CHESS OLYMPIAD

NORWAY 2014
TROMSØ

Bulletin

Round 2
03.08.14

Let the upsets begin...

The local teams continue to make the job of including reportage of interest to a Norwegian audience a straightforward task. Less than three hours into the session, it became clear that Norway's second team would be increasing its time in the spotlight, while the main squad for the home nation again gripped viewers by not quite meeting expectations.

Norwegian champion Frode Urkedal, 21, evened up Norway 2's tussle with second ranked Ukraine by defeating the renowned Vassily Ivanchuk, a feat which immediately catapulted the youngster into the media hot seat and the NRK TV studio.

Photo: Georgios Souleidis / Chess 24

By GM Jonathan Tisdall

> *Ivanchuk just collapsed. He probably overlooked something and his king was quite weak. He probably thought I had to go for his knight. It obviously feels good to beat a strong player such as Ivanchuk*
> *- Frode Urkedal*

Not long afterwards, World Champion Magnus Carlsen agreed to split the point against Finnish GM Tomi Nybäck, a result that symbolizes the slow start to the high hopes for Norway's A-team. Nybäck's draw carried some extra sting as Carlsen was undoubtedly eager for revenge, having lost to the Finn in the 2008 Olympiad in Dresden. Norway 2 completed their upset by holding Ukraine 2-2, a result that would have pleased the first stringers. Norway 1 had to settle for 2-2 against Finland, a repeat of their 2008 meeting.

Frode Urkedal (2500) -
Vassily Ivanchuk (2744)
41st Olympiad Open 2014 Tromso NOR (2.1), 03.08.2014
Annotations: Einar Gausel

1.♘f3 f5 2.d3 ♘c6 3.d4 White is claiming that the knight on c6 will leave Black with an inferior version of the Dutch defence.

3...e6 4.g3 d5 5.♗g2 ♖b8 A slightly odd choice aiming for early queenside activity. A more natural way to develop was
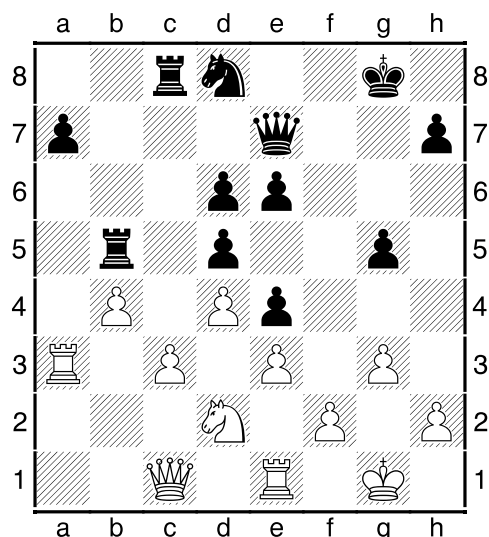
5...♘f6 6.0-0 ♗e7 7.c4 0-0

6.0-0 ♘f6 7.♗f4 b5 8.b3 ♗a6 9.♕c1 ♗d6 10.♘bd2 0-0 11.e3 ♘e4 12.♖e1 ♕e7 13.a3 ♘a5 14.♗f1 ♖b6 15.c3
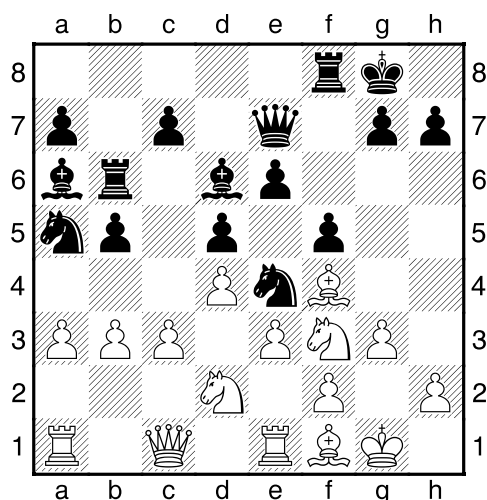
15...g5!? After the game, Urkedal said he was happy to see this move since the weakening of Black's kingside might be a source of counterplay later on.

16.♗xd6 cxd6 17.b4 ♘b7 Trying to keep things clogged up with 17...♘c4 may have been preferable.

