



CHESS OLYMPIAD

NORWAY 2014
TROMSØ

Bulletin

Round 10 -12.08.14



Dragon gold?

Round 10 interim report: Lawyers & politicians



Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg makes Magnus Carlsen's first move against Ivan Saric in Round 10.
Photo: Daniel Skog / COT2014

Tromsø had two not-quite chess events in focus today - the 9 a.m. hearing at the local courthouse to assess the Russian Chess Federation's request that USD 200,000 of Olympiad funds be frozen for a lawsuit claiming that amount in legal fees incurred to get their women's team instated, and the arrival of Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, who became the top domestic political figure to grace the games.

By GM Jonathan Tisdall

The PM opened the round's play by making the first move for world champion Magnus Carlsen against Croatia's GM Ivan Saric, before being shown around the playing hall by Norwegian Chess Federation official Gisle Bjugn. Later Solberg appeared in the NRK studio and said that it's important for Norway to organize big events like this.

Early action

There were not many quick decisions in the top Open matches, but much notable action. Magnus Carlsen was in romantic mood, reviving the Bird's Defence against the Spanish, and did so in swashbuckling style, offering two pawns in order to gain a quick initiative and lead in development. There was widespread confusion about whether

this radical approach was actually sound, particularly when the champ began to slide into time trouble as well. Saric finished cleanly, handing the world champion his second defeat of the event.

Our man Tarjei J. Svensen interviewed the Croatian after his game:

What happened in your game today?

Saric: Well, he played quite aggressively with Black and sacrificed one pawn then another one and it turns out that his position was not so good. He didn't have enough compensation for two pawns and I played solid moves and eventually ended up with a clear advantage.

Was this something you had prepared in advance?

Saric: No, actually he surprised me on move 3 and the game started very early as I was out of theory on move 5, but it seems he was also improvising.

It seemed you were in control from the beginning until the end?

Saric: It's easy to play the world champion. Whatever you do, it can only be good. If you lose, nobody will say anything to you. I won the game and I'm very happy. It's one of the biggest victories of my career. Currently he's the best in the world, but maybe he's the best of all time, and I really respect him as a player.

Top board in Serbia-Russia also caught the eye, with GM Ivan Ivanisevic losing a pawn in grotesque fashion against Vladimir Kramnik as White in an Exchange Queen's Gambit. A surprising and surprisingly early result was Bulgaria's hot man Valentin Iotov crashing to earth with the white pieces against Polish teenager GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda.

Real action

By the third hour of play, games started to reach boiling point all over the place. China moved closer to gold with a win with Black on board three against third seeded France, Yangyi Yu downing Laurent Fressinet. With draws in both their black games, French hopes rested on team leader Maxime Vachier-Lagrave being able to convert an endgame advantage against experienced Yue Wang to level the match. China held though, and move into clear first again, with just a rest day and one round remaining.

Bulgarian number one Veselin Topalov looked certain to even their match against Poland, and two tense games would remain, in another duel

where a split decision could well mean the end of medal chances for both.

Local fans could try to figure out the insane complications unleashed by Norwegian GM Kjetil Lie's double piece sacrifice against Zdenko Kozul. In the key Ukraine-Azerbaijan match, Vassily Ivanchuk's poor form reasserted itself, the Ukrainian simply blundering material against Mamedyarov. Pavel Eljanov struck back on board three for the Ukraine with a neat finish against Rauf Mamedov, and the fate of the match was left to Ponomarev and Radjabov to decide in an even ending after Moiseenko-Safarli was drawn on board four.

In the Women's section, Romanian IM Irina Bulmaga smashed German WGM Sarah Hoelt in a match where victory will be essential to keep any team medal hopes alive. 4th seeds Georgia jumped out to a 2-0 lead against 8th ranked Poland, in another result vital for teams hoping to vault into the medal position past Ukraine.

The two sprint teams were toiling as the time control approached, both Russia and China were being held 1-1 in tough matches, against Ukraine and Spain respectively.

Local zero tolerance

The zero tolerance watch has evolved into a regular check of teams and players that may have gone missing. When one of the local teams has attendance issues, people combing the event must become especially curious.

Unfortunately, Norway 3 in the men's team was unable to field a full team today. Due to personal circumstances, GM Rune Djurhuus and FM Lars Oskar Hauge had to leave Tromsø, Hauge forfeiting on board two against Oman.

