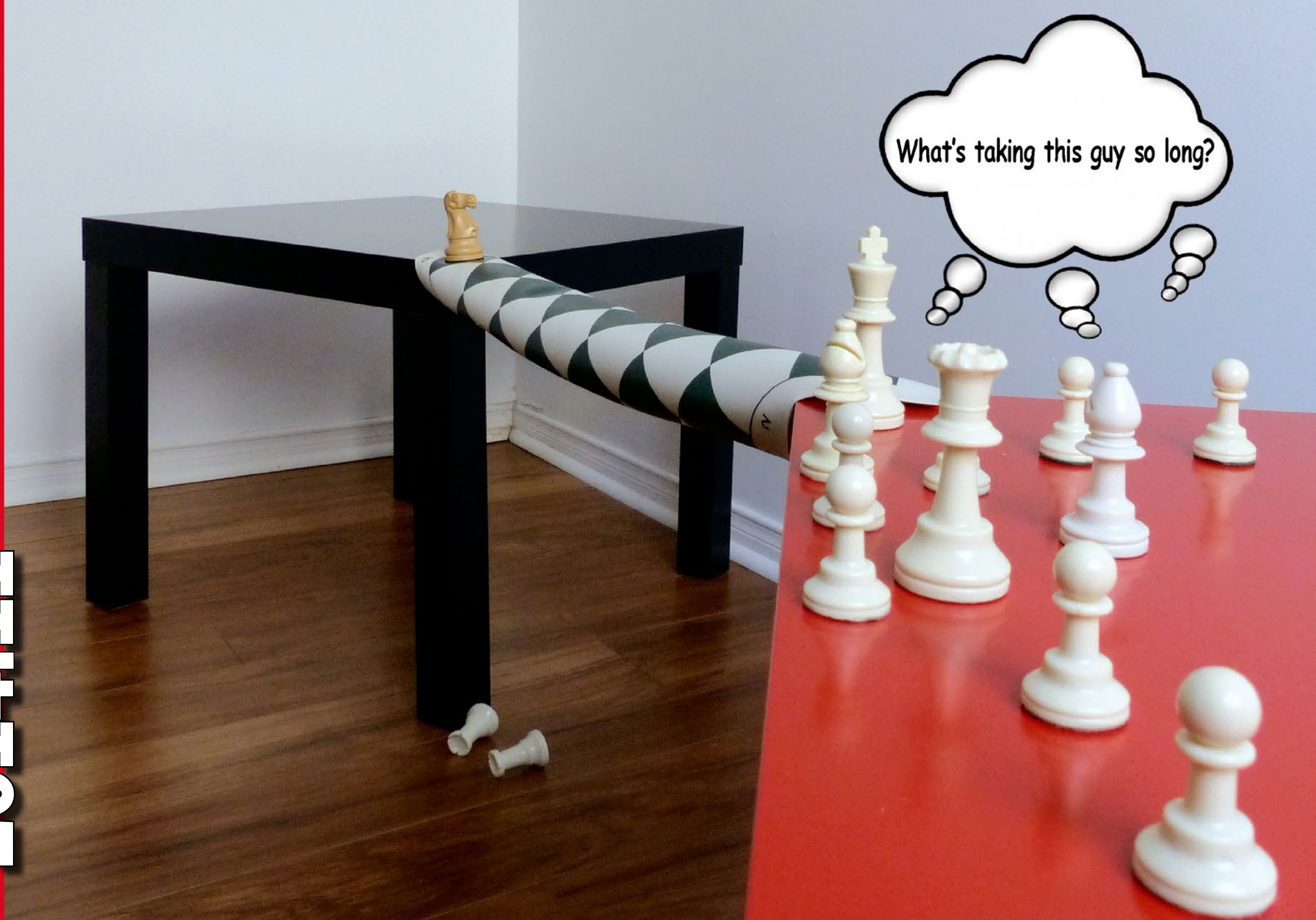


**Chess Canada**

**2014.11**



What's taking this guy so long?



### Chess Canada

Chess Canada (CCN) is the electronic 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.

#### subscriptions

CCN is distributed by email to CFC members who have submitted their email address to the CFC:

[admin@chess.ca](mailto:admin@chess.ca)

#### submissions

CCN is looking for contributions: tournament reports, photos, annotated games. For examples, see this issue or read the 2013.06 Appendix for other ideas.

#### suggestions

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

[cfc\\_newsletter\\_editor@chess.ca](mailto:cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca)

- John Upper  
editor CCN

# Chess Canada

## 2014.11

### Features

<b>Razvan Preotu: On the GM Trail</b>	8
<b>25<sup>th</sup> NATO Championship</b>	27
<b>99<sup>th</sup> BC Championship</b>	57

### Events

<b>World Senior</b>	74
<b>CHOM</b>	79
<b>Maritime Open</b>	91
<b>Aurora Fall Open</b>	101
<b>Quebec Amateur</b>	107

### Columns

<b>Upcoming Events</b>	3
<b>Critical Positions</b>	5

### Cover: Don't Look Down

**Bishop:** ....it's *easy* (ya dumb brute): just stay on the dark squares.  
**Pawns:** ....If I was a Knight I'd just hop over.  
**King:** ...knew it from my first look: he's not made of the Right Stuff.

### Next Issue...

**Year in Review**  
**Interview: Qiyu Zhou**

**You Gotta See This...**  
 Favourite games from 2014  
 selected & annotated by:

- GM Bator Sambuev**
- IM Jean Hebert**
- IM Bindi Cheng**
- FM Victor Pechenkin**
- Elias Oussedik**

### Coming Soon...

- Student Issue:**
- World U16 Teams**
  - BC Junior**
  - 2014 Pan-Ams**
  - Canadian University Ch**
  - Nicholas Vetesse**





## March 20-22

### 41st Championnat Ouvert de la Mauricie

Hôtel l'Urbania, Trois-Rivières, QC

Fri: 7:30; Sat & Sun: 10, 4

TC: 30/75 + G/45 + 30s

Prize Fund: \$10,000 estm.

Contact: Jean Deschesnes

com@clubechecs3r.com

<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/activite/ch-ouvert-de-la-mauricie-20-22-mars>

## March 24-26, 2015

### Eric Hansen Chess Camp

Location: Calgary Chess Club

Time: 9-4 pm daily.

Camp includes: Approximately 4.5 hours per day of instruction by GM Eric Hansen and other instructors, simul game against Eric, and other fun activities.

<http://www.albertachess.org/2015ACAHansenCamp.php>

## March 30

### IM Razvan Preotu Simul

Razvan returns from Cappelle-la-Grande and Reykjavik to give his first simul.

Aurora Chess Club

[http://www.aucc.club/?page\\_id=1067](http://www.aucc.club/?page_id=1067)

## March 30 - June 1

### Toronto Closed

Annex Chess Club

Mondays (except April 6, May 18)

<http://annexchessclub.com/2015/03/2015-toronto-closed-chess-championship/>

## April 3-5

### Alberta Closed

Vlad Rekhson

Format: 6 player RR

Fri: 7 pm; Sat: 11, 6; Sun: 10, 3.

<http://www.albertachess.org/2015AC.html>

## April 3-6

### 9th Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, BC

Fri: 6pm; Sat & Sun: noon, 6; Mon: 10am

\$5000 Guaranteed

<http://grandpacificopen.pbworks.com/w/page/15387541/FrontPage>

## April 10-11

### Ontario High School Championship

UofT Schools, Toronto

Fri: 9, 1, 6; Sat: 9, 1, 3pm/5pm

TC: Rds 1-3: G/90; Rds 4-5: 40/90

+ G/30 + 30s

<http://www.ohscc.on.ca/>

## April 11-12

### McIntosh Open

McIntosh Country Inn, Morrisburgh, ON

Sat: 9, 2, 7; Sun: 9:30, 2:30.

TC: 90 + 30

Org: Raymond Lacroix

<http://www.eoca.org/resources/McIntosh-Open-2015.pdf>

## Lethbridge Open

Lethbridge Lodge, 320 Scenic Dr.

Sat: 10, 2, 6; Sun: 9, 1:30

TC: 90 + 30

Org: Dr. Paul Viminitz

<http://www.albertachess.org/2015LO.php>

## April 17-19

### Stan Rogers Memorial

Chilliwack Lawn Bowling Club, BC

Fri: 6:30; Sat & Sun: 9:30, 2:30

TC: 90 + 30

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

## Junior et Senior Ch. du Québec

Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, Montréal

Ven: 19; Sam & Dim: 10 et 15:00.

Cad: m/90 + 30s

Org: FQE

[http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/sites/default/files/jun\\_senior2015-2-pub.pdf](http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/sites/default/files/jun_senior2015-2-pub.pdf)

## April 24-26

### Niagara Falls Open

Niagara Shrine Club, 5621 North St.

Fri: 7; Sat: 10, 4; Sun: 10 + ASAP

TC: rd.1 G/90; rd.2-5: 30/90 + G/60

Contact: John Erikson

[jeswifty@hotmail.com](mailto:jeswifty@hotmail.com)

## May 1-3

### McGill Open

Pavillon Shatner, McGill U, Montreal

Fri: 7; Sat: 10, 4; Sun: 10, 3.

TC: 90 + 30

New: U2000 and U1500 amateur sections EF: \$30

<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/chess/mcgill-open-2015>

## May 2

### Campbellville Active

Details: TBA

<http://www.miltonchess.ca/>

## May 2-3

### Arnprior Open

Arnprior Library (by clocktower)

Sat: 9, 2, 7; Sun: 9, 2.

TC: 90 + 30

Org: Herb Langer

<http://www.eoca.org/resources/2015-Arnprior-Open.pdf>



# Upcoming Events



**May 2-3**

## Edmonton International Qualifier

Edmonton Chess Club

Sat: 10, 2, 6

Sun: 10, 2

TC: 90 + 30

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

**May 8-10**

## Nova Scotia Open

Mount Saint Vincent U

Fri: 6; Sat & Sun: 10, 4.

TC: 120 + 30.

Org: Ken Cashin

<http://www.nschess.ca/>

**May 15-17**

## Open de Sherbrooke

Pavillon Armand Nadeau, Parc

Jacques Cartier

Ven: 19h; Sam: 10h, 16h; Dim:

9:30, 15h.

Cad: 75/30 + m/40 + 30s.

<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/sites/default/files/annonceopen2015.pdf>

**May 16-17**

## Red Deer Open

Org: Alexy Taranik

Details: TBA

**May 16-18**

## 40th Keres Memorial

Richmond, BC

Airport Plaza Hotel

TC: G/80 + 60s

Sat: noon, 5:15; Sun: 10, 5;

Mon: 10, 3:15.

TC: G/80 + 60.

<http://keresmemorial.pbworks.com/w/page/92178981/40th%20Annual%20Keres%20Memorial%202015>

## Ontario Open

Quality Inn & Suites, Brant-

ford

TC: 90 + 30

Sat, Sun, Mon: 10am, 3pm

<http://www.brantchess.ca/2015ontarioopen/index.html>

**May 30-31**

## Calgary International

### Qualifier

Org: Vlad Rekhson

Details: TBA

**June 19-21**

## Eastern Ontario Open

RA Centre, Ottawa

Org: Halldor Palsson

Details: TBA

<http://www.eoca.org/2014-15-tourn.html>

**June 19-28**

## 10th Edmonton International Chess Festival

### Edmonton International:

**GM Vasil Ivanchuk GM Pentala Harikrishna**

**GM Sam Shankland GM Surya Ganguly**

**Edmonton Open:** June 26-28 (max. 20 players)

**Side Events:** GM Lecture, Harikrishna Simul, Blitz

Contact: Edmonton Chess Club, Micah Hughey

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

**July 9-16**

## Canadian Closed

**Winner represents Canada at World Cup Baku, Azerbaijan, Sept.10–Oct.4, 2015.**

Peter Clark Hall, University of Guelph, ON.

**Eligibility:** 2100 CFC, FQE or FIDE as of 2015/05.

**Format:** 9 round Swiss.

**TC:** 40/90 + G/30 + 30s.

**EF:** \$250

**Org:** IA Hal Bond

**July 17–25**

## AIDEF-Quebec Open

Collège Brébeuf, Montréal

Association Internationale des Échecs Francophones combined with the 2015 Quebec Open.

Format: 9rd Swiss; Open, U1600

TC: 40/90 + G/30 + 30

<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/activite/3e-rencontres-inter-des-echecs-francophones>

**July–August**

## Kitchener Chess Festival

### RETURNING

**6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Seniors Ch.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Canadian Amateur Ch.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> North American U20 Ch.**

*July 26-30: 9 rd Swiss for GM and WGM norms.*

### NEW

**FIDE Kitchener Masters**

(July 31 - Aug.4)

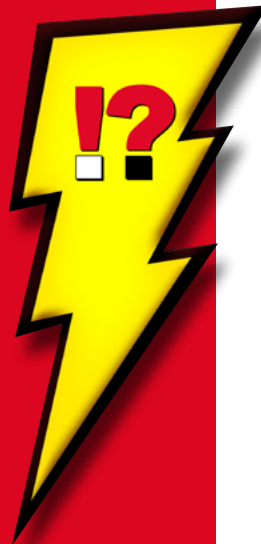
2 Scheveningen-style tournaments for GM and IM norms.

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



**Chess Canada  
2014.11**





# Critical Positions





selected by the editor

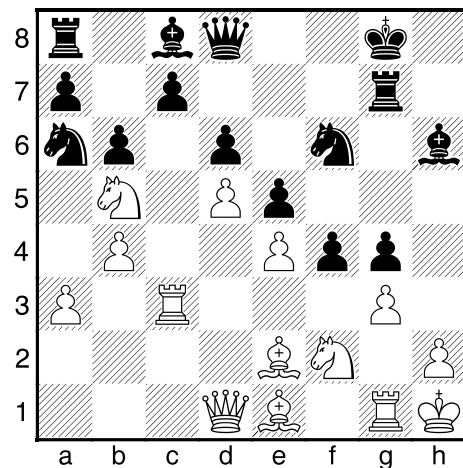
The following diagrams are critical positions from this issue of *Chess Canada*. You can treat them as exercises or as a teaser introduction to what you'll find this month.

These "critical positions" can be:

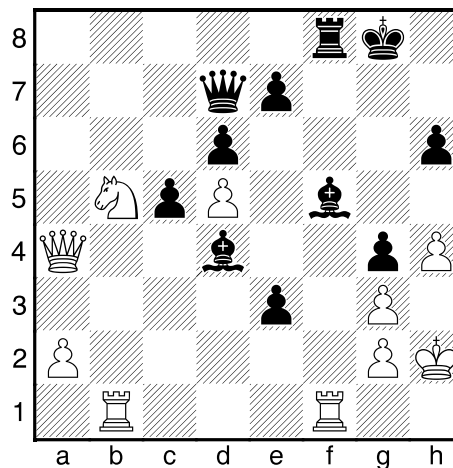
- winning combinations
- surprising tactics
- endgames requiring precise play
- simple calculation exercises
- variation-rich middlegames
- moments when one player went badly wrong.

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

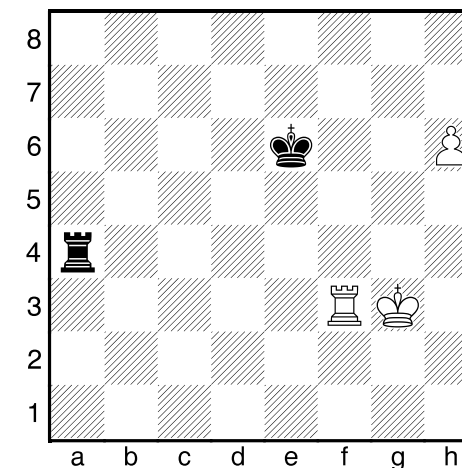
**Solutions** appear in the game analysis in this issue of *Chess Canada*, **in the red diagrams** in the reports named under the diagram. Critical positions usually feature significantly more analytical commentary than the rest of the game.



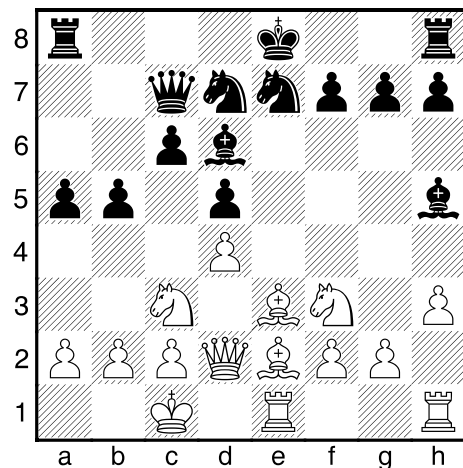
see: Razvan



see: NATO

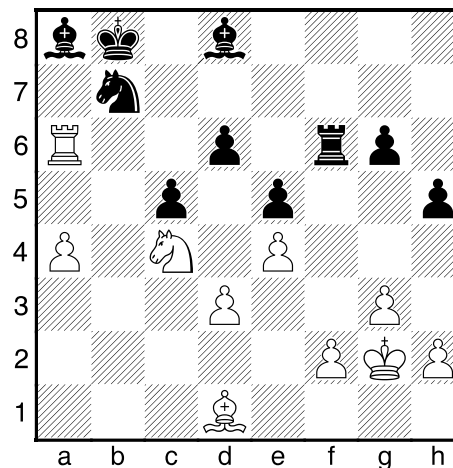


see: NATO

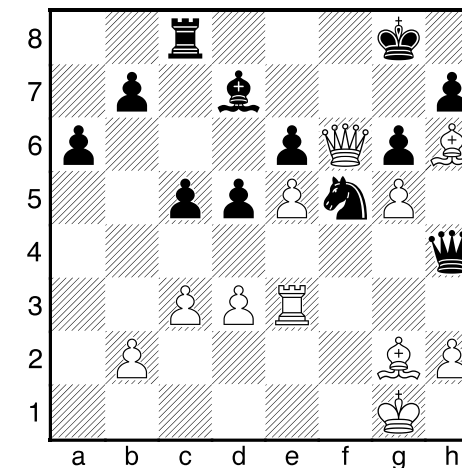


What happens after  $\text{♞xb5!}$ ?

see: NATO



see: NATO

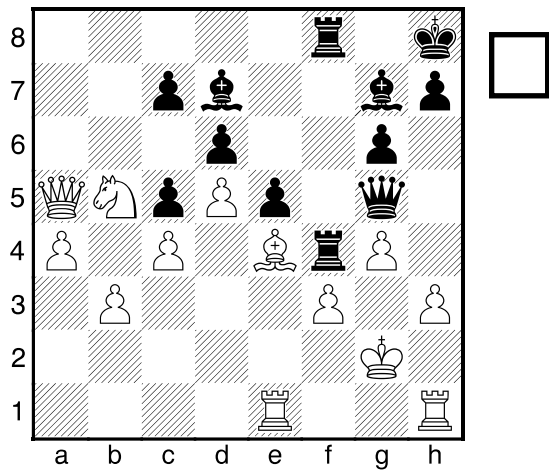


see: NATO

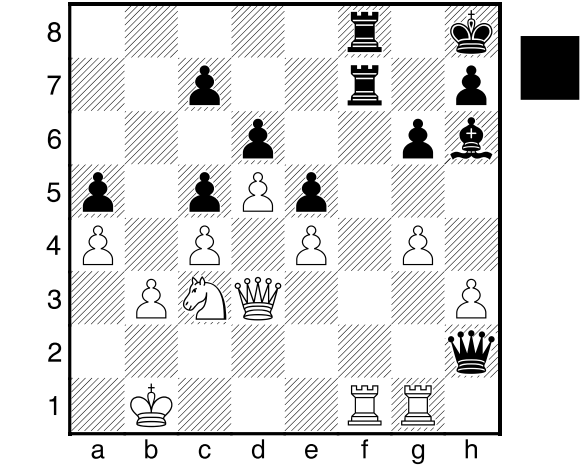
- ...♞c7
- ...d5
- something else?



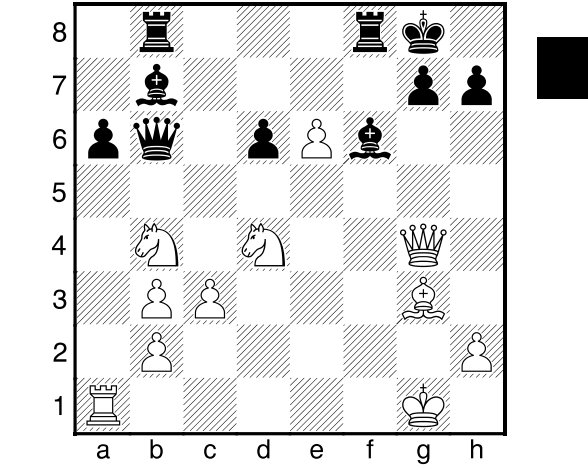
# Chess Canada 2014.11



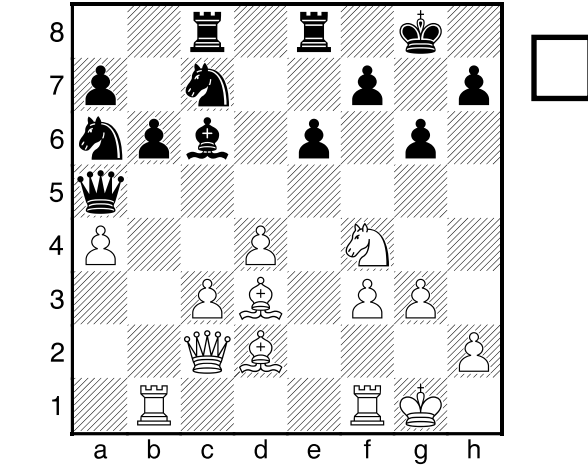
Does Black have a threat?  
see: BC



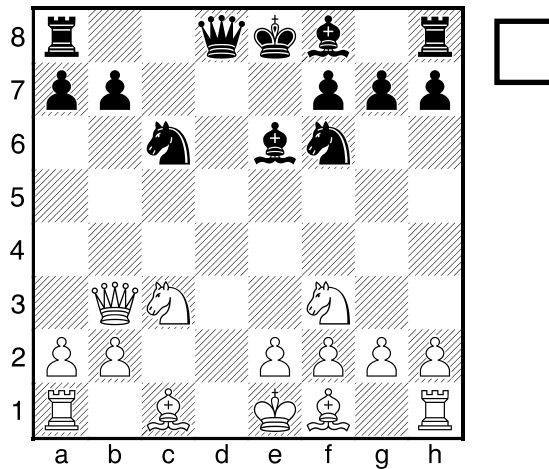
see: BC



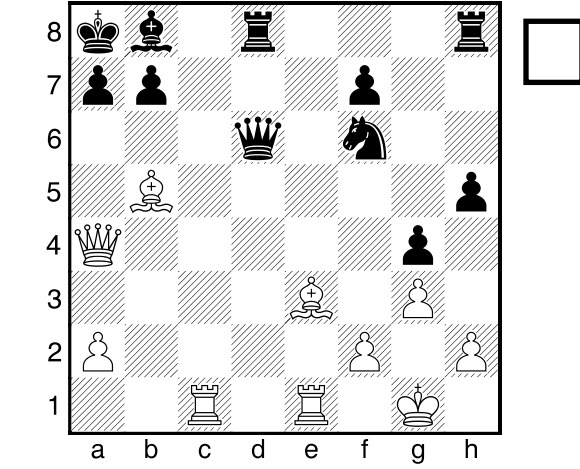
see: BC



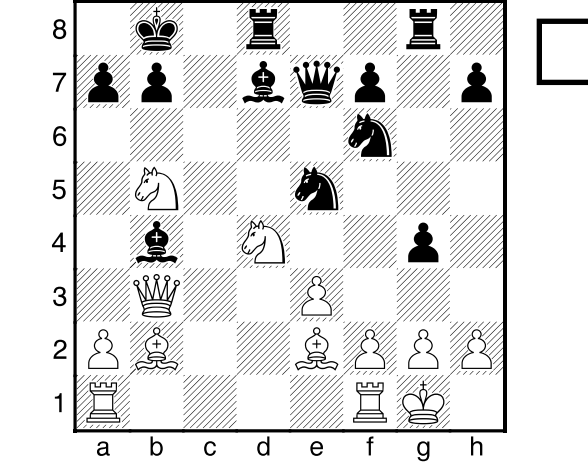
Black's ♔ has no safe squares.  
Can White take advantage?  
see: BC



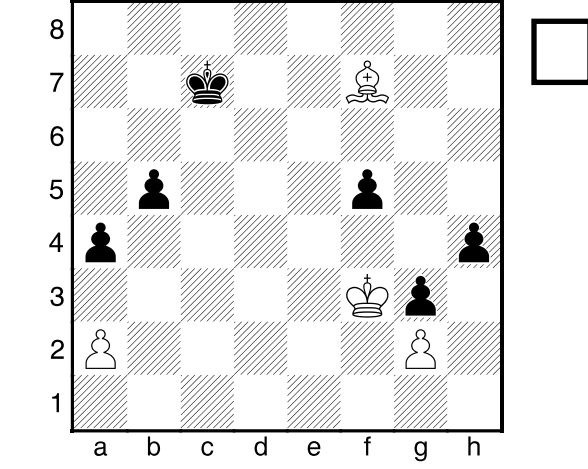
What happens on ♔xb7?  
see: CHOM



see: CHOM

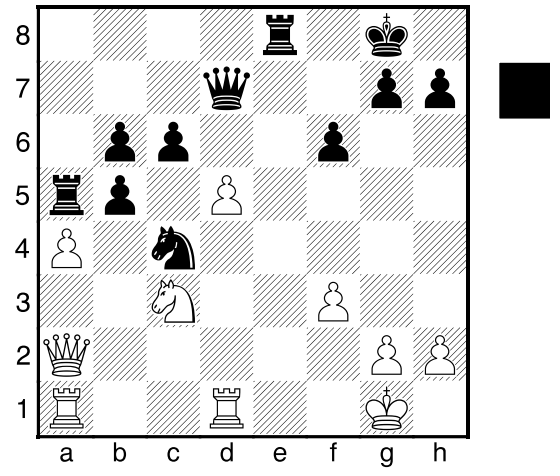


see: CHOM

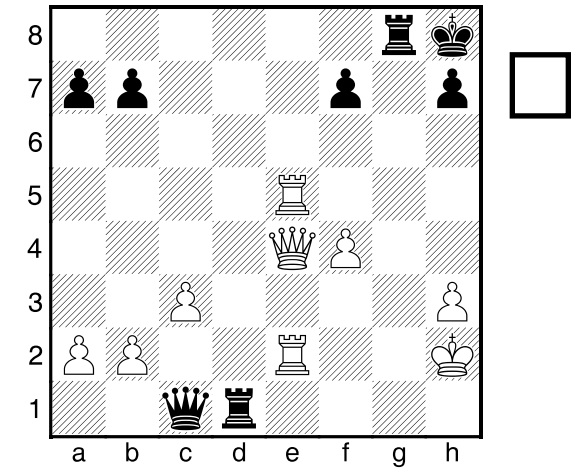


see: CHOM

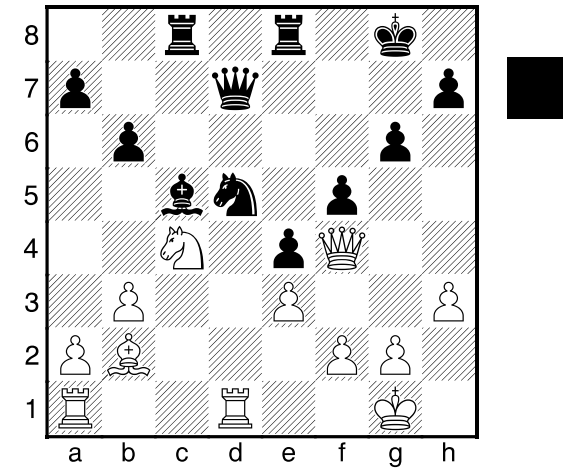




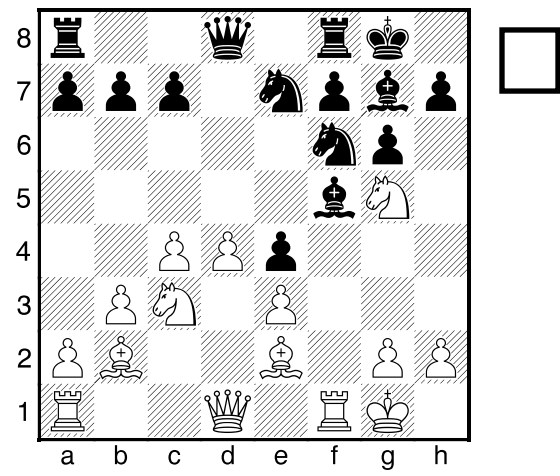
see: CHOM



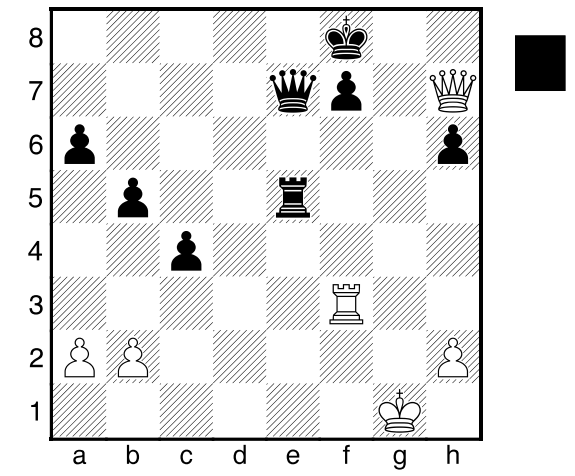
see: Maritime Open



see: Maritime Open

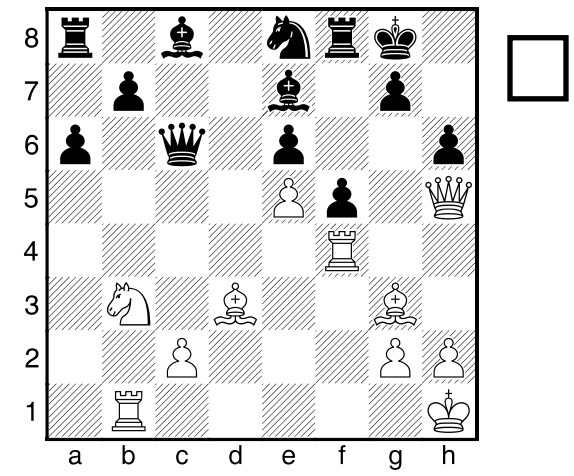


see: Aurora



Calculate Black's mate-in-13.

see: World Senior



24.♘d4 or 24.♖c4 or 24.♔g6

see: World Senior

Thanks to....

**Herb Langer** for the text, annotated games, and 300+ photos from the NATO Championship.

**Victoria Jung-Doknjas**, for the photos & report on the BC Closed.

**Fred McKim**, the long-time CFC Treasurer is my go-to guy for East Coast tournament reports, and this time he outdid himself by getting four of the players to annotate their games.

**FM IM Razvan Preotu**, for sending amazingly well annotated games. One editor's perk of *Chess Canada* is reporting on his IM and GM norms.

**Bill Doubleday**, for the games and photo, and for not being so vain as to exclude a game where he made a big oversight.

**Patient Readers**, you know who you are.

- John Upper  
editor, Chess Canada

# On the way to GM

by IM Razvan Preotu



Chess Canada  
2014.11

One editor's perk of *Chess Canada* is reporting on Razvan Preotu's IM and GM norms. I asked him to annotate three recent games from his Norm Quest, and here they are.

### WARNING/PROMISE

Razvan's notes are *exceptionally detailed*: never "I could have played this...[move]", they are more like reports from a research project of someone who is committed to mastering the positions he plays. In a previous issue Razvan chose games with Rook and minor piece endings... my hunch is that he (or his coach) had decided *that* part of his game needed work. This time it's three super-complex openings: Advance Caro-Kann, Mar del Plata KID, and ♔g5 Najdorf. If you play these lines against GMs, *this* is how well you need to know them.

I think Razvan's notes are an excellent model for serious players, but they can be hard to follow in text format, even *with* a record-number of "Analysis Diagrams" inserted. You can always play through them via the PGN that comes with each issue of *Chess Canada*.

- editor

FM Title barely used.

## Notes by IM Razvan Preotu Preotu, Razvan (2418) Shimanov, Aleksandr (2635)

B12  
2014 US Masters Greensboro (8), 01.09.2014

This was my round eight game against GM Aleksandr Shimanov in the US Masters held in Greensboro, North Carolina. After having a slow start scoring 1½/3 in the

first three rounds, the win in round seven against GM Marin Bosio-cic gave me good chances for my third and final IM norm. With 5/7 it looked like I needed to get 1 point out of the last two rounds to get the norm. 6/9 might seem like a lot for an IM norm, but because of my slow start, my opponent's average rating was fairly low.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5

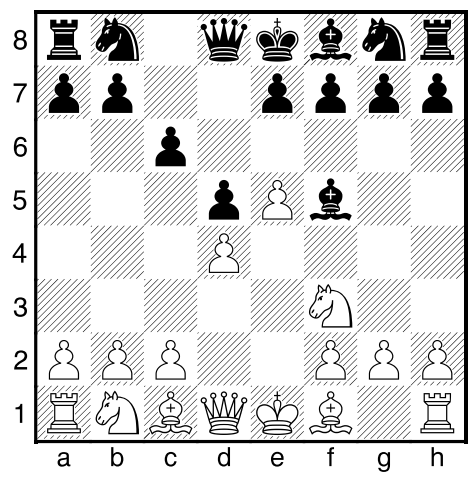
The Caro-Kann is an open-

ing that I was fairly happy to see. Normally it is difficult to lose against it because it's fairly drawish.

### 3.e5

The advanced variation. 3.♘c3 leads to much calmer lines, as many pieces get traded off and there are lines which even lead to endgames.

3...♙f5 4.♘f3



This is the positional line, compared to the very tactical lines starting with 4.h4 or 4.♘c3 both preparing g4.

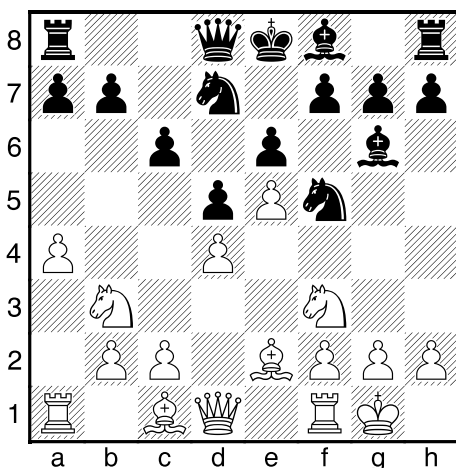
4...e6 5.♙e2 ♘e7 6.0-0 ♙g6  
7.♘bd2





White isn't doing much, just slowly developing his pieces to good squares.

7...♖f5 8.♘b3 ♘d7 9.a4

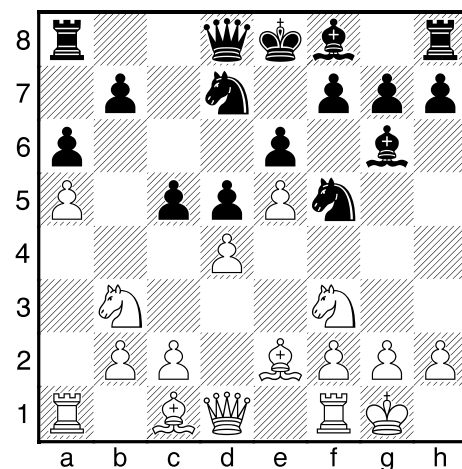


A useful move, gaining space on the queenside. The pawn on a5 would be quite cramping, covering the b6 square for the knight and might even advance to a6 weakening the light squares. In both cases, the break c4 would be possible as the b6 square would be taken away from the knight on d7.

9...a6

Preparing the ...c5 break, as there is no longer ♙b5+.

10.a5 c5



11.dxc5

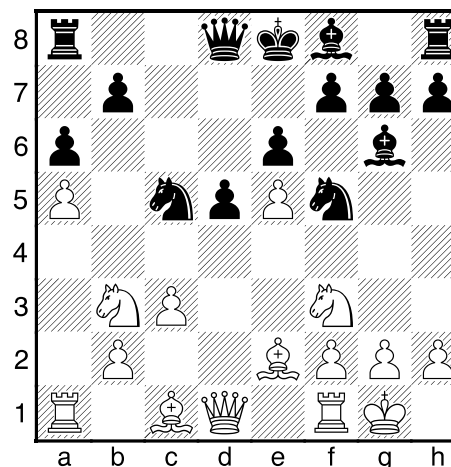
11.c3 is what I was considering during the game, but it is purely defensive and doesn't do anything else. After the simple 11...♖c8= Black has no problems.

11.c4 is the more aggressive option I was looking at. Since Black is undeveloped, it makes sense to try to open the center. But after 11...dxc4 12.♙xc4 cxd4 13.♘bxd4 ♘xd4 14.♙xd4 ♙c5 15.♙f4 0-0= it didn't look like much either: White has more space, but Black is very solid.

11...♘xc5 12.c3

12.c4 wouldn't prove dangerous as after 12...dxc4 13.♙xc4 (13.♘xc5 ♙xc5 14.♙a4+ ♙d7 15.♙xc5 ♙xc5 14.♙a4+ ♙d7

15.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 16.♖d1+ ♙c7 17.♖a4! ♖ac8 18.♖xc4 ♙b8= Black has absolutely no problems.) 13...♙xd1 14.♖xd1 ♙h5= Black is again very solid.



12...♖c8?

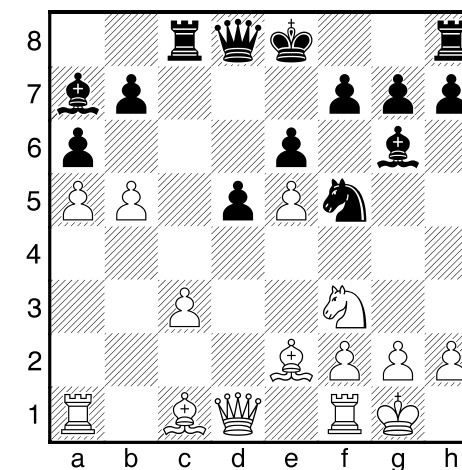
12...♙d7 was more precise, stopping the b4-b5 idea that was very strong during the game after ...♖c8. Black is very solid, and White doesn't seem to have much.

13.g4?

A fairly typical idea, kicking the strong knight on f5. However White had a much stronger move: 13.♘xc5 ♙xc5 (even after 13...♖xc5 14.b4! ♖xc3 15.b5 is very strong. 15...♙e7 16.♙d2 ♖c7 17.bxa6 bxa6 18.♙a4+ ♙d7 19.♙xa6 ♙xa4 20.♖xa4 0-0

21.♙e2± the very dangerous passed a-pawn gives White a big advantage.) 14.b4! this idea in the variations following g4, but I did not notice it in this position. 14...♙a7 (14...♙e7 15.♙a4+ ♙d7 16.b5± with already a big initiative and advantage.) 15.b5!

Analysis Diagram: b2-b4-b5



Here b5! was a surprising way to get an advantage and initiative. In all lines Black doesn't seem to neutralize White's pressure and equalize:

a) 15...axb5 is obviously not good, as the black king will be forced to move. 16.♙xb5+ ♙f8 17.a6± the position is opening up, which only favours White.  
b) 15...♖xc3 16.♙b2 and the

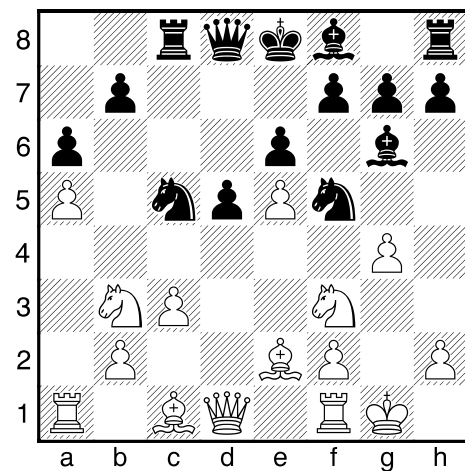


Rook has no good square,  
16...♖c8 17.bxa6 bxa6 18.♙xa6  
♜b8 19.♙a3 ♞e7 20.♙d6±  
Black is forced to give up the  
exchange.

**c) 15...♙d7 16.♙a3 ♞e7**  
17.bxa6 bxa6 18.♙b4 ♜a8  
(18...♖c6 19.♞d4 ♙xd4  
20.cxd4± the bishop pair is  
a big plus.) 19.♙xa6 ♙xf2+  
20.♜xf2 ♜xa6 21.♙e2 ♜a8  
22.♞d4± White's pieces are  
incredibly more active than  
their counterparts.

**d) 15...0-0 16.♙a3 ♞e7**  
(16...♜e8 17.bxa6 bxa6  
18.♙xa6 ♜xc3 (18...♜b8  
19.♙d2 just leaves Black down  
a pawn.) 19.♙b4 ♜c7 20.♙b5±  
White wins the exchange,  
while Black hardly has enough  
compensation to show for it.)  
17.♙a4 ♜xc3 18.♜fc1± White  
will forcefully win his pawn  
back with a better position due  
to the active pieces.

Diagram, game after 13.g4

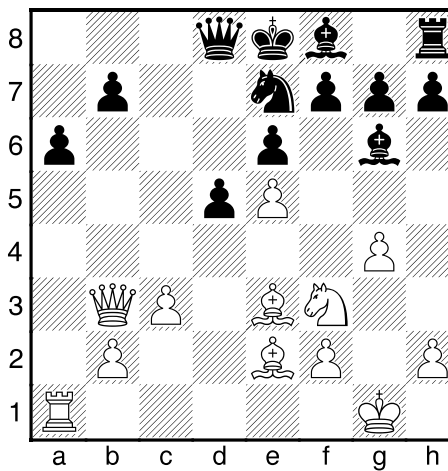


**13...♞h4**

**13...♞h6?!** isn't a good idea,  
leaving the knight stranded on  
the edge of the board. 14.♞fd4±  
followed by f4 is a very strong  
position.

**13...♞e7** was a possibility, try-  
ing to reroute the knight to c6.  
However it's a slow idea and  
White can take advantage of that  
with 14.♞xc5 ♜xc5 15.♙e3! giv-  
ing the a-pawn for development  
15...♜xa5 (denying the sacrifice  
with 15...♖c8 but after 16.♙b6  
♙d7 17.♞d4 ♞c6 18.♞xc6 ♜xc6  
19.c4± White is opening the  
position and getting some pres-  
sure in the center, as it is impos-  
sible to take since 19...dxc4?  
20.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 21.♜fd1+ ♙e7  
22.♙f3+- wins material.) 16.♙b3  
♜xa1 17.♜xa1

Analysis Diagram



**17...♙d7** runs into strong sacri-  
fice: 18.♙xa6! bxa6 19.♜xa6 with  
a nearly decisive attack. 19...f6  
20.♜a7 ♙c8 21.g5!±.

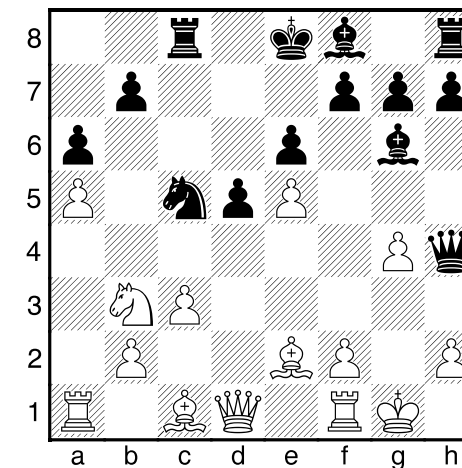
**17...♙c8** defending against the  
sacrifice on a6 is better, however  
White still has the initiative after  
18.♞d4 as it is extremely difficult  
to develop:

**18...♞c6 19.♙a4 ♙e7 20.♞xc6**  
bxc6 21.♙xa6 0-0 22.♙xc8  
♜xc8 23.♜a7 ♙f8 24.b4± White  
has much better pieces.

**18...f6** trying to undermine the  
center fails, because Black  
is too underdeveloped to get  
away with such plans. 19.♙b6  
♙f7 20.♜a5!:

**20...♙d7 21.f4 ♞c8 22.♙b3**  
fxe5 23.♞xe6,  
**20... fxe5 21.♜c5.**

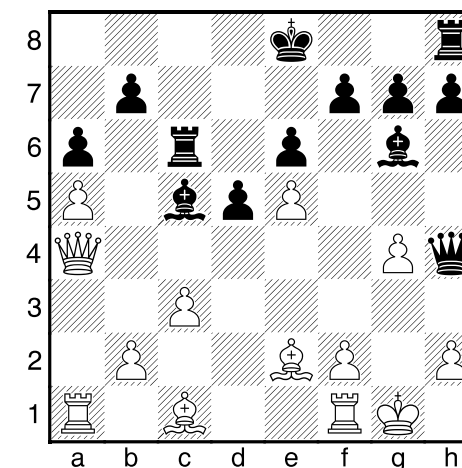
**14.♞xh4 ♙xh4**



**15.♞xc5**

This was based on a miscalcu-  
lation, as otherwise I would have  
definitely played the more logical  
15.♙e3 ♞d7 16.f4 ♙h3 17.♙f3  
h5 18.g5=.

**15...♙xc5 16.♙a4+ ♜c6**





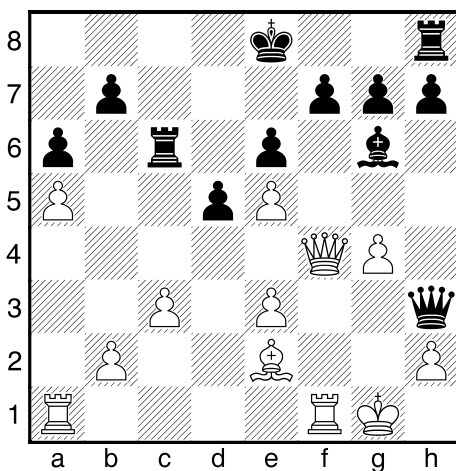
## 17. ♖f4

The White king is weak, so transferring the queen to the kingside is necessary.

17.b4? is what I originally calculated before, thinking this was very strong, as b5 is coming. However, this move doesn't work tactically as after 17... ♗a7 18.b5 ♖c4! White is getting mated after 19. ♗xc4 ♖xg4+ 20. ♔h1 ♗e4+ 21.f3 ♖xf3+ 22. ♖xf3 ♗xf3#.

## 17... ♖h3 18. ♗e3!? ♗xe3

## 19. fxe3=



Despite the damaged pawn structure, the pawns provide open files for the white rooks. They can't be attacked as well, so technically they aren't weaknesses.

## 19...h6

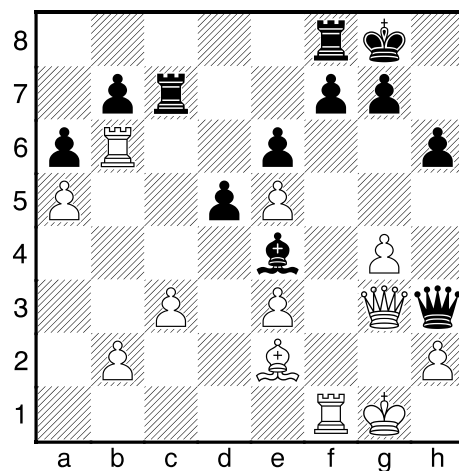
19...0-0 20. ♖f3 ♖h4 21.g5 ♖xf4 22. ♖xf4= it is better taking with the rook, leaving the fourth rank open for a rook transfer.

## 20. ♖a4

20. ♗d3 was a nice idea, deflecting the bishop from the defence of the f7 pawn. However, White has only a draw there: 20... ♗xd3 21. ♖f3! It's important to chase the queen away so that e3 isn't hanging. 21... ♖h4 22. ♖xf7+ ♔d8 23. ♖xb7 ♗e4! 24. ♖xc6 ♗xf3 now White has to force a perpetual after 25. ♖d6+ ♔e8 26. ♖xe6+ ♔d8 (26... ♔f8?? 27. ♖f1+- as g4 is defended.) 27. ♖d6+ ♔e8=.

## 20...0-0 21. ♖b4 ♖c7 22. ♖b6

## ♗e4 23. ♖g3

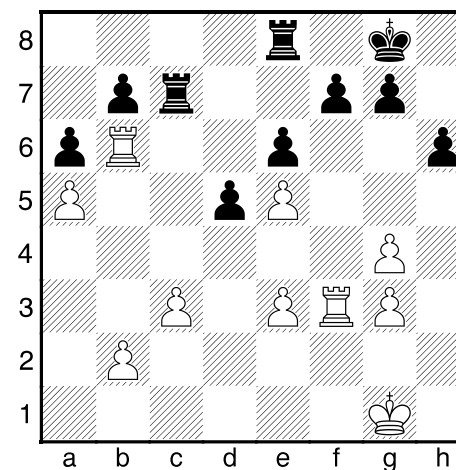


The queen was very annoying, and White should force the queen exchange despite damaging the structure.

## 23... ♖xg3+ 24. hxg3 ♖

White's pawn structure is damaged which gives Black a slight advantage, but the active rooks make it hard to improve.

## 24... ♖e8 25. ♗f3 ♗xf3 26. ♖xf3



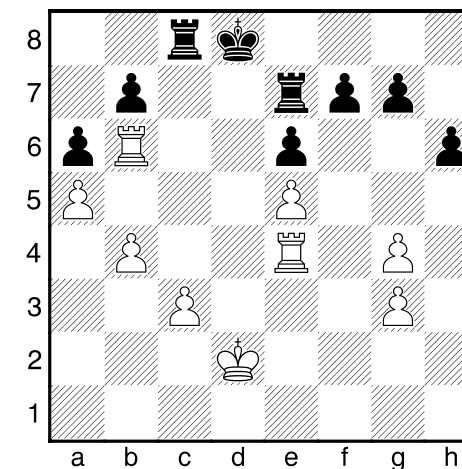
## 26... ♖ee7

26...g5! stopping the transfer of the rook to the queenside made more sense. The white rook would have to transfer to the queenside through d4, which would take longer and allow Black to activate his pieces. 27. ♖f1 ♖ee7 28. ♔g2 (28. ♖d1?

loses a pawn due to 28... ♖c5! 29. ♖a1 ♖c4 ♖) 28... ♖c4 29. ♖d1 ♖xg4 30. ♖d4 ♖xd4 31. exd4 ♖ Black is up a pawn, but with the white rook being very active and having no weaknesses it will be very difficult to win.

## 27. ♖f4 ♔f8

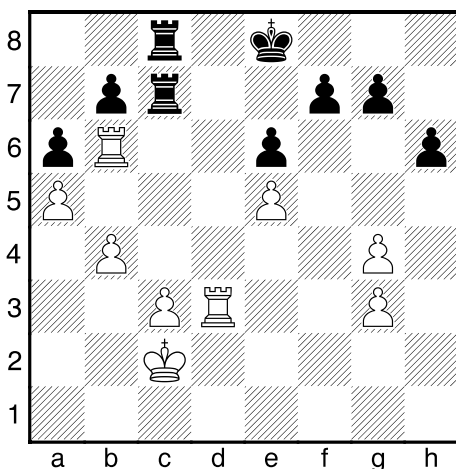
27... ♔h7 transferring the king to the kingside made more sense.

28. ♔f2 ♔e8 29. ♔e2 ♔d8  
30. ♔d2 ♖c5 31. b4 ♖c8 32. e4  
dxe4 33. ♖xe4=

If White can advance the queenside pawns it will become a very dangerous position for Black. However Black can stop them easily and I was expecting a draw soon.



33...♖d7+ 34.♔c2 ♜dc7  
35.♖d4+ ♔e8 36.♖d3



36...♔f8?!

The start of a wrong plan. We were both low on time and needed to get to move 40, and my opponent was probably unsure about the possible pawn endgame.

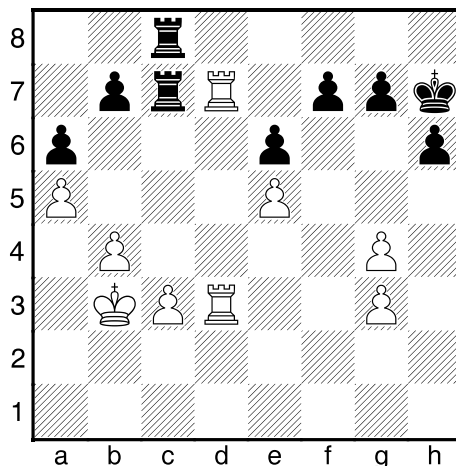
It was better to trade rooks with 36...♖d8 37.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 38.♖d6+ ♔e7 39.♔d3 ♖d7 40.♖xd7+ ♔xd7 41.♔e4 ♔c6 42.c4 ♔d7= which leads to a pawn endgame where White can't improve because of the possibility of ...f6 creating a passed pawn.

37.♔b3 ♔g8

It is too late to go back with

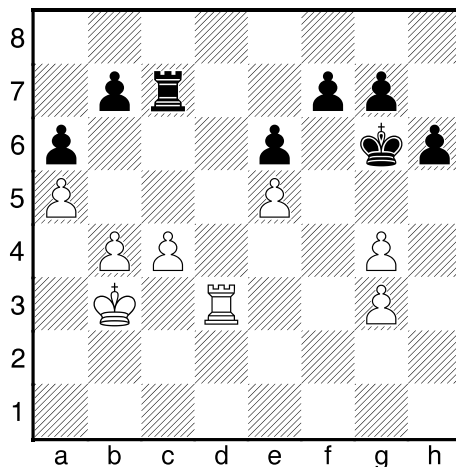
37...♔e7?! since after 38.c4 ♖d8 39.♖dd6± followed by c5 leads to a very bad passive position.

38.♖bd6 ♔h7 39.♖d7



Advancing the queenside pawns will become much more dangerous with only one pair of rooks on the board.

39...♔g6 40.♖xc7 ♖xc7 41.c4



41...♔g5?

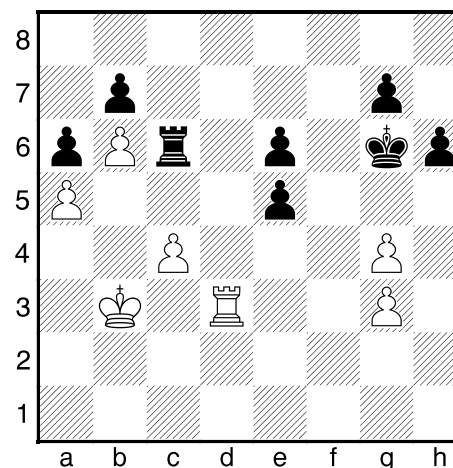
The decisive mistake.

41...f6! creating the passed e-pawn as soon as possible was the way to defend. White has two tries, but neither works:

42.exf6 ♔xf6 43.b5 e5 44.bxa6 bxa6 45.♖d6+ ♔g5 46.♖xa6 ♔xg4 47.♖e6 ♔xg3 48.♖xe5 g5= leads to a big pawn race in which Black is just in time.

42.b5 fxe5 43.b6 ♖c6

*Analysis Diagram*



44.♖d7 e4 Black's e-pawn is just in time with counterplay. 45.♖xb7 e3 46.♖xg7+ (46.♔c3?? ♖d6-+) 46...♔xg7 47.b7 e2 48.b8♖ e1♖ 49.♖b7+ ♔f6 50.♖xc6 ♖b1+=.

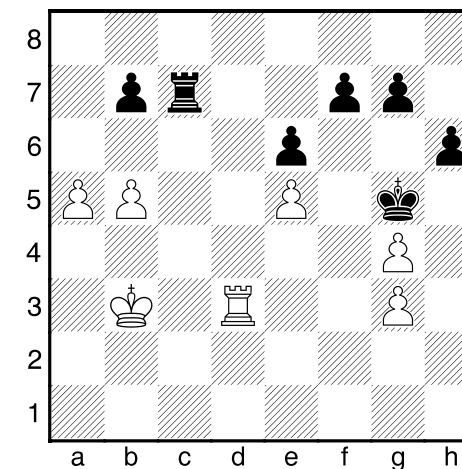
44.♔b4 e4 45.♖e3 ♔f6 46.♖xe4 ♔e7= the queenside pawns are stopped and White can't improve.

42.b5!

In pawn races the most important thing is how far they are advanced, not the number of pawns.

42.♖d4? f6= and Black gets enough counterplay.

42...axb5 43.cxb5+-



43...f6

43...♔xg4 44.b6 ♖e7 (44...♖c5 45.♖d4+ ♔xg3 46.a6! bxa6 47.b7 ♖b5+ 48.♖b4+-) 45.♖c3 the rook invasion is decisive. 45...♖e8 46.♖c7 ♖b8 47.♔b4 ♔xg3 48.♔b5 h5 49.♖xb7 ♖xb7





50.a6+-.

#### 44.b6 ♖f7

44...♖c5 45.♖d7 and the threat of mate gives an important tempo. 45...fxe5 46.♔b4+- the pawns on the queenside are decisive.

45.exf6 e5 46.♖c3 ♖xf6 47.♖c7 ♖f3+ 48.♔b4

1-0

An important win which guaranteed the IM norm, as with 6/8 I would be playing with another high-rated opponent in the final round. I was paired against GM Kayden Troff rated 2514, and even if I lost I would get the Norm. This definitely helped since there was no pressure anymore and I was able to play a very good game. I quickly equalized as Black and was better throughout most of the game, even winning at one point. However, Troff defended very well and one mistake on my part allowed him to draw.

With 6½/9 I was able to be part of a massive tie for 3rd, which won me \$850. But the thing that I will

be remembering the most is getting the final IM norm, and the IM title with it!

## AURORA

Notes by IM Razvan Preotu

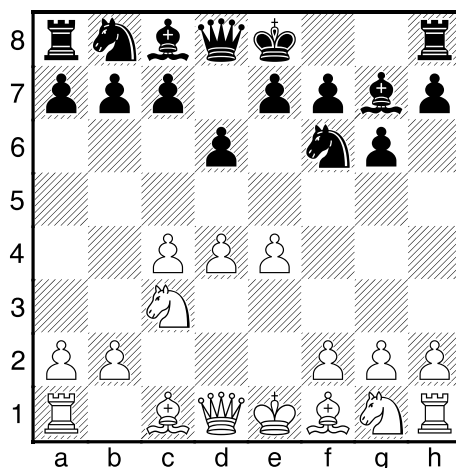
Sambuev, Bator (2667)  
Preotu, Razvan (2485)

E99

Aurora Fall Open Aurora (3),  
04.10.2014

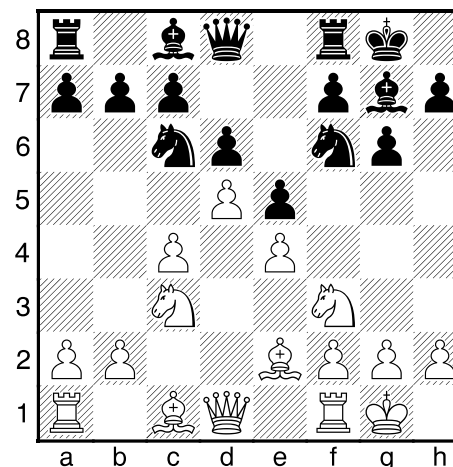
This was the 3rd round of the Aurora Fall Open where I was paired against GM Bator Sambuev. This was a very interesting sharp game, and it proved to be the critical game of the tournament.

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 ♖g7  
4.e4 d6



The King's Indian Defence, an extremely sharp opening variation. White gets the center but Black hopes to compensate this with tactical play. I've already played the King's Indian Defence against Bator, but without success and I believe I lost all my games with it!

5.♖f3 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 ♖c6  
8.d5



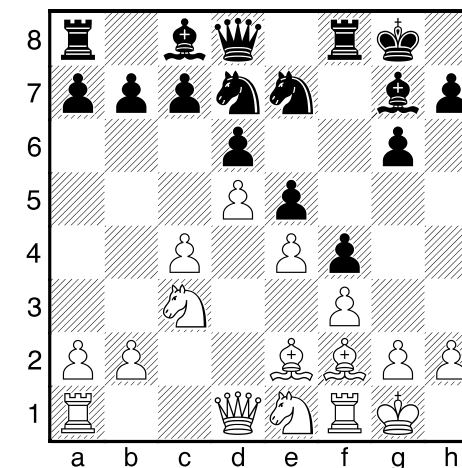
This is the classical variation, the sharpest line of the King's Indian Defence. Here the center becomes completely blocked, and White tries to use his extra space in the center to start a massive queenside attack by preparing the break c5. During this Black hopes to start an attack against the king by prepar-

ing the break ...f5.

8...♖e7 9.♖e1

White predicts the f5 break and gets ready to play f3 supporting the center.

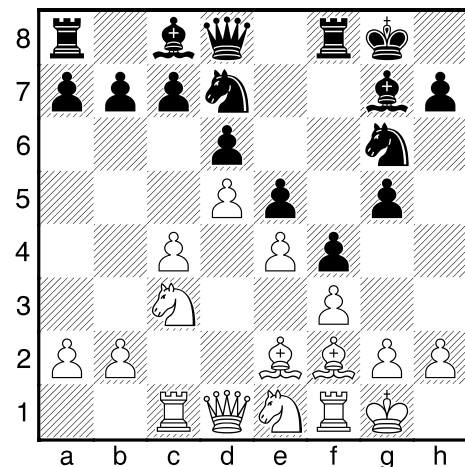
9...♖d7 10.♗e3 f5 11.f3 f4  
12.♗f2



This is the most popular way to play for White, as the bishop belongs on a strong diagonal. It pressures the queenside and can be one of the most important defenders on the kingside. Now that the center is completely blocked, Black prepares a huge pawn storm on the kingside to open the white king.

12...g5 13.♖c1 ♖g6





*editor* – A couple of years ago Bator told me he stopped playing the KID because he considers this line too strong for White.

#### 14.c5!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice, meant to drive the black knight offside, far away from his kingside attack.

14.♘d3 is the most natural way of playing this position, preparing c5 without giving a pawn. But here Black is able to bring his pieces to the kingside with 14...♘f6 15.c5 ♖f7 defending the seventh rank. Here it is much easier to prepare the break ...g4, as the knight remains on a good position on f6.

#### 14...♘xc5

14...dxc5? 15.b4! and the queenside opens way to quickly, as Black doesn't have time to defend c7 in the variation: 15...cxb4 16.♘b5+-.

#### 15.b4 ♘a6

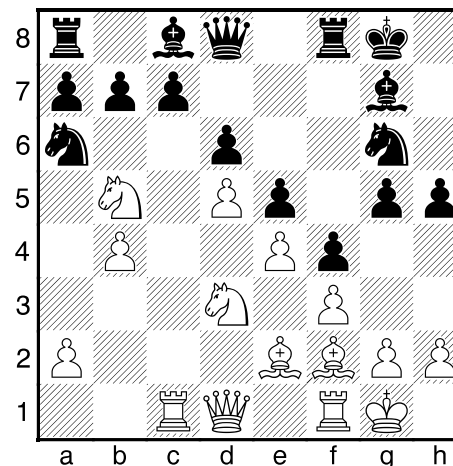
15...♘d7 16.♘b5 is White's threat. Black is forced to play the knight to the terrible looking a6 square.

#### 16.♘d3

16.♘b5 is another way to play the position. The main move is

♙d7, but it could simply transpose to the game following 16...b6 17.♘d3 h5.

#### 16...h5 17.♘b5



#### 17...b6

17...♙d7 was played much more often, but I can't find the point of this move. After playing the move 18.a4 Black will be forced to play ...b6 eventually, while the bishop on d7 harms his position. The pawn on c7 will be defended less often, as the bishop blocks the seventh rank for the rook to defend from f7. Also, the ♘a6 can come under future discoveries from the ♙e2 after the ♘d3 moves away. Overall, I find ...♙d7 to be a waste of time. (18.♘xa7? isn't good because after 18...♙b8! the knight is trapped.)

#### 18.♙e1

White prepares the re-grouping of his pieces, most notably the knight transfer to f2 in order to prevent the future break ...g5-g4.

If White tries to win the c7 pawn by gathering all the major pieces on the c file, Black will be able to get enough counter play



*GM Sambuev vs IM Preotu*



on the kingside. 18.♖c3 ♕h6  
19.♔c2 ♖f7 20.♖c1 ♕d7 21.♘xc7  
♘xc7 22.♖xc7 g4!→ White has  
won the pawn back, but Black  
has created counterplay on  
the kingside. Normally in this  
variation White wants to stop  
the ...g4 break at all costs, as it  
could prove to be very danger-  
ous. Also, without this break and  
source of counterplay, Black will  
be forced to endure a very long  
defence while being squeezed  
on the queenside.

### 18...♕h6

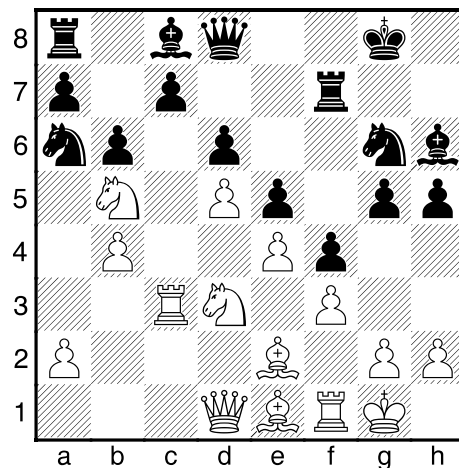
Threatening ...g4, as the rook on  
c1 will be under threat after ...f3.

### 19.♖c3

This is the best square for the  
rook, as it discourages Black  
from playing a future ...g4 as the  
rook will be able to defend from  
the third rank.

### 19...♖f7

Transferring the rook to the g-  
file to prepare ...g4, while de-  
fending the seventh rank on the  
queenside.



### 20.a3

This is normally a bad sign  
for White if moves like this are  
necessary, as it is extremely  
slow. However, if White wants to  
transfer the knight to f2 the b4  
pawn does need protection.

### 20...♖g7 21.♘f2 ♘f8!

Since the knight on a6 is absent  
from the kingside, the knight on  
g6 comes to take its place on f6.

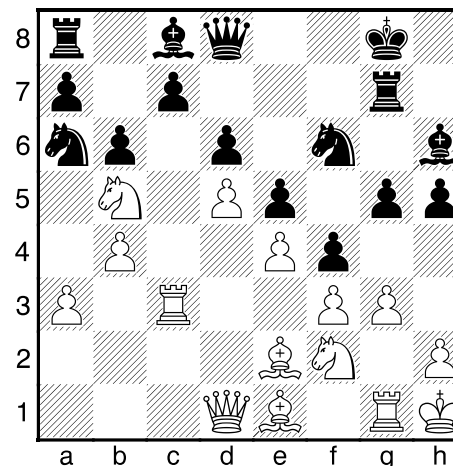
### 22.♕h1

The start of a plan to try and  
neutralize Black's attack.