18.a4 ♖c8 19.♘xe4 fxe4 20.♘d2 ♘d8 21.axb5 ♗xb5 22.♗xb5 ♖xb5 23.♖a3

23...♖xb4? With three pawn islands and weaknesses on both wings, Black was definitely worse, but this goes down without a fight.

24.cxb4 ♖xc1 25.♖xc1 ♛b7 26.♖ac3 ♘f7 27.♖c8+ ♔g7 28.♖1c7 ♛xb4 29.♘f1

29.♘f1 a5 30.♖e8 ♔g6 31.♖g8+ ♔f6 32.♖f8 and White will easily convert his material advantage to a full point.

1-0

Big guns

Many of the top matches were again characterized by healthy rating gaps between top and bottom half, but the atmosphere was noticeably more tense and the duels more closely fought. The start of serious business was also evident from the appearance of nearly all of the big guns who rested up on day one. The heavyweight teams rolled out their muscle on top, with a few notable exceptions - England's Michael Adams has not been spotted yet, and the USA's Hikaru Nakamura has made his frustration with travel problems well known via Twitter, and had not yet arrived after getting stuck in London.

Tardiness and tears

Zero tolerance claimed several casualties today - the Burundi men's team, and most of the Palestinian teams - one of their men played a few moves before giving up, perhaps in sympathy with his forfeited teammates.

One tragic enforcement of the zero tolerance rule ended in tears when Layola Murara Umuhoza, the 10-year-old first board for the Rwandan women's team, lost without play. One has to question the point of a rule that prevents games being played in an event that has so much importance, especially for smaller nations, because of what is often just minor tardiness.

Notable moments - The top Baltic battle between Alexei Shirov and Sarunas Sulskis was a modern interpretation of a rarely seen romantic classic, a Fried Liver attack. Latvian attacking legend Shirov didn't need to be asked twice, and successfully set off the sacrificial fireworks. Another household name, Alexander Beliavsky, was forfeited on board one for Slovenia versus Iran for late arrival, a casualty of FIDE's Draconian 'zero tolerance' rule.

Upsets abound

Veteran Scottish GM Colin McNab held his own with the world elite, splitting the point with Azerbaijan's number one Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.
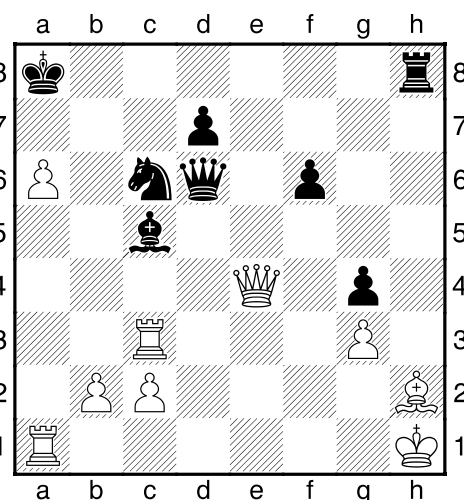
World number two Levon Aronian was held by Australian GM David Smerdon, and Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi drew with untitled Hamad Al-Tamimi from Qatar. Hungary had a tough time with Venezuela, and only edged out a 2½-1½ victory, with young star Richard Rapport losing to IM Juan Rohl Montes. On top of this, Judit Polgar's fine combinational finish came after her opponent missed a winning opportunity, so Venezuela was near the sensation of the day.

Andres Guerrero Vargas (2318) -
Judit Polgar (2676)
41st Olympiad Open 2014 Tromso NOR (2.4), 03.08.2014
Annotations: Einar Gausel

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f4 ♘ge7 7.♘f3 b5 8.a3 ♗b7 9.♗d3 ♘g6 10.0-0 ♕c7 11.♘g5 f6 12.♘h3 ♗c5+ 13.♔h1 0-0-0 14.♕h5 ♘ce7 15.♕e2 e5 16.fxe5 ♘xe5 17.♘f4 h5 18.a4 g5 19.axb5 gxf4 20.bxa6 ♗c6 21.♗xf4 ♖dg8 22.♗c4 ♖g4 23.♘d5 ♗xd5 24.♗xd5 ♘xd5 25.exd5 ♔b8 26.♖f3 ♔a8 27.h3

27...♖hg8!? 28.d6! Not surprisingly, taking the bait was suicide: 28.hxg4 hxg4 29.♖c3 *(29.♖e3 ♖h8+ 30.♔g1 ♘f3+ 31.gxf3 ♕xf4)* 29...♖h8+ 30.♗h2 ♖xh2+ 31.♔xh2 ♘f3+ 32.♔h1 ♕h2#

28...♕c6? Objectively Black's best seems to be 28...♖xd6 29.hxg4 hxg4 30.♕e4+ ♕c6 31.♕xc6+ ♘xc6 32.♖d3 ♖h8+ 33.♗h2 ♗f2 with good compensastion for the exchange.