Tromsø Olympiad organizers vs. Russian Chess Federation



Russian Chess Federation President Andrey Filatov has been ever present at the Olympiad, here together with Women's Team Captain Sergei Rublevsky and players Alexandra Kosteniuk, Valentina Gunina and Kateryna Lagno
Photo: Georgios Souleidis, [chess24](#)

By GM Jonathan Tisdall

The RCF sued the organizers for USD 200,000 for legal expenses connected to the dispute about the eligibility of their women's team which came into the spotlight before the event. The case was tried in the Tromsø courthouse, beginning this morning at 9 a.m.

The hearing's first point of focus was the request to freeze this amount, as the RCF feared the event's funds are such that there would be nothing to sue for after the Olympiad is over.

Brynjar Østgård, one of the lawyers representing the RCF, argued that the federation had incurred extra costs as a direct result of breach of regulations by the Tromsø organizing committee. This referred to the well-known dispute about deadlines for registration of teams, line-ups and also pointed to doubts raised by Tromsø's admission of finance problems before the Olympiad.

The organizers have questioned the amount and documentation of legal expenses, and argued that the disputed deadline was agreed by both FIDE and the organizers. Østgård commented to NRK:

I agree that the demand is high, but we don't know what it costs to hire lawyers at short notice in Moscow.

The decision fell this afternoon. In the ruling, the RCF's claims were dismissed, and the Russian Chess Federation was instructed to pay legal costs of NOK 123,500 (about 15,000 Euro).

Round 10: Dragon gold?



Yue Wang playing for Chinese team in the open section. His team is in the lead before the last round.

Photo: Georgios Souledis / chess24

China's Open team will have the final rest day to mull over how best to bring home gold. Now the only undefeated team in the Open event, 7th seeded China have only lost one individual game over ten rounds. Despite having a clear lead, China can still be caught, and if they want to avoid the trauma of calculating infinite tiebreak variations, they really need one more team victory. What makes China's result even more remarkable - their team line-up in Tromsø omits three players with ratings over the 2700 mark - Hao Wang, Xiangzhi Bu, and Chao Li.

By GM Jonathan Tisdall

Round ten offered a chance for the top seeded women's team - from China - to resurrect their dreams of gold. The Ukrainian women continued a storming comeback with a win over Russia, in what had to be the grudge match of the entire event, after their acrimonious pre-Olympida battle over who would get to field Kateryna Lagno in Tromsø. The match ended 2.5-1.5 after three draws and GM Natalia Zhukova's win on fourth board against WGM Olga Giry.

Golden chance

But could the favorites seize their opportunity? Although their world champion, Yifan Hou, steadily outplayed IM Sabrina Vega Gutierrez on top board, Spain hung tough. First drawing both of their games with White, and then with IM Ana

Matnadze grinding down WGM Zhongyi Tan on board three, Spain saved part of the day for Russia. Despite the misstep against Ukraine, Russia enter the final round with a one match-point lead over the field, with 18/20 and Ukraine catches China on 17. Germany is the sole team on 16 points.

In the final round Ukraine meets China, while Russia faces Bulgaria and Georgia plays Germany in the matches most likely to decide the medals.

Two clear

In the Open event, 5th seeds Hungary found themselves alone in second place, a point behind China. They did this by puncturing the incredible Romanians, who started the day fighting for silver

position despite being seeded only 32nd. Another overperformer bit the dust today - the high-flying Bulgarians were edged out 2.5-1.5 by the 15th seeds, Poland. Former World Champion Topalov kept his hot streak going, beating Wojtaszek on first board, but his teammates could not maintain the pace. Poland struck back on the middle boards, Gajewski and Duda beating Cheparinov and man-in-form Iotov, respectively.

Top seeds Russia returned to the chasing pack with a 2.5-1.5 win over Serbia, Kramnik winning after a horrendous opening from Ivanisevic, and with the teams trading wins with White on the bottom two boards. The 6th seeds USA also made a late reappearance, edging out Argentina 2.5-1.5 thanks to wins by anchor Nakamura and the unstoppable Sam Shankland, who now has 8.5/9.

India handed Germany their first team defeat of the event, winning 2.5-1.5 on the strength of GM Krishnan Sasikiran's victory with the Black pieces over Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu. Uzbekistan are the clear positive surprise after ten rounds, thanks to another upset, this time 2.5-1.5 over 11th ranked Netherlands, with IM Jahongir Vakhidov supplying the only decisive result, beating GM Robin van Kampen on board four.

