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FIDE Trainers' Commission

Match of the Millennials

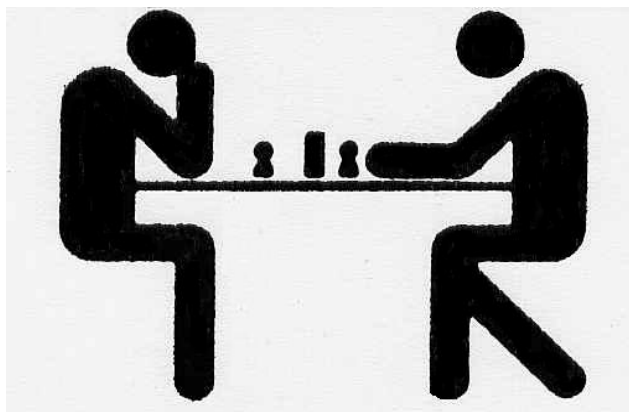
Saint Louis 2017

Efstratios Grivas

First Edition in Pdf - 2017

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Foreword

FIDE Presidential Board

Chess has existed as a sport played at a competitive level for centuries. The common code governing the Laws of Chess is relatively recent, and the foundation of *Fédération Internationale des Échecs* (FIDE), in Paris in 1924, is even more modern. FIDE currently has 188 member federations spread across all continents. Titles for players were introduced by FIDE in 1950, and titles for Arbiters and Organisers followed. From 2005 we are moving to a new phase, with titles for Trainers.

Chess is on the increase in schools across the world. It is part of the mainstream curriculum in many countries. It is a goal of FIDE to make chess an educational tool, and generate worldwide popularity for the game. Examples of the many educational advantages of chess are: shows the need to make people realise the importance of advance planning; develops analytic and accurate thinking; shows the necessity for a combative spirit; teaches fair play and emphasises the need for preparation and hard work for success. However, with the increasing population of chess players, comes the need for trainers to assist with their development.

This is a new concept of the ever-active FIDE Trainers' Commission. This series is dedicated to the important events, consisting of approximately 50-90 pages books. We do hope that we will be able to deliver in every championship and top-event, increasing the level and the education of our trainers worldwide. This series will provide excellent manuals for trainers and fulfils a considerable need in modern chess literature, concentrating on the technical side of the game, but also covering various other topics and providing information.

The best trainers will contribute to this series, which will be an essential tool in the preparation of trainers at all levels for the future. It will ensure that the next generation of players will be at a great advantage over those that have gone before.

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

MATCH OF THE MILLENNIALS

USA VS. THE WORLD

26-29 JULY, 2017



REGULATIONS

1. Organisers

- 1.1. Main: Chess Club & Scholastic Center of St. Louis (St. Louis, USA).
- 1.2. Co-organisers: FIDE-USCF-TRG-KCF.

2. Representation

- 2.1. The teams represent the USA will be represented and selected by the United States Chess Federation (USCF) and the Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF).
- 2.2. The teams represent the World will be represented and selected by FIDE and the FIDE Trainers' Commission (TRG).

3. Teams

- 3.1. The match will be played in two sections:
- 3.2. Team U.17 - four (4) boards with a substitute. Players must be born on or after January 1st, 2000.

- 3.3. Team U.14 - four (4) boards consisting of two Boys & two Girls U.14 Players must be born on or after January 1st, 2003.

- 3.4. Substitute player can enter if registered an hour before the start of the game.

4. Playing System

- 4.1. U.17 Team will be playing a double round Scheveningen system tournament - total of eight games for each player - two rounds a day.
- 4.2. U.14 Team will be playing four rounds match. Boys of Boards 1 and 2 will play two games against each of the players of the Board 1 and 2 of their counterparts on Boards 1 and 2 respectively. The same format is for the Girls on Boards 1 and 2. U14 Team will be playing one game a day, total four games for each player.

4.3. Board points are counting for the final standings. Each winning team of each section will be the first to score 16½ points out of the 32 games (U.17) and 8½ points out of the 16 games (U.14).

4.4. In overall standings the winning delegation will be the first to score 24½ points out of the 48 games. In case of a tie (section & overall) the match will be drawn.

4.5. There will be a winning team (if any) in each section and an overall winner of both sections (if any).

5. Schedule

The schedule will be as follows:

24.07	Arrival World	
25.07	Arrival USA	
25.07	Opening Ceremony	19:00
	Drawing of Lots	19:30
26.07	Round 1	10:00
	Round 2	17:00
27.07	Round 3	10:00
	Round 4	17:00
28.07	Round 5	10:00
	Round 6	17:00
29.07	Round 7	09:00
	Round 8	16:00
	Closing Ceremony	20:00
	Prize Award	20:30
30.07	Departure	

6. Playing Venue

6.1. The playing venue will be *The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis* which is located in the Central West End, Saint Louis. Opened on July 17th, 2008, it contains a tournament hall and a basement broadcast studio.

6.2. Playing venue address: 4657 Maryland Ave, St. Louis, MO 63108, USA (<https://saintlouischessclub.org> - Phone: +1 314-361-2437).

7. Captains

7.1. Each delegation will be captained by three Captains; two main and one substitute.

7.2. The Captains will perform their duties according to the FIDE Regulations for team competitions.

7.3. The main Captains/Coaches of the World will be Efstratios Grivas (U.17) &

Alexander Beliavsky (U.14).

7.4. The Captains/Coaches of USA will be Michael Khodarkovsky (U.17) & Armen Ambartsoumian (U.14).

7.5. The Captains required to register and announce their teams' line-up by June 15th, 2017. Afterwards, changes are permitted only in serious cases.

8. Board & Lodging

8.1. Both delegations will be accommodated in the Hotel *The Chase Park Plaza* (two blocks from the St. Louis club) - www.chaseparkplaza.com.

8.2. Each delegation (12 persons) will be offered four single and four double rooms, with full Board & Lodging.

9. Travel

9.1. All airfare tickets (economy class) for both delegations will be covered by the organisers. The tickets will be bought and managed by the St. Louis-based travel agency *Chi Chi, LLC*, which will also organise the ground transportation from/to airport.

9.2. Data of the Travel Office: Chi-Chi, LLC - 393 N. Euclid Avenue, Suite 240 - St. Louis, Missouri 63108 - Phone. 314-678-0500 - Email. info@chichillc.com - Site. www.chichillc.com.

10. Time-control

10.1. All games will be played by classical time control: 90 minutes for the entire game with a 30 seconds increment per move, starting from the first move.

10.2. The games will be counted for the FIDE Rating List.

11. Arbiters - Appeals Committee

11.1. The Arbiters (3 - Chief Arbiter & Match Arbiters) will be selected by the USCF and organisers in good will.

11.2. The Appeals Committee (3 members) will be selected by the USCF and the organisers.

12. Live Broadcast

Live broadcast will be arranged by the organisers for every round. Captains & Players will be obligated to provide their post-game commentaries and interviews for the TV, up to 10 minutes after the end of each round.

13. Prizes

13.1. Prize fund of \$30,000 is established by the organisers. The prize fund will be distributed in the following proportion: the overall winning delegation receives \$20,000 and the overall runner-up delegation receives \$10,000.

13.2. In case the match will be tied (overall combined score for both teams), prize fund will be divided equally \$15,000 for each delegation.

13.3. Captains will be responsible for the distribution of prize funds between members of their respective delegations.

14. Trophies

14.1. Each winning team will receive a trophy, six (U.17) & six (U.14) medals.

14.2. Each losing team will receive a trophy, six (U.17) & six (U.14) medals.

14.4. Both overall teams/delegations will receive separate trophies.

15. Dress-code

15.1. Each delegation (Captains & Players) will be required to play and in general being in the playing hall and in the Opening & Closing Ceremonies in the uniform designed and provided by organisers with the logo of the match *USA vs. The World 2017* and the names of the players, Captains and coaches of the respective delegations.

15.2. Each delegation can attach its own sponsors' logo on their uniform.

16. Miscellaneous

For anything that it is not mentioned in this document, the Chief Arbiter and Captains will decide in good will.

Chess Club & Scholastic Center of St. Louis

Executive Director Tony Rich

FIDE Trainers' Commission

Chairman Adrian Mikhalechishin



How it Started & Ended

In the early February of the year, my good friend Michael Khodarkosvky informed me on the possibility to have a match between young players of two teams, representing USA and The World, born on/after the year 2000 (U.17) and the year 2003 (U.14).

Well, the idea seemed to be an excellent one, as such events are rare and quite useful and the event was named as the 'Match of the Millennials'. Agreements & Regulations were made ASAP and the event started rolling. The total cost was over 100.000 USD!

FIDE & FIDE Trainers' Commission were in charge for the World's line-up and invitations were sent as per selection by Adrian Mikhachishin and Efstratios Grivas, after approval by FIDE PB.

The invitations were rejected by Bogdan Daniel Deac (Romania - personal reasons) and Sarin Nihal (India - signed obligations), while Parham Maghsoodloo and Alireza Firouzja (both Iran) couldn't make as they couldn't obtain USA Visas.

Both delegations arrived in Saint Louis on July 25th and soon became obvious that by ratings USA was in charge in the U.17 section, expected to win with something like 18½-13½, while The World was stronger in the U.14 section, expected to win with something 10½-5½.

That's a total of 24-24 (!) for those who love statistics and just proved how close could be the event, at least in pre-match expectations...

So, the USA vs. The World match was held in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, July 26th to 29th, 2017.

It was a great success for the World, winning by a huge margin of 30½ to 17½ in total. The World U.17 team was the under

dog as per ratings, but still won with an overwhelming 19-13 total score, winning three matches and drawing five out of the eight scheduled.

The World U.14 team also won with a good margin of 11½-4½, winning three matches and drawing one out of the four scheduled. Although the USA teams were fighting well, the World team showed that still is in charge.

The World teams dominated the event, as they won both sections of U.17 & U.14 and the overall of course. In total The World won six matches and drew six, losing none.

The World players won twenty-two games, drew seventeen and lost nine games. The World players won sixty-one rating points, while USA lost approximately seventy points rating (difference on the rating K-factor).

For me personally that was an event that I couldn't miss, as I have worked hardly to make it happen. Two days before I had to fly, my doctors forbid me to travel, as I faced some serious heart-problems and they warned me that my chances to come back were approximately 50%...

Well, you see, life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away...

So, I decided to take my chances and just posted to my Facebook: *Travelling to St. Louis - Follow your heart...*

And I didn't regret it even once - obviously if I 'had' you wouldn't be able to read this book!

Well, everything was well-done and such events should continue to flow...

We need more youth top events; we need to offer possibilities to our future generations.

The Technical Panel		
Chief Arbiter	Rich Anthony	USA
Deputy Arbiter U.17	Kummer Mike	USA
Deputy Arbiter U.14	Turdaliev Husan	Uzbekistan
Appeal Committee	Sahade Jennifer	USA
Appeal Committee	Ashley Maurice	USA
Appeal Committee	Ramirez Alejandro	USA

Wrote About It...

CCSCSL - Announcement of the Event (22.02.2017)

America's Most Talented Juniors Challenge the World to a Chess Match - Five prominent chess organisations are partnering to bring the Match of the Millennials to Saint Louis.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL), in cooperation with the Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF), U.S. Chess Federation, World Chess Federation (FIDE) and FIDE Trainers' Commission are proud to announce the Match of the Millennials. Hosted at the CCSCSL from July 26th through the 29th, eight American players will face some of the best juniors from around the world.

'The Match of the Millennials will be the first event for which these five organisations have partnered', said CCSCSL Executive Director Tony Rich. 'I am excited that our collaboration will bring a new major event to the 2017 calendar'.

Teams will be selected and announced on July 15th and will consist of four players under 17, two boys under 14 and two girls

ChessBase: Match of Millennials: World smashes USA by Albert Silver (31.07.2017)

The Match of the Millennials was astonishing to say the least. On paper, the US under-17 team had such an Elo advantage that some bemoaned the lack of stronger foreign juniors to make it more 'competitive'. Instead they had already lost a full round in advance, as had the under-14. A great result for the World team, winning 30½-17½, and a tribute to their team spirit and their Captain.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL), in cooperation with the Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF), U.S. Chess Federation, World Chess Federation (FIDE) and FIDE Trainers' Commission are organizing the Match of the Millennials. Hosted at the CCSCSL from July 26th through the 29th, nine American players faced nine of the best juniors from around the world.

under 14 years old.

The four players under 17 years old will face each member of the opposing team in two game matches, while the under 14 players will similarly play 2-game matches against their two corresponding opponents.

'An extra-ordinary opportunity for the best juniors U.17 & U.14, both Americans and World, to test their skills and fighting spirit in a prestigious event', said GM Efstratios Grivas, Secretary of the FIDE Trainers' Commission and head of the World Delegation. 'The organisers are extremely experienced and I feel that this would be a great event; something that should constantly be held'.

In addition to the bragging rights, teams will be vying for top honors and the \$30,000 prize fund. The winning team will receive \$20,000, while the runner-up will receive \$10,000.

Prizes will be split evenly should the match end in a tie. The prize fund is sponsored by the Saint Louis Chess Club, whose impact over the last 10 years has transformed American chess.

It is hard to know what to say in view of such a lopsided and unexpected turn of events. The US under-17 team was more than just a favorite, they were heavily so. The top three players were all higher rated than the top foreign player by at least 24 Elo, and as much as 100 (98 if you are one to quibble). To quote contemporary parlance: the US got pwned (leetspeak for 'owned').

It would be grossly unfair to try to lay this on any one player's lap, not just because it was a team event, and they had the option of swapping out one player for another if needed, but because not one of the US's under-17 players was able to perform within 60 Elo of their rating. The Under-14 match was even more lopsided in terms of percentage, but in this case the visiting team was the Elo favorites and not the underdog, so performed according to expectation.

The World Delegation

	Vega Jorge (Cuba) Born 18.08.1935 - Representing The World - Head of Delegation (FIDE Presidential Board / Member - Confederation of Chess for Americas / President - FIDE Development Commission / Member - Guatemala Chess Federation / Delegate - Iberoamerican Chess Federation / Councillor. An emblematic figure of World's chess, for over 40 years. The king-maker as some sites are stating as well, led The World in full harmony and without the slightest problem to appear. As everybody respect his opinions and sayings, it is pretty difficult not to agree on his authority!
	Grivas Efstratios (Greece) Born 30.03.1966 - Representing The World - Captain U.17 (GM-FST-IA-IO - FIDE Trainers' Commission / Secretary). A well-known GM & FST, author & coach/trainer, who captained The World team U.17 with great success. His complete CV can be found in pages 89-92 of the present book, as he is also its Author! He was one of the moving forces on the realisation of the events and he was the main contact person for The World in the pre-event months and as well as during the event.
	Beliavsky Alexander (Slovenia) Born 17.09.1953 - Representing The World - Captain U.14 (GM-FST). Alexander Beliavsky was born in Lviv, USSR, now Ukraine. Since 1994, he lives in Slovenia and he plays for the Olympic team there. He is noted for his uncompromising style of play and for his classical opening repertoire, including openings such as the 'Queen's Gambit', 'Ruy Lopez', 'French Defence' and the 'Two Knights Defence'. Alexander Beliavsky won the World Junior Chess Championship in 1973 and the USSR Chess Championship four times (in 1974, 1980, 1987 and 1990). In the 1982-84 World Chess Championship cycle, Alexander Beliavsky qualified for the Candidates Tournament once, losing to eventual winner Garry Kasparov in the quarterfinals of the 1983 Candidates matches. An excellent Captain & Coach, lead The World U.14 team with success.



Opening Ceremony (l to r): Jorge Vega, Efstratios Grivas & Michael Khodarkovsky

The USA Delegation



Khodarkovsky Michael (USA)

Born 21.07.1958 - Representing USA - Head of Delegation & Captain U.17 (FST - USCF / Delegate - Kasparov CF / Director).

Michael Khodarkovsky is a Chess Master and FIDE Senior Trainer. Since 1992 he has made his home in New Jersey. He is the Founder and Director of International Chess School, which conducts programs at public and private schools in New Jersey and New York. M.Khodarkovsky is also the President of the Kasparov Chess Foundation, Chair of International Affairs Committee of the United States Chess Federation (USCF)

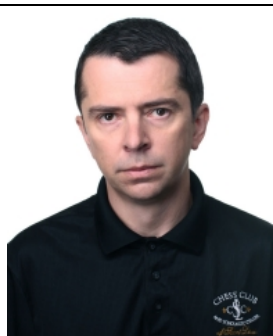
and the USCF Delegate to FIDE. He was Councillor of the FIDE Trainers Commission. He was a member of G.Kasparov's coaching team during the 1995 and 2000 World Championship matches and during the 1996, 1997 matches versus IBM's computer Deep Blue. In 2004 he served as the Head Coach of the U.S. Women's Team, which won the Silver medal at the 36th World Chess Olympiad. He coached numerous State and National champions. In 2004 the New Jersey State Chess Federation named him Coach of the Year. In 2008 and 2010 years M.Khodarkovsky was a captain of the U.S. Women's Team, which won the Bronze medal at the 38th and tied for 3rd at the 39th World Chess Olympiads respectively. He was also a coach of the 2005-2011 United States team at the World Youth Chess Championships. M.Khodarkovsky is the winner of the 2008 Scholastic Service Award by the US Chess Federation. He is also the author of chess books, manuals, and articles published in USA, UK, Japan, Russia, Ukraine, and Latvia.



Ambartsoumian Armen (USA)

Born 05.01.1962 - Representing USA - Captain U.14 (IM-FST).

Armen Ambartsoumian is originally from Yerevan, Armenia and emigrated long time ago to the United States, teaching and directing an Academy in Los Angeles, the 'American Chess Academy'. He is a strong International Master and an experienced FIDE Senior Trainer. A well-known coach & captain, having coaching United States teams at the World & the Pan-American Youth Chess Championships for a quite huge number of years!



Onischuk Alexander (USA)

Born 03.09.1975 - Representing USA - Coach of U.17 & U.14 (GM).

Originally from Ukraine, he immigrated to the United States in 2001. He was the 2006 U.S. Chess Champion. A.Onischuk participated in International Chess Festival Biel 2007, where he placed second after Magnus Carlsen. He scored 5½/9 like M.Carlsen, but lost in the tie-breaker match held after the regular rounds finished. A.Onischuk has competed six times in the Chess Olympiad for the United States team from 2004-2014. In the fall of 2012, A.Onischuk became the head coach at the 2-time

reigning national collegiate chess champion Texas Tech University. Under his coaching, the Texas Tech University Chess Program has won the 2015-2016 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship and qualified three times for the Final Four.



The Opening Ceremony (25.07.2017)

In the morning hours (09:00-13:30) of July 25th, all participants of both delegations were interviewed and shot photos at the luxurious studios of the Club, and were delivered their nicely new-made uniforms and t-shirts with the event's logos.

At 16:30 the Technical Meeting took place in the Club, with the participation of the Arbiters' team and the Captains & Coaches of both delegations. In a friendly gathering, all matters were agreed without too much discussion! Zero Tolerance and 30-moves draw regulations were omitted as I really believe that these regulations are good only for top tournaments.

But there was a novelty: for the first time in a team event, the reserve player (U.17) would replace the regular board that the Captain decides to rest (if). This means that the reserve player could play in any board, while the regular players would play only in their initially registered board. I think that this is a great innovation and the FIDE Trainers' Commission is fighting hard to introduce this regulation in all team events... The line-up for each round had to be provided at least two hours before the start of the round, otherwise the basic team would play.

At 17:30 the Players' Meeting took place, where all players were informed by the Arbiters' team on the agreements of the Technical Meeting and the new FIDE Regulations that were in force since July 1st. The legendary Alexander Beliavsky was helping in the Russian translation for the youngsters that were not fluid in English...

Then, at 19:00, everybody moved on the opposite part of the road, to the 'Hall of Fame', for the Opening Ceremony. The Club's President Rex Sinquefield, the 13th FIDE World Champion Garry Kasparov, the Club's Director & Chief Arbiter Tony Rich and the USCF Executive Director Jean Hoffman, were among the panel, which included as well Jorge Vega and Efstratios Grivas (The World) and Michael Khodarkovsky (USA & Kasparov CF Director).

It must be mentioned that a lot of spectators were present as well, as everybody wanted to see and listen to the legendary Garry Kasparov! After the usual speeches, the drawing of lots took place in the form of nice Baseball signed balls, which had a white and a black king - quite nice touch!

Then, the two delegations moved out of the building, shooting photos with G.Kasparov and happily chatting each other! The fight hasn't started yet...



The World Delegation



The USA Delegation



The Speakers Panel (l to r) Jorge Vega, Efstratios Grivas, Michael Khodarkovsky, Garry Kasparov, Rex Sinquefield, Tony Rich, Jean Hoffman

Afterwards, around 20:00, both delegations visited the restaurant 'Bar Italia', approximately 200 meters from the Club, to enjoy a nice dinner and a lot of drinks as well! The nice touch was that everybody was invited (parents, seconds and accompanying persons) for the free dinner, something that it is not that customary in most of the chess events.

Around 21:00, the FIDE Acting & Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos joined the company, as he arrived late, due to a lost flight connection, as his first flight arrived late...

It was a nice and friendly night, with a lot of chat and memories sharing for the older, while the youngsters started to know each other - the fights were about to begin...

U.17 - The Players & Recap of the Results

	Martirosyan Haik (Armenia) Born 14.07.2000 - Representing The World - Board 1 (IM 2544). The strong player from Armenia has a similar style like his great predecessor, FIDE World Champion Tigran Petrosian! He started badly with $\frac{1}{2}/3$ but he came back fighting hard in every game and in the end he was able to score $4/7$ (+3 =2 -2), against of a field of 2564 average rating, gaining 6.9 rating points. In the one and same day he was able to beat both Xiong and Sevian, something that many players in the world are able to do! A nice and cheerful character he led the World into the victory!
	Esipenko Andrey (Russia) Born 22.03.2002 - Representing The World - Board 2 (FM 2523). This young lad from Russia was only 15 years old during the match, but he is already a quite mature player with a broad knowledge. He lost in the first and in the last round (!) but in-between he was able to score enough points to have a total score of $4/7$ (+3 =2 -2), against a field of 2563 average rating, gaining 8.7 rating points. He has already a broad opening repertory and good feeling for the position, but I think his main minus is his weak tactical territory, something that he has to improve in the future.
	Chopra Aryan (India) Born 10.12.2001 - Representing The World - Board 3 (GM 2491). The young Indian hope is already a Grandmaster and a strong positional player but his main minus is that in nearly every game he gets into time-trouble! He was good enough to score a total of $3\frac{1}{2}/6$ (+2 =3 -1), against a field of 2563 average rating, gaining 10.8 rating points. He started with two wins and he was then smashed by Xiong, when he made a 'wrong' opening choice. His first round game was a nightmare for him, his opponent and mostly the Captains of both teams!
	Sarana Alexey (Russia) Born 26.01.2000 - Representing The World - Board 4 (GM 2510). The young Russian was a last minute replacement but he proved himself the best scoring player of the World! He was good enough to score a total of $4/6$ (+2 =4 -0), against a field of 2563 average rating, gaining 14.4 rating points. He was the only undefeated player of the U.17 section, as he took his chances to the maximum when he had to! He survived two lost rook endings vs. Xiong, proving that he has already a broad endgame knowledge.
	Smirnov Anton (Australia) Born 28.01.2001 - Representing The World - Reserve (IM 2495). The young lad from Australia us already a well-known figure as he made a name for himself in the last Olympiad in Baku and he proved his strength once more as he was good enough to score a total of $3\frac{1}{2}/6$ (+2 =3 -1), against a field of 2587 average rating, gaining 12.6 rating points. He has good tactical eye and he is not afraid of taking risks. He was placed in the Reserve 'board' as I thought he could be a very good choice to play everywhere, depending in match situation and needs.

	Xiong Jeffery (USA) Born 30.10.2000 - Representing USA - Board 1 (GM 2642). The 2016 World Champion U.20 didn't lived up to the expectations and the name he has already created, as he proved good enough just to score a mediocre 4/8 (+1 =6 -1), against a field of 2514 average rating, losing 13.8 rating points. He 'lost' quite many chances as he couldn't convert winning endgame positions and he even lost a drawn ending, overpressing himself for nothing... He should take his time and work more efficiently in his endgame knowledge and chess psychology.
	Sevian Samuel (USA) Born 26.12.2000 - Representing USA - Board 2 (GM 2633). The only USA member (of both sections!) that scored a positive result, but still this wasn't good as per his rating. He proved good enough just to score 4½/8 (+3 =3 -2), against a field of 2516 average rating, losing 7.8 rating points. He already has a mature style, able to play nearly all openings with both colours and his calculation section is already of high quality. But I think that he unnecessary tries to calculate everything, using his time badly, omitting the practical part of the game...
	Burke John Michael (USA) Born 01.07.2001 - Representing USA - Board 3 (IM 2479). Nearly a year ago this young player achieved an astonishing 2603 rating, making already headlines. Now he has already lost a lot (- 124) and he proved good enough just to score a quite bad ½/4 (+0 =1 -3), against a field of 2505 average rating, losing 13.6 rating points. So, he is continuing to lose rating, going soon down to 2400, where is his true strength in my opinion. Well, obviously there was a bug in the rating system, which now FIDE improved, mostly due to his case!
	Checa Nicolas (USA) Born 19.12.2001 - Representing USA - Board 4 (IM 2415). He also didn't lived-up to the expectations, as he proved good enough just to score a mediocre 1/5 (+1 =0 -4), against a field of 2522 average rating, losing -7.8 rating points. He took advantage of Martirosyan's grave blunder, scoring his only point and in general he was giving the impression that sooner or later he would crack down, handing the point to the opponent. Obviously he was the 'weakest' player of the field and he needs to work a lot in his overall weaknesses.
	Li Ruifeng (USA) Born 14.09.2001 - Representing USA - Reserve (GM 2568). A high rated GM, who was expected to score much better, as he proved good enough just to score a mediocre 3/7 (+1 =4 -2), against a field of 2512 average rating, losing 10.4 rating points. He was placed also as the Reserve 'board' for match tactical reasons, but his performance was poor and he scored his only win in the last round, when he lured his opponent into a prepared variation, using a sideline opening. He plays quite good in tactical positions but he has to improve in his strategy and psychology.

So, in total The World played much higher than the expectations (all five members over-performed - all won rating points), scoring a huge 19-13 score (+12 =14 -6), against a field of 2568 average rating, gaining in total 53.4 rating points. USA played vs. a low 2514 average rating.

MOTM U.17 - 1st Round (26.07.2017)

The first round was a critical one for both sides, as it could show the exact form of the players. After all it ended in a 2-2 draw!

In the game Martirosyan-Xiong, White lost a good chance in the endgame, after playing a rather good and correct game.

Sevian played a rather risky variation against Esipenko and when the later didn't notice a nice tactic, he crushed him.

Burge-Chopra was a quite uneven game. After Black obtained a won position he continued wrongly - see the analysis.

Finally, the game Li-Smirnov was a quite fighting one. White got the bishop-pair and he even sacrificed a pawn for activity but in the end he was the one who had to play accurately to achieve the draw.

1 st Round - 2:2			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Martirosyan	Xiong	½:½
B2	Esipenko	Sevian	0:1
B3	Chopra	Burke	1:0
B4	Smirnov	Li	½:½



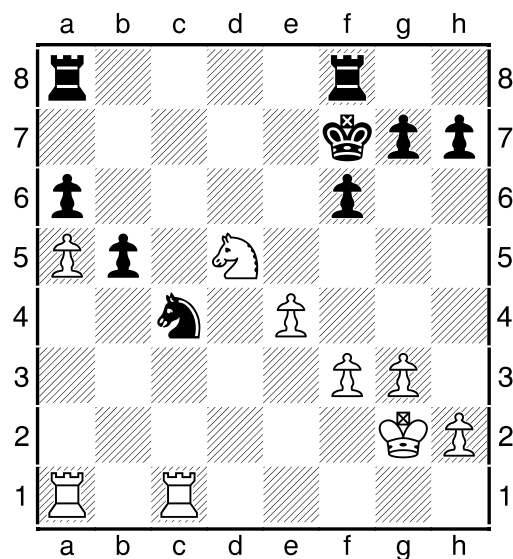
After the Opening Ceremony all the players and the FIDE ex-World Champion Garry Kasparov outside the Hall of Fame.

□ **Martirosyan Haik (2544)**

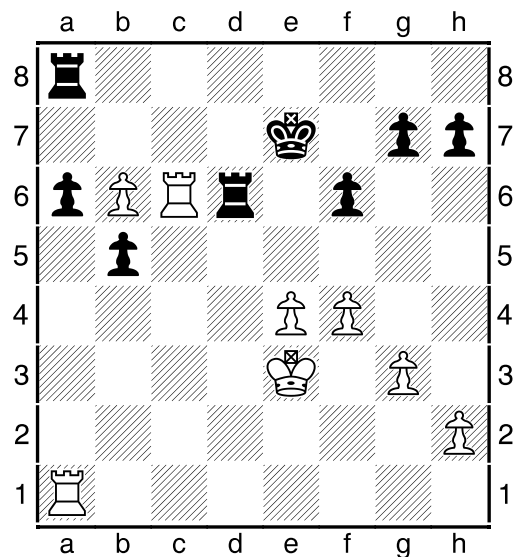
■ **Xiong Jeffery (2642)**

D41 Saint Louis (1.1) 26.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.g3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 b6 11.Bg2 Bb7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rfc1 Nd7 14.a4 Nf6 15.a5 b5 16.Ne5 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 a6 18.f3 Ne8 19.e4 Nd6 20.d5 f6 21.Nc6 Qd7 22.dxe6 Qxe6 23.Qd5 Qxd5 24.Ne7+ Kf7 25.Nxd5 Nc4 (D)



26.Nb6! Nxb6 27.axb6 Rfe8 28.Rc6 Re7 29.Kf2 Rd7 30.Ke3 Ke7 31.f4 Rd6 32.Rc7+ Rd7 33.Rc6 Rd6 (D)



34.Rc7+

White was feeling unsure due to Black's connected passed pawns and his time-trouble, otherwise he would try 34.Rac1! b4 (34...Rd7 35.R1c5 +/-) 35.Rc7+ Rd7 36.Rxd7+ Kxd7 37.Rc7+ Kd6 38.Kd4 +/-.

But this is easier said than done...

34...Rd7

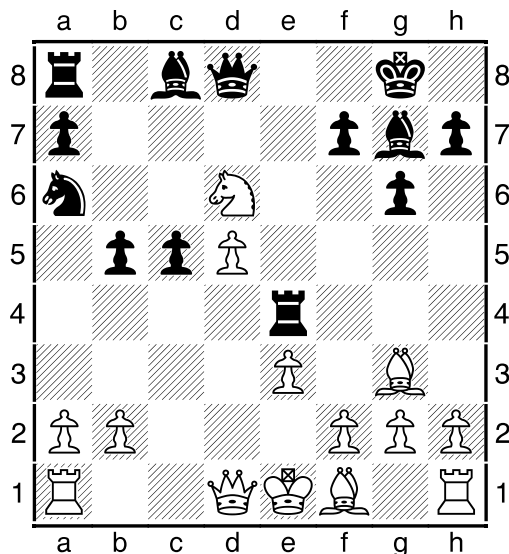
½-½

□ **Esipenko Andrey (2523)**

■ **Sevian Sam (2633)**

A61 Saint Louis (1.2) 26.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Nd2 Bg7 8.Nc4 0-0 9.Bf4 Na6 10.Bxd6 Re8 11.e3 Ne4 12.Nxe4 Rxe4 13.Bg3 b5 14.Nd6 (D)



14...Rb4?!

14...Qa5+! 15.Qd2 Rb4 16.Be2 Bxb2 17.Rd1 Bd7 18.0-0 +=.

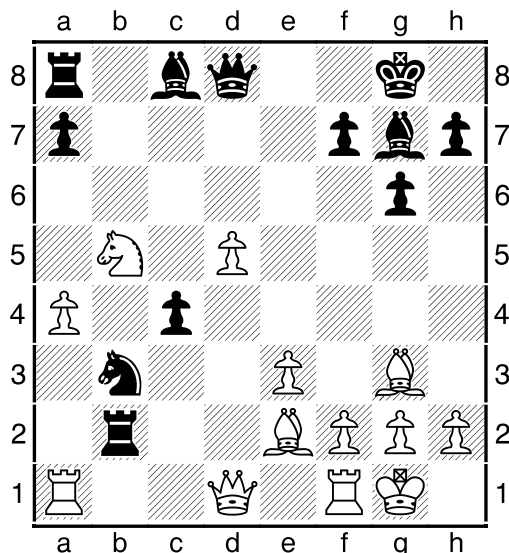
15.Be2 Rxb2

15...Bxb2 16.0-0! Bxa1 17.Qxa1 +/-.

16.0-0 c4 17.a4! Nc5 18.Nxb5?

18.axb5 c3 19.Bc4 +/-.

18...Nb3 (D)



19.Ra3?

19.Ra2! Rxa2 20.Bxc4 Nd2 21.Bxa2 Nxf1 22.Kxf1 oo/=.

19...Bf5! -/+ 20.Bc7 Qd7 21.d6 a6 22.Bf3 Rf8 23.Na7 Rd2 24.Qe1 Rxd6 25.Bxd6 Qxd6 26.Ra2 c3 27.Qd1 Nd2 28.Nc6 c2 29.Rxc2 Nxf3+ 30.gxf3 Qxd1 31.Rxd1

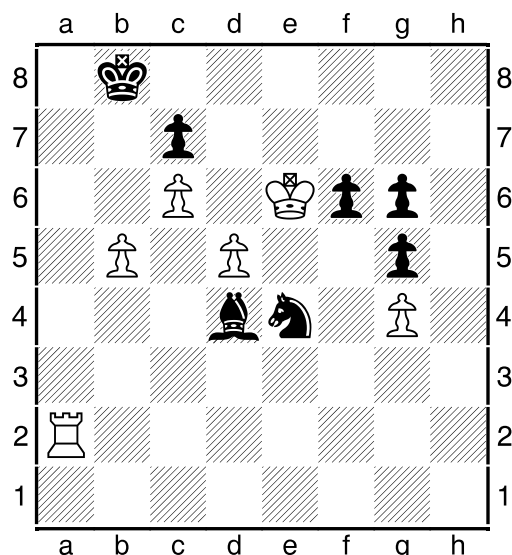
Bxc2 32.Rd6 Bxa4 33.Ne7+ Kh8 34.Rxa6 Bb3 35.Rb6 Be6 36.Nc6 Bf6 37.Kg2 Kg7 38.Rb8 Bc3 39.Rxf8 Kxf8 40.Kg3 Bd7 0-1

□ Burke John Michael (2479)

■ Chopra Aryan (2491)

C68 Saint Louis (1.3) 26.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Bg6 8.Nxe5 Qh4 9.Qf3 f6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Kg2 g5 12.Rh1 Ne7 13.d3 0-0-0 14.Be3 Qh7 15.Kf1 Kb8 16.Nd2 Qg8 17.Nc4 Ng6 18.Qf5 Rh6 19.a4 Bb4 20.Qf3 Qh7 21.Ke2 Rh8 22.c3 Be7 23.Qf5 Nf8 24.Qxh7 R6xh7 25.b4 Rxh3 26.Rhb1 b6 27.b5 cxb5 28.axb5 a5 29.Nxa5 bxa5 30.Rxa5 Nd7 31.Rba1 Rxe3+ 32.Kxe3 Rh3+ 33.Ke2 Nb6 34.Rc1 Bd6 35.Rc2 Kb7 36.Raa2 Nd7 37.d4 Nf8 38.Ra6 Ne6 39.Rc1 Nf4+ 40.Kd2 Rf3 41.Rf1 Nh3 42.c4 Bb4+ 43.Ke2 Rc3 44.c5 Nf4+ 45.Kd1 Nd3 46.c6+ Kb8 47.Ra1 Rc4 48.d5 Nb2+ 49.Ke2 Rxe4+ 50.Kf3 Rf4+ 51.Kg3 Bd6 52.Rh1 Ra4+ 53.Kf3 Rxa1 54.Rxa1 Nc4 55.Ke4 Bc5 56.Kf5 Bxf2 57.Ke6 Bb6 58.Ra6 Bc5 59.Kd7 Nb6+ 60.Ke6 Nc4 61.Ra4 Nd6 62.Ra2 Bb6 63.Kd7 g6 64.Rg2 Bd4 65.Rd2 Bb6 66.Rg2 Ka7 67.Ra2+ Kb8 68.Rg2 Ne4 69.Ke6 Bd4 70.Ra2 (D)

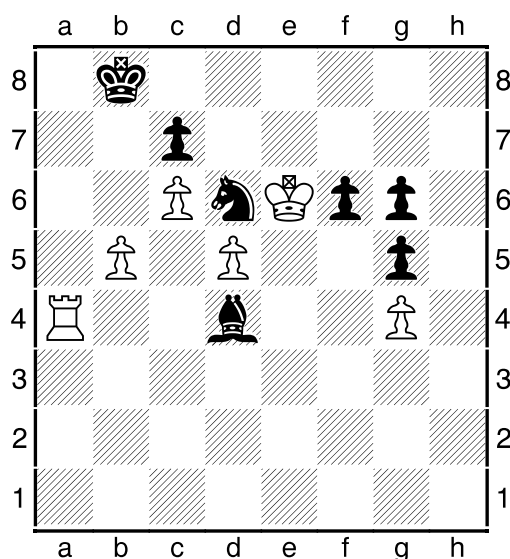


Black was winning easily beforehand, but somehow he managed not to do so by this point. Objectively now the position is drawn as no side can improve. But mutual time-trouble was the turning point...

70...Nd6?!

70...Bb6 71.Ra1 Nd6 =.

71.Ra4! (D)



71.Ra4! Be5?

71...Be3 72.Kxf6 Bf4 73.Ke6 Nc8 should draw.

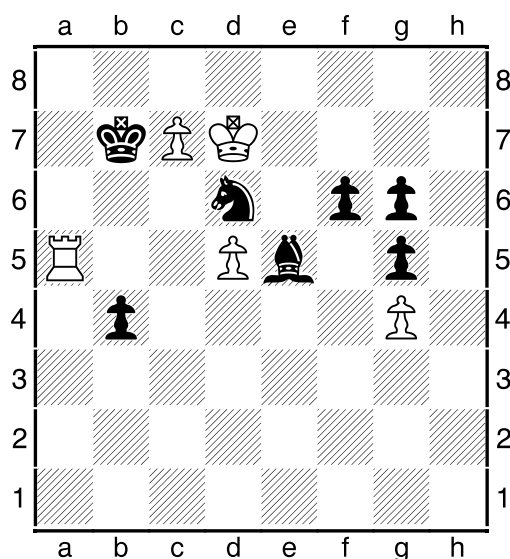
72.b6! cxb6 73.Kd7!

White played very well during the last moves and now he has a won position.

73...b5

Not the 'best' but when you are lost activity is a key-word... Alternatively, Black could have tried 73...Nc8, but after 74.Rb4 f5 75.Rb1 f4 76.Re1 White wins.

74.Ra5! b4 75.c7+ Kb7 (D)



76.Rb5+?

Tempting, but now Black gets some chances. 76.Rc5! b3 77.Rc4 was curtains.

76...Nxb5! 77.c8Q+ Kb6 78.Qc6+?! 0-1

78.Qc4! was again accurate.

78...Ka5 79.Qa8+ Kb6 80.Qa4?

White continues to handle badly his queen. Far better was 80.Qc6+ Ka5 81.Qc2 +/- and of course a draw was in hand with 81.Qa8+. And I feel that this is what White should do - it was the first round and USA was leading 2-1, so winning the first match with 2½-1½ would be a great psychological start and would show team-spirit.

80...Kc5

Now I do not think that Black can lose anymore...

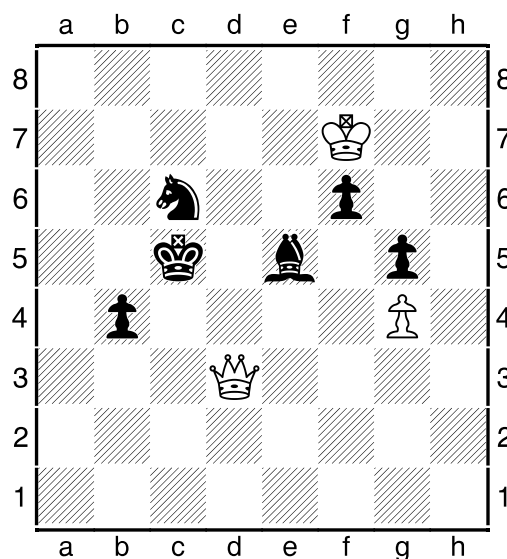
81.Ke6?!

Making Black's life easier.

81...Nc7+

81...b3 82.d6 Nd4+ 83.Kd7 Bxd6 84.Qa3+ Kc4 85.Qxd6 b2 86.Qc7+ would be a draw. Black tries for more...

82.Kf7 Nxd5 83.Kxg6 Ne7+ 84.Kf7 Nc6 85.Qc2+ Kb5 86.Qd3+ Kc5 (D)



Black is out of danger, while White should be careful not to run to a deadly knight-check. With limited time, I would certainly prefer here to be Black rather than White...

87.Ke6 Nd4+ 88.Kd7 b3 89.Qc3+ Kd5 90.Ke7?

A shocking blunder! With 90.Qd3 White should be able to defend but obviously Black would press till the very end...

90...Nc6+

Winning the white queen and allowing an encouraging 2-2 first match result! Bad things happen in time-troubles...

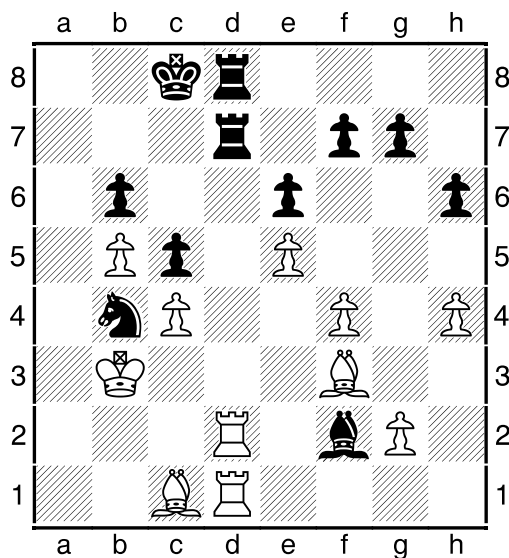
0-1

□ Li Ruifeng (2568)

■ Smirnov Anton (2495)

B10 Saint Louis (1.4) 26.07.2017

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5 Ne4
5.Nxe4 dxe4 6.Ng5 Qd5 7.d4 exd3 8.Bxd3
h6 9.Ne4 Bf5 10.Qe2 Bxe4 11.Qxe4 Qxe4+
12.Bxe4 e6 13.Bd2 Nd7 14.f4 0-0-0 15.0-0-
0 Bc5 16.c4 Bd4 17.Kc2 Nc5 18.Bf3 Rd7
19.b4 Na6 20.Kb3 Rhd8 21.Bc1 Nc7
22.Rd3 a5 23.a3 Na6 24.Rhd1 axb4
25.axb4 c5 26.b5 Nb4 27.R3d2 b6 28.h4
Bf2 (D)

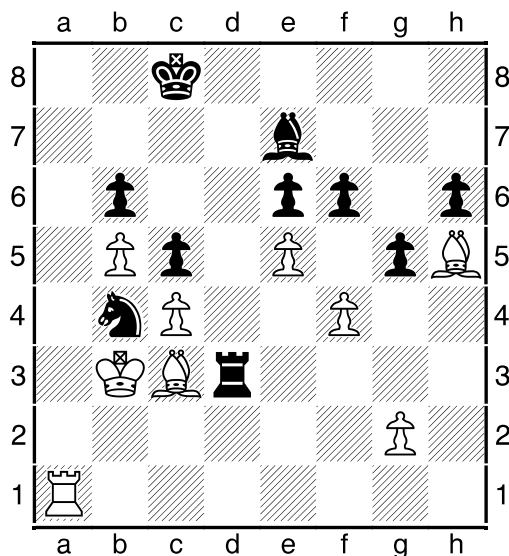


29.Rd6!? Bxh4 30.Bb2 Be7 31.Rxd7 Rxd7
32.Ra1 Rd3+ 33.Bc3 g5?!

33...Bh4 =.

34.Bh5! f6? (D)

34...gxf4 35.Bxf7 Bg5 36.Bxe6+ Kb8
37.Bd5 +=.

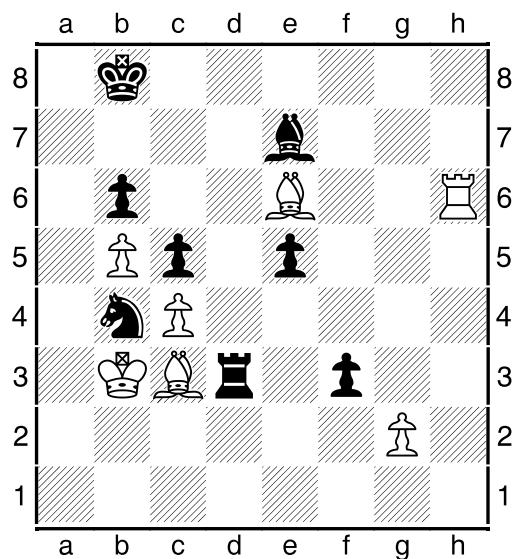


35.Bf7?

35.f5! exf5 36.Bg6 Kb8 37.Bxf5 Rg3
38.Rd1 +/-.

35...gxf4 36.Bxe6+ Kb8 37.Rh1 fxe5
38.Rxh6 f3?! (D)

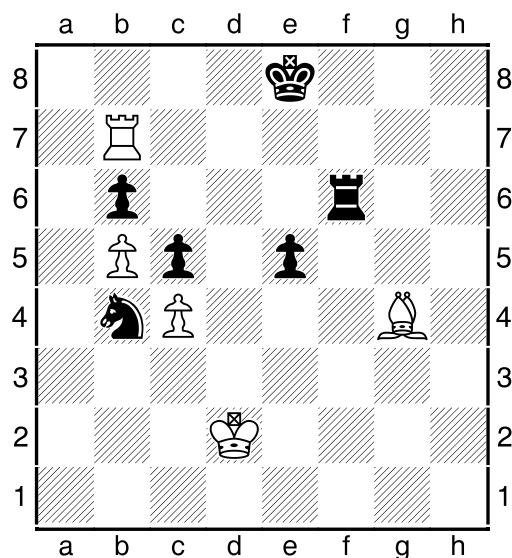
38...Na2 39.Kxa2 Rxc3 =.