White is at a standstill with his  
queenside offensive, as if White  
brings the queen to the queen-  
side ...g4 cannot be stopped.

22.♔a4 ♘h7 23.♘xd6 cxd6  
24.♕xa6 g4→.

### 22...♘h7 23.♖g1 ♘f6 24.g3



This was White's idea. He pre-  
pares to capture f4, and is able  
to get some space for his piec-  
es. After ...exf4 the white knight  
on b5 will have a very strong  
square on d4, while after ...gxf4  
the rooks get traded and there is  
no longer an attack. This would  
be the same as if Black was able  
to play ...g4, but instead of going  
for the mate with ...g3, he trades  
on f3 instead.

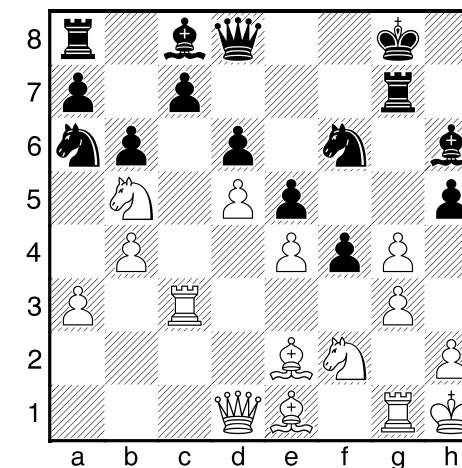
### 24...g4?

Opens the position too soon. All  
of White's pieces are prepared  
for the opening of the kingside,  
while not all of Black's pieces

are.

24...fxg3! 25.♖xg3 (25.hxg3 h4  
gives Black good counterplay.  
Black will take on g3 and trans-  
fer his knight to the f4 square  
through h5.) 25...♘b8! The  
knight begins its transfer back  
to the kingside with tempo, as  
...a6 threatens to trap the knight  
on b5. 26.♔c1 ♘e8 27.♖c2 a6  
28.♘c3 ♘d7↔ Black will bring  
his knight to f4 with the maneu-  
ver ...♘d7-f8-g6, getting good  
counterplay even if he has to  
give up the g5 pawn after ♕d2.  
One must remember that Black  
is still up a pawn here.

### 25.fxg4



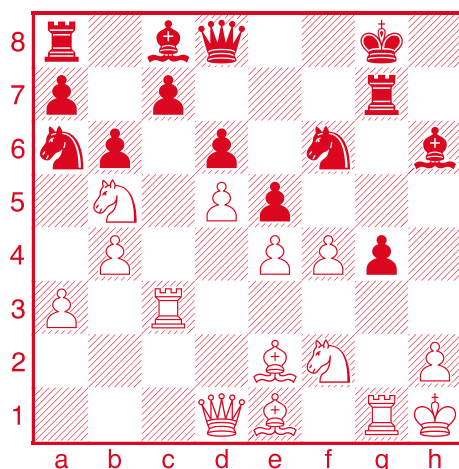
### 25...hxg4



25...♘xg4 26.gxf4 ♕xf4 (26...  
exf4 27.♕xg4 hxg4 28.♘xg4  
♕xg4 29.♖xg4 ♖e7 30.♗f3 ♖e8  
31.♖c4± White has a big posi-  
tional advantage due to the bet-  
ter pieces and pawn structure.)  
27.♘xg4 hxg4 28.♕xg4±.

26.♕d2?

26.gxf4!



Opening the position more, as  
White is the side who is most  
prepared for it. Black would be in  
serious trouble after this.

26...exf4 is just bad: giving  
White d4: 27.♘d4 ♖e8 28.♘e6!  
♕xe6 29.dxe6 f3 30.♖d4! fxe2  
31.♗xf6 ♖g6 32.♘xg4 ♖xf6  
33.♘xf6+ ♖f8 34.♘d5+- White's  
pieces are simply dominating.

After **26...♕xf4** it is extremely  
important which way White cap-  
tures g4:

27.♕xg4? ♘xg4 28.♘xg4  
♖g5! 29.♘xc7 ♘xc7 30.♖xc7  
♖xc7 31.♘f6+ ♖f8 32.♖xg5  
♕xg5 33.♗f3 ♖f7 34.♘h7+ ♖g7  
35.♖g2 ♖xh7 36.♗xg5 ♕d7=  
one of the sides will have to  
give perpetual eventually.

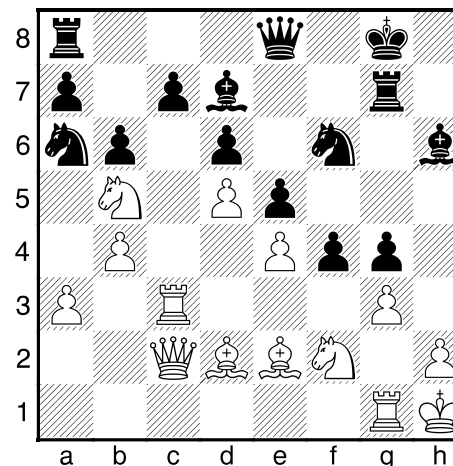
**27.♘xg4!** is the right way. Dur-  
ing the game I thought Black  
could regain his pawn with  
27...♘xe4, but after 28.♖c4!+-  
White will take f4 with a decisive  
attack following ♕c3.

Instead, **27...♘xg4** is the best  
defense, trying to trade as many  
pieces as possible to avoid the  
strong attack. 28.♕xg4 ♕xg4  
29.♖xg4 ♖d7 30.♖xg7+ ♖xg7  
31.♗e2± Although there is no  
longer a strong attack, White  
has a huge positional advan-  
tage with material equality

26...♗e8!

Black prepares to bring the  
queen to the kingside, and also  
x-rays the pawn on e4 so gxf4  
is no longer possible.

27.♖c2 ♕d7±



Black has so much activity now,  
and it's worth giving the c7 pawn  
to activate the other pieces.

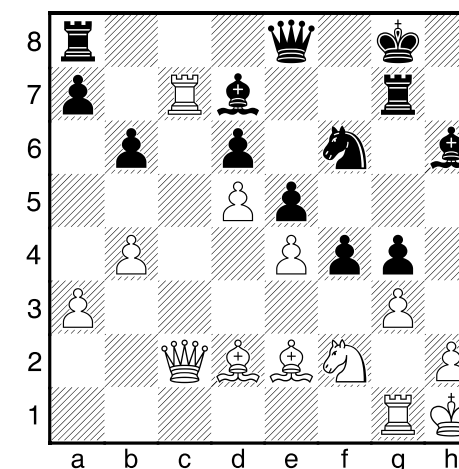
28.♘xc7?

The most natural move, however  
in sharp positions precise moves  
are necessary.

28.gxf4! ♕xf4! (28...♕xb5? be-  
ing too greedy. 29.fxe5! ♕xd2  
(29...♕a4 30.♖d3 ♕xd2 31.exf6  
♕xc3 32.fxg7 ♕xg7 33.♘xg4+-  
with a decisive attack.) 30.♗xd2  
dxe5 31.♕xg4 ♖f8 32.♖f3+-  
again with a decisive attack.  
Both sides have to be very  
precise in these types of po-  
sitions) 29.♕xf4 exf4 30.♘d4  
♖e5 31.♘c6 ♖h5 32.♖h3!  
very important to chase the

queen away. 32...♖g6 33.♕d3  
g3 34.♘e7+! deflecting the g  
rook so g2 wouldn't be mate.  
34...♖xe7 35.e5 ♖g7 36.hxg3  
♕xh3 37.gxf4 ♕g4 (37...♘g4?!  
38.♘h3± is just getting into  
trouble. White will win the knight  
back after ♕f5, with a strong  
attack.) 38.exf6 ♖h8+ 39.♖g2  
♗xf6 40.♘xg4 ♖xf4 41.♖h1  
♖g7 42.♖e2= White will either  
give perpetual check or win the  
knight on a6; in either case the  
position will be equal.

28...♘xc7 29.♖xc7



29...♖h5?

29...fxg3! was a nice tactical  
shot which I missed:

30.♕xh6 gxf2 31.♖g2 ♖g6  
32.♕d2 g3+- with a crushing  
attack.







**30.hxg3** ♙xd2 31.♚xd2 ♘xe4!  
32.♘xe4 ♚h5+ 33.♔g2 ♚h3+  
34.♔f2 ♚h2+ 35.♖g2 ♖f8+-+.

**30.♖xg3** ♙f4 31.♖g2 ♖c8  
32.♖xc8 ♚xc8 33.♚xc8+ ♙xc8⚡  
despite being an endgame,  
which normally favours White,  
Black is much better because of  
the very active pieces.

**29...♖c8** 30.♖xc8 ♚xc8  
31.♚xc8+ ♙xc8⚡ is also a bet-  
ter endgame, however the other  
version is preferable. This is  
what I saw in the game, however  
I wanted to keep queens on and  
continue the attack. During the  
game, I greatly underestimated  
the exchange sacrifice Bator  
played.

### 30.♖xd7!

30.gxf4 ♚h4! is what I saw dur-  
ing the game, and it looked  
dangerous for White. 31.fxe5  
g3 32.♖xg3 ♖xg3 33.exf6 ♙xd2  
34.♚xd2 ♖g6 35.f7+ ♔f8 36.♙f3  
♖d8⚡ Black's extra exchange  
proves to be more powerful than  
the white knight.

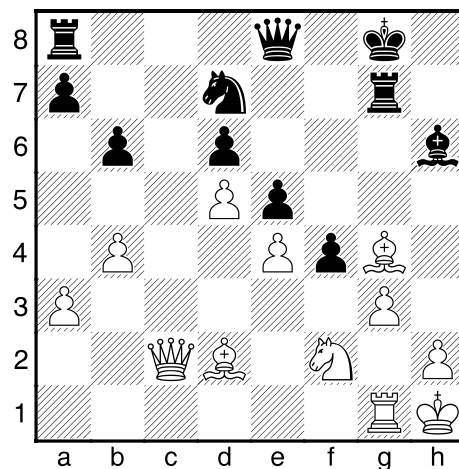
### 30...♘xd7?

Getting into more trouble. Black  
should play: 30...♖xd7!:

**31.♘g4** ♘g4 32.♙xg4 ♚xg4  
33.gxf4 ♚xg1+ 34.♔xg1 ♖g7+  
35.♔f2 ♙xf4 36.♙xf4 ♖f8=;

**31.gxf4** ♖g7 32.fxe5 dxe5  
33.♙xh6 ♚xh6 34.♘g4  
♘g4 35.♙xg4 ♔h8= mate-  
rial is equal. White has a strong  
passed pawn, but Black's rooks  
are very active and compen-  
sate.

### 31.♙xg4 ♚e8



### 32.♙e6+?

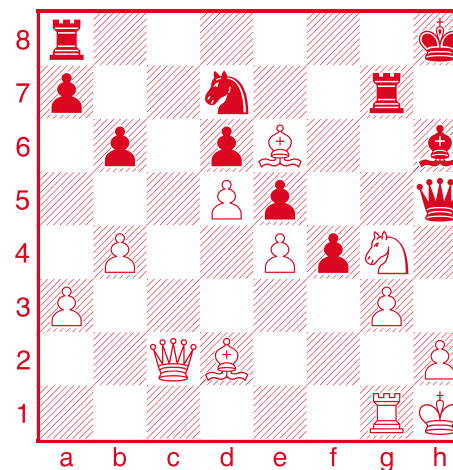
The most obvious move, but not  
the best.

**32.♚c6** ♘f8 33.♚xe8 (edi-  
tor – for many ply, Houdini rates  
the position after 33.♙f5 as  
clearly winning for White. But  
after 33...♚h5 it's still anyone's

game.) 33...♖xe8 34.♙f5± would  
be a very difficult endgame for  
Black, as the bishop on f5 domi-  
nates the position.

**32.gxf4** ♙xf4 33.♙xf4 exf4  
34.♙e6+ ♔h8 35.♖xg7 ♔xg7  
36.♚c7 ♖c8! (holding on to the  
knight is hopeless 36...♖d8?  
37.♚xd6+- the central pawns  
will roll up the board.) 37.♚xd7+  
♚xd7 38.♙xd7 ♖c3± White has  
a big material advantage, how-  
ever it is not clear if he can win.  
Black's rook is very active, which  
is the most important thing in  
such endgames. The pawn on f4  
is strong, and the king can later  
become active through the e5  
square.

### 32...♔h8 33.♘g4 ♚h5!



### 34.♚c6?

Knowing that he lost his advan-  
tage, White continues to attack  
when it was time to play defen-  
sively.

34.♚d1! ♖f8 35.♘h6 ♚xh6  
36.gxf4 ♖xg1+ 37.♚xg1 ♘f6  
38.♚e3 exf4 39.♚f3= the strong  
bishops fully compensate the  
exchange down.

### 34...♖ag8?

Already in time trouble, it was  
impossible to play the most ac-  
curately.

**34...♖d8!** makes it very hard for  
White to save the game:

**35.♚xd6** fxf3 36.♙xd7  
(36.♙xh6? ♖xg4+-) 36...♙xd2  
37.♖xg3 ♙g5! covering the f6  
square and winning the bishop  
afterwards. 38.♘xe5 ♖dxd7  
39.♘xd7? (39.♚f8+ ♖g8 40.♚f5  
♖h7+- gives some counter  
chances, but with precise play  
White is lost.) 39...♚d1+ 40.♔g2  
♚e2+ 41.♔h1 ♚xe4+ 42.♖g2  
♚xg2+ 43.♔xg2 ♙f4+-+.

**35.♚c7** ♖dg8 is stronger, as  
now if White takes the knight  
on d7 the bishop will be pinned:  
36.♙xd7 ♚xg4! 37.♙xg4 ♖xc7



38. ♖e6 ♜gg7 ♣ White does not have full compensation for the exchange.

### 35. ♖xd6?

My opponent was also in time trouble here, and could not calculate the variations in order to defend. After this White is lost.

35. ♖xd7! fxg3 36. ♜xg3 ♖xd2  
37. ♖xd6 ♖f4 38. ♜g2 ♖h4 39. ♖f5  
♖e1+ 40. ♜g1 ♖e2 41. ♖f6 White  
has to pin the rook, or else  
...♜xg4 is mating. Now  
with the threat of ♖h4,  
Black has nothing else but  
to give perpetual check.  
41... ♖f3+ 42. ♜g2 ♖f1+  
43. ♜g1 ♖f3+=.

35... ♜xg4!-+ 36. ♖xg4  
♜xg4 37. ♖xd7 fxg3  
38. ♜g2 ♜g8

Threatening ...♖d1 and  
...g2 mate.

39. ♖a4 ♖xd2 40. ♖b3 ♖f4  
41. d6 ♜c8

0-1

*RP vs Liem Quang Le (2706)  
(draw)*

A very important win against the strongest player in the tournament.

After drawing Michael Song in round 4 (who also had 3/3), we were both tied for first with 3½/4. The important difference was that I have already played Bator. In the last round I won my game and Michael lost to Bator so I manage to win

the tournament with 4½/5.

It was a very well organized tournament and I'm looking forward to go **back to the Aurora Chess Club at the end of March for my first simul.**

*[for more games from the Aurora Fall Open, see page 101 – ed.]*

## SPICE CUP - St. LOUIS

In round 6 I was paired against Azerbaijani GM Vasif Durarbayli. After the previous round win with Black against one of the top US juniors, IM Akshat Chandra, and a draw with Black in round 3 against the super **GM Liem Quang Le**, I felt very confident.





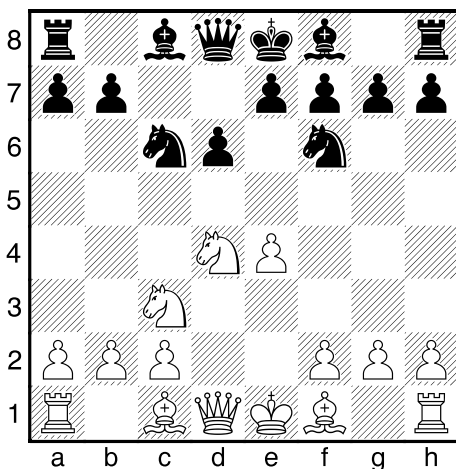
**Notes by IM Razvan Preotu**  
**Preotu, Razvan (2405)**  
**Durarbayli, Vasif (2624)**  
 B67

2014 SPICE Cup St Louis (6),  
 24.10.2014

**1.e4 c5**

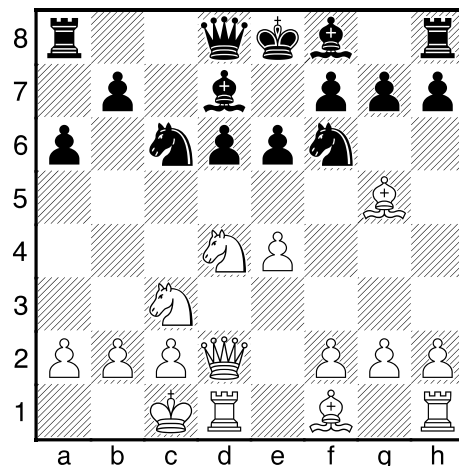
In round 4 my opponent played the Berlin against Ray Robson and drew. This time he wanted to play for a win and decided to go with the Sicilian.

**2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6**



I was expecting him to play the Najdorf instead with 5...a6 as in round 4 I lost against Kayden Troff in a complicated position.

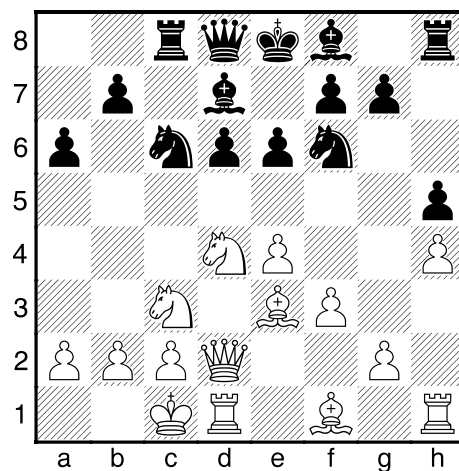
**6.♗g5 e6 7.♔d2 a6 8.0-0-0 ♗d7**



**9.f3**

9.f4 is the main line, but I prefer the English Attack set up with the pawn on f3 instead as e4 isn't weak anymore.

**9...♖c8 10.h4 h6!? 11.♗e3 h5**



This move does weaken the g5

square, but Black has to stop g4, or else after g4-g5 the kingside would open way too easily. Now it's not easy for White to prepare g4.

**12.♗g5**

In my opinion 12.♘xc6 was more precise, as the exchange of knights favours White:

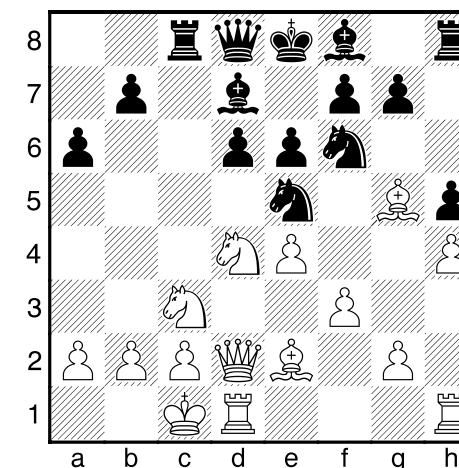
**12...bxc6?** 13.♗xa6± the open a and b-files do not provide Black with enough compensation for the pawn.

**12...♗xc6** 13.♔b1± with what it seems like a much more pleasant position. White will place his bishop on d4, which puts great pressure on the long diagonal. If Black ever castles White can try to prepare a g4 break or lift the rook to g3 via h3 and put pressure on the g-file that way. Black doesn't have an obvious active plan.

**12...♗e7**

**12...♘e5** was also possible. Now White has to prepare f4 with **13.♗e2** otherwise Black would get the initiative if he is able to get in ...b5. (13.f4 ♘eg4 14.♗e2? doesn't work as 14...♘f2 wins material.)

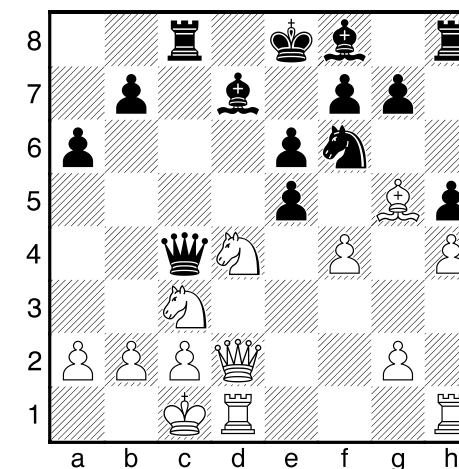
**Analysis: 12...♘e5 13.♗e2:**



From here there are two main ideas to consider: **13...♖c7** and **13...b5:**

**A) 13...♖c7** seems slow for the position. 14.f4 ♘c4 15.♗xc4 ♖xc4 16.e5! dxe5:

*Analysis Diagram*





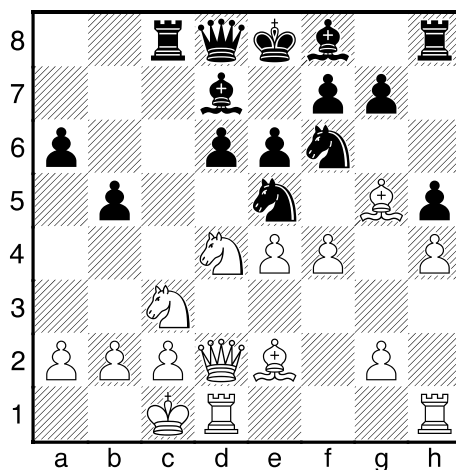
**17.fxe5** ♖g4 (17...♗d5 18.♗f5! ♖c6 19.♗xd5 ♖xd5 20.♖xd5 exd5 21.♗e3 d4! 22.♖xd4 ♗c5 23.♖d3 ♗c6 24.♗d5 0-0 25.♖hd1± Black has the bishop pair, but it does not fully compensate White's extra pawn.) 18.♖hf1 ♖c7 19.♖f4 f5 20.♔b1± with ♗xf5 and e6 ideas possible now. Taking the e5 pawn would be suicide as it just opens the Black king completely.

**17.♗f3** ♖c7 18.♗xe5 ♗c6 19.♖he1 ♗b4! threatening ♗e4 (19...♗e7 20.f5! ♖d8 21.♖e2 ♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 exf5 23.♗xf6 gxf6 24.♗xc6 bxc6 25.♖f3± Black's pawn structure is terrible and he's positionally lost despite

the extra pawn.) 20.♗xc6 ♖xc6 21.♖e3↑ f5 is a serious threat and castling will not help with the safety of his king.

**B) 13...b5** 14.f4

Analysis Diagram



**14...♗eg4?! 15.♗xg4** hxg4

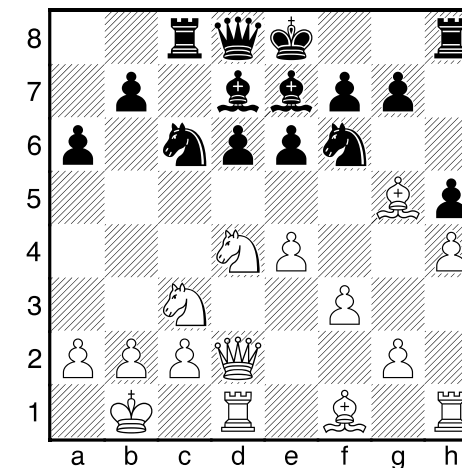
and the simplest way to get a strong initiative is with 16.a3 (although the more direct 16.e5 b4 17.♗d5! is stronger 17...♗e4 18.♖e3 ♗xg5 19.exd6 ♗xd6 20.♗f5 ♗e4! 21.♖xe4± and the Black king is in serious trouble.) 16...♖c7 17.♖he1↑.

**14...b4** 15.♗b1 ♗eg4 (15...♗c4 16.♗xc4 ♖xc4 17.e5 ♗e7 18.♖d3 ♖c8 19.exf6 gxf6 20.♗d2 ffg5 21.hxg5± with a better position and good attacking chances.) 16.♗xg4 hxg4 17.♖xb4 d5 18.♖b7 ♖b8 19.♗xf6 gxf6 20.♖xa6 ♖a8 21.♖e2 dxe4 22.♗c3 f5 23.♗c6 ♖b6 24.♗e5 ♗c6± Black is down a pawn, but for the first time his king is very safe. He has the bishop pair which could become very active, especially the dark square one. The e4 pawn could also become dangerous in the future. This provides good compensation for the pawn.

**13.♔b1**

*Kids today... so entitled...*

GM Ilyya Nyzhnyk (UKR)  
GM Ray Robson (USA)  
IM (now GM) Sam Sevian (USA)  
IM Razvan Preotu (CAN)



**13...♖a5**

I'm not a fan of this move, as the queen seems poorly positioned. 13...♗e5 seems stronger, as now the same idea doesn't work very well anymore.

After **13...♗e5** White has two reasonable moves: **14.♗e2** and **14.♖e1**:

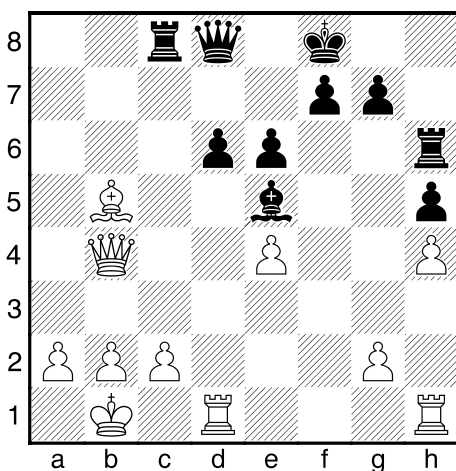
**14.♗e2** b5 15.f4 b4 and now there is no square for the knight to go. White has to go into complications and manages to hold the balance. 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 (16...gxf6 17.♗d5! exd5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.♗f5 dxe4 20.♖e3 ♖c7 21.♖xe4 ♗c6 22.♖d3± White has very good compensation for the pawn as the white squares are extremely weak and Black's king is unsafe.) 17.♗cb5! ♗xb5





18. ♖xb5 axb5 19. fxe5 ♗xe5  
20. ♗xb5+ ♔f8 21. ♔xb4 ♖h6=

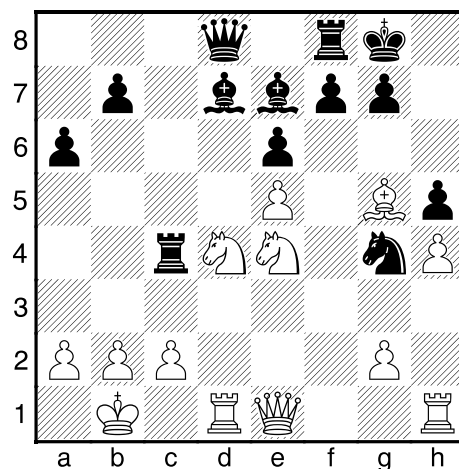
Analysis Diagram



And we have a position where both sides can hardly do anything. Black has full compensation for the pawn because of his strong dark square bishop, but he can hardly use it to attack the white king since the b-file will be completely blocked after a4. White, on the other hand, has no weaknesses to attack and can't advance his pawns on the queenside since it would weaken his king.

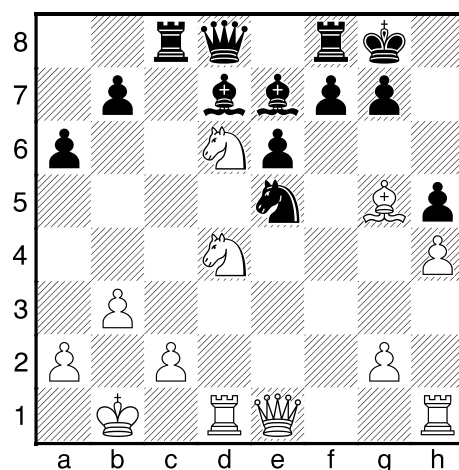
14. ♔e1! a strong move, preparing f4 and e5. 14...0-0 15. f4 ♘c4 16. ♗xc4 ♖xc4 17. e5 dxe5 18. fxe5 ♘g4 19. ♘e4

Analysis Diagram



White is starting to get some pressure going, but Black has a nice exchange sacrifice to deal with it. 19... ♗xe5 20. b3 ♖c8 21. ♘d6

Analysis Diagram

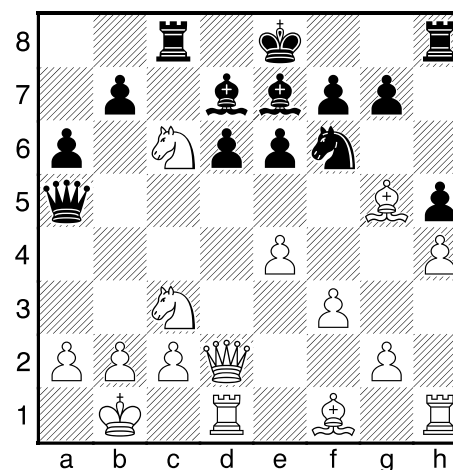


21... ♗xg5 22. hxg5 ♔xg5 23. ♘xc8 ♗xc8= material is equal and Black is very solid. Not 23... ♖xc8? 24. ♔b4! and now

White's queen becomes very active; b7 is hanging and after 24...b5?! 25. ♔d6± Black's pieces are becoming very tangled.

21... f6 22. ♘xc8 ♔xc8 23. ♗c1 ♘g4 24. ♘f5 ♗c5 25. ♘d6 ♔c7 26. ♘e4 ♗a7 27. ♖h3! ♗c6 28. ♗a3 ♖a8!= despite the awkward square, it's still better than exchanging rooks with ...♖d8. Black is down the exchange for a pawn, but is still very solid and has active minor pieces.

14. ♘xc6!

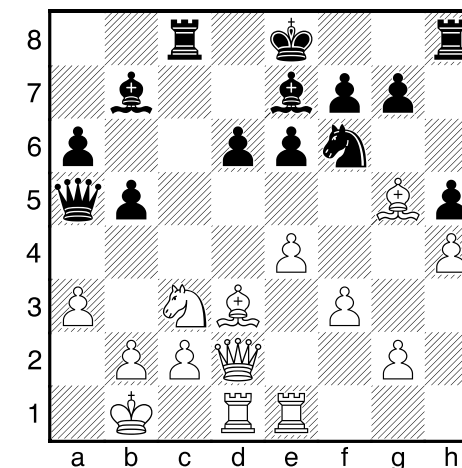


14... ♗xc6

14...bxc6 This isn't a good pawn structure for Black. Although he has the center, a6 is now weak. Black might want to attack on the b-file in the future, but I saw

a forcing line which leads to a simplified position. 15. e5! ♔xe5 16. ♗f4 ♔c5 17. ♘a4! ♔d5 18. ♔e1 ♔f5 19. ♗xd6 ♗xd6 20. ♖xd6± White has a clear positional advantage due to the many weaknesses Black has.

15. ♗d3 b5 16. ♖he1 ♗b7 17. a3



Although normally a2-a3 is a weakening move in most Sicilian positions, here it is very useful. White now prepares f4 as there is no longer ...b4 kicking the knight away. Black's pieces are not well coordinated for an attack against the white king for the moment, so playing ...b4 just weakens the pawn structure.

17... ♔d8

The queen was very misplaced,

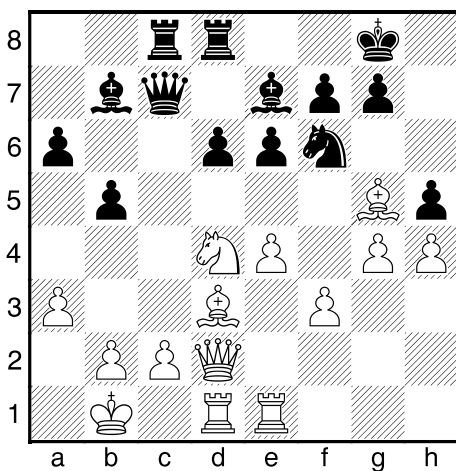


and can be seen in the line:

**17...0-0?** 18.♘d5! ♔d8 19.♘xe7+ ♔xe7 20.g4+-.

**17...♗c7** is what I thought he would play, but then he can't complete the idea of trading bishops as in the game. The position is actually very uncomfortable, as the black king isn't safe anywhere. Say, after the natural moves 18.♘e2 0-0 19.♘d4 ♖fd8 20.g4! is very strong:

### Analysis Diagram



20...hxg4 21.fxg4:

**21...♘xg4?** 22.♖g1 ♘e5

(22...♘f6? 23.♙h6 g6

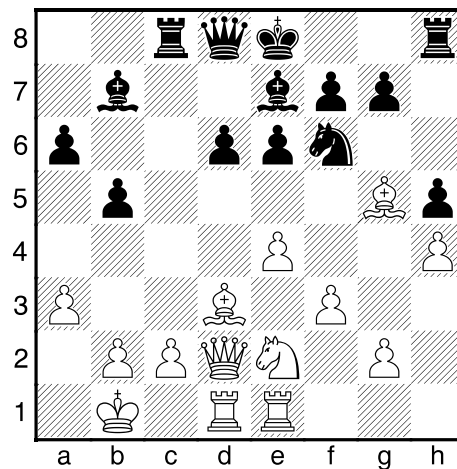
24.♘xe6+-) 23.♗g2!+- White

has created decisive threats on the kingside.

**21...♖d7** 22.h5→ White has a very strong attack. Black's only

chance to try to disturb the white pieces is with **22...♗c5** but after **23.♙xf6! ♙xf6** 24.♘f3 g5 is coming. A sample line where you can see how strong White's attack is in the following **24...♖dc7** 25.g5 ♙e7 26.♗f4 b4 27.axb4 ♗xb4 28.h6 g6? 29.h7+ ♔g7 30.♘e5! with a crushing attack. **30...dxe5** 31.♗xe5+ f6 32.h8♗+ ♖xh8 33.♗xc7+-.

18.♘e2



Now that the queen has left a5, it's possible to maneuver the knight to a more active square.

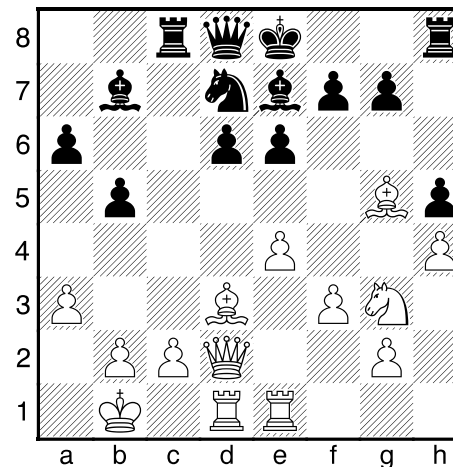
18...♘d7

**18...0-0** then ...♘d7 was also possible:

**19.♘g3** g6 doesn't seem to accomplish much, as it's hard to break through the kingside with the knight blocking the g-pawn.

**19.♘d4** 19...♘d7 20.g4! hxg4 21.♙xe7 ♗xe7 22.fxg4 ♘e5 23.g5→ Positionally, Black is doing great, but his king is again under attack. Black should break in the center and distract White from his attack, but all White's pieces are very centralized. A very uncomfortable position for Black and much easier to play as White.

19.♘g3

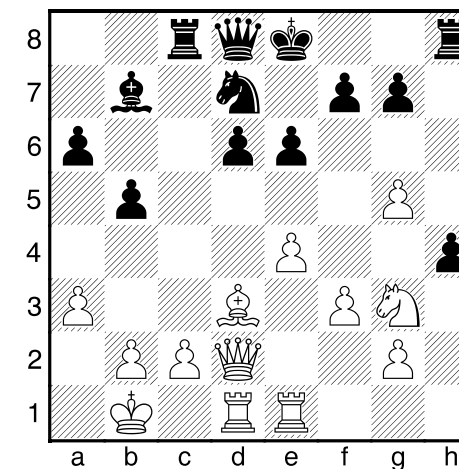


19...♙xg5

19...g6 was possible, but after **20.♙f1!** the d-pawn becomes weak. **20...♗c7** (20...f6 21.♙e3

♘e5 22.f4 ♘c4 23.♗f2↑ Black's kingside is very soft now, and a central break is not far away.) **21.♘e2** (21.♙xe7 ♔xe7∞ is also possible. Although the king is in the middle, the center is quite blocked for the moment and d6 is no longer weak. Black will bring his rook to d8 and go ...♘b6-c4. However, White still has attacking chances.) **21...♘e5** **22.♘c3** the bishop on g5 stops Black from castling, but capturing it, which allows the pawn to come to g5, is not an option as the dark squares become too weak and f4-f5 becomes much stronger. The only other option seems to weaken the kingside even more, but after: **22...f6** **23.♙e3 ♔f7** **24.♗f2∞** both kings could come under attack.

20.hxg5 h4





## 21. ♘f5!?

21. ♘e2± was the much calmer move. The pawn on g5 is a big plus for White, as the advance f4-f5 becomes more dangerous. Black doesn't seem to have a clear plan and he can never castle short anymore. This is stronger than the knight sacrifice... but the knight sacrifice was too interesting and looked too dangerous for my opponent for me *not* to play it.

## 21... exf5

21... ♖c7!?

is the only way to decline the sacrifice:

22. ♘xg7+? ♔f8

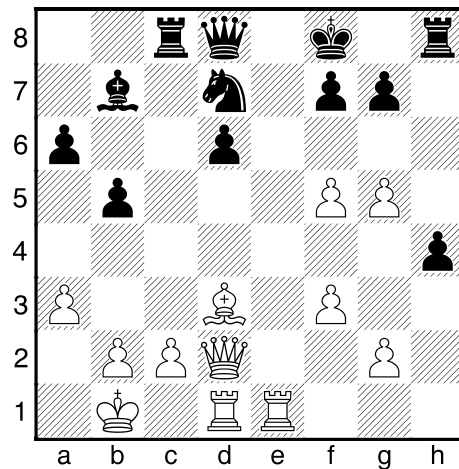
23. ♘xe6+ fxe6

White has full compensation for the piece, but nothing more.

22. ♘d4± the position is similar to the previous note, but ♖c7 and ♘d4 favours White as the queen does nothing on c7.

## 22. exf5+ ♔f8

22... ♘e5 23. f4+-.



## 23. ♙xb5

23. f6!?

was also an idea, preparing ♙f5. The reason I didn't like this is that Black has an easy way to relieve the pres-

sure: 23... ♘xf6! 24. gxf6 ♖xf6= is the best line. Black is temporarily up a pawn, but will soon lose it back. The position is not very difficult to play anymore, as the threatening kingside pawns are gone and queens will most likely be exchanged soon after winning d6.

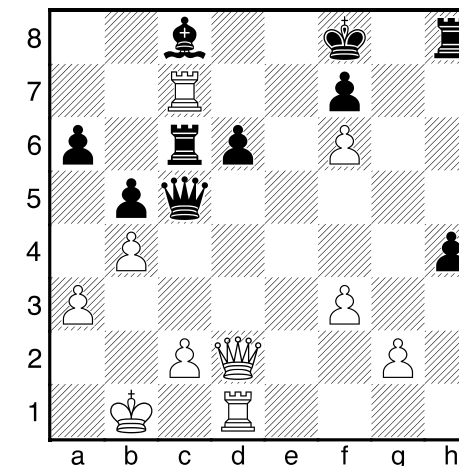
After 23. f6!?

Black should avoid 23... gxf6?! already going down the wrong path. 24. ♙f5 ♖c6? being way to greedy. (24... ♘b6 25. ♙xc8 ♘xc8 26. ♖d4 ♖g8 27. gxf6 ♖g6 28. ♖xh4 ♖xf6 29. ♖f2± White has a rook and

a pawn for two pieces. Normally in middle games this favours the pieces, but because of the weaknesses and active rooks White has a plus.) 25. ♙xd7 ♖xd7 26. gxf6 when ♖e7 is coming and Black is in big trouble. 26... ♖f5 27. ♖e7 ♙c8 (27... ♖xf6 28. ♖xb7 ♖h5±

White is clearly better, but the fight is still going.) 28. ♖c7 ♖c5 29. b4!

## Analysis Diagram



White creates an extra lift for the king and covers important squares. 29... ♖c4 30. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 31. ♖g5 ♖h7 32. ♖f4 d5 33. ♖e5 ♖e6 (33... ♖h6 34. ♖xd5 ♖xf6 35. ♖b8 (35. ♖xf6? ♖xf6 36. ♖d8+ ♔g7 37. ♖xc8 ♖g6-+ the h-pawn is simply too strong.) 35... ♔g7 36. ♖xc8 h3 37. ♖g4+ ♔f8 38. gxf6 ♖g6 39. ♖d7 ♔g7± White is up two pawns, but his king is a bit uncomfortable. The game is not over yet.) 34. ♖g5!+- Black is paralyzed, ♖xd5 is impossible to meet. 34... ♖c6 (34... ♙b7? 35. ♖d4!+- Rg4 is crushing.) 35. ♖xd5 ♙d7 36. ♖d4+- Black is practically in



Jung and Younger, outside the St. Louis Chess Club.



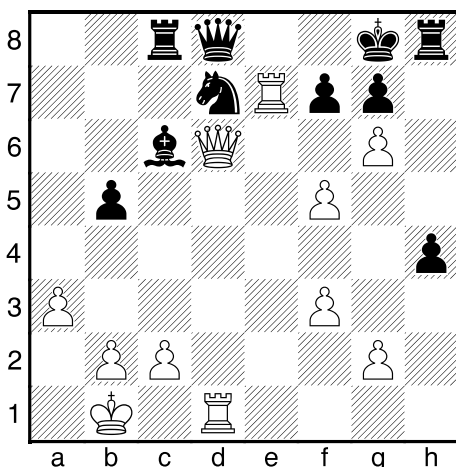


Zugzwang and will not be able to defend against the attack.

23...♘e5

23...axb5 looks very dangerous, 24.♙xd6+ ♔g8 25.♖e7 ♘c6 26.g6:

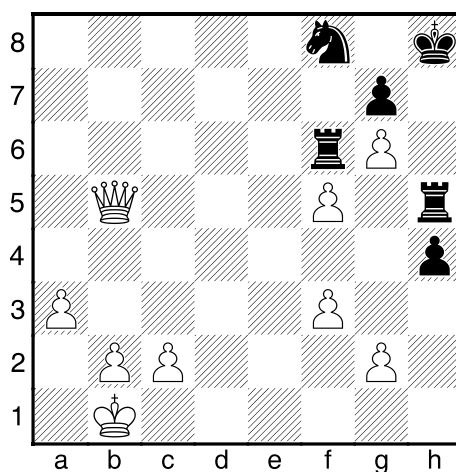
Analysis Diagram



I saw up to here when playing 21.♘f5, and it looked very good. White clearly has no risk, as he can force a repetition anytime he wants. All his pieces are incredibly active and it looks like Black is getting mated. Still, if Black plays a bunch of only moves he can survive. 26...♖h6! 27.♖xf7 ♔e8 (27...♔h8? 28.f6 ♔e8 29.fxg7+ ♔g8 30.♖d4+- Black is helpless against the attack, his pieces are

paralyzed.) 28.♖e7 ♔f8 29.♔e6+ ♔h8 30.♖d6 (30.♖dxd7 ♘xd7 31.♔xd7 ♖d8! f6 was a huge threat. 32.♔c7 ♔g8 33.♖f7 ♖e8 And White can't improve. Black just moves his rook on the back rank, while the rook on h6 prevents f5-f6.) 30...♘c5 31.♔e1 (31.♔e5 ♘d7 32.♔e6 ♘c5=) 31...♘d7! (31...♘e8?! 32.♖d4! ♔g8 33.♖xh4 ♘c6 34.♖xh6 gxh6 35.♔e5 threatening f6, Black's reply is forced. 35...♖e8 36.♖xe8 ♘xe8 37.g7 ♔f7 38.♔xc5 ♔xg7 39.♔e3 ♘d7 40.g4± White has 3 pawns for the piece and can still play on, although it should be drawn.) 32.♖xc6 ♖xc6 33.♖e8 ♖f6 34.♔e7 ♔xe8 35.♔xe8+ ♘f8 36.♔xb5 ♖h5∞

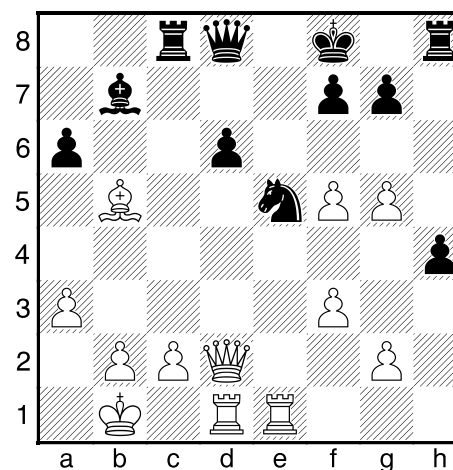
Analysis Diagram



White has a queen and 5 pawns

for 2 rooks and a knight, but his f5 and g6 pawns are going to fall. If White wants to try to win, he has to push his queenside pawns. However Black's h-pawn is a big source of counterplay, so it's not clear who is faster. White can, however, always force a draw by playing 37.♔c4 ♖xf5 38.♔g4 ♖fg5 39.♔c8 ♔g8 (39...♖f5? 40.a4± White has gained a huge amount of time and has placed the queen in the best possible position. Black should be happy with a draw in this endgame.) 40.♔c4+ ♔h8 41.♔c8 ♔g8 42.♔c4+=.

Game Diagram: after 23...♘e5



24.♖xe5

24.♔b4! would have put big pressure on Black now, threatening ♖xd6:

24...♔c7? 25.♖xd6 ♔g8 26.♘a4! (26.♖xe5? throws away all of the advantage, although Black still has to be careful. 26...axb5 27.g6 ♔xc2+ 28.♔a2 ♔c4+ 29.♔xc4 bxc4 30.♖e7 h3! 31.gxh3 ♘xf3 32.♖xf7 c3 33.♖dd7 c2 34.♖xg7+ ♔f8 35.♖df7+ ♔e8 36.♖c7 ♘d5+ 37.b3 ♖xc7 38.♖xc7 ♖xh3 39.f6 ♔d8 40.♖c5 ♘xb3+ 41.♔b2 ♖f3 42.f7 ♘xf7 43.gxf7 ♖xf7=) 26...h3 (26...♘c6 27.♔c5 ♔a5 28.♔xa5 ♘xa5 29.g6 Black is already helpless. 29...h3 30.gxh3 ♖xh3 31.♘d7 ♖b8 32.gxf7+ ♔xf7 33.♘e6+ ♔f6 34.f4 threatening ♘g8+ and ♘e6+ winning the rook. 34...♖hh8 35.b4 ♘a8 36.♖e5 ♘b7 37.♖xa6+- Black is paralyzed.) 27.g6! hxg2 28.♖d7 ♔c4 (28...♘xd7? 29.gxf7+ ♔xf7 30.♘b3+- winning the queen and mate to follow.) 29.♔xb7 ♘xd7 30.gxf7+ ♔h7 31.♔xd7 ♔c5! 32.♔d1!+- and the g-pawn is stopped and quickly won. Black's king is still under a strong attack.

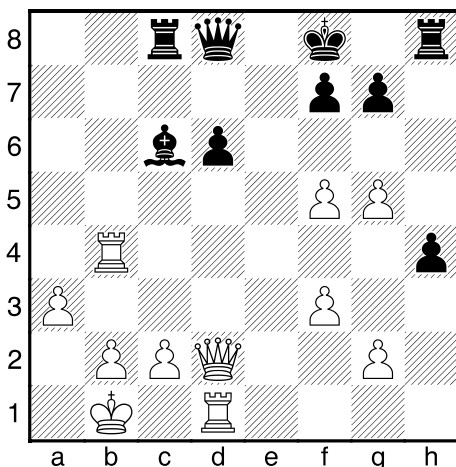
24...a5 25.♔xd6+ ♔xd6 26.♖xd6 h3! always an important resource. 27.gxh3 ♘xf3 28.♖ed1 ♘e5 29.♖d8+ ♔e7 30.♖1d7+ ♘xd7 31.♖xd7+ ♔f8 32.♖xb7





♖xh3 33. ♕d3± Material is equal, but White is clearly better. He has a bishop and two pawns for the rook, and his pieces are very active.

24...axb5 25. ♖xb5 ♕c6  
26. ♖b4



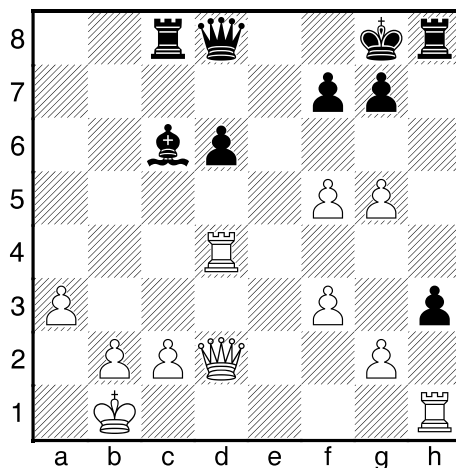
White has won back his material and now has 3 pawns for the piece. Here I liked my position, but I was evaluating the position wrongly as Black's bishop is just as strong as the pawns.

26...h3 27. ♖h1

27.gxh3 ♖xh3 28. ♖g2 ♖h5  
29. ♖h1 ♖xh1+ 30. ♖xh1 ♕e7=  
and the king runs away. This was better than the game, as Black's pieces can't coordinate

as well together with the king in the middle.

27...♔g8 28. ♖d4

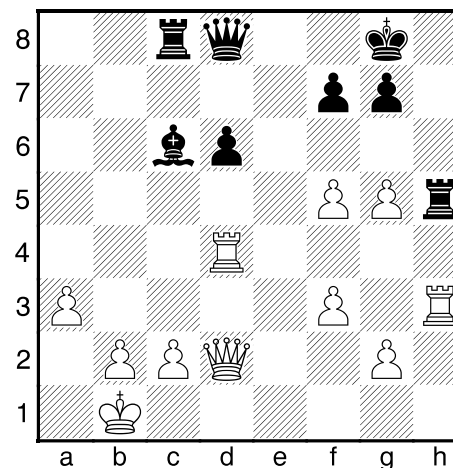


28...♖h5

28...♖c7! and now Black is getting the initiative.  
29.f6 ♕d7 30.gxh3 (30.fxg7 ♔xg7± helps Black, as there are no longer back rank problems.)  
30...♕f5 31. ♖xd6 ♖xc2+ 32. ♖xc2 ♖xc2 33. ♖d8+ ♔h7  
34. ♖xh8+ ♔xh8 35.fxg7+ ♔xg7  
36. ♔a2± and by pushing the h-pawn and going g6, White trades off the last remaining pawn and

should draw.

29. ♖xh3



29...♖xg5??

A huge blunder which throws the game away.

Black saves himself with:  
29...♖xh3 30.gxh3 ♕xf3 31. ♖xd6 ♖e8, and here I thought White was better because he now has 4 pawns for the piece, but I was wrong: the pressure on c2 gives Black the initiative and full compensation. 32. ♖d3 ♕e4 33. ♖c3 ♖xc3 (33...♖d8 34. ♖e2 ♕xf5 35. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 36.b4=.) 34. ♖xc3 ♕xf5 35.b4= White should hold without too many difficulties.

30. ♖xg5 ♖xg5 31. ♖dh4  
The rook on c8 drops.

It was a very interesting game and I was quite fortunate to win it. However my opponent was put under a lot of pressure and this might have been the reason for his bad oversight.

1-0

#1 Fan Razvan's dad Rene aims his flash at GM Illya Nyzhnyk... ;-)





**links****Chessbase on SPICE**

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/illya-nyzhnyk-wins-spice-cup-2014>

**Razvan's FIDE card**

<http://ratings.fide.com/card.phtml?event=2613280>

**photos**

Aurora: **Egis Zeromskis**

St. Louis: **Truong/Polgar website**

<https://plus.google.com/photos/+SusanPolgarChess/albums/6073157550818319905?banner=pwa>

This win brought me to  $4\frac{1}{2}/6$  and allowed me to continue playing up and boosting my opponents' average rating. After drawing the next round, I needed only  $\frac{1}{2}/2$  to get the GM norm. It wasn't easy, as I played the tournament leader, and eventual winner, **GM Illya Nyzhnyk** and lost as Black. In the last round I played White against **IM Samuel Sevi-an**, another very strong American junior who is now the youngest US chess grandmaster ever. As usual I don't know how to play for a draw, a problem I've been having lately, and got into a bad endgame. Luckily my opponent didn't play the best way and I was able to draw.

With  $5\frac{1}{2}/9$  and an average rating of 2531 I managed to get my 2nd GM norm! The tournament was very well organized by the **Susan Polgar** Institute of Chess Excellence (SPICE) and I will definitely play there again.

- **IM Razvan Preotu**







The 25th NATO Chess Championship, held from 8-12 September 2014 in Quebec City was special, especially for Canada. It was remarkable that the organizer, **Major Regis Bellemare**, was able to achieve something that had never been done before: he brought the **NATO Chess Championship to North America for the very first time**. That may not sound like much, but consider this: the tournament must be held in the summer or early autumn, it must be held within a military setting supported by a unit of the host's country's military, and it must comply with the rules and regulations set out by FIDE. And of course, the tournament is required to be FIDE rated.

Canada has become better at hosting FIDE tournaments in recent years with many more FIDE arbiters and FIDE organizers being recognized, but it is still difficult to meet all the requirements. Add to that the problem with the NATO requirements, and achieving the goal of hosting a NATO Chess Cham-

pionship in Canada is nothing short of a miracle. The hours of negotiation and pleading within the military in Canada must have been gruelling. The budget used must have been especially difficult to arrange. Canadian governments are not known for more than meagre support of chess, nor are the military especially interested in chess, rather focusing on physical fitness activities to support. So putting it all together and succeeding was indeed a miraculous achievement!

### Arrival and Opening

Arriving on Saturday, we were ushered into quarters within the Citadel of Old Quebec. The Citadel is the home of the legendary "Van Doos", the only completely French infantry battalion in Canada. It is also the only active 19th century fortress still used by the Canadian Forces. So, unlike the tournaments in Europe,

we truly did have an event with a "colonial" feel to it. The Citadel also is the only other Governor

General's residence in Canada besides Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Now, I don't mind sharing wash-





room/shower facilities, but why did no-one tell me there were no towels? It made for an interesting day trying to find some in a city I didn't know my way around!

As it happened, it was also the 90th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. We were ushered out onto the ramparts to watch a flypast of a Sopwith Camel WWI biplane fighter, a Spitfire WWII fighter, and then modern F18 fighters. I think Major Bellemare was trying to convince everyone that they were actually there for us!

Sunday provided time

for a tour of the Citadel and the Governor General's residence. Unfortunately, it also provided time for the competition to get over their jet lag.

Monday began with the opening ceremonies, photos, and a display of military drill. The military band and drill display was very well done and appreciated by all. It felt strange

to be marching again after so many years, and to be part of the troops being inspected. As part of the Veterans team who were dressed in suit and tie rather than being in uniform, I felt proud to be a part of it, even if we did look somewhat out of place.

veterans and retired military personnel represented by Paul Leblanc, Roger Lebrun, Brian Murray, Jean Bigras, Marco Toscani, and Herb Langer. Also playing were Canadians Fernando Echavarria-Hidalgo, Gilles Legare and Glen Cowles on NATO1 and Jelani Ghiacy on NATO2. Canada was well represented!

### Canada's Teams

Canada was represented by two teams. Canada1 was active military personnel represented by Philippe Leviellee, Francois Simard, Alex Lambruschini, Dominic Coulon, Daniel Lord, and Mario Tremblay. Canada2 was





**Round 1**

I was hoping to provide comments to games other than my own by the other players, but I did not get any, save one, so I will only comment on my games. It's better than nothing, I suppose.

**Langer, Herb (1703)**

**Keough, Robert W (2061)**

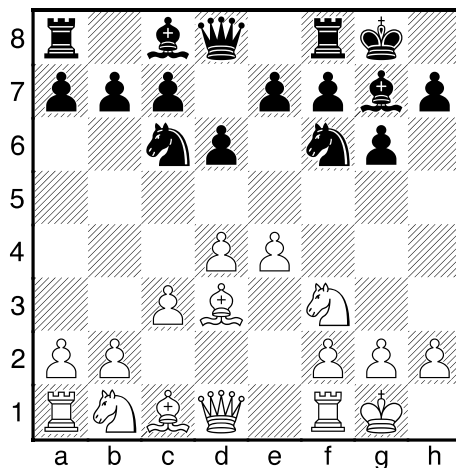
A48

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (1.25),

08.09.2014

Notes by Herb Langer

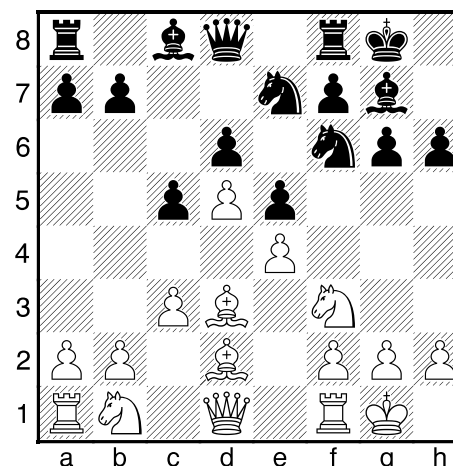
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.e3 ♕g7  
4.♕d3 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 ♖c6  
7.e4



*editor* – The game has transposed into a position that usually arises from the Modern (1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♕g7 3.c3 d6 4.♘f3 ♖f6 5.♕d3 etc), and also from the Pirc (1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♕d3), and even from 1.e4 ♖c6, but here White has taken two moves

to put his pawn on e4, so Black is a tempo up on those lines.

7...e5 8.d5 ♞e7 9.♕g5 h6  
10.♕d2 c5



I don't think this is the posi-

tion the opening is designed to achieve but I'm pretty confident that I'm not going to get blown off the board either.

11.♞c1 ♔h7 12.h3 ♞exd5!

I did not see this coming. I was trying to find time to push c4 but now it's too late. I spent quite a bit of time working out the game continuation.

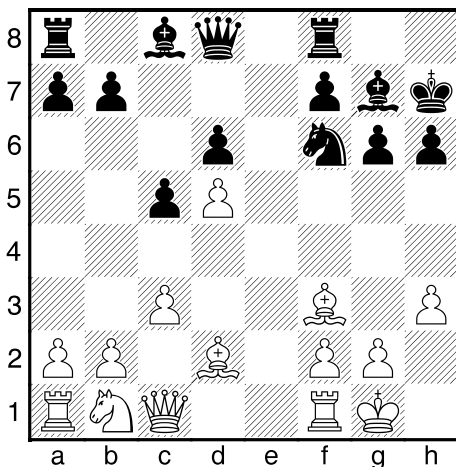
13.exd5 e4 14.♕e2 exf3  
15.♕xf3

*previous page: Ceremonial salute, group photo, Canada 1 team.*

*below: Hall, top boards at right.*





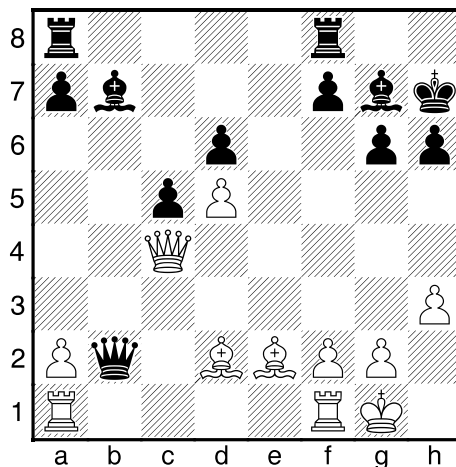


Maintains the bishop pair and recovers the pawn, but Black has at least equality.

15...b5 16.d3

*editor* – 16.a4! immediately fighting for the c4 square.

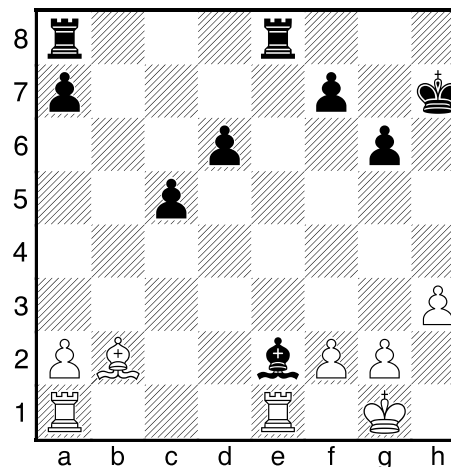
16...c6 17.d3 c7 18.d3 e3  
d7 19.c4 d5 20.d3 e2 bxc4  
21.d3xc4 dxc4 22.c3xc4  
c3xb2



23...hx6

This starts a tricky tactic involving the exchange of queens. I wasn't sure going into this that I had worked it all out correctly, but I felt the loose bishop on b7 would always leave me a target to attack, which would give me that one extra move to save myself.

23...hx6 24.d3xg7 d3xc4  
25.d3xb2 d3xe2 26.c3fe1 c3fe8



Black is up a pawn and with the united passed pawns should be clearly winning. Time to dig deep and find a way to draw.

27.c3ac1 c4  
28.d3d4 c3e4?!

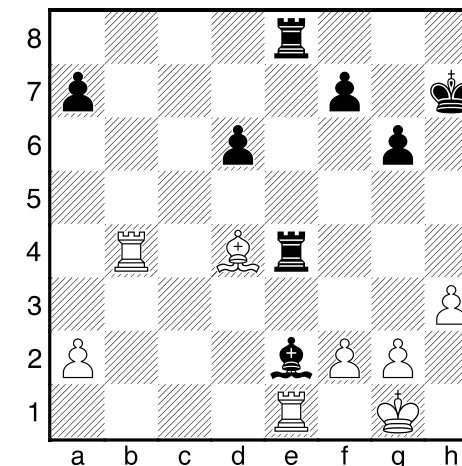
Allows White to regain the pawn.

*editor* –

d3...d3  
29.c3xe8 c3xe8  
30.d3xa7 c3a8  
31.d3d4 c3xa2  
32.c3a1!? Black has a protected

passed pawn, but the opposite coloured d3s give White excellent drawing chances.

29.c3xc4 c3ae8 30.c3b4



Hoping that Black would be feeling aggressive and attack the rook with the a-pawn, giving me a chance to equalize.

30...a5?! 31.c3a4 d3b5 32.c3xe4  
c3xe4 33.c3xa5 c3xd4 34.c3xb5

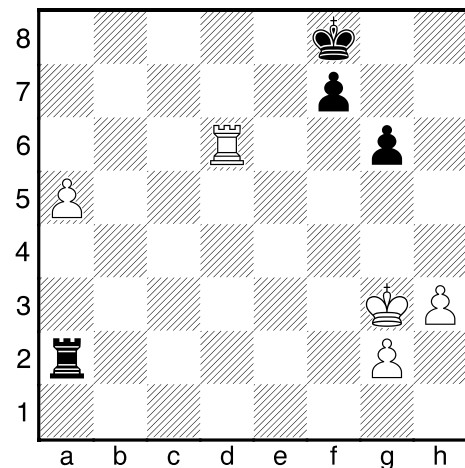
And suddenly, White is up the pawn. But not for long...

34...c3d1+ 35.d3h2 c3d2 36.a4  
c3xf2 37.c3d5 c3a2 38.a5 d3g7  
39.d3g3 d3f8 40.c3xd6

*Opening Preparation: flags, pens, scoresheets, lanyards.*

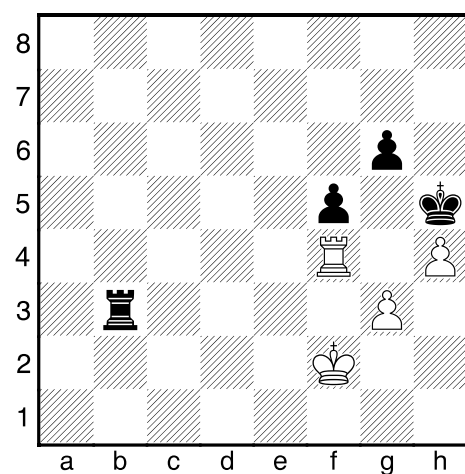






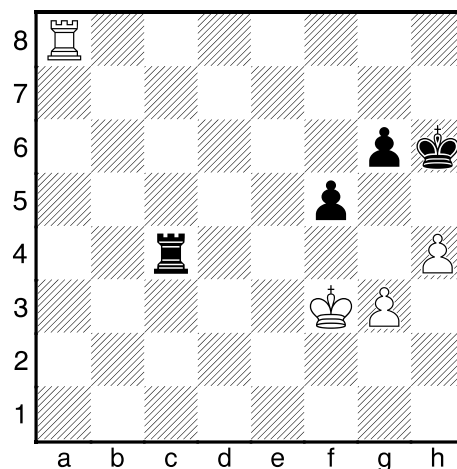
Time to get rid of Black's passed pawn. White cannot allow the king to protect it otherwise the white rook pawn becomes an easy target.

40...Rxa5 41.Rd7 Qg7 42.Rb7 Qf6 43.Qf3 Rf5+ 44.Qg4 Rf2 45.Rb6+ Qg7 46.Qg3 Rf1 47.Rb4 f5 48.Rf4 Rb1 49.h4 Qh6 50.Qh3 Rh1+ 51.Qg3 Qh5 52.Ra4 Re1 53.Rf4 Re3+ 54.Qf2 Rb3 55.g3



At last the awkward pawn on h4 is protected. I felt sure about getting a draw now.

55...Rb2+ 56.Qf3 Rb1 57.Ra4 Re1 58.Ra8 Rf1+ 59.Qg2 Rc1 60.Qf3 Rc3+ 61.Qf4 Rc4+ 62.Qf3 Qh6



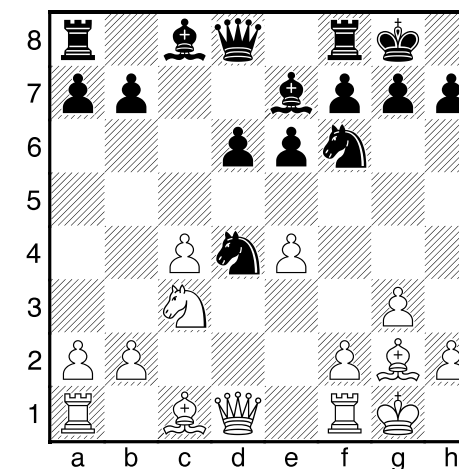
Black must be careful to not fall asleep. White threatens Rh8 mate!

