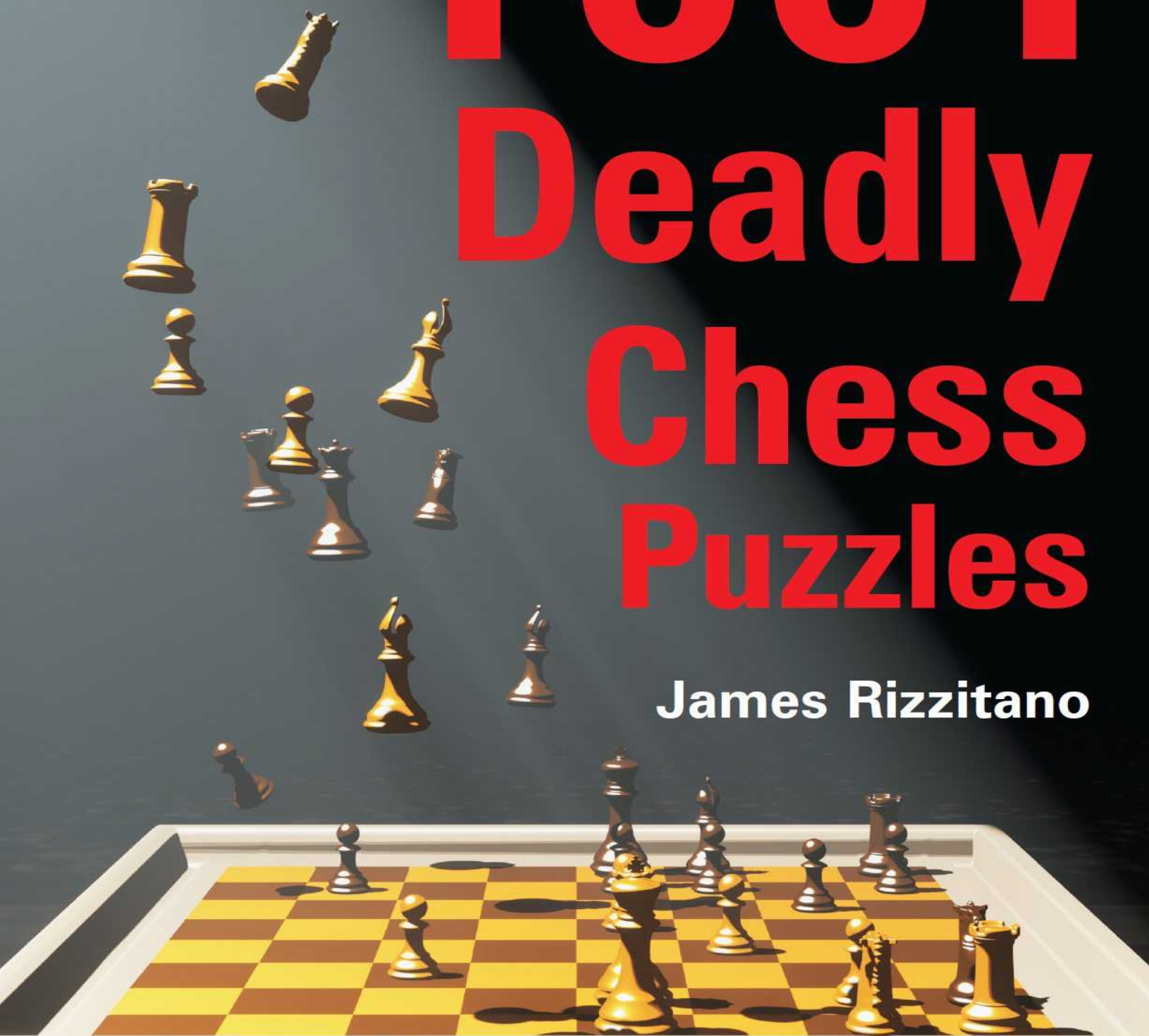


GAMBIT

1001 Deadly Chess Puzzles

James Rizzitano



Tactics and decision-making: Learn by solving!

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Introduction

The study of chess tactics is the single most beneficial activity for most chess-players. From beginner to grandmaster level, players are confronted with tactical decisions on almost every move of every game. I have spent the past five months reviewing games played within the past year between players with a rating of 2200 and above with the goal of selecting 1001 of the most instructive tactical puzzles. Selecting only recent games should ensure that almost all the positions are new to most readers.

One of the challenges when playing chess is staying alert to tactics. I have several chess students who are good at solving chess puzzles in books, but they often miss tactical opportunities when they arise in their own games. We will see the following typical themes throughout the book which indicate that a tactical solution may be available:

- **Back-rank weakness:** no luft (air) for the king.
- **Unsafe king:** a king marooned in the centre of the board, trapped behind a compromised pawn-structure or surrounded by hostile pieces.
- **Loose pieces:** an unprotected piece is an attractive target to be captured at the end of a combination.
- **Vulnerable pieces:** a major piece in the middle of a crowded board can sometimes be trapped by the opponent's minor pieces and pawns.
- **Development advantage:** it is easier to develop the initiative and create threats when you have more pieces in play.
- **Attacking ratio:** a larger number of attackers versus defenders in the vicinity of the opponent's king may indicate opportunities for a mating combination.
- **Superior piece mobility:** pieces that have more scope can often create dual threats which cannot be met.
- **Weak squares:** a piece that cannot be chased away from a square can be a big asset when formulating an attack on the opponent's king.

- **Advantage on a particular colour complex:** if a queen or bishop can operate unopposed on a particular diagonal, this is very helpful for the attacker.
- **Advanced pawn(s) on the 6th or 7th ranks:** the threat to promote a pawn usually requires immediate attention.

Most of the puzzles are middlegame positions, but I have included a small number of interesting opening and tactical endgame positions. I have included a small percentage of puzzles where best play is a draw, and others where the main task is to reject a tempting-looking tactic. This was done to keep readers on their toes; you can't just guess at the solution assuming that there is a winning tactic. Try to imagine that you are playing a tournament game, and decide on your move as carefully as you would in that case.

I should note that there are no trick questions or other such oddities in this book. All the positions are from real games of standard chess or pertinent analysis of them. Your task is just to find the best move or sequence that the position offers. You may assume that standard castling is legal (if not, this will be mentioned), and that if an *en passant* capture is possible, this will be stated too. Most positions have a unique solution, at least in terms of the first move from the diagram position. There are exceptions in cases where the main task is to avoid a tempting move, and in some puzzles the winning idea can be started with two different moves that then transpose. I have sought to mention all such instances.

In most of the solutions there are some clear-cut tactical themes, but sometimes there is just a strong move to find, with no identifiable tactical device as such. This might be a move that creates a strong threat, or prevents the opponent's counterplay. In other cases there are several themes at play.

While this book is at a rather higher level than John Nunn's similarly titled *1001 Deadly Checkmates*, it does share one major feature: there is little overt 'instruction' in this book. The idea is that you learn by solving, and the positions have been carefully chosen so that many of them build upon earlier ones, helping you increase your tactical and decision-making skills step by step.

The first four chapters each end with a 'test' that features 48 puzzles on the same broad theme(s). The test positions are slightly easier than those earlier in the chapter, so they function as a revision exercise – you should be able to solve most of them if you have worked carefully through the first part of the chapter. I encourage you to review the book after a few months and retake the tests periodically to see if your tactical vision has improved. Good luck!

James Rizzitano
Southborough, Massachusetts, USA
July 2023

Symbols

+	check
++	double check
x	capture
#	checkmate
!!	brilliant move
!	good move
!?	interesting move
?!	dubious move
?	bad move
??	blunder
+—	White is winning
+/—	White has a large advantage
+=	White has a small advantage
=	equal position
=+	Black has a small advantage
—/+	Black has a large advantage
—+	Black is winning
Ch	championship
1-0	the game ends in a win for White
½-½	the game ends in a draw
0-1	the game ends in a win for Black
(<i>n</i>)	<i>n</i> th match game

Dedication

To Jeremiah Donahue.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to my wife Kim and to our children Jillian and Jay for their enthusiasm and support.

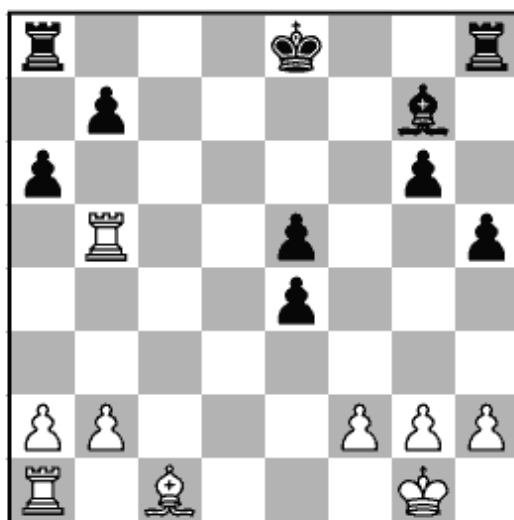
Bibliography

ChessBase Mega Database 2023

The Week in Chess (No. 1469 dated 2 January 2023 through No. 1491 dated 5 June 2023)

1: Elementary Puzzles

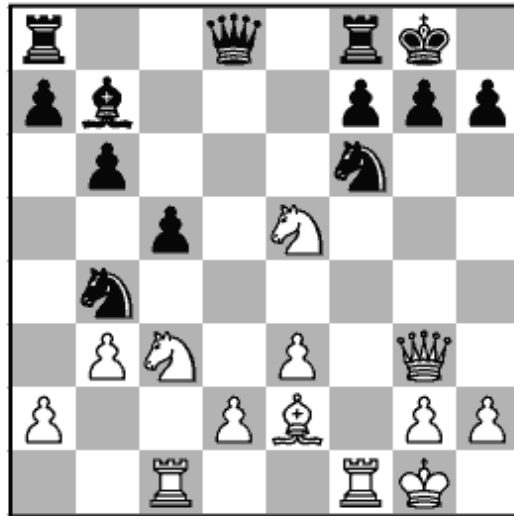
The puzzles in this chapter are relatively straightforward and form the building blocks for tactical challenges that will be seen in later chapters. As you become more familiar with various tactical ideas it becomes easier to spot these possibilities in your own games. Improving your pattern recognition will also enable you to play faster and save time for more difficult positions.



1) White to play

Should White take the black pawn on b7, or is it poisoned?

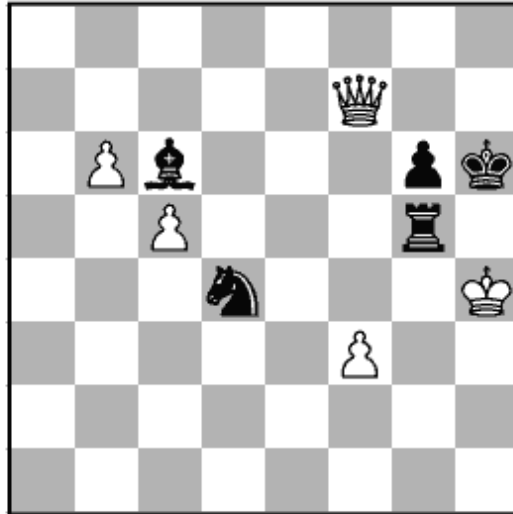
[solution](#)



2) Black to play

Can Black safely capture the white pawn on d2?

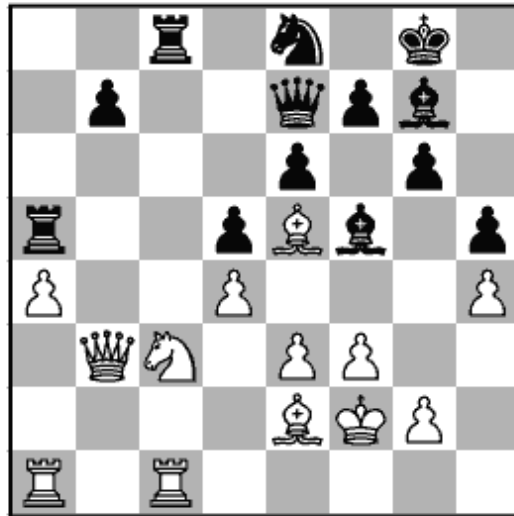
[solution](#)



3) White to play

How can White exploit the precarious position of the black rook?

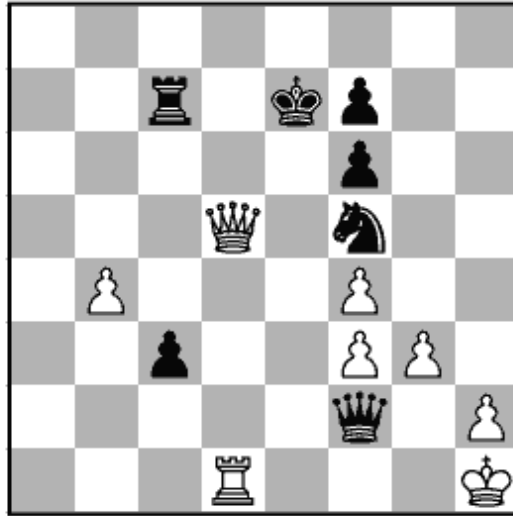
[solution](#)



4) White to play

Can White win a pawn by capturing on d5 with his knight?

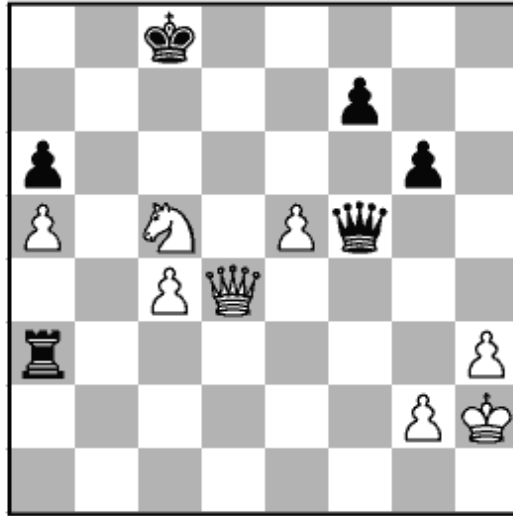
[solution](#)



5) White to play

Should White force a draw by repetition or can he play for a win?

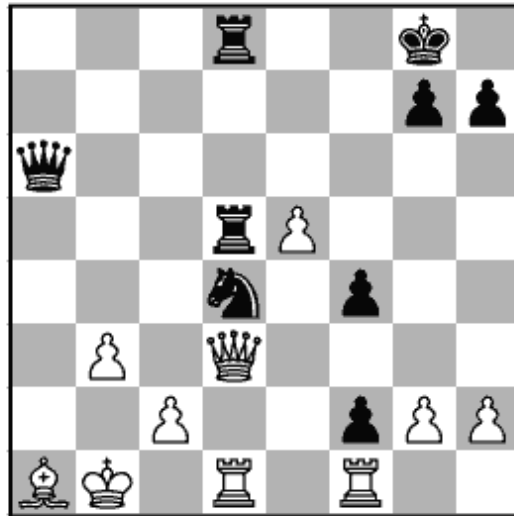
[solution](#)



6) White to play

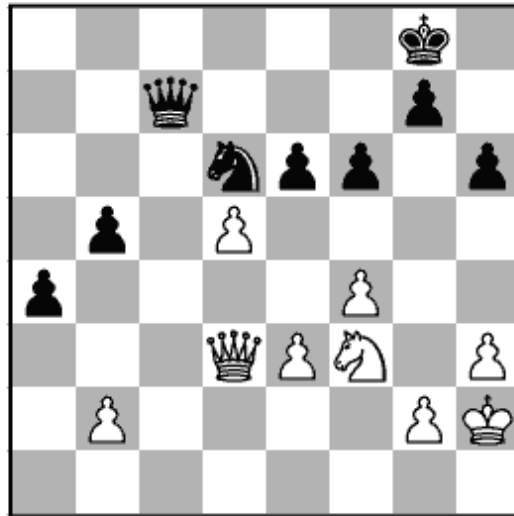
How can White take advantage of his well-placed knight?

[solution](#)



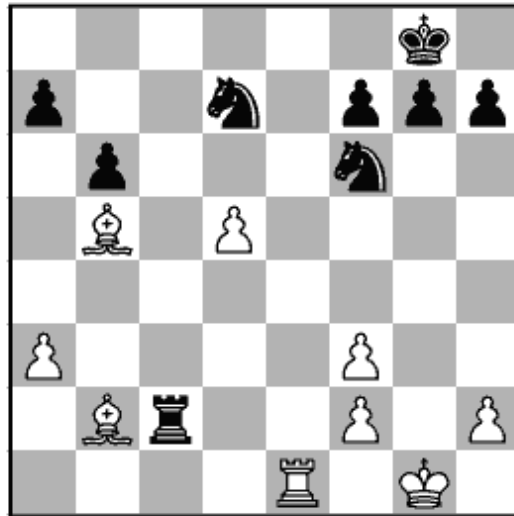
7) Black to play

[solution](#)



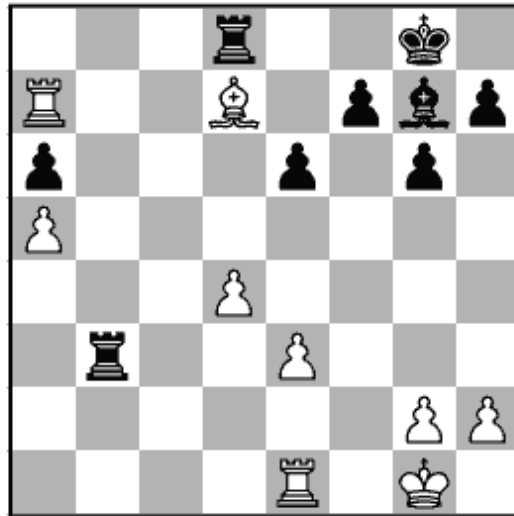
8) Black to play

[solution](#)



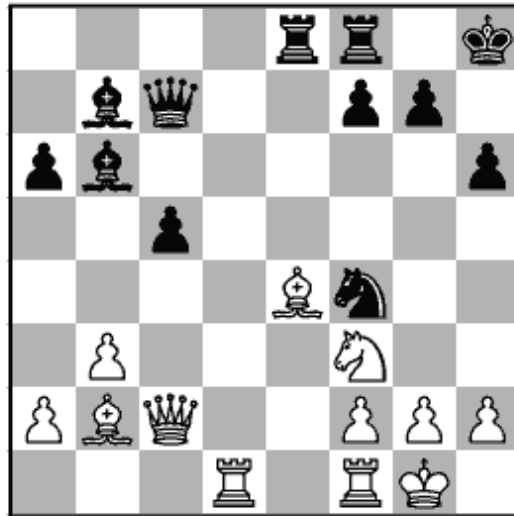
9) White to play

[solution](#)



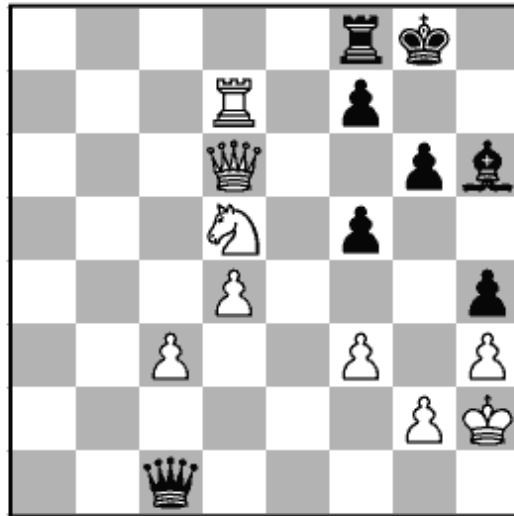
10) Black to play

[solution](#)



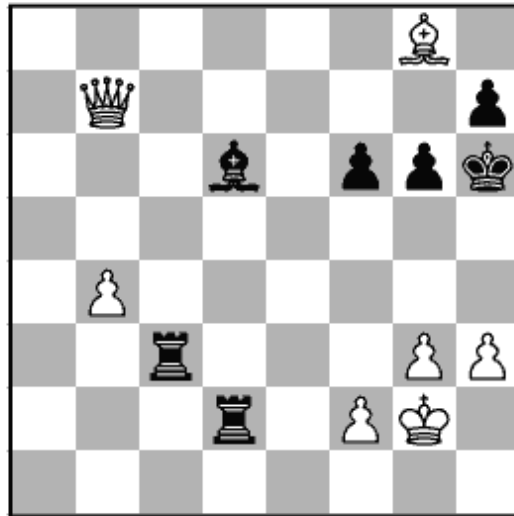
11) White to play

solution



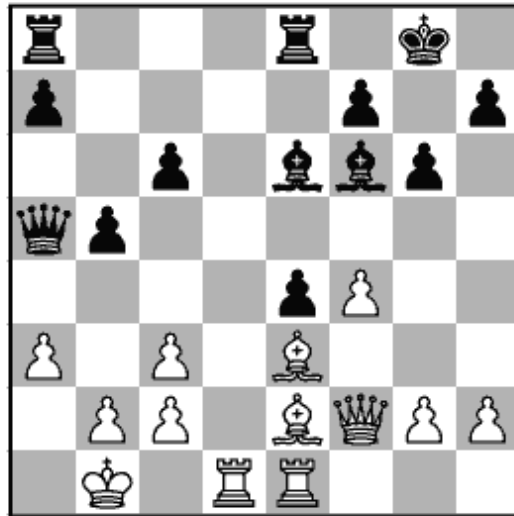
12) White to play

[solution](#)



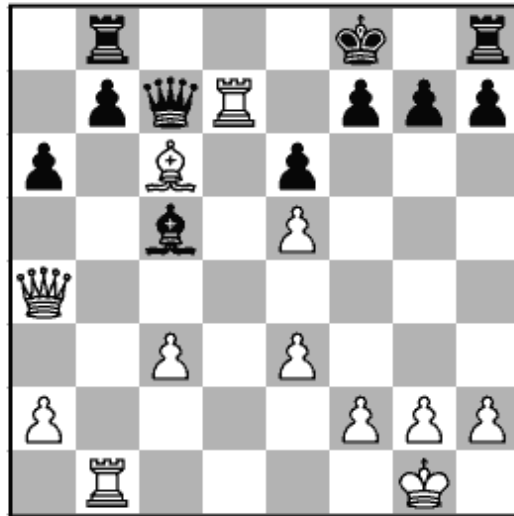
13) Black to play

[solution](#)



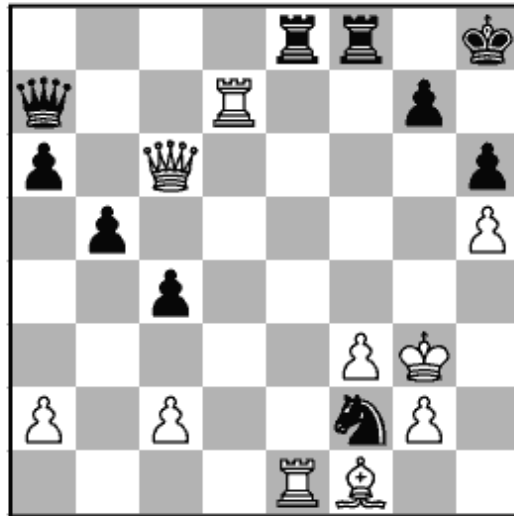
14) Black to play

[solution](#)



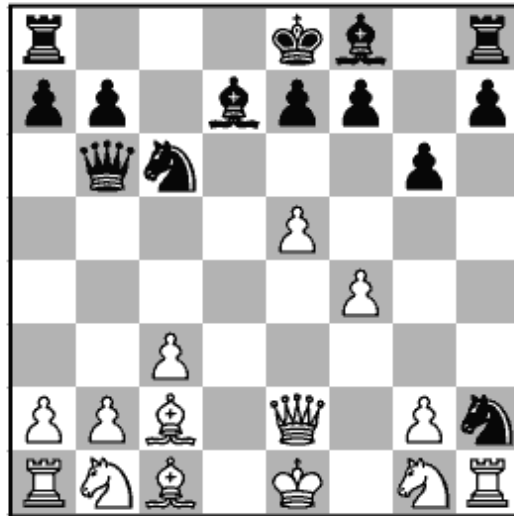
15) Black to play

[solution](#)



16) Black to play

[solution](#)



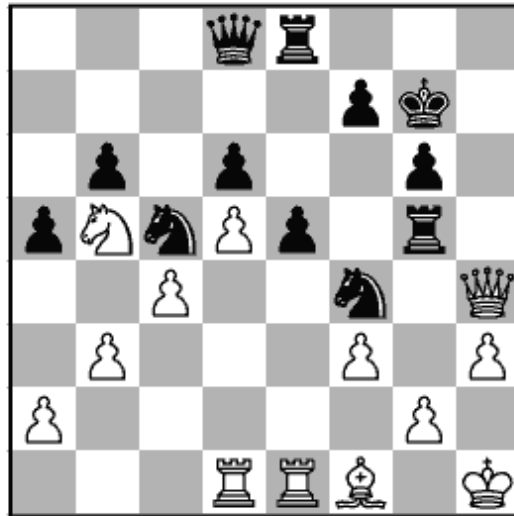
17) White to play

[solution](#)



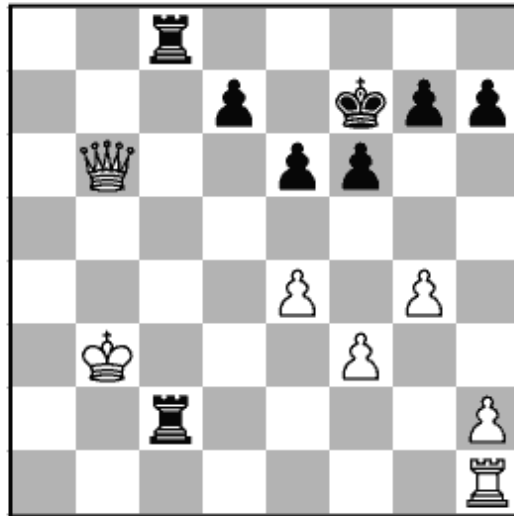
18) Black to play

[solution](#)



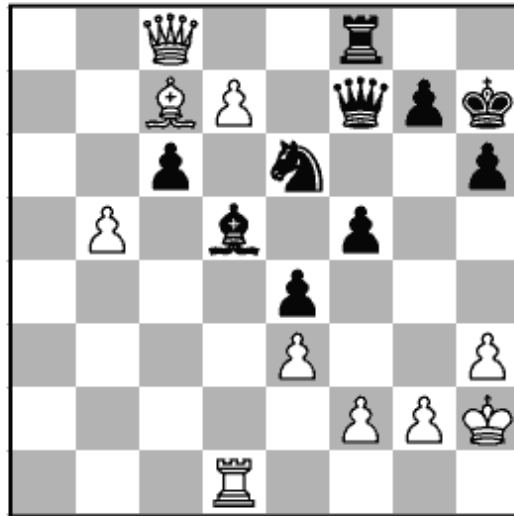
19) Black to play

[solution](#)



20) Black to play

[solution](#)



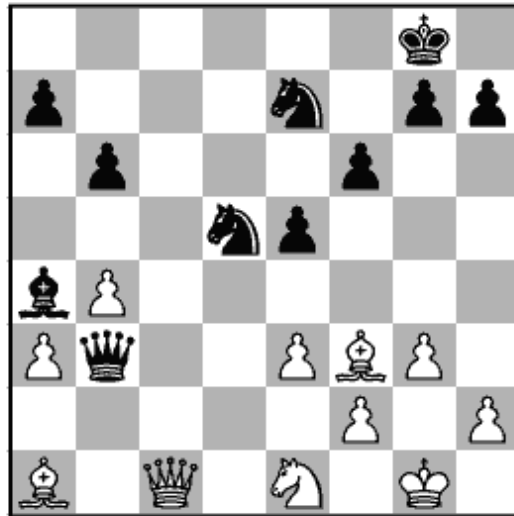
21) White to play

[solution](#)



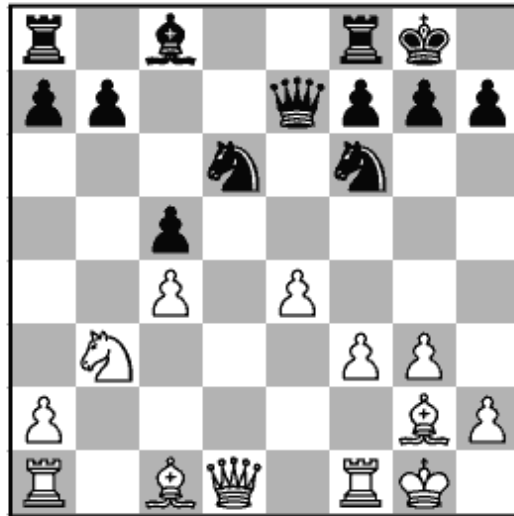
22) Black to play

[solution](#)



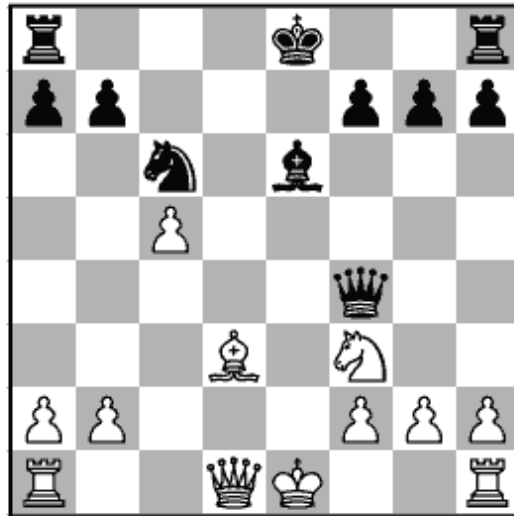
23) White to play

[solution](#)



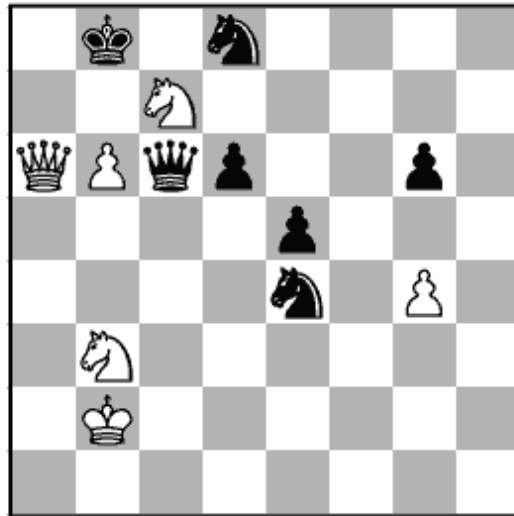
24) White to play

[solution](#)



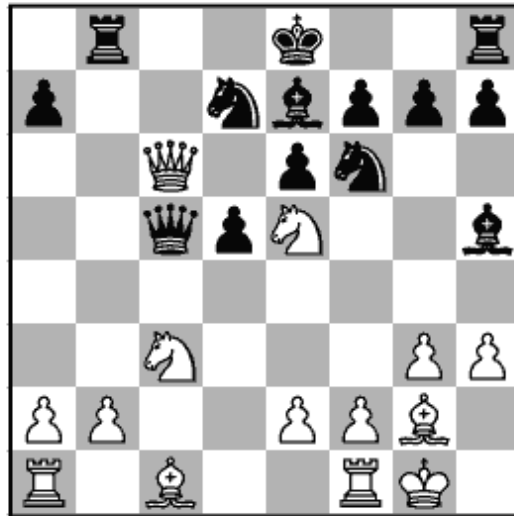
25) Black to play

[solution](#)



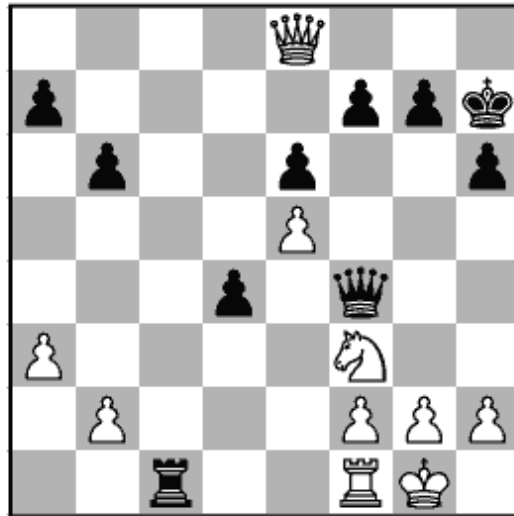
26) White to play

[solution](#)



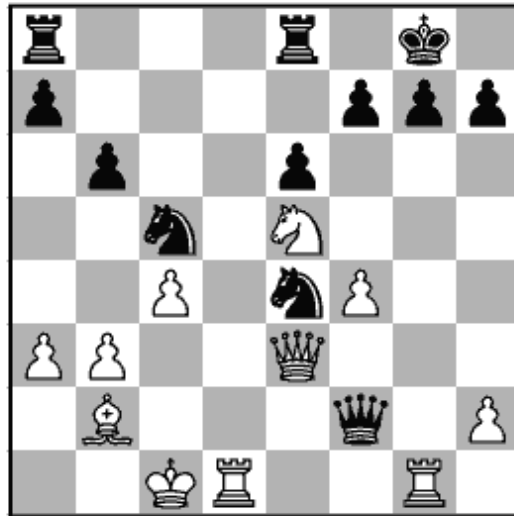
27) White to play

[solution](#)



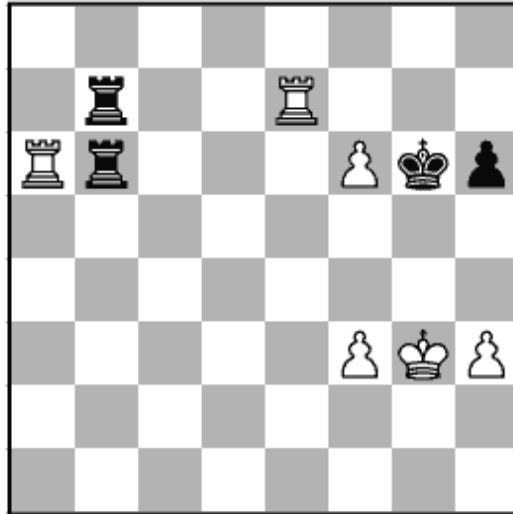
28) Black to play

[solution](#)



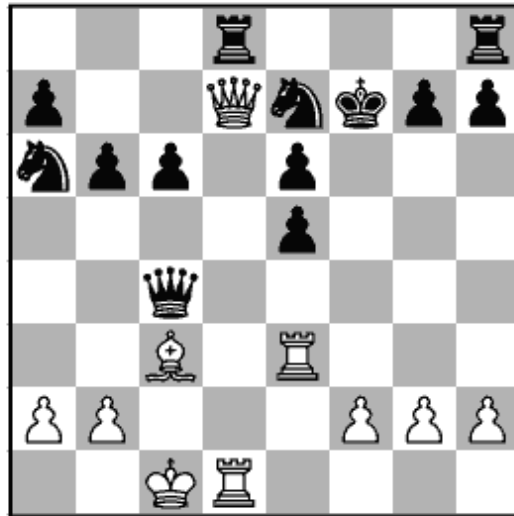
29) White to play

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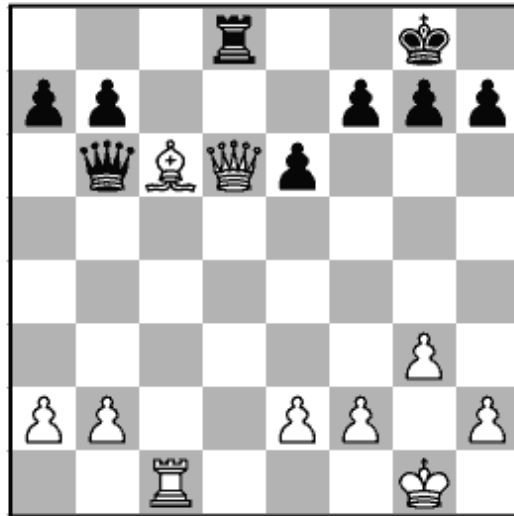
30) White to play

[solution](#)



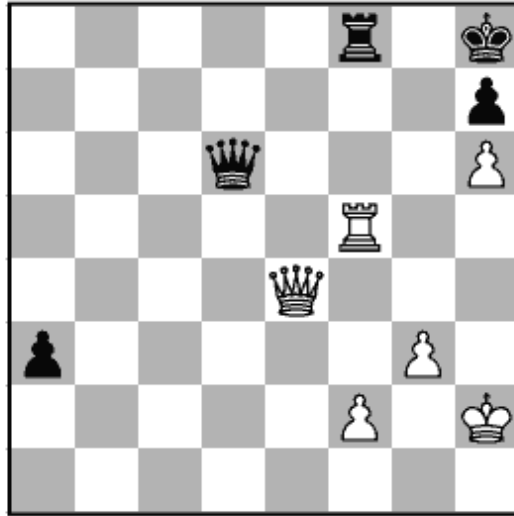
31) White to play

[solution](#)



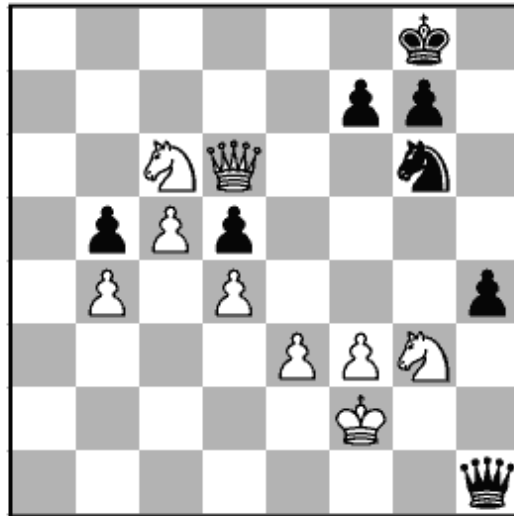
32) White to play

[solution](#)



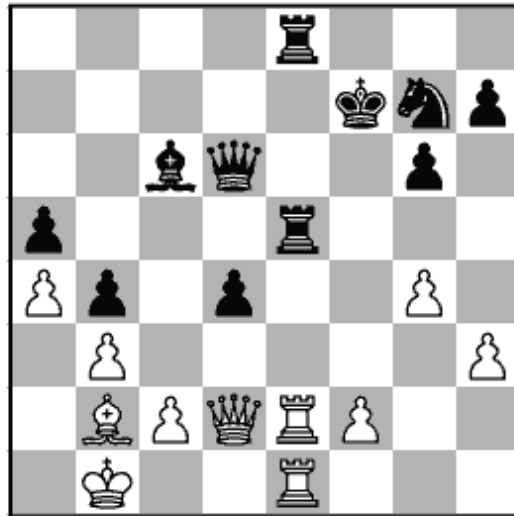
33) White to play

[solution](#)



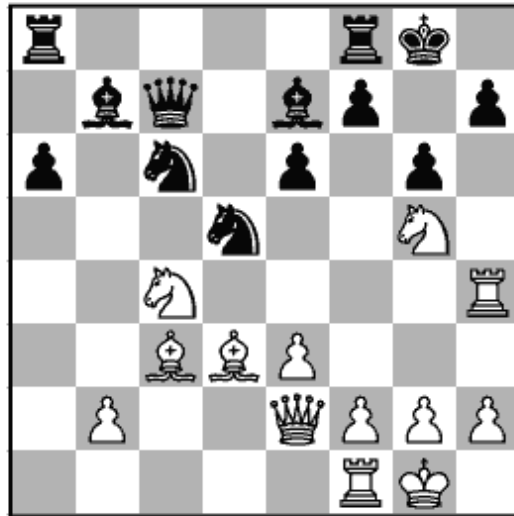
34) Black to play

[solution](#)



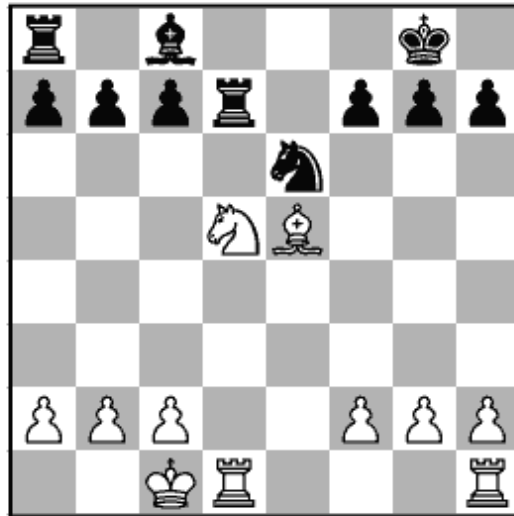
35) White to play

solution



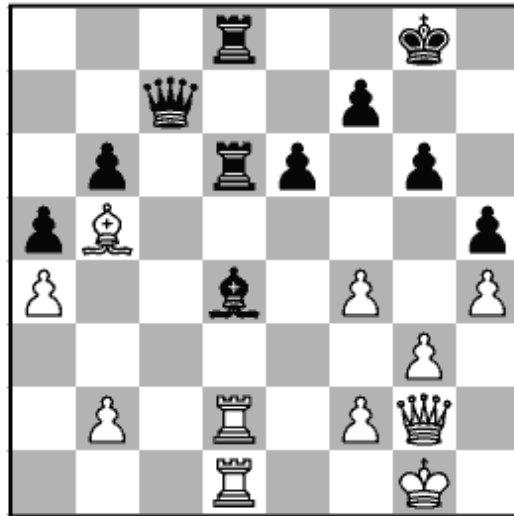
36) White to play

[solution](#)



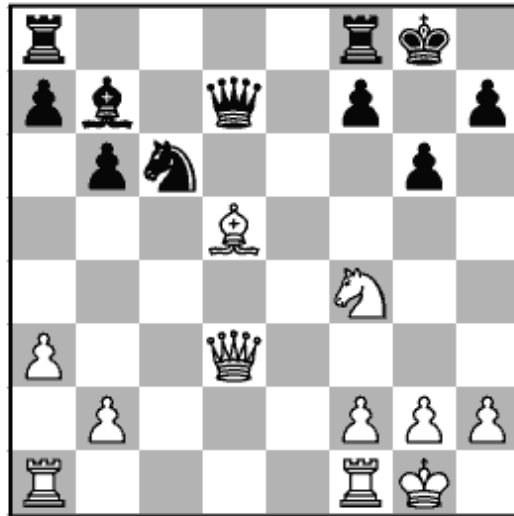
37) White to play

[solution](#)



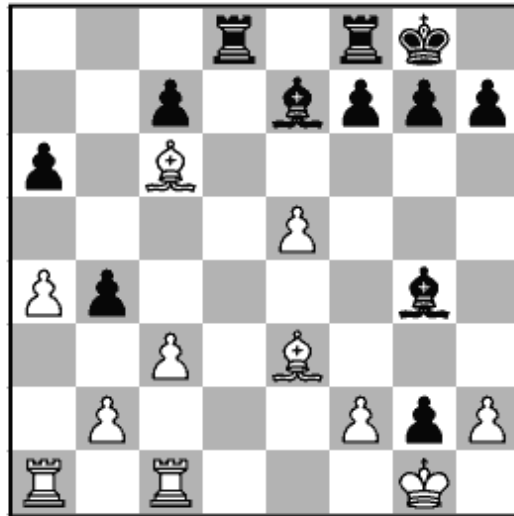
38) Black to play

[solution](#)



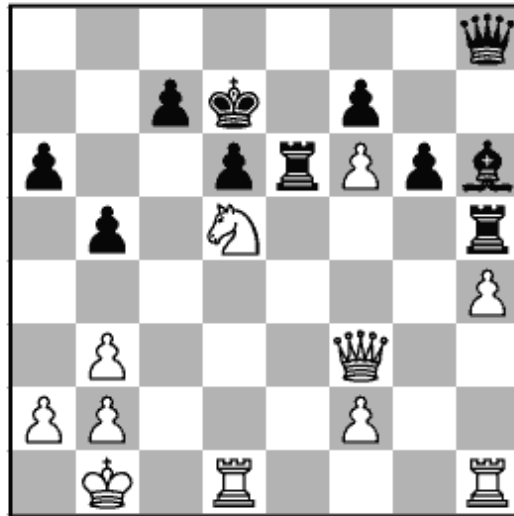
39) White to play

[solution](#)



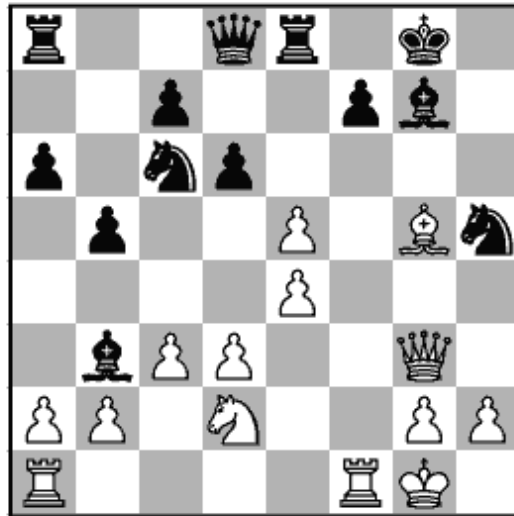
40) White to play

[solution](#)



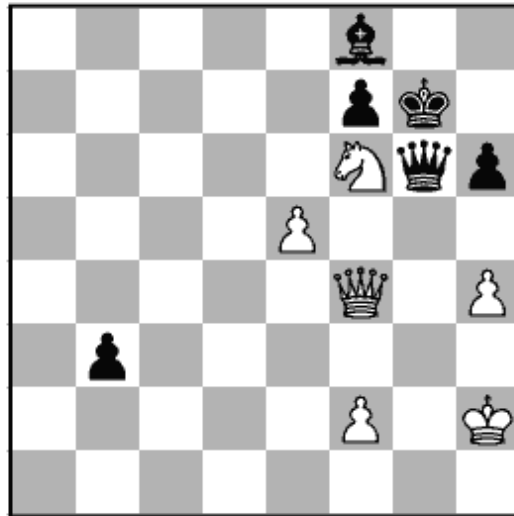
41) White to play

[solution](#)



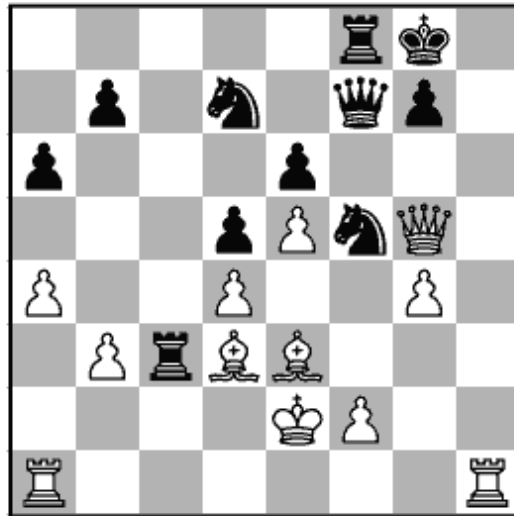
42) White to play

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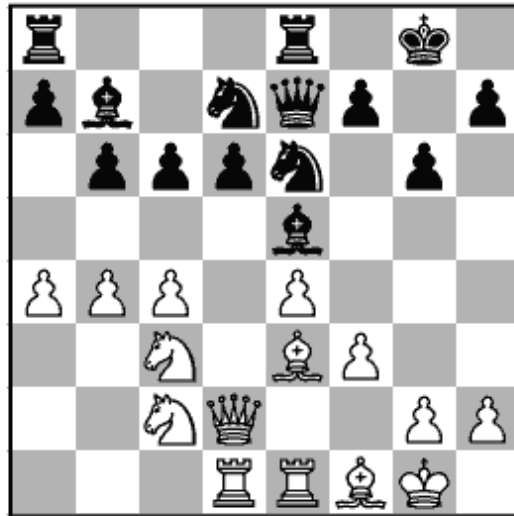
43) White to play

[solution](#)



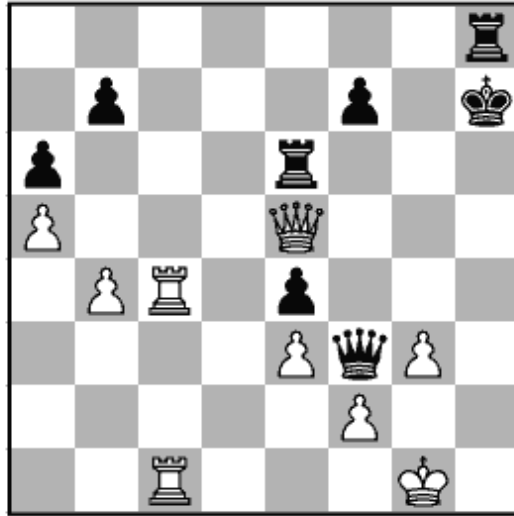
44) Black to play

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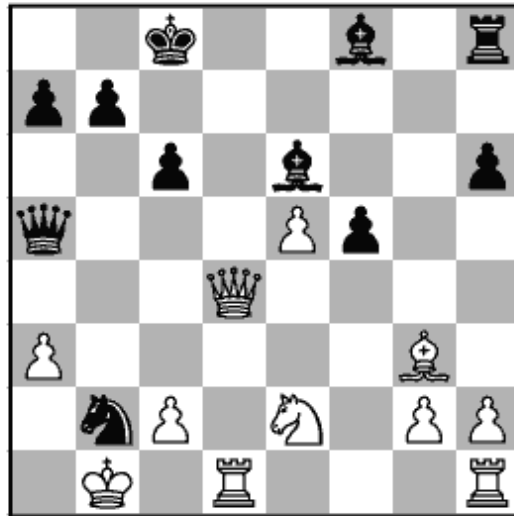
45) Black to play

[solution](#)



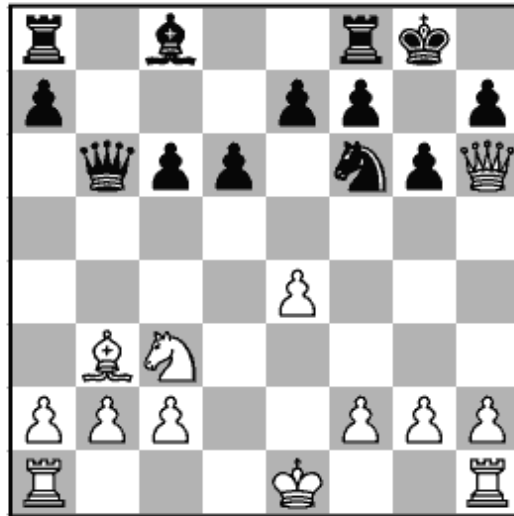
46) White to play

[solution](#)



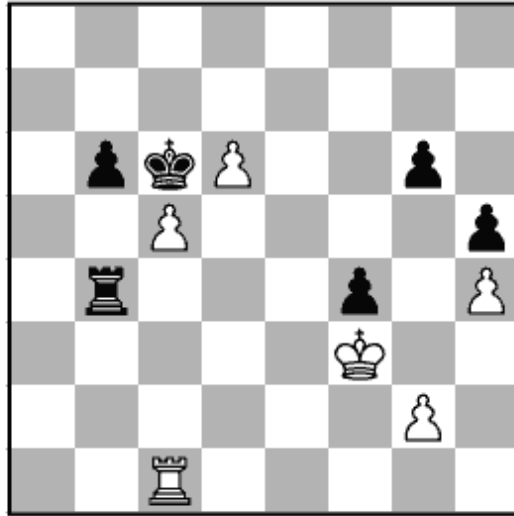
47) White to play

[solution](#)



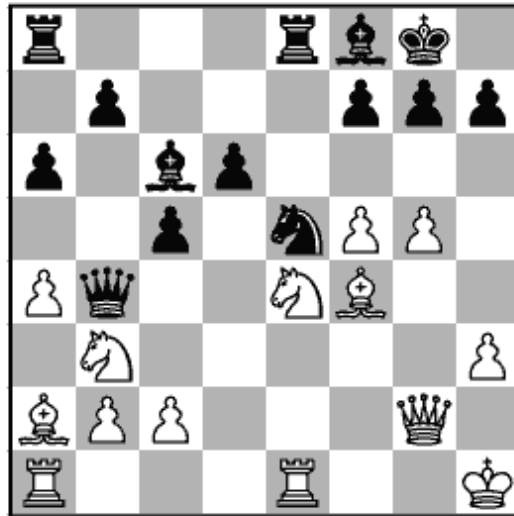
48) Black to play

[solution](#)



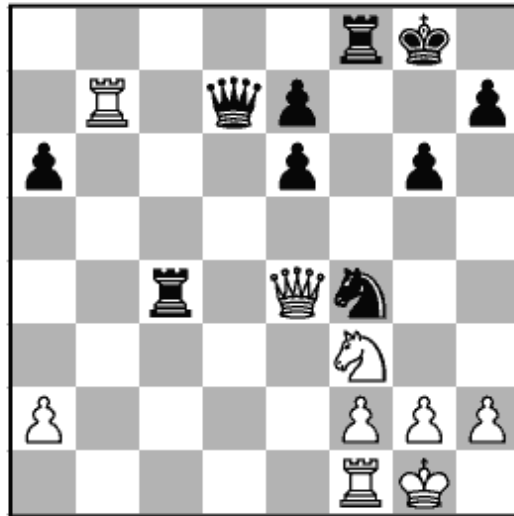
49) White to play

[solution](#)



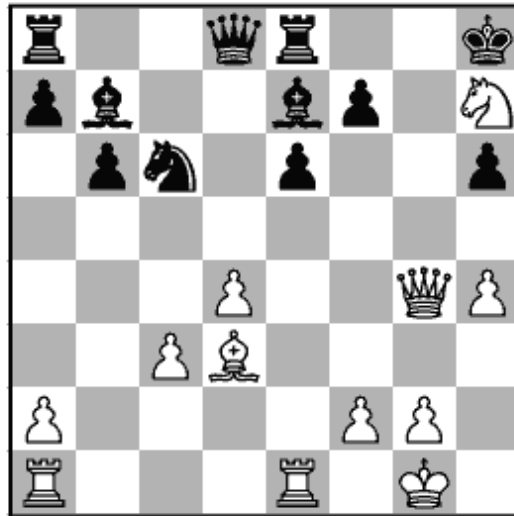
50) Black to play

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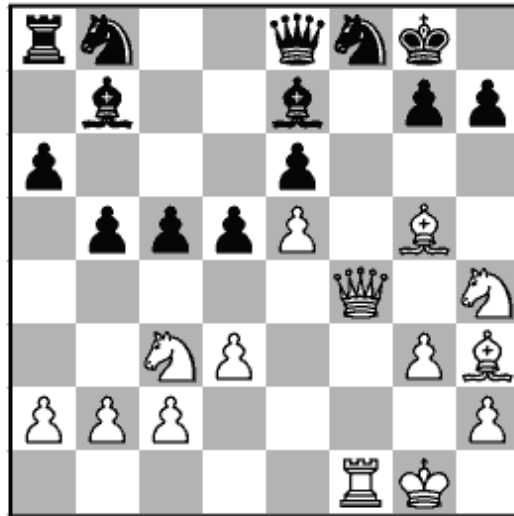
51) White to play

[solution](#)



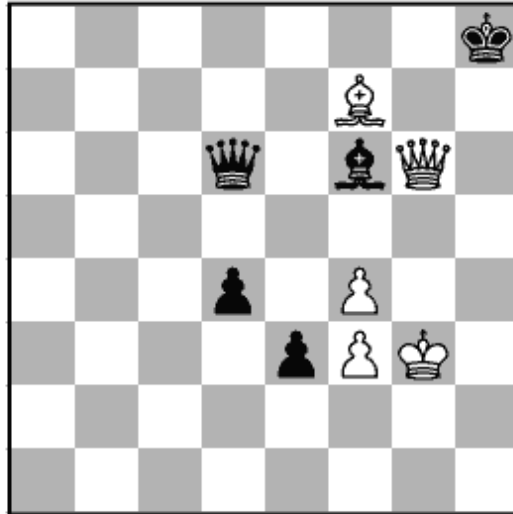
52) White to play

[solution](#)



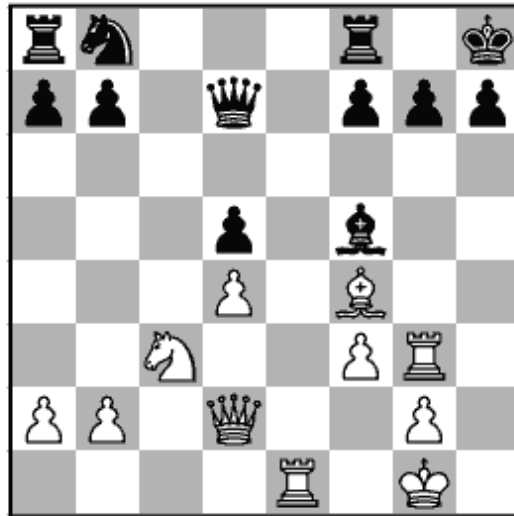
53) White to play

[solution](#)



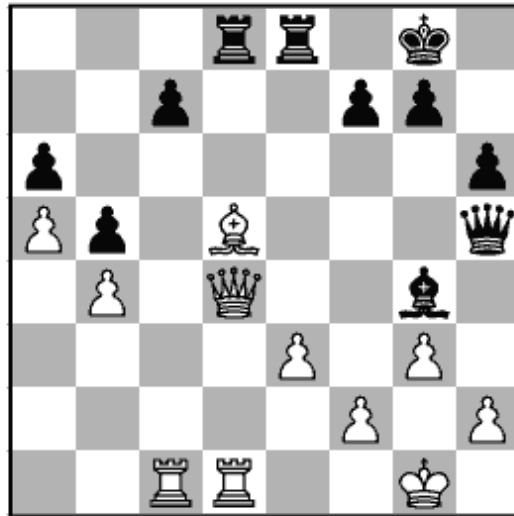
54) Black to play

[solution](#)



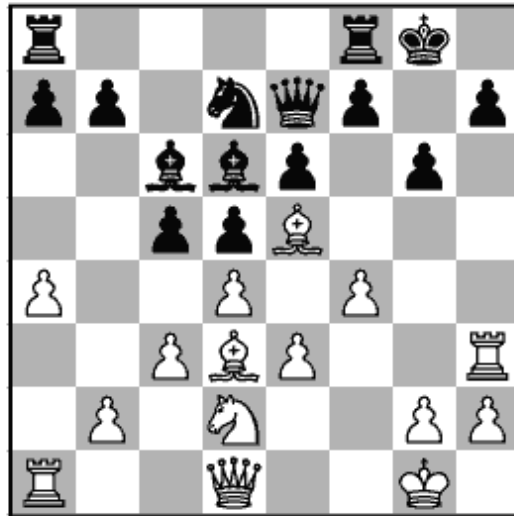
55) White to play

[solution](#)



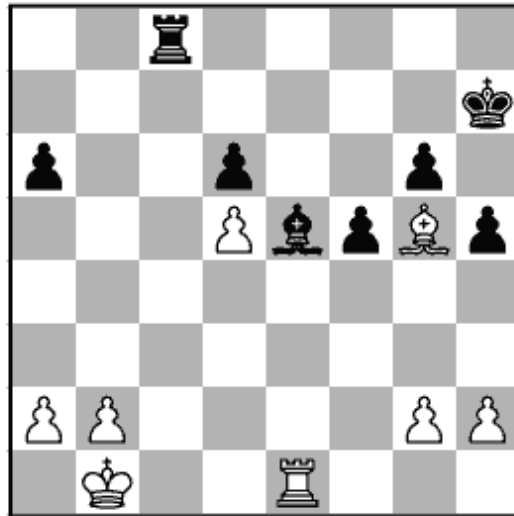
56) White to play

[solution](#)



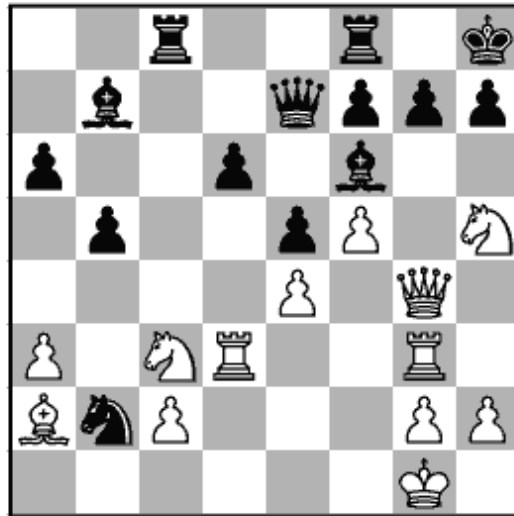
57) White to play

[solution](#)



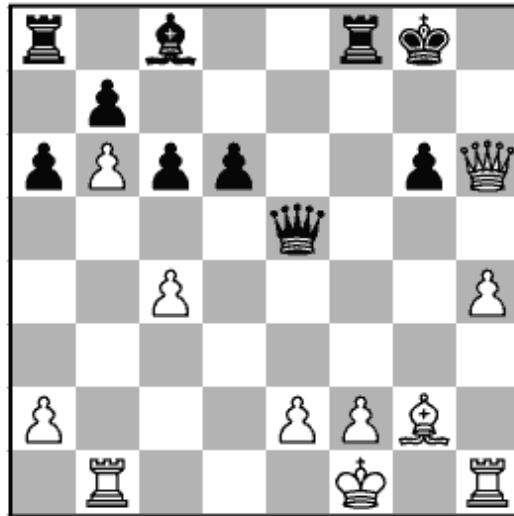
58) White to play

[solution](#)



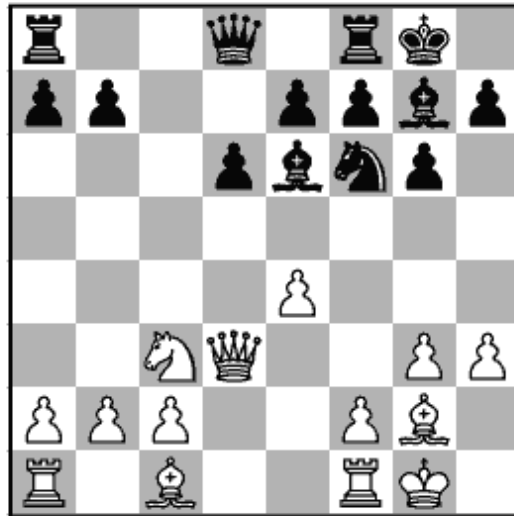
59) White to play

[solution](#)



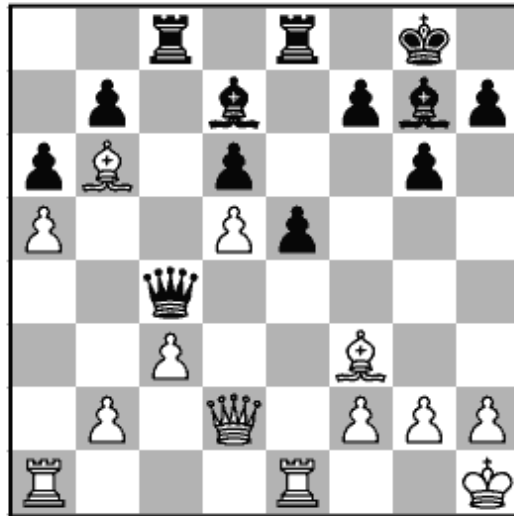
60) Black to play

[solution](#)



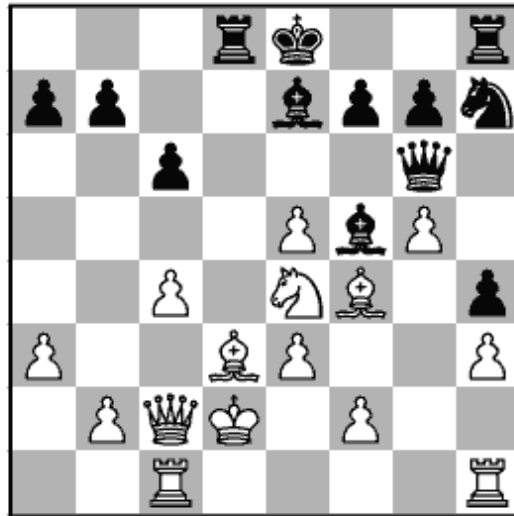
61) Black to play

[solution](#)



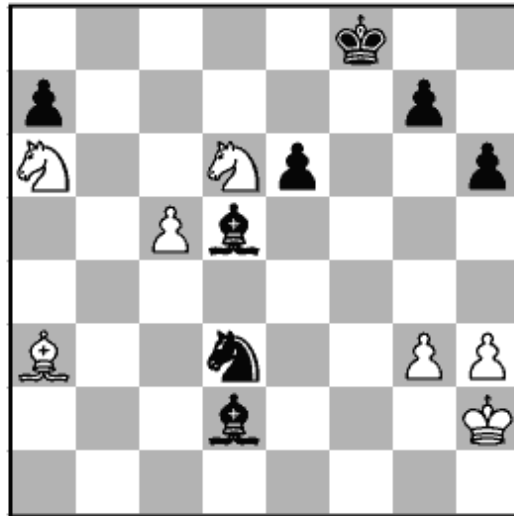
62) White to play

[solution](#)



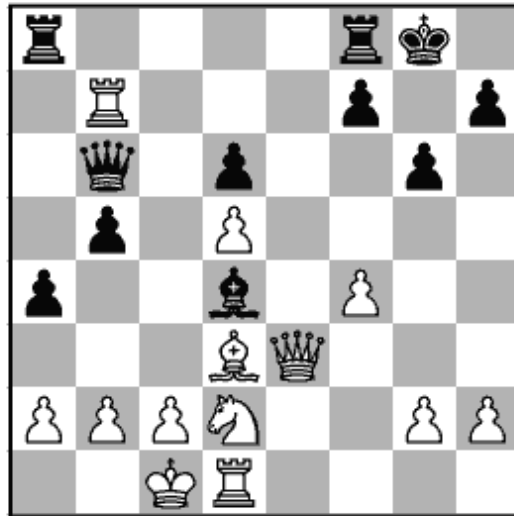
63) White to play

[solution](#)



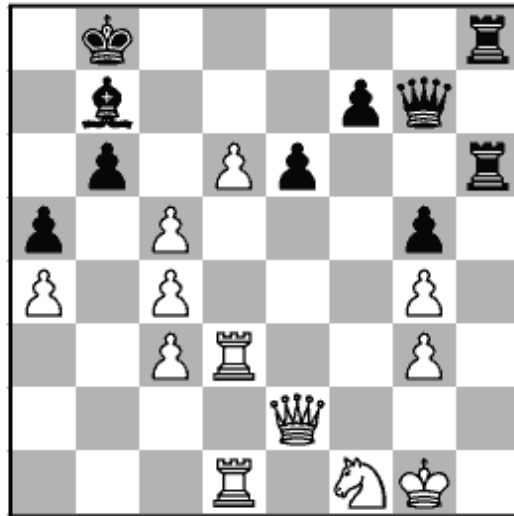
64) White to play

[solution](#)



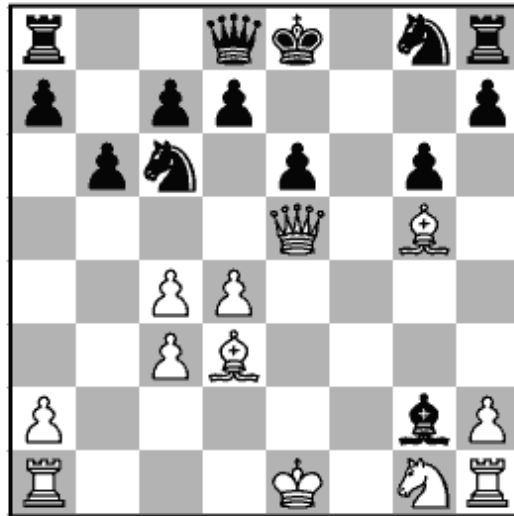
65) Black to play

[solution](#)



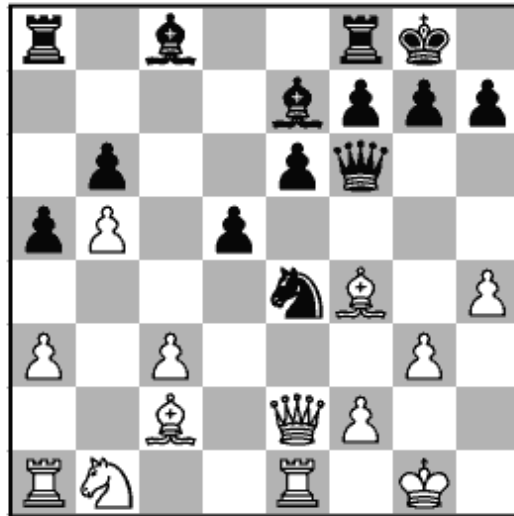
66) White to play

[solution](#)



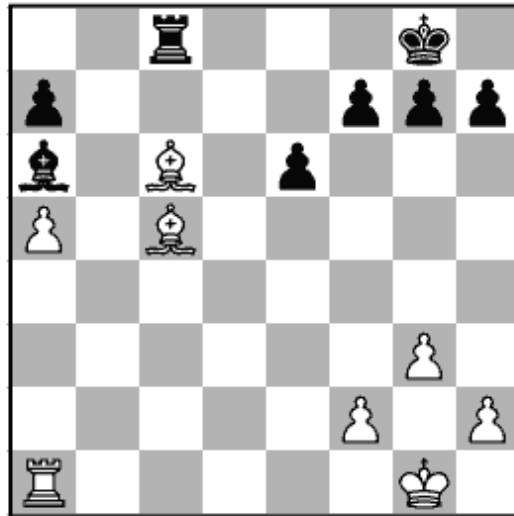
67) White to play

[solution](#)



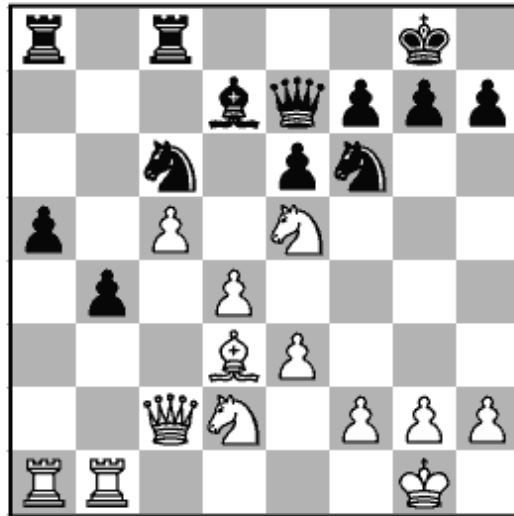
68) White to play

[solution](#)



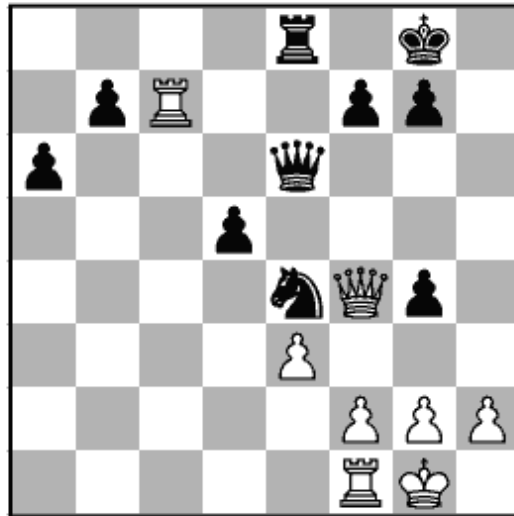
69) White to play

[solution](#)



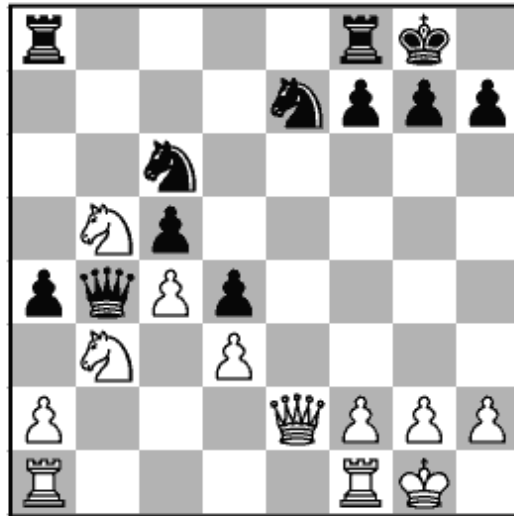
70) White to play

[solution](#)



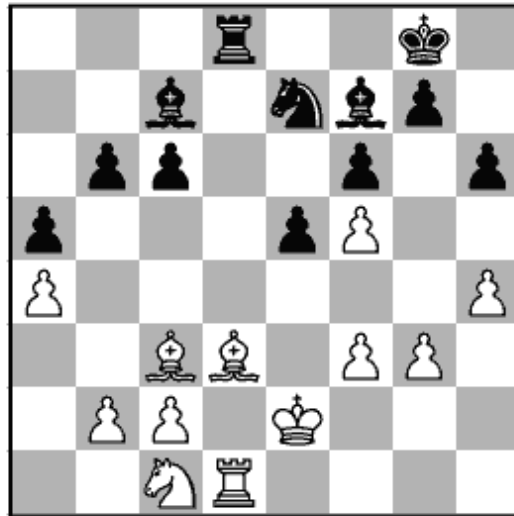
71) Black to play

[solution](#)



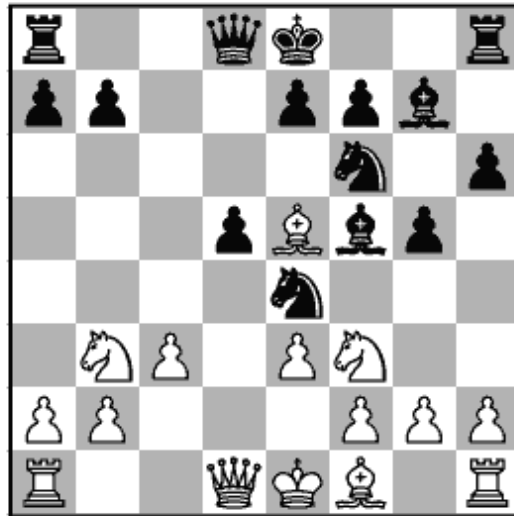
72) White to play

[solution](#)



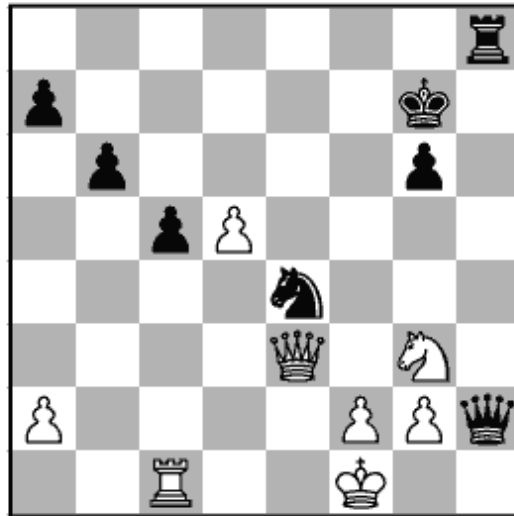
73) Black to play

[solution](#)



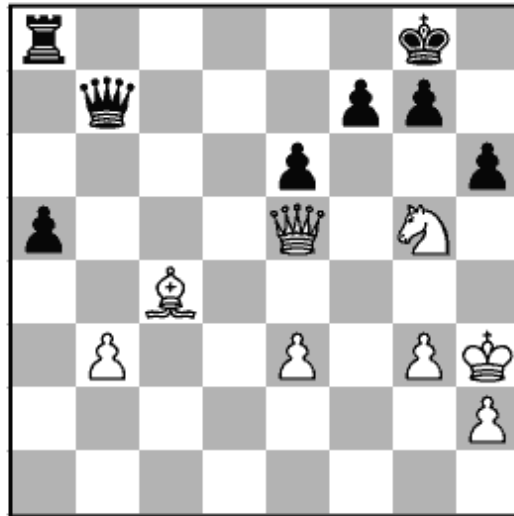
74) Black to play

[solution](#)



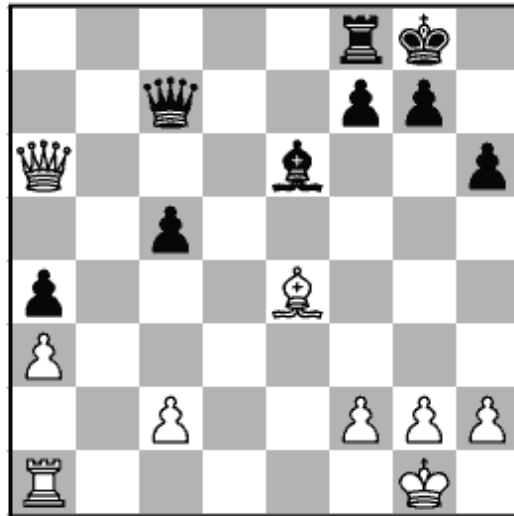
75) Black to play

[solution](#)



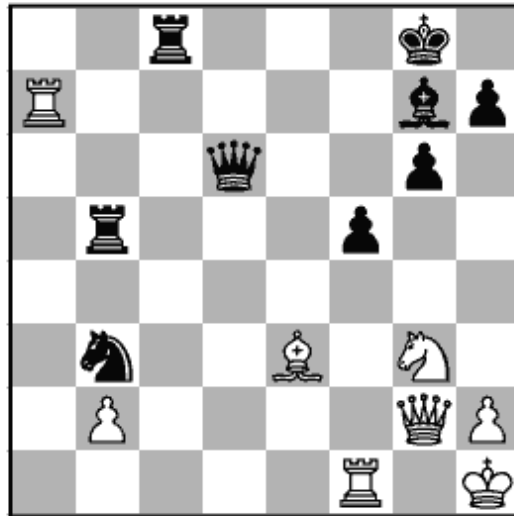
76) White to play

[solution](#)



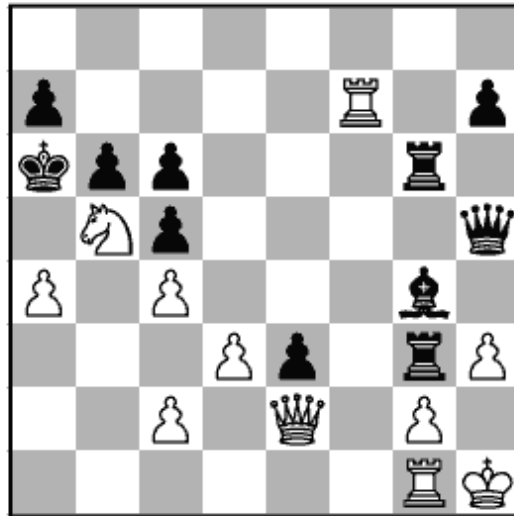
77) Black to play

[solution](#)



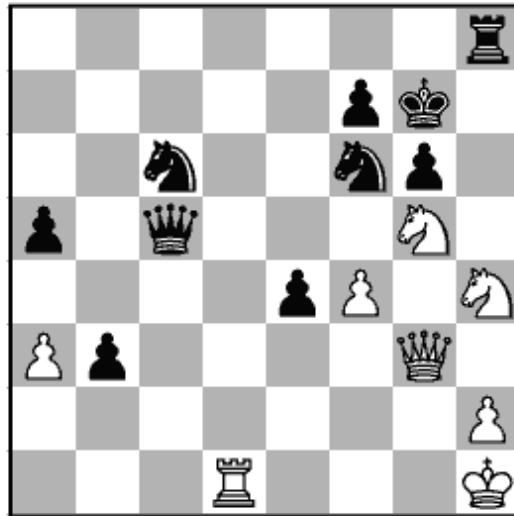
78) White to play

[solution](#)



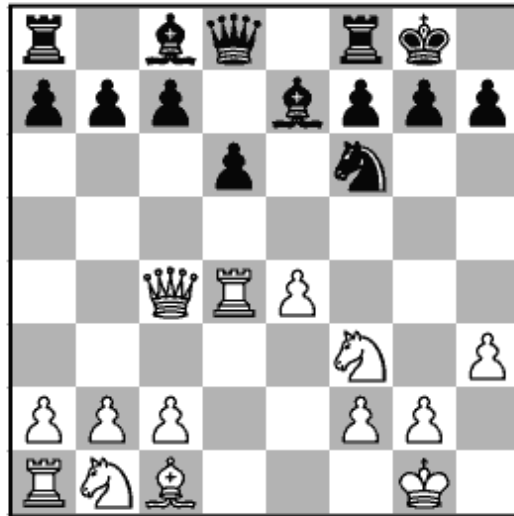
79) Black to play

[solution](#)



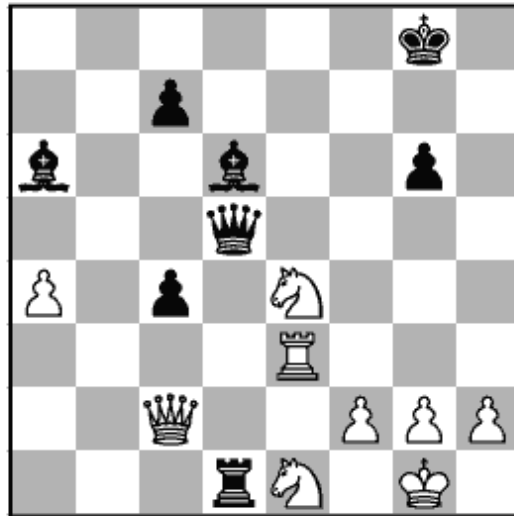
80) White to play

[solution](#)



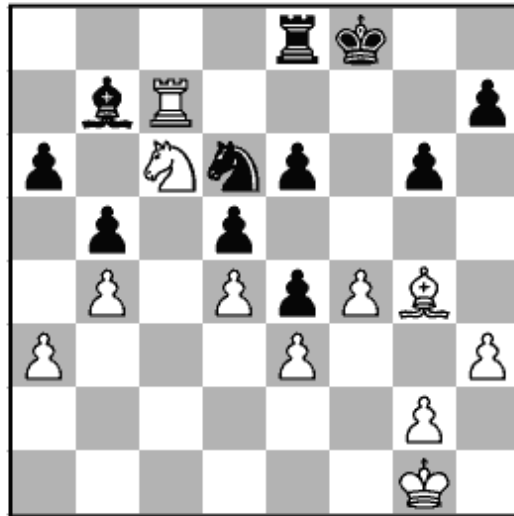
81) Black to play

[solution](#)



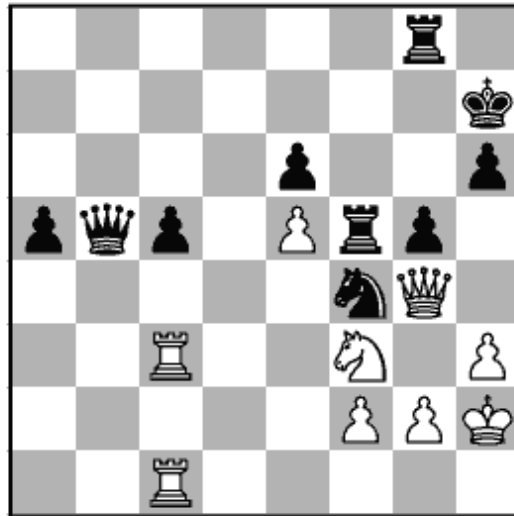
82) Black to play

[solution](#)



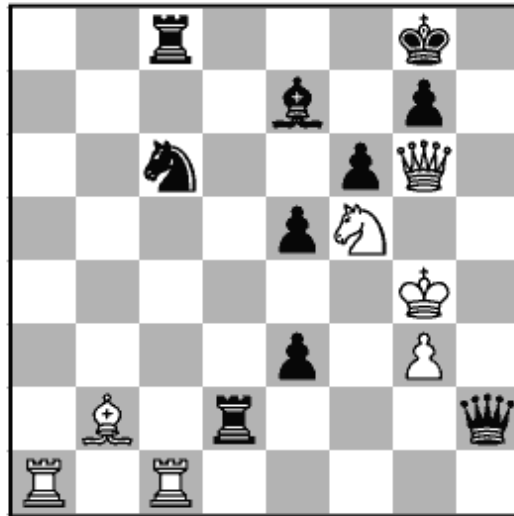
83) White to play

[solution](#)



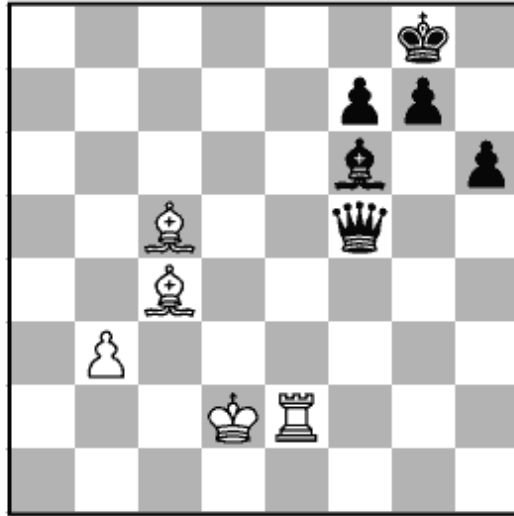
84) Black to play

[solution](#)



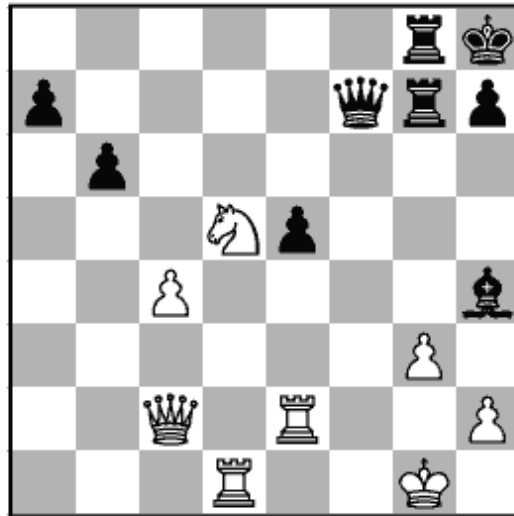
85) Black to play

[solution](#)



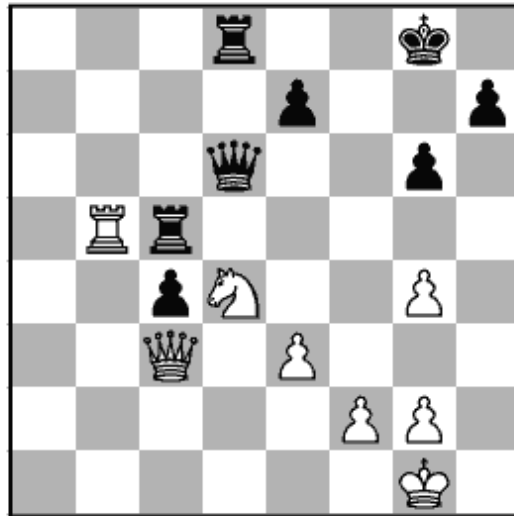
86) White to play

[solution](#)



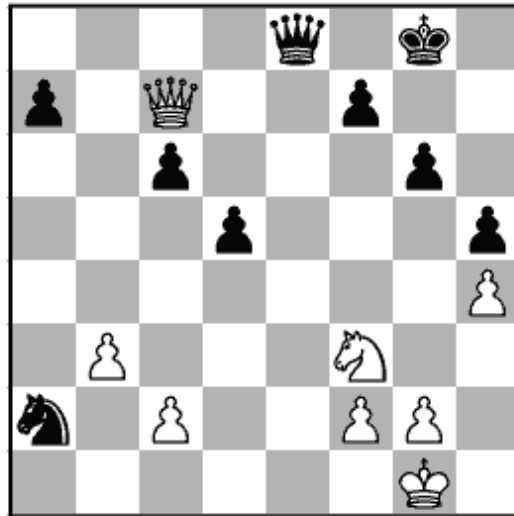
87) Black to play

[solution](#)



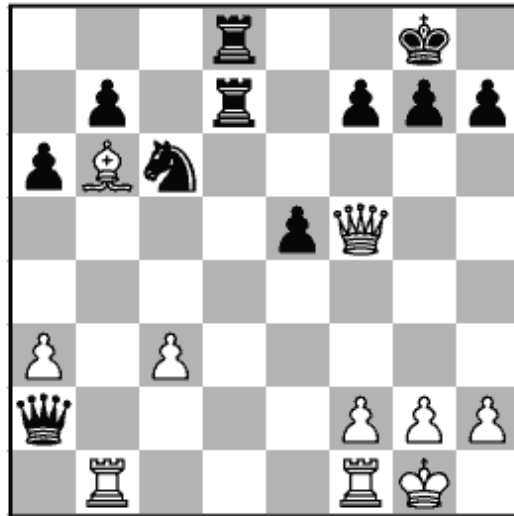
88) White to play

[solution](#)



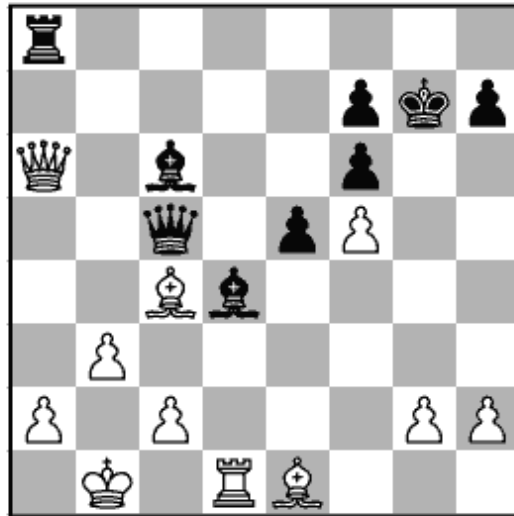
89) White to play

[solution](#)



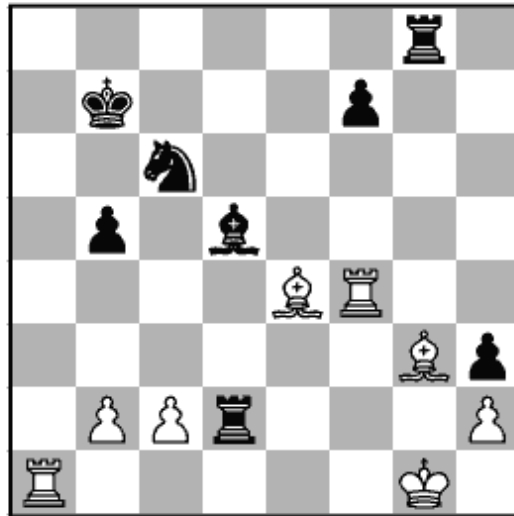
90) Black to play

[solution](#)



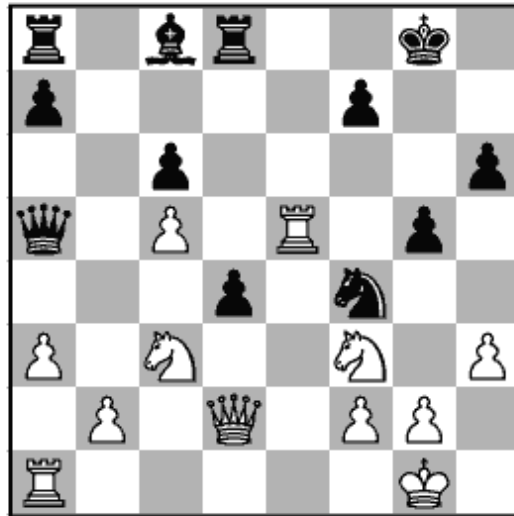
91) White to play

[solution](#)



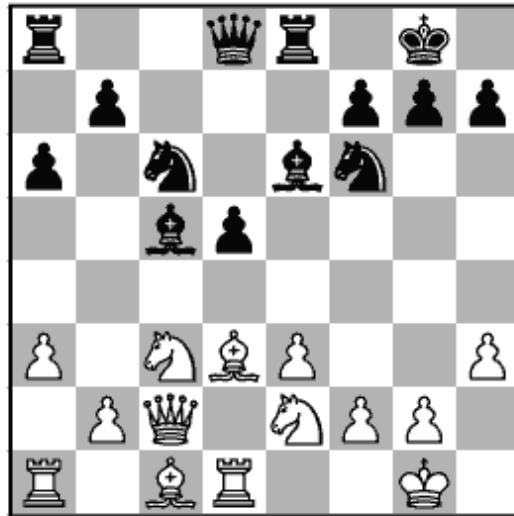
92) Black to play

[solution](#)



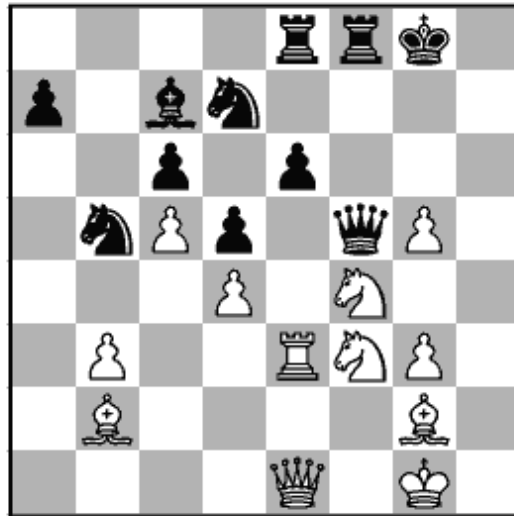
93) White to play

[solution](#)



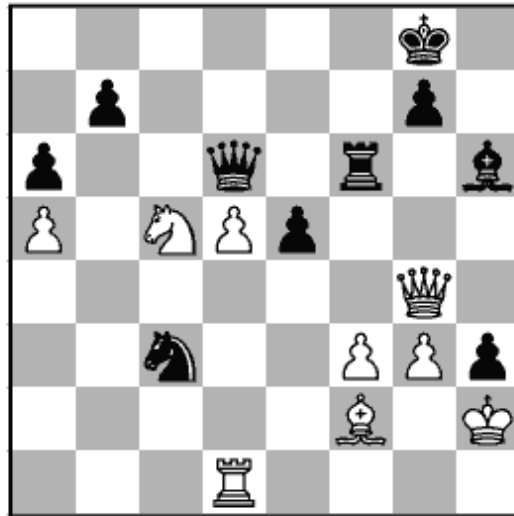
94) White to play

[solution](#)



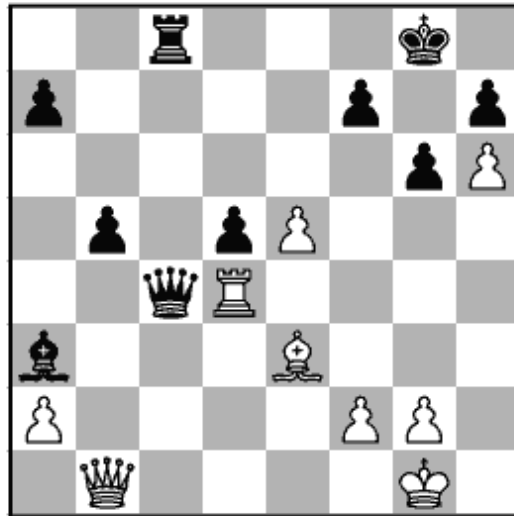
95) White to play

[solution](#)



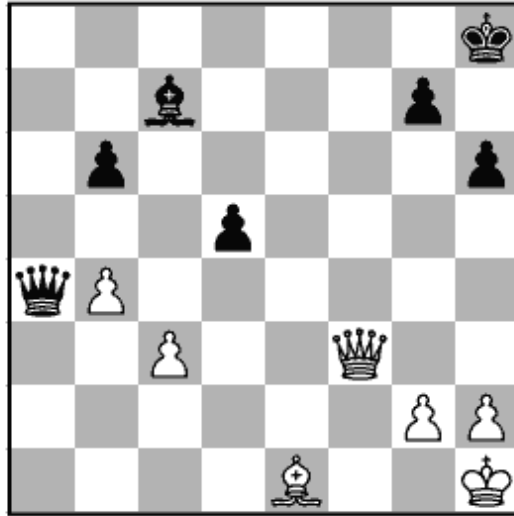
96) White to play

[solution](#)



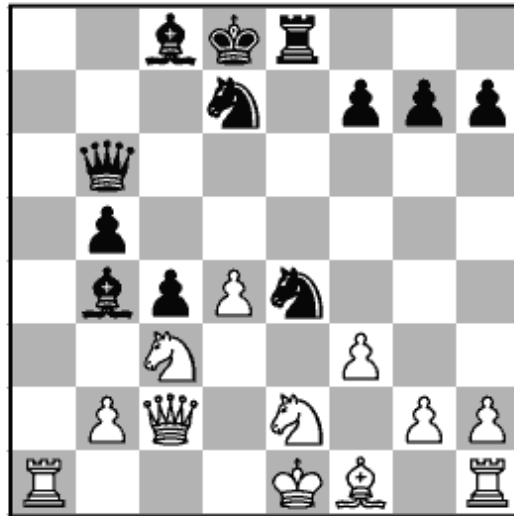
97) Black to play

[solution](#)



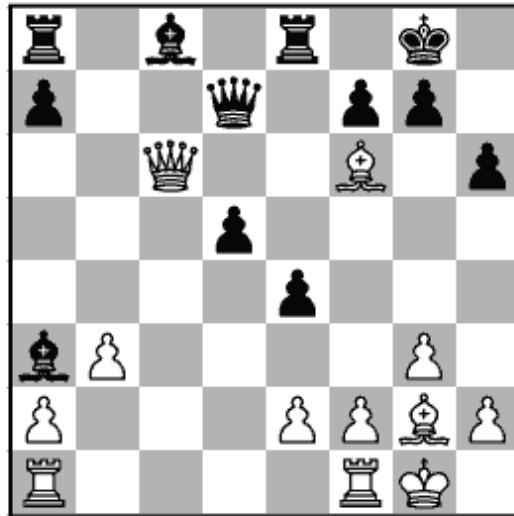
98) White to play

[solution](#)



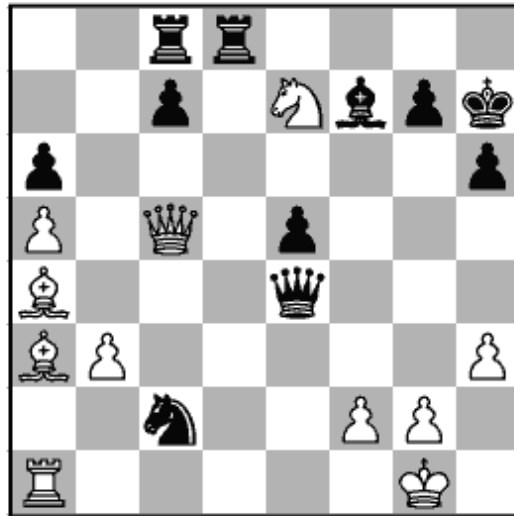
99) Black to play

[solution](#)



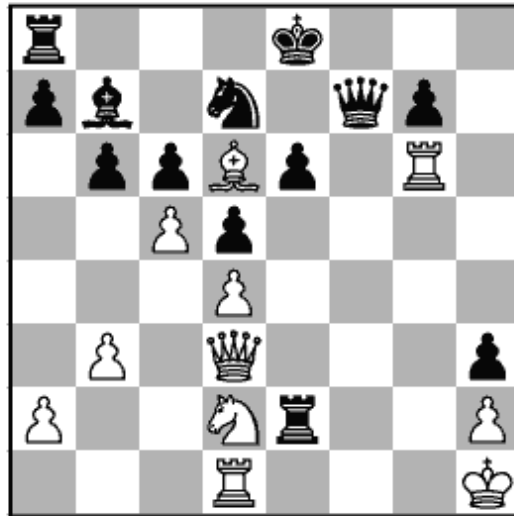
100) White to play

[solution](#)



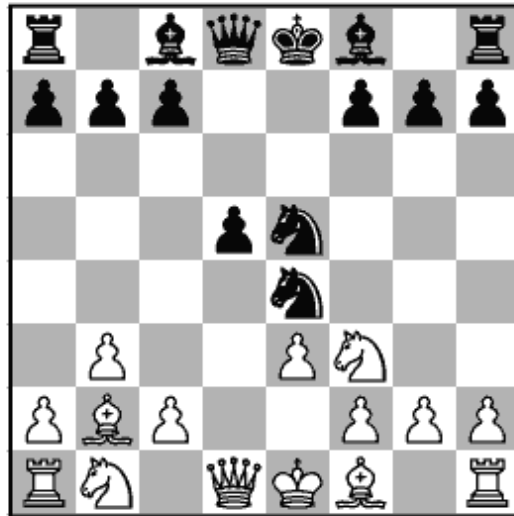
101) White to play

[solution](#)



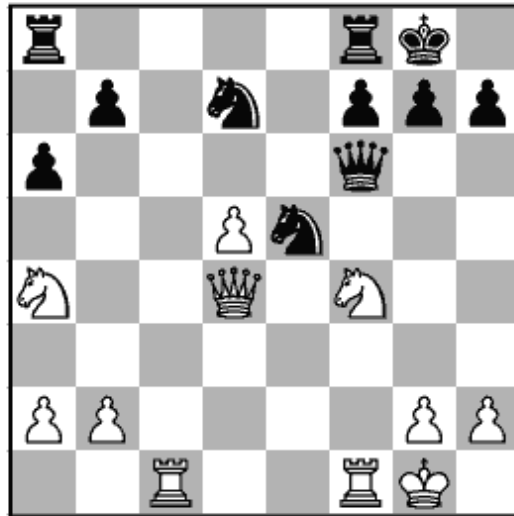
102) Black to play

[solution](#)



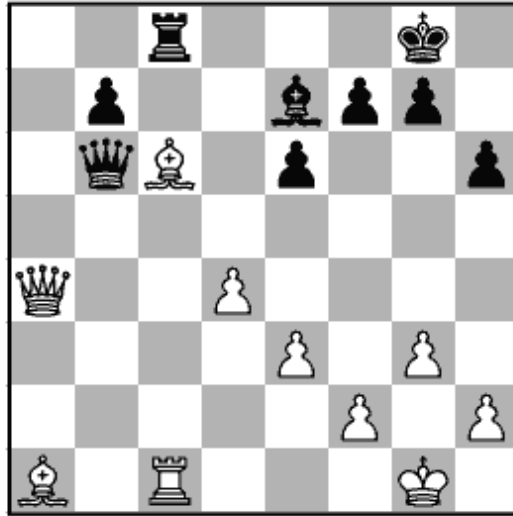
103) Black to play

[solution](#)



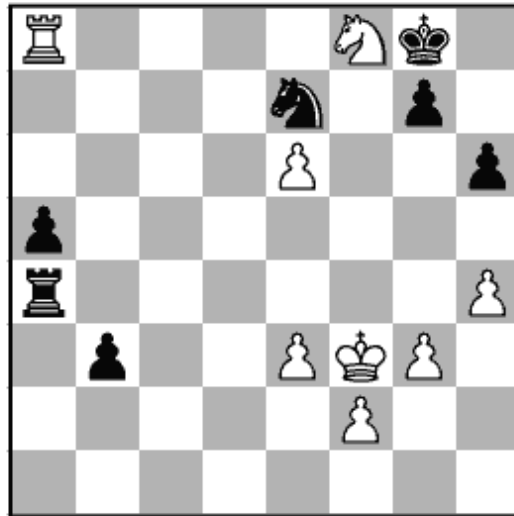
104) White to play

solution



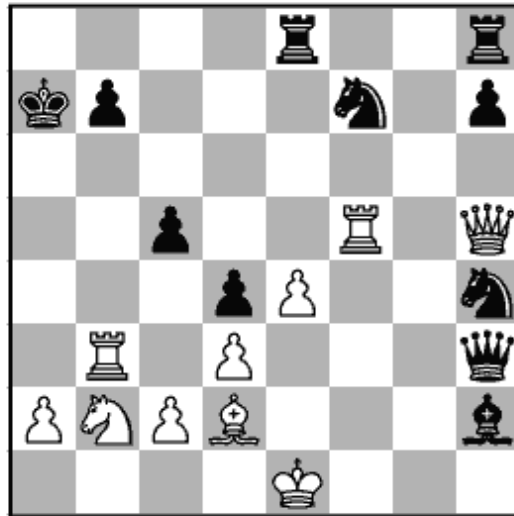
105) White to play

[solution](#)



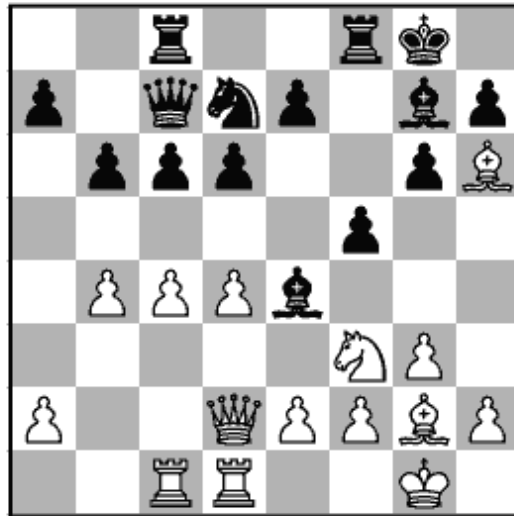
106) White to play

[solution](#)



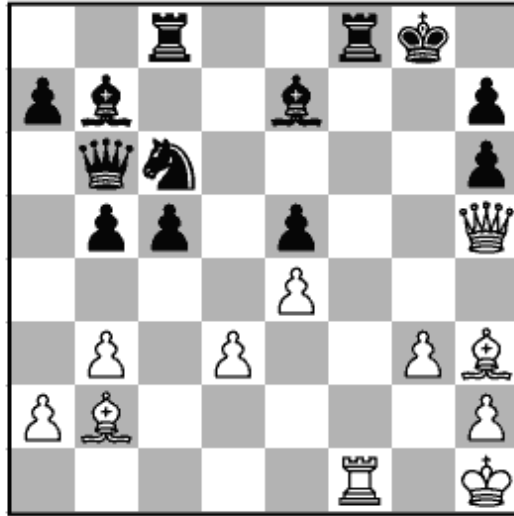
107) White to play

[solution](#)



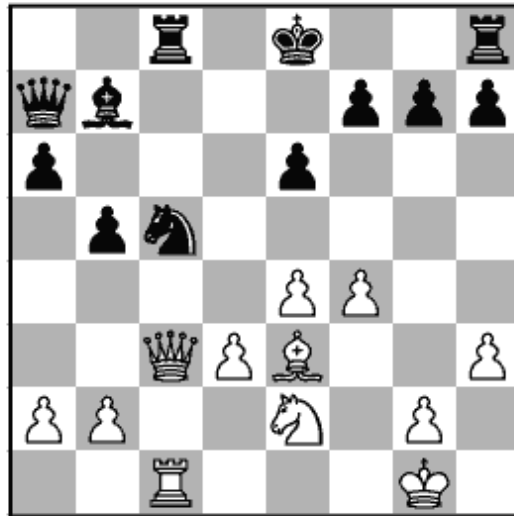
108) White to play

[solution](#)



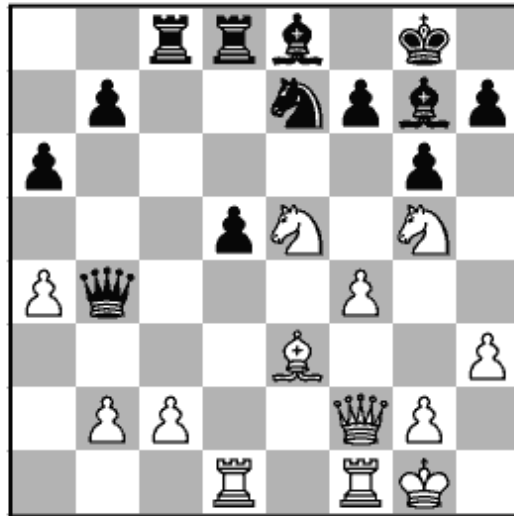
109) White to play

[solution](#)



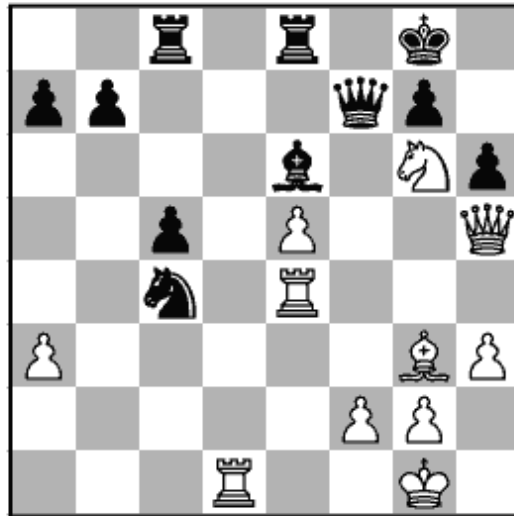
110) Black to play

[solution](#)



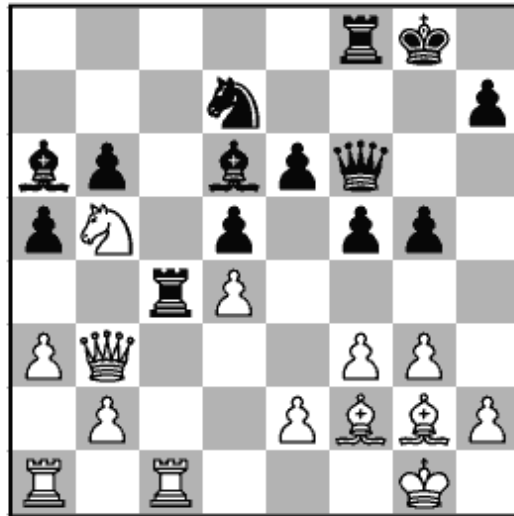
111) White to play

[solution](#)



112) Black to play

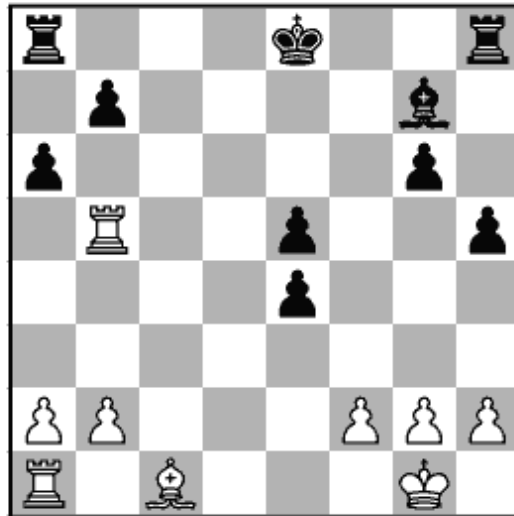
[solution](#)



113) Black to play

[solution](#)

Solutions for Elementary Puzzles



White to play

1) Mamedov – Navara *Braila rapid 2022*

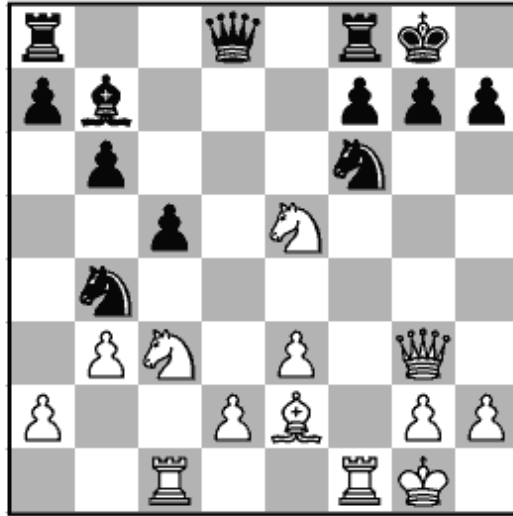
23 Rb6!

The b7-pawn is poisoned and White lost a rook after 23 Rxb7?? 0-0-0! 0-1. Black is attacking the white rook and also threatening 24...Rd1#.

23...Rd8 24 Be3 Rd7 25 Rxg6 Kf7 26 Rb6

White has an obvious advantage because of Black's weak pawns.

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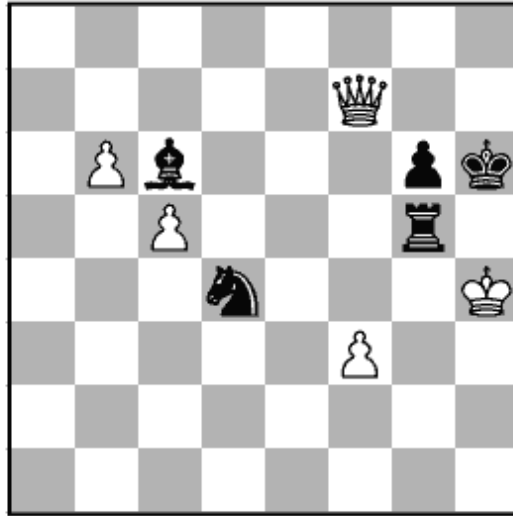


Black to play

2) Nakamura – So
Saint Louis rapid 2023

The d2-pawn is poisoned, but the game ended 17...Qxd2?? 18 Rfd1 Qb2 19 Nc4 1-0. Black should play **17...Qe7 =**.

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White to play

3) Ad. Kozak – C. Horvath
Hungarian Ch, Budapest 2022

55 Qf8+

Not 55 b7? Rf5! 56 Qc7 Bxb7 57 Qxb7 Rxc5 =.

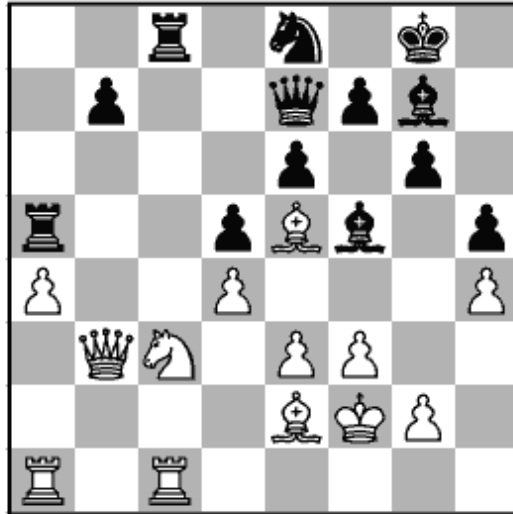
55...Kh7 56 Qe7+!

56 Kxg5?? loses to 56...Ne6+ 57 Kf6 Nxf8 –+.

56...Kg8 57 Kxg5 1-0

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

4) Khmelnitsky – D. Gurevich
USA Seniors Ch, Saint Louis 2022

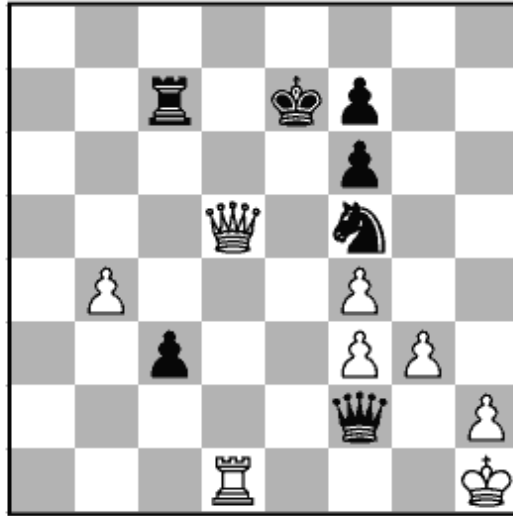
21 Nxd5??

White should play 21 g3 =.

21...exd5 0-1

The h3-c8 diagonal is now open and 22 Rxc8 can be met by 22...Bxc8 –+.

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White to play

5) Iturrizaga – Korobov
Spanish Team Ch 2022

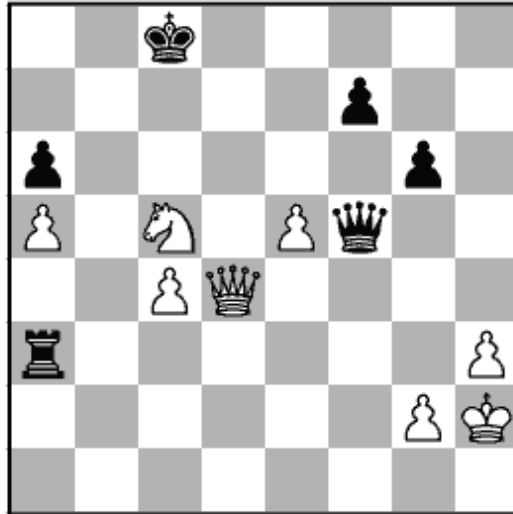
White should force a repetition with:

40 Qd8+

The game ended with 40 g4?? Qg2+ 0-1 in view of 41 Kxg2 Ne3+ 42 Kf2 Nxd5 43 Rxd5 c2 –+. White's 40 g4?? was a misguided idea because in addition to the game continuation, 40...Kf8, 40...Nd4 and 40...Rc8 all win for Black.

40...Ke6 41 Qd5+ Ke7 42 Qd8+ =

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White to play

6) Hakobyan – Ganguly
Saint Louis 2022

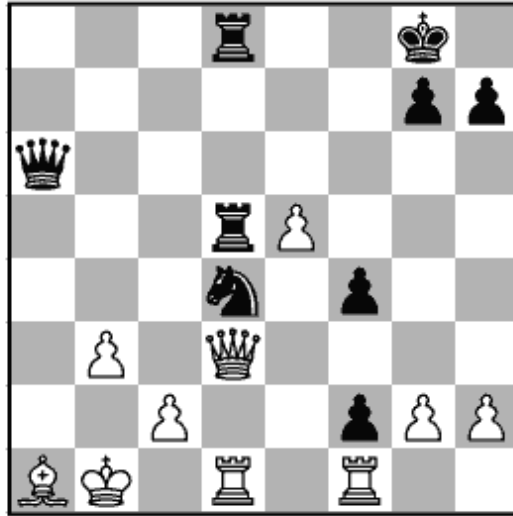
53 e6! Qb1

53...fxe6 54 Qd7+ Kb8 55 Qb7#.

54 Qd7+ 1-0

54...Kb8 55 exf7 +–.

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Black to play

7) Escalante Ramirez – Khanin

Richardson (team event) 2022

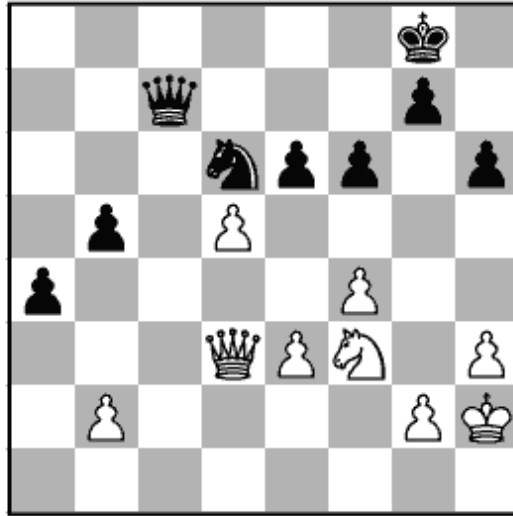
32...Nb5! 33 Rxf2

33 Qxd5+ Rxd5 34 Rxd5 Na3+ 35 Ka2 Nxc2+ 36 Kb2 Qxf1 –+.

33...Rxd3 34 Rxd3 Rxd3 35 cxd3 Nc7 0-1

Black has a decisive material advantage.

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Black to play

8) Luch – Cyborowski
Trzcianka 2022

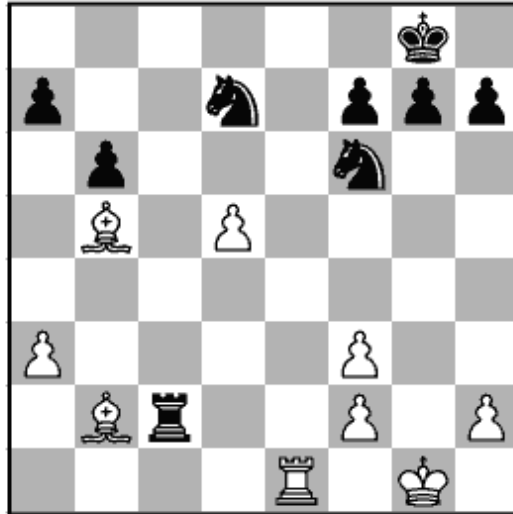
31...Qc4! 32 Qa3

32 Qxc4 Nxc4 33 dxe6 b4 –+.

32...Qxd5 0-1

Black's extra pawn is decisive.

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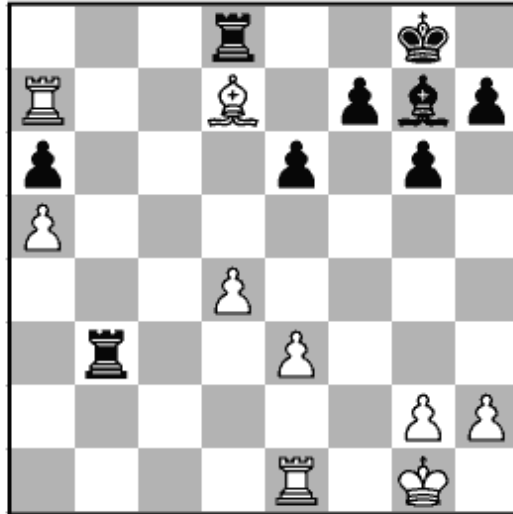
White to play

9) B. Jacobson – Popilski
Philadelphia 2022

22 Bxf6! Nxf6 23 d6 Rd2 24 d7 1-0

White wins a piece after 24...Nxd7 25 Bxd7 because of the back-rank mate threat.

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Black to play

10) Mat. Latorre – M. Lu
Juan Dolio 2023

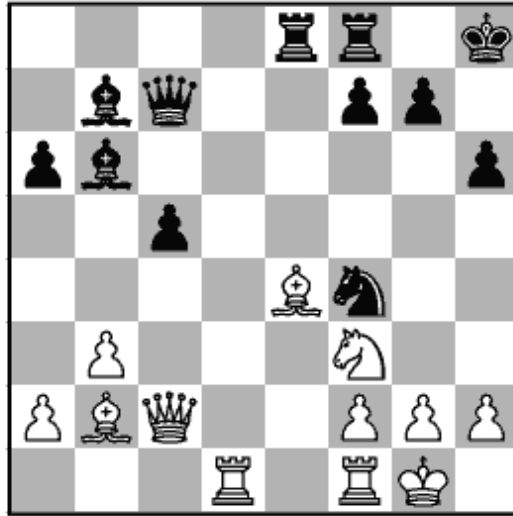
31...Rxe3! 32 Rxe3

32 Rd1 Re1+ 33 Rxe1 Bxd4+ 34 Kf1 Bxa7 –+.

32...Bxd4 33 Kf1 Bxa7 0-1

Black's two extra pawns are decisive.

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White to play

11) Dragun – M. Song

New York 2022

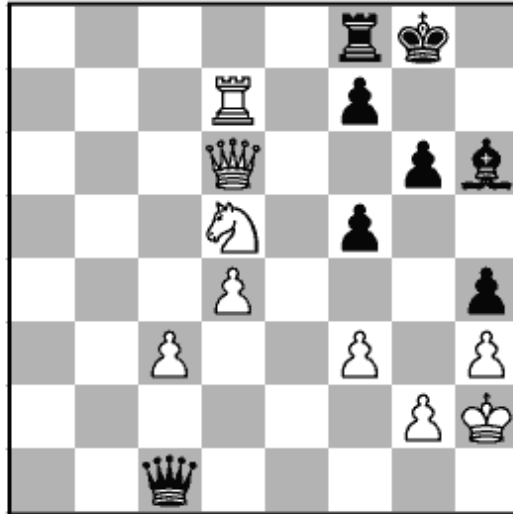
22 Be5! Rxe5 23 Nxe5 Bc8

23...Re8 24 Bxb7 Qxb7 25 Nf3 +–.

24 Nc4 Ba7 25 g3 +–

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

12) Cubas – Matsuura
Santo Antonio de Jesus 2022

38 Rd8! Rxd8

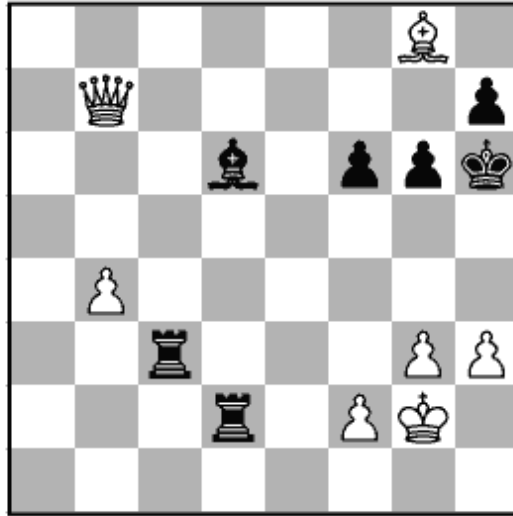
After 38...Qe1 39 Nf6+ Kg7 40 Rxf8 (as played in the game) White wins material; e.g., 40...Qg3+ 41 Qxg3 hxg3+ 42 Kxg3 Kxf8 43 Nd5 +–.

Also hopeless is 38...Bg7 39 Nf6+ Bxf6 40 Qxf8+ Kh7 41 Qxf7+ Kh6 42 Re8 Qf4+ 43 Kg1 Qc1+ 44 Kf2 +–.

39 Qxd8+ Kh7 40 Qxh4 +–

White has two extra pawns and his king is safe.

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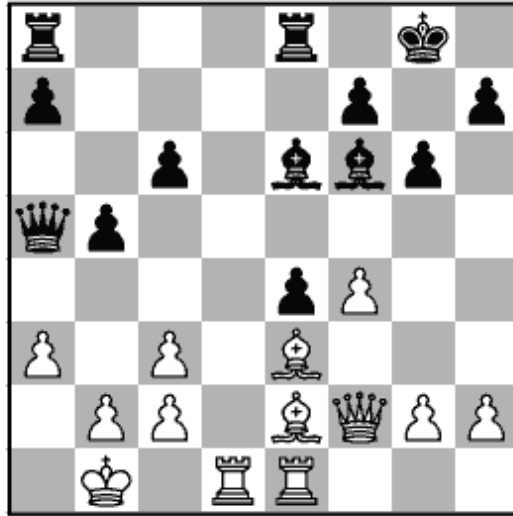
Black to play

13) Mitrabha – Abdusattorov
Internet rapid 2022

37...Bxg3! 38 Qxh7+ Kg5 0-1

White has no good defence to the threat of 39...Rxf2+.

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Black to play

14) Fier – Kuzubov

Portuguese Team Ch, Ovar 2022

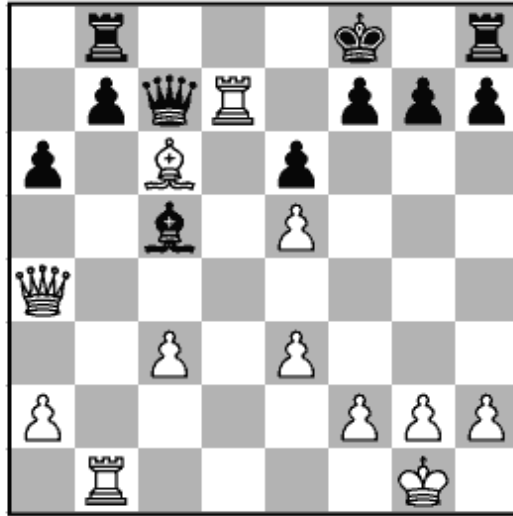
21...Bxc3! 22 f5

White's king comes under a fierce attack after 22 bxc3 Qxa3 23 Bc5 Qa2+ 24 Kc1 b4 25 Bxb4 (25 Bd4 Qa3+ 26 Kd2 Rad8 –+) 25...e3 26 Qxe3 Bf5 –+.

22...Bxe1 23 Rxe1 Bxf5 –+

Black has a decisive material advantage.

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Black to play

15) Morozevich – Karpov
Moscow rapid 2022

19...bxc6!

After 19...Qxe5?? (as played in the game) White exploited the poor position of Black's king by 20 Bxb7 (or 20 Rbxb7 Rxb7 21 Rxb7 +–) 20...g6 21 Rbd1 Kg7 22 Qxa6 Qxc3 and Black resigned in view of 23 Qxe6 +–.

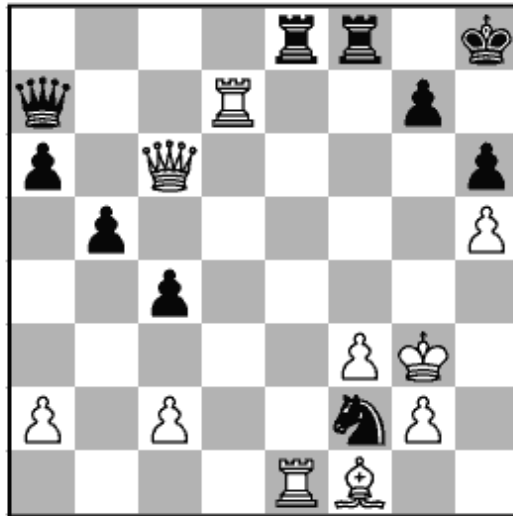
20 Rbd1

20 Rxc7?? Rxb1+ is a back-rank mate.

20...Qb6 21 Qh4 Kg8

Black has an extra piece and good chances to win.

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Black to play

16) Vachier-Lagrave – Nepomniashchyn
Zagreb rapid 2022

36...Nh1+! 37 Kh2

White has no good square for his king:

a) 37 Kh4 Qf2+ 38 Kg4 Qg3#.

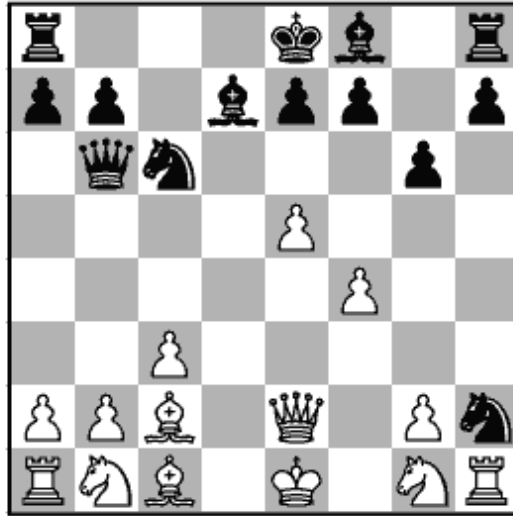
b) 37 Kg4 Qf2 –+.

c) After 37 Kh3 (as played in the game) Black constructed a mating-net with 37...Qb8 (or 37...Qxd7+ 38 Qxd7 Rxe1 39 Qd6 Rf6 –+) 38 Rxg7 (38 Rd6 Rxe1 39 Rxh6+ Kg8 40 Qd5+ Rf7 –+) 38...Nf2+ and White resigned in view of 39 Kh4 Qh2#.

37...Qb8+ 38 Kxh1 Rxe1 39 Kg1 Qe5 –+

Black will soon win more material.

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White to play

17) Emms – Gormally
British Ch, Torquay 2022

12 Bb3! 1-0

White wins a piece after 12...Ng4 (12...Bg4 13 Qf2 +–) 13 e6 +–.

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Black to play

18) Nigmatov – Sychev

Turkish Team Ch, Ankara 2022

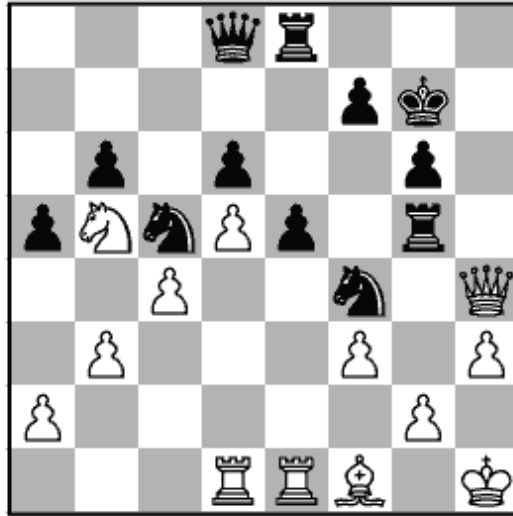
17...Nde5! 18 dxe4

18 Bxc6 Nxd3 19 Be3 bxc6 –+.

18...fxe4 0-1

Black wins material after 19 Bxe4 Rxf2 –+.

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Black to play

19) Mullick – A. Gupta
Abu Dhabi 2022

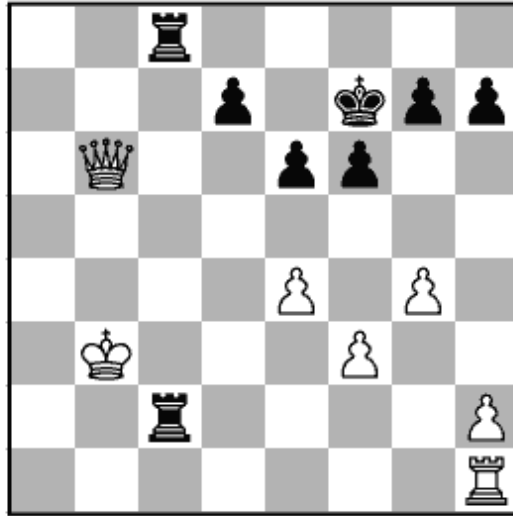
32...Nxh3! 33 gxh3

White runs into trouble along the h-file after 33 Qxh3 Rh8 –+ or 33 Nxd6 Rh8 –+.

33...Rg1+ 34 Kxg1 Qxh4 35 Nxd6 Rh8 –+

The queen is dominant.

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Black to play

20) J. Willow – Grieve
Newcastle 2022

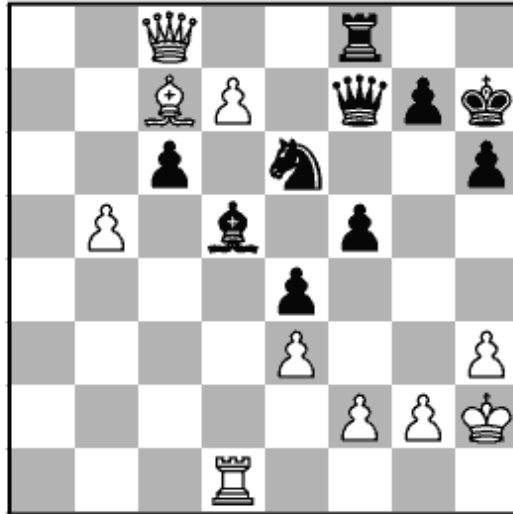
31...R8c3+! 32 Ka4

32 Kb4 Rb2+ 33 Kxc3 Rxb6 transposes to the game.

32...Ra2+ 33 Kb4 Rb2+ 34 Kxc3 Rxb6

Black has an extra pawn and good chances to win.

[back](#)



White to play

21) S.P. Sethuraman – Kamalidenova
Dubai 2022

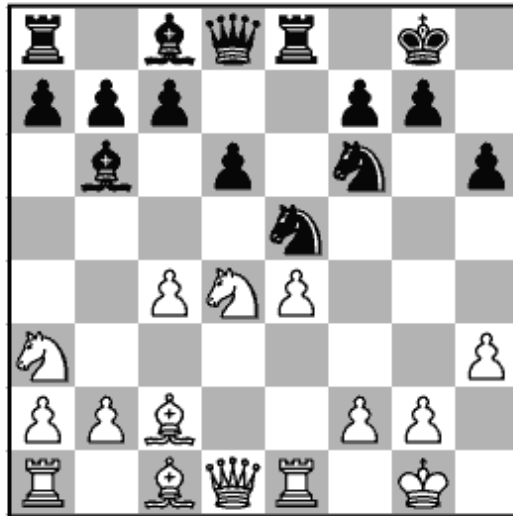
42 b6!

Passed pawns must be pushed!

42...Nxc7 43 bxc7 Rxc8 44 dxc8Q f4 45 Qb8 1-0

White's king is safe and his c7-pawn will promote.

[back](#)



Black to play

22) Krassowizkij – Rogić
Eberstadt 2022

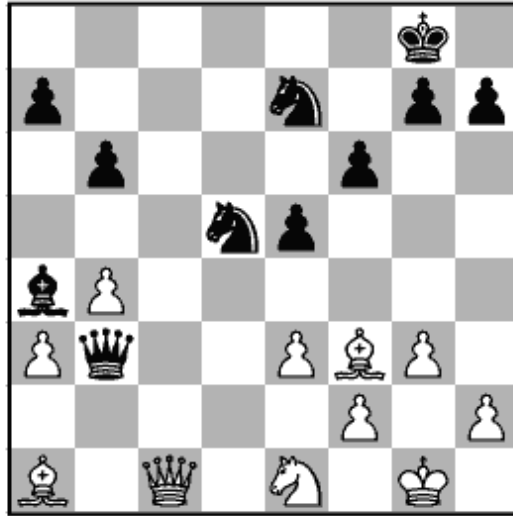
14...Bxh3! 15 Ba4

15 gxh3 Bxd4 16 Kg2 (16 Qxd4 Nf3+ –+) 16...Bc5 –+.

15...c6 –+

Black has a clear extra pawn.

[back](#)



White to play

23) Jimenez Garcia – J. Johnson

Juan Dolio 2023

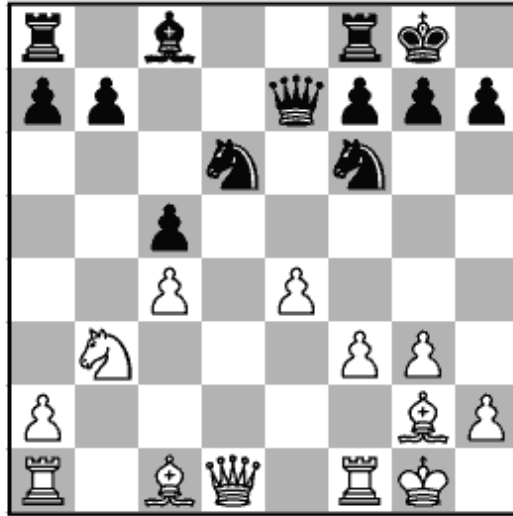
36 e4!

Black's knight is trapped in the middle of the board.

36...Nc6 37 exd5 1-0

White is a piece up.

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White to play

24) Firouzja – Nepomniashchy
Saint Louis rapid playoff 2022

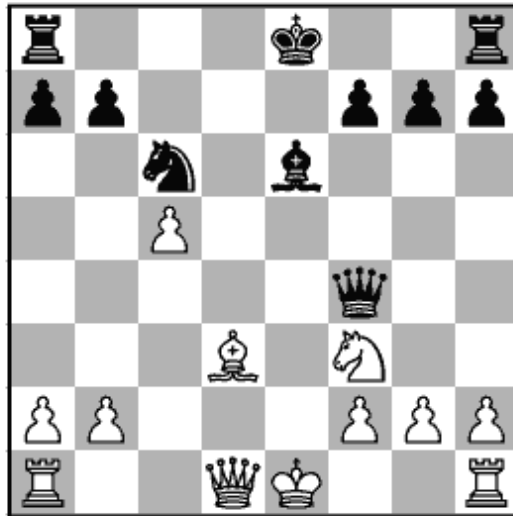
17 e5! Nxc4

White wins a piece after 17...Qxe5 18 Bf4 +–.

18 exf6 Qxf6 19 Qd5 Be6 20 Qxc5 +–

White has an extra piece.

[back](#)



Black to play

25) Aronian – Carlsen
Internet rapid 2022

12...0-0-0!

White's bishop is caught in a deadly pin along the d-file.

13 0-0

Black wins the white queen after 13 g3 Qb4+ 14 Kf1 Rxd3! 15 Qxd3 Bc4 –+.

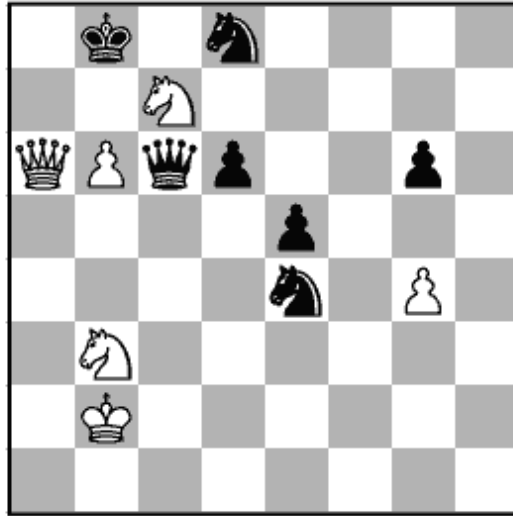
13...Nb4 14 Qa4

14 Ne1 Nxd3 15 Nxd3 Qe4 –+.

14...Nxd3 0-1

Black has won a piece.

[back](#)



White to play

26) N. Cabarkapa – Makaj
Croatian Team Ch 2022

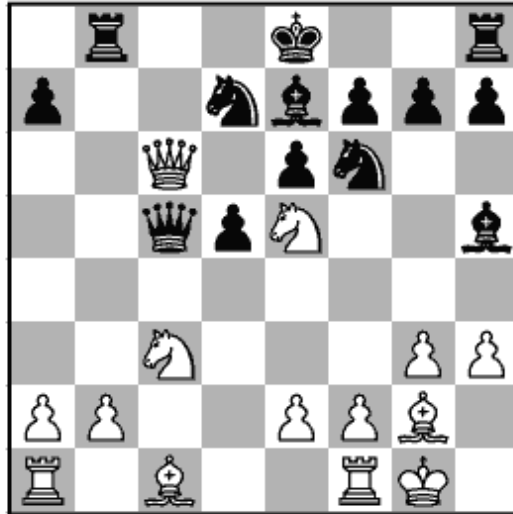
51 Qa7+ Kc8 52 Nd5! Qb7

52...Qxd5 allows 53 Qc7#.

53 Na5 1-0

Or 53 Ne7+ Kd7 54 Na5 +—.

[back](#)



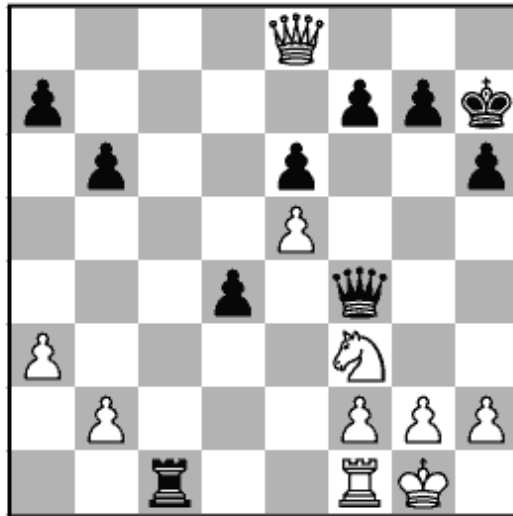
White to play

27) R. Svane – M. Kopylov
German Rapid Ch, Göttingen 2022

14 g4! Bg6 15 g5! 1-0

White wins material.

[back](#)



Black to play

28) Inarkiev – Radjabov
Krasnogorsk rapid 2022

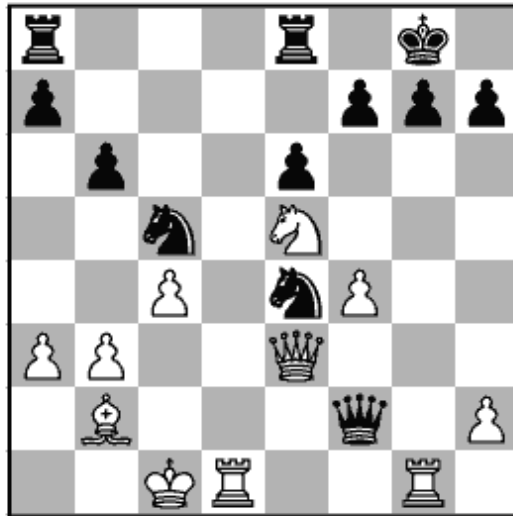
23...d3!

The passed pawn threatens to advance and it also prevents White's king from escaping via the e2-square.

24 Qd7 Rxf1+ 25 Kxf1 Qc1+ 26 Ne1 d2 0-1

The pin on the e1-knight is fatal.

[back](#)



White to play

29) Urkedal – Ingebretsen
Fagernes 2022

23 Rxg7+! Kxg7

23...Kf8 24 Rxf7+ Kg8 25 Rg1+ leads to mate.

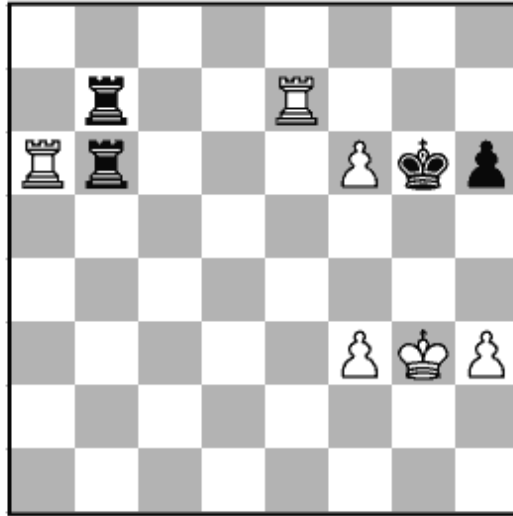
24 Nd3+

Or 24 Ng4+ Qxb2+ 25 Kxb2 +—.

24...Qxb2+ 25 Nxb2 +—

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

30) Abdusattorov – Rapport

Internet rapid 2022

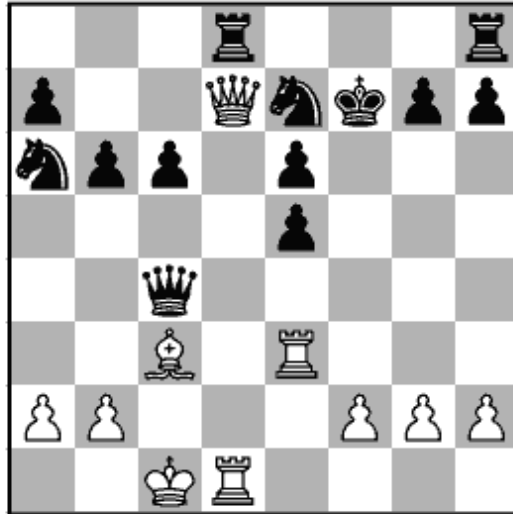
56 f7! Kg7

56...Rxa6 57 f8Q Rxe7 58 Qxe7 +—.

57 Ra8! 1-0

White wins a rook after 57...Rb8 58 Rxb8 Rxb8 59 Re8 Kxf7 60 Rxb8 +—.

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White to play

31) Schmidek – Ribli

Bundesliga 2022/3

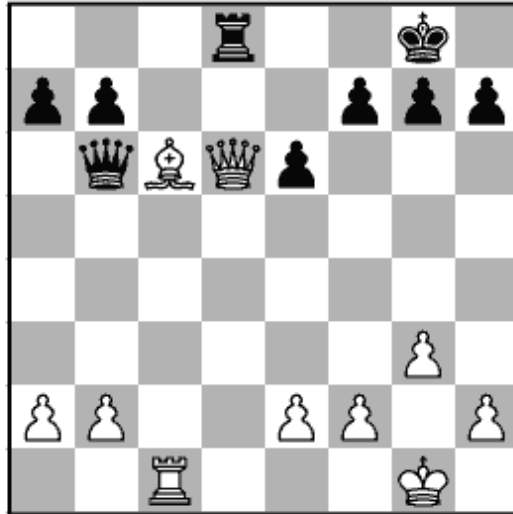
18 Rf3+ Kg6

18...Kg8 19 Qxd8#.

19 Qxe7 Rxd1+ 20 Kxd1 1-0

Black's rook and knight are unable to assist and he has no good defence to the threats of 21 Rg3+ and 21 Qf7+ followed by Bd2+.

[back](#)



White to play

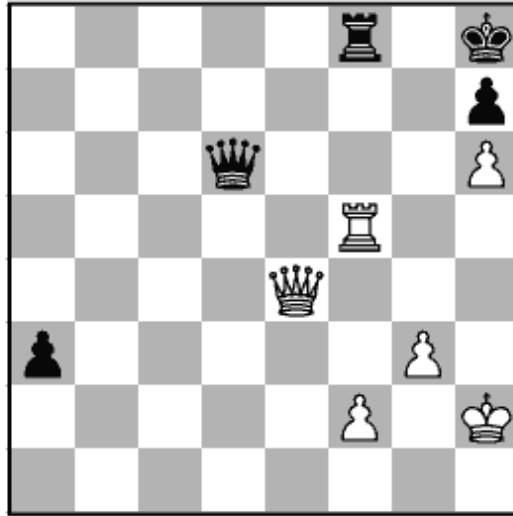
32) Matviishen – Druska

Richardson (team event) 2022

24 Qxd8+! 1-0

After 24...Qxd8 25 Bxb7 followed by 26 Rc8 White ends up a piece ahead.

[back](#)



White to play

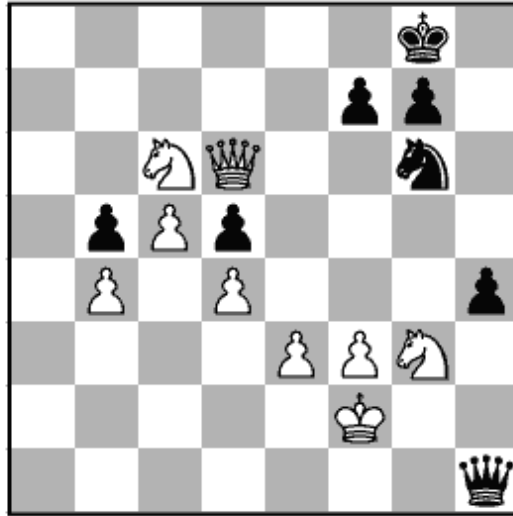
33) Mastrovasilis – Costachi
Braila rapid 2022

53 Qd4+

Or 53 Qe5+ Qxe5 54 Rxf8#.

53...Qxd4 54 Rxf8# (1-0)

[back](#)



Black to play

34) Praggnanandhaa – So
Internet rapid 2022

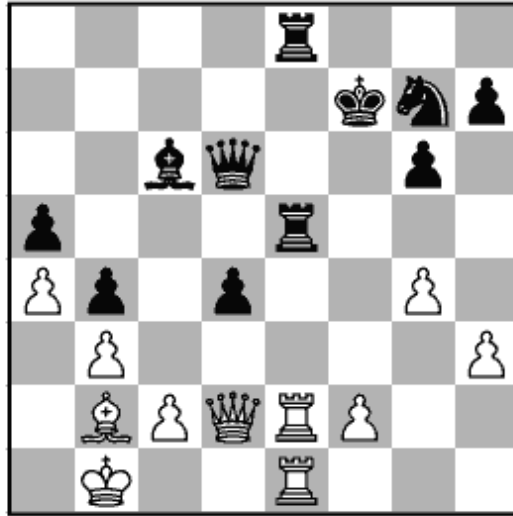
35...Qh2+! 36 Ke1 hxg3

White cannot prevent Black's far-advanced g-pawn from promoting.

37 Kd1 Qh1+ 38 Kc2 g2 0-1

White runs out of checks after 39 Qd8+ Kh7 –+.

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White to play

35) T. Wang – Ippolito

Charlotte 2022

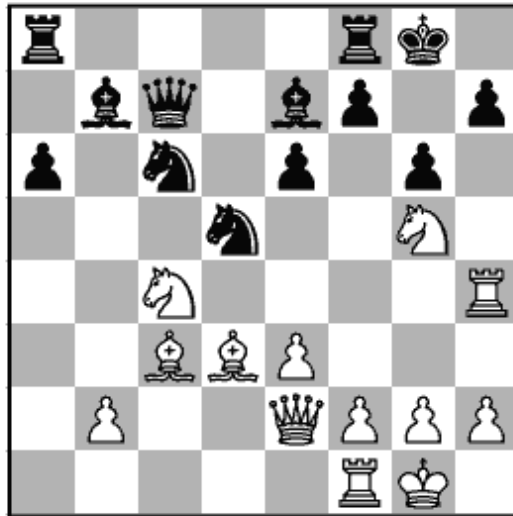
29 Qf4+ Qf6 30 Qxf6+!

Exchanging queens is much simpler than 30 Qxd4 R5e6 31 Qxf6+ Rxf6 32 Rxe8 Nxe8 33 Bxf6 Kxf6 34 f4 +–, when White will still have to demonstrate some technique.

30...Kxf6 31 Rxe5 1-0

31...Rxe5 32 Bxd4 +– gives White a decisive material advantage.

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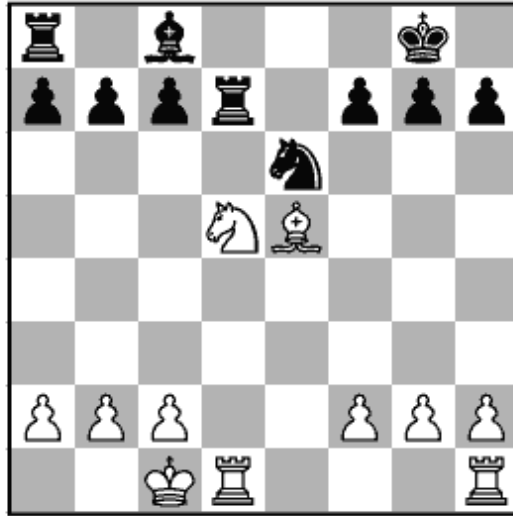
White to play

36) Dubov – Nihal
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

18 Qh5! 1-0

18...gxh5 19 Bxh7#.

[back](#)



White to play

37) Korneev – G. Nagy

Hastings Masters 2022/3

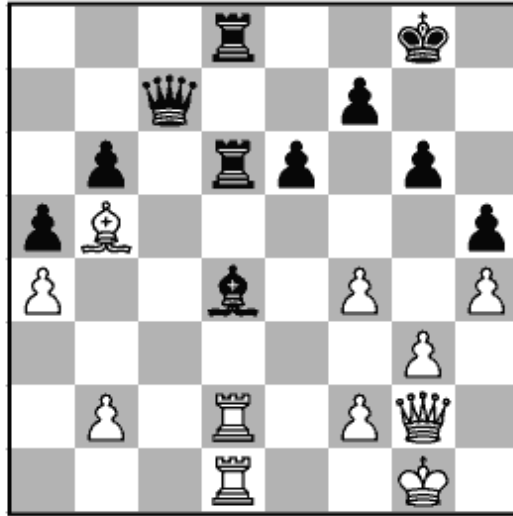
16 Bxc7! b6

Or 16...Nxc7 17 Nxc7 Rb8 18 Rhe1 Rxd1+ 19 Rxd1 +– with a clear extra pawn in the endgame.

17 Bg3 f5 18 Be5 Kf7 19 f4 +–

White is a healthy pawn ahead.

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Black to play

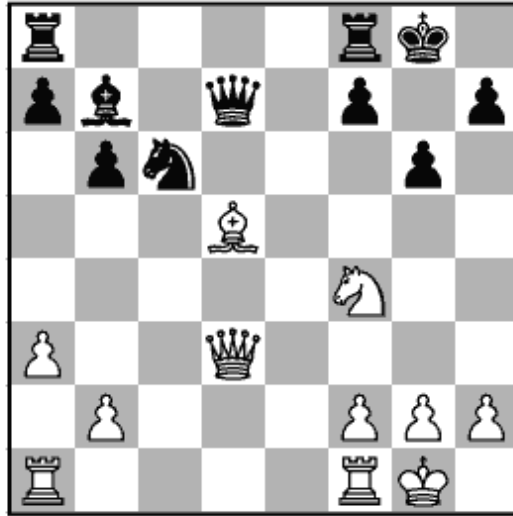
38) Kaliksteyn – Stremavicius

New York 2023

27...Bxf2+! 0-1

28 Qxf2 (28 Rxf2 Rxd1+ 29 Kh2 Qc1 -+) 28...Rxd2 29 Rxd2 Qc1+ 30 Qf1 Qxd2 -+.

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White to play

39) Hammer – Raja Rithvik

Internet rapid 2023

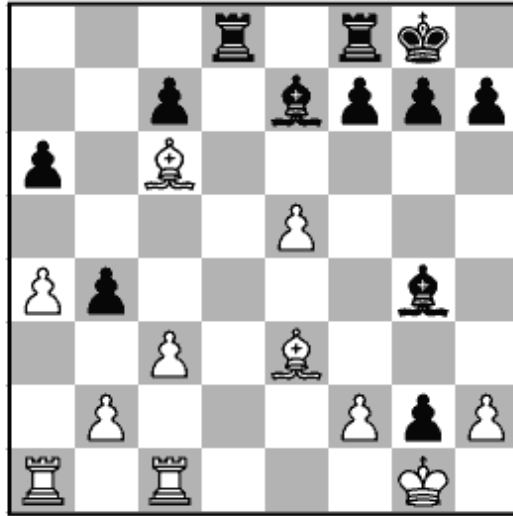
20 Nxc6! hxc6?!

Black's best try is 20...Rad8, but after 21 Nf4 Qg4 22 Qg3 White has won a good pawn.

21 Qxc6+ Kh8 22 Qh6+ Kg8 23 Rad1 1-0

After 23...Qf5 24 Bxc6 Bxc6 25 Qxc6 White has two extra pawns.

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White to play

40) Fedoseev – Sevian

Internet rapid 2023

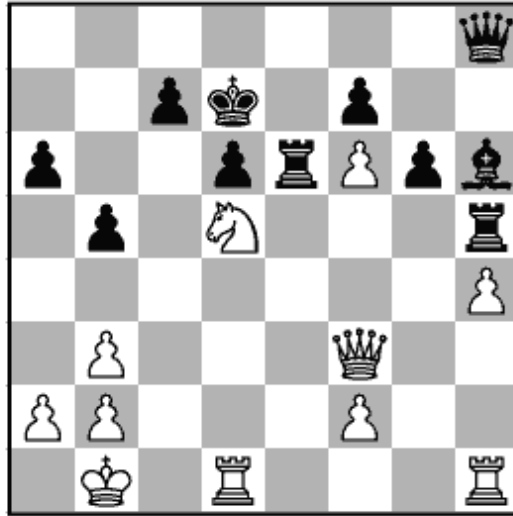
18 cxb4 Bf5

In the game Black lost a piece after 18...Bxb4? 19 Rc4 1-0.

19 b5 a5 20 Bxg2 +-

White has a decisive advantage thanks to his extra pawn. Also, Black's remaining queenside pawns are vulnerable.

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White to play

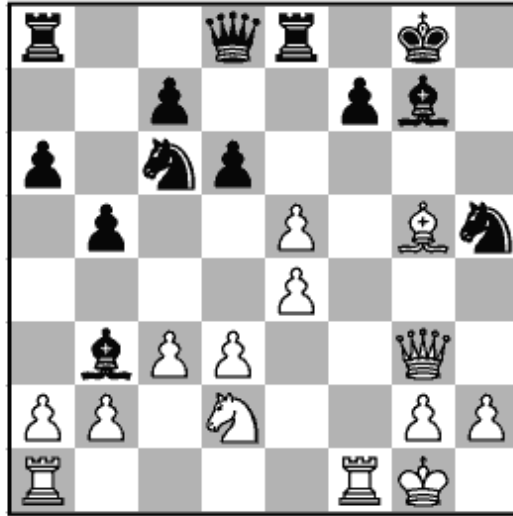
41) Roseneck – Berchtenbreiter

Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

23 Nb6+! 1-0

23...cxb6 (23...Kd8 24 Qa8#) 24 Qb7+ Kd8 25 Qb8+ Kd7 26 Qxh8
+-.

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White to play

42) Kasimdzhanov – Yakubboev
Tashkent 2023

18 Qh4!

After 18 Qg4? Nxe5 19 Qxh5 f6! 20 axb3 fxg5 the chances are roughly equal.

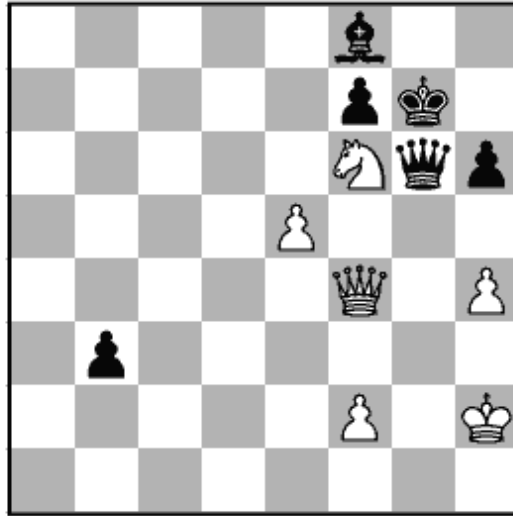
18...Qd7 19 axb3 Rxe5

19...Nxe5 20 Qxh5 Qg4 21 Qxg4 Nxg4 22 d4 +- leaves White two pawns ahead.

20 d4 1-0

White has two extra pawns and a continuing attack.

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White to play

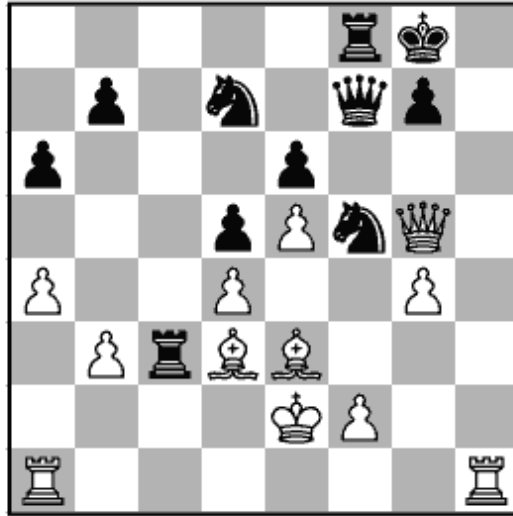
43) Kyc – Meurs

Krakow 2023

54 h5! Qg5 55 Qe4 1-0

Black's king is caught in a mating-net; for example, 55...Ba3 56 Qh7+ Kf8 57 Qh8+ Ke7 58 Qe8#.

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Black to play

44) Troltenier – G. Andersen

New York 2023

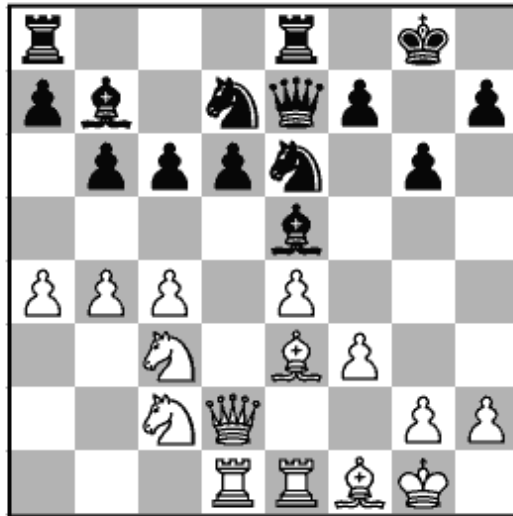
33...Nxd4+! 34 Kf1

34 Bxd4 loses material due to 34...Qf3+ 35 Ke1 Qxh1+ 36 Bf1 Qe4+ –+.

0-1

Black will have an extra piece after 34...Rxd3.

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Black to play

45) H. Schaffer – Suvorov
2nd Bundesliga 2022/3

20...Qh4! 21 g3

Worse is 21 h3? Qg3 –+ as Black's queen infiltrates White's king position.

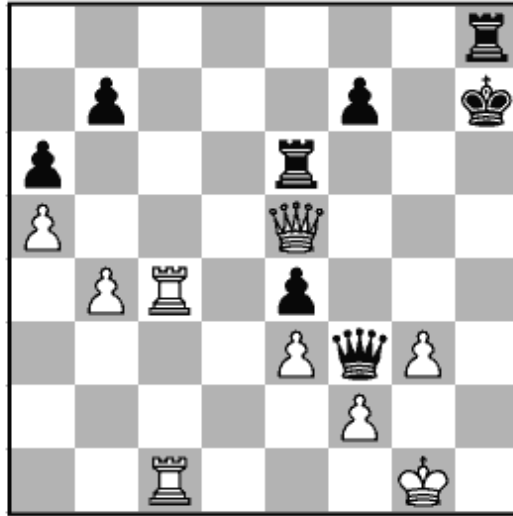
21...Qf6 22 Nd4

White obtains less counterplay after 22 Ne2? (as played in the game) 22...Qxf3 23 Bg2 Qf6 24 Rf1 Qe7 –+. Black has an extra pawn and is ready to weaken White's queenside pawn-structure with ...a5.

22...Nxd4 23 Bxd4 Qxf3

Black is a pawn up with good chances to win.

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White to play

46) J.A. Gonzalez Rodriguez – I. Ortin Blanco
Spanish Team Ch 2023

35 Qf4!

After 35 Qd4?? (as played in the game) 35...Rg8! (Black must avoid 35...Rh6?? 36 Qxe4+ Qxe4 37 Rxe4 +-) White proves unable to dislodge the black queen from the f3-square: 36 Rc7 (the game ended 36 Rc8 Rh6 0-1) 36...Rf6 37 Rf1 Rxd3+! 38 fxd3 Qxd3+ 39 Kh1 Rh6#.

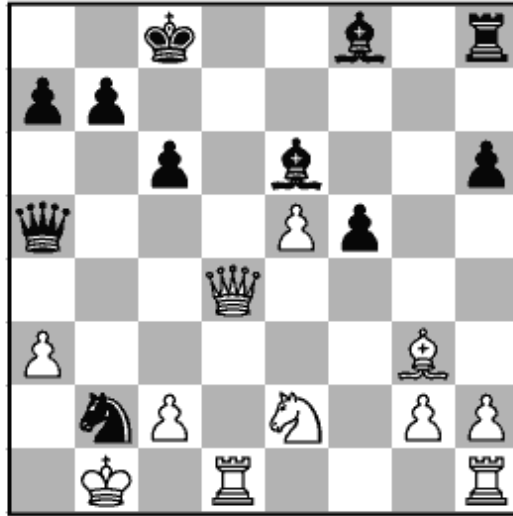
35...Qxf4 36 gxf4

Or 36 exf4 +-.
 37... f5
 38... f4
 39... f3
 40... f2
 41... f1
 42... f0
 43... f-1
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 337... f-295
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 339... f-297
 340... f-298
 341... f-299

36...Kg7 37 Rd1 +-

White has an extra pawn and his king will be safe on the e2-square.

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White to play

47) Poltorak – Boe
2nd Bundesliga 2022/3

25 Be1!

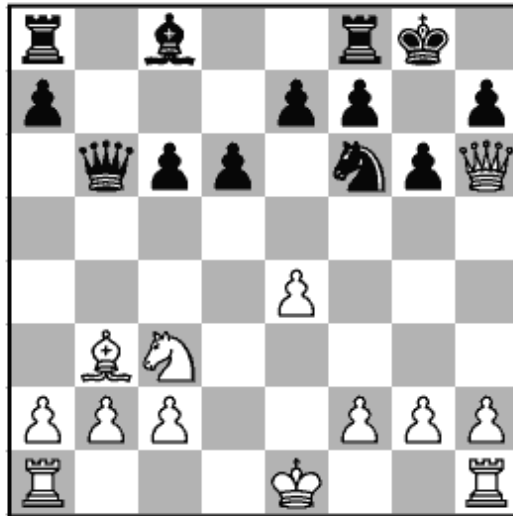
White must avoid 25 Kxb2?? Qxa3+ 26 Kb1 Ba2+ 27 Ka1 Bb3+ 28 Kb1 Qa2+ 29 Kc1 Qxc2#.

Also bad is 25 Qxb2? Bxa3 26 Be1 Qa6 27 Qc3 Qb5+ 28 Ka1 Qa4 29 Kb1 Qb5+ (29...Ba2+ 30 Ka1 Be6 transposes) 30 Ka1 Qa4 = with a draw by repetition.

1-0

White has an extra rook after 25...Qd5 (25...Qxa3? 26 Qd8#) 26 Qxd5 Bxd5 27 Kxb2 +—.

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Black to play

48) B. Sahl – Øye-Strømberg
Norwegian Team Ch 2022/3

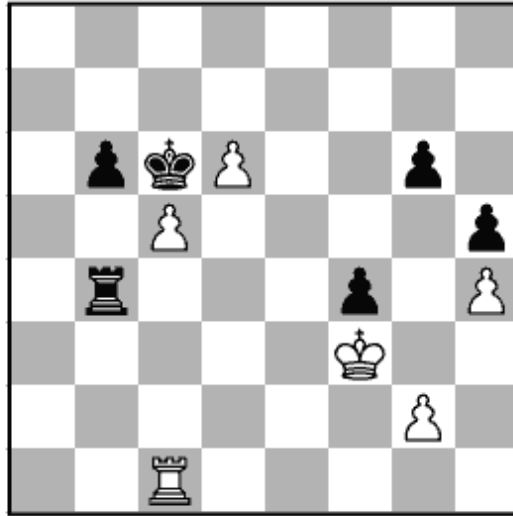
12...Qxf2+! 13 Kxf2

Or 13 Kd1 Qxg2 14 Re1 Ng4 –+.

13...Ng4+ 14 Kg3 Nxh6 –+

Black has a clear extra pawn.

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White to play

49) M. Brunello – Ibrahimova

European Women's Ch, Petrovac 2023

54 Rd1!

The old adage 'rooks belong behind passed pawns' is certainly true here.

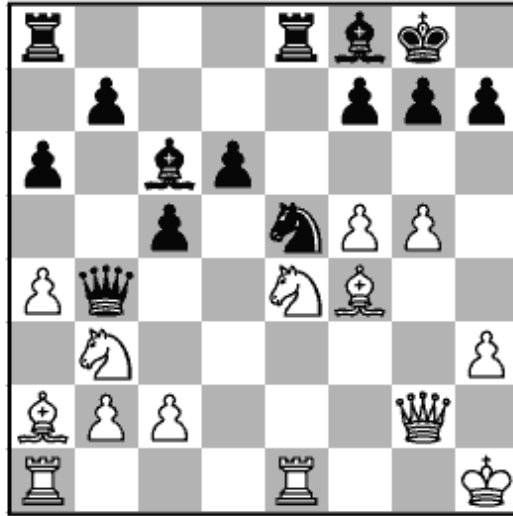
54...Kd7 55 c6+! Kd8

55...Kxc6 56 d7 +—.

56 c7+ Kd7 57 Rc1 1-0

White will promote her c7-pawn.

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Black to play

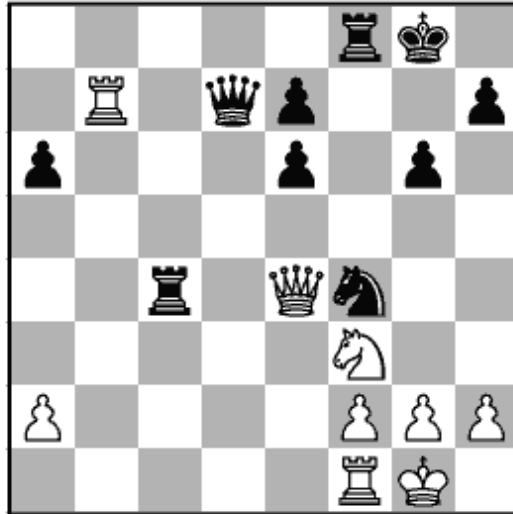
50) Do. Johnson – Quesada Vera

Charlotte 2023

21...Nf3! 22 Qxf3 Rxe4 0-1

White is too exposed along the h1-a8 diagonal.

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White to play

51) Vlasenko – Timerkhanov
St Petersburg Ch 2023

25 Qxf4! Qc6

White also retains his extra piece after 25...Qd5 26 Qe3 (or 26 Qe5 +-) 26...Re4 27 Qb3 +-.

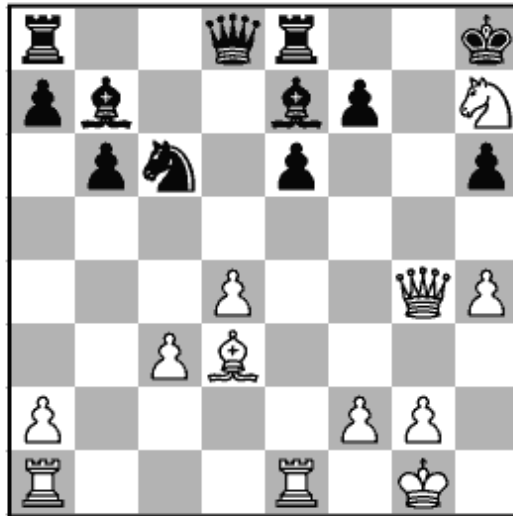
26 Qe3

Or 26 Qe5 +-.

26...Rg4 27 Rb3 1-0

White is a piece ahead.

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White to play

52) J. Lauridsen – F. Pedersen

Danish Team Ch 2022/3

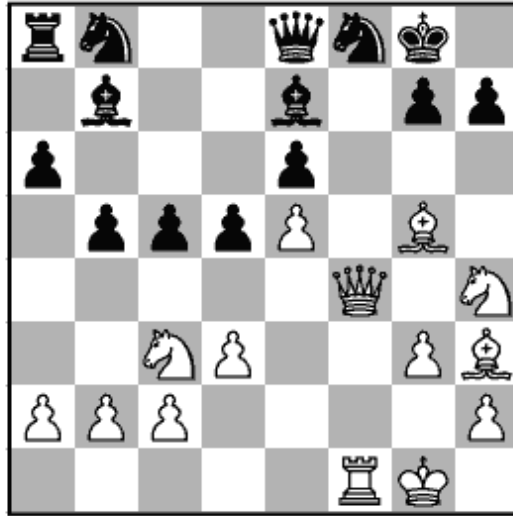
19 Qh5! Bf8

19...Bf6 20 Qxf7 Qe7 (20...Bg7 21 Qxb7 +–) 21 Qxf6+ Qxf6 22 Nxf6 +–.

20 Nxf8 Qf6 21 Nd7 Qg7 22 Re3 f5 23 Rg3 1-0

Black must give up his queen to avoid being mated.

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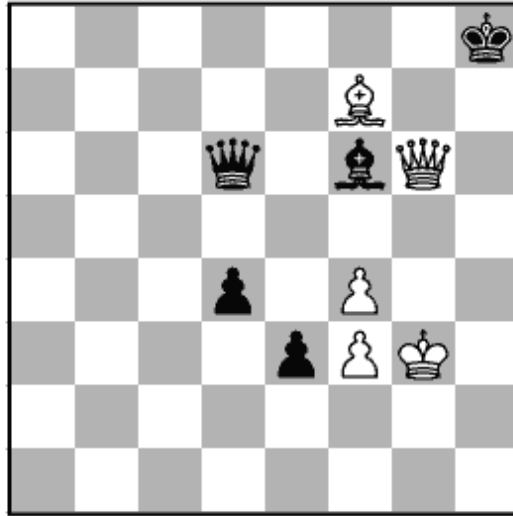
White to play

53) L. Hansen – S.B. Hansen
Danish Team Ch 2022/3

19 Bxe7 Qxe7 20 Qxf8+! Qxf8 21 Bxe6+ 1-0

The combination works because Black's queenside is undeveloped.

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Black to play

54) J. Pribyl – Cuhra
Czech Team Ch 2023

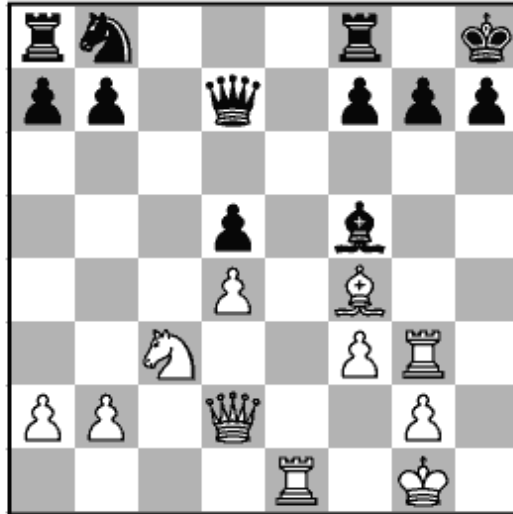
43...Bh4+! 44 Kxh4

Or 44 Kg2 Qxg6+ 45 Bxg6 e2 –+.

44...Qxg6 45 Bxg6 e2 0-1

White is unable to cope with the black e-pawn.

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White to play

55) Piorun – Janik
Warsaw 2023

22 Rxg7! Kxg7

Or 22...Nc6 23 Bh6 +–.

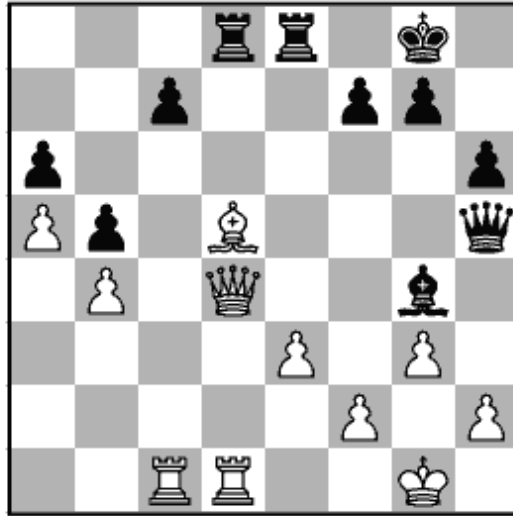
23 Bh6+ Kh8

23...Kg8 24 Qg5+ Bg6 25 Qf6 leads to mate.

24 Bxf8 +–

White's queen will infiltrate Black's kingside with decisive effect.

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White to play

56) Dzagnidze – Saduakassova
Astana rapid 2023

28 Bxf7+!

The careless 28 Rd2?? (as played in the game) walks into a fatal pin: 28...Bf3! 29 Rc5 Rxd5 30 Qxd5 (30 Rxd5 Qh3 leads to mate) 30...Bxd5 31 Rdx5 Qe2 32 Rd4 Rxe3 0-1.

28...Kxf7

White has a clear extra pawn after 28...Qxf7 29 Qxg4 +–.

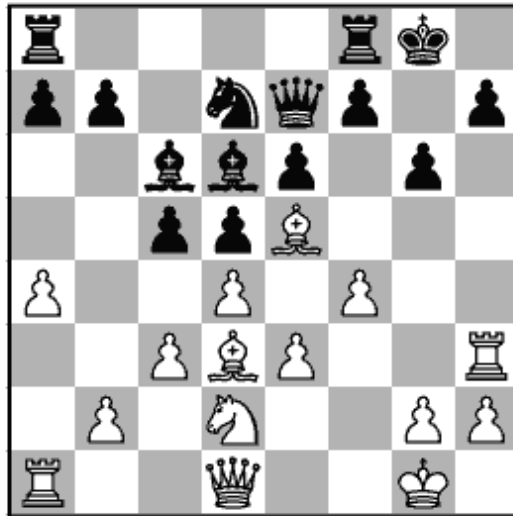
29 Rxc7+ Rd7

29...Ke6 30 Qb6+ Kf5 31 Rc5+ +–.

30 Rxd7+ Bxd7 31 Qxd7+ +–

White has two extra pawns and an ongoing attack.

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White to play

57) Pechač – Palac
Croatia 2023

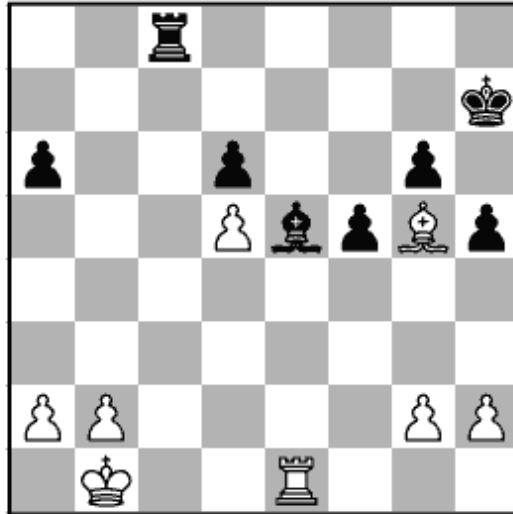
15 Qh5!

White must avoid 15 Rxh7?? Bxe5! –+.

1-0

White wins a piece after 15...f5 (15...gxh5 16 Rg3+ Qg5 17 Rxg5#)
 16 Bxd6 gxh5 17 Bxe7 +–.

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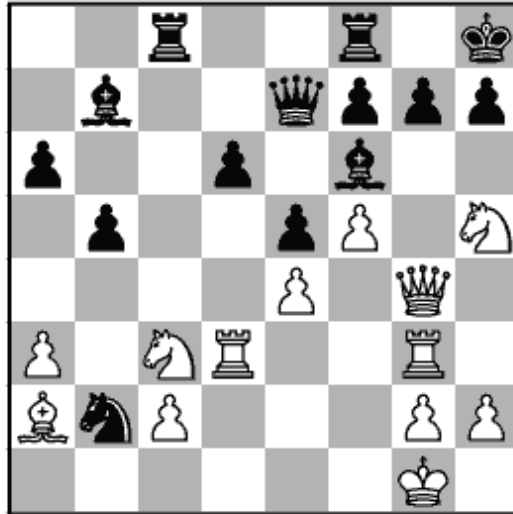
White to play

58) Goganov – Abdisalimov
Tashkent 2023

32 Rxe5! 1-0

White's d-pawn will cost Black his rook after 32...dxe5 33 d6 +—.

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White to play

59) Klima – Babula Jr

Frydek Mistek 2023

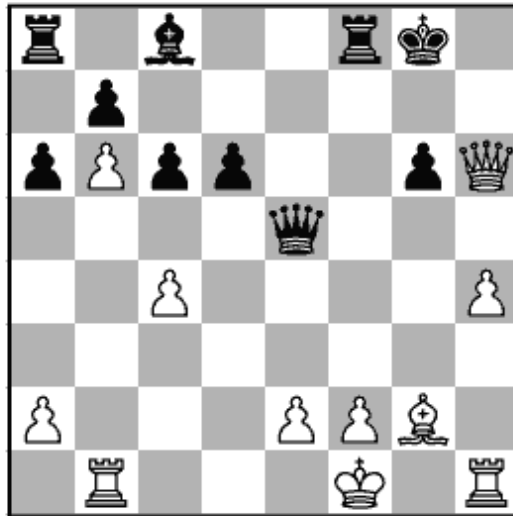
24 Nxf6 Qxf6 25 Rxd6!

Black's queen is overloaded defending against the mate threat on g7.

25...Rxc3 26 Rxf6 Rxg3 27 Rxf7 Rxf7 28 Qxg3 +-

White has a decisive material advantage.

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Black to play

60) Adan Bermudez – Starostits

Zahara de la Sierra 2023

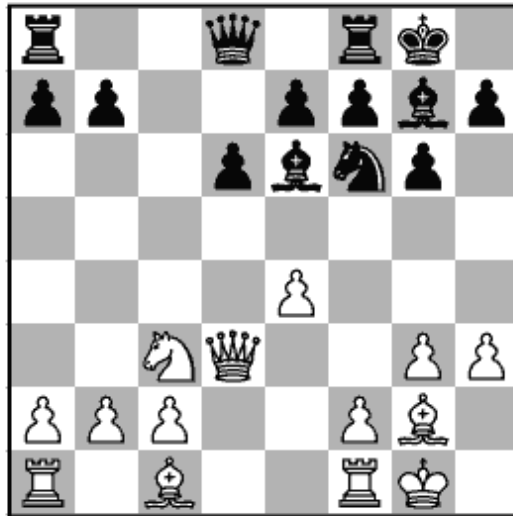
24...Qf5!

A real multi-purpose move: Black defends his g6-pawn, threatens mate on f2 and attacks the white rook on b1.

25 Qxf8+ Qxf8 –+

White is too much material down.

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Black to play

61) A. Perez Garcia – Iruzubieta
Zahara de la Sierra 2023

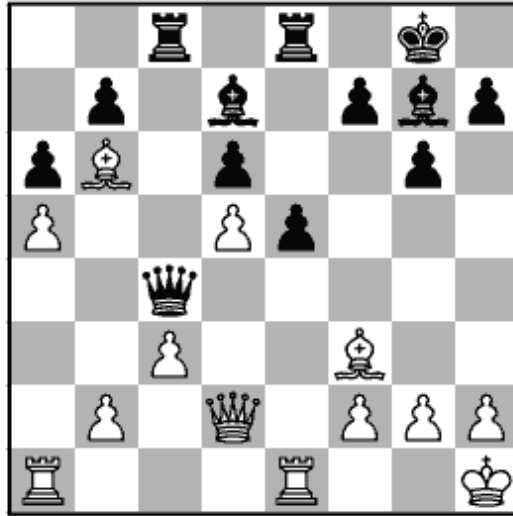
11...Qc8!

A motif to be aware of in this pawn-structure: Black attacks the h3-pawn and also threatens to win material with ...Bc4.

12 Re1 Bxh3

Black has an extra pawn and good winning chances.

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White to play

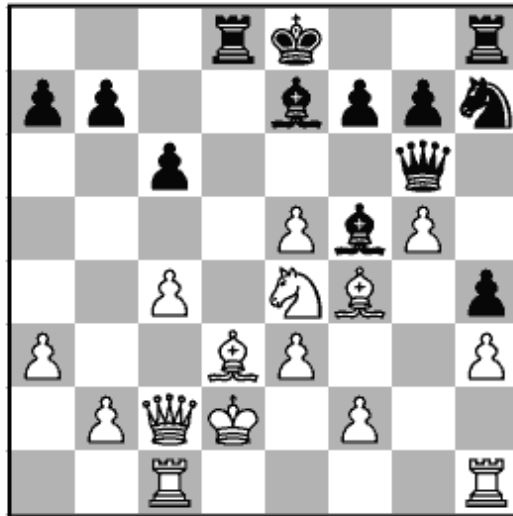
62) Kruckenhauser – Salvenmoser

Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

23 Re4! Qb3 24 Rb4 1-0

Black's queen is trapped with no retreat.

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White to play

63) Omorjan – Parezanin

Serbian Team Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2022

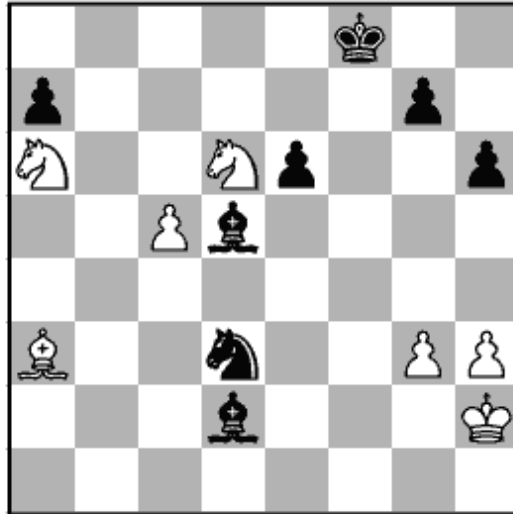
22 Nd6+! Bxd6 23 Bxf5 Be7+

Black is unable to do any damage with a discovered check because he does not have any pieces near White's king. For example: 23...Bxe5+ 24 Ke2 Qd6 (24...Qh5+ 25 Bg4 Qg6 26 Qxg6 fxg6 27 Bxe5 +--) 25 Rcd1 Qe7 26 Rxd8+ Qxd8 (26...Kxd8 27 Rd1+ Ke8 28 Bxe5 Qxe5 29 f4 Qe7 30 Bxh7 +--) 27 Bxh7 +--.

24 Kc3 Qh5 25 g6 +--

White has a decisive material advantage.

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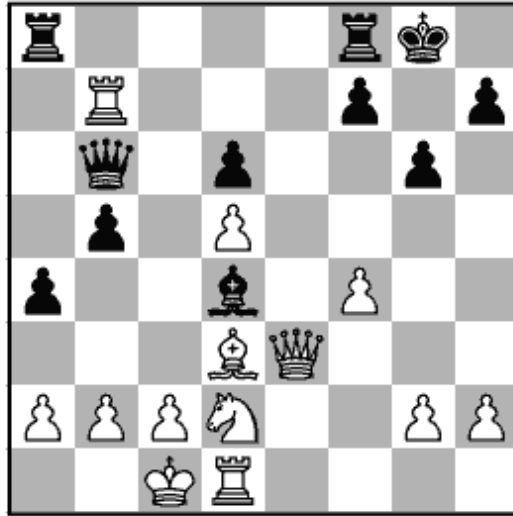
White to play

64) Yavuz – Ozsakallioglu
Turkish Ch, Kemer 2022

42 c6! Bxc6 43 Nc4+ Kf7 44 Nxd2 +—

White's passed c-pawn cost Black a piece.

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Black to play

65) Martin del Campo – Rorrer
Charlotte 2022

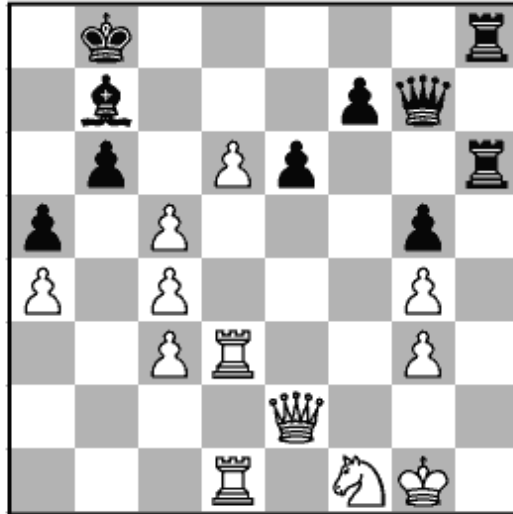
19...Bxb2+!

Not 19...Bxe3? 20 Rxb6 Bxb6 21 Bxb5 with a slight advantage for White.

20 Kxb2 Qxe3 –+

White's two minor pieces are no match for the black queen.

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White to play

66) Ophoff – Ed. Holland

British League (4NCL) online 2022

35 d7! Rh1+

White has three extra pawns after 35...Rd8 36 cxb6 +–.

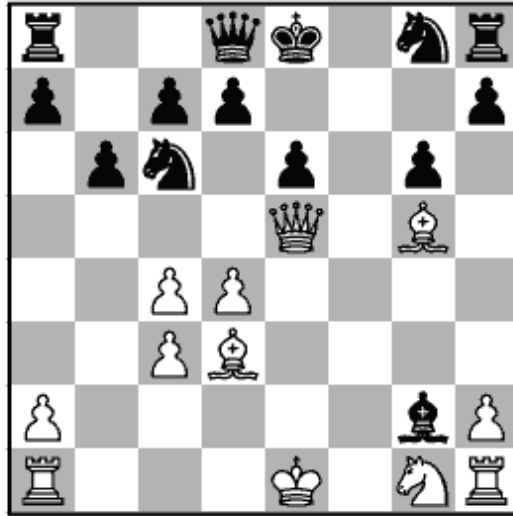
36 Kf2 Rxf1+

White's d-pawn also promotes after 36...R8h2+ 37 Nxh2 Rxh2+ 38 Ke1 Rxe2+ 39 Kxe2 Qe5+ 40 Kd2 +– or 36...Qf6+ 37 Ke1 Rd8 38 cxb6 +–.

37 Rxf1 Rh2+ 38 Ke1 Rxe2+ 39 Kxe2 1-0

White's powerful passed d-pawn was too strong.

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White to play

67) Ek. Borisova – I. Vasilevich
Khanty-Mansiisk rapid 2022

12 Qg3!

Black is OK if White captures the rook. For example: 12 Qxh8? Qxg5 13 Qxg8+ Ke7 14 Qxh7+ (14 Qxa8? Bxh1 favours Black) 14...Kd6 with roughly equal chances.

12...Bxh1

After 12...Nge7 White wins a piece for two pawns and retains a powerful pair of bishops. Following 13 Qxg2 0-0 (as played in the game), one good option is 14 h4 +–.

13 Bxd8 Nxd8 14 0-0-0 Bb7 15 d5 +–

Sometimes the simplest moves (12 Qg3!) are the best moves.

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White to play

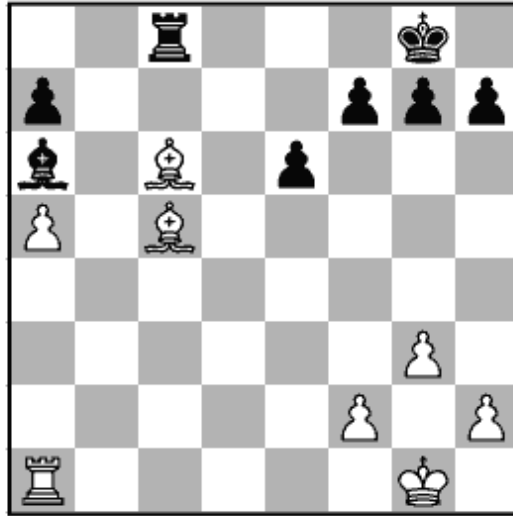
68) T. Pähtz – Klepek

European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

19 Bxe4! dxe4 20 Bg5 1-0

Black's queen was in a vulnerable position.

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White to play

69) Trichkov – Lhotska
Czech Team Ch 2022

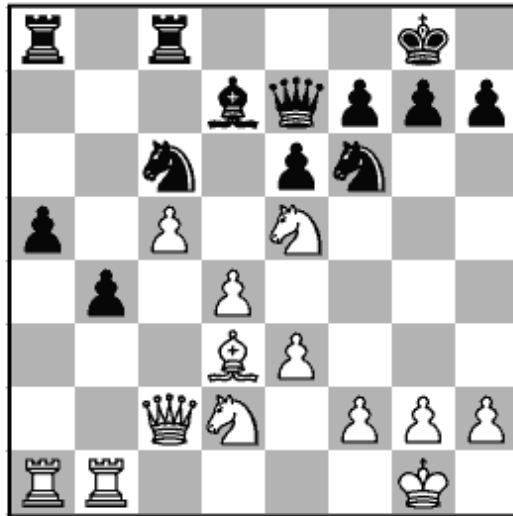
26 Rd1!

The back-rank mate threat enables White to keep his extra piece.

26...f6 27 Rd6 Kf7 28 Bd7 1-0

Black loses his a6-bishop.

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White to play

70) R. Zimmermann – O. Nytra
Pardubice 2022

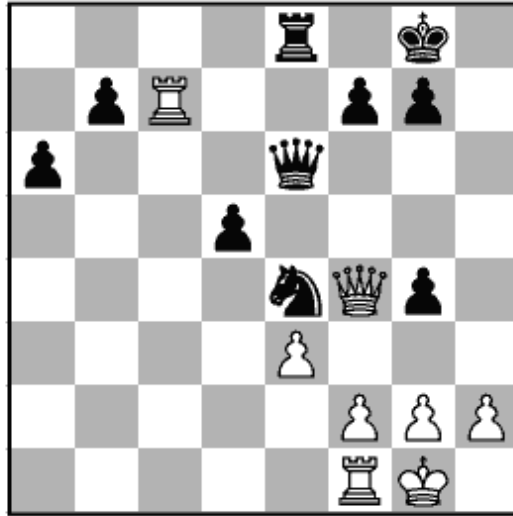
17 Nxd7! Nxd7

Or 17...Qxd7 18 Nc4 Nd5 19 Bxh7+ Kh8 20 Be4 +–.

18 Bxh7+ Kh8 19 Be4 +–

White has an extra pawn and a knight coming to the c4-square.

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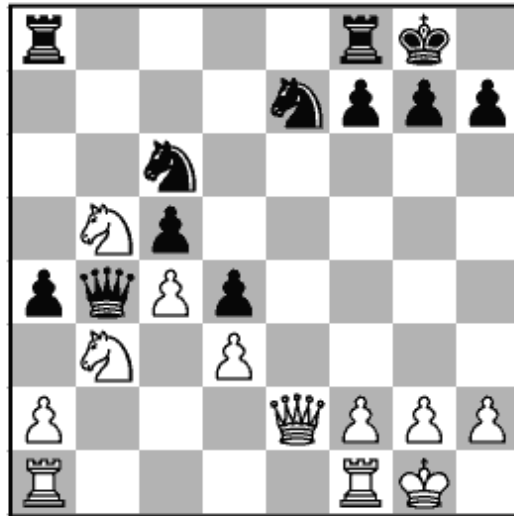
Black to play

71) Jedlicka – Szotkowski
Pardubice 2022

27...g5! 0-1

White's queen is trapped in the middle of the board.

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White to play

72) Kulon – Shpanko

Pardubice 2022

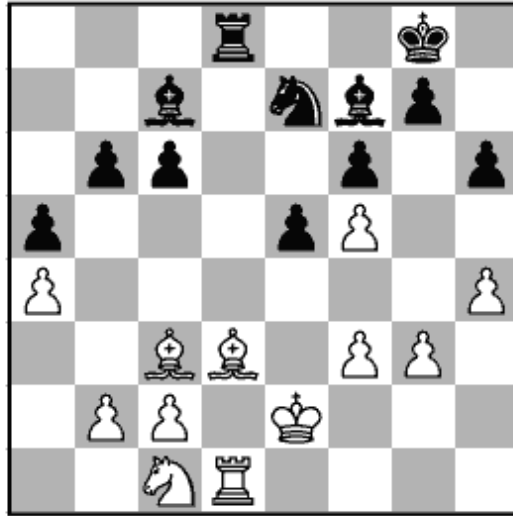
19 a3! Qxb3 20 Rab1

The black queen is stuck behind enemy lines.

20...Ng6 21 Rxb3 axb3 22 Rb1 +-

The white queen is in charge.

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Black to play

73) Palacios Herrero – Vergara Anton
Spanish Team Ch 2022

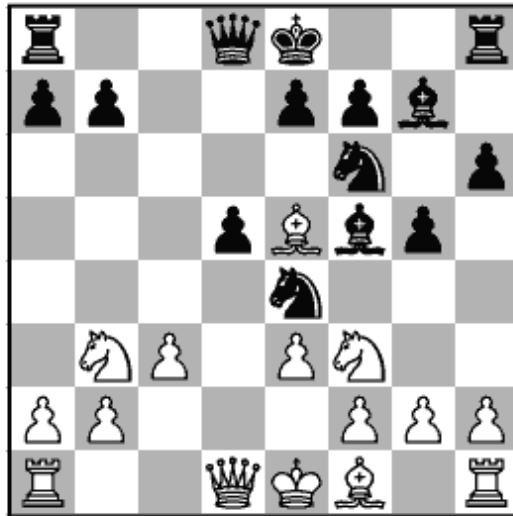
32...e4! 33 Bxe4

33 fxe4? was played in the game, and Black then won material with 33...Bh5+ 34 Kd2 Bxd1 35 Kxd1 Bxg3 –+.

33...Rxd1 34 Kxd1 Bxg3 35 Be1 Bxe1 36 Kxe1 Kf8

Black has an endgame advantage due to White's weak kingside pawn-structure.

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Black to play

74) Karaokcu – Uzumcu
Turkish Team Ch 2022

11...Nxf2!

Black exploits White's lack of kingside development to win a pawn.

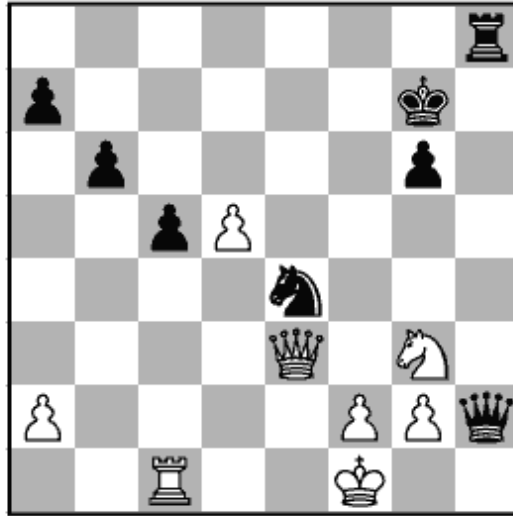
12 Bb5+

Or 12 Kxf2 Ng4+ 13 Ke1 Nxe5 –+.

12...Kf8 13 Kxf2 Ng4+ 14 Ke2 Nxe5 –+

This type of combination appears surprisingly often.