39.gxf3?!

39.Bf5! fxe2 40.Rxb6+ Kc7 41.Rg6 Re3
42.Rxg2 +=.

39...Bg5 40.Rh8+ Kc7 41.Rh7+ Kd8
42.Kb2 Bc1+ 43.Kxc1 Rxc3+ 44.Kd2 Rxf3
45.Rd7+ Ke8 46.Rb7 Kd8 47.Rd7+ Ke8
48.Rb7 Rf6 49.Bg4 (D)



White is rather active and can hold.

49...Kd8 50.Bh3 Rd6+ 51.Ke2 Nd3 52.Ke3
Nb2 53.Bf1 Kc8 54.Re7 Rd4 55.Rxe5
Nxc4+ 56.Bxc4 Rxc4 57.Re6 Kc7 58.Re7+
Kc8 59.Re6 Kc7 60.Re7+ Kd6 61.Rb7
Kd5 62.Rd7+ Ke5 63.Re7+ Kd5

½-½

MOTM U.17 - 2nd Round (26.07.2017)

The second round ended in another fighting 2-2 draw.

Sevian played a strong opening and gained a good advantage, which he proved with a nice combination but he didn't continued well, as he lost most of it. But then Martirosyan blundered and lost in no time. A good start for Sevian with 2/2!

Xiong sacrificed a pawn in the opening for activity against Smirnov. He had quite good compensation but the Australian sacrificed the exchange in the right moment and got plenty of compensation himself. The game ended in a draw as both opponents were unable to benefit from their positions.

Chopra moved to 2/2 as well, equalizing the match as in the first round. He played a rather good game but his opponent made a series a weak moves.

Finally, the game Sarana-Li ended in a 'correct' draw. Although this could have happened around the 20th move...

2 nd Round - 2:2			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Martirosyan	Sevian	0:1
B2	Smirnov	Xiong	½:½
B3	Chopra	Checa	1:0
B4	Sarana	Li	½:½

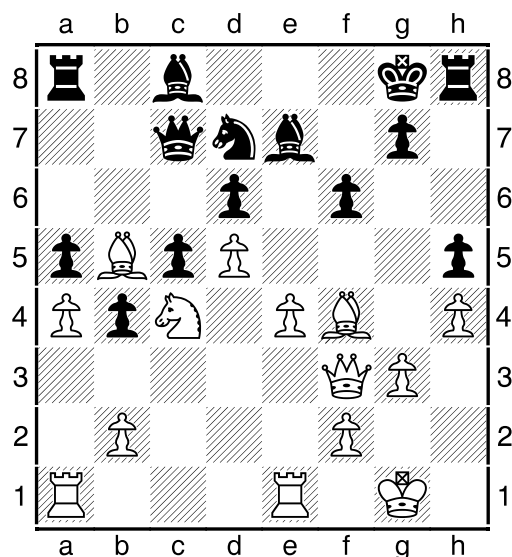


□ Sevian Sam (2633)

■ Martirosyan Haik (2544)

A40 Saint Louis (2.1) 26.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 b5 6.Nf3 d6 7.e4 a6 8.a4 b4 9.Nfd2 h5 10.h4 Nbd7 11.Nc4 a5 12.Bf4 Nb6 13.Nbd2 Nxc4 14.Bxc4 Be7 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.0-0 Nd7 17.Re1 f6 18.Nc4 Qc7 19.Qf3 Kg8 (D)



White stands better, but how to proceed?

20.e5!

A nice combination which opens the centre for the white pieces.

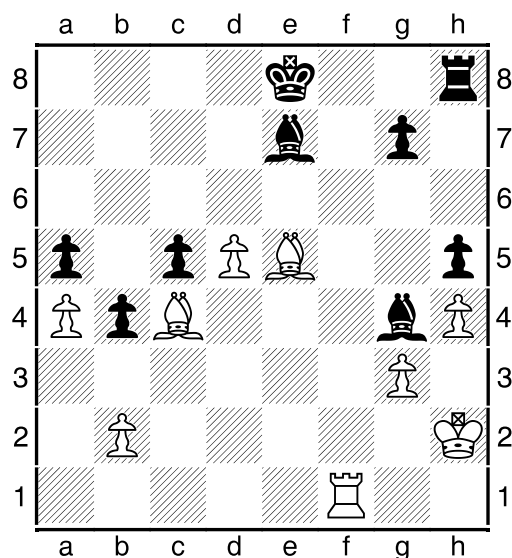
20...fxe5 21.Nxe5 Nxe5 22.Bxe5?!

22.Rxe5! Bg4 23.Qe4 Bf8 (23...dxe5 24.d6 Bxd6 25.Bc4+ Kf8 26.Qxa8+ Qc8 27.Qd5 Qe6 28.Qd3 Qd7 29.Bg5 +-) 24.Re6 +- was even stronger!

22...Bh3 23.Qe4 Bf8 24.Bf4 Qf7 25.Bd3 Ra7 26.Kh2?!

26.Bg5! Ra8 27.b3 +/-.

26...Bg4 27.Qg6 Bf3 28.Qxf7+ Kxf7 29.Bc4 Bg4 30.Re3 Re7 31.Rf1 Rxe3 32.fxe3 Ke8 33.e4 Be7 34.e5 dxe5 35.Bxe5 (D)



35...Bf6! 36.Bc7!

36.Bxf6?! gxf6 37.Rxf6 Rf8 =.

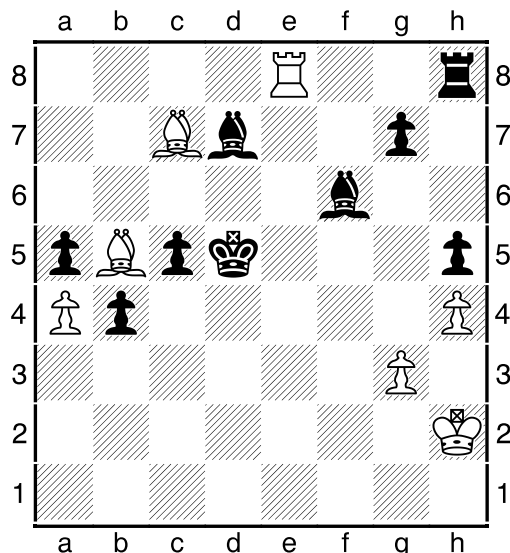
36...Bxb2?

36...Kd7! 37.d6 Kc6 38.Bb5+ Kd5 39.Rf2 +=.

37.Bb5+ Ke7 38.d6+ Ke6 39.Bc4+

39.d7 Bf6 40.Re1+ Kd5 41.Re8.

39...Kd7 40.Bb5+ Ke6 41.d7 Bf6 42.Re1+! Kd5 43.Re8 Bxd7 (D)



44.Bxd7

44.Rxh8 Bxb5 45.axb5 b3 46.Rxh5+ Kc4 47.b6 b2 48.b7 b1Q 49.b8Q +/-.

44...Rxe8 45.Bxe8 c4 46.Bxa5 Kc5 47.Bf7 b3 48.Kg2 g5 49.hxg5 Bxg5 50.Bc3 h4 51.g4 Be3 52.a5 Kb5 53.a6 Ka4 54.Bxc4 1-0



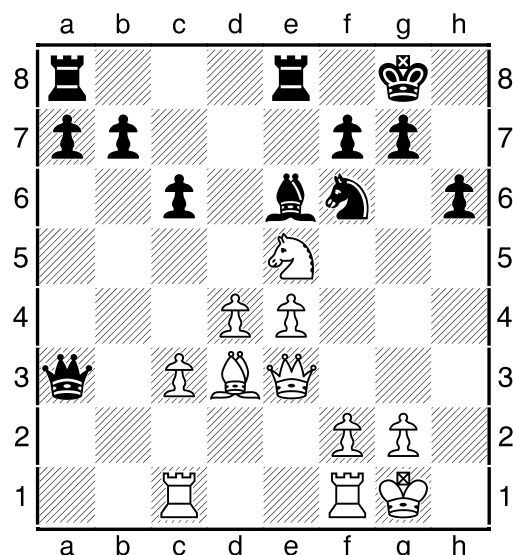
□ **Xiong Jeffery (2642)**

■ **Smirnov Anton (2495)**

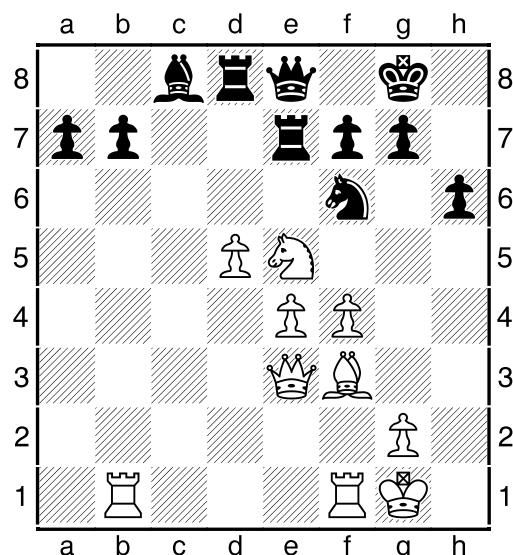
D52 Saint Louis (2.2) 26.07.2017

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qd2 Bb4 9.Rc1 h6 10.Bh4 0-0 11.a3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qxa3 13.e4 Ne7 14.Bd3 Ng6 15.Bg3 e5 16.h4 Re8 17.h5 Nf4 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.Qxf4 Nf6 20.Ne5 Be6 21.0-0 Nxh5 22.Qe3 Nf6

(D)



23.f4! oo/= Rad8 24.Be2 Qf8 25.Rb1 Re7 26.c4 Qe8 27.d5 Bc8 28.Bf3 cxd5 29.cxd5 (D)



29...Rxe5!

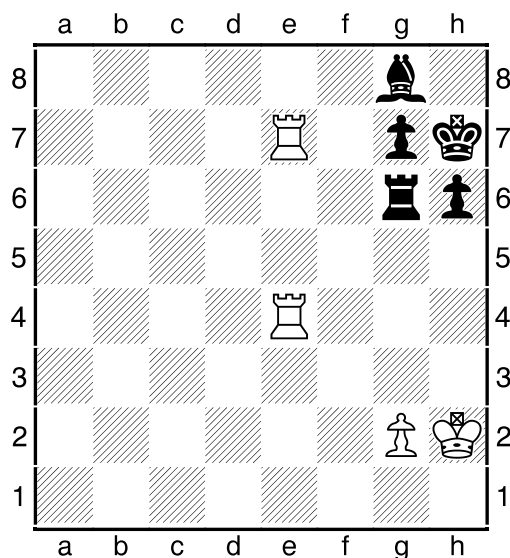
A rather typical exchange sacrifice - Black gets firm control of the dark squares and plenty of play.

30.fxe5 Qxe5 31.Qxa7 Nxe4 32.Qe3 f5 33.Bxe4 fxe4

33...Qxe4? 34.Qxe4 fxe4 35.Rfd1 e3 36.Rd4 +/-.

34.Rb4 Bf5 35.Rb5 Bd7 36.Rxb7 Qxd5 37.Rc7 Qd6 38.Qc5 Be6 39.Qxd6 Rxd6 40.Re7 Kh7 41.Rf6 Rd1+ 42.Kh2 Bg8 43.Rf4 Rd6 44.Rfxe4 Rg6 (D)

Now it's a draw, although White tried for many more moves - anyway he had nothing to lose...



45.R7e5 Bb3 46.Kg1 Rf6 47.Re3 Bf7
48.Rc5 g6 49.Rc7 Kg7 50.Kh2 h5 51.Re5
Kh6 52.Ree7 Kg7 53.Kg3 Rf5 54.Red7
Rf6 55.Re7 Rf5 56.Ra7 Rf6 57.Re4 Kh6
58.Re5 Bc4 59.Ree7 Bd3 60.Ra3 Bf5
61.Kf4 Bg4+ 62.Kg3 Kg5 63.Ra5+ Bf5
64.Re3 Rb6 65.Kh2 Rc6 66.Rg3+ Kh6
67.Ra8 Bg4 68.Re3 Kg5 69.Kg3 Bf5
70.Ra5 Rc2 71.Kh2 Rc6 72.Raa3 Rb6
73.Rab3 Ra6 74.Rg3+ Kh6 75.Ra3 Rb6
76.Rgb3 Rc6 77.Rc3 Rb6

1/2-1/2

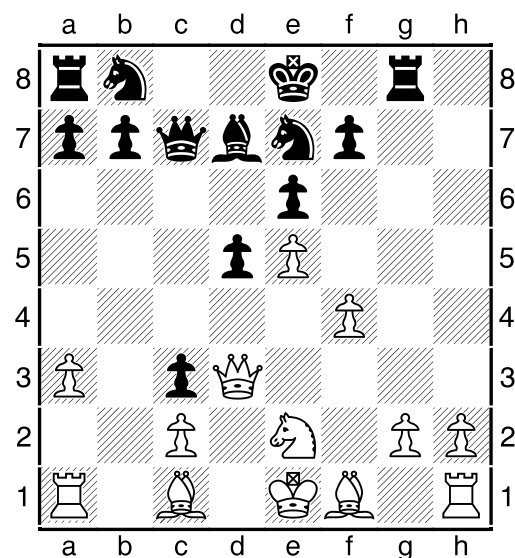


□ Chopra Aryan (2491)

■ Checa Nicolas (2415)

C18 Saint Louis (2.3) 26.07.2017

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3
Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Qg4 cxd4 8.Qxg7 Rg8
9.Qxh7 Qc7 10.Ne2 dxc3 11.f4 Bd7
12.Qd3 (D)



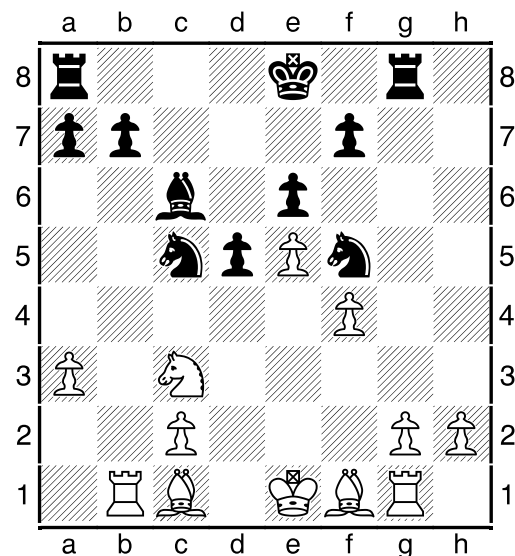
12...Nf5

A novelty. 12...Nbc6 13.Be3 Na5 14.g3 Nf5
15.Bf2 Nc4 16.Bh3 d4 17.Bxf5 exf5
18.Bxd4 += was seen in Duda,J-Vitiugov,N
Wroclaw 2014.

13.Rb1 Na6 14.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 15.Nxc3 Bc6?!
15...Nc5 16.Nb5 Kd8 seems to be OK for
Black.

16.Rg1! Nc5 (D)

16...0-0-0 17.g4 Nd4 18.Rg3 Nc5 was
probably a better try.



17.Ne2!

Typical idea in this 'French Defence' line.

17...Ba4 18.Rb2 d4?!

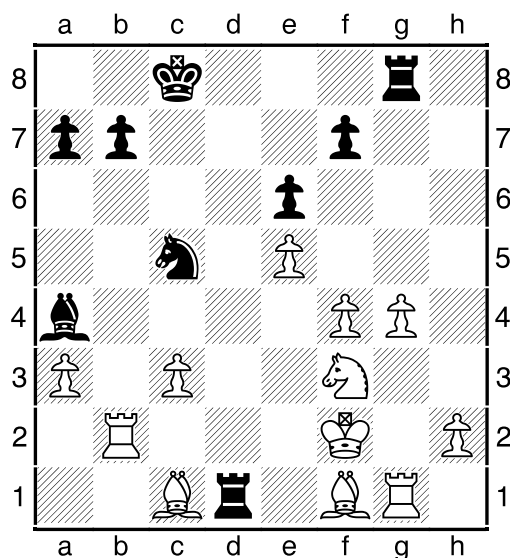
18...Rc8!? 19.g4 Nh4 20.Nd4 +=.

19.g4 Nh4 20.Nxd4 0-0-0 21.c3 Nf3+

21...Rxd4 22.cxd4 Nf3+ 23.Kf2 Nxd4

24.dxc5 +-. .

22.Nxf3 Rd1+ 23.Kf2 (D)



23...Ne4+?

This loses. Better was 23...Rxc1 24.Ng5 Rxc3 25.h4 +/-.

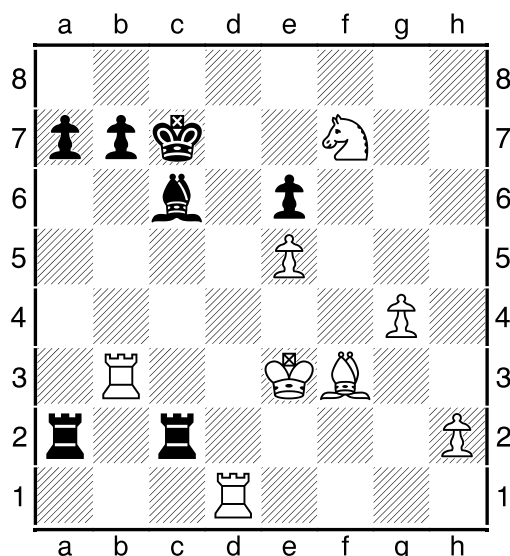
24.Ke3 Rxc1 25.Be2?!

25.Bg2! Rxd1 26.Nxd1 Nxc3 27.Bxb7+ Kc7 28.Bf3 +-. .

25...Rxc3+?!

25...Rxd1 26.Nxd1 Nxc3 27.Bf3 +/-.

26.Kxe4 Bc6+ 27.Kd4 Rxa3 28.Ng5+- Rd8+ 29.Kc4 Rd5 30.Rb3 Ra4+ 31.Kc3 Rxf4 32.Rf1! Rc5+ 33.Kd2 Ra4 34.Nxf7 Ra2+ 35.Ke3 Rcc2 36.Bf3 Kd7 37.Rd1+ Kc7 (D)



38.Nd8! Bxf3 39.Nxe6+

1-0

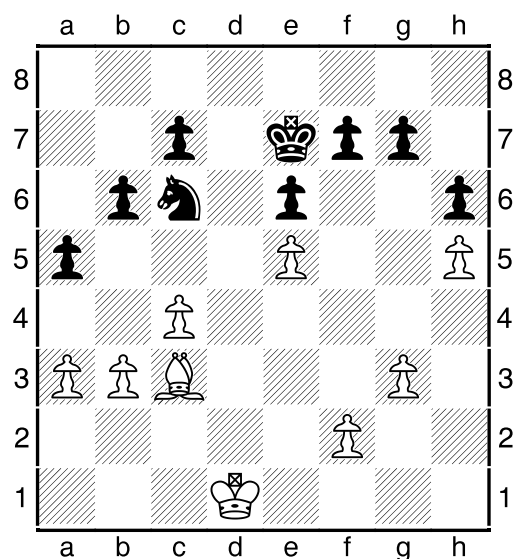


□ Sarana Alexey (2510)

■ Li Ruifeng (2568)

E17 Saint Louis (2.4) 26.07.2017

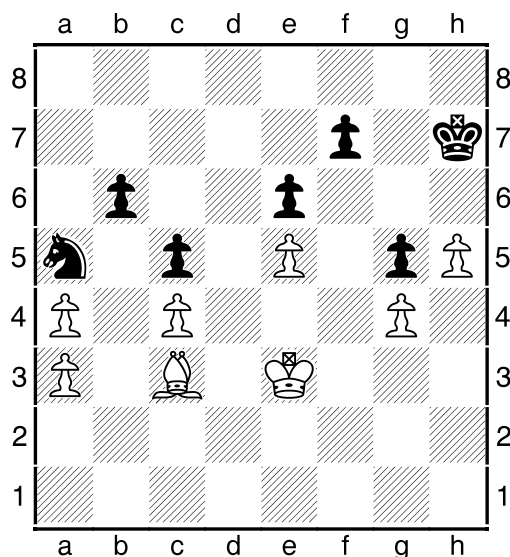
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 Ne4 7.Bd2 Bf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne5 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 Bxg2 11.Kxg2 d5 12.Qd3 Qd6 13.e4 Bxe5 14.dxe5 dxe4 15.Qxe4 Qc6 16.Kf3 a5 17.Rfd1 Qxe4+ 18.Kxe4 Na6 19.b3 Rfd8 20.Ke3 Kf8 21.h4 Ke7 22.h5 Nb4 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Ke2 h6 25.a3 Nc6 26.Rd1 Rxd1 27.Kxd1 (D)



The position offers nothing to any side, but the game continued for a long time without anything critical to happen...

27...Nb8 28.Ke2 c5 29.Ke3 Nc6 30.Ke4 Kf8 31.Bd2 Kg8 32.Be3 Kh7 33.g4 g6 34.f4 Kg7 35.Bf2 g5 36.fxg5 hxg5 37.Be3 Kh6 38.Bd2 Nb8 39.Bc3 Nc6 40.Bb2 Kh7 41.Bc1 Kh6 42.Be3 a4 43.bxa4 Na5 44.Bd2 Nc6 45.Bc3 Na5 46.Kd3 Kg7 47.Kc2 Kh6 48.Kd1 Kg7 49.Ke1 Kh7 50.Kf1 Kg7 51.Kf2 Kh7 52.Kf3 Kg7 53.Ke3 Kh6 54.Kd3 Kg7 55.Kd2 Kh7

56.Kc2 Kh6 57.Ba1 Kh7 58.Kd1 Kg7
59.Ke1 Kh7 60.Kf1 Kg7 61.Kf2 Kh7
62.Kf3 Kg7 63.Ke3 Kh7 64.Bc3 (D)



64...Kh6

64...Nxc4+? 65.Kd3 Nxa3 (65...Na5 66.Bxa5 bxa5 67.Kc4 +-) 66.Bb2 c4+ 67.Kc3 Nb1+ 68.Kc2 c3 69.Bxc3 Nxc3 70.Kxc3 +-. But of course Black never intended to capture this pawn, sealing his fate, although White offered it for quite a few times!

65.Ke2 Kh7 66.Bd2 Kh6 67.Kd3 Nc6
68.a5 Nxa5 69.Bc3 Kg7 70.Be1 Nc6
71.Kc2 Nd4+ 72.Kc3 Nf3 73.Bg3 Nd4
74.Kb2 Kh6 75.a4 Nc6 76.Kc3 Kh7
77.Bh2 Kh6 78.Bg3 Kh7 79.Kd3 Kh6
80.Ke4 Na5 81.Be1 Kg7 82.Kd3 Kh6
83.Bd2 Nc6 84.Bc3 Na5 85.Kc2 Kg7
86.Ba1 Kh7 87.Kd3 Kg7 88.Bb2 Kh7
89.Bc1 Kh6 90.Bd2 Nc6 91.Bc3

½-½



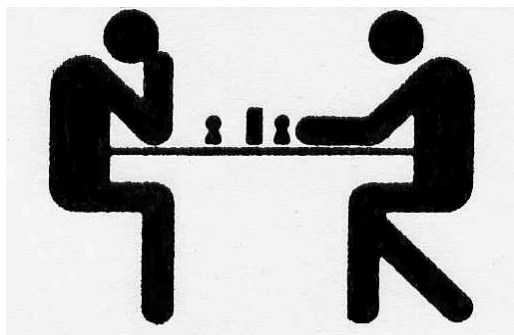
A fascinating view from the 2nd floor roof-garden of the Club. Opposite is the Hall of Fame.



MOTM U.17 - 3rd Round (27.07.2017)

The third round ended in another fighting 2-2 draw; the third in a row! Well, nobody was really expecting such a case, as it is a quite rare one in teams' events.

Smirnov vs. Burke was a game of ups and downs for both players; both of them missed chances for something better and in the end a draw was agreed in a dead even rook ending.



Li played quite aggressively vs. Esipenko, sacrificing material early, but his actions were unjustified and soon ended in a hopeless position. Then the Russian brought the bacon home with accuracy.

Xiong played a nice attacking game vs. Chopra, as the later failed to understand the dangers of the position and preserved his king in the centre, while opening it!

Sevian didn't make his homework and failed to gain something out of the opening. The game ended in a quick draw by repetition.

3 rd Round - 2:2			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Smirnov	Burke	½:½
B2	Esipenko	Li	1:0
B3	Chopra	Xiong	0:1
B4	Sarana	Sevian	½:½

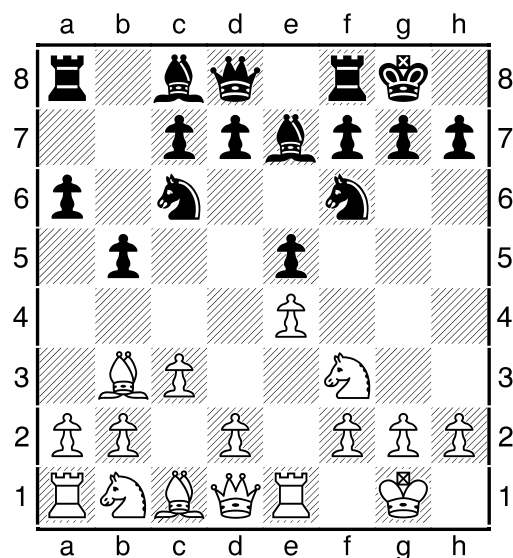


□ Smirnov Anton (2495)

■ Burke John Michael (2479)

C89 Saint Louis (3.1) 27.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 (D)



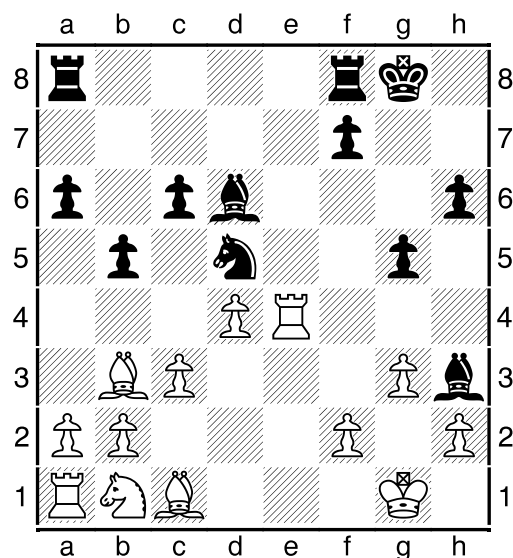
8...d5

The famous 'Marshall Attack' of the 'Ruy Lopez'.

9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d4 Bd6 13.Re1 Qh4 14.g3 Qh3 15.Re4 g5 16.Qf1 Qxf1+

16...Qh5 is playable as well: 17.Nd2 Bf5 18.f3 Rae8 19.Qf2 Nf6 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Nf1 g4 oo Short,N-Grandelius,N Malmö 2017.

17.Kxf1 Bh3+ 18.Kg1 h6 (D)



19.a4!?

A novelty. 19.Nd2 Nf6 20.Re1 Rfe8 21.Nf3 Rxe1+ 22.Nxe1 was seen in Pelletier,Y-Jenni,F Switzerland 2007. 19.Re1 Rae8 20.Be3!? is interesting.

19...Kg7?!

Too slow. Maybe Black should try 19...Bf5!? 20.Re1 Rfe8 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.Bd2 Bd3 oo.

20.Bd2

Black stands good after 20.Nd2 Bf5 21.Re1 Rae8 22.Nf3 g4 23.Ne5 f6 24.Bxh6+ Kxh6 25.Nf7+ Rxf7 26.Rxe8 Rb7!.

20...Rab8 21.Re1 Nf6?!

Again not the best - Black should have tried 21...Bf5!.

22.Na3?

White lets his advantage slip... He should have gone for 22.Be3! Ng4 23.Bd1 Nxe3 24.Rxe3 +/-.

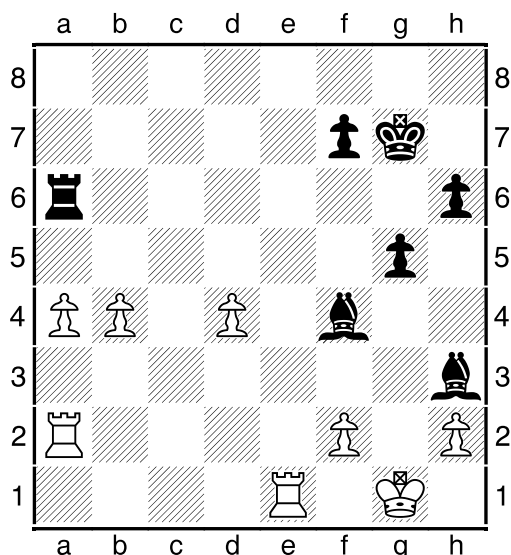
22...b4! 23.Nc4 bxc3 24.Bxc3 Bxg3! 25.Ba2 Bf4 26.Ne5

Nothing is gained by 26.d5 cxd5 27.Ne3 Be6 28.Nxd5 Bxd5 29.Bxd5 Bd2! 30.Bxd2 Nxd5 =. Now a forced variation is on the cards:

26...Nd5! 27.Nxc6 Nxc3 28.Nxb8?!

28.bxc3 Rbc8 29.d5 Bd7 =.

28...Nxa2 29.Nxa6 Ra8 30.Rxa2 Rxa6 31.b4 (D)



A difficult to assess position has arisen. White has got three passed pawns but the black bishop pair is strong and can assist its rook perfectly.

31...Be6! 32.b5 Ra5 33.Raa1 Bd2?

A serious mistake. After the correct 33...Bc7! 34.Reb1 Bb6 35.Rb4 Bd5, only Black would have chances.

34.Reb1?

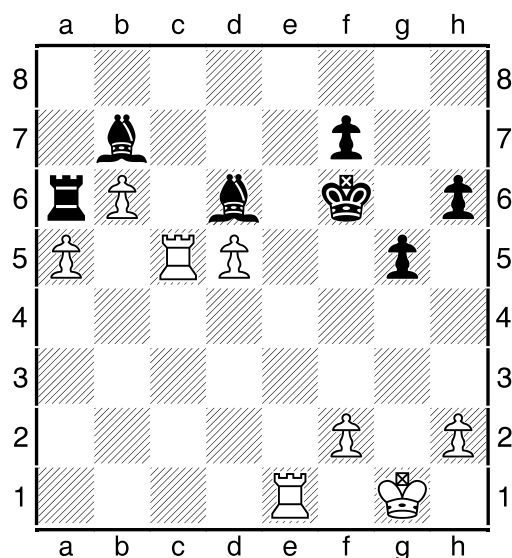
34.b6! was strong: 34...Bf4 (34...Bxe1? 35.b7 +-) 35.b7 Bd5 36.Reb1 Bb8 37.Rb4 +/-.

34...Bd5 35.b6 Bb7 36.Rb5 Ra6?!

Why not 36...Rxb5 37.axb5 Kf6 38.Ra7 Bf3 39.b7 Bf4 and no side can improve.

37.d5 Bf4 38.a5 Kf6 39.Re1 Be5 40.Rc5 Bd6 (D)

40...Ra8! =.



41.Rc6!

A good last try!

41...Bxc6 42.dxc6 Rxa5 43.Rc1 Ra8! 44.c7 White could try 44.Kg2 Bc7! 45.bxc7 Rc8 46.Kf3 Rxc7 47.Kg4, when although still the game will end to a draw, he would get a better version.

44...Bxc7! 45.Rc6+ Ke5 46.Rxc7 Ra1+! 47.Kg2 Rb1 48.b7 f5 49.Rh7 Kf4 50.Rc7 Rb2 51.Rf7 Rb1

1/2-1/2



□ Esipenko Andrey (2523)

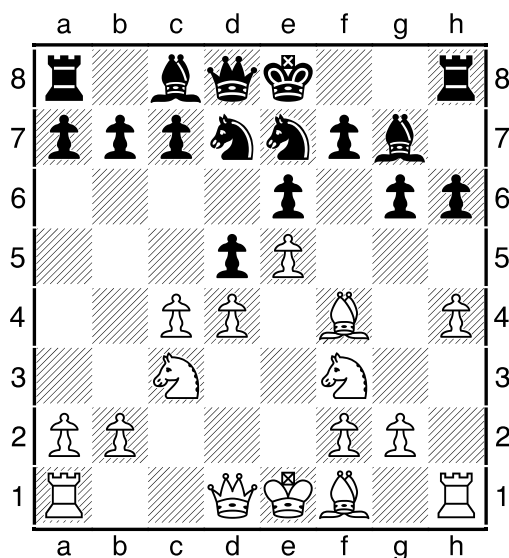
■ Li Ruifeng (2568)

A40 Saint Louis (3.2) 27.07.2017

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4 e6 4.Nc3 Ne7 5.h4 d5 6.Nf3 h6 7.e5 Nd7

7...b6!? 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Be2 Be6 10.Be3 Nd7 11.Qd2 += Baryshpolets,A-Ipatov,A Saint Louis 2017.

8.Bf4 (D)



8...c5

Black has chosen a wild opening, violating many classical principles...

9.cxd5 cxd4?!

Too optimistic. Better was 9...Nxd5 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Qd2 cxd4 12.Be2 +=.

10.Qxd4 exd5 11.Nxd5

Black decided to sac a pawn, looking for active counterplay. But White's position is quite solid.

11...Qa5+ 12.Nc3 0-0

12...Nc6? 13.Qd6 Ndxex5 14.0-0-0! +/-.

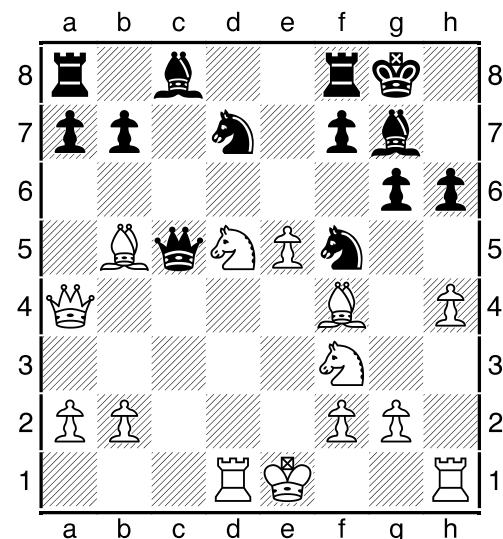
13.Bb5!

To the point - Black will be unable to regain his sacrificed pawn.

13...Nf5 14.Qa4 Qc7

14...Qxa4 15.Nxa4 a6 16.Bxd7 Bxd7 17.Nb6 Rad8 18.Nxd7 Rxd7 19.Rd1 Rxd1+ 20.Kxd1 +/-.

15.Nd5! Qc5 16.Rd1 (D)

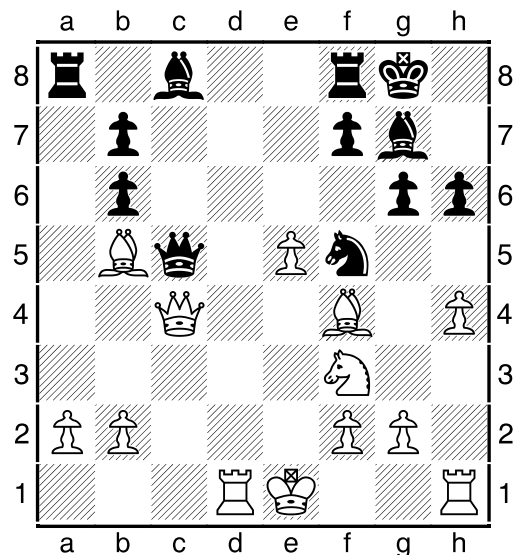


Now White needs just to castle to have a decisive advantage, so Black decided to continue his sacrifices.

16...Nb6 17.Nxb6 axb6?!

How to mark this exchange sacrifice? Obviously Black wasn't satisfied with the 'simple' 17...Qxb6 18.0-0 a6 19.Bd3 Be6 20.h5 +/-.

18.Qc4?! (D)



White should accept the challenge. After 18.Qxa8! Qxb5 19.Qa3 and Qd3, he would have little to care for. But in a way it is understandable that after his first round disaster, Esipenko wasn't feeling like getting more risks, but in this case he should do so, as this was perfectly good.

18...Rxa2?!

Continuing the offers. But Black could simply go for 18...Be6! 19.Qxc5 bxc5 20.a3 Rfd8 21.0-0 Bd5 22.Be2 Bxf3 23.Bxf3 Nd4 24.Rfe1 +=, when White's advantage would be seriously limited.

19.Qxa2 Qxb5 20.Qd5! Qb4+

20...Qxb2 21.0-0 would be curtains.

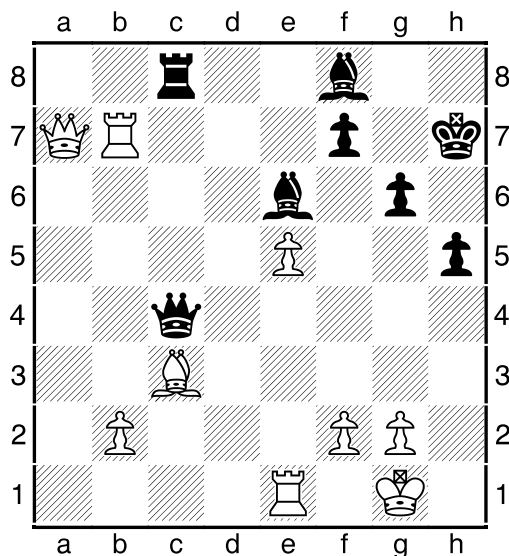
21.Bd2 Qg4 22.0-0 Be6

22...Nxb4 23.Nxb4 Qxb4 24.Bc3 +/-.

23.Qxb7 Rc8 24.Rfe1 Nxb4 25.Nxb4 Qxb4 26.Qxb6

Game over. White is an exchange and a pawn up, while Black's lacks any counterplay. Of course now White's plan is to exchange all pieces, remaining just with a rook vs. bishop!

26...h5 27.Qe3 Qa4 28.Bc3 Kh7 29.Rd4 Qb5 30.Rb4 Qc6 31.Rb6 Qc4 32.Qd4 Qa2 33.Rb7 Bf8 34.Qa7 Qc4 (D)



Now White has just to think on changing the remaining heavy pieces, forcing Black's resignation.

35.Rb8! Rxb8 36.Qxb8 Bc5 37.Qd8 Qg4 38.Ra1!

Planning to mate Black with Ra8.

38...Qf5 39.Bd4 Bxd4

39...Qd3 40.Ra8 +/-.

40.Qxd4 g5 41.b4 h4 42.Re1 Qg6 43.Kh2 g4 44.Qf4

1-0

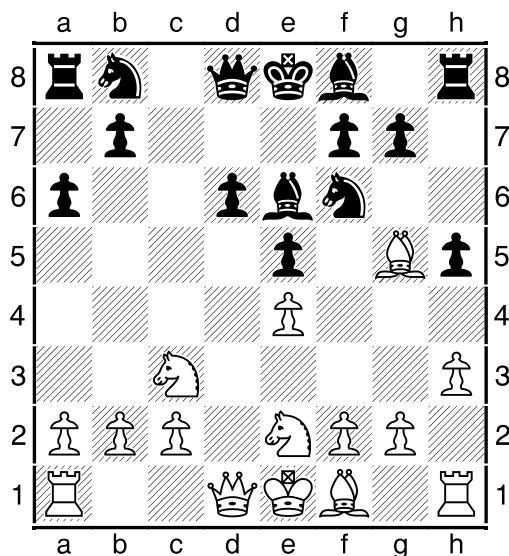
□ Xiong Jeffery (2642)

■ Chopra Aryan (2491)

B90 Saint Louis (3.3) 27.07.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 8.Bg5 Be6 (D)



9.f4

A novelty and a bit of a new concept.

Known is 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Qd3 Nd7 12.0-0 g6 oo Anand,V-Vachier Lagrave,M Leuven 2017.

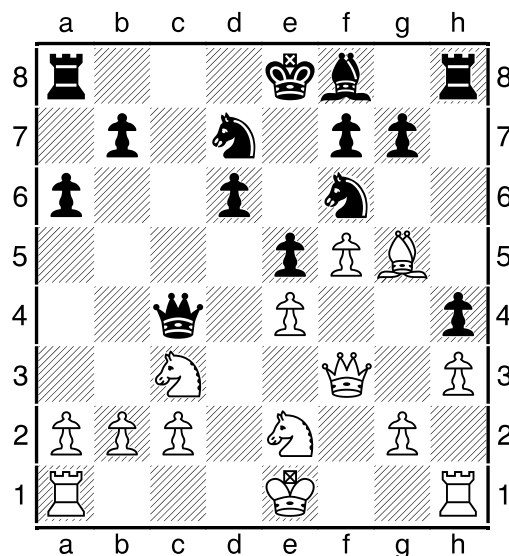
9...Nbd7 10.f5 Bc4 11.Ng3! Qc7

Black should seriously consider 11...Bxf1 12.Nxf1 Qa5! (12...Be7? 13.Qf3 Rc8 14.Ne3 +/-) 13.Nd2 Rc8 14.Nb3 +=.

12.Bxc4 Qxc4 13.Qf3 h4

At first sight 13...d5!? looks interesting, but 14.Nxd5 h4 15.b3 Qc5 16.Ne2 Nxd5 17.exd5 Qxc2 18.0-0 must be nice for White.

14.Nge2 (D)



Black should be OK after 14.Nf1 d5 15.Nd2 dxe4 16.Ndxe4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Nc5. But unfortunately for him he chose a wrong concept...

14...b5?!

Black should refrain from weakening his queenside. For this reason he should probably opt for 14...Rc8 15.0-0 Be7.

15.a3 Be7 16.0-0 Rd8?!

The rook has nothing to do on the d-file in a so early stage. Black was obviously thinking of...Nb6 and...a5-...b4, controlling square d5. But as he is undeveloped, this would be too much... 16...Rc8 had to be preferred.

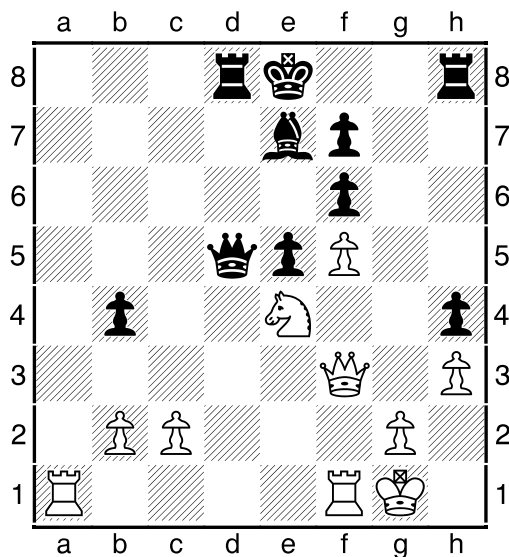
17.Nc1!? Nb6 18.Nd3 a5 19.Nf2! b4 20.axb4 axb4 21.Ncd1! d5

Black is anyway in trouble, so he is sticking to his original plan. Bad also was 21...Qxc2 22.Rc1 Qa4 23.Ne3 Qa6 24.Nfg4 +/-.

22.Ne3 Qc5 23.Bxf6 gxf6

Or 23...Bxf6 24.Kh1 d4 25.Nd3 Qd6 26.Ng4 +/-.

24.exd5 Nxd5 25.Nxd5 Qxd5 26.Ne4 (D)



White has achieved an excellent position. He got a monster on e4, while the black monarch has nowhere to hind...

26...Qd4+

If you are destined to die, let's eat well firstly...

27.Kh2 Qxb2 28.Nxf6+!

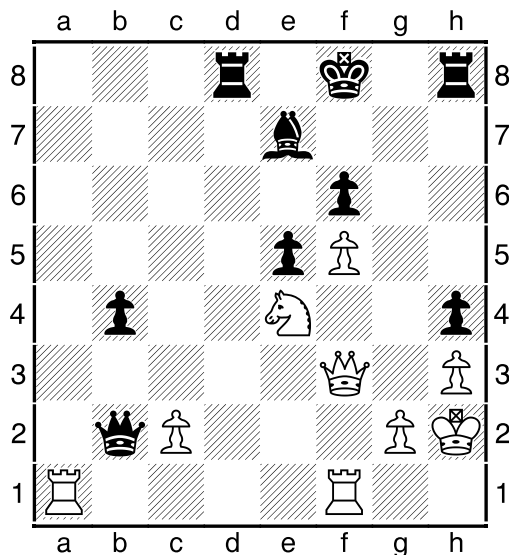
A small combination that seals Black's fate.

28...Kf8

28...Bxf6 29.Qc6+ Rd7 (29...Ke7 30.Ra7+)

30.Qxf6 +.

29.Ne4 f6 (D)



30.Ng5!

The knight is dancing around the 'well-protected' dark squares (f6, g5) - disaster!

30...fxg5 31.f6 Bc5 32.Qb7 Rg8 33.Ra7!

And as Black is getting mated, he resigned.

1-0

□ Sevia Samuel (2633)

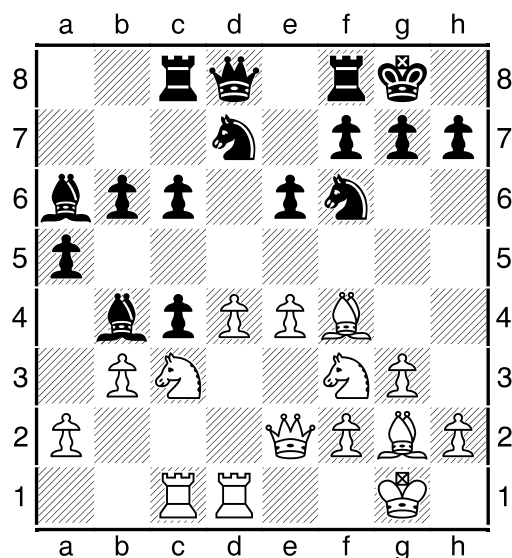
■ Sarana Alexey (2510)

E11 Saint Louis (3.4) 27.07.2017

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 b6 9.Rd1 Nbd7 10.b3 a5 11.Bf4

Another way to play is 11.Bc3 Ne4 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.Bxe4 f5 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.dxe5 f4 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Bd4 Ba6 18.Qc6 Bxe2 19.Re1 Qc8 20.Qxd5+ Kh8 21.Nc3 Ba6 22.e6 Rd8 23.Qe4 Bb7 24.Qxf4 Qc6 25.Bxg7+ Kxg7 26.Qf7+ Kh8 27.Ne4 Qe8 28.Ng5 ½-½ Ding,L-Giri,A Moscow 2017.

