



CHESS OLYMPIAD

NORWAY 2014
TROMSØ

Bulletin

Round 9 -11.08.14



Trading blows

Today saw the first blemish on Kateryna Lagno's impressive debut tournament as a Russian citizen - tomorrow her new team faces her old team, Ukraine

Round 9 interim report: Election focus

Today's play would have a hard time living up to the energy and excitement levels displayed in the FIDE presidential election. Even the players in action were fascinated by what they might be missing during the rounds, and one top GM wondered if it was possible to find out the latest voting news during the game.

By GM Jonathan Tisdall



Georgios Souleidis
@souleidis

@Kasparov63 raising a question about the proxy policy at the general assembly of th 85th FIDE congress

10:44 AM - 11 Aug 2014

The story could be told in two tweets by Georgios Souleidis, the official Olympiad photographer present at the FIDE General Assembly. This was the scene as former World Champion Garry Kasparov made some final efforts to hold back the tide before the vote:



chess24.com
@chess24.com

@Kasparov63 his face says all after losing the election against Kirsan Ilyumzhinov with 110-61

5:11 PM - 11 Aug 2014

And here he is after the count was over and incumbent Kirsan Ilyumzhinov had again won by a landslide:

The chess

NRK TV had a board reshuffle request arranged, so that Norway 2 could also be on main cameras today, since they were facing number one seeded Russia. This means that there was a smorgasbord of local chess action for Norwegian viewers, even if very few dared hope for the kind of upset the second squad pulled off against Ukraine in round two. They did have early grounds for encouragement when young IM Aryan Tari held Ian Nepomniachtchi to a draw on board four.

It was time to cast worried glances towards the world champion's board again. Magnus Carlsen appeared to be inviting real trouble against Turkish GM Dragan Solak, playing surprisingly risky chess with the white pieces.

More early action

There were few results in top matches in the first half of the session, but there were definitely some eye-catching moments. One of the quickest was from the always tricky Spanish GM Miguel Illescas Cordoba, who lured Latvian IM Toms Kantans into an absolutely wicked trap disguised as a combination.

Hungarian talent Richard Rapport was again involved in early violence. Yesterday he picked up a point when US GM Onischuk blundered a piece early, today Rapport sacrificed one to get some quick punches in against Israeli GM Emil Sutovsky, and looked to be on the way to another win against a top team.

Top board Open match China-Ukraine had three draws recorded in the first three hours of play - the decision would come on board four, where teenager GM Yi Wei sacrificed a rook for perpetual check against Ukrainian GM Alexander Moiseenko, to shake off pressure and draw the match. The dropped match point means China can be caught by France, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic or Romania.

The Women's group continues to be a pure duel - favorites China built up very dominating positions on their white boards to set the stage for another convincing match win against the 9th seeds France, but the front-running second seeds Russia were having a harder time with 10th ranked Armenia, with many sharp games - though still with every chance to come out on top again.

Auction action

One of the most photographed scenes in Tromsø during the Olympiad has been the chess themed display window in the Fretex charity shop. Today

the items in the window were auctioned off, but the people in charge of the shop did not seem to understand that holding the event at 10 in the morning was not the way to capture the maximum chess audience.

The auction, carried out using a gavel and a pot lid to deliver the final 'Gone!', sold off a few of the prime items, including an Asian style chess set for NOK 850 from an asking price of 150, but many of the unusual pieces are still available due to the low early morning turn-out. Some of the items still on offer are a Coca-Cola themed set and a pair of pink and black checked high-heeled shoes - as well as an assortment of other sets and a few books.



Local news

Tomorrow there will be plenty of local excitement - the Norwegian Prime Minister, the Conservative Party's Erna Solberg, will be in Tromsø to make the first move to open the penultimate round. She will also do a brief session with NRK TV, so there will be commentary from the highest level of the nation on Tuesday.

Olympiad action actually kicks off on Tuesday morning, 09:00 at the Tromsø courthouse, where a judge will hear the Russian Chess Federation's lawsuit and assess the petition for seizure to guarantee that the organization holds sufficient assets to deal with any eventual legal action.

Luggage woes

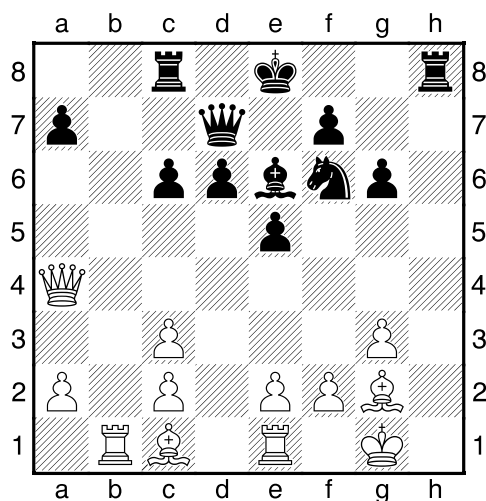
The organizers had another milestone – the problems with baggage handling at Oslo Gardermoen Airport seem to have finally been solved, at least as far as the Olympiad is concerned; no new or ongoing complaints were registered on Sunday.

