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INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

by Grivas Efstratios

Monthly Newsletter

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Grivas Chess International Academy

NEWSLETTER 22 OCTOBER 2026



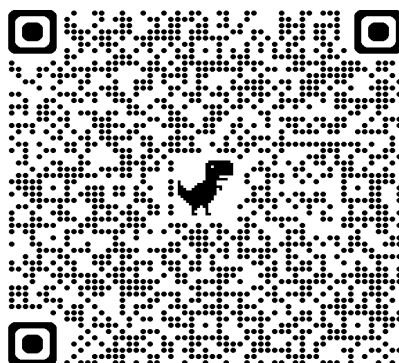
Symbols

+	check	=	equal position
++	double check	oo	unclear position
#	checkmate	oo/=	with compensation
!!	brilliant move	=+	Black is slightly better
!	good move	-/+	Black has a large advantage
!?	interesting move	-+	Black is winning
?!	dubious move	1-0	the game ends in a win for White
?	bad move	½-½	the game ends in a draw
??	blunder	0-1	the game ends in a win for Black
+ -	White is winning	(D)	see next diagram
+/-	White has a large advantage	○	White to play
+=	White is slightly better	●	Black to play

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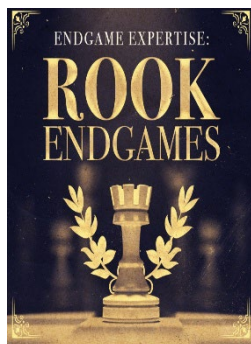
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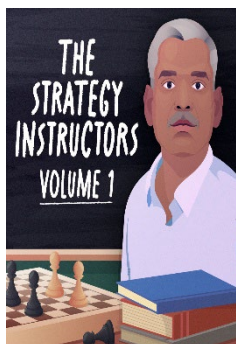
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(by Email or WhatsApp)
for discussions and offers.

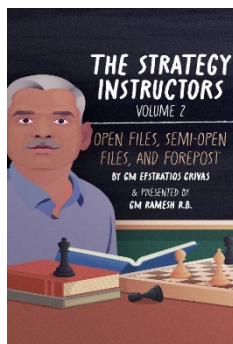
Chessable Courses by Efstratios Grivas



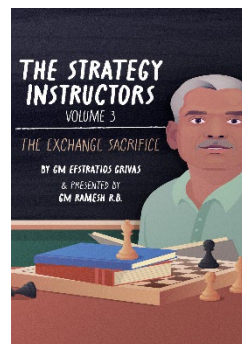
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Ivan Sokolov
Rook Endgames



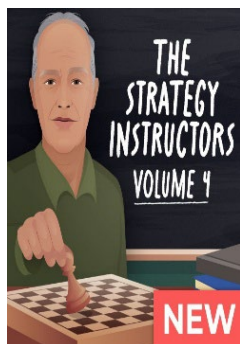
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Ramesh RB
Majority - Minority



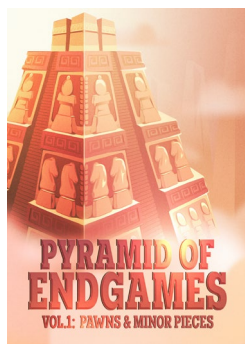
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Ramesh RB
Open Files



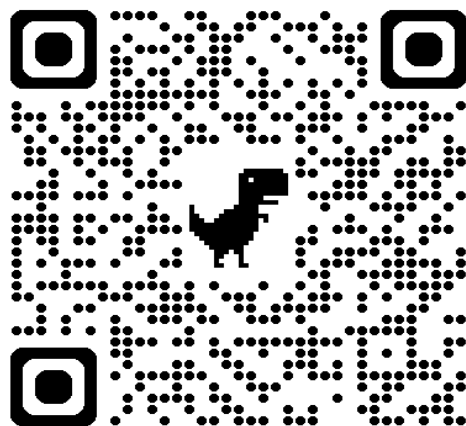
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Ramesh RB
Exchange Sacrifice



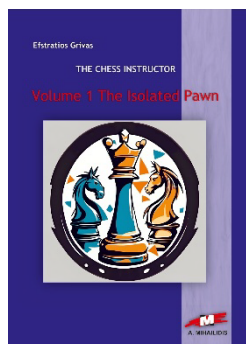
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The Isolated Pawn



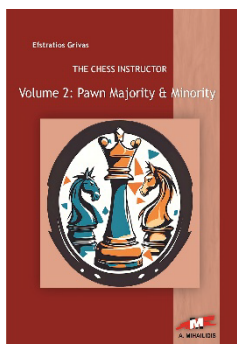
Efstratios Grivas
Antoaneta Stefanova
Pyramid of Endgames
V1



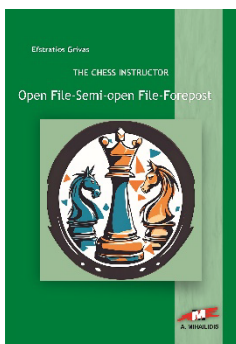
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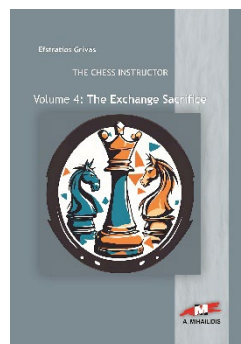
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The Isolated Pawn



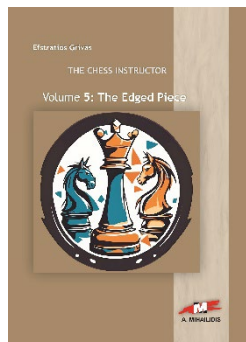
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Majority - Minority



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Open Files



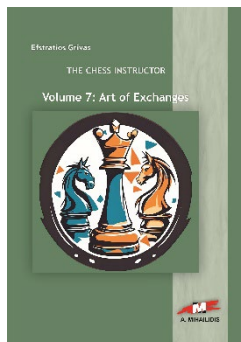
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Exchange Sacrifice



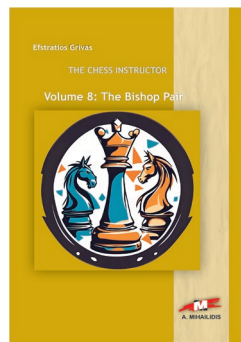
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The Edged Piece



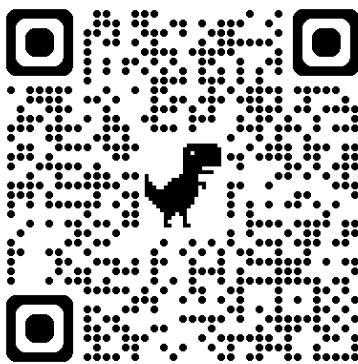
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The Weak Square



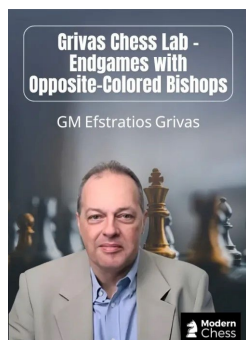
Efstratios Grivas
Art of Exchanges



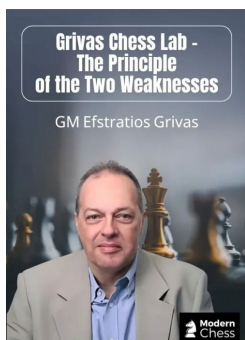
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The Bishop Pair



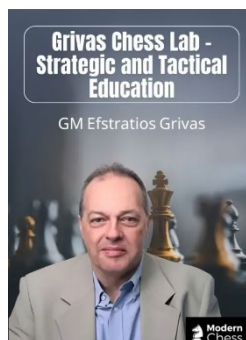
Modern Chess Courses by Efstratios Grivas



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Opposite-coloured
Bishops



Efstratios Grivas
Principle of the
Two Weaknesses



Efstratios Grivas
Strategical and
Tactical Education



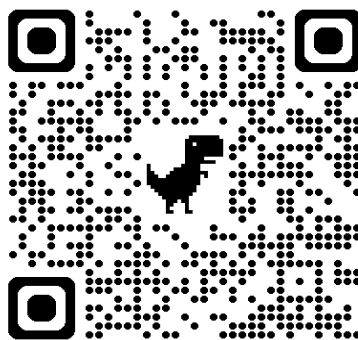
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Armed Against the
Slav Defence



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Art of Exchanges V1



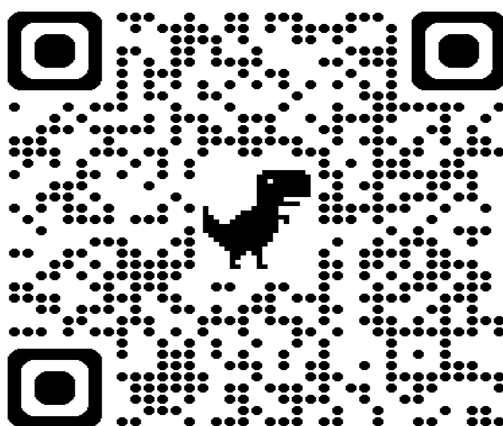
Efstratios Grivas
Art of Exchanges V2



Klidarithmos Courses by Efstratios Grivas



Efstratios Grivas
I Tehniki tis
Telias Aminas



MATRIZ DE LOS 22 CAMPEONES MUNDIALES DE AJEDREZ (1886-2024)							
1. WILHELM STEINITZ Austria/EE.UU. 1886-1894 Primer campeón oficial	2. EMANUEL LASKER Alemania 1894-1921 Reinado más largo	3. JOSÉ RAÚL CAPABLANCA Cuba 1921-1927 "El Mozart del ajedrez"	4. ALEXANDER ALEKHINE Rusia/Francia 1927-35/37-46 Murió siendo campeón	5. MAX EUWE Países Bajos 1935-1937 Derrotó a Alekhine	6. MIKHAIL BOTVINNIK URSS 1948-57/58-60/61-63 Padre escuela soviética	7. VASILY SMYSLOV URSS 1957-1958 Maestro de finales	
8. MIKHAIL TAL URSS 1960-1961 "El Mago de Riga"	9. TIGRAN PETROSIAN URSS 1963-1969 Rey profilaxis/defensa	10. BORIS SPASSKY URSS 1969-1972 Estilo universal	11. BOBBY FISCHER EE.UU. 1972-1975 Match del Siglo	12. ANATOLY KARPOV URSS/Rusia 1975-1985 Campeón por incomparecencia	13. GARRY KASPAROV URSS/Rusia 1985-2000 "Ogro de Bakú"	14. ALEXANDER KHALIFMAN Rusia 1999-2000 Campeón FIDE	
15. RUSLAN PONOMAREV Ucrania 2002-2004 Campeón FIDE más joven (18 años)	16. RUSTAM KASIMDZHANOV Uzbekistán 2004-2005 Campeón FIDE	17. VESELIN TOPALOV Bulgaria 2005-2006 Campeón FIDE	18. VLADIMIR KRAMNIK Rusia 2000-2007 Unificó títulos en 2006	19. VISWANATHAN ANAND India 2007-2013 "El Tigre de Madrás"	20. MAGNUS CARLSEN Noruega 2013-2023 Dominio absoluto	21. DING LIREN China 2023-2024 Primer campeón de China	22. GUKESH DOMMARAJU India 2024-Actual Campeón más joven historia
Nota: Incluye campeones Clásicos y campeones FIDE únicos del periodo de cisma (1993-2006).							

Join the Grivas Chess International Academy World Federation (FIDE) Approved Academy

Looking for Something Good?

Do you like what you have read in this Newsletter? Do you want more material like the above?

Are you tired of getting training and not improving? Are you tired of working endless hours and not improving?

Do you believe in quality work assisted by an expert? Then join the Grivas CIA!

What Will we do?

- Analyse yourself and identify your strong and weak points: This should be done as follows:

First you will have a deep look at your last 40 games (20 with white and 20 with the black pieces - no quick draws) and you will fill-up some special tables that I will send you.

This will help us to see how you understand your openings, your middlegame and your endgame. Then you will send me these (light-analysed) 40 games in a Chessbase file and the tables that you have already filled-up.

I will look at them also and correct your tables.

Finally, as a conclusion, I will send you back your analysed games and my detailed opinion about your strong (in order to improve them) and weak points (in order to minimise them) on your play.

This will take about two months (time mostly depending on you).

- Build an Opening Repertoire: With the help of the previous work, we can build-up a full opening repertoire with both white and black pieces.

This repertoire will be your base for the next 2-3 years at least. I will not only fill-up a repertoire table but I will send you files on your openings and we will discuss your questions and things that you might do not understand.

I will also give you my opinion in certain literature that can help you.

- Understand Middlegame Technique: I will provide you with lot of middlegame material.

For each subject, after we work on it together, you will read the relative material and you will analyse 3-4 of your own games (if not exist then a choice by you) with this certain subject (positional or tactical).

I will check your analyses and I will provide you my opinion and how it can work better.

- Understand Endgame Technique: I will provide you with lot of endgame material.

For each subject, after we work on it together, you will read the relative material and you will analyse 3-4 of your own games (if not exist then a choice by you) with this certain endgame subject.

I will check your analyses and I will provide you my opinion and how it can work better.

- Understand Tactics: You will work on special files that I will provide you, for sharpening your tactical skills.

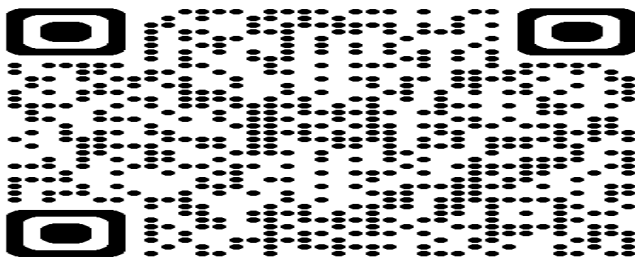
- Understand Planning: You will work on special files that I will provide you, for sharpening your planning skills.

- General Tips: I will provide you with general tips on how you should prepare and play in tournaments.

As the new year is coming soon and I have still 2-3 open spots for Chess Students, I am calling you to check my CV and message me privately, if you interested to be part of my Training Program, which has produced over 20 GMs, as well, as a high number of other titled players (IMs, WGMs, FMs, and Masters). Internet Individual Lessons or Groups of two to ten persons maximum.

All the best
GM Efstratios Grivas

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FIDE & ECU Titles Awarded

- Grandmaster.
- FIDE Senior Trainer.
- FIDE International Arbiter.
- FIDE International Organiser.
- ECU Senior Coach.

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Zoom Group Webinar Data (English Language)

- Month-by-month subscription for 8 hours per month!
- Every Thursday at 18:00 CET
- Middlegame - Endgame - Tactics - Planning - Strategy.
- Pre-paid subscription on 100 Euros / 115 USD per month.
- Payment via Revolut (no commission) or Pay-Pal (+ 6%).
- Sessions will be recorded for replaying by the Participants!

Ask for Quality

Be part of my Individual Training Program, which has produced over 20 GMs, as well, as a high number of other titled players (IMs, WGMs, FMs, and Masters).