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Black to play

75) M. Pein – Sismeiro

Lisbon rapid 2022

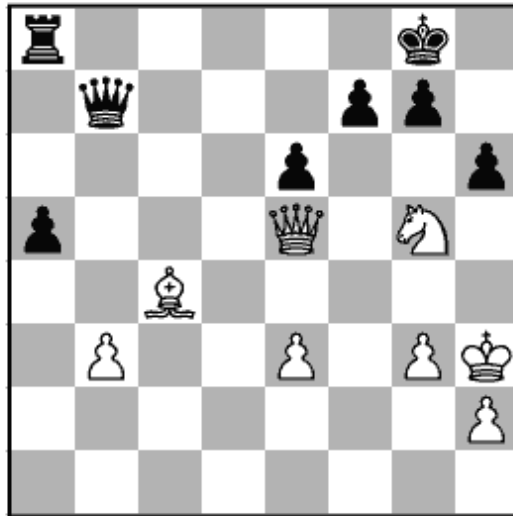
35...Nxg3+ 36 fxg3

Black wins a rook after 36 Qxg3 Qxg3 37 fxg3 Rh1+ 38 Kf2 Rxc1 –
+.

36...Rf8+ 37 Ke1 Qh1+ 38 Kd2 Qxg2+ 0-1

Black will win the white queen.

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White to play

76) Yurtseven – Aydincelebi
Mersin 2022

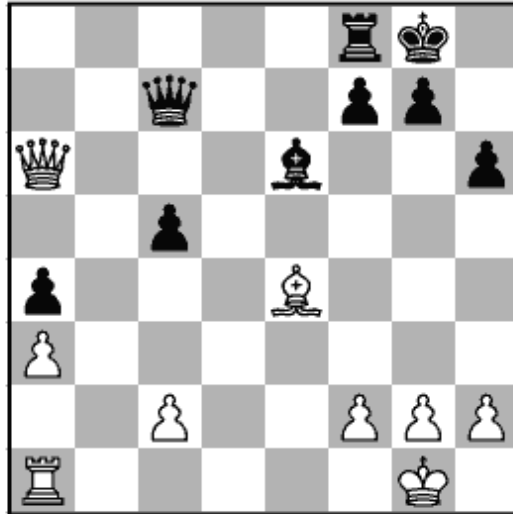
38 Nxf7! Qf3

The knight is immune from capture: 38...Qxf7 39 Bxe6 +– or
 38...Kxf7 39 Qxe6+ Kf8 40 Qg8+ Ke7 41 Qxg7+ Kd6 42 Qxb7 +–.

39 Qxe6 1-0

Black runs out of checks after 39...Qh5+ 40 Kg2 +–.

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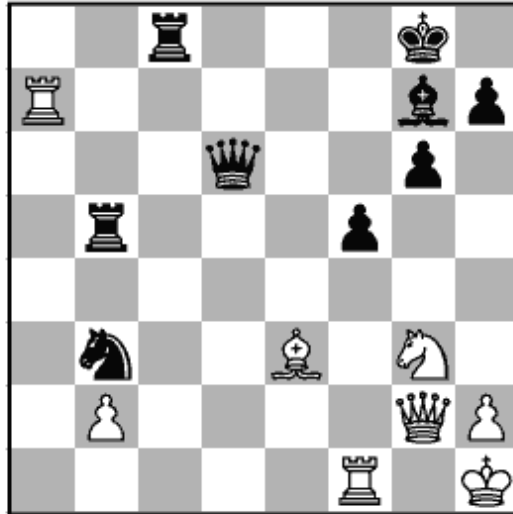
Black to play

77) Ren Xiaoyi – Li Ruofan
Chinese Team Ch 2022

22...Qe5! 23 Re1 f5 –+

Black wins a piece.

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White to play

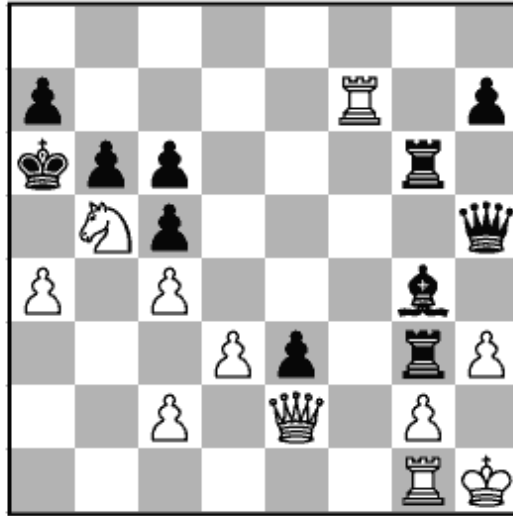
78) D. Asllani – Koutlas

World Under-16 Ch, Mamaia 2022

36 Nxf5! Rxf5 37 Rxf5 +-

White has a decisive material advantage.

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Black to play

79) Siniauski – Quoc Hy Nguyen

World Under-16 Ch, Mamaia 2022

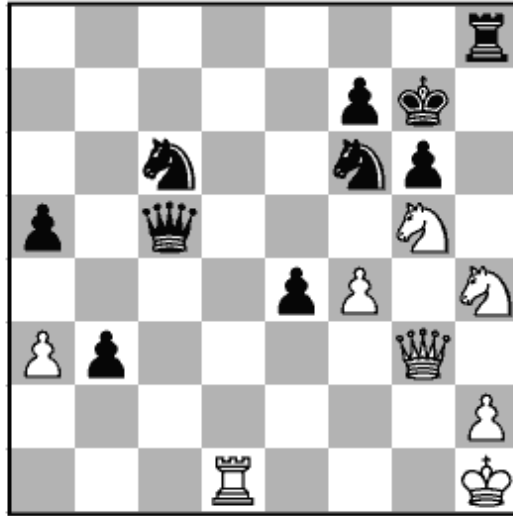
33...Rxb3+

Black must sidestep 33...Qxb3+?? 34 gxb3 Rxb3+ 35 Kh2! +–.

34 gxb3 Qxb3+ 35 Qh2 Bf3+ 36 Rxf3 Qxf3+ 37 Rg2 e2 38 Nc7+ Kb7 0-1

White cannot avoid being mated.

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White to play

80) Da. Johnson – Large

London 2022

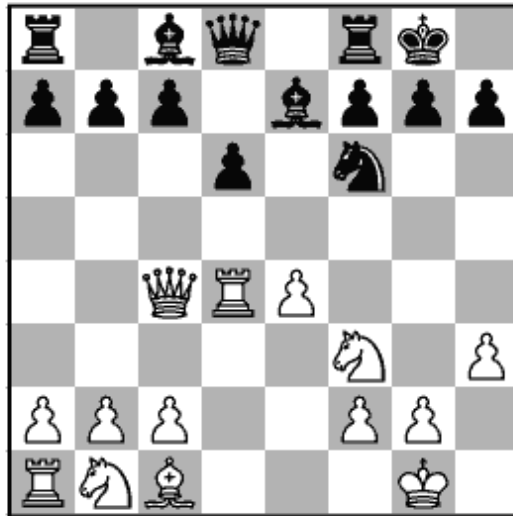
40 Ne6+! fxe6 41 Qxg6+ Kf8 42 Qxf6+

White wins back his piece and has a mating attack.

42...Kg8 43 Qxe6+ Kf8 44 Ng6+ Kg7 45 Rd7+ 1-0

Black is checkmated after 45...Kh6 46 Nxh8+ Kh5 47 Qh3#.

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Black to play

81) Mrndjić – Hadzović

Bosnian Team Ch, Neum 2022

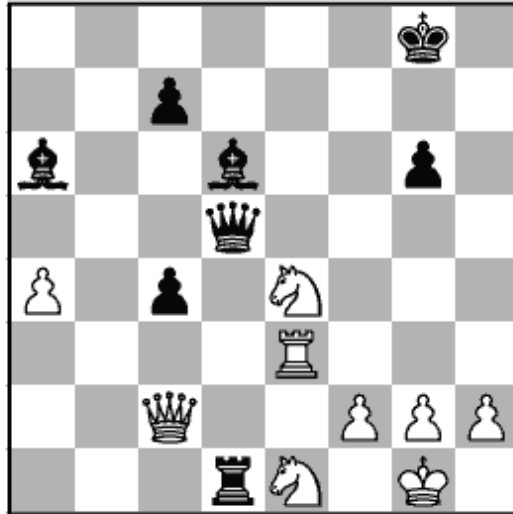
10...Nxe4! 11 Rd1

After 11 Rxe4? d5 → Black wins material.

11...Nf6 12 Nc3 c6

Black has an extra pawn and every reason to expect to win the game.

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Black to play

82) Prado Lobo – Soham

Gijon 2022

38...Qd3!

In the game, Black lost after 38...Be5?? 39 Nf6+ Bxf6 40 Qxg6+ Kf8 41 Re8# (1-0).

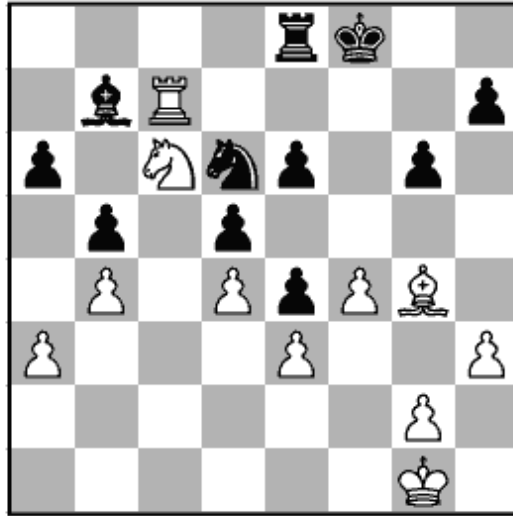
39 Qc3

39 Qa2 Bb4 –+ catches White in a fatal pin.

39...Qxc3 40 Nxc3 Rc1 41 Kf1 Bf4 42 Re6 Bd2 –+

The pin on the e1-knight is decisive.

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White to play

83) M. Taylor – D. Haydon

London rapid 2022

33 Rd7!

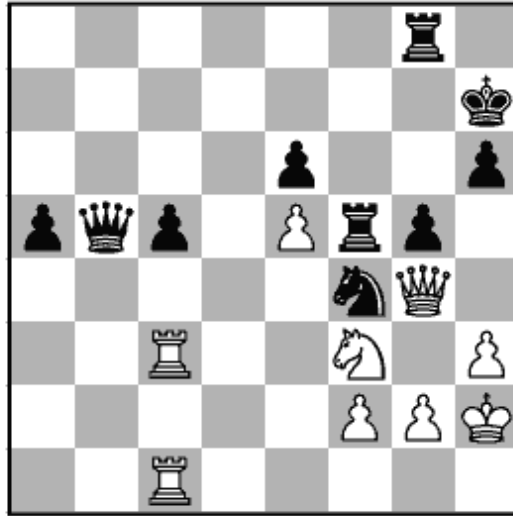
White simplifies into a winning endgame with an extra pawn. After 33 Na5? (as played in the game) Black expelled the white rook with 33...Re7 =.

33...Bxc6 34 Rxd6 Rc8 35 Bxe6 Rc7 36 Rd8+ Ke7 37 Rc8 Rxc8 37...Kd6 38 Rxc7 Kxc7 39 Kf2 +–.

38 Bxc8 +–

White's extra pawn is decisive.

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Black to play

84) Alboreda – Sliwicka
Antwerp (women) 2022

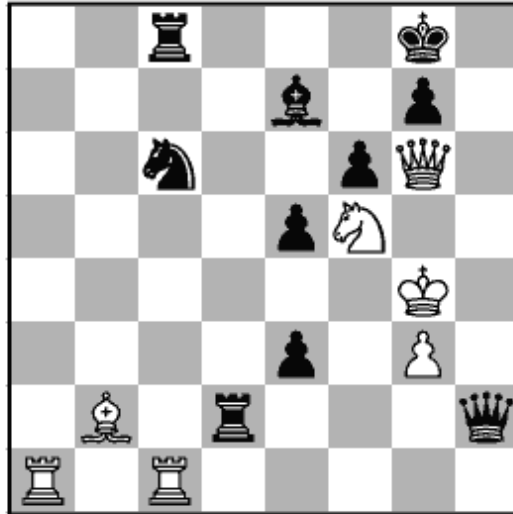
38...h5! 39 Nxg5+

White's major pieces are forked after 39 Qg3 Ne2 –+.

39...Rgxg5 –+

Black is a piece up.

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Black to play

85) Radusinović – D. Rajković

Serbian Team Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2022

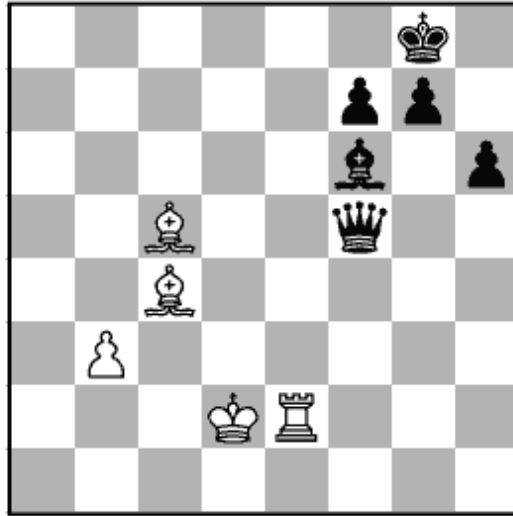
33...Bf8!

Black defends the g7-pawn and White has no good way to continue the attack. In the game 33...Qh7?? allowed White to exploit Black's vulnerable back rank with 34 Nxe7+, when Black resigned in view of 34...Nxe7 35 Rxc8+ Nxc8 36 Qe8#.

34 Bc3 Qh7 35 Qxh7+ Kxh7 36 Bxd2 exd2 37 Rc2 g6 38 Rh1+ Kg8 39 Ne3 f5+ 40 Kh3 Bh6 –+

Black's central pawns are decisive.

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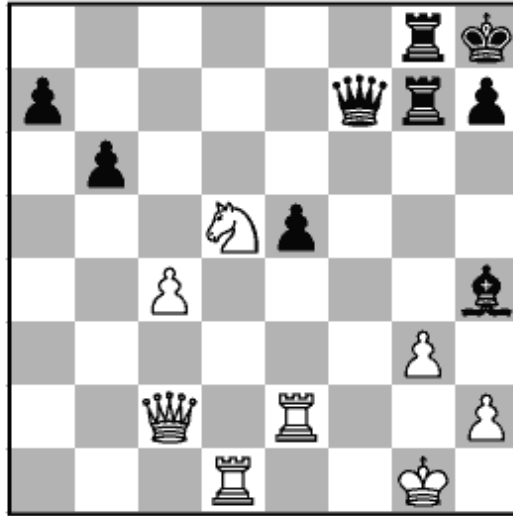
White to play

86) C. Garcia Moreno – Garcia Moral Garcia
Spanish Rapid Team Ch 2022

40 Re8+ Kh7 41 Bd3 1-0

The pin costs Black his queen.

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Black to play

87) To. Schmidt – F. Hampel

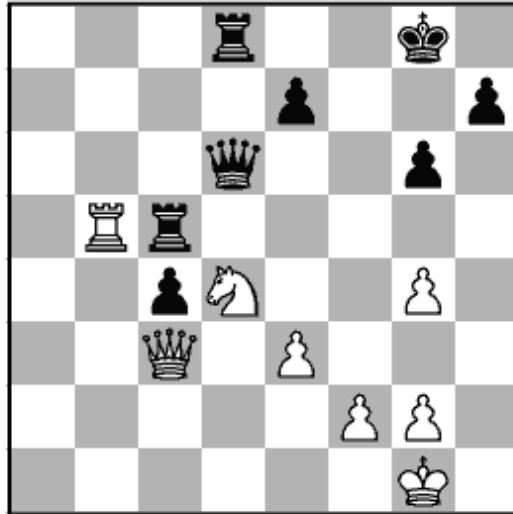
German Rapid Ch, Göttingen 2022

36...Bxg3! 37 hxg3 Rxd3+ 38 Rg2

White must give up his queen since he would be mated after 38 Kh1 Rh3+ 39 Rh2 Qf3+ 40 Qg2 Qxg2#.

38...Rxd3+ 39 Qxd3 Rxd3+ 40 Kxd3 Qg6+ 41 Kf1 Qe4 –+

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White to play

88) Trussevich – P. Djurić
Slovenian Team Ch 2022

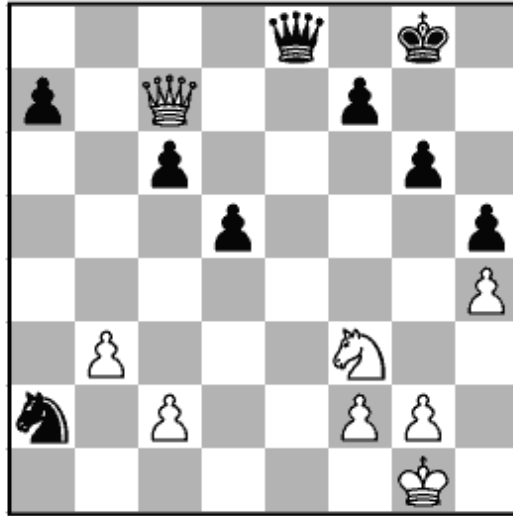
36 Ne6!

White is able to simplify into an equal rook endgame.

**36...Qxe6 37 Rxc5 Rd1+ 38 Kh2 Qd6+ 39 Qe5 Qxe5+ 40 Rxe5 c3
41 Rc5 =**

This rook ending should be drawn.

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White to play

89) Arpita – Enkhtuul

Delhi (women) 2022

26 Qa5!

The black knight is short on squares. Black is OK after 26 Qxa7? Nb4 27 Qc5 Qf8 =.

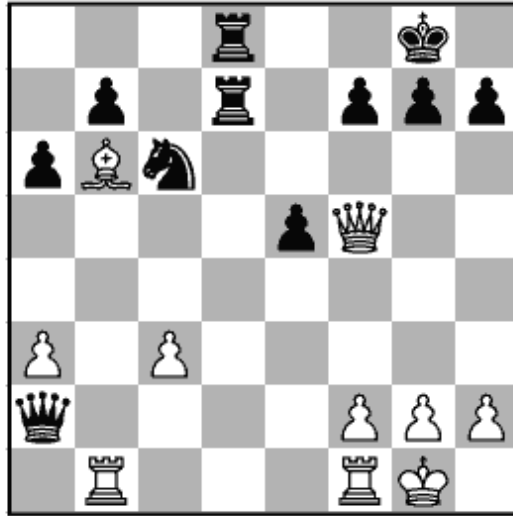
26...Nc1 27 Qd2 Nxb3

The knight is trapped after 27...Na2 28 c3 +–.

28 cxb3 +–

White's knight is stronger than the two black pawns.

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Black to play

90) Raitza – Thinius

European Seniors Team Ch, Dresden 2022

21...g6!

Black loses material after 21...Ne7? 22 Qg4! h5 23 Qa4 +–.

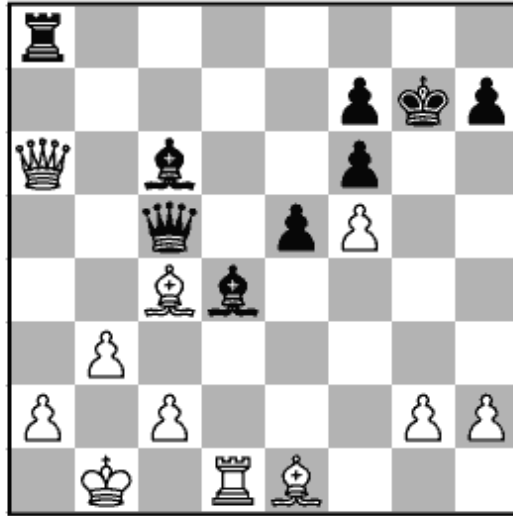
22 Qg4

In the game White failed to notice the back-rank mate threat and lost after 22 Qf6? Qxb1! 23 Bxd8? (White is still lost after 23 Qxd8+ Rxd8 24 Rxb1 Rd3 –+) 23...Rd1 0-1.

22...h5 23 Qa4 Rc8

Black has an extra pawn and good winning chances.

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White to play

91) Agasarov – Vagman

European Under-14 Ch, Antalya 2022

33 b4! Qd6 34 Qb6 Rb8!

34...Qd7? 35 Rxd4! exd4 was played in the game. White's queenside pawns would have proved decisive if he had then chosen 36 Bf2 +–.

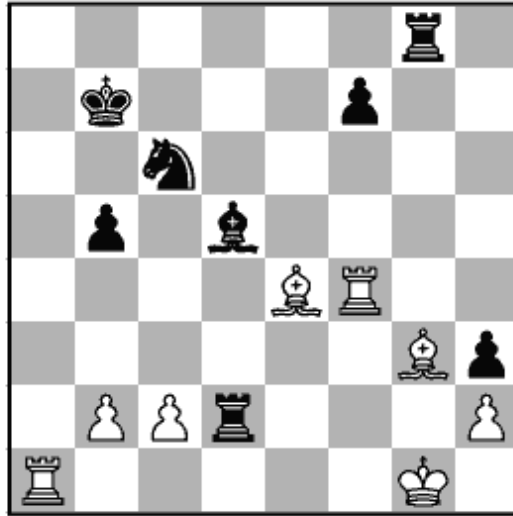
35 Qa6 Ra8!

Black loses the endgame after 35...Rxb4+? 36 Bxb4 Qxb4+ 37 Bb3 Qc3 38 Rxd4 exd4 39 Qc4 +–.

36 Qb6 =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

92) Vettese – Adewumi

New York 2022

33...Bxe4!

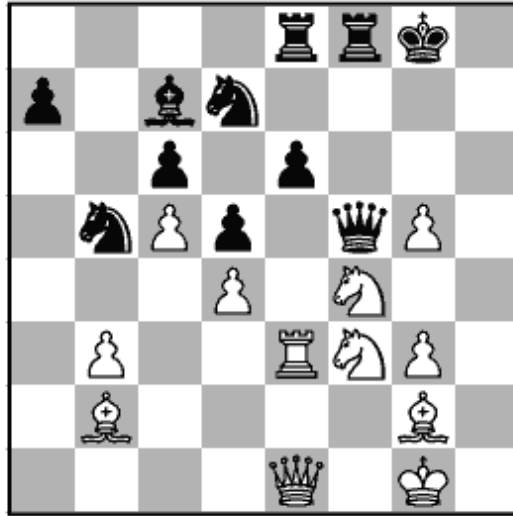
33...Rd4? 34 Bh7! (after 34 Bxd5? Black wins material: 34...Rxf4 35 Re1 {as played in the game} and now 35...Kb6 –+ would have been best) 34...Rxf4 35 Bxg8 Rd4 36 Kf2 =.

34 Rxe4 Nd4

This favours Black thanks to his active pieces.

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White to play

95) Li Di – Maisuradze

Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

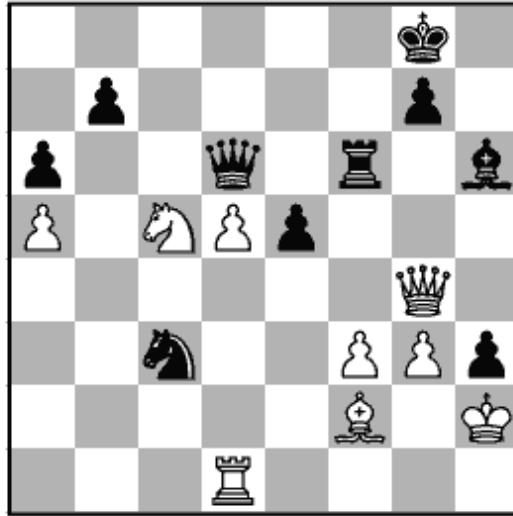
31 Bh3! Bxf4 32 Bxf5 Bxe3+ 33 Qxe3 exf5 34 Qd2

White's queen and advanced g-pawn are too much for the black rooks.

34...Re4 35 Qh2 +-

The white queen will penetrate along the h-file.

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White to play

96) Pranav – Sahithi Varshini
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

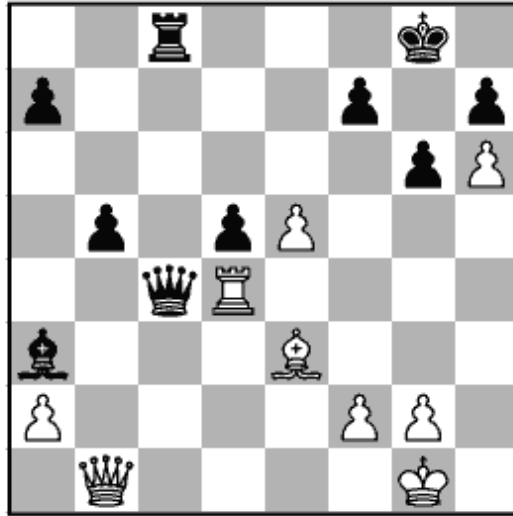
33 Rd3! Nb5

White wins the pinned knight after 33...Nxd5 34 Qc4 +—.

34 Ne4 Qd8 35 Nxf6+ Qxf6 36 Qe6+ 1-0

The queen trade eliminates Black's only hope for counterplay.

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Black to play

97) Panda – Xu Xiangyu

Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

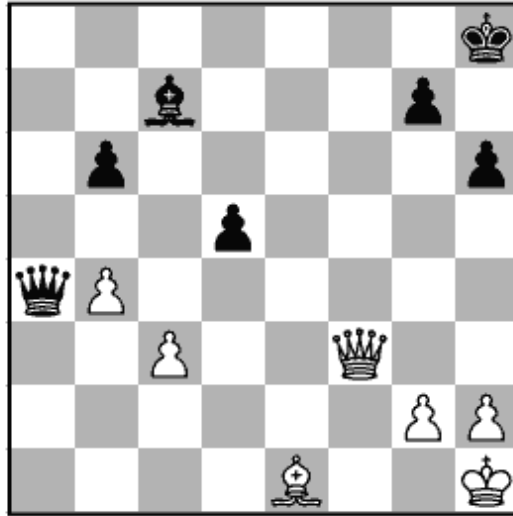
29...Qxd4! 30 Bxd4 Rc1+ 31 Qxc1 Bxc1

White cannot protect his h6-pawn.

32 Bxa7 Kf8 33 Bc5+ Ke8 34 Kf1 Bxh6 –+

Black's extra pawn is decisive.

[back](#)



White to play

98) Kramnik – Hou Yifan

Astana rapid 2023

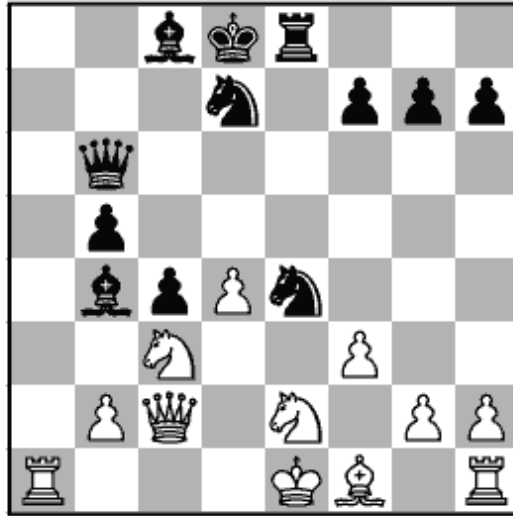
33 Qf8+ Kh7 34 Qf5+ Kg8

Black loses a piece after 34...g6 35 Qf7+ Kh8 36 Qxc7 +—.

35 Qc8+ 1-0

White wins the loose bishop.

[back](#)



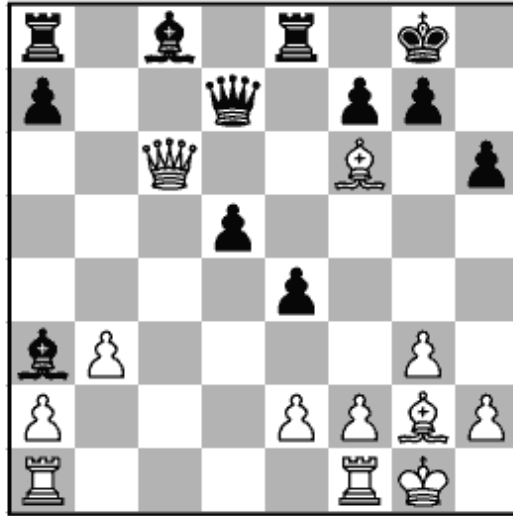
Black to play

99) Daroczi – Leszko
Budapest 2023

20...Nxc3 21 bxc3 Qxd4! 0-1

Three pins is enough for Black to win the game!

[back](#)



White to play

100) Hakemi – Baglan

Ayvalik 2023

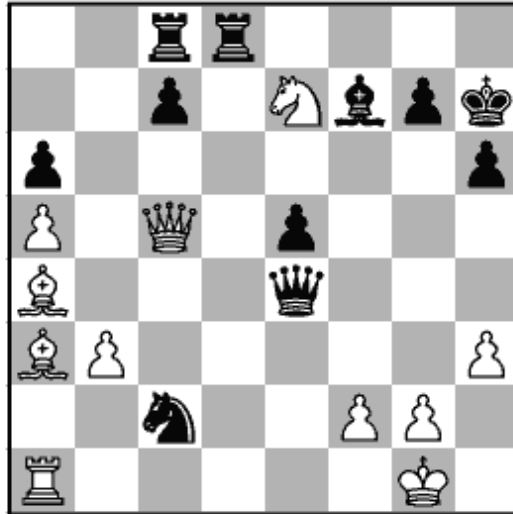
18 Qxa8! Ba6

18...gxf6 19 Rfd1 +—.

19 Bh3! 1-0

19...Rxa8 (19...Qb5 20 Qxa7 +—) 20 Bxd7 gxf6 21 Rfd1 Bxe2 22 Rxd5 +—.

[back](#)



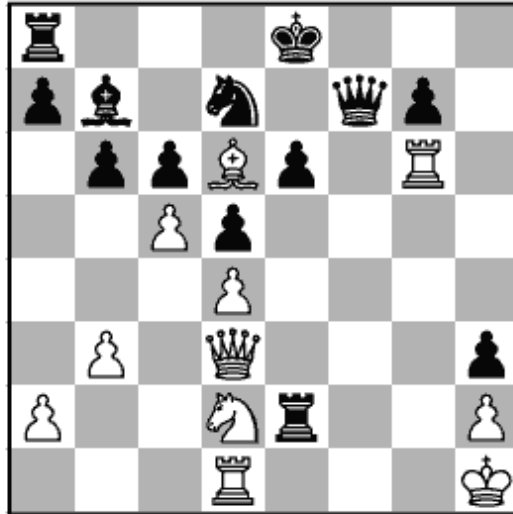
White to play

101) Erdogmus – Nikčević
Ayvalik 2023

32 Bc6! Qe2 33 Bf3 1-0

White has too many threats after 33...Qd3 34 Qxe5 Kh8 35 Bb2 +—.

[back](#)

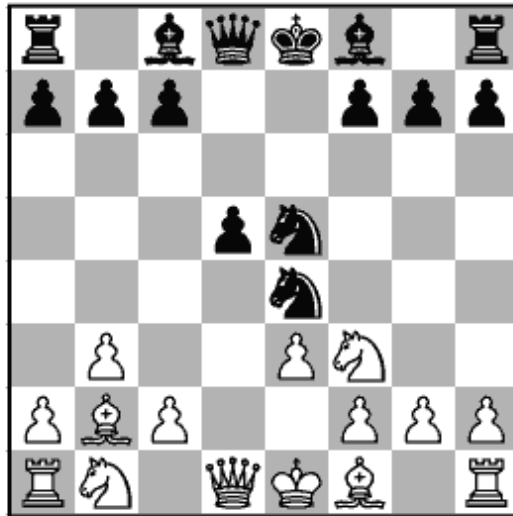


Black to play

102) Nikčević – Gokerkan
Ayvalik 2023

27...Ba6! 28 Qxa6 Rxd2 29 Rxd2 Qxg6 –+
Black has two extra pawns and mating threats.

[back](#)



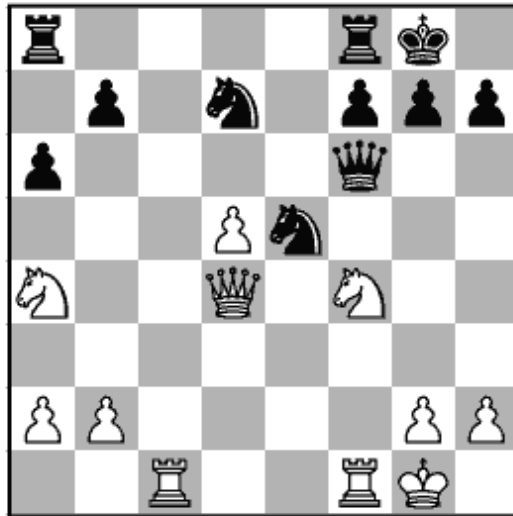
Black to play

103) J.A. Gonzalez Rodriguez – Cuartas Medina
Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

8...Ng4! 0-1

There is no way to defend the f2-pawn.

[back](#)



White to play

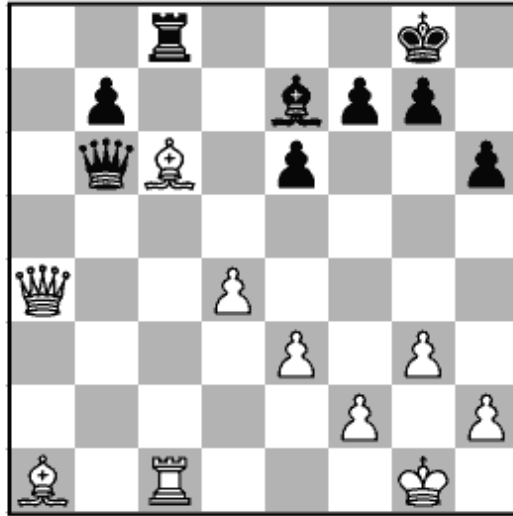
104) Hasenohr – Mantovani
Swiss Team Ch 2023

20 Ne6!

White wins material.

20...Qg6 21 Nxf8 Rxf8 22 Rc7 +-

[back](#)



White to play

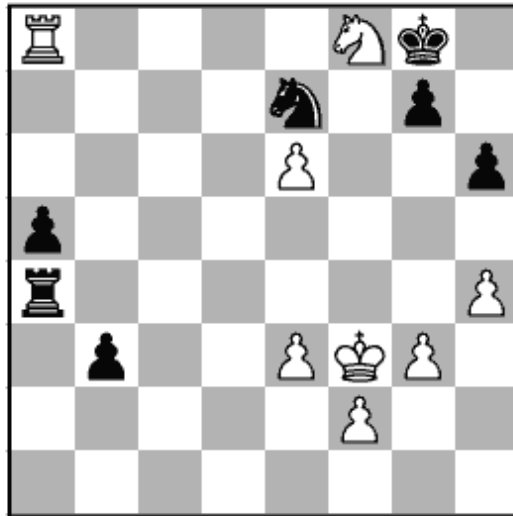
105) Ghimpu – Baranciuc
Bucharest rapid 2023

34 d5! Bf8

Black also loses a critical pawn after 34...bxc6 35 Qg4 Bf8 36 dxe6 +–, while the game ended 34...exd5? 35 Qg4 1-0.

35 Bd4 Qc7 36 e4 exd5 37 exd5 +–

[back](#)



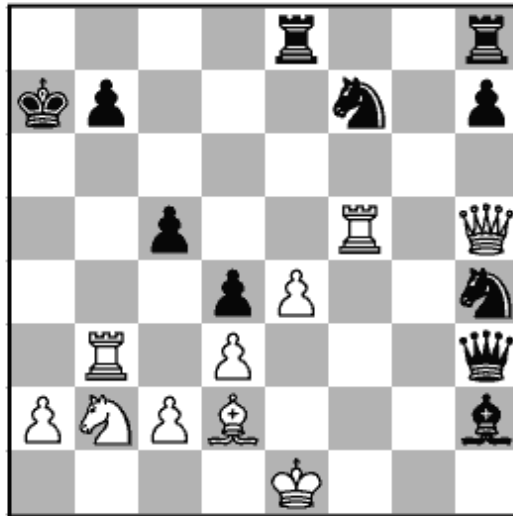
White to play

106) Makhnev – Aliyev
Baku 2023

36 Ng6+ Kh7 37 h5! 1-0

White promotes his e-pawn with check after 37...Nxg6 38 hxg6+ Kxg6 39 e7 +–, while 37...Ng8 38 e7 Re4 39 Kxe4 b2 40 Rb8 +– is also hopeless for Black.

[back](#)



White to play

107) E. Mohamad – Tan Jun
Jakarta Zonal 2023

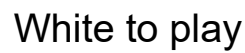
In the game White resigned here, but it is a draw after...

32 Qxf7! Re7

32...Bg3+ 33 Kd1 Re7 34 Qxe7 transposes to the main line.

33 Qxe7 Bg3+ 34 Kd1 Qh1+ 35 Ke2 Qg2+ 36 Kd1 Qh1+ =
 with a draw by repetition.

[back](#)

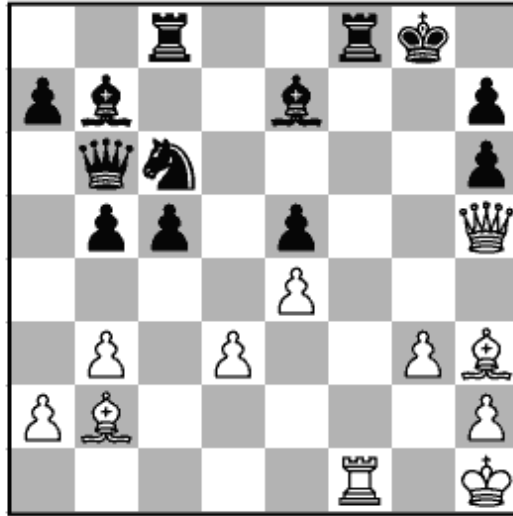


Jakarta Women's Zonal 2023

White exploits the weakness of the e6-square. The game continuation 18 c5? was less effective.

White wins a piece.

[back](#)



White to play

109) Jarmula – Plischki
Ostrava 2023

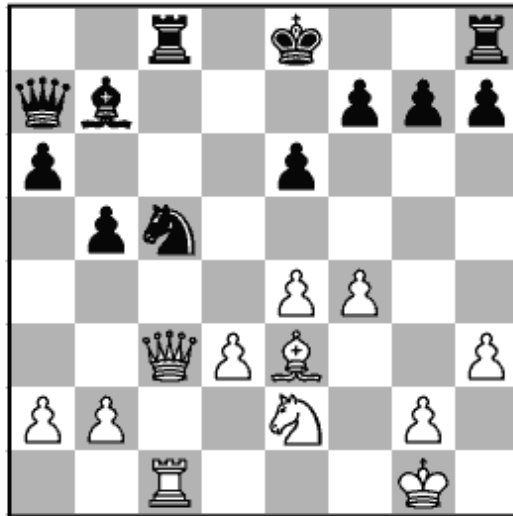
33 Be6+ Kg7

33...Kh8 34 Bxe5+ Nxe5 35 Qxe5+ Rf6 36 Rxf6 followed by mate.

34 Rf7+ Rxf7 35 Qxf7+ Kh8 36 Bf5 1-0

Black cannot prevent 37 Qxh7#.

[back](#)



Black to play

110) Gunduz – Ipek

Ayvalik 2023

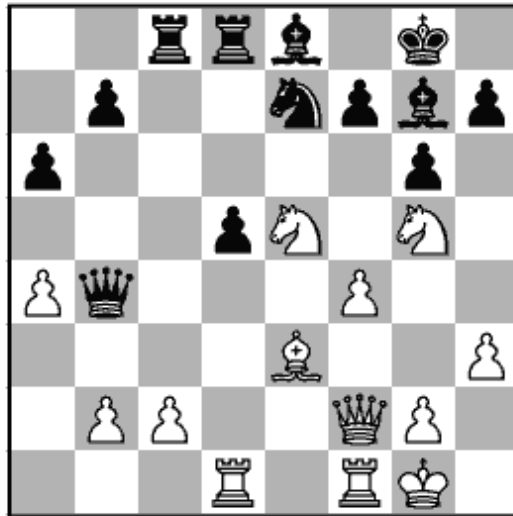
19...0-0!

In the game 19...Na4?? was played, and White won material by 20 Qxc8+ Bxc8 21 Bxa7 0-0 22 Bd4 b4 23 b3 Nc3 24 Bxc3 bxc3 25 Rxc3 +—.

20 Bxc5 Qb8 21 Qd2 Rfe8 =+

White has insufficient compensation for the sacrificed exchange.

[back](#)



White to play

111) Adhiban – Sarana

Internet rapid 2023

21 c3! Qxa4

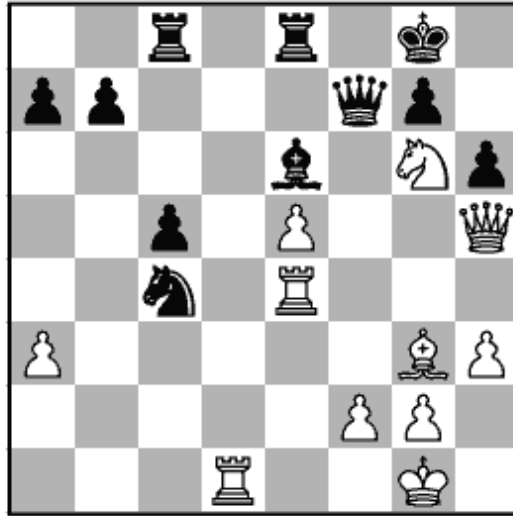
21...Qd6 22 Bb6 f6 23 Bxd8 Rxd8 24 Nc4 Qc6 25 Na5 Qc8 26 Rfe1 +–.

22 Bb6 Nf5?!

Black also loses material after 22...Rd6 23 Bc5 +–.

23 Bxd8 Rxd8 24 g4 +–

[back](#)



Black to play

112) Erigaisi – Fedoseev

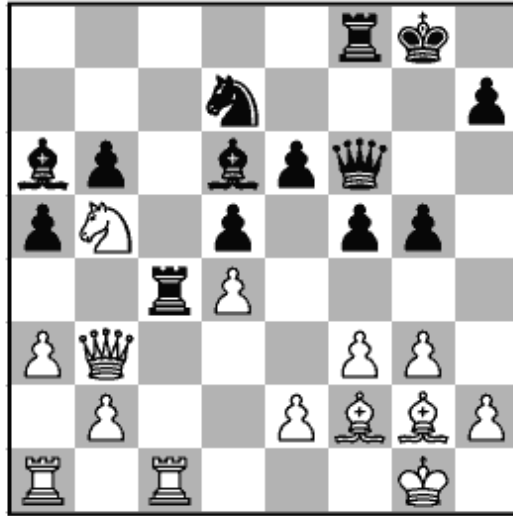
Internet rapid 2023

29...Kh7!

Black forces an exchange of queens into a winning endgame.

30 Nf4 Qxh5 31 Nxh5 Nxa3 32 Nf4 Bf5 33 Re3 Nc2 34 Rb3 b6 –+

[back](#)



Black to play

113) Erenberg – Kochavi
Israeli Team Ch 2023

22...a4! 23 Qxc4

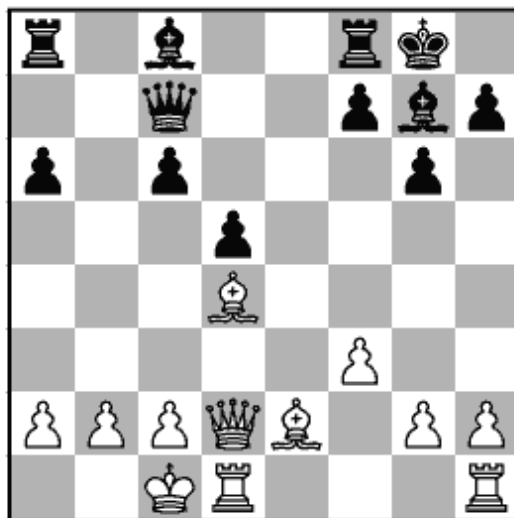
The game ended 23 Rxc4 axb3 0-1.

23...dxc4 24 Nxd6 e5 –+

Black has a decisive material advantage.

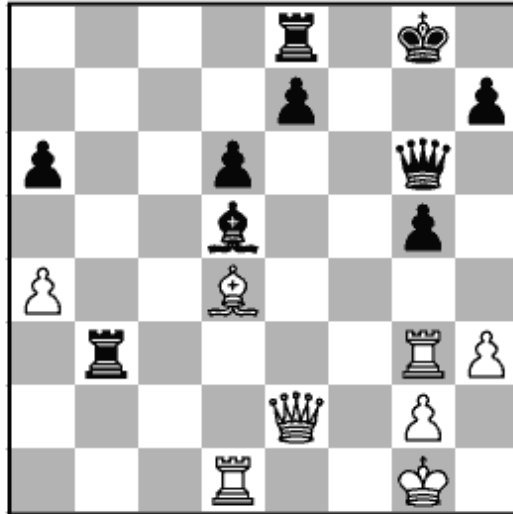
[back](#)

Elementary Test



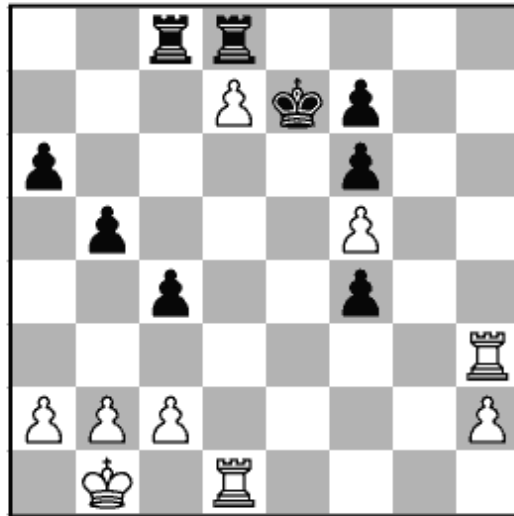
114) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



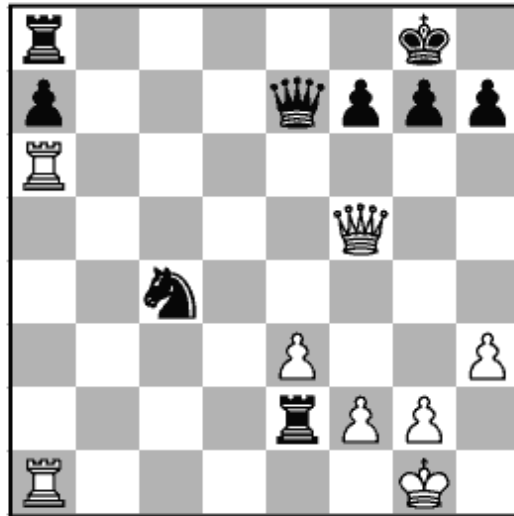
115) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



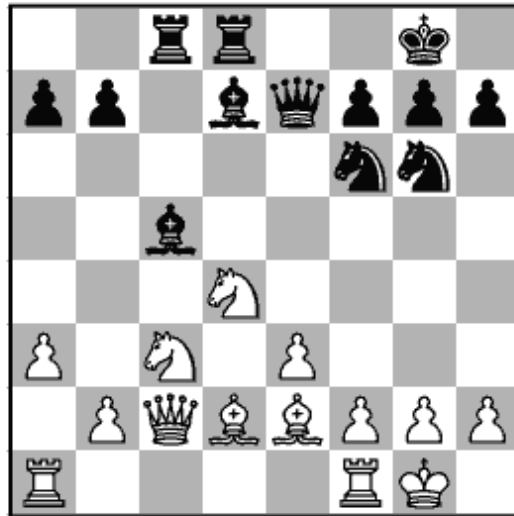
116) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



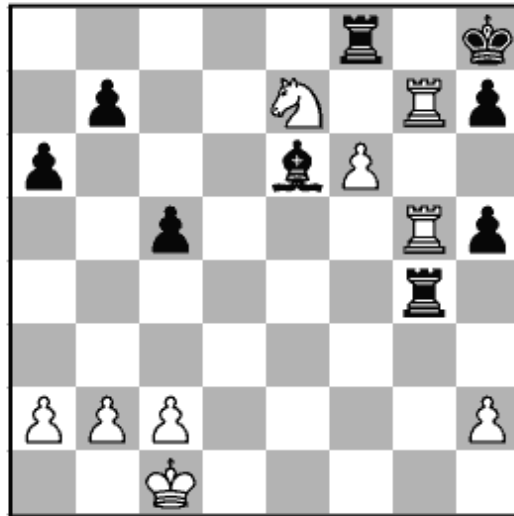
117) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



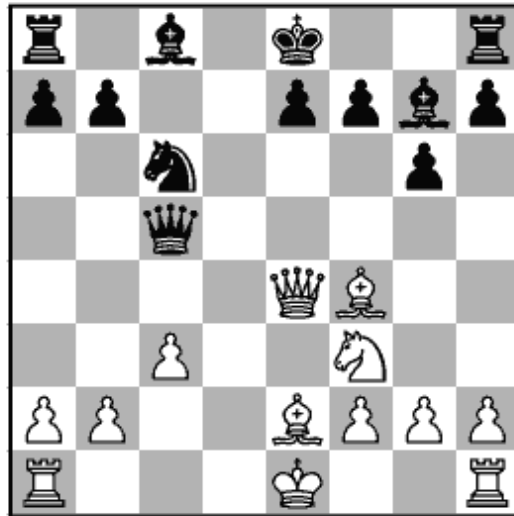
118) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



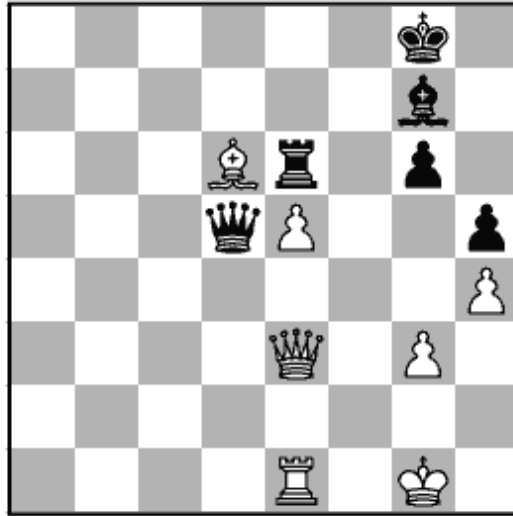
119) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



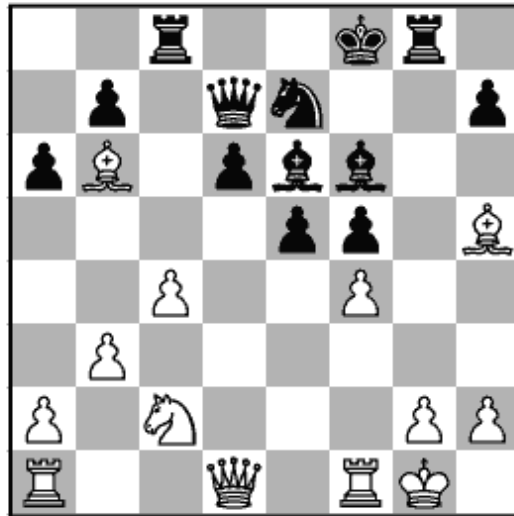
120) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



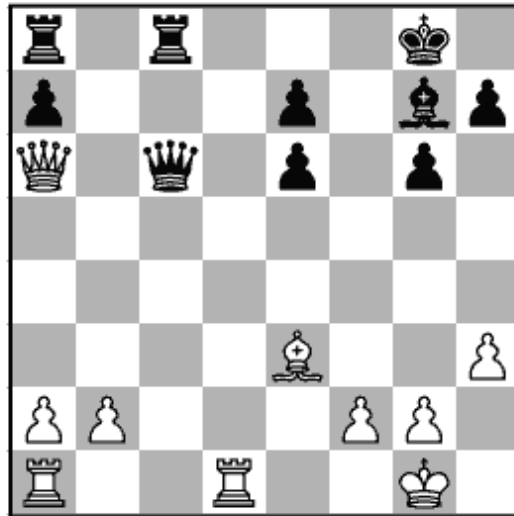
121) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



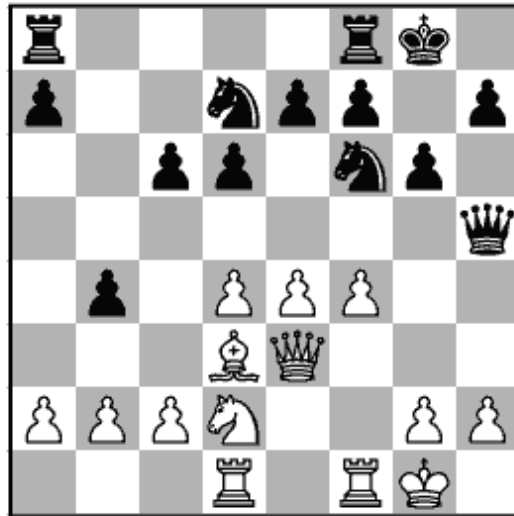
122) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



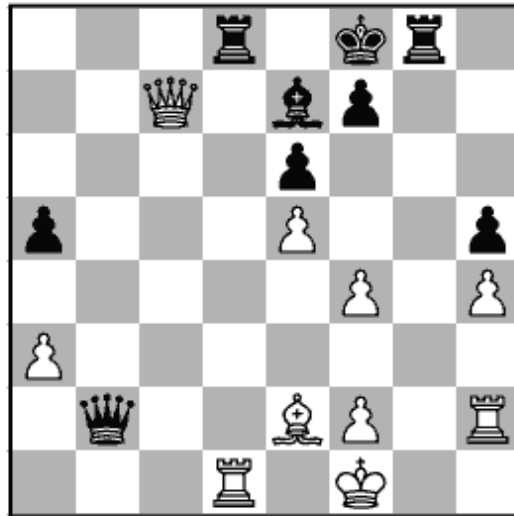
123) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



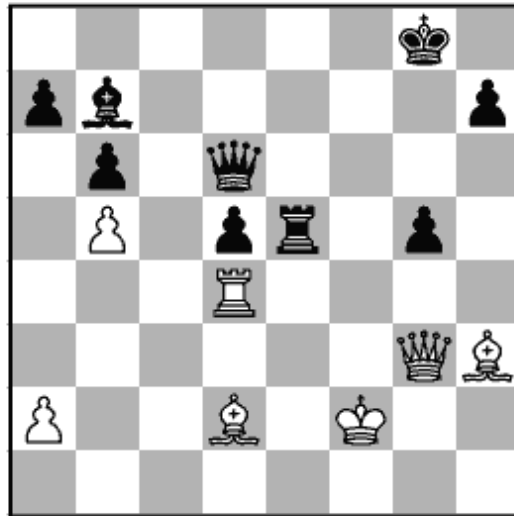
124) Black to play (1 point)

solution



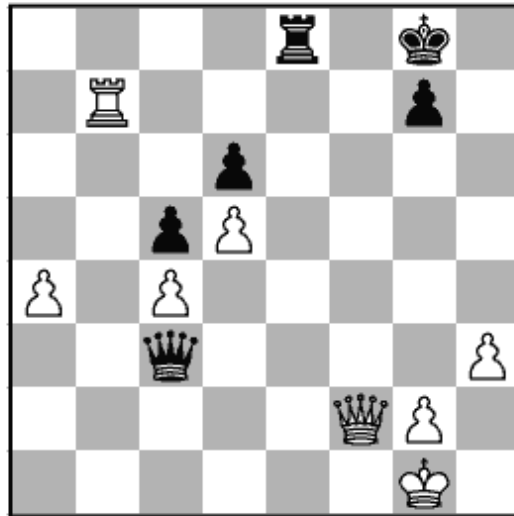
125) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



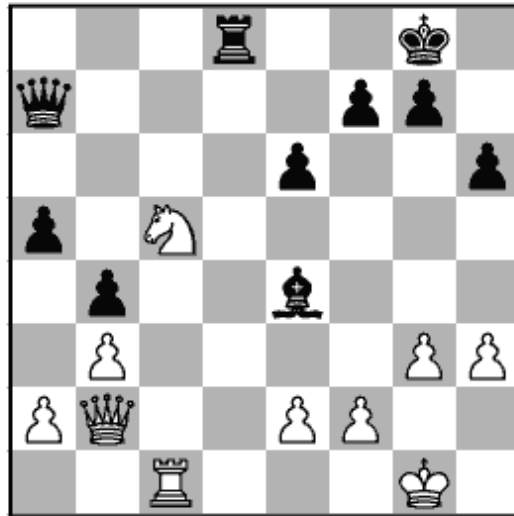
126) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



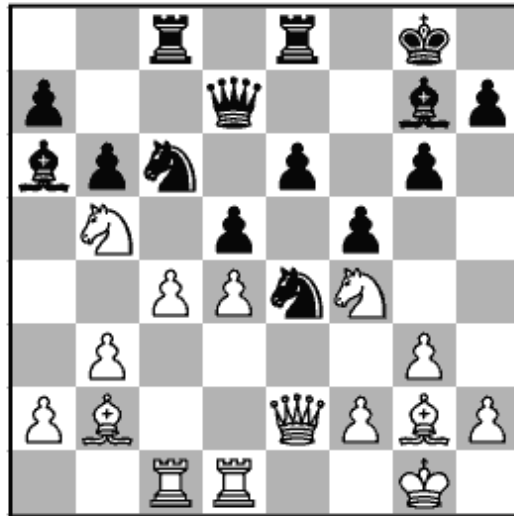
127) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



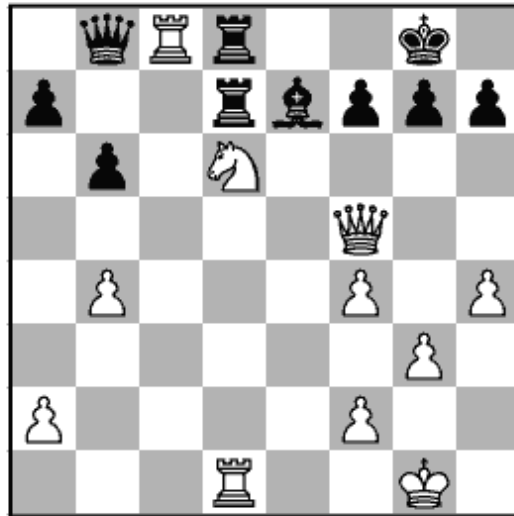
128) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



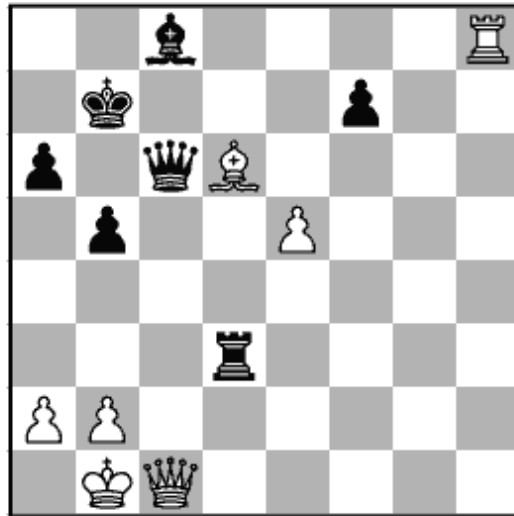
129) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



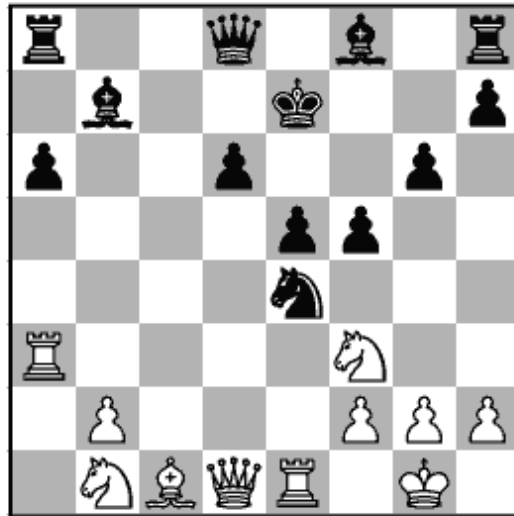
130) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



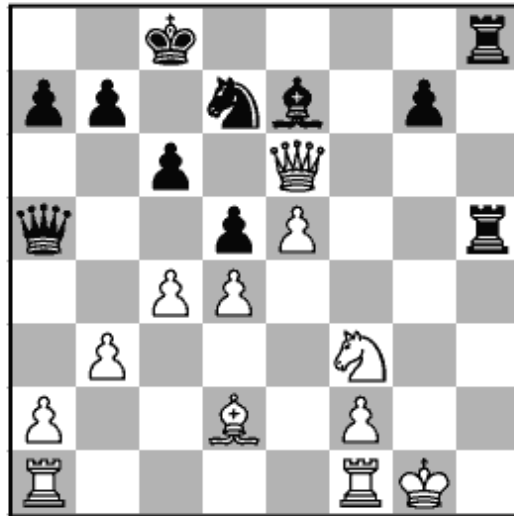
131) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



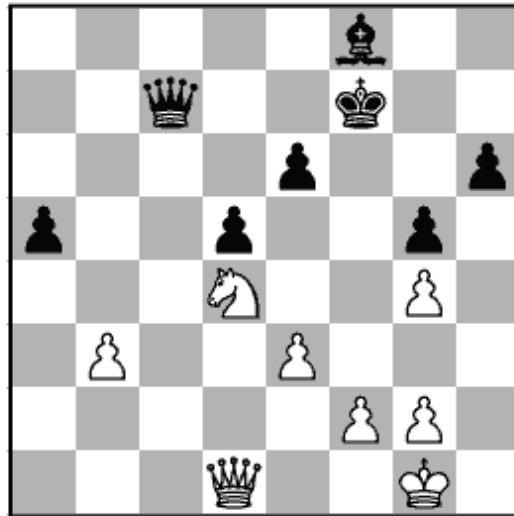
132) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



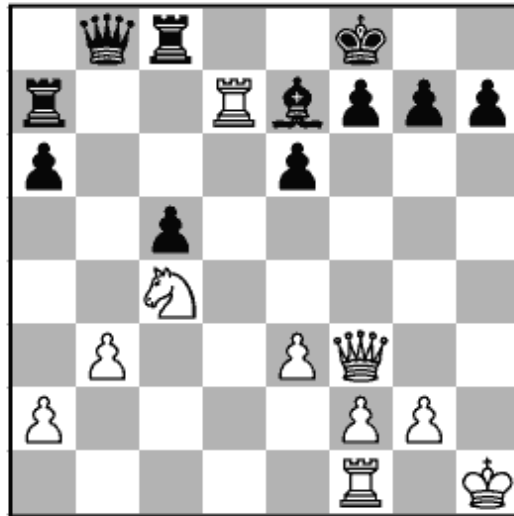
133) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



134) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



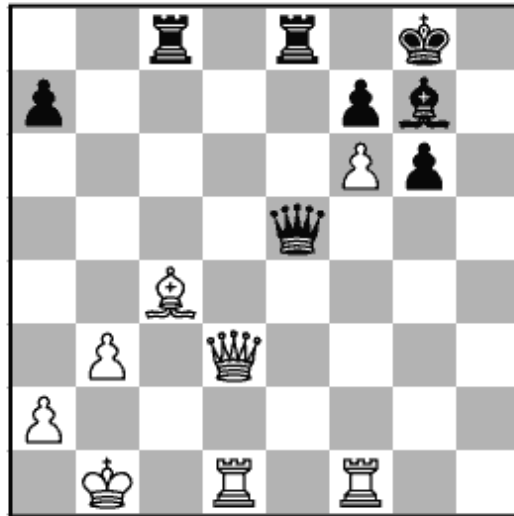
135) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



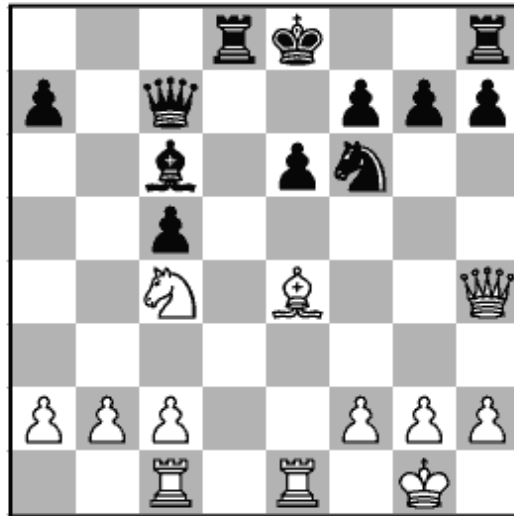
136) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



137) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



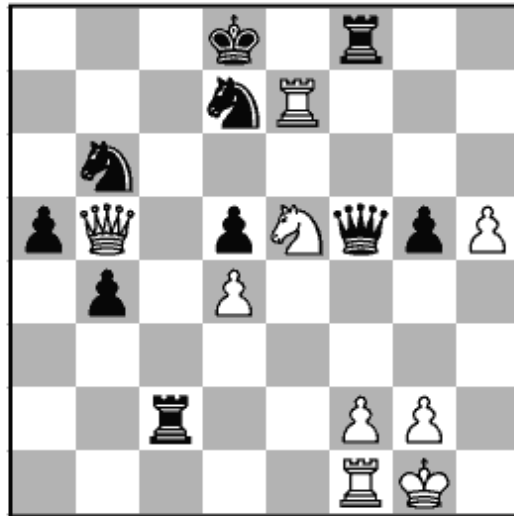
138) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



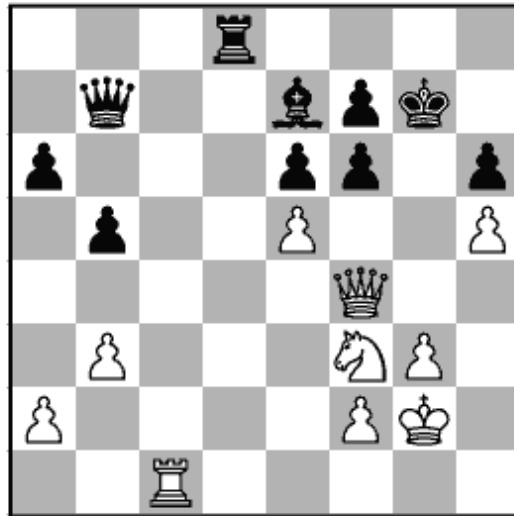
139) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



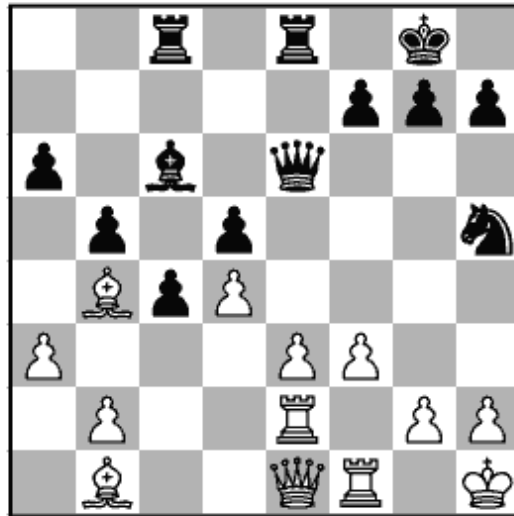
140) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



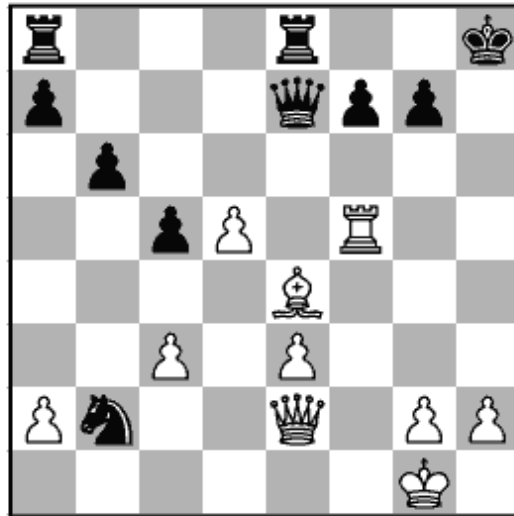
141) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



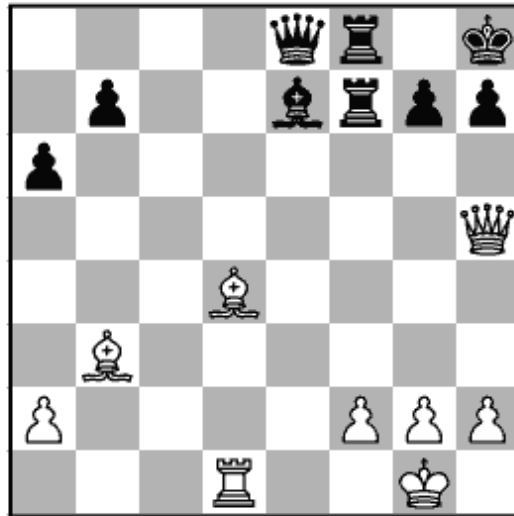
142) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



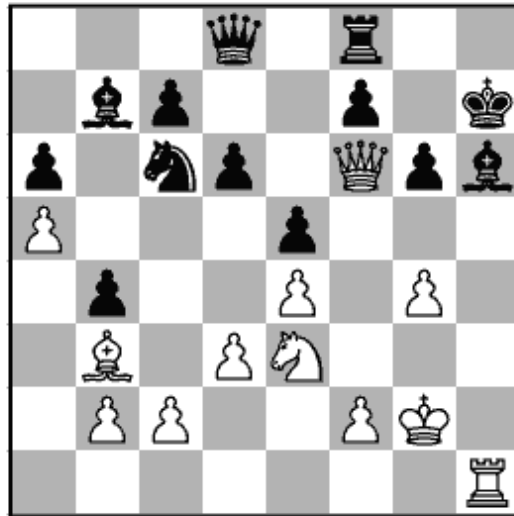
143) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



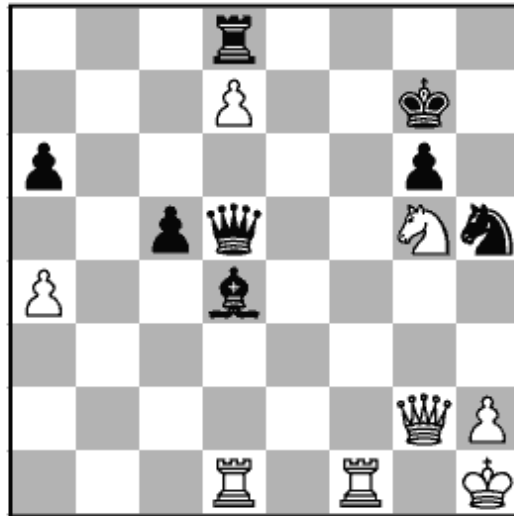
144) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



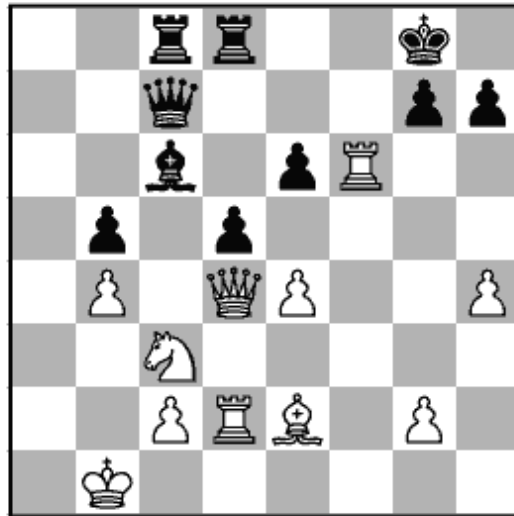
145) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



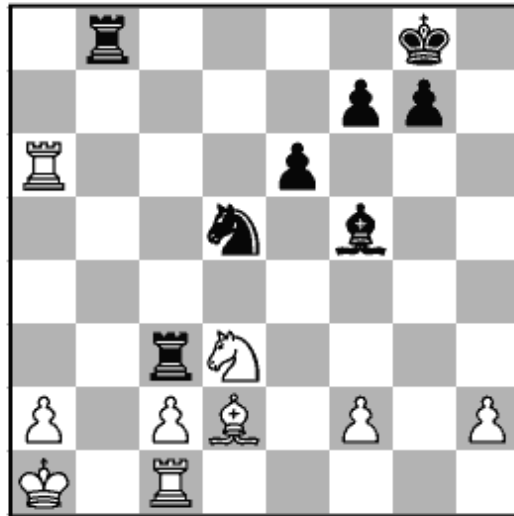
146) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



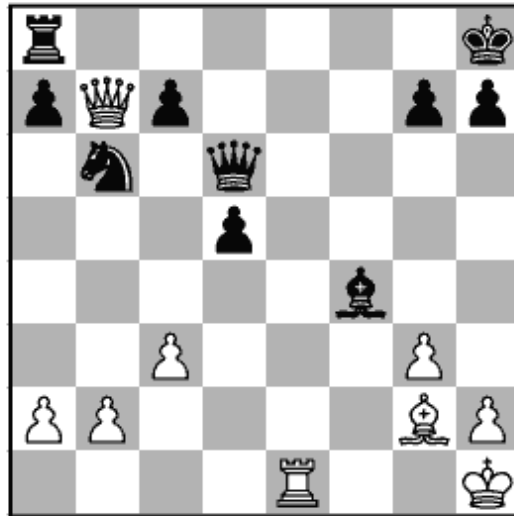
147) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



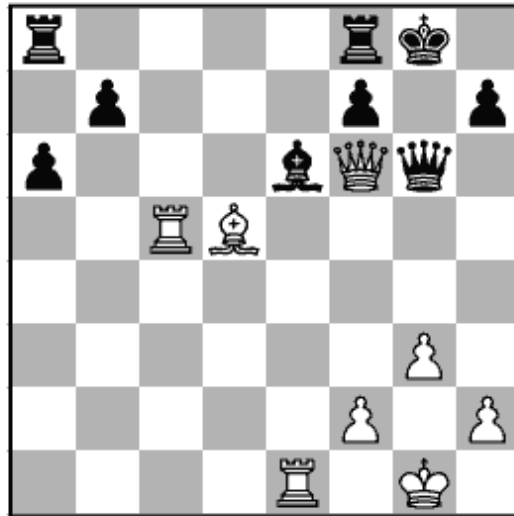
148) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



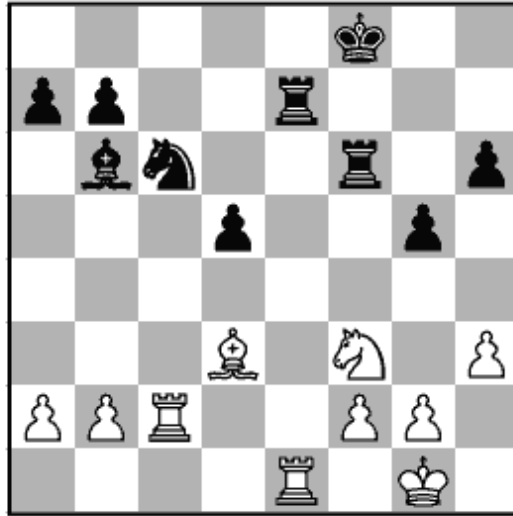
149) White to play (2 points)

solution



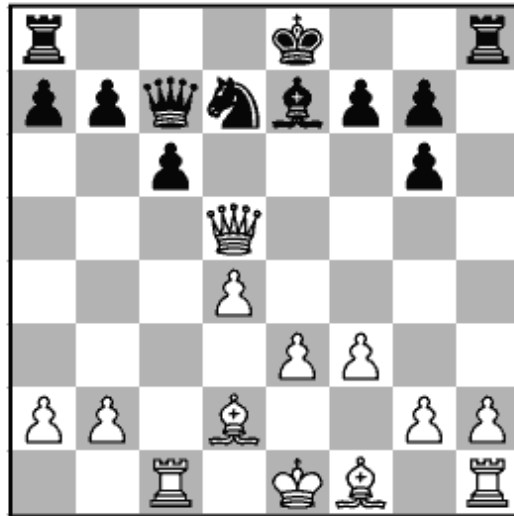
150) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



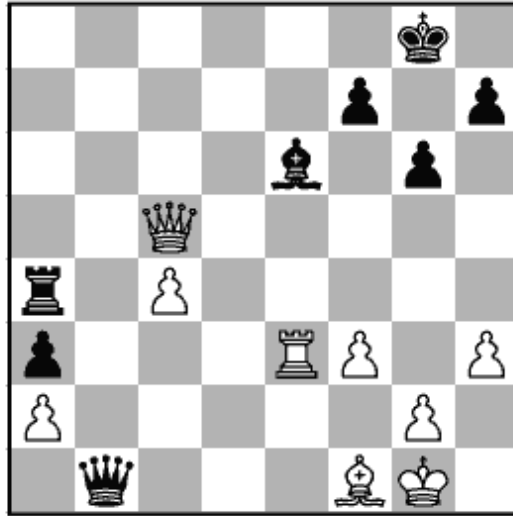
151) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



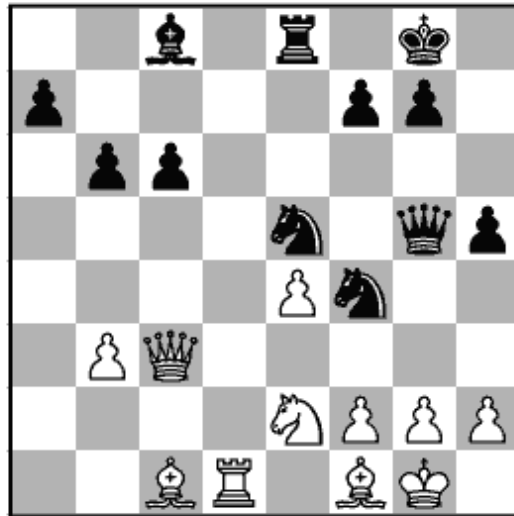
152) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



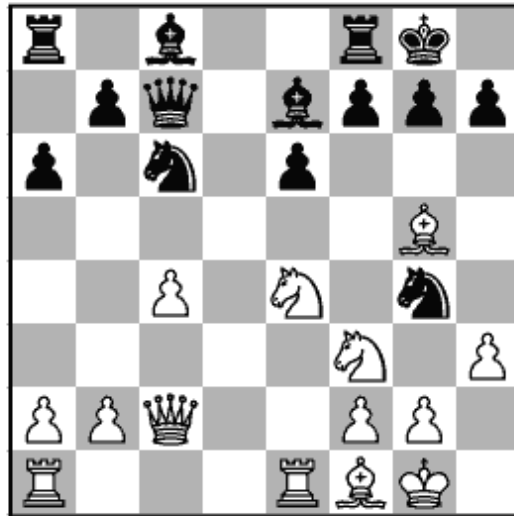
153) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



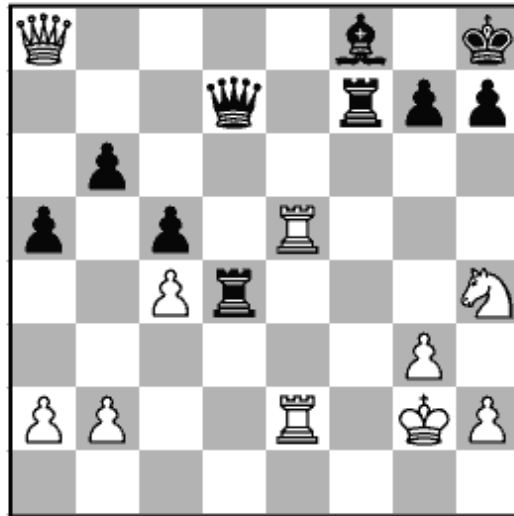
154) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



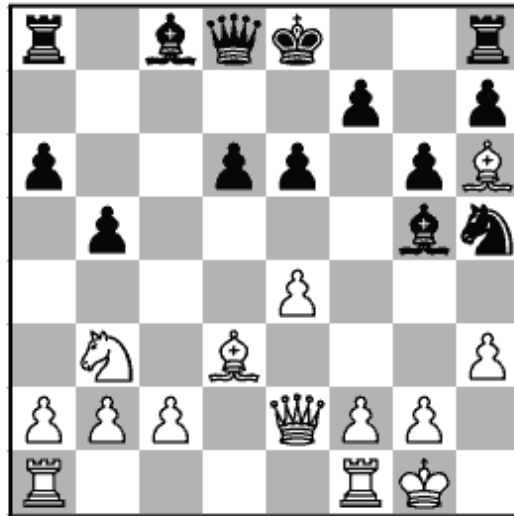
155) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



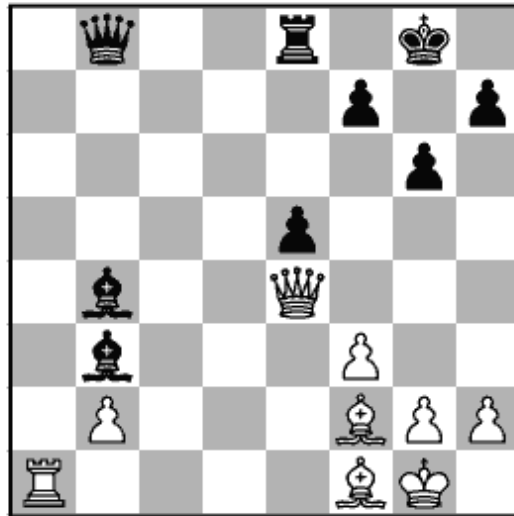
156) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



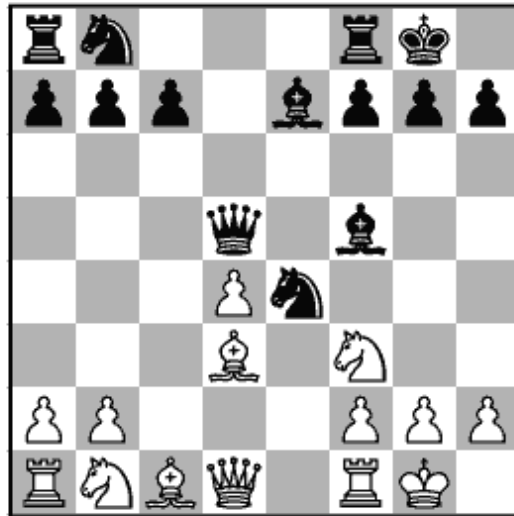
157) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



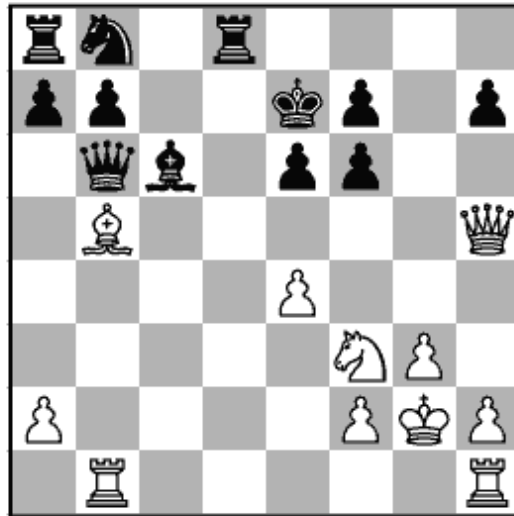
158) White to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



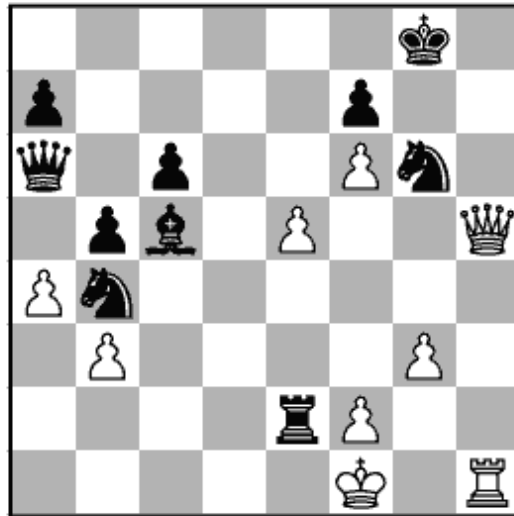
159) White to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



160) Black to play (4 points)

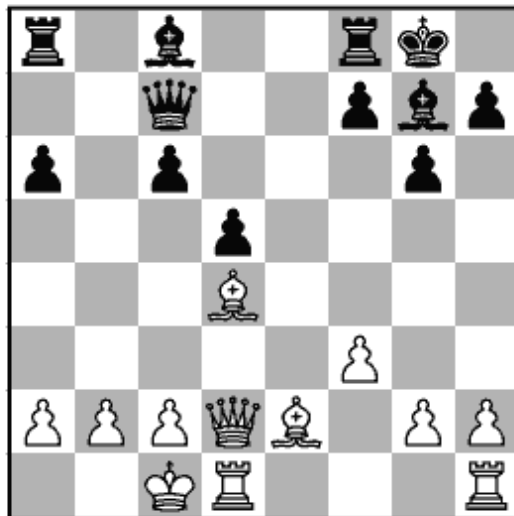
[solution](#)



161) White to play (4 points)

[solution](#)

Solutions for Elementary Test



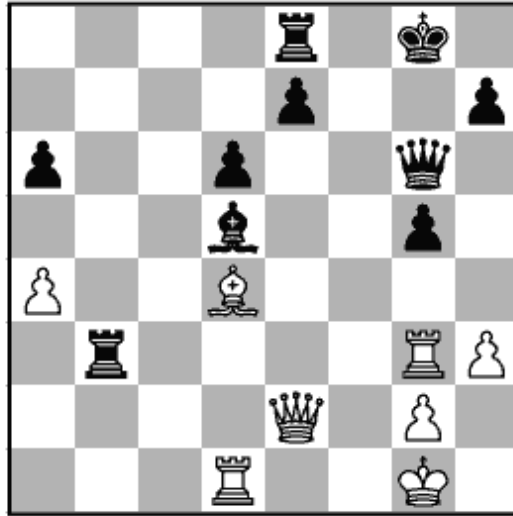
White to play

114) Haubro – Vinter Schou
Danish Team Ch 2022/3

16 Bxg7 Kxg7 17 Qc3+ Kg8 18 Rxd5 +–

White has a clear extra pawn.

[back](#)



White to play

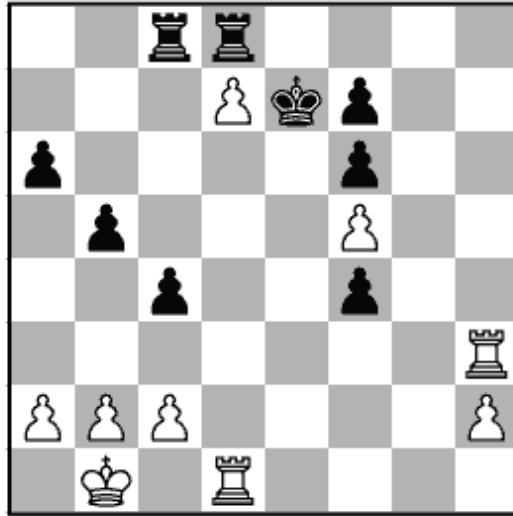
115) Samsonkin – Rodrigue-Lemieux
Waterloo 2022

30 Be3!

A double attack on the bishop and the g5-pawn.

30...Qe4 31 Rxd5 1-0

[back](#)



White to play

116) Kobalia – Yilmaz

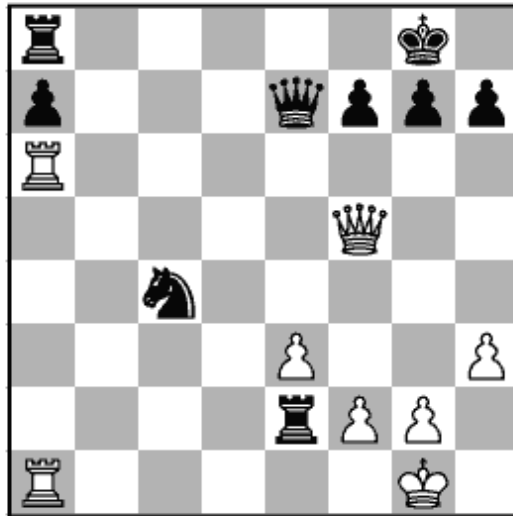
Internet rapid 2022

35 dxc8N+!

The game ended tragically for White after 35 dxc8Q?? Rxd1# (0-1). It is possible that this was not a standard oversight, but because the 'auto-queen' feature was enabled by White for this online game. Whatever the cause, it turned a win into an instant loss.

35...Rxc8 36 Rf3 +-

[back](#)



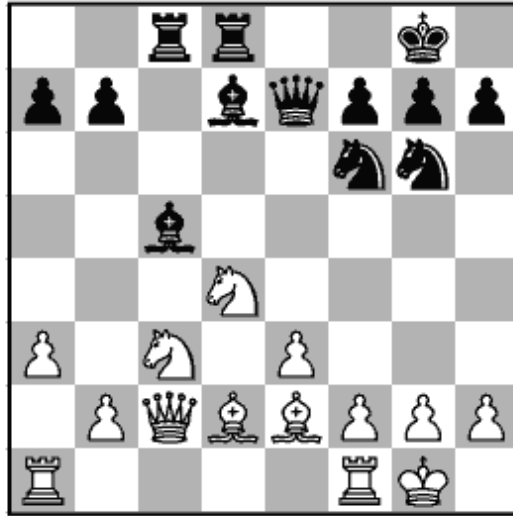
White to play

117) Gholami Orimi – Pashikian
Tsaghkadzor 2022

25 Qf3! 1-0

Black loses one of his rooks.

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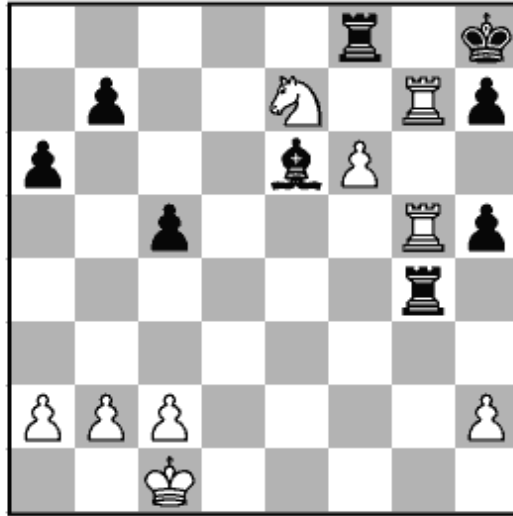


Black to play

118) Humpy Koneru – A. Muzychuk
Women's Candidates, Monaco 2022

16...Bxd4! 17 exd4 Qxe2! 0-1

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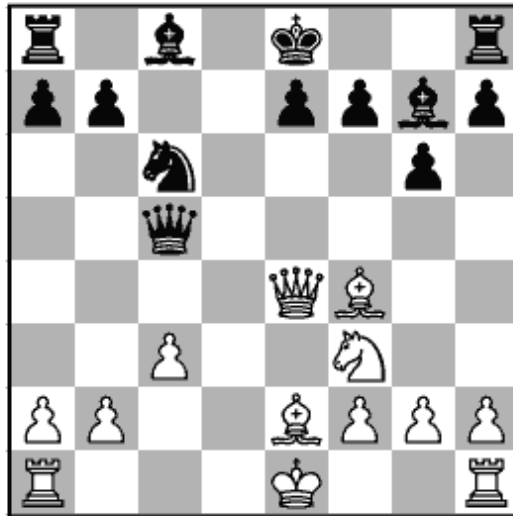
White to play

119) Dardha – Sebag
Cap d'Agde rapid 2022

31 Rxh7+! 1-0

31...Kxh7 32 Rxh5#.

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Black to play

120) Niemann – Vokhidov
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

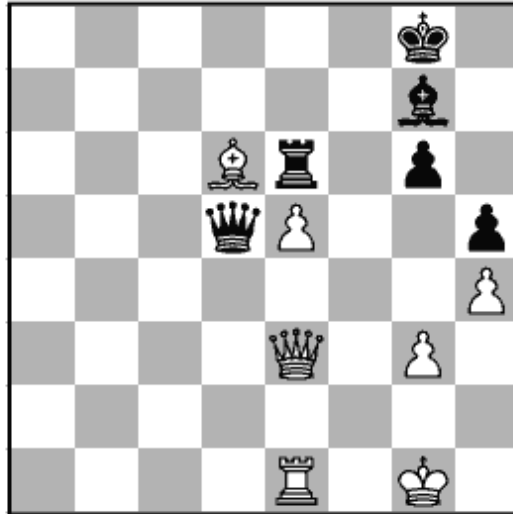
11...Bxc3+! 12 Nd2

12 bxc3 Qxc3+ 13 Bd2 Qxa1+ 14 Bd1 Bf5 –+.

12...Bf5 0-1

White will lose more material.

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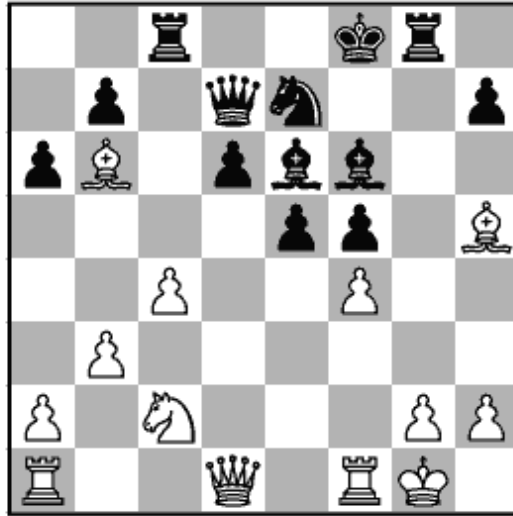
Black to play

121) Krejčí – J. Pajeken
Marianske Lazne 2023

33...Rxd6! 0-1

Black wins the white queen after 34 exd6 Bd4 –+.

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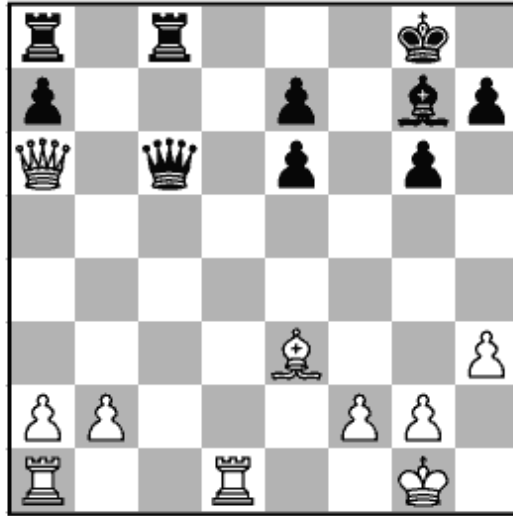
Black to play

122) Arjun – Swiercz
Internet rapid 2023

19...Qc6! 0-1

White must give up the bishop on b6 to prevent mate on g2.

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White to play

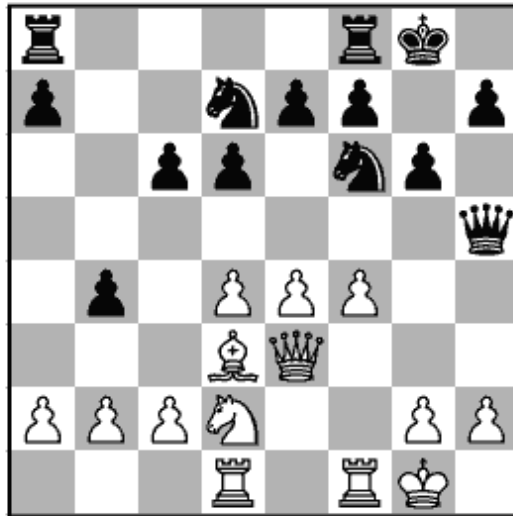
123) Robson – Raja Harshit

Internet rapid 2023

23 Rd8+! 1-0

23...Kf7 24 Qxc6 Rxc6 25 Rxa8 +-.

[back](#)



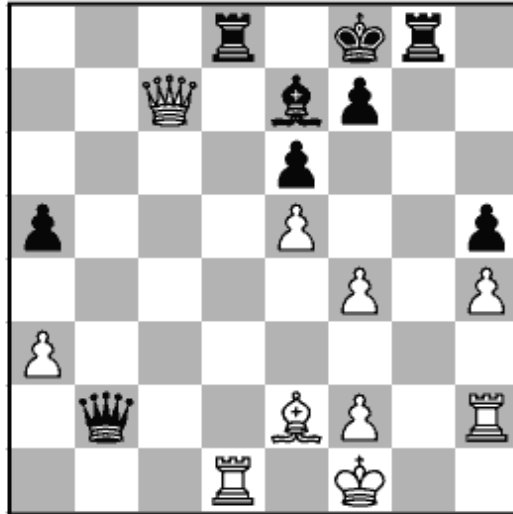
Black to play

124) Ljika – Ef. Muratović
Bošnjaci 2023

15...Qxh2+! 0-1

White loses the exchange and a pawn after 16 Kxh2 Ng4+ 17 Kh3
 Nxe3 –+.

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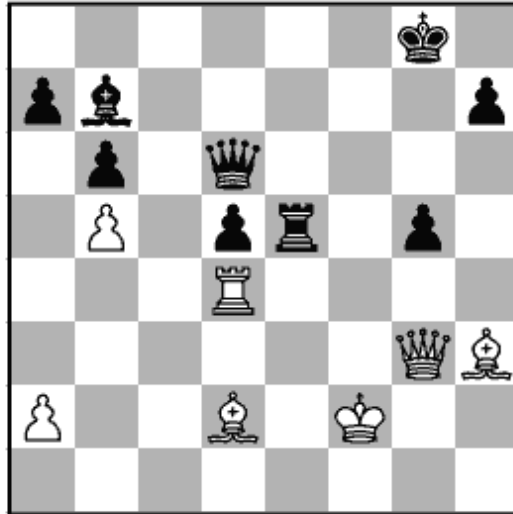
Black to play

125) Sevian – Nihal

Internet rapid 2022

30...Rxd1+ 31 Bxd1 Qb5+ 32 Ke1 Rg1+ 33 Kd2 Qd5+ 0-1

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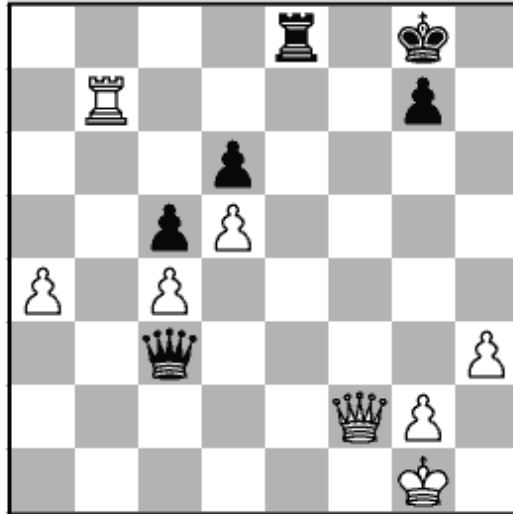
Black to play

126) Alonso Rosell – Aroshidze
Catalonian Ch, Lloret de Mar 2022

37...Re2+! 38 Kf3 Qa3+! 0-1

White loses his queen.

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Black to play

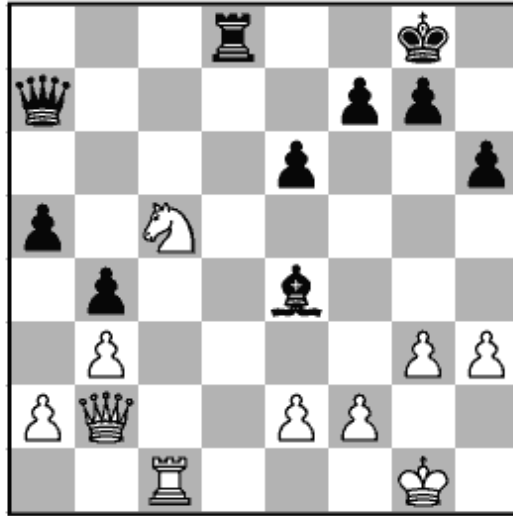
127) T. Anton – Grecescu
Romanian Rapid Team Ch 2022

33...Re1+ 34 Kh2 Qe5+ 35 Qg3

35 g3 Re2 –+.

35...Rh1+ 36 Kxh1 Qxg3 37 Rd7 Qa3 0-1

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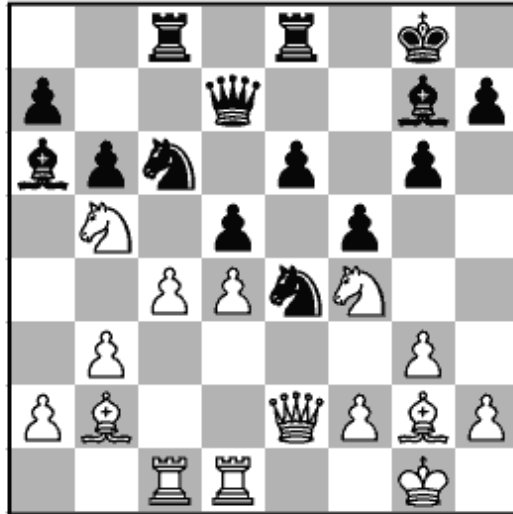
Black to play

128) Gunnarsson – Santos Latasa
European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

28...Qxc5! 0-1

29 Rxc5 Rd1+ 30 Kh2 Rh1#.

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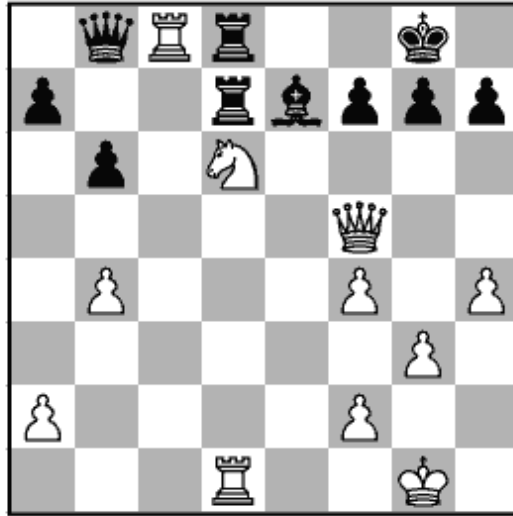
Black to play

129) Khuzman – Lagarde

European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

19...Bxb5 20 cxb5 Nxd4! 21 Bxd4 Rxc1 22 Rxc1 Bxd4 –+

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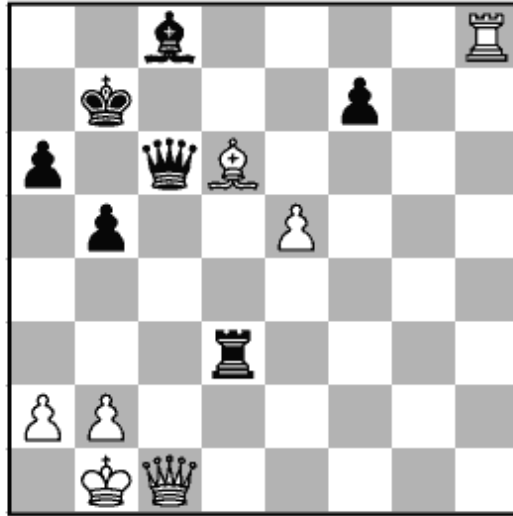
Black to play

130) B. Jacobson – A. Liang
USA Junior Ch, Saint Louis 2022

30...Rxd6! 0-1

31 Rxb8 Rxd1+ 32 Kg2 Rxb8 –+.

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Black to play

131) P. Keller – Stachowiak
Pardubice 2022

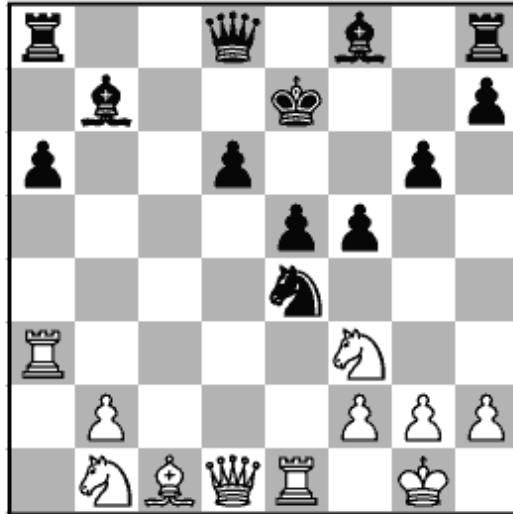
34...Rxd6! 35 Rxc8

35 exd6 Bf5+ both wins the white queen and mates.

35...Qxc8 0-1

The pawn ending after 36 Qxc8+ Kxc8 37 exd6 Kd7 →+ is a simple win.

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White to play

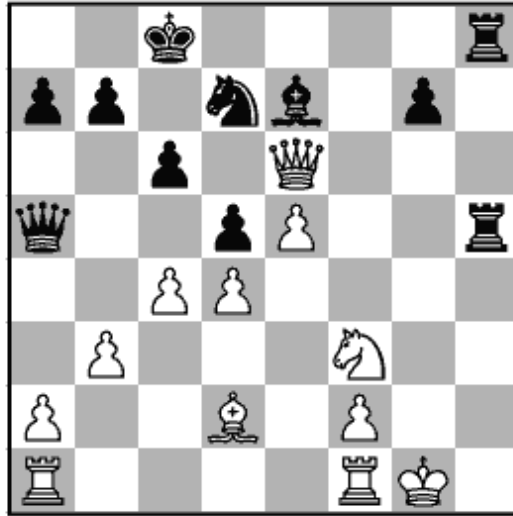
132) Erdos – Korobov
Chennai Olympiad 2022

18 Rxe4! Qc7

18...fxe4 19 Bg5+ +—.

19 Rc3 1-0

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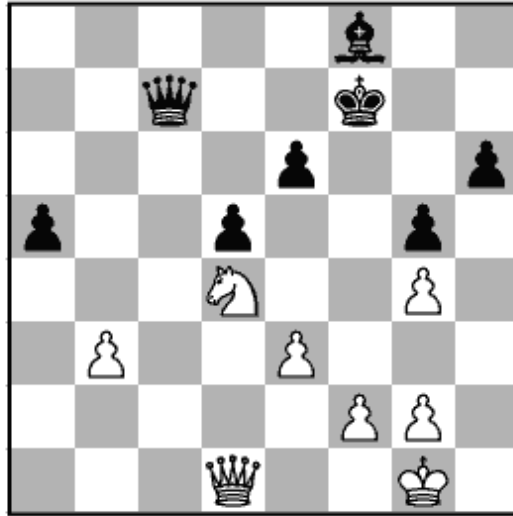
Black to play

133) Edouard – Garcia Ramos
Barcelona 2022

20...Qxd2! 0-1

21 Qxe7 (21 Nxd2 Rg5+ 22 Qg4 Rxg4#) 21...Qf4 followed by mate.

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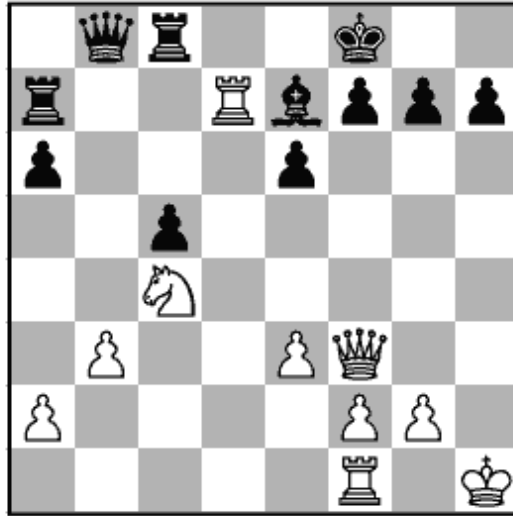
White to play

134) Lamard – Laurent-Paoli
Aix-en-Provence 2022

39 Qf3+ 1-0

39...Ke7 40 Qxf8+! Kxf8 41 Nxe6+ Ke7 42 Nxc7 +—.

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White to play

135) Humpy Koneru – A. Muzychuk
Women's Candidates, Monaco 2022

23 Nd6! Qxd6 24 Rxa7 1-0

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

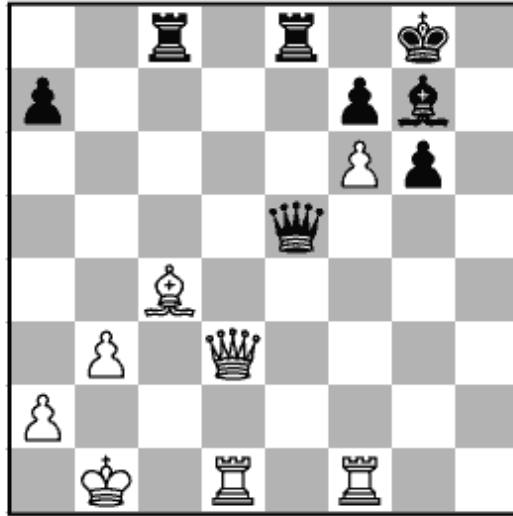
136) Antipov – D. Boros

Los Angeles 2022

12 Bxf6! gxf6 13 Nc4 1-0

White wins a piece.

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Black to play

137) Padmini – Yakubbaeva
Delhi (women) 2022

31...Rxc4!

The game ended 31...Bxf6?? 32 Qxg6+ 1-0.

32 Qxc4

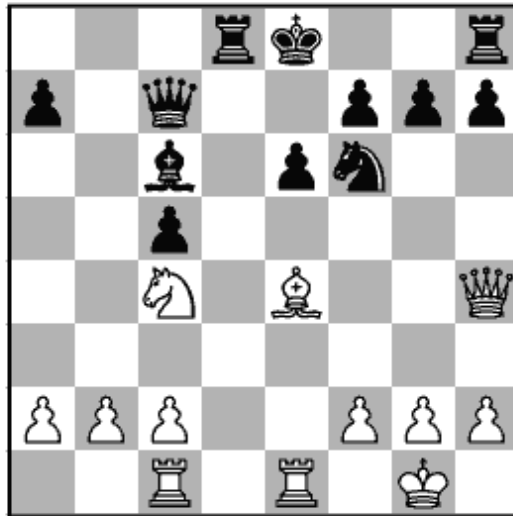
32 fxg7 Rf4 –+.

32...Bxf6 33 Rxf6

33 Kc2 Qb2+ 34 Kd3 Qe2#.

33...Qxf6 –+

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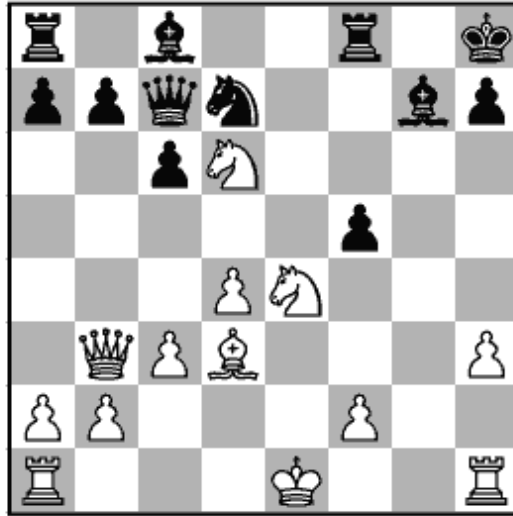
White to play

138) Y. Sokolovsky – Dann
Stockholm 2022/3

19 Qg3! 1-0

19...Rc8 (19...Qxg3 20 Bxc6+ Ke7 21 hxg3 +–) 20 Qxg7 Nxe4 21 Qxh8+ Ke7 22 Qe5 +–.

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White to play

139) Efroimski – Khotenashvili

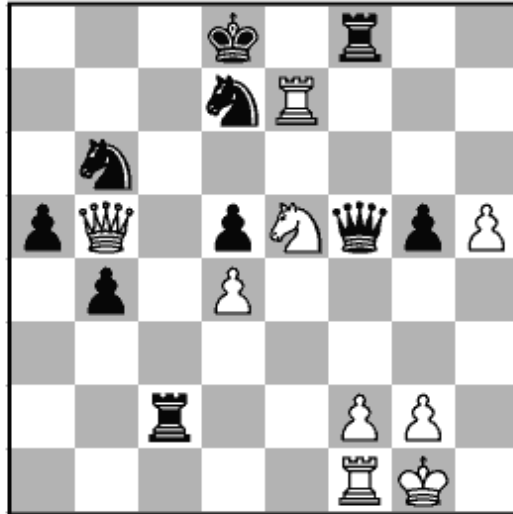
Xi'an (women) rapid 2023

17 Nf7+ Rxf7

White has a smothered mate after 17...Kg8 18 Nh6++ Kh8 19 Qg8+! Rxf7 20 Nf7#.

18 Qxf7 fxe4 19 Rg1 Ne5 20 Qe8+ 1-0

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White to play

140) K. Malinovsky – Smolen
Slovakian Team Ch 2023

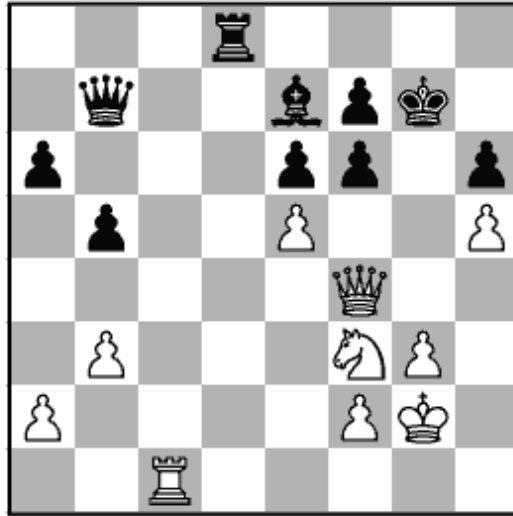
40 g4!

Black's queen is overloaded.

40...Nxe5 41 gxf5 Nf3+ 42 Kg2 Kxe7 43 Kxf3 +-

White has a decisive material advantage.

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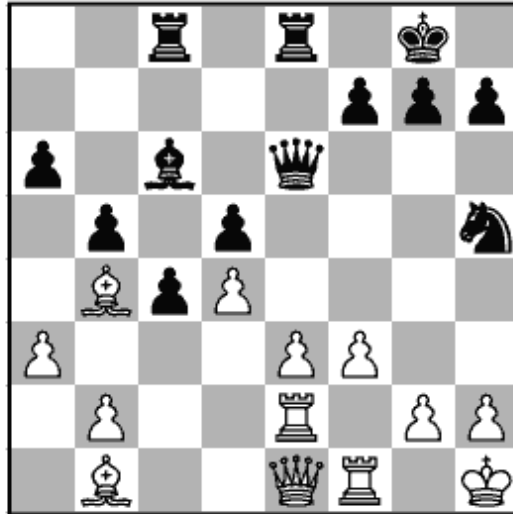
White to play

141) Yakubboev – Blübaum
Internet rapid 2023

29 Rc7! 1-0

White wins material after 29...Qxc7 30 exf6+ Bxf6 31 Qxc7 +—.

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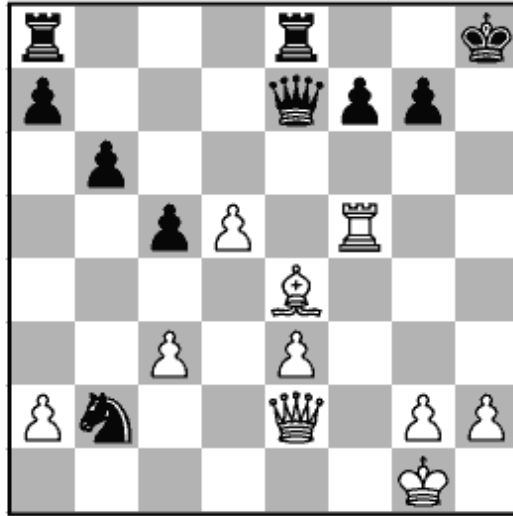
White to play

142) Demidov – Campos Moreno
Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

23 g4! 1-0

Black loses a piece after 23...Nf4 (23...Nf6 24 Bf5 +– traps the black queen) 24 Bf5 Qf6 25 exf4 +–.

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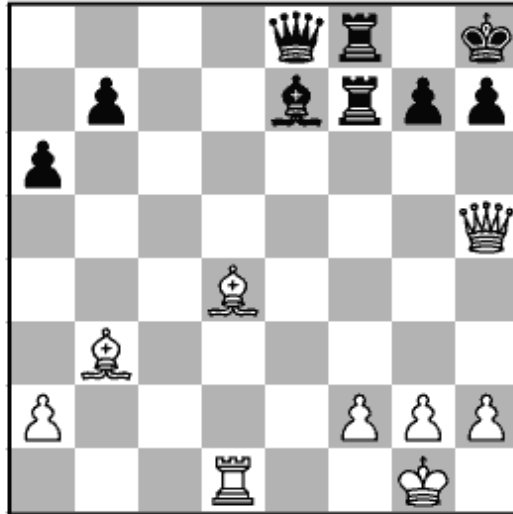
White to play

143) Wan Yunguo – Liu Yan
Chinese Team Ch, Nanjing 2023

25 Rh5+ 1-0

25...Kg8 26 Rh8+! Kxh8 27 Qh5+ Kg8 28 Qh7+ Kf8 29 Qh8#.

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White to play

144) Boruchovsky – Soffer
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

26 Bc2!

The diagonal switch is fatal as Black cannot defend h7.

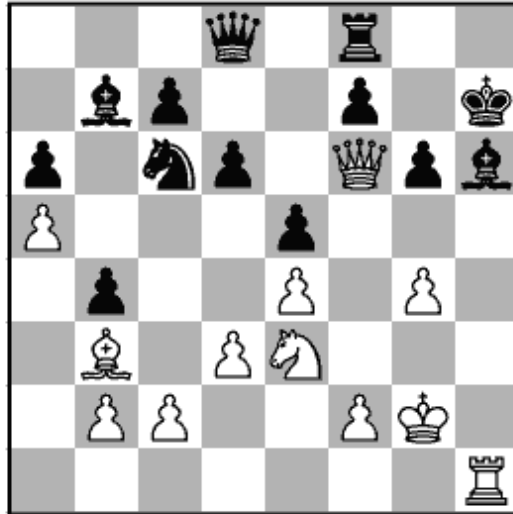
26...Rf5

26...h6 27 Qxh6+ Kg8 28 Qh7#.

27 Qxe8 Rxe8 28 Bxf5 1-0

White has won a piece.

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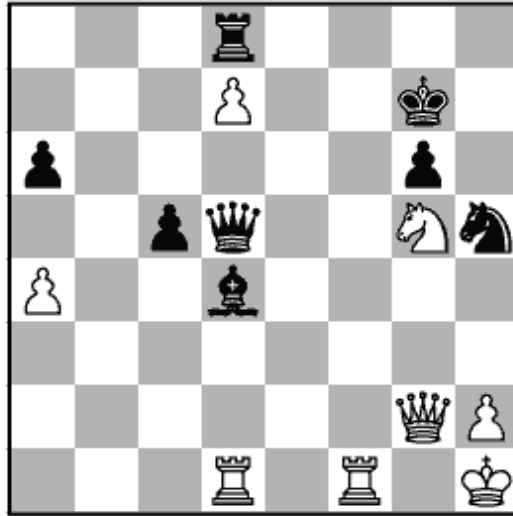
White to play

145) N. Steinberg – Sargissian
Internet rapid 2023

31 Rxh6+! Kxh6 32 Nf5+ 1-0

32...Kh7 33 Qg7#.

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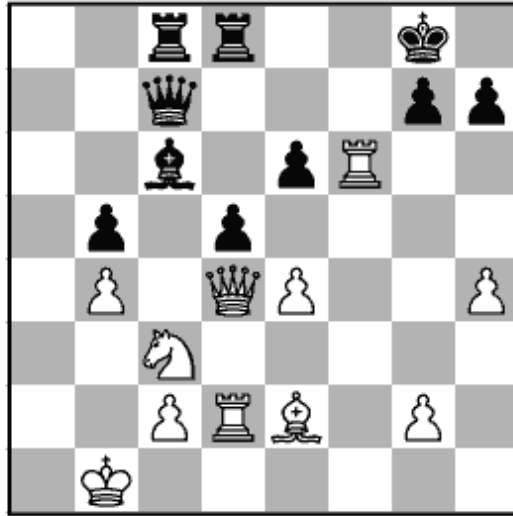
Black to play

146) Mikaelyan – Perez Ponsa
Internet rapid 2023

32...Ng3+! 0-1

33 hxg3 Rh8+ 34 Nh3 Rxh3#.

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Black to play

147) J. Wang – Burke

Los Angeles 2023

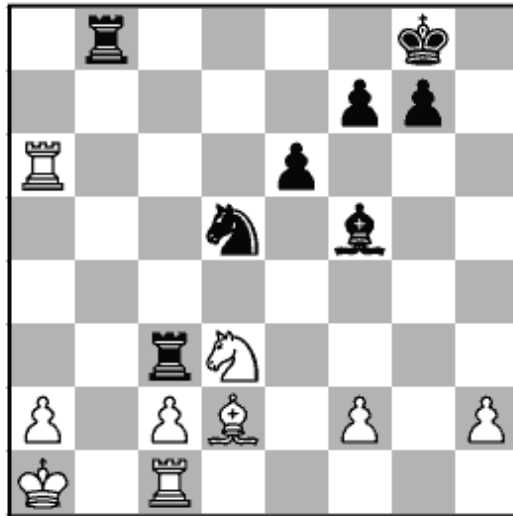
23...dxe4! 24 Qc5

After 24 Qxd8+ Rxd8 25 Rxd8+ Qxd8 26 Rxe6 Qd7 –+ (as played in the game) the queen is in charge.

24...Rxd2 25 Rf1 Qd6 –+

Black has a decisive material advantage.

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Black to play

148) Z. Jovanović – Warmerdam
Bundesliga 2022/3

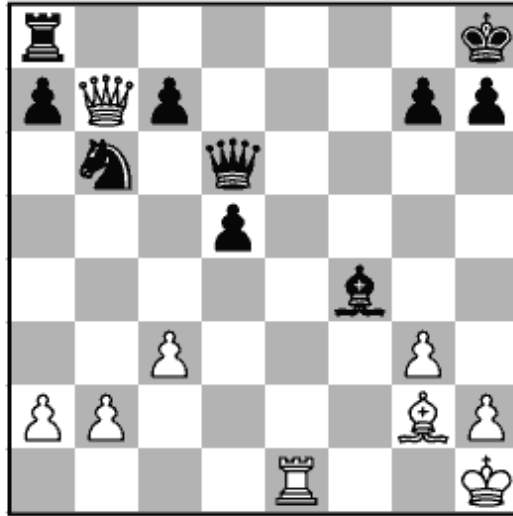
28...Bxd3! 29 cxd3

29 Bxc3 Bxa6 –+.

29...Rxc1+ 30 Bxc1 Nb4 0-1

White cannot defend against the dual threats of 31...Nc2# and 31...Nxa6.

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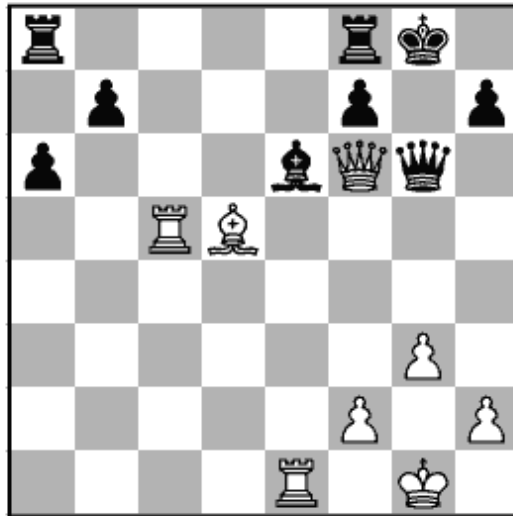
White to play

149) Koziorowicz – Bus
Krakow 2023

24 Qxa8+! Nxa8 25 Re8+ 1-0

25...Qf8 26 Rxf8#. You must always be alert for this back-rank mate tactic when your king has no luft.

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White to play

150) Vakhidov – D. Fridman
Tashkent 2022

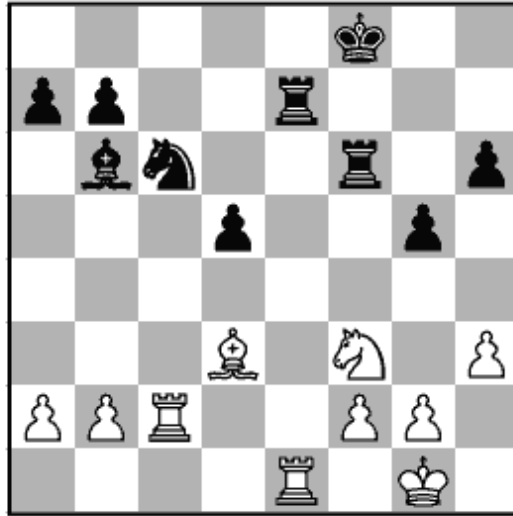
27 Rxe6! fxe6

27...Qxf6 28 Rxf6 +—.

28 Bxe6+ Rf7 29 Bxf7+ Qxf7 30 Rg5+ Kf8 31 Qh8+ 1-0

White wins the loose rook on a8 after 31...Ke7 32 Qxa8 +—.

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Black to play

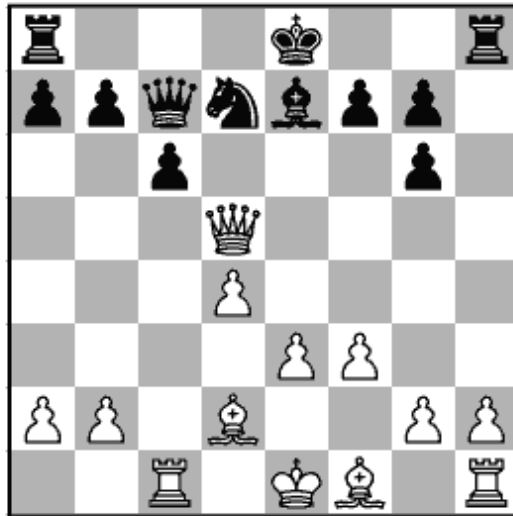
151) Robson – Caruana

Internet rapid 2022

23...Rxf3! 24 Rxe7 Rxf2! 0-1

Black wins a rook after 25 Rxb7 Rxc2+ 26 Rxb6 Rc1+ 27 Kf2 axb6
-+.

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Black to play

152) Laurušas – Kowalski
Lodz rapid (team event) 2022

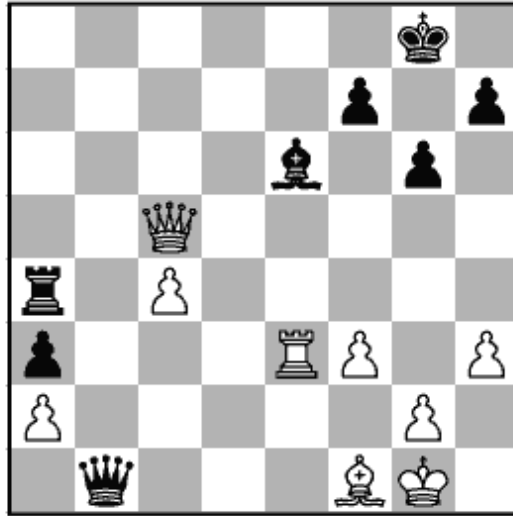
14...Rxh2! 15 Rxh2 Qg3+!

The point is to win the white queen. Not 15...Qxh2?? 16 Qb3 Qg3+ 17 Ke2 with a clear advantage for White.

16 Kd1 cxd5 –+

Black has a decisive material advantage.

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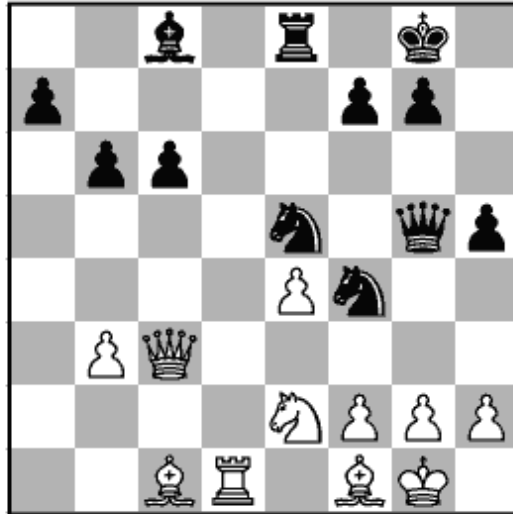
White to play

153) Aveskulov – Arenas Vanegas
Budapest 2022

35 Rxe6! 1-0

White has an extra piece after 35...fxe6 36 Qc8+ Kf7 37 Qd7+ Kf6
38 Qxa4 Qxa2 39 c5 +-.

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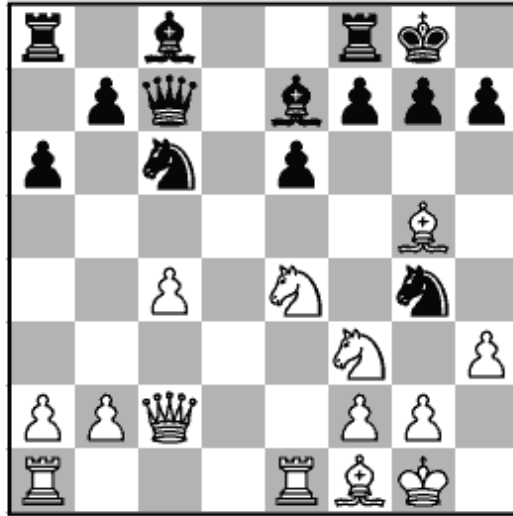
Black to play

154) Smirnov – Duda
Chennai Olympiad 2022

26...Qxg2+! 0-1

27 Bxg2 Nxe2+ 28 Kh1 Nxc3 –+ leaves Black a piece up.

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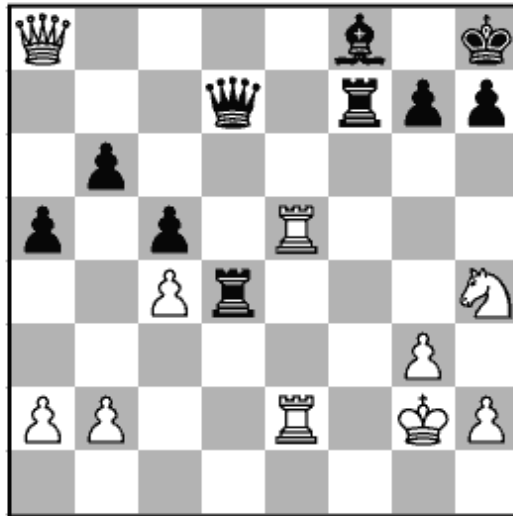
Black to play

155) Dobrovoljc – Diamant
Chennai Olympiad 2022

15...Nd4! 0-1

16 Qd1 (16 Nxd4 Qh2#) 16...Nxf3+ 17 Qxf3 Qh2#.

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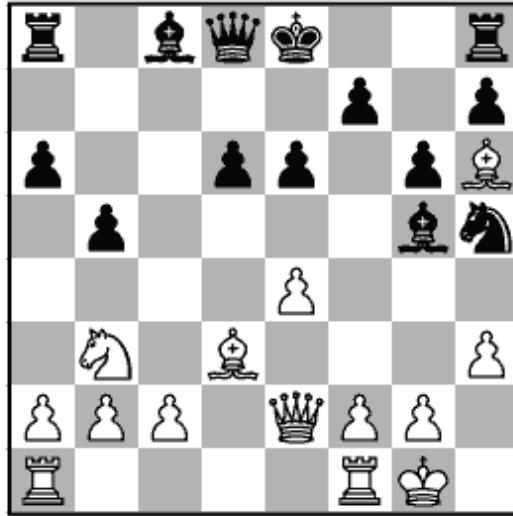
Black to play

156) Giri – Aronian
Internet rapid 2022

33...Rxh4! 0-1

Black wins a piece as 34 gxh4 is met by 34...Qg4+ 35 Kh1 Rf1#.

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White to play

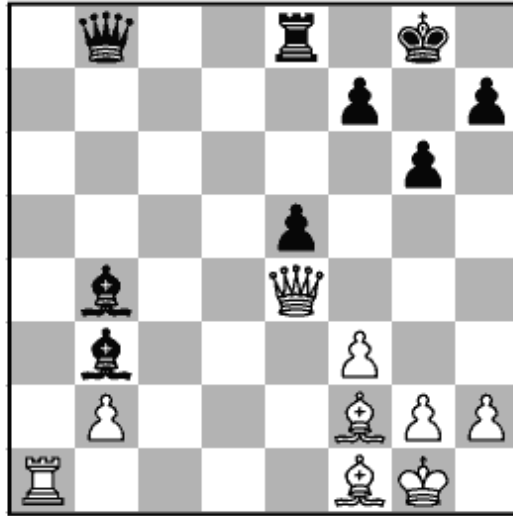
157) Al. Ostrovskiy – J. Williams

Long Island City 2022

16 Bxb5+! 1-0

Black loses material after 16...axb5 (16...Bd7 17 Bxd7+ Kxd7 18 Nc5+ Kc6 19 Bxg5 Qxg5 20 Nd3 +–) 17 Qxb5+ Bd7 18 Qxg5 +–.

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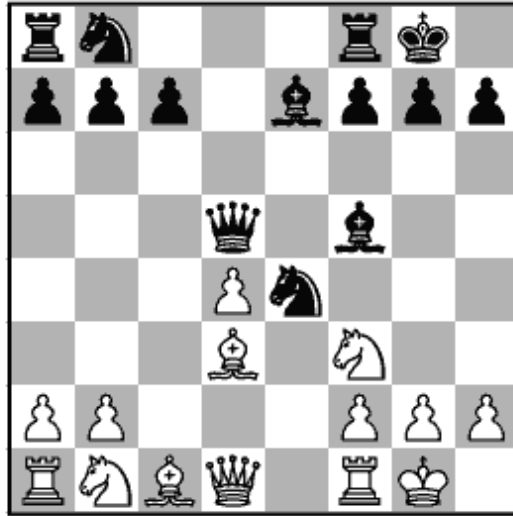
White to play

158) Nepomniashchy – Topalov
Zagreb rapid 2022

24 Ra6! 1-0

Black has no good defence against the threat of 25 Rb6; for example, 24...f5 25 Qe3 +–.

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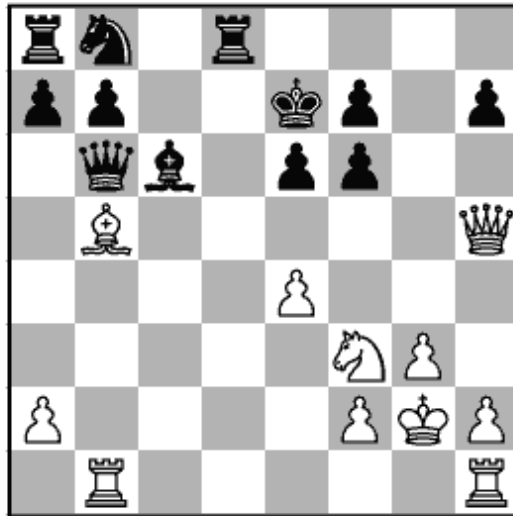
White to play

159) L. Dominguez – Moradiabadi
USA Ch, Saint Louis 2022

10 Bxe4! 1-0

Black loses a piece after 10...Bxe4 (10...Qxe4 11 Re1 Qd5 12 Rxe7 +—) 11 Nc3 Bxf3 12 Nxd5 Bxd1 13 Nxe7+ Kh8 14 Rxd1 +—.

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Black to play

160) Mamedyarov – Duda
Internet rapid 2022

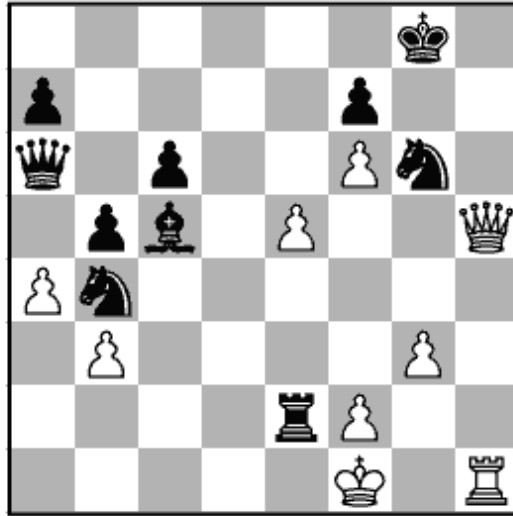
18...Bxe4! 19 Be8

19 Rb3 Rd2 20 Rf1 Qd4 21 Kg1 Qd5 –+.

19...Bg6! 0-1

White loses material after 20 Rxb6 Bxh5 –+.

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White to play

161) Dudin – Kantor

Webster Groves (team event) 2023

35 Qh7+ Kf8 36 Qh8+! 1-0

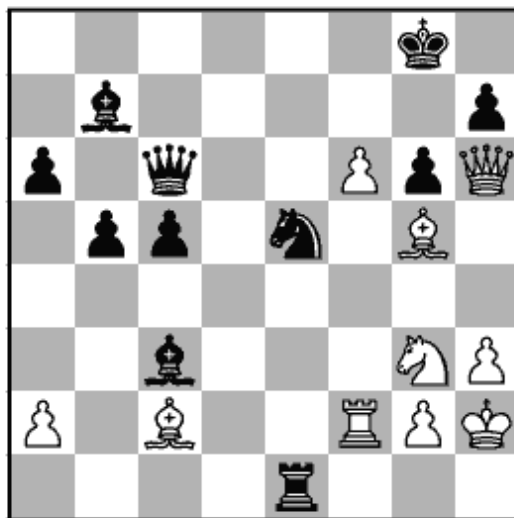
36...Nxb8 37 Rxb8#.

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2: Checkmate Puzzles

This chapter will explore various mating patterns and hopefully you will begin to recognize these opportunities in your own games.

We shall start with an example.

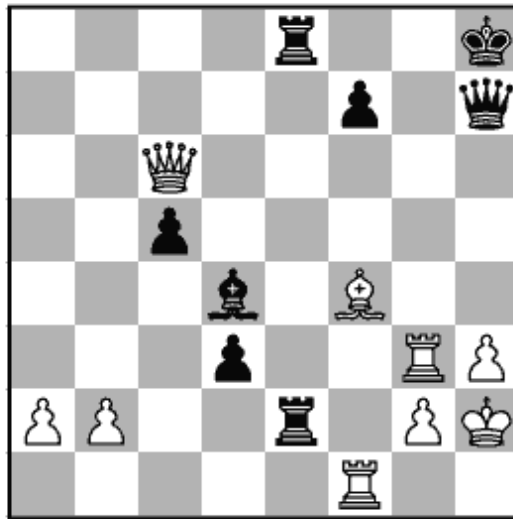


Black to play

Al. Ostrovskiy – Negi
Charlotte 2022

Black must deal with the immediate threat of 35 Qg7#, and can do so by making use of his pieces in the vicinity of White's king to strike first with 34...Qxg2+! 35 Rxg2 Nf3# (0-1). This is a semi-smothered mate, where White's own pieces and pawn prevent his king from escaping.

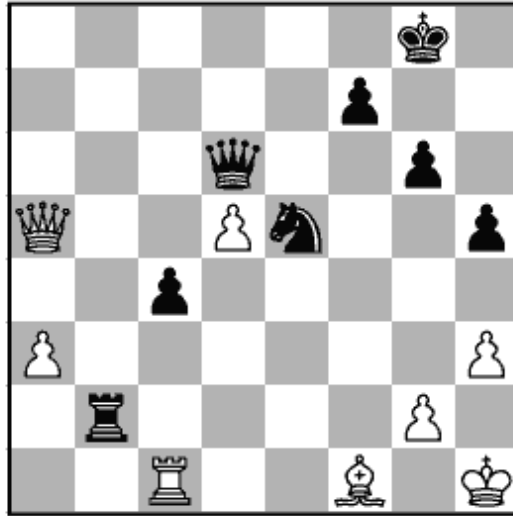
Now it is over to you!



162) White to play

White is a pawn up, but how can he force checkmate in three moves?

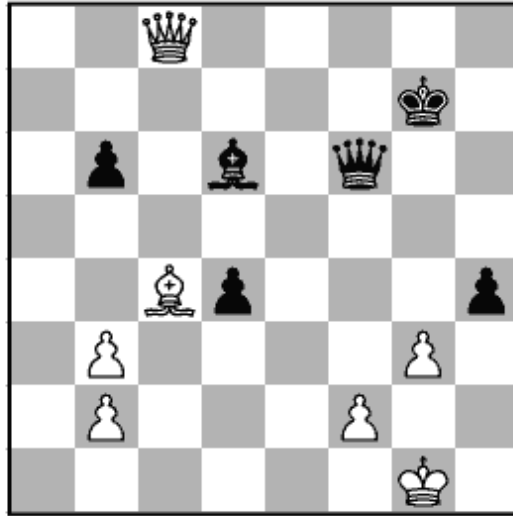
[solution](#)



163) Black to play

How can Black launch a mating attack?

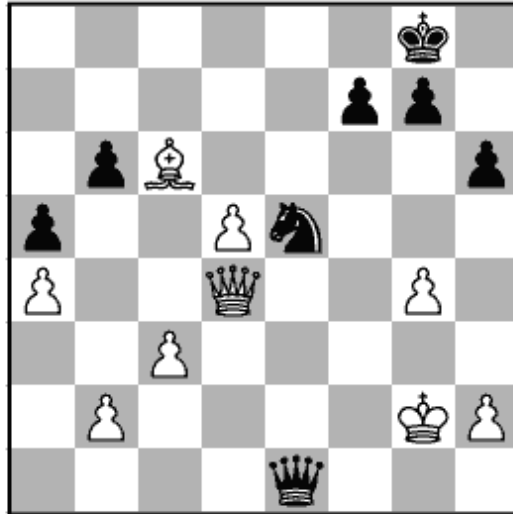
[solution](#)



164) White to play

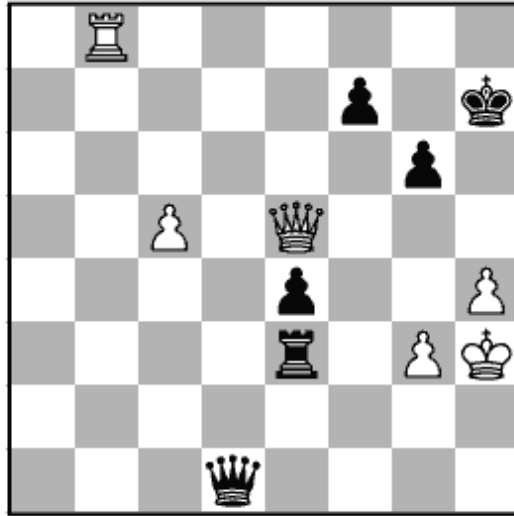
Opposite-coloured bishops usually favour the attacker; how can White finish off the black king?

[solution](#)



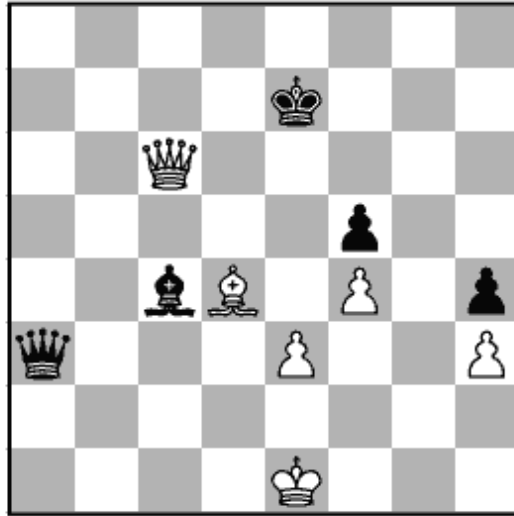
165) Black to play

[solution](#)



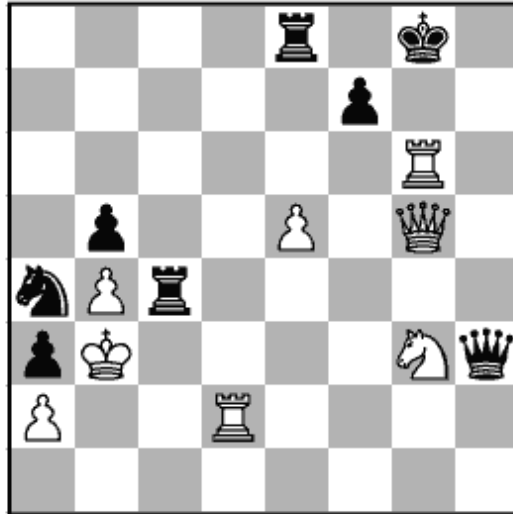
166) Black to play

[solution](#)



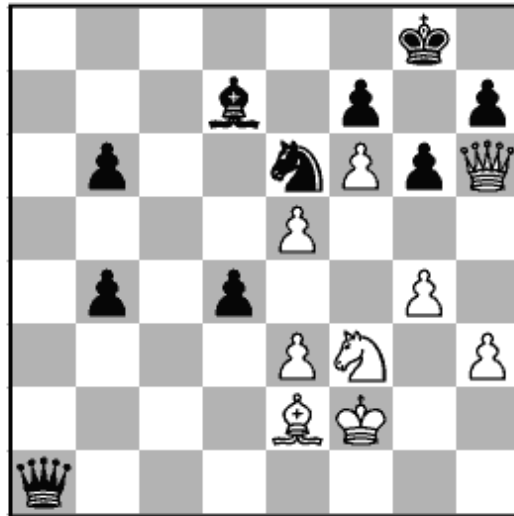
167) Black to play

[solution](#)



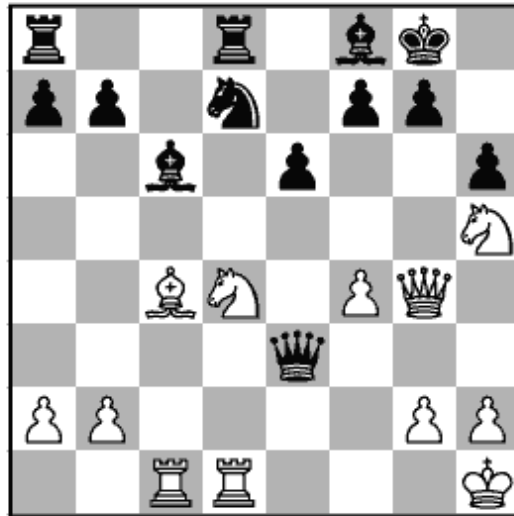
168) Black to play

[solution](#)



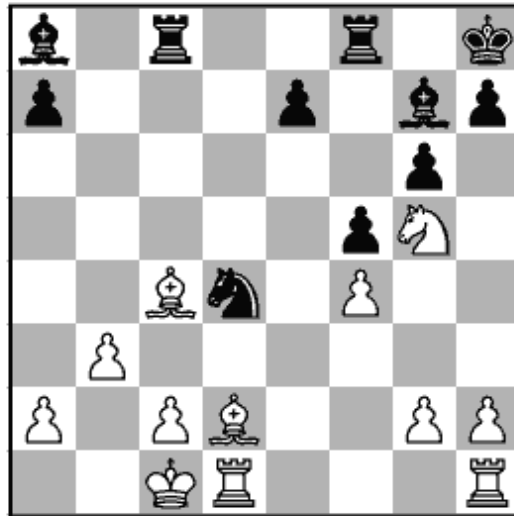
169) White to play

[solution](#)



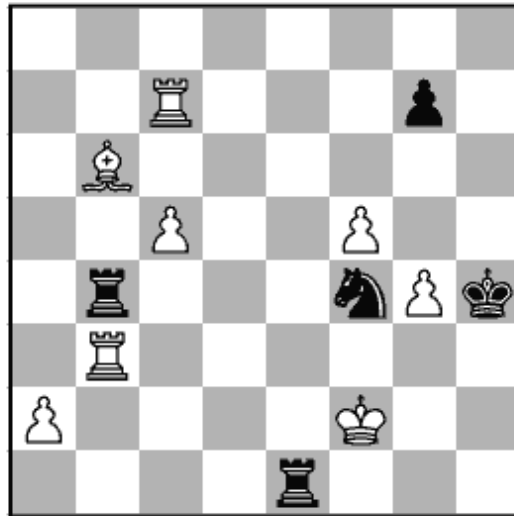
170) White to play

[solution](#)



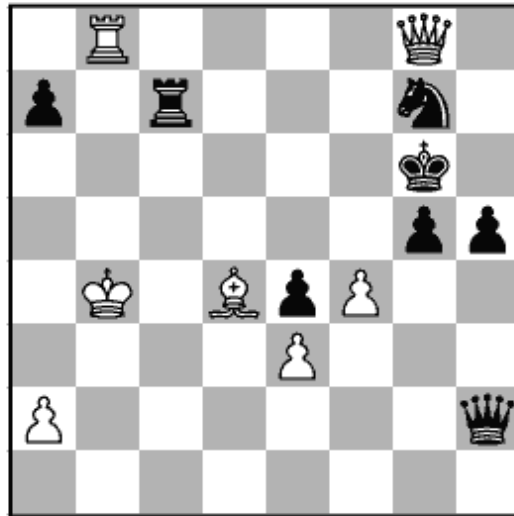
171) Black to play

[solution](#)



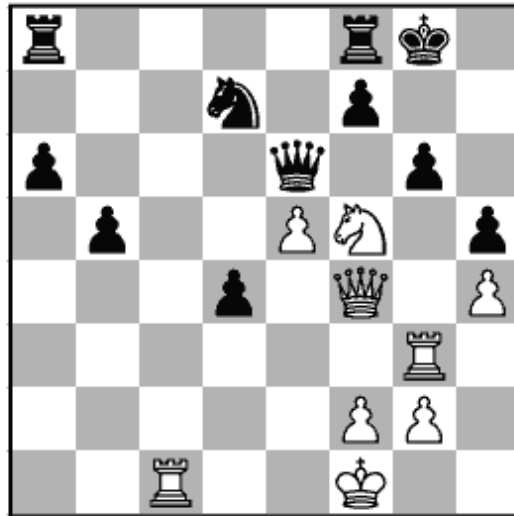
172) Black to play

[solution](#)



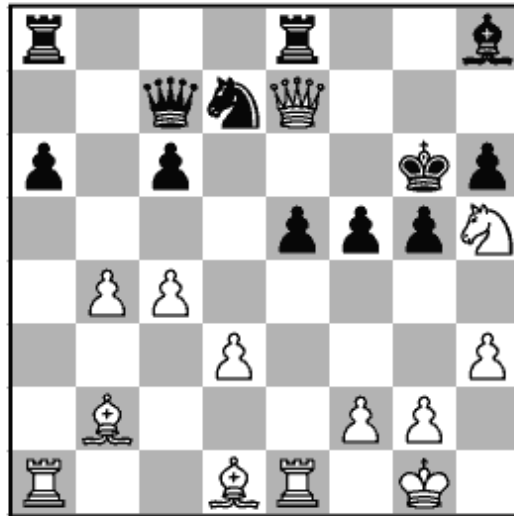
173) White to play

[solution](#)



174) White to play

[solution](#)



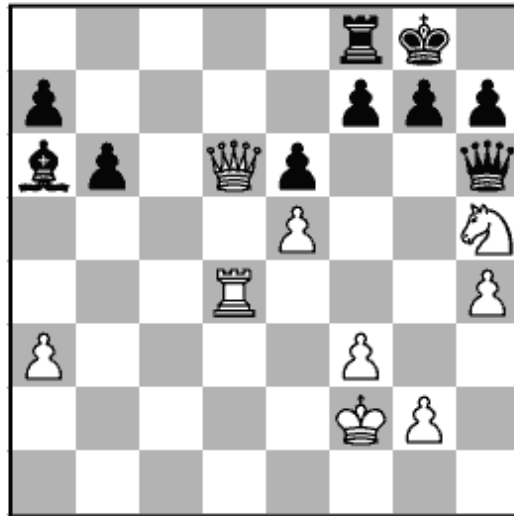
175) White to play

[solution](#)



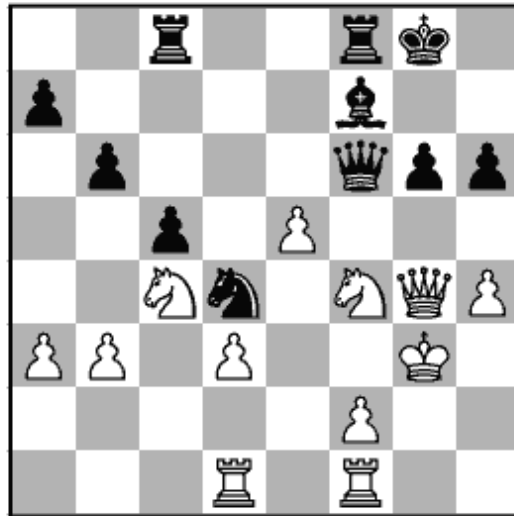
176) Black to play

[solution](#)



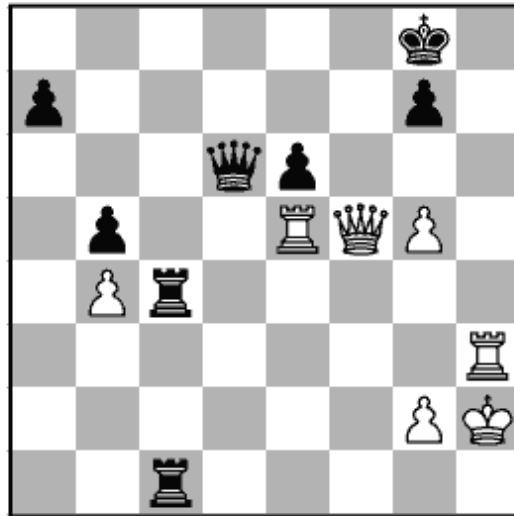
177) White to play

[solution](#)



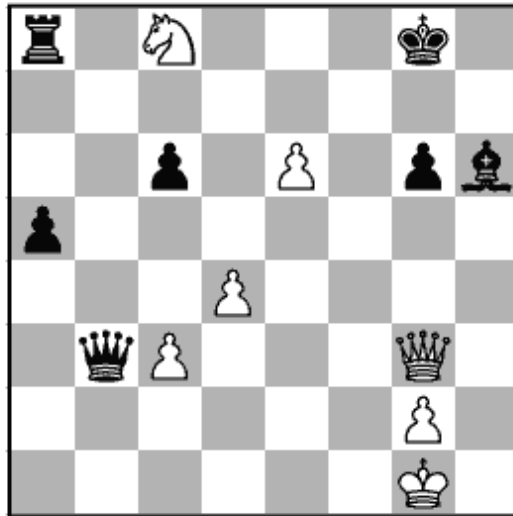
178) Black to play

[solution](#)



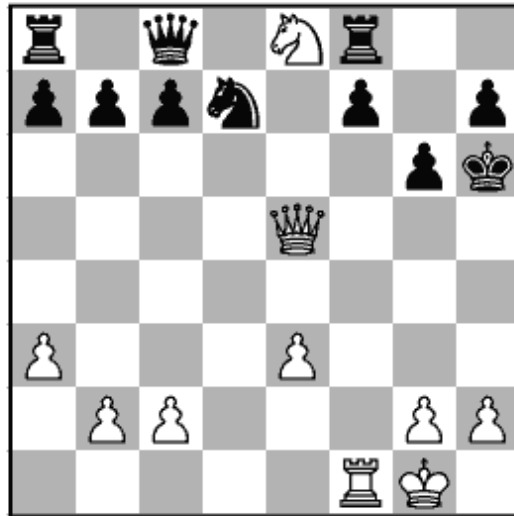
179) White to play

[solution](#)



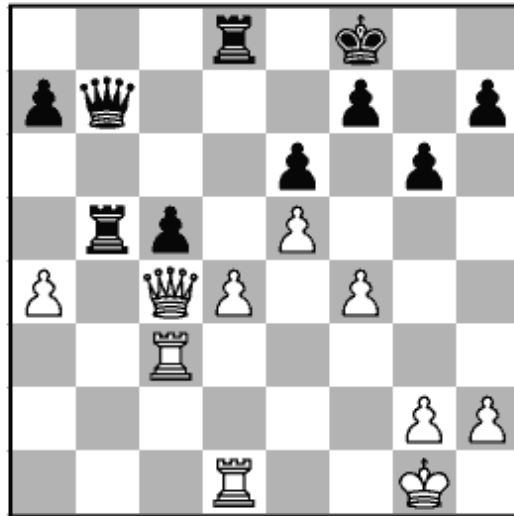
180) White to play

[solution](#)



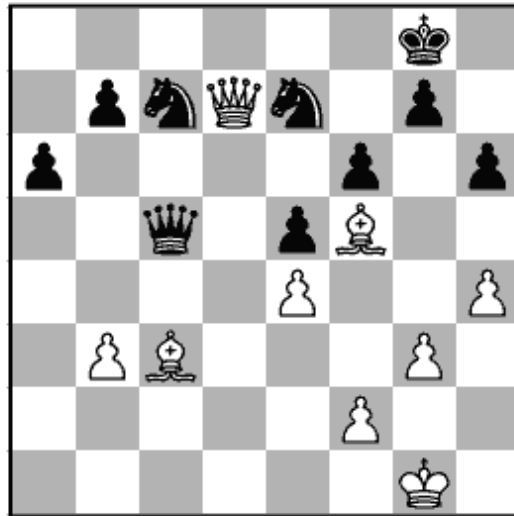
181) White to play

[solution](#)



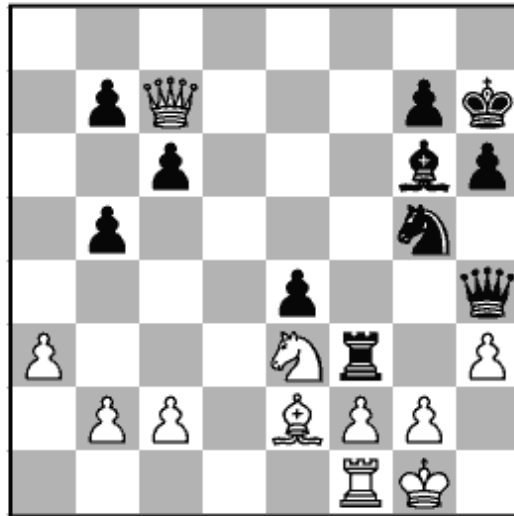
182) Black to play

[solution](#)



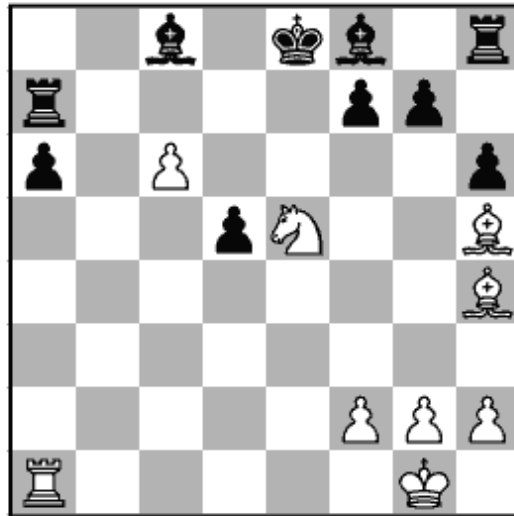
183) White to play

[solution](#)



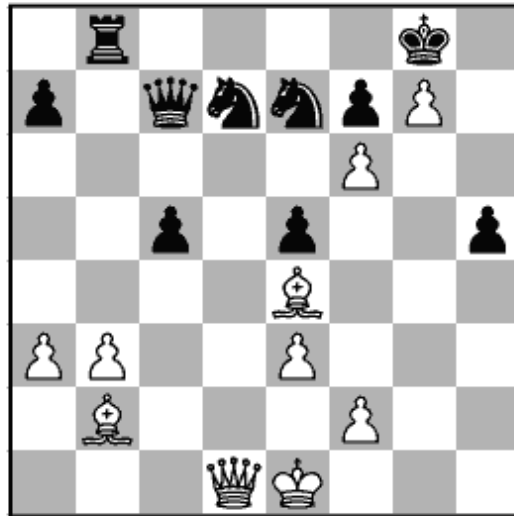
184) Black to play

[solution](#)



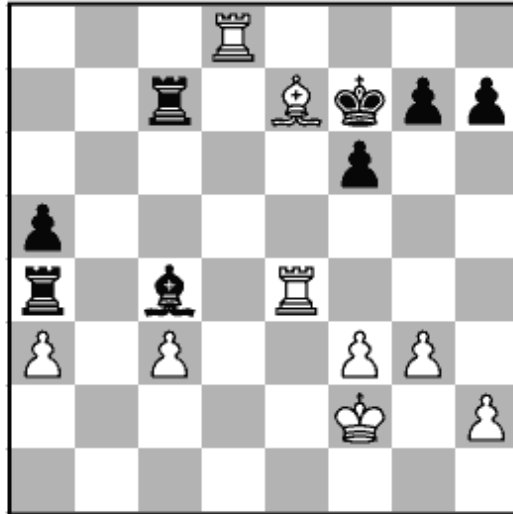
185) White to play

[solution](#)



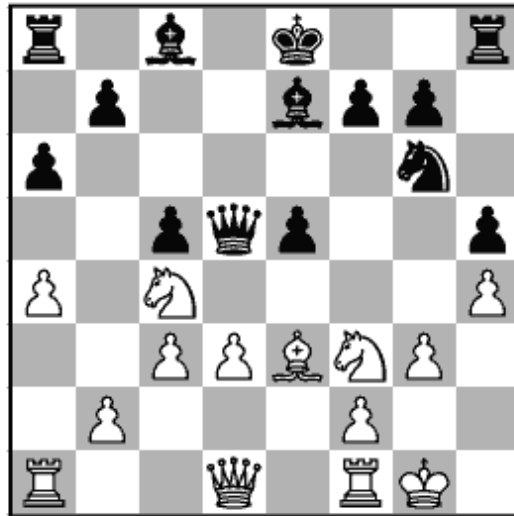
186) White to play

[solution](#)



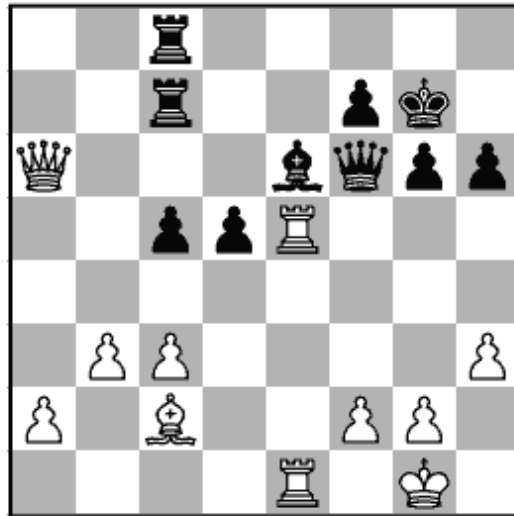
187) White to play

[solution](#)



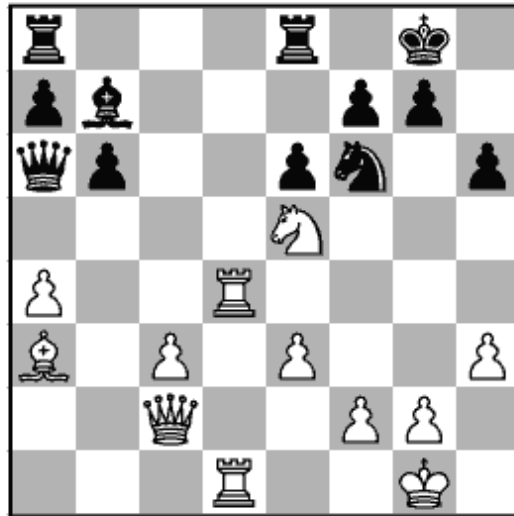
188) Black to play

[solution](#)



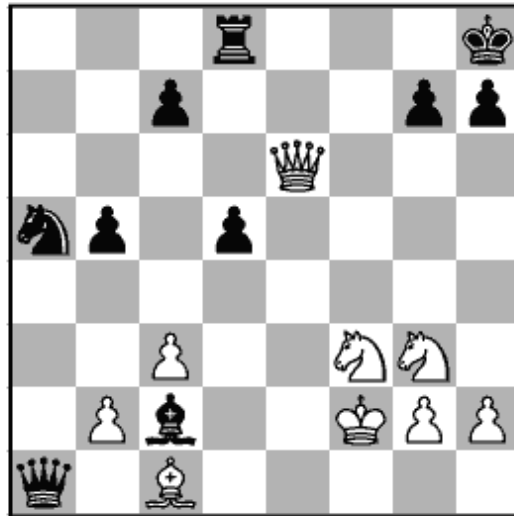
189) White to play

[solution](#)



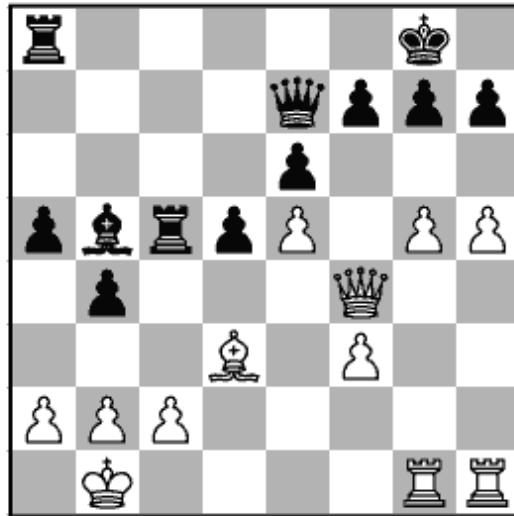
190) White to play

[solution](#)



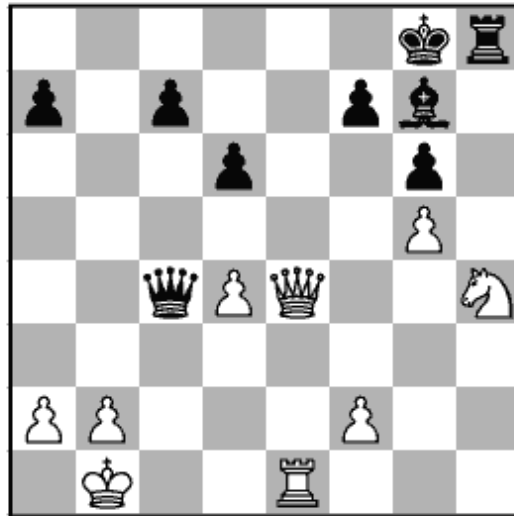
191) White to play

[solution](#)



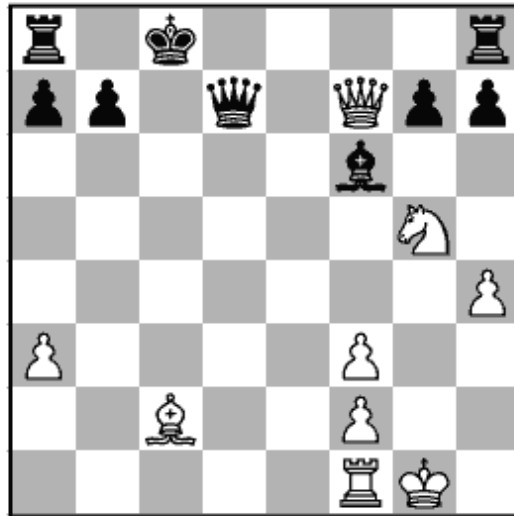
192) White to play

[solution](#)



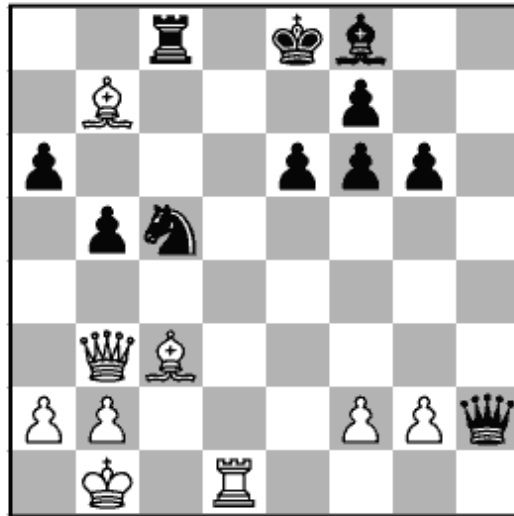
193) White to play

[solution](#)



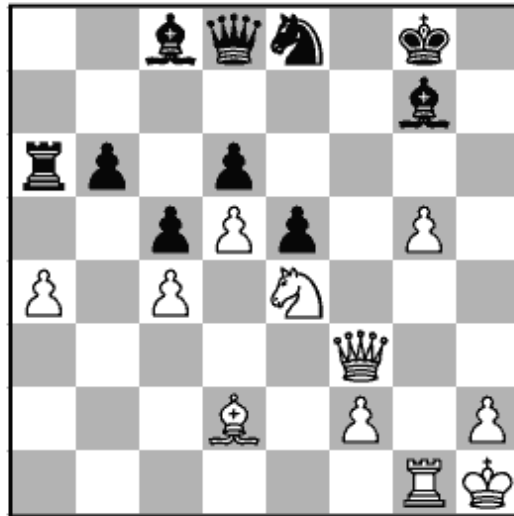
194) White to play

[solution](#)



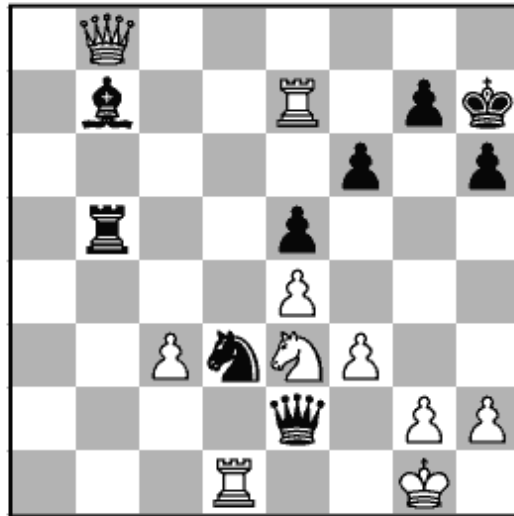
195) White to play

[solution](#)



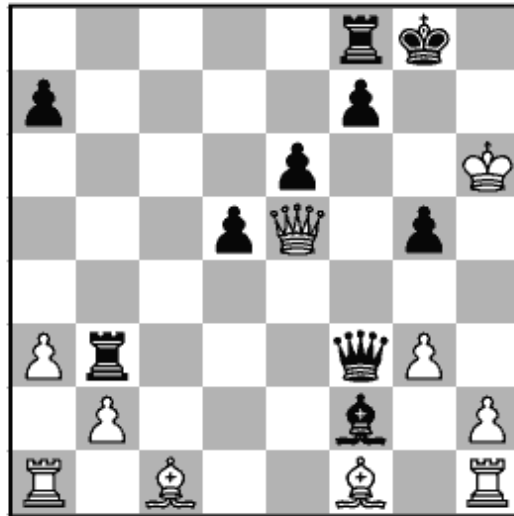
196) White to play

[solution](#)



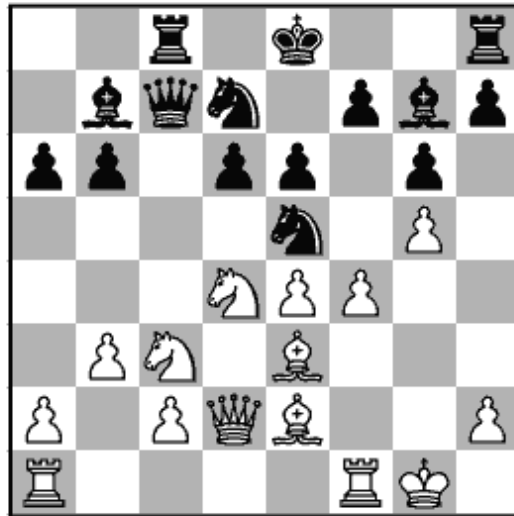
197) White to play

[solution](#)



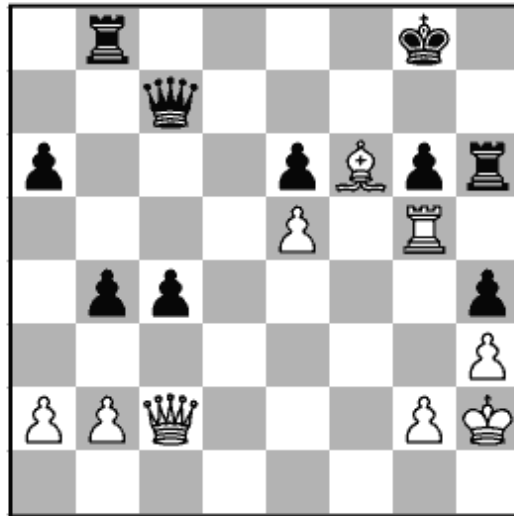
198) Black to play

[solution](#)



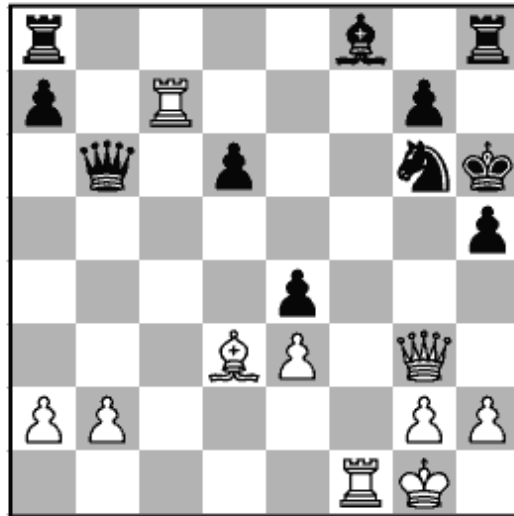
199) White to play

[solution](#)



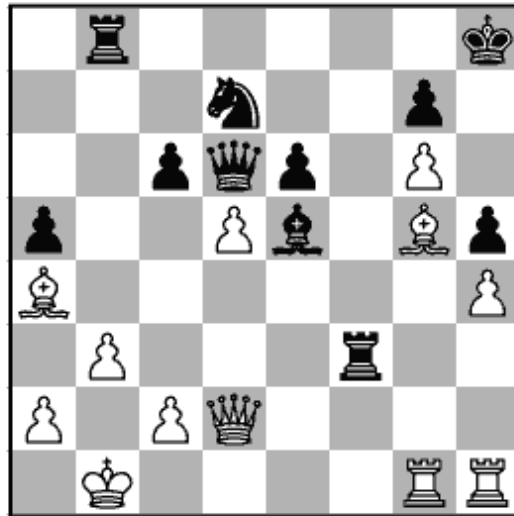
200) White to play

[solution](#)



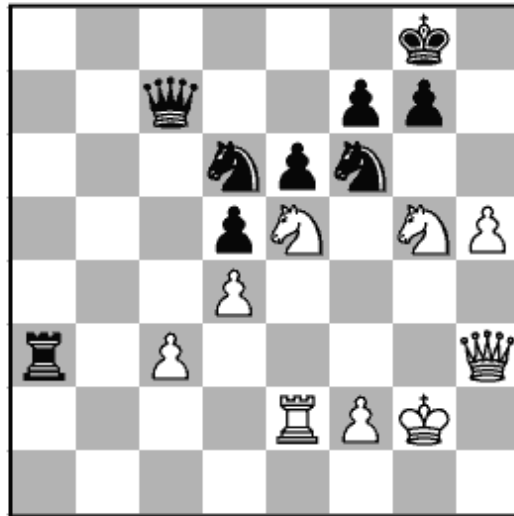
201) White to play

[solution](#)



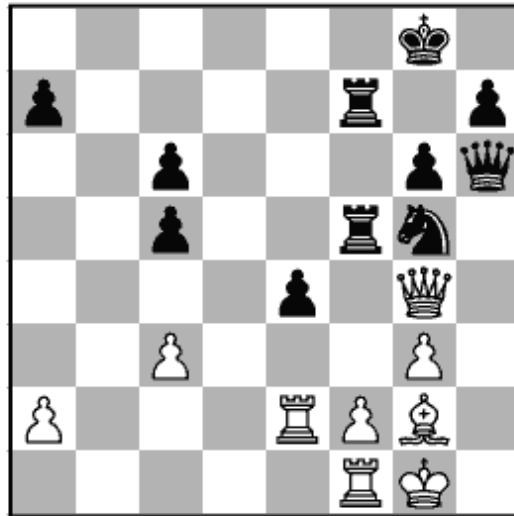
202) Black to play

[solution](#)



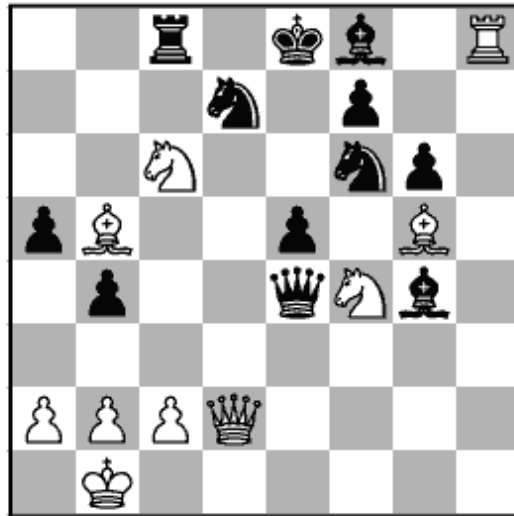
203) White to play

[solution](#)



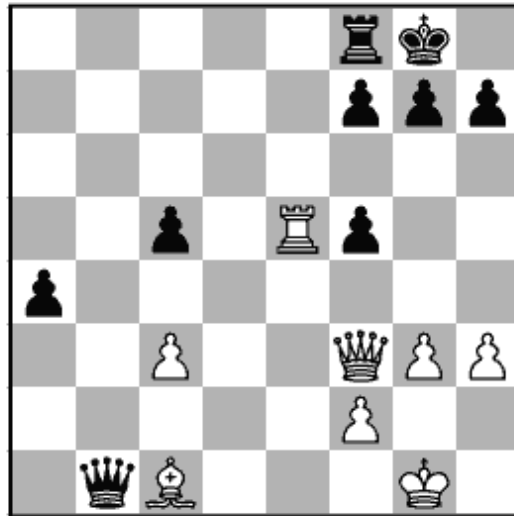
204) Black to play

[solution](#)



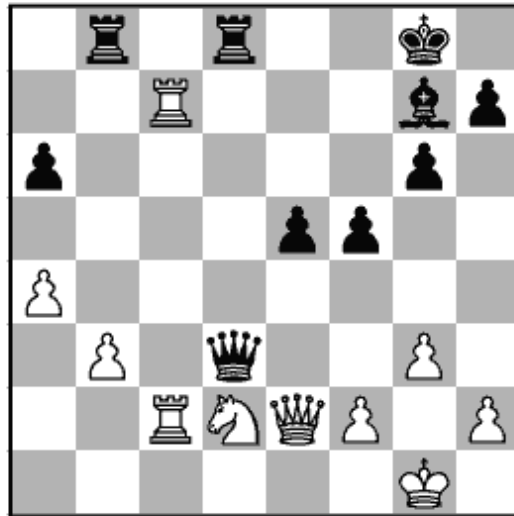
205) White to play

[solution](#)



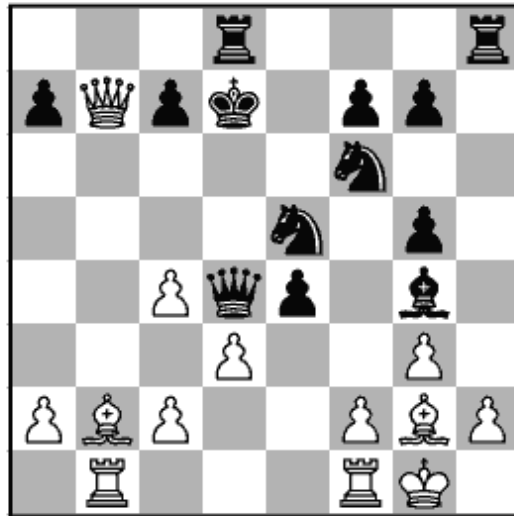
206) White to play

[solution](#)



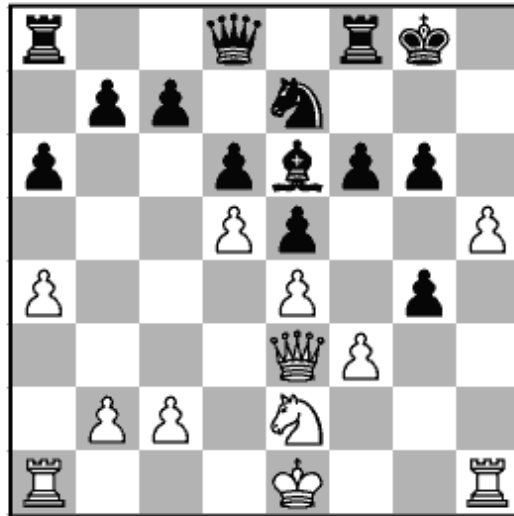
207) White to play

[solution](#)



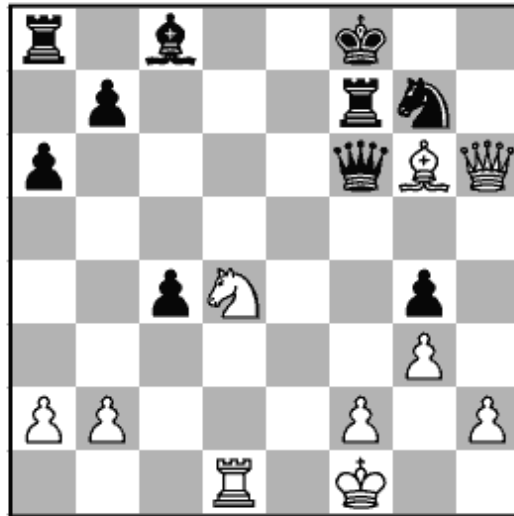
208) Black to play

[solution](#)



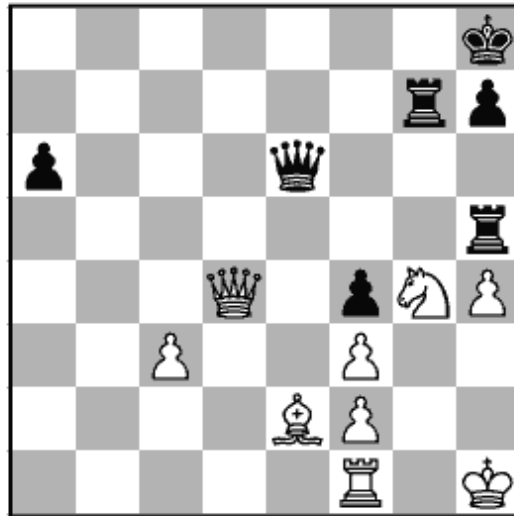
209) White to play

[solution](#)



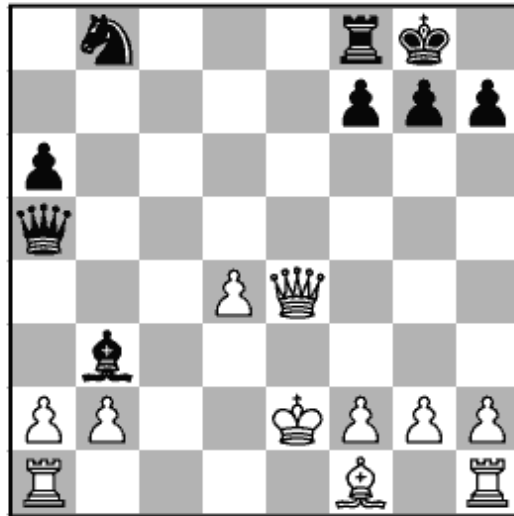
210) White to play

[solution](#)



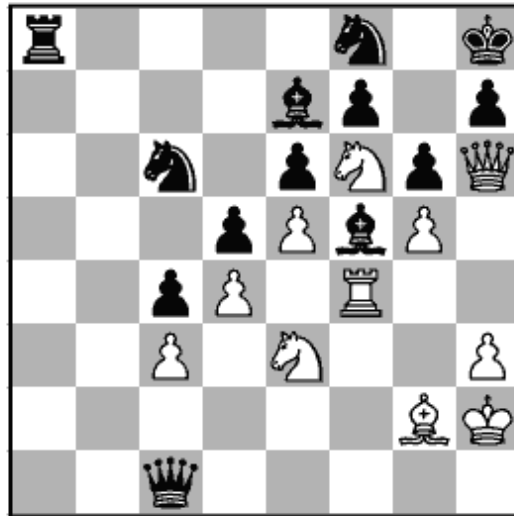
211) Black to play

[solution](#)



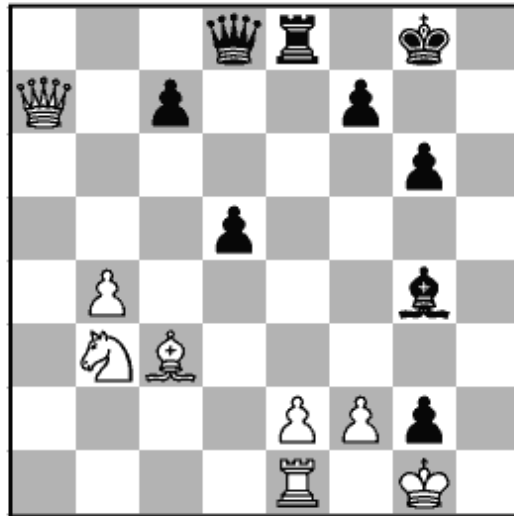
212) Black to play

[solution](#)



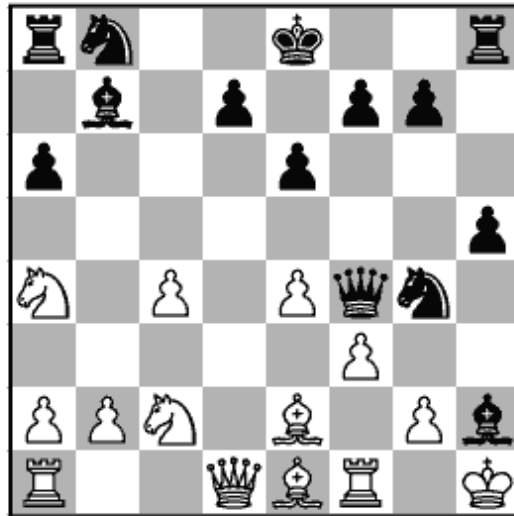
213) Black to play

[solution](#)



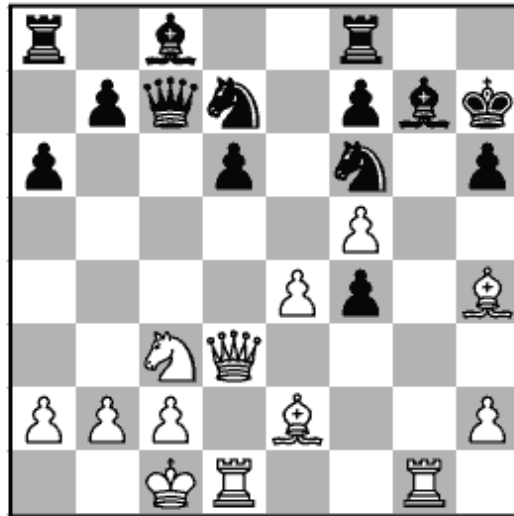
214) Black to play

[solution](#)



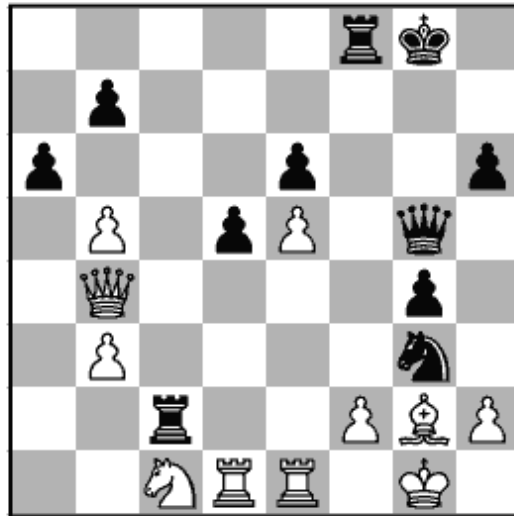
215) Black to play

[solution](#)



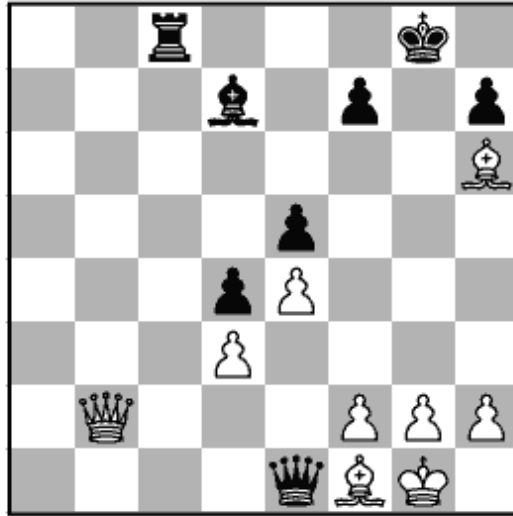
216) White to play

[solution](#)



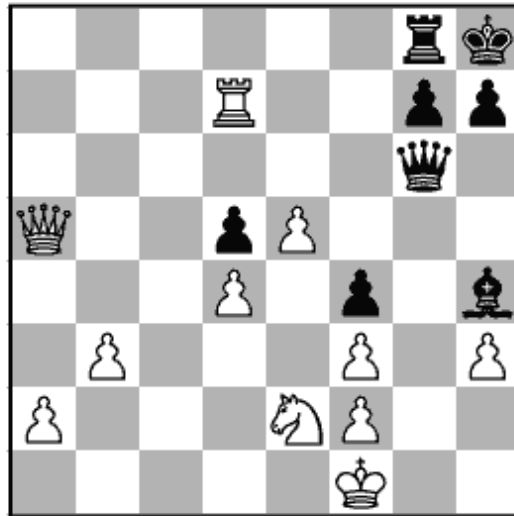
217) Black to play

[solution](#)



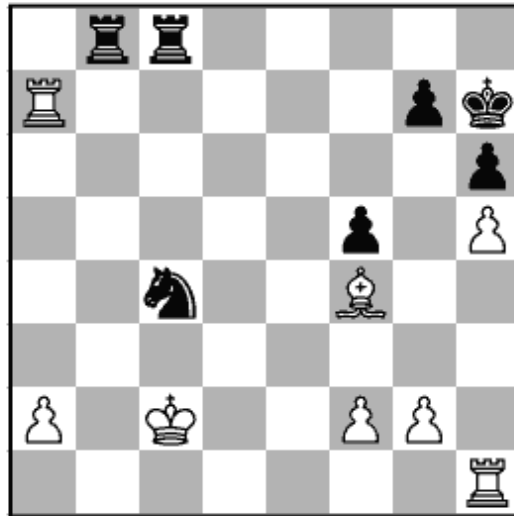
218) White to play

[solution](#)



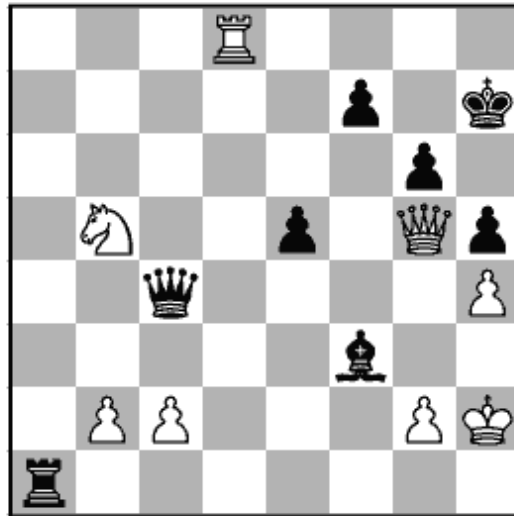
219) Black to play

[solution](#)



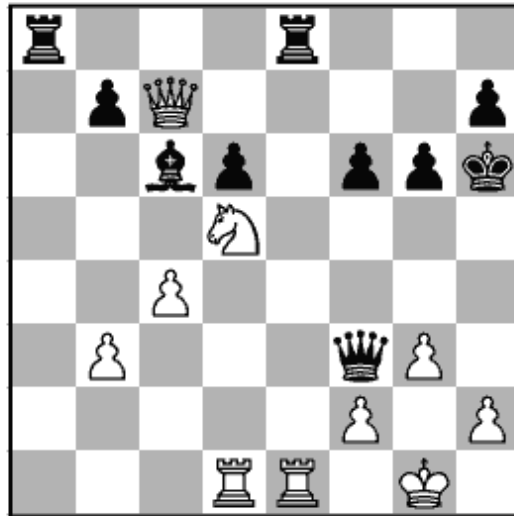
220) Black to play

[solution](#)



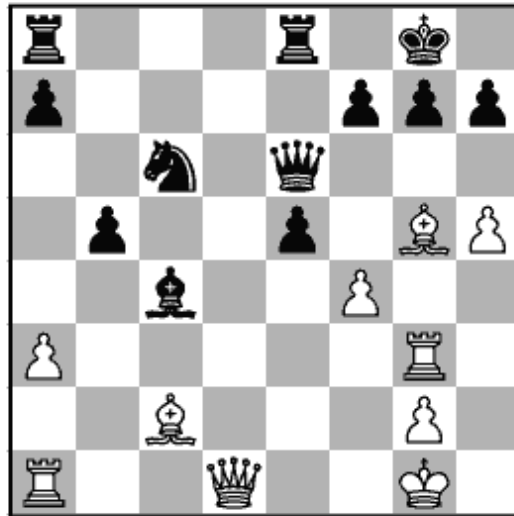
221) White to play

[solution](#)



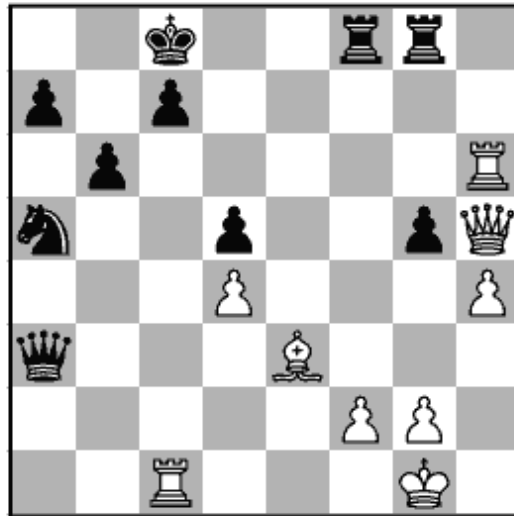
222) Black to play

[solution](#)



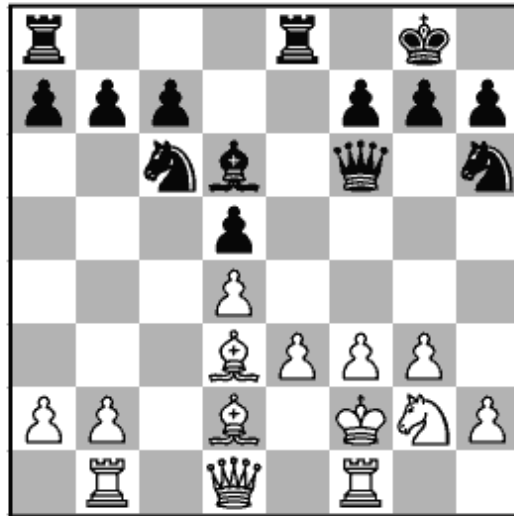
223) White to play

[solution](#)



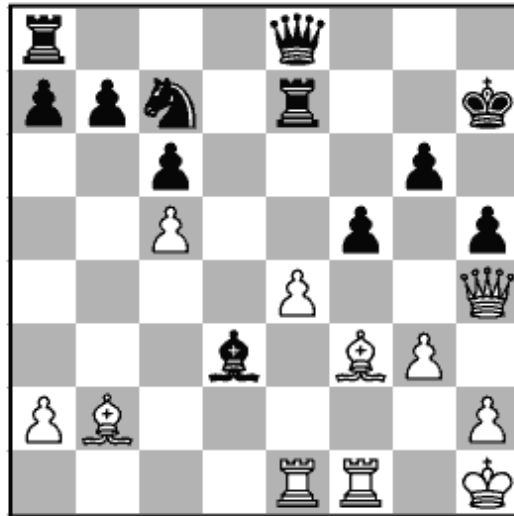
224) White to play

[solution](#)



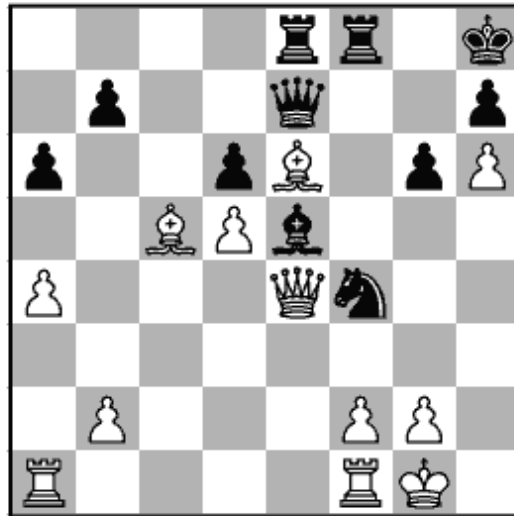
225) Black to play

[solution](#)



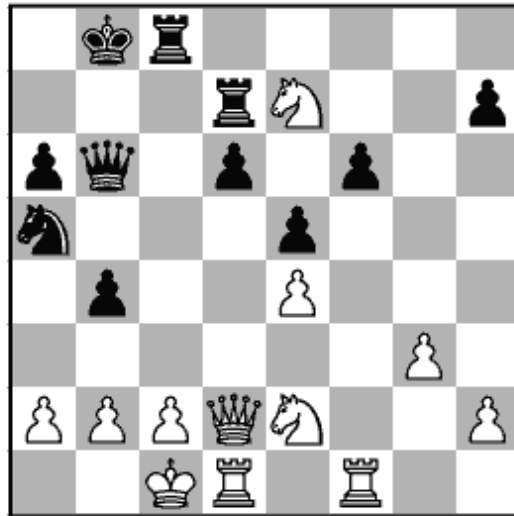
226) White to play

[solution](#)



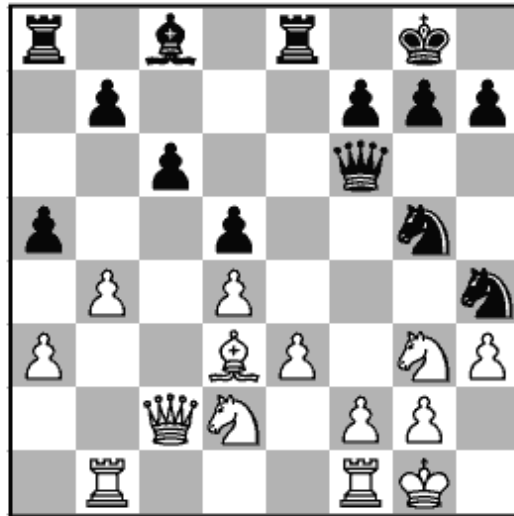
227) Black to play

[solution](#)



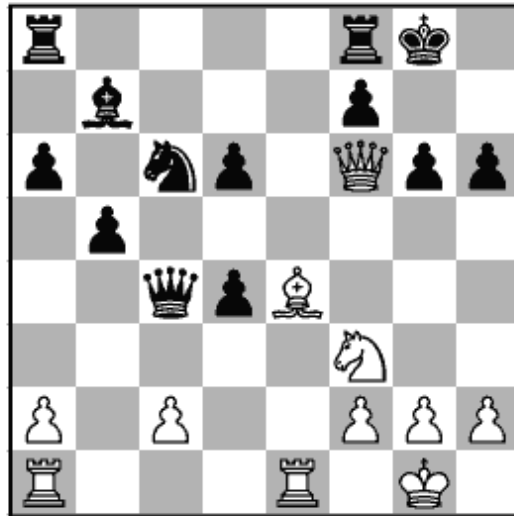
228) Black to play

[solution](#)