11...Ba6 12.Nc3 Rc8 13.e4 dxc4 14.Qe2 Bb4 15.Rac1 (D)



15...Ba3!?

A natural novelty for which White wasn't prepared for. Known is 15...b5 16.bxc4 bxc4 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 oo as in Postny,E-Eljanov,P Germany 2009.

16.Rb1 Bb4 17.Rbc1 Ba3 18.Rb1

After 18.bxc4 Bxc1 19.Rxc1 c5 20.d5 exd5 21.exd5 Re8 White shouldn't have much compensation, so he decided to repeat moves, accepting the indirect draw offer.

18...Bb4

½-½



MOTM U.17 - 4th Round (27.07.2017)

In the fourth round finally we had a decisive team result and it was the World that took the lead 8½-7½, by winning 2½-1½. The players started to get tired, as we met grave blunders in every board!

Martirosyan badly blundered as early as the 17th move and he could resign at once but he decided to prolong the game a bit longer...

Burke got a nice position vs. Esipenko, but instead of improving his advantage he blundered an important pawn and the later had no problems to convert it in the endgame.

Sevian had a more or less balanced position, when in his turn he blundered a valuable pawn, leaving his king naked as well. Then Smirnov conducted a model attack to cash the point.

Sarana played the opening badly, allowing Xiong a winning rook ending. But the later showed bad technique, achieving only a draw.



4 th Round - 2½:1½			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Martirosyan	Checa	0:1
B2	Esipenko	Burke	1:0
B3	Smirnov	Sevian	1:0
B4	Sarana	Xiong	½:½

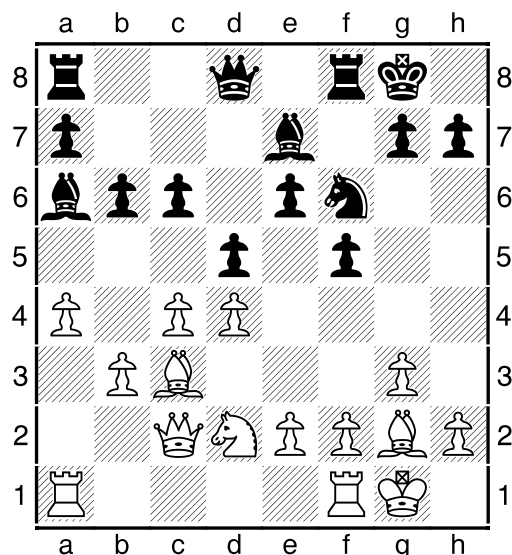
□ **Checa Nicolas (2415)**

■ **Martirosyan Haik (2544)**

E15 Saint Louis (4.1) 27.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Bg2 c6 8.Bc3 d5 9.Ne5 Nfd7 10.Nxd7 Nxd7 11.Nd2 f5 12.0-0 0-0 13.a4 Nf6 14.Qc2 (D)

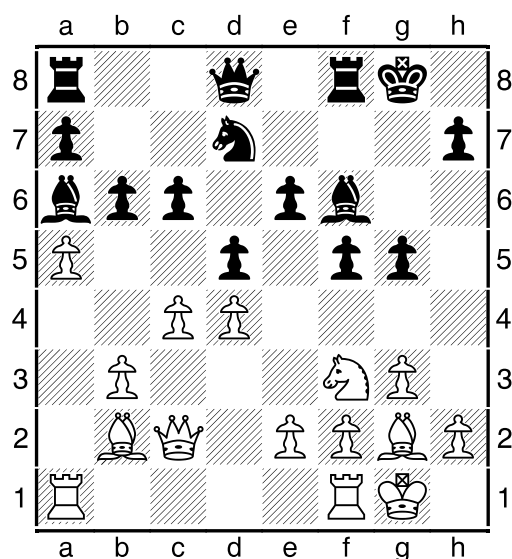
White has tried here 14.a5 Bd6 15.Ra2 Qe7 16.Qa1 b5 17.c5 Bc7 18.b4 Bc8 19.Nf3 Ne4 20.Ne5 Bxe5 21.dxe5 Nxc3 22.Qxc3 Bd7 23.f4 Be8 24.Bf3 g5 25.e3 g4 26.Bd1 h5 27.h3 Bg6 28.Rh2 Rad8 29.hxg4 hxg4 30.Qd4 a6 31.Kf2 ½-½ Mchedlishvili,M-Zhigalko,S Dubai 2015.



14...g5?!

An aggressive but not justified continuation. Black should have opted for 14...Qe8 15.a5 Bd6 16.axb6 axb6 17.Ra2 +=, as in Mielke,K-Brooks,I ICCF email 2009.

15.Nf3 Nd7 16.Bb2 Bf6 17.a5! (D)



17...b5?

A grave blunder. Black should have gone for 17...g4 18.Ne1 bxa5 19.Nd3 Rb8 20.Nf4 +/-.

18.cxd5 Nb8

And Black realised that the planned 18...cxd5 is losing to 19.Qc6. Game is over anyway.

19.dxe6 Bc8 20.Qxf5 Qe7 21.Ne5 Bxe6
22.Qc2 Rc8 23.Rac1 Bxe5 24.dxe5 Na6
25.Rfd1 Qf7 26.Rd6 Rf8 27.Rf1 Rac8
28.Qd2
1-0

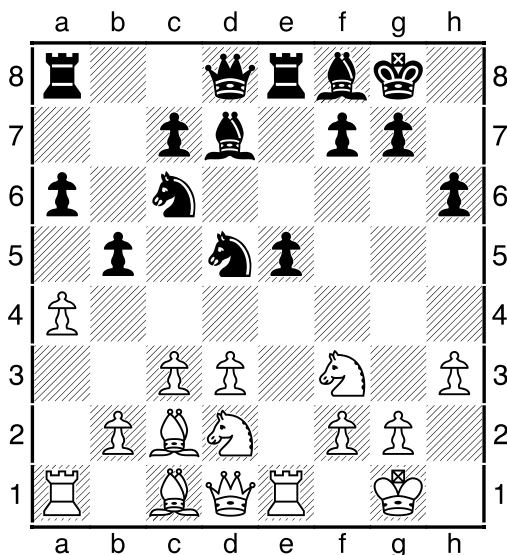
□ Burke John Michael (2479)

■ Esipenko Andrey (2523)

C90 Saint Louis (4.2) 27.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4 Bd7 9.c3 0-0
10.Bc2 Re8 11.Re1 Bf8 12.Nbd2 h6 13.h3
13.Nf1 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Ng3 b4 16.Bd2
Rb8 17.a5 bxc3 18.bxc3 Qf6 19.Bb3 Nf4
20.Ne4 Qd8 21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Bc4 Ne5
23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.d4 Rf5 25.Bxa6 Ra8
26.Qd3 Bc6 27.f3 Qh4 28.Reb1 Qh5 29.Bb7
Bxb7 30.Rxb7 Rfxa5 31.Rxa5 Rxa5 32.Qb1
c6 33.Rb8 Rb5 34.Rxb5 Qxb5 35.Qa2 c5
36.h3 cxd4 37.cxd4 g6 38.Kh2 Bg7 39.Qa8+
Kh7 40.Qd8 g5 41.Nf6+ Bxf6 42.Qxf6 Qd7
½-½ Jakovenko,D-Bu,X Sochi 2016.

13...d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 (D)



15.Ne4!

A natural novelty - 15.Bb3 Nf6 16.axb5
axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Ne4 Qd8 19.Be3 b4
20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Bxc5 bxc3 22.bxc3 Bf5
23.Ba4 Qa8 24.d4 ½-½ Efimenko,Z-
Akopian,V Rijeka 2010.

15...b4 16.a5 bxc3 17.bxc3 Bd6
17...f5 18.Bb3! Be6 19.Ng3 +=.

18.Bb3 Nf6 19.Qe2

19.Nfd2 += looks better.

19...Na7?!

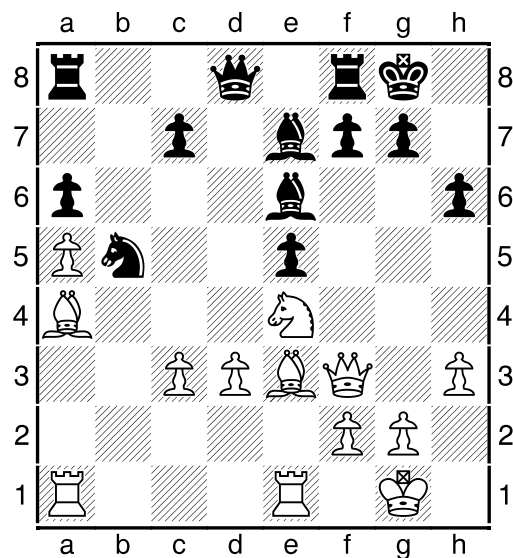
19...Nxe4! 20.dxe4 Na7 should be OK for Black.

20.Nfd2 Nb5 21.Qf3 Be6 22.Ba4 Nxe4
23.Nxe4 Rf8 24.Be3?!

White missed the strong 24.Qg3! Kh8
25.Bb2 Rb8 26.c4 Nd4 27.Bxd4 exd4
28.Nxd6 cxd6 29.Qf4 +/-.

24...Be7?! (D)

24...Rb8! += was a must.



25.Rad1?

Again White missed a good continuation:
25.Qh5! Nd6 (25...f5 26.Qg6 Bf6 27.Nc5
Qe7 28.Nxe6 Qxe6 29.Rab1 +/- ;
25...Qxd3?! 26.Bxh6! +-) 26.Qxe5 Nxe4
27.Qxe4 Bd5 28.Qg4 f5 29.Qg3 Bd6 30.Bf4
+/-.

25...f5! 26.Nc5 Bd5

Now Black is clearly on the top.

27.Qxd5+

27.Bb3 Bxb3 28.Nxb3 Nxc3 29.Rc1 Na2
30.Rc4 Nb4 -/+.

27...Qxd5 28.Bb3 Qxb3 29.Nxb3 Nxc3
30.Rc1 Nd5

Black has won a pawn and his position is superior...

31.Rc6 Rf6 32.Rxf6 gxf6!

Securing the e5-pawn for ever.

33.Rc1

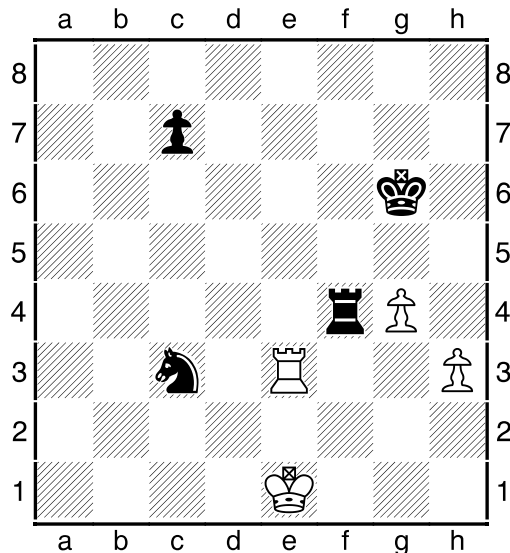
33.Bxh6? Rb8 34.Nc1 f4 -+.

33...Kf7 34.Nc5 h5 35.Rc4 f4 36.Bc1 Bxc5
37.Rxc5 Ke6 38.Ba3 h4 39.Kf1 Rb8!
40.Rc6+ Kd7 41.Rxa6 Rb3 42.Bf8 Rxd3

43.Bg7 Ke7 44.Rc6 Kf7 45.Bh6 Ra3
46.Rc5 Ke6 47.Bf8 Ra2 48.Ke1 e4 49.Rc4
e3 50.fxe3 fxe3 51.Bh6 Rxa5 52.Rxh4 f5
53.Rc4 Ra1+ 54.Ke2 Ra2+ 55.Kf1 f4
56.Re4+ Kf5 57.Re8 Ra1+ 58.Ke2 Ra2+
59.Kf1 Nc3?!

A bit better was 59...Rf2+! 60.Kg1 Nc3
61.Kh2 e2 -+. But Black wins anyway.

60.g4+! Kg6 61.Bxf4 Rf2+ 62.Ke1 Re2+
63.Kf1 Rf2+ 64.Ke1 Rxf4 65.Rxe3 (D)



65...Nd5 66.Re5 Rd4 67.h4 Kf6 68.Rh5 c5
69.g5+ Kg7 70.Rh6 c4 71.h5 c3 72.Rg6+
Kh7 73.Rh6+ Kg7 74.Rg6+ Kf7 75.Rc6
Rg4! 76.g6+ Kg7 77.Ke2 Rg5 78.Rd6
Rxh5 79.Kd3 Rh3+ 80.Kc2 Nb4+ 81.Kb3
c2+
0-1

□ Smirnov Anton (2495)

■ Sevian Samuel (2633)

C47 Saint Louis (4.3) 27.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4
5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d6 8.0-0
Nd7 9.Na4 Ba5

A 'strange' novelty. Beforehand 9...Qf6
10.c3 Ba5 11.f4 0-0 12.Qh5 += in Fran-
zoni,G-Costa,J Switzerland 1999.

10.a3 c5 11.c3 0-0 12.b4 Bb6 13.Be3 cxb4
14.Nxb6 axb6 15.cxb4!

White has got the bishop pair and he might
pressure the c-file or simply go for a passed
pawn with a4-a5. He has a pleasant position.

15...Bb7 16.Qc2 c5 17.Rfd1 Qe7 18.bxc5

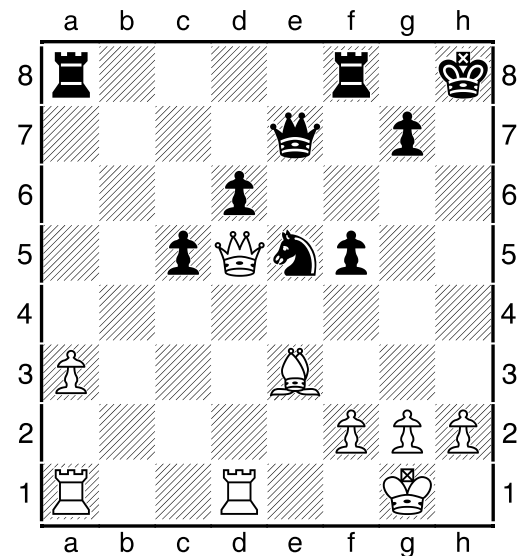
18.a4! += was obviously better.

18...bxc5?!

18...dxc5! 19.f3 Bc6 20.a4 Ra7 oo.

19.e5!? Nxe5 20.Bxh7+ Kh8 21.Be4 Bxe4

22.Qxe4 f5 23.Qd5 (D)



23...f4?

A blunder. Natural was 23...Ra6 24.Bf4 +=.

24.Bxf4!

Thank you - it is for free! (24...Rxf4?
25.Qxa8+).

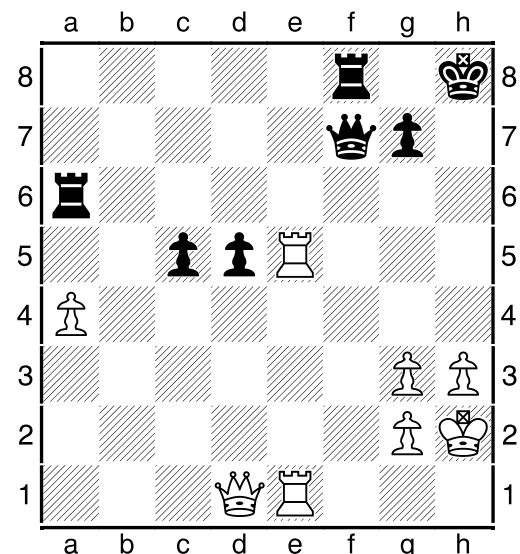
24...Qf6 25.Bg3

White got a free pawn for nothing and
maybe Black position would be playable
still, if his king wasn't naked.

25...Ra6 26.h3 Nf7 27.a4 Qc3 28.Rdc1 Qf6
29.Ra3 Qb2 30.Rca1 Nh6 31.R3a2 Qb8
32.Re1 Nf5 33.Kh2 Qa8 34.Qd1!

Of course White should preserve the queens
on board - the black king will suffer.

34...Qb7 35.Rae2 Qf7 36.Re4! d5 37.Re5
Nxb3 38.fxc3 (D)



The difference on the kings' safety is obvious...

38...Rd6 39.Rh5+

39.R1e4 was another way: 39...dxe4 40.Qxd6 Re8 41.Qxc5 Qd7 42.a5 +-.
39...Kg8 40.Ree5 d4 41.Qg4 g6 42.Rh4!

Planning Reh5 among others.

42...c4 43.Qe4

43.Reh5 Qg7 44.Rc5 c3 45.Qe4 wins as well, but the text is more accurate.

43...d3 44.Re7 Qd5 45.Rhh7! Rf7

45...Qxe4 46.Reg7 #.

46.Qh4! g5 47.Re8+ Rf8 48.Rh8+ Kg7

49.Qh7+

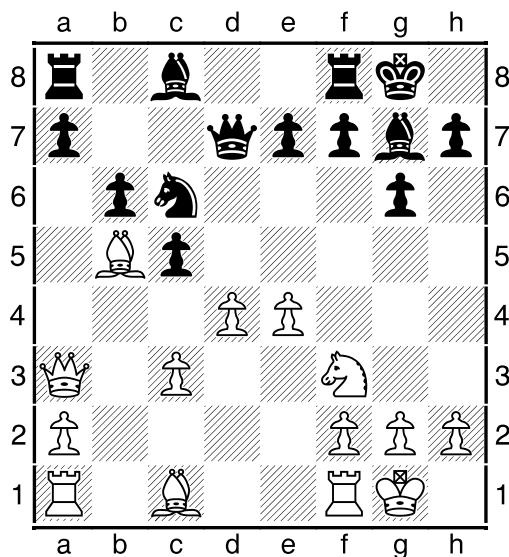
1-0

□ Sarana Alexey (2510)

■ Xiong Jeffery (2642)

D85 Saint Louis (4.4) 27.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7 8.Qa3 0-0 9.Nf3 b6 10.Bd3 c5 11.0-0 Nc6 12.Bb5 (D)



12...a6

Or 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 a6 14.Be3 Bb7 15.Be2 e6 16.Qb3 b5 = Nakamura,H-Grischuk,A Khanty-Mansiysk 2015.

13.Bg5?!

13.Be3 had to be played.

13...Bb7 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.d5?!

White seems not to understand the position, giving his opponent an early advantage. He should opt for 15.Rfe1 e6 =.

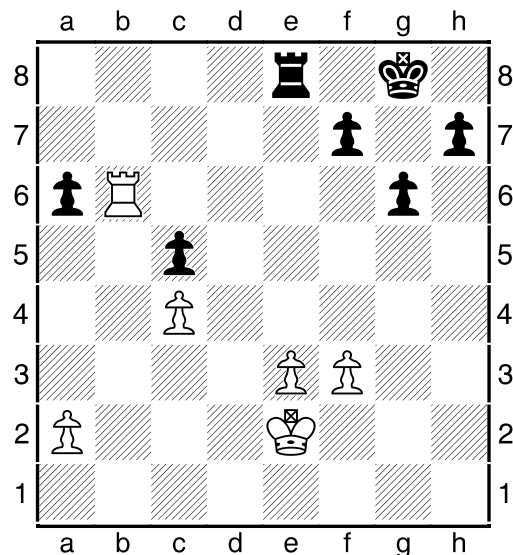
15...Bb5 16.Rfe1 e6 17.Rad1 exd5 18.Rxd5 Qb7

Now the black bishop pair will be proven strong.

19.Rd6 Rfe8 20.e5 Bc6 21.c4!

A good practical decision, as in the long run the black bishops will dominate.

21...Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Qxf3 23.gxf3 Bxe5 24.Rxb6 Bxh2+ 25.Kf1 Rxe1+ 26.Kxe1 Re8+ 27.Be3 Bf4 28.Ke2 Bxe3 29.fxe3 (D)

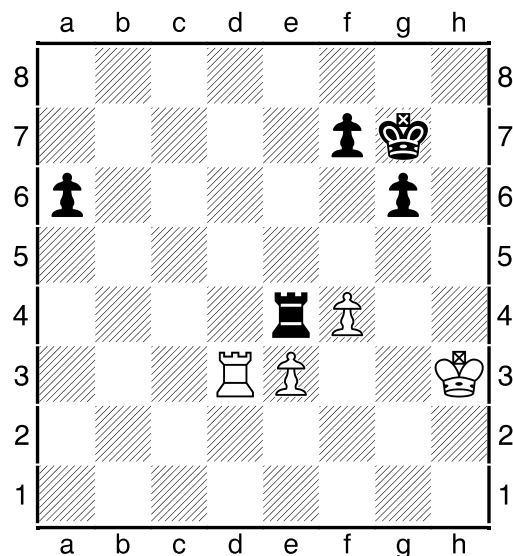


Black has got a good pawn and he should win the rook ending, but not without difficulties of course!

29...Re6! 30.Rb8+ Kg7 31.a4 h5 32.Kf2 h4 33.Rc8 Re5!

33...Rb6? 34.Rxc5 Rb2+ 35.Kg1 Re2 36.e4 Kf6 37.Ra5 =.

34.f4 Re4! 35.Rxc5 h3 36.Rd5 Rxc4 37.Kg3 Rxa4 38.Kxh3 Re4 39.Rd3 (D)



39...Re7?

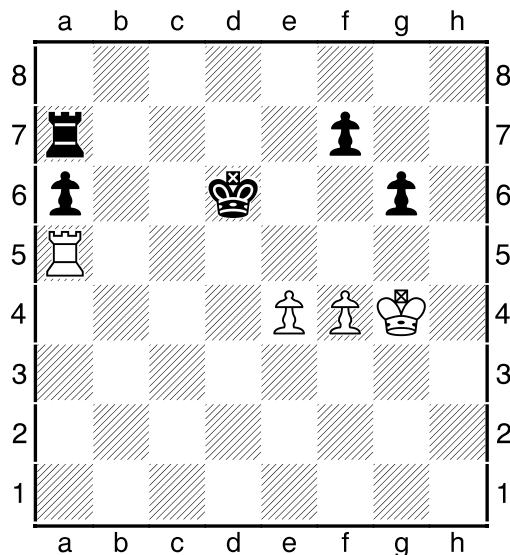
Of course rooks belong behind passed

pawns, but here it is simply too early. Black could win with the simple 39...a5! 40.Kg3 a4 41.Kf3 and only now (41.Ra3 Kf6 42.Kf3 Rb4 -+) 41...Re6! 42.Ra3 Ra6 -+.

40.Ra3 Ra7 41.Ra5!

An important move, not allowing the black pawn to advance without the assistance of his king, an action that would allow the black king to enter the kingside.

41...Kf6 42.Kg4 Ke6 43.e4 Kd6 (D)



Black cannot win this ending anymore; the white king is active and the a-pawn is not far advanced.

44.Kg5 Kc6 45.Kf6 Kb6 46.Ra3! a5 47.f5! gxf5 48.exf5 a4 49.Kg7 Kc5 50.f6 Kd4

If the black king goes for the white rook with 50...Kb4, then the main variation is 51.Re3 (51.Ra1? a3 -+) 51...a3 52.Re7 Ra8 53.Kxf7 a2 54.Re1 =.

51.Kf8 Ke5 52.Kg7 Ke6 53.Re3+ Kf5 54.Rf3+ Ke4 55.Ra3 Kf4 56.Kf8 Kf5 57.Kg7 Ra6 58.Rf3+ Ke4 59.Ra3 Ra7 60.Kf8

½-½



The players' buffet - Alexander Beliavsky is checking!

MOTM U.17 - 5th Round (28.07.2017)

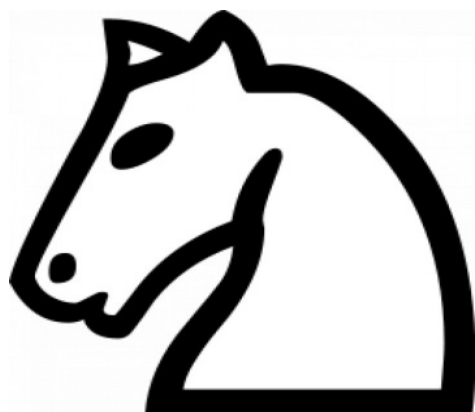
The fifth round proved good for the World as well, as the team scored a good 3-1 win. With three matches to go, the World was leading with a +3 score; 11½-8½.

Xiong played an unimpressive opening vs. Martirosyan and he should be satisfied with a draw. But he overpressed, mishandling his position and lost endgame which no-one over 2500 rating should!

Sevian vs Esipenko was a long theoretical discussion, where both players played rather good, ending in a correct played draw.

The game Chopra-Li was colourless, as the opening choice and the middlegame positions were not easy to get unbalanced, so a draw was agreed as well, with nothing left to play for.

Sarana played the best game of the event, releasing a fierce attack, when Checa played a bad novelty in a known position.



5 th Round - 3:1			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Martirosyan	Xiong	1:0
B2	Esipenko	Sevian	½:½
B3	Chopra	Li	½:½
B4	Sarana	Checa	1:0

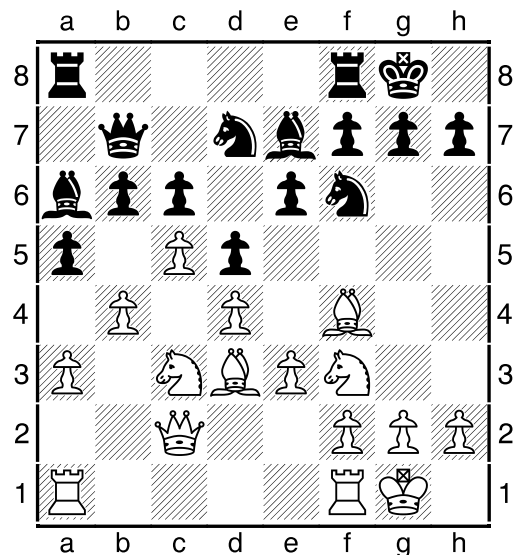


□ Xiong Jeffery (2642)

■ Martirosyan Haik (2544)

D37 Saint Louis (5.1) 28.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.c5 c6 8.b4 b6 9.Bd3 a5 10.a3 Ba6 11.0-0 Qc8 12.Qc2 Qb7 (D)

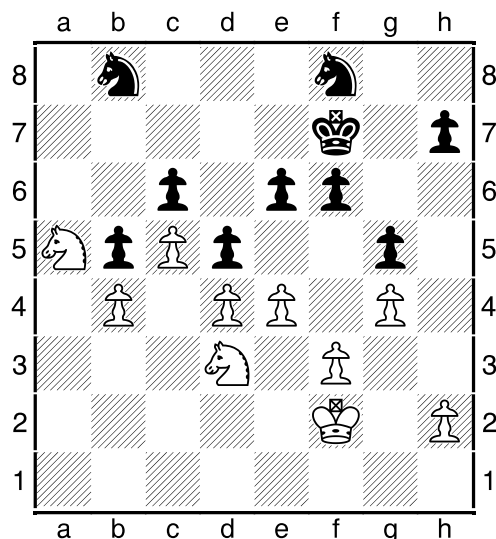


The opening didn't went good for White, as he has achieved nearly nothing (½-½ Vaganian,R-Bologan,V Poikovsky 2002).

13.Ne1 Rfc8 14.Rb1 axb4 15.axb4 Bxd3 16.Nxd3 b5 17.Ra1 Bd8 18.Qb2 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Ra8 20.Rxa8 Qxa8 21.Qa2 Qxa2 22.Nxa2 Ne8

Here White should 'accept' the drawn game.

23.Nac1 Bc7 24.Bxc7 Nxc7 25.Nb3 Na6 26.Na5 Nab8 27.f3 f6 28.e4 Kf7 29.Kf2 Nf8 30.g4 g5 (D)

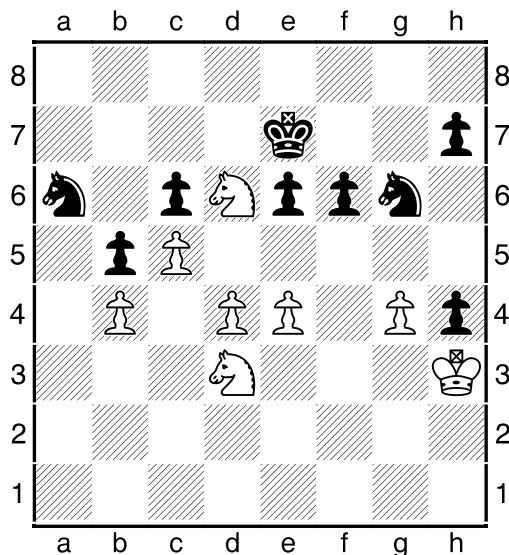


This double knight ending is a dead draw, unless one of the opponents goes crazy!

31.h4?

Wrong, as White will have to spend some tempos to regain his pawn. Simple was 31.e5 Ng6 32.exf6 Kxf6 =.

31...dxe4! 32.fxe4 gxh4! 33.Nb7 Ke7 34.Nd6 Ng6 35.Kg2 Na6 36.Kh3 (D)



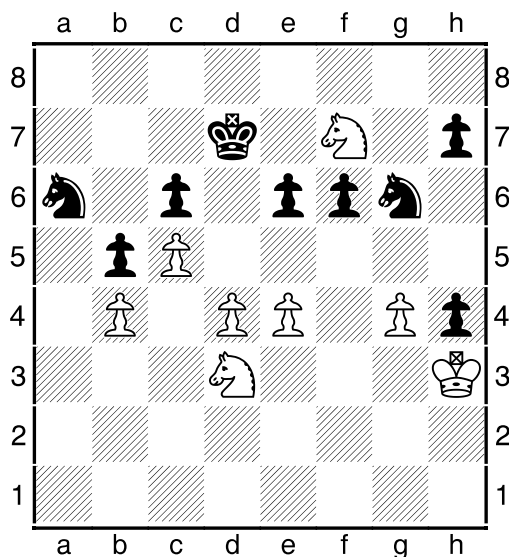
36...Kd7?

36...e5! was better: 37.d5 Kd7 -/+.

37.Nf7?

White missed his last chance to go for 37.e5!, holding.

37...Ke7 38.Nd6 Kd7? 39.Nf7? (D)



39...e5!

Now it's over - Black wins!

40.dxe5

40.d5 cxd5 41.exd5 e4 -/+.

40...Ke7! 41.e6 Kxe6 42.Nh6 Ne5

White's pawns are failing like fruits...

43.Nf4+ Ke7 44.Ng8+ Kf7 45.Nh6+ Kf8 46.Kxh4 Nxb4 47.Ne6+ Ke7 48.Nd4 Nbd3 49.g5 Nxc5 50.Ng8+ Kf7 51.Nxf6 Ne6! 52.Nb3 h6 53.Kh5 Nxc5 0-1



□ Sevian Samuel (2633)

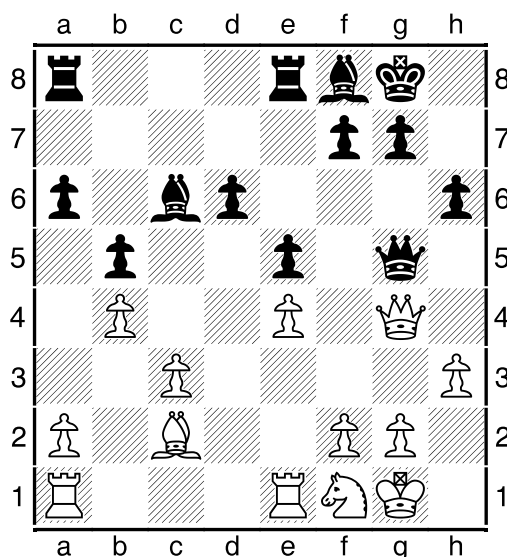
■ Esipenko Andrey (2523)

C92 Saint Louis (5.2) 28.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.d5 Nb8 13.Nf1 Nbd7 14.N3h2 Nc5 15.Bc2 c6 16.b4 Ncd7 17.dxc6 Bxc6 18.Bg5 h6

18...Qc7 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Ng4 Nxg4 21.hxg4 Be7 22.Bb3 Bg5 23.Qf3 Qb7 24.Rad1 oo Vachier Lagrave,M-Svidler,P Biel 2016.

19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Ng4 Nxg4 21.Qxg4 Qg5 (D)



22.Qf3

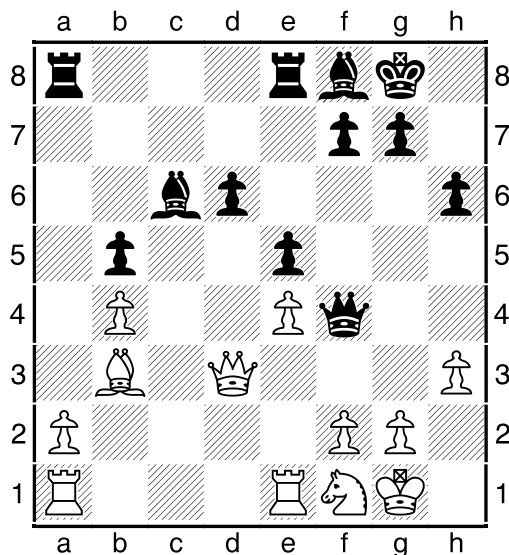
A logical novelty. Known is 22.Qxg5 hxg5 23.Ne3 Rec8 24.Rec1 a5 25.Bd3 Rcb8 26.a3 g6 27.Rab1 Be7 28.bxa5 Rxa5 29.c4 Rxa3 30.cxb5 Ba8 31.Bc2 Ra5 32.Bd3 Ra3

33.Bc2 Ra5 34.Bd3 ½-½ Agopov,M-Solozhenkin,E Finland 2014.

22...a5!

Black should get active, before White achieves the Ne3, Bb3 set-up with a huge advantage.

23.Bb3 Qf4 24.Qd3 axb4 25.cxb4 (D)



25...d5!

A standard move in this variation.

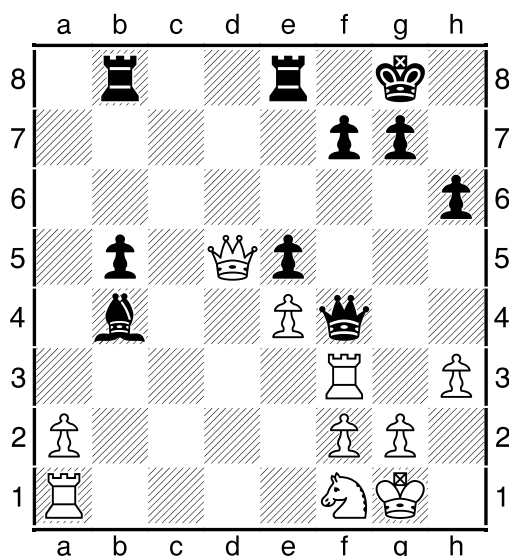
26.Bxd5

26.exd5? Bd7 27.a3 Bd6! -/+, would be just great for Black. A useless pawn down but bishop pair and a promising attack.

26...Bxd5 27.Qxd5 Bxb4 28.Re3! Rab8

A clever way to meet White's double threats: Qxb5 and Rf3.

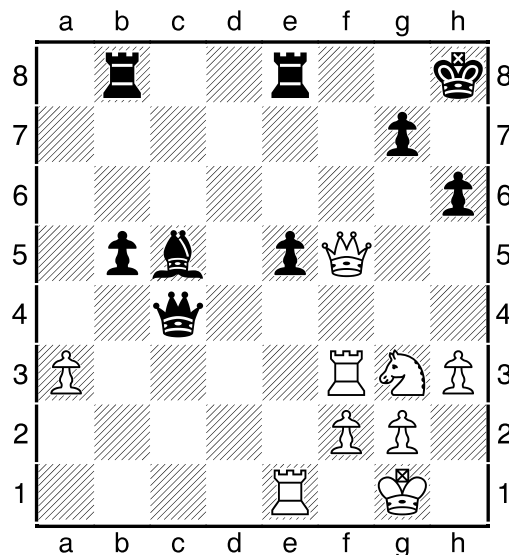
29.Rf3 (D)



29...Red8! 30.Qb3 Qxe4 31.Qxf7+ Kh8 32.Ng3

White should think in involving his last piece into the actions, so 32.Rc1 was called for, but Black can defend: 32...Qd5! 33.Qxd5 (33.Ng3 Qxf7 34.Rxf7 Kg8 35.Rcc7 Bf8 36.Nf5 Rd1+ 37.Kh2 Rd2 38.Kg3 Rb6 =) 33...Rxd5 34.Rb3 Rc5 35.Rxc5 Bxc5 36.Nd2 Kg8 37.Ne4 +=.

32...Qc4 33.Qf5 Re8 34.a3 Bc5 35.Re1 (D)



35...Qe6

Also good was 35...Rf8 36.Qxe5 Rxf3 37.Qxb8+ Rf8 38.Re8 Bxf2+ 39.Kh2 Bxg3+ 40.Kxg3 Rxe8 41.Qxe8+ Kh7 =.

36.Qh5 Ra8 37.Rf5 Bd4 38.Ne2 Qc6 39.Qg4 Qc7 40.Rc1 Qa7 41.Nxd4 exd4 42.Rd1 Rad8 43.Rxb5 d3! 44.Rb2 Qxa3 45.Rbd2 Rd5 46.Qg6 Red8

Now it's a dead draw.

47.Qg3 Qc3 48.Qg6 R5d6 49.Qg3 R6d7 50.Kh2 Qb3 51.Kg1 Qc3 52.Kh2 Qb3

½-½



□ **Chopra Aryan (2491)**

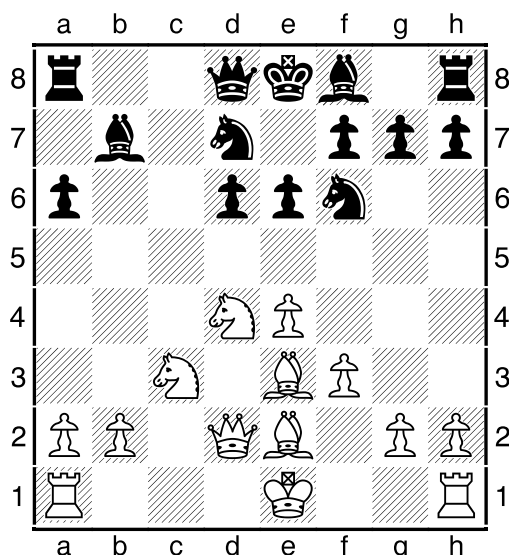
■ **Li Ruifeng (2568)**

B80 Saint Louis (5.3) 28.07.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.Qd2 b4 9.Na4 Nbd7 10.c4

10.0-0-0 is a more ambitious line: 10...Qa5 11.b3 Bb7 12.a3 Qc7 13.axb4 d5 14.b5 e5 15.bxa6 Bxa6 16.Nb5 oo Caruana,F-Topalov,V Stavanger 2014.

10...bxc3 11.Nxc3 Bb7 12.Be2 (D)



12...Be7

12...d5!? 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.Rc1 Bc5 looks OK for Black.

13.0-0 0-0 14.Rac1 Qb8 15.a3 Rd8 16.b4 d5 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bg5?!

19.Qc2 a5! wasn't good for White, but probably he had to opt for 19.Rfd1 =.

19...Nf6!

Black tries for something more, avoiding 19...Bxg5 20.Qxg5 h6 21.Qe3 =.

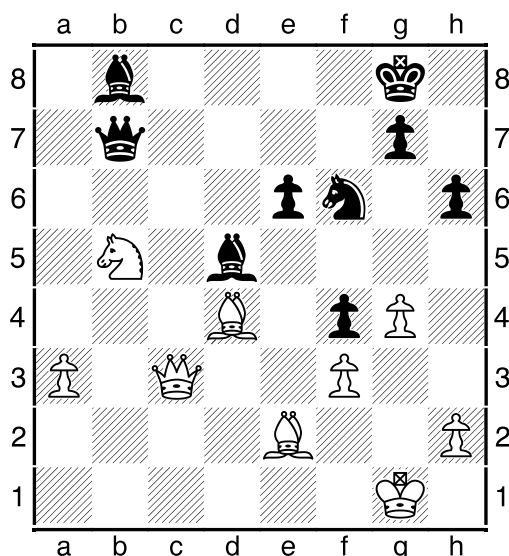
20.Qe3 Qb7 21.Rfd1 Rac8 22.Rxc8!

A good idea: if you have nothing to do aggressively, change some pieces!

22...Rxc8 23.Rc1 h6 24.Rxc8+ Qxc8 25.Qc1!

Now White is OK as well.

25...Qb7 26.Be3 Bd6 27.Qc3 Nh5 28.g3 f5 29.Bf2 f4 30.g4 Nf6 31.b5 axb5 32.Nxb5 Bb8 33.Bd4 (D)



33...e5! 34.Bxe5 Bxe5 35.Qxe5 Bxf3 36.Bc4+ Kh8 37.h3 Bh1 38.Bf1 Bc6 39.Nd4 f3 40.Nxc6 Qxc6 41.Qb8+ Ng8 42.Kf2

Maybe White could have tried for something more with 42.Qb4!?

42...Qc5+ 43.Kxf3 Qxa3+

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

□ Sarana Alexey (2510)

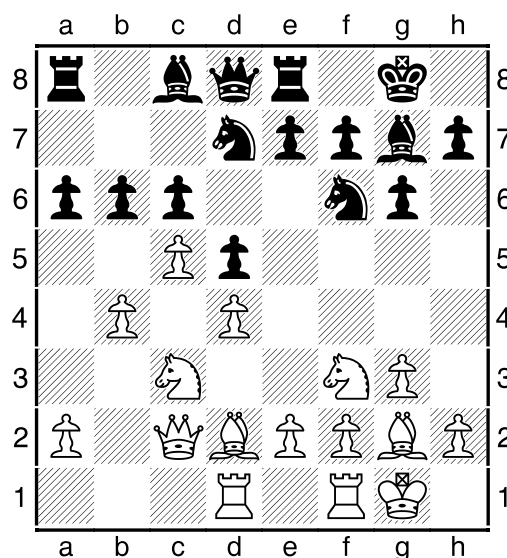
■ Checa Nicolas (2415)

D15 Saint Louis (5.4) 28.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.c5 Nbd7 6.Bf4 Nh5 7.Bd2 Nh6 8.Qc2 g6 9.g3 Bg7 10.Bg2 0-0 11.0-0 Re8

11...b6 12.b4 a5 13.a3 Re8 14.Bf4 Nh5 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bd2 bxc5 17.bxc5 e5 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Nd4 Qc7 20.Na4 Nc4 21.Bc3 Nf6 22.Rfb1 Ba6 23.Nb6 Rab8 24.e3 Kh7 25.Nxc4 Bxc4 26.Nf5 Bh8 27.Nd6 Rf8 28.Nxc4 dxc4 29.Bd4 Nd7 30.Qxc4 Bxd4 31.exd4 Nf6 32.Qa6 Qd7 33.Rd1 Nd5 34.Qxa5 Rb2 35.Rab1 Rfb8 36.Qe1 Qf5 37.Be4 Qe6 38.Rxb2 Rxb2 39.a4 Nf6 40.Bg2 Qb3 41.d5 1-0 Yu,Y-Malakhov,V Danzhou 2017.

12.Rad1 b6 13.b4 (D)



13...a5?

A bad novelty. Black had to opt for 13...b5 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nd5 16.Rfe1 N7f6 17.Ne5 +-, as in Ingersol,H-Jonsson,K ICCF email 2009.

14.b5! Bb7

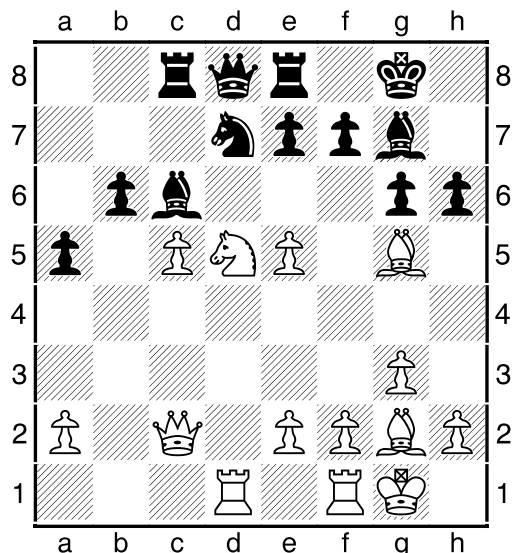
14...cxb5 15.Nxb5 bxc5 16.dxc5 Ba6 17.a4 +/-.

15.Ne5! Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.bxc6 Bxc6 18.Nxd5 Rc8

Black seems like defending but White is clearly on the top and in an attacking mood!

19.Bg5! h6? (D)

19...bxc5 20.f4 +/- was a better try for Black. Now White releases a lethal combination.



20.e6! hxc5

20...fxe6 loses to 21.Bxh6! Nf8 (21...Bxh6 22.Qxg6+ Bg7 23.Nf4 Nf8 24.Qg4 +/-) 22.Nxb6 +/-.

21.Nxb6! fxe6

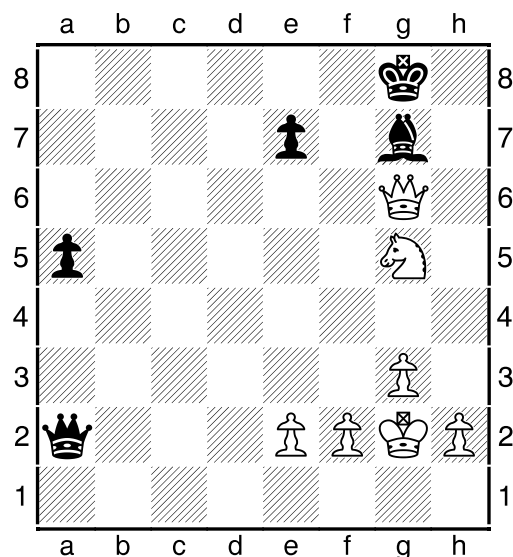
21...Nxb6 22.exf7+ Kxf7 (22...Kh7 23.Bxc6 Rxc6 24.Qe4 +/-) 23.Qb3+ Nc4 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Qxc4+ +/-.