Check my CV in <https://linktr.ee/grivaschess>

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October 2026 Schedule - Rating Level 1300-2100

Date	Time CET	Category	Topic
Thursday 01	18:00 - 19:00	Middlegame	The Bishop Pair
	19:15 - 20:15	Endgame	Knight Endgames
Thursday 08	18:00 - 19:00	Planning	King Prophylaxis
	19:15 - 20:15	Tactics	Back-rank Mate
Thursday 15	18:00 - 19:00	Endgame	Bishop Endgames
	19:15 - 20:15	Middlegame	The Exchange Sacrifice
Thursday 22	18:00 - 19:00	Tactics	Blocking the f6-square
	19:15 - 20:15	Strategy	Centralised Safe King

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The Politics Corner

European Chess Union Board Meeting

The European Chess Union (ECU) held its first Board meeting following the elections conducted during the General Assembly in Bucharest in July 2026.

The meeting took place via teleconference on 17 August 2026. ECU President warmly welcomed the newly elected Board members and formally marked the beginning of the new 2026-2030 administration.

Governance & Administration

The Board confirmed the structure of the new administration and proceeded with a series of key appointments and organisational decisions aimed at strengthening the ECU's operational framework.

Existing ECU officers and directors were reconfirmed in their respective positions.

Two new appointments were announced: Mr. Dobronauteanu was appointed as Youth Chess Director, and Ms. Rob was appointed Director of Strategic Projects.

These appointments reflect the ECU's commitment to youth development and long-term institutional growth.

The Board also resolved to formally address FIDE regarding press reports concerning the participation of Russian teams in the 46th Chess Olympiad.

In light of the suspension of the Russian Chess Federation by a final decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), subsequently confirmed by the FIDE Council, the ECU considers any such participation to be incompatible with the FIDE Charter.

Financial Review & Operational Developments

The Board reviewed the ECU Income Statement and was informed of forthcoming sponsorship contracts to be signed with Super Foundation and Sense Robot.

Detailed announcements regarding these partnerships will be communicated in due course.

Support for European Senior Chess

The Board accepted a generous donation of €30,000 from Mr. Evren Ucok, designated in its entirety to the support of senior chess activities in 2027.

The ECU expresses its sincere gratitude for this contribution.

In further support of senior-level chess across the continent, the Board approved a financial contribution of €10,000 to each of the following championships:

- European Senior Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship - Monaco, 10-14 January.
- European Senior Team Chess Championship - Acqui Terme, Italy, 23 April - 3 May.
- European Senior Individual Chess Championship - Chotowa, Poland, July.

The official invitations for the above events will be communicated in subsequent announcements.

Establishment of the Chess Olympic Affairs Commission

The ECU Board approved the establishment of the Chess Olympic Affairs Commission (COA), a dedicated working structure designed to strengthen the ECU's institutional alignment with the Olympic movement and to coordinate a common European approach among ECU member federations.

The Commission will operate under the following mandate:

- Statutes and compliance: Propose amendments to ECU statutes, regulations, and governance practices where necessary to ensure alignment with the Olympic Charter and relevant IOC principles and rules.
- NOC membership mapping and coordination: Compile and maintain a structured overview of ECU member federations that hold membership in their respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs), including contact points and procedures, to support coordination and

knowledge-sharing.

- **Support pathway for federations:** Provide guidance and practical support to ECU member federations not yet holding NOC membership, assisting them in understanding the requirements and developing a realistic pathway toward recognition, where applicable.

- **European Games strategy:** Define the strategic direction for chess participation within the European Olympic Games and European Youth Games ecosystem, with a focus on feasibility, regulatory compliance, and structured stakeholder engagement.

- **Cooperation with the European Olympic Committees (EOC):** Prepare and coordinate joint.

- **Projects and institutional cooperation** with the EOC and related partners, with clear objectives, governance structures, and measurable deliverables.

ECU Commission Chairpersons Appointed for 2026-2030

The Board approved the ECU President's proposal for the appointment of Chairpersons for all ECU Commissions for the 2026-2030 term.

The following appointments were confirmed:

- **Trainers Commission:** Mr. Ivan Sokolov.

- **Educational Commission:** Mr. Jesper Hall.

- **Women's Commission:** Ms. Eva Repkova.

- **Arbiters' Commission:** Mr. Takis Nikolopoulos.

- **Social Commission:** Mr. Geert Bailleul.

- **Events Commission:** Mr. Paris Klerides.

- **Olympic Affairs Commission:** Mr. Håkan Jalling.

Open Call of Interest: ECU & FIDE Commission Participation

The ECU is pleased to announce an open call of interest for participation in ECU Commissions, as well as for ECU representatives to FIDE Commissions.

Applications will be accepted until the end of September 2026. Further details regarding application procedures and eligibility criteria will be communicated in due course.

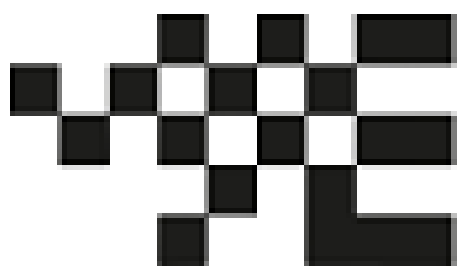
European Qualification for the FIDE World Cadets Chess Championship

The Board confirmed the qualification criteria for the FIDE World Cadets Chess Championship, to be held from 10-17 November 2026 in Batumi, Georgia.

For each category - U10, U12, GU8, GU10, and GU12 - the six European nominees will be determined by the FIDE rating list for August 2026, with the six highest-rated players in each category qualifying for the event.

Should the first-ranked player be unable to attend, the position will pass to the next highest-rated player, and so on.

Spanish Chess federation awarded the right to organise the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2028 in Madrid, Spain.



European Chess Union

The Politics Corner

Super Foundation Sponsorship to ECU

Press Release

The European Chess Union (ECU) is pleased to announce the signing of two major partnership agreements with Super Foundation (SuperBet), totalling €800,000 in combined investment.

The contracts, signed simultaneously on 20 August 2026, mark a defining moment for European chess and represent a direct fulfilment of commitments made by ECU leadership during the organisation's pre-election period.

The two agreements are as follows:

- €500,000 - Sponsorship investment backing the European Chess Super League.
- €300,000 - Sponsorship for ECU Development Projects.



A Promise Kept: Delivering on Election Commitments

Both agreements were publicly outlined by ECU leadership during the pre-election period as part of a concrete programme for the organisation's future.

Their signing demonstrates that the commitments made to Europe's chess community were not aspirational rhetoric but actionable pledges, now formalised in binding partnership contracts.

The European Chess Union has long served as the continent's official governing body for chess, and these agreements signal a new era of financial confidence and strategic ambition for the organisation and its 54 national federation members.

European Chess Super League: A New Pinnacle of Club Chess

The €500,000 investment by Super Foundation will underwrite the inaugural European Chess Super League, a prestige club team competition scheduled for 2026.

Bringing together eight elite clubs from across Europe and beyond the Super League is designed to be the most ambitious club competition in the history of the ECU.

The competition will offer a prize fund of €300,000, providing a meaningful financial incentive for the world's top chess clubs and players to compete at the highest level under the ECU banner.

Super Foundation's investment provides the organisational and financial infrastructure necessary to deliver a competition of this scale with the quality and professionalism that the global chess community deserves.

ECU Development Projects: Investing in the Future of European Chess

The €300,000 agreement with Super Foundation will support a portfolio of ECU Development Projects, the coming years, directed at expanding and strengthening the ECU's activities across education, grassroots development, digital infrastructure, and the broader chess ecosystem.

These investments are designed to have a lasting structural impact on chess across all Europe.

Statements

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU President said: 'Today marks a turning point for European chess. These two agreements with Super Foundation are not simply financial transactions - they are the materialisation of a vision we presented to the chess community before our election, and a demonstration that we honour the commitments we make.'

The European Chess Super League will be unlike anything the club chess world has seen

before, and the Development Projects funding will create real, lasting change for federations and players across our continent. We are deeply grateful to Super Foundation for their trust and for their belief in the future of European chess'.



Augusta Dragic, President of Super Foundation stated: 'Super Foundation is proud to partner with the European Chess Union at such an important moment for the future of European chess.

Our €800,000 commitment reflects our belief in the power of chess to bring people and communities together, while creating new opportunities for players, clubs, federations and the next generation.

The European Chess Super League represents an exciting new platform for elite

club chess, while our support for ECU Development Projects is an investment in the broader chess ecosystem across Europe.

We look forward to working closely with the ECU to turn this shared ambition into lasting impact'.

About Super Foundation

Super Foundation is committed to the development and promotion of chess at the highest levels of competition and community engagement.

Through targeted investment in elite competitions and organisational development programmes, Super Foundation supports the institutions and events that advance chess as a sport, an educational tool, and a cultural force.

'At the Super Foundation, we champion sports, health, and education, giving back to the communities where we live, work, and play.

Our mission is to empower the people who are part of our story. With local leaders and non-profit NGOs, we support sustainable solutions that uplift lives and leave no one behind'.

An Obituary Ioannis Revithis (Greece)

In Memorial

Ioannis Revithis (1955-2026) has passed away. A distinguished figure in Corfiot chess, he served the sport with dedication and passion for decades.



Ioannis Revithis devoted himself to chess from a young age, remaining active for nearly half a century both as a player and as an administrator. He served as President of the Corfu Chess Club (SPZK).

At the same time, he was a formidable player, leaving his mark on the competitive scene and on the evolution of chess in Corfu.

His professional presence in local media was also particularly significant. He served as director of the Corfu-based station 'Corfu Channel', actively contributing to keeping the public informed and showcasing the local community.

The Hellenic chess society extends its sincere condolences to his family and loved ones, as well as to the friends and members of SPZ Corfu.

An Obituary

GM Vereslav (Viacheslav) Eingorn (Ukraine)

In Memoriam

Ukrainian GM Vereslav Eingorn (1956-2026) has died at the age of 70. A leading figure in Soviet chess during the 1980s, he won three USSR Championship bronze medals, qualified for the 1987 Zagreb Interzonal and later represented Ukraine at team events, including the 2000 Olympiad and the 2001 World Team Championship.

V.Eingorn also became a respected coach and author, guiding Ukraine's women's team to Olympiad Gold in 2006.



Born on 23 November 1956 in Odesa (then the Ukrainian SSR, Soviet Union), V.Eingorn grew up in a chess-playing family.

He learned the game from his grandmother and began attending a chess club at the age of 12.

His talent quickly became apparent, and he went on to establish himself among the leading players in Soviet chess during the 1980s.

V.Eingorn graduated from Odesa State University with a degree in mathematics, but he devoted his professional life to chess. He earned the title of Soviet Master of Sport in 1976, International Master in 1984, and Grandmaster in 1986.

V.Eingorn was a consistent, high-level performer in the exceptionally strong Soviet chess scene of the 1980s.

He competed in multiple USSR Championships, earning bronze medals in 1984, 1987, and 1989, along with a tie for second through seventh place in 1986.

During the most productive period of his career, V.Eingorn won or shared first place in strong events, including tournaments in Minsk (1983), Bor (1986), and Moscow (1986), and tied for first at the Cappelle-la-Grande Open in 1986.

His peak came in 1987 when he qualified for the Interzonal tournament in Zagreb, where he finished in ninth place.

V.Eingorn's contributions to chess extended far beyond his own competitive results. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, he became an important member of the Ukrainian national team.

He represented Ukraine at three Chess Olympiads, including the 2000 Olympiad in Istanbul, where Ukraine won the bronze medal. In 2001, he was part of the Ukrainian team that won the World Team Chess Championship in Yerevan.

In the mid-2000s V.Eingorn largely retired from active play and turned to coaching. As head coach of the Ukrainian women's national team, he guided them to gold medals at the 2006 Chess Olympiad in Turin. He was awarded the title of FIDE Senior Trainer in 2007.

A respected author, V.Eingorn penned several insightful books, including *Decision-Making at the Chessboard* (2003), *Creative Chess Opening Preparation* (2006), *Chess Explained: The French* (with Valentin Bogdanov, 2008), and *A Rock-Solid Chess Opening Repertoire for Black* (2012).

The chess community extends its deepest condolences to Vereslav Eingorn's family, friends, colleagues, and students.

Some games against some top-names of the Soviet Chess will conclude this obituary.

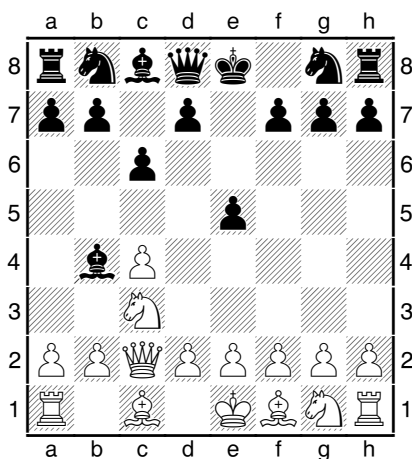
Of course, the life of a GM cannot be presented only with his best games...

□ **Bronstein David Ionovich**

■ **Eingorn Vereslav S.**

A21 Tallinn 1980

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Qc2 c6 (D)



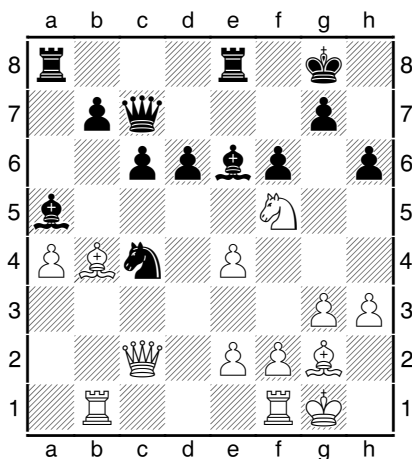
4.Nf3

4.e3 d6 5.b3 Qe7 6.Bb2 Nh6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.a3 Ba5 9.b4 += Biggs,J-Billups,R ICCF 1890.

4...d6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.a3 Ba5 9.d3 h6 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb2 Bg4 12.h3 Be6 13.Ne4?!

13.Na4! Bc7 14.c5 +=.

13...Nxe4 14.dxe4 Nd7 15.Rad1 Bc7 16.Nh4 Nb6 17.Bxe5 Nxc4 18.Ba1 f6 19.a4 a5! 20.Bc3 axb4 21.Bxb4 Ba5 22.Rb1 Qc7 23.Nf5 (D)



23...Bf7?

23...Bxf5 24.Qxc4+ Be6 25.Qc3 =.

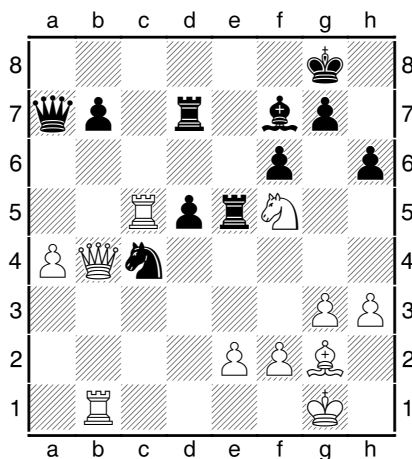
24.Rfd1 Rad8 25.Bxa5 Nxa5 26.Ne3 Qb8 27.Qc3 Qa7 28.Rdc1 Re5 29.Qb4 Rd7 30.Nf5?!

