

Hawaii Open

by Doknjas³



The 2015 Hawaii International Open (March 19-22) was a well-organized and friendly event where GMs were accessible to many. The event offered three sections: Open (33 players), combined Amateur and Reserved (38 players), and Novice (42 Players).

Women's World Champion **GM Hou Yifan**, GM Samuel Shankland, and GM Timur Gareev were the headliners at the unique Grand Master Challenge, where a lucky 4th player (IM Shinya Kojima) joined the three GMs for a round robin set of active and blitz games.

In the Open section, John Doknjas played 4 titled players in this 6 round weekend USCF and FIDE rated tournament: GM Alexander Shabalov in the first round along with three IMs, two of which he drew. Both John Doknjas and Joshua Doknjas tied with 4 other players for the 2nd U2200 (FIDE) prize.

Neil Doknjas won \$783.33 USD in the combined Amateur and Reserve section by tying for 1st U1600 (USCF).

Notes by John Doknjas

I really enjoyed playing in the Hawaii International Open this year, which was held in the tropical destination of Waikiki, Hawaii. The inaugural event took place at a very nice hotel, the Hilton Waikiki Hotel, which was just a couple of blocks from the beach.

For a first time event, it was a little surprising to see that there were no major problems, which can be attributed to the organizers' hard work and dedication (Beau Mueller and Guy Ontai). I also en-

joyed seeing many titled players participating. I was even able to meet and get autographs on my chessboard from Women's World Champion GM Hou Yifan, GM Samuel Shankland, GM Timur Gareev, GM Hovhannes Gabuzyan (who won the Open section), GM Samy Shoker, and GM Niclas Huschenbeth. I would definitely consider coming back to this tournament due to the quality organization, strong participants, and nice location.

Aloha Hou!



Chess Canada
2015.05

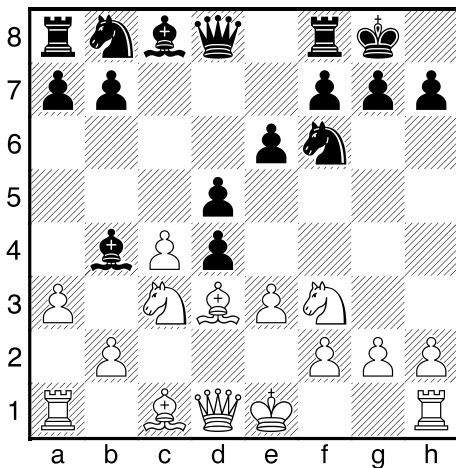


Doknjas, John
Shabalov, Alexander
 E55

2015 Hawaii Open Hawaii (1),
 19.03.2015

In the first round, I was pretty excited to play GM Alexander Shabalov. I was not too optimistic before this game, but as it turns out the game was very close, lasting about 4½ hours.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♖b4
 4.e3 0-0 5.♙d3 d5 6.♘f3 c5
 7.a3 cxd4



8.exd4

8.axb4?! dxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4

10.♙xc4 ♖xd1+ 11.♙xd1 ♘e4

8...♙xc3+ 9.bxc3 dxc4

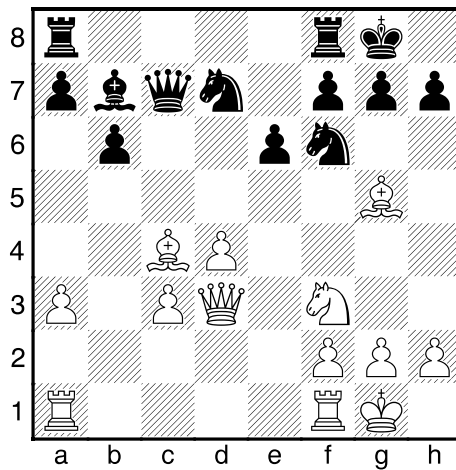
10.♙xc4 ♖c7

During the game I thought I was in a lot of trouble here due to my uncastled King. However, the engine says I am still alright.

11.♖d3

11.♖e2?? b5-+.

11...♘bd7 12.0-0 b6 13.♙g5
 ♙b7



14.♙xf6

14.♙b3 ♖fd8 15.♙xf6 ♘xf6

16.♖fd1 ♖c6 17.♖ac1 ♖d6

18.♘e5 ♖xa3 19.♙c4 ♖d6

20.♖h3 ♙e4 21.♖e1 ♖ac8 22.f3

♙d5 23.♙d3 g6? 24.g4 ♘d7??