22.Bxc6 Rxc6 23.Nxd7 Qc7 24.Qxg6 Rd8 25.Ne5! Rxc5 26.Qxe6+ Kh7 27.Qg6+ Kg8 28.Nf7 Rxd1 29.Rxd1 Rc1

29...Rc6 30.Nh6+ Kh8 31.Qe8+ Kh7 32.Nf5

+/-.

30.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 31.Kg2 Qc4 32.Nxg5 Qxa2 (D)



The smoke has cleared and White has won plenty of material.

33.e4 a4 34.Ne6 Qb2 35.Nxg7 a3

35...Qxg7 36.Qe8+ Kh7 37.Qxa4 +/-.

36.Ne6+ Kh8 37.Ng5

37.Qe8+ Kh7 38.Qxe7+ Kh8 39.h4 a2 40.Qf8+ Kh7 41.Ng5+ Kg6 42.Qf7+ Kh6 43.Qh7 #.

37...Qg7 38.Qh5+ Kg8 39.Qe8+ Qf8 40.Qxf8+ Kxf8 41.Ne6+

And Black resigned, as the knight stops his a-pawn: 41...Ke8 42.Nd4 a2 43.Nb3. A poor opening by Checa, but an excellent performance and execution by Sarana! Probably this was the best and surely the most impressive game of the event...

1-0



The Playing Hall

MOTM U.17 - 6th Round (28.07.2017)

The sixth round proved a nightmare for the USA team, as it was crushed with ½-3½! So, the World moved to +6, a heavy 15-9 lead!

Esipenko played an unimpressive opening, allowing Xiong an easy time. He continued carelessly, giving the opportunity to Black to get a good advantage. When Xiong failed to see it, the game headed for a draw.

Martirosyan took his revenge for his 2nd round loss to Sevian, by playing a nice positional game, in the footsteps of his great predecessor World Champion Tigran Petrosian!

Burke was lured to unknown territory by Sarana and blundered twice, losing heavy material, which the Russian easily converted in the endgame.

Finally, Smirnov crushed Li in a nice opposite-castle and opposite-coloured bishop's position.

6 th Round - 3½:½			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Esipenko	Xiong	½:½
B2	Martirosyan	Sevian	1:0
B3	Sarana	Burke	1:0
B4	Smirnov	Li	1:0



□ Esipenko Andrey (2523)

■ Xiong Jeffery (2642)

D27 Saint Louis (6.1) 28.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 a6 6.0-0 c5 7.dxc5

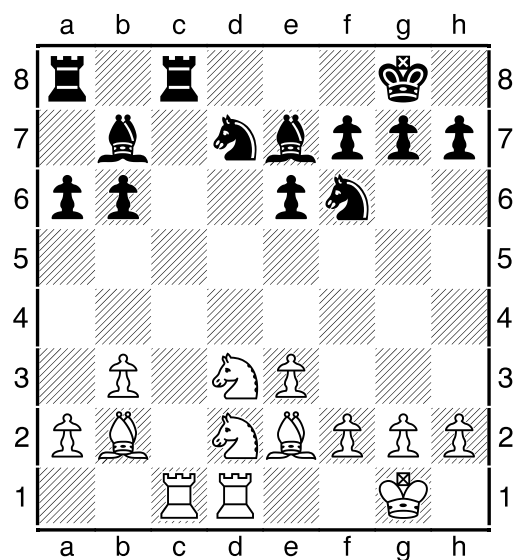
An unimpressive way to play the 'QGA', but still some players goes for it!

7...Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Nbd2 b6 10.Be2 Bb7 11.b3 Nbd7 12.Bb2 0-0 13.Ne1

13.Rac1 Rfd8 14.Nc4 Bd5 15.Bd4 Rac8 16.Bxc5 Rxc5 17.Nce5 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 Rxc1

19.Rxc1 a5 20.Rc6 Kf8 21.g3 h6 22.Bc4 Rb8 23.Rc7 Ke7 24.Nd4 g5 25.f3 Ra8 26.Bb5 Kd6 27.Rc6+ Ke7 28.Kf2 Ne8 29.Ba4 Kd8 30.f4 Nef6 31.Kf3 g4+ 32.Ke2 Rc8 33.a3 Ne4 34.Rxc8+ Kxc8 35.Bc6 Ndf6 36.Kd3 Nc5+ 37.Kc4 Nfe4 38.b4 Nd6+ 39.Kc3 axb4+ 40.axb4 Nce4+ ½-½ Nepomniachtchi,I-Nakamura,H Baku 2015.

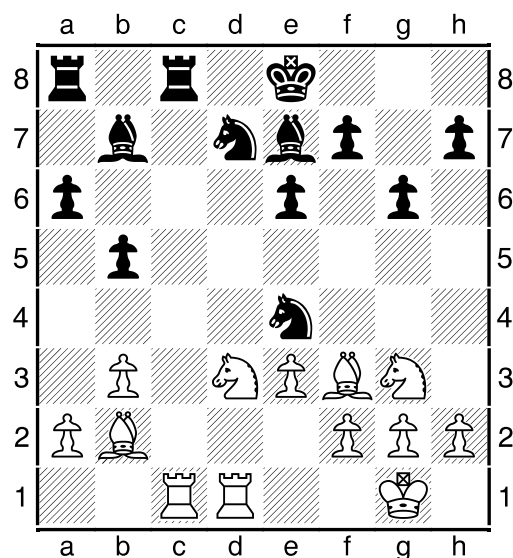
13...Rfc8 14.Nd3 Be7 15.Rac1 (D)



15...b5

15...Rxc1 16.Rxc1 Rc8 17.Rxc8+ Bxc8 ½-½ Dizdar,G-Stevic,H Rogaska Slatina 2009.

16.Nf3 Kf8 17.Nd4 Ke8 18.Bf3 Ne4 19.Ne2 g6 20.Ng3 (D)



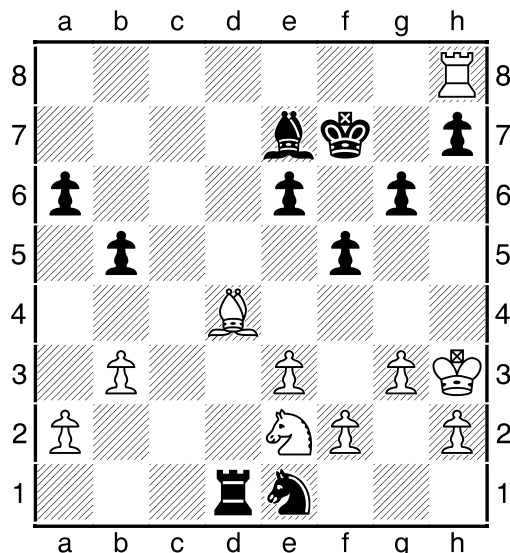
It is really impossible to win such positions with either side, but sometimes even 2500+

can mishandle them...

20...Nec5 21.Bxb7 Nxb7 22.Ne2 Nbc5
23.Nxc5 Nxc5 24.Rd2 Ne4 25.Rdc2 Rxc2
26.Rxc2 Rd8 27.g3 Rd1+ 28.Kg2 Nc5
29.Bd4 Nd3 30.Rc8+ Kd7 31.Ra8 Ne1+
32.Kh3?

32.Kf1 Nf3+ 33.Kg2 Ne1+ = was correct.

32...f5! 33.Ra7+ Ke8 34.Ra8+ Kf7 35.Rh8
(D)



35...h5?

Returning the favour. Black would be on the right track after 35...Rd2 36.Rxh7+ Ke8 37.Rh8+ Kd7 38.Rh7 Rxe2 39.Bc5 Rxf2 40.Rxe7+ Kc6 +/-.

36.Rh7+ Ke8 37.Rh8+ Kd7 38.Rh7 Ke8 39.Rh8+ Kf7 40.Rh7+ Ke8 41.Rh8+ Kd7 42.Rh7 Ke8?!

Here Black agreed to a draw, although he could try: 42...Rd2 43.Nf4 g5 44.Bf6 gxf4 45.Rxe7+ Kd6 46.gxf4 Rxf2 =+.

½-½



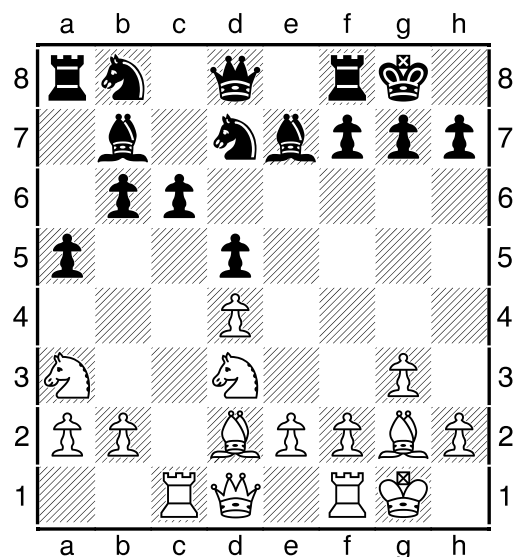
□ Martirosyan Haik (2544)

■ Sevian Samuel (2633)

E11 Saint Louis (6.2) 28.07.2017

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2

Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Na3 b6 9.Rc1
Bb7 10.Ne5 Nfd7 11.Nd3 a5 12.cxd5 exd5
(D)



13.e4!

A nice idea - White gets an isolated d-pawn but he will exert pressure on c6.

13...dxe4 14.Bxe4 Nf6 15.Bg2 Bxa3

15...Qxd4 16.Be3 Qd8 17.Nc4 oo.

16.bxa3 Ba6

16...Qxd4 is not good: 17.Bc3 Qd8 18.Ne5 Qc7 19.Re1 c5 20.Ng4! +/-.

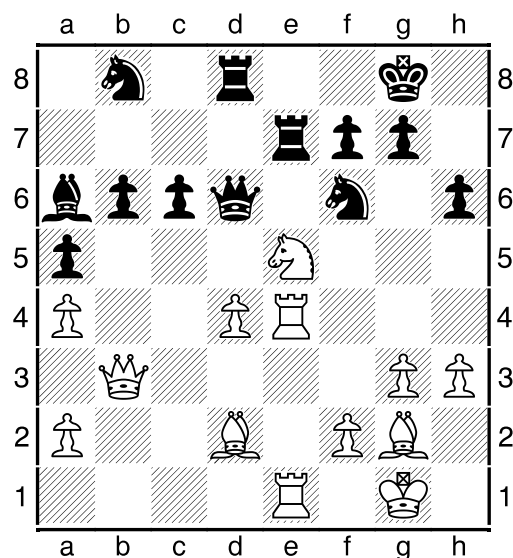
17.Be3 Nd5 18.Re1 Qd6?!

18...Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Ra7 20.Qb3 was probably a better try.

19.Ne5! Ra7 20.Bd2 Re7 21.Qb3 Rd8 22.Re4

Simple and good was 22.a4 Rde8 23.h4 +/-.

22...Nf6 23.Ree1 Nd5 24.a4! h6 25.h3 Rc7 26.Re4 Re7 27.Rce1 Nf6 (D)



28.Rh4?!

Here White missed a good chance with 28.Bf4! Qb4 (28...Nxe4 29.Nxf7 +/-) 29.R4e3 Rxd4 30.Nxf7 Qxb3 31.axb3 Rxf7 32.Bxb8 +/-.

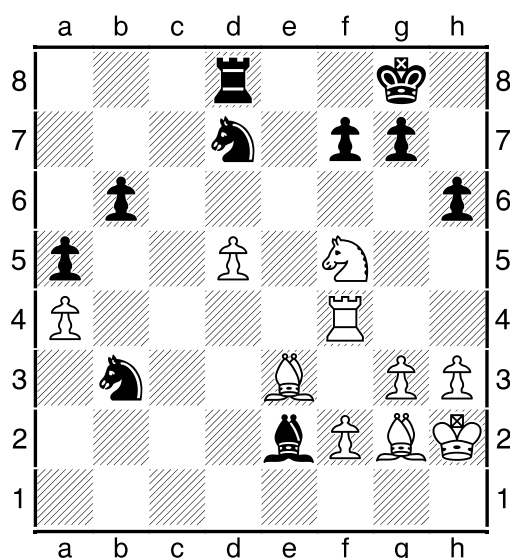
28...c5! 29.Bc3 c4?!

29...Nbd7 was better: 30.Rb1 Re6 31.Rc1 Rc8 32.Nxd7 Nxd7 33.Qb1 +=.

30.Nxc4 Rxe1+ 31.Bxe1 Qe6 32.Ne3! Qxb3 33.axb3

White has a pawn more and the bishop pair - his only concern is his misplaced h4-rook.

33...Rc8 34.Bd2 Nbd7 35.Kh2 Bd3 36.d5! Ne5 37.Rd4 Be2 38.Nf5 Rd8 39.Be3 Nxb3 40.Rf4 Nd7 (D)



41.d6!

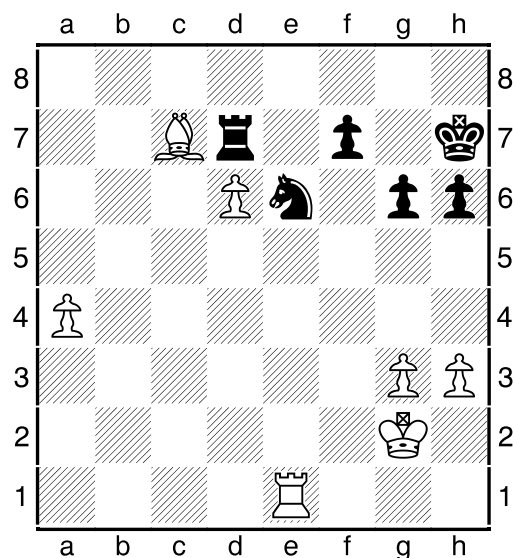
The extra pawn was returned but still the strong passed d-pawn and the bishop pair will tell.



41...Nbc5 42.Bd5 Ne5 43.Bd4 Ncd3 44.Bxb6 Rd7 45.Rd4 Ne1 46.Rf4 N1d3 47.Re4 Bf3 48.Rd4 Nxf2 49.Bxa5 g6 50.Ne7+ Kh7 51.Bc7 Nd1 52.Nc6! Nxc6 53.Rxd1 Ne5

53...Bxd1 54.Bxc6 +/-.

54.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 55.Kg2 Ng5 56.Re1 Ne6 (D)



57.Rxe6! fxe6 58.a5

And Black cannot stop the white pawns. 1-0

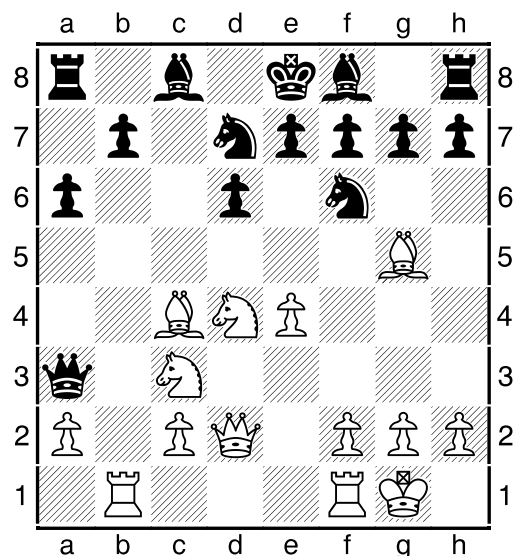


□ Burke John Michael (2479)

■ Sarana Alexey (2510)

B94 Saint Louis (6.3) 28.07.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.0-0 (D)



10...g6

A rare line, leaving White to play on his own in an unknown territory...

11.Bd5!

White wisely regains his sacrificed pawn.

11...Bg7 12.Bxb7 Rb8 13.Bc6 0-0 14.Rxb8

14.Rb3! Qc5 15.Be3 += was correct.

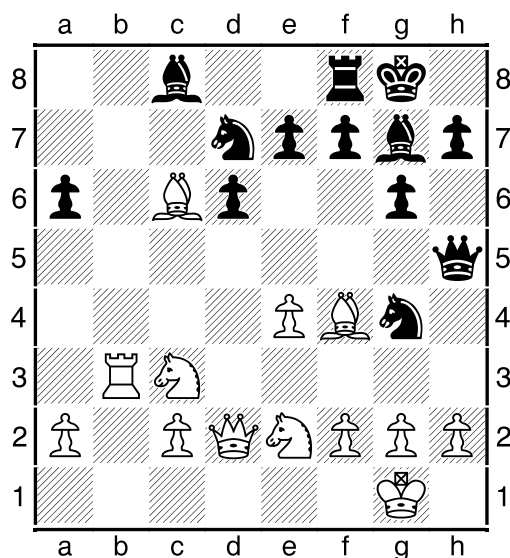
14...Nxb8 15.Rb1 Nbd7 16.Rb3 Qc5

17.Be3 Qh5 18.Nde2?

This wasn't the way to play! White had to opt for the prophylactic **18.f3! Ne5 19.Bf2 Bh6 20.Qe1 +=**.

18...Ng4! 19.Bf4? (D)

A second mistake in a row! **19.h3 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 Ne5 21.Ba4 Nc4 +=**.



19...Qc5!

Now Black wins material.

20.h3 Nxf2 21.Be3 Qxc6

21...Nxb3+! 22.gxh3 Qxc6 23.Nd5 Re8 -+.

22.Bxf2 Nc5 23.Rb8 e6

23...Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Qxe4 -+.

24.Bd4 f6 25.Be3 Nxe4 26.Nxe4 Qxe4

27.Ng3 Qe5 28.Kh2 g5?!

Good was **28...d5 29.Bf4 Bh6 30.Bxe5 Bxd2 31.Bd6 Rd8 -+.**

29.Bd4 Qd5 30.Nh5 e5 31.Nxg7 Kxg7

32.Be3 Qxd2 33.Bxd2

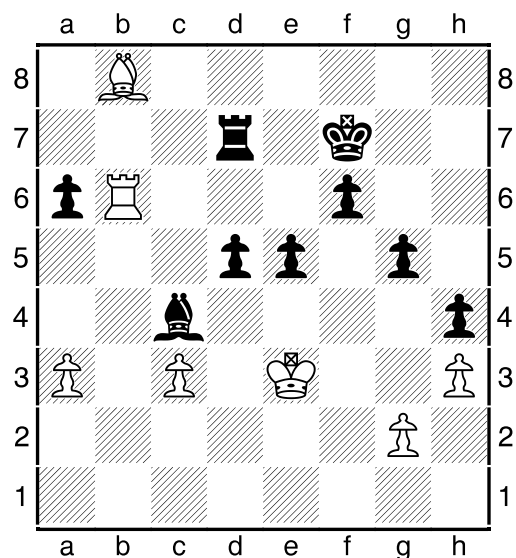
White hopes to escape in this opposite-coloured bishops' endgame but Black's material is too much for this... The rest of the game was a one-side affair...

33...Bf5 34.Rb6 d5 35.Bb4 Rf7 36.c3 Bd3

37.Kg3 h5 38.Kf2 h4 39.Bd6 Rd7 40.Ke3

Be4 41.Kf2 Bd3 42.Ke3 Bc4 43.a3 Kf7

44.Bb8 (D)



44...d4+! 45.cxd4 exd4+ 46.Kd2 Re7!

47.Rb4 Bf1 48.g3

48.Rxd4 Bxg2 is a gone story...

48...Re2+ 49.Kd1 hxg3 50.Bxg3 Re3

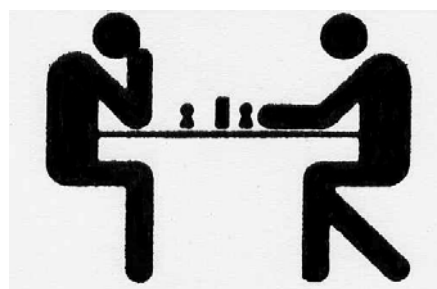
51.Bd6 Rd3+ 52.Kc2 Ke6 53.Rb6 Rc3+

54.Kd2 Rxh3 55.Bc5+ Ke5 56.Bd6+ Ke4

57.Be7 Rh2+ 58.Ke1 Bc4 59.Bxf6 g4

60.Rd6 d3 61.Bc3 Re2+ 62.Kf1 d2!

0-1



□ **Li Ruifeng (2568)**

■ **Smirnov Anton (2495)**

A01 Saint Louis (6.4) 28.07.2017

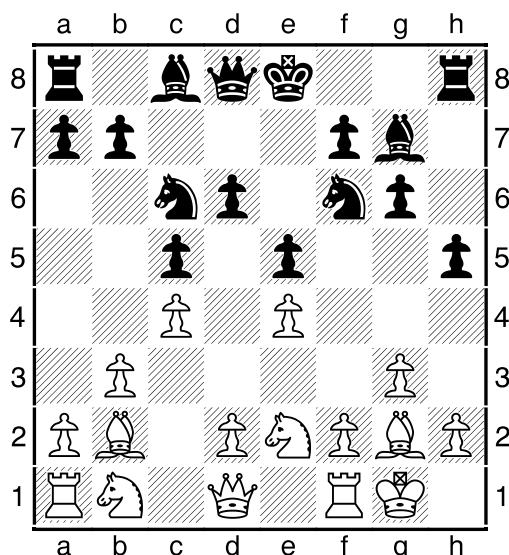
1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.e4 d6 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2

Bg7 6.Ne2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c4

Blocking the centre so early is not advisable.

Interesting was **8.c3**, with **d4** to come.

8...h5! (D)



9.h4?!

I feel that better is 9.h3 h4 10.g4 Nd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.f4 oo Souza Neves,A-Tsuboi,E Brasilia 2000.

9...Nh7! 10.d3 g5!

As the centre is closed, Black can afford to start a direct attack on the white king!

11.hxg5 Nxg5 12.f4 Nh7 13.Nd2 Bg4

13...h4! 14.gxh4 Qxh4 15.Nf3 Qg4 +/-.

14.Nf3 Qd7 15.Qd2 0-0-0

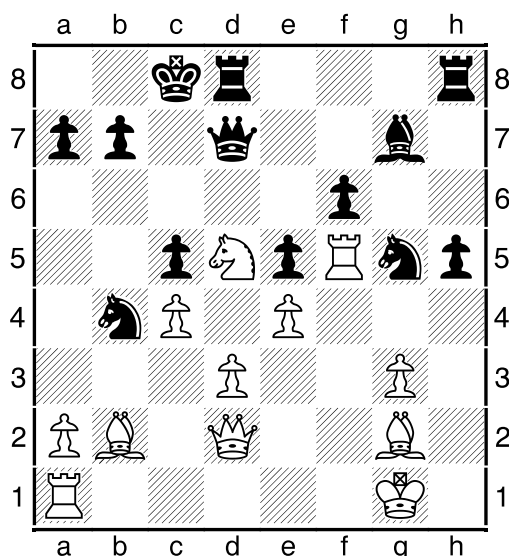
Now Black's attack should be stronger and quicker.

16.b4!/? Nxb4 17.fxe5 Bxf3 18.Rxf3 dxe5

19.Nc3 f6! 20.Nd5 Ng5 21.Rf5 (D)

21.Rxf6 Bxf6 22.Nxf6 Qg7 23.Bxe5 Nc6

24.Bb2 Nd4 25.Bxd4 Rxd4 26.e5 h4 should win for Black.



21...h4! 22.gxh4 Ne6 23.a3 Nxd5

23...Bh6! looks stronger - White will not

survive long...

24.cxd5 Nd4?!

But this loses some of the advantage.

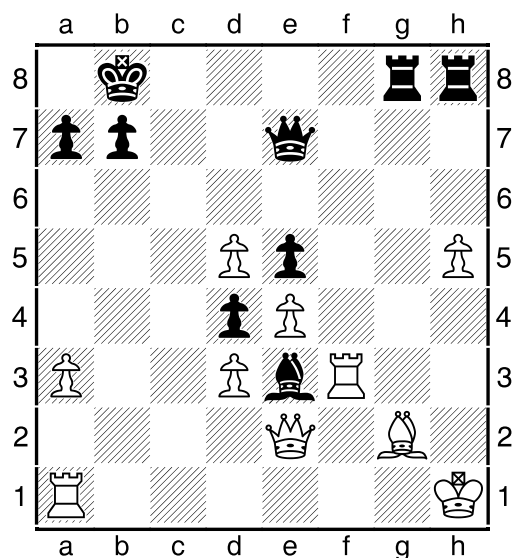
24...Nf4! was preferable: 25.Bc1 Rxb4

26.Qf2 Nh3+ 27.Bxh3 Rxb3 28.Kg2 Rbh8 -

+

25.Bxd4 cxd4 26.h5 Kb8 27.Qe2 Rdg8

28.Kh1 Bh6 29.Rxf6 Qe7 30.Rf3 Be3 (D)



The opposite-coloured bishops is a great asset when on the attack!

31.Rh3 Rg5 32.Rf1 Bf4 33.a4 Qh7 34.Rb1

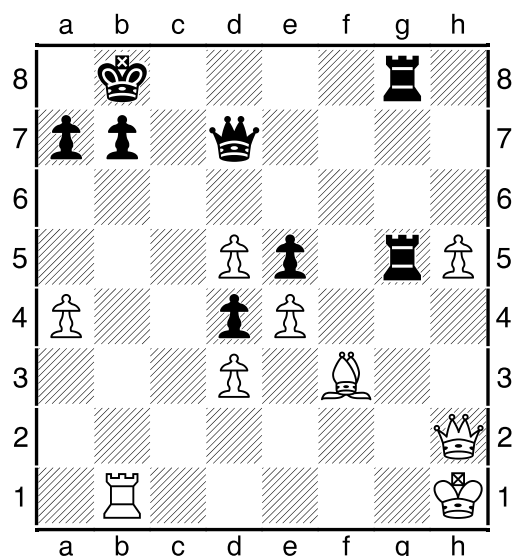
34.a5 Rxb5 35.Rxb5 Qxb5+ 36.Qxb5 Rxb5+

37.Kg1 Be3+ +/-.

34...Rhg8 35.Bf3 Qd7!

And Black wins, as the poor white rook has nowhere to go!

36.Rh4 Bg3 37.Rh2 Bxh2 38.Qxh2 (D)



38...Rg3! 39.Bg2 Rxb2

0-1

MOTM U.17 - 7th Round (29.07.2017)

The seventh round was a 'look at the past', as another 2-2 draw appeared! Well, it was not bad for the World, as the team clinched victory with one match to go (17-11)!

This time Chopra vs. Xiong chose a solid opening, avoiding the dangerous paths of the 'Sicilian Defence', achieving a draw.

Smirnov played extremely bad vs. Sevian, getting a passive and bad position straight from the opening and the later had no real problems to convert his advantage.

Martirosyan got a slightly better ending vs. Li, but he was unable to convert it; anyway his advantage was minimum.

Esipenko equalised the match as Checa continued to play uncertain and he couldn't hold his inferior position.

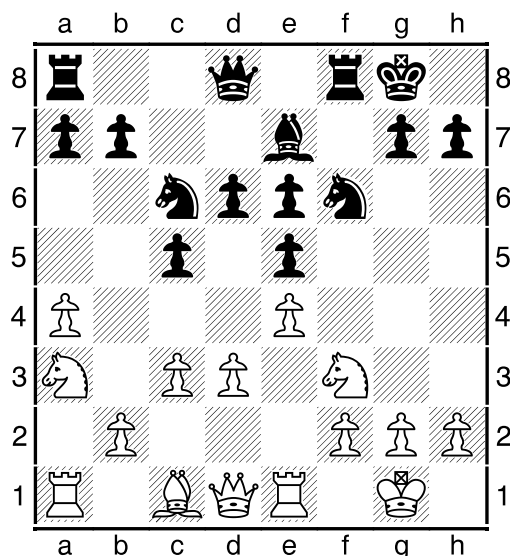
7 th Round - 2:2			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Chopra	Xiong	½:½
B2	Smirnov	Sevian	0:1
B3	Martirosyan	Li	½:½
B4	Esipenko	Checa	1:0

□ Xiong Jeffery (2642)

■ Chopra Aryan (2491)

C55 Saint Louis (7.1) 29.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 d6 7.a4 Na5 8.Ba2 c5 9.Na3 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.c3 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.b4 oo Kramnik,V-Carlsen,M Paris 2016.
9...Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.c3 Nc6 (D)



12.b4?!

Too optimistic. 12.Bd2 looks natural.

12...cxb4 13.cxb4 Nxb4 14.Qb3 d5!

15.Nxe5 Nc6

15...Bc5 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Rxe3 Nc6 is probably more accurate, when Black is more than OK.

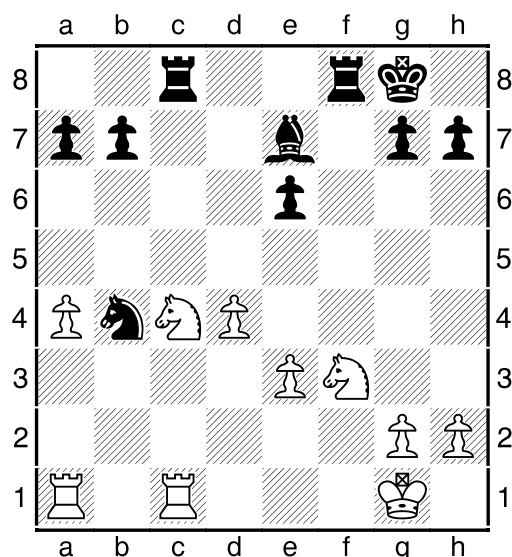
16.Nf3 Ng4

16...Bb4 17.exd5 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 exd5 19.Re2 Rfe8 is another good line for Black.

17.exd5 Qxd5 18.Qc4 Qxc4

18...Bf6! 19.Rb1 Nd4 is quite satisfactory for Black.

19.Nxc4 Bc5 20.Be3 Nxe3 21.fxe3 Nb4 22.d4 Be7 23.Rec1 Rac8 (D)



The position offers equal chances.

24.Nce5?!

24.a5 Nd3 25.Rd1 Nb4 26.Rdc1 =.

24...Nd5 25.Kf2 Bg5 26.Ng4 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 h5 28.Ke2 Bf4

28...Rxf3 29.gxf3 hxf4 30.Rc8+ Kh7 31.e4 Nf4+ 32.Kf2 Bh4+ 33.Ke3 Ng2+ 34.Ke2 Nf4+ =.

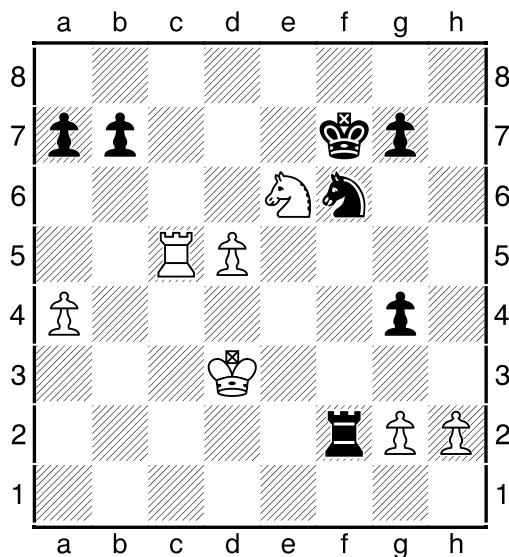
29.exf4 Nxf4+ 30.Kd2 hxf4 31.Ng5 Nd5 32.Nxe6 Rf2+ 33.Kd3 Kf7 34.Nd8+ Kg6 35.Rc5 Nf6

35...Nb4+! 36.Kc4 Nc2 37.Nxb7 Rxf7 38.d5 Rxf7 39.d6 g3 40.d7 Rd2 41.Rc6+ Kh7 42.Rd6 Rxd6 43.Nxd6 g2 44.d8Q g1Q =.

36.Ne6

36.Rc2! Rxc2 37.Kxc2 b6 38.Kd3 +=.

36...Kf7 37.d5 (D)



The position is equal, but these young players are used to play king vs. king!

37...Ke7 38.Rc7+ Kd6 39.Rxb7 Nxd5 40.Nxg7 Rxg2 41.Ke4 Rxh2 42.Nf5+ Kc6 43.Rxa7 Re2+ 44.Kd3 Nf4+ 45.Kd4 Ne6+ 46.Kd3 Nf4+ 47.Kd4

½-½

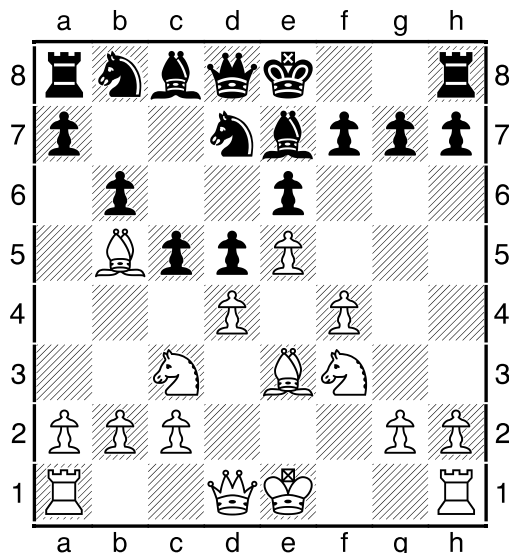


□ Sevian Sam (2633)

■ Smirnov Anton (2495)

C11 Saint Louis (7.2) 29.07.2017

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Be3 b6 8.Bb5 (D)



8...a6?!

Maybe not the best, as Black loses the option of ...Ba6. 8...0-0 9.h4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nc5 11.Qd2 a6 12.Bd3 f5 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.0-0-0 Ra7 15.h5 Rc7 16.Kb1 Nc6 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.Ne2 Qc7 19.Bd4 e5 20.fxe5 Bxe5 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.Nd4 Rcf6 23.Nf3 Qg3 24.h6 ½-½ Cabarkapa, N-Markidis, K Novi Sad 2015.

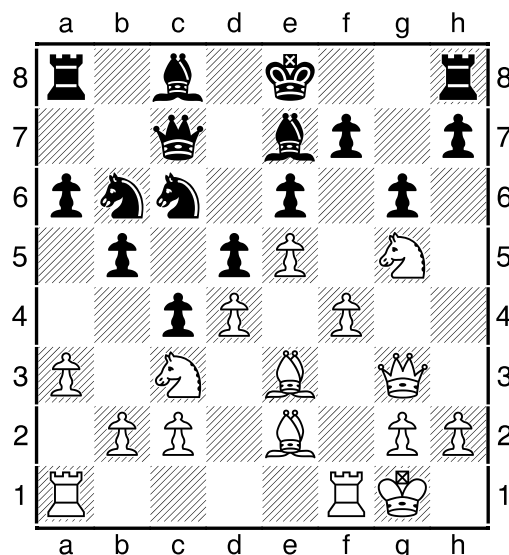
9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 g6 11.a3 c4

Such moves are quite committal, as blocking the centre is not advisable.

12.Be2 b5 13.Qe1 Nb6?!

The text is doing nothing. Black should get active with 13...Rb8, with ...a5 and ...b4 to follow.

14.Qg3 Qc7 15.Ng5 (D)



15...Bxg5?

Bad play by Smirnov - now White gets a clear target - the f7-pawn. And what's worse: Black can't threaten anything; can't make any good plan to fight against...

16.fxg5! Bb7 17.Qh3 0-0-0 18.Rf4

Black is now plain lost, as he has no counterplay to show for his deficit on the f-file.

18...Rdg8 19.Raf1 Rg7 20.Qh6 Rhg8 21.R1f3 Qe7 22.Nd1!

Simply preparing Nf2-g4-f6.

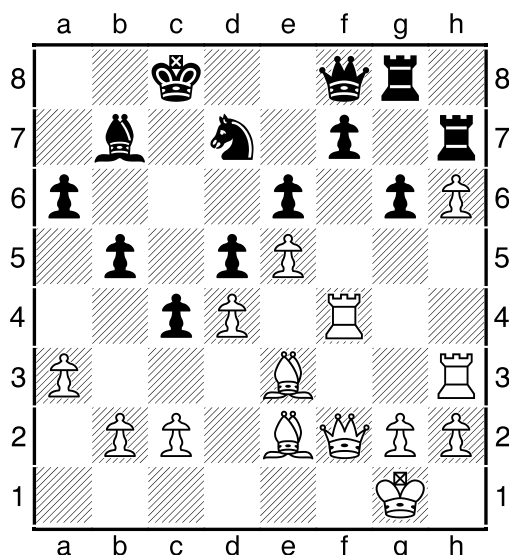
22...Qf8 23.Qh4 Ne7 24.Bd2 Nf5 25.Qf2 h5 26.gxh6 Rh7 27.Rh3

27.Rxf5!? gxf5 28.Rxf5 +.

27...Nd7 28.Ne3 Nxe3

28...Rxh6!? 29.Nxf5 gxf5 30.Rxh6 Qxh6 31.Rg4 Qh8 32.Rxg8+ Qxg8 33.Qh4 +.

29.Bxe3 (D)



Black is plain lost and the rest was easy.

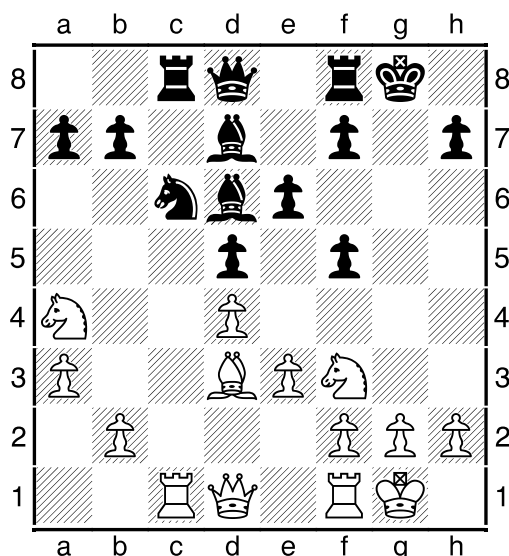
29...g5 30.Rg4 Qd8 31.Rf3 Rxh6 32.Rxf7 Bc6 33.h4! Qa5 34.Bxg5 Rhg6 35.c3 Qa4 36.Bf3 a5 37.Qd2 b4 38.h5 bxa3 39.bxa3 R6g7 40.Rxg7 Rxg7 41.h6 Rh7 42.Qc1 Qb5 43.Bf4 Rh8 44.Rg7 Nf8 45.Bg5 Be8 46.Be7 1-0

□ Martirosyan Haik (2544)

■ Li Ruifeng (2568)

D10 Saint Louis (7.3) 29.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Bg5 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.e3 e6 7...a6 8.Rc1 Bf5 9.Bd3 Bg6 10.f4 f5 11.h4 h5 12.Nf3 e6 13.Na4 f6 14.Nc5 += Grischuk,A-Carlsen,M Paris 2017. 8.Nf3 Bd7 9.Bd3 Bd6 10.0-0 f5 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.a3 0-0 13.Na4 (D)



13...Nxd4

Black decided to take the offered pawn. Known is 13...b6 14.Nc3 Ne7 15.Qe2 Ng6 16.Rc2 Qf6 17.Bb5 Bxb5 18.Qxb5 Kh8 19.Qa6 Rc7 20.Qd3 Rg8 21.Rfc1 Qg7 22.Kf1 Qh6 23.h3 Nh4 24.Nxh4 Qxh4 25.Ne2 Rxc2 26.Rxc2 Qg5 27.g3 h5 28.h4 Qg4 29.Ke1 Qf3 30.Qd1 Qh1+ 31.Kd2 Qf3 32.Qe1 b5 33.Kc1 b4 34.axb4 Rb8 35.Nf4 Bxf4 36.exf4 Qe4 37.Qd1 Kg7 38.Qxh5 Rxb4 39.Qg5+ Kh7 40.Qh5+ Kg7 1/2-1/2 Ivanisevic,I-Predojevic,B Zlatibor 2006.

14.exd4 Rxc1 15.Qxc1 Bxa4 16.Qh6!

Now White has a lot of compensation, towards the black monarch.

16...f6

Black had to stop the Ng5 threat.

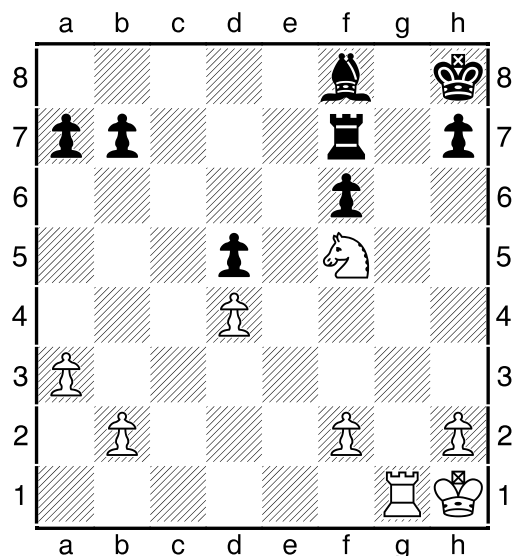
17.g4!

Regaining the pawn.

17...Rf7 18.gxf5 Bf8?!

18...e5! 19.dxe5 Bxe5 (19...fxe5? 20.Kh1! Qf8 21.Rg1+ Kh8 22.Ng5! +-) 20.Qh4 Qd7 21.Kh1 was unclear.

19.Qh3 exf5 20.Bxf5 Bd7 21.Kh1 Bxf5 22.Qxf5 Qd7 23.Rg1+ Kh8 24.Nh4 Qxf5 25.Nxf5 (D)



White achieved a slightly better ending due to his excellent placed knight.

25...Rc7 26.Ne3 Rd7 27.Rg3 Bh6 28.Nf5 Bf4 29.Rf3 Bc7 30.Ne3?!

Now Black gets enough counterplay. Better was 30.Kg2! Kg8 31.Kh3 Kf7 32.Kg4 +=.

30...Kg7 31.Kg2 Kg6 32.a4 a5 33.b3 Bb6 34.Rf4 h5 35.h3 Kf7 36.Kf1 Ke6 37.Ke2 Rg7! 38.Kd3 Bc7 39.Rf3 Rg1 40.Nf5 Rg5

41.Ne3 Rg1 42.Ke2 Bb6 43.Kd3 Bc7
½-½

□ Esipenko Andrey (2523)

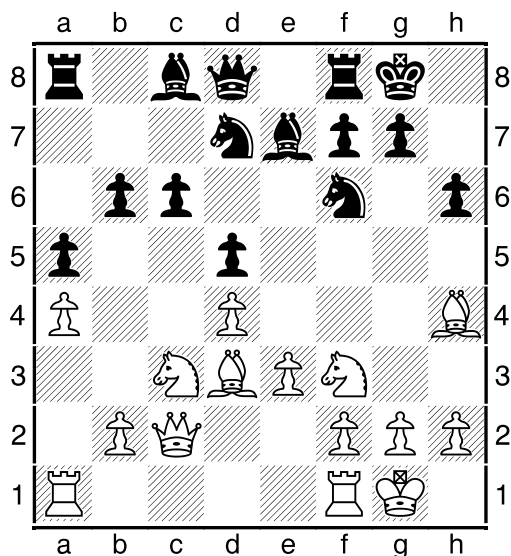
■ Checa Nicolas (2415)

D15 Saint Louis (7.4) 29.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 e6
6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e3 a5

7...h6 8.Bh4 Be7 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 c5
11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.Rc1 +=
Wang, Y-Ni, H China 2015.

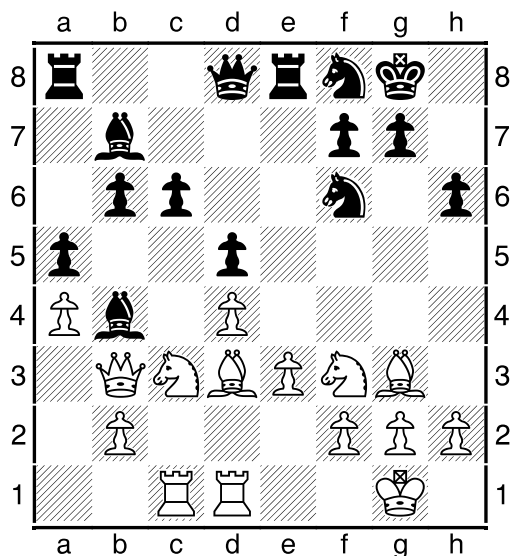
8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 h6 11.Bh4 b6
12.cxd5 exd5 (D)



13.Rfe1

An interesting new move and probably better than 13.Bg3 Ba6 ½-½ Tarnopolsky, A-Nisman, B Petah Tiqwa 2011.

13...Bb7 14.Rac1 Re8 15.Bf5 Nf8 16.Qb3
Bc8 17.Bd3 Bb7 18.Bg3 Bb4 19.Red1 (D)



White stands slightly better but it is difficult to improve without Black's cooperation.

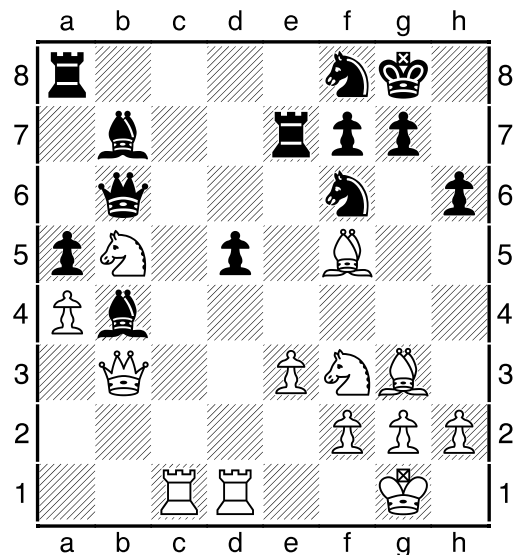
19...c5?!

I do not think than Black is ready to open the centre, so preferable was 19...Nh5.

20.dxc5 bxc5 21.Qc2 Qb6 22.Nb5! c4

22...Ne6 23.Bf5 Ba6 24.Bxe6 Rxe6 25.Nc7
Rc8 26.Nxe6 Qxe6 is interesting; this exchange sacrifice is not that bad...

23.Bf5 Re7 24.b3! cxb3 25.Qxb3 (D)



Now Black is left with an isolated d-pawn as well.

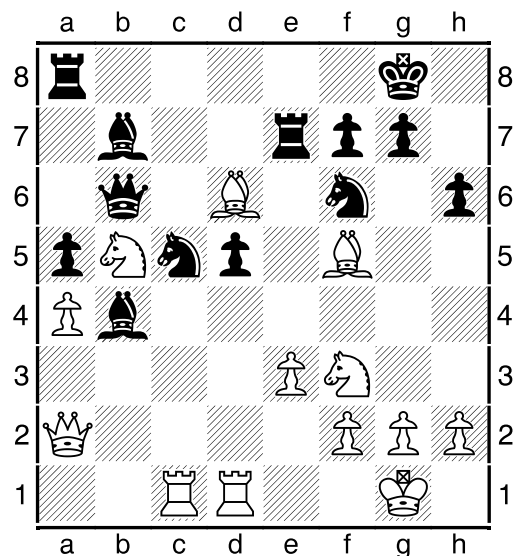
25...N8d7?!

