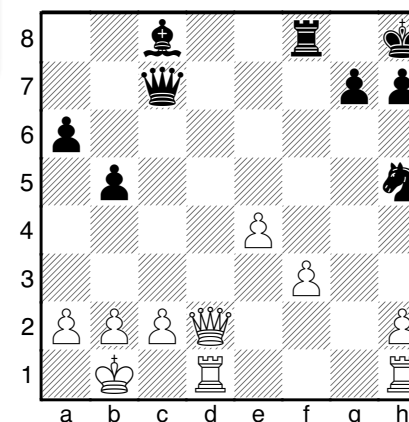


The best White can do is to force a draw by perpetual after: 26.♖xg6+ hxg6 27.♙xg6+ ♙f8 28.♙h6+:

A) 28...♙e8?? 29.♘d6+! ♙e7 (29...♙d8 30.♙h8+-) 30.♘c8+-.

B) 28...♙g8 29.♙g6+=.

19.♘xe6! dxe6 20.♙xe6+ ♙h8 21.♙xc8 ♙xc8±



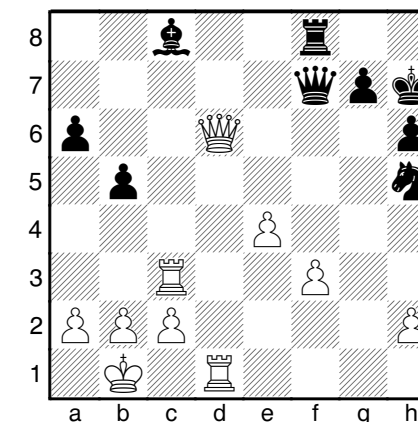
White has a rook and two pawns for the two pieces, which normally in any endgame is a material advantage.

22.♙d6 ♙f7 23.♖d3 h6

24.♖hd1 ♙h7

24...♙e6? allows too many exchanges: 25.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 26.♖d8+- with an easily winning endgame as Black's queenside pawns are simply lost.

25.♖c3



25...♖e8

It is hard to find useful moves that don't lose material on the spot:

25...♙e6 26.♙xa6 b4 27.♖e3 ♘f4 28.b3 ♘g2 29.♖ed3 ♘f4 30.♖3d2±.



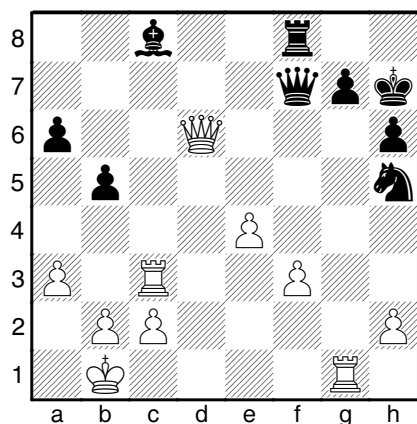
25...a5 26.♖b6 b4 27.♞e3 ♘f4
28.♚xa5 ♙e6 29.b3±.

25...♘f4 blocks the f-file and allows the rook penetration to the seventh: 26.♞c7 ♚e8 27.a3± Black is paralyzed.

26.a3

White can slowly improve as Black has no useful moves to make.

26...♞f8 27.♞g1

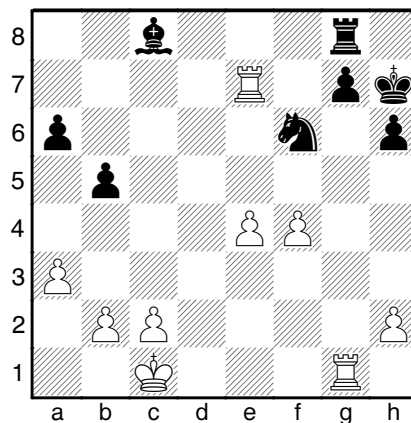


27...♚f6

27...♙e6 28.♚xa6 ♙a2+ 29.♚a1 ♙c4±. Giving up another pawn was obviously not an easy choice to make, but this was objectively better than what was played in the game as it's

worth a pawn for Black to keep the queens on the board, which makes it harder to push the pawns.

28.♚xf6 ♘xf6 29.♞c7 ♞g8
30.♚c1 ♘d7 31.f4 ♘f6
32.♞e7



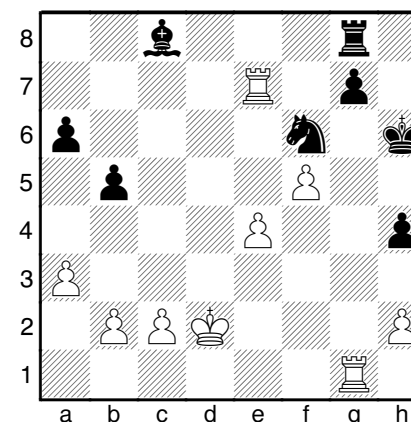
32...h5

It would have been better for Black to block the g-file with 32...♙g4 33.f5 (33.e5 ♘d5±=) 33...h5 although the ♙g4 is very misplaced now for defending Black's queenside.

33.f5

Now the Black bishop is shut down with nowhere to move and White still has g-file pressure.

33...h4 34.♚d2 ♚h6

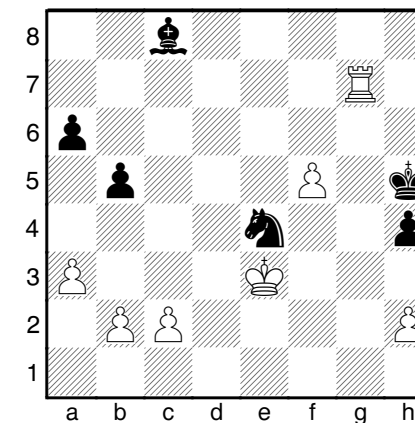


35.♚e2?!

35.♚e3?? would be an awful way to spoil the game in time trouble, as after: 35...♙xf5 Black restores material balance and the two pieces are now stronger than the rook and pawn. 36.♚f4 (36.exf5? ♘d5+) 36...♙h3± when ...g5+ followed by ...♘g4 is a huge threat. In these types of endgames the side with the rook must be very careful about bringing the king into play as it could come under tactical threats.

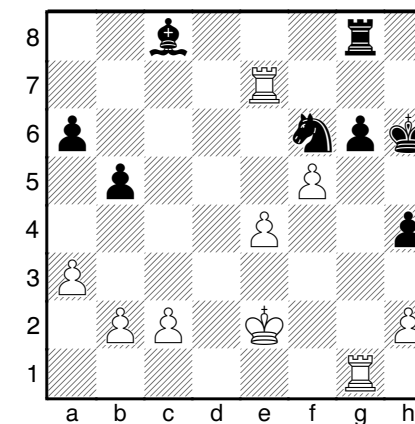
35.♞g6+ ♚h5 36.♞exg7 ♞xg7
37.♞xg7 ♘xe4+ 38.♚e3

Analysis Diagram



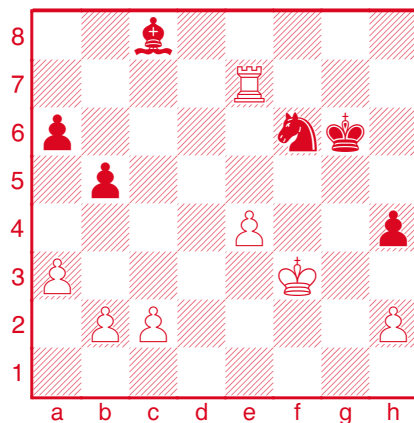
was stronger and wins the game immediately as (for tactical reasons) Black can't take on f5: 38...♙xf5 39.♚f4 ♙g6 (39...♘d6 40.♞g5+-) 40.♞xg6 ♚xg6 41.♚xe4+- I was really low on the clock so I wasn't able to calculate such lines.

35...g6



36. ♖f3?!

36. ♖xg6+ ♖xg6 37. fxg6 ♖xg6
38. ♖f3±

Analysis Diagram

This was better, trading the rooks immediately and not allowing Black to keep them on. I wanted to improve on this line by following the game continuation where the knight is more misplaced, but this was unnecessary as Black can't create any play anyway:

editor – What happens if Black plays 38... ♖g4 to win the ♖h2?

38... ♖g4? 39. ♖e8 ♖d7
40. ♖g8+ ♖h5 41. ♖f4 and the pawn on h2 is taboo as it costs Black a piece after 41... ♖xh2
42. ♖h8+ ♖g6 43. ♖xh4 ♖f1
44. ♖h1 ♖d2 45. ♖d1+-.

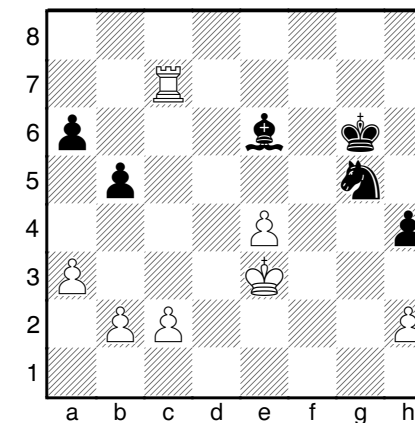
36... ♖h7?

36...g5 was better to avoid the unfavourable exchange of ♖s, but my opponent was also in time trouble and wasn't able to find the right defence. 37.h3 (37. ♖f7? g4+ 38. ♖f4 ♖h5+ 39. ♖e5 g3 40. hxg3 ♖xg3= and Black's strong passed pawn and counterplay against the e4 pawn after ... ♖e8+ and ... ♖g5 (even ... ♖f4, if needed) gives him sufficient compensate for the material to hold the balance.) 37... ♖f8 stopping ♖f7 and it's no longer easy for White to break through,

although White is still much better and pressing. 38. ♖f1! (stopping ideas of ... ♖xe4 followed by ... ♖xf5) 38... ♖d8 39. ♖e1 ♖f8 40. ♖e3! preparing ♖c3, and now h3 is protected by the ♖, so the sacrifice on e4 isn't as strong as it could have been before. 40... ♖xe4 41. ♖xe4 ♖xf5+ 42. ♖e5 ♖xc2 43. ♖c3± White should be winning, but Black is still fighting and has ideas to create a passed pawn on the kingside.

37. ♖xg6+ ♖xg6 38. fxg6

♖xg6 39. ♖c7 ♖g5+ 40. ♖e3 ♖e6+-



Here we both made the time control and White's advantage has increased to a winning one. The rook has too many targets and Black can't defend all of them and deal with the passed e-pawn.

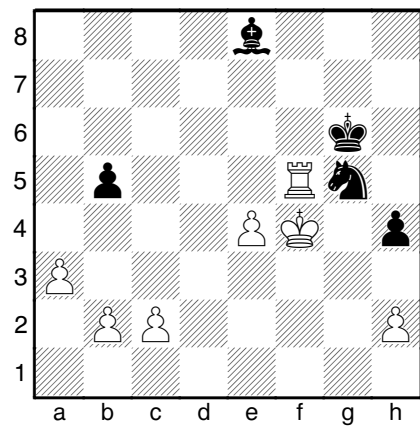
41. ♖c6 ♖f6

41...a5 42. ♖b6 would not have helped Black.

**42. ♖xa6 ♖e5 43. ♖c6 ♖d7
44. ♖c5+ ♖f6 45. ♖d5 ♖e8
46. ♖f5+ ♖g6 47. ♖f4**

*After the Chess... more chess!
There's always blitz chess in the lobby,
if you don't want to analyze.*

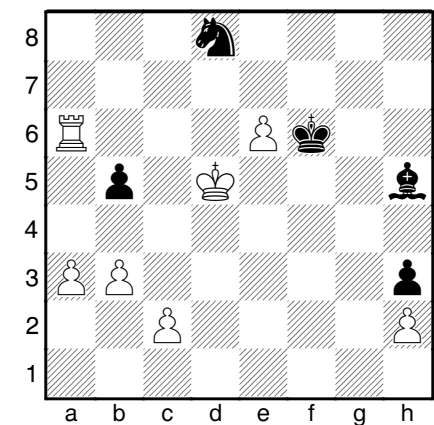




47...♖f7

47...♖e6+ allows the king to break through: 48.♔e5 ♖g5 49.♖f4 ♔h5 50.♔d6+-.

48.e5 ♖d8 49.♖f6+ ♔g7 50.♖d6 ♖f7 51.♖b6 ♔f8 52.e6 ♖d8 53.♔e5 ♔e7 54.♔d5 h3 55.♖a6 ♔f6 56.b3 ♖h5



57.e7+

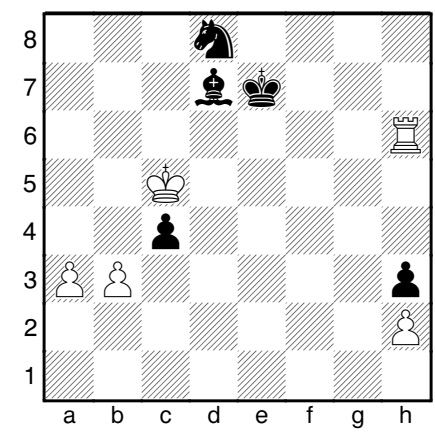
I was worried about Black being able to win the e-pawn after ...♖f3+ ...♖xe6 and then get some counterplay after ...♖g5-f3, so I gave the pawn hoping to tie the bishop to defending the h3 pawn. However this was unnecessary and 57.a4 bxa4 58.bxa4 is more straightforward.

57...♔xe7 58.♖h6 ♖g4

59.♔c5

59.a4 creating the passed pawn right away was more precise.

59...♖d7 60.c4 bxc4

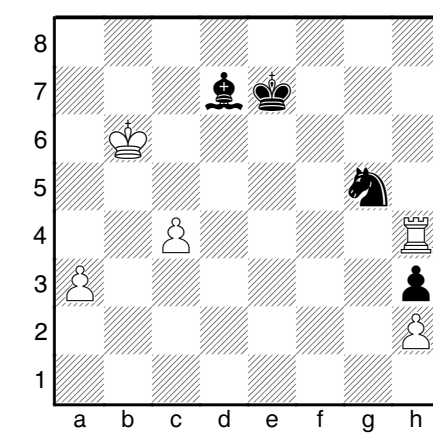


editor – My default setting would be to take with the ♔, on the grounds that the connected pawns would advance more

easily. They're both winning, but strong programs (and Razvan!) prefer the pawn capture!? Is there some general principle that explains this: do split pawns make it easier to corral the ♖, or is it so that when the White ♔ goes to b6 it's not blocking a passed pawn, or is it simply that the ♖c4 is one square closer to promoting?

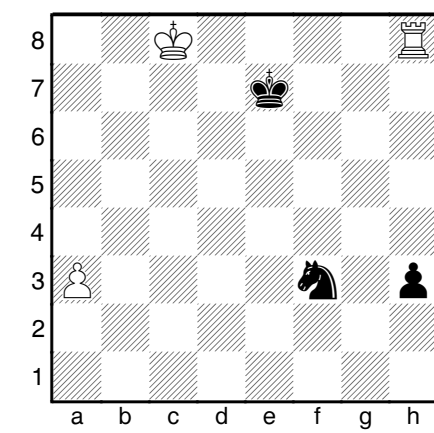
61.bxc4 ♖f7 62.♖h4 ♖g5

63.♔b6



Although the pawns aren't connected, with the help of the White king they should advance very easily. The final moves were played under extreme time pressure by both of us: no time increment, only 10 seconds delay.

63...♖f3 64.♖h7+ ♔d8 65.c5 ♖e5 66.♖h8+ ♔e7 67.♔c7 ♖g4 68.c6 ♖f3 69.♔b8 ♖xh2 70.c7 ♖f3 71.c8♖ ♖xc8 72.♔xc8



72...h2

72...♔d6 with ideas on trying to win the White a-pawn and get a theoretically drawn endgame King and Rook vs King and Knight. But this does not work: 73.♖xh3 ♖d4 Black has other squares for the knight to go but it does not change the evaluation of the position. 74.♔b7 ♔c5 75.a4 ♔b4 76.♖h4+-.

73.♔c7 ♔e6 74.a4 ♔d5 75.a5

With his position and flag about to fall, he resigned. This was an important win in an early round

which allowed me to play up against other strong titled players.

1-0

The following game and notes originally appeared on the CFC Newsfeed while the World Open was in progress.

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/362>

Notes by Keith MacKinnon

Preetu, Razvan (2341)

Gareyev, Timur (2640)

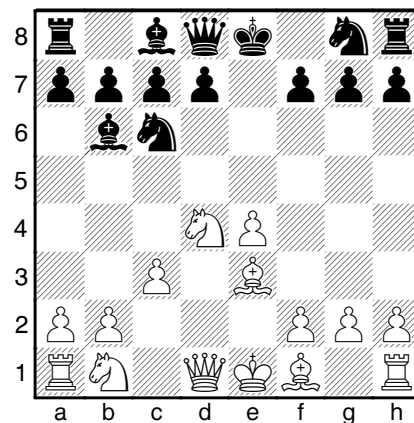
C45

2014 World Open Arlington, Virginia (4), 04.07.2014

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6
3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4
♙b4+

Unusual but playable.

5.c3 ♙c5 6.♙e3 ♙b6



7.♙g4!

The real test of Black's provocative play.

7.♙c4 fares very poorly actually.

Razvan's World Open

Rd.	Opponent	Rtg.	1/½/0
1.	Chris P Snell	1928	1
2.	GM Gonzalez Vidal	2546	1
3.	GM Yury Shulman	2568	½
4.	GM Timur Gareyev	2640	1
5.	GM Oliver Barbosa	2561	½
6.	GM Alex Stripunsky	2550	½
7.	GM Ilya Smirin	2647	0
8.	GM Alex Fishbein	2479	1
9.	GM Alex Lenderman	2593	0

7.♘f5 is a reasonable alternative to 7.♙g4, but the game will take on a very different flavour: 7...♙xe3 (7...g6!?) and White's Knight looks a bit silly having wandered to f5.) 8.♘xe3 ♘f6 9.f3=.

7...g6

It's pretty clear by Timur's response to the Scotch that he wanted to avoid main lines. Here, he again chooses to play an offbeat line.

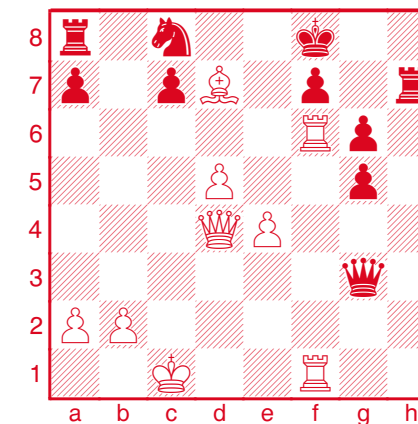
7...♙f6 8.♙g3!?! ♘xd4 (Black takes a big risk in taking this pawn. White gets a big initiative. Safer is 8...♙g6 9.♘d2±.) 9.cxd4 ♙xd4 10.♙xd4 ♙xd4 11.♘c3C
It's best for Black to give the pawn back so he can at least castle: 11...♘e7 12.♙xc7±.

8.♘d2 d6

David Howell won an exciting game against Ivan Sokolov in London five years ago after 8...♘ge7 9.♙h4 ♘xd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.♙g5 ♙xd4 12.0-0-0 h6 13.exd5 hxg5 14.♙xd4 ♖h4 15.♘e4 ♙f5 16.f3 ♙xe4 17.fxe4 ♘f8 18.g3 ♖h7 19.♙c4± ♙d6

20.♖hf1 b5 21.♙xb5 ♖xh2?
22.♖f6+ ♙xg3 23.♖df1 ♖h7
24.♙c4 ♘e8 25.♙b5+ ♘f8
26.♙d7 ♘c8:

Analysis Diagram

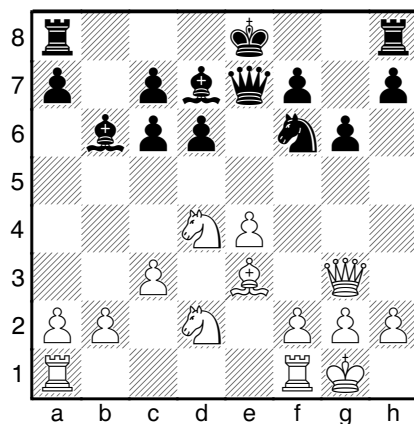


27.♖6f3 (27.♖xf7+!) 27...♙h2
28.♙h8+! ♘e7 29.♖xf7+ 1-0
Howell, D (2614)–Sokolov, I (2655) London, 2009.