(24...♖c7 Δ25.f4 ♙b7 26.f5?

♖xc3!) 25.♘xf7! ♙xf7 26.♖xh7+

♙f8 27.♙xg6 e5 28.♖h8+

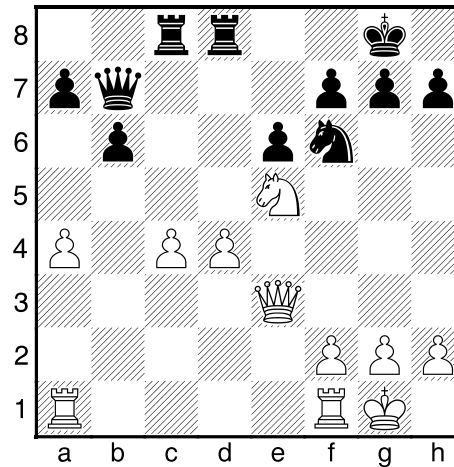
♙e7 29.♖g7+ 1-0 **Henry, L-**

Richardson, R, Toronto, 2002.

14...♘xf6 15.♘e5 ♙e4 16.♖e3
 ♖ac8 17.a4

I was trying to push this pawn to a5 in order to exchange it.

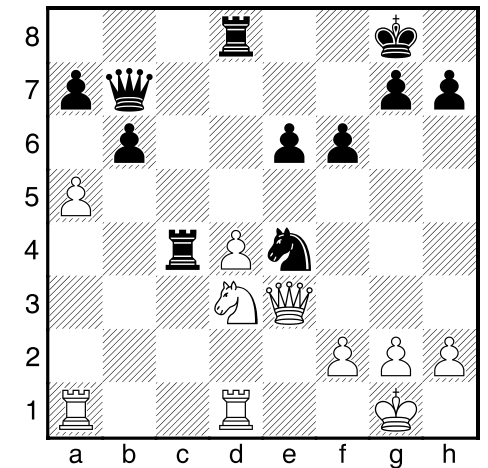
17...♙d5 18.♙a6 ♙b7 19.♙xb7
 ♖xb7 20.c4 ♖fd8



21.♖fd1

21.a5 was better, 21...bxa5
 22.♖xa5 ♖b6 I was afraid of this
 so I did not play a5. I thought
 my center would be destroyed;
 however, I am slightly better here
 after: 23.♖a4 ♖xd4 24.♖xd4
 ♖xd4 25.♖xa7.

21...♘e4 22.a5 f6 23.♘d3
 ♖xc4



John Doknjas vs GM Alex Shabalov

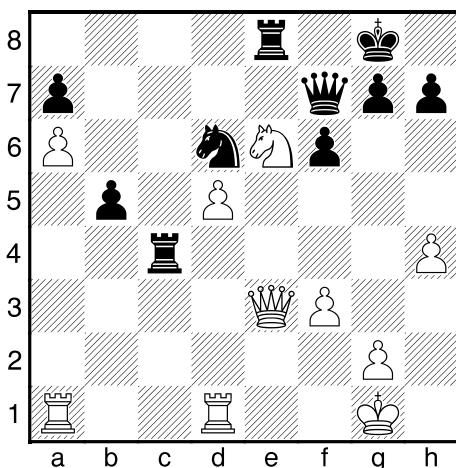


Chess Canada 2015.05

24.f3 ♘g5 25.♘f4 ♜e8 26.h4
♘f7 27.♘xe6 ♘d6 28.d5 b5
29.a6

I think this was a good move because it prevents Black's a-pawn from moving to a6 and supporting b5. Also, if I ever take Black's a7 pawn, my a6 pawn will be one step closer to queening. Passed pawns must be pushed!

29...♙f7



30.♙f2

Now the game is about equal but I was in severe time pressure here and it is difficult to defend this kind of sharp position against a GM. 30.h5! This was a better move for two reasons:

- 1) it threatens to undermine

Black's Kingside with h6 and, 2) it stops Black Queen from going to g6 or h5.