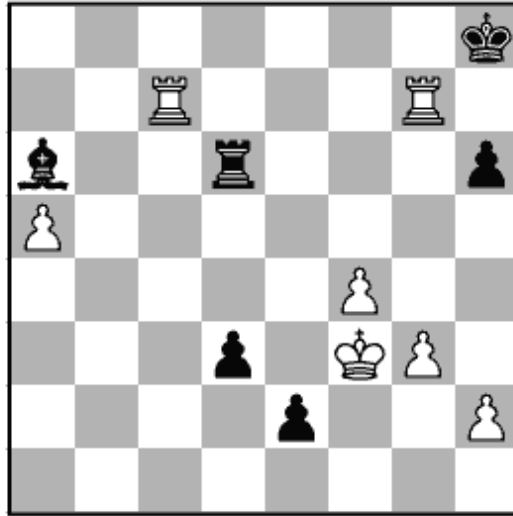
229) Black to play

[solution](#)



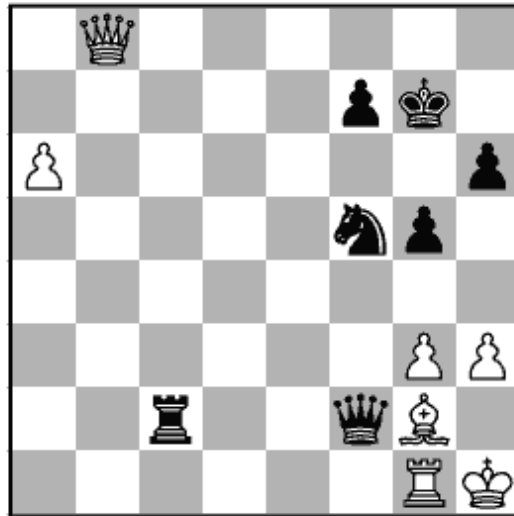
230) White to play

[solution](#)



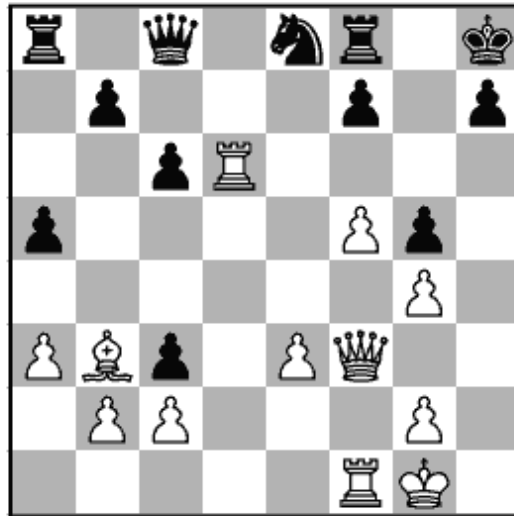
231) White to play

[solution](#)



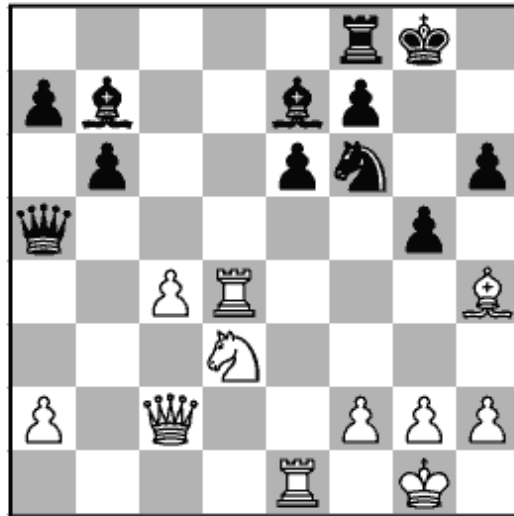
232) Black to play

[solution](#)



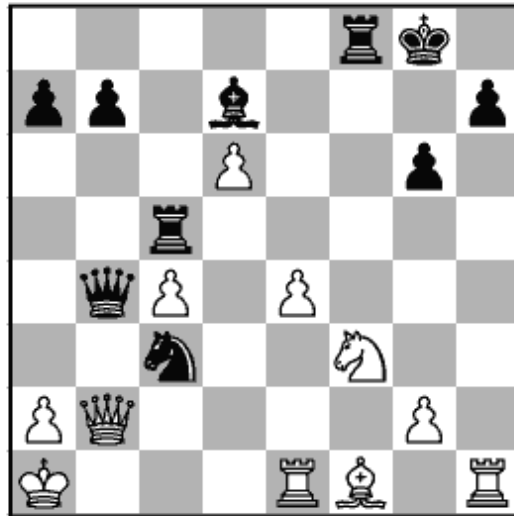
233) White to play

[solution](#)



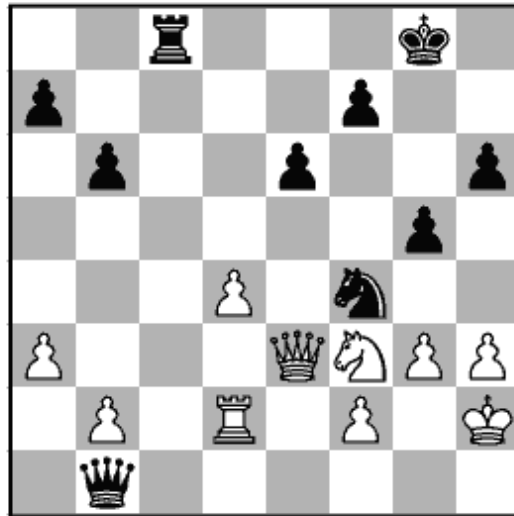
234) White to play

[solution](#)



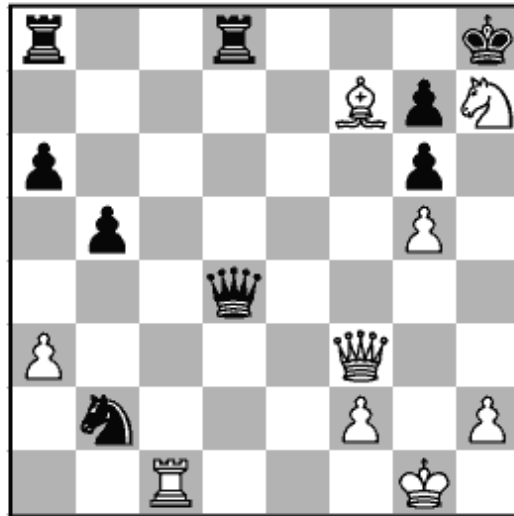
235) Black to play

[solution](#)



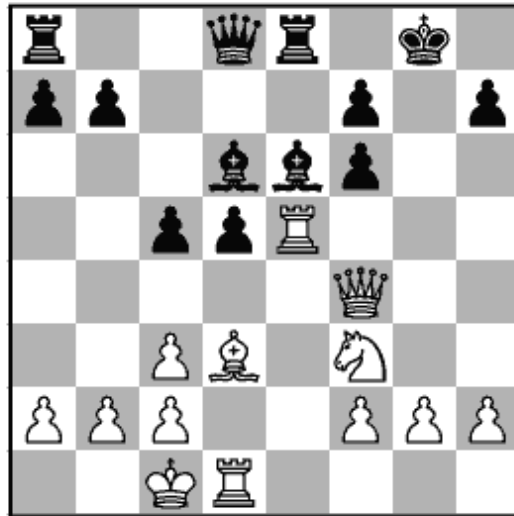
236) Black to play

[solution](#)



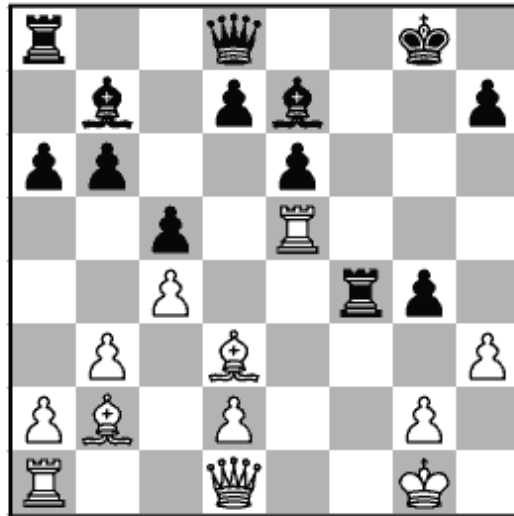
237) White to play

[solution](#)



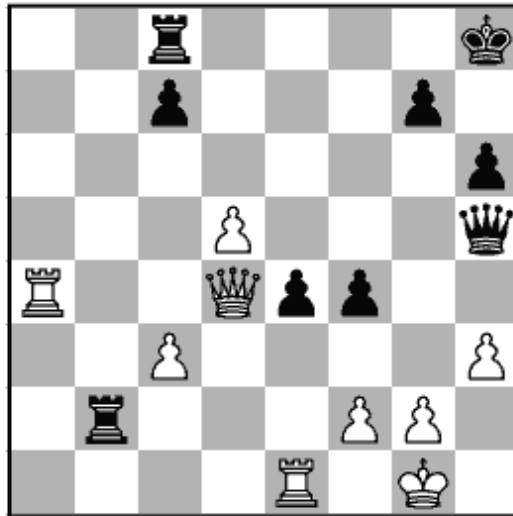
238) White to play

[solution](#)



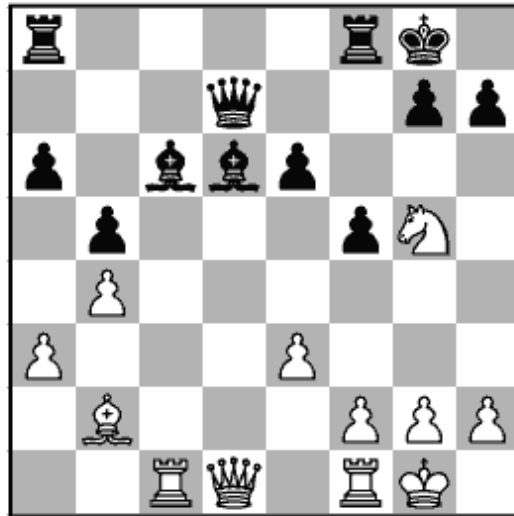
239) White to play

[solution](#)



240) Black to play

[solution](#)



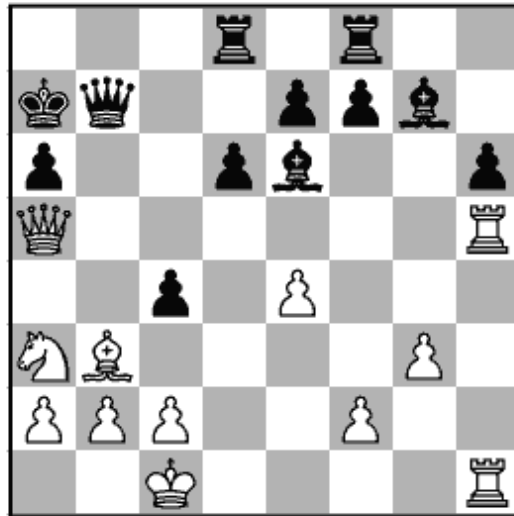
241) White to play

[solution](#)



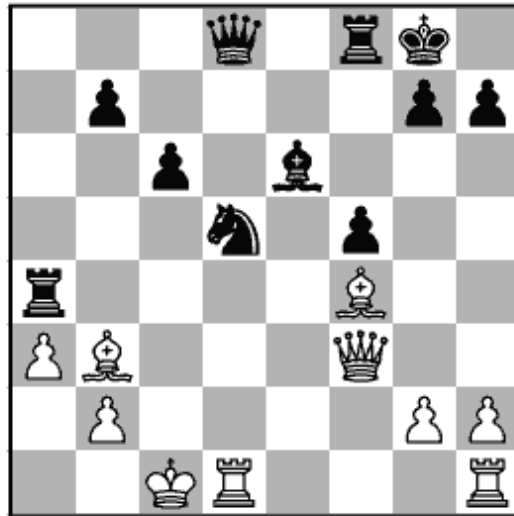
242) White to play

[solution](#)



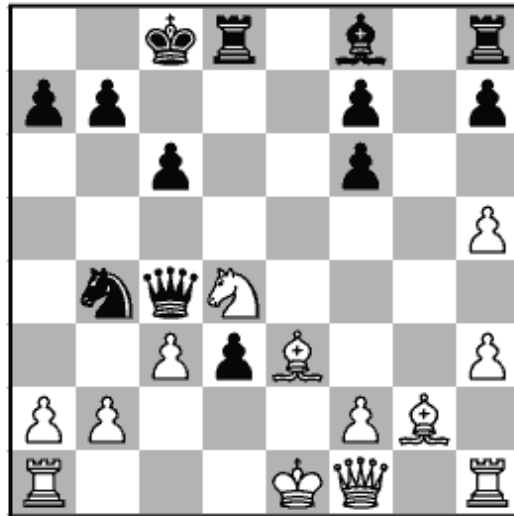
243) White to play

[solution](#)



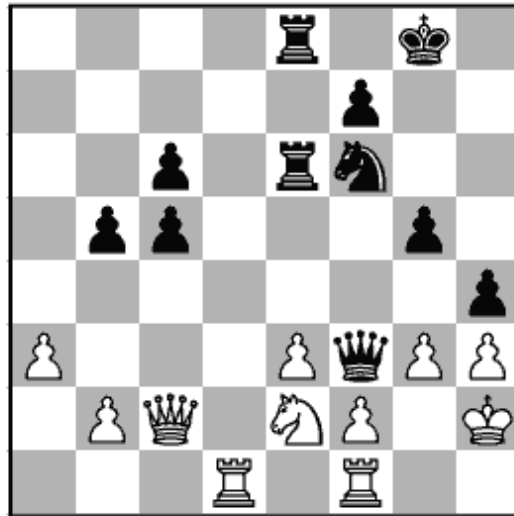
244) Black to play

[solution](#)



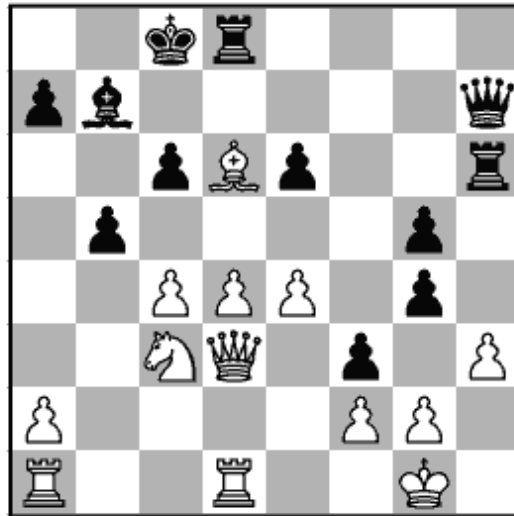
245) Black to play

[solution](#)



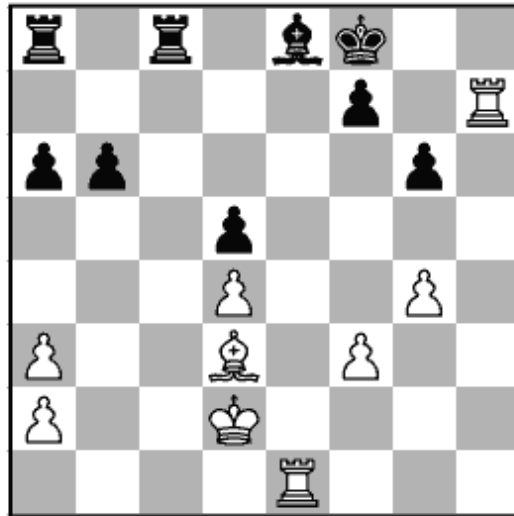
246) Black to play

[solution](#)



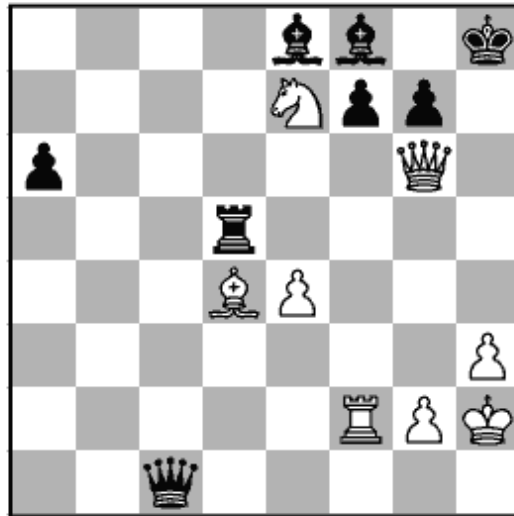
247) Black to play

[solution](#)



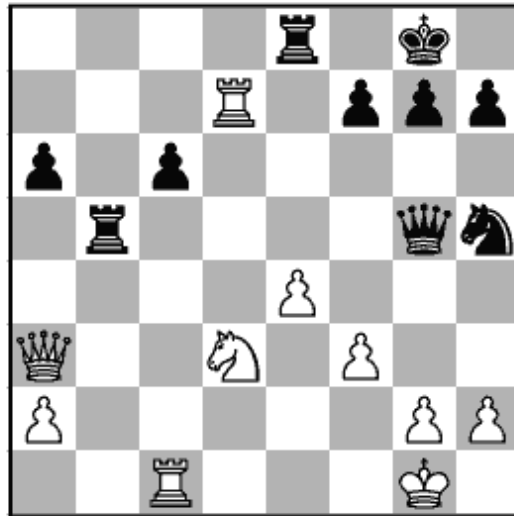
248) White to play

[solution](#)



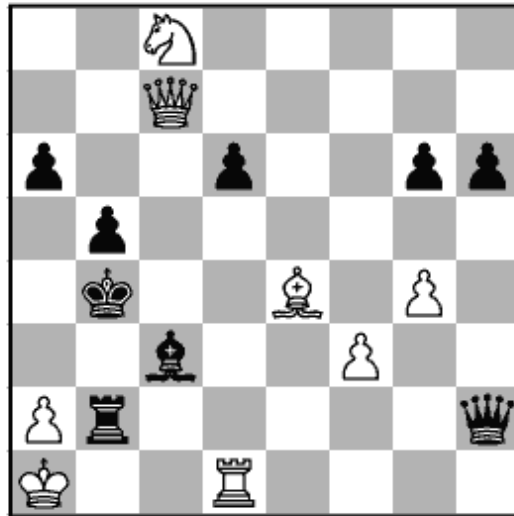
249) White to play

[solution](#)



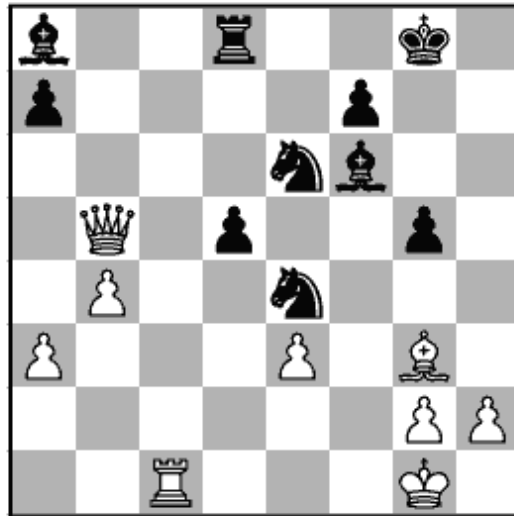
250) Black to play

[solution](#)



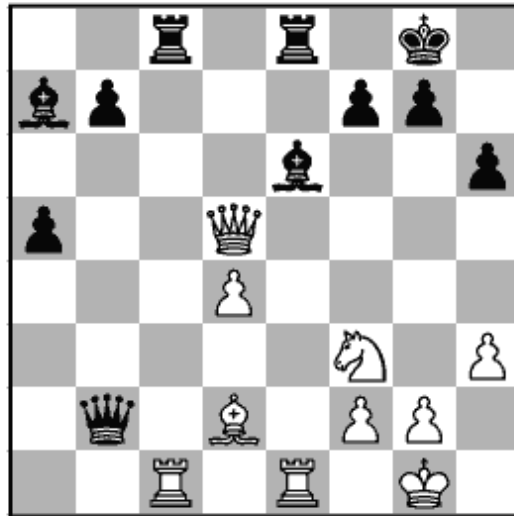
251) White to play

[solution](#)



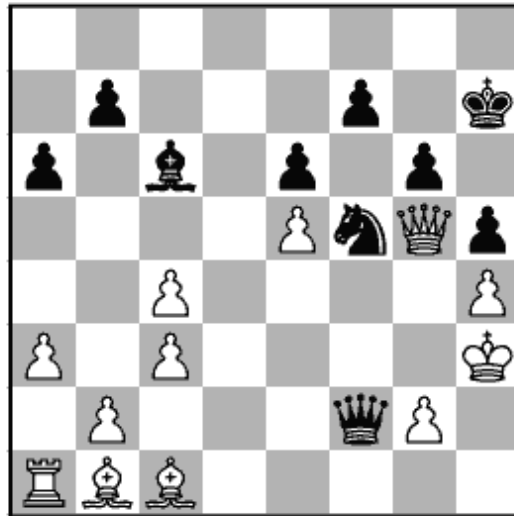
252) Black to play

[solution](#)



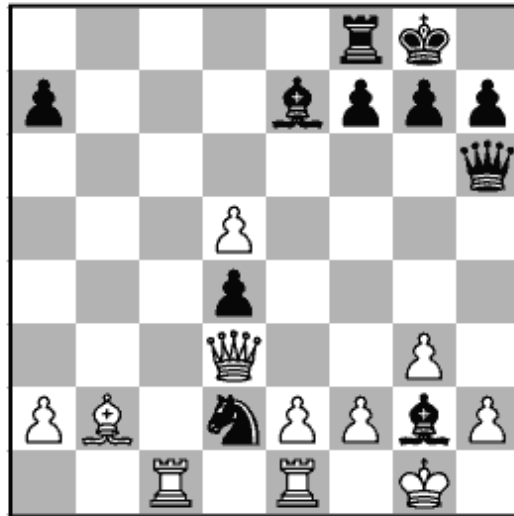
253) White to play

[solution](#)



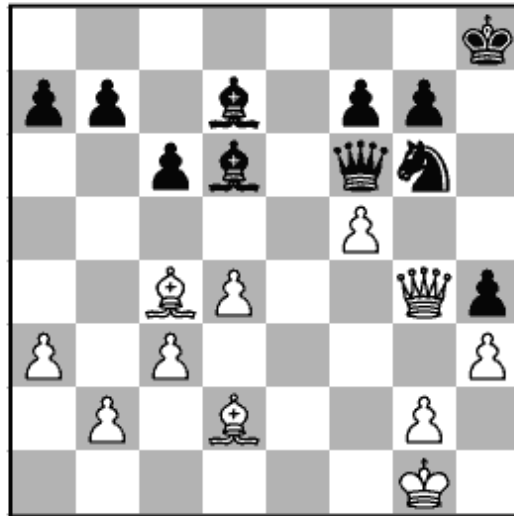
254) Black to play

[solution](#)



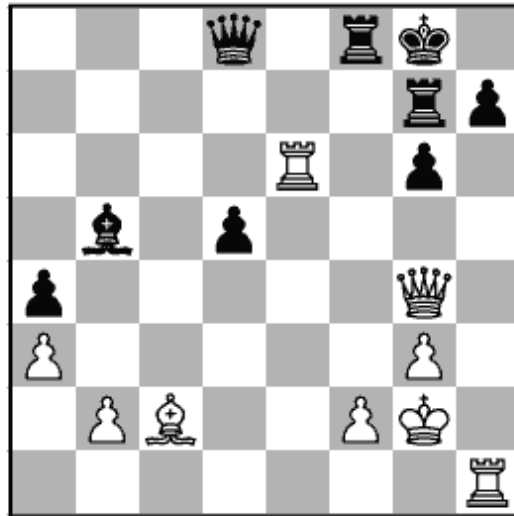
255) Black to play

[solution](#)



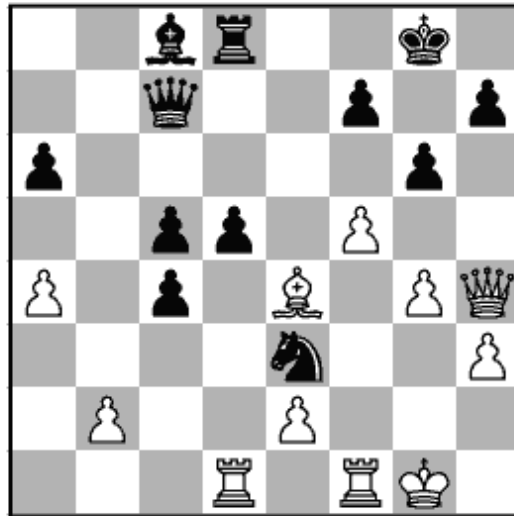
256) White to play

[solution](#)



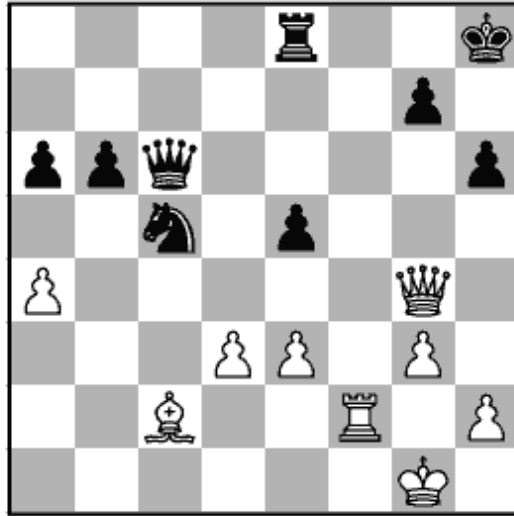
257) White to play

[solution](#)



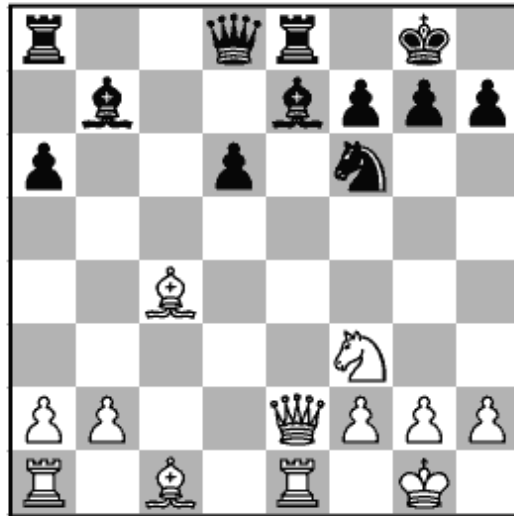
258) White to play

[solution](#)



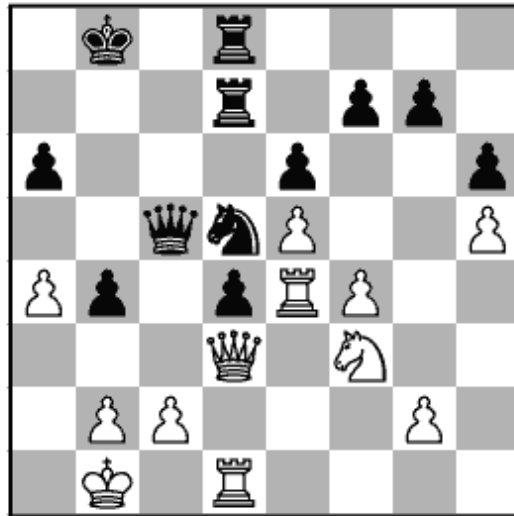
259) White to play

[solution](#)



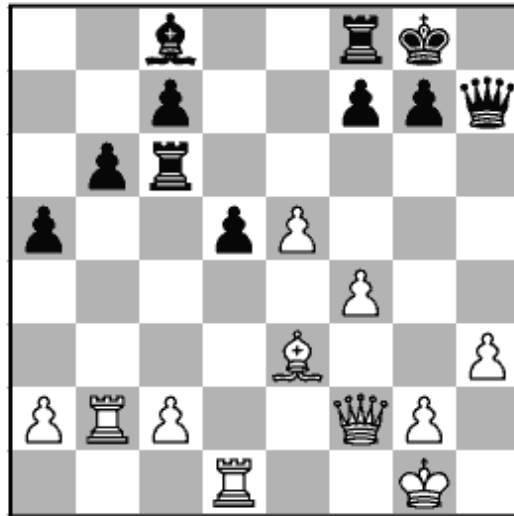
260) White to play

[solution](#)



261) Black to play

[solution](#)



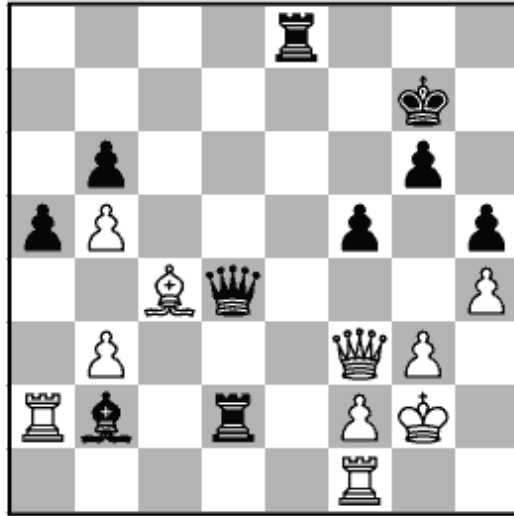
262) Black to play

[solution](#)



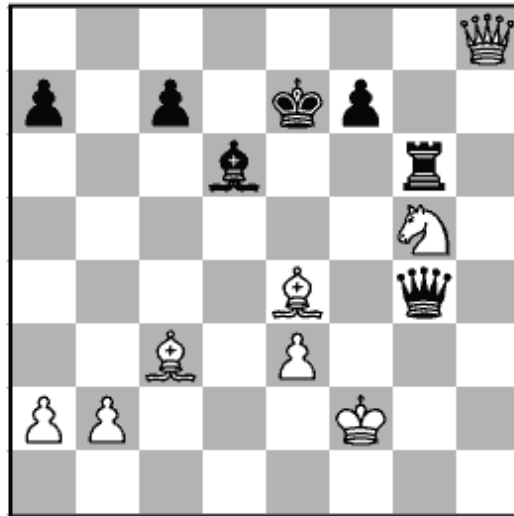
263) White to play

[solution](#)



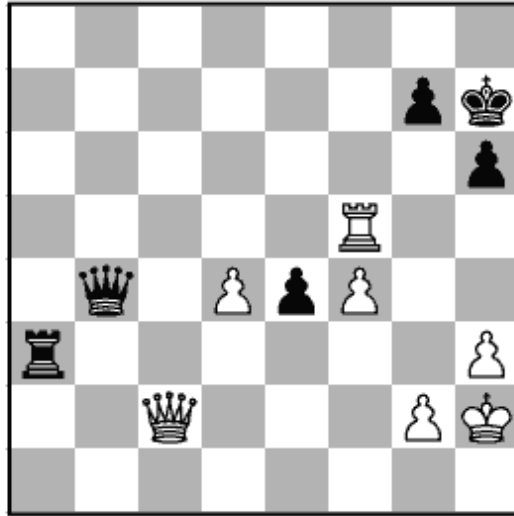
264) Black to play

[solution](#)



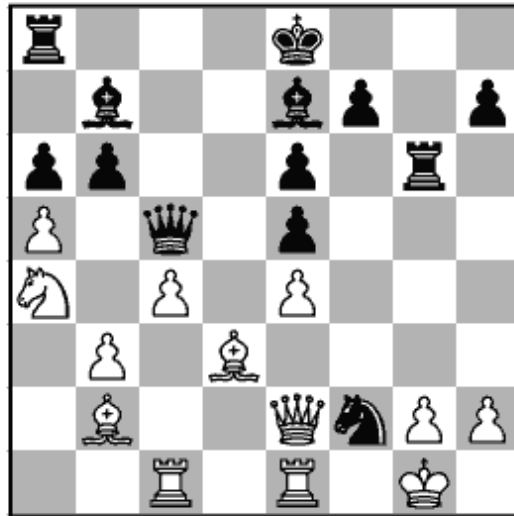
265) Black to play

[solution](#)



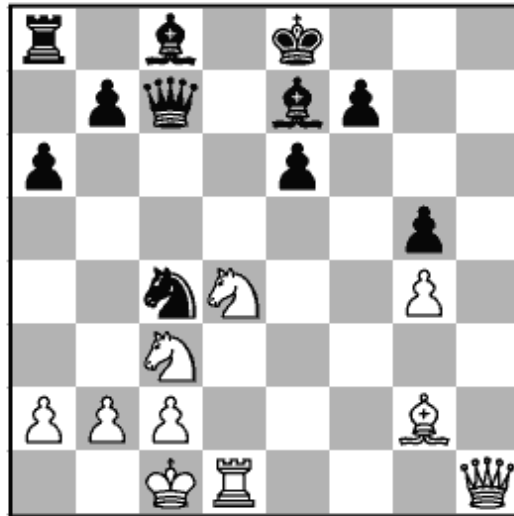
266) Black to play

[solution](#)



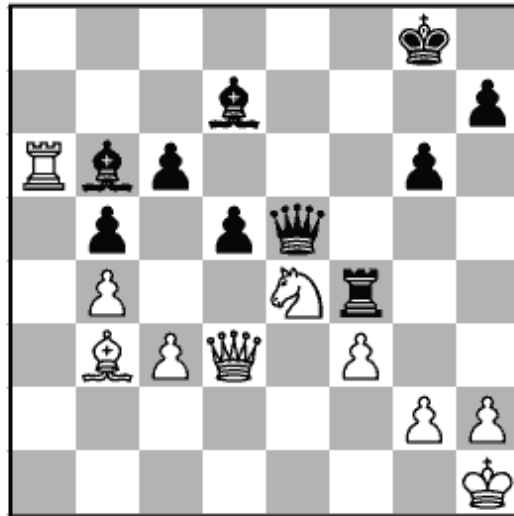
267) Black to play

[solution](#)



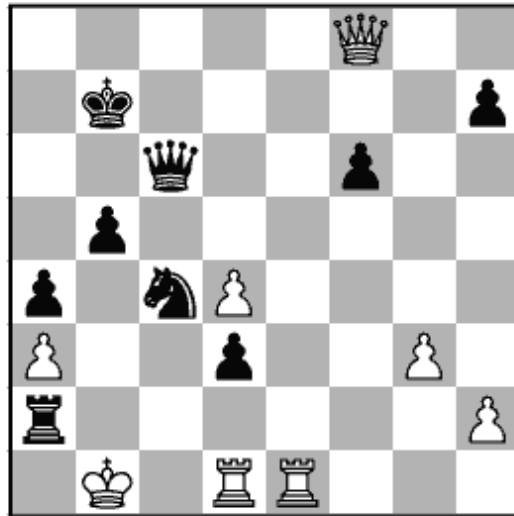
268) White to play

[solution](#)



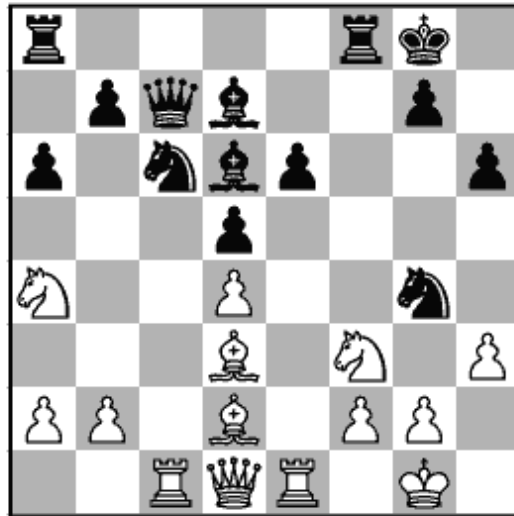
269) Black to play

[solution](#)



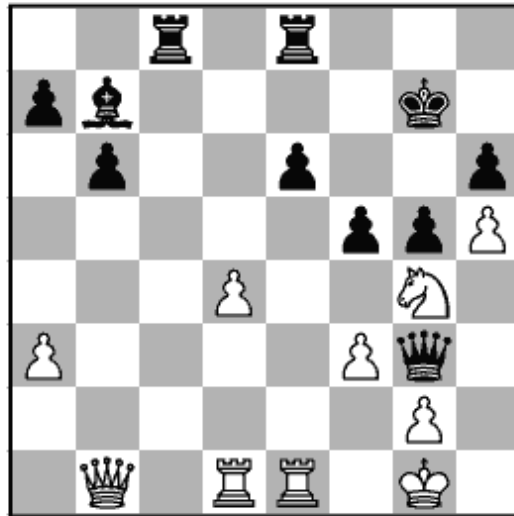
270) Black to play

[solution](#)



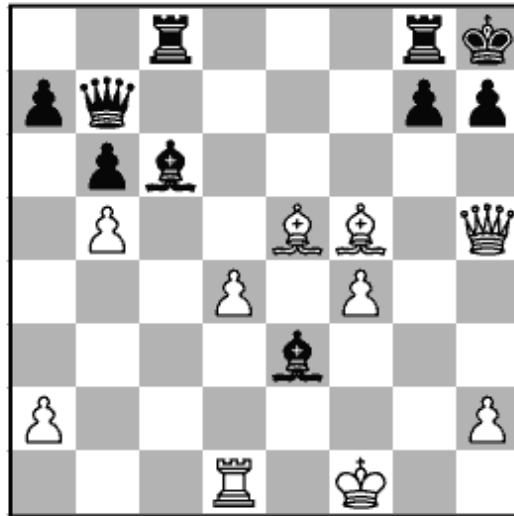
271) Black to play

[solution](#)



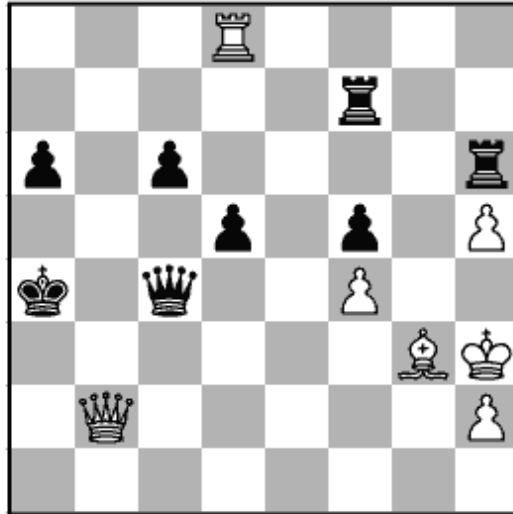
272) White to play

[solution](#)



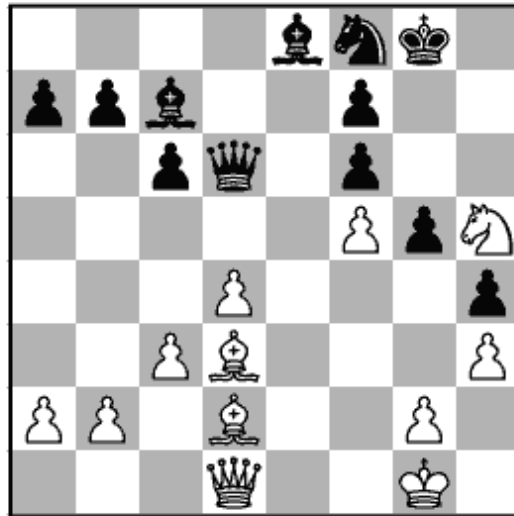
273) Black to play

[solution](#)



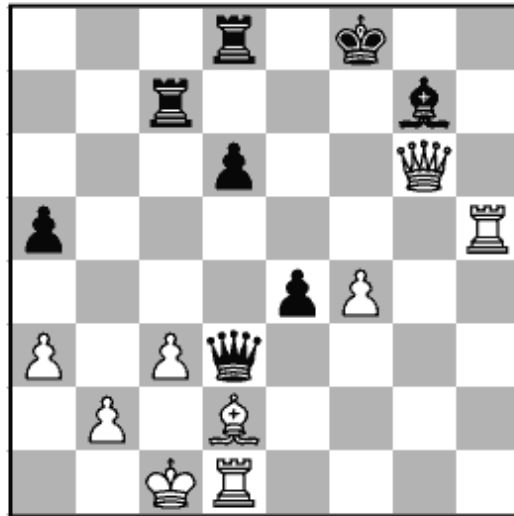
274) White to play

[solution](#)



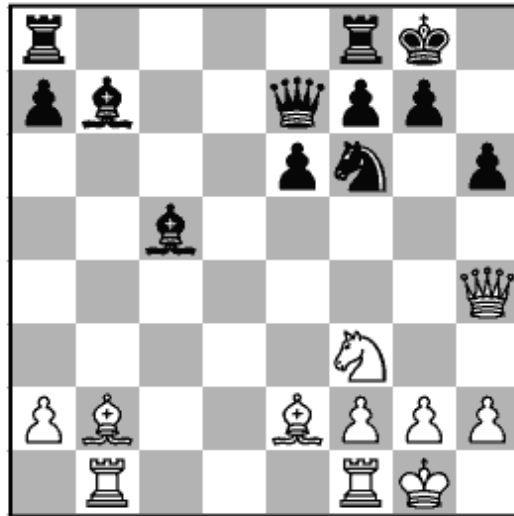
275) White to play

[solution](#)



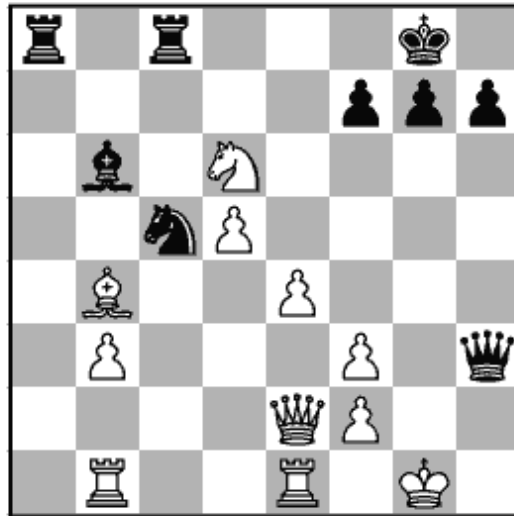
276) Black to play

[solution](#)



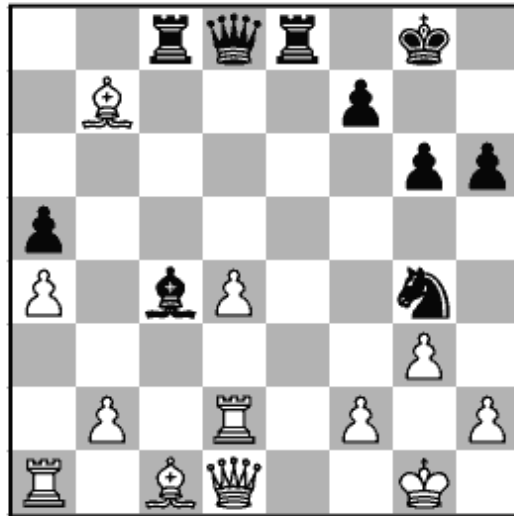
277) White to play

[solution](#)



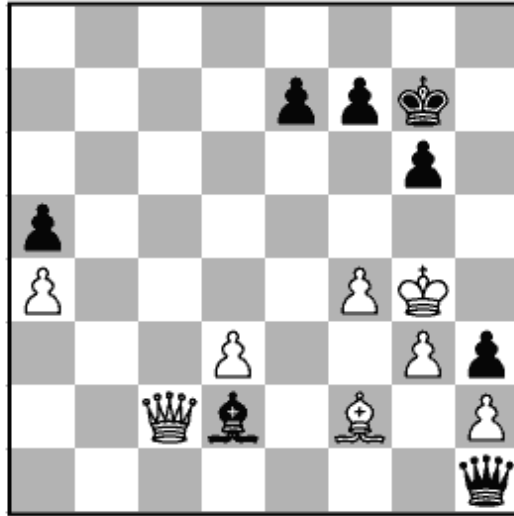
278) Black to play

[solution](#)



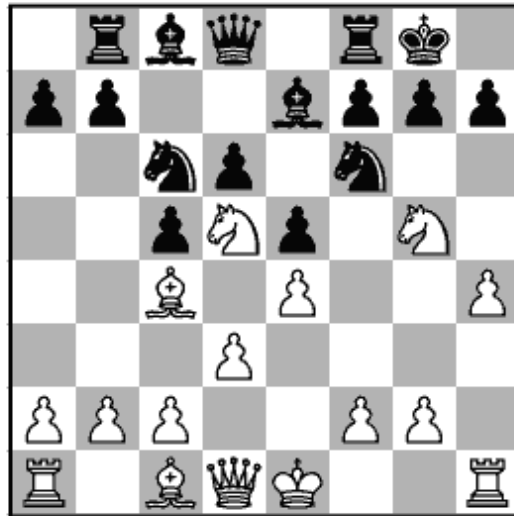
279) Black to play

[solution](#)



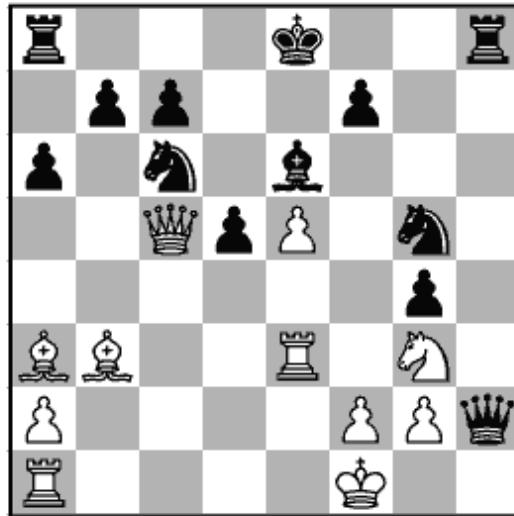
280) Black to play

[solution](#)



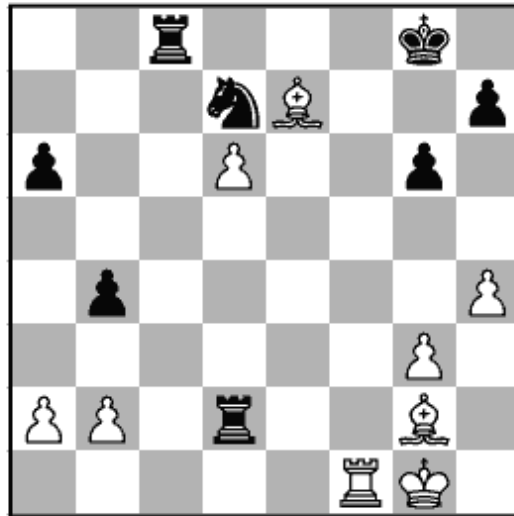
281) White to play

[solution](#)



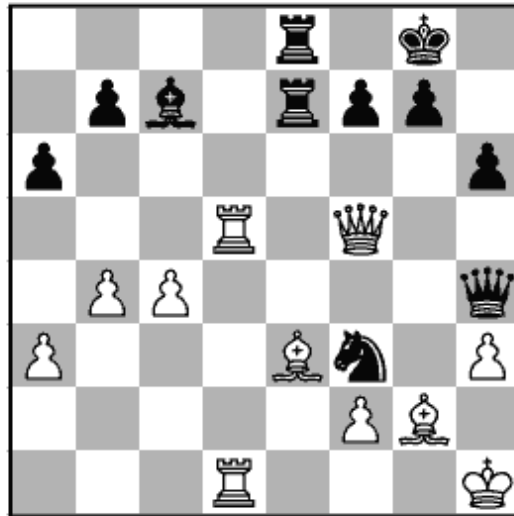
282) White to play

[solution](#)



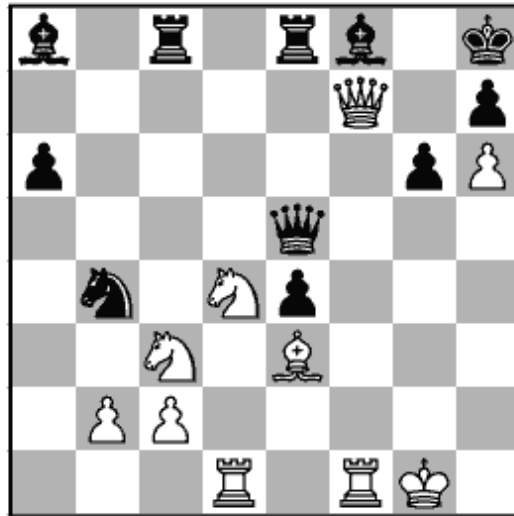
283) White to play

[solution](#)



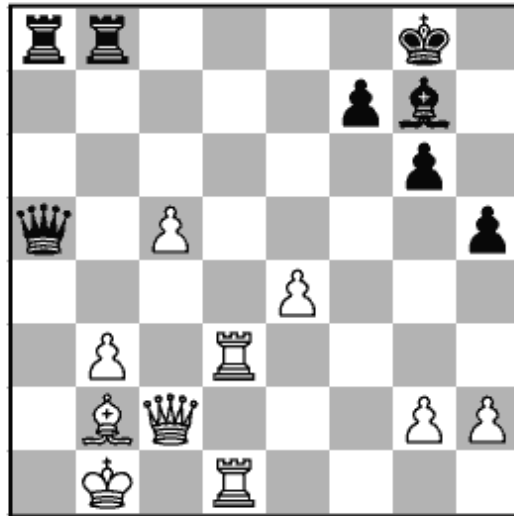
284) Black to play

[solution](#)



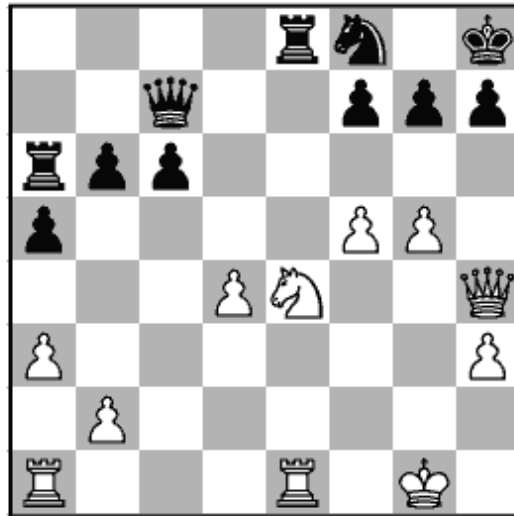
285) White to play

[solution](#)



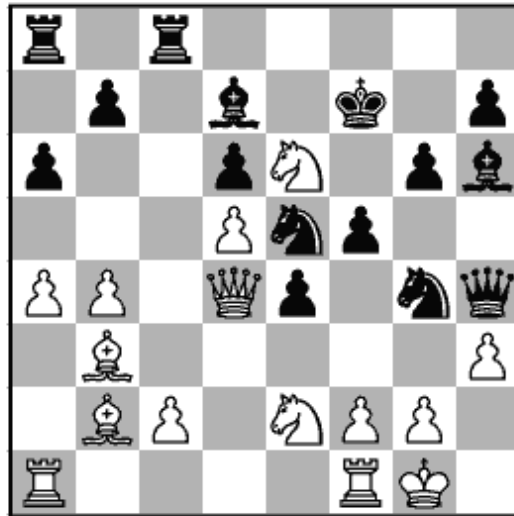
286) Black to play

[solution](#)



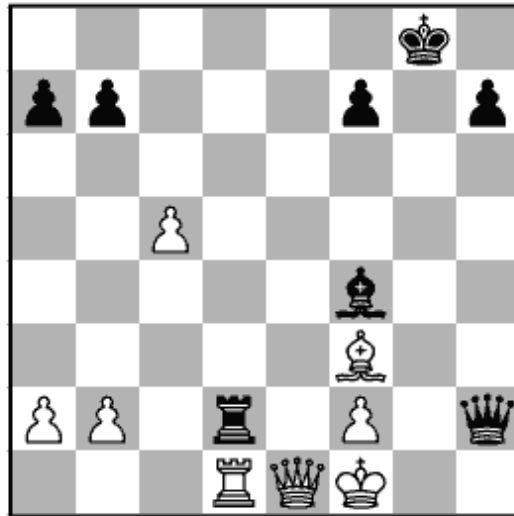
287) White to play

[solution](#)



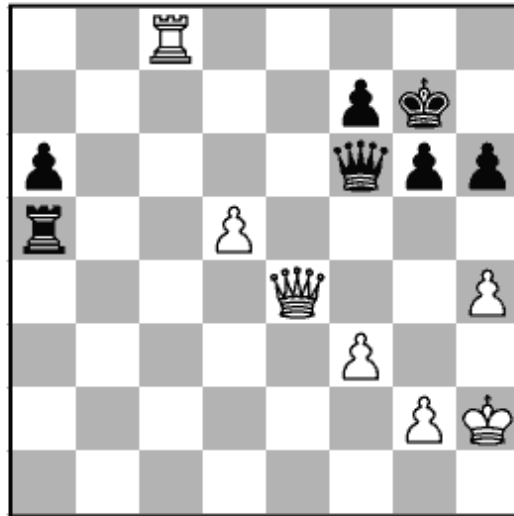
288) Black to play

[solution](#)



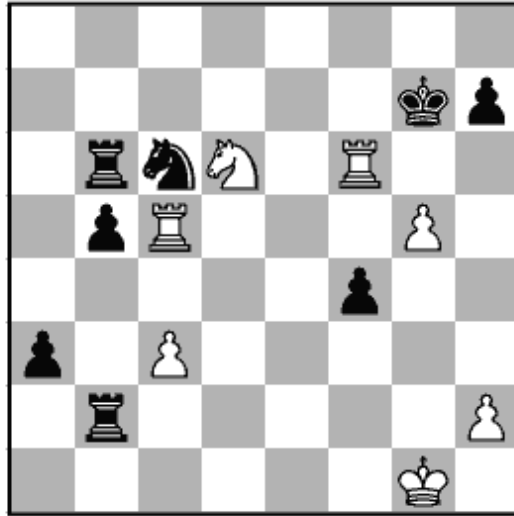
289) Black to play

[solution](#)



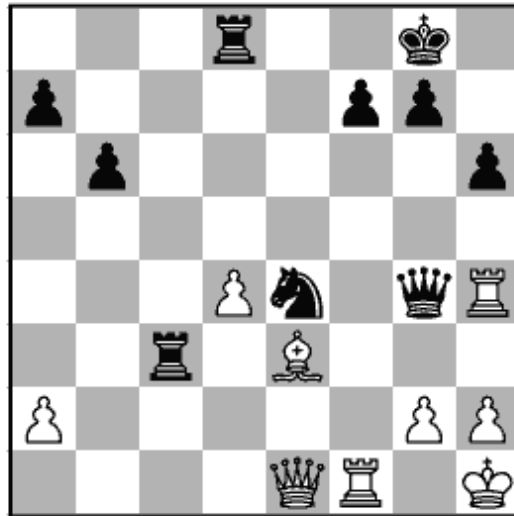
290) White to play

[solution](#)



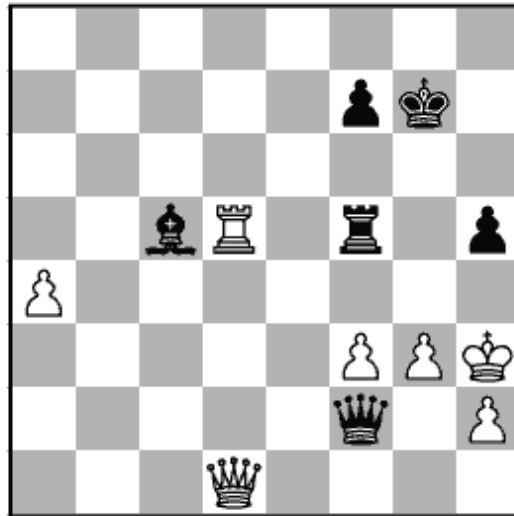
291) White to play

[solution](#)



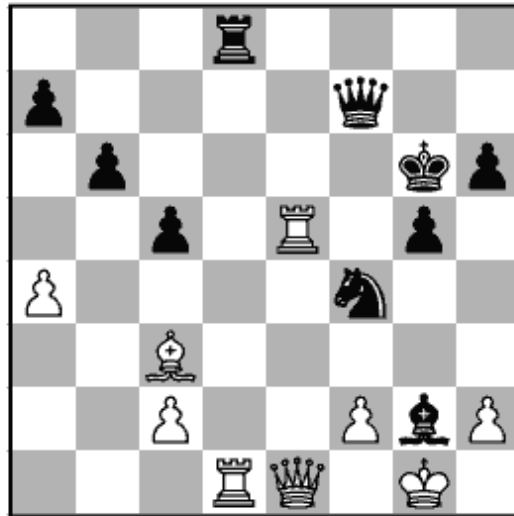
292) Black to play

[solution](#)



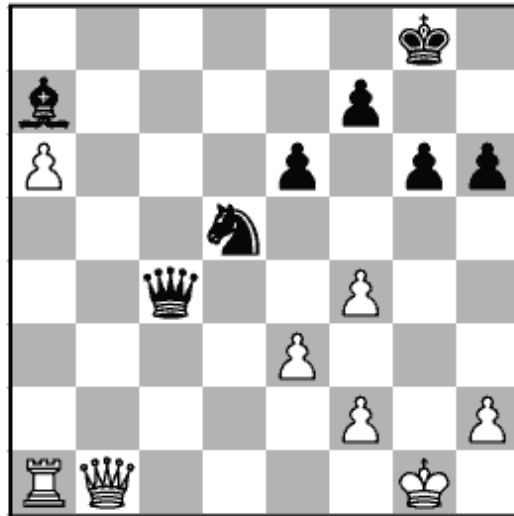
293) Black to play

[solution](#)



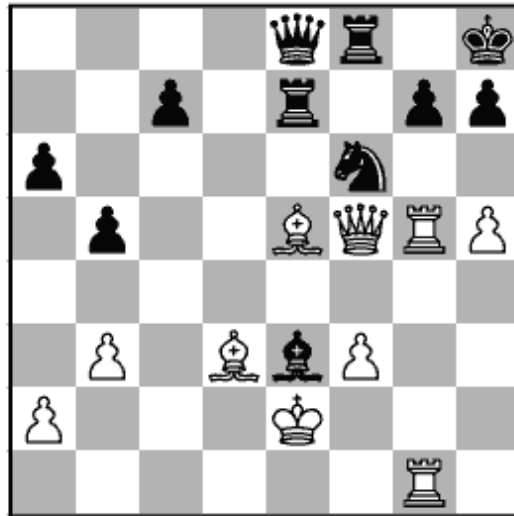
294) Black to play

[solution](#)



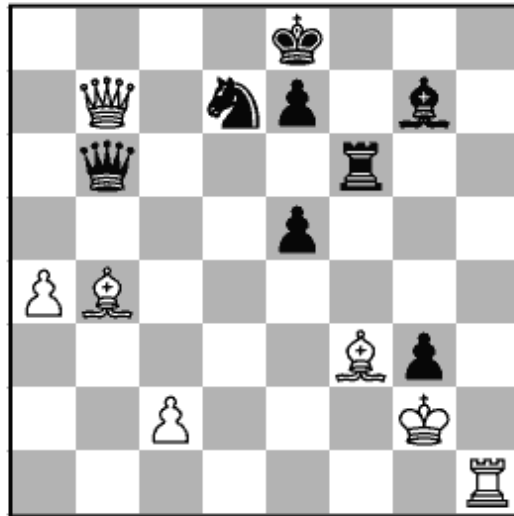
295) Black to play

[solution](#)



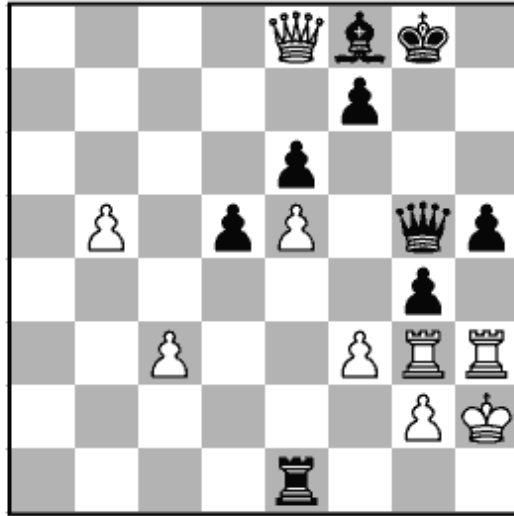
296) White to play

[solution](#)



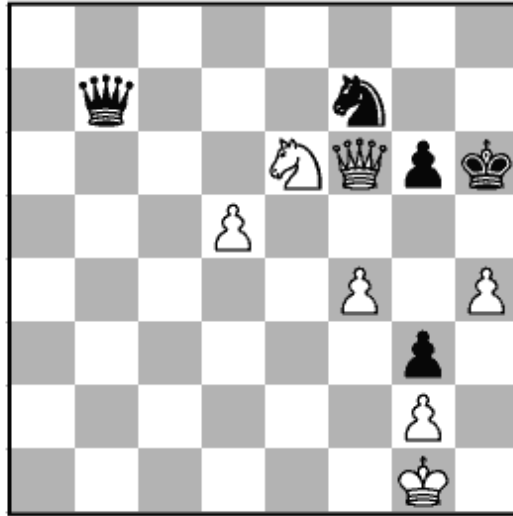
297) White to play

[solution](#)



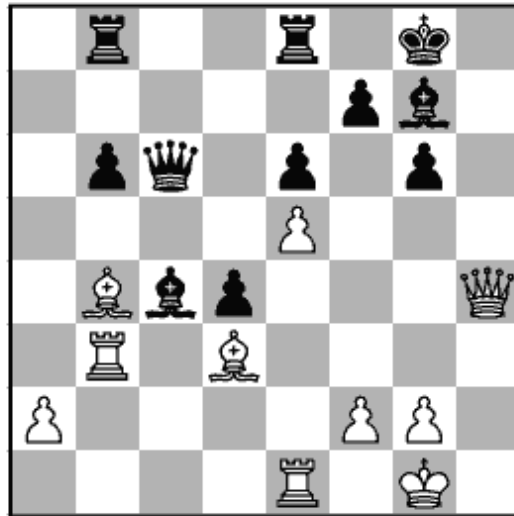
298) Black to play

[solution](#)



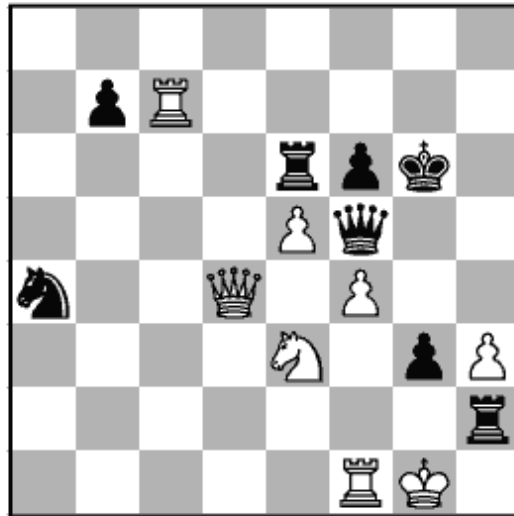
299) White to play

[solution](#)



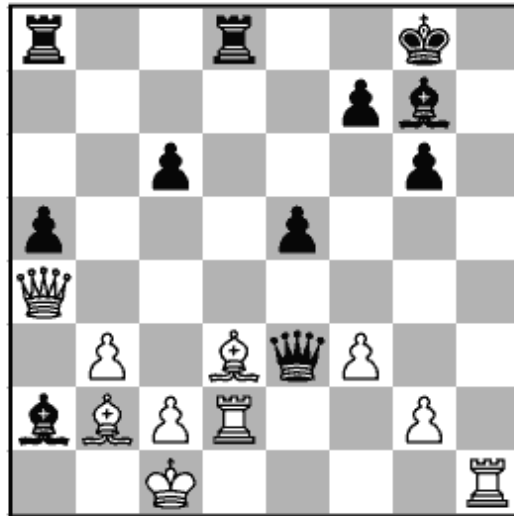
300) White to play

[solution](#)



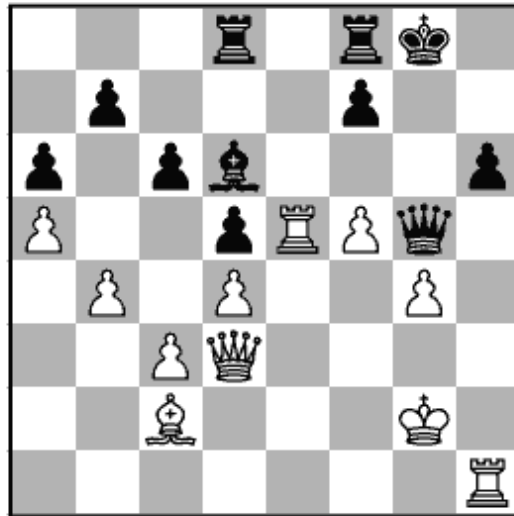
301) Black to play

[solution](#)



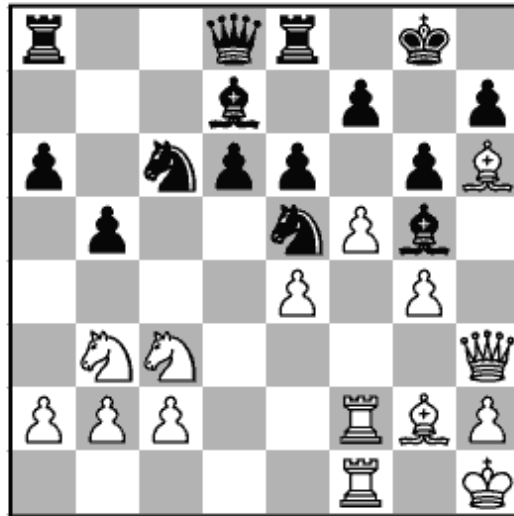
302) Black to play

[solution](#)



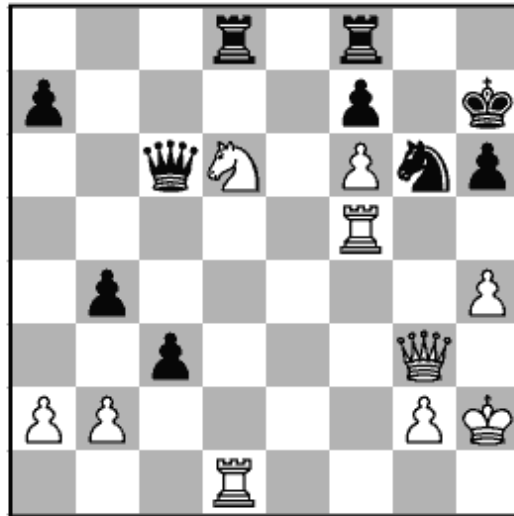
303) White to play

[solution](#)



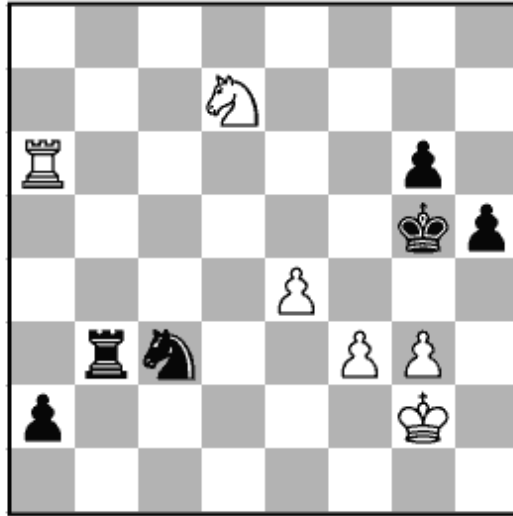
304) White to play

[solution](#)



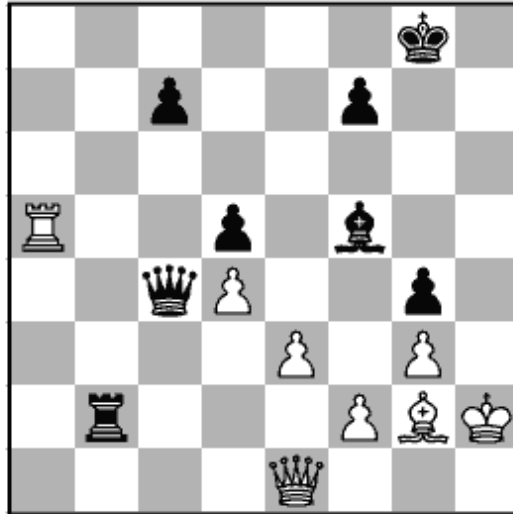
305) White to play

[solution](#)



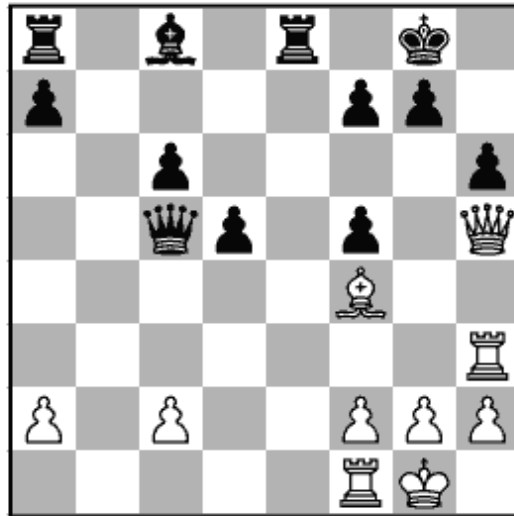
306) White to play

[solution](#)



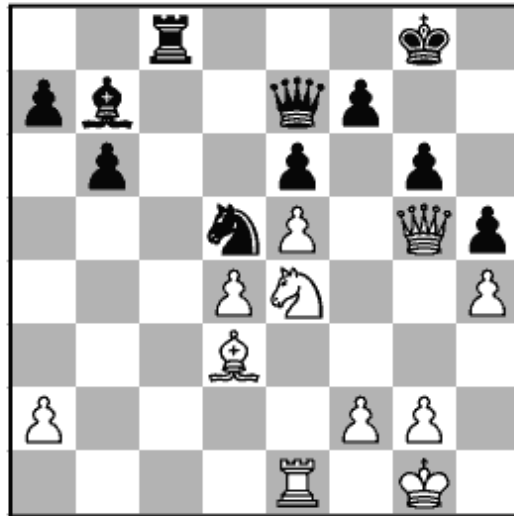
307) Black to play

[solution](#)



308) White to play

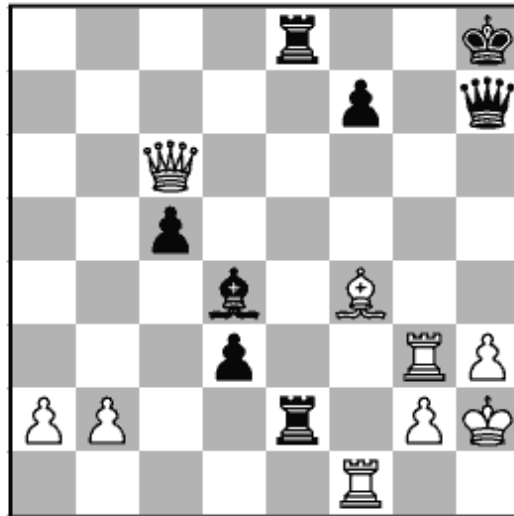
[solution](#)



309) White to play

[solution](#)

Solutions for Checkmate Puzzles



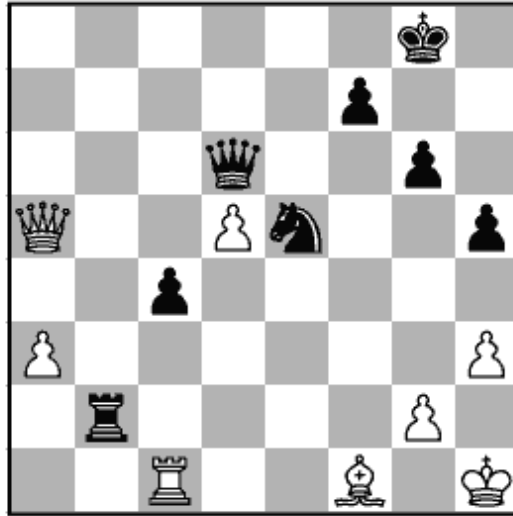
White to play

162) Erigaisi – Mamedyarov
Internet rapid 2022

33 Be5+! 1-0

A beautiful interference idea: 33...R8xe5 34 Qf6+ Qg7 35 Qxg7#, 33...R2xe5 34 Qf6+ Qg7 35 Qxg7#, 33...f6 34 Qxf6+ (or 34 Qxe8+ Qg8 35 Qxg8#) 34...Qg7 35 Qxg7# or 33...Bxe5 34 Qxe8+ Qg8 35 Qxg8#.

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Black to play

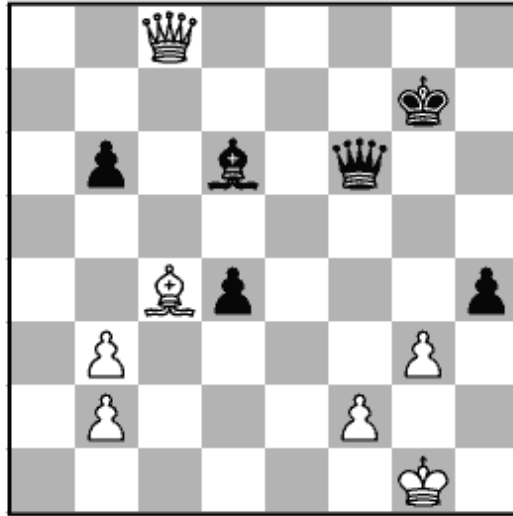
163) Dushyant – Karthik

Commonwealth Ch, Waskaduwa 2022

44...Nf3! 0-1

Black is threatening mate on h2, and 45 gxf3 also allows 45...Qh2#.

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White to play

164) T. Sosa – Leisch
Sant Boi 2022

52 Qg8+ Kh6 53 Bd3! hxg3

53...Qg7 54 Qe6+ +–.

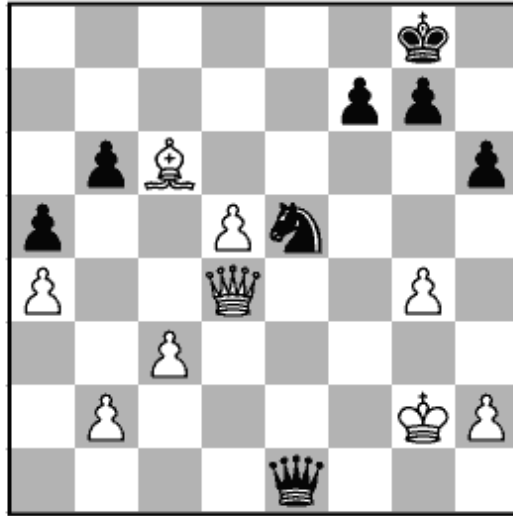
54 fxg3 Kh5

54...Bxg3 55 Qxg3 +–.

55 Qh7+ 1-0

Black is mated after 55...Kg5 56 Qh4#, 55...Qh6 56 Qf5+ Qg5 57 Qh3+ Qh4 58 Qxh4# or 55...Kg4 56 Be2+ Kxg3 (56...Kg5 57 Qh5#) 57 Qh2#.

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Black to play

165) Hamitevici – Bulmaga

Braila rapid 2022

47...Qe2+ 48 Kg3

48 Qf2 Qxg4+ 49 Kf1 (49 Qg3 Qe4+ –+) 49...Nxc6 50 dxc6 Qc4+ 51 Qe2 Qxc6 –+.

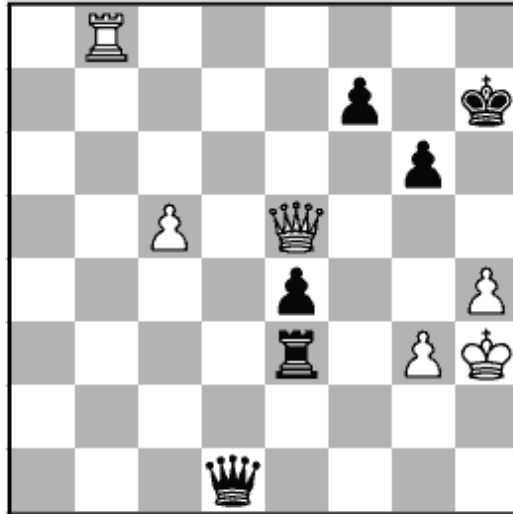
48...Qf3+ 49 Kh4 g5+

Or 49...Ng6+ 50 Kh5 Qh3#.

50 Kh5 Qh3# (0-1)

White's bishop was unable to defend his kingside.

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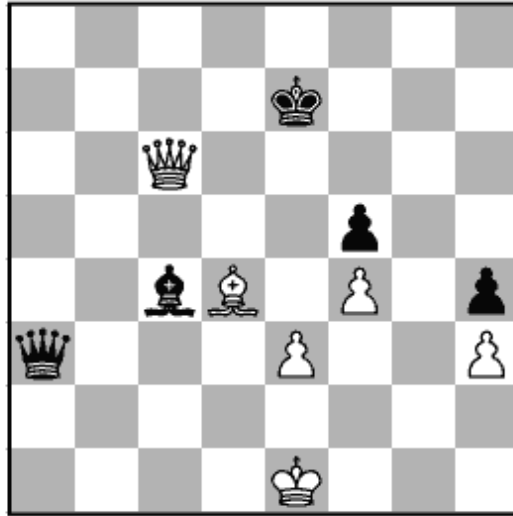
Black to play

166) M. Hess – Šebenik
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

52...Qd7+! 0-1

White is mated after 53 Kg2 Qd2+ 54 Kf1 Re1#.

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Black to play

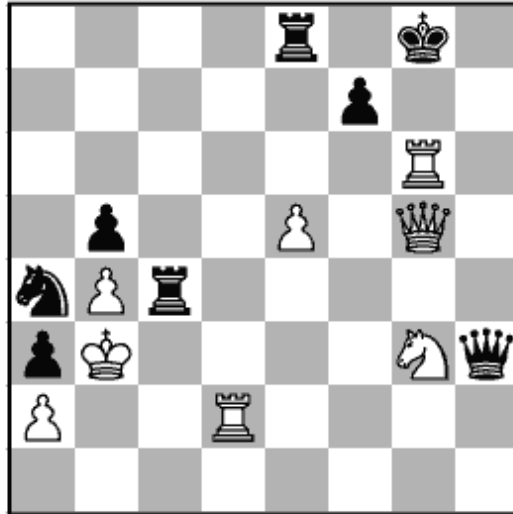
167) M. Lu – Santiago

Juan Dolio 2023

54...Qc1+ 55 Kf2 Qf1# (0-1)

The black pawn on h4 took away an escape-square from the white king.

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Black to play

168) S. Brunello – Moroni
Italian Ch, Cagliari 2022

41...Kh7!

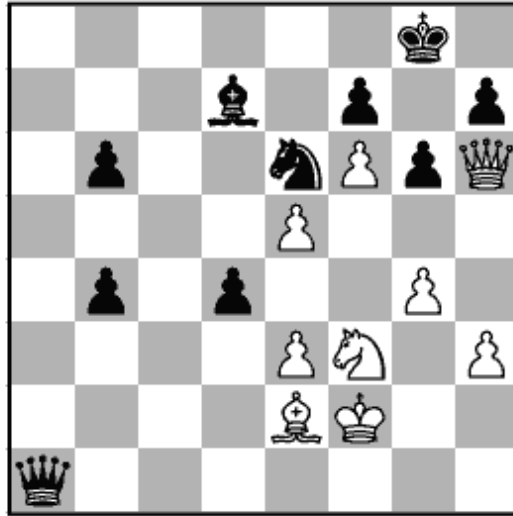
41...fxg6?? 42 Qxg6+ leads to mate after both 42...Kf8 43 Rf2+ and 42...Kh8 43 Qxe8+ Kg7 44 Qe7+.

42 Rg7+ Kh8

White has no reasonable way to defend the c3-square.

43 Rd3 Rec8 0-1

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White to play

169) Aczel – B. Szabo
Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

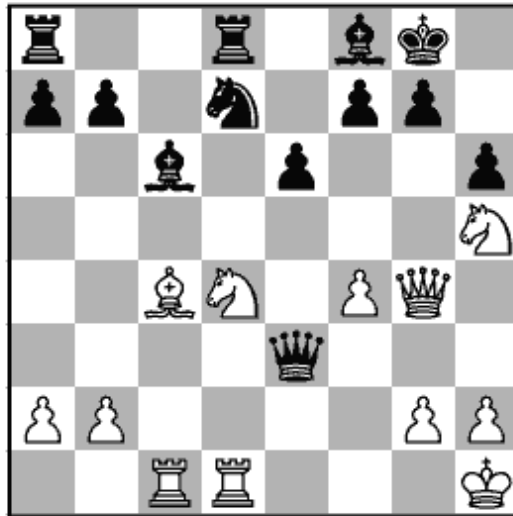
39 Nxd4

White seeks to remove the defender of the g7-square.

39...Qh1 40 Nxe6 Qh2+ 41 Ke1 1-0

Black cannot avoid being mated on g7.

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White to play

170) Beliavsky – Borhy
Budapest rapid 2022

21 Nxe6!

21 Rc3? was played in the game but after 21...Qe4 it turned out that White had no advantage:

a) White chose 22 Rg3?, when 22...Kh8! would have left Black with a clear extra pawn.

b) 22 Nxc6 Qxc6 (22...bxc6? 23 h3!) 23 Be2 Nc5! 24 Rxd8 Rxd8 25 Nxc6 Bxc6 26 Rg3 Kf8 and the game remains roughly equal.

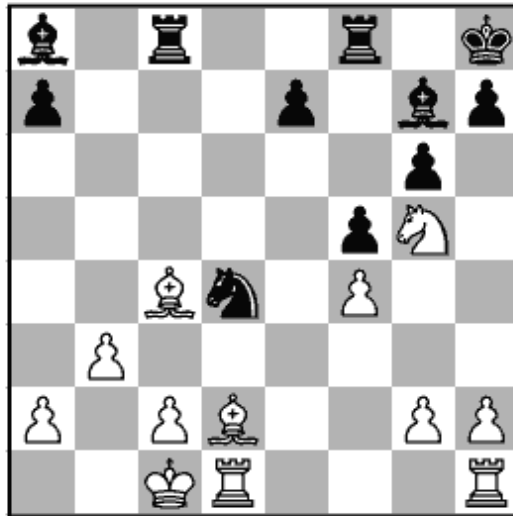
c) 22 Bd3 Ne5! 23 Nf6+ Kh8 also keeps the game sharp but ultimately equal.

21...fxe6 22 Re1 Qd4 23 Qxe6+ Kh7 24 Qg8+ Kg6 25 Bf7+

Black's king is driven up the board into a mating-net.

25...Kf5 26 Qh7+ Kg4 27 Qg6+ Kh4 28 Qg3#

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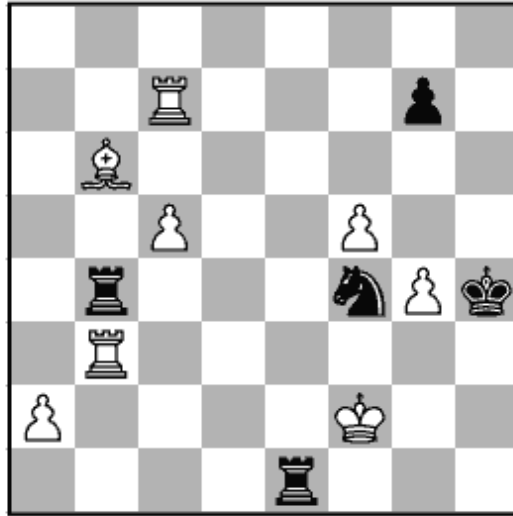
Black to play

171) K. Malinovsky – Rašik
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

20...Rxc4! 0-1

White is mated after 21 bxc4 Ne2+ 22 Kb1 Rb8+ 23 Bb4 Rxb4#.

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Black to play

172) N. Radovanović – Ivanisević
Serbian Ch, Bajina Bašta 2022

52...Rbe4!

Black is able to construct a mating-net as two of White's pieces are far from the action.

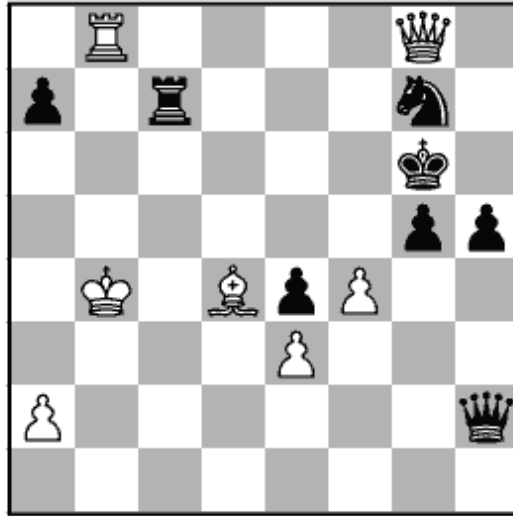
53 Kf3

Or: 53 Rb2 Nh3+ 54 Kg2 Rxg4+ 55 Kh2 (55 Kf3 Rg3#) 55...Ng5 56 Rb3 Reg1 leads to mate; 53 Re7 Rxe7 54 Bd8 Kxg4 55 Bxe7 Re2+ 56 Kf1 Rxe7 –+.

53...Nh3! 54 Rb2 R4e3+ 55 Kg2 Rg3+ 56 Kh2 Nf4 0-1

Black is threatening 57...Rh3#, and 57 Rb3 is met by 57...Rg2#.

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White to play

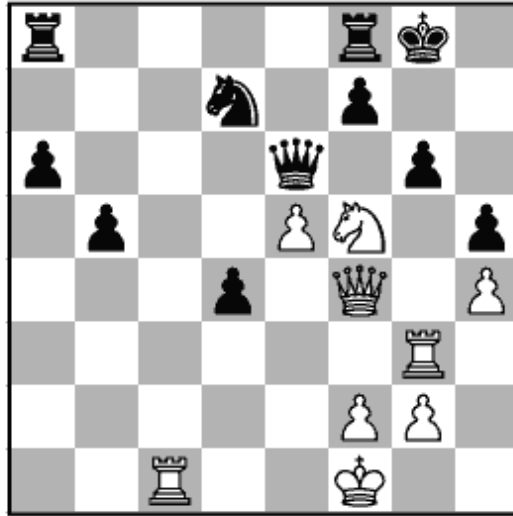
173) Mitsis – Skembris
Greek Ch, Athens 2022

46 Bxg7 Rxd7

46...Qd2+ 47 Bc3+ leads to mate.

47 Qe6+ Kh7 48 Qf5+ Rg6 49 Rb7+ Kh8 50 Qf8+ 1-0
50...Rg8 51 Qh6#.

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White to play

174) Gedajlović – Kunka

San Jose 2022

29 Rc6! Qxe5 30 Qg5 Kh8 31 Qh6+ Kg8 32 Rcxg6+ 1-0
32...fxg6 33 Qxg6+ Kh8 34 Qxh5#.

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White to play

175) Sankalp – A. Bai
Sitges 2022

26 Nf4+! gxf4

26...exf4 27 Re6+ Nf6 28 Rxf6+ Bxf6 29 Qxf6+ Kh7 30 Bh5 leads to mate.

27 Bh5+

Black's king is drawn forward into a mating-net.

27...Kxh5 28 Qf7+ Kg5

28...Kh4 29 Qxf5 Rg8 30 g3+ fxg3 31 Re4+ Rg4 32 Qxg4#.

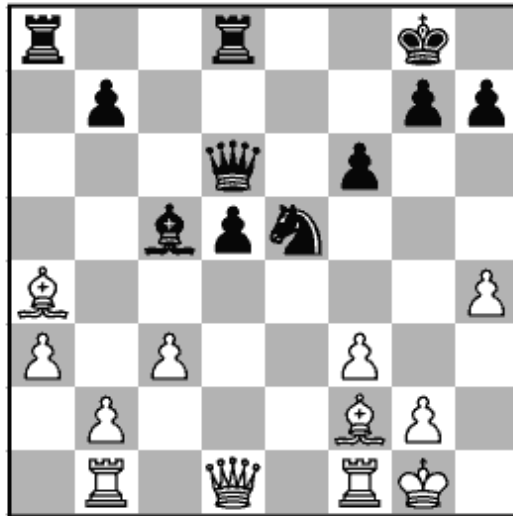
29 h4+ Kxh4 30 Qxf5 e4

30...Rg8 31 g3+ Rxg3+ (31...fxg3 32 Re4+ Rg4 33 Qxg4#) 32 fxg3+ Kxg3 33 Re3+ fxe3 34 Bc3 e2 35 Be1#.

31 g3+ fxg3 32 Kg2 1-0

32...gxf2 33 Rh1+ Qh2+ 34 Rxh2#.

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Black to play

176) Blohberger – Bartel

European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

23...Rxa4! 24 Qxa4 Nxf3+! 25 gxf3

25 Kh1 Qh2#.

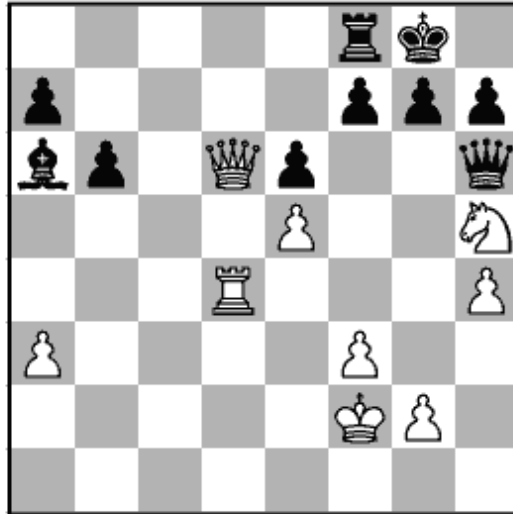
25...Qg3+ 26 Kh1 Qxf3+ 27 Kg1

27 Kh2 Bd6+ 28 Kg1 Qh3 transposes to the game's final position.

27...Qg3+ 28 Kh1 Qh3+ 29 Kg1 Bd6 0-1

30 Rfe1 Bh2+ 31 Kh1 Bg3+ 32 Kg1 Qh2+ 33 Kf1 Qxf2#.

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White to play

177) Indjić – Djordjević
Serbian Ch, Bajina Bašta 2022

30 Qe7! g6

30...Qxh5 31 Rd8 +—.

31 Nf6+ Kg7

31...Kh8 32 g3 Bb5 33 Rd8 Be8 34 f4 +—.

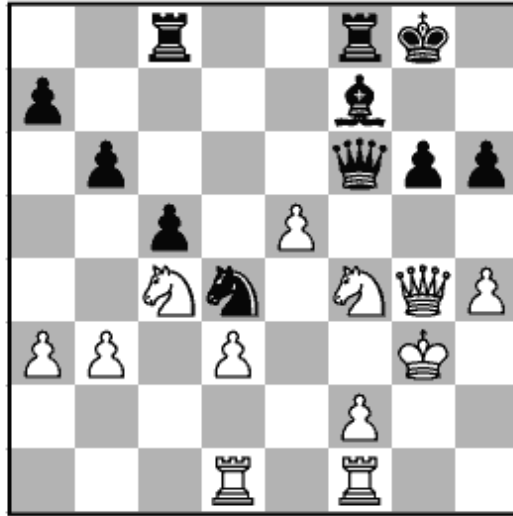
32 Qxf8+! Kxf8 33 Rd8+ Ke7

33...Kg7 34 Rg8#.

34 Re8# (1-0)

Black's bishop was an idle spectator.

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Black to play

178) Plotkin – E. Grinberg
Saint Louis 2022

30...Qxf4+! 31 Kxf4

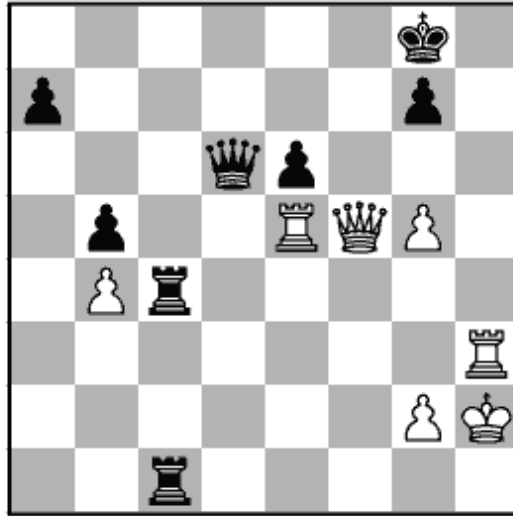
Black wins a piece after 31 Qxf4 Ne2+ 32 Kf3 Nxf4 33 Kxf4 Bxc4+ –+.

31...Be6+ 32 Kg3 Bxg4 33 Kxg4 Rf3!

Black seals off the white king's retreat.

34 Nd2 h5+ 35 Kg5 Kg7 36 Nxf3 Ne6# (0-1)

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White to play

179) Henriquez Villagra – Kaidanov

Juan Dolio 2023

60 Qh7+ Kf8

60...Kf7 61 Rf3+ Ke7 62 Qxg7+ Ke8 (62...Kd8 63 Rf8+ +—) 63 Qg8+ Kd7 64 Rf7+ Kc6 65 Qc8+ Kb6 66 Qb7#.

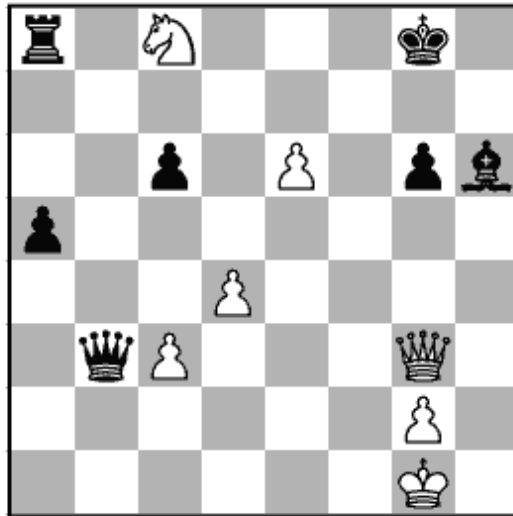
61 Rf3+

61 Qh8+ also leads to mate.

61...Ke8 62 Qg8+ Kd7 63 Rf7+ 1-0

63...Kc6 64 Qc8+ Kb6 65 Qb7#.

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White to play

180) Do. Horvath – Rosner
Kiel 2022

39 Qxg6+

Not 39 Ne7+?? Kh8! 40 Nxg6+ (40 Qxg6? Qd1+ 41 Kh2 Qd2 –+) 40...Kh7, when White is clearly failing to mate, and after 41 Qd3 Kg7 42 Qf5 Be3+ 43 Kh2 Qb8+ 44 Ne5 Qh8+ 45 Kg3 Qg8, Black's accurate defence leaves White fighting for a draw.

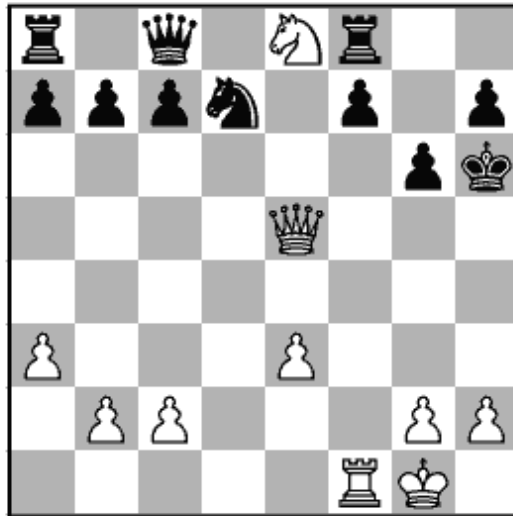
39...Bg7

39...Kh8 40 Qxh6+ Kg8 41 Ne7#.

40 Ne7+ Kh8 41 Qh5+ 1-0

41...Bh6 42 Qxh6#. Queen and knight are a good mating team.

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White to play

181) Tabatabaei – Rustemov
Internet rapid 2022

21 Qg7+!

Not 21 Qf4+? g5 22 Qf6+ Nxf6 23 Rxf6+ Kh5 24 Ng7+ Kg4!
 (24...Kh4?? 25 g3+ Kh3 26 Rh6+ Kg4 27 Kg2 Qe6 28 h3#) 25 Rh6
 Qe6! 26 h3+ Kg3 27 Nh5+ Kh4 28 Nf6+ Kg3 29 Nh5+ = with a draw
 by repetition.

21...Kg5

21...Kh5 22 Qxh7+ Kg5 23 Rf4 and mate next move.

22 h4+

Also decisive is 22 Rf4 h6 (22...Qxe8 23 h4+ Kh5 24 Qxh7#) 23
 Qf6+ Nxf6 24 h4+ Kh5 25 Nxf6#.

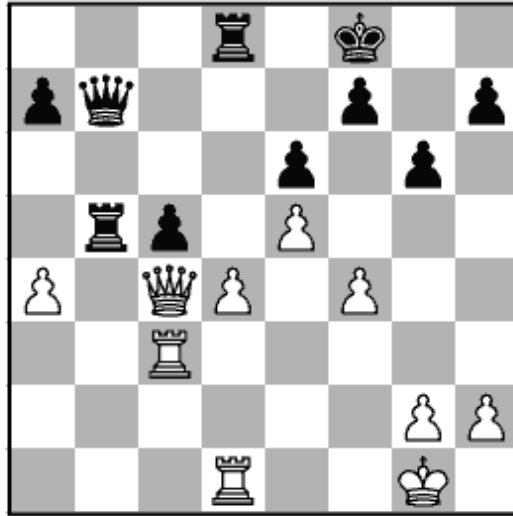
22...Kh5

22...Kg4 allows several mates, including 23 Qh6 Qd8 24 Qf4+ Kh5
 25 Ng7#.

23 Rf5+ 1-0

23...Kxh4 24 Qh6+ Kg4 25 Rg5#.

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Black to play

182) Bernadskiy – Salem
Sharjah 2023

26...Rxd4! 27 Rxd4 Rb1+!

White wins a rook after 27...cxd4?? 28 Qc8+ Qxc8 (28...Kg7 29 axb5 +–) 29 Rxc8+ Ke7 30 axb5 +–.

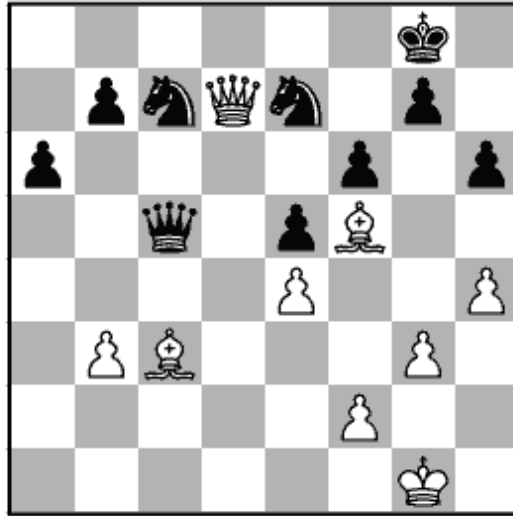
28 Kf2 Rb2+ 29 Ke3

29 Rc2 cxd4 –+.

29...Qxg2 0-1

30 Qxc5+ Kg7 (White is a rook up but he must defend against the threat of 31...Qe2#) 31 Qc4 Qf2+ 32 Ke4 (32 Kd3? Qe2#) 32...Re2+ 33 Qxe2 Qxe2+ 34 Re3 Qxh2 –+.

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White to play

183) Andreikin – Oparin

Internet rapid 2022

37 b4! Qxc3 38 Qxe7

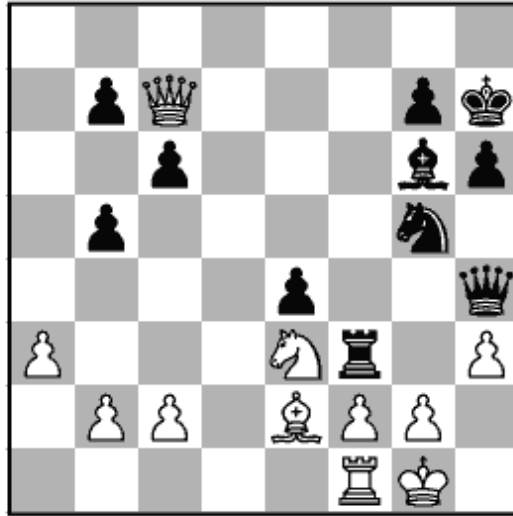
Black has no good defence against White's plan to create a mating-net with Bg6.

38...Qc1+ 39 Kg2 Qc4

39...Qc6 40 Bg6 +–.

40 Bg6 1-0

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Black to play

184) L. Dominguez – Aronian
Internet rapid 2022

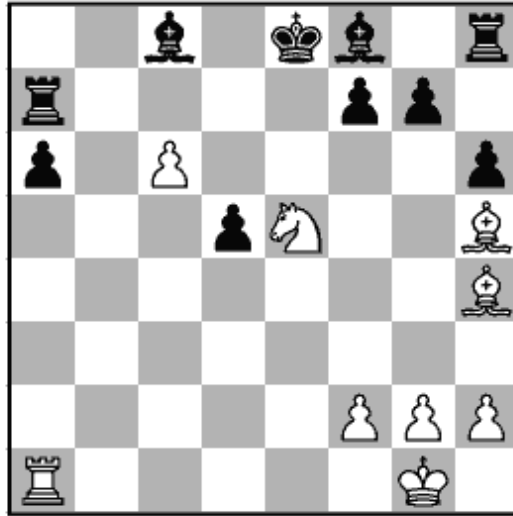
40...Rxf3! 41 gxf3 Nxf3+ 42 Kg2

42 Kh1 Nf4+ 43 Kg1 just transposes.

42...Nf4+ 43 Kg1 Nxe2+ 44 Kg2 Nf4+ 45 Kg1 Qg5+ 46 Kh2 Bh5
0-1

47 f3 Qh4+ 48 Kg1 Qg3+ 49 Kh1 Bxf3+ leads to mate.

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White to play

185) Pulvett Marin – Macias Pino

Valencia 2022

25 Nxf7! g5

Black is caught in a nasty pin after 25...Rxf7 26 Re1+ +- or 25...g6 26 Nxh8 gxh5 27 Re1+ Be7 28 Ng6 +-.

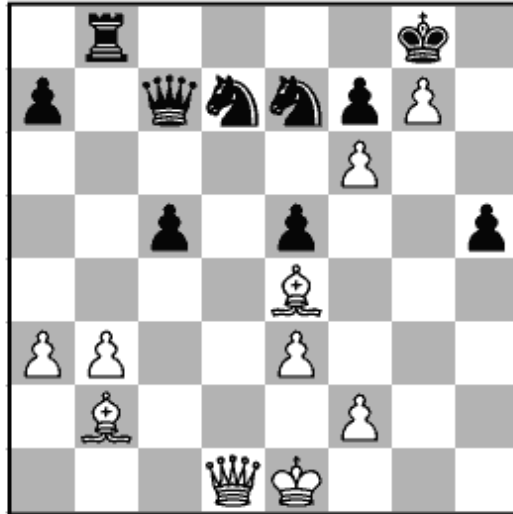
26 Nxg5+ Ke7

The game ended with a surprising and attractive checkmate: 26...Kd8 27 Ne6# (1-0).

27 Nf7+ Ke6 28 Re1+ Kf5 29 Re5+ Kf4 30 Bg3#

Or 30 g3#. Three of Black's pieces never moved from their original squares.

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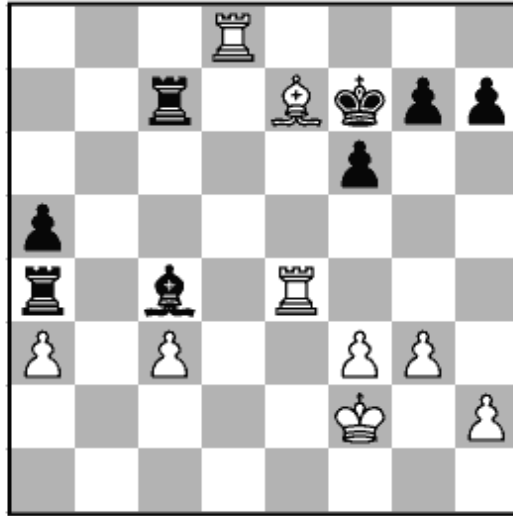
White to play

186) Afanasiev – O. Ivanov
Moscow 2022

31 Bh7+! 1-0

31...Kxh7 32 Qxh5+ Kg8 33 Qh8#.

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White to play

187) Heimann – Bilovil
Dortmund 2022

32 Rf8+ Kg6 33 Rg4+ Kh6

33...Kf5 34 Rxc7 +/-.

34 Bxf6! Rxa3

White's active rooks make all the difference here. After 34...gxf6 35 Rxf6+ Kh5 36 Rh4+ Kg5 37 Rhh6 it is mate in two more moves.

35 Bg5+ Kh5 36 Bd2 h6

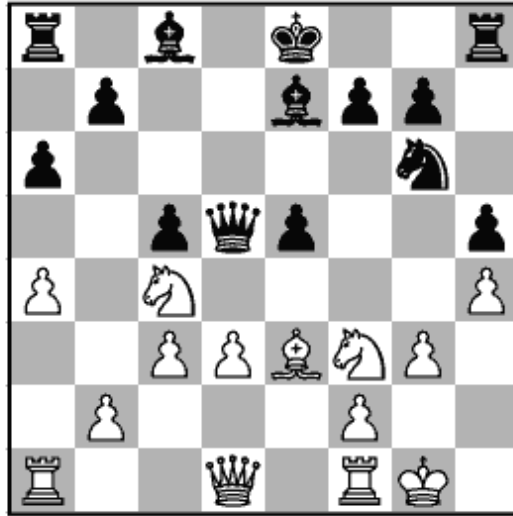
36...Rf7 37 Rxf7 Bxf7 38 Rxc7 Bg6 39 Rd7 +/-.

37 Rh8

The game ended 37 Rf5+ g5 38 Rf6 Rc5 39 Rh4+ gxh4 40 g4# (1-0).

37...Rc5 38 Rxc7 Rc6 39 Rg5#

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Black to play

188) Buscara – Starostits
Seville 2022

14...Bg4 15 Nb6

White is stuck in a terrible pin after 15 Ncd2 f5 –+.

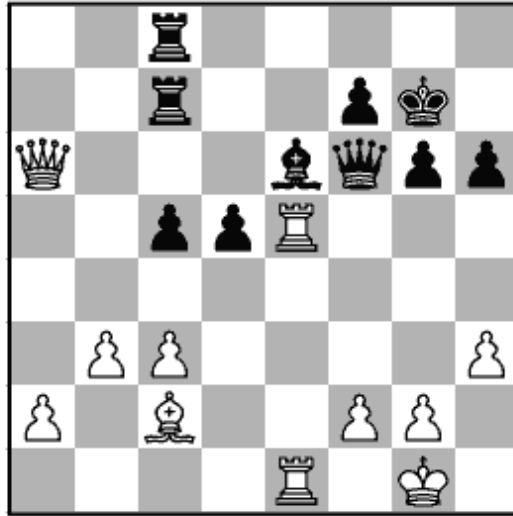
15...Qc6 16 Nxa8 Bxf3 17 Qb3 Qc8 18 Nc7+

18 Nb6 Qh3 mates.

18...Qxc7 19 Rfe1 Nxh4 20 gxh4 Qd7 0-1

White cannot prevent the black queen from infiltrating the kingside and delivering mate.

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White to play

189) Stoyanov – Kushagra
Belgrade 2022

30 Rxe6! fxe6 31 Rxe6 Qxc3

Black has no answer to White's pressure along the sixth rank; for example, 31...Qf7 32 Rxc6+ Kh8 33 Rxc6+ Kg8 34 Rg6+ Kh8 35 Qe2 +–.

32 Rxc6+ Kh8

32...Kf8 33 Qe6 +–.

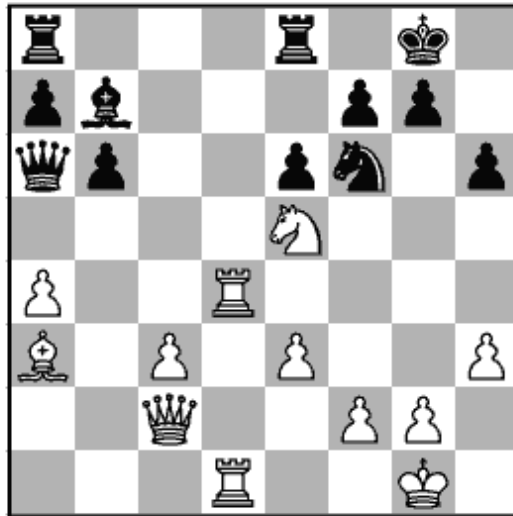
33 Rxc6+ Kg8 34 Qe6+ Kf8

34...Kg7 35 Rg6+ Kh7 36 Bf5 leads to mate.

35 Rf6+ Kg7 36 Rg6+ Kh8 37 Rg8+ 1-0

37...Rxc6 38 Qh6+ Rh7 39 Qxc6#.

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White to play

190) Nisipeanu – Sipilä
Chennai Olympiad 2022

22 Nxf7!

The combination works because the black queen is out of play on a6.

22...Kxf7

22...Be4 23 Nxh6+ gxh6 24 Rxe4 +—.

23 Rd7+ Nxd7 24 Rxd7+ Kf6

24...Kg8 25 Qg6 mates.

25 Qh7 Rg8 26 Be7+ Kf7

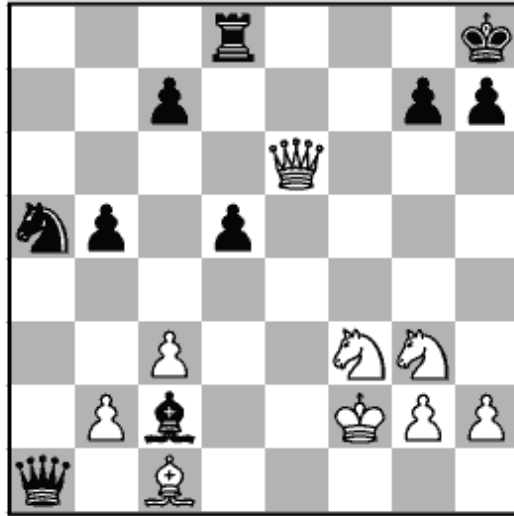
26...Ke5 27 f4#.

27 Bh4+ Kf8

27...Ke8 28 Re7+ Kf8 29 Qg6 and mate follows.

28 Qg6 Qxa4 29 Be7# (1-0)

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White to play

191) V. Onishchuk – Kantor
Chennai Olympiad 2022

23 Bh6!

Black's queen and knight are far away from the kingside, allowing this idea.

23...Rg8

23...Bg6 24 Nf5 Bxf5 (24...Qxb2+ 25 Kg3 Qxc3 26 Bxg7+ Qxg7 27 Nxg7 +—) 25 Qe5 Rg8 26 Ng5 Bg6 27 Ne6 leads to mate.

24 Bxg7+! Kxg7

24...Rxc7 25 Qe8+ Rg8 26 Qe5+ Rg7 27 Nh5 and White mates.

25 Qe7+ Kh6

Or 25...Kh8 26 Qf6+ Rg7 27 Nh5, mating.

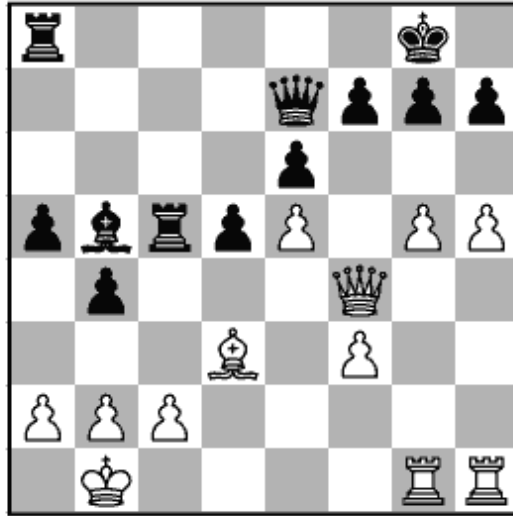
26 Qf6+ Rg6

26...Bg6 27 Nf5+ Kh5 28 Qh4#.

27 Qf8+ Rg7 28 Qf4+ 1-0

28...Kg6 (28...Rg5 29 Qxg5#) 29 Ne5#.

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White to play

192) Nyzhnyk – Schmakel
US Open, Rancho Mirage 2022

26 Bxh7+! Kxh7 27 g6+ Kg8

27...fxg6 28 hxg6++ Kg8 29 Rg5 mates.

28 h6

White's kingside pawns supported by his rooks rip open Black's kingside.

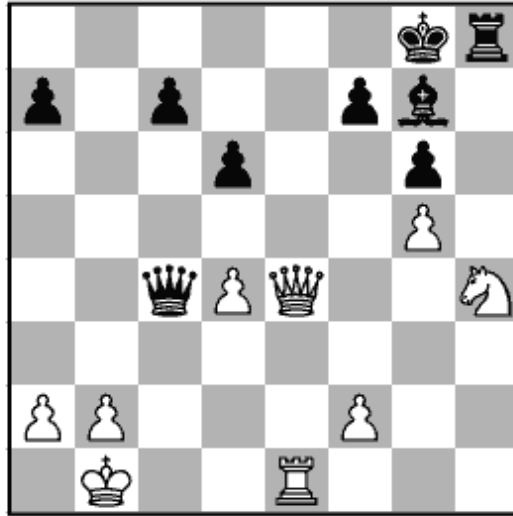
28...fxg6 29 Rxd6 Rf8

29...Rc4 30 Qh2 +-.

30 Qg4 Rf7 31 hxg7 Rxd7 32 Qh3 1-0

Black is mated after 32...Kf7 33 Rxd7+ Kxd7 34 Rg1+ Kf7 35 Qh5+ Kf8 36 Qh8+ Kf7 37 Qg8#.

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White to play

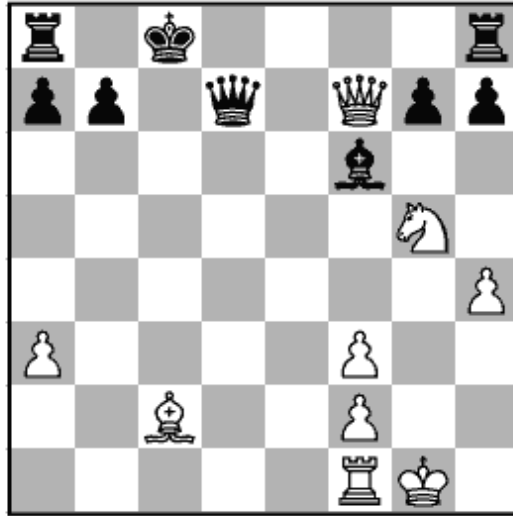
193) Vlachos – Kalesis

Greek Team Ch, Thessaloniki 2022

28 Nxb6! 1-0

Black's king is fatally exposed after 28...fxg6 29 Qe8+ Kh7 (29...Bf8 30 Qxg6+ Bg7 31 Re8#) 30 Rh1+ Bh6 31 Rxh6+ Kg7 32 Qxg6+ Kf8 33 Rxh8+ Ke7 34 Qe8#.

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White to play

194) Fernandez Guillen – Neef
Barcelona 2022

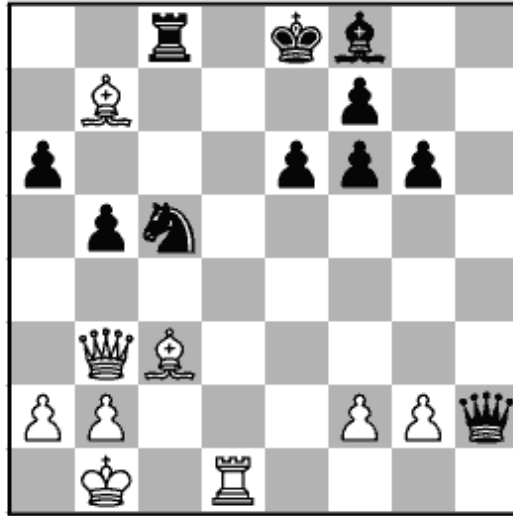
25 Bf5! Qxf5 26 Rc1+ Kd8

Black must give up his queen in view of 26...Kb8 27 Qc7#.

27 Ne6+ Qxe6 28 Qxe6 Rf8 29 Rd1+ 1-0

29...Kc7 30 Qd6+ Kc8 31 Rc1+ Bc3 32 Rxc3#.

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White to play

195) Urazayev – S. Volkov
Cheliabinsk 2022

21 Bxa6!

White sacrifices his queen for a mating attack.

21...Nxb3 22 Bxb5+ Ke7 23 Rd7+ Ke8 24 Ra7+ Rc6

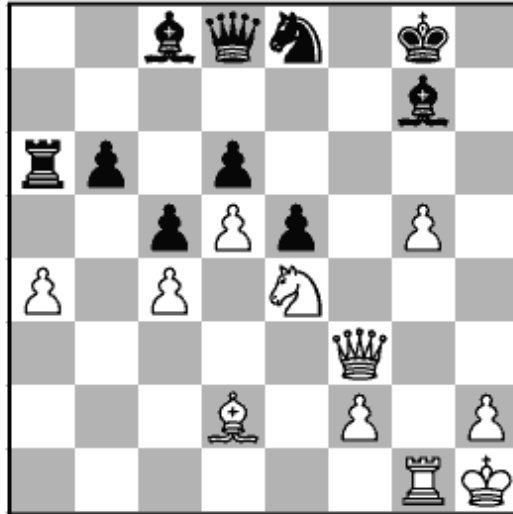
The game ended 24...Kd8 25 Bxf6+ Be7 26 Bxe7# (1-0).

25 Bxc6+ Kd8 26 axb3 Qh1+ 27 Ka2 Qh5 28 Ba5+ Qxa5+

28...Kc8 29 Ra8#.

29 Rxa5 +–

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White to play

196) Vidit – Shyam

Internet rapid 2022

27 Nf6+! Kf7

27...Kf8 28 Ng4+ and now 28...Kg8 29 Nh6+ Kh7 (29...Bxh6 30 gxh6+ mates) 30 Qe4+ Kh8 31 Nf7+ +- or 28...Ke7 29 g6 Kd7 30 Qf7+ Qe7 31 Bg5 Qxf7 32 gxf7 Ra8 33 Bh6 +-.

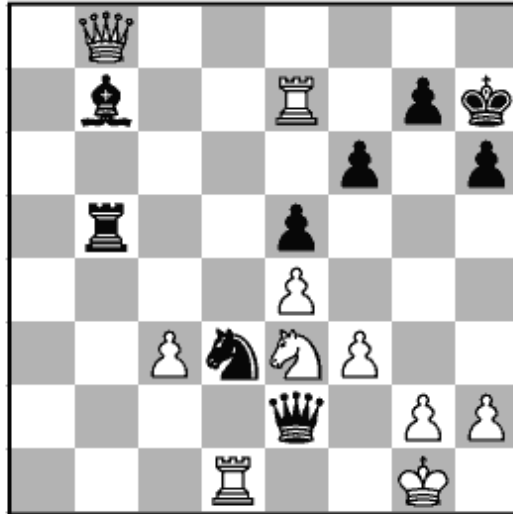
28 g6+ Ke7

28...Kf8 29 Nd7++ Kg8 30 Qf7+ Kh8 31 Rg5 leads to mate.

29 Ng8+ Kd7 30 Qf7+ 1-0

30...Qe7 31 Qxe7#.

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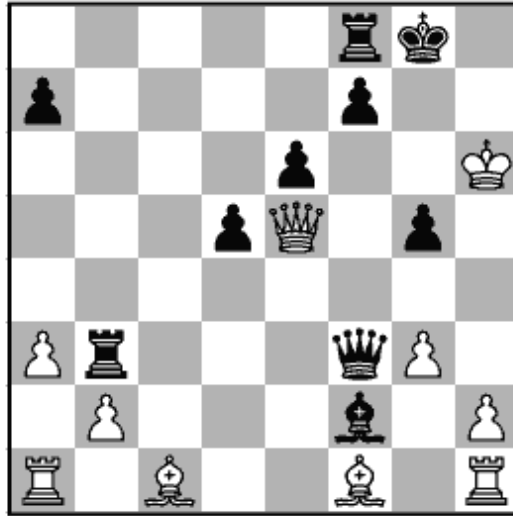
White to play

197) Averin – Zablotsky
Cheliabinsk 2022

41 Rxc7+! Kxc7 42 Nf5+ 1-0

In view of 42...Kg6 43 Qg8+ Kh5 44 Qg4# (or 44 g4#) or 42...Kf7 43 Qc7+ Kf8 44 Qe7+ (or 44 Qg7+ Ke8 45 Qe7#) 44...Kg8 45 Qg7#.

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Black to play

198) B. Clarke – Bellahcene (variation)
Paris 2022

26...Bd4! 27 Qxd4

27 Qxg5+ Kh8 28 Bf4 Qxh1 –+.

27...e5!

Black opens his third rank for his rook.

28 Qxa7

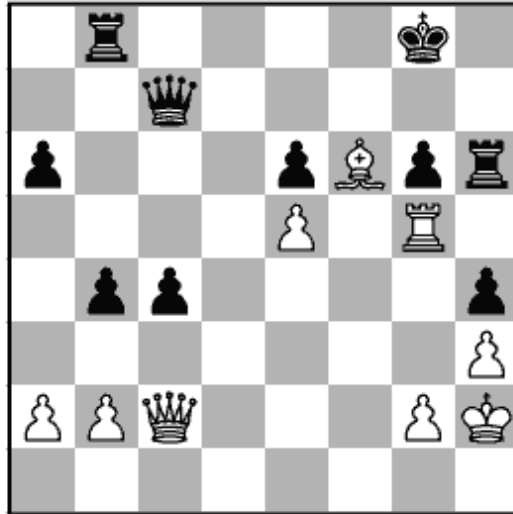
28 Qxe5 Rb6+ 29 Kxg5 Rg6+ 30 Kh4 Qg4#.

28...Qf6+ 29 Kh5 Kg7 –+

White will soon be mated; for example, 30 Bxg5 Rh8+ 31 Kg4 Qe6#.

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White to play

200) Ratković – Milenković

Serbian Team Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2022

34 Rg4!

White preserves his rook; it is too early for 34 Rxc6+? Rxc6 35 Qxc6+ Kf8 36 Qh5 Rc8 37 Qh8+ Kf7 38 Qh5+ Kf8 =.

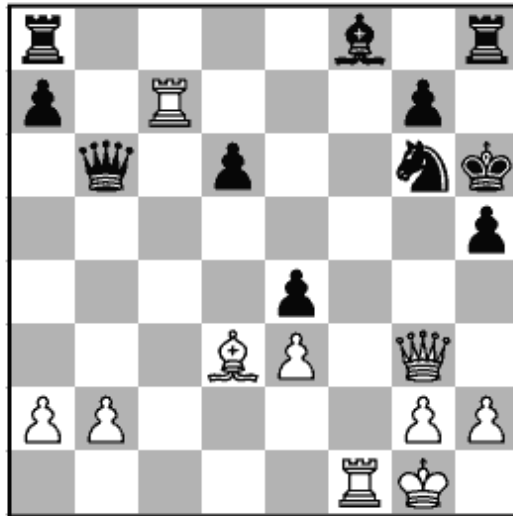
34...c3 35 Qc1 Kh7

35...Qh7 36 bxc3 bxc3 37 Qxc3 +—.

36 Qxh6+! 1-0

Black is mated on the edge of the board after 36...Kxh6 (36...Kg8 37 Qxc6+ Kf8 38 Qg8#) 37 Rxh4#.

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White to play

201) Yilmazyerli – Risteski

Serbian Team Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2022

25 Rf5!

White is able to exploit the precarious position of the black king.

25...exd3

25...d5 26 Qg5+ Kh7 27 Rxf8 Rhxf8 28 Qxh5+ Kg8 29 Qxd5+ Kh7
30 Qh5+ Kg8 31 Bc4+ +-.

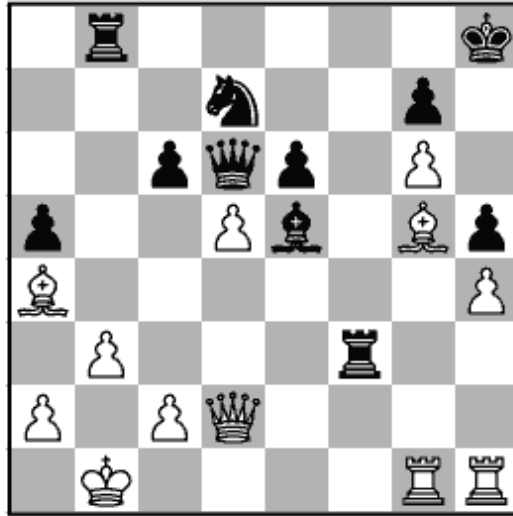
26 Qf3! Nf4

26...Kh7 27 Rxh5+ Kg8 28 Qf7#.

27 Qxf4+ 1-0

Black is mated after 27...Kg6 28 Rg5+ Kh7 29 Rxh5+ Kg8 30 Qf7#.

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Black to play

202) A. Filip – Cosma

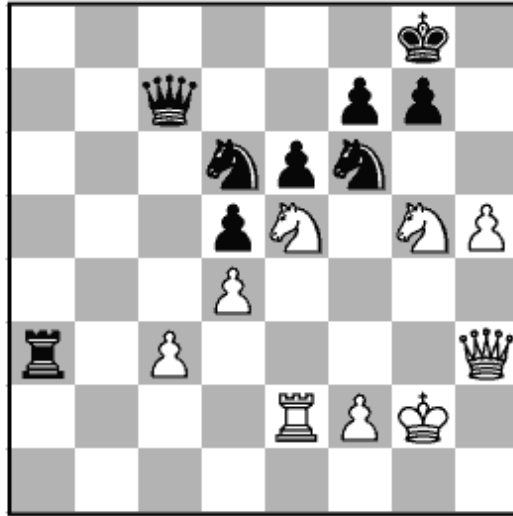
Romanian Team Ch, Oradea 2022

28...Qa3! 29 c4

Black wins a piece after 29 Qc1 Qxa4 –+.

29...Qxa4 30 dxe6 Rfxb3+ 31 axb3 Qxb3+ 0-1
32 Kc1 Qb1#.

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White to play

203) Keymer – Praggnanandhaa
Internet rapid 2022

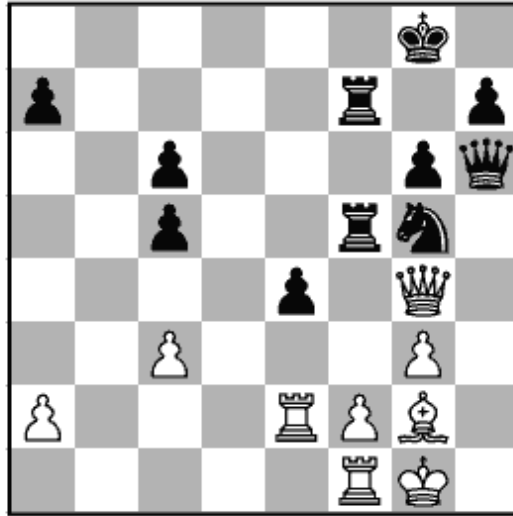
41 h6! Rxc3

41...gxh6 42 Qxh6 Qe7 43 Ng4 Nde8 44 Re3 +—.

42 h7+ Kh8 43 Ngxf7+ 1-0

43...Nxf7 44 Ng6#.

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Black to play

204) Schmider – Färber

German Junior Team Ch, Wiesbaden 2022

38...Nf3+! 39 Bxf3 exf3

White is unable to counter Black's plan of doubling major pieces on the h-file.

40 Re3

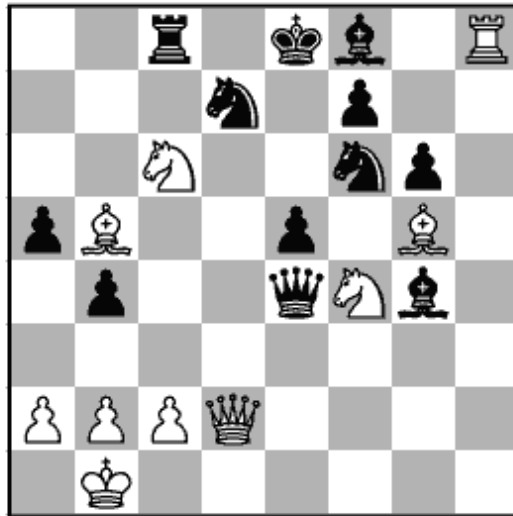
40 Re4 Rh5 41 Qh4 Rxh4 42 Rxh4 Qg5 –+.

40...Rh5 41 Rxf3

41 Qxh5 Qxh5 –+.

41...Rh1+ 42 Kg2 Qh2# (0-1)

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White to play

205) Vaishali – S.P. Sethuraman
Fagernes 2022

26 Bxf6! Rxc6

The weakness of Black's f6-square is apparent after 26...Nxf6 27 Nxb4+ Bd7 (27...Nd7 28 Nfd5 +–; 27...Ke7 28 Nbd5+ Nxd5 29 Nxd5+ Ke6 30 Bd7+! Kxd7 31 Nf6++ Ke6 32 Nxe4 +–) 28 Nbd5 Nxd5 29 Nxd5 +–.

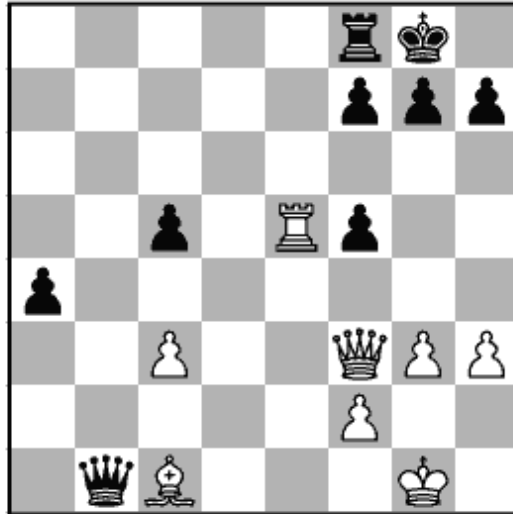
27 Nd5! Rxc2

27...Qxd5 28 Qxd5 Rxf6 29 Bxd7+ Bxd7 30 Qxe5+ Re6 31 Qb8+ Ke7 32 Qxf8+ Kf6 33 Rh1 +–.

28 Rxf8+ 1-0

28...Kxf8 29 Qh6+ Ke8 30 Qh8#.

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White to play

206) Rapport – Grandelius

Internet rapid 2022

29 Qe3! a3 30 Re8 a2 31 Qe7 h6 32 Qxf8+

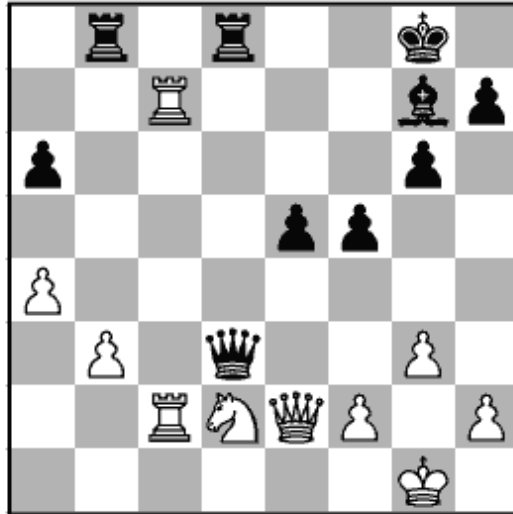
32 Rxf8+ Kh7 33 Rxf7 Qxc1+ is also sufficient but requires some accuracy from White: 34 Kg2! (not 34 Kh2? Qxc3 35 Qe6 Qc2 =) 34...Qxc3 35 Qe6! Qd3 36 Qe5 +–.

32...Kh7 33 Qxf7 a1Q

33...Qxc1+ 34 Kh2 Qg5 35 Qxa2 +–.

34 Qg8+ Kg6 35 Re6+ Kh5 36 Qf7+ g6 37 Qxg6# (1-0)

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White to play

207) Gukesh – Grandelius

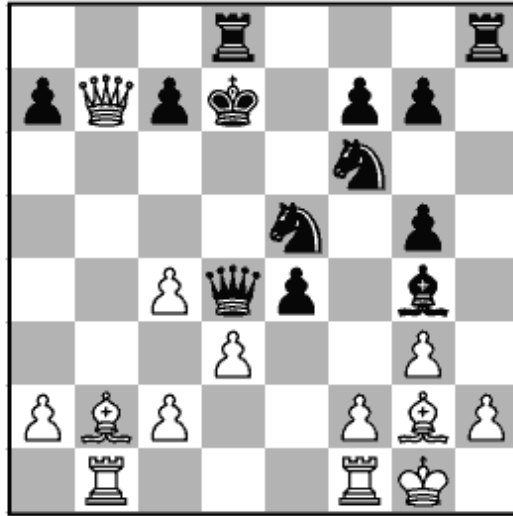
Internet rapid 2022

31 Rxg7+! Kxg7 32 Qxe5+ Kg8

32...Kh6 33 Rc4 +–.

33 Rc7 Qd4 34 Qe6+ Kh8 35 Qf7 1-0

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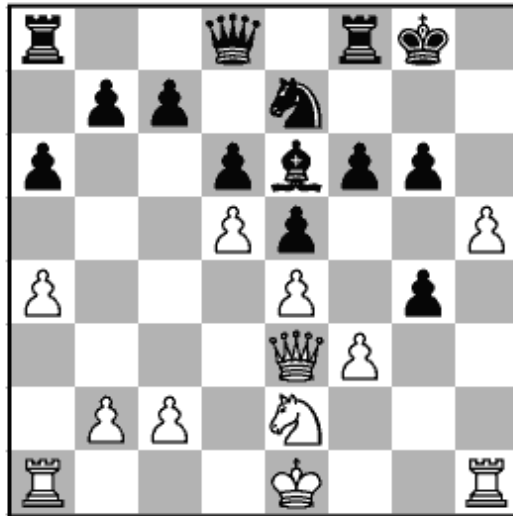
Black to play

208) Rapport – Mamedyarov
Internet rapid 2022

16...Rxb2! 0-1

White's king is caught in a mating-net after 17 Bxd4 Rxb2+ 18 Kxb2 Bf3+ 19 Kg1 Rh8 20 Qb5+ c6 21 Qb7+ Ke6 followed by mate.

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White to play

209) Naroditsky – Gukesh
Internet rapid 2022

19 hxg6! Nxg6

19...Bd7? allows 20 Qh6 and mate next move.

20 Qh6 Rf7

20...Qd7 21 Qxg6+ Qg7 22 Qxg7+ Kxg7 23 dxe6 +—.

21 dxe6 Rg7 22 Ng3 Qf8 23 Nf5 Re8 24 Qh8+!

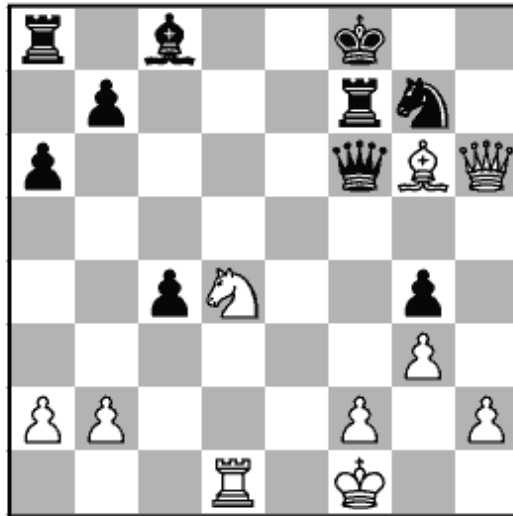
In the game 24 Qh5 was good enough, but the queen sacrifice is a forced mate.

24...Nxb8 25 Nh6+ Kh7 26 Nf7+ Kg6

26...Kg8 27 Rxh8#.

27 Rh6#

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White to play

210) Abdusattorov – Mamedyarov

Internet rapid 2022

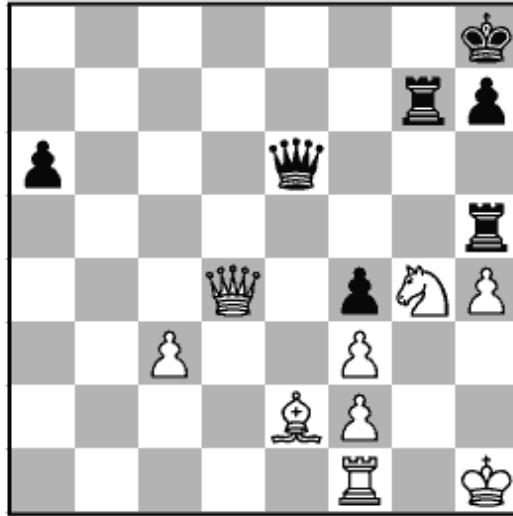
33 Qh8+! Ke7 34 Nc6+! Ke6

Black's queenside pieces are unable to assist and he is mated after 34...bxc6? 35 Qd8+ Ke6 36 Qd6# or 34...Qxc6? 35 Qd8+ Ke6 36 Re1+ Qe4 37 Rxe4#.

35 Nd8+ Ke7 36 Nxf7 Qxg6 37 Ne5 Qf6 38 Qd8+ 1-0

38...Ke6 39 Rd6+ Kxe5 40 Qxf6+ Ke4 41 Rd4# (or 41 Qf4#).

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Black to play

211) Murzin – Peyrer

World Junior Ch, Cala Gonone 2022

39...Qe7! –+

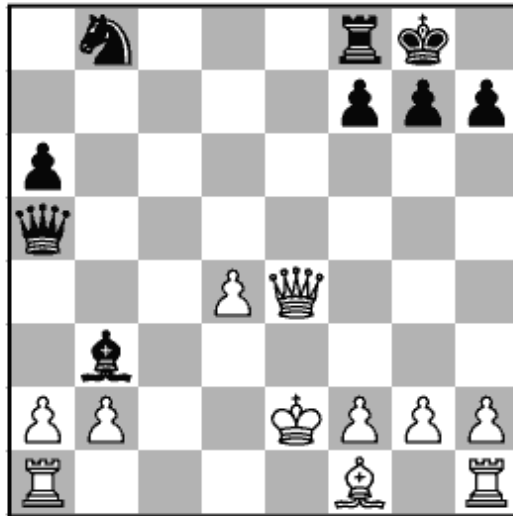
White has no reasonable defence to the threat of 40...Qxh4+ followed by mate.

Other moves are much weaker; for example:

a) After 39...Rxh4+? (as played in the game) White can maintain the balance: 40 Kg1 Qxe2 (Black actually chose 40...Rxg4+?! and ended up losing, as White need no longer take the draw) 41 Qd8+ Rg8 42 Qf6+ Rg7 43 Qf8+ Rg8 44 Qf6+ with a draw by repetition.

b) 39...Qxe2? 40 Qd8+ Rg8 41 Qf6+ Rg7 42 Qf8+ Rg8 43 Qf6+ = with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

212) Harshavardhan – Budisavljević
World Junior Ch, Cala Gonone 2022

18...Ba4! 19 Qf4

White has a material advantage, but his king is hopelessly trapped in the centre; for example, 19 Rc1 Re8 20 Qxe8+ Bxe8 21 Rc8 Qb5+ –+ or 19 b4 Qc7 20 Kd2 Re8 21 Qd3 Qf4+ 22 Kc3 Qxf2 –+.

19...g5! 20 Qd6 Nd7 21 Kf3 Re8 22 Bc4 Qf5+ 23 Kg3 Ne5

White's king is caught in a mating-net.

24 f3

24 dxe5 Qf4+ 25 Kh3 Qh4#.

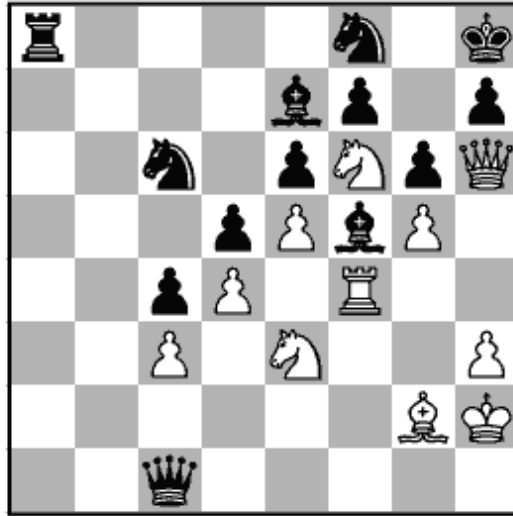
24...Qf4+ 25 Kf2

25 Kh3 Qh4#.

25...Ng4+ 0-1

26 Kf1 Qxd6 –+.

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Black to play

213) Kourkoulos-Arditis – Parligras

Geoagiu Bai 2022

33...Nxe5! 34 Rh4

After 34 dxe5 Qxe3 Black's attack arrives first: 35 Rh4 Qxe5+ 36 Kg1 Qe3+ 37 Kh2 Bd6+ followed by mate.

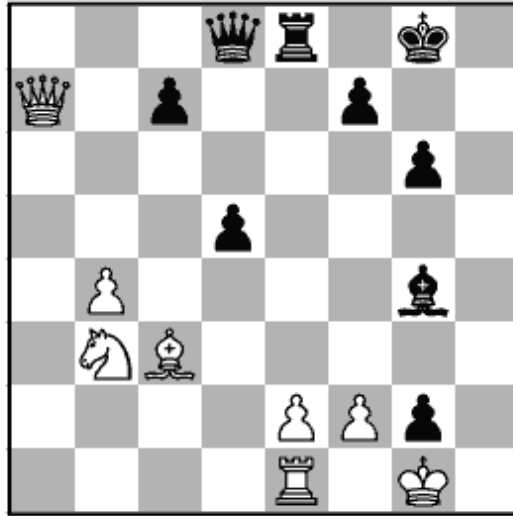
34...Nf3+

34...Ng4+ is slower, but also leads to mate.

35 Bxf3 Bd6+ 0-1

36 Kg2 Ra2+ with mate to follow.

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Black to play

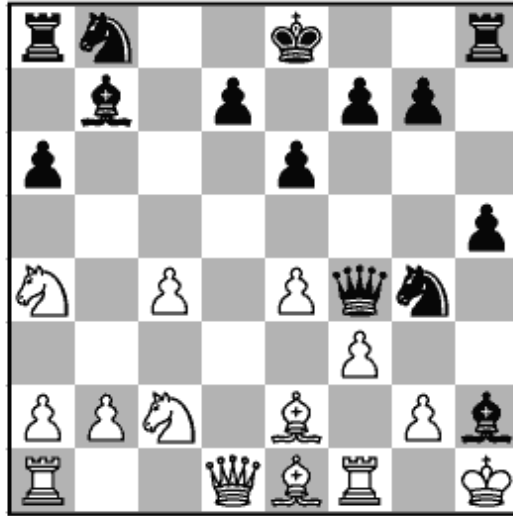
214) J. Pajeken – Movsesian
Bundesliga 2022/3

29...Qh4! 30 f3

30 Kxg2 is met by 30...Bh3+ 31 Kh1 Bf5+. Black has improved the position of his bishop 'for free' so that at the end of the combination he controls the b1-square to prevent White from responding to ...Qxc3 with Rb1, viz. 32 Kg1 Qg4+ 33 Kf1 Qh3+ 34 Kg1 Qxc3 –+.

30...Qh1+ 31 Kf2 Qh2 32 Rg1 Qh4+ 33 Kxg2 Bh3+ 34 Kh2 Bf1# (0-1)

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Black to play

215) E. Park – Antipov
Los Angeles 2022

16...Bg3! 17 Qc1

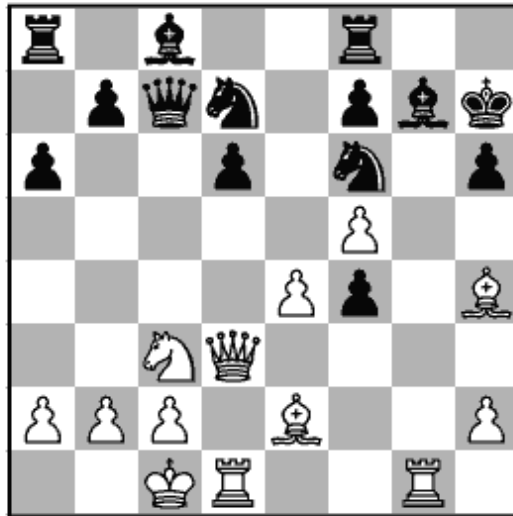
17 Bxg3 Qxg3 18 fxg4 hxg4+ 19 Kg1 Rh2 20 Ne1 Qh4 followed by mate.

17...Nf2+ 18 Kg1

White has no way to avoid being mated; for example, 18 Bxf2 Qh4+ 19 Kg1 Qh2#, while 18 Rxf2 Qh4+ 19 Kg1 transposes to the game.

18...Qh4 19 Rxf2 Qh2+ 20 Kf1 Qh1# (0-1)

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White to play

216) Adhiban – Sammed Jaykumar
Delhi 2022

16 Nd5!

White is working to pry open the b1-h7 diagonal and expose Black's king. The second-best option is 16 Rxc7+? Kxc7 17 Qd2, but this allows Black time to set up a defence in various ways and should offer White no advantage.

16...Nxd5

16...Qd8 17 e5 Nxe5 18 Rxc7+ Kxc7 19 Qh3 +—.

17 f6!

An essential follow-up.

17...Bxf6

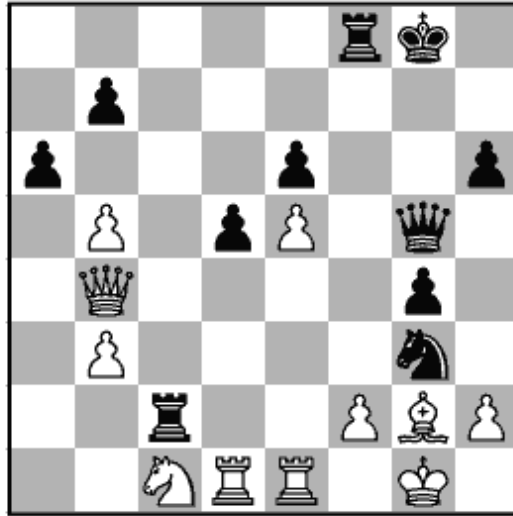
The critical line runs 17...Nb4 18 e5+! (this queen sacrifice is another vital link in the chain) 18...Nxd3+ 19 Bxd3+ Kh8 (19...Kg8? 20 Rxc7+ Kh8 21 Rh7+ Kg8 22 Rg1#) 20 fxg7+ Kg8 21 gxf8Q++ Kxf8 22 Bh7 Ke8 23 Rg8+ Nf8 24 Rdg1 +—.

18 exd5+ Kh8 19 Qf5 Bxb2+

19...Bxh4 20 Qh5 Bg3 21 Qxh6+ Kg8 22 Qg5+ Kh8 23 hxg3 leads to mate.

20 Kxb2 Qb6+ 21 Ka1 1-0

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Black to play

217) Giri – Carlsen

Internet rapid 2022

26...Rxf2! 27 Ne2 Nxe2+!

The knight check leads to a forced mate, although the game continuation was good enough: 27...Rfxe2 28 Rxe2 Nxe2+ 29 Kh1 (29 Kf1 Qf5+ 30 Ke1 Nc3 leads to mate) 29...Rc1 –+.

28 Kxf2

28 Kh1 Ng3+ 29 hxg3 Qh5+ with mate to follow.

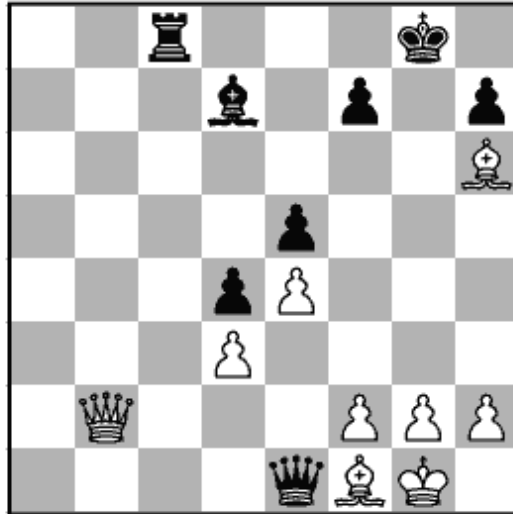
28...g3+ 29 hxg3

Or: 29 Kf1 Qf5+ followed by mate; 29 Kf3 Ng1+ 30 Rxc1 Rf2#.

29...Qxg3+ 30 Kf1 Nc3 –+

White will soon be mated.

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White to play

218) Nunn – Birnboim

World Over-65 Ch, Assisi 2022

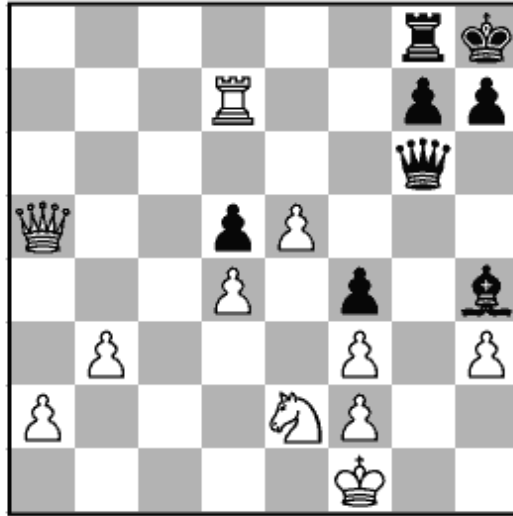
28 Qb6! Be6

28...Bc6 29 Qa6 Rc7 30 Qa3 Rc8 31 Qe7 leads to mate.

29 Qb5! 1-0

A 'creeping move' threatening 30 Qxe5 followed by mate on g7.
Now 29...Qd1 is met by 30 f3 +—.

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Black to play

219) T. Fodor – Prraneeth
Budapest 2022

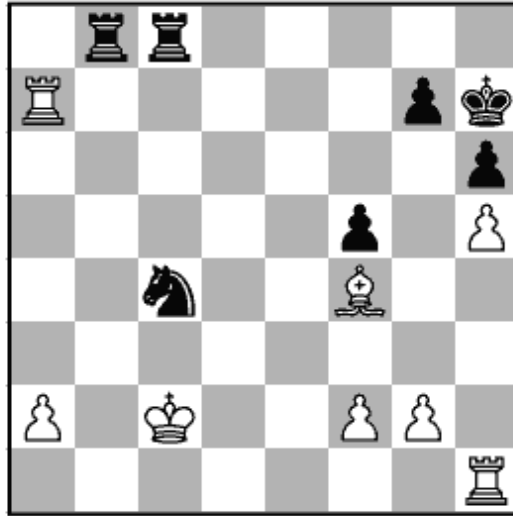
34...Qf5! 35 Qxd5

35 Rc7 Qxh3+ 36 Ke1 Qxf3 37 Kd1 Qxf2 –+.

35...Qb1+ 36 Kg2 Qe1 0-1

37 Nxf4 Qxf2+ 38 Kh1 Bg3 followed by mate.

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Black to play

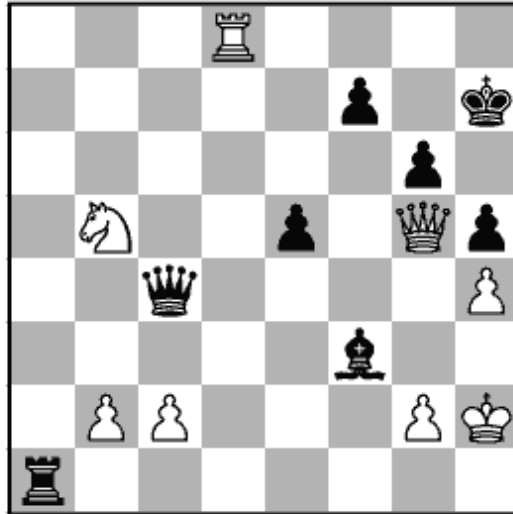
220) Z. Varga – Aveskulov

Budapest 2022

30...Ne5+! 31 Kd2 Rb2+ 32 Ke3 Ng4+ 0-1

33 Kf3 (33 Kd4 Rb4+ 34 Kd5 Rxf4 –+) 33...Rc3+ 34 Be3 Rxf2+ 35 Kg3 Rxe3+ 36 Kh4 Rxg2 and mate follows.

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White to play

221) Vokhidov – Volokitin

World Team Ch rapid, Jerusalem 2022

34 Nd4!

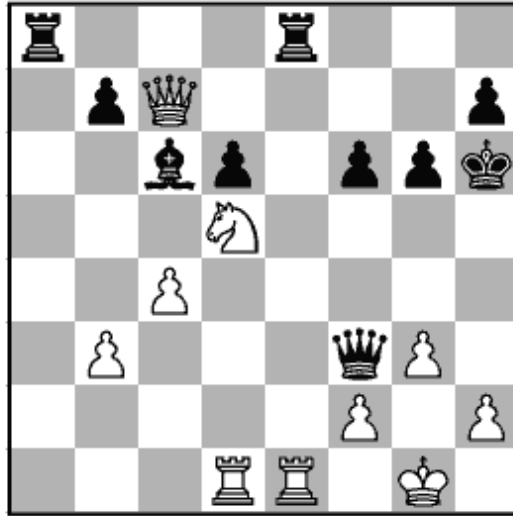
White must avoid 34 Qf6?? Rh1+!! 35 Kg3 (35 Kxh1 Qf1+ 36 Kh2 Qxg2#) 35...Qg4+ 36 Kf2 Qxg2+ 37 Ke3 Qe2#.

34...Be4

34...exd4 35 Qe5 Rh1+ 36 Kg3 leads to mate.

35 Qf6 1-0

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Black to play

222) Uruci – Abdilkhair
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

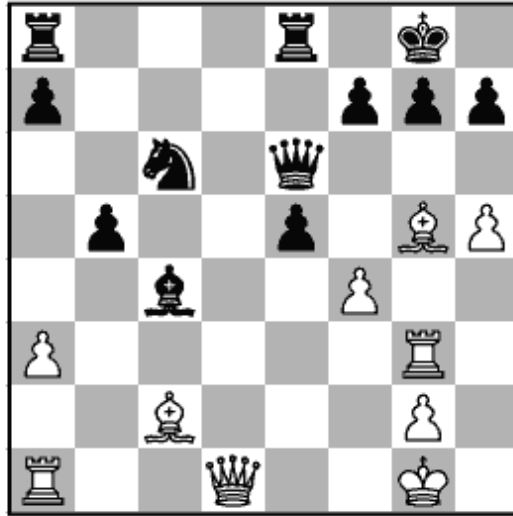
29...Ra2! 30 Qb6

After 30 Rf1 (as played in the game) Black removed the pawn-cover around White's king with 30...Rxf2! 31 Rxf2 Qxd1+ 32 Rf1 (after 32 Kg2, one way to win is 32...Re5 –+ intending ...Rxd5) 32...Qd4+ 33 Kh1 (or 33 Kg2 Re2+ 34 Kh3 Qe5 35 Rf4 Qe6+ 36 Rg4 Qf5, leading to mate) 33...Re2 0-1.

30...Rd2! 31 Ra1 Rxd5! 32 cxd5 Bxd5

Mate follows.

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White to play

223) Matlakov – Alonso Rosell

World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

28 f5! Qd5 29 Bf6! g6

29...Qxd1+ 30 Rxd1 g6 31 hxg6 fxg6 32 Rd7 +—.

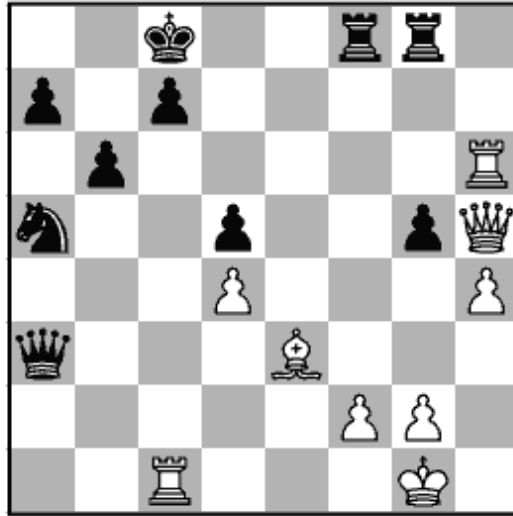
30 hxg6 fxg6

30...Qxd1+ 31 Rxd1 fxg6 32 Rd7 +—.

31 Qh5 Qd4+ 32 Kh2 Kf7 33 Qxh7+ Kxf6 1-0

Black resigned before White could play 34 Rxg6#.

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White to play

224) Vokhidov – Ponkratov
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

24 Qg4+ Kb8 25 Rxc7! gxh4

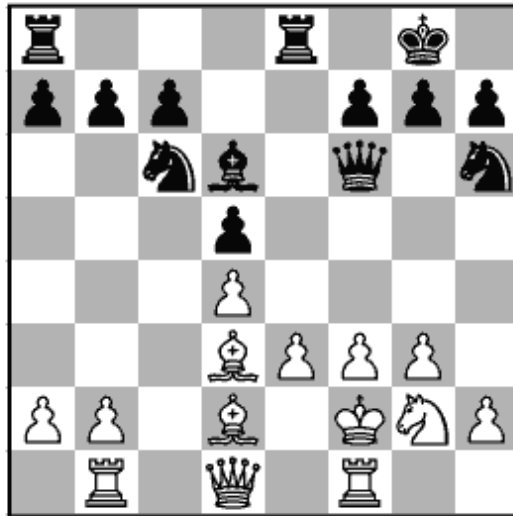
25...Kxc7 26 Rh7+ Kb8 27 Qd7 leads to mate.

26 Rg7 Rxg7 27 Qxg7 Rc8 28 Rh7

Black is unable to counter White's threats along the seventh rank and he soon runs out of checks.

28...Rc1+ 29 Bxc1 Qxc1+ 30 Kh2 Qf4+ 31 Kh3 Qf5+ 32 Kxh4 Qxf2+ 33 Kh3 Qf5+ 34 Kg3 1-0

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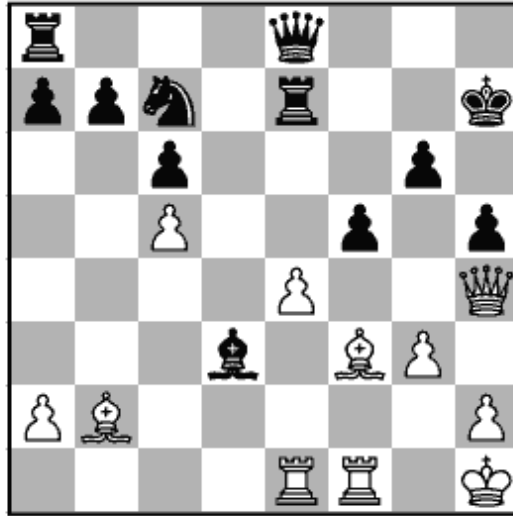
Black to play

225) Kilgus – Parkhov
Stockholm 2022/3

14...Ng4+ 15 Kg1 Nxh2! 0-1

16 Kxh2 Qh6+ 17 Kg1 Bxg3 gives Black two pawns for a piece that he immediately regains, together with a crushing attack: 18 Nh4 (18 Re1 Qh2+ 19 Kf1 Qh1+ 20 Ke2 Qxg2#) 18...Qxh4 19 Qe2 Re6 —+.

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White to play

226) Gumularz – Seemann
Bialystok 2022

27 Bxh5! Bxf1

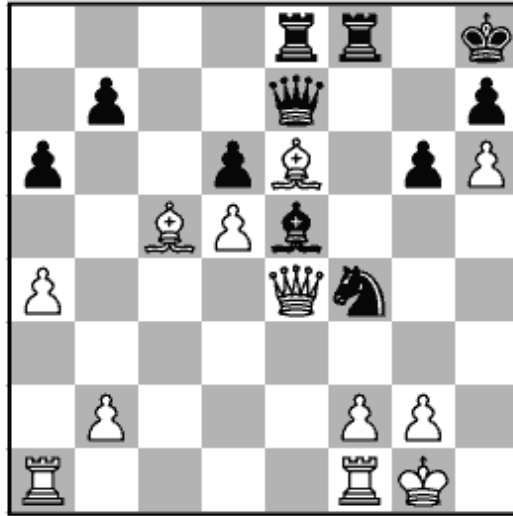
The game ended 27...gxh5 28 Rxf5 1-0.

28 Bxg6++ Kxg6 29 exf5+

The black king is pulled forward into a mating-net.

**29...Kxf5 30 Qf6+ Kg4 31 Rxf1 Qh5 32 Rf4+ Kh3 33 Rh4+ Qxh4
34 Qxh4#**

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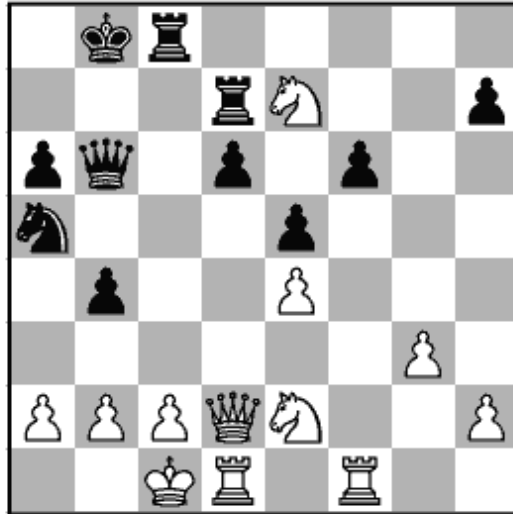
Black to play

227) Bromberger – Stanković
Augsburg 2023

27...Qh4! 0-1

White loses his queen after 28 f3 (28 Rfe1 Ne2+! 29 Rxe2 Qh2+ 30 Kf1 Qh1#) 28...Ne2+ 29 Qxe2 Bh2+ 30 Kh1 Bg3+ 31 Bh3 Rxe2 –+.

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Black to play

228) Martinez Reyes – Fier
Roquetas de Mar 2023

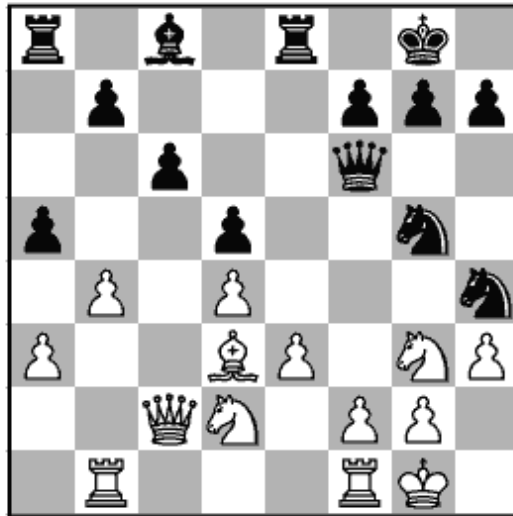
21...b3! 22 Nxc8

After 22 Qd3 bxa2 Black's a-pawn is unstoppable: 23 Kd2 Rxe7 24 Ke1 Qxb2 25 Qxd6+ Rec7 –+.

22...bxa2 23 Qc3 Nc4! 0-1

White is mated following 24 Qxc4 Qe3+ 25 Rd2 a1Q# or 24 b3 Qe3+ 25 Rd2 Qxd2+ 26 Qxd2 a1Q#.

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Black to play

229) Stremavicius – Shlyakhtenko

New York 2023

18...Bxh3!

Both players must always be on the lookout for this tactical idea in the QGD Exchange (or 'Carlsbad') pawn-structure.

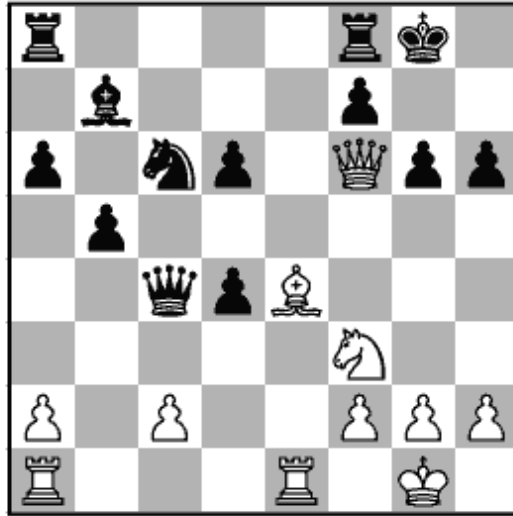
19 Nh5

White is mated after 19 gxf3 Nxf3+ 20 Kh1 (20 Nxf3 Qxf3 mates) 20...Nxd2 21 Qxd2 Qf3+ 22 Kg1 Qg2#.

19...Qh6 0-1

White's king is hopelessly exposed after 20 gxf3 Qxh5 –+.

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White to play

230) Bortnyk – A. Grabinsky
Charlotte 2023

21 Bxg6! Ne5

21...fxg6 22 Qxg6+ Kh8 23 Qxh6+ Kg8 24 Qg6+ Kh8 25 Re4 leads to mate.

22 Bf5

Black's pawn-structure has been compromised and he has no way to dislodge White's queen.

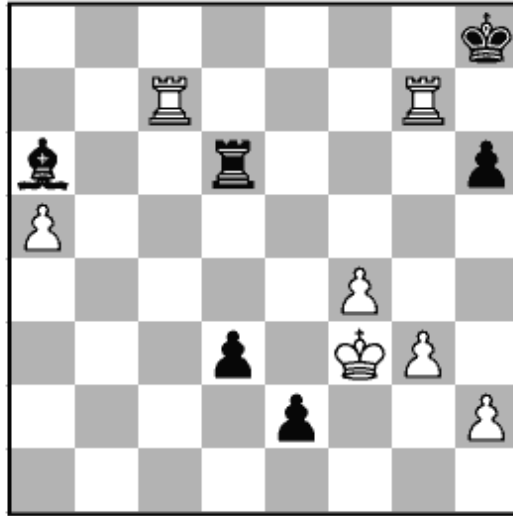
22...Bc8 23 Nh4 Ng4 24 Bxg4 Bxg4 25 Re4 h5

25...Qc8 26 Ng6 Kh7 (26...fxg6 27 Qxg6+ Kh8 28 Re7 leads to mate) 27 Nxf8+ Qxf8 28 Rxg4 +–.

26 Rxg4+ hxg4 27 Nf5 1-0

Black cannot prevent Qg7#.

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White to play

231) Makkar – Murphy

British League (4NCL) 2022/3

36 Rge7! Rd8 37 f5 d2

37...Kg8 38 f6 e1Q (38...d2 39 Rh7 transposes to the game) 39 Rxe1 d2 40 Rd1 Bb5 41 Rc2 Ba4 42 Rdx d2 +—.

38 Rh7+ Kg8 39 f6

White just needs to evade Black's checks in order to deliver mate.

39...e1N+!?

39...d1Q 40 Rcg7+ Kf8 41 Rh8#.

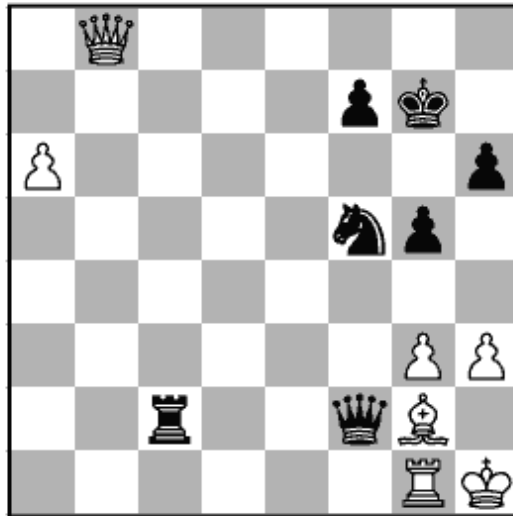
40 Kf2! Nd3+ 41 Kg2!

White's last two king moves were both 'only' moves to win.

41...Ne1+ 42 Kh1 1-0

42 Kg1 also wins, but certainly not 42 Kh3?!, when it is White who gets mated!

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Black to play

232) Gukesh – Maghsoodloo

Wijk aan Zee 2023

41...Nxg3+!

It's important for Black to remove White's g3-pawn. Black missed this in the game, playing 41...Ra2? 42 Qe5+ and after 42...Kg6?? (42...Kg8 43 Qe8+ Kg7 44 Qe5+ = is a draw by repetition) 43 g4! Ne3 (43...Ng3+ 44 Qxg3 Qxg3 45 Be4+ +–) 44 Be4+ f5 45 Qd6+ +– White even went on to win.

42 Kh2 Nf5 43 a7

White loses his a-pawn after 43 Qe5+ Kg6 44 Kh1 Ra2 –+.

43...Ra2 44 a8Q Rxa8 45 Qxa8?

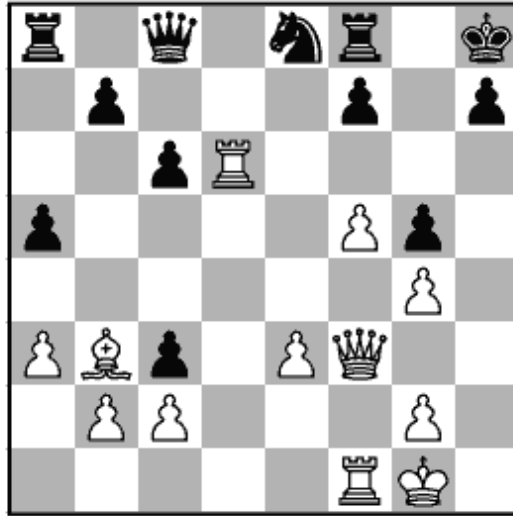
Now White gets mated, but 45 Qe5+ f6! 46 Qc7+ Kg6! 47 Rf1 Qb2 offers White no hope.

45...Qf4+ 46 Kh1 Ng3+ 47 Kh2 Nf1++

Or 47...Ne4+ 48 Kh1 Nf2#.

48 Kh1 Qh2#

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White to play

233) M. Petrosyan – Predke
Sharjah 2023

26 Rh6!

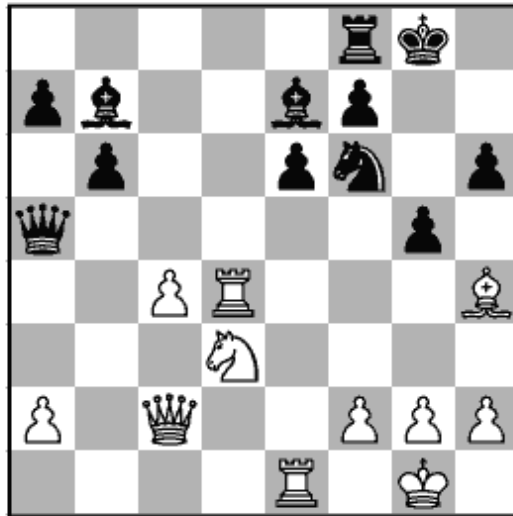
White has the simple plan of attacking Black's h7-pawn.

26...Qd8

26...f6 is answered with 27 Rxh7+! Kxh7 28 Qh3+ Kg7 29 Qh5 Qd7 30 Qg6+ Kh8 31 Qh6+ followed by mate.

27 f6 cxb2 28 Qf5 Nxf6 29 Rxf6 a4 30 Rh6 1-0

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White to play

234) Tekeyev – M. Milošević
Paraćin 2023

24 Re5! Qa3 25 Bxg5 hxg5 26 Rxg5+ Kh8 27 Nc5

The knight was blocking the white queen's control over the h7-square.

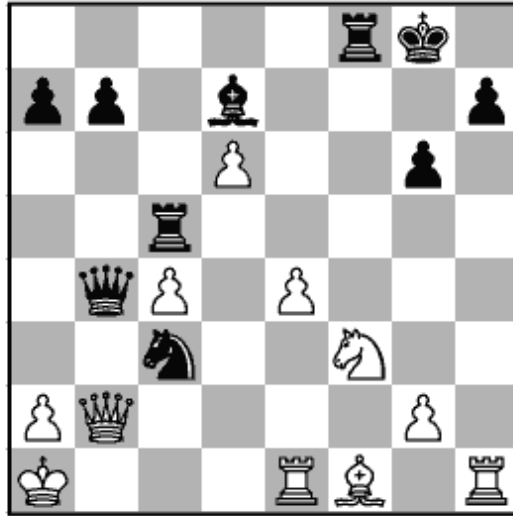
27...Ne4

27...bxc5 28 Rh4+ followed by mate.

28 Rh5+ Kg7 29 Nxe4 1-0

White has a decisive material advantage.

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Black to play

235) Abdisalimov – Madaminov
Tashkent 2023

25...Ra5!

Black piles up on the a2-pawn.

26 Rb1 Qa4 27 a3 Nd1 28 Rxd1 Qxd1+ 29 Ka2 Rb5!

The rook move is more precise than the game continuation of 29...Qxd6 –+.

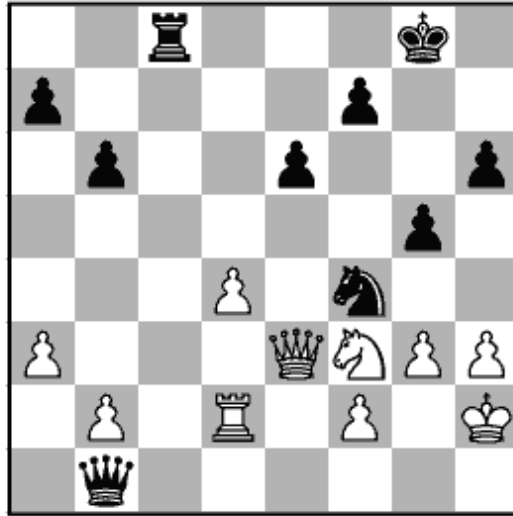
30 Qxb5

30 cxb5 Be6+ mates.

30...Bxb5 31 cxb5 Qc2+ 32 Ka1 Qc3+ 33 Ka2 Rc8 –+

Mate follows soon.

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Black to play

236) Ki. Georgiev – M. Petrov
Bulgarian Ch, Sofia 2023

29...Rc1!

Black's control of his eighth rank gives him a mating attack.

30 gxf4 Rh1+ 31 Kg3 Qf1 32 Nxf5

32 fxf5 Qxh3+ 33 Kf4 Qf5+ 34 Kg3 h5 35 Nh2 Rg1+ 36 Kh4 Rg4+ 37 Kxh5 (37 Kh3 Re4+ –+) 37...Rg1 followed by mate.

32...hxf5 33 Kg4 Rg1+ 34 Kh5 gxf4 35 Qf3 Qb5+ 36 d5 Qe8

36...f5 also leads to mate.

37 Qxf4 f5+ 38 Kh4 Qe7+ 0-1

39 Kh5 Qf7+ and mate follows.

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White to play

237) Yuffa – F. Svane (variation)
Bundesliga 2022/3

32 Nf8! Qd3

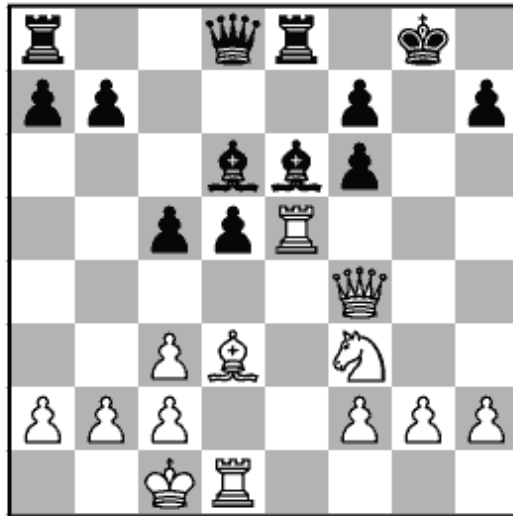
Black's king is mated at the edge of the board after 32...Rxf8 33 Qh3+ Qh4 34 Qxh4#.

33 Nxg6+ Qxg6

33...Kh7 34 Qh5#.

34 Bxg6 +-

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White to play

238) Beerdsen – T. Burg
Bundesliga 2022/3

16 Qh6! fxe5

16...f5 17 Rxf5 Bxf5 18 Bxf5 Bf4+ 19 Qxf4 +–.

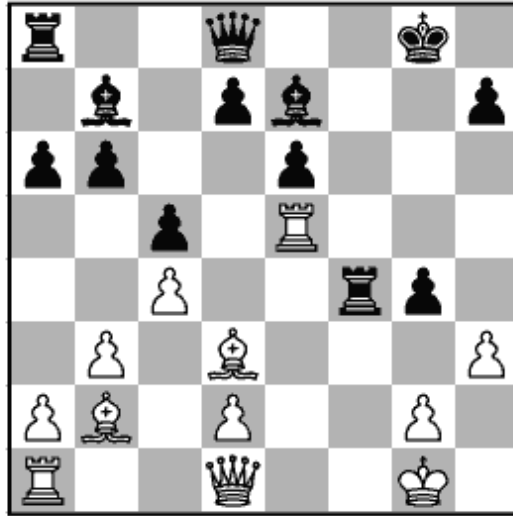
17 Bxh7+ Kh8 18 Bg6+ Kg8 19 Ng5 Qxg5+

Black is mated after 19...fxg6 20 Qh7+ Kf8 21 Qh8+ Bg8 22 Qh6+ Ke7 23 Qg7+ Bf7 24 Qxf7#.

20 Qxg5 fxg6 21 Qxg6+ Kf8 22 Rxd5 +–

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

239) Chirila – Harsha Bharathakoti

Internet rapid 2023

20 Bxh7+! Kxh7

Declining the bishop doesn't help: 20...Kf7 21 Bg6+ Kg8 (21...Kxg6 22 Qc2+ Kf7 23 Qh7+ Kf8 24 Qh6+ Ke8 25 Qg6+ Rf7 26 Rf1 +–) 22 Qe2 Qc7 23 Qe3 Raf8 24 Rxe6 +–.

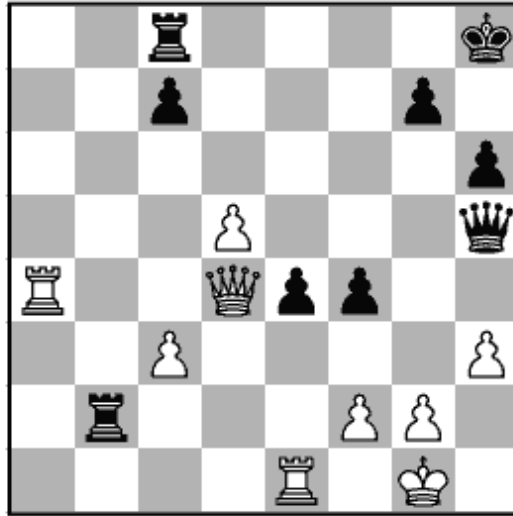
21 Qc2+ Kg7

21...Be4 22 Rxe4 Rxe4 23 Qxe4+ Kh6 24 hxg4 +–.

22 Rg5++ Kf8 23 Rg8+ 1-0

Black is mated after 23...Kxg8 24 Qg6+ Kf8 25 Bg7+ Kg8 26 Bh6+ Kh8 27 Qg7#.

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Black to play

240) Oparin – Caruana

Internet rapid 2023

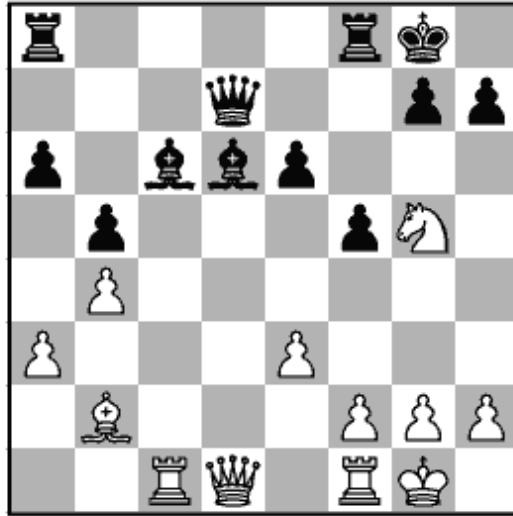
39...e3! 40 fxe3

Black wins the double-rook ending after 40 Rf1 Rf8 41 Qe4 Qe2 42 Qf3 Qxf3 43 gxf3 Rf5 –+.

40...f3! 0-1

White is mated after 41 Kh1 Rxg2 42 Qh4 Qg6 (threatening 43...Rh2+) 43 Qf4 Rg3 44 Kh2 Rxh3+ 45 Kxh3 Qg2+ 46 Kh4 g5+ –+ followed by mate.

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White to play

241) Caruana – Mitrabha

Internet rapid 2023

18 Rxc6!

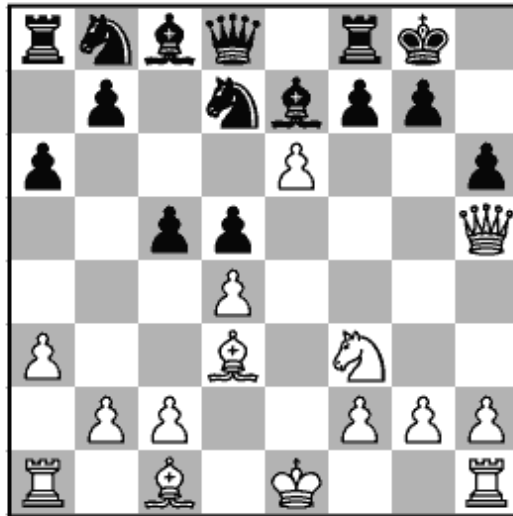
This is the best move-order. Black survives for the time being after 18 Qh5? h6 19 Rxc6 hxg5! (19...Qxc6? 20 Qg6 transposes to the game continuation) 20 Qxg5. White has an extra pawn and should win, but there is no checkmate.

18...Qxc6 19 Qh5 h6

19...Bxh2+ 20 Kh1 h6 21 Qg6 mates.

20 Qg6 1-0

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White to play

242) Gadimbayli – Fedoseev
Internet rapid 2023

11 Bxh6! Nf6

11...gxh6 12 Qxh6 Nf6 13 g4 +–.

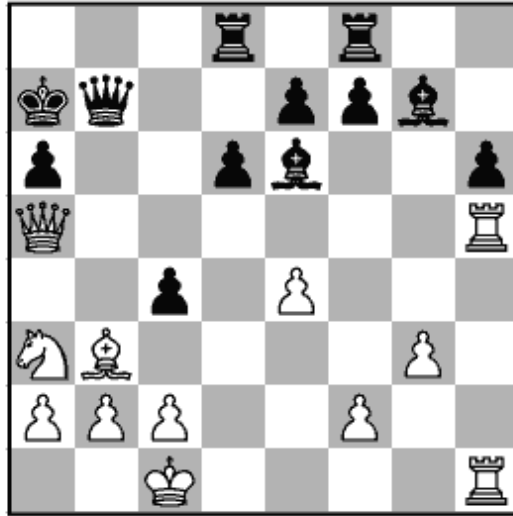
12 Qg5 Ne8 13 Qf5 Nf6 14 Bxg7! fxe6

14...Kxg7 15 Qg5+ Kh8 16 Qh6+ Kg8 17 g4 +–.

15 Qg6 Qe8 16 Qh6 Qh5 17 Bh7+ Nxh7 18 Qxh5 Kxg7 19 Qg4+ Kh8 20 Ne5 +–

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

243) Abdumalik – Di. Wagner
Munich (women) 2023

32 Rb5 Qc6 33 Ba4! Rc8 34 Rb4

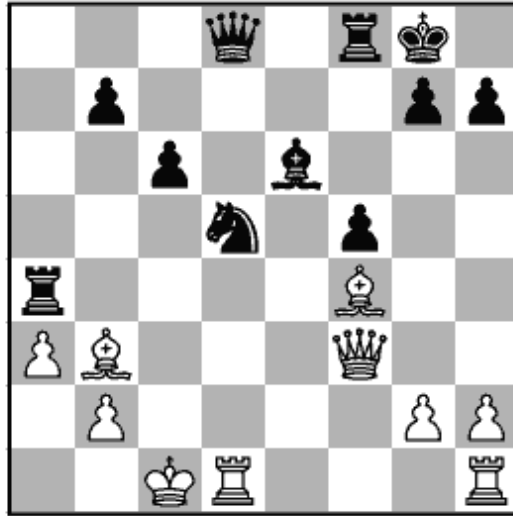
White has too many pieces swarming around the black king.

34...Qc5 35 Nb5+ Kb8 36 Nxd6+

The game ended 36 Nc7+ Qxb4 37 Nxa6+ 1-0.

36...Ka8 37 Qxa6+ Qa7 38 Bc6+ Rxc6 39 Qxc6+ Qb7 40 Qxb7#

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Black to play

244) Rabiega – B. Socko
2nd Bundesliga 2022/3

19...Rxf4! 20 Bxd5 Qg5! 21 Bxe6+ Kh8 22 h4

22 Qe3 Rc4+ 23 Kd2 Rd8+ leads to mate.

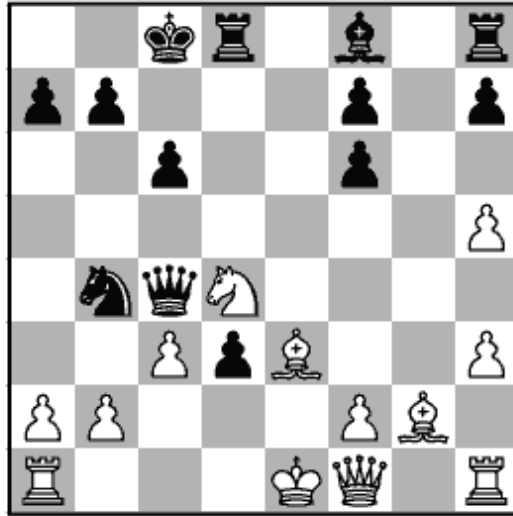
22...Qh6 23 Qe3

Now Black can drag the white king out into the centre.

23...Rc4+ 24 Kd2 Rd8+ 25 Ke2 Rc2+ 26 Kf3 Qh5+ 0-1

The white king will quickly perish: 27 Kf4 Qg4+ 28 Ke5 Rc5+ followed by mate.

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Black to play

245) Ris – Ten Hertog

Dutch League 2022/3

16...Rxd4! 17 Bxd4 Nc2+ 18 Kd2 Nxd4 19 Be4

The white king is caught in a mating-net after 19 cxd4 Bh6+ 20 f4 Bxf4+ 21 Ke1 (21 Qxf4 Qc2+ 22 Ke3 Qe2#) 21...Qb4+ 22 Kf2 Qxd4+ 23 Kf3 Qe3+ 24 Kg4 Rg8+ 25 Kf5 Qe5#.

19...Nf3+ 20 Ke3

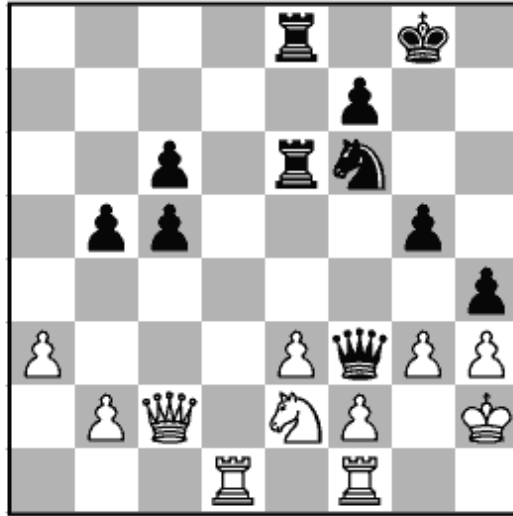
20 Bxf3 Bh6+ 21 Kd1 Qf4 22 Qxd3 Rd8 23 Qxd8+ Kxd8 –+ gives Black a decisive material advantage.

20...Ne5 21 Bf5+ Kb8 22 f4 Qc5+ 23 Kd2 Nc4+ 24 Kxd3 Qxf5+ 25 Kxc4

25 Ke2 Bc5 leads to mate.

25...Qd5# (0-1)

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Black to play

246) Striković – Cheparinov
Benalmadena rapid 2023

34...Ng4+!

A nice idea to open the h-file for Black's rook.

35 hxc4

35 Kg1 hxc3 36 Nxc3 Nxe3 37 fxe3 Qxc3+ 38 Qg2 Qxe3+ –+.

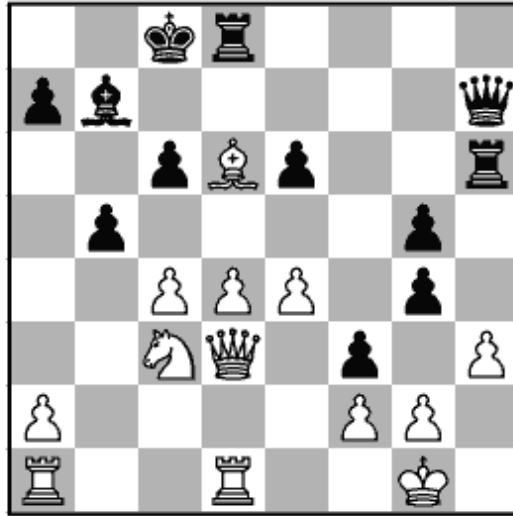
35...Rh6!

The only other playable move is 35...h3, which should win, but there is no forced mate.

0-1

Black threatens 36...hxc3++ 37 Kg1 Rh1#, and 36 Kg1 is answered with 36...h3 followed by mate.

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Black to play

247) Urkedal – Ohanyan

Kragerø 2023

23...Rxf3! 24 gxf3 Qxf3 25 Qf1 Qh5 26 Be5 Rd7

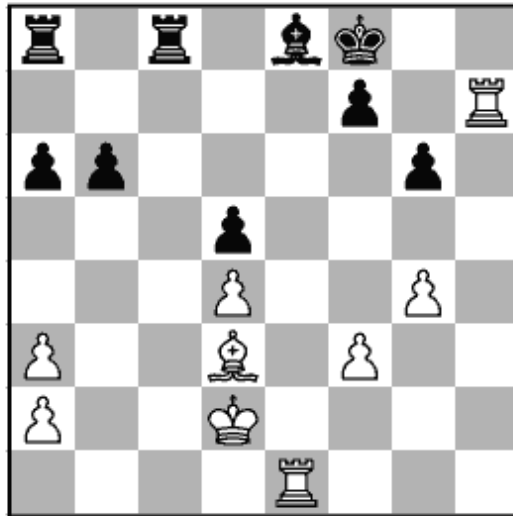
The black rook heads for the h-file.

27 Rd3 Rh7

White has a large material advantage but he is unable to defend the h1-square.

28 Qg2 fxf2 29 Kxf2 bxc4 –+

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White to play

248) Mikaelyan – M. Kravtsiv
Internet rapid 2023

27 f4!

White's active rooks give him a decisive advantage.

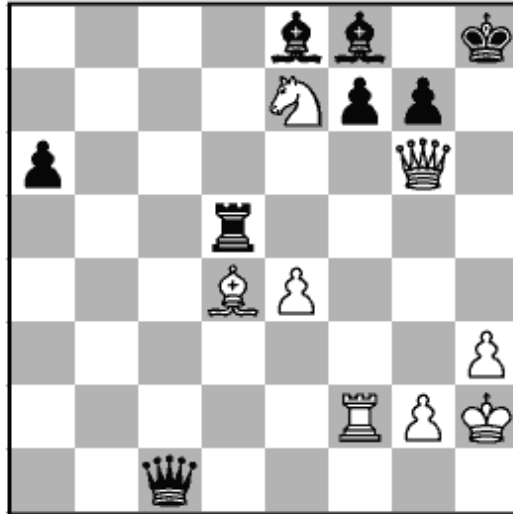
27...Kg8 28 Reh1 Rc6

28...Kf8 29 f5 gxf5 30 Bxf5 Rc4 31 Rh8+ Ke7 (31...Kg7 32 g5 Rxd4+ 33 Ke3 leads to mate) 32 Re1+ +–.

29 Rh8+ Kg7 30 g5 1-0

Black cannot prevent R1h7#.

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White to play

249) M. Pap – Dudin
Budapest 2023

42 Nxd5! fxg6

Black may as well take the queen as White wins easily after
42...Qc6 43 Qh5+ Kg8 44 Nf6+ gxf6 45 Bxf6 Bg7 46 Qg5 Qd6+ 47 e5
Qf8 48 Rf3 +–.

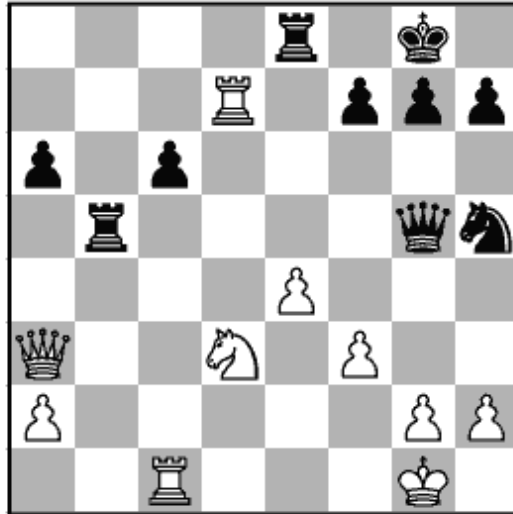
43 Rxf8+ Kh7 44 Rxe8 a5

44...Qf1 45 Re7 +–.

45 Re7 Kg8 46 Bxg7 1-0

Black has no good defence to the threat of 47 Nf6#.

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Black to play

250) R. Terry – Dubov

Internet rapid 2023

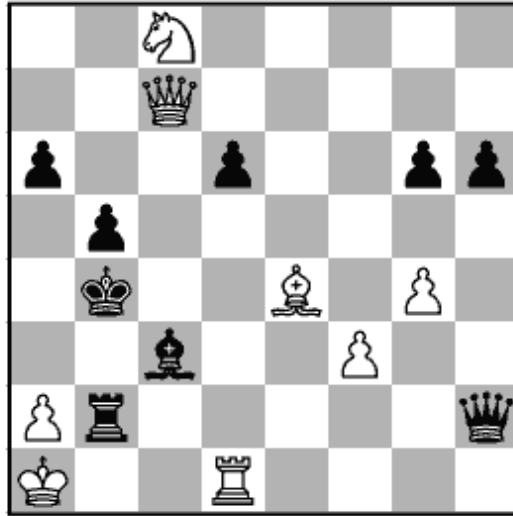
30...Qe3+ 31 Kh1

White must give up his queen to prevent mate after 31 Kf1 Ng3+ (or 31...Nf4 32 Re1 Rb1 –+) 32 hxg3 Rh5 33 Nf2 Qxa3 –+.

31...Ng3+! 0-1

32 hxg3 Rh5#.

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White to play

251) Santos Ruiz – Larino Nieto

Internet rapid 2023

32 a3+! Kb3

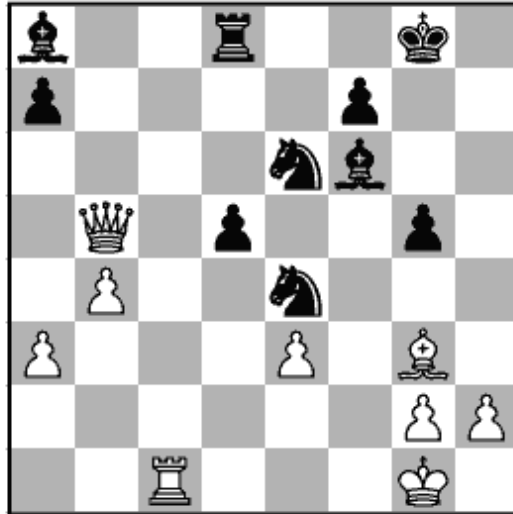
Black is quickly mated after 32...Kxa3? 33 Qxc3+ Rb3 (33...Ka4 34 Nb6#) 34 Qa5#, while 32...Ka4? 33 Qxc3 Ra2+ 34 Kb1 also leads to mate.

33 Bd5+ Kc2 34 Rc1+! Kxc1 35 Qxc3+ Kd1

Or: 35...Rc2 36 Qe1#; 35...Qc2 36 Qe1+ Qd1 37 Qxd1+ Kxd1 38 Kxb2 +–.

36 Qxb2 1-0

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Black to play

252) Peyrer – Naiditsch
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

30...d4!

Black opens up the position for his minor pieces.

31 exd4

31 Rd1 Bd5 –+.

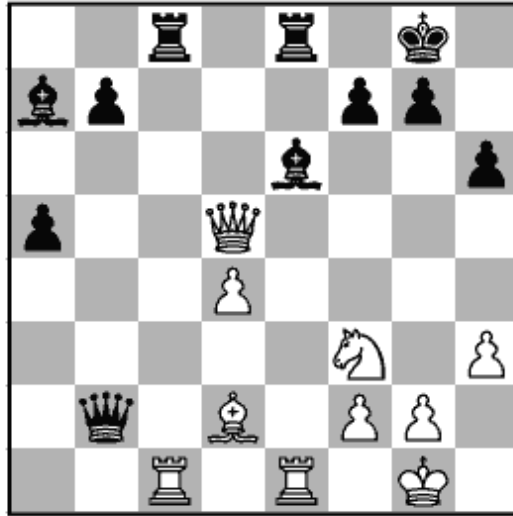
31...Bxd4+ 32 Kh1

32 Kf1 Nd2+ 33 Ke1 Bxg2 –+.

32...Nxg3+ 33 hxg3 Kg7 0-1

White has no good defence to the threat of ...Rh8#.

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White to play

253) M. Andersen – Schandorff
Danish Team Ch 2022/3

26 Rxc8! Bxd5 27 Rxe8+ Kh7 28 Ne5

The threat of Rh8# forces Black to weaken his kingside.

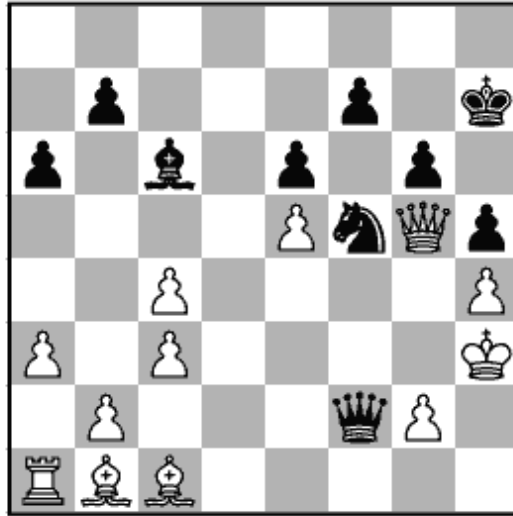
28...g5 29 Rh8+ Kg7 30 Rcg8+ Kf6 31 Rxh6+ Ke7

In the game Black was mated after 31...Kf5 32 Rxg5+ Ke4 33 Rh4# (1-0).

32 Bxg5+ f6 33 Rg7+ Kf8 34 Rc7 Qa2 35 Bxf6 +-

Black will soon be mated.

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Black to play

254) Pijpers – K. Pham (variation)
Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

31...Bxg2+! 32 Kh2

Or 32 Qxg2 Qxh4#.