9.♙g3 ♙d7

9...♘f6 10.♙e2 ♙e7 11.0-0 ♙d7
12.♘b5 0-0-0 13.♙xb6 axb6
14.♖fe1 ♘xe4? 15.♘xe4 ♙xe4
16.♙xd6 ♖± cxd6 17.♘xd6+ ♘c7
18.♘xe4 (½-½, 39) Rosito, J (2424)–Garcia Palermo, C (2467), Pinamar, 2002.

10.♙b5 ♙e7 11.0-0 ♘f6
12.♙xc6 bxc6



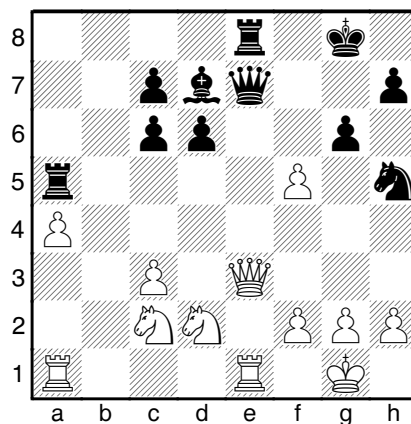
13. ♖fe1

13. ♕g5 Looks promising at first, but White might land in trouble after 13... ♘h5 14. ♖e3 f6 15. ♕h6 g5 16. h4 gxh4 (16... ♖g8∞) 17. ♖f3 ♖f7 18. ♘f5 ♖g8.

13... ♘h5 14. ♖f3 0-0 15. a4 ♖ab8 16. b4

16. e5 worth considering 16... dxe5 17. a5! ♕c5 18. b4±.

16... a5 17. ♘c2 ♕xe3 18. ♖xe3 ♖fe8 19. bxa5 ♖a8 20. ♘b3 f5 21. ♘d2 ♖xa5 22. exf5

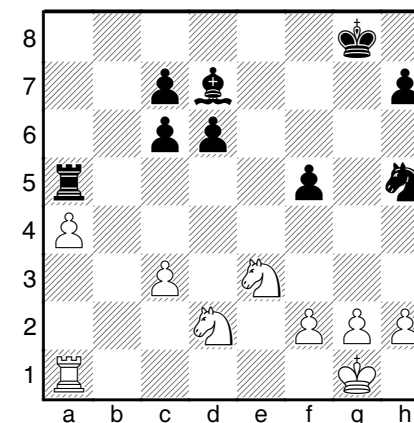


22... ♖xe3

22... ♖e5? Not so good and White has nothing to worry about on the back rank since he has ♘f1 at the end if Black

sacks all of his major pieces
23. ♖d4±.

23. ♖xe3 ♖xe3 24. ♘xe3 gxh5

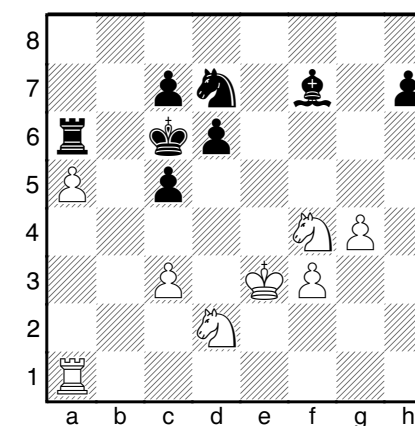


passed pawn. Black leads in that he has a Bishop for one of White's Knights; this should not be discounted, especially since there are pawns on both sides of the board. Overall, the position is actually pretty equal and both sides can play for the win.

25. ♘b3 ♖a6 26. a5 f4 27. ♘c4 ♕e6 28. ♘cd2 c5 29. ♘c1 ♖f7 30. f3 ♖e7 31. ♘e2 ♖d7 32. ♖f2 ♖c6 33. g4 fxc3+ 34. hxg3 ♘f6 35. ♘f4 ♕f7

Nothing much has changed over the past 10 moves.

36. g4 ♘d7 37. ♖e3=



Let's take stock. White has a slightly better pawn structure: both sides have three pawn islands but White has a

I expect that Razvan was thinking that the game was heading towards a draw – a big achieve-



ment against such a strong Grandmaster – only to realize that a few moves later...

37...c4?!

The first of an uncharacteristic string of bad moves by Timur.

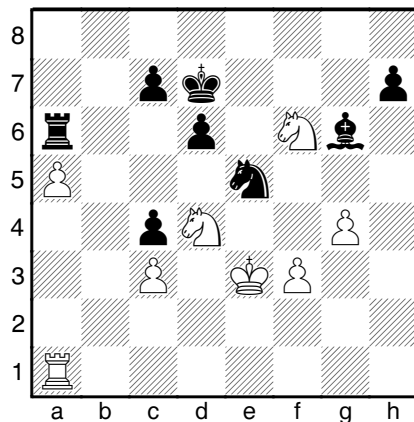
38.♖e2

38.♖e4 d5 39.♖g5 ♕g8
40.♖ge6 ♕xe6 41.♖xe6 ♖b7
Black should hold now since he can use his King to stop the a-pawn and get his Rook active.

38...♗e5?!

38...♖b7 with the same idea as the note to the previous move.

39.♖d4+ ♖d7?! 40.♖e4 ♕g6? 41.♖f6+



41...♗c8?

41...♗e7 42.g5 c5 43.♗b5 ♖c6
44.♗d5± White is still winning, but it looks more difficult to get the full point than in the game.

42.f4+-

...all of a sudden, White is winning.

42...♗d7

42...♕d3!? 43.g5± (43.fxe5?
dxe5 44.♗b5 ♖xf6 45.a6 ♖f1±)

43.♗xd7?

Razvan's biggest error so far. Better was 43.♗d5, with a multitude of winning threats, including ♗e7+ and ♗b5.

43...♖xd7 44.♖h1

44.f5 is probably more accurate since Black can't play the intermediate move 44...c5, but I assume that Razvan must have correctly evaluated the ensuing ending and known that it was still a win.

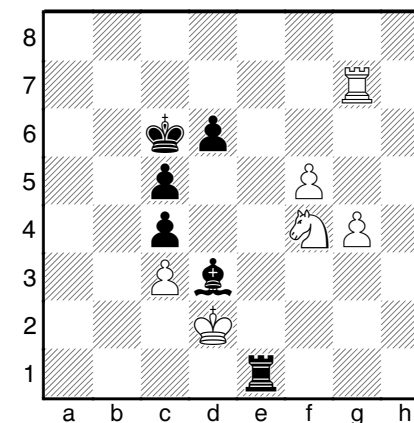
44...c5 45.♗e2 ♕d3 46.f5 ♖xa5 47.♖xh7+ ♖c6 48.♖g7?!

48.♗f4.

48...♖a1

48...♕xe2 49.♖xe2 ♖a2+ 50.♖e3
♖c2 51.f6 ♖xc3+ 52.♖d2+-.

49.♗f4 ♖e1+ 50.♖d2



50...♖g1??

50...♖f1 looks like it may hold 51.♗xd3 cxd3 52.♖xd3 ♖d5 and White still has strong winning chances, but I'm not really sure how he can go about doing so.

51.f6 ♖f1 52.♗xd3 cxd3 53.g5 c4 54.♖e7 54.f7 ♖d5 55.g6+-.

54...d5

54...♖f2+ 55.♖e1 d2+ 56.♖d1 d5
57.♖e2+-.

55.f7 ♖d6 56.♖a7 ♖e6 57.g6 ♖f2+

A somewhat poorly played ending for players of this calibre, but still a great win for one of Canada's top junior players. He is on track for an IM norm and I expect the title to follow soon.

1-0

Notes by FM Razvan Preotu Preotu, Razvan (2341) Fishbein, Alexander (2479)

B63

2014 World Open Arlington (8), 06.07.2014

This was a very important game played in round 8. After already achieving an IM norm by drawing the 7th round, I wasn't planning to stop there. The GM norm was so close and I knew I might not get such a good opportunity very soon.

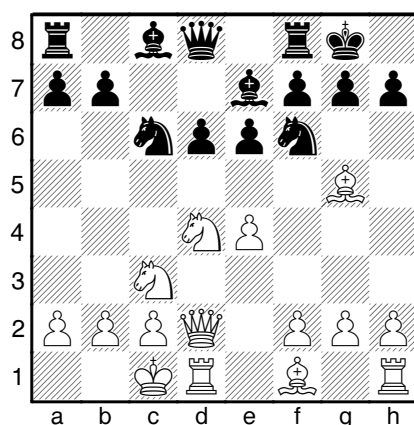
1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4



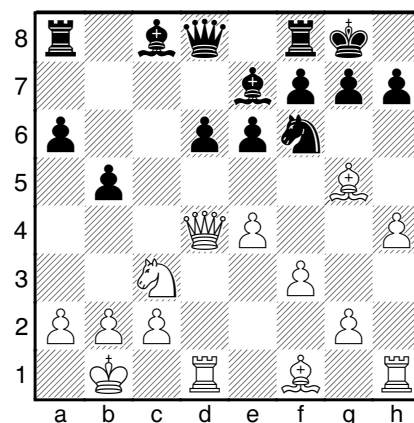
4. ♖xd4 ♜f6 5. ♘c3 ♘c6

The classical Sicilian.

6. ♙g5 e6 7. ♚d2 ♙e7 8. 0-0-0
0-0



9... ♘xd4 10. ♚xd4 a6 11. h4
b5 12. ♙b1



A useful move in all Sicilian-type positions.

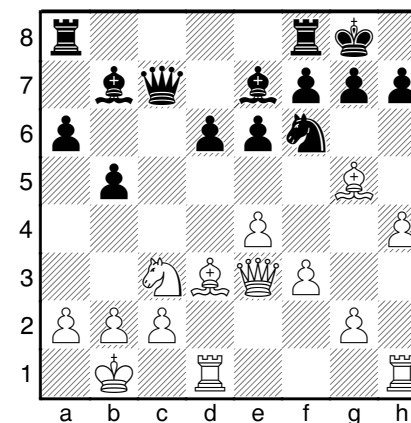
12... ♙b7

12... ♚c7 wouldn't be precise as White could then take on f6: 13. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 (13... gxf6 14. g4 ♚c5 15. ♚d2 ♜d8 16. ♙d3 is very unpleasant for Black because of the weak king and a possible ♘e2-f4-h5 maneuver coming and a quick g4-g5.) 14. ♚xd6 ♚xd6 15. ♜xd6 ♜a7 16. ♘e2 ♙e7 17. ♜d1 ♜d8 18. ♜xd8+ ♙xd8 and although Black has compensation for the pawn with the bishop pair, it's clear that only White can improve and play for the win.

13. ♙d3

13.g4 is the more common way of playing, starting the attack immediately.

13... ♚c7 14. ♚e3



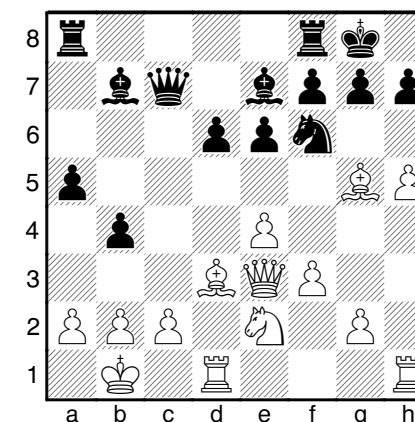
White wants to push the pawn all the way to h6, weakening the dark squares and stopping Black from playing ...h6. The queen on d4 was also vulnerable by the ideas of ...♜fd8, ...d5 and ...♙c5.

14.g4 and 14.h5 are alternatives.

14... b4 15. ♘e2

15. ♘a4 is also possible bringing the knight to c4. 15... ♙c6 16. ♘b6 ♜ab8 17. ♘c4 ♙b5 18. b3=.

15... a5 16. h5



16... ♚c5?

16... h6? 17. ♙xh6 gxh6 18. ♚xh6 and the idea of the rook lift with ♜h3-g3 is decisive. 18... e5 19. ♜h3 ♘h7 20. ♜g3+ ♙g5 21. ♜xg5+ ♘xg5 22. ♚xg5+ ♙h7 23. ♚f5+ ♙g8 24. ♚f6 ♚d8 25. ♚h6+-.

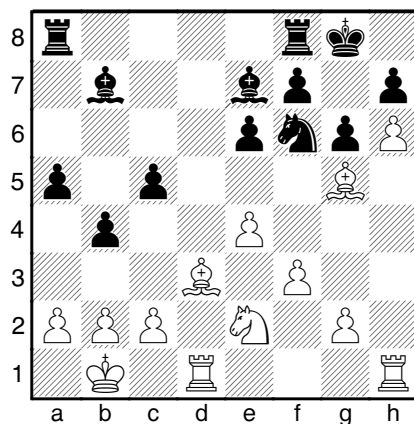
16... d5! was a better reply: 17. e5 ♙c5 18. ♚f4 ♘d7 19. ♚g3 ♚xe5 20. ♙f4 ♚f6 21. ♙b5 e5 22. ♙xd7 exf4 23. ♚xf4 ♚xf4 24. ♘xf4= Black has the bishop pair but the weak pawn on d5 makes this a balanced endgame.

17. ♚xc5 dxc5 18. h6! g6

9.f3

9.f4 is the main line, however I didn't want to go into the theory as I expected my opponent to be well prepared in this line. 9... ♘xd4 10. ♚xd4 ♚a5 11. ♙c4 ♙d7 12. e5 dxe5 13. fxe5 ♙c6 14. ♙d2 (14. exf6?? ♚xg5+) 14... ♘d7 15. ♘d5 ♚d8 16. ♘xe7+ ♚xe7= White has the bishop pair but Black's active pieces and soon-to-be-active rooks along the c and d-files should compensate; see [Karjakin,S](#) (2767) - [Wang,H](#) (2743) Stavanger, 2013 (1-0, 39).





It's obviously not comfortable allowing the White h-pawn to stay there, but otherwise the opening of the h-file followed by e5 would have lost the Black ♖h7.

19. ♖c4±

White has a long-lasting advantage due to the better structure and the pawn on h6, which will be a pain for Black for the rest of the game.

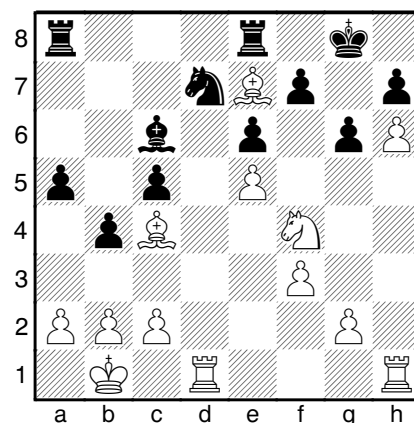
19... ♜fe8

e4-e5 was threatened.

19... ♜fb8!? is another way to stop e4-e5, as at the end of the following line: 20.e5 (20. ♘f4 is better and is very similar to the game.) 20... ♘d5

21. ♘d5 ♘xg5 the bishop on b7 isn't hanging.

20. ♘f4 ♘c6 21.e5 ♘d7 22. ♘xe7

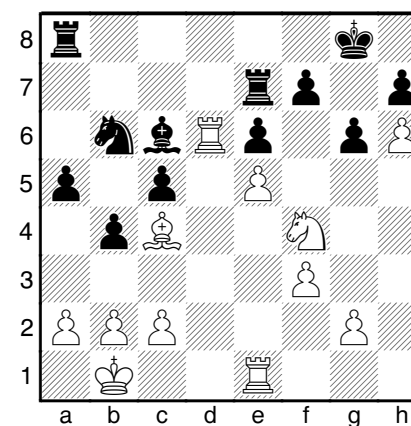


22... ♜xe7

22... ♘xe5! 23. ♘xe6 (23. ♘xc5 ♘xc4= and although Black has huge dark square weaknesses

it's hard for White to use them as ...e5 is coming.) 23... ♜xe7 (23... ♜xe6? 24. ♘f6± Black now has a huge weakness on e6 to defend.) 24. ♘d5 ♜d8 25. ♘xc6 ♘xc6 26. ♜xd8+ ♘xd8 27. ♜d1± White still has annoying pressure thanks to the more active pieces and the pawn on h6.

23. ♜he1 ♘b6 24. ♜d6



24... ♜c8

24... ♘xc4? 25. ♜xc6± and the ♘c5 falls.

25. ♜ed1?

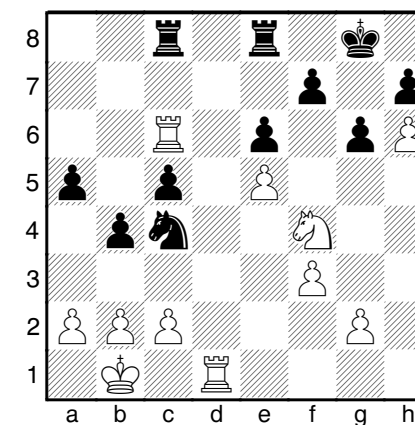
A calculation error. Better was 25. ♘b5!:

A) 25... ♜ec7 26. ♜ed1 forces Black to make the same unfavourable exchange, as 26... ♔f8

(26... ♘d5 27. ♘xc6 ♜xc6 28. ♘xd5 exd5 29. ♜1xd5 ♔f8 30. f4± should be easily winning.) 27. ♘xc6 ♜xc6 28. ♜xc6 ♜xc6 29. ♜d8+ ♔e7 30. ♜h8 loses the h-pawn.

B) 25... ♘xb5 26. ♜xb6 ♘c6 27. ♜d1± the White knight is clearly superior to the Black bishop and in addition to the active rooks and pawn on h6, should make this an easy end-game to convert.

25... ♘xc4 26. ♜xc6 ♜ee8!



The simple move I missed, as I got too excited after seeing ♜xc6 and thought I was winning the ♘c5.

Now White is no longer win-

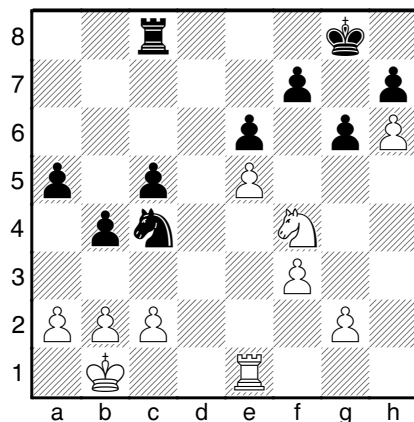


Rd. 3 Michael Bodek (USA) vs. Illia Nyzhnyk (UKR)
IRO Suarez (CUB) v Richard Wang (CAN).



ning, but still has the advantage because of the strong pawns on e5 and h6.

27. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 28. ♖e1

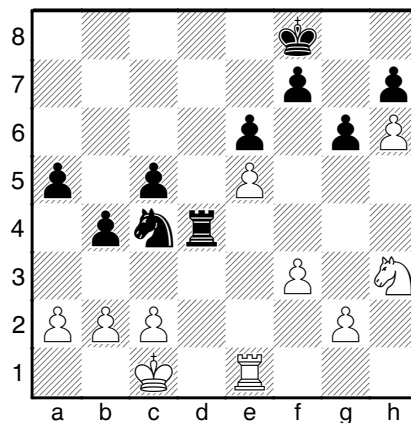


28... ♔f8?!

Provoking White to make the favourable knight maneuver as h7 is now undefended.

28... a4 trying to make play on the queenside was better. 29. b3 axb3 30. axb3 ♖a5 31. ♔b2 c4 32. ♖e4 is still better for White: 32... ♔f8 33. ♖h3 c3+ 34. ♔c1 ♖c6 35. ♖c4 ♖a8 36. ♔b1 ♖xe5 37. ♖xb4±.

29. ♖h3! ♖d8 30. ♔c1 ♖d4



31. g3?

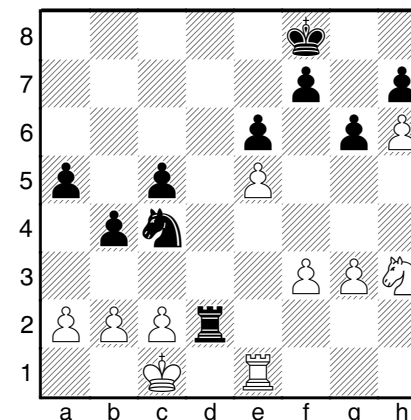
Imprecisely allowing Black to trade off the knights.

