

Media Release: James Morris wins Ballarat Begonia Open Chess

by Paul Power, Australian Chess Federation

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Victorian International Master James Morris is the Ballarat Begonia Open Chess Champion 2023, with a masterful display, scoring 6.5/7, never in danger and conceding only a non-combative draw in the second last round to second placed International Master Igor Bjelobrk.

Bjelobrk, 6/7, conceded only the draw to Morris and took a half point bye in round 5.

Top seed Grandmaster Zong-Yuan Zhao conceded only the loss to Morris and finished in third place on tiebreak.

David Cannon, 6/7, had a very strong result, losing only to Bjelobrk, in round 3, and finishing with wins over International Master Ari Dale and fellow FIDE Master Chris Wallis.

Full results at <https://www.ballaratchess.com/begonia/2023/index.html>

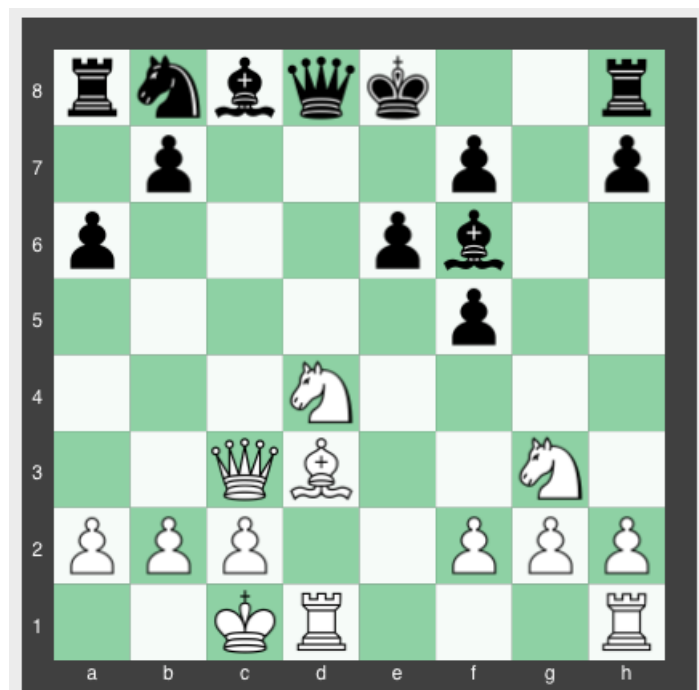
### **Game Reports**

#### **Round 7**

##### **Board 1**

James Morris, White, vs Ryder Testolin: French Defence: Burn Variation

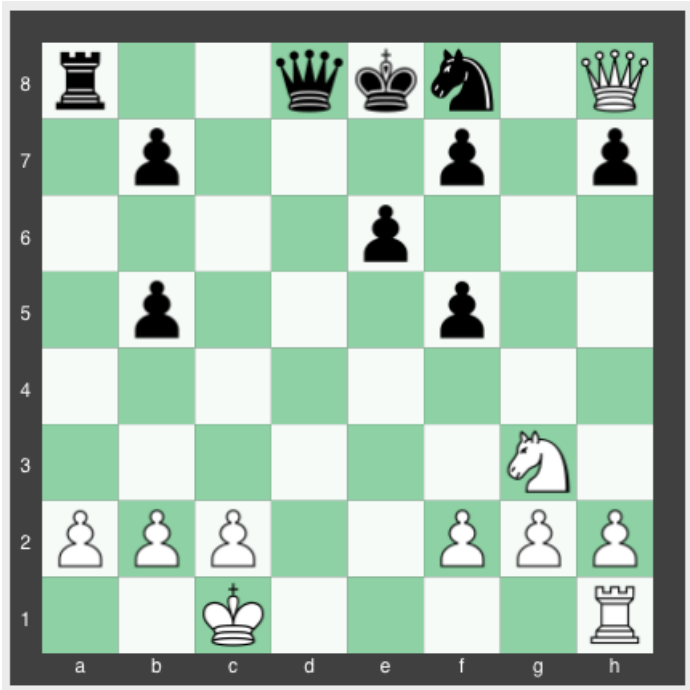
After 13. O-O-O, a strategically important decision must be made.



There are too many pieces, including Queens, on the board for it to be safe for Black to Castle.

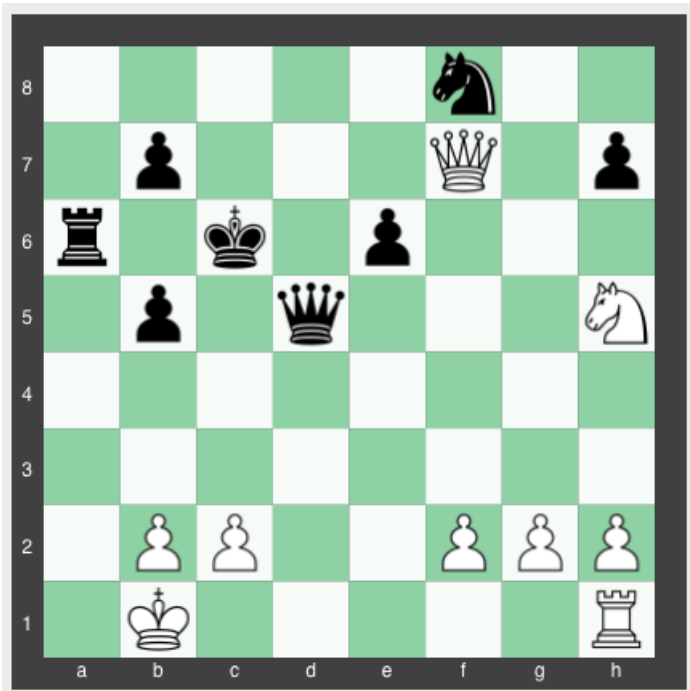
Morris would have no trouble doing the calculations, but Testolin has no alternative but to do the calculations, beginning 13... Bxd4

13... Bxd4 14. Bb5+ axb5 15. Rxd4 Bd7 16. Rxd7 Nxd7 17. Qxh8+ Nf8



and now

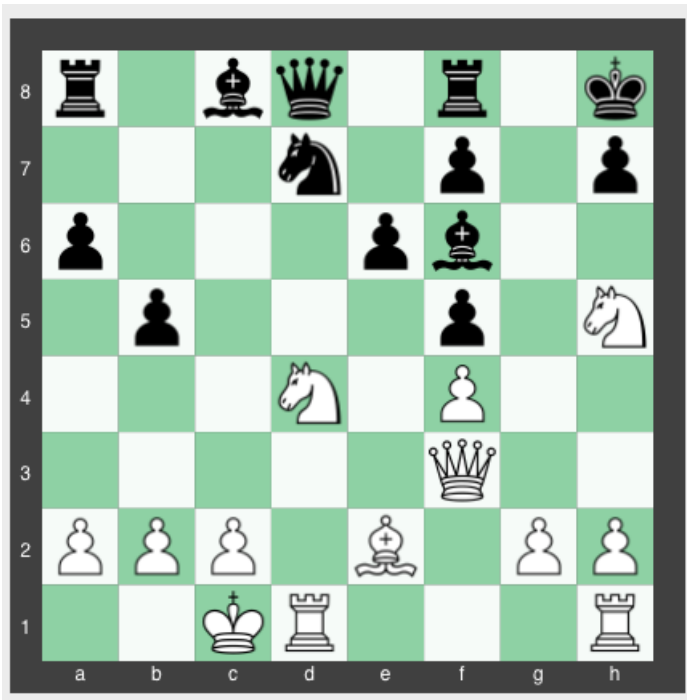
18. Nxf5 Rxa2 19. Kb1 Ra6 20. Ng7+ Ke7 21. Nh5 Qd5 22. Qf6+ Kd7 23. Qxf7+ Kc6



and Black's position is simplified and safe.

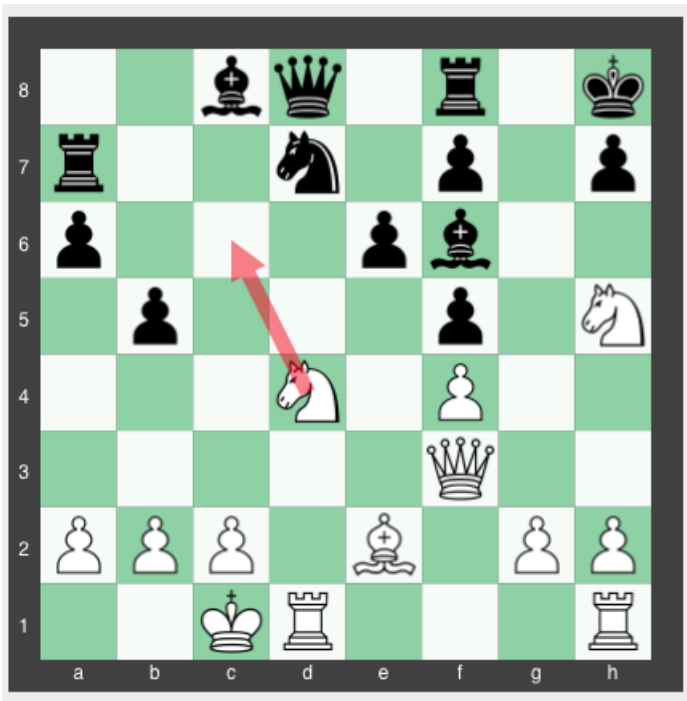
But, instead, Testolin plays 13... O-O

Then, after 16. f4, Testolin opens up the position with 16... b5 (Better would be 16... Rg8) and 17. Qf3



wins at least the Exchange.

And, after 17... Ra7, Morris has correctly calculated



18. Nc6 'wins the house'.

There followed 18. Nc6 Bb7 19. Nxf6 Qxf6 20. Rxd7 Rc8 21. Qe3 Bxc6 22. Rxa7 Be4 23. Bd3, Black resigns.



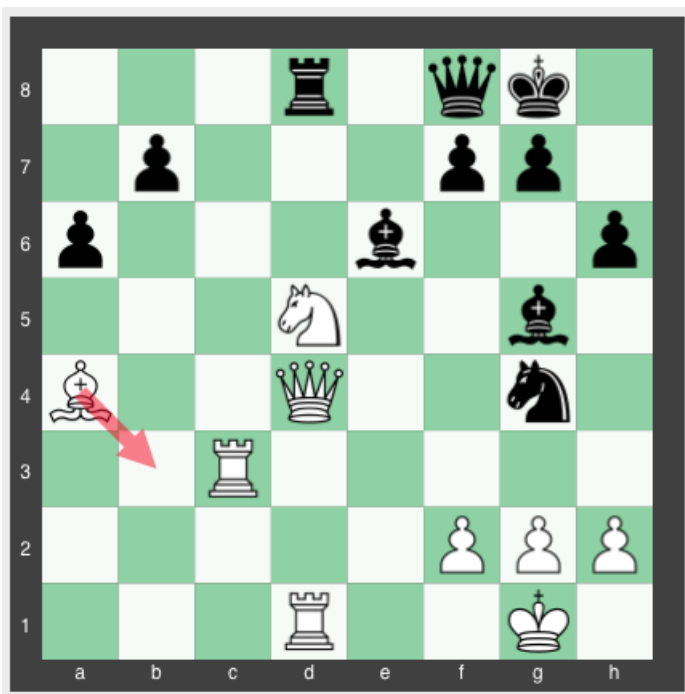
Board 2

Zhao wins against Soo.

Board 3

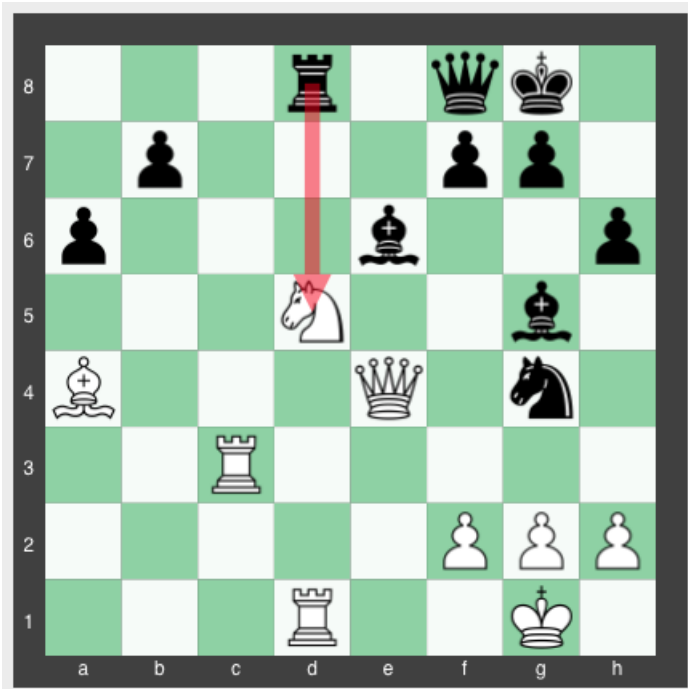
Chan, White, vs Bjelobrk

In an equal position



White should play 29. Bb3

but, instead, played 29. Qe4

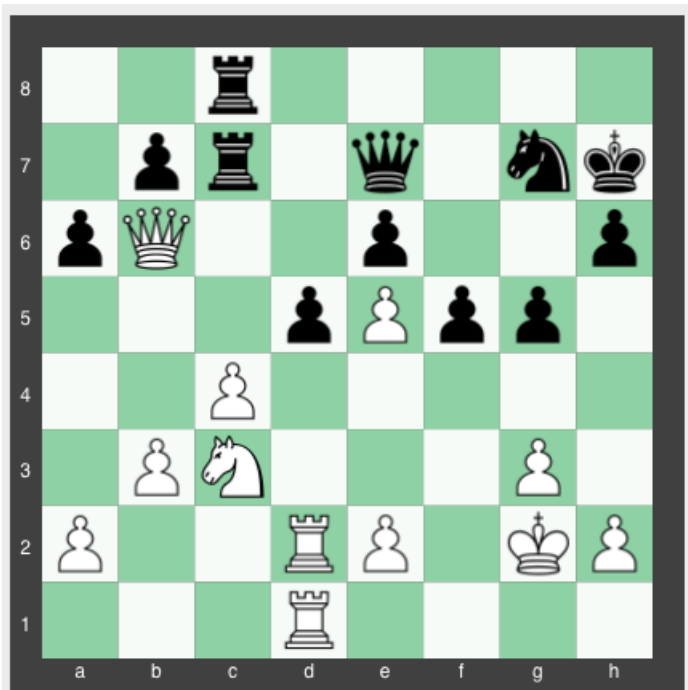


losing a Knight to the fork 30... Nf6

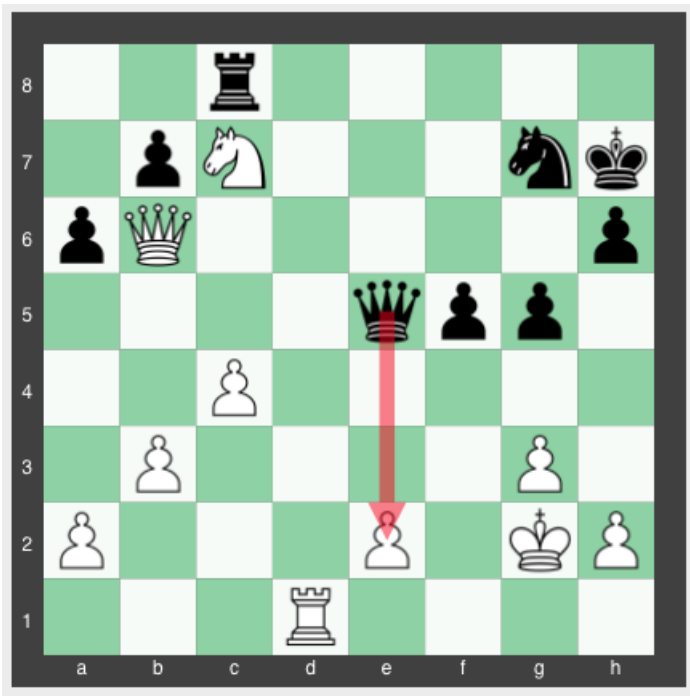
Board 4

Wallis, White, vs Cannon

In a slightly inferior position



Wallis miscalculated 32. Rxd5, perhaps missing that, after 32... exd5 33. Nxd5 Qxe5 34. Nxc7, Black has 34... Qxe2+



instead, playing on 34. Nf6+ having lost a Rook.

## Round 6

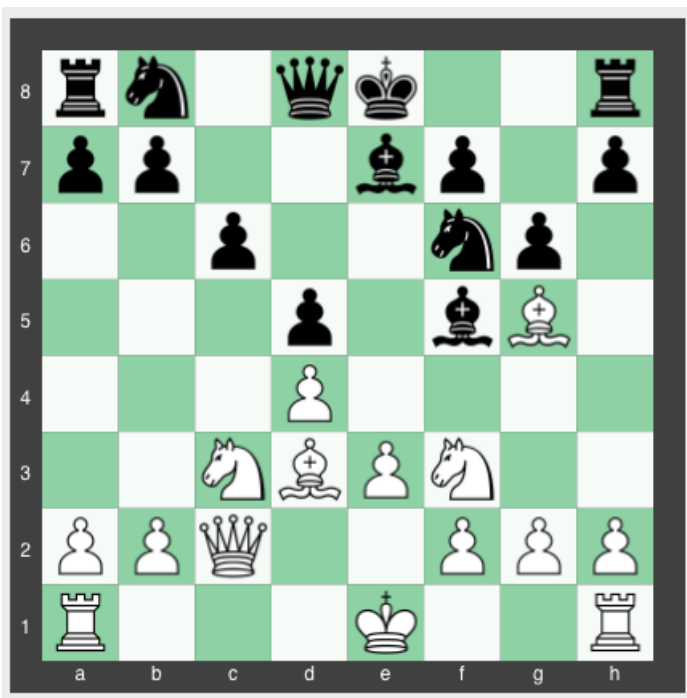
### Board 1

Igor Bjelobrk, White, vs James Morris:

Going into this game Morris is the sole leader on 5/5 and Bjelobrk the only player on 4.5/5, so Morris, with a draw, with Black, would retain the sole lead.

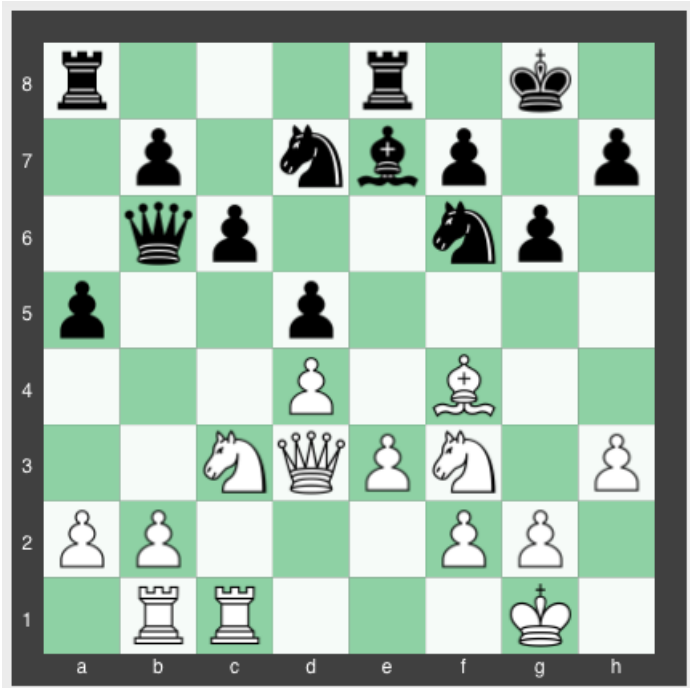
The Opening is Queen's Pawn Symmetrical.

At 9. Bd3



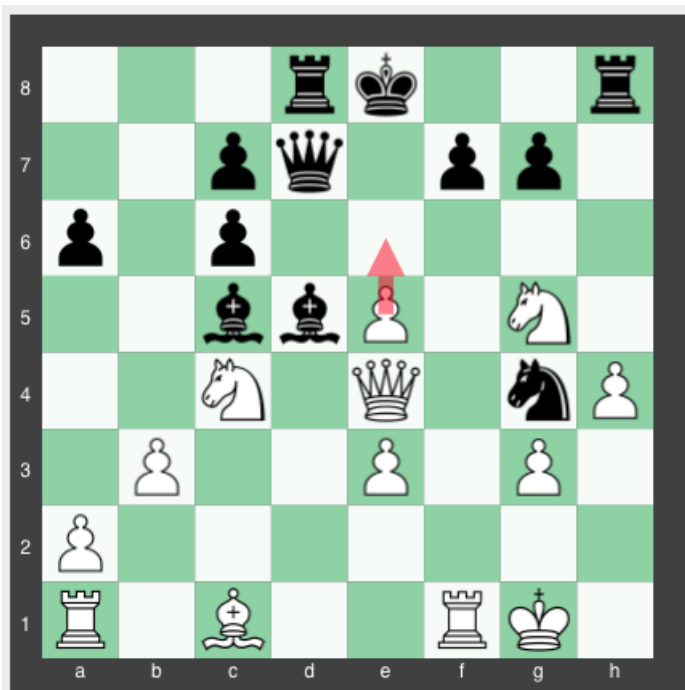
the game reached the same position, by transposition, as Carlsen-Firouzja, FTX Crypto Cup Rapid, Miami, 2022, which continued 9... Bxd3 10. Qxd3 Nbd7 11. Bh6 Ng4 12. Bf4 Nf8 and Carlsen went on to win.

Here, Morris plays the surprising retrograde move 10. Bc8 and, not to be outdone, Bjelobrk the even more surprising 10... Bf1, repeating until finally 13... Bxd3 and agreeing to a non-combative draw after 20... Qb6



Board 3

Cannon, White, scored a smashing win over Dale with 20. e6



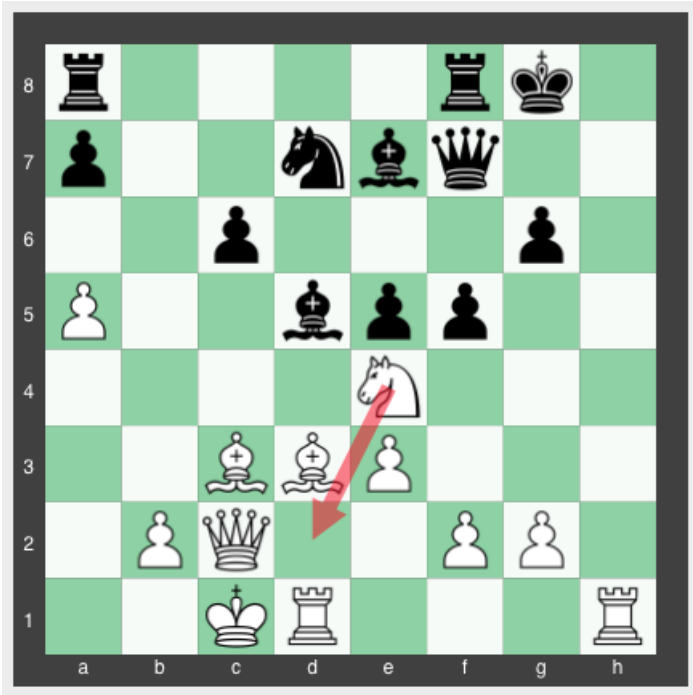
from which, after 20... Bxe6 21. Rxf7, there was no recovery.

Board 2

Zhao, White, v Dragisevic played an English Symmetrical.

With opposite Castling, Zhao was executing a King-side attack, having opened the h-file.

What turned out to be a critical position was reached after Black's 22nd move



Here, White can simply retreat 23. Nd2 and retains attacking prospects.

But, instead, Zhao plays 23. Rh6 and, after 23... Kg7

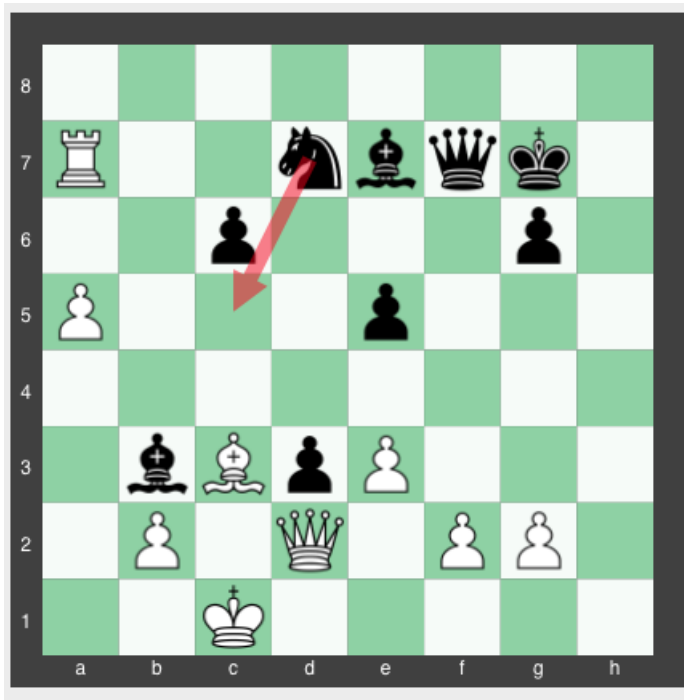


is drawn into a quagmire of diminishing returns.