The round's battles produced a log-jam of teams on 15 points, and since Hungary has already faced - and lost - to China, one of these must float up to first board. If the Chinese can be vanquished at the final hurdle, the destination of the medals will be an incredibly exciting and complicated affair. The protagonists with an uphill battle in the potentially wild final round are, all on 15 points: USA, Russia, Ukraine, France, Azerbaijan, Poland, rising India, and the latest high-fliers, 33rd seeded Uzbekistan.

The final showdowns: Poland-China, Hungary-Ukraine, Russia-France, Azerbaijan-USA, and India-Uzbekistan – these heavyweight matches will decide the medals.

Local news:

Norway 1's Open match against Croatia was exciting, eventful and ultimately unfortunate. The world champion summed up his loss on board one: "Today I deserved to be punished."

GMs Hammer and Lie seemed to have attractive positions, but both eventually went astray in radically different ways - Hammer being methodically rolled back, while Lie's sacrificial melee with Kozul was arguably the most spectacular and interesting game of the tournament, but in one of the oddest resulting

material imbalances I have ever seen in my life, the Norwegian's king turned out to be frighteningly exposed and impossible to defend in time trouble.

Norway 2 drew with Colombia 2-2, and though this was a very slightly disappointing result, they have now tied Norway 1 in match points. Norway 2 has 23 game points – Norway 1 only 21.5.

Annotated games

By GM Einar Gausel

Kjetil Lie (2528) -
Zdenko Kozul (2608)
WCO2014 Tromso (10.32), 12.08.2014

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6
5.c4 ♘f6 6.♘c3 d6 7.♙d3 ♖b6 8.♙e3 ♗c7
9.0-0 ♘bd7 10.f4 b6 11.♙c1 ♙e7 12.♗f3
0-0 13.g4 g6 14.g5 ♘h5 15.b4

White has staked claims in the center and on both wings. Black either needs to counter with a pawn break or remain passive and hope White overextends.

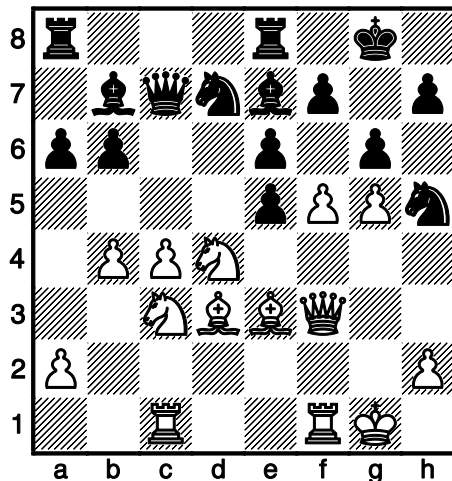
15...♙e8?

This sets the stage for later tactics on f7. Continuing the development with 15...♙b7 seemed more logical.

16.e5!

White grabs his chance to strike before Black has managed to mobilize his forces.

16...dxe5 17.f5! ♙b7



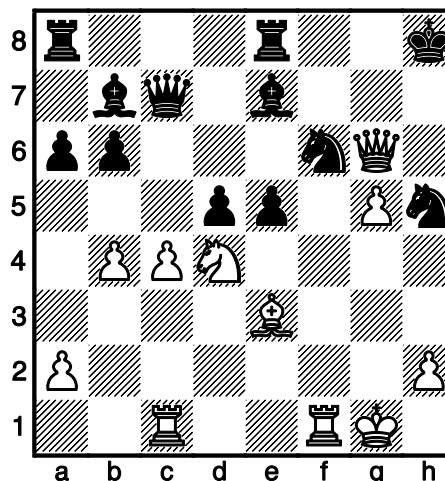
18.♘d5!

White goes all-in.

18...exd5 19.fxg6 fxg6 20.♗f7+ ♔h8
21.♙xg6

It was already too late to start caring about material.

21...hxg6 22.♗xg6 ♘df6 23.♗h6+ ♔g8
24.♗g6+ ♔h8



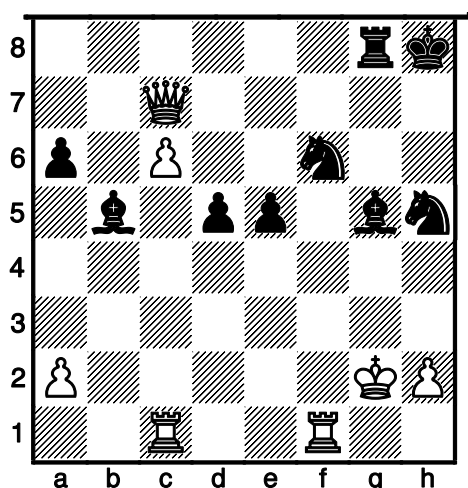
25.♘e6?