The Tromsø Olympiad information desk has been praised for their efforts to deal with what they could, and arrange insurance and compensation

claims for those who have had to put up with horrific delays and needed to buy emergency wardrobes. The 'suitcase mountain' piling up at Oslo's international airport has been the subject of national TV coverage, and the Olympiad is just a high profile victim of this bottleneck.

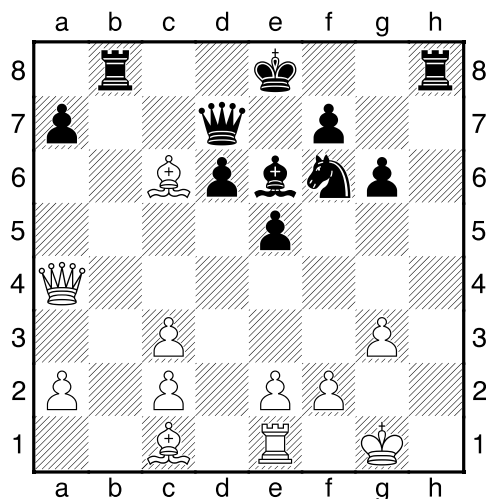
Toms Kantans (2496) – Miguel Illescas Cordoba (2618)
WCO2014 Tromsø (9.29), 11.08.2014
Annotations: GM Einar Gausel

1.♖f3 c5 2.g3 g6 3.♙g2 ♙g7 4.d4 cxd4
5.♗xd4 ♗c6 6.♗b3 d6 7.♗c3 ♙e6 8.0-0 ♙xc3
9.bxc3 ♖d7 10.♙e1 ♙h3 11.♙h1 h5 12.♗d4
h4 13.♙b1 hxg3 14.hxg3 ♙c8 15.♗xc6 bxc6
16.♖d4 e5 17.♖a4 ♙e6 18.♙g2 ♗f6



19.♙b8? Very tempting, but Black has a brilliant counterstroke up his sleeve.

19...♙xb8 20.♙xc6



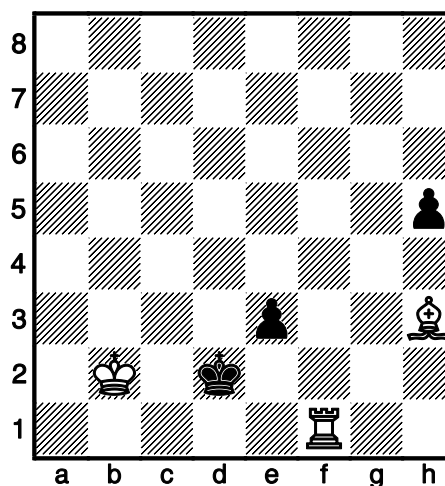
20...♙h1+! 21.♗xh1 ♙d5+ 22.♗g1 ♖xc6
Black emerges from the tactical scuffle with an extra knight.

23.♖h4 ♖xc3 24.♙f1 ♗h5 25.g4 ♙b4 26.f3
♗f4 27.♖h8+ ♗d7 28.♙xf4 ♖xf4

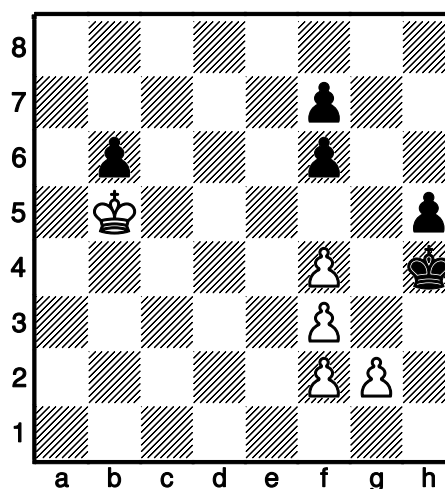
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Chess puzzles

White to move wins



1.♙f3!
Threatens Bf1.
1...e2 2.♙f1! e1♖ 3.♙d3 mate. (N.N. 1923)
White to move wins



1.♗c4!
1.♗xb6? f5 2.♗c5 f6 3.g3+ (3.♗d6 stalemate) 3...♗h3
4.♗d4 ♗g2 5.♗c3 ♗f1 and Black draws.
1...b5+ 2.♗d3 b4 3.♗e2 b3 4.♗f1! b2 5.♗g1 b1♖+
6.♗h2
Threatens 7.g3 mate.
6...♖h1+ 7.♗xh1 f5 8.♗h2 f6 9.g3 mate. (Bachtadze 1987)

Round 9: Fraying nerves?