30.h4! +=.

30...d5?

30...Ba2 31.Rb2 Rc5! oo/=.

31.Re5 Ne4 32.exd5 cxd5 (D)



33.e4?

33.Nd4 Re8 34.a5 +/-.

33...dxe4 34.Rxc4 Rxf5 35.Rc8+ Kh7 36.Kh1?

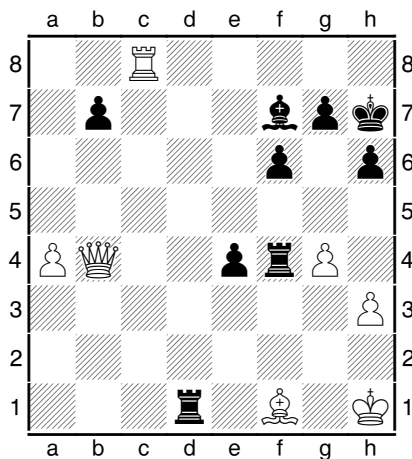
36.Rf1! Qd4 37.Bxe4! Qxb4 38.Bxf5+ Bg6 39.Bxd7 oo.

36...Qxf2 37.g4 Rf4?

37...Re5! 38.Qe1 Qxe1+ 39.Rxe1 Rd4 -+.

38.Rf1! Qxf1+ 39.Bxf1 Rd1? (D)

39...Rxf1+ 40.Kg2 Rf4 -/+.



40.Kh2?

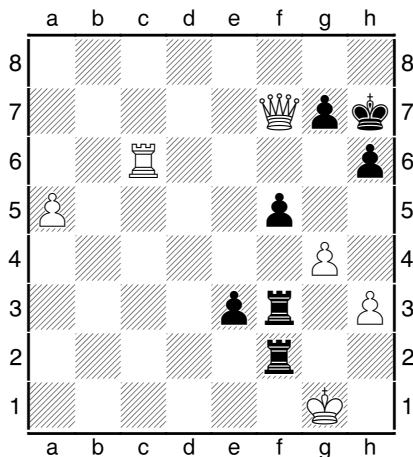
40.Kg2 Rdxfl 41.Qxb7 R1f2+=.

40...Rdxfl?

40...Rfxfl! 41.Qxe4+ f5 42.Qc2 Rh1+ 43.Kg3 Rdg1+ 44.Kf4 Rxh3 45.Ke5! +=.

41.Qxb7 Kg6 42.Rc3 f5! 43.a5 e3 44.Rc6+ Kh7 45.Qxf7 R4f2+ 46.Kg3 Rf3+ 47.Kg2

R1f2+ 48.Kg1 Rf1+ 49.Kg2 R3f2+ 50.Kg3 Rf3+ 51.Kg2 R1f2+ 52.Kg1 (D)

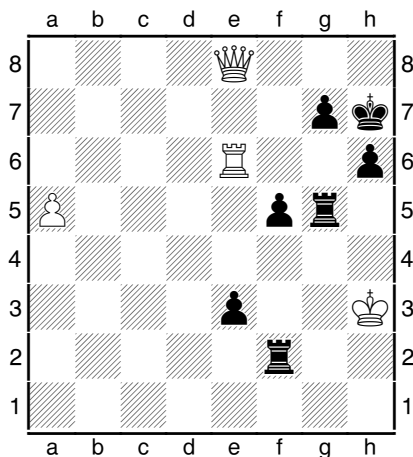


52...Rg3+ 53.Kh1 Rxf3+ 54.Kg1 Rg3+ 55.Kh1 Rh3+ 56.Kg1 Rg3+ 57.Kh1 Rxf3 58.Re6 Rf3 59.Kh2 Rf2+ 60.Kh1 Rf3 61.Kh2 Rg5 62.Qe8?

62.Re8 =.

62...Rf2+ 63.Kh3 (D)

63.Kh1 Rf4! -+.



63...f4! 64.Rxe3 fxe3 65.Qxe3 Rf6 66.Qe4+ Rfg6 67.Kh4 Rxa5 68.Qd3 Rag5 69.Qb1 Rg1 70.Qe4 R1g4+ 71.Kh5 Rg2! 0-1

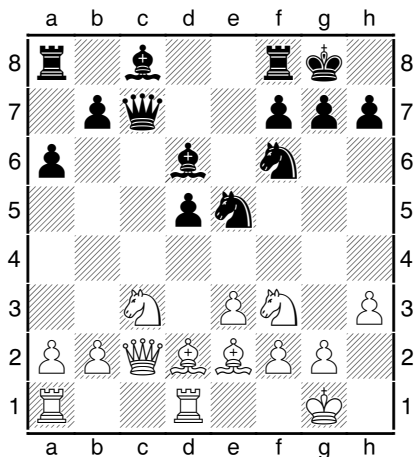
□ Eingorn Vereslav S.

■ Torre Eugenio

D45 Zagreb 1987

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 e5 9.cxd5

exd5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.h3 a6 13.Bd2 (D)



13...Qe7

13...Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Be6 15.Rac1 Rac8= 16.Qb1 Qb8 17.Be1 +=.

14.Be1 Be6 15.Nd4 Bb8 16.e4?!

16.Rac1 +=.

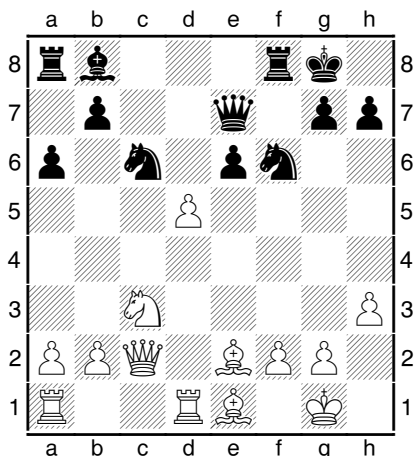
16...Nc6!

16...dxe4?! 17.Nxe6 fxe6 (17...Qxe6 18.Nxe4 +=) 18.Nxe4 +=.

17.Nxe6

17.exd5?! Nxd4 18.Rxd4 Qd6! 19.g3 Ba7 oo/=.

17...fxe6 18.exd5 (D)



18...Nb4?

18...Qd6! 19.g3 Ba7 20.Kh1 Nd4 21.Qd3 exd5 oo.

19.Qb3 Nbxid5

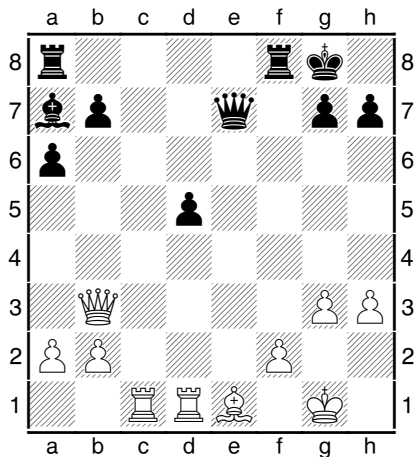
19...Qd6 20.g3 Ba7? (20...Nbxid5 21.Bc4 +/-

) 21.Nb5! +-.

20.Bf3 Qc7 21.g3 Ba7 22.Nxd5 Nxd5

22...Qxg3+? 23.Bg2 +-.

23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Rac1 Qe7 (D)



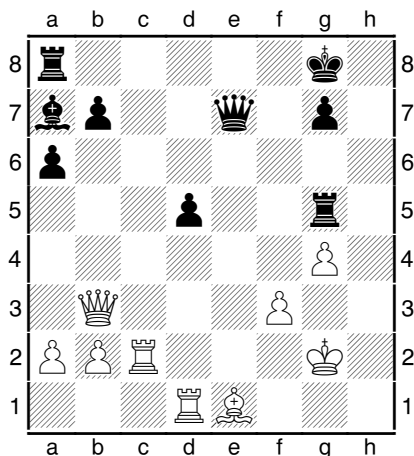
25.Rc2!

White isn't in hurry to capture the pawn, but takes prophylactic measures first. 25.Rxd5? Kh8 26.Qd3 (26.Bb4? Bxf2+ 27.Kh2 Qe2! oo) 26...Rac8 27.Rd1 +=.

25...Rf5 26.g4! Rg5 27.Kg2?

27.Bd2! Qe2 28.Rf1 +/- Rxc4+? 29.hxc4 Qxc4+ 30.Kh2 Qh5+ (30...Bb8+ 31.f4 Qe2+ 32.Kg3 +/-) 31.Qh3 Bb8+ 32.Kg2 Qg6+ 33.Kh1 Qxc2 34.Qe6+ +-.

27...h5 28.f3 hxc4 29.hxc4 (D)

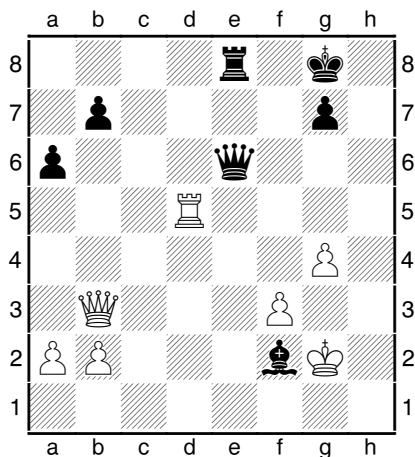


29...Qd7

29...Qe6 30.Bg3! +/-.

30.Rcd2 Re8 31.Rxd5! Rxd5 32.Rxd5 Qe6

33.Bf2! Bxf2 (D)



34.Re5!

34...Qxb3 35.Rxe8+ Kf7 36.axb3 Kxe8 37.Kxf2 +-.

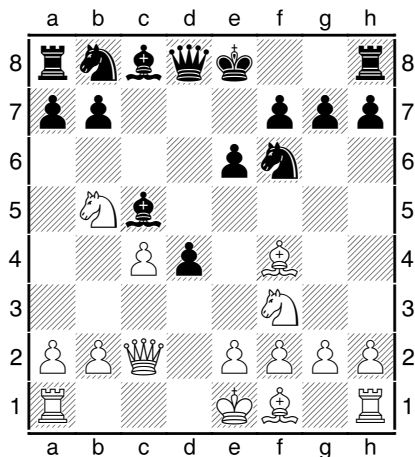
1-0

□ **Eingorn Vereslav S.**

■ **Vaganian Rafael A.**

E38 Moscow 1988

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Qc2 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bf4 d4 8.Nb5 (D)



An interesting variation, where Black should be careful...

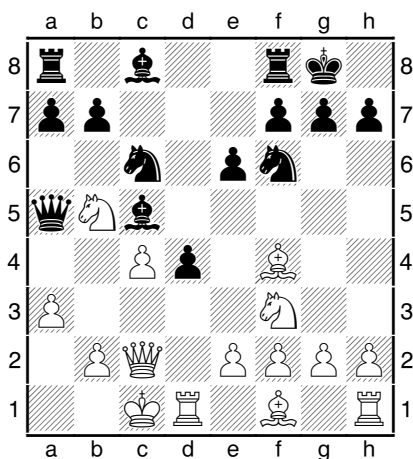
8...0-0

8...Qa5+ 9.Bd2 Qb6 10.b4 Be7 11.a3 += Eingorn,V-Beliavsky,A Minsk 1987.

9.0-0-0 Qa5?!

9...Qe7 10.Nbxd4 Bxd4 11.Rxd4 Nc6 oo Sarana,A-Gelfand,B Moscow 2020.

10.a3 Nc6 (D)



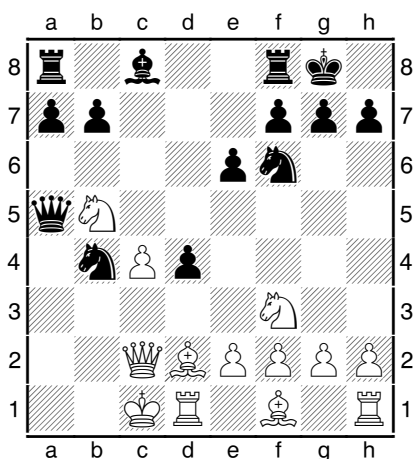
11.b4

11.e3 dxe3 12.Bxe3 Bxe3+ 13.fxe3 +=.

11...Bxb4?

11...Nxb4! 12.axb4 Bxb4 13.Nfxd4 Bd7 oo/=.

12.axb4 Nxb4 13.Bd2! (D)



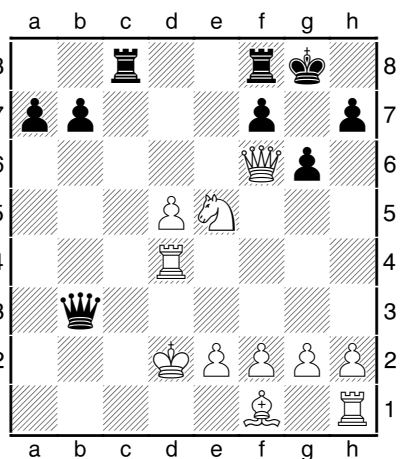
13...e5 14.Nxe5 Nfd5 15.cxd5 Bf5 16.Bxb4! Qxb4 17.Rxd4 Qxb5

17...Qe1+ 18.Rd1 Qa5 19.e4 +-..

18.Qxf5

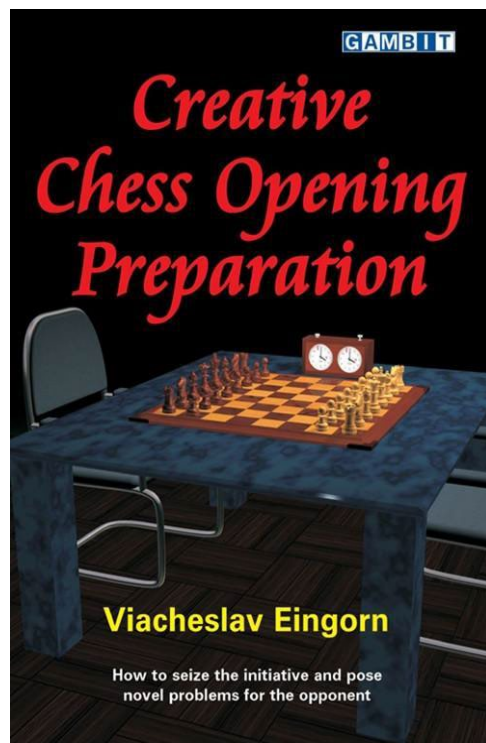
18.e3 Rac8 19.Bxb5 Rxc2+ 20.Kb1 +-..

18...Rac8+ 19.Kd2 g6 20.Qf6 Qb3 (D)



21.Rd3! Qb4+ 22.Ke3 a5 23.g3 a4 24.h4 Rcd8 25.d6

1-0



The Coach Corner

The Ideal Coach

Concept

There are two main categories of chess players. In the first one belong those who attain pleasure from the study of books, analysis and generally observe chess life 'from afar', without competing.