This natural looking move turns out to be a mistake. the computer gives White a clear edge after 25.♗h6+ ♔g8 26.♘e6 ♙c5 27.♘xc5 ♗h7 28.gxf6 ♗xh6 29.f7+ ♔h7 30.♙xh6 ♖g8+ 31.fxg8♗+ ♖xg8+ 32.♔f2 bxc5 33.♙d2 . White will probably be able to make his extra exchange count in this ending.

25...♙c5 26.♘xc7 ♙xe3+ 27.♔g2 ♙xg5
28.♘xe8 ♖xe8

This is an incredibly difficult position to evaluate. Black has four pieces for queen and rook, and both kings are vulnerable.

29.♗f7 ♙a8 30.c5 bxc5 31.bxc5 ♙c6
32.♗c7 ♙b5 33.c6 ♖g8



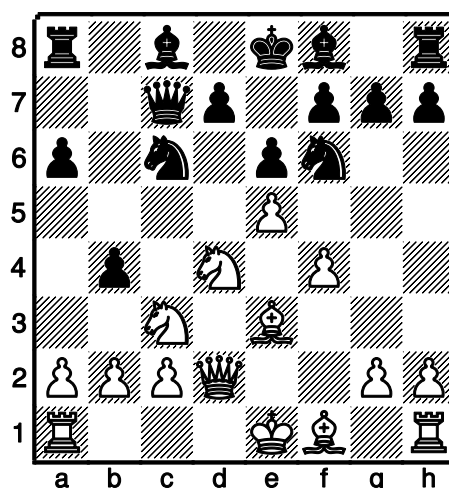
34.♔h3?

This fatal error was no doubt a result of desperate time trouble. A draw seems likely after 34.♔h1 ♕xc1 35.♖xc1 ♕d3 36.♗e1 ♕c4+ 37.♗xc4 ♖xc4 38.♗xc5+ ♗hf6 39.♗f5 ♗g7 40.♗f4 ♖e8 41.h3 ♖c7. Black has a slight material advantage, but he needs to keep White's c-pawn at bay. And should his rook stray from the kingside, then White will probably be able to obtain perpetual check.

34...♕xc1 35.♗xc5 ♕xf1+
35...♕xf1+ 36.♔h4 ♗g4#
0-1

Irina Bulmaga (2354) -
Sarah Hoolt (2318)
WCO2014 Tromsø (10.16), 12.08.2014

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖c6
5.♖c3 ♗c7 6.♕e3 a6 7.♗d2 ♖f6 8.f4 b5
Developing with 8...♕b4 seems more natural.
9.e5 b4



10.♖cb5! axb5 11.♖xb5 ♗b8 12.exf6
gxf6

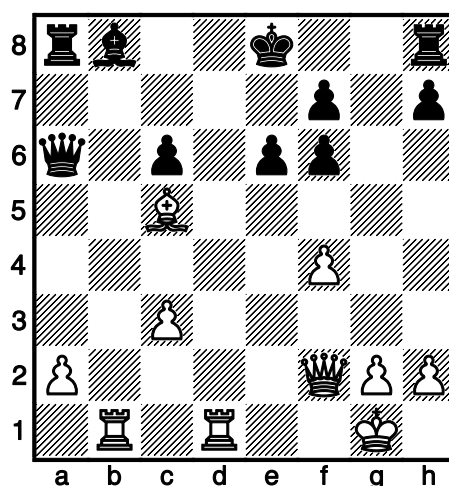
Material is equal, but Black has structural problems and no clear path to smooth development.

13.c4 bxc3 14.bxc3 ♕a6 15.♗b1 ♕xb5?

This exchange only makes matters worse since it speeds up White's development.

16.♕xb5 ♗d6 17.♗f2 ♗a3 18.0-0 ♕d6
18...♗xa2 loses material after 19.♗xa2
♗xa2 20.♕xc6 dxc6 21.♗b8+ ♖d7
22.♗d1+ ♔c7 23.♗dd8.

19.♗fd1 ♕b8 20.♕xc6 dxc6 21.♕c5 ♗a6



22.♗d4

22.♗d4 ♗c8 23.♗xf6 and Black gets mated.

1-0

Ivan Saric (2671) -
Magnus Carlsen (2877)
WCO2014 Tromso (10.29), 12.08.2014

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘d4 4.♘xd4
exd4 5.♙c4 ♘f6 6.0-0 d5

The most common continuation is 6...c6
7.♞e1 d6 , but Carlsen wants something
more dynamic.