There followed

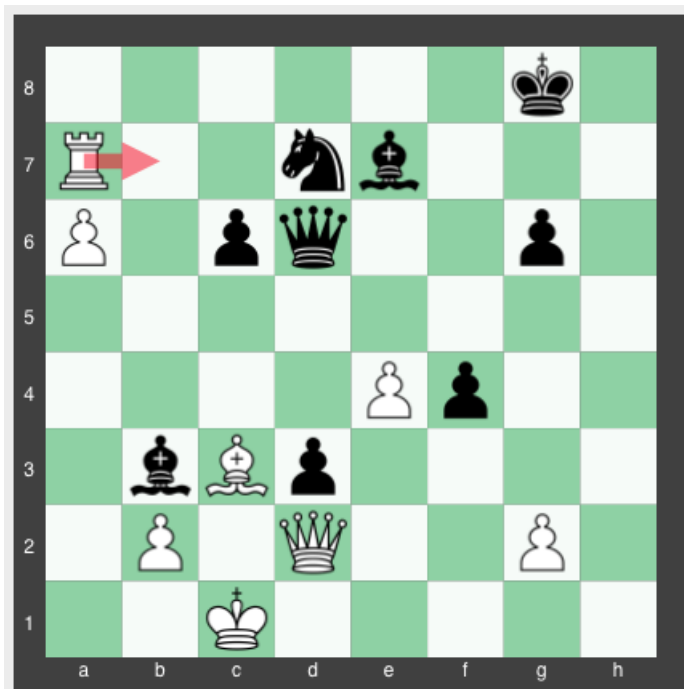
24. Rdh1 Rh8 25. Rxh8 Rxh8 26. Rxh8 fxe4 27. Ra8 Bb3 28. Qd2 exd3 29. Rxa7



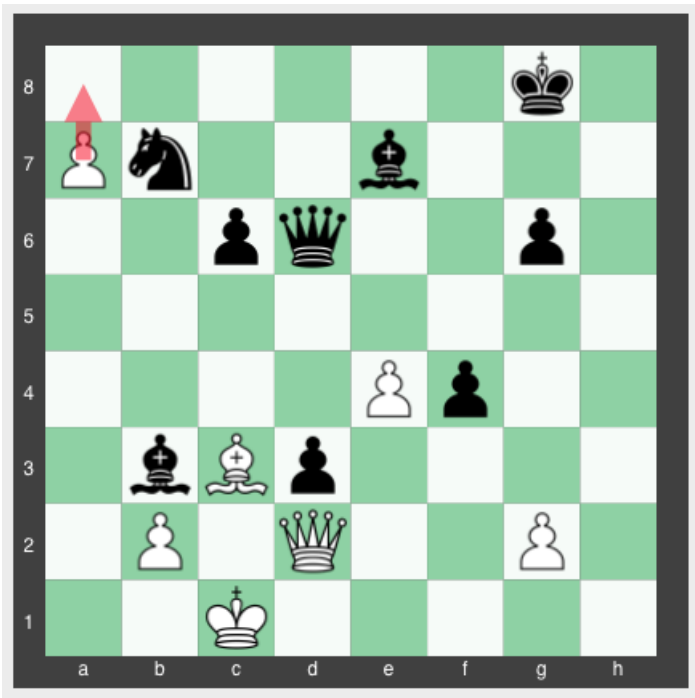
and now simply, 29... Nc5 leaves Black with winning material superiority.

But, instead, Dragisevic chooses to defend the Knight by 29. Qd5, allowing Zhao to slip out of the noose by 30. e4 Qd6 31. f4 Kg8 32. a6

A further gift of a tempo 32... exf4 33. Rb7



and the a-pawn hurtles to a touchdown



and it's game over.

#### Board 4

Darryl Johansen, White, v Nicholas Ilic agreed to a non-combative draw after 16. Qc1

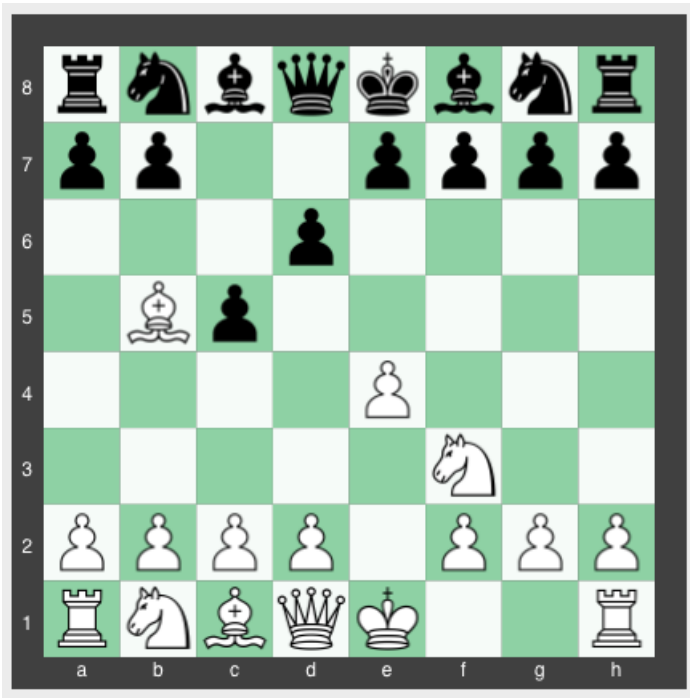


#### Round 5

#### Board 1

The most pivotal game in determining the winner of the event was between number one seed Grandmaster Zong-Yuan Zhao and in form protagonist International Master James Morris.

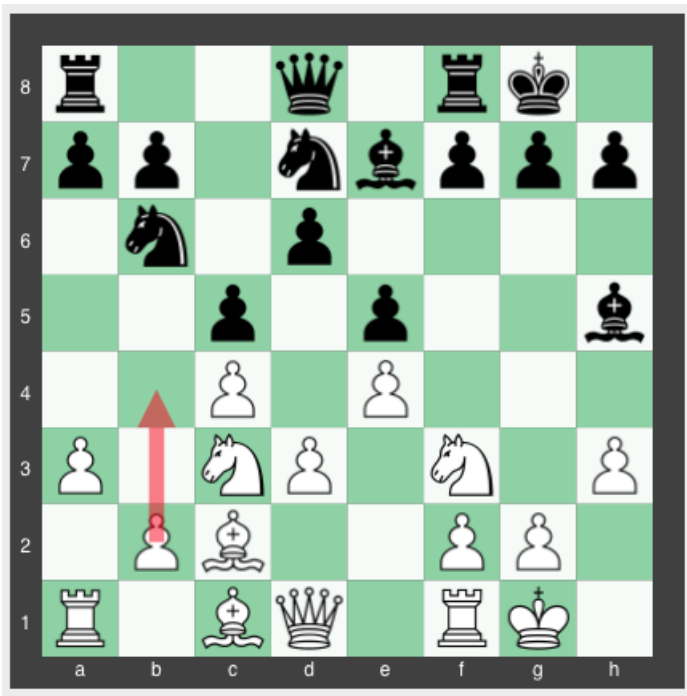
With both players on 4/4, Morris, White, chose the Moscow (aka Rossolimo) Variation against Zhao's Sicilian Defence.



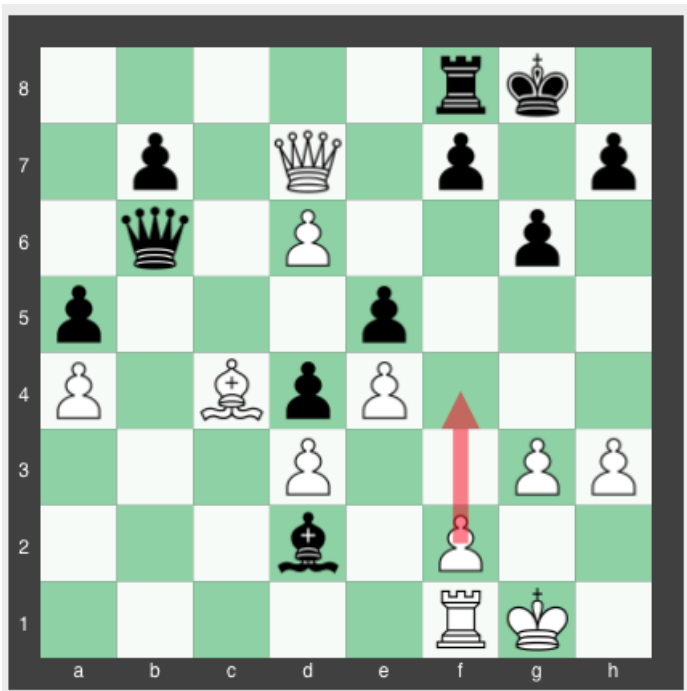
Zhao played the uncommon 5... e5, as played by Topalov against Vachier-Lagrave, Grand Prix Riga 2019, setting the character of the game.



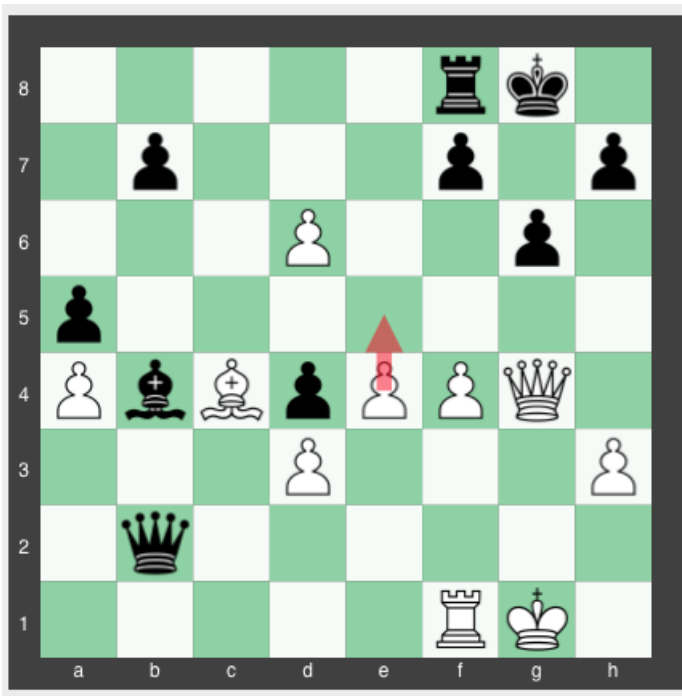
With the centre locked, Morris engineered the creation of the semi-open b-file beginning 12. b4



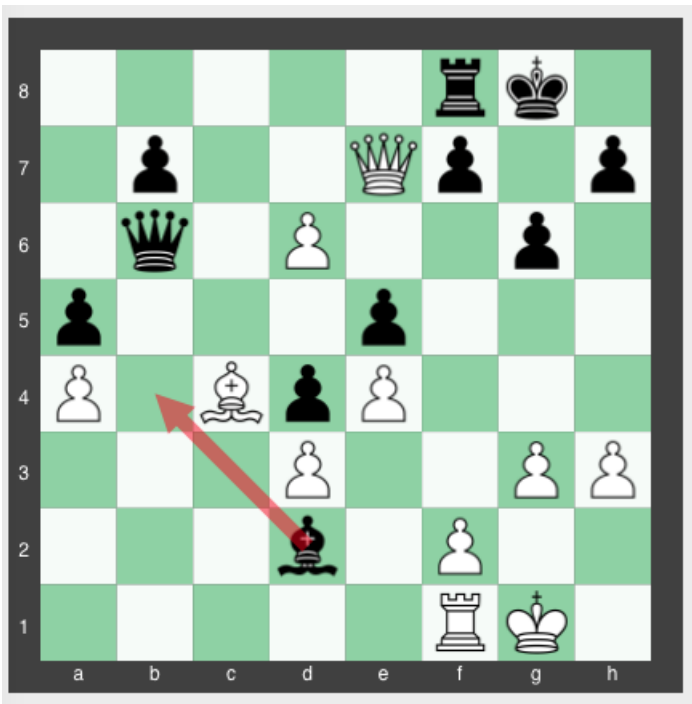
A critical position was reached after 28... Bd2, where Morris had the opportunity to press the initiative with 29. f4



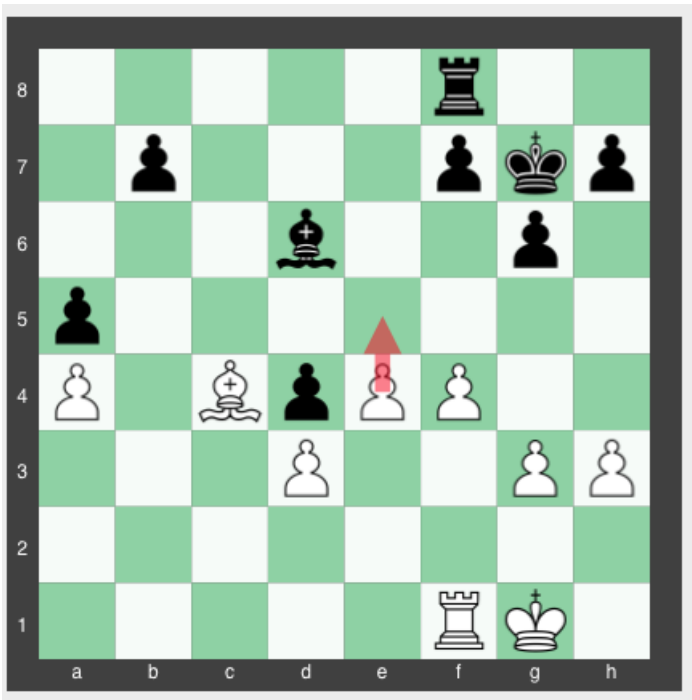
followed by 29... exf4 30. gxf4, threatening e5 with a protected passed d-pawn, for example



But instead, played 29. Qe7, permitting Bb4

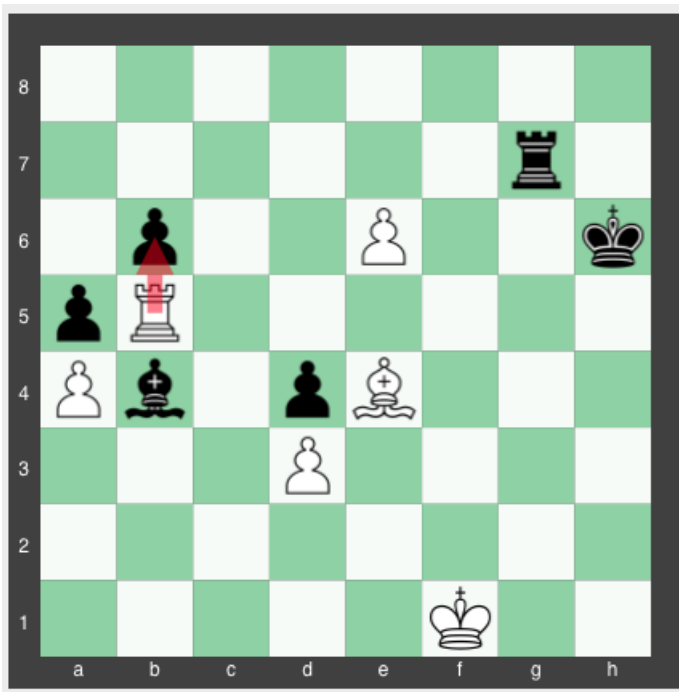


After the consequent exchanges, on 33. e5, White still had the advantage of a King side pawn majority and Black the disadvantage of a backward pawn on the semi-open b-file.



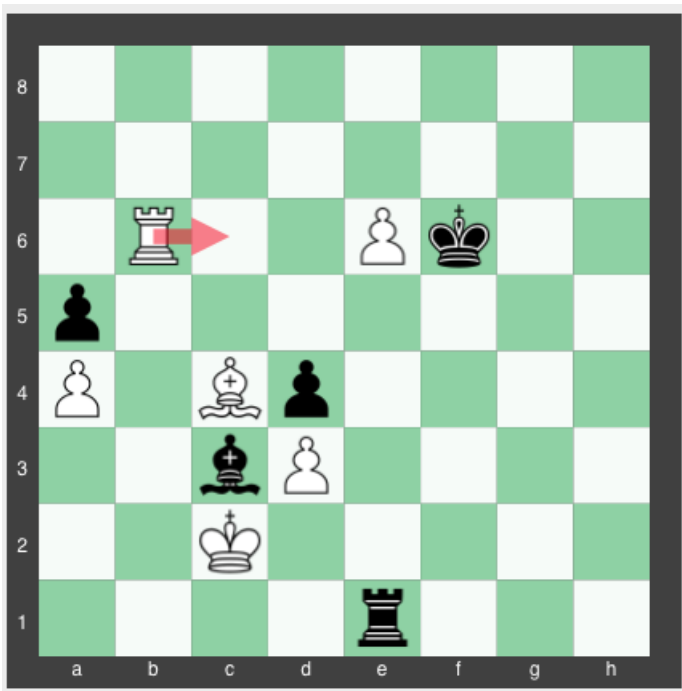
"Opposite coloured Bishops" might be a getout clause for Black, should the Rooks be exchanged.

After pawn exchanges and manoeuvring, White eventually managed to capture Black's b-pawn, 62. Rxb6

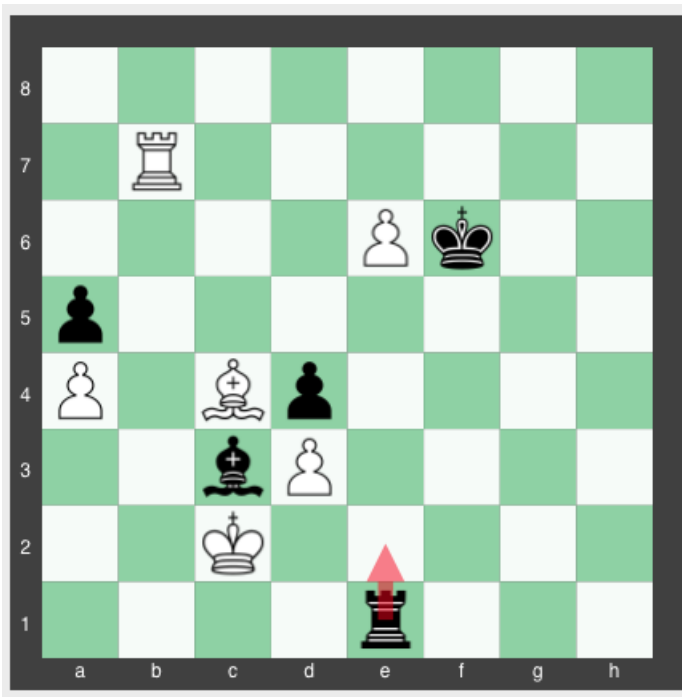


but the win was still problematic.

At move 68, White could move the unprotected Rook off the b-file, for example

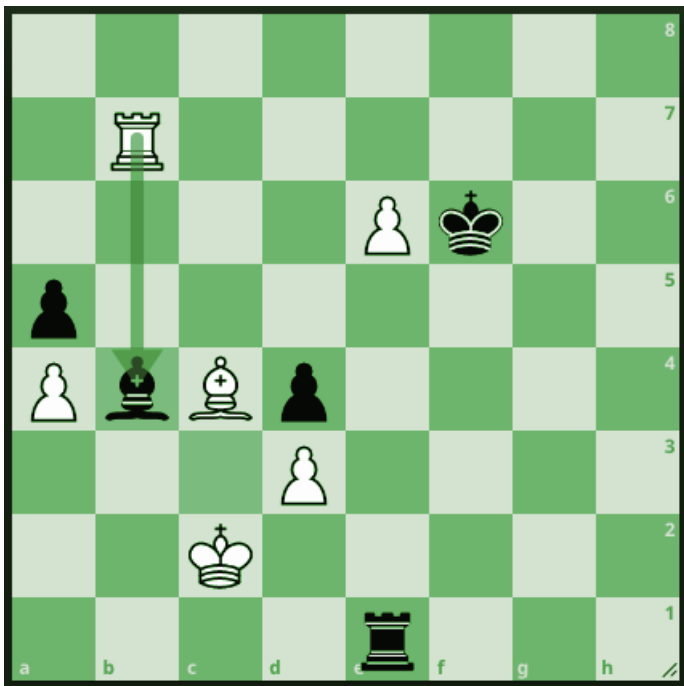


but, instead, played the Rook to the unprotected square 68. Rb7, allowing Black to force a draw with 68... Re2

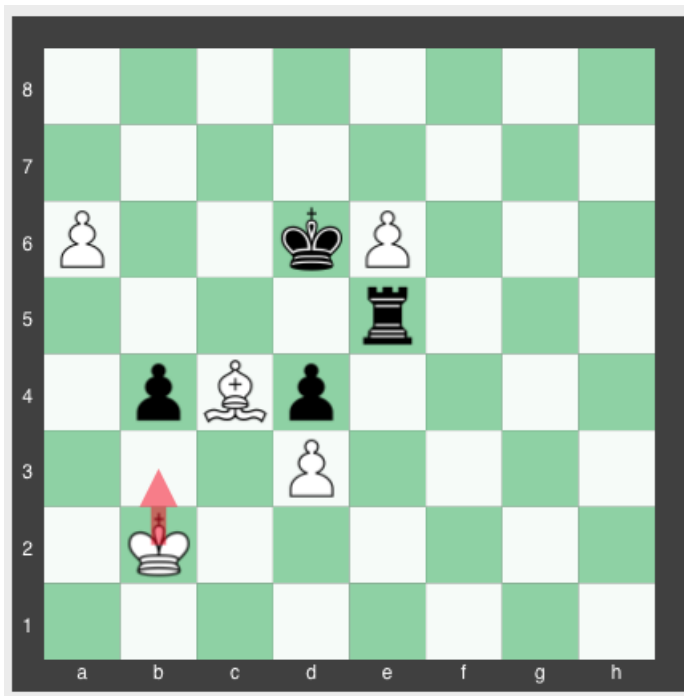


But, instead, Zhao played 68... Bb4, setting up what became a critical position.

Here, Morris, finding no other way to try to win, sacrificed Rook for Bishop



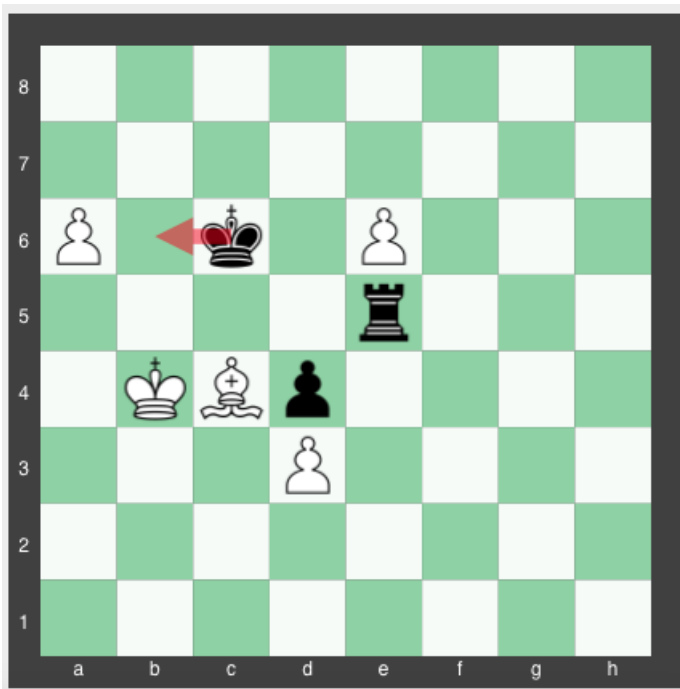
and reached a position where, after 73. Kb3



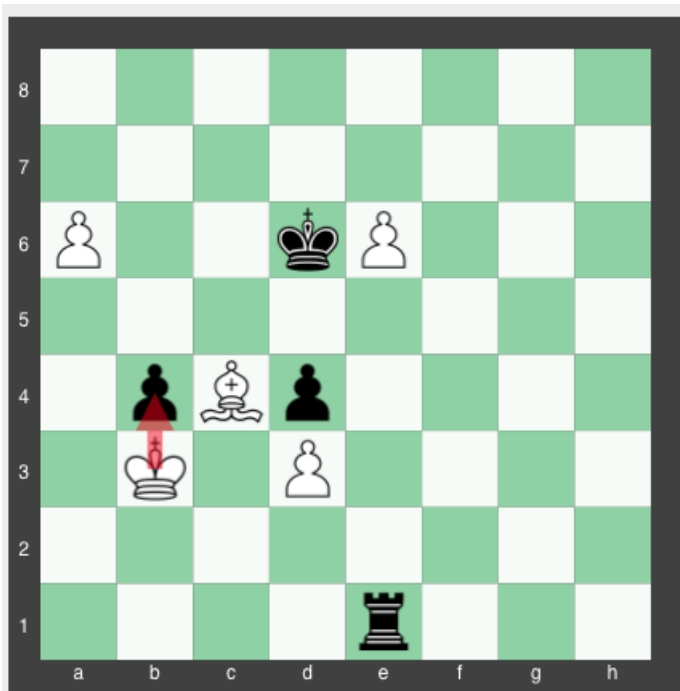
White cannot lose.

Now on 73... Kc6 74. Kxb4 Kb6, White cannot advance.