63.Ra7 Rc1 64.Rb7 Rc3+ 65.Qf4 Rc4+ 66.Qf3 Rc8 67.Qf4 Rg8 68.Rf7 Rd8 69.Rb7 Rd4+ 70.Qf3 g5 71.hxg5+ Qxg5 72.Rg7+ Qf6 73.Rg8 Rd3+ 74.Qf4 Rd4+ 75.Qf3 Rd3+

½-½

## Round 2

The ladies were off to visit the Quebec parliament, the observatory, and shopping. The rest of us had fun playing chess. I should mention that I had been up most of the night inputting games into the database so I was really tired going into my game. No excuse, but I also had a strong opponent who made short work of me.



Something has gone very wrong with the opening for Black. What looks like a Sicilian has turned

**Nil, Oliver (2193)**

**Langer, Herb (1703)**

NATO-ch 25th  
Quebec (2.19),  
09.09.2014

Notes by Herb  
Langer

1.c4 Qf6 2.Qc3  
e6 3.e4 d6 4.g3  
c5 5.Qg2 Qc6  
6.Qge2 Qe7 7.0-0  
8.d4 cxd4  
9.Qxd4 Qxd4?

*The Significant Others:  
touring Parliament, the  
Old City, cathedrals, a  
winery, and shopping  
left them, sadly (?!),  
with no time for chess.*





out to be nothing more than a bad position. How is the d6 pawn going to be defended?

10. ♖xd4 e5 11. ♖d3 ♙e6 12. b3  
♚d7 13. ♙a3 a6 14. ♖fd1 ♖fd8  
15. ♖d2 ♙h3?

Instead of relieving the pressure and securing the d-pawn with ...♘e8, Black's bishop goes on an adventure, with disastrous consequences.

16. ♖ad1 ♙xg2 17. ♔xg2 ♚e6?  
...♘e8 was needed, but even that might be too late now.

18. ♘d5 ♘xd5 19. ♚xd5 ♚xd5  
20. ♖xd5 ♖d7 21. ♙xd6

The d-pawn falls and with it, Black's game goes as well. I'm not about to beat a master down a pawn with all his pieces barreling down the centre. In my defense, I only slept a few hours before the round because I had been inputting games into the NATO database for Major Bellemare. Lack of sleep and a strong opponent did me in.

1-0

### Round 3

Having lost last round, I was determined to make up lost ground. It seems that this round was when the Canadians started to show their muscle. Francois Simard played a wonderful game with four queens, reminiscent of Fischer!

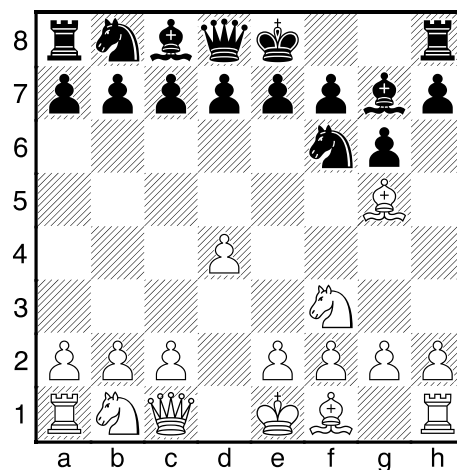
**Simard, Francois (1871)**  
**Tucker, David S. (2053)**

A48

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (3.19),  
09.09.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 g6 3. ♙g5 ♙g7  
4. ♚c1



For about the next 10 moves,

both sides seem to be playing the game according to their own stories:

White: Attack the kingside!

Black: Gain time off White's dark-squared ♙.

4...h6!?

4...d5! 5. ♙h6 0-0 Black should be fine, even if White continues in caveman style with: 6. h4 ♙xh6! (≤6...♙g4 7. ♙xg7 ♔xg7 8. h5∞) 7. ♚xh6 c5 8. h5 (8. dxc5 ♚a5+ 9. c3 ♚xc5 Δ10. h5?? ♘g4+ ) 8...♘g4.

5. ♙f4 d6 6. c4 ♘bd7

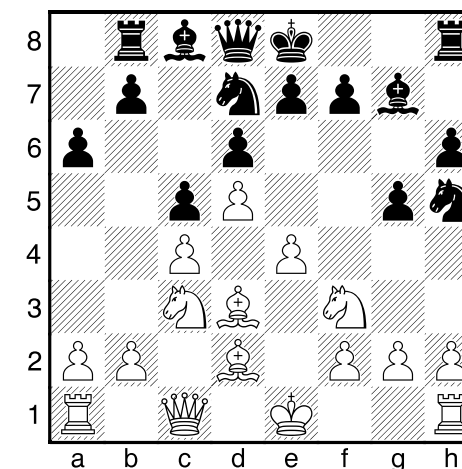
6...c5!↗

6...♘c6!/? Δ7. d5 e5! 8. dxc6?!

exf4 9. cxb7 ♙xb7 10. ♚xf4 0-0 Black has a lot of development for only a pawn.

7. ♘c3 ♘h5 8. ♙d2 c5  
8...e5.

9. d5 a6 10. e4 ♖b8 11. ♙d3 g5





**12.h4?!**

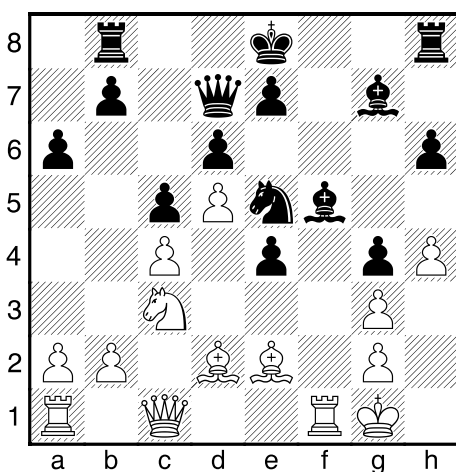
Still playing for a kingside attack; 12.0-0 and 12.♖c2 are both sensible choices.

**12...g4! 13.♗h2 ♗e5**

13...g3! makes good use of the ♗h5.

**14.♙e2 f5 15.♗f1 fxe4****16.♗g3?!**

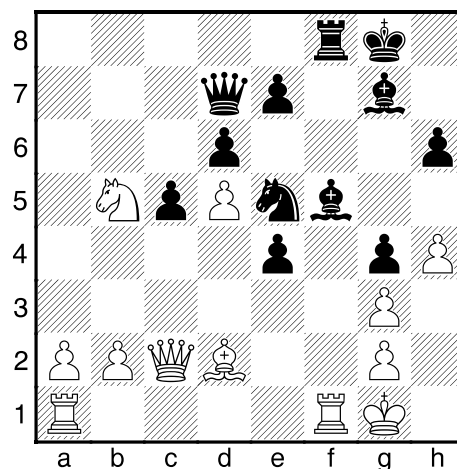
16.♗xe4=.

**16...♗xg3 17.fxg3 ♙f5 18.0-0 ♖d7**

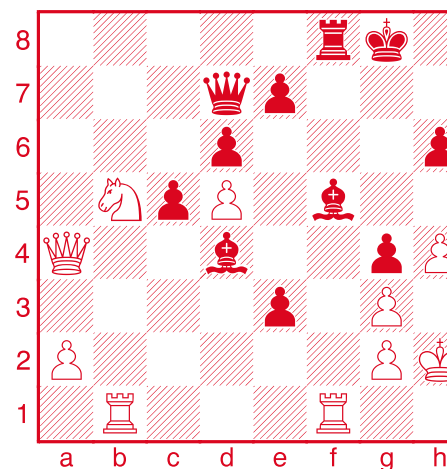
Black is threatening ...♗d3 (and maybe even ...♗f3+) so White stops attacking the ♗h6.

**19.♖c2 b5!?****19...♗d3? 20.♗xe4±.**

**19...0-0!** defending the ♙f5 a second time and now threatening ...e3+-. 20.♗xe4! and now Black gets strong play against White's center with ...b5 and ...e6. Black's ♙s are much better placed for central pressure than White's.

**20.cxb5 axb5 21.♙xb5 ♖xb5 22.♗xb5 0-0****23.♖a4**

23.a4?! e3 24.♖xf5 ♖xf5  
25.♖xf5 ♖xf5 26.♙xe3 ♗c4∞  
resembles a Benko.

**23...♗d3 24.♙c3 ♗xb2 25.♙xb2 ♙xb2 26.♖ab1 ♙d4+ 27.♗h2 e3****28.♖be1?**

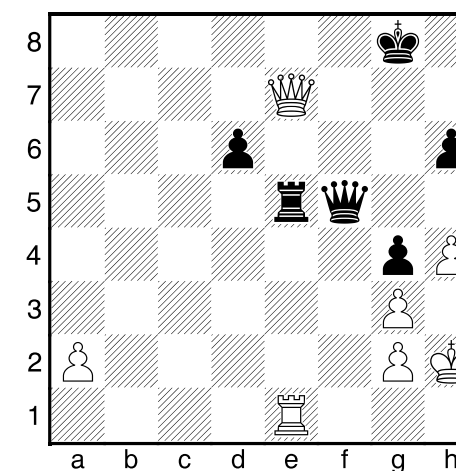
White has to get out of the pin on the ♗b5:

**28.♖c4!** ♙xb1 (28...♖b8?  
29.♗xd4 ♖xb1 30.♗e6 ♖+-  
with a winning attack.)  
29.♗xd4 ♖ (29.♖xf8+? ♗xf8  
30.♗xd4 cxd4-+) 29...♖xf1 (29...  
cxd4 30.♖xb1 ♖a7 31.♖d1=  
Black's passers drop.) 30.♖xf1  
cxd4 31.♖xb1 e2 (31...♗g7  
32.♖e4∞ or 32.h5!?) 32.♖g6+=  
and White's perpetual saves the  
game by a tempo.

**28...♖b8??**

28...♙d3!-+ 29.♖xf8+ ♗xf8  
30.♖a8+ ♖e8 ♖ (30...♗g7  
31.a4∞) 31.♖xe8+ ♗xe8 32.a4  
(32.♗xd4 cxd4 Black's pawns  
will promote.) 32...♗d7-+ White  
can't get his ♗ into the game

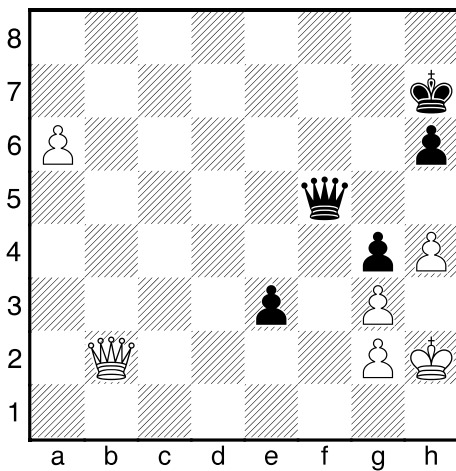
and Black's center pawns will roll  
after ...e6.

**29.♖xf5 ♖xf5 30.♗xd4 cxd4 31.♖xd4 ♖b5 32.♖xe3 ♖xd5 33.♖xe7 ♖e5**

The Queen ending is very difficult for Black because his ♗ is so much more exposed than White's.

**34.♖xe5 dxe5 35.a4 e4 36.♖d8+ ♗g7 36...♗f7 37.a5 e3±.****37.♖c7+ 37.a5!+- e3 38.♖e7+ ♗g6 39.a6+-.****37...♗g6 38.♖b6+ ♗g7 39.a5**

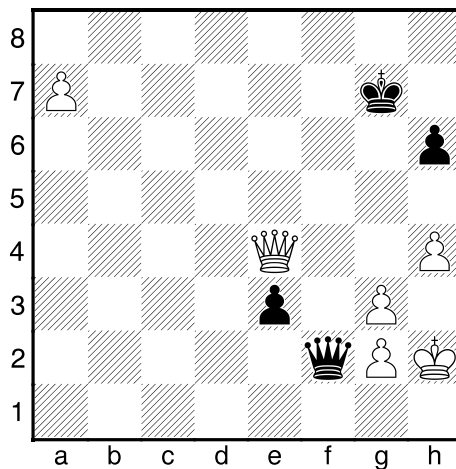
e3 40. ♖b2+ ♔h7 41. a6



41... ♖f2

41... ♖e4 42. ♖e2 h5 (42... ♖a4  
43. ♖d3+ ♔g7 44. ♖c3+ ♔f7  
45. ♖c7+ ♔g6 46. ♖b6+ ♔f5  
47. ♖xh6+-) 43. a7⊖ Zugzwang.  
Black can't move his ♖ without  
either dropping his e-pawn or  
allowing White to promote, and  
there's no way for Black's ♔ to  
stay out of the checks, which  
allows White to bring his ♖ to  
an attacking square. 43... ♔g7  
(43... ♔h6 44. ♖a6+-) 44. ♖b2+  
♔g6 45. ♖b6+ ♔f7 46. ♖c7+ ♔g6  
47. ♖f4! ♖xf4 48. gxf4 e2 49. a8♖  
g3+ 50. ♔h3⊖+-.

42. ♖b7+! ♔g6 43. ♖e4+ ♔g7  
44. ♖xg4+ ♔h7 45. ♖e4+ ♔g7  
46. a7



It's going to be a four Queen  
position, and the player with the  
first check wins.

46... e2 47. a8♖ e1♖ 48. ♖ab7+  
♔f8 49. ♖be7+ ♔g8 50. ♖4h7#

1-0

**Langer, Herb (1703)**  
**Van den Heuvel, Tonnie**  
**(1895)**

D05

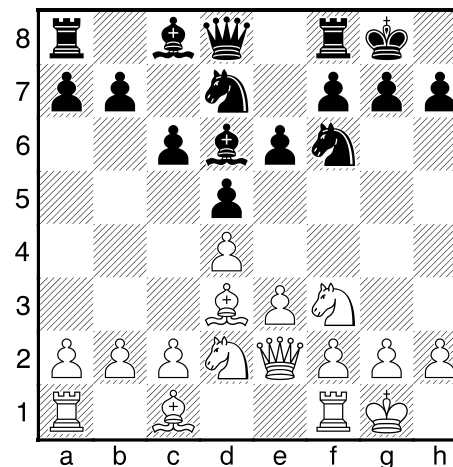
NATO-ch 25th Quebec (3.28),  
09.09.2014

Notes by Herb Langer

Having lost my last game, I was  
determined to make up the lost  
point. I wanted to achieve 4 points  
in this tournament and I needed a

win to get back on track.

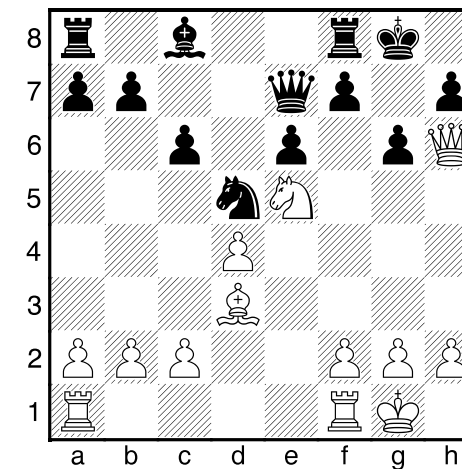
1. d4 d5 2. ♘f3 c6 3. e3 ♘f6  
4. ♙d3 e6 5. 0-0 ♘bd7 6. ♘bd2  
♙d6 7. ♖e2 0-0



I was looking at this  
line of the Colle System  
when preparing for this  
tournament and was  
a bit surprised to find  
myself getting to actually  
play a book line.

8. e4 dxe4 9. ♘xe4 ♘xe4  
10. ♖xe4 ♘f6 11. ♖h4  
g6 12. ♙g5 ♙e7 13. ♘e5  
♘d5 14. ♙xe7 ♖xe7  
15. ♖h6

*Langer - Van den Heuvel:*  
proving once again that  
history is written by the  
winners.



White's position is better be-  
cause the pieces are bet-  
ter placed than Black's. If your  
pieces are better placed, com-  
binations should arise, say the  
masters.





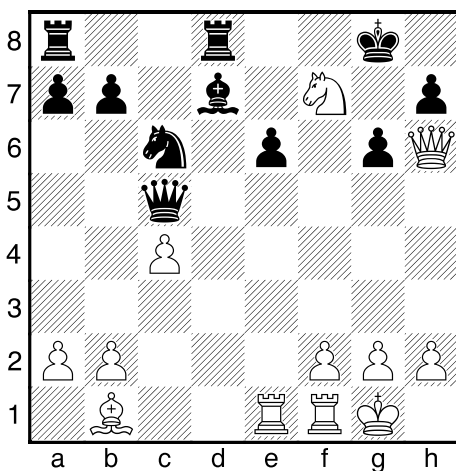
15...♖d8 16.c3 ♘d7 17.♞ae1

Bringing the last piece into the battle, even though the ♖f1 is feeling constricted.

17...c5 18.dxc5 ♞xc5 19.c4

*editor* – 19.♞xf7!

19...♞b4 20.♙b1 ♞c6 21.♞xf7



I spent a long time on this decision. I had a feeling that there was a win in the air but couldn't find the knockout blow. This wins a pawn but doesn't ensure victory. Black's reply was almost immediate.

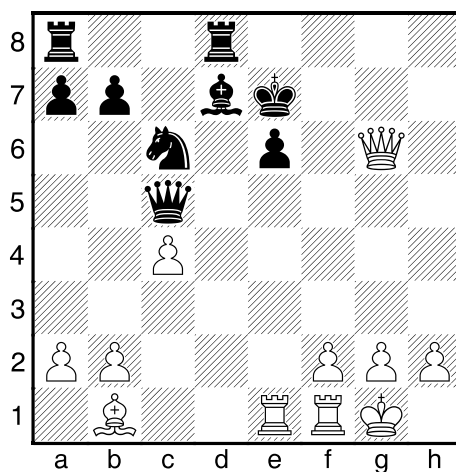
21...♞f8

*editor* – Herb actually did find and play the closest thing there is to a knockout blow: White is

up a pawn with a better structure and development. Rather than allow White to continue to attack, Black concedes the pawn and accepts a bad structure. White is winning, it just takes good technique. In the game, Herb slowly gave back most of the advantage when he couldn't play for mate.

Here's what happens if Black takes on f7: 21...♞xf7 22.♞xh7+ ♞f6 23.♞xg6+ ♞e7:

*Analysis Diagram*



So far this is the easy part to see, and it might be enough to see that for the ♞ White has three pawns and an exposed ♞ to attack and could simply continue 24.♖d1 ♙e8♞. But now the computer finds the very

strong: 24.b4!!:

24...♞xb4 25.♖d1♞+- (Threat: ♞g7+, ♙g6#) 25...♞f8 (25...♙e8 26.♞g7+ ♙f7 27.♙g6+-) 26.♞g7+ ♞f7 27.♞xd7++.

24...♞xc4 25.♞g5+ (≤25.♞e4 ♞c3♞ (25...♞d5 26.♙c2! (Δ♖d1 and ♙b3)) 26.♞h7+!) 25...♞d6 26.♖d1+ ♞c7 27.b5 ♞g8 28.♞xd7+±.

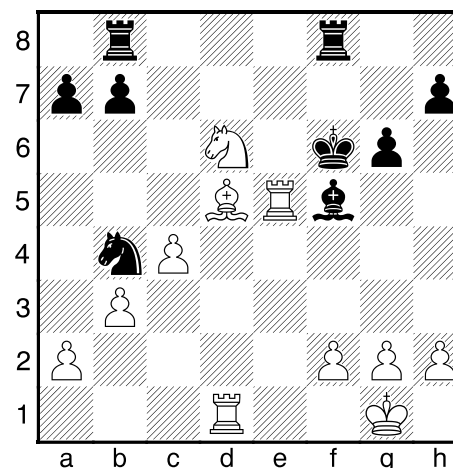
22.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 23.♞d6 ♞ab8

24.♖d1 ♙c8 25.♞fe1

White's rooks feel better!

25...e5 26.♙e4 ♙f5 27.♙d5+

♞g7 28.b3 ♞b4 29.♞xe5 ♞f6

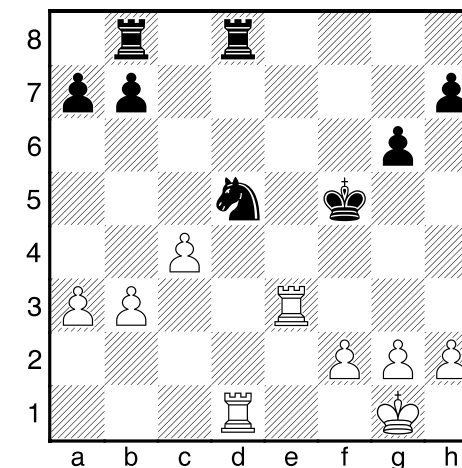


30.♞e3 ♞fd8 31.♞xf5

*editor* ?! – White plays a safe move that keeps a big advantage, but it's not as big an ad-

vantage as it was. Better was 31.♙f3 keeping pieces on requires more calculation and increases the chance for an error, but Black's ♞ is exposed and this is the best way to continue.

31...♞xf5 32.a3 ♞xd5



33.♞xd5+

*editor* – ? ♞33.♞ed3+- gets the piece back while preserving White's compact pawn structure.

33...♞xd5 34.cxd5 ♞d8 35.♞f1

*editor* ? – Black can't capture on d5 without going into a losing pawn ending, so 35.♞d3! saves the pawn.

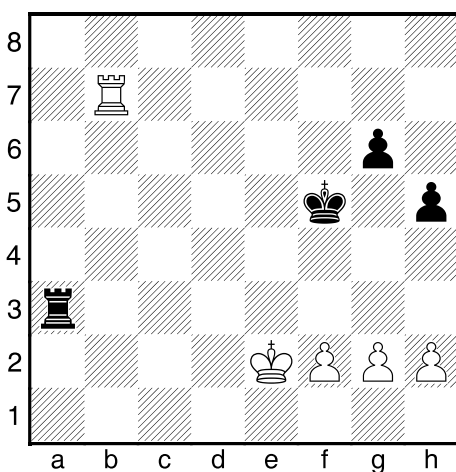
Here's what happens if Black goes for the pawn ending: 35...♞e4 36.♖d2 ♞xd5 37.f3+!



♔e5 38.♖xd5+ ♔xd5 39.♔f2  
♔d4 40.g4 g5 (40...♔c3 41.f4  
♔xb3 42.f5+-) 41.f4! gxf4 42.♔f3  
♔e5+- and any pawn move —  
except g5, which loses — will  
eventually create a winning zug-  
zwang for White: Black will run  
out of pawn moves and have to  
step away from the ♕f4.

Gotta know your pawn endings.

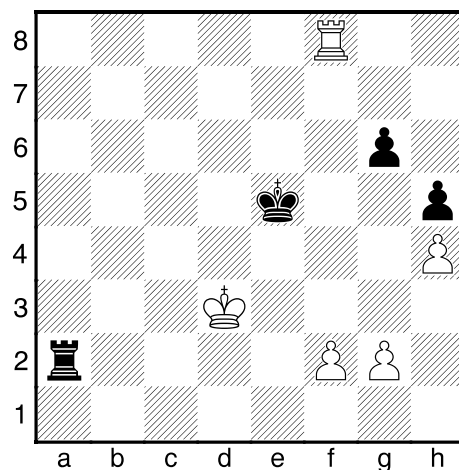
35...♖xd5 36.♖e7 ♖b5 37.b4  
h5 38.♔e2 a5 39.bxa5 ♖xa5  
40.♖xb7 ♖xa3



With pawns on one side only,  
the extra pawn is becoming  
a smaller and smaller edge.  
White needs to push the pawns  
through if there is to be any hope  
of a win.

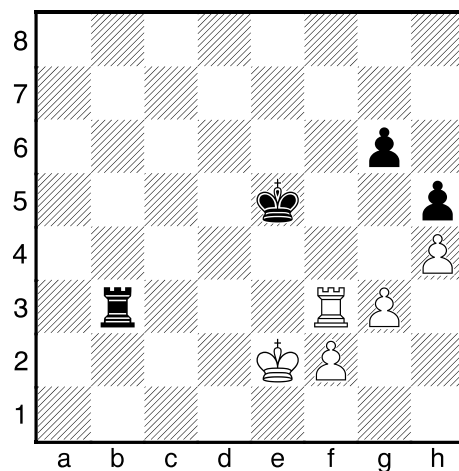
41.♖f7+ ♔e6 42.♖f8 ♔e5 43.h4

♖a2+ 44.♔d3



Beginning an unnecessary King  
adventure. The King needs to  
escort the pawns now that the  
Black King is cut off from the  
pawns.

44...♖a3+ 45.♔c2 ♖a2+ 46.♔b3  
♖d2 47.g3 ♔e4 48.♖f4+ ♔e5  
49.♔c3 ♖a2 50.♔d3 ♖a3+  
51.♔e2 ♖b3 52.♖f3?



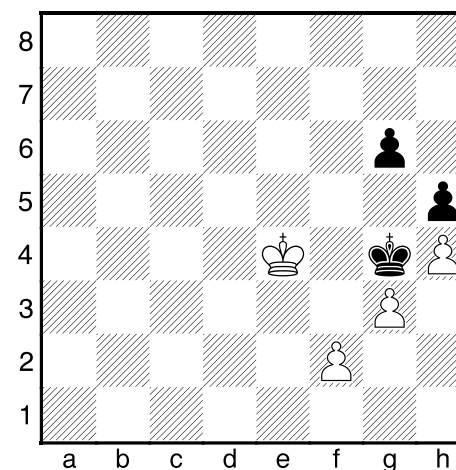
The exchange of Rooks favors  
Black's chances of getting a  
draw. If the pawns exchange off  
evenly, it would probably not be  
a win for White.

*editor* – This is half right. If Black  
exchanges Rooks he loses,  
but that's because after a Rook  
exchange White can avoid ex-  
changing off the pawns evenly  
(see next variation).

52...♖b2+

*editor* – 52...♖xf3? 53.♔xf3+-  
♔f5 54.♔e3 ♔g4 55.♔e4

*Analysis Diagram*



55...♔h3 56.♔f4 ♔g2 57.♔g5  
(57.f3?? ♔h3□=) 57...♔xf2  
58.♔xg6 ♔xg3 59.♔xh5+-.

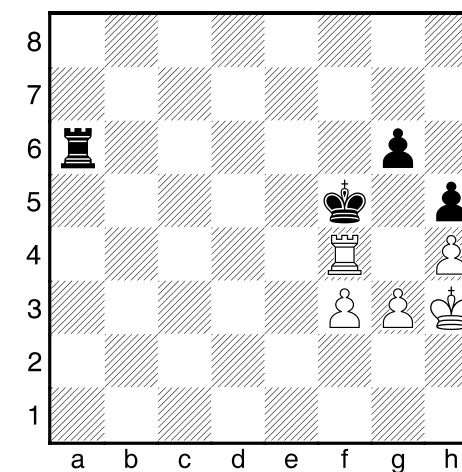
55...g5 56.f3+! ♔xg3 57.hxg5+-

White Queens first and with  
check.

53.♔f1 ♖a2 54.♔g2 ♖b2  
55.♔h3 ♖b4 56.♖e3+?

This lets Black get his King back  
over to the pawns. Better is ♖f8.

56...♔f5 57.f3 ♖b6 58.♖e8 ♖f6  
59.♖e4 ♖a6 60.♖f4+

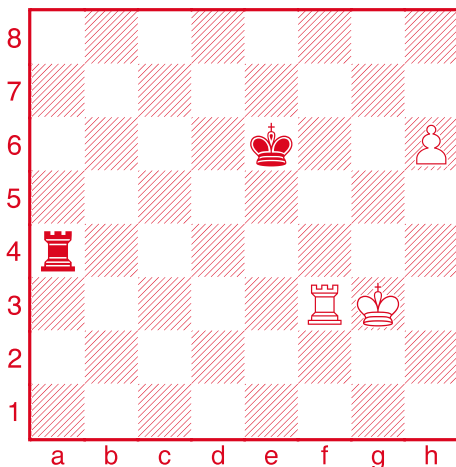


Black missed that this forces  
the King away from the pawns  
again. I wasn't going to let him  
get back!

60...♔e5 61.♖f8 ♖a4 62.g4  
hxg4+ 63.fxg4 ♖a3+ 64.♔g2  
♖b3 65.♖f3 ♖b4 66.♔g3 ♖a4  
67.h5 gxh5 68.gxh5 ♔e6 69.h6







69...♖b4?

*editor* – Black's only three drawing moves were ...♖a8, ...♖a1, and ...♔e7.

e.g. 69...♔e7= With White's ♔ cut off the two most obvious ways to try to make progress allow easy draws: trading rooks lets the defending ♔ get to the corner, and advancing the pawn loses it: 70.h7 ♖a8 71.♔h4 ♖h8=.

If White tries to improve his ♖ first, then Black has more than one way to draw: 70.♖f2 ♖a6 simplest 71.♖h2 (71.h7 ♖g6+! 72.♔f4 ♖h6=) 71...♖a8! 72.♔g4 ♔f7=.

70.♖f8+ ♖b7  
70...♔e7 71.h7+.

*No, it wasn't a typo...  
there really is a vineyard  
and winery outside  
Quebec City.*

71.♔g4

Just in time!

71...♖f7 72.♖g8?

*editor* – gives away the win. ♖a8/ b8/c8 win.

72...♖h7?

72...♔f6= 73.♔h5 ♖a7  
(73...♔f5=) 74.♖f8+ ♖f7=.

73.♔g5 ♖f7 74.♖e8+! ♔d7

75.♖e4

My first FIDE rated win! And now my score is back to 50%. There is still a chance to make 4 points. 1-0

## Round 4

The ladies went off to visit a waterfall with a walkway over it, took a tour of a vineyard, and a cathedral, and an apple orchard, then more shopping (of course!).

**Balmaceda, Enrico (2050)**  
**Langer, Herb (1703)**

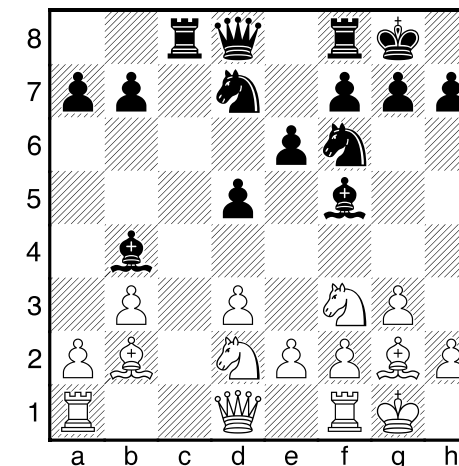
A12

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (4.22),  
10.09.2014

Notes by Herb Langer

1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.b3 ♘f6  
4.♙b2 ♙f5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.d3 e6  
7.g3 ♙b4+ 8.♘bd2 0-0 9.♙g2

♘bd7 10.0-0 ♖c8

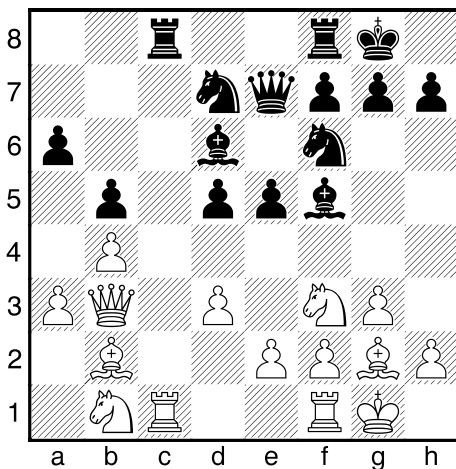


I wasn't quite sure what White was up to, but I felt I was getting the better position.

11.♖c1 ♖e7 12.♘b1 a6 13.a3  
♙d6 14.b4 b5 15.♖b3 e5







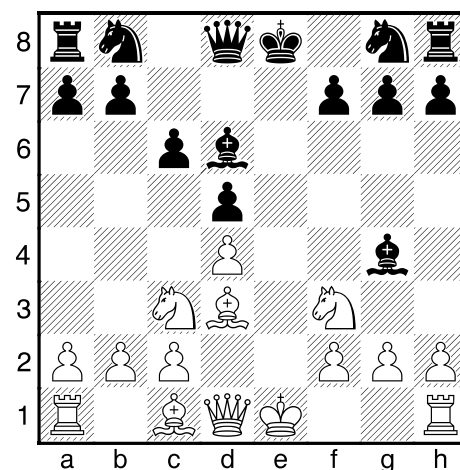
## Chapman, Chas Coulon, Dominic (1731)

C01

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (4.32),  
10.09.2014

Notes by John Upper

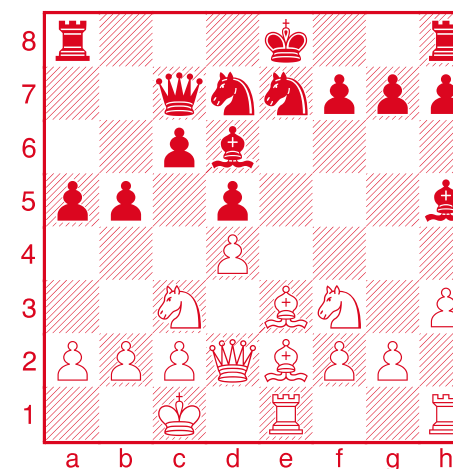
1.e4 e6 2.♘c3 d5 3.exd5 exd5  
4.d4 c6 5.♙d3 ♙d6 6.♘f3 ♙g4



Black usually plays ...♘e7 to support ...♙f5, trading White's well-placed ♙d3. Playing ...♙g4 will either give up the ♙-pair or give White tempi to advance his kingside pawns to attack the

area were Black's King usually castles. On the other hand, the game line, with opposite castling and pawn storms, looks more exciting.

7.h3 ♙h5 8.♙e3 ♘e7 9.♙e2  
♚c7 10.♚d2 ♘d7 11.0-0-0 b5  
12.♞de1 a5



What happens after ♙xb5!?

### 13.g4

White has an attractive tactic here, but one that it might be better to avoid: **13.♙xb5?! cxb5** 14.♘xb5 ♚b8 15.♘xd6+ ♚xd6 16.♙f4 and here Black has no way to use the ♚ to defend the ♘e7:

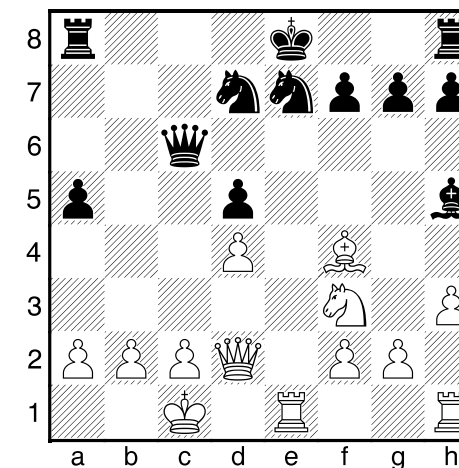
16...♚f6? 17.♙g5+.

16...♚b6? 17.♚e3 ♚b4 18.a3+.

16...♚b4? 17.♚xb4 axb4  
18.♙d6+.

**16...♚c6!:**

*Analysis Digram*



17.♘h4?! ♙g6 18.♘xg6

(18.♚e3?? ♚xc2#) 18...fxg6□  
so that 19.♚e3 0-0! Black gets a counterattack on the ♙f4. 19.♞e3 ♘f6.

**17.♚e3!** White gets the piece back and is up two pawns. If you'd seen this at move 13 it would be hard to resist. But it turns out that Black will have better attacking chances now that the files are open, and White will have to make some sort of concession to hold onto the c-pawn. For example,

17...0-0 18.♚xe7 ♙g6:

a) 19.c3? ♚a4.

Black has all his pieces developed and better control of the centre. This must be good for Black.

16.♞xc8 ♞xc8 17.♞c1 ♞xc1+  
18.♙xc1 h6 19.♘fd2 ♙e6  
20.♚c2 ♘b6 21.♚c6 ♚c7  
22.♚xc7 ♙xc7 23.♘c3 ♙d6  
24.♙f1 ♙f8 25.h3 ♙e7 26.e3  
g5 27.♙e2 ♘e8

Not the best, but when White offered the draw, I thought it best to take it, even though I did feel I had a better position. I just couldn't find a target to work on, so I took the draw.

½-½



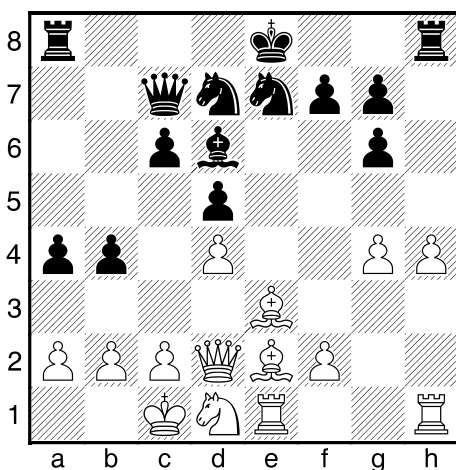
Still... hard to believe.



b) 19.♖e2!? ♜fc8 20.c3  
(20.♔b1! Houdini 0.00)  
20...♞b5→;

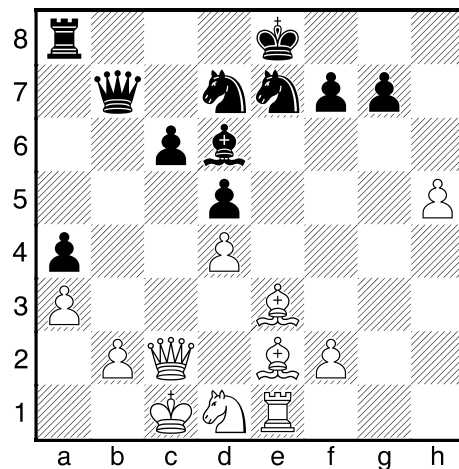
c) 19.♞e2 ♜fc8 20.c3 a4 21.a3  
♞b7 The top computer pro-  
grams — *because they are not*  
*materialistic* (!?) — all rate this  
position as slightly better for  
Black. White has to be careful  
here; e.g. trying to immediately  
eliminate the ♙g6 loses imme-  
diately: 22.♘h4?? ♜xc3+!-+.

13...♙g6 14.♘h4 a4 15.♘xg6  
hxg6 16.h4 b4 17.♘d1



17...♞b7  
17...♘f6 18.f3∞.

18.h5 b3 19.a3! bxc2 20.♞xc2  
gxh5 21.♜xh5 ♜xh5 22.gxh5

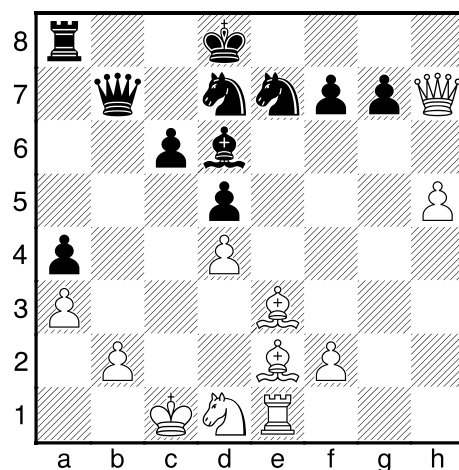


22...♞d8?

22...♞b3 23.♜g1!± (23.♞h7 ♘f8  
24.♞xg7 ♙xa3=).

22...♘f8 23.♘c3 and Black has  
to worry about a4.

23.♞h7!+-



23...♜b8

Black can try to force open more

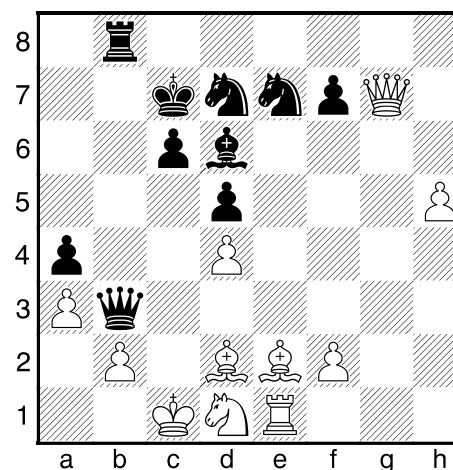
lines with 23...c5 but White's ♔  
is deceptively well protected by  
his minor pieces, e.g. 24.♞xg7  
♜c8 25.♔b1!? cxd4 26.♙xd4  
♙xa3 27.h6 ♙xb2 28.♙xb2 a3  
29.h7□+- and White is about to  
add a fourth defender to b2.

24.♙d2 ♔c7

24...♙xa3? 25.bxa3 ♞b1+ isn't  
mate, but 26.♞xb1+- should end  
the game.

25.♞xg7 ♞b3

25...♙xa3? 26.♙a5+ (hoping  
for 26.bxa3?? ♞b1#) 26...♔d6  
27.♞g3+!+-.



26.♙b4??

As we saw in the notes above,  
...♙xa3 isn't a real threat. How-  
ever, an exchange on b4 turns

Black's a-pawn into a double  
threat: breaking open the White  
king's protection or going on to  
promote.

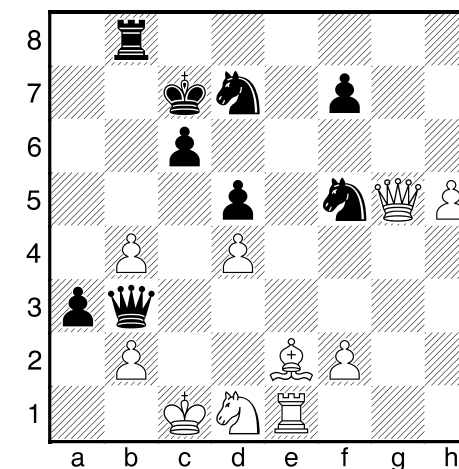
▷26.♙a5+!+-.

▷26.♞xf7 when, again  
26...♙xa3 doesn't work because  
after 27.♙a5+ or ♙f4+, Black's  
attack along the b-file is over.

26...♙xb4□-+ 27.axb4 ♘f5!

27...a3! 28.♞g3+ ♞xg3 29.fxg3  
a2 and Black promotes.

28.♞g5 a3!



29.bxa3

29.♞f4+ ♘d6 30.♞d2 a2-+.

29.♞xf5 a2-+.

29...♞xa3+ 30.♘b2



30.♔d2 ♖xb4+ 31.♘c3 ♖xd4+  
32.♔c2 ♖xf2+ Black is up ma-  
terial and still has a furious at-  
tack.

30...♖a1+ 31.♔c2 ♖xe1  
31...♘xd4+! #9.

32.♖d2 ♖xe2 33.♖xe2 ♘xd4+  
34.♔d3 ♘xe2 35.♔xe2 ♖xb4

0-1

Mario Tremblay played a Houdi-  
ni kind of game, escaping with a  
win in a problem-like position.  
Too bad it was at the expense of  
another Canadian.

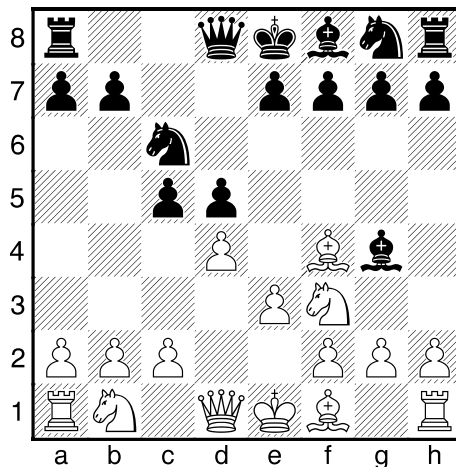
**Toscani, Marco (1636)**  
**Tremblay, Mario (1582)**  
D02

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (4.36),  
10.09.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 c5 3.♙f4 ♘c6  
4.e3 ♙g4

Toscani - Tremblay



5.♙b5

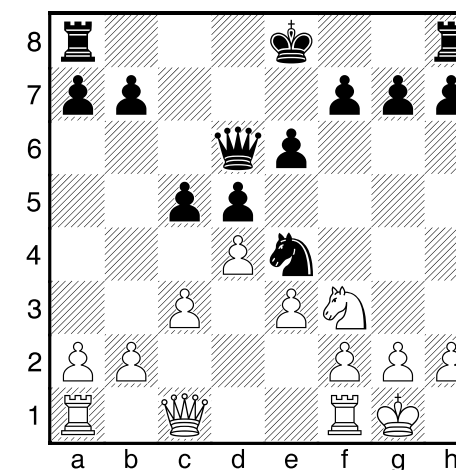
Playing ♙b5 makes sense only  
if White intends to take the ♘c6.  
But with his central pawns on  
dark squares White should try to



keep his light-squared ♙ on the  
board, as Kramnik does in this  
game:

5.c3 e6 6.♖b3 ♖c8 7.♘bd2 ♘f6  
8.♘e5 ♙e7 9.♘xg4 ♘xg4 10.♙e2  
♘f6 11.0-0 0-0 12.dxc5 ♙xc5±  
(1-0, 25) [Kramnik, V–Gelfand, B](#)  
Moscow (blitz), 2007.

5...♘f6 6.0-0 e6 7.c3 ♖b6  
8.♙xc6+ ♖xc6 9.♘bd2 ♘e4  
10.♖c1 ♙xf3 11.♘xf3 ♙d6  
12.♙xd6 ♖xd6



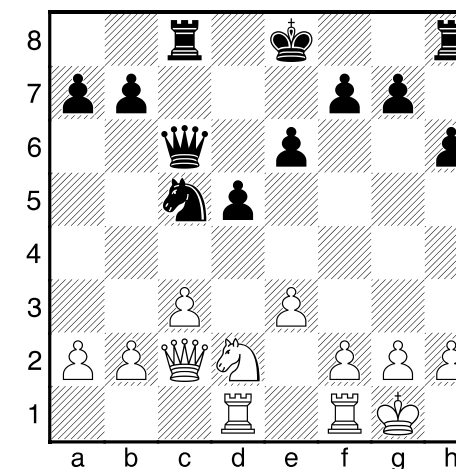
13.dxc5 ♘xc5

13...♖xc5 stops c4.

14.♖c2

14.c4! dxc4 15.♖xc4 0-0 16.♖fd1  
and White gets his rooks into the  
game first.

14...♖c8 15.♖ad1 h6 16.♘d2  
♖c6





17.f4

17.c4=:

17... ♖d7 18. ♔d3=,

17... ♖a4 18.b3 ♖b6 19. ♔b2=.

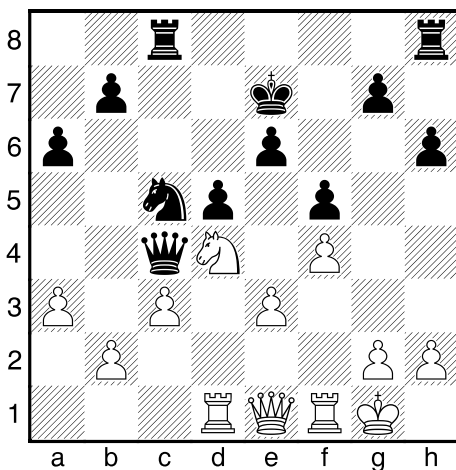
17... f5=

17... 0-0!? 18.f5 e5 Δ19.f6 g6!.

18. ♖f3 ♖d7 19. ♔e2 ♔c4

20. ♔d2 a6 21. ♖d4 ♔e7 22.a3

♖c5 23. ♔e1



23...g5?

This would be a very good move if Black already had his ♖ on e4, but here it gives White a strong attack.

24. ♖f3

Δ24.fxg5! hxg5 25. ♔g3! wins:

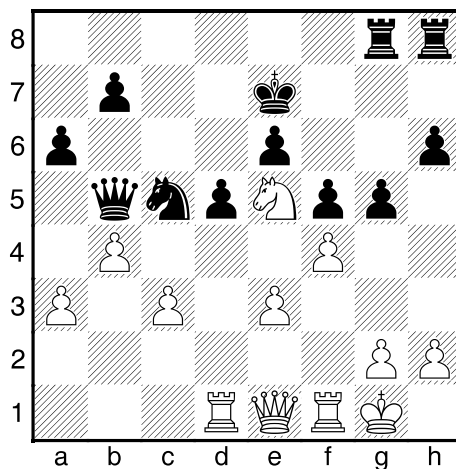
25... ♖cg8 26. ♔e5+-.

25... ♖e4 26. ♔e5+- Xe6 and f5.

25... ♔f6 26. ♔d6 ♖cd8

27. ♖xf5++-.

24... ♖cg8 25. ♖e5 ♔b5 26.b4!



26... ♖d7?

Δ26... ♖e4 27.c4↑ dxc4 28. ♖d7+ ♔xd7 Δ29. ♖xd7 ♔xd7 I'd rather be White, but all three results are possible.

27.c4!

The ♖d5 is pinned to the ♖, so White gets to crack open the center with Black's ♔ an unwelcome host.

27... ♔b6 28.cxd5

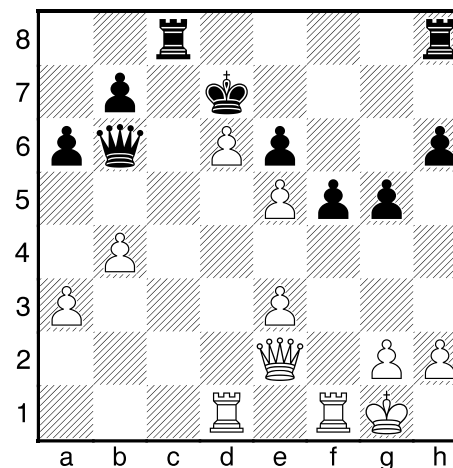
This wins a pawn and keeps a

huge and safe advantage.

28. ♖xd7 may be even stronger, as White keeps the attack, e.g. 28... ♔xd7 29.cxd5→ gxf4 30. ♖xf4+-.

28... ♖xe5 Δ 29.d6+ ♔d7

30.fxe5 ♖c8 31. ♔e2



31... ♖c3?

31...h5 To keep the White ♔ out.

31...g4 doesn't stop the ♔ after 32. ♔f2! heading for h4 or (if ...h5) f4.

32. ♔h5!

A good pawn sac: Black gets one check from e3, but White will be attacking with ♔, ♖ and the ♖d6.

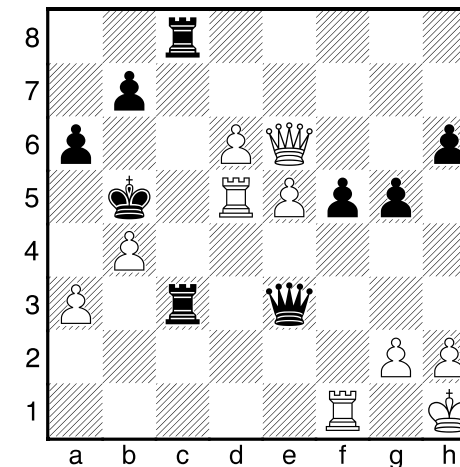
32... ♔xe3+ 33. ♔h1 ♖hc8

33... ♔xe5 34. ♔f7+ ♔c8

35. ♖fe1+-.

34. ♔f7+ ♔c6 35. ♔xe6 ♔b5

36. ♖d5+

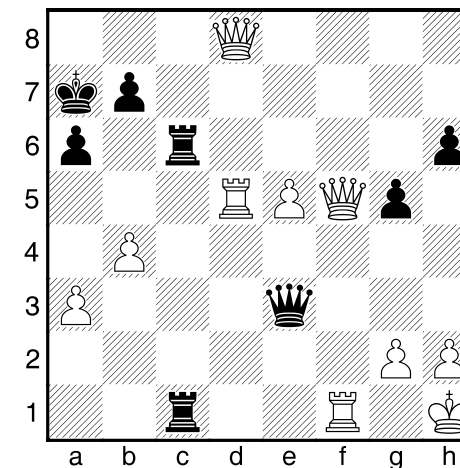


36... ♔b6

36... ♔a4 37. ♖a5#.

37.d7+ ♖8c6 38.d8 ♔+ ♔a7

39. ♔xf5 ♖c1



40. ♖xc1???

Almost everything else wins:  
40. ♖d3+-, 40. ♖c5+-, 40. h3+-.  
40... ♖xc1+ 41. ♖d1 ♔e1+!

0-1

Just because Jelani Ghiacy was playing on the NATO2 team, don't think he gave his opponents an easy time of it. Here he has a memorable game.

### Bernatchez, Henri Ghiacy, Jelani (1230)

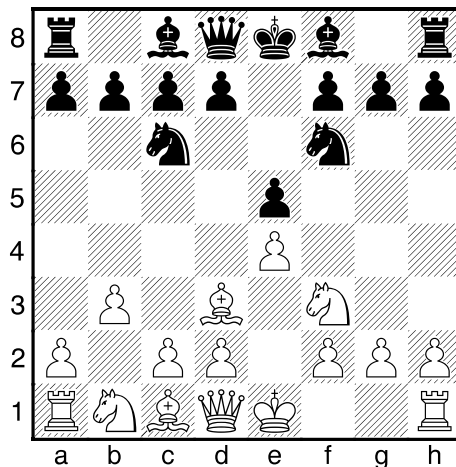
C44

NATO-ch 25th  
Quebec (4.37),  
10.09.2014

Notes by John  
Upper

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3  
♗c6 3. b3 ♘f6  
4. ♕d3?

**Ghiacy - Cowles**  
I bet on the  
Canadian.



A very strange move, which (strangely) doesn't even adequately protect the ♕e4.

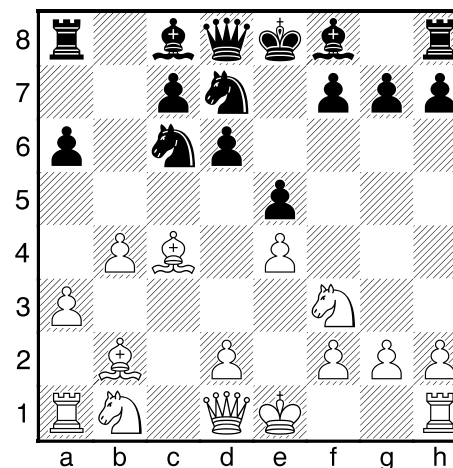
4... a6

White's last move doesn't even save the e4-pawn: 4... ♘xe4!



5. ♕xe4 d5 6. ♕d3 e4 with at least equality.

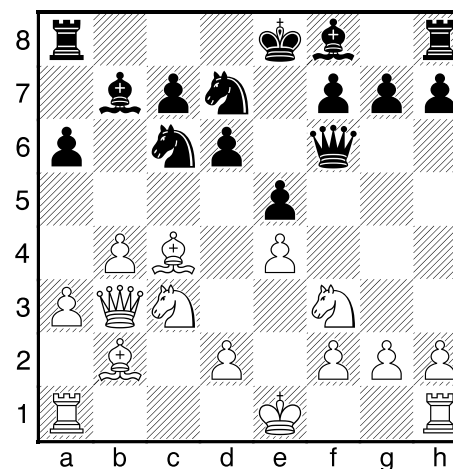
5. ♕b2 d6 6. a3 ♘d7 7. b4 b5  
8. c4! bxc4 9. ♕xc4±



9... ♕b7

9... ♕e7 10. ♕d5 ♕b7 11. ♖c2 ♘d4  
12. ♘xd4 ♕xd5 13. ♘f5±.

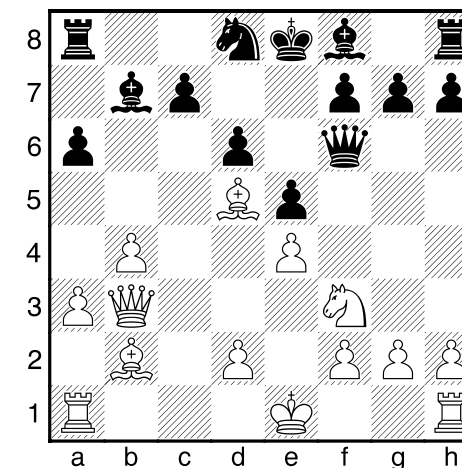
10. ♖b3 ♖f6 11. ♘c3



11... ♘b6?

11... ♖g6.

12. ♘d5!+- ♘xd5 13. ♕xd5 ♘d8



14. ♖a4+

14. ♕xb7! ♘xb7 15. ♖d5 0-0-0  
16. ♖c1 White gets a winning attack.

14... ♔e7?

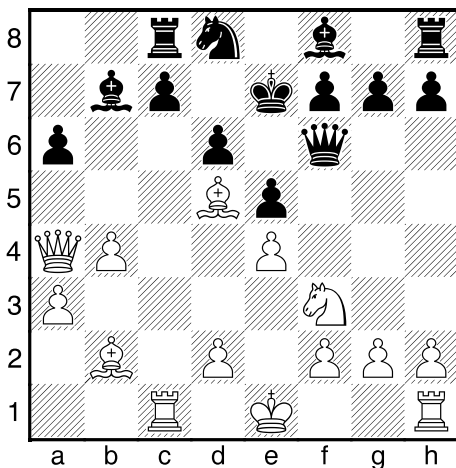
14... c6! 15. ♖c1 ♖e7 White has pressure, but no forced win.

15. ♖c1+-

15. ♕xb7 ♘xb7 16. ♖c6 also wins.

15... ♖c8



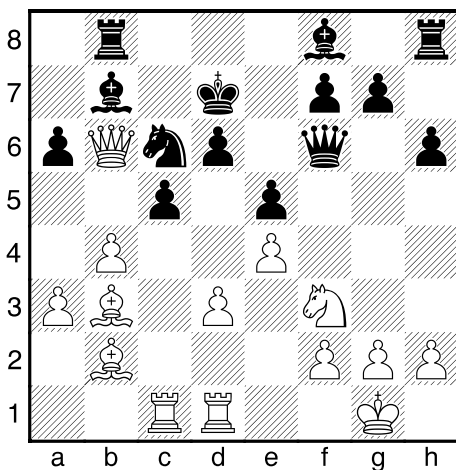


16. ♖a5

16. ♙xb7! ♜xb7 17. ♖xa6 ♜b8  
18. ♖a7+- wins a piece.

16...c6 17. ♙b3 ♚d7 18. 0-0 h6  
19. ♜fd1 c5 20. d3  
20. bxc5 ♙xe4 21. cxd6 ♙xf3  
22. ♜c7+-.

20... ♞c6 21. ♖b6 ♜b8



White's queen is in a dangerous place... for both players.

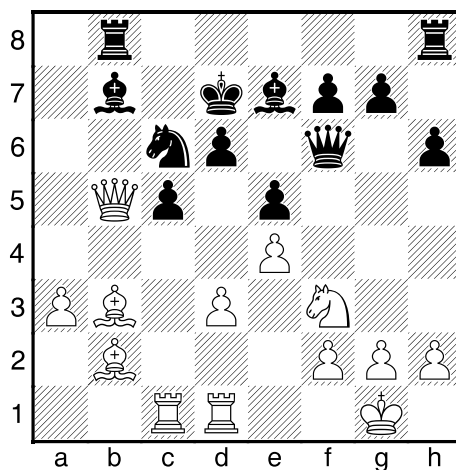
22. b5

♞22. d4! or ♙a4.

22...axb5 23. ♖xb5

23. d4! cxd4 (23... ♙a8 24. ♖a6  
♙b7 25. ♖xb5 ♙a8) 24. ♙d5+-.

23... ♙e7



24. a4??

Takes away a vital escape square from the ♖.

24. d4! or ♙c3 or ♙a1 are also better for White.

24... ♜hc8?

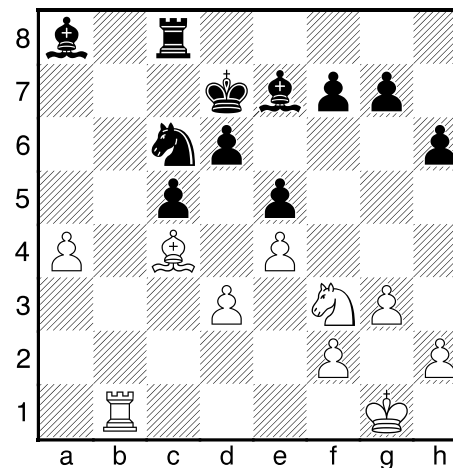
24... ♙a8!+- Black wins a piece

now that White can't safety the ♖ and defend the ♙ with ♖a4.  
25. ♖c4 ♞a5+-.

25. ♙a2

25. a5□ so the ♖ can escape to a4.

25... ♙a8 26. ♖c4 ♜xb2 27. ♜b1  
♜xb1 28. ♜xb1 ♖e6 29. g3 ♖xc4  
30. ♙xc4

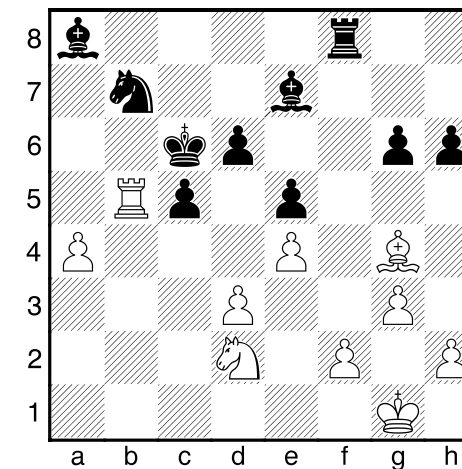


Black is up a piece and should have no problems. Best here is ... ♜f8 intending ...f5 to activate the ♙a8. Instead, over the next few moves Black drops a pawn and gets his pieces tangled.

30... ♞a5 31. ♙xf7 ♜f8 32. ♙h5  
g6 33. ♙g4+

The check saves the piece.

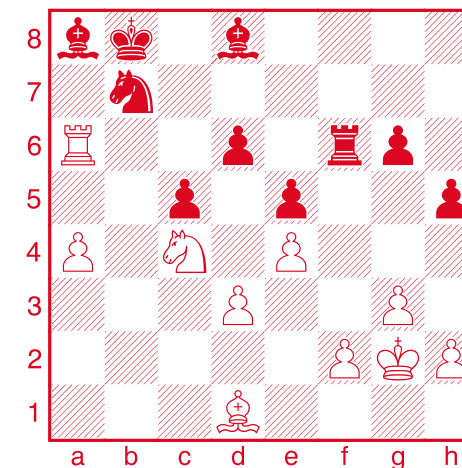
33... ♚c6 34. ♜b5! ♞b7 35. ♞d2



35... ♜f6

A poor square for the ♜.  
35... ♞d8 36. ♞c4 h5

36. ♞c4 h5 37. ♜b6+ ♚c7  
38. ♙d1 ♙d8 39. ♜a6 ♚b8  
40. ♚g2



Black is up a piece for a pawn, but his minors are terribly tangled. What's best:

- a)...♙c7
- b)...d5
- c) something else?

#### 40...♙c7??

**40...d5** is strong, but Black should see the whole line and correctly evaluate the ending, as it gives back a piece for some passed pawns: 41.♖xf6 ♙xf6 42.♗b6! (42.exd5 ♔c7+-) 42...dxe4! (42...♙d8 should also win.) 43.♗d7+ ♔c7 44.♗xf6 exd3+- Back has only one extra pawn, but the c and d-pawns are al-

ready threatening.

**40...♗a5!** is a tricky move that leaves Black with a big advantage: 41.♗xa5 (41.♖xa5 ♙xa5 42.♗xa5 d5! is hopeless.) 41...♙b7! 42.♗c6+ (42.♗xb7 ♔xb7 traps the ♖a6.) 42...♙xc6 43.♖xc6 ♔b7 also traps the ♖.

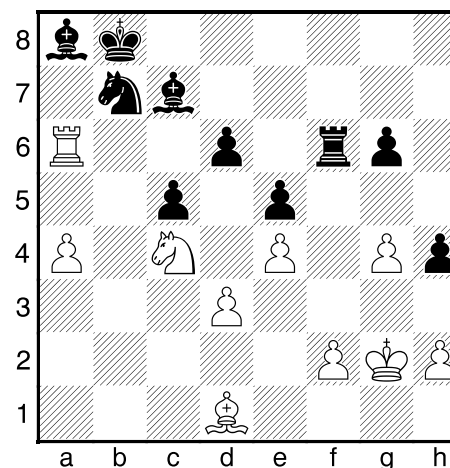
#### 41.g4?

41.♗xe5! threatening both ♗d7+ and ♗c6+, 41...♗d8□ (41...dxe5 42.♖xf6+-) 42.♗d7+ ♔b7 43.♗xc5+ ♔b8 44.♗d7+ ♔b7 45.♖xa8 ♖f7 46.♙b3□ ♖xd7 47.♙d5+□ ♔b6 48.a5+ ♔b5 49.♖a7± White has three pawns for the piece and Black

is nowhere near ready to create counterplay.

#### 41...h4

41...♗d8! 42.♗b6 ♙c6 and ...♔b7 wins a piece.



#### 42.♔h3

42.♗xe5!= (as above) 42...♗d8□ 43.♗d7+ ♔b7 44.♗xc5+! ♔b8 45.♗d7+ ♔b7 46.♗c5+= (46.♖xa8 doesn't work as it did above because here Black has a tempo to save the ♖: 46...h3+! 47.♔xh3 ♖xf2 and White will have to give up the ex-

change.)

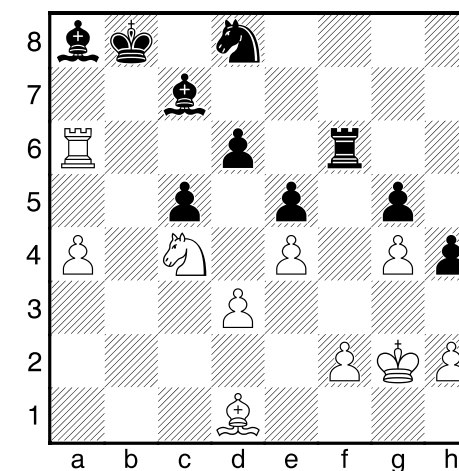
#### 42...g5

42...♖xf2! unpins the ♗d6.

#### 43.♔g2?

Again, 43.♗xe5!

#### 43...♗d8!-+



#### 44.a5 ♙b7 45.♗xe5

Too late.

#### 45...♔c8!

or 45...♙c8 46.♗c6+ ♗xc6 47.♖xc6 ♙b7-+.

#### 46.♖a7 dxe5 47.a6 ♙xa6

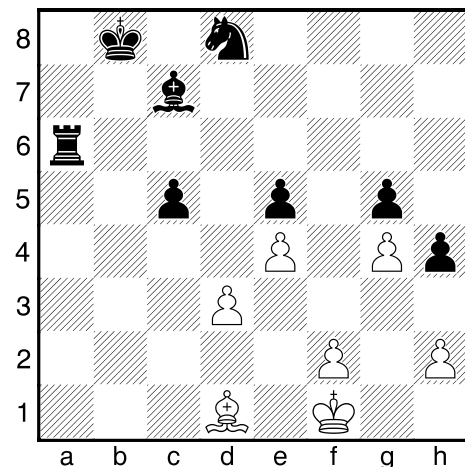
48.♔f1 ♔b8 49.♖xa6 ♖xa6



The Citadel Observation deck view.