31. ♖g5:

A) 31... ♖h4 32. ♖xh7+ ♔e7 33. b3! (33. ♖f6? ♖xe5! is roughly the same thing as the game except the pawn remains on g2.) 33... ♖b6 34. ♖f6 and the pawn stays alive due to the fork on g8, 34... ♖d5 35. ♖g4±.

B) 31... ♔g8 32. g3 was better: not allowing Black the same trick as in the game. Now White is threatening ♖e4: simultaneously hitting c5 and threatening ♖f6+. White has a huge advantage, e.g. 32... ♖b6 planning to go to d7 to defend c5 and stop ♖f6. 33. ♖e4 ♖d7 34. f4±.

31... ♖d2!

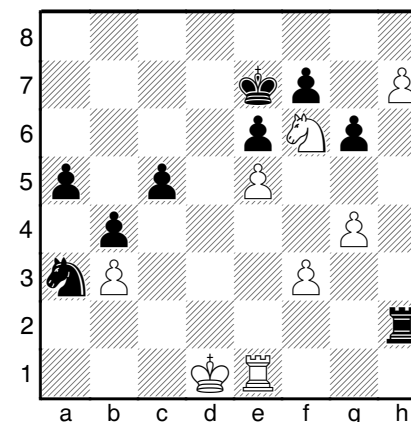


32. ♖g5

32. b3 ♖h2 33. ♖g5 ♖a3 gives Black enough activity to hold.

34. ♖xh7+ ♔e7 35. ♖f6 ♖xc2+ 36. ♔d1 ♖xa2 37. h7 ♖h2 38. ♖e2 ♖h1+ 39. ♖e1 ♖h2 40. g4:

Analysis Diagram



The only real try for White, threatening ♖h5. But here

Black is in time to create threats against the White king.

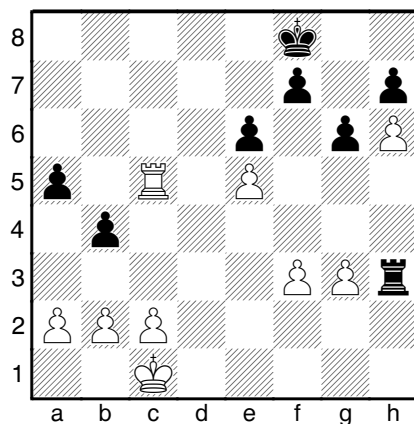
A) 40... a4 draws, although it's a more complicated way. 41. ♖h5 axb3 42. h8 ♖ b2 43. ♖xf6+ ♔e8 44. ♖g7+ ♔d7 45. ♖xf7+ ♔c6 46. ♖xe6+ ♔b5 47. ♖d7+ ♔a5 48. ♖a7+ ♔b5 49. ♖d7+ ♔c4 50. ♖e6+ and it's a perpetual, even if White is up a queen! (50. ♖e4+? allows the Black king to hide 50... ♔b3 51. ♖d3+ ♔a2 52. ♖e2 ♖h1+ 53. ♔d2 c4 54. ♖e4 b1 ♖ 55. ♔e3+ ♔a1-+).

B) The simple way to draw is: 40... c4 41. ♖h5 (editor – 41. bxc4? b3 42. ♖e3 and now White is the one who has to play carefully to draw.) 41... c3 42. h8 ♖ ♖d2+ 43. ♔c1 ♖c2+ 44. ♔d1 ♖d2+=.

Instead of 32. ♖g5 or 32. b3, **32. ♖e4!** was the better way to enter the rook endgame. 32... ♖h2 33. ♖xc4 ♖xh3 34. ♖xc5:

32. ♖e4 Analysis Diagram 1
(next page)





A) 34...Rhxh6 35.Rxa5 Rh3
36.Ra8+:

A1) 36...Qe7? 37.Ra7+ Qe8
38.c3:

A1a) 38...bxc3 39.b4+- White's pawn are simply too fast and Black doesn't have time to create any counterplay:

A1a1) 39...Rxc3
40.a4 h5 (40...Rxf3
41.b5 and although
White is down 2
pawns, his strong
very far advanced
connected passed
pawns win the game
easily. 41...Qd8 42.a5
Rf1+ 43.Qc2 Qc8
44.b6+-) 41.b5 h4 42.b6+-.

A1a2) 39...Rh2 40.a4 Rb2
41.Rb7 Ra2 42.a5+-.

A1b) 38...Rxc3 39.cxb4 h5
(39...Rxf3 40.a4+-) 40.b5 Qd8
41.Rxf7 h4 42.a4 Rg5 43.b6
Qc8 44.f4 Rh5 45.a5 h3 46.a6
h2 47.b7+-.

A1c) 38...Rh1+ 39.Qc2 Rh2+
40.Qb3 bxc3 41.Qxc3 Rf2 42.b4
Rxf3+ 43.Qc4 Rxc3 44.b5+-.

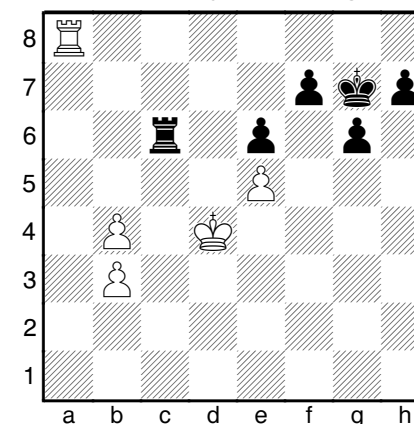
A2) 36...Qg7! the best try to save the game. The king going to the queenside is ultimately a waste of time, and it's better to stay on the kingside to be able to support the pawns. 37.c4
Rxc3 (37...bxc3 38.b4! Rxc3
39.Qc2 h5 40.b5 Rg2+ 41.Qxc3
Rg1 42.Rd8

Reminder: in the event you or "a friend" are having a tiny bit of trouble following these nested variations, you can use the PGN to keep it all in order.

h4 43.Rd2+-) 38.c5 Rxf3 39.c6
Rf4 40.b3 Rf3 41.Qd2 Rf2+
(41...Rc3 42.Ra6 h5 43.a3 Rxb3
44.c7 Rxc3 45.Ra7 Rc4 46.axb4

h4 47.b5 h3 48.b6 h2 49.Ra1+-)
42.Qd3 Rf3+ 43.Qd4 Rc3 44.a3
Rxc6 45.axb4+-:

32.Rc4 Analysis Diagram 2

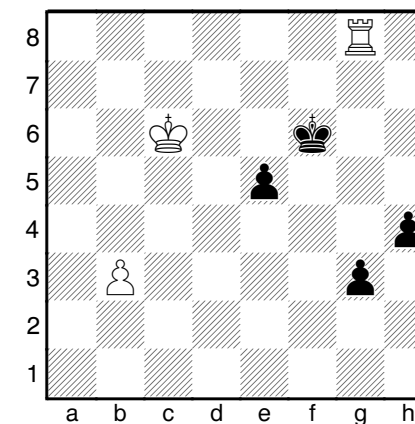


Even though White's pawns aren't connected, the b-pawn is very fast because the White king is so well centralized to support it.

45...f6 (45...h5 46.b5 Rc7
47.b6 Rd7+ 48.Qc5 h4
49.Qc6 Rd3 50.b7 Rxb3
51.b8 Rxb8 52.Rxb8
g5 53.Qd6+- Black's
pawns aren't sufficiently
advanced.) 46.exf6+
Qxf6 47.b5 Rd6+ (47...
e5+ 48.Qd5 Rc3 49.b4
Rd3+ 50.Qc4 Rd7 51.b6 Qe6
52.Ra7 h5 53.b7+-) 48.Qc5
Rd5+ 49.Qc6 Rd3 50.Ra3! Rc3+
51.Qb7 g5 52.b6 h5 53.Qa6 Rc6
54.Qb5 Rc8 55.b7 Rb8 56.Qc6

g4 57.Ra8 Rxb7 58.Qxb7 g3
59.Rg8 h4 60.Qc6 e5

32.Rc4 Analysis Diagram 3



61.Qd5? Qf5 62.Rf8+ Qg4
63.Qe4 Qh3 64.Qf3 e4+
65.Qxe4 g2 66.Rg8 Qh2 67.Qf3
g1 Rg1 68.Rxg1 Qxg1 69.Qg4 Qg2
70.Qxh4 Qf3= and Black is in
the square and in time to win the
b-pawn.

61.b4? e4 62.b5 e3 63.b6 e2
64.Re8 g2 65.b7 g1 Rg1 66.b8 R=.

61.Qd6!:

A2a) 61...e4 62.Rf8+ Qg5
63.Qe5 e3 64.Rg8+ Qh6
65.Qf6 Qh5 (65...Qh7 66.Rg4
e2 67.Rxh4+ Qg8 68.Rh1+-)
66.Qf5 Qh6 67.Rh8+ Qg7
68.Rxh4+-.

A2b) 61...Qf5 62.b4 Qf4 63.b5

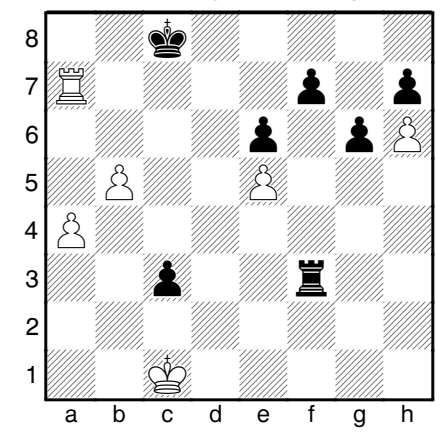
h3 64.b6 h2 65.b7 h1 ♔ 66.b8 ♖
and Black's checks quickly
run out: 66... ♖h6+ (66... ♖d1+
67. ♔e7+-) 67. ♔c5+-.

see: 32. ♖e4 Analysis Diagram 1
B) 34... ♖xg3 35. ♖xa5 ♖xf3
36.c3:

B1) 36... ♖f4 37.cxb4 ♖xb4
38.a3 ♖h4 39.b4 ♖xh6 40.b5
♖h3 41. ♔b2 ♖h2+ 42. ♔c3 ♖h1
43. ♖a8+ ♔e7 44. ♖a7+ ♔d8
(44... ♔e8 45.a4 ♖b1 46. ♖b7
♔d8 47.a5 ♔c8 48.a6+-)
45. ♖xf7 g5 46.a4+-.

B2) 36... bxc3 37.b4! ♔e7
38. ♖a7+ ♔d8 39.b5 ♔c8 40.a4

32. ♖e4 Analysis Diagram 4



When analyzing this at home I
discovered that Black has an in-
credible way to draw this ending
which combines stalemate and

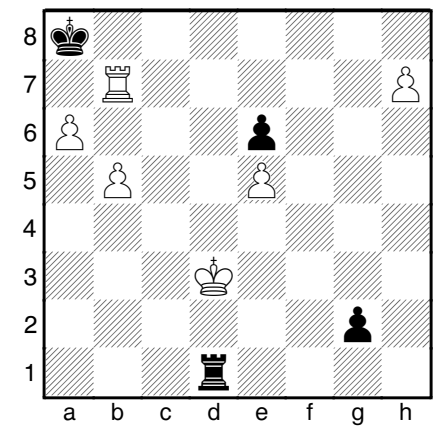
perpetual check threats:

Not like this: 40... ♔b8? 41.b6
g5 42.a5 g4 43.a6 ♖f1+ 44. ♔c2
♖a1 45. ♖b7+ ♔a8 46. ♖xf7
♖xa6 47. ♖xh7 g3 48. ♖g7 ♖a2+
49. ♔xc3 ♖h2 50.h7 g2 51. ♖xg2
♖xh7 52. ♖g6+-.

Like this:

40... g5 41.a5 g4 42.a6 ♖f1+
43. ♔c2 ♔b8 44. ♖e7 ♖a1
45. ♖xf7 g3 46. ♖xh7 g2 47. ♖b7+
♔a8 48.h7 ♖c1+ 49. ♔b3 ♖b1+
50. ♔xc3 ♖c1+ 51. ♔d3 ♖d1+:

32. ♖e4 Analysis Diagram 5



The White ♔ can't hide:

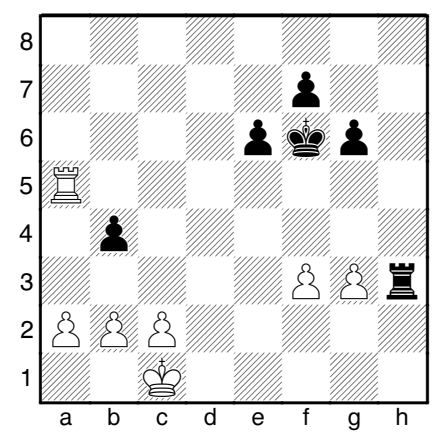
52. ♔e2 ♖e1+ 53. ♔f3 ♖f1+
54. ♔xg2 ♖f2+= with a "crazy-
rook" perpetual or stalemate.

52. ♔c4 ♖c1+ 53. ♔b4 ♖b1+
54. ♔a3 (54. ♔a5 ♖a1+=)

54... ♖a1+ 55. ♔b2 ♖b1+= with
another "crazy-rook" perpetual
or stalemate.

*we now return to the game, already
in progress...*

32... ♖h2 33. ♖xh7+ ♔e7
34. ♖f6 ♖xe5 35. ♖xe5 ♔xf6
36. ♖xc5 ♖xh6 37. ♖xa5 ♖h3



This is a much inferior version
of the other rook endgame as
White's most important pawns
(e5 and h6) are both gone. Be-
cause of this, Black's king is
no longer in a "cage" and now
can easily support his pawns or
come back to the queenside to
stop White's pawns.

38. ♖b5

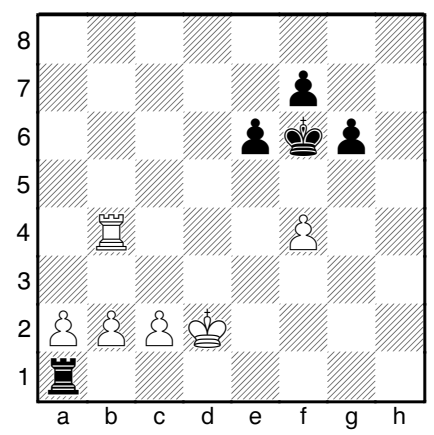
38.a3!? was better try to win as
it doesn't matter the number of

pawns but how far they're ad-
vanced. 38... bxa3 (38... ♖xg3
39.axb4 ♖xf3 40.b5 ♖f4 41.c3
(stopping ... ♖b4) 41... ♖c4 42.b6
♖c8 43. ♔d2 ♖b8 44. ♖b5 and
White is playing for the win,
although it should be a draw.)
39.b4 ♖xg3 40. ♖xa3 ♔e7
41. ♖a7+ ♔e8 42.b5 ♖g5 43. ♖b7
♔d8 the Black king gets back
in time and it's drawn: 44.b6
♖b5 45. ♔d2 ♔c8 46. ♖xf7 ♖xb6
47. ♖g7 ♖b1 48. ♖xg6 ♔d7=.

38... ♖xg3 39.f4

39. ♖xb4 ♖xf3 leads to an in-
teresting endgame with each
side having 3 connected passed
pawns. Both sides' pawns are
at the starting positions, so it
should be drawn.

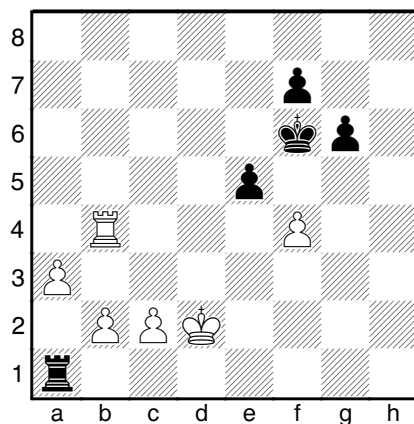
39... ♖g1+ 40. ♔d2 ♖a1
41. ♖xb4



41...e5

My opponent wanted to create his connected passed pawns before taking the a-pawn, but this was too ambitious.

41...♖xa2 42.♞b5 and it's not easy for Black to get his connected passed pawns going; but after the pawn sacrifice: 42...e5! 43.fxe5+ ♔e6 44.c4 g5 45.♕e3 ♞a1 46.b4 ♞b1 the odd placement of White's rook and active Black king and rook should make it an easy draw; e.g. 47.♕d4 ♞d1+ 48.♕e4 ♞e1+ 49.♕d4 ♞d1+=.

42.a3!?

It's odd pushing it only one square, but it sets a nice trap

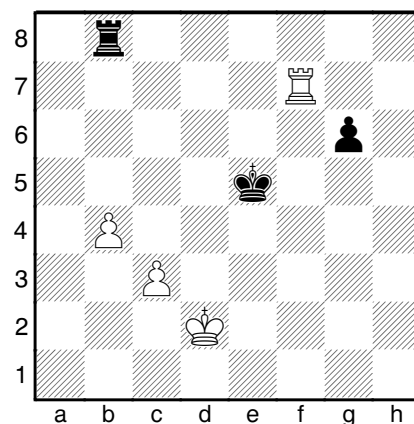
that my opponent didn't see and which forced the exchange of the rooks.

42...exf4?

Possibly the losing move.

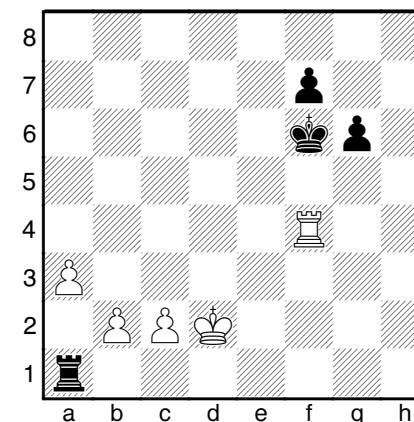
42...♞f1 43.a4 exf4 44.a5 ♞a1 45.♞xf4+ ♔e5 46.♞xf7 ♞xa5 47.b4 ♞b5 48.c3 ♞b8±

Analysis Diagram



Although White is an extra pawn up *and* has the dangerous two connected passed pawns, the active Black king and the fact that the pawns are still not yet far advanced should probably make this endgame drawn; e.g. 49.♕e3 ♞c8 50.♕d3 g5 51.b5 ♞g8 52.♞c7 g4 53.♕e2 ♞f8 54.♞g7 ♔d5 55.♞xg4 ♔c5 56.c4 ♞h8 57.♕d2 ♞h3= and Black has

successfully blocked the pawns: his king ties the White rook passively to the defense of the pawns, while Black's ♞ cuts off the White king.

43.♞xf4+**43...♕e6?+-**

43...♕e5 44.♞xf7+- The king is now active, but being down 2 pawns is fatal. The only counterplay Black has is the g-pawn, but in order to promote it the Black king must support it. By the time Black wins the rook for the pawn, the 3 connected passed pawns (supported by the active White ♕) will be too advanced and the Black king won't be able to come back in time to stop them.

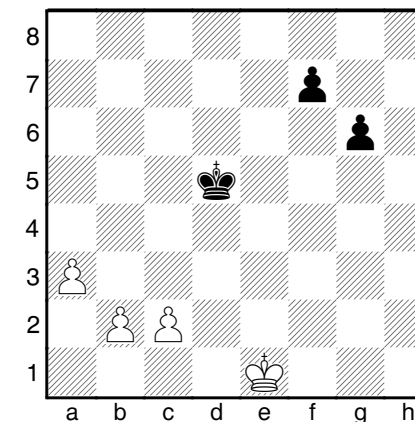
43...♔g7 was probably best, but since Black has wasted so much time bringing the king back, White should be winning as his c-pawn is too fast: 44.c4 g5 45.♞f3 g4 46.♞f4 ♞g1 47.c5 ♕f8 48.c6 ♕e7 49.♞xf7+ ♕xf7 (49...♕d8 50.♞g7+-) 50.c7 ♞g2+ 51.♕d3 ♞g3+ 52.♕d4 and the pawn queens.

44.♞e4+ ♕d5 45.♞e1!

The point of the trap, and Black is now forced to trade the rook!

45...♞xe1

45...♞a2 46.♕c3 and after ♕b3 Black loses the rook.

46.♕xe1

The 3 passed pawns will promote on their own while the White king can block both Black's two connected pawns and put Black in zugzwang.

**46...f5 47.a4 g5 48.a5 f4
49.c4+ ♔c5 50.b4+**

A very important win: it allowed me to face *another* 2500+ GM in the last round... and not have to worry about the result.