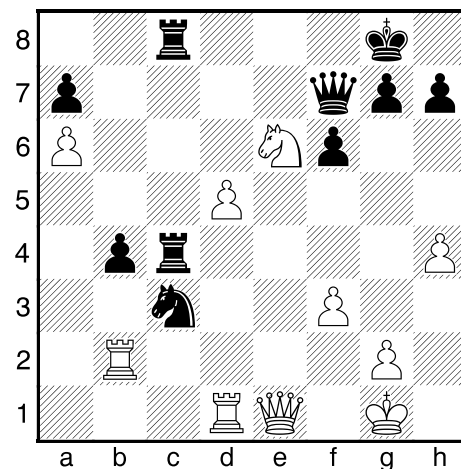
During the game I was afraid of Black taking my h5 pawn and then playing ♜h4 with a scary-looking attack. However, now it is clear that after I take the a7-pawn I am better: 30...♙xh5? 31.♙xa7 ♘f5 Black must defend g7 against checkmate, 32.♙d7 ♜ec8 33.a7+-.

30...♜ec8 31.♜a2

In the post-game analysis, Alexander Shabalov said to me that 31.♜ab1 was better, putting pressure on b5 immediately; after 31...♜c2 32.♜d2= White has no major problems.



31...b4 ♞ 32.♜b2 ♘b5 33.♙e1
♘c3



34.♜d4?

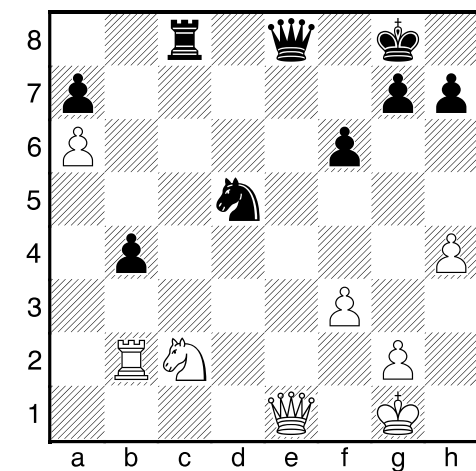
At this point in the game I was in severe time trouble and could not think clearly. The point of this move was to exchange Rooks and then after Black took

on d5 with his Queen I would take b4 with my Rook. However, I completely missed that he could take on d5 with his Knight instead. The combination of time pressure and the urge to simplify made me make this move. ♖34.♜d3 ♙d7 35.♜bd2 ♞.

34...♜xd4+-

Now Black is completely winning.

35.♘xd4 ♘xd5 36.♘c2 ♙e8



37.♙d2

editor - 37.♙xe8+ ♜xe8 38.♘xb4 ♜b8 39.♘d3 ♜xb2 40.♘xb2 ♘b4+- Black's extra distant passed pawn should make this a simple win.

37...♜d8 38.♘xb4



editor – ?? I think this is the losing move. After 38.♔d4! the game is very close to equal; e.g. 38...♕e5 39.♖xb4!

38...♘e3+ 39.♕e2 ♖d1+
40.♔f2

editor – 40.♔h2 ♕e5+ 41.g3 ♘f1+ is mating.

40...♖f1+ 41.♕xf1 ♘xf1
42.♔xf1 ♕b5+ 43.♔g1 ♕c5+

0-1

Notes by John Doknjas

Nanjo, Ryosuke

Doknjas, John

B50

2015 Hawaii Open Hawaii (4),

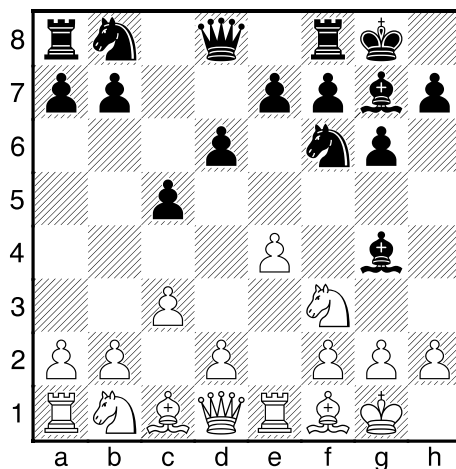
21.03.2015

I played the #1 ranked Japanese player in the previous round. My opponent in this game is the 2nd ranked player in Japan, and an International Master. I was fairly confident going into this round for two reasons:

- 1) The openings he played were generally not too ambitious; and
- 2) I was having a good tournament as I had drawn