29.hxg4 hxg4 30.♖c3 ♖h8+ 31.♗h2 ♕xd6 32.♕e4+ ♘c6 33.g3?

Both players missed the blocking move 33.♖h3! which gives White a decisive edge after 33...♖xh3 *(33...gxh3 34.♗xd6)* 34.gxh3 g3 35.♗g1

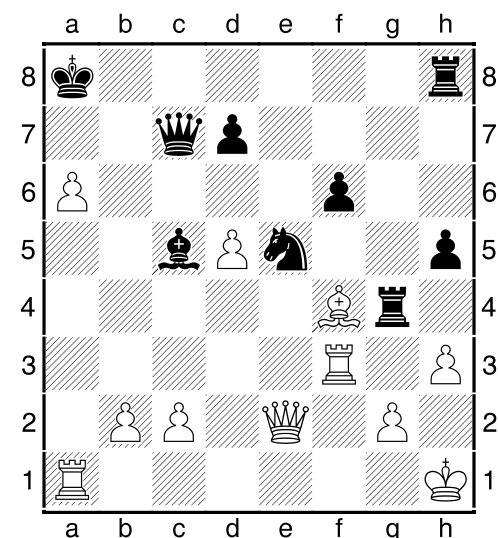**33...♖xh2+! 34.♔xh2 ♕d2+** 34...♕d2+ 35.♔h1 *(35.♕g2 ♕h6+)* 35...♕h6+ 36.♔g2 ♕h3#

0-1

Most top teams shed board points, but France, Netherlands, Germany, Cuba and Italy of the top 20 ranked teams kept their perfect records.

In the Women's event, the picture was similar - the big favorites continued to gather steam - though there was an interesting contrast in their deployment of heavy artillery. Top ranked China continue to reserve World Champion Yifan Hou for use at a later date, while rivals Russia have put their controversial new acquisition, former Ukrainian GM Kateryna Lagno, into action from round one.

Even with the champ still on the sidelines the powerful Chinese team rolled to another 4-0 win, this time over Venezuela, and Russia kept pace by blanking Brazil. Armenia was the only other top ten team that managed to extend a perfect score.

Ukraine and Georgia each dropped a point today - Ukrainian GMs Anna Muzychuk and Anna Ushenina were held to draws by significantly outrated IM Irina Berezina and WFM Thu Nguyen of Australia. Georgia had their bid for continued perfection derailed after WFM Marija Stojanovic beat IM Salome Melia in a violent battle.

The Egyptian team came close to nicking a match point against 12th seeded Germany, managing a 1½-2½ result despite being massively outgunned on every board. Norway's women impressed with a 4-0 win over Ecuador, in a match that looked to be close on paper.
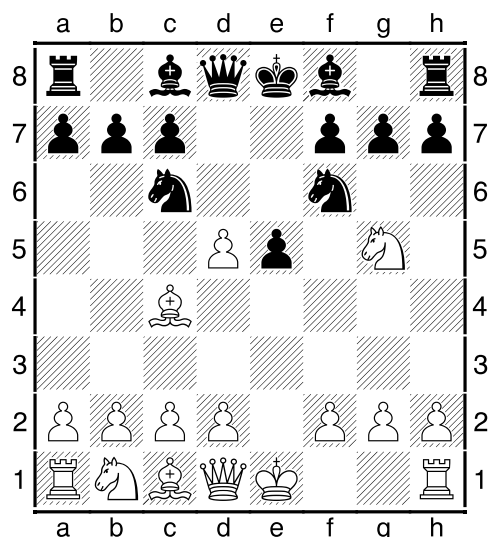
The round three pairings reveal the beginning of some heavyweight duels, with 7th ranked USA facing China and Russia meeting 9th seed France.