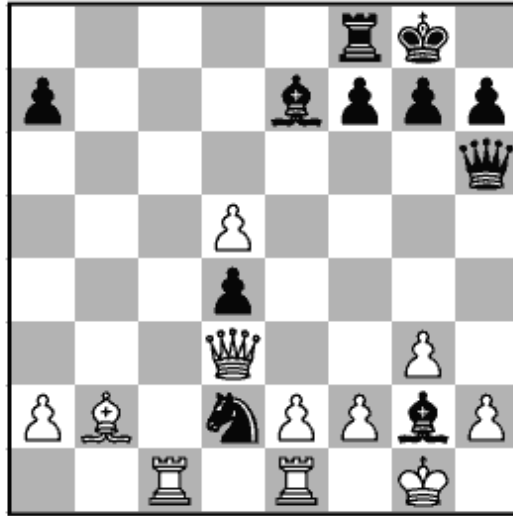
32...Bf3+ 33 Kh3 Qf1+ 34 Qg2

Or 34 Kh2 Qh1#.

34...Qxg2#

White's queenside pieces were all spectators.

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Black to play

255) Mardov – Pranav

Reykjavik 2023

23...Be4! 24 Qxd4 Bf6 25 Qb4 Qh3

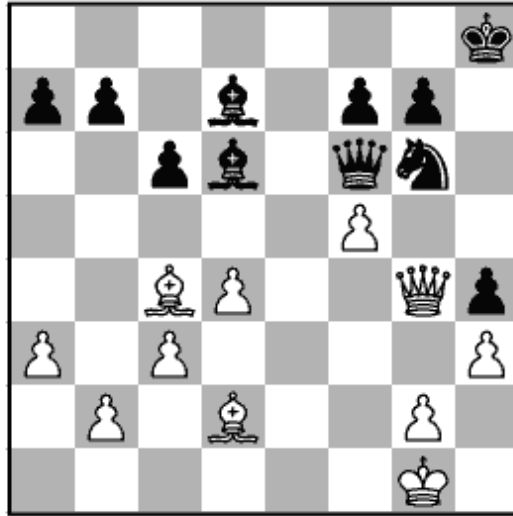
The white king is left to fend for himself on the kingside.

26 f3 Bxf3! 27 Kf2

27 exf3 Nxf3+ 28 Kf2 Nxe1 29 Kxe1 (29 Bxf6 Nd3+ –+) 29...Re8+
30 Kd1 Bxb2 31 Qxb2 Qf1+ 32 Kc2 Re2+ –+.

27...Bg5 0-1

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White to play

256) Dragnev – Hausrath
Bundesliga 2022/3

25 Qh5+! Kg8 26 fxg6

White's pressure on the f7-pawn is decisive.

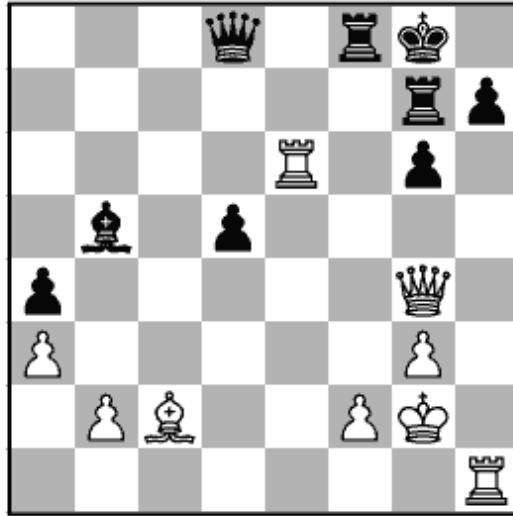
26...Be6

26...Kf8 27 Bg5 +–.

27 Bg5 1-0

27...Qf5 28 Qh7+ Kf8 29 Qh8#.

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White to play

257) Ozsakallioglu – Br. Maksimović
Balikesir 2022

30 Rxh7! Kxh7

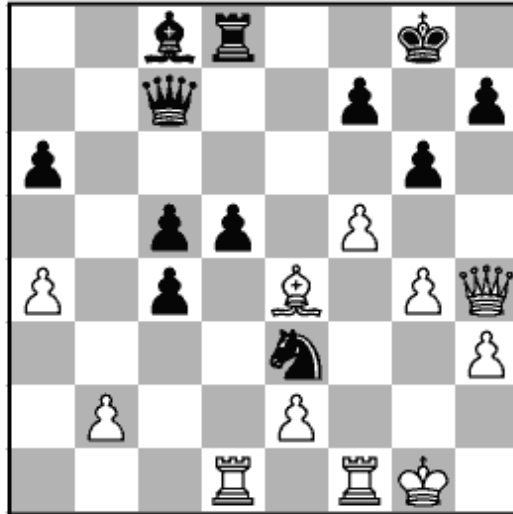
30...Rxh7 was played in the game and lost quickly after 31 Rxg6+ Kf7 (or 31...Kh8 32 Qd4+ Rf6 33 Rxf6 +-) 32 Qe6# (1-0).

31 Rxg6! Rxf2+

Black gives back the extra rook to provide his king with an escape-square. Otherwise he is quickly mated: 31...Kh8 32 Qh5+ Kg8 (32...Rh7 33 Rg8+ Kxg8 34 Qxh7#) 33 Rxg7+ Kxg7 34 Qg6+ Kh8 35 Qh7#.

32 Kxf2 Kh8 33 Rxg7 Qf6+ 34 Ke3 Qxg7 35 Qh5+ Kg8 36 Qxd5+ +-

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White to play

258) Strating – Rademakers

Dutch League 2022/3

31 f6!

White is threatening to construct a mating-net with Qh6.

31...h5

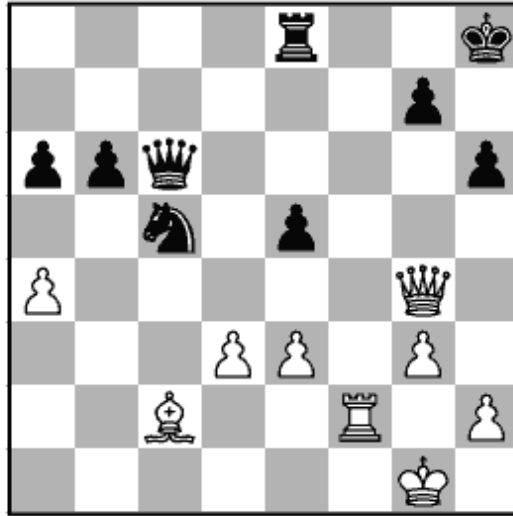
Or 31...Rd6 32 Qh6 Rxf6 33 Qxe3 +—.

32 gxh5! Nxf1 33 Rxf1 dxe4 34 hxg6

Black's pieces are unable to assist with the defence of his kingside.

34...fxg6 35 f7+ Kg7 36 Qf6+ Kh7 37 Rf4 +—

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White to play

259) Fiedorek – Daroczi
Budapest 2023

38 d4!

White opens the diagonal for his light-squared bishop.

38...exd4

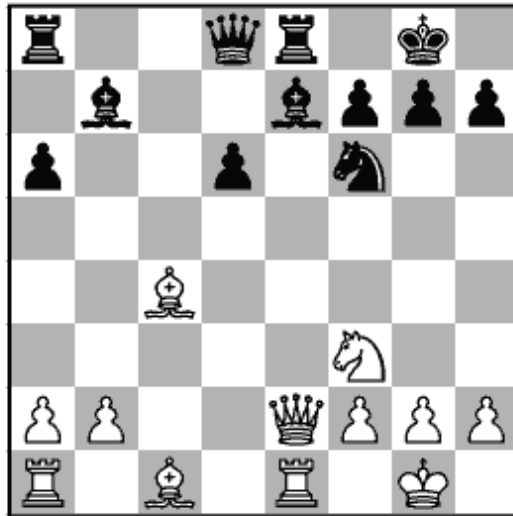
Or 38...Qe6 39 Bf5 +–.

39 Rf7 Ne6

After 39...Rg8 40 exd4 Qe6 41 Qxe6 Nxe6 42 d5 Nd4 43 Bg6 +–
 White's passed d-pawn is too strong.

40 Qg6 d3 41 Bxd3 Kg8 42 Rf1 1-0

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White to play

260) De Vleeschauwer – Dauw
Wachtebeke 2023

14 Bxf7+! Kxf7

14...Kf8 15 Bxe8 Qxe8 16 Bf4 +–.

15 Ng5+ Kg6

Black is mated after 15...Kg8 16 Qe6+ +–, while 15...Kf8 16 Ne6+ +– costs him his queen.

16 Qd3+ Ne4 17 Rxe4

Also good enough is 17 Nxe4 Kf7 18 Qb3+ d5 19 Ng5+ Bxg5 20 Rxe8 Kxe8 21 Qxb7 +– with an extra pawn and a continuing attack.

17...Bxg5

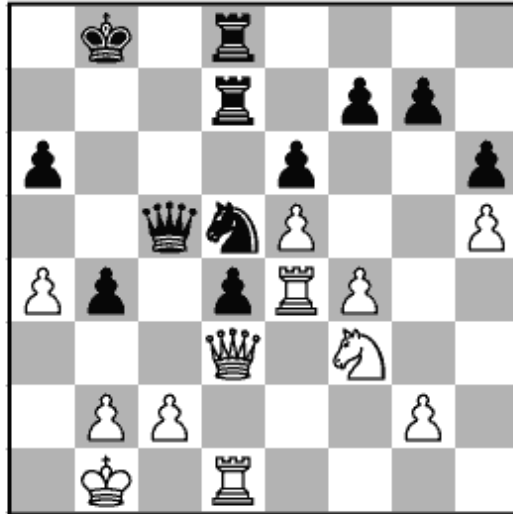
17...Bxe4 18 Qxe4+ leads to mate.

18 Rxe8+

18 Re7+ leads to mate, but in a practical game with limited time it is simpler just to win the black queen for free.

18...Kf7 19 Rxd8 Rxd8 20 Bxg5 +–

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Black to play

261) Nyysti – M. Mitrović
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

26...Nc3+! 27 bxc3 bxc3

White is unable to defend his king.

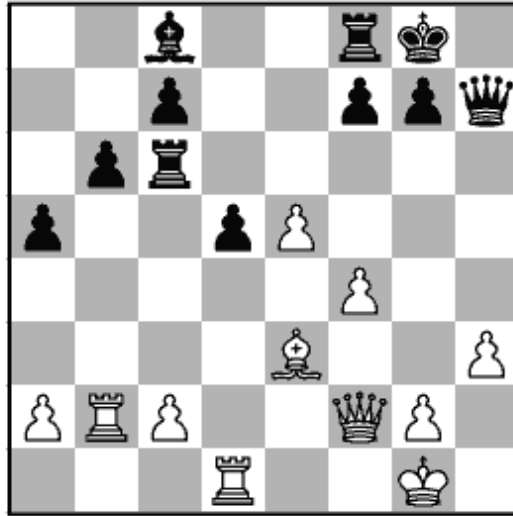
28 Ka2

28 Nxd4 Qb4+ 29 Nb3 Qa3 followed by mate.

28...Rb7 29 Rb1 Rxb1 30 Kxb1 Qa3 0-1

White cannot avoid ...Qb2#.

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Black to play

262) Fier – Raja Rithvik
Ciudadella de Menorca 2023

21...Bxh3!

The bishop sacrifice works because the white rook on d1 is unprotected.

22 Qf3

After 22 gxf3 Qxf3 White has no good defence to the threat of 23...Rg6+. For example: 23 f5 Qg4+ 24 Kh2 Qxd1 –+.

22...Bf5 23 Qxd5 Be4 24 Qd7 Rh6 25 Rdb1 Rh2 0-1

White is unable to protect the g2-pawn.

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White to play

263) Santos Ruiz – E. Rozen
Ciudadella de Menorca 2023

22 Qh4!

White sacrifices a piece to infiltrate Black's kingside. The combination works because the black queen is cut off from the defence of the kingside. The alternative queen moves 22 Qh3! and 22 Qh2! are just as good and transpose to the game after 22...Bxg5 23 Qh8+.

22...Bxg5

Or 22...Rxc5 23 Qh8+ Kf7 24 Rh7+ Rg7 25 Qxg7+ Ke8 26 Qxe7#.

23 Qh8+ Kf7 24 Bh5+ Rg6

Black will be a rook down if he flees with his king: 24...Ke7 25 Qxg7+ Kd6 26 Qxg5 +–.

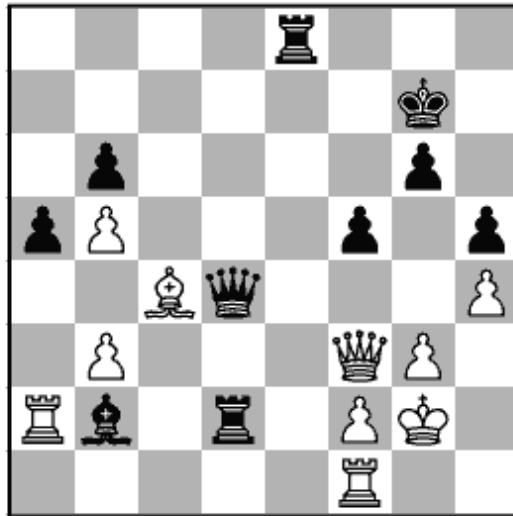
25 Qh7+ Kf8 26 Bxg6

Black has no good way to defend the f7-square.

26...Bd2+ 27 Kf1 Bxc4+ 28 Kg1 1-0

Black's pieces were unable to defend the kingside.

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Black to play

264) Nyysti – Agopov
Finnish Ch, Helsinki 2023

33...Re3! 34 Qb7+

White can offer an exchange of queens to relieve the kingside pressure, but after 34 Qf4 Qxf4 35 gxf4 Re4 36 Kf3 Kh6 37 Rb1 Bc3 38 Rxd2 Bxd2 –+ Black wins the f4-pawn.

34...Kh6 35 Rxb2?!

Waiting moves allow Black to launch a mating attack. For example: 35 Qa8? Rxc3+! 36 Kxc3 Qg4+ 37 Kh2 Be5+ 38 Kh1 Qh3+ 39 Kg1 Qh2#. Given that 35...Rxc3+ is a threat, White's only try is 35 Qb8!, when 35...Qe4+ 36 Kg1 Be5 forces White to give up his queen. After 37 Qf8+ Bg7 38 Qxc7+ Kxc7 39 Rxd2 Re1! the ending is clearly very unpleasant for White.

35...Rxb2 36 Kh2

Black is able to prepare the ...f4 pawn-break after 36 Qb8 Rd2 37 Qf8+ Qg7 38 Qb8 Re4 –+.

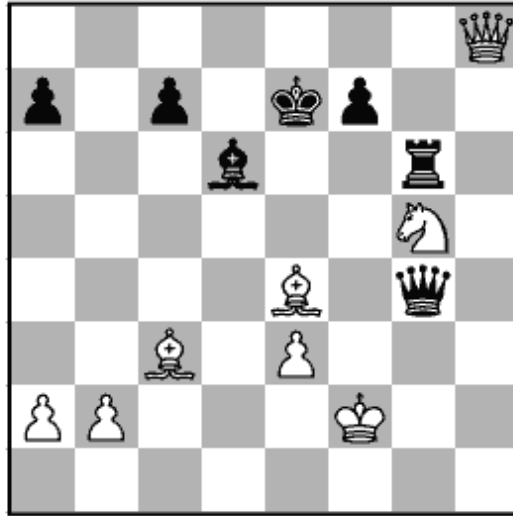
36...Re1 37 Bg8

Or 37 Qa8 Rxf1 38 Bxf1 Rxf2+ 39 Bg2 f4 –+.

37...Rxf2+ 38 Rxf2 Qxf2+ 0-1

Black exchanges queens into a won endgame.

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Black to play

265) Ilamparthi – S. Grover
Budapest 2023

36...Bg3+! 37 Kf1 Qd1+ 38 Kg2 Qe2+ 39 Kh3

39 Kxg3? Rxg5+ leads to mate.

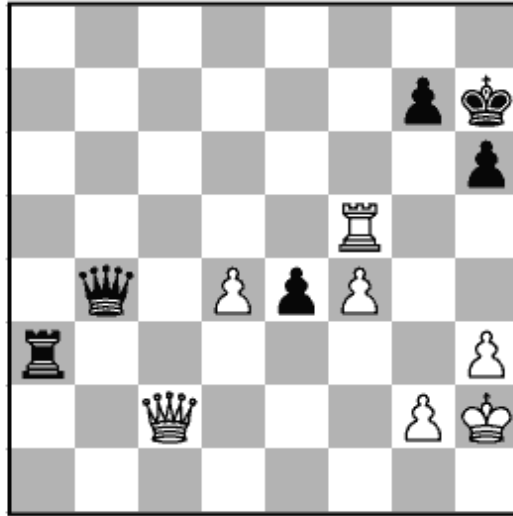
39...Rh6+! 40 Qxh6 Qh2+ 41 Kg4 Qxh6

Black has a decisive material advantage.

42 Kxg3 Qxg5+ 43 Kf3 f5 –+

White's exposed king was the deciding factor.

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Black to play

266) Ocampos – Slipak
Mar del Plata 2023

41...Qe1!

White has an extra pawn, but his advanced rook is unable to assist with defence.

42 Rb5 Rc3!

The key move: White's queen is driven to a bad square.

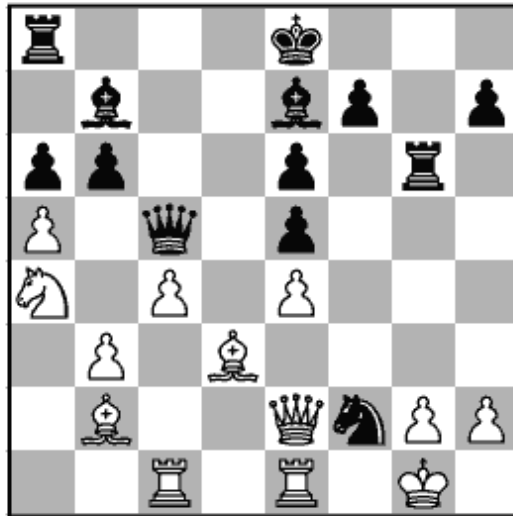
43 Qb2

White is unable to defend his first rank after 43 Qb1 Qg3+ 44 Kh1 Re3 –+.

43...Qg3+ 44 Kg1 Re3 0-1

White must sacrifice his queen for the black rook to avoid mate.

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Black to play

267) L. Ernst – Brailly
Lyons 2023

22...Nxd3+! 23 Nxc5 Bxc5+ 24 Kh1

Or 24 Kf1 Rf6+ 25 Qf3 Rxf3+ 26 gxf3 Nxb2 –+.

24...Nf2+ 25 Kg1

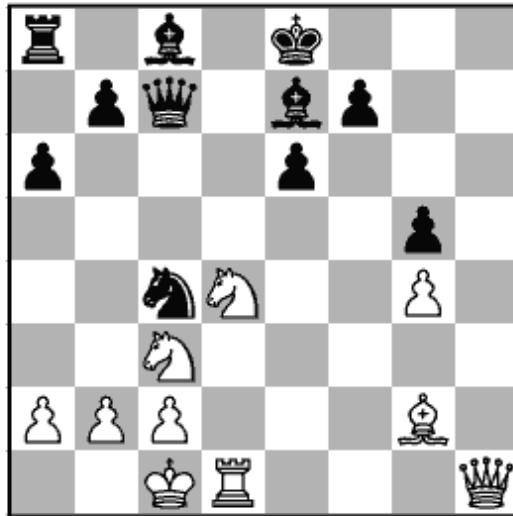
In the game 25 Qxf2 Bxf2 –+ left White a piece down.

25...Nxe4+ 26 Kh1

Or 26 Kf1 Rf6+ 27 Qf3 Nd2+ 28 Ke2 Nxf3 –+.

26...Ng3+! 27 hxg3 Rh6+ 28 Qh5 Rxh5#

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White to play

268) Tomeo – I. Schnaider
Buenos Aires 2022

18 Qh8+ Bf8

Black loses his queen after 18...Kd7 19 Ndb5+ +–.

19 Ne4!

The opening was a Sicilian Defence that went poorly for Black: his king is stuck in the centre with no defenders.

19...Qf4+

After 19...Ne3 White's queen and knight combine to win the black queen: 20 Nf6+ Ke7 21 Nh7 Bd7 22 Qf6+ Ke8 23 Qxg5 Nxd1 24 Nf6+ Kd8 25 Nd5+ Kc8 26 Nxc7 Kxc7 27 Kxd1 +–.

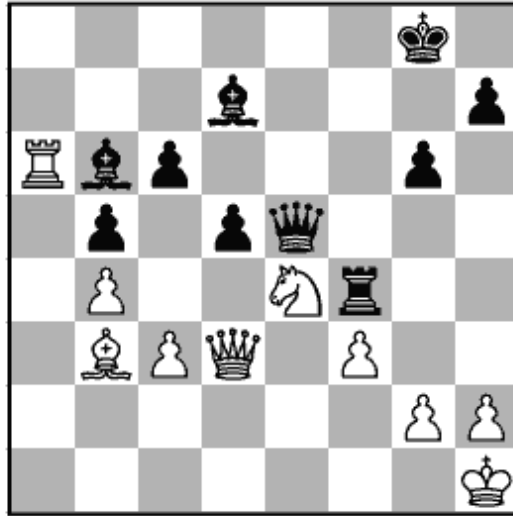
20 Kb1 Ke7

Black runs into trouble along the d-file if he chases White's pieces. For example: 20...Ne3 21 Nf6+ Ke7 (21...Qxf6 22 Qxf6 Nxd1 23 Nf3 +–) 22 Nc6+ bxc6 23 Ng8+ Ke8 24 Bxc6+ Bd7 25 Rxd7 leads to mate.

21 Nf5+ 1-0

Black is mated after 21...exf5 22 Qf6+ Ke8 23 Rd8#.

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Black to play

269) Falkevall – A. Sahakyan

European Under-16 Ch, Antalya 2022

30...Rh4! 31 h3

Black delivers mate after 31 g3? Rxh2+! 32 Kxh2 Qh5+ 33 Kg2 Qh3#.

After 31 f4?! (as played in the game) Black has several moves to exploit White's weak back rank, including 31...Qxf4 (he actually played 31...Rxf4) 32 g3 (32 h3 Be3 33 Bxd5+ Kg7 –+) 32...Rxh2+ 33 Kxh2 Qh6+ 34 Kg2 Bh3+ 35 Kf3 Qh5+ 36 Kf4 (36 g4 Qxg4#) 36...Qf5#.

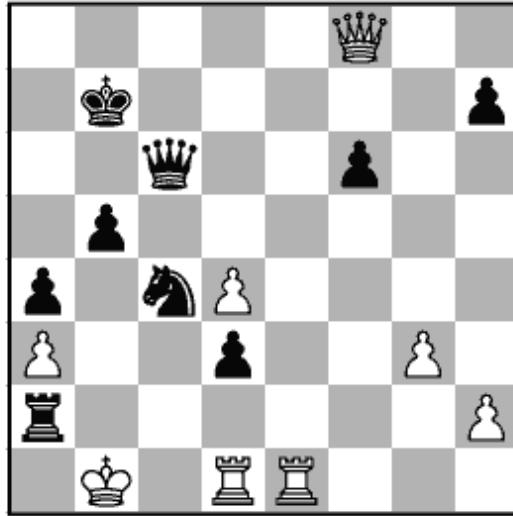
31...Bc7 32 Kg1 Kg7

Black unpins his d5-pawn.

33 Kf2 Bf5 34 Ra7 Kf8 –+

Black wins material.

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Black to play

270) Ronka – Luukkonen

Finnish Team Ch 2022/3

37...Nxa3+!

Black is able to sacrifice his rook to force mate.

38 Kxa2 Qc2+

38...Qc4+ 39 Ka1 Qc3+ reaches the same position.

Black has a slightly longer mate with 38...Qd5+ 39 Ka1 Qxd4+ 40 Ka2 Qc4+ 41 Ka1 Qc3+ 42 Ka2 Qb3+ 43 Ka1 Nc2#.

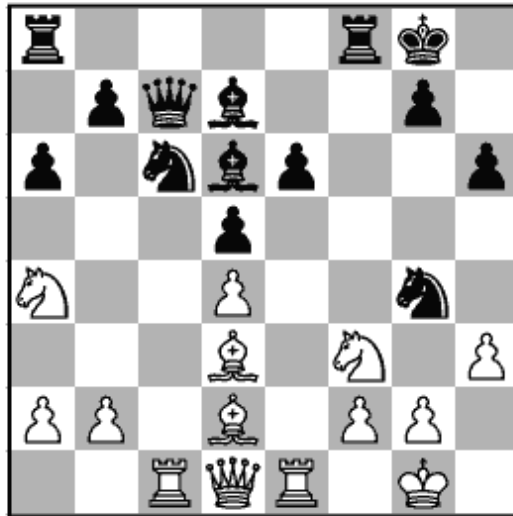
39 Ka1

39 Kxa3 Qb3#.

39...Qc3+ 40 Ka2 Qb3+ 0-1

41 Ka1 Nc2#.

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Black to play

271) Sevdimaliyev – S. Mammadov
Nakhchivan 2022

17...Bh2+ 18 Kf1 Nxf2!

This is a typical piece sacrifice in the French Tarrasch pawn-structure. White's king is drawn out into the open.

19 Kxf2

Or 19 Qe2 Nxd3 20 Qxd3 Qg3 –+.

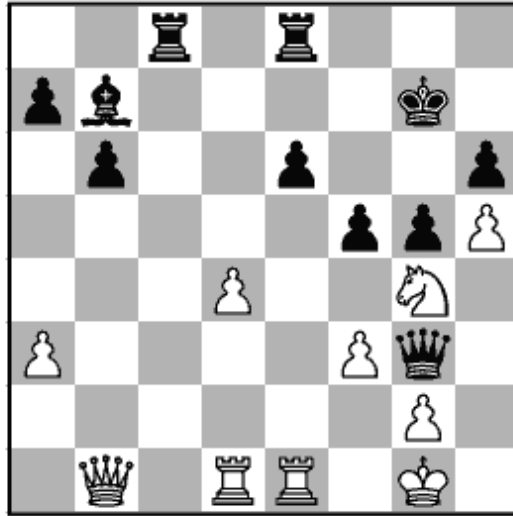
19...Qg3+ 20 Kf1 e5 21 dxe5

21 Re3 Bxh3 continues the attack as White is mated after 22 gxh3 Rxf3+ (or 22...Qg1+ 23 Ke2 Qg2+ 24 Ke1 Bg3#) 23 Qxf3 Qg1+ 24 Ke2 Nxd4#.

21...Bxh3 0-1

White is unable to defend his kingside.

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White to play

272) Perez Candelas – Lopez Azambuja
Montevideo 2022

35 d5!

White offers a piece sacrifice to open the long diagonal for his queen.

35...fxg4

Black's king is too exposed if he declines the knight sacrifice. For example: 35...Bxd5 36 Qb2+ e5 37 Rxe5 +—.

36 Qg6+ Kh8

36...Kf8 37 Qxh6+ and now 37...Kg8 transposes to the game, while 37...Ke7 38 Qg7+ leads to mate.

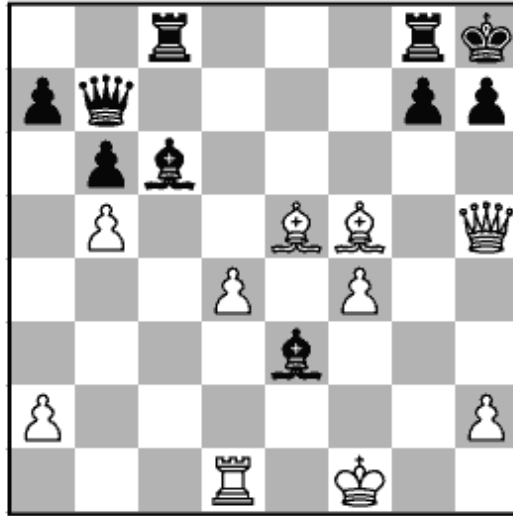
37 Qxh6+ Kg8 38 Qxg5+ Kh8 39 Qf6+ Kg8

39...Kh7 40 Rxe6 Rxe6 41 dxe6 +—.

40 Re5 Kh7 41 Qg6+ Kh8 42 Qh6+ 1-0

42...Kg8 43 Rg5+ Kf7 44 Qg7#.

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Black to play

273) Ibañez Aullana – M. van Foreest
Benidorm 2022

32...Bxb5+!

Black must avoid 32...Bg2+?? 33 Ke1 Bf2+ 34 Kxf2 Qf3+ 35 Qxf3 Bxf3 36 Kxf3 +—.

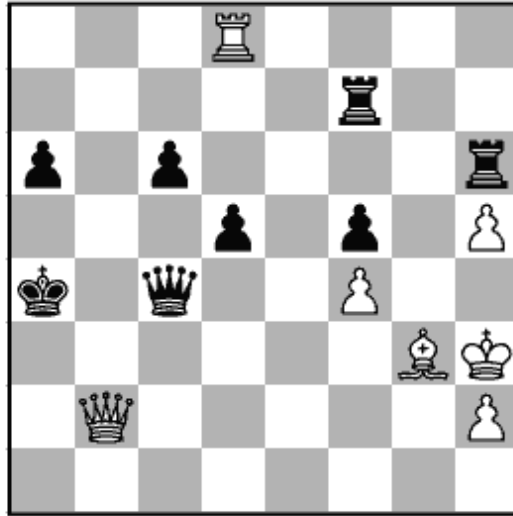
33 Bd3

White played 33 Rd3 in the game and was quickly mated:
 33...Rc1+ 34 Ke2 Qg2+ 35 Kxe3 Re1+ 0-1.

33...Qh1+ 34 Ke2 Qe4 35 Ke1 Rc2

White is mated in a few moves.

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White to play

274) Issa – Straubinger
Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

55 Qa1+!

The key move. White avoids the tempting 55 Rb8? Qf1+ 56 Kh4 Rxh5+! 57 Kxh5 Qh3+ 58 Kg5 Qg4+ 59 Kh6 Qh3+ 60 Kg5 Qg4+ = with a draw by repetition.

55...Kb4

Or 55...Kb3 56 Rb8+ Kc2 57 Rb2+ Kd3 58 Qb1+ Ke3 59 Qe1+ followed by mate.

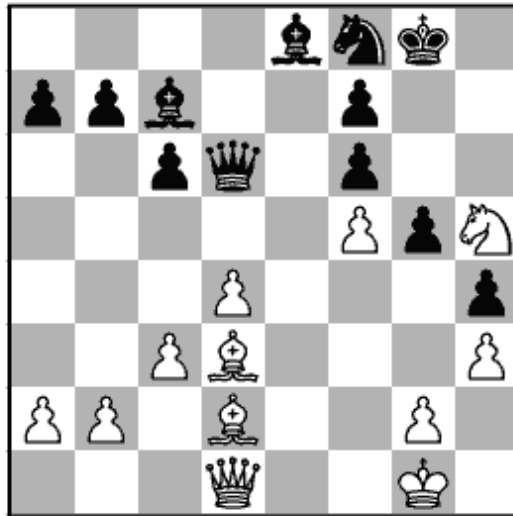
56 Rb8+

56 Be1+ Kb3 57 Rb8+ also leads to mate.

56...Kc5 57 Qa3+ Kd4 58 Bf2+ Ke4 59 Qe3# (1-0)

Black's rooks were unable to assist with defence.

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White to play

275) Manon – Subrota
Bangladeshi Ch, Dhaka 2022

21 Bf4!

Exploiting Black's unusual kingside pawn-formation to create mating threats.

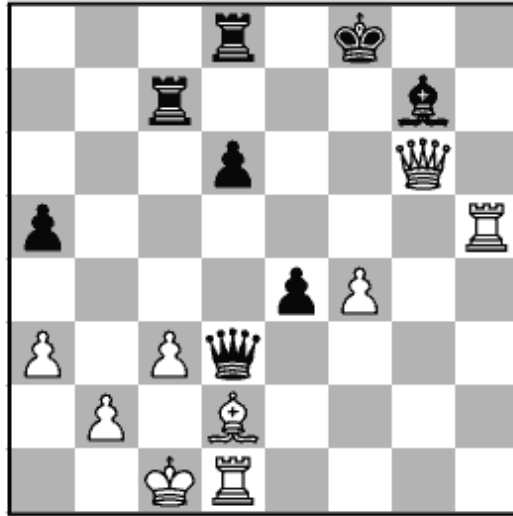
21...gxf4 22 Qg4+ Ng6 23 fxg6 fxg6 24 Bxg6

The white queen and knight team up to gain material.

24...Kf8 25 Bxe8 Kxe8 26 Qg6+ +-

White wins the f6-pawn and the game.

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Black to play

276) Tarhan – Akbas
Ankara 2022

33...Bxc3!

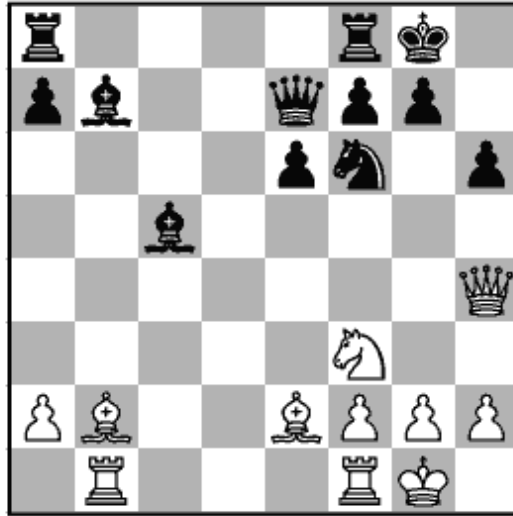
Both kings are exposed, but Black is able to strike first.

34 Rf5+

Or 34 Bxc3 Rxc3+ 35 bxc3 Qxc3+ followed by mate.

34...Bf6+ 35 Bc3 Rxc3+ 36 bxc3 Qxc3+ 37 Kb1 Qb2# (0-1)

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White to play

277) W. Olsson – A. Soderström
Swedish Junior Ch, Uppsala 2022

20 Bxf6! gxf6 21 Qxh6

White wins back his pawn, but more importantly he weakens Black's kingside pawn-structure.

21...Be4

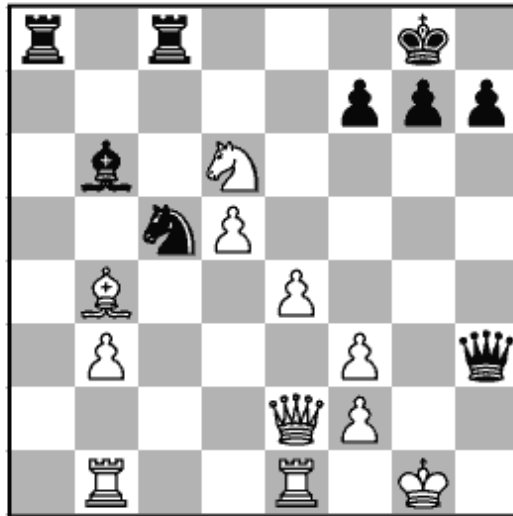
White breaks through along the b1-h7 diagonal after 21...Bd5 22 Bd3 f5 23 Rbe1 f6 24 Bxf5 +–.

22 Rb3 Bd5

White's rook is ready to swing over to the kingside after 22...Rfd8 23 Nd2 +–.

23 Ng5! fxg5 24 Rh3 f5 25 Qh8+ Kf7 26 Bh5# (1-0)

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Black to play

278) Defromont – K. Le Quang
Paris 2022

29...Nd3!

The combination works because White's two minor pieces are far away from the kingside.

30 Qxd3

30 Rf1 Nf4 followed by mate.

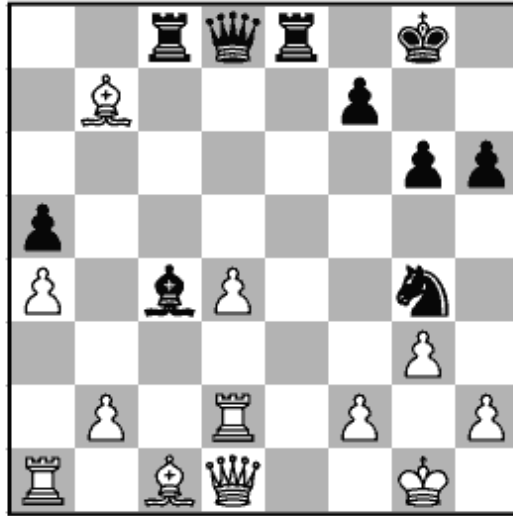
30...Qg3+ 31 Kh1 Bxf2

White has no good defence to the threat of 32...Qh3#.

32 Qf1 Qh4+ 33 Kg2 Rc2 –+

Black will mate in a few moves.

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Black to play

279) Martin del Campo – J. Levine
Charlotte 2022

23...Qe7! 24 Bxc8

24 Qxg4 Qe1+ 25 Kg2 Qf1+ 26 Kf3 Qh1+ 27 Kf4 Qxb7 leads to mate.

24...Qe1+ 25 Qxe1

25 Kg2 Bf1+ 26 Kg1 Bh3+ 27 Qxe1 Rxe1#.

25...Rxe1+ 26 Kg2 Bf1+ 27 Kf3 f5

Now the threat is ...Nxe2+ followed by ...Re4#. The game featured 27...Nxe2+, which also wins: 28 Kf4 g5+ 29 Kf5 Bh3+ 30 Kf6 Bxc8 –+ and the white king, ensnared on f6, was not long for this world.

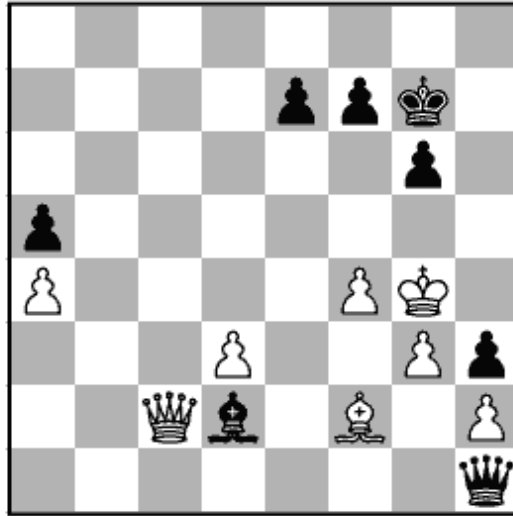
28 Re2

Or 28 Bxf5 Nxe2+ 29 Kf4 g5#.

28...Bxe2+ 29 Kf4 Bd3 –+

White's queenside pieces never entered the game.

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Black to play

280) Forgas Moreno – Nakhbayeva
Women's Olympiad, Chennai 2022

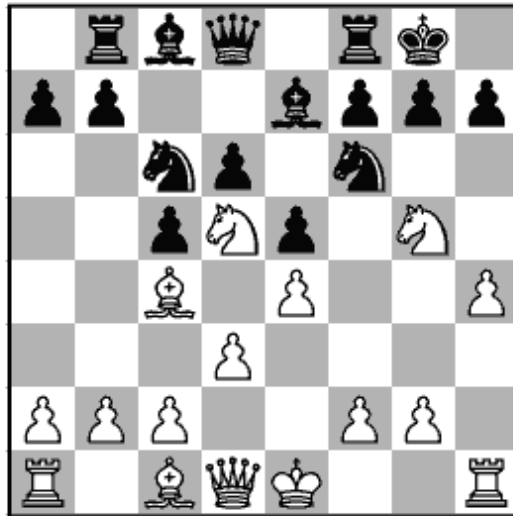
42...f5+! 43 Kh4

White's king also runs into trouble after 43 Kxh3 Qf1+ 44 Kh4 Qxf2 45 Qb2+ Kh7 followed by mate.

43...Qf3 44 Bd4+ Kh6 45 Kxh3 Qf1+ 0-1

46 Kh4 g5+ 47 fxg5+ Bxg5#.

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White to play

281) Hilwerda – Vesterli
Copenhagen 2022

9 Nxf6+! Bxf6

9...gxf6 10 Qh5 fxg5 11 hxg5 leads to mate.

10 Qh5 h6

Black is unable to defend the h7-pawn after 10...Bxg5 11 hxg5 +–.

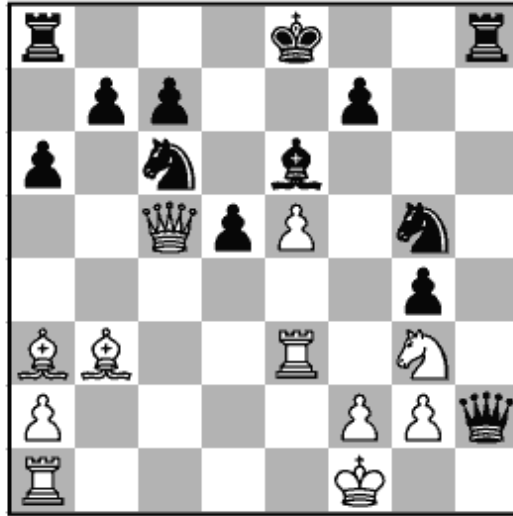
11 Bxf7+

The game continuation 11 Nxf7 Rxf7 12 Qxf7+ Kh7 13 Bg5 +– was also good enough.

11...Kh8 12 Qg6 +–

Black must give up lots of material to avoid mate.

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White to play

282) G. Wall – H. Olson
Newcastle 2022

25 Ba4!

Black has difficulty dealing with the threat of Qe7#.

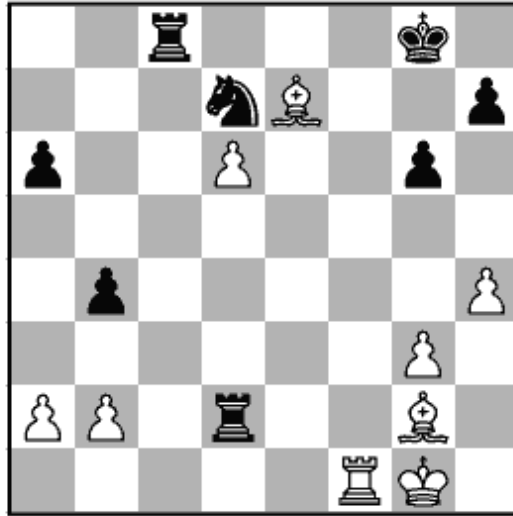
25...0-0-0 26 Bxc6 bxc6

26...d4 27 Rc1! +–.

27 Qxc6 Ne4 28 Rxe4 1-0

28...dxe4 29 Qa8+ leads to mate.

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White to play

283) Poliannikov – Sa. Sethuraman

New York 2022

31 Bh3! Rcc2

White wins a piece after 31...Rf8 32 Be6+ Kg7 33 Bxf8+ Nxf8 34 Rf7+ Kh6 (34...Kg8 35 Rf2+ Nxe6 36 Rxd2 +–) 35 Rxf8 Rxd6 36 Bc4 +–.

32 Be6+ Kh8

32...Kg7 33 Rf7+ Kh8 34 Rf8+! transposes to the game.

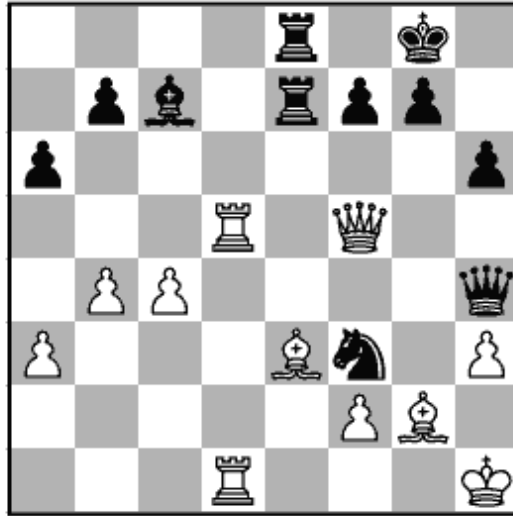
33 Rf8+! Kg7

The game ended 33...Nxf8 34 Bf6# (1-0).

34 Rg8+ Kh6 35 Bg5+ Kh5 36 g4#

A good example of the attacking strength of the bishop-pair.

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Black to play

284) M. Zachary – Boyer
French Junior Ch, Agen 2023

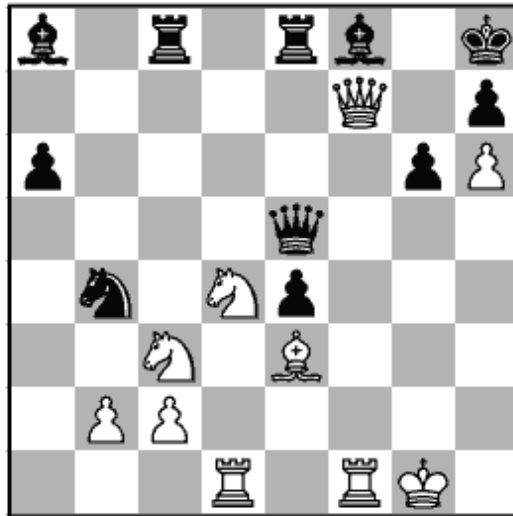
38...Rxe3! 39 Bxf3

39 fxe3 Qg3 leads to mate.

39...Qxf2 0-1

White is unable to deal with the dual threats of 40...Qh2# and 40...Re1+ followed by mate.

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White to play

285) F. Oro – Almiron

Villa Martelli 2023

28 Nde2!

The knight retreat defends against ...Qg3+ and also threatens to win the black queen with Bd4.

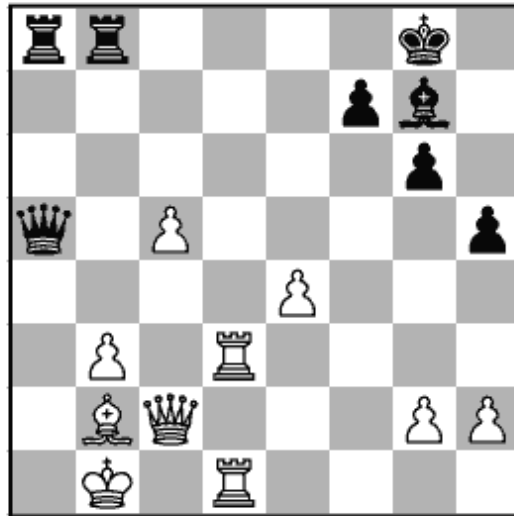
28...Nxc2

28...Nd3 29 cxd3 exd3 30 Rxd3 Bc5 31 Rf2 +—.

29 Rd7! Be7 30 Bf4 Qf6 31 Bd6 1-0

Black is mated after 31...Qxf7 32 Rxf7 Bxd6 33 Rxh7+ Kg8 34 Rdg7+ Kf8 35 Rh8#.

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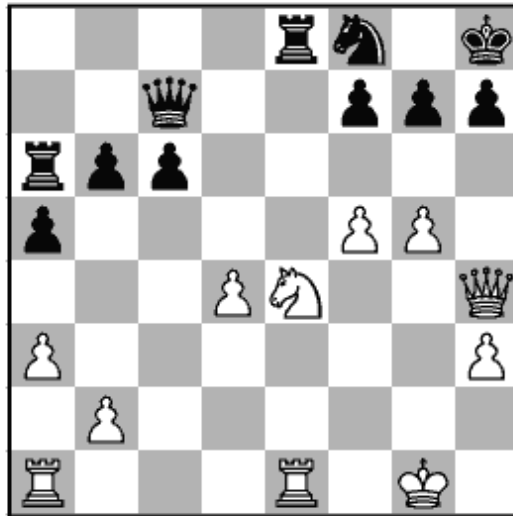


Black to play

286) E. Roebers – Pijpers
Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

32...Qa1+! 0-1
 33 Bxa1 Rxa1#.

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White to play

287) Krebs – Gelbenegger
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

28 Nf6!

The combination works because of Black's poorly placed rook on a6. We should note that deep computer analysis shows that 28 f6 and 28 g6 also give White a strong attack, but they are far more complex and certainly less good practical options.

28...Rxe1+

28...Rd8 29 Nxb7 Rxd4 (29...Nxb7 30 g6 +- leads to mate) 30 Qxd4 Qg3+ 31 Kf1 Kxb7 32 Qg4 +-.

29 Rxe1 Ra8

29...gxf6 30 Re8 Qd6 31 gxf6 +-.

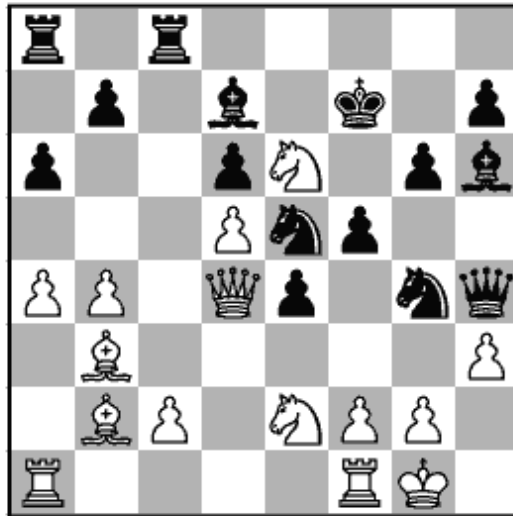
30 Nxb7! Kg8

30...Nxb7 31 g6 +- leads to mate.

31 Nxf8 Rxf8 32 g6 1-0

Mate follows after 32...fxg6 33 fxg6.

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Black to play

288) Manhardt – Casagrande

Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

19...Nf3+! 20 gxf3 Ne5 21 Qb6 Qxh3!

After 21...exf3? 22 N2f4 Bxf4 (as played in the game) White could have held the balance by 23 Qxd6! Qxh3 (23...Bxe6 24 Qxe6+ Kf8 25 Qd6+ Kf7 26 Qe6+ is also a draw) 24 Nxf4 Qg4+ 25 Kh1 Qh4+ 26 Kg1 Qg5+ 27 Kh1 Qh4+ = with a draw by repetition.

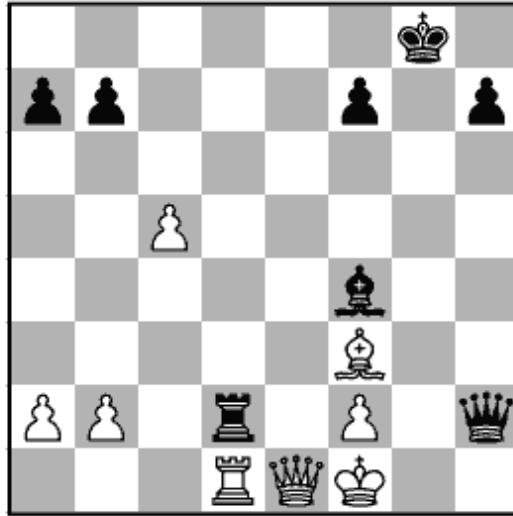
22 Bxe5 exf3

White's queen is unable to assist with kingside defence.

23 N6f4 Bxf4 24 Nxf4 Qg4+ 25 Kh2 dxe5 26 Rg1 Qh4+ 27 Nh3 f4

—+

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Black to play

289) A. Rizouk – Garcia Ramos

Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

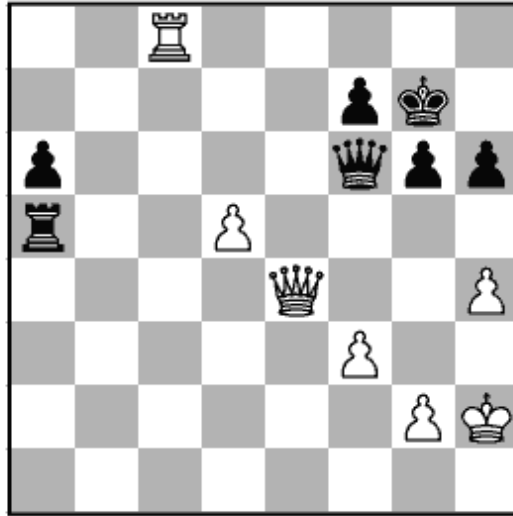
27...Qh3+! 28 Kg1

28 Bg2 Qd3+ –+.

28...Bh2+ 0-1

White is mated after 29 Kh1 Bg3+ 30 Kg1 Qh2+ 31 Kf1 Rxf2+ 32 Qxf2 Qxf2#.

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White to play

290) Jimenez Ruano – Perez Manas
Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

38 Qb4! Qe5+

Black does not have a perpetual check after 38...h5 39 Qxa5 Qxh4+ 40 Kg1 Qd4+ 41 Kf1 Qd1+ 42 Qe1 Qd3+ 43 Kf2 Qd4+ 44 Qe3 Qb2+ 45 Kg1 +–.

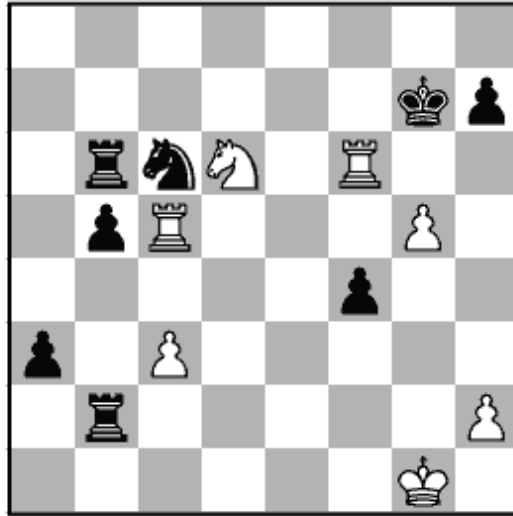
39 f4 Qxd5

39...Qa1 40 Qf8+ Kf6 41 Re8 +– leads to mate.

40 Qc3+ 1-0

40...f6 (40...Kh7 41 Rh8#) 41 Qc7+ (or 41 Rc7+ +–) 41...Qf7 42 Qxa5 +–.

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White to play

291) Garcia Ramos – Gonzalez Perez
Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

35 Ne8+! Kg8 36 Rcf5!

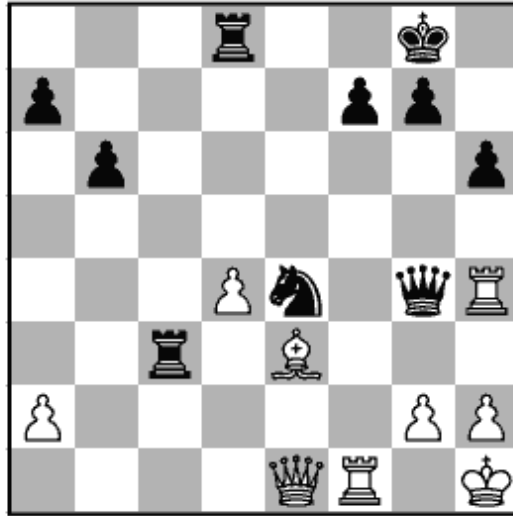
Black's king is caught in a mating-net.

36...h5 37 Rf8+

The game ended 37 g6 Rb1+ 38 Kg2 1-0.

37...Kh7 38 R5f7+ Kg6 39 Rg7#

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Black to play

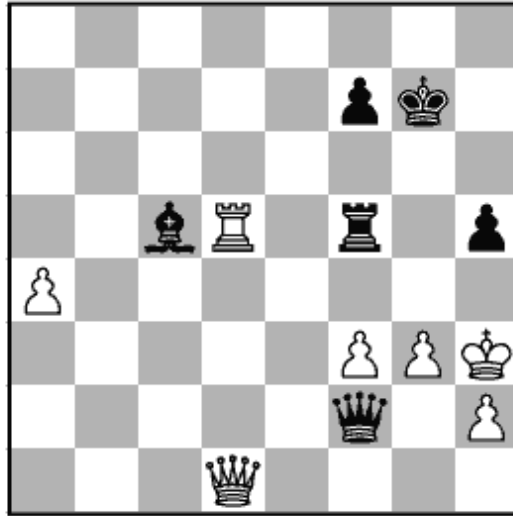
292) A. Roos – Maatman
Dutch League 2022/3

28...Rxe3! 29 Rxc4

In the game White played 29 Qxe3 Qxh4 30 Rf4, but this fails to recover the piece due to his weak back rank. The final moves were 30...Rxd4 31 Rxh4 Rd1+ 32 Qg1 Nf2# (0-1).

29...Rxe1 30 Rxe1 Nf2+ 31 Kg1 Nxc4 –+

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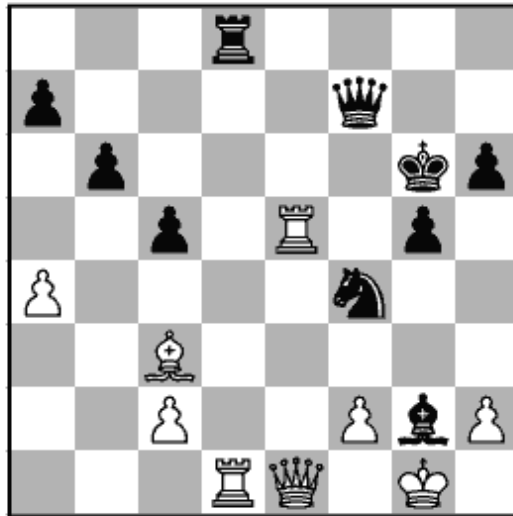
Black to play

293) Belezky – Zhao Yuanhe
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

50...Rxd5 51 Qxd5 Qf1+ 52 Kh4 Be7+ 53 Kxh5 Qh3# (0-1)

This is a typical mate with a queen and a bishop.

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Black to play

294) Matinian – Niemann
Astana 2023

29...Qb7!

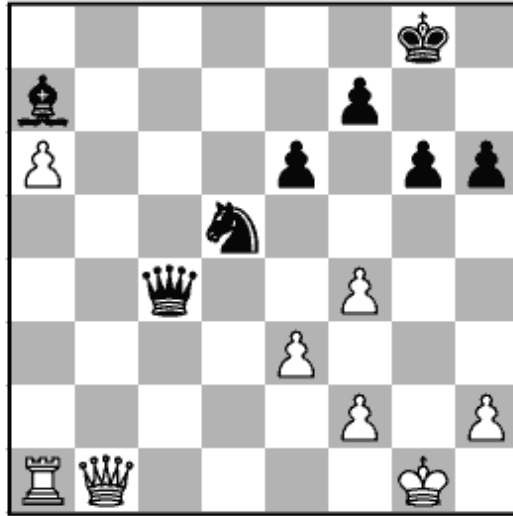
Black protects his bishop and threatens 30...Nh3#.

30 Re6+ Kh5! 31 h4

Black's pressure along the long diagonal is too strong; for example,
 31 Re3 Nh3+ 32 Rxh3+ Bxh3 33 Qe2+ (33 f3 Qxf3 34 Rd2 Qxc3 –+)
 33...Bg4 34 Qxg4+ Kxg4 35 Rxd8 Qe4 –+.

31...Bh1 –+

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Black to play

295) Shevchenko – Sarana
Bucharest rapid 2023

48...Nxe3! 49 fxe3

Now White is mated. 49 Qa2 loses to 49...Qe4 50 fxe3 Bxe3+ 51 Kf1 Bd4 –+.

In the game 49 Qb7 allowed Black to exploit White's weakened kingside by 49...Qd4 50 Rb1 Nd5 51 Qb2 Qxf4, and White resigned a couple of moves later.

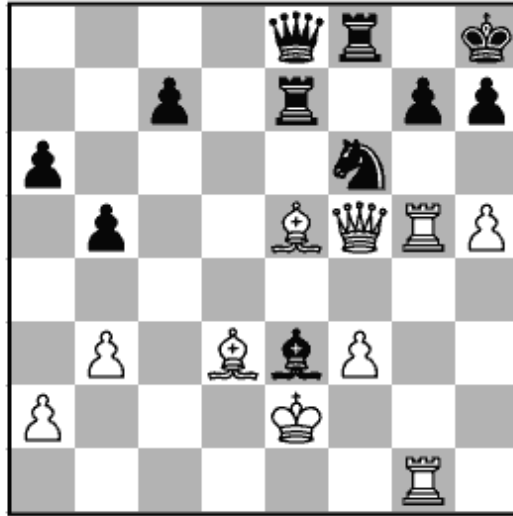
49...Bxe3+ 50 Kg2 Qe2+ 51 Kg3 Qf2+ 52 Kh3

52 Kg4 Qg2+ 53 Kh4 Bf2#.

52...Qf3+ 53 Kh4 Bf2#

Black's queen and bishop worked together well to flush out the white king.

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White to play

296) Korobov – Nigmatov
Baku 2023

33 Rxg7! Rxg7

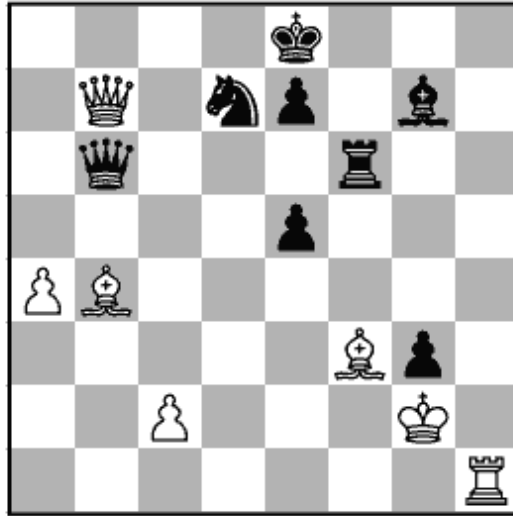
33...Rxe5 34 Rxh7+ Nxh7 35 Qxh7#.

34 Rxg7 1-0

34...Kxg7 35 Qxh7#.

A good demonstration of the strength of the bishop-pair aimed at Black's kingside.

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White to play

297) Salimova – Sivuk
Baku 2023

37 Qc8+! Kf7

Black loses his queen after 37...Qd8 38 Bh5+ +—.

38 Bh5+ Rg6

38...Ke6 allows mate by 39 Qc4+ Kf5 40 Qg4#.

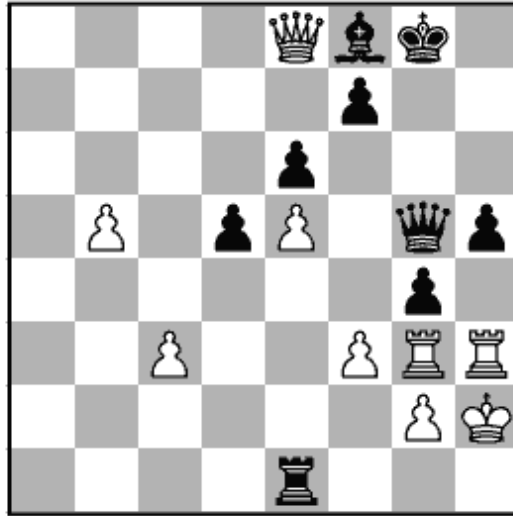
39 Qc4+ e6 40 Bxg6+ Kxg6 41 Qd3+ e4 42 Qxg3+ Kf7

42...Kf6 43 Rf1+ Qf2+ 44 Rxf2#.

43 Rh7 1-0

43...Qd4 44 Bc3 +—.

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Black to play

298) K. Abdulla – Raja Rithvik
Baku 2023

49...Kg7!

Black unpins his bishop and prepares ...Qe3 without allowing a draw by repetition. The immediate 49...Qe3? is met by 50 Rxc4+! hxc4 51 Rh8+! Kxh8 52 Qxf8+ Kh7 53 Qxf7+ Kh6 54 Qf6+ Kh5 55 Qf7+ Kh6 56 Qf6+ =.

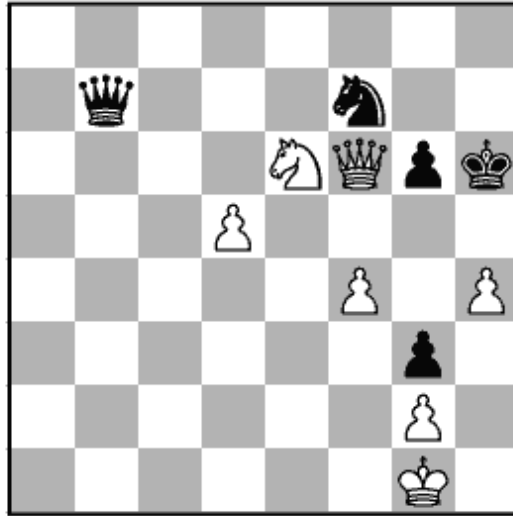
50 f4

50 b6 Qe3 51 Rxc4+ hxc4 52 Rh7+ Kxh7 53 Qxf7+ Bg7 –+.

50...Qxf4 51 Rxh5 Re3 52 Rh3 Rxc3 53 Rxc3 Qh6+ 54 Kg1 Bc5+ 55 Kf1 Qc1+ 56 Ke2 Qc2+ 0-1

Black wins the white rook after 57 Ke1 Bf2+.

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White to play

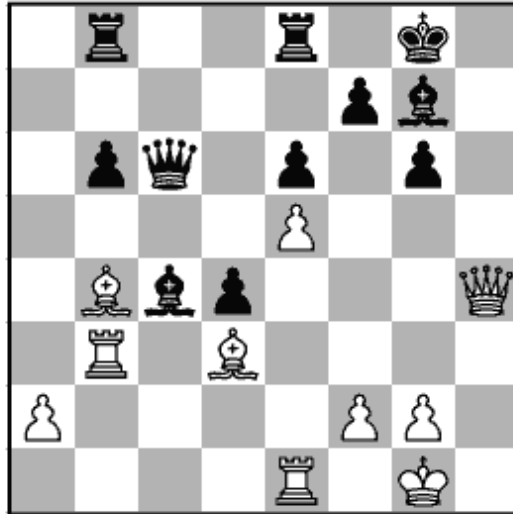
299) Erdogmus – N. Dixit
Baku 2023

42 Qg7+ Kh5 43 Qh7+ Kg4

43...Nh6 44 Qxb7 +- costs Black his queen without delaying mate for long.

44 Qxg6+ Kxh4 45 Qh7+ Kg4 46 Qh3# (1-0)

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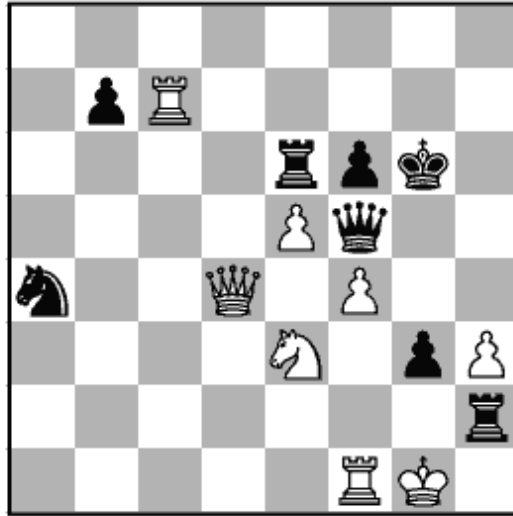
White to play

300) Darini – Tahbaz
Iranian Ch, Kerman 2023

27 Rc1! b5 28 Be4 1-0

The white rook swings over to the h-file after 28...Qd7 29 Rh3 +—.

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Black to play

301) Juswanto – Tuan Minh Tran
Jakarta Zonal 2023

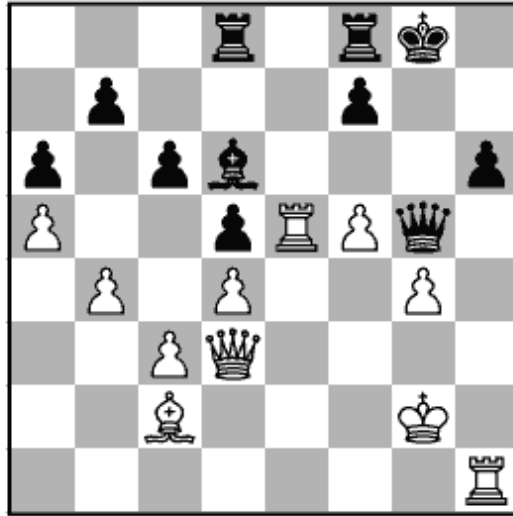
38...Rh1+! 39 Kg2

White is mated after 39 Kxh1 Qxh3+ 40 Kg1 Qh2#.

39...Qxh3+ 40 Kf3 g2+ 41 Ke4 gxf1Q 0-1

42 Nxf1 Qg2+ 43 Kd3 Qxf1+ leads to mate.

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White to play

303) Ana. Rakhmangulova – J. Eric
Belgrade (women) 2023

37 f6! Qg6

Black is unable to defend the h7-square after 37...Qxg4+ 38 Kf2 Qf4+ 39 Ke1 +—.

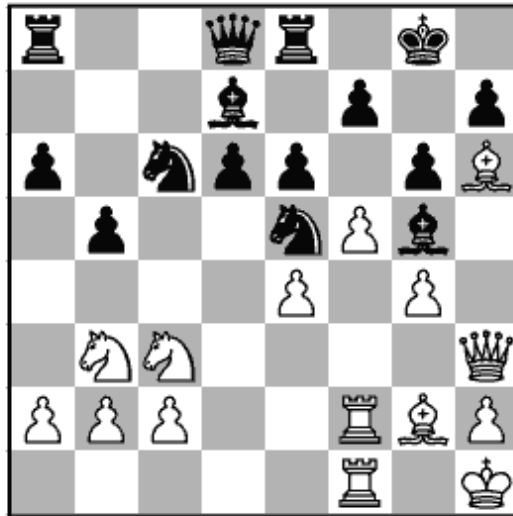
38 Qd2 Qxg4+

38...Qxf6 39 Rxh6 leads to mate.

39 Kf2 Bxe5 40 dxe5 1-0

Mate follows after 40...Rfe8 41 Qxh6.

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White to play

304) J. Lauridsen – Øst-Hansen
Danish Rapid Ch, Avedore 2023

19 f6!

White closes the f-file, but catches the black king in a mating-net.

19...Nxg4

19...Bxf6 20 Rxf6 +–.

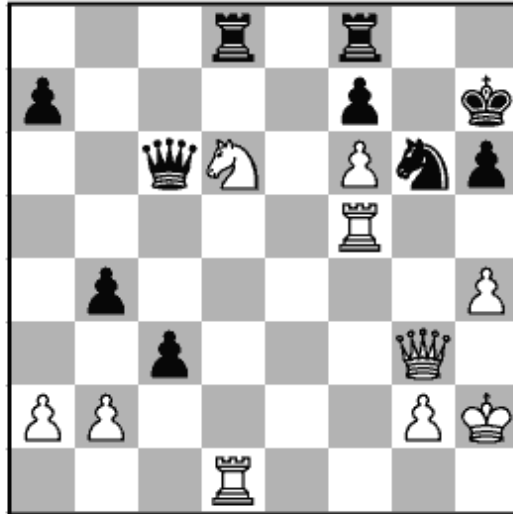
20 Bxg5! Nxf2+

20...h5 21 Rd2 +–.

21 Rxf2 h5 22 Bf3 +–

Now 22...e5 is met by 23 Qh4 with the idea of 24 Bxh5.

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White to play

305) Ipek – Molenda

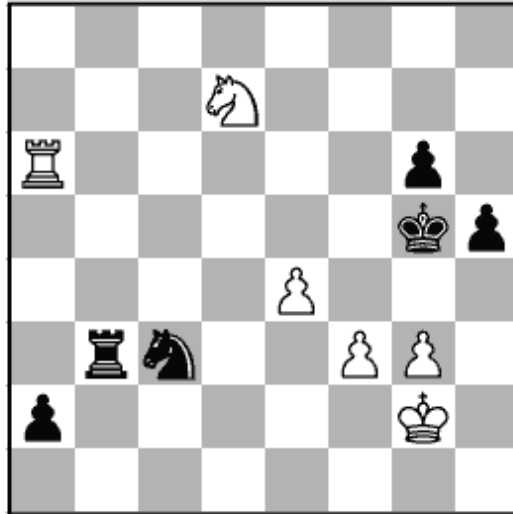
Ayvalik 2023

31 Rh5! Rxd6

Otherwise the white pawn on f6 keeps the black king trapped in, sealing its fate. 31...cxb2 is answered with 32 Rxh6+ Kxh6 33 Qg5+ Kh7 34 Qh5+ Kg8 35 Qh6 followed by mate.

32 Qg5 Kg8 33 Qxh6 Rxf6 34 Qh7# (1-0)

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White to play

306) Mordechai – M. Katkov
Israeli Team Ch 2023

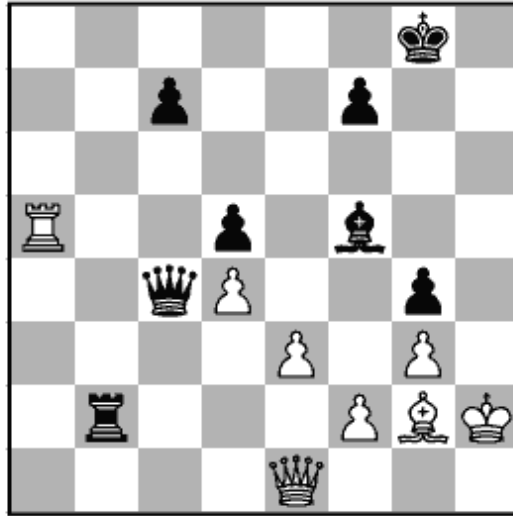
65 Nf8!

White must move the knight to the correct square; not 65 Ne5?
Kh6! 66 Nxg6 Rb4 –+.

1-0

65...h4 (65...Kh6 66 Rxc6#) 66 Rxc6+ Kh5 67 g4#.

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Black to play

307) Dzagnidze – Kosteniuk

Nicosia (women) 2023

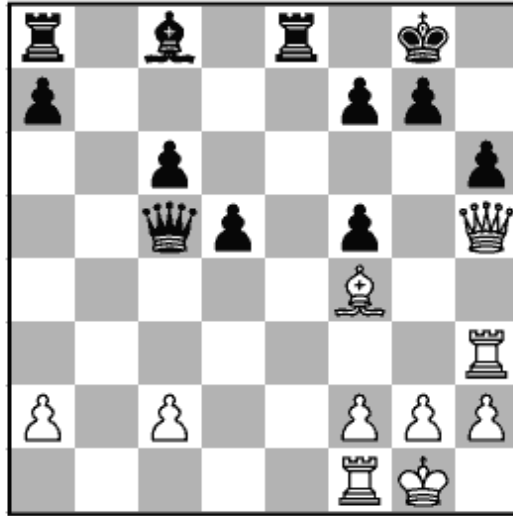
31...Rb1! 32 Qd2 Qc6!

Black manoeuvres her queen toward the h-file.

33 e4 Qg6! 34 Ra8+ Kg7 0-1

35 Bf1 Qh5+ 36 Kg1 Bxe4 37 f3 Bxf3 leads to mate.

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White to play

308) S. Grover – Ajay Krishna
Dubai 2022

23 Bxh6!

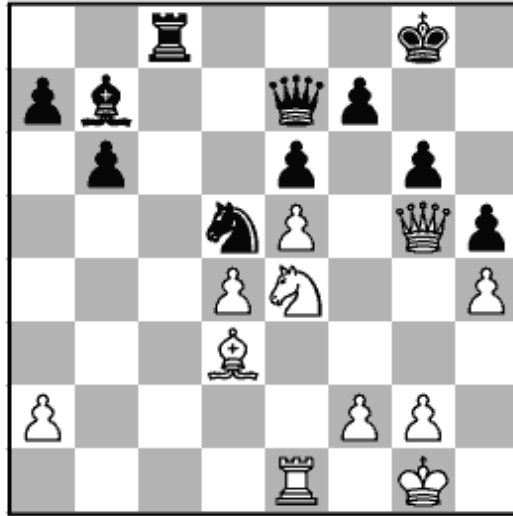
The sacrifice works because Black's kingside has no defenders. After 23 Rg3? Black can defend with 23...Re6 24 Bxh6 g6 or counterattack by 23...Qc4 24 Bxh6 Qxf1+!

23...gxh6

23...Qc4 24 Be3 Kf8 25 Rh4 +–.

24 Qxh6 Qd4 25 Rg3+ Qg4 26 h3 Qxg3 27 fxg3 +–

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White to play

309) Akshat – S. Royal
Budapest 2023

26 Nf6+ Nxf6 27 exf6 Qb4

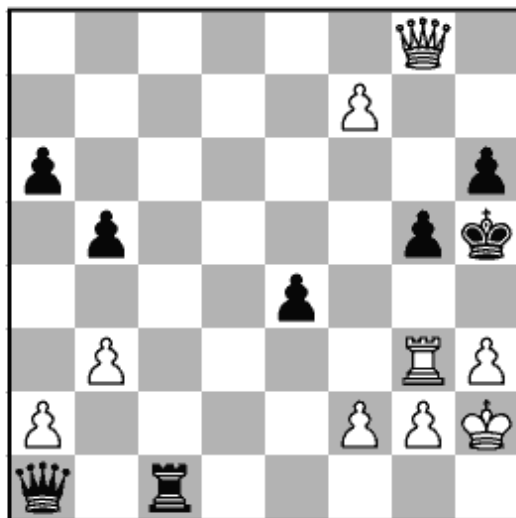
White continues his kingside build-up after 27...Qe8 28 Re3 Qc6 29 Kh2 (White prepares Rg3 without allowing ...Qc1+ in reply) 29...Kf8 30 Qh6+ Ke8 31 Rg3 Kd8 32 Qg7 Qd7 33 Bxg6 +–.

28 Bxg6! Qxe1+ 29 Kh2 Kf8 30 Bxf7 1-0

Black can only delay mate by giving away his pieces.

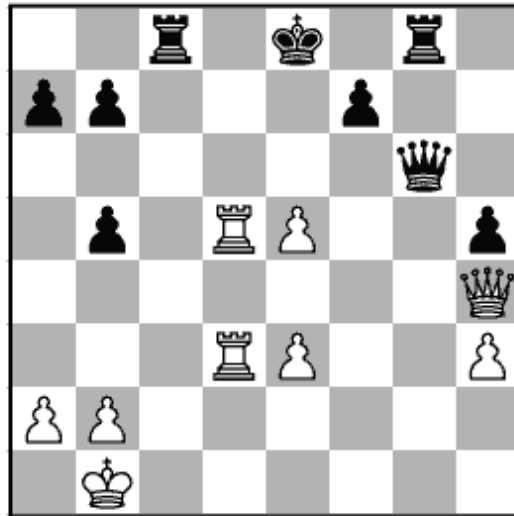
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Checkmate Test



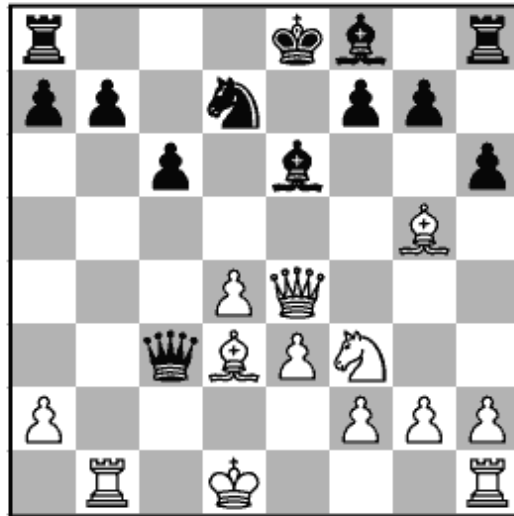
310) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



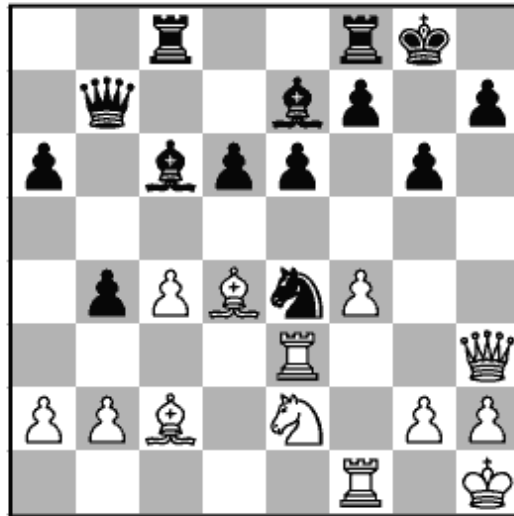
311) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



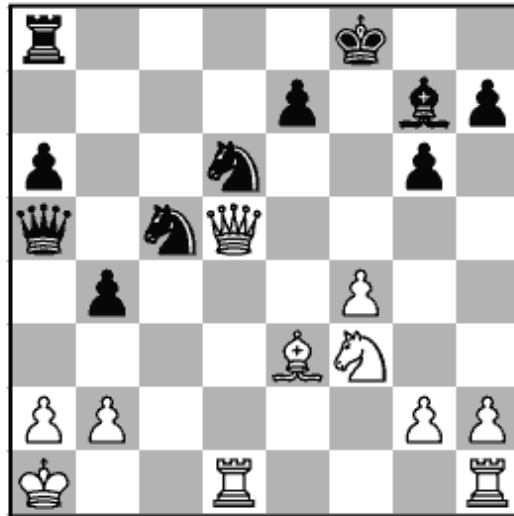
312) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



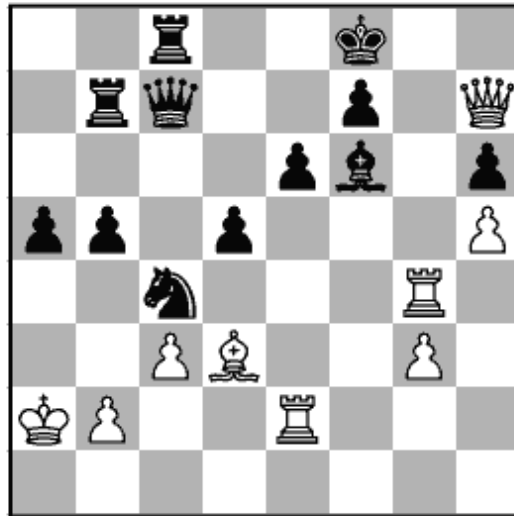
313) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



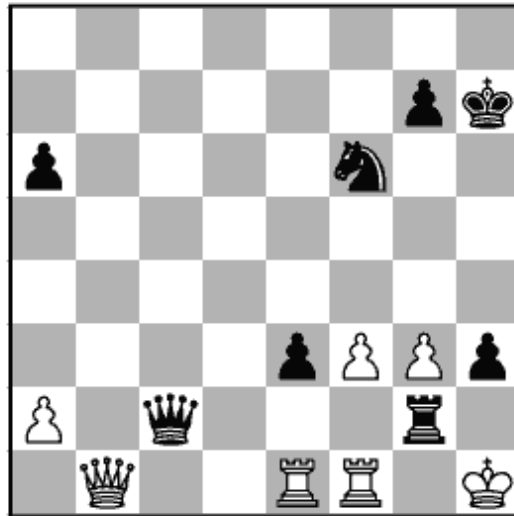
314) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



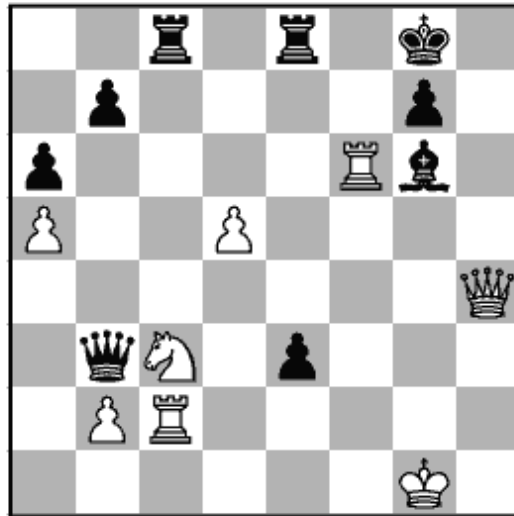
315) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



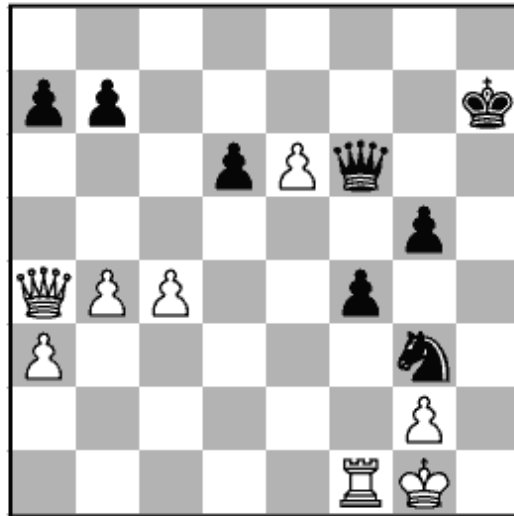
316) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



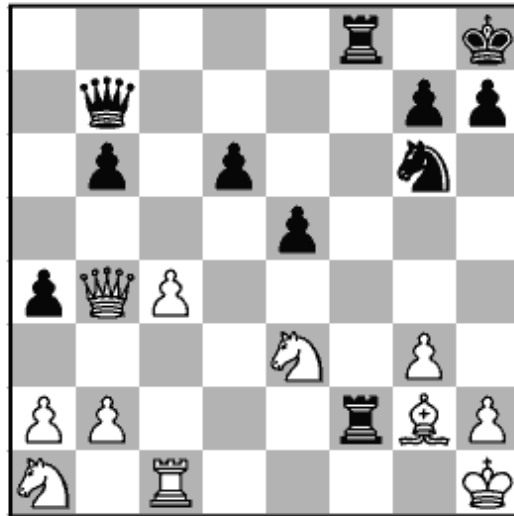
317) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



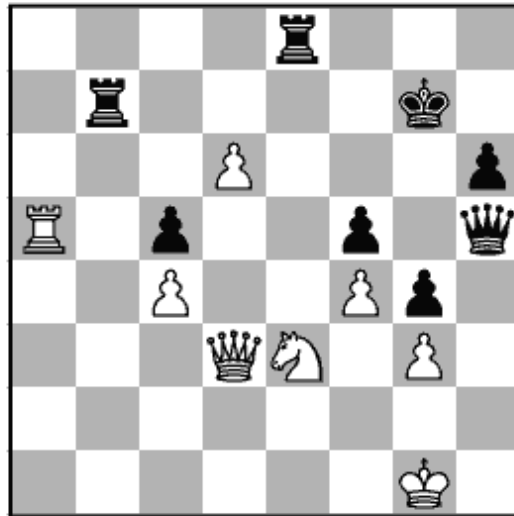
318) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



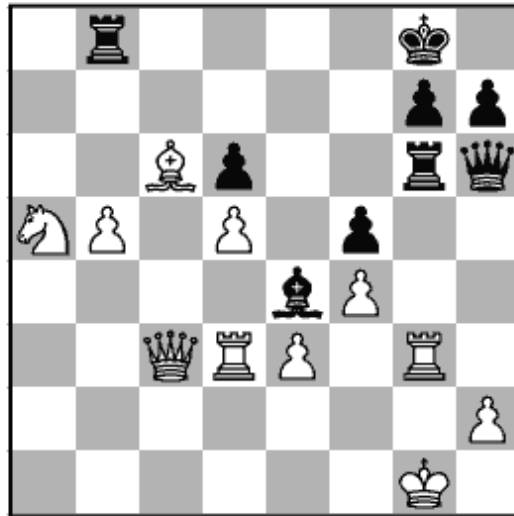
319) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



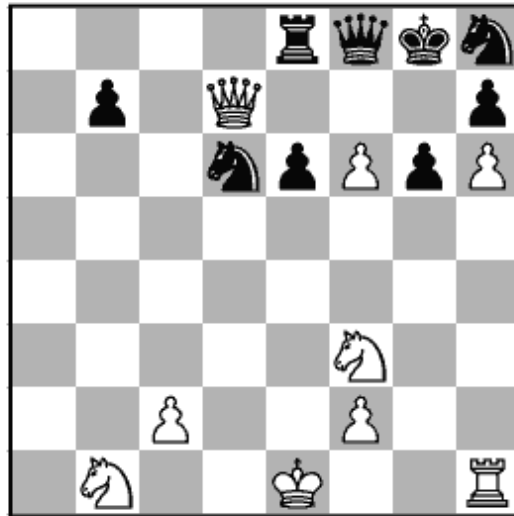
320) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



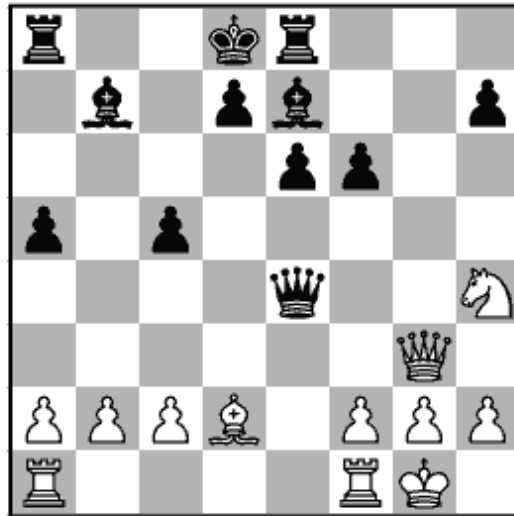
321) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



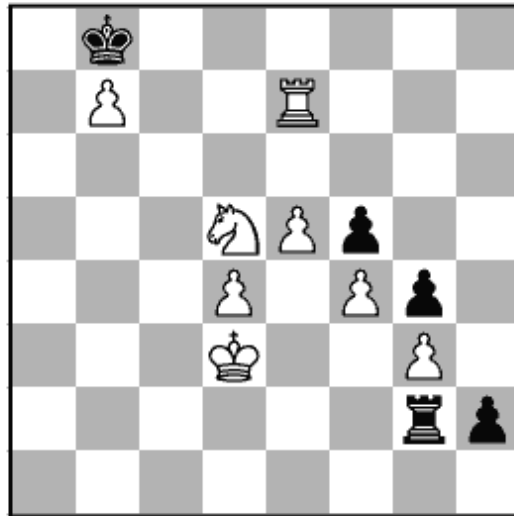
322) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



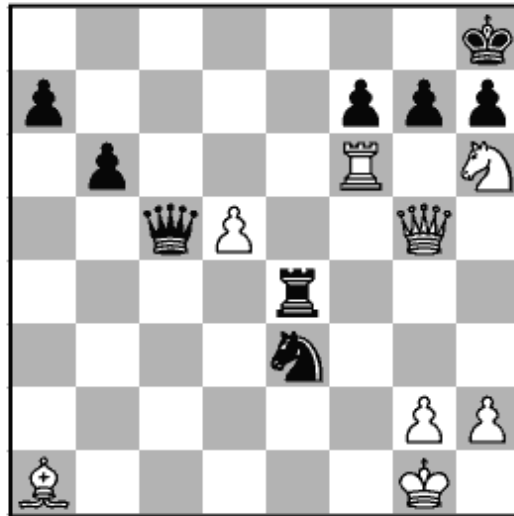
323) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



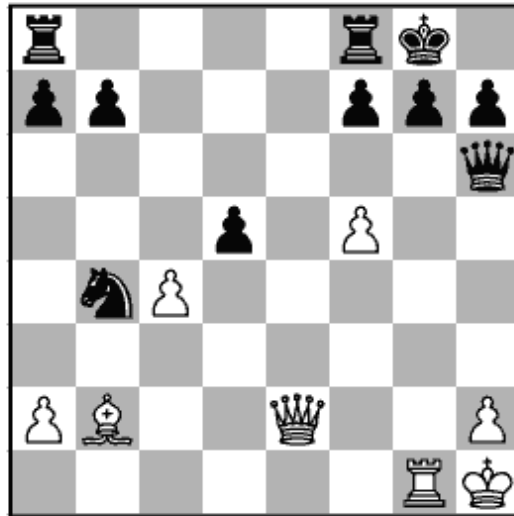
324) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



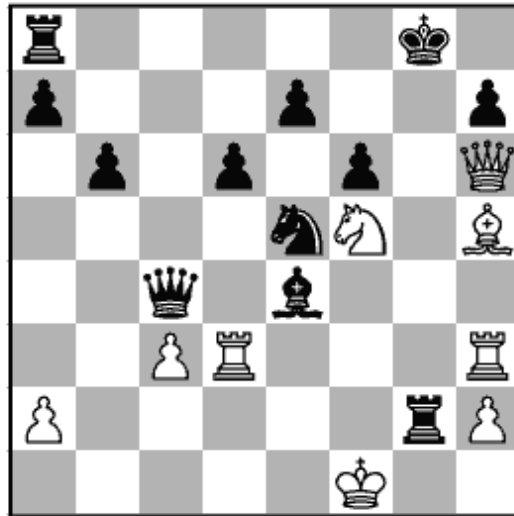
325) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



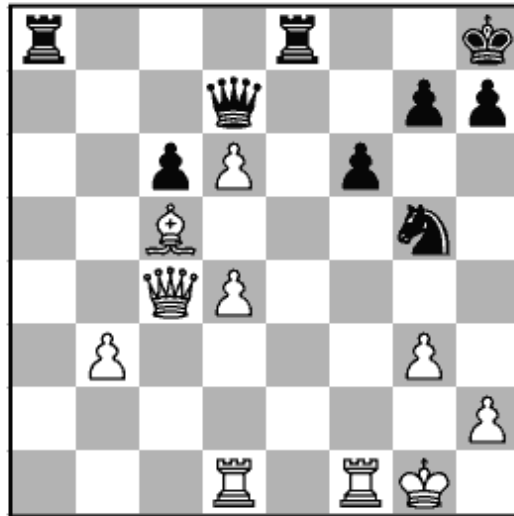
326) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



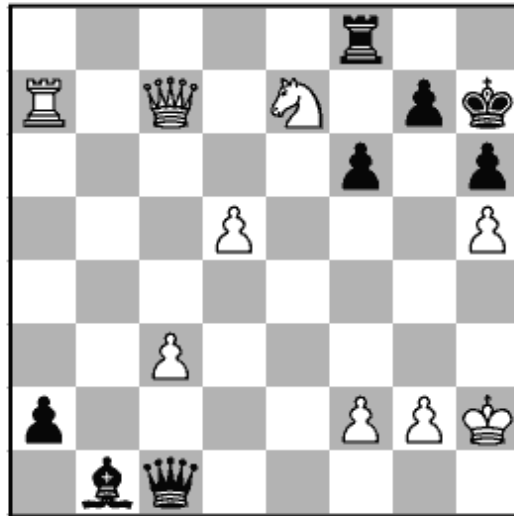
327) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



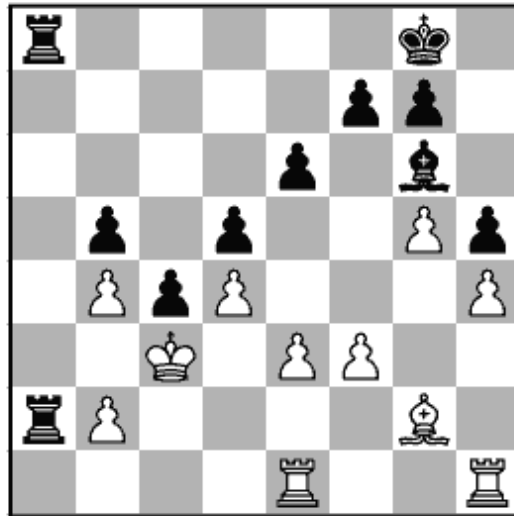
328) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



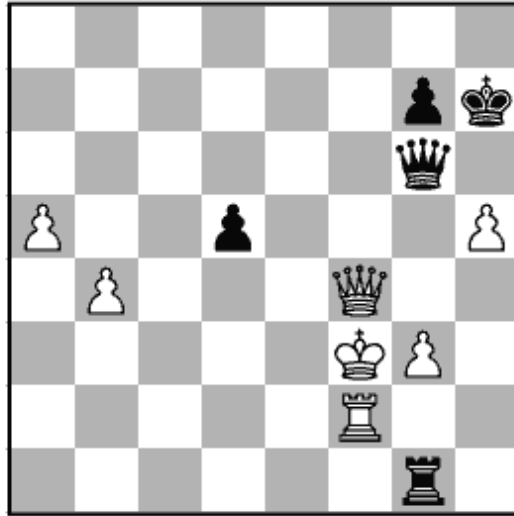
329) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



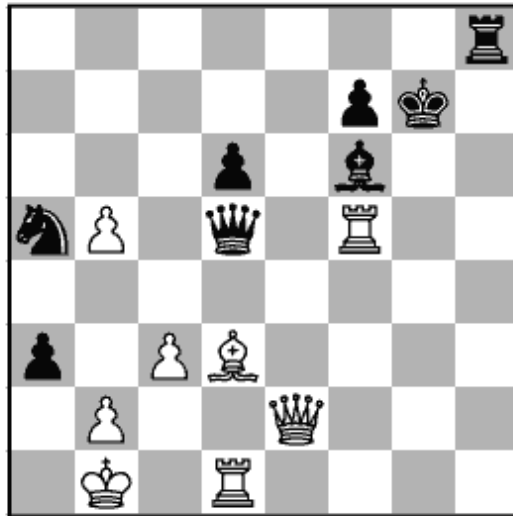
330) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



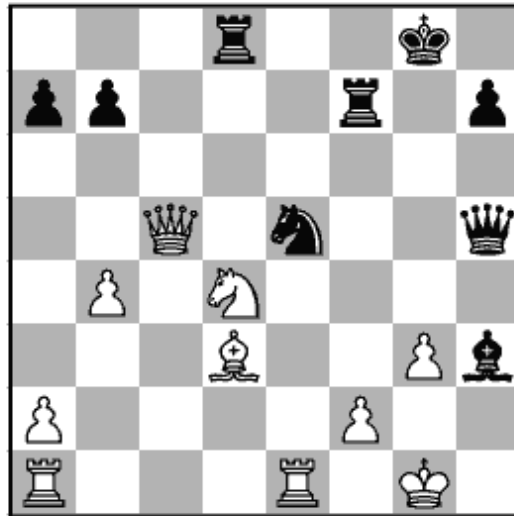
331) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



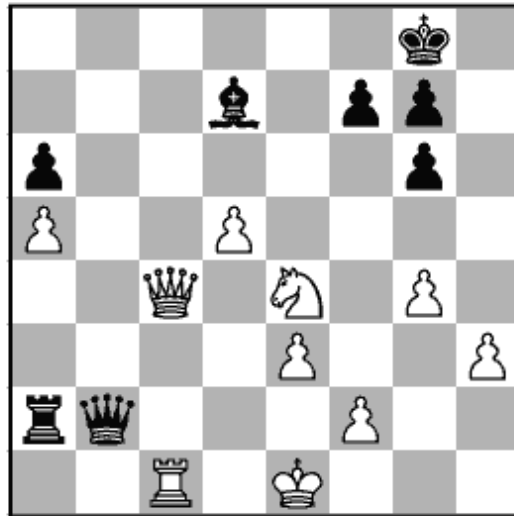
332) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



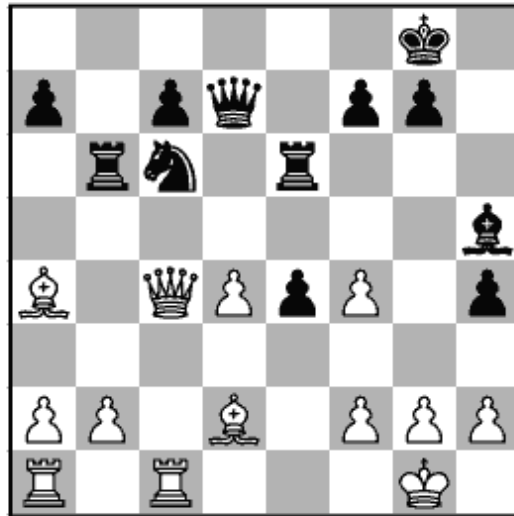
333) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



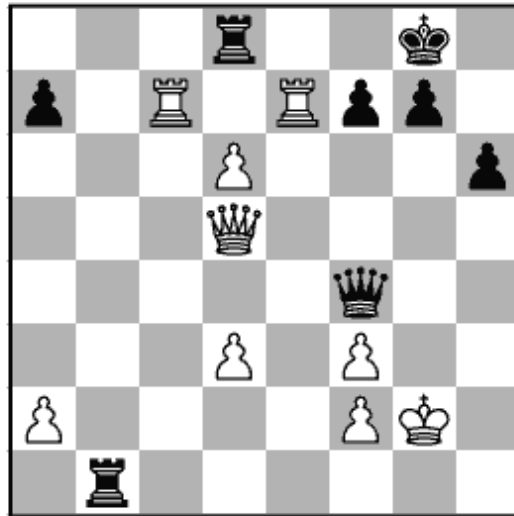
334) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



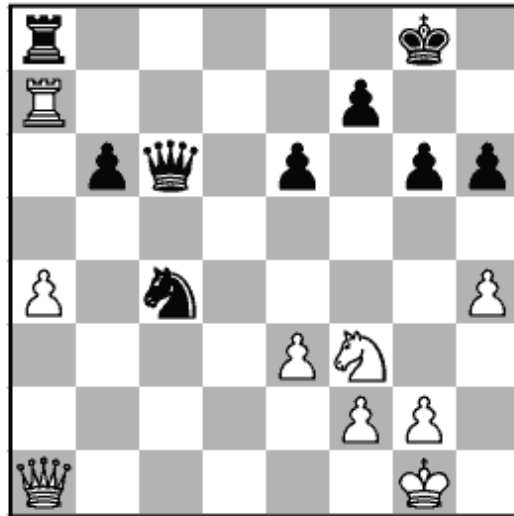
335) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



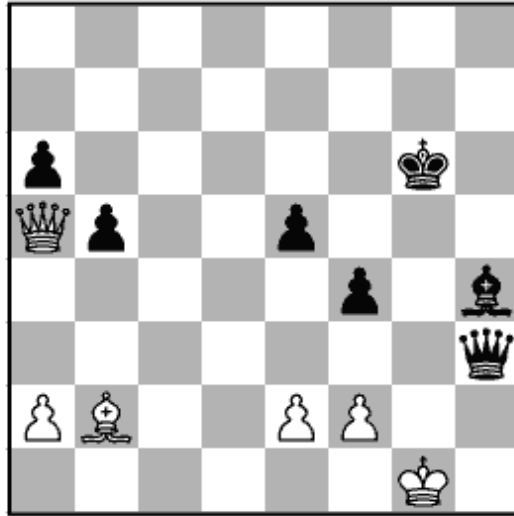
336) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



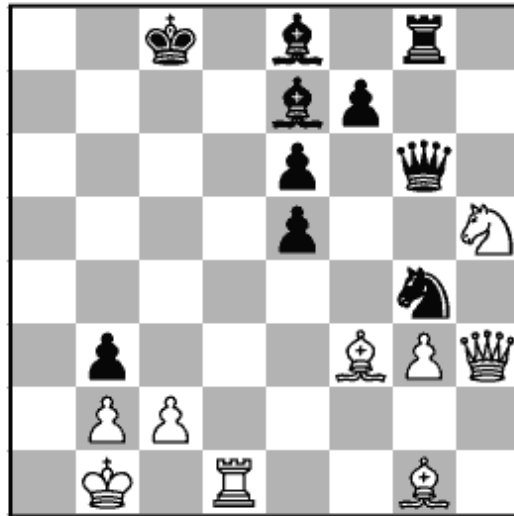
337) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



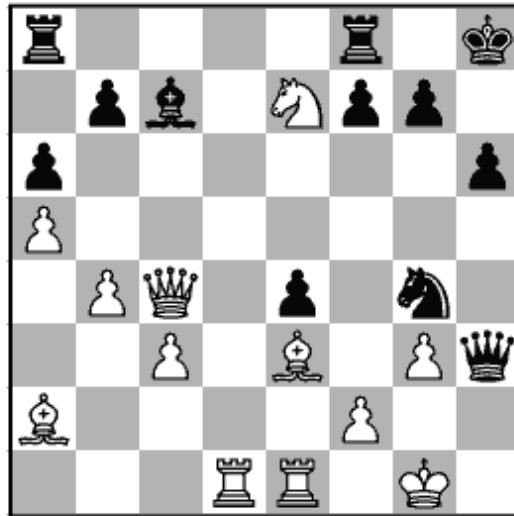
338) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



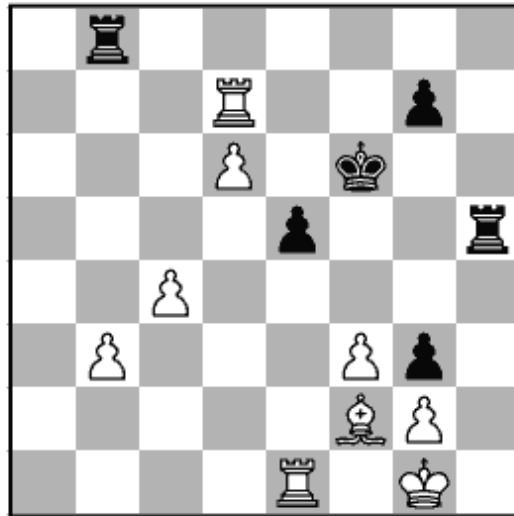
339) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



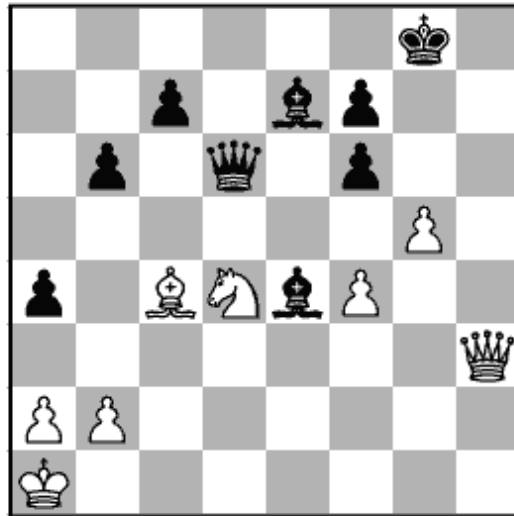
340) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



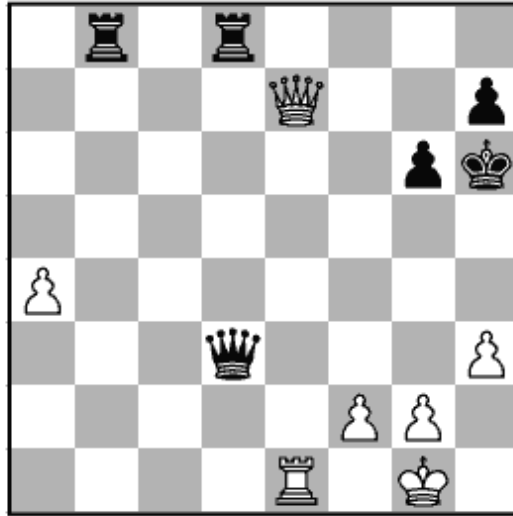
341) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



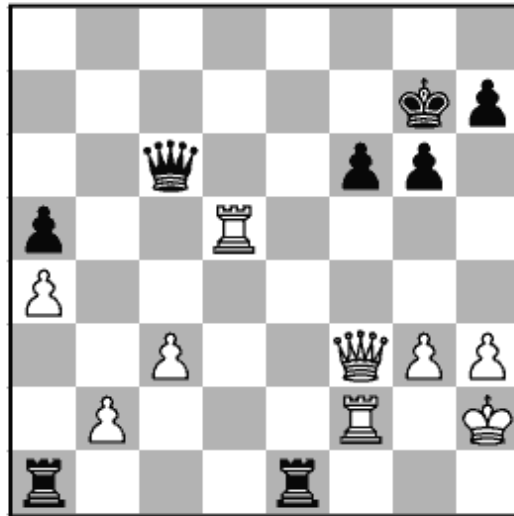
342) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



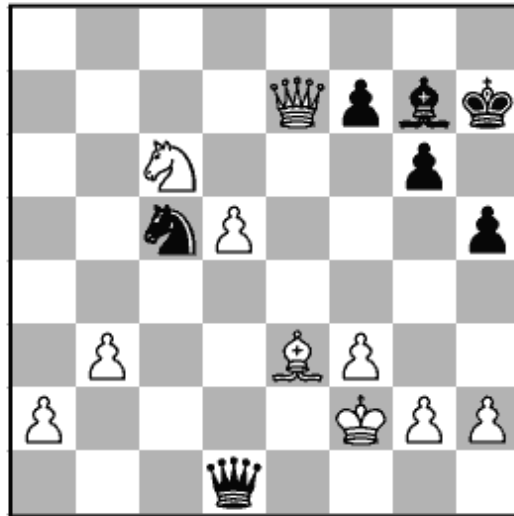
343) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



344) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



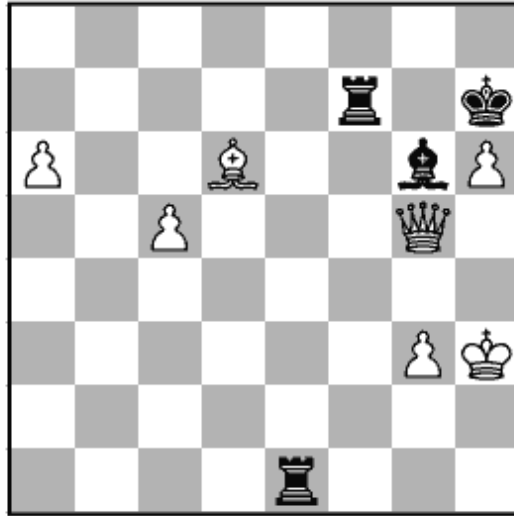
345) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



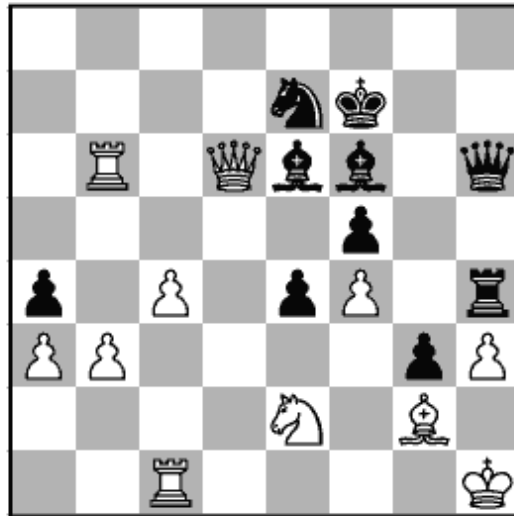
346) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



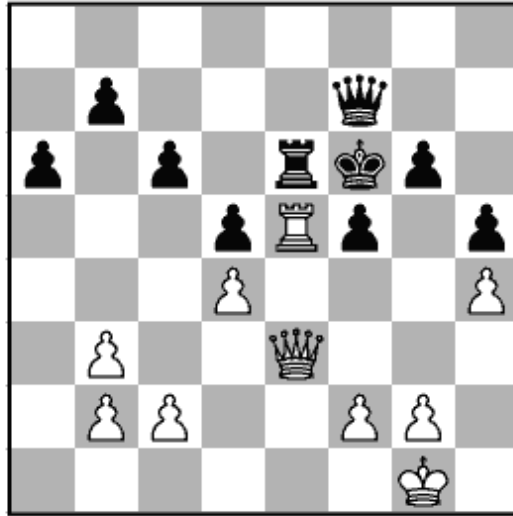
347) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



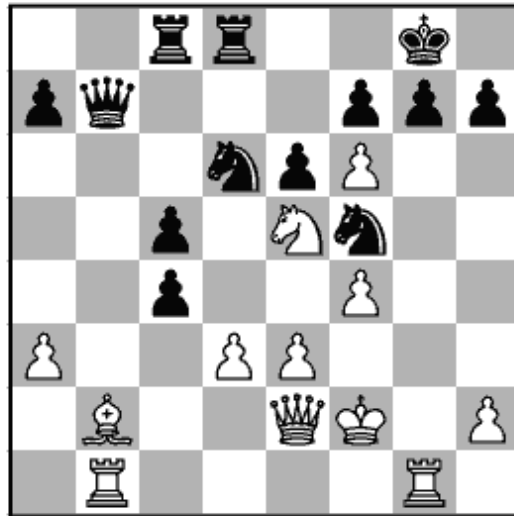
348) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



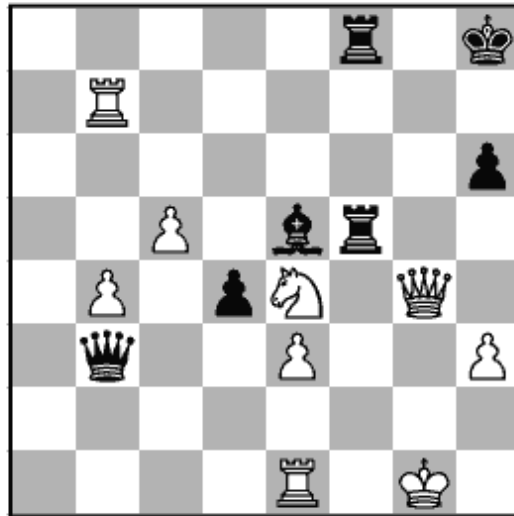
349) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



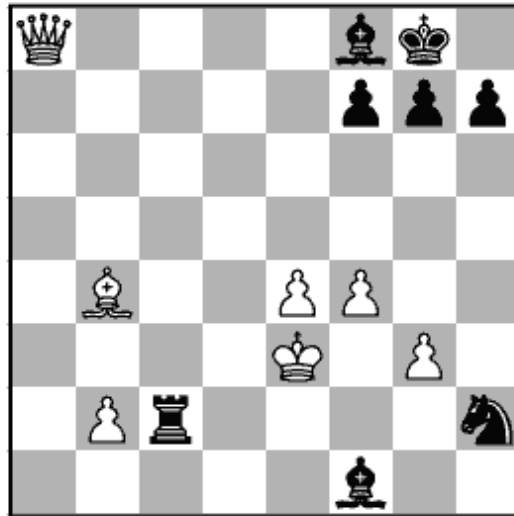
350) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



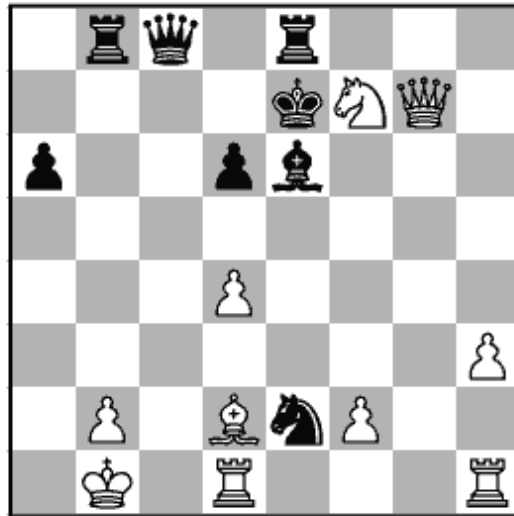
351) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



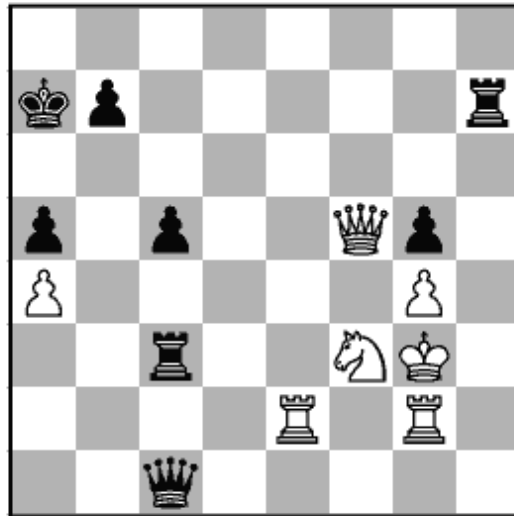
352) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



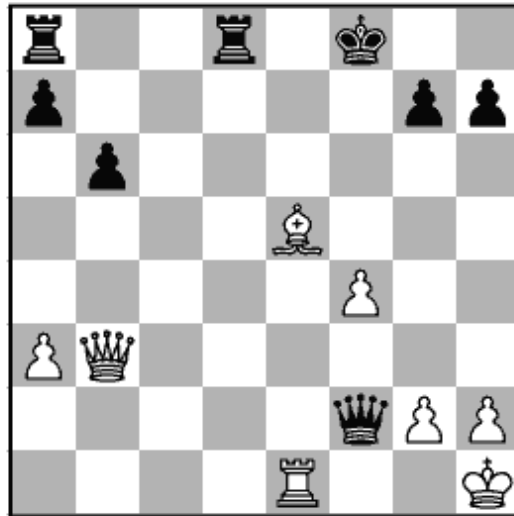
353) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



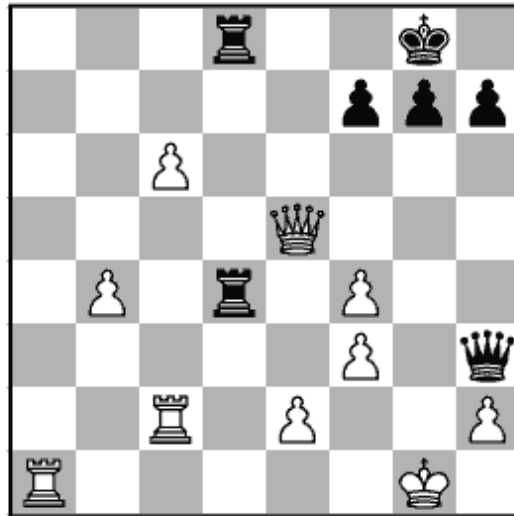
354) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



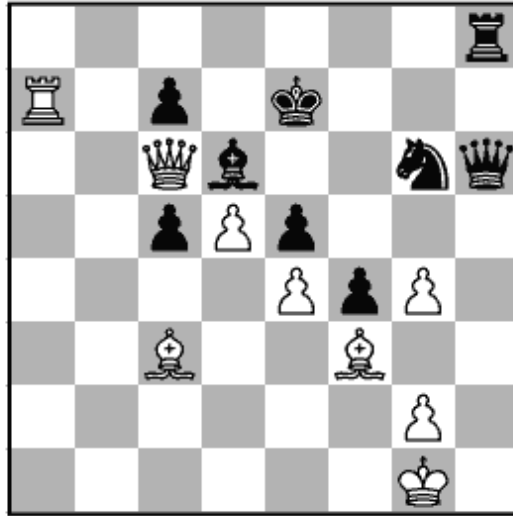
355) White to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



356) Black to play (4 points)

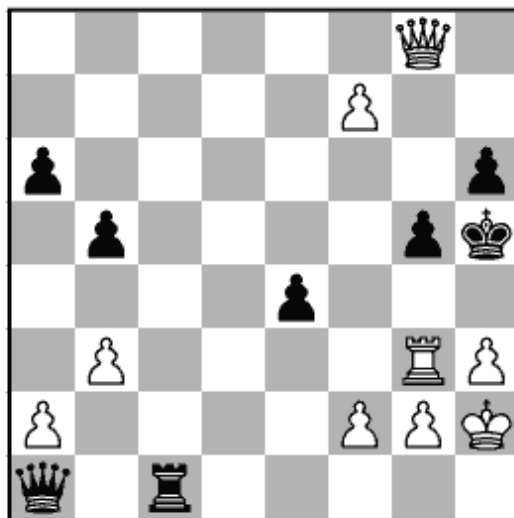
[solution](#)



357) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)

Solutions for Checkmate Test



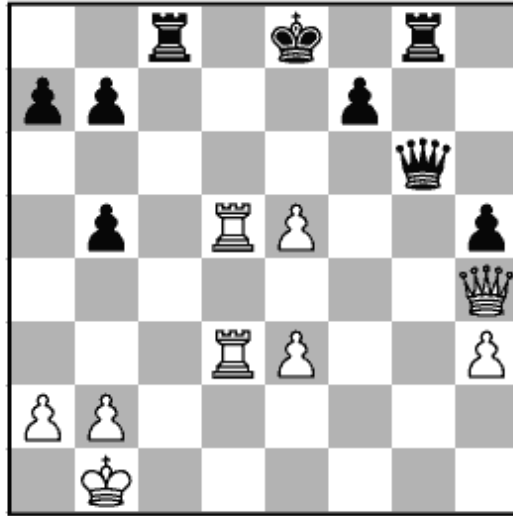
White to play

310) Chirila – Mikaelyan
St Louis 2022

48 Rxg5+! 1-0

48...hxc5 (48...Kh4 49 g3#) 49 Qh7#.

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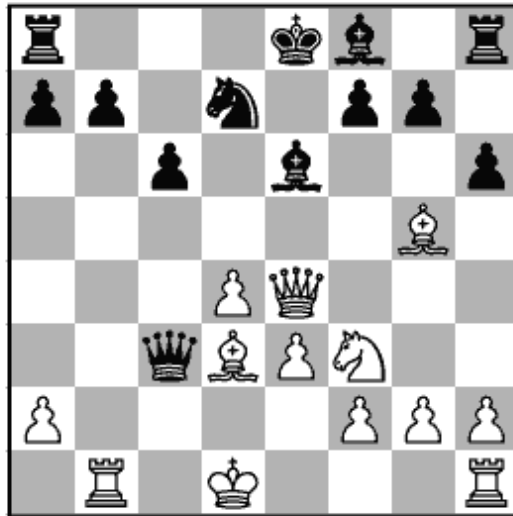
Black to play

311) Afanasiev – Makarian
Khanty-Mansiisk 2022

26...Qxd3+! 0-1

27 Rxd3 Rg1+ 28 Qe1 Rxe1+ 29 Rd1 Rxd1#.

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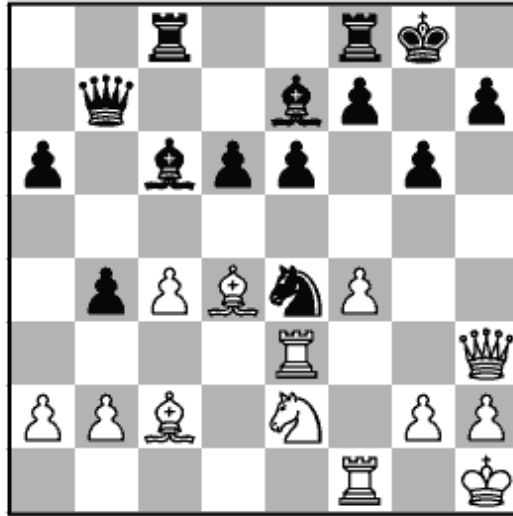
White to play

312) Cornette – Feller
French Ch, Albi 2022

14 Qxe6+! 1-0

14...fxe6 (14...Be7 15 Qxe7#) 15 Bg6#.

[back](#)



White to play

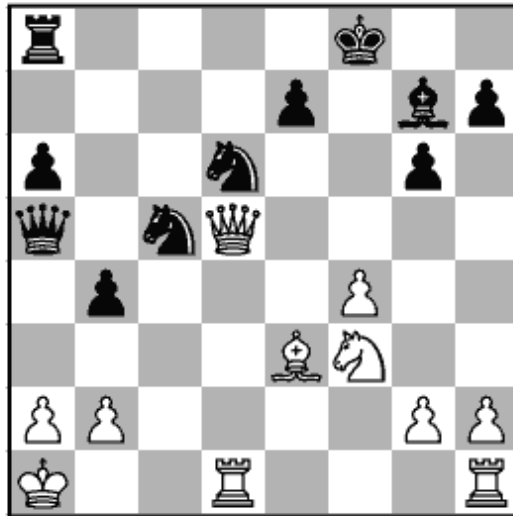
313) Prraneeth – Murzin

World Junior Ch, Cala Gonone 2022

23 Qxh7+! 1-0

23...Kxh7 24 Rh3+ Bh4 25 Rxh4+ Kg8 26 Rh8#.

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Black to play

314) Nazarova – Wartiovaara
Finnish Ch, Helsinki 2023

22...b3!

Black's mating threats are so strong that he can leave a rook to be captured with check.

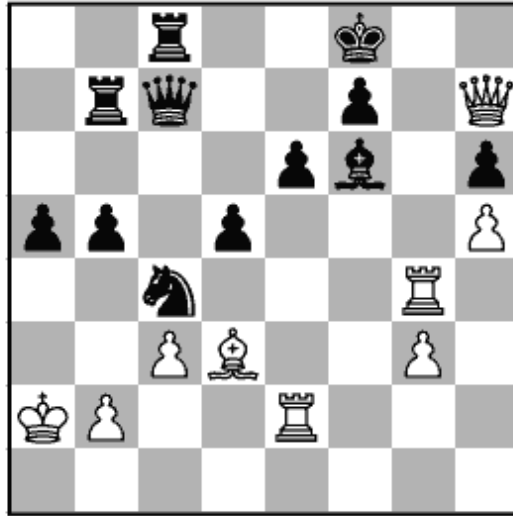
23 Qxa8+

Or 23 a3 Qxa3+ 24 Kb1 Qxb2#.

23...Ne8 –+

Followed by mate.

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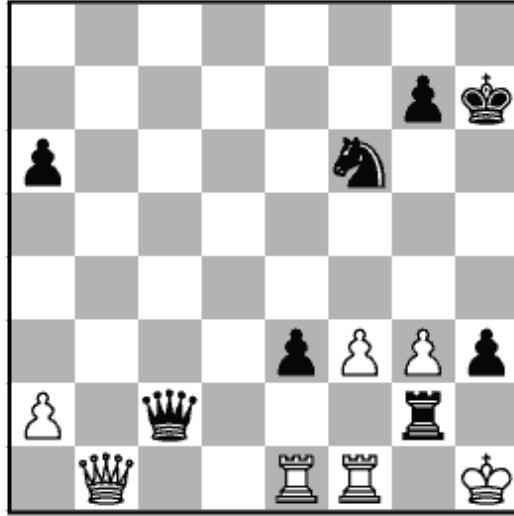
White to play

315) Gajewski – Licznerski
Polish Ch, Warsaw 2023

33 Rxe6! Bg5 34 Qh8#

The game continuation 34 Rxg5 was good enough after 34...Qe5
35 Qg8# (1-0).

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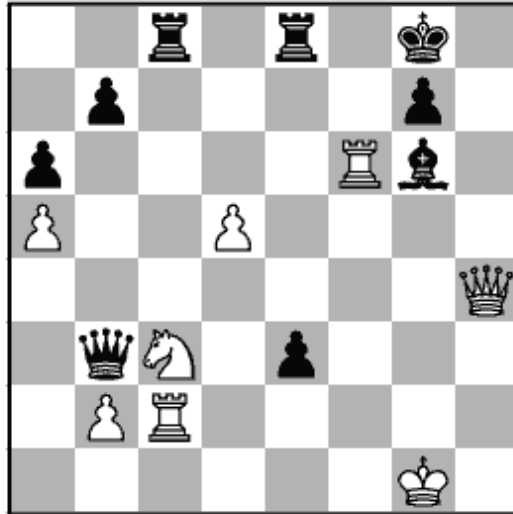
Black to play

316) Sammed Jaykumar – Vignesh
Delhi 2022

33...Qxb1! 0-1

34 Rxb1 Nh5 35 g4 Ng3#.

[back](#)



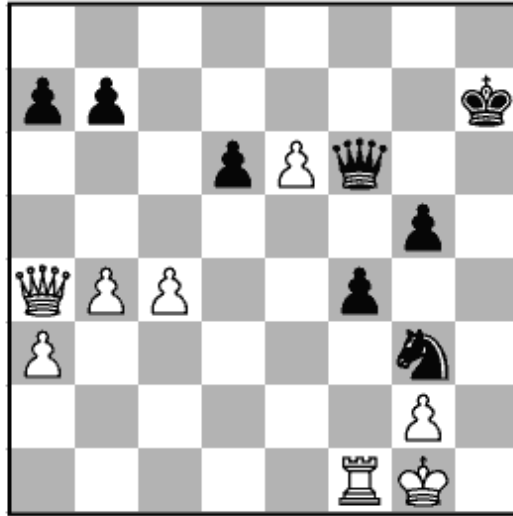
White to play

317) Teclaf – Brodowski

Trzcianka 2022

35 Rh2! gxf6 36 Qxf6 Bh7 37 Rg2+ 1-0

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Black to play

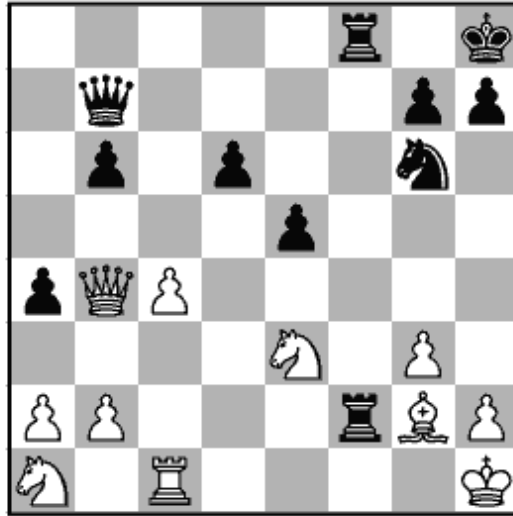
318) Garcia Molina – Demchenko
Sitges 2022

32...Qd4+ 33 Rf2

After 33 Kh2 Nxf1+ both 34 Kh1 Ng3+ 35 Kh2 Qa1 36 Qd7+ Kh6 and 34 Kh3 Qd3+ 35 Kg4 Kh6 lead to mate.

33...Qa1+ 34 Kh2 Qh1# (0-1)

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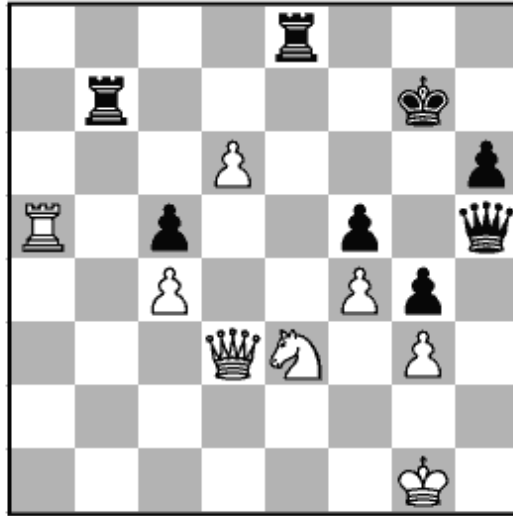


Black to play

319) Al. Ostrovskiy – Dragun
New York 2022

30...Qxg2+! 31 Nxg2 Rf1+ 32 Rxf1 Rxf1# (0-1)

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Black to play

320) Djurhuus – Østenstad
Norwegian Ch, Kongsvinger 2022

45...Rxe3!

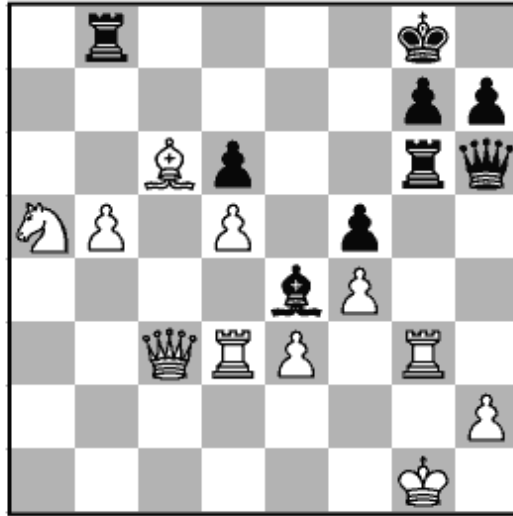
The combination works because White's rook on a5 is just an onlooker.

46 Qxe3 Rb1+ 47 Kf2

47 Kg2 Qh3+ (or 47...Qh1+ 48 Kf2 Qh2#) 48 Kf2 Qh2#.

47...Qh2# (0-1)

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Black to play

321) Arabidze – Buksa

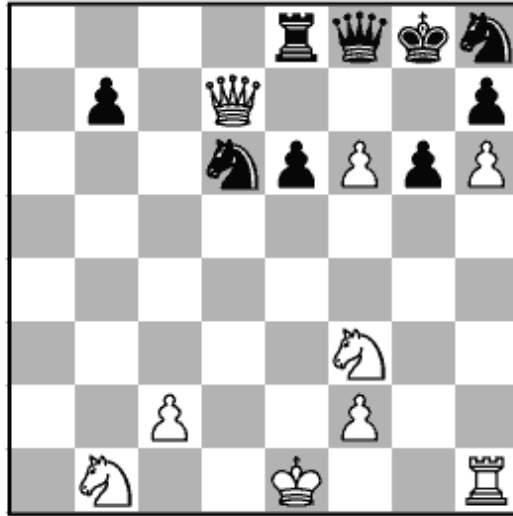
Chennai Women's Olympiad 2022

34...Rxc3+

White is able to hang on after 34...Qh3? 35 Rd2 Rxc3+ 36 hxc3 Qxc3+ 37 Kf1 Qf3+ 38 Ke1 Qh1+ 39 Ke2 Qf3+ 40 Ke1 Qh1+ with a draw by repetition.

35 hxc3 Qh1+ 36 Kf2 Qg2+ 37 Ke1 Bf3 0-1

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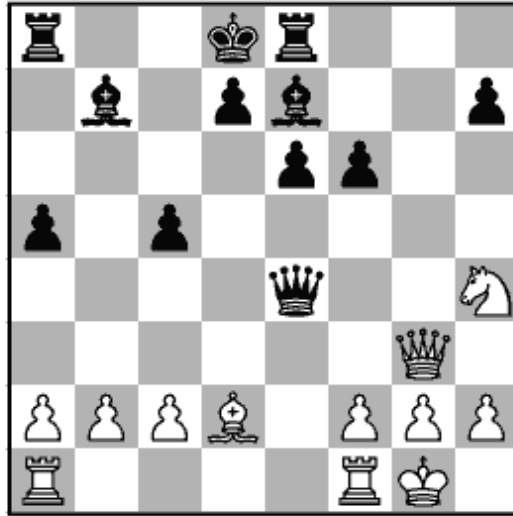
White to play

322) Navara – Batsuren
Chennai Olympiad 2022

32 Qxh7+! 1-0

32...Kxh7 33 Ng5+ Kg8 34 h7#.

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White to play

323) Riazantsev – Lintchevski
Cheliabinsk 2022

19 Bxa5+!

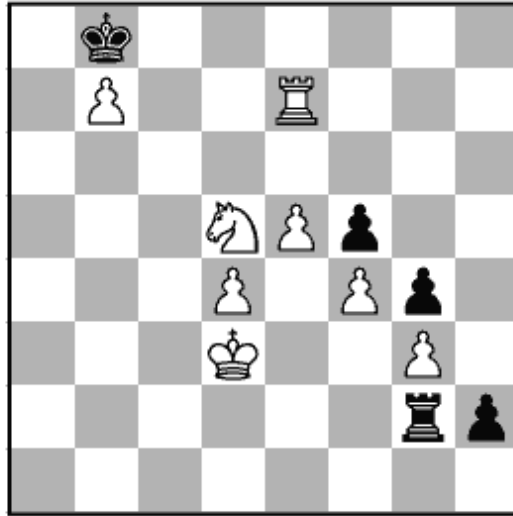
After 19 Rfe1? (as played in the game) Black could have averted White's threat by 19...Qc6! (the game ended 19...Qxc2?? 20 Bxa5+! 1-0) 20 c4 with just a slight advantage for White because of his safer king.

19...Rxa5

19...Kc8 20 Qc7#.

20 Qb8+ Bc8 21 Qb6#

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White to play

324) Mamedyarov – Le Quang Liem

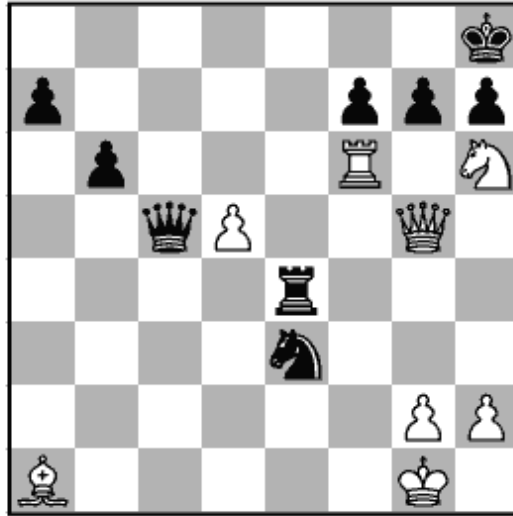
Internet rapid 2022

51 Nb4!

And not 51 Rh7?? Rxg3+ 52 Kc4 Rh3 –+.

51...Rxg3+ 52 Kc4 h1Q 53 Na6+ Ka7 54 b8Q++ Kxa6 55 Ra7#
(1-0)

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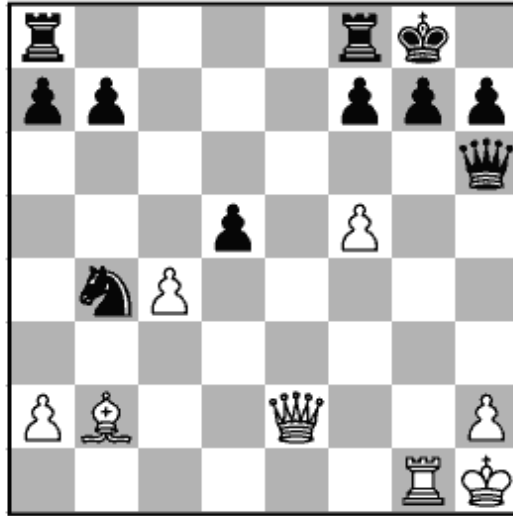


White to play

325) Gustafsson – S. Grigorian
Bundesliga 2022/3

29 Nxf7+ Kg8 30 Nh6+ Kh8 31 Rf8+! Qxf8 32 Bxg7+ Qxg7 33 Qd8+ 1-0
33...Re8 34 Qxe8+ Qf8 35 Qxf8#.

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White to play

326) J.S. Christiansen – Burmakin

World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

25 Qh5! Qxh5

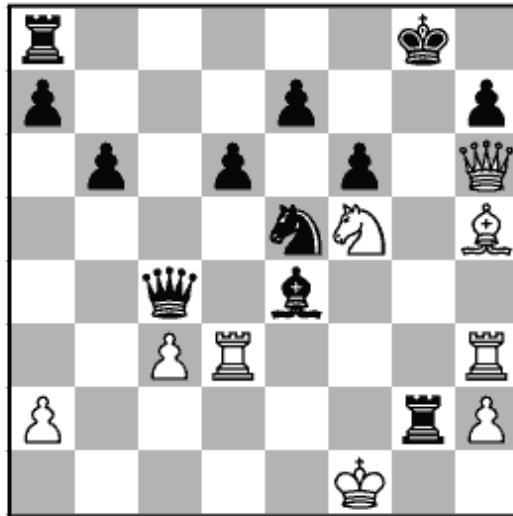
The game ended 25...Qg6 26 fxc6 hxc6 27 Qe5 f6 28 Qe6+ Rf7 29 Rxc6 1-0.

26 Rxc6+ Kh8 27 Rxf7+ d4 28 Bxd4+ Kg8 29 Rg7+ Kh8 30 Rg6+

White could also move his rook to any square along the g-file (except for g8).

30...Rf6 31 Bxf6#

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White to play

327) Rakshitta – Kupervaser
Stockholm 2022/3

28 Qxh7+!

The tempting 28 Nxe7+? Kh8 29 Bg6 is only a draw after 29...Rf2+!
 30 Kg1 (30 Kxf2?? Ng4+ 31 Ke1 Nxe6 –+; 30 Ke1?? Nxd3+ 31 Rxd3
 Rf1+ 32 Kxf1 Qxd3+ 33 Ke1 Bxe6 –+) 30...Rg2+ 31 Kf1 Rf2+ with a
 repetition.

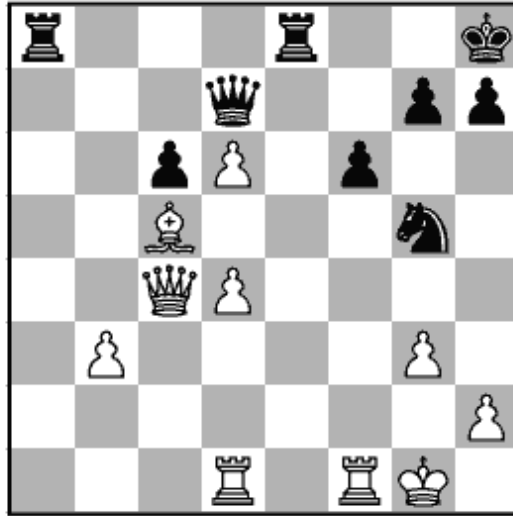
28...Kf8

28...Kxh7 29 Bf7# is a neat mate as Black's king is pinned to the
 edge of the board.

29 Qh6+ 1-0

29...Rg7 30 Qxg7# or 29...Kg8 30 Nxe7#.

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Black to play

328) Nemcova – Tokhirjonova
Saint Louis (women) 2023

32...Ra2!

White is a pawn up but her bishop is cut off from defending the kingside.

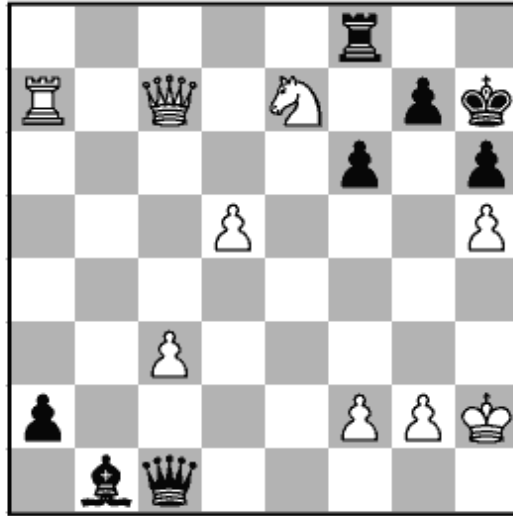
33 d5

33 Ra1 Nf3+ –+.

33...Qh3 34 Rf2 Nf3+ 0-1

35 Kh1 Rxf2 36 Bxf2 Qxh2#.

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White to play

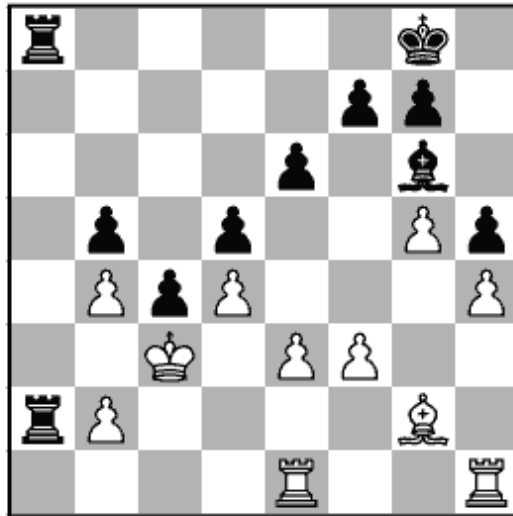
329) Ding Liren – Nepomniashchy

World Ch (6), Astana 2023

43 Ng6! Rg8 44 Qf7! 1-0

Black cannot avoid mate. For example: 44...Qxc3 45 Qxg8+! Kxg8 46 Ra8+ Kf7 (46...Kh7 47 Rh8#) 47 Rf8#.

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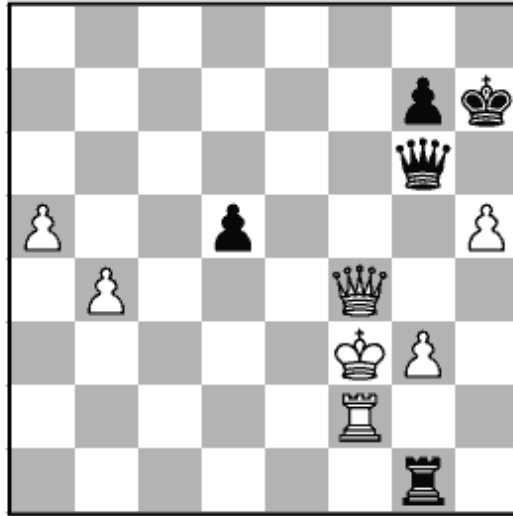
Black to play

330) Zo. Nemeth – Halak
Budapest 2022

27...R8a3+! 0-1

28 Kd2 (28 bxa3 Rc2#) 28...Rxb2+ 29 Kc1 c3 30 e4 Ra1#.

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Black to play

331) Javakhishvili – Batsiashvili
Serbian Women's Team Ch 2022

51...Rxg3+!!

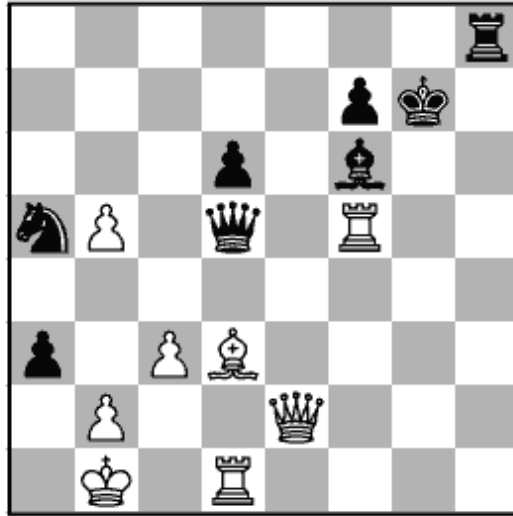
This idea is easy to miss if you have not seen it before.

52 Ke2

52 Qxg3 Qe4#.

52...Qd3+ 53 Ke1 Re3+ 54 Qxe3 Qxe3+ 0-1

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Black to play

332) E. Hossain – Iniyan

Commonwealth Ch, Waskaduwa 2022

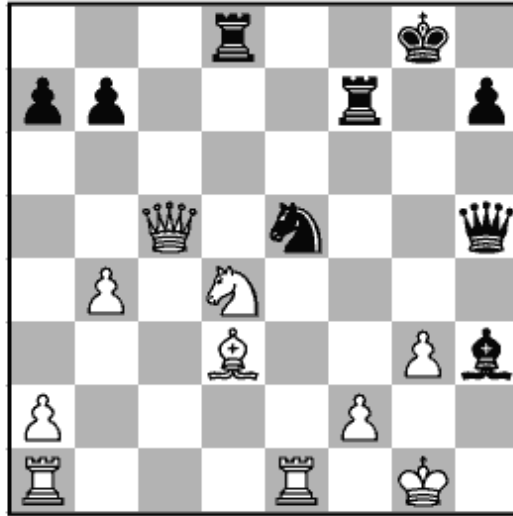
35...a2+! 36 Ka1

36 Kc2 Qb3+ 37 Kd2 Qxb2+ 38 Ke3 Re8+ 39 Kf3 Rxe2 –+.

36...Nb3+ 37 Kxa2 Nd2+ 0-1

38 Rxd5 Ra8# or 38 b3 Qxb3+ 39 Ka1 Bxc3#.

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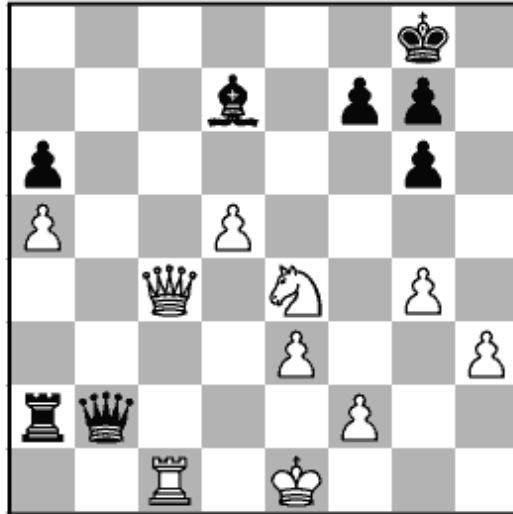
Black to play

333) Art. Davtyan – V. Kovalev
Dubai 2023

20...Bg2! 0-1

White has no good defence to the threat of ...Qh1#; for example,
21 Kxg2 (21 f4 Qh1+ 22 Kf2 Nxd3+ –+) 21...Rxf2+ 22 Kxf2 Nxd3+ 23
Kg2 Nxc5 –+.

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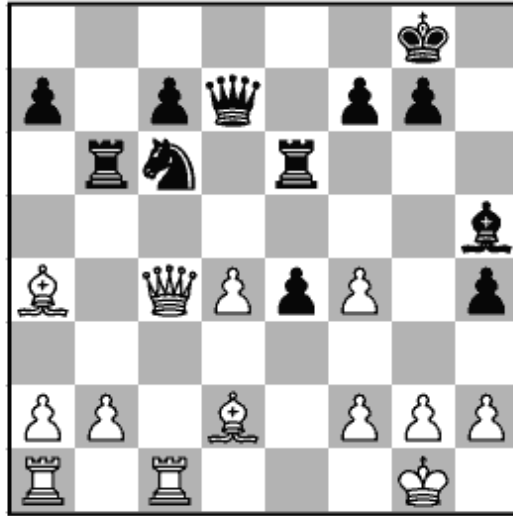
White to play

334) Pechač – Pacher
Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

41 Qc8+! 1-0

41...Bxc8 42 Rxc8+ Kh7 43 Ng5+ Kh6 44 Nxf7+ Kh7 45 Rh8#.

[back](#)



Black to play

335) Koustav – Ghosh

Bangladeshi Team Ch, Dhaka 2022

23...Rg6!

White's kingside lacks defenders.

24 Be3

24 Kh1 Bf3 25 Rg1 Qg4 26 Qf1 h3 leads to mate.

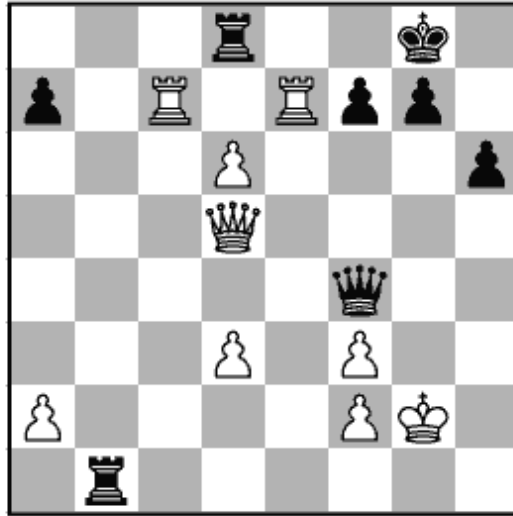
24...Bf3 25 Kf1

After 25 g3 Rxb2 White is unable to take advantage of his pressure along the c-file. For example: 26 Bxc6 Qh3 27 Qf1 Rxc6+ 28 fxg3 (28 hxg3 Qh1#) 28...Qxh2#.

25...Rxc6 26 b3 Rg1+ 27 Kxg1 Qh3 0-1

28 Qf1 Qg4+ 29 Qg2 Qxg2#.

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Black to play

336) S. Alonso – El Debs

Rio de Janeiro 2022

29...Rxd6! 30 Qxf7+

30 Qa8+ Kh7 31 Qe4+ Rg6+ –+.

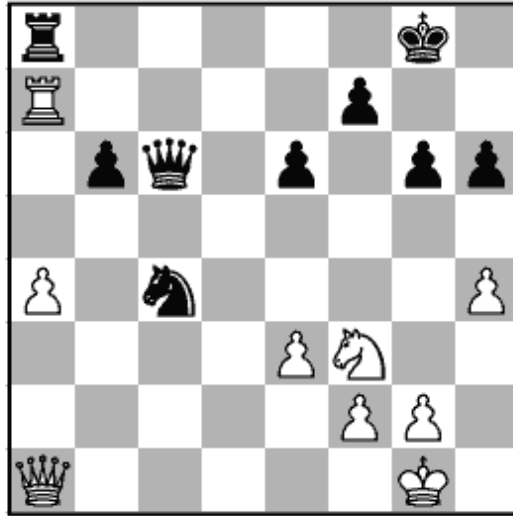
30...Qxf7 31 Rxf7 Rg6+ 32 Kh2

32 Kh3 Rh1#.

32...Rb5! 0-1

White has no reasonable defence against the threat of 33...Rh5#.

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White to play

337) Koustav – Anuj
Novi Sad 2022

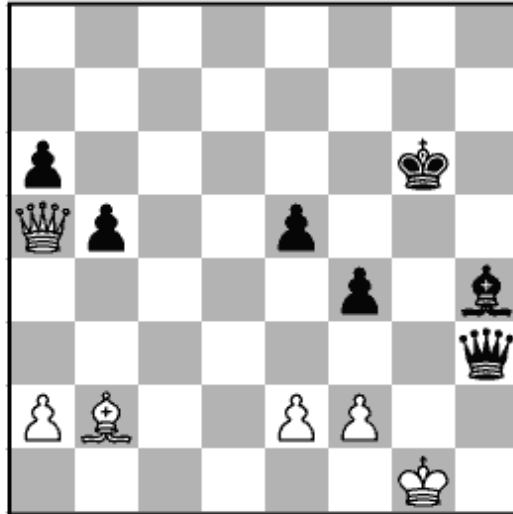
35 Nd4! Qc8

35...Qe8 36 Nxe6! +–.

36 Nxe6! 1-0

36...fxe6 (36...Qxe6 37 Rxa8+ Kh7 38 Rh8#) 37 Qg7#.

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Black to play

338) Grandelius – Giri
Chennai Olympiad 2022

53...Bg3! 54 Qb6+

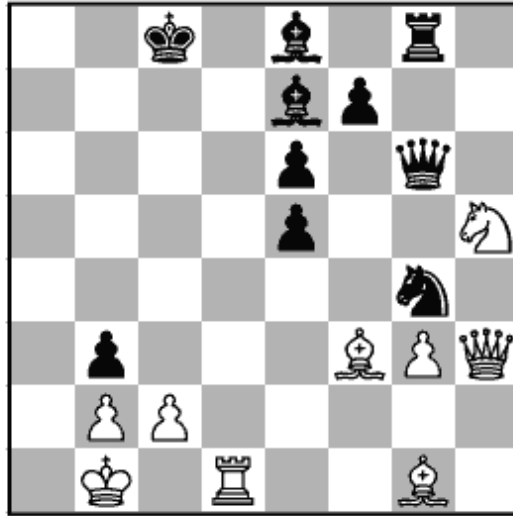
Black has two pieces attacking and White has no pieces defending. Black promotes his g-pawn after 54 f3g3 f3g3 55 Qb6+ Kh5 56 Bc1 Qh2+ 57 Kf1 g2+ 58 Ke1 g1Q+ –+.

54...Kh5 55 f3

55 f3g3 f3g3 transposes to the previous note.

55...Qd7 56 Kg2 Qd2 57 Kh3 Qxe2 0-1

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White to play

339) Carbonell Sancho – Vasquez Schroder
La Nucia 2022

34 Qf1

White's queen and bishops control the entire queenside.

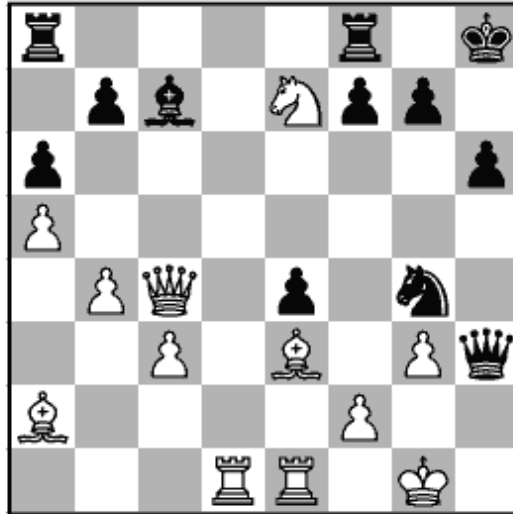
34...Kb8

Or: 34...bxc2+ 35 Ka2 cxd1Q 36 Qa6+ Kd8 37 Qb6+ Kc8 38 Qb7+ Kd8 39 Bb6#; 34...Qxc2+ 35 Ka1 Bd7 36 Bb6 leads to mate.

35 Qa6 Qxc2+ 36 Ka1 Bc6 37 Ba7+ 1-0

37...Kc7 38 Qb6+ Kc8 39 Qb8# or 37...Ka8 38 Bb6+ Kb8 39 Qa7+ Kc8 40 Qc7#.

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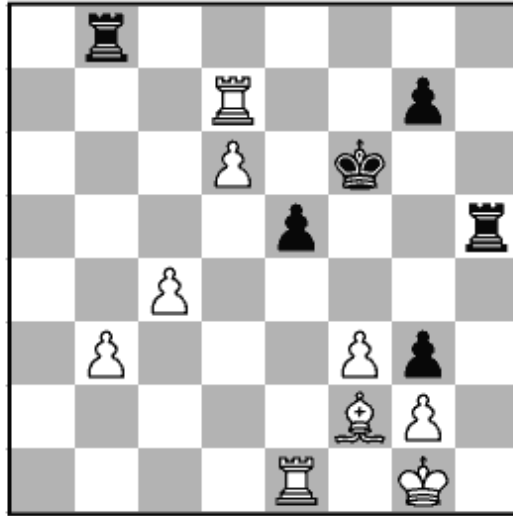


Black to play

340) Baidetsky – Miesbauer
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

26...Bxg3! 27 fxg3 Qh2+ 28 Kf1 Qh1+ 0-1
29 Ke2 (29 Bg1 Qf3+ 30 Bf2 Qxf2#) 29...Qg2+ 30 Bf2 Qxf2#.

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Black to play

341) Boyer – Samunenkov

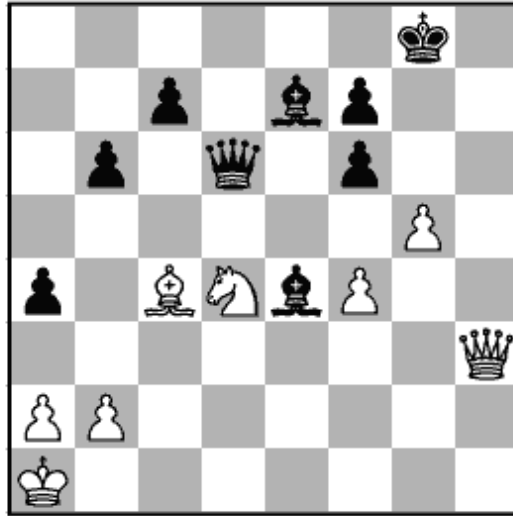
World Junior Ch, Cala Gonone 2022

40...Rh1+!

A decoy to draw the white king into a mating-net.

41 Kxh1 gxf2 42 Rf1 Rh8# (0-1)

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White to play

342) Pijpers – Kabos
Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

29 Qh5!

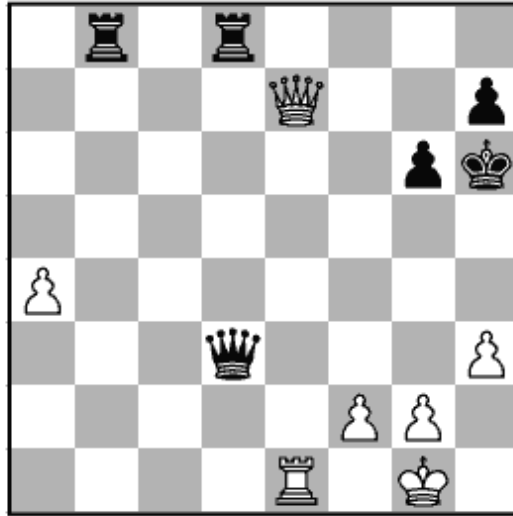
White can ignore his loose knight on d4 because Black has no good way to defend the f7-pawn.

29...Bd5 30 g6! Bxc4

The game ended 30...fxg6 31 Qxg6+ Kf8 32 Qh6+ Kg8 33 Nf5 Bxc4 34 Qg7# (1-0).

31 Qh7+ Kf8 32 Qh8#

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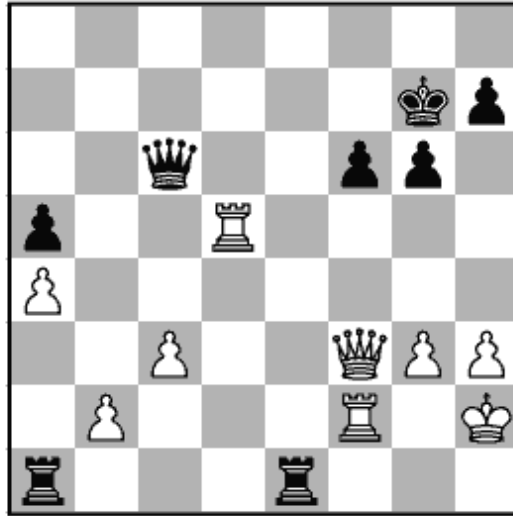


White to play

343) Le Tuan Minh – D. Anton
Internet rapid 2023

34 Qh4+ Kg7 35 Re7+ Kg8
35...Kf8 36 Qf6+ Kg8 37 Qg7#.
36 Qxh7+ Kf8 37 Qg7# (1-0)

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White to play

344) Firouzja – Durarbayli

Internet rapid 2023

48 Rd7+! Qxd7 49 Qxf6+ Kh6

49...Kg8 50 Qf8#.

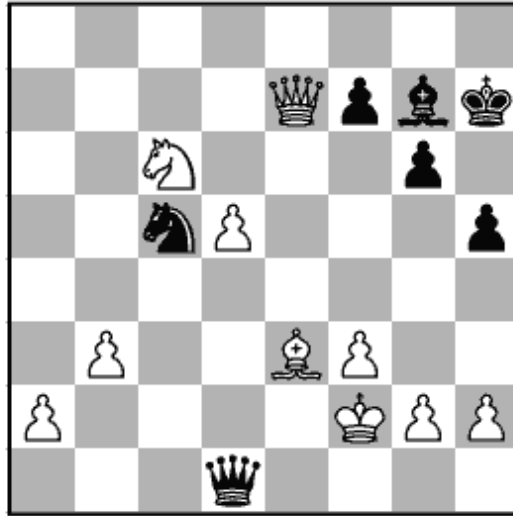
50 Qf4+ g5

Or: 50...Kg7 51 Qf8#; 50...Kh5 51 Qh4#.

51 Qf6+ 1-0

51...Kh5 52 g4+ Qxg4 (52...Kh4 53 Qh6#) 53 hxg4+ Kxg4 54 Qf3+ Kh4 55 Qh3#.

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Black to play

345) Xu Yi – Peng Xiongjian
Chinese Team Ch 2023

29...Nd3+ 30 Kg3 Qf1! 31 Bd4

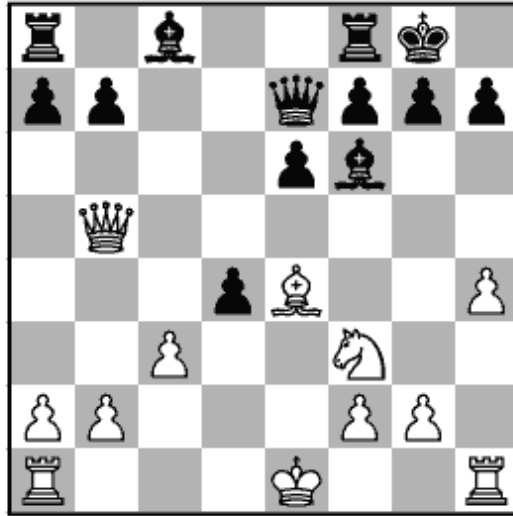
31 d6 Ne1 –+.

31...Bxd4 32 Qxf7+ Kh6 33 Kh3

After 33 Nxd4 White is mated by a series of checks: 33...Qe1+ 34 Kh3 Nf2+ 35 Kg3 (35 Kh4 g5+ 36 Kg3 h4#) 35...h4+ 36 Kxh4 g5+ 37 Kg3 Nd1+ 38 Kg4 Ne3+ 39 Kh3 Qh4#.

33...Nf2+ 34 Kg3 h4+ 35 Kxh4 Qxg2 0-1

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White to play

346) Sidhant – Korley (variation)

Reykjavik 2023

14 Bxh7+! Kxh7

14...Kh8 15 Qh5 leads to mate.

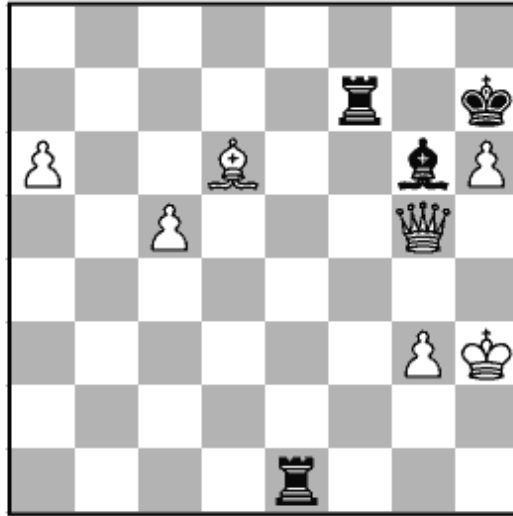
15 Qh5+

The unusual motif here is the white queen swinging over to the kingside from the queenside.

15...Kg8 16 Ng5 Bxg5 17 hxg5 f5 18 g6 +–

Mate follows.

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Black to play

347) Nakada – Hardaway

New York 2023

69...Rh1+ 70 Kg4

Or 70 Kg2 Be4#.

70...Bc2!

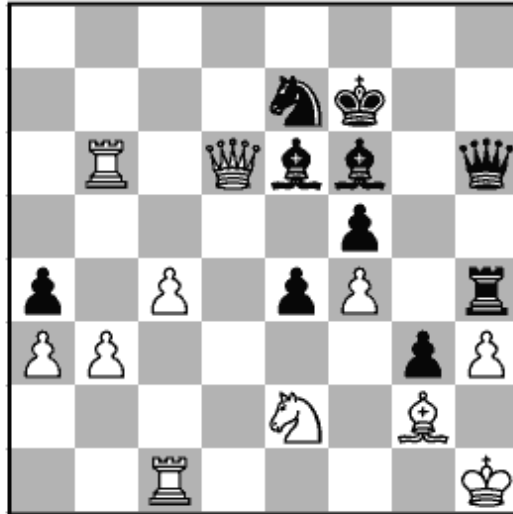
White's king is caught in a mating-net as there is no good defence to the threat of 71...Bd1#.

71 Qg7+

71 Qd2 Bd1+ 72 Kg5 Rh5#.

71...Rxg7+ 72 hxg7 Ra1 0-1

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Black to play

348) Arias Boo – Alonso Moyano
Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

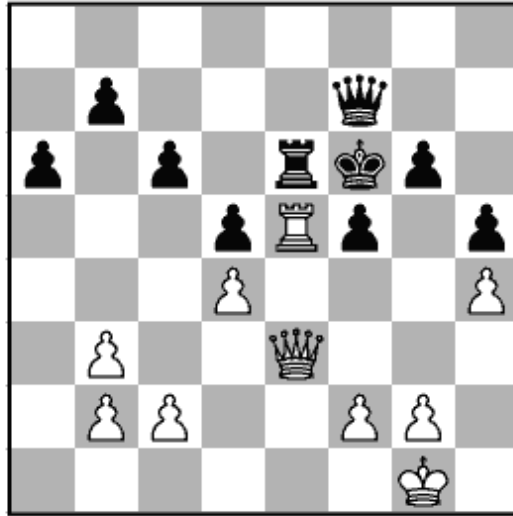
32...Rxh3+ 33 Kg1

White is also mated after 33 Bxh3 Qxh3+ 34 Kg1 Qh2+ 35 Kf1 Qf2#.

33...Rh1+! 0-1

The rook sacrifice gives Black access to the f2-square to deliver mate: 34 Bxh1 Qh2+ 35 Kf1 Qf2#.

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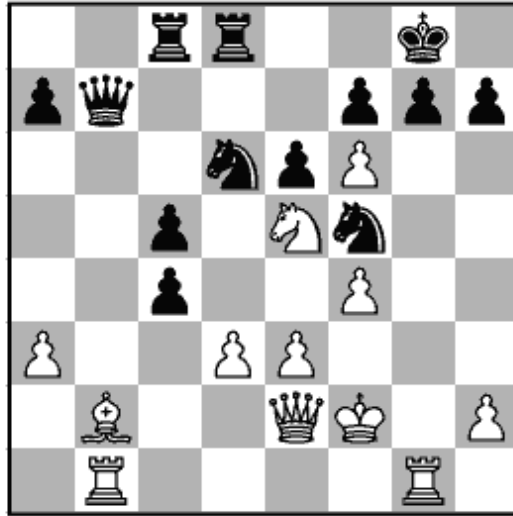
White to play

349) Asis Gargatagli – Muñoz Pantoja
Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

32 Rxf5+!! 1-0

32...Kxf5 33 Qf3# or 32...gxf5 33 Qg5#.

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White to play

350) Ning Kaiyu – Zhang Lanlin
Shenzhen (women) rapid 2023

30 Rxd7+! Nxd7

30...Kf8 31 Qh5 Nxd7 32 fxd7+ Kg8 33 Ng4 Nf5 34 Bf6 leads to mate.

31 Rg1

The sacrifice works because the knight on e5 prevents Black's king from escaping to the queenside.

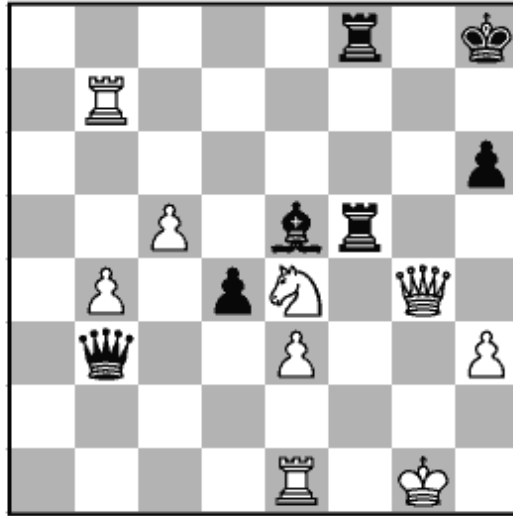
31...Ne8

31...Kf8 32 Rxd7 leads to mate.

32 Rxd7+ Nxd7 33 Qg4 Qxb2+ 34 Kg3 1-0

Mate will follow.

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White to play

351) Chylewski – Karolczuk
Karpacz 2022

46 Nf6!

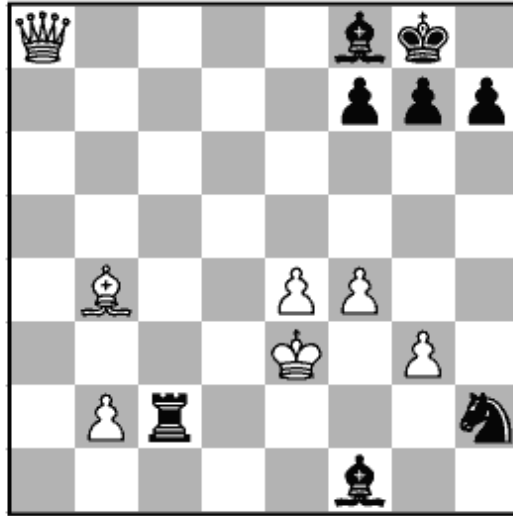
A beautiful interference move threatening mate on both h7 and g7.

46...Bxf6

Black cannot save his rook as he is mated after 46...Rg5 47 Rh7# or 46...R5xf6 47 Qg7#.

47 Qxf5 +-

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Black to play

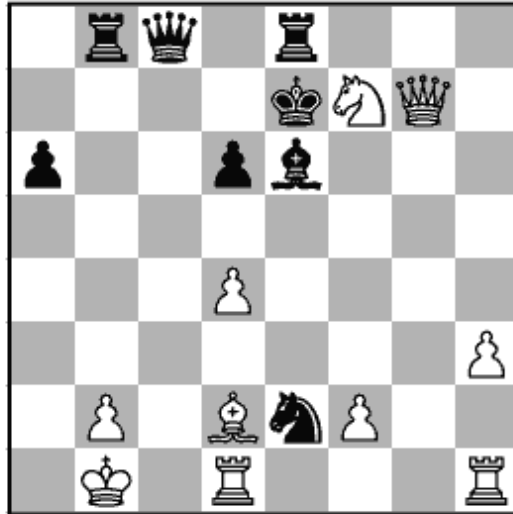
352) T. Luo – Naroditsky

Charlotte 2022

40...Ng4+ 41 Kf3 h5! 42 Qxf8+ Kh7 0-1

White is unable to parry the dual threats of 43...Rf2# and 43...Bg2#.

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Black to play

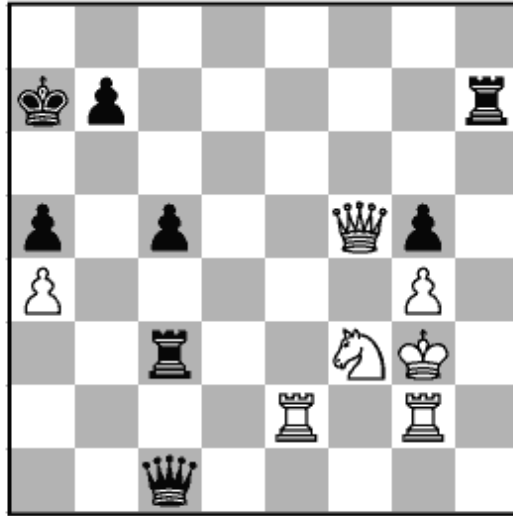
353) Babula Sr – A. Kovačević
Bundesliga 2022/3

28...Qc2+!! 29 Kxc2

29 Ka1 Qxb2#.

29...Bf5# (0-1)

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Black to play

354) Cardoso Cardoso – Henriquez Villagra
Jamundi 2022

57...Rh3+! 58 Kf2

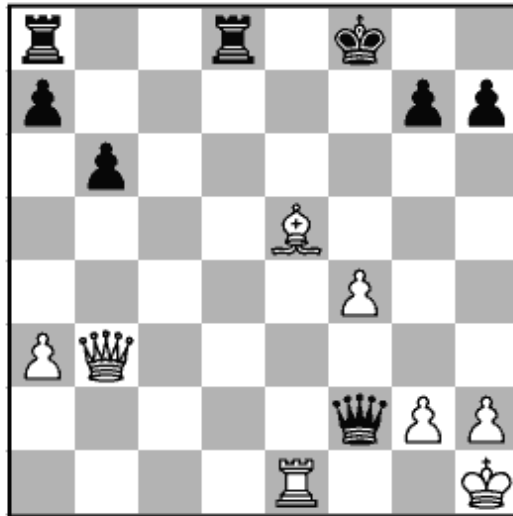
58 Kxh3 Qh1+ 59 Rh2 (59 Kg3 Qh4#) 59...Rxf3+ 60 Qxf3 Qxf3#.

58...Rcxf3+!

58...Rhxf3+! 59 Qxf3 Rxf3+ comes to the same thing.

59 Qxf3 Rxf3+ 60 Kxf3 Qf4# (0-1)

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White to play

355) Zeng Chongsheng – Chen Qi
Chinese Team Ch 2022

31 Bxg7+! Kxg7 32 Re7+ Kh8

32...Kg6 33 Qe6+ Kh5 34 Rxh7#.

33 Qb1!

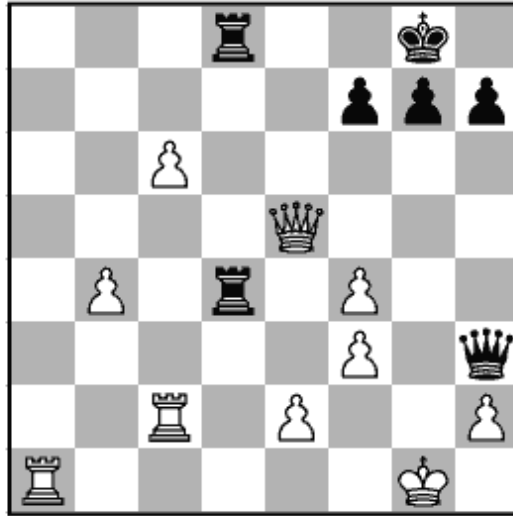
White defends his back rank and threatens mate on h7.

33...Qh4

33...Rd1+ 34 Qxd1 Qb2 35 h3 +–.

34 Qa1+ Kg8 35 Qg7# (1-0)

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Black to play

356) Maatman – Baselmans

Dutch League 2022/3

28...Rd1+ 29 Rxd1 Rxd1+ 30 Kf2 Qxh2+

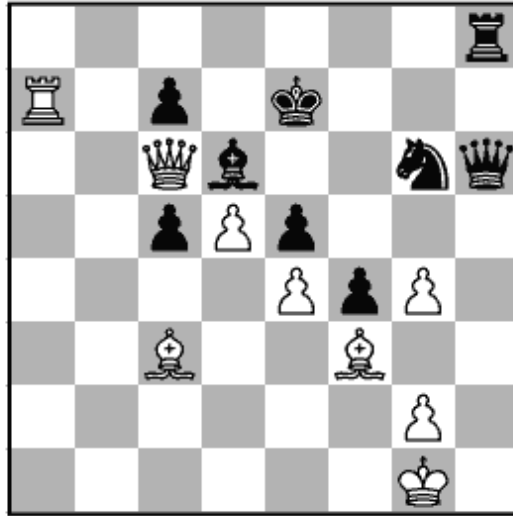
Black should avoid 30...Qf1+? 31 Kg3 Qg1+ 32 Kh3 Qf1+ 33 Kg3 with a draw by repetition.

31 Ke3 Qg1+ 32 Ke4 f5+!! 33 Kxf5

Or 33 Qxf5 Qd4#.

33...Qg6# (0-1)

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Black to play

357) Lever – Babula Jr

Frydek Mistek 2023

42...Qh1+ 43 Kf2 Qc1!

Black threatens 44...Qe3+ followed by 45...Rh1#.

44 Rxc7+ Kf6!

Black must avoid 44...Bxc7?? 45 Qe6+ (45 Qxc7+ Kf6 46 Bxe5+ Nxe5 47 Qd6+ Kf7 48 Qc7+ also leads to a draw) 45...Kd8 46 Qf6+ Kc8 47 Qa6+ Kb8 48 Qb5+ Ka7 49 Qa4+ Kb8 50 Qb5+ Kc8 51 Qa6+, with a draw by repetition.

45 Qxd6+ Kg5

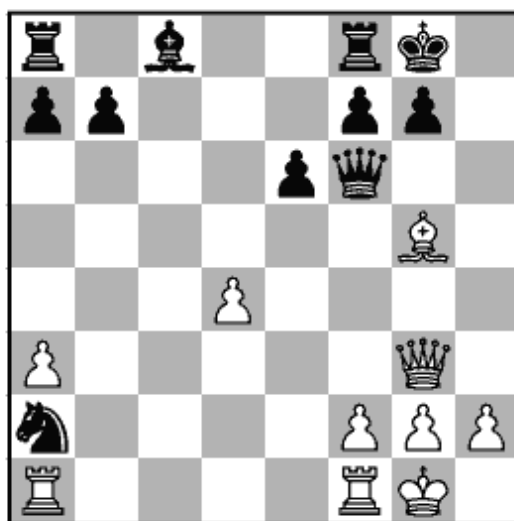
Black's king is safe on g5 because his knight on g6 controls all the checking squares.

46 Qxc5 Rh1 47 Ke2 Qd1+ 48 Kf2 Qf1# (0-1)

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3: Intermediate Puzzles

The puzzles in this chapter are a step up in difficulty from the Elementary Puzzles and Checkmate Puzzles chapters. Many of the positions involve more than one motif, so you will have to be alert to solve them.



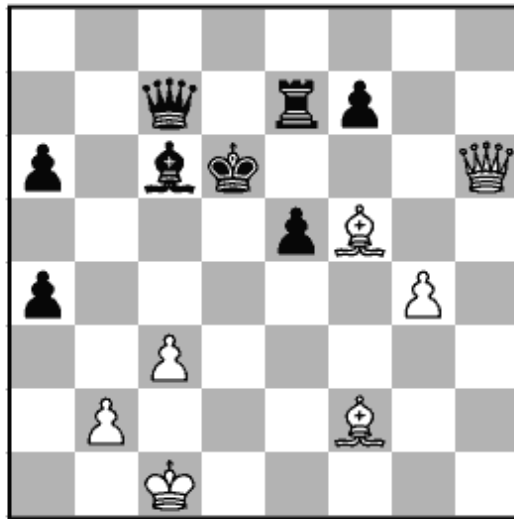
Black to play

Prusikin – Baumegger
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

White anticipates Black having to move his queen and then he will capture the knight on a2, but Black's next move must have come as a shock:

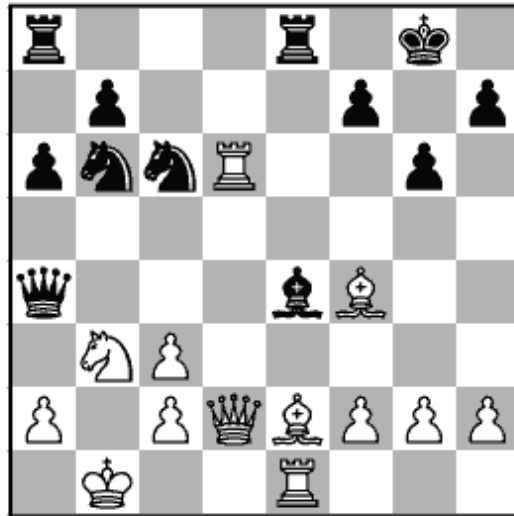
19...Nc3! 0-1

Black emerges a piece up after 20 Bxf6 Ne2+ 21 Kh1 Nxg3+ 22 fxg3 gxf6 –+.