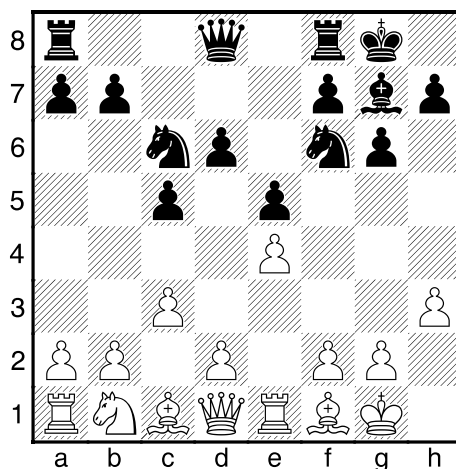
another IM in the previous round.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.c3 ♘f6
4.♕e2 g6 5.0-0 ♕g7 6.♖e1 0-0
7.♗f1 ♗g4



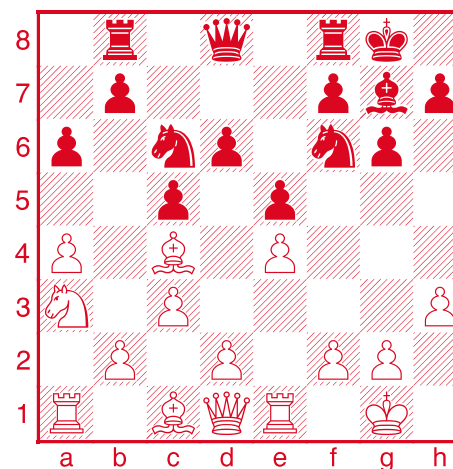
With the simple idea of making the d4 push more difficult for White.

8.h3 ♗xf3 9.♕xf3 ♘c6 10.♕d1 e5=



I think I played the opening well and I do not believe I have any significant problems here. I am better developed and control more of the center. White does have two Bishops and a slightly better pawn structure, but that is not important currently.

11.♕c4 ♖b8 12.a4 a6 13.♘a3



13...d5

I think this is a fine move, but probably not the best.

I did not see this pretty stroke — 13...♘xe4! — and I'm guessing my opponent did not either. 13...♘xe4:

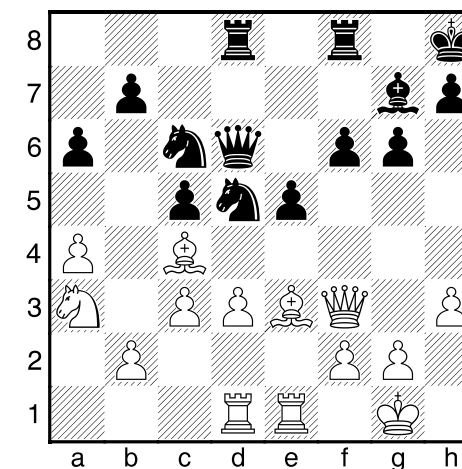
14.♕xf7+?! ♖xf7 15.♖xe4 d5≠;
14.♖xe4 d5 15.♖e1 dxc4
16.♘xc4 ♕d3≠ Black is better due to much better

development and White's weak light squares. I would definitely be in no danger of losing here.

14.exd5 ♘xd5 15.d3 ♕d7
16.♕f3 ♖bd8 17.♗g5!

Provoking ...f6, which will block my g7 Bishop. This ♗g5 move is a common idea in many openings, and its purpose is often to provoke ...h6 or ...f6.

17...f6 18.♕e3 ♕d6 19.♖ad1 ♔h8



Simply getting my King off of the dangerous a2-g8 diagonal.

20.♕c1
20.♕xd5 ♕xd5 21.♕xd5 (21.♘c4 ♕xf3 22.gxf3± now my c5 pawn is not defendable. My

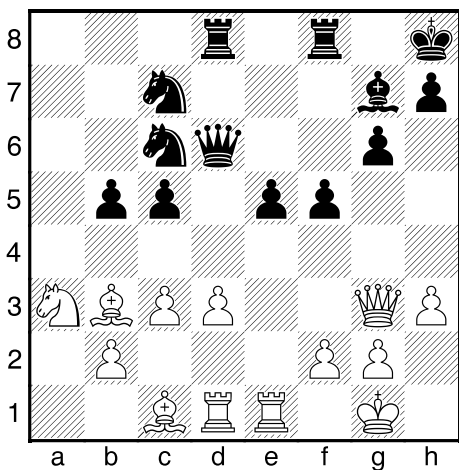


only compensation is White's crippled Kingside pawns, but it is not enough.) **21...♖xd5** I looked at this variation during the game. **22.c4 ♖d7 23.♙xc5 ♖fd8 24.♖e3?! (24.♙b6!±** I did not see this strong move, which gives White a clear edge.) **24...♙h6 25.♖f3 f5** I looked at this during the game and saw that Black is fine here.