Today saw the first blemish on Kateryna Lagno's impressive debut tournament as a Russian citizen - tomorrow her new team faces her old team, Ukraine | photo: David Llada

Signs of accumulating fatigue or shaky nerves could be seen as Round 9 of the 2014 Chess Olympiad headed towards the first time control. New hope for the Chinese women's team gold medal chase appeared as top board Kateryna Lagno was the first to crack in Russia's tense match against number 10 ranked Armenia... although there was eventually a happy ending for Team Russia. It was also tight in the men's event, as 9 of the top 14 matches finished drawn.

By GM Jonathan Tisdall

In the crucial women's match GM Elina Danielian won a piece when Lagno erred under pressure, and more surprises looked likely to follow. The Russians caught a lucky break, however, when GM Valentina Gunina managed to escape serious trouble.

The same story was repeated with WGM Olga Girya, and the potential Armenian upset had turned into a 2.5-1.5 win for the frontrunners.

China did what they could to mount psychological pressure on their rivals, rolling to a smooth 3.5-0.5 win over France, and that with world champion Yifan Hou being held to a draw.

Third seeds Ukraine continued their comeback, edging out India 2.5-1.5, a result that moves them into third place - at the moment the top three have carved out their own spot at the top.

Who's in form?

In the Open section, third seeded France applied pressure early over the Czechs after Bacrot produced a sparkling win over man-in-form Viktor Laznicka.

The Czechs could not mount a reply, and lost 2.5-1.5, a result that puts France into a tie for first with China. China lost the sole lead in the event after trading four draws with 2nd seeded Ukraine

Bulgaria look determined to have a memorable Tromsø Olympiad, their hot men Topalov and Iotov delivering a win each over the tough Cubans. Cheparinov's draw on board two was all the Bulgarians needed - and all they got - to clinch both match points.

Romania seem to have established themselves as the discovery of the event. Ranked 32nd, they remain in the thick of the medals battle, turning in another solid upset performance, today drawing all games against the next hosts of the Olympiad, Azerbaijan.

Hungary are also right in the thick of things after being able to rest Judit Polgar and still roll over Israel, with Richard Rapport winning a nice game against Emil Sutovsky.

13 teams, including pre-tournament favorites Russia, are a point back on 13

There are two other teams that are playing well over their heads. Argentina are seeded 35th, but could have joined the tie for third place with a win today - but four draws against India, while a good result, makes both of them outsiders for any kind of medal. 29th ranked Serbia continue to impress, and pulled off a 2-2 upset of defending champions and fourth seeded Armenia. The loss of a match point puts a serious dent to any kind of medal hopes for these teams, which must be terribly painful for Olympiad specialists Armenia.

Levon Aronian said afterwards that the Armenian team was "like a locomotive" and struggles when they meet strong teams early on as they did this time round.

Streak snapped

US GM Sam Shankland's long winning streak came to an end against German acquisition Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu, but Shankland is presumably still content with his 7.5/8 score. Less satisfyingly for him, Germany's board two, Georg Meier, made Gata Kamsky's tournament even worse. Meier, who is studying in the USA, turned an advantage into an instant win after a tactical oversight from

Gata. The match was still finely balanced, and Varuzhan Akobian leveled the scores with a win over Daniel Fridman, but the split decision likely means the end of the medals race for both sides.

Local news

Norway 1 had a rollercoaster day against Turkey, with Magnus Carlsen being unusually reckless, coming under serious attack before emerging from mutual time trouble with a very promising ending. Turkey took the lead with GM Emre Can beating Simen Agdestein on board two, and the world champion's eventual win on board one only evened the score, since Norwegian GM Leif Erlend Johannessen was unable to turn an extra pawn into a tangible advantage in a queen ending. Another disappointing result for the ambitious home side.

Norway 2 steadily notched up half points against Russia, working their way up the match boards. After teenager Aryan Tari drew Ian Nepomniachtchi, Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen held Sergei Karjakin with the black pieces on board three, and Frode Elsness neutralized Peter Svidler on two, but young Norwegian champion Frode Urkedal could not repeat the upset he produced against the Ukraine. Top Russian Alexander Grischuk capped a strong performance with a neat tactical finish to give the top seeds a narrow 2.5-1.5 victory.

Norway's first women's team are now overperforming, lying in 25th place (=15-25th) after nine rounds, and ranked just 38th. Consecutive 2.5-1.5 wins over Turkey and Estonia have earned them a shot at 22nd seeds Azerbaijan in round ten.

Norway 1 in the Open section were hoping for a top ten placing in front of a home crowd, but they will have to finish with a real flourish to achieve this. Today's 2-2 draw against 22nd seeded Turkey leaves them in 26th place (=21-36th).

Tomorrow's Round 10 is already the penultimate round, and sees France-China and Ukraine-Azerbaijan in the Open event. All eyes are likely to be fixed, however, on the battle between first and second seeds Russia and Ukraine in the Women's section - a match that of course has more than pure chess interest. Full team pairings are here.