In the second belong those who, without neglecting all the above, enjoy the direct fight, combining these aspects with the pleasure they draw from imposing their ideas and thoughts on those of the opponent.

The chess player that permanently competes is genetically programmed to dominate and question authority.

He is destined to compete, to compare, to become better than the next guy. He is worried about the 'natural end' and desperately seeks material gains and as much happiness as possible.

Chess is a bloodless battle and the concept of peace is practically non-existent. And this is the constant vindication of Plato, who wrote in his Laws that 'there is an undeclared and permanent war among everyone, imposed by some natural law, and the word peace is decorative'.

It is true that someone may be destined to be a Hollywood star, a prince or a millionaire, just as it is true that nobody is destined to

become a Grandmaster. The accomplishment of this task requires hard and persistent work.

One must have passion to climb the chess Olympus; otherwise it is a waste of time. Passion is uncontrollable; it comes from the soul, not the mind.

Strong chess players, when they retire from competitive play, lack a natural career path.

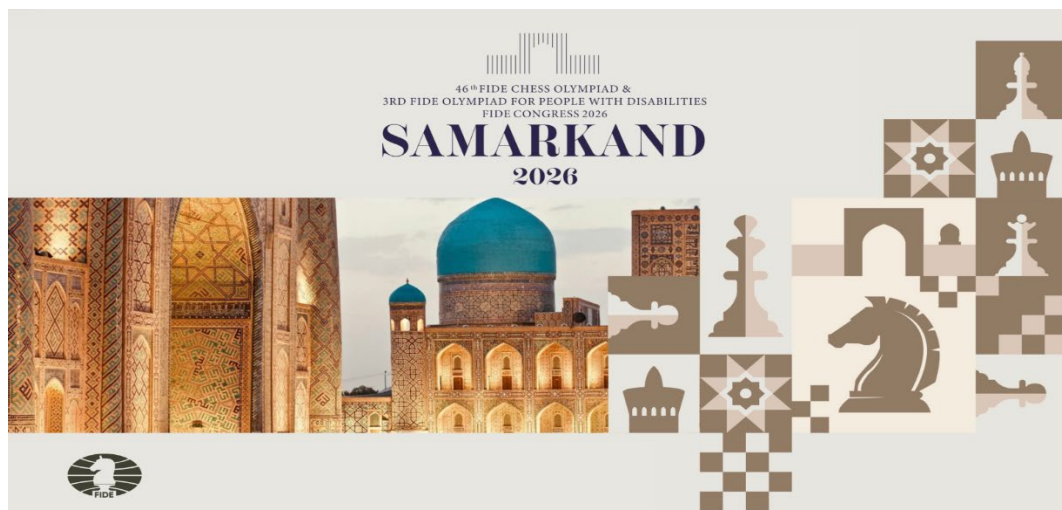
Most of them decide to disappear from the chess community, but some of them stick around and occupy themselves with the art of training.

They are ready to convey their knowledge and experience, and are able to draw pleasure from the competitive and artistic achievements of those they have assisted.

The ideal coach, the expert in the art of training, does not differentiate between work and play, job and pleasure, spirit and body, lesson and break, love and religion.

He barely even knows which is which. He simply follows a vision of superiority, no matter what he is doing, leaving his students to determine when he is working and when he is playing. He himself is always doing both!

It is said that 'only Gods and fallen Angels are alone'. Great chess players have never been gods, but they can have disciples.



The Tactics Corner

Learn How to Attack

Concept

The basic guides of conducting an attack will never die. Study and learn how to do it!

Here are two internet blitz games (3+3) of mine that I played in LiChess.com, the best online platform to play your beloved game.



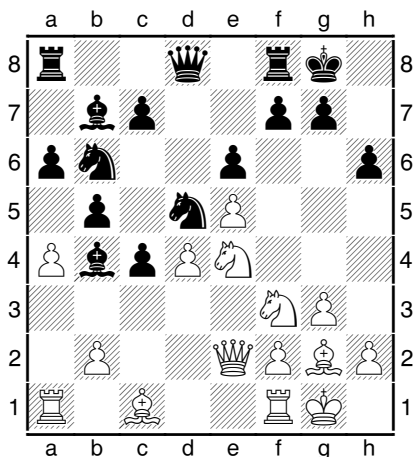
GM Efstratios Grivas

□ Grivas Efstratios

■ Bers7rk

D30 Internet 2026

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 dxc4
5.g3 b5 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.a4 a6 9.Qc2
Nbd7 10.e4 0-0 11.e5 Nd5 12.Ne4 h6
13.Qe2 N7b6 (D)



White has sacrificed a pawn for the initiative, but he must move his pieces on the kingside and especially his strongest piece; his queen!
14.Nh4! Be7 15.Qg4 Kh8 16.Qh5! Kg8 17.Bxh6!

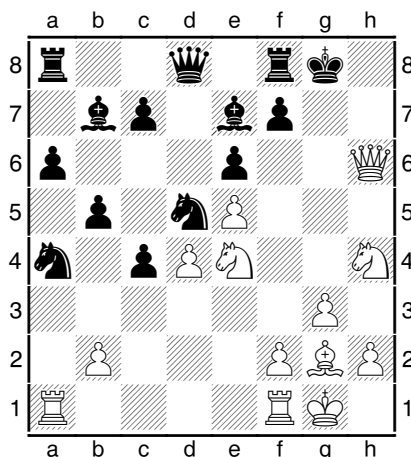
An easy move, which is ‘crying’ to be played!

17...gxh6

17...Bxh4? 18.Qg4! g6 19.gxh4 +-.

18.Qxh6 Nxa4? (D)

18...Bxh4 19.gxh4 f5 20.Ra3! c3 21.Nxc3 Kf7 22.Nxd5 Rh8 23.Qf6+ Qxf6 24.Nxf6 Bxg2 25.Kxg2 +/-, was Black's best.



Now White has sacrificed a piece (and some pawns), but how to continue the attack? A critical moment, which affect the result of game...

19.Ra3!

As mentioned, White needs to transfer pieces to the attack and this rook-lift is the right way.

19...Nxb2?!

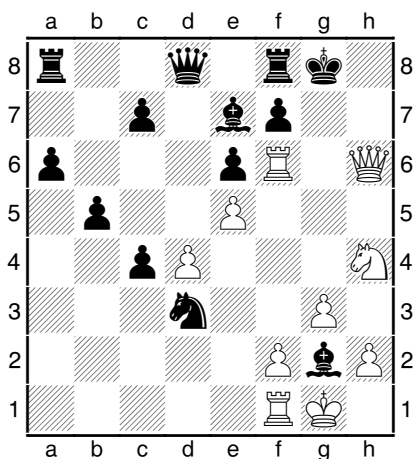
19...f5, loses to 20.Qxe6+ Rf7 21.Nxf5 Qe8 22.Nh6+ Kg7 23.Rf3! Rxf3 24.Bxf3 Qg6 25.Nf5+ +-.

20.Rf3

White is lost on the queenside, but winning on the kingside!

20...Nd3 21.Nf6+! Nxf6 22.Rxf6! Bxg2? (D)

White now mates, but also hopeless was 22...Bxf6 23.exf6 Qxf6 24.Qxf6 Bxg2 25.Kxg2 c5 26.f4! +-.



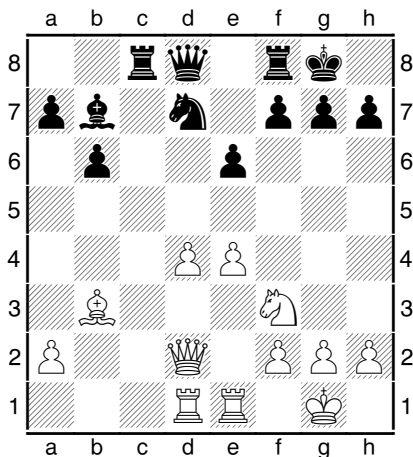
23.Qg5+ Kh7 24.Rh6 #
1-0

□ Grivas Efstratios

■ GAMDH

D41 Internet 2026

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5
Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+
9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0 11.Bc4 Nd7 12.0-0
b6 13.Rfe1 Bb7 14.Rad1 Rc8 15.Bb3 (D)

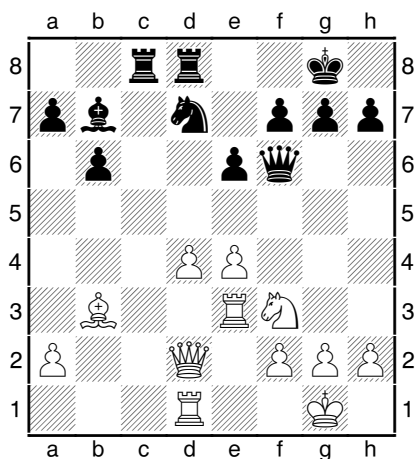


A theoretical position, where many games has been played. White is concentrating in the centre and on the kingside, while Black on the queenside, hoping for a good endgame.

15...Qf6

15...Re8 16.Qf4 Qc7 17.Qh4 h6 18.Re3 Nf6
19.Ne5 += Aravindh,C-Deac,B Internet 2025.

16.Re3 Rfd8 (D)



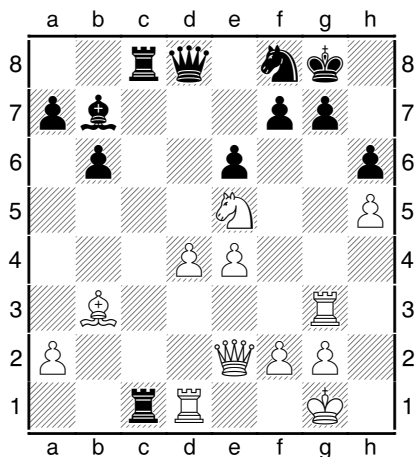
17.h4

A novelty to 17.Qe2 h6 18.h3 Qe7 19.a3 += Antipov,M-Matviishen,V Dulles 2023.

17...h6 18.Qe2 Nf8

18...Qf4 19.d5 exd5 20.exd5 Nf6 21.g3 Qc7
22.Re7 Rd7 23.Rxd7 Qxd7 24.Ne5 +=.

19.h5! Rc7 20.Ne5 Rdc8 21.Rf3 Qd8
22.Rg3 Rc1 (D)



23.Qg4! Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 Qg5 25.Qf3 Qe7
26.Qf4!

White dominates on the kingside...

26...f6

26...Rd8 27.Ng4 Kh8 28.Nxh6 f6 29.d5! +-.
27.Ng4?

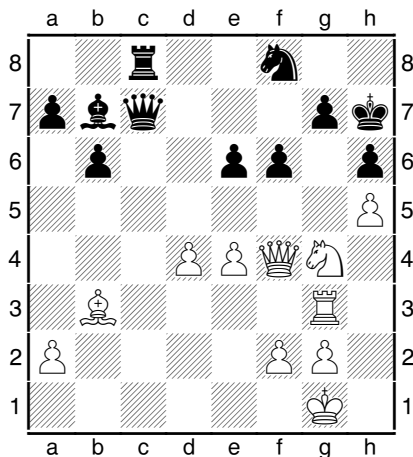
27.Ng6! Nxc6 28.hxc6 +/-.

27...Kh7?

27...Kh8! 28.Bb3 Qc7 29.Qxc7 Rxc7 30.d5
+=.

28.Bb3 Qc7? (D)

28...Qf7 29.d5! Qxh5 30.dxe6 +/-.

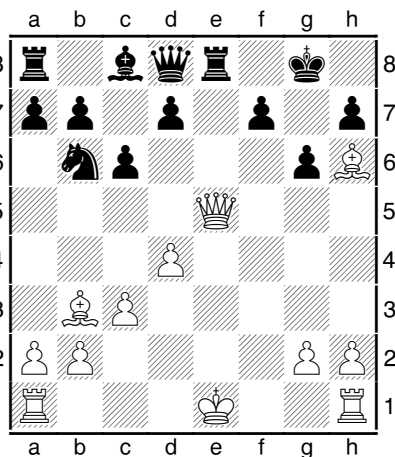


29.Qxh6+!

Black resigned: 29...gxh6 (29...Kg8 30.Nxf6+ Kf7 31.Qxg7 #) 30.Nxf6+ Kh8 31.Rg8 #.

1-0

Example 1 - Pinning ○



It looks like White is in trouble, but he can turn the tables...

1.Bxf7+! Kxf7 2.0-0+

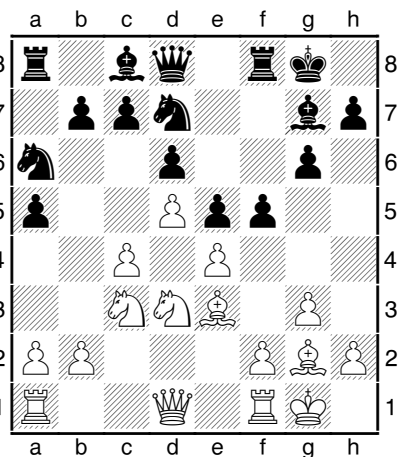
1-0

□ **Nakamura Hikaru**

■ **Theodorou Nikolas**

E62 Internet 2026

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 d6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Nb8 9.e4 a5 10.Ne1 Na6 11.Nd3 Nd7 12.Be3 f5 (D)

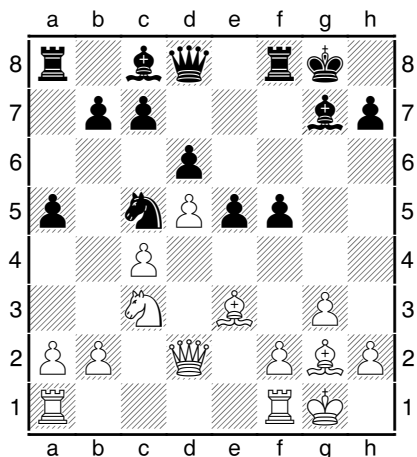


The notorious and quite dangerous in quick games, 'King's Indian Defence'.



13.Qd2

13.exf5, gains popularity: 13...gxf5 14.f4 Nb6 15.Bxb6 cxb6 16.fxe5 dxe5 oo Mamedyarov,S-Onyshchuk,V Internet 2024. **13...Ndc5 14.Nxc5 Nxc5 15.exf5 gxf5 (D)**



16.Nb5

16.f4, is logical: 16...e4 17.Bd4 Bd7 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 oo Svidler,P-Yu,Y Shenzhen 2018.

16...Bd7 17.Kh1 Kh8 18.Qe2

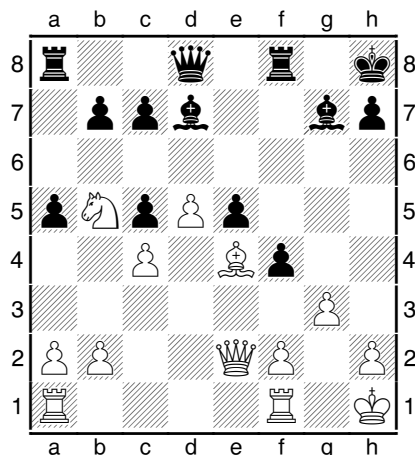
18.f4 e4 19.Rfd1 Nd3 20.Rab1 oo.