20...♘c7

The point of this was to prevent White from pushing d4 and to play ...b5 at some point.

21.♙g3 f5 22.♙b3 b5 23.axb5 axb5



My pieces are working together, I have plenty of space in the

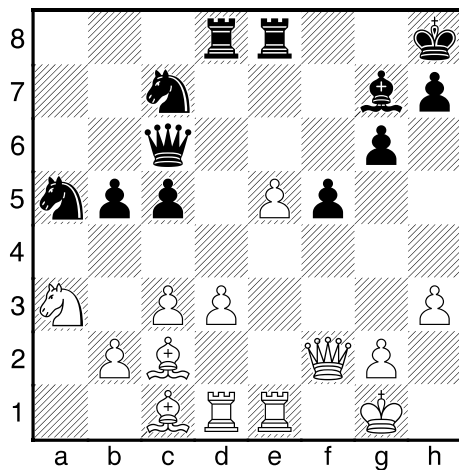
center, and White's Knight on a3 is out of play.

However, White's two Bishops control key squares and his pieces are putting some pressure on my center. Overall, the game seems to be about equal at this point.

24.f4!

It is correct to break my center up as quickly as possible before it becomes a threat.

24...♖fe8 25.♙f2 ♘a5 26.♙c2 ♙c6 27.fxe5



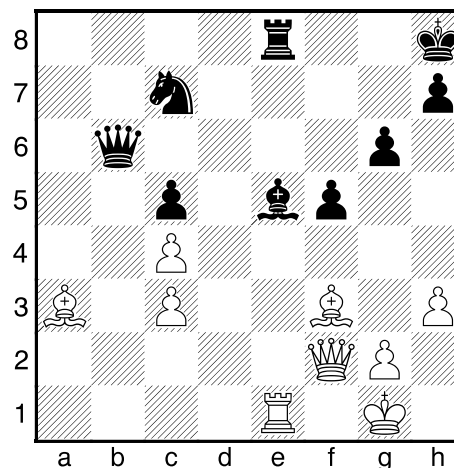
27...b4?!

I wanted to force some simplifications, which would ideally lead to a drawish position. However, this move is dubious

because it lets White's Knight come into the game.

There was nothing wrong with **27...♖xe5**. I would say that Black is definitely at least equal here.

28.♘c4 ♘xc4 29.dxc4 ♖xd1 30.♙xd1 bxc3 31.♙f3 ♙b6 32.bxc3 ♙xe5 33.♙a3



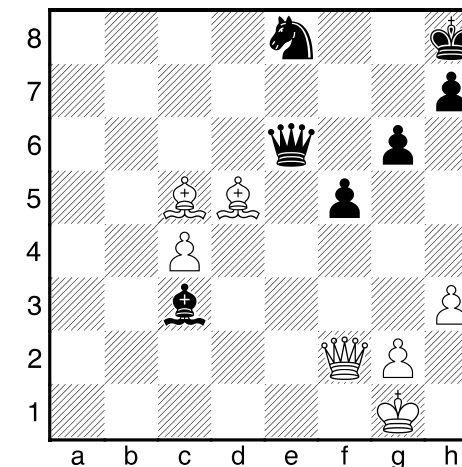
33...♙xc3?!

Now White gets a small edge with some pressure.

I should have just gone for this variation: **33...♙d6 34.♖xe8+ ♘xe8,** in which I have no problems at all. I probably played

what I did in the game because I wanted to force matters and gain a draw as simply as possible.

34.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 35.♙xc5 ♙e6 36.♙d5



36...♙e5!

Centralizing the Queen is very important. It protects my King, can attack White's King, and works well with my Bishop.