7.exd5 ♙e7?!

7...♘xd5 8.♞h5 c6 9.♞e5+ ♙e6 10.♞xd4
b5 looks more active for Black than the
text move.

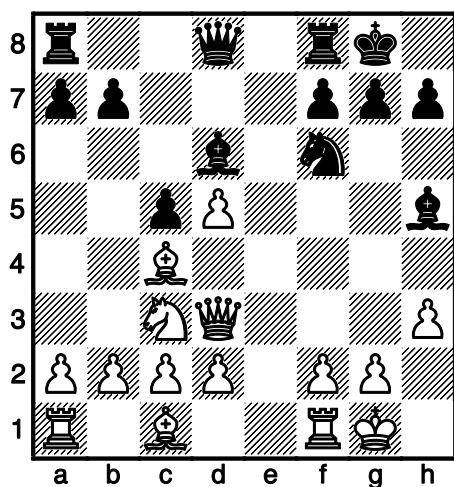
8.♞f3 ♙g4?!

Forcing White's queen towards the weak
pawn on d4 doesn't look like a good idea.

9.♞f4 0-0 10.h3 ♙d6 11.♞xd4 c5?

Black doesn't have much to show for the
missing pawn after 11...♙e6 12.♘c3 c6
13.d3 ♘xd5 14.♘d5 cxd5 15.♙b3 , but
this still looks better than the game
continuation.

12.♞d3 ♙h5 13.♘c3



13...♞e8

After the game Carlsen told reporters that
he had thought that he had reasonable
compensation for the pawns at this point.
Carlsen added that he had underestimated
White's next move.

14.f4 a6 15.a4 ♞d7 16.♞g3 ♘e4 17.♘xe4
♞xe4 18.b3 ♞c7 19.d3 ♞e2

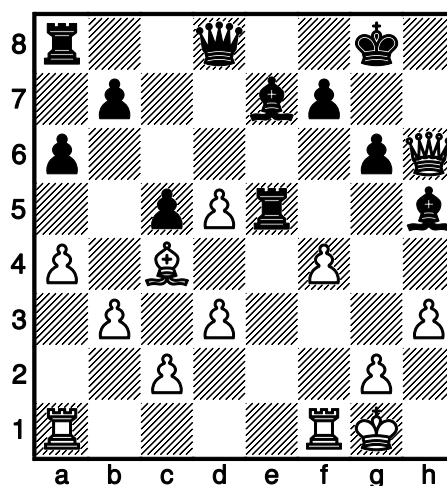
19...♞e8 20.♙b2 ♙g6 21.♞g4 f5 was
preferable, but it's clear that Black does

not have enough play for the sacrificed
material.

20.♞g5 g6 21.♙b2 ♙e7 22.♙f6 h6 23.♙e5
♞d8 24.♞xh6

White is simply winning. Black manages
to make of meal of it, but the final
outcome is never in doubt.

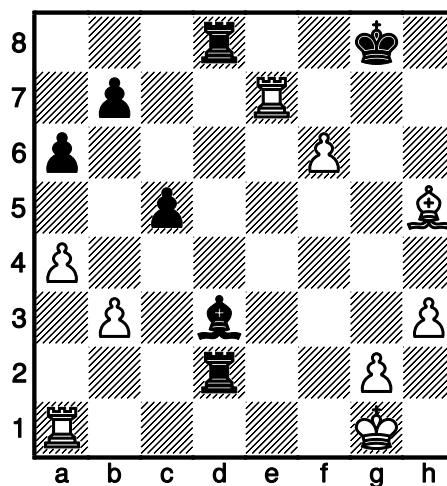
24...♞xe5



25.d6! ♞e2 26.dxe7 ♞xe7 27.f5 ♞h4
28.♞f4 g5

The alternatives were equally hopeless for
Black.

29.♞xh4 gxh4 30.♞f4 ♞xc2 31.♞xh4 ♙e2
32.♞e4 ♞d2 33.♞e7 ♙xd3 34.♙xf7+ ♔f8
35.f6 ♞d8 36.♙h5 ♔g8



37.♞e8+!

37.♞e8+ ♞xe8 38.f7+ ♔g7 39.fxex8♞
leaves White a queen up.