25...Ne4 26.Be5 Ne6 was more or less forced.

26.Qa2?!

Why not 26.Bxd7! Rxd7 (26...Nxd7 27.Nc7
Rf8 28.Nxd5 +/-) 27.Ne5 Re7 28.Nd3 +/-.

26...Nc5 27.Bd6 (D)



27...Ree8?

27...Nb3! 28.Rc3! Bxd6 29.Nxd6 Qxd6
30.Rxb3 += was Black's best.

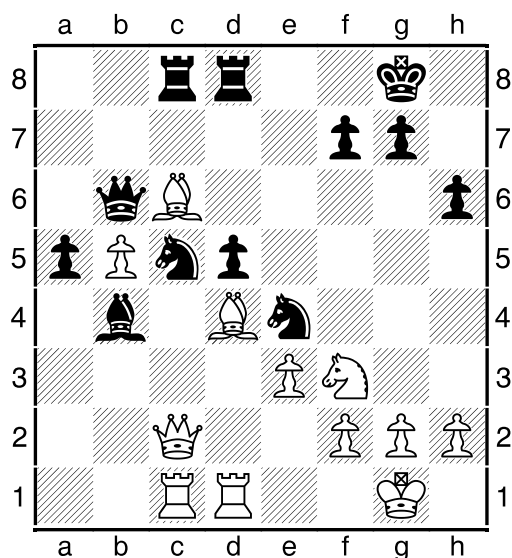
28.Bc7 Qa6 29.Be5 Qb6 30.Bd4

30.Bb1!? was interesting, as then White could combine an attack with pressure down the c-file after a potential Qc2. But the text also preserves a serious advantage.

30...Ba6 31.Qc2 Bxb5 32.axb5 Nfe4

32...Qxb5 33.Bxc5 Rac8 34.Bxc8 Rxc8
35.Qb1 +/-.

33.Bd7 Red8 34.Bc6 Rac8 (D)



35.Ne1?

35.Nh4! ends the game.

35...Qb8 36.Nd3

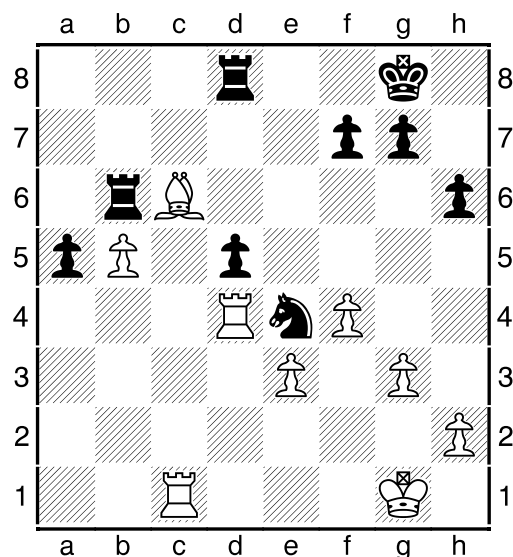
White could also go for 36.f3, although after 36...Nd6! 37.Bxc5 Nxb5 38.Bxb4 axb4 39.Qb3 Nc3 40.Rxc3 bxc3 41.Qxb8 Rxb8 Black retains some survival chances.

36...Nxd3 37.Qxd3 Bd6 38.f4! Bc7 39.g3 Bb6 40.Bxb6 Qxb6 41.Qd4 Rb8?!

Black has nothing to hope in the endgame,

so he should preserve queens with 41...Qb8, seeking some future counterplay.

42.Qxb6 Rxb6 43.Rd4 (D)



The ending is lost for Black, as his rooks lack activity, while his d- and a-pawns are quite weak.

43...Kf8 44.Kf1 Ke7 45.Ke2 Nd6

45...Nf6 loses to 46.Ra4.

46.Rxd5 Rdb8 47.Rcc5! a4 48.Kd3!

The white king will stop the activity of the black a-pawn.

48...a3 49.Kc2 a2

Maybe Black should try 49...Nb7, but anyway White will win after 50.Rd7+ Kf8 51.Bxb7 R6xb7 52.Rxb7 Rxb7 53.Kb3 Ra7 54.Ka2 Ke7 55.e4.

50.Kb2 Ra6 51.Ka1 Ra5 52.e4 f6 53.e5 fxe5 54.Rxe5+ Kf6 55.g4 g6 56.g5+ hxg5 57.fxg5+ Kf7 58.Rcd5 Nf5 59.Rd7+ Kf8 60.Re6 Nh4 61.Ree7 Raxb5 62.Rf7+ Kg8 63.Rg7+ Kh8 64.Rh7+ Kg8 65.Bxb5 1-0



Alexander Chernin & Alexander Beliavsky

MOTM U.17 - 8th Round (29.07.2017)

The eighth and last round resulted to another fighting 2-2 draw, for an overall win for the World 19-13.

For the second time Xiong benefited by a bad opening choice of Sarana and again he got a winning rook ending. But he gain failed to convert it...

Chopra failed to impress in the opening, as Sevian was able to equalise without many troubles. But then the later played inaccurate, giving White the chance to win a pawn and maybe the game, but...

Esipenko walked into a prepared variation by Li and he was blown-up in no time. The later nicely converted his advantage.

For another one time Checa wasn't up to the needs of his team and blundered an exchange, giving Martirosyan an easy win.

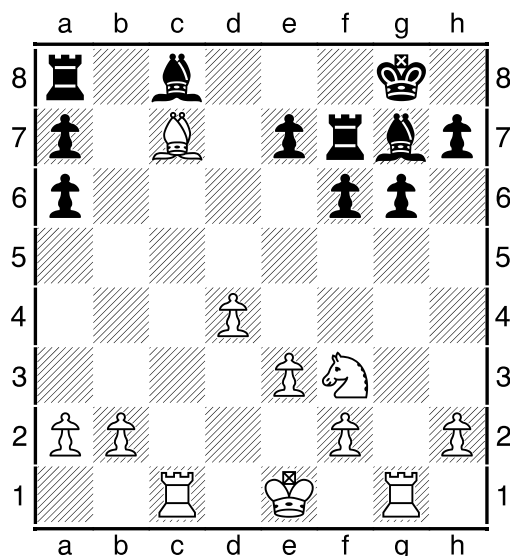
8 th Round - 2:2			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Sarana	Xiong	½:½
B2	Chopra	Sevian	½:½
B3	Esipenko	Li	0:1
B4	Martirosyan	Checa	1:0

□ Sarana Alexey (2510)

■ Xiong Jeffery (2642)

D84 Saint Louis (8.1) 29.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nxd5 Qxd5 8.Bxc7 Na6 9.Bxa6 Qxg2 10.Qf3 Qxf3 11.Nxf3 bxa6 12.Rg1 f6 13.Rc1 Rf7 (D)



14.Ke2

Black hardly faces any problem in this variation. Another game went 14.b3 Bf8 15.Nd2 Bb7 16.Ke2 Re8 17.f3 e5 18.dxe5 Bb4 19.Ne4 fxe5 20.Ng5 Rfe7 21.Rgd1 Rc8 22.Rd8+ Rxd8 23.Bxd8 Rd7 24.Rd1 Rxd1 25.Kxd1 h6 26.Ne4 Bxe4 27.fxe4 Kf7 28.Bc7 Ke6 29.Ke2 g5 30.h3 h5 31.Kf3 Be7 32.Ba5 Kd7 33.Bc3 Bd6 34.Ba5 Bc7 35.Bb4 a5 36.Bc3 a4 37.bxa4 Kc6 38.Ke2 Kc5 39.Kd3 g4 40.hxg4 hxg4 41.Be1 Bd6 42.a3 Kc6 43.Bg3 a6 ½-½ Giri,A-Vachier La-grave,M Leuven 2017.

14...Bd7 15.d5 e5 16.d6 Re8

Not bad, but even 'better' seems to be 16...Bb5+ 17.Ke1 Bf8 18.Nd2 Rc8 19.Rc3 f5 20.Nb3 e4 21.Nd4 Rd7 22.Nxf5 Kf7 23.Nd4 Bxd6 24.Bxd6 Rxc3 25.bxc3 Rxd6 26.Rg5 Bd3 ½-½ Thorsteinsson,T-Baron,T Ortisei 2012.

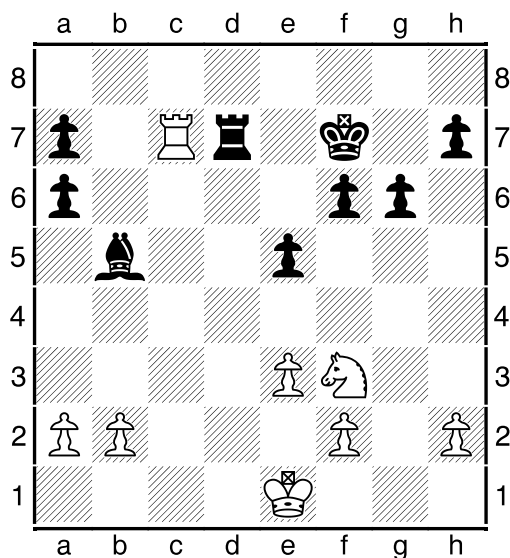
17.Rc5 Bb5+ 18.Kd2?

18.Ke1 should have been played.

18...Bf8 19.Rgc1 Re6

19...Bxd6! 20.Bxd6 Rd8 was another way to go.

20.Rd5 Rd7 21.Ke1 Bxd6 22.Bxd6 Rxd6 23.Rxd6 Rxd6 24.Rc8+ Kf7 25.Rc7+ Rd7 (D)



Black has won a pawn and he should win the game as well, as his bishop is a superior minor piece compared to the white knight.

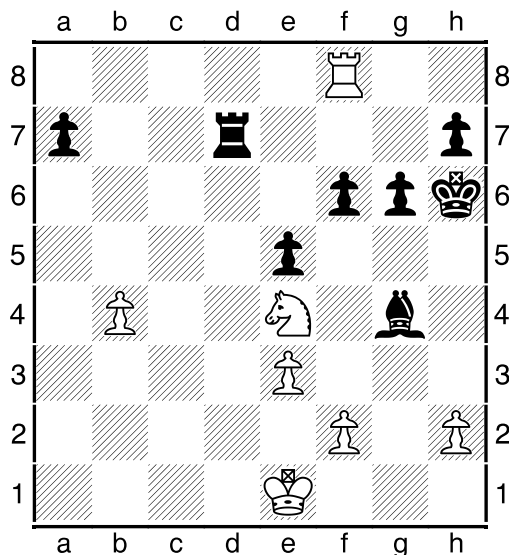
26.Rc8 Rb7

26...Ke6, with ...Kf5 and ...g5, ...h5 to follow, seems like the right plan for Black.

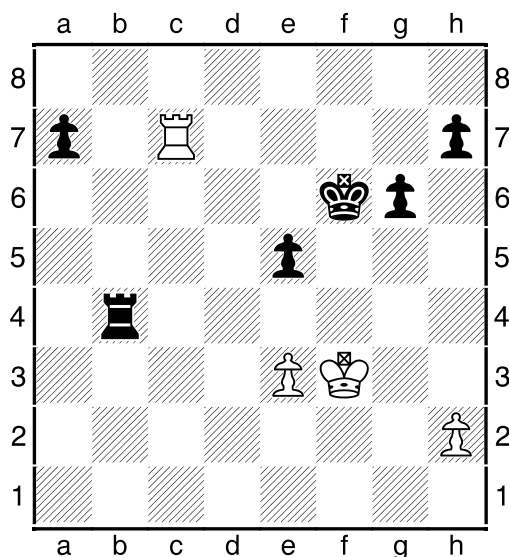
27.b3 a5 28.Nd2 a4 29.Ne4 axb3 30.axb3

30.Nd6+? Ke7 31.Nxb7 b2 -+.

30...Bd7 31.Rh8 Kg7 32.Ra8 Rc7 33.Nd6 Kh6 34.Rf8 Be6 35.b4 Rd7 36.Ne4 Bg4 (D)



37.f3! Bxf3 38.Nxf6 Rb7 39.Kf2 Kg7 40.Rc8 Kxf6 41.Kxf3 Rxb4 42.Rc7 (D)



A critical point, where Xiong again fails to understand the needs of the rook ending...

42...Rh4?

42...h5! wins: 43.Rxa7 Kg5 44.Re7 Rb2 45.Kg3 (45.h3 Kh4 -+) 45...Kf5 -+.

43.Kg3 g5 44.Rxa7 Kf5 45.h3

Now White can hold.

45...Ke4 46.Rg7 Rh6 47.Rxg5 Rf6 48.Rh5 h6 49.Kg2 Rf8 50.Rxh6 Kxe3 51.Ra6 Rg8+

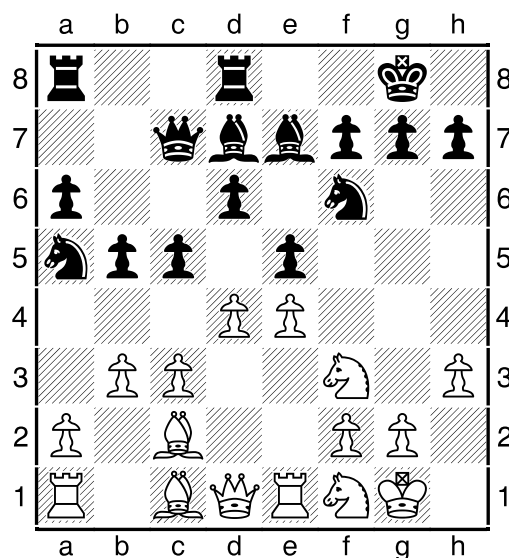
½-½

□ **Chopra Aryan (2491)**

■ **Sevian Sam (2633)**

C97 Saint Louis (8.2) 29.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Rd8 13.b3 Bd7 14.Nf1 (D)



14...c4!?

A new idea. Known is 14...Nc6 15.d5 Nb8 16.a4 += Ivanchuk,V-Graf,A Yucatan 2004.

15.b4 exd4 16.Nxd4

16.bxa5 d3 is not what White had wished for his opening choice...

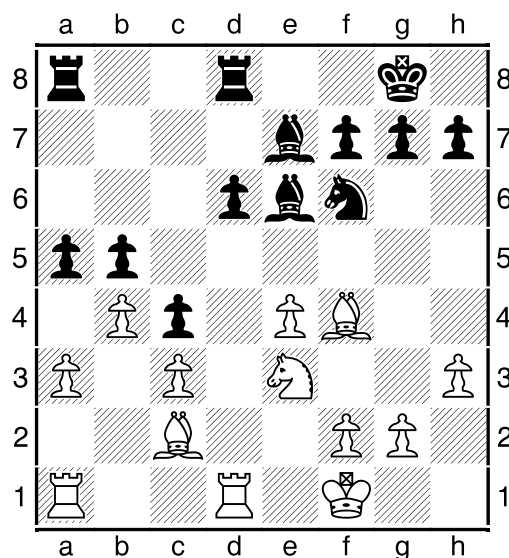
16...Nc6 17.Bf4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Be6 19.Ne3?!

19.a4 += should be the correct follow up.

19...a5 20.a3 Qa7

20...Nh5!? 21.Bh2 Bf6 22.Qd2 Be5 oo.

21.Qxa7 Rxa7 22.Red1 Raa8 23.Kf1 (D)



Black equalised and should have his own

chances now.

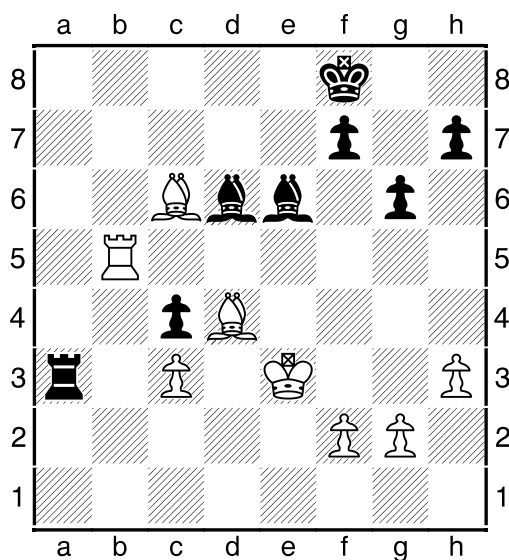
**23...Kf8 24.e5 dxe5 25.Bxe5 g6 26.Ke2 Nd5?!
26...Rxd1 27.Rxd1 axb4 28.axb4 Ra2
29.Rd2 =.**

27.Be4! Nxe3 28.Kxe3?!

28.fxe3! Ra6 29.a4!, would have caused some problems for Black, who would have to work again his path to equality.

**28...Rxd1 29.Rxd1 Ra6 30.Bd4 axb4
31.axb4 Ra3 32.Bc6 Bxb4 33.Rb1 Bd6
33...Bxc3? 34.Bc5+ +-.**

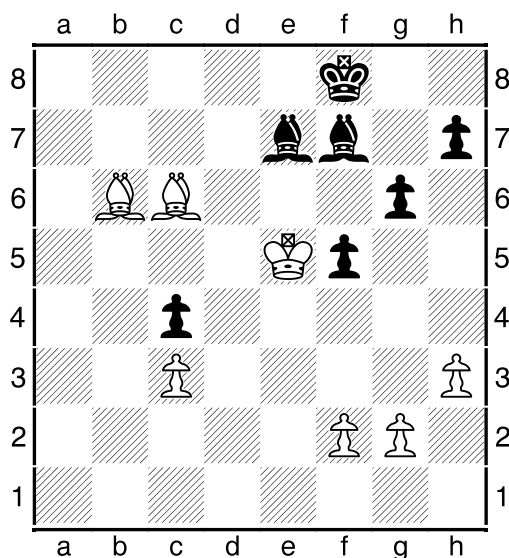
34.Rxb5 (D)



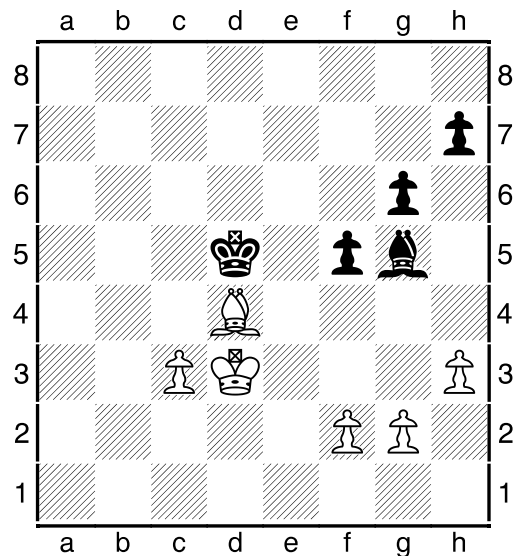
34...Rb3?

Now Black will suffer and lose a pawn, as the centralised white king will make the difference. Good was 34...h5 =, as Black needs his rook active.

**35.Ra5 Ra3 36.Rxa3 Bxa3 37.Bb6 Be7
38.Ke4 f5+ 39.Ke5 Bf7 (D)**



**40.Bc7 Bg5 41.Kd4 Ke7 42.Bd5 Bxd5
43.Kxd5 Kd7 44.Bb6 Bf6 45.Kxc4 Kc6
46.Bd4 Bd8 47.Be3 Bf6 48.Kd3 Kd5
49.Bd4 Bg5 (D)**



50.Ke2?!

Making Black's life easier! White was obliged to try 50.c4+ Kc6 51.Ke2 h5, when although there is no clear path to the win, there is also no clear path to the draw...

50...Kc4!

Now it's a dead draw.

**51.g4 fxg4 52.hxg4 Bc1 53.Be5 Kd5 54.Bf6
Kc4 55.Kf3 Kd3 56.Kg3 Bd2 57.Kh4 Bf4
58.Bg7 Bd2 59.Bf6 Bf4 60.Bd4 Ke4 61.Be3
Bxe3 62.fxe3 Kxe3 63.Kg5 h5 64.gxh5
gxh5 65.c4 Kd4 66.Kxh5 Kxc4
½-½**



□ Li Ruifeng (2568)

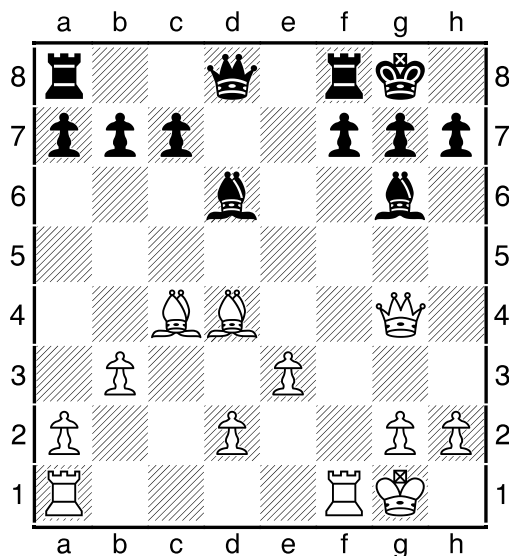
■ Esipenko Andrey (2523)

A01 Saint Louis (8.3) 29.07.2017

**1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Nd4 Nf6 5.e3
Nxd4 6.Bxd4 d5**

6...Be7 7.c4 0-0 8.Nc3 c6 looks fine for Black.

**7.c4! dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bd6 9.Nc3 Bf5 10.f3 0-0
11.0-0 Bg6 12.fxe4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Bxe4
14.Qg4 Bg6 (D)**



15.Rf5!

This is not the position Black should have opted for, as White's initiative is now strong and the text move has been already played beforehand!

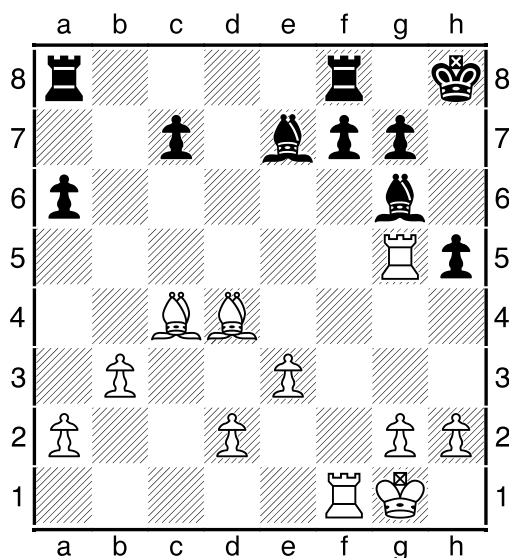
15...b5?!

White had already won a game beforehand after 15...c5 16.Bc3 Qc8 (16...b5!? 17.Bxb5 Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 +/-) 17.Raf1 Kh8 18.Qg5 f6 19.Rxf6 Rxf6 20.Rxf6 Qc6 21.Bd5 Qb6 22.Qxg6 hxg6 23.Rf3 Bxh2+ 24.Kh1 Bf4 25.Rh3+ 1-0 Li,R-He,A Las Vegas 2017. But of course the text cannot solve Black's problems...

16.Bxb5 Qc8 17.Rg5 Qxg4 18.Rxg4 a6 19.Bc4 Kh8 20.Rf1

White has won a good pawn and he is in the driver's seat.

20...h5 21.Rg5 Be7 (D)



22.Rxf7!

A nice combination, which clears up the game.

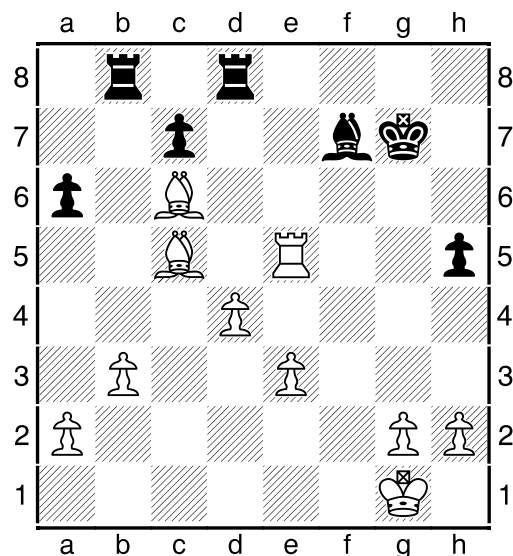
22...Bxf7

22...Rxf7 23.Rxg6 Rf5 24.Rh6 #.

23.Bxg7+ Kg8 24.Bf6+ Kh7 25.Bxe7 Rfe8 26.Bd3+ Kh6 27.Re5

Three pawns and the bishop pair for a mere exchange...

27...Kg7 28.Be4 Rab8 29.Bc6 Rg8 30.Bc5 Rgd8 31.d4 (D)



31...Re8!?

Black can't move, so he decided to seek his salvation into an oposite-coloured bishops' endgame. But three pawns are simply too many...

32.Bxe8 Rxe8 33.Rxe8 Bxe8 34.Kf2 Bc6 35.h3

35.g4 hxg4 36.Kg3 +/-.

35...Kf7 36.g4 h4

36...hxg4 37.hxg4 +/-.

37.Bb4 Ke6 38.Ba5 Kd7 39.Kg1!

And a fourth pawn falls now!

39...Bf3 40.Be1 Ke6 41.Bxh4 Kd5 42.Kf2 Ke4 43.Bg5

1-0

□ **Checa Nicolas (2415)**

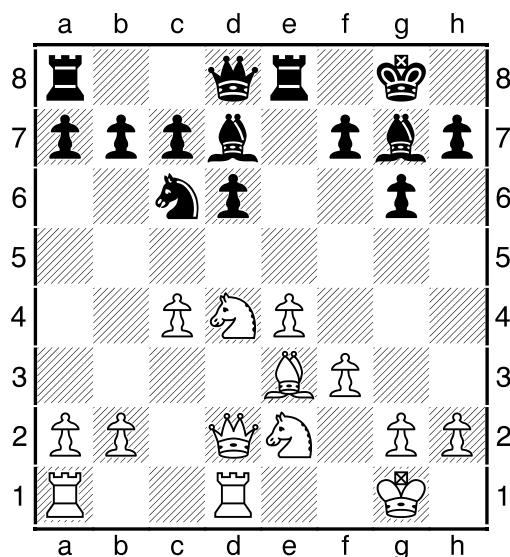
■ **Martirosyan Haik (2544)**

A41 Saint Louis (8.4) 29.07.2017

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.Nh4 Bd7 6.e4 e5 7.Nf3

Nothing is gained by 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Be2 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 11.h3 Be6 = Li,C-Mamedov,R Huaian 2016.

7...exd4 8.Nxd4 Bg7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Nc6
11.Be3 Re8 12.f3 Nh5 13.Qd2 Nf4 14.Rfd1
Nxe2+ 15.Ncxe2 (D)



15...Ne5!

A good novelty. Known is 15...Nxd4
16.Bxd4 Be6 17.b3 Qe7 ½-½ Franca,V-
Suc,T Nova Gorica 2012.

16.Rac1?!

White had to opt for 16.b3, when Black
(among others) can try 16...c5 17.Nc2 f5!?
oo.

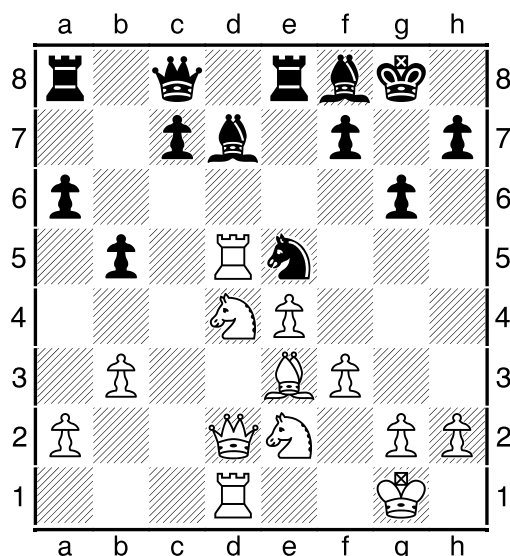
16...a6?

Here Black missed the strong 16...c5!
17.Nb5 (17.Nb3 Be6 -/+) 17...Nxc4 18.Rxc4
Bxb5 19.Rc2 Bc6 =+.

17.b3

17.Bh6 += was also nice.

17...b5 18.c5 dxc5 19.Rxc5 Bf8 20.Rd5!
Qc8 (D)



21.Bh6?

A blunder 21.Bf4! oo was preserving an
unclear, dynamic game.

21...c6!

Black wins the exchange, without giving
White too much compensation.

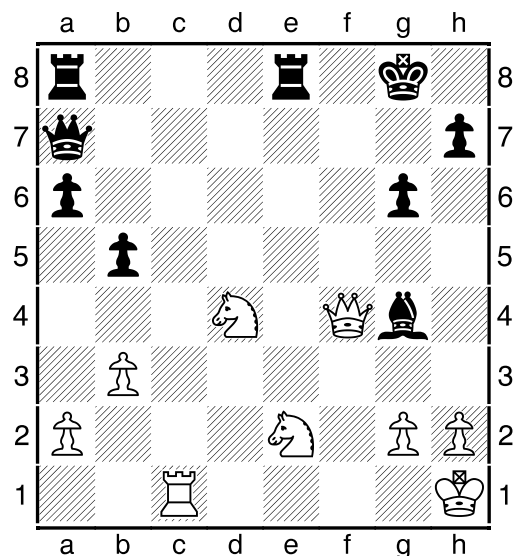
22.Bxf8 cxd5 23.Bh6 dxe4 24.Qf4 f5!

25.fxe4 Nf7 26.exf5 Bxf5 27.Rc1 Qb8

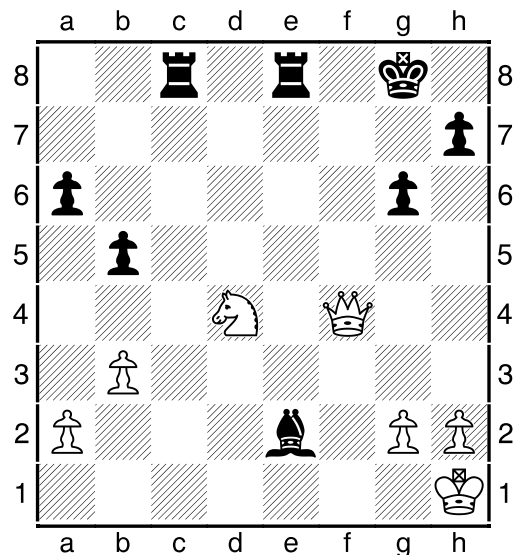
27...Qd8 28.Nxf5 Rxe2 was even better.

28.Qd2 Nxe6 29.Qxe6 Qa7 30.Kh1 Bg4!

31.Qf4 (D)



31...Bxe2! 32.Rc7 Qxc7 33.Qxc7 Rac8
34.Qf4 (D)



34...Rf8!

0-1



U.14 - The Players & Recap of the Results

	Praggnanandhaa Ramesh Babu (India) Born 10.08.2005 - Representing The World - Board 1 (IM 2479). The World's youngest International Master and one of the greatest hopes of India, lived-up to his name. He didn't show his best form, but he was still able to score a good 3/4 (+2 =2 -0), against a field of 2435 average rating, gaining 7.8 rating points. He started slow by drawing his first two games with the white pieces, but then he scored 2/2 with the black pieces! He lost a great chance vs. Liang to score a win in the first game but he was under pressure vs. Hong in his second.
	Abdusattorov Nodirbek (Uzbekistan) Born 18.09.2004 - Representing The World - Board 2 (IM 2467). The great hope of Uzbek chess, with an excellent tactical eye and already a quite mature understanding of both the game and the psychology of the opponent. He was able to score enough points to have a total score of 2½/4 (+2 =1 -1), against a field of 2435 average rating, gaining 3.4 rating points. He survived a lost position in the first round, as his opponent ran into time-trouble but he refused to take a draw in the last, resulting to his only defeat.
	Assaubayeva Bibisara (Russia) Born 26.02.2004 - Representing The World - Board 3 (WFM 2386). The young Russian is the big name in her age-category and she has already passed the 2400 rating barrier! She was able to score enough points to have the absolute total score of 4/4 (+4 =0 -0), against a field of 2140 average rating, gaining 17.2 rating points. But she had to survive some difficult moments at her first game when she mixed-up a prepared variation and then to have to win the game twice (!). She was of course the best scoring player of the World's teams and a mighty power.
	Salimova Nurgyul (Bulgaria) Born 02.06.2003 - Representing The World - Board 4 (FM 2332). The young Bulgarian girl has already won the Women Championship of her country (!) and has obtained a high rating. But in this match she seemed to be a bit 'afraid' of the responsibility and she was able just to score a mediocre 2/4 (+2 =0 -2), against a field of 2140 average rating, losing 20.8 rating points. She was the only World player that didn't make a plus score and lost rating. In the first round she lost on time because she didn't understand the time-control and she played badly in the second.



	Liang Awonder (USA) Born 09.04.2003 - Representing USA - Board 1 (IM 2536). Just some days after the event he was awarded the GM-title and days before the event he won the U.20 USA Championship! So, the expectations were high for this young but already matured player. In this event he played badly and he was able to score just a 2/4 result (+1 =2 -1), against a field of 2473 average rating, losing 3.6 rating points. He saved a lost position in the first round, while his opponent rejected a draw by repetition in the last round, so he could score even less points...
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	Hong Andrew (USA) Born 23.11.2004 - Representing USA - Board 2 (CM 2334). This sympathetic youngster wasn't a formidable opponent for his World's opponents, and he was able to score just 1/4 (+0 =1 -3), against a field of 2473 average rating, losing 15.2 rating points. He could create an upset when he was given a great chance in his first round game, if he could complete a winning attack. But his time-trouble didn't allow him not even to make a draw out of it... He also had the upper hand in the second round, but then he lost his last two games without a real fight.
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	Yip Carissa (USA) Born 10.09.2003 - Representing USA - Board 3 (WFM 2261). I had greater expectations from the great hope of the USA girls, as she has already a vast experience of top events, but here she didn't make it, scoring just 1/4 (+1 =0 -3), against a field of 2359 average rating, losing 18.4 rating points. She could had an even worse result, as in the game she won she could get mated in two moves (!); all in all a terrible game that both opponents should forget quickly! She is quite young of course, but the USA expectations are after her and she will have to move quicker...
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	Samadashvili Martha (USA) Born 29.03.2004 - Representing USA - Board 4 (WFM 2018). She was by far the lower rated player of both teams and she made more or less an expected result and actually she was the only one from the USA teams winning rating, due to her rating K-factor. She scored 1/4 (+1 =0 -3), against a field of 2359 average rating, gaining 20.8 rating points. Her win in the first round came after here opponent overstepped the time-limit due to Regulations' ignorance, in a drawn position. The rest of her games weren't of high quality but she is quite young and has a bright future.
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So, in total The World played somewhat better than the pre-expectations (3/4 members over-performed - 3/4 won rating points), scoring a huge 11½-4½ score (+10 =3 -3), against a field of 2287.5 average rating, gaining in total 7.6 rating points. USA played vs. a much better 2416 average rating, losing 16.4 rating points. The difference here in winning/losing rating points is due to the different rating system's K-factor for each player.

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MOTM U.14 - 1st Round (26.07.2017)

The first round was a difficult affair for both teams, as we show many blunders around and a kind of a lottery, which in the end favoured The World with 2½-1½.

Ramesh vs. Liang started with a rare variation, which soon ended in a winning ending for White, after Black failed to understand the problems. But then Ramesh blew his position-up in one move, conceding a draw.

Hong could win or have a clear advantage after Black 'overpressed', but missed both if them, ending in a worse ending, which Abdusattorov converted.

Another blunderful affair was the game Assaubayeva-Yip. White played careless in the opening and Black could get a clear advantage firstly a draw later. Missing both her chance resulted in a lost ending, in which White made too many mistakes and still managed to win!

The last game Samadashvili-Salimova was decided by... time in a drawn position, as Black let her time run-out, thinking that she would get some extra 30 minutes! Before this she was winning easily, while in the middlegame both sides played badly.

1 st Round - 2½:1½			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Ramesh B.P.	Liang	½:½
B2	Abdusattorov	Hong	1:0
B3	Assaubayeva	Yip	1:0
B4	Salimova	Samadashvili	0:1

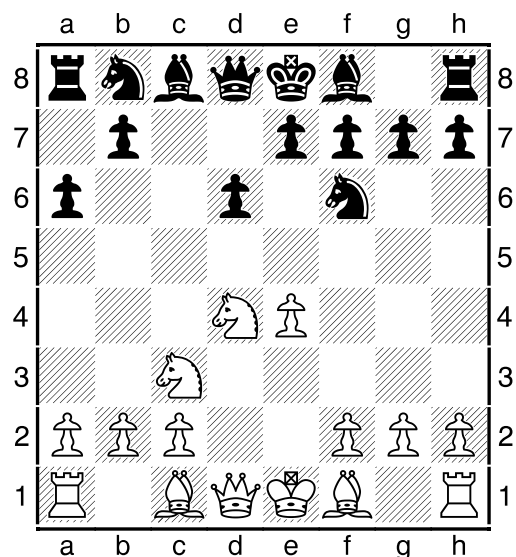


□ **Pragganandhaa Ramesh Babu (2479)**

■ **Liang Awonder (2536)**

B90 Saint Louis (1.1) 26.07.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 (D)



6.h4!?

A relatively new idea.

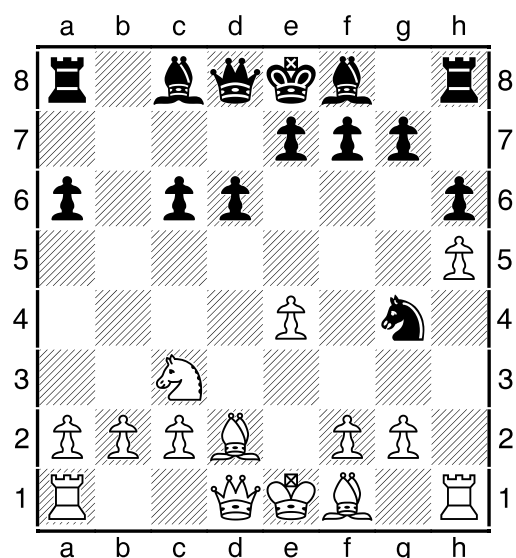
6...Nc6

6...e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.a4 b6 10.Bc4 Bb7 11.Qe2 += Nepomniachtchi,I-Gelfand,B Zuerich 2017.

7.h5

7.Be3 Qc7 8.f3 e6 9.g4 b5 10.Nxc6 Qxc6 11.Qd2 Bb7 12.0-0-0 += Yu,Y-Xu,Y Chengdu 2017.

7...h6 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bd2 (D)



10...Rb8

A new move. Instead 10...Nf6 11.Qf3 e5 12.Bc4 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.0-0-0 += Yu,Y-Lu,S China 2017, has been played. **11.Bc4 Nf6 12.Qf3**

12.Qe2! was proposed by A.Beliavsky in the Captain's room and further analysis proved that White stands better.

12...Bg4 13.Qe3 e6 14.Bb3 Qb6!

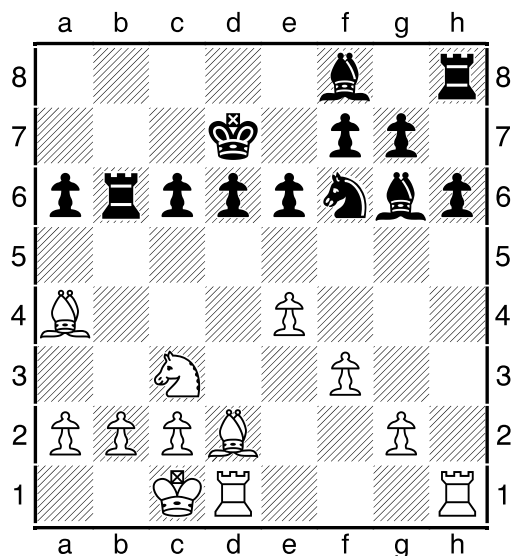
Exchanging the queens reduces White's activity for the given pawn on h5.

15.Qxb6 Rxb6 16.f3 Bxh5 17.0-0-0

Not expected, but still White has compensation for his sacrificed pawn.

17...Bg6 18.Ba4! Kd7?! (D)

The king in the centre creates problems for Black. 18...Nd7!? 19.Bf4 Ne5 it's a fair alternative.



19.e5

19.Ne2 looks good as well: 19...a5 20.Nf4 Bh7 21.e5 Ne8 22.exd6 Bxd6 23.Bc3 Ke7 24.Ne2 oo/=.

19...Ne8

Black could decide in various sacrifices with compensation: 19...dxe5 20.Be3+ Kc7 21.Bxb6+ Kxb6 22.Rhe1 (22.Rd8 Kc7 23.Ra8 Kb7 24.Rd8 Kc7 =) 22...h5 23.Rxe5 h4 24.Rh1 Nd5 oo/= ; 19...Nd5 20.Ne4 dxe5 21.c4 Kc7 22.cxd5 exd5 oo.

20.exd6 Bxd6?!

But that's bad. Black should opt again for sacrificing the exchange: 20...Nxd6 21.Ne2 Kc7 22.Ba5 Nc4 23.Bxb6+ Nxb6 oo/=.

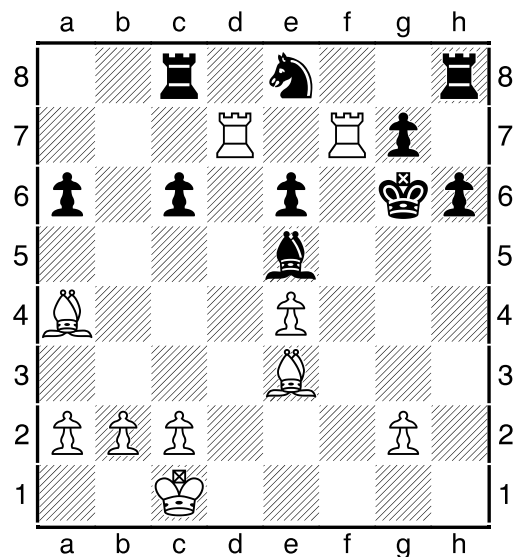
21.Be3 Rb8 22.Rd4

22.Rh4! looks strong: 22...Rc8 23.Rb4 and Black is in trouble.

22...Rc8 23.Rhd1 Ke7 24.Ne4! Bxe4 25.fxe4 Be5

25...c5!? 26.R4d2 Be5 27.Rd7+ Kf6 28.Rf1+ Kg6 29.Rfxf7 Nd6.

26.Rd7+ Kf6 27.Rf1+ Kg6 28.Rfxf7 (D)



White regained his sacrificed pawn and now due to the bishop pair and the doubled rooks on the 7th, he holds a good advantage.

28...Nd6 29.Rfe7! Rhe8 30.Bb3 Nxe4 31.Bxe6 Rxe7 32.Rxe7 Rc7

What else? Black cannot live with an enemy rook on the 7th...

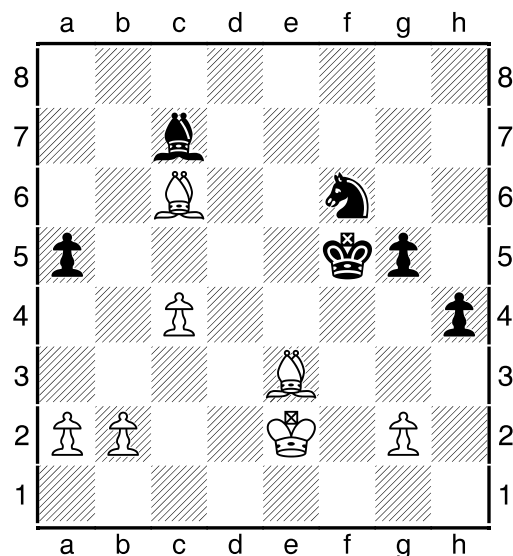
33.Rxc7 Bxc7 34.Bc8!

Winning a good pawn.

34...a5 35.Bb7 Kf5 36.Bxc6 h5

Black's only chance to survive is based on his pawn majority on the kingside, so he must push it.

37.c4 Nf6 38.Kd2 g5 39.Ke2 h4 (D)



40.a3?!

40.Bb7! g4 41.Bc8+ Ke5 42.b3! and with Bg5 to follow, when White wins.

40...g4 41.b4

41.Bb7 a4! is not that clear anymore.

41...axb4 42.axb4 h3 43.gxh3 gxh3 44.Kf3?

A blunder in time trouble. Winning was 44.b5 +-.

44...h2 45.Kg2 Ng4! 46.Bd4 Ne5 47.Bd5

47.Bb5 Nd3 48.Bc3? Nf2 -+.

47...Nd3!

That was what White missed; now it's a draw.

48.b5 Nf4+ 49.Kh1 Nxd5 50.cxd5 Ke4

51.Ba7 Kxd5 52.b6 Kc6 53.bxc7 Kxc7

54.Bb8+ Kxb8 55.Kxh2

½-½



□ **Hong Andrew (2334)**

■ **Abdusattorov Nodirbek (2467)**

C70 Saint Louis (1.2) 26.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nge7

5.c3 g6 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 b5 8.Bc2

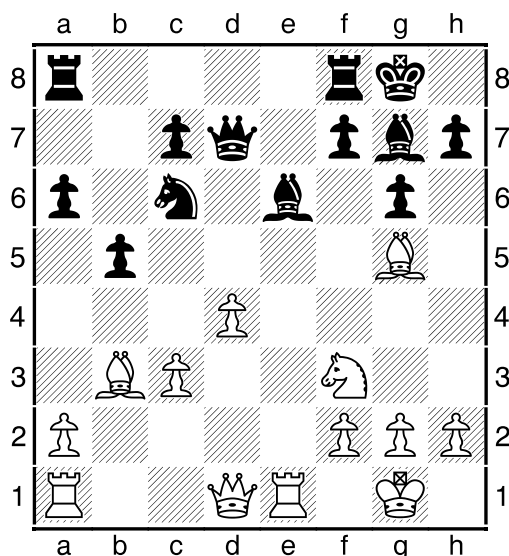
8.Bb3 Bg7 9.d5 Na5 10.Bd2 c5 11.d6 Nec6

12.Bg5 ½-½ Bobras,P-Movsesian,S Czech Republic 2017.