Other notable games

Alexei Shirov (2709) -
Saruns Sulskis (2544)
41st Olympiad Open 2014 (2.36), 03.08.2014
Annotations: Einar Gausel

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♘f6 4.♘g5 d5 5.exd5

5...♘xd5?! A highly dubious choice.

6.♘xf7 It's hard to convince a computer that White's long−term initiative gives him sufficient compensation for the sacrificed piece, but in practical play white does extremely well. However, this might be the first time two grandmasters decide to discuss this razor−sharp line.

6...♔xf7 7.♕f3+ ♔e6 8.♘c3 ♘cb4 9.a3 ♘xc2+ 10.♔d1 ♘xa1 11.♘xd5
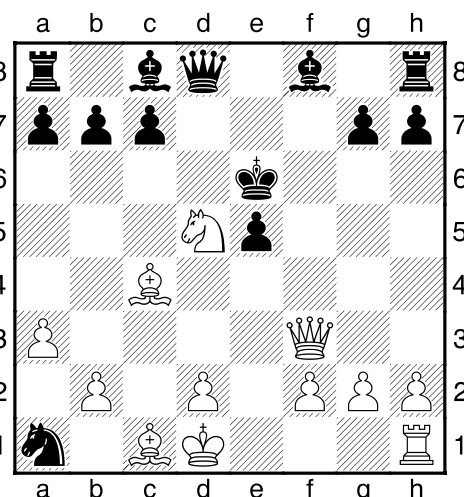
11...♔d6? The computer still prefers Black after 11...♕h4 12.♘xc7+ ♔d7 , but to the human eye this just looks like a complete mess. At any rate, this is preferable to the text move, which gives White time to strengthen his attack.

12.d4 ♗e6 13.♖e1 b5 14.♘b4 bxc4 15.♕c6+ ♔e7 16.♗g5+ ♔f7 17.♗xd8 ♖xd8 Black is up material, but he never gets time to coordinate his pieces.

18.♕xc7+ ♖d7 19.♕xe5 ♖d6 20.d5 ♗d7 21.♕f4+ ♔g8 22.♕xc4 a5 23.♘d3 a4 24.♘c5 h5 25.♘xd7 ♖xd7 26.d6+ ♔h7 27.♖e6 g6
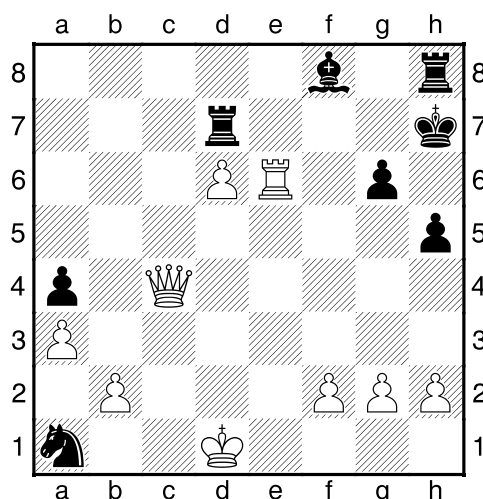
28.♖xg6! 28.♖xg6 ♔xg6 29.♕e6+ ♔h7 30.♕xd7+ ♗g7 31.♕f5+ ♔h6 32.♕e6+ ♔h7 33.d7 ♘b3 34.♕e7 and White gains a decisive material advantage.

1-0

Richard Rapport (2704) -
Juan Armando Rohl Montes (2390)
41st Olympiad Open 2014 Tromso NOR (2.3),
03.08.2014
Annotations: Einar Gausel