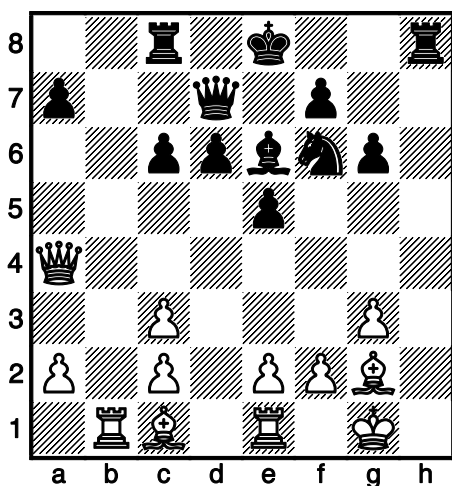
Golden ticket update: IM Belouadah Saad (Algeria, 2320) and WGM Katerina Nemcova (USA, 2315) were today's winners of a free ticket to the Qatar Masters Open.

Annotated games

By GM Einar Gausel

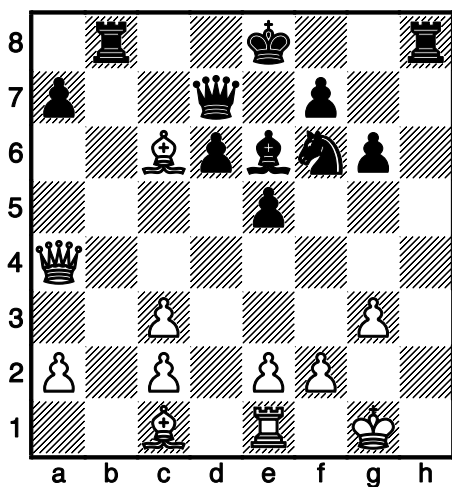
Toms Kantans (2496) -
Miguel Illescas Cordoba (2618)
WCO2014 Tromso (9.29), 11.08.2014

1.♖f3 c5 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.d4 cxd4
5.♟xd4 ♟c6 6.♟b3 d6 7.♟c3 ♗e6 8.0-0
♗xc3 9.bxc3 ♖d7 10.♞e1 ♗h3 11.♗h1 h5
12.♟d4 h4 13.♞b1 hxg3 14.hxg3 ♞c8
15.♟xc6 bxc6 16.♖d4 e5 17.♖a4 ♗e6
18.♗g2 ♟f6



19.♞b8? Very tempting, but Black has a brilliant counterstroke up his sleeve.

19...♞xb8 20.♗xc6



20...♞h1+! 21.♔xh1 ♗d5+ 22.♔g1 ♖xc6
Black emerges from the tactical scuffle with an extra knight.

23.♖h4 ♖xc3 24.♞f1 ♟h5 25.g4 ♞b4
26.f3 ♟f4 27.♖h8+ ♔d7 28.♗xf4 ♞xf4

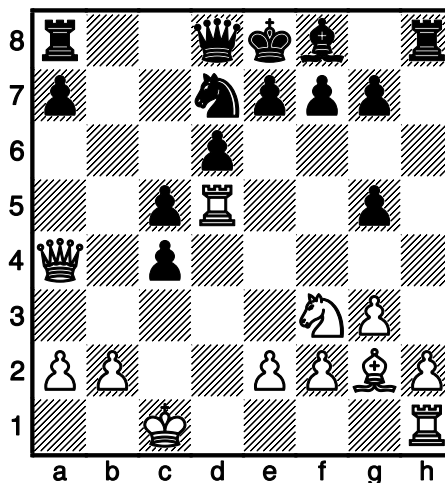
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Igor Kovalenko (2650) -
David Anton Guijarro (2624)
WCO2014 Tromso (9.31), 11.08.2014

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 b6 3.♟f3 ♗b7 4.g3 c5 5.d5
b5 6.♗g2 bxc4 7.♟c3 d6 8.♗g5 ♟bd7
9.♖a4 ♟xd5!? This leads to some very sharp tactics indeed.

10.♟xd5 ♗xd5 11.0-0-0 h6 Also unclear was 11...♗b7 12.♞xd6 ♖c7

12.♞xd5 hxg5



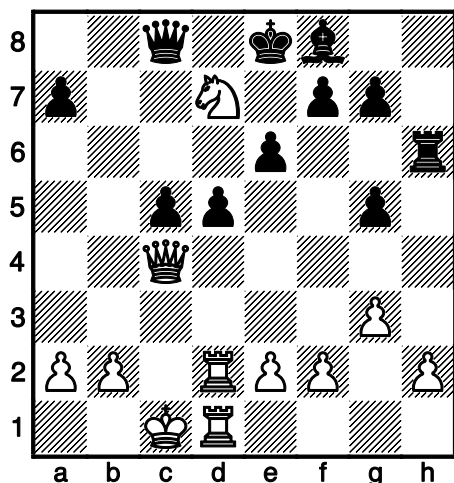
13.♟e5! ♞c8 13...dxe5? 14.♞hd1 and White wins.

14.♞d2 ♞h6 15.♞hd1 ♞c7? Kicking the troublesome knight with 15...♞e6 made more sense.