Black is up a ♖ and ♘, but it seems White was not ready to head to the bar.

50.♙b3 ♖a3 51.♙c4 ♙a5  
52.♗e2 ♘c6 53.♗e3 ♘d4 54.h3  
♖a1 55.f4 exf4+ 56.♗f2 ♙d2  
57.e5 ♖e1 58.♙d5 ♖xe5 59.♙e4  
♖e6 60.♙g2 ♖b6 61.♗g1 ♖b1+  
62.♙f1 ♙e3+ 63.♗g2 ♘b3  
64.♙e2 ♖g1+ 65.♗h2 ♘d2  
66.d4 ♘f1+ 67.♙xf1 ♖xf1

0-1

## Round 5

Roger Lebrun played another fine game, marching his King all over the board!

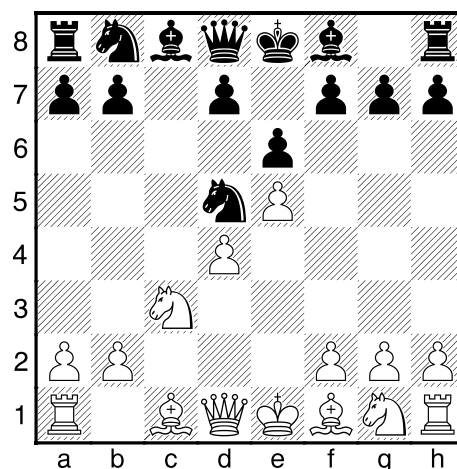
## Lebrun, Roger (1896) Tucker, David Sidney (2053)

B22

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (5.20),  
11.09.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 ♘f6  
4.e5 ♘d5 5.cxd4 e6 6.♘c3



6...♘xc3

6...d6 transposes to a line from the Alekhine's defence: 7.♘xd5 exd5 8.♘f3 ♘c6 9.♙d3 ♙e7 (½-½, 86) Delorme, A (2434)–Spraggett, K (2606) Arinsal, 2009.

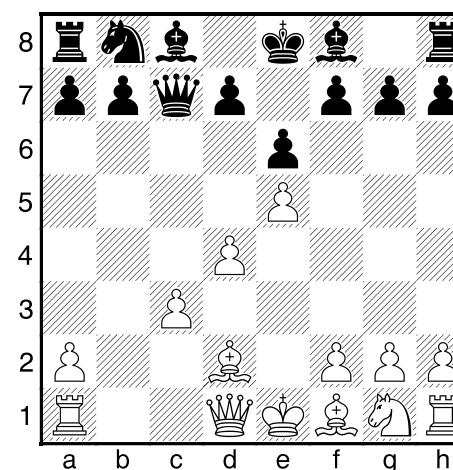
7.bxc3 ♖c7

7...d6 8.f4 dxe5 9.fxe5 ♖h4+  
10.♗e2 ♙d7 11.♘f3 ♖d8 12.♗f2



♙c6 13.♙d3 ♙e7 14.♖f1 ♘d7  
15.♗g1± and despite spending four moves to "castle-by-hand", White is ahead in development; Sveshnikov, E (2541)–Filippov, V (2605) Moscow, 1999 (½-½, 57).

8.♙d2



8...d5

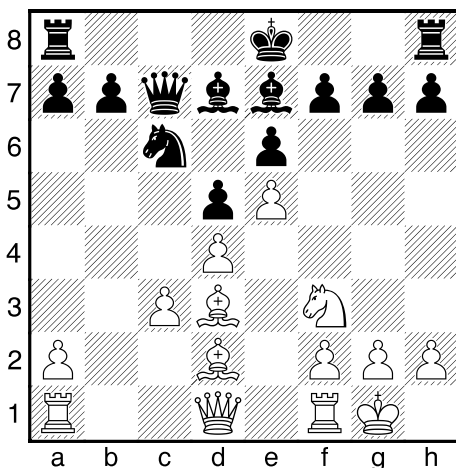
8...d6 9.f4 ♘c6 (9...♘d7  
10.♘f3 d5 11.♙d3 ♘b6 12.0-0  
g6 13.♖b1 ♙d7 14.♖e2 ♙e7  
(0-1, 76) Asylguzhin, R (2384)–  
Ehlvest, J (2630) Dubai, 2001.)  
10.♘f3 ♙d7 11.♙d3 ♙e7  
12.0-0 d5 13.♘g5 g6± (1-0, 44)  
Sveshnikov, V (2394)–Volodin, A  
(2479) Tallinn (rapid) 2014.

9.♙d3 ♘c6 10.♘f3

I've seen GM Bator Sambuev win similar positions with the following maneuver: 10.♘h3!? which leaves the f-file open, and keeps the possibility of playing ♖g4 and/or ♘f4-h5.

10...♙e7 11.0-0 ♙d7

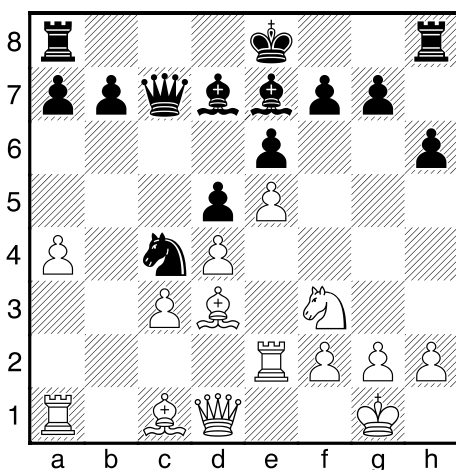
In this line, top-rated Black players often play ...d6 and then ...d5. It may be that they think forcing White to play f2-f4 reduces the chances for kingside piece play. Here are two examples:



12. ♖e1

Houdini suggests the following weird idea as an improvement for White: 12. ♘g5 h6 13. ♙h5 (13. ♘h7!?± Houdini; I guess h7 is an outpost.) 13... ♘xe5! 14. ♘xe6 (14. dxe5? ♙xg5□ 15. ♙xg5 ♙xe5 16. f4 ♙e3+♣) 14... ♙xe6 15. dxe5±.

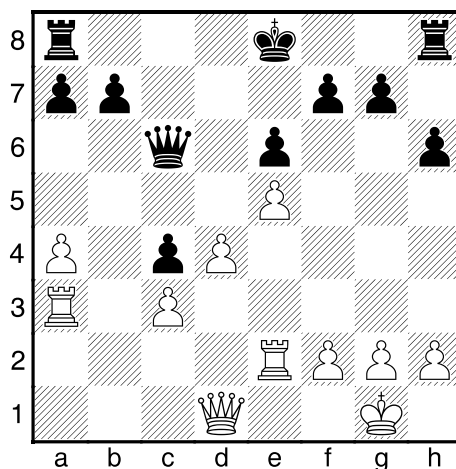
12...h6 13.a4 ♘a5 14.♖e2 ♘c4  
15.♙c1



15... ♙a5?!

15... ♖c8! guarantees Black can use c4 for a piece — which also means Black keeps the ♖d5 so White can't use e4. 16. ♘d2 ♙a5!? 17. ♙b3 ♘b6♣.

16. ♙xc4!± dxc4 17. ♙b2 ♙c6  
18. ♘d2 ♙d5 19. ♘e4 ♙c7  
20. ♙a3 ♙xe4 21. ♖xe4 ♙c6  
22. ♖e2 ♙xa3 23. ♖xa3±

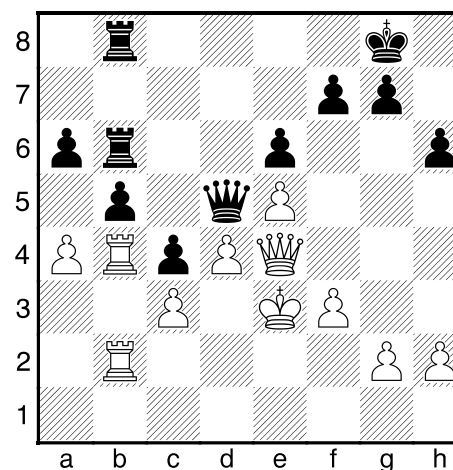


A six major piece position with no open files. White has the most useful half-open file and his next few moves are automatic.

23...0-0 24. ♙b1 ♖ab8 25. ♖b2  
b6 26. ♖b4 a6?!

26... ♖fd8 27. a5?! b5 28. a6 ♖b6  
29. ♖a5 ♖d5=.

27. ♖a2 ♖b7 28. ♖ab2 ♖fb8 29. f3  
b5 30. ♙e4 ♙d5 31. ♙f2 ♖b6  
32. ♙e3



Black allows (and White avoids) the ♙ exchange.

32... ♖6b7

White can instigate the trade, but Black should not. 32... ♙xe4+?! 33. fxe4! (Δd5 and ♙d4).

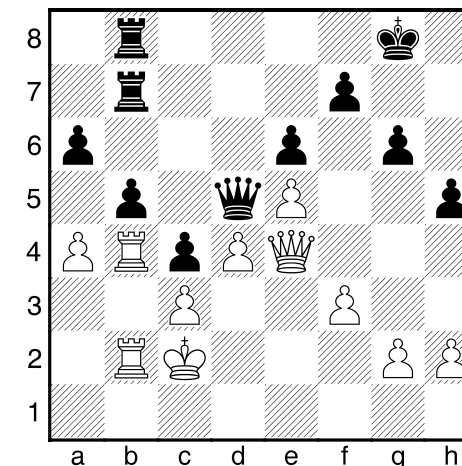
33. ♙d2

33. ♙xd5 exd5 34. f4± White's majority is more mobile than Black's.

33...g6

♠33... ♙d7 concedes the dominant diagonal, but White still has to do something more to win.

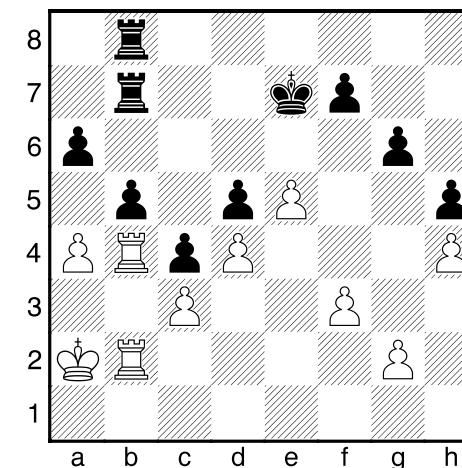
34. ♙c2 h5



35. ♙b1

35. axb5 ♖xb5 (35... axb5 36. ♙xd5 exd5 37. ♖a2±) 36. ♙xd5 exd5 37. ♖xb5 axb5 38. ♖a2 planning ♖a6-d6.

35... ♙f8 36. ♙a2 ♙e8 37. h4  
♙e7 38. ♙xd5 exd5

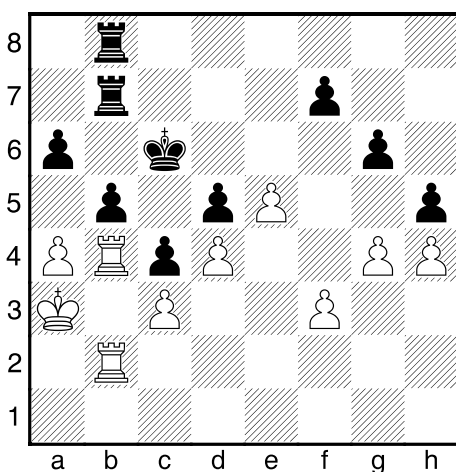




I'm not sure White's King march has accomplished anything — Black was never going to take on a4 — and the ♖b4 will take several moves to get into the game. If Black wants to play for a win he should try to find a way to open a line on the kingside or center when he can sac the b5 pawn for counterplay.

39.♔a3 ♔d7  
39...♔e6 40.g4 f6!?∞.

40.g4 ♔c6

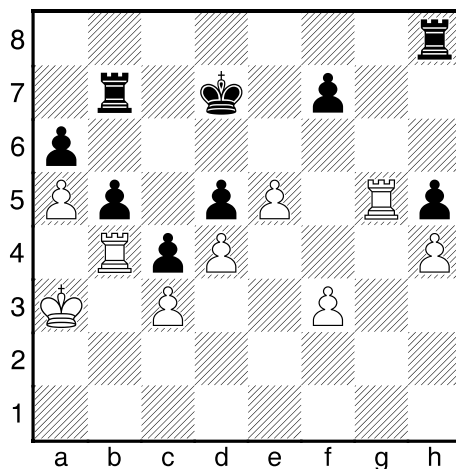


41.a5  
If White tries to swing to the kingside before closing the b-file with a5 then Black gets an active rook too: 41.gxh5 gxh5 42.♖g2 bxa4 43.♔xa4 ♖xb4+ 44.cxb4

♔d7= Δ45.♖g5?! ♖c8!

41...♔d7?  
▷41...♖h8= so if a file opens Black will get there first.

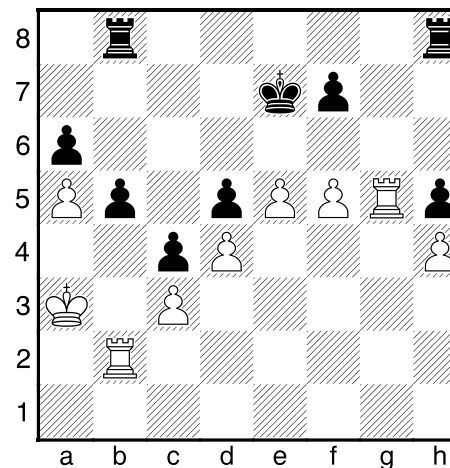
42.gxh5 gxh5 43.♖g2!± ♖h8  
44.♖g5



Black's position is getting desperate and he really needs to find a way to attack the pawns on White's third rank.

44...♔e6  
Not desperate enough. Black needs an open line for a Rook or he will get throttled. One desperate-but-not-ridiculous try is: 44...♖f8!? 45.♖xh5 f6! 46.f4 fxe5 47.fxe5 ♖f3↔.

45.f4 ♖bb8 46.f5+ ♔e7 47.♖b2



47...♖h6+-  
47...♖bg8 48.♖bg2 b4+!? is a desperate but clever way to try to get some counterplay, though by now it is probably too late.

48.♔b4  
Now after ♖ exchanges White wins with ♔c5.

48...♖c8 49.♖bg2 ♖h7 50.♖g8!  
♖c6 51.♖b8! ♖hh6 52.♖gg8  
Compare the activity: Black's ♖s have a total of two safe squares.

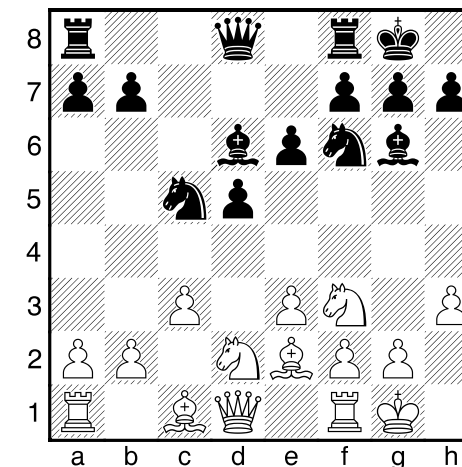
52...♔d7 53.♖b7+ ♖c7  
54.♖xc7+  
54.e6+! is arguably White's only significant improvement of the

game, and it comes at a point when White has lots of ways to win.

54...♔xc7 55.♖g7  
From about move 15 on Roger completely outplayed his opponent.  
1-0

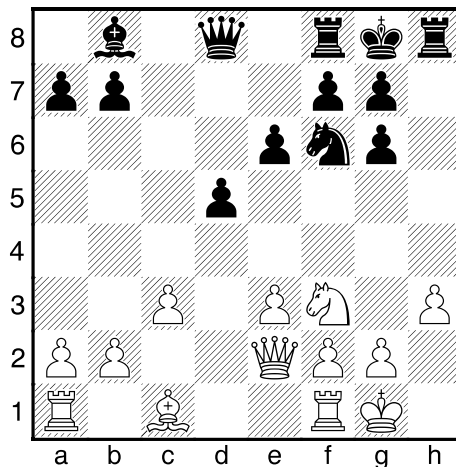
Langer, Herb (1703)  
Patron, Pascal (1936)  
NATO-ch 25th Quebec (5.25),  
11.09.2014  
Notes by Herb Langer

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.e3 ♖g4  
4.♙d3 e6 5.♘bd2 ♙d6 6.h3  
♙h5 7.c3 0-0 8.♙c2 ♘bd7 9.0-0  
c5 10.dxc5 ♘xc5 11.♙e2 ♖g6  
12.♙d1



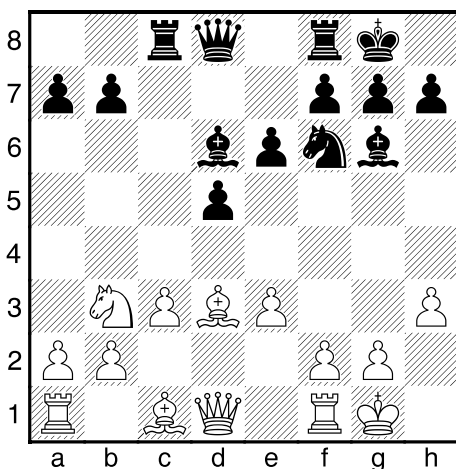
This was not the way the opening was supposed to turn out. White is shuffling his pieces around and not getting on with the plan.

12...♖c8 13.♘b3 ♘fe4 14.♘xc5  
♖xc5 15.♘d2 ♘f6 16.♘b3  
♖c8 17.♙d3 ♙h5 18.♙e2 ♙g6  
19.♙d3



*editor* – That deserves a diagram: which ♖ is on h8?

24.♙d2 ♙d6 25.♖fd1  
The only move.

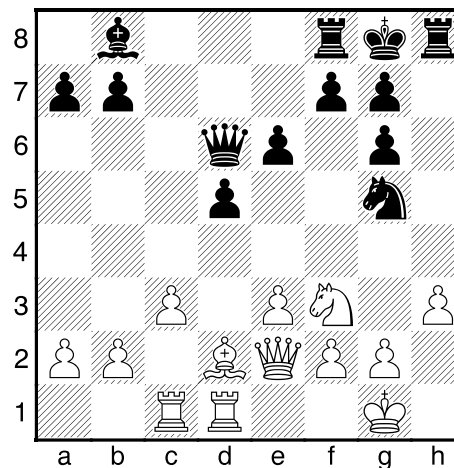


After how the opening went, I was quite content with a draw!

19...♙b8 20.♙xg6 hxg6 21.♙e2  
♖c4 22.♘d2 ♖h4 23.♘f3 ♖h8

*Langer - Pascal: proving, once again, that history is written by the winners ones who don't lose.*

25...♘e4 26.♖ac1 ♘g5

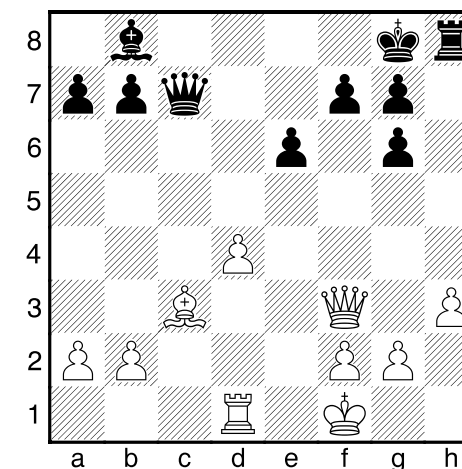


*editor* – ♘...g5 playing to lever open the h-file.

27.c4

*editor!* – "Not afraid of ghosts" is the way some Russian annotators put it. White sees Black's attack won't win, and so he gets on with the job of opening lines for his ♖s.

27...dxc4 28.♖xc4 ♖d8 29.♖d4  
♘xf3+ 30.♙xf3 ♙h2+ 31.♙f1  
♖xd4 32.exd4 ♙c7 33.♙c3



I survived, but I'm supposed to be the aggressor with White, no?

*editor* – No, not once you opt for the Colle. Having said that, 33.d5! would have been a good way to take advantage of White's more active ♖.

33...♖h5 34.d5 ♙c4+ 35.♙d3  
♙xd3+ 36.♖xd3 ♖xd5

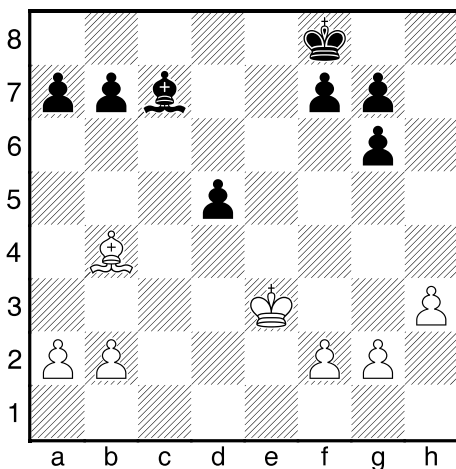




37. ♖xd5 exd5

Even though I'm down a pawn, I felt much better about my chances now.

38. ♖e2 ♖f8 39. ♖e3 ♖c7  
40. ♖b4+



An important check, depriving the Black King of d7. Now the pawn on d5 will fall.

40... ♖e8 41. ♖d4 ♖d7 42. ♖xd5  
g5 43. ♖f8 g6 44. ♖c5 a6 45. f3  
♖f4 46. ♖d4 ♖g3 47. ♖f6 ♖f4  
48. a4 ♖d2 49. b3 ♖f4 50. b4  
♖d2 51. b5 axb5 52. axb5 ♖f4

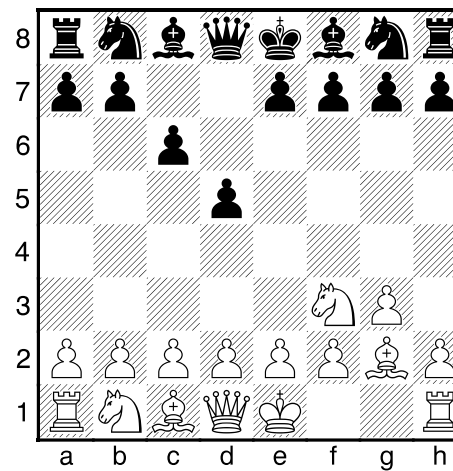
1/2-1/2

Alex Lambruschini did Canada proud in this round by pulling off the biggest upset of the round, winning a special commemorative medal in the process. Here is his game with his own comments.

**Notes by Alex Lambruschini**  
**Karbowiak (POL), A.**  
**(2093)**  
**Lambruschini, Alex**  
**(1831)**  
A95  
NATO-ch 25th Quebec (5),  
11.09.2014

I was well prepared for this game. From reviewing my opponent's games in the NATO database I knew he always began with the same set-up as White. My opening plan was inspired by two games by IM Drabke who picked apart Karbowiak with active kingside play. My teammate Dominic Coulon assisted me in preparation and Roger Lebrun suggested the idea of developing the light squared bishop via d7-e8.

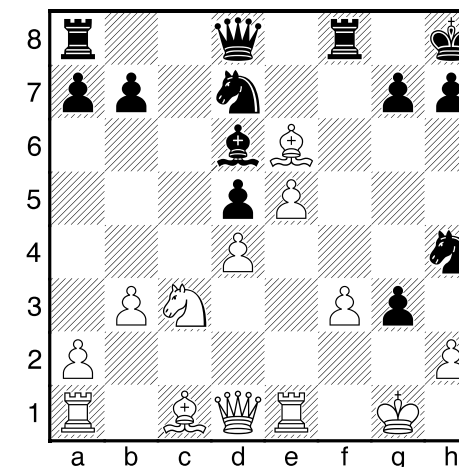
1. ♖f3 d5 2. g3 c6 3. ♖g2



3...e6

*editor* – here is one of IM Drabke's two wins, this one from last year's NATO Championship in Poland: 3... ♖g4 4.0-0 ♖d7 5.d4 e6 6.b3 ♖d6 7.c4 ♖e7 8. ♖c3 0-0 9. ♖e1 f5 10. ♖g5 ♖f4 11. f3 ♖g6 12. ♖h3 ♖xh3 13. ♖xh3 fxg3! 14. ♖xe6+ ♖h8 15. cxd5 cxd5 16. e4 ♖h4 → (16... ♖h4! Δ17. h3 g2!-+) 17. e5

*Analysis Diagram*



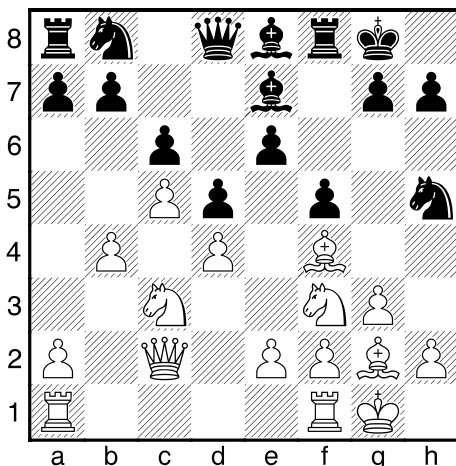
17... ♖xe5! 18. ♖xe5 (18. dxe5 ♖xf3+-) 18... ♖xe5 19. ♖xd5 ♖xd4+! 0-1 Karbowiak, A (2167)– Drabke, L (2431) Rynia NATO–Ch, 2013.

4.0-0 f5 5.d4 ♖e7 6.c4 ♖f6  
7. ♖c3 0-0 8. ♖f4 ♖d7 9. ♖b3  
♖b6 10. ♖c2 ♖e8 11. c5 ♖d8





12.b4 ♖h5



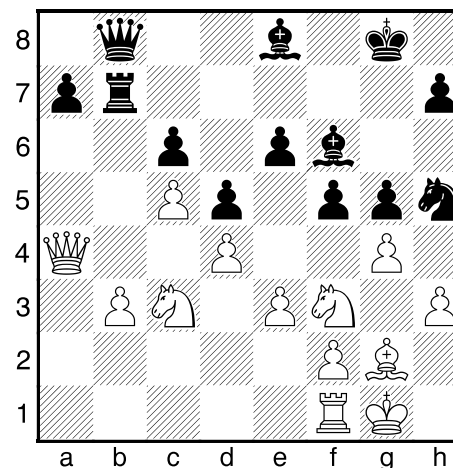
Since White showed by the last move he intends to play actively on the queenside, I thought it prudent to strike back on the

kingside at the expense of developing my knight on b8.

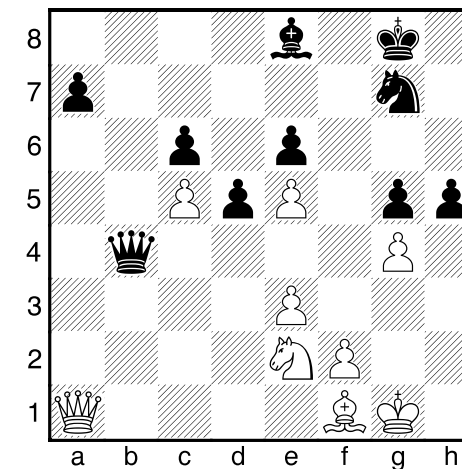
13.♖ab1 g5 14.♙xb8

Now I do not have to worry about developing my knight. Perhaps Karbowiak underestimated that in executing his plan this exchange actually brings my rook to a useful square.

14...♖xb8 15.b5 ♙f6 16.bxc6  
 bxc6 17.♚a4 ♖f7 18.e3 ♖fb7  
 19.♖b3 ♖xb3 20.axb3 ♖b7  
 21.h3 ♚b8 22.g4



White switches gears and hits back on the kingside, but this weakens his kingside pawn structure. Another plan would be to use the bishop on the f1-a6 diagonal with ♖b1 and ♙f1.



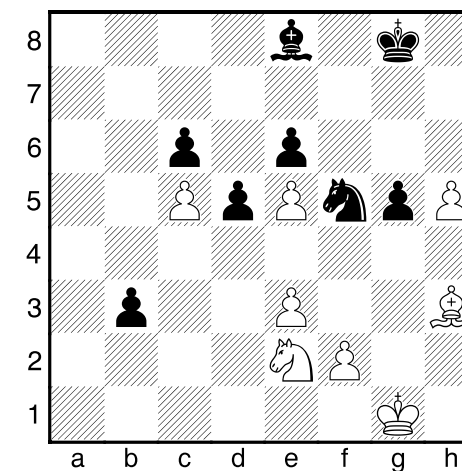
30.♚d4

White is collapsing fast, and this Queen sortie is another nail.

*editor* – Better was gxh5, though Black is still better after ...a5:

♙30.gxh5 a5 31.♘d4 ♚h7 ♞  
 (31...♚xc5? 32.h6! Xe6.) .

30...a5 31.gxh5 ♘f5 32.♚xb4  
 axb4 33.♙h3 b3



22...♖xb3 23.♘e2

However White could play 25.♚xc6 with a passed pawn as compensation.

I am not sure what my opponent saw with regards to 23. gxh5 but for sure in the game continuation White has no compensation for the lost pawn. Over the board I saw: 23.gxh5 ♖xc3 24.♖a1 ♙xh5 25.♚xa7? ♖c1+! loses a piece.

23...♘g7 24.♖a1 ♖b1+ 25.♙f1  
 ♖xa1 26.♚xa1 h5 27.♘e5 ♙xe5  
 28.dxe5 fxg4 29.hxg4 ♚b4





## 34. ♖c3

If 34. ♖g4 I intended 34... d4! as the knight cannot be captured, and after 35. ed ♖xd4!

*editor* – There's a flaw in one of these variations.

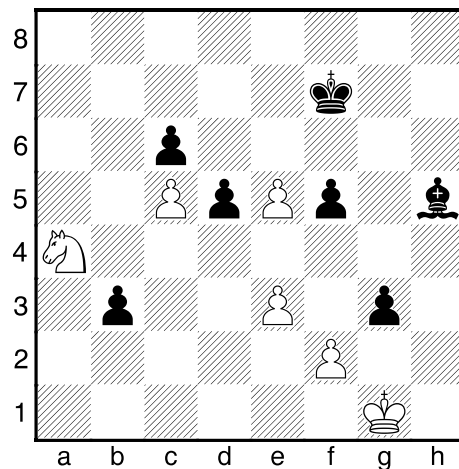
After 34. ♖g4 d4 Alex is right that the ♖f5 can't be taken: 35. ♖xf5 exf5 36. exd4 ♖xh5 37. ♖c3 ♖f7+.

But on 35. exd4 ♖xd4 actually loses because White has a check to gain a tempo and a square to get the ♖ back to stop Black's b-pawn: 36. ♖xd4 b2 37. ♖xe6+ ♖f7 38. ♖f5+- a square that wasn't available when Alex was calculating this at move 33.

Instead, after 35. exd4 b2 36. ♖c3 ♖xd4 and Black has a choice of (slow) ways to win, including bringing his ♖ up to win the h-pawn.

34... ♖xh5 35. ♖a4 g4  
36. ♖f1 g3 37. ♖h3 ♖f7  
38. ♖xf5 exf5

*Alex Lambruschini*  
upset medal winner.



A *finger fehler* as after 38... gxf2+ 39. ♖xf2 exf5 and ... ♖e6 the show is over.



## 39. f4

Thankfully the technique is still simple as the White knight and king are hopelessly tied to two widely separated passed pawns.

39... ♖f3 40. ♖f1 ♖g6 41. ♖g1 ♖h5 42. ♖b2 ♖h4 43. ♖d3 ♖e2 44. ♖b2 ♖h3

0-1

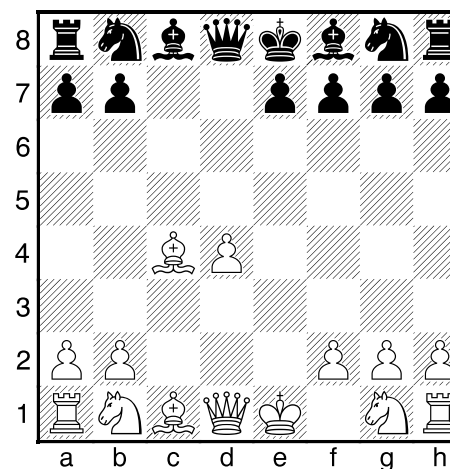
### Demjen, Attila (2008) Langer, Herb (1703)

D26

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (6.22),  
11.09.2014

Notes by Herb Langer

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5  
4. c4 dxc4 5. ♖xc4

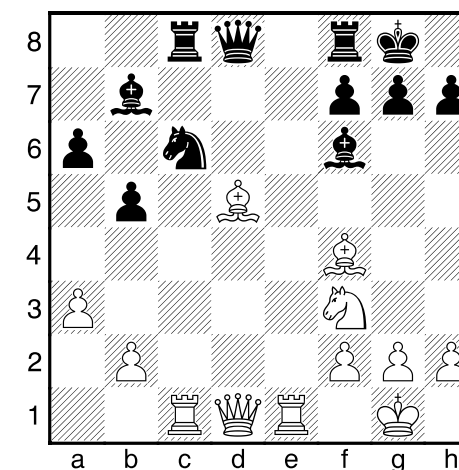


I used to fear the exchange variation of the Caro-Kann, but not any more.

5... e6 6. ♖f3 ♖f6 7. 0-0 ♖e7  
8. ♖f4 0-0 9. ♖c3 ♖c6 10. ♖c1  
a6 11. a3 b5 12. ♖a2 ♖b7 13. ♖e1  
♖c8 14. d5 exd5 15. ♖xd5

White liquidates his isolani but the game is no more than equal.

15... ♖xd5 16. ♖xd5 ♖f6!



The attack on b2 is hard to meet. I felt Black was getting the upper hand now.

## 17. ♖xc6

*editor* – The game has transposed to a known position, usually reached from the QGA.

White's best is 17.b4!:

This looks like a mistake, since it seems that Black can win the ♖a3 with 17...♙b2, but after 18.♘g5!!→ Black doesn't have time to capture anything:

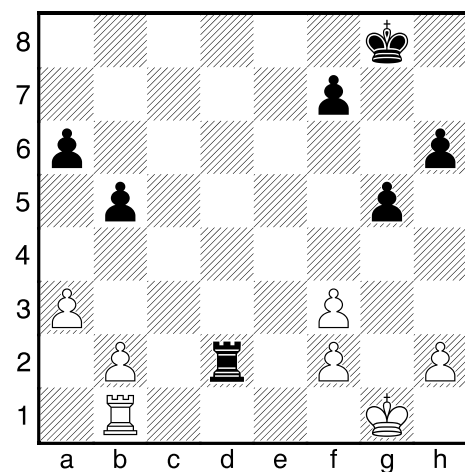
**18...♙xc1 19.♖h5 h6**  
**20.♘xf7+-.**

**18...h6 19.♘xf7+- ♖xf7**  
**20.♙xf7+ ♗xf7 21.♖b3+-.**

Instead, the most recent top-level game from this diagram position continued: 17.b4!

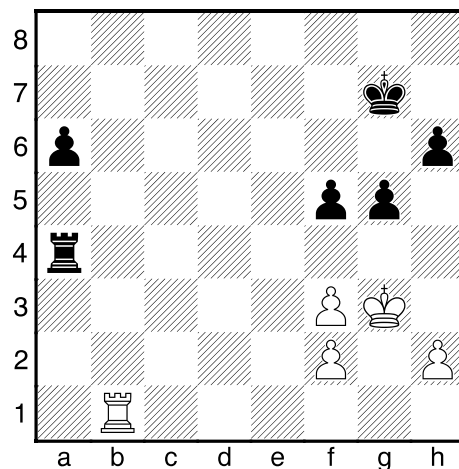
♙a8! **18.♖b3 ♘d4 19.♖xc8**  
**♘xf3+ 20.♖xf3 ♖xc8 21.g3**  
**♙xd5 22.♖xd5 ♖d8= (1/2-1/2, 35)**  
[Wang,H-Karjakin,S](#) Beijing (rapid) 2012.

**17...♙xc6 18.♖xd8 ♖fxd8**  
**19.♙g5 ♙xg5 20.♘xg5 h6**  
**21.♘f3 ♙xf3 22.gxf3 ♖xc1**  
**23.♖xc1 ♖d2 24.♖b1 g5**



Now that White's Rook is tied down and Black's is more active, it is time to take advantage of the broken kingside that White has.

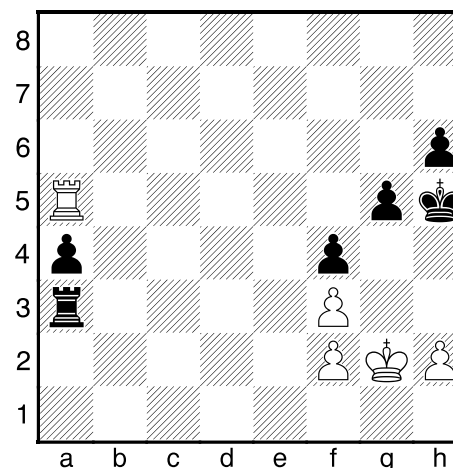
**25.♙g2 ♗g7 26.♙g3 f5 27.b3**  
**♖a2 28.a4 bxa4 29.bxa4 ♖xa4**



Now I felt the win was within my grasp.

**30.♖b7+ ♗g6 31.♖b6+ ♗h5**  
**32.♙g2 f4 33.♙g1 ♖a1+ 34.♙g2**  
**a5 35.♖a6 a4 36.♙h3 ♖a2**

**37.♙g2 ♖a3 38.♖a5**



**38...♙h4**

*editor* – With best play this ♖ ending is a draw.

Black can try to run to the queenside, but that doesn't work either. **38...♙g6 39.♖a6+ ♗f5**  
**40.♖xh6 ♖a1 41.♖a6 a3 42.♙h3**, with a theoretical position everyone ought to know:

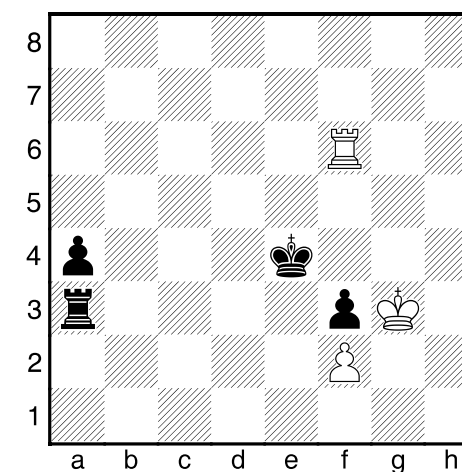
• if Black plays ...a2 then his ♗ can never come over to support the pawn without allowing a rain of checks from the a- and b-files.

• if Black doesn't push ...a2 then White's ♗ can attack g5.

**42...♙e5 43.♙g4 a2 44.♖a5+**  
**♗d4 45.♙h3! ♗d3 46.♖a8 ♗e2**  
**47.♙g2□=**

**39.♖a6 h5 40.h3 g4 41.hxg4**  
**hxg4 42.fxg4 f3+ 43.♙h2 ♗xg4**  
Bring the King over to escort the pawn and the win is secure.

**44.♖g6+ ♗f4 45.♖f6+ ♗e4**  
**46.♙g3**



**46...♖d3??**

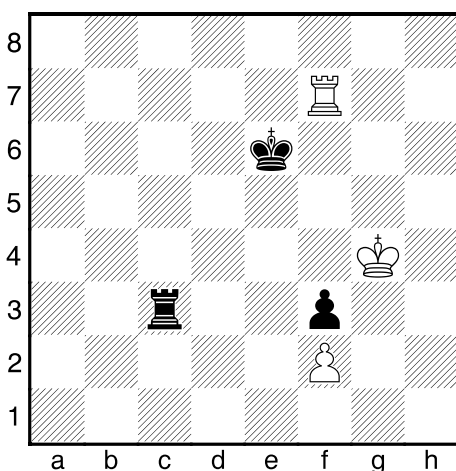
As soon as I let go of the Rook, I realized the blunder. The hope of a win evaporated, as well as any





chance to win the upset medal for the round. A good example of why you should sit on your hands and take your time.

47.♖f4+ ♔e5 48.♞xa4 ♕f5  
49.♞f4+ ♕g5 50.♞b4 ♕f5  
51.♞b5+ ♕e4 52.♔g4 ♞c3  
53.♞b7 ♕e5 54.♞f7 ♕e6



As long as the Black King stays in front of the White pawn, the draw is likely, even if White captures the pawn and the Rooks get exchanged.

55.♞f8 ♕e5 56.♞e8+ ♕f6  
57.♕f4 ♞b3 58.♞c8 ♕e6  
59.♞e8+ ♕f6 60.♞e4 ♞c3  
61.♞a4 ♕e6 62.♞e4+ ♕f6  
63.♞e3 ♞c4+ 64.♞e4 ♞c3  
65.♞e3

Draw agreed. Such a disappointment for me. But, at least I didn't lose.

1/2-1/2

### Round 6

Before Round 6 there was a break from playing when everyone was invited to attend a tour of the old city of Quebec. We had a wonderful guide and great weather. It was capped off with a meal provided by the organiz-

ers at the oldest restaurant in Quebec, Aux Anciens Canadiens, established 1675.

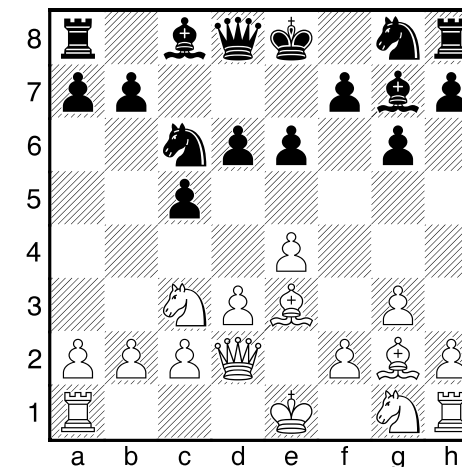
**Ross, David C (1586)**  
**Coulon, Dominic (1731)**

B26

*NATO-ch 25th Quebec (6.33),  
11.09.2014*

*Notes by John Upper*

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 d6 3.g3 g6  
4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.d3 ♘c6 6.♙e3 e6  
7.♞d2



7...♙d7

7...♞b8 8.f4 ♘ge7 9.♘f3 b5 10.a3  
a5 11.♘d1 b4 12.axb4 axb4  
13.h4 h5= (1/2-1/2, 39) [Seirawan, Y](#)  
[-Karpov, A](#) Saint Louis (blitz),  
2012.

8.♞b1

8.♘f3 ♘d4 9.0-0 h6 10.♘e2  
♘xe2+ 11.♞xe2 ♙xb2 12.♞ab1  
♙g7 13.♞xb7 ♙c6 14.♞b3±  
(1-0, 41) [Smyslov, V](#)-[Botvinnik, M](#)  
Moscow training match, 1951.

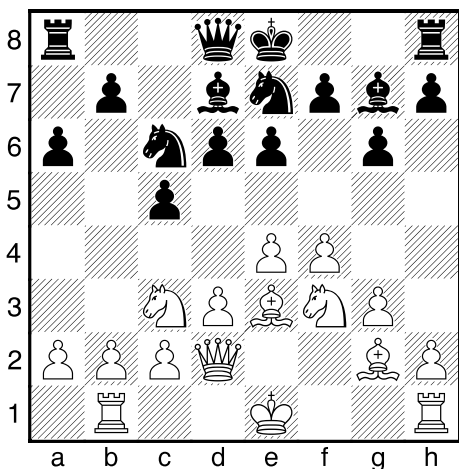
8...a6 9.f4 ♘ge7 10.♘f3



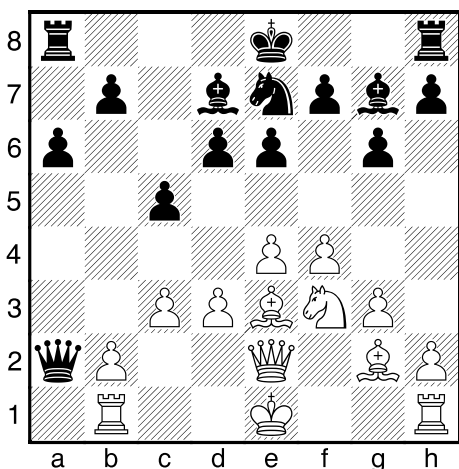
*UNESCO World Heritage Site*







10...d4 11...e2 dxe2 12...xe2  
a5+ 13.c3 xa2



14...c8

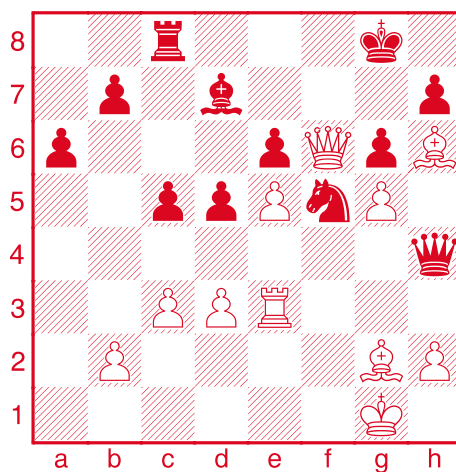
15.0-0!? xc3 15.e5∞ (15...a1?  
xb2 16...xb2 xc2 17...ab1  
g7 18...xb7 xc6 Black ben-  
efits from not having castled.)

14...c8 15.0-0 d5? 16.e5  
16...e5±.

16...a5 17.g4 f5

17...h5!? activates the h8, but  
commits the c1 to stay in the  
center.

18.exf6 xf6 19.e5 c7  
20.d2 0-0 21...ce1 xe5  
22.fxe5 c6 23.h6 xf1+  
24.xf1 d8 25.e3 h4  
26.g5 e7 27.f6 f5



28.f3?

28.h3? e1+ 29.f1 d1= preventing  
f3xf5.

a) 30.f2?? 30...hx6 31.gxh6  
f8-+.

b) 30.h4 threatening f4  
30...f3 31.h3 (31.g2?)

e3+ 32.f1 c1+ 33.f2  
d2+ 34.f1 e3+ and the  
that was preventing mate on g7  
delivers mate on g2.);

c) White can't use the c1 to  
support f3: 30.g2 d4!-+ and  
...c6 gives Black a winning at-  
tack.

28.h3+- hx6 29.e6+  
xe6 30.e6+ f7  
31.xc8+-

29.gxh6? xf6.

29.e7 f5 30.xd7 f8  
31.xe6+=.

29...e1!-+

29...g4 also wins 30.f7+  
h8 31.h3 e1+ 32.f1 e3+  
33.h1 xe5-+.

30.f1 e3+ 31.h1 f5  
32.f5 exf5 33.e7 e8  
34.xd7 xe5

28...hx6 29.f4??

0-1

Ross - Coulton





## Langer, Herb (1703) Leveillee, Philippe (1852)

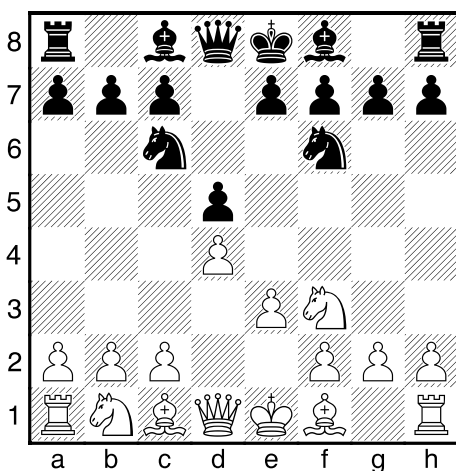
D02

NATO-ch 25th Quebec (7.26),  
12.09.2014

Notes by Herb Langer

Neither Philippe nor I wanted to win against another Canadian, but we both had set our hearts on achieving a score of 4.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.e3 ♘c6



4.c3

*editor* - 4.c4! is the logical way to play now that Black's ♘c6 interferes with the undermining ...c5. Can I say "The Colle claims another victim"?

4...♙f5

5.♙d3

♙xd3

6.♖xd3

e6 7.0-0

♙d6

8.♘bd2

0-0 9.♖e1

♘e7

10.e4

dxe4

11.♘xe4

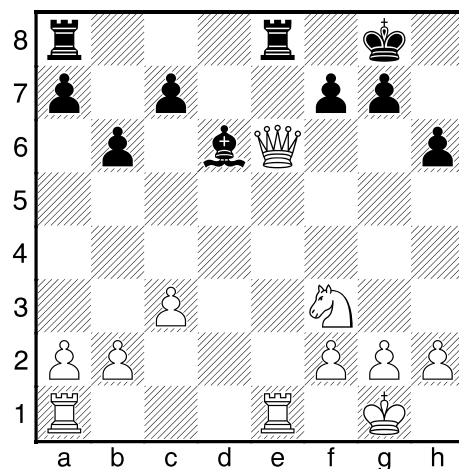
♘xe4

12.♖xe4

b6

13.♙g5 h6 14.♙xe7 ♖xe7 15.d5

♖fe8 16.dxe6 ♖xe6 17.♖xe6



I pinned my hopes on getting play against the isolated pawn.

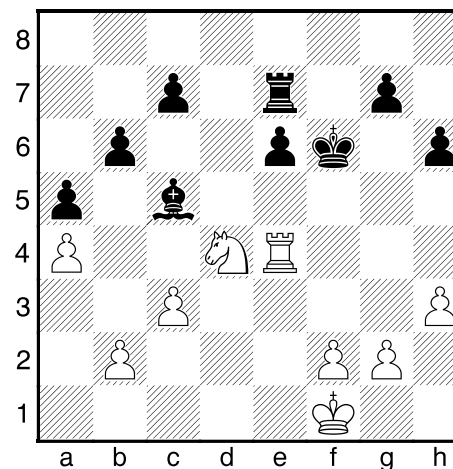
17...♖xe6 18.♖xe6 fxe6



19.♖e1 ♔f7 20.h3 a5 21.a4

♔f6 22.♘d4 ♖e8 23.♔f1 ♙c5

24.♖e4 ♖e7



25.b4

*editor* - 25.♘c6! gives White some chances. 25...♖e8 26.♖f4+ ♔g6 27.♘e5+ ♔h7 28.♖f7

White's pieces are more active, and a ♖ trade gives White an endgame against an iso and a ♙ which can't defend the light square weakness on the queen-side.

25...♙xd4 26.♖xd4 axb4

27.cxb4 e5 28.♖c4 ♔e6

The potential passed pawn on the a-file might have been useful, but probably not enough to secure a win. I suppose fifty percent is not too bad a score.

1/2-1/2

## Canadian Results

Tallying up the Canadian performances, I was pleased to see that I was 36th out of 74, placing me highest of the Canadian players with a final score of 3½. Placing 38th was Roger Lebrun, also with 3½, and at 40th was Alex Lambruschini, again also with 3½.

## Blitz

As always, the NATO Championship finishes off with an eleven





## photos

most Canadian player photos:  
Herb Langer

first and last page: Jan Cheung  
<https://plus.google.com/photos/100604401394627577783/albums?banner=pwa>

## links

NATO Chess  
<http://www.natochess.com/>

Chessbase.de Report  
<http://de.chessbase.com/post/deutschland-wird-nato-meister>

Polish Report  
[http://wssto.pl/natochess\\_2014.html](http://wssto.pl/natochess_2014.html)

US Report  
<http://www.ftmeadesoundoff.com/news/12261/usa-takes-bronze-nato-chess-championship/>

The 2015 NATO Championship will be July 5-10 in Amsterdam.

round blitz tournament. The top Canadians were Philippe Leveille with 6½, with Francois Simard, Fernando Echavarria-Hidalgo and Jean Bigras with 5½.

## Closing

The closing ceremony was held in the Parliament building dining room. Germany again won top place, followed by Poland. The surprise was the USA coming in third. IM Lorenz Drabke (GER) won the individual competition, ahead of Dariusz Sycz (POL) on tiebreak, both scoring 6/7.

Canadians did well considering that we were so much lower rated. Best of all (for *me* anyway) was that the veterans of Canada2 edged out Canada1. The trophy for most exciting game or most sportsmanlike play was presented to the team of Canada2 based on the effort and sportsmanship of the veterans. I guess I can no longer say that I've never won a trophy in chess anymore!

- Herb Langer



right: *Maj.Regis Bellemare*

**Germany** über NATO allies.  
**USA** bronze.  
**Canada2** über Canada1.







The 99th BC Championship took place in Victoria, BC at the Howard Johnson Hotel on October 10-13, 2014 over the Thanksgiving long weekend.

The event was an 8-player round robin where players are invited (no entry fees) based on rating and qualifying events (i.e., last year's BC Champion, BC Junior Championship, BC Open, Keres Memorial, Grand Pacific Open).

Time control was 120 mins + 30 sec. This year, the championship was only CFC-rated; whereas, in previous years, this event was also FIDE rated.

### The Players

This year's event had a strong field with a perfect mix of juniors and veterans:

- the 2276 average rating this year was one of the highest in recent memory;
- half the players were previous BC Champions;
- just like last year, 4 of the 8 competitors were juniors.

Defending champion Tanraj Sohal made his 5th appearance in the BC Championship. This was the 2nd time for FM Jason Cao; whereas John Doknjas played in his 3rd BC Champion-

ship. The only newcomer to this year's championship was Joshua Doknjas, who now holds the record as the *youngest ever* competitor in the BC Championship (12 years old and 3 days), beating his brother, John Doknjas' record by 10 days.

The other half of the players included five times BC Champion FM Jack Yoos, another former BC Champion NM Butch Villavieja, yet another former BC Champion Howard Wu (11th appearance in this BC Championship), and Roman Jiganchine, who has competed in this event 4 times now.

### Round by Round

On the Friday evening, Oct 10th, all the players gathered prior to the commencement of Round 1 with TD Roger Patterson officiating the RR pairing selection. Each player randomly selected a card from 1 to 8, which determined who they would play on which round and with what colour.

### Round 1

Seemed to pair those closest in age: Jack Yoos and Butch Villavieja; Roman Jiganchine and Howard Wu; Tanraj Sohal and John Doknjas; and Joshua Doknjas and Jason Cao. All games ended

TD Roger Patterson Jack Yoos Joshua Doknjas Howard Wu Tanraj Sohal Jason Cao John Doknjas Roman Jiganchine Butch Villavieja





with draws, with the exception of Jason Cao winning his game.

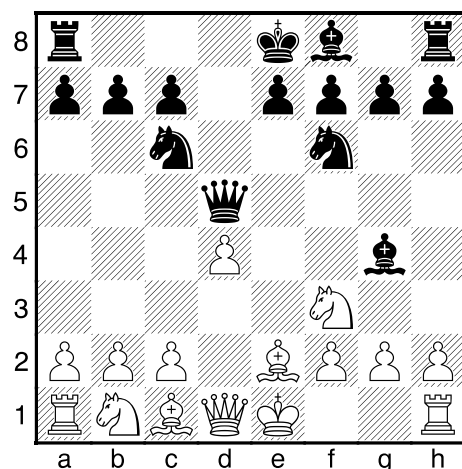
## Doknjas, Joshua (2215) Cao, Jason (2373)

B01

BC ch 99th Victoria (1.3),  
10.10.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♘f3 ♘f6  
4.d4 ♗g4 5.♗e2 ♘c6

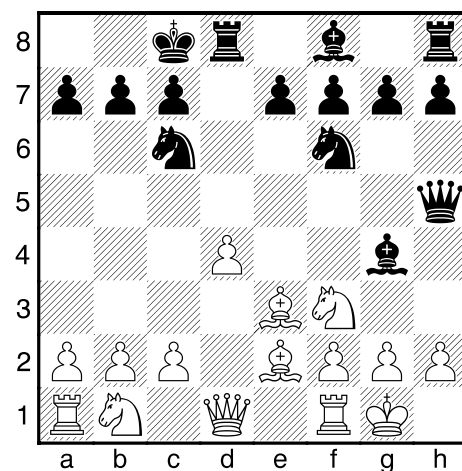


"Black's sharpest response to 3.♘f3. Generally, Black gives up important trumps, the centre and the bishop pair, but in return he drums up a strong initiative with his development advantage and pressure on White's centre. If White survives he'll have a pleasant position." – [Gawain](#)

[Jones](#) ([chesspublishing.com](http://chesspublishing.com))

### 6.c4

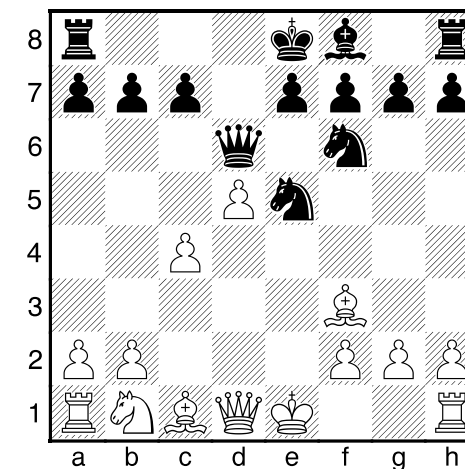
Here is an example of what Black dreams of: **6.♗e3** 0-0-0 7.0-0 ♖h5 *Analysis Diagram*



8.c4? (♠8.c3; ♠8.h3) 8...e5!♣  
9.♘c3? (9.h3♠; 9.d5? e4-+) 9...  
exd4-+ 10.♘xd4 ♘xd4 11.♗xg4+  
♖xg4 Black was up a piece in Justinussen, S (1978) – Smerdon, D (2519) Helsingor, 2014 (0-1, 20).

**6.h3!?** keeps the option of c3, or c2-c4 and d4-d5 in response to ...e5. **6...♗xf3** (6...♗h5 7.c4± and the Black ♖ can't go to its usual squares h5 or f5, which should make his piece play a bit weaker.) **7.♗xf3 ♖d7** 8.c3 e5 9.0-0

(9.dxe5 hopes for an easy plus for White, but there's no good way to keep the ♗ pair after 9...♖xd1+ 10.♗xd1 ♘xe5 11.♗c2 0-0-0=; 9.d5!?) **9...0-0-0** 10.♗g5 exd4 11.♗g4 ♘xg4 12.♗xd8 ♘xf2 13.♖xf2 ♖xd8! (13...♖xd8 14.cxd4 ♗c5 15.♖h1 ♖c8 16.♘c3± (1-0, 68) Shabalov, A (2570)–Gershon, A (2540) Paget Parish 2001) **14.♖xf7 d3** ♗ [Gawain Jones](#).



White is behind in development, which suggests ♘c3 or 0-0. But

### 6...♖d6!?

6...♖h5  
7.d5 ♘e5  
8.♘xe5 ♖xe5  
9.♘c3 ♗xe2  
10.♘xe2?!  
0-0-0 11.0-0 e6♣ (½-½, 37) [Giri, A](#)–[Bawart, M](#) (2417) [Rogaska Slatina](#), 2011.

### 7.d5 ♗xf3 8.♗xf3 ♘e5

**Joshua Doknjas**  
youngest-ever BC  
Closed player.



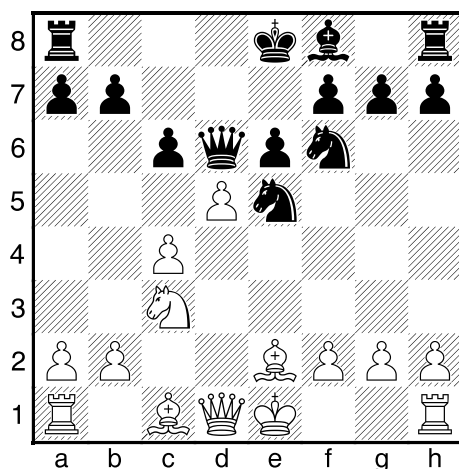


White has more space and the ♖-pair, both of which suggest ♙e2 (keeping the ♙ and more pieces on the board). Either way, in the game White plays for the maximum advantage.

9. ♙e2

On 9.0-0 the ♖c4 isn't hanging because of ♙a4+.

9...c6 10. ♘c3 e6



11. ♙f4

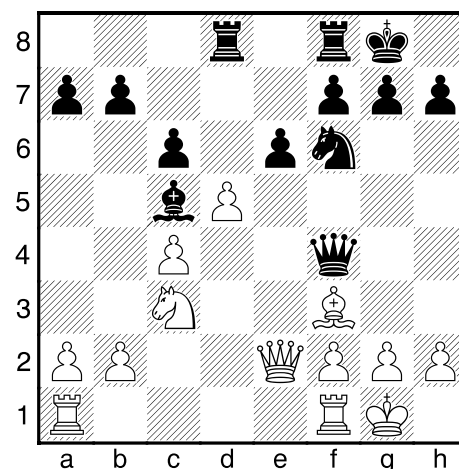
11.0-0± or 11.dxe6 ♙xe6 12.0-0 ♖d8 13. ♙b3 ♙c5=.

11...♘d3+!

So White doesn't keep the bishop-op pair after all.

12. ♙xd3 ♙xf4 13.0-0 ♖d8

14. ♙f3 ♙c5 15. ♙e2 0-0



16. dxc6?!

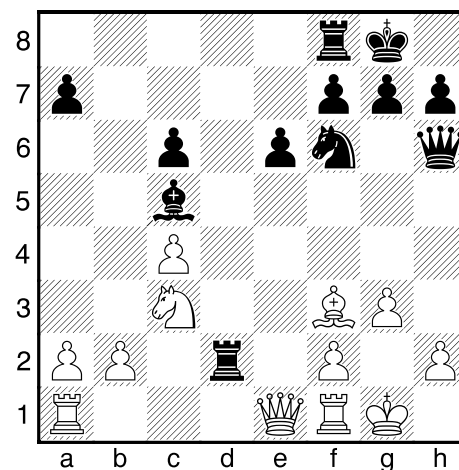
16. ♖ad1=.

16. dxe6 ♖d2 17. ♙e1 (17.e7?

♖e8?) 17...fxe6 18. ♙xe6+ ♙h8± Black has a lot of activity for the pawn.

16...♖d2 17. ♙e1 bxc6 18.g3

♙h6

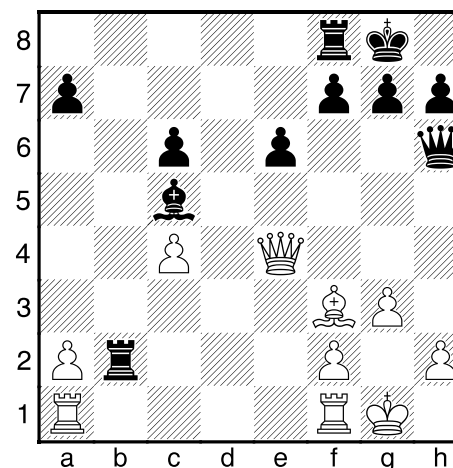


19. ♙e4

19. ♖d1! ♖xb2 20. ♙e5C

(20. ♘a4? ♙b4□±).

19...♙xe4 20. ♙xe4 ♖xb2



21. ♙xc6

21. ♙e5! ♙f6□ (21...♙a3?

22. ♙c3-+) 22. ♙xc5 (22. ♙xf6

gxf6 23. ♙xc6 ♖d8±) 22...♙xf3

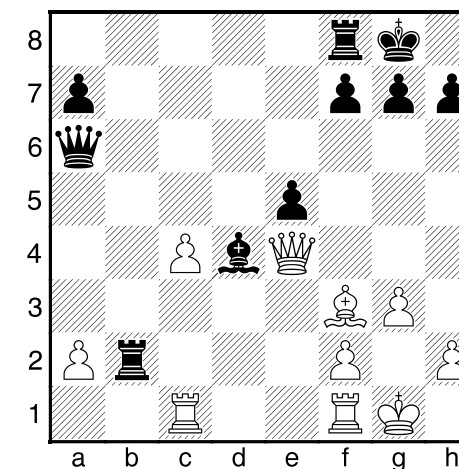
23. ♙xa7 h5 24.a4 and White has better chances than in the game.

21...♙d4

After this, and to the end of the game, it feels like Black is somehow just a little faster than White, and always stays one threat ahead.

22. ♖ad1 ♙f6 23. ♙e4 e5

24. ♖c1 ♙a6



25. ♖c2

25.c5 ♙xa2 26.c6 ♖xf2 27. ♖xf2

♙xf2+ 28. ♙h1 g6 29.c7 ♖c8

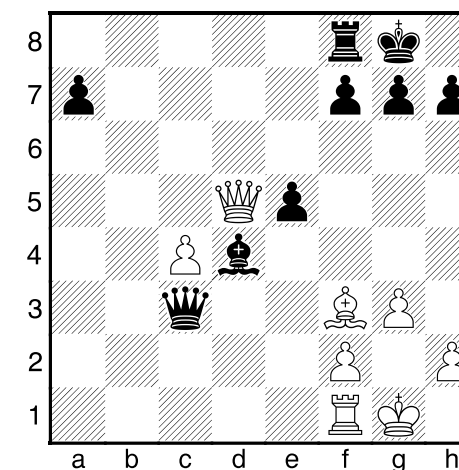
30. ♙b7 ♖xc7□-+ The ♖ and ♙ are overloaded, and Black wins by one threat.

25...♙xa2 26. ♖xb2 ♙xb2

27. ♙d5

27. ♙b1 ♙xf2+±.

27...♙c3



## 28. ♖e2

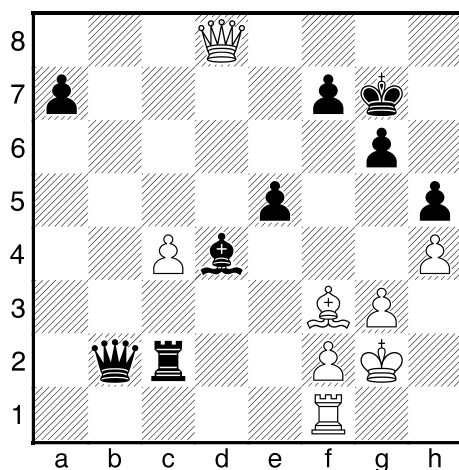
This holds the ♖c4, but positions with opposite-coloured ♗s usually give one player a strong attack, as the attacking ♗ has no piece to oppose it. Black now attacks f2:

28. ♖g2 ♖c8 29. ♗d7! Δ ♗xc4  
30. ♗d5 ♗c7 31. ♗xf7+ again,  
White has some drawing  
chances in the ending, 31... ♖h8  
32. ♗xc7 ♖xc7 33. ♖b1.

## 28...g6 29. ♖g2 ♖b8 30. h4 h5

31. ♗d6 ♖b6 32. ♗d8+ ♖g7

33. ♗d5 ♖b2 34. ♗f3 ♖c2 35. ♗d8 ♗b2

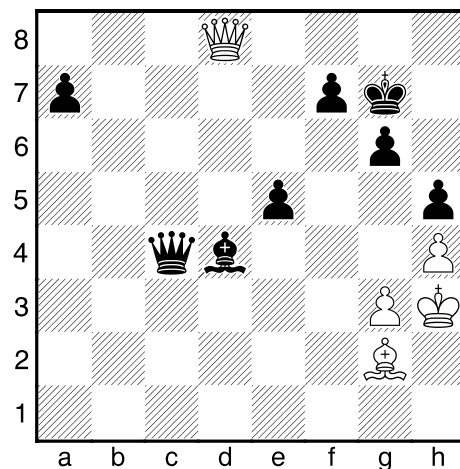


## 36. ♗e4

36. ♗d5 looks better, but is worse: 36... ♖xf2+ 37. ♖xf2 ♗xf2+ 38. ♖h3 ♗f5+ 39. ♖h2 e4-+.