For round 9 I was paired against GM Aleksandr Lenderman. It was an interesting KID game which I lost because I didn't execute my attack properly. But GM Lenderman was rated 2593, and so my GM norm was guaranteed because the average rating of my opponents was 2532 (greater than 2520 required for 5½ points).

This was the best tournament I've ever played, being able to score 4½ against 8 GMs, gaining more than 40 ELO points and earning my first GM norm!

1-0

Notes by IM Bindi Cheng

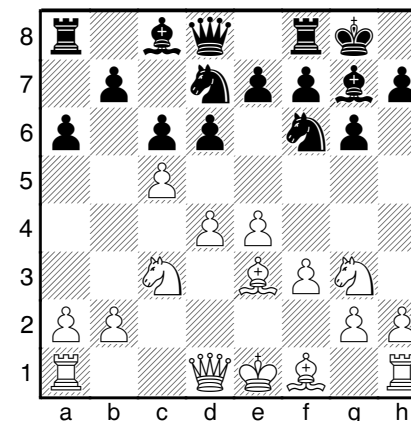
**Cheng, Bindi (2410)
Shulman, Yury (2568)**

E81

2014 World Open Arlington (6),
11.07.2014

Before this game I had drawn 4 GMs in a row and was on a decent pace for my first (or second) GM norm. I realized that I needed to stop drawing these guys and actually win a game to make the norm a possibility and so I prepared quite a deep line in the Samisch that would hopefully notch me my first real win. Unfortunately Shulman did not play into my line, but during preparation I noticed that he seemed to be fairly strong in slow/positional lines but appeared to be not as comfortable in complicated tactical skirmishes, and so I was happy when he played King's Indian rather than a Bogó-Indian or Czech Benoni, both inferior but slower systems.

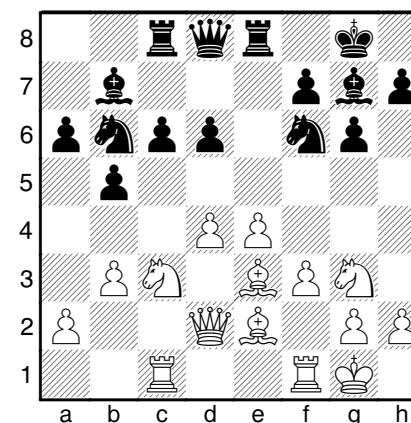
**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7
4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♙e3 c6
7.♘ge2 a6 8.c5 ♘bd7 9.♘g3**



9...b6?

We would get back to the main-line after ...b5, which transposes into the game except Black just gets an extra tempo: 9...b5 10.cxd6 exd6 11.♙d2 ♖e8 12.♖c1 ♘b6 13.b3 ♙b7 14.♙e2 ♖c8 15.0-0 ♙e7 16.a4.

**10.cxd6 exd6 11.♙e2 b5
12.0-0 ♘b6 13.♙d2 ♖e8
14.b3 ♙b7 15.♖ac1 ♖c8**

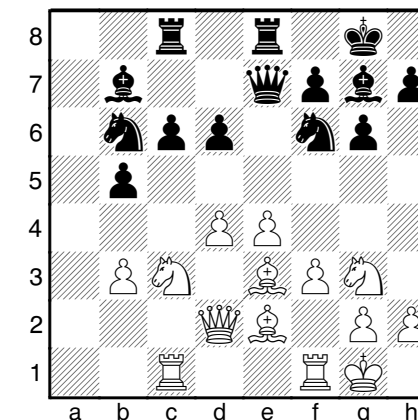


At this point I sank into a deep think since this is a critical point of the game. I had to figure out how to stop ...b4 and ...c5 from coming and preventing Black from gaining space on the queenside and the centre.

16.a4!? ♙e7±

16...b4 17.♘d1 a5 18.♘f2 This was my plan since now ...c5 is almost impossible to play and the queenside is now fixed, thus giving me time to push in the centre and start attacking him.

17.axb5 axb5



18.♙f2?!

I remember seeing some ...♘fd5 ideas here where my ♙e4 is pinned to the ♙e3 and therefore



unable to take on d5, but this was still too passive. Unfortunately, due to my long pauses, I was already low on time here while my opponent was moving very quickly and gaining a big advantage on time. The time control was 40/2 and G/30 with 10s delay and I was already down to about 50 minutes here and so I just played a move.

18.♘d1! ♗fd7 19.♘f2 This was much stronger as now the ...b4 push will not be with tempo and it's again very difficult for Black to push his queenside pawns. 19...♘d5?! 20.♙g5 f6 21.exd5 fxg5 22.dxc6 ♙xc6 23.d5 ♙a8 24.♙xb5± A sample variation showing how ineffective ...♘d5 is when White is prepared for it.

18...♘bd7?!

I wasn't sure what to think about this move, but it seemed like Black was playing without a plan and just hoping White would give him a chance.

18...h5! would give Black equal chances and allow him to finally open up the queenside

and centre to his advantage. White has to be careful not to be worse: 19.♙d3 (19.♖fe1 h4 20.♘f1 h3 21.g3? b4! 22.♘a4 ♗xe4! 23.fxe4 ♙xe4-+) 19...h4 20.♘ge2 h3 21.g3 b4 22.♘d1 c5±.

19.b4!?

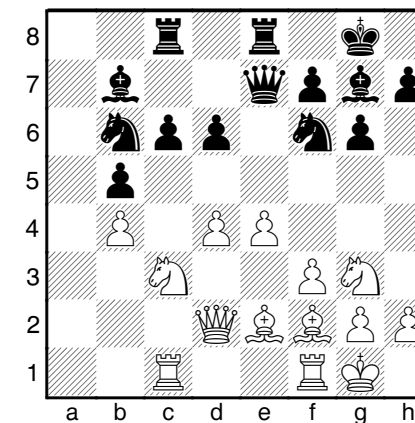
This move may have been a little rash but at this point I just wasn't

sure how to play this position.

19.♖fe1 During the post-mortem my opponent suggested this simple move as a way to consolidate White's position since Black still can't do anything with his pieces: 19...♖a8 20.♘f1 ♖a3 21.b4 ♘b6?! 22.d5! ♘c4 23.♙xc4 bxc4 24.dxc6 ♙xc6 25.♘e3. This would have been a much better version of a varia-

tion in the game.

19...♘b6



Once again I sank into a deep think as I had to figure out whether my proposed line would give me good winning chances or if I should continue on with another complicated variation. I went down to 25 minutes before playing the following move. Note that my opponent had an hour and 30 minutes on his clock at this point

20.f4!?

20.d5 ♘c4 21.♙xc4 bxc4 22.dxc6 ♙xc6 23.b5 ♙b7 24.♙d4 (24.♖fd1 ♖ed8 25.♙b6 ♖d7 26.♙d4 d5 27.e5 ♘e8 28.f4 ♘c7) 24...♖ed8

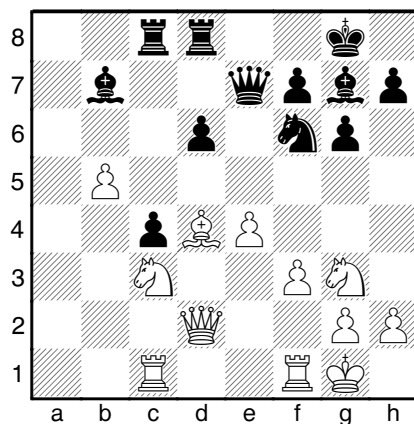


Her Majesty's Purple Pieces

Judge not by the colour of her pieces, but by the quality of her moves.



Analysis Diagram

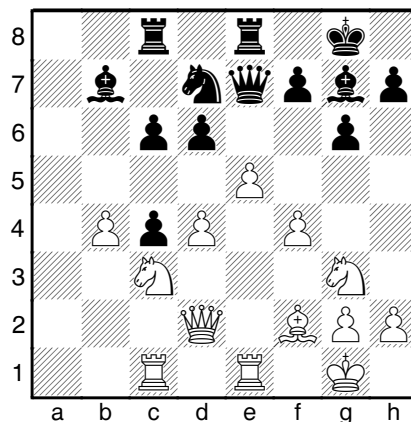


This was as far as I got and I could not figure out how to stop Black from just playing ...d5 at this point. In my mind I thought ...d5 was a very strong threat, but it seems that I could play against it: 25.♖fe1! ♕f8 (25...d5 26.exd5 ♖f8 27.♗ge4 ♗xd5 28.♙xc4 ♖xc4 29.♙e5 26...♗b8) 26.♗a4 d5 27.♖c3 ♗d7 28.exd5 ♙xd5 29.♙xc4 ♖xc4 30.♖c3 ♖d4+ 31.♖xd4 ♖xd4 32.♗c3±) 26.♗a4 d5 27.♖c3 ♗d7 28.exd5 ♙xd5 29.♙xc4 ♖xc4 30.♖c3 ♖d4+ 31.♖xd4 ♖xd4 32.♗c3±) In both these lines, White holds a small advantage due to his strong blockade of c4 and the fact that his b5 pawn is fairly strong but I did not see this idea over the board, and even after using Houdini to find this at home it still seems very difficult to win.

20...♗fd7

20...♗h6! I wasn't sure what to do if he went for this move as it leaves White in some uncomfortable pins.

21.♖fe1 ♗c4 22.♙xc4 ♖xc4 23.e5

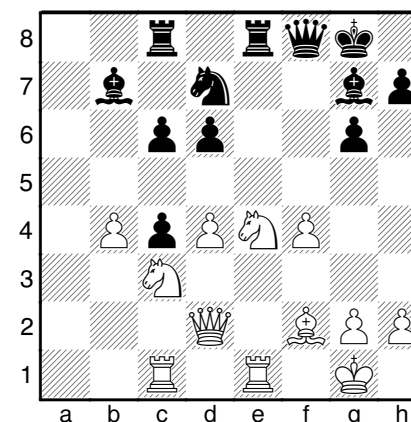


23...f5

23...d5?! 24.f5 Even if Houdini thinks this line is playable, it can't be fun to play this for Black.

This time White has a strong retort if Black tries 23...♗h6: 24.♗ce4! dxe5 25.dxe5 ♗xe5 26.♗d6 ♖cd8 27.♙c5 ♖h4 28.♖e4 f5 29.♖d4±. There's no guarantee I would see all this, but I was definitely going to play 24.♗ce4.

24.exf6 ♖xf6 25.♗ge4 ♖f8



26.d5!

I spent less than 5 minutes on this move; it was played more on intuitive feel rather than pure calculation as it looked to be the only move that would cause problems for my opponent. Reminiscent of my game against Kaidanov last year, he sank into a deep think that saw his time go from 80 to 30 minutes. I knew that there were so many possibilities here but felt that it cannot be a bad idea to give him a ton of options to think over and to catch up on time.

26.♗g5 d5 27.♗e6 ♖f6 28.♗xg7 ♖xg7 This was what I saw originally but luckily I did not play into this position since it doesn't

seem like Black is in any danger of losing as my dark-squared bishop will have trouble finding a way in.

26...♗b8

Not the only move, but one where I may have had a chance to seize a strong advantage.

26...cxd5 27.♗xd5 ♖h8 28.♗ec3 ♖xe1+ 29.♖xe1 ♖e8 30.♖xe8 ♖xe8 31.♙d4± White has a strong blockade and potential kingside attack, with decent winning chances.

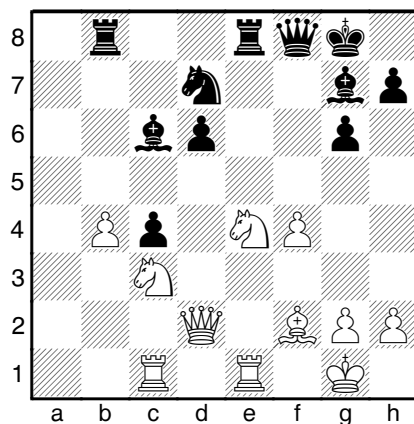
26...c5 27.bxc5 (27.♗b5 c3! 28.♖a2 ♖xe4 29.♖xe4 ♗f6 30.♖c4 ♙xd5 31.♗xc3 ♙xc4 32.♖xc4+ ♖f7 33.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 34.bxc5 dxc5=) 27...♗xc5 28.♗xc5 dxc5 29.d6 ♖xe1+ 30.♖xe1 ♙xc3 31.♖xc3 ♖xd6 32.♖xc4+ ♙d5 33.♖c3∞ In time trouble either side can win, but most likely: draw.

26...♗h6 27.♗g5 ♙xc5 28.fxg5 cxd5∞ This is similar to a possible variation in the game but chances are unclear once again.



26...♙xc3 27.♘xc3 cxd5
28.♘xd5 ♖f7 29.♘c3± White
should be doing well here since
he still has a kingside attack and
weak pawns to attack.

27.dxc6 ♙xc6

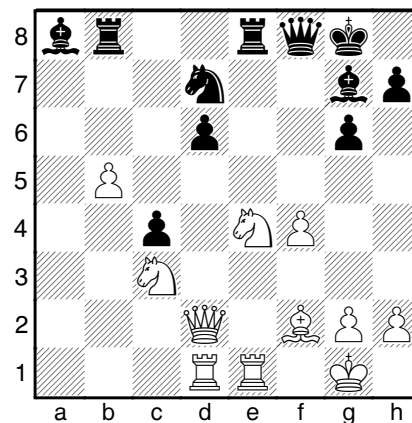


28.♙d4?!

I thought this move gave me
fantastic attacking chances but
unfortunately missed his re-
sponse.

I should have tried: 28.b5!
♙a8 (28...♙xb5 29.♖d5+ ♔h8
30.♘xb5) 29.♖cd1!

Analysis Diagram



With a very complicated posi-
tion:

A) 29...♙xc3! A difficult move
to make, 30.♘xc3 ♘c5 31.♖xe8
♖xe8 32.♙xc5 dxc5 33.h3 With
decent winning chances as his
kingside is weaker than mine
and my b5 pawn is stronger than
his c-pawns.

B) 29...♖e6!? 30.♘xd6 ♙xc3
31.♖xc3 ♖xd6 32.♖xc4+
♙d5 (32...♔h8 33.♖xd6 ♖xd6
34.♙d4+ ♘f6 35.♖e6+-) 33.♖xd5
♖f7 34.♖d4 ♖xc4 35.♖xc4
♖xb5± Decent winning chances.

C) 29...♘c5? 30.♘xd6 ♖xe1+
31.♖xe1 ♖xf4 (31...♘d3 32.♖e6+
♔h8 33.♙a7+-):

C1) 32.♙xc5 ♙e5 33.♖g3
(33.♘de4 ♖xh2+ 34.♔f1 ♖h1+
35.♔f2 ♖h4+=) 33...♖xg3
34.hxg3 ♙xc3± 35.♘xc4 ♖c8
36.♙e3 ♙e4.

C2) 32.♘d5 ♙xd5 33.♖xd5
♘b3 34.♖e6+ ♔h8 35.♘f7+
♔g8 36.♘e5+ ♔h8 37.g3 ♖f6
38.♖xf6 ♙xf6 39.♘d7 ♖b7
40.♘xf6+-.

As you can see, the position is
very complicated and it's hard
to see everything that was going
on. I did not even consider the
obvious 29.♖cd1 and only saw
♙d4 as a possible move due to
time pressure and personal bias.
It's hard to say whether I would
be able to see this continuation
if I had more time as I was only
thinking about mating him during
the game.

28...♙h6!

Funnily enough, I never saw
...♙h6 as a possibility in any of
his previous continuations either.

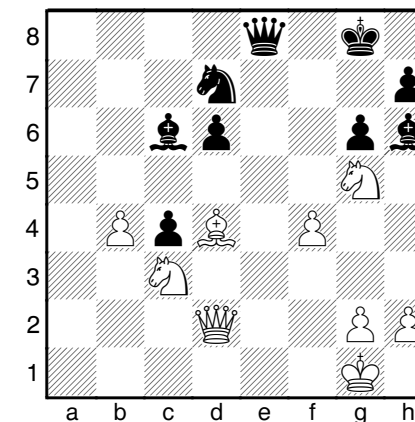
29.♘g5 ♖xe1+

29...♙xg5 30.fxg5 ♘e5 was an

interesting continuation.

29...♖f5 was also possible.

30.♖xe1 ♖e8 31.♖xe8 ♖xe8



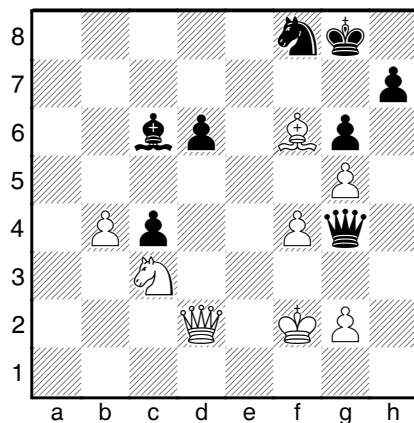
At this point we both had about
10 minutes left on the clock but I
was still going for the win

32.h4 ♘f8 33.♙f6 ♙xg5
34.hxg5 ♖e6

There were still a few tactical
possibilities here, but most of the
complications that could arise
were already gone and so I was
getting ready for an endgame.

35.♔f2 ♖g4



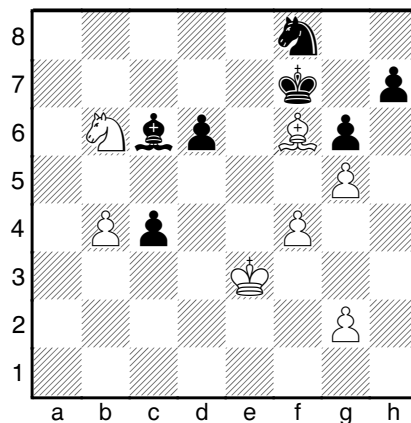


36. ♖d5

36. ♖xd6! ♖xg2+ 37. ♔e3 ♖g1+ 38. ♔d2 ♖f2+ 39. ♔c1 ♖e1+ 40. ♔c2 ♖f2+ 41. ♖d2 My king activity would give me decent winning chances but I was not about to go on a king-run in time trouble

36... ♗f7 37. ♖e3 ♖e6 38. ♖b6 38. ♖a7+ ♘d7 39. ♖e3 ♖e4 40. ♖d4 I saw this continuation, but I wasn't sure if I was better at the time. Looking at it with Houdini it seems like I am slightly better but I'm not sure how tangible the advantage is: 40... ♖xd4 41. ♖xd4 d5 42. ♖d1 ♖f8 43. ♖c3 ♖e6 44. ♖e3

38... ♖xe3+ 39. ♔xe3



39... ♖xg2

39... d5 40. ♖e5 ♖e6 41. g4 ♘d7 42. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 43. ♔d4 This should also be a draw, but my strong king and the possibility of creating two connected passed pawns would make Black's life difficult.

40. ♖xc4 ♖e6 41. ♖g7 ♖d5 42. ♖xf8

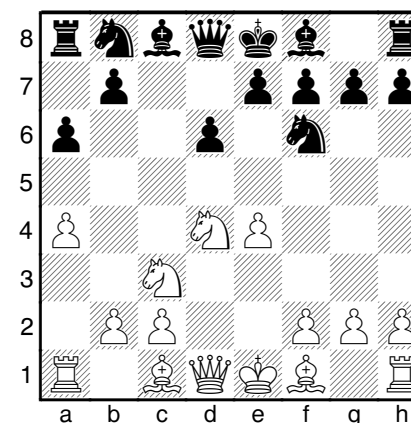
The opposite bishop ending is a easy draw and so I offered him one and he took it immediately. This game basically sums up my overall tournament performance: a hard fought-draw but one where I had a some opportunities to seize an advantage but I seemed to have missed them all.

1/2-1/2

Notes by IM Bindi Cheng Kamsky, Gata (2717) Cheng, Bindi (2410) 2014 World Open Arlington (7), 11.07.2014

Having drawn 5 GMs in a row and feeling rather comfortable facing GMs now, I was hoping to get another 2500-2600 GM to make a draw with and go for a win with White the next day. Unfortunately, there were a number of top level GMs who were doing poorly and Kamsky was one of them. This was an unfortunate pairing for me since Kamsky was out for blood and would never accept a draw from me in this situation.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. a4

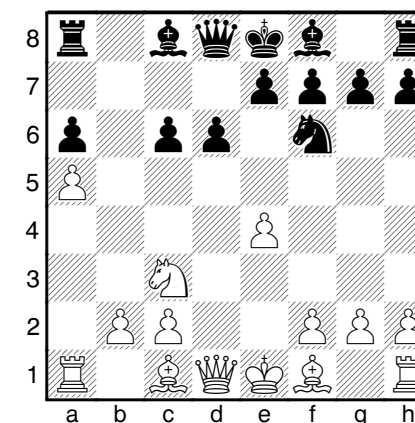


Before the game, a friend of mine had told me that Kamsky might play this variation on me – I brushed him off and said this is highly unlikely since he had beaten up an FM in the first round and was likely to just play some type of London system against me. I will never disregard his advice again.