16.♗c6 ♖c8? The best way to keep the struggle going was 16...♞xh2 17.♟xd7 ♞xd7 18.♖xc4 ♖c7 19.♗xd7+ ♖xd7 20.♖xc5 g6

17.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 18.♚xc4? 18.♞d5 f6
19.♞xc5 dxc5 20.♞xd7 was devastating.

18...e6 19.♜xd7 d5



20.♞xd5! White refuses to give away his initiative.

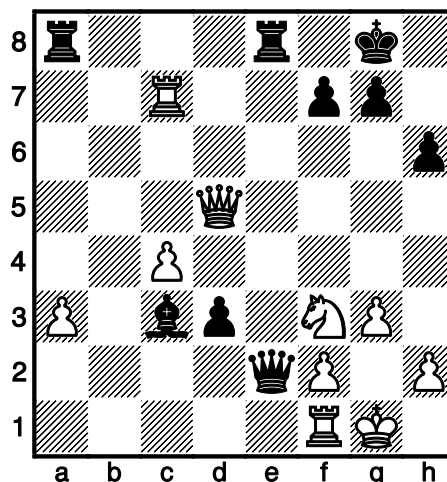
20...exd5 21.♞xd5 ♙e7 Black manages to keep the fight going for a while, but in the end he is unable to avoid defeat.

22.♜e5 ♞e6 23.♚a4+ ♔f8 24.♚xa7 ♔g8
25.e3 g4 26.♜c4 ♙f8 27.♚a5 ♞a6 28.♚d8
♚e6 29.♞xc5 ♞xa2 30.♞c8 ♞a1+ 31.♔d2
♔h7 32.♚xf8 ♚d5+ 33.♔c2 ♚e4+
34.♔b3 ♚b7+ 35.♔c3 ♚d5 36.♚e7 ♚f5
37.♞c5 ♞c1+ 38.♔b4

1-0

Valentina Gunina (2524) -
Lilit Mkrтчian (2453)
WCO2014 Tromsø (9.38), 11.08.2014

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜c3 ♙b4 4.♚c2 d5
5.cxd5 ♚xd5 6.♜f3 ♚f5 7.♚b3 ♜c6 8.a3
♙a5 9.g3 ♜e4 10.♙g2 ♜xd4 11.♚a4+
♜c6 12.0-0 ♜xc3 13.bxc3 0-0 14.♜g5 h6
15.♙e4 ♚e5 16.♙f4 ♚c5 17.♙e3 ♚e5
18.♜f3 ♚h5 19.c4 ♙c3 20.♞ab1 e5
21.♙c5 ♞e8 22.♞fd1 ♙f5 23.♙xf5 ♚xf5
24.♞xb7 ♜d4 25.♙xd4 exd4 26.♞xa7
♞ab8 27.♞b7 ♞a8 28.♚c6 ♚c2 29.♞f1
♚xe2 30.♞xc7 d3 31.♚d5



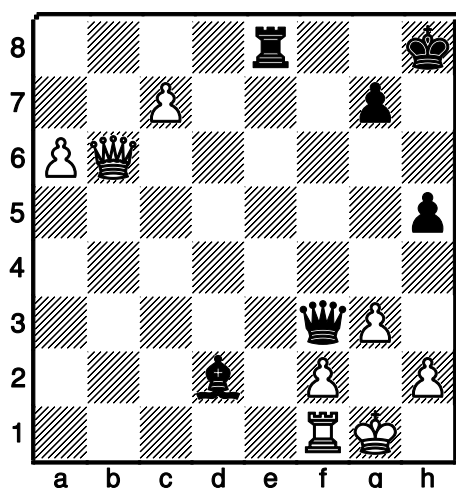
31...♞ad8! 32.♚xf7+ ♔h8 33.♞d7 ♞xd7
34.♚xd7 d2 35.♜xd2 ♙xd2 36.c5 White
has three pawns for the bishop, but only
the a- and c-pawns can be advanced
without putting the king at risk.

36...♙e1? 36...♙a5 with the idea of
blockading and rounding White's
queenside pawns, would have maintained
Black's edge.

37.c6 ♞f8 38.♚d4 ♚d2 39.♚c5 ♞e8? It
seems that Black could have secured a
draw here with 39...♞xf2 40.♞xf2 ♙xf2+
41.♚xf2 ♚c1+ 42.♔g2 ♚xc6+ . For
example 43.♚f3 ♚c2+ 44.♔h3 ♚c8+
45.♚g4 ♚c1 46.a4 ♚f1+ 47.♔h4 ♚f6+
48.♔h5 ♚e5+ leads to a draw by perpetual
check.