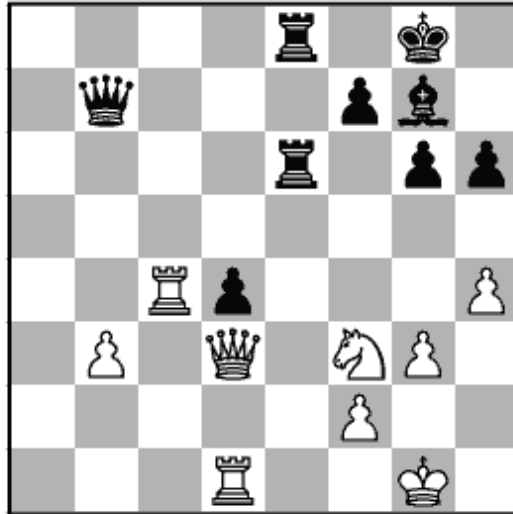
358) Black to play

[solution](#)



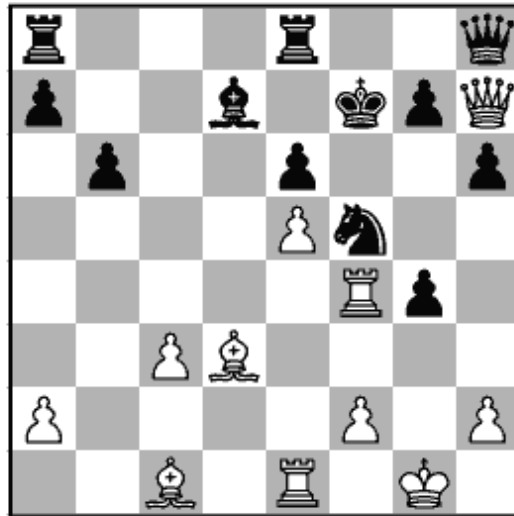
359) Black to play

[solution](#)



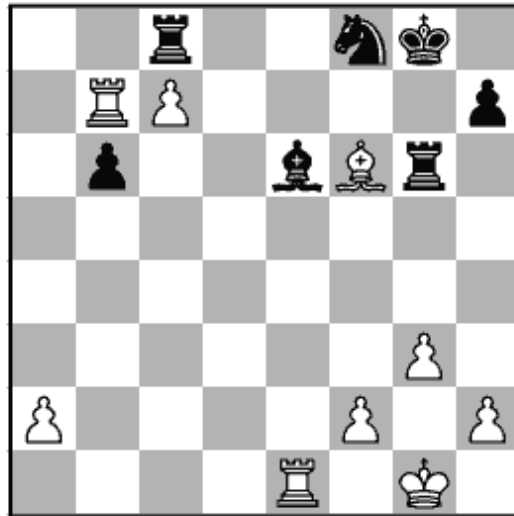
360) Black to play

[solution](#)



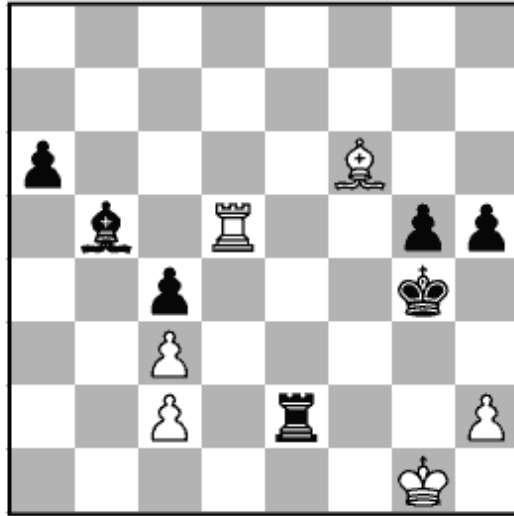
361) White to play

[solution](#)



362) White to play

[solution](#)



363) Black to play

[solution](#)



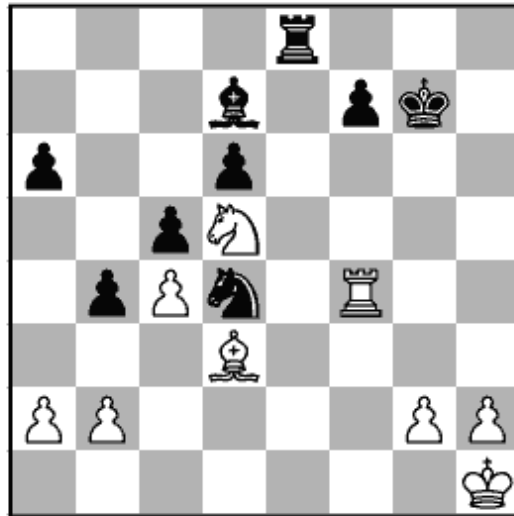
364) Black to play

[solution](#)



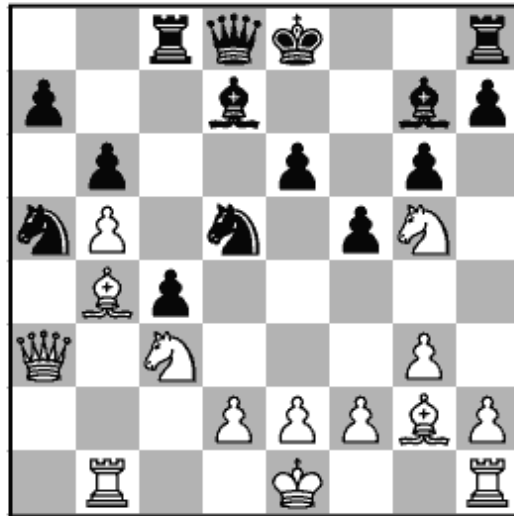
365) White to play

[solution](#)



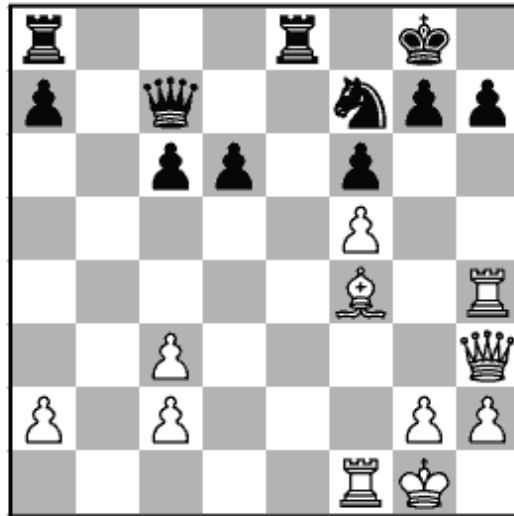
366) Black to play

[solution](#)



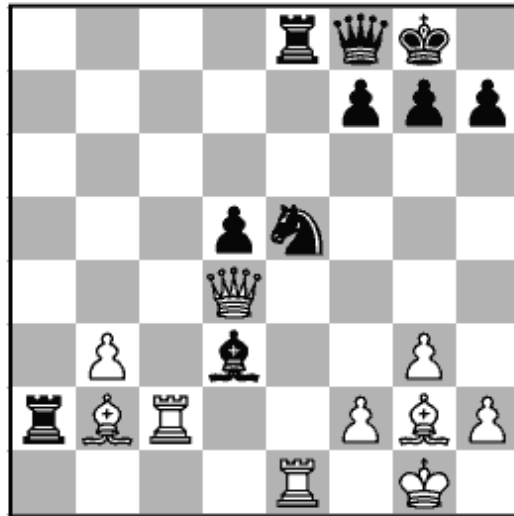
367) White to play

[solution](#)



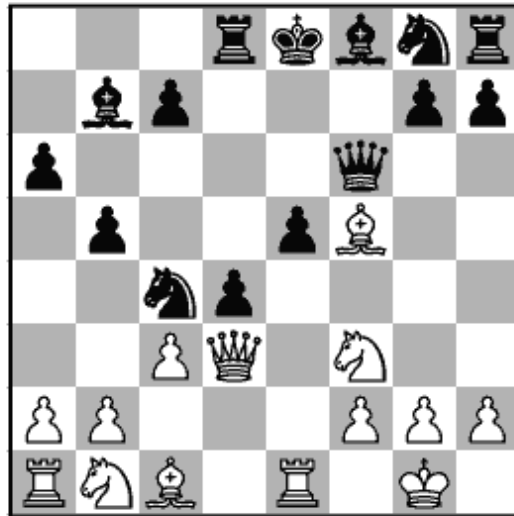
368) Black to play

[solution](#)



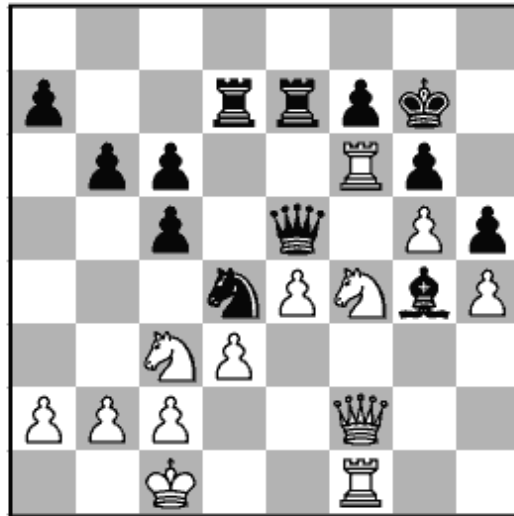
369) White to play

[solution](#)



370) White to play

[solution](#)



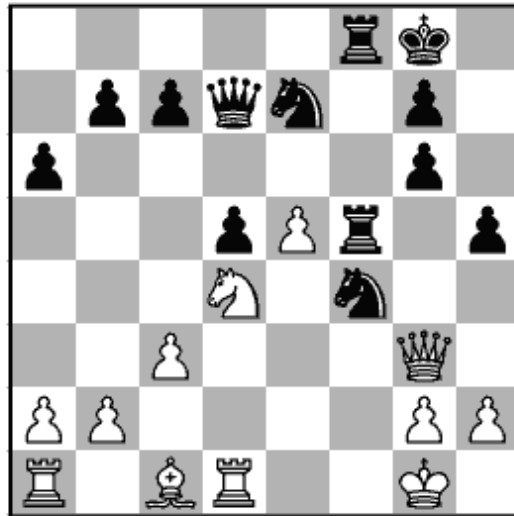
371) White to play

[solution](#)



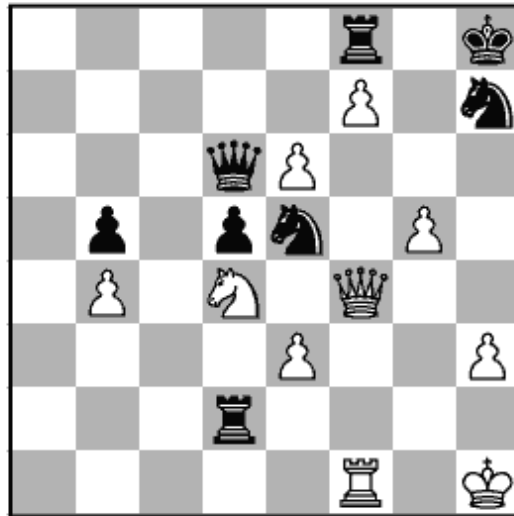
372) Black to play

[solution](#)



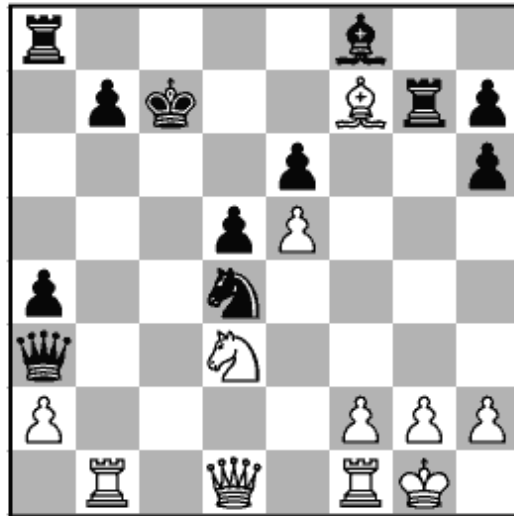
373) Black to play

[solution](#)



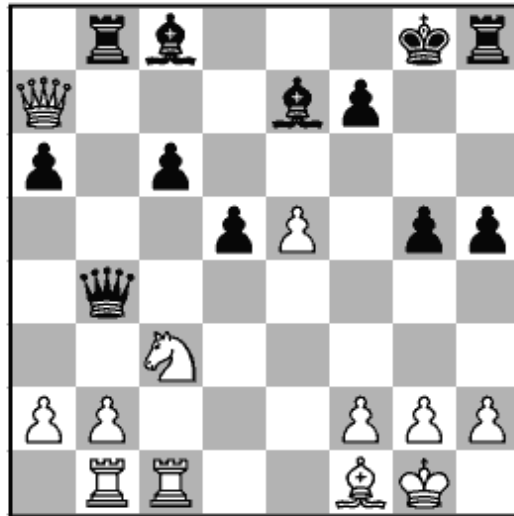
374) White to play

[solution](#)



375) White to play

[solution](#)



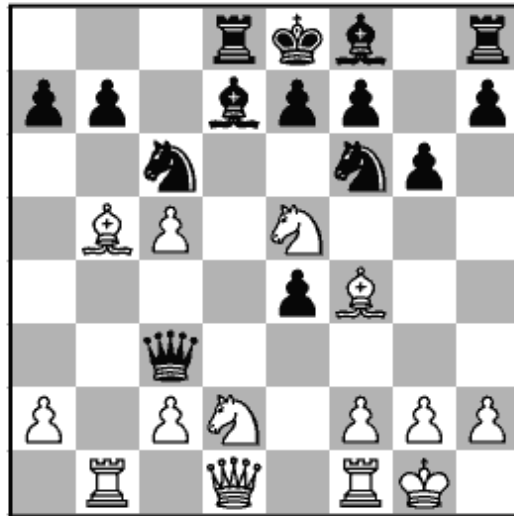
376) White to play

[solution](#)



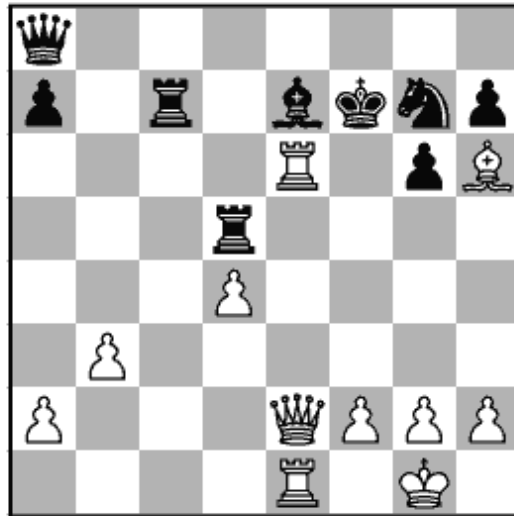
377) Black to play

[solution](#)



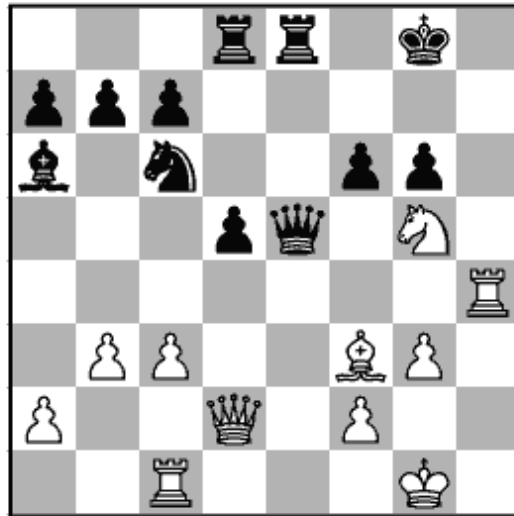
378) White to play

[solution](#)



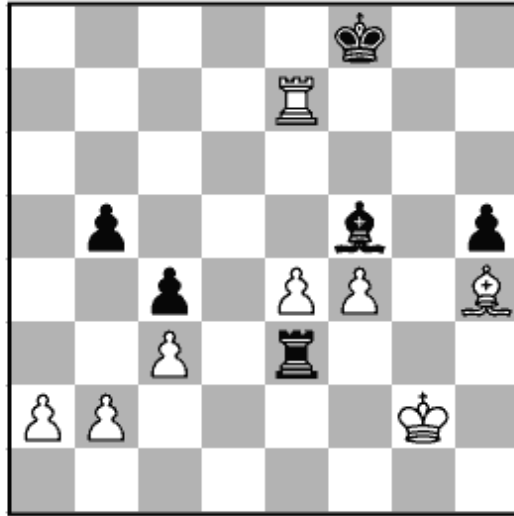
379) Black to play

solution



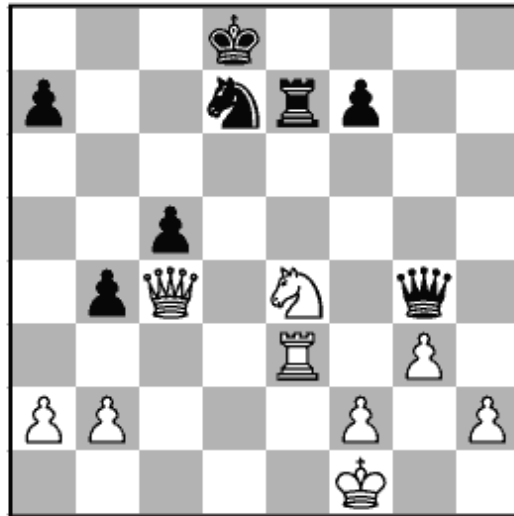
380) White to play

[solution](#)



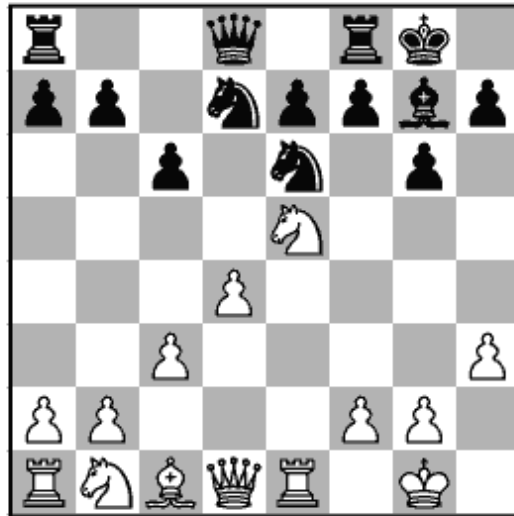
381) White to play

[solution](#)



382) Black to play

[solution](#)



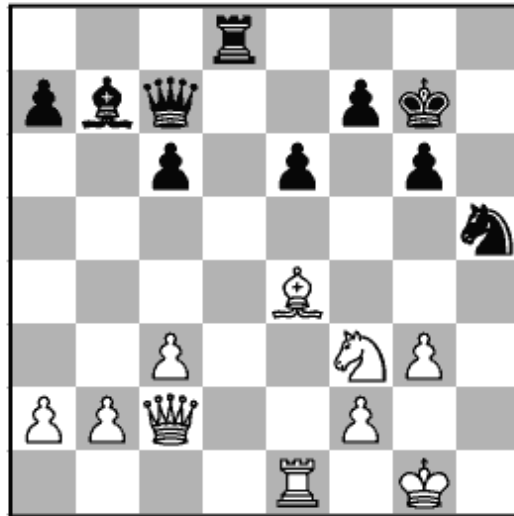
383) White to play

[solution](#)



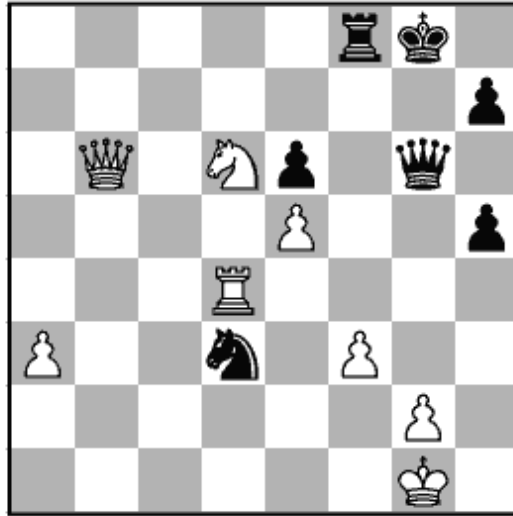
384) Black to play

[solution](#)



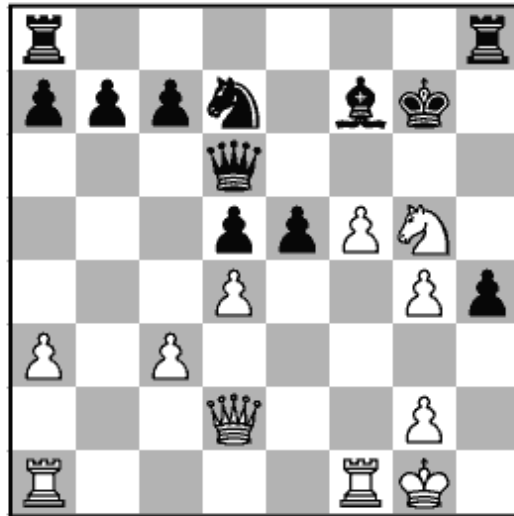
385) White to play

solution



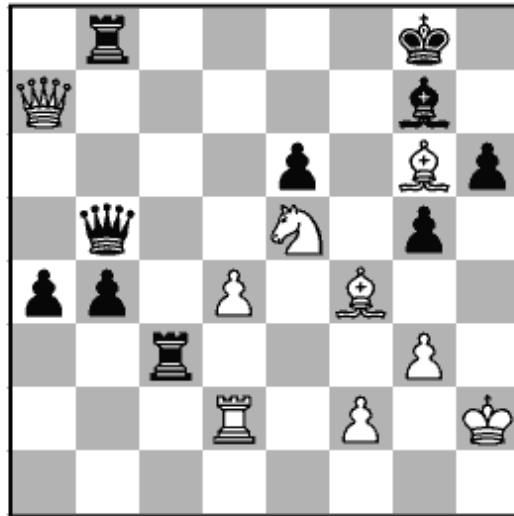
386) Black to play

[solution](#)



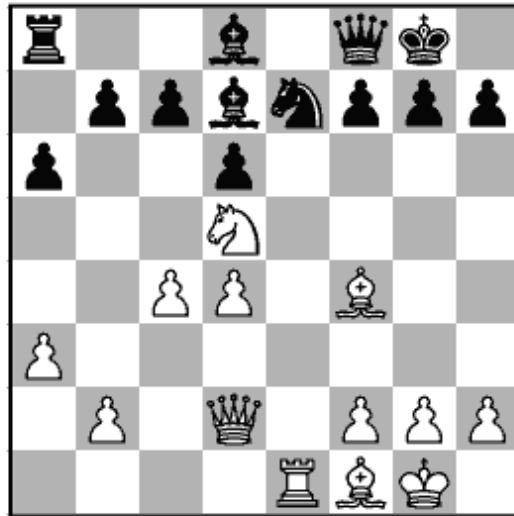
387) White to play

[solution](#)



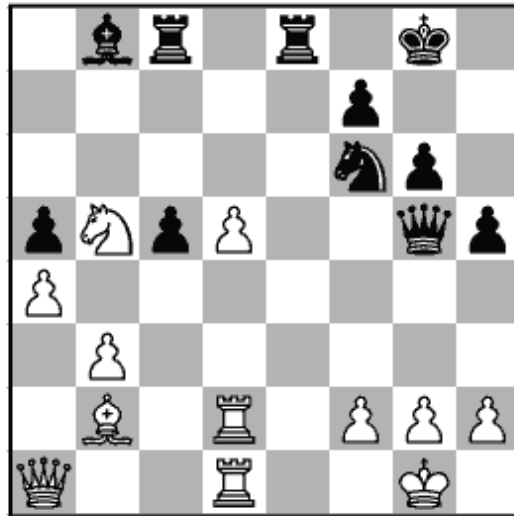
388) Black to play

[solution](#)



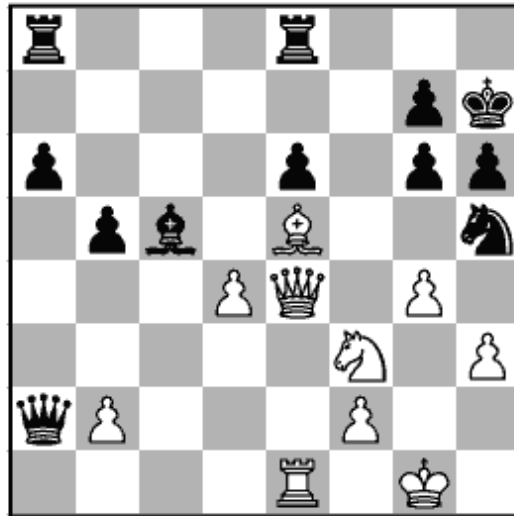
389) White to play

[solution](#)



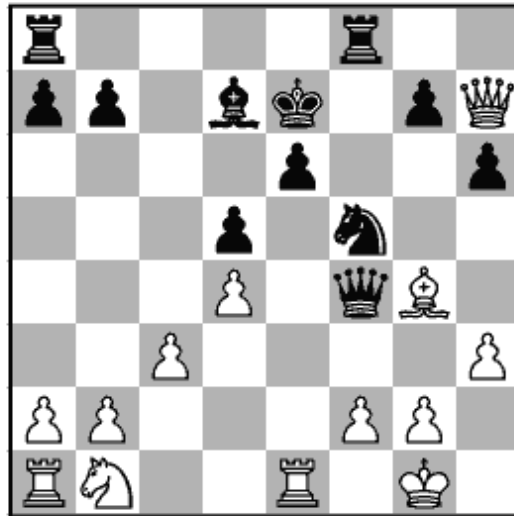
390) Black to play

[solution](#)



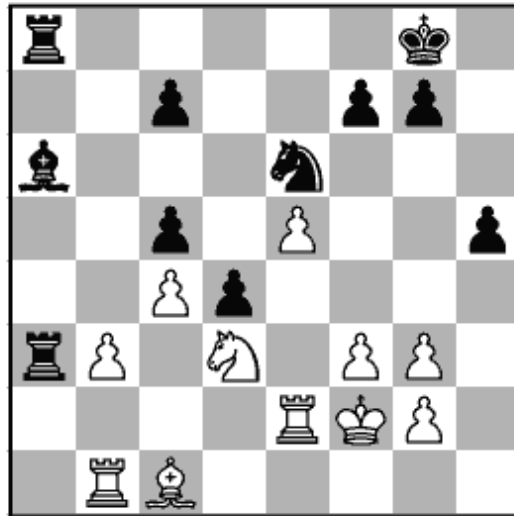
391) White to play

[solution](#)



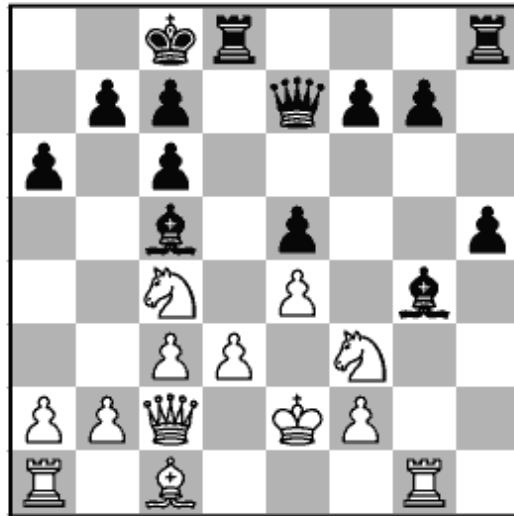
392) Black to play

[solution](#)



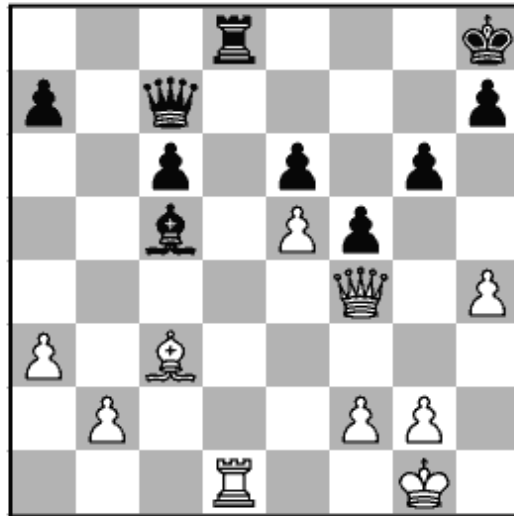
393) Black to play

[solution](#)



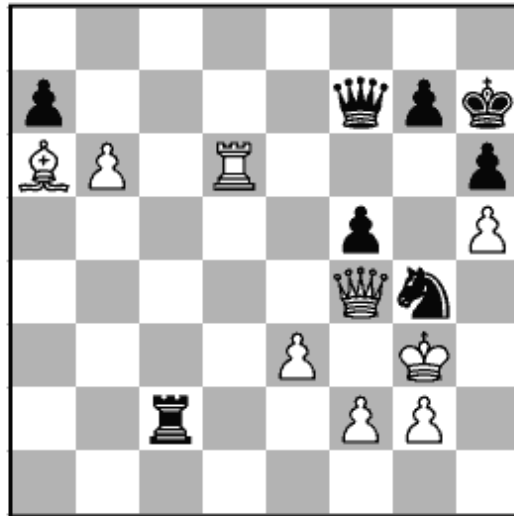
394) White to play

[solution](#)



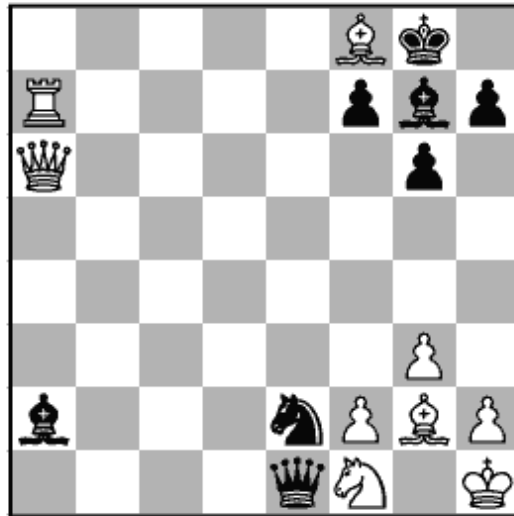
395) White to play

[solution](#)



396) Black to play

[solution](#)



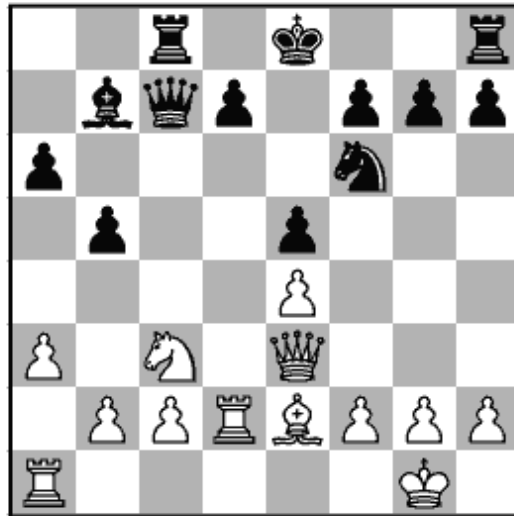
397) Black to play

[solution](#)



398) White to play

[solution](#)



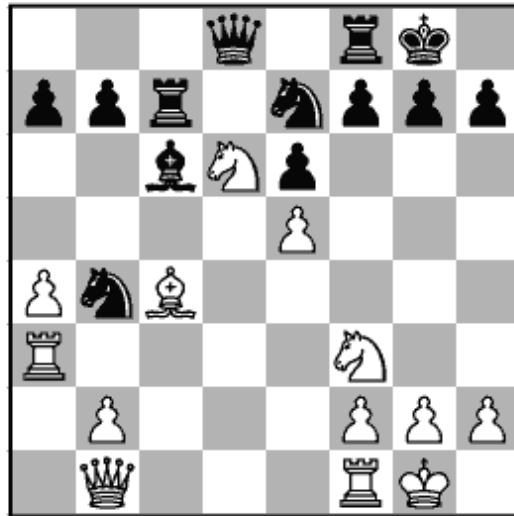
399) White to play

[solution](#)



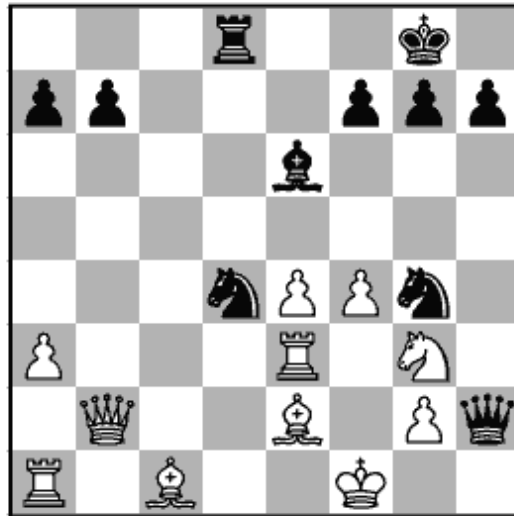
400) White to play

[solution](#)



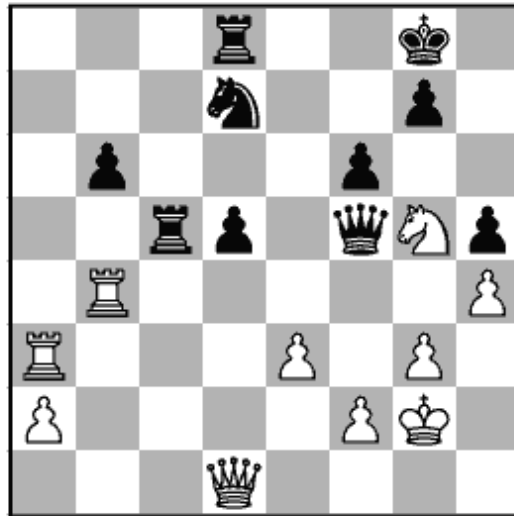
401) White to play

[solution](#)



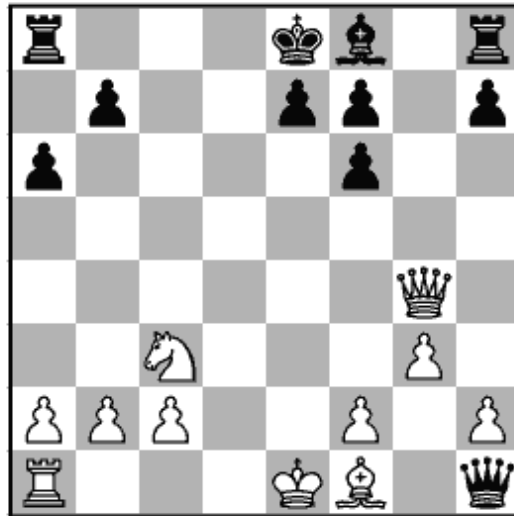
402) Black to play

[solution](#)



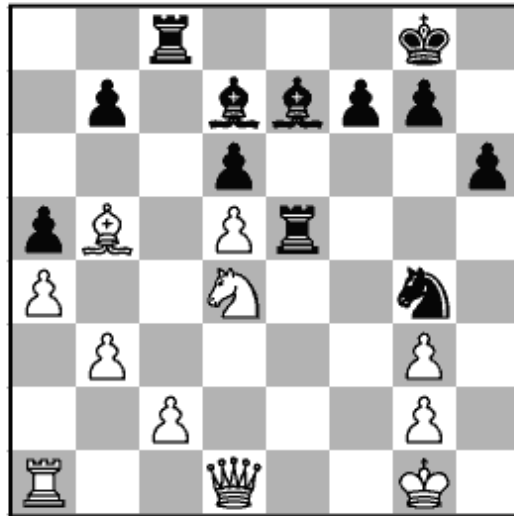
403) White to play

[solution](#)



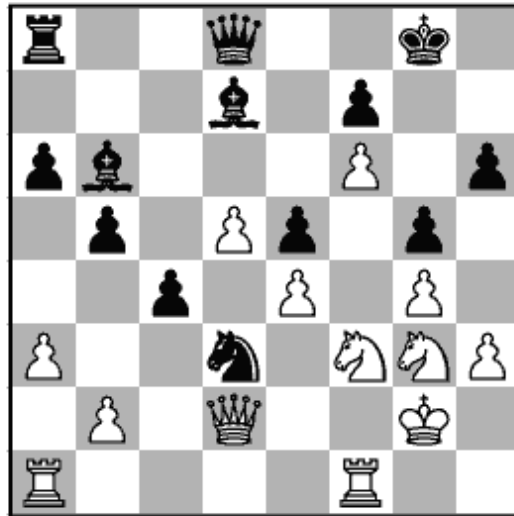
404) White to play

[solution](#)



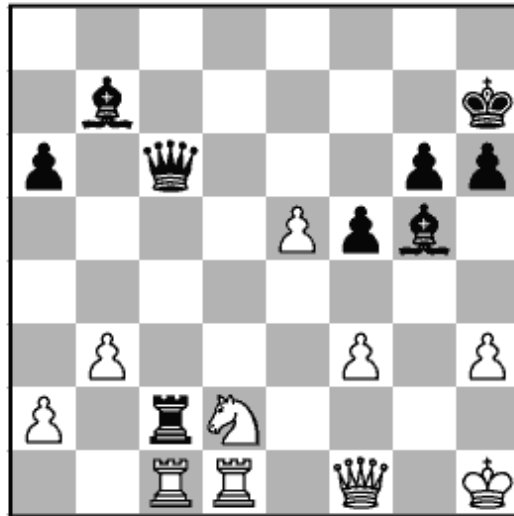
405) Black to play

[solution](#)



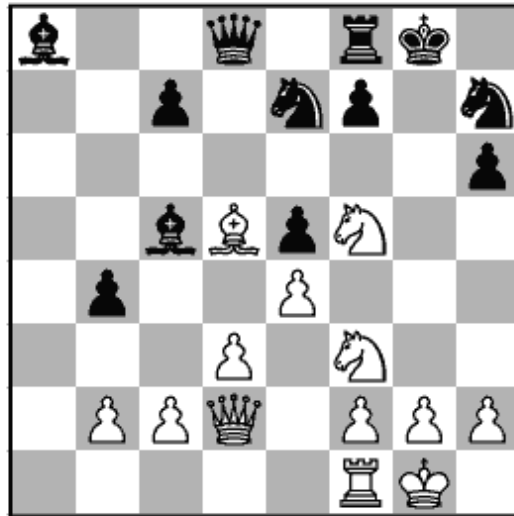
406) White to play

[solution](#)



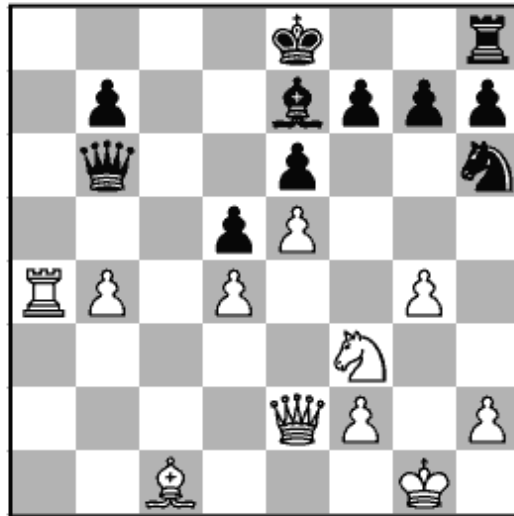
407) Black to play

[solution](#)



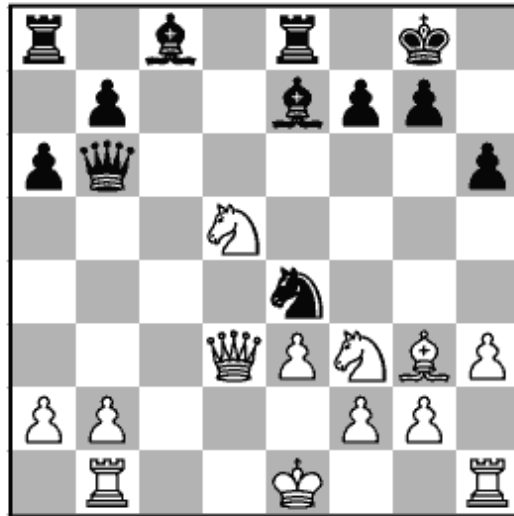
408) White to play

[solution](#)



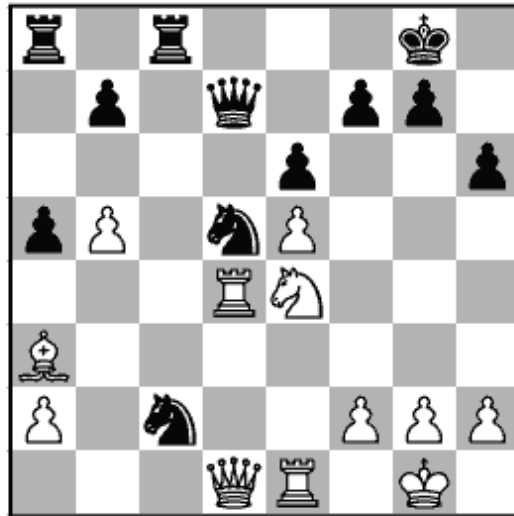
409) White to play

[solution](#)



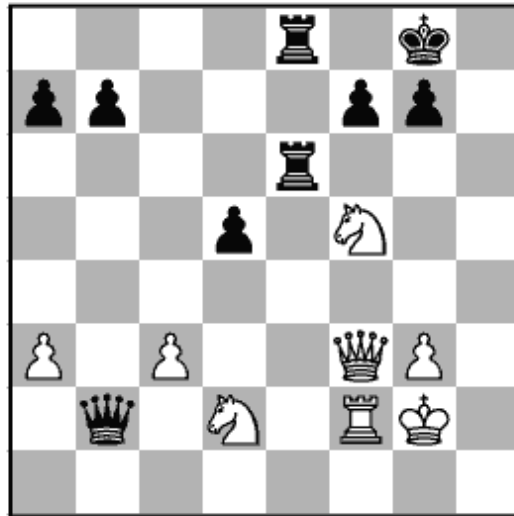
410) Black to play

[solution](#)



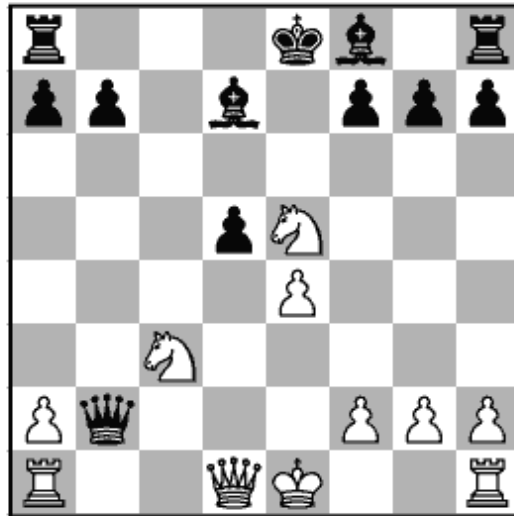
411) White to play

[solution](#)



412) White to play

[solution](#)



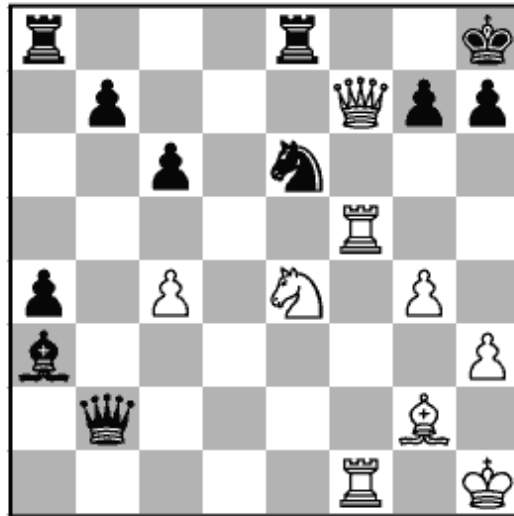
413) White to play

[solution](#)



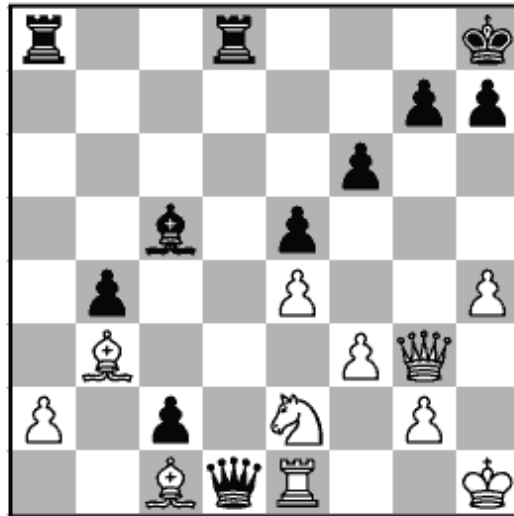
414) White to play

[solution](#)



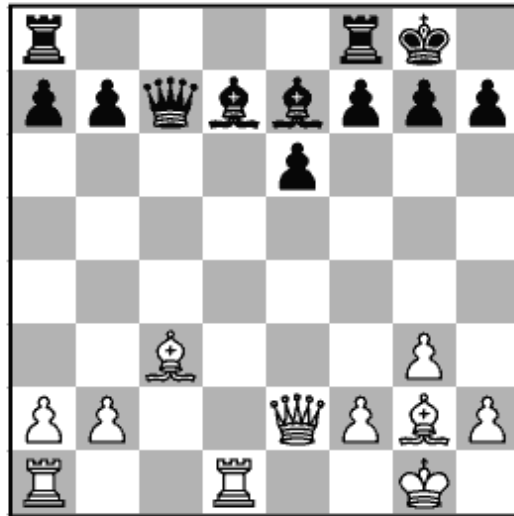
415) White to play

[solution](#)



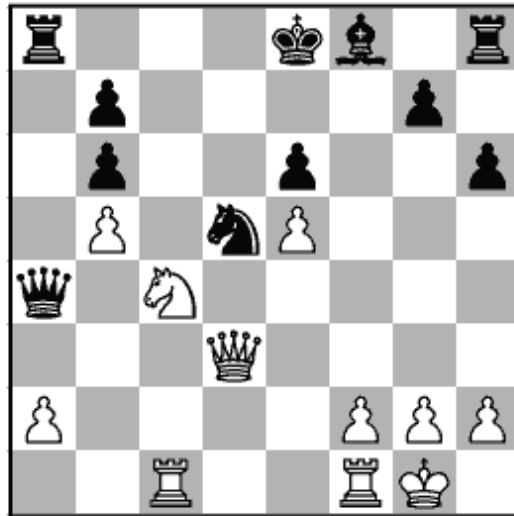
416) Black to play

[solution](#)



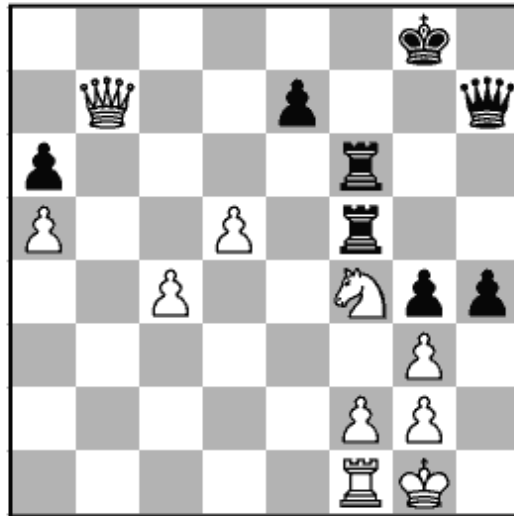
417) White to play

[solution](#)



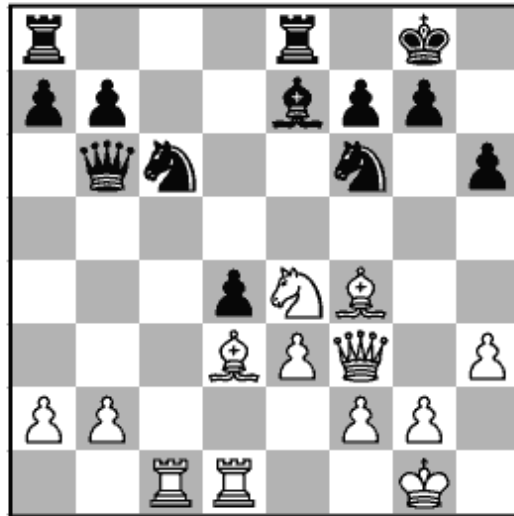
418) White to play

[solution](#)



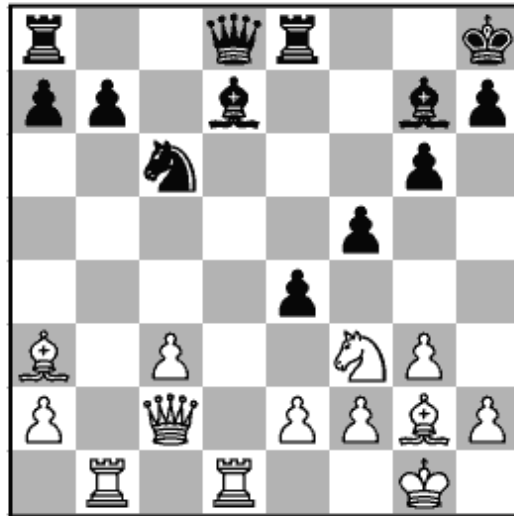
419) Black to play

[solution](#)



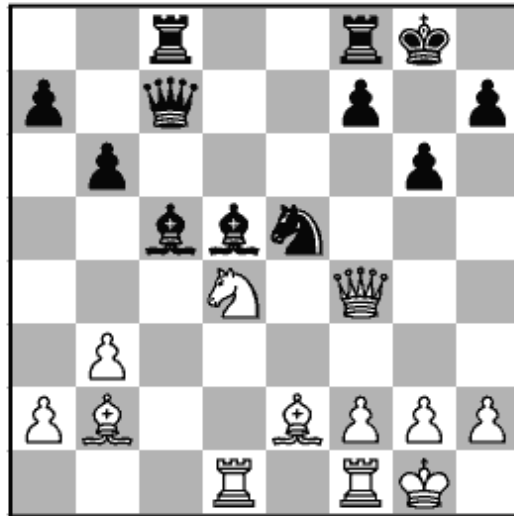
420) White to play

[solution](#)



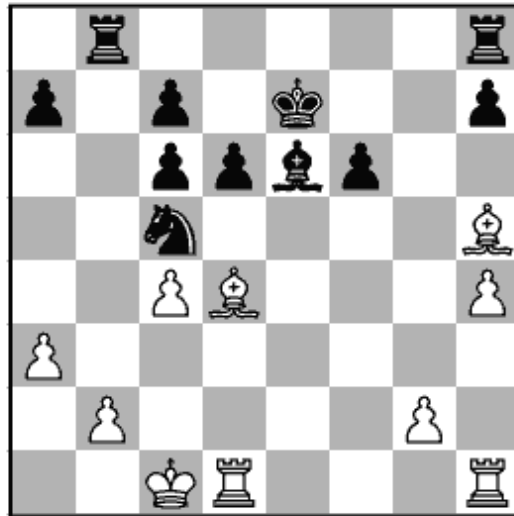
421) White to play

[solution](#)



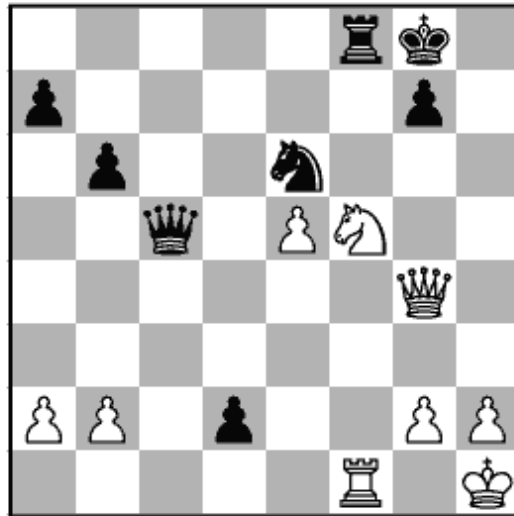
422) White to play

[solution](#)



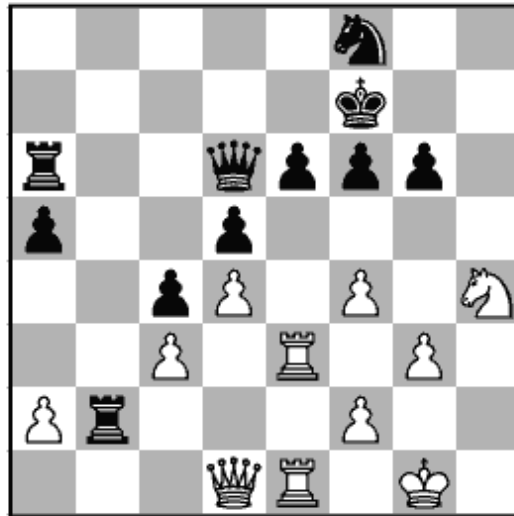
423) White to play

[solution](#)



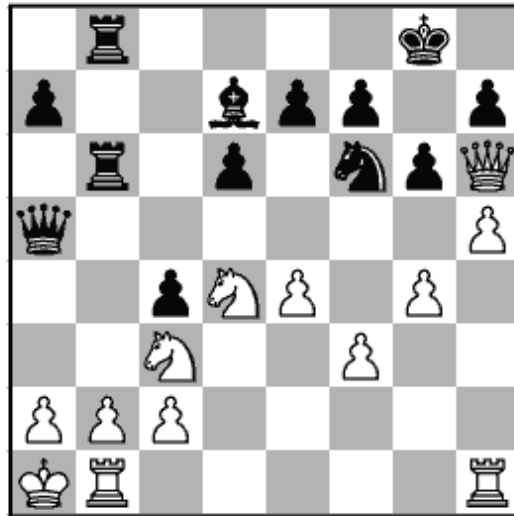
424) White to play

[solution](#)



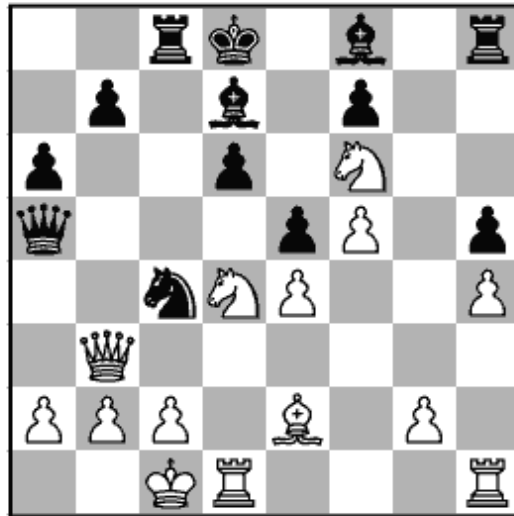
425) White to play

[solution](#)



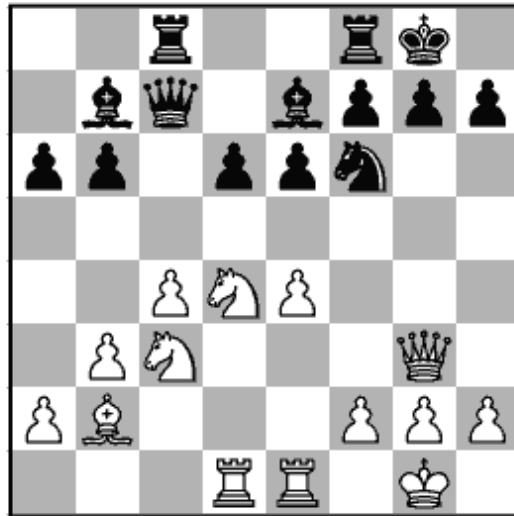
426) White to play

[solution](#)



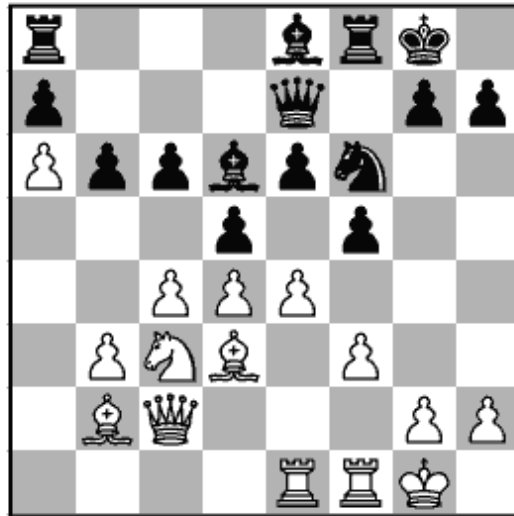
427) Black to play

[solution](#)



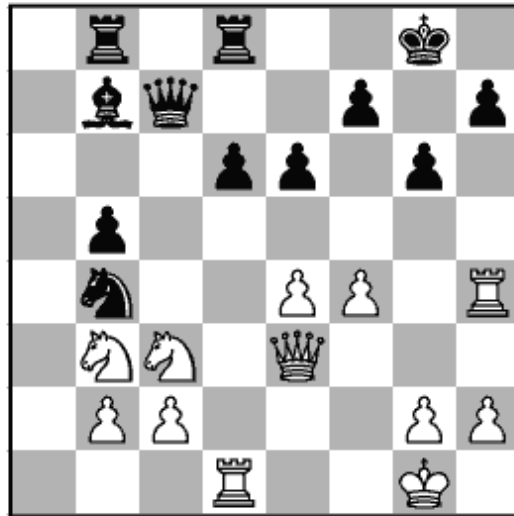
428) White to play

[solution](#)



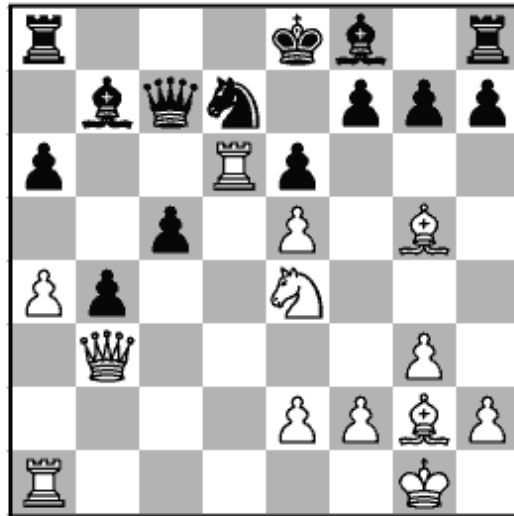
429) Black to play

[solution](#)



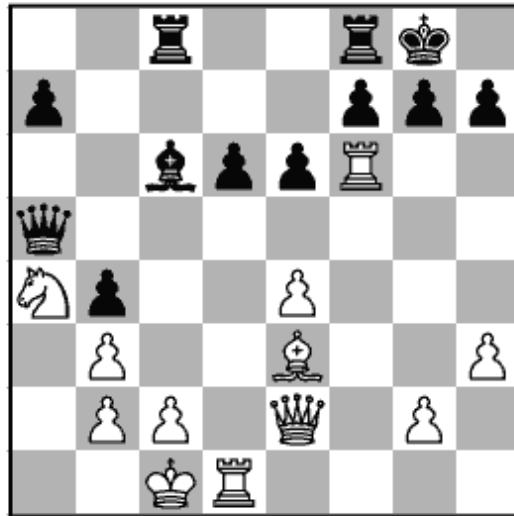
430) White to play

[solution](#)



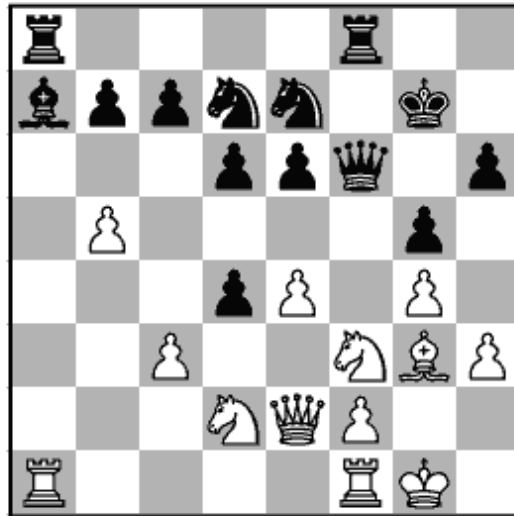
431) Black to play

[solution](#)



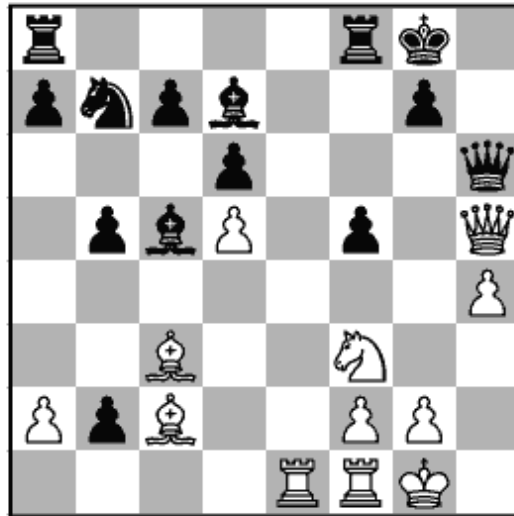
432) Black to play

[solution](#)



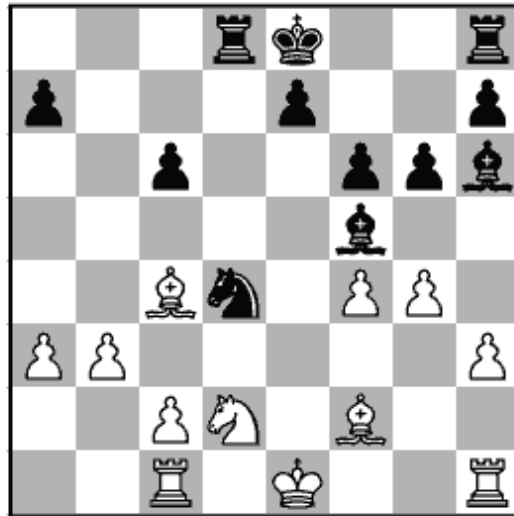
433) White to play

[solution](#)



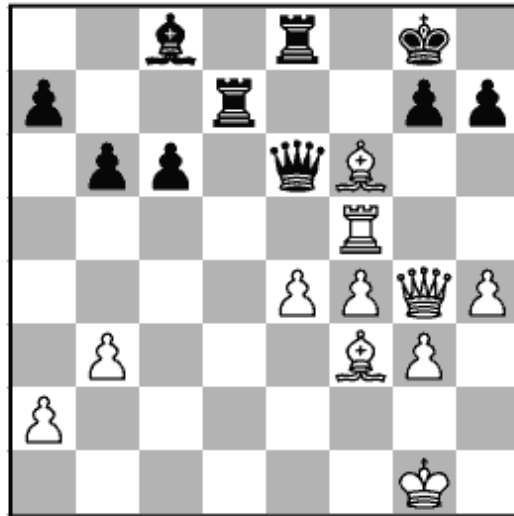
434) White to play

[solution](#)



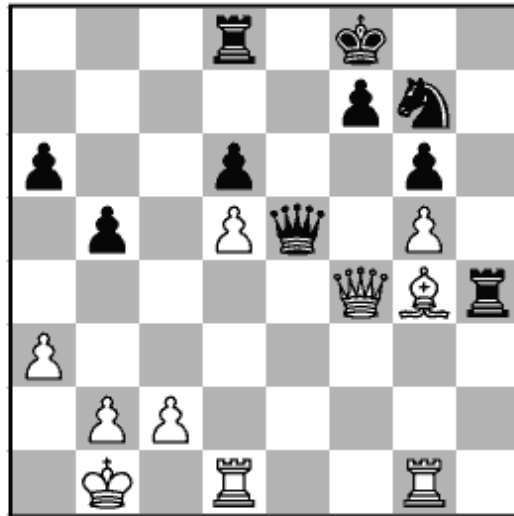
435) Black to play

[solution](#)



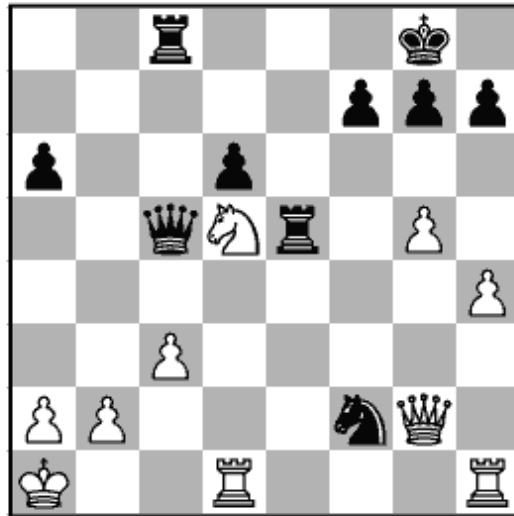
436) White to play

[solution](#)



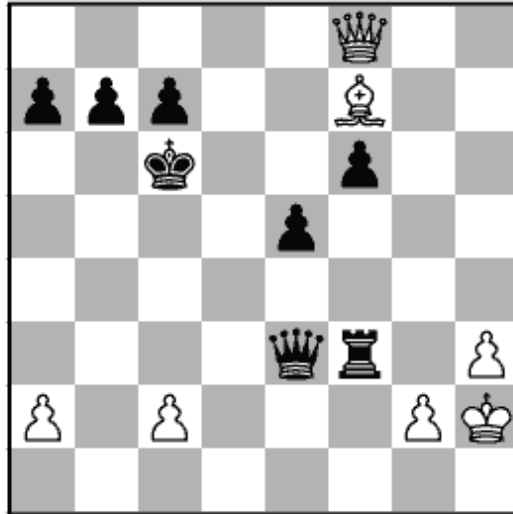
437) White to play

[solution](#)



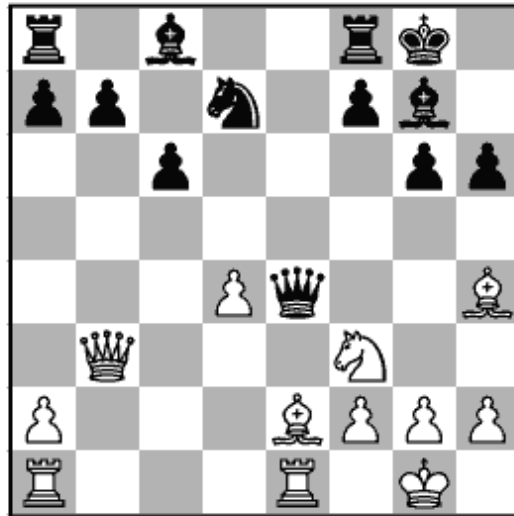
438) White to play

[solution](#)



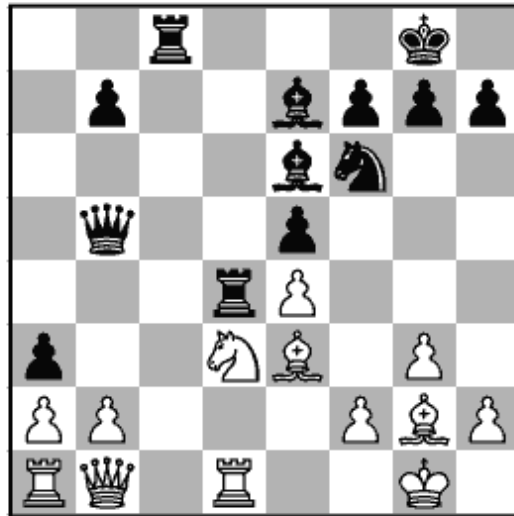
439) White to play

[solution](#)



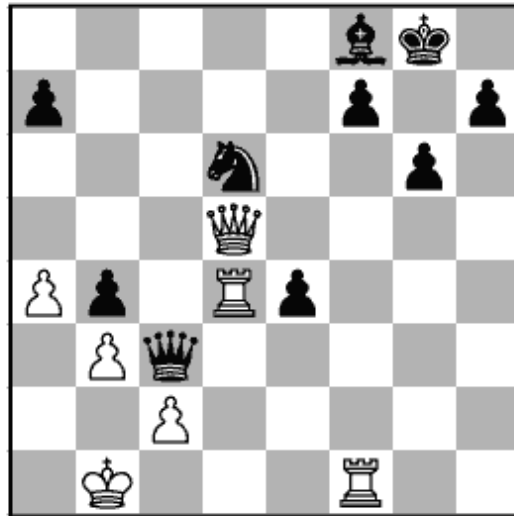
440) White to play

[solution](#)



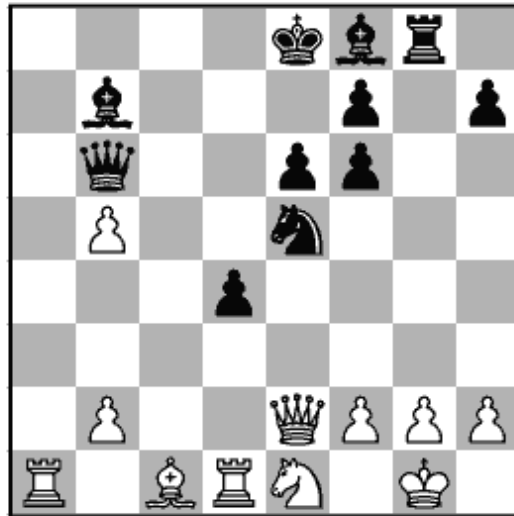
441) Black to play

[solution](#)



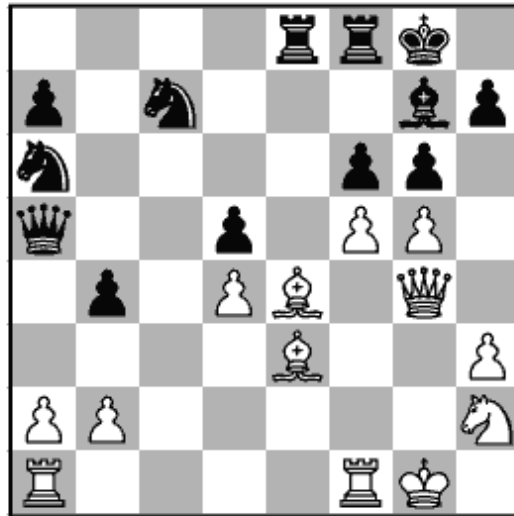
442) Black to play

[solution](#)



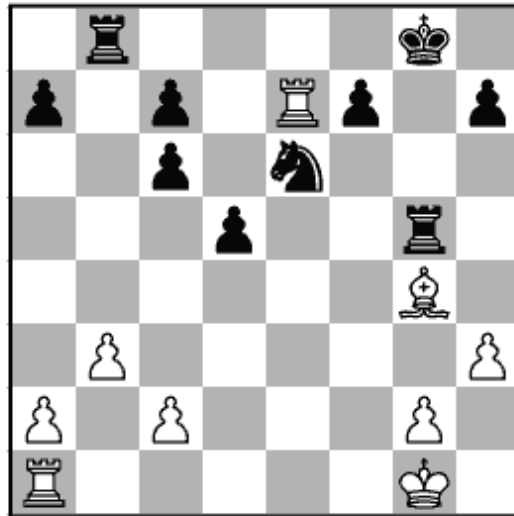
443) Black to play

[solution](#)



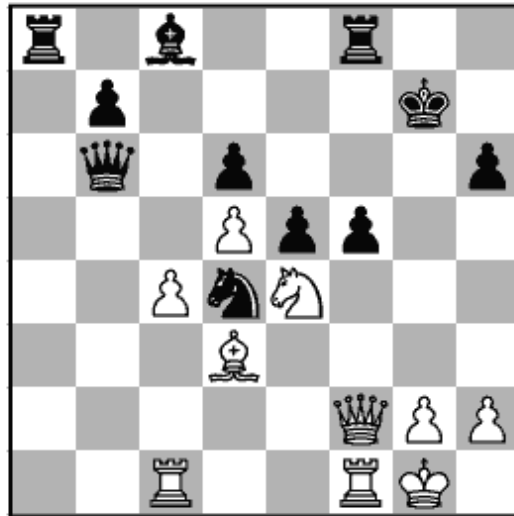
444) White to play

[solution](#)



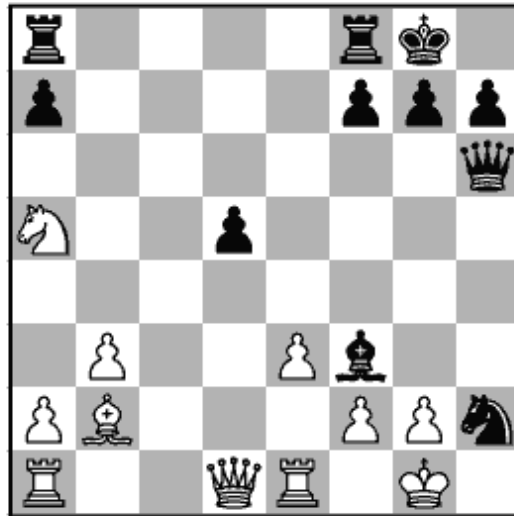
445) Black to play

[solution](#)



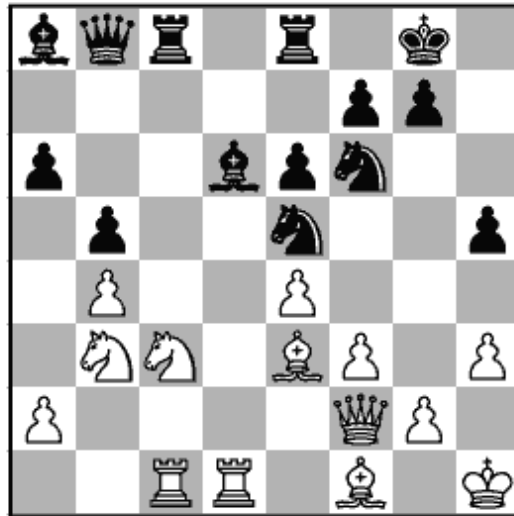
446) White to play

[solution](#)



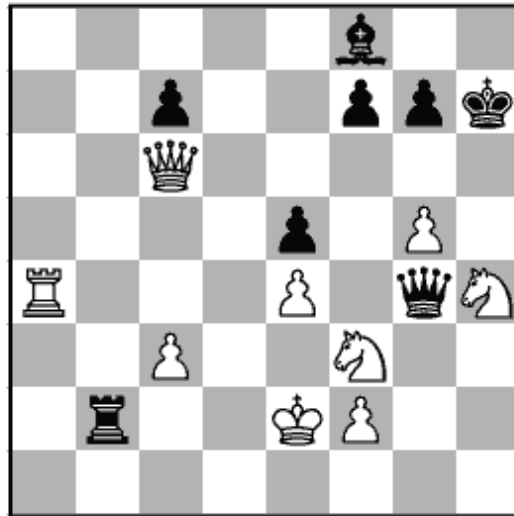
447) White to play

[solution](#)



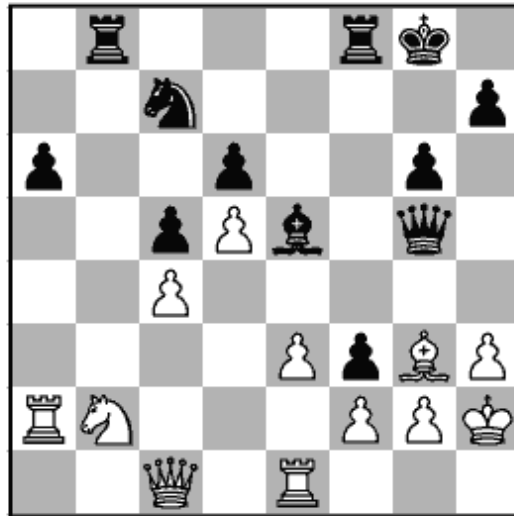
448) White to play

[solution](#)



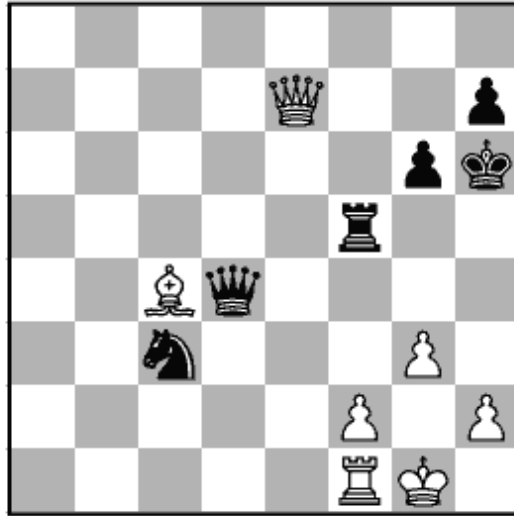
449) White to play

[solution](#)



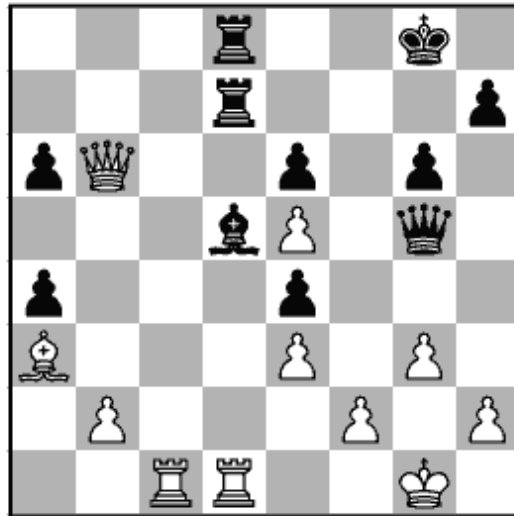
450) Black to play

solution



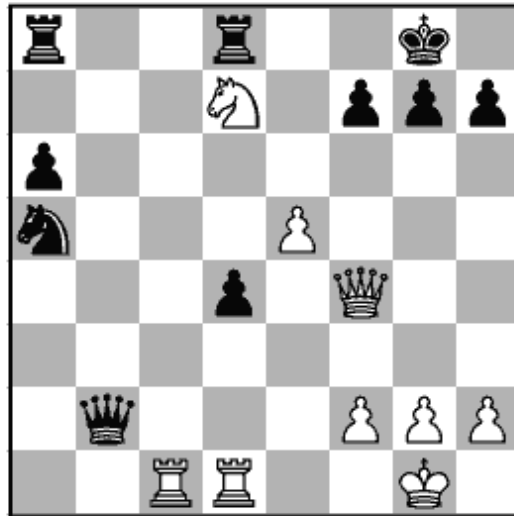
451) White to play

[solution](#)



452) White to play

[solution](#)



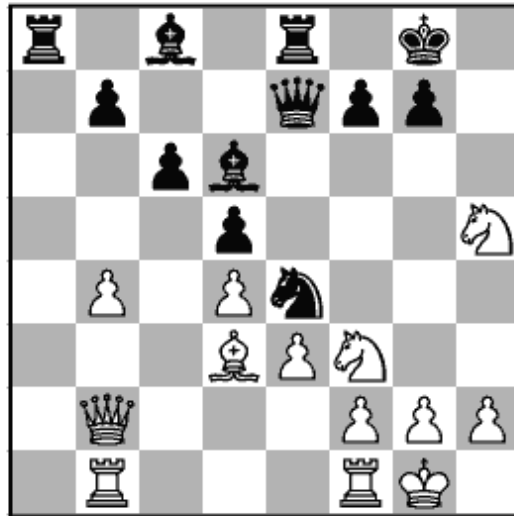
453) White to play

[solution](#)



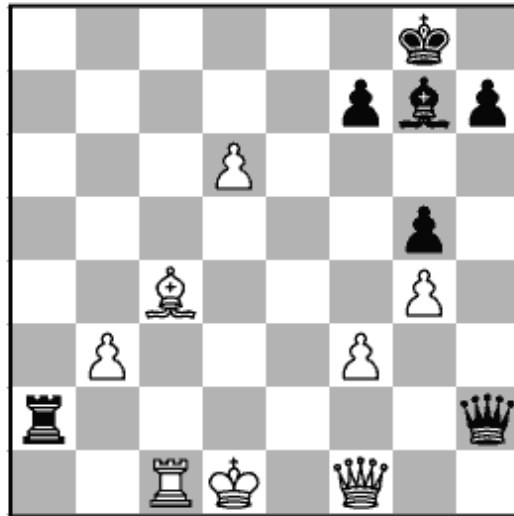
454) White to play

[solution](#)



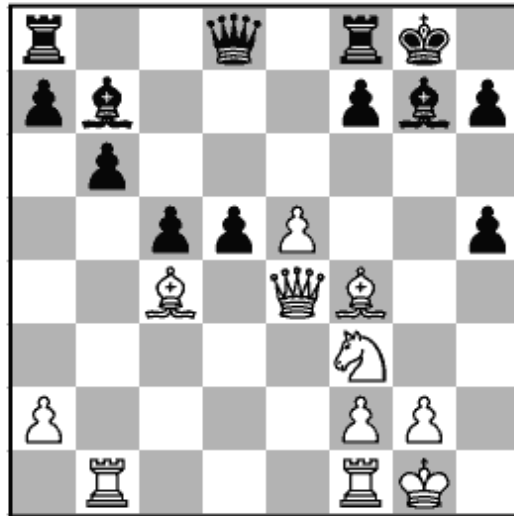
455) Black to play

[solution](#)



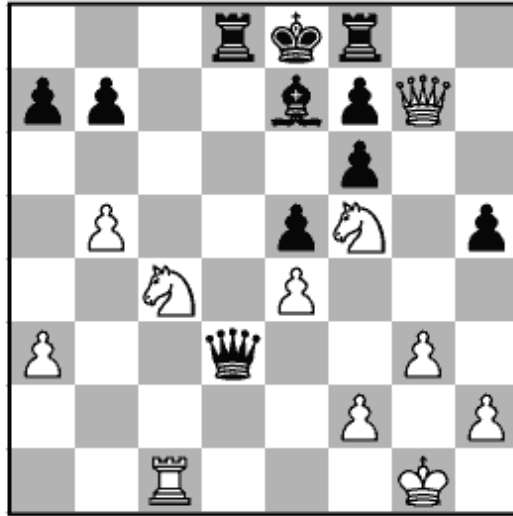
456) White to play

[solution](#)



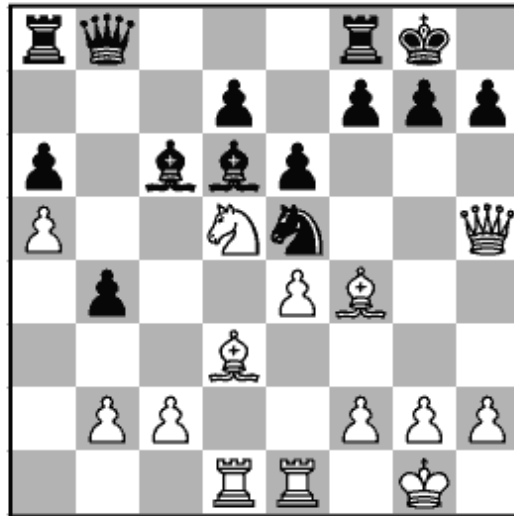
457) White to play

[solution](#)



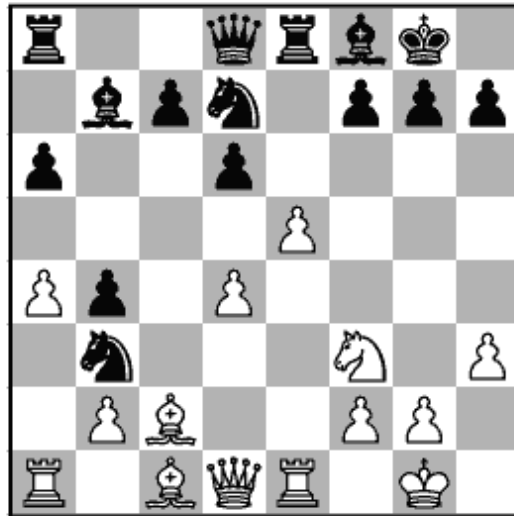
458) White to play

[solution](#)



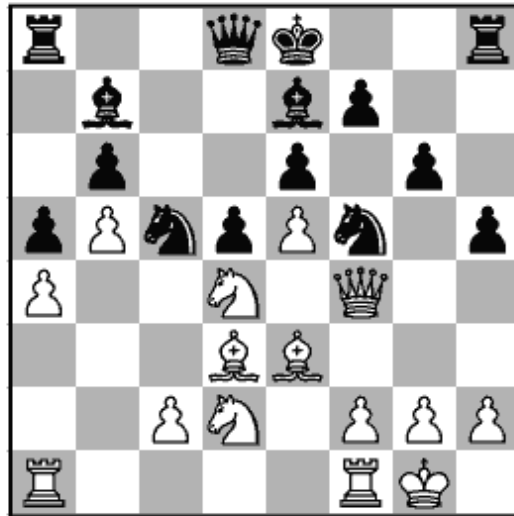
459) White to play

[solution](#)



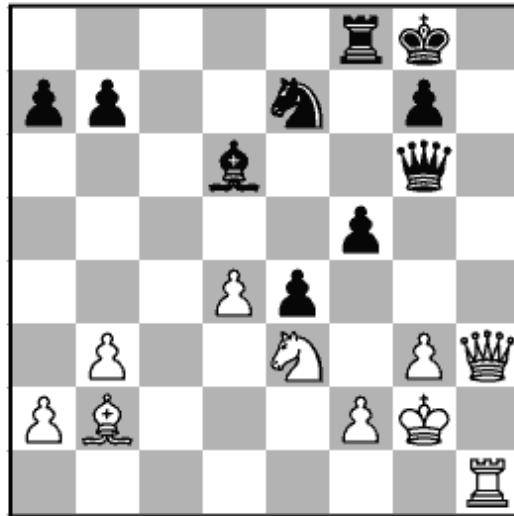
460) White to play

[solution](#)



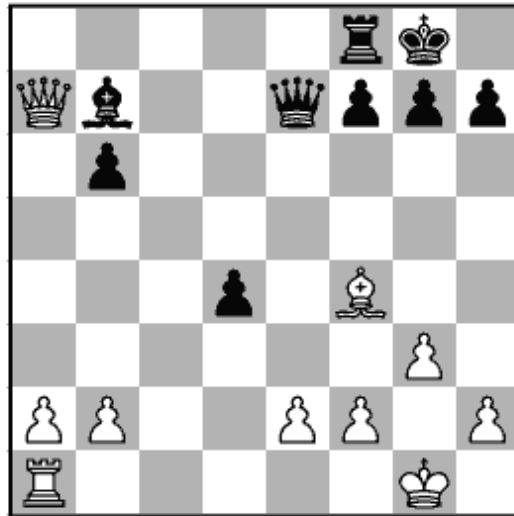
461) Black to play

[solution](#)



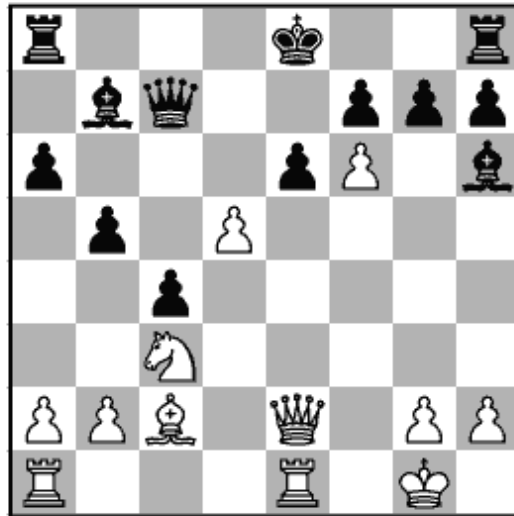
462) Black to play

[solution](#)



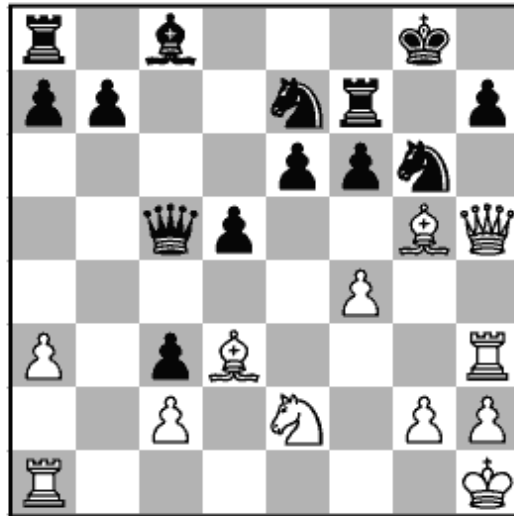
463) Black to play

[solution](#)



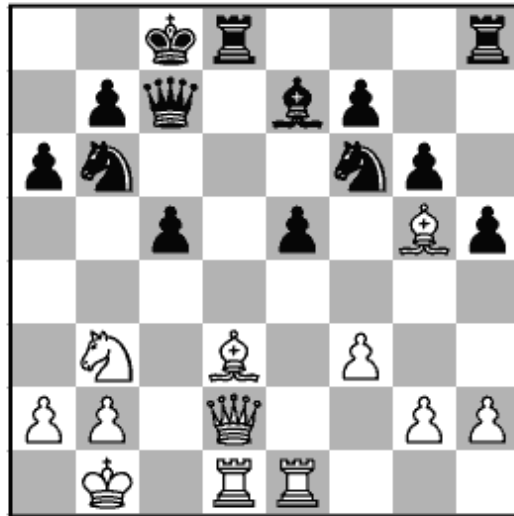
464) White to play

[solution](#)



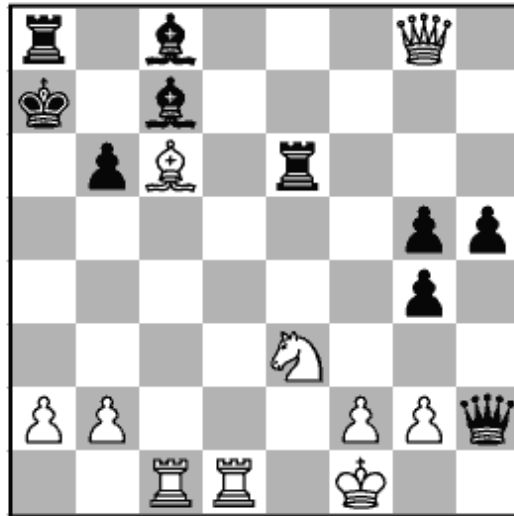
465) White to play

[solution](#)



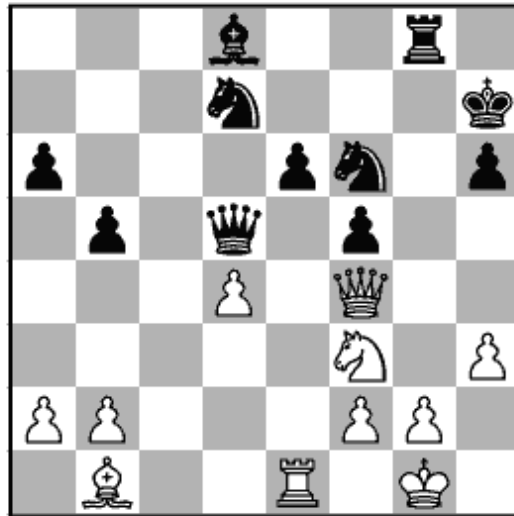
466) White to play

[solution](#)



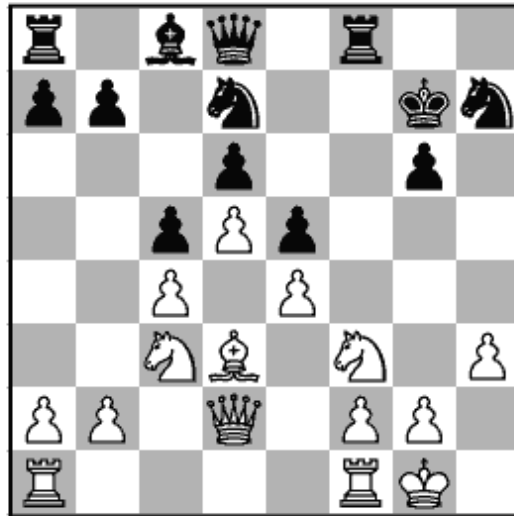
467) White to play

[solution](#)



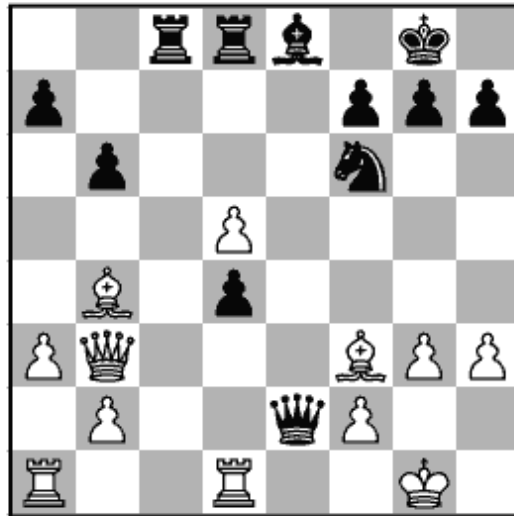
468) White to play

[solution](#)



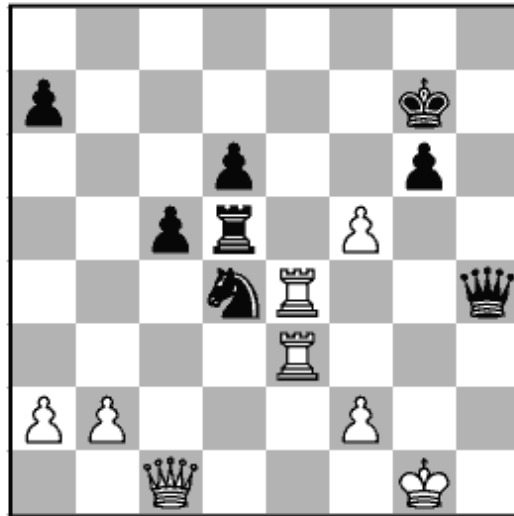
469) Black to play

[solution](#)



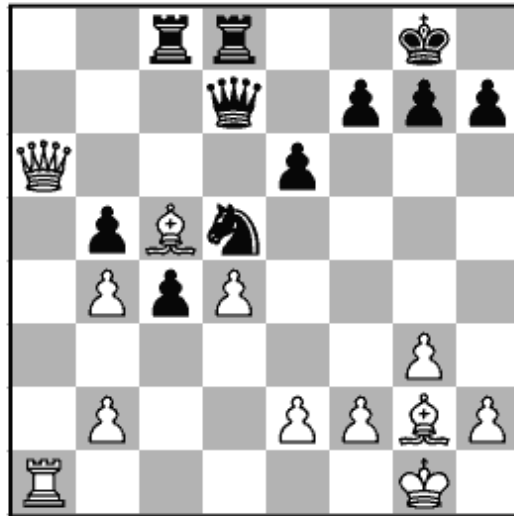
470) Black to play

[solution](#)



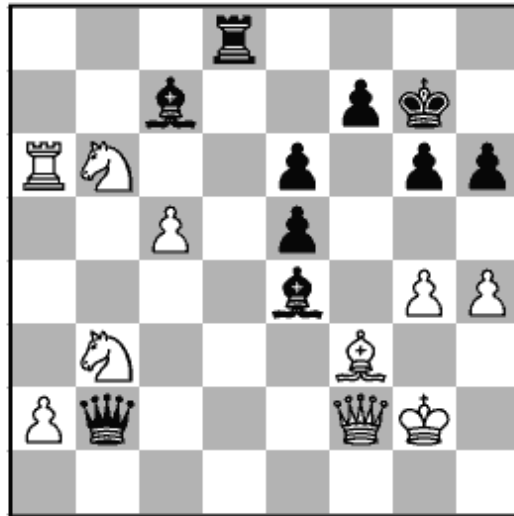
471) Black to play

[solution](#)



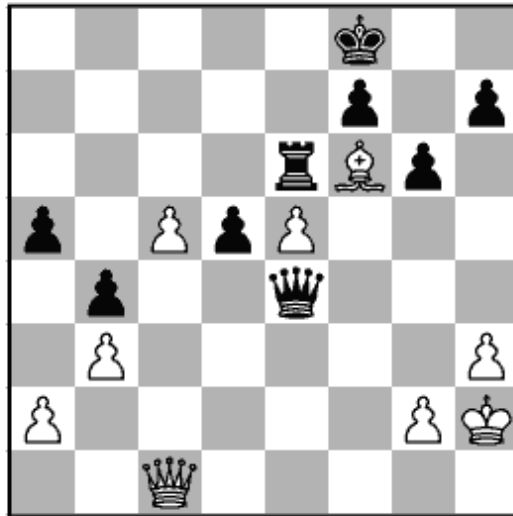
472) Black to play

[solution](#)



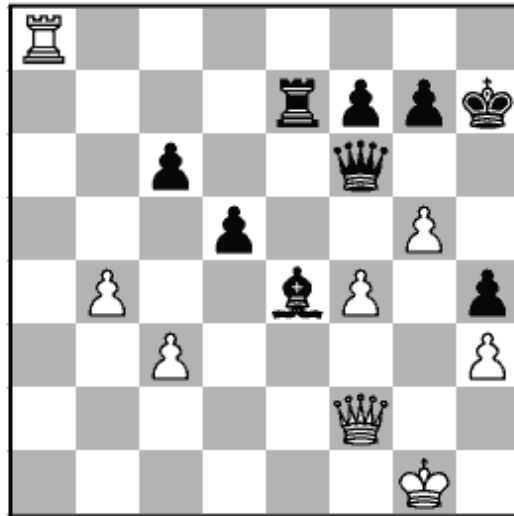
473) Black to play

[solution](#)



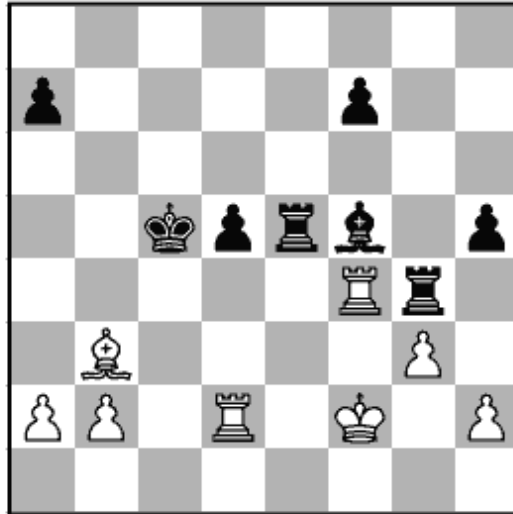
474) Black to play

[solution](#)



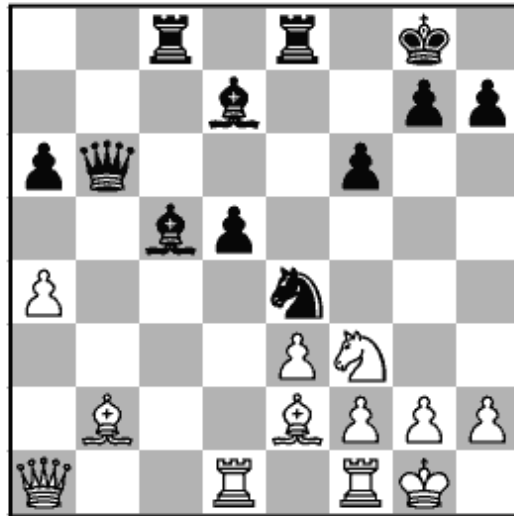
475) Black to play

[solution](#)



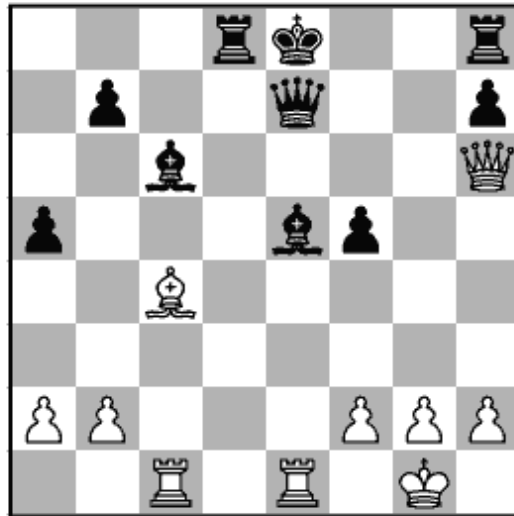
476) White to play

[solution](#)



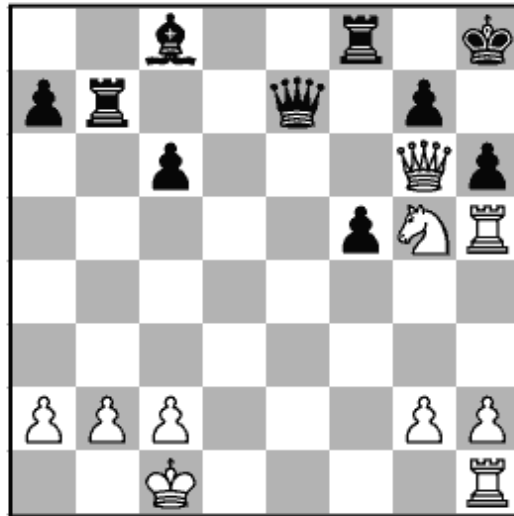
477) Black to play

[solution](#)



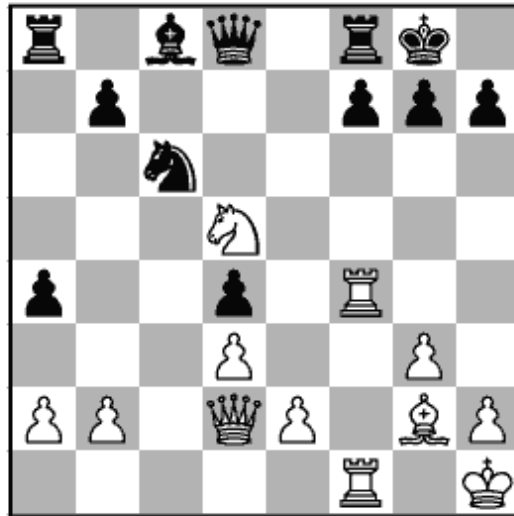
478) White to play

[solution](#)



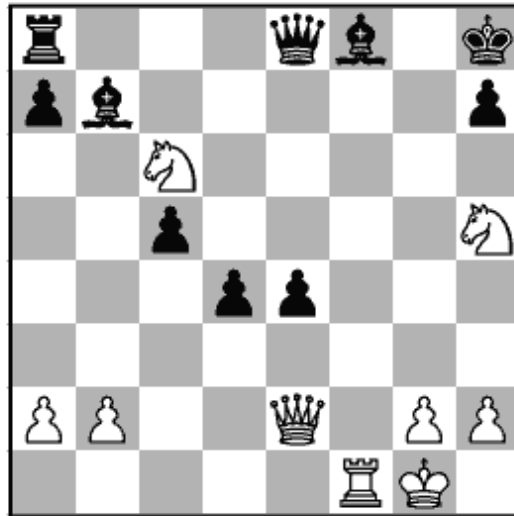
479) Black to play

[solution](#)



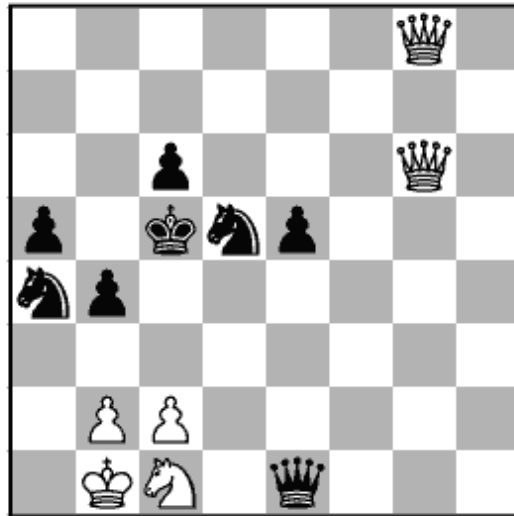
480) White to play

[solution](#)



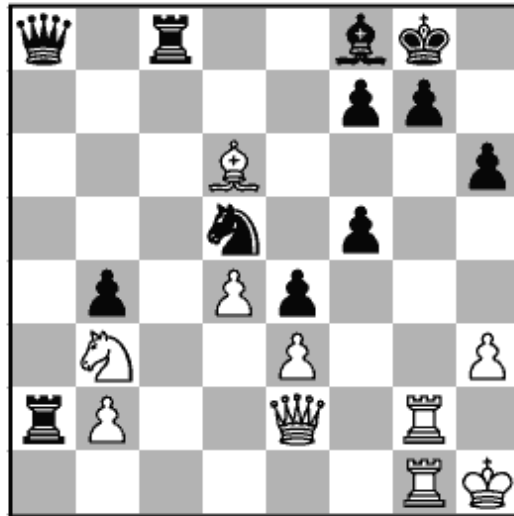
481) White to play

[solution](#)



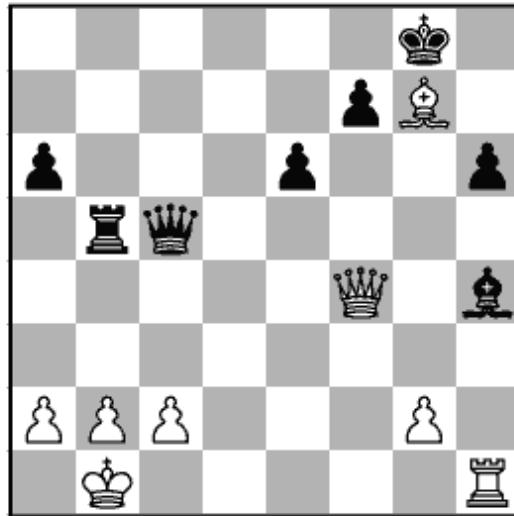
482) Black to play

[solution](#)



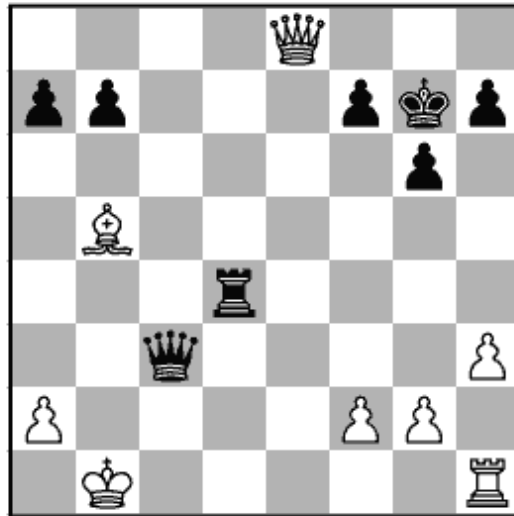
483) Black to play

[solution](#)



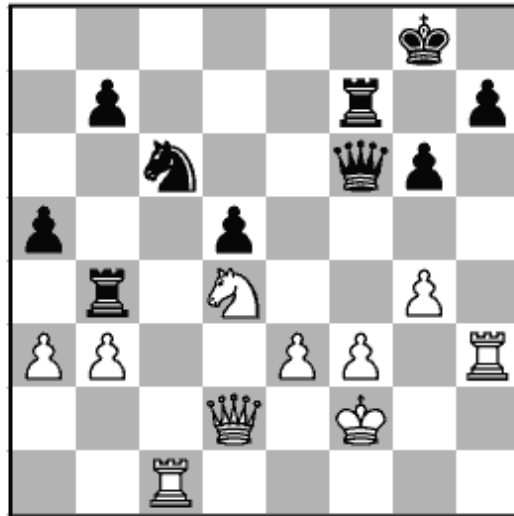
484) Black to play

[solution](#)



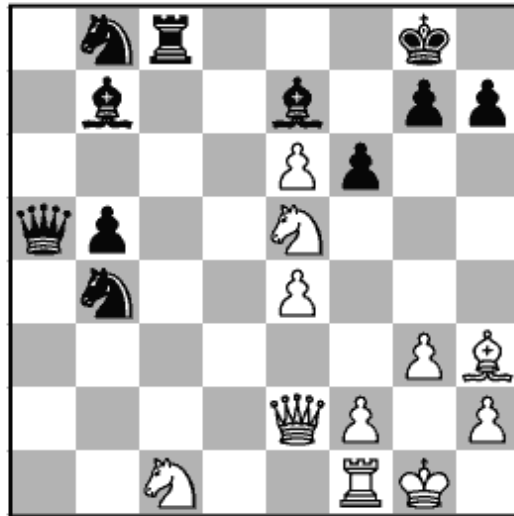
485) White to play

[solution](#)



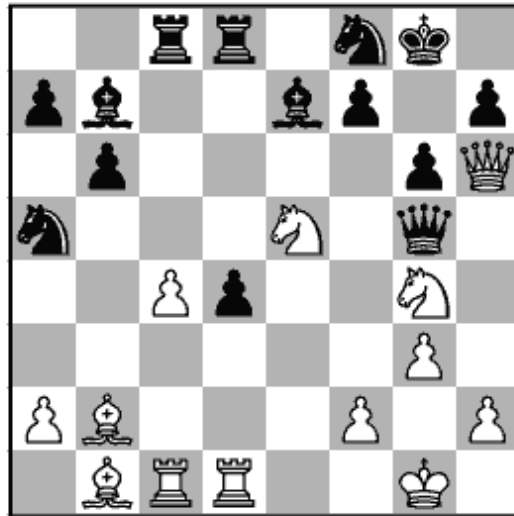
486) Black to play

[solution](#)



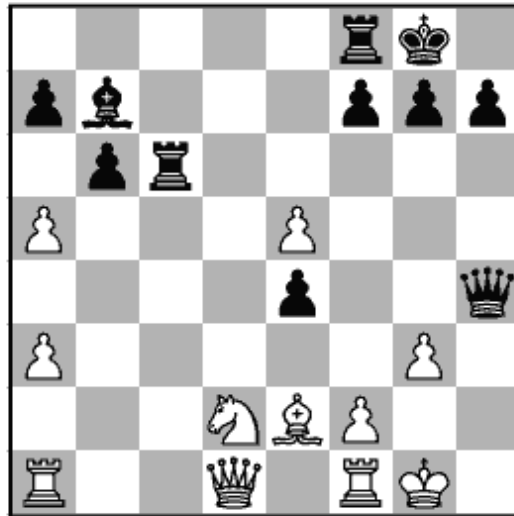
487) White to play

[solution](#)



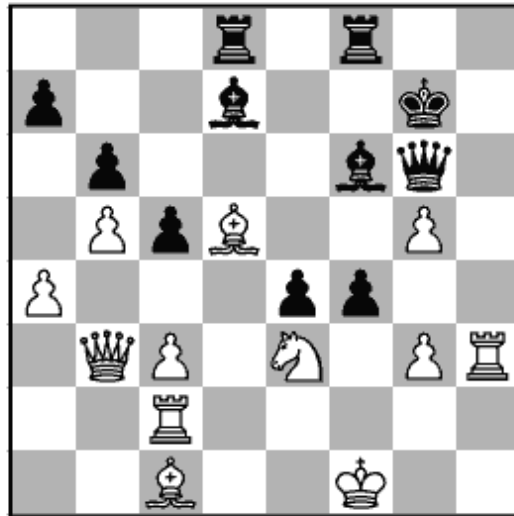
488) White to play

[solution](#)



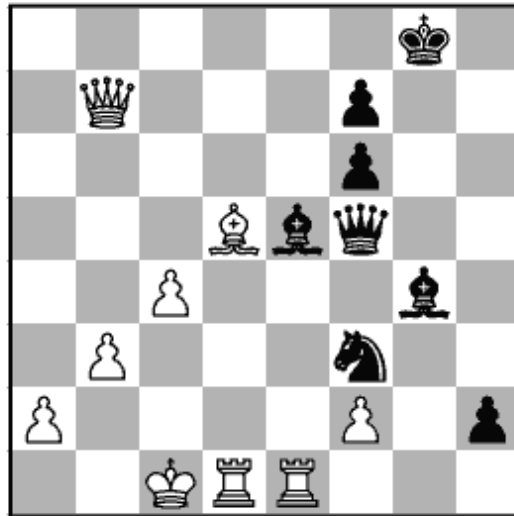
489) Black to play

[solution](#)



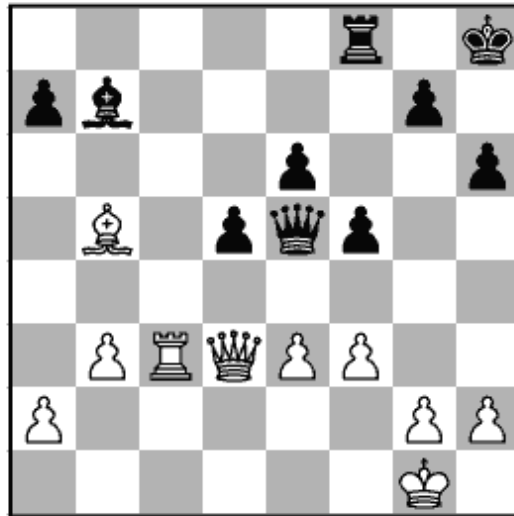
490) White to play

[solution](#)



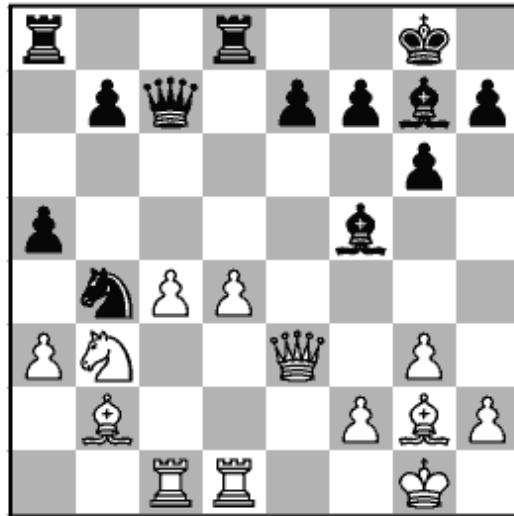
491) Black to play

[solution](#)



492) Black to play

[solution](#)



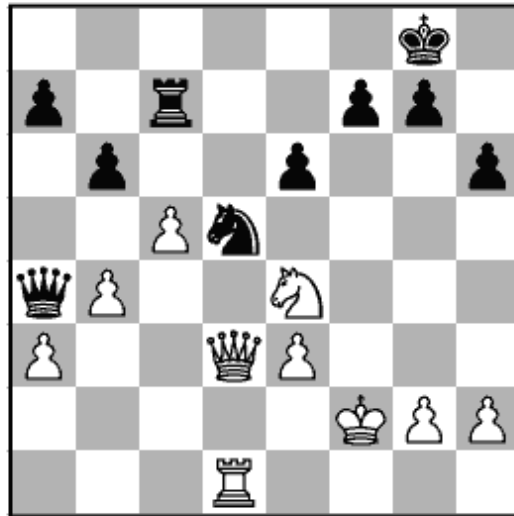
493) Black to play

[solution](#)



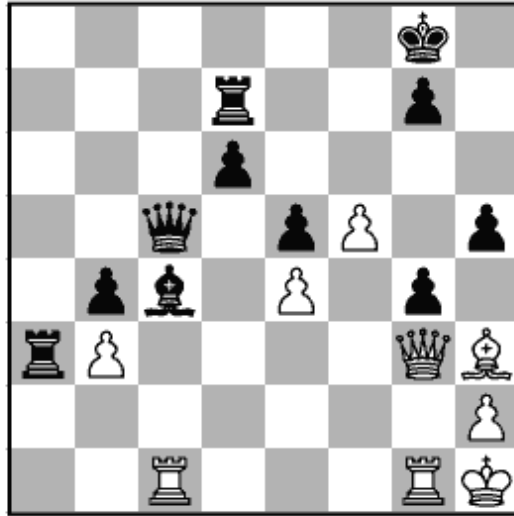
494) Black to play

[solution](#)



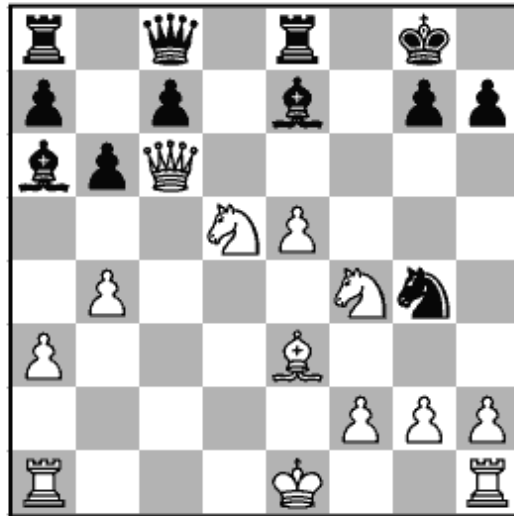
495) Black to play

[solution](#)



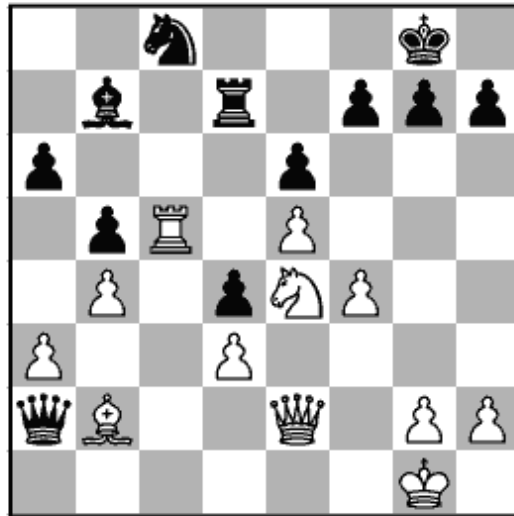
496) White to play

[solution](#)



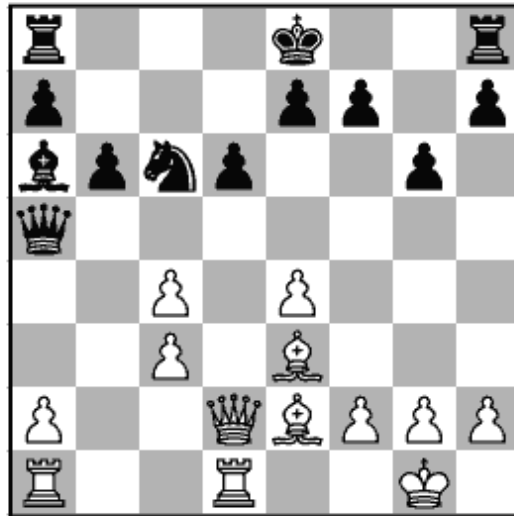
497) Black to play

[solution](#)



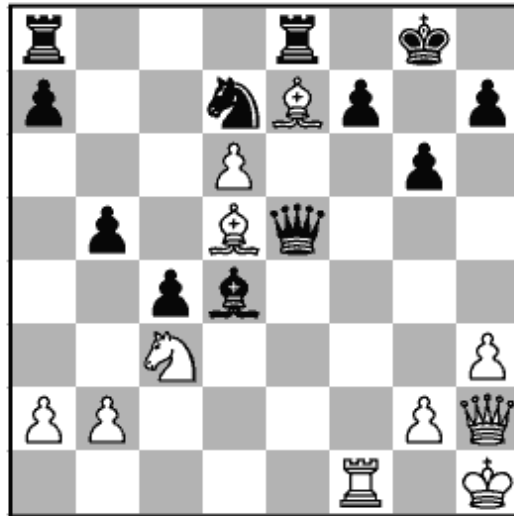
498) White to play

[solution](#)



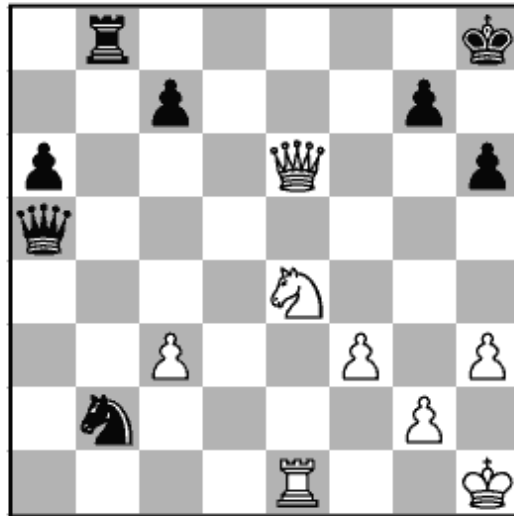
499) White to play

[solution](#)



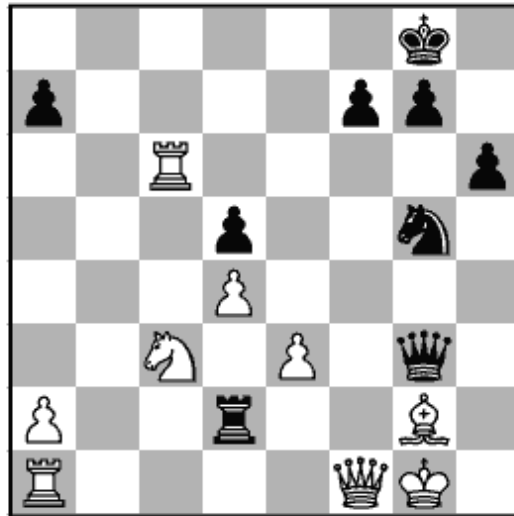
500) Black to play

[solution](#)



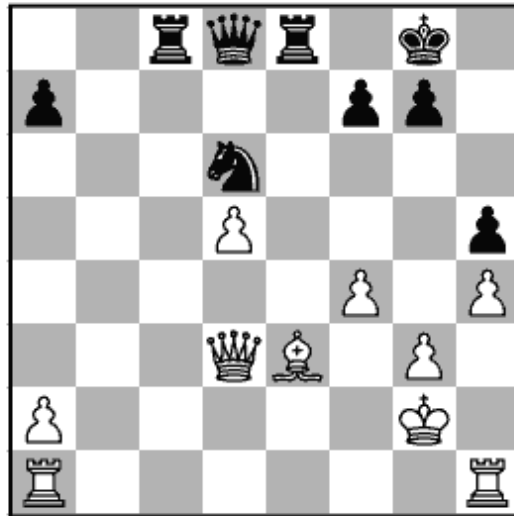
501) White to play

[solution](#)



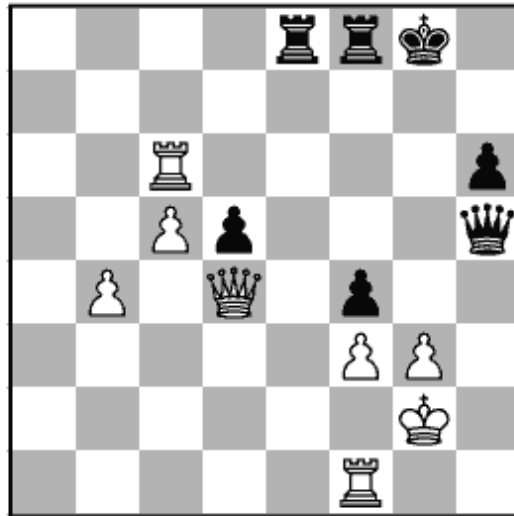
502) White to play

[solution](#)



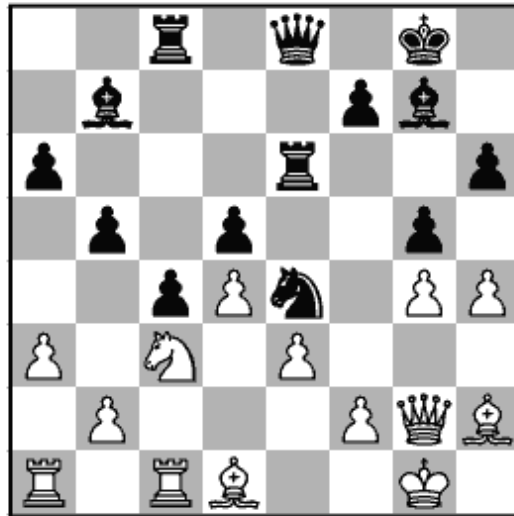
503) Black to play

[solution](#)



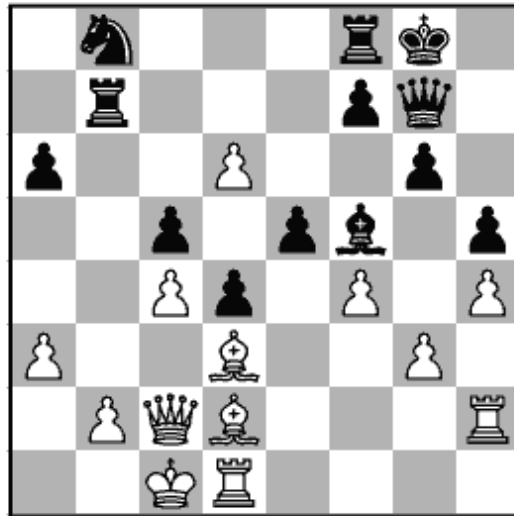
504) Black to play

[solution](#)



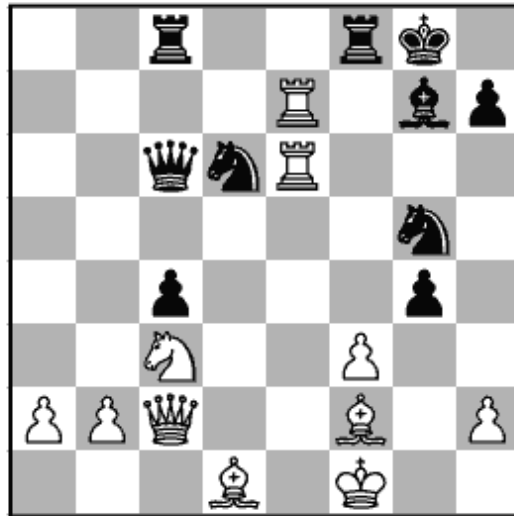
505) Black to play

[solution](#)



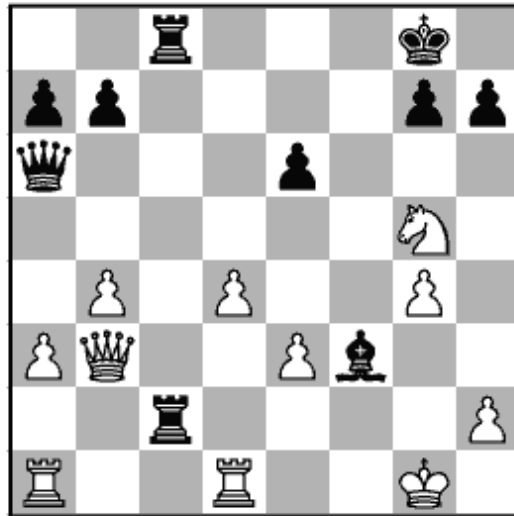
506) Black to play

[solution](#)



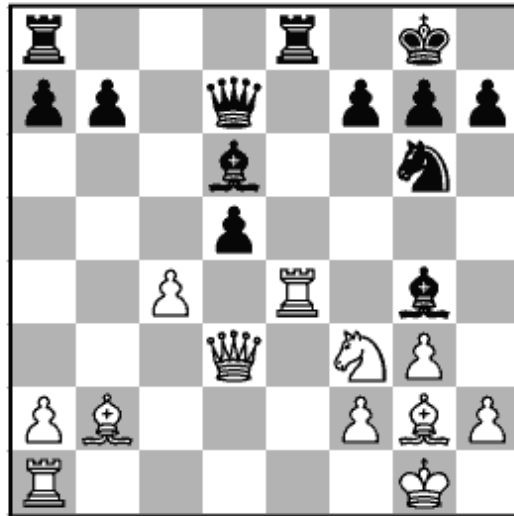
507) White to play

[solution](#)



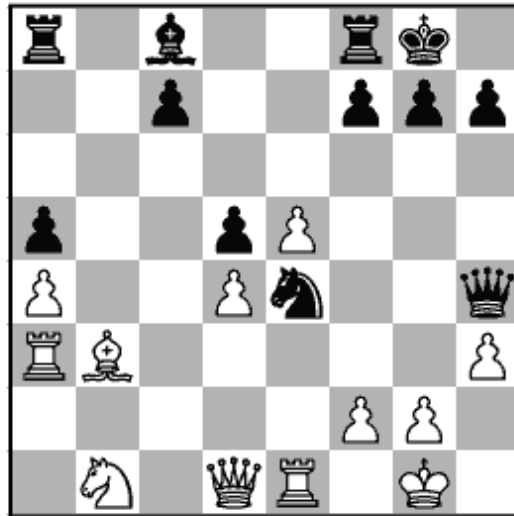
508) White to play

[solution](#)



509) White to play

[solution](#)



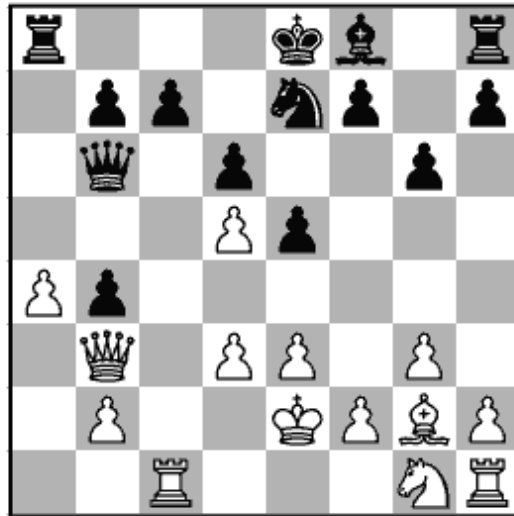
510) White to play

[solution](#)



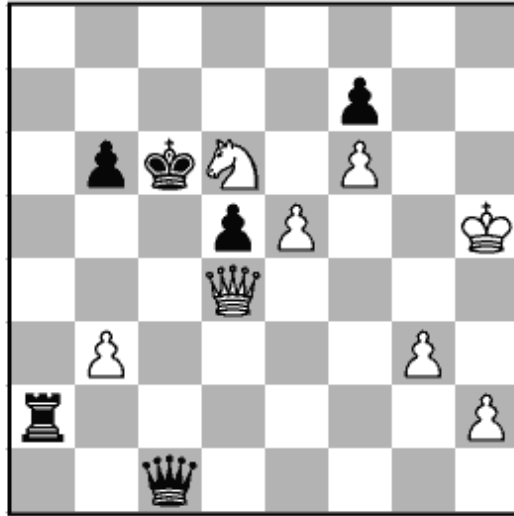
511) White to play

[solution](#)



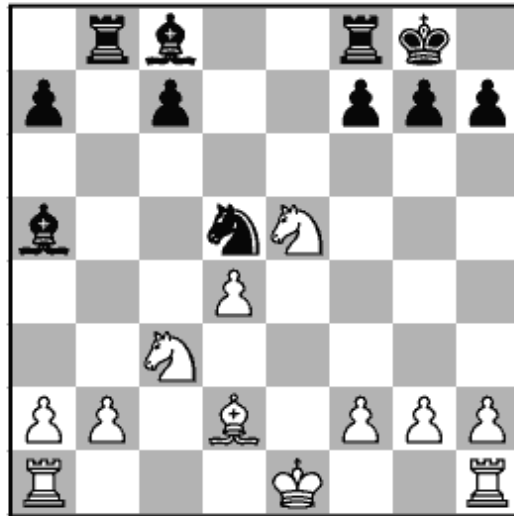
512) White to play

[solution](#)



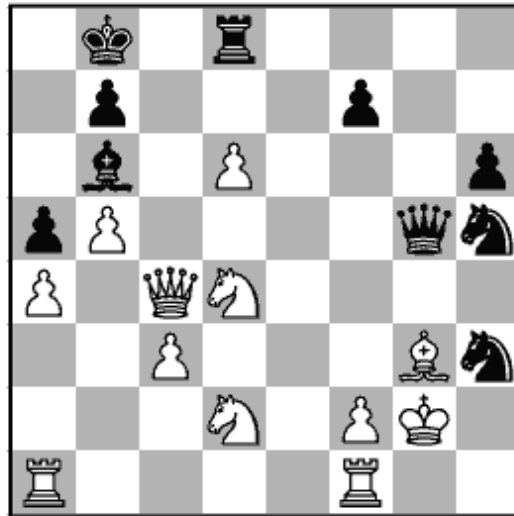
513) Black to play

[solution](#)



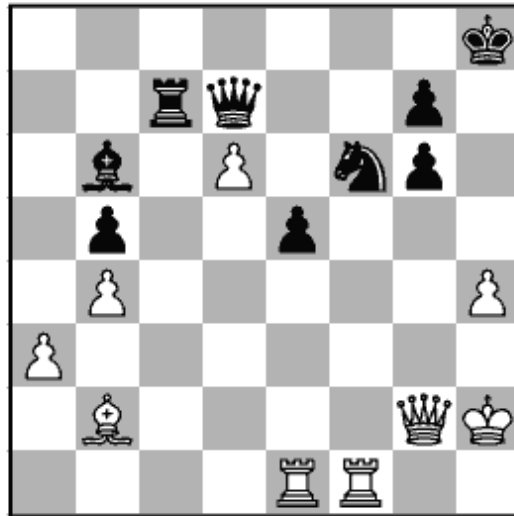
514) Black to play

[solution](#)



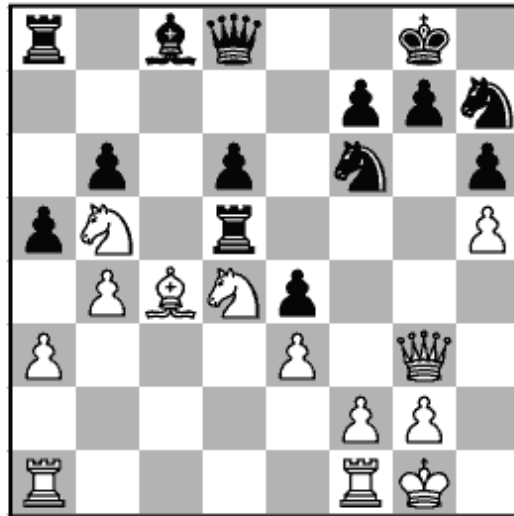
515) Black to play

[solution](#)



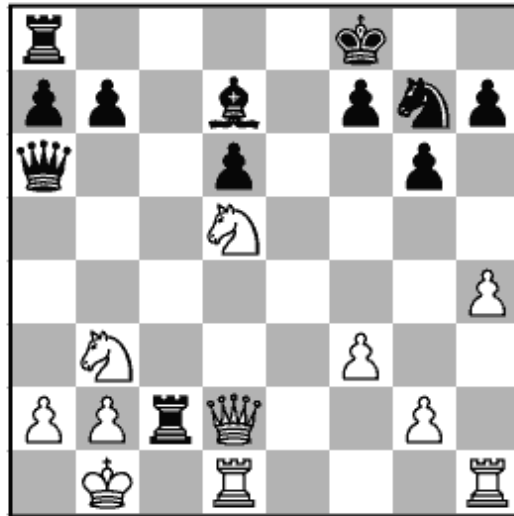
516) Black to play

[solution](#)



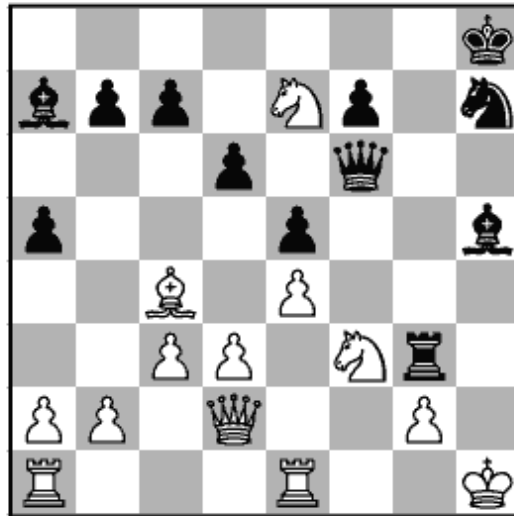
517) Black to play

[solution](#)



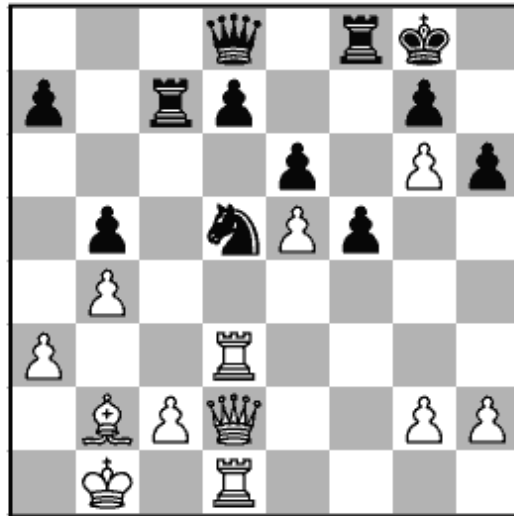
518) White to play

[solution](#)



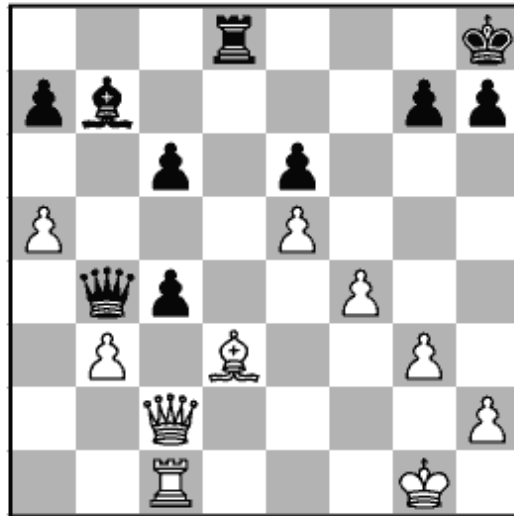
519) White to play

[solution](#)



520) White to play

[solution](#)



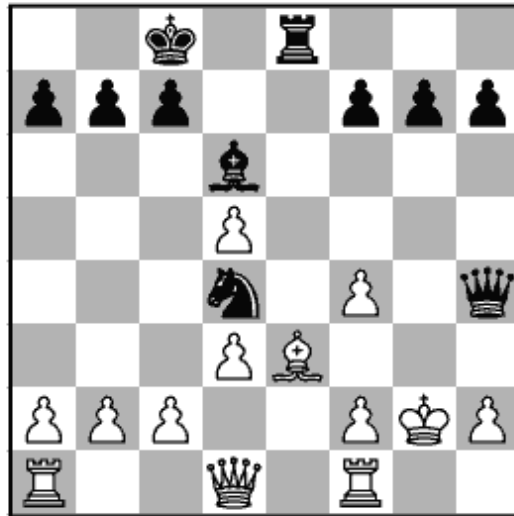
521) White to play

[solution](#)



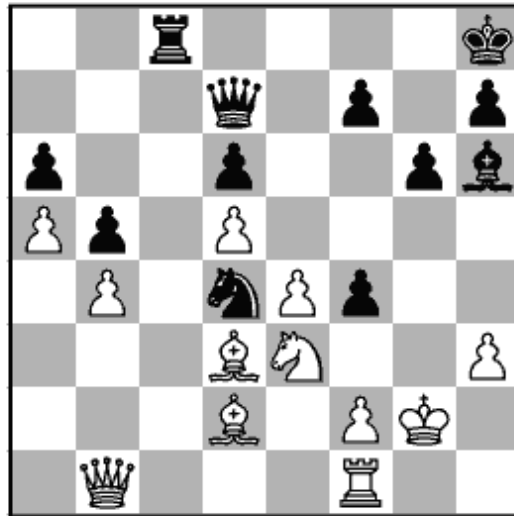
522) White to play

[solution](#)



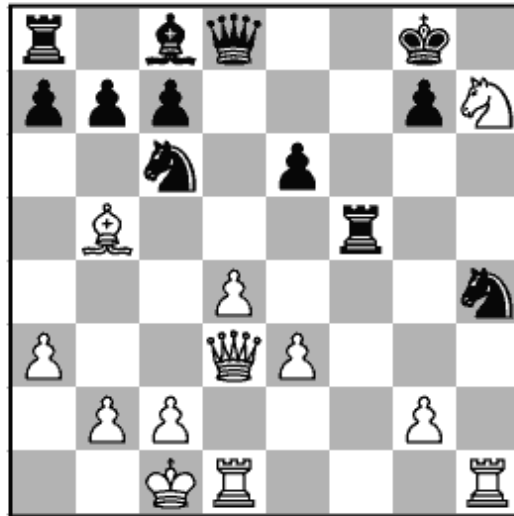
523) Black to play

[solution](#)



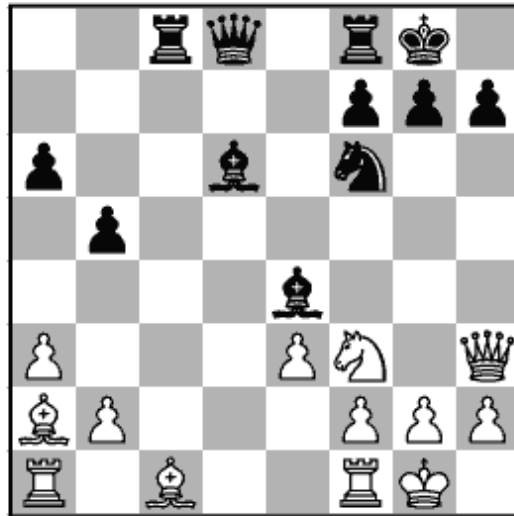
524) White to play

[solution](#)



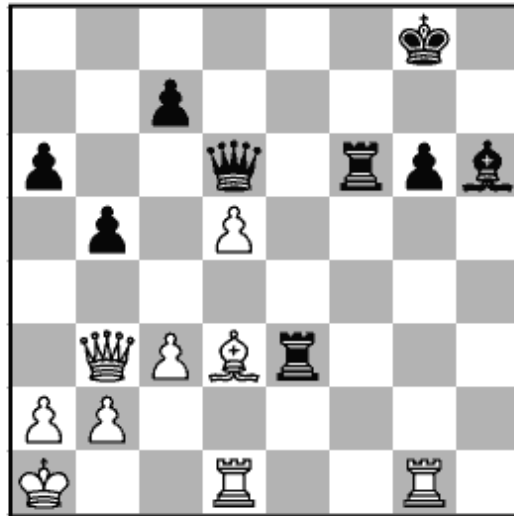
525) Black to play

[solution](#)



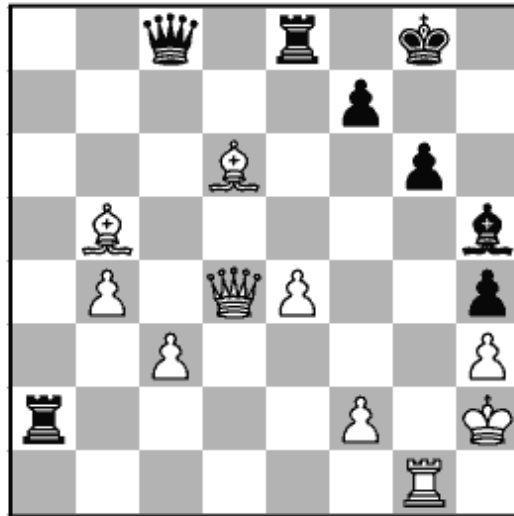
526) Black to play

solution



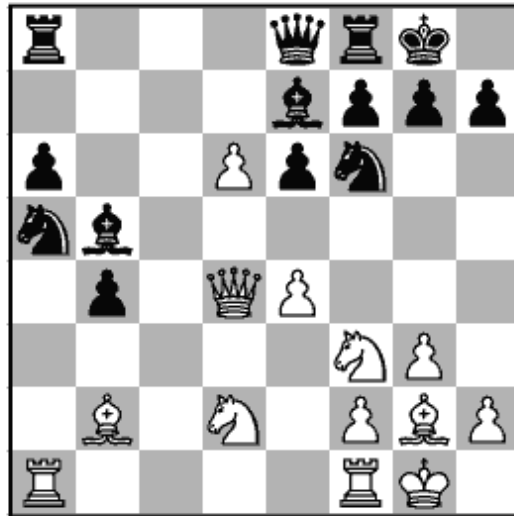
527) White to play

[solution](#)



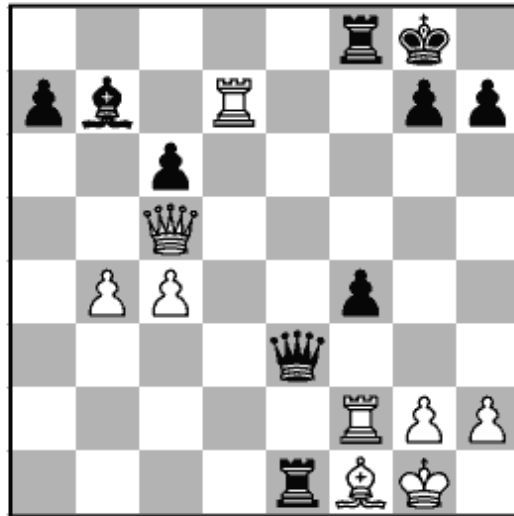
528) Black to play

[solution](#)



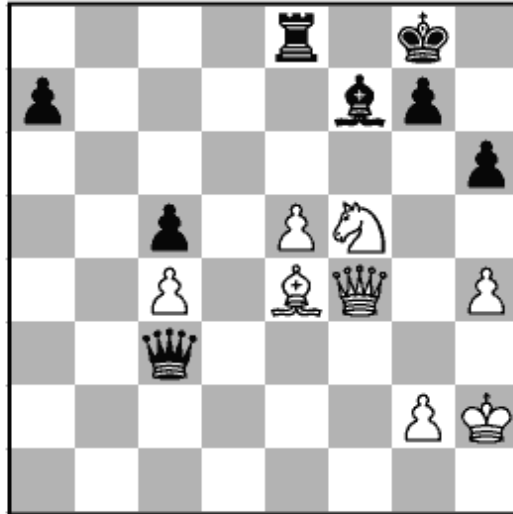
529) Black to play

[solution](#)



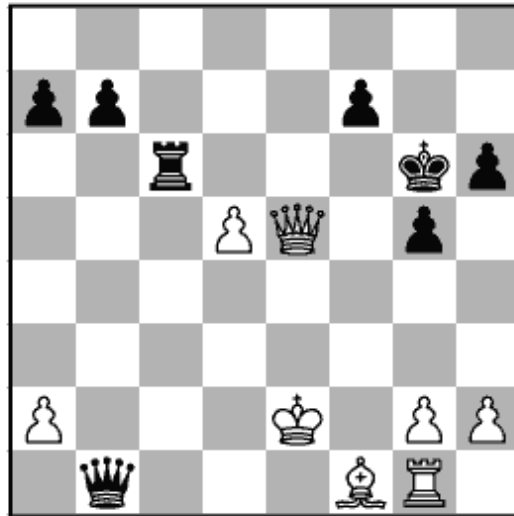
530) Black to play

[solution](#)



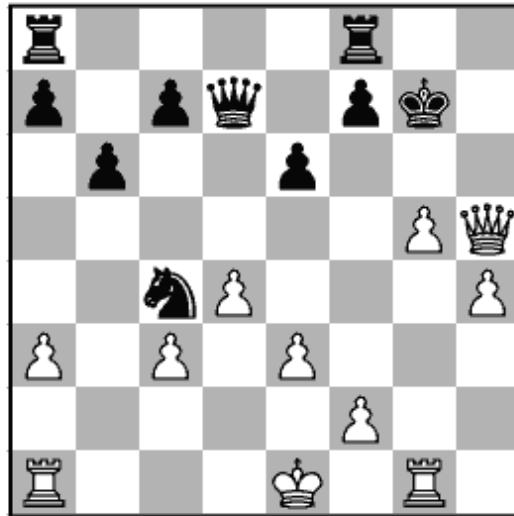
531) White to play

[solution](#)



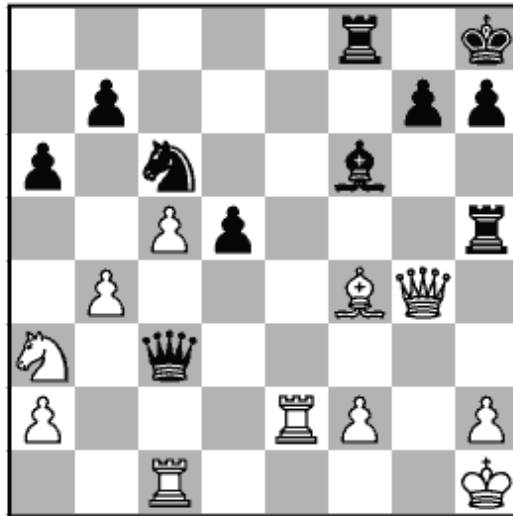
532) Black to play

[solution](#)



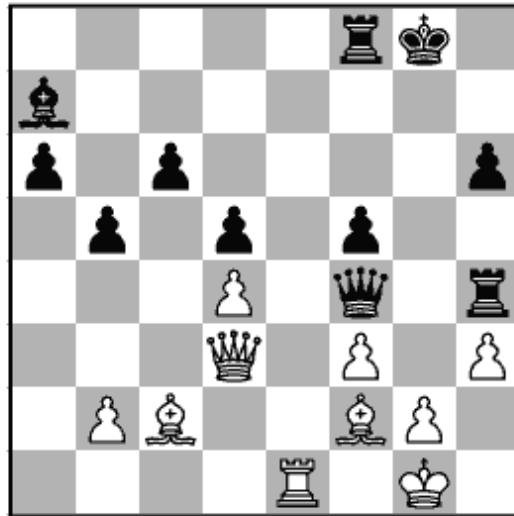
533) White to play

[solution](#)



534) Black to play

[solution](#)



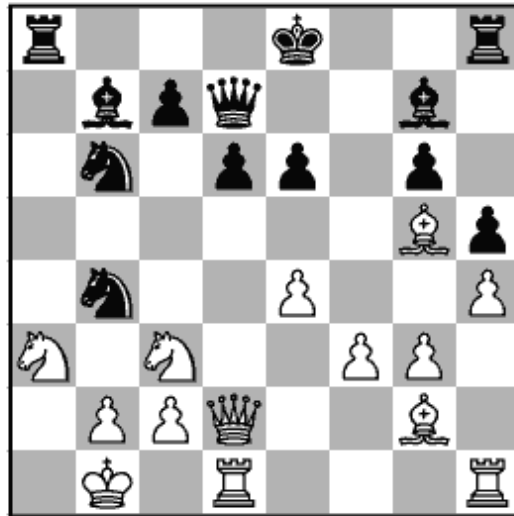
535) White to play

[solution](#)



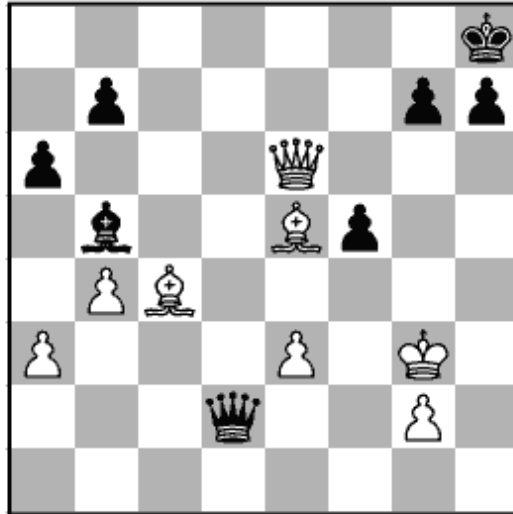
536) White to play

[solution](#)



537) Black to play

[solution](#)



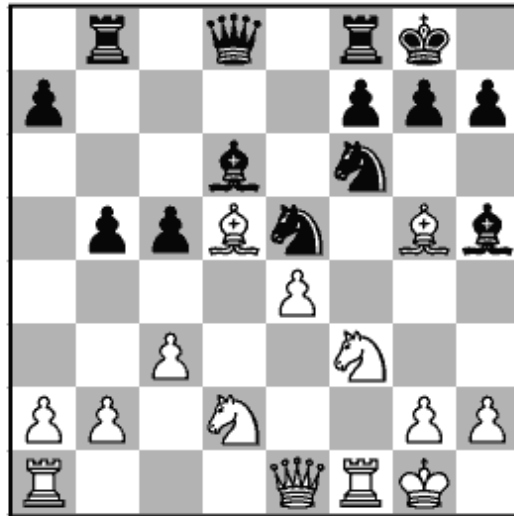
538) Black to play

[solution](#)



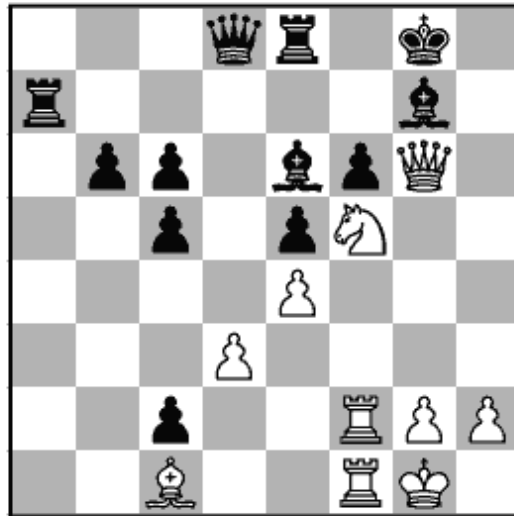
539) Black to play

[solution](#)



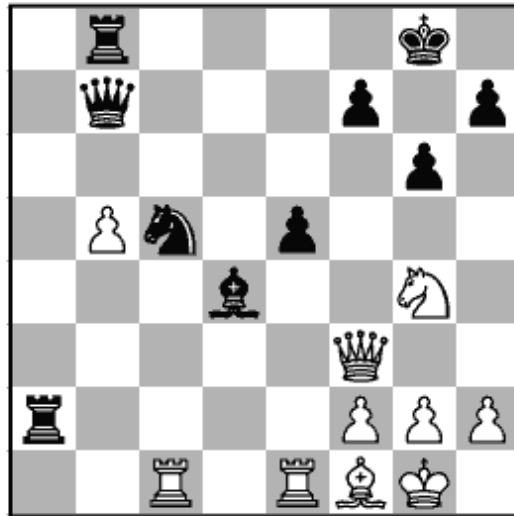
540) White to play

[solution](#)



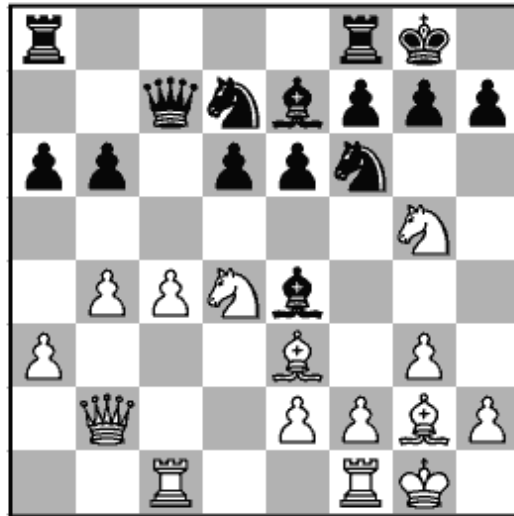
541) White to play

[solution](#)



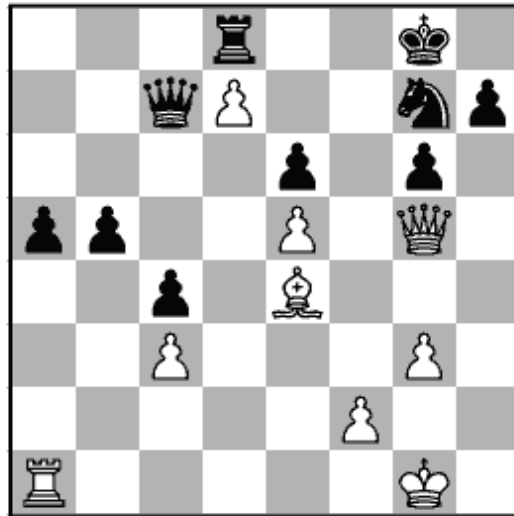
542) White to play

[solution](#)



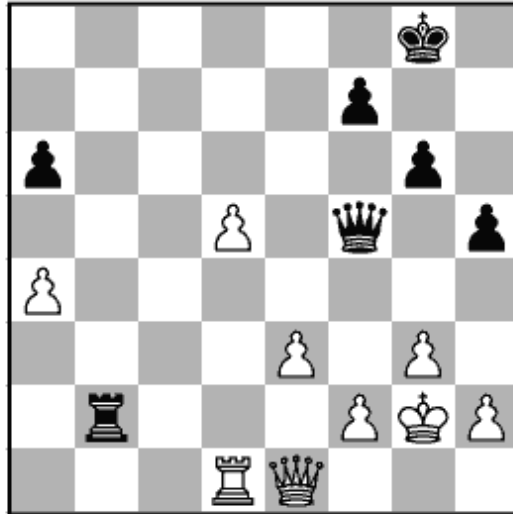
543) Black to play

[solution](#)



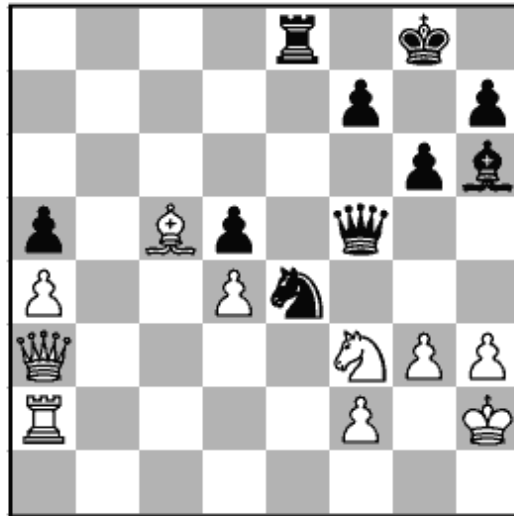
544) White to play

[solution](#)



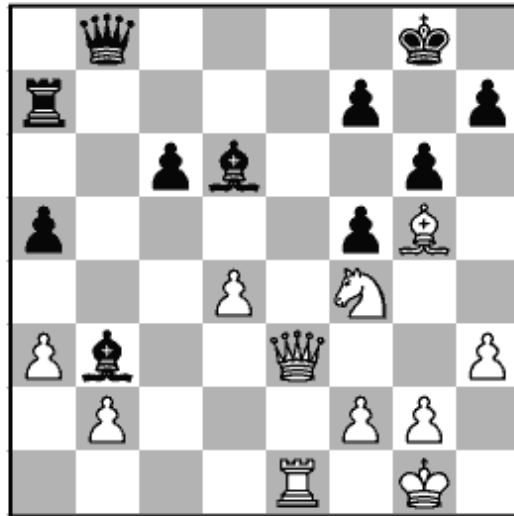
545) Black to play

[solution](#)



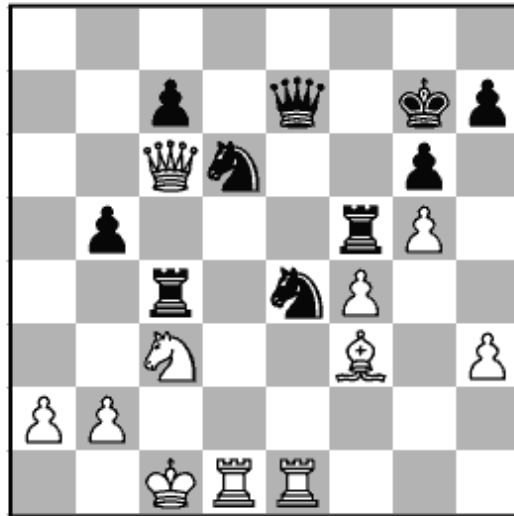
546) Black to play

[solution](#)



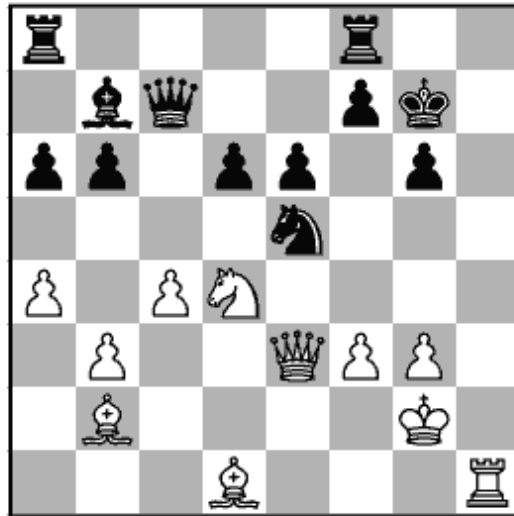
547) Black to play

[solution](#)



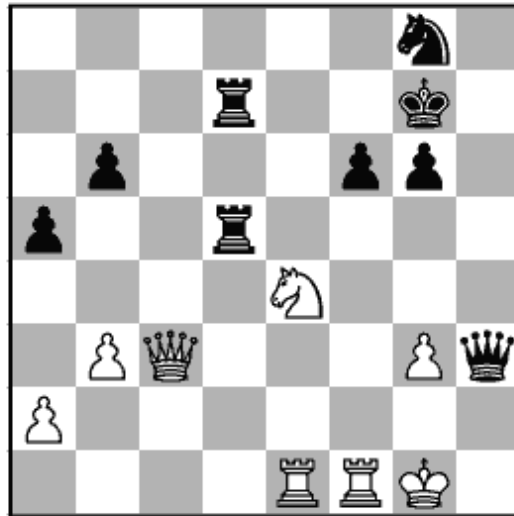
548) White to play

[solution](#)



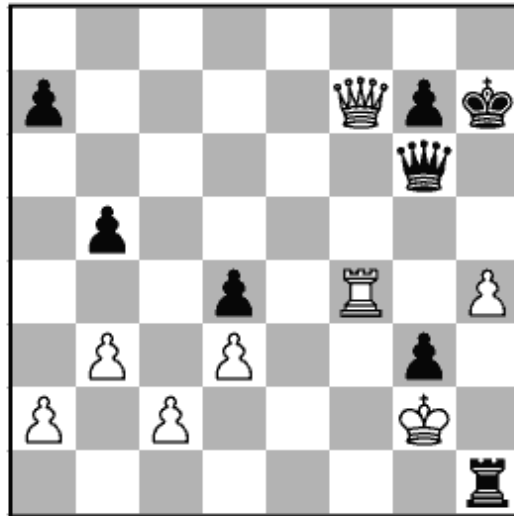
549) White to play

[solution](#)



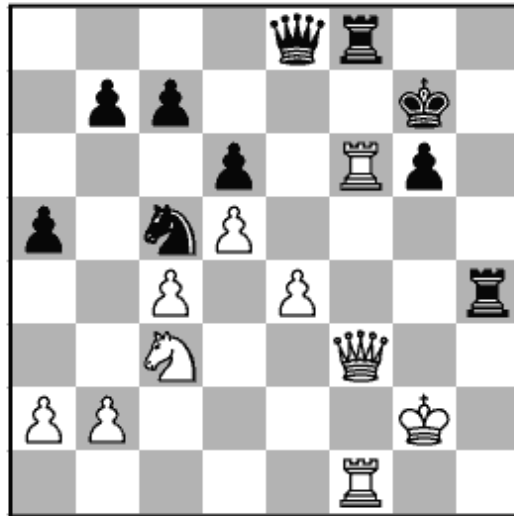
550) White to play

[solution](#)



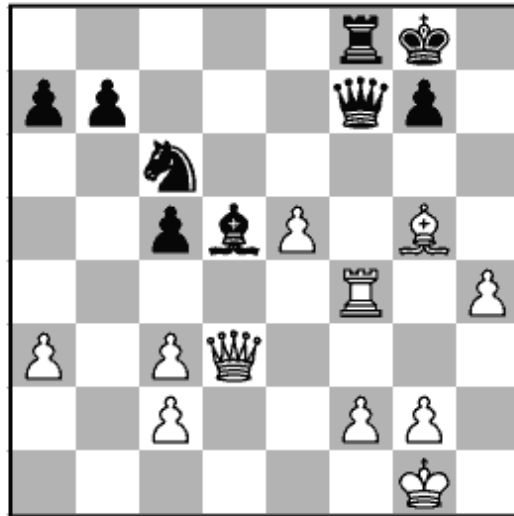
551) Black to play

[solution](#)



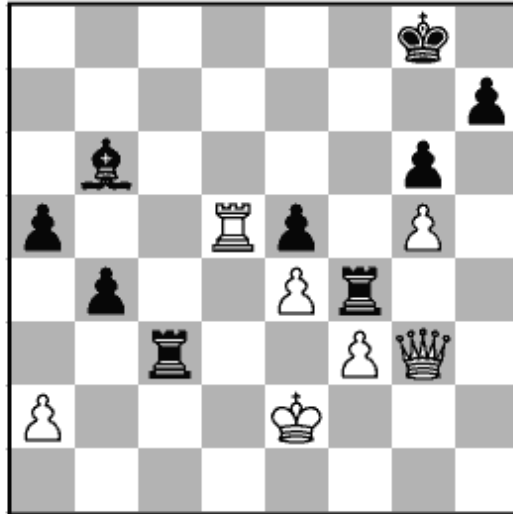
552) Black to play

[solution](#)



553) Black to play

[solution](#)



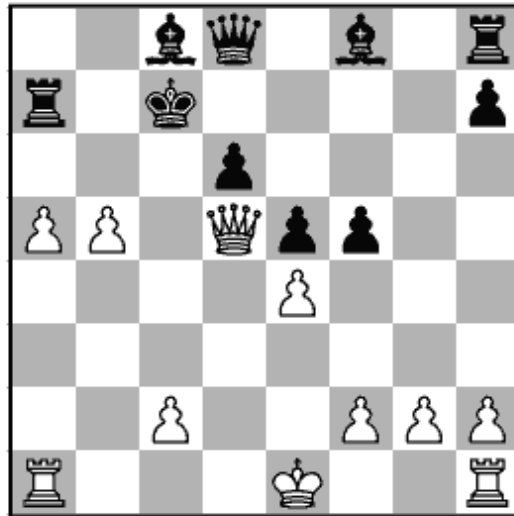
554) Black to play

[solution](#)



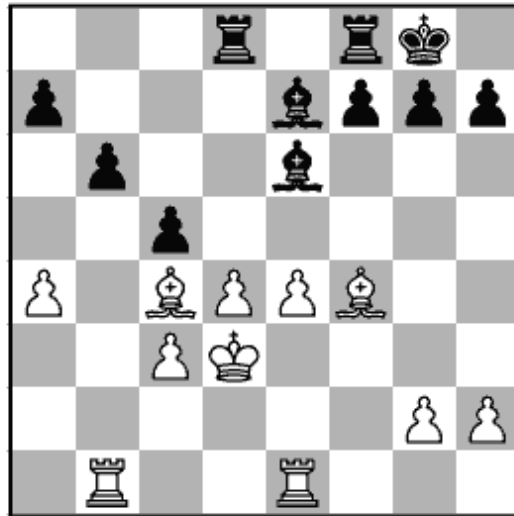
555) Black to play

[solution](#)



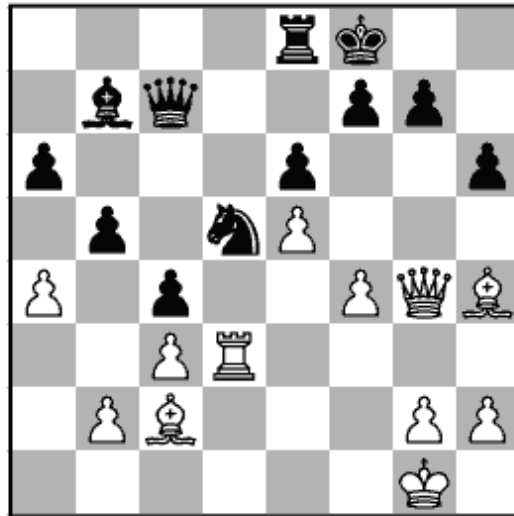
556) Black to play

[solution](#)



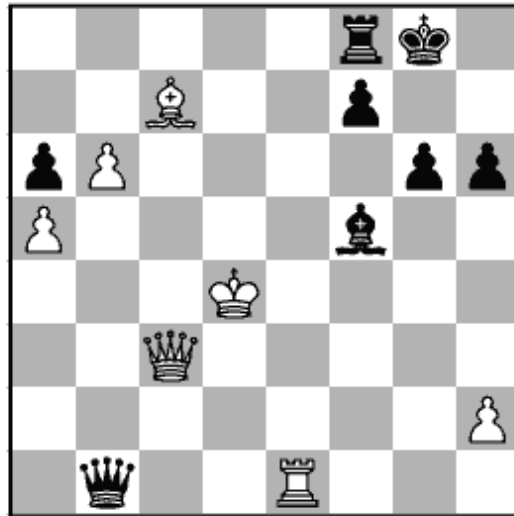
557) White to play

[solution](#)



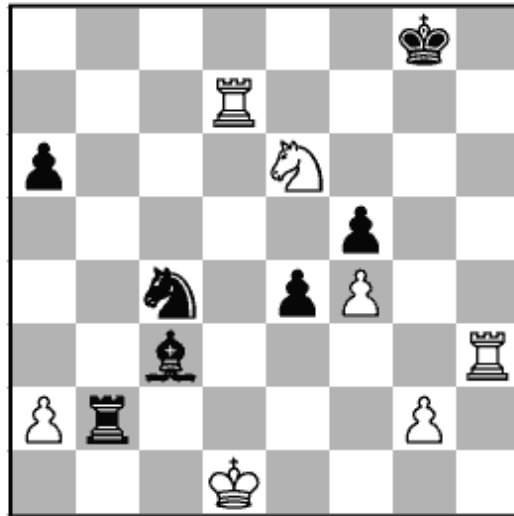
558) White to play

[solution](#)



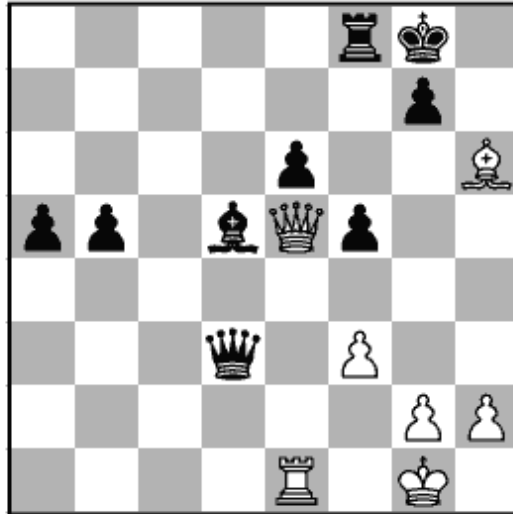
559) Black to play

[solution](#)



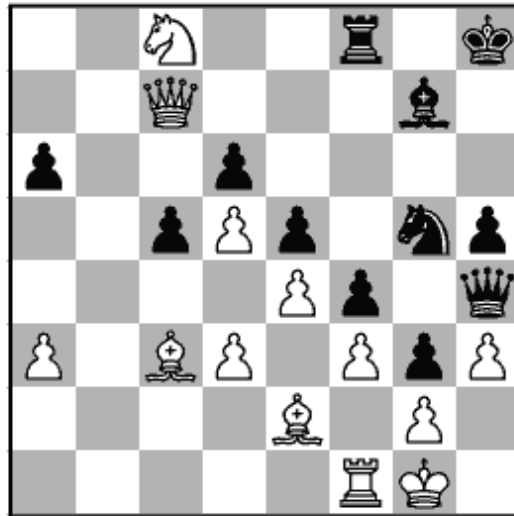
560) Black to play

[solution](#)



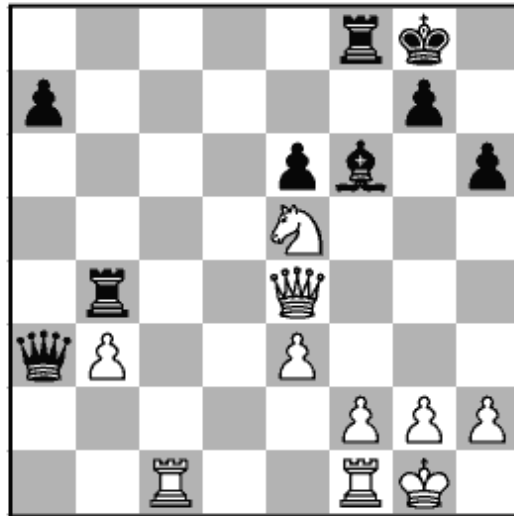
561) Black to play

[solution](#)



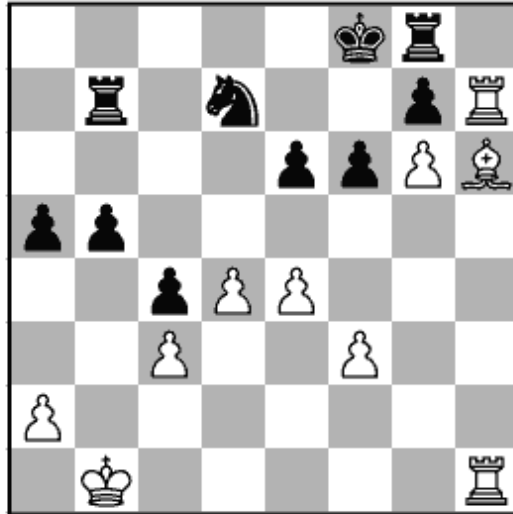
562) White to play

[solution](#)



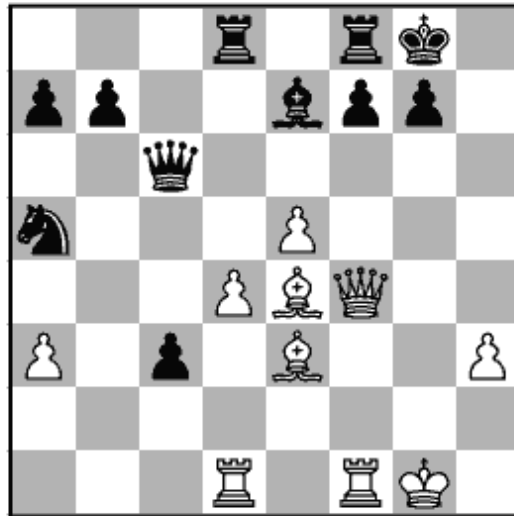
563) White to play

[solution](#)



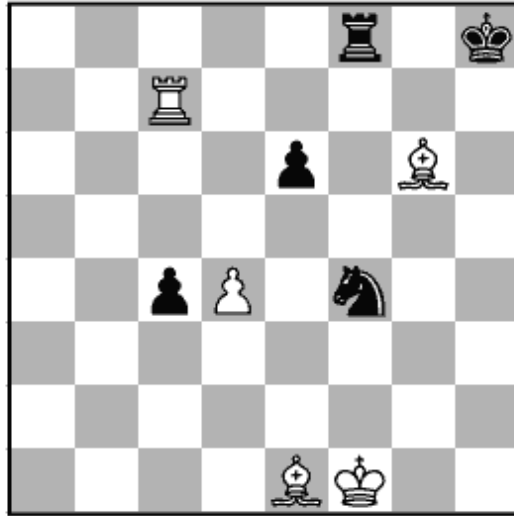
564) White to play

[solution](#)



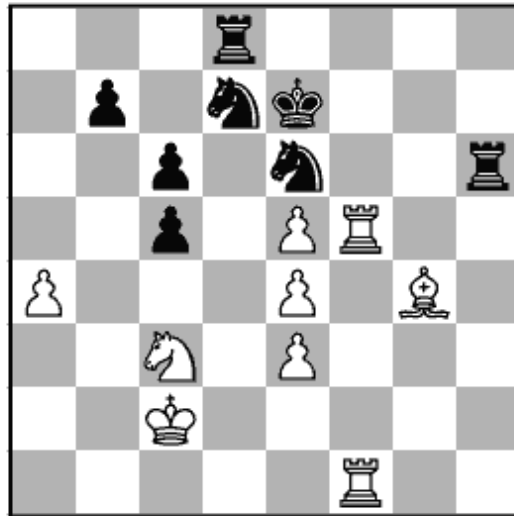
565) Black to play

[solution](#)



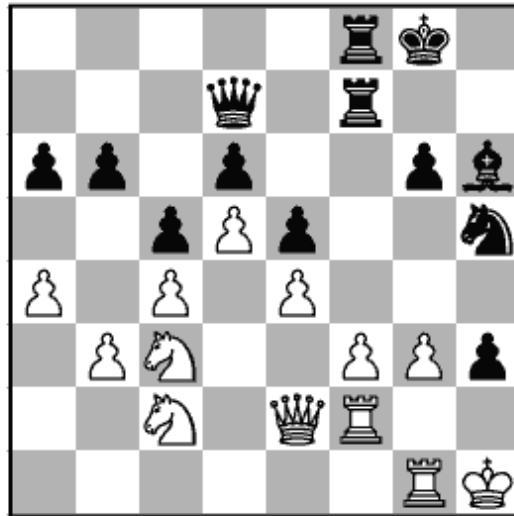
566) White to play

[solution](#)



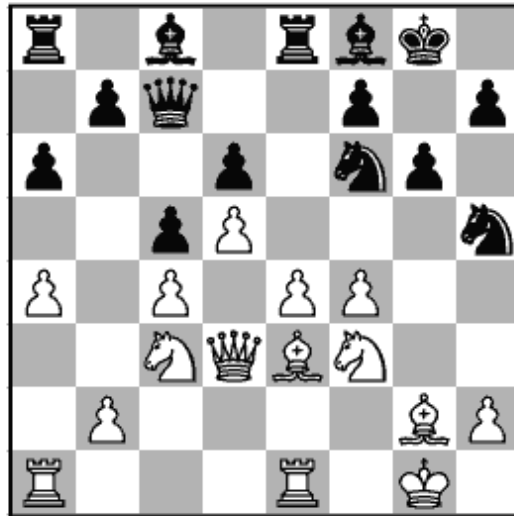
567) White to play

[solution](#)



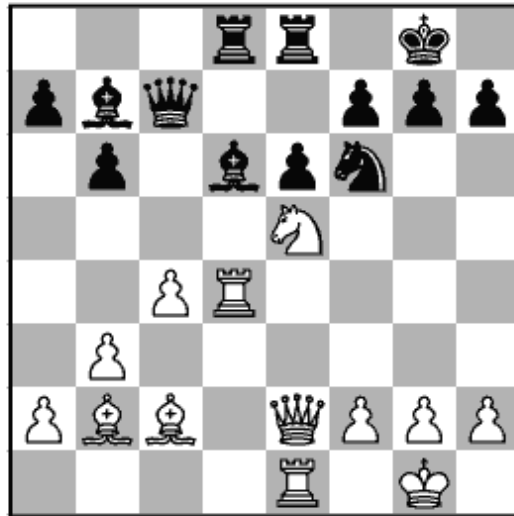
568) Black to play

[solution](#)



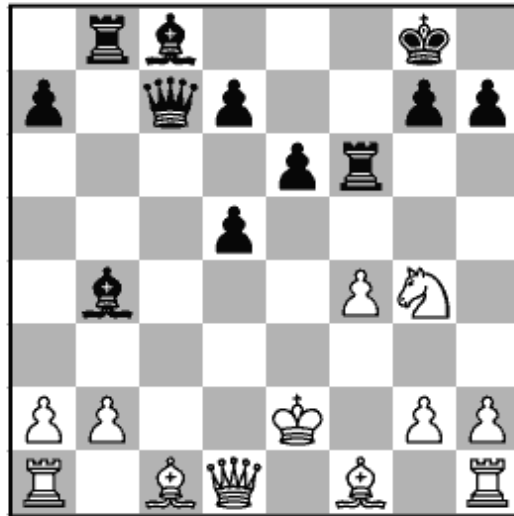
569) Black to play

[solution](#)



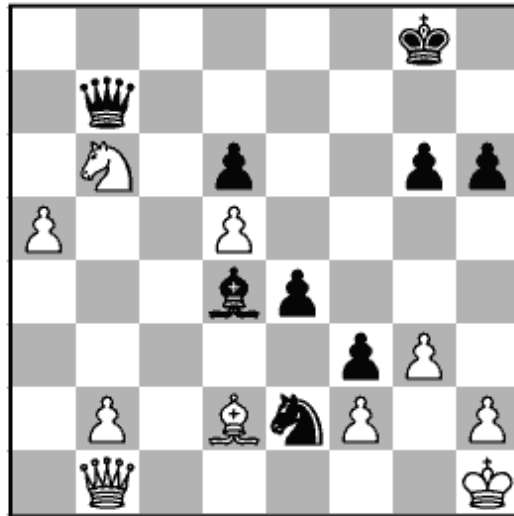
570) Black to play

[solution](#)



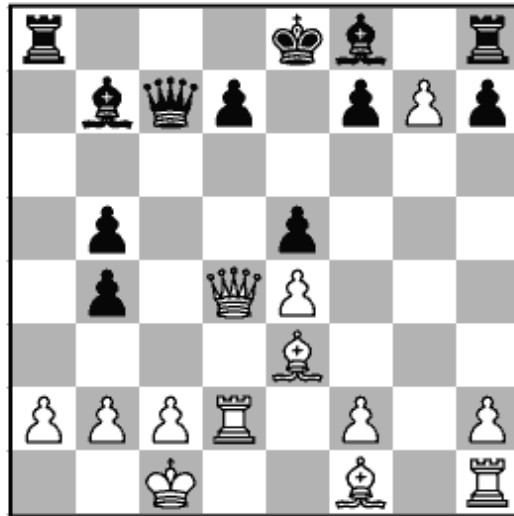
571) Black to play

[solution](#)



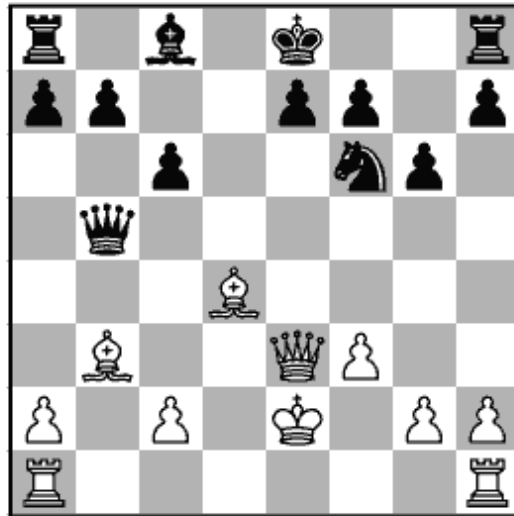
572) Black to play

[solution](#)



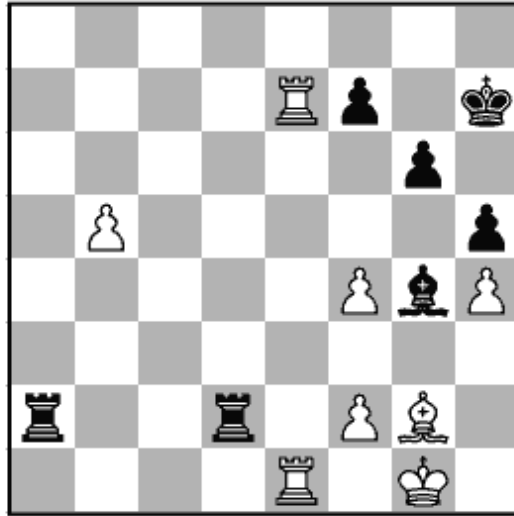
573) Black to play

[solution](#)



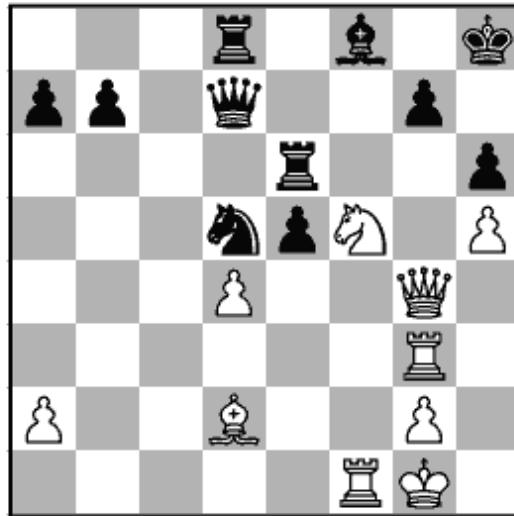
574) White to play

[solution](#)



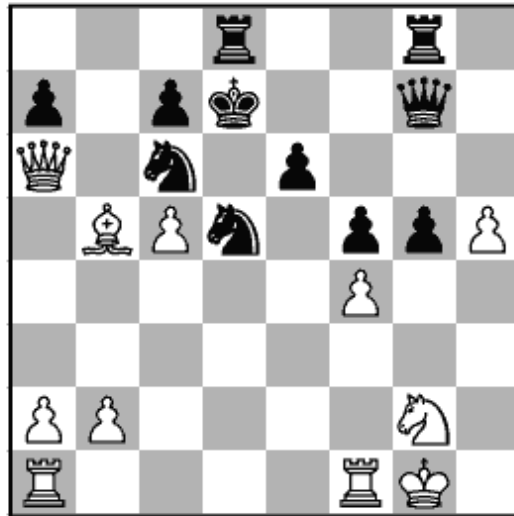
575) Black to play

[solution](#)



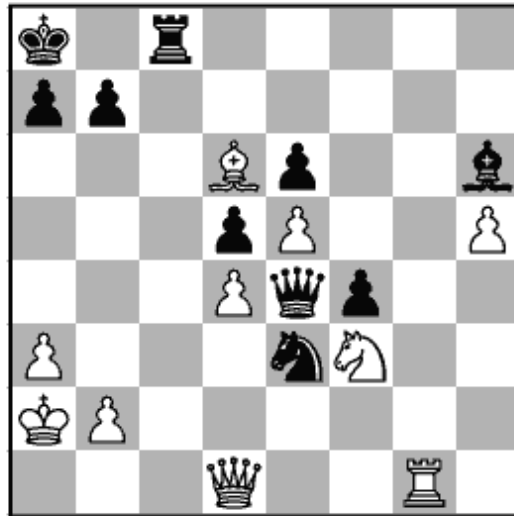
576) White to play

[solution](#)



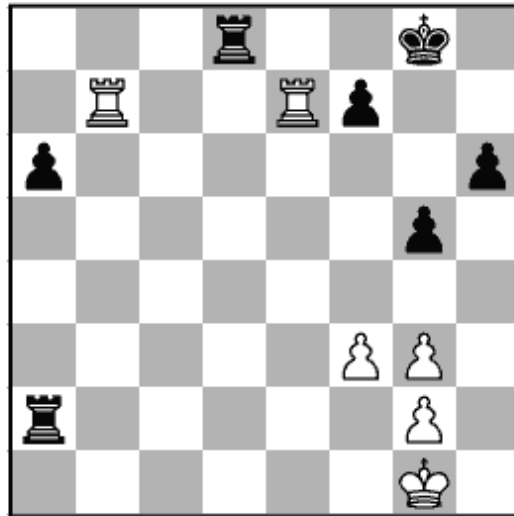
577) Black to play

[solution](#)



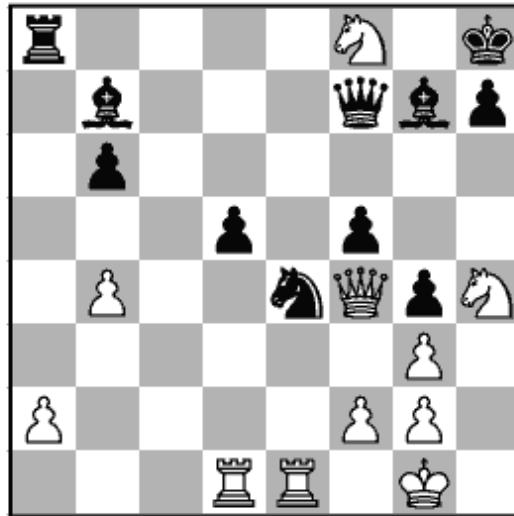
578) White to play

[solution](#)



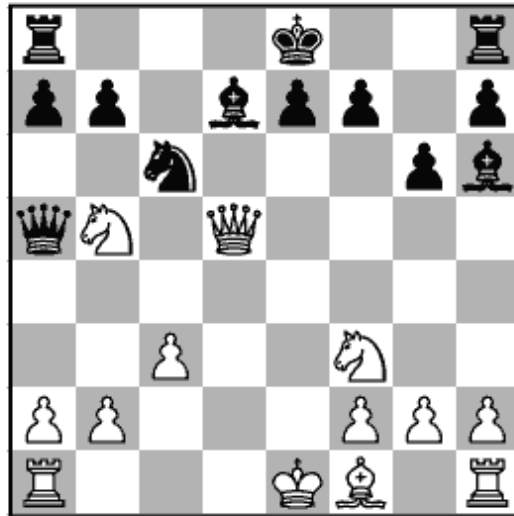
579) Black to play

[solution](#)



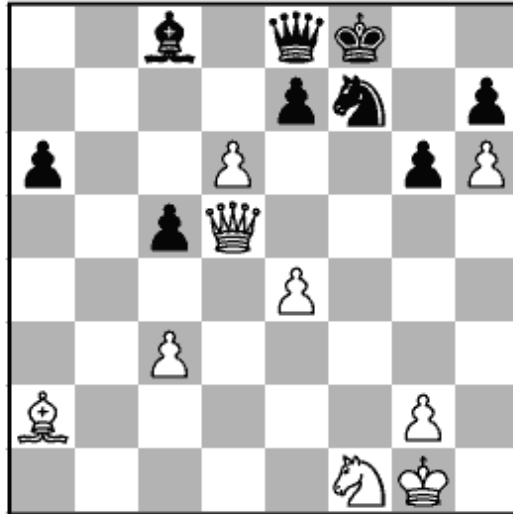
580) White to play

[solution](#)



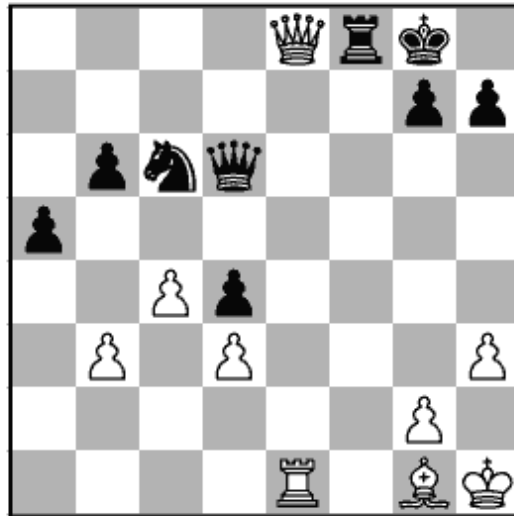
581) White to play

[solution](#)



582) White to play

[solution](#)



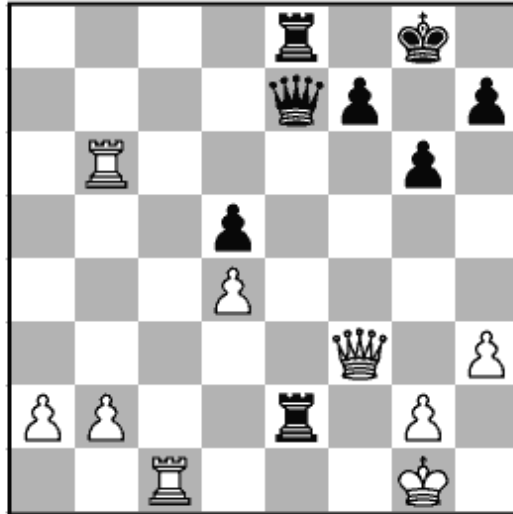
583) White to play

[solution](#)



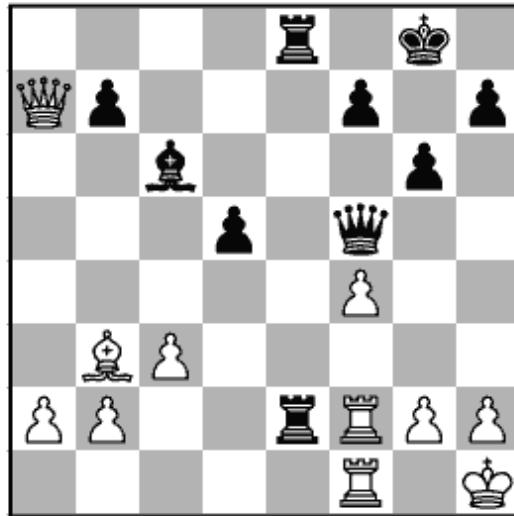
584) Black to play

[solution](#)



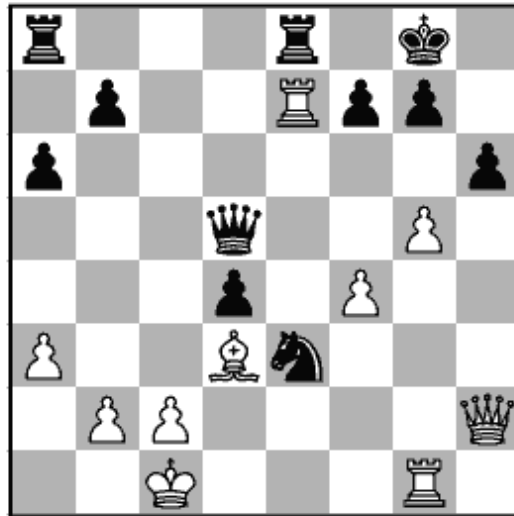
585) Black to play

[solution](#)



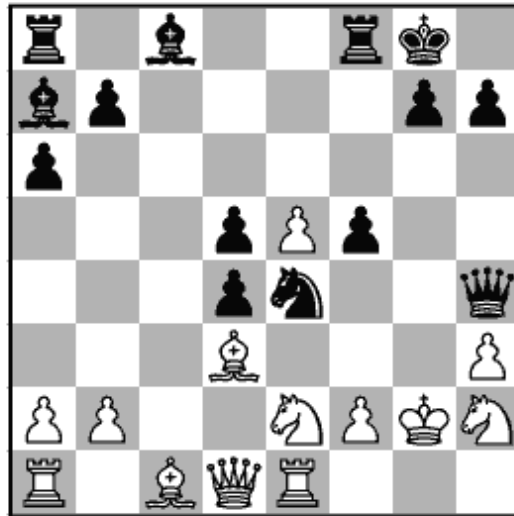
586) Black to play

[solution](#)



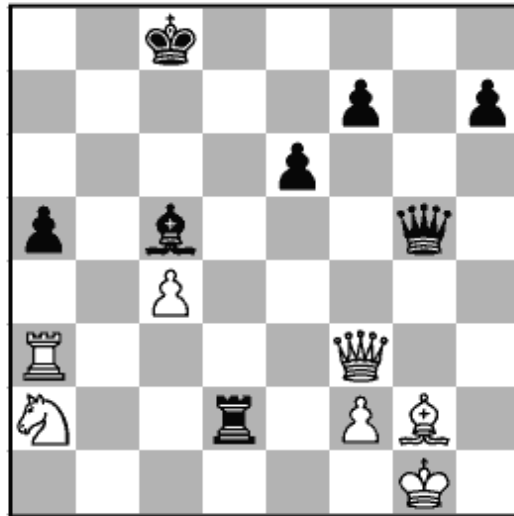
587) White to play

[solution](#)



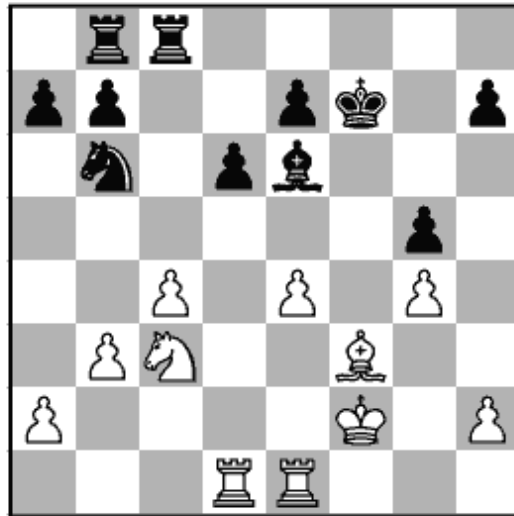
588) White to play

[solution](#)



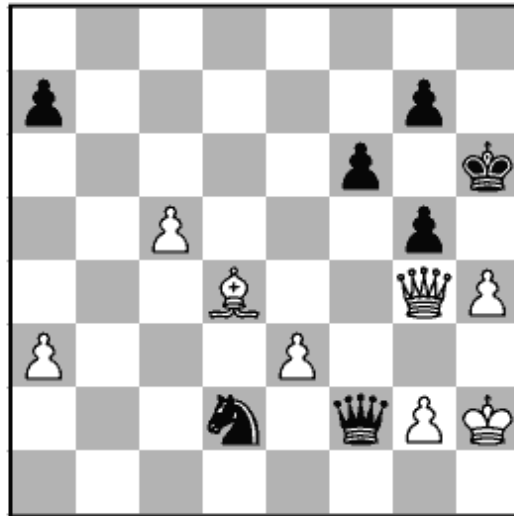
589) Black to play

[solution](#)



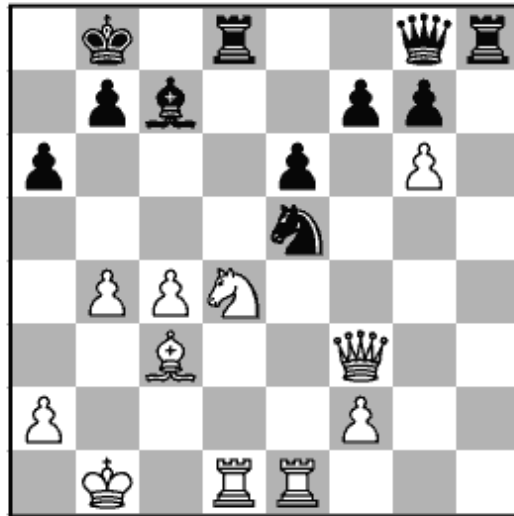
590) White to play

[solution](#)



591) Black to play

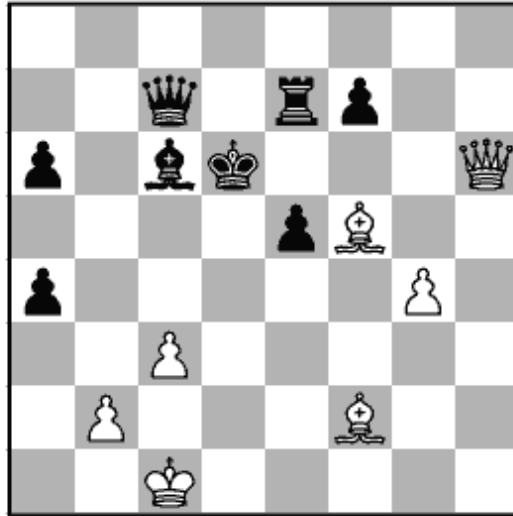
[solution](#)



592) White to play

[solution](#)

Solutions for Intermediate Puzzles



Black to play

358) So – Nihal

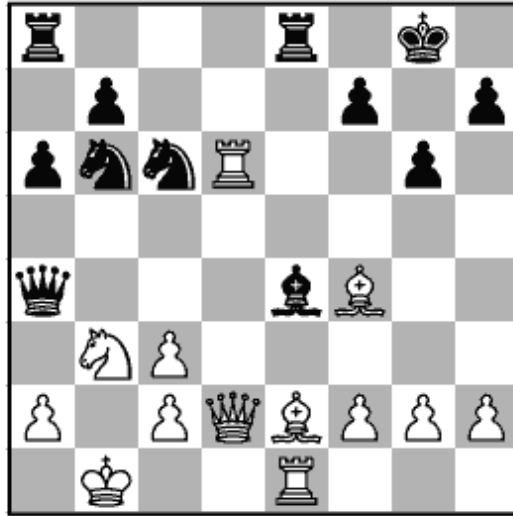
Internet rapid 2022

39...Re6!

In the game Black walked into a mating-net after 39...Kd5?? 40 Qd2+ Kc4 41 Qd3+ Kb3 42 c4+ Kb4 43 Qc3# (1-0).

40 Bxe6 fxe6 41 Qf8+ Kd7 42 Qf7+ Kc8 43 Qxe6+ Kb7 44 Bg3 Qd8 =

[back](#)



Black to play

359) Pranav – M. Pranesh
Delhi 2022

23...Bxc2+! 24 Kb2

24 Qxc2 Qxf4 –+.

24...Rxe2! 25 Qxe2

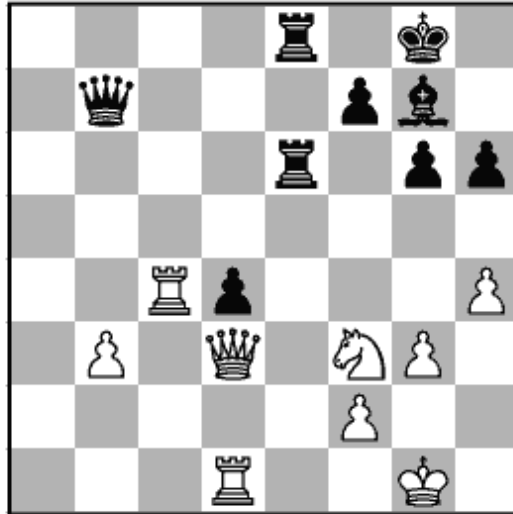
25 Rxe2 Nc4+ –+.

25...Nc4+

Also sufficient is 25...Bxb3 26 axb3 Qxf4 –+ (as played in the game) since Black's knights are much stronger than the white rook.

26 Kxc2 Nxd6 27 Bxd6 Qxa2+ 28 Kc1 Qxb3 –+

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Black to play

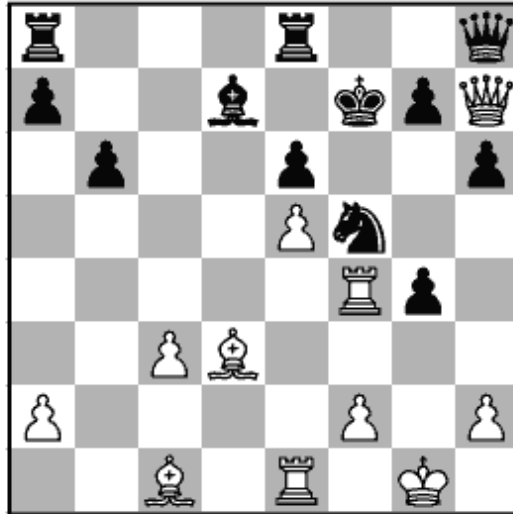
360) Sumets – Jarmula
Malaga 2022

34...Re3! 35 fxe3 Rxe3 36 Nxd4?

36 Qf1? Rxf3 –+. White's best try is 36 Ne1 Rxd3 37 Rxd3, though the endgame after 37...Qe4 38 Kf2 f5 is unpleasant for White.

36...Rxd3 37 Rxd3 Qe4 38 Rd1 Qe3+ 39 Kf1 Qxg3 –+

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White to play

361) Shyam – M. Pranesh

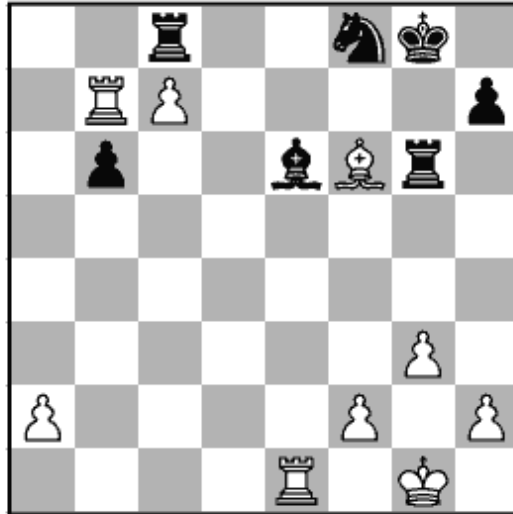
Commonwealth Ch, Waskaduwa 2022

27 Rxf5+! exf5 28 Bc4+ Ke7 29 Qg6

The black queen is stuck in the corner and is unable to assist.

29...Kd8 30 e6 +-

[back](#)



White to play

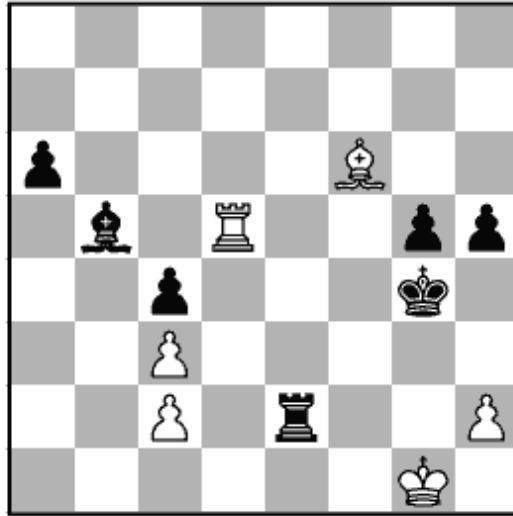
362) Schitco – Escalante Ramirez
Charlotte 2022

35 Rxe6! Kf7

35...Rxc7 36 Rxc7 Nxe6 37 Rc8+ Kf7 38 Be5 +—.

36 Rd6 Rxf6 37 Rd8 1-0

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Black to play

363) Mitsis – Moutousis

Greek Ch, Athens 2022

41...Kf4

The key point is to avoid 41...Rg2+?? (as played in the game), when White wins a rook: 42 Kxg2 Bc6 43 h3+ (Black resigned here) 43...Kf4 (43...Kh4 44 Bxg5#) 44 Bxg5+ Ke4 45 Rc5 +–.

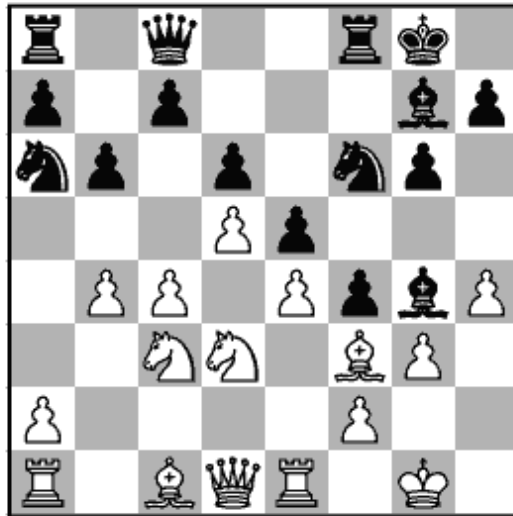
42 Rxc5

42 Bxg5+?! Kf3 43 Rf5+ Kg4 44 Rd5 Rxc2 favours Black.

42...Re6 43 Bd8 Re1+ 44 Kf2 Rc1 45 Rxh5 Rxc2+ 46 Ke1 Rxc3

Black has an extra pawn but White has reasonable drawing chances thanks to the opposite-coloured bishops.

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Black to play

364) N. Zemach – Tzidkiya
Israeli Ch, Arad 2022

20...fxg3 21 Bxg4

After 21 fxg3 Bxf3 22 Qxf3 Nxd5 Black wins material.

21...Qxg4 22 Qxg4 Nxg4 23 Kg2

23 fxg3 Rf3 24 Rd1 Rxg3+ –+.

23...Nxf2 24 Re3 Nxd3 0-1

[back](#)



White to play

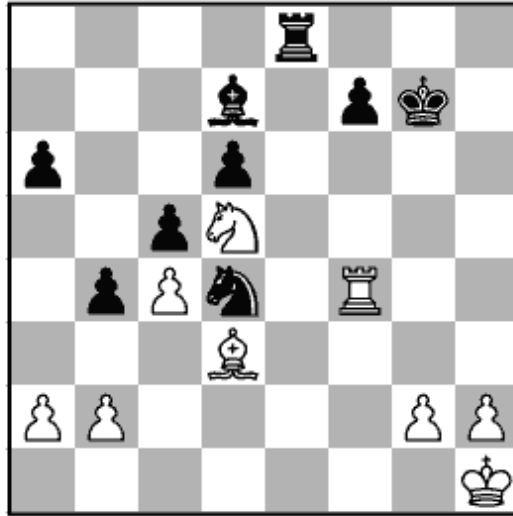
365) Ad. Kozak – A. Horvath
Hungarian Ch, Budapest 2022

22 Nxe5+! Qxe5

22...Kf8 23 Bxc5 Qxc5 24 Nd3 +–.

23 Bf4 Qd4 24 Rad1 +–

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Black to play

366) M.S. Hansen – Vasli
Danish Team Ch 2022/3

30...Bf5!

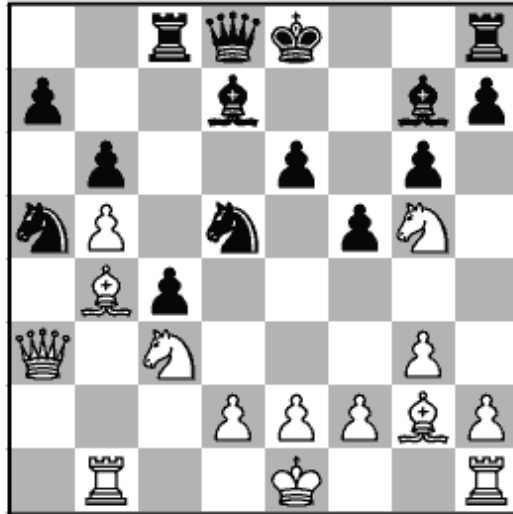
Black exploits White's weak back rank.

31 Bf1 Re1 32 Kg1 Bd3 33 b3

33 Rg4+ Kf8 –+.

33...Ne2+ 34 Kf2 Rxf1+ 0-1

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White to play

367) Sanal – Krastev

Sitges 2022

17 Nxd5 Qxg5

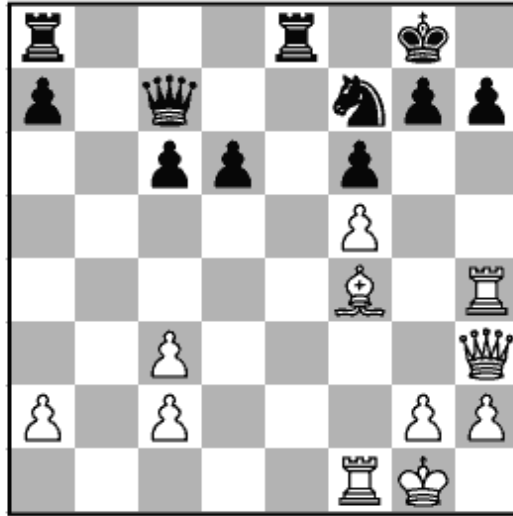
The game ended 17...exd5? 18 Qe3+ (forcing mate) 1-0.

18 h4 Qd8

18...Qh6 19 Ne7 Rd8 20 Nc6 +–.

**19 Be7 Bf8 20 Qc3 Bxe7 21 Qxh8+ Bf8 22 Nf6+ Kf7 23 Nxd7
Qxd7 24 Qxh7+ Bg7 25 h5 +–**

[back](#)



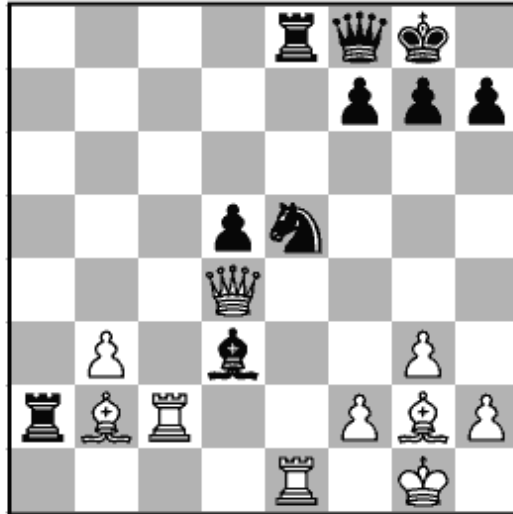
Black to play

368) Espinosa Veloz – C. Rios

Merida 2022

21...Qb6+ 22 Kh1 Qf2! 23 g4 Re1 24 Rxe1 Qxe1+ 25 Kg2 Re8 0-1

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White to play

369) Moroni – Maltsevskaia

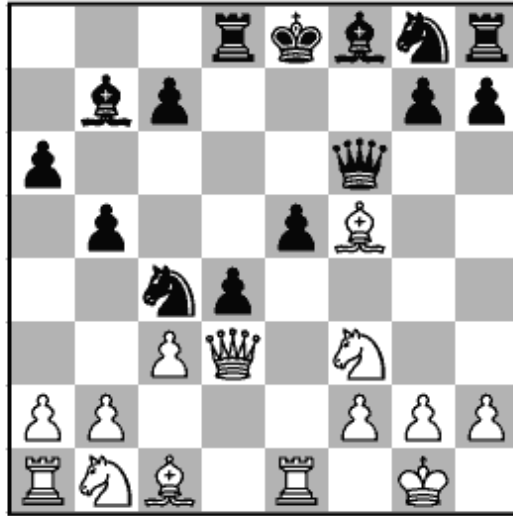
European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

23 Rxe5! Rxe5 24 Qxd3 Re1+ 25 Bf1 Ra8

The game ended 25...Qa8 26 Qc3 1-0.

26 Kg2 Rd8 27 Be2 d4 28 Bf3 +-

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White to play

370) Aveskulov – Krishnater
Budapest 2022

14 Bg5! dxc3 15 Bxf6

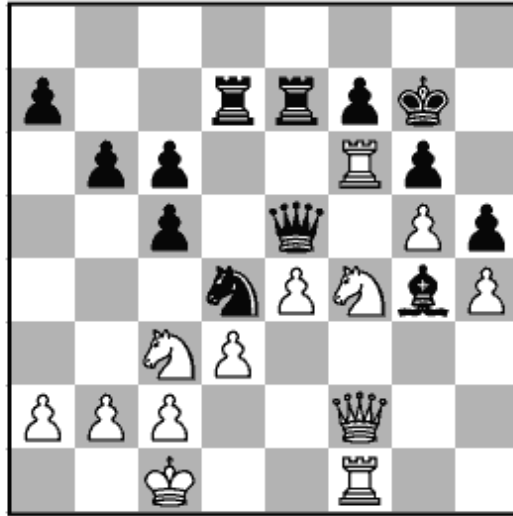
15 Nxe5 Rxd3 16 Bxf6 transposes.

15...Rxd3 16 Nxe5 gxf6

16...Nxf6 17 Nxd3+ Kd8 18 Nxc3 +-.

17 Nxd3+ Ne7 18 Nxc3 Nd6 19 Be6 1-0

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White to play

371) Mazé – Harff

Bundesliga 2021/2

27 Rxg6+! fxg6 28 Nxb5+ Kh7

28...gxh5 29 Qf8+ Kh7 30 Qh6+ Kg8 31 Rf8#.

29 Nf6+

Or 29 Qf8 Rg7 30 Nf6+ Qxf6 31 Rxf6 +-.

29...Kh8 30 Nxd7 1-0

In view of 30...Qg7 31 Nf6 Rf7 32 Qf4 +- or 30...Rxd7 31 Qf8+ Kh7 32 Qh6+ Kg8 33 Rf8#.

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Black to play

372) I. Grigoriev – D. Shapiro
Obninsk 2022

15...Nxe5! 16 dxe5

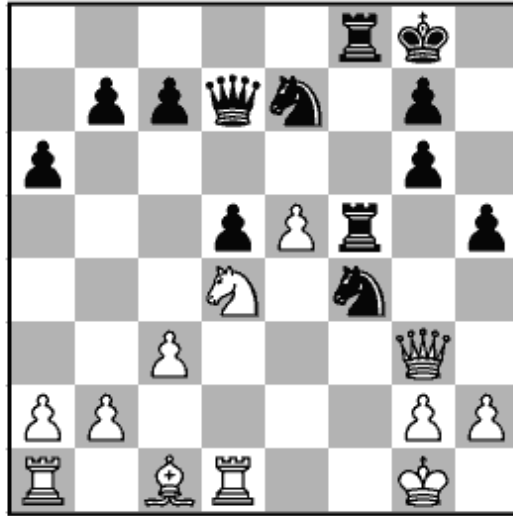
16 Bf4 Nc4 –+.

16...Bxe5 17 Qa4

17 Ra3 Bxb1 –+.

17...Qf6 0-1

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Black to play

373) Tregubov – Dubov

Internet rapid 2022

21...c5! 22 Bxf4

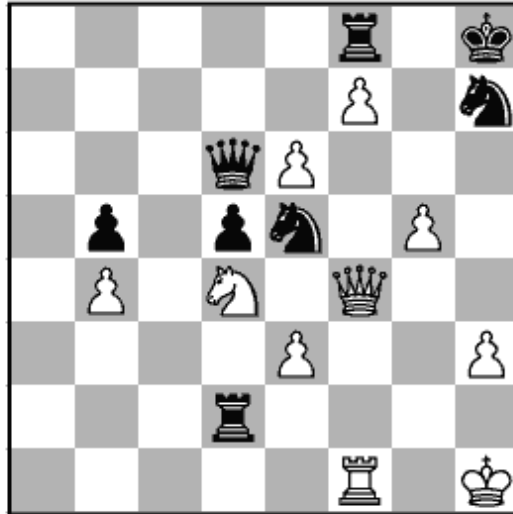
Black has a decisive material advantage after 22 Nxf5 Ne2+ 23 Kh1 Nxg3+ 24 Nxg3 Qg4 –+.

22...cxd4 23 Bg5

23 Bd2 dxc3 24 Bxc3 Nc6 25 Qxg6 d4 26 e6 Qe7 27 Bd2 Ne5 28 Qg3 Qxe6 –+.

23...dxc3 24 bxc3 Nc6 25 Re1 Qe6 –+

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White to play

374) Vidit – Salem

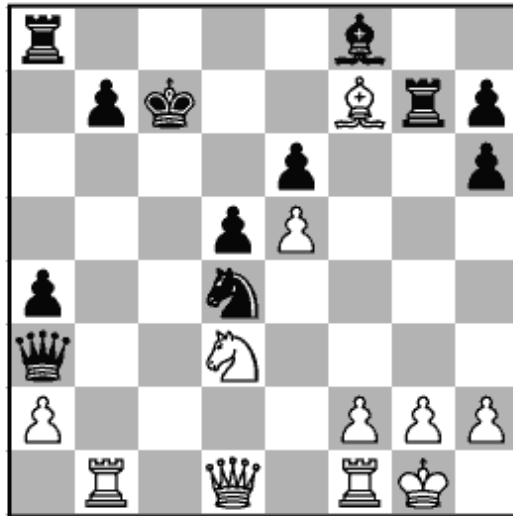
Internet rapid 2022

42 g6! Rxd4 43 Rg1!

43 exd4 (as played in the game) wins in slower fashion: 43...Nxf7 (the best try) 44 exf7! Qxg6 45 Qe5+ Qg7 and now 46 h4! +- puts Black in zugzwang.