8...d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.0-0 Be6 11.Re1 Bg7

12.Nc3 0-0 13.Bg5 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Qd7

15.Bb3 (D)



15...Bf5

A strange decision. After 15...Bd5 16.a4 Rae8, Black should be more than OK, as in Sylvan,J-Delorme,A Cappelle la Grande 2016.

16.Qd2 a5 17.d5 Na7?!

Best was 17...a4 18.dxc6 Qxd2 19.Bxd2 axb3 20.axb3 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 b4 22.Rc1 Bxc3 23.Bxc3 bxc3 24.Rxc3 Rb8 and Black will regain his pawn, but the position will be drawn. Black, as the better player, wants to have more chances, even if he would be obliged to take risks...

18.Re7?!

Attractive, but much better was 18.Ne5! Qd6 19.Bf4 +/-.

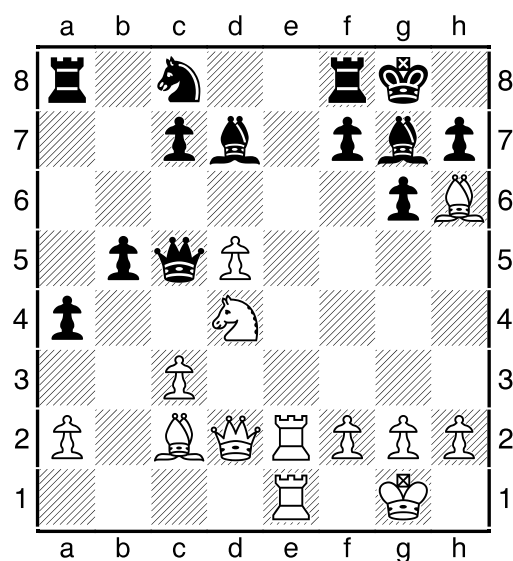
18...Qd6 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.Rae1?

White is losing his advantage by playing natural moves! Here 20.Qf4! was called for: 20...h6! 21.Qxd6 cxd6 22.Bxh6 Bxh6 23.Rxd7 a4 24.Bd1 Rfd8 +=.

20...Nc8! 21.R7e2 a4 22.Bc2 Qc5!

22...Rb8 was interesting: 23.Bf4 Qc5 24.Be5 Bxe5 25.Rxe5 Nb6 oo.

23.Bh6 (D)



23...Ra6?

23...Bxh6! 24.Qxh6 Qxc3 25.Bf5 Qxd4 26.Bxd7 Nd6 should be more than fine for Black. But after the text, he is in grave trouble.

24.Re4!

Suddenly the rook is transferred on the h-file and White has a lethal attack.

24...Nd6?

But this is too much. White should stand

better after 24...Bxh6 25.Qxh6 f5 26.Rh4 Rf7 27.Bxf5! Qxd5 28.Bxd7 Qxd7 29.Rhe4, but Black was forced to go for it.

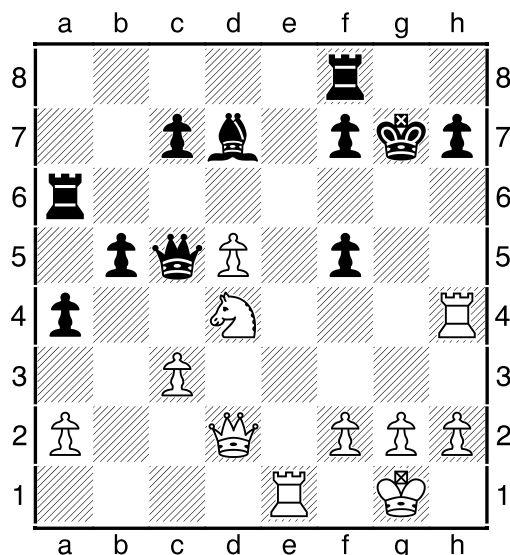
25.Bxg7! Kxg7

25...Nxe4 26.Bxf8 Qxc3 27.Qxc3 Nxc3 28.Bc5 +-.

26.Rh4 Nf5

There is nothing better.

27.Bxf5! gxf5 (D)

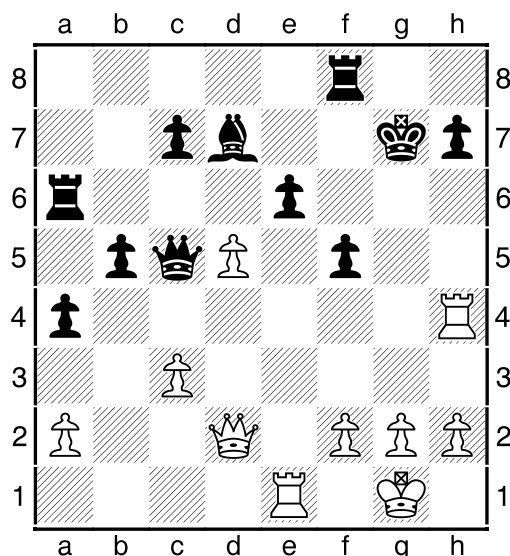


28.Ne6+?

28.Nc6! would have cashed the point:

28...Rxc6 29.dxc6 Qxc6 30.Re3 +-.

28...fxe6 (D)



29.dxe6?

A second mistake in a row. Still White could preserve an advantage after 29.Qg5+ Kh8 (29...Kf7 30.Rxh7+ Ke8 31.dxe6 Bxe6 32.Rd1 +-) 30.Re3 Rf7 31.Rxh7+! Rxh7 32.Qd8+ Kg7 33.Qxd7+ Kf6 34.Qxh7 Qxd5

35.h4 +/- . But it must be mentioned that he was already in serious time-trouble.

29...Bxe6 30.Qh6+

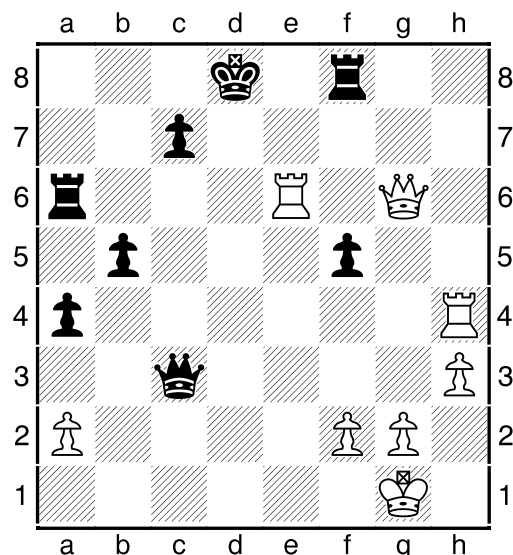
30.Qg5+? Kh8 -+.

30...Kf7 31.Qxh7+ Ke8 32.Qg6+ Kd8

32...Kd7! 33.Rd4+ Kc8 34.Rxe6 Qxc3

35.Rd1 Rxe6 36.Qxe6+ Kb7 37.g3 =, was accurate.

33.Rxe6 Qxc3 34.h3 (D)



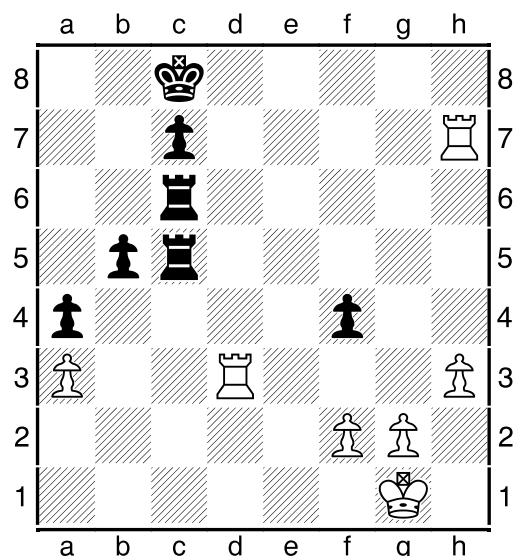
34...Qe1+!

Without queens on the board, Black would be absolutely safe.

35.Rxe1 Rxc6

An equal ending was now on the cards. But White was the lower rated player of the match, being in grave time-trouble as well, so his 'survival' chances should be zero...

36.Re5 Rb6 37.a3 f4 38.Re4 Rf5 39.Rh7 Rc6 40.Rd4+ Kc8 41.Rd3 Rfc5 (D)



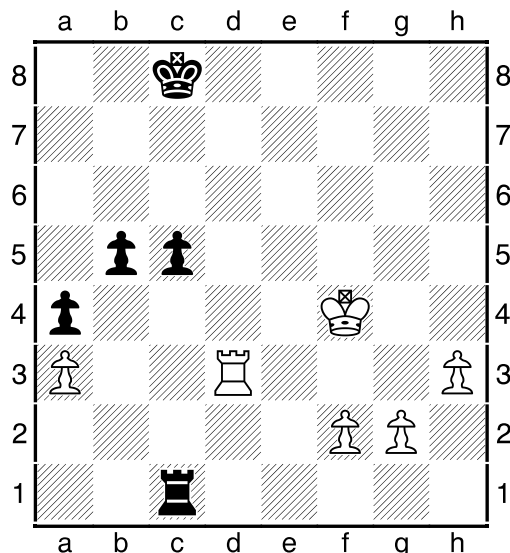
42.Kf1?

42.h4! was natural; White must create counterplay.

42...Rc1+ 43.Ke2 R6c2+ 44.Kf3 Rc3! 45.Rhd7

Or 45.Rxc3 Rxc3+ 46.Kxf4 Rxa3 -+, as in such endings even a tempo for the most advanced pawn is decisive.

45...c5 46.Kxf4 Rxd3 47.Rxd3 (D)



47...b4!

Game over - the black pawns are quicker.

48.axb4 cxb4 49.Rd4 Rb1!

Although 49...a3 50.Rxb4 a2 51.Ra4 a1Q 52.Rxa1 Rxa1 mates in 31 moves, there is no need to fight against three pawns in practical games. These positions are only for home analysers!

50.Rd5 a3 51.Ra5 Rb2 52.h4 a2 53.h5 b3 54.h6 Rxf2+ 55.Kg3 Rf7 56.Ra8+ Kb7 57.Ra3 b2 58.Rb3+ Kc6 59.Rxb2 a1Q 60.Rc2+ Kd5 61.Rd2+ Ke4 62.Re2+ Kd3 63.Re6 Qd4 64.Rg6 Qf4+ 65.Kh3 Qf5+ 66.Rg4 Rh7 67.Kg3 Rxb6

67...Qe5+! was easier.

68.Rd4+! Kc3 69.Rc4+ Kd2 70.Rd4+ Qd3+! 71.Rxd3+ Kxd3 72.Kf4 Rf6+ 73.Kg5 Rf2 74.g4 Ke4 75.Kh6 Kf4 76.g5 Kf5 77.g6 Kf6 78.Kh5 Rg2 0-1

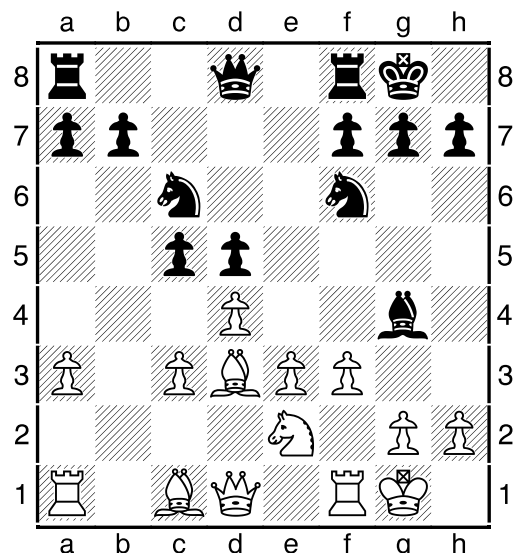
□ Assaubayeva Bibisara (2386)

■ Yip Carissa (2261)

E49 Saint Louis (1.3) 26.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 Nf6 6.e3 0-0 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c5

9.Ne2 Nc6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.f3 (D)



11...Bd7?!

Black usually goes for 11...Bh5 12.Nf4 Bg6 13.Nxg6 hxg6 oo Aleksandrov,A-Alekseev,E Minsk 2015.

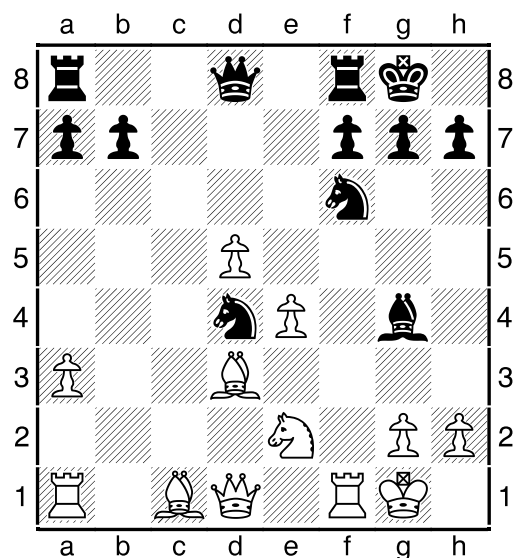
12.e4?

12.Rb1! b6 13.e4 +/- was what White should have opted for.

12...cxd4 13.cxd4 dxe4 14.fxe4 Bg4! 15.d5

15.Bb2 Bxe2 16.Bxe2 Nxe4.

15...Nd4 (D)



16.Rf4?

It looks bad, but the alternative 16.Kh1 Nxe2 17.Bxe2 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Qe7 19.Re1 Rae8 20.Bg5 Qxe4 21.Qf1 Qg6 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Qxf6 gxf6, leaves White struggling for the draw.

16...Re8?

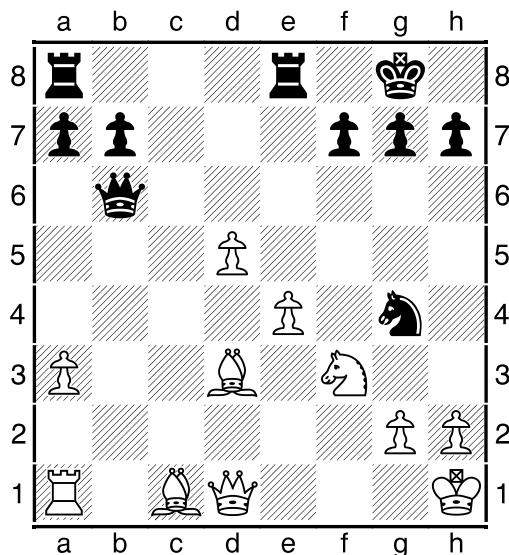
Returning the favour. 16...Qb6! 17.Kh1

Rfe8 was giving Black a clear advantage.

17.Rxg4! Nxg4 18.Nxd4 Qh4?

Black lost her last chance: 18...Qf6! 19.Bc2 Qf2+ 20.Kh1 Qf6! 21.Kg1 would lead to a draw by repetition!

19.Nf3 Qf2+ 20.Kh1 Qb6 (D)



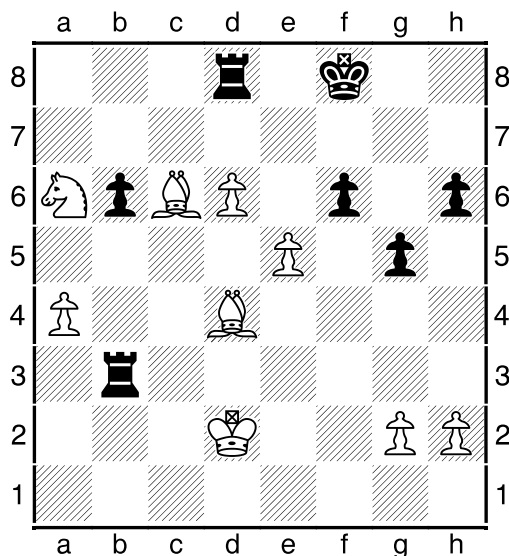
21.Ra2! Nf2+ 22.Rxf2 Qxf2

And now an unusual middlegame/ending of three pieces vs. two rooks appeared on the board. Well, the pieces are stronger and here there is also the asset of the passed d-pawn.

23.d6 Qa2 24.Qd2?!

24.e5 should cash the point rather soon.

24...Qa1 25.Qb2 Qxb2 26.Bxb2 Rad8 27.e5 a6 28.Bc4 h6 29.Kg1 g5 30.Nd2 Kf8 31.Ne4 Rb8 32.Nc5 Red8 33.Bd5 Rbc8 34.Bd4 b6 35.Nxa6 Rc1+ 36.Kf2 Rb1 37.Nb4 Rb8 38.Ke2 Ke8 39.Bc6+ Kf8 40.Kd2 Rb3 41.Na6 Rd8 42.a4 f6 (D)



43.Kc2?!

43.Nc7! was curtains...

43...fxe5 44.Bc3?

The worst move on the board probably! Not that difficult was 44.d7 exd4 45.Kxb3 +- or 44.Kxb3 Rxd6 45.Bxb6 Rxc6 46.a5 +-.

44...Rxc3+ 45.Kxc3 Rxd6

And now White has to re-win the game...

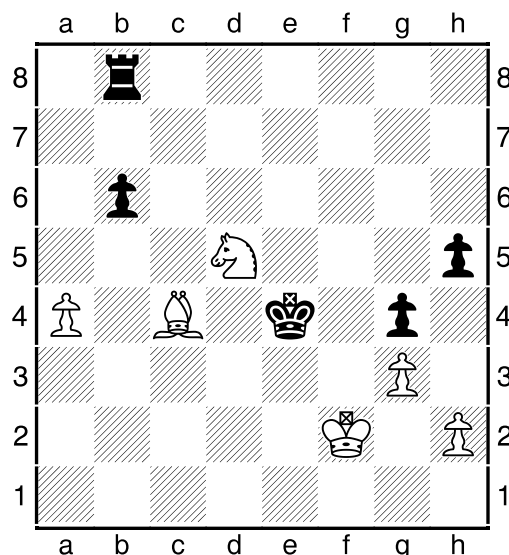
46.Nb4 Rd4?!

46...Kf7 would be fine.

47.Nd5 Kg7 48.Ne3 Kf6 49.Bb5 Rd8 50.Bc4 Rd6 51.Nd5+ Kf5 52.Kd3 h5 53.Ke3 g4 54.g3 e4 55.Kd4 Rd8 56.Bb3 e3?!

56...Kg5 57.Kxe4 h4 is still fighting.

57.Kxe3 Re8+ 58.Kf2 Rb8 59.Bc4 Ke4 (D)



60.Ne3?

60.Nf4! +/-.

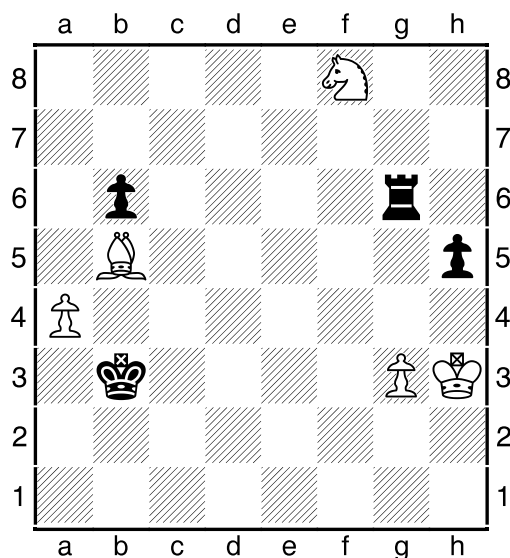
60...Kd4 61.Bb5 Rf8+ 62.Ke2 Rf6 63.Ng2 Re6+?

63...Rf3! would have preserving the balance; the rook must stay active and try to get inside White's camp.

64.Kf2 Re5 65.Nf4 Kc3 66.h3! gxh3 67.Nxh3 Kd2 68.Ng1 Kc3 69.Ne2+ Kd2 70.Nf4 Kc3 71.Kg2

Now White got a nice advantage and she will try to win the black h-pawn, combining forces of her king and knight (mostly).

71...Rg5 72.Kf3 Kb4 73.Nd3+ Kb3 74.Nf2 Rg8 75.Kg2 Rf8 76.Nd3 Rg8 77.Kh3 Rg4 78.Nf2 Rd4 79.Nd3 Rg4 80.Ne5 Rg5 81.Nd7 Rg6 82.Kh4 Rg4+ 83.Kh3 Rg6 84.Nf8 (D)



84...Rg8

Or 84...Rf6 85.Nh7 Rf5 86.Bd7 Rf1 87.Kg2 Rd1 88.Be8 +/-.

85.Nh7 Rg6 86.Be8 Rh6 87.Ng5 Rh8 88.Bb5 Kb4 89.Kh4 Kb3 90.Ne4! Rh6 91.Kg5 Re6 92.Nf6

And White wins the black h-pawn and soon the game.

92...Re5+ 93.Kh4 Kc3 94.Nxh5 Kd4 95.g4 Re4 96.Nf6 Re6 97.g5 Ke5 98.Kh5 Kf4 99.Nd5+ Ke5 100.g6 Rd6 101.g7 Rd8 102.Ne7 1-0



□ **Samadashvili Martha (2018)**

■ **Salimova Nurgul (2332)**

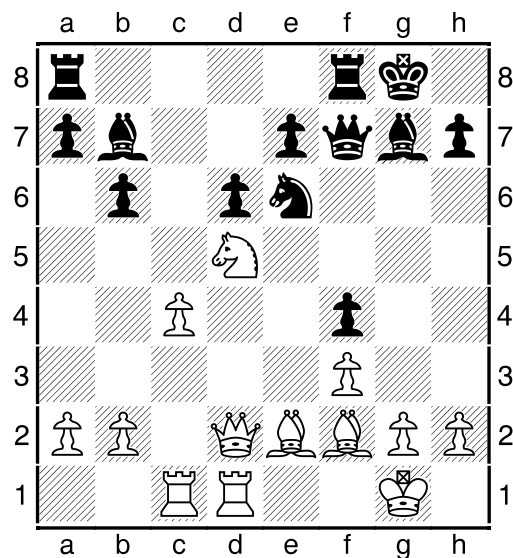
B39 Saint Louis (1.4) 26.07.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 Ne6 10.Rc1 b6 11.Be2 Bb7 12.f3 0-0 13.0-0 f5

Another idea is 13...d6 14.b4 Qd7 15.Qd3 a5 16.a3 += Marti Pericot,J-Voiculescu,C ICCF email 2012.

14.exf5 gxf5 15.Qd2 f4 16.Bf2 Qe8 17.Rfd1 d6 18.Nd5 Qf7 (D)

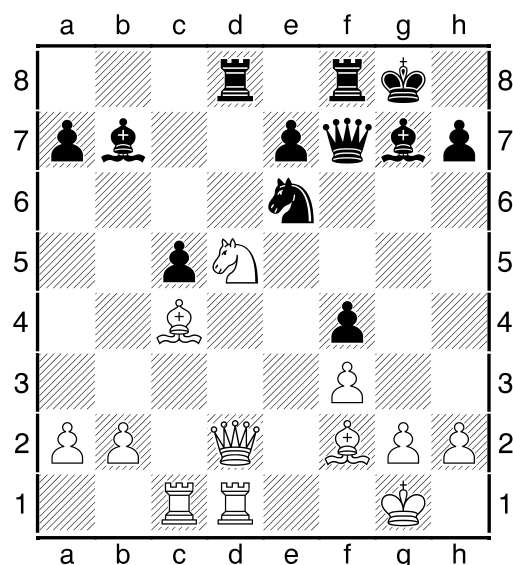
18...Kh8 19.b4 Rc8 20.Bf1 ½-½ Hristodoulou,P-Litsas,I Piraeus 2006.



19.c5!?

At first sight this looks strong, preparing an assault on the a2-g8 diagonal. But Black can defend.

19...dxc5! 20.Bc4 b5! 21.Bxb5 Rad8 22.Bc4 (D)



22...Bxd5?

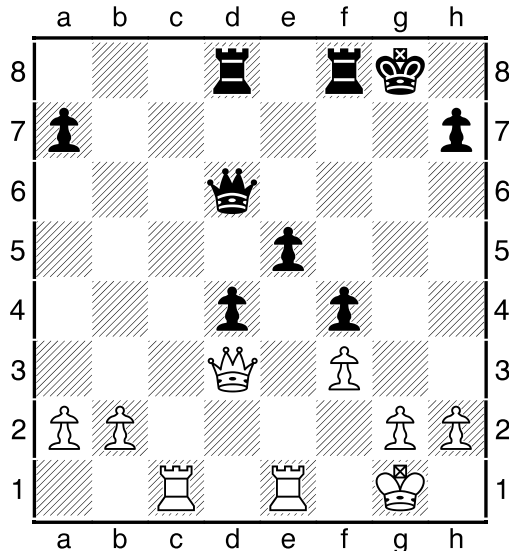
Black met White's aggressive plans with a

clear mind but know she went astray with the text. She should have opted for the natural 22...Kh8 oo.

23.Bxd5 Bd4 24.Bxe6?

Returning the favour. Quite good was 24.Bc4 Kh8 25.Bxd4+ cxd4 (25...Rxd4? 26.Qe1 +/-) 26.Re1 Rd6 27.b3 +/-.

24...Qxe6 25.Bxd4 cxd4 26.Re1 Qd6 27.Qd3 e5 (D)



Now the position offers equal chances, as both pawn structures are kind of blocked.

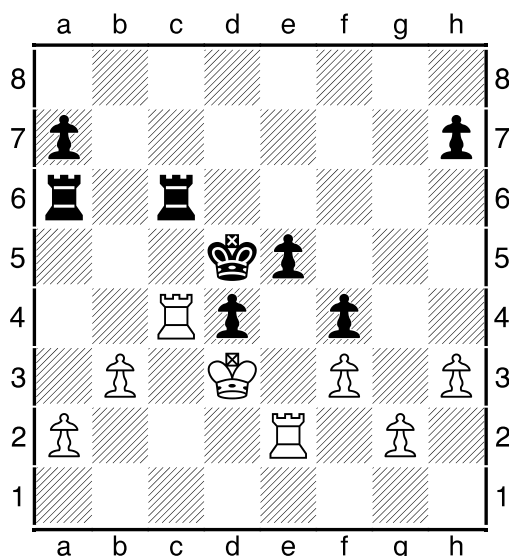
28.Qc4+ Rf7 29.Qc5 Re7 30.Qxd6 Rxd6 31.Re4 Kf7 32.Kf2 Rb6 33.b3 Rh6 34.h3 Ra6 35.Rc2 Kf6 36.Ke2?!

Passive. A must was 36.g3! fxg3+ 37.Kxg3 Kf5 38.Rc5 oo.

36...Ke6 37.Kd3 Kd5 38.Rc4 Ree6

38...Rxa2! 39.Rcxd4+ Ke6! +/-.

39.Re2 Rec6 (D)



40.a4?

40.g3! was again the only way to play: 40...fxg3 41.f4! Rxc4 42.bxc4+ Ke6 43.fxe5 Ra3+ 44.Kxd4 h5 45.Rd2! h4 46.Ke4 =.

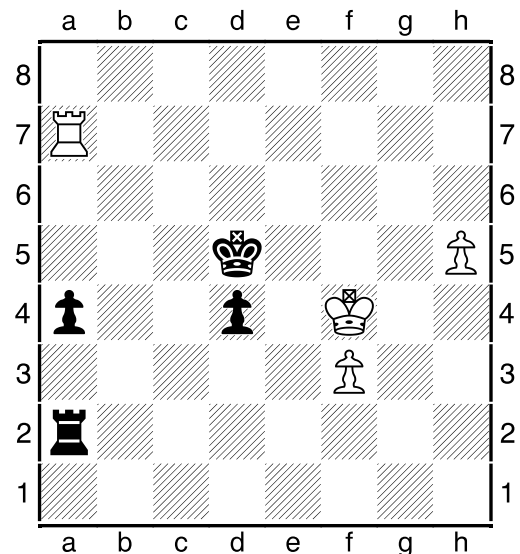
40...Rab6! 41.Rb2 Rxb3+

Although the text wins as well, clearer was 41...Rxc4! 42.bxc4+ Kc5 -+.

42.Rxb3 Rxc4 43.Rb5+ Rc5 44.Rb7 Ra5?

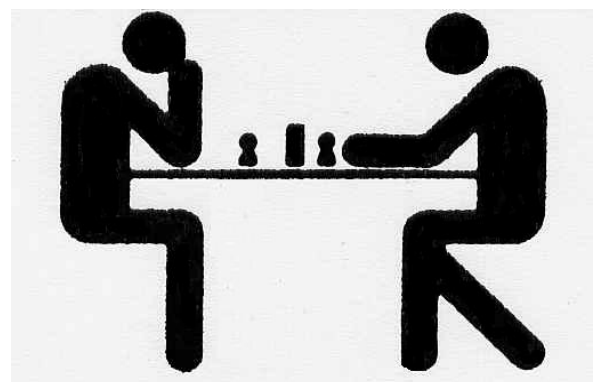
But that's a blunder; the natural 44...Rc3+! 45.Kd2 Ra3-+, was an easy win.

45.Rd7+! Kc5 46.Rxh7 Rxa4 47.Ke4 Ra2 48.Kxe5 a5 49.Kxf4 Rxc2 50.Rc7+ Kd5 51.h4 a4 52.Ra7 Ra2 53.h5 (D)



And now something strange happened. Black let her time run-out, as she expecting to get another 30 minutes; a wrong idea, as the Regulations were clear. So, she was forfeited on time in a drawn position. Well, there were some nice 'stories' as it seems there was a dispute on who's mistake was (Arbiter, Player or Captain) but we can never be sure for anything, except that White cashed the point!

1-0



MOTM U.14 - 2nd Round (27.07.2017)

The second round was a closed affair, ending in a 'strange' 2-2 draw, allowing The World to have a total lead of 4½-3½.

Ramesh didn't get anything in the opening vs. Hong and he had to play carefully to preserve the balance.

Liang didn't get anything out of the opening as well vs. Abdusattorov and after an inaccuracy; he even had to defend for a very long time before he achieved the draw.

Samadashvili didn't understand the subtleties of her chosen opening vs. Assaubayeva and she went down rather quickly and without a real fight.

The game Yip-Salimova was by far the worst of the entire event! Both opponents played an unbelievable ping-pong of mistakes and the situation on the board was changing rapidly in no time. Even mate in two was overlooked by both opponents and finally Yip won the lottery, equalising the score for USA.

2 nd Round - 2:2			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Ramesh B.P.	Hong	½:½
B2	Abdusattorov	Liang	½:½
B3	Assaubayeva	Samadashvili	1:0
B4	Salimova	Yip	0:1



□ Praggananandhaa Ramesh Babu (2479)

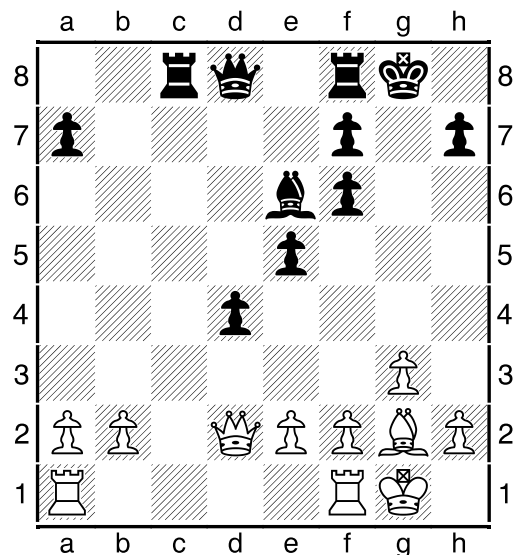
■ Hong Andrew (2334)

D02 Saint Louis (2.1) 27.07.2017

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.d4 Nf6 5.0-0 cxd4 6.Nxd4 e5 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.c4 Be6 9.Nc3

Another idea is 9.Qa4 Qd7 10.Rd1 Rc8 11.Nc3 d4 12.e3 Be7 13.exd4 exd4 14.c5! += Vachier Lagrave,M-Anand,V Bastia 2016.

9...Rc8 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Bg5 d4 12.Ne4 Be7 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qd2 0-0 (D)



16.f4

A novelty. Black seems to be doing fine anyway: 16.Rac1 Qe7 17.e3 Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Rd8 19.a3 Bf5 oo Jacimovic,D-Kacakovski,D Struga 2014.

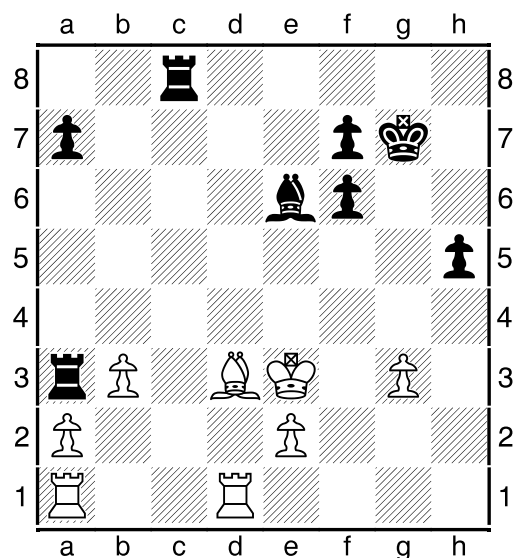
16...Qe7 17.Rf2 Qc5 18.fxe5 Qxe5! 19.Rf4 Qe3+ 20.Qxe3 dxe3 21.Be4 Kg7 22.b3 Rc5!

Preparing to put pressure on the a-file.

23.Kg2 h5 24.h3 Ra5 25.Rff1 Rd8 26.Bd3 Rc8 27.Rfd1 Ra3!

Now, if White stays put, ...a5-a4 will come.

28.Kf3 Bxh3 29.Kxe3 Be6 (D)



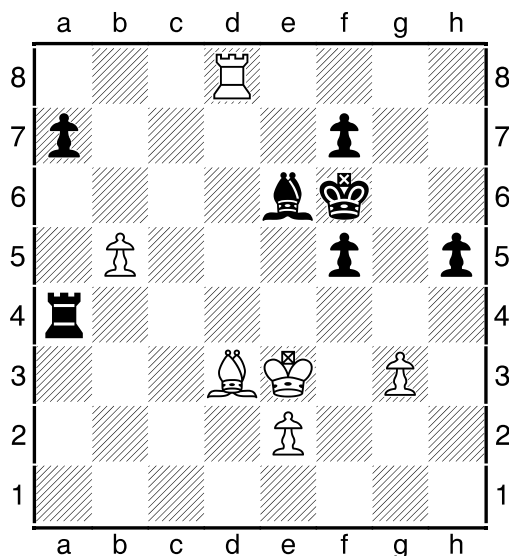
30.Rh1?!

30.Rdb1 a5 31.Rb2 Rb8 32.Rc1 a4 33.Rc5
axb3 34.axb3 Raxb3 35.Rxb3 Rxb3 36.Rxh5
= was natural.

**30...Rc5! 31.b4!? Rg5 32.Kf2 Kh6 33.Rhc1
Rg4 34.b5 Rga4**

Now Black wins a pawn, but his doubled f-pawns are not of a real help. White should have enough counterplay with his active rook, to preserve the balance.

**35.Rc7 Rxa2 36.Rxa2 Rxa2 37.Rb7 f5
38.Rb8 Kg7 39.Ke3 Ra4 40.Rd8 Kf6 (D)**



**41.Rh8 Kg6 42.Rg8+ Kf6 43.Rh8 Kg6
44.Rg8+ Kf6 45.Rh8 Kg6 46.Rg8+ Kf6
47.Rh8 Kg6 48.Rg8+
½-½**



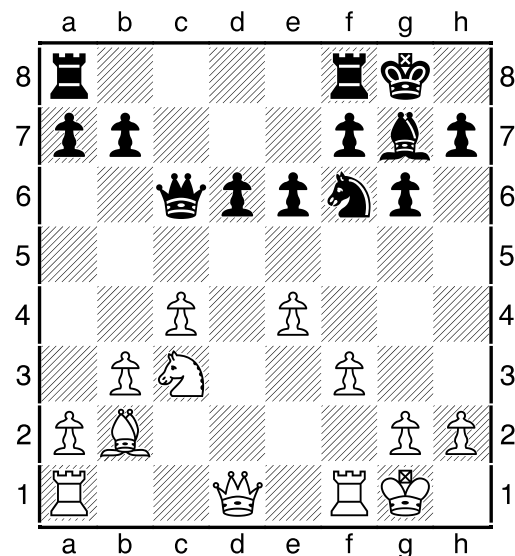
□ **Liang Awonder (2536)**

■ **Abdusattorov Nodirbek (2467)**

B52 Saint Louis (2.2) 27.07.2017

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.c4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0
9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.b3 Nc6 11.Bb2 e6
11...Rac8 12.Re1 Rfd8 13.Nd5 Ne8 14.Qd2
e6 15.Ne3 Nf6 16.Qc2 d5 17.e5 Nh5
18.Rad1 Qe7 19.g3 Rb8 20.Bc3 Qa3 21.Rd3
a5 22.Red1 Qc5 23.Qd2 Rdc8 ½-½ Yu,Y-
Lu,S Shenzhen 2016.**

12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.f3 (D)



13...a6

13...Rfd8 14.Qe2 a6 15.Kh1 = Karavade,E-
Brunner,N Nancy 2016.

14.a4 Rfd8 15.Rc1?!

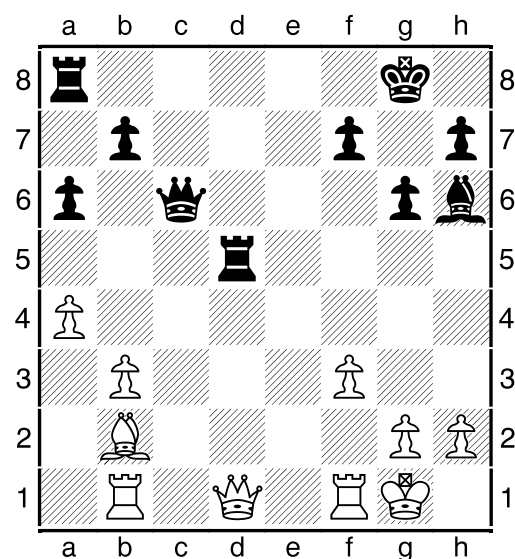
15.Kh1 Nd7 oo.

15...Bh6! 16.Rb1

16.Rc2? Qb6+ -/+.

16...d5! 17.exd5 exd5 18.cxd5 Nxd5

19.Nxd5 Rxd5 =+ (D)



Now White has to be careful to preserve the balance.

**20.Qe1 Re8 21.Qh4 Bg5 22.Qc4 Rc5
23.Qg4 Bf6 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 25.Rbe1 Rxe1
26.Rxe1 Qc3 27.Re8+ Kg7 28.h3?!**

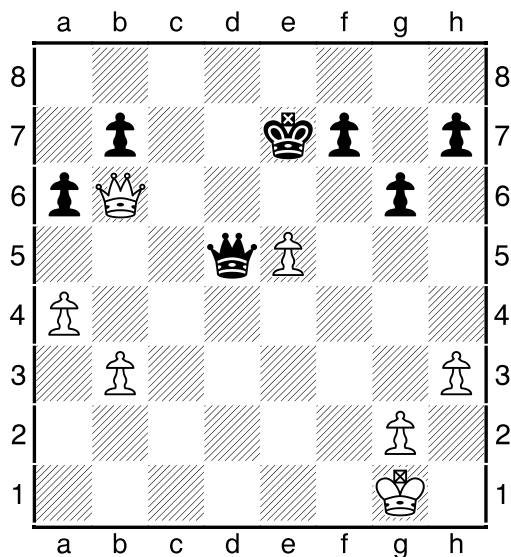
28.Qf4!? Rc8 29.Qe5+ Qxe5 30.Rxe5 =.

**28...Rd5 29.Qe4 Qc1+ 30.Kh2 Qc7+ 31.f4
Qd6 32.Re5! Rxe5 33.fxe5**

33.Qxe5+? Qxe5 34.fxe5 g5! -+.

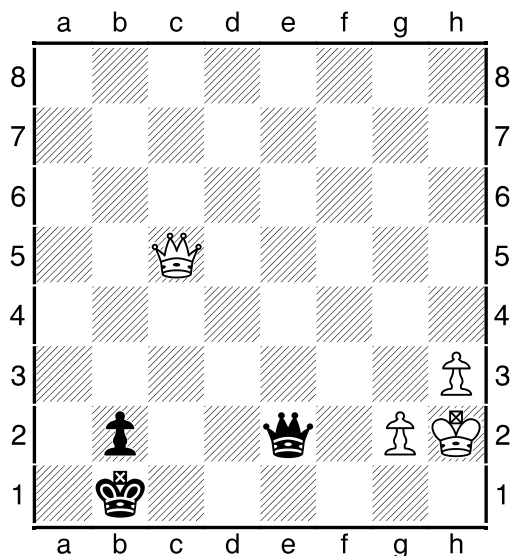
33...Qc7 34.Qf4 Kg8 35.Qf6 Qd7 36.Qb6

Qd5 37.Kh1 Kf8 38.Kg1 Ke7 (D)



The position offers equal chances, although only Black might press.

39.b4 Qc6 40.Qd4 Ke6 41.Qf4 Qc7 42.Qf6+ Kd5 43.b5 axb5 44.Qf3+ Kd4 45.Qf4+ Kd5 46.Qf3+ Kc4 47.Qf4+ Kd3 48.axb5 Qd7 49.Kh1 Qf5 50.Qb4 Qe6 51.Kg1 h5 52.Kh1 g5 53.Kg1 h4 54.Kh1 Qxe5 55.Qb3+ Kd4 56.Qb4+ Kd5 57.Qb3+ Kd6 58.Qxf7 Qxb5 59.Qf6+ Kc7 60.Qe7+ Kb6 61.Qd6+ Ka5 62.Qd2+ Qb4 63.Qxg5+ b5 64.Qd8+ Ka4 65.Qa8+ Kb3 66.Qf3+ Qc3 67.Qd5+ Ka4 68.Qa8+ Kb4 69.Qe4+ Ka3 70.Qxh4 Qa1+ 71.Kh2 Qe5+ 72.Kh1 b4 73.Qf2 b3 74.Qa7+ Kb2 75.Qf2+ Kb1 76.Qg1+ Kc2 77.Qf2+ Kc1 78.Qf1+ Kd2 79.Qf2+ Qe2 80.Qd4+ Kc2 81.Qc5+ Kb1 82.Kh2 b2 (D)



Although Black made his pawn ready to

queen, the position still remains drawish, as White can give perpetual check. This position is winning without the white pawns, as then Black will attack the white king with his king and queen, creating mating and queening threats and at the same time. Note that this position is a draw without the white pawns, when the white king stands on h7 or h8.

83.h4 Qc2 84.Qe5 Qa4 85.h5 Ka2 86.Qd5+ Ka1 87.Qe5 Qb4 88.Qf6 Ka2 89.Qe6+ Qb3 90.Qa6+ Qa3 91.Qe6+ Ka1 92.Qf6 Ka2 93.Qe6+ Ka1 94.Qf6 Ka2 95.Qe6+ Ka1 96.Qf6 Ka2 97.Qe6+ Ka1 98.Qf6 1/2-1/2

□ Assaubayeva Bibisara (2386)

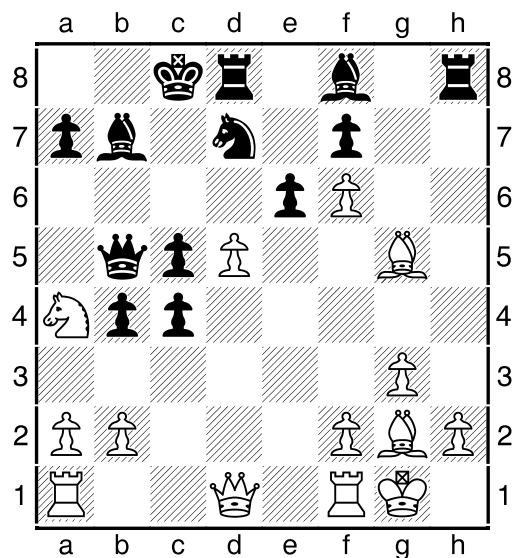
■ Samadashvili Martha (2018)

D44 Saint Louis (2.3) 27.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5

The famous and risky 'Botvinnik Variation' of the 'QGD'.

7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6 Bb7 12.g3 c5 13.d5 Qb6 14.Bg2 0-0-0 15.0-0 b4 16.Na4 Qb5 (D)



17.b3

We have seen more often 17.a3, when a recent example went as 17...Nb8 18.axb4 cxb4 19.Qg4 Bxd5 20.Rfc1 Nc6 21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.Rxc4 Rxc5 23.Qd4 Kb8 24.Rxc6 Rxc3+ 25.fxc3 Qxc6 26.Rd1 Qc7 27.b3 Kc8 28.Qe4 Kb8 29.Qd4 Kc8 30.Qe4 Kb8 31.Qd3 Bc5+ 32.Nxc5 Qxc5+ 33.Qd4 Qc3 34.Qf4+ Ka8 35.Qe4+ Kb8 36.Rd4 Qc1+

37.Kg2 Qb2+ 38.Kf3 Qc3+ 39.Kg4 Rg8+ 40.Kh4 Rh8+ 41.Kg5 Qc1+ 42.Qf4+ Qxf4+ 43.Kxf4 Rxh2 44.Rxb4+ Kc7 45.Kg5 Rh8 46.g4 Rg8+ 1-0 Ding,L-Yu,Y Danzhou 2016.

17...exd5

An early novelty. Known is 17...c3 18.Re1 Nb8 19.Qg4 Bxd5 20.Rad1 Qb7 21.Rxe6 fxe6 22.Bxd5 Rxd5 23.Qxe6+ Qd7 24.Qxd5 Qxd5 25.Rxd5 Rh5 26.Nxc5 Nd7 27.Nd3 Rh7 28.h4 Kb7 29.Nxb4 Bxb4 30.Rb5+ Ka6 31.Rxb4 Ne5 32.Re4 1-0 Miljkovic,M-Mrndjic,M Neum 2008.

18.a3! Ne5?!

Black had to go for 18...c3, as she cannot afford to open up the queenside.

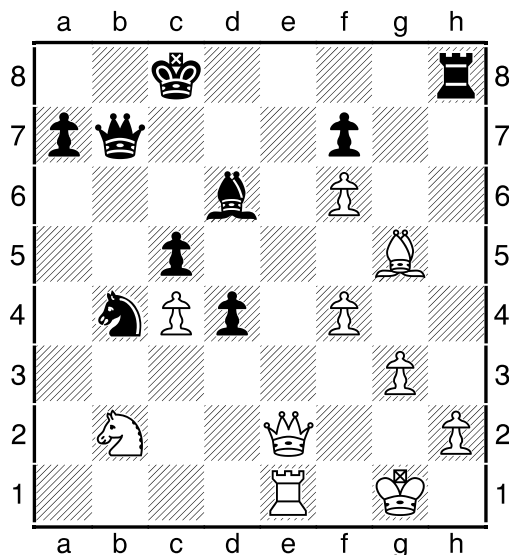
19.axb4 d4 20.Bxb7+?!