40.c7 ♚d7? Black's last chance to offer
resistance was probably 40...♞c8 41.♚e5
♙xf2+ 42.♞xf2 ♚d7 43.a4 ♞xc7

41.a4 ♚e6 42.a5 ♚c8 43.♚b6 ♙d2 44.♞d1
♚a8 45.a6 ♚f3 46.♞f1 h5



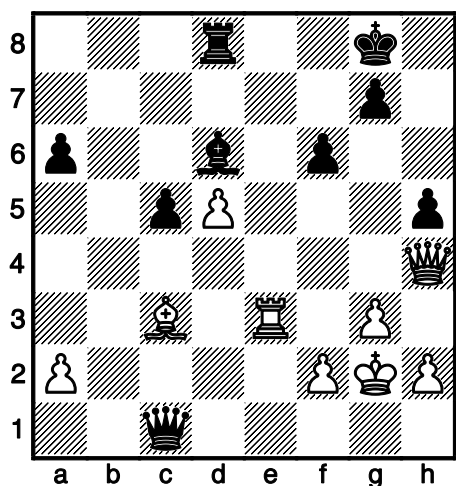
47. ♖b7 47. ♖b7 ♖f5 48. a7 ♖c8 49. ♖b8 and the a–pawn queens.

1-0

Etienne Bacrot (2720) -
Viktor Laznicka (2676)

WCO2014 Tromso (9.6), 11.08.2014

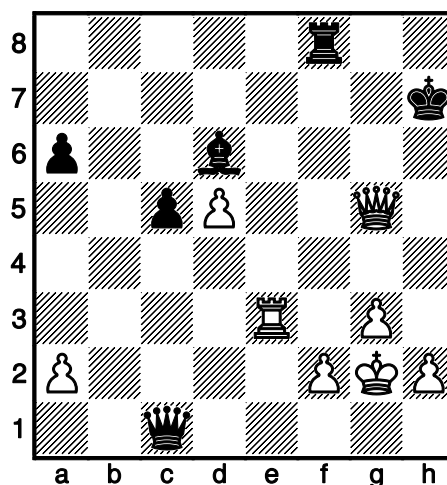
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6 5.♘f3 b5 6.b3 ♙g4 7.♗c2 e6 8.♘e5 ♙f5 9.♙d3 ♙xd3 10.♘xd3 bxc4 11.bxc4 dxc4 12.♘e5 ♘bd7 13.0-0 ♗c7 14.♘xd7 ♘xd7 15.♘e4 ♘b6 16.♞b1 ♙e7 17.♘d2 0-0 18.♘xc4 ♘xc4 19.♗xc4 ♞fc8 20.e4 c5 21.d5 exd5 22.exd5 ♙d6 23.g3 ♗a5 24.♞d1 ♞ab8 25.♙e3 h5 26.♔g2 ♞e8 27.♙d2 ♗a3 28.♞xb8 ♞xb8 29.♙c3 ♞e8 30.♞b1 ♞b8 31.♞e1 ♞d8 32.♞e3 ♗c1 33.♗h4 f6



34. ♙xf6! ♞f8 34...gxf6 35.♗xf6 ♞f8 (35...♞d7 36.♞e8+ ♔h7 37.♞h8#) 36.♗g6+ ♔h8 37.♗xd6 leaves White two pawns up with a decisive attack.

35. ♙xg7! The bishop continues its mission of destruction.

35...♔xg7 36.♗g5+ ♔h7 37.♗xh5+ ♔g7 38.♗g5+ ♔h7 38...♔h8 39.♗h6+ ♔g8 40.♗g6+ ♔h8 41.♗xd6+-



39. ♞e7+ 39. ♞e7+ ♙xe7 40. ♗xc1 leaves White with a decisive material advantage.

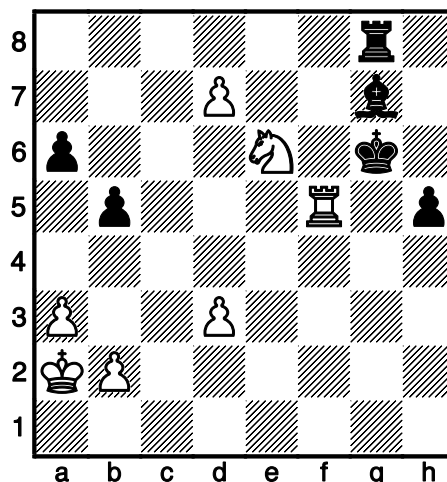
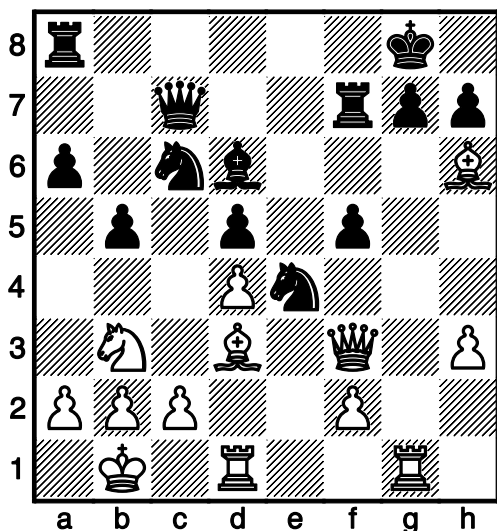
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Richard Rapport (2704) -
Emil Sutovsky (2624)