6... ♖c6

6... g6 7. a5 ♖g7 8. ♖e2 0-0, transposing into a Dragon, may not have been bad either, although I am not as familiar with those types of positions.

7. ♖xc6 bxc6 8. a5



So, here I have no idea what was going on with the posi-

tion and sank into a deep think again. Black has lots of choices:

8...e5 9.♘c4 ♘e7 10.0-0 0-0;

8...g6 9.♘e3 ♘g7; and

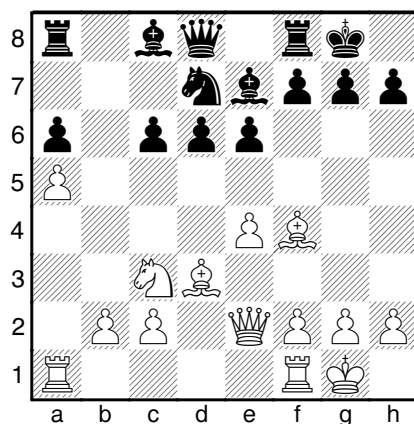
8...d5,

but I decided to keep the pawn structure flexible and see what he had in store for me.

8...e6 9.♘d3 ♘e7 10.0-0 0-0
11.♙e2

A more aggressive player may have chosen 11.f4 with the idea of going for a mating attack at the same time, but he played very restrained instead.

11...♞d7 12.♘f4



I sank into another deep think at this point.

12...♞c5

I had maybe an hour left by the time I made this move while he had more than an hour and a half. I usually don't play this slowly but when I encounter new positions I figure it's more important to understand what's happening and get a good position and have less time rather than move fast, get a bad position and have lots of time left.

12...♞e5 13.♘xe5 dxe5 This was the variation I was thinking of playing originally, but didn't want to give Kamsky a static position to play since I felt he would just outplay me; e.g. 14.♖a4! ♚c7 15.♞d1 With the idea of ♞e3-c4 and a strong bind on the position.

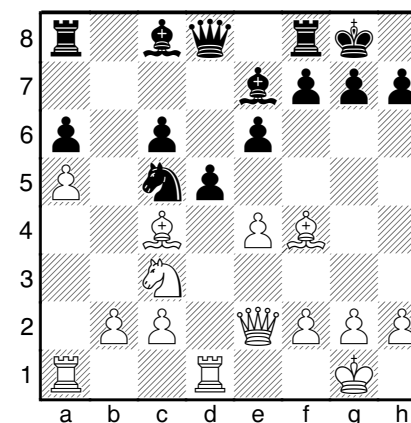
13.♘c4

13.♞a4 ♞xa4 (13...♞xd3 14.♙xd3 ♖b8 15.♞b6 ♘b7 16.♖fd1 e5 17.♘e3±) 14.♖xa4 ♚c7± This was also a strong possibility since if I don't take on a4 he would just come to b6 with his knight. I didn't see ♞a4 during the game and thought ♖fd1 or ♘c4 was forced.

13.♖fd1 e5 14.♘e3 ♞xd3

15.♖xd3 f5 This was my plan at the time and it looks like Houdini approves of this idea as well. I don't think Kamsky would have been happy to give me this type of attacking possibility.

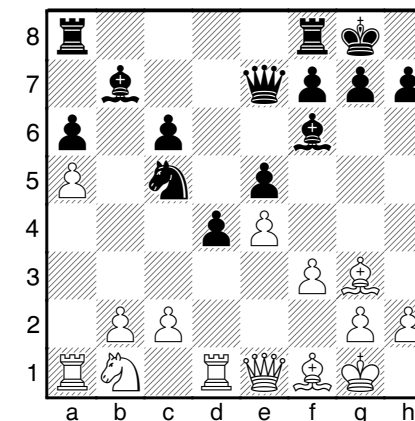
13...d5 14.♖fd1



14...♘b7

14...♞d7 15.exd5 cxd5 16.♞xd5 exd5 17.♘xd5 ♖a7 This looked dangerous at the time but it was not the only possibility, I felt it was better to play somewhat safe against him.

15.♙e1 ♘f6 16.f3 ♚e7 17.♘f1 e5 18.♘g3 d4 19.♞b1



At this point I was happy with how the position turned out as it looked like I gained a lot of space in the centre and could actually initiate action on the centre, but the threat of ♞d2-c4 still lingered on my mind.

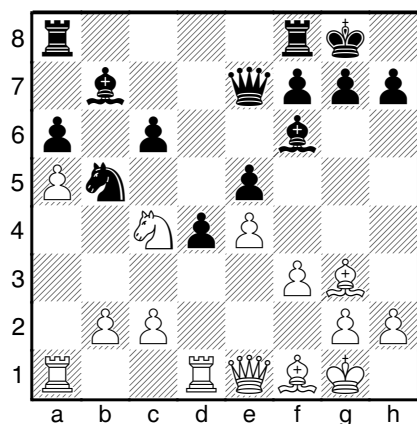
19...♞e6?!

The start of a faulty and passive plan.

19...h5! 20.♞d2 h4 21.♘f2 ♞e6 22.♞c4 ♖ad8 This was the only way to play since now the e5 pawn would not be hanging and I could always chop off the light-squared bishop if he comes to d3, thus relieving pressure off a6. I saw the ...h5 idea during the game but didn't realize how necessary it was until after I looked at the game with an engine.

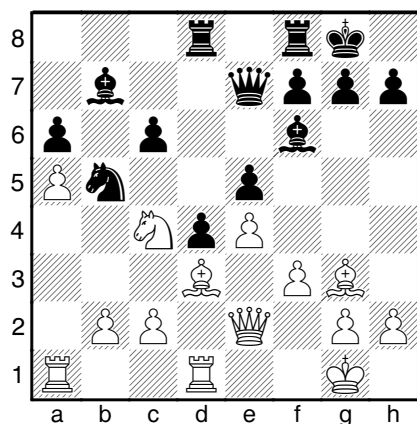


20. ♖a3 ♜c7 21. ♖c4 ♜b5



It looked like I have it all figured out since the ♜b5 blocks the weakness on a6; but by playing such passive and defensive moves I'm left with no active plan and give White all the time necessary to start a kingside expansion.

22. ♙d3 ♜ad8 23. ♚e2

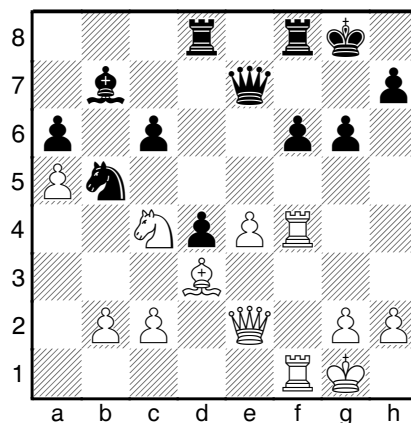


And now I finally saw the problem with my plan: I can't make any moves at all since now the ♜b5 cannot be moved as the pawn on a6 would hang. Even though I'm only slightly worse, this is a very difficult position to play since I can do nothing but wait.

23... ♘g6

23... ♜c7 24. ♜f1 c5 25. f4 exf4 26. ♙xf4 ♜e6 27. ♙c1 g6 I probably should have played like this but I was worried about the weakness of a6 and the potential weakness of d5.

24. f4 exf4 25. ♙xf4 ♙g5
26. ♜f1 ♙xf4 27. ♜xf4 f6
28. ♜af1

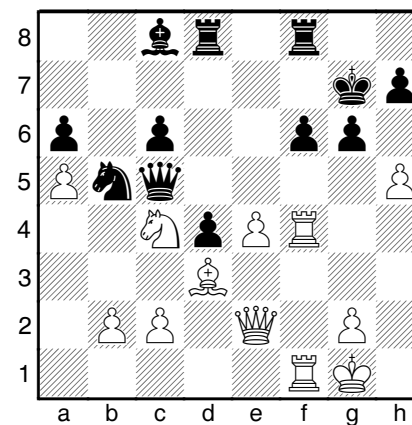


Even though I exchanged off one of White's bishops I still have nothing to do. Realizing that I will eventually just lose to a kingside attack, I tried some dubious moves in the hope of getting him to make a mistake.

28... ♚g7 29. h4

29. e5 f5 30. g4 fxg4 31. ♜f6 This is also really strong, but there's no need to complicate the position since Black still has no counterplay.

29... ♙c8 30. h5 ♚c5!?

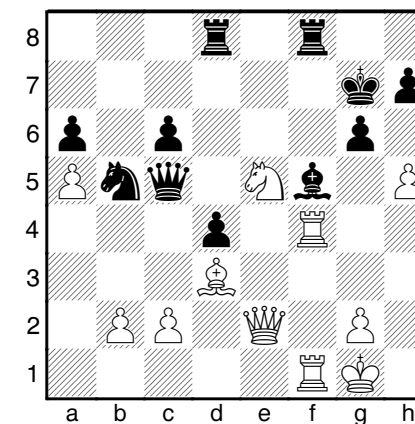


Even though this move is technically losing, at least it forces White to play precisely.

31. e5! fxe5 32. ♜xe5

32. h6+ ♚xh6 (32... ♚g8 33. ♚xe5 ♚xe5 34. ♜xe5+- *this is pretty hopeless as well.*) 33. ♜h4+ ♚g7 34. ♜xh7+ ♚xh7 35. ♚h5+ ♚g8 36. ♚xg6+ and mate.

32... ♙f5



Having about a minute left on the clock and Kamsky still having over an hour left, I was just praying for a miracle.

33. h6+

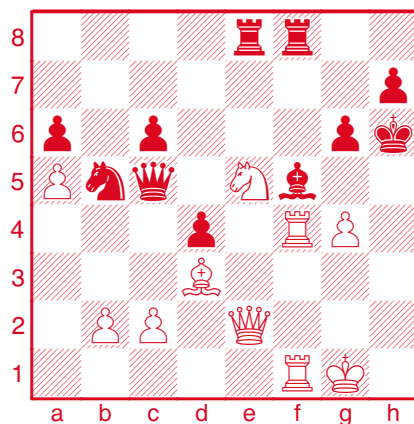
33. ♙xf5 d3+ 34. ♚f2 ♚xf2+ 35. ♜1xf2 d2± I was hoping for something like this since now I can at least try to draw an ending.

33... ♚xh6 34. g4?



This was the cleaner finish but his move doesn't change the result 34.♖xf5 ♖xf5 35.♖xf5 gxf5 36.♔d2+ ♔g7 37.♔g5+ ♔f8 38.♔xd8+-.

34...♖de8!



Kamsky now tanked for half an hour while a large crowd gathered around the board. I was frantically calculating all the possibilities and it looked like I might just survive...

35.♖xf5 ♖+-

Unfortunately, this is still winning.

35.gxf5 ♖xe5 36.♔h2+ ♔g7 37.f6+ ♔g8 38.♖g4 ♖h5 I seemed to have survived here.

35.g5+?? ♔g7 I would be actually winning here.

35.♔h2+ ♔g7 36.♖xf5 gxf5 37.♖xf5 d3+ 38.♔h1 h6! and I survive once again.

35...♖xf5?!

I had about 30 seconds here and made the most logical move: trade pieces while up material. It loses quickly, but the alternative loses slowly.

35...gxf5 36.♔d2+ ♔g7 37.♔g5+ ♔h8 38.♖xf5 ♖xe5 39.♖xe5 ♔d6 I should not survive for long since I'm worse in any endgame and I'm getting mated in most middlegames 40.♔h4 h6 41.g5! ♖g8 42.♔h1 ♖c7 43.g6 ♔g7 44.♔e7+ ♔xe7 45.♖xe7+ ♔f6 46.♖xc7+-.

36.♖xf5 gxf5 37.♔d2+ ♔g7 38.♔g5+

And here I threw in the towel.

I thought I put up a good positional fight for the first 20 or so moves but then I embarked on a plan that was too passive and got outplayed rather easily. Ka-

msky showed his class here and made the game look easy but this win was not showcased by any flashy tactics but by a smart and steady plan (fix the a6-pawn, relocate pieces to good squares after stabilizing the centre, start a kingside attack, checkmate the opponent). He also showed strong self-control by not indulging in any complications — even ones that looked favorable to him — but rather by following a simple strategic plan that requires little or no calculation. Overall, I was impressed with how he approached this game with me.

Unfortunately this loss also destroyed my norm chances as now I had to go 2/2 in the last day against a 2300 and probably another GM to secure it. Needless to say, I was unsuccessful. But I was still happy with the many draws I achieved against GMs as I was never more than a little worse against any of them and even made a few of them sweat.

1-0

Photos

Richard De Credico,
Shurlock Ventriloquist
Daaim Shabazz

Links

Photos by Daaim Shabazz:
<http://www.thechessdrum.net/blog/2014/07/05/2014-world-open-arlington-usa/>

standings

<http://chesstournamentservices.com/ccatag/world-open-2014-standings/>



Strategy
GAMES AND ACCESSORIES

Want some *purple* pieces...?



Harbourfront Chessfest



by John Upper

June 14-15: event featured jumbo sets for the kids, tents with sets for anyone who wanted to sit and play, as well as the Toronto Blitz Championship, a simul vs Canadian Champion GM Bator Sambuev, and a blindfold exhibition with Hans Jung!

50 players competed in the **Toronto Blitz Championship**, including one GM, six IMs (Bindi Cheng, Artoim Samsonkin, Peter Vavrak, Leonid Gerzhoy, Shiyam Thavandiran, and Tomas Krnan) and two WIMs: Olympiad Team members **Natalia Khoudgarian** and **Nava Starr**. Appropriately for a one-day event featuring four members of the 2014 Canadian

Olympiad teams, a portion of the entry fees went to the CFC Olympiad fund.

GM Bator Sambuev, IM Bindi Cheng, and FM Roman Sapozhnikov tied for 1st with 11/14.

Chess Canada has this photo report.

Toronto Rapid (center below)

The day before Chessfest, **Vlad Dobrich's** Toronto Rapid Championship had 38 players competing at Strategy Games. GM **Bator Sambuev** won ahead of six IMs and a fistful of FMs; WIM **Nava Starr** was top woman. The event raised \$500 for the Men's and \$100 for the Women's Olympiad Teams.



Chess Canada

June 2014





Head Table
L2R:
IM Bindi Cheng
FM Victor Plotkin
GM Bator Sambuev
FM Michael Kleinman
FM Roman Sapozhnikov.

R2L:
WIM Natalia Khoudgarian
FM Michael Barron
Mark Plotkin.



Top Boards
IM Artoim Samsonkin vs FM Roman Sapozhnikov
IM Tomas Krnan vs IM Leonid Gerzhoy.



That's not a blindfold! FM **Hans Jung**, Canada's foremost blindfold chess master, gave a five board demonstration. (+4 =0 -1; losing to Adrian Chin)

Against Eric Malmsten, Hans knows that some moves are better not seen and not heard.

Waiting for the pairings R2L: Egis Zeromskis. Victor Plotkin, Mike Ivanov, Razvan Preotu, Roman Sapozhnikov.



Blitz Results

<http://www.chess-results.com/tnr137935.aspx?lan=1&art=4&wi=821>

PreEvent Promo

<http://www.toronto4kids.com/June-2014/Harbourfront-Centres-First-Annual-Chess-Fest/>

EZ Photos

https://picasaweb.google.com/114317299176089768805/20140615TorontoChessFest?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCNmrx9Gq__342AE&feat=directlink

Videos**Krnan**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bO2W_eBy5X4&feature=youtu.be

Nava Starr – Yuri Aronov

(15 sec)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vpZ0i4cLt4&feature=youtu.be

Photos

Egis Zeromskis
John Upper

Clockwise from top left:

Bator looks at Razvan.

Liza Orlova looks regal.

*Organizer **Ted Winick** looks up.*

Court Jester looks foolish.

WIM Nava Starr & husband Sasha look forward to Olympiad.



Chess Canada June 2014





The **BC Senior Chess Championship** is an opportunity for us to celebrate and honour our seniors and to recognize them for their many years of contribution to the BC chess community. Our seniors help our junior players by simply playing and imparting some of their chess wisdom and experience to them. This tournament was our way of thanking our seniors — by organizing a great event totally dedicated to them.

Many of the players remarked that they have been absent from tournament chess for a number of years. Even though some felt rusty in their play, they nonetheless thoroughly enjoyed the BC Senior event.

60+ and 50+

This year's BC Senior Chess Championship attracted 30 players, which more than doubled last year's attendance of 14 players. Last year was the first ever BC Senior Chess Championship and had an age restriction of 60 years old or better. This year, we followed FIDE's World Senior Chess Championship and lowered our age requirement to 50 years old or better, which may account for the huge increase of this year's player participation.

Early Round Upsets

The first round of the BC Senior Championship produced upsets for two of the top six seeds. Then starting in round 2, the top two rat-

ed players, National Masters Brian McLaren and Roger Patterson, ran into some trouble — and that trouble was named Paul Leblanc. Paul drew Brian in round 2 and then followed up with another draw, this time with Roger. In the meantime, this allowed three players to achieve perfect scores of 3/3: Jose Kagaoan, Joe Soliven, and Enayatollah Ganjian. Enayatollah beat top seed Brian McLaren in round 3, essentially removing all chances for Brian to win the Championship. This set up the fourth round game between Jose and Enayatollah. Jose won, which set up the final round meeting with the only other player with 4 points: Joe Soliven. That game ended with a draw, and

a computer tiebreak was necessary to determine the winner...

Congratulations to **Jose Kagaoan**, **2014 BC Senior Chess Champion**, and Joe Soliven who won 2nd place overall. Jose Kagaoan and Joe Soliven both scored 4½/5 and both received trophies and \$100 each.

In the **U1800**, after his 2nd and 3rd round draws against the top 2 seeds, **Paul Leblanc** scored consecutive wins in his final two rounds and ended up with an undefeated score of 4/5. Closely behind, **Robert L. Barron** — a frequent competitor at the Langley Chess Club weekly Swiss tournaments — scored 3½/5 with a performance rating of 1956 to secure the **U1600** prize.



Games

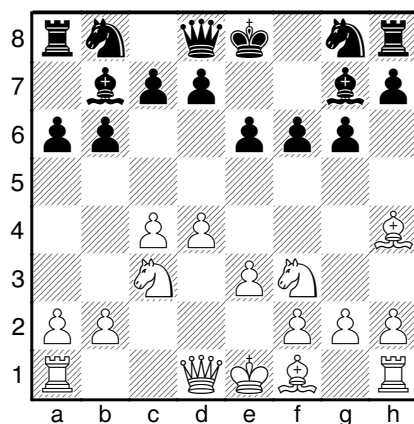
Chess Canada is pleased to feature games annotated by John Doknjas, Paul Leblanc, and tournament winner Jose Kagaoan.

Jose Kagaoan recently returned to tournament chess this year after an absence of 16 years. When he accepted his championship award, he expressed that he hopes to play more tournaments in the coming year.

Notes by Jose Kagaoan

Richardson, Ross (1923)
Kagaoan, Jose (2085)
BC Senior (3), 21.06.2014

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.♘c3 g6
 4.♗f3 ♘b7 5.♙g5 f6 6.♙h4 a6
 7.e3 ♙g7



Black has opted to play the Hippo defense which is characterized by the Bishop fianchetto at b7 and g7 and a barricade-like structure of Black's pawns on its third rank. Black temporarily concedes the center and space advantage to White but with the objective of a timely strike in the center to negate White's advantage.

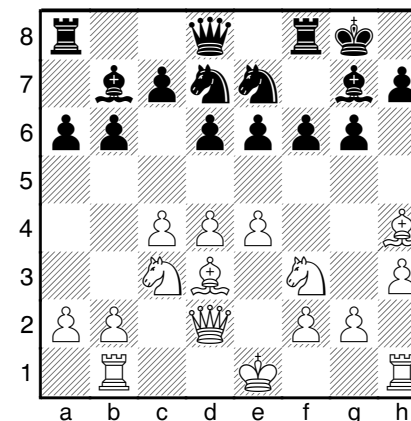
8.♙d3 ♗e7 9.e4?!