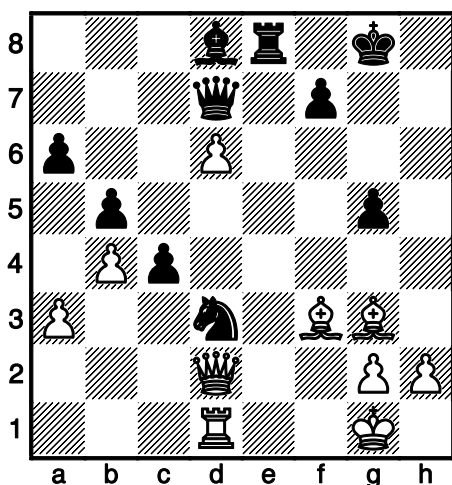
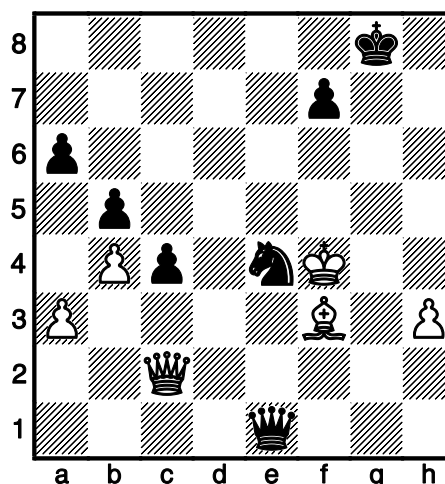
1-0

Olga Girya (2484) -

Natalia Zhukova (2468)

WCO2014 Tromso (10.40), 12.08.2014

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗b4
 5.cxd5 exd5 6.♗g5 h6 7.♗h4 c5 8.e3 c4
 9.♖c2 ♘c6 10.♘d2 ♗e6 11.♗e2 g5
 12.♗g3 ♖d7 13.a3 ♗f5 14.♖c1 ♗a5 15.0-0
 a6 16.b4 ♗d8 17.f3 b5 18.♗f2 0-0
 19.♖b2 ♗e8 20.♖fe1 ♗c7 21.♖ad1 h5
 22.e4 dxe4 23.♘dx4 ♗xe4 24.fx4 ♘xe4
 25.♘xe4 ♗xe4 26.♗hx5 ♗ae8 27.♖xe4
 ♗xe4 28.d5 ♘e5 29.♖d2 ♗d8 30.d6 ♘d3
 31.♗f3 ♗e8 32.♗g3



32...♗b6+ 33.♔h1 ♗e3 34.♖c2 ♗f4

There goes the d–pawn. Black is now in complete control.

35.♗xf4 gxf4 36.♖f1 ♖xd6 37.h3 ♗e3

38.♗g4 ♖e5 39.♗f3

39.♖b1 ♗e1 40.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 41.♖xe1 ♘xe1 and Black's c–pawn decides the game.

39...♗e1 40.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 41.♔h2 ♘f2

42.g3 fxg3+ 43.♔xg3 ♘e4+ 44.♔f4

44...♖g3+! 45.♔e3

45.♔xe4 ♖g6+ 46.♔e3 ♖xc2-+

45...♘g5

45...♘g5 46.♖g2 ♖xf3+ 47.♖xf3 ♘xf3

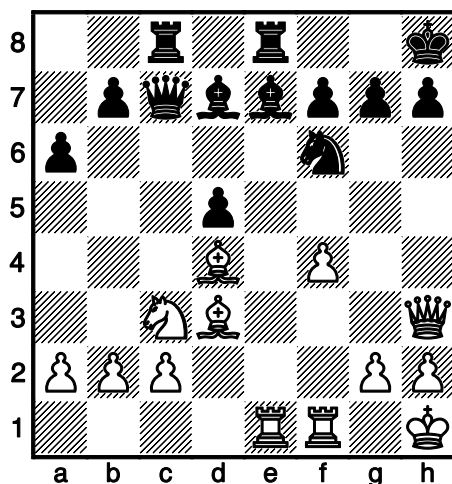
48.♔xf3 f5 and Black wins the pawn ending.

0-1

Blunders, upsets and brilliances

By GM Einar Gausel

Bayarsaikhan Gundavaa (2501) -
Ravishen Singh (2104)
WCO2014 Tromso (10.7), 12.08.2014



19. ♖xe7! ♖xe7
19... ♗xh3 20. ♖xc7 ♗xg2+ 21. ♔xg2 ♖xc7
22. ♗xf6 gxf6 23. ♘xd5 and White's two
pieces will outclass the rook.

20. ♗h4 h6?