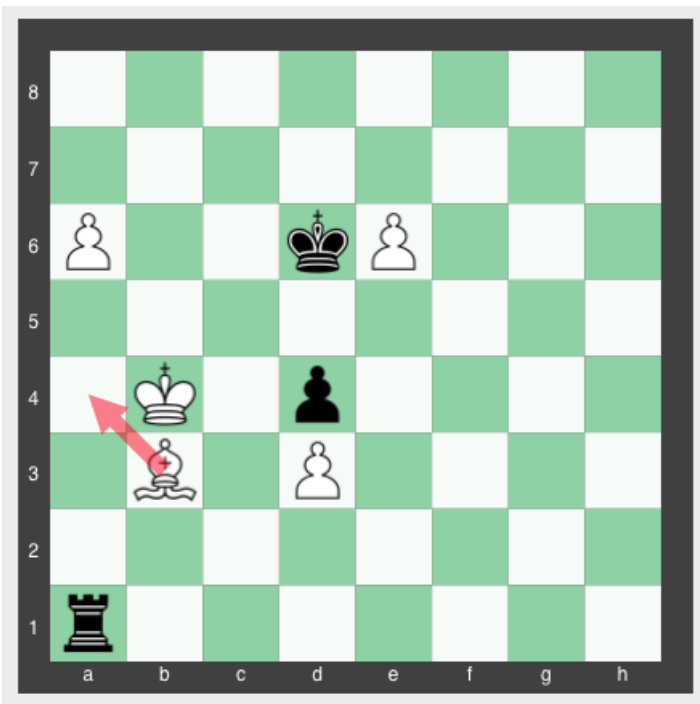




But, instead, Zhao played 73... Re1, permitting 74. Kxb4



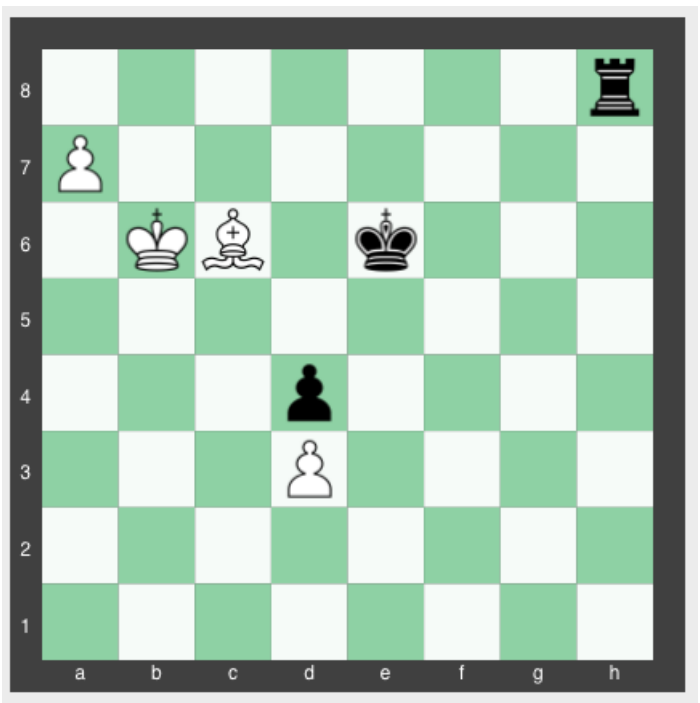
and permitting White's Bishop to shield the a-pawn from rear attack by Black's Rook.



(if 74... Kc7 75. a7 Kb7 76. Bd5+ Kxa7 77. Be4 and the e-pawn triumphs)

Black cannot stop both White's passed pawns.

Final position



The game was a great contest, but one in which Morris, as in every other game this tournament, was never in danger of losing.

Morris went on to win the event on 6.5/7, with Zhao and Bjelobrk on 6/7.



Full results at <https://www.ballaratchess.com/begonia/2023/index.html>

1. Note: Live broadcast of this game ceased at 33. e5. Thanks to Yuan Zhao for subsequently providing the moves.

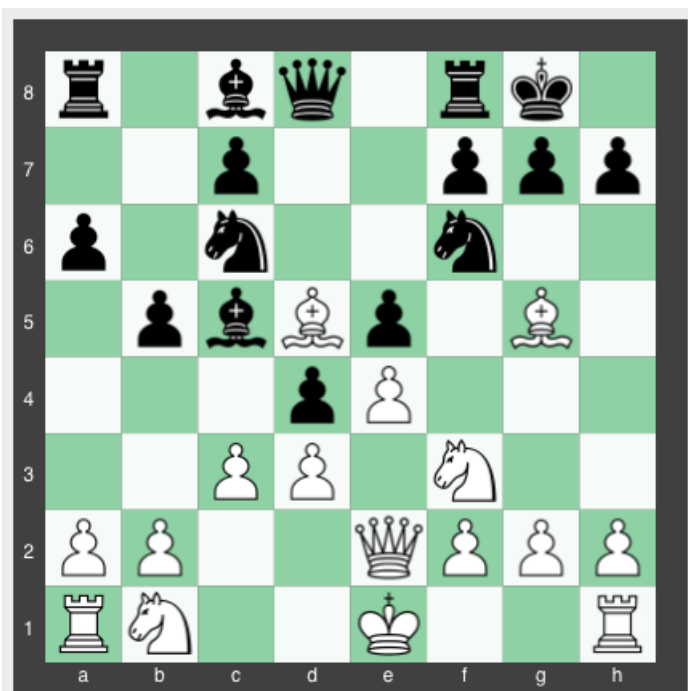
### Board 2

Chris Wallace drew with Ryder Testolin

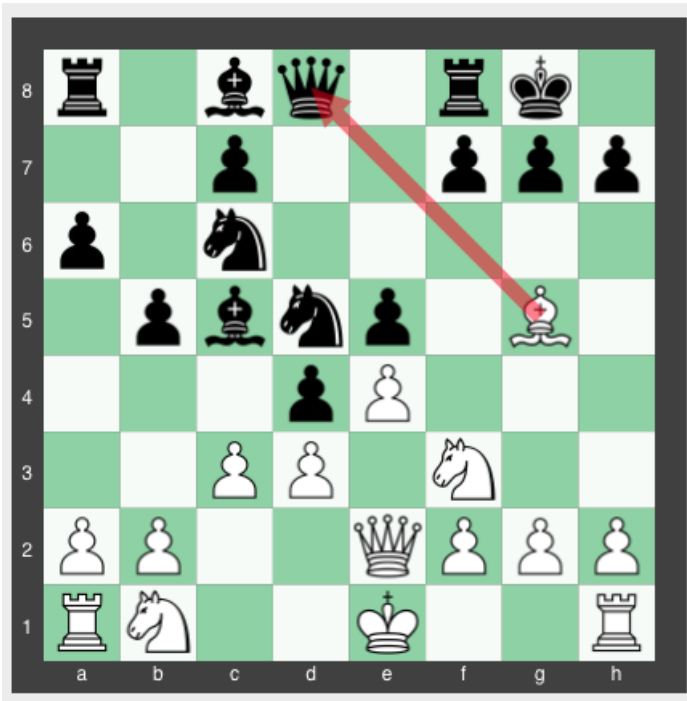
### Board 3

Israel Yadao, White, vs Stephen Solomon: Ruy Lopez: Morphy Defence

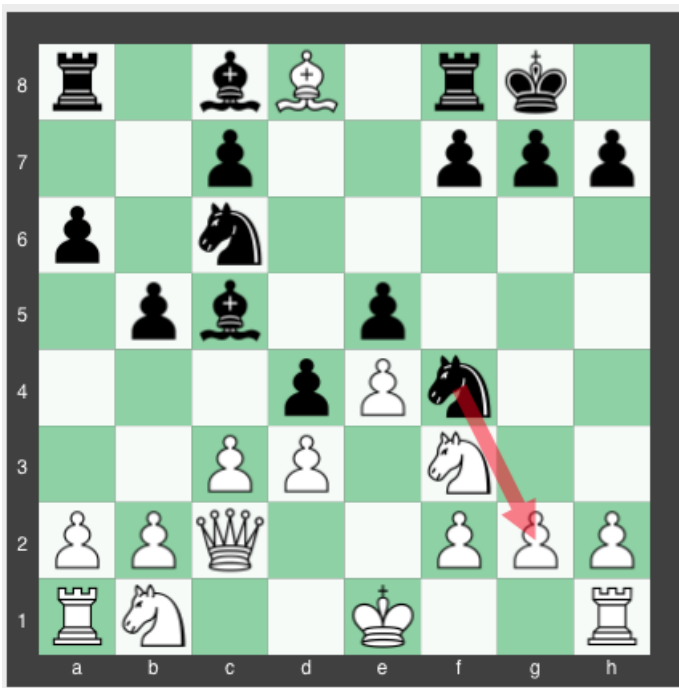
A very interesting position arose after 10. Bd5,



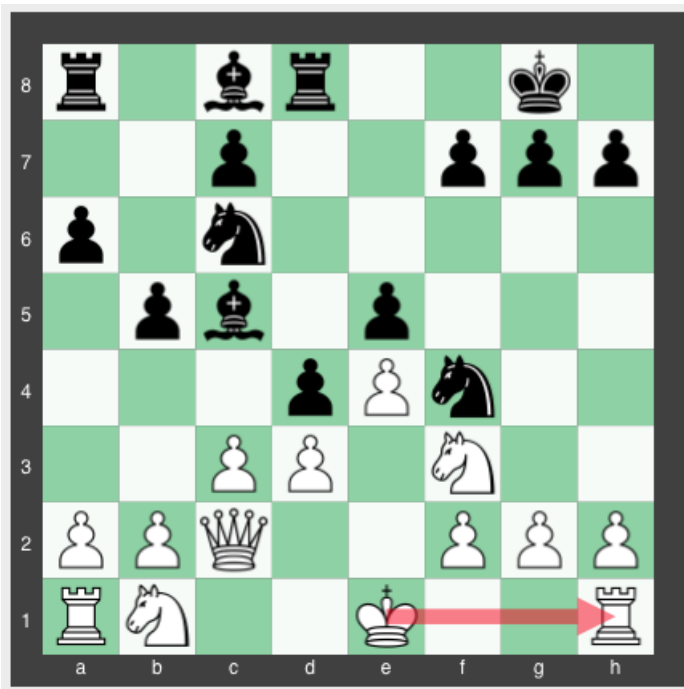
thanks to Solomon, who played 10... Nxd5, allowing 11. Bxd8, which should send us scurrying for our games databases.



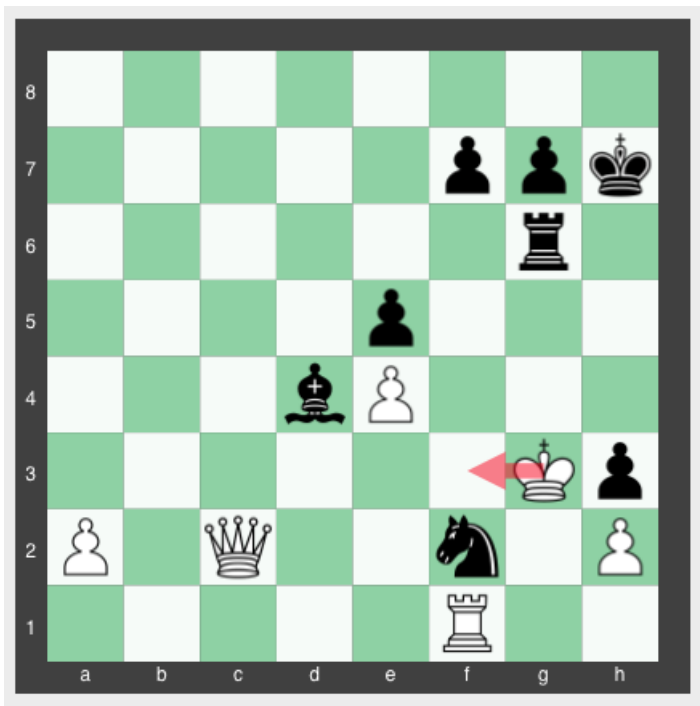
After 11. Bxd8 Nf4 12. Qc2, the continuation that would make sense of the sacrifice is 12... Nxd5+ 13. Kd1 Rxd8



But Solomon plays 12... Rxd8 allowing 13. O-O, giving rise to complicated positions requiring accurate calculation by both sides, or both sides to make equally compensating mistakes.



In the end, having moved through complicated positions, both players choose to repeat moves 34... Rg6+ 35. Kf3 Rf6+ 36. Kg3 ... repeat



Draw

Board 4

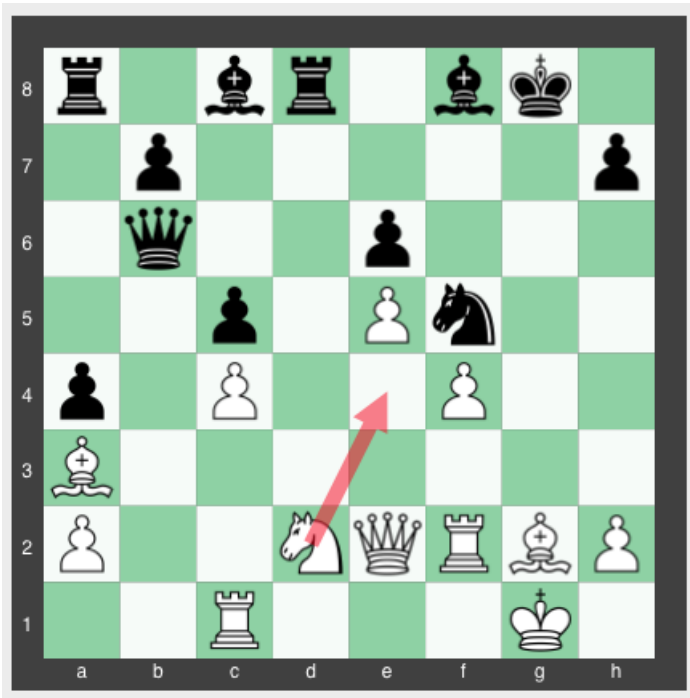
Ari Dale won against Thai Ly

**Round 4**

Board 1

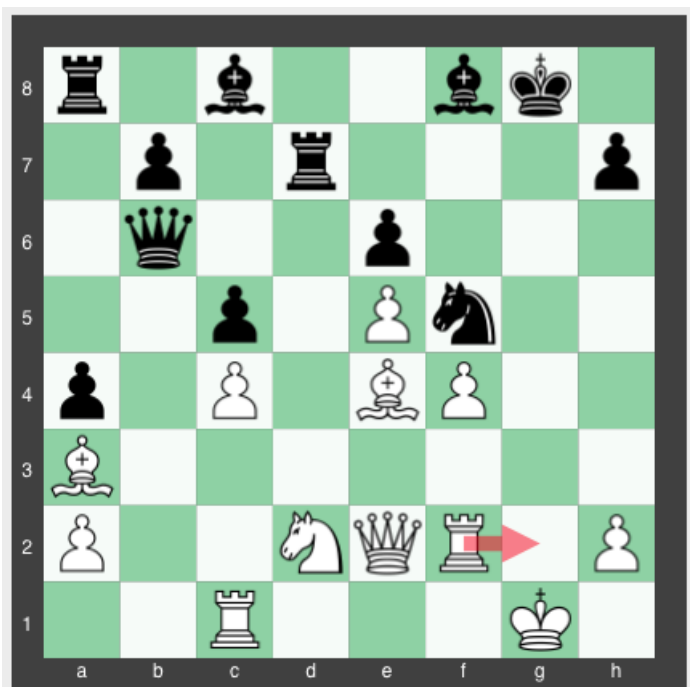
Zong-Yuan Zhao, White, vs Israel Yadao: Queen's Gambit Declined

Zhao built a substantial space advantage out of the Opening and looked to further build with 28. Ne4 Qc7 29. Nf6+ and what looks like a winning attack.



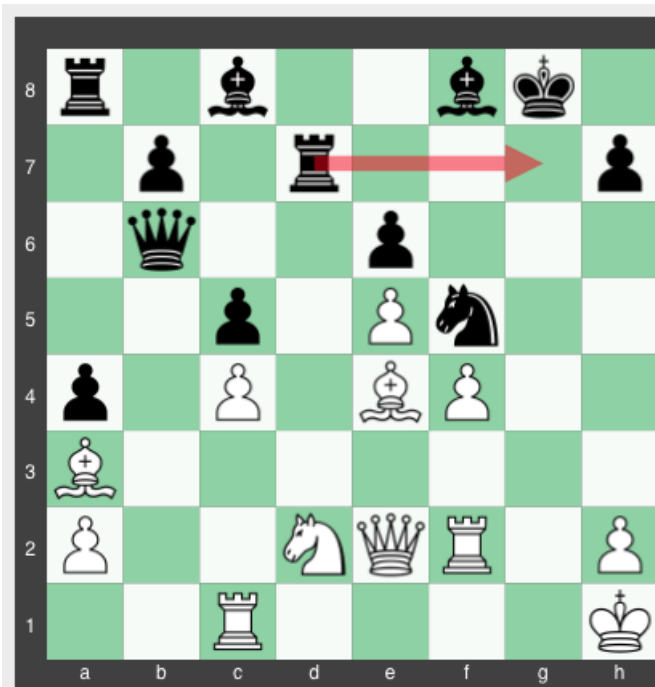
But, instead, played 28. Be4, still with a substantial advantage.

Looking to attack down the g-file, White could have first played 29. Rg2+



29. Rg2+ Rg7 30. Rxg7+ Bxg7 31. Rb1 Qc7 32. Qh5 with pressure.

But, instead, played 29. Kh1 and, after Black's 29... Rg7

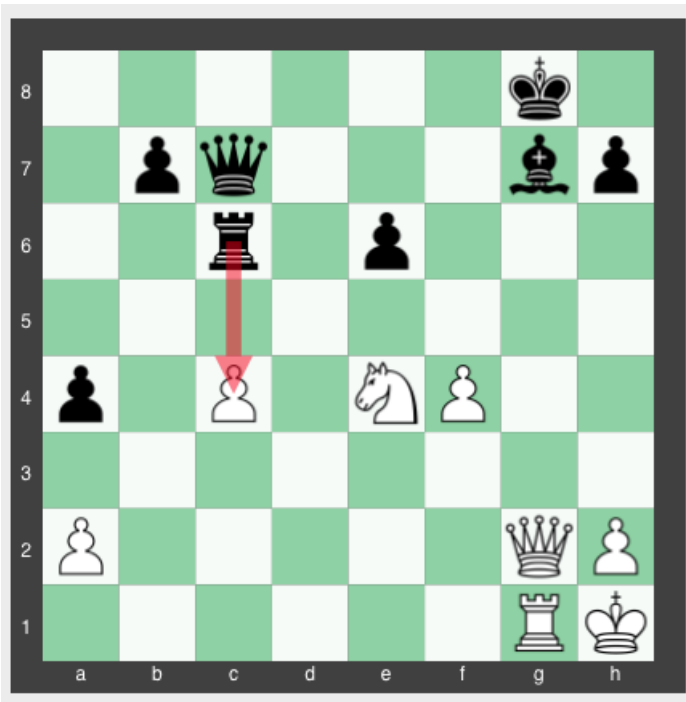


White's attack yielded little.

On 34... Rd8,

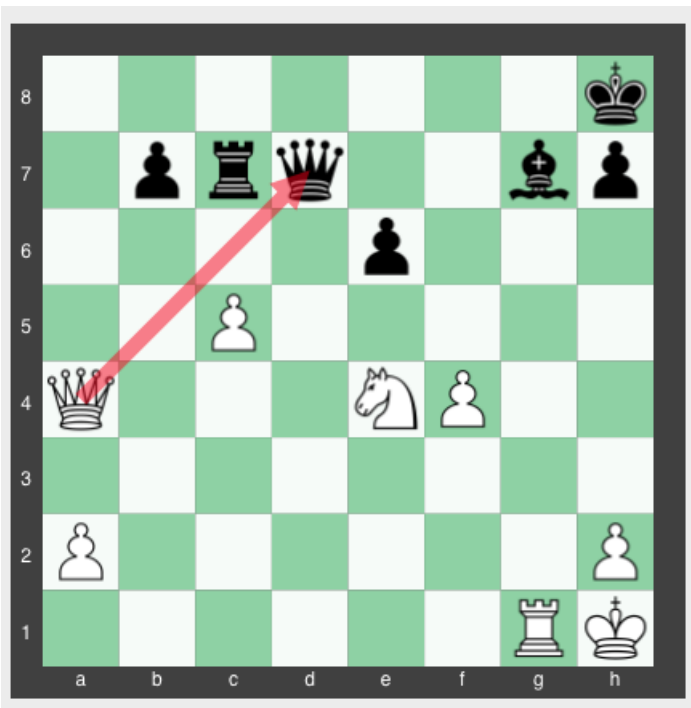


White was obliged to play 35. Bd6 and after exchanges, Black could play 38... Rxc4 with an equal game.



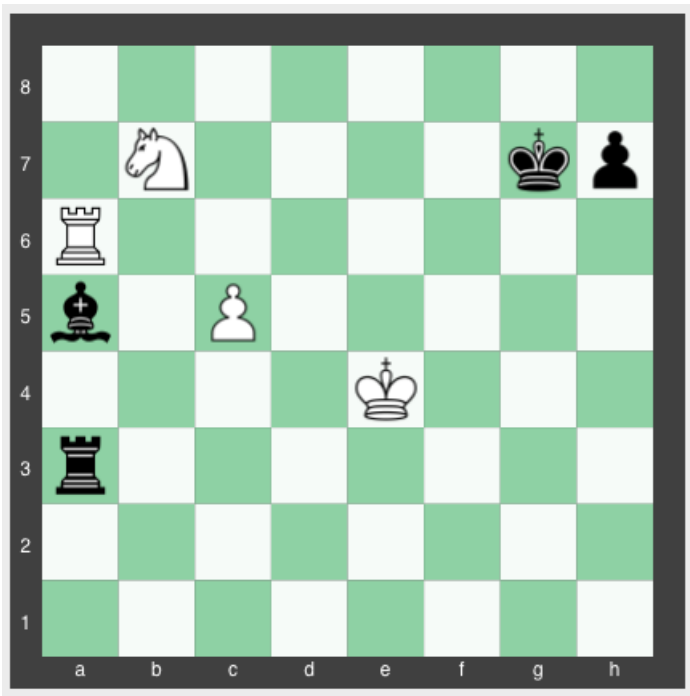
But, instead, Black played 38... Qe7, leaving White with a small edge.

On move 41, Yadao made a strategic error, playing 41... Qd7, permitting the exchange of Queens and increasing White's proportional advantage.



Zhao ground out a win in the ensuing endgame.