White moves his pawn to e4 to prevent Black's Knight from hopping over to f5 and attacking White's Bishop at h4 but it would have been better for White to continue with his development; i.e., move his Queen to d2 or e2 then castle his King on either side of the board.

9...d6 10.h3

White prepares an escape route for his Bishop at h4 but it would again have been better for him to develop his Queen then castle his King to safety.

10...♗d7 11.♙d2 0-0 12.♖b1?!



White prepares for a pawn thrust on the Queenside supported by the Rook on b1, a strategy often played out by White in other openings such as against the King's Indian Defense. However, he should have castled his King to safety and pursued an attack on Black's Kingside by placing his Queen's Rook (after castling) on g1 to support a g4 and h4 pawn storm.

12...♙e8!

Black positions his strongest piece on the same file as White's uncastled King and moves out of a possible pin on Black's Knight at e7 from White's Bishop at h4 and allow the advance of Black's f-pawn to f5.

13.b4?

White should really have castled his King to safety to avoid Black's impending counter.

13...e5!

Black now launches a pawn thrust against White's center made more vulnerable by White's uncastled king.

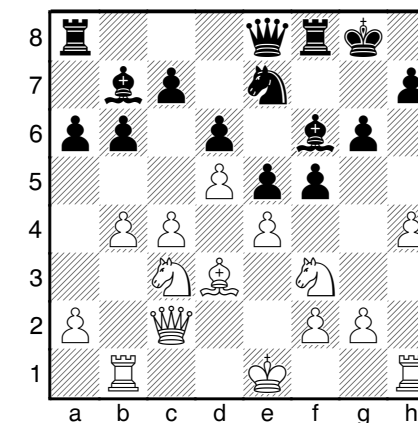
14.d5 f5

The start of Black's challenge to White's center.

15.♙c2

editor – 15.♗g5!?

15...♗f6 16.♙xf6 ♙xf6 17.h4?



White underestimates Black's

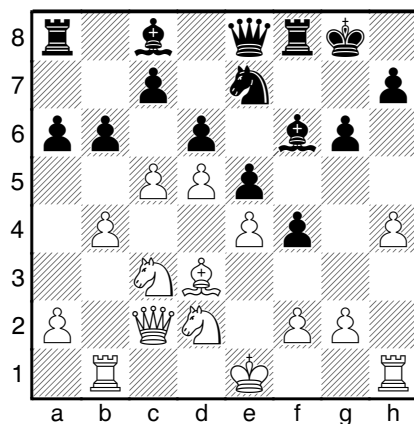


challenge and proceeds to launch his own Kingside attack.

17...♘c8

Black re-purposes the role of his fianchettoed Queen Bishop to the c8-h3 diagonal which White weakened by moving his h-pawn to the fourth rank.

18.♘d2 f4 19.c5



White continues with his Queenside pawn roller oblivious to the dangers lurking on its uncastled King.

19...♘f5!!

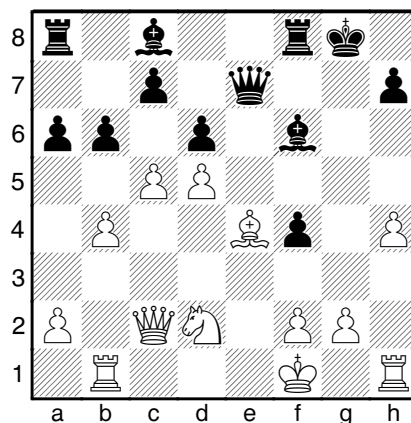
Black opens up the e-file with a Knight sacrifice that White has to accept to prevent it from

hopping to the d4 square where the Knight can further support Black's Kingside attack.

20.exf5 e4!

The pawn sac opens up the a1 to h8 to Black's powerful Bishop at f6 and White's King will now be under direct attack from Black's Queen at e8.

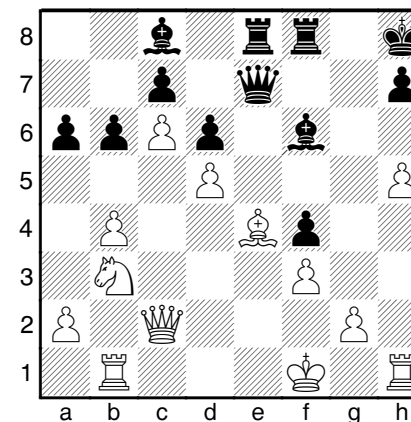
21.♘cxe4 gxf5 22.♔f1 fxe4
23.♙xe4 ♕e7



Black is a pawn down but has the advantage of the Bishop pair and more dynamically positioned pieces compared to White. By moving the Queen to e7, Black intends to place the Queen to g7 in support of the Bishop at f6 to control the a1-h8 diagonal

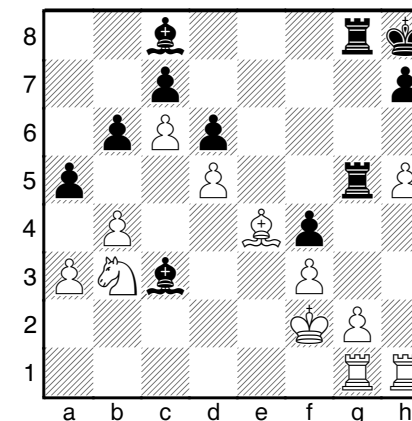
as well launch a direct attack on White's g2 pawn in tandem with a Black Rook at g8.

24.c6 ♘g4 25.h5 ♖ae8 26.f3
♙c8 27.♘b3 ♔h8



Making way for the Black Rook to move to g8 with White's pawn at g2 as target.

28.♕d3 ♜g8 29.♞d1 ♔g7
30.♕c2 ♜e5 31.♞e1 ♔g3
32.♕f2 ♜xf2+ 33.♔xf2 ♜eg5
34.♞eg1 ♙c3 35.a3 a5



White's Queenside pawns come under attack after White's Queen Rook had to be diverted to g1 to defend the g2 pawn.



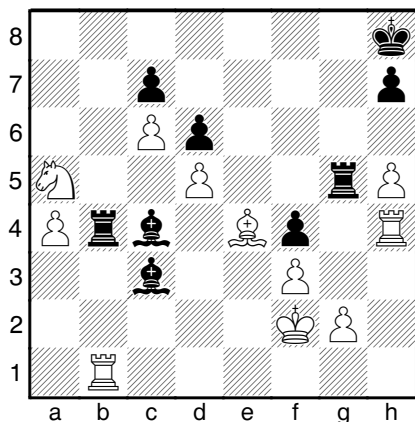
Richardson - Kagaon





Chess Canada June 2014

36.bxa5 bxa5 37.a4 ♖a6
38.♖h2 ♖b8 39.♖b1 ♖b4
40.♖h4 ♖c4 41.♘xa5?



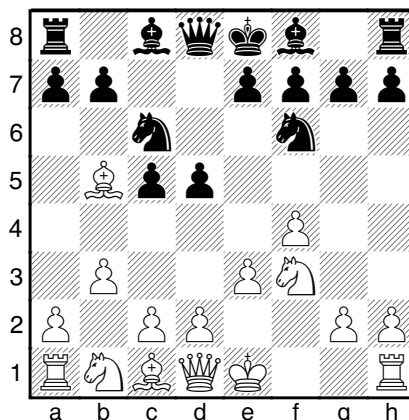
Better for White was 41. ♖c2 to avoid the loss of the Knight but after 41. ...♖xa4, Black is clearly winning.

41...♖xb1 42.♖xb1 ♖xa5
43.♖xf4 ♖xd5 44.♖e4 ♖xe4
45.♖xe4 ♖xh5 46.♖c4 ♖g7
47.g4 ♖b6+ 48.♖g3 ♖c5
49.♖xc5 ♖xc5 50.a5 ♖f6
51.♖f4 h6 52.♖e4 ♖e6
53.f4 d5+ 54.♖d3 ♖d6
55.f5 ♖xc6

0-1

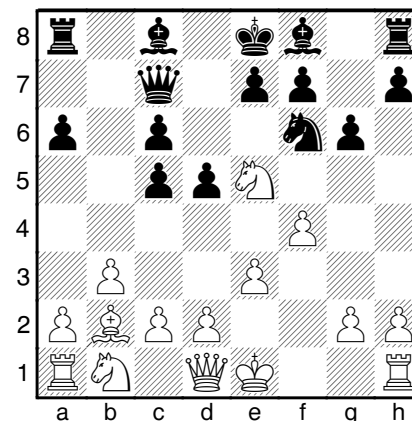
Notes by John Doknjas
Kagaoan, Jose (2085)
Ganjan, Enuyat (1879)
A03
BC Senior (4), 22.06.2014

1.f4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.e3 c5
4.b3 ♘c6 5.♖b5



A good move, planning to eliminate the ♘c6 so that White can completely control e5. Control of this square gives White excellent attacking chances on the King-side.

5...a6 6.♖xc6+ bxc6 7.♘e5
♖c7 8.♖b2 g6



9.♘c3
This move is not the best, since it gets in the way of the Bishop. In the game White moves his Knight to a4; but it should go to the Kingside so that White can increase his attacking chances.

9.d3 ♖g7
10.♘d2 0-0

Thank You Cards
At the start of Round 4, each player found a "Thank You" card from the Organizers individually addressed to them, along with the group photo taken before the first round plus a BC Provincial pin at their boards. The Organizers and Chief Arbiter were giving a group photo signed by all the players (below).





Chess Canada June 2014

11. ♖df3 Increasing White's control over e5.

9... ♖g7 10. ♘a4 ♘d7 11. 0-0 ♗xe5 12. fxe5

♠12. ♖xe5 This move forces Black to exchange his g7 Bishop.

12... ♖xe5

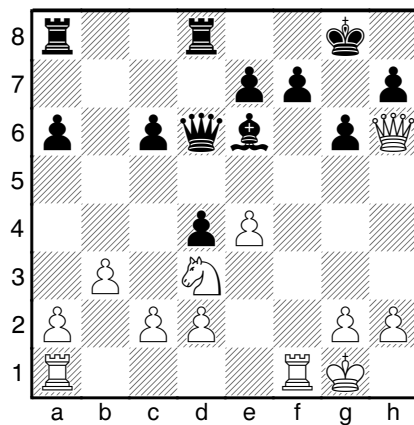
Now this is unclear. ♠12... c4.

13. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 14. ♘xc5 0-0 15. ♖f3 d4

15... ♖b2 16. ♖fc1 ♖f5.

16. ♘d3 ♖d6 17. e4 ♖e6

18. ♖f4 ♖fd8 19. ♖h6

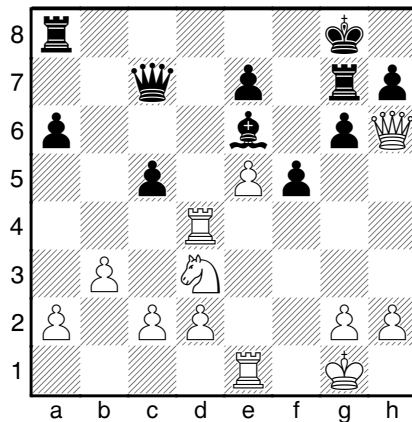


19... f5?

Now White has a winning advantage.

19... ♖h8 20. ♖f4 ♖g8 21. ♖h4 ♖g7 Although Black is passive, he is surviving.

20. ♖f4 ♖f8 21. ♖h4 ♖f7 22. e5 ♖c7 23. ♖e1 ♖g7 24. ♖xd4 c5



25. ♘f4 ♖f7 26. ♖d3 c4 27. ♖g3 cxb3

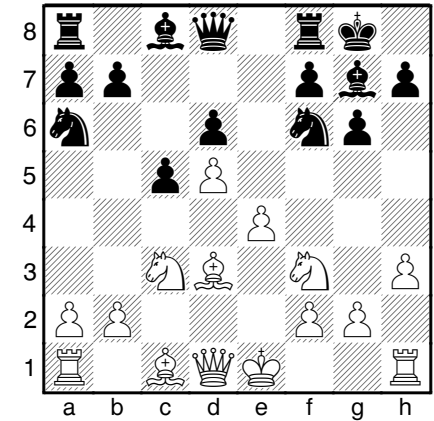
♠27... ♖h8 28. e6 ♖e8.

28. ♘h5!

With the win, Jose Kagaoan also won a berth into the final championship round with Joe Soliven, as both had perfect 4/4 scores.

1-0

Paul Leblanc was top U1800, winning a trophy and \$80. Paul is the CFC Ratings Auditor and plays frequently in tournaments in BC, WA, and throughout the rest of Canada and the United States. Paul is also one of the most active chess organizers in BC (Grand Pacific Open, Keres Memorial, BC Open, and BC Senior Championship).



Notes by Paul Leblanc

Leblanc, Paul (1768)

Burke, Paul (2048)

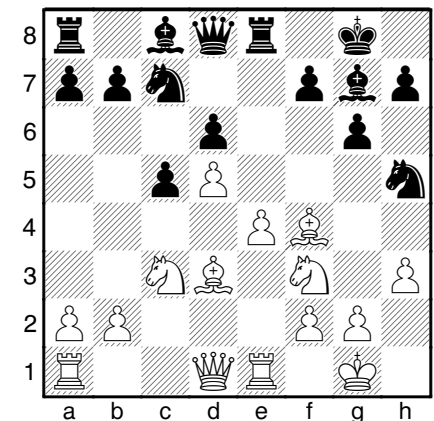
BC Senior (4), 22.06.2014

Paul Burke had not been active in BC chess for the previous five years but made an exception for the 2014 BC Senior Championship. It was just too good an opportunity to see chess friends and play in a tournament not overpopulated with under-rated juniors. Paul has always been a strong player and I expected a tough game.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. ♘c3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. ♖d3 ♖g7 8. h3 0-0 9. ♘f3 ♘a6

Less popular than 9...b5, a move that has been played against me recently by a couple of opponents including John Doknjas. I believe 9...b5 which offers the b-pawn in exchange for White's e-pawn is more of a challenge for White.

10. 0-0 ♘c7 11. ♖f4 ♖e8 12. ♖e1 ♘h5



The first non-book move. Two moves later the Knight gets driven back to f6, a loss of two tempi.

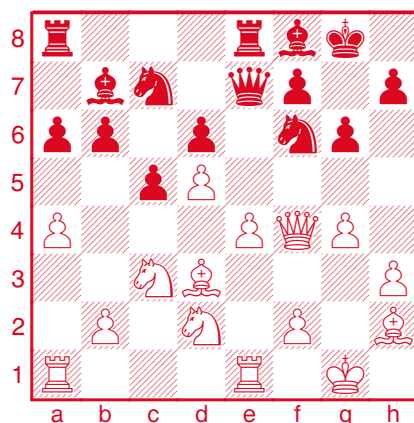
13. ♖h2 a6 14. a4 b6 15. ♔d2

Getting the Queen off the back rank and considering getting her to f4 hitting the Black d-pawn.

15... ♖b7 16. g4 ♗f6 17. ♖f4 ♖f8 18. ♗d2

Intending to re-position to c4 with more pressure on the Black d-pawn.

18... ♔e7

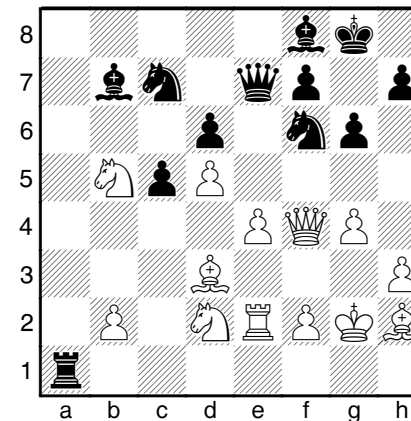


What happens after 19. ♗c4 ♗cxd5?

19. ♗e2

Here I started worrying that 19. ♗c4 would be met by a flurry of exchanges: 19... ♗cxd5 20. exd5 (editor – 20. ♗xd5 ♗xd5 21. exd5 ♔xe1+ 22. ♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 23. ♖f1+.) 20... ♔xe1+ 21. ♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 22. ♖f1 (or maybe 22. ♖g2) 22... ♗xd5 23. ♗xd5 ♖xd5 and I reached the limit of my ability to calculate in a position where material appeared to be equal. Had I been able to see 24. ♗xb6+ I would have gone ahead. Instead, I made a precautionary move and failed to capitalize immediately.

19... b5 20. axb5 axb5 21. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 22. ♗xb5 ♖a1+ 23. ♖g2



At first glance it looks like White is losing a piece, but I had forseen the save at move 25.

23... ♖a6 24. ♗xc7 ♖xd3 25. ♖e3 ♖c4 26. e5 ♗xg4 27. hxg4 ♔xc7 28. exd6 ♔d7 29. ♗e4 ♖xe4+ 30. ♖xe4

30... ♖a6

In time trouble, Black misses the complicating move 30... ♔b5 but White would still stand better with an extra pawn and a vulnerable Black King.

31. ♖f6 ♔b5

31... ♖xd6 32. ♖e5 ♖xe5 33. ♖xa6 ♔xd5 34. ♖xc4+.

32. ♖e5

1-0



Leblanc - Burke



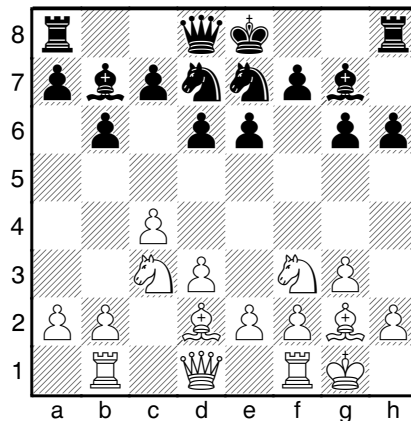
Robert L. Barron



Notes by John Doknjas
Soliven, Joe (1936)
Kagaoan, Jose (2085)
BC Senior (5), 22.06.2014

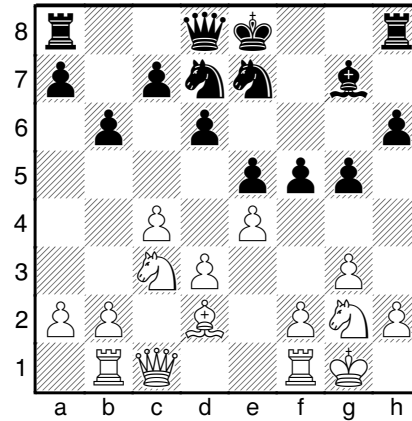
This was the final round game between the only players with 4/4. Since the next closest players had 3, we knew that *this game* would decide who would be crowned the 2014 BC Senior Champion.

1.♘f3 b6 2.g3 g6 3.♙g2 ♙b7
 4.0-0 ♙g7 5.c4 d6 6.♘c3 e6
 7.♖b1 ♘e7 8.d3 h6 9.♙d2
 ♘d7



Black's setup is known as the Hippo and is good for possibly surprising your opponent.

10.♙c1 g5 11.♘e1 ♙xg2
 12.♘xg2 e5 13.e4 f5



14.b4

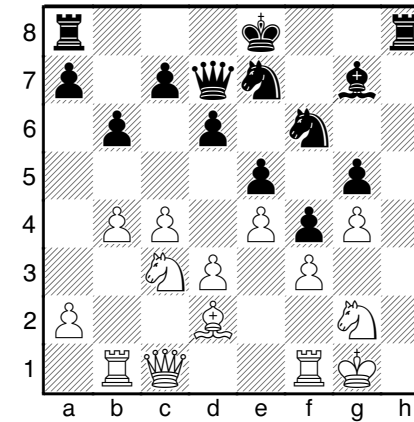
14.♘e3 f4 15.♘ed5 c6 16.♘xe7
 ♙xe7 In the game, White's Knight ended up out of play on g2, so at least here he was able to trade it off.

14...f4 15.g4?!

This allows Black to open the h-file by pushing his pawn to h5.

15.♙d1 was stronger, as it prevents ideas with pushing the f4 pawn to f3. Also, the Queen could use the d1-h5 diagonal to White's advantage if Black is not careful.