WCO2014 Tromso (9.8), 11.08.2014

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 d5 3.♙f4 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 a6 6.♘f3 ♙g4 7.h3 ♙xf3 8.♗xf3 ♘c6 9.0-0-0 e6 10.g4 ♙b4 11.♘e2 ♗a5 12.♔b1 ♘e4 13.♘c1 ♙d6 14.♘b3 ♗c7 15.♙e3 0-0 16.♞g1 b5 17.♙d3 f5?! This seriously weakens Black's pawn structure. Black still looks fairly solid after the more measured response 17...♘f6 18.g5 ♘d7

18.gxf5 exf5 19.♙h6 ♞f7?



44. ♖f8!

1-0

20. ♔xg7! ♜xg7 21. ♞xf5 ♔h8 21... ♞f7
 22. ♔xe4 dxe4 23. ♞xe4 ♔d7 24. ♞d5+
 ♔h8 25. ♞xg7 ♔xg7 26. ♘c5 and White
 gets his piece back as 26... ♞c7 drops the
 queen to 27. ♘e6+

22. ♞xg7 ♞xg7 23. ♞xd5 ♘xf2 24. ♞xc6
 ♜f8 24... ♘xd1 25. ♞xa8+ ♞f8 26. ♞xa6
 was certainly no improvement for Black.

25. ♞c1 ♘d3 26. cxd3 ♞g3 27. a3 ♔f4
 28. ♞d1 ♞xh3 29. ♘c5 White has only a
 small material advantage, but he has a firm
 grip on the middle of the board. Black's
 exposed king seriously limits his
 counterplay.

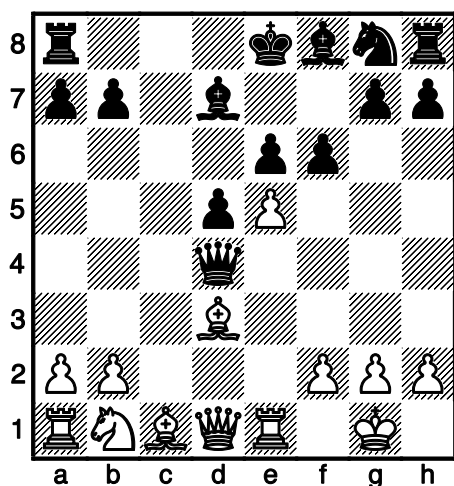
29... ♔e3 30. ♞e4 ♞f3 31. ♞e5+ ♔g8
 32. ♞e1 ♔f2 33. ♞e4 ♞f5 34. ♞c7 ♔h8
 35. ♘e6 ♞g8 36. d5 ♔h4 37. ♞c5 ♔f6
 38. ♔a2 h5 39. ♞f4 ♞g6 40. d6 This passed
 pawn decides the game.

40... ♔g7 41. ♞f5 ♔h7 42. d7 ♞xf5 43. ♞xf5
 ♔g6

Blunders, upsets and brilliances

By GM Einar Gausel

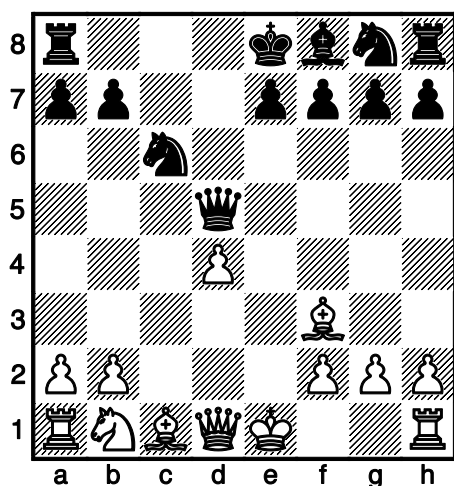
Colletta Wakuruwarewa (1633) -
Ellen Mpinganjira
WCO2014 Tromso (9.5), 11.08.2014



11. ♖g6+! hxg6 12. ♖xd4

1-0

Nicole Miranda Gonzalez (1943) -
Soledad Coro (1839)
WCO2014 Tromso (9.24), 11.08.2014



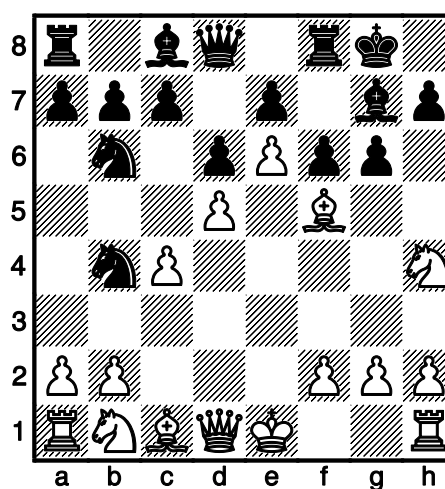
8... ♖xd4?? 9. ♗xc6+ 9. ♗xc6+ bxc6
10. ♖xd4+-