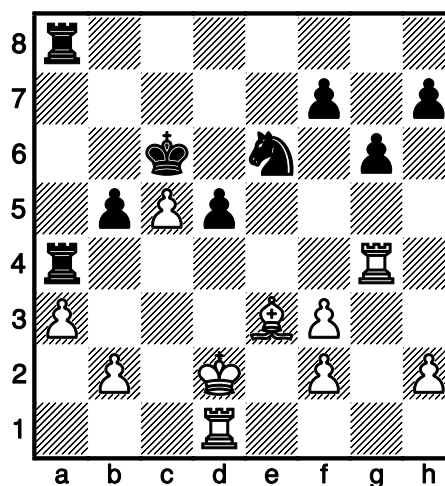
Black was already lost, but this loses
instantly.

21. ♗xf6 ♖ee8 22. ♗xh6+

22. ♗xh6+ ♔g8 23. ♗xg7 mate.

1-0

Vassily Ivanchuk (2744) -
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (2743)
WCO2014 Tromso (10.21), 12.08.2014

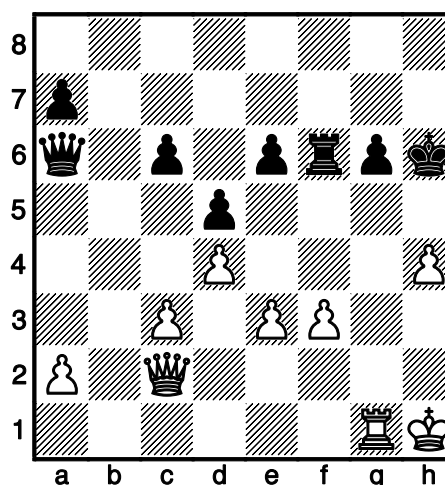


25. ♔c3? d4+! 26. ♗xd4?

26. ♗xd4 ♖c4+ 27. ♔b3 (27. ♔d3 ♘xd4
28. ♖xd4 ♖xd4+ 29. ♔xd4 ♖d8+ 30. ♔c3
♖xd1) 27... ♖d8 and Black wins a piece.

0-1

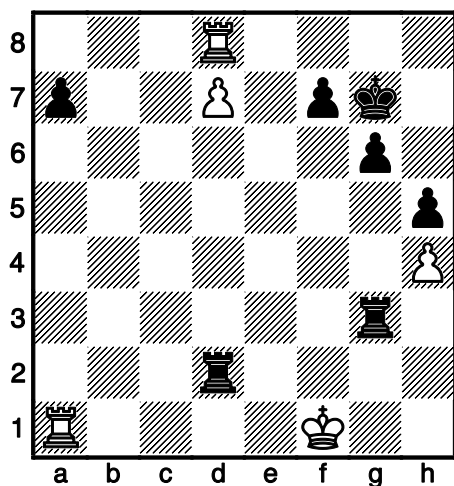
Pavel Eljanov (2723) -
Rauf Mamedov (2659)
WCO2014 Tromso (10.23), 12.08.2014



29. h5!

29. h5 g5 (29... g5 30. ♗g2) 30. ♗g2 ♖f5
31. e4 dxe4 32. fxe4 ♖a5 33. e5 and White
mates. 1-0

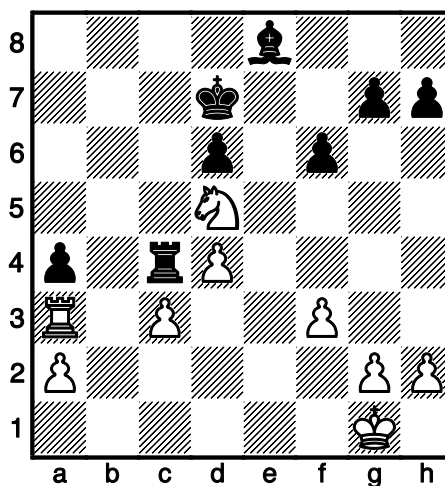
Laurent Fressinet (2708) -
 Yangyi Yu (2668)
 WCO2014 Tromso (10.27), 12.08.2014



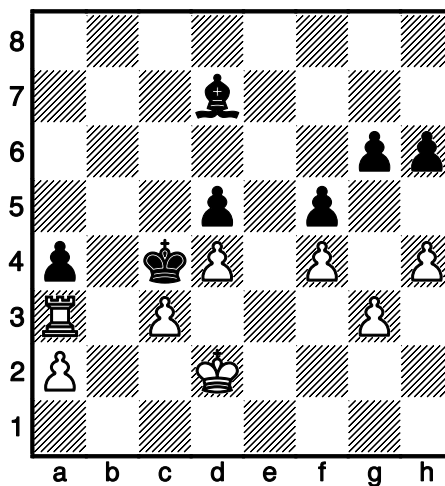
37.♔e1?
 White can still put up a struggle after
 37.♞xa7.
 37...♞xd7!
 37...♞xd7 38.♞xd7 ♞g1+ 39.♔f2 ♞xa1 and
 Black easily converts his extra pawns to a
 full point.