18...f4?

18...b6 19.Rad1 a4 oo.

19.Bxc5 dxc5 20.Be4? (D)

20.Rad1 Ra6 21.d6! +/-.



20...Ra6!

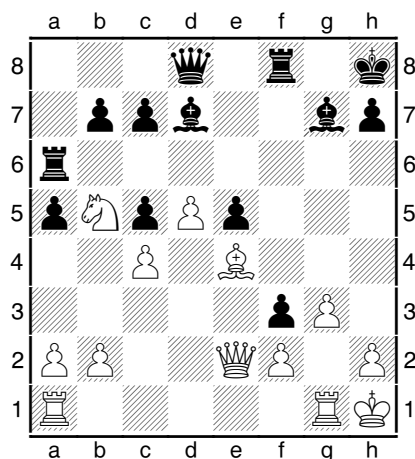
The usual rook-lift, enforcing the attack on the white king.

21.Rg1?!

21.d6! f3 22.Qe3 Bxb5 23.dxc7 Qxc7

24.cxb5 Raf6 25.Rfd1 +=.

21...f3! (D)

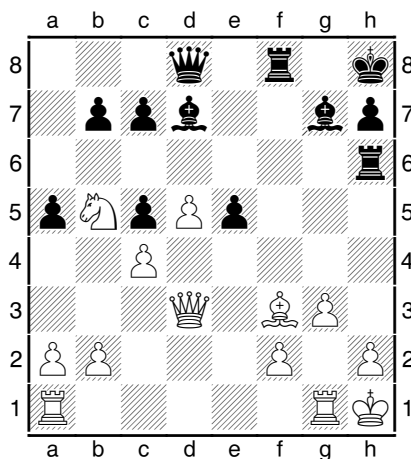


22.Qd3?

The text is losing. Forced was 22.Bxf3 Raf6 23.Be4 c6 24.Nc3 cxd5 25.cxd5 Rxf2 oo.

22...Rh6! 23.Bxf3? (D)

23.Qe3 Bg4 -/+, was forced.



23...Qf6! 24.Be4 Rxe2+!

White resigned, due to 25.Kxe2 Qh6+ 26.Kg2 Qh3 #.

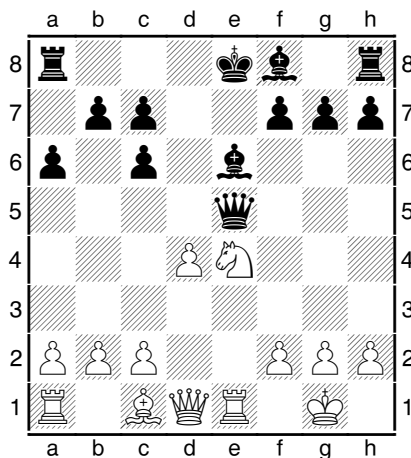
0-1

□ Abonyi Istvan

■ Lovas Gyula

C48 Budapest 1915

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 a6 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nxe5 Nxe4 7.Nxe4 Qd4 8.0-0 Qxe5 9.Re1 Be6 10.d4 (D)



Black is a bit behind in development and has to think how he will castle in safety.

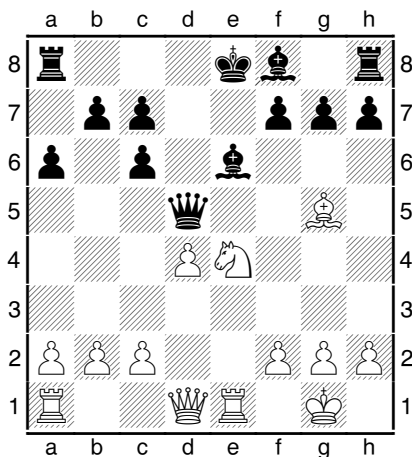
10...Qd5?!

A centralised queen in such an early stage isn't advisable. 10...Qf5 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Bd6 += Kalin/Tanner-Book/Salo Helsinki

1935, might be a better try for Black.

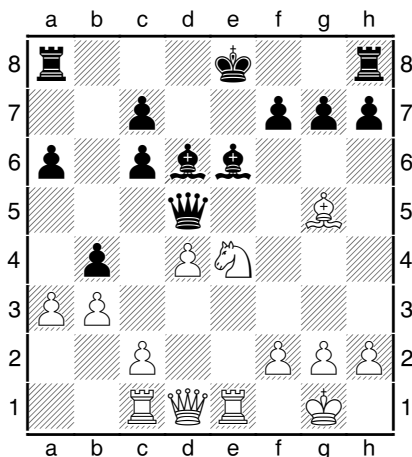
11.Bg5 (D)

Better seems to be the simple 11.Ng5 0-0-0 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Qg4 Qxd4 14.Qxe6+ Qd7 15.Qxd7+ Rxd7 16.Re8+ Rd8 17.Rxd8+ Kxd8 18.b3 Bc5 19.Bb2 Rf8 20.Rd1+ Kc8 21.Rd2 +=, with a better endgame for White, due to Black's doubled c-pawns, as in Reti,R-Spielmann,R Vienna 1914.



11...c5?

Opening the centre in such an early stage cannot benefit Black, who is behind in development. Not advisable is 11...Qf5? 12.Qd3! +/- D'Amelio,C-Ferraris,E Bologna 1913, as well, but Black should have opted for 11...Bd6 12.b3 b5 13.Rc1 b4 14.a3 += (D)



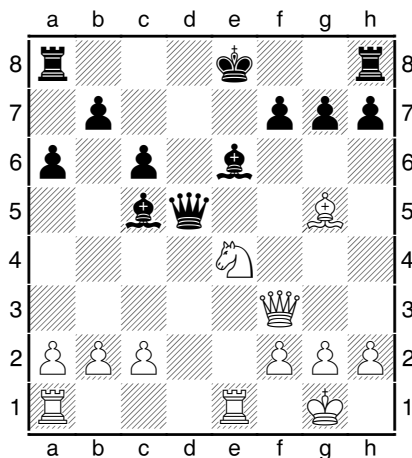
Opocensky,K-Spielmann,R Prague 1912. Note that after 11...h6? 12.Bf6! +/-, Black is also in big troubles, as in Severne,E-

Grierson,J Christchurch 1914.

12.Qf3

12.c4! Qxd4 13.Qb3! +-, might be even better.

12...c6 13.dxc5 Bxc5 (D)



Black is ready to castle, but White is on the move!

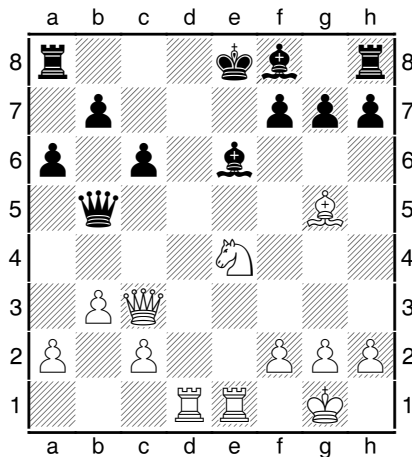
14.Rad1

Full centralisation!

14...Qc4 15.b3 Qb5 16.Qc3

A double attack, forcing Black to retreat.

16...Bf8 (D)



17.Qf6!

And Black resigned, due to 17...gxf6 (17...Qa5 18.Qd4 +/-) 18.Nxf6+ Ke7 19.Rd7 #. A great text-book example of neglecting the development and centralise the queen early.

1-0

Recent Tournaments

Grand Chess Tour Finals 2026

The Event

The 2026 Grand Chess Tour season culminated at the Saint Louis Chess Club from August 21-28.

Competition run August 22–27, when the four highest-ranked full-tour players after the regular season contest a knockout tournament for the GCT title.

The Field

The field was set in final Tour standings order: Seed No. 1 R.Pragganandhaa, Seed No. 2 W.So, Seed No. 3 F.Caruaana, and Seed No. 4 V.Keymer.

The semifinals paired R.Pragganandhaa against V.Keymer and W.So against F.Caruaana. The top three finishers received invitations to the 2027 Grand Chess Tour.

Prize Fund

The total prize fund was \$450,000, distributed as follows: \$200,000 for first place, \$125,000 for second, \$75,000 for third, and \$50,000 for fourth.

Format

The GCT Finals was a four-player knockout consisting of two semifinals, a championship match, and a third-place match.

Each match included two Classical games, two Rapid games, and four Blitz games, and every scheduled game was played even if the match result has already been decided.

Classical games use 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the remainder, with a 30-second increment from move one.

Rapid games use 25 minutes plus a 10-second increment, and Blitz games use 5 minutes plus a 2-second increment. Match scoring awards 6/3/0 points for a Classical win/draw/loss, 4/2/0 for Rapid, and 2/1/0 for Blitz.

If both Classical games in a match were drawn, a Blitz Bonus Match was played; any match still tied after the scheduled games proceeds to the official playoff procedure.

Semifinals - Match 1												
N	Players	Data	Classic		B	Rapid		Blitz				Total
1	Keymer V.	GER 2767	=	0	X	0	1	0	1	1	1	
2	Pragg R.	IND 2750	=	1	X	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Scores			3-9			0-8		6-2				9-19

Semifinals - Match 2												
N	Players	Data	Classic		B	Rapid		Blitz				Total
1	Caruana F.	USA 2792	=	=	1	=	=	1	=	1	=	
2	So W.	USA 2765	=	=	0	=	=	0	=	0	=	
Scores			8-6		4-4		6-2				18-12	



3 rd Position Match												
N	Players	Data	Classic	B	Rapid	Blitz				Total		
1	Keymer V.	GER 2767	=	=	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	
2	So W.	USA 2765	=	=	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	
Scores			8-6		4-4		0-8				12-18	

Championship Match												
N	Players	Data	Classic	B	Rapid	Blitz				Total		
1	Caruana F.	USA 2792	1	=	X	0	0	=	1	0	=	
2	Pragg R.	IND 2750	0	=	X	1	1	=	0	1	=	
Scores			9-3		0-8		4-4				13-15	



□ Keymer Vincent

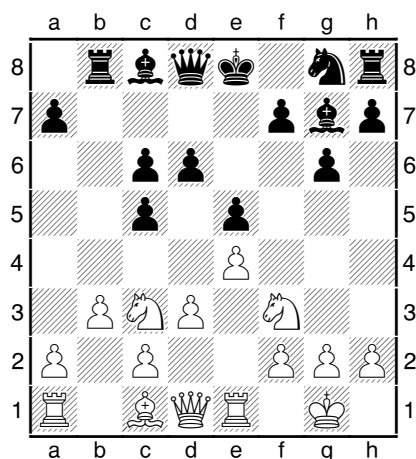
■ Pragganandhaa Rameshbabu

B31 Saint Louis 2026

1.Nf3 e5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Bxc6

I was always thought that the text isn't good for White - I even called it 'poor chess education'.

5...bxc6 6.Re1 Rb8 7.Nc3 e5 8.d3 d6 9.b3 (D)



9...Nf6

A novelty to 9...Ne7 10.Be3 0-0 =+ Erece,E-

Eminov,O Manavgat 2016.

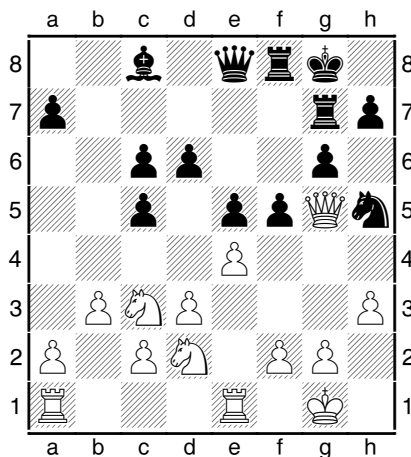
10.Be3 0-0 11.h3 Nh5 12.Qd2 f5

Black is rather active and has the bishop pair. What else can he ask after just 12 moves?

13.Bh6 Rb7 14.Bxg7 Rxd7 15.Qg5 Qe8

16.Nd2? (D)

16.Qh6 f4 -/+.



16...f4!

The white queen is now in trouble...

17.Nc4

17.g4, loses to 17...f3! 18.Qh4 Nf4 -+.

17...h6!

A typical tactic, to trap the white queen.

18.Qxh6 Qe7

Against Qg5.

19.Kh2

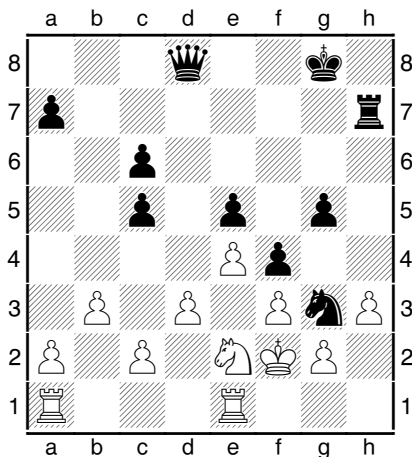
19.Nd2, was worth a try, but Black can still prevail: 19...Rh7 (19...f3 20.Re3 fxg2 21.Ne2 Rh7! 22.Qxg6+ Kh8 -+) 20.Qxg6+ Kh8 21.Kh1 f3! -+.

19...Qf6!

White can resign...

20.Nxd6 Rh7 21.Qxf8+ Qxf8 22.Nxc8 Qxc8

23.f3 g5 24.Kg1 Qd8 25.Ne2 Ng3! 26.Kf2 (D)



26...c4! 27.Nxg3 Qd4+

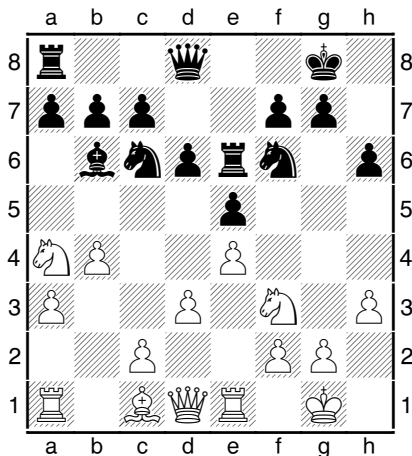
White resigned, due to 28.Ke2 cxd3+ 29.cxd3 Qb2+! 30.Kf1 fxg3 -+. 0-1

□ Caruana Fabiano

■ Praggananandhaa Rameshbabu

C50 Saint Louis 2026

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Na4 Bb6 7.a3 h6 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 Re8 10.Re1 Be6 11.Bxe6 Rxe6 12.b4 (D)



12...Qd7

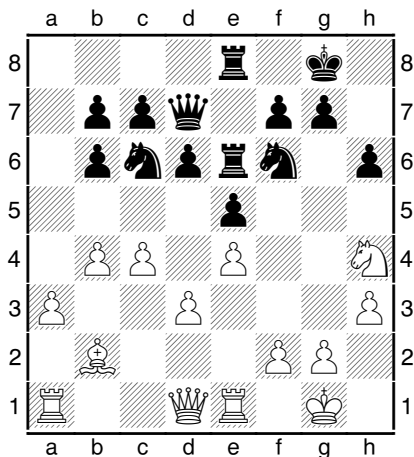
A novelty to 12...Ne7! 13.Bb2 Ng6 14.d4 Re8 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Nxb6 axb6 oo Aronian,L-Lazavik,D Hong Kong 2026.