20.Re1! looks rather strong: 20...cxb4 (20...Bxg2 21.Rxe5! +/-) 21.Bf4 +/-.

20...Qxb7 21.f4 Nd3?!

It is difficult for top-GMs to handle this variation, so we shouldn't be negative on such young girls! Still, it must be mentioned that Black would solve her problems after 21...Nc6! 22.bxc4 cxb4 oo.

22.bxc4 Nxb4 23.Qd2 Qe4 24.Rf2 Re8 25.Nb2 Qb7 26.Re2! Bd6 27.Rae1 Rxe2 28.Qxe2 (D)



28...Rd8?

28...Kc7! 29.Nd3 Nxd3 30.Qxd3 a5 oo.

29.Nd3! Nxd3 30.Qxd3 Qc6 31.h4!

Although Black has two passed pawns vs. one of White's, it is the white one who can advance easier and create too many problems to his opponent....

31...Kc7 32.h5 Qd7 33.Kg2 Rb8 34.Re2?!

Easier was 34.h6! Qg4 35.Qe2! +/- . But anyway, White is winning, as her h-pawn is rather strong.

34...Qg4 35.Qf3 Qd7 36.Ra2 Rb7 37.Qd5 Kb8 38.h6 Qd8 39.h7 Kc8

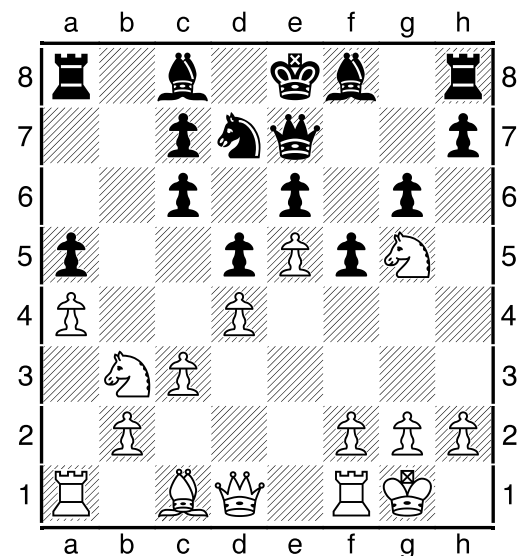
1-0

□ Yip Carissa (2261)

■ Salimova Nurgul (2332)

C04 Saint Louis (2.4) 27.07.2017

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd7 6.c3 f6 7.Bb5 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 f5 10.Nb3 a5 11.Ng5 Qe7 12.a4 g6 (D)



13.Nf3?!

This offers nothing to White and better was 13.Nh3!, as the knight belongs to f4.

13...h6 14.Bd2 Nb6 15.h4?

Playing where your opponent will attack you cannot be a good sign. The text will only help Black in the long run - nearly anything else was better...

15...Qg7 16.Qc1 Be7 17.Nc5 Nc4 18.Bf4 g5! -/+ 19.Bh2

19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Nxg5 Rg8 -/+.

19...gxh4

Not bad, but 19...f4! would be proven lethal soon.

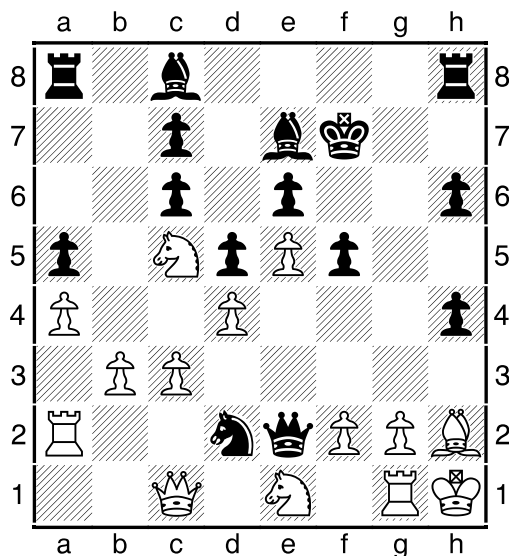
20.Kh1 Qg4 21.Rg1 Kf7?

21...h3! 22.Ne1 Bxc5 23.dxc5 Rb8 -/+.

22.Ne1 Qe2

A bit risky. Good and natural was 22...Bxc5 23.dxc5 Rb8 oo. Black would be surely in the driver's seat...

23.b3 Nd2 24.Ra2 (D)



24...Nxb3?

Losing a piece. Why not first 24...Bxc5!, when Black is OK: 25.Rxd2 (25.dxc5? Nxb3 26.Qb1 Qc4 +/-) 25...Ba3! 26.Qc2 Qg4 oo.

25.Qb1 Nd2 26.Qc2 Bxc5 27.dxc5 Qxf2 28.Qxd2 Qxc5 29.Nd3 Qc4 30.Nf4 Ba6 31.Raa1?

Losing an important tempo. 31.Qf2! Rag8 32.Qa7! wins.

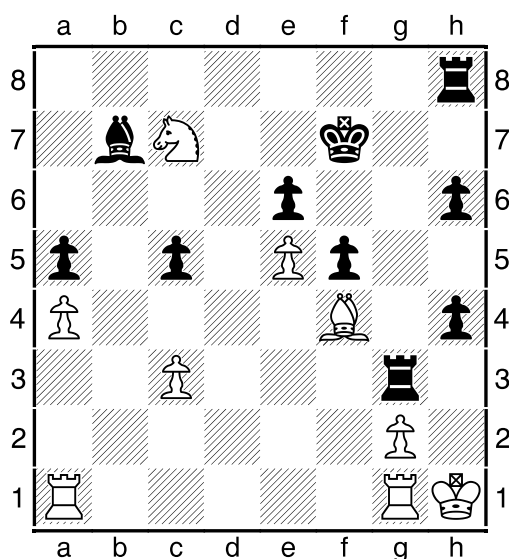
31...Rag8! 32.Qe3 c5 33.Nh5 Rg5 34.Nf6 Ke7?

34...Bb7! 35.Bf4 h3! would be unclear.

35.Bf4 Rg6 36.Qf3 Qe2 37.Qh3 Qf2 38.Nxd5+ Kf7 39.Be3 Qg3 40.Nxc7?

40.Nf4 Bb7 41.Qxg3 Rxg3 42.Rad1! +/-.

40...Bb7 41.Qxg3 Rxg3 42.Bf4 (D)



Black has lost a piece, but her activity on the kingside should be enough to preserve the draw.

42...Rg4?

42...Rh3+ 43.Bh2 Rd3 44.Bf4 Rh3+ 45.Bh2 Rd3 =.

43.Nb5?

43.Rad1!, activating the rook, would give White the advantage.

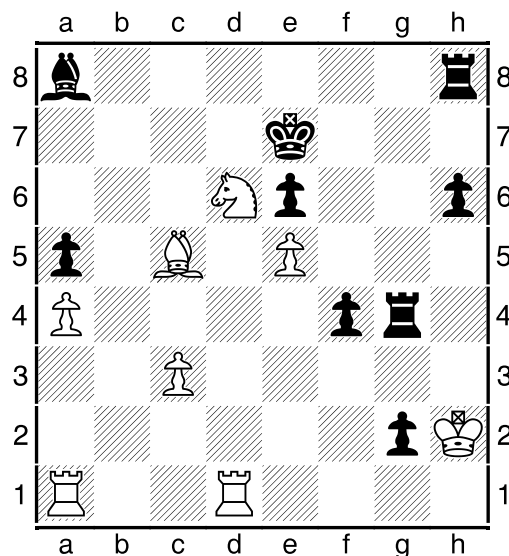
43...Ba8 44.Nd6+ Ke7 45.Be3 Rg3 46.Bf4 Rg4 47.Be3 Rg3 48.Bf4 Rg4?

Missing 48...Rh3+! 49.Bh2 Rg8 50.c4 Rb3 -/+.

49.Be3 h3!?

Black plays to win! 49...Rg3 is a draw by repetition.

50.Kh2 hxg2 51.Bxc5 f4 52.Rgd1? (D)



What a blunder! A.Beliavsky jumped-up - he couldn't believe it! 52.Kh3! Bf3 53.Nf5+ Kf7 54.Nh4 Rg3+ 55.Kh2 Bg4 56.Bf2 Rh3+ 57.Kxg2 Rg8 58.Kf1 Rxc3 oo.

52...Rh4+?

52...g1Q+! 53.Bxg1 Rh4 # isn't simple? Yes, Black missed mate in two!

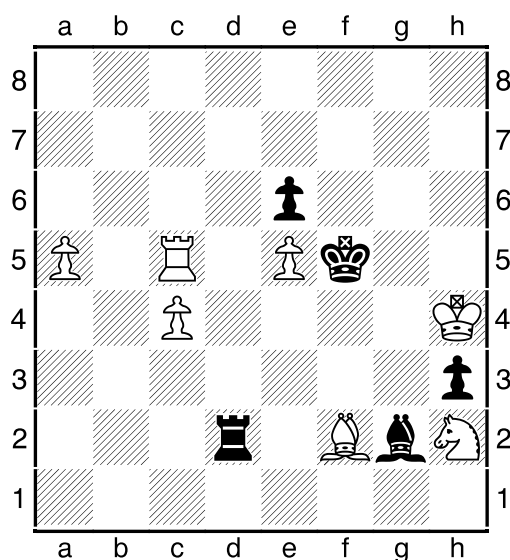
53.Kg1 Rh1+ 54.Kf2 Rg8?

54...h5! 55.Ne4+ Kf7 56.Rxh1 gxh1Q 57.Rxh1 Bxe4 58.Rh4 Bf5 59.Rxf4 is drawish.

55.Rg1 Rh3 56.Rad1 Rf3+ 57.Ke2 Rh3 58.Kf2 Rf3+?

Black could put-up some resistance after 58...Rg4. Now she is simply busted...

59.Ke2 Rh3 60.Ne4+ Kf7 61.Rd7+ Kg6 62.Rxg2+ Rg3 63.Rxg3+ fxg3 64.Nxg3 Rc8 65.Bd4 h5 66.Ra7 h4 67.Nf1 h3 68.Rxa5 Bd5 69.Rc5 Rb8 70.c4 Bg2 71.Nh2 Rb1 72.Kf2 Rh1 73.Kg3 Rd1 74.Bf2 Kf5 75.a5 Rd3+ 76.Kh4 Rd2 (D)



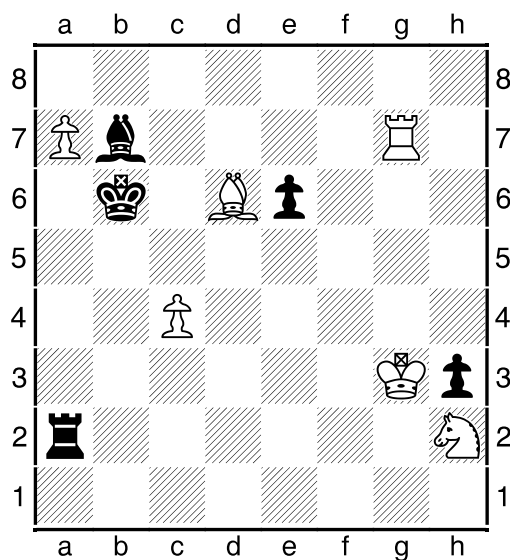
77.Bg3?

After the text, Black can draw. 77.Rc8!, activating the rook, wins.

77...Rd8! 78.Be1 Rd1?

78...Kf4! draws, as White has nothing better than 79.Bg3+ Kf5 80.Be1 Kf4.

79.Bc3 Rd8 80.Rc7 Rd3 81.Be1 Rd4+ 82.Kg3 Rd1 83.Kf2 Kxe5 84.a6 Kd6 85.Rg7 Ra1 86.Bb4+ Kc6 87.a7 Ra2+ 88.Kg3 Kb6 89.Bd6 Bb7 (D)



Finally White got an easy winning position. But the drama wasn't over...

90.Bc5+?

A bad idea. Winning was the natural 90.c5+ Kxa7 91.Kxh3 +-.

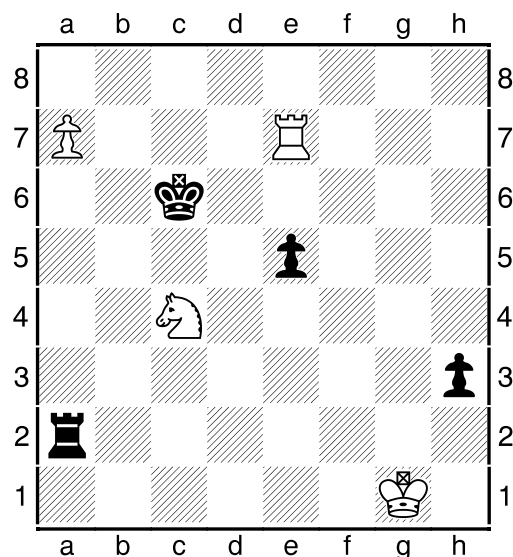
90...Kxc5 91.Rxb7 Ra3+?

Simple was 91...Kxc4! 92.Nf3 h2! 93.Nxh2 Kc5 94.Nf3 Kc6 95.Rh7 Kb6 =.

92.Kf2 Kxc4 93.Nf3 Kc5

93...h2 94.Kg2! +-.

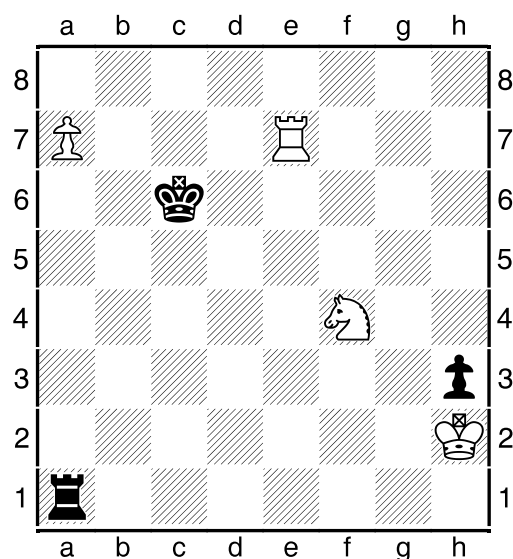
94.Ne5 Ra2+ 95.Kg1 Kd6 96.Nc4+ Kc6 97.Re7 e5 (D)



98.Nxe5+?

Greedy! The winning set-up is Nc4 and Rc7, so White should put Black into zugzwang: 98.Kh1! e4 99.Rf7 e3 100.Nxe3 +-.

98...Kd6 99.Ng6 Kc6 100.Nf4 Ra1+ 101.Kh2 (D)



101...Kb6?

Returning the favour! 101...Ra3! draws.

102.Nd5+!

Now White wins.

102...Kc6 103.Ne3 Ra2+

103...Kb6 104.Nc4+ Kc5 105.Rc7+ +-.

104.Kxh3 Ra3 105.Kg4 Ra4+ 106.Kf5 Kb6 107.Nd5+ Kc6 108.Ke5 Ra1 109.Rc7+ Kb5 110.Kd6 Ra6+ 111.Kd7 Ra1 112.Kc8 1-0

MOTM U.14 - 3rd Round (28.07.2017)

The World understood that there is no room for 'playing games', as halfway the match was still widely open. But not after $\frac{3}{4}$ of the road, as The World won 4-0, allowing a total lead of $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$, already clinching the overall win! In general, today The World took every chance that USA generously gave!

This time Liang vs. Ramesh got an acceptable position, but he quickly mishandled it and as a result he resigned just three moves away from getting mated!

Hong seemed not to understand the opening vs. Abdusattorov and he lost quickly and more or less without fight.

Yip entered a complicated position vs. Assaubayeva, but she later proved herself in the needed calculation phase and she won a piece in no time when Yip badly blundered.

Salimova vs. Samadashvili was another one case of many mutual mistakes, but not so serious as previously! White won two pawns but wrongly went for an endgame where she couldn't benefit from them. But then Black cracked and suicide...

3 rd Round - 4:0			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Ramesh B.P.	Liang	1:0
B2	Abdusattorov	Hong	1:0
B3	Assaubayeva	Yip	1:0
B4	Salimova	Samadashvili	1:0

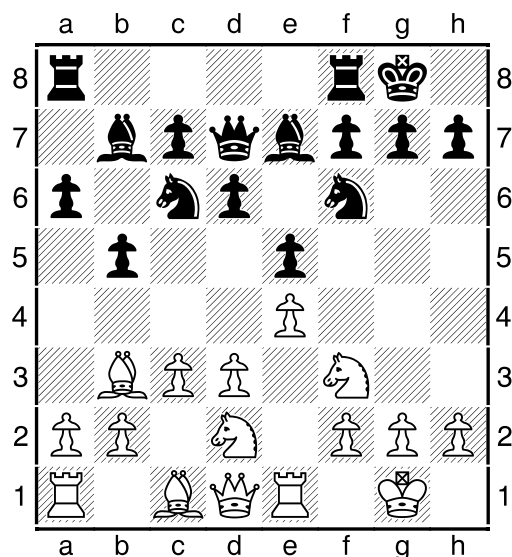


□ Liang Awonder (2536)

■ Pragganandhaa Ramesh Babu (2479)

C90 Saint Louis (3.1) 28.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.d3 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Nbd2 d6 10.c3 Qd7 (D)



11.d4!?

A novelty. 11.Nf1 Na5 12.Bc2 c5 13.Ng3 g6 14.Bh6 Rfe8 15.h3 += was seen in Savitskiy,S-Sipos,I Pardubice 2013.

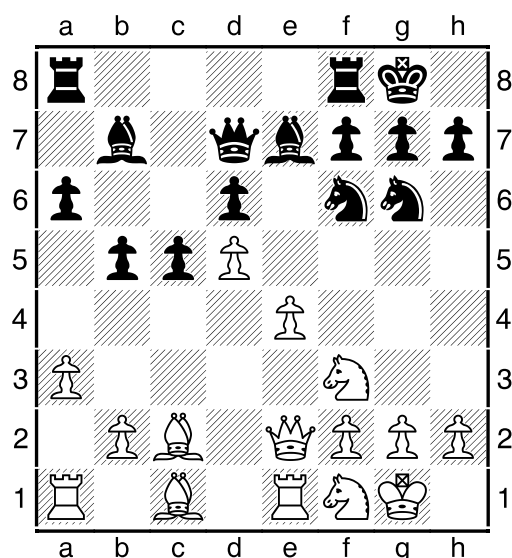
11...exd4

11...Rfe8 12.h3 Bf8 would be another big discussion.

12.cxd4 Nb4 13.Qe2 c5 14.a3 Nc6 15.d5 Ne5 16.Bc2

Why not 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Bc2 +=.

16...Ng6 17.Nf1 (D)



17...Ng4!

Now the position is quite complicated, although we can say that White should stand a bit better.

18.h3 N4e5 19.N3h2?!

White wrongly refuses to take on e5 for the second time: 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.f4 +=.

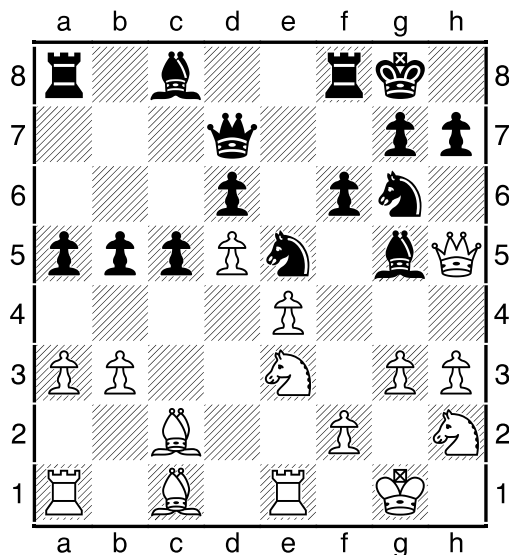
19...Bf6 20.Ne3 Bg5

20...Rfe8! 21.Nhg4 Nxg4 22.hxg4 h6 oo.

21.b3 a5 22.Qh5 f6!

Securing both the bishop and square e5.

23.g3 Bc8 (D)



24.Nf5

White rejected 24.f4, as after 24...Bxf4 25.gxf4 Nxf4 26.Qh4 g5 27.Qg3 Black can choose to play for a win with 27...Qxh3 or make a draw with 27...Nh5 28.Qg2 Nf4 =.

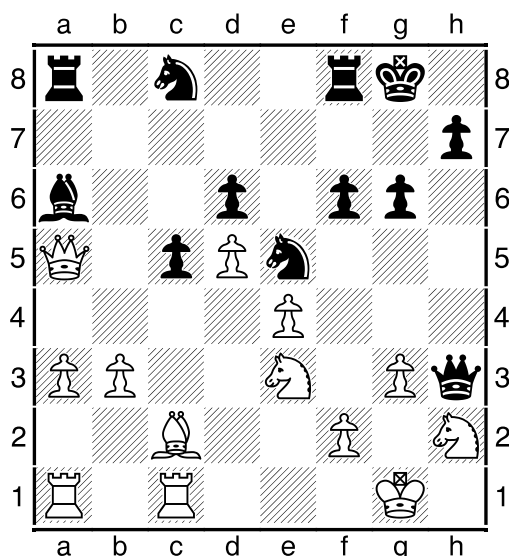
24...Bxc1 25.Rexc1 Ne7 26.Ne3?

26.Nxe7+ Qxe7 27.f4 Ng6 28.Ng4 was more or less equal.

26...g6! 27.Qe2 Qxh3 28.Qxb5 Ba6! 29.Qb6?

Loses. The alternative was 29.Qa4 Rfb8 -/+.

29...Nc8! 30.Qxa5 (D)



30...Be2!

And White resigned, as after 31.Qe1 Nf3+ 32.Nxf3 Bxf3 he will get mated!

0-1



□ **Abdusattorov Nodirbek (2467)**

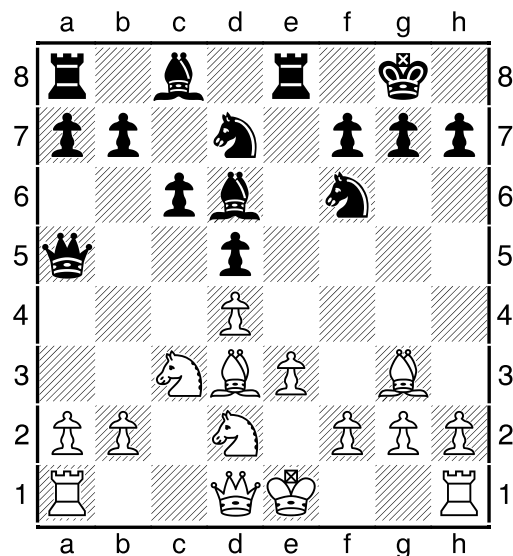
■ **Hong Andrew (2334)**

D52 Saint Louis (3.2) 28.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 Qa5 8.Nd2 Bd6 9.Bd3 0-0 10.Bh4

Another way to play is 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Nf3 Re8 12.Rc1 Qb8 13.Qc2 h6 14.Bh4 += Tomashevsky,E-Nguyen,N Baku 2015.

10...Re8 11.Bg3 (D)



11...Bxg3?!

Maybe the old 11...Bf8 is better: 12.0-0 g6 13.h3 a6 14.a3 Qd8 15.b4 Bh6 16.Qc2 += Cherednichenko,S-Bruno,F Bad Wiessee 2007.



12.hxg3 Ne4 13.Ndx4?!

Accurate and quite strong was 13.Bxe4! dxe4 14.Rh5! +/-.

13...dxe4 14.Rh5 b5 15.Be2 Qd8?!

15...g6 16.Rh4 Nf6 17.Rc1 h5! += was a better try by far...

16.Qc2!

Now Black's weaknesses on e4 and c6, will tell.

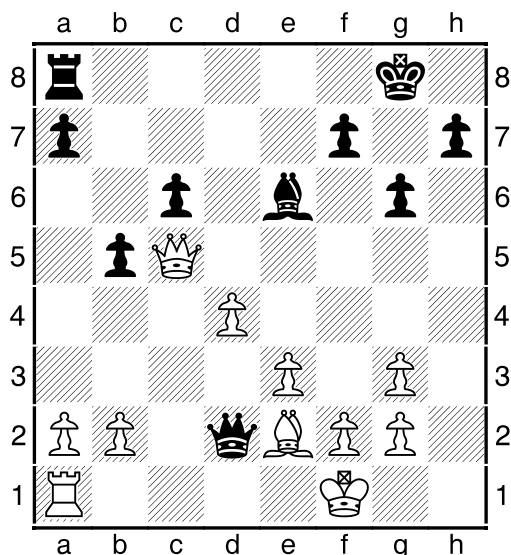
16...g6

It seems that Black cannot save his central pawn: 16...Qe7 17.Bg4 Nf6 18.Re5 Qf8 19.Be2! +/- or 16...Nf6 17.Re5!.

17.Rh4 Nf6 18.Nxe4 Rxe4 19.Rxe4 Qa5+ 20.Kf1 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Bf5 22.Qe7!

22.Qxc6 Rc8 23.Qxb5 Qd2, would give Black some counterplay - there is no need for such things!

22...Be6 23.Qc5 Qd2 (D)



24.Qc3!

Here White could win with many moves, but he chose to be mature! The endgame is the safe heaven when material up!

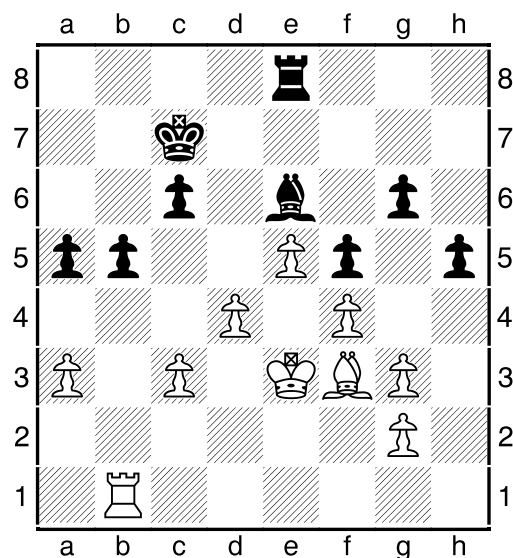
24...Qxc3 25.bxc3 a5 26.a3 h5 27.e4 Rb8 28.Rb1 Rd8 29.f3 Kf8 30.Kf2 Ke7 31.Ke3 Kd6 32.f4 Re8 33.Bf3

33.a4 was also good and in the 'spirit' of this endgame: 33...bxa4 34.Rb7 Bd5 35.e5+ Ke6 36.c4 Bxg2 37.Bd3 a3 38.Ra7 Rb8 39.Rxa5 Rb3 40.Kd2 +/-.

33...f5?!

Shortens the end, but Black's position was beyond salvation anyway... Of course White now found the correct follow up!

34.e5+ Kc7 (D)



35.d5! Bd7

35...Bxd5 36.Bxd5 cxd5 37.Rxb5 Kc6 38.a4 +/-.

36.c4! bxc4 37.d6+ Kc8 38.Kd4 g5 39.Kc5 h4 40.Bxc6

Somebody commented that 40.Kb6 Re6 41.Ka7 was pretty!

40...hxg3 41.Bxd7+ Kxd7 42.Kd5 Rc8 43.e6+ Kd8 44.Rh1 1-0



□ **Yip Carissa (2261)**

■ **Assaubayeva Bibisara (2386)**

C88 Saint Louis (3.3) 28.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.0-0 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.a4 Rb8 10.Re1 Na5

10...b4 11.Nbd2 Na5 12.Ba2 c5 13.d4 Qc7 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Nc4 oo Efimenko,Z-Onischuk,A Ningbo 2011.

11.Bc2 c5 12.d4 cxd4?!

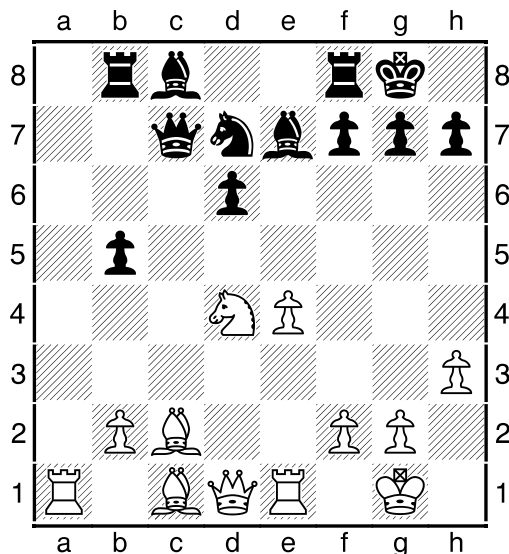
12...Nc6 13.d5 Na5 14.b4 cxb4 15.cxb4 Nc4 16.Bd3 += Bensaid,S-Bunyatov,R Budapest 2015.

13.cxd4 Nc6 14.h3 Qc7

14...Nxd4!? 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.axb5 Rxb5

17.Qxd4 d5! oo.

15.axb5 axb5 16.Nc3 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 exd4
18.Ne2 Nd7 19.Nxd4 += (D)



White has got a nice position, where Black has to fight to equalise.

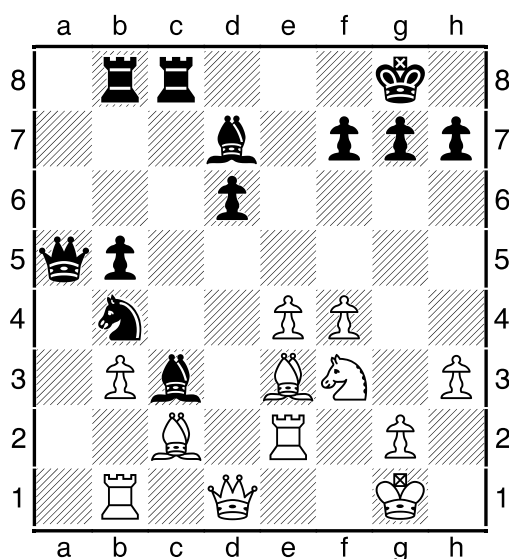
19...Ne5 20.Bf4 Bf6 21.b3

21.Rc1! Qb6 22.Ne2 Be6 23.Be3 Qb7 24.b3 +=.

21...Bd7 22.Rc1 Rfc8 23.Be3 Qa5 24.f4 Nc6 25.Nf3?!

White was obliged to enter a long variation, where she would retain a very tiny advantage: 25.Nxc6 Rxc6 26.e5! Bh4 27.Rf1 Qc7 28.Bxh7+ Kxh7 29.Rxc6 Qxc6 30.Qh5+ Kg8 31.Qxh4 Qe4 32.Re1.

25...Bb2! 26.Rb1 Bc3 27.Re2 Nb4! (D)



28.Qxd6 Bc6?!

Black should play 28...Rd8! 29.Qc5 Rbc8 30.Qb6 Qa8! oo, when every result is possi-

ble.

29.Bd4! Rd8 30.Qe5?

Blundering. The only move was 30.Qc5! Bxd4+ 31.Nxd4 Bd7 32.Nf5 Bxf5 33.Qxf5 g6 34.Qc5 Rbc8 35.Qf2 Nxc2 36.Rxc2 Rxc2 37.Qxc2 Qb4 oo, where Black has compensation but just for the draw.

30...Bxd4+ 31.Nxd4 Qb6

31...Qa7 is not much of a difference, but surely more accurate.

32.Rd1 f6 33.Qe6+ Kh8

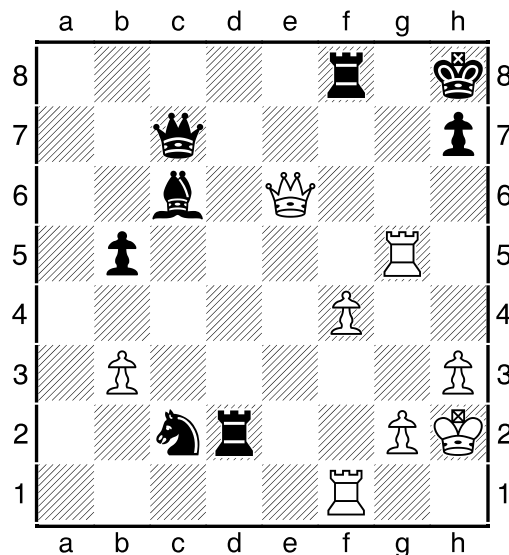
And White is losing material...

34.e5 Rxd4 35.Kh2 Nxc2?!

35...Rxd1 36.Bxd1 Qd4 was curtains!

36.exf6 Qc7! 37.fxc7+ Kxg7 38.Re5 Rf8!

39.Rc1 Rd2 40.Rg5+ Kh8 41.Rf1 (D)



41...Rxc2+

41...Nd4! 42.Qe3 Qd6 -+.

42.Rxc2 Bxc2 43.Kxc2 Qg7+ 44.Kh2 Nd4

45.Qe4 Rg8 46.Kh1 Nf5!

0-1



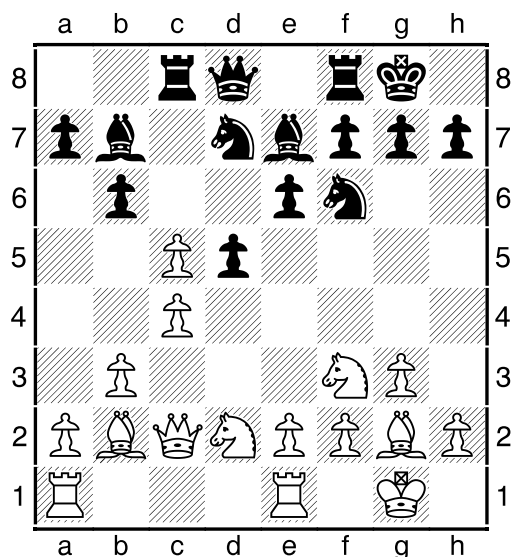
□ Salimova Nurgyul (2332)

■ Samadashvili Martha (2018)

E09 Saint Louis (3.4) 28.07.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Nbd7 5.0-

0 Be7 6.c4 c6 7.Qc2 0-0 8.Nbd2 b6 9.Re1 Bb7 10.b3 c5 11.Bb2 Rc8 12.dxc5 (D)



12...dxc4

The old way is 12...Bxc5 13.Nd4 Qc7 oo Suter,S-Willin,B Graechen 1999.

13.b4! bxc5?!

It was time for the prophylactic 13...a6! 14.Nxc4 bxc5 15.bxc5 Rxc5 16.Rac1 =.

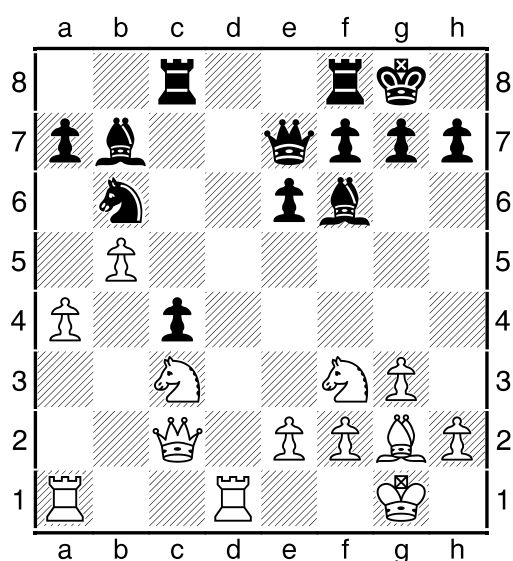
14.b5! c3 15.Qxc3 Nb6 16.Qc2?!

White would obtain a quite nice position after the simple 16.Ne5! Bxg2 17.Kxg2 +=.

16...c4 17.Bc3 Nfd5

Now Black is on the top, as White cannot consolidate her pieces on the queenside.

18.Nb1 Bf6 19.Rd1 Qe7 20.a4 Nxc3 21.Nxc3 (D)



21...Bxf3?

Simple chess is nearly always best: 21...Rfd8! 22.a5 Nd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5

24.Rab1 Qb7 and Black would be on the top, with bishop pair and the passed c-pawn.

22.Bxf3 Qb4 23.Rdc1! Qb3?!

A second slip in nearly a row. Not so bad was 23...Rfd8 24.Kg2 Qa5 oo.

24.a5! Nd5 25.Nxd5 exd5 26.Rab1 Qxc2 27.Rxc2 d4?!

No need to liberate the f3-bishop. Black could fight with 27...Rfd8 28.a6! c3 29.b6 axb6 30.Rxb6 Kf8 +=.

28.a6?

28.Ra2! wins: 28...Rc7 29.a6 Re7 30.b6 +-.

28...Bd8! 29.Rb4 d3?!

Opposite-coloured bishops in the endgame can be helpful for the defender. Black should have opted for 29...Bb6 30.Rbxc4 Rxc4 31.Rxc4 Rd8 +/-.

30.exd3 c3 31.Bb7! Rb8 32.Rc4 Ba5 33.Ra4

33.R4xc3 Bxc3 34.Rxc3 Rfd8 35.Rc7 wins.

33...Bb6 34.Rxc3 Rfe8 35.Rc6

I think here the idea of 35.Re4! was strong, when White will move his king forward and push his kingside pawns, retaining at least one pair or rooks on the board. But White's play is also strong.

35...Re6 36.Re4?

36.Rac4! was curtains: 36...Rxc6 37.Rxc6 Bd4 38.b6! +-.

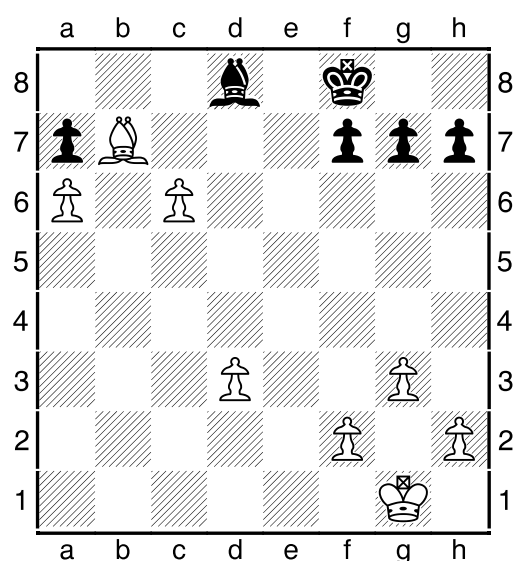
36...Rxc6 37.bxc6?!

37.Bxc6 g6 38.Re7 Kf8 39.Rd7 Rc8 40.Rb7! Rc7 41.Kg2 +-.

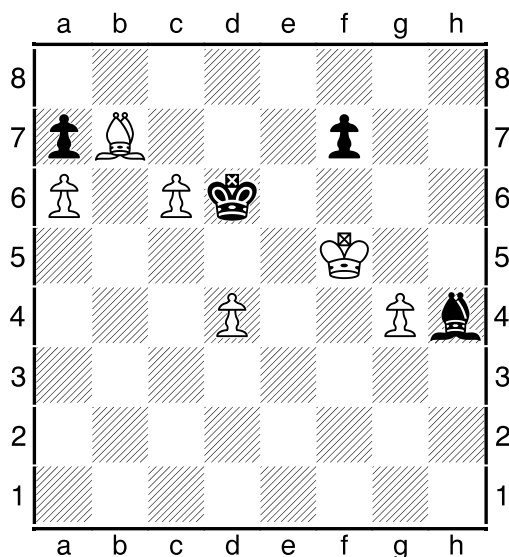
37...Kf8 38.Rc4 Bc7 39.Rd4?

39.Kf1 +-.

39...Rd8! 40.Rxd8+ Bxd8 (D)



Two pawns up but Black now cannot lose...
41.Kg2 Ke7 42.Kf3 Kd6 43.Ke4 Bb6 44.f3
Bd8 45.h4 Bb6 46.h5 Bd8 47.f4 Bc7 48.g4
Bd8 49.Kf5 g6+ 50.hxg6 hxg6+ 51.Ke4 g5
52.fxg5 Bxg5 53.d4 Bh4 54.Kf5 (D)



54...f6?

The losing move. I do not see how White will improve after the simple 54...Be7 55.d5 Bd8 56.Ke4 f6 57.Kf5 Ke7 58.Kg6 Bc7.

55.Kg6!

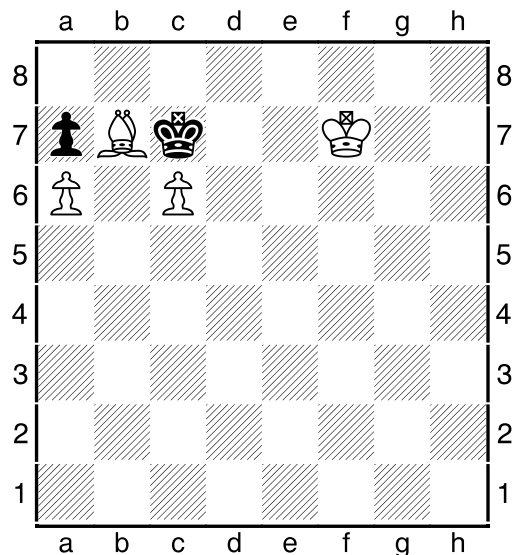
Now the black bishop is overloaded, as it cannot protect his pawns and the diagonal h2-b8 simultaneously...

55...Bg5 56.Kf7 Be3

Or 56...Bh4 57.d5 Bg5 58.Ke8 Be3 59.Kd8 Bd2 60.Kc8 Bc3 61.Ba8! +-.
57.Kxf6 Bxd4+ 58.Kf7

57.Kxf6 Bxd4+ 58.Kf7

And Black resigned. When I saw this I thought that it was premature, but this is not the case: 58...Be3 59.Kg6 Bb6 60.g5 Be3 61.Kf6 Bg1 62.g6 Bd4+ 63.Kf7 Kc7 64.g7 Bxg7 65.Kxg7 Kd8 66.Kf7 Kc7 (D)



And now: 67.Ba8! Kd8 68.Kf6 Kc8 69.Ke7 Kc7 70.Ke6 Kb8 71.Kd7 Kxa8 72.Kd8! and the c-pawn queens!

1-0



The Kingside Diner - Delegations' Dining Corner

MOTM U.14 - 4th Round (29.07.2017)

Not much can be said on the 4th and last round, as The World increased its superiority by easily winning 3-1, for a total score of 11½-4½.

Hong was able to get some nice advantage vs. Ramesh, which he lost with 'interest' in no time! And then Black's attack was unstoppable...

Abdusattorov could make a quick draw by repetition and go home with a solid +2 score. Instead he decided to take his chances but Liang played a rather good game and cashed the point.

Samadashvili had an OK position vs. Asaubayeva, but still she mishandled the ending. But then Black blundered a draw, which in the end White didn't take advantage of it!

Salimova played her best game in the event and when Yip helped her a bit, she was merciless.

4 th Round - 3:1			
Line	The World	USA	Result
B1	Ramesh B.P.	Hong	1:0
B2	Abdusattorov	Liang	0:1
B3	Assaubayeva	Samadashvili	1:0
B4	Salimova	Yip	1:0



The World HOF Jorge Vega

□ Hong Andrew (2334)

■ Praggananandhaa Ramesh Babu (2479)

C60 Saint Louis (4.1) 29.07.2017

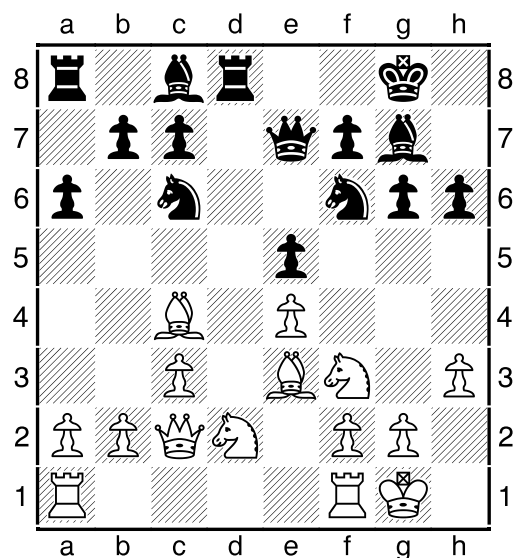
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.c3 a6 5.Bc4 Bg7 6.d4 d6 7.Bg5 Nf6 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Nbd2

9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Nbd2 Ne6 11.Bxe6 Bxe6 12.Nxe5 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Bxe5 = Safarli,E-Korobov,A Antalya 2013.

9...0-0 10.0-0

Known is 10.Qe2 Qd6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.0-0 b5 13.Bd3 = Zhezhov,E-Eftovska,L Skopje 2014.

10...h6 11.Be3 Qe7 12.h3 Rd8 13.Qc2 (D)



Black had an easy opening and now he starts operations on the kingside.

13...Nh5! 14.Rfd1 Qf6 15.b4 Re8

15...Nf4!? 16.a4 g5, with ...h5, ...g4 to follow, seems quite good.

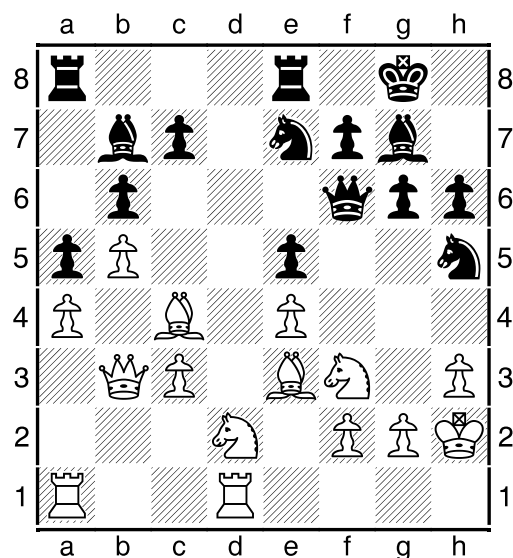
16.a4 a5?

No point behind it. Best again is 16...Nf4.

17.b5 Ne7 18.Kh2?

18.b6! c6 19.Ba2! and Black is in trouble, as Nc4 is coming!