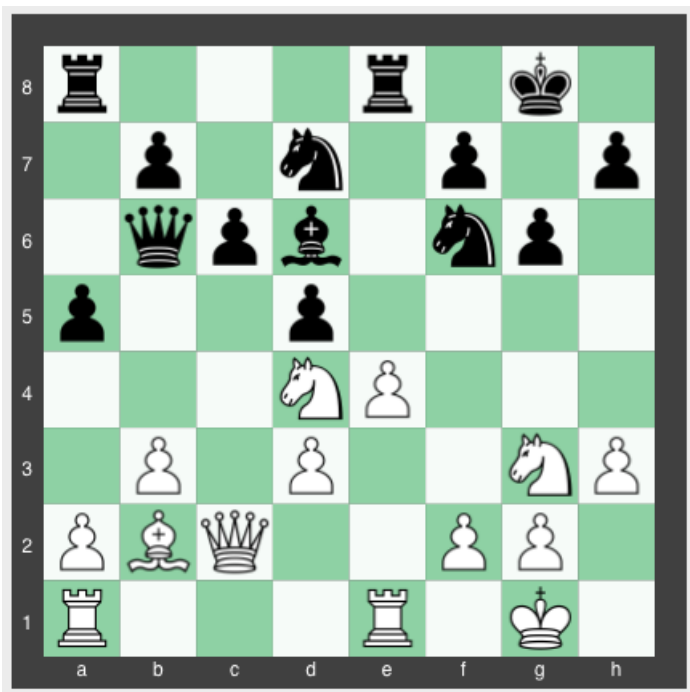




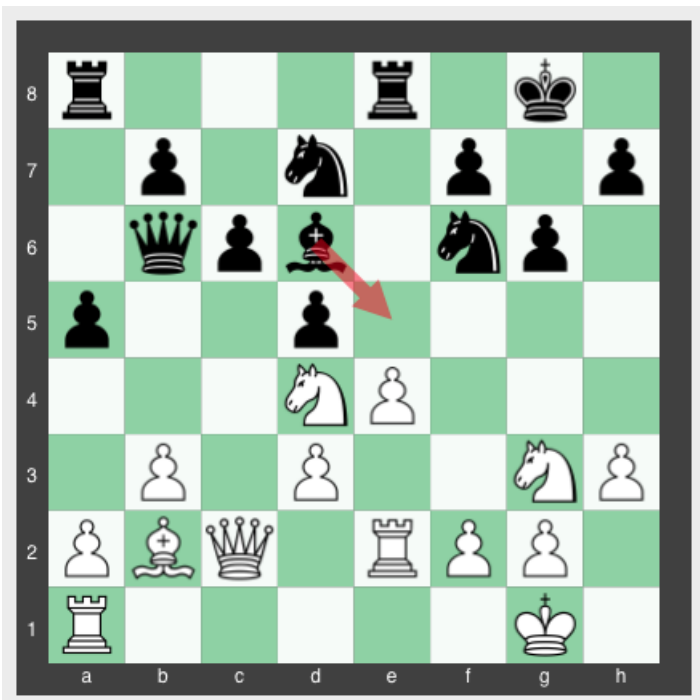
Board 2

Luis Chan, White, vs Igor Bjelobrk: Chan ventured a Nimzo-Larsen Attack 1. b3

In an apparently innocuous position,



Chan played 20. Re2, perhaps visualising doubling Rooks on the e-file, but failed to properly analyse and overlooked



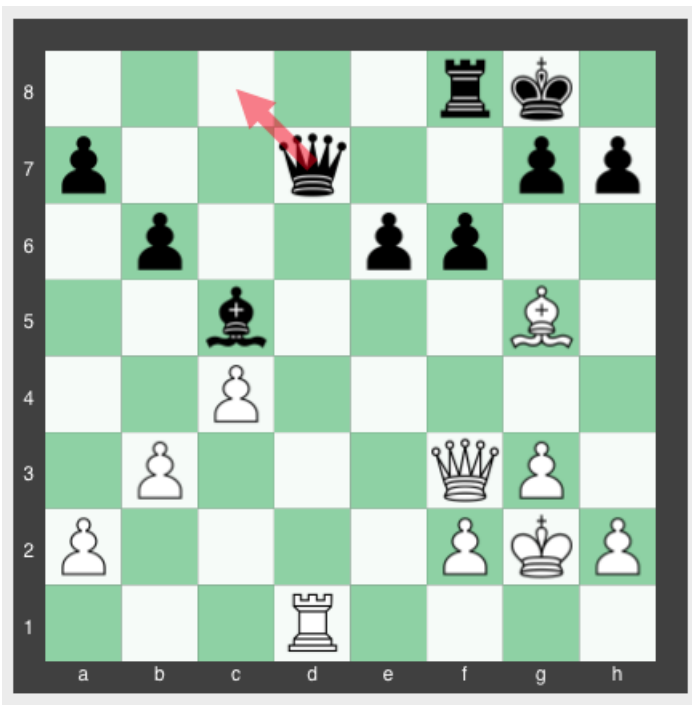
There is no safe way to defend the doubly attacked Knight and no safe square for White as e.g. 21. Nf3 loses to 21... Bxg3

White resigns

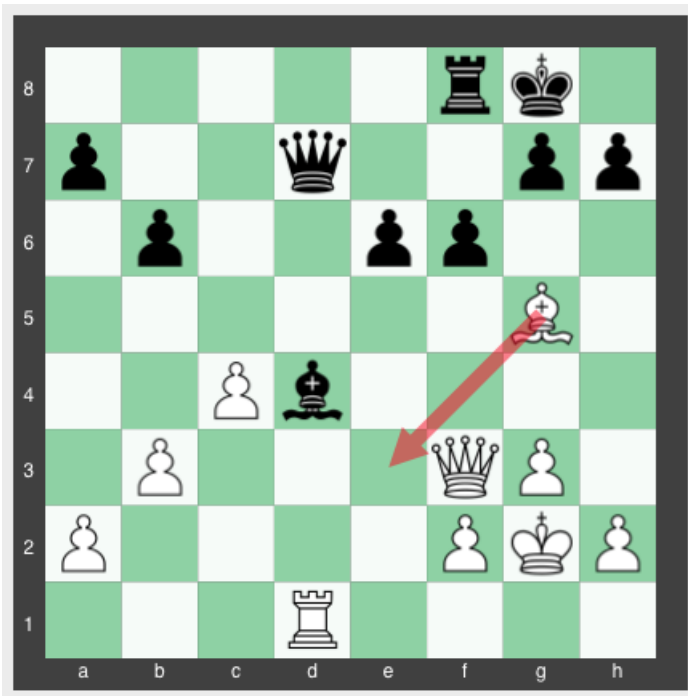
Board 3

James Morris, White, vs Soo Kai Jie in a French Defence

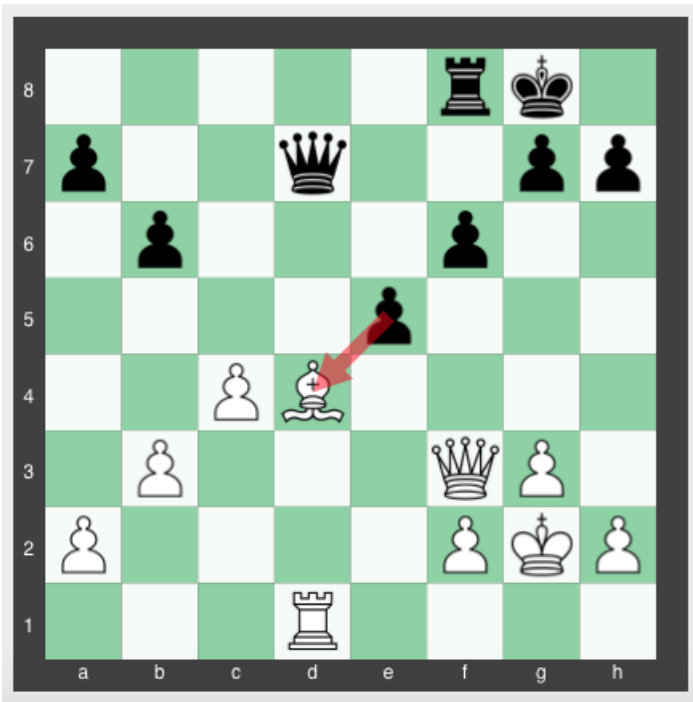
After 23. Rd1, Black should simply retreat the Queen 23... Qc8, or 23... Qe7



but chose instead to self pin, 24. Be3

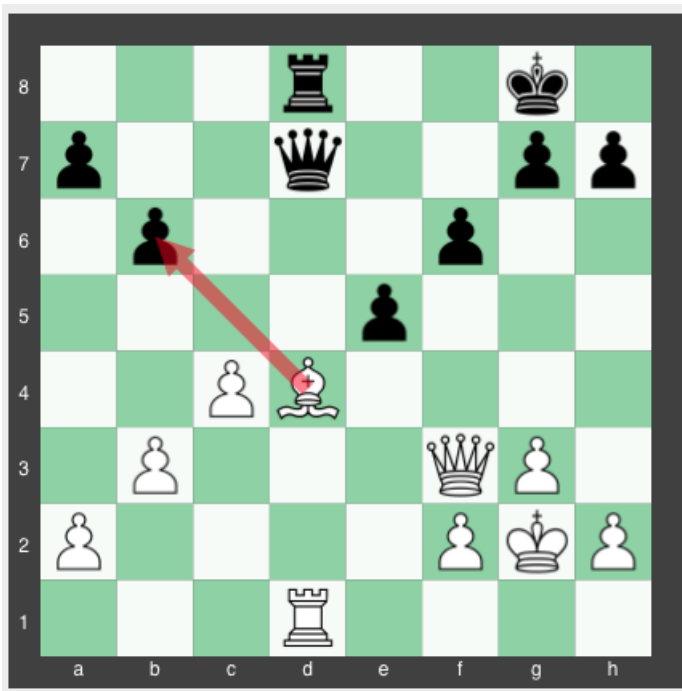


and after 23... e5 25. Bxd4, should simply recapture 25... exd4

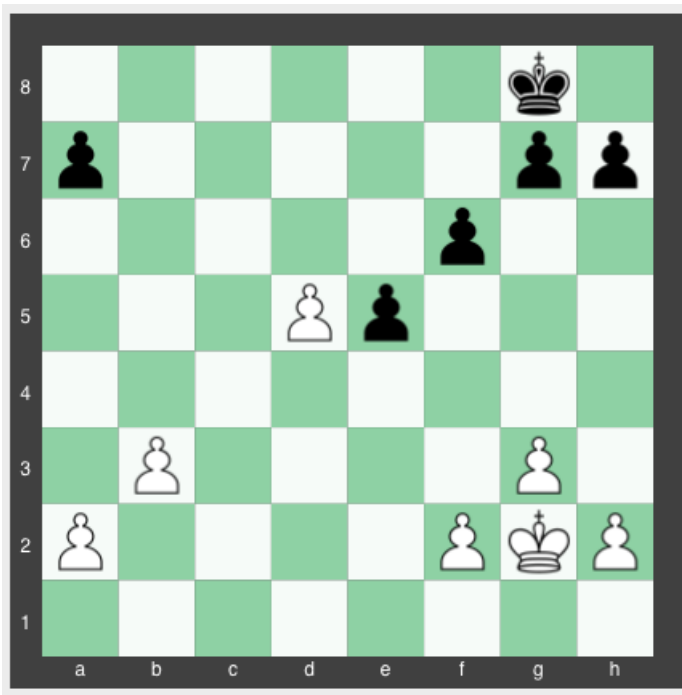


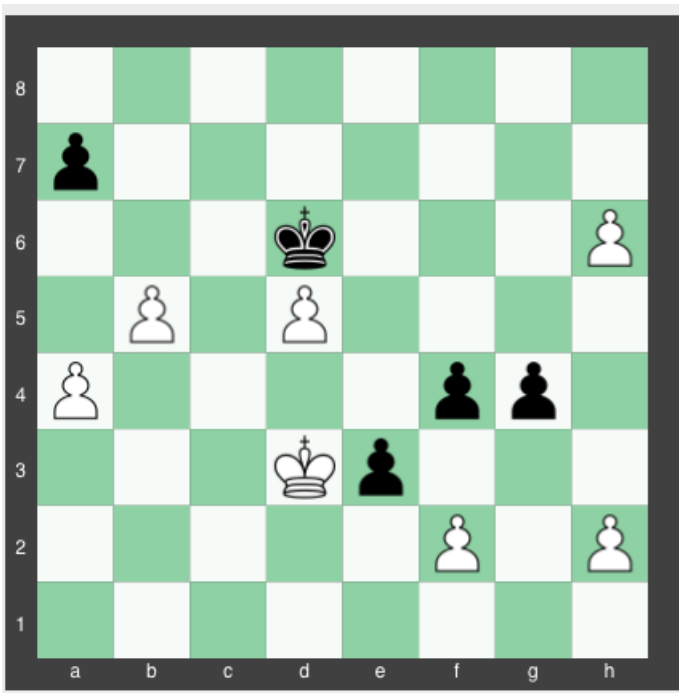
but, instead, played 23... Rd8, miscalculating.

Morris was not going to miscalculate and transitioned to a won King and Pawn ending.



26. Bxb6 26... Qxd1 27. Bxd8 27... Qxd8 28. Qd5+ Qxd5+ 29. cxd5



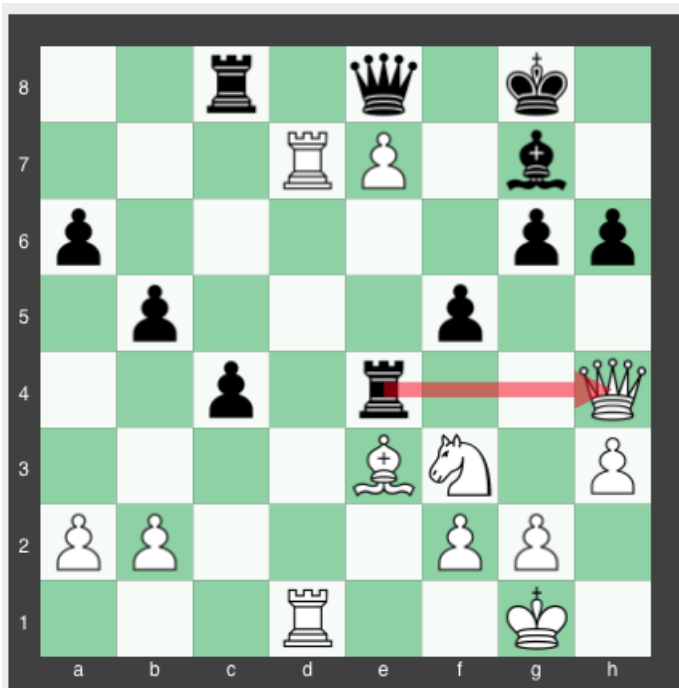


Black resigned

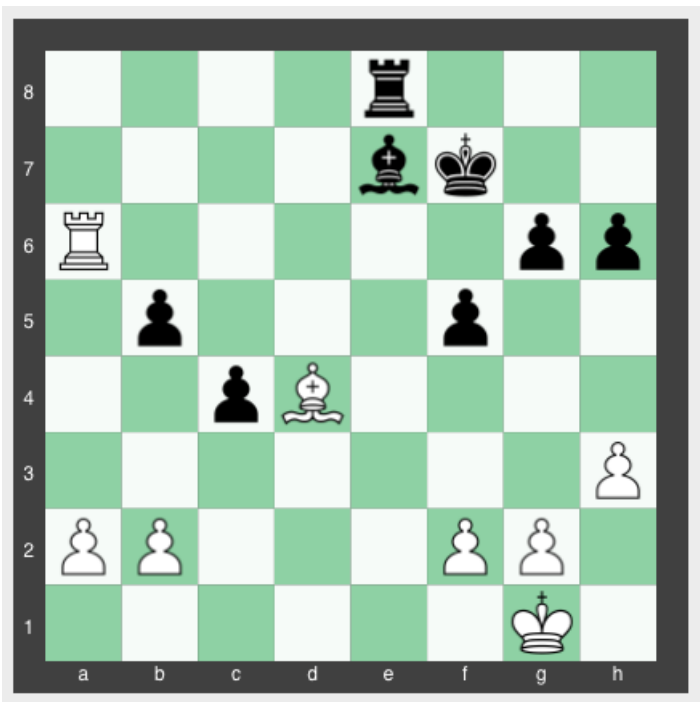
Board 4

Ryder Testolin, White, vs Ari Dale: A Grunfeld in which neither side gained a significant advantage in the Opening or early middlegame.

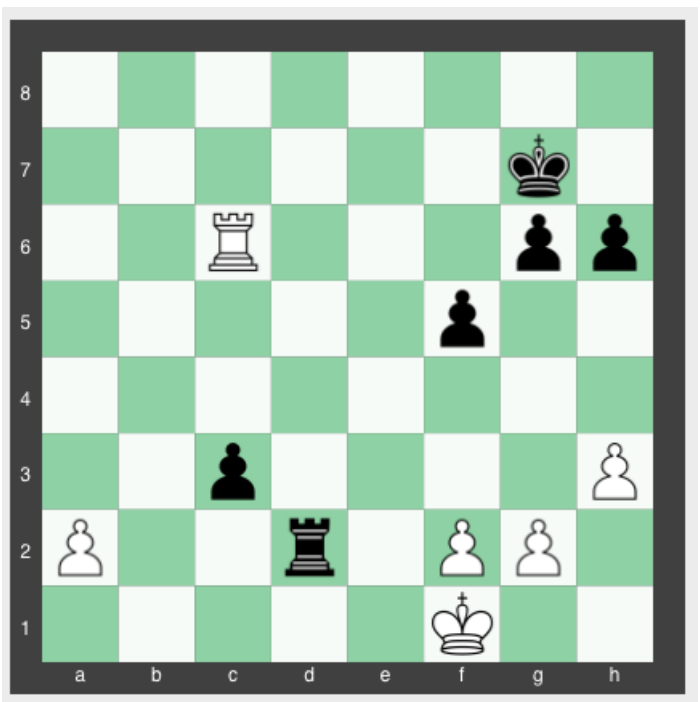
An interesting position was reached after White's 29th



There followed 29... Rxh4 30. Rd8 Bf6 31. Rxe8+ Rxe8 32. Nxe4 (Stronger was 32. Rd6) 32... Bxe4 33. Rd6 Kf7 34. Bd4 Bxe7 35. Rxa6



and the Rook + Pawn + minor piece played out to a draw



**Round 3**

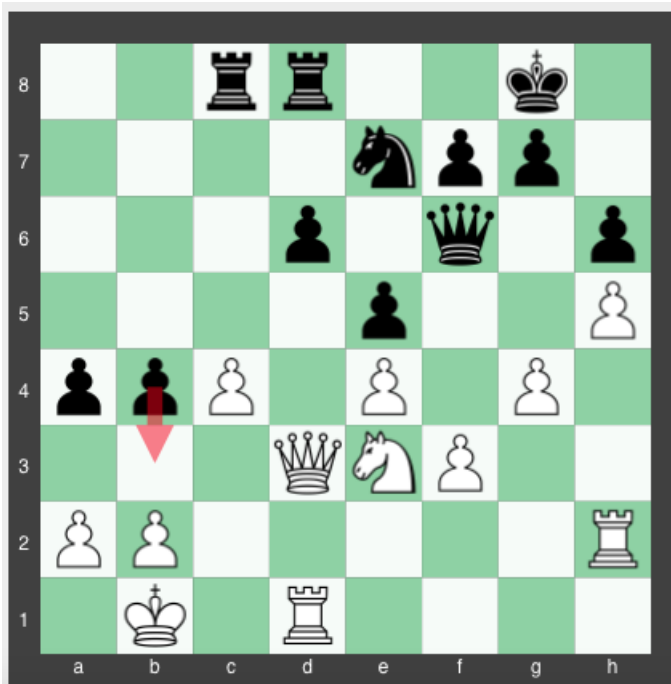
Board 1

Nicholas Ilic, White, was paired with Zong-Yuan Zhao.

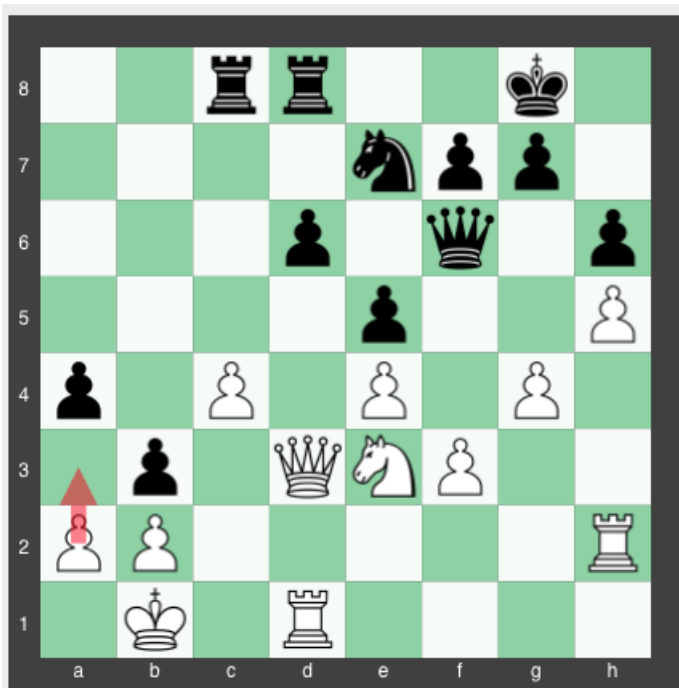
The Opening was a Sicilian Sveshnikov, aka Pelikan, with opposite sides Castling.

By move 27, the position is equal, with each side advancing against the opposite King.

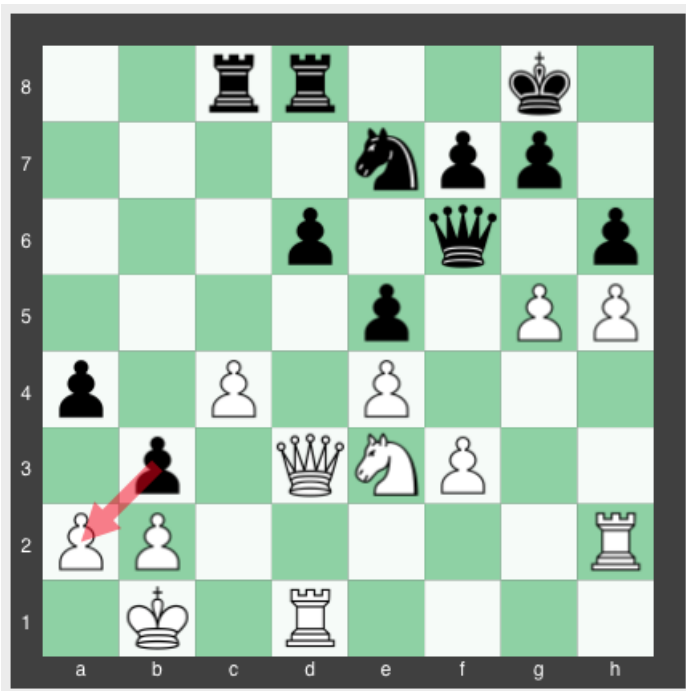
Black proceeds with the b3 advance



White needs to simply lock the advance with a3

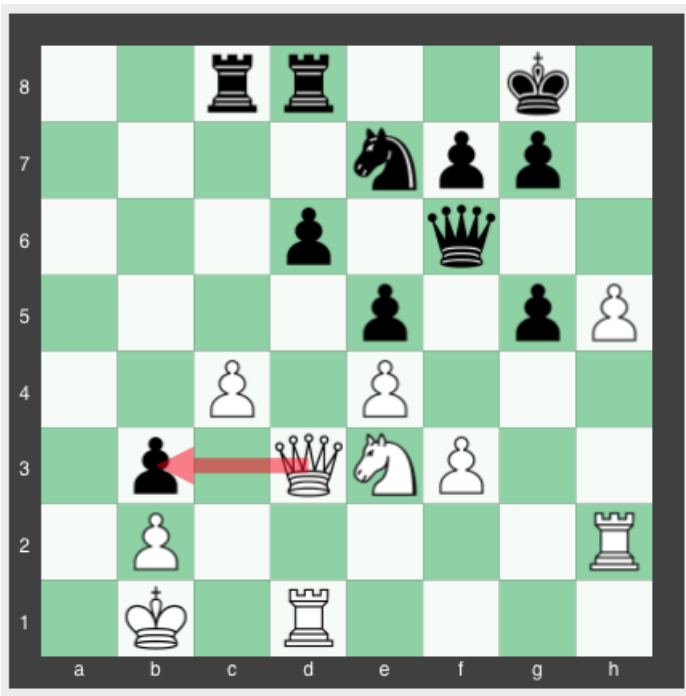


But, instead, plays 28. g5



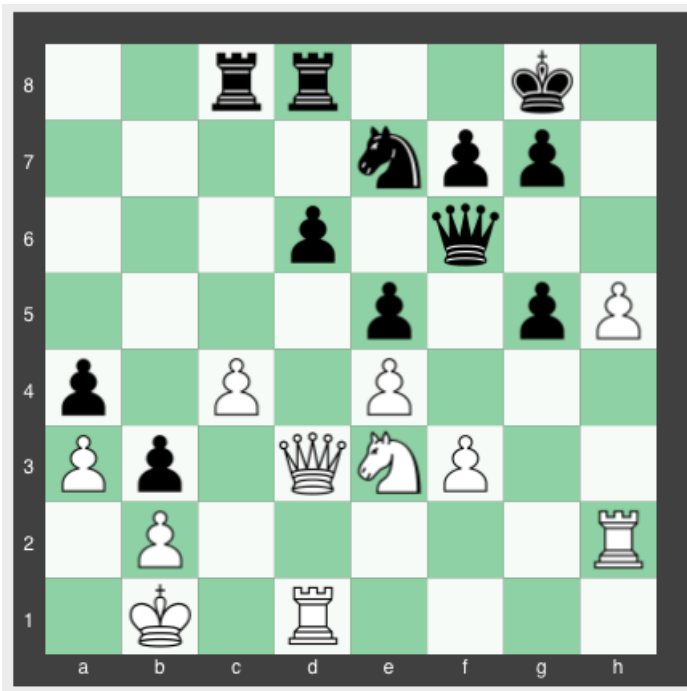
allowing the opening of White King's position and losing the g-pawn to 28... bxa2+ 29. Kxa2 hxg5

Surprisingly, Zhao, instead, plays 28... hxg5, after which 29. axb3 axb3 30. Qxb3 and White would be fine.



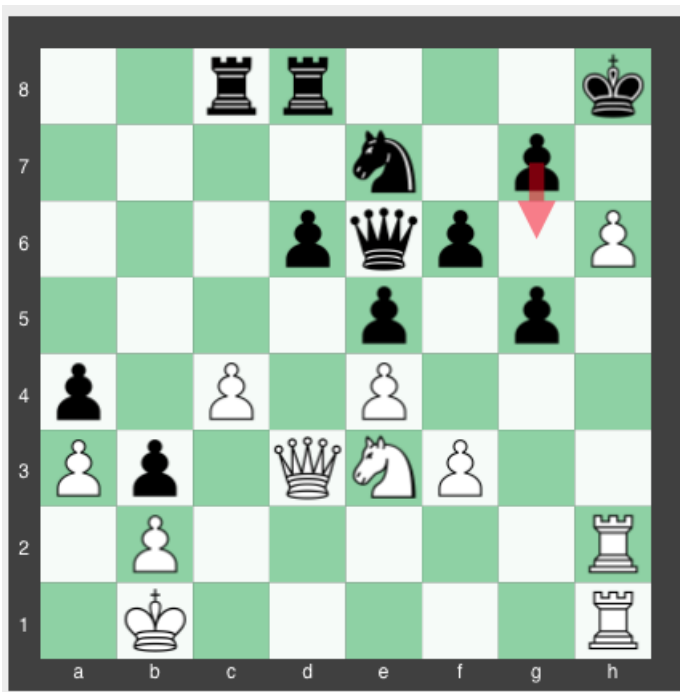
But, instead, Ilic plays 29. a3 and is simply a pawn down.