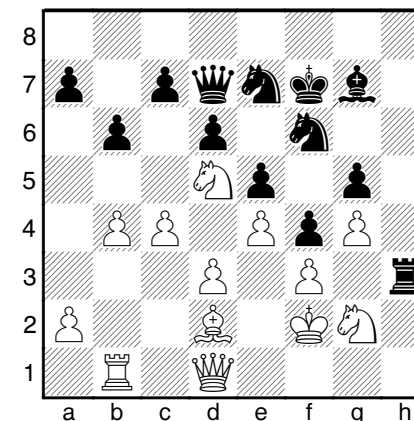
15...♘f6 16.f3 h5 17.h3 hxg4
 18.hxg4 ♙d7



19.♙d1

19.♙c2 was slightly better than ♙d1 because it connects the Rooks. After White plays ♖f2 and ♖h1, Black will take on h1 and White can take back with his b1-Rook.

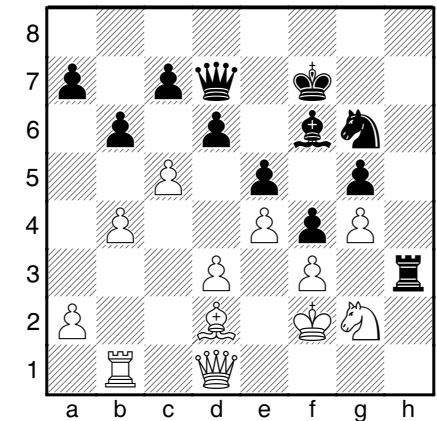
19...♖h3 20.♖f2 ♖f7 21.♖h1
 ♖ah8 22.♖xh3 ♖xh3 23.♘d5



23...♘g6

23...♘fxd5 Since it is very difficult for Black to break through on the Kingside, opening a second front on the Queenside would be a good idea. 24.cxd5 c6 25.dxc6 ♘xc6 26.♙c3 b5.

24.♘xf6 ♙xf6 25.c5?!



This is the correct idea, attacking on the Queenside in order to distract Black from the Kingside. However, this gives away a pawn and does not really give White good counterplay. After taking on c5, Black's Queen can even come to d4.

25...dxc5 26.♙b3+ ♖g7
 27.♙c4 cxb4?!

27...♙d4+ This was simpler.

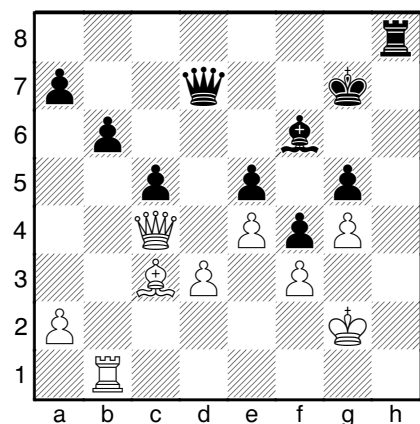


28. ♔xd4 exd4 Black is up a healthy pawn and his Knight can jump to the nice outpost on e5.

28. ♖xb4 c5

28... ♔d4+ Again, this move was strong.

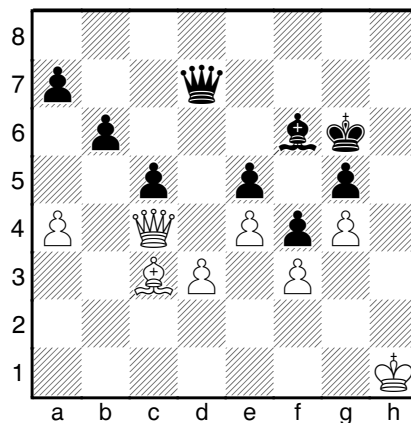
29. ♖c3 ♘h4 30. ♘xh4 ♖xh4
31. ♔g2 ♖h8



32. a4!

A strong move, fixing Black's Queenside pawn majority for now. Also, this gives White the option of playing a5 sometime.

32... ♔g6 33. ♖h1 ♖xh1
34. ♔xh1

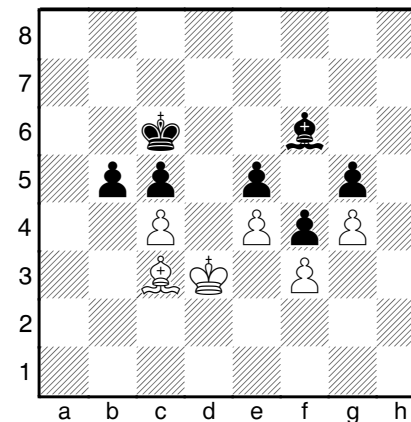


34... ♔f7

Since after 34... ♔f7 and 35... ♖xc4 White can hold a draw, retaining Queens may have been better.

Moving the King to help on the Queenside is an interesting idea: 34... ♔g7 35. ♔g2 ♔f8 36. ♔g1 (editor - 36. ♔f2 ♔e7 37. ♔e2 ♔d6 38. ♖d5+.) 36... ♔e7 37. ♔g2 ♔d6 38. ♔g1 ♔c6 39. ♔g2 ♔b7 40. ♔g1 a6 Although White will probably still draw, Black can try to push ...b5 here and get some winning chances.

35. ♔g1 ♖xc4 36. dxc4 ♔f7
37. a5 ♔e6 38. axb6 axb6
39. ♔f2 ♔d7 40. ♔e2 ♔c6
41. ♔d3 b5



So long as neither player captures there is no way for either ♔ to penetrate, and if ...b4 White blocks with ♔b3 and oscillates with the ♖.

42. ♖b2 ♔b6 43. ♔c3 ♖d8
44. ♔b3 ♖c7 45. ♖c3 ♖d6
46. ♖b2

1/2-1/2



Kagaon and Soliven

Sponsors

We were able to obtain a nice venue at the Comfort Inn & Suites Surrey Hotel in Surrey, BC, which offered good lighting, good air flow, and ample room. There was a skittles room nearby and we were just steps away from a Tim Horton's and pub for after-game fun. The hotel offered free parking, affordable hotel rates, and free breakfast and Wifi. Sponsorship was key for this tournament. It is only because of these generous sponsors we were able to put on this championship event at an excellent playing venue, with beautiful trophies and prizes, delicious snacks and coffee, and quality equipment. So thank you sponsors for making a good event, a GREAT event:

Philip Harris
Roger Patterson
Paul Leblanc
Richard Lapenna
Doug Sly
Paul Burke
BC Chess Federation
Comfort Inn & Suites Surrey
Hotel

Victoria Jung-Doknjas



Thanks to

Co-Organizers: Victoria Jung-Doknjas and Paul Leblanc

Arbiters: Joe Roback (Chief Arbiter) and Victoria Jung-Doknjas

Special Thanks to

Brian Sullivan
Edward Enns
Neil Doknjas

Links

Final Standings

<http://wordpress.cvining.com/bc-senior-2014/standings-2014-bc-senior-chess-championship/>

reserves

http://chess.ca/crosstable?tournament_check_number=201407002&key=312f1ba2a72318edaaa995a67835fad5

Photos

<http://wordpress.cvining.com/bc-senior-2014/photos-2014-bc-senior-chess-championship/>

BC Chess Federation

<http://www.chess.bc.ca/>

Victoria Chess Club

<http://www.victoriachessclub.pbworks.com>

Comfort Inn & Suites Surrey Hotel

<http://www.comfortinnsurrey.com>

Brian Sullivan has dedicated his life and career to saving lives and helping others.

Many of us have witnessed time and again his generosity, kindness, and willingness to help others in need. Through this, he has encouraged others around him to want to be better people. As such, the Organizing Committee recognized Brian Sullivan for his contribution to the BC Chess Community and for being the 2014 BC Senior Championship's Most Sportsmanlike Player.



Neil Doknjas won the Outstanding Competitor Award for being the undefeated House Player. Neil is the current U10 BC Provincial Champion and competed at the 2012 World Youth Chess Championships. Neil was also the National U8 Champion in that same year.



Edward Enns was recognized by the Organizing Committee for his many years of contribution to the BC Chess Community and for being the 2014 BC Senior Championship's Most Amiable Opponent.



L2R:
Victoria Jung-Doknjas,
Paul Leblanc,
Edward Enns,
Joe Roback





Eastern Ontario Open

June 20-22; RA Centre, Ottawa.

Qiyu Zhou won the top section with 4/5, (+3 =1 -0, ½-bye; TPR 2496). The result boosted the 14-year-old's CFC rating to 2295, making her —by *one* point— the #2 CFC-rated woman in Canada. **Kevin Pacey** upset top-seed Joey Qin in round three on his way to sharing second-place with **Kevin Wan**, who went undefeated and took the only ½ point off Qiyu.

Ben Kellar won the U1900 with 4½/5, conceding a draw to second-place **Jacob Krolczyk**.

Chess Canada has games from the top two finishers.

The obvious game to pick would be Pacey's upset win over top-rated Joey Qin, but since this was pretty-much decided by an opening blunder, Kevin chose the following game against a long-time friend and sometimes training partner.

Kevin Pacey

Notes by Kevin Pacey

Pacey, Kevin (2169)
Gelblum, Robert (2243)

E90

Eastern Ontario Open (2),
21.06.2014

The game that follows was one of my more interesting ones from the Eastern Ontario Open.

After an opening of some theoretical interest, a spirited clash occurred in the middlegame, where my old friend and chess mentor Bob Gelblum

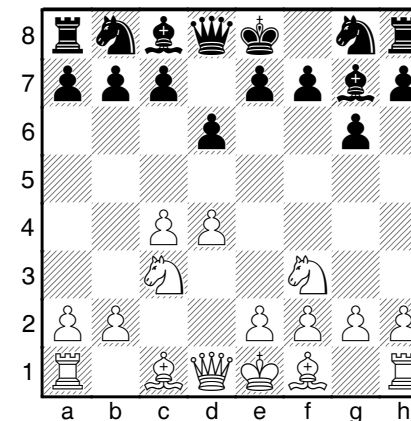


ultimately prevailed with a sudden mating attack, in spite of his time trouble.

1.d4 d6 2.♘f3

I had been studying a few minor lines of the King's Indian a couple of weeks before this game, and so I decided to steer for one of them as White.

2...g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4.♘c3

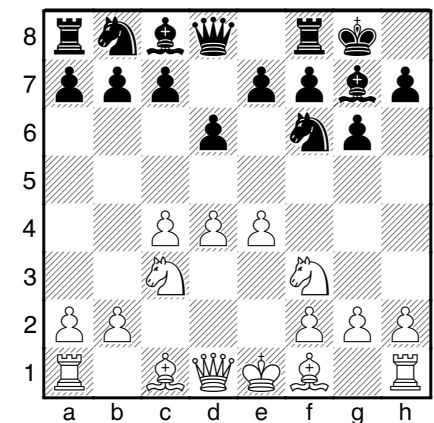


4...♘f6

In another game I played in Ottawa, less than a month later, Stjin De Kerpel at first continued with a move of the Modern Defence by playing **4...♗g4** but after **5.e3** he returned to what is a minor line of the King's Indian

with **5...♘f6** when play proceeded **6.♗e2 0-0 (6...♘c6 7.0-0 is thought to favour White slightly.) 7.♖b3 (rather than the banal 7.0-0, transposing to 6...♘c6 etc.) 7...b6 (7...♗c8 is the only move found in my databases.) 8.h3 ♗c8 9.e4 ♗b7 10.♖c2 ♘fd7 (10...a6 might be one better move.) 11.♗g5 h6 12.♗e3** when White won in 28 moves with a kingside attack by refraining from castling, pushing the h-pawn again soon, after which the knight was missed on f6.

5.e4 0-0



6.♗g5

I investigated this sideline, oddly enough, after trying to find a new



answer to one question that has troubled me a little about playing the King's Indian with Black. Namely the Exchange Variation of the Classical KID, which occurs after 6.♖e2 e5 (the main move) 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.♙xd8. It's somewhat dull, and it seems hard for Black to win, certainly at GM level, especially if White is bent on drawing.

My attempt at a new answer to this from Black's point of view involved noticing that after the evasive 6...c6, following 7.0-0. ECO fails to mention 7...♘a6, which transposes to a satisfactory line in ECO for Black, and bypasses 6...♘a6 7.♖f4 (*intending e4-e5*), which favours White slightly.

In case of 6.♖e2 c6 7.♖g5 (*if 7.♖f4 d5 is possible*) 7...a6 8.♙d2 b5 9.e5 the queenless middle-game that can arise after 9...dxe5 is now quite attractive for Black, but 9.a3 seems a bit more annoying to me, especially if Black is seeking a fighting game. Still, I think I'd normally prefer to try this line, more than risk allowing the Exchange Varia-

tion, if I ever needed to win at all costs with Black from the position after 6.Be2. I also thought, while I was at it, I'd check ECO for any other such problem for Black at an early stage, and then I noticed that the offbeat 6.♖g5 might be one. Not only that, but it seemed it might also provide a way to play for a win with White in a somewhat potent fashion, if I preferred.

6...h6

Golubev suggests 6...♖g4! here, but the simple 7.h3 seems slightly better for White (more tests may be required than are found in my databases, however). In comparing the few relevant texts I have, I found there's nothing generally held to be completely reliable for Black if he wants a fighting game where he's not worse after 6.♖g5.

The main alternative here is 6...c5 7.d5 h6 when 8.♖e3 e6 (Vigoritto stops here, implying Black is fine) 9.h3 intending ♖d3 favours White slightly according to ECO. We can hope for Black's sake that the evaluation is at least still up in the air here.

Note 6...e5?? 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.♙xd8 ♖xd8 9.♘d5 loses material for Black, a sort of trap familiar from the Averbakh or 6.♖g5 Saemisch variations of the KID.

7.♖e3!?

After other moves my books concur that Black is not troubled. Except, 7.♖f4 can lead to heavy simplifications if White wants, if Black plays 7...♘c6 8.d5 e5 or 7...e5, as are given in ECO. From Black's point of view, I would try deviating at move seven, after consulting a database and an engine or two. The game continuation is more of a potent winning attempt for White.

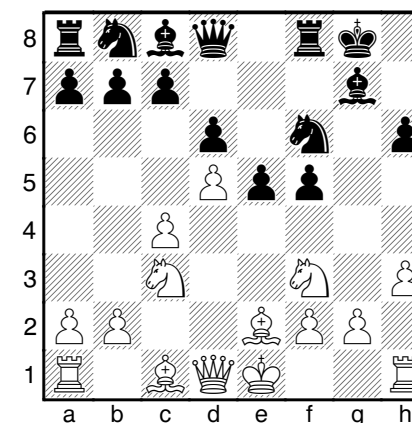
7...♘g4 8.♖c1

Another move that appears in my databases is 8.♖d2. My chosen move hopes to possibly place the bishop on a better square than d2 later on, while leaving the White queen a clear view of the centre along the d-file, and incidentally keeping d2 free as an option for the ♘f3 too.

8...e5

ECO stops here and evaluates the position as equal, quoting Reinhardt-Bolbochan, Mar del Plata 1956, which proceeded 9.h3 exd4, when Black went on to win.

9.d5 f5 10.h3 ♘f6 11.exf5 gxf5 12.♖e2



At this point Vigoritto remarks that he is not entirely convinced that Black is okay (as is "thought" after just Black's ninth move, he says). I thought that I'd give this position a try with White if I ever had the chance to play it. My silicon beast evaluates the game as close to dead level, but there are a number of attractive imbalances for both sides: Black's kingside pawn structure is a little loose, but his pawn duo



in the centre looks nice, and White's now undeveloped ♖c1 has some potential to prove an embarrassing factor if White is a bit careless (alas, he was...).

12...a5

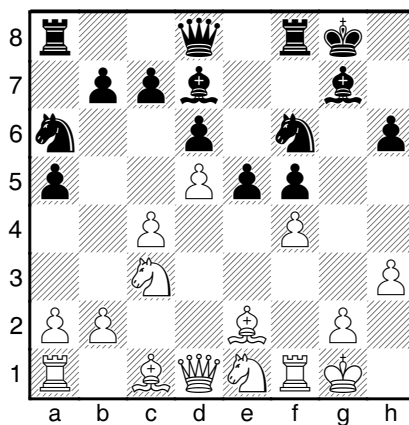
Instead 12...♘a6 at once was possible, but Black prefers to guard b4 with the pawn in advance in order to secure c5 for possible occupation by the knight.

13.0-0 ♘a6 14.♘e1

This may not be the only way

to play. I wanted to mobilize my f-pawn in order to swiftly come to grips with that central Black pawn duo.

14...♙d7 15.f4



15...♙e8

A machine may think 15...e4 to be at least as good, though then Black loses flexibility, and White is already on his way to a possible thematic pawn break on g4.

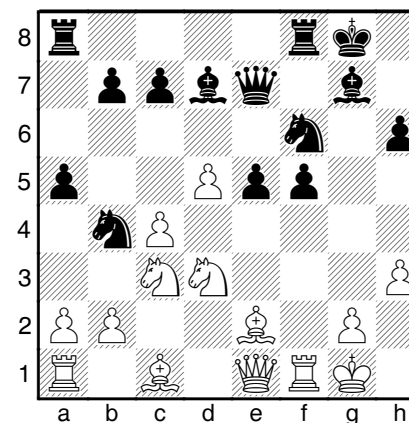
16.fxe5

Instead, 16.♙e3 was a natural choice, but I wished to discourage ...♙g6 with my following move. Now Black's pawn duo is freer than before, however.

16...dxe5 17.♘d3 ♙e7 18.♙e1

Here 18.♙e3!? looks playable, when the position would be tense and unclear.

18...♘b4



Bob prefers this to the equally acceptable 18...♙ae8, perhaps in order to force the pace, as time trouble had begun to creep in against him.

19.♙g3!?

This quickly leads to a radical transformation of the position.

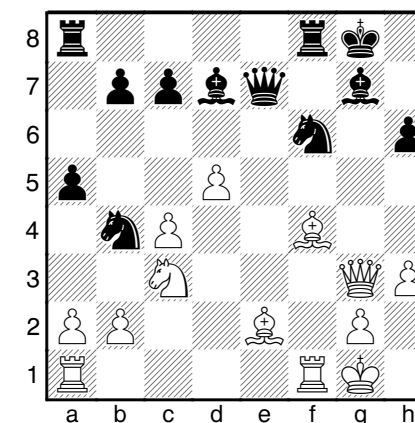
I failed to see (or else accept) that 19.♙e3 was alright, when 19...♘c2 20.♙c5 ♙e8 (20...♙xc5+ 21.♘xc5 favours White) 21.♙f2 ♘xa1 22.♙xf8

♙xf8 23.♙xa1 ♙e8 is still a fairly even, unclear game in spite of Black's bishop pair.

19...f4 20.♘xf4

Here 20.♙g6 ♘c2 and 20.♙f2 f3! both are better for Black, so White has little choice.

20...exf4 21.♙xf4



21...♘c2

Here 21...♙h8 22.d6 (22.♙xc7 ♘e4 favours Black) 22...♙e6 23.dxc7 is very unclear. Now if 23...♘e4?! 24.♘xe4 ♙xe4 25.♙ad1 White is at least slightly better.

22.♙ac1?

I had to play 22.♙ad1 with a



Bob Gelblum



fairly even (though rather unbalanced) position, but I had a vague fear of a fork on e3 being fatal at some point. In fact, White's ♔f4 can arrive at d6 with a saving fork or skewer in some cases. In hindsight, a morning game may not always offer the best time to play sharp chess.

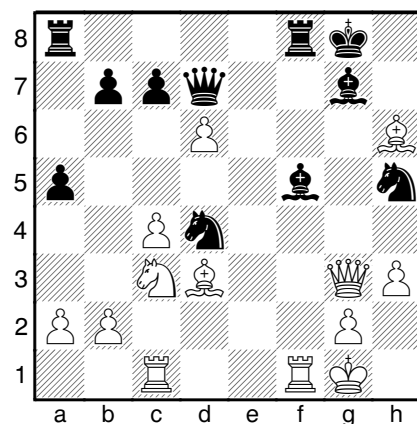
22...♞d4 ♯ 23.♔d3 ♔f5

Black also had 23...♞h5 When White has no choice but to plead for a queen exchange with 24.♞e3 since 24.♞g6 fails to 24...♞xf4.

24.d6 ♞d7

Even 24...cxd6 is good here, naturally.

25.♔xh6 ♞h5



26.♞g5

Better was 26.♔xf5 ♞xf5 27.♞g5 ♞xh6 28.♞xh5 ♯.