## 36... ♖xf2+ 37. ♖xf2 ♗xf2+

38. ♖h3 ♗f5+ 39. ♗g2 ♗xc4



## 40. ♗a5 ♗c8+ 41. ♖h2 ♗c1

42. ♗d5 ♗g1+ 43. ♖h1 ♗e1

44. ♗f3 ♗f2+ 45. ♖h2 a5 46. ♗a3

♗e3 47. ♗xe3 ♗xe3 48. ♗c6 f5

49. ♖g2 e4 50. ♖f1 ♖f6 51. ♖e2

♗c5 52. ♗e8 ♗d6 53. ♖f2 e3+!

Deflects the ♖ to win both kingside pawns.

A smooth win by Jason, which might have been more difficult if White had made use of opportunities — moves 16, 19, 21 — to activate his pieces.

0-1

## Round 2:

John D. v Joshua D. 1-0

Wu v Villavieja 1-0

Cao v Yoos 1-0

Jiganchine v Sohal ½-½

## Cao, Jason (2373)

## Yoos, Jack (2371)

E84

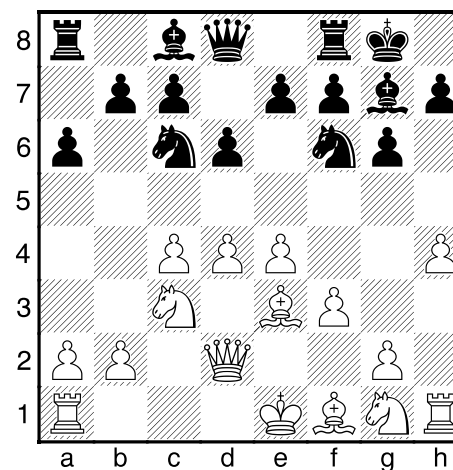
BC ch 99th Victoria (2.2),  
11.10.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. e4 d6 2. d4 g6 3. c4 ♗g7

4. ♖c3 ♖f6 5. f3 0-0 6. ♗e3 a6

7. ♗d2 ♖c6 8. h4!?

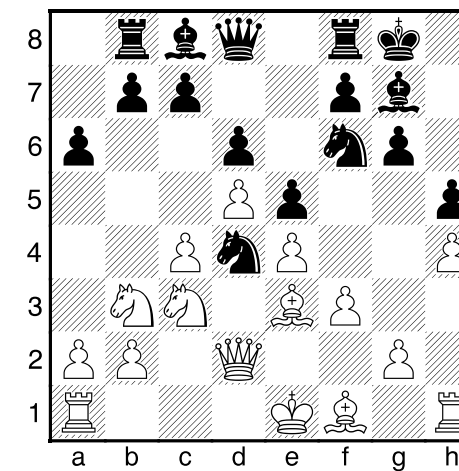


8...h5

8...e5!?

9. ♖ge2 ♖b8 10. ♖c1 e5 11. d5

## ♖d4 12. ♖b3



## 12... ♖xb3?!

Top-players have switched to 12...c5 here, probably for the reasons explained by David Vigorito in the next note and seen in this game: after axb3 the pawn structure favours White: Black's ...h5 makes it dangerous to generate Kingside play with ...f5, and White's doubled b-pawns and open a-file make it hard for Black to do anything on the queenside.

12...c5 13. dxc6 bxc6 14. ♖xd4 exd4 15. ♗xd4 ♖e8 16. ♖d1 d5 17. cxd5 cxd5 18. e5 ♖d7 19. f4 f6?! (19... ♗h6!?) 20. ♗a7! ♖b7 21. ♗xd5+ ♖h8 22. ♗e3 fxe5 23. f5! ♖xb2 24. ♗f7 e4 25. ♗d4 ♖f6? 26. ♗xg6+- (1-0, 38)



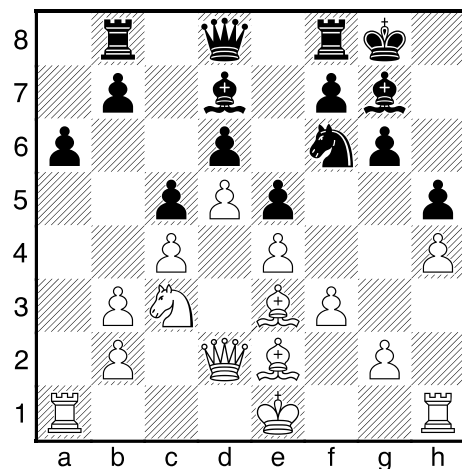


Wang,H-Ding,L, Danzhou, 2011.

### 13. axb3 c5

"Black tries to keep the queenside at least somewhat closed. Black has trouble in this structure after ...c5 because the inclusion of the moves 9 h4 and 9...h5 makes it difficult for him to create play on the kingside: ...h5 is no longer possible and ...f5 is very risky. White, however, can play on either side of the board. His most dangerous plan is to prepare g2-g4." – David Vigorito, *Attacking Chess: The King's Indian vol.1*, (Everyman, 2010).

### 14. ♖e2 ♗d7

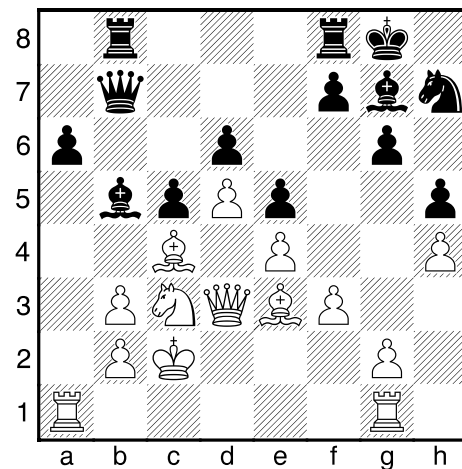


### 15. ♕d1!N

Playing to improve on Christiansen-Nunn (below) by defending the ♖b3 with the ♕. Looks very good to me, though computers disapprove.

15. ♖d1 ♗b6 16. ♖f2 ♗xb3  
17. ♖d3 ♜fc8 18. 0-0 ♗e8 19. ♜a3  
♗b6 20. b4 ♞ Vigorito, 2010. (1-0,  
34) Christiansen,L -Nunn,J  
Germany, 1988.

15... ♗c8 16. ♕c2 b5 17. ♜hg1  
♗b7 18. ♗g5 bxc4 19. ♗xc4 ♗b5  
20. ♗d3 ♞h7 21. ♗e3



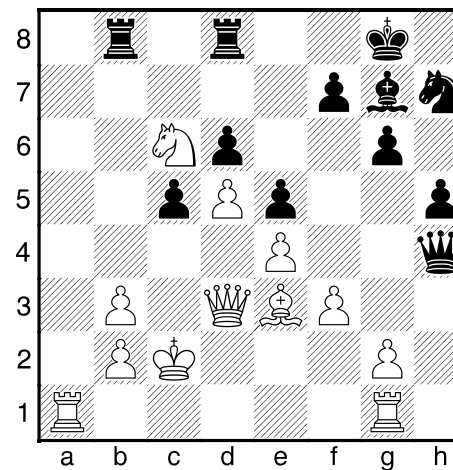
### 21... ♗e7?!

Possibly a pawn sac, hoping for compensation with opened lines on the queenside, but it's not enough. On the other hand, it is hard to suggest good moves

for Black, as White can double rooks on the a-file or prepare to open lines on the kingside. e.g. 21... ♗d7 22. ♜a5♠ or ♗xb5 then doubling on the a-file.

22. ♗xb5 axb5 23. ♖xb5 ♜fd8?  
23... ♗d7 24. ♖a7±.

24. ♖a7!+- ♗xh4 25. ♖c6

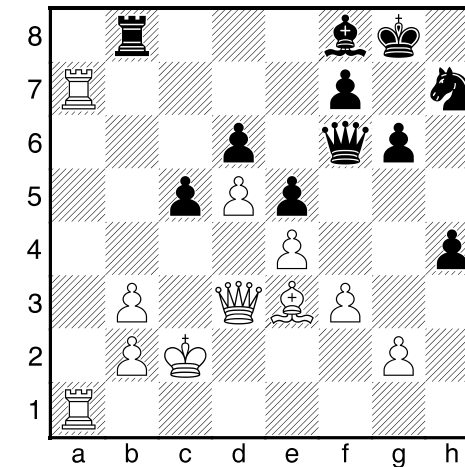


White will be up a pawn and Black's minor pieces are nowhere near active enough for compensation.

25... ♗f8 26. ♖xb8 ♜xb8 27. ♜a7  
♗f6

27... ♗h6!? 28. ♜d7+-.

28. ♜ga1 h4



### 29. ♜h1!

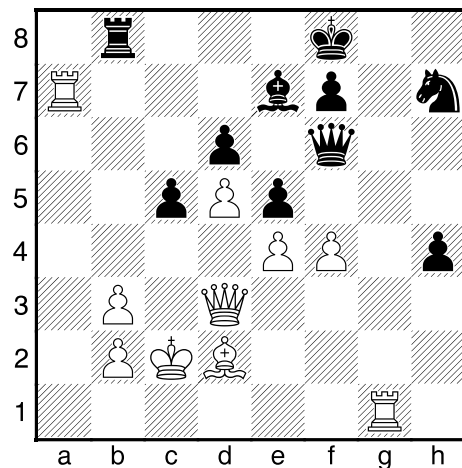
Not the computer's top choice, but another move I really like. White just played ♜h1-a1, and most players would automatically continue ♜c7 and double on the 7th rank. Instead, Jason plays to kill any Black hopes of counterplay by stopping ...h3 and then (once Black has been forced to defend the weak ♖h4) he opens a second file on the Kingside for his extra ♜. A really mature choice, and totally dispiriting to face as Black.

29... g5 30. ♗d2 ♕g7 31. g3! ♗e7  
31... hxg3 32. ♗f1+-.

32. gxh4 gxh4 33. f4! ♕f8  
33... exf4? 34. ♗c3+-.



34. ♖g1



White's ♖s have the only open files, and Black's minors have fewer safe moves than they did



at the start of the game.

34... ♗d8 35. fxe5 ♕xe5

35... dxe5 36. ♖f3! is a pretty deflection.

36. ♗h6+

1-0

### Round 3

Continued to see White pieces dominate 3-1:

Sohal - Wu	1-0
Joshua D. - Jiganchine	1-0
Yoos - John D.	1-0
Villavieja - Cao	0-1

**Villavieja, Butch (2226)**

**Cao, Jason (2373)**

B94

BC ch 99th Victoria (3.4),

11.10.2014

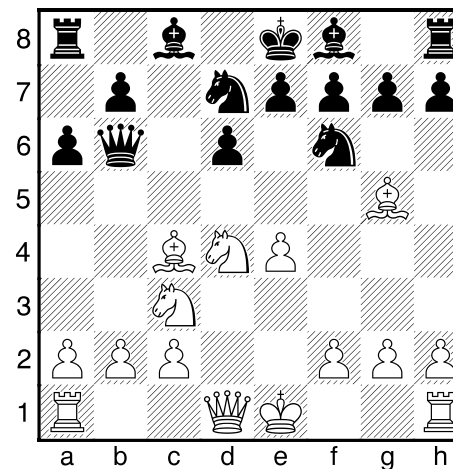
Notes by John Upper

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4

4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♗g5

♘bd7 7. ♗c4 ♖b6

FM Jack Yoos, five time BC Champ.



A very topical line. With ... ♘bd7 and ... ♖b6, Black hopes to play a Posioned Pawn Najdorf without allowing White to double the f-pawns as in the more usual move-order with 6... e6. In return, Black gives White an extra option of blocking the attack on b2 with ♗b3.

8. ♗b3

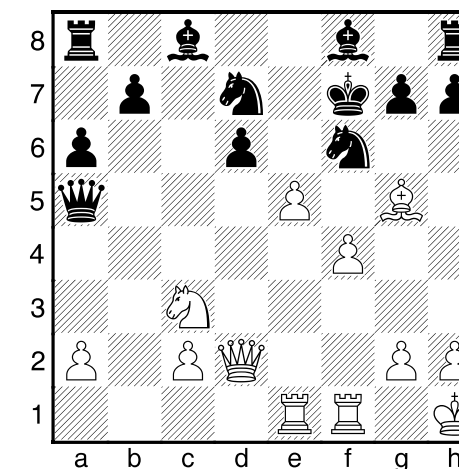
8. 0-0 e6 9. ♖d2 ♗e7 10. ♗xe6 fxe6 11. ♘xe6 ♖f7 12. ♗e3 ♘c5 with a typically exciting Sicilian mess in Zhigalko, A (2584) – Ziaziulkina, N (2429) Minsk, 2015 (0-1, 33).

White can continue in Poisoned Pawn style with **8. ♖d2!?** ♖xb2 9. ♖b1 ♖a3 10. 0-0 e6 11. ♗xe6! (11. ♗d5 ♘c5 12. ♖fe1 ♖a5 13. ♘b3 (½-½, 34) *Negi, P*

– *Le Quang, L Gibraltar, 2012.*)

11... fxe6 12. ♘xe6 ♖a5 13. f4 ♖f7 14. e5! (14. f5∞) 14... ♖xe6! 15. ♖h1 ♖f7 16. ♖be1

### Analysis Diagram



I wouldn't dare offer an evaluation of these crazy positions without a lot of analysis... fortunately, Chessbase 13 has a "cloud" analysis feature, which allows me to see the computer analysis that others have shared on these positions, some of which have been analyzed to 30 ply by the top engines Komodo and Houdini.

**16... h6** has been analyzed very heavily: 17. ♗h4 ♘b6?! (17... dxe5 18. fxe5 ♘xe5 19. ♗xf6 gxf6 20. ♖xf6+ ♖g7□-+)





18. exf6 ♞g6 19. ♞e3 ♟d7 20. f5  
g5 21. ♟f2 ♞g4 22. ♞g3 ♞c8??  
23. ♟xb6 (23. ♞xg4+-) 23... ♞xc3  
24. ♞xg4+- ♞xf6 25. ♟d4 ♞g5  
26. ♞e4 ♟e7 27. ♟xh8 ♞xh8  
28. ♞d5+ ♟g7 29. ♞xe7+ 1-0  
Wang, Y (2714)–Zhou, J (2636)  
Danzhou, 2011.

16... d5!? 17. e6+ ♟c8 18. e7  
h6! (18... ♟xe7 19. ♞xe7)  
19. ♞e3!:

19... ♞c5 20. ♞xc5 ♞xc5.

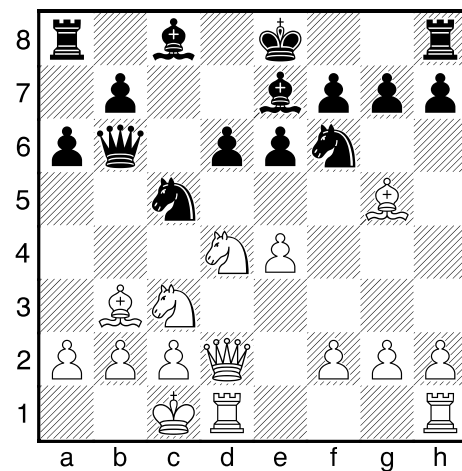
19... ♞a3! 20. ♞e6+ ♟h7  
21. ♞xd5 ♟xe7 22. ♞xe7 ♞f8  
23. ♞f5+ ♟h8 24. ♞g6+ ♟g8  
25. ♞e7+ ♟h8=.

19... ♟xe7 20. ♞e6+ → ♟h7  
21. ♞f5+ ♟g8 22. ♞e6+ ♟h7  
23. ♞f5+ ♟g8 24. ♞xe7! ♞f8  
25. ♟xf6 (25. ♞xg7+-) 25... ♞h7  
26. ♞xd5+ ♞xd5 27. ♞xd5 ♟e6  
(½-½, 45) Smith, B (2448)–  
Kovalyov, A (2612) Dearborn,  
2013.

8... e6 9. 0-0

White can also castle long and  
go for central play with f4 or an  
English–style attack with f3, g4  
etc. For example: 9. ♞d2 ♟e7  
10. 0-0-0 ♞c5:

*Analysis Diagram*



11. ♞he1 ♞c7 12. ♟b1 h6  
13. ♟h4 b5 14. ♟d5  
♟b7 15. ♟xb7 ♞xb7  
16. ♟xf6 gxf6 (16... ♟xf6  
17. ♞f5! ↑ MVL) 17. ♞e3  
0-0-0± (1-0, 50)  
Vachier Lagrave, M–  
Dominguez, L Tromso,  
2013.

11. f3 ♞c7 12. ♟b1  
0-0 13. g4 b5 14. a3  
♞b8 15. h4 ♟d7 16. h5  
a5 (16... ♞fc8!? N)  
17. ♟e3? (♟17. h6↑)  
17... b4 18. axb4 axb4  
19. ♞a2 ♞a5 20. g5  
♞fxe4 21. fxe4 ♞xe4?!  
(21... ♞a8!) 22. ♞g2↑  
♞c5 23. g6 ♞a8 24. h6?  
(24. ♞f5!+-) 24...  
fxg6 25. hxg7 ♞fc8  
26. ♞f5 ♟f6 27. ♟xc5

FM Jason Cao

♞xc5 28. ♞h2 h5 29. ♞xd6  
♞xa2 30. ♟xa2 ♞a8+ 31. ♟b1  
♞a5 32. ♟xe6+ (1-0, 32) Van  
Kampen, R (2602)–Tseitlin, M  
(2389) Gibraltar, 2014.

9... ♟e7 10. ♟e3

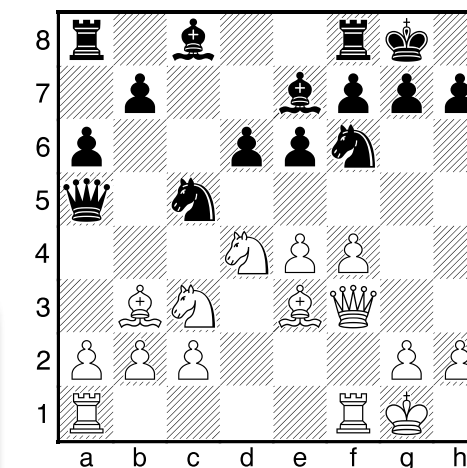
10. ♟h1 preparing f4 is more  
popular and direct.

10... ♞a5



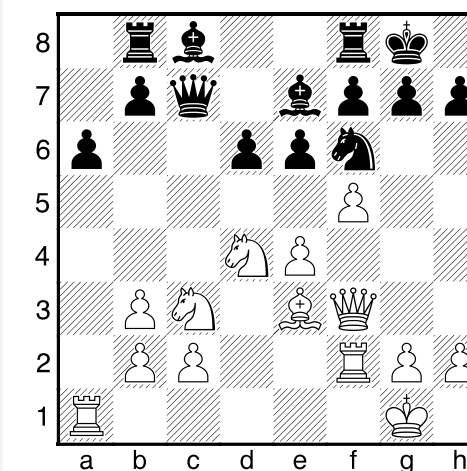
10... ♞c7? 11. ♟xe6!  
♟10... ♞c5∞.

11. f4 ♞c5 12. ♞f3 0-0



White can still choose how to  
continue the attack: e5, f5 or g2-  
g4.

13. f5 ♞xb3 14. axb3 ♞c7  
15. ♞f2 ♞b8



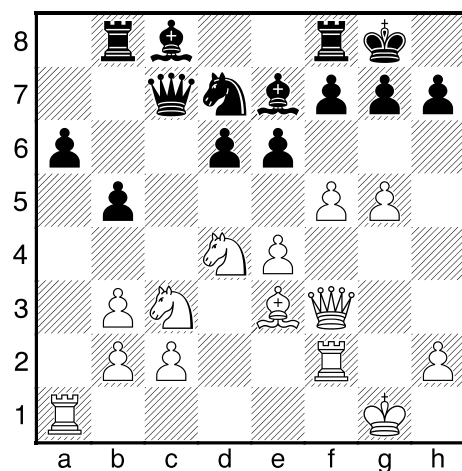
Chess Canada  
2014.11

Unpinning the a6-pawn suggests that Black was hoping to play ...b5-b4, ...e5, then ...♙b7, but he's way too far behind White's attack for that to work. It might be time to try curling up in a ball with ...h6 and ...♘h7.

16.g4 b5 17.g5+-

White's attack hits first.

17...♘d7



Black would love to put the ♘ on e5, but this doesn't work. 17...♘e8 might be safer.

18.♙h3?!

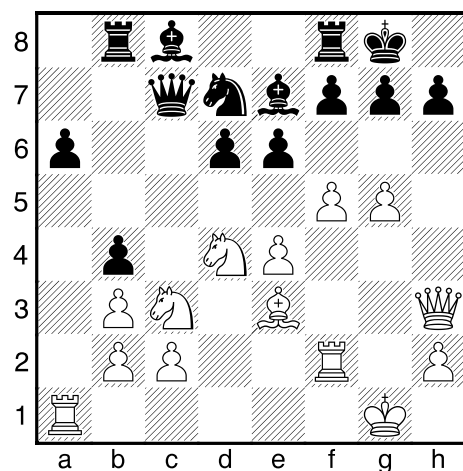
♠18.♙h5! keeps up the pressure on the kingside light squares without stepping into an attack from the ♙c8:

18...b4 19.fxe6 bxc3 20.exf7+ ♙h8 21.g6+-.

18...♘e5 19.f6+-.

18...g6 19.♙h6 ♖e8 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.♙xf7+-.

18...b4



White is spoiled for choice, though calculating the variations could take hours.

19.g6→

19.f6!→

19...gxf6 20.♙h6!:

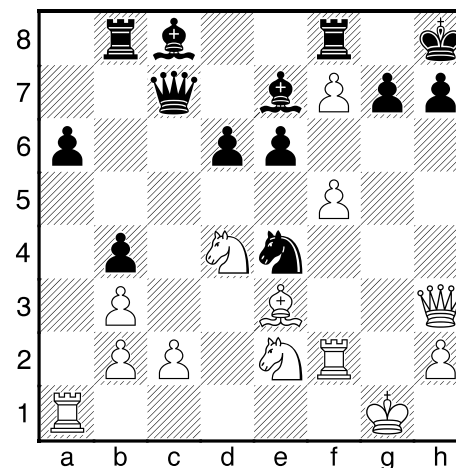
20...fxg5 21.♘xe6+-

20...♙d8 21.♘xe6 fxe6 22.g6+-#4

19... ♘xf6 20.gxf6 ♙xf6 21.♙xf6! (21.♘a4? ♙xd4

22.♙xd4 e5♭) 21...bxc3 (21...gxf6? 22.♙h1!+-) 22.bxc3 ♙xc3 23.♙af1↑ Δgxf6?? 24.♙f2!+-.

19...♘f6 20.gxf7+ ♙h8 21.♘ce2 ♘xe4



22.fxe6?

22.♘xe6!?

22.♘f4! Threat: ♘g6#.

22...♙xf7 23.fxe6 ♖f6

(23...♘xf2? 24.♘g6+ ♙g8

25.exf7+ ♙xf7 26.♙xh7+-)

24.♙g2 White threatens ♘d5

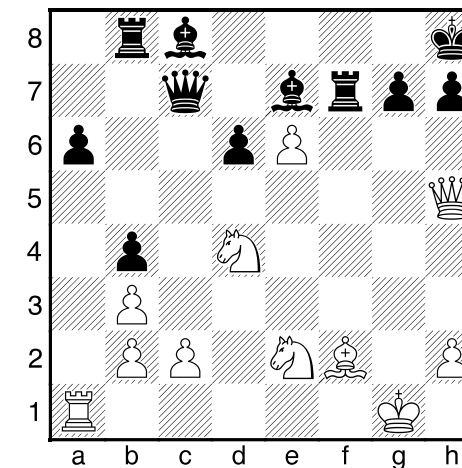
and ♘f5 with a huge attack, so

24...♙xf4 25.♙xf4±.

22...♘xf2 23.♙xf2

23.♙g2 is a cute way to try to save the ♙f7, but Black can insist 23...♘h3+! 24.♙xh3 ♙xf7 which is similar to the game.

23...♙xf7 24.♙h5

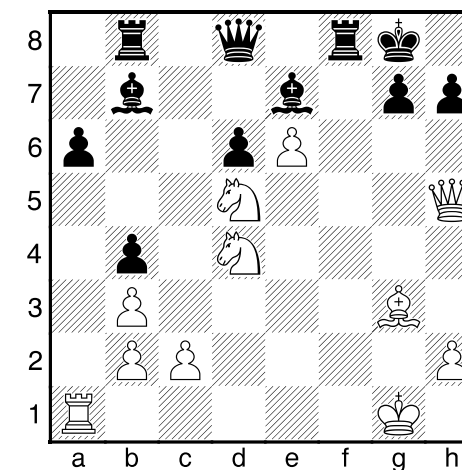


24...♙f8 25.♙g3 ♙b7 26.♘f4

♙g8

26...♙f6! Δ...♙bf8 and Black has the attack.

27.♘d5 ♙d8



28.♘xb4?

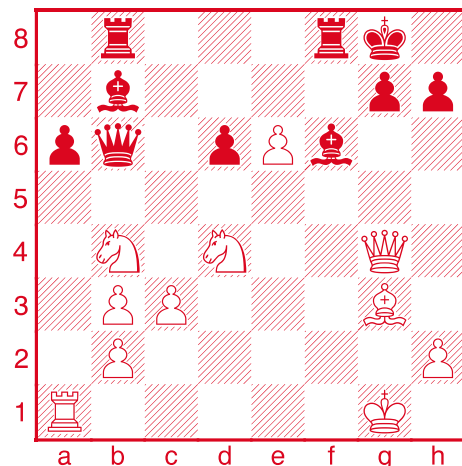
♠28.♘xe7+ ♙xe7 29.♙h4 |





wouldn't want to be White, but this might not be hopeless.

28...♙f6 29.♚g4 ♖b6 30.c3



30...♙f3!

Black has more than one way to win, but this is best: there are no safe squares for the ♚ to defend d4, so Black wins a piece.

31.♚h3

Taking the ♙ loses more:  
31.♚xf3 ♙xd4+-+

31...♙xd4+ 32.cxd4 ♚xd4+  
33.♙f2 ♚xb4 34.e7 ♖f6

Black played a risky opening and got outplayed. White was winning between moves 13-20, but missed his best attacking chances in complications and

Black played accurately thereafter to win.

0-1

At the end of Day 2, Jason was the only one with a perfect 3/3. Tanraj was a point behind with 2; then John, Howard, and Jack all with 1½; followed by Joshua and Roman with 1; and Butch with ½.

During this championship event, many players in BC were interested to hear any news and development. As Facebook comments, emails, and texts were directed at those who were actually on site as play continued. Some chess enthusiasts even came out to observe the games. Members from the **Bishops of Bowser Chess Club** and the **Victoria Chess Club** were present; as well as former BC Champion **Harry Moore** and International Arbiter **Lynn Stringer**, who has previously organized and TD-ed this championship.

*Very Welcome Guests:  
Lynn Stringer and Harry Moore.*

## Round 4

Repeated with the white pieces winning 3 of the 4 games and Jason Cao continued with his unbeaten 4 wins in 4:

Wu - Cao	0-1
John D. - Villavieja	1-0
Jiganchine - Yoos	1-0
Sohal - Joshua D.	1-0

**Doknjas, John (2234)**  
**Villavieja, Butch (2226)**

E42

BC ch 99th Victoria (4.2),  
12.10.2014

Notes by John Upper

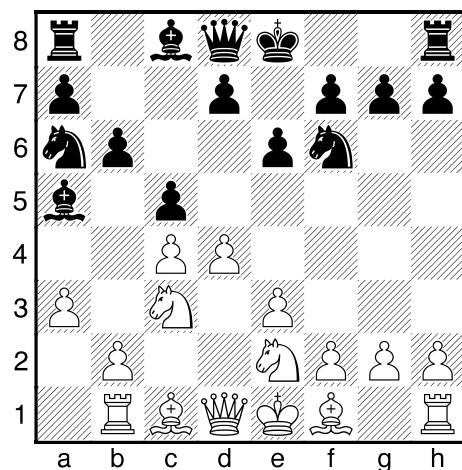
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4  
4.e3 b6 5.♘ge2 c5 6.a3 ♙a5  
7.♖b1





Threatening to win the ♔a4 with 8.b4. If 7.g3 ♕b7 8.d5 b5↗.

7...♖a6



White has sidelined Black's ♕a5 without taking on doubled c-pawns, but at the expense of a clogged up kingside. One option is to play g3, but this entails a pawn sac after ...♕b7.

8.♕d2

Blocking the ♔ takes away options of d4-d5, so White won't be able to develop the kingside with g3 and ♕g2, as in the following games:

8.f3 0-0 9.d5 ♖h5 10.g3 f5  
11.♕g2 ♖f6 12.0-0 ♕xc3  
13.♖xc3 exd5 14.♖xd5 ♖c7



**John Doknjas** now the second-youngest-ever BC Championship competitor.

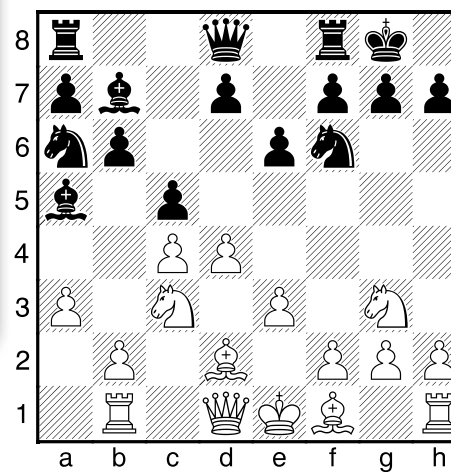
15.e4± (1-0, 63) **Gelfand,B-Aronian,L** Leon (rapid) 2010.

8.g3 ♕b7 9.d5 b5 (9...♖e4  
10.♕g2 ♕xc3+ 11.♖xc3 ♖xc3  
12.bxc3 d6 13.♔a4+ ♖e7  
14.0-0± (1-0, 40) **Gelfand,B-Aronian,L** Leon (rapid) 2010.)  
10.b3 b4 11.axb4 ♖xb4 12.♕g2  
exd5 13.0-0 ♖b8 14.cxd5 d6∞  
(1-0, 34) Molner,M (2493) –  
**Kovalyov,A** (2612) Dearborn,  
2013.

8...♕b7 9.♖g3

"This is essentially the main line of the Romanishin–Psakhis Variation. Although White is struggling to prove even a slight edge at present..." – Edward Dearing, *Play the Nimzo-Indian* (Everyman, 2005).

9...0-0



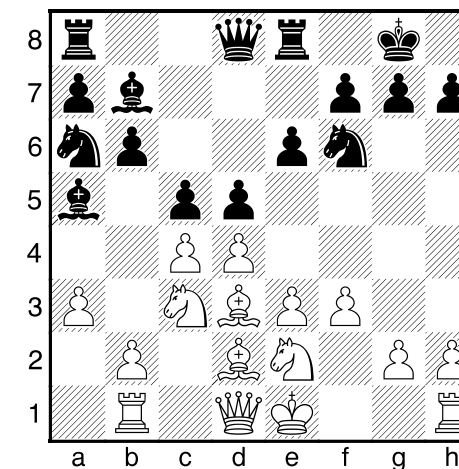
White scores less than 50% from here, but that may be deceptive, since White also scores Elo +80, meaning that most games which reach this position feature a much lower rated White vs a stronger Black.

10.f3 ♖e8!?!N

Black typically continues with ...d5, when exchanges in the

center produce hanging pawns.

11.♕d3 d5 12.♖ge2



12...♖c8

Black may have been thinking that it would always be bad to play ...cxd4, since it makes b2-b4 a threat to trap the ♕a5, but it turns out there's a tactical way to make it work: 12...cxd4!? 13.exd4 e5! Δ14.b4 dxc4 15.♕xc4 exd4 16.♖b5 (≤16.bxa5 dxc3 17.♕xc3 ♖c7! 18.♖b3 ♖ac8±.) 16...d3↑ and the ♖e8 shows the ♔e1 who's boss of the e-file.

13.cxd5 cxd4

13...exd5 14.0-0 ♖e7∞.

13...c4 14.♕c2 exd5=.

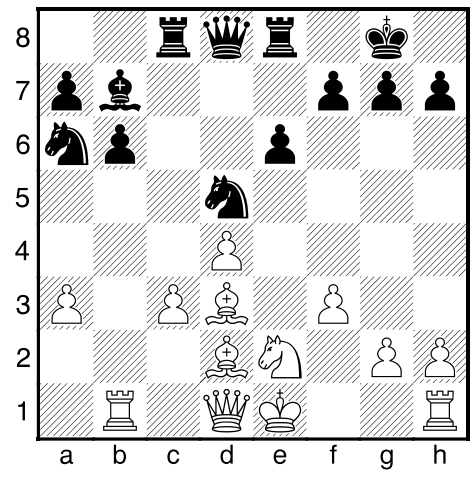
14.exd4 ♕xc3 15.bxc3 ♖xd5



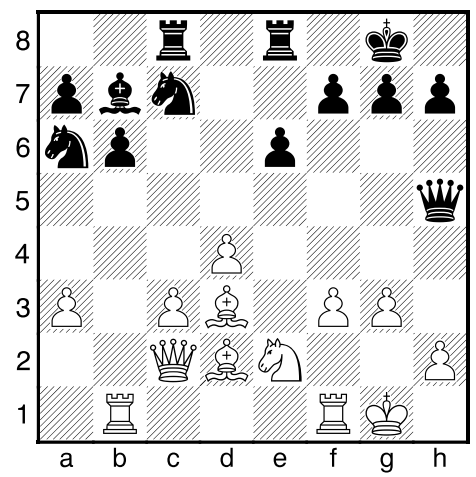




# Chess Canada 2014.11

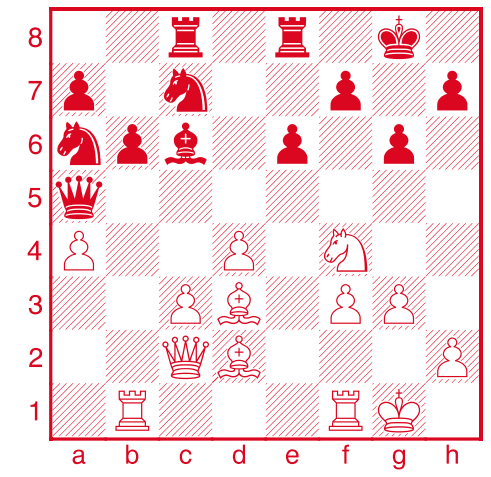


16. ♖a4 ♜dc7 17. ♖c2 ♖h4+  
18. g3 ♖h5 19. 0-0



19...g6?  
19...e5!=.

20. ♜f4! ♖a5 21. a4 ♜c6



The Black ♖ has no safe squares. Can White take advantage of this?

22. ♖a1?

Defending the escape square on a4 is perfectly reasonable, but it fails to a surprising break.

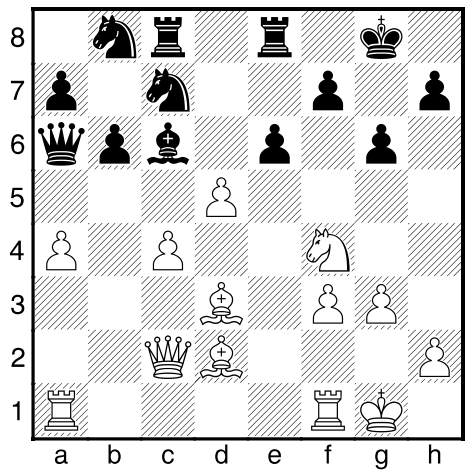
22. ♖b2!+- ♜xa4 (22... ♖xa4 23. ♖a1+- and it turns out a4 isn't really an escape square.) 23. c4 ♖g5 24. ♜xg6 ♖d8 25. ♜e5+- Black's kingside is shattered and his minor pieces have no way to get across to help.

22. ♖c1 is also good, but not nearly as simple: 22... ♜d7 (22... ♖xa4? 23. ♖a1 ♖b3 24. ♖a3+-) 23. c4 ♖xa4 24. ♖a1 ♖c6 25. ♜e4 ♖d6 26. ♜b7±.

22... ♜b8?

As on move 19, Black has to fight for the center squares with 22...e5 23. c4 (23. dxe5 ♖xe5) 23... ♜b4 24. ♖b1 exf4 or 24... ♜ca6=.

23. c4+- ♖a6 24. d5!



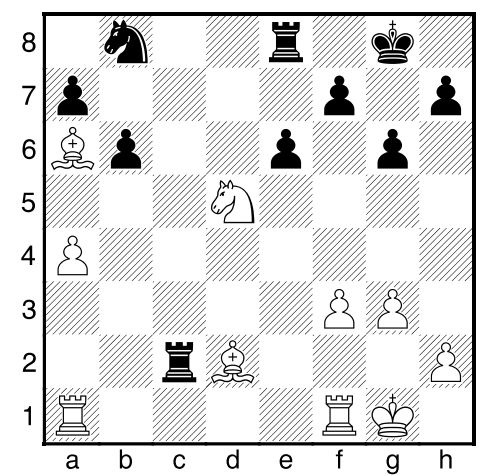
24... ♜xd5

24... ♜d7 25. c5 ♖b7 26. c6 and Black has to give up a piece for two pawns.

24... ♜a8 is another way to give a piece for two pawns: 25. c5 ♖b7 26. c6 ♜xc6 27. dxc6 ♖xc6 28. ♖xc6 ♜xc6 29. ♜f2.

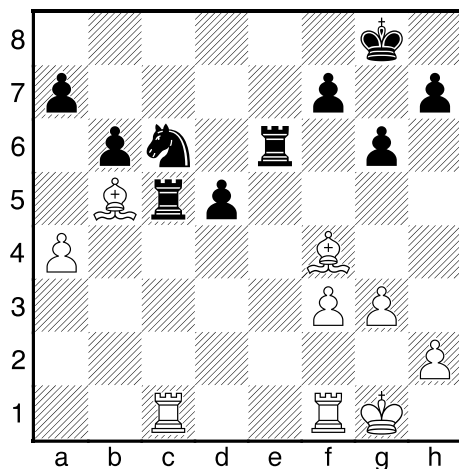
25. cxd5 ♜xd5 26. ♜xa6 26... ♜xd5 transposes.

26... ♖xc2 27. ♜xd5



White has three pieces hanging, but Black can take only one at a time.

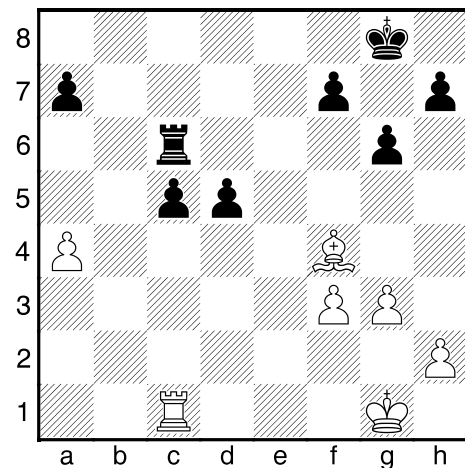
27...exd5 28.♙b5 ♖e6 29.♙f4  
♘c6 30.♖ac1 ♖c5



31.♖xc5

Simplest, White trades pieces before blockading the pawns.

31...bxc5 32.♙xc6 ♖xc6 33.♖c1



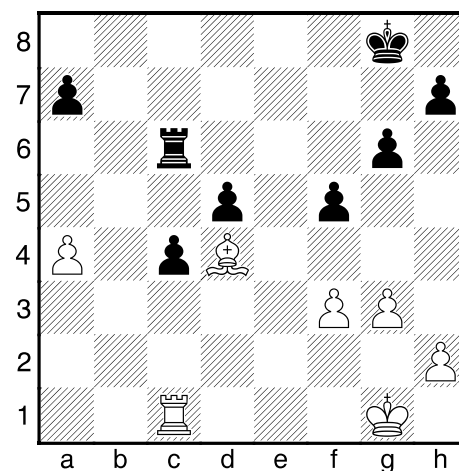
33...f5

33...d4 34.♙f2 c4 35.♙e5 d3

36.♙c3 is more or less the same as the game: the ♙ stops the pawns and the White ♙ and ♖

are ready to get them.

34.♙e3 c4 35.♙d4



Black's pawns have been stopped and the rest is simple.

35...♖a6 36.♖a1 ♖a5 37.♙f2  
♙f7 38.♙e3 ♙e6 39.♙d2  
♙d7 40.♙c3 ♖a6 41.f4 ♙c7  
42.♙b4 ♙d7 43.♙b5 ♖c6  
44.♙xa7 c3 45.♙c5 ♖c8  
46.♖c1 ♖b8+ 47.♙b6 ♙d6  
48.♖xc3 d4 49.♖d3 ♙d5  
50.♖xd4+

1-0

## Round 5

saw Jason Cao's first non-win result as John Doknjas nipped Jason for a draw with John up two pawns but in a closed position:

Joshua D. - Wu	1-0
Yoos - Sohal	½-½
Villavieja - Jiganchine	1-0
Cao - Doknjas	½-½

At the end of Day 3, Jason (4½/5) remained a top, a full point ahead of Tanraj Sohal in second:

Jason Cao:	4½
Tanraj Sohal:	3½
John Doknjas:	3
Joshua Doknjas:	2
Jack Yoos:	2
Roman Jiganchine:	2
Howard Wu:	1½
Butch Villavieja:	1½

*Rd. 3, four decisive games.*





## Round 6

saw all 4 games go long. John and Howard's Queen and pawn endgame lasted a marathon six hours, resulting in a win for Howard, giving him 2½/6. Joshua drew Jack which also gave both 2½. Butch beat Tanraj and Roman drew Jason, which moved Butch and Roman to 2½:

Wu - John D.	1-0
Jiganchine - Cao	½-½
Sohal - Villavieja	0-1
Joshua D. - Yoos	½-½

## Sohal, Tanraj (2355) Villavieja, Butch (2226)

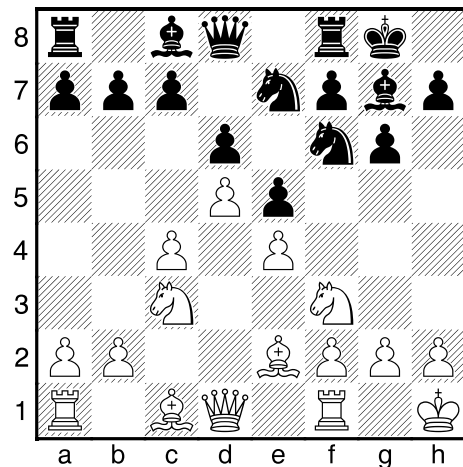
E97

BC ch 99th Victoria (6.3),  
13.10.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3  
♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗f3 0-0  
6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 ♗c6  
8.d5 ♗e7 9.♖h1!?

*Tanraj Sohal, 2013 and  
defending BC Champion.*



"Tony Miles's old favourite looks pointless, but it is not completely without merit." – David Vigorito,



*Attacking Chess: The King's Indian v.1* (Everyman, 2011).

### 9...♗e8!

Given that ♖h1 does not put any direct pressure on Black, there are a wide choice of moves.

9...♗d7 10.g4! ♖h8 (Δ10...f5 11.gxf5 gxf5 12.exf5 "White can use both the e4-square and the g-file", Vigorito, 2011.) 11.♖g1 a5 12.♙e3 ♗c5 (½-½, 30) [Carlsen, M–Radjabov, T](#) Biel, 2006.

9...♗h5 10.♗g1 ♗f4 11.♙f3 Shows another idea behind ♖h1: White's ♙f3 helps control e4 and he can kick the ♗f4 away with g3 if necessary in [Larsen, B](#) (2560)–[Hansen, C](#) (2520) Odense, 1988 (½-½, 65).

9...♖h8 10.♗e1 ♗d7 11.♗d3 f5 12.exf5 ♗xf5 13.f3 c6 14.♗f2 and White had a useful outpost on e4, (1-0, 34) [Spraggett, K](#) (2521)–[Santos, C](#) (2383) Porto, 2000.

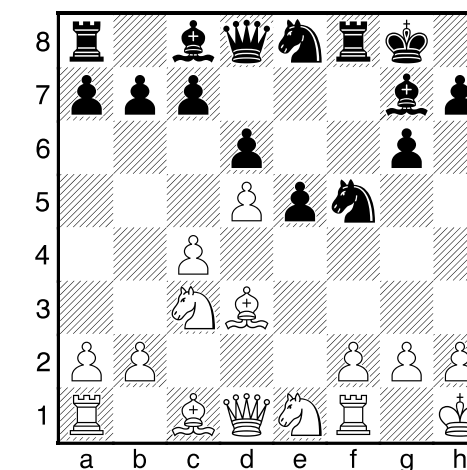
A recent GM game continued:  
9...♙d7 10.♗e1 ♗e8 11.♙e3

f5 12.f3 f4 13.♙f2 g5 14.a4 ♖f6 15.c5 ♖h6 16.♗b3 ♖b8 17.cxd6 ♗xd6 18.♙xa7 ♗e8 19.♗d3? (It's hard to believe White didn't play 19.♙g1! which is not only a much better move, but such a common one in White defences to the KID that it should be obvious.) 19...b6 20.♗f2! (20.♙xb8?? ♗h5 21.h3 ♙xh3+) 20...♖b7+ and the ♙a7 had no way back in [Hillarp Persson, T](#) (2564) – [Jones, G](#) (2665) Helsingor, 2014 (0-1, 38).

### 10.♗e1 f5 11.exf5 ♗xf5

On 11...gxf5 12.f4! is the usual move, encouraging ...e4 when White can play around Black's center pawns while Black's minors are blocked by the ♙f5.

### 12.♙d3



## 12...♖d4

12...♖f6 13.♗f3 ♖d4 14.♗g5  
 (≤14.♗xd4 exd4 15.♗e4 ♗xe4  
 16.♙xe4 ♙d7 (16...♗h4!) 17.♗d3  
 c5 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.♙d2 ♖b8  
 20.b4 ♗c8 21.♖ae1= (1/2-1/2,  
 53) Miles,A-Beliavsky,A Nova  
 Gorica, 1999.) 14...♗e7 15.♗ge4  
 ♗xe4 16.♗xe4 ♙f5 17.♙g5 ♗d7  
 18.f3± (1-0, 66) Melkumyan,H  
 (2649)-Zhou,Y (2419) London,  
 2012.

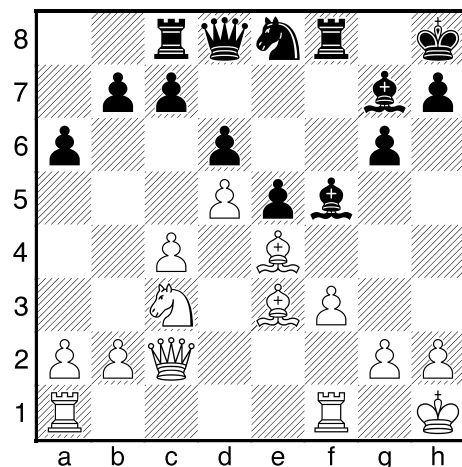
## 13.♗c2 ♗xc2

13...c6!? or 13...c5!?

## 14.♗xc2± ♙f5 15.♙e4 ♖h8

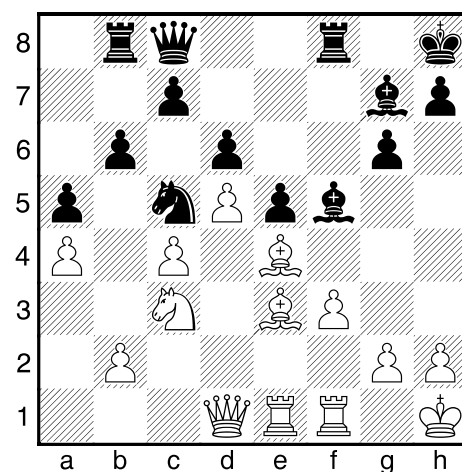
15...♗h4 is the computer sug-  
 gession.

## 16.f3 ♖c8 17.♙e3 a6



I think White's normal strategy  
 would be to prepare c4-c5, but  
 his next moves encourage Black  
 to make his queenside pawns  
 rigid, but at the cost of making  
 c4-c5 harder for White.

18.♗b3!? b6 19.♗a4 ♖a8  
 20.♗c2 ♖b8 21.a4 a5 22.♗d2  
 ♗c8 23.♖ae1 ♗f6 24.♙g5 ♗d7  
 25.♗d1 ♗c5 26.♙e3



## 26...♗a6

26...♗xe4 27.fxe4 ♙d7 28.♖xf8+  
 ♗xf8 29.♗b5 ♙xb5 30.cxb5 ♙h6  
 31.♖f1 White can get the f-file,  
 but Black should draw.

## 27.g4!?

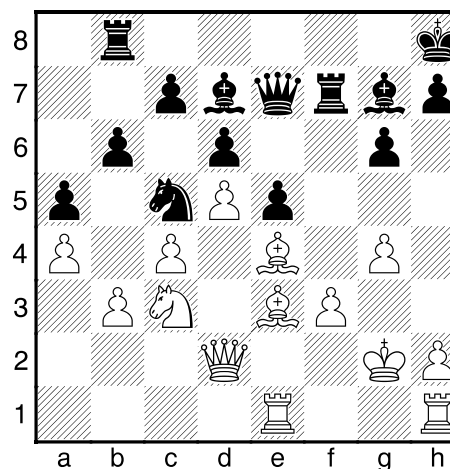
I suspect White might have had  
 a Grand Plan in mind with this  
 move: evacuate the ♖ to the

now-static queenside, then  
 advance the kingside pawns to  
 open the g- or h-files.

## 27...♙d7

27...♙xe4 28.fxe4± Black still has  
 the blocked ♙g7 and no obvious  
 activity.

28.♗d2 ♖f7 29.b3 ♗f8 30.♖g2  
 ♗e7= 31.♖h1 ♗c5



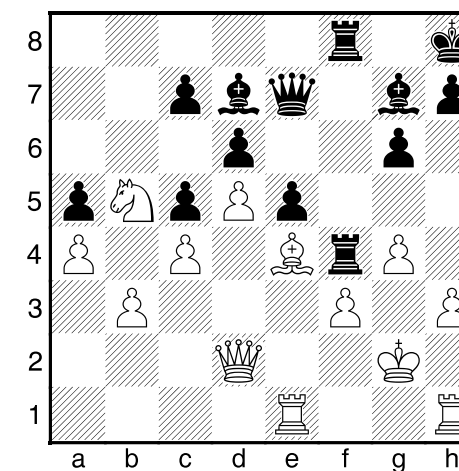
## 32.♙xc5?!

Keeping the dark-squared ♙  
 and expanding on the kingside  
 with 32.h4 seems like a more  
 logical follow up to g2-g4. The  
 game move does allow White to  
 win a queenside pawn, but only  
 if he is prepared to brave Black's  
 kingside attack.

## 32...bxc5 33.♗b5 ♖f4

33...♗h4! 34.h3 (34.♗f2? ♗xf2+  
 35.♖xf2 ♙xg4±) 34...♙h6  
 35.♗xa5 ♙f4∞.

## 34.h3 ♖bf8



## 35.♗d3

White can take on c7 or a5, with  
 a complications either way:

## A) 35.♗xc7!:

35...♙xg4? 36.hxg4 ♗xc7  
 37.♙xg6+-

35...♖b8 36.♗b5 ♖a8.

35...♙xa4 36.♗e6 ♙xb3  
 37.♗xa5 ♙xc4 38.♗xf4 an  
 unusual position: Black has the  
 ♙ pair and a pawn for the ex-  
 change and White's kingside  
 is pocked with dark-square  
 holes, all of which would nor-

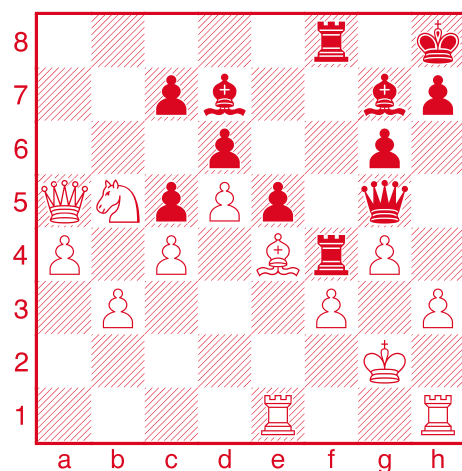




mally be worth more than an exchange... but White's ♔ and ♖s have too much play on the a- and b-files. 38...♖xf4 (38...*exf4* opens the dark squares, but loses the ♗c4 39.♔a4+-) 39.♖b1! (39.♔a4 doesn't win the ♗c4 because Black has 39...♗xd5∞).

**B) 35.♔xa5!? ♔g5!↗**

*Analysis Diagram*



Black threatens ...♗xg4+-:

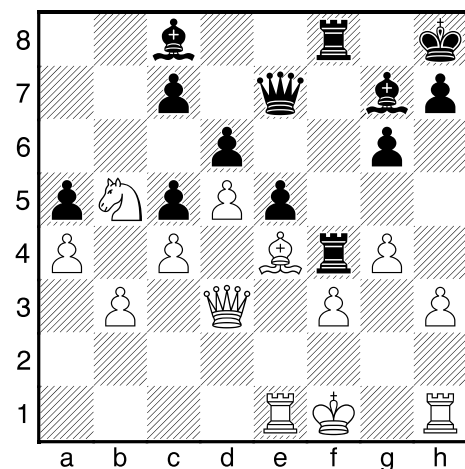
**36.♔xc7??** ♗xg4 37.hxg4  
♖xg4+!-+.

**36.♖hf1?** h5→.

**36.♔d2??** ♖xg4+-+.

**36.♔c3!** ♖xf3!? 37.♗xf3 e4∞.

**35...♗c8 36.♔f1**



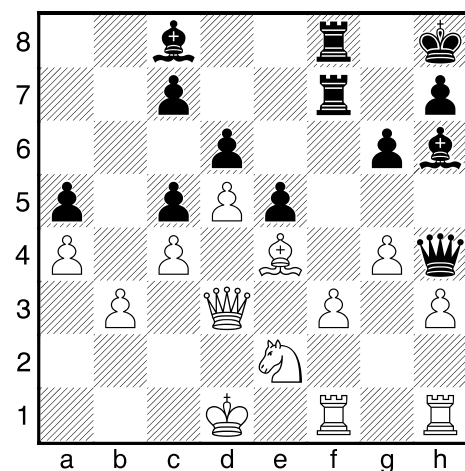
**36...♗h6**

36...♗f5!? 37.♔g2 (37.♗xf5?  
gxf5 38.♔g2 e4! 39.fxe4 fxe4  
40.♔e2 ♖f3-+ Δ...♔h4) 37...♗xe4  
38.♖xe4 ♖xf3 39.♔xf3 ♖xf3  
40.♔xf3 ♗h6 computers rate  
Black as better, but I don't see a  
way to make progress.

**37.♔e2 ♖8f7 38.♔d1 ♔h4**

**39.♗c3 ♖f8 40.♗e2 ♖4f7**

**41.♖ef1**



**41...♗f5! 42.♗c3**

**42.gxf5** gxf5 Black gets the  
piece back with pressure.

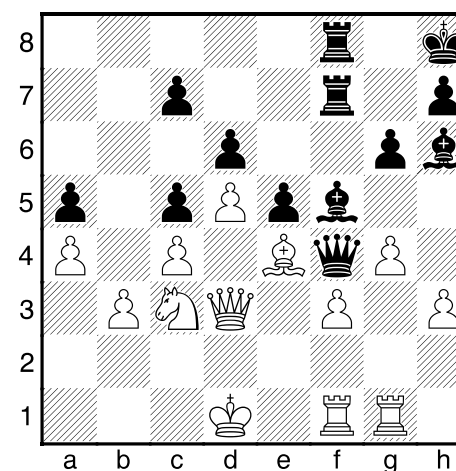
Stockfish suggests this line:

**42.♗xf5** gxf5 43.♔c3 fxc4  
44.hxc4 ♖xf3 45.♖xh4 ♖xf1+  
46.♔c2 ♖8f2 and White has to  
give up the ♔ for a ♖ to prevent  
mate: 47.♖xh6 (47.♔d3 ♖c1+  
48.♔b2 ♖e1 49.♖xh6 ♖fxe2+)  
47...♖xe2+ 48.♔d3 ♖f3+.

**42...♔g3 43.♖hg1**

43.gxf5 gxf5 44.f4 ♔g7 45.fxe5  
fxe4 46.♖xf7 ♔xf7 47.♗xe4 ♔f4  
48.♔c2 ♔xe5↑ with a long initia-  
tive against White's exposed ♔.

**43...♔f4**



**44.♔c2?**

♔44.♗xf5 gxf5 45.♗e2∞.

**44...♔h2+ 45.♔b1**

**45.♔e2?** loses a piece to  
45...♔xe2+ 46.♗xe2 ♗xe4+.

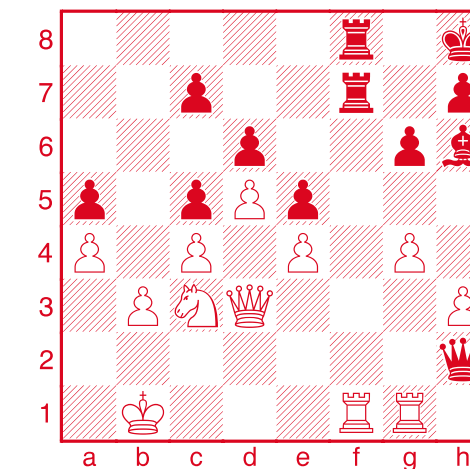
**45.♗e2?** ♗xe4 46.♔xe4 ♖f4  
47.♔d3 e4 48.♔c3+ ♔g8-+

♔45.♔d1↖.

**45...♗xe4 46.fxe4**

**46.♗xe4?** ♖xf3-+.

**46.♔xe4** ♖xf3-+.



**46...♗e3!!-+**

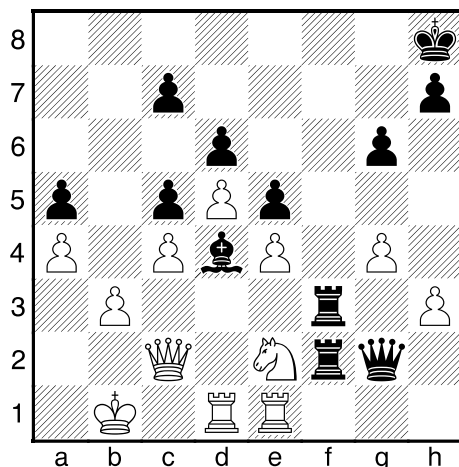
The ♔d3 is overworked defend-  
ing f1. Black brings the ♗ to d4  
and is now attacking with all his  
pieces.

**47.♖h1**

47.♖xf7? ♔xg1+ 48.♔f1 ♔xf1+-+.



47...♔g2 48.♖d1 ♕d4 49.♘e2  
♗f3 50.♚c2 ♗f2 51.♗he1 ♗8f3



52.♖d2

52.♘xd4 ♗xc2 53.♘xc2 (53.♘xf3  
♗b2+ mates.) 53...♗xb3+ Black  
wins all White's pawns.

52...♗e3 53.♗g1 ♗f1+

53...♚h2!

54.♗xf1 ♚xf1+ 55.♘c1 ♗e1

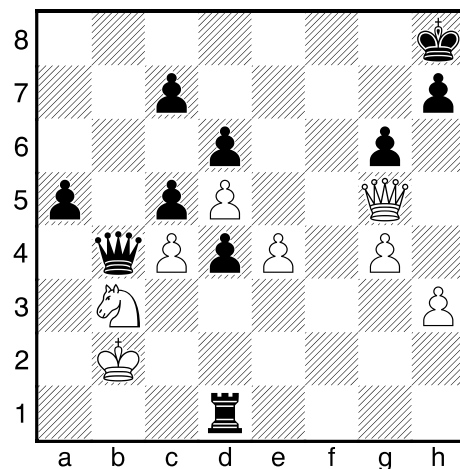
56.♗xd4 exd4 57.♚d2

57.♚b2 d3 58.♘xd3 ♗e2-.

57...♗d1 58.♚g5 ♚d3+ 59.♚a1

♚c3+ 60.♚b1 ♚xb3+ 61.♚a1

♚xa4+ 62.♚b2 ♚b4+ 63.♘b3



63...♗f1!

63...a4?? 64.♚d8+= and White  
escapes with a perpetual.

64.♚d8+ ♚g7 65.♚xc7+ ♗f7

66.♚xd6 ♗f2+ 67.♚c1 ♚c3+

68.♚d1 ♚c2+ 69.♚e1 ♚e2#

0-1

With one round remaining to play, Jason's 6th round draw sealed his win of the 2014 BC Championship with 5/6, as the nearest player, Tanraj with 3½ would not be able to catch Jason even though the two were paired in the final round.

## Round 7

The main drama left for Round 7 was to decide who would place 2nd. John had 3/6 which still gave him chances for 2nd place with a win or a draw, depending on the outcome of Tanraj's game.

So in Round 7, Jack and Howard took an early draw (11 moves), both ended up with 3. Butch (3½) beat Joshua (2½). This left Jason vs. Tanraj; and John vs. Roman playing. Tanraj drew Jason, which was enough to earn him either clear 2nd place or tied for 2nd, depending on the result of John and Roman's game.

John and Roman were now the only ones left in the tournament hall as the rest of the competitors went home or raced to catch a BC Ferry on the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Every 3-4 years the venue switches over to Vancouver Island from the Lower Mainland. The venue is located about 20 mins from the ferry terminal. The six players who hail from the Lower Mainland took the 2 hours ferry sailing from Tsawwassen-

Swartz Bay (Vancouver to Victoria, BC). Depending on whether it is a high or low travel season, the ferry schedule normally has sailings 2 hours apart. As this was a long weekend, ferries ran hourly to handle the higher passenger traffic. If any player from the Lower Mainland played 5 or 6 hours for their round 7 game, they would be in jeopardy of missing the last ferry (which was at 9 pm), especially if the ferries were full and if there was a one or two sailing wait. As it turned out, John and Roman eventually agreed to a draw, and everyone made the ferry that night.

Yoos - Wu	½-½
Villavieja - Joshua D.	1-0
Cao - Sohal	½-½
John D. - Jiganchine	½-½

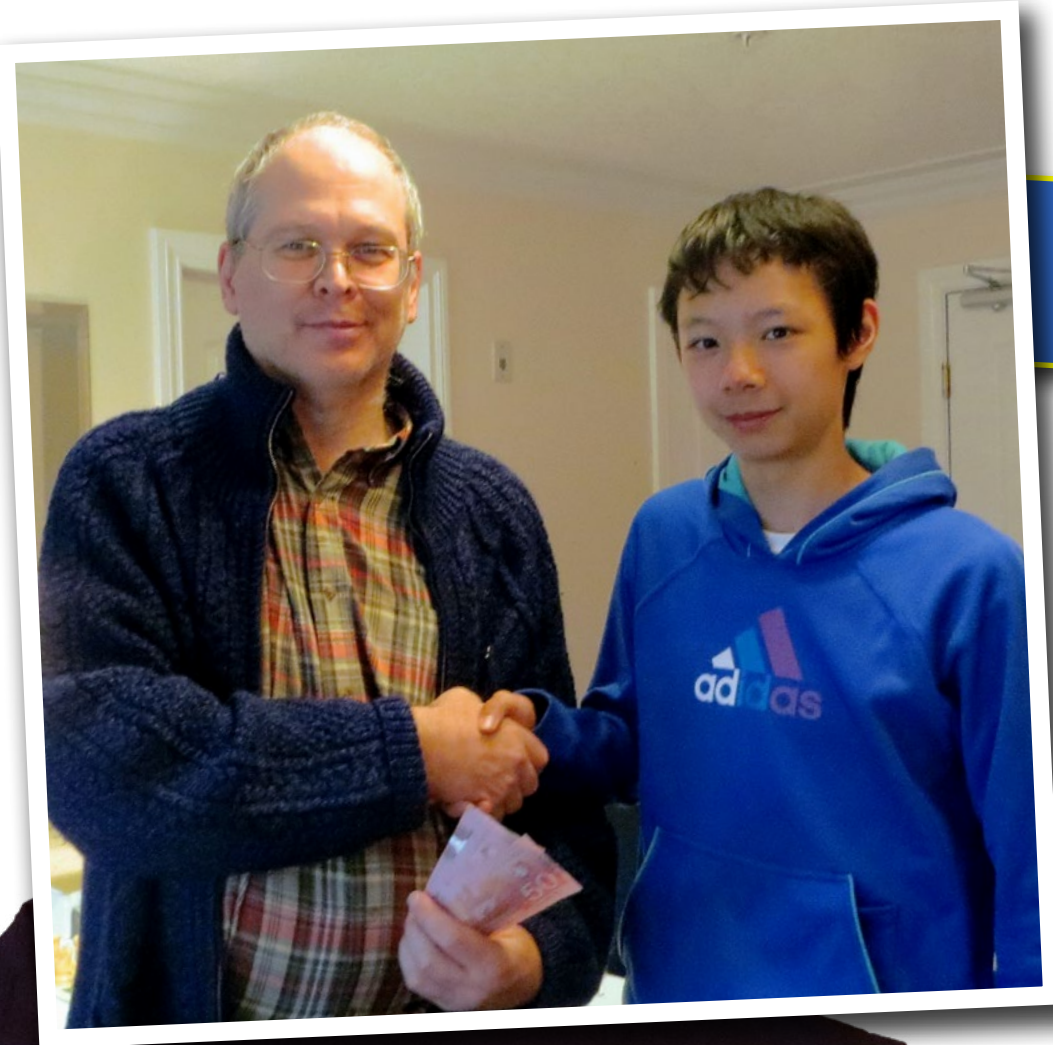
## Final Standings

Jason Cao	5½	\$300
Tanraj Sohal	4	\$200
John Doknjas & Butch Villavieja	3½	
Howard Wu,		
Roman Jiganchine,		
Jack Yoos	3	
Joshua Doknjas	2½	





*TD and Organizer Roger Patterson and Jason Cao, 2014 and youngest-ever BC Champion.*



Congratulations **FM Jason Cao**, who becomes the **youngest ever BC Champion** at the age of 13 years and 10 months.