13.c4 Nd4 14.Nh4 Nc6?

Black should have tried 14...g5 15.Nxb6 axb6

16.Nf5 Nxf5 17.exf5 Ree8 18.g4 +-=.

15.Nxb6 axb6 16.Bb2 Rae8 (D)



White has the better game, as he can extract play on both sides of the board, while Black lacks counterplay.

17.Rf1?

Too early... 17.g3 Nd4 18.a4 c5 19.Rf1 +/-, was good.

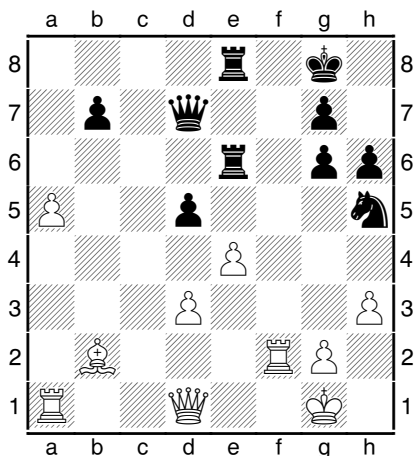
17...Ne7! 18.f4 exf4 19.Rxf4 Ng6! 20.Nxg6 fxg6 21.a4 c6 22.a5 Nh5 23.Rf2 bxa5 24.bxa5!

Now the b7-pawn will be under attack.

24...d5!

A natural response, creating central play.

25.cxd5 cxd5 (D)



26.Qb3?!

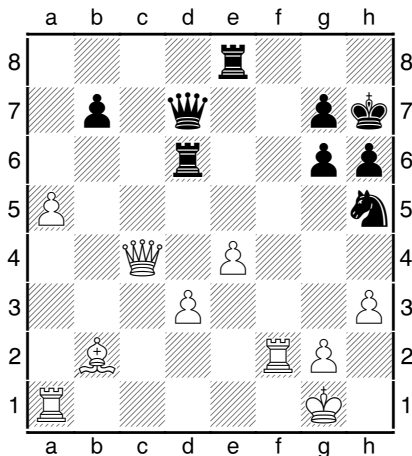
Better is 26.e5 +-=.

26...Kh7 27.Qxd5

But not 27.exd5? Re2! 28.Bd4 Ng3 -/+.

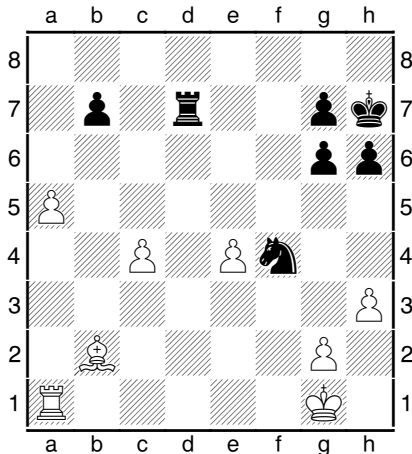
27...Rd6 28.Qc4 (D)

28.Qf7, gives nothing after 28...Rxd3 (28...Re7? 29.Qc4 Rxd3 30.a6! bxa6 31.Rf8 g5 32.Qg8+ Kg6 33.Rxa6+ Rd6 34.Rd8! Rxa6 35.Rxd7 Rxd7 36.Qc8 Raa7 37.Qe8+ Rf7 38.e5 +/-) 29.Qxd7 Rxd7 =.

**28...Rc8?**

A bad move, as 28...Rxd3, keeps the balance: 29.Raf1 (29.Rf7 Rd1+ 30.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 31.Kh2 Qd6+ 32.Kh1 Qd1+ 33.Kh2 Qd6+ 34.Kh1 Qd1+ 35.Kh2 =) 29...Rd1 =.

29.Rf7! Rxc4 30.Rxd7 Rxd7 31.dxc4 Nf4 (D)



White has won a pawn and his winning chances are great.

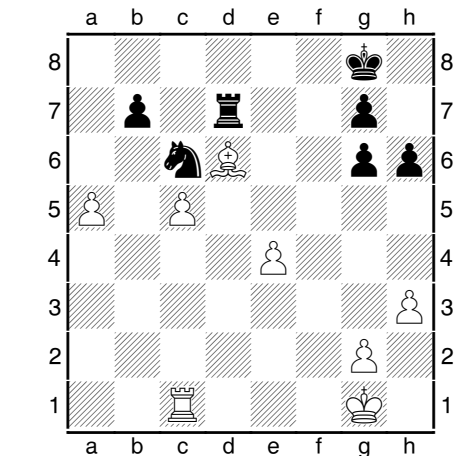
32.c5 Ne6

32...Rc7, loses to 33.Be5 Ne2+ 34.Kf2 Rxc5 35.Bd6 Rc2 36.Ke3 +-.
33.Rc1!

33.c6 bxc6 34.Kf1 Nc5 35.Ke2 +/-, was inferior.

33...Nd8 34.Be5! Nc6 35.Bd6 Kg8 (D)

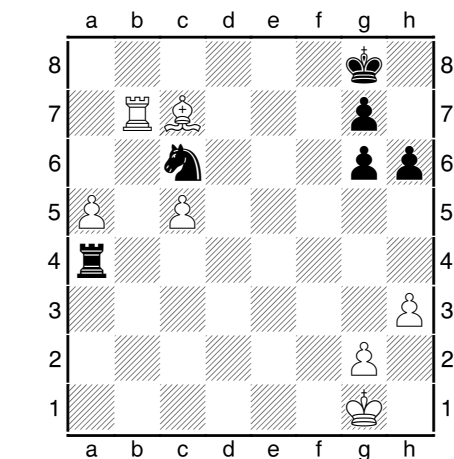
35...Nxa5 36.e5 Nc6 37.e6 Rd8 38.e7 Re8 39.Rf1! +-.
36.Ra1! Rd8 37.Rb1 Re8

**36.Ra1! Rd8 37.Rb1 Re8**

37...Rc8 38.Rb5 (38.Rxb7 Nxa5 39.Rb4 Kf7 40.Kf2 +/-) 38...Ra8 39.Rxb7 Nxa5 40.Rc7 +-.
The passed white duo cannot be stopped.

38.Bc7 Rxe4 39.Rxb7 Ra4 (D)

39...Rc4 40.a6 Ra4 41.Rb6 Nb4 42.c6 +-.
40.Rb6 Ne7

**40.Rb6 Ne7**

40...Na7 41.a6 Rc4 42.Rb7 +-.
41.Rd6 Kf7 42.Bb6 Nf5 43.Rd8 Ne7

44.Ra8! Nc6 45.a6 Ke6 46.a7 Kd5 47.Rg8! Nxa7 48.Ra8

And Black resigned, as he loses his knight and then the game as well!

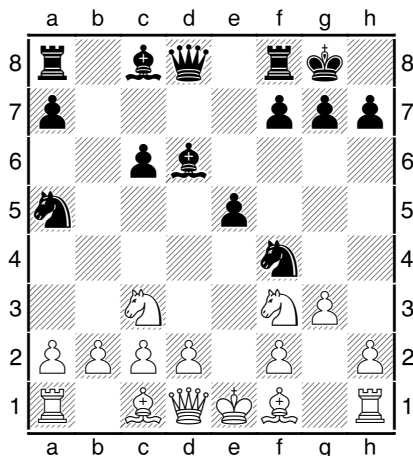
1-0

□ Praggananandhaa Rameshbabu

■ Caruana Fabiano

C58 Saint Louis 2026

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 +/-
5.exd5 Na5! 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3
Nd5 9.Nf3 Bd6 10.Nc3 Nf4 11.Bf1 0-0 12.g3
(D)



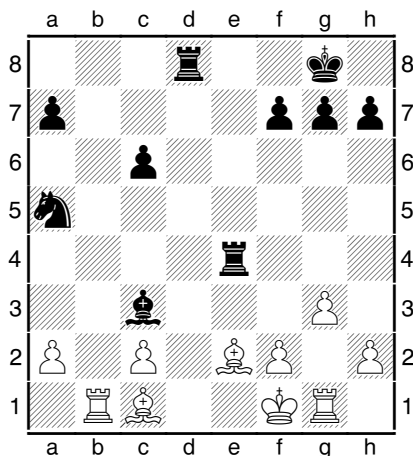
12...Nd5!

A novelty to 12...Ng6? 13.Bg2 Bg4 14.h3 +/-
Li,E-Padhye,R Internet 2020.

13.d3 Nxc3 14.bxc3 e4?

14...Re8 15.Be3 f5 oo/=.

15.dxe4 Re8 16.Be2 Bh3 17.Ng5 Bg2
18.Rg1 Bxe4 19.Nxe4 Rxe4 20.Kf1 Be5
21.Qxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rb1 Bxc3 (D)



Black regained his pawn, but the white
bishop pair is a good asset.

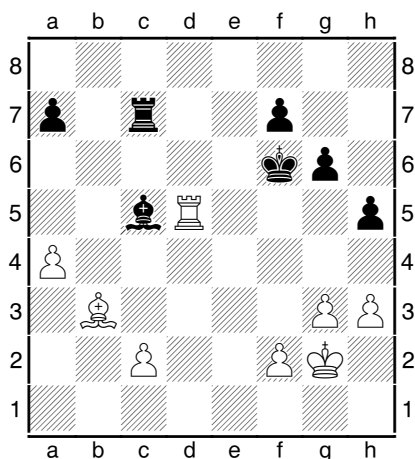
23.Bd3 Ra4 24.a3 g6 25.Kg2 Kg7 26.Rd1
h5 27.h3 Nc4 28.Rb7 Rd5 29.Rc7?!

29.h4 +=.

29...Nb2! 30.Bxb2 Bxb2 31.Rb1 Be5!
32.Rxc6 Rd6!

Accurate play. Wrong would be 32...Rxa3?
33.Rb7 Rd6 34.Rxd6 Bxd6 35.Bc4 +/-.

33.Rc4 Rxc4 34.Bxc4 Rd4 35.Ba2 Rd7
36.Rb5 Bd4 37.a4 Rc7 38.Bb3 Kf6 39.Rd5
Bc5 (D)

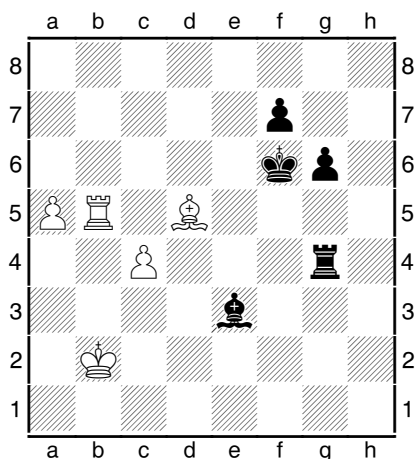


White has gained a pawn, but the opposite-
coloured bishops help Black to defend.

40.f4 a5 41.g4 hxg4 42.hxg4 Ke7 43.Kf3
Bb4?

43...f6 44.Ke4 Rc6 45.Rd3 +=.

44.Rb5 Kf6 45.Ke4 Bd2 46.Bd5 Re7+
47.Kd4 Bxf4 48.Rxa5 Be3+ 49.Kc4 Rc7+
50.Kb3 Bd2 51.Rb5 Rc3+ 52.Kb2 Rg3
53.a5 Rxg4 54.c4 Be3 (D)



Black was quite helpful and now White can
win.

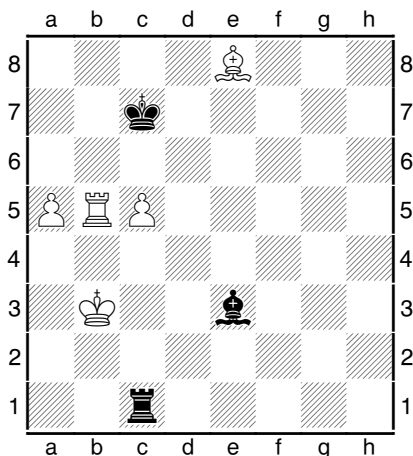
55.c5?

55.a6 Bd4+ 56.Ka3 Rg5 57.Kb4 +-, was decisive.

55...Ke5! 56.Bxf7 Ra4 57.Kb3 Ra1 58.Bxg6 Kd5 59.Bf7+ Kc6 60.Be8+ Kc7

As Black has put his king on the right wing, White's two extra pawns cannot be helpful anymore.

61.Kb2 Re1 62.Kc3 Rc1+ 63.Kb4 Bd2+ 64.Kb3 Be3 (D)



The defensive power of the opposite-coloured bishops! The position is now equal, but White tried for another 30 moves...

65.a6 Rxc5 66.Rb7+ Kd6 67.Rd7+ Ke6 68.Rd3 Bg1 69.Rd1 Bf2 70.Kb4 Rc7 71.Kb5 Rc5+ 72.Kb4 Rc7! 73.Rh1 Ba7 74.Ba4 Rc5 75.Rh6 Be3 76.Rg6 Kf5 77.Rg8 Ba7 78.Re8 Kf6 79.Bb3 Kf5 80.Bd5 Kf6 81.Re6+ Kf5 82.Re1 Kf6 83.Re8 Bc5+ 84.Kb5 Ba7 85.Bc6 Kg7 86.Re6 Kf7 87.Rh6 Kg7 88.Rd6 Rf7 89.Bd7 Rf1 90.Rc6 Rb1+ 91.Ka4 Rb6 92.Rc7 Rxa6+ 93.Kb4 Bb8 94.Kb5 Bxc7 95.Kxa6

1/2-1/2



Playing on the Top Sofia Kaliskami (Greece) European Youth Champion U08 2026

The Greek player Sofia Kaliskami got the Gold medal in the U08 Category (Boys & Girls), of the European Union Youth Championship 2026.

The event was held on 18-26.08.2026, in

Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, of Czech Republic.

Another great result for the (extremely) young Greek representative who finished in the 1st position alone, gathering 7 points out of 9 games.



The Historical Corner

300 Years from the Birth of a Legend

The Legend

François-André Danican Philidor (7 September 1726 - 31 August 1795), born **François-André Danican** and often referred to as **André Danican Philidor** during his lifetime, was a French composer and chess master.

He contributed to the early development of the opéra comique. He is widely regarded as the best chess player of his age; his book *Analyse du jeu des Échecs* was considered a standard chess manual for at least a century.

A chess opening, an endgame position, and a checkmate method are all named for him.

Life

François-André Danican Philidor came from the well-known musical Philidor family.

The original name of his family was Danican, but François-André's great-grandfather, Jean Danican Philidor, was given the nickname of Philidor by Louis XIII because his oboe playing reminded the king of an Italian virtuoso oboist named Filidori whom had previously played in the choir.

Philidor was the son of Andre Philidor, who was a basson-player at the court of Louis XIV. Retiring in 1724 with a pension from Louis XV, he made his home in Dreux where his son Philidor was born September 7, 1726.