1.♘f3 d5 2.b3 ♗g4 3.♘e5 ♗f5 4.e3 ♘d7
5.♘xd7 ♕xd7 6.♗b2 e6 7.d3 ♘f6 8.♘d2 0-0-0
9.♗e2 ♔b8 10.a3 ♗d6 11.c4 ♕e7 12.b4 c6
13.♕a4 ♗c7 14.♗d4 b6 15.♖c1 e5 16.♗b2 d4
17.e4 ♗d7 18.♕b3 ♗e6 19.a4 ♘d7 20.a5 b5
21.0-0 ♗d6 22.♕c2 ♖c8 23.c5 ♗c7 24.f4 f6
25.♘f3 g5 26.fxe5 fxe5 27.♘d2 g4 28.♖ce1
h5 29.♗d1 ♘f8 30.♕b1 ♘g6 31.♗b3 ♖cf8
32.♗xe6 ♕xe6 33.♗c1 h4 34.♕b3 ♕e7
35.♕d1 ♕e6 36.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 37.♖f1 ♖xf1+
38.♕xf1 ♘d8 39.♕f5 ♕xf5 40.exf5 ♘f4 41.♔f1
♘xd3 42.♗a3 ♘f4 43.♘e4 ♘d5 44.♗c1 ♔c7
45.♗d2 ♘d7 46.♔e2 ♘f6 47.♘g5 e4 48.♘e6
d3+ 49.♔e3 ♗c7 50.♘xc7 ♔xc7 51.♔f4 ♘d7
52.♔e5 ♔e7 53.a6 ♔f7 54.♔f4
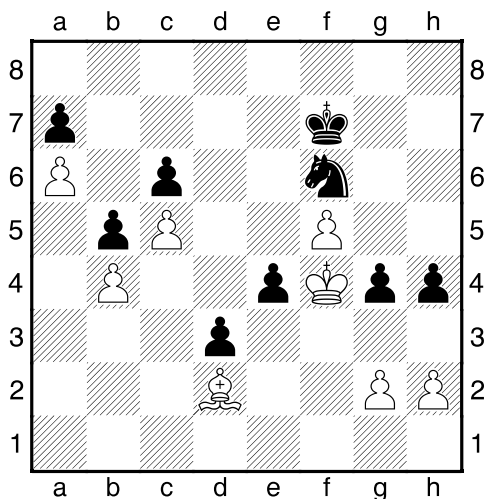
54...h3! 55.g3 55.gxh3 gxh3 56.♗e1 e3
57.♔xe3 ♘g4+ 58.♔f3 ♘xh2+ 59.♔g3 d2
60.♗xd2 ♘f1+ 61.♔xh3 ♘xd2-+

**55...♔e7 56.♔e5 ♘h5 57.♗g5+ ♔f7 58.♔d6
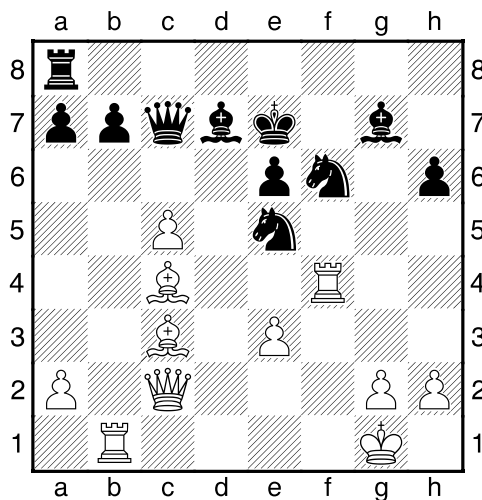♘xg3 59.♔xc6** 59.hxg3 h2

59...♘xf5

0-1

Aryan Tari (2440)
41st Olympiad Open 2014 Tromso NOR (2.4),
03.08.2014
Annotations Einar Gausel

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5
5.♗d2 ♘b6 6.e3 ♗g7 7.f4 c5 8.dxc5 ♘6d7
9.♘e4 0-0 10.♘f3 ♗xb2 11.♖b1 ♗g7 12.♗c4
♘c6 13.0-0 ♘f6 14.♘eg5 h6 15.♘xf7 ♖xf7
16.♘e5 e6 17.♘xf7 ♔xf7 18.♕c2 ♕c7 19.f5
gxf5 20.♖xf5 ♔e7 21.♖f4 ♘e5 22.♗c3 ♗d7

23.♖xf6! ♗xf6 24.♕h7+ ♔d8 25.♕g8+ ♔e7
25...♗e8 26.♖d1+ was no improvement for
Black.

26.♕xa8 ♗c8 27.♗e2 ♔f7 Black could have
prolonged the struggle with 27...♘c6 , but the
white queen will escape after 28.♗xf6+ ♔xf6
29.♗f3