### Thanks

**Roger Patterson**, who was himself a competitor in the BC Championship on at least 4 previous occasions, organized and TD-ed this year's event. As a BC Chess Federation Executive member noted, not only did Roger give his time to organize/direct, but he contributed his own money to the prize fund, adding to the financial support from the BCCF, for this year's BC Championship.

**Robert McFetridge** for giving all the players and organizer Bishop of Bowser Chess Club shirts.

**Maureen and Yunxu**, Jason Cao's parents, for providing snacks and treats for all the players.







The **2014 World Senior Championship** took place October 23 to November 5, 2014 in Katerini, Greece.

163 players from 40 countries, including three from Canada: William Doubleday (65+), and Ilia Bluvshstein and Andre Zybura (both 50+).

In addition to the titles of World Senior Champion, the winners of the Open sections would get the GM title, and second and third places would get the IM title. As with all recent World Junior championships, these automatic titles are moot, since this event is now so strong that all the top finishers already have the titles.

**Format:** Three swiss sections: Open 65+, Open 50+, and a combined women's section; 11 rounds, one-round-per-day, and one day off. Time control was the FIDE standard 40/90 + G/30 + 30s.

**Ilia Bluvshstein**  
**Andre Zybura**  
**William Doubleday**  
*(photo: Doubleday)*

## Results

The **Open 65+** had 92 players, including 6 GMs. It finished with a four-way tie with 8/11 between **GMs Anatoly Vaisser** (FRA), Yuri Balashov (RUS), Viktor Kupreichik (BLR), and IM Herman Van Riemsdijk Herman (BRA). Canada's Bill Doubleday was 36th with 6/11.

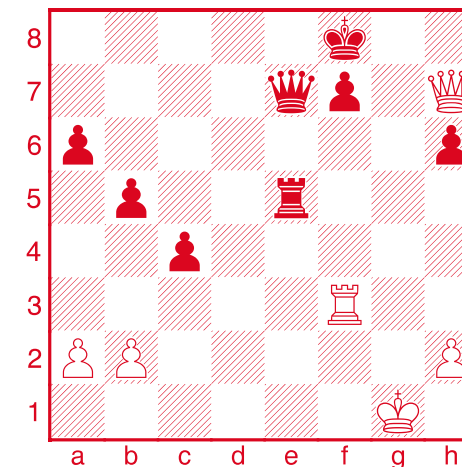
The **Open 50+**, with 47 players, was won by **GM Zurab Sturua** (GEO) on tie-break over GM Keith Arkell (ENG), with 8½/11. Top seed, World Problem Solving Champion, and prolific author, Dr. GM John Nunn, was ½ point back in 3rd. Canadians Ilia Bluvshstein and Andre Zybura finished 30th (5½) and 35th with 5 respectively.

Only 25 women competed in the two women's sections, which were combined. The **Womens 50+** was won by **Svetlana Mednikova** (Russia) 8½/11. The **Women's 65+** was won by former Women's World Champion **GM Nona Gaprindashvili** (GEO) with 8/11.

- editor



**Salvalainen, Lev (2083)**  
**Doubleday, William (2045)**  
 World Senior Ch. 65+ Katerini (8),  
 21.11.2014



Can you calculate Black's #13?

**35...♖e1+**

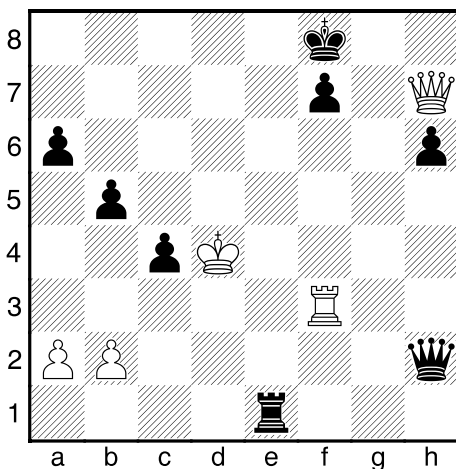
35...♔g5+ 36.♖g3 (36.♔f1 ♕c1+ 37.♔g2 ♖d2+ #8) 36...♕c1+ 37.♔g2 ♖d2+ 38.♔f3 ♕d1+ 39.♔f2 ♖e2+ 40.♔f3 ♖xh2+





41.♔e4 ♖h4+ 42.♔e3 ♚e1+  
43.♔f3 ♚f1+ 44.♔e3 ♚f4+  
45.♔e2 ♖h2+ 46.♖g2 ♖xg2+  
47.♔e1 ♚c1#.

36.♔f2 ♚e2+ 37.♔g3 ♖g1+  
38.♔f4 ♚xh2+ 39.♔e3 ♖e1+  
40.♔d4



40...♚d6+?

This forces mate... but still:  
40...♚e5# is better.

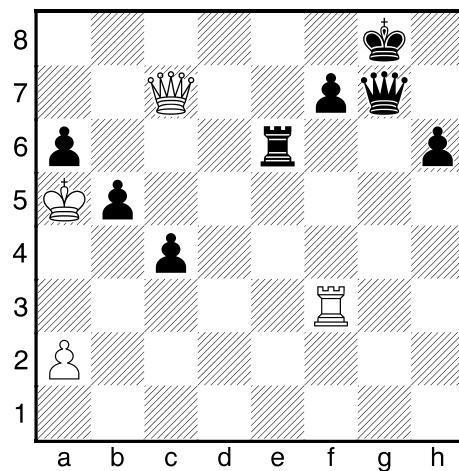
41.♔c3 ♚e5+?

▷41...♖c1+ forces ♚c2-+.

42.♔b4 ♚xb2+ 43.♔a5 ♚g7

▷43...♚d2+ 44.♔xa6 ♖e6+  
45.♔xb5 ♚d5+ is another mat-  
ing net.

44.♚f5 ♔g8 45.♚f4 ♖e6 46.♚c7



46...♖f6??

46...♖g6-+.

47.♚d8+ ♖h7 48.♖xf6 c3

49.♚e7 ♔g8 50.♚d8+ ♔h7

51.♚d3+ ♔g8 52.♚xc3 ♚g2

53.a3 b4 54.♚e5 bxa3 55.♚e8+

1-0

**Notes by Bill Doubleday**

Doubleday, William (2045)

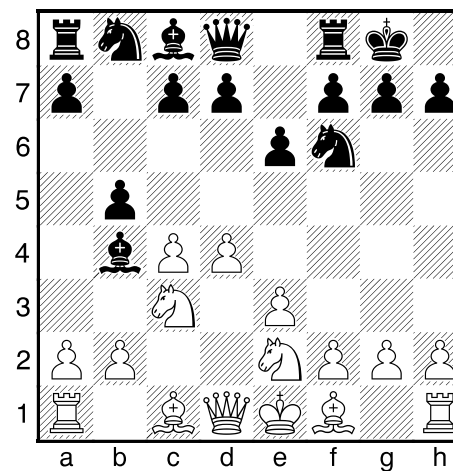
Malmdin, Nils Ake (2208)

E46

World Senior Ch. 65+ Katerini  
(9), 21.11.2014

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♖b4

4.e3 0-0 5.♘ge2 b5

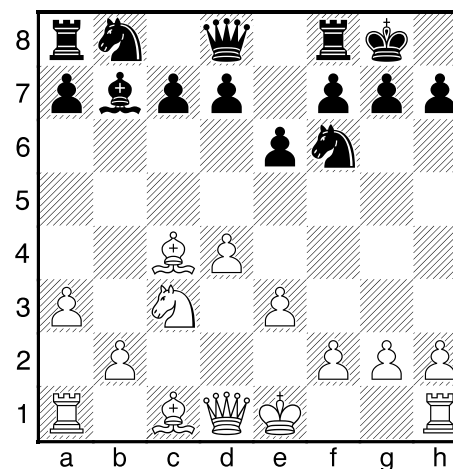


I had never seen this before.

cxb5 is the obvious move, but I  
suspected he had prepared this  
and ♖b7 was dangerous. Af-  
ter the game, I looked it up and  
Black scores well after cxb5, but  
not after the modest a3.

6.a3 ♖xc3+ 7.♘xc3 bxc4

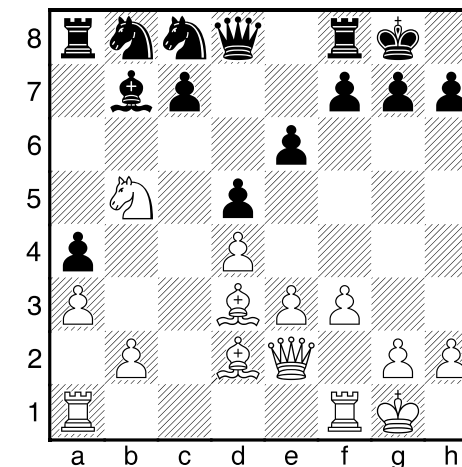
8.♖xc4 ♖b7±



My computer favours ...d5, con-

sidering it almost equal.

9.0-0 ♘e4 10.♙d3 d5 11.f3  
♘d6 12.♚e2 a5 13.♙d2 a4  
14.♘b5 ♘c8?

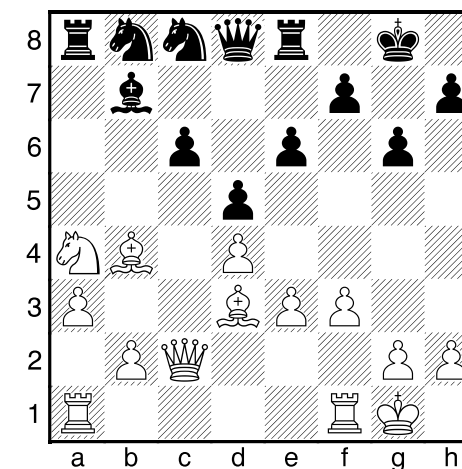


I don't know why he did this.

15.♙b4± ♖e8 16.♚c2

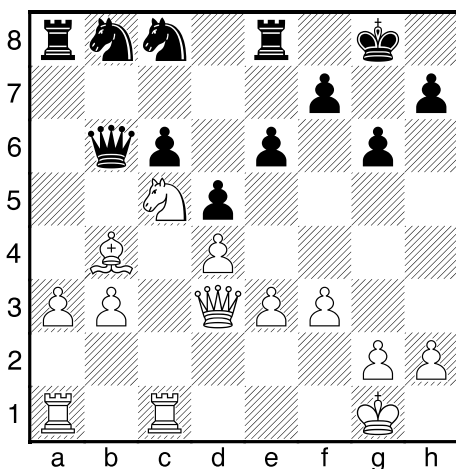
Attacking c7 and h7 and also a4.

16...c6 17.♘c3 g6 18.♘xa4



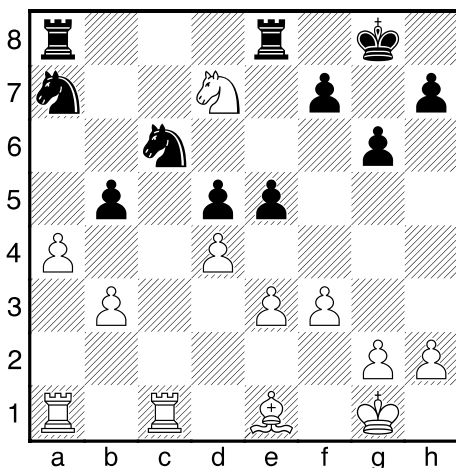
With an extra pawn and better position, I thought I was winning.

18...♔a6 19.♘c5 ♕xd3  
20.♖xd3 ♖b6 21.♖fc1 ♘d6  
22.b3 ♘c8



Another hard-to-understand retro move.

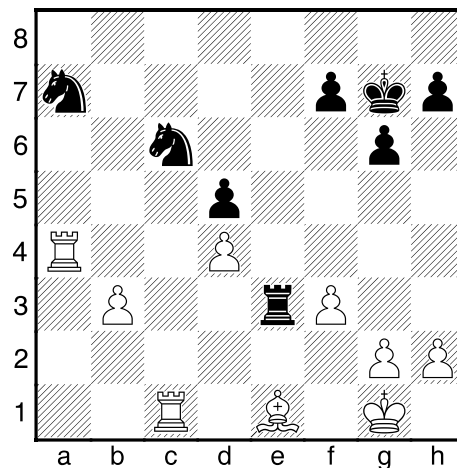
23.♔h1 ♘a7 24.♕e1 ♖b5  
25.♖xb5 cxb5 26.a4 ♘bc6  
27.♔g1 e5 28.♘d7



28...bxa4

28...♖ed8 29.♘f6+ ♔g7 30.axb5  
♘e7 31.dxe5 ♘xb5 32.♖xa8  
♖xa8 33.♕b4+.

29.♘f6+ ♔g7 30.♘xe8+ ♖xe8  
31.♖xa4 exd4 32.exd4 ♖e3



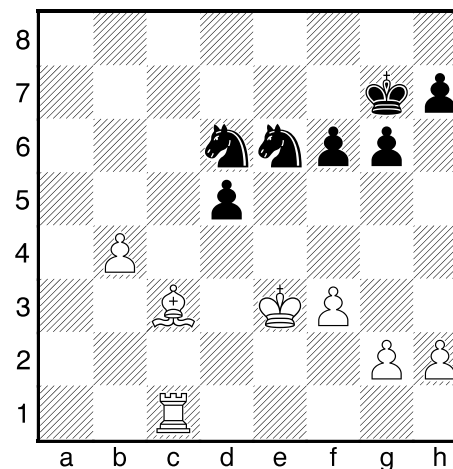
33.b4

33.♖a6 is better as White emerges up a ♕.

33...♘b5 34.♔f2 ♖e6 35.♖a6?!  
35.♖c5!

editor – 35.♖c5! ♘cxd4 36.♖xd5  
♖e2+ 37.♔f1 ♖b2 (37...♖e6  
38.♕f2+-) 38.♖xd4! ♘xd4  
39.♕c3 ♖b1+ 40.♔f2 ♖d1  
41.♔e3+-.

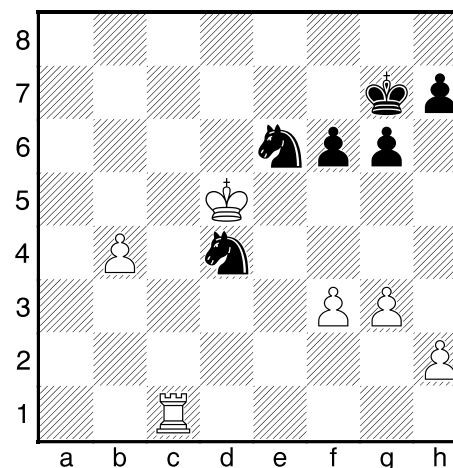
35...♘cxd4 36.♖xe6 ♘xe6  
37.♔e3 ♘d6 38.♕c3+ f6



39.g3??

A blunder. Now I have to win it again.

39...d4+ 40.♕xd4 ♘f5+ 41.♔e4  
♘fxd4 42.♔d5±



The b-pawn is very dangerous.

42...♔f7 43.♖c4±  
43.♖a1±.

43...♘xf3

Tempting but it makes the b pawn even more dangerous.

44.b5 ♘e5 45.♖c8± ♔e7 46.b6  
♘d7 47.b7 ♘ef8? 48.♖c7+-  
♔e8 49.♔d6 h5 50.♖c8+ ♔f7  
51.♖xf8+

A new queen is coming.

1-0

Finally, a very complicated Poisoned Pawn Najdorf. I picked this game because even when White's attack died out, he kept the initiative all the way through a winning ending.

**Bluvshstein, Ilia (2088)**  
**Hafez, Bakr (2013)**

B96

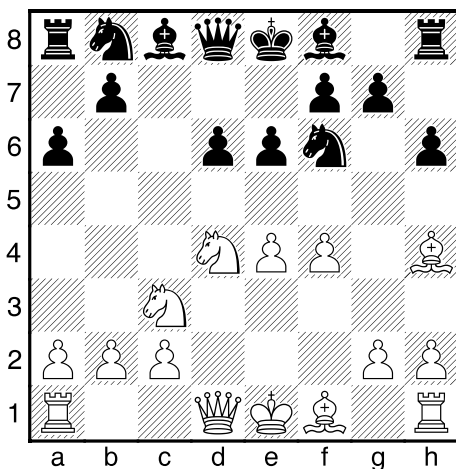
World Senior Ch. 50+ Katerini  
(11), 04.11.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♕g5 e6  
7.f4 h6 8.♕h4







With 7...h6 (rather than 7...♖b6) the game becomes a delayed poisoned pawn Najdorf.

### 8...♘bd7

Rather than dive into the impossibly complex theory, here are two recent examples which show the typical chaos in this line.

In this game Black goes for the b2-pawn: **8...♖b6 9.♖d3 ♖xb2 10.♖b1 ♖a3 11.f5 ♘e7 12.fxe6 ♘xe6 13.♘xe6 fxe6 14.e5 dxe5 15.♘xf6 gxf6 16.♘e2 e4 17.♘h5+ ♔f8 18.♖h3 ♘b4?? (18...f5 19.0-0 ♘d7 20.g4∞) 19.0-0!+- ♖xc3 20.♖xe6 1-0** Sengupta,D (2566)–Grover,S (2505) Kottayam, 2014.

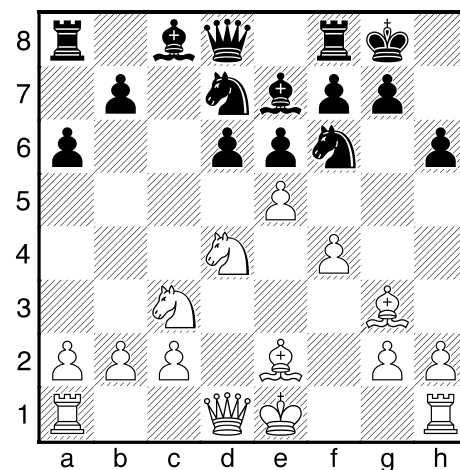
In this game, Black castles and we get competing pawn

storms: **8...♘e7 9.♖f3 ♖c7 10.0-0-0 ♘bd7 11.♘e2 (11.♘d3 g5! 12.fxg5 ♘e5∞) 11...0-0!? (11...b5∞) 12.g4 b5 13.g5 hxg5 14.♘xg5 b4 15.♘d5!? exd5 16.♘f5! ♘c5?! (16...♘b6∞) 17.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 18.e5 dxe5** The next moves are all forced. **19.fxe5 ♖xe5 20.♘xf6 ♖xf6 21.♖xf6 gxf6 22.♖hg1+ ♔h8 23.♖xd5** the mate threat recovers the piece. **23...f5 24.♖xc5±** with a clearly better pawn structure in the ending; (1-0, 40) Almasi,Z (2695)–Bogner,S (2599) Bundesliga, 2014.

### 9.♘e2

White usually continues with ♖f3 and 0-0-0, though Black often gains a vital tempo with a ♘ hop to e5, after either ...g5 or ...e5.

### 9...♘e7 10.♘g3 0-0 11.e5



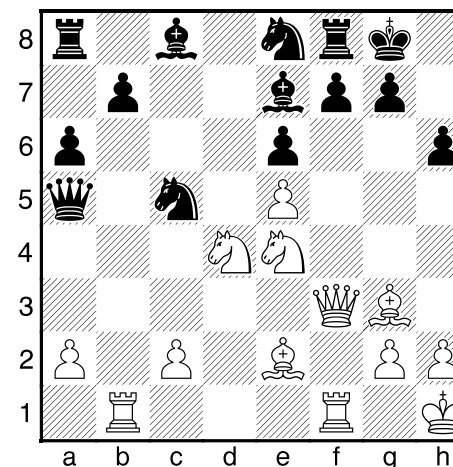
### 11...♘e8

11...dxe5 looks risky, but White isn't developed enough to launch an attack by blowing open the center: **12.fxe5 ♘d5 13.♘xd5 exd5 14.e6 ♘c5 15.exf7+ ♖xf7.**

### 12.0-0

12.♖d3!?∞ Δ 0-0-0.

**12...dxe5 13.fxe5 ♖b6 14.♔h1 ♖xb2 15.♖d3 ♘c5 16.♖f3 ♖b4 17.♖ab1 ♖a5 18.♘e4**



### 18...♖xa2!?

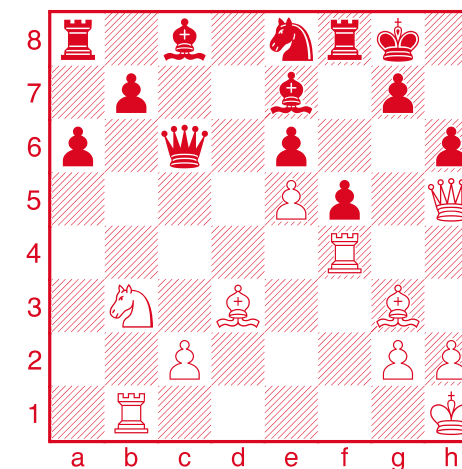
To me it seems wrong to take the ♖ so far from White's king-side attack, but I suppose if that worries you then you don't play the Poisoned Pawn in the first place. But it's also hard to suggest a better move for Black,

since there are so few choices which don't create more weaknesses.

Black can try to bail out with **18...♘xe4 19.♖xe4 ♖d5**, but it's not the end of his problems, because after **20.♘d3 ♖xe4 21.♘xe4** White gets the b-pawn back right away, since **21...♖a7 (21...♖b8? 22.♘c6+-) 22.♘f2± ♘c5? 23.♘c6+-.**

**19.♘xc5 ♘xc5 20.♘b3 ♘e7 20...♖xc2? 21.♖bc1** wins the ♘c5.

**21.♘d3 ♖a4 22.♖h5 f5 23.♖f4 ♖c6**



White has sac'ed two pawns for a huge lead in development and some weak light squares around

the Black King to attack. Both players now trade inaccuracies. What should White try:

24.♘d4 or 24.♖c4 or 24.♙g6.

24.♙g6?

♭24.♘d4∞

After 24.♖c4 it is not clear that Black has anything better than to allow a repetition: 24...♙d7 25.♖d4 ♙c7 26.♖c4 ♙b6 avoids the repetition but is very risky, White can continue with ♕f4 and ♙g6.

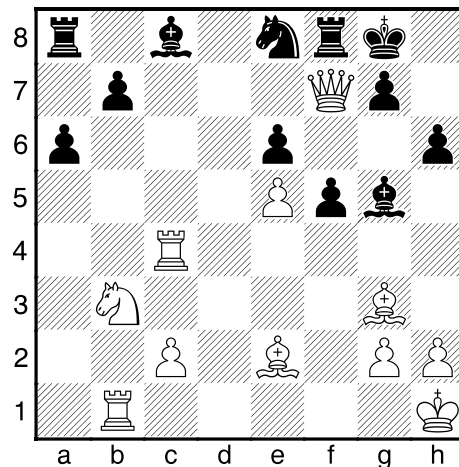
24...♕g5?

24...♘c7□ To chase away the attackers and defend the light squares with ...♙e8! e.g. 25.♖g4 ♕g5! 26.h4? ♙e8□-+.

25.♖c4?

25.♘d4! wins the d6-pawn: 25...♙d7 26.♘xe6! Δ♙xe6? 27.♕c4+-.

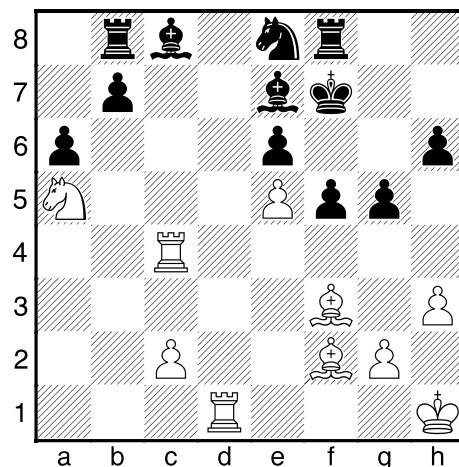
25...♙d7 26.♕e2 ♙f7 27.♙xf7+



27...♙xf7

27...♖xf7! to defend the 7th.

28.♖d1 ♕e7 29.♕f3 ♖b8 30.♘a5 g6 31.♕f2 g5 32.h3



32...♘g7?

♭32...♙g6∞ White is down two pawns but the initiative is still worth equality at least. Houdini

suggests the following bizarre draw: 33.♖b1 ♕d7 34.♕c6 ♕c8 35.♕f3 ♕d7=.

33.♖c7 h5?

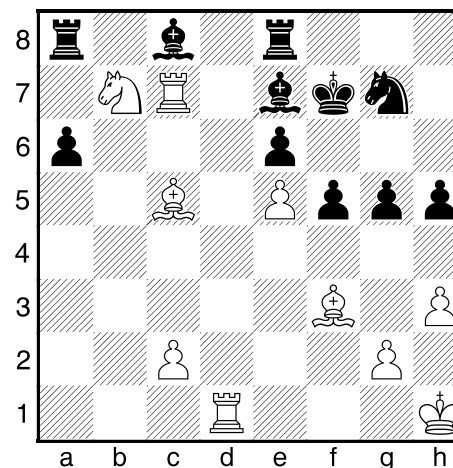
33...♘e8? 34.♕h5+ wins the ♕e7.

♭33...♖e8± and grovelling with either ...♙g6 or ...♙f8.

34.♕a7!

A good finesse, pushing the ♖ to a worse square.

34...♖a8 35.♕c5+- ♖e8 36.♘xb7



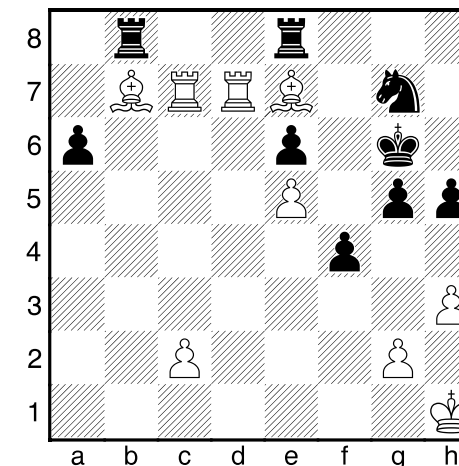
36...♕xb7

Black can't allow ♘d6+.

37.♕xb7 ♖ab8

37...♖ad8 38.♖xd8+- wins the ♕e7.

38.♖dd7 f4 39.♕xe7 ♙g6



40.♕xg5

Simplest, and more than good enough to win, but 40.♕e4+! ♘f5 41.♕f8!! creates a mating net.

40...♙xg5 41.♖xg7+ ♙f5 42.♕xa6 ♙xe5 43.♙g1 ♖b6 44.♕d3 ♙d5 45.♖gd7+ ♙e5 46.♖c5+ ♙f6 47.♖xh5 ♖b4 48.♙f2 e5 49.♖h6+

And Black gets mated because of White's control over the light squares... and the extra piece. :)

1-0







The **Championnat Ouvert de Montréal** (CHOM/Montreal Open) took place September 11-13, at College Jean-de-Brebeuf.

**IM Aman Hambleton** and **GM Bator Sambuev** tied for first with 4/5 ahead of 30 players. Aman took the title on tie-break after he beat Bator in round 4. Aman was held to draws by Hugues Masse and **IM Jean Hébert**, who finished in a five-way tie for 3rd-7th with **Nikita Kariouchkine**, **Yang Yu Zhong**, **Steve Bolduc**, and **FM Valerian Hirschberg**.

**Robert Giroux** and **Ellis Steinberg** tied for 1st in the 48-player U2000 section with 4.5/5; 1/2 point ahead of five players.

**S. Marin** won the U1600 with a perfect 5-0.

## GAMES

*Chess Canada* has four games from CHOM, two of which first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed.

The first game appeared here: <http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/413>

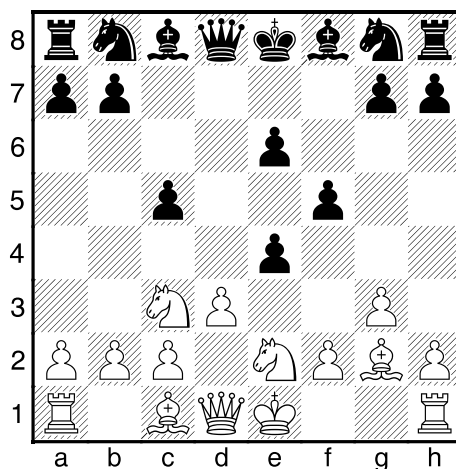
## Zhu, Hong Rui (2203) Hambleton, Aman (2616) B20

Montreal op (1), 05.09.2014

*Notes by Felix Dumont*

A nice game by IM Aman Hambleton against Hong Rui Zhu at the Montreal Open. Aman played a nearly perfect game with the Black pieces, taking advantage of every inaccuracy of his opponent. It didn't take long before White got completely squeezed.

1.e4 c5 2.♘e2 e6 3.g3 d5  
4.♙g2 dxe4 5.♘bc3 f5 6.d3



Hong Rui played exactly the same opening 3 months ago in Laval, and the game was ana-

lyzed as the Game of the Week on the CFC Newsfeed. It turned out that even though Hong Rui won that previous game, he had made quite a few inaccuracies in the opening. Perhaps Aman had seen it, either on the Newsfeed or in the database!?

### 6...♘f6!?

Thierry Libersan played ...exd3 in Laval, obtaining a more than decent position.

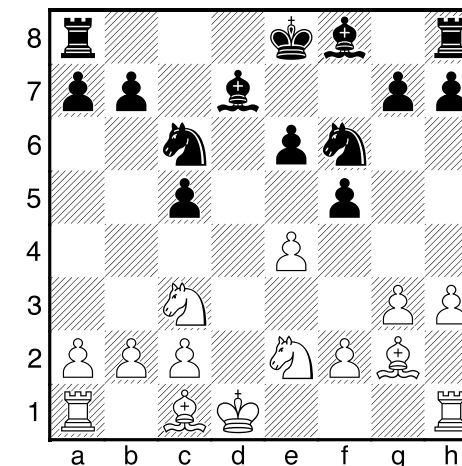
### 7.dxe4 ♙xd1+ 8.♔xd1

Capturing the pawn on e4 is possible, but the e6 pawn might end up being weakened.

### 8...♘c6 9.h3?

This move doesn't do much, beside preventing a ...♘g4 maneuver. Furthermore, the h3 pawn might even end up being attacked if the diagonal of the c8 bishop gets cleared.

### 9...♙d7



### 10.♙e3?!

10.exf5 exf5 11.♙e3 Would have probably been slightly more accurate, as it prevents Black from playing ...e5.

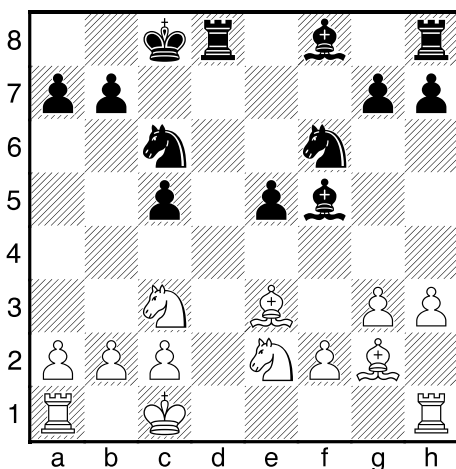
### 10...0-0-0 11.♔c1

11.exf5 is interesting, but Black can play 11...e5 with a nice edge.

### 11...e5

Obviously, Aman doesn't miss such an opportunity to grab the center.

### 12.exf5 ♙xf5



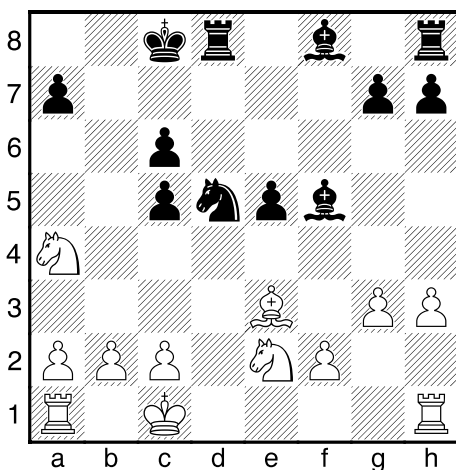
### 13. ♖xc6

Perhaps slightly better was  
13.g4 ♖g6 (13...♖d7 14.♖d1)  
14.g5 ♘d7 15.♖xc6 bxc6.

### 13...bxc6 14.♘a4?!

14.b3 with the idea of preventing  
...c4 and playing ♖b2 would be  
worth considering.

### 14...♘d5



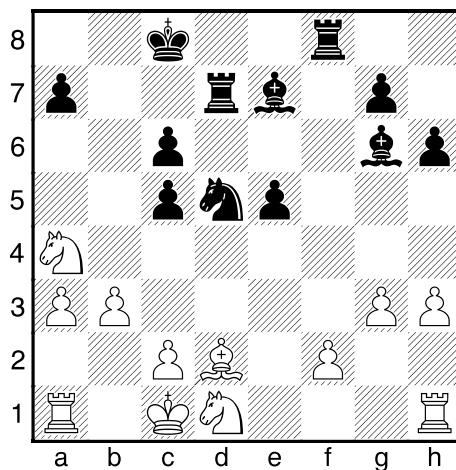
### 15. ♖g5?

15.♖xc5 ♘b4 16.♖xb4 ♖xb4  
and Black is much better with his  
bishops, but White is still in the  
game.

### 15...♖d7 16.a3

Necessary to prevent ...♘b4.

### 16...h6 17.♖d2 ♖e7 18.♘ec3 ♖f8 19.b3 ♖g6 20.♘d1



We can see that Black carefully  
positioned his pieces so to max-  
imize the pressure on White's  
position. None of White's pieces  
are really active at this point!

### 20...♖f3 21.♖e1 e4

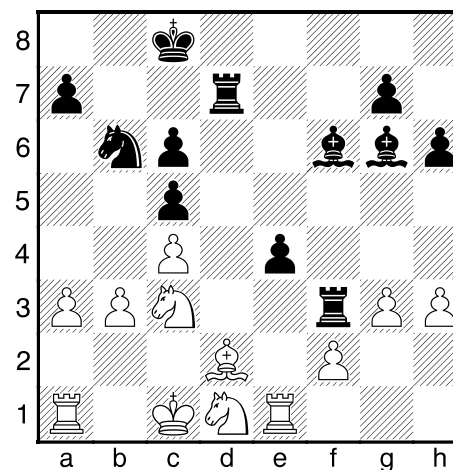
After 21...c4 White has many  
options, but one that was also  
interesting is 22.bxc4 ♖xa3+

Free Eats!! Sponsorship has its benefits.



23.♘ab2 ♘b6.

### 22.c4 ♘b6 23.♘ac3 ♖f6

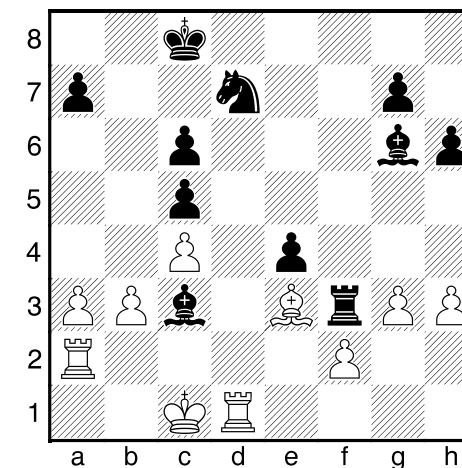


Black has completely squeezed  
White and only has to wait for a  
mistake from his opponent.

### 24. ♖e3?

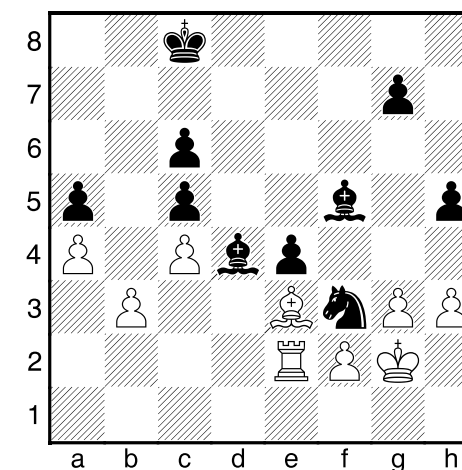
And here it is.

### 24...♖xd1+! 25.♖xd1 ♖xc3 26.♖a2 ♘d7



It's now over, Black's position is  
completely dominant.

### 27.♖d6 ♖f6 28.♖xf6 ♖xf6 29.♖c2 ♖d4 30.♖d2 ♘e5 31.♖e2 h5 32.♖f1 ♖f5 33.♖g2 a5 34.a4 ♘f3 35.♖e2?





35...♙xh3+! 36.♔h1 ♙f1 37.♖c2  
♙g2+!

0-1

**Sambuev, Bator (2672)**

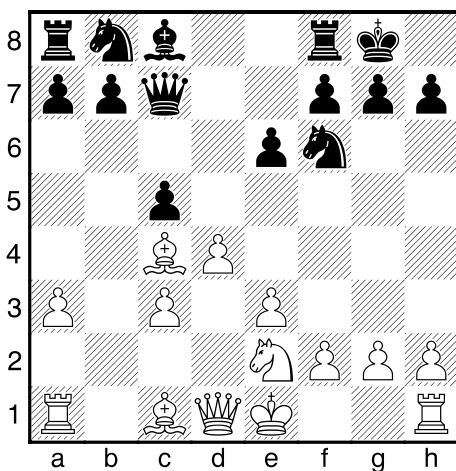
**Yu, Zong Yang (2255)**

E49

Montreal op (3), 06.09.2014

Notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4  
4.e3 0-0 5.♙d3 d5 6.a3 ♙xc3+  
7.bxc3 dxc4 8.♙xc4 c5 9.♘e2  
♚c7



10.♙d3

10.♙a2 is the main alternative, discouraging central counterplay with ...e5, which would make the ♙a2 more powerful.

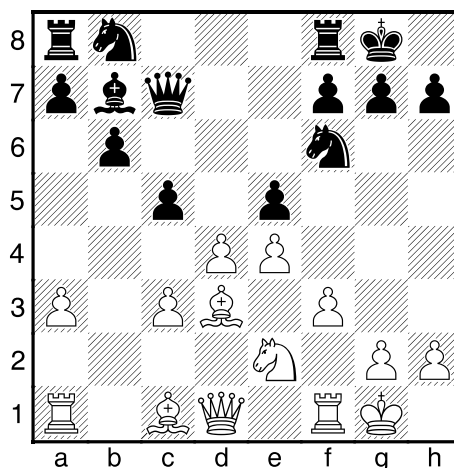
10...b6

Not a bad move, but from the future course of the game it looks like Black got his variations mixed up: ...b6 works well against 10.♙a2, but not so well against ♙d3 when combined with the ...e5 counter-strike in the center. Black's main moves here are ...e5 and ...♘c6, both of which seem to equalize.

11.0-0 ♙b7

11...♙a6 12.♙xa6 ♘xa6 13.f3  
♖ac8 14.e4±.

12.f3 e5 13.e4



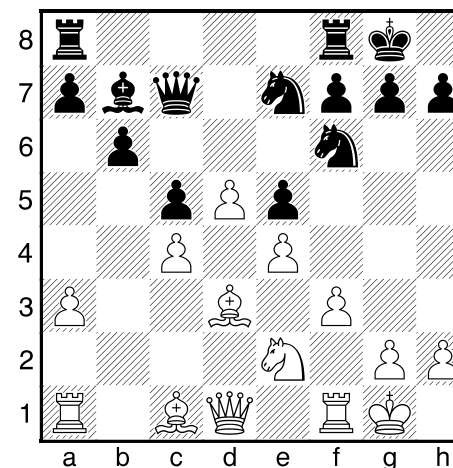
13...♘c6?!

♞13...♘bd7.

13...exd4 14.cxd4 cxd4 15.♙b2  
♘c6 and White will sooner or

later win back the d-pawn, leaving him with the ♙ pair and a mobile kingside majority while at least one of Black's ♘s will have trouble finding a square.

14.d5 ♘e7 15.c4

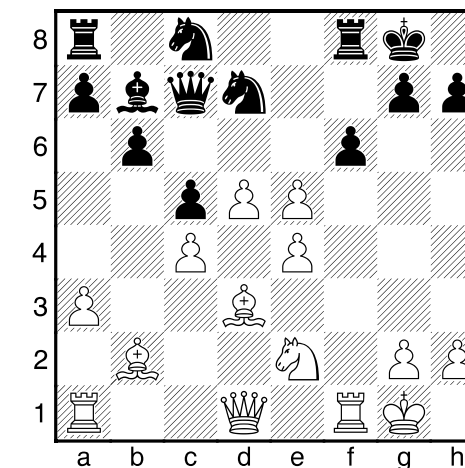


It might help to think of this as a Nimzo-Indian (Hübner variation with ...d6 and ...e5) but where Black hasn't managed to double White's c-pawns. Since the doubled-pawns are Black's only compensation for surrendering the dark-squared ♙, this position has to be rated as at least ±.

15...♘c8 16.f4 ♘d7 17.♙b2

17.♚e1!? heading for the kingside before determining which diagonal the ♙c1 will go to.

17...f6 18.fxe5



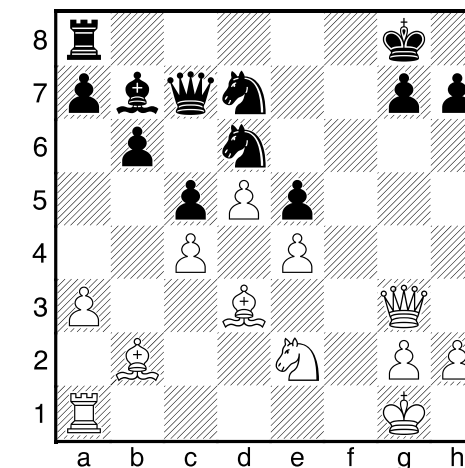
18...fxe5?!

I don't see what's wrong with 18...♘xe5 e.g. Δ19.♘f4 (19.♙xe5? ♚xe5∞) 19...♖e8 20.♚h5 ♘d6∞.

19.♖xf8+ ♔xf8

♞19...♘xf8.

20.♚e1 ♘d6 21.♚g3 ♔g8?



Missing White's threat.

22. ♖f4!

The ♖ gets to e6 and Black's position goes from bad to hopeless.

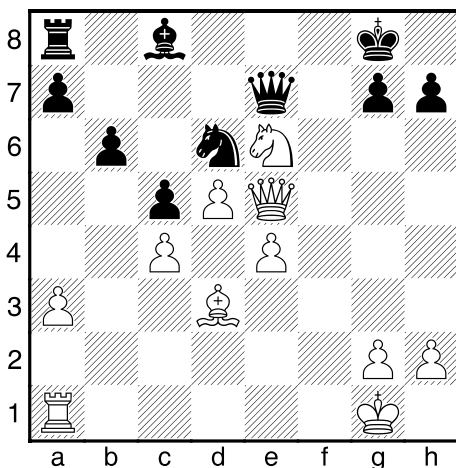
22... ♔d8

Of course not 22... exf4

23. ♕xg7#.

23. ♖e6+- ♔e7 24. ♕xe5 ♖xe5

25. ♕xe5 ♕c8



26. ♕g5□

Nimble avoiding the pin and the doubled pawns.

26... ♕xg5 27. ♖xg5 ♕a6 28. e5! h6

28... ♖xc4 and White's center

pawns win before Black can untangle the pin on the ♖.

29. ♖e6

29. ♖e6 ♖xc4 30. ♖c7+-.

1-0

The following game and notes first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed:

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/406>

**Munro, Allan (2049)**

**Nicula, Marius (2233)**

C11

Montreal op (3), 06.09.2014

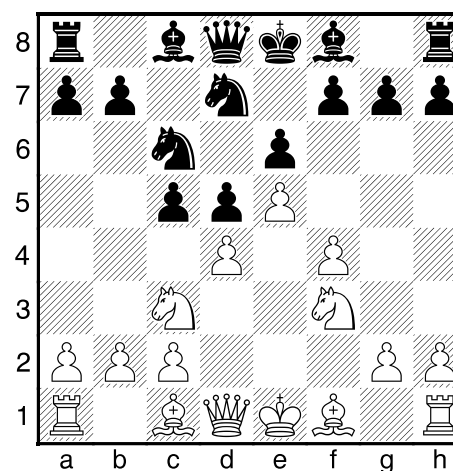
Notes by Felix Dumont

This game features FM Allan Munro (registered at FIDE as from Trinidad and Tobago) and Quebec FM Marius Nicula. The latter, who usually has good results in the French defense, unfortunately never really managed to launch his attack in this game, while White showed a great coordination between his pieces.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♖f6

The classical variation of the French defense. The other main option was 3... ♕b4, leading to the Winawer variation.

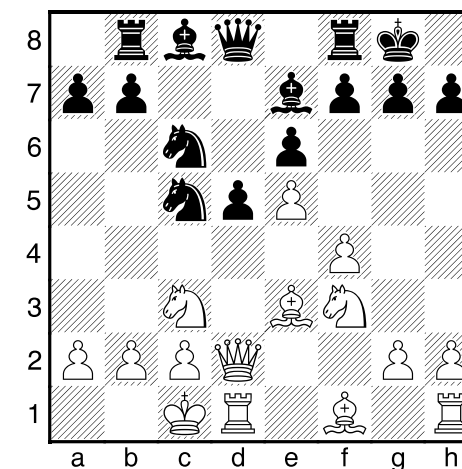
4. e5 ♖fd7 5. f4 c5 6. ♖f3 ♖c6



White's plan is pretty simple here. He wants to quickly castle queenside, by playing ♕e3 and ♖d2. After that, he will most likely try to attack Black on the kingside.

On the other hand, Black has a lot of counterplay on the queenside and the c-file should soon be available for his rooks.

7. ♕e3 ♕e7 8. ♖d2 0-0 9. dxc5 ♖xc5 10. 0-0-0 ♖b8?!



An odd move. Playing ...a6, followed by ...b5, is a much more logical choice. Black probably does not want to push ...b5, sacrificing the pawn, and thus loses a tempo.

11. ♖b1

Not a forced move, but it could always be useful. Another logical continuation would have been h4, with the idea of bringing the rook to h3 and g3.

11... a6 12. ♖f2!?

Also worth considering was 12. f5!?. Threatening f6 12... ♖e4 (12... exf5?! 13. ♖xd5±) 13. ♖xe4 dxe4 14. f6 White has some advantage, although it might be hard to convert it into a full point.

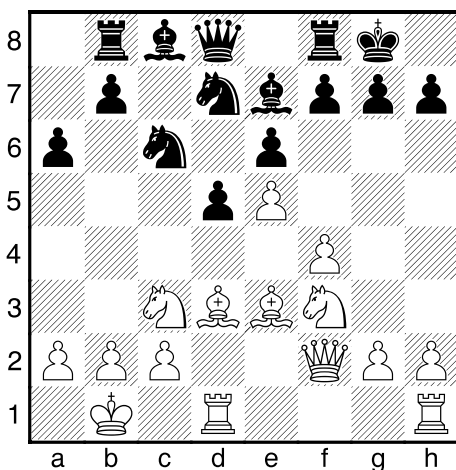




12...♖d7?!

12...♔a5 Would have probably been more accurate, discouraging White from playing ♗d3. Black might further continue with ...♘a4.

13.♗d3



13...♘b4?

13...b5 Would have given Black better counterplay.

14.g4?

White missed a good opportunity to launch a powerful attack: 14. f5! ♘xd3 15. ♖xd3 b5 16. ♔g3 ♔h8 17. ♗g5→.

14...♔a5

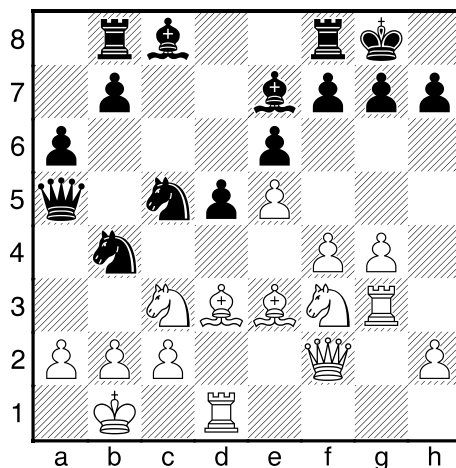
After a few inaccurate moves, Black is in a difficult position, as

his attack might be too late. Still, a move like ...b5 would have probably been somewhat more aggressive.

15.♖hg1 ♗c5?!

Black should see a huge flashing red light above the board. The d3 bishop represents an enormous threat and Black should take it to avoid tactics.

16.♖g3



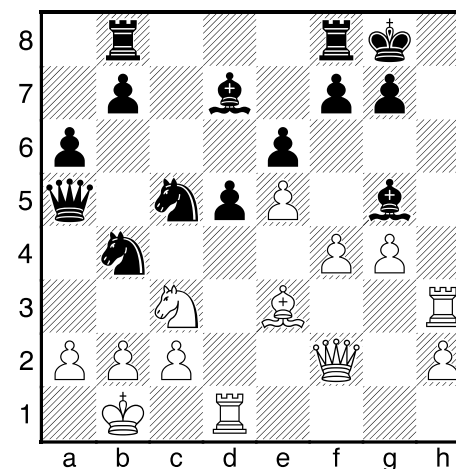
16...♗d7?

Black missed his last chance to take the bishop. Now that White has all his pieces aiming at Black's king, he can start the attack.

17.♗xh7+!!+- ♔xh7 18.♖h3+

editor – 18. ♗g5+ ♗xg5 19. ♖h3+ just changes the move-order, since on 19... ♗h6 20. ♗xc5 White threatens both ♗b6 (trapping the ♔) and g5 (winning the ♗h6 with a huge attack.

18...♔g8 19. ♗g5! ♗xg5



Black didn't have a choice, as White threatened to play ♔h4 mating... but it's still too late.

20.♗xc5!

Obviously not taking on g5: 20. fxcg5?? ♗a4 ♖→.

20...♗d8

editor – 20... ♗h6 21. ♗b6 and Black has to play ...♘d3 to save the ♔.

21.♗xf8 ♔xf8 22.♖h8+ ♔e7

23.♔h4+ f6 24.♔h7 ♔f7 25.♖g8

1-0

**Hambleton, Aman (2616)**  
**Sambuev, Bator (2672)**

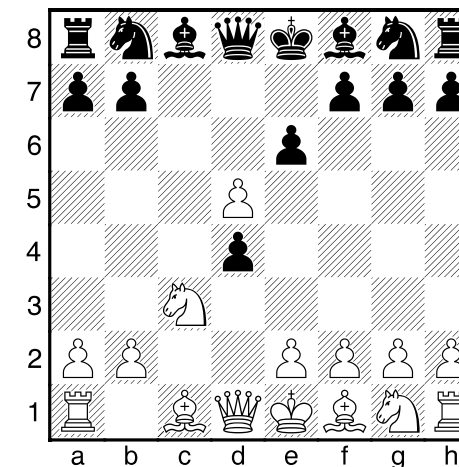
D32

Montreal op Montreal CAN (4),  
07.09.2014

Notes by John Upper

When I first played through this game I thought Bator had overpressed when he should have forced a perpetual, after which Aman won with no trouble. In fact, White had to play a whole series of "only moves" to avoid losing, and then even more "only moves" to win the ending.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 c5  
4.cxd5 cxd4



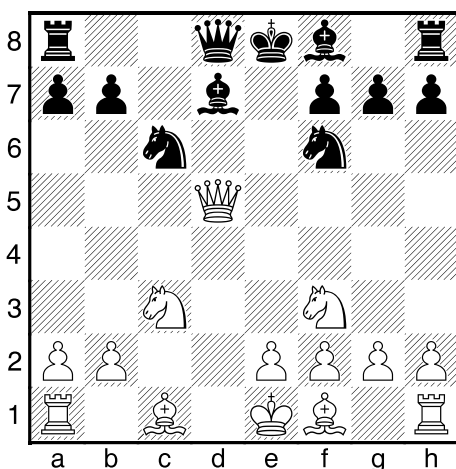
### The Hennig-Schara Gambit.

Black gives up a pawn but gets a big lead in development. In this game White plays the theoretically approved mainline, which features opposite side castling and pawn storms. 2700s don't play it as Black, but below that level there's plenty of trouble for White to cope with Black's play — as can be seen from some of the games quoted below — and that suits Bator's style.

#### 5. ♖a4+

5. ♖a4+ ♘c6 6. ♖d1 exd5 7. ♖xd5 gives Black the choice of transposing to the mainline with ...♙d7, or an endgame with 7...♙e6 8. ♖xd8+ ♜xd8C.

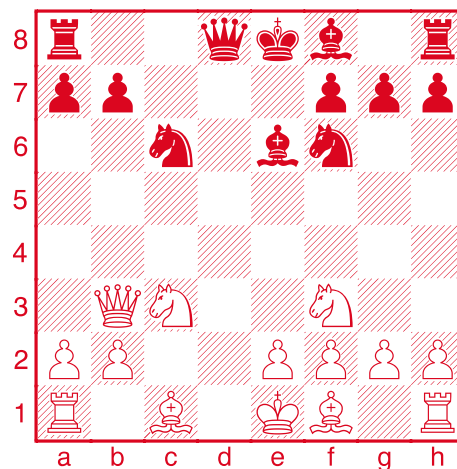
#### 5...♙d7 6. ♖xd4 exd5 7. ♖xd5 ♘c6 8. ♘f3 ♘f6



Still the main line. In *Starting Out: The Queen's Gambit*, John Shaw writes: "I should confess my bias here – I don't believe in the Hennig-Schara Gambit... White's completely solid structure should be too strong to crack.... I still find it shocking that the Hennig-Schara has a main line!"

#### 9. ♖d1

9. ♖b3 ♙e6:



What happens on ♖xb7?

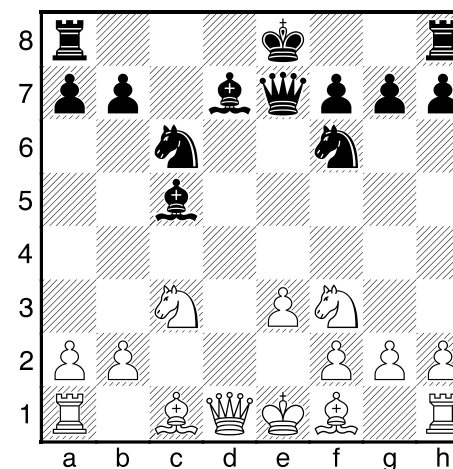
10. ♖xb7 ♘b4 threatening mate on c2 forces a draw:

11. ♘d4 ♜b8 12. ♖xa7 ♜a8=;

11. ♖b5+ ♙d7 12. ♖e5+ ♙e6 13. ♖b5+ ♙=.

10. ♖a4 ♙c5 11. e3 a6 12. ♙e2 0-0 13. 0-0 b5 14. ♖h4 h6 15. ♜d1 ♖b6 16. b3± (½-½, 29) Gerzhoy, L (2478)–Rakhmanov, A (2603) Continental Class, Arlington, 2013.

#### 9...♙c5 10. e3 ♖e7



#### 11. ♙e2

11. a3:

11...0-0-0 12. ♖c2 g5 13. ♙e2 g4 14. ♘d2 ♙b8 15. b4 ♙b6 16. ♘c4 ♙c7 17. ♙b2 ♘e5 18. ♘xe5 ♙xe5 19. 0-0 ♜c8 20. ♜ac1± (0-1, 40) Braun, A (2564)–Nisipeanu, L (2674) Germany, 2014.

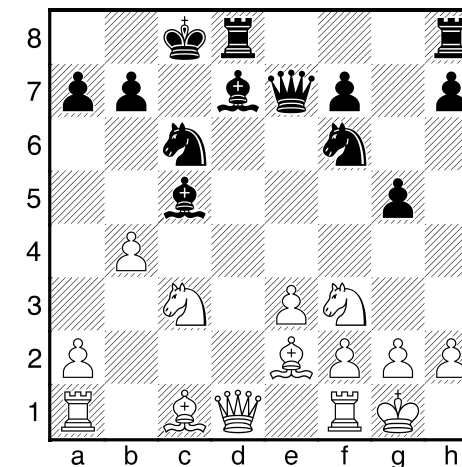
11...0-0 12. ♙e2 ♜fd8 13. 0-0 ♙f5 14. ♖a4 ♘e5 15. ♖f4 ♘xf3+ 16. ♙xf3 ♙d3 17. ♜e1= (½-½, 27)

Stefanova, A (2476)–Ivanisevic, I (2633) Yerevan, 2014.

#### 11...0-0-0 12. 0-0 g5!

Taking this pawn would be nuts.

#### 13. b4!



The theoretically approved line: White gives back the pawn to develop his ♙c1 on the long diagonal (weakened by ...g5) and open c1 for a Rook. After ...♙xb4 material will be equal, but White has a half-open b-file to attack Black's ♙, which is protected by only two pawns while the White ♙ is protected by four.

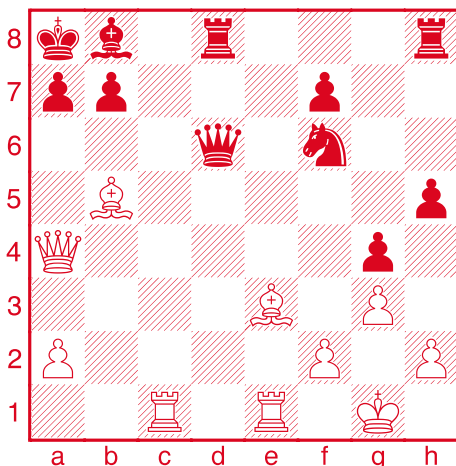
#### 13...♙xb4 14. ♙b2

Here's a fun simul game by The Beast: 14. ♖c2 g4 15. ♘d4



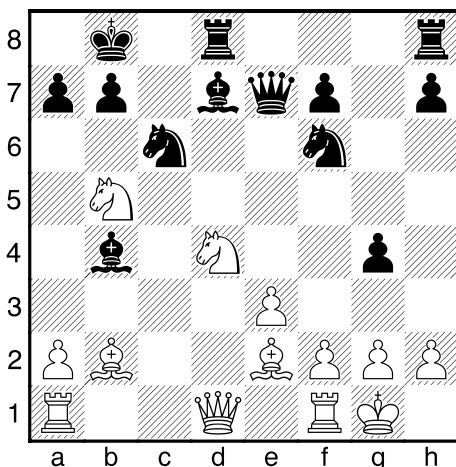


♞xd4 16.exd4 ♔b8 17.♙f4+  
♔a8 18.♞b5 ♙xb5 19.♙xb5  
♞xd4 20.♙e3 ♞dd8 21.♞ac1 ♙d6  
22.♞a4 ♙b8 23.♞fe1 ♞d6 24.g3  
h5:



25.♞c6!! ♞e5 26.♞a6! ♞d4  
27.♞xd4 1-0 **Kasparov,G-**  
Netzer,J (1730) Colmar simul,  
1998.

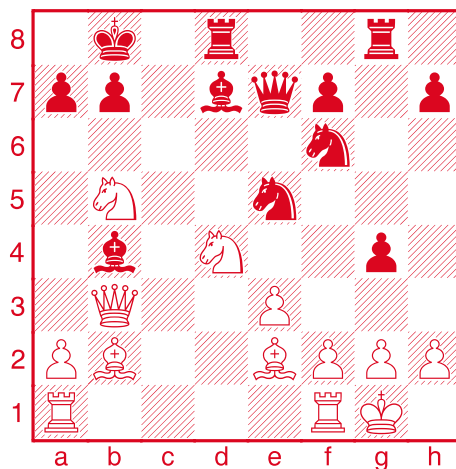
14...g4 15.♞d4 ♔b8 16.♞cb5



16...♞xd4N

16...♞e5 17.♞b3 ♞hg8:

*Analysis Diagram*



18.♞e6!! wins:

18... ♙xe6 19.♙xe5+ ♔a8  
20.♞a4 a6 21.♞c7+ ♔a7  
22.♙xa6+-.

18...♞xe6 19.♞xe6 ♙xe6  
(19...♞f3+ 20.♙xf3 ♙xe6  
21.♙e5+-) 20.♙xe5+ wins a  
piece.

Instead of 18.♞e6, White played:

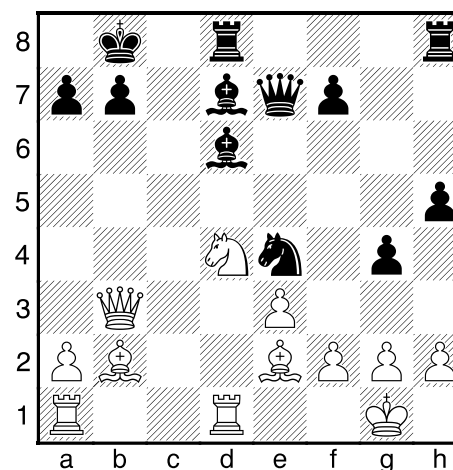
18.♞ad1? ♞g5 19.♙a3 ♙xa3  
20.♞xa3 ♞xa3 21.♞xa3 ♞e4=  
22.f4 gxf3 23.♞xf3? ♞xf3+?  
(The computer finds this:  
23...♞xg2+!! 24.♙xg2 ♞g8+  
25.♙h1 ♞g4 26.h3 ♞g3+  
27.♙g2 ♞xf1 28.♞xd7 ♞fxe3+  
29.♙g3 ♞f6+⌘) 24.♙xf3 ♞c5=

(0-1, 69) Shishkin,V (2492) –  
Fodor,T (2502) Baia Sprie, 2012.

17.♞xd4 h5 18.♞b3 ♞e4  
19.♞fd1!?

Weakening f2 gives Black  
chances to force a draw, but  
♞ad1 makes it harder for White  
to increase queenside pressure.

19...♙d6



20.♞b5??

Opens an attack on the ♞h8 and  
the ♙d6, but it leaves the ♙e2  
unprotected and should lose the  
game.

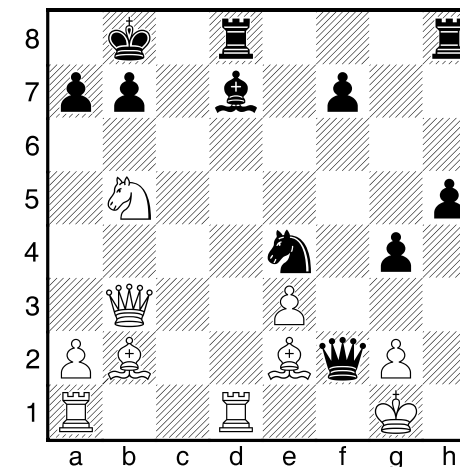
⌘20.♞ac1, though 20...♙xh2+  
lets Black force a draw.

20...♙xb5??

Black misses a win. The varia-  
tions below are long and tricky,  
but one key point is that leaving  
White's ♙ on e2 gives Black ex-  
tra threats in the following lines:

20...♙xh2+! 21.♔xh2 ♞h4+  
22.♙g1 ♞xf2+:

*Analysis Diagram*



A) 23.♔h2 ♞g3+ 24.♔g1 ♞he8

Computers prefer 24...f6!→,  
but I still have trouble under-  
standing why this quiet move  
(saving the ♞h8) is so much  
better than ♞he8. Is it a better  
way to prevent ♙e5+? Does it  
make a big difference that in  
some lines the ♞h8 supports  
Black's h-pawn? I'll leave this  
for more diligent readers to fig-  
ure out.

25.♙d4 (White has no time



to save the ♕e2: 25. ♕c4?  
 ♖f2+ 26. ♖h2 ♖h4+ 27. ♖g1  
 g3-+) 25... ♖f2+ 26. ♖h2 a6!±  
 (26... ♖xe2? 27. ♕xa7+ ♖a8  
 28. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 29. ♖a4+-).

**B) 23. ♖h1** is tricky:

**B1)** First, it does not directly hang the ♕e2, since 23... ♖g3+ 24. ♖h2 ♖xe2?? loses to 25. ♕e5+ ♖a8 26. ♖c7+ ♖b8 27. ♖d5+ ♖a8 28. ♖b6+!+- and Black gets mated.

**B2)** 23... ♖g3+ 24. ♖h2 f6 25. ♖a3! (25. ♕f1? ♖xf1+ 26. ♖xf1 ♖h4+ 27. ♖g1 g3-+ Black will win the ♖g2 with a continuing attack and connected advanced passers.; 25. ♕xf6? ♖xf6 26. ♖xg3 h4+ 27. ♖h2 g3+ 28. ♖h1 h3-+ Black has ... ♕c6 coming, so White gets mated.) 25... ♕xb5□ 26. ♕xb5 ♖e4 27. ♕d4 and Black should probably play the perpetual.

**B3)** 23... f6! in addition to having two pawns for the piece, the ♕e2 is hanging:

**a)** Black's attack is too strong if White tries to save the Bishop with 24. ♕c4 ♖h4+ (24... ♕c6!→ is more patient: White's ♖ is too weak) 25. ♖g1 g3 26. ♕d4

♖h2+ 27. ♖f1 ♖h1+ 28. ♖e2  
 ♖xg2+ 29. ♖d3 ♕f5-+.

**b)** 24. ♖a4 ♕xb5 25. ♕xb5 (25. ♖xb5 ♖g3+ Black wins back his piece with a winning material advantage.) 25... ♖h4+ 26. ♖g1 g3 defends the ♖e4 and creates a mating net.

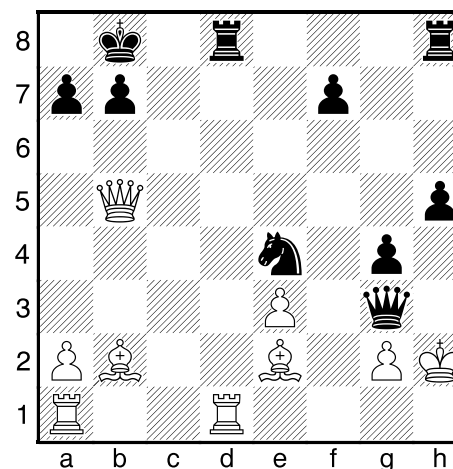
**c)** 24. ♖a3 threatening mate on a7 gives Black a reason to take on b5, and so indirectly saves the ♕e2, but 24... ♕xb5 25. ♕xb5 ♖h4+ 26. ♖g1 g3-+ 27. ♖xd8+ (27. ♕d4 ♖h2+ 28. ♖f1 ♖h1+ 29. ♖e2 ♖xg2+ 30. ♖d3 ♖xd4+ 31. exd4 ♖f3+ skewers the ♖a3.) 27... ♖xd8 28. ♕d4 ♖h2+ 29. ♖f1 ♖xd4! 30. exd4 ♖h1+ 31. ♖e2 ♖xa1 White can win the ♖, but after 32. ♖f8+ ♖c7 33. ♖e7+ ♖b6 34. ♖xe4 ♖xa2+!-+ Black will win the ♕ soon and the game later.

We now return to the game, already in progress...