Philidor's mother, Anne Elisabeth Leroy, was the second or third wife of his father and was described as 'un-sophisticated and simple' (she was about 40 years younger than her husband). Leroy was herself descended from a family of musicians though its not known if she herself was musical.

Philidor also had four sisters; Helene-Elisabeth, Marie-Anne, Marie-Marguerite and Francois-Agathe and from his father's previous marriage he had a half-brother Anne Philidor.

Music Career



Philidor's bust on the façade of the Opera Garnier in Paris

Philidor joined the royal choir of Louis XV in 1732 at the age of 6, and made his first attempt at the composition of a song at the age of 11.

It was said that Louis XV wanted to listen to the choir almost every day, and the singers, while waiting for the king to arrive, played chess to relieve their boredom; this may have begun Philidor's interest in chess.

Starting about 1740, he lived and worked in Paris as a performer, teacher and music copyist.

He was the teacher of the Bohemian composer and pianist Ludwig Wenzel Lachnith. During this time he met Diderot, who termed him 'Philidor le subtil' in his publication *Rameau's Nephew* (*Le neveu de Rameau*).

In 1745 Philidor was to accompany a harpsichord prodigy on a concert tour of the Netherlands; the tour failed however when

the harpsichordist died suddenly. Philidor then travelled to London in 1747, where he knew many of the same people as Samuel Johnson and Charles Burney.

He returned to the French capital in 1754, resolving to devote himself seriously to musical composition, although his music was found by some to be too Italianate (as a result of his travels).

However he scored several triumphs at the fair theatres, starting with *Blaise le savetier* in 1759. His three most successful works were *Le sorcier* (1764), *Tom Jones* (after Henry Fielding, 1765), and *Ernelinde, princesse de Norvège* (1767).

For a time Philidor was among the main opera composers in France, and during his musical career produced more than 20 opéra comiques and two tragédies lyriques. He also wrote secular cantatas and motets.

Philidor also wrote music for masonic rituals. The first performance of his *Carmen Saeculare* was performed at Freemasons' Hall, London, in 1779.

He was a member of the renowned Parisian lodge *Les Neuf Sœurs*. This lodge had an allied society for musicians, named the *Société Apollonienne*.

Chess Career



Plaque honouring François-André Danican Philidor on the street of his name in the 20th arrondissement of Paris

Philidor started playing regularly about 1740 at the best known chess venue of France, the *Café de la Régence*.

It was also there that he played with Benjamin Franklin. The best player in

France at the time, Legall de Kermeur, taught him.

At first, Legall could give Philidor rook odds, a handicap in which the stronger player starts without one of his rooks, but in only three years, Philidor equalled and then surpassed him.

Philidor visited England in 1747 and decisively beat the Syrian Philipp Stamma in a match, although Philidor let Stamma have the first move in every game and scored all draws as wins for Stamma.

The same year, Philidor played many games with another strong player, Sir Abraham Janssen, who was then the best player in England, and with the exception of Legall, probably the best player Philidor ever encountered.

He could win on an average one game in four from Philidor at even terms, and Philidor himself declared that he could only give to Janssen one-pawn odds in exchange for making the first move with the white pieces.



Philidor playing chess blindfolded

In 1754, Philidor returned to France, after nine years of absence, spent mostly in the Netherlands and England.

He was now a much stronger player, having successfully played opponents of the calibre of Philip Stamma and Abraham Janssen, but, as G. Allen reports in *The life of Philidor*, it was not until his match with Legall (also known as de Legal) in 1755 that he can be considered the strongest player in the world.

When Philidor left Paris, in 1745, although he had for some time been playing even games with M. de Legal ... he had not ceased to recognise his old master as still his master and superior.

But nine years of practice, with a great variety of players, had authorised him to look

for neither superior nor equal; and when, in 1755, a match was arranged between the pupil and his master, who was still at the height of his strength, the result placed the crown firmly and indisputably upon the head of Philidor.

In 1771 and 1773, Philidor briefly stayed in London to play at the Salopian coffee house, Charing Cross and at the St. James's Chess Club. In 1774, Parloe's chess club, on St James's Street in London, was created, and Philidor obtained remuneration as a chess master every year for a regular season from February to June.

Philidor stayed faithful to this agreement until the end of his life, and he was replaced by Verdoni only after his death.

Here, Philidor encountered George Atwood, a famous mathematician, physician and lecturer at Cambridge University. In an article by J. J. O'Connor and E. F. Robertson, devoted to George Atwood, there is the following passage: 'Atwood was a renowned amateur chess-player and among other opponents played games against the famous French player Philidor, who was regarded as the unofficial World Champion'.

Henry Bird records: Of the players who encountered Philidor, Sir Abraham Janssens, who died in 1775, seems to have been the best.

Atwood, one of Pitt's secretaries, came next; he was of a class which we should call third or two grades of odds below Philidor, a high standard of excellence to which but few amateurs attained.

One of the most interesting features of Atwood as a chess player is that he recorded and preserved some of his games, an unusual practice at that time.

These records have survived, among them the last games that Philidor played, which were against Atwood at Parsloe's Club in St James's Street, London, on 20 June 1795.

In England, Philidor astounded his peers by playing three blindfold chess games simultaneously in the chess club of St James's Street on 9 May 1783.

Philidor let all three opponents play white, and gave up a pawn to the third player. Some affidavits were signed, because those

persons who were involved doubted that future generations would believe that such a feat was possible.

Presently, three simultaneous blindfold games would be fairly unremarkable among many chess masters. Even when he was 67 years old, he played and won two blindfold games simultaneously in London in 1793.

Philidor, both in England and France, was largely recognised for both music and chess and had many admirers, protectors and friends, such as the French philosophers Voltaire, Rousseau and the famous English actor David Garrick (1717-1779).

In December 1792, however, when he was age 65, Philidor was forced to leave France for England. He fled the French Revolution (1789-1799) because his name was on the Revolutionary banishment list, established by the Convention nationale.

This was not probably due to his ideas (indeed it seems Philidor was rather reserved about his opinions apart from music and chess), but very likely due to the traditional attachment of his family to the King's family service.

Andrew Soltis writes that Philidor 'was the best player in the world for 50 years. In fact, he was probably about 200 rating points better than anyone else yet alive - set apart by the mysteries of the game he had solved'.

Also interesting is GM Boris Alterman's opinion of Philidor's play:

Five hundred years ago, chess was different from today. Pawns didn't cost as much as they do today.

The best players started games with the gambits. Pawns were only a small price to: Open a file or diagonal; Create an immediate attack on an opponent's king. It was the Italian style of chess. All positions of the King's Gambit were very popular. ...

The best chess player of his day was Francois Andre Danican-Philidor... His published chess strategy stood for a hundred years without significant addition or modification.

He preached the value of a strong pawn centre, an understanding of the relative value

of the pieces, and correct pawn formations.

In the same article, Alterman also noticed, analysing the game Count Brühl-Philidor, F, 0-1, London 1783, that Philidor understood very well modern concepts like the power of passed pawns, bad and good pieces, space advantage, open files, pawn structure and the importance of centre.

Analyse du jeu des Échecs

In 1749, Philidor published his famous book *Analyse du jeu des Échecs*. He printed a second edition in 1777 and a third in 1790.

The book was such an advance in chess knowledge that, by 1871, it had gone through about 70 editions and had been translated into English, Spanish, German, Russian and Italian. In it, Philidor analysed nine different types of game openings.

Most of the openings of Philidor are designed to strengthen and establish a strong defensive centre using pawns.

He is the first one to realise the new role of the pawn in the chess game, and his most famous advice was the saying 'The pawns are the soul of chess'. More precisely, Philidor said:

Mon but principal est de me rendre recommandable par une nouveauté dont personne ne s'est avisé, ou peut-être n'a été capable; c'est celle de bien jouer les pions; ils sont l'âme des Echecs : ce sont eux-mêmes qui forment uniquement l'attaque et la défense et de leur bon ou mauvais arrangement dépend entièrement le gain ou la perte de la partie.

My main purpose is to gain recognition for myself by means of a new idea of which no one has conceived, or perhaps has been unable to practice; that is, good play of the pawns; they are the soul of chess: it is they alone that determine the attack and the defence, and the winning or losing of the game depends entirely on their good or bad arrangement.

He also included analysis of certain positions of rook and bishop versus rook, such analysis being still current theory even now.

He demonstrated an important drawing technique with a rook and pawn versus rook

endgame in what is known as the Philidor position.

The Philidor Defence (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6) is named for him. Philidor's book was the very first to give detailed annotations on how to play the middlegame, present chess strategy as a whole, and present the concepts of the blockade, prophylaxis, positional sacrifice and mobility of the pawn formation.

Early critics of the *Analyse du jeu des Échecs* include those of the Modenese School (Ercole del Rio, Lolli or Ponziani), who in contrast to the French, advocated a free piece play, gambit openings and tactical complications; they also found some of the variations reported in the *Analyse* to be unsound (in particular those related with ...f7-f5 push in the Philidor Defence: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5).

Some of Philidor's disciples - Bernard, Carlier, Leger, and Verdoni, who met at the Café de la Régence by the name of the Société des Amateurs - also criticised his work.

In their book, *Traité des Amateurs*, they expressed many criticisms and comments on his earlier printed book, arguing that the variations reported in Philidor's *Analyse* are more instructive than correct.

Nevertheless, the games in the *Traité* can be regarded, together of those of Philidor, as typical examples of the understanding of chess during the Enlightenment, and the Société des Amateurs was much more like Philidor than the Modenese school.

The Philidor Position

The 'Philidor Position' (or 'Philidor's Position') usually refers to an important endgame which illustrates a drawing technique when the defender has a king and rook versus a king, rook, and a pawn.

It is also known as the 3rd rank defence, because of the importance of the rook on the 3rd rank cutting-off the opposing king.

It was analysed by François-André Danican Philidor in 1777. Many rook and pawn versus rook endgames reach either the 'Philidor Position' or the 'Lucena Position'.

If played accurately the defending side tries to reach the 'Philidor Position'; the other side

tries to reach the winning 'Lucena Position'.

The important characteristics of the position are (from the point of view of the defender):

Characteristics
1. The defending king is on the queening square of the pawn (or adjacent to it). The pawn can be on any file.
2. The opposing pawn has not yet reached the defender's 3 rd rank (its 6 th rank).
3. The opposing king is beyond the defender's 3 rd rank.
4. The defender's rook is on the 3 rd rank, keeping the opposing king off that rank.

The general ideas are easy to understand and practice. With some good examples, the 'Philidor Position' can be nicely 'absorbed'.

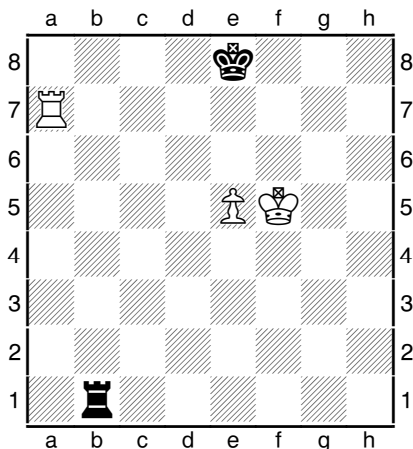
But of course things are usually more complicated over the real battle and study is required.

Breaking down the 'Philidor Position' is an obligation for the stronger side.



But of course this is easier said than done, as usual happens in this blunderful life!

Example 1 - Philidor François 1777 ○



This is the so-called 'Philidor Position'. The

famous French chess player was the first to demonstrate, as early as the 18th century, the correct method of defence. White would like to get his king to the e6-square and threaten mate to force the black king away from the queening square of the pawn, e8. The black rook on the 3rd rank prevents that. If White checks with the rook from the side, Black simply keeps the king in front of the pawn by alternating between squares e8 and e8. If White offers an exchange of rooks Black should take it, since the resulting king and pawn endgame is drawn. So White's only winning chance is to advance the pawn. The basic idea is for the defender to keep his rook on his 3rd rank until the pawn advances to that rank, and then check the opposing king from behind.

1...Rb6!

Preventing a penetration of the white king to the 6th rank.

2.e6 Rb1

If the pawn stood at e5 the white king would have had a refuge from vertical checks. But, as soon as the pawn has stepped forward, the refuge does not exist anymore. So, Black draws easily.

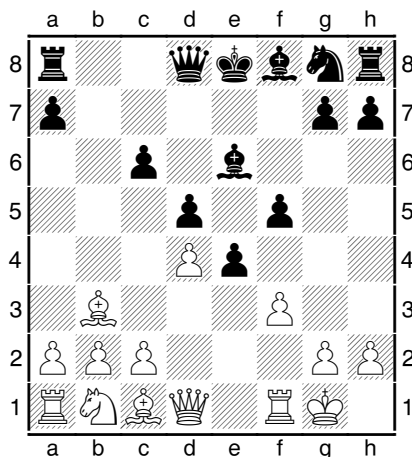
½-½

□ Sheldon

■ Philidor Francois Andre Danican

C23 London 1790

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 cxd5 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.d4 e4 7.Ne5 Be6 8.0-0 f6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.f3 f5 (D)



11.Be3?

11.fxe4 fxe4 12.c4 +/-.

11...Nf6 12.Nd2 Bd6 13.c4 0-0 14.Ba4 Qc7

15.f4 Ng4! 16.Qe2 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 c5!

Activating the bishop pair.

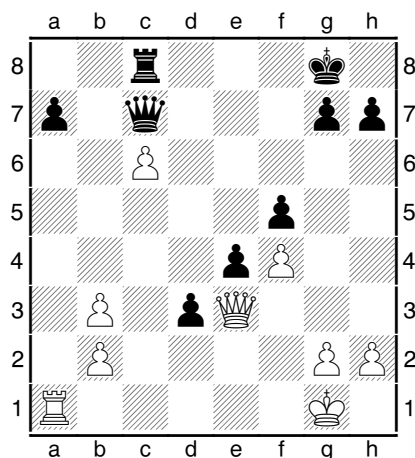
18.Nb3 dxc4 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.dxc5 Rac8

21.c6 Rfd8 22.Rfd1 Rd3! 23.Rxd3 cxd3

24.Bb3?

24.b4 -/+.

24...Bxb3 25.axb3 (D)



25...Qb6 26.Kf2 Qxe3+ 27.Kxe3 Rxc6

28.Rxa7 Rd6! 29.Kd2

29.Ra1 Rc6 30.Rd1 h5 +/-.

29...e3+! 30.Kxe3 d2 31.Ra1 d1Q

0-1



Philidor Francois Andre Danican

Analysis/Analyse

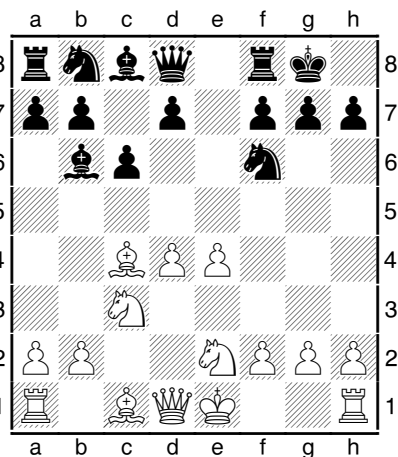
C23 Paris 1749

1.e4

While Greco liked to play with the pieces, Philidor preferred the pawns: The pawns are the soul of the chess game.