43...Nxg6 44 Qxd6 +-

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White to play

375) Vokhidov – Grishchuk

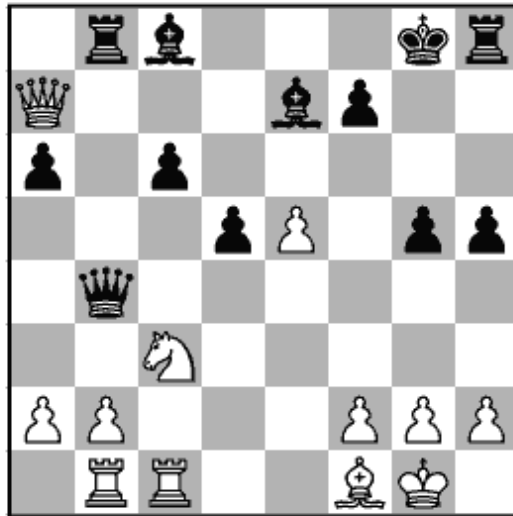
Internet rapid 2022

19 Nf4! Nf3+ 20 Kh1 Rxf7 21 Nxe6+ Kb8

21...Kc6 22 Qe2 Kd7 23 Nxf8+ Ke8 24 Ne6 +—.

22 Qxd5 Bb4 23 gxf3 Ra6 24 Nc5 1-0

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White to play

376) I. Can – Martin Duque
Purtichju 2022

22 Nb5! Bf5

22...Rb7 23 Qxa6 +–.

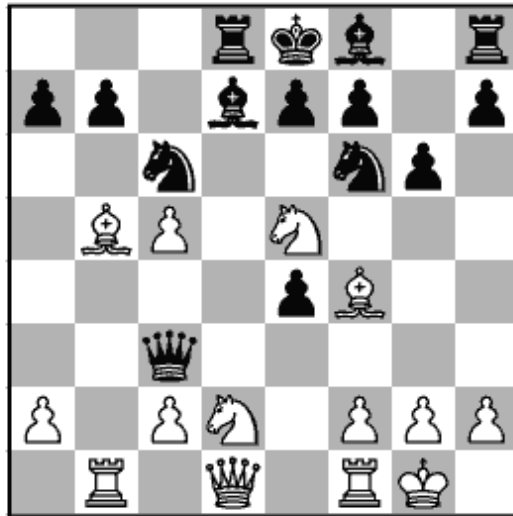
23 a3 Qf4 24 Qxb8+ Kg7 25 Qa7 Bxb1

The game ended 25...Re8 26 Nc7 1-0.

26 Rxb1 Qxe5 27 Nd4 +–

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White to play

378) Šebenik – Brilej

Slovenian Ch, Radenci 2022

12 Nxd7 Nxd7

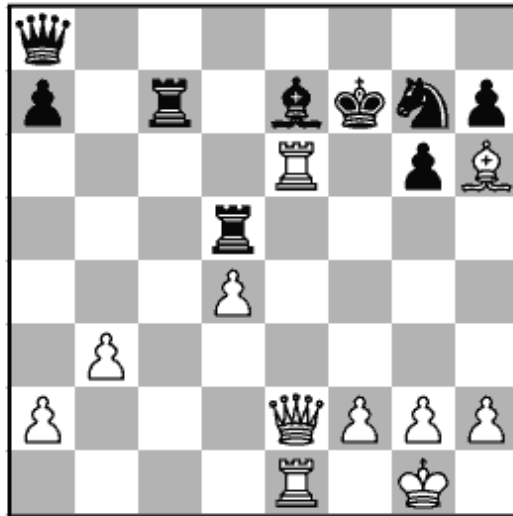
The game ended 12...Rxd7 13 Bxc6 bxc6 14 Rb8+ 1-0 (in view of 14...Rd8 15 Rxd8+ Kxd8 16 Nxe4+, winning the black queen).

13 Bxc6 bxc6 14 Nxe4 Qg7

14...Qc4 15 Re1 +–.

15 Bc7 Rc8 16 Nd6+ exd6 17 Re1+ Ne5 18 cxd6 +–

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Black to play

379) Aravindh – Peralta
Benasque 2022

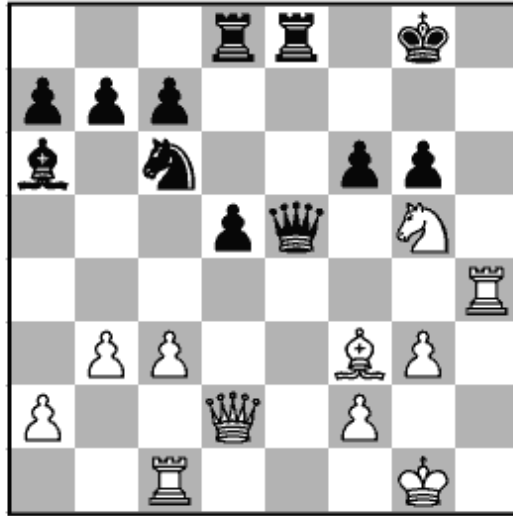
26...Bb4!

After 26...Bf6? (as played in the game) White could have sacrificed the exchange to obtain a playable game: 27 Rxf6+! Kxf6 28 Qf3+ Nf5 29 g4 Qc6 30 gxf5 Rxf5 31 Qg3 with roughly equal chances due to Black's vulnerable king.

27 Qf3+ Kg8 28 R6e5 Rd8 –+

Black's extra piece is much stronger than White's three pawns.

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White to play

380) Ya. Quesada Perez – K. Holm

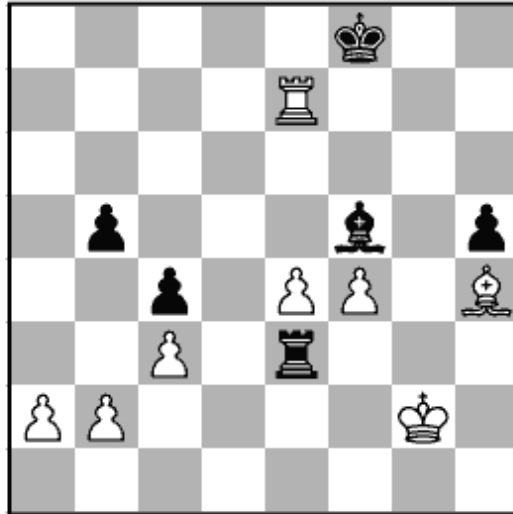
Benasque 2022

24 Nf7! Kxf7 25 Rh7+ Ke6

Or: 25...Kf8? 26 Qh6+ Kg8 27 Qg7#; 25...Kg8? 26 Qh6 also leads to mate.

26 Re1 +-

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White to play

381) Kaliksteyn – L. Zhou
New York 2022

47 Re5!

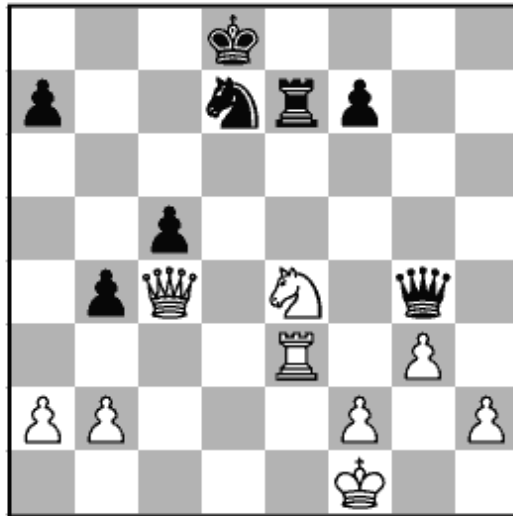
The king and pawn endgame is a draw after 47 exf5? Rxe7 48 Bxe7+ Kxe7 49 b4! (the game ended 49 b3?? b4! 0-1) 49...Kf7 =.

47...Bxe4+

47...Bg4 48 Bf2 Rd3 49 f5 +–.

48 Kg1 Re2 49 Bf2 Bf3 50 Rxb5 +–

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Black to play

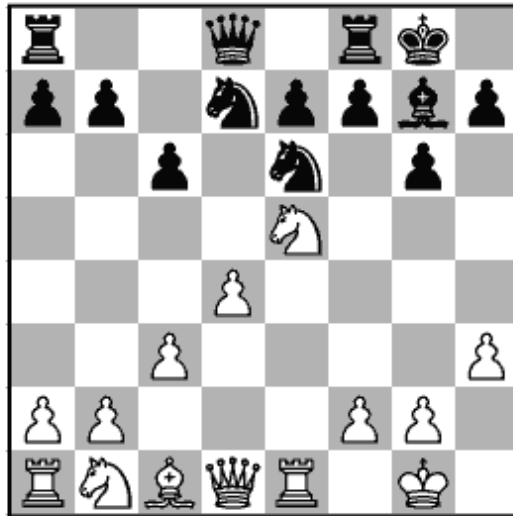
382) Ohanyan – Predke
Paraćin 2022

27...f5! 28 f3

White loses a piece after 28 Nd2 Qd1+ 29 Kg2 Rxe3 30 fxe3 Qxd2+ –+.

28...Qh3+ 29 Kg1 Qh6 –+

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White to play

383) N. Steinberg – Vokhidov

Internet rapid 2022

13 Nxf7!

White exploits the vulnerable position of the knight on e6.

13...Kxf7

13...Rxf7 14 Rxe6 +/-.

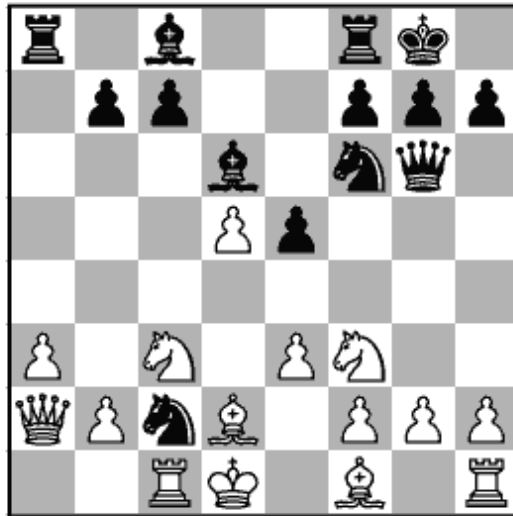
14 Qb3 Ne5

14...Nc5 was played in the game, and White consolidated his extra pawn: 15 dxc5 Qd5 16 Be3 Qxb3 17 axb3 Rfd8 18 Na3 +/-.

15 dxe5 Qd5 16 Nd2 +/-

White has an extra pawn and good chances to win.

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Black to play

384) Hillarp Persson – Baklan

Århus 2022

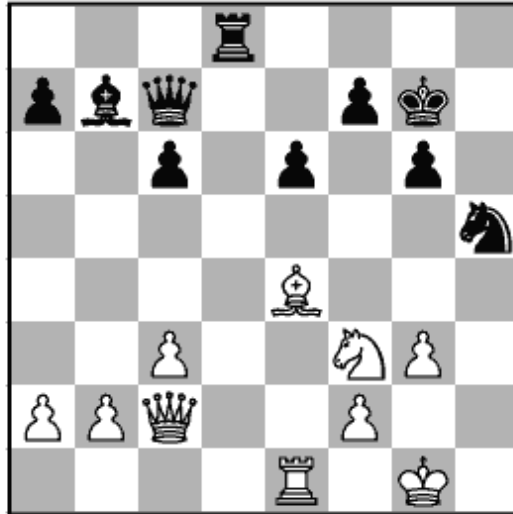
17...Ng4! 18 Ke2

18 Be1 Ngxe3+ 19 fxe3 Nxe3+ 20 Kd2 (in the game 20 Ke2 e4 –+ led quickly to victory for Black) 20...e4 21 Nh4 Qh6 –+.

18...Bf5 19 Rxc2 Bxc2 20 Ne1 Nf6 –+

Black has a material advantage and a strong attack.

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White to play

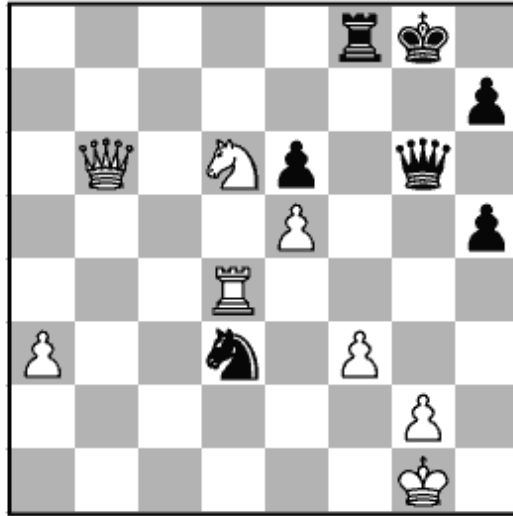
385) B. Ochsner – G. Nagy
Århus 2022

24 Bxg6! Nxg3

Black's loose bishop on b7 is his downfall after 24...fxg6 25 Rxe6 Qf7 26 Ng5 Qf5 27 Re7+ +–.

25 Ne5! Rh8 26 Bxf7 c5 27 Qg6+ Kf8 28 f3 +–

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Black to play

386) Salem – Esipenko

Biel rapid 2022

39...Ne1! 40 Kf2

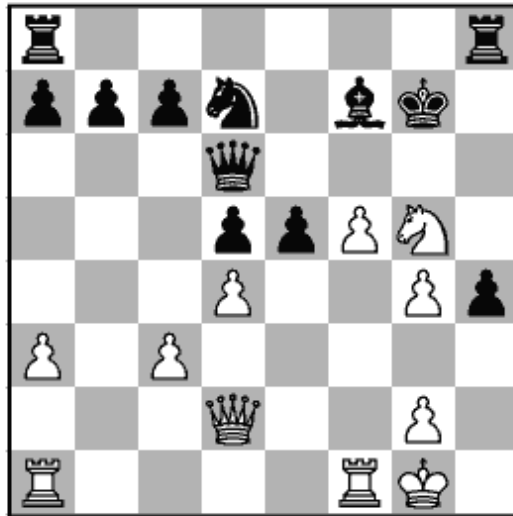
White's major pieces are unable to defend the g2-pawn; for example, 40 Rd2 Nxf3+ –+.

40...Qxg2+ 41 Kxe1 Rxf3 42 Qd8+ Rf8 43 Nf5

43 Ne4 Qf1+ (Black improves the position of his own queen before capturing the white queen) 44 Kd2 Qf4+ 45 Kd3 Qf3+ 46 Kc4 Qe2+ 47 Kc5 Rxd8 48 Rxd8+ Kg7 49 Rd4 Qe3 –+.

43...Rxd8 44 Rxd8+ Kf7 45 Nh6+ Ke7 0-1

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White to play

387) Motylev – Huschenbeth
Biel 2022

24 Ne6+! Bxe6

24...Kh7 25 Qg5 +–.

25 Qg5+

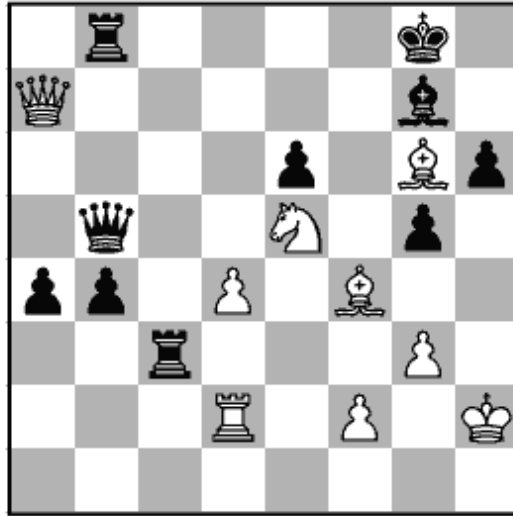
White exploits the black king's lack of pawn-cover.

25...Kf8

25...Kf7 26 fxe6++ Kxe6 27 Qg6+ Ke7 28 Qg7+ +–.

26 fxe6+ Ke8 27 Qg7 +–

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Black to play

388) Giri – Duda

Internet rapid 2022

40...Qb7!

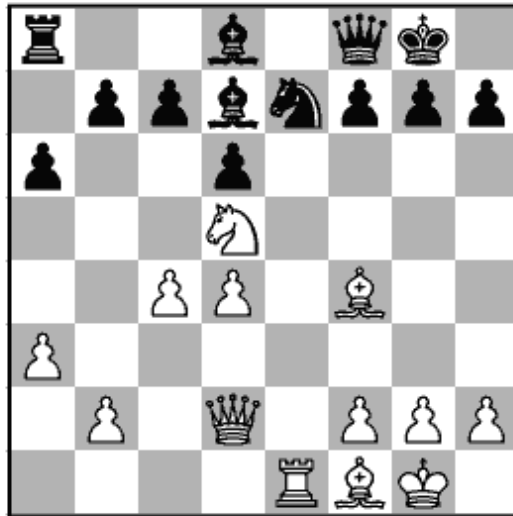
Black must keep White's queen away from the kingside; for example, 40...gxf4?? 41 Qf7+ Kh8 42 Be4 fxe3+ 43 Kg2 Qe8 44 Ng6+ Kh7 45 Ne7+ Kh8 46 Qxe6 gxf2 47 Rxf2 +–.

41 Bf7+ Kf8 42 Qa5

42 Qxb8+ Qxb8 43 Nd7+ Kxf7 44 Nxb8 gxf4 –+.

42...Ra8 43 Nd7+ Kxf7 0-1

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White to play

389) J. Willow – McPhillips

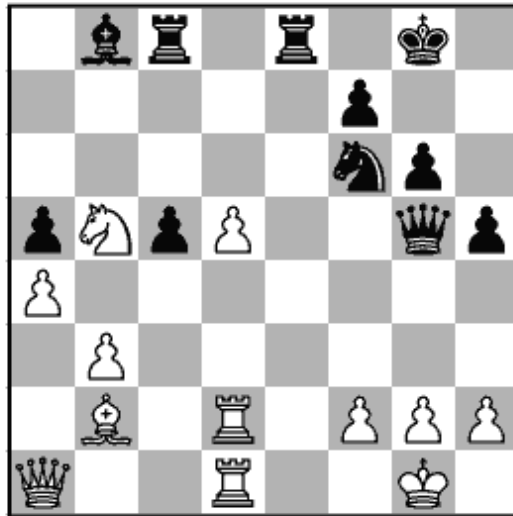
London 2022

19 Nf6+! Kh8

Black's queen runs low on squares after 19...gxf6 20 Bh6 Qe8 21 Qf4 +—.

20 Nxd7 Qe8 21 Nb6 cxb6 22 Bxd6 Qd7 23 Qf4 +—

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Black to play

390) Gorbatov – Nozdrachev
Moscow 2022

29...Bxh2+! 30 Kf1

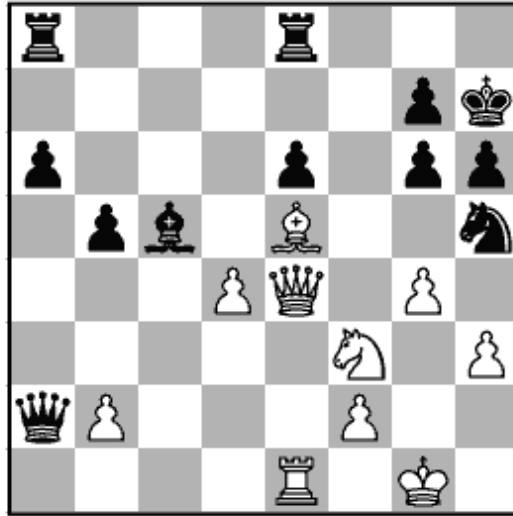
30 Kh1 Ng4 –+; 30 Kxh2 Qh4+ 31 Kg1 Ng4 –+.

30...Ng4!

Black increases the pressure on the kingside. Not 30...Qh4?? 31 Bxf6 (in the game 31 Rd3?? Ng4 –+ gave Black a winning attack) 31...g5 32 Qc3 +–. But 30...Ne4! is also strong.

31 Qc1 Qf5 32 Re1 Bg3 –+

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White to play

391) Tabatabaei – Popilski

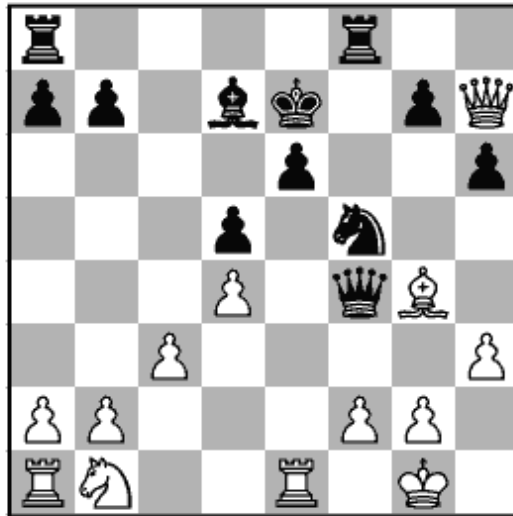
Internet rapid 2022

27 gxh5!

Black is in trouble because his queen is far away from the kingside. Less effective is 27 dxc5? Nf6 28 Bxf6 gxf6 with roughly equal chances.

27...Bf8 28 Qxg6+ Kg8 29 Nh2 Qa5 30 Re3 Qd8 31 Rg3 Ra7 32 Ng4 Kh8 33 Nf6 1-0

[back](#)



Black to play

392) Vokhidov – Suleymanli

Internet rapid 2022

20...Kf6!

Black covers the g6-square, preparing to trap the white queen with ...Rh8.

After 20...Kd6? (as played in the game) White could have obtained counterplay with 21 c4.

21 g3

21 Bh5 Qg5 22 g4 Be8 23 Bxe8 Rxe8 –+.

21...Qd6

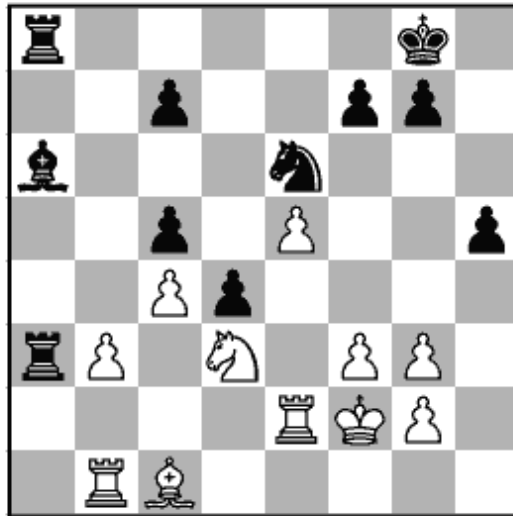
Or 21...Nxg3 22 Qd3 Ne4 23 Qe3 Ke7 24 Qxf4 Rxf4 –+ with a winning endgame for Black.

22 Bh5 Be8 23 Bxe8

23 g4 Bxh5 24 gxh5 Ke7 –+.

23...Rxe8 24 g4 Rh8 25 Qxh8 Rxh8 26 gxf5 Qf4 –+

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Black to play

393) M. Pap – Kelires
Paleochora 2022

36...Bxc4! 37 Nxc5

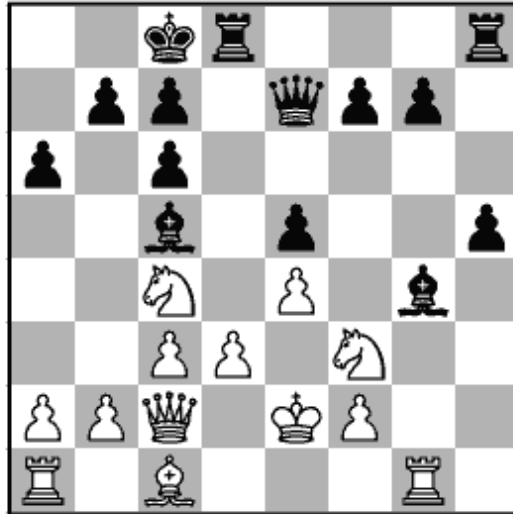
Or: 37 bxc4 Rxd3 –+; 37 Bxa3 Bxd3 –+.

37...Bxe2 38 Bxa3

38 Nxe6 Bd3 39 Bxa3 Bxb1 –+.

38...Rxa3 39 Nxe6 Ra2 40 Nxd4 Bd3+ 0-1

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White to play

394) Anand – D. Fridman
Dortmund 2022

16 Nxe5!

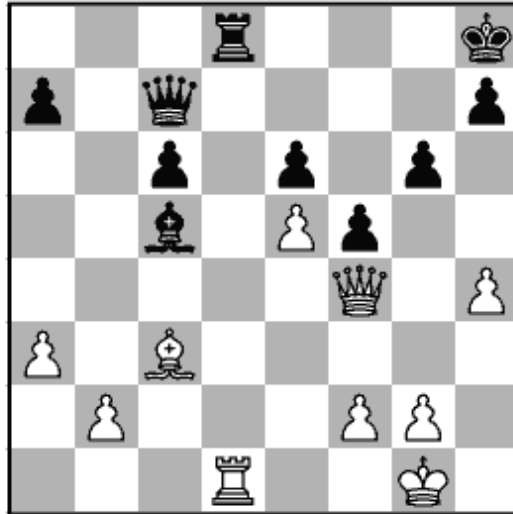
The most incisive. After 16 Be3 (as played in the game) White retained a material advantage, but Black would have had some chances of hanging on after 16...Bd6 +/-.

16...Qe6

16...Qxe5 17 Rxc4 +/-.

17 Nxc4 hxc4 18 Nd4 Bxd4 19 cxd4 Rxd4 20 Be3 +/-

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White to play

395) Kevlishvili – Agopov
Jyväskylä 2022

29 Rd6! Kg8

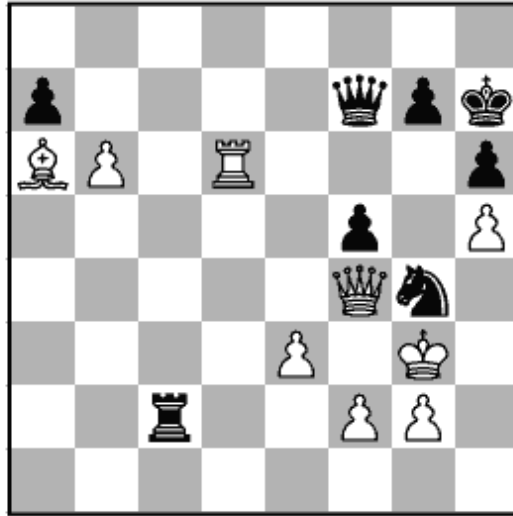
White wins material after 29...Re8 30 b4 Bb6 31 Qc4 +—.

30 Rxe6 Rd1+

30...Qd7 31 Rf6 +—.

31 Kh2 Qd7 32 Rf6 +—

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Black to play

396) Duda – Ivanchuk
Internet rapid (6) 2022

37...Qxh5!

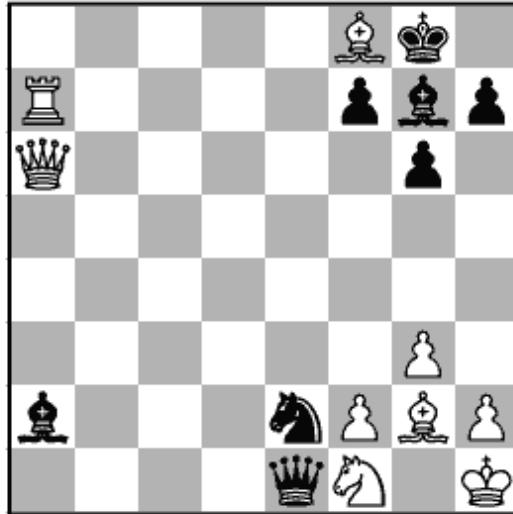
After 37...Nxf2? 38 bxa7 Ne4+ (as played in the game) White could have safeguarded his king by 39 Kh2 Qxh5+ 40 Kg1 Ra2, with equal chances in a very sharp position.

38 Qxf5+

38 Rxh6+ gxh6 39 Qc7+ Rxc7 40 bxc7 Qh2+ 41 Kf3 Qxc7 –+.

38...Qxf5 39 Bd3 Qxd3 40 Rxd3 Nf6 41 bxa7 Ra2 –+

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Black to play

397) Wageih – Djabri
African Ch, Giza 2023

26...Bd5!

This intermezzo wins for Black; not 26...Bxf8? 27 Qf6 Bd5 28 Ra1 Nc1 29 f3 +–.

27 Qxe2

Or: 27 Bxd5 Qxf1#; 27 f3 Bxf3 –+.

27...Qxe2 28 Kg1 Bd4 0-1

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White to play

398) Grachev – Savitskiy
Novorossiysk 2022

14 Bxf7+!

White exploits the pressure along the c-file.

14...Kh8

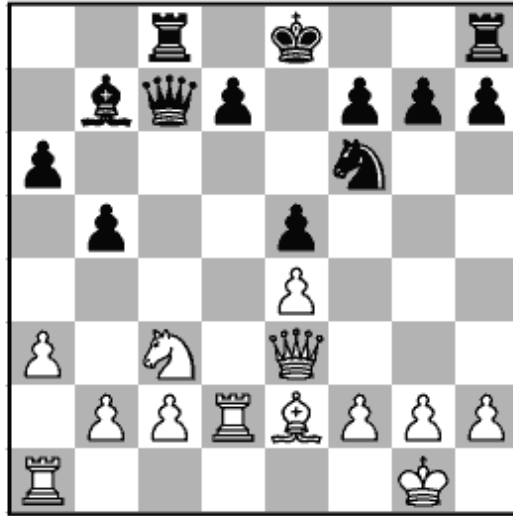
Or: 14...Rxf7 15 Rxc8+ Rf8 16 Qb3+ e6 17 Rxf8+ Kxf8 18 Bxg7+ Kxg7 19 Qc3+ +–; 14...Kxf7 15 Qb3+ e6 16 Ng5+ Kg8 17 Bxg7 Kxg7 18 Nxe6+ Kh8 19 Nxf8 Qxf8 20 Qc3+ Nf6 21 Qxc8 +–.

15 Qc2

White has a clear extra pawn and a huge lead in development. The game ended with:

15...Nb6 16 Ne4 Qd8 17 Rd1 1-0

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White to play

399) Bracker – Anuj
Sitges 2022

17 Bxb5! axb5

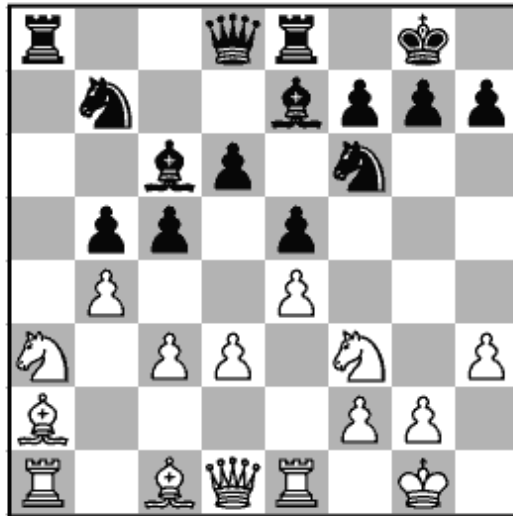
After 17...0-0 18 Be2 +- (or any other sensible retreat) White has a clear extra pawn.

18 Nxb5 Qc6 19 Nd6+ Kf8

19...Ke7 20 Qb3 +–.

20 Qb3 Ke7 21 Qxf7+ Kd8 22 Qxg7 +–

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White to play

400) Pijpers – J. Schröder
Kavala 2022

16 Bxf7+! Kxf7 17 Qb3+

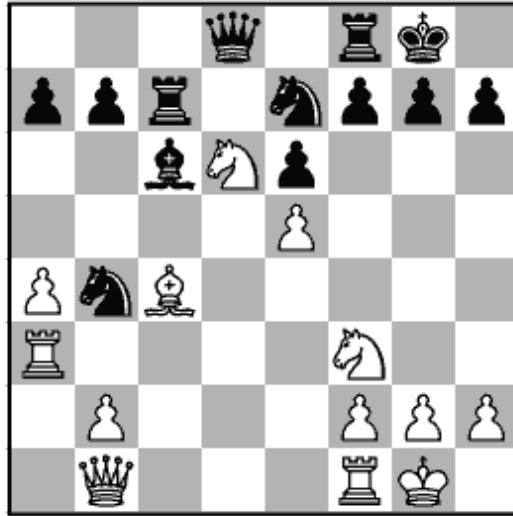
Both sides must be aware of this tactic in Ruy Lopez pawn-structures.

17...c4

17...Kf8 18 Ng5 c4 19 dxc4 Bd7 20 c5 d5 21 c6! +–.

18 dxc4 Bxe4 19 Ng5+ Kg8 20 Nxe4 Nxe4 21 Rxe4 +–

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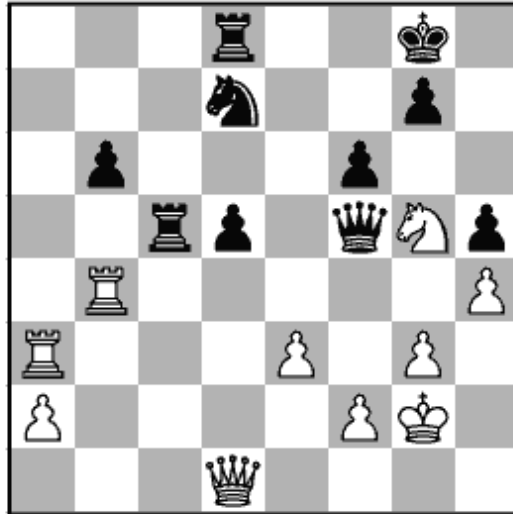


White to play

401) Repka – Durarbayli
Chennai Olympiad 2022

18 Ng5 Ng6 19 Nxe6! fxe6 20 Bxe6+ Rff7
20...Kh8 21 Qxg6! hxg6 22 Rh3+ Qh4 23 Rxh4#.
21 Nxf7 Rxf7 22 Qf5 +-

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White to play

403) Erturan – Stoyanov

Turkish Team Ch, Ankara 2022

40 Rf4 Qe5

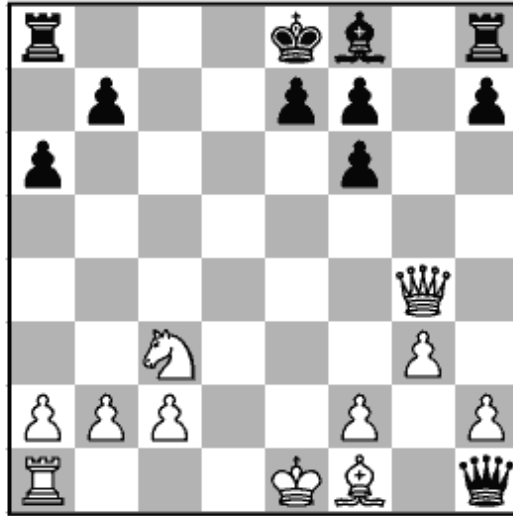
40...Qg6 41 Ne6 +–.

41 Qxh5! Nf8

White obtains access to the h-file after 41...fxg5 42 Qf7+ Kh8 43 hxg5 +–.

42 Qf7+ Kh8 43 Ra7 fxg5 44 Re7 +–

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White to play

404) Foldes – Yamada
Budapest 2023

13 Qa4+ b5

13...Qc6 14 Bb5! axb5 15 Qxa8+ Kd7 was played in the game Pechač-Aczel, Skalica 2022; then one promising line is 16 0-0-0+ Ke6 17 f4 +- with a winning attack for White because of Black's vulnerable king position.

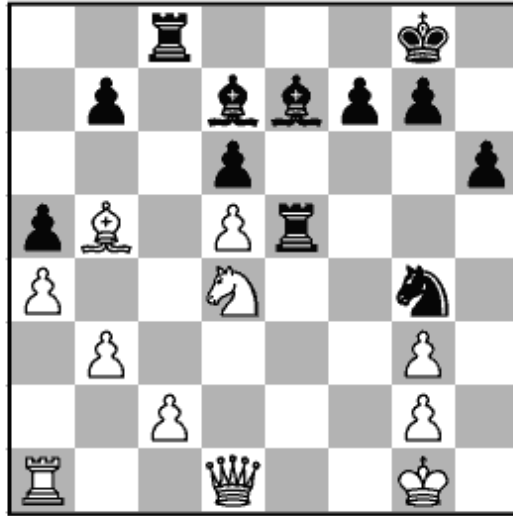
14 Nxb5! Bh6

14...axb5 15 Qxb5+ Kd8 16 Rd1+ Kc7 17 Rd7+ Kc8 18 Rd4 leads to mate.

15 Nc7++ Kf8 16 Nxa8 Qxa8 17 Qxa6 +-

White has a decisive material advantage. This sequence had also occurred in some earlier games, including the GM encounter Artemiev-Bok, Tbilisi 2017.

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Black to play

405) Van Delft – Almeida Quintana

Maia 2022

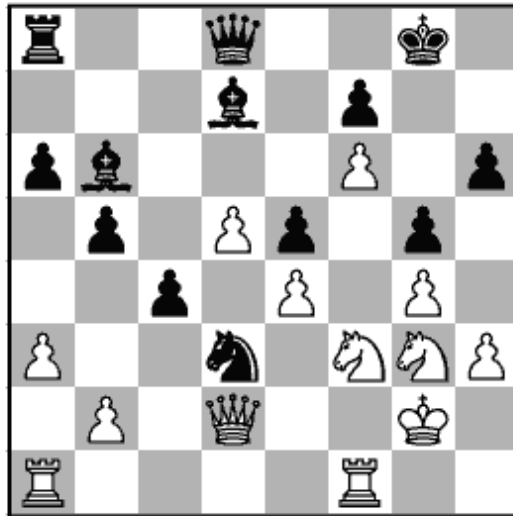
26...Bg5! 27 Bxd7 Be3+ 28 Kf1

28 Kh1? Rh5#.

**28...Nh2+ 29 Ke2 Bxd4+ 30 Kd3 Bxa1 31 Qxa1 Rxd5+ 32 Ke4
Rcc5 –+**

Black's active rooks are too much for the white queen.

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White to play

406) Erigaisi – Jumabayev
Dubai 2022

28 Nxc5! Nf4+

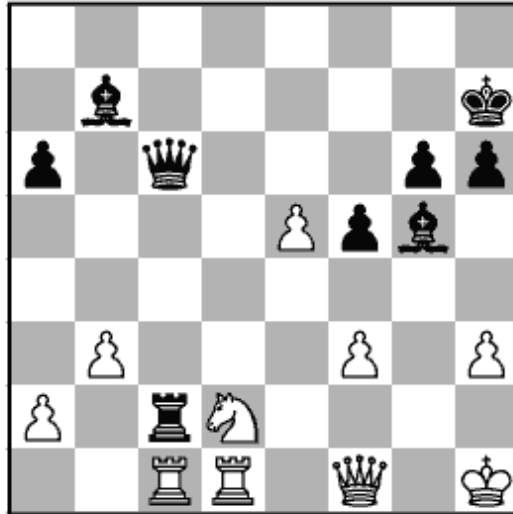
28...hxc5 29 Qxc5+ Kf8 30 Qg7+ Ke8 31 Qg8#.

29 Rxf4 exf4

29...hxc5 30 Rf3 +–.

30 Qxf4 +–

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Black to play

407) Suleymanli – Sammed Jaykumar

Dubai 2022

36...Bxd2! 37 Rxc2 Qxf3+!

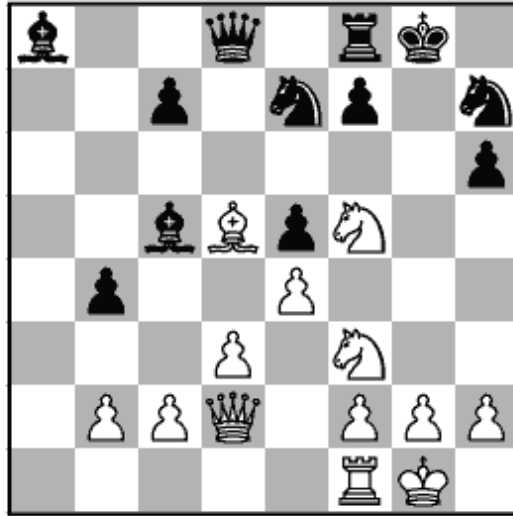
Black's bishops work together perfectly. Not 37...Qxc2? 38 Qe2 Qc3 39 Kg1 +=.

38 Qxf3 Bxf3+ 39 Kg1

39 Kh2 Bf4+ 40 Kg1 Bxd1 –+.

39...Be3+ 40 Kf1 Bxd1 41 Rg2 Kg7 42 e6 g5 0-1

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White to play

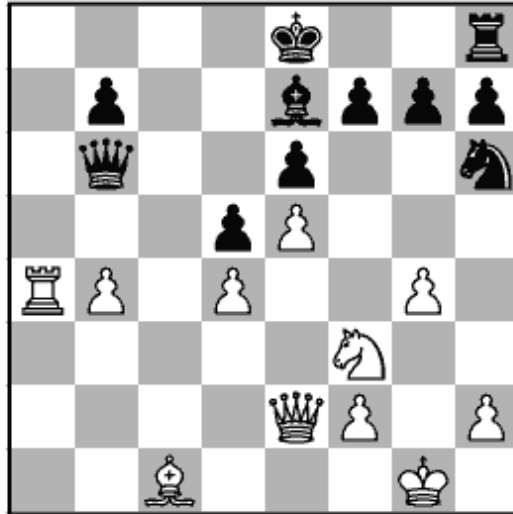
408) Khanin – Daggupati

Los Angeles 2022

18 Nxh6+ Kg7 19 Nxf7 Rxf7 20 Bxf7 Kxf7 21 Qh6 1-0

21...Nf8 22 Nxe5+ Kg8 23 Qg5+ Kh7 24 Ra1 +—.

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White to play

409) Santos Latasa – Blübaum
Polish Team Ch 2022

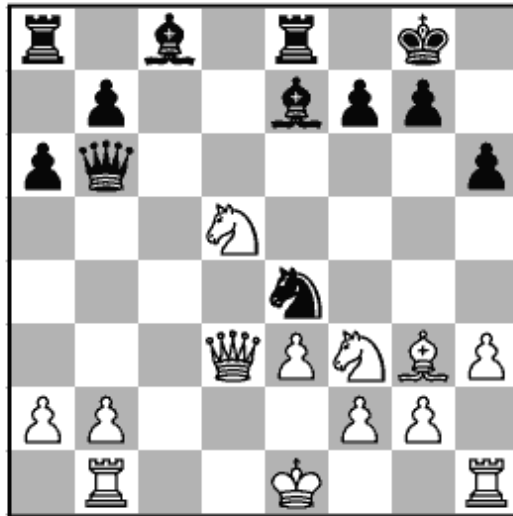
23 Ra8+ Bd8 24 Bg5 0-0

24...Kd7 25 Qc2 Qc6 26 Rxd8+ Rxd8 27 Qxh7 +–.

25 Bxd8 Rxd8 26 Qb5! 1-0

Black is back-rank mated after 26...Qc7 27 Qe8+ Rxe8 28 Rxe8#.

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Black to play

410) Almeida Quintana – Medarde Santiago

Sada 2022

17...Bb4+! 18 Kf1

White's king position is a big liability after 18 Ke2 Qg6 19 Rbd1 Bf5 20 Qc4 Bf8 –+.

18...Bf5 19 Kg1

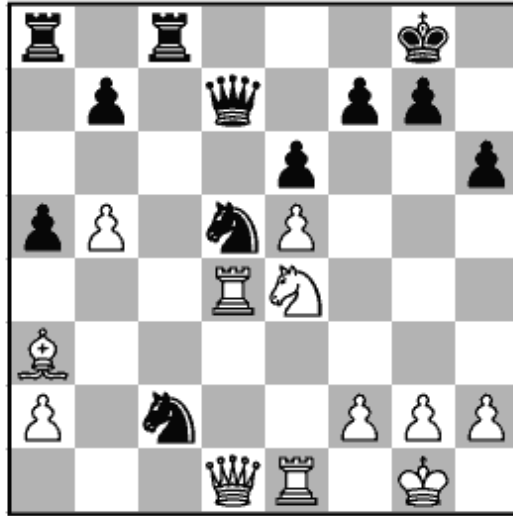
19 Qe2 Qc5 20 Rd1 Ba5 21 Be5 Rad8 –+.

19...Qe6 20 Bc7 Nc3 21 bxc3

21 Qc4 Nxd5 –+.

21...Bxd3 22 Nf4 Qxa2 –+

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White to play

411) Ding Liren – Xu Yinglun
Chinese Team Ch 2022

24 Nf6+! gxf6?

24...Nxf6 25 Rxd7 Nxd7 26 Rf1 Nb6 27 Bc1 +/- gives White a material advantage and good chances to win.

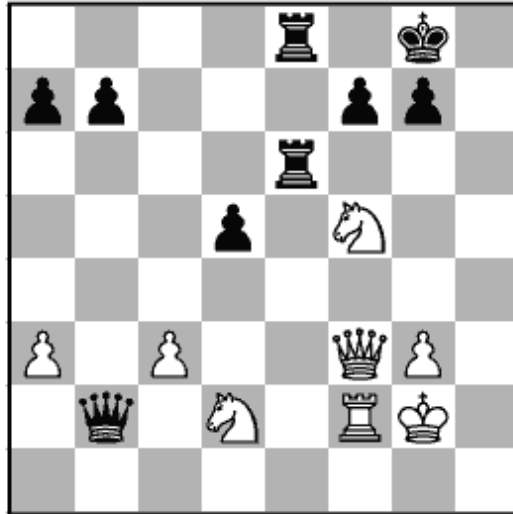
25 exf6 Nxf6

25...e5 26 Rxd5 Qf5 (26...Qxd5 27 Qg4+ Kh7 28 Qg7#) 27 Rxe5 Qxf6 28 Bb2 +-.

26 Rxd7 1-0

26...Nxe1 (26...Nxd7 27 Qg4+ Kh7 28 Bb2 Rg8 29 Qe4+ Rg6 30 Qxc2 +-) 27 Rxb7 +-.

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White to play

412) Nihal – Raja Harshit
Internet rapid 2022

36 Nxg7! Kxg7 37 Qxf7+ Kh8

37...Kh6 38 Ne4 +–.

38 Ne4

Black's king is too exposed.

38...Qc1

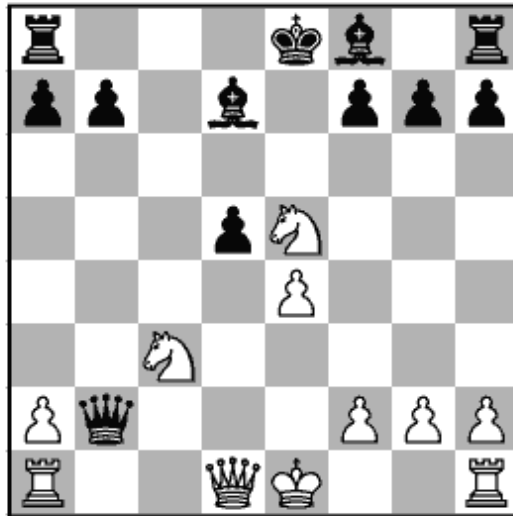
38...Qb6 39 Nf6 +–.

39 Nf6

Or 39 Rf5 +–.

39...Qh6 40 Nxe8 +–

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White to play

413) Stoček – Klabis

Bratislava rapid 2022

13 0-0!

White sacrifices a piece to keep Black's king in the centre.

13...Qxc3 14 Qxd5 Be6 15 Qb5+ Ke7 16 Rac1

Black's king is too exposed.

16...Qd4

16...Qa3 17 Qxb7+ Kf6 18 Qxa8 Kxe5 19 f4+ Kf6 20 Qd8+ Qe7
(20...Kg6 21 Qg5#) 21 Qd4+ Kg6 22 f5+ +–.

17 Rc7+ Kd8

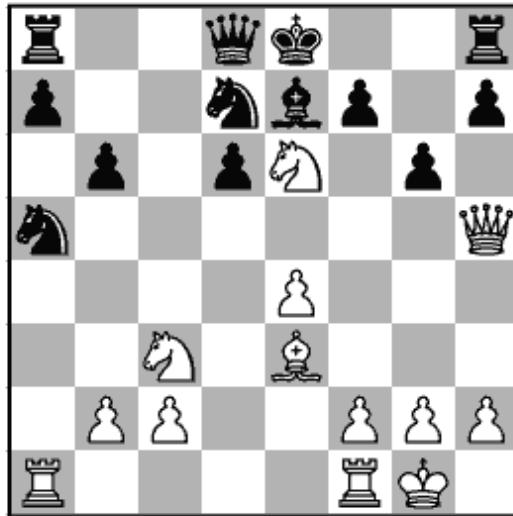
17...Kf6 18 Nf3 +–.

18 Qxb7

There is also 18 Rxb7 Rc8 19 Rb8 +–, which led to victory in the game.

18...Qxe5 19 Rfc1 Bc5 20 R1xc5 +–

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White to play

414) Lahno – Vallejo Pons

Krasnogorsk rapid 2022

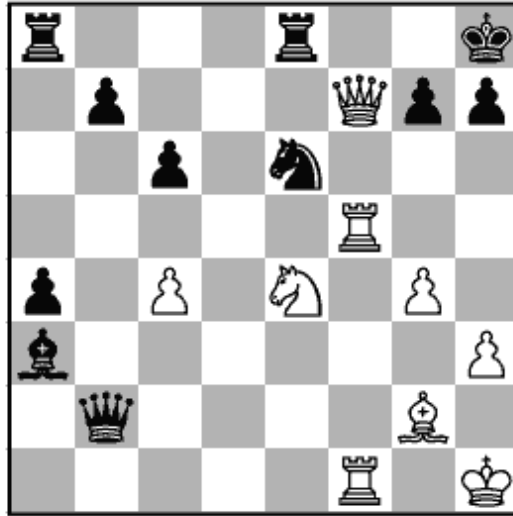
15 Qxa5! fxe6

After 15...bxa5 16 Nxd8 Bxd8 17 Rfd1 +- Black will soon lose material because of his weak pawns.

16 Qa2 Nf8 17 f4 Rg8 18 f5 +-

White has a decisive attack thanks to her well-placed pieces and the exposed position of the black king.

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White to play

415) Kramnik – Vallejo Pons
Krasnogorsk rapid 2022

29 c5!

White cuts off Black's dark-squared bishop to create some back-rank mating threats.

29...h6

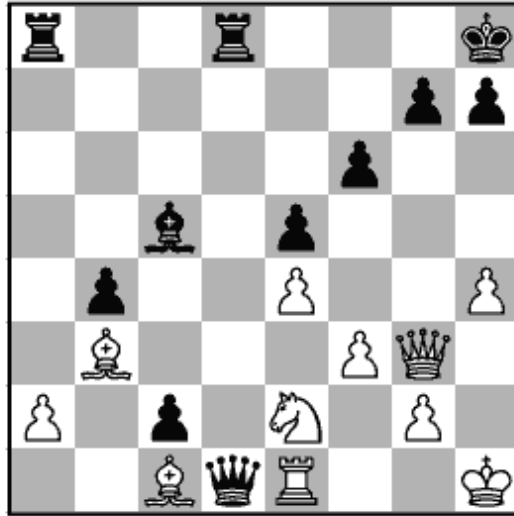
29...Bxc5 30 Nxc5 g6 (30...Nxc5 31 Qxe8+! Rxe8 32 Rf8+ Rxf8 33 Rxf8#) 31 Nxa4 +–.

30 Nd6 Ng5 31 Qg6 Bxc5

31...Red8 32 Rxg5! hxg5 33 Be4 followed by mate.

32 Nxe8 1-0

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Black to play

416) Van Delft – Vidit

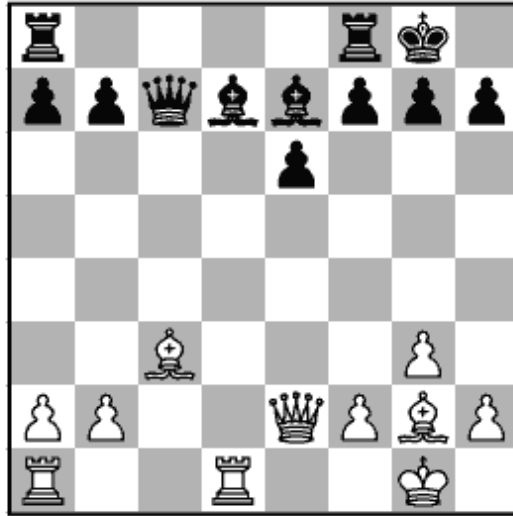
European Clubs Cup, Mayrhofen 2022

29...Qxe1+! 30 Qxe1 Rd1 31 Qxd1 cxd1Q+ 32 Bxd1 Rxa2

White has two pieces for a rook and pawn, but Black's passed b-pawn is too strong.

33 h5 b3 34 Bxb3 Rxe2 –+

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White to play

417) J. van Foreest – Wedberg

European Clubs Cup, Mayrhofen 2022

20 Qg4! f6

20...g6 21 Qd4 +–.

21 Rac1 h5

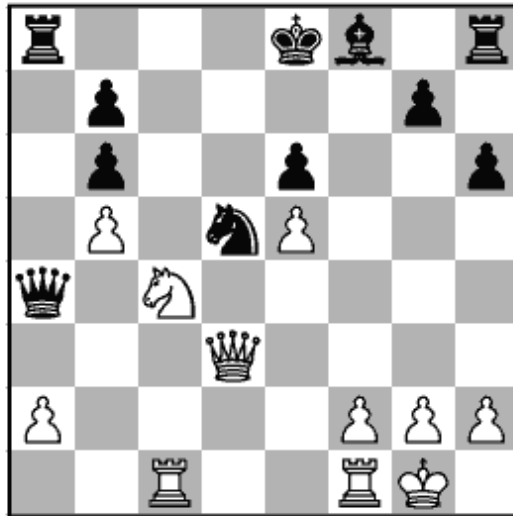
Or 21...Rac8 22 Bxf6! Bxf6 23 Rxc7 Rxc7 24 Qf4 +–. The game ended 21...Bc6 22 Bxc6 1-0 in view of 22...Qxc6 (22...bxc6 23 Qxe6+ Rf7 24 Rd7 +–) 23 Bxf6 Bxf6 24 Rxc6 bxc6 25 Qxe6+ Kh8 26 Qxc6 +–.

22 Qxh5 Rac8 23 Qg6 Rf7 24 Bf3 Bc6 25 Bh5 Rff8

25...Rcf8 26 Qg4 +–.

26 Qg4 +–

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White to play

418) Külaots – Sklyarov

Finnish Team Ch 2022/3

20 Qg6+ Ke7

Or: 20...Kd8 21 Qxe6 Qxb5 22 Rfd1 +–; 20...Kd7 21 Rfd1 Qxb5 22 Nxb6+ Qxb6 23 Rxd5+ Ke7 (23...exd5 24 Qxb6 +–) 24 Rd6 +–.

21 Rfd1

Black has a material advantage, but his kingside pieces are spectators.

21...Rd8

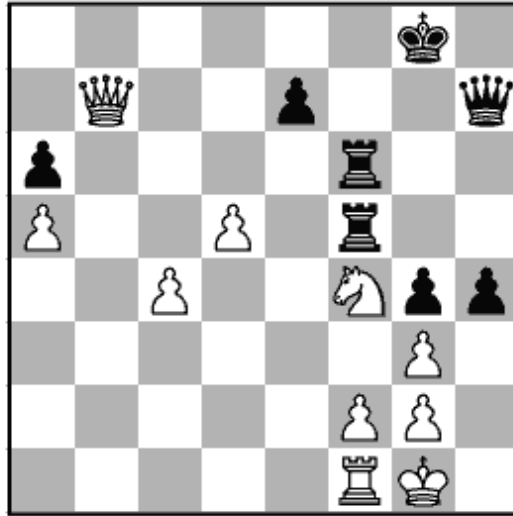
Or 21...Nf4 22 Qe4 Nd5 23 Rxd5 exd5 24 Qxd5 Rd8 25 Nd6 +–, while the game ended 21...Qxa2 22 Nxb6 1-0.

22 Nd6 Rxd6

22...Qf4 23 Rc4 +–.

23 exd6+ Kxd6 24 Re1 +–

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Black to play

419) Moradiabadi – Niemann
USA Ch, Saint Louis 2022

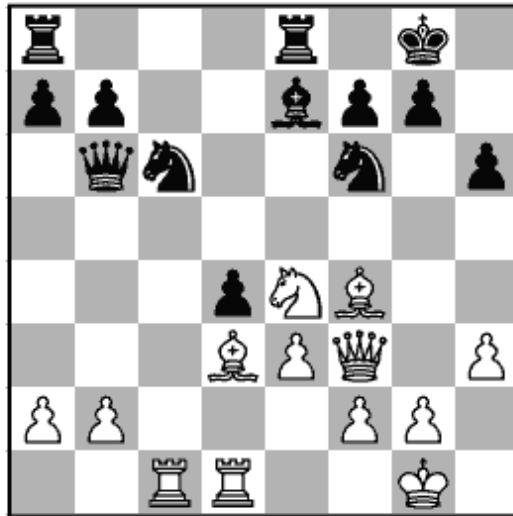
37...hxg3 38 Qc8+!

The game ended with the beautiful tactical idea 38 fxg3? e5! 0-1 in view of 39 Qc8+ (39 dxe6 Qxb7 –+) 39...Rf8 40 Qe6+ Qf7 41 Qxf7+ R8xf7 –+.

38...Kf7 39 fxg3 Rh6 40 Kf2 Re5 41 Qc5 Re4 –/+

Black has an advantage, but White can resist.

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White to play

420) Giri – Vidit

Internet rapid 2022

17 Bxh6! Nb4

17...gxh6 18 Nxf6+ Bxf6 19 Qxf6 +–.

18 Bc4 gxh6 19 Rxd4 Rad8

After 19...Kh8 (as played in the game) White won back his piece with a decisive material advantage: 20 Rd6! Nc6 (20...Bxd6 21 Qxf6+ Kh7 22 Qxf7+ Kh8 23 Qf6+ Kh7 24 Nxd6 Rf8 25 Bf7 leads to mate) 21 Rxf6 +–.

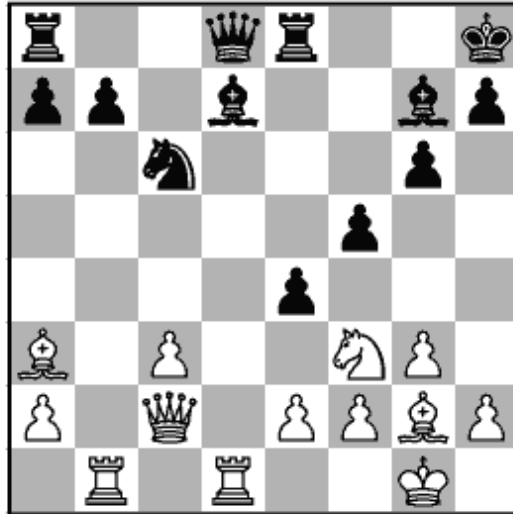
20 Rcd1 Rxd4 21 Rxd4 Rd8 22 Nxf6+ Bxf6

22...Qxf6 23 Rf4 +–.

23 Rf4 +–

White has two pawns and a relentless attack for the sacrificed piece.

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White to play

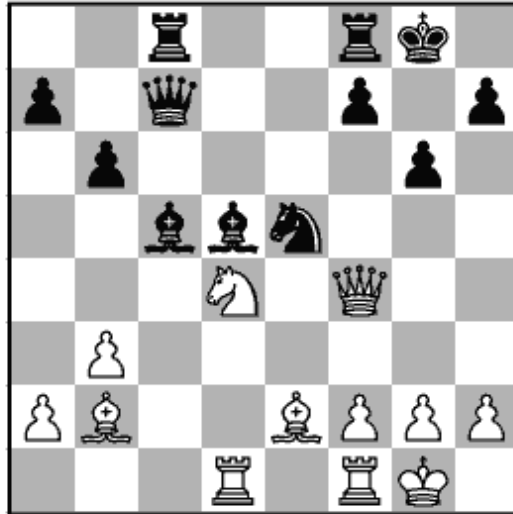
421) Iskandarov – Kourkoulos-Arditis
Geoagiu-Bai 2022

18 Rxb7! exf3 19 Bxf3 Ne5 20 Rbxd7!

White obtains a decisive material advantage.

20...Nxd7 21 Bxa8 Qxa8 22 Rxd7 +-

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White to play

422) Lysy – Khubukshanov
Sochi rapid (team event) 2022

20 Nf5!

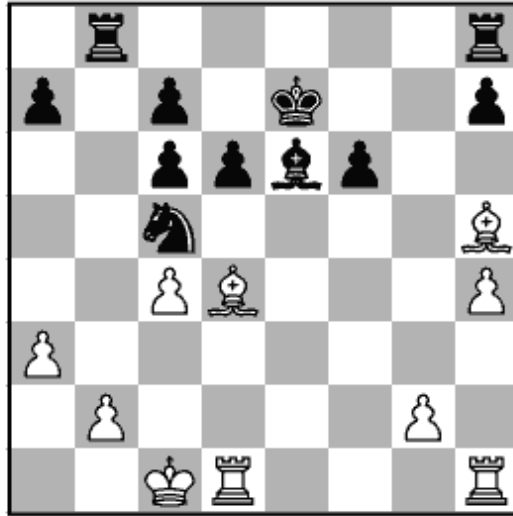
Black has loose pieces and an exposed king.

20...f6

Or: 20...Nf3+ 21 Qxf3 Bxf3 22 Nh6#; 20...gxf5 21 Bxe5 Qc6 22 Rxd5 Qxd5 23 Qg5#.

21 Nh6+ Kg7 22 Rxd5 +-

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White to play

423) Ganguly – Kvon

Chiang Mai 2022

22 Bxc5! dxc5 23 Rhe1

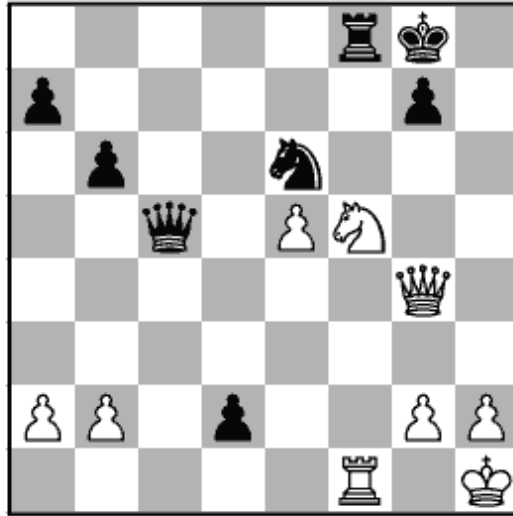
White is able to utilize Black's damaged pawn-structure to exploit the pin along the e-file.

23...Rbd8 24 Bg4

24 Rxd8 Rxd8 25 Bg4 Rd6 26 b4! reaches the same position as the game, except here the white king is on c1 instead of c2; the difference is insignificant.

24...Rxd1+ 25 Kxd1 Rd8+ 26 Kc2 Rd6 27 b4! cxb4 28 c5 Kd7 29 cxd6 Bxg4 30 dxc7 +-

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White to play

424) Blomqvist – P. Cramling

Skara 2022

28 Nh6+

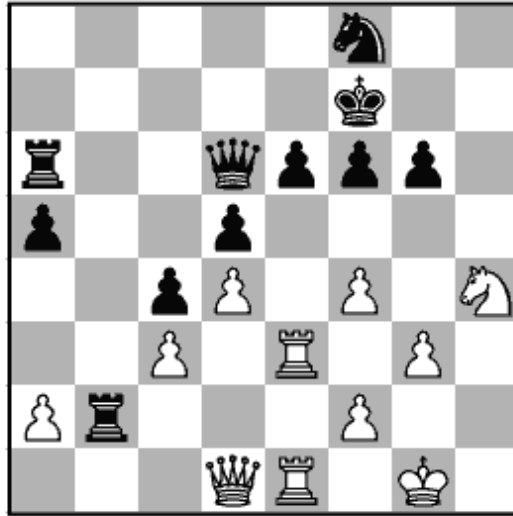
After 28 h3? (as played in the game) Black could have eliminated the kingside danger by 28...g5!; e.g., 29 Nh6+ Kg7 30 Nf5+ Kg8 31 Nh6+ with a draw by repetition.

28...Kh7 29 Nf7! Rxf7

29...Kg8 30 Qxe6 Qc8 31 Qb3 +–.

30 Qh5+ Kg8 31 Qxf7+ Kh7 32 Qxe6 +–

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White to play

425) Harsha Bharathakoti – Panda
Delhi 2022

29 f5! Qd7

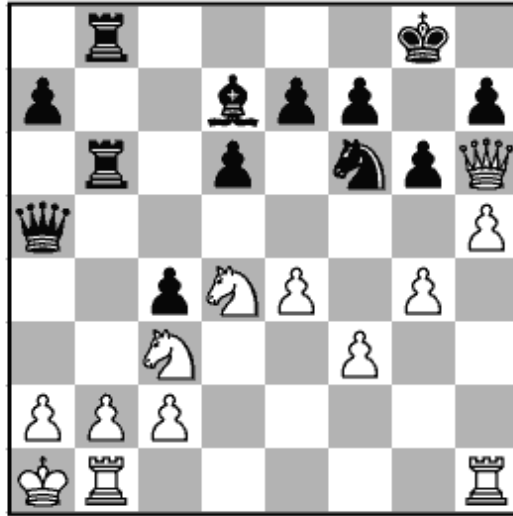
White's well-placed rooks make all the difference here and Black has no good way to capture White's f5-pawn; for example, 29...gxf5 30 Nxf5 Qd8 (30...exf5 31 Qh5+ Kg8 32 Re7 +–) 31 Qh5+ Kg8 32 Qg4+ Kf7 33 Kg2 Qd7 34 Qh5+ Kg8 35 Rh1 +–, while 29...exf5 30 Nxf5 gxf5 is the same as 29...gxf5 30 Nxf5 exf5.

30 Nxg6 e5

30...Nxg6 31 Qh5 Kf8 32 Qxg6 Qf7 33 Qh6+ Qg7 34 Qh5 +–.

31 Rxe5 fxe5 32 Nxe5+ 1-0

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White to play

426) Nitish – Adarsh

Budapest 2022

21 hxg6 fxg6

21...Rxb2 22 gxh7+ Kh8 23 Rxb2 Qxc3 24 Qc1 Qxd4 25 c3 +—.

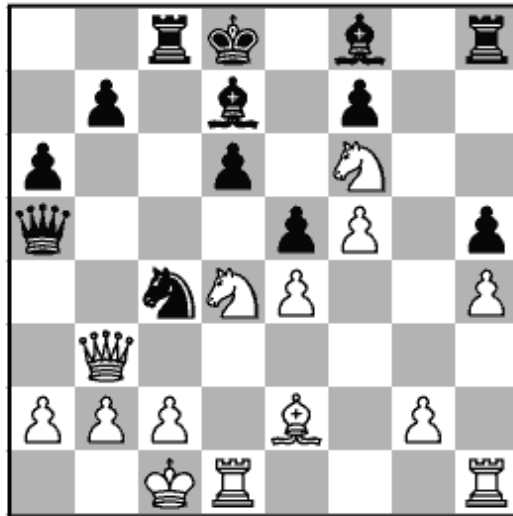
22 g5 Nh5

22...Rxb2 23 gxf6 +—.

23 Rxh5 gxh5 24 g6 1-0

24...hxg6 25 Qxg6+ Kh8 26 Qh6+ Kg8 27 Ne6 Bxe6 28 Qxe6+ Kh8
29 Qh6+ Kg8 30 Rg1+ followed by mate.

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Black to play

427) Niedbala – A. Horvath
Budapest 2022

18...Ba4! 19 Qxb7 exd4 20 Rxd4 Bc6

Despite initial appearances, it turns out that the white king is more vulnerable than the black king.

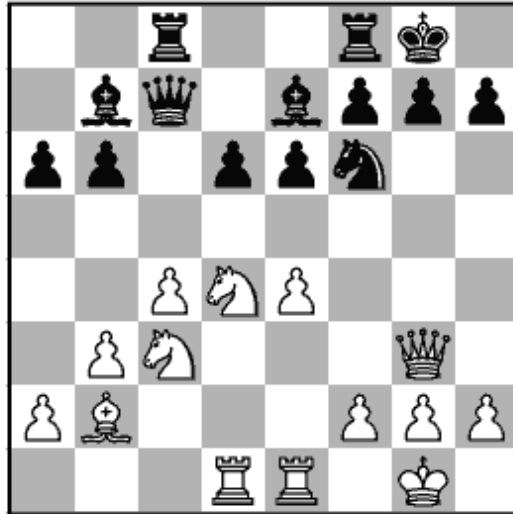
21 Qxf7

21 Qb3 Bh6+ 22 Kb1 Nd2+ 23 Rxd2 Bxd2 –+.

21...Qxa2 22 Bxc4 Qa1+ 23 Kd2 Qxh1 –+

Black has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

428) Ponkratov – Goganov
Khanty-Mansiisk rapid 2022

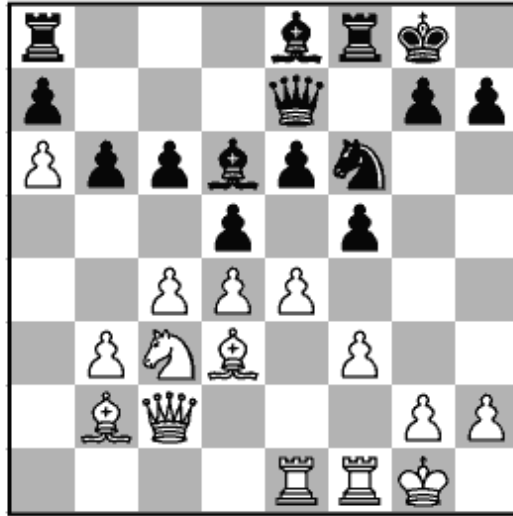
16 Nd5! exd5

16...Bxd5 17 exd5 e5 18 Nf5 g6 19 f4 +- with a relentless attack.

17 Nf5 Nh5 18 Qg4 1-0

18...f6 19 exd5 Rce8 20 Qxh5 +-.

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Black to play

429) Riazantsev – Khubukshanov
Khanty-Mansiisk rapid 2022

21...dxe4 22 fxe4 Bxh2+!

The sacrifice works because White's minor pieces are all far away on the queenside.

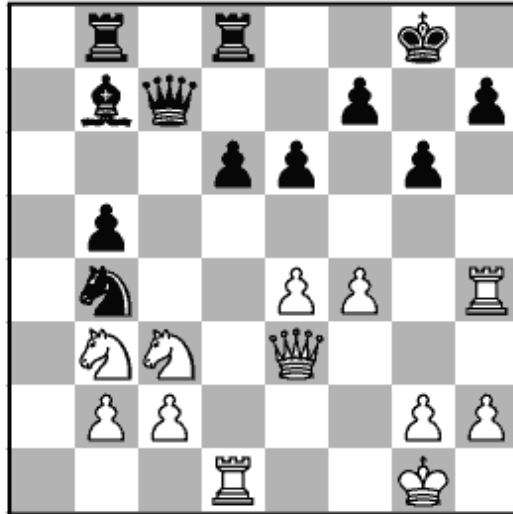
23 Kh1

23 Kxh2 Ng4+ 24 Kg1 Qh4 25 g3 Qxg3+ 26 Kh1 f4 → with a winning attack for Black.

23...Ng4 24 g3 Bxg3 25 Re2 Qh4+ 26 Kg1 f4 →

Black has a decisive attack.

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White to play

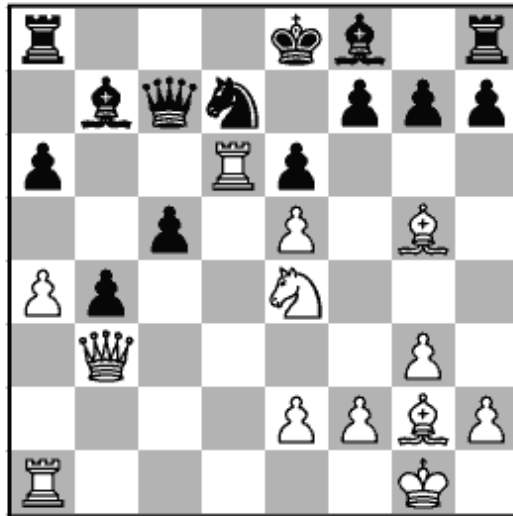
430) Andriasian – N. Petrov
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

23 f5

White can ignore the c2-pawn because Black has no pieces defending his kingside.

23...exf5 24 Qh6 Qb6+ 25 Nd4 Nxc2 26 Qxh7+ Kf8 27 exf5 +-

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Black to play

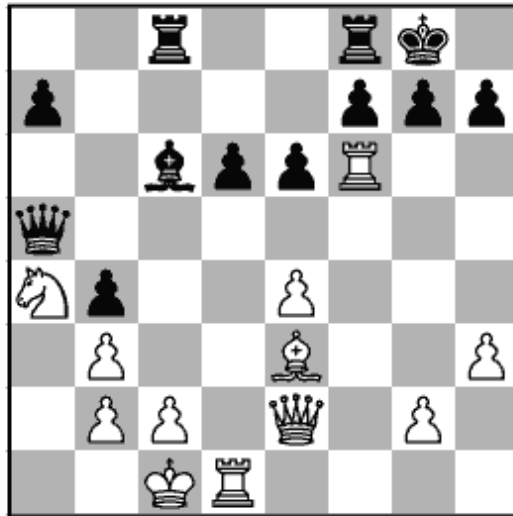
431) Y. Milikow – M. Pranesh
Stockholm 2022/3

16...Nxe5! 17 Rxe6+

Black has two extra pawns after 17 Rdd1 Bxe4 18 Bxe4 c4 19 Qc2 Rc8 –+.

17...fxe6 18 Qxe6+ Be7 19 Bf4 Qd7 20 Qxe5 0-0 –+

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Black to play

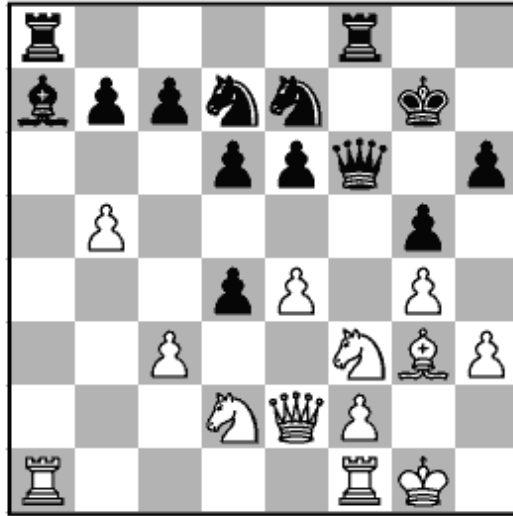
432) Abdrlauf – Kucuksari
Stockholm 2022/3

20...Bxe4!

Black actually played 20...gxf6?, when White could have maintained the balance by 21 Qg4+ (rather than the game's 21 Bh6? Kh8 –/+) 21...Kh8 22 Qh4 Qd8 23 Rxd6 Qe7 (23...Qxd6?? 24 Qxf6+ Kg8 25 Bd4 Qxd4 26 Qxd4 Bxa4 27 bxa4 +–) 24 Bc5 Bxa4 25 Bxb4 Bxb3 26 Rc6 Qxb4 27 Qxf6+ Kg8 28 Qg5+ Kh8 29 Qf6+ with a draw by repetition.

21 Rf2 Rxc2+ 22 Qxc2 Bxc2 23 Rxc2 Qe5 –+

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White to play

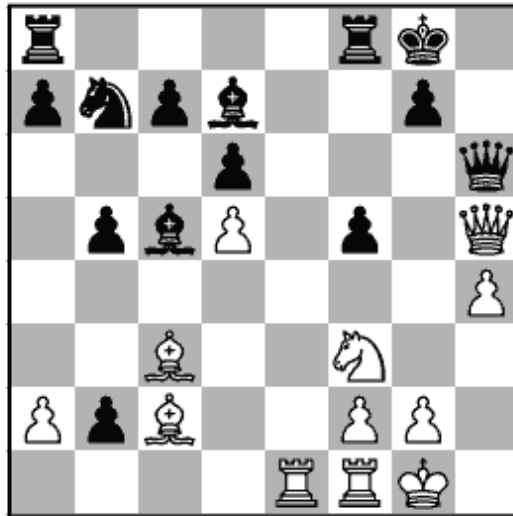
433) S.P. Sethuraman – Deepan
Indian Ch, New Delhi 2023

20 e5! Qg6

20...dxe5 21 Nxe5 d3 22 Qe1 Nc5 23 Nc6 +–.

21 exd6 d3 22 Qe1 cxd6 23 Bxd6 Kf7 24 Nc4 +–

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White to play

434) Warmerdam – Pechač

Wijk aan Zee 2023

21 Re7!

White homes in on the tender g7-pawn.

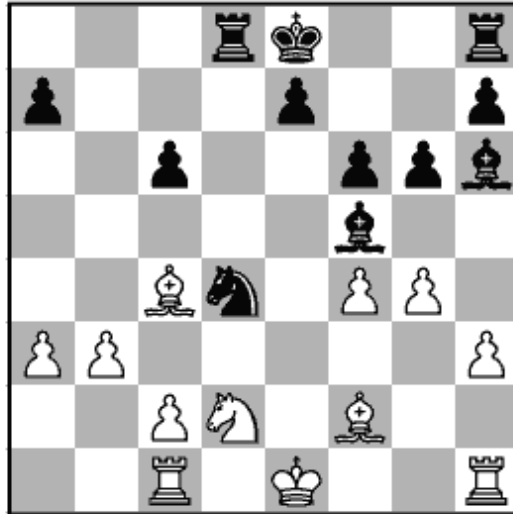
21...Qxh5 22 Rxg7+ Kh8 23 Rxd7+ Rf6

23...Kg8 24 Rg7+ Kh8 25 Rg5+ Kh7 26 Rxh5+ Kg6 27 Rg5+ Kf7
28 Bxf5 +–.

24 Bxf6+ Kg8 25 Rg7+ Kf8 26 Ng5 +–

Black must give up his queen to avoid mate.

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Black to play

435) Abasov – Durarbayli
Baku 2023

22...Nxc2+ 23 Ke2 Rxd2+!

23...Bxf4? 24 Rhd1! +/- leaves Black's pieces hanging.

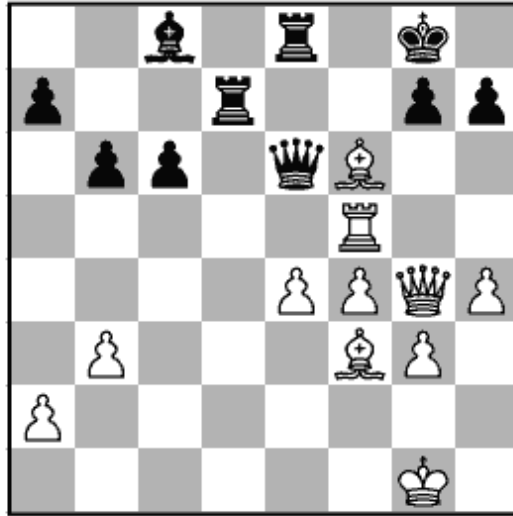
24 Kxd2 Bxf4+ 25 Ke2 Be4 26 Be6?

With 26 a4 h5 27 g5! -/+ followed by Bxa7 White retains hope of saving the game.

26...h5 27 Rxc2 Bxc2 -+

Black has two extra pawns.

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White to play

436) Suleymanli – Gadimbayli
Baku 2023

27 Re5! Qf7 28 Qxg7+ Qxg7 29 Rxe8+ Kf7

29...Qf8 30 Rxf8+ Kxf8 31 g4 c5 32 f5 Bb7 33 g5 b5 34 h5 +—.

30 Bxg7 Kxe8 31 Bh5+ Ke7

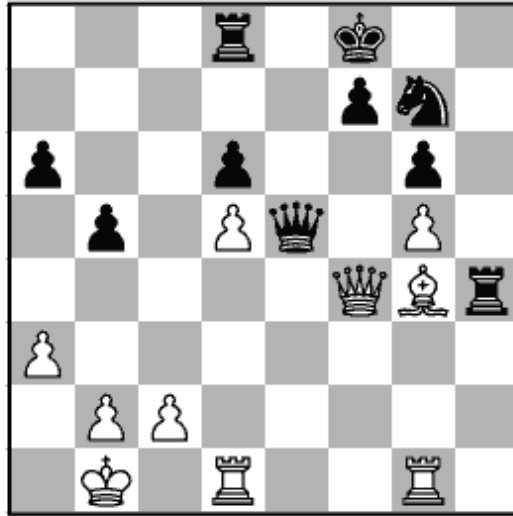
31...Kd8 32 Bf6+ Kc7 33 f5 +—.

32 f5

White's passed pawns cannot be stopped.

32...Rd8 33 f6+ Ke6 34 f7 Ke7 35 e5 1-0

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White to play

437) Chen Qi – Stalmach

Marianske Lazne 2023

28 Qf2!

White keeps the queens on the board to facilitate his attack.

28...Qxg5

28...Rh2 29 Qb6 Re8 30 Qxa6 +—.

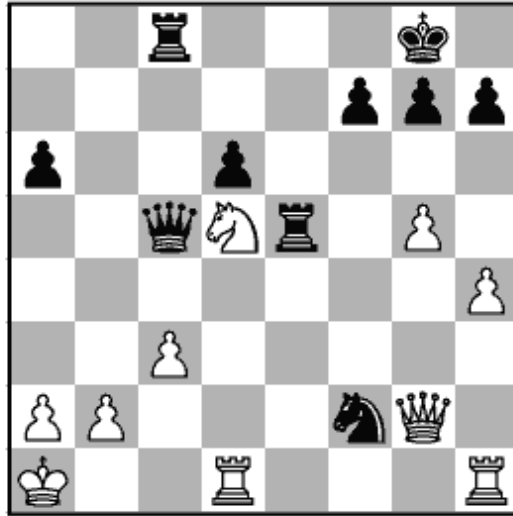
29 Rdf1 Qe7 30 Be6 Nf5

30...Nxe6 31 dxe6 Kg7 32 Qg3 +—.

31 Bxf5 gxf5 32 Qxf5 +—

Black has no good defence to White's threats, which include Qg6.

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White to play

438) Seo – Nasuta
Bassano del Grappa 2023

31 Nf6+! gxf6 32 gxf6+ Kf8

32...Rg5 33 hxg5 Nxh1 34 Qxh1 Qf5 35 Qh6 Qg6 36 Rxd6 +–.

33 Rhg1

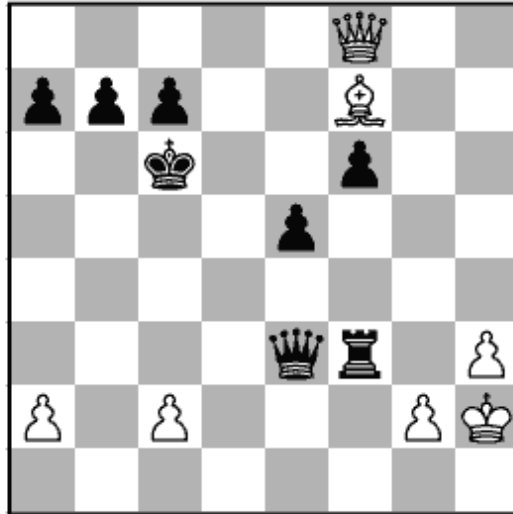
Black's king has no safe haven.

33...Ke8

33...Rg5 34 hxg5 Nxd1 35 Rxd1 +–.

34 Qg8+ Kd7 35 Qxf7+ Kc6 36 Rg7 +–

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White to play

439) Kryvoruchko – Tari
Bundesliga 2022/3

42 Be8+ Kd5

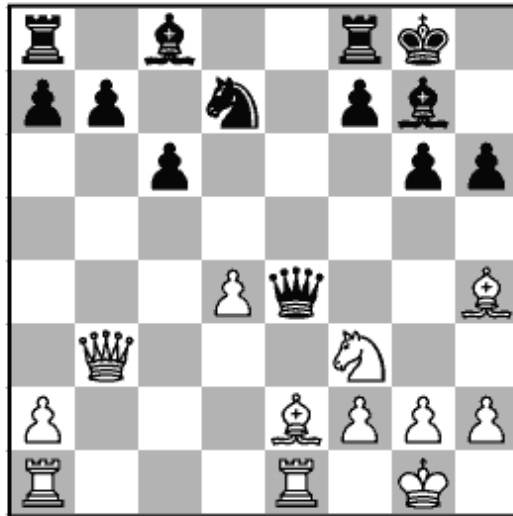
Black is mated after 42...Kb6 43 Qb4+ Ka6 44 Qb5#.

43 Qg8+ Kd6 44 gxf3

White just needs to avoid perpetual check to win the game.

44...Qd2+ 45 Qg2 Qf4+ 46 Kg1 Qe3+ 47 Kh1 Qc1+ 48 Qg1 Qxc2
49 h4 +-

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White to play

440) Indjić – Bernadskiy

Internet rapid 2023

16 Bd3! Qd5

White wins material after 16...Qf4 17 Bxg6 Nf6 18 Bg3 Qg4 19 Bc2 Bf5 20 Bxf5 Qxf5 21 Qxb7 +—.

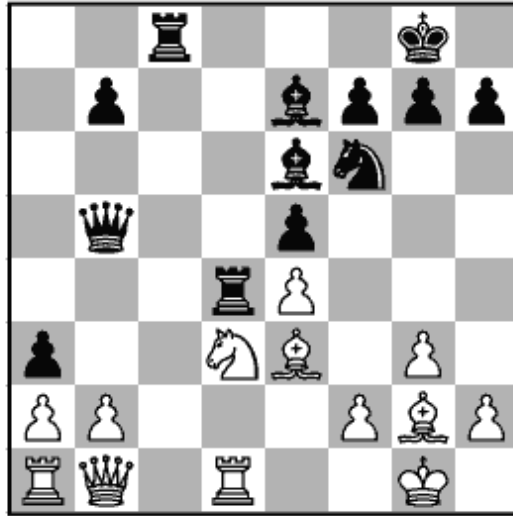
17 Bc4 Qf5

White's lead in development is decisive after 17...Qh5 18 Be7 b5 19 Be2 Nb6 (19...Re8 20 Ng5 +—) 20 Ne5 Qf5 21 Bd3 +—.

18 Be7 Re8 19 Nh4 1-0

19...Qf4 20 g3 +—.

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Black to play

441) Quizon – Bersamina
ASEAN Ch, Quezon City 2023

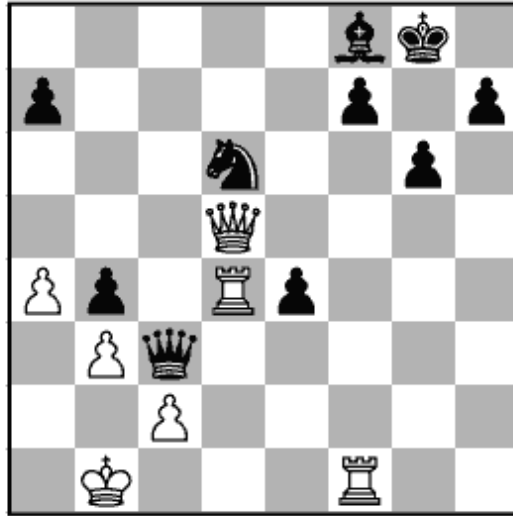
20...Rxd3! 21 Qxd3

21 Rxd3 axb2 –+.

21...Qxd3 22 Rxd3 axb2 23 Rb1 Rc2 24 Rbd1 h6 –+

White has no good defence to the threat of 25...Bxa2.

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Black to play

442) I. Schneider – Jakubowski
2nd Bundesliga 2022/3

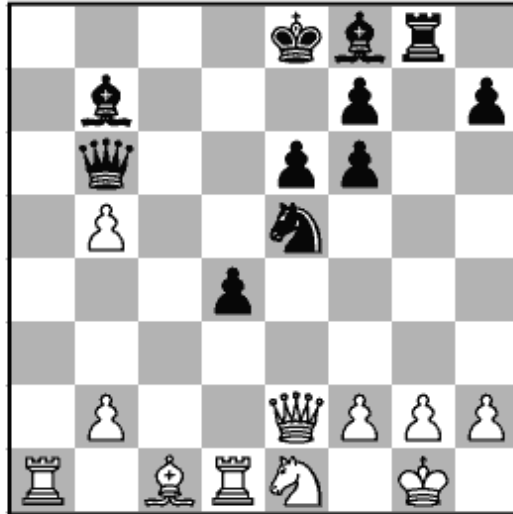
39...e3! 40 Re4 h5

Black prepares ...Bg7 so that he can reply to Re8+ with ...Kh7.

41 Re8 e2 0-1

Black gains material after 42 Rxe2 Bg7 43 Kc1 Qa1+ 44 Kd2 Bh6+ 45 Re3 (45 Kd3 Qc3#) 45...Qxf1 –+, while 42 Rxf8+ Kxf8 43 Qxd6+ Kg7 44 Qf4 exf1Q+ 45 Qxf1 h4 –+ is a won queen and pawn endgame.

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Black to play

443) Mamedyarov – Sevian
Internet rapid 2023

19...Bb4 20 Bd2 d3!

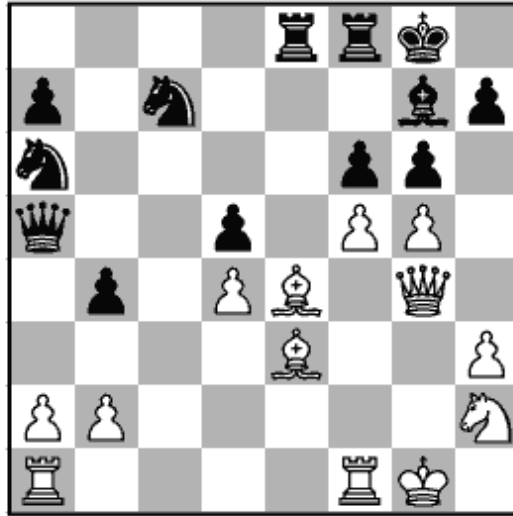
Black's superior piece activity is decisive.

21 Qh5 Ng4 22 Qh4 Nxf2! 23 Be3

White loses his queen after 23 Qxf2 Bc5 –+.

23...Qxe3 24 Qxf2 Qe4 –+

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White to play

444) Abdisalimov – A. Fedorov

Tashkent (team event) 2023

24 Bc2! Rxe3 25 fxg6

White has lost a piece but he has an irresistible kingside attack as three of Black's pieces are marooned on the queenside.

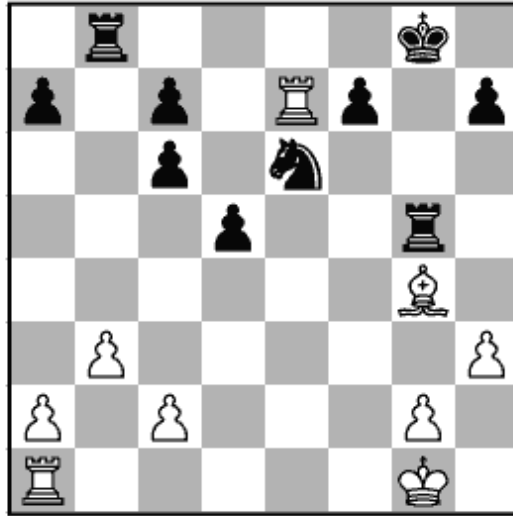
25...f5

White wins material after 25...Ne6 26 gxf6 Bxf6 27 gxh7++ Kh8 28 Rxf6 +—.

26 Bxf5 h6 27 gxh6 Bxh6 28 Qh4 1-0

28...Qb6 29 Qxh6 Re7 30 Qh4 Rg7 31 Ng4 Qxd4+ 32 Kh1 followed by mate.

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Black to play

445) Tari – Sadhwani

Internet rapid 2023

23...Kf8!

The king move is more precise than 23...Rxg4?! 24 hxg4 Kf8 25 Rxe6! (25 Rd7?! transposes to the note to White's 25th move) 25...fxe6 26 Kf2 Ke7 27 Rh1 Rf8+ 28 Ke3 Rf7 –/+, when Black is a pawn up with good chances to win.

24 Rd7

Or 24 Rxe6 fxe6 25 Bxe6 Ke7 26 Bg4 Re5 –+.

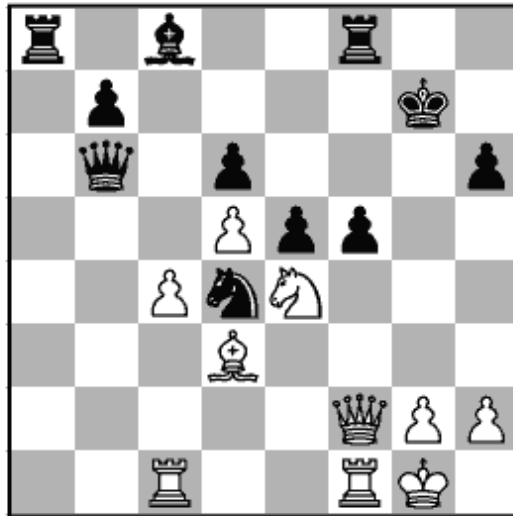
24...Rxg4! 25 Rf1

White's rook is trapped after 25 hxg4 Ke8 26 Rf1 Kxd7 27 Rxf7+ Kd6 28 Rxh7 Rb4 29 Rh4 Rf4 –+.

25...Rg7 26 Rf6 Ke8 0-1

Black is a rook ahead after 27 Rxe6+ Kxd7 –+.

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White to play

446) E. Can – Ghimpu

European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

26 Qg3+ Kh7 27 c5! dxc5

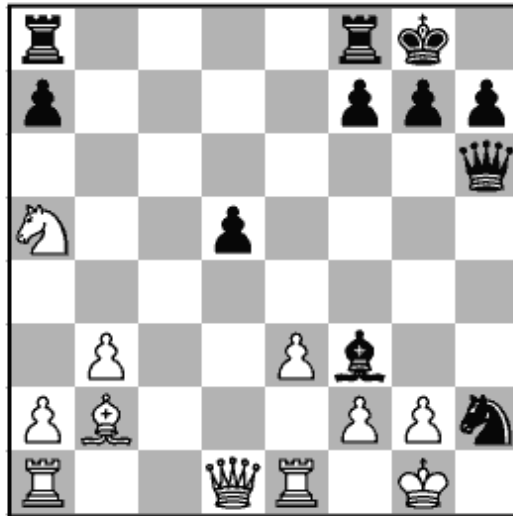
Black loses the rook and pawn endgame after 27...Qd8 28 cxd6 fxe4 29 Bxe4+ Bf5 30 Qxe5 Qf6 31 Bxf5+ Nxf5 32 Rxf5 Qxe5 (32...Qxf5 33 Rc7+ Kg6 34 Rg7+ Kh5 35 g4+ Kh4 36 Qg3#) 33 Rxe5 b5 34 Re7+ Kg8 35 Rb7 +–.

28 Qxe5

Black's king is too exposed to survive for long.

28...Ra5?! 29 Qe7+ Kg8 30 Bc4 Qg6 31 Rc3 f4 32 Rg3 1-0

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White to play

447) Iturrizaga – Malakhov
Internet rapid 2023

19 Qd4!

White must avoid 19 gxf3?? Qh3 –+.

19...Ng4

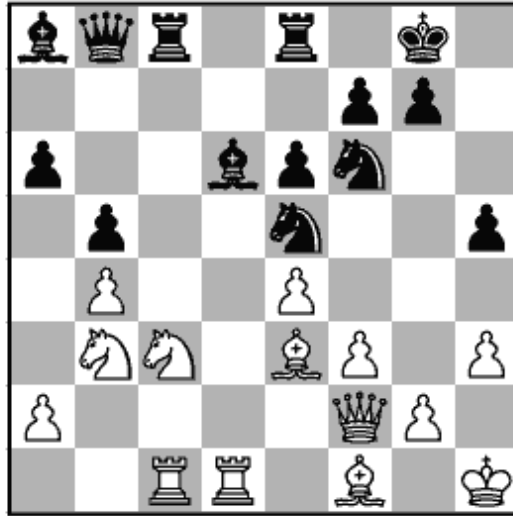
Pinning White's g-pawn with 19...Qg6 runs into 20 Qxg7+! Qxg7 21 Bxg7 Kxg7 22 Kxh2 +– with an extra pawn and a superior minor piece.

20 Qf4 g5

White wins a piece after 20...Qxf4 21 exf4 Be4 22 f3 +–.

21 Qxf3 Qh2+ 22 Kf1 h5 23 Qh3 Qc7 24 Qxh5 1-0

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White to play

448) Malakhov – Sharapov

Internet rapid 2023

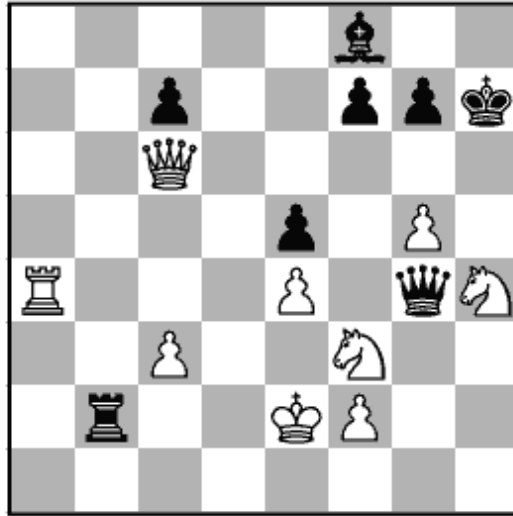
23 Ba7!

Long diagonal moves can be easy to overlook.

23...Qc7 24 Nxb5 axb5 25 Rxc7 Bxc7 26 Bxb5 +–

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

449) Matinian – Smirnov

Internet rapid 2023

37 Kd3!

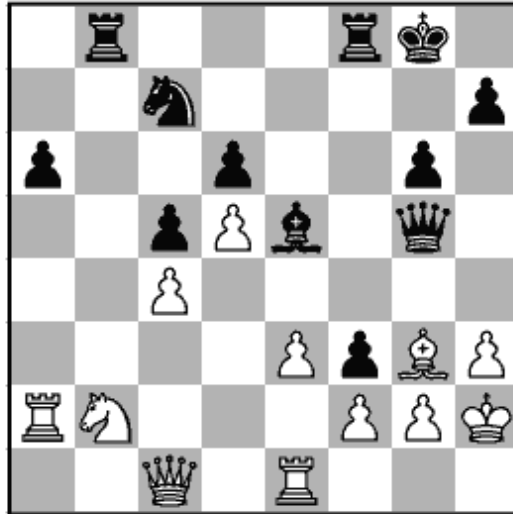
After 37 Ke3? Qf4+ 38 Kd3 Qc1 –+ (as played in the game) White's king is caught in a mating-net.

37...Rxf2 38 Ke3! Rc2 39 Qxc7 Qf4+ 40 Kd3 Rf2

Black's initiative is snuffed out after 40...Qc1 41 Ra1! Qxa1 42 Kxc2 +– with an extra piece for White.

41 Qd7 Rxf3+ 42 Nxf3 Qxf3+ 43 Kc2 +–

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Black to play

450) Mareco – Rasulov

Internet rapid 2023

28...h5! 29 Rg1

The game ended abruptly after 29 Nd3? h4 0-1.

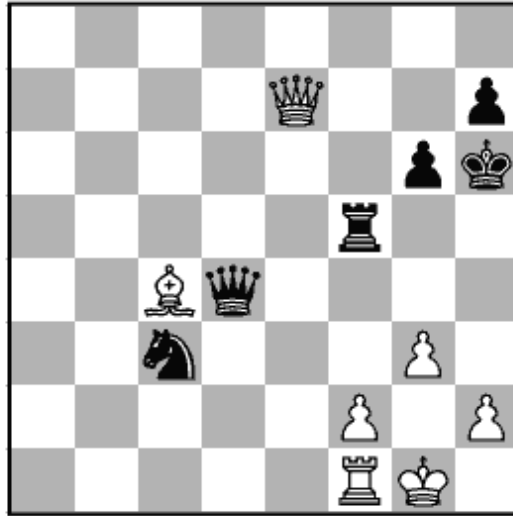
**29...Bxg3+ 30 fxg3 h4 31 gxh4 Qe5+ 32 Kh1 fxg2+ 33 Rxg2 Rf3
34 Nd3**

34 Rxg6+ Kf7 35 Nd3 Qf5 –+.

34...Qf5 35 Qc2 Rxh3+ 36 Kg1 Rxe3 –+

Black is a pawn up with a decisive attack.

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White to play

451) Sarana – Weetik

Internet rapid 2023

45 Bg8!

45 Be6? was played in the game and should have been met by 45...Qe4! 46 f3 Qe3+ 47 Kh1 (47 Kg2 Nd5 –+) 47...Rxf3 48 Qh4+ Kg7 49 Qe7+ Kh6 50 Qh4+ with a draw by repetition.

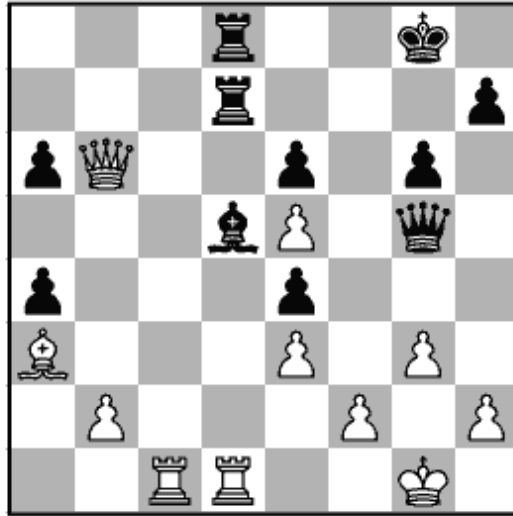
45...Qh8 46 Qe3+ g5

After 46...Kg7 47 Be6 +- White wins a piece.

47 Be6

White has a winning attack; for example, 47...Ra5 48 Rc1 Nb5 49 Rc5 Qd8 50 h4 +–.

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White to play

452) Visakh – Kovchan

Bad Wörishofen 2023

28 Rxd5! exd5

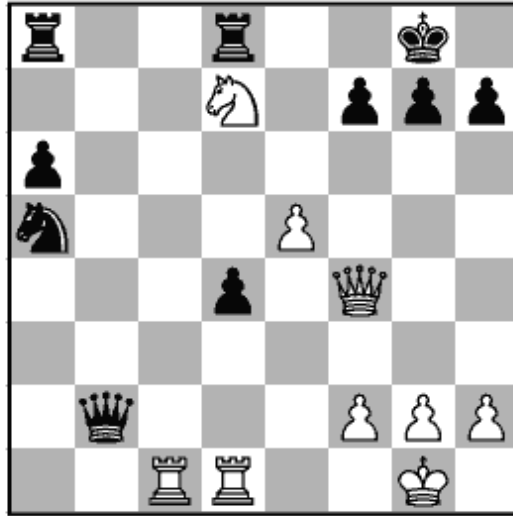
28...Rxd5 29 Qxe6+ Kg7 30 Rc7+ Kh6 31 Qf7 +–.

29 e6 Rg7

White's combination works because of the poor position of Black's queen; e.g., 29...Qf6 30 Bc5 +–.

30 e7 Re8 31 Qe6+ Rf7 32 Rc8 +–

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White to play

453) Priasmoro – Harshavardhan
Budapest 2023

24 e6! Qb3

After 24...fxe6 (as played in the game) Black's king is too exposed: 25 Nf6+ (the knight sacrifice works because Black's a5-knight is out of the game; 25 Rc7 also wins) 25...gxf6 (25...Kh8 26 Qh4 h6 27 Qe4 gxf6 28 Rc7 leads to mate) 26 Rc7 Qb5 27 Qxf6! 1-0 (we may assume that 27 Qh6??, as given in Mega Database, is a data error).

25 Qxf7+ Kh8 26 Rxd4 +-

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White to play

454) Bortnyk – Harika

Internet rapid 2023

24 Bxg5!

Black's b6-knight is out of play, so White is able to sacrifice a piece and rip open Black's kingside.

24...hxg5 25 Rxe4 Qd7

Or 25...Qxe4 26 Nxg5+ Kh8 27 Nxe4 +–.

26 Nxg5+ Kh8 27 h6 Bf6

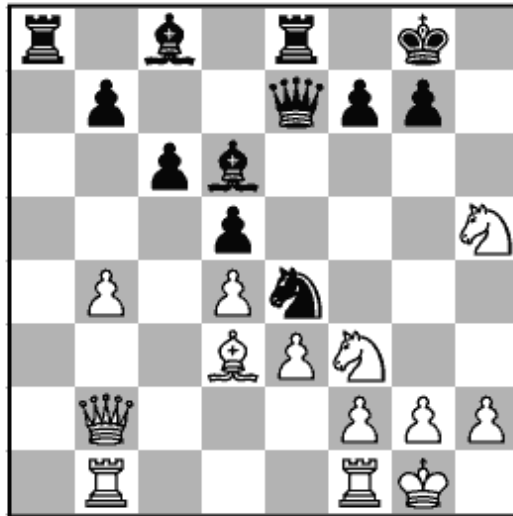
Black's king is hopelessly exposed after 27...Bxh6 28 Qh4 Kg7 29 Rg4 +–.

28 Rd1 Qxd1+

28...Qf5 29 Nxf7+ Rxf7 30 Rxd8+ Nxd8 31 Bxf7 Nxf7 32 Re8+ Kh7 33 Qg8+ Kxh6 34 Qxf7 +–.

29 Bxd1 Rxd1+ 30 Kh2 +–

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Black to play

455) Gungl – Adams

Bundesliga 2022/3

19...Bg4 20 Ng3

20 Nf4? Bxf3 21 gxf3 Ng5 –+.

20...Bxf3

20...Bxg3 21 hxg3 Bxf3 22 gxf3 Nxg3! transposes to the game.

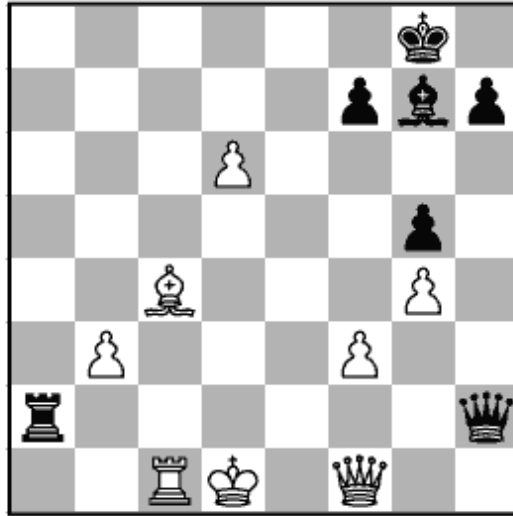
21 gxf3 Bxg3 22 hxg3 Nxg3! 23 Rfd1

Black takes advantage of White's loose bishop on d3 after 23 fxg3?! Qxe3+ 24 Rf2 Qxd3 –+.

23...Nh5 –/+

Black has strong pressure against White's weakened kingside.

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White to play

456) Krassowizkij – L'Ami
Bundesliga 2022/3

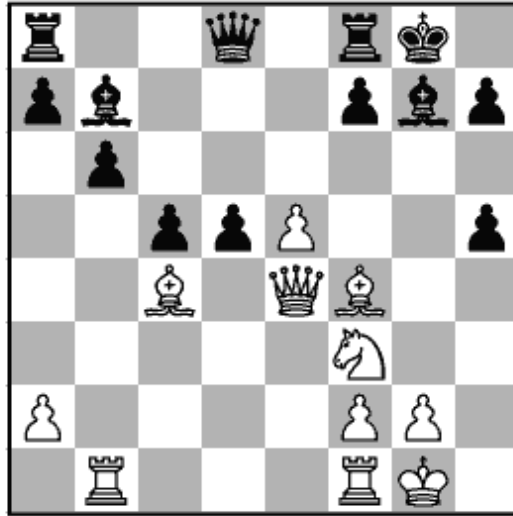
White's king is pinned to the back rank, but can he mount a successful defence?

40 Qd3!

White needs his strongest piece to play a role in his counterplay, while still retaining it as a defender. In the game White chose 40 Bxf7+??, which loses the ability to interpose the queen on f1 after activating it. Following 40...Kh8 White resigned as he soon runs out of checks: 41 Rc8+ Bf8 42 Rxf8+ Kg7 43 Rg8+ Kf6 –+.

40...Qg1+ 41 Qf1 Qd4+ 42 Qd3 Qg1+ 43 Qf1 =
 with a draw by repetition.

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White to play

457) L. Johansson – J. Kramer
Bundesliga 2022/3

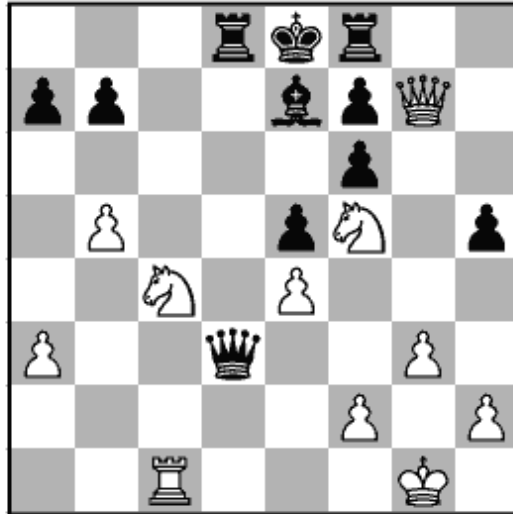
19 Qc2!

After 19 Qf5? (as played in the game) Black was able to defend his h7-pawn: 19...dxc4 20 Rbd1 (20 Ng5 Qd3! defends h7) 20...Qc8 21 Qxh5, and now Black should have played 21...f6 –+.

19...dxc4 20 Rfd1 Qe7 21 Ng5 f5 22 Qxc4+ Kh8 23 Rd6 Rae8 24 Rb3 +-

The idea of Rh3 gives White a decisive attack.

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White to play

458) Miladinović – Zubarev
Sharjah rapid 2023

29 Nxe7!

29 Nce3?! (as played in the game) should have been answered with 29...Qxa3!, when Black can still resist.

29...Kxe7 30 Nxe5! Qxe4

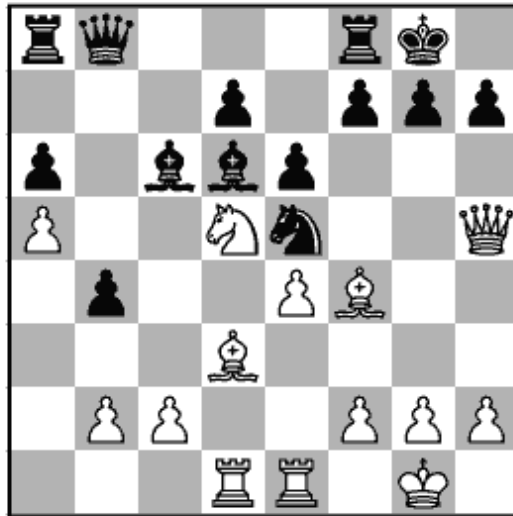
Or 30...Qd2 31 Ng6+ Kd7 32 Nxf8+ Rxf8 33 Rf1 Qd6 34 Re1 +—.

31 Nxf7 Rxf7 32 Rc7+ Kd6 33 Qxf7

Black's king is hopelessly exposed.

33...Qe1+ 34 Kg2 Qe4+ 35 f3 Qe2+ 36 Kh3 +—

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White to play

459) Saveliev – M. Shchukin
St Petersburg Ch 2023

16 Re3!

White launches an attack with the black queen far away from the kingside.

16...exd5?!

16...f6 puts up more resistance, but White's attack is too strong after 17 Rh3 h6 18 Nb6 Ra7 19 Bxh6.

17 Rh3 f5

Black's king comes under an irresistible attack after 17...Re8 18 Qxh7+ Kf8 19 exd5 Bxd5 20 Be2 +–.

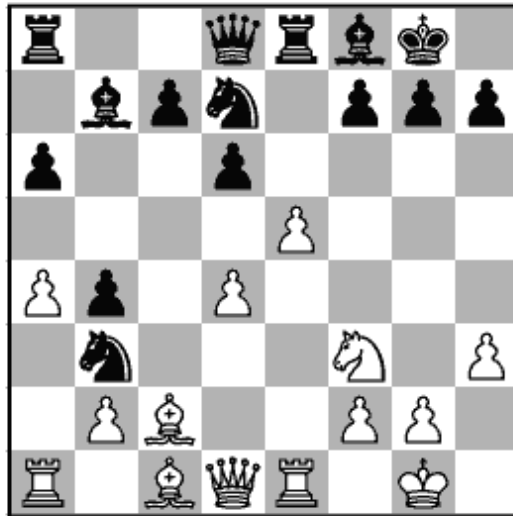
18 exd5 Nxd3 19 Qxh7+ Kf7 20 Qxf5+ Kg8

Or 20...Ke8 21 Qg6+ Kd8 22 Bxd6 Qa7 23 Bxf8 Qxf2+ 24 Kh1 +–.

21 Qh7+ Kf7 22 Bxd6 Qxd6 23 dxc6 Rh8 24 Qf5+ Ke7 25 Rdx d3

1-0

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White to play

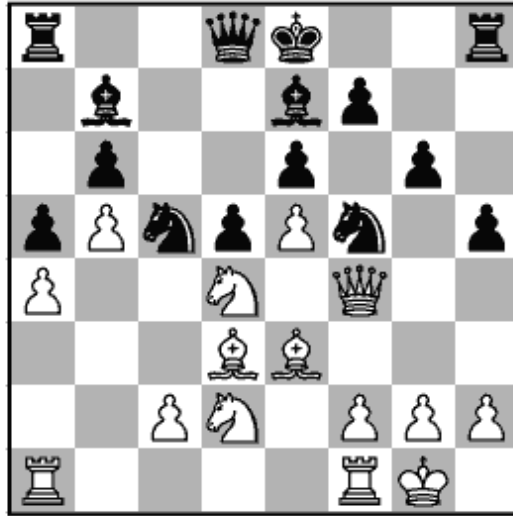
460) A. Liang – A. Tang
Toronto 2023

17 Ng5! Qxg5

Black's king is vulnerable; for example, 17...Nxa1 18 Bxh7+ Kh8 19 Qh5 leads to mate, while 17...g6 18 Bxb3 d5 19 Qf3 Qe7 20 Bxd5 Bxd5 21 Qxd5 Nb6 22 Qf3 +- gives White an extra pawn and a strong attack.

18 Bxg5 Nxa1 19 Bf5 Nb6 20 a5 Nc4 21 Bd7 +-

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Black to play

461) A. Fedorov – Paichadze
New Delhi 2023

16...Nxd3 17 cxd3 Nxd4

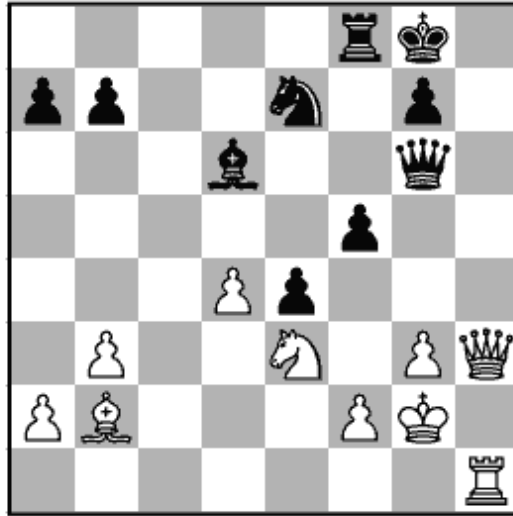
Black exploits the vulnerability of White's pieces on the dark squares.

18 Qxd4

After 18 Bxd4 Bg5 19 Qf3 Bxd2 –+ Black wins a piece.

18...Bc5! 19 Qf4 d4 20 Nc4 Qd5 0-1

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Black to play

462) A. Braun – F. Svane
Bundesliga 2022/3

30...f4!

White is unable to make productive use of the open h-file because his bishop on b2 is out of play and Black's pieces are perfectly situated for an attack on the white king.

31 Nc4 fxg3 32 fxg3

The game ended 32 Ba3? Rxf2+ 33 Kg1 Rh2 0-1.

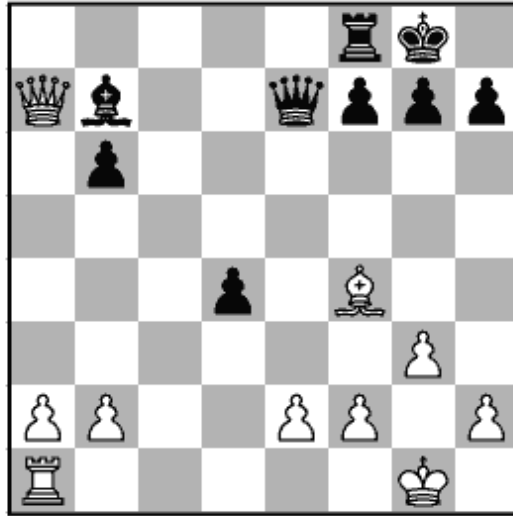
32...Rf5 33 g4

Or: 33 Nxd6?! Qxd6 34 Qh7+ Kf7 35 Rh5 Rd5 36 Rxd5 Qxd5 –+;
 33 d5 Bxg3! 34 Qh8+ Kf7 35 Qxg7+ Qxg7 36 Bxg7 Rg5 37 Bh6 Rg6
 38 Kf1 Nxd5 –/+ with an extra pawn and reasonable chances to win.

33...Rf4 –/+

Black has a strong initiative and good winning prospects.

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Black to play

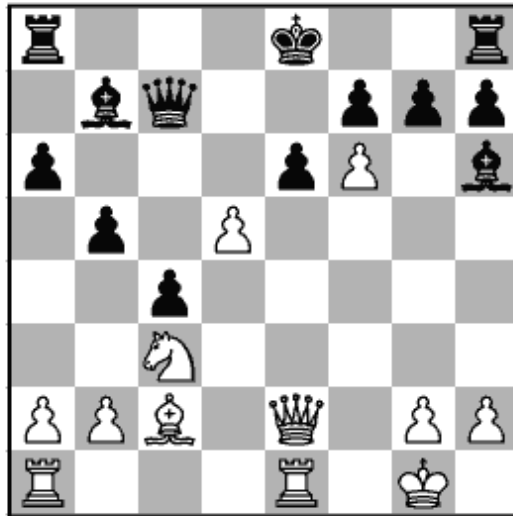
463) Swinkels – S. Ernst
Bundesliga 2022/3

21...d3! 22 f3

The game continuation 22 exd3 allowed Black to trap the white queen by 22...Qd7 23 Rf1 (23 Qxb6 Qd5 24 Kf1 Re8 –+) 23...Qc6 24 f3 Ra8 25 Qxa8+ Bxa8 –+; White resigned two moves later.

22...g5 23 Bxg5 Qxg5 24 Qxb7 Qe3+ 25 Kg2 Qxe2+ 26 Kh3 Qe6+ 27 Kg2 Rc8 –+

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White to play

464) Maghsoodloo – Beerdsen
Bundesliga 2022/3

19 dxe6! 0-0-0

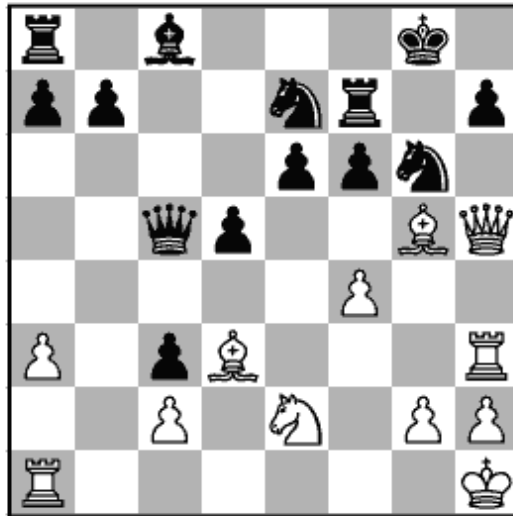
Or 19...0-0 20 e7 Rfe8 21 Ne4 +—.

20 e7 Rde8 21 Be4

White exchanges light-squared bishops so that he can place an uncontested knight on the d5-square.

21...gxf6 22 Bxb7+ Qxb7 23 Rad1 Rhg8 24 Nd5 f5 25 Qh5 +—

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White to play

465) Černoušek – B. Jakab
Slovakian Team Ch 2023

18 Bxf6! Rxf6 19 Qxh7+ Kf8 20 Ng3

White has too many pieces around the black king, while Black's rook and bishop are still undeveloped on the queenside. 20 Rg3 had been played in some earlier games, and is also strong.

20...Bd7 21 Nh5 Rf7

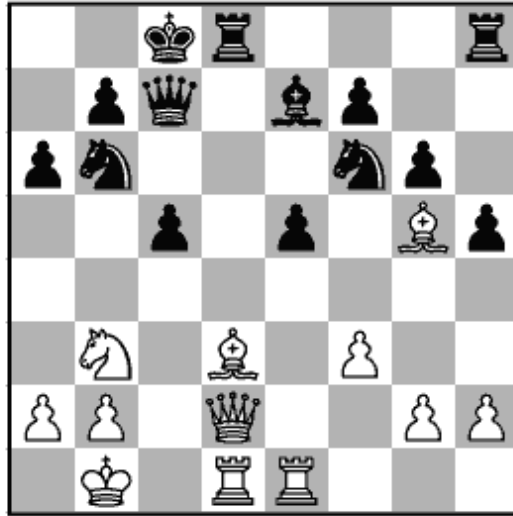
Or 21...Qd4 22 Qg7+ Ke8 23 Nxf6+ Kd8 24 Bxg6 +–.

22 Qh6+ Ke8 23 Ng7+

The game continuation 23 Bxg6 +– is also good enough.

23...Kd8 24 Bxg6 Nxg6 25 Qxg6 +–

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White to play

466) Robson – Shevchenko

Internet rapid 2019

19 Nxc5! Qxc5

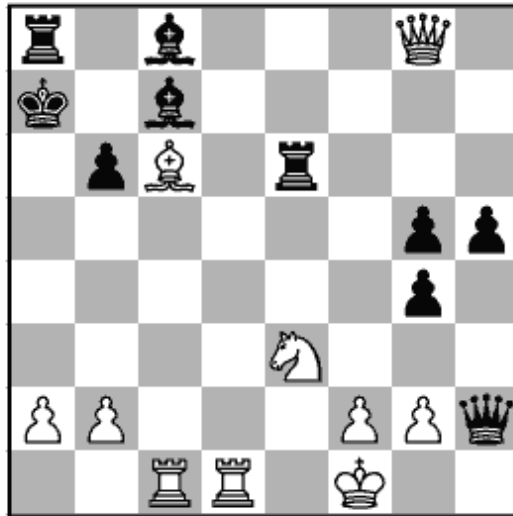
After 19...Nc4? (as played in Ilamparthi-Ruiz Buendia, Stockholm 2022/3) White's bishop-pair dominates the board: 20 Qc2 Qxc5 21 Bxc4 Rxd1+ 22 Rxd1 Rd8 23 Rxd8+ Kxd8 24 Bxf7 +/-.

20 Rc1 Nc4 21 Rxc4 Qxc4 22 Bxc4 Rxd2 23 Bxd2 Rh7

23...Rd8 24 Bg5 Ng8 25 Bxe7 Nxe7 26 Bxf7 +/- gives White good winning chances in the endgame because of Black's weak pawns.

24 Rxe5 Bd6 25 Re2 +/-

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White to play

467) Szeberenyi – Udvardi
Budapest 2023

36 Rc4!

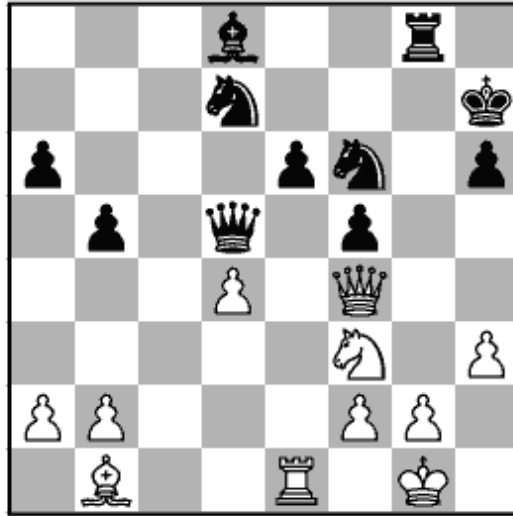
White must avoid 36 Bxa8?? Ba6+! –+, when Black will checkmate.

36...Rxc6 37 Ra4+ Kb7 38 Rxa8 Be6 39 Qe8 g3

Or 39...Bb8 40 Ra3 +–.

40 Ra7+ Kxa7 41 Qxc6 1-0

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White to play

468) Unuk – J. Houska

Women's online team event 2023

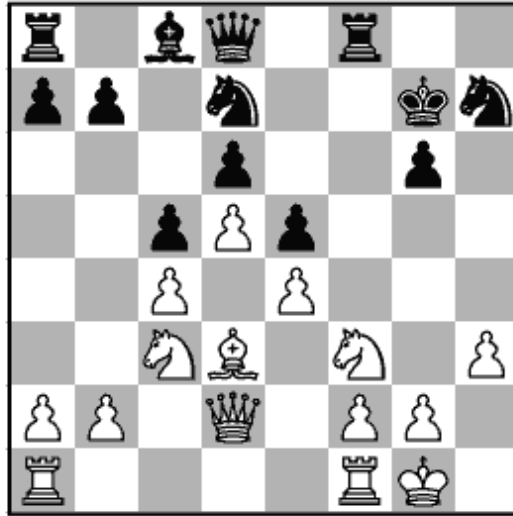
32 Rxe6! Qxe6

After 32...Kg7 33 Bxf5 Nf8 34 Rxa6 +- White has a raging initiative and Black's king is too exposed.

33 Bxf5+ Qxf5 34 Qxf5+ Kh8 35 Ne5 Nxe5 36 dxe5 Nh7 37 Qe6 +-

White has a decisive advantage as her queen and pawns restrict the activity of Black's pieces.

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Black to play

469) Çitak – Ibadov
Pozarevac 2023

16...Rxf3!

The exchange sacrifice ruins White's pawn-structure and creates several weak squares for the black knights to use.

17 gxf3 Qh4 18 Kg2

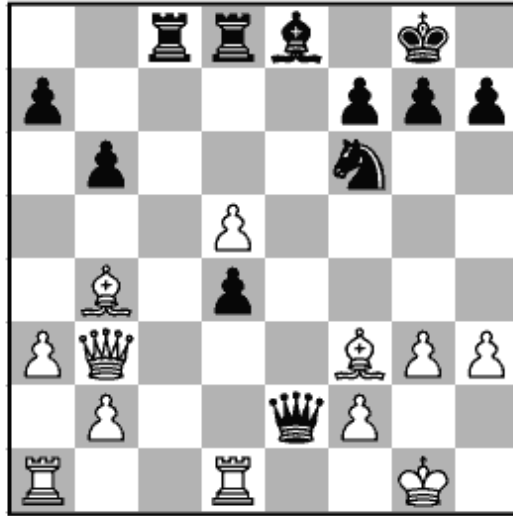
White's king is unable to run away and Black increases the pressure on the f3-pawn after 18 Rfe1 Ng5 19 Re3 Nf6 20 Kf1 Bxh3+ 21 Ke2 Bg2 –+.

18...Ndf6

Or 18...Ng5 19 Rh1 Nf6, transposing to the game.

19 Rh1 Ng5 –+

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Black to play

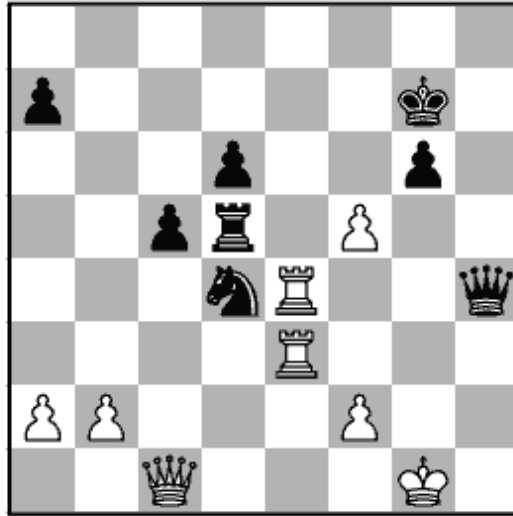
470) Çitak – M. Krstić
Pozarevac 2023

20...Ba4!

After 20...Qc2? (as played in the game) Black is unable to cope with White's powerful passed d-pawn and active pieces: 21 Qxc2 Rxc2 22 Rxd4 Rxb2 and now White should have played 23 Rc1 +—.

21 Bxe2 Bxb3 22 Rxd4 Rxd5 =

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Black to play

471) M. Novotny – P. Hollan (variation)
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

34...Qg5+!

Better than 34...Qh5 35 Qc4! Rxf5 36 Rxd4 cxd4 37 Qxd4+ Kg8 38 Qxd6 += with an extra pawn.

35 Kf1

Or 35 Kh1 Rxf5 36 Qf1 Nf3 37 Re7+ Kh6 38 Qh3+ Qh5 39 Qxh5+ Rxh5+ 40 Kg2 Nh4+ 41 Kf1 Nf5 42 Rxa7 Nxe3+ 43 fxe3 Rh2 = with an equal rook and pawn endgame.

35...Qh5

Black is threatening 36...Qh1#.

36 Kg2

Or 36 Kg1 Qg5+, repeating.

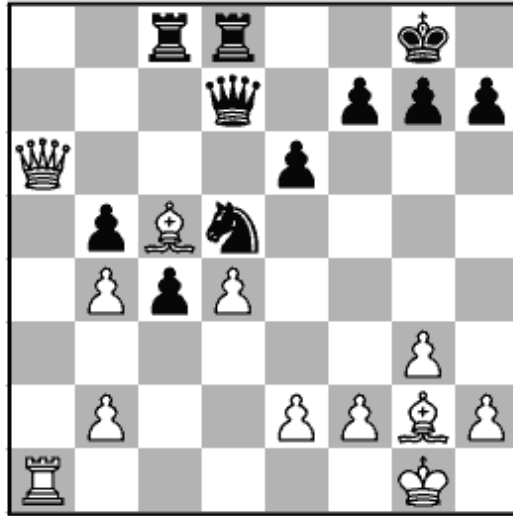
36...Qg5+

Black must repeat moves as after 36...gxf5?? 37 Rg3+ Kf7 38 Re1 +- White consolidates his material advantage.

37 Kf1 Qh5 =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

472) Mahajan – Avila Rodriguez
Los Angeles 2023

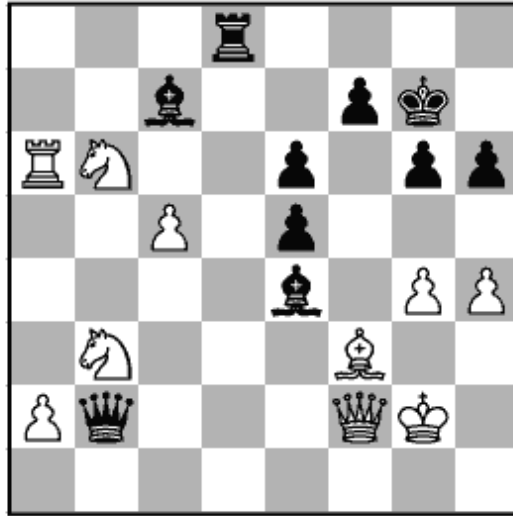
25...Qe8!

The queen retreat is best, so that Black can contest the a-file and activate his rooks. After 25...f5?! 26 Ra5 (as actually played) White has a playable game, and near-equality.

26 Ra5 Ra8 27 Qxb5 Qxb5 28 Rxb5 Ra2 –/+

Black has a material advantage and good chances to win.

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Black to play

473) Aziz – Djabri
Riyadh rapid 2023

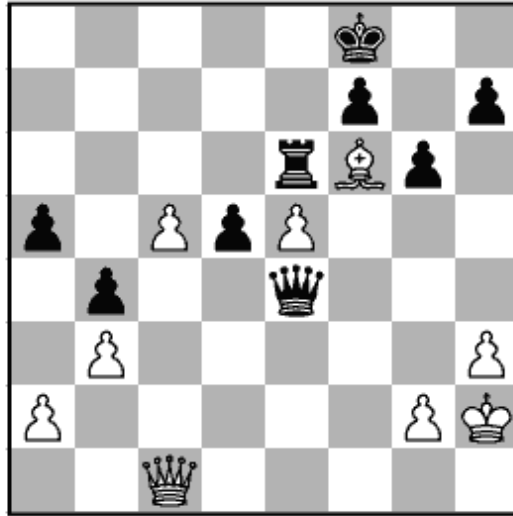
34...Bxf3+ 35 Kxf3 e4+ 36 Kg2 Qe5!

White is unable to defend his king despite his extra material because his pieces are out of play on the queenside.

37 Kf1 0-1

White loses his queen after 37...Rd1+ 38 Ke2 Qb2+ 39 Kxd1 Qxf2 –+.

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Black to play

474) I. Johannesson – S. Björnsson
Icelandic Team Ch 2022/3

41...Rc6!

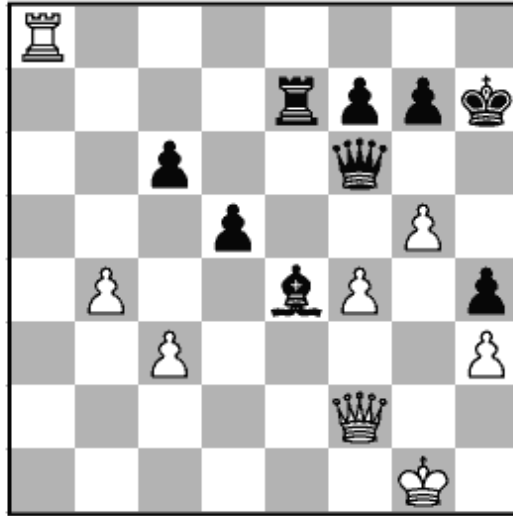
Black must blockade the passed pawn. Instead 41...Rxe5?? was played in the game, when White turned things around after 42 c6! Rf5 43 c7 Rxf6 44 c8Q+ Kg7 45 Qg4 +–.

42 Qh6+ Ke8 43 Qxh7 Qf4+!

The queen check enables Black to capture the c5-pawn with his queen and control the f8-square.

44 Kh1 Qc1+ 45 Kh2 Qxc5 46 Qh8+ Qf8 47 Qh4 Rc2 –+

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Black to play

475) Gajčin – Savina

European Women's Ch, Petrovac 2023

37...Qxc3!

After 37...Qd6?? (as played in the game) White can generate a mating attack: 38 Qxh4+ Kg6 39 Rh8! f6 40 Qh5+ Kf5 41 Qg4+ Kg6 42 f5+ (Black resigned here) 42...Bxf5 (42...Kf7 43 g6#) 43 Qh5#.

38 Qxh4+

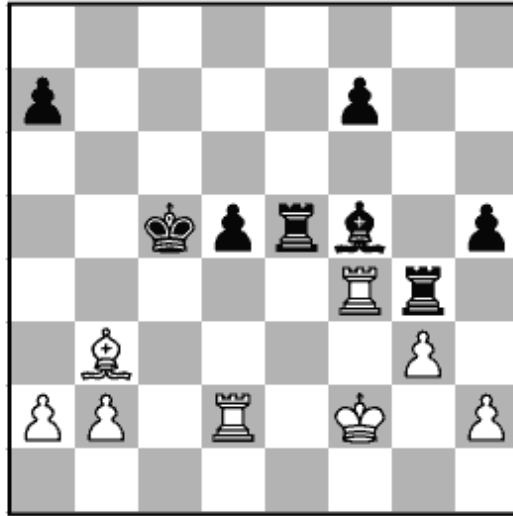
38 Kh2 Bf5 –+ leads to mate.

38...Kg6

White's king is hopelessly exposed.

39 Rh8 Qc1+ 40 Kf2 Qd2+ 41 Kf1 Qg2+ 42 Ke1 Bc2#

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White to play

476) Rooze – De Waele
Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

The position appears to be relatively simple, but it contains a few surprises.

31 h3! Rg5 32 Bxd5

White can also win the pawn and exchange a set of rooks with 32 Rxd5+ Rxd5 33 Bxd5 Bxh3 34 Bxf7 a5 35 Bc4 +=, though Black has drawing chances since there are so few pawns left.

32...Bxh3

Black loses another pawn after 32...Rxd5? 33 Rxd5+ Kxd5 34 h4 Rg4 35 Rxf5+ Ke6 36 Rxh5 +–.

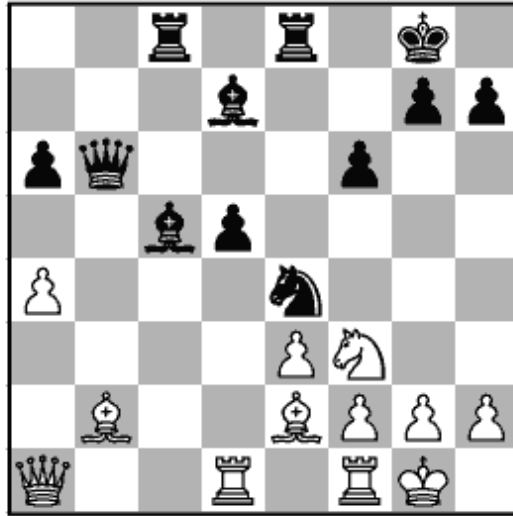
33 Bxf7 a5

33...Ref5?! was played in the game, but is less accurate because White can restrict Black's a-pawn with 34 b4+! (the game ended abruptly after 34 Rd4?! Rxf7?? {34...a5 +=} 35 b4+! 1-0) 34...Kc6 35 Rd4 +/-.

34 Rd8 +=

White is a pawn ahead, but Black can hope for a draw because of the reduced material.

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Black to play

477) Leszko – Rosh
Budapest 2023

22...Bxe3! 23 Bd4

Or 23 fxe3 Qxe3+ 24 Kh1 Qxe2 –+.

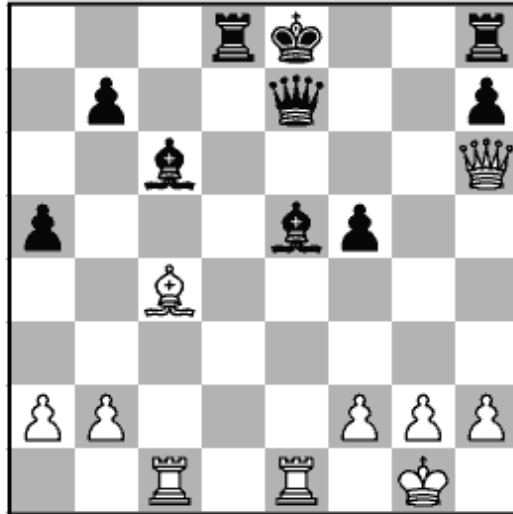
23...Bxd4 24 Qxd4

The black queen is more active than her white counterpart after 24 Rxd4 Nc3 25 Bd3 a5 –/+; Black then has an extra pawn and good chances to win.

24...Qxd4 25 Rxd4 Nc5 –/+

Black is a pawn up and can seek victory.

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White to play

478) Antal – Tica

Mitropa Cup, Mali Lošinj 2023

23 Qh5+!

White must be precise as after 23 f4?, 23...Bd4+ 24 Kh1 Be4 enables Black to defend.

23...Kd7

Or 23...Kf8 24 Rxe5 +–.

24 Qxf5+ Kd6

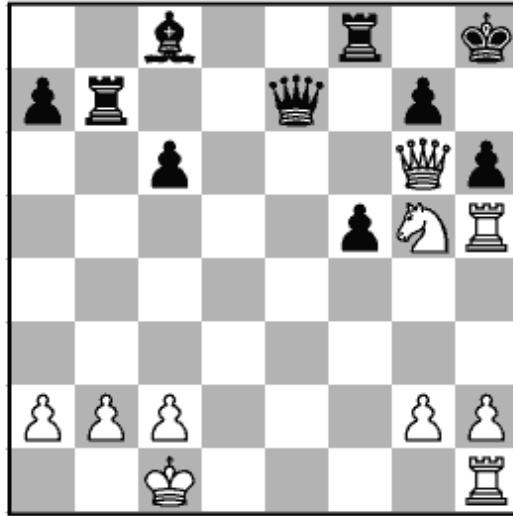
White wins easily with his two extra pawns after 24...Kc7 25 Rxe5 +–.

25 Rxe5! Qg7

The white rook is immune: after 25...Qxe5 White wins the black queen with 26 Rd1+ +–.

26 Re6+ Kc7 27 Qxa5+ +–

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Black to play

479) Galperin – Rakhmatullaev (variation)
Tashkent 2023

22...Qe3+ 23 Kb1 Rxb2+! 24 Kxb2

24 Ka1 Rb1+ 25 Kxb1 (25 Rxb1 Qc3+ 26 Rb2 Qe1+ 27 Rb1 Qc3+ is a draw) 25...Qb6+ 26 Kc1 (26 Ka1 Qd4+ 27 Kb1 Qb6+ repeats) 26...Qe3+ 27 Kb1 Qb6+ with a draw by repetition.

24...Qb6+

This check is the easiest way to make a draw. Black can also maintain the balance by 24...Qd4+ 25 c3 Qd2+ 26 Kb3 Be6+ 27 Qxe6 Rb8+ 28 Kc4 Qxa2+ 29 Kc5 Qf2+ =, repeating.

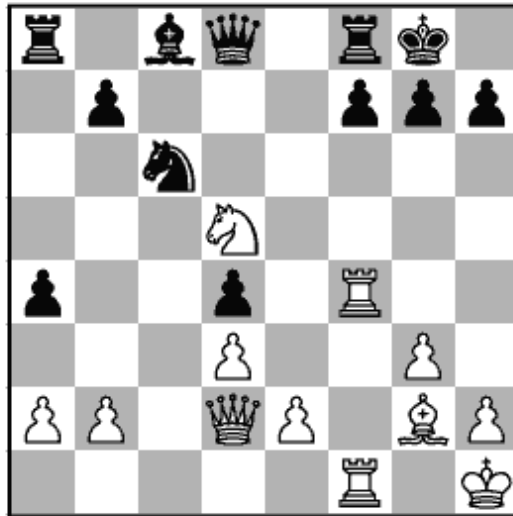
25 Kc1

25 Ka1 Qd4+ 26 Kb1 Qb6+ repeats.

25...Qe3+ 26 Kb2 Qb6+ =

We again have a draw by repetition.

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White to play

480) Gledura – Swiercz
Saint Louis 2023

23 Nf6+!

The knight sacrifice works because White can quickly funnel his pieces to Black's weakened kingside.

23...gxf6

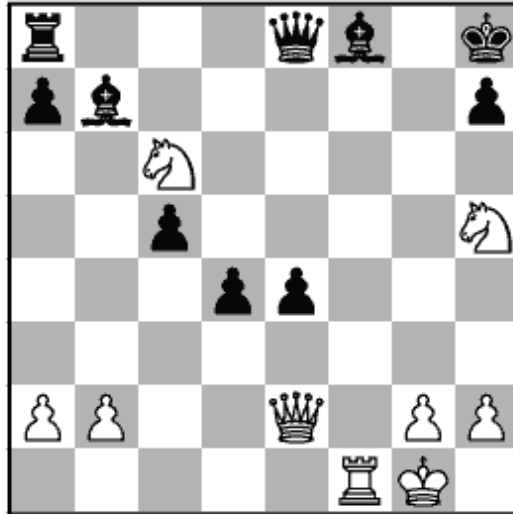
23...Kh8 is met by 24 Rh4 +–.

24 Rh4 Re8 25 Qh6 f5 26 Be4

Or 26 g4 Ra5 27 gxf5 Bxf5 28 Rxf5 +–.

26...Rxe4 27 dxe4 Ra5 28 Rh5 +–

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White to play

481) Laurent-Paoli – Stijve

Basle 2023

28 Nf6! Qxc6 29 Qh5 Qc7

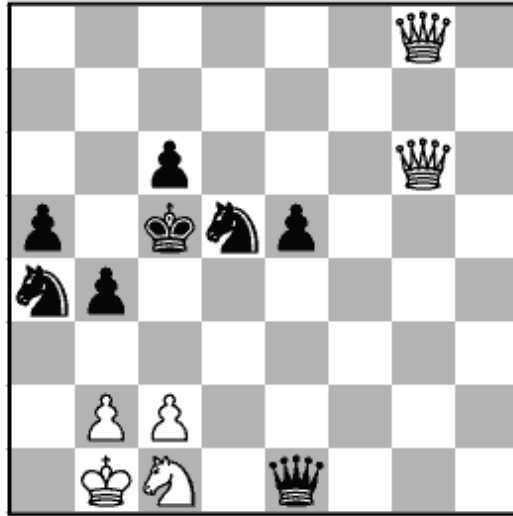
Other moves cost Black his queen. For example: 29...Qxf6 30 Rxf6 +- (as played in the game) or 29...h6 30 Qg6 +-.

30 Ne8 Rxe8

Or 30...Qe7 31 Rf7 +-.

31 Qxe8 Bd5 32 Rxf8+ Kg7 33 Rf5 +-

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Black to play

482) Pacher – Kwon (variation)
Budapest 2023

38...Ndc3+

38...Nac3+ 39 bxc3 Nxc3+ transposes.

39 bxc3 Nxc3+ 40 Kb2 Na4+

40...Nd1+ 41 Kb1 (41 Ka1?? Qc3+ 42 Kb1 Qb2#) 41...Nc3+ comes to the same thing.

41 Kb1

White is mated after 41 Kb3?? Qc3+ 42 Kxa4 Qa3#.

41...Nc3+ 42 Kb2 Na4+

Or 42...Nd1+ =.

43 Ka2

Not 43 Ka1?? Qc3+ 44 Ka2 Qb2#.

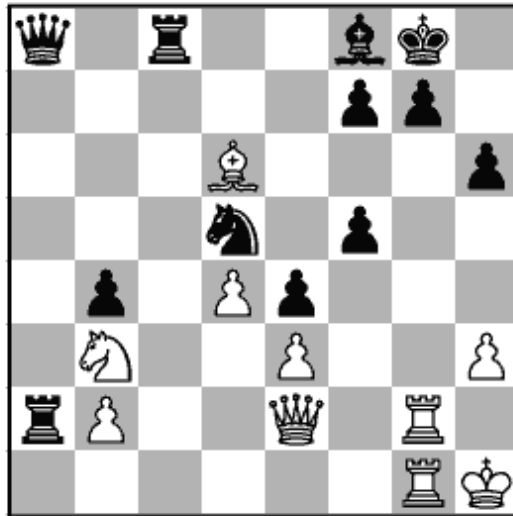
43...Nc3+ 44 Kb3

44 Kb2 repeats the position.

44...a4+ 45 Kb2 Nd1+ 46 Kb1 Nc3+ 47 Kb2 Nd1+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

483) Y. Lin – Adan Bermudez
Zahara de la Sierra 2023

36...g6!

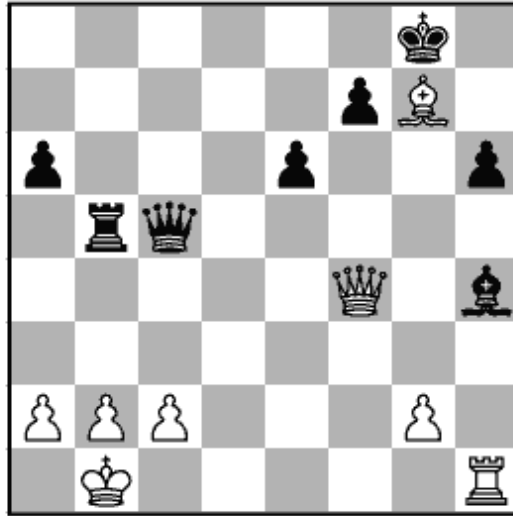
In the game Black blundered with 36...Qa6??, allowing White to triple along the g-file and deliver mate: 37 Rxd7+! Kh8 (or 37...Bxd7 38 Qg2 followed by 39 Qxd7#) 38 Qg2 h5 (38...Nf6 is answered with 39 Rg8+ Kh7 40 Qg7+ Bxd7 41 R1xd7#) 39 Rg8+ Kh7 40 Rh8+ and Black resigned in view of 40...Kxh8 41 Qg8#.

37 Rxd7+

White also runs out of firepower after 37 Qh5 Bg7 38 Rxd6 fxd6 39 Qxd6 Ra7 –+.

37...fxg6 38 Rxd6+ Bg7 39 Be5 Ra7 –+

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Black to play

484) Agüero Jimenez – Aarav
Zahara de la Sierra 2023

28...Bg5! 29 Qd4 Qf5!

Black is threatening to win the wayward bishop with ...e5.

30 Bxh6

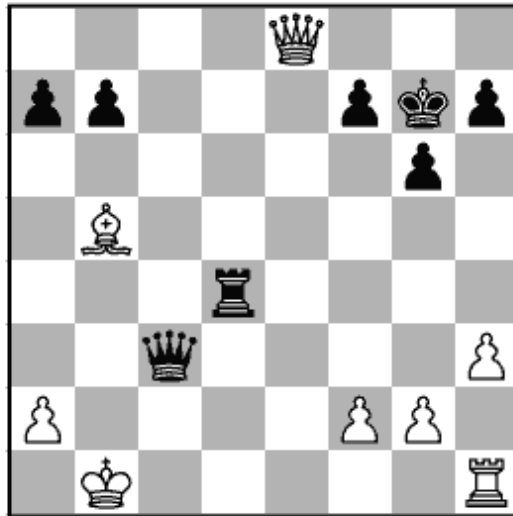
The weakness of White's back rank is fatal after 30 g4 Qf3 31 Re1 Rd5 –+.

30...Bxh6 31 Qh4

31 Rxh6 is impossible due to the simple back-rank mate with 31...Qf1+.

31...Qe5 32 b3 Bg5 0-1

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White to play

485) Pandey – Karavade
Delhi (women) 2022

30 Ba4!

30 Qe5+? (as played in the game) is hopeless because Black forces a transition to a rook endgame: 30...Kh6 31 Qe3+ Qxe3 32 fxe3 Rb4+ 33 Kc2 Rxb5 —+ and Black went on to win.

30...Rb4+

Or 30...Rd2 31 Qb5 a6 32 Qb3 with roughly equal chances.

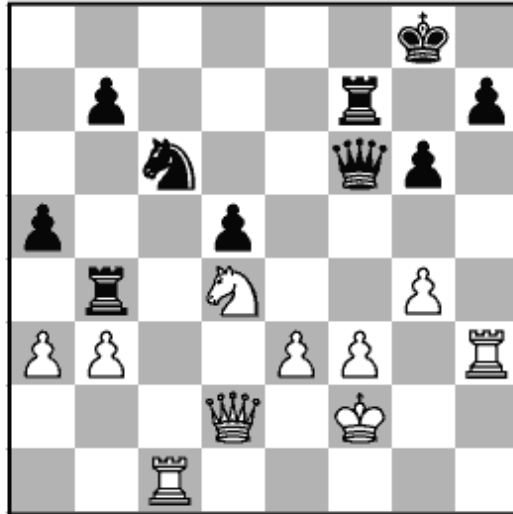
31 Bb3 Rxb3+ 32 axb3 Qxb3+ 33 Kc1 Qc3+ 34 Kb1

White gains nothing by running to the kingside: 34 Kd1 Qd3+ 35 Ke1 Qb1+ 36 Ke2 Qxh1 and White must give perpetual check with 37 Qe5+ f6 38 Qe7+ Kh6 39 Qxf6 Qxg2 40 Qh4+ Kg7 41 Qe7+ Kh6 42 Qh4+.

34...Qb3+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

486) Renman – B. Baum

European Over-65 Team Ch, Dresden 2022

31...Nxd4! 32 exd4

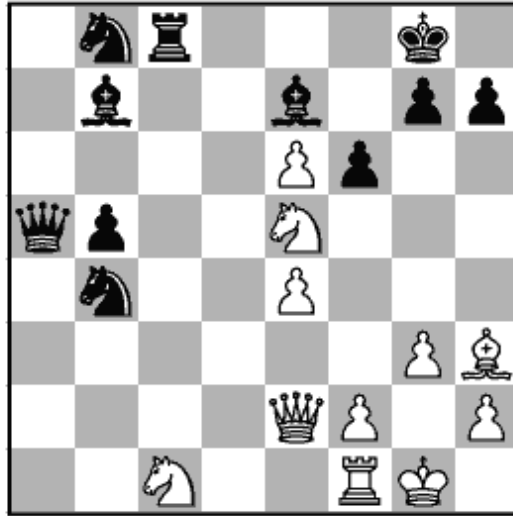
White will defend a pawn-down endgame. After 32 axb4? (as played in the game) Black infiltrated along the f-file by 32...Nxf3 33 Rxf3 Qxf3+ 34 Kg1 Qg3+ 35 Kh1 Rf2, with a decisive attack.

32...Rxb3 33 Rc8+ Rf8

33...Kg7?? allows 34 Qh6#.

34 Rxf8+ Kxf8 35 a4 Kg8 =+

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White to play

487) A. Sahakyan – Chyzy

European Under-16 Ch, Antalya 2022

29 Bf5!

After 29 Qh5? Bxe4! (as played in the game) White was unable to strengthen his attack: 30 Qf7+ Kh8 31 Qxe7 fxe5 –+ and Black went on to win.

29...fxe5 30 Qh5

Or 30 Bxh7+ Kxh7 31 Qh5+ Kg8 32 Qf7+ Kh7 33 Qh5+ with a draw by repetition.

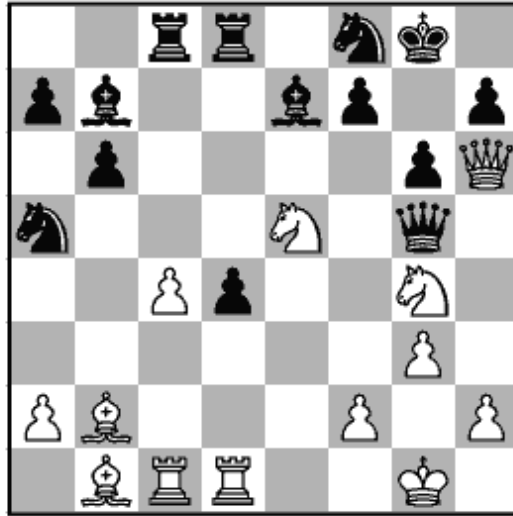
30...g6 31 Bxg6 hxg6 32 Qxg6+ Kh8

Not 32...Kf8?? 33 Qf7#.

33 Qh6+ Kg8 34 Qg6+ Kh8 =

with a draw by repetition.

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White to play

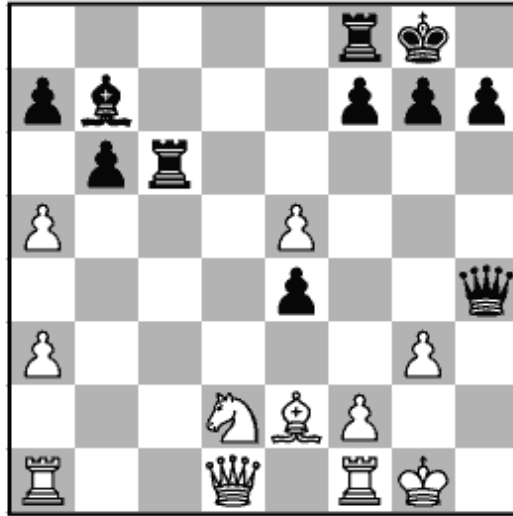
488) S. Georges – Mäser
Swiss Team Ch 2022

24 h4!

24 Rxd4? was played in the game. Black then exchanged a set of rooks and simplified the position with 24...Rxd4 25 Bxd4 Ne6 =.

24...Qxh6 25 Nxh6+ Kg7 26 Nhxf7 Re8 27 Bxd4 +-

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Black to play

489) Cappelletto – Hercegovac

Italian Junior Ch, Cagliari 2022

20...Rg6! 21 Kg2

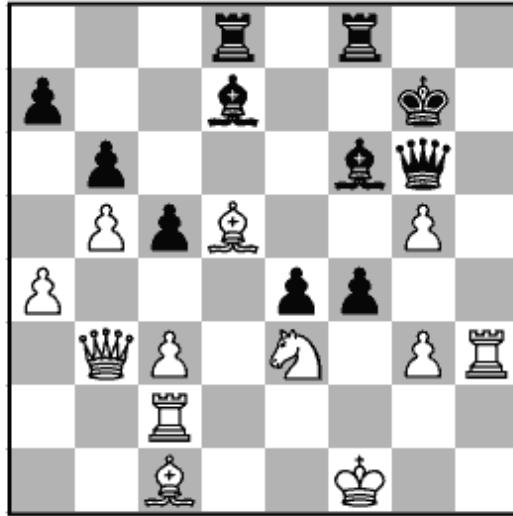
White's kingside pawn-structure is ripped apart after 21 Bh5 e3! –+.

21...e3+ 22 Nf3 exf2 23 Kxf2 Qxg3+ 24 Ke3 Bxf3 25 Bxf3 Qxe5+ 26 Be4

The white king is caught in a mating-net after 26 Kf2 Re8 27 Rh1 Qg3+ 28 Kf1 Rf6 –+.

Now (after 26 Be4) Black has several good options, but the clearest path to victory is 26...Re8 27 Rf4 (Black wins the white queen after 27 Qd4 Rg3+ –+) 27...Rg3+ –+.

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White to play

490) Beukes – Rorrer
Charlotte 2022

33 Rh6!

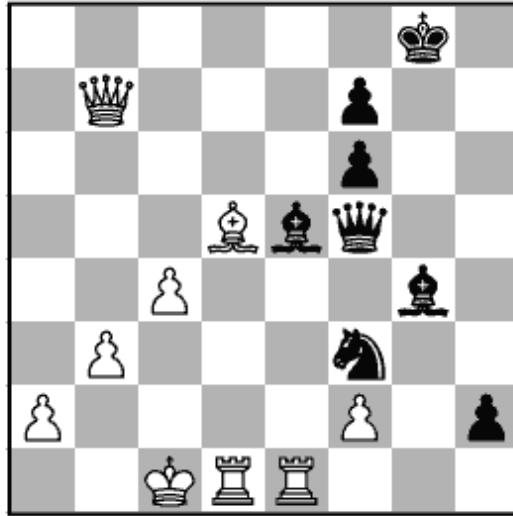
In the game White chose 33 gxf6+?, when 33...Rxf6! –+ would have given Black a winning attack. (Instead he played 33...Qxf6?, when 34 Nf5+! followed by g4 would have kept the f-file closed and turned the tables.)

33...Qxg5 34 Rch2 Rh8

White has a decisive material advantage after 34...Qxh6 35 Rxh6 fxe3 (35...Kxh6 36 gxf4 +–) 36 Rxf6 Rxf6+ 37 Ke1 Bg4 38 Bxe3 +–.

35 gxf4 Qxf4+ 36 Rf2 Qxf2+ 37 Kxf2 Rxh6 38 Bxe4 +–

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Black to play

491) Rorrer – Caglar

Charlotte 2022

43...Ng5!

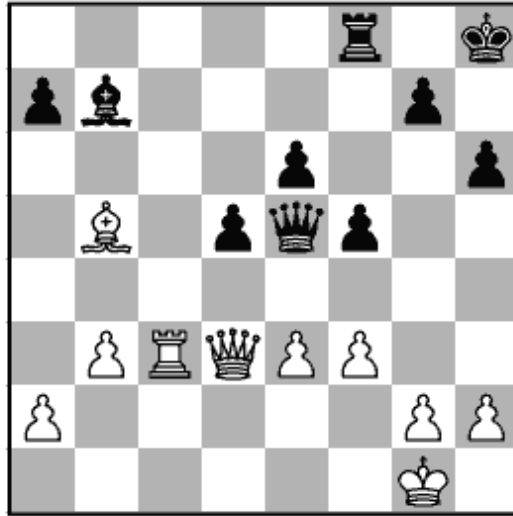
Black pauses to protect her king before continuing the attack. Instead 43...Qg5+? (as played in the game) leaves the black king with no shelter. After 44 Re3 Ng1 White could have played 45 Bxf7+! Kg7 46 Bg8+ followed by mate.

44 Rd2

White's king is too exposed and the h2-pawn too strong after 44 Bh1 Qxf2 45 Rd8+ Kg7 46 Rxe5 Qf4+ 47 Kc2 Qxe5 –+.

44...Bf4 45 Re3 Kg7 46 Kb2 Bxe3 47 fxe3 Qe5+ 48 Rd4 Bf5 –+

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Black to play

492) P. Gasimov – S. Mammadov
Nakhchivan 2022

28...d4!

The pawn-thrust exploits the lack of harmony among White's pieces.

29 f4

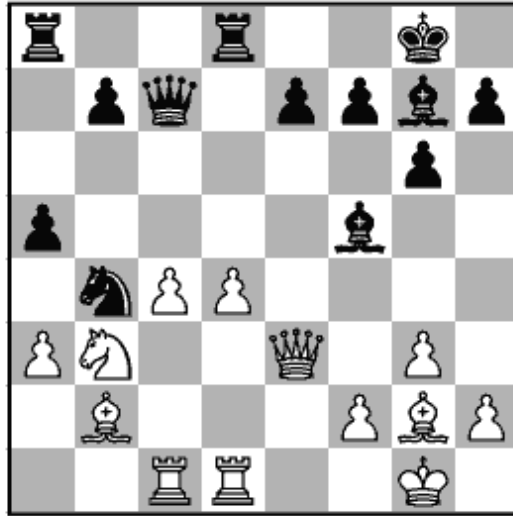
Black obtains a decisive extra pawn after 29 Rc1 dxe3 30 Re1 (the game ended 30 Rc3? e2 0-1) 30...f4 –+.

29...Qd5 30 Rc2 dxe3 31 Qxd5 Bxd5 32 Re2 g5! 33 fxg5

White loses his f4-pawn after 33 g3 gxf4 34 gxf4 Rg8+ 35 Kf1 Rg4 –+.

33...f4 34 gxh6 Rc8 –+

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Black to play

493) Neukirchner – Gahan
Heusenstamm 2022

25...Nc2! 26 Qe2

After 26 Qf3?! (as played in the game) Black wins material because of the looseness of White's queenside pieces: 26...Qxc4 27 Na1 and now Black could have chosen 27...Bh6 28 Bf1 Qa2 –+.

26...a4 27 Rxc2 Bxc2 28 Qxc2 axb3 29 Qxb3 Rab8 –/+

Black has a material advantage and good winning chances.

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Black to play

494) Desnica – Kopasz

Serbian Team Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2022

19...Be5!

Black must stay alert; after 19...Bd7? (as played in the game) White exposed Black's king and created mating threats: 20 gxh7 (threatening 21 Qg8+ followed by mate) 20...Rhx7 21 Rxh7+ Kxh7 22 Qf7+ Kh8 (22...Kh6 23 Bd3 leads to mate) 23 0-0-0 Qh4 24 Qxd7 Ne5 25 Qe6 1-0.

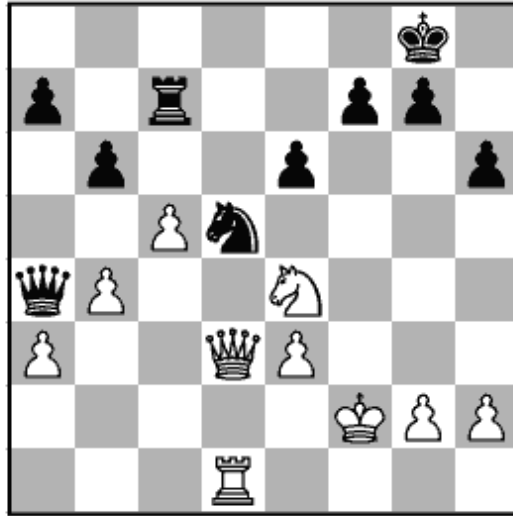
20 Qxd8+

White has insufficient compensation for the piece after 20 Rxh7+ Rxh7 21 gxh7 Qxd5 22 Bxd5 dxe3 23 Bxe3 Bf5 –+.

20...Nxd8 21 exd4 Bf6 –+

White's attack is over and Black's extra piece is decisive.

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Black to play

495) H. Salo – Ahvenjärvi

Finnish Team Ch 2022/3

30...f5! 31 Nd6

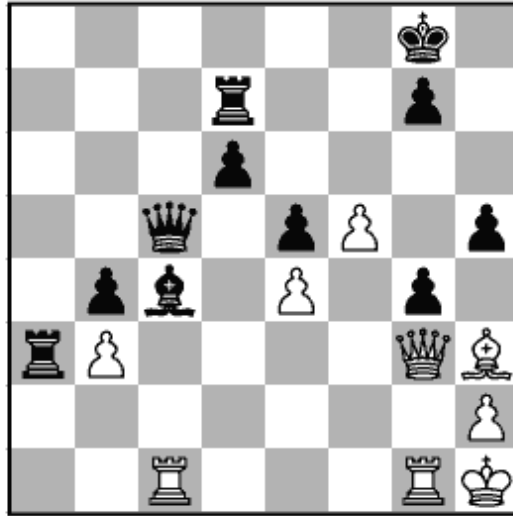
White can avoid losing a pawn, but his position collapses after 31 cxb6 axb6 32 Ng3 Rc3 –+.

31...bxc5 32 Rc1

After 32 Nxf5 (as played in the game) Black won a piece: 32...Rf7 33 Kg1 Rxf5 34 e4 Nf4 0-1.

32...cxb4 33 Rxc7 Nxc7 –+

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White to play

496) Zaloznyy – Vigorito

Charlotte 2022

33 Bf1!

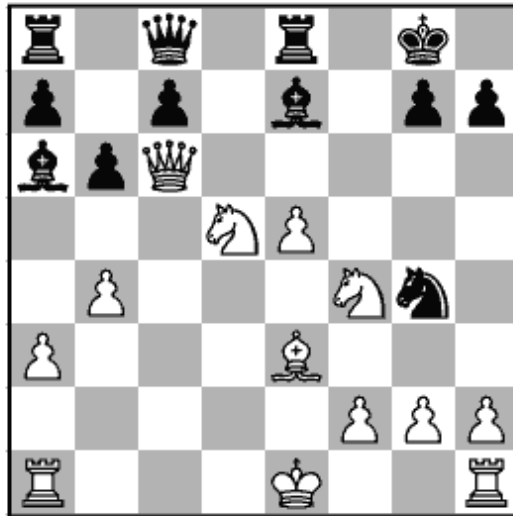
Diagonal retreating moves are easy to miss. White must avoid 33 Bxg4? Rxb3! 34 Bf3 Be2! 35 Rxc5 Bxf3+ 36 Qxf3 Rxf3 –+.

33...Bf7

Or 33...d5 34 Qxe5! Re7 35 Qb8+ Kh7 36 bxc4 +–.

34 Rxc5 dxc5 35 Qxe5 1-0

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Black to play

497) Van der Stricht – Bouhallel
Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

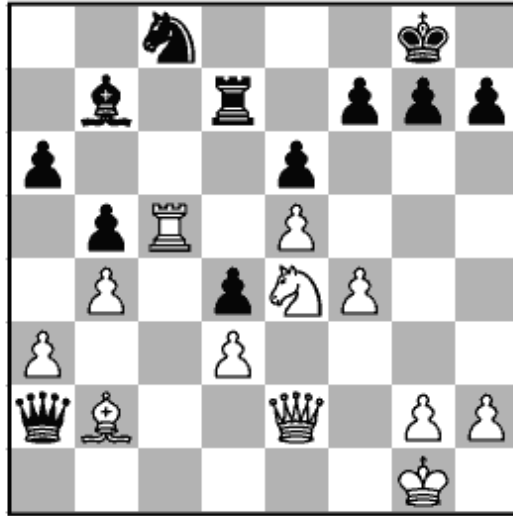
19...Bh4!

Black moves the bishop out of reach of White's minor pieces and creates some threats involving the bishop on e3. Not 19...Nxe5? (as played in the game), when 20 Qe6+! Kh8 21 Qxc8 Raxc8 22 Nxe7 Rxe7 23 0-0-0 = would have given White counterplay with ideas involving Bd4.

20 0-0-0 Nxe5 21 Qc2 c6 22 Nc3 Nc4 23 Rhe1 Bf6

White's pieces have been repelled, leaving Black with the bishop-pair and strong pressure against White's queenside; e.g., 24 g3 Nxa3 25 Qb3+ Nc4 26 Nh5 Be5 –+.

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White to play

498) R. Miranda – Lopez Azambuja
Montevideo 2022

30 Nf6+!

The knight sacrifice is effective because Black's queen is far away from the kingside.

30...gxf6 31 Qg4+

31 exf6 Kf8 32 Qg4 transposes to the game.

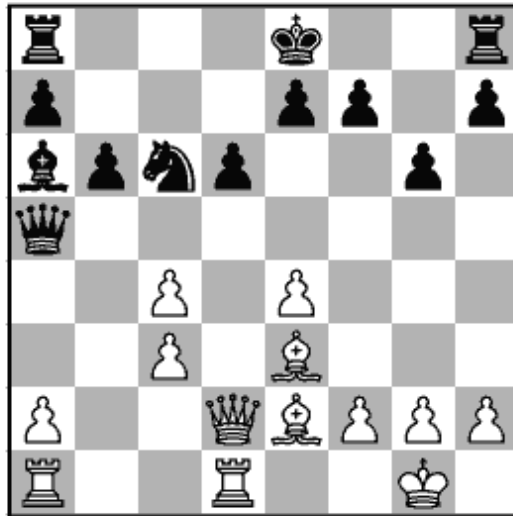
31...Kf8 32 exf6 Re7

Black gives up his rook to prevent mate. The game ended instead 32...Rd5 33 Rc7 1-0.

33 Qg7+ Ke8 34 Qh8+ Kd7 35 fxe7 Nxe7 36 Qxd4+

White has a decisive plus.

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White to play

499) Carbone – Coppola
Montevideo 2022

15 Qc2!

White takes control of the a4-square and clears a path for Rd5 to exploit the vulnerable position of Black's queen.

15...Bc8

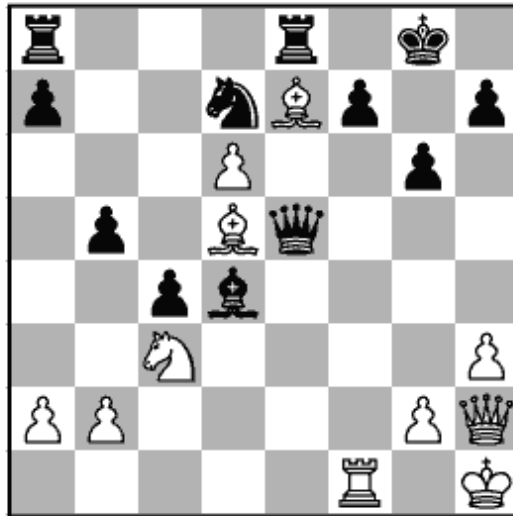
White wins material after 15...Qe5 16 Qa4 Bb7 17 Bd4 Qxe4 18 Bf3 +–. The game continuation 15...e6 16 Rxd6 Rc8 17 Bh6 Qe5 18 Rad1 +– left White a pawn up with a strong attack.

16 Rd5 Qa6

Or 16...Qa3 17 Bc1 Qa6 18 c5 Qb7 19 cxd6 +–.

17 c5 Qb7 18 cxd6 +–

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Black to play

500) N. Ristić – Ibadov
Pozarevac 2022

24...Bxc3! 25 Bxf7+ Kg7 26 bxc3 Qxh2+ 27 Kxh2 Rf8!

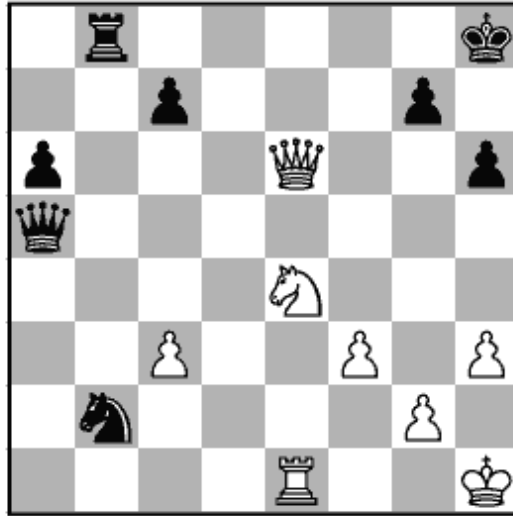
Black simplifies into a winning endgame.

28 Bd5

Or 28 Bxc4 bxc4 29 Bxf8+ Rxf8 –+.

28...Rxf1 29 Bxa8 b4 –+

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White to play

501) Palczert – Lakos

Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

33 Nf6!

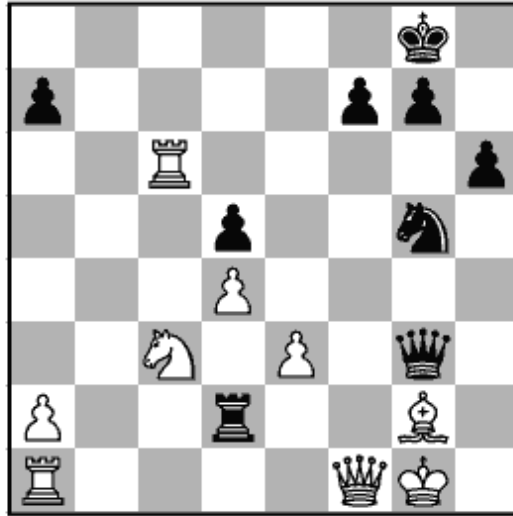
Threatening Qe8+ followed by mate.

33...Qa4

The knight is immune from capture as 33...gxf6 34 Qxf6+ Kg8 35 Re7 leads to mate.

Now (after 33...Qa4) White has a choice of winning ideas; the clearest is 34 Qf5 gxf6 35 Qxf6+ Kg8 36 Qg6+ Kf8 37 Qxh6+ Kg8 38 Qg6+ Kf8 39 Re6 as Black loses too much material.

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White to play

502) Bodi – A. Jakab

Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

29 Rc8+!

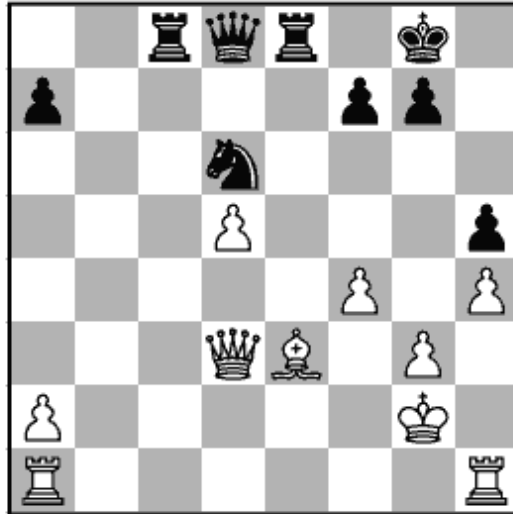
29 Nd1?? was played in the game, when Black forced mate by 29...Rxc8+! 30 Qxc8 Nf3+ 0-1.

29...Kh7 30 Qf5+ g6 31 Rh8+!

White gives back a rook to simplify into a piece-up endgame. The greedy 31 Qf1? runs into problems after 31...Rf2! 32 Qxf2 Nh3+ 33 Kh1 Nxf2+ 34 Kg1 Qxe3 =+.

31...Kxh8 32 Qe5+ Qxe5 33 dxe5 d4 34 exd4 Rxd4 35 a4 +-

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Black to play

503) S. Pallas – E. Miller
2nd Bundesliga 2021/2

26...Rxe3!

Black sacrifices the exchange to seize the initiative before White can activate his rooks.

27 Qxe3 Rc2+ 28 Kg1

Or 28 Kf1 Nc4 29 Qd3 Qb6 –+.

28...Nf5 29 Qb3

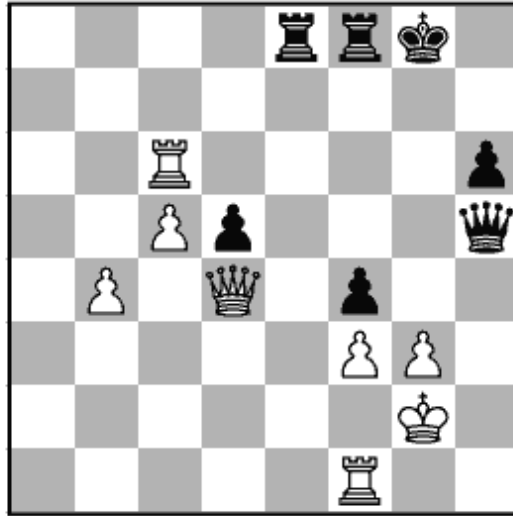
Or 29 Qxa7 Qf6 30 Rf1 Qg6 –+.

29...Nd4 30 Qd3 Qxd5 31 Rh2

The game ended 31 Rd1 Qg2# (0-1).

31...Ne2+ 32 Qxe2 Qd4+ 33 Kf1 Qxa1+ –+

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Black to play

504) E. Berend – S. Naoum
Casablanca 2022

32...Re2+ 33 Rf2 Re1!

White is unable to protect his back rank.

34 Rf1

White runs out of checks after 34 Rxh6 Qxh6 35 Qxd5+ Kh8 36 Qd4+ Rf6 37 Qd8+ Kg7 38 Qd7+ Kf8 39 Qc8+ Re8 –+.

34...Rxf1 35 Kxf1 Qh1+ 36 Qg1

36 Ke2 Re8+ 37 Kd3 Qxf3+ 38 Kc2 Re2+ 39 Kc1 Qf1+ 40 Qd1 Re1 –+.

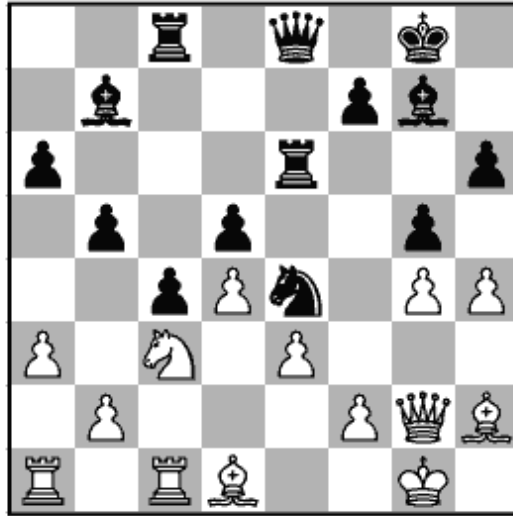
36...Qxf3+ 37 Qf2

Or 37 Ke1 Re8+, leading to mate.

37...Qh1+ 38 Ke2 Re8+ 39 Kd2

Now the clearest win is 39...Qb1 –+.

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Black to play

505) C. Kuhn – J. Mouhamad
Tremblay-en-France 2022

22...Bxd4!

This combination works because of the unfortunate position of White's bishops. In the game, 22...Qe7?! left Black with a good position, but no immediate win.

23 exd4

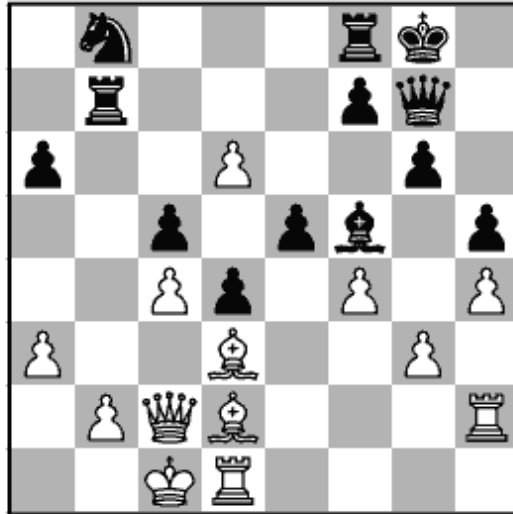
Black has a clear extra pawn after 23 Bf3 Bg7 –+.

23...Nxc3 24 Be5

24 bxc3 Re1+ –+ costs White his queen.

24...Nxd1 25 Rxd1 f6 26 Bg3 Re2 –+

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Black to play

506) L. Rozman – Adewumi
New York 2022

32...e4! 33 Bxe4

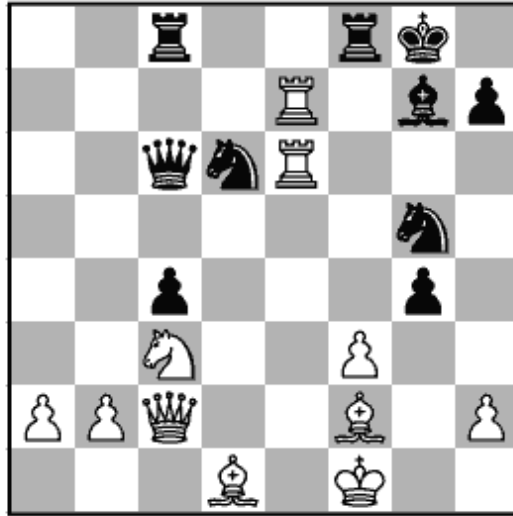
After 33 Bf1 Nc6 –+ Black wins by doubling rooks along the b-file.

33...d3! 34 Bxd3 Bxd3 35 Qc3

35 Qxd3 Qxb2#.

35...Qxc3+ 36 Bxc3 Bxc4 0-1

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White to play

507) L. Tallaksen – I. Sjøberg
Norwegian Ch, Kongsvinger 2022

34 Rxd7+! Kxd7 35 Bc4+ Kf7

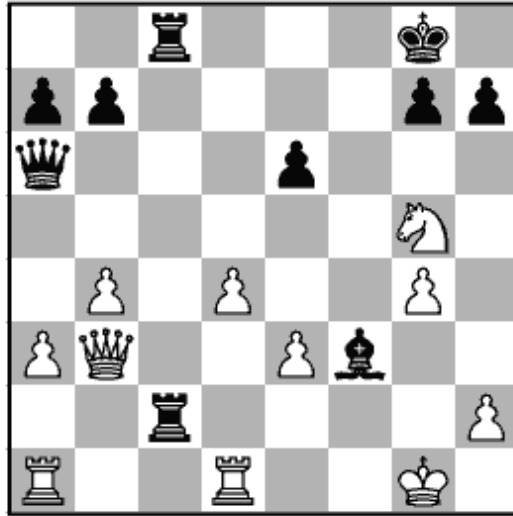
Black loses a piece and his king will quickly perish after 35...Kg8 36 Rg6+! Kf7 37 Rxd7 +—.

36 Rf6+ Ke7

36...Ke8 37 Qe2+ Kd7 reaches the same position.

37 Qe2+ Kd7 38 Ba4 1-0

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White to play

508) Ngo Tran Trung – Le Quang Minh

Vietnamese Under-13 Ch, Ho Chi Minh City 2022

30 Nxf3!

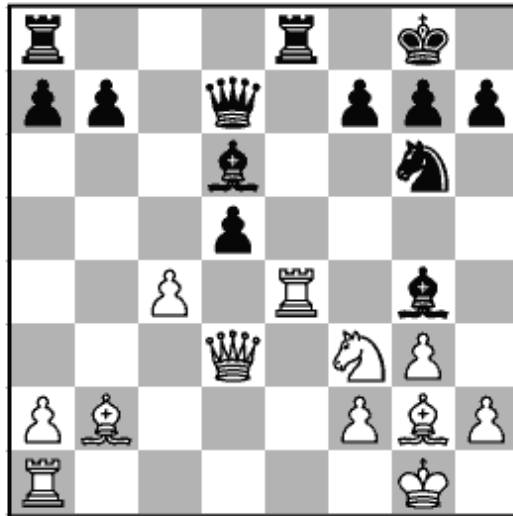
White should avoid 30 b5? Rg2+ (not 30...Qd6? 31 Nxf3 R8c3 {as played in the game} 32 Qb4 Qd5 33 Rf1 Rxe3 34 Ne1 +- as White is threatening mate on f8) 31 Kf1 Rcc2 32 bxa6 Rcf2+ 33 Ke1 Re2+ 34 Kf1 Ref2+ 35 Ke1 = with a draw by repetition.

30...R8c3

Or 30...Qe2 31 Qxe6+ Kh8 32 Nd2! +-.

31 b5! Qd6 32 Qa4 +-

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White to play

509) Vu Hoang Gia – Nguyen Hoang Hiep
Vietnamese Under-17 Ch, Ho Chi Minh City 2022

18 Qd4!

An intermezzo that threatens mate and attacks the bishop on g4.

18...f5

White wins a piece after 18...Bf8 19 Rxc4 +–.

19 Qxd5+ Kf8

Or 19...Kh8 20 Rxe8+ Rxe8 21 Rd1 +–.

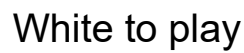
20 Rxe8+ Kxe8

20...Rxe8 is met by 21 c5 +–.

21 Re1+ 1-0

21...Kd8 22 Qg8+ Nf8 23 Ne5 +–.

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18 Bxd5!

18...Qxf2+

**19 Kh1 Bg4 20 Qc1 Ng3+ 21 Rxd3 Qxd3 22 Bxa8 Rxa8 23 h3g4
+–**

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White to play

511) Fitzsimons – T. Wall

London 2022

15 Nh4! Qf6 16 Ne4! Qd8

Black's queen is trapped after 16...Qxh4? 17 Bg5 +–.

17 Qh5

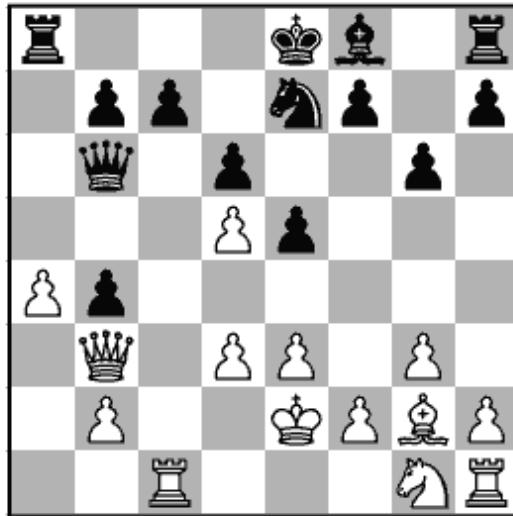
White is threatening Ng5.

17...Be7 18 Nf3

Black is unable to defend his e5-pawn.

18...Nd5 19 Nxe5 Nxe5 20 Qxe5 +–

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White to play

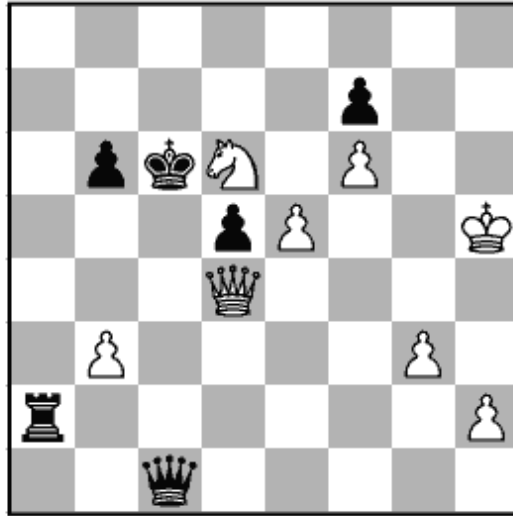
512) J. Yu – Kretchetov
Saint Louis 2022

15 Rc4! c5 16 dxc6 bxc6

Black also loses a pawn after 16...Nxc6 17 Bd5 Qc7 18 Nf3 Bg7 19 Rhc1 0-0 20 Bxc6 bxc6 21 Rxc6 +–.

17 Rxb4 Qd8 18 Rb7 +–

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Black to play

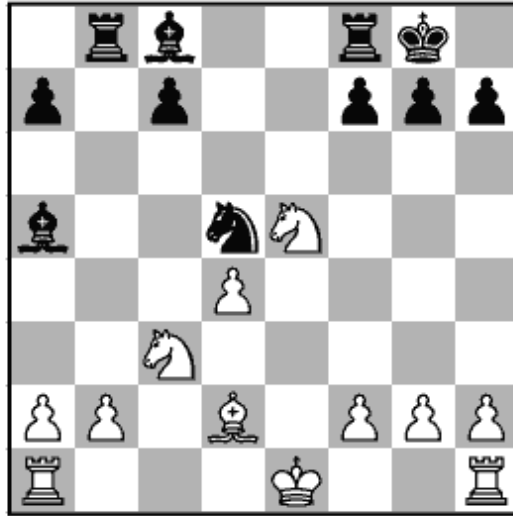
513) E. Roebers – Ouellet
Chennai Women's Olympiad 2022

81...Qc2!

After 81...Rxh2+?? 82 Kg4 (as played in the game) White is able to win Black's f7-pawn and create an escape-path for her king. For example: 82...Qc5 (82...Qb1 was played in the game, and allows 83 Qc3+ Kd7 84 Qc8#) 83 Qa4+ b5 84 Qa8+ Kb6 85 Qb7+ Ka5 86 Qxf7 +–.

82 h3 Qg6+ 83 Kh4 Qh6+ 84 Kg4 Qg6+ 85 Kh4 =
 with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

514) Nazarova – T. Blagojević
Chennai Women's Olympiad 2022

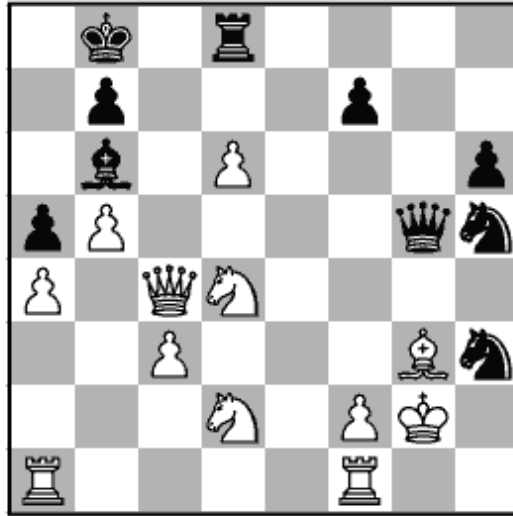
15...Rxb2! 16 Nxd5 Bxd2+ 17 Kd1 Bg5

Black's rook on its seventh rank in combination with the bishop-pair gives her a decisive advantage as White's rooks are idle onlookers.

18 f4

Now Black could have played 18...Bb7 19 fxg5 Bxd5 20 Rg1 Bxg2 –+.

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Black to play

515) Repkova – Miranda Llanes
Chennai Women's Olympiad 2022

29...N5f4+!

29...N3f4+?? was played in the game, allowing the white king to evacuate: 30 Kf3 f5 31 Bxf4 Qg4+ 32 Ke3 Nxf4 33 Nf3 +- and White went on to win.

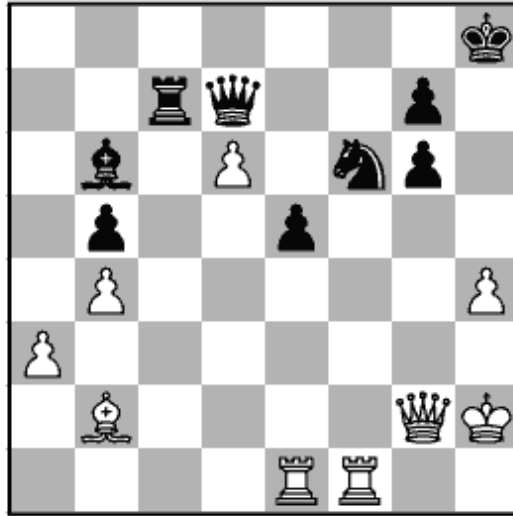
30 Kh2

White's king remains in danger after 30 Kf3?! Rc8 31 Nc6+ bxc6 32 Bxf4 Qh5+ 33 Kg2 Nxf4+ 34 Qxf4 Rg8+ 35 Qg3 Rxc3+ 36 fxg3 Qe2+ 37 Kh3 cxb5 =+.

30...Qh5 31 d7 Ng5+ 32 Kg1 Nh3+ 33 Kh2 Ng5+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

516) R. Ratsma – M. Gomes
Chennai Women's Olympiad 2022

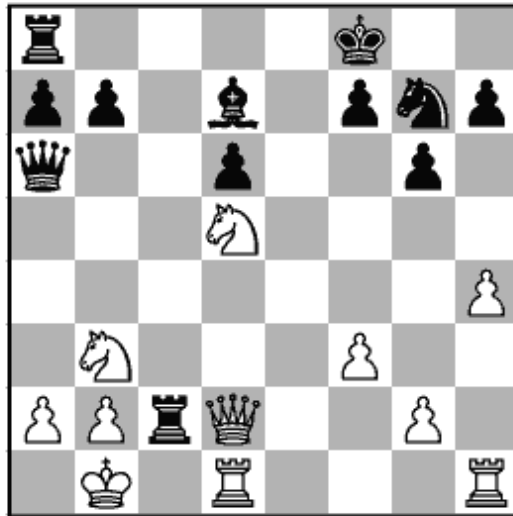
35...Rc4!

Black goes after White's vulnerable h4-pawn. White's active rooks win the game after 35...Qxd6? 36 Bxe5 Qd3 37 Rf3 +–.

36 Rf3 Rxh4+ 37 Rh3 Ng4+ 38 Kg3 Bf2+ 39 Kf3 Qf5+ 40 Ke2 Bxe1 –+

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White to play

518) Mateus Urbano – Lopez Rayo

Colombian Ch, Boyaca 2022

21 Kxc2!

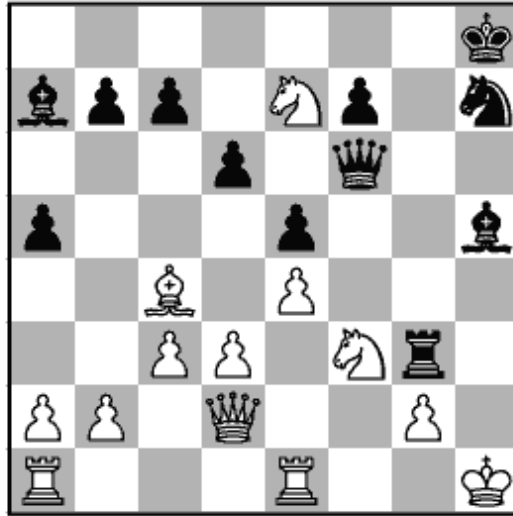
21 Qxc2? was played in the game, but then Black's active queen maintains the balance. After 21...Bf5 22 Qxf5 Nxf5 23 Nc7 he could have kept the game level by 23...Qc4 24 Nxa8 Ne3 25 Rd2 (25 Rc1? Qd3+ 26 Ka1 Nc2+ 27 Rxc2 Qxc2 –+) 25...Nf1 26 Rd1 (26 Rc2 Qd3 27 Kc1 Qe3+ 28 Kb1 Qd3 also repeats) 26...Ne3 with a draw by repetition.

21...Bf5+ 22 Kc1 Qxa2 23 Nc3 Qxb3

23...Rc8 24 Qxd6+ +-.

24 g4 Be6 25 Qxd6+ Kg8 26 Qc7 +-

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White to play

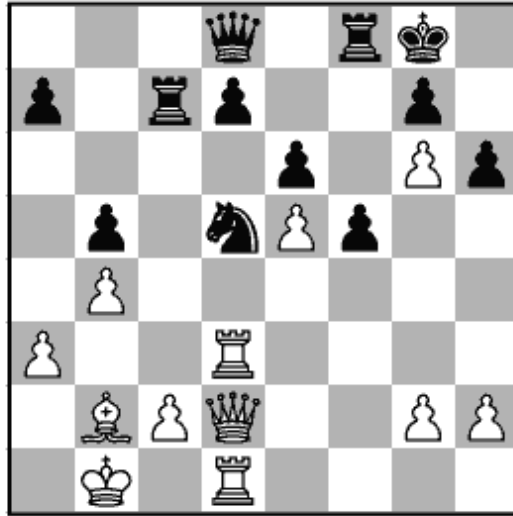
519) Udvardi – Ongut
Budapest 2022

25 Nf5! Rxf3

White has a decisive material advantage after 25...Bxf3 26 gxf3 Rh3+ (26...Rg5 27 Re2 +–) 27 Kg2 Qg6+ 28 Kxh3 Ng5+ 29 Qxg5 Qxg5 30 Bxf7 +–.

26 gxf3 Bxf3+ 27 Kh2 Qg6 28 Bxf7 Qxf7 29 Qh6 +–

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White to play

520) Lyell – Snehal

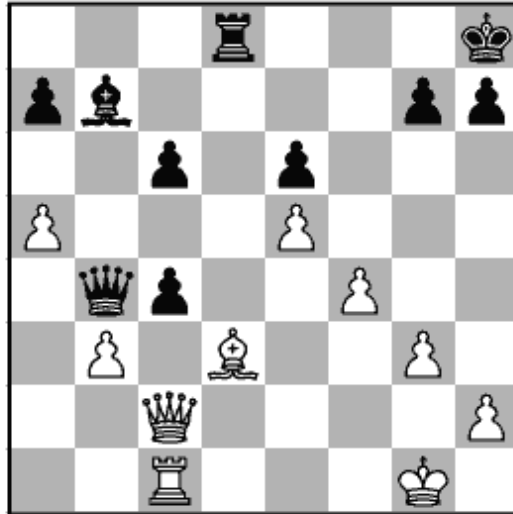
Budapest 2022

24 Rxd5! exd5 25 Qxd5+ Kh8 26 e6 Qe7

26...d6 27 Be5 Rc8 28 Bxd6 Rf6 29 e7 Qe8 30 Bc5 +–.

27 exd7 Rd8 28 Qf7 Qxf7 29 gxf7 Kh7 30 f8Q Rxf8 31 d8Q 1-0

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White to play

521) Rostgaard – Thuesen
Copenhagen 2022

28 bxc4!

The game ended abruptly after 28 Bxc4?? Rd2 0-1 as 29 Qe4 Qc5+ 30 Kh1 Qf2 leads to mate.

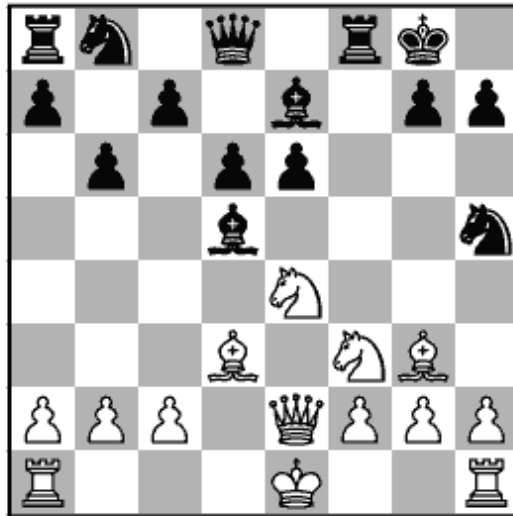
28...Qc5+

White has a superior bishop after 28...Qxa5 29 Rb1 Rd7 30 c5 +=.

29 Kf1 Qe3 30 Rd1 Qf3+ 31 Ke1 c5 32 Qe2 +=

White is a pawn ahead, but Black has some compensation due to White's exposed king.

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White to play

522) Rostgaard – J. Nilssen
Copenhagen 2022

12 c4!

White drives Black's light-squared bishop away from the defence of the e6-pawn.