28.♕xa7

1-0

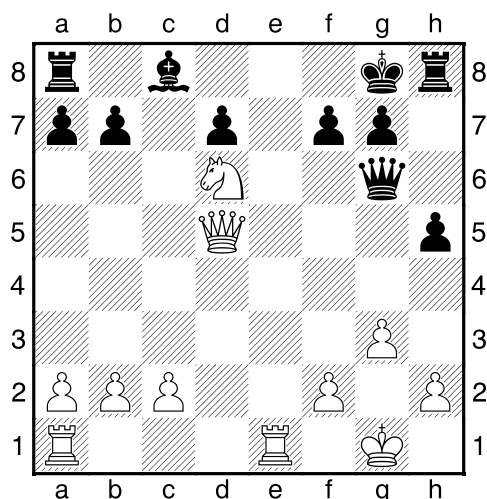**Alexander Moiseenko (2707) -**

Blunders, upsets and knockouts

Radoslav Dimitrov (2461) -
Fareed Ahmed (1899)
41st Olympiad Open 2014 Tromso NOR (2.4),
03.08.2014

1.♘c3 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♕f6
5.♘db5 ♗c5 6.♘xc7+ ♔d8 7.e3 ♖b8 8.♘7d5
♕h4 9.g3 ♕h6 10.e4 ♕g6 11.♗h3 ♘ge7
12.♘f4 ♕f6 13.0-0 h5 14.♘fd5 ♕g6 15.♗f4
♖a8 16.♗f5 ♘xf5 17.exf5 ♕xf5 18.♗c7+ ♔e8
19.♘e4 ♘e7 20.♘xe7 ♗xe7 21.♖e1 ♔f8
22.♗d6 ♕g6 23.♕d5 ♗xd6 24.♘xd6 ♔g8

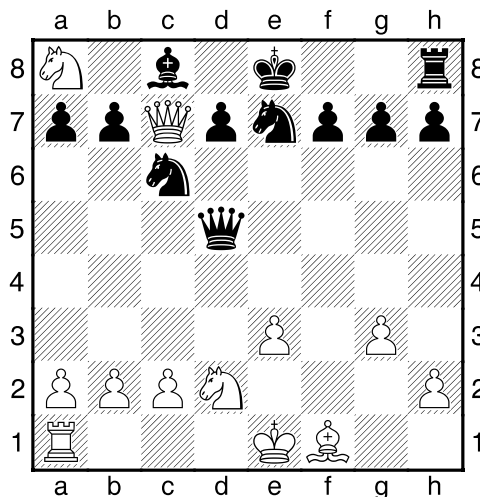25.♘xf7! 25.♘xf7 ♕xf7 26.♖e8+ ♔h7 27.♕xf7

1-0

Ali Ahmed Al Mashikh Mohammed -
Yimam Abera Belachew (2194)
41st Olympiad Open 2014 Tromso NOR (2.3),
03.08.2014

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♗c5
5.♗e3 ♕f6 6.♘b5 ♗xe3 7.fxe3 ♕h4+ 8.g3
♕xe4 9.♘xc7+ ♔d8 10.♘xa8 ♕xh1 11.♕d6
♘ge7 12.♘d2 ♕d5 13.♕c7+ ♔e8

14.♕xc8+!+- ♘xc8 15.♘c7+ ♔d8 16.♘xd5
♖e8 17.0-0-0 ♘8e7 18.♘xe7 ♖xe7 19.♘c4
♔c7 20.♗h3 f6 21.e4 g6 22.c3 a6 23.♘e3
♖xe4 24.♘d5+ ♔b8 25.♘xf6 ♖e2 26.♖d2
♖e1+ 27.♔c2 d6 28.♖xd6 ♘e5 29.♖d2 ♘f3
30.♖f2 ♘g5 31.♗g2 ♖e7 32.h4 ♘e6 33.♘d5
♖e8 34.♘b6 ♔c7 35.♘c4 ♘d8 36.♔d2 b5
37.♘e3 ♖e6 38.♖e2 ♖d6+ 39.♔c2 ♔b8
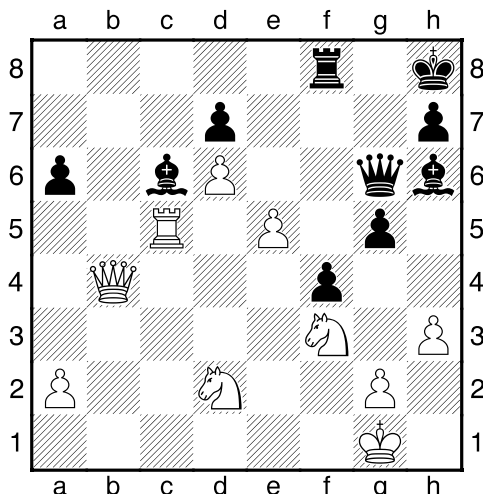40.♘d5 ♘e6 41.♖f2 ♘g7 42.♖f8+