1...e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.cxd4

Bb6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Nge2 c6 (D)



The question 'How to win at chess?' is answered by Philidor in three steps:

1. Create pawn majorities.
2. Create passed pawns.
3. Win by promoting and queening the passed pawns.

8.Bd3

White prepares for the advance ...d5, so that he will not have to exchange his e-pawn for Black's d-pawn. 8.0-0? d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10.Bd3, isn't the sort of pawn structure Philidor had in mind.

8...d5 9.e5

Step one: White has a pawn majority on the kingside (Black on the queenside).

9...Ne8 10.Be3 f6 11.Qd2 fxe5 12.dxe5

The pawn majority has become bigger, it is now 4-2.

12...Be6

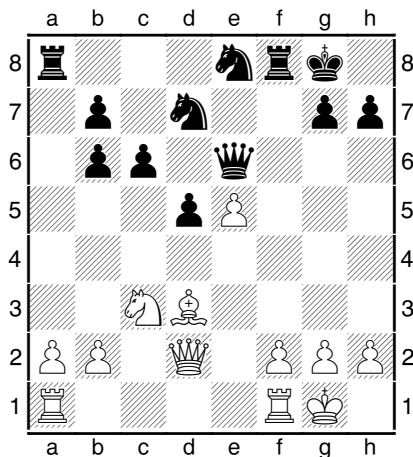
Blockading the passed pawn. As is well known, this theme was later developed by A.Nimzowitsch.

13.Nf4

Fighting against the blocking piece, the e6-bishop.

13...Qe7 14.Bxb6 axb6 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Nxe6

Qxe6 (D)



The queen is not the best blocking piece.

17.f4

Promotion.

17...Nc7 18.Rae1

White's plan is to play f5, in order to promote the e-pawn.

18...g6

Aimed against f5.

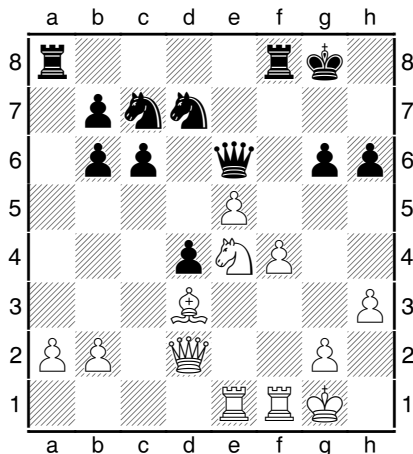
19.h3

Preparing g4 and f5.

19...d4

Creating a square for his knight on d5 (e3), but giving-up the e4-square.

20.Ne4 h6 (D)



Defending against Ng5. White is much better. One reason is that his pawn majority is much more valuable than Black's.

21.b3

Protecting a2 and threatening Bc4.

21...b5 22.g4

Now he is coming!

22...Nd5 23.Ng3

Preparing f5.

23...Ne3

Doesn't help.

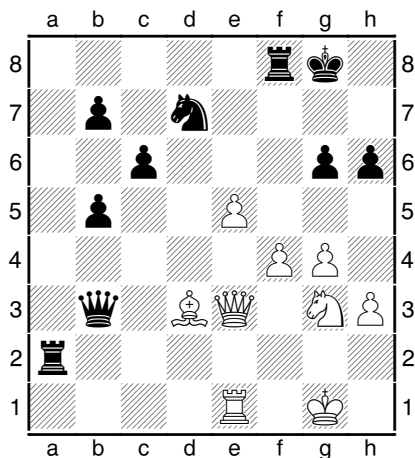
24.Rxe3!

Good shot!

24...dxe3 25.Qxe3 Rxa2 26.Re1

The final preparation. He protects e5 in order to achieve the deadly f5.

26...Qxb3 (D)



27.Qe4 Qe6 28.f5!

Yes! Well-worth waiting for.

28...gxf5 29.gxf5

You can call this position 'Philidor's dream'. Two connected passed pawns which cannot be stopped.

29...Qd5 30.Qxd5+ cxd5 31.Bxb5

Now White can start with step no.3: Promotion of the passed pawns. Black isn't able to block the white pawns.

31...Nb6 32.f6

White will promote both pawns!

32...Rb2 33.Bd3 Kf7 34.Bf5 Nc4 35.Nh5!

Preparing e6.

35...Rg8+ 36.Bg4 Nd2 37.e6+

That's it.

37...Kg6 38.f7 Rf8 39.Nf4+ Kg7 40.Bh5

There is no defence against e7 at all, so White wins. The 'Philidor dream' for the pawns, became real, but of course, there are many improvements for both sides.

1-0

STRATEGY BOOK IN ONE PAGE

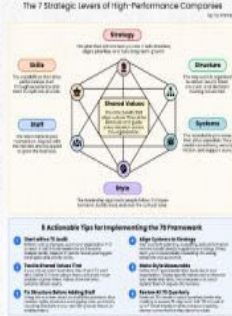
A Plan is Not a Strategy



ERIC PARTAKER'S SCALE FRAMEWORK



MCKINSEY 7S MODEL



5 GOLDEN RULES for Scaling Your Company



PYRAMID OF STRATEGY



The 4 Pillars of a Winning Strategy



WHAT PEOPLE THINK A STRATEGY IS



ONE-PAGE STRATEGY MAP



WHEEL OF STRATEGY



Strategic Planning vs Tactical Planning vs Operational Planning



The 5 Pillars Every Winning Strategy Stands On



THE STRATEGY LOOP



Strategic Storytelling



7 STRATEGIC MINDSET SHIFTS



STRATEGIC THINKING WHEEL



THE SKYSCRAPER OF STRATEGY



Chess Olympiad 2026

Samarkand - Uzbekistan

The Events

The Chess Olympiad is taking place in the town of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 15th to 27th September, 2026.

A great event, gathering approximately 206 National Teams in the Open Section (220 GM among them!) and 190 National Teams in the Women Section.

Every match of this 11-round Swiss System events, will be played on 4 boards (1 substitute), making a total of nearly 2.000 players!

And by the presence of Captains, Arbiters, Anti-cheating, Officials, Technical Staff, etc, it is expected that the number will go on 3.000!

Every two years, National Teams from across the World gather under their flags at the FIDE Chess Olympiad, representing the highest level of team competition in the game.

Established Champions and emerging talents meet across the board, carrying both global reputations and national pride.

In September 2026, Samarkand stands at the centre of the chess world as the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad brings together the game's leading nations for its most prestigious team championship.

The Open and Women's tournaments take place side by side, uniting hundreds of federations in eleven rounds of team competition.

Representing their countries across four boards, teams contest the Olympiad titles as well as individual board honours in one of chess's most demanding formats.

Staged in a city shaped by centuries of cultural exchange, the Olympiad in Samarkand highlights Uzbekistan's growing presence in world chess and its investment in the game's future.



I will be present in this event, as the Captain of the Sri Lanka Team (Open Section) and I will have the pleasure to watch this great tournament.

I will write an extensive article in the Grivas CIA Monthly Magazine (October - 2), covering the FIDE Elections as well.

Do not miss the action!

The Strategy Corner

Endgame Domination

Concept

Strategic domination is the complete restriction and control of the opponent's pieces and territory until their forces stand paralysed or suffocated under their own weight.

Domination isn't borne in the thin air; there are always reasons behind it.

Core Principles of Domination

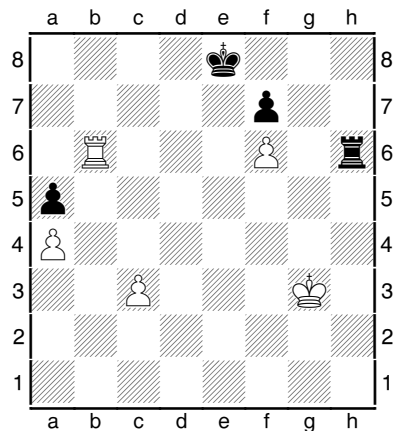
- **Control the Centre:** Secure key central squares like d4, d5, e4, and e5 to give your pieces maximum mobility while cutting off your opponent.
- **Restrict Enemy Mobility:** Place your pieces on active squares that cover every potential escape route or safe square an opposing piece could use.
- **Gain Space and Squeeze:** Advance your pawns to claim more territory, acting like a python that slowly tightens its coils around the enemy position.
- **Avoid Unnecessary Trades:** Keep pieces on the board when you have a space advantage so your opponent's forces crowd and suffocate each other.

Practical Execution

- **Fix Enemy Pawns:** Create immobile targets to tie down enemy pieces and prevent them from organising a counterattack.
- **Own the Initiative:** Keep constant long-term pressure so your opponent is forced to react to your threats rather than execute their own plans.
- **Geometric Patterns of Control:** Use coordinated pieces - such as rooks in rectangular zones or bishops on crisscrossing diagonals - to wall off entire sections of the board.

But let's try to see two examples in the endgame:

□ Grivas Efstratios
 ■ Psycheva Gergana
 E05 Sharjah 2024 •



White has won a pawn, but the position is equal! Around at this point, I felt an urgent call to visit the WC, but I couldn't as I would lose in time - we were playing already on the 30 seconds increment. So, I tried to save some time on the clock - around 4-5 minutes, to make my visit possible!

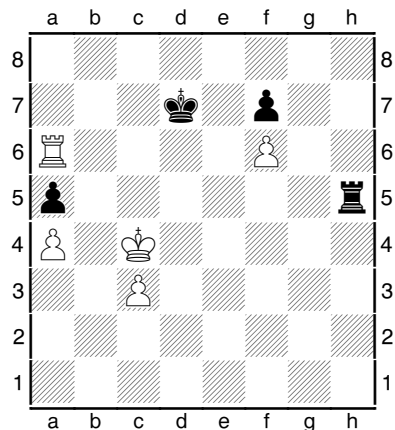
71...Rh1 72.Kf4 Kd7!

The only move - Black has to harass the white rook.

73.Ke5 Rh5+ 74.Kd4 Rh4+ 75.Kd5 Kc7 76.Rc6+ Kd7 77.Ra6 Rh5+!

The only move again, as 77...Rxa4?, would lose to 78.Ra7+ Kc8 (78...Ke8 79.Kd6!, mates) 79.Rxf7 Rf4 80.Ke5 +.

78.Kc4 (D)



78...Rh4+?

But here Black went wrong. She should opt for 78...Rf5! 79.Kd4 Kc8! =.

79.Kb5 Rh5+ 80.Kb6

Here I had 'collect' enough time to make my visit to the WC, so I didn't miss my chance!

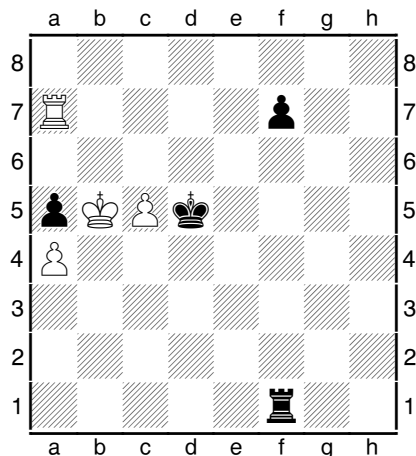
80...Rf5 81.Ra7+!

Accurate!

81...Ke6 82.c4

The c-pawn will carry the day now.

82...Rxf6 83.c5 Kd5+ 84.Kb5 Rf1 (D)



Unfortunately for Black, it is White's turn to move...

85.Rd7+! Ke6 86.Rd2 Rc1 87.c6 f5 88.Kb6 f4 89.Rd3

89.c7, wins as well: 89...f3 90.Kb7 Rb1+ 91.Kc8 Ke5 92.Kd8 Rc1 93.c8Q Rxc8+ 94.Kxc8 +-.

89...Ke5 90.c7 Rb1+

90...Ke4 91.Rd8 +-.

91.Kxa5 Rc1 92.Kb6 Rb1+ 93.Kc6 Rc1+

94.Kd7 Ke4 95.Rd6

And Black resigned.

1-0

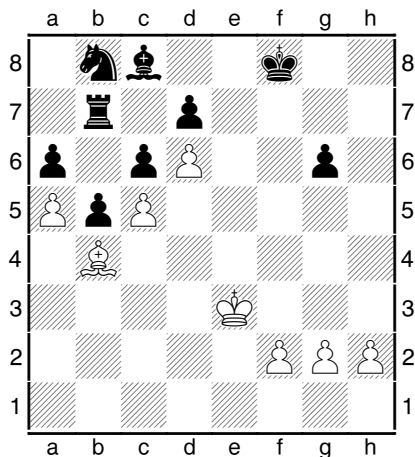
□ Smerdon David

■ Balaji Aaravamudhan

C43 Amsterdam 2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 Nd5 5.Qxd4 c6 6.c4 Nb4 7.Na3 Qa5 8.Bd2 Qxa3 9.bxa3 Nc2+ 10.Kd1 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Bxa3 12.Nf5 0-0 13.Nd6 Bxd6 14.exd6 b6 15.Rb1 Bb7 16.c5 b5 17.a4 a6 18.a5 Re8 19.Bd3 Ra7 20.Re1 Kf8 21.Rxe8+ Kxe8 22.Bb4 Kf8 23.Kd2 Bc8 24.Re1 Rb7 25.Re8+ Kxe8

26.Bxh7 g6 27.Ke3 Kf8 28.Bxg6 fxg6 (D)



A strange position. Black has an extra rook and piece, but he cannot move! So, actually White can win, by pushing his kingside pawns!

29.Kf4 Kf7 30.Ke5

30.h4! Kg7 31.Kg5 Ra7 32.g4 Rb7 33.f4 +-, would be the end.

30...Ra7

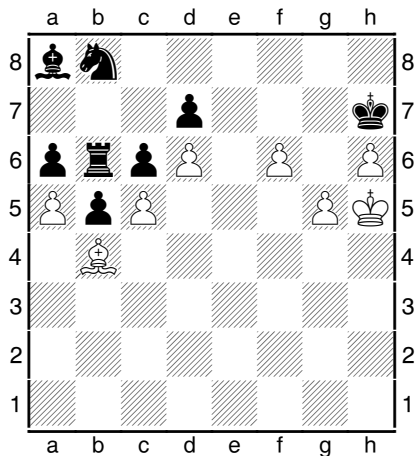
Not of a big difference would be 30...g5 31.Kf5 g4 32.f4 +-.

31.h4 g5 32.h5 Kg7 33.g4 Rb7 34.Kf5 Kh7

35.Kxg5 Kg7 36.h6+ Kh7 37.Kh5 Ra7

38.g5 Bb7 39.f4 Ba8 40.f5 Rb7 41.f6 Rb6

(D)



42.f7!

Who cares for the b6-rook?

42...Bb7 43.g6+ Kh8 44.Bc3 #

1-0