12...Bb7

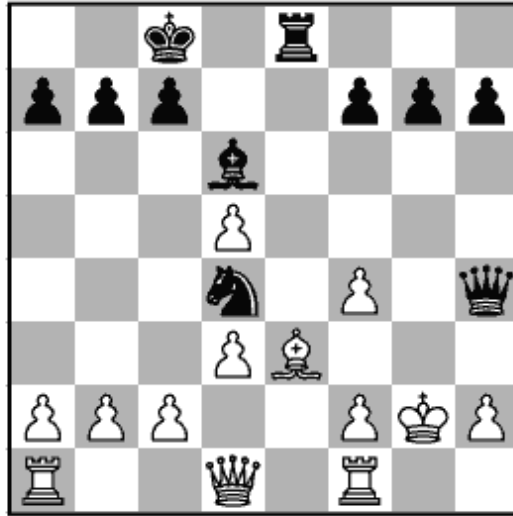
In the game 12...Re8 13 cxd5 exd5 14 0-0 +- gave White a decisive material advantage.

13 Nd4

White wins material as he is attacking both the loose knight on h5 and the e6-pawn.

13...e5 14 Ne6 Qe8 15 Nxc7 Qf7 16 Nxa8 Bxa8 17 0-0 +-

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Black to play

523) Short – McShane

British Knockout Ch, London 2017

16...Nxc2!

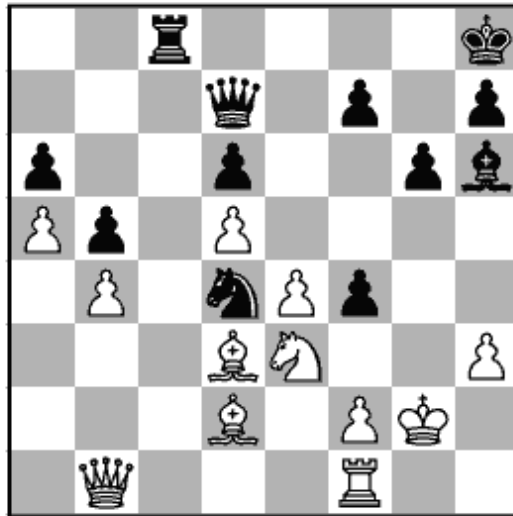
16...g5?? allows White to eliminate Black's kingside threats: 17 Bxd4 Qxf4 18 Qh5 Qxd4 19 Rae1 +- Spasić-Duduković, Pozarevac 2022.

17 Qxc2

White has very little to gain by avoiding the draw with 17 Qf3 Nxa1 18 Rxa1 b6 as the position slightly favours Black due to his superior pawn-structure.

17...Qg4+ 18 Kh1 Qf3+ 19 Kg1 Qg4+ 20 Kh1 Qf3+ =
with a draw by repetition.

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White to play

524) Asgari – Rzayev

Turkish Team Ch, Konya 2022

26 Rc1!

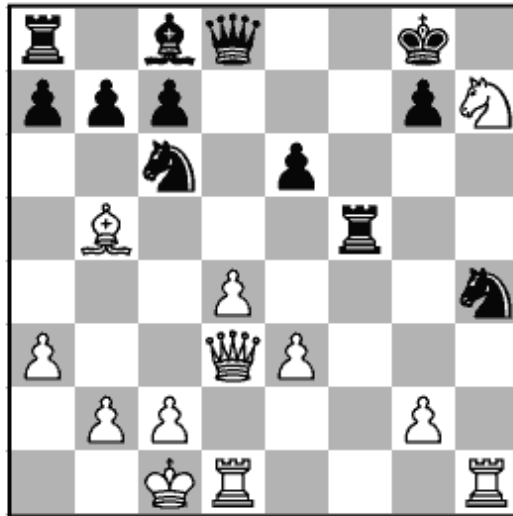
26 Qb2?? was played in the game, allowing Black's attack to crash through: 26...f3+! 27 Kg1 Bg7 28 Qb1 Qxh3 29 Rc1 Rxc1+ 30 Qxc1 Be5 0-1.

26...f3+

White's king escapes the checks after 26...fxe3 27 fxe3 Nf3 28 Kxf3 Qxh3+ 29 Kf2 Qh2+ 30 Ke1 Qh4+ 31 Kd1 Qg4+ 32 Be2 Qg1+ 33 Be1 +–.

27 Kf1 Qxh3+ 28 Ke1 Qh1+ 29 Nf1 Bxd2+ 30 Kxd2 Rxc1 31 Kxc1 +–

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Black to play

525) Buljubasić – S. Milanović
Bosnian Team Ch, Bihać 2022

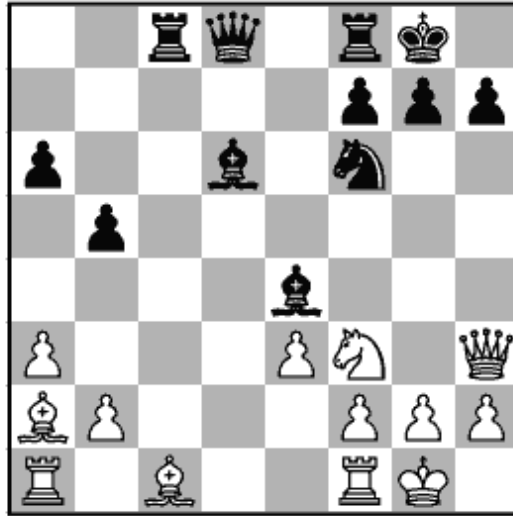
15...Rh5!

White has a strong attack after 15...Bd7? 16 g4! Nb4 17 axb4 Bxb5 18 c4 +/-.

16 g3 Rxh7 17 gxh4 Qe7 -/+

Black has good chances to win as White has insufficient compensation for the piece.

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Black to play

526) Makkar – Y. Han
Newcastle 2022

18...Rc5!

White's queen is running low on safe squares.

19 Nd2

White's queenside pieces are mere spectators after 19 g4 h5 (or 19...Bxf3 20 Qxf3 Nxc4 –+, as played in the game) 20 g5 Ng4 –+.

19...Bf5 20 Qh4

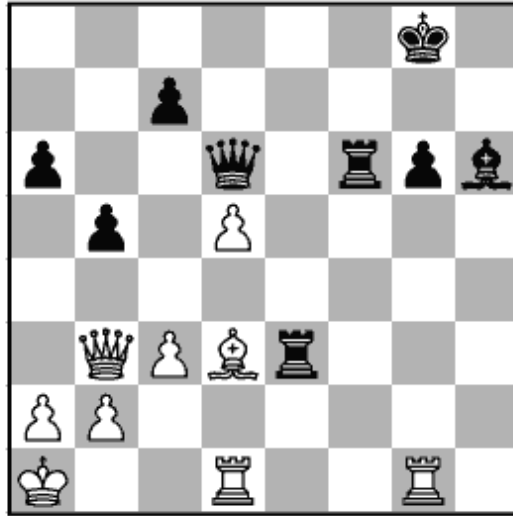
Black has a free hand on the kingside as 20 Qf3 Bg4 21 Qb7 Be2 22 Re1 Bxh2+! 23 Kxh2 (23 Kh1 Rh5 –+) 23...Ng4+ 24 Kg3 Rh5 leads to mate.

20...Bd3 21 f4

White's queen is trapped after 21 Re1 Rh5 –+.

21...Bxf1 22 Nxf1 Ne4 –+

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White to play

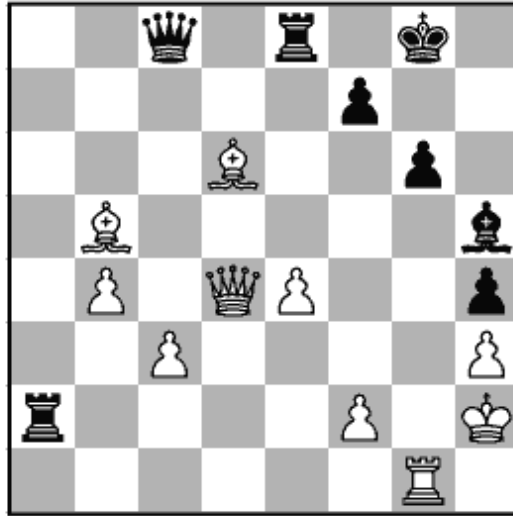
527) Dong Bao Nghia – G. Wall
Newcastle 2022

30 Bxg6! Rxd6

The black king has no safe haven after 30...Kf8 31 Qc2 Ke7 32 Bf5 +–. In the game, 30...Rff3 left Black's king too exposed: 31 Bb1+ Rg3 32 Qc2 Qe7 33 Qf2 +–.

31 Rxd6+ Qxd6 32 d6+ Kh7 33 d7 Bg5 34 Qd5 +–

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Black to play

528) Poliannikov – J. Chen
New York 2022

33...Rxe4! 34 Qxe4

After 34 Qc5?! Qe6 (as played in the game) Black will infiltrate along his sixth rank. For example: 35 Rf1 Re3 –+.

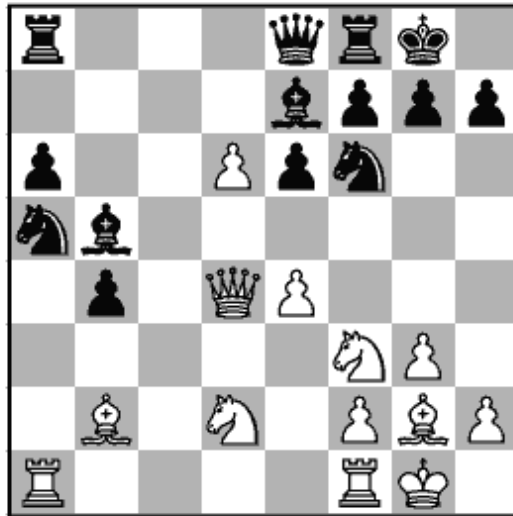
34...Rxf2+ 35 Rg2 Bf3 36 Qxg6+

36 Rxf2?! Bxe4 –+.

36...fxg6 37 Rxf2 Qxc3 38 Bf1 Qe3 39 Kg1

This is a tricky ending where the question is how Black can make progress. After 39...g5?! 40 Bc5 Qb3 41 Rxf3! Qxf3 42 Bc4+ Kh7 43 Be6 it appears that White actually has a fortress, so Black should drop his bishop back on the long diagonal (e.g., 39...Bc6) and then use his queen to target White's various loose pieces and create threats. In the end this will stretch the white position to breaking point.

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Black to play

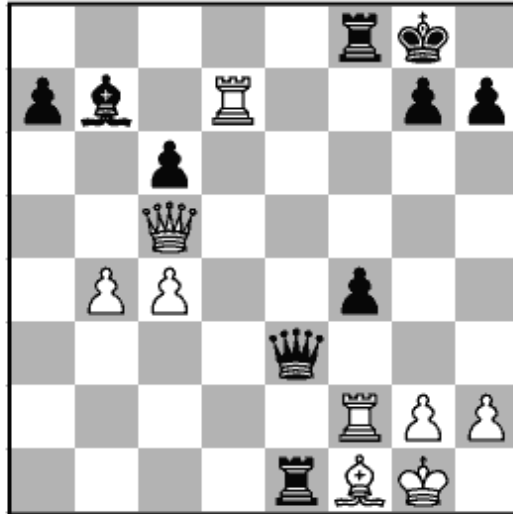
529) Jaskolka – J. Malek

Polish Team Ch, Jastrzebia Gora 2022

20...Nc6 21 dxe7 Nxd4 22 exf8Q+ Qxf8 23 Nxd4 Bxf1 24 Bxf1 a5
–+

Black's queen and two connected passed pawns are too much for White's minor pieces.

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Black to play

530) Magold – Ilamparthi

World Under-14 Ch, Mamaia 2022

30...Bc8!

After 30...Ba6? (as played in the game) White would have been OK after 31 Qd4! =.

31 Rd2

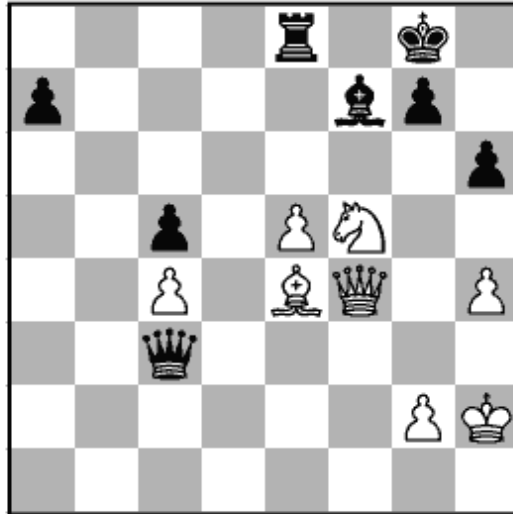
31 Rxa7 Rf5 –+.

31...Re8

Black is threatening 32...Rxf1+ 33 Kxf1 Qe1#.

32 g4 Bxg4 –+

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White to play

531) Ars. Davtyan – Nguyen Quoc Hy

World Under-16 Ch, Mamaia 2022

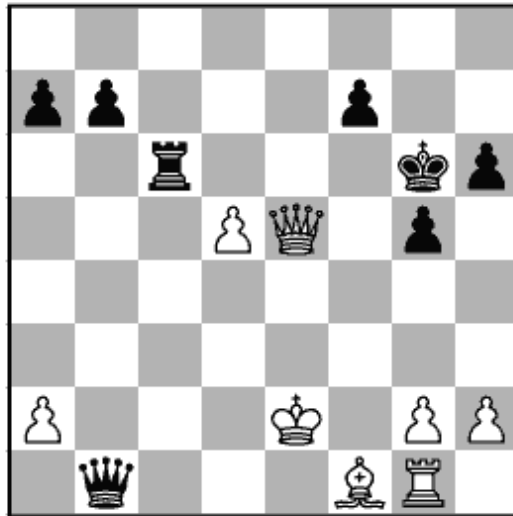
42 Nxh6+! gxh6 43 Bh7+ Kg7

Or: 43...Kf8 44 Qxh6+ Ke7 45 Qd6#; 43...Kh8 44 Qf6+ Kxh7
transposes to the game.

**44 Qf6+ Kxh7 45 Qxf7+ Kh8 46 Qxe8+ Kg7 47 Qe7+ Kg6 48
Qf6+ Kh5 49 g3 Qd3 50 Kh3 Qe4 51 Qf7+ 1-0**

51...Qg6 52 g4#.

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Black to play

532) Nguyen Quoc Hy – Talibov
World Under-16 Ch, Mamaia 2022

29...Qc2+!

Black is a piece down, but he can take advantage of White's lack of development to win the white queen.

30 Ke1

30 Ke3 Rc3+ –+.

30...Qc1+ 31 Ke2

31 Kf2 Rf6+ 32 Ke2 Qc2+ 33 Ke3 (33 Ke1 Qf2+ 34 Kd1 Qxg1 –+) 33...Qf2+ 34 Kd3 Qxg1 –+.

31...Rc2+ 32 Kf3

32 Kd3 Rd2+ 33 Ke3 Qe1+ leads to mate.

32...Rc3+ 33 Kf2 Qb2+ 34 Be2

34 Qe2 Rc2 –+.

34...Qb6+

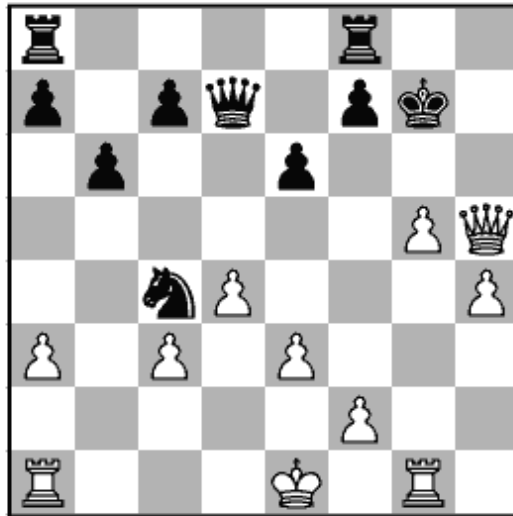
34...Rf3+ also wins but the game continuation is much quicker.

35 Ke1 Qxg1+ 36 Kd2

36 Bf1 Rc1+ 37 Kd2 Rxf1 –+.

36...Qc1# (0-1)

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White to play

533) Torngren – Pobor

World Under-18 Ch, Mamaia 2022

26 Qh6+!

After 26 g6? the game ended 26...Rfd8? 27 gxf7+ Kf6 28 f8R+ Rxf8 29 Rg6+ Kf7 30 Rh6+ 1-0, but Black could have mounted a successful defence by 26...Qd5! 27 Qh7+ Kf6 28 g7 Rg8 29 e4 Qc6, with roughly equal chances in a wild position.

26...Kg8 27 g6 f5

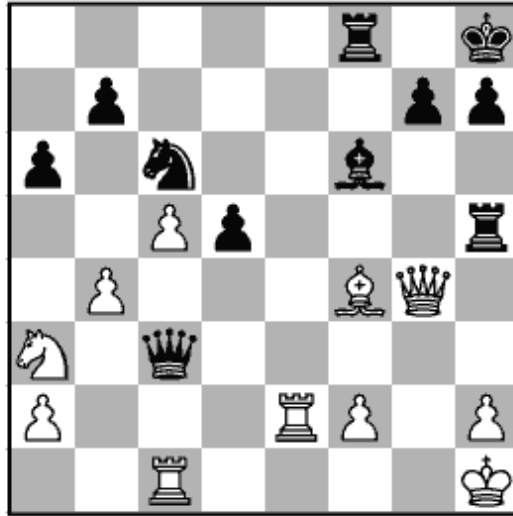
27...fxg6 28 Rxf6+ +-.

28 g7 Rfd8 29 Rg6

Other rook moves along the g-file, such as 29 Rg5 and 29 Rg3, also win.

29...Qe7 30 Qh8+ Kf7 31 g8Q+ Rxf8 32 Qh7+ Ke8 33 Rxf8+ Kd7 34 Qxe7+ Kxe7 35 Rxa8 +-

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Black to play

534) A. Fidalgo – S. Rocha
Portuguese Ch, Leiria 2022

26...Rh4!

In the game 26...Qh3? allowed White to simplify into an equal endgame by 27 Qxh3 Rxh3. Then 28 Bg3 = looks clearest.

27 Qg3

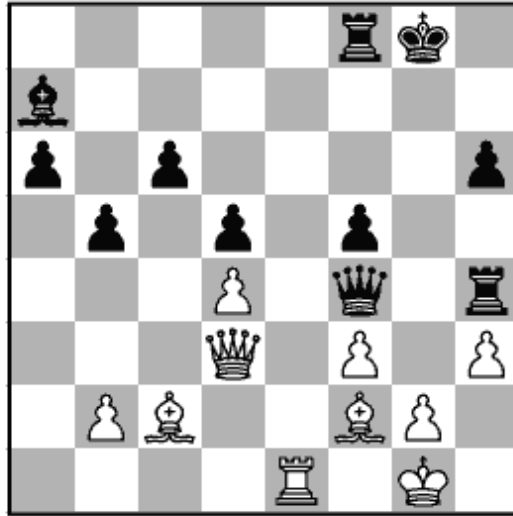
27 Qxh4? loses to 27...Qf3+ 28 Kg1 Bxh4, while Black has a pawn-up endgame after 27 Rxc3 Rxg4 28 Bd6 Bxc3 29 Bxf8 Kg8 30 Bd6 Rxb4 –+.

27...Qxb4 28 Bd6 Nd4! 29 Bxf8 Nxe2 30 Bxg7+ Kg8!

30...Bxg7?? 31 Qb8+ Bf8 32 Qxf8#.

31 Qg2 Nf4 –+

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White to play

535) E. Player – S. Dev
Budapest 2022

39 g3!

39 Bxh4?? (as played in the game) allows Black a decisive advantage on the dark squares: 39...Qxh4 40 Re6 (40 Rd1 Re8 –+) 40...Qxd4+ 41 Qxd4 Bxd4+ 42 Kf1 Rf6 –+ and Black went on to win.

39...Qg5 40 Kh2 Re4

40...Bb8? 41 f4 Bxf4 42 gxf4 Qxf4+ 43 Kg2 +–.

41 fxe4 fxe4 42 Qe2 +/-

White has a material advantage and good chances to win.

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White to play

536) S. Dev – Bochnicka
Budapest 2022

14 Rxd7!

White exploits Black's lack of kingside development.

14...Qxd7 15 Rd1 Qc7?!

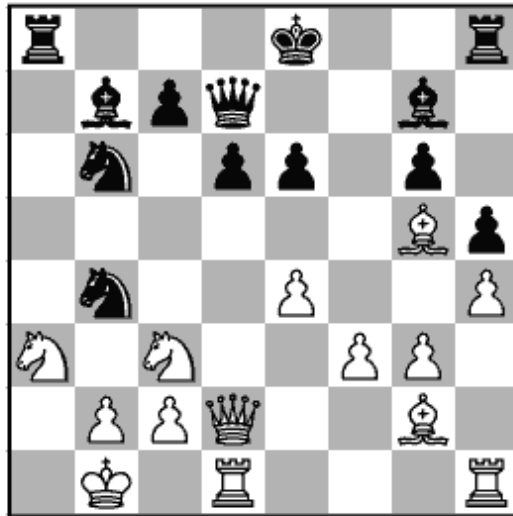
White's queen is stronger than the black rooks after 15...Qc8 16 Rd8+ Qxd8 17 Bxd8 Rxd8 18 Nxb5 Rd7 19 Nd6+ Bxd6 20 exd6 0-0 21 e4 +–.

16 Nxb5 Qa5

16...Qc8 17 Rd8+ Qxd8 18 Bxd8 Kxd8 19 Qd3+ Kc8 20 Qf3 +–.

17 Qd3 Bc5 18 Qd7+ Kf8 19 Qxb7 +–

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Black to play

537) Fiszer – Kowalski

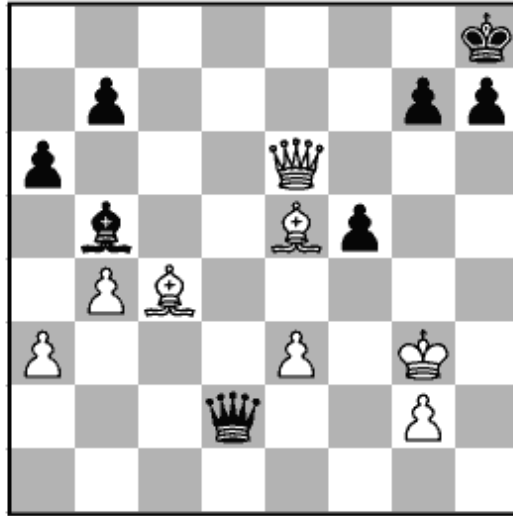
Warsaw rapid 2022

20...Rxa3! 21 bxa3 Nc4 22 Qc1

22 axb4 Nxd2+ 23 Bxd2 Qc6 –+.

22...Bxc3 23 Rd3 Bb2 –+

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Black to play

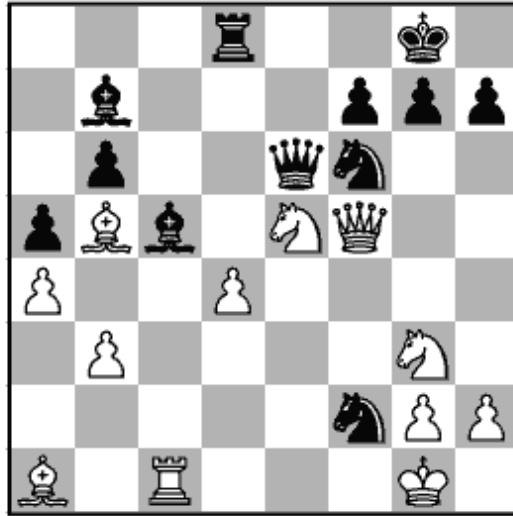
538) A. Bonte – Soltanici
Romanian Team Ch, Oradea 2022

37...Bxc4

The game ended with 37...Qxe3+?? 38 Kh2 1-0 in view of
 38...Bxc4 39 Qe8+ Bg8 40 Bxg7+ Kxg7 41 Qxe3 +—.

38 Qxc4 Qxe3+ 39 Kh4 Qh6+ 40 Kg3 Qe3+ =
 with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

539) Goldbeck – Rusche

Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

29...Rxd4!

In the game 29...Ba3?? cost Black a piece after 30 Qxe6 fxe6 31 Rc7 +–.

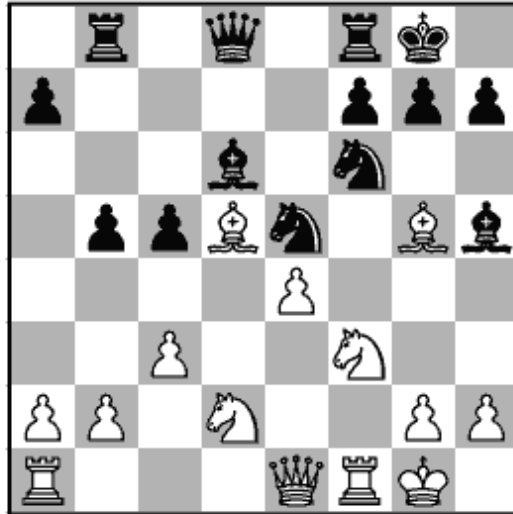
30 Bxd4

Not 30 Qxe6?! Rd1+ 31 Rxd1 Nxd1+ 32 Kf1 fxe6 =+.

30...Bxd4 31 Qxe6 fxe6 32 Rc7 N2g4+ 33 Kf1 Nxh2+ 34 Ke2 Bxe5 35 Rxb7 Bxg3 =

The chances are roughly level in a sharp endgame.

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White to play

540) Knüdel – M. Voigt

German Rapid Ch, Göttingen 2022

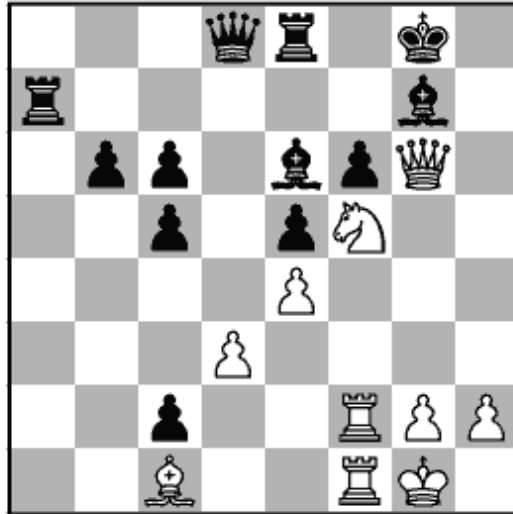
15 Nxe5 Bxe5 16 Rf5! Qd6 17 Bxf6 Bxh2+

White wins a piece after 17...Bxf6 18 Rxh5 +—.

18 Kh1 Bg6 19 Rf3 +—

After 19...gxf6 20 g3 the bishop is trapped.

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White to play

541) Machata – A. Zetocha
Bratislava rapid 2022

28 Nh6+ Kh8

28...Kf8 29 Rxf6+ Bxf6 30 Rxf6+ Qxf6 31 Qxf6+ Bf7 32 Bg5 leads to mate.

29 Qh5!

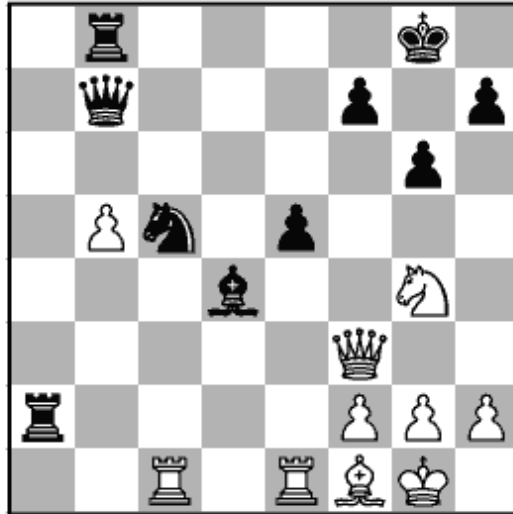
After 29 Nf5? (as played in the game) Black could have mounted a successful defence by, for example, 29...Bf8 30 Rxc2 Rh7 =.

29...Qc8

29...Bxh6 30 Rxf6 +–.

30 Ng4+ Kg8 31 Nxf6+ Bxf6 32 Rxf6 Ree7 33 Bh6 +–

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White to play

542) V. Petrovskiy – Holinka

German Junior Team Ch, Wiesbaden 2022

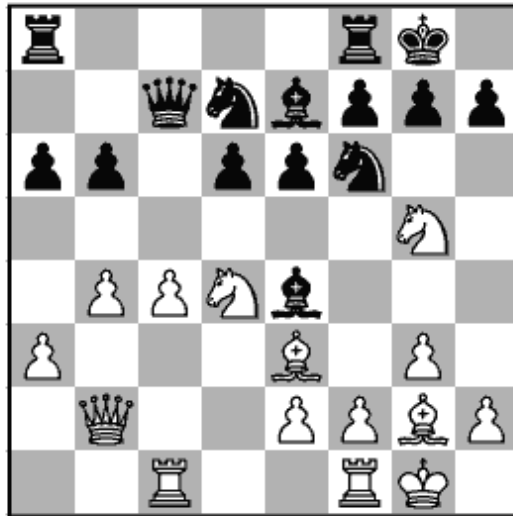
36 Qf6! h5

Black has no good way to prevent White's light-squared bishop from making a decisive entrance into the game. For example:

36...Ne6 37 Red1 h5 38 Bc4 +- or 36...Rxf2 37 Nxf2 Ne4 38 Rxe4 Qxe4 39 Bc4 +--.

37 Bc4 hxg4 38 Bxa2 +-

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Black to play

543) V. Andrejić – M. Ivanov
Belgrade Team Ch 2022

17...Bxg2 18 Kxg2 Ne5!

White has difficulty defending his pawn on c4.

19 Qb3?!

19 c5 dxc5 20 bxc5 Bxc5 21 Bf4 Qb7+ 22 Kg1 Ned7 –/+ gives Black an extra pawn and good chances to win.

19...Rfc8 20 b5

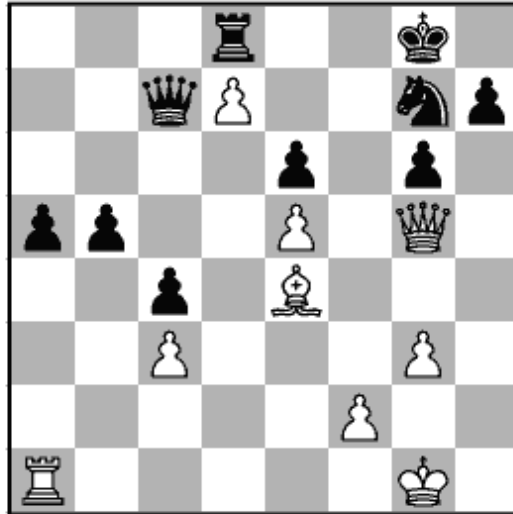
White can maintain material equality at the cost of leaving his knight hopelessly out of play on h3 after 20 Ndf3 Nxc4 21 Bxb6 Qc6 22 Be3 h6 23 Nh3 e5 –+.

20...Nxc4 21 a4

In the game 21 Ndx6? fxe6 22 Nxe6 Qb7+ 23 Kg1 d5 –+ left White a piece down for insufficient compensation.

21...d5 –+

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White to play

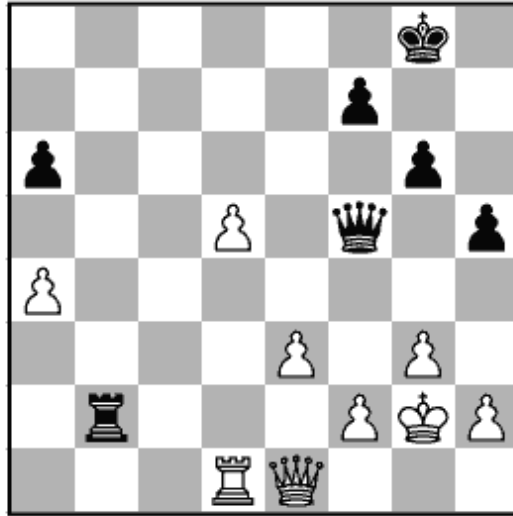
544) Tokhirjonova – M. Lee
USA Women's Ch, Saint Louis 2022

35 Bc6! Qb6

In the game 35...Rxd7 let White win material by 36 Bxd7 Qxd7 37 Rxa5 +–.

36 Bxb5 Rf8 37 Ra2 Qxb5 38 Rd2 +–

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Black to play

545) I. Jelen – Sirnik
Slovakian Team Ch 2022

36...h4!

In the game, 36...Qe4+?? left Black's queen misplaced: 37 Kg1 h4 38 d6 Rb8 and 1-0 in view of 39 d7 Rd8 40 Qa5 Qe7 41 Qxa6 +—.

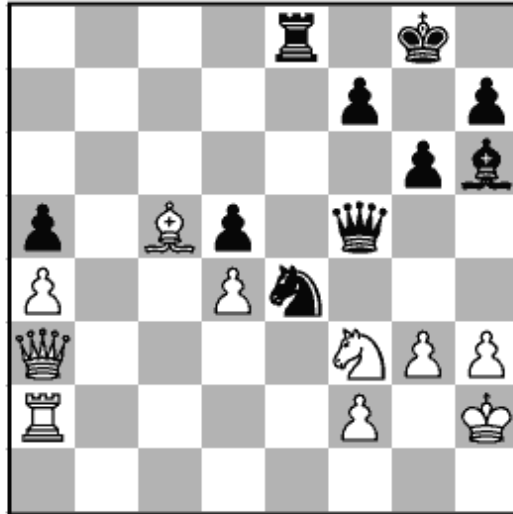
37 gxh4

White is also unable to make progress by 37 d6 h3+ 38 Kf1 (38 Kg1?! Qf3 39 Qf1 Rxf2! 40 Qxf2 Qxd1+ 41 Qf1 Qxd6 42 Qxh3 Qd1+ 43 Kf2 Qxa4 =+) 38...Qe4 39 Rd2 Qc4+ (or 39...Rb1 40 Qxb1 Qxb1+ 41 Ke2 Qb6 42 d7 Qd8 =) 40 Kg1 Qe4 41 Kf1 Qc4+, repeating.

37...Qg4+ 38 Kf1 Qh3+ 39 Kg1 Qg4+ 40 Kf1 =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

546) Nahorny – Sandu
Geoagiu-Bai 2022

38...Nd2!

A nice interference move to exploit the fact that White's major pieces are far away from the f2-pawn and his dark-squared bishop plays no defensive role.

39 Kg2

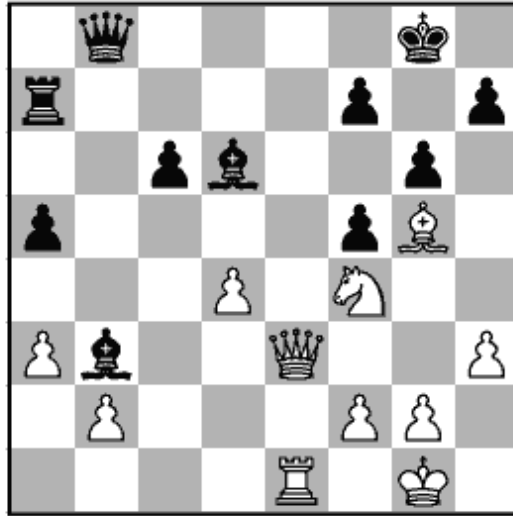
The knight cannot be captured: 39 Nxd2? Qxf2+ 40 Kh1 Re1+ 41 Nf1 Rxf1# or 39 Rxd2 Bxd2 40 Kg2 Qe4 –+.

39...Re3

Or 39...Be3 40 Rxd2 Bxd2 41 Nxd2 Re2 42 Nf3 Qc2 –+.

40 Nxd2 Rxa3 41 Bxa3 Qd3 42 Nf3 Qb3 43 Ra1 Qxa4 –+

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Black to play

547) B. Kovanova – Charochkina

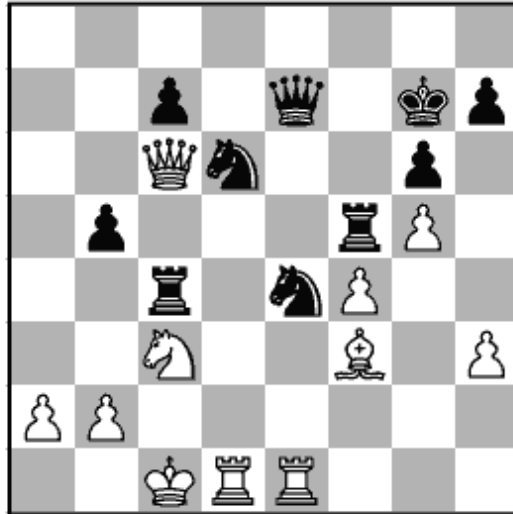
Sochi (women) rapid 2022

24...f6! 25 Nxc6

White also loses material after 25 Bh6 Re7 26 Qxe7 (26 Qd2 Rxe1+ 27 Qxe1 Bxf4 28 Bxf4 Qxf4 –+) 26...Bxe7 27 Rxe7 Bf7 –+.

25...hxc6 26 Bxf6 Bf4 27 Qd3 Bd5 –+

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White to play

548) Moreby – H. Li

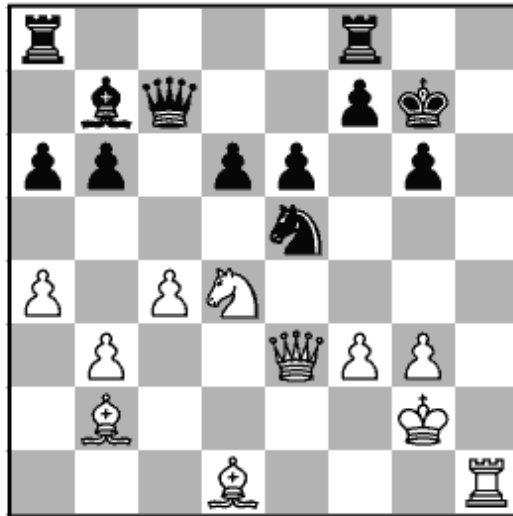
British League (4NCL) 2022/3

28 Rxe4! Nxe4 29 Rd7! Rxc6 30 Rxe7+ Rf7

Now White's two minor pieces and pawn overpower the black rook, but White also wins easily after 30...Kf8 31 Rxe4 +—.

31 Rxf7+ Kxf7 32 Bxe4 Rc5 33 a3 +—

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White to play

549) A. Petrović – M. Krstić
Belgrade 2022

28 Rh5!

White is the exchange and a pawn down, but can save the game. But not by 28 Kg1? Rh8 29 Rh4 Rxh4 30 gxh4 Rh8 –+, as played in the game, when White's attack petered out. The same can be said for 28 Qh6+? Kf6 29 Qh4+ g5 30 Qh6+ Ke7 31 Qxg5+ Kd7 –+.

The computer indicates that 28 c5 also keeps the game level, though this is only because after 28...bxc5 White can still play 29 Rh5!.

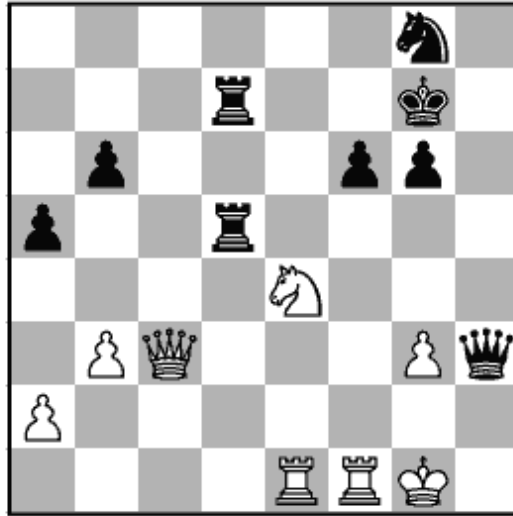
28...gxh5

28...Rh8?? loses to 29 Nxe6+! fxe6 30 Rxe5 +–, while 28...Qd7 29 Qh6+ Kf6 30 Qg5+ Kg7 31 Qh6+ = is another path to a repetition.

29 Qg5+ Kh7 30 Qxh5+ Kg8 31 Qg5+ Kh7 32 Qh5+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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White to play

550) Forchert – J. Wallner

European Over-50 Team Ch, Dresden 2022

32 Rxf6!

This is the correct way to capture the f6-pawn to maintain the balance. After 32 Nxf6?? the game ended quickly as White ran out of checks: 32...Rd3! 33 Ne8++ (33 Nh5++ Kh7 –+) 33...Kh6 0-1.

32...Nxf6 33 Qxf6+

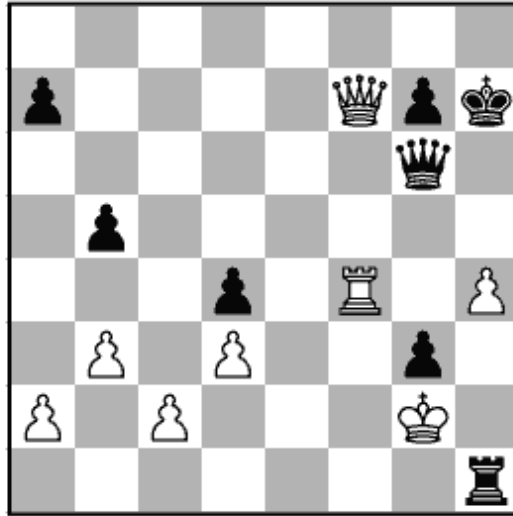
And here White must avoid 33 Nxf6?? Rc5! –+.

33...Kh7

Or 33...Kh6 34 Qh8+ Rh7 35 Qf8+ Rg7 36 Qh8+ Rh7 37 Qf8+ = with a draw by repetition.

34 Ng5+ Rxc5 35 Qxc5 =

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Black to play

551) Large – Boidman

European Over-65 Team Ch, Dresden 2022

38...Qc6+!

After 38...Rh2+? (as played in the game) White escaped to an equal rook endgame by 39 Kg1 Rxc2 40 Qxg6+ Kxg6, when 41 a4 = would have been one viable path.

39 Rf3

39 Kxg3? walks into 39...Rg1+ 40 Kf2 Qg2#.

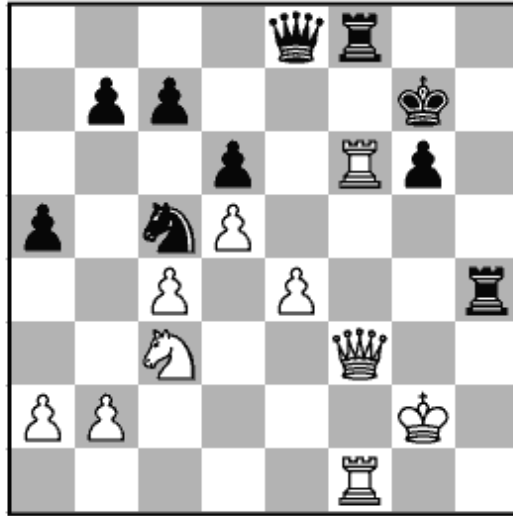
39...Qxc2+ 40 Kxg3

40 Kxh1? Qh2#.

40...Qh2+ 41 Kg4 Qxh4+ 42 Kf5 Re1 –+

White is a pawn down and his king is in grave danger.

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Black to play

552) Huss – T. Pähtz

European Over-65 Team Ch, Dresden 2022

35...Qe5!

White's pressure along the f-file is an illusion.

36 Rf7+

36 Rxf8? Qh2#.

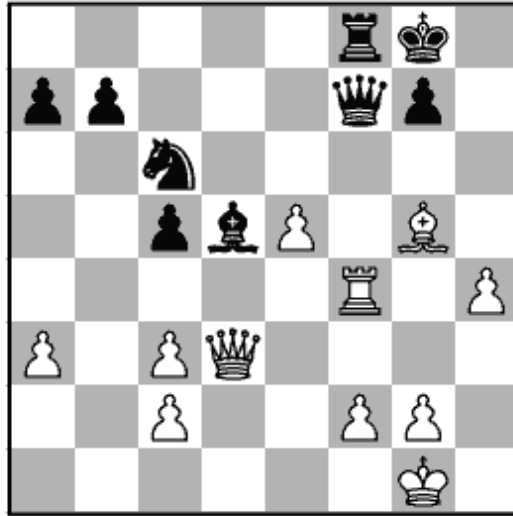
36...Rxf7 37 Qxf7+ Kh6 38 Qf8+ Kg5 39 Rg1

39 Rf3 Qh2+ 40 Kf1 Rf4 –+.

39...Rg4+ 40 Kh1 Nxe4 –+

Black has an extra pawn and a mating attack thanks to his well-centralized queen.

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Black to play

553) Escobar Medina – Prasca Sosa
Colombian Team Ch, Santa Marta 2022

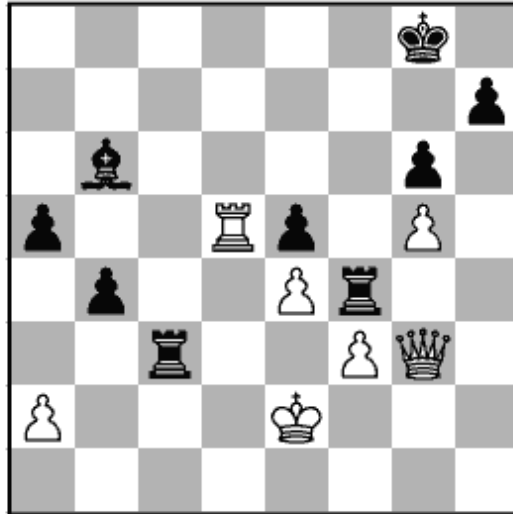
26...Qd7!

This is the correct place for the queen to give the light-squared bishop a retreat-square. After 26...Qe6? 27 c4! Rxf4 28 cxd5 Nxe5 (as played in the game) the chances are roughly equal. For example: 29 Qg3 (the game's 29 Qe3 should have been answered with 29...Rd4! 30 dxe6 Rd1+ 31 Kh2 Ng4+) 29...Nf3+ 30 gxf3 Qe1+ 31 Kg2 Rf7 32 Qg4 =. 26...c4!? is playable, though the ending after 27 Rxf7 cxd3 will be less clearly winning for Black as White's pawns are improved.

27 Rxf8+ Kxf8 28 f4 Be6 –+

White has three pawns for the knight but they are solidly blockaded.

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Black to play

554) A. Krzywda – Alsina Leal
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

33...Re3+! 34 Kd2 Rxf3 –+

White's queen cannot get away from the black rooks.

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Black to play

555) Xu Xiangyu – Mike Ivanov
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

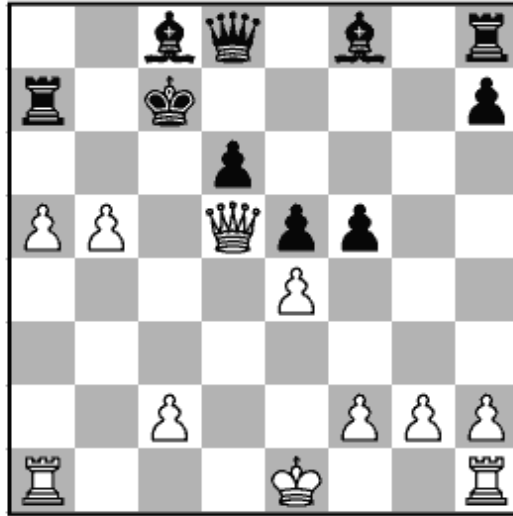
11...Qh4+!

11...Bxd2+? was played in the game, but White unravelled his queenside pieces by 12 Bxd2 Qh4+ 13 g3 Nxg3 14 hxg3 Qxg3+ 15 Ke2 e4 16 Bc3 +/- and went on to win.

12 g3 Nxg3 13 hxg3 Qxh1 14 Nxa8 Bh3 15 Qe2 e4 16 f4 Rd8 -/+

Black has strong pressure as it is difficult for White to complete his development.

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Black to play

556) Ana. Rakhmangulova – Aditya Mittal
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

20...Kb8!

Black avoids a pawn fork and forces White to commit his queenside pawns.

21 b6

21 a6 fxe4 22 0-0 Qb6 –+.

21...Ra6

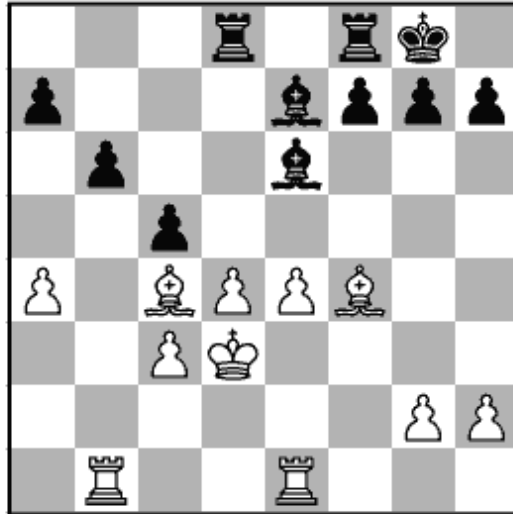
With White's pawns blockaded, Black's material advantage becomes decisive.

22 c4

22 exf5 Bb7 23 Qe6 Be7 –+.

22...Bb7 23 Qb5 Qc8 –+

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White to play

557) Aditya Mittal – Zhao Yuanhe

Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

22 d5! f5 23 Kc2! Bf7 24 exf5 Bd6

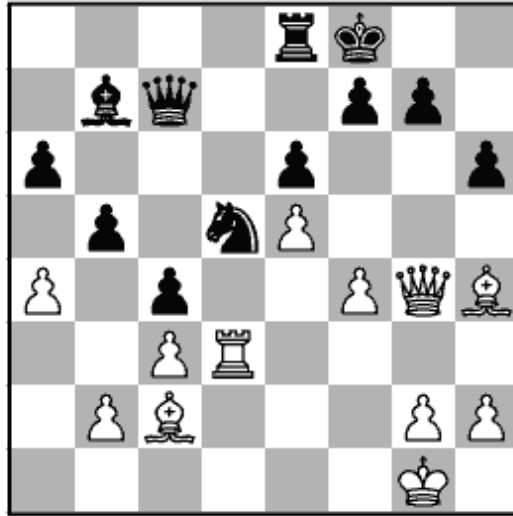
White's connected passed pawns are decisive after 24...Bf6 25 Re6 Bxe6 26 fxe6 +—.

25 Bxd6 Rxd6 26 Re7 Rfd8

The game ended 26...Bxd5 27 Rd1 1-0.

27 Rxa7 Bxd5 28 Bxd5+ Rxd5 29 Rxb6 +—

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White to play

558) Ana. Rakhmangulova – Kushagra
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

26 Rg3!

26 Rh3? (as played in the game) allowed Black to defend his kingside with 26...bxa4 27 Bf2 f5 28 exf6 Nxf6 =.

26...g6

26...g5 27 fxg5 Qxe5 28 Kf2 +–.

27 Bxg6! Qb6+ 28 Kh1 Qf2 29 h3 Ne3

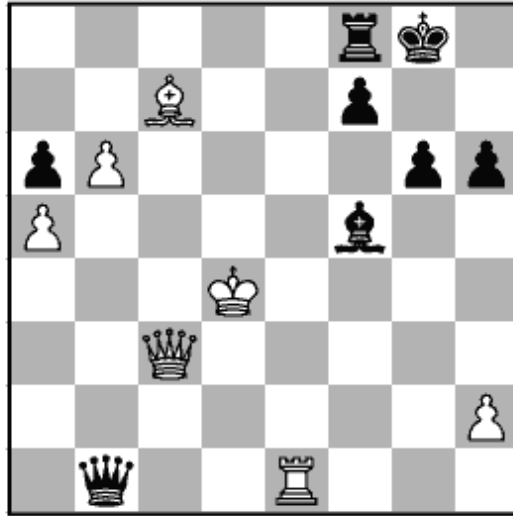
White's bishop-pair is too strong in the endgame. For example:
 29...Qf1+ 30 Kh2 Qxf4 31 Bh7 Qxg4 32 Rxg4 Ne7 33 Bf6 +–.

30 Rxe3 Bxg2+

30...Qxe3 31 Bh7 Bxg2+ 32 Kxg2 Qd2+ 33 Bf2 +–.

31 Qxg2 Qxe3 32 Bh5 Qc1+ 33 Kh2 Qxf4+ 34 Bg3 Qf5 35 Bg4
+–

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Black to play

559) R. Degraeve – Hagner
Mitropa Cup, Mali Lošinj 2023

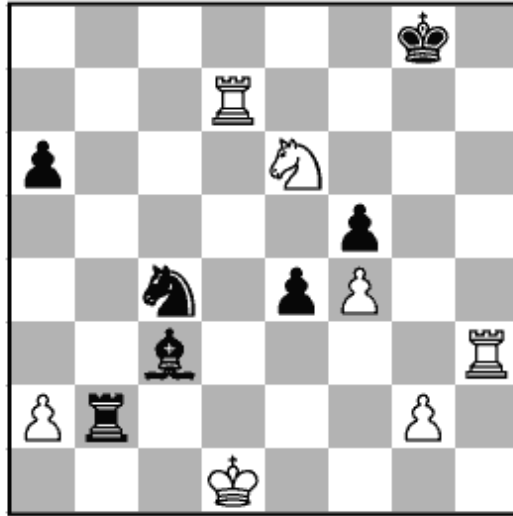
71...Qb5!

71...Qa2?? was the move actually played, allowing White to support his advanced b7-pawn and win the game: 72 b7 Qf2+ (72...Qa4+ 73 Qc4 Qa3 74 Re2 +–) 73 Re3 Qh4+ 74 Kc5 Qa4 75 Qb4 +– and Black resigned a couple of moves later.

72 Re5 Qb1 73 Re1 Qb5! =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

560) Csiki – Arhan
Budapest 2023

37...e3!

In the game Black allowed the white king to escape after
37...Rb1+?? 38 Kc2 +—.

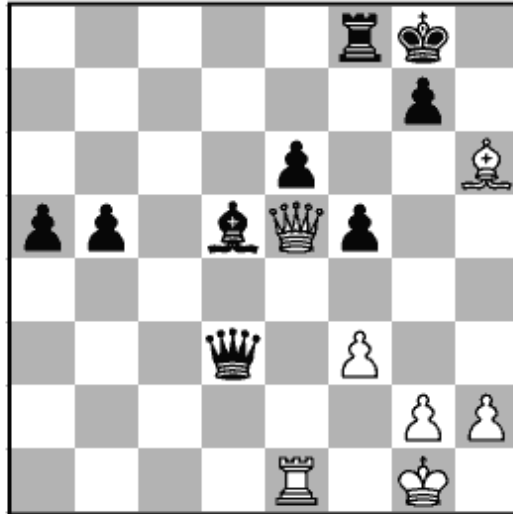
38 Rg3+ Kh8 39 Rh3+

Or 39 Rd8+ Kh7 40 Ng5+ Kh6 41 Nf7+ Kh7 42 Ng5+ Kh6 =.

39...Kg8 40 Rg3+ =

It's a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

561) A. Jakab – Pulpan
Budapest 2023

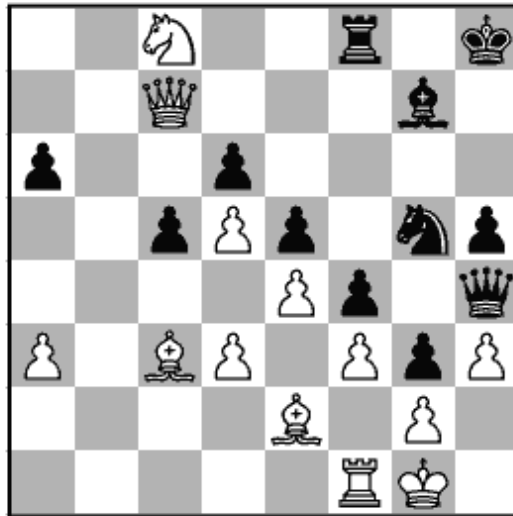
32...Rf7!

After 32...gxh6? Black has no way to escape the white checks. For example: 33 Qg3+ Kf7 34 Qc7+ Ke8 35 Qc8+ Ke7 36 Qc7+ Kf6 37 Qe5+ Kg6 38 Qg3+ =.

33 Bf4 a4 –+

White has no answer to the advance of Black's queenside pawns.

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White to play

562) Leszko – T. Tancsa
Budapest 2023

29 Qd7!

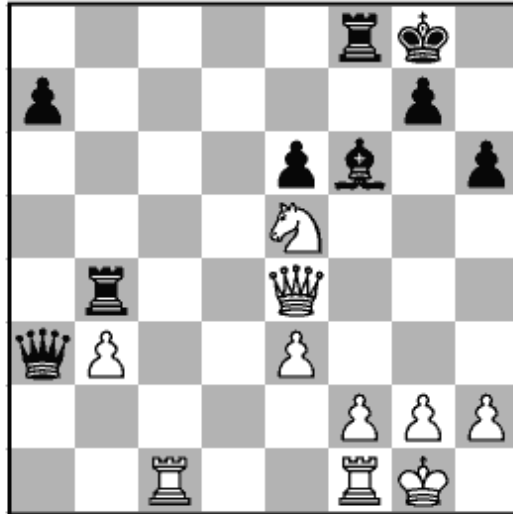
White must keep an eye on the h3-square; too careless is 29 Nxd6? Nxd6 30 gxh3 Qxh3 31 Rf2 gxf2+ 32 Kxf2 Qh4+ 33 Kg1 Bf6 34 Nf7+ Kg8 35 Nh6+ Kh8 36 Nf7+ = with a draw by repetition.

29...Rf7 30 Ne7! Rxe7 31 Qc8+!

31 Qf5? Rf7 32 Qc8+ Rf8 33 Qd7 Rf7 34 Qc8+ = is another draw by repetition.

31...Kh7 32 Rb1 +-

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White to play

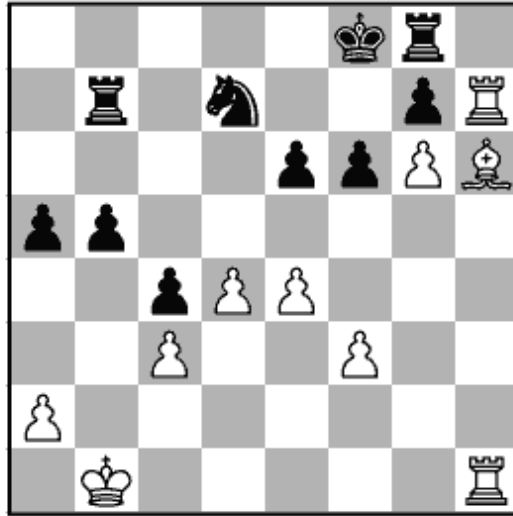
563) P. Acosta – Villarreal
Villa Martelli 2023

23 Qg6! Qa6

23...Bxe5 24 Qxe6+ Kh7 25 Qxe5 +–.

24 Nd7 Rf7 25 Rc7 Be7 26 Ne5 Rf6 27 Qe8+ Bf8 28 Rf7 +–

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White to play

564) Atakhan – Baglan

Ayvalik 2023

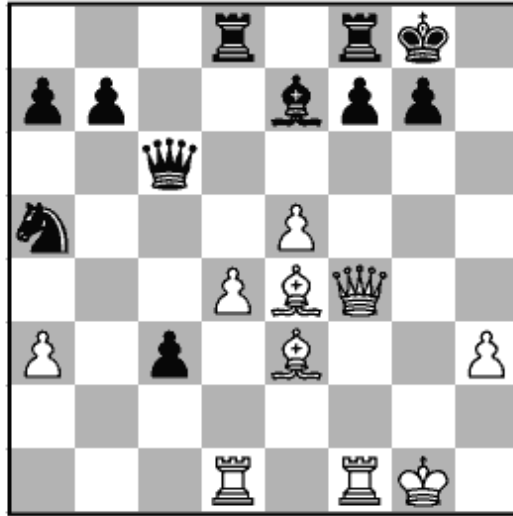
33 Bxg7+! Rxc7 34 Rh8+ Rg8

After 34...Ke7 35 R1h7 Rxc7 36 gxc7 +– White's h-pawn will promote.

35 R1h7 1-0

35...Nc5 (35...Rxc7 36 g7+ +–) 36 dxc5 Rxc7 37 Rxc8+ Kxc8 38 gxc7+ Kxc7 39 c6 +–.

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Black to play

565) Höfelsauer – G. Kuba
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

28...Bg5!

In the game 28...Qa6? 29 d5 +/- favoured White due to his mobile centre pawns.

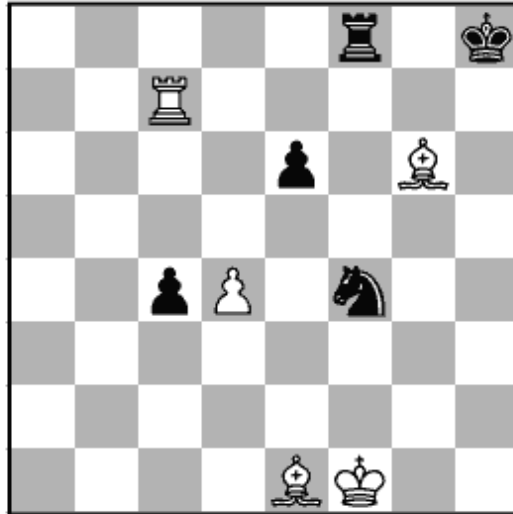
29 Qf3

29 Qxg5? Qxe4 30 Rde1 Nb3 -/+.

29...Bxe3+ 30 Qxe3 Nc4! 31 Qe2 Qc7

The chances are roughly level. The exchange of dark-squared bishops has made it more difficult for White to advance his central pawns.

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White to play

566) Michalik – J. Kranzl

Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

42 Bb4! Rb8

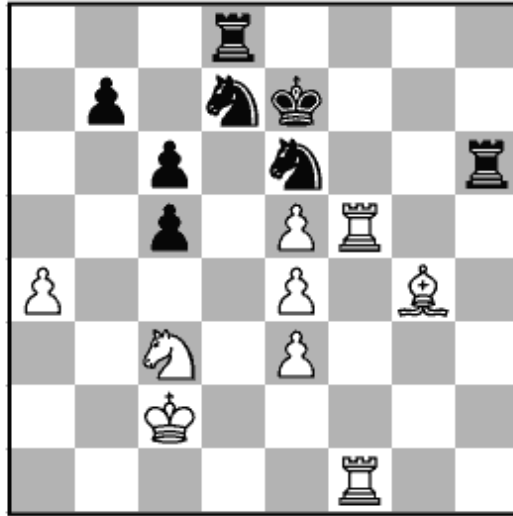
42...Nxg6+ 43 Bxf8 Nxf8 44 Re7 +–.

43 Be7! Nd5

After 43...Nxg6 White regains his extra piece with 44 Bf6+ Kg8 45 Rg7+ Kf8 46 Rxg6 Rb1+ 47 Ke2 Kf7 48 Rh6 +–.

44 Ra7 +–

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White to play

567) Edouard – H. Barseghyan

Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

51 Nd5+! cxd5

51...Ke8 52 Rh5 +–.

52 exd5 Rf8

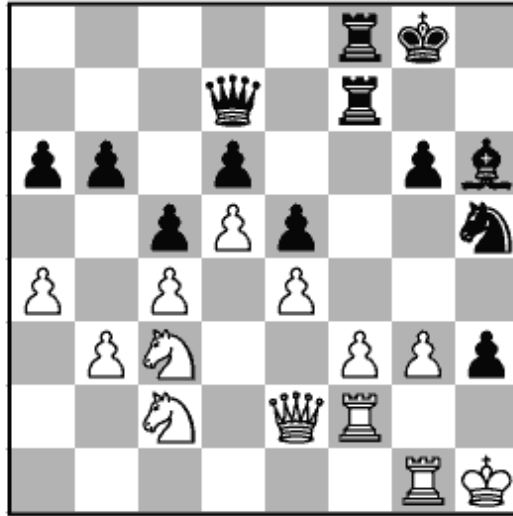
Black must give up the knight or he will be steamrolled by the white pawns; for example, 52...Nef8 53 Rf7+ Ke8 54 d6 Ng6 55 e6 +–.

53 dxe6 Rxf5 54 Rxf5 Rxe6

The game ended 54...Rh4 55 Rf7+ 1-0.

55 Rh5 Rxe5 56 Rh7+ Kd6 57 Rxd7+ Kc6 58 Rd3 +–

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Black to play

568) Gozzoli – Gines Esteo

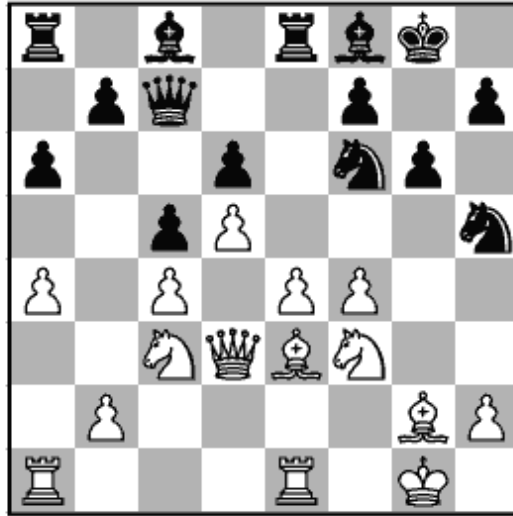
Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

34...h2! 35 Rxh2

White's king is in an unfortunate position after 35 Rgg2 Qh3 –+ or 35 Kxh2 Rh7 36 Rh1 (36 Kg2 Nxg3 –+) 36...Bf4 –+.

35...Rxf3 36 g4 Ng3+ 37 Rxg3 Rxg3 38 Rxh6 Qg7 –+

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Black to play

569) Borhy – Szalai
Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

19...Nxe4!

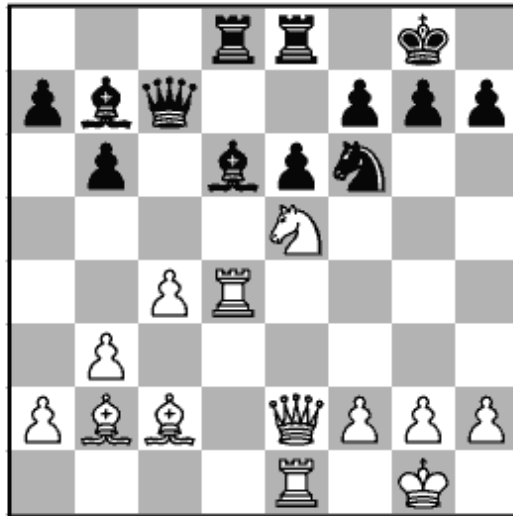
Both players must always be aware of this tactic in Benoni pawn-structures.

20 Nxe4 Rxe4 21 Qxe4

21 Ng5 Re7 –+.

21...Bf5 22 Qxf5 gxf5 –+

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Black to play

570) Okkes – Miesen

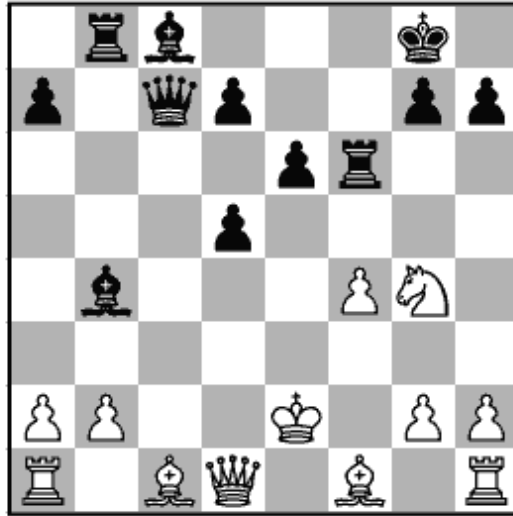
Dutch League 2022/3

18...Bxe5! 19 Rxd8

19 Qxe5 Qxe5 20 Rxe5 Rxd4 21 Bxd4 Rd8 (White loses material because of his weak back rank) 22 Be3 (22 Bc3 Be4! 23 Rxe4 Nxe4 –+) 22...Be4! 23 Rxe4 Nxe4 –+.

19...Bxh2+ 20 Kh1 Rxd8 21 Bxf6 gxf6 –+

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Black to play

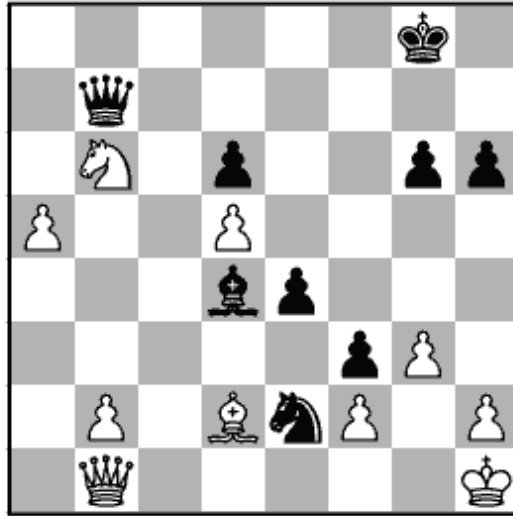
571) Sahithi Varshini – Vaishali
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

15...Rxf4! 16 Bxf4 Qxf4 17 Nf6+

White's king is too exposed in the centre of the board; for example,
 17 Nf2 Ba6+ 18 Nd3 Rf8 leads to mate, while 17 Qc2 is met by
 17...Qxg4+ 18 Kf2 Qf4+ 19 Ke2 Ba6+ 20 Kd1 Bxf1 —+.

17...Qxf6 18 Qc2 Ba6+ 19 Kd1 Qd4+ 20 Kc1 Rc8 0-1

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Black to play

572) Pranav – Maisuradze
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

33...Qa6!

Not 33...Bxb6? 34 Qxe4 Bxf2 (the game ended 34...Qd7? 35 Qxg6+ 1-0) 35 Qxg6+ Qg7 36 Qe8+ Qf8 37 Qg6+ Qg7 38 Qe8+ = with a draw by repetition.

34 b3

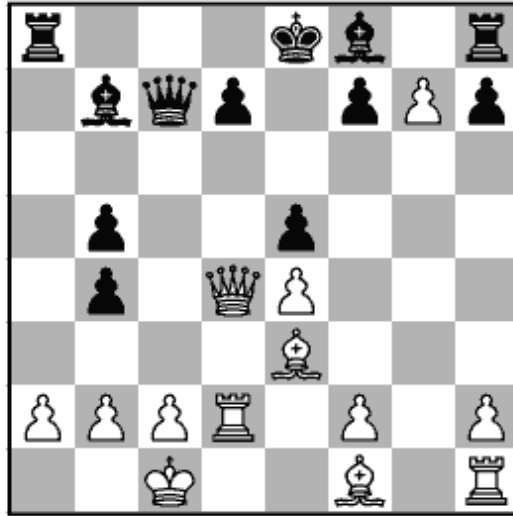
White is mated after 34 Qxe4 Nxg3+! 35 hxg3 Qf1+ 36 Kh2 Qg2#.

34...Bxf2 35 Nc4 Qc8 36 Qf1

36 Qxe4 Nxg3+! 37 hxg3 Qh3#.

36...Bxg3 –+

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Black to play

573) Asis Gargatagli – Pranav
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

14...exd4!

14...Bxg7? 15 Qxb4 Rxa2 16 Kb1 +=.

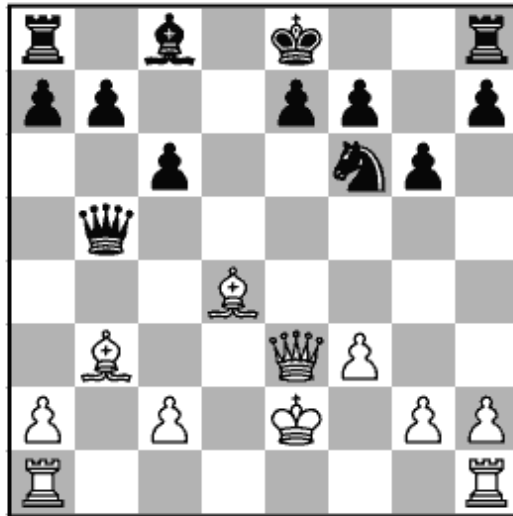
15 gxh8Q dxe3 16 fxe3 Bxe4 17 Bxb5

17 Qd4 Bxh1 18 Bxb5 0-0-0 –+.

17...Rxa2 0-1

18 Kb1 b3 –+.

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White to play

574) Pranav – Sgircea
Bucharest rapid 2023

16 c4!

In the game 16 Kd1? Be6 =+ favoured Black due to White's misplaced king.

16...Qf5

16...Qh5? 17 Bxf6 +–.

17 g4!

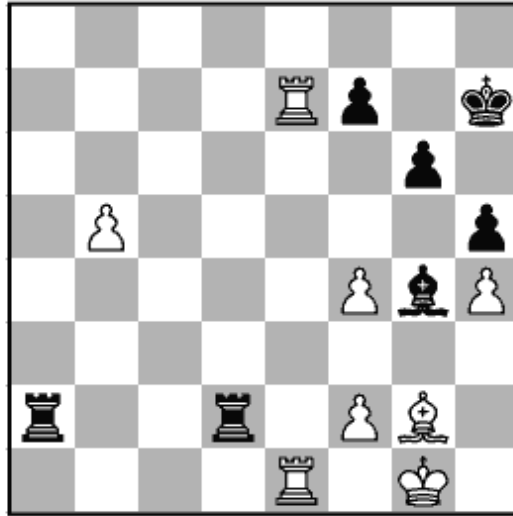
The key follow-up idea, without which White's previous move would make little sense.

17...Nxg4

17...Qe6 18 g5 +–.

18 fxg4 Qxg4+ 19 Kd2 0-0 20 Rhg1 Qh4 21 Kc3 +–
 with a decisive attack.

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Black to play

575) Deac – Pranav
Bucharest rapid 2023

42...Kg7!

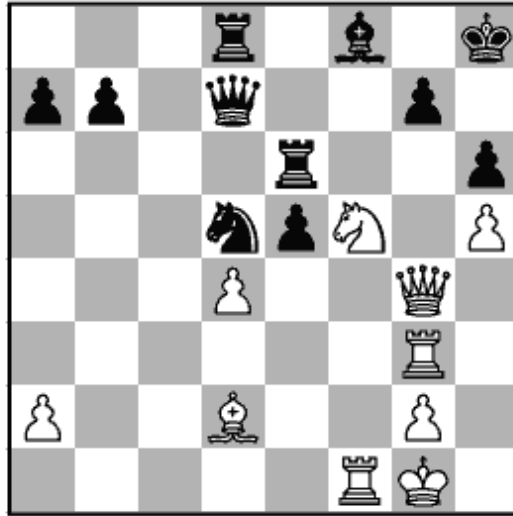
Black must protect the f7-pawn. After 42...Rxf2?? (as played in the game) White was able to construct a mating-net: 43 Rxf7+ Kh6 44 Bd5! Rad2 45 Re8 (or 45 Ree7) 1-0 in view of 45...g5 46 fxg5+ Kg6 47 Rg8#.

43 b6 Rab2 44 b7 Rxf2 45 Rxf7+

45 Bd5 Rxf4 =.

45...Kxf7 46 Bd5+ Kf6 47 b8Q Rxb8 48 Kxf2 Rb2+ 49 Kg3 Rd2 =

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White to play

576) Ale. David – Pisu
Bucharest rapid 2023

29 Bxh6!

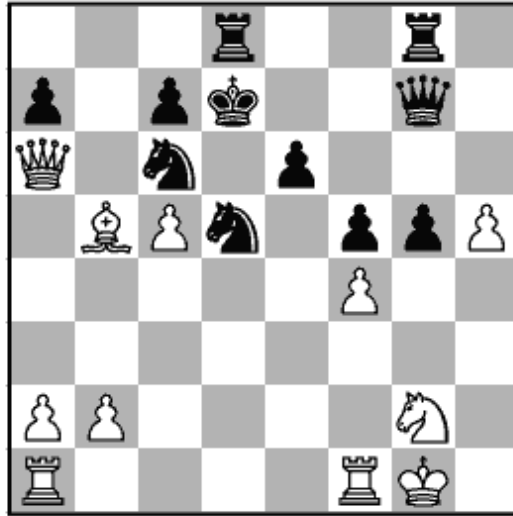
White's initiative peters out after 29 Nxh6? Rf6! (the game ended 29...Nf6? 30 Qg6 Qxd4+ 31 Be3 Qe4 32 Nf7+ Kg8 33 Nxd8 1-0) 30 Nf5 Ne7 31 Nxe7 Qxg4 32 Rxg4 Bxe7 =.

29...Rc6

29...gxh6? 30 Qg8#.

30 Bc1 Nf6 31 Qh3 exd4 32 h6 +-

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Black to play

577) Chirila – Oparin
Bucharest rapid 2023

26...Qd4+!

After 26...gxf4? 27 Bxc6+ Ke7 (as played in the game) White is able to defend his position: 28 Qe2 Ne3 29 Rxf4 Qe5 30 Rf2 Rg3 31 h6 f4 leads to sharp play and roughly equal chances, while his actual choice of 28 Bxd5 Rxd5 29 Rf2 is also playable.

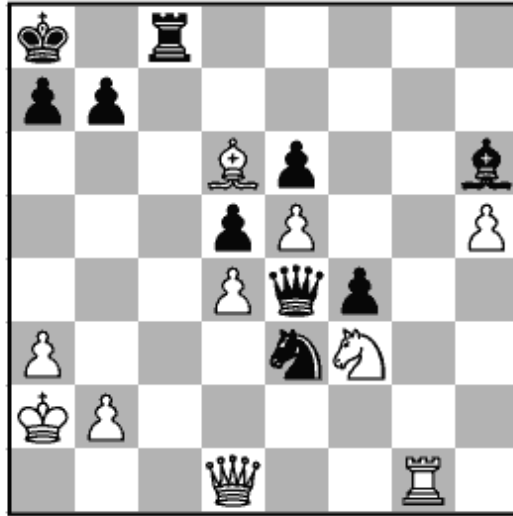
27 Rf2

Or 27 Kh2? Rh8 28 Bxc6+ Ke7 29 Qe2 g4 30 Rae1 Rxh5+ 31 Nh4 (31 Kg3 Rh3#) 31...Rxh4+ 32 Kg2 Rh6 –+. Black's king is safe, he has an extra pawn and is threatening to capture the f4-pawn or double rooks along the h-file.

27...Qxc5 28 Re1 Nb4 29 Bxc6+ Nxc6 30 Kf1 Ke7 –+

Black has an extra pawn and a decisive attack.

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White to play

578) Beerdsen – Pijpers

Dutch League 2022/3

32 Qa4! Nc4

White infiltrates Black's weak back rank after 32...Qxf3 33 Qd7 Rh8 34 Qxe6 Qg3 (34...a6 35 Rg8+ leads to mate) 35 Rxc3 fxc3 36 Qf6 Rg8 37 Qf7 Rh8 38 e6 +–.

33 Qd7! Nb6 34 Qxe6 Qxf3 35 Rg8 Bf8 36 Rxf8 Rxf8 37 Bxf8

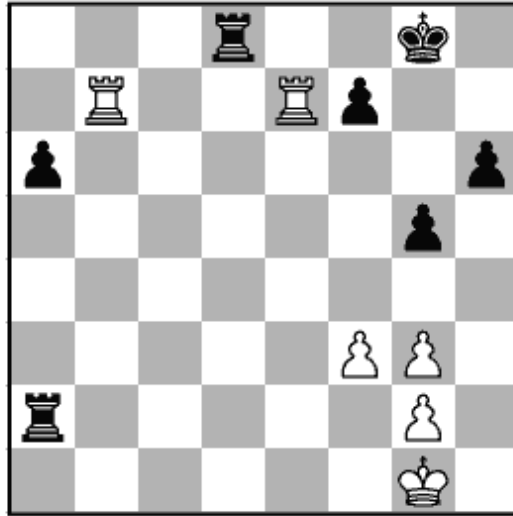
White threatens 38 Qe8+.

37...Qxh5 38 Bg7

Now the threat is 39 Qg8+.

38...Kb8 39 Qd6+ Kc8 40 e6 +–

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Black to play

579) Bellini – Forster
Swiss Team Ch 2023

28...Rd1+ 29 Kh2 g4! 30 Rbd7

30 fxc4 is answered with 30...Raa1 followed by mate. White runs out of checks after 30 Rxf7 Raa1 31 Rg7+ Kf8 32 Rbf7+ Ke8 33 Re7+ Kd8 –+.

30...Rxd7 31 Rxd7 gxf3 32 Rd6 f2 33 Rf6 h5 34 g4

34 Kh3 Ra1 35 Rxf2 Rh1#.

34...h4 35 g5

35 Kh3 Ra1 36 Rxf2 Rh1#.

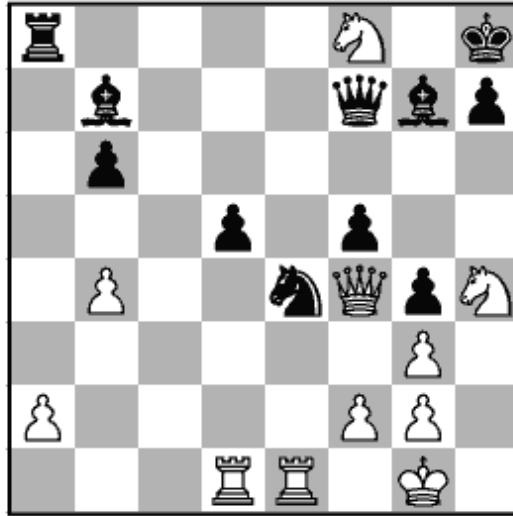
35...a5

Black cannot be prevented from promoting a pawn.

36 Kh3 a4 37 Kxh4 a3 38 Kh5 Kg7 39 g3 Re2 40 g4 a2 0-1

Or 40...f1Q 41 Rxf1 Rh2#.

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White to play

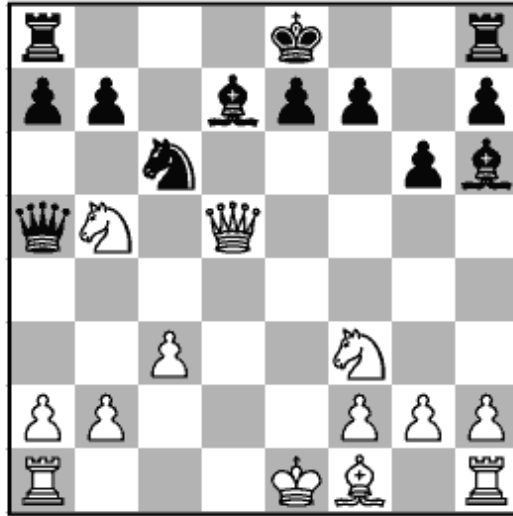
580) Yakubboev – Tabatabaei
Jermuk 2023

32 Rxe4! dxe4 33 Rd7 Qxa2

33...Qxf8 34 Rxb7 +- is an easy win for White as the f5-pawn will drop off.

Now (after 33...Qxa2), White's eventual aim is still to take the f5-pawn, after which Black's game will disintegrate. But not by 34 Nxf5? Rxf8 35 Rxb7 e3!? as in the game (objectively equal only if White plays accurately). Instead 34 Nhg6+ (34 Nfg6+ and 34 Nxh7 are strong too) 34...hxc6 35 Nxc6+ Kg8 36 Rxb7 +- wins as f5 falls.

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White to play

581) K. Balajayeva – Harsha Bharathakoti
Baku 2023

12 Ne5! 0-0

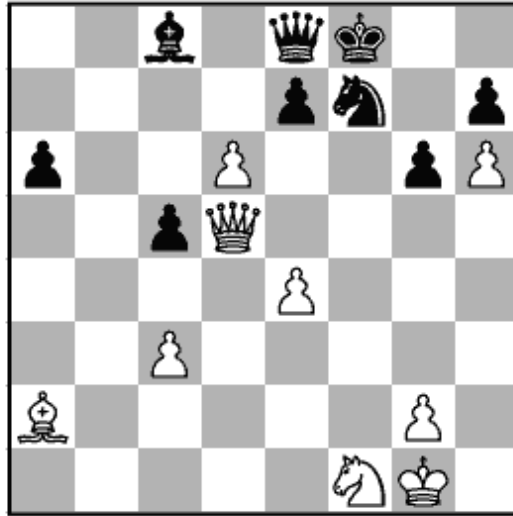
Or: 12...Nxe5 13 Nd6+! exd6 14 Qxa5 +–; 12...0-0-0 13 Qc5 Qa4
 14 Bc4 +–.

13 Nxd7 Rad8 14 Rd1 Nb8 15 b4! Qa6

15...Qa4 16 Nc5 Qc2 17 Qxd8 Rxd8 18 Rxd8+ Kg7 19 Bc4 +–.

16 Nxb8 1-0

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White to play

582) Suyarov – Sadikhov
Baku 2023

34 e5! exd6

White's knight heads to the e4-square after 34...e6? 35 Qf3 Kg8 36 Ng3 +–.

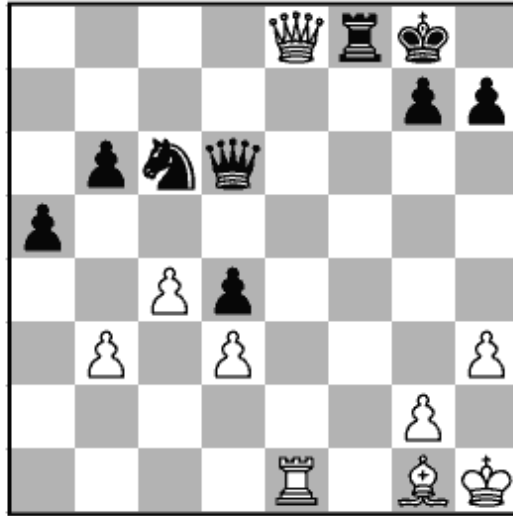
35 e6 Bxe6!

After 35...Nd8? (as played in the game) White won by scooping up a couple of black pawns: 36 Qxd6+ Qe7 (36...Kg8 37 e7+ +–) 37 Qb8 Bb7 38 Qe5 Ke8 39 Qh8+ Qf8 40 Qxh7 Bc6 41 Qxg6+ 1-0.

36 Qxe6 Qxe6 37 Bxe6 Nxh6 38 Ne3 +=

White is a shade better because of his extra piece, but Black has reasonable drawing chances due to the reduced number of white pawns.

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White to play

583) Nigmatov – Aradhya

Baku 2023

36 Re6! Rxe8 37 Rxd6 Rc8 38 g4!

There is no rush to take the d4-pawn. In the game 38 Bxd4?! Nxd4 39 Rxd4 b5 += gave Black drawing chances.

38...Kf7 39 Rd7+ Kf6 40 Kg2 Re8 41 Rb7 Re6 42 Rxb6 +-

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Black to play

584) Fishchuk – Manafov
Baku 2023

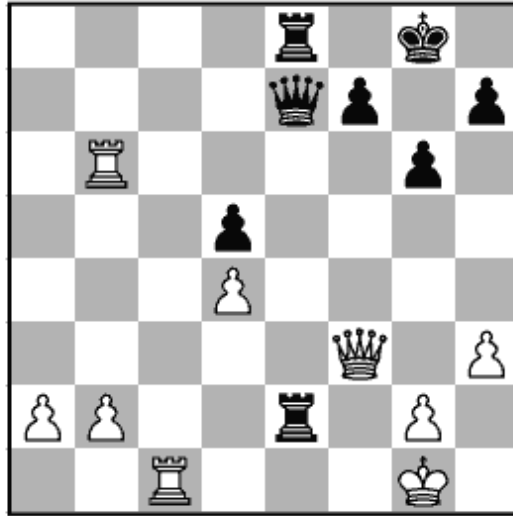
17...Ne6! 18 Bxf6

The game ended 18 Bd3? Nd4 19 Qe3 Rc3 0-1. Also bad is 18 dxe6? Rxc2 19 Bxf6 Qxf6 20 Qxf6 gxf6 21 Kd1 Rc3 22 exf7+ Kxf7 23 Re1 Rfc8 –+, when White's king is trapped in the centre under a terrific bind.

18...Qxf6 19 Qxf6 gxf6 20 Ba4 Nd4 –/+

Black has good chances to win due to White's poor king position.

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Black to play

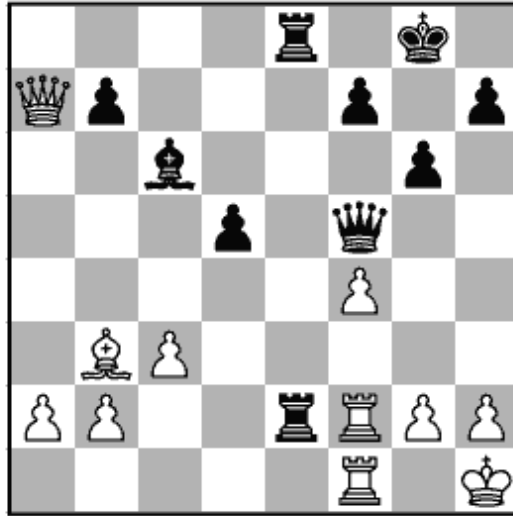
585) P. Acosta – Villanueva
Villa Martelli 2023

28...Rxg2+! 29 Kxg2

The combination works because of White's loose rook on c1; for example, 29 Qxg2 Qe3+ 30 Qf2 Qxc1+ 31 Kg2 Qd1 –+. After 29 Kh1 (as played in the game) Black could have dominated the e-file to snuff out resistance: 29...Re2 30 Rf6 Rxb2 31 Qf1 Qe3 –+.

29...Qg5+ 30 Qg3 Re2+ 31 Kf1 Qxg3 32 Kxe2 Qg2+ 33 Kd1 Qxh3 –+

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Black to play

586) Novita – Laohawirapap
Jakarta Zonal 2023

21...Re1!

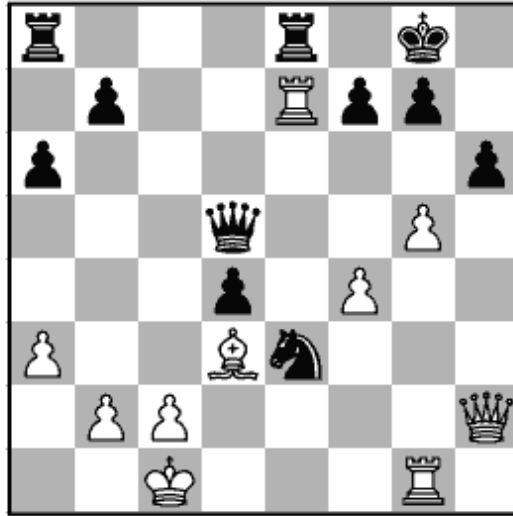
Black exploits White's weak back rank. After 21...Qd3? (as played in the game) White could have kept his disadvantage to a minimum with 22 Rxe2 Qxe2 23 Rg1 Re4 =+.

22 Kg1

22 h3 Rxf1+ 23 Rxf1 d4! 24 Kh2 (24 Qxd4 allows 24...Qxh3+ 25 Kg1 Qxg2#) 24...Re2 –+.

22...Bb5 23 c4 dxc4 24 Ba4 Rxf1+ 25 Rxf1 Re2 26 Bxb5 Qxb5 –
+

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White to play

587) Tran Tuan Minh – Novita

Jakarta Zonal 2023

31 g x h 6! g 6

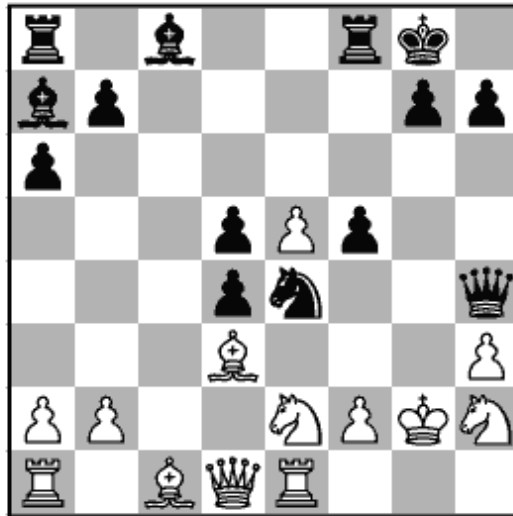
Black is mated after 31...Rxe7 32 hxg7 f5 33 Qh8+ Kf7 34 g8Q+ Rxc8 35 Qxc8+ Kf6 36 Qg6#.

32 Qh4

32 h7+ Kh8 33 Qh4 Qd6 transposes to the game.

32...Qd6 33 h7+ Kh8 34 Rxf7 Qe6 35 Rf6 Nf5 36 Qg5 1-0

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White to play

588) Pranav – Wei Yi

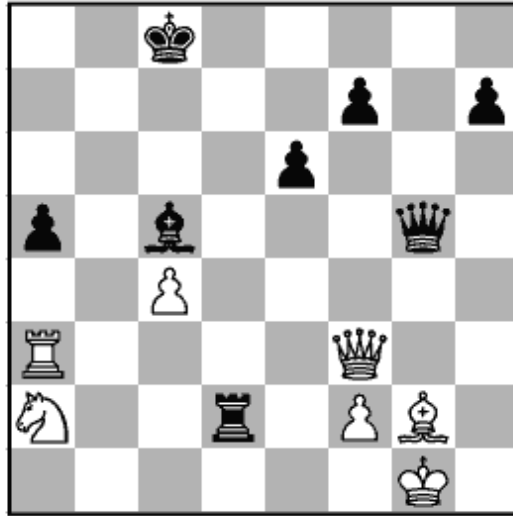
Internet rapid 2023

21 Ng3!

After 21 Rf1? (as played in the game) Black ripped open the kingside with 21...f4 22 Ng1 Bxh3+ 23 Nxh3 f3+ 24 Nxf3 Qg4+ 25 Kh2 Rxf3 –+.

21...f4 22 Nxe4 Bxh3+ 23 Kh1 dxe4 24 Rxe4 +–

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Black to play

589) Warakomski – Szpar

Polish Rapid League 2023

33...Bxa3!

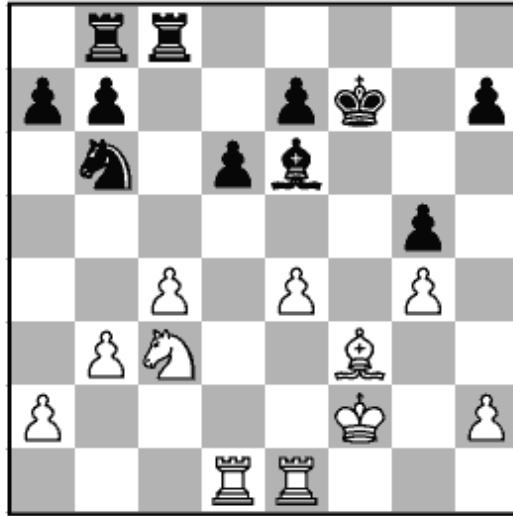
The game ended 33...Rxf2?? 34 Qb7+ Kd8 35 Rd3+ Ke8 36 Qc8+ Ke7 37 Qd8# (1-0).

34 Qxa3 Rd1+ 35 Kh2 Qh4+ 36 Qh3

36 Bh3 Qxf2+ 37 Bg2 Rd2 –+.

36...Qxf2 –+

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White to play

590) Antolak – B. Zawadzka
Polish Rapid League 2023

21 e5! Rd8

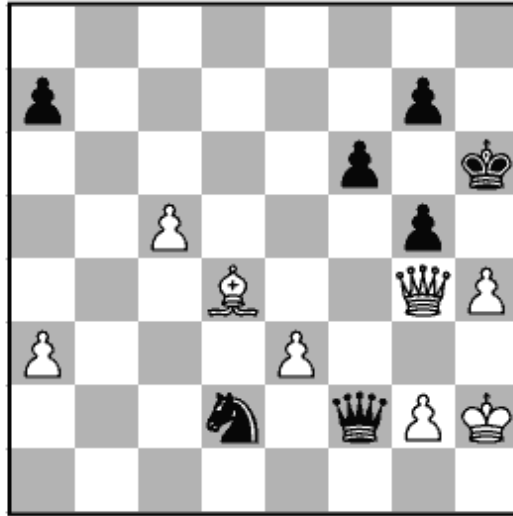
White's active rooks are the deciding factor as she wins material after 21...dxe5 22 Rxe5 Nd7 (22...h6 23 Rde1 +–) 23 Rxc5 +–.

22 exd6 exd6

Or 22...Rxd6 23 Ne4 Rxd1 24 Nxc5+ Ke8 25 Rxd1 +–.

23 Ne4 h6 24 Nxd6+ Ke7 25 c5 +–

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Black to play

591) Duda – Wojtaszek

Warsaw rapid 2023

38...Nf1+!

In the game Black allowed an exchange of queens and lost after 38...gxh4?? 39 Qf4+! Qxf4+ 40 exf4 Ne4 41 c6 a6 (41...Nd6 42 Bxa7 Nc8 43 Bc5 +—) 42 Bc5 1-0.

39 Kh1

39 Kh3 Nxe3 40 hxg5+ fxg5 41 Bxg7+ (41 Qe6+?? g6 42 Qxe3 Qh4#) 41...Kxg7 (41...Kg6 42 Qe6+ Kxg7 43 Qe7+ Kg6 44 Qe6+ Kg7 =) 42 Qd7+ Kf6 43 Qd6+ Kf7 44 Qd7+ Kf6 = with a draw by repetition.

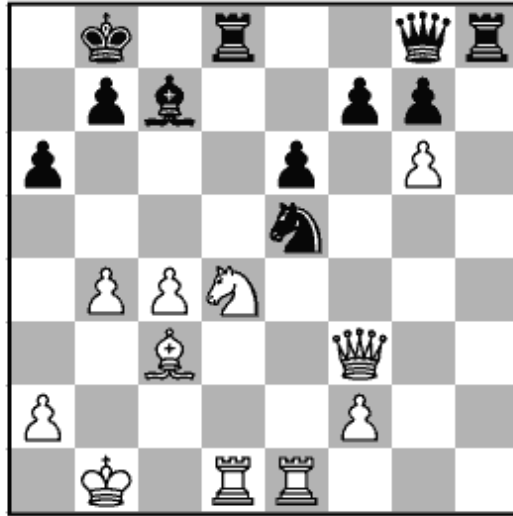
39...Ng3+

Black loses his knight after 39...Nxe3?? 40 hxg5+ fxg5 (40...Kg6 41 Qe4+ +—) 41 Qe6+ Kh5 42 Qxe3 +—.

40 Kh2 Nf1+ =

with a draw by repetition.

[back](#)



White to play

592) Giaccio – Sos Andreu
Montserrat 2022

28 Rxe5 Bxe5 29 Nc6+! bxc6 30 Rxd8+

30 Bxe5+ Kb7 31 Rxd8 Qxd8 comes to the same thing.

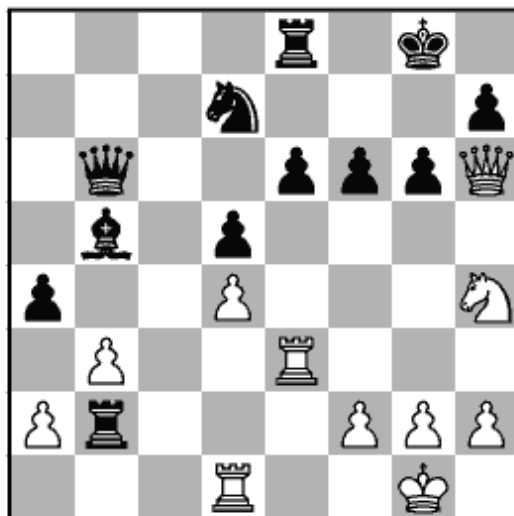
30...Qxd8 31 Bxe5+ Kb7 32 gxf7 Qg5

32...Qh4 33 Bd6 Qxc4 34 f8Q Rxf8 35 Bxf8 +—.

33 Bd6 +—

[back](#)

Intermediate Test



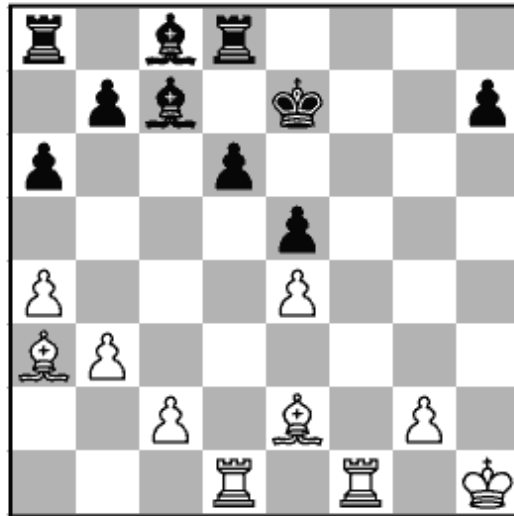
593) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



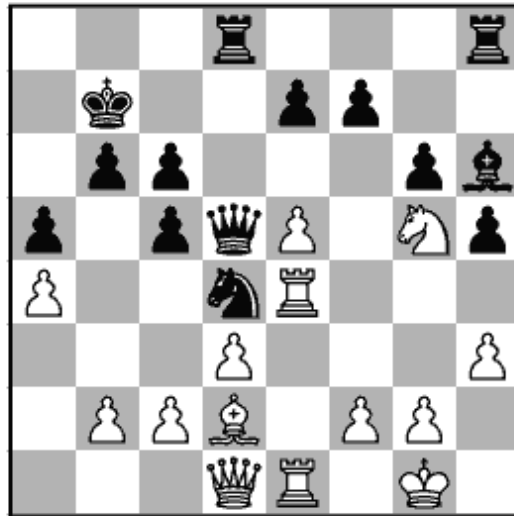
594) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



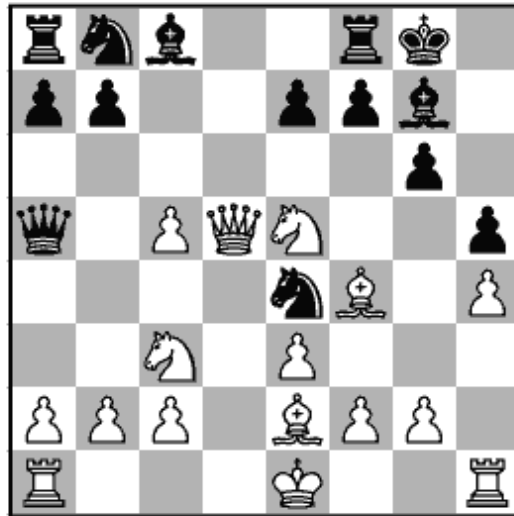
595) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



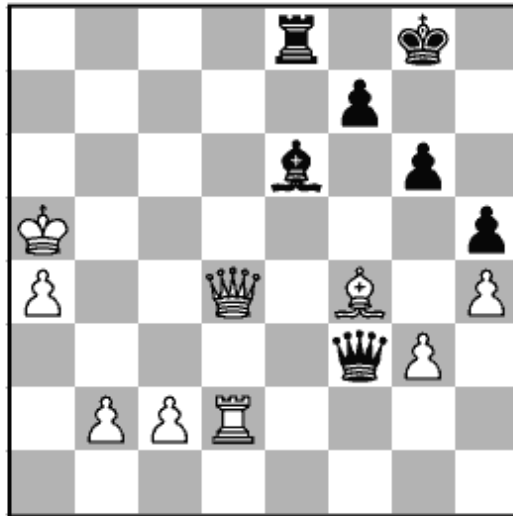
596) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



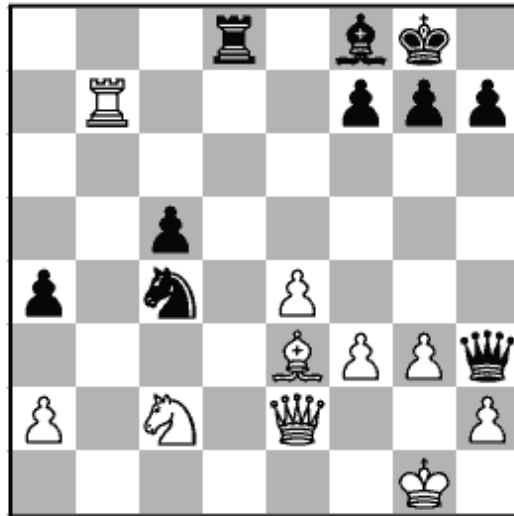
597) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



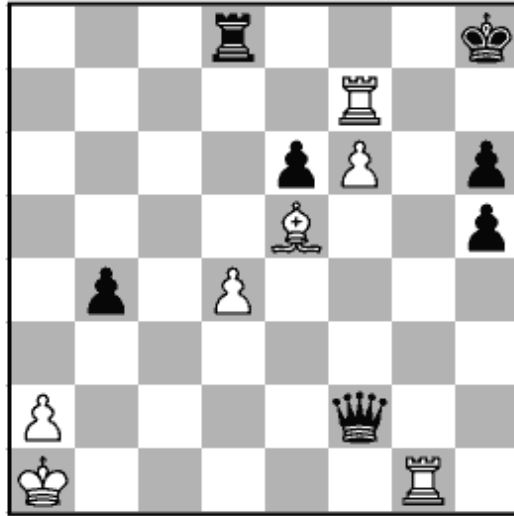
598) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



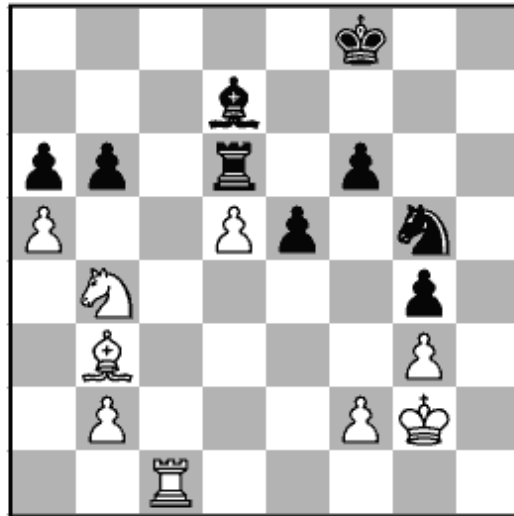
599) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



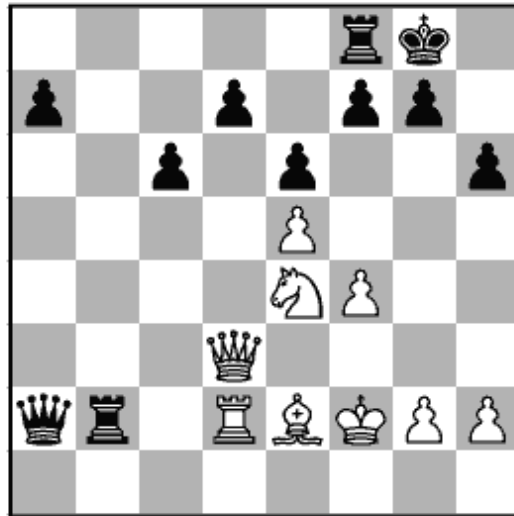
600) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



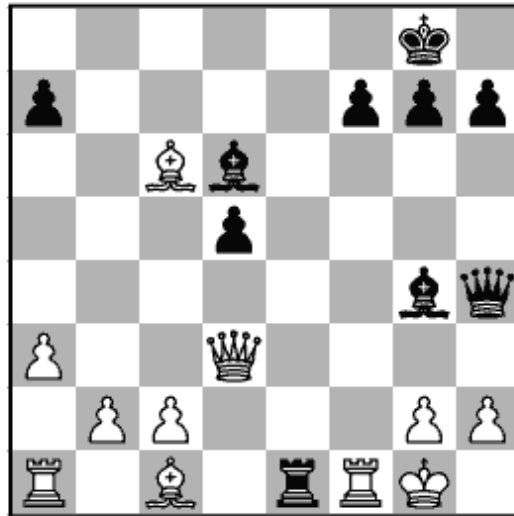
601) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



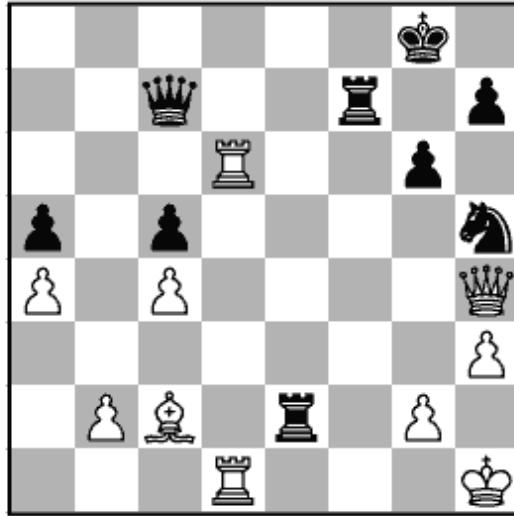
602) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



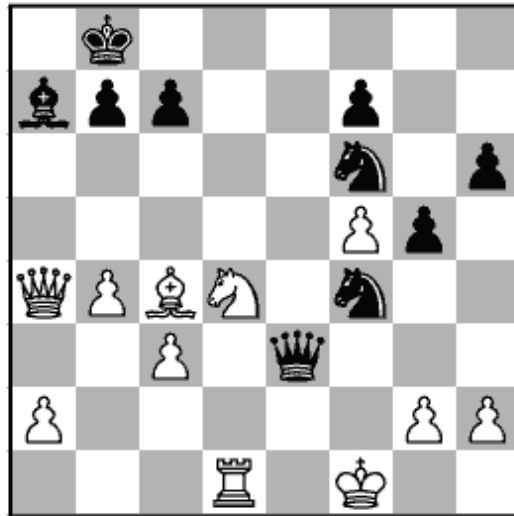
603) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



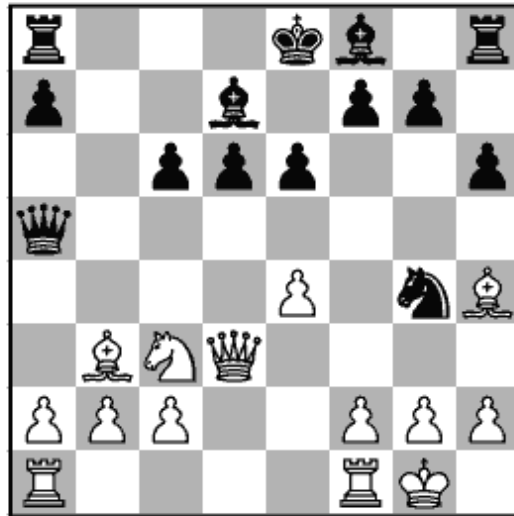
604) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



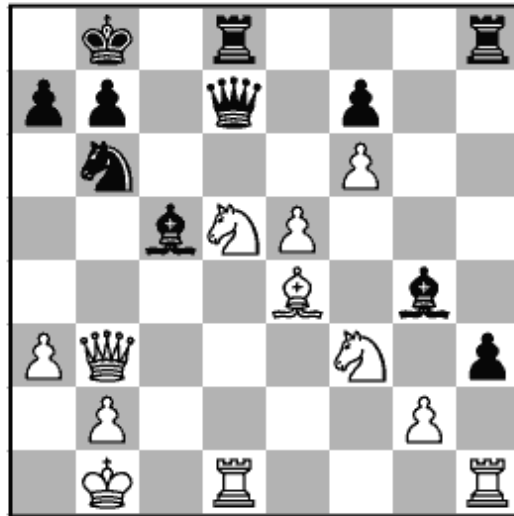
605) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



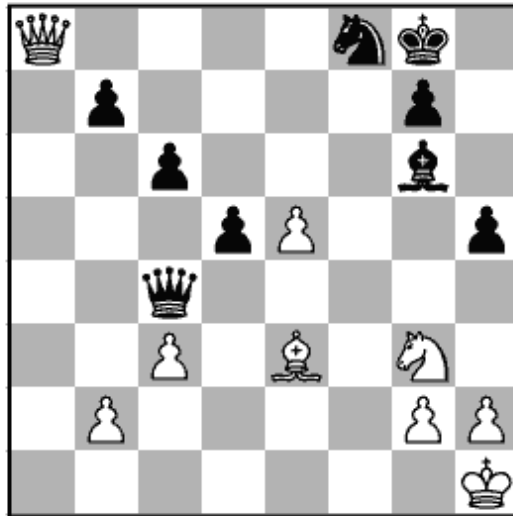
606) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



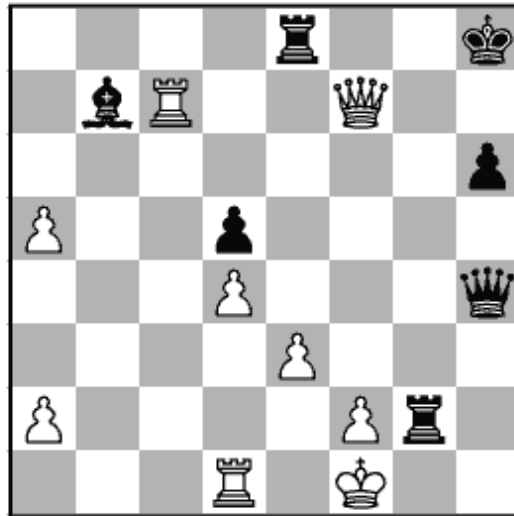
607) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



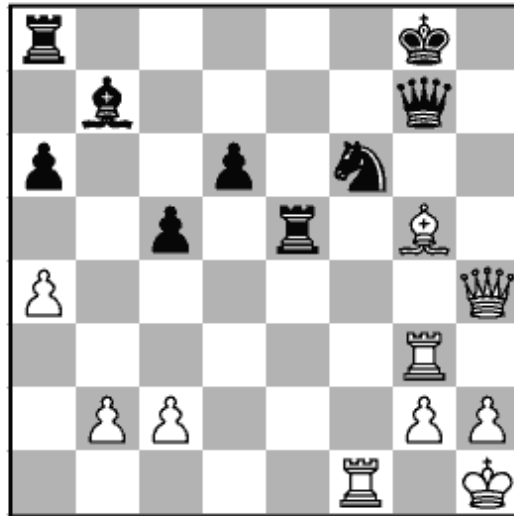
608) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



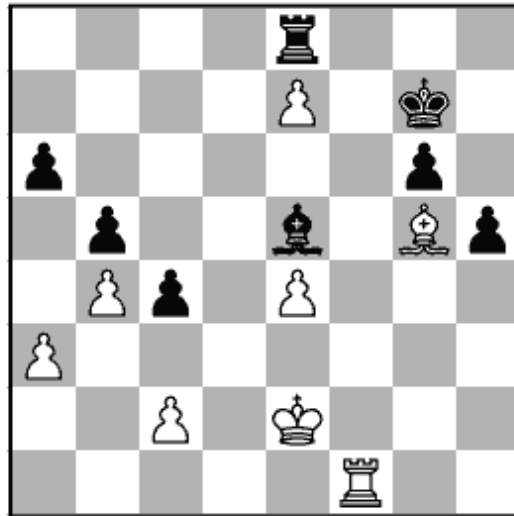
609) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



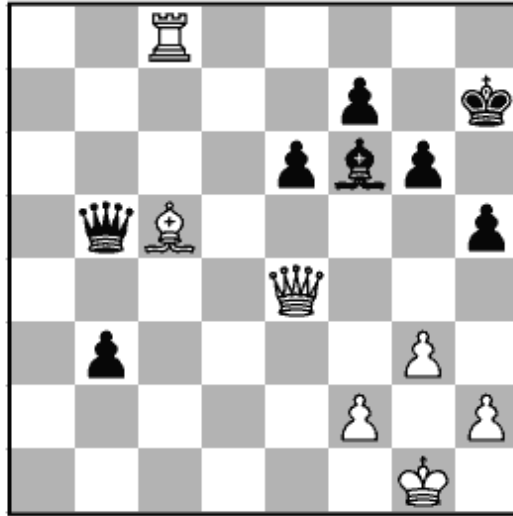
610) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



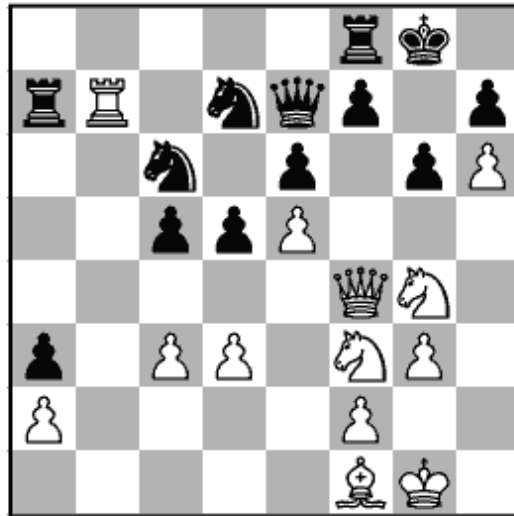
611) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



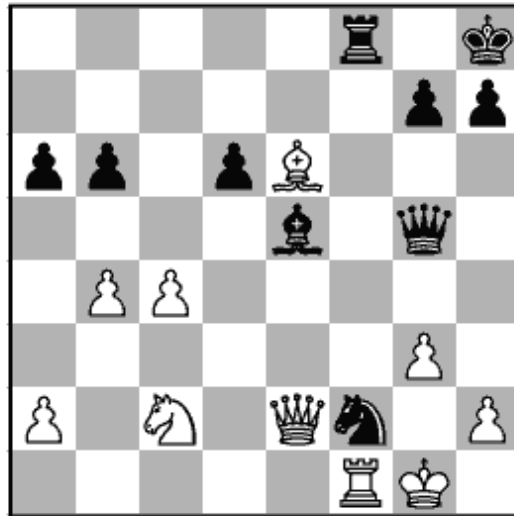
612) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



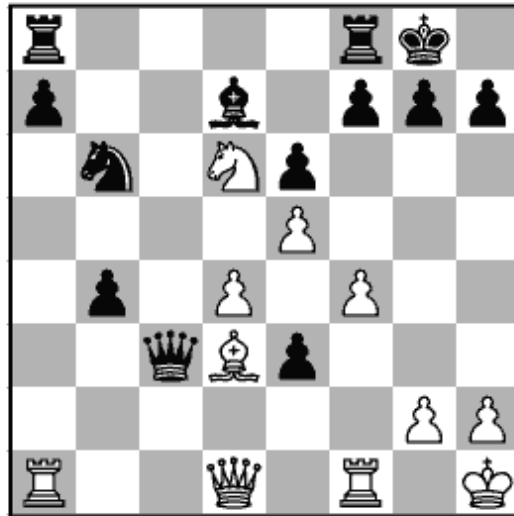
613) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



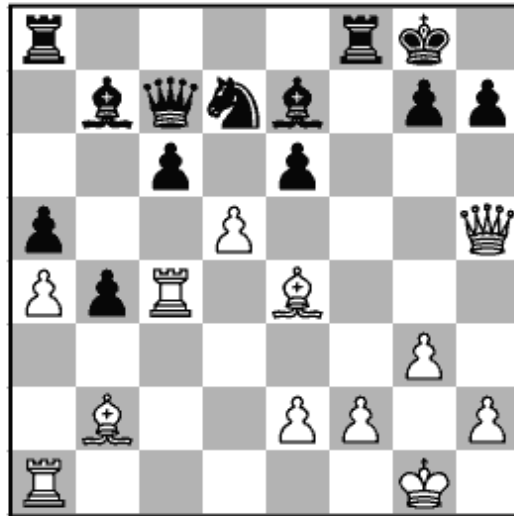
614) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



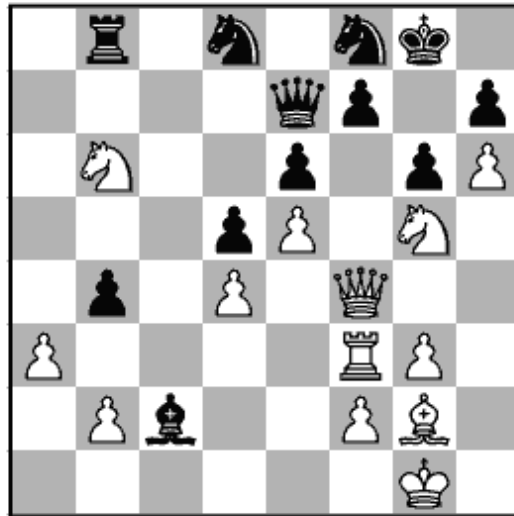
615) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



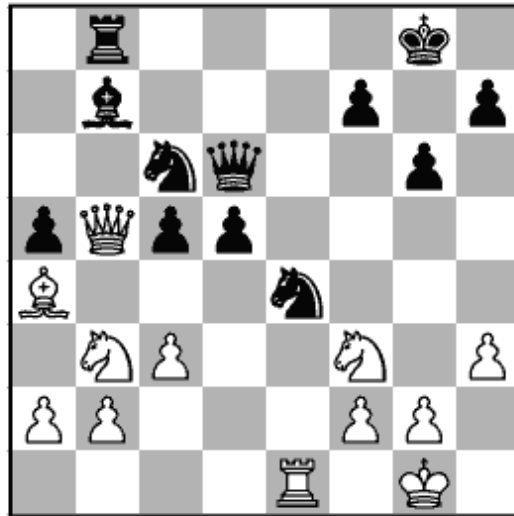
616) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



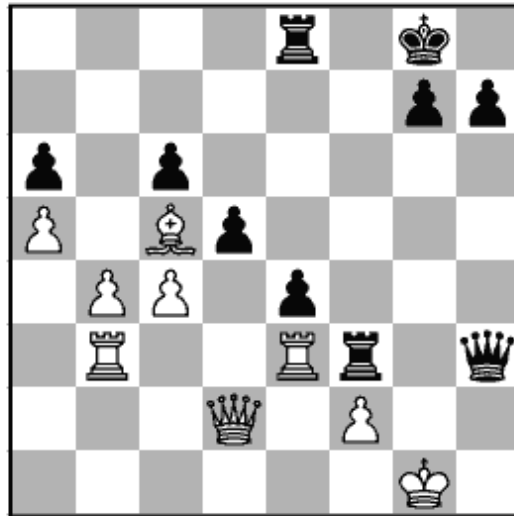
617) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



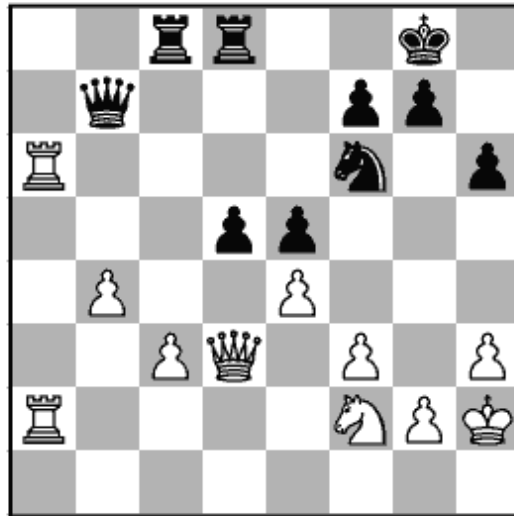
618) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



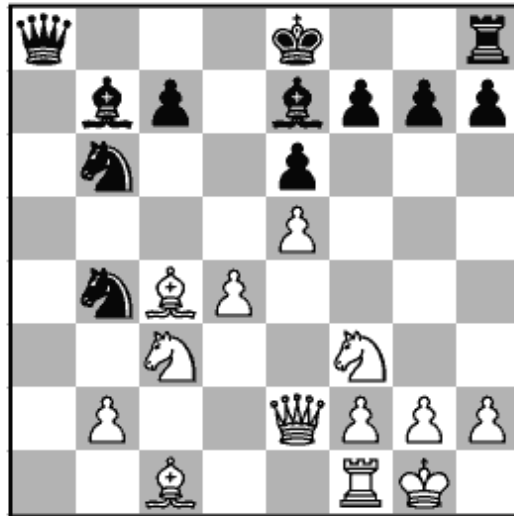
619) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



620) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



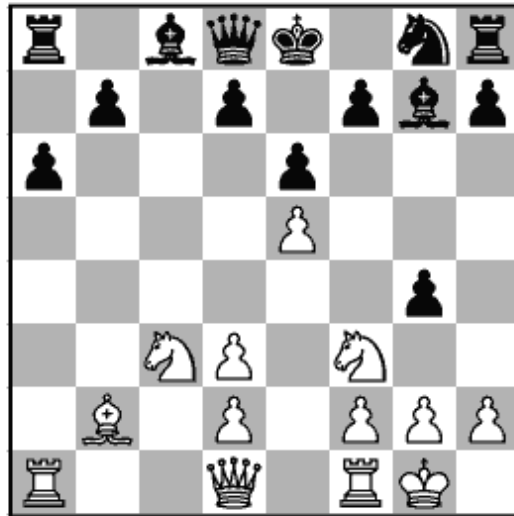
621) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



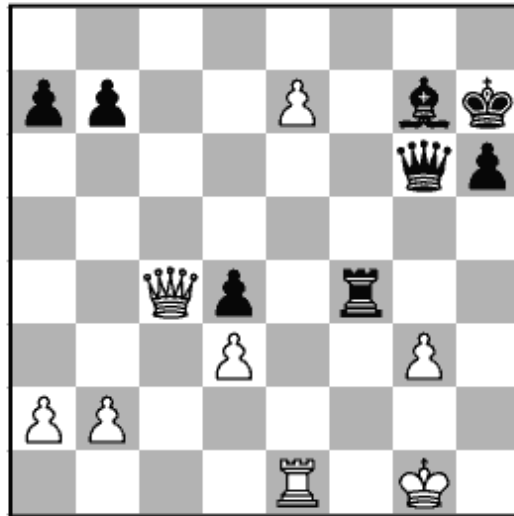
622) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



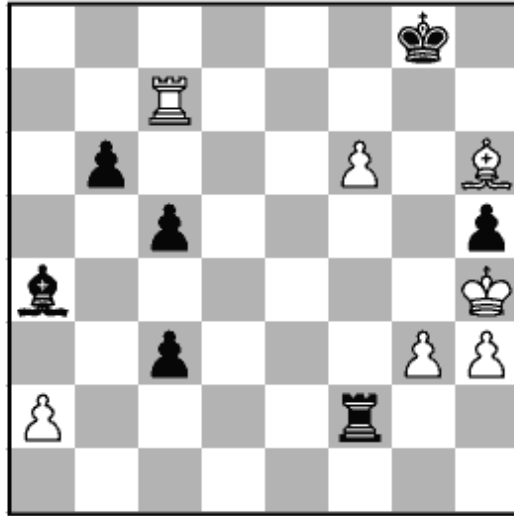
623) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



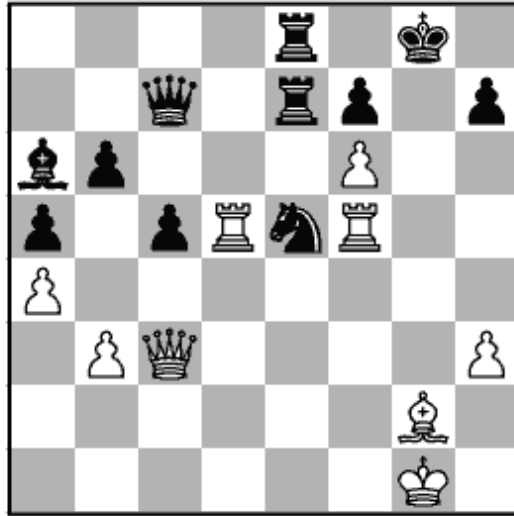
624) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



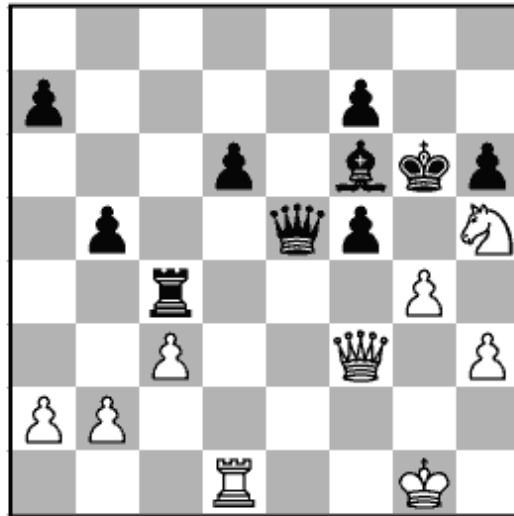
625) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



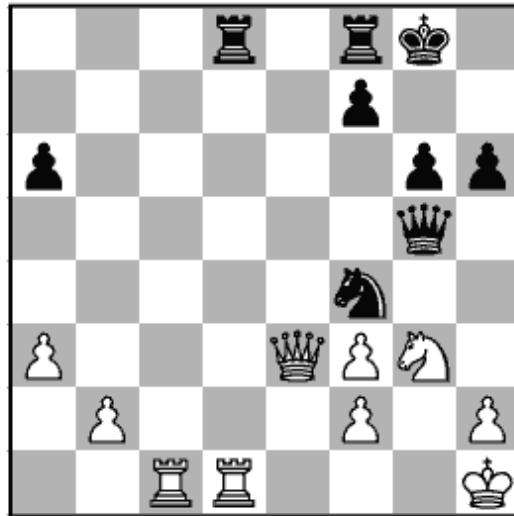
626) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



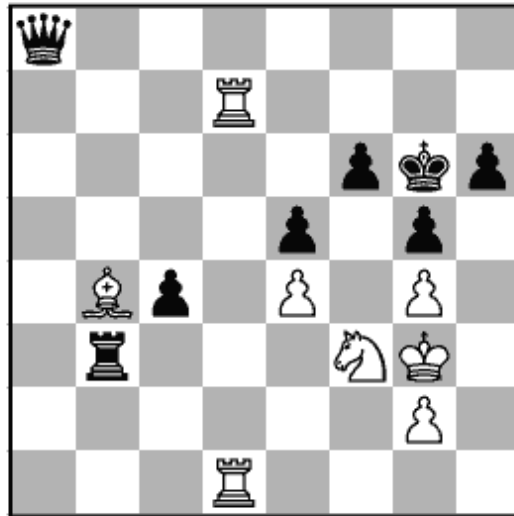
627) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



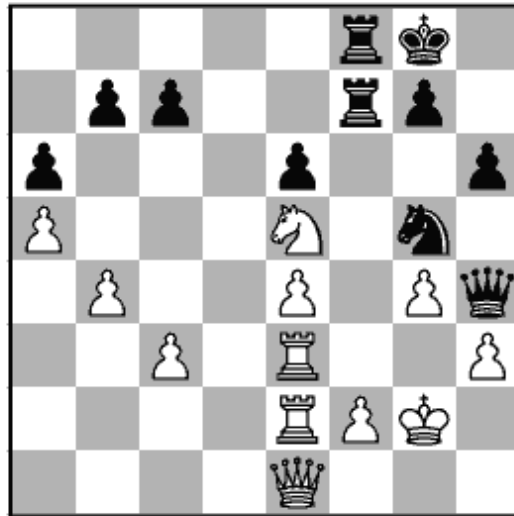
628) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



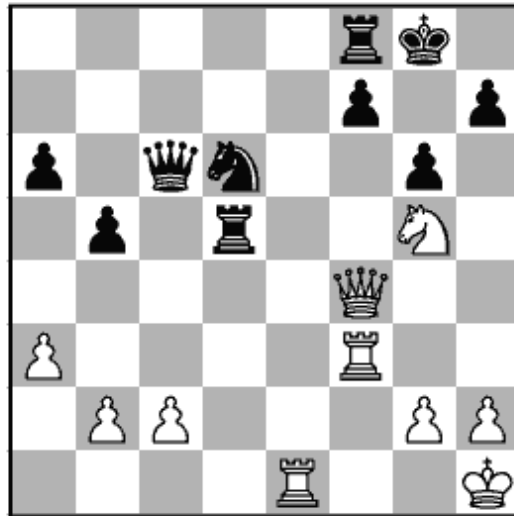
629) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



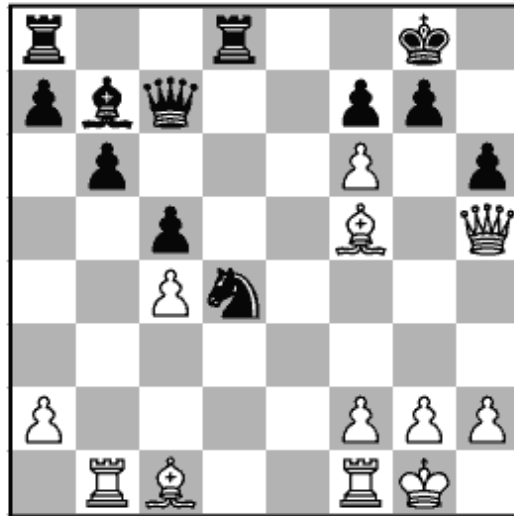
630) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



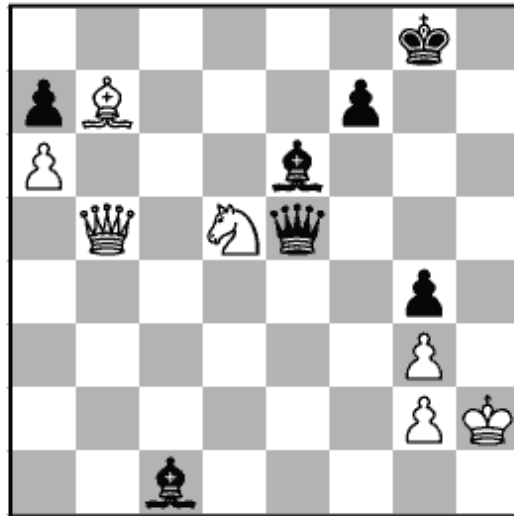
631) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



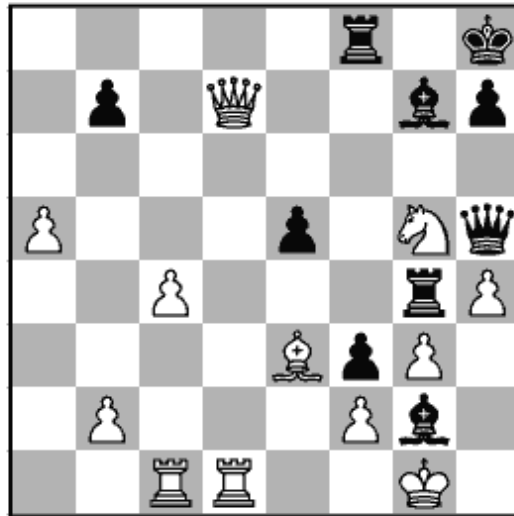
632) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



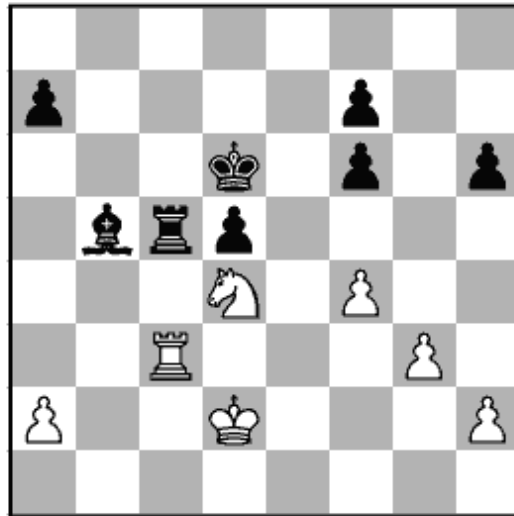
633) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



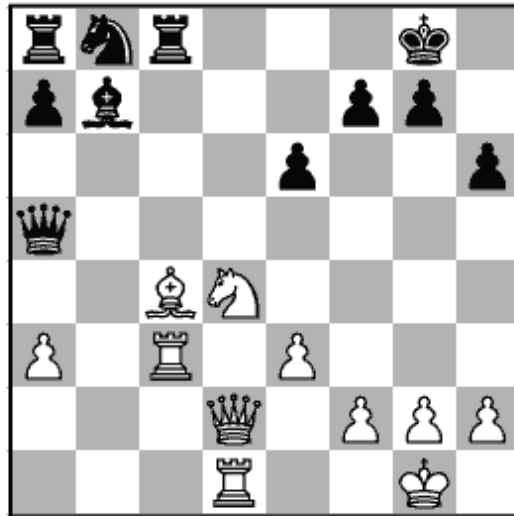
634) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



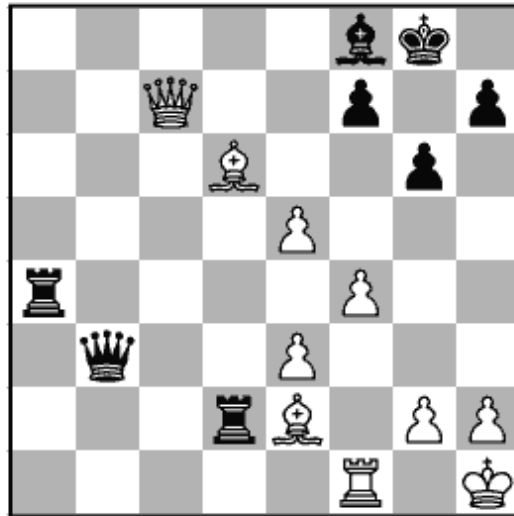
635) White to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



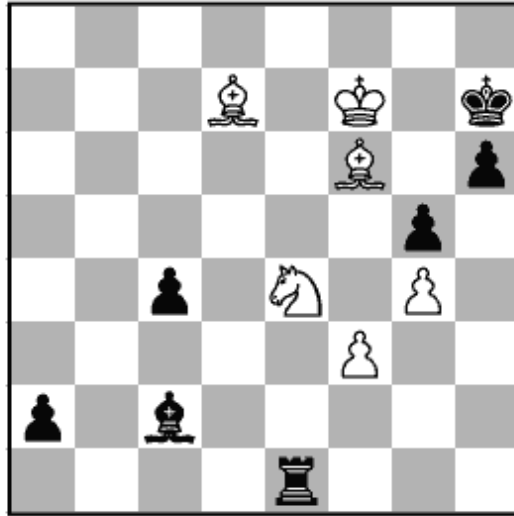
636) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



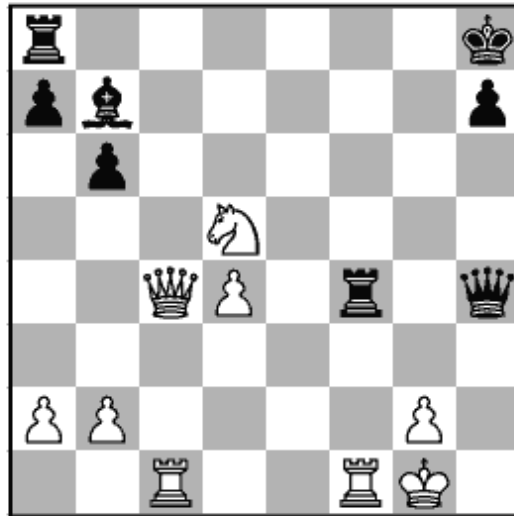
637) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



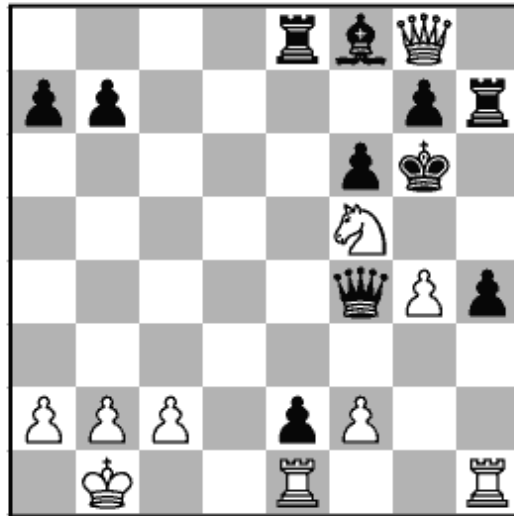
638) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



639) Black to play (4 points)

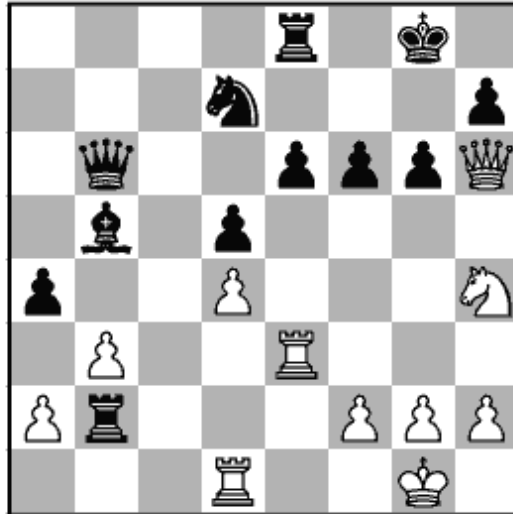
[solution](#)



640) White to play (4 points)

[solution](#)

Solutions for Intermediate Test



White to play

593) Lubbe – Parligras
2nd Bundesliga 2021/2

27 Nf5!

Not 27 Nxg6? Qxd4 28 Rde1 Qd2 29 Nh4 Qxf2+ 30 Kh1 Re2 –+.

27...exf5

27...gxf5 28 Rg3+ Kf7 29 Qg7#.

28 Rxe8+ Kf7 29 Rde1 +–

[back](#)



Black to play

594) Lu Shanglei – Zhang Zhong
Chinese Team Ch 2022

17...cxb5!

In the game White obtained good counterplay after 17...Ba5+? 18 b4 Bxb4+ 19 Kf1! cxb5 20 Nxf5 +=.

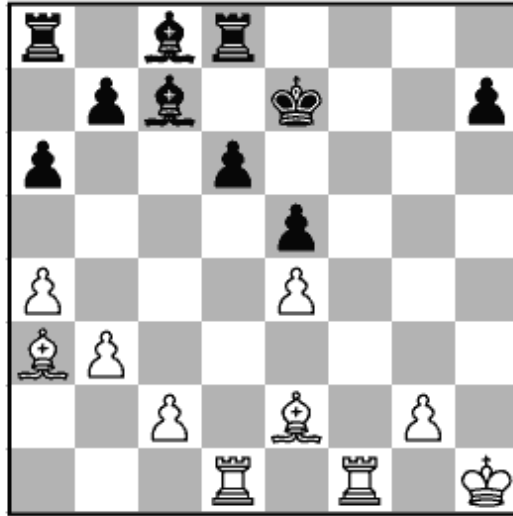
18 Nxf5

18 Nhg6 Bxg6 19 Nxg6 Qf7 20 Nxf8 Kxf8 –+.

18...Qe8 19 Qg4 Ng5! –+

White has nothing for his missing piece.

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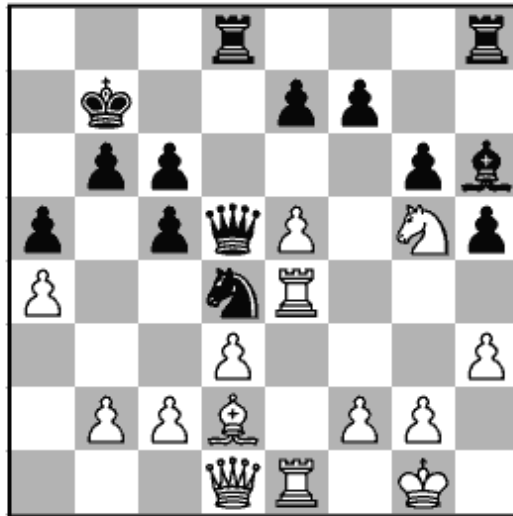
White to play

595) Ter-Sahakyan – Atakhan
Erevan 2022

23 Rd5! Be6 24 Rxe5 Kd7 25 Rh5 +–

White has a clear extra pawn.

[back](#)



White to play

596) Rapport – Mazé

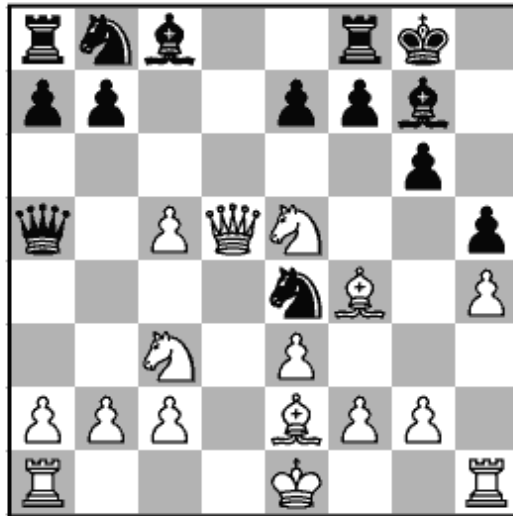
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

21 c4!

Once Black's queen is driven away from the defence of the f7-pawn, his position collapses.

21...Qd7 22 Nxf7 Bxd2 23 e6 Qc7 24 Qxd2 +-

[back](#)



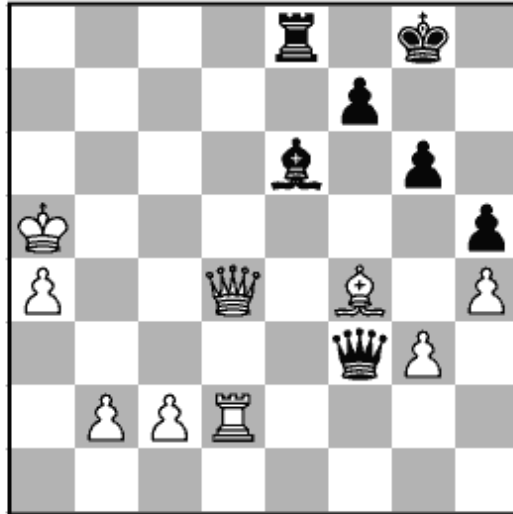
Black to play

597) S. Williams – Paravyan
Internet rapid 2023

10...Nxc3 11 Qd2 Nc6 0-1

Black wins material.

[back](#)



Black to play

598) Loftgård – Galperin
Stavanger 2023

38...Qb7! 39 Qb6

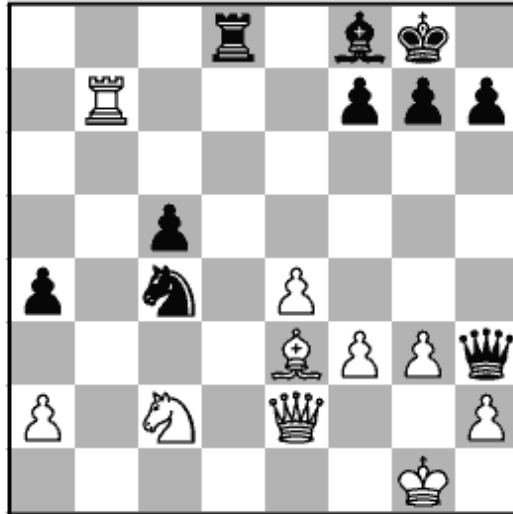
Black has a decisive material advantage after 39 Qd8 Rxd8 40 Rxd8+ Kg7 –+ (as played in the game).

39...Ra8+ 40 Kb5 Bc4+

Black also wins but in slower fashion after 40...Bd7+ 41 Rxd7 Qxd7+ –+.

41 Kc5 Rc8+ –+

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White to play

599) Xu Yinglun – Zhao Jun
Chinese Ch, Xinghua 2022

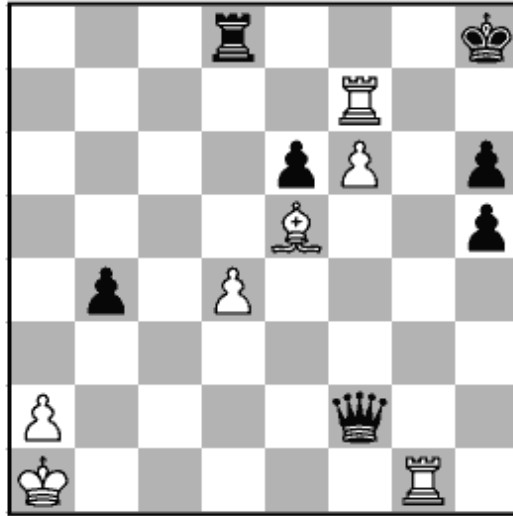
36 Qxc4! Rd1+ 37 Ne1!

Not 37 Kf2?? Qxh2#.

1-0

37...Rxe1+ 38 Kf2 +–.

[back](#)



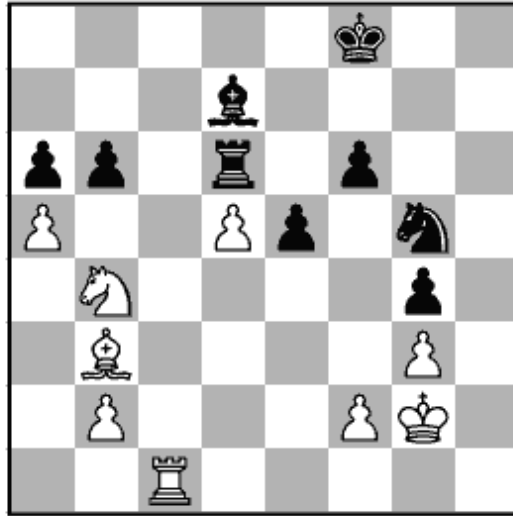
White to play

600) V. Krishnan – A. Horvath
Budapest 2022

41 Rf8+! 1-0

41...Rxf8 42 f7+ Kh7 43 Rg7+ Kh8 44 Rg2+ Kh7 45 Rxf2 +–.

[back](#)



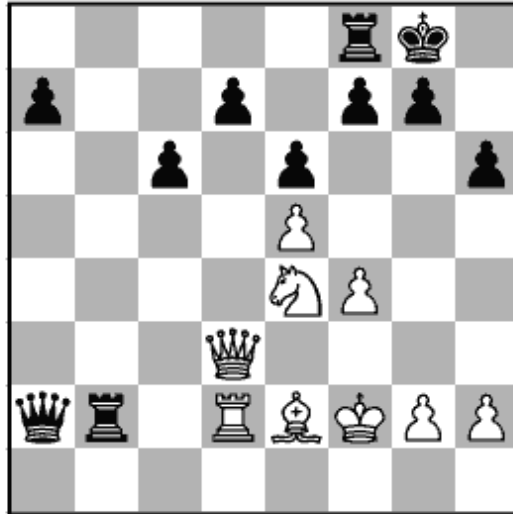
White to play

601) Krivolapov – Van Delft
Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

41 Rc6! 1-0

41...Bxc6 42 dxc6 +—.

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White to play

602) Valenzuela Gomez – Alsina Leal

Barbera del Valles 2022

23 Nf6+! gxf6

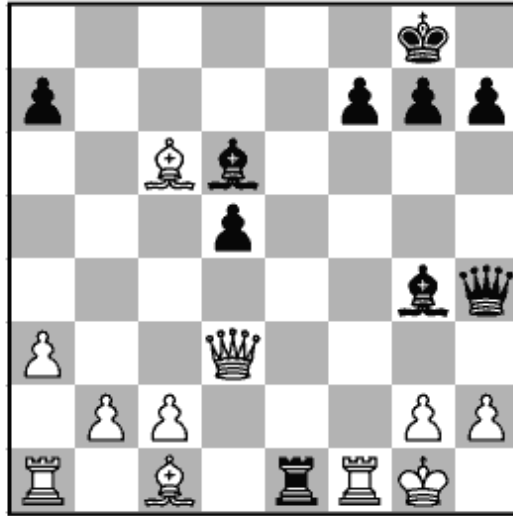
23...Kh8 24 Qh7#.

24 exf6 Qb3

Or: 24...Kh8 25 Qh3 +–; 24...Rfb8 25 Qg3+ Kf8 26 Qg7+ Ke8 27 Qg8#.

25 Rxb2 Qxd3 26 Bxd3 +–

[back](#)



White to play

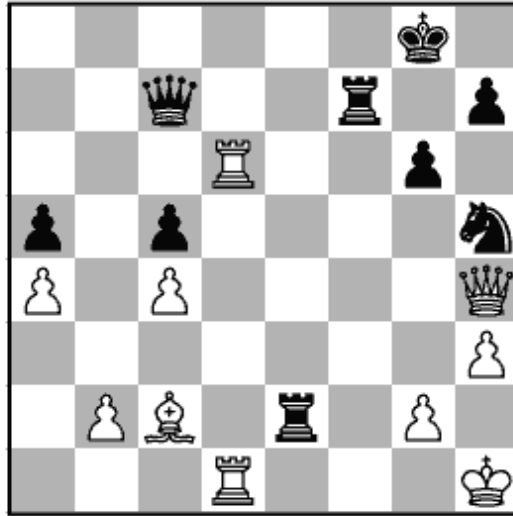
603) D. Khamrakulov – Sarkar
New York 2022

20 Bf4!

White connects his rooks. Black is OK after 20 g3? Bc5+ 21 Be3!
 (21 Kh1?? Bf3+ 22 Qxf3 Rxf1+ 23 Qxf1 Qe4+ 24 Qg2 Qe1+ 25 Qg1
 Qxg1#) 21...Rxe3 22 gxh4 Rxd3+ 23 Kh1 Rd2 =.

20...Bxf4 21 g3 1-0

[back](#)



White to play

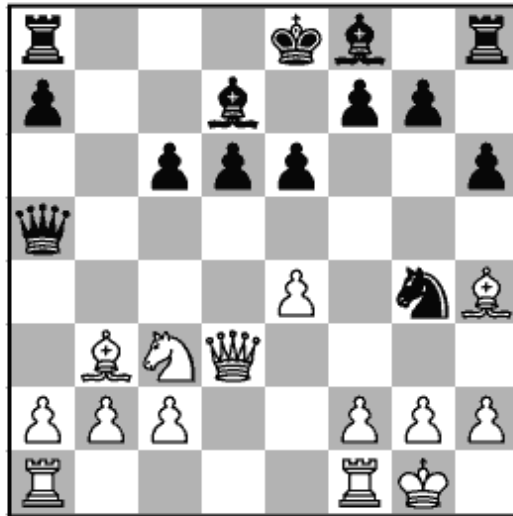
604) Maghsoodloo – Yilmaz

Shusha rapid 2022

36 Bxg6! hxg6 37 Rxg6+ 1-0

In view of 37...Rg7 38 Qxh5 +-, 37...Kf8 38 Qxh5 +- or 37...Ng7 38 Rd8+ Rf8 39 Rxf8+ Kxf8 40 Qh8+ +-,

[back](#)



Black to play

606) Pechač – Blomqvist

European Clubs Cup, Mayrhofen 2022

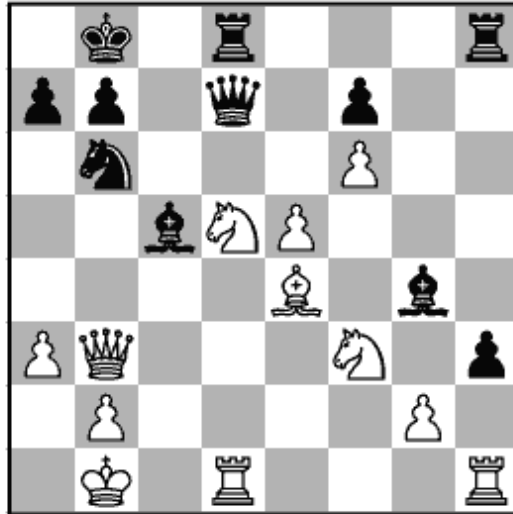
12...Nxh2! 13 Rfe1

13 Kxh2 Qh5 14 Qh3 e5 15 Qf3 (15 g4? Bxg4 16 Qg3 Be7 –+)
 15...Qxh4+ 16 Kg1 Qf6 –/+ gives Black a clear extra pawn.

13...Ng4 14 Rad1 Ne5 15 Qh3 h5 –/+

Black is a pawn up with good chances to win.

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Black to play

607) Giri – Gukesh

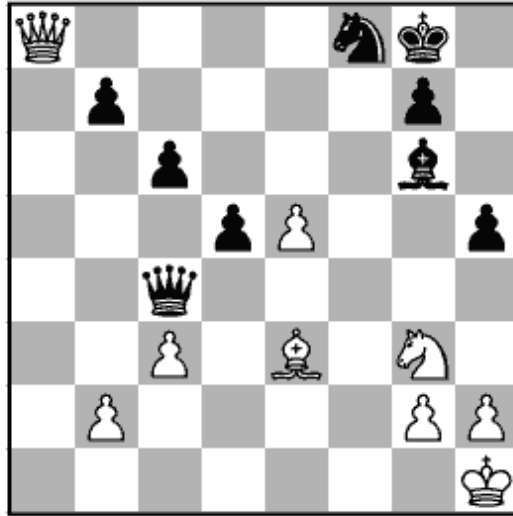
Internet rapid 2022

26...hxg2 27 Rxh8 Rxh8 28 Nxb6

28 Ka2 Be6 –+.

28...Qxd1+! 29 Qxd1 Rh1 0-1

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Black to play

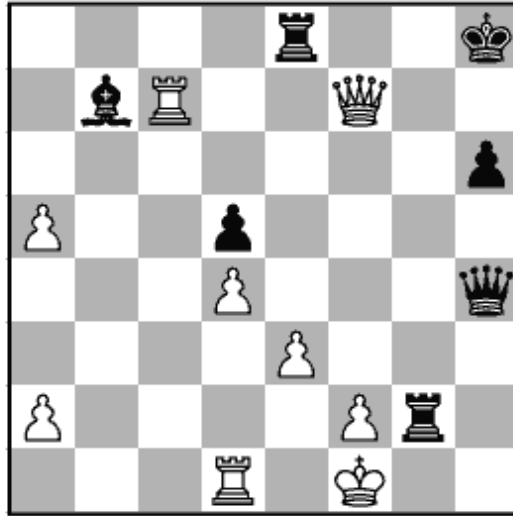
608) Rapport – Niemann
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

27...d4!

Black sacrifices a pawn to control the e6-square since 27...h4? allows White to maintain the balance with 28 e6!.

28 Bxd4 h4 29 b3 Qf7 30 e6 Qxe6 31 Qxb7 Qe1+ 32 Bg1 hxg3 0-1

[back](#)



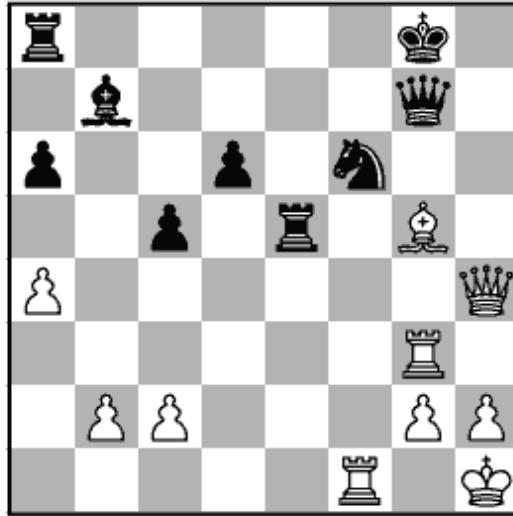
Black to play

609) Ning Kaiyu – Xiao Yiyi
Chinese Women's Team Ch 2022/3

35...Rxf2+! 36 Qxf2 Ba6+ 0-1

37 Kg1 (37 Ke1 Rxe3+ leads to mate) 37...Rg8+ 38 Qg2 Rxf2+ 39 Kxf2 Qg4+ 40 Kh2 Qxd1 –+.

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Black to play

610) Gavrilescu – Huschenbeth
Bundesliga 2022/3

28...Ne4! 29 Bf6 Nxc3+!

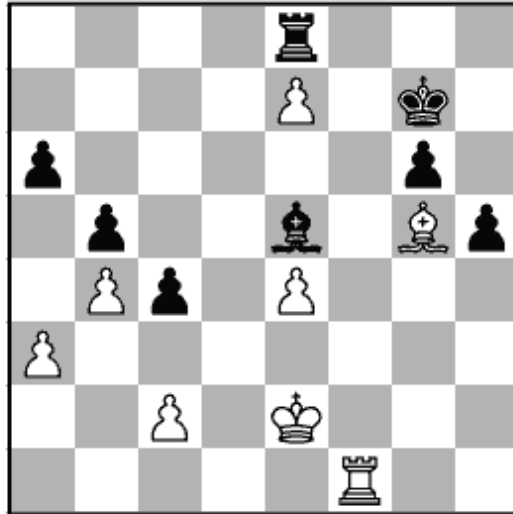
In the game, 29...Qxg3?? allowed White to launch a mating attack:
 30 Qh8+ Kf7 31 Qh7+ Kf8 32 Bxe5+ Nf2+ 33 Rxf2+ and Black
 resigned in view of 33...Qxf2 34 Bxd6+ Ke8 35 Qe7#.

30 hxg3 Re4

Or 30...Rf8 31 Bxg7 Rxf1+ 32 Kh2 Kxg7 –+.

31 Bxg7 Rxh4+ 32 gxh4 Kxg7 –+

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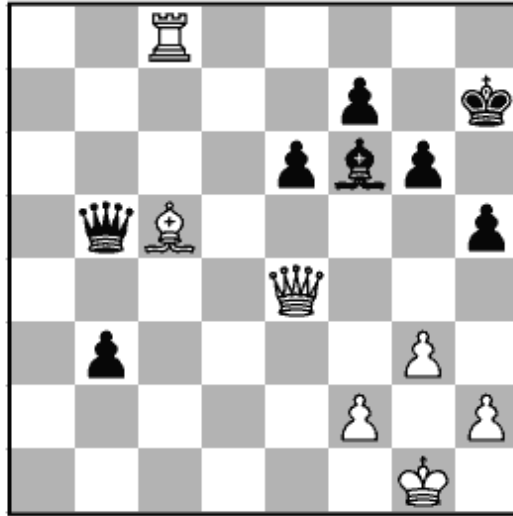
White to play

611) Ig. Sarić – J. Pribyl

Internet rapid (team event) 2023

46 Rf8! Rxf8 47 Bh6+! Kxh6 48 exf8Q+ 1-0

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Black to play

612) Thejkumar – Nikitenko
Colombo 2022

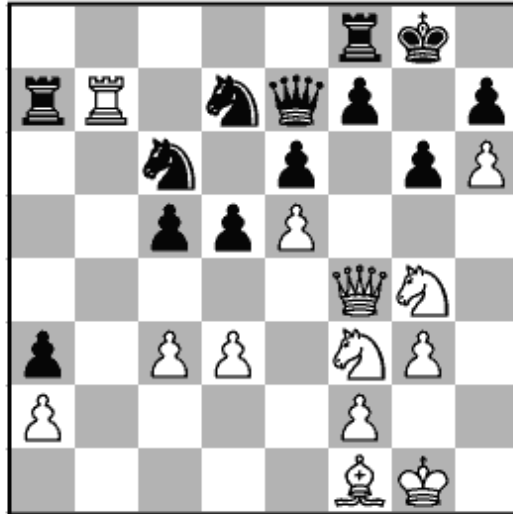
39...b2 40 Qb1 Qc4!

White is unable to defend the c1-square.

41 Kg2 Qc1 42 Bd4 Qxb1 43 Bxf6 Qe4+ 44 f3 Qe2+ 45 Kh3 g5 0-

1

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White to play

613) Pranav – Nitish
Paraćin 2022

29 Rxd7!

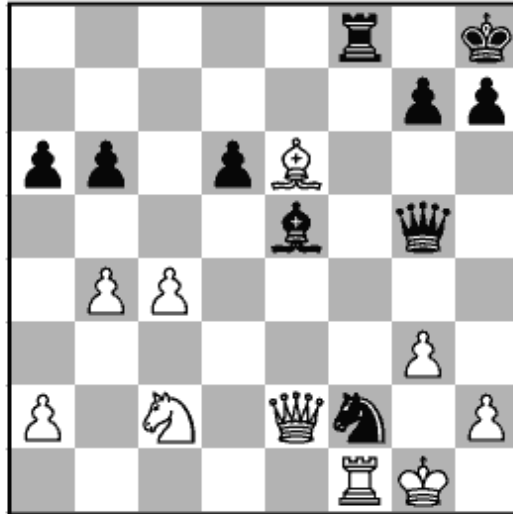
White removes a defender of the f6-square.

29...Rxd7 30 Nf6+ Kh8 31 Nxd7 Rd8

31...Qxd7 32 Qf6+ Kg8 33 Qg7#.

32 Nxc5 +–

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Black to play

614) G. Ginsburg – Kobo
Jerusalem 2022

34...Bxg3! 35 Qg4

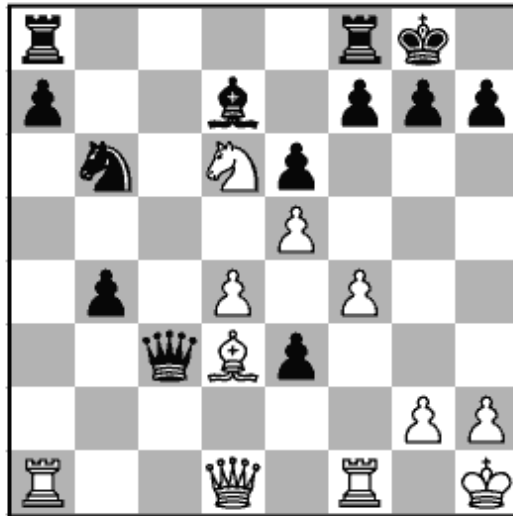
35 Bd5 Bf4+ 36 Bg2 Ng4 37 h3 Ne5 –+.

35...Bxh2+! 36 Kg2

36 Kxh2 Nxc4+ –+.

36...Qd2 37 Qd4 Nd3+ 0-1

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White to play

615) Prraneeth – Krstulović
Budapest 2022

26 Bxh7+!

After 26 Ne4? the game ended 26...Qc7?? 27 Nf6+! gxf6 28 exf6 1-0, but Black could have repelled White's attack with 26...Qxd4! 27 Nf6+ Kh8! (27...gxf6?? 28 Bxh7+ Kxh7 29 Qxd4 +-) 28 Nxe7 g6! 29 Nxf8 Rxf8 30 Rxa7 Bc6 -/+.

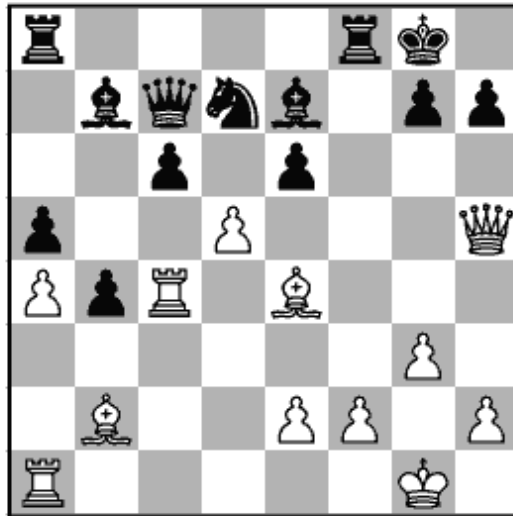
26...Kxh7 27 Ne4 Qc4?

27...Qc6? 28 Qh5+ Kg8 29 Nf6+ gxf6 30 exf6 Qe4 31 f5 also leads to mate. Black can only put up resistance by giving up his queen; e.g., 27...g6 28 Nxc3 bxc3 29 Qf3. White should then go on to win, but has some work to do. It is important that 29...Nd5?! is strongly met by 30 f5!.

28 Qh5+ Kg8 29 Nf6+ gxf6 30 Qg4+ Kh7 31 Rf3 +-

Mate follows.

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Black to play

616) Dudin – Abdusattorov
Turkish Team Ch 2022

20...Nf6! 21 Bxf6 g6!

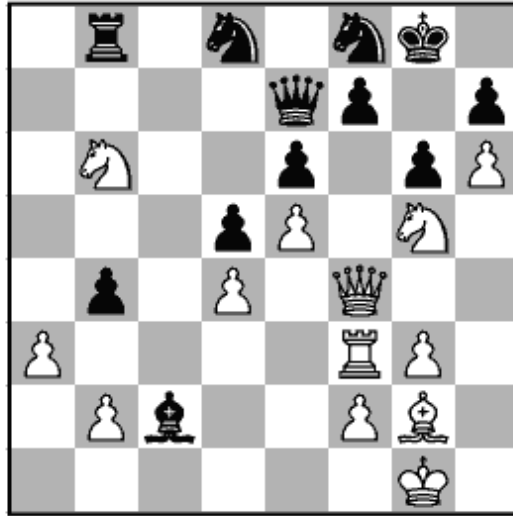
A nice defensive idea along Black's second rank.

22 Bxg6 Bxf6 23 Rg4

23 dxc6 Bxa1 24 cxb7 Qxb7 –+.

23...hxg6 24 Rxg6+ Bg7 –+

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White to play

617) Chopra – Z. Rahman
Abu Dhabi 2022

39 Nxd5! exd5 40 e6 Rb7

40...Be4 41 Qxb8 Qxg5 42 exf7+ Nxf7 43 Rf4 +–.

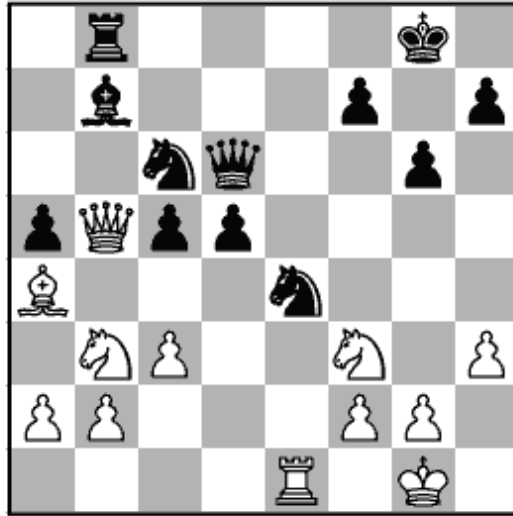
41 exf7+ Nxf7

41...Kh8 42 Re3 +–.

42 Qxf7+ Qxf7 43 Rxf7 1-0

43...Rxf7 44 Bxd5 +–.

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Black to play

618) J. Song – Vignesh
Dubai 2022

20...c4! 21 Nxa5

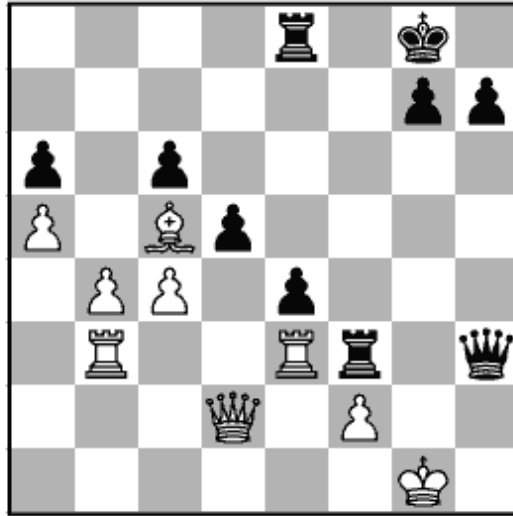
Black wins a piece after 21 Nbd4 Ba8 22 Qa6 Nxd4 23 Qxd6 Nxf3+ 24 gxf3 Nxd6 –+.

21...Ba8 22 Qa6

22 Nxc4 Qd8 –+.

22...Nc5 23 Qxc6 Bxc6 24 Nxc6 Nxa4 25 Nxb8 Qxb8 0-1

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White to play

619) Sadhwani – Ganguly

Internet rapid 2022

30 Qe2!

In the game White was unable to avoid mate after 30 Bd6? Re6 31 Qe2 Rg6+ 0-1 in view of 32 Bg3 Rh6 –+.

30...Re5

30...Re6 31 Rxf3 exf3 32 Rxf3 Rg6+ 33 Rg3 Rxg3+ comes to the same thing.

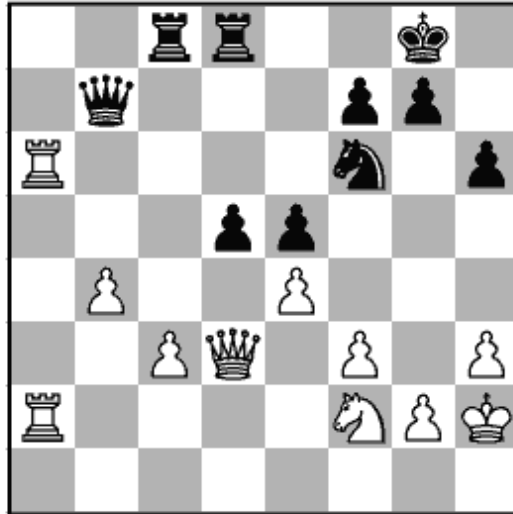
31 Rxf3 exf3 32 Rxf3 Rg5+ 33 Rg3 Rxg3+ 34 fxg3 Qxg3+ 35 Kf1 Qf4+ 36 Kg1

Or: 36 Ke1 Qc1+ 37 Qd1 Qxc4 =; 36 Kg2 Qg5+ =.

36...Qg3+ 37 Kf1 Qf4+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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White to play

620) So – Shankland

USA Ch, Saint Louis 2022

36 Rxf6! gxf6 37 Ng4 dxe4

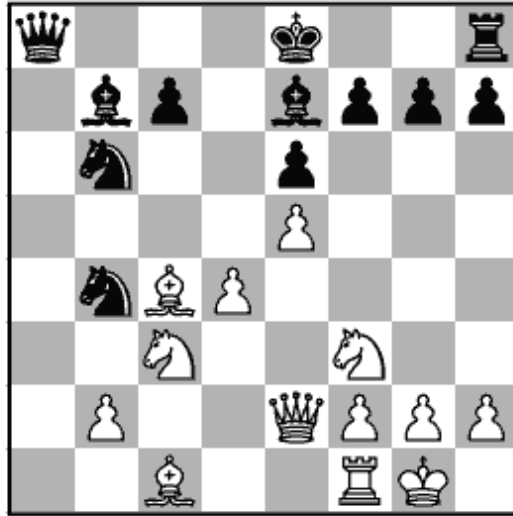
In the game White's pawns were too strong after 37...Kg7 38 Qd2 Rh8 39 exd5 +—.

38 Qe3 exf3 39 Qxh6 Rd6 40 Rd2 Re6

40...Rxd2 41 Nxf6#.

41 Nxf6+ Rxf6 42 Qxf6 +—

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Black to play

621) Gormally – Alsina Leal
British League (4NCL) 2022/3

15...Nxc4 16 Qxc4 Ba6 17 Qxc7 Bxf1 18 Kxf1 Qa6+ 19 Kg1 Bd8!
20 Qd6

Black wins after 20 Qb8 Nd3 –+.

20...Qxd6 21 exd6 Nd3 –+

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White to play

622) Sankalp – Saydaliev
Delhi 2022

14 Bxh7+! Kxh7 15 Qh4+

We saw a similar motif in Puzzle 346.

15...Kg8 16 Ng5 Re8

16...Rd8 17 Qh7+ Kf8 18 Qh8+ Ke7 19 Qxg7 Rf8 has occurred in a number of games, with 20 0-0-0 +- one of several strong options for White.

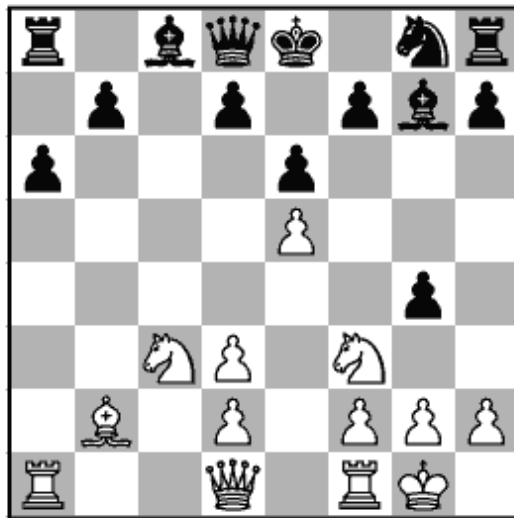
17 0-0-0

17 Qh7+ is also winning, and has been played in numerous games.

17...Nd8 18 Rhe1 1-0

18...Qc6 19 Be5 with the idea of 20 Qh7+ +-. .

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White to play

623) G. Guseinov – Zajić
Braila rapid 2022

13 Ne4! gxf3

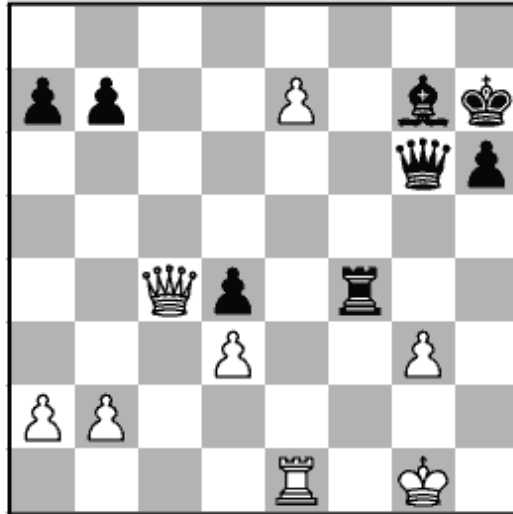
13...Bf8 14 Nd4 h5 15 Nb5 +–.

14 Nd6+ Kf8 15 Ba3 Bxe5

15...Ne7 16 Qxf3 +–.

16 Nxb7+ Qe7 17 Bxe7+ Kxe7 18 Rb1 +–

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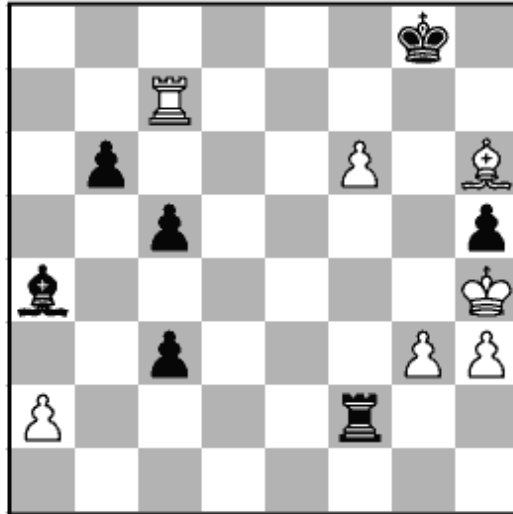
White to play

624) Makarian – Aravindh (variation)

World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

**33 Kg2! Rg4 34 e8Q Rxc3+ 35 Kh2 Rg2+ 36 Kh1 Rg1+ 37 Rxc1
Qxe8 38 Qd5 +—**

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White to play

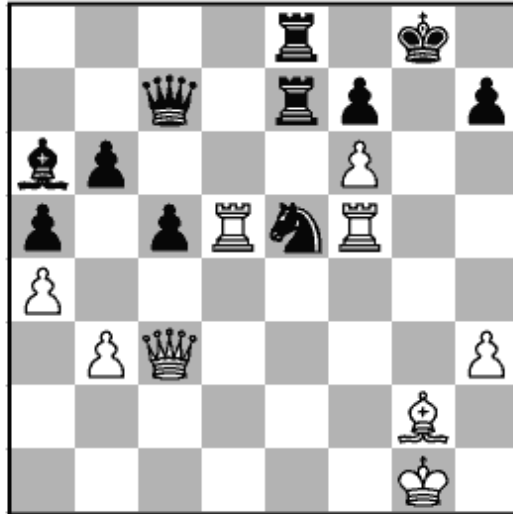
625) Ivić – Pechač

Wijk aan Zee 2023

39 Rg7+ Kh8 40 f7! c2 41 Rg8+ Kh7 42 Bf4 1-0

42...Rxf4+ 43 gxf4 c1Q 44 f8Q Qe1+ 45 Rg3 +—.

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Black to play

626) Ding Liren – Giri

Wijk aan Zee 2023

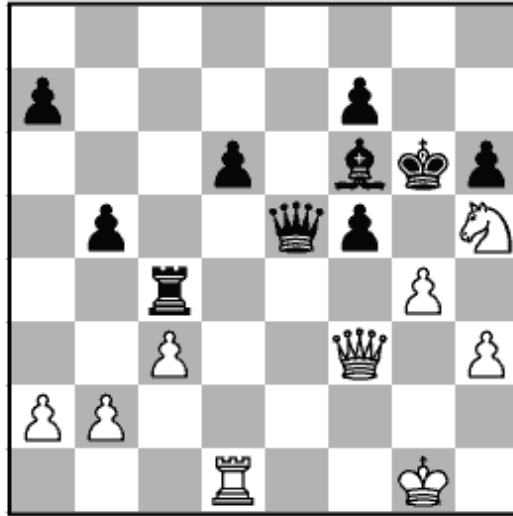
35...Nf3+! 36 Rxf3

Or: 36 Bxf3 Qg3+ leads to mate; 36 Kf2 Re2+ 37 Kxf3 Qh2 –+; 36 Qxf3 Re1+ 37 Kf2 R8e2+ 38 Qxe2 Rxe2+ –+.

36...Re1+ 37 Bf1 Kh8 0-1

38 Rd2 Bxf1 39 Rxf1 R8e3 –+.

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White to play

627) Giri – Rapport

Wijk aan Zee 2023

35 Rxd6! Kg5

35...Qxd6 36 Qxf5#.

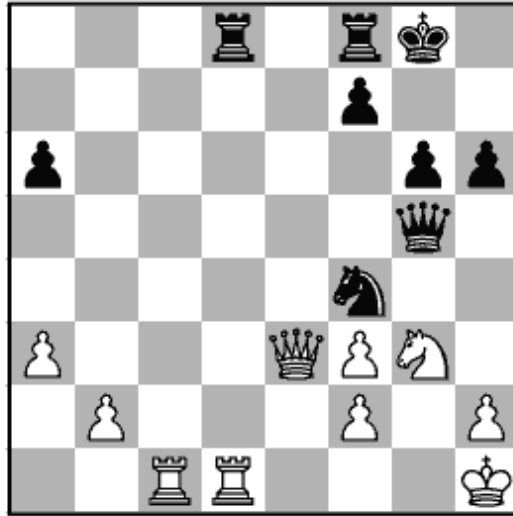
36 Rd5 Qe1+ 37 Kg2 Be7 38 Rxf5+ Kh4

38...Kg6 39 Rf6+ Kg5 40 Rxf7 +–.

39 Qg3+ 1-0

39...Qxg3+ 40 Nxc3 Rc5 41 Rxf7 +–.

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Black to play

628) Rychkov – Grachev
Yakutsk 2023

28...Nd3! 29 f4

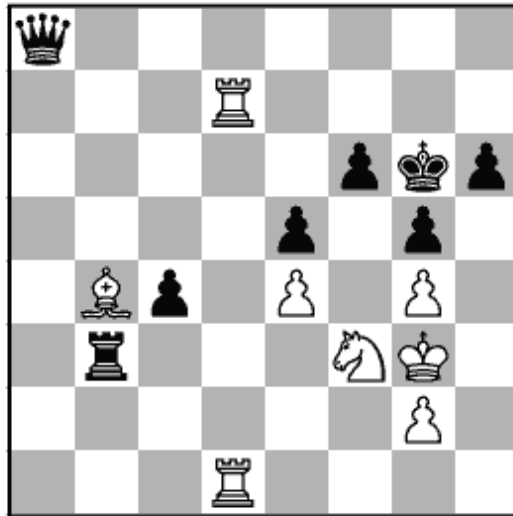
29 Rxd3 Rxd3 30 Qxd3 Qxc1+ 31 Kg2 Qxb2 –+.

29...Qd5+ 30 Kg1 Rfe8 31 Qb6 Qf3

White has no good defence to the threat of 32...Nxf4.

32 Rxd3 Rxd3 –+

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Black to play

629) Erigaisi – Indjić

Internet rapid 2023

41...Qxe4!

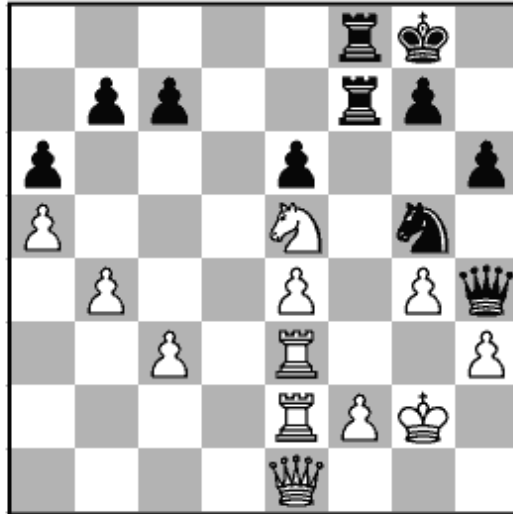
The game ended 41...Rxb4?? 42 Nxe5+ fxe5 43 R1d6# (1-0).

42 Bf8 Qf4+ 43 Kh3

43 Kf2 Rb2+ –+.

43...Rxf3+! 44 gxf3 Qxf3+ 45 Kh2 Qf2+ 46 Kh1 Qh4+ 47 Kg2 Qxg4+ 48 Kf2 Qf4+ 49 Kg2 c3 –+

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Black to play

630) Warakomski – Harikrishna
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

30...Rf3! 31 Rxf3

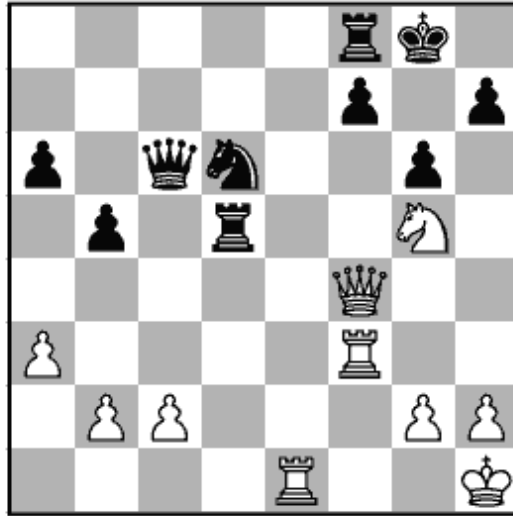
31 Nxf3 Qxh3+ 32 Kg1 Qxg4+ 33 Kf1 Qh3+ 34 Kg1 Nxf3+ 35 Rxf3 Rxf3 –+.

31...Rxf3 32 Rd2

Black wins the queen and pawn endgame after 32 Re3 Rxh3 33 Rxh3 Qxh3+ 34 Kg1 Nf3+ 35 Nxf3 Qxg4+ 36 Kh2 Qxf3 –+.

32...Qxh3+ 33 Kg1 Rf8 34 Rd7 Qh4 –+

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White to play

631) Zhu Jiner – Lahno

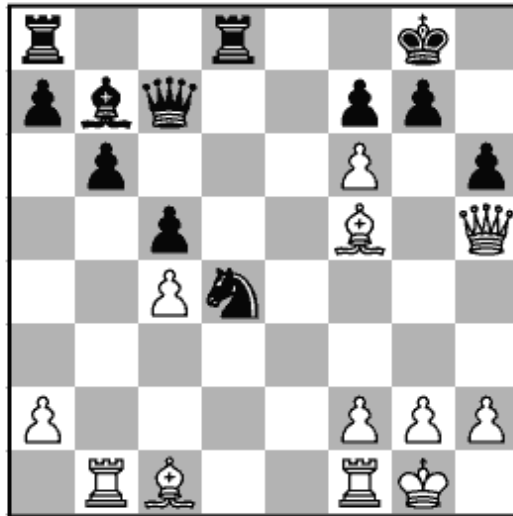
New Delhi (women) 2023

28 Nxb7! Kxb7 29 Rh3+ Rh5

Or: 29...Kg7 30 Qh6+ Kf6 31 Qxf8 +–; 29...Kg8 30 Qh6 Rh5 31 Rxh5 gxh5 32 Re5 +–.

30 Rxh5+ gxf5 31 Re5 Ne8?! 32 Rxh5+ Kg8 33 Qf5 Qg6 34 Rg5
+–

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White to play

632) K. Schmidt – Thuesen
Copenhagen 2022

20 Bxh6!

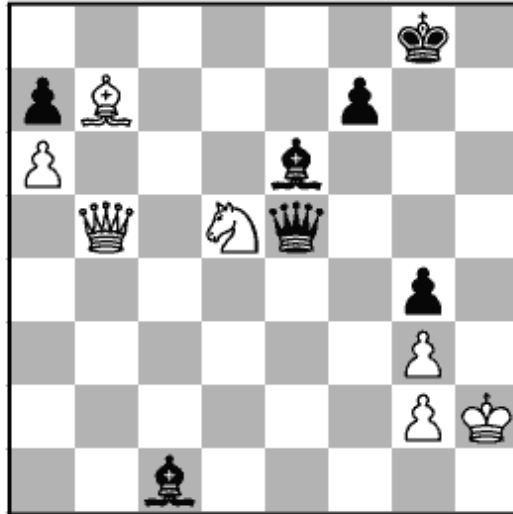
White is able to develop a piece and capture a pawn at the same time. White's attack is very strong because Black has no pieces on the kingside.

20...g6

The game ended 20...Nxf5 21 Bxg7 1-0 in view of 21...Nxb7 22 Qg5 Kf8 23 Qxg7+ Ke8 24 Rbd1 +–.

21 Bxg6 Ne2+ 22 Kh1 fxg6 23 Qxg6+ Kh8 24 Rbe1 +–

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Black to play

633) Shvyrjov – Pultinevicius
Viljandi 2022

42...Qh5+! 43 Kg1 Be3+! 44 Kf1

44 Nxe3 Qxb5 –+.

44...Qf5+ 45 Ke2

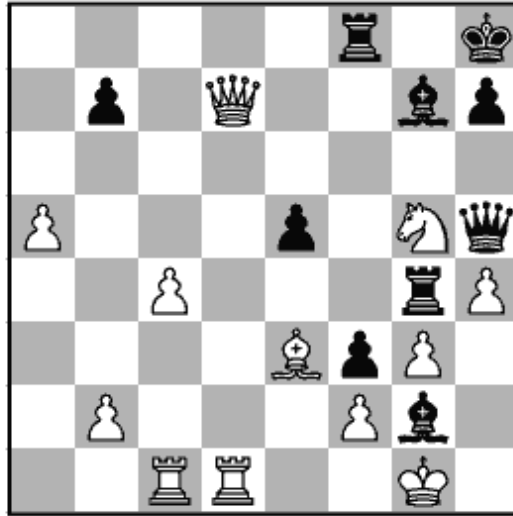
45 Ke1 Qf2+ 46 Kd1 Qd2#.

45...Qf2+ 46 Kd3

46 Kd1 Qd2#.

46...Qf1+ 0-1

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Black to play

634) Al. Ostrovskiy – J. Williams

New York 2022

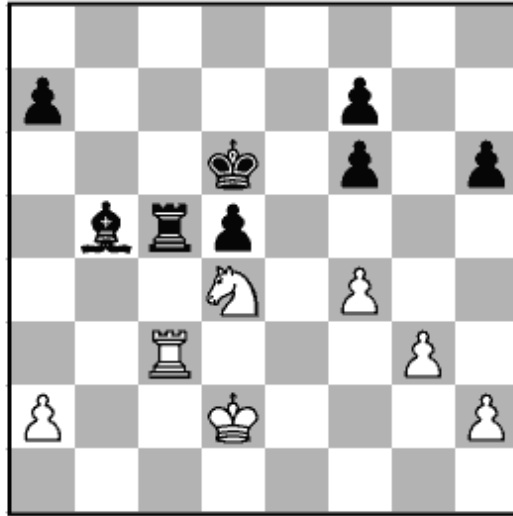
34...Rxf7! 35 gxf7

35 Nf7+ Kg8 36 gxf7 Qxf7 comes to the same thing.

35...Qxf7 0-1??

White resigned but it is a draw by repetition after 36 Nf7+ Kg8 (36...Rxf7?? 37 Qd8+ Qxd8 38 Rxd8+ +–) 37 Nh6+ Kh8 (37...Bxf7?? 38 Qe6+ Rf7 39 Qxf7 +–) 38 Nf7+ =.

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White to play

635) Paravyan – Jumabayev
Internet rapid 2022

34 Nf5+! Kc6 35 Ne7+ Kb6

35...Kd6 36 Nc8+ Kc6 transposes to the game.

36 Nc8+ Kc6

36...Rxc8 37 Rxc8 +—.

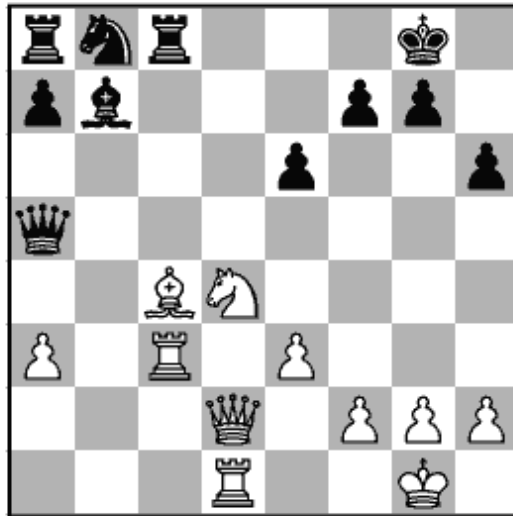
37 Nxa7+ Kd6

37...Kb6 38 Rxc5 Kxc5 comes to same thing.

38 Rxc5 Kxc5 39 Nxb5 Kxb5 40 Kc3 1-0

A beautiful liquidation into a winning king and pawn endgame.

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Black to play

636) Gareyev – Hakobyan

Internet rapid 2022

18...Rxc4 19 Nxe6!

In the game 19 Rxc4?? allowed Black to win a piece with a queen fork: 19...Qd5 20 Nc6 Qxc4 –+.

19...Qxc3

19...Rxc3 20 Qd8+ Qxd8 21 Rxd8+ Kh7 22 Nf8+ Kg8 23 Ne6+ Kh7 24 Nf8+ = is perpetual check.

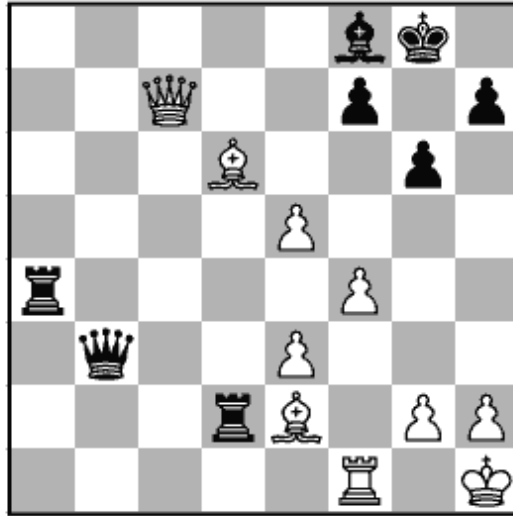
20 Qd8+

The same drawing motif appears after 20 Qxc3 Rxc3 21 Rd8+ Kh7 22 Nf8+ Kg8 23 Ne6+ Kh7 24 Nf8+ =.

20...Kh7 21 Nf8+ Kg8 22 Ne6+ Kh7 23 Nf8+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

637) S. Volkov – Tsydypov
Cheliabinsk 2022

28...Qd5! 29 Bf3?

29 Qb8 Ra8 30 Qb5 Qxb5 31 Bxb5 Bxd6 32 exd6 Rxd6 –/+.

29...Qd3 30 Rc1

30 Qc1 Bxd6 31 exd6 Rc4 32 Qe1 Qxd6 –+.

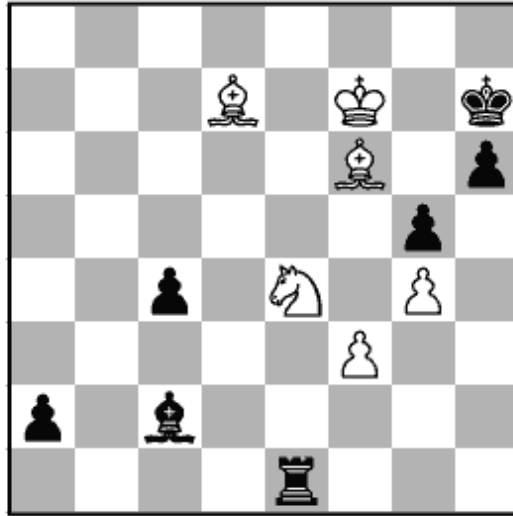
30...Rc2! 31 Rd1

31 Qxc2 Qxc2 32 Rxc2 Ra1+ 33 Rc1 Rxc1+ 34 Bd1 Rxd1#.

31...Qxd1+ 32 Bxd1 Rxc7 0-1

33 Bxc7 Ra1 –+.

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Black to play

638) Kramnik – Morozevich
Krasnogorsk rapid 2022

54...Bxe4 55 fxe4 Rf1!

The game ended 55...h5?? 56 Bf5+ Kh6 57 Bg7# (1-0).

56 Bf5+ Rxf5 57 exf5 h5!

Liquidating to a queen and pawn endgame.

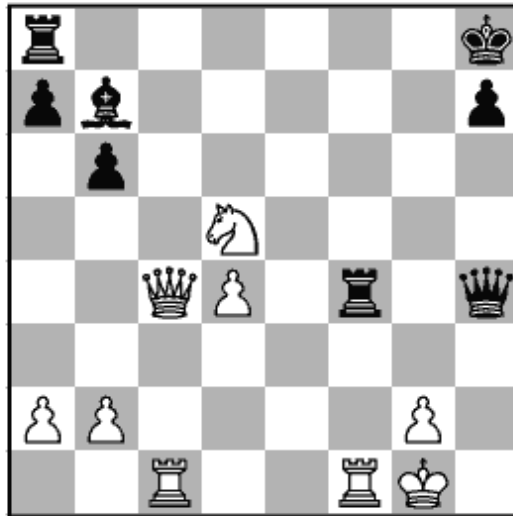
**58 Bd4 hxg4 59 f6 c3 60 Bxc3 g3 61 Ke6 g2 62 f7 g1Q 63 f8Q
 Qe3+ 64 Kd5**

After 64 Kd7 Black forces an exchange of queens followed by a pawn promotion: 64...Qd3+ 65 Ke7 Qe4+ 66 Kd7 Qa4+ 67 Ke6 Qc6+ 68 Kf7 Qc4+ 69 Ke8 Qc8+ 70 Ke7 Qxf8+ 71 Kxf8 g4 –+.

64...Qxc3 65 Qf7+ Kh6 66 Qe6+ Kh5 –+

The queen ending is winning for Black.

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Black to play

639) Dziuba – Shirov
Bundesliga 2022/3

24...Rg4!

In the game 24...Rxf1+? allowed White to fend off the attack by 25 Rxf1 Rc8 26 Qb3 Qxd4+ 27 Ne3, when the chances were equal.

25 Ne3

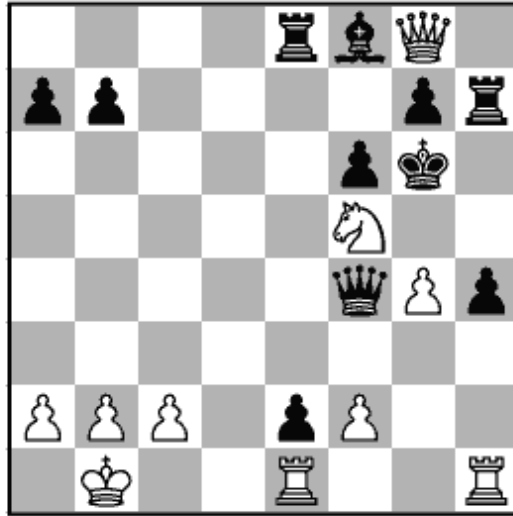
25 Qe2 Qg5 26 Ne3 Rg3 –+.