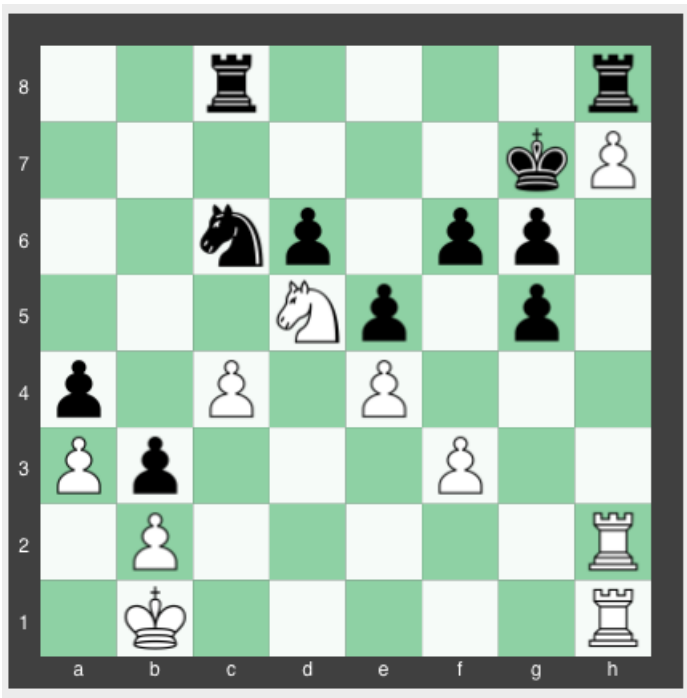


Illic doubles Rooks on the h-file and advances the minority pawn.

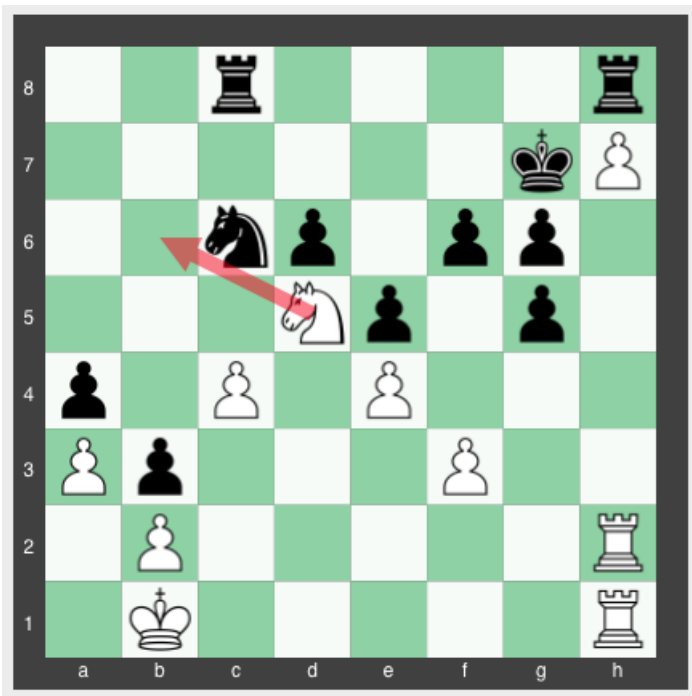
Zhao locks the h-file and blockades the White h-pawn.



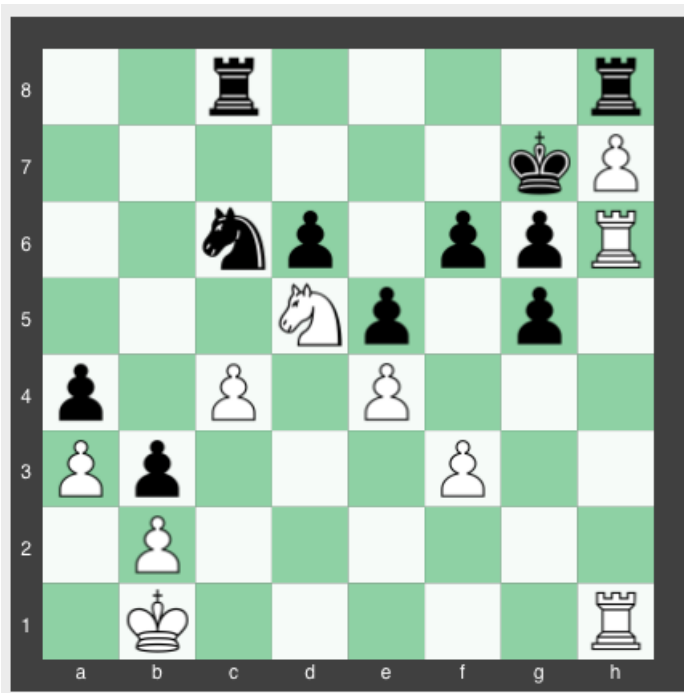
By move 38, White's h-file prospects have come to naught and both White's Rooks are tied to the defence of the h-pawn.



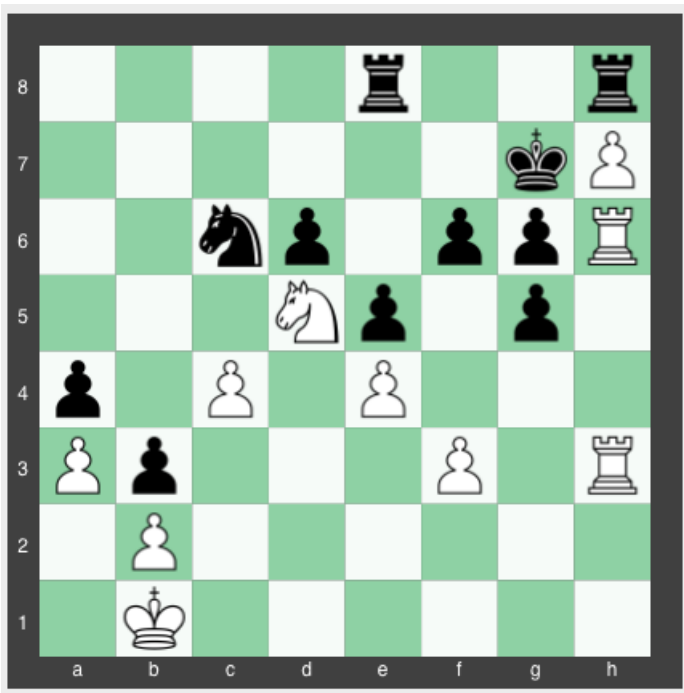
White needs to switch plans, perhaps targeting Black's a-pawn



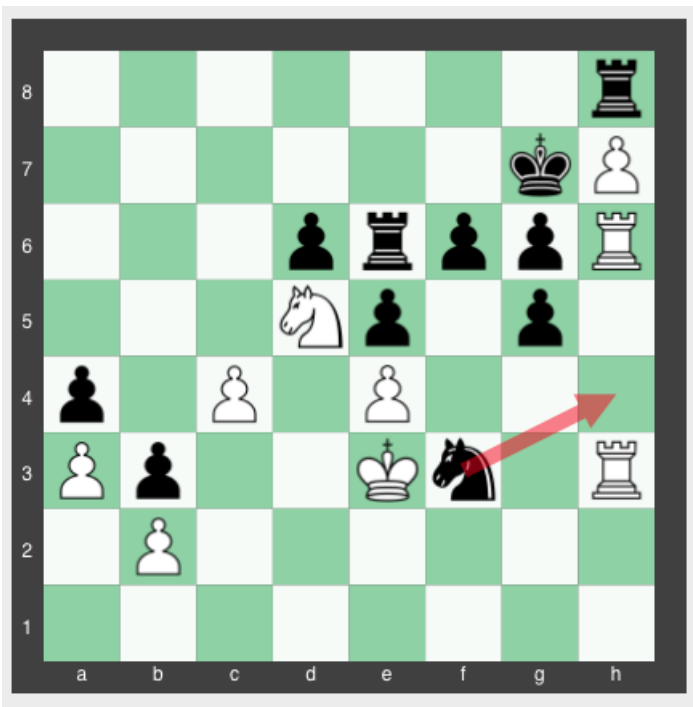
But, instead, White pursues an escalating commitment to a failing proposition, advances 38. Rh6, obliging the Rh1 to protect it.



White digs a deeper hole by playing 39. R1h3, depriving Rh6 of any movement and allowing Black's Knight to attack the unprotected f-pawn



White's f-pawn falls and after 42... Nh4, White's Rook on h6 is trapped without protection.

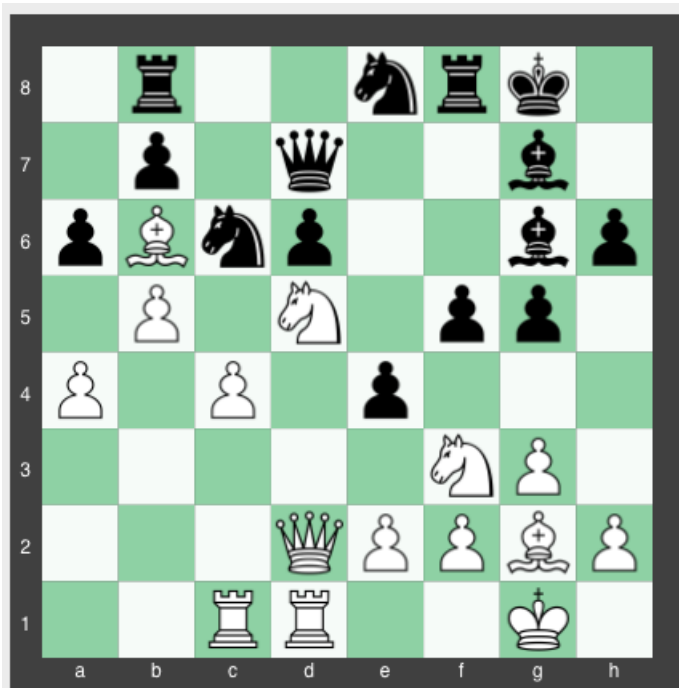


Resignation follows shortly.

### Board 2

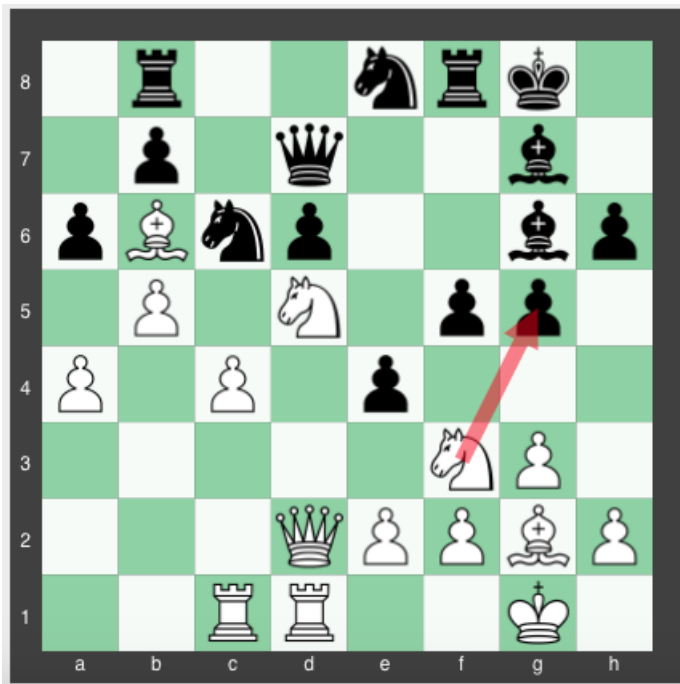
Igor Bjelobrk, White, paired with David Cannon played a game with seesawing advantages.

After 20. b5 e4, both Knights are attacked.



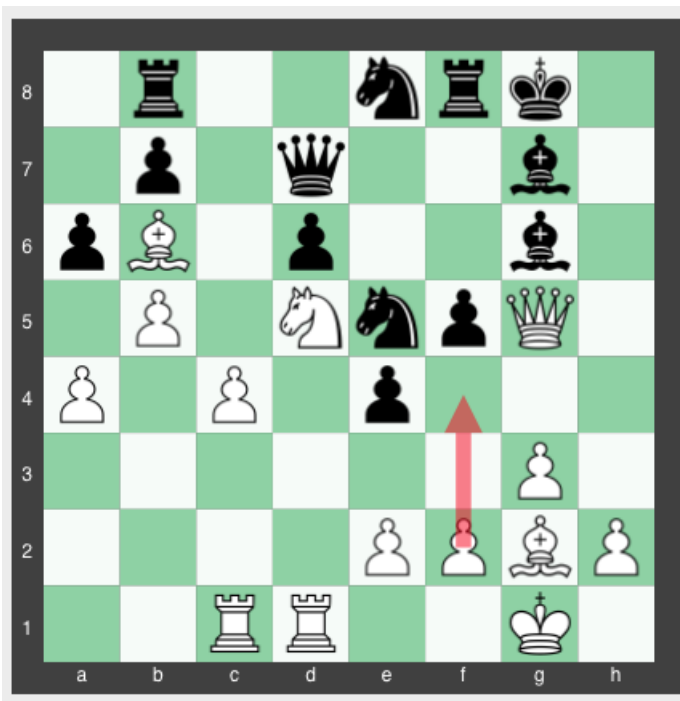
Here, White's main candidate moves are 21. Nxg5, Nd4 and bxc6.

Bjelobrk calculates 21. Nxg5 to be the most advantageous

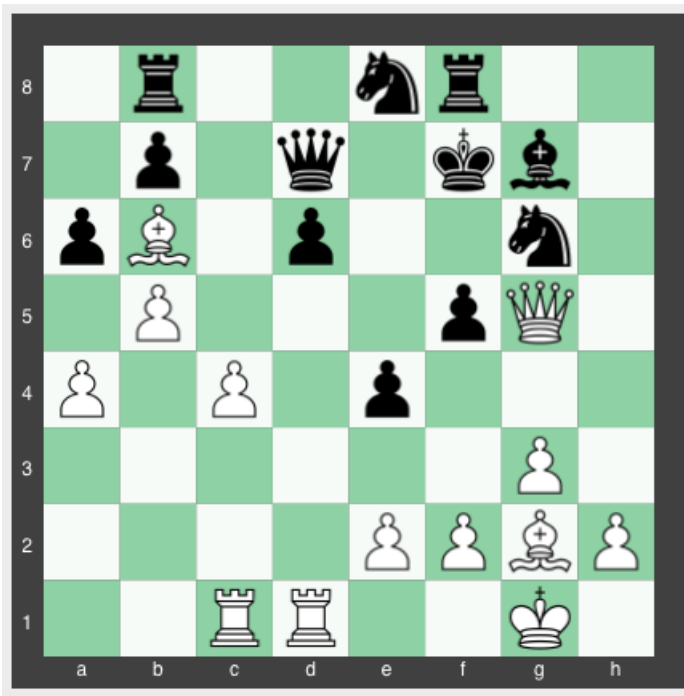


there followed 21... hxg5 22. Qxg5 Ne5

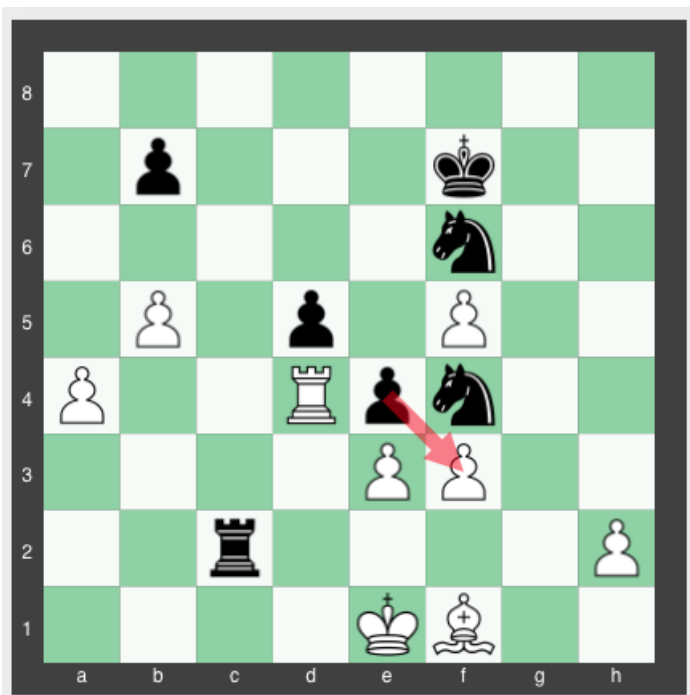
Here, attacking the defender with 23. f4 gives White a clear advantage of two pawns plus



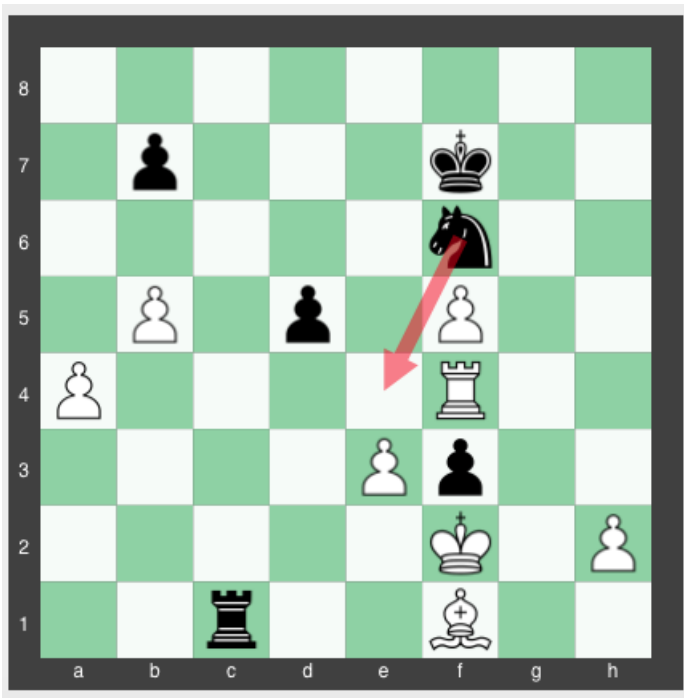
But, instead, Bjelobrjk plays 23. Ne7 and, after 23... Kf7 24. Nxg6 Nxg6, Black is better, with a Knight for 2 pawns - or 2.5, if the f-pawn falls.



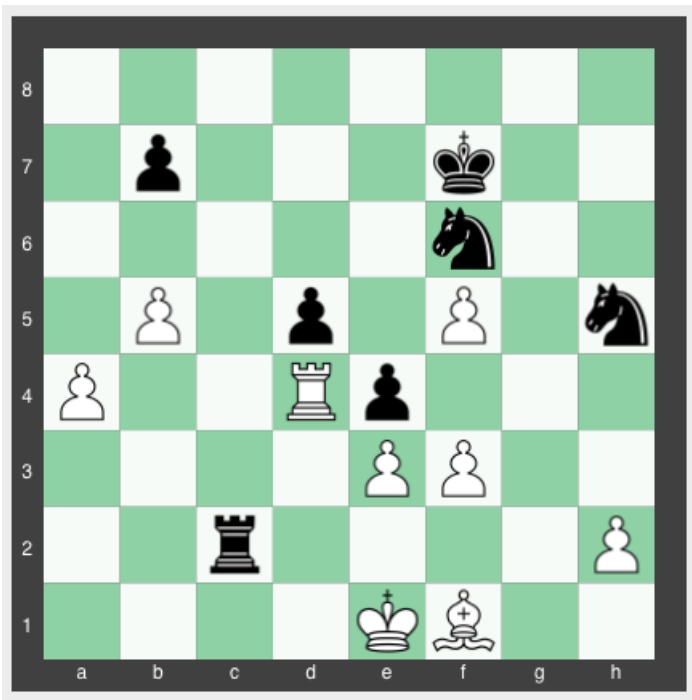
Black needs to play actively to exploit the advantage, but misses an opportunity where 37... exf3 would give a huge advantage



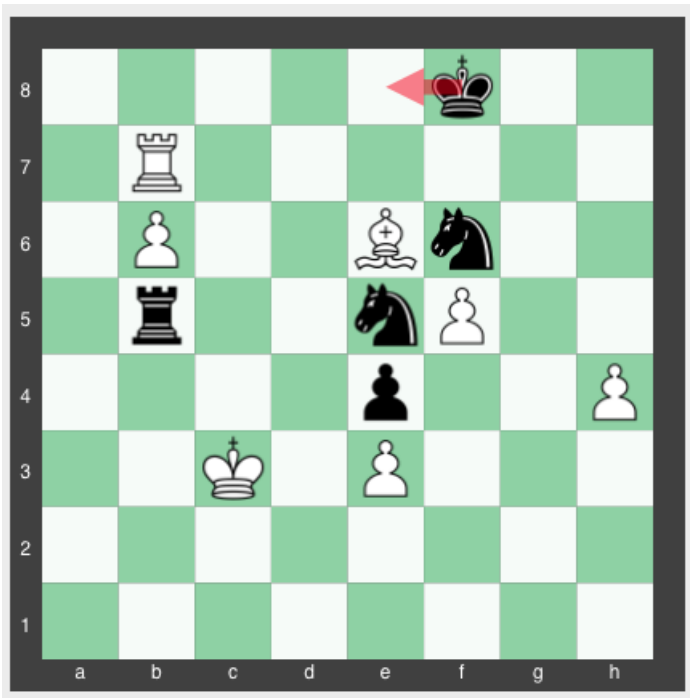
after 37... exf3 38. Rxf4 ( 38. exf4 Ne4 39. Rxd5 Rc1+ 40. Rd1 f2+ 41. Ke2 Nc3+ ) 38... Rc1+ 39. Kf2 Ne4+



But, instead, Cannon played 37... N4h5 and the advantage dissipated.



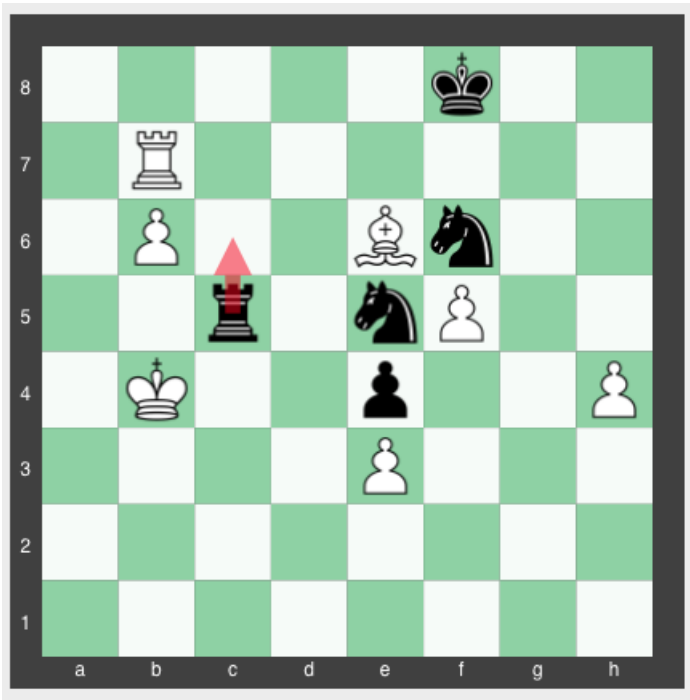
A critical position occurred at 47. h4, where 47... Rb1 or 47... Ke8 maintains the balance.



Black needs to keep the Rook on the b-file, attacking the b-pawn and avoid a White Rook check on f7 netting the Black Knight.

Instead Black played 47... Rc5+ There followed 48. Kd4 Rb5 49. Kc3 49... Rc5+ 50. Kb4

Black should play 50... Rc6

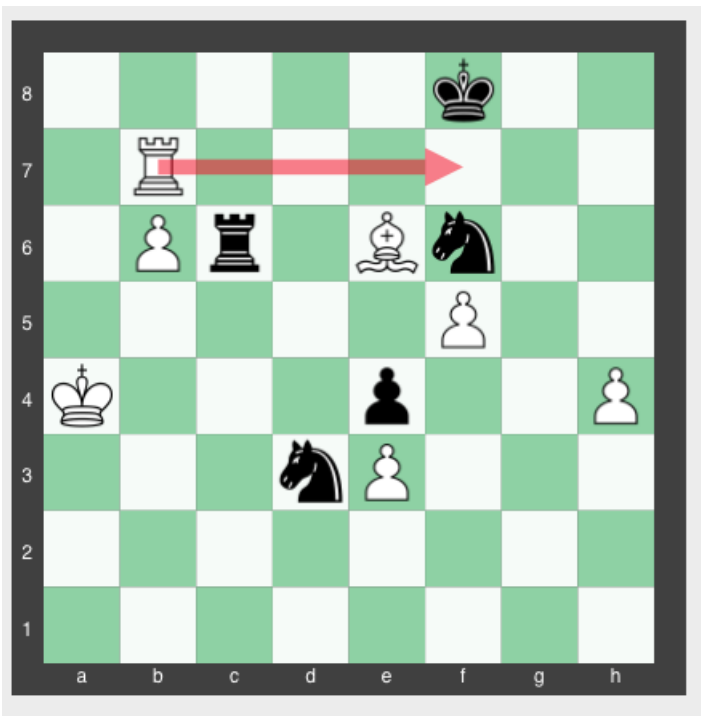


But, instead, played 50... Nd3+ and after 51. Ka4, Black can no longer satisfy the note to move 47.