**21. ♖xb5**□

21. ♕xb5? ♕xh2+ 22. ♖xh2 ♖h4+ 23. ♖g1 ♖xf2+ 24. ♖h1 ♖h4+□ 25. ♖g1 g3 26. ♕d4 lets the ♖ escape across the d-file, but not for free... 26... ♖h2+ 27. ♖f1 ♖h1+ 28. ♖e2 ♖xg2+ 29. ♖d3 ♖c5+-+.

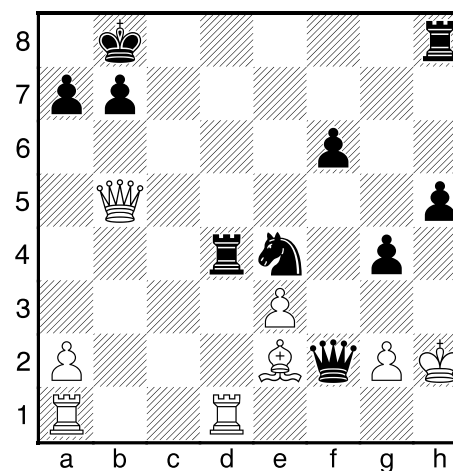
21... ♕xh2+ 22. ♖xh2 ♖h4+  
 23. ♖g1 ♖xf2+ 24. ♖h2□ ♖g3+



**25. ♖h1**□

25. ♖g1? ♖xe3+-+ Black has an extra pawn and the attack.

25... f6 26. ♕d4 ♖h4+ 27. ♖g1  
 ♖f2+ 28. ♖h2 ♖xd4



**29. ♖xd4**□

29. exd4? ♖g3+:

30. ♖g1 ♖e3+ 31. ♖h2 g3+  
 32. ♖h1 ♖f2+ 33. ♖g1 ♖h3+  
 34. ♖h1 ♖g1+ 35. ♖xg1 ♖f2#.  
 30. ♖h1 ♖f2+ 31. ♖g1 ♖h3+  
 32. ♖h1 ♖f4 33. ♕f1 ♖h4+  
 34. ♖g1 g3-+.

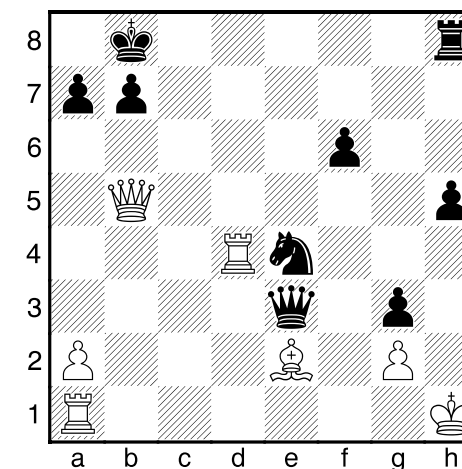
**29... g3+**

29... ♖g3+ can force a draw.

**30. ♖h1**□±

30. ♖h3? ♖g5+ 31. ♖h4 ♖xg2-+.

**30... ♖xe3**□



**31. ♖xe4**□

31. ♕f3? ♖f2+ 32. ♖g1 ♖d1+ or smothered mate with ... ♖h3+.

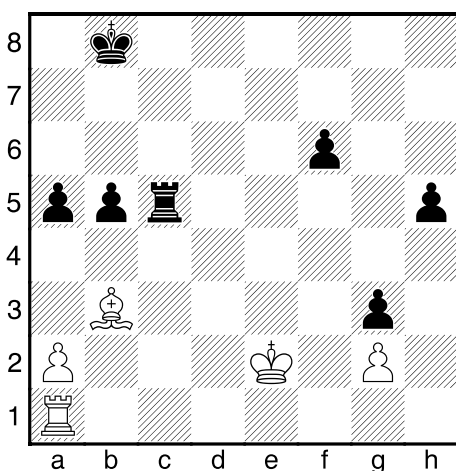
**31... ♖xe4 32. ♖c4**□





32. ♔d3?? ♕h4+ 33. ♖g1 ♕h2+  
34. ♖f1 ♕h1#.

32... ♕xc4 33. ♖xc4 ♖c8 34. ♖b3  
b5 35. ♖g1 a5 36. ♖f1 ♖c5  
37. ♖e2



37... ♖f5?  
37... a4±.

38. ♖f1!

White correctly judges that the ♖ vs pawns ending is winning.

38... ♖xf1

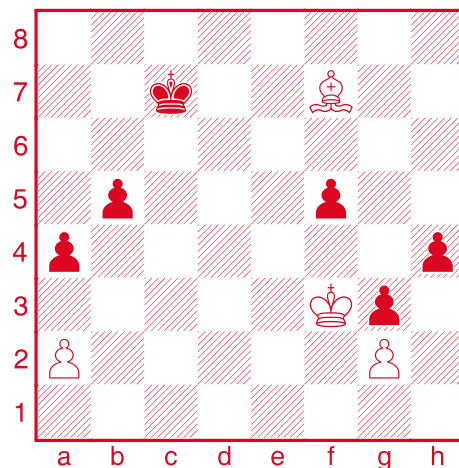
38... ♖e5+ 39. ♖d3 f5 40. ♖d4  
♖e2 41. ♖d5 ♖f2 42. ♖h1+-.

39. ♖xf1 ♖c7 40. ♖e2 a4 41. ♖f7  
h4

41... b4 42. ♖f3+-.

42. ♖f3 f5!

Black can immediately resign if he doesn't stop ♖g4, which wins all his kingside pawns. 42... b4 43. ♖g4□+-.



43. ♖e8□+-.

The only winning move, gaining time to win f5 by forcing Black to defend his queenside pawns.

43. a3? ♖b6 44. ♖e6 b4□=  
45. axb4 a3□ 46. ♖c4□ ♖c6=  
White's ♖ has to stay close to the ♖g3 or ...h3 wins.

43. ♖f4? b4 44. ♖e6 (44. ♖xf5??  
h3-+; 44. ♖e8?? b3-+) 44... h3  
45. ♖xg3□ hxg2 46. ♖xg2 b3  
47. a3 (47. ♖xb3 axb3 48. axb3=)  
47... ♖d6 48. ♖xf5 ♖e5 49. ♖g6  
♖d4= and White will have to

give up the ♖ for the b-pawn.

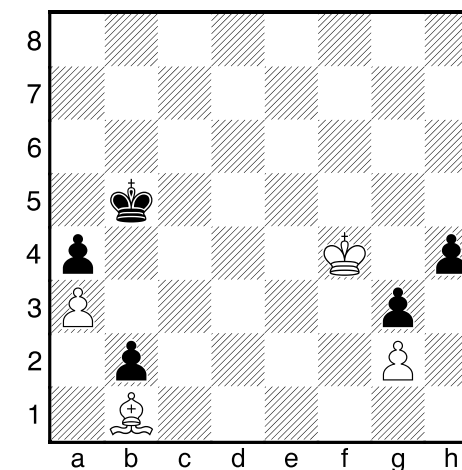
43. ♖g6? (or ♖e6) 43... b4□  
44. ♖xf5 b3□ 45. axb3 h3□ (45...  
axb3? 46. ♖g4!+- prevents Black  
from turning White's g-pawn  
into an un promotable h-pawn.)  
46. gxh3 axb3= 47. ♖xg3 ♖d6  
48. ♖f4 ♖e7□= and Black's ♖  
gets to h8 for the draw.

43... ♖b6 44. ♖d7□

44. a3?? b4□-+ 45. axb4 a3  
46. ♖f7 ♖b5 and Black will force  
White to give up his ♖ to stop the  
a-pawn, and then walk across  
the board to win on the kingside.  
Once again, White can't take on  
f5 with the King because Black  
creates an unstoppable passer  
with ...h3: 47. ♖f4 ♖xb4 48. ♖xf5  
h3-+.

44. ♖f4? just loses a tempo,  
since White can't take on f5  
with his ♖: 44... ♖a5= 45. ♖d7  
(45. ♖xf5?? h3-+) 45... b4  
46. ♖xf5 b3□= 47. a3 (47. axb3  
a3□ 48. ♖b1 h3!= simplest.) 47...  
b2 48. ♖b1 ♖b5:

*Analysis Diagram*



White can choose between two  
study-like draws:

49. ♖g4 ♖c4 50. ♖a2+ ♖c3  
51. ♖xh4 ♖c2 52. ♖xg3 b1♕  
53. ♖xb1+ ♖xb1 and both play-  
ers promote.

49. ♖a2 h3 50. ♖xg3 hxg2  
51. ♖xg2 ♖c5 52. ♖f2 ♖d4  
53. ♖e2 ♖c3 54. ♖d1 b1♕+!  
55. ♖xb1 ♖b3=.

44... ♖c5 45. ♖xf5 b4

The trickiest.

Here we see the difference  
between 43. ♖g6 (which draws)  
and 43. ♖e8 (winning): White is  
up one critical tempo, having  
captured f5 before Black had a  
chance to play ...b4. White won  
the tempo because after ♖e8  
Black had to make two ultimately  
useless moves with his King to



save his a- and b-pawns, which gave White an extra move to prepare to take on f5 with his Bishop (since his ♔ can't do it).

46. ♖c2 h3 47. gxh3 ♜ b3

48. ♖xb3 ♜

The extra pawn is winning, an extra ♖ is not: 48. axb3?? axb3 49. ♖xb3 ♔d6= and White's last pawn is in the wrong corner for the ♖.

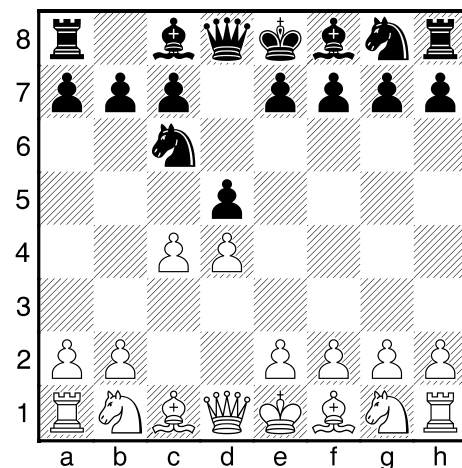
1-0

**Ouellet, Maili-Jade (1848)**  
**Lafleche, Alain (1723)**

Montreal op U2000 Montreal  
CAN (5), 07.09.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. d4 d5 2. c4 ♘c6



3. e3

A safe way to get Chigorin players (2... ♘c6) out of their preparation.

More critical and most popular is: 3. ♘c3 dxc4 (3... ♘f6 4. cxd5 ♘xd5 5. ♘f3±) 4. d5±.

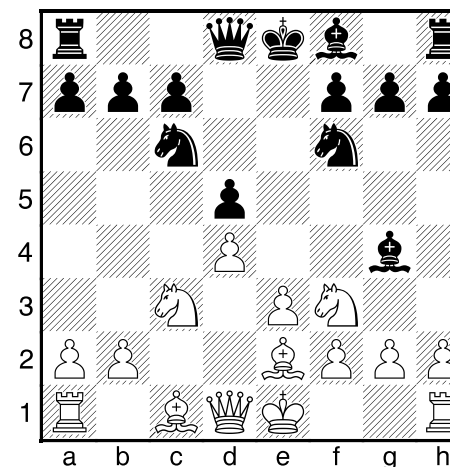
3... ♘f6

3... e5! is the reason 3. e3 isn't popular. 4. dxe5 d4 5. a3 is an equal line that can also arise from the Albin Gambit (1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5). 5... ♖f5 6. ♘f3 dxe3 7. ♚xd8+ ♜xd8 8. ♖xe3 ♘ge7= (1/2-1/2, 25) Aleksandrov, A (2626) – Moiseenko, V (2465) St Petersburg, 2013.

4. ♘f3 ♖g4 5. ♘c3

5. cxd5!± would be the classical way to try to make Black pay for not defending the center with pawns.

5... e6 6. cxd5 exd5 7. ♖e2

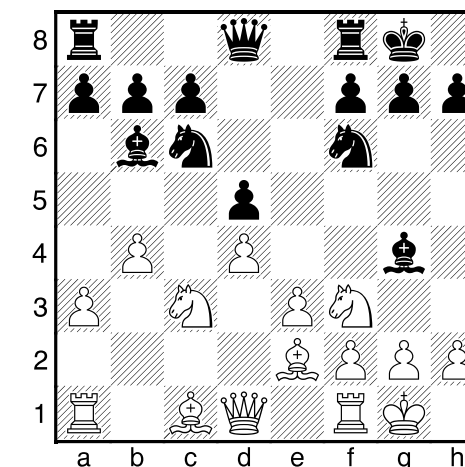


Black's ♘c6 may look a little odd to QGD players, but White's ♖c1 will have a harder time getting into the game.

7... ♖b4 8. 0-0 0-0 9. a3 ♖a5?!

♞9... ♖xc3 then playing with the ♘s to control e4 and c4.

10. b4 ♖b6



11. b5

11. ♖b2 followed by ♘a4-c5 was worth considering, since ... ♖xc5 would make White's dark-squared ♖ much better.

11... ♘e7 12. ♘e5

12. a4!? ♖a5 13. ♚c2 ♜e8 14. ♖a3 ♘g6∞.

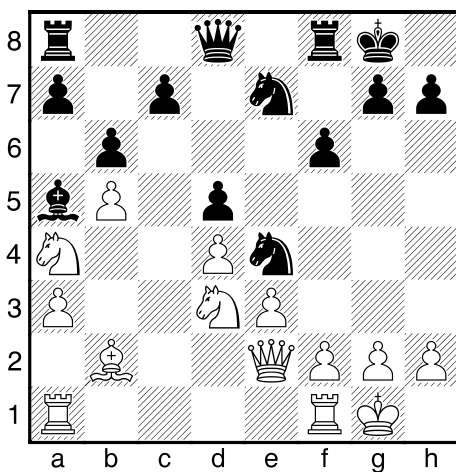


College Jean-de Brebeuf. Classy.



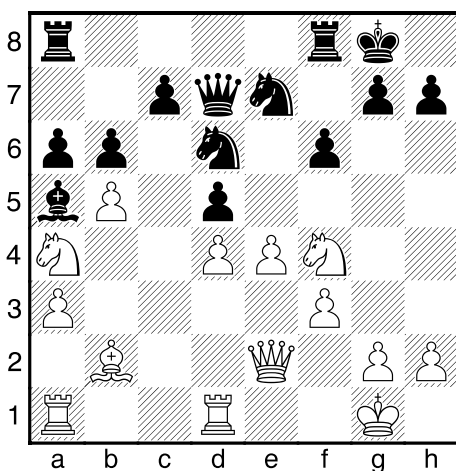


12...♙xe2 13.♚xe2 ♙a5 14.♘a4  
♘e4 15.♙b2 f6 16.♘d3 b6=



17.♘f4  
17.♘b4!?

17...♚d7 18.♖fd1 a6 19.f3 ♘d6  
20.e4

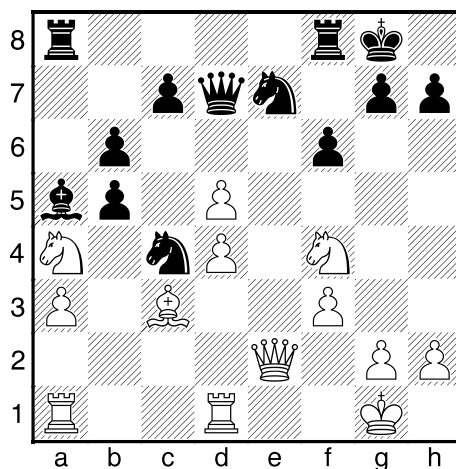


20...♘c4?!  
⊖20...axb5! or ⊖20...♘xb5

21.exd5?

⊖21.♘xd5 ♖xd5 (21...♘xb2?  
22.♘xe7+ ♚xe7 23.♘xb2±)  
22.♚xc4 axb5 23.♘xb6 ♙xb6  
White's ♙b2 is still inactive, and  
after the trades on d5 Black will  
have pressure on White's d-  
pawn.

21...axb5! ♖ 22.♙c3

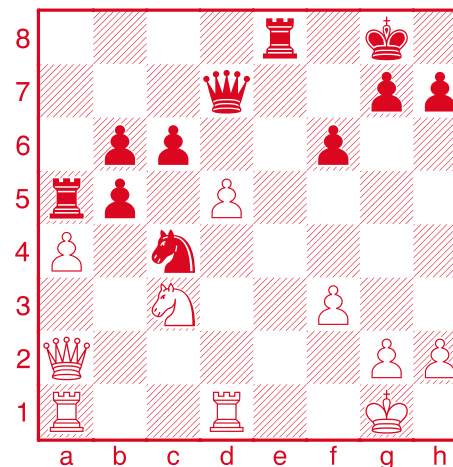


22...♘xd5

Rather than win back the ♘d5  
right away, Black can first nudge  
White's pieces onto worse  
squares with 22...♖fe8! 23.♚d3  
♚d6! 24.♘e2 ♘xd5 when Black  
has two great ♘s and pressure  
on the a and d-files.

23.♘xd5 ♚xd5 24.♙xa5 ♖xa5  
25.♘c3 ♚d7 26.a4 ♖e8 27.♚a2

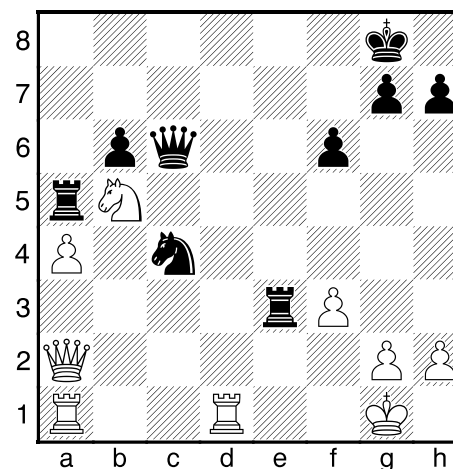
c6 28.d5



28...♖e3??

28...cxd5 ♖ Δ29.♖xd5? ♚e6!  
avoids pins on the a2-g8 diago-  
nal and threatens to win the ♘  
with ♚e3+; on 30.♖d3 bxa4-+  
Black is up two passed pawns.

29.dxc6+- ♚xc6 30.♘xb5!



30...♚c5

Black has two other reasonable  
ways to try to save the ♘c4 (un-  
pinning with ...♚e6 or preparing  
an extra defender with ...♖e5)  
but they don't work.

Blocking the pin on the ♘  
with 30...♚e6 loses to the same  
tactic as in the next note, as well  
as to 31.♖ac1 when the ♘ has  
no safe squares to run to.

Bringing an extra defender  
with 30...♖e5 fails too:

31.♖d6? ♚c5+ 32.♖d4 ♖  
(32.♔h1?? ♚xb5-+).

31.♖ac1!?:

31...♖exb5 32.axb5 ♚c5+  
33.♚f2+-.

31...♚xb5 32.♖xc4 ♔f8  
33.♚c2+- White gets a win-  
ning attack.

31...♖c5 Threatening ...♚xb5-  
+ 32.♚b3! ♔f8 33.♖d4 ♘d2  
34.♖d8+ ♔e7 35.♖e1+ ♔  
♔xd8 36.♚g8+ ♔d7 37.♚e8#.

But after 30...♖e5 White's  
cleanest win is this: 31.♖d8+!  
♔f7 32.♖c8! skewer 32...♚xb5!  
(32...♚xc8 33.♘d6+) 33.axb5  
♖xa2 34.♖xa2+-.



## Event Details

[http://echecsmontréal.ca/chom/index\\_en.html](http://echecsmontréal.ca/chom/index_en.html)

## Results: Top Section

<http://www.chess-results.com/tnr144108.aspx?lan=1&art=4&wi=821>

[http://chess.ca/crosstable?tournament\\_check\\_number=201409034](http://chess.ca/crosstable?tournament_check_number=201409034)

## U2000

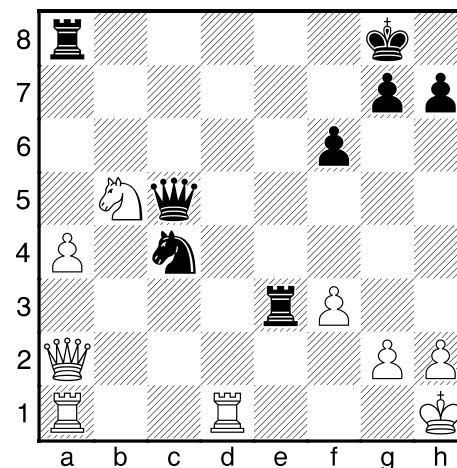
<http://www.chess-results.com/tnr144111.aspx?lan=1&art=4&wi=821>

## 31. ♖h1!

Stepping out of the discovered check is good, but White had spectacularly better:

31. ♖xc4+!! ♕xc4 32. ♖d8+ ♔f7 (32... ♖e8 is worse:  
33. ♖xe8+ ♔f7 34. ♘d6+ ♔g6  
35. ♘xc4 and White is two pieces up.)  
33. ♘d6+ ♔e7  
34. ♘xc4 White will be a piece up.

31... ♖a8! 32. ♘d6 b5 33. ♘xb5



## 33... ♔h8?

♠33... ♖ae8 ♠34. ♖ac1 ♖e2  
35. ♖b3 ♖8e3 and White still has to play accurately to keep her advantage.

## 34. ♖ac1 ♖ae8

Hoping the back-rank mate threat will save the ♘, which it does...

## 35. h3!

...for only one move. Now there's no way to save the ♘ or the game.

35... ♖b4 36. ♖xc4 ♖e1+ 37. ♔h2  
♖e7 38. ♖xe1 ♖xe1 39. ♖c5 ♖e3  
40. ♖c4 ♖e6 41. ♖xe6

1-0



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# Maritime Open



# Chess Canada 2014.11

The Maritime Open attracted 28 participants to St Thomas University in Fredericton. The field included a stunning total of six master players. Participants came from NB (Fredericton 13, Saint John 4, Moncton 4), Nova Scotia (6), and Prince Edward Island (1).

This year may have been a passing of the torch as **16-year-old Adam Dorrance** from Annapolis Valley, NS took first place with a score of **5½/6**. Adam is not new to success as he tied for 1st two years ago (but lost on tie-breaks) and finished ½ point out last year. At the youth level, he was the Canadian U14 National Champion in 2013, and has had numerous successful results at the National Chess Challenge. Next year he will be able to try to defend on his home turf, as the event will be in Halifax.

Tied for 2nd/3rd place prizes were former champions, Elias Oussedik (Moncton) and FM Robert Hamilton (Fredericton).

Other prize winners included: George Hensel (U1800), Scott King (U1600), Leo Cui (U1400), Cynthia Cui (Female), Alexandre LeBlanc (U12), Sam Song (U14),

Brandon MacDonald & Thomas Myatt (U18).

I'm hoping to make it out to Halifax next year for what should be another great event.

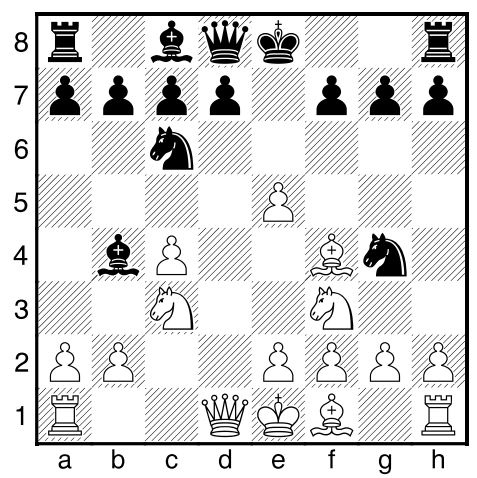
- Fred McKim

**Notes by FM Robert Hamilton**  
**Hamilton, Robert (2275)**  
**Dorrance, Adam (2239)**  
A52  
*Maritime Open (4), 12.10.2014*

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ♘g4 4.♙f4**

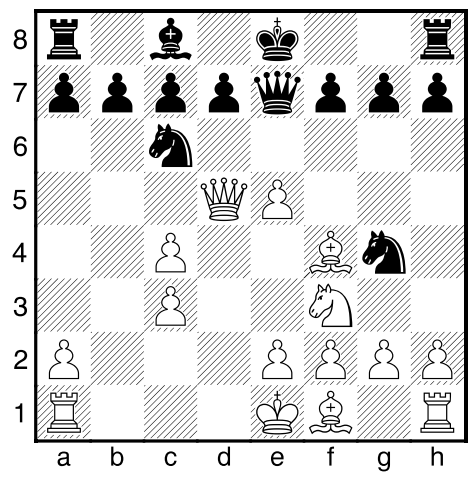
Considered best; 4.♘f3 ♙c5  
5.e3 closes White's bishop out of play.

**4...♘c6 5.♘f3 ♙b4+ 6.♘c3**



The only move considered to challenge the Gambit. After 6.♘bd2 White's advantage is considered microscopic.

**6...♙xc3+! 7.bxc3 ♙e7 8.♙d5**



Again, the only move that challenges Black. White threatens 9.h3 which would be winning.

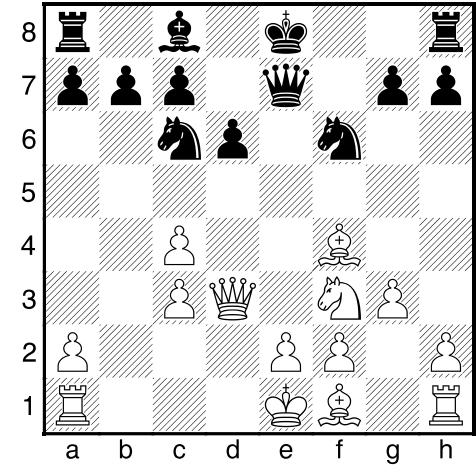
**8...f6**

8... ♙a3 has been played many times, but concedes the battle in the center and is favourable for White after 9.♖c1.

**9.exf6 ♘xf6 10.♙d3**

The best square for the Queen.

**10...d6 11.g3!?**



Yasser Seirawan considers this move the "bust" of the Budapest as opposed to playing the more passive 11.e3 followed by ♙e2. Other GM's disagree and think Black's position is still tenable.

**11...0-0 12.♙g2 ♙g4!?**

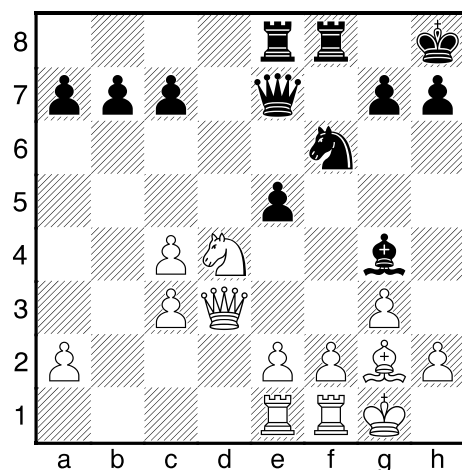
This move was played instantly by Adam... and I had never seen it before. Black's plan is to follow with ...♖ae8, ...♘e4-c5 and ask why White is better.

**13.0-0 ♖ae8**

*editor* – This position has been reached twice in top-level games recently. White's next move may actually improve on those, so it's worth seeing how they went: 14.♖ae1 ♙h8 15.♘d4

♞e5 16.♙xe5 dxe5:

### Analysis Diagram

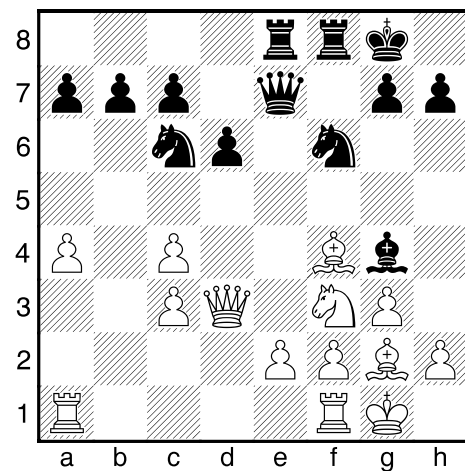


17.♞c2 e4 18.♙d2 ♖d8 19.♙e3 c5 20.f4 (1-0, 39) **Ding,L** (2717)–**Zhao,J** (2608) Xinghua, 2014.

17.♞f5 ♙xf5 18.♙xf5 ♞d7 19.♙e4 c6 20.♖d1 ♞b6 21.♖d3 ♙c5 22.♙h4 g6 23.♙e4 ♙g7 24.♙g2 ♙xc4!? (24...♖f7=) 25.♖fd1 ♙xa2 26.g4 ♖f4 27.♙f5! ♞d5! 28.♖h3 ♖h8? (28...h5!∞) 29.e3!→ gxf5? 30.exf4⊕ 1-0 **Aronian,L**–**Ivanchuk,V** London, 2013.

14.a4 N

*Giacomin - Hamilton Rd.5.*



A novelty. White is daring Black to play 14...♙h8?! 15.♙h8? 16.♞d4 ♞xd4 17.cxd4 where White has sacrificed his pawn back for the Bishop pair and a small but enduring natural ad-

vantage. The move also discourages the common 14...♞e5 on account of 15.♞xe5 dxe5 when in addition to the normal 16.♙g5 Black must consider the interesting 16.♙c1!?.

14...♙h8?!

Although natural enough, White doesn't have a threat that justifies the King move. Black wants to play ...♞e4, but also wants to avoid any tricks with d5 checks.

15.a5!?

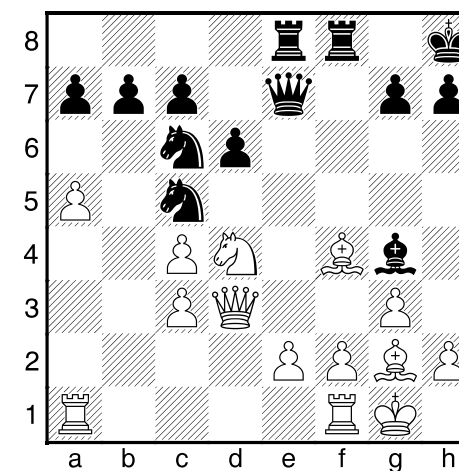
The dual purpose of 14.a4 is to

use a5 to soften Black's intended dark-squared fortress on the queenside and possibly allow for rook invasions on a7. Capturing on e2 remains risky for White.

15...♞e4 16.♞d4!

Black is now under severe pressure.

16...♞c5



The only reasonable move.

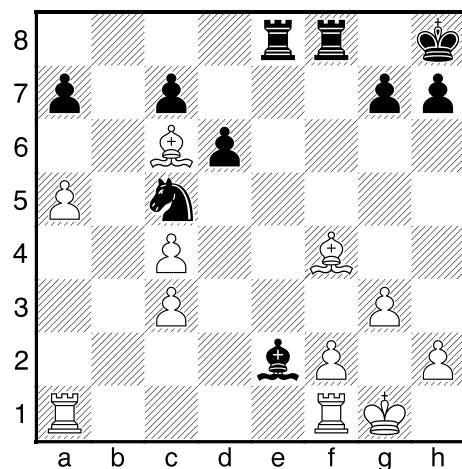
17.♞xc6?

Throwing away most of the advantage. Correct was 17.♙c2 when Black remains under more pressure.

17...bxc6 18.♙c2 ♙xe2 19.♙xe2 ♙xe2 20.♙xc6

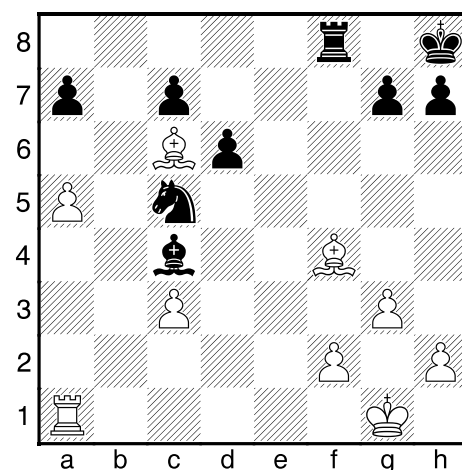






White doesn't mind giving back a pawn which, combined with a timely  $\text{e3}$  and advanced a-pawn, could create headaches for Black.

20... $\text{xf1}$  21. $\text{xe8}$   $\text{xc4}$   
22. $\text{c6}$



22... $\text{a6!}$

An excellent move. The position

appears as though White should have a small advantage... but it's very difficult to prove.

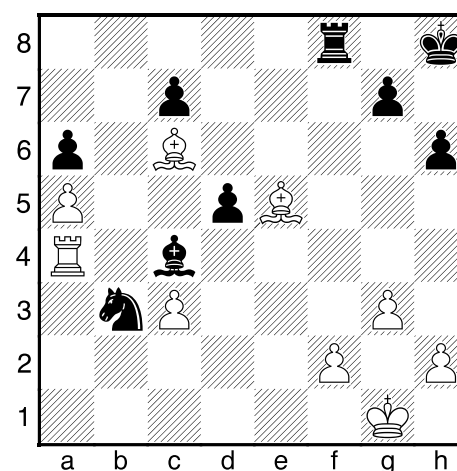
23. $\text{e3}$   $\text{b3}$

A good resource for Black limiting the scope of the White Rook.

24. $\text{a4}$   $\text{d5}$

Suddenly White's advantage has evaporated. If Black can achieve moves such as ... $\text{f6}$  and ... $\text{c5}$  White has to be concerned.

25. $\text{f4}$   $\text{h6}$  26. $\text{e5}$



Preventing ... $\text{f6}$  and planning to advance on the Kingside with  $\text{f4}$  and King mobilization.

26... $\text{d2}$

Acting quickly to force the draw.

27. $\text{g2}$

27. $\text{f4}$   $\text{f3+}$  28. $\text{g2}$   $\text{xe5}$  29. $\text{fxe5}$   $\text{f5}$  30. $\text{e6}$   $\text{e5}$  31. $\text{d7}$  is river-boat gambling. Instead, White accepts that Black can force a draw.

27... $\text{f1+}$  28. $\text{g1}$   $\text{c4}$  29. $\text{g2}$   $\text{f1+}$

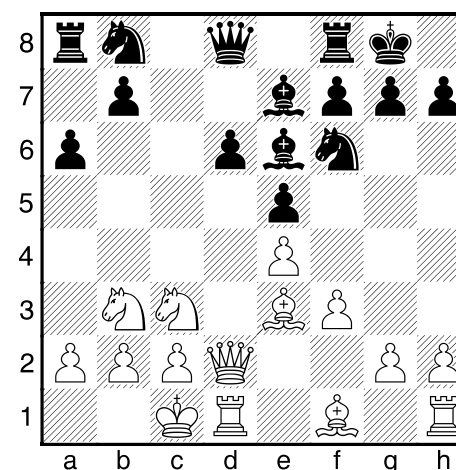
$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Song, Sam (2151)  
Doherty, Mike (1884)

B90

Maritime Open (4), 13.10.2014  
Notes by John Upper

1. $\text{e4}$   $\text{c5}$  2. $\text{f3}$   $\text{d6}$  3. $\text{d4}$   $\text{cxd4}$   
4. $\text{xd4}$   $\text{f6}$  5. $\text{c3}$   $\text{a6}$  6. $\text{f3}$   $\text{e5}$   
7. $\text{b3}$   $\text{e7}$  8. $\text{e3}$   $\text{e6}$  9. $\text{d2}$   
0-0 10.0-0-0



10... $\text{c7}$

The mainline has both sides playing to quickly kick away the  $\text{s}$  controlling  $\text{d5}$ : 10... $\text{bd7}$  11. $\text{g4}$   $\text{b5}$  12. $\text{g5}$   $\text{b4}$ :

13. $\text{gxf6}$   $\text{bxc3}$  14. $\text{xc3}$   $\text{xf6}$   
15. $\text{a5}$   $\text{c8}$  16. $\text{c6}$   $\text{e8}$   
17. $\text{xe7+}$   $\text{xe7}$  18. $\text{a5=}$  ( $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  
23) Anand, V – Grischuk, A Wijk  
aan Zee, 2011.

13. $\text{e2}$   $\text{e8}$  14. $\text{f4}$   $\text{a5}$  15. $\text{f5}$   $\text{a4=}$   
(0-1, 41) Caruana, F – Gelfand, B  
Tal Memorial Moscow, 2013.

10... $\text{a5!}$ ? is another popular Black try. It looks like Black loses a tempo (... $\text{a7-a6-a5}$ ), but if White stops the pawn with 11. $\text{a4}$  then Black gets to play ... $\text{b4}$ , which eyes  $\text{c2}$  and supports ... $\text{d5}$ . It also allows ... $\text{a6-c7}$ , again supporting  $\text{d5}$ . For example: 10... $\text{a5!}$ ? 11. $\text{a4}$ :

11... $\text{c6}$  12. $\text{g4}$   $\text{b4}$  13. $\text{g5}$   
(13. $\text{b1}$   $\text{c8}$  14. $\text{h4}$   $\text{d5}$  15. $\text{g5}$   
 $\text{e8}$  16. $\text{exd5}$   $\text{f5}$  17. $\text{c1}$   $\text{b6=}$   
18. $\text{h3}$   $\text{hx3}$  19. $\text{hx3}$   $\text{d6}$   
20. $\text{d1}$   $\text{b5}$  21. $\text{e2}$   $\text{xc2}$ ↑  
(0-1, 35) Erdogdu, M (2513)–  
Morozevich, A (2732) Bursa,  
2010.) 13... $\text{h5}$  14. $\text{g1}$   $\text{f5}$   
(0-1, 32) Vallejo Pons, F–  
Morozevich, A Novi Sad, 2009.  
11... $\text{a6!}$ ? 12. $\text{b5}$   $\text{c7}$

13.♙b6 ♖c8 14.♙xc7  
 ♖xc7 15.g4 ♜fd8 (0-1, 49)  
 Caruana,F–Topalov,V Zug,  
 2013.

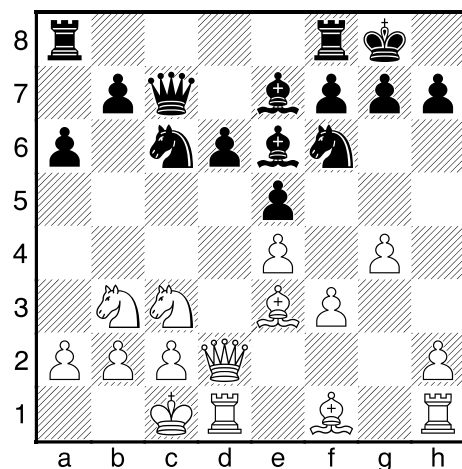
### 11.g4 ♘c6?!

The ♘c6 will cost Black time when White recaptures on d5 with a pawn. Black would be better to develop the ♘ to d7.

♞11...♜c8:

**12.g5** ♘h5 13.♙b1 ♘d7  
 14.♘d5 ♙xd5 15.exd5 a5  
 16.♙h3 a4 17.♘c1 ♘f4 (1/2-1/2,  
 32) So,W–Bu,X Mashhad,  
 2011.

**12.♞f2** ♘bd7 13.♙b1 b5 14.g5  
 ♘h5 15.♘d5 ♙xd5 16.♜xd5  
 ♜cb8 17.f4 ♘xf4 18.♙xf4 exf4  
 19.♞xf4 ♘b6 (19...♘e5) 20.♞d3  
 ♜c8 21.♜c3 (1/2-1/2, 27) Leko,P –  
 Ivanchuk,V Moscow, 2009.



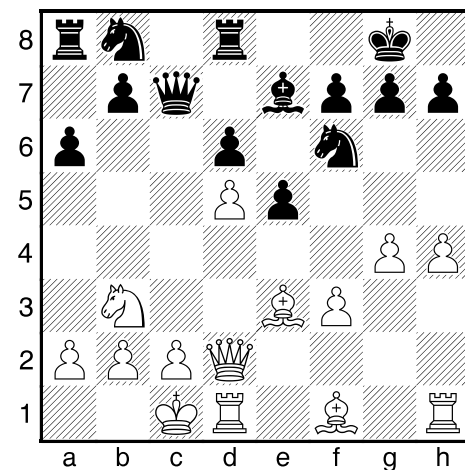
### 12.h4?!

This allows Black to break the bind. ♞12.g5! kicking away Black's support for ...d5. The game might continue: 12...♘h5 13.♘d5 ♙xd5 14.exd5 and the ♘ has nothing better than b8, since 14...♘a7?! heading for b5 is pointless, since on ...♘b5 White can kick it away with a4.

### 12...♜fd8

♞12...d5! 13.exd5 ♜fd8.

### 13.♘d5± ♙xd5 14.exd5 ♘b8



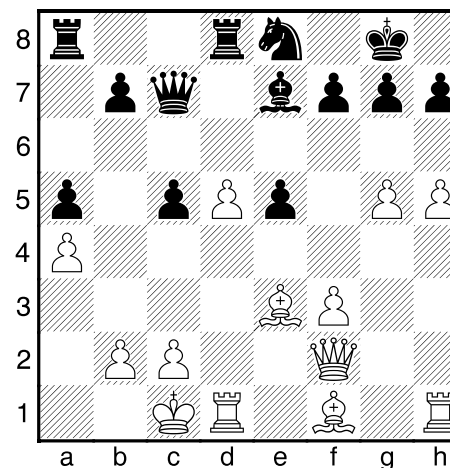
Black is in serious trouble: it's opposite-side castling with a pawn-storm race and White is up a few tempi: ...♘c6-b8, and the not-so-useful ...♜d8.

L2R: Joe Horton and Sam Song

### 15.h5 ♘bd7

15...a5!? 16.a4!±.

### 16.g5 ♘e8 17.♞f2 a5 18.a4 ♘c5 19.♘xc5 dxc5



### 20.♙d3?!

20.c4± kills queenside play and leaves White in total control on the kingside.

### 20...♜ac8?

20...c4! entails an exchange sac, but Black gets enough. More importantly, without this Black gets crushed with no play at all. 21.♙b6 ♖d7 22.♙xd8 ♜xd8 and Black will get either the ♖b2 or ♗g5:

**23.♙e4?** ♙xg5+ 24.♙b1 f5.

**23.♙xc4?!** ♖xa4.

**23.♙e2** ♖xa4.

### 21.g6!+- ♘d6

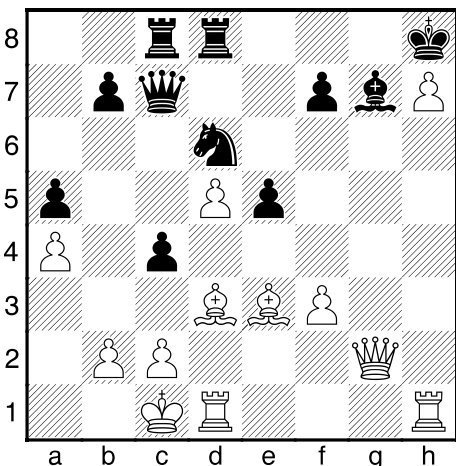
21...hxg6 22.hxg6 f6 (22...♘f6





23. ♖h2+-) 23. ♖h8+ #3.

22. gxh7+ ♔h8 23. ♖g2 c4  
24. h6! ♕f6 25. hxg7+ ♕xg7



26. ♖dg1

It's slower and much harder to calculate, but 26. ♖xg7+ also wins: 26... ♔xg7 27. ♖dg1+ ♔f6 (27... ♔h8 28. ♕g5 ♖e8 29. ♕xd8 and White wins the ♖ or mates.) 28. ♕g5+ ♔g7 29. ♕e7+ ♔h8 30. ♕f6#.

26... f5 27. ♕h6 ♕xh6+ 28. ♖xh6

There's no good defence to ♖g8 mating.

1-0

Notes by George Hensel

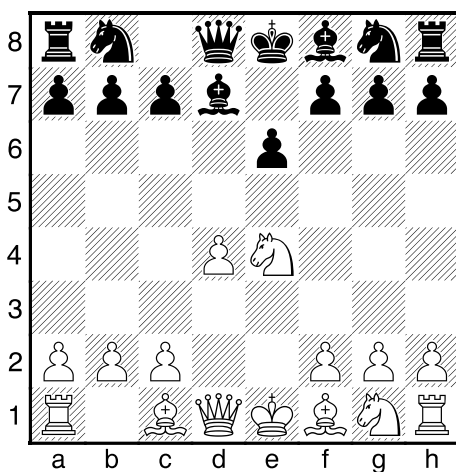
Hensel, George (1612)

Cashin, Ken (1740)

C10

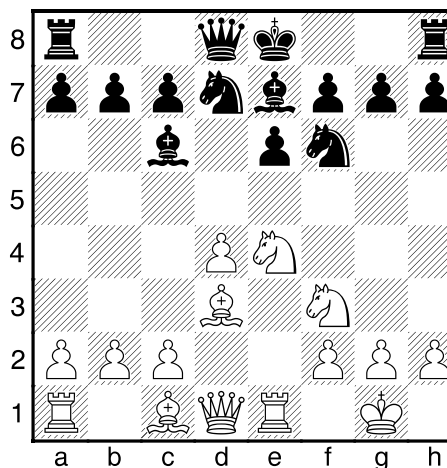
Maritime Open Saint Thomas University, Fred (5), 13.10.2014

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖d2 dxe4  
4. ♖xe4 ♕d7



This is the first time I've ever faced this line, the "Fort Knox", where the thematic ... c5 is delayed for several moves.

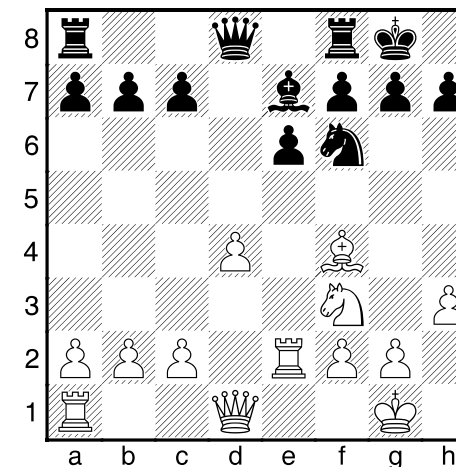
5. ♕d3 ♕c6 6. ♖f3 ♖d7 7. 0-0  
♖gf6 8. ♖e1 ♕e7



9. h3

editor - Against the Fort Knox, White usually plays to keep the ♕-pair by denying Black the chance to exchange twice on e4, e.g. 9. ♖g3! 0-0 10. c3 ♖e8 11. ♕c2 (11. ♕f4 ♕d5 12. c4 ♕xf3 13. ♖xf3 c6 14. ♖ad1± White has the bishop pair and more space in a position he can open, but (0-1, 65) *Kamsky, G-Karpov, A Monte Carlo (rapid), 1996.*) 11... ♕f8 12. ♕g5 h6 13. ♕f4 ♕d5 14. ♖e5 c5 15. ♖d3 ♖xe5 16. dxe5! c4 17. ♖e2 ♖h7 18. ♖g4 ♔h8 19. ♖h5 g6 20. ♖e3! gxh5 21. ♖xh5 ♖e7 22. ♖g3 ♖d7 23. ♕xh7 1-0 Zhao, J (2589)– Wang, Y (2706) Xinghua, 2013. (23. ♕xh7 ♔xh7 24. ♖g4+-).

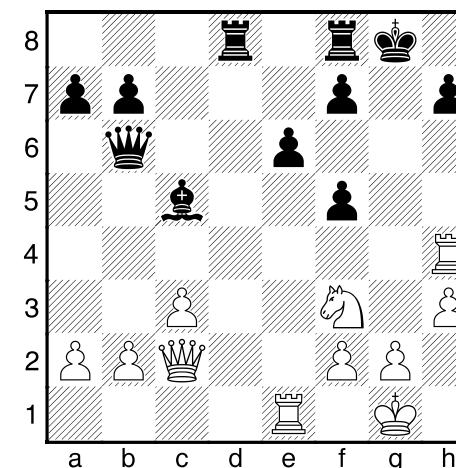
9... 0-0 10. ♕f4 ♕xe4 11. ♕xe4  
♖xe4 12. ♖xe4 ♖f6 13. ♖e2



13... c6

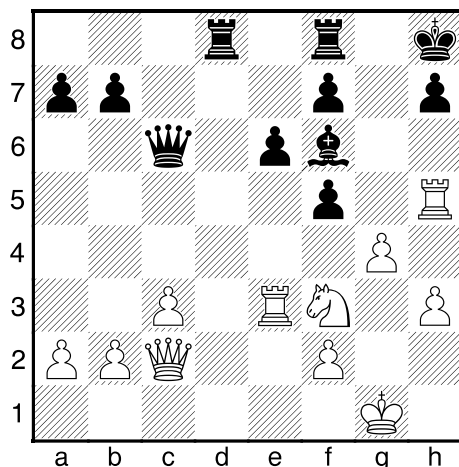
Now 13. ...c5 should be played.

14. c3 ♖b6 15. ♖c2 ♖ad8  
16. ♖ae1 c5 17. ♕e5 cxd4  
18. ♕xd4 ♕c5 19. ♕xf6 gxf6  
20. ♖e4 f5 21. ♖h4



21... ♕e7 22. ♖h5 ♕f6 23. g4 ♖c6  
24. ♖e3 ♔h8

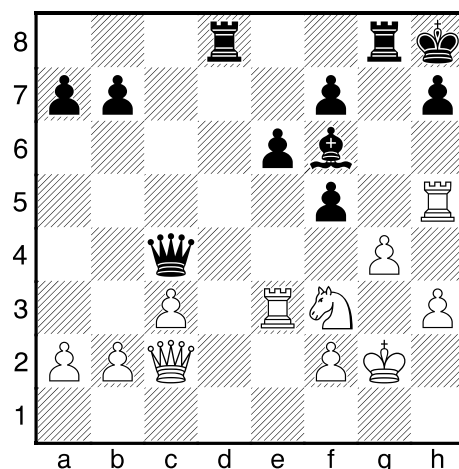




25. ♔f1?

Overlooking Black's next move. I was expecting 25. ♖a6+ 26. c4 where 26... ♗xa2? would be risky for Black, however...

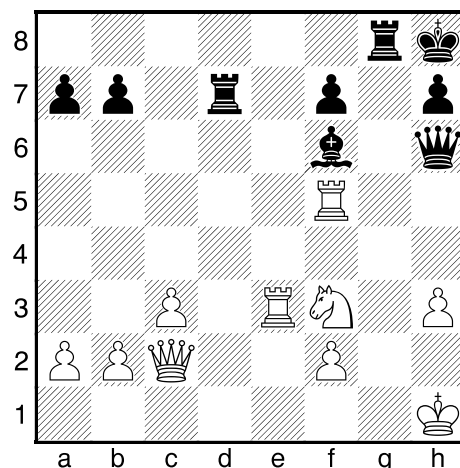
25... ♗c4+ 26. ♔g2 ♖g8



...and suddenly White's King is exposed to dangerous threats along g-file, first rank and b8-h2 diagonal: 27. ... ♖xg4 28. hxg4

♗xg4+ and 29. ... ♗xh5 is threatened.

27. ♔h2 ♗f4+ 28. ♔h1 ♖d7  
29. gxf5 exf5 30. ♖xf5 ♗h6



31. ♘e5?

31. ♘h2 is forced (a difficult move to find).

31... ♙xe5 32. ♖fxe5 ♗c6+?

Missing the simple 32... ♗g7 which wins the Rook on e5 as 33. ♖g3 is forced to avoid getting mated.

33. ♗e4 ♖d1+ 34. ♔h2

of course not 34. ♖e1? ♖xe1+ winning the pinned ♗e4.

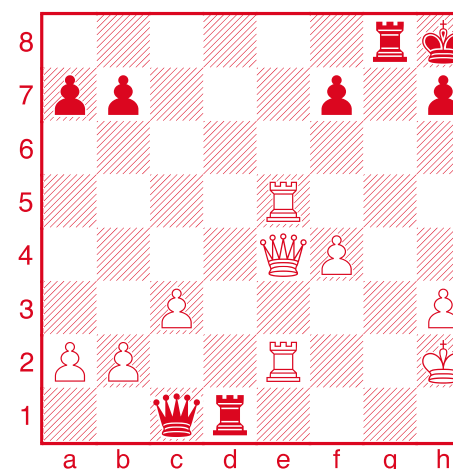
34... ♗d6 35. f4

White has no choice: he must break the pin, however he must now rely on pieces to avoid getting mated

35... ♗d2+ 36. ♖e2

Around this move, not realizing he had less than 5 minutes left on his clock, my opponent left the room and returned with about 90 seconds until time control!

36... ♗c1



37. ♖f5

Guarding against the diabolical threat 37... ♖h1+! 38. ♗xh1 ♗xf4 mate, while also vacating e5 to set up my own mating threat against the Black King.

editor – ♖f5 and ♖g5 are the only moves which don't lose.

37. ♖g5 ♖h1+! 38. ♔g3 ♖xg5+=.

37. ♖e8?? ♖h1+ 38. ♗xh1 ♗xf4#.

37... ♖dd8?

editor – this threatens ... ♗g1#, but White's attack hits first.

editor – 37... ♖d5!? is a fancy way to stop ♗e5+ while threatening ♗g1, but White is OK after: 38. ♖g5!

editor – Black's trickiest (and so best) defence is: 37... f6! and White has only one move that doesn't lose: 38. ♖g5 (38. ♖xf6?? shields the Black ♔, so 38... ♖d2!-+ and there's no way to defend the ♖e2 and mate on g1.) 38... f6! 39. ♗e5+ ♖g7 40. ♗e8+ ♖g8 41. ♗e5+=.

38. ♗e5+- ♖g7 39. ♖g2 ♖dg8  
40. ♖xg7

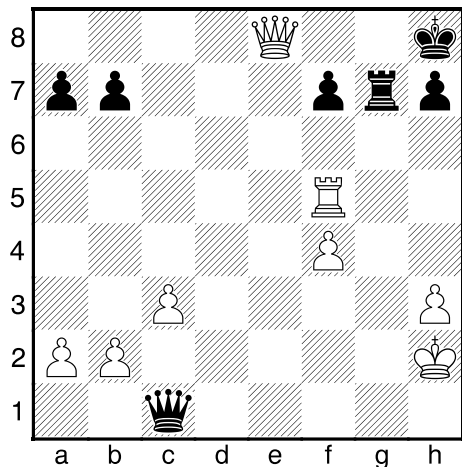
I thought 40. ♖xf7 was mating, but decided to play it safe.

40... ♖xg7 41. ♗e8+





# Chess Canada 2014.11



Repeating the position to ensure time control was reached, I had seen 41.♖g5 wins but wanted additional time to avoid throwing away the win.

41...♖g8 42.♔e5+ ♖g7 43.♖g5 ♔d2+ 44.♔g3 ♔d3+ 45.♔h4

1-0

**Notes by Fred McKim**

**Cui, Cynthia (1285)**

**McKim, Fred (1873)**

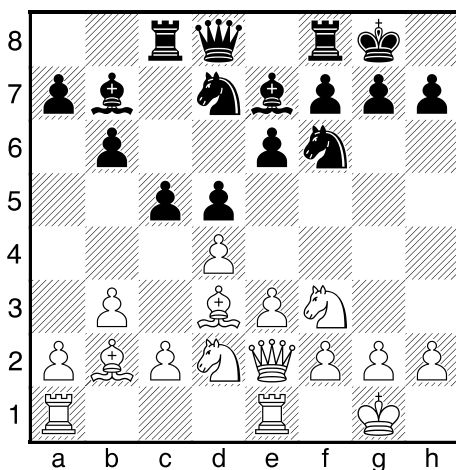
D05

Maritime Open (5), 13.10.2014

My young opponent had already defeated an 1800 player in an earlier round. I was lucky to have drawn her older brother a year ago, and they both had been

getting extensive testing from FM Robert Hamilton since then. While I ultimately prevailed, I felt her play was worthy of publication, and with a bit of luck the game could have gone in her favour.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 c5 3.e3 e6  
4.♙d3 d5 5.b3 ♘bd7 6.♘bd2  
b6 7.♙b2 ♙b7 8.0-0 ♙e7 9.♔e2  
0-0 10.♖fe1 ♖c8



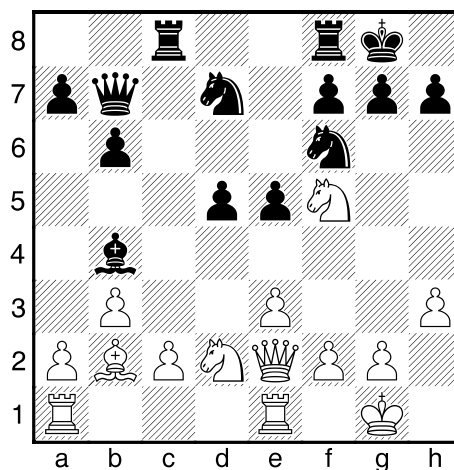
11.♙a6? ♔c7?

11...♙xa6 12.♔xa6 cxd4 winning the c-pawn.

editor – 11...♙xa6 is very good for Black, but unless you can see up to move 16 it will just seem like the players are trading the c2 and a7 pawns. Best play continues: 13.♙xd4 (13.♘xd4?

e5+) 13...♖xc2 14.♔xa7 e5  
15.♙xe5 ♘xe5 16.♘xe5 ♙b4♠  
(16...♖xd2? 17.♘c6±).

12.♙xb7 ♔xb7 13.h3 cxd4  
14.♘xd4 e5 15.♘f5 ♙b4

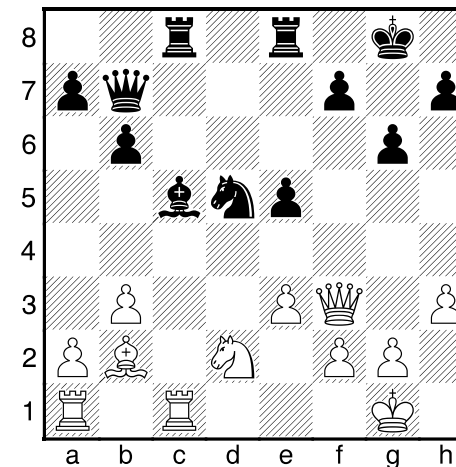


16.♖ec1

Better was c3 followed by b4.

editor – again, Fred is right, but there are some longish lines both sides have to see: 16.c3 ♙xc3 (16...♙c5 17.b4 g6♠±) 17.♘e7+ (17.♘d6 ♔a8 18.♘xc8 ♙xb2 19.♘e7+ ♔h8 20.♖ad1±) 17...♔h8 18.♘xc8 ♙xb2 19.♘d6 ♔b8 20.♖ab1±.

16...g6 17.c3 ♙c5 18.♘h6+ ♔g7 19.♘g4 ♖fe8 20.♘xf6 ♘xf6 21.c4 ♔g8 22.cxd5 ♘xd5 23.♔f3

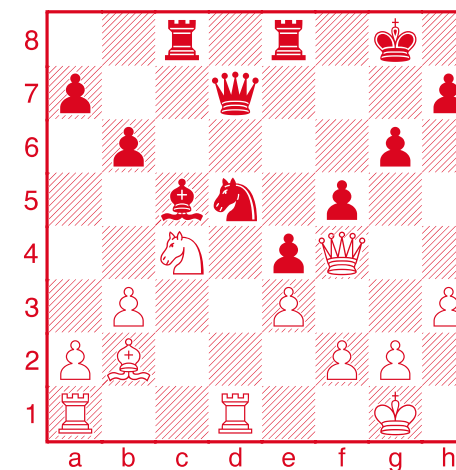


Missing ♘e4 with an advantage.

23...♔d7 24.♖d1

24.♘e4 f5 25.♘xc5 bxc5 26.♖d1 e4 27.♔e2 with the idea of ♔c4, ♖d2, ♖ad1 is close to winning.

24...f5♠ 25.♘c4= e4 26.♔f4?

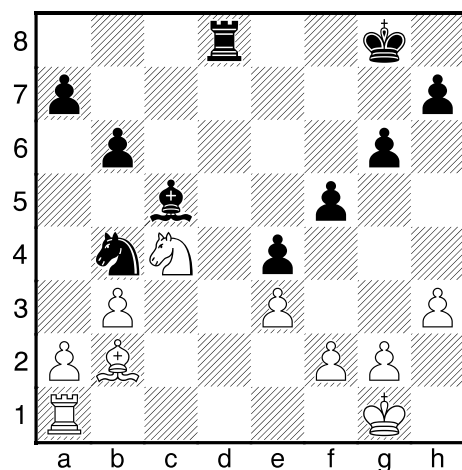


26...♔e6?

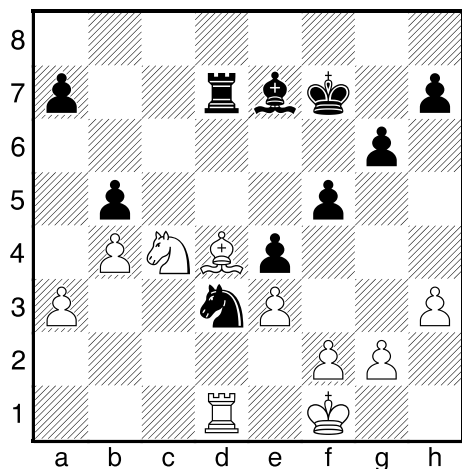
26...b5! This hard-to-find move

wins material in all variations:  
27.♘e5 (27.♘a3 ♘xf4 28.♖xd7  
♘d3-+; 27.♘a5 ♙b4-+) 27...♙e6  
eventually playing ...♙d6 winning  
the Knight.

27.♙e5 ♙xe5 28.♙xe5 ♖cd8  
29.♙b2 ♘b4 30.♖xd8 ♖xd8



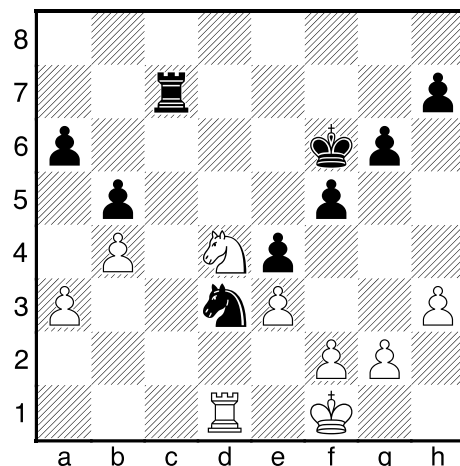
31.a3 ♘d3 32.♖d1 ♖d7 33.b4  
♙e7 34.♙d4 ♙f7 35.♙f1  
b5? =



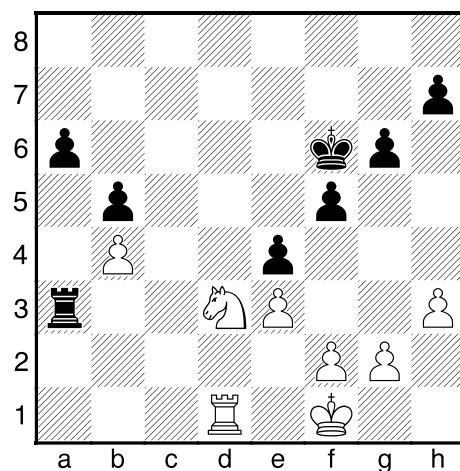
36.♘d2

36.♖xd3! bxc4! 37.♖c3 ♖c7=.

36...♙f6 37.♙xf6 ♙xf6 38.♘b3  
♖c7 39.♘d4 a6



40.♘b3 ♖c3 41.♘c5 ♖xa3  
42.♘xd3



42...exd3

42...♖xd3? 43.♖xd3 exd3 44.♙e1

♙e5 45.♙d2 Black will be left  
with a positional edge, but likely  
holdable for White with good  
play.

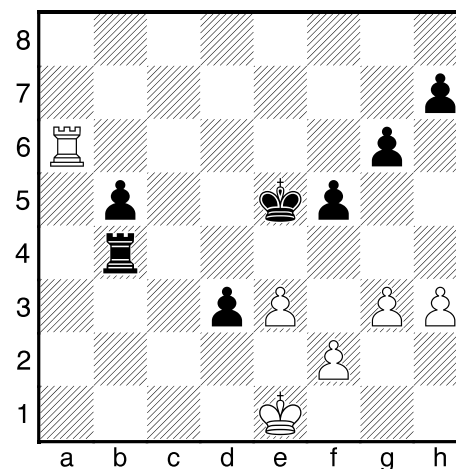
43.♙e1 ♖b3?

♘43...♙e5.

44.g3? -+

44.♖a1

44...♙e5 45.♖a1 ♖xb4 46.♖xa6



46...♙d5?

An incredible blunder, simply  
46...♖b2 keeps it simple.

47.♖a3?

47.♙d2 keeps the game inter-  
esting.

47...♙c4 48.♖a2 ♖b1+ 49.♙d2

♖f1

0-1

**Notes by Adam Dorrance**

**Oussedik, Elias (2278)**

**Dorrance, Adam (2239)**

*D10*

*Maritime Open (5), 13.10.2014*

My opponent in the fifth round was Elias Oussedik. We were on board 1, tied for the lead, with 3½/4 each. There were a number of people at 3/4, so it was important to get at least half a point in this game to keep your hopes alive of winning the tournament. Anything extra would be a bonus. I knew this would be a tough match since Elias is the reigning Maritime Open champion and one of the best players in the Maritimes.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3  
♙f5

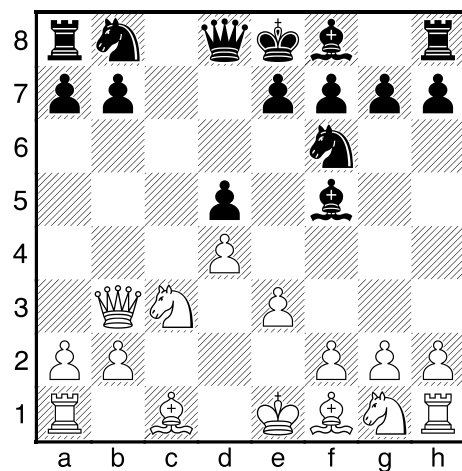
In last year's match, he crushed me in a Semi-Slav, so I wanted to change things up with 4... ♙f5.

5.cxd5 cxd5 6.♙b3



**Chess Canada  
2014.11**





6...♙c8

*editor* – Black has an exciting gambit here, nicknamed "The Glasgow Kiss", which is a Scottish euphemism for a head butt:

6...♘c6!? 7.♙xb7 ♙d7 8.♙b3

♙b8 9.♙d1

e5 (½-½, 53)

Gerzhoy, L-  
Wang, R Mon-  
treal (Can  
Open), 2014.