0-1

Leinier Dominguez Perez (2760) -
 Baadur Jobava (2713)
 WCO2014 Tromso (10.32), 12.08.2014



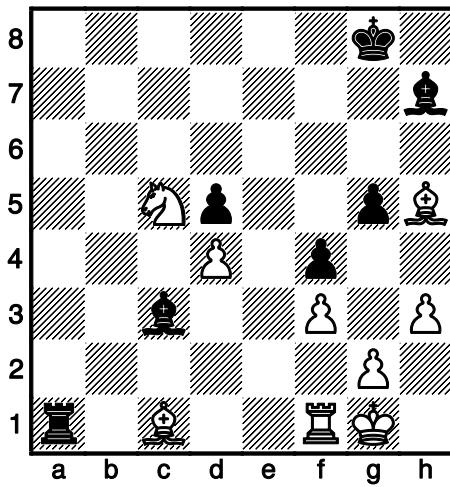
29...♔c6!
 Black sacrifices an exchange to obtain a
 positional fortress.
 30.♖e3 ♔b5 31.♖xc4 ♔xc4 32.♔f2 d5
 33.♔e3 ♙d7 34.h4 g6 35.♔d2 h6 36.♔e3
 ♙e8 37.g3 ♙d7 38.♔e2 ♙e8 39.♔d2 ♙c6
 40.♔e3 ♙d7 41.f4 f5 42.♔d2



42...h5 43.♔e3.

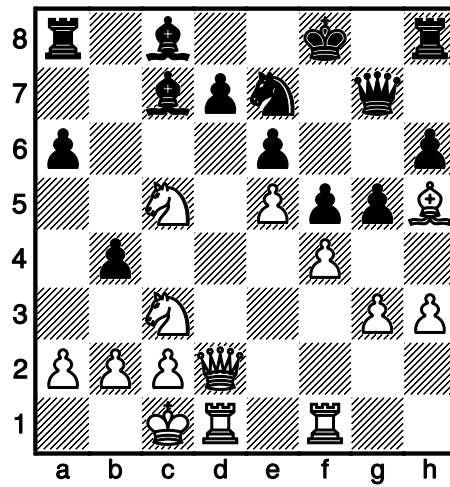
½-½

Hassan S Al Mutairi (2075) -
Ragul Pillay (1312)
WCO2014 Tromso (10.38), 12.08.2014

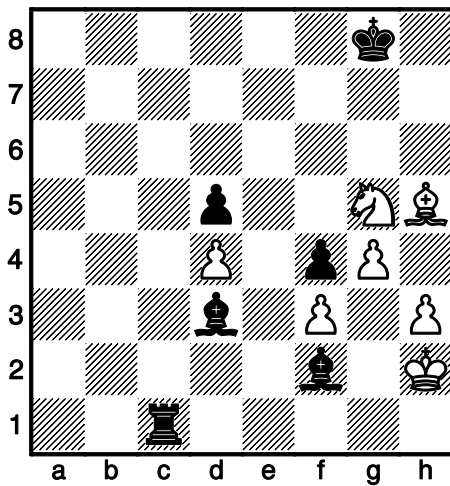


39. ♖e6?
39. ♖h2 and White keeps his extra piece.
39... ♗d3 40. ♖f2?
40. ♖xg5 ♗xd4+ 41. ♖h2 ♗xf1 42. ♗xf4
and White should draw.
40... ♖xc1+ 41. ♖h2 ♗e1 42. ♖xg5 ♗xf2
43. g4

Jo-Kai Liao (1606) -
Joslin Bazil (1911)
WCO2014 Tromso (10.37), 12.08.2014



20. ♖xe6+! 20. ♖xe6+ dxe6 (20... ♖g8
21. ♖xg7+-) 21. ♖d8+ ♗xd8 22. ♖xd8#
1-0



43... ♗g3+ 44. ♖g2 ♗f1+ 44... ♗f1+ 45. ♖g1
♗xh3#

0-1