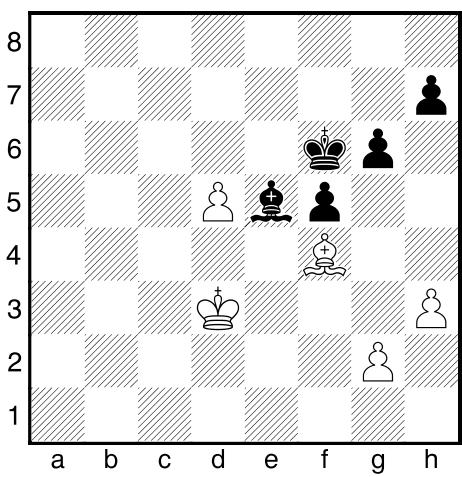


with GM Sam Shankland



Chess Canada 2015.05

37. ♖e3 ♘f6 38. ♖f4 ♔d4
39. ♔xd4 ♙xd4+ 40. ♔f1 ♘xd5
41. cxd5 ♖g7 42. ♔e2 ♖f6
43. ♔d3 ♖e5

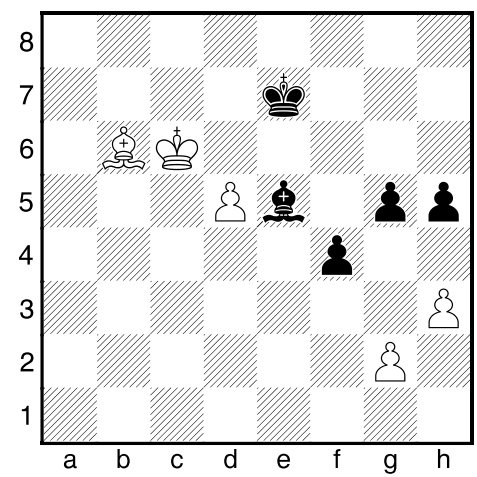


I had to calculate accurately to make sure the pawn ending is not lost. I was in time trouble here so that made the calculations rather difficult.

44. ♖e3
44. ♖xe5+ ♔xe5 45. ♔c4 ♔d6
46. ♔d4 g5! it is extremely important to prevent White's h-pawn from moving. I do not want to end up in *zugzwang*.
47. g3 h6 48. ♔c4 (48. h4 gxh4 49. gxh4 f4 50. ♔e4 f3 51. ♔xf3 ♔xd5=) 48...f4 49. gxf4 gxf4
50. ♔d4 f3 51. ♔e3 ♔xd5=.

44...g5 45. ♔c4 h5 46. ♖b6 f4
I need to get counterplay quickly on the Kingside before White makes too much progress with his d-pawn.

47. ♔c5 ♔e7 48. ♔c6



48...g4 49. hxg4 hxg4
50. ♖c5+ ♔f6 51. d6 ♔e6
52. d7 ♖f6=
Now it is a clear draw.

53. ♖d6 f3 54. gxf3 gxf3
55. ♖g3 ♖d8 56. ♖f2 ♖f6
57. ♔c7
1/2-1/2

Did you know...?
In Hawaiian, "Aloha" means both "hello" and "I resign".

Notes by Neil Doknjas
Doknjas, Neil (1546)
Riznar, Tony (1809)
C14
2015 Hawaii Open Hawaii
(6.21), 23.03.2015

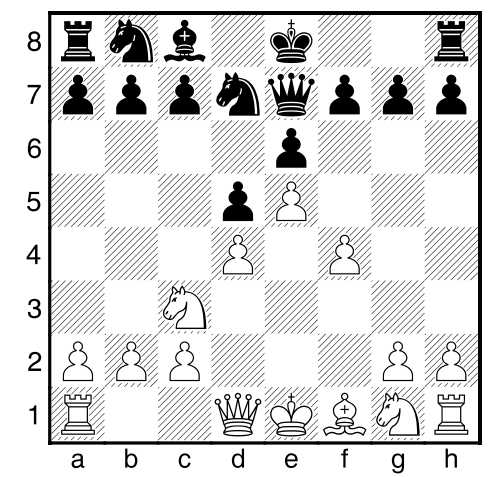
I played in the 2015 Hawaii International Open's combined Amateur (U2000) and Reserve (U1600) section, which was great because I got to play strong players and still be eligible for big prize money in the U1600 section. The organizers used only players' USCF or FIDE ratings for pairings and prizes.

This is the Hawaii International Open's first year. The organizers were friendly and the tournament room had plenty of space. Going into this final round (6th), the U2000 section leaders had scores of 4.5/5. (2 players), 4pts (3 players), and 3.5pts (1 player); so the U2000 prize was just out of reach.