There followed

51... Rc6 & resigns, due to the imminent 52. Rf7+



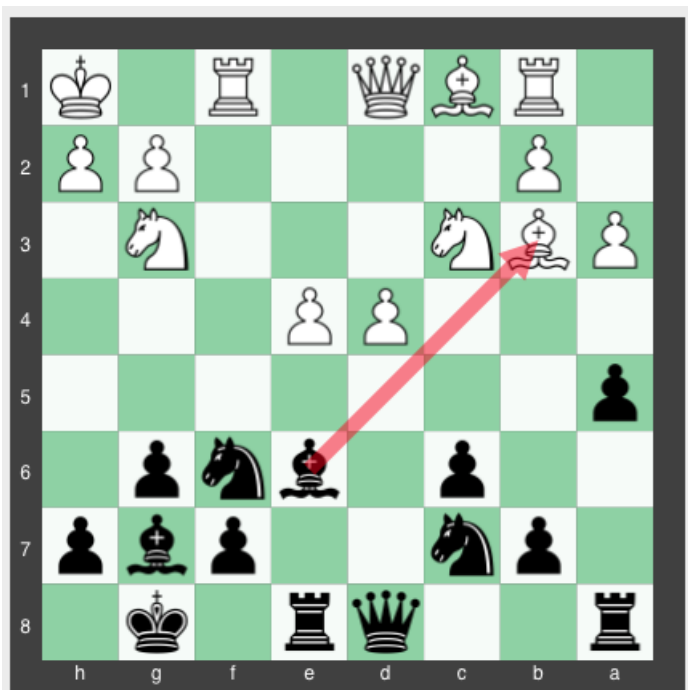


51... Ke8 fails to 52. Rc7

Board 3

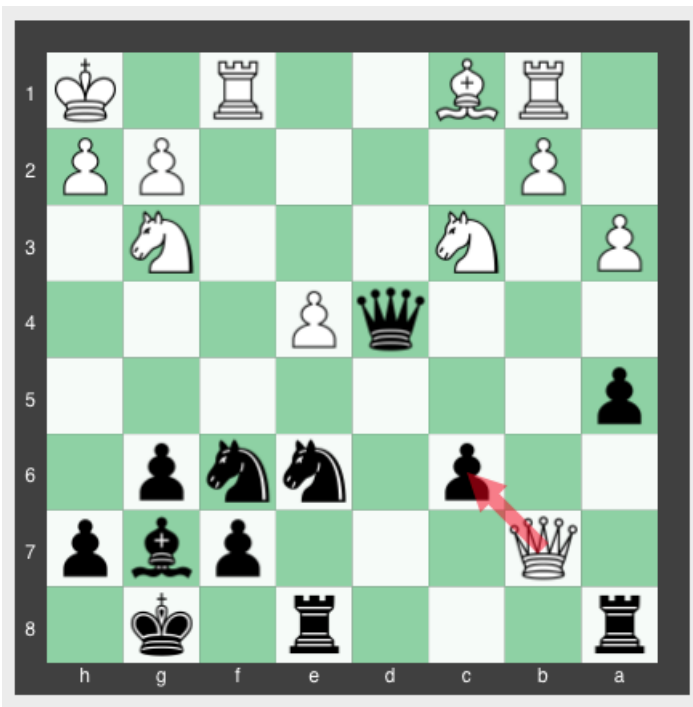
Kris Chan, White, vs James Morris was characterised by solid play by Morris opportunistically waiting for Chan mistakes.

The first mistake was 17. Kh1, allowing 17... Bxb3 18. Qxb3 Qxd4 19. Qxb7

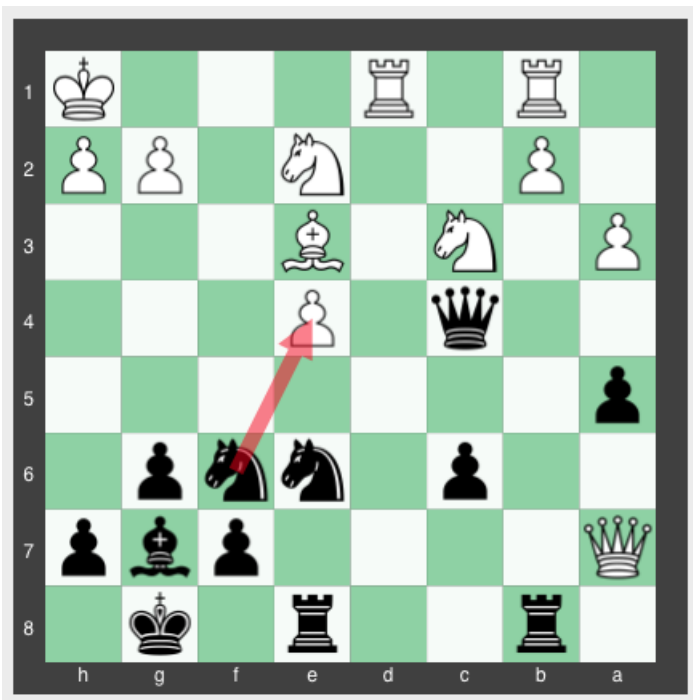


with Black gaining White's d-pawn in return for Black's b-pawn.

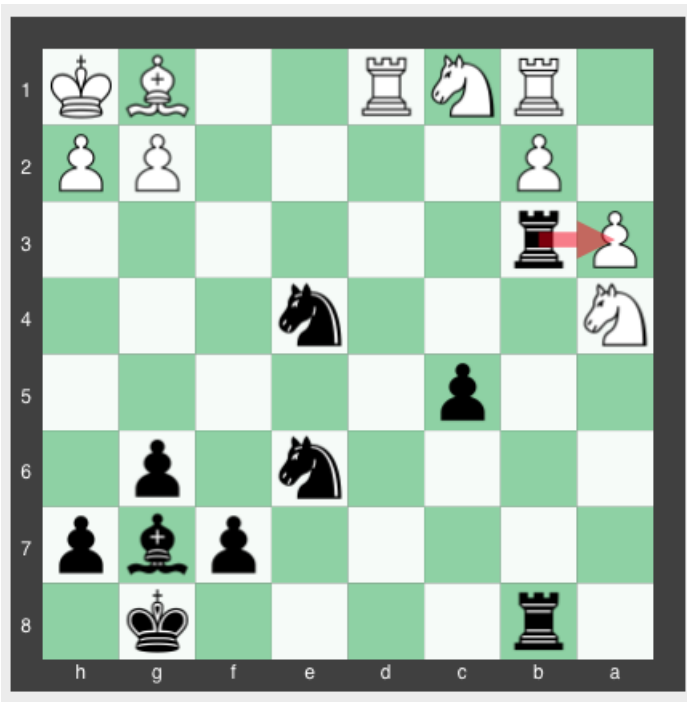
The second was White's not capturing Black's c-pawn:



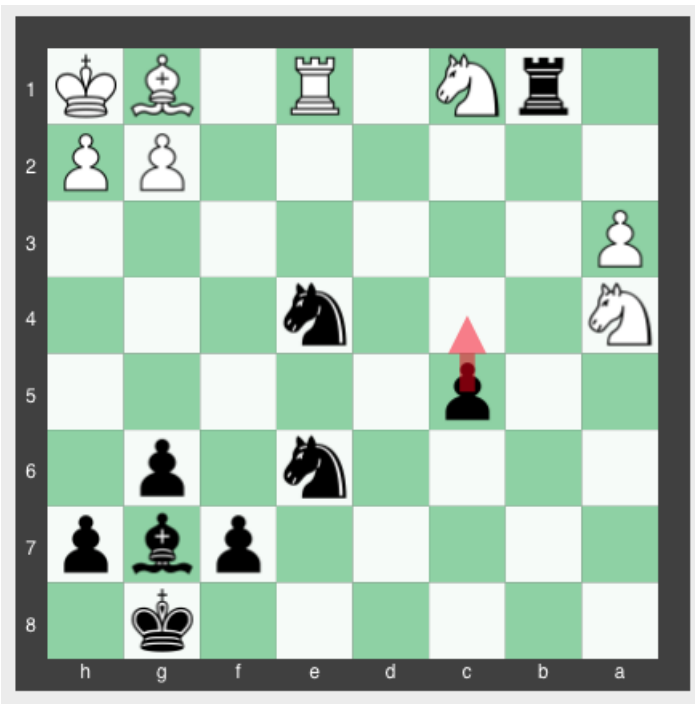
and subsequently losing White's e-pawn:



The third was playing 28. Nc1 leaving Rb1 unprotected:

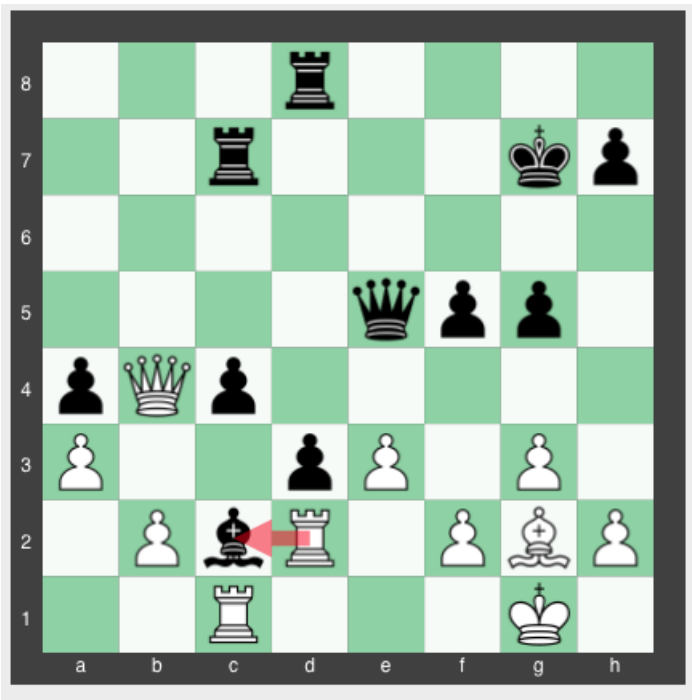


Black then had a ready made plan: advance the passed c-pawn



White's final mistake was 33. Be3, gifting Morris a concluding combination 33... Bd4

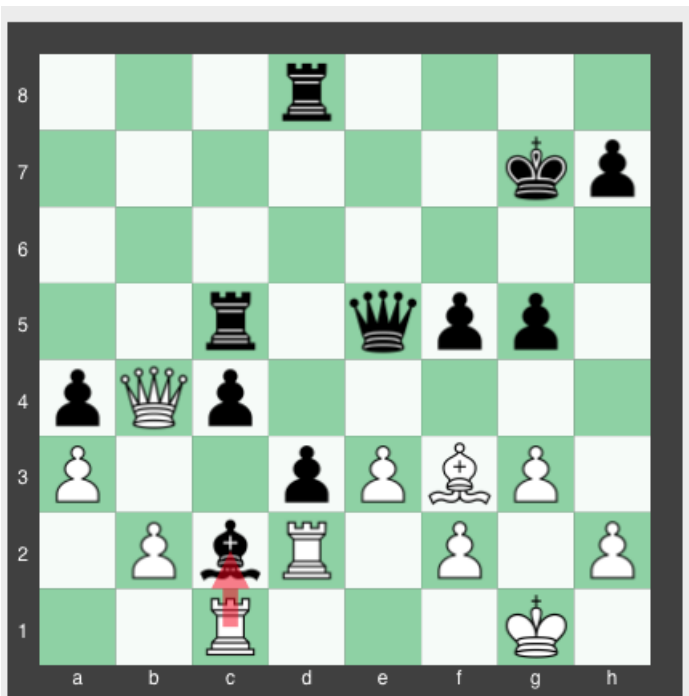




allowing Cheng to defuse the situation with 37. Rdx2 dxc2 38. Rxc2 Rd1+ 39. Bf1 Rcd7 40. Qxc4

But Cheng did not grasp the opportunity.

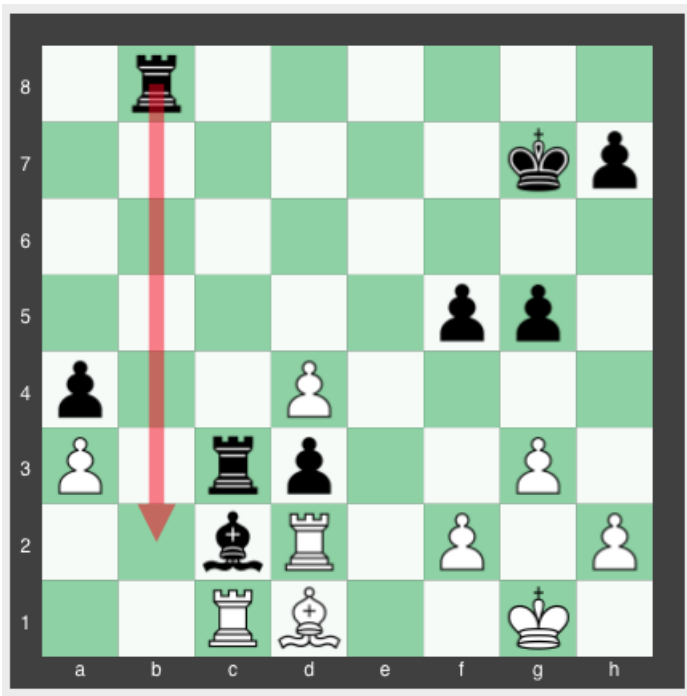
Again on move 38, Cheng had the opportunity



38. Rxc2 dxc2 39. Rxc2

instead playing 38. Qb7+ Rc7 39. Qb4

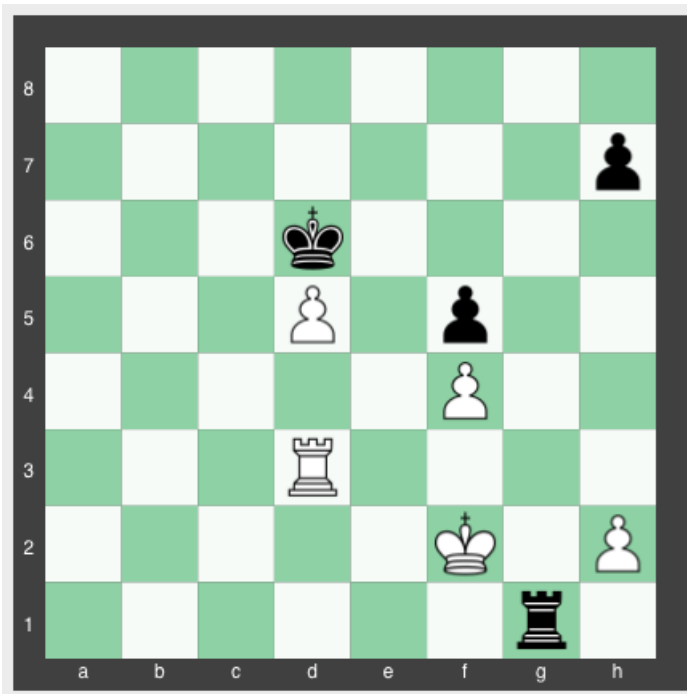
A critical position occurred at move 43, where 43... Rb2 would consolidate for Black.



But, instead, Solomon played 43...Rb1 allowing wholesale liquidation and dissipation

44. Rxb1 Bxb1 45. Bxa4

and the game petered out to a drawn Rook and pawn ending.

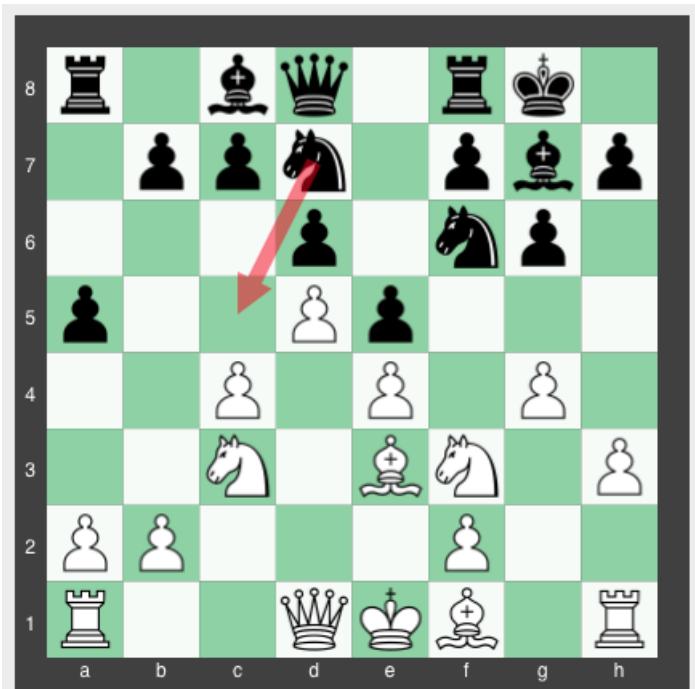


**Round 2**

**Board 1**

Zong-Yuan Zhao with White was paired with number 29 seed Chris Kolak.

The Opening was a King's Indian, reaching a familiar position after 9. g4, where Black's most common move is 9... Nc5

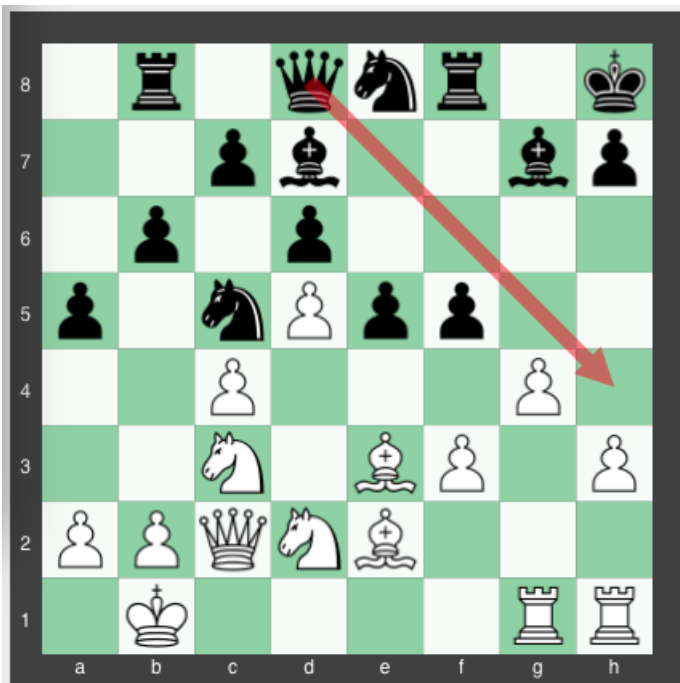


so that Black has counter-play after 9... Nc5 10. Nd2 Bd7 11. Be2 c6 and subsequent ... f5.

Instead, Kolak played 9... b6

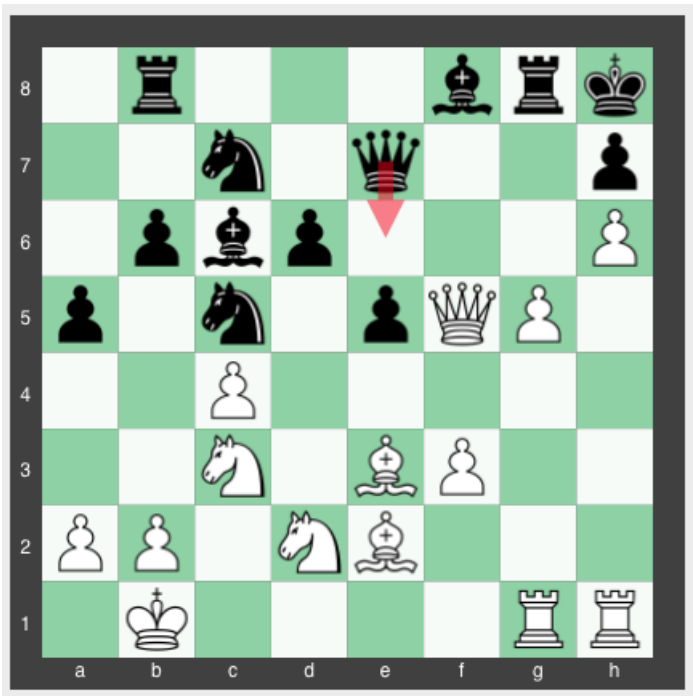
White's evident plan now is to Castle long and attack Black's Castled King on the opposite wing.

White proceeds with this plan and after 17. Rdg1 has a clear initiative, which Black can attempt to blunt with 17... Qh4



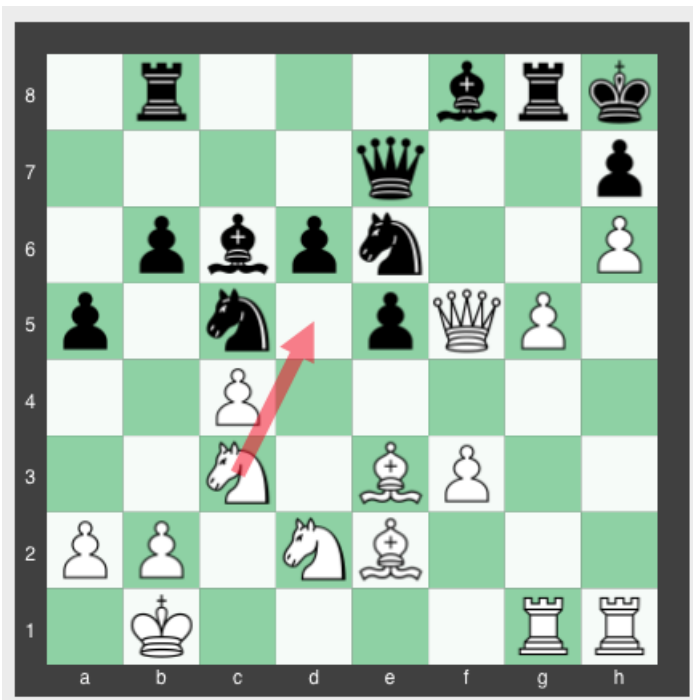
and 18. g5 f4

Instead, Black played 17... Qe7 and White continued the advance of the K-side pawns, with increased advantage reaching, after 23. Qxf5,



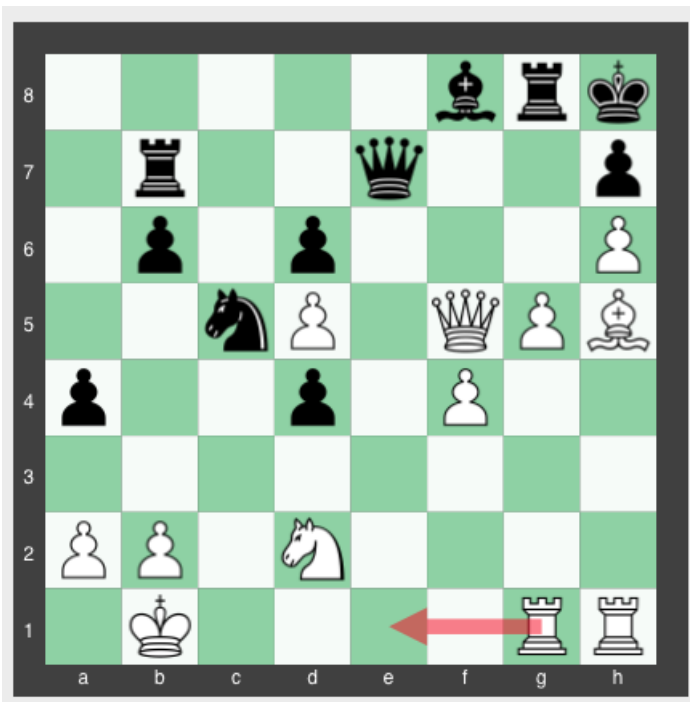
where Black can take some sting out of White's attack with 23... Qe6.

But, instead, Black played 23... N7e6

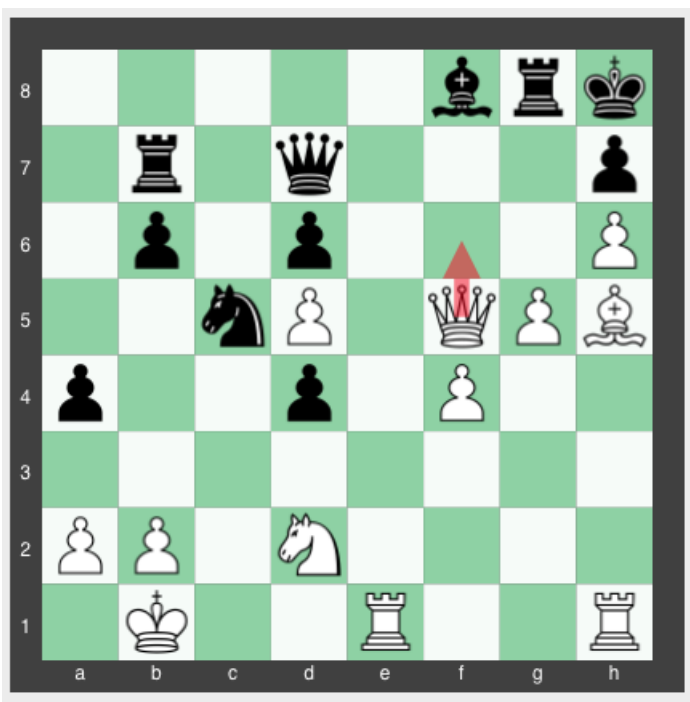


allowing 24. Nd5, pursuing the attack and establishing a vice-like grip until, on 29. Re1





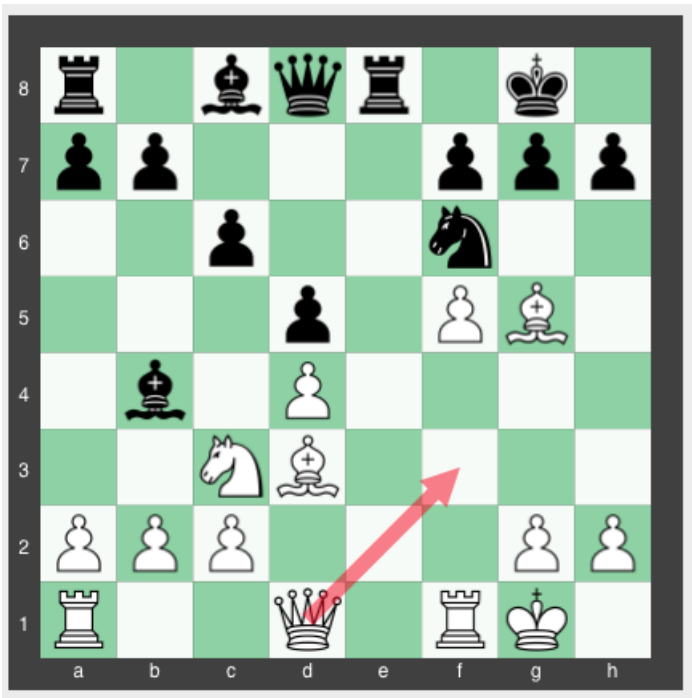
Black resigned, as, after 29... Qd7, 30. Qf6+



Board 2

Kyle Gibson, White, and Igor Bjelobrk played a Four Knights Game, Spanish Variation.