1-0

Marija R Stojanovic (2100) -
Salome Melia (2475)
WCO2014 Tromso (2.11), 03.08.2014

1.e4 c5 2.b3 a6 3.♗b2 ♘c6 4.f4 e5 5.♘f3 exf4
6.♗c4 b5 7.♗d5 ♘f6 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.c4 bxc4
10.bxc4 ♖b8 11.♗c3 0-0 12.e5 ♘xd5 13.cxd5
♘b4 14.d6 ♗g5 15.♗xb4 cxb4 16.d4 ♗h6
17.♘bd2 f6 18.♕b3+ ♔h8 19.♖ac1 ♖b5
20.♖c7 ♗b7 21.♖fc1 ♕e8 22.♖1c5 ♖xc5
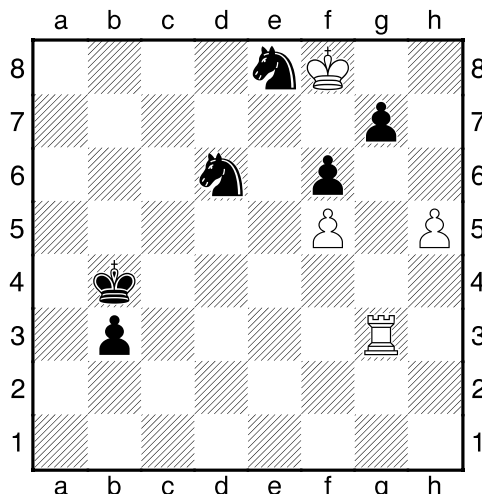23.♖xc5 fxe5 24.dxe5 g5 25.h3 ♕g6 26.♕xb4
♗c6

27.♖xc6! dxc6 28.♕e4 ♕e6 29.♘d4 ♕xa2 30.e6 ♕a3 31.d7 ♕e7 32.♘xc6 ♕c5+ 33.♔h2 g4 34.♕e5+ ♕xe5 35.♘xe5 g3+ 36.♔g1 ♗g5 37.♘c6 ♔g7 38.♘e4 ♗d8 39.♔f1 f3 40.gxf3 ♖xf3+ 41.♔g2 ♖e3 42.♘xd8 ♖xe4 43.♘c6 ♖e2+ 44.♔xg3 ♖d2 45.e7

1-0

Katerina Nemcova (2315) -
Wiebke Barbier(1944) [C41]
WCO2014 Tromso (2.3), 03.08.2014

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.♗c4 ♗e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.♖e1 c6 8.a4 a5 9.b3 ♕c7 10.h3 h6 11.♗b2 ♖e8 12.♕d2 ♗f8 13.♖ad1 exd4 14.♘xd4 ♘c5 15.f3 ♗d7 16.♕f2 ♖ad8 17.♗c1 ♗c8 18.♗f1 d5 19.e5 ♖xe5 20.♗f4 ♗d6 21.♘db5 cxb5 22.♘xb5 ♖xe1 23.♖xe1 ♕c6 24.♘xd6 ♖xd6 25.♗b5 ♕b6 26.♗xd6 ♕xd6 27.♖d1 ♘e6 28.c3 ♘f4 29.♗f1 ♗e6 30.♖d4 ♘g6 31.b4 axb4 32.♖xb4 ♕c6 33.♕d4 ♘e7 34.♖b6 ♕c7 35.♕b4 ♗c8 36.a5 ♘c6 37.♕a3 d4 38.cxd4 ♘xd4 39.♖d6 ♘c6 40.♗b5 ♘xa5 41.♕d3 ♕c5+ 42.♔f1 ♗f5 43.♖d8+ ♔h7 44.♕xf5+ ♕xf5 45.♗d3 ♔g6 46.♔e2 ♘c6 47.♖d6 ♕xd3+ 48.♖xd3 ♔f5 49.♔d2 ♘e5 50.♖b3 ♘c4+ 51.♔d3 ♘d6 52.♔d4 ♔f4 53.g4 ♔g3 54.♔e5 ♘fe8 55.f4+ ♔h4 56.♔d5 f6 57.♔e6 h5 58.gxh5 ♔xh5 59.f5 ♔g5 60.♖b1 b5 61.♖b2 ♔f4 62.♖g2 ♘e4 63.♖g4+ ♔f3 64.♔d7 ♔e3 65.♔e7 ♘d3 66.h4 ♔c3 67.h5 b4 68.♖g3+ ♔c2 69.♖g2+ ♔d3 70.♖g3+ ♔c4 71.♖g4+ ♔c5 72.♔f8 b3 73.♖g3 ♔b4