18...b6! 19.Qb3 Bb7 (D)



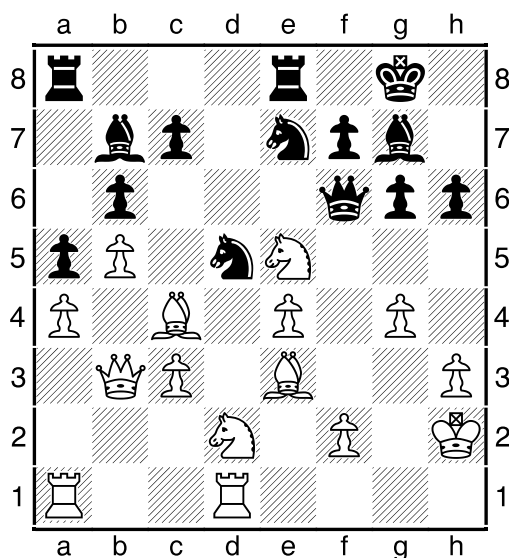
20.g4?

White enters a wrong calculated combination! He should have opted for the modest but secure 20.g3 +=.

20...Nf4 21.Nxe5?

21.h4 g5 ==+ was White's only chance.

21...Nfd5? (D)

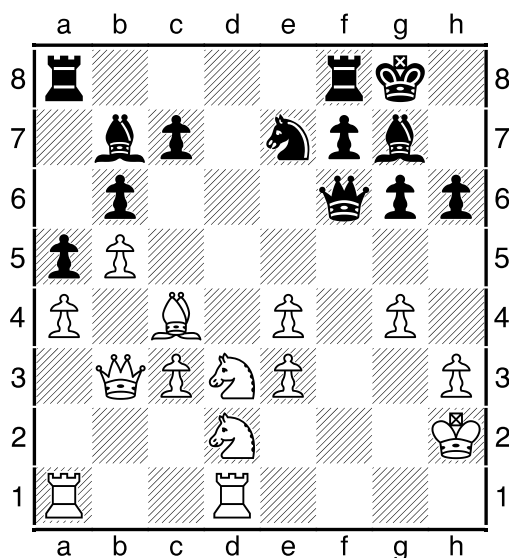


But Black didn't understand the position as well! 21...Qh4! wins on the spot! Even 21...Ned5 will do the job: 22.Nxf7 Kh7! 23.exd5 Qh4 24.Bxf4 Qxf2+ 25.Kh1 Qxf4 -/+.

22.Nd3?

Poor play continuous! Here White should have gone for 22.Bd4! Qf4+ 23.Kg1 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 Qxe5 25.exd5 Kg7 26.Nf3 Qf6 27.Rd3 Nc8 oo.

22...Nxe3! 23.fxe3 Rf8 (D)



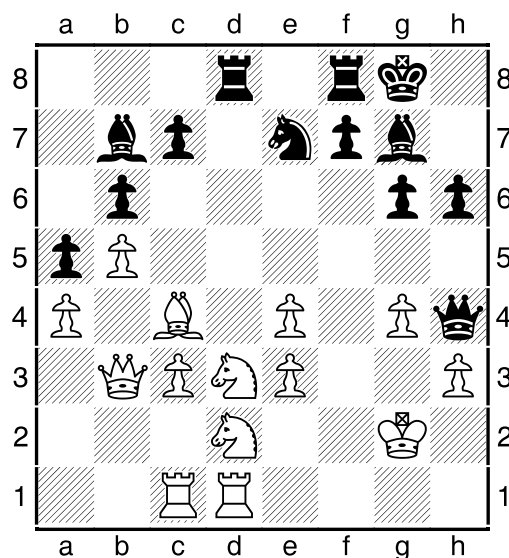
24.Rac1

White's damaged pawn structure and position in general cannot be fixed easily. Nothing is gained by 24.Rf1 Qd6+ 25.Kg2 Kh7! -/+ or 24.Kg2 Kh7 -/+.

24...Rad8 25.Kg2 Qg5! 26.Kf2?!

Maybe the lesser evil was 26.Nf3 Bxe4 27.Kf2 Bxf3 28.Kxf3 Nd5 -/+.

26...Qh4+ 27.Kg2 (D)



27...Kh7!

Black now wins - his attack is unstoppable!

28.Nf2 Be5 29.Nf1 Rxd1 30.Qxd1 f5!

31.Qf3 Kg7

31...Rf6! -/+.

32.gxf5 Rxf5!

32...gxf5? 33.Ng3 -/+.

33.exf5

33.Qe2 Rxf2+ 34.Qxf2 Qxe4+.

33...Bxf3+ 34.Kxf3 Qxc4 35.e4 gxf5

36.Ne3 fxe4+ 37.Nxe4 Qf7+ 38.Ke2 Qh5+

39.Kd3 Qxh3 40.Rg1+ Kh8 41.Nf2 Qd7+

42.Ke2 Bf4 43.Neg4 Qe6+ 44.Kf3 Qf5

45.Rd1 h5 46.Ne3 Bxe3+ 47.Kxe3 Nd5+

0-1



□ Abdusattorov Nodirbek (2467)

■ Liang Awonder (2536)

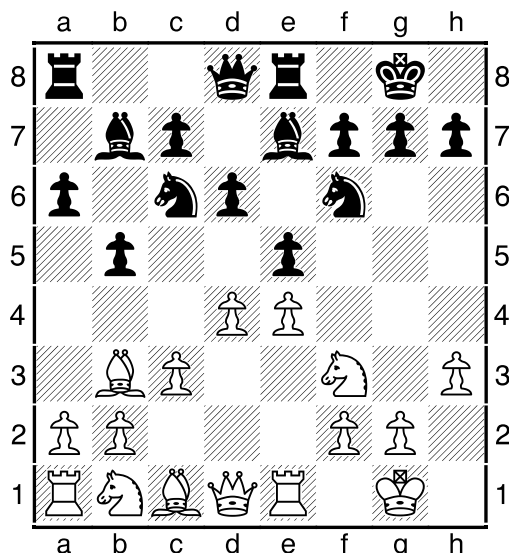
C92 Saint Louis (4.2) 29.07.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0

Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7

10.d4 Re8 11.Ng5 Rf8 12.Nf3 Re8 13.Ng5

Rf8 14.Nf3 Re8 15.a3 (D)



White avoids the draw by repetition, which simply proves the fighting spirit of these young lads! Of course the text move is not that 'ambitious' as the more known 15.Nbd2.

15...Nd7

Or 15...h6 16.Nbd2 Bf8 17.d5 Nb8 18.Nh2 Nbd7 19.Qf3 c6 oo Vachier Lagrave,M-Svidler,P Khanty-Mansiysk 2015. Playable as well is 15...Bf8 16.d5 Na5 17.Ba2 c6 oo Jakubowski,K-Gareev,T Figueira da Foz 2015.

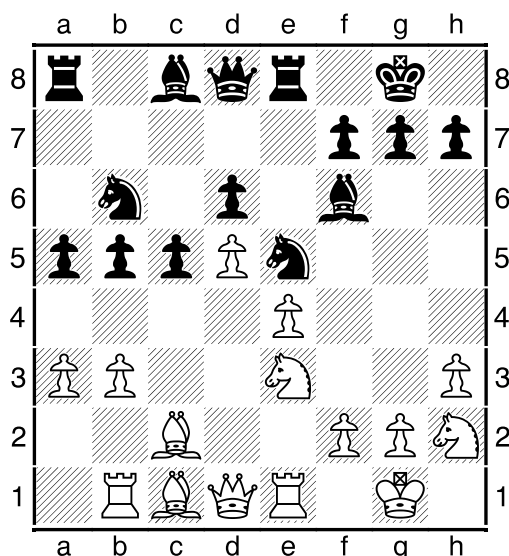
16.Nbd2 exd4 17.cxd4 Bf6 18.Nf1 Na5 19.Bc2 c5!

Black's activity on the queenside starts to get serious...

20.d5 Nc4

I would be also fond of 20...c4 21.Rb1 Nc5 oo.

21.Rb1 Nde5 22.N3h2 a5 23.b3 Nb6 24.Ne3 Bc8! (D)



25.Kh1?!

Too slow... Interesting was 25.f4 Ng6 26.g3! Bd7 (26...Bxh3?! 27.f5!) 27.h4 Nf8 oo.

25...Ng6! 26.Bd3 b4 27.Qc2 Bd7 28.a4?!

28.Nf3! =+ , to control e5, was a must.

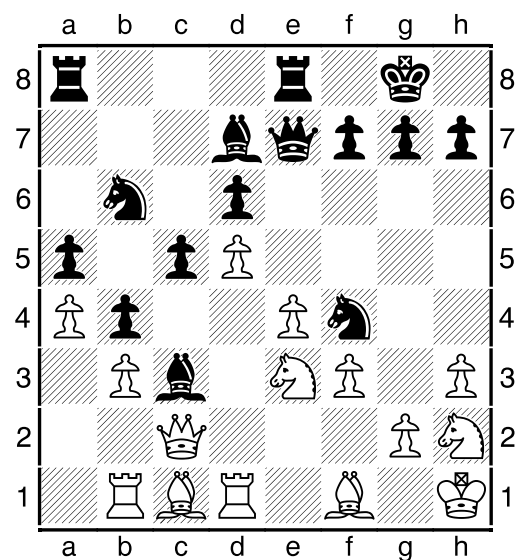
28...Nf4

Even better was 28...Ne5 29.Bf1 c4! -/+.

29.Bf1 Bc3 30.Rd1 Qe7

Black has got an excellent 'Benoni Defence' pawn structure, where White's activity is next to zero...

31.f3 (D)



31...Nh5!

Getting ready to exploit the dark squares' weaknesses around the white king.

32.Bd3 Ng3+ 33.Kg1 f5! 34.exf5

34.Nxf5 Bxf5 35.exf5 Bd4+ -+.

34...Bd4 35.Re1 Kh8?

Black could bring directly the bacon home with 35...c4 36.bxc4 Qg5 37.Nhf1 (37.f4 Qxf4 38.Qf2 Qxf2+ 39.Kxf2 Bxf5 -+) 37...Nxf1 38.Kxf1 Bxe3 39.Rxe3 Rxe3 40.h4 Qh6 -+ or 35...Qg5 36.f4 Qxf4 37.Qf2 Qxf2+ 38.Kxf2 Bxf5 39.Bxf5 Nxf5 40.Nf3 Bxe3+ 41.Bxe3 Nxe3 42.Rxe3 Nxd5 -+.

36.Nhg4?

36.Nhf1! would simply reduce Black's advantage: 36...Nxf1 37.Kxf1 Qh4 38.Re2 Qg3 -/+.

36...h5?!

36...Qg5! seems to win without too many problems...

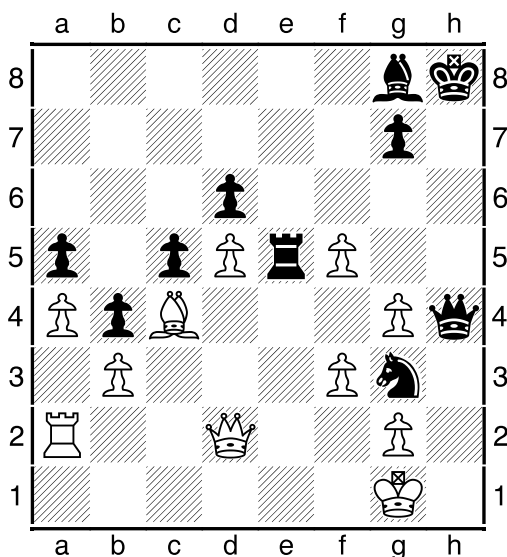
37.Bb2

37.f6!? gxf6 38.Bb2 Qg7! -+.

37...Bxb2 38.Qxb2 hxg4 39.Qf2 Qg5!

Game over - Black wins.

40.hxg4 Qh4 41.Qd2 Re7 42.Nc4 Nxc4
43.Bxc4 Rae8 44.Rxe7 Rxe7 45.Rc1 Be8
46.Rd1 Bf7 47.Rc1 Re5 48.Rc2 Bg8
49.Ra2 (D)



49...Re4! 50.Rc2

50.fxe4 Qh1+ 51.Kf2 Nxe4+ -+.

50...Rxc4! 51.Rc1 Rd4 52.Qe3 Nxf5

53.Qe8 Rd2 54.Qe1 Qxe1+

0-1

□ Samadashvili Martha (2018)

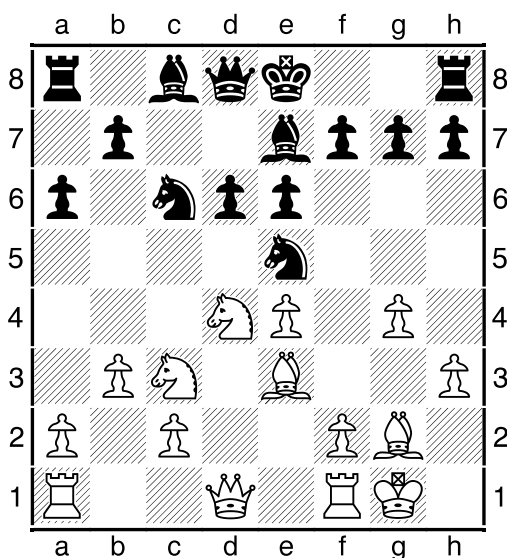
■ Assaubayeva Bibisara (2386)

B81 Saint Louis (4.3) 29.07.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e6 7.g4 Nfd7 8.Bg2 Be7 9.0-

0 Nc6 10.Be3 Nde5 11.b3 (D)

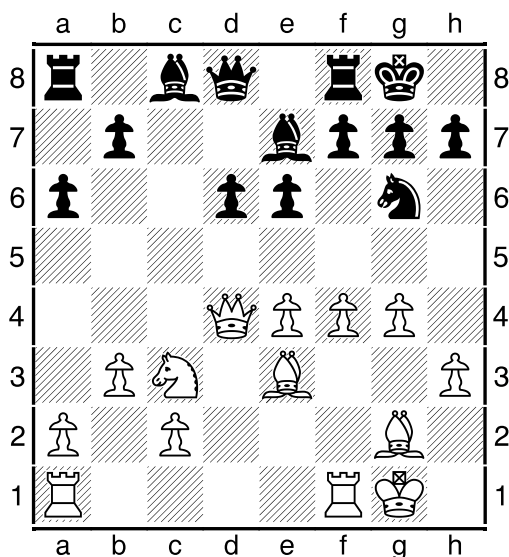


An interesting set-up for White, which hardly gives any advantage by the way.

11...0-0

A natural way to proceed, although known is 11...g5!? 12.Nce2 h5 oo Reinhart,E-Santos Latasa,J Pontevedra 2016.

12.f4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Ng6 (D)



14.Qd2!

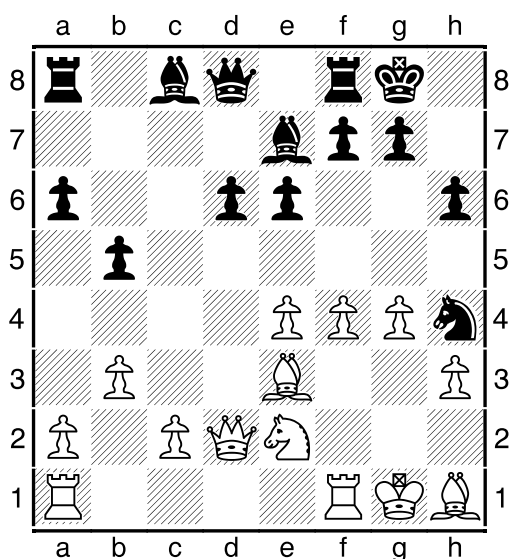
14.Rad1?! e5! looks good for Black.

14...h6?!

I do not see any real point behind the text move. Natural and good is 14...b5, when Black seems to have solved her opening problems.

15.Ne2! Nh4 16.Bh1 b5?! (D)

16...Bd7 17.Rad1 Bc6 18.c4 +=, seemed like a must.

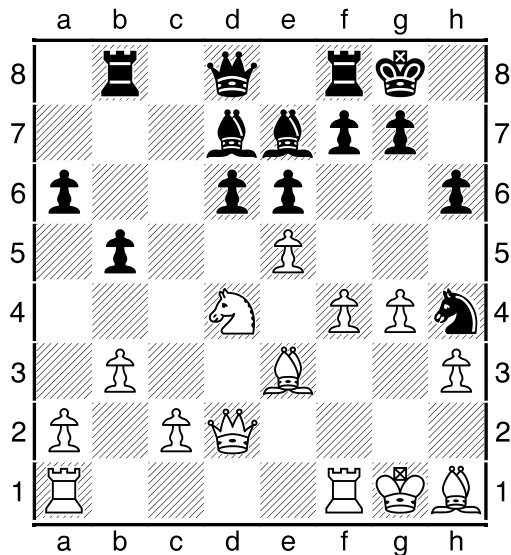


17.e5! Rb8

The alternative was 17...d5 18.c4 bxc4 19.bxc4 Bb7 20.cxd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Nd4 +/-.

18.Nd4?!

White returns the favour. She could get a good advantage by 18.exd6 Bxd6 19.Rad1 Bc7 20.Qc3 Qe7 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Nc6 Bxc6 23.Qxc6 +/-.

18...Bd7 (D)**19.Nf3?!**

This loses any advantage left: 19.exd6 Bxd6 20.Ne2 Qe7 21.Rad1 Bc5 22.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 23.Qd4 Qxd4+ 24.Rxd4 +=.

19...Nxf3+ 20.Bxf3 dxe5! 21.Rad1 Be8 22.Qxd8 Bxd8 23.Bc5

23.fxe5 b4 =.

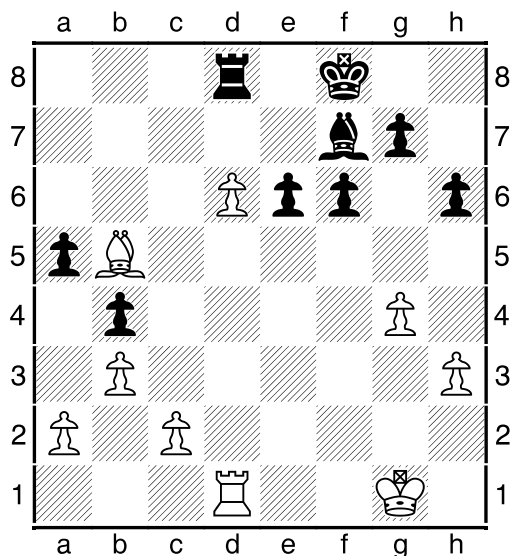
23...Bb6! 24.Bxb6 Rxb6 25.fxe5 f6?!

No time for weaknesses. Why not 25...b4! =.

26.Rd6! Rxd6 27.exd6 b4

Forced, otherwise c4-c5 will follow.

28.Be2 a5 29.Bc4 Bf7 30.Bb5 Rd8 31.Rd1 Kf8 (D)

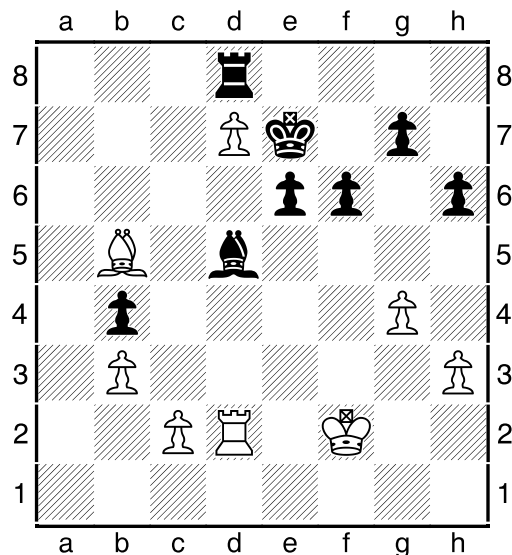
**32.a3?**

A miscalculation. Good was 32.Kf2 =.

32...Bg6?

Black trusted her opponent, otherwise she would have opted for 32...bxa3! 33.d7 Bg6! 34.Ra1 Bxc2 35.Rxa3 Ke7 -/+.

33.axb4 axb4 34.Rd2 Be4 35.Kf2 Bd5 36.d7 Ke7 (D)

**37.Rd4?!**

Not the best. Equal was 37.Ke3 Rb8 38.Ba4.

37...Rb8 38.Rxb4?!

Biting the decoy! White had to opt for 38.Ba4!, when she would probably hold.

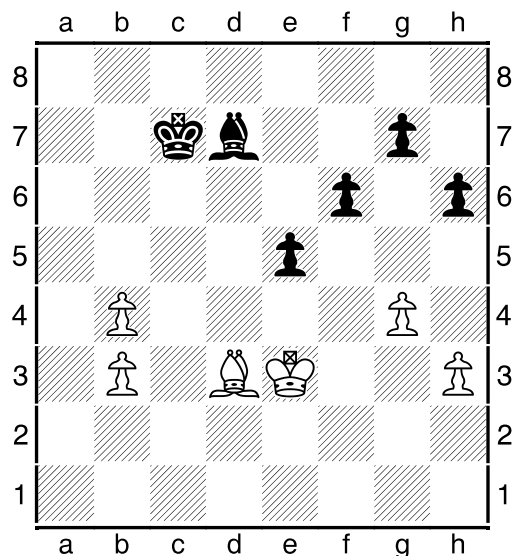
38...e5! 39.c3

39.c4 Bc6 -/+.

39...Be6 40.d8Q+ Kxd8 41.Ke3 Bd7! 42.Bd3

42.c4 Kc7 43.Kd3 Kd6 44.Kc3 Kc5 -/+.

42...Rxb4 43.cxb4 Kc7 (D)



The bishops' ending should be won for Black, as White has too many weaknesses.

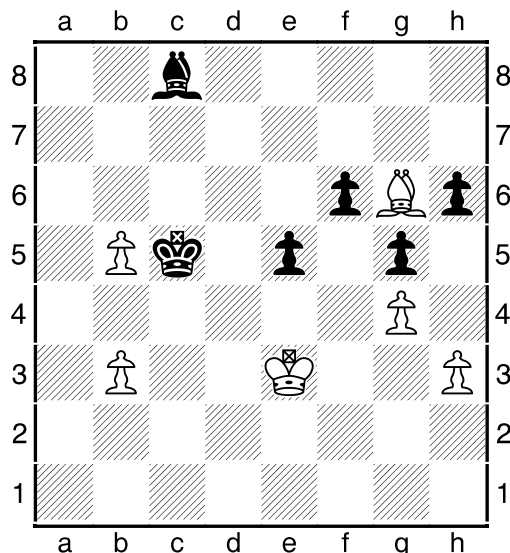
44.Ke4 Kd6 45.Ke3 Be6 46.Bc4

After 46.Bc2, Black wins with 46...h5!
47.gxh5 Bxh3 48.Bd1 Be6 49.Kd3 Bd5 -+.

46...g6 47.b5 Bc8?

A very bad move which throws the win away. Good was 47...f5 -+.

48.Bf7! g5 49.Bg6 Kc5 (D)



50.Ke4?

And as many times beforehand (and only in this game!) White returns all favours! A draw could have been achieved with 50.Bd3! Bd7 51.b4+ Kb6 52.Ke4 Bxb5 53.Bc2! =.

50...Be6!

Now Black collects material and wins the game, as the white king cannot be active.

51.Be8 Bxb3 52.Kf5 Bc4! 53.Kxf6 e4 54.Bc6 Bd5 55.Ke5 e3! 56.Bxd5 e2 57.Be6 e1Q+ 58.Kf6 Kxb5 59.Bf5 Qh4 0-1

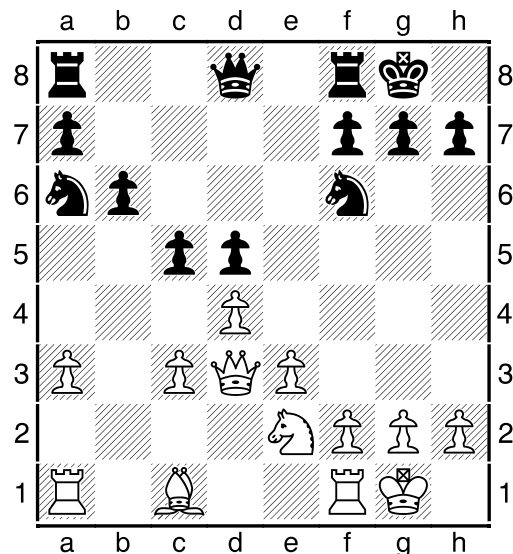


□ Salimova Nurgul (2332)

■ Yip Carissa (2261)

E49 Saint Louis (4.4) 29.07.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 Nf6 6.e3 0-0 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c5 9.Ne2 b6 10.0-0 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Qd3 (D)



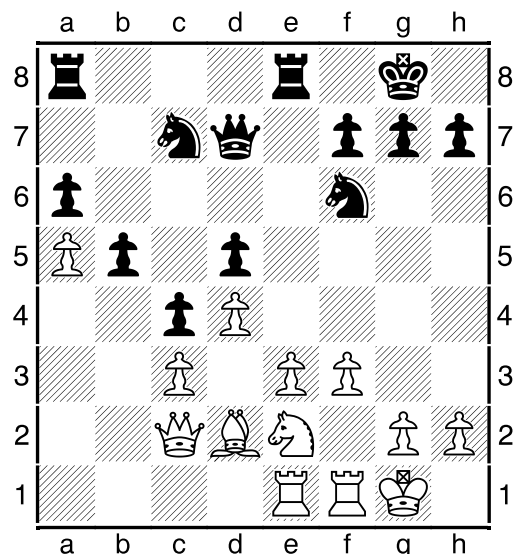
12...c4

Another way to play is to avoid this advance, but at the same time stop an eventual white e4 thrust: 12...Nc7 13.f3 Re8 14.Ng3 Ne6 oo Vedmediuc,S-Soltanici,R Kishinev 2016.

13.Qc2 Re8 14.f3 Nc7 15.a4

A new move. Previously we have seen 15.Ng3 h5 16.Bd2 Nb5 17.Rfe1 Nd6 18.Nh1 Qd7 19.Nf2 Qf5 20.Qxf5 Nxf5 21.e4 Ne7 22.Bg5 Nh7 23.Bxe7 Rxe7 24.exd5 Rd7 25.Ne4 ½-½ Piot,O-Chernushevich,A France 2009.

15...a6 16.Bd2 Qd7 17.Rae1 b5 18.a5 (D)



I do not think that there is any point behind

this move; I like the direct 18.Ng3!.

18...Rab8

Black should stand fine after 18...h5!
19.Ng3 h4 20.Nf5 h3 21.gxh3 b4! 22.cxb4
Nb5 oo/=.

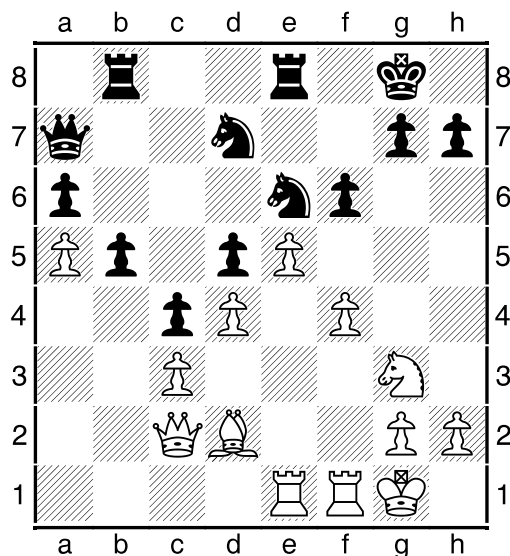
19.Ng3 Ne6?

Too slow! Black should stop white's e4 and
for this best was 19...b4! 20.cxb4 Nb5 oo/=.

20.e4!

Now White achieved the lethal pawn centre
and she is ready to push her majority (e5, f4-
f5), creating too many threats on the black
king.

20...Qa7 21.e5 Nd7 22.f4 f6!? (D)



23.Nf5

Natural and good, but 23.Qf5 fxe5 24.fxe5
looked even stronger.

23...fxe5 24.fxe5 b4

Too late...

25.Kh1! b3 26.Qd1 b2 27.Qg4

White attacks with nearly all his forces on
the kingside, where Black doesn't have
enough defensive pieces - the outcome can-
not be different....

27...Ndf8

27...Rf8 loses to 28.Bh6!.

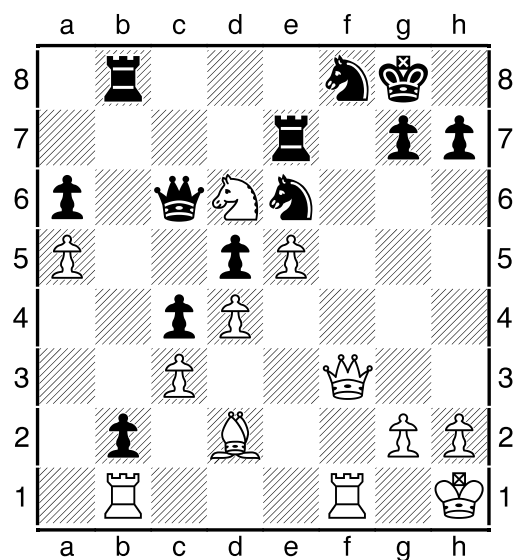
28.Nd6

28.h4! with the idea h5-h6, simply kills!

28...Re7 29.Qf3 Qa8 30.Rb1!

Allowing the f1-rook to join the attack,
without thinking of a potential ...b1Q.

30...Qc6 (D)



31.h4!

This is the end! Black stands passive and
must wait for White to deliver the decisive
blow...

31...Qa8 32.h5 Nc7 33.h6 g6 34.Qf6! Rd7 35.Nf7!

1-0



Advert of Saint Louis Club in the town's Airport

The Closing Ceremony (29.07.2017)

The Closing Ceremony took place just after the last round (20:00), in the 'Hall of Fame', opposite to the St. Louis Club. Well, The World took all three winner's Cups, the U.17, the U.14 and the overall, as already mentioned! A dinner for everybody followed in the very nice restaurant 'Bar Italia' just 200 meters away from the Club.

With some nice wine for the older and a lot of soft refreshments for the younger, it was time to say farewell. The event was over and the youngsters were feeling uncomfortable losing their teammates (and their opponents too!), but that's the every day usual life of a chess player...



The World Players Celebrating...



Special guests legends Wesley So & Vishy Anand

Score Tables

The World - USA: 19-13														
Teams U.17				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	P
The World	Grivas	A1	Martirosyan Haik	IM 2544 Armenia					½ 1	0 1		0 1	½	4
		A2	Esipenko Andrey	FM 2523 Russia					½	0 ½	1	1	1 0	4
		A3	Chopra Aryan	GM 2491 India					0 ½	½	1	1	½	3½
		A4	Sarana Alexey	GM 2510 Russia					½ ½	½	1	1	½	4
		A5	Smirnov Anton	IM 2495 Australia					½	1 0	½		½ 1	3½
USA	Khodarkovsky	B1	Xiong Jeffrey	½ 0	½	1 ½	½ ½	½	GM 2642 USA					4
		B2	Sevian Samuel	1 0	1 ½	½	½	0 1	GM 2633 USA					4½
		B3	Burke John		0	0	0	½	IM 2479 USA					½
		B4	Checa Nicolas	1 0	0	0	0		IM 2415 USA					1
		B5	Li Ruifeng	½	0 1	½	½	½ 0	GM 2568 USA					3

Rounds	The World	USA	Total
1	2	2	2-2
2	2	2	4-4
3	2	2	6-6
4	2½	1½	8½-7½
5	3	1	11½-8½
6	3½	½	15-9
7	2	2	17-11
8	2	2	19-13
8	+3 =5 -0	-3 =5 +0	+3 =5
Total			19-13

The World - USA: 11½-4½												
Teams U.14				A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	P
The World	Belavsky	A1	Praggnanandhaa Ramesh Babu	IM 2479 India				½ 1	½ 1	XX	XX	3
		A2	Abdusattorov Nodirbek	IM 2467 Uzbekistan				½ 0	1 1	XX	XX	2½
		A3	Assaubayeva Bibisara	WFM 2386 Russia				XX	XX	1 1	1 1	4
		A4	Salimova Nurgul	FM 2332 Bulgaria				XX	XX	0 1	0 1	2
USA	Ambart-sourian	B1	Liang Awonder	½ 0	½ 1	XX	XX	IM 2536 USA				2
		B2	Hong Andrew	½ 0	0 0	XX	XX	CM 2334 USA				½
		B3	Yip Carissa	XX	XX	0 0	1 0	WFM 2261 USA				1
		B4	Samadashvili Martha	XX	XX	0 0	1 0	WFM 2018 USA				1

Rounds	The World	USA	Total
1	2½	1½	2½-1½
2	2	2	4½-3½
3	4	0	8½-3½
4	3	1	11½-4½
4	+3 =1 -0	-3 =1 +0	+3 =1
Total			11½-4½

Combined Result: The World - USA: 30½-17½

Combined Matches Result: The World - USA: +6 =6 -0

A New Era

A broad cooperation within FIDE: A venture crowned with success was the initiative of The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, to organise the Match of the Millenials: USA vs. the World, in cooperation with FIDE, the U.S. Chess Federation, the Kasparov Chess Foundation and FIDE Trainer's Commission. FIDE Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos and Continental President for America Jorge Vega were invited to the Saint Louis Chess Centre for the first time by the organisers.

They were impressed by the excellent, modern and multifunctional facilities of the Saint Louis Chess Campus which include the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, the World Chess Hall of Fame, the Q Boutique and Kingside Diner.

During the first rounds of the games, Mr. Makropoulos and Mr. Vega had a meeting with Rex Sinquefield, co-founder of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, Michael Khodarkovsky, Delegate of the U.S. Chess Federation and President of the Kasparov Chess Foundation, and Joy Bray, General Manager of the St. Louis Chess Campus. They thoroughly discussed the prospect for further cooperation in the near future.

In the course of the Opening Ceremony of the event, Mr. Vega who was representing FIDE thanked Mr. Sinquefield and Saint Louis Chess Club for this initiative and also thanked all sponsors of the match, telling that a new horizon has opened for chess in the Americas. Moreover, Garry Kasparov in a Press Conference that he gave, also stated that 'It's a beginning of new relations with the World Chess Federation', a comment which was published on chess24.com.

FIDE Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos believes that it is necessary today for all major chess federations and significant organisers to collaborate with FIDE in realising events and championships of global scale and prestige.



FIDE Deputy & Acting President
Mr. Georgios Makropoulos



Garry Kasparov,
Rex Sinquefield & Tony Rich



Index of Games

When a player's name appears in **bold**, that player had White. Otherwise the first-named player had White. A total of 48 games are analysed and presented in this book.

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Assaubayeva Bibisara	- Samadashvili 67 - Samadashvili 80 - Yip 61 - Yip 73	Praggnanandhaa Ramesh	- Hong 65 - Hong 77 - Liang 57 - Liang 71
Burke John	- Chopra 17 - Esipenko 31 - Sarana 42 - Smirnov 25	Salimova Nurgyul	- Samadashvili 63 - Samadashvili 74 - Yip 68 - Yip 82
Checa Nicolas	- Chopra 22 - Esipenko 48 - Martirosyan 30 - Martirosyan 53 - Sarana 38	Samadashvili Martha	- Assaubayeva 67 - Assaubayeva 80 - Salimova 63 - Salimova 74
Chopra Aryan	- Burke 17 - Checa 22 - Li 37 - Sevian 51 - Xiong 28 - Xiong 45	Sarana Alexey	- Burke 42 - Checa 38 - Li 23 - Sevian 29 - Xiong 33 - Xiong 50
Esipenko Andrey	- Burke 31 - Checa 48 - Chopra 36 - Li 26 - Li 52 - Sevian 16 - Xiong 40	Sevian Samuel	- Chopra 51 - Esipenko 16 - Esipenko 36 - Martirosyan 20 - Martirosyan 41 - Sarana 29 - Smirnov 32 - Smirnov 46
Hong Andrew	- Abdusattorov 59 - Abdusattorov 72 - Praggnanandhaa 65 - Praggnanandhaa 77	Smirnov Anton	- Burke 25 - Li 19 - Li 43 - Sevian 32 - Sevian 46 - Xiong 21
Li Ruifeng	- Chopra 37 - Esipenko 26 - Esipenko 52 - Martirosyan 47 - Sarana 23 - Smirnov 19 - Smirnov 43	Xiong Jeffery	- Chopra 28 - Chopra 45 - Esipenko 40 - Martirosyan 16 - Martirosyan 35 - Sarana 33 - Sarana 50 - Smirnov 21
Liang Awonder	- Abdusattorov 66 - Abdusattorov 78 - Praggnanandhaa 57 - Praggnanandhaa 71	Yip Carissa	- Assaubayeva 61 - Assaubayeva 73 - Salimova 68 - Salimova 82
Martirosyan Haik	- Checa 30 - Checa 53 - Li 47		

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Armen Ambartsoumian & Michael Khodarkovsky

Author's CV - Efstratios Grivas

Efstratios Grivas (30.03.1966)

is a highly experienced chess trainer and chess author

Has been awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) the titles of:

- International Chess Grandmaster
- FIDE Senior Trainer
- International Chess Arbiter
- International Chess Organiser

His main successes over the board were:

- Silver Medal Olympiad 1998 (3rd Board)
- Gold Medal European Team Championship 1989 (3rd Board)
- 4th Position World Junior Championship U.20 1985
- 5 Balkan Medals (2 Gold - 1 Silver - 2 Bronze)
- 3 times Winner of the International 'Acropolis' Tournament
- 28 times Winner of Greek Individual & Team Championships
- Winner of Various International Tournaments
- Among the 120 best players of the World in 1993
- Rating Record in 1999 *2528* (equal to today 2630 ~)
- Best Individual Results: Z.Almasi ½ ½ - V.Anand ½ - Z.Azmaiparashvili 1 - J.Benjamin 1 - F.Caruana ½ - M.Chiburidanidze ½ ½ ½ - L.Christiansen ½ - Z.Efimenko ½ - J.Ehlvest ½ - B.Gelfand ½ - Kir.Georgiev 1 - R.Huebner ½ - V.Kramnik 0 - P.Leko ½ ½ ½ - S.Lputian 1 - S.Movsesian ½ - J.Nunn 1 ½ ½ ½ - J.Polgar ½ ½ - S.Polgar ½ - A.Shirov ½ - N.Short ½ - I.Smirin ½ - V.Smyslov ½ ½ ½ - P.Svidler ½ - V.Topalov ½ - R.Vaganian ½ - L.Van Wely ½
- An opening variation has been named after him. The '**Grivas Sicilian**' is characterised by the moves 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6

What he does/did:

- Secretary of the FIDE Trainers' Commission
- Director of the FIDE Grivas International Chess Academy (Athens)
- Director of the UAE Chess Federation FIDE Academy (Abu Dhabi)
- Technical Director of the Greek Chess Federation (1996-1999)
- Technical Director of the United Arab Emirates Chess Federation (2014-2016)
- Head Trainer of the Turkish Men's National Team (2006-2012)
- Head Coach of the Greek Men's National Team (2013)
- Head Coach of the Sri Lanka Men's National Team (2014)
- Head Coach of the United Arab Emirates Men's National Team (2016)
- Workshops with National Teams of Austria (Women), Jordan (Women), Mauritius (Men) and Sri Lanka (Men & Women)
- Winner of the FIDE Boleslavsky Medal 2009 & 2015 (best author)
- Winner of the FIDE Euwe Medal 2011 & 2012 (best junior trainer)
- Winner of the FIDE Razuvaev Medal 2014 (Trainers' education)
- Captain/Winner of the World Team - USA vs. The World U.17-14 2017
- Trainer of Various GMs & IMs - In 2009-2011 alone, he formed 7 GMs!
- Trainer of the FIDE World Women Champion Antoaneta Stefanova
- Trainer of the FIDE World Junior Champion U.20 2012 Alex Ipatov
- Trainer of the Gold Medal Winner (Group D') Team of Sri Lanka in the 41st Chess Olympiad
- Worked over 12.000 hours on training!
- Official Commentator of the FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Ch 2013

- Organiser of the European Youth Championships 1999, FIDE Congress 2015 & Asian Nations Cup 2015
- Lecturer at FIDE Seminars for Training & Certifying Trainers - 67 by today.
- Author of 94 Books in Arabic, English, Greek, Italian, Spanish & Turkish
- Cooperating with the World's Most Important Magazines

Efstratios Grivas tutorial program contains:

- Build an Opening Repertoire
- Broaden your Tactical Abilities
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E.Grivas & V.Anand
Wijk aan Zee 2008



Boleslavsky Medal Award 2010
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A.Mikhalchishin, K. Ilyumzhinov,
Z.Azmaiparashvili, A.Petrosian

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- **Black & White** - India (www.blackandwhiteindia.com)
- **British Chess Magazine** - England (www.bcmchess.co.uk)
- **Chess Chronicle** - Pakistan (shatirhyd@yahoo.com)
- **ChessBase Magazine** - Germany (www.chessbase.com)
- **ChessCafe** - United States of America (www.chesscafe.com)
- **Chess-Today** - Ireland (www.chesstoday.net)
- **Euroscacchi Periodiko** - Italy (www.accademiainternazionaleiscacchi.com)
- **Greek Chess** - Greece (www.chessfed.gr)
- **L'Italia Scacchistica** - Italy (www.italiascacchistica.com)
- **MaviKale** - Turkey (www.tsf.org.tr)
- **New in Chess Magazine** - The Netherlands (www.newinchess.com)
- **New In Chess Yearbook** - The Netherlands (www.newinchess.com)
- **Schach Magazine** - Germany (www.schuenemann-verlag.de/schach-magazin)
- **Twic Theory** - England (www.chesscenter.com/twictheory)

Efstratios Grivas bibliography (non-Greek) consists of the following books & DVDs (Title-Publisher/Year-Language):

- **A Complete Guide to the Grivas Sicilian** (Gambit 2005-English)
- **Beating the Fianchetto Defences** (Gambit 2006-English)
- **Chess College 1: Strategy** (Gambit 2006-English)
- **Chess College 2: Pawn Play** (Gambit 2006-English)

- **Chess College 3: Technique** (Gambit 2006-English)
- **Modern Chess Planning** (Gambit 2007-English)
- **Practical Endgame Play - Mastering the Basics** (Everyman 2008-English)
- **Planificación en el Ajedrez Moderno** (La Casa del Ajedrez 2008-Spanish)
- **Oyunortasında Ustalık Dersleri / Temeller ve Uygulamalar** (TSF 2010-Turkish)
- **Oyunsonunda Ustalık Dersleri / Temeller ve Uygulamalar** (TSF 2010-Turkish)
- **FIDE TRG Syllabus** (FIDE 2010-English)
- **Kalite Fedası & Konumsal Feda** (TSF 2010-Turkish)
- **Kötü Ata Karşı İyi Fil, Kötü File Karşı İyi At** (TSF 2010-Turkish)
- **Konumun Değerlendirilmesi & Fillerin ve Atların Etkinliği** (TSF 2010-Turkish)
- **Chess Expertise Step by Step Vol 1 - Unexpected Tactics** (ChessBase 2011-English)
- **Chess Expertise Step by Step Vol 2 - Mastering Strategy** (ChessBase 2011-English)
- **Chess Expertise Step by Step Vol 3 - Rook Handling** (ChessBase 2011-English)
- **Chess Expertise Step by Step Vol 4 - Endgame Magic** (ChessBase 2012-English)
- **FIDE TRG Yearbook 2011** (FIDE 2012-English)
- **Fil Oyunsonları ve At Oyunsonları** (TSF 2012-Turkish)
- **Fil Çifti ve Taş Seğişim Sanatı** (TSF 2012-Turkish)
- **Piyon Çoğunluğu/Azinliği ve Kenardaki Taşlar** (TSF 2012-Turkish)
- **Bingeç Piyon ve Geri Kalmış Piyon** (TSF 2012-Turkish)
- **FIDE TRG Trainer Foundation Guide** (FIDE 2012-English)
- **Chess Analytics - Training with a Grandmaster** (Russell Ent. 2012-English)
- **Trivial Endings - Revealing the Secrets** (FIDE 2013-English)
- **FIDE TRG Yearbook 2012** (FIDE 2013-English)
- **Chess Steps - Volume A'** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **Chess Steps - Volume B'** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **Procedimnti Analitici** (Prisma 2014-Italian)
- **FIDE TRG Yearbook 2013** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **Advanced Chess School - Volume 1 - The Bishop Pair** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **Advanced Chess School - Volume 2 - The Exchange Sacrifice** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **Advanced Chess School - Volume 3 - Doubled & Backward Pawns** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **The Grandmaster Program** (Grivas Chess International Academy 2014-English)
- **Advanced Chess School - Volume 4 - Imbalances of Bishops & Knights** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **Advanced Chess School - Volume 5 - Majority-Minority & Edged Pieces** (FIDE 2014-English)
- **FIDE TRG Yearbook 2014** (FIDE 2015-English)
- **Advanced Chess School - Volume 6 - The Art of Exchanges** (FIDE 2015-English)
- **Entrene Ajedrez I** (La Casa del Ajedrez 2015-Spanish)
- **Entrene Ajedrez II** (La Casa del Ajedrez 2015-Spanish)
- **The Grandmaster Program** (FIDE 2015-English)
- **Chess Steps - Volume A'** (UAE CF 2015-Arabic)
- **Chess Steps - Volume B'** (UAE CF 2015-Arabic)
- **FIDE World Championship 2016** (FIDE 2017-English)
- **Endgame Manual - Queen & Bishop vs Pieces** (Chess Evolution 2017-English)
- **Endgame Manual - Rook & Knight vs Pieces** (Chess Evolution 2017-English)
- **FIDE Grand-Prix - Sharjah 2017** (FIDE 2017-English)
- **Advanced Chess School - Volume 7 - The Passed Pawn** (FIDE 2017-English)
- **The Bishop's University** (Thinkers Publishers 2017 - English)
- **40 Roads to Chess Knowledge** (Chess Evolution 2017 - English)
- **Advanced Chess School** (ICChess 2017 - English)
- **Match of the Millennials** (FIDE 2017 - English)

For more information visit **Efstratios Grivas's** personal internet site:

www.GrivasChess.com - <http://trainers.fide.com>

Contact Info: E-mail: GrivasEfs@yahoo.co.uk

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What do teachers know anyway? Michael Jordan, the greatest basketball player in the history of the game, was told by his High School coach that basketball was not a good fit for him. He cut Jordan from the High School basketball team and told him to take up baseball...

The good trainer is not dogmatic; he is trying to become better day by day...

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Michael Khodarkovsky & Efstratios Grivas

*World Junior Champion Jeffery Xiong said
'they managed to blow us out of the building'
as his USA team was crushed...*