After 13... Re8, the usual move is 14. Qf3 with a slight edge for White.



Instead, Gibson played 14. Ne2

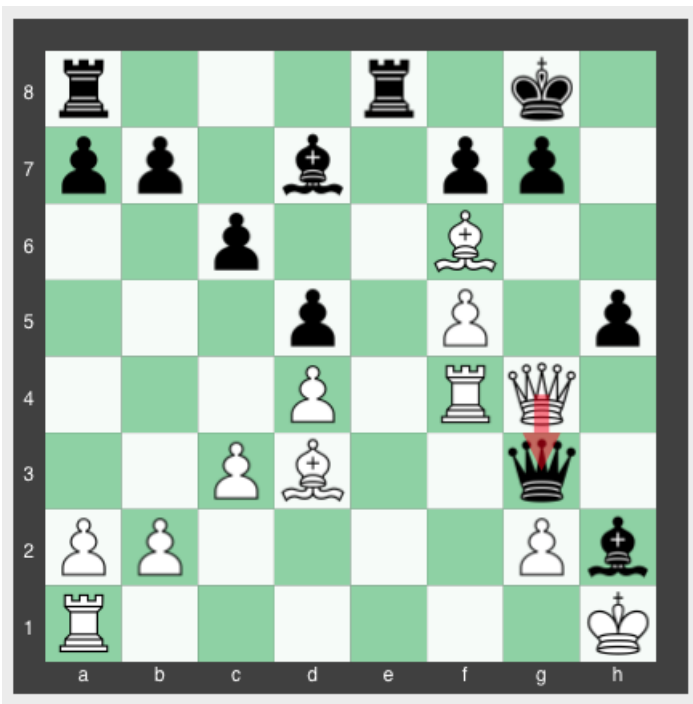
A critical position was reached after 19... Qg3



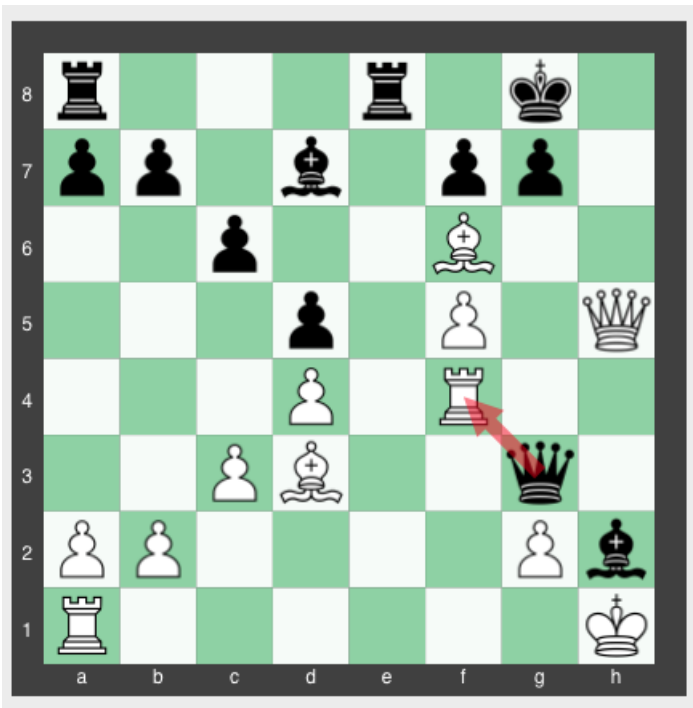
where White should reply 20. Qh5

And after 20. Qh5 gxf6 21. Rf3 Qd6 22. Qxh2, the position is even.

Instead, White played 20. Rf4 and after 20... h5, White should play 21. Qxg3



but, instead played 21. Qxh5, blundering a piece to 21... Qxf4



as 22. Be5 is met by 22... Rxe5

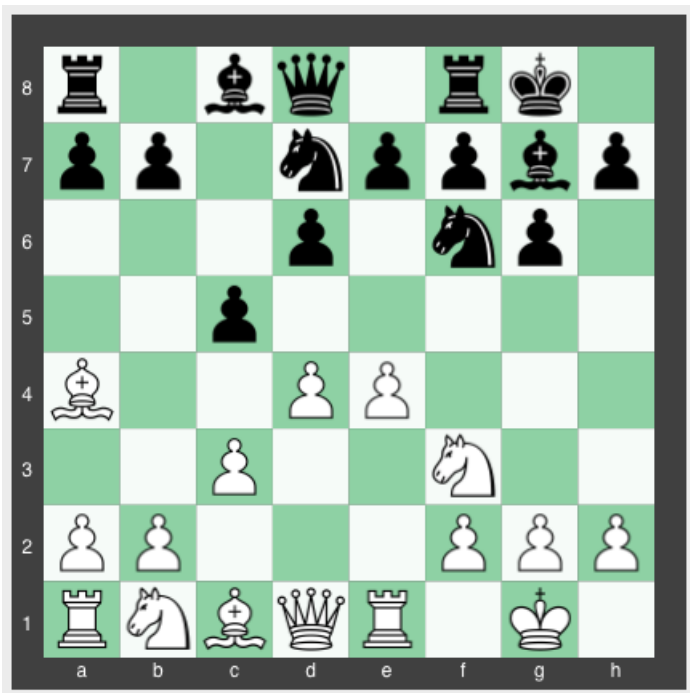


White resigned shortly afterwards.

Board 3

James Morris as White was paired with Lachlan Lee, the 33rd seed.

Playing the Sicilian Moscow variation the position after 8. d4 was

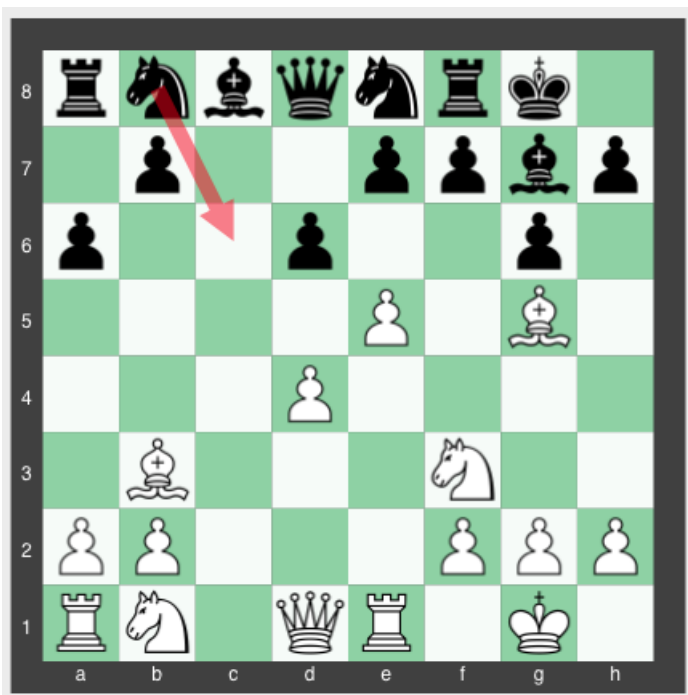


to which the most common replies are 8... e5 and 8... cxd4

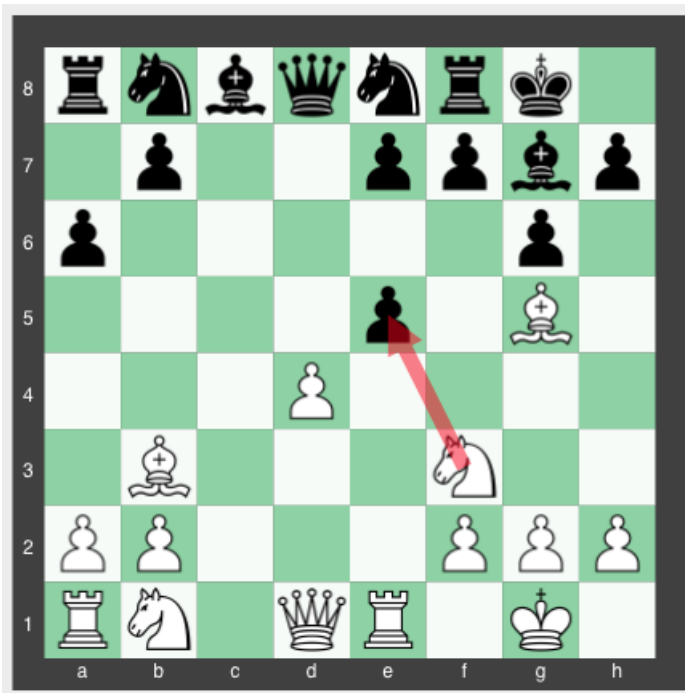
But, Lee played 8... a6, permitting the advance 9. e5



At 12. Bg5, Black should play the developing move 12... Nc6

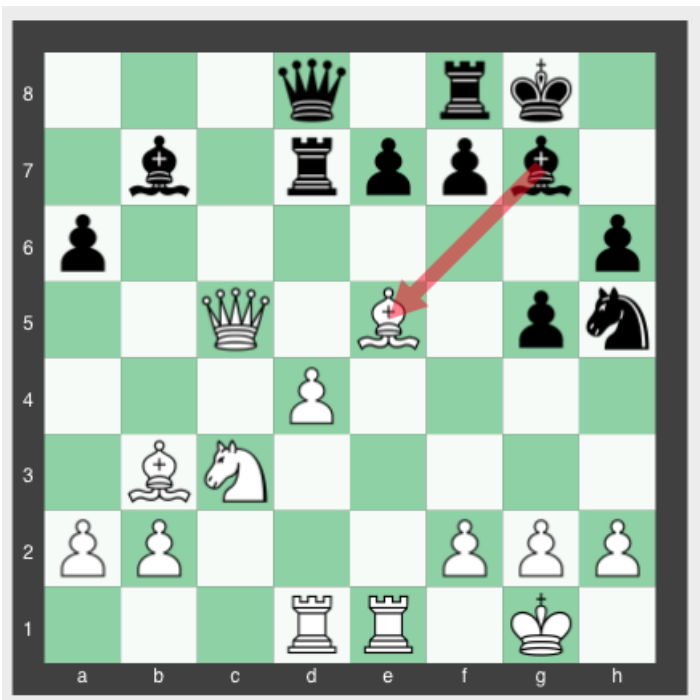


but, instead, played 12... dxe5, gifting Morris an extra lead in development.



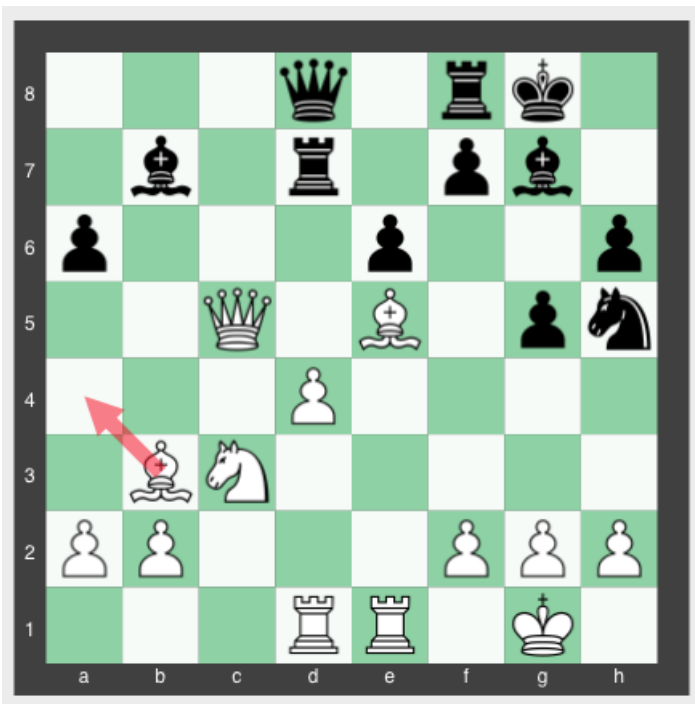
This led directly to the loss of a pawn after 13. Nxe5 Nf6 14. Qf3 Nc6 15. Nxc6 bxc6 16. Qxc6

White also maintained the lead in development until the critical position after 22. Be5



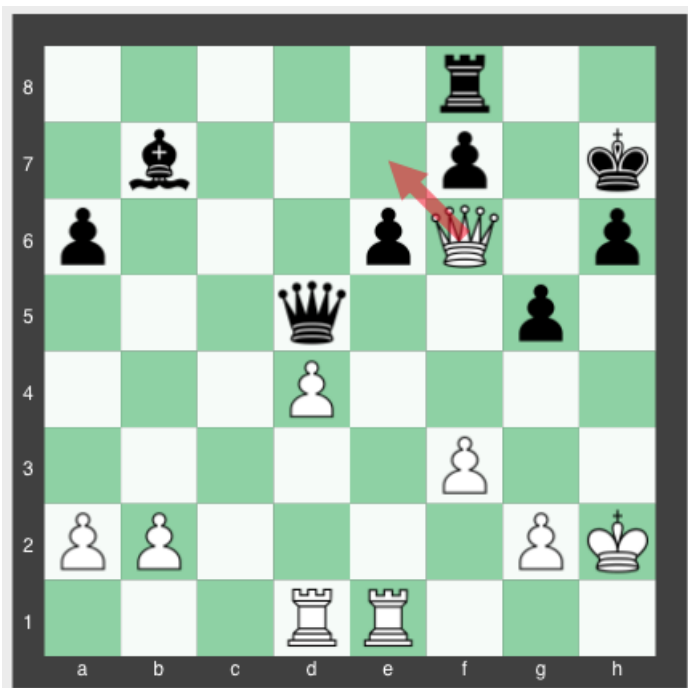
where Black should play 22... Bxe5

but, instead, played 22... e6 and Morris, ever alert, won the Exchange of Rook for Bishop by 23. Ba4

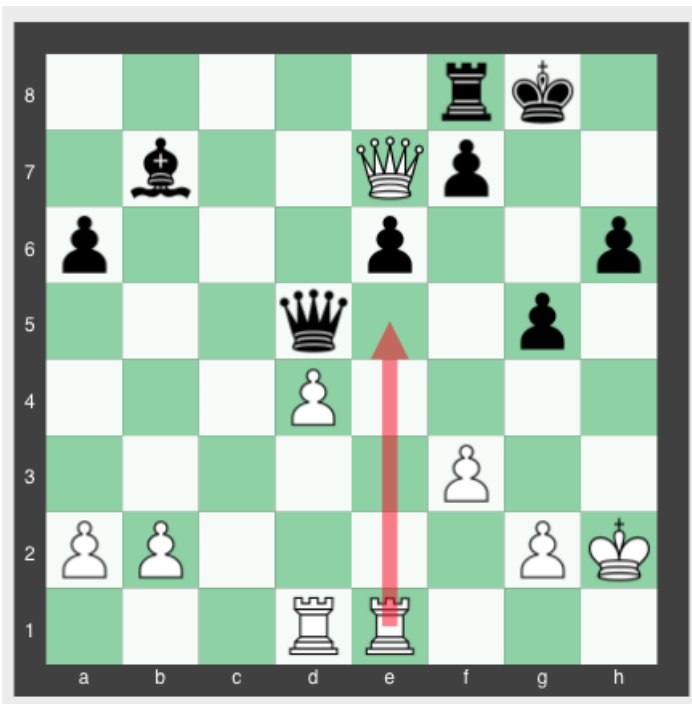


where Black can choose several ways of losing the Exchange :-)

A further inaccuracy 30... Kh7

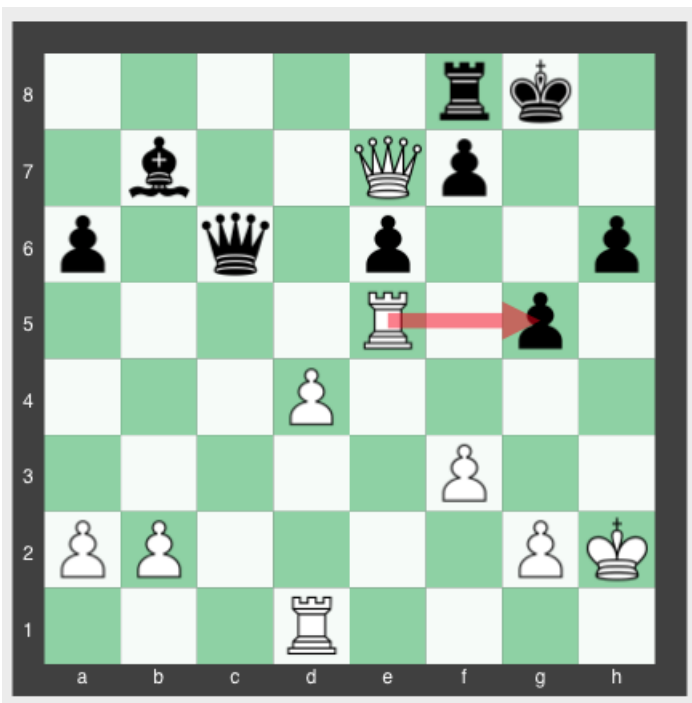


allowed a fatal incursion of Queen and two Rooks after 31. Qe7 Kg8 32. Re5

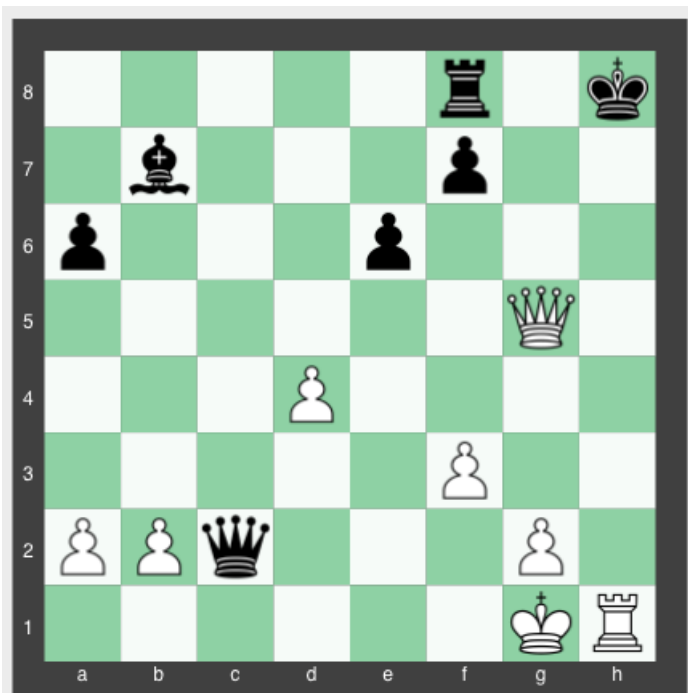


Black resigns.

32... Qc6 permits the pretty finish

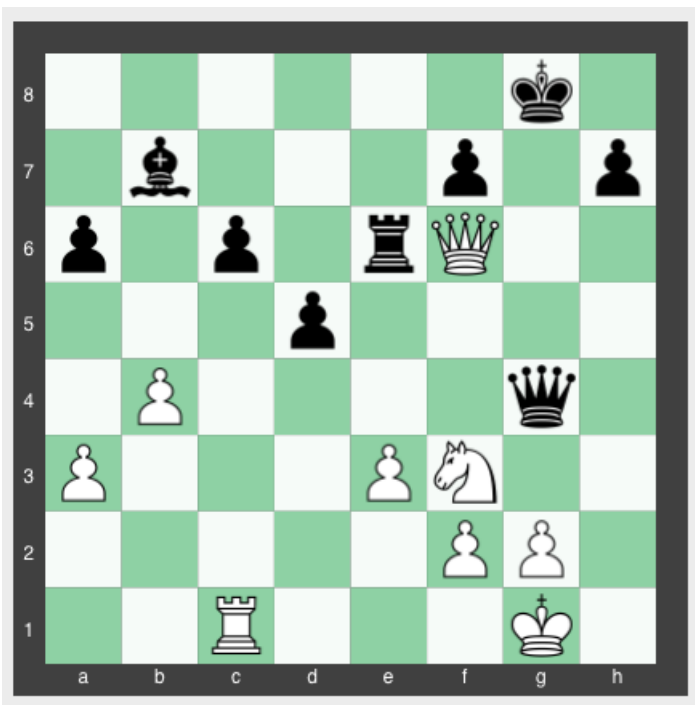






Board 4

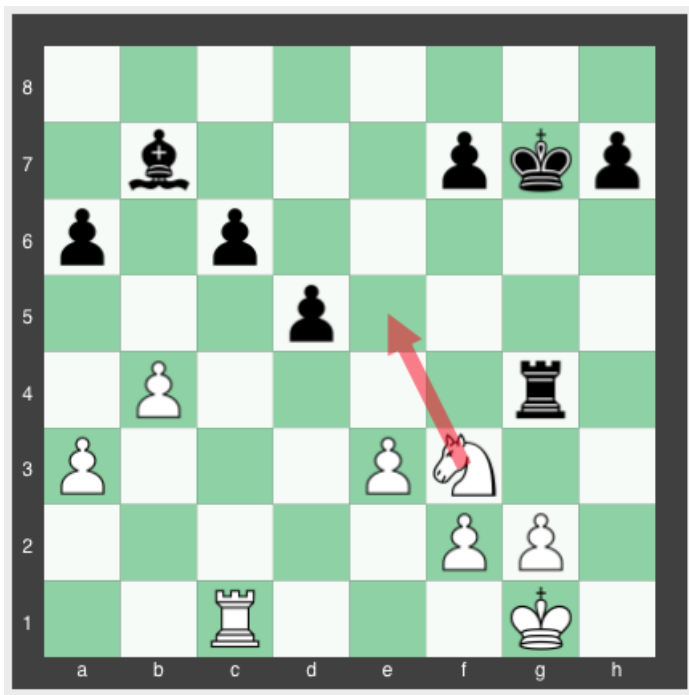
On move 30... Re6, Darryl Johansen, White, and Tedric Li agreed to a draw.



Could White have played for the win of the c-pawn after 31. Qd8+ Kg7 32. Qd7 Rg6

( 32... Ba8 33. Nd4 Rg6 34. Qxg4 Rxg4 35. Nxc6 )

33. Qxg4 Rxg4 34. Ne5



Perhaps an early night was preferred ;-)

After two rounds there are 24 players on 2/2, including the top three seeds, Zhao, Bjelobrk and Morris and Solomon (7), Yadao (8), Ryjanova (9) and Soo (10).

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Media Release: Ballarat Open Chess Tournament, Saturday 11 March 2023

by Paul Power, Australian Chess Federation

The Ballarat Begonia Open Chess Tournament began today with 225 entrants, including top players from Victoria and interstate.

Heading the field are Grandmasters Zong-Yuan Zhao, Darryl Johansen, Woman Grandmaster Julia Ryjanova and International Masters Igor Bjelobrk, James Morris, Ari Dale, Stephen Solomon and FIDE Master Chris Wallis.

Competition promises to be tight with former winners of this event, including Johansen (14 times), Zhao (3), Morris (5), Solomon (7), Wallis (1) and Dragicevic (2) looking to win the 57th Ballarat Begonia Open.

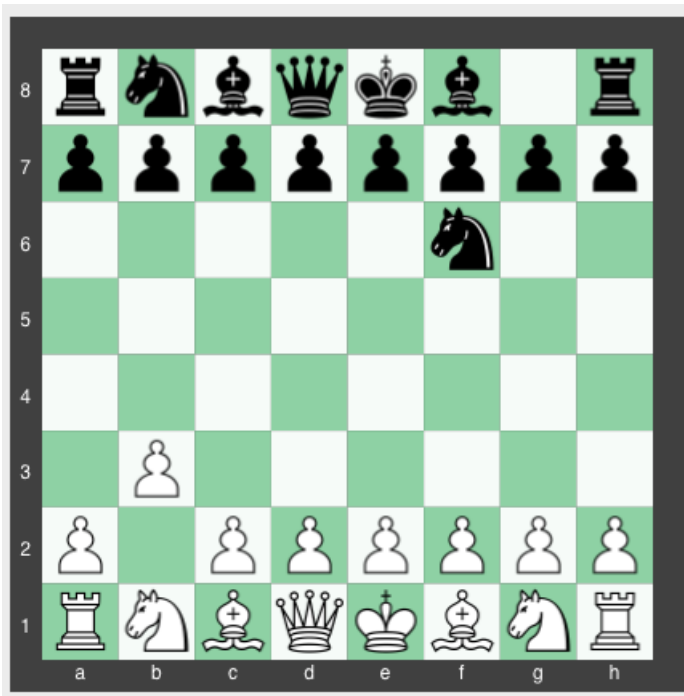
Rate of play is 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move from move 1, with International Arbiter Peter Tsai overseeing play.