25...Qg3! 26 Qc3

26 Nxg4? Qxg2#.

26...Bxg2 27 d5+ Rg7 28 Nf5 Qxc3 29 Rxc3 Rg5 –+

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White to play

640) Romero Pallares – Valle Luis

Platja d'Aro 2022

28 Rxh4! Rxh4 29 Nxh4+ Kg5 30 Qf7 Qxf2 31 Ng2!

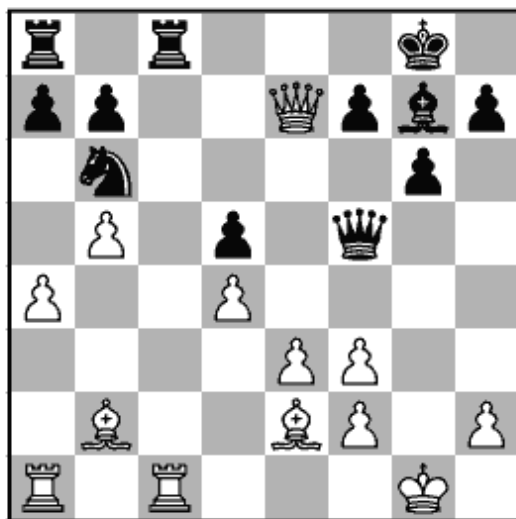
After 31 Qh5+? (as played in the game) Black can maintain the balance: 31...Kf4 32 Ng2+ (White played 32 Ng6+? and went on to lose after 32...Ke3 –+, though in such a wild ending it is no surprise that the play was not accurate) 32...Kf3 33 Qxe8 Qxg2 (or 33...Bb4 =) 34 Qb5 Qf2 35 Qd5+ Kf4 36 Qc4+ Kf3 37 Qd5+ Kf4 = with a draw by repetition.

31...Qxg2 32 Qxe8 Bd6 33 Rxe2 Qxg4 34 Re1 +-

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4: Forks, Pins and Loose Pieces Puzzles

In this chapter we shall explore typical positions involving forks and pins, as well as examples where one side has a loose piece; they are often vulnerable at the end of a combination. These themes are often linked, and indeed the following example has all three:



Black to play

Sturua – Shyam
Almaty 2022

White is a pawn up with the bishop-pair, but Black strikes first with...

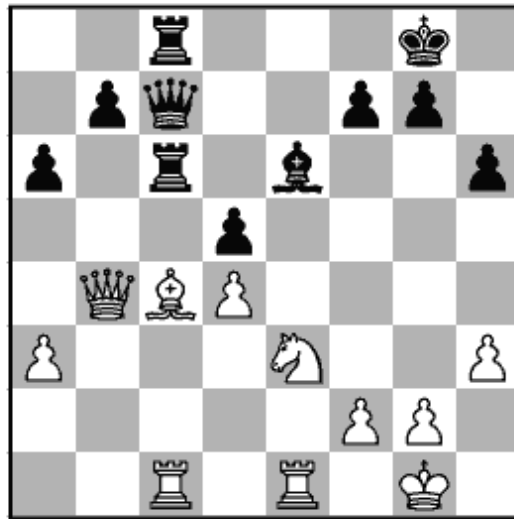
17...Rc2! 18 e4

White loses one of his bishops after 18 Rxc2 Qxc2 –+.

18...Rxe2 0-1

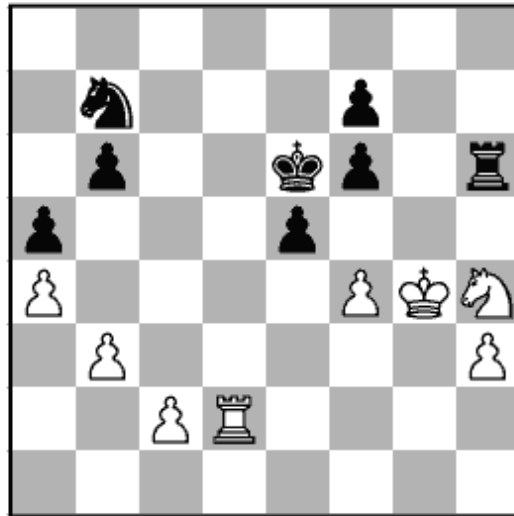
White resigned in view of 19 exf5 Rxe7 –+.

Now it's your turn!



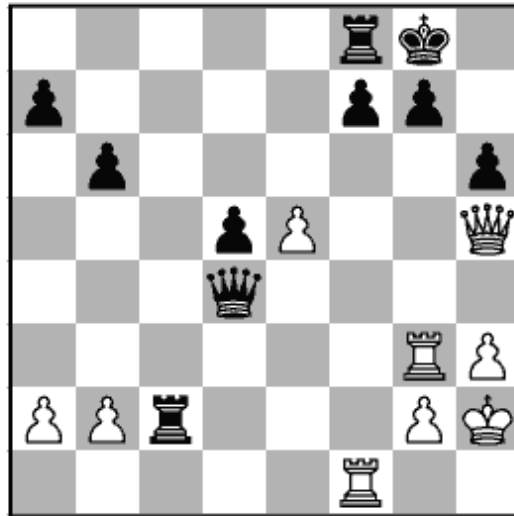
641) Black to play

[solution](#)



642) Black to play

[solution](#)



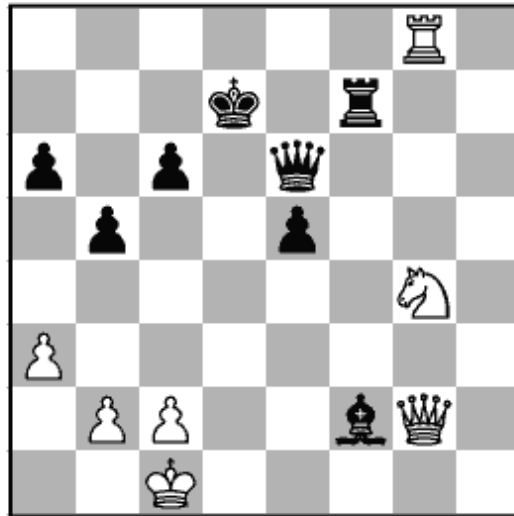
643) White to play

[solution](#)



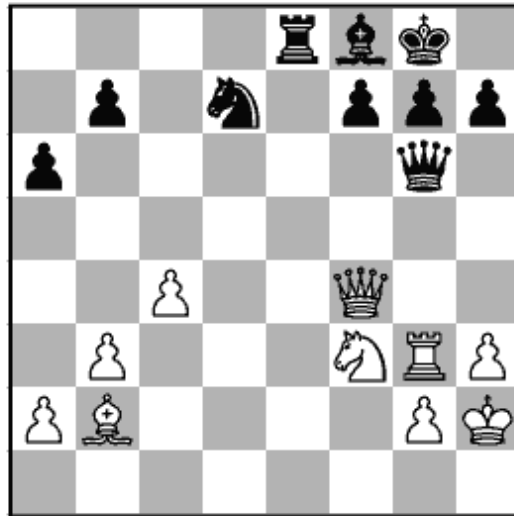
644) White to play

[solution](#)



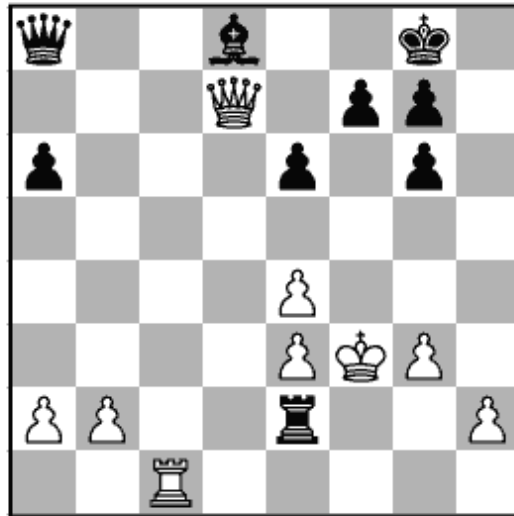
645) White to play

[solution](#)



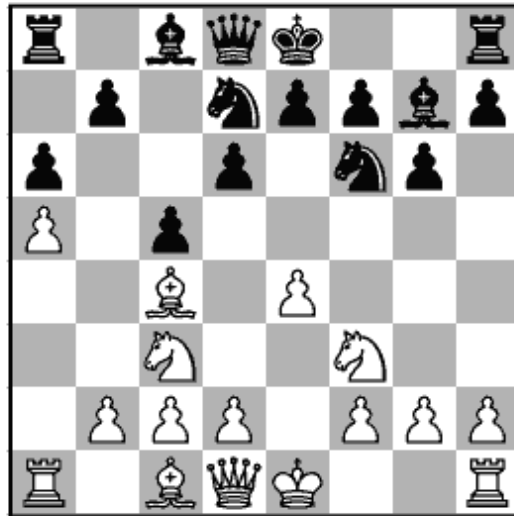
646) Black to play

[solution](#)



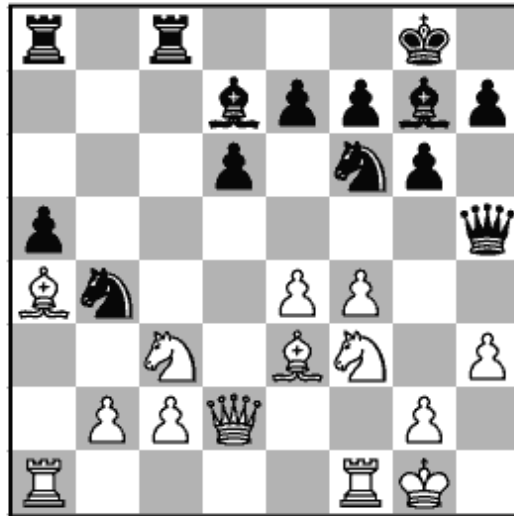
647) Black to play

[solution](#)



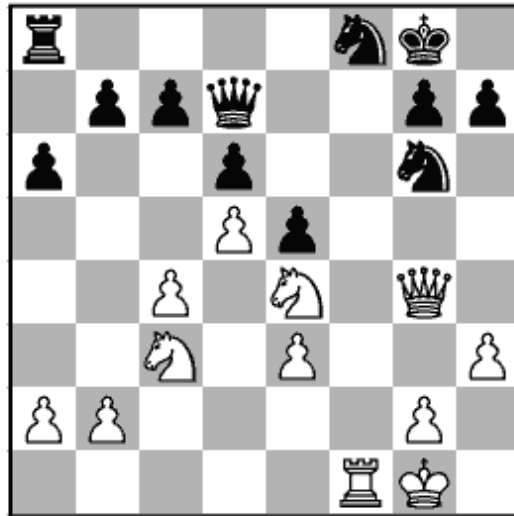
648) White to play

[solution](#)



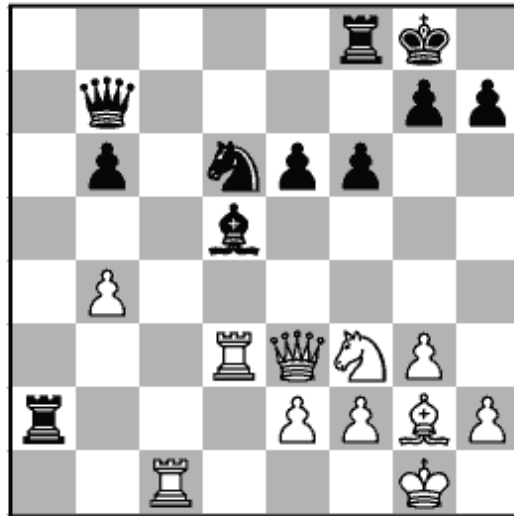
649) White to play

[solution](#)



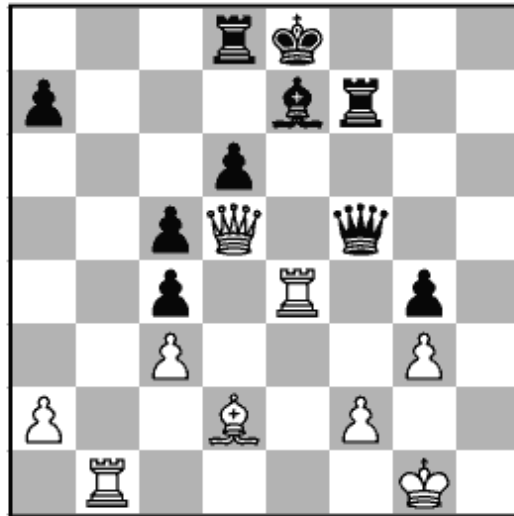
650) White to play

[solution](#)



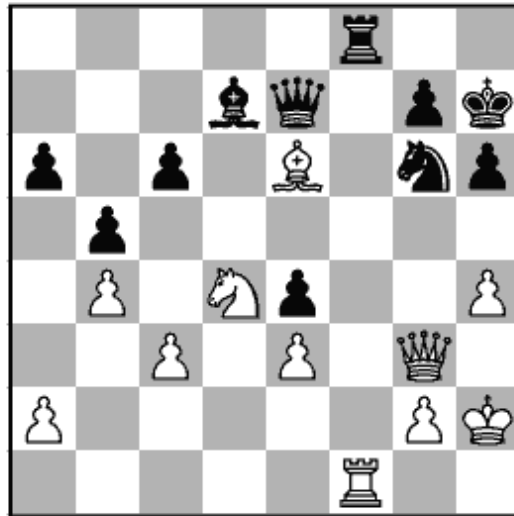
651) White to play

[solution](#)



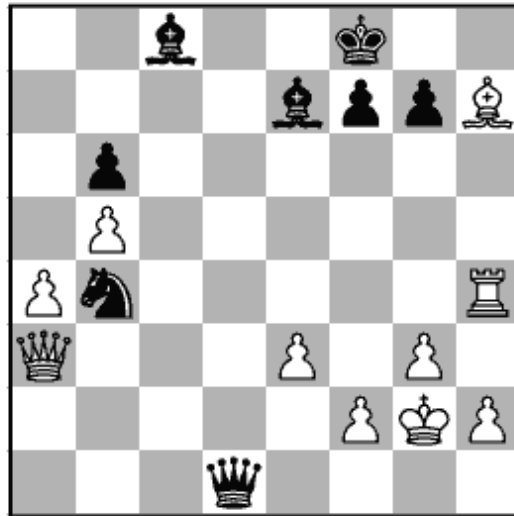
652) White to play

[solution](#)



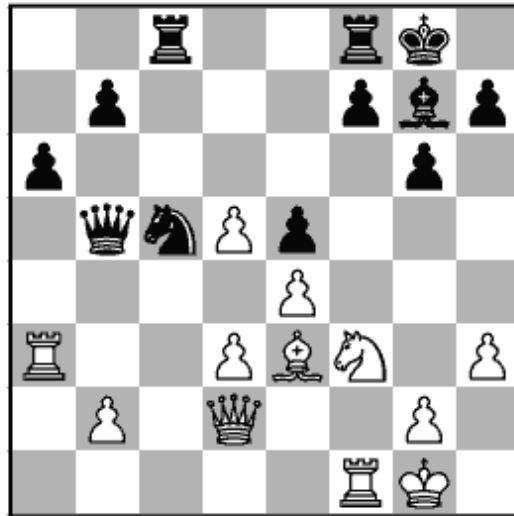
653) White to play

[solution](#)



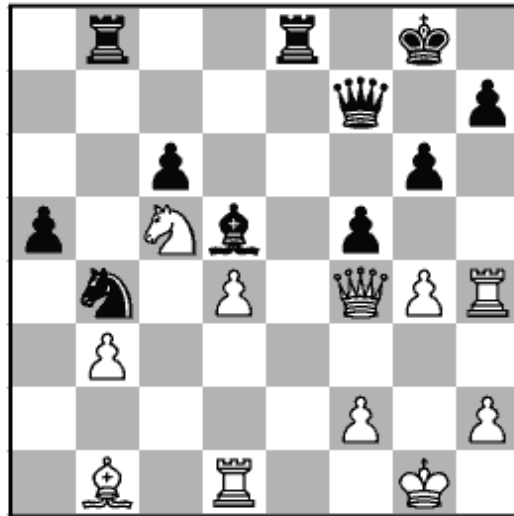
654) White to play

[solution](#)



655) White to play

[solution](#)



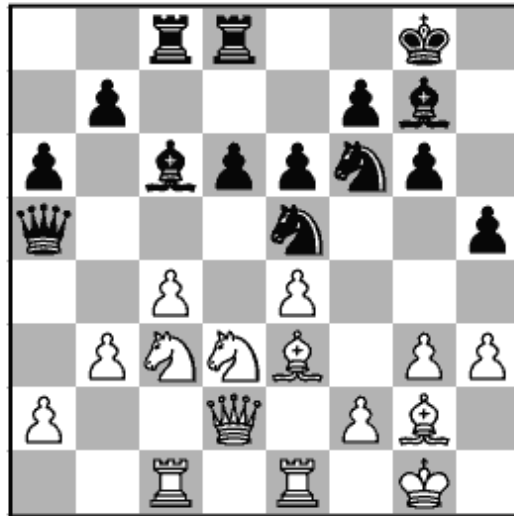
656) Black to play

[solution](#)



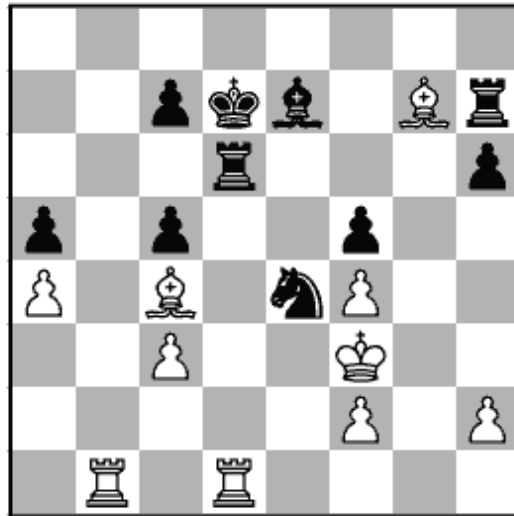
657) Black to play

[solution](#)



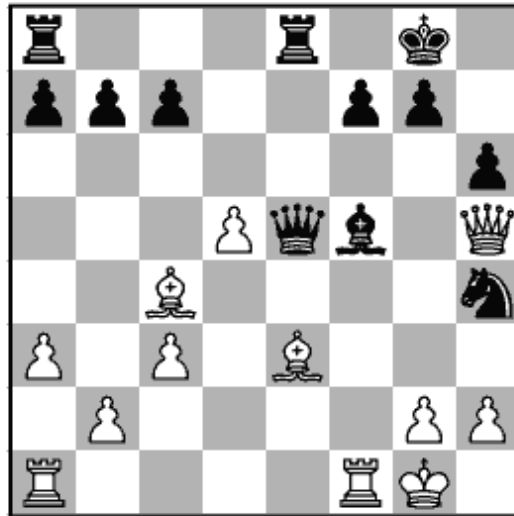
658) Black to play

[solution](#)



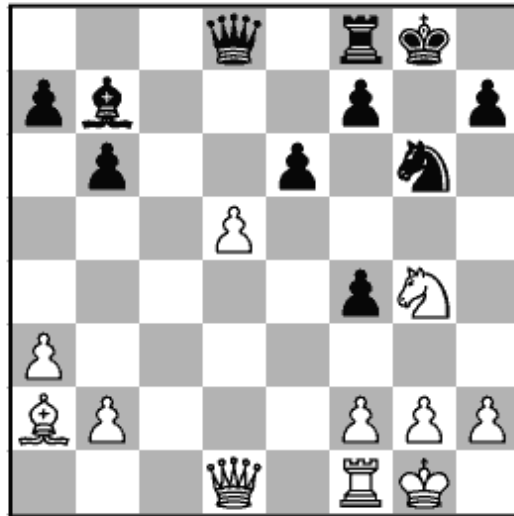
659) White to play

[solution](#)



660) White to play

[solution](#)



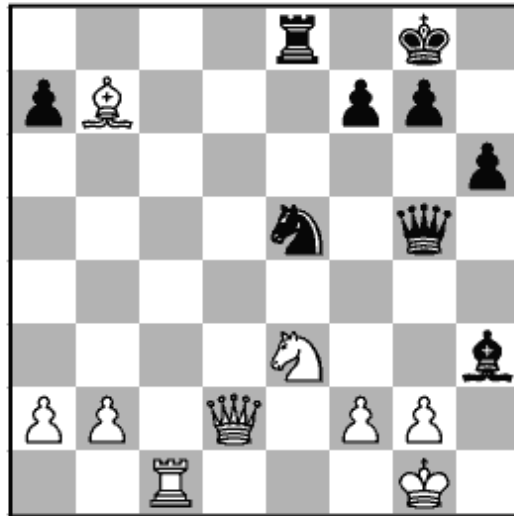
661) Black to play

[solution](#)



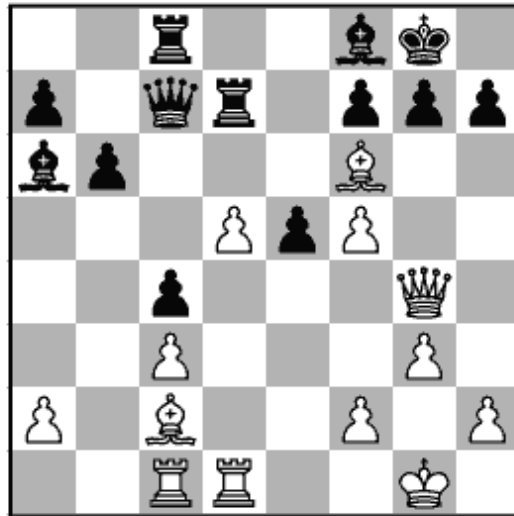
662) Black to play

[solution](#)



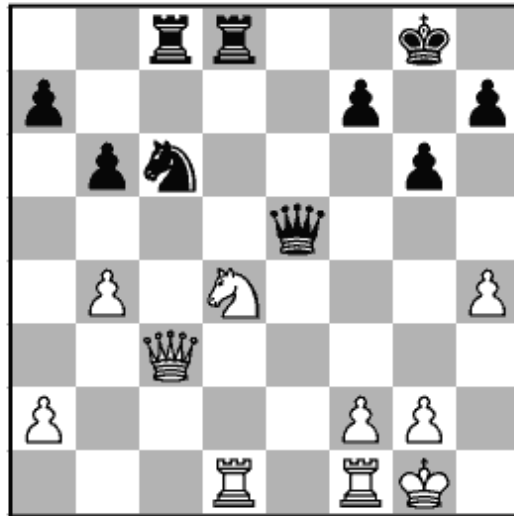
663) Black to play

[solution](#)



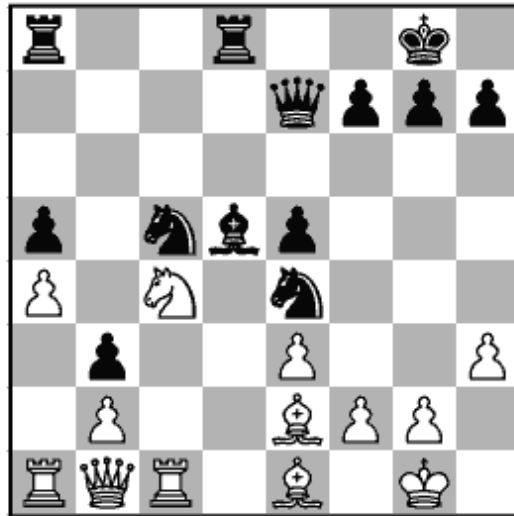
664) Black to play

[solution](#)



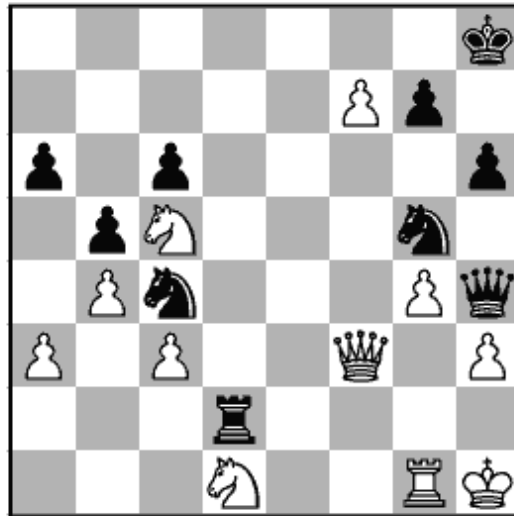
665) White to play

[solution](#)



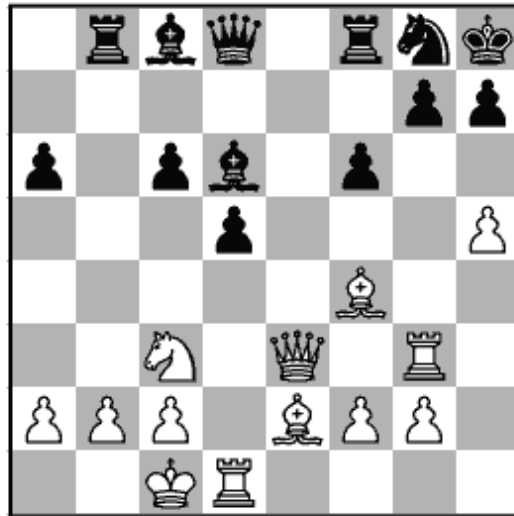
666) Black to play

[solution](#)



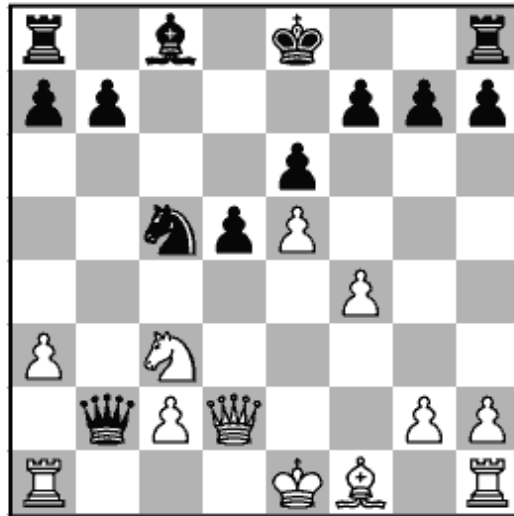
667) Black to play

[solution](#)



668) White to play

[solution](#)



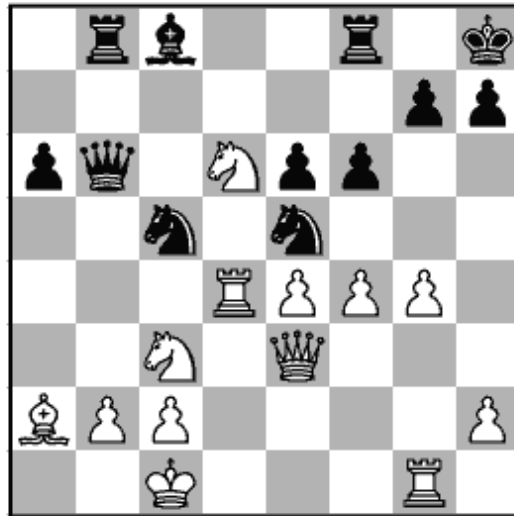
669) White to play

[solution](#)



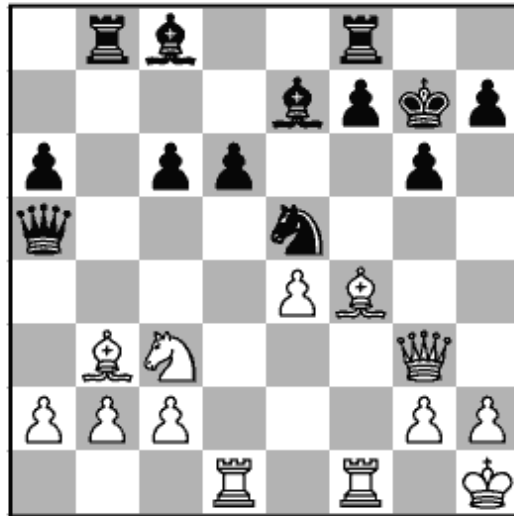
670) White to play

[solution](#)



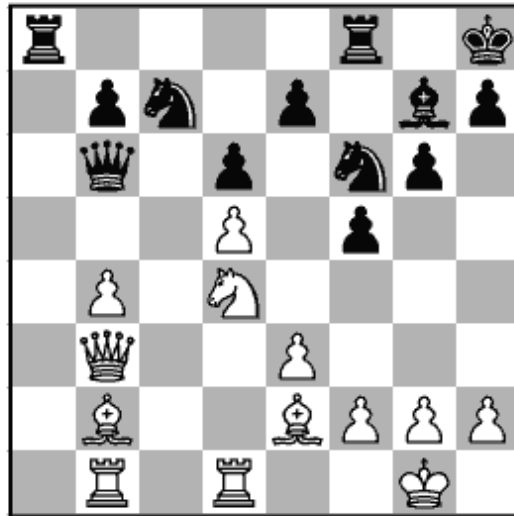
671) Black to play

[solution](#)



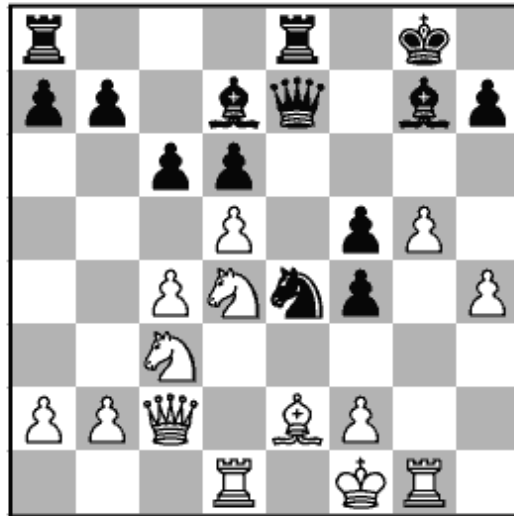
672) White to play

[solution](#)



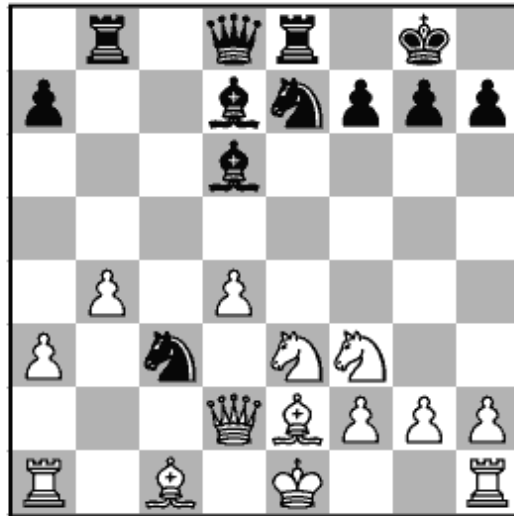
673) White to play

[solution](#)



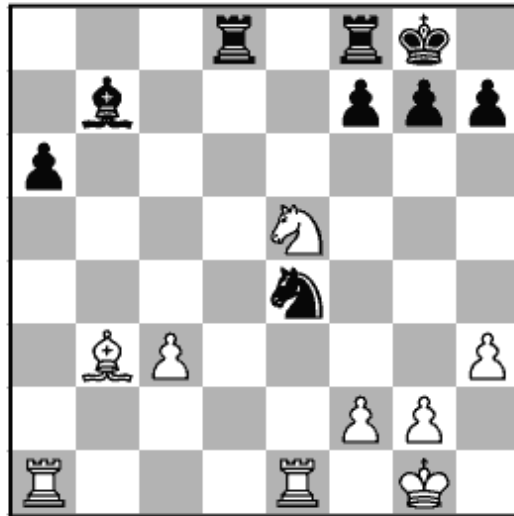
674) Black to play

[solution](#)



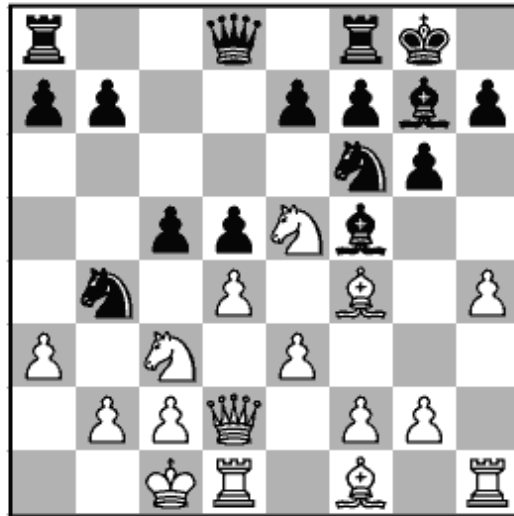
675) Black to play

[solution](#)



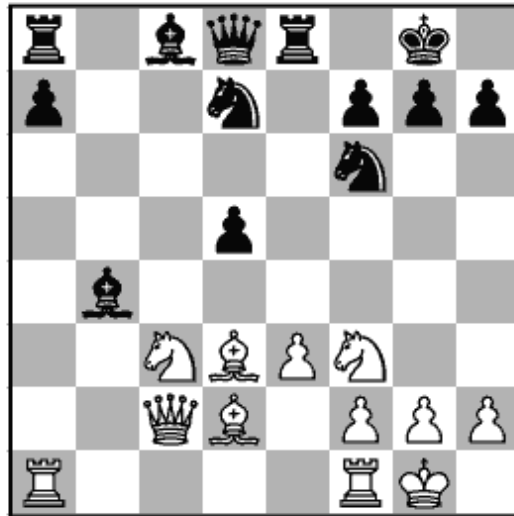
676) White to play

[solution](#)



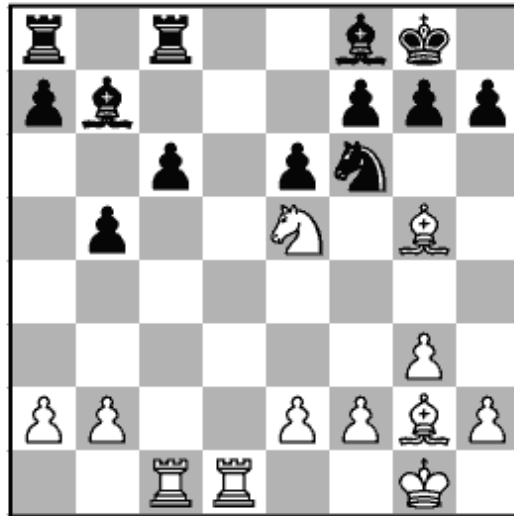
677) Black to play

[solution](#)



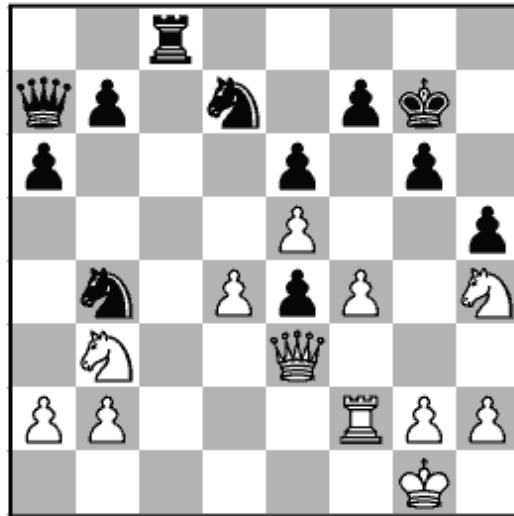
678) White to play

[solution](#)



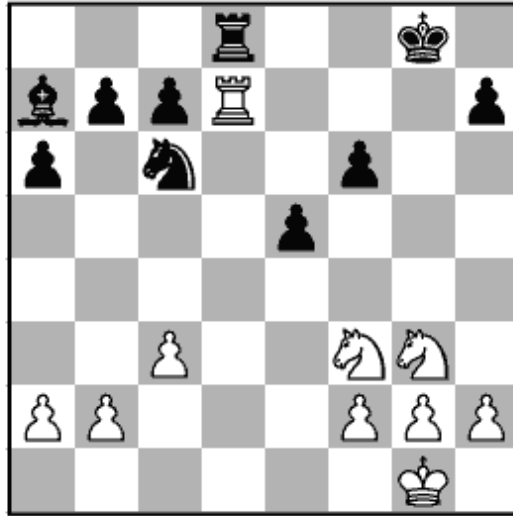
679) White to play

[solution](#)



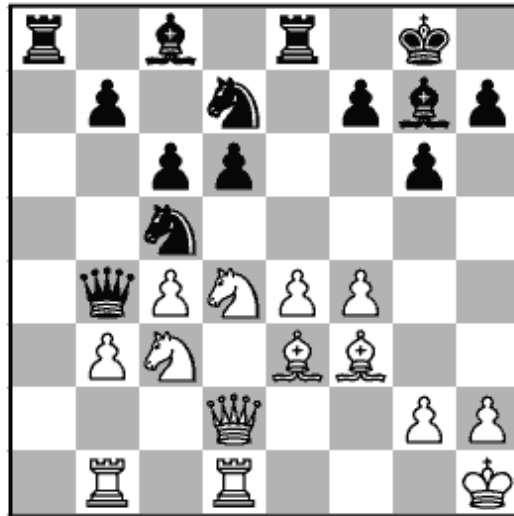
680) White to play

[solution](#)



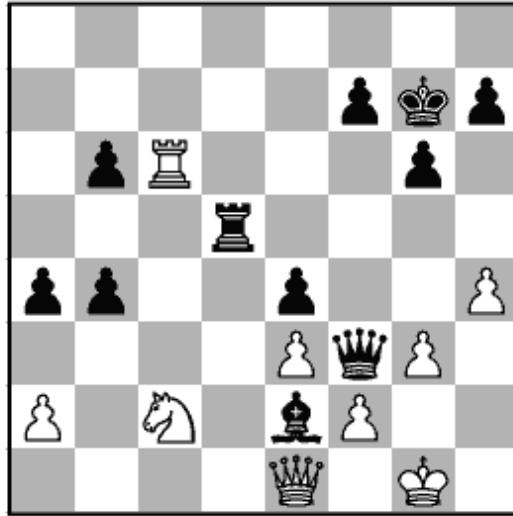
681) White to play

[solution](#)



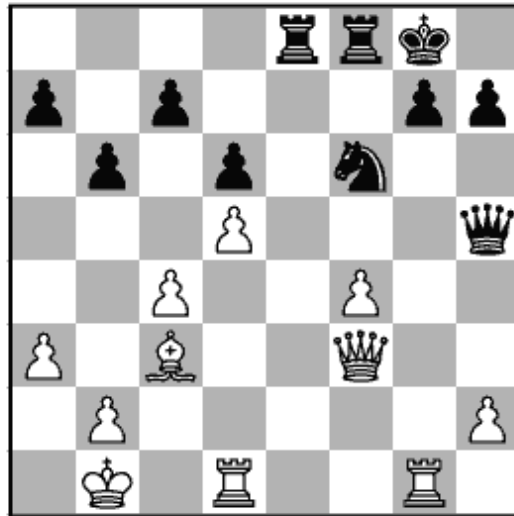
682) White to play

[solution](#)



683) White to play

[solution](#)



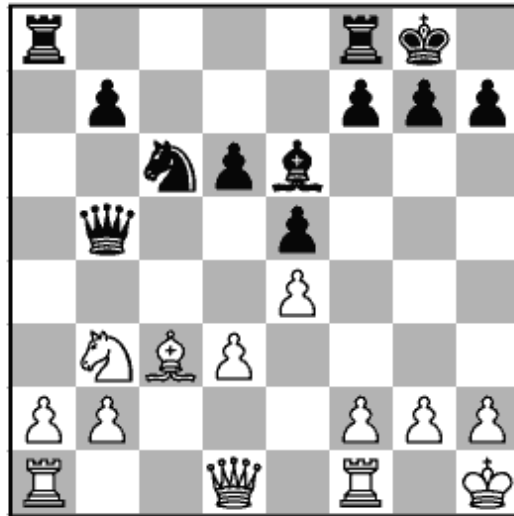
684) White to play

[solution](#)



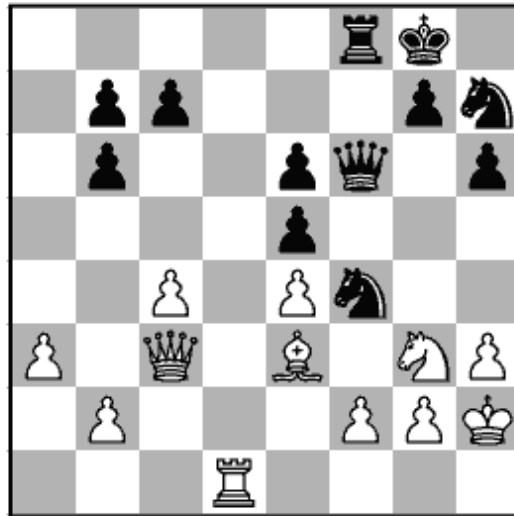
685) White to play

[solution](#)



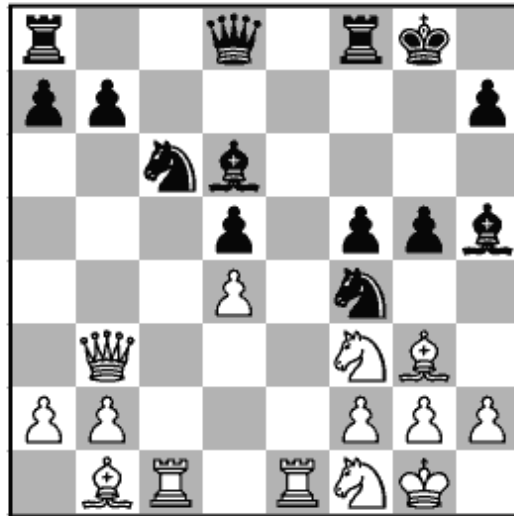
686) Black to play

[solution](#)



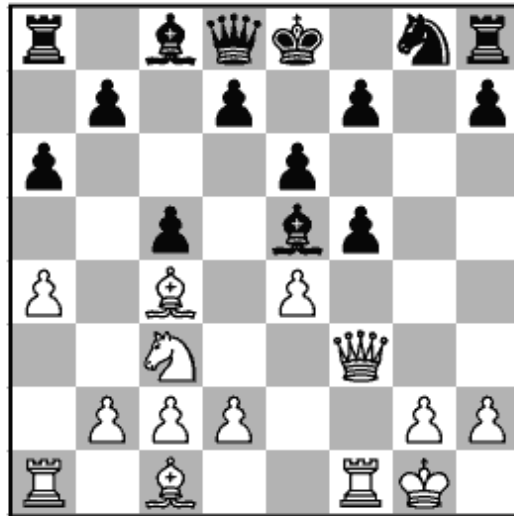
687) Black to play

[solution](#)



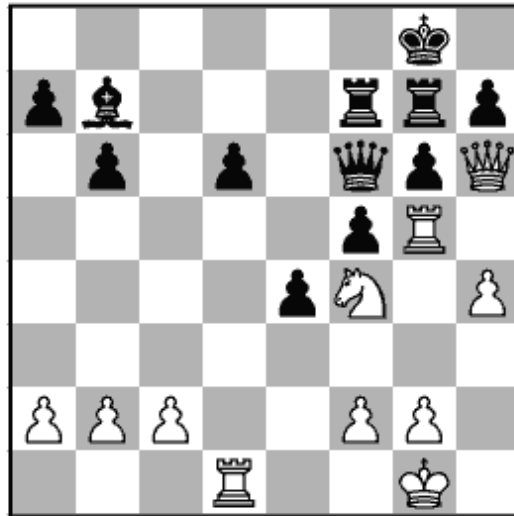
688) Black to play

solution



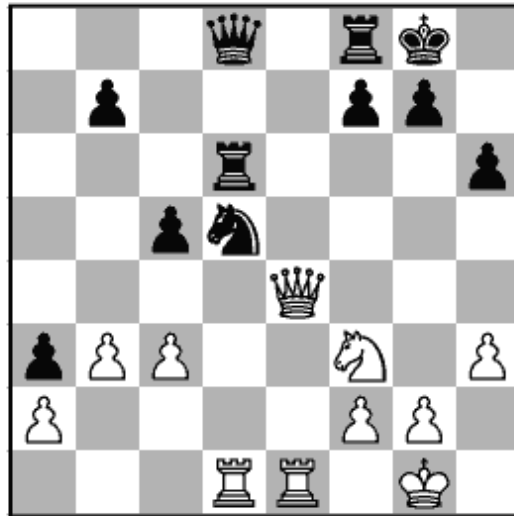
689) Black to play

[solution](#)



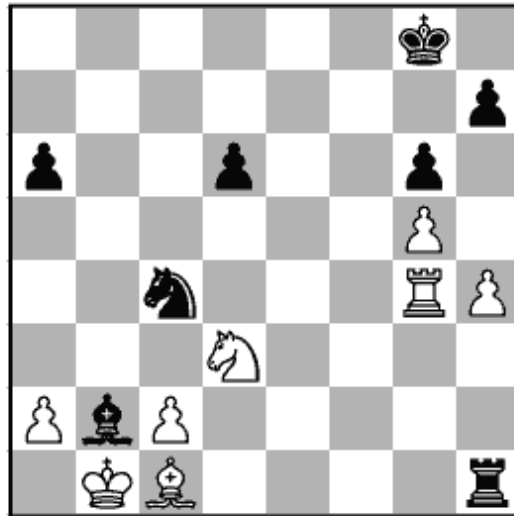
690) White to play

[solution](#)



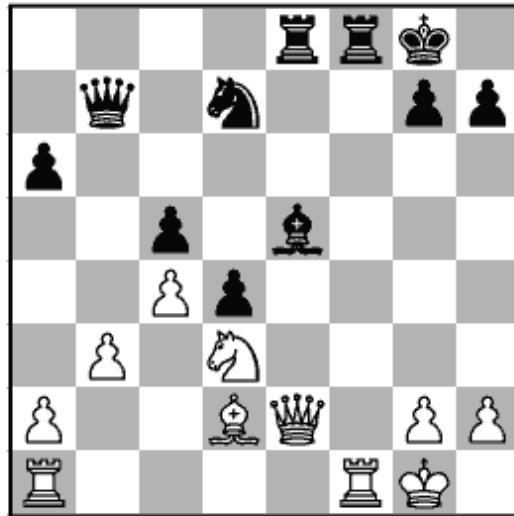
691) White to play

[solution](#)



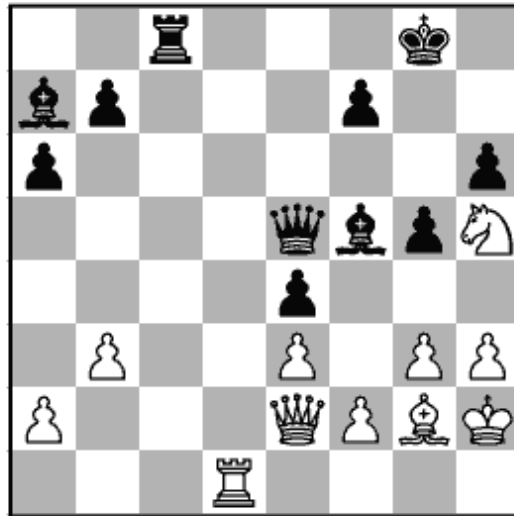
692) Black to play

[solution](#)



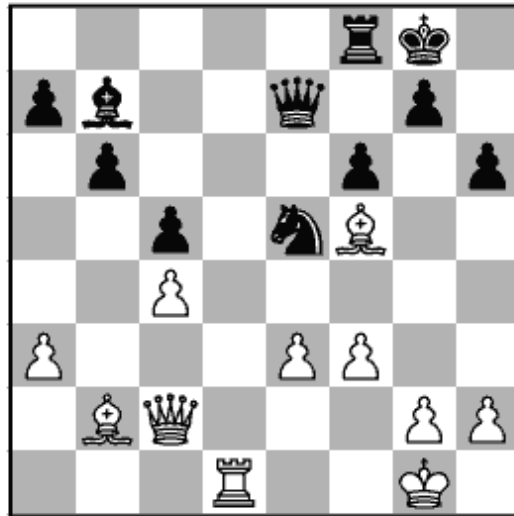
693) White to play

[solution](#)



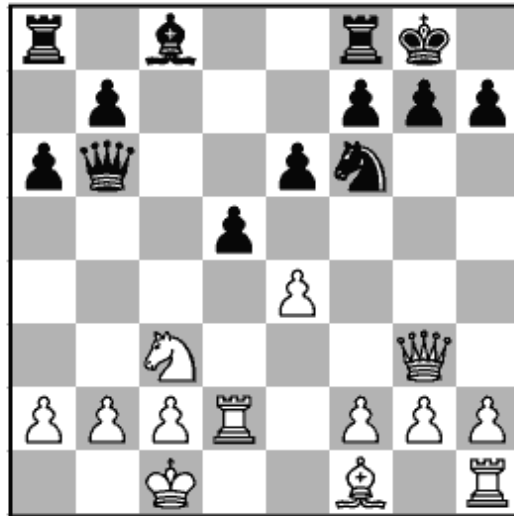
694) White to play

solution



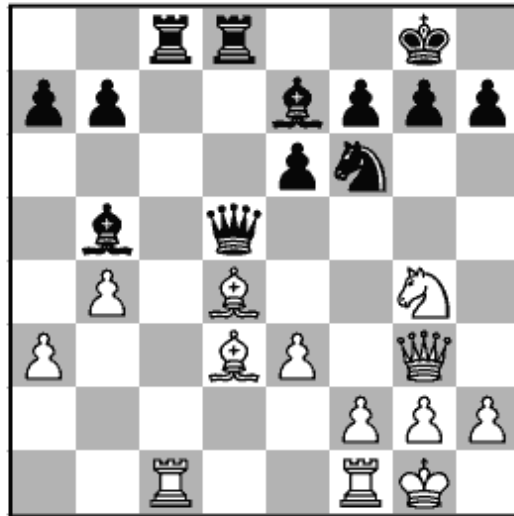
695) Black to play

[solution](#)



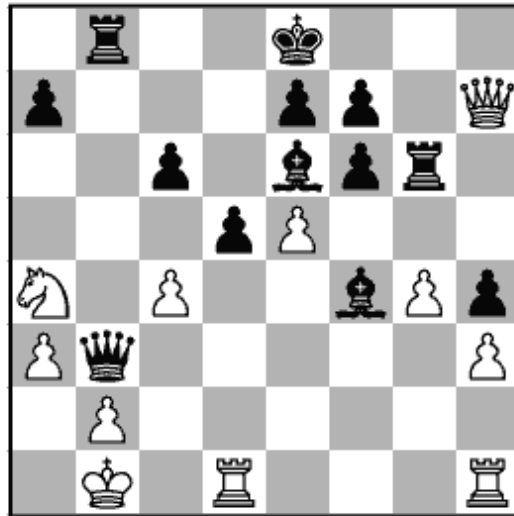
696) Black to play

[solution](#)



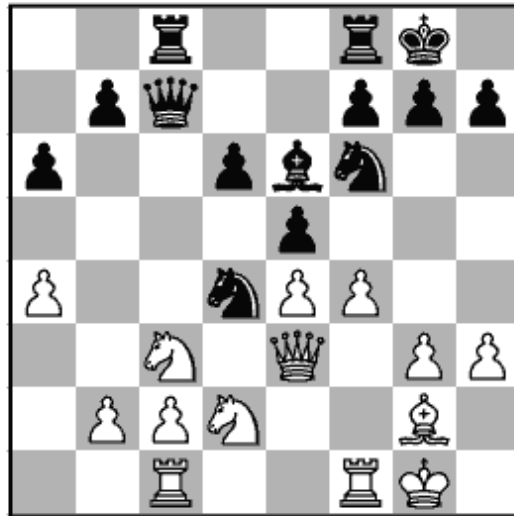
697) Black to play

[solution](#)



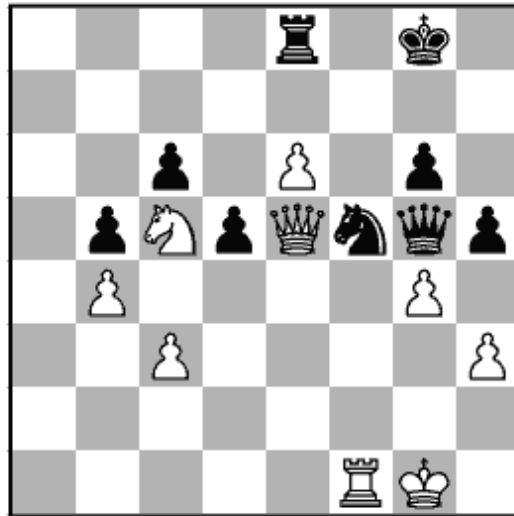
698) White to play

[solution](#)



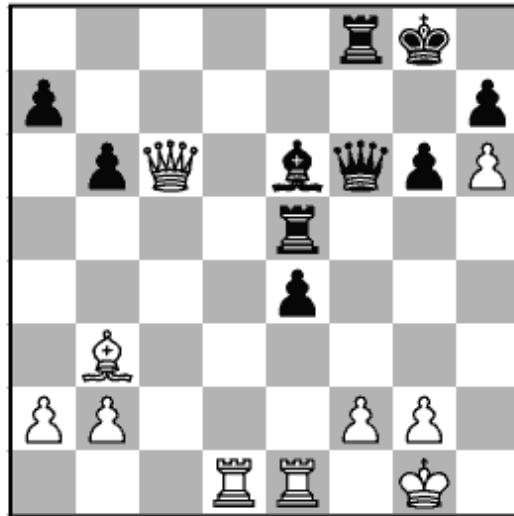
699) Black to play

[solution](#)



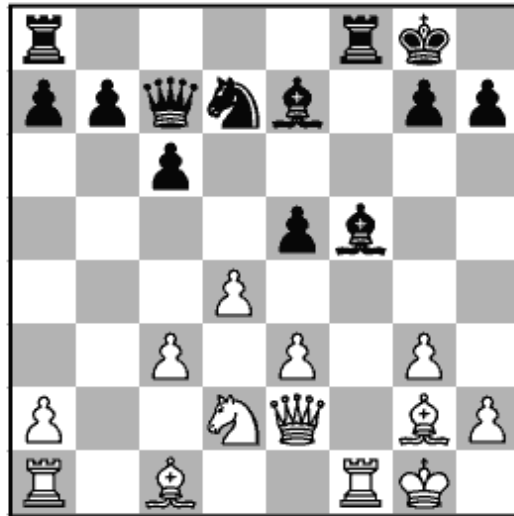
700) White to play

[solution](#)



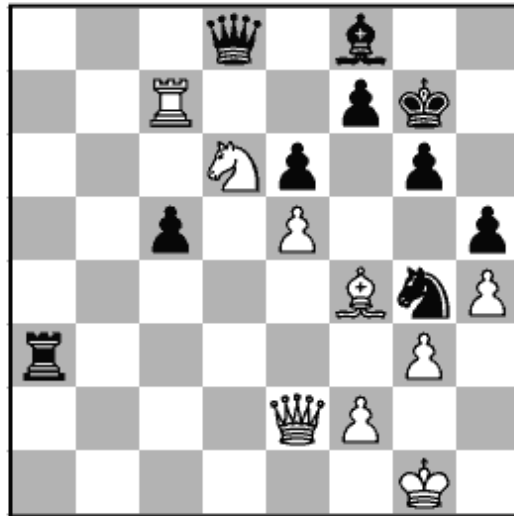
701) White to play

[solution](#)



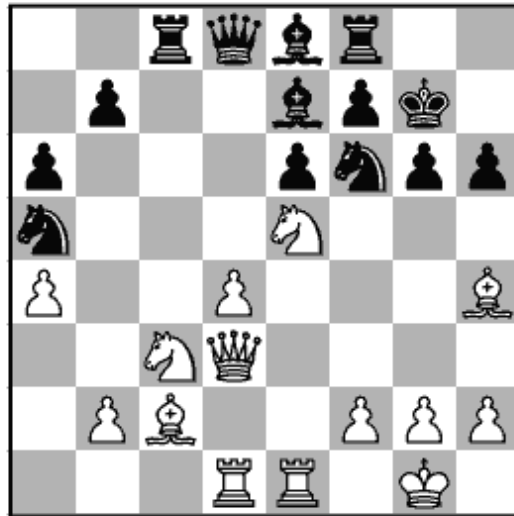
702) White to play

[solution](#)



703) Black to play

[solution](#)



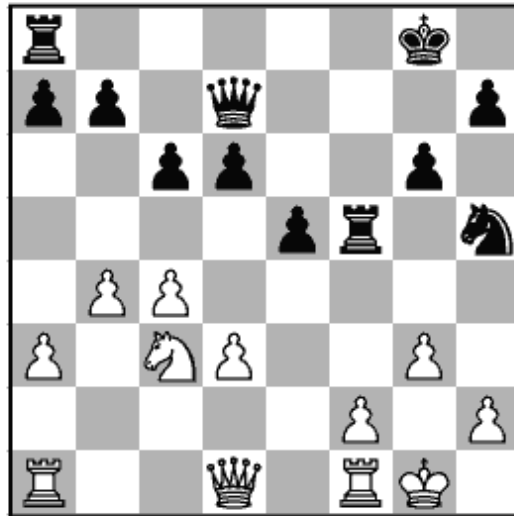
704) White to play

[solution](#)



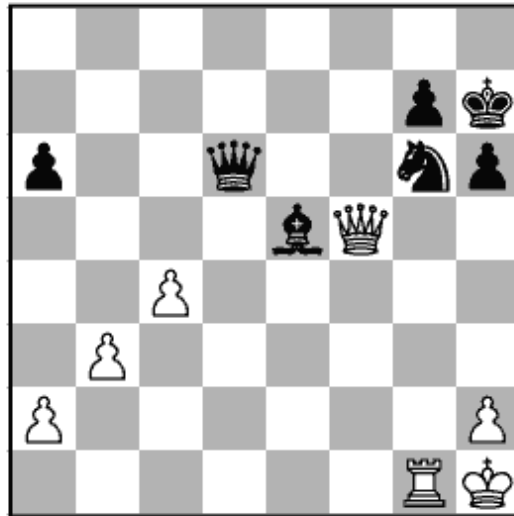
705) Black to play

[solution](#)



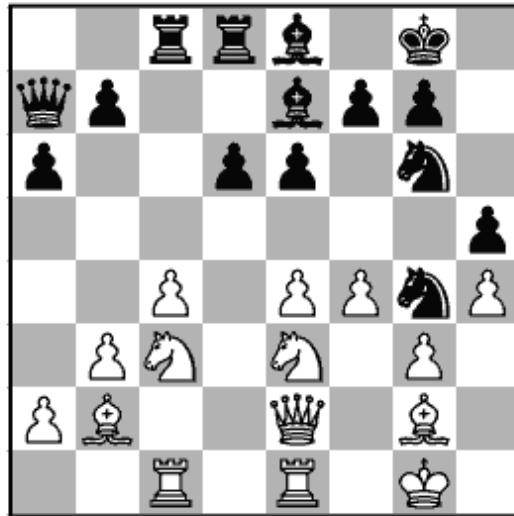
706) White to play

[solution](#)



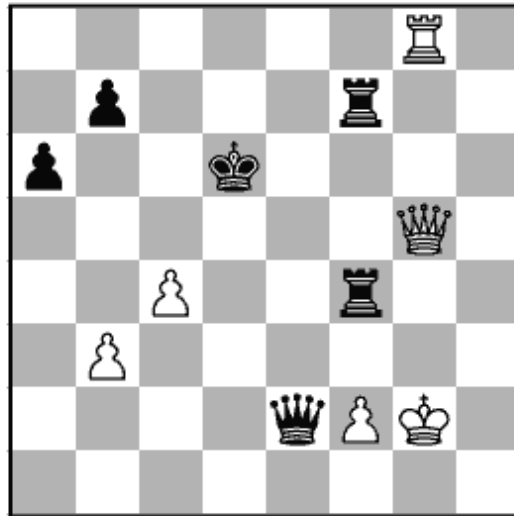
707) White to play

[solution](#)



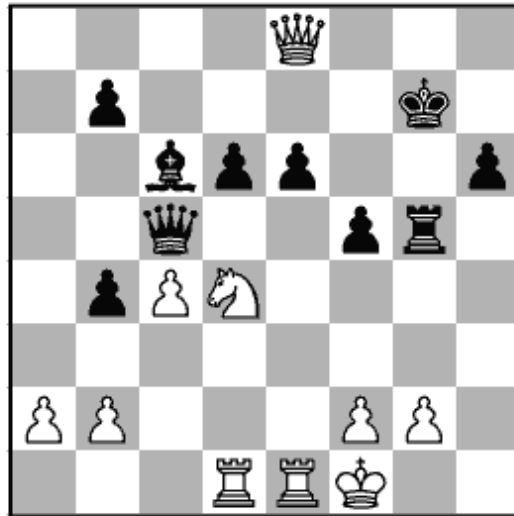
708) Black to play

[solution](#)



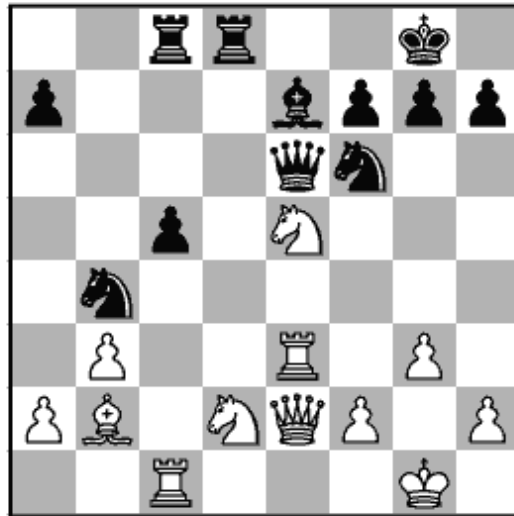
709) White to play

[solution](#)



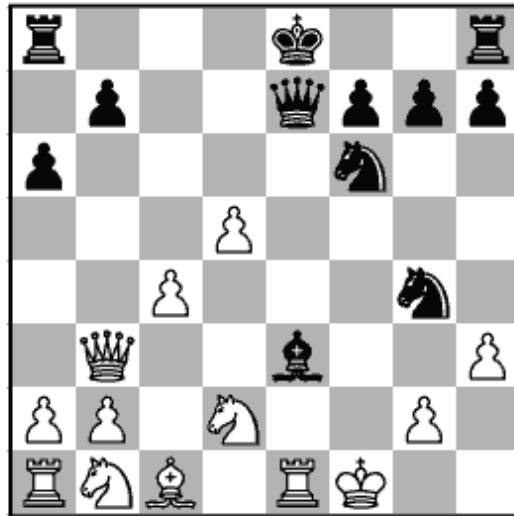
710) Black to play

[solution](#)



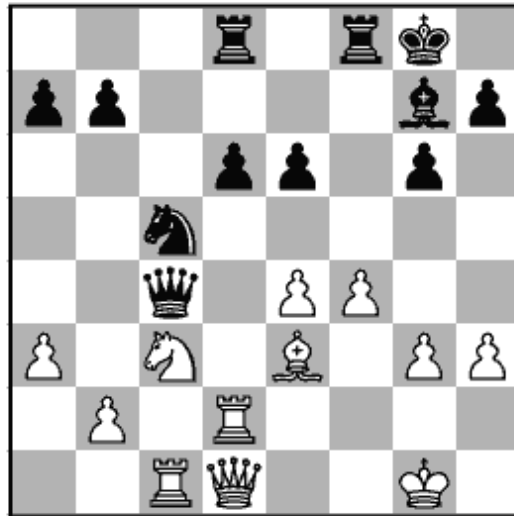
711) Black to play

[solution](#)



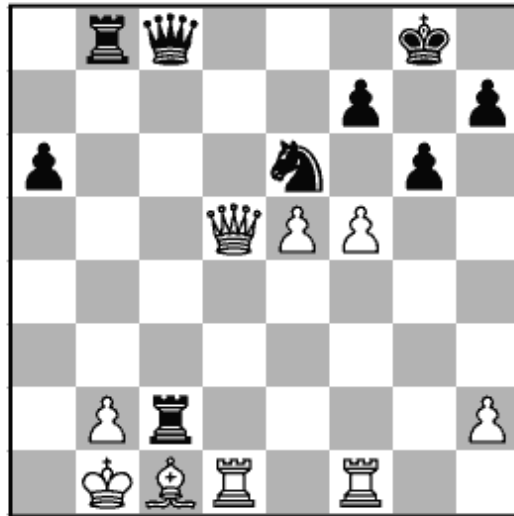
712) Black to play

[solution](#)



713) White to play

[solution](#)



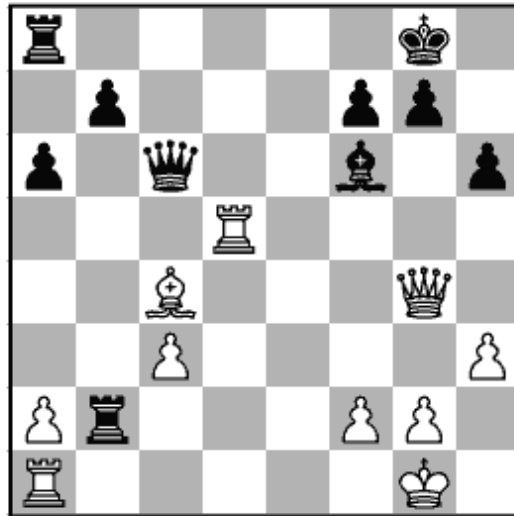
714) Black to play

[solution](#)



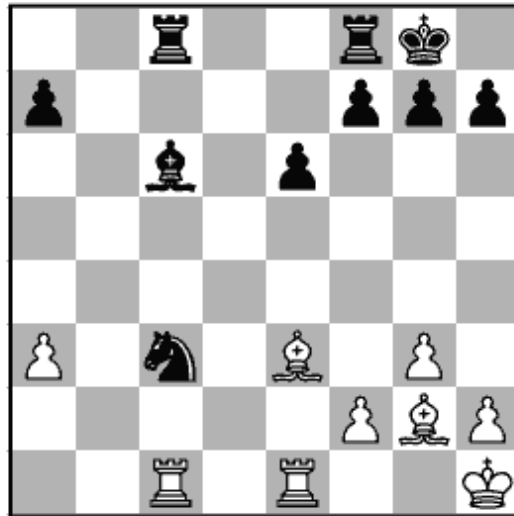
715) White to play

[solution](#)



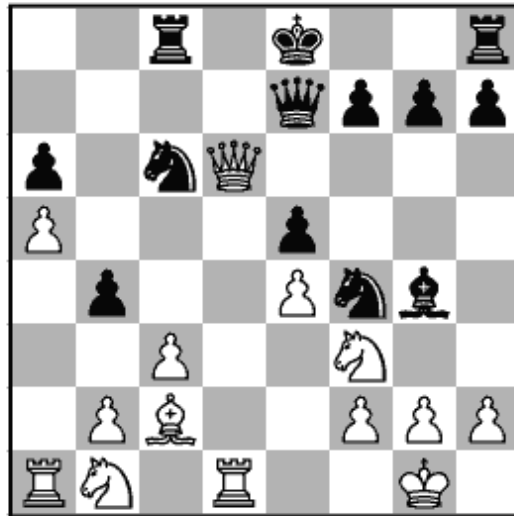
716) Black to play

[solution](#)



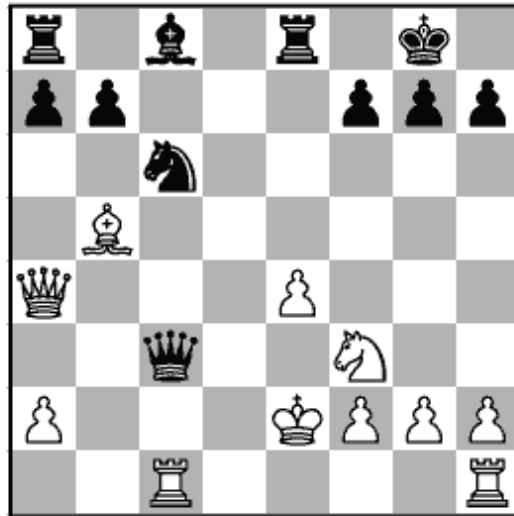
717) White to play

[solution](#)



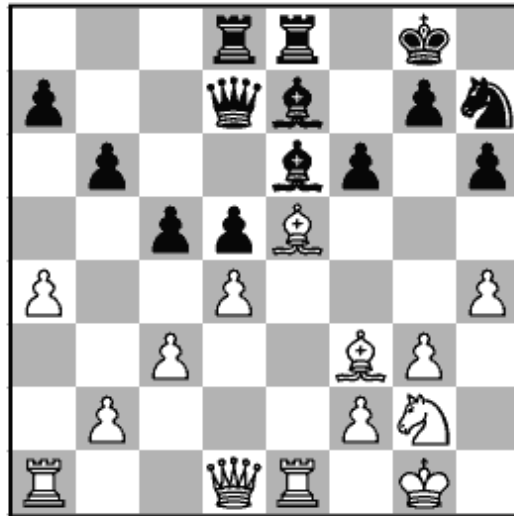
718) Black to play

[solution](#)



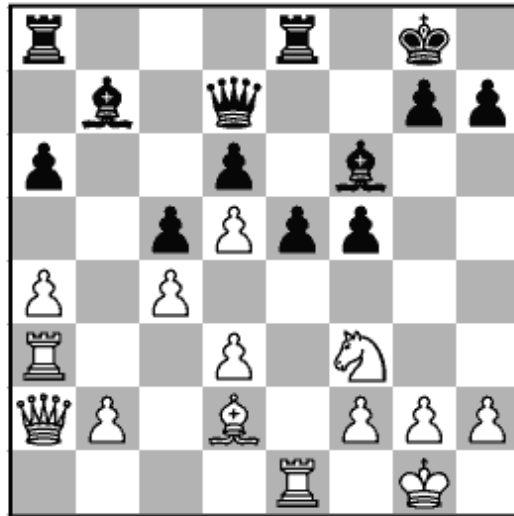
719) Black to play

[solution](#)



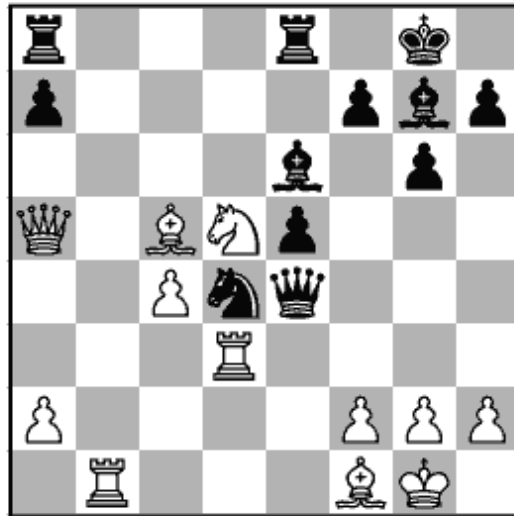
720) White to play

[solution](#)



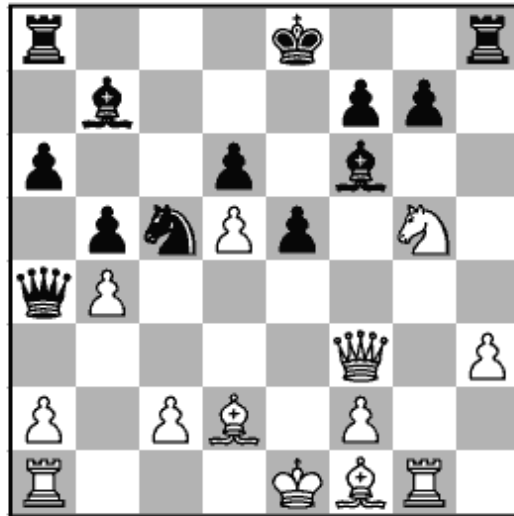
721) Black to play

[solution](#)



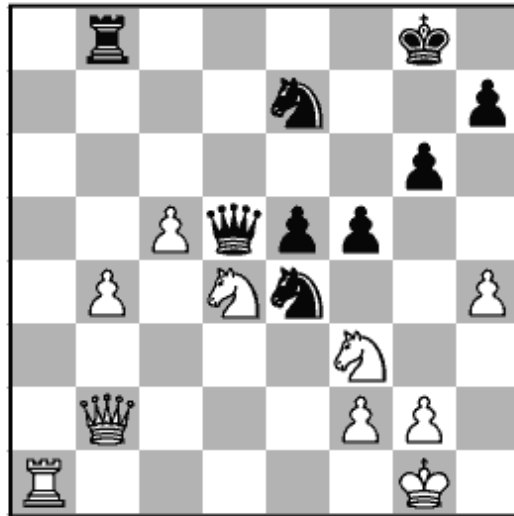
722) White to play

[solution](#)



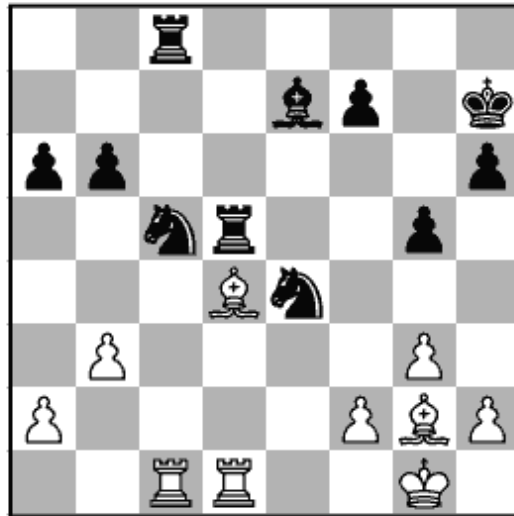
723) Black to play

[solution](#)



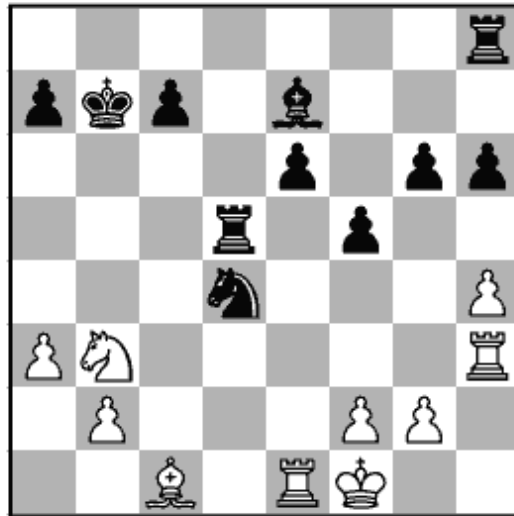
724) White to play

[solution](#)



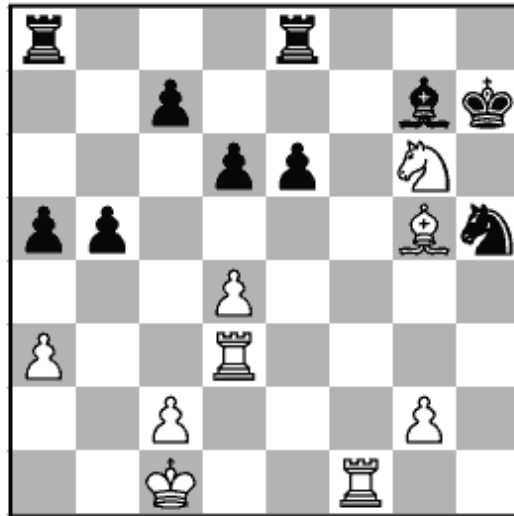
725) White to play

[solution](#)



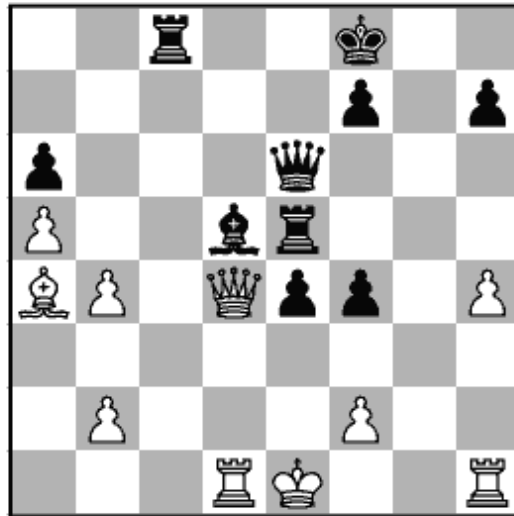
726) Black to play

[solution](#)



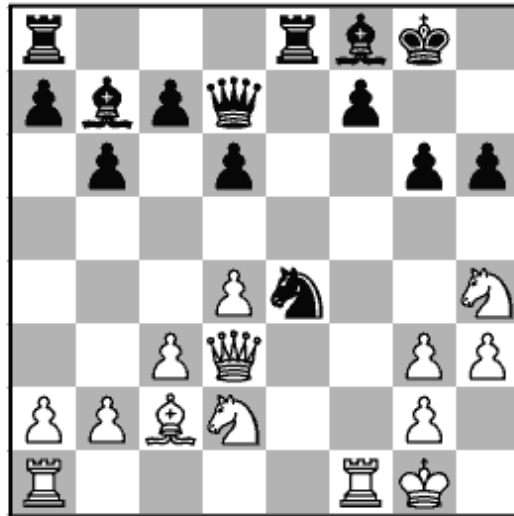
727) White to play

[solution](#)



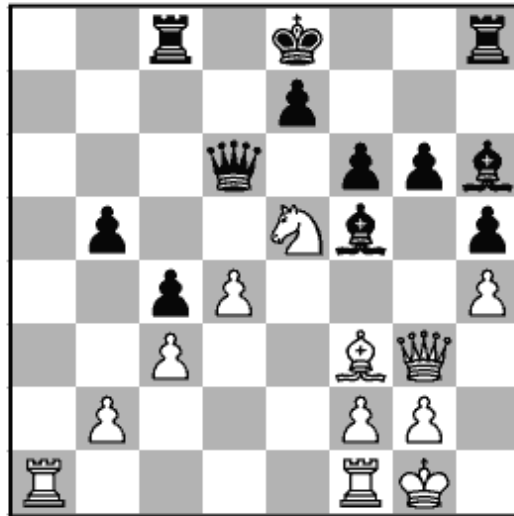
728) White to play

[solution](#)



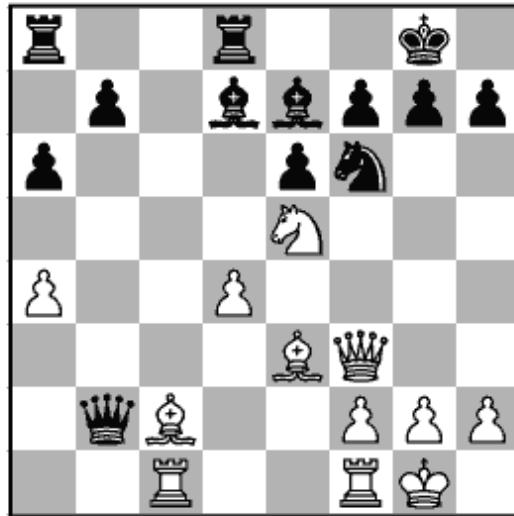
729) White to play

[solution](#)



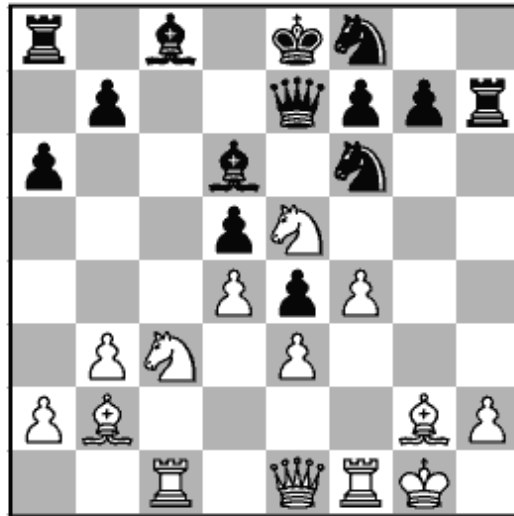
730) White to play

[solution](#)



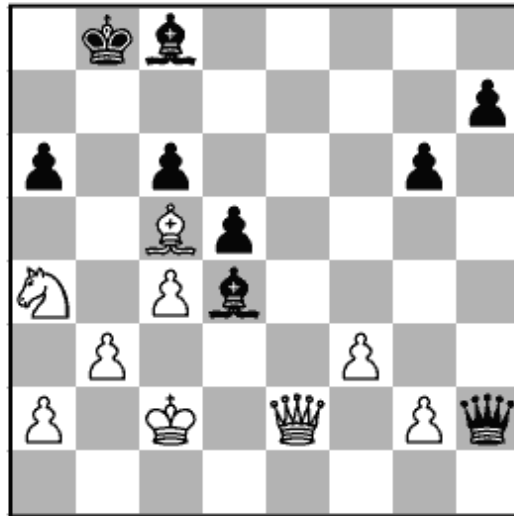
731) White to play

[solution](#)



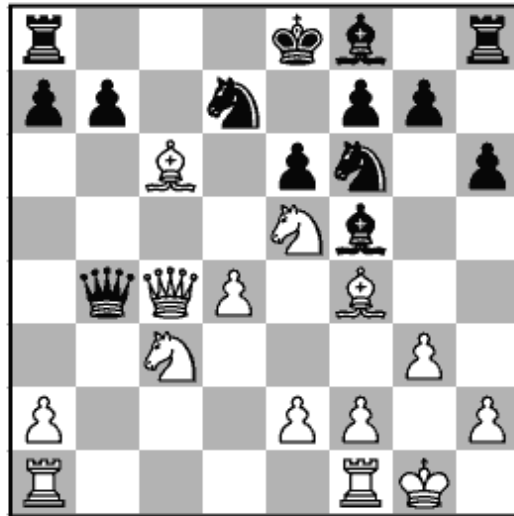
732) White to play

[solution](#)



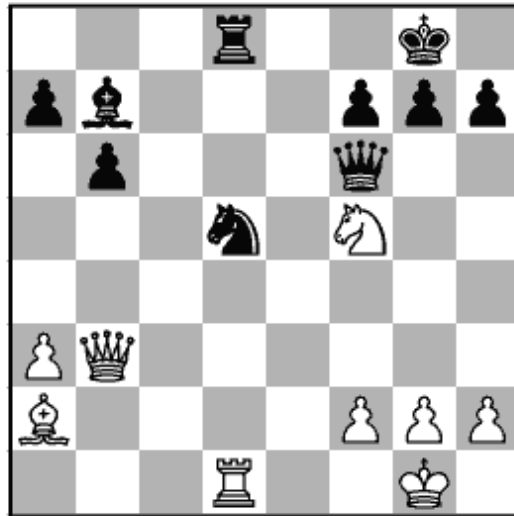
733) Black to play

[solution](#)



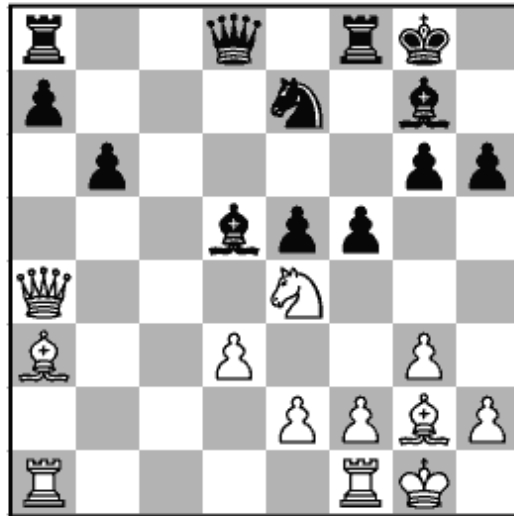
734) Black to play

[solution](#)



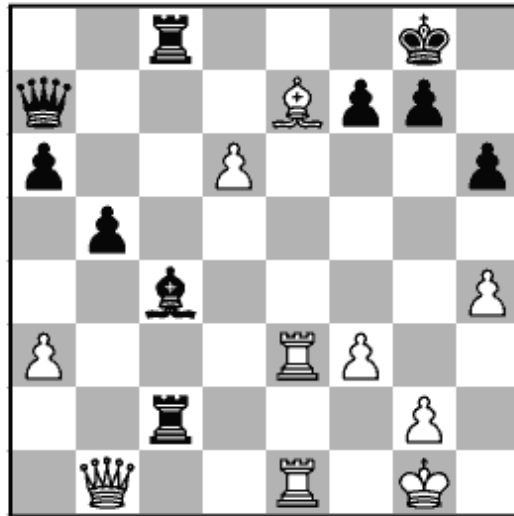
735) White to play

[solution](#)



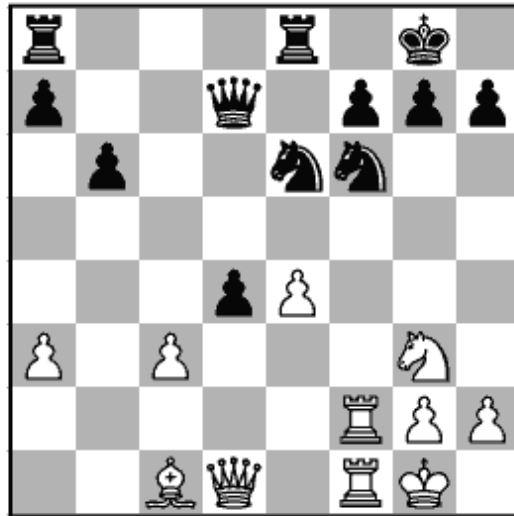
736) White to play

[solution](#)



737) Black to play

[solution](#)



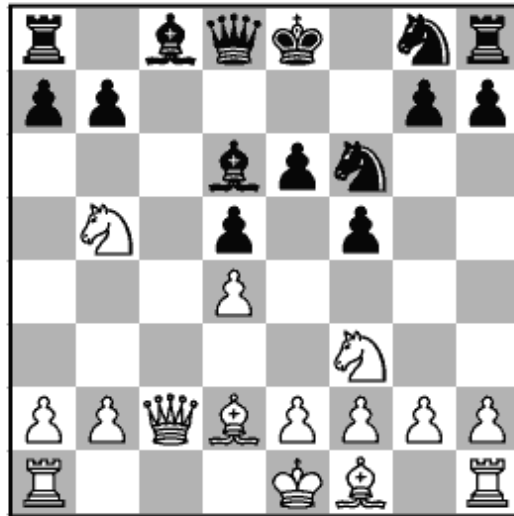
738) White to play

[solution](#)



739) White to play

[solution](#)



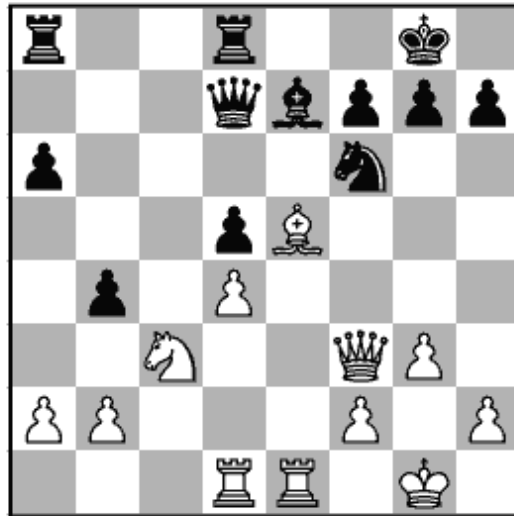
740) White to play

[solution](#)



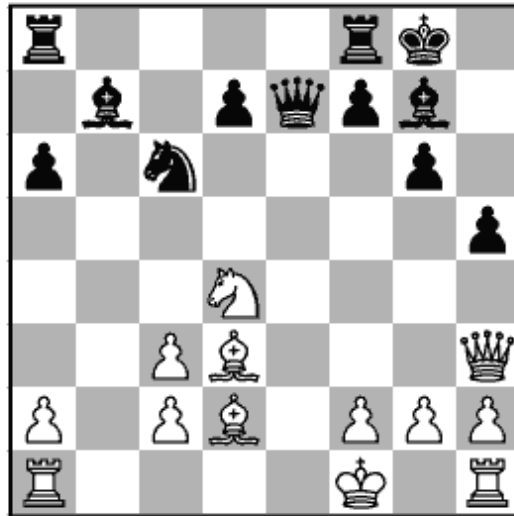
741) White to play

[solution](#)



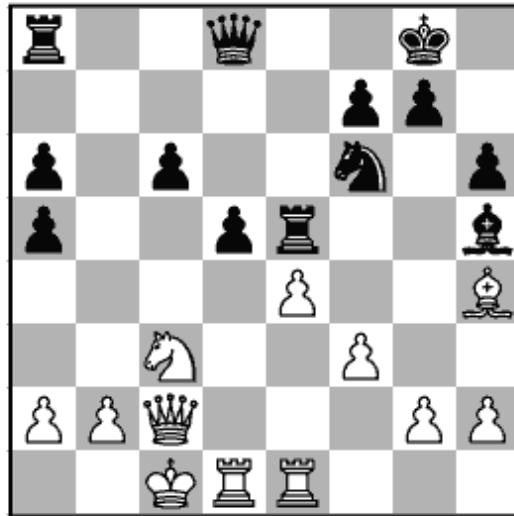
742) White to play

[solution](#)



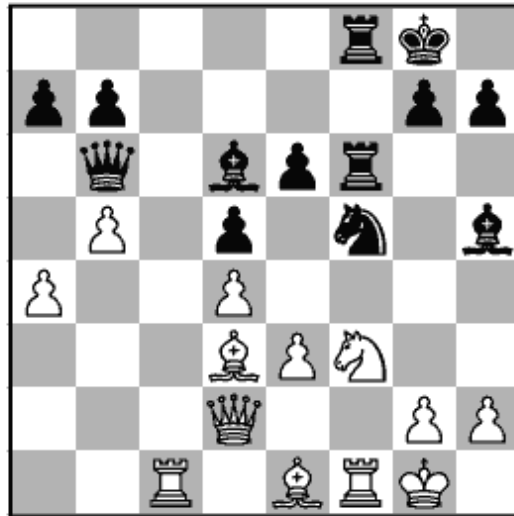
743) White to play

[solution](#)



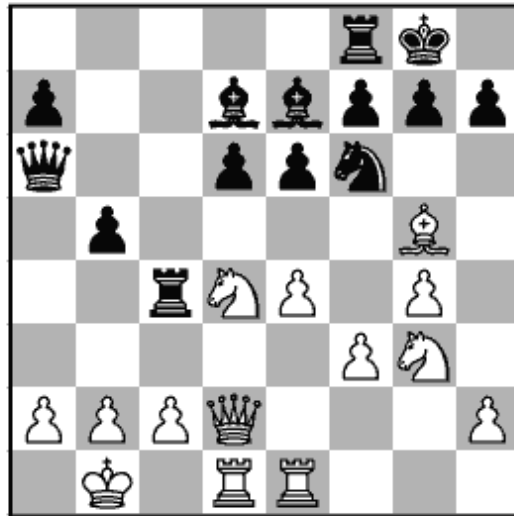
744) White to play

[solution](#)



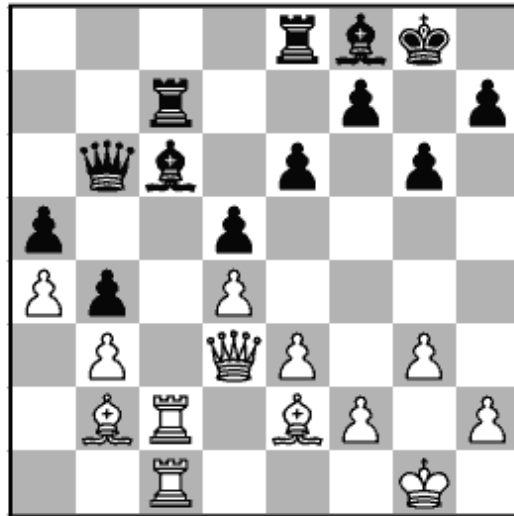
745) Black to play

[solution](#)



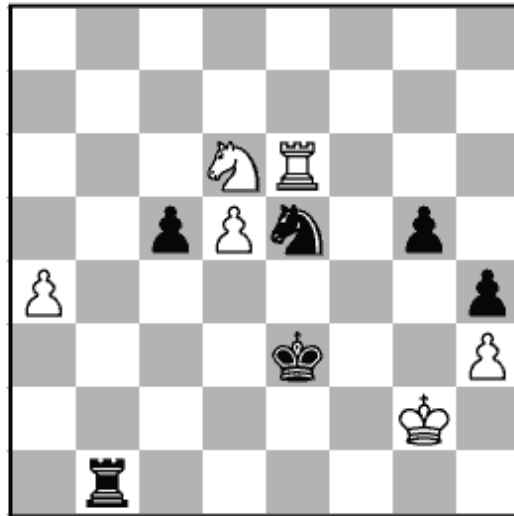
746) White to play

[solution](#)



747) Black to play

[solution](#)



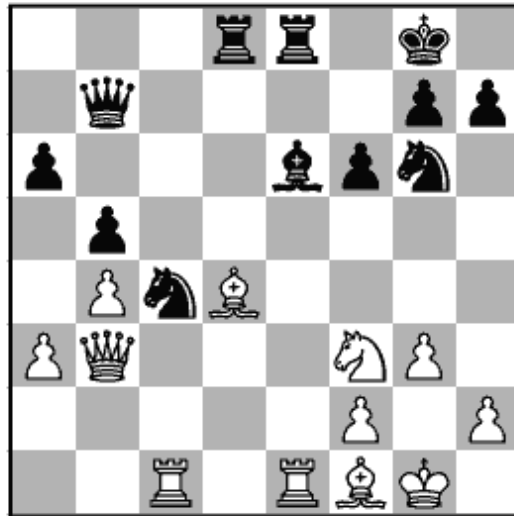
748) Black to play

[solution](#)



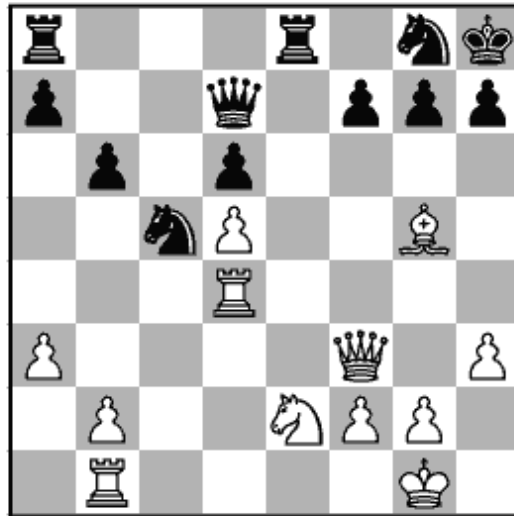
749) White to play

[solution](#)



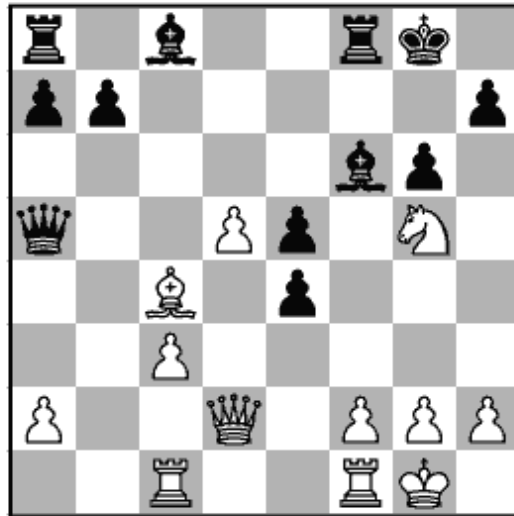
750) White to play

[solution](#)



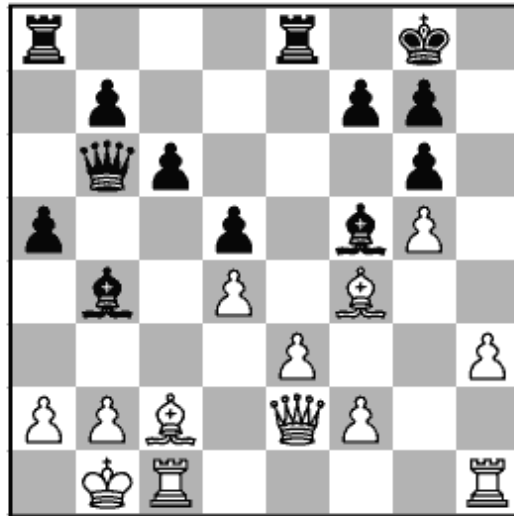
751) Black to play

[solution](#)



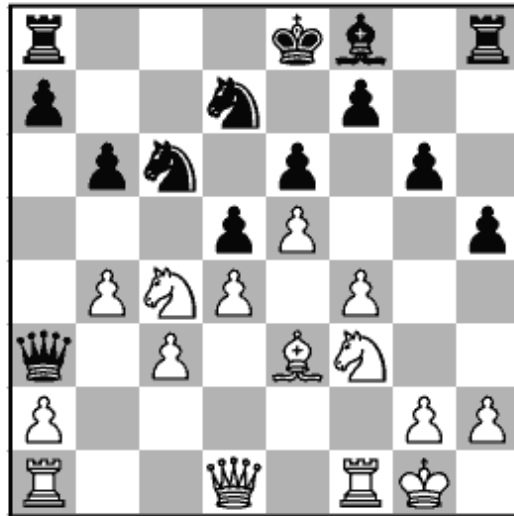
752) Black to play

[solution](#)



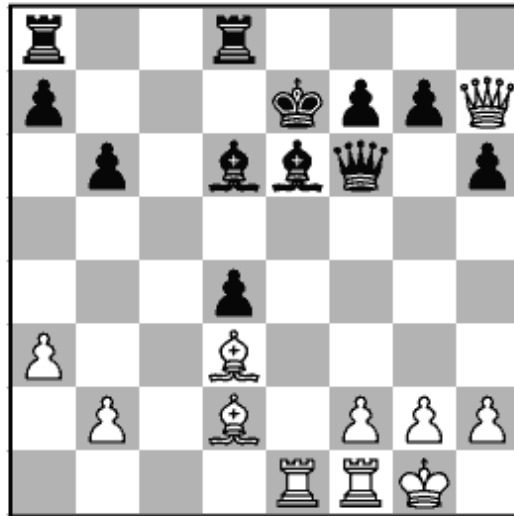
753) Black to play

[solution](#)



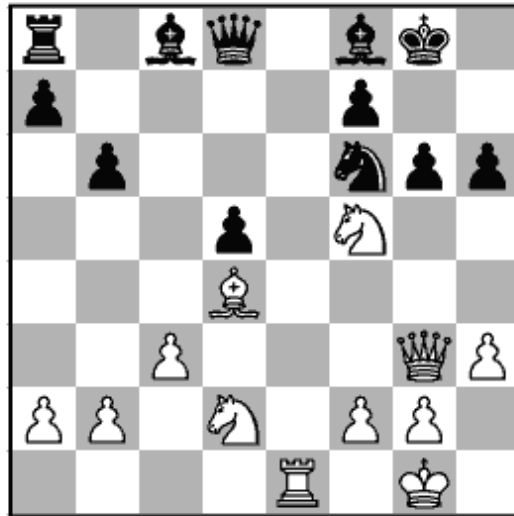
754) Black to play

[solution](#)



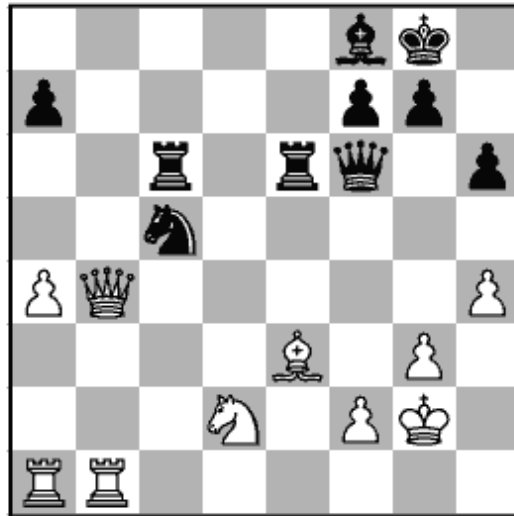
755) White to play

[solution](#)



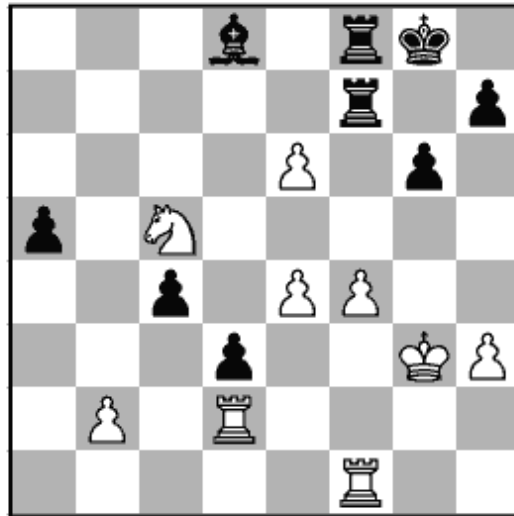
756) White to play

[solution](#)



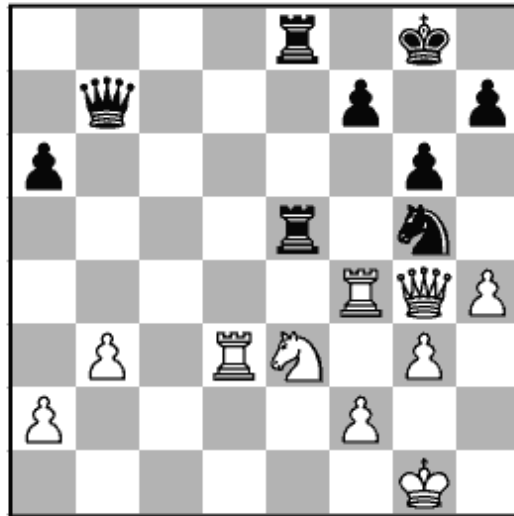
757) Black to play

[solution](#)



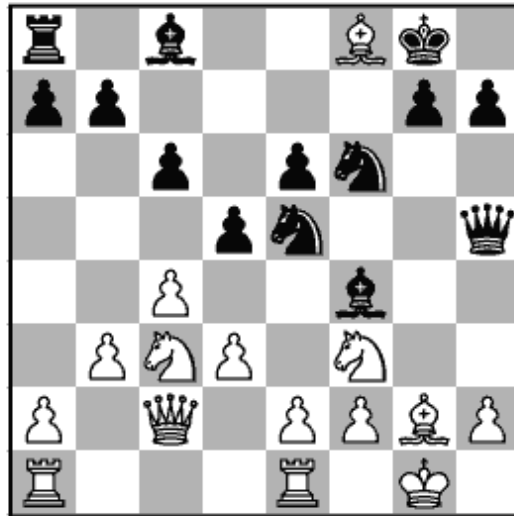
758) Black to play

[solution](#)



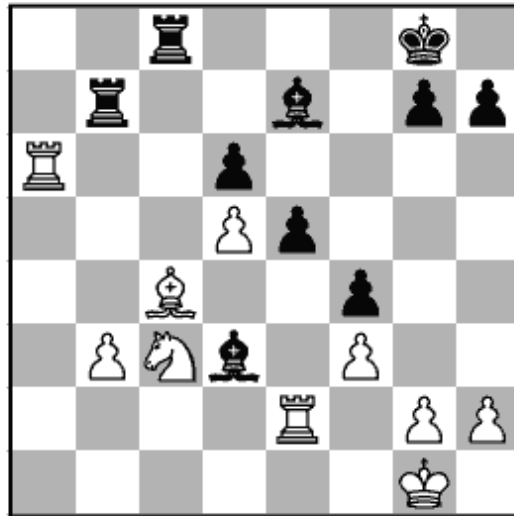
759) Black to play

[solution](#)



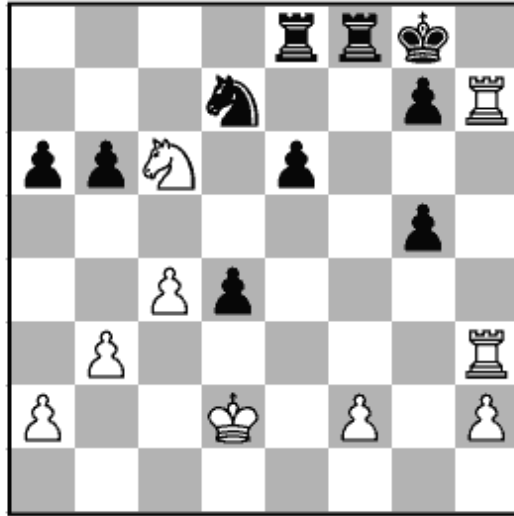
760) Black to play

[solution](#)



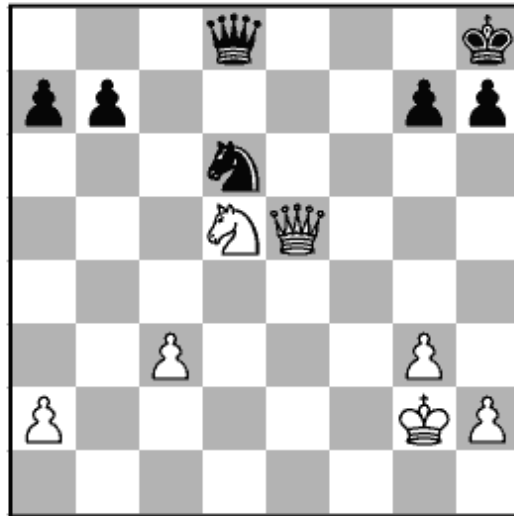
761) White to play

[solution](#)



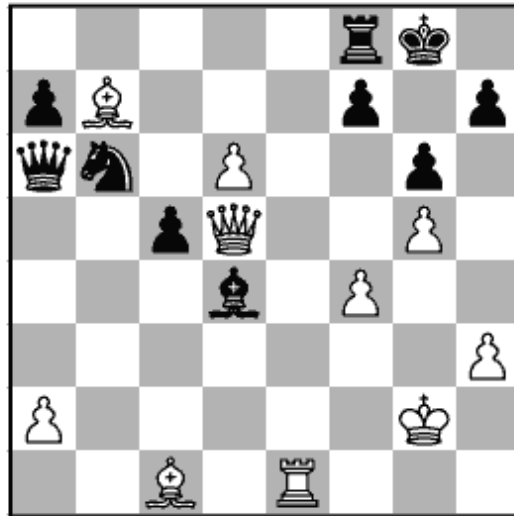
762) White to play

[solution](#)



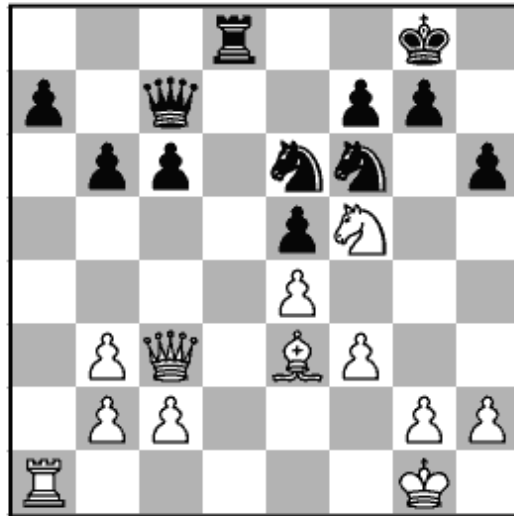
763) Black to play

[solution](#)



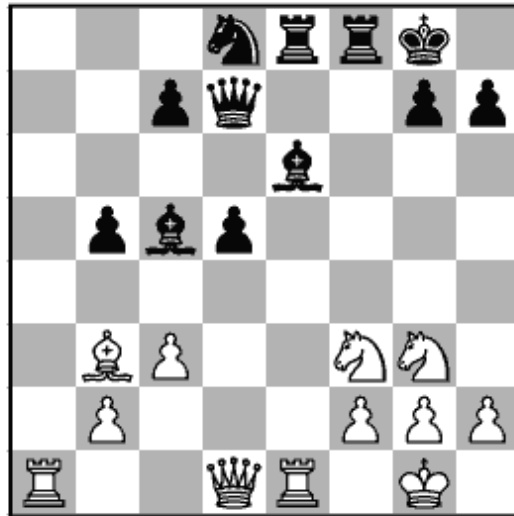
764) Black to play

[solution](#)



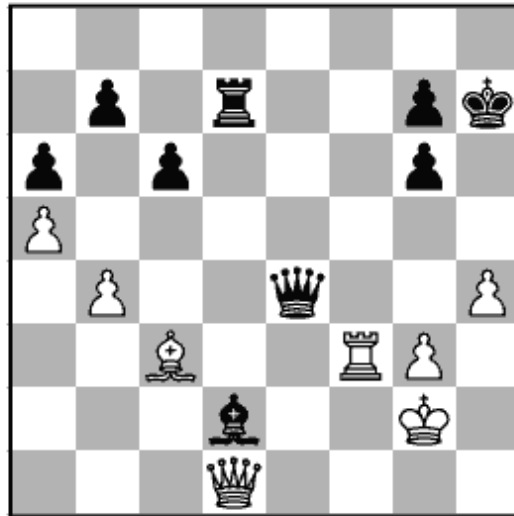
765) White to play

[solution](#)



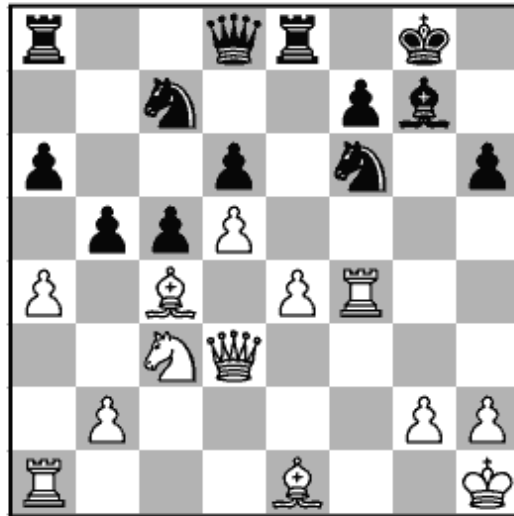
766) White to play

[solution](#)



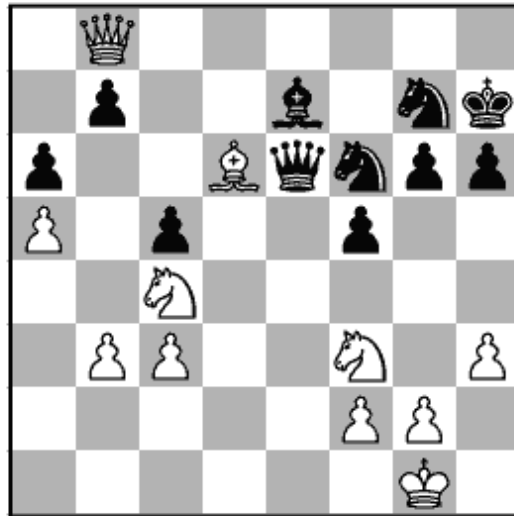
767) Black to play

[solution](#)



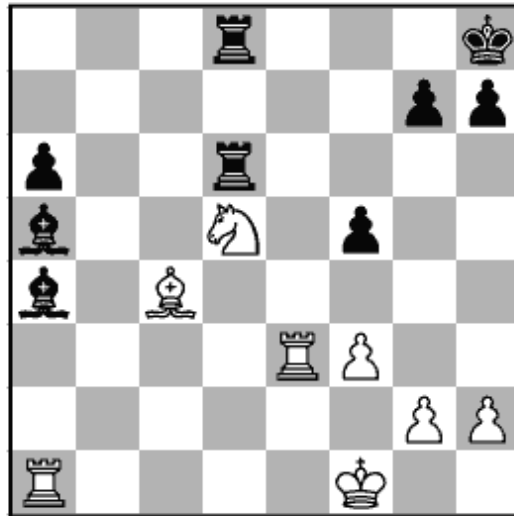
768) White to play

[solution](#)



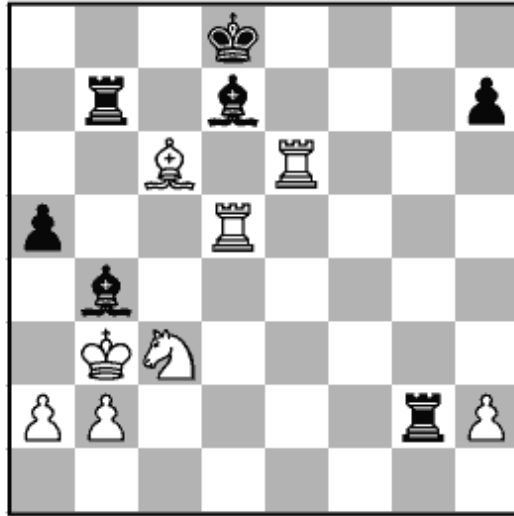
769) Black to play

[solution](#)



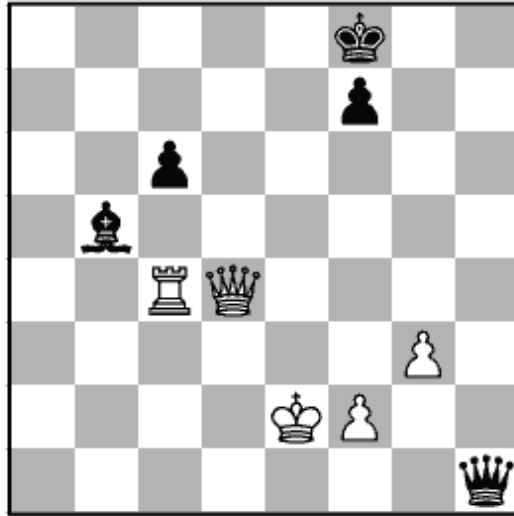
770) Black to play

[solution](#)



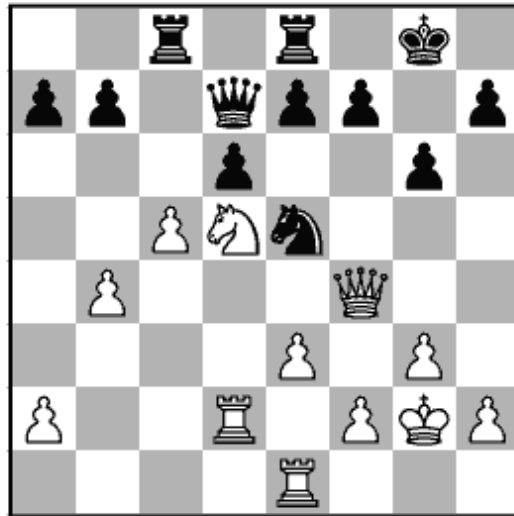
771) Black to play

[solution](#)



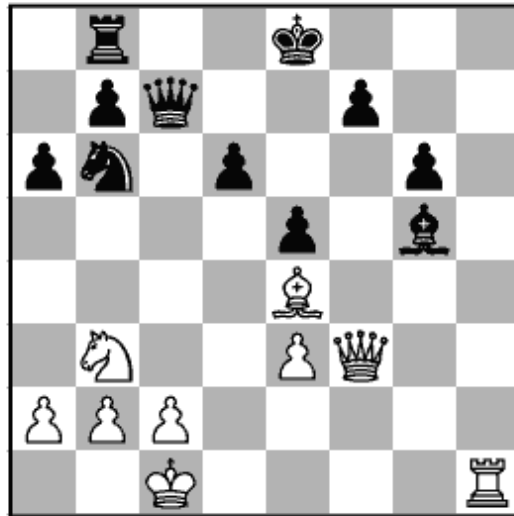
772) Black to play

[solution](#)



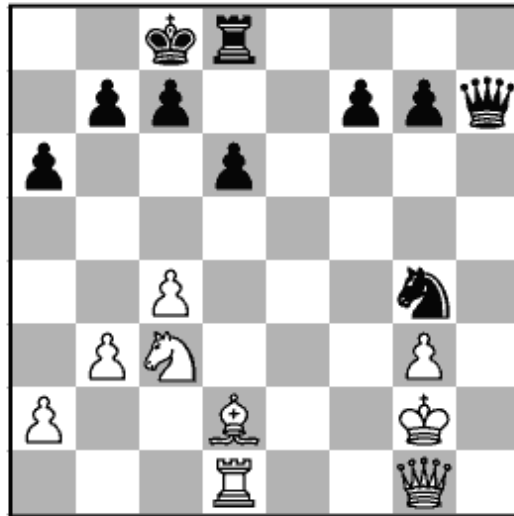
773) White to play

[solution](#)



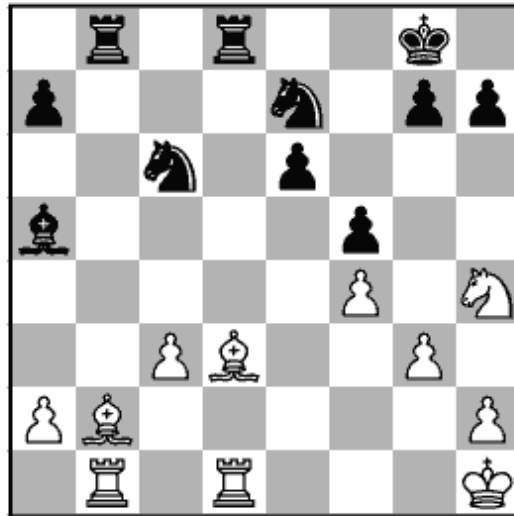
774) White to play

solution



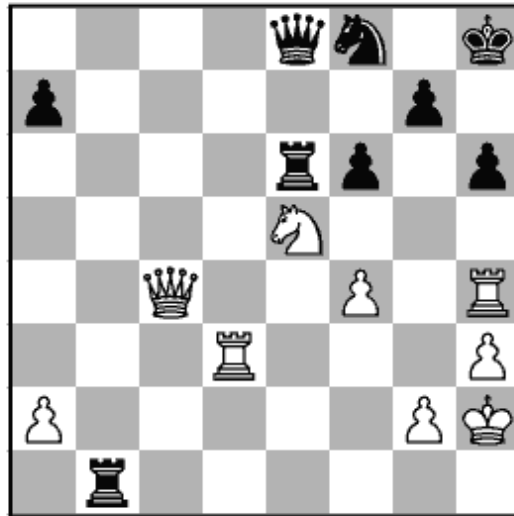
775) Black to play

[solution](#)



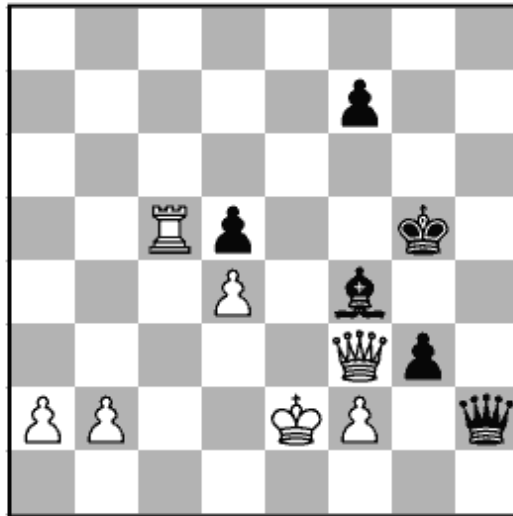
776) Black to play

[solution](#)



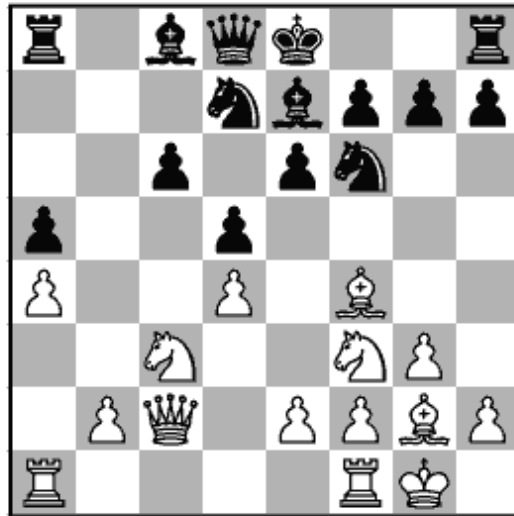
777) White to play

[solution](#)



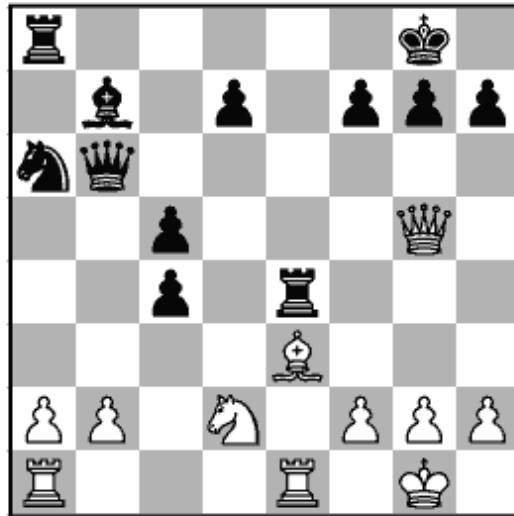
778) Black to play

[solution](#)



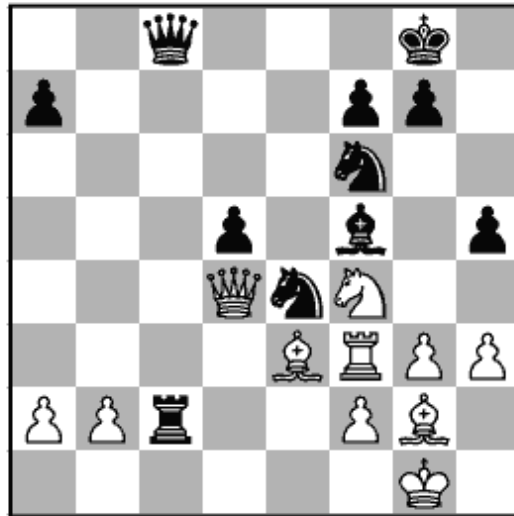
779) White to play

[solution](#)



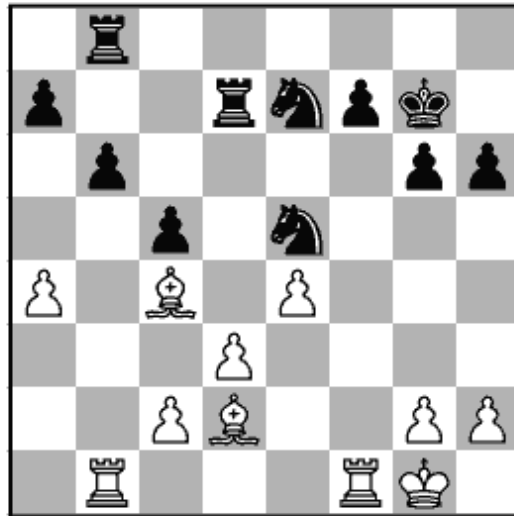
780) Black to play

[solution](#)



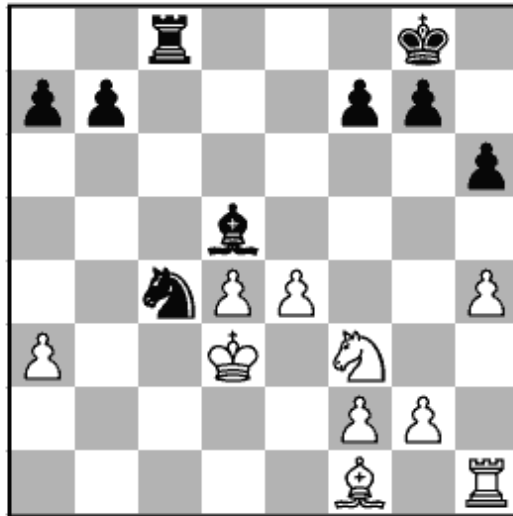
781) Black to play

[solution](#)



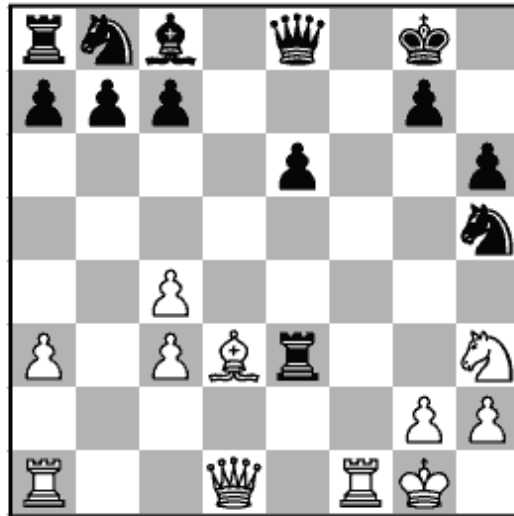
782) White to play

[solution](#)



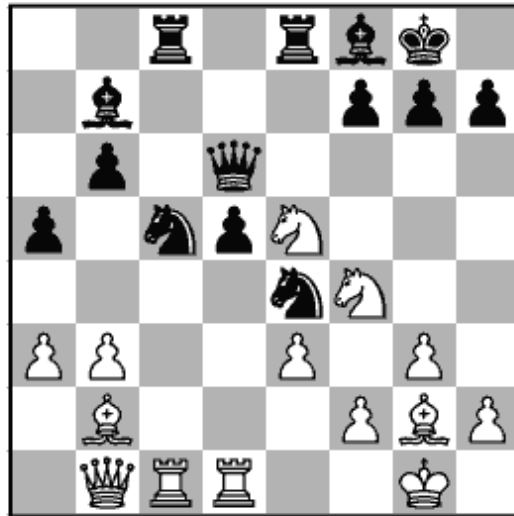
783) Black to play

[solution](#)



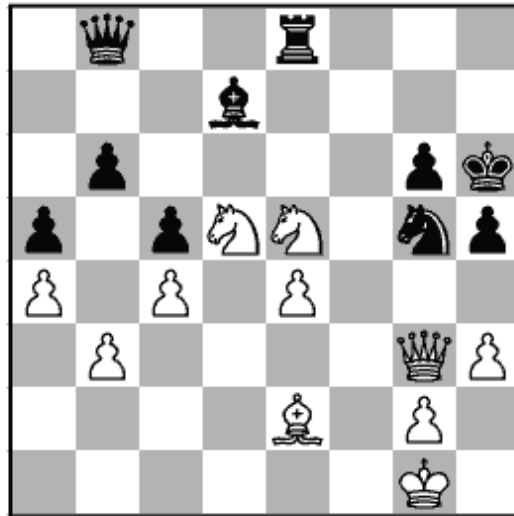
784) White to play

[solution](#)



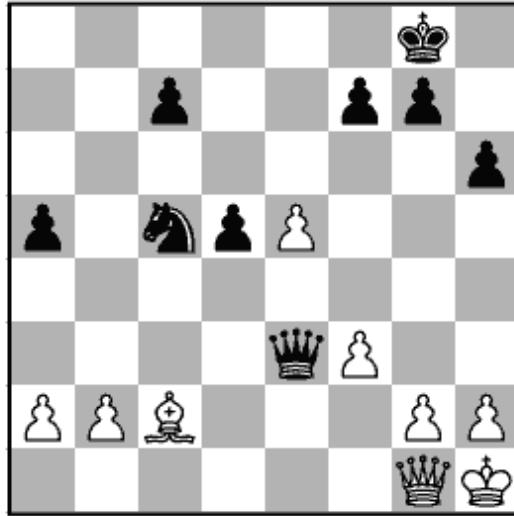
785) White to play

[solution](#)



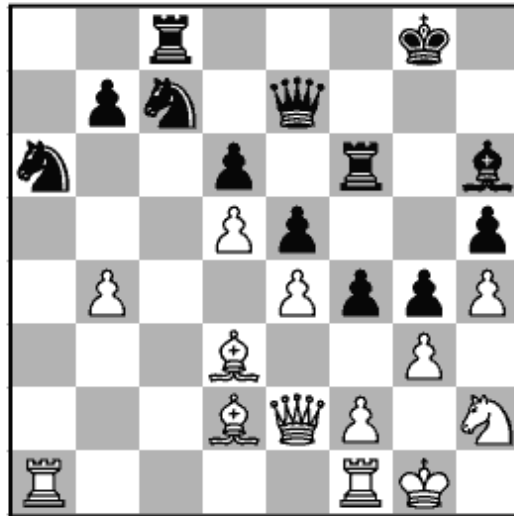
786) White to play

[solution](#)



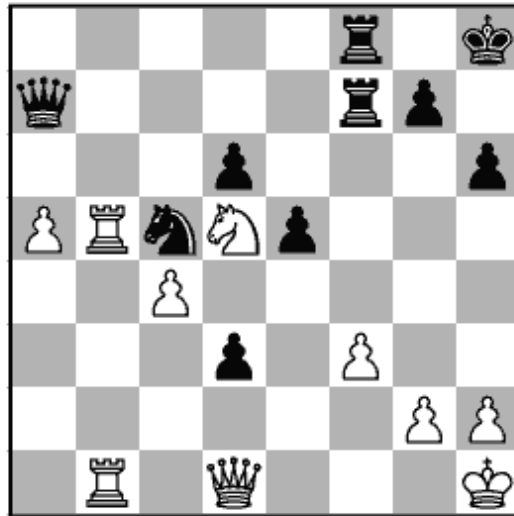
787) Black to play

[solution](#)



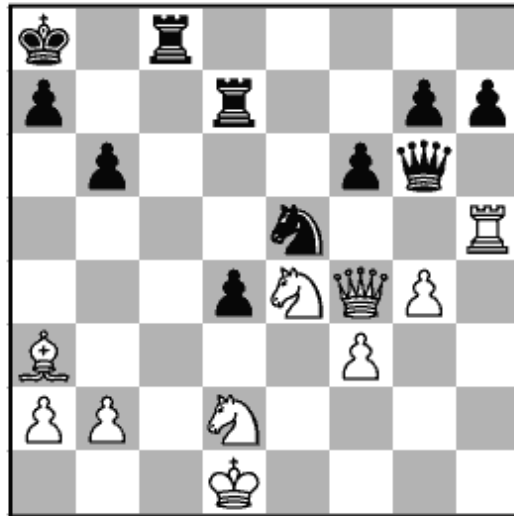
788) White to play

[solution](#)



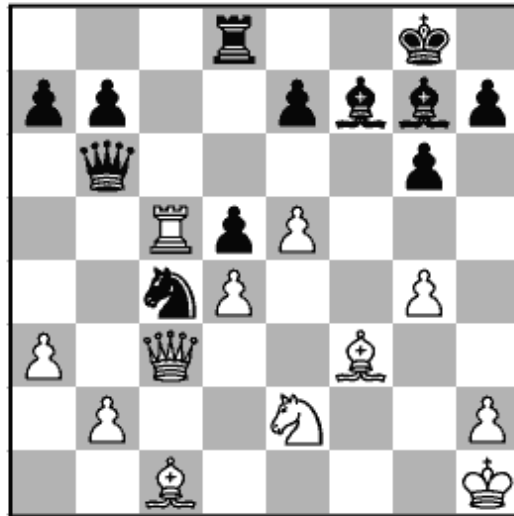
789) Black to play

[solution](#)



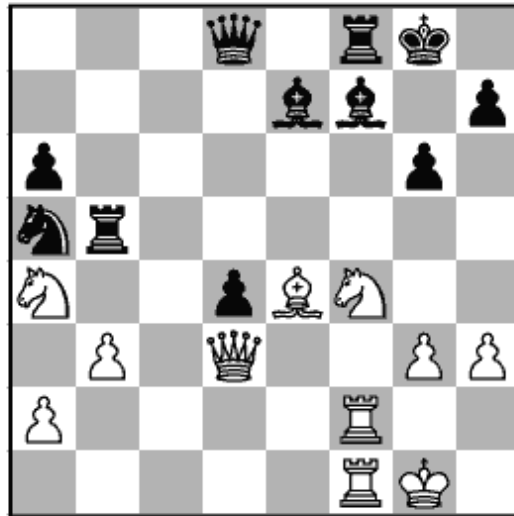
790) Black to play

[solution](#)



791) Black to play

[solution](#)



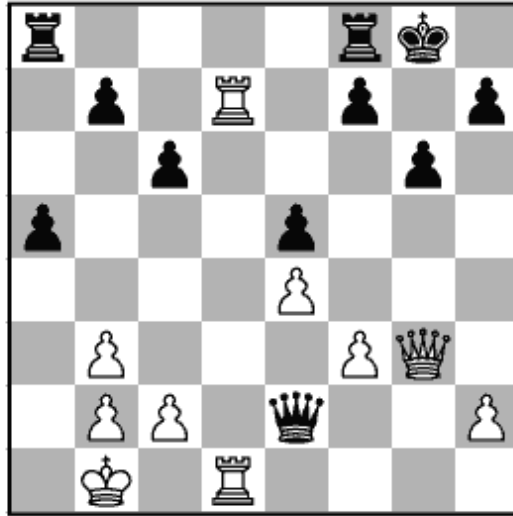
792) White to play

[solution](#)



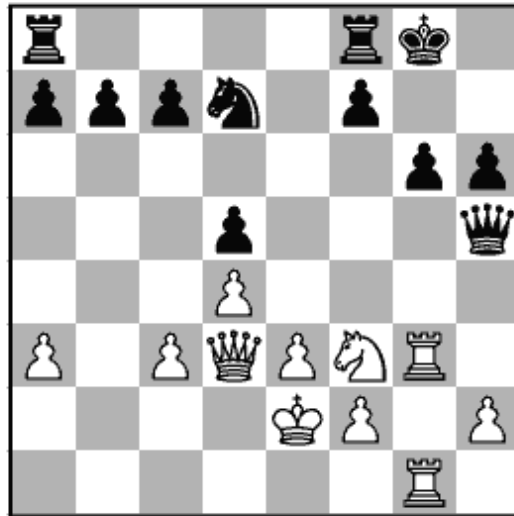
793) Black to play

[solution](#)



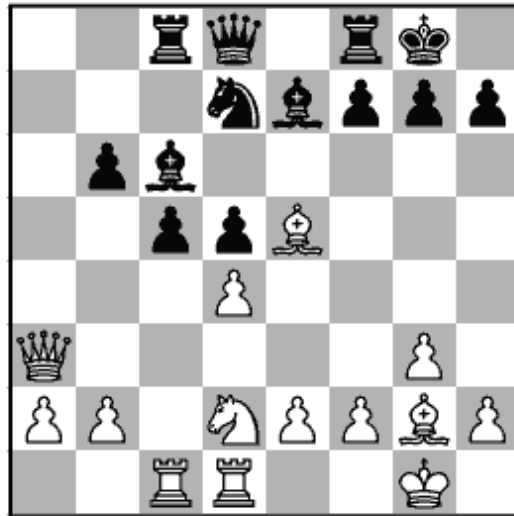
794) White to play

[solution](#)



795) White to play

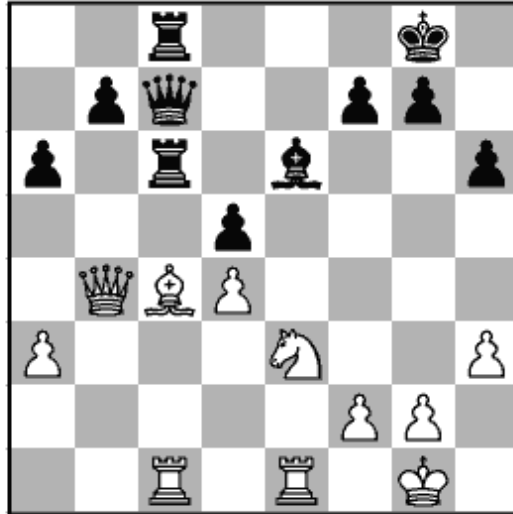
[solution](#)



796) Black to play

[solution](#)

Solutions for Forks, Pins and Loose Pieces Puzzles



Black to play

641) Dvirnyy – Martinez Ramirez
Malaga 2022

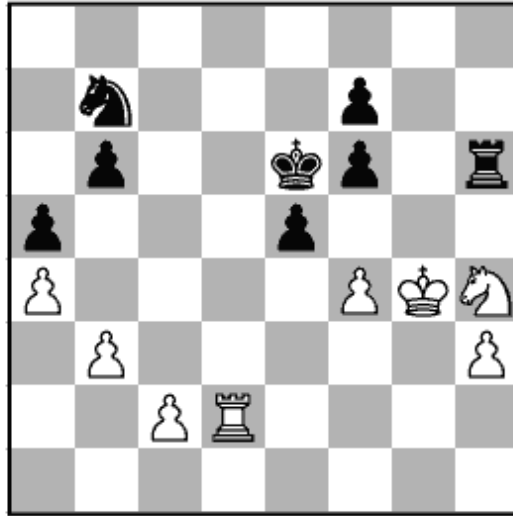
29...b5!

It's always a good idea to pause and look carefully before playing an 'automatic' recapture – sometimes there is a stronger option!

30 Rc2 bxc4 –+

Black has a clear extra pawn.

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Black to play

642) Bulmaga – Mkrtchian

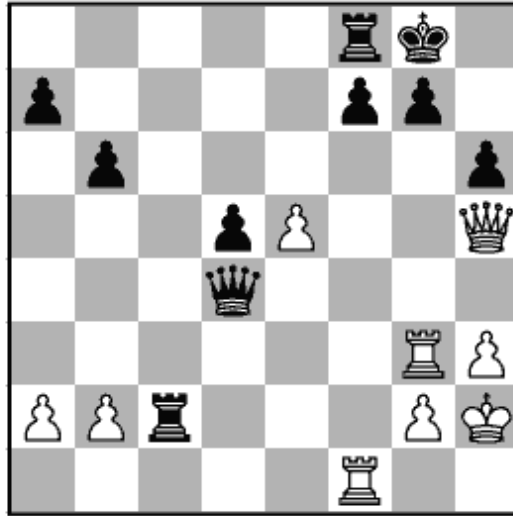
Serbian Women's Team Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2022

30...f5+! 31 Kg5

31 Nxf5 Rg6+ 32 Kf3 Kxf5 –+.

31...Rh8 32 fxe5 Nc5 33 Nf3 Ne4+ 34 Kf4 Nxd2 35 Nxd2 Rxh3 –+

[back](#)



White to play

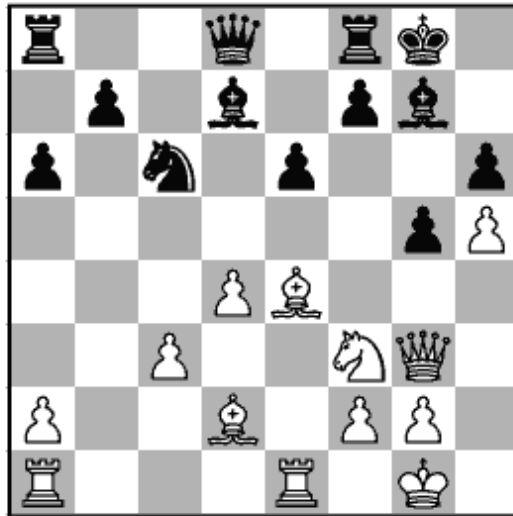
643) Xu Xiangyu – Liu Yan

Chinese Ch, Xinghua 2022

31 Rf6! 1-0

31...Qe4 32 Rxc7+ Kxc7 33 Qxh6+ Kg8 34 Qg5+ Kh8 35 Rh6+ Qh7 36 Rxc7+ Kxc7 37 Qf5+ +—.

[back](#)



White to play

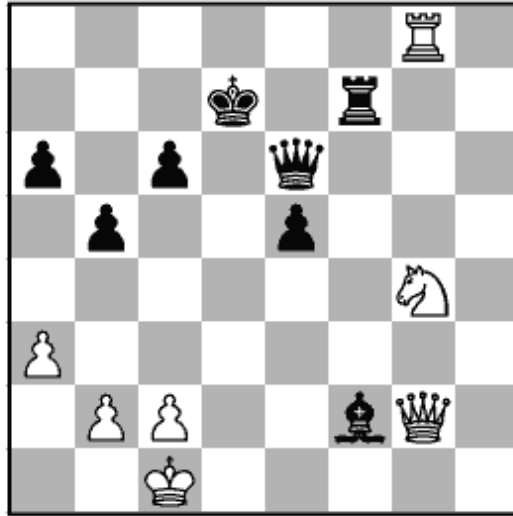
644) Safarli – F. Meissner
Tegernsee 2022

21 Nxc5! hxc5 22 Bxc5 f6 23 Bf4 Ne7

Black's dark-squared bishop is trapped after 23...Kh8 24 h6 +–.

24 h6 +–

[back](#)



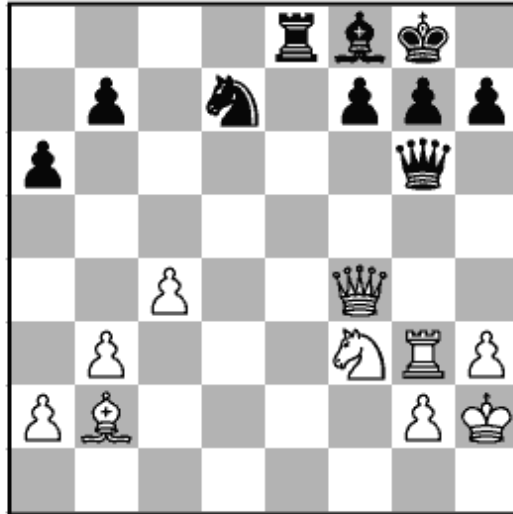
White to play

645) Kurmann – Pelletier
Swiss Team Ch 2022

33 Rg6! 1-0

33...Qf5 (33...Qxg6 34 Nxe5+ +—) 34 Qxc6+ Kd8 35 Nxe5 Qxe5 36 Rg8+ Ke7 37 Re8#.

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Black to play

646) Zajić – M. Pap

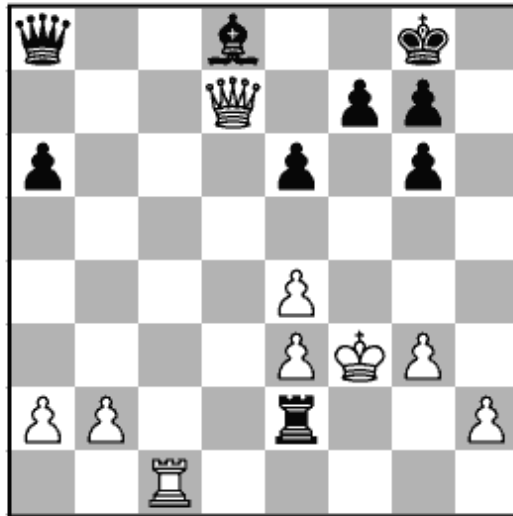
Pirot 2022

33...Bd6! 34 Be5

The h2-b8 diagonal is also fatal for White after 34 Ne5 Nxe5 35 Rxg6 Nf3+ 36 Kh1 (36 gxf3 Bxf4+ –+) 36...Re1#.

34...Nxe5 35 Nd4 Nc6 0-1

[back](#)



Black to play

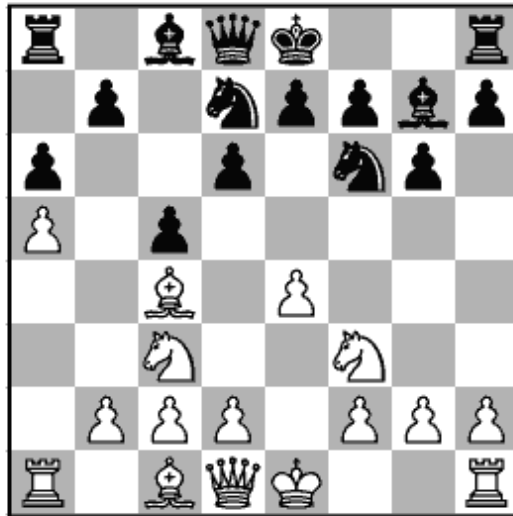
647) M. Volkov – Yeletsy
Khanty-Mansiisk 2022

31...Rxe3+! 32 Kf2

32 Kxe3 Bg5+ 33 Kd3 Bxc1 –+.

32...Bb6 33 Rc8+ Kh7 34 Rxa8 Rd3+ 35 Ke2 Rxd7 –+

[back](#)



White to play

648) Tabatabaei – E. Can

Internet rapid 2022

8 Bxf7+!

The bishop sacrifice on f7 must always be examined when there is a white bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal and a black knight on d7. A number of players have fallen victim to the idea in this exact position, and a great many more in similar situations.

8...Kxf7

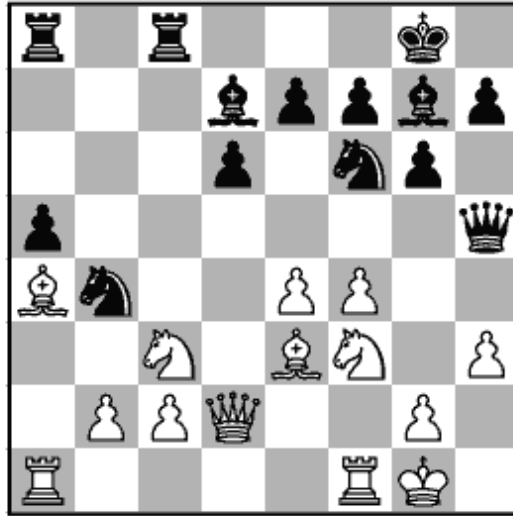
White has a clear extra pawn after 8...Kf8 9 Bb3 +–.

9 Ng5+ Kg8 10 Ne6 Qe8 11 Nc7 Qf7

The white pawn on a5 ensures that the knight can escape from the corner after 11...Qd8 12 Nxa8 +–.

12 Nxa8 +–

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White to play

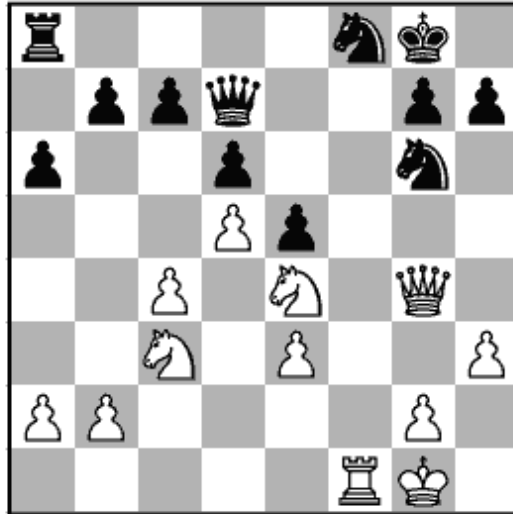
649) Amonatov – Zubarev
Sharjah rapid 2022

17 e5!

Both players must always analyse this pawn-break in Sicilian Dragon pawn-structures; here White wins a piece.

17...dxe5 18 fxe5 Bxa4 19 exf6 Rd8 20 Qf2 Bb5 21 Nxb5 1-0

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White to play

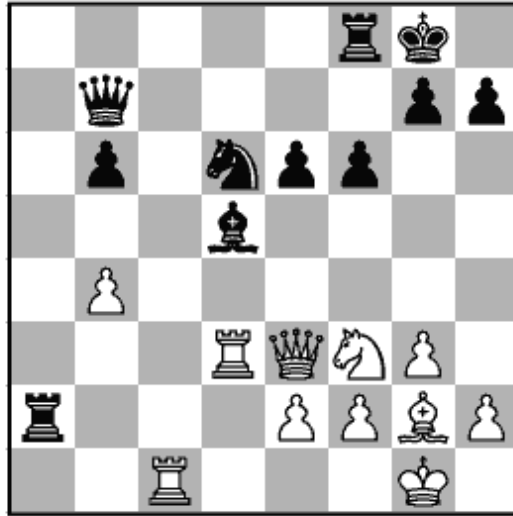
650) Asadli – Manafov

Azerbaijani Rapid Ch, Baku 2022

21 Rxf8+! 1-0

Black loses his queen after either 21...Rxf8 22 Qxd7 +– or 21...Nxf8 22 Nf6+ Kf7 23 Nxd7 +–.

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White to play

651) Secheres – T. Anton
Romanian Rapid Team Ch 2022

26 Nd4!

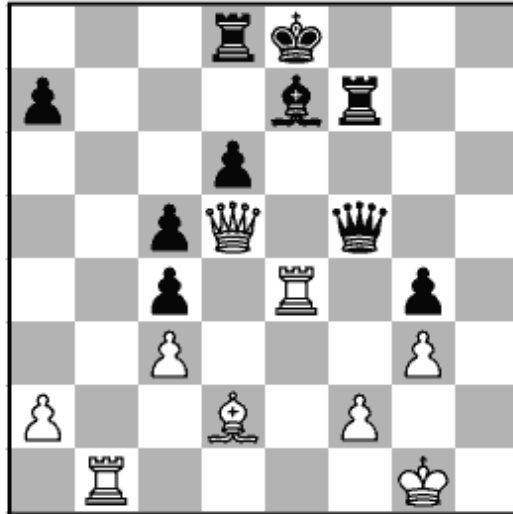
After 26 Bh3? (as played in the game) Black stabilized his position with 26...Re8 =.

26...Nc4

26...Bxg2 27 Qxe6+ Qf7 (27...Kh8 28 Qxa2 +—) 28 Kxg2 +—.

27 Rxc4 Ra1+ 28 Rc1 Rxc1+ 29 Qxc1 Bxg2 30 Nxe6 Bh3 31 Nf4
+—

[back](#)



White to play

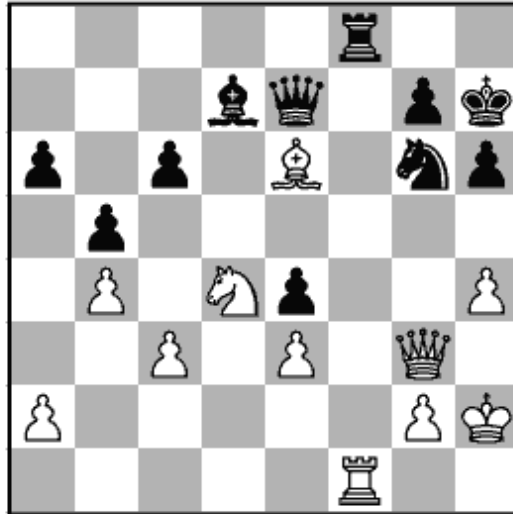
652) Votava – Bureš
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

31 Rxe7+! Kxe7 32 Bg5+ Kd7

32...Kf8 33 Qxf5 Rxf5 34 Bxd8 +—.

33 Rb7+ Ke8 34 Qxf7+ Qxf7 35 Rxf7 Kxf7 36 Bxd8 +—

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White to play

653) Vaishali – Melå
Stavanger 2023

27 h5! Rxf1

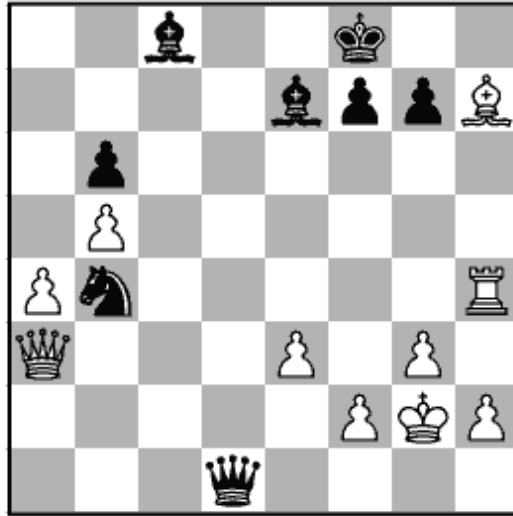
Black's knight has nowhere to go; for example, 27...Nh8 28 Rxf8 +– or, as in the game, 27...Nf4 28 Rxf4 1-0.

28 hxg6+ Kh8 29 Bxd7 Rf8

Black's weak back rank is fatal after 29...Qxd7 30 Qb8+ followed by mate.

30 Bxc6 +–

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White to play

654) Fus – H. Stefansson
European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

41 Bc2!

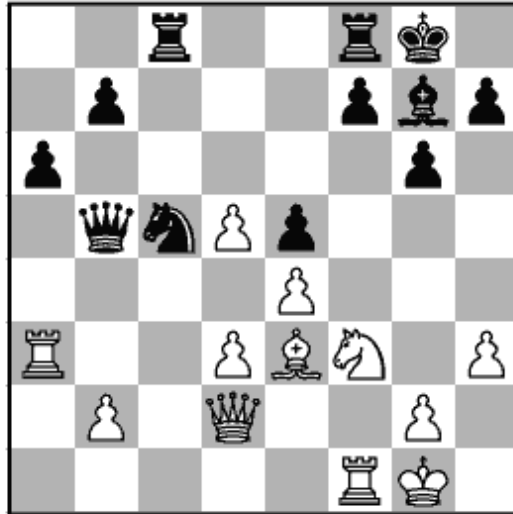
This bishop retreat threatens 42 Rh8#. After 41 Rd4?? (as played in the game) Black's two minor pieces are stronger than the white rook. His most convincing path would have been 41...Bb7+ 42 Be4 (42 Kh3 Qh5+ 43 Rh4 Bxh4 –+) 42...Bxe4+ 43 Rxe4 Qd5 44 f3 Qd2+ 45 Kh3 Bc5 –+.

41...Bb7+

41...Qd5+ 42 e4 +–.

42 e4 Bxe4+ 43 Rxe4 Qxc2 44 Rxe7 Kxe7 45 Qxb4+ +–

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White to play

655) Maltsevskaia – Oleksienko
European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

22 b4! Nxe4

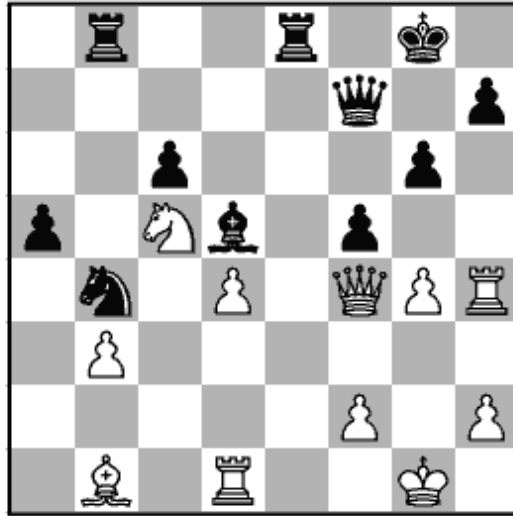
Black's queen is suddenly short of squares after 22...Nd7 23 Ra5 +– or 22...Na4 23 Rfa1 Nb6 24 Ra5 +–.

23 dxe4 Rc4 24 Ra5 Qxb4

24...Qd7 25 d6 +–.

25 Qxb4 Rxb4 26 Bc5 1-0

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Black to play

656) Georgiadis – M. Krämer
Swiss Team Ch 2022

38...Qe7! 0-1

Black is threatening 39...Qe1+ followed by mate and the white rook is loose on h4.

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Black to play

657) S. Royal – Pacher
Budapest 2022

14...Rxe4! 15 fxe4

15 Ne3? Rd4 16 Qe2 Nbd7 –+ is highly unpleasant for White as he cannot complete his development.

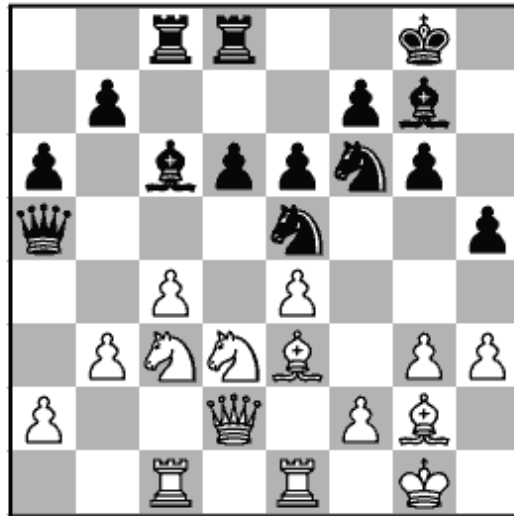
15...Nxe4+ 16 Nxe4 Bxd2 17 Ncxd2?!

17 Nexd2 Qh4+ 18 g3 Qd4+ 19 Kg2 Qxd5+ 20 Kg1 gives White better chances of salvaging a draw as his pieces will be better organized here.

17...Bxd5 –/+

Black has good chances to win due to White's exposed king.

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Black to play

658) Rustemov – Sadhwani

Internet rapid 2022

20...Nxe4! 21 Nxe4

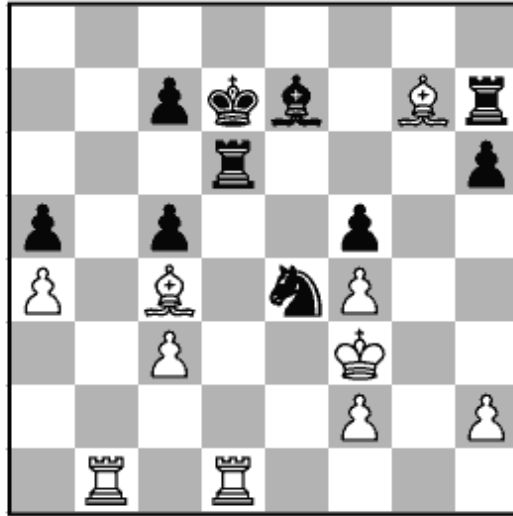
Black has an extra pawn and the bishop-pair after 21 Bxe4 Bxe4
22 Nxe5 dxe5 –+.

21...Qxd2 22 Nxe5

22 Bxd2 Nxd3 –+.

22...Qxa2 –+

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White to play

659) Sevan – Aronian

Internet rapid 2022

31 Be5! Nd2+

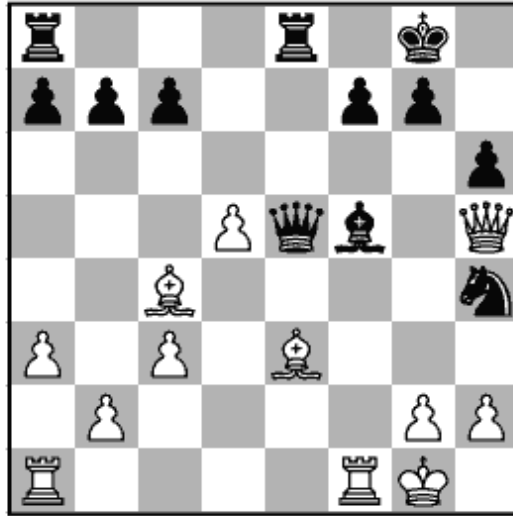
Now we shall see the pretty idea behind White's last move.

Instead 31...h5 loses to 32 Bd3 Kc8 33 Bxe4 fxe4+ 34 Kxe4 +–, while exchanging a pair of rooks with 31...Rxd1 32 Rxd1+ Bd6 33 Bd5 Re7 34 Bxe4 fxe4+ 35 Kxe4 +– gives White a winning endgame due to his passed f-pawns.

32 Rxd2 Rxd2 33 Bg8! 1-0

The black rook is trapped.

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White to play

660) Lugovskoy – A. Rychagov

Alushta rapid 2022

19 Bf2! Nxcg2

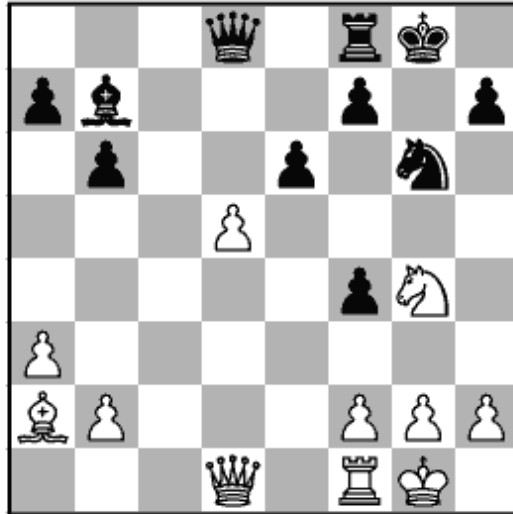
19...Qd6 20 Bd4 +-.

20 Bd4!

Black has too many loose pieces. White must avoid 20 Kxg2??
Be4+ 21 Kg1 Qxh5 –+.

**20...Nf4 21 Bxe5 Nxe5 22 Rxf5 g6 23 Rxe5 gxf5 24 Bxc7 Re4
25 Bd3 Rg4+ 26 Kf2 1-0**

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Black to play

661) Jumabayev – So

Internet rapid 2022

21...h5!

The white knight has no safe square.

22 Nh6+ Kg7 23 Qxh5 Rh8 24 Nxf7 Kxf7 25 dxe6+ Kf6 26 Qb5

An earlier game, Bareev-Adams, Frankfurt rapid 2000, featured 26 Qg4 Rh4, forcing a won endgame for Black.

26...Ne5 –+

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Black to play

662) Vidit – Popilski

Internet rapid 2022

11...Nec5! 12 dxc5 Nxc5 13 Qc3 Nxd3

Black has a lead in development to go along with his extra pawn.

14 Rd1

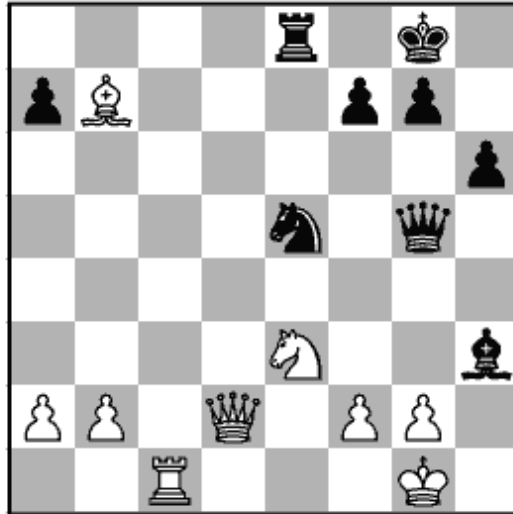
14 Re2 d4! 15 Nxd4 Be5 16 Rxe5 Nxe5 –+.

14...dxc4 15 Qxc4 Bc5 16 Nc3

16 Rf1 Qb6 –+.

16...Bxf2+ 17 Kf1 Bb6 –+

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Black to play

663) A. Sorokin – Fedoseev
Internet rapid 2022

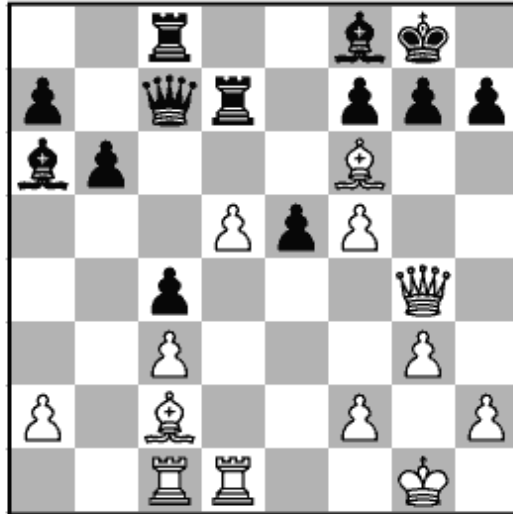
25...Bxg2! 26 f4

26 Bxg2 Nf3+ –+.

26...Bxb7+ 0-1

27 fxg5 Nf3+ 28 Kf2 Nxd2 –+.

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Black to play

664) Melkumyan – Nasuta

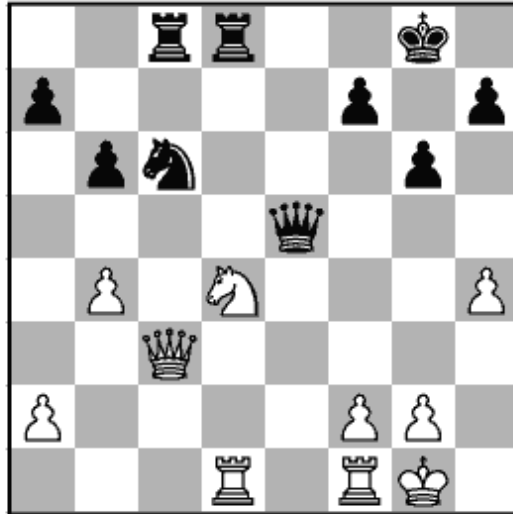
Internet rapid 2022

27...h5! 28 Qg5

28 Qxh5 gxf6 –+.

28...Qd6! 29 Bxg7 Bxg7 30 Qxh5 Rcd8 -+

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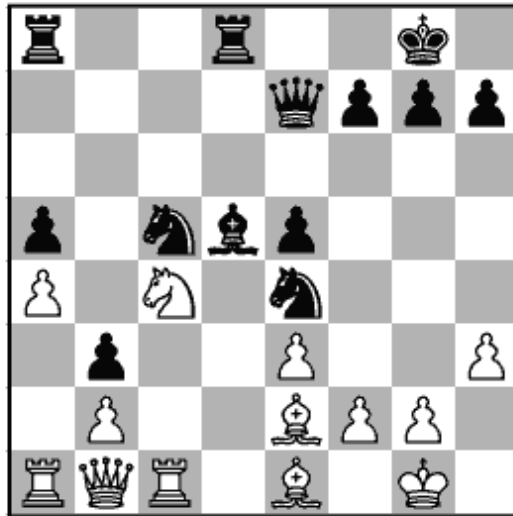


White to play

665) Kuzubov – R. Pereira
Portuguese Team Ch 2022

24 Qxc6! Rxc6 25 Nxc6 Qe6 26 Nxd8 Qxa2 27 Rd7 +-

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Black to play

666) J. Williams – Nyzhnyk
Saint Louis 2022

25...Ng3! 26 fxc3

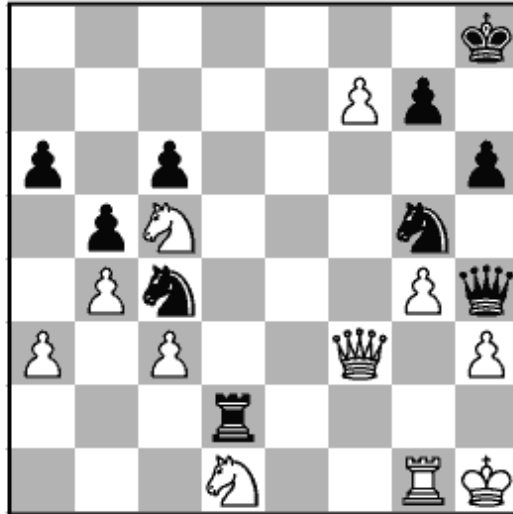
26 Bd3 Nxd3 27 Qxd3 e4 –+.

26...Be4

An unusual way to trap the queen.

27 Qxe4 Nxe4 –+

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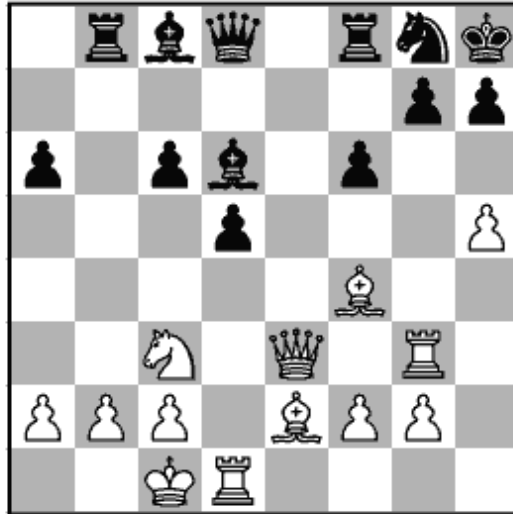
Black to play

667) A. Turgut – Ippolito

Charlotte 2022

**44...Rh2+! 45 Kxh2 Nxf3+ 46 Kg2 Qf6 47 Rf1 Ncd2 48 Rf2 Qxf7
-+**

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White to play

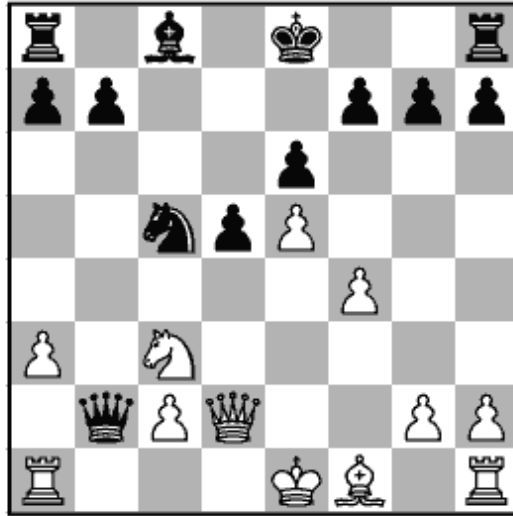
668) Grieve – Gormally
British Ch, Torquay 2022

18 Rxc7! Re8

Or: 18...Bxf4 19 Qxf4 Kxc7 20 Qxb8 +–; 18...Kxc7 19 Qg3+ Kh8 20 Bxd6 Ra8 21 Bxf8 Qxf8 22 Qc7 +–.

19 Qg3 Bxf4+ 20 Qxf4 Qb6 21 h6 Qxb2+ 22 Kd2 Rb4 23 Bd3 1-0
 23...Rb7 24 Rb1 +–.

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White to play

669) Maghsoodloo – Sychev
Turkish Team Ch, Ankara 2022

13 Bb5+ Bd7 14 Ra2!

Both players need to consider this move whenever Black captures a pawn on b2.

14...Qxb5 15 Nxb5 Bxb5 16 Qb4 Bc4 17 Qxc5 Bxa2 18 g4 +-

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White to play

670) Ya. Quesada Perez – Kosakowski

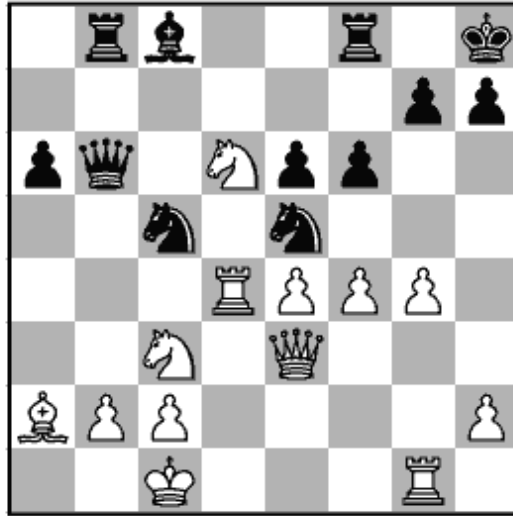
Maia 2022

20 Nxf7! Rxf7 21 Rxe6 Qf8 22 Rxf6! gxf6 23 Bxf7+ Qxf7

Black's loose bishop on c5 also drops off after 23...Kxf7 24 Qh5+ Kg8 25 Qxc5 +–.

24 Bxc5 Qd5 25 Bd4 +–

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Black to play

671) S. Grover – S.P. Sethuraman
Dubai 2022

23...Ncd3+! 24 Kd1

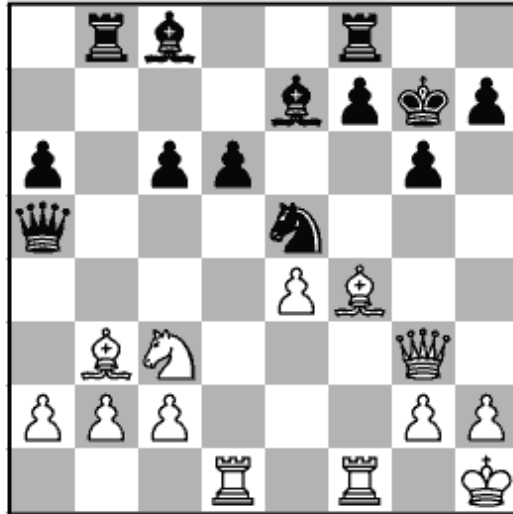
Other moves demonstrate the looseness of White's position: 24 cxd3 Qxb2+ 25 Kd1 Qxc3 26 fxe5 Qa1+ 27 Ke2 Qxa2+ –+, 24 Rxd3 Nxd3+ 25 Qxd3 Qxg1+ –+ or 24 Kd2 Nxf4 –+.

24...Nxf4 25 g5

25 Rg3 Nxf4! 26 Rxf4 e5 27 Nxc8 Rfxc8 –+.

25...Nf3 –+

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White to play

672) Piorun – Kempinski
Polish Team Ch 2022

19 Nd5!

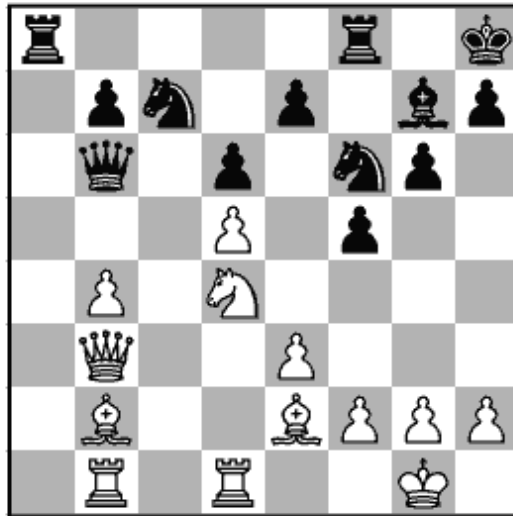
The knight leap cuts off the black queen from defending the knight on the e5-square.

19...Rb7

19...cxd5 20 Bxe5+ f6 (20...dxe5 21 Qxe5+ +–) 21 Bxd6 Rb7 22 exd5 +–.

20 Nxe7 Rxe7 21 Qh4 1-0

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White to play

673) Kazhgaleyev – Gareyev
Tashkent 2022

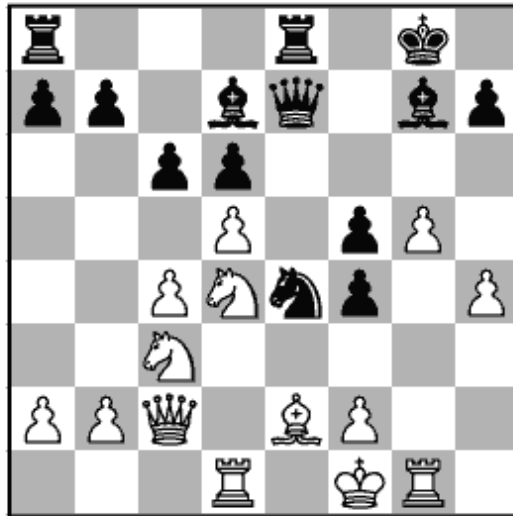
21 Nxf5! e5

21...gxf5 22 Bd4 +- traps the black queen.

22 dxe6! gxf5 23 Bd4 Qc6 24 Rdc1 1-0

24...Qd5 25 Rxc7 Qxb3 26 Rxb3 +-.

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Black to play

674) Suarez Gomez – Naiditsch
Spanish Team Ch 2022

20...Nxf2!

Black exploits White's missing dark-squared bishop.

21 Kxf2 Bxd4+ 22 Kg2

22 Rxd4 Qe3+ 23 Kg2 Qxd4 –+.

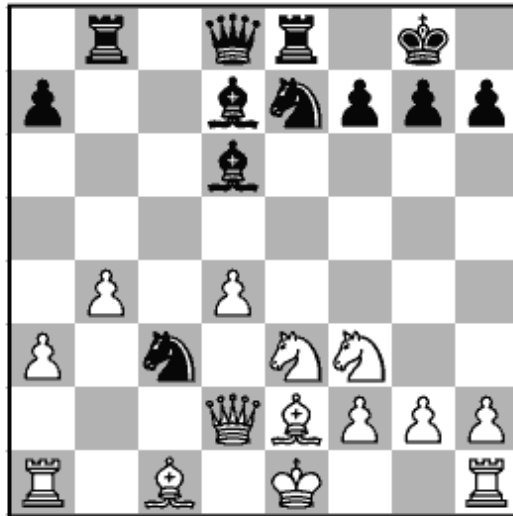
22...Bxc3 23 Bh5 f3+ 24 Kxf3

24 Bxf3 Bg7 –+.

24...Qe3+ 25 Kg2 Be5 26 Bxe8 Qg3+ 0-1

27 Kf1 Qf3+ 28 Ke1 Rxe8 followed by mate.

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Black to play

675) Kožul – Shevchenko
Croatian Team Ch 2022

17...Nxe2! 18 Qxe2 Bb5 19 Qd2 Nd5

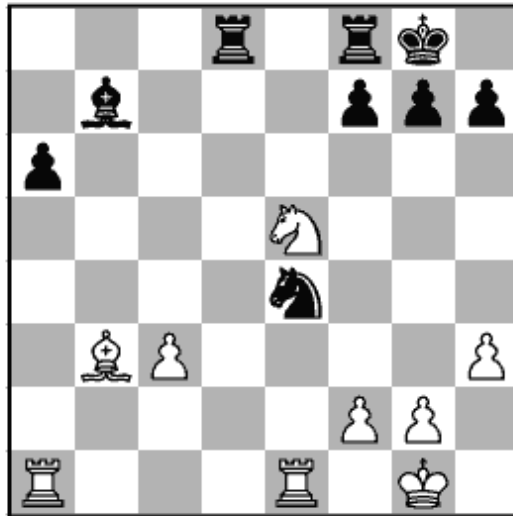
White has two extra pawns, but his king is trapped in the centre.

20 g3

20 Bb2 Rc8 21 Rc1 Nf4 –+.

20...Qf6 21 Ne5 Bxe5 22 dxe5 Qf3 23 Rg1 Rbd8 0-1

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White to play

676) Bo. Maksimović – Saraçi
Croatian Team Ch 2022

22 Nxf7! Rxf7 23 Rad1 Rf8

Black's loose bishop on b7 costs him the game after 23...Rxd1 24 Rxd1 Kf8 25 Bxf7 Kxf7 26 Rd7+ Kf6 27 Rxb7 +–.

24 Rd7 Ba8 25 Red1!

The game ended 25 Rxf7? Rxf7 26 Rd1 1-0, but Black should have played on: 26...Kf8! 27 Bxf7 (27 Rd8+ Ke7 28 Rxa8 Rxf2 29 Rxa6 Rb2 30 Re6+ Kf7 31 Rxe4+ Rxb3 =) 27...Kxf7 28 Rd7+ Kf6 29 Ra7 Bd5 30 Rxa6+ Be6 +=.

25...Ng5 26 h4 Bc6 27 hxg5 Bxd7 28 Rxd7 a5 29 Ra7 g6 30 Rxa5 +–

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Black to play

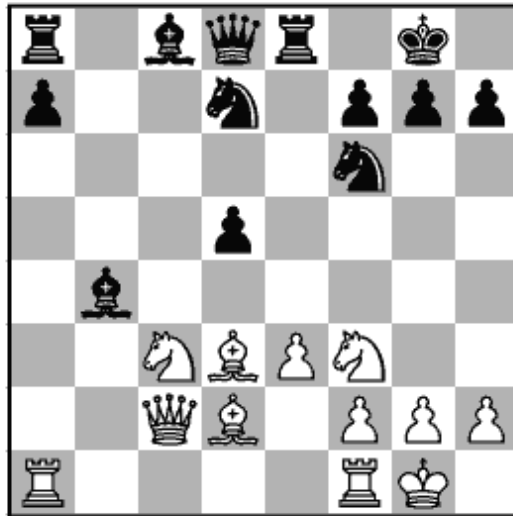
677) Sertić – N. Cabarkapa
Croatian Team Ch 2022

10...Nxc2! 11 g4

11 Bd3 cxd4 12 exd4 (12 Bxf5 dxc3 13 Qxc2 gxf5 –+) 12...Nxd4 –
 +.

11...Na1! 0-1

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White to play

678) Naer – Iliushenok

Poikovsky 2022

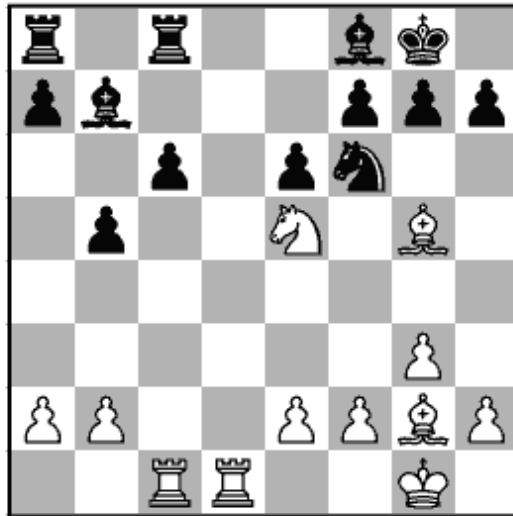
15 Nb5! Bxd2 16 Nc7! Bxe3

After 16...Ba5 17 Rxa5 Rf8 18 Nd4 +/- White wins material as 18...Rb8? 19 Nc6! Qxc7 20 Ne7+ costs Black his queen.

17 fxe3 Rb8 18 Nxe8 Qxe8 19 Kh1 +/-

White has a material advantage and good chances to win.

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White to play

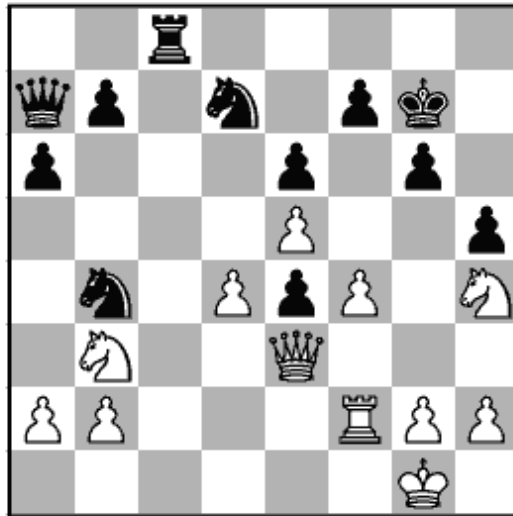
679) Ki. Georgiev – Stoyanov
Plovdiv 2022

19 Bxf6 gxf6 20 Nxf7! Kxf7

20...Rab8 21 Nd6 Bxd6 22 Rxd6 c5 23 Rxe6 +/-.

21 Rd7+ Kg6 22 Rxb7 +-

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White to play

680) M. Petrov – Rusev
Plovdiv 2022

28 f5! Nxe5

28...Nf8 29 fxg6 fxg6 30 Nc5 +—.

29 fxe6 f5

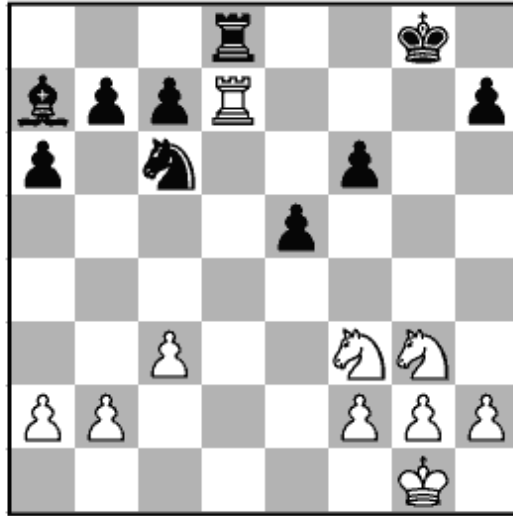
29...Nbd3 30 Qg5 fxe6 31 Qe7+ Kh8 32 Qxe6 +—.

30 Nxf5+ Kg8

30...gxf5 31 Rxf5 +—.

31 Ne7+ 1-0

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White to play

681) Rapport – Mamedyarov

Internet rapid 2022

22 Nh5!

22 Ne4! Rxd7 23 Nxf6+ comes to the same thing.

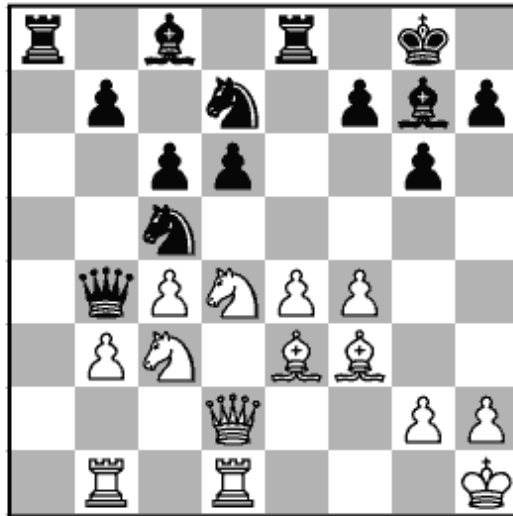
22...Rxd7 23 Nxf6+ Kf7 24 Nxd7 e4

After 24...Ke6? White wins a second pawn by 25 Nf8+ Kf5 26 Nxh7 Kg6 27 Nhg5 Kf5 28 h4 +–.

25 Nde5+ Nxe5 26 Nxe5+ Ke6 27 Nc4 +–

White has a clear extra pawn.

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White to play

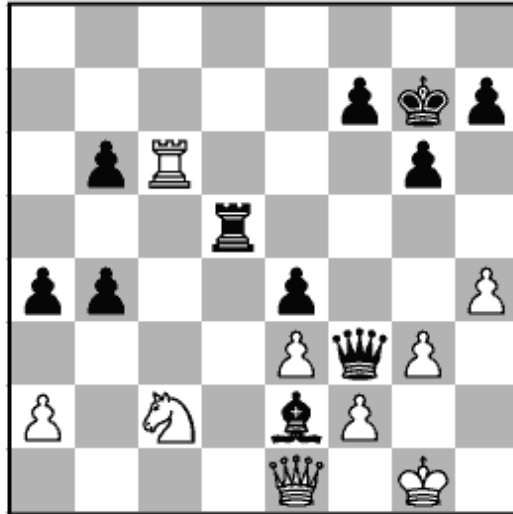
682) Lenderman – Mikaelian
Saint Louis 2022

22 e5! dxe5 23 Nc2 Qb6

Black's queen is in an uncomfortable position; for example,
 23...Nxb3 24 Qxd7 Qf8 25 Qc7 Bf5 26 Ne4 +/- with a piece for two
 pawns and good chances to win.

24 b4 exf4 25 Bxc5 Nxc5 26 bxc5 Qxc5 27 Ne4 Qf8 28 Nd6 +–

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White to play

683) B. Jacobson – Harutyunyan
Saint Louis 2022

39 Nd4! Rxd4 40 Qa1!

40 exd4?? b5 –+.

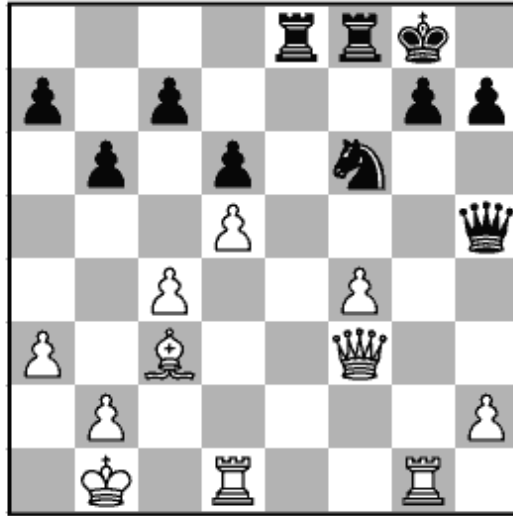
40...Qf6!

The best try. In the game, White soon won after 40...Kh6? 41 Qxd4 +-.

41 Rxf6 Rd1+ 42 Qxd1 Bxd1 43 Rxb6 b3 44 axb3 axb3 45 Rb4

White should win this endgame, but accurate play will be needed in view of Black's advanced b-pawn.

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White to play

684) Sieciechowicz – Teclaf
Trzcianka rapid 2022

23 Rxg7+! 1-0

After 23...Kh8 (23...Kxg7 24 Qxh5 +–) 24 Qxh5 Nxh5 White has a choice of ways to win a rook, including 25 Rg6+ +–.

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White to play

685) J. Williams – C. Cruz

Charlotte 2022

20 Nxf5

20 Nxf5 gxf5 21 Nxf5 comes to the same thing.

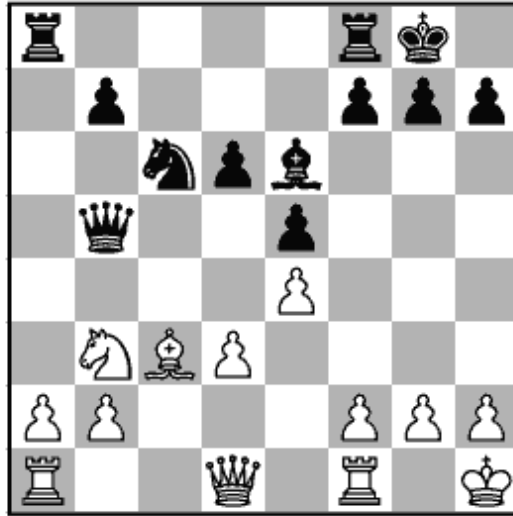
20...gxf5 21 Nxf5 Qf6 22 Bxe4 Rd7

22...Rad8 23 Bxd3 Rxd3 24 Nh4 +– gives White a clear extra pawn.

23 Nh6+ 1-0

23...Kh8 24 Ng4 Qe6 25 Bxc6 Qxc6 26 Nxe5 Qe6 27 Nxd7 Qxd7 28 Qf4 +–.

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Black to play

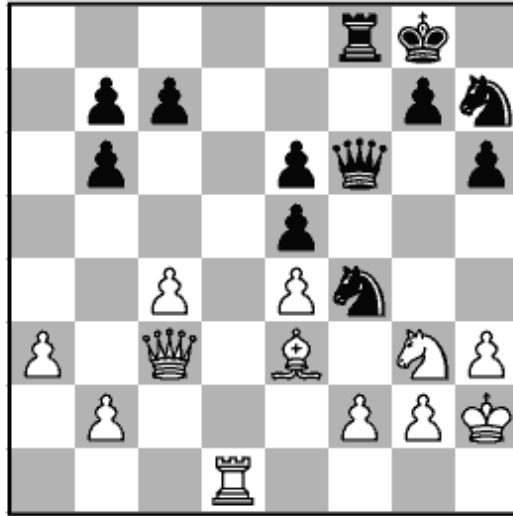
686) Nijboer – Safarli

Sant Boi 2022

19...Rxa2! 20 Rxa2 Bxb3 21 Qb1 Bxa2 22 Qxa2 Qxd3 –/+

Black has an extra pawn and good chances to win.

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Black to play

687) Sanal – Pranav
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

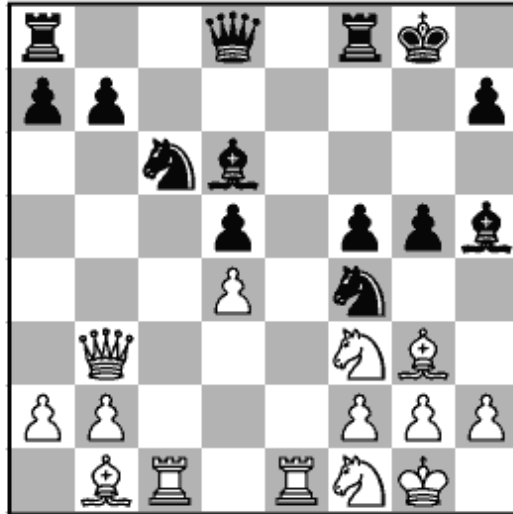
22...Nxg2! 23 Nh5

In the game 23 Kxg2 Qf3+ 24 Kh2 Qxd1 –+ gave Black a decisive material advantage.

23...Qf7 24 Rg1 Qxh5 25 Rxg2 Rf3 26 Rg3 Ng5 27 Rxf3 Qxf3 28 Bxg5 Qxf2+ 29 Kh1 Qf1+ 30 Kh2 hxg5 –+

Black has a winning queen and pawn endgame.

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Black to play

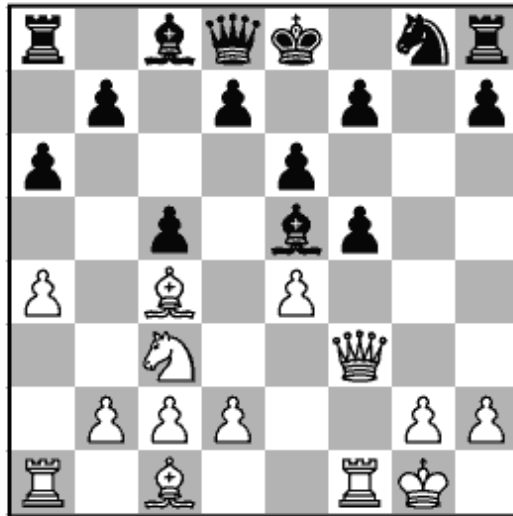
688) Kaliksteyn – Kantor

New York 2023

19...Bxf3! 20 Qxf3 Nxd4 21 Qd1 Nde2+ 22 Rxe2 Nxe2+ 23 Qxe2 f4 24 Qh5 Rf7 –/+

Black will capture White's dark-squared bishop, with good chances to win.

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Black to play

689) Carrasco Martinez – Fernandez Guillen
Seville 2023

10...d5!

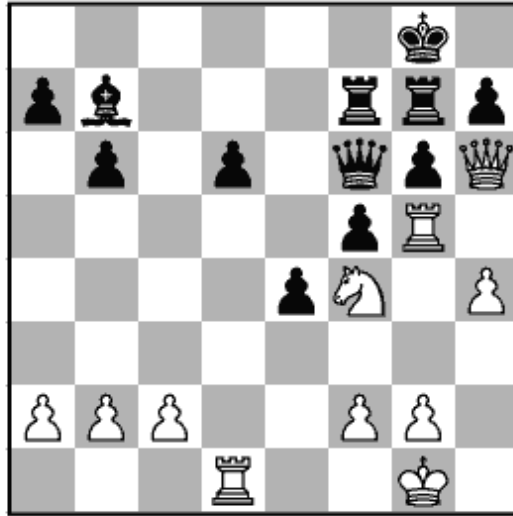
This idea works because the bishop is loose on c4.

11 Bxd5

White loses his light-squared bishop after 11 exd5 Qh4 12 h3 Qxc4
 –+.

11...exd5 12 exf5 Qh4 13 g3 Qd4+ 14 Kg2 Ne7 –+

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White to play

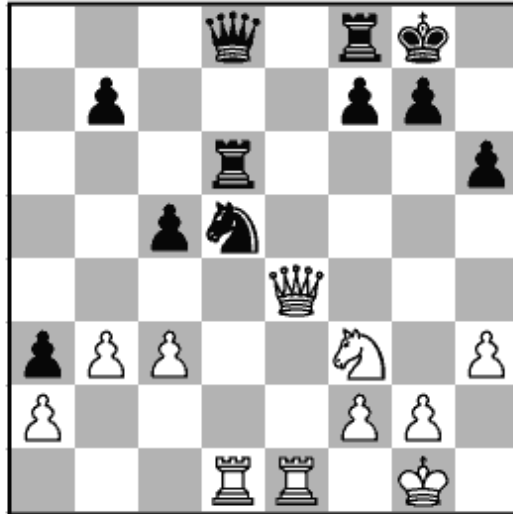
690) Naroditsky – Ippolito
Charlotte 2023

27 h5! gxh5

27...Rf8 28 hxg6 hxg6 29 Nxg6 +—.

28 Qxf6 Rxf6 29 Rxc7+ Kxc7 30 Nxh5+ 1-0

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White to play

691) Krassowizkij – Adams

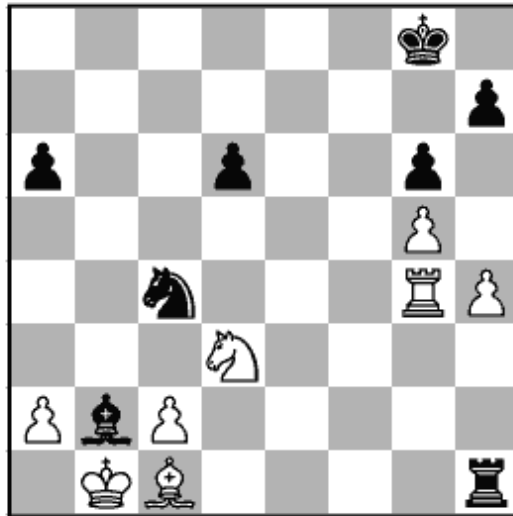
Bundesliga 2022/3

24 Qd3!

Black cannot prevent White from winning a piece with the pawn advance c4.

24...Qf6 25 c4 Rfd8 26 cxd5 Rxd5 27 Re8+ Rxe8 28 Qxd5 +–

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Black to play

692) Hjartarson – Domalchuk-Jonasson
Icelandic Ch, Hafnarfjörður 2023

38...Ne5!

An unusual example of a knight forking another knight.

39 Nxe5 Bxc1 40 Nf3 Bxg5+ 41 Kb2 Bc1+

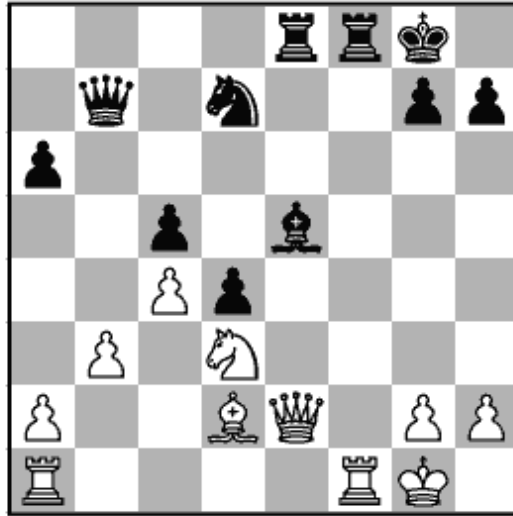
Black is a pawn up with a winning position.

42 Kb1

Black wins the pinned knight after 42 Kb3 Rh3 –+.

42...Ba3+ 43 Rg1 Rxg1+ 44 Nxg1 Kg7 45 Ne2 Kf6 0-1

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White to play

693) Haba – Sahidi
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

22 Rxf8+ Kxf8 23 Rf1+ Kg8

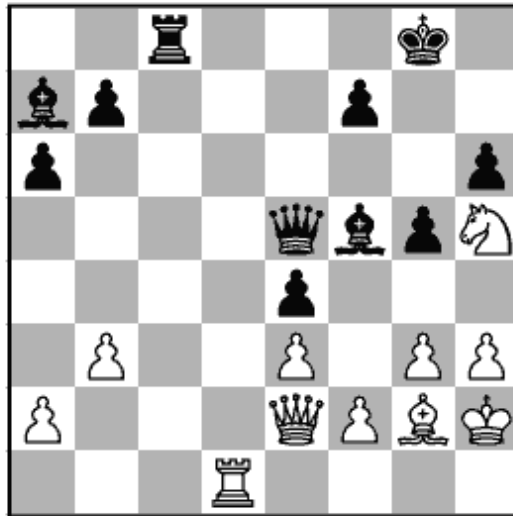
23...Bf6 24 Qh5 +—.

24 Bf4

Black is stuck in a fatal pin along the e-file.

24...Qc7 25 Re1 Qa5 26 Bxe5 Qc3 27 Qe4 +—

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White to play

694) Kramnik – A. Nesterov

Internet rapid 2023

27 Rd5! Qe6

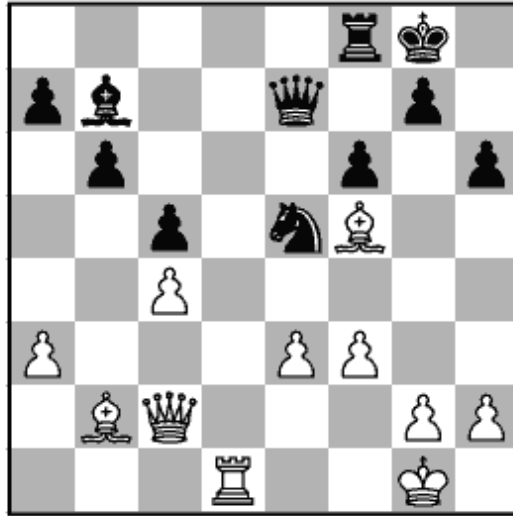
27...Qxd5 28 Nf6+ Kg7 29 Nxd5 +–.

28 Qb2 f6

Or: 28...Kf8 29 Qg7+ Ke7 30 Re5 +–; 28...Qg6 29 g4 Bb8+ 30 Kg1 Be6 31 Bxe4 Bxd5 32 Bxg6 Be5 33 Qd2 +–.

29 Qxf6 1-0

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