In the U1600 section, there was 1 player who was 1/2 point (3.5pts) ahead of me and three others who all had 3pts./5 games. Most of us in the U1600 section who were trying to win it,

had tough pairings of 1800-1900 opponents. I knew that I had to win my last game for me to have a chance of 1st place in my section; but, I also knew that my opponent, who was 200+ points higher-rated than me, would not be a walk-over.

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



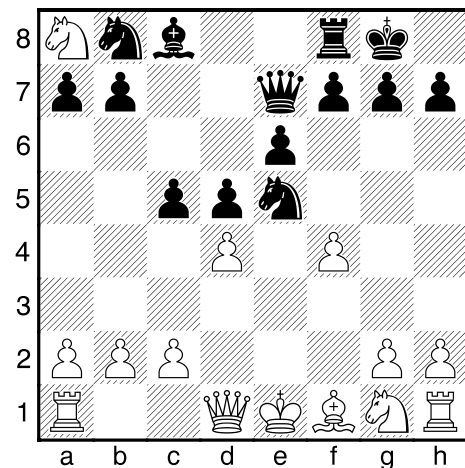
7...c5?
♟7...a6 prevents White moving ♘b5, after Black pushes c5, which gives White a much better position.

8. ♘b5
At this point, I felt pretty comfortable with my position, as



I knew that my opponent forgot to play 7... a6 to prevent ♘b5.

8...0-0 9.♘c7 ♘xe5 10.♘xa8



10...♘ec6

editor – Here's a model game showing how White can turn his advantage into a win without going for the exchange—up ending: 10...♘g6 11.♙d2 cxd4 12.0-0-0 b6 13.♘f3 ♘b7 14.♘xd4 ♘xa8 15.♘d3 ♘d7 White has a material advantage, but an even bigger positional advantage in his attacking chances. Even if White hadn't played ♘c3-b5-c7xa8, and we changed this position to the materially equal one with White ♘c3 and ♘e5, and Black ♘a8

and ♘b7, White would *still* be nearly winning with the same kingside attack as in this game. 16.h4 ♖c8 17.♘xg6! hxg6 18.h5 gxh5 19.♖xh5 ♘f6 20.♖h3 ♘e4 21.♖dh1! f6 22.♖h8+ ♔f7 23.♙d1 ♙c7 24.♙h5+ ♔e7 25.♙g4 1-0 Becker,M (2340)–Sandmeier,T (2250) Prague, 1992.

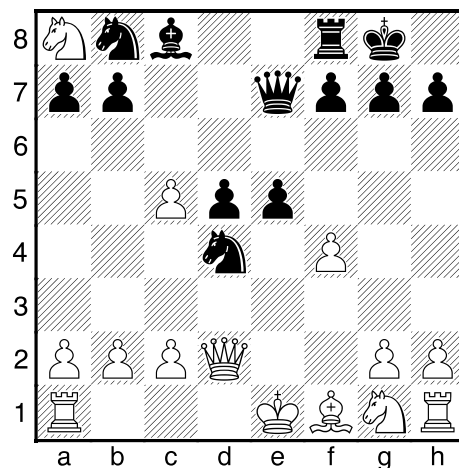
11.dxc5

11.♘f3 protects d4 and prevents Black from advancing his pawns.

11...e5 12.♙e2?

♞12.♙d2 exf4+ 13.♘e2±.

12...♘d4 13.♙d2



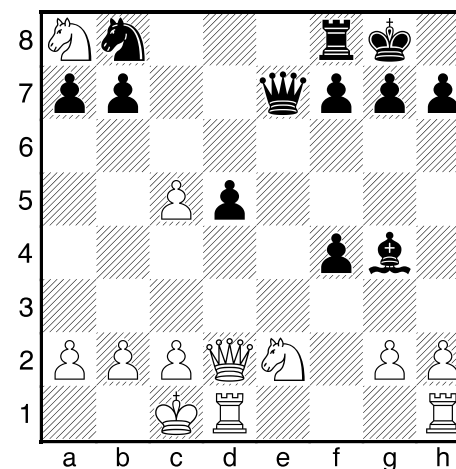
Even though I was ahead in material, I knew that Black had a potentially strong attack, so I had

to stay sharp and get my King into safety.

13...♘g4

Preventing White from castling. But 13...♘f5 is better for Black. White is ahead in material, but is behind in development. So ...♘f5 attacks c2 and allows Black to develop quicker, giving Black more play.