## **Round 1**

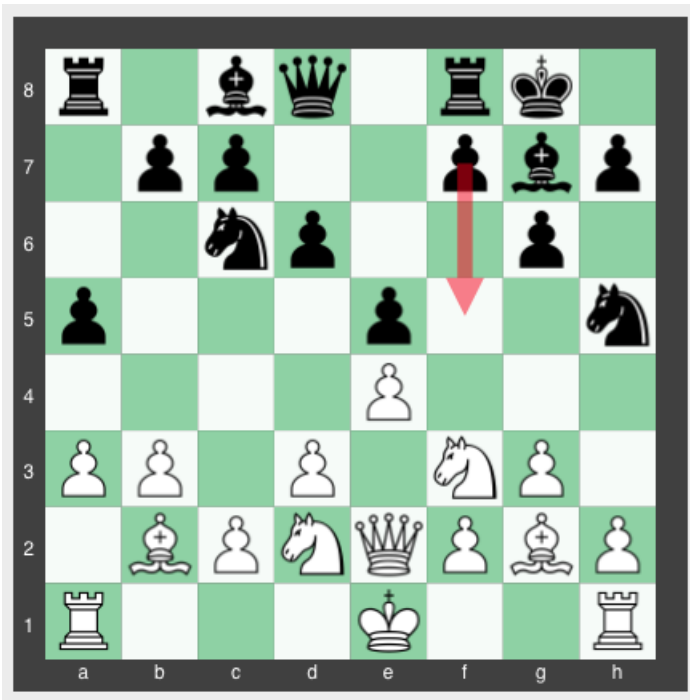
### **Board 1**

Michael Stolyarov, seeded 58, was paired as White with top seed Zong-Yuan Zhao, according to the accelerated pairings system to be adopted in the early rounds.

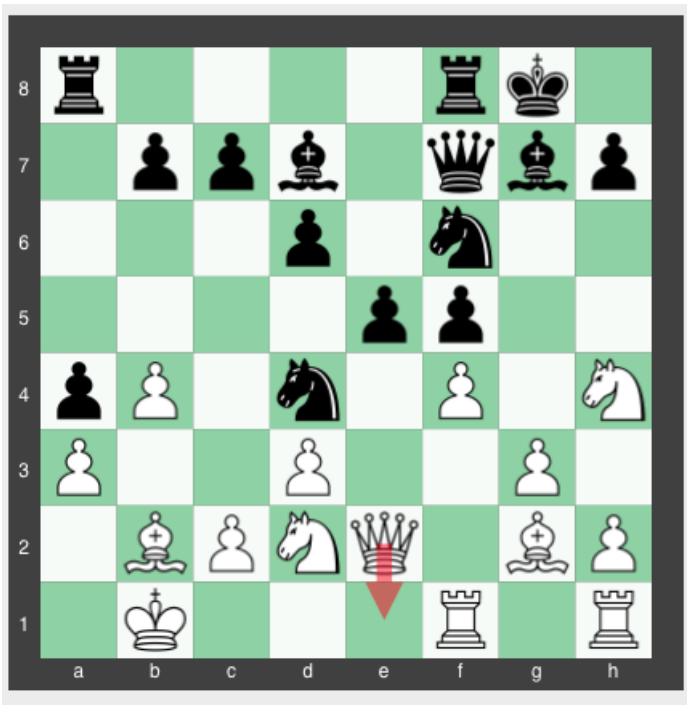
Adopting Magnus Carlsen's recent frequent choice, Stolyarov, White, played 1. b3 and Zhao the quiet and flexible 1... Nf6



The game continued in that theme until move 10, where Zhao was able to assert an advantage with 10... f5



Stolyarov castled long and a critical position was reached after 17... Nd4



Here, White should play 18. Qe1, but instead played 18. Qf2, allowing the tempo gaining move 18... Ng4



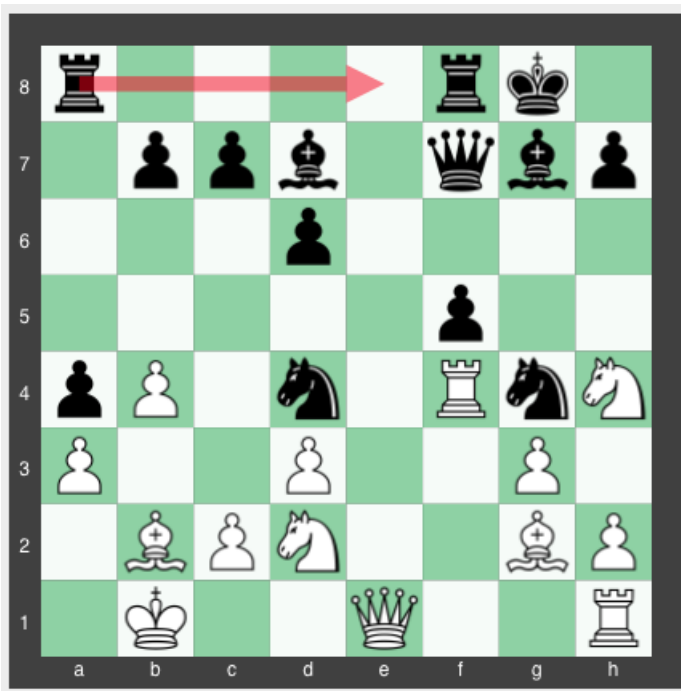
White is on the back foot.

After 19. Qe1 exf4

White should exchange off one of the pair of marauding Knights with 20. Bxd4



but, instead, played 20. Rxd4 and after 20... Rae8



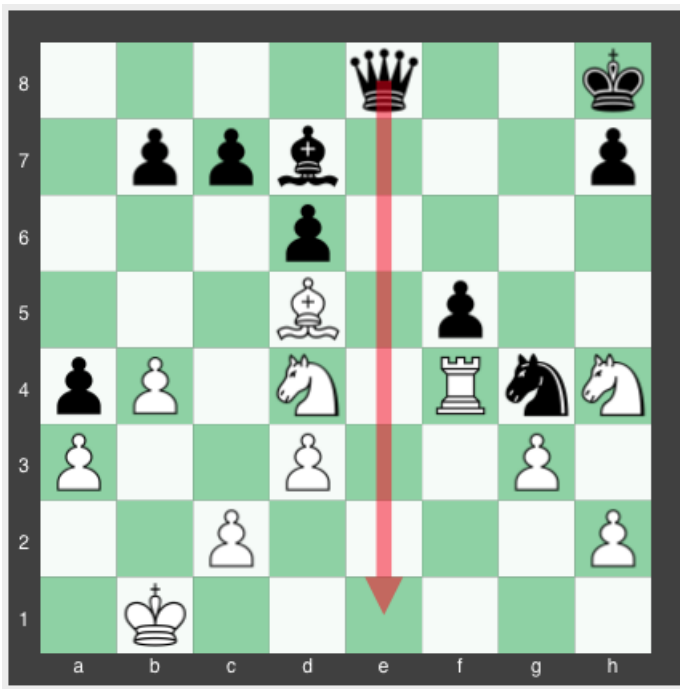
White's Queen has no safe square.

For example, 21. Qf1 or Qd1 21... Nge3, or 21. Qg1 or Qc1 21... Nde2

So, instead, White elected to allow the loss of Queen for Rook and Bishop.

But, after the incisive Queen incursion 26... Qe1+ to be followed by 27. Kb2 Qe5 and 28... c5

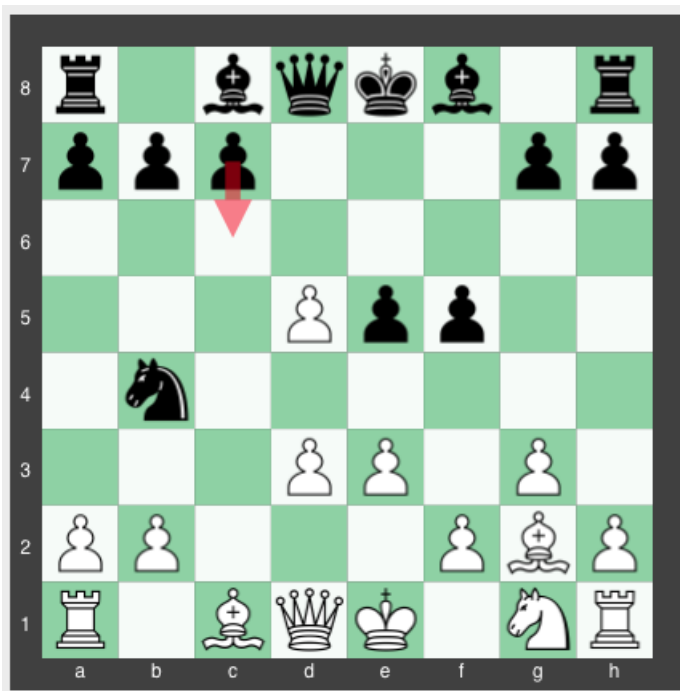
( if 27. Ka2 Qc3)



it was game over.

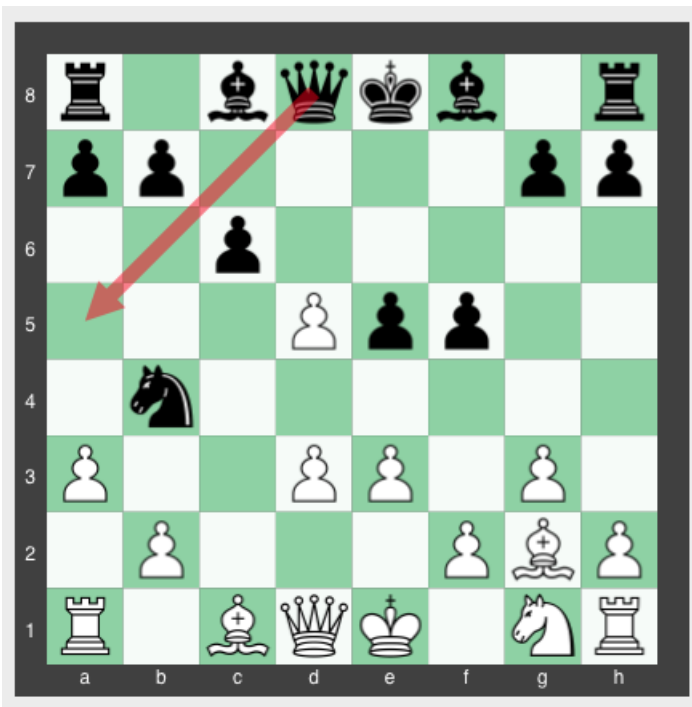
Board 2

Igor Bjelobrk was paired with White against Sagargiri Goswami. Goswami played aggressively in the Opening, reaching near equality after 8... c6,



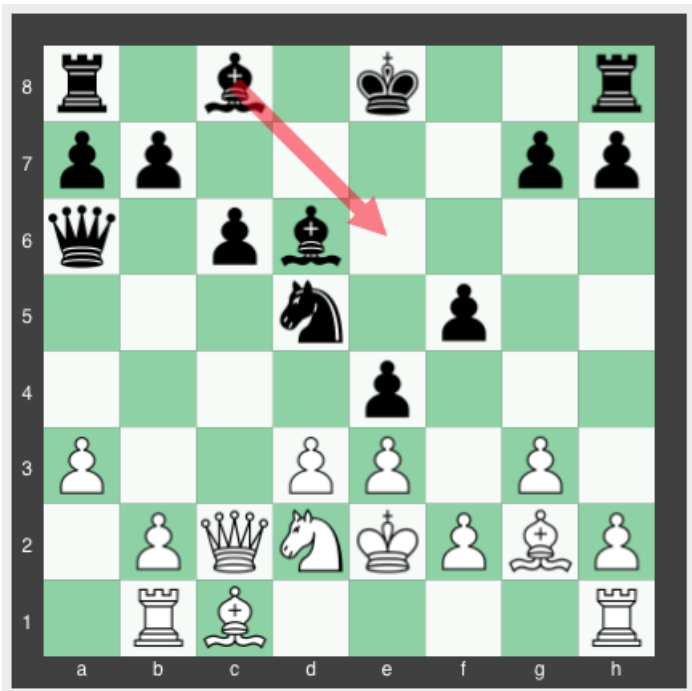
probably taking Bjelobrk into unfamiliar territory.

After 9. a3 Qa5



White has problems, with Igor burning a lot of time to navigate a way forward.

By move 14, Black had a clear lead, with White's pieces awkwardly placed and should consolidate with Castles or develop 14... Be6,

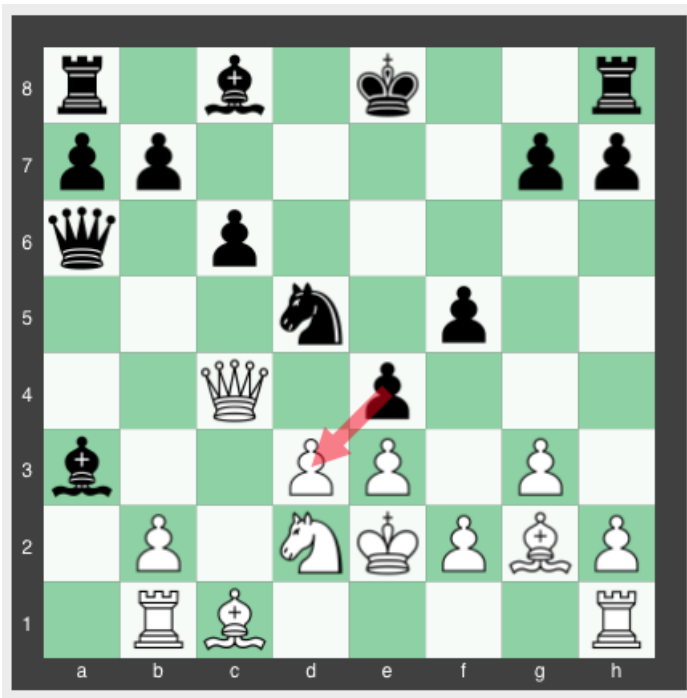


but, instead, played the tricky 14... Bxa3, where 15. Ra1 releases the pressure, after

15. Ra1 Qxd3+ 16. Qxd3 exd3+ 17. Kxd3 Be7, White is a pawn down, but with less difficulty than in the game.

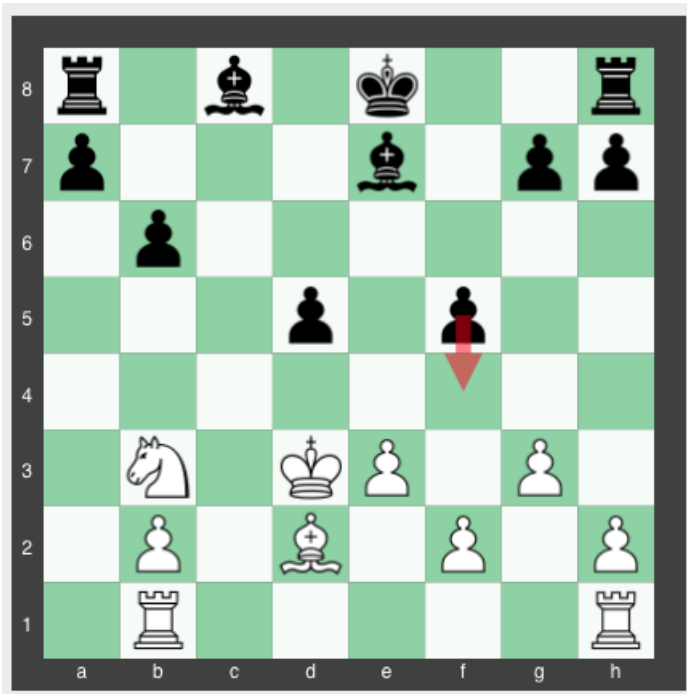
(Not 15. bxa3 exd3+ 16. Qxd3 Nc3+)

Instead, White played 15. Qc4 and after exchanges beginning with 15... exd3



Black emerges a pawn ahead, but needs to play actively to keep the advantage.

A critical position was reached after 20. Bd2

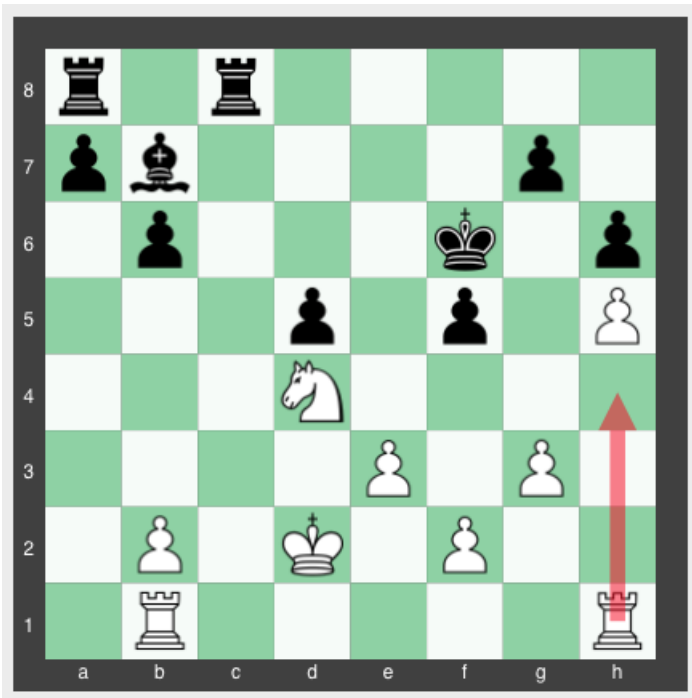


Here, Black should play 20... f4, with the threat of Bf5 and exchanging off the f-pawn with a proportionate advantage increase.

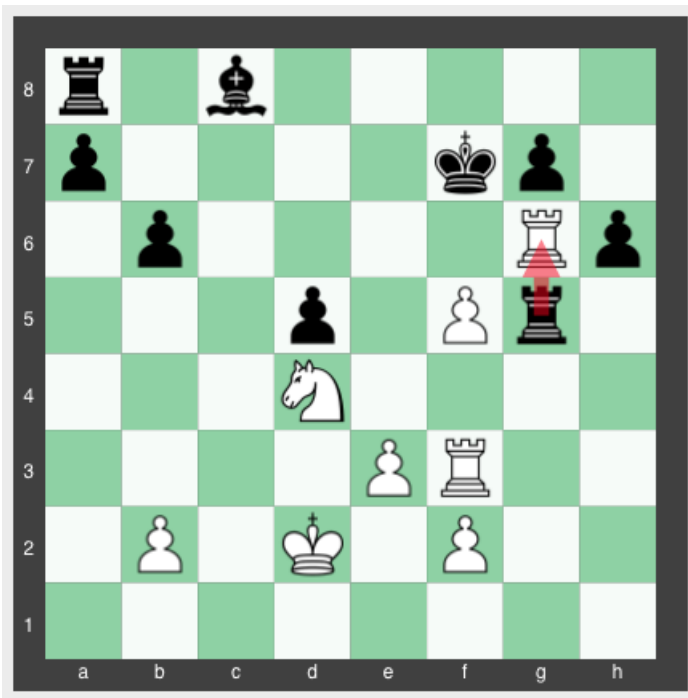
But, instead, played 20... Ba6+ missing the opportunity.

Black failed to press the advantage and, after 27... h6 (better was 27... Bc6 28. h6 g5 29. f4 Bd7) had lost the initiative to White's 28. Rh4, where Black's f and g-pawns have become targets.



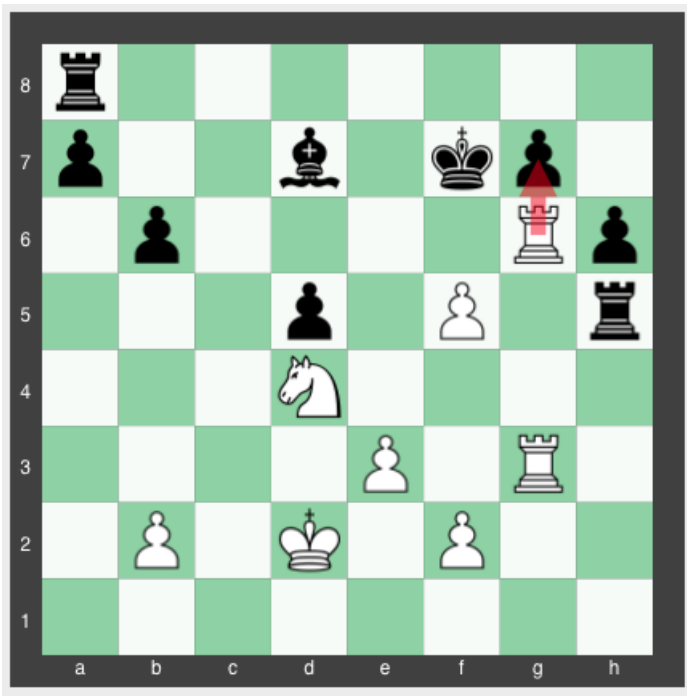


Black missed an opportunity to regain the initiative after 36. Rf3



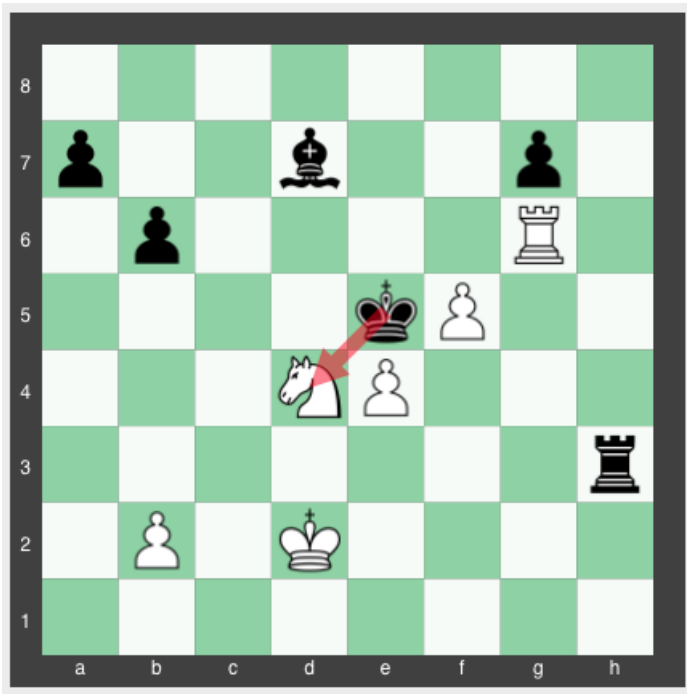
where 36... Rxg6 37. fxg6+ Kxg6 38. Rf8 Bb7 and Black is better.

White missed an outright win at 38

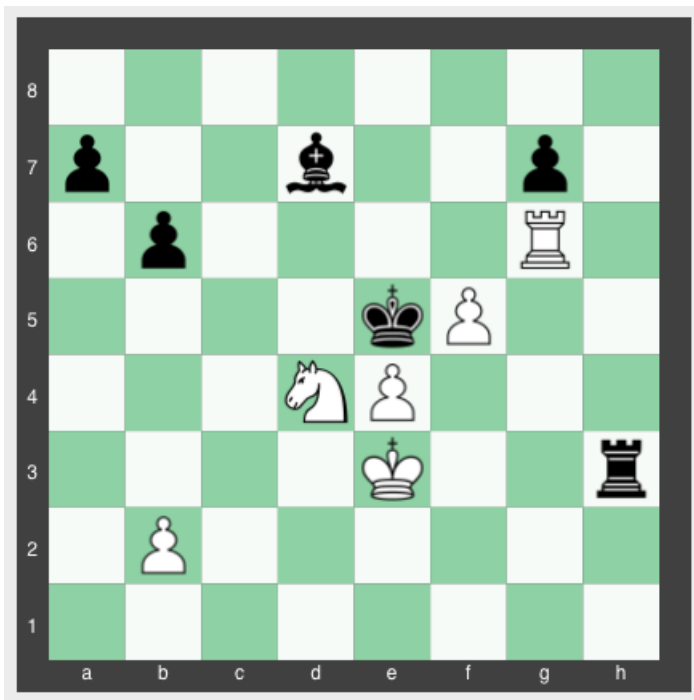


38. Rxc7+ Kf8 ( 38... Kf6 39. R3g6+ Ke5 40. Rc7+ checkmates) 39. Rg8+, instead playing 38. Rf3

Black missed an escape at 47



and resigned on move 48.



Board 3

James Morris, as Black, won against Lucas Ni.

Board 4

Chloe Fan, playing Black seeded 61, scored an upset draw with Ari Dale, seeded 4.

There were no other upsets on the top boards.

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Contact: Paul Power, Australian Chess Federation, [publicity@auschess.org](mailto:publicity@auschess.org)