1-0

Bader Al-Hajiri (2123) -
Manish Hamal (2068)
WCO2014 Tromso (9.48), 11.08.2014

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 ♘c6
5.c4 ♘b6 6.e6 f6 7.♗d3 ♘b4 8.♗f5 g6
9.♘h4! ♗g7 9...gxf5 10.♖h5#

10.d5 0-0

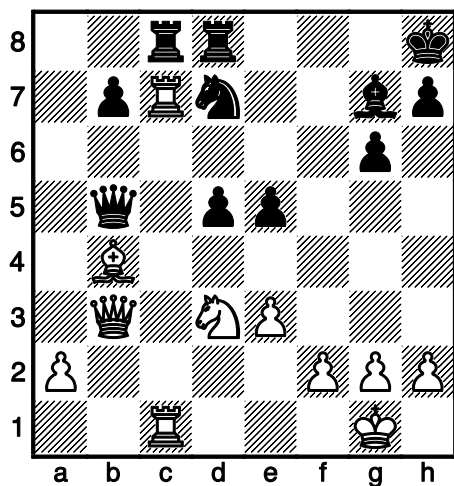


11. ♘xg6! hxg6 12. ♗xg6 f5 13. ♖h5 ♖f6
14. ♖h7+ ♔f8 15. ♗h6! ♗h6 ♖xg6
(15... ♗xh6 16. ♖h8#) 16. ♖h8#

1-0

Georg Meier (2646) – Gata Kamsky (2706)

WCO2014 Tromso (9.10), 11.08.2014



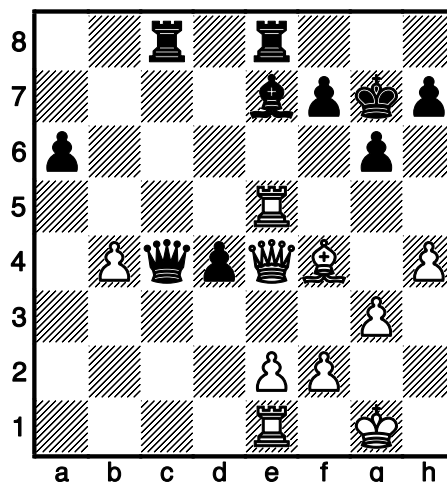
27...♖b6? 28.♙f8! 28...♙f8 ♔xb3
29.♙xg7+ ♔g8 30.axb3+-

1-0

Elina Danielian (2490) -
Kateryna Lagno (2540)

WCO2014 Tromso (9.37), 11.08.2014

1.c4 g6 2.♖c3 c5 3.♗f3 ♙g7 4.g3 ♗c6
5.♙g2 e6 6.d4 ♗xd4 7.♗xd4 cxd4 8.♗e4
d5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.♖a4+ ♔f8 11.♗c5
♗e7 12.♙f4 ♙f6 13.♞c1 ♔g7 14.0-0 ♖b6
15.b4 a6 16.♞fe1 ♖b5 17.♖b3 b6 18.♗d3
♙f5 19.a4 ♖d7 20.♙c7 b5 21.♗c5 bxa4
22.♗xa4 ♞ae8 23.♗b6 ♖e6 24.♗xd5
♗xd5 25.♙xd5 ♖d7 26.♙c6 ♖e6 27.♙d5
♖d7 28.♙f4 ♙e6 29.♙xe6 ♖xe6 30.♖f3
♞c8 31.♞c5 ♞he8 32.h4 ♙e7 33.♙e5+ ♙f6
34.♙f4 ♙e7 35.♞e5 ♖c4 36.♖e4



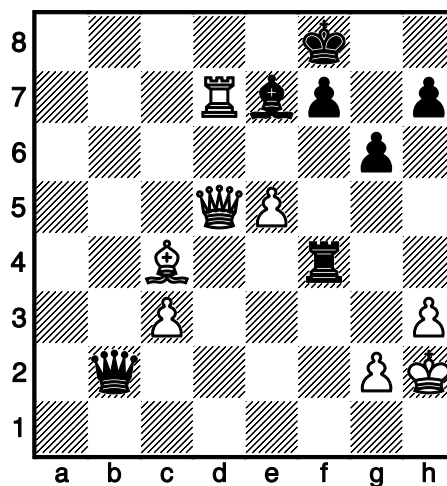
36...♖xb4? 37.♞b1 f5 37...♖a3 38.♞b7

38.♞xb4 fxe4 39.♞b7 ♔f6 40.♞exe7!
40.♞xe7 ♞xc7 41.♙g5+ ♔f5 42.♞xe7+-

1-0

Alexander Grischuk (2795) -
Frode Urkedal (2500)

WCO2014 Tromso (9.25), 11.08.2014



49.♞xe7! ♔xe7 50.♖d6+ ♔e8 51.♙d5
51.♙d5 f6 52.e6 and Black gets mated.

1-0