7.♘f3 ♘c6

(see photo)

8.♘e5 e6

9.♙b5 ♙d7

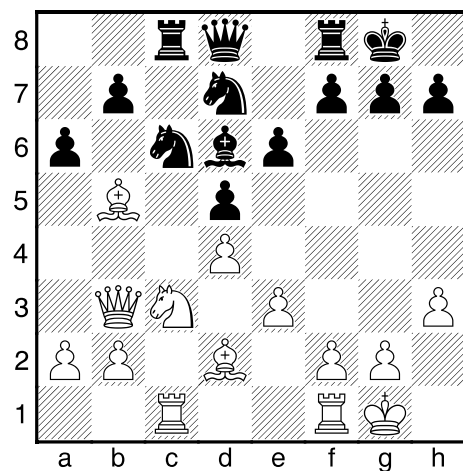
10.♘xd7 ♘xd7

11.♙d2 ♙d6

12.0-0 0-0

13.♞ac1 ♞c8

14.h3 a6

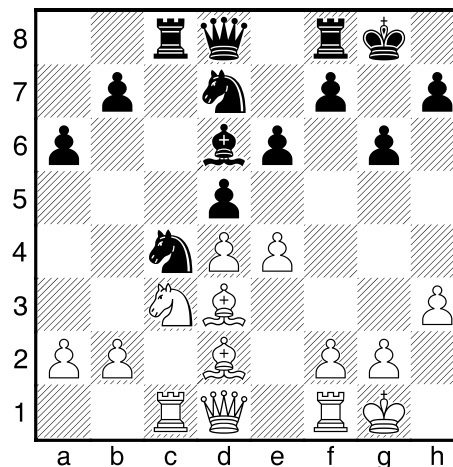


15.♙d3

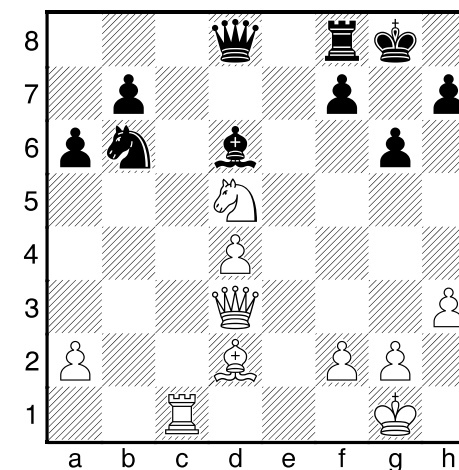
After 15.♙xc6 I can recapture the bishop with my rook, without worry of dropping my b-pawn, because of a nice queen trap:

15...♞xc6 16.♙xb7? ♞b6 17.♙a7  
♙b8 18.♙a8 ♙h2+.

15...g6 16.♙d1 ♘a5 17.e4 ♘c4



19.♙c2 ♘xd3 20.♙xd3 exd5  
21.♘xd5 ♞xc1 22.♞xc1 ♘b6



23.♙a5?

A better alternative would've been to just move the knight back and then I would've been stuck defending for the rest of the game.

♘23.♘e3 ♙f4 24.♙a5 ♙d6.

23...♙g5!

This was my whole idea of all my previous moves. My queen attacks his rook and knight and his best move is to lose a pawn, which is what he did.

24.♙e3 ♙xd5 25.♙xb6 ♙xa2

26.♙e4 ♙e6

18.exd5

Another option could've been, for example, 18.♙xc4 dxc4

19.e5 ♙e7

20.♙h6

♞e8 21.♙f3

b5 22.a3

♘b6

23.♞fd1.

18...♘xb2

*Oussedik - Dorrance*  
Rd.5, move 8.





**thanks**

**Fred McKim** for the photos and report, *and* for getting the players to annotate their games!

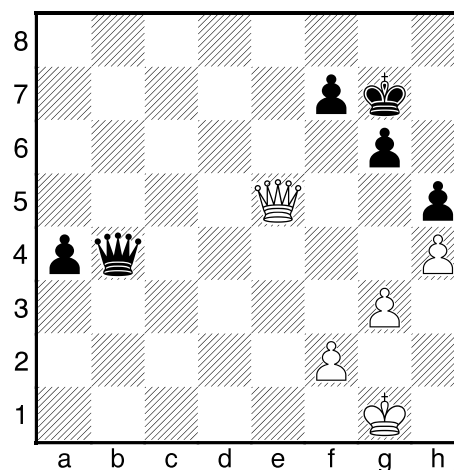
**Adam Dorrance, Robert Hamilton, George Hensel, Fred McKim** for annotating their games.

**2014 Maritime Open Champion  
Adam Dorrance**

*Holds the Colpitts Trophy*

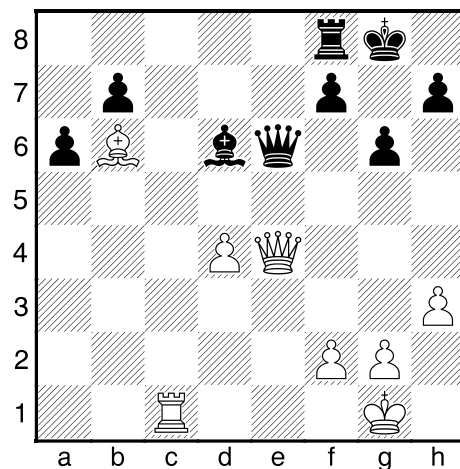
a5 37.♖d4.

36...♖a1 37.♙c1 ♖xb1 38.♙xb1  
♙c3 39.♙a2 a5 40.♙a4 ♙b4  
41.♙a1+ ♔g8 42.♙e5 a4  
43.♙e8+ ♔g7 44.♙e5+

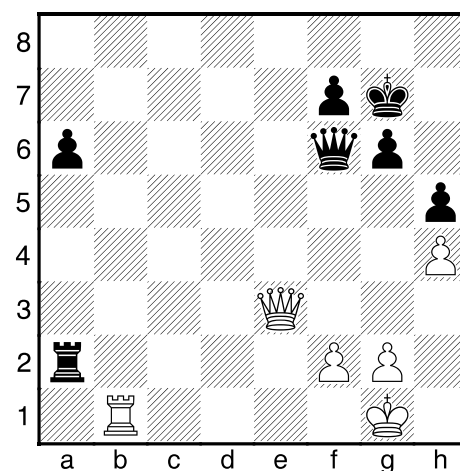


44...♔h7 45.♙f6 ♙b3  
46.♔h2 a3 47.g4 ♙e6  
48.♙a1 ♙d6+ 49.♔g1  
hxg4 50.♙a2 ♙d1+  
51.♔g2 ♙f3+ 52.♔h2  
♔g8 53.h5 g3+  
54.fxg3 ♙xh5+  
55.♔g2 ♙a5  
56.♙a1 a2 57.♔h2  
g5 58.♔g2 g4

0-1



27.♙f3 ♔h2+ 28.♔xh2 ♙xb6  
29.♙e4 ♖d8 30.♔g1 ♙xd4  
31.♙xb7 ♙f6 32.♙a7 ♔g7 33.h4  
h5 34.♖b1 ♖d2 35.♙e3 ♖a2



36.g3

At this point Elias was in time pressure and was trying to get 40 moves in the time control. I think keeping his rook on would've given him slightly better chances of holding; e.g. 36.♖b4



**Chess Canada  
2014.11**



# Aurora Fall Open



by CFC Newsfeed Team



Chess Canada  
2014.11

The 2014 Aurora Fall Open was held October 4-5, and attracted 81 players.

## Open Section

The Open section had *nine* masters, including one GM and one IM. It was won by **IM Razvan Preotu** with 4.5/5, 1/2 point ahead of GM Bator Sambuev, who he defeated in round 3, and a full point ahead of Michael Song, who held Razvan to a draw in round 4 but lost to Bator in round 5.

## U2000

Won by **Constance Wang** with 4/5, 1/2 point ahead of Rob Gashgarian, who she defeated in the last round, and Andrei Korcsak.

## U1600

Had a three-way tie for first between Manojh Sivapathasundaram, William Hall, and Max Chen.

## U1300

Had a *four*-way tie for first with 4/5 between Catherine Li, Evan Kilroy, Robert Jinyu Du, and Alireza Khanahmad Doulabi. The result could hardly have been more fair as each of the top four finishers drew two games

against the others.

The next big event at the Aurora Chess Club is IM Razvan Preotu's first-ever simul, on March 30.

## games

*Chess Canada* has three games from the 2014 Aurora Fall Open: the two which follow first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed. The third — between the top two seeds, GM Sambuev and IM Preotu — appears in Razvan's report earlier in this issue.

The following game and notes first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed:

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/493>

**Song, Michael (2367)**  
**Dougherty, Michael (2293)**

A01

*Aurora Fall Open (3.2),  
04.10.2014*

**Notes by Felix Dumont**

This week's GOTW features a nice win by Canada's newest FM, Michael Song, in a rare opening (1.b3).

White (Michael Song) played with great accuracy throughout the game and left his opponent very little opportunity.

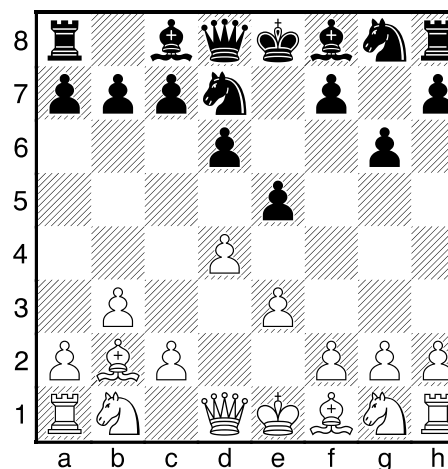
## 1.b3

Larsen's opening, which is often underestimated.

1...e5 2.♖b2 d6 3.e3 g6 4.d4

Also possible is 4.f4 ♖g7 5.♘f3.

## 4...♘d7



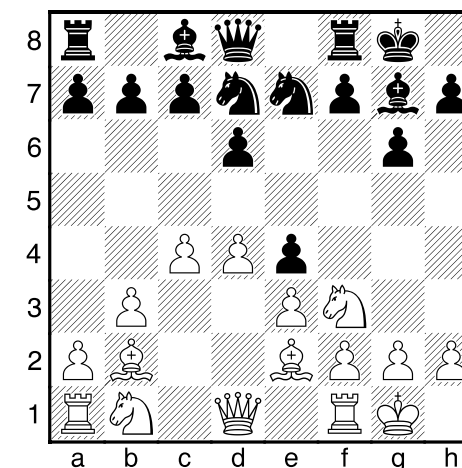
## 5.♘f3

Another interesting variation is 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.♘f3 ♖g7 7.♖c4 where Black should play 7...♘h6 (7...♘gf6? 8.♘xe5)

## 5...♖g7 6.♖e2

The most logical (and frequent) continuation is 6.c4 ♘e7 7.♘c3 0-0 8.♖e2 and although White has more space, Black is solid and the position is roughly equal.

## 6...♘e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 e4?!

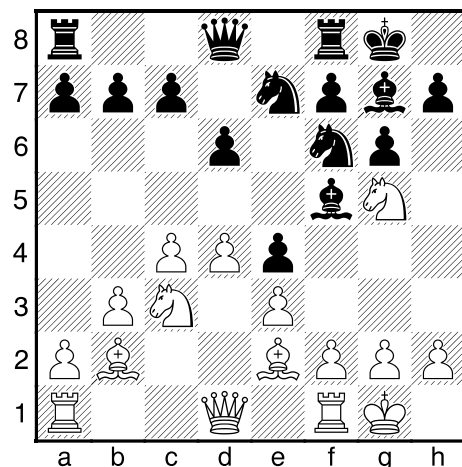


Black probably thought that playing ♘g5 was too risky for White.

## 9.♘g5!?

Objectively a good move, but White has to be extremely careful not to lose the knight or have it taken on h3 by Black's bishop.

## 9...♘f6 10.♘c3 ♖f5

**11.f3**

White must have seen this plan when he played  $\text{Ng5}$ , as else the  $\text{g5}$  knight will be chased from its position before it has the time to do anything useful.

In a pretty similar manner, White could have played  $\text{g4}$  right away:  $11.\text{g4}$   $\text{h6}$   $12.\text{gxf5}$   $\text{hgx5}$   $13.\text{fxg6}$   $\text{Nxc6}$   $14.\text{Qc2}$   $\text{Qe7}$   $15.\text{Ch1}$ ;  $11.\text{Qc2}$   $\text{Re8}$  and it's hard for White to justify  $\text{Ng5}$ .

*editor* – It looks risky to take the  $\text{e4}$ , and it is bad:  $12.\text{Ncxe4}$   $\text{Nxe4}$   $13.\text{Nxe4}$   $\text{d5!}$   $14.\text{f3!}$

**14.cxd5?**  $\text{Nxd5}$  and White has to give back too much:

$15.\text{f3}$   $\text{Nxe3-+}$

$15.\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Qe7-+}$

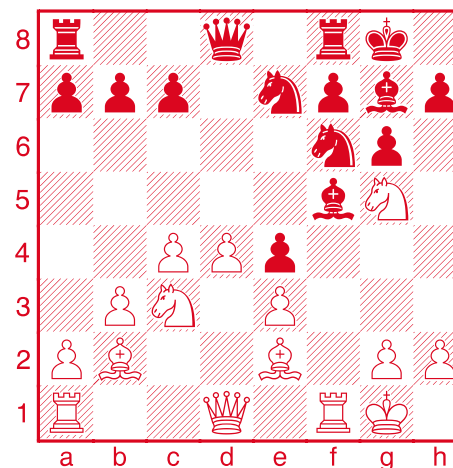
$15.\text{Qd3}$   $\text{Nb4-+}$ .

**14...dxe4**  $15.\text{fxe4}$   $\text{Qd7}$  White's two extra center pawns are not enough comp for the  $\text{N}$ .

**11...d5?**

The logical move that justifies White playing  $\text{f3}$  instead of  $\text{g4}$ .

Although it may seem counterintuitive for Black to give such a strong center to White, taking on  $\text{f3}$  was the best move:  $11...\text{exf3}$   $12.\text{Qxf3}$   $\text{Nc6}$   $13.\text{Re1}$   $\text{Re8}$   $14.\text{Qd2}$  and the position is pretty much equal, thanks to Black's active pieces.

**12.fxe4 dxe4****13.g4!**

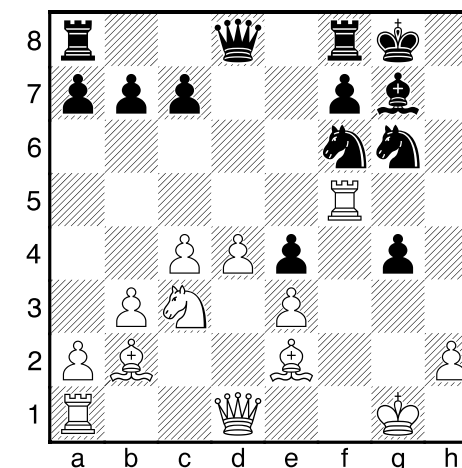
Also worth considering was  $13.\text{Rf4!?$   $\text{h6}$   $14.\text{Ncxe4}$   $\text{Nxe4}$   $15.\text{Nxe4}$   $\text{g5}$   $16.\text{Rxf5}$   $\text{Nxf5}$   $17.\text{Qd2}$  Where White has a very

strong position, thanks to the central pawns and pair of bishops. However, while this position is promising for White, there is no need to take such a risk.

**13...h6**

**14.gxf5 hxg5 15.fxg6 Nxc6?!**

$15...\text{fxg6}$  leaves Black with two ugly pawns on the  $\text{g}$ -file, but at least White cannot easily penetrate Black's position as in the game.

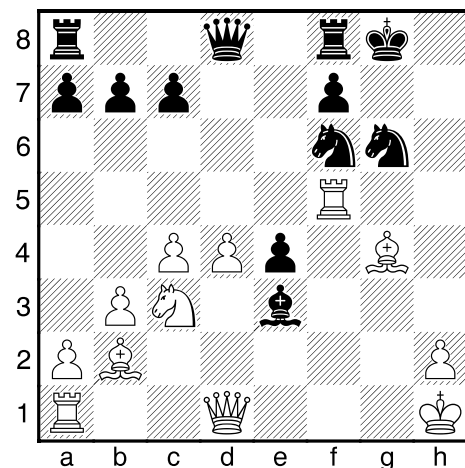
**16.Rf5 g4****17.Qxc4**

Not a bad move in itself, but missing a winning move:  $17.\text{Qe1!}$  with the plan of playing  $\text{Qf2}$  and  $\text{Rf1}$ . Black has no efficient way of protecting the  $\text{f}$ -file. He can play  $...a5$  and  $...Ra6$ , but White's position will be simply overwhelming.

*Michael Song took the only 1/2 point off the winner.*



17...♙h6 18.♔h1 ♙xe3



White is still better, but some work is definitely needed to win the game. White has a strong potential diagonal for the bishop and Black's king is still somewhat in danger, so White should try to use these two advantages.

24.♖f1 ♜d7 25.d5 f5?

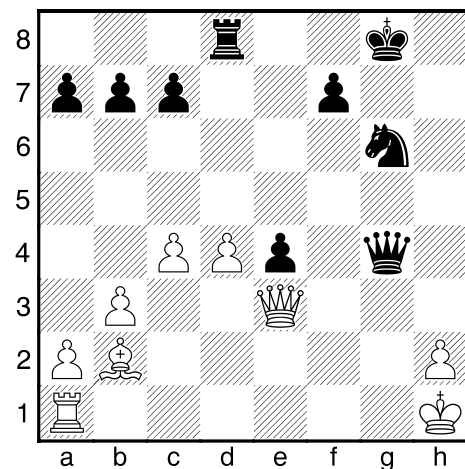
Protecting the e4 pawn, but removing the last pawn protecting the Black king.

An odd move like 25...♔h7 would have been the only way not to lose the game right away.

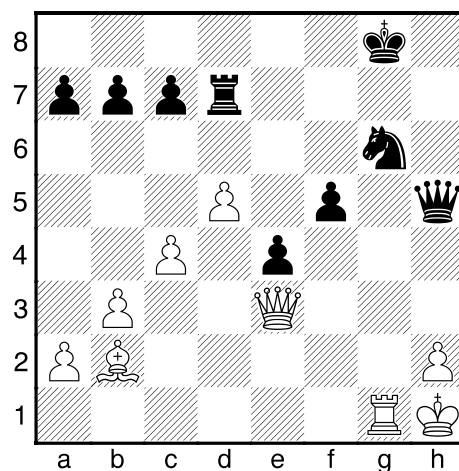
19.♘d5?

Effectively removing a defender (the f6 knight) but losing precious tempi. ♖19.♙e2! ♙xd4 20.♜d1 c5 21.♘e4+-.

19...♘xd5 20.♜xd5 ♙h4 21.♙e2 ♜ad8 22.♜xd8 ♜xd8 23.♙xe3 ♙xg4



26.♖g1 ♙h5



27.♖g5

Black has no way to protect everything and will either lose the knight or the e and f-pawns.

27...♙d1+

27...♙h6 28.♙g3 ♔h7 29.♜xf5

27...f4 28.♙xf4 ♙d1+ 29.♔g2 ♙c2+ 30.♙f2

28.♔g2 ♜h7 29.♜xg6+ ♔f7

30.♖f6+ ♔e8 31.♜e6+ ♔d7

32.♙e5 ♜h4 33.♖f6 ♜g4+

34.♙g3 ♙c2+ 35.♙f2 ♜xg3+

36.hxg3

1-0

**Chernik, Dmitry (1994)**

**Hua, Eugene (2029)**

B01

*Aurora Fall Open (5.6),*

*04.10.2014*

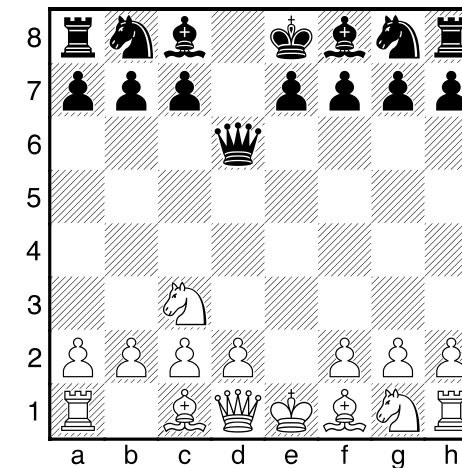
*Notes by Keith MacKinnon*

11-year-old Eugene Hua won a nice game with the Black pieces in the final round of the Aurora Fall Open in October to finish off a successful tournament with 3/5. Have a look, and take note of the pins that both players were under late in the game!

**1.e4 d5**

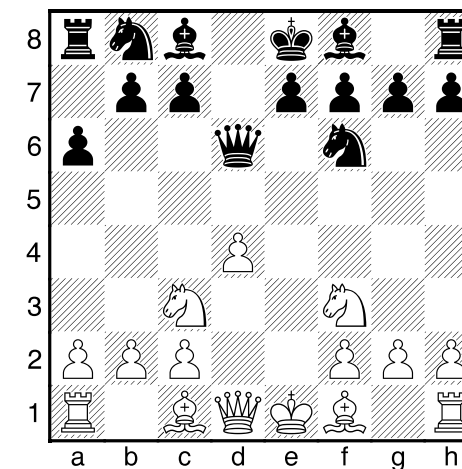
Today, let's look at a Scandinavian Defense.

2.exd5 ♙xd5 3.♘c3 ♙d6



Still not quite as popular as 3...♙a5 but strongly endorsed by GM Dzindzichashvili and the move that I've played a number of times in tournament games.

4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 a6!?



Double edged. The risk Black runs in this opening is a lack of



development.  
5...c6 is the  
main line.

### 6.h3

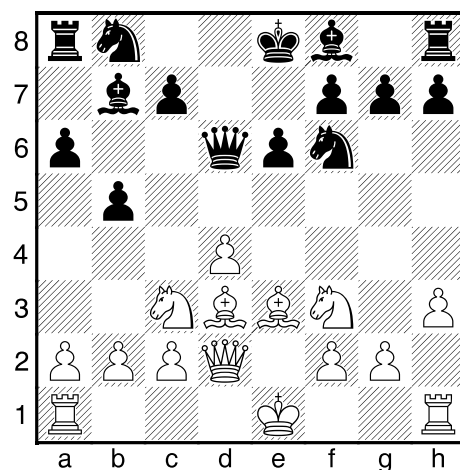
Very restrained  
and not the  
most critical.

**6.g3** scores  
heavily and  
makes a lot of  
sense. With 5...  
a6, Black of-  
ten tries to play  
...b5 and ...♗b7.  
This works well  
against a white  
Bishop on c4,  
but not so well against the fian-  
chetto. White scores a com-  
manding 66% in the following  
line: 6...b5 7.♗g2 ♗b7 8.0-0 e6  
9.♗f4 ♖b6 10.a4 and White's  
development and space advan-  
tage is clear.

**6.♗d3 ♗g4 7.h3 ♗h5 8.♞e4**  
♞xe4 9.♗xe4±.

**6...b5 7.♗d3 ♗b7 8.♗e3 e6**  
9.♖d2

*Eugene Hua*



White's opening play is a bit  
scattered in that he seems to be  
switching plans. Black should  
have full equality already.

**9...♗e7**

9...♞bd7:

**10.0-0 c5!**

**10.0-0-0 b4!?** 11.♞e2 ♗e7

12.♗f4 ♖b6±.

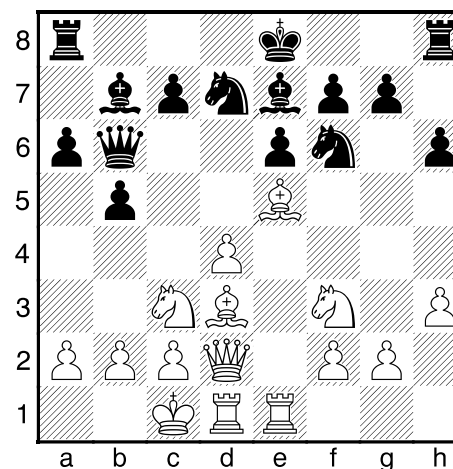
**10.0-0-0 h6**

Perhaps prophylaxis against  
♞g5-e4.

**11.♗f4 ♖b6 12.♗e5?!**

Wilfully stepping into range of  
Black's b8 knight wasn't the cor-  
rect decision. 12.♞he1=.

**12...♞bd7 13.♞he1**



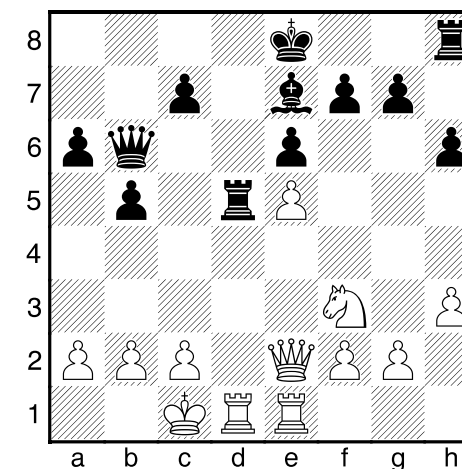
**13...♞xe5**

13...♞d8 if Black wanted to keep  
up the pressure, this was pos-  
sibly preferable. ...c5 next.

**14.dxe5 ♞d5 15.♞xd5 ♗xd5**

**16.♗e4 ♞d8 17.♗xd5 ♞xd5**

**18.♖e2**



White has exchanged a number  
of pieces in the hopes of reach-  
ing a playable endgame. Unfor-  
tunately for him, Black's Bishop  
dominates the Knight, and it will  
be a long hard defense.

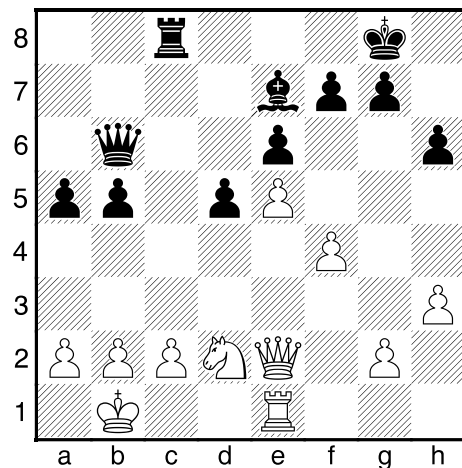
**18...c6 19.♞xd5?!**

Not really a mistake, but it  
doesn't make White's life any  
easier. Now Black can exert  
pressure along the c-file as op-  
posed to the mass exchanges  
that would have occurred on the  
d-file had White tried to double  
his rooks there.

**19...cxd5 20.♞d2 0-0 21.♖b1**  
**a5 22.f4 ♞c8**







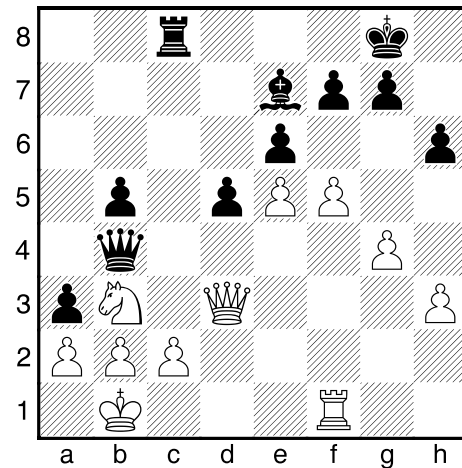
### 23.g4 ♖c5?!

23...a4!→ and Black will infiltrate on the dark-squares after the inevitable ...a3. If White tries to stop this plan with 24.a3?? b4 25.axb4 ♗xb4-+ with a big attack on the b-file.

### 24.♖d3?!

24.♗b3! may have allowed White to hold on 24...♖b6 25.♖e3 and the White controls key squares. f4-f5 is in the air after Black declines the Queen exchange.

24...a4 25.♖f1 a3 26.f5 ♖b4  
27.♗b3



### 27...♖c4?!

Gives White another chance to spice things up with concrete play. Instead, 27...axb2 makes White's life miserable.



Dmitry Chernik

### 28.♖f3?!

28.fxe6 fxe6 29.♗d4 ♖b4 (29...axb2 30.♖xc4 bxc4 31.c3 ♗a3 32.♗xe6 ♖e8 33.♗d4 ♖xe5 34.♗c2=) 30.♖xa3 ♖xd4 31.♖xe7 when Black needs to be careful and allow the draw that arises after, for example, 31...♖xe5 32.♖b7 ♖f8 33.♖xf8+ ♗xf8.

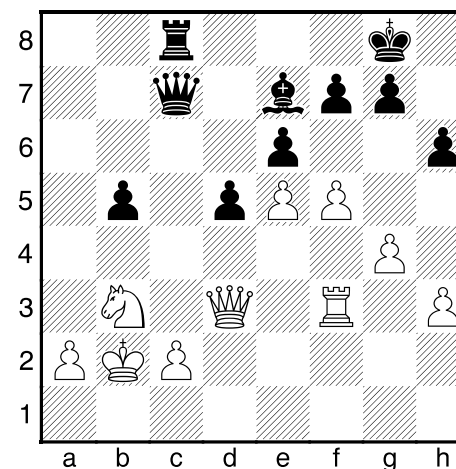
### 28...axb2?!

Not quite the right move order. 28...♖c7 eyeing the e5 pawn, but more importantly, keeping the Queens on the board.

### 29.♗xb2?

29.fxe6 fxe6 30.♗d4=.

### 29...♖c7!



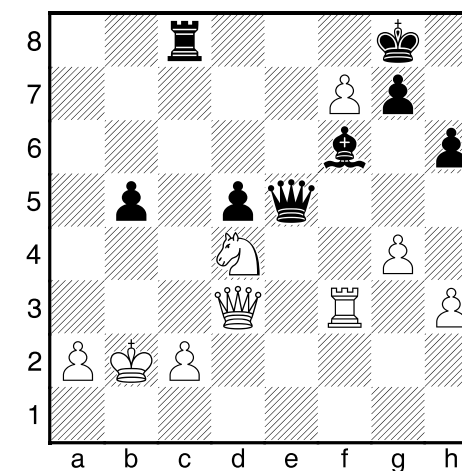
### 30.fxe6

Not much choice. 30.♖e2 ♗b4-

### 30...♖xe5+ 31.♗d4 ♗f6

31...fxe6 32.♖e3 ♖f4 33.♗xe6 ♖b4+ 34.♗c1 ♗f6 is good but also more complicated, so I don't blame the Black player for his move in the game.

### 32.exf7+



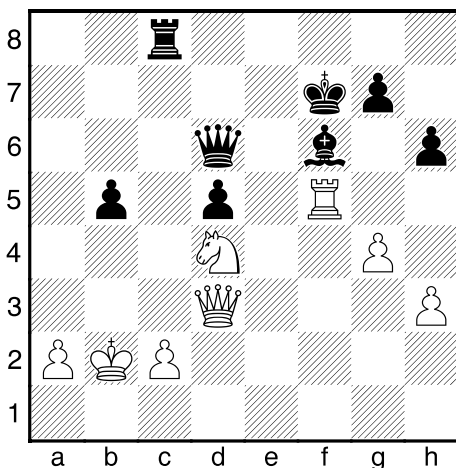
### 32...♗xf7?

This one, however, is inaccurate. Now White has a number of draws at his disposal owing to the pin on the Bishop and Black's (also) weak King: 32...♗f8! 33.♖xf6 (33.♖a3+ ♗xf7-+ and the difference is that now the white Knight on d4 is hanging 34.c3 b4! 35.♖xb4



♖b8-) 33...♙xf6 34.a3 White has some drawing chances, but Black is dominant after ...♖c4.

33.♖f5 ♕d6



34.♙b3??

34.♙b3 and White is the first one to leave the pin.

*editor* – 34.c3 b4! is similar to the game.

34...♖c4

The obvious reply, but one that the White player must have missed. It's now over.

35.c3 b4! 36.♘b5 bxc3+

37.♙xc3

37.♙c1 ♕g3.

37...♙h2+ 38.♙b3 ♖xc3+

39.♘xc3 ♕xh3

0-1

## photos

Egis Zeromskis

## links

<http://www.aucc.club/>



*GM Bator Sambuev (2nd)  
Egidijus Zeromskis (org.)  
IM Razvan Preotu (1st)  
NM Michael Song (3rd)  
Bernie Prost (org.)  
TD and org. Graeme Knight*







93 players competed in the Championnat Amateur du Québec, October 10-13 in Montréal.

## Results

**Zong Yang Yu** and **GM Bator Sambuev** tied for first with 5½/7. They drew with each other in the final round and with two others along the way to finish ½ point ahead of FM Valerian Hirschberg and Steve Bolduc.

**B-Section: Maili-Jade Oulelet** won the B-section with 6/7, ½ point ahead of Luis Morin, and a full point ahead of David Perna-Fraser (who beat Maili-Jade in round 5) and Ronald Mangahas, who lost to her in round 6.

**C & D Sections: Michael Hollander** and **Hou Han Zhang** tied for first in Section C, with 5½/7. **Gheroghe Raducia** won Section D with 5½/7 ahead of four players.

## games

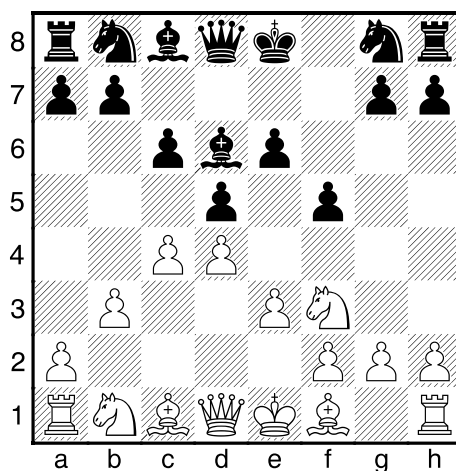
*Chess Canada* has three games, including this upset draw against the top seed.

## Notes by WFM Qiyu Zhou

**Zhou, Qiyu (2111)**  
**Sambuev, Bator (2569)**  
*Quebec Amateur Montreal (3), 11.10.2014*

This was the second game of the day, so I didn't really have time to prepare anything. I checked the usual lines shortly beforehand.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 c6 3.c4 e6 4.e3  
 ♙d6 5.b3 f5

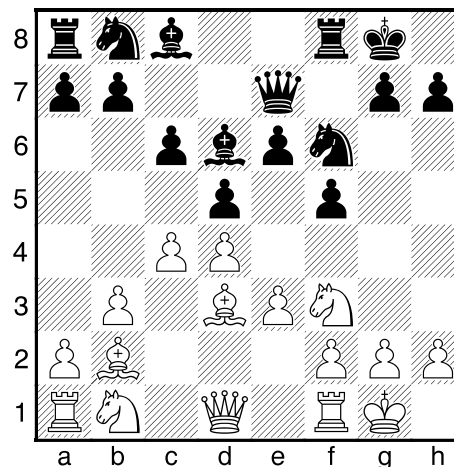


To be honest I wasn't expecting ...f5.

*editor* – She should have: it transposes into a line Bator has played *five times* in CanBase (see below) including games

against GMs Wesley So and Anton Kovalyov, the latter of which was annotated by Anton in *Chess Canada* 2014.07.

6.♙d3 ♘f6 7.0-0 ♚e7 8.♙b2 0-0



9.♘e5

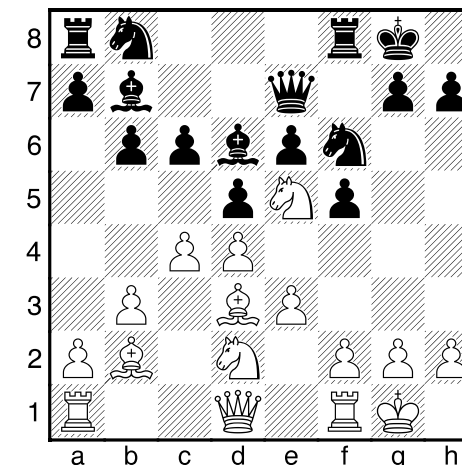
*editor* – Some of Bator's other games from here have continued:

9.♘c3 a6 10.♖c1 b5 11.♘e2  
 ♙b7 12.c5 ♙c7 13.b4 (0-1, 58)  
**Hebert, J-Sambuev, B Canadian Championship** Montreal, 2012.

9.♚c1 dxc4 10.bxc4 c5 11.♘c3  
 ♘c6 12.♘b5 (12.♖d1 ♖d8 (0-1, 36)  
**Masse, H-Sambuev, B Pere Noel Montreal, 2013.**)  
 12...♙b8 (1-0, 33) **Kovalyov, A-**

**Sambuev, B Canadian Open,** Montreal, 2014.

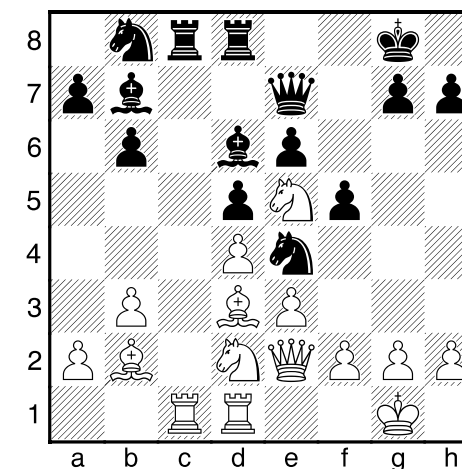
9...b6 10.♘d2 ♙b7



11.♚e2

More precise was 11.♖c1.

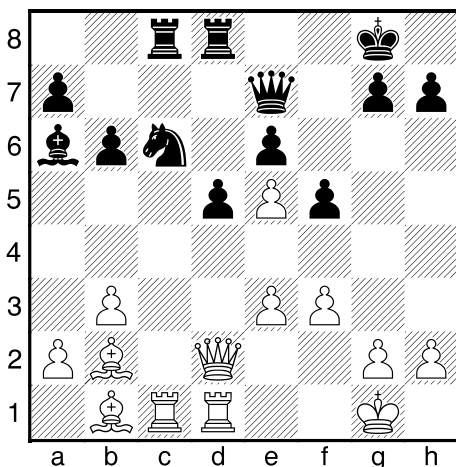
11...♘bd7 12.♖ac1 ♖ac8  
 13.♖fd1 ♖fd8 14.cxd5 cxd5  
 15.♙a6 ♘b8 16.♙d3 ♘e4



17.f3

I could have also tried 17.♘df3.

17...♘xd2 18.♙xd2 ♕xe5  
19.dxe5 ♖a6 20.♖b1 ♞c6



21.♙f2

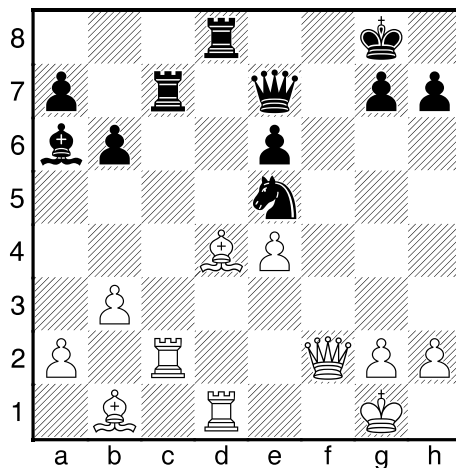
Perhaps I should have fought for the c-file 21.♖c2.

21...♖c7 22.e4?!

This gives Black a passed pawn and me a pair of doubled pawns. Not the best idea.

I should have sought to control the c-file 22.♖d2.

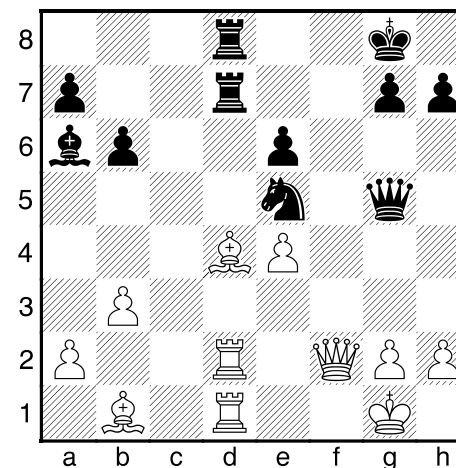
22...fxe4 23.fxe4 d4 24.♖c2  
♞xe5 25.♕xd4



25...♖cd7

25...♞g4 26.♙g3 e5 and Black has a small advantage.

26.♖cd2 ♙g5



At this point I thought I was actually fairly in danger because

my position looked really shaky.

27.♙e3 ♙xe3+

This queen trade made me quite happy, because I don't have to worry about tactics anymore.

Keeping the queens in this position would have served Black better: 27...♙h5 28.♕xe5 ♖xd2 29.♖xd2 ♖xd2 30.♙xd2 ♙xe5 31.♙d8+ ♔f7 32.♙d7+ ♔f6 33.g3 h6̄.

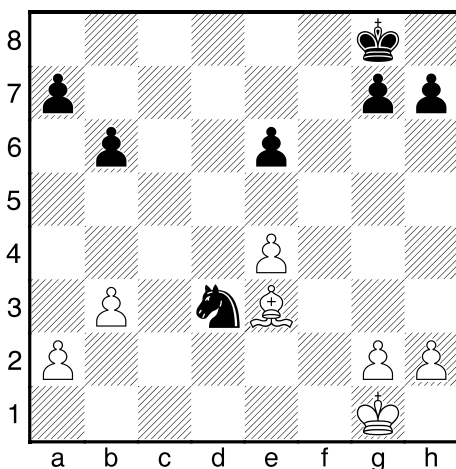


WFM Qiyu Zhou - GM Bator Sambuev at the 2014 RA Fall Open.



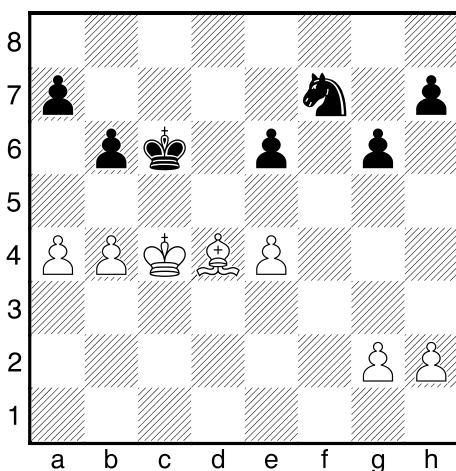


28. ♖xe3 ♜xd2 29. ♜xd2 ♜xd2  
30. ♖xd2 ♖d3 31. ♖xd3 ♜xd3  
32. ♖e3



I considered it fairly drawish and offered a draw at this point.

32... ♖f7 33. ♖f1 ♖e7 34. ♖e2  
♜b4 35. a4 ♖d6 36. ♖d4 g6  
37. ♖d2 ♜c6 38. ♖c3 ♜d8  
39. ♖c4 ♖c6 40. b4 ♜f7

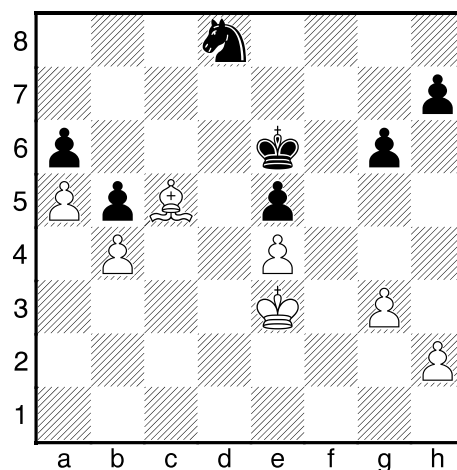


41. ♖d3

I was playing for a draw at this point. Theoretically a bishop is a bit better than a knight in a position with pawns on both sides of the board, so I could have tried to play for an advantage:

41. b5+ fixing Black's pawns on the dark squares, possibly giving White a chance to win; or:  
41. ♖f2 h5 (41... ♜e5+ 42. ♖d4)  
42. b5+ ♖d6 43. a5±.

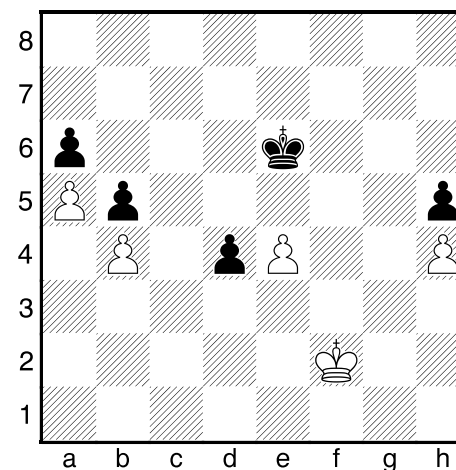
41... a6 42. ♖g7 b5 43. a5 e5  
44. ♖f8 ♜d8 45. ♖c5 ♜e6  
46. ♖e3 ♖d6 47. g3 ♜d8  
48. ♖c5+ ♖e6 49. ♖e3



*editor* – From here on the position is 0.00 all the way.

49... ♜b7 50. ♖b6 ♜d6 51. ♖d3  
♜c4 52. ♖c5 ♖f6 53. h3

♖g5 54. ♖e7+ ♖h5 55. ♖f6  
♖h6 56. ♖e7 ♖g7 57. ♖c5  
♖f7 58. ♖f2 ♜d6 59. ♖c5  
♜e8 60. ♖e3 ♜g7 61. ♖d3  
♜e6 62. ♖e3 ♖f6 63. ♖e2  
h5 64. ♖f3 ♜d4+ 65. ♖f2 g5  
66. h4 gxh4 67. gxh4 ♖e6  
68. ♖xd4 exd4



69. ♖e2□

*editor* – the d3 and e5 squares are "mined" — whoever steps on them loses — but if neither does it's a draw.

69... ♖d6

As of the time of annotating this game, I've played six times against Bator. This is my only draw against him. :)

1/2-1/2

The following game and notes first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed:  
<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/444>

**Libersan, Thierry (2215)**  
**Zhou, Qiyu (2111)**

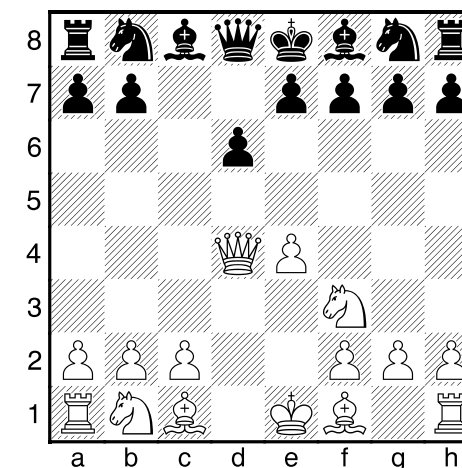
B53

Quebec Amateur Montreal CAN  
(4), 12.10.2014

Notes by Felix Dumont

This great game was played at the 2014 Quebec Amateur Championships. For once, Qiyu Zhou was on the losing side, although she still managed to put up a solid fight. Sicilian fans will definitely love the game and might get some new attacking ideas.

1. e4 c5 2. ♜f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4  
4. ♖xd4



This move is rarely played at high level, but can create interesting complications. There is no doubt White wanted to get Black out of book as soon as possible.

#### 4...a6

Black wanted to avoid the main line, which gives Black the bishop pair and White some space advantage: 4...♞c6 5.♙b5 ♘d7 6.♙xc6 ♙xc6.

Now White has the choice between c4 with a Maroczy Bind structure or ♙e3 followed by ♞c3 and 0-0-0.

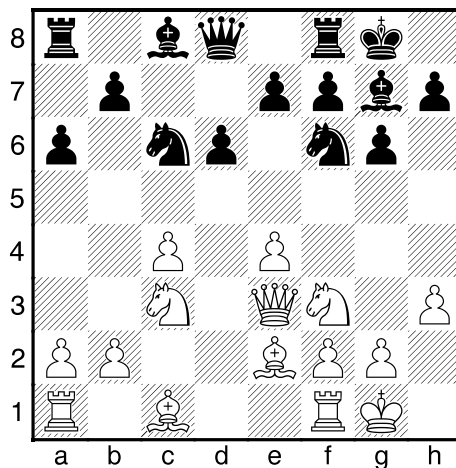
#### 5.c4 ♞c6 6.♞e3!?

6.♞d2 is the main move, although it may seem odd at first glance. The idea is to instead fianchetto the dark-squared bishop: 6...g6 7.♞c3 ♙g7 8.b3 ♞f6 9.♙b2.

#### 6...g6 7.h3

Not as much to prevent ...♙g4 as to prevent ...♞g4 once the black knight gets to f6.

7...♙g7 8.♞c3 ♞f6 9.♙e2 0-0  
10.0-0



This position is not as easy as it seems to play for Black. One needs to find a good plan or White could quickly grab a sizeable advantage.

#### 10...♙e6

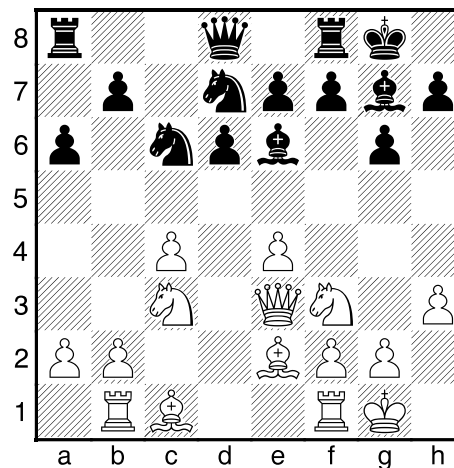
This move adds pressure on c4 and frees the rooks, but White may play ♞d5 or ♞g5 at some point.

Other options included:

10...♞d7 11.♞b1 a5; and,

10...♞b8 11.♞d1 ♞d7.

#### 11.♞b1 ♞d7



#### 12.b3

Also worth considering were:

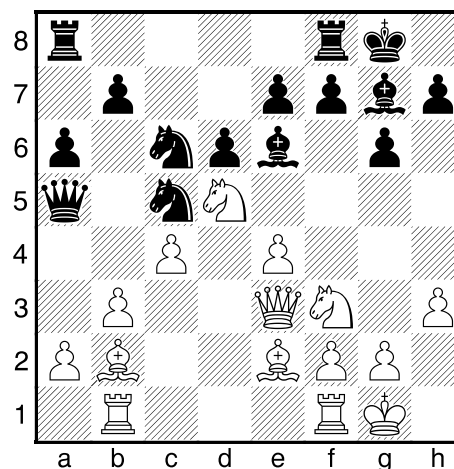
12.♞d5 ♞c5 13.♞g5, or

12.♞d1 ♞ce5 13.♞xe5 ♙xe5

14.♞d5 ♙xd5 15.♞xd5 ♞c8

16.b3 ♙g7 17.f4 ♞c7± (1/2-1/2, 25) **Kleinman, M-Qin, Z Toronto** (Canadian U18 Ch.), 2012.

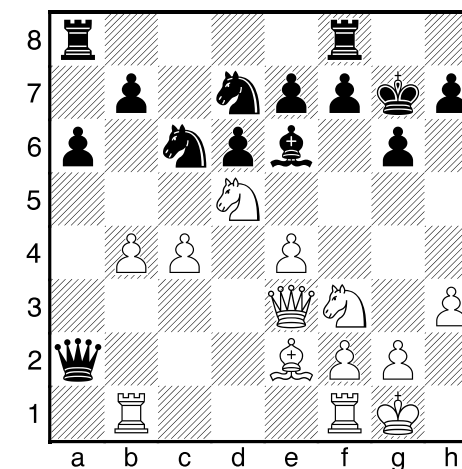
#### 12...♞c5 13.♙b2 ♞a5 14.♞d5



#### 14...♞xa2??

It's hard to imagine Qiyu didn't realize how risky this move is. Not only does it allow White to exchange the dark-square bishop and weaken Black's position, but Black's queen is nearly trapped. ♖14...♙xb2±

#### 15.♙xg7 ♞xg7 16.b4! ♞d7



#### 17.♞c3+?

Even stronger is 17.♞a1! ♞c2 18.♞fc1 ♞b2 19.♞cb1 ♞c2 20.♙d3 (or ♞e1 or ♞d4), and Black loses the queen.

#### 17...♞ce5 18.♞b2

*editor* – ♖18.♞d2 defending the ♙e2, threatening both ♞a1 trapping the ♞, and f4, winning the ♞e5.

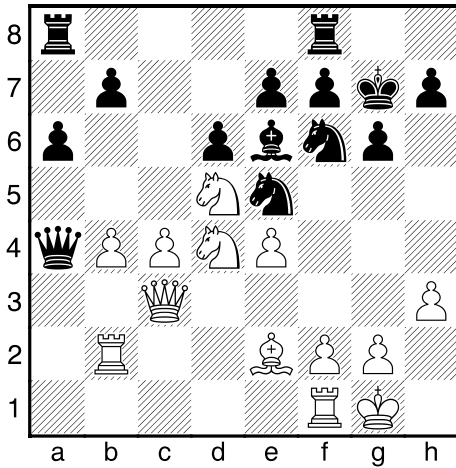






# Chess Canada 2014.11

18...♔a4 19.♘d4 ♘f6

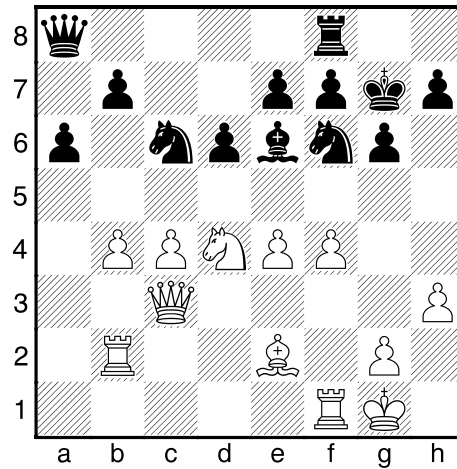


White's position is crushing, but Black's queen is no longer trapped and Black can still put up a fight.

20.♘b6

20.f4 ♘xe4 21.♞e3 ♘xd5  
22.cxd5 would have won a piece.

20...♞e8 21.♘xa8 ♞xa8 22.f4  
♘c6



23.♘xe6+?!

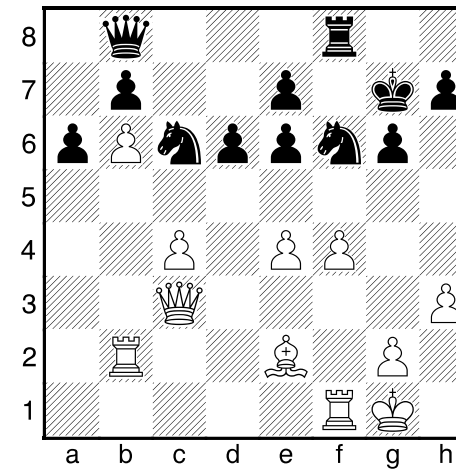
This was not necessary. Black's bishop was not doing much.

23.♘xc6 bxc6 24.f5 would have probably ended the game sooner.

23...fxe6 24.b5?!

Again it seems like White cannot find a way to convert his advantage to a win. Playing ♞e3 first would have been much more logical.

24...♞a7+ 25.b6 ♞b8



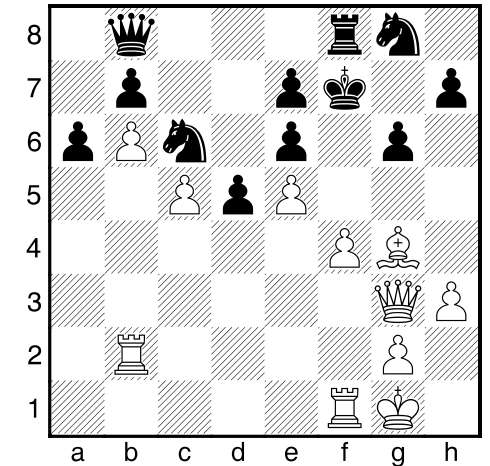
26.c5?!

This gives Black an opportunity to seize the center; ♘26.e5.

26...d5?

26...e5! 27.fxe5 ♘xe4 28.♞xf8  
♞xf8=.

27.e5 ♘g8 28.♞g4 ♔f7 29.♞g3



29...♘d8?

A pretty big mistake, but Black's position is very hard to play at this point. 29...♞c8!±.

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30. ♖h4?

30. f5!! exf5 (30... gxf5 31. ♕h5#)  
31. ♕xf5 gxf5 32. ♖xf5+-.

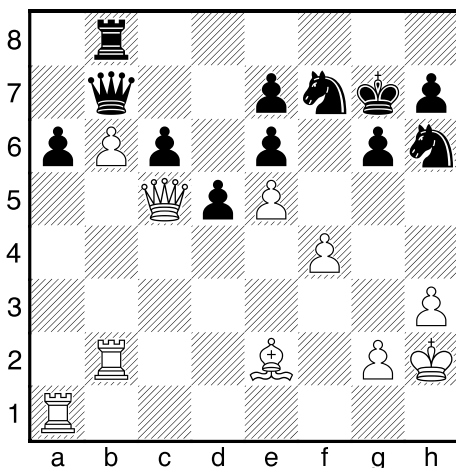
30... ♔g7 31. c6 bxc6

31... ♘xc6 might have been better, as it prevents White from getting a strong passed pawn, but Black is still losing.

32. ♔h2 ♖b7 33. ♖f2 ♘h6

34. ♕e2 ♘df7 35. ♖c5 ♖b8

36. ♖a1



White's plan is pretty simple at this point: protect the b6 pawn and add pressure on both a6 and c6.

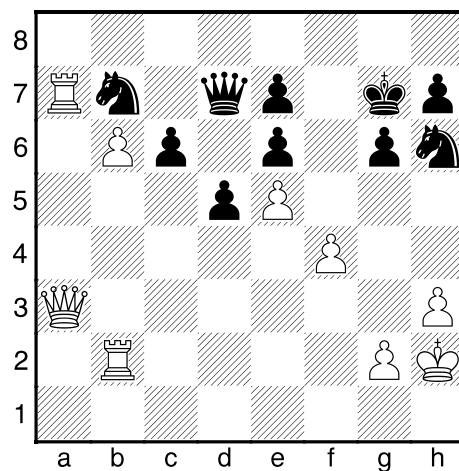
36... ♖a8 37. ♕xa6! ♖d7

37... ♖xa6 38. ♖xa6 ♖xa6 39. b7+-

38. ♕d3 ♖b8 39. ♖a7 ♖b7

40. ♕a6 ♘d8 41. ♕xb7 ♘xb7

42. ♖a3



Black's position is now hopeless.

42... ♘f7 43. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 44. ♖a7

♘d8 45. ♖c2 d4 46. ♖xb7

♘xb7 47. ♖xc6 d3 48. ♖c3 ♘c5

49. ♖xd3 ♘xd3 50. b7 ♘xf4

51. b8 ♖

1-0

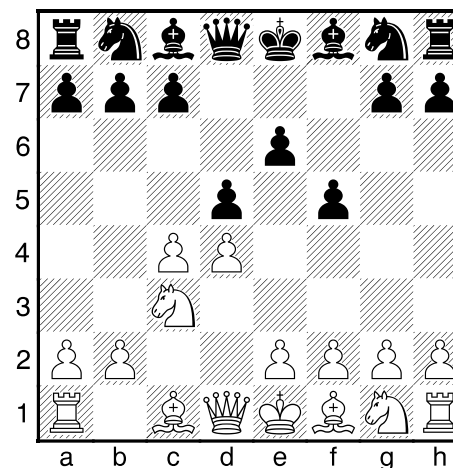
**Sambuev, Bator (2569)****Libersan, Thierry (2215)**

A84

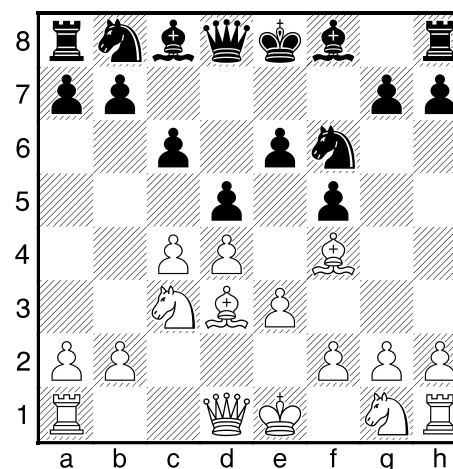
Quebec Amateur Montreal CAN  
(5), 12.10.2014

Notes by John Upper

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3 f5

"I'm not a great fan of the Stonewall/ Queen's Gambit hybrid in those cases where the bishop can get to f4." – Glenn Flear ([chesspublishing.com](http://chesspublishing.com))

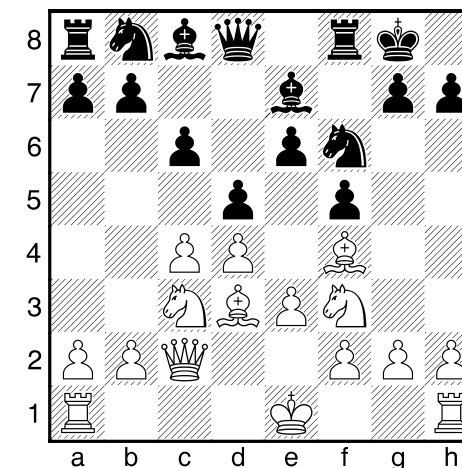
4. ♕f4 c6 5. e3 ♘f6 6. ♕d3



6... ♕e7

6... ♕d6!? "is more reliable and gives Black a playable position, though he's certainly worse." – Scherbakov, *The Triangle System* (Everyman, 2012).

7. ♘f3 0-0 8. ♖c2



8... ♘e4

This is the main move here, but after White's next Black has been scoring *terribly*.8... ♖e8 9. h3 ♘e4 10. g4!  
"The thematic way to gain pressure on the right-hand side of the board" – Flear. 10... ♘xc3  
11. bxc3 dxc4 12. ♕xc4 b5  
13. ♕e2 ♘d7 14. a4!? Inarkiev, E – Shahinyan, D Moscow 2012, with the initiative on both wings.

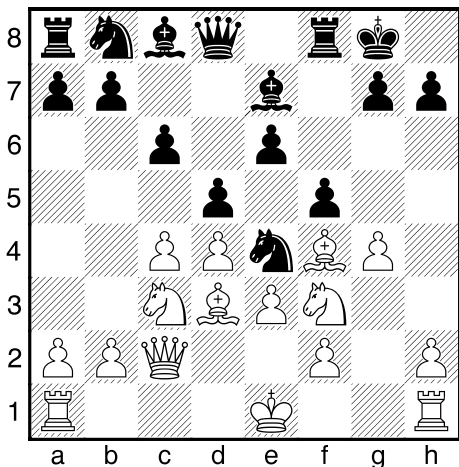
9. g4!↑







# Chess Canada 2014.11



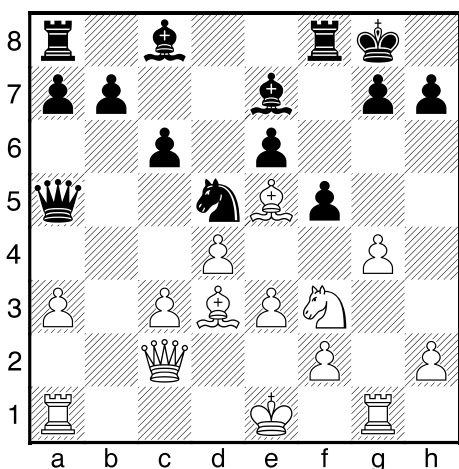
White scores 77% and Elo +100 from here.

9...♘d7

Here is another way for Black to decline the pawn on g4:

9...♙a5 10.a3 (10.♙e2!?)  
10...♘d7 11.♖g1 ♘xc3 12.bxc3  
dxc4 13.♙xc4 ♘b6 14.♙d3 ♘d5  
15.♙e5: (± Flear)

Analysis Diagram



15...♙xc3+ 16.♙xc3 ♘xc3  
17.gxf5±.

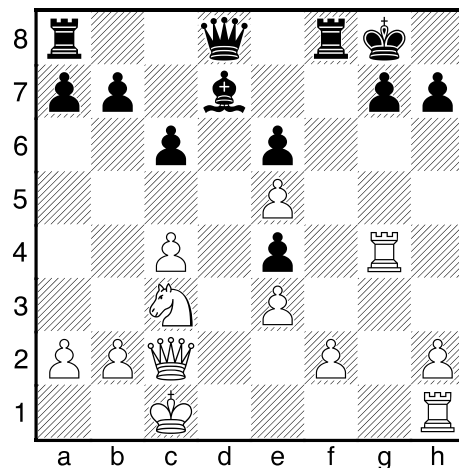
15...fxg4?? 16.♙xh7+ ♙h8  
17.♙xg7+!+-.

15...♙f6 16.♙d6 ♖d8 17.♙b4  
♘xb4 18.cxb4 ♙d5 19.e4!↑  
(1-0, 29) Nyback,T (2636)–  
Pridorozhni,A (2524) Plovdiv,  
2012.

Here's what can happen if Black takes on g4:

9...fxg4 10.♘e5 ♘d7 11.♙xe4!  
dxe4 12.0-0-0!± ♘xe5 13.♙xe5  
♙d7 14.♖dg1 ♙f6 (14...  
h5 15.h3→) 15.♖xg4 ♙xe5  
16.dxe5+-

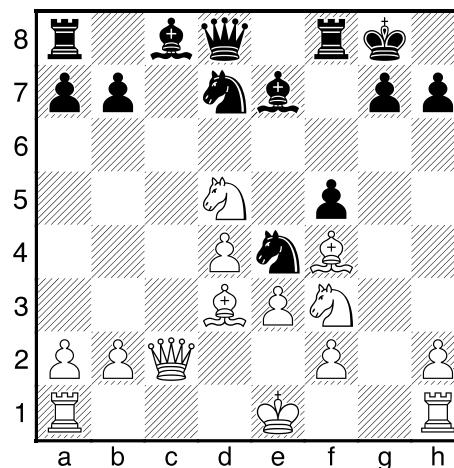
Analysis Diagram



Material is equal but White's pieces are obviously more active, and Black's ♙e4 is doomed.

16...♙c7 17.♖hg1! ♙xe5  
18.♙xe4! ♙xe4 19.♖xg7+ ♙h8  
20.♘xe4+- ♙e8 21.♘f6! ♙g6  
22.♖1xg6 ♖xf6 23.♖xh7+ ♙xh7  
24.♖xf6 White is about to go three pawns up, but Chessbase has the score 0-1: Sequera Paolini,J (2340)–Psakhis,L (2560) Elista Ol, 1998.

10.gxf5 exf5 11.cxd5 cxd5  
12.♘xd5+-



12...♙a5+ 13.♙e2

Of course the ♘d5 isn't really hanging, since ...♙xd5 loses to ♙c4.

13...♙d6 14.b4!!

White has several ways to win, but this is the cleanest: forcing

the ♙ to d8 where it will cost him an exchange.

14...♙d8

14...♙xb4 gives White a tempo for a deadly discovered check. 15.♙b3+-.

14...♙a3 15.♘d2! threatens to trap the ♙ with ♘b1 15...♘xd2 (15...♙xb4 16.♘c4 wins the ♙b4.) 16.♙xd6+- Black has too many bits hanging.

15.♙xd6 ♘xd6 16.♘c7

White adds an exchange on a8 or e6 in to his already crushing advantage.

Black had seen enough.

1-0

photo  
John Upper

links

<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/cotes/tournois/id/4735/100539>

<http://www.chess-results.com/tnr147961.aspx?lan=1&art=4&wi=821>