26...♔xd3-+ 27.♞xf8+ ♞xf8
28.♞xh5 ♞xd6?!

Instead 28...♞e6 wins comfortably.

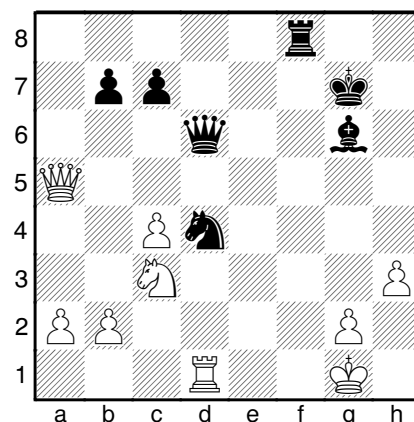
29.♔xg7 ♯ ♞xg7 30.♞d1

Better was 30.♞g4+.

30...♔g6

Here 30...♞g3! wins.

31.♞xa5?



Obtaining a third pawn for the piece, but allowing a mating attack. Instead better was 31.♞g5.

31...♞g3-+

My machine prefers 31...♞f3+ 32.♔f2 ♞g5+ winning eventually.

32.♔h1 ♞f3

Now White could give away everything but the kitchen sink to delay mate, but instead I continued in a more human fashion.

33.gxf3 ♞xh3+

Around here I finally noticed that this opens the h-file for Black's rook.

34.♔g1 ♞g3+

It's mate in two.

0-1

Here's a Sicilian miniature from the tournament winner.

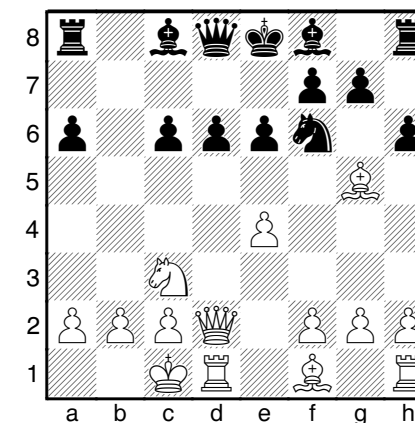
Zhou, Qiyu (2263)
Dumont, Felix (2184)

B66

Eastern Ontario Open Ottawa
CAN (2), 20.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.e4 c5 2.♞f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♞xd4 ♞f6 5.♞c3 ♞c6
6.♔g5 e6 7.♞d2 a6 8.0-0-0
h6 9.♞xc6 bxc6

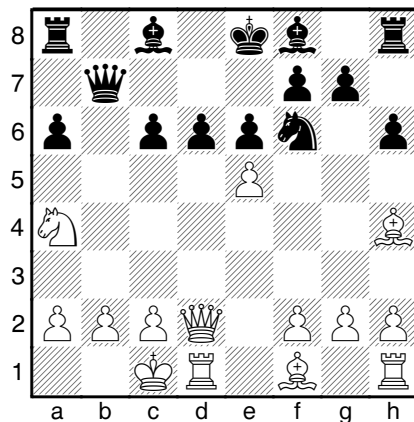


10. ♖h4

10. ♖f4 d5 11. ♖e3 ♖e7 (11... ♖b4 is another try.) 12. ♖e2 0-0 13. h4 ♘h7 (13... ♘d7 14. ♖g3 ♖h8 15. ♖c7 ♖e8± (1-0, 52) Wan,Y (2505)-Zhao,J (2610) China, 2014.) 14. g4 ♖xh4 15. ♖b1 ♖g5 16. ♖xg5 ♖xg5 17. f4 ♖e7 18. g5→ (1-0, 35) Edouard,R (2686) -Raetsky,A (2427) Al Ain, 2012.

10... ♖b6N 11. ♘a4 ♖b7

11... ♖c7 keeps an eye on the dark squares.

12. e5!**12... g5**

Obviously not 12... dxe5??
13. ♖d8#.

⊖12... ♘e4 13. ♖e3 d5⊖
(13... ♖b4? 14. ♖d4+-) 14. f3 ♘g5

15. ♖f2! (not 15. ♖xg5? hxg5 16. ♖xg5 c5→) White has good control over the queenside dark-squares, and Black's ♘ is a long way from useful.

13. exd6

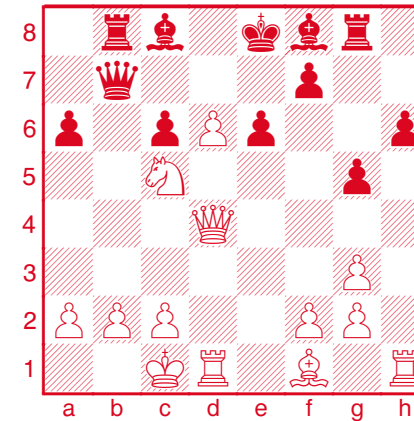
⊖13. ♘c5! and Black's dark-squares will give him nightmares: 13... ♖b6 14. ♖g3 dxc5 (14... ♘d5 15. ♘e4+-) 15. exf6+- Black's position is shattered and it hasn't cost White even one pawn.

13... ♖b8?

⊖13... gxf4 14. ♖c3 ♖g7 15. ♘c5 (15. d7+ ♖xd7 16. ♘c5 ♖c7 17. ♘xd7 ♘h5 18. ♖f3↑ ♖f4+ 19. ♖xf4 ♘xf4 20. ♘c5±) 15... ♖a7 16. d7+ ♖e7! (16... ♖xd7? 17. ♘xd7 ♖e7 18. ♘e5+-) 17. dxc8♘+ ♖hxc8 Black's position is ugly, but has some trick potential.

14. ♖g3 ♘e4

⊖14... ♘d7 15. h4±.

15. ♖d4 ♘xg3 16. hxg3 ♖g8**17. ♘c5**

What happens on ... ♖g7?

17... ♖g7 18. ♘xb7!

18. d7+ transposes.

18... ♖xd4 19. d7+! ♖e7

19... ♖xd7 20. ♘d6+ ♖e7
21. ♖xd4+- White's up a piece.

20. dxc8♘+!

1-0

Championnat Ouvert de Laval

June 20-22 in Laval, near Montréal, with \$2700 in prizes. It might be remembered as a kind of "coming-out party" for Quebec juniors, since the *top four places* in the Open

section were all juniors, ahead of the ratings favourites. **Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratté** won his first four games before conceding a draw to guarantee him first place, ½-point ahead of **Hong Rui Zhu**. *Chess Canada* has two games from the event.

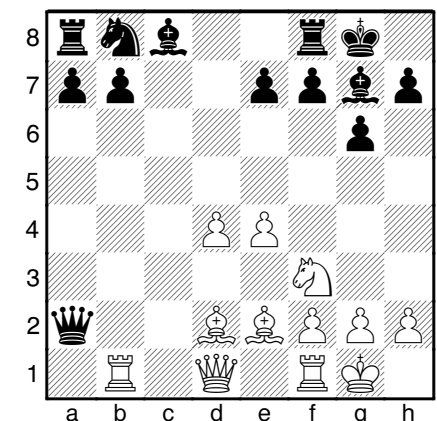
Chiku-Ratte, Olivier-Kenta**Villeneuve, Robert**

D85

Championnat de Laval Laval CAN (1), 20.06.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5
4. cxd5 ♘xd5 5. e4 ♘xc3
6. bxc3 ♖g7 7. ♘f3 c5 8. ♖b1
0-0 9. ♖e2 cxd4 10. cxd4
♖a5+ 11. ♖d2 ♖xa2 12. 0-0



Exchange Grunfeld

In his 1999 book, *Understanding the Grunfeld*, Jonathan Rowson wrote: "Many Grunfeld players have spent hours trying to fathom the mysteries of this position and no one yet seems to know who is better here." And then gave one-and-a-half pages of text (no variations) explaining why it is so difficult to assess. To pick only one pair of his seven points: White has a large lead in development and Black will have a hard time developing the queenside without giving back the pawn, BUT White's ♙s aren't particularly well developed, so it's not clear how much of a development advantage White really has.

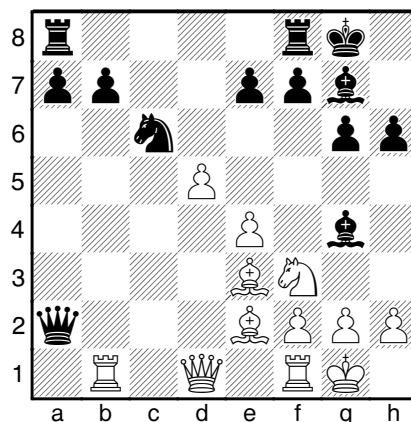
12...♙g4

Ten years after Rowson, in 2009 on *Chesspublishing.com*, Glenn Flear could now claim that, "This is one of the most analysed positions in the whole of chess", but he (prudently) didn't offer an evaluation of it either.

Maybe that's why dozens of GM "games" have ended like this: 12...b6 13.♖c1 ♙b7 14.♙c4 ♖a4

15.♙b5 ♖a2 16.♙c4 ♖a4 17.♙b5 1/2-1/2.

13.♙g5 h6 14.♙e3 ♘c6 15.d5 15.♖xb7 ♖ab8↗.



15...♘e5

This is not so common anymore, but that may just be fashion. More often, Black plays 15...♘a5 or 15...♙xf3:

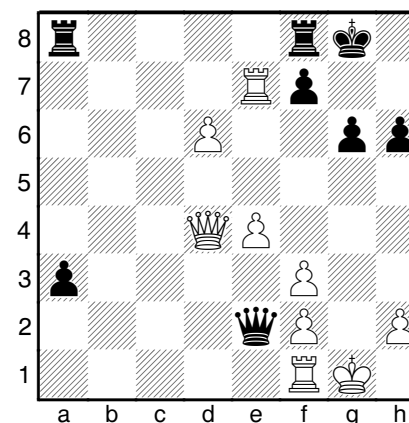
15...♘a5 16.♖e1 b6 17.♘d4 ♙d7! (17...♙xe2 18.♖xe2 ♖c4 19.♖c2 ♖a4∞) 18.♖a1 ♖b2 19.♖b1 ♖a2 20.♖a1 ♖b2 21.♖b1 ♖a2 (1/2-1/2) Radjabov-Svidler London, 2013.

15...♘a5 16.♖b4 ♙xf3 17.♙xf3 ♘c4 18.♙d4 ♘d2 19.♖b2 ♘xf3+ 20.♖xf3 ♖a6 21.♙xg7

♙xg7 22.♖c3+ ♙g8 23.♖c7 ♖d6 24.♖xb7 ♖xc7 25.♖xc7 a5 26.♖a1 ♖fb8= (1/2-1/2, 45) Kam-sky-Anand Las Palmas, 1995.

15...♙xf3 16.♙xf3 ♘e5 17.♖xb7 a5 18.♖xe7 a4 19.♙d4 ♘xf3+ 20.gxf3 ♙xd4 21.♖xd4 a3 22.d6 ♖e2

Analysis Diagram



This line of the Grunfeld often burns down to six major-piece endings/middlegames where Black has just enough counterplay with the passed a-pawn and threats to perpetual the White ♙4:

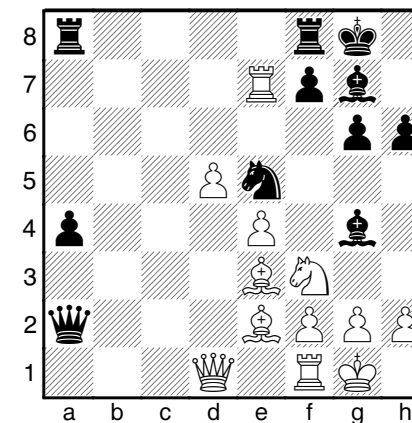
23.d7 ♖xf3 24.e5 a2 25.e6 ♖a1 ♖ 26.♖xa1 ♖xa1+ 27.♖xa1 ♖g4+ 28.♙f1 ♖c4+ ♖= going to e1 loses the ♖e7, so White has to allow Black the perpetual.

23.♙g2 23...a2 24.♖a1 ♖ab8 25.d7 ♖b1 26.d8 ♖ (Δ♖h8+) 26...♖f1+ 27.♙g3 ♖g1+ 28.♙h3 ♖f1+ (1/2-1/2) Kramnik-Svidler Zuerich, 2001.

16.h3

16.♖xb7 a5!?! (16...e6 17.d6 ♖fd8 18.♖e1 has scored well for White in many top-GM-level games.) 17.♖xe7 a4↗:

Analysis Diagram

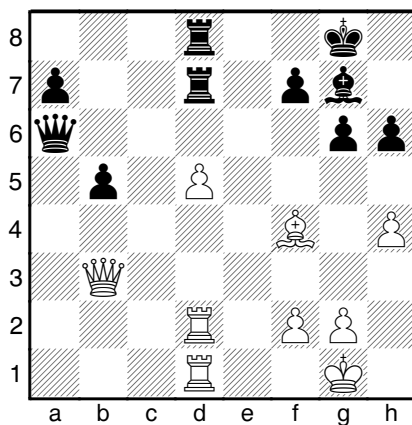


18.♖e1 (18.♙d4 ♘xf3+ 19.♙xf3 ♙xf3 20.gxf3 transposes to Kramnik-Svidler, above.) 18...a3!! 19.♘xe5 ♙xe2 20.♖xe2 ♖xe2 ♖ 21.♖xe2 a2 22.♙d4 a1 ♖+ 23.♙xa1 ♖xa1+ 24.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 25.♙xf1 ♙f6 ♖∞ with a fascinating position: "In a single move — ♘c6, ♘xg6, ♖xf7 — White could choose between 3 different endgames! In my



opinion, all of them look safe for Black" – K.Mekhitarian (in Chessbase).

16...♘xf3+ 17.♙xf3 ♙xf3
18.♚xf3 ♚a6 19.♙f4 e6
20.♚b3 exd5 21.exd5 ♖fd8
22.♖fd1 ♖d7 23.♖d2 ♖ad8
24.♖bd1 b5 25.h4



25...♚b7

Stockfish suggests 25...♚a4 when Black should be able to trade the doubled a-pawn for White's d-pawn.

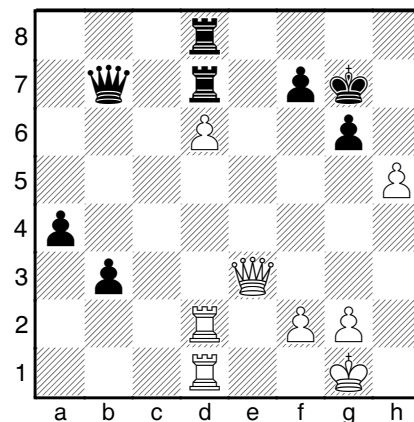
26.d6 a5 27.♚e3 b4

⊖27...♚c6.

28.♙xh6 a4?

⊖28...♙xh6.

29.h5 b3 30.♙xg7 ♔xg7



31.h6+

31.♚d4+ f6⊖ 32.♚xa4 b2
33.♖b1 ♖xd6 34.♖dxb2 ♖d1+
Gives Black decent drawing chances in an endgame similar to the one in the next note.

31...♔h7= 32.♚d4 f6 33.♚xa4 b2 34.♖b1 ♖a8?

34...♖xd6! 35.♖dxb2 ♖d1+
36.♖xd1 (36.♔h2? ♖xb1 *only Black has winning chances here.*) 36...♖xd1+ 37.♚xd1 ♚xb2=.

35.♚d4! ♚c6

35...♖a1!? hoping that White can't break the blockade on d7 without exposing his ♔ to a perpetual.

36.♚xb2

36.♖xb2!+-.

36...♔xh6

36...♖xd6? 37.♚b7++-.

37.♚xf6

1-0

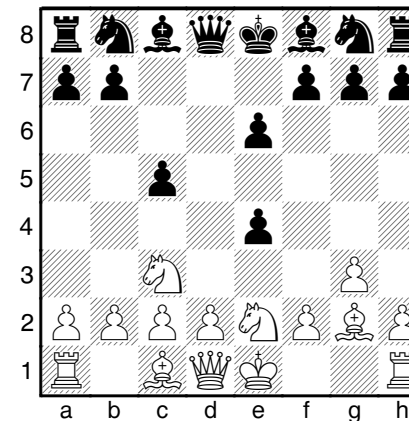
Notes by Felix Dumont
Zhu, Hong Rui (2126)
Libersan, Thierry (2237)
B20
Championnat de Laval (5),
22.06.2014

This game and notes first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed.

1.e4 c5 2.♘e2

This move is often played to confuse Black and still play 3.d4, but White had a different plan.

2...e6 3.g3 d5 4.♙g2 dxe4
5.♘bc3!?

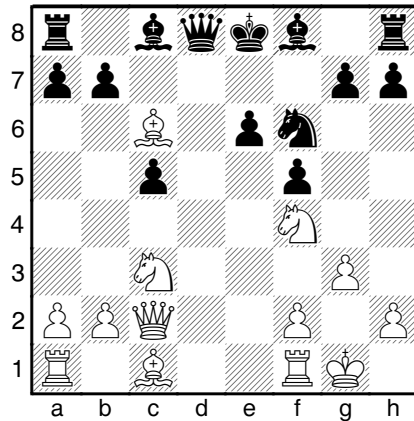


I can find only two games where this move was played. ♙xe4 is more frequent, but ♘bc3 leads to very interesting complications. White has three developed pieces, while Black will need to play ...f5 and still has no developed pieces.

5...f5 6.d3 exd3 7.♘f4 ♘f6
8.0-0!?

Another interesting move. White is ready to give the pawn to take the initiative. ♘xd3 was also to be considered, but 0-0 was definitely the move leading to the most complications, which seems to be White's goal.

8...dxc2 9.♚xc2 ♘c6
10.♙xc6+



Giving up the bishop might seem counterintuitive, but weakening Black's position should be White's priority in this position.

10...bxc6 11.Ke1

White takes advantage of Black's king, which is still in center.

11...Kf7 12.Na4

Nd3 with the plan of playing Ne5+ was also interesting.

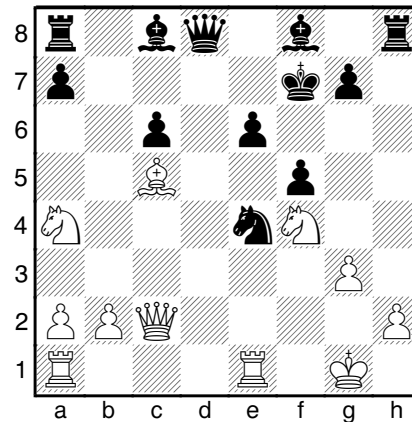
12...h5?

It's hard to justify such a move. Black was looking for counterplay but should have gone for a more logical move such as ...Kd6, attacking the Nf4 and leaving more space for the king and the Kh8.

13.Ke3 h4

Again, Black continues to lose precious tempi. Black only has one developed piece and thus has too few pieces to launch an effective attack.

14.Ke5 hxc3 15.fxc3 Ne4?



Moving his only developed piece cannot be good and White spotted why.

16.Ke4!

No need to do any calculations. White's position is simply overwhelming.

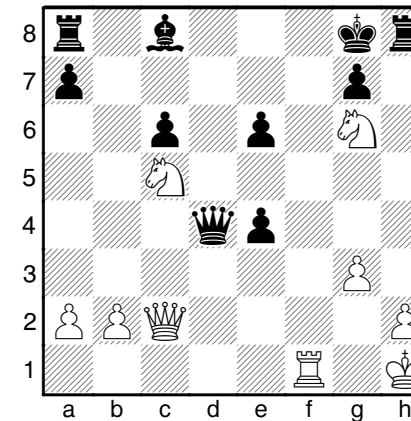
16...fxe4 17.Ke1! Ke5+

18.Ke5 Qd4+

The computer suggests the fol-

lowing as the only line for Black: 18...Kg8 19.Ng6 Kh5 20.Ke8+ Qxf8 21.Nxf8 Kxf8 but it would only be a matter of time before White takes advantage of Black's disconnected pieces.

19.Ke1 Kg8 20.Ng6



It's over. Black is now behind in both development and structure.

20...Kh5

20...Kd8 21.Ke8+ Qxf8 22.Nxf8 Qxf8 23.Ke4+-.

21.Ne7+ Kh7 22.Nxe4 Ke5 23.Ke4!

1-0

Links

Laval Results

http://chess.ca/crosstable?tournament_check_number=201406039

Newsfeed

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/366>

Photos

John Upper, taken at the RACC and 2014 TORO event.



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D'oh!