14.♘e2 ♘xe2 15.♘xe2 exf4 16.0-0-0

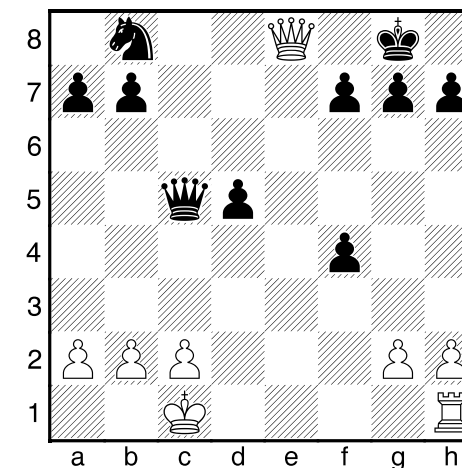


I thought since I was going to lose my Knight on a8 (as a result of the earlier Rook capture), that the priority should be to get my King to safety.

16...♘xe2 17.♖de1

17.♖he1 is slightly more accurate, for White can later play ♖d2 or ♖xd5; e.g. 17...♖e8 18.♙xf4 ♘a6 19.♖d2+-.

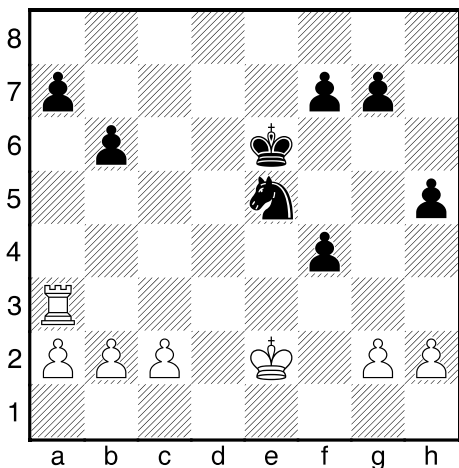
17...♖e8 18.♘c7 ♙xc7 19.♖xe2 ♖xe2 20.♙xe2 ♙xc5 21.♙e8+



The Queen trade is important for White to stop any counter-play and allow White to win the d5 pawn.

21...♙f8 22.♙xf8+ ♔xf8 23.♖d1 ♔e7 24.♖xd5 ♘c6 25.♔d2 25.♖f5 winning the f4 pawn.

25...♔e6 26.♖d3 ♘e5 27.♖b3 b6 28.♔e2 h5 29.♖a3



29...a5

⊔29...♘c6 protecting a7.

30.♖b3 ♘c4 31.♖b5 ♘e3
 32.♖xb6+ ♔f5 33.♖b5+ ♔g4
 34.♖b7 ♘xc2 35.♖xf7 g5
 36.♖a7 ♘e3 37.♔f2 ♘d1+
 38.♔g1 ♘xb2 39.♖xa5
 ♘c4 40.♖b5 ♘d6 41.♖b4
 h4 42.♖b3 ♘f5 43.a4 ♘d4
 44.a5

This win was essential for me to tie with two other players for 1st place in the Reserve section. The three of us split the combined 1st and 2nd prize money, each ending up with \$783.33 US!

1-0

Thanks

Chief Organizer, **Beau Mueller**, and co-Organizer **Guy Ontai**, along with Chief Arbiter **IA Carol Jarecki**, did a fantastic job with the various chess events and attracting so many titled players to the ideal location just a couple of blocks from Waikiki Beach (the tournament venue was at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel).

Aloha.

Photos

Victoria Jung-Doknjas



Neil cashes in!

Lava field trip: Joshua, Neil and John Doknjas.

Links

2015 Hawaii Chess Festival website:

<http://hawaiiichessfestival.com/>

You can find many **more photos** on the Hawaii Chess Festival, including the spectacular Grand Master Challenge, Scholastic State Championship, the Hawaii International Open, outdoor simuls on Magic Island Chess Day, Blitz tournament, Friendship Charity Banquet, and much, much more on the 2015 Hawaii Chess Festival's facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/2015-Hawaii-Chess-Festival/281608115238844?fref=ts>

Final Standings

<http://hawaiiichessfestival.com/current-standings-hawaii-international-open/>

More on the Hawaii Festival

<http://www.chess.com/news/shankland-wins-gm-challenge-in-hawaii-chess-festival-5086>

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/hawaii-the-chess-vacation-of-a-lifetime>

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/hawaii-gm-challenge-part-1-2>

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/hawaii-gm-challenge-part-2-2>