74.♖xg7 ♘xg7 75.h6 ♘dxf5 76.h7 b2

0-1

Ana Matnadze (2385) -
Olga Hincu (2027)
WCO2014 Tromso (2.38), 03.08.2014

1.c4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.d4 ♘f6 4.g3 ♗e7 5.♗g2 dxc4 6.♘e5 0-0 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.♗xc6 bxc6 9.♘xc6 ♕e8 10.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 11.♕a4 e5 12.dxe5 ♕xe5 13.♘c3 ♗e6 14.♕b5 c5 15.♗f4 ♕h5 16.f3 ♖fd8 17.♖fd1 h6 18.♗d6 ♖ac8 19.♕b7 a5 20.a4 ♕f5 21.♖ac1 ♘e8 22.♗f4 ♖xd1+ 23.♖xd1 ♘f6 24.e4 ♕h3 25.♕b6 ♕h5 26.g4 ♕h3 27.♗g3 h5 28.♘e2 g5 29.♖d8+ ♖xd8 30.♕xd8+ ♔g7 31.e5 ♘h7 32.gxh5 ♕xh5 33.♔f2 ♕g6 34.♕xa5 g4 35.f4 ♕c2 36.♕xc5 ♕xb2 37.♕d4 ♕b7 38.♕c3 ♕a7+ 39.♘d4 ♕xa4 40.f5 ♘g5 41.♔e3 ♗d5 42.e6 ♘e4 43.♕b2 f6
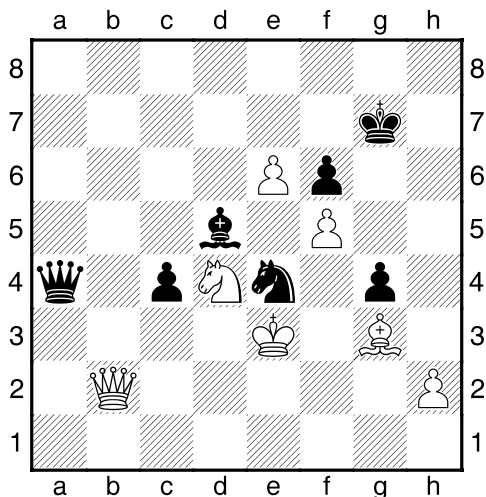
21...♘dc5!-+ 22.♗f3 ♗g4 23.h3 b6?
23...♗xd2!

24.♗xg4? 24.♕xa6 ♘xa6 25.hxg4±

24...♕g5? 24...♕xg4 25.hxg4 bxa5-+

25.♕xa6!+- ♘xa6 26.♘e4 ♖xd1 27.♗xd1

1-0

**44.♗e1? ♕d1 45.♕b4 ♕d3+ 46.♔f4 ♕f1+
47.♔e3 ♕d3+ 48.♔f4 ♘d6 49.♗d2 ♕e4+
50.♔g3 ♕g2+ 51.♔f4 ♕f2+ 52.♔xg4 ♕xd4+
53.♗f4 ♕d1+ 54.♔g3 ♕f3+** 54...♕f3+ 55.♔h4
♘xf5#

0-1

**Shushanna Sargsyan (2109) -
Sharmin Shirin Sultana (1984)**
41st Olympiad Women 2014 Tromso NOR
(2.4), 03.08.2014

**1.c4 c6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 d5 4.♗g2 g6 5.b3 ♗g7
6.♗b2 0-0 7.0-0 ♗g4 8.d3 ♕c8 9.♖e1 ♗h3
10.♗h1 ♘a6 11.♘bd2 ♖d8 12.♖c1 ♕d7 13.a3
♗h6 14.♕c2 ♖ac8 15.♖cd1 dxc4 16.dxc4 ♕f5
17.e4 ♕h5 18.e5 ♗f5 19.♕c3 ♖d3 20.♕a5
♘d7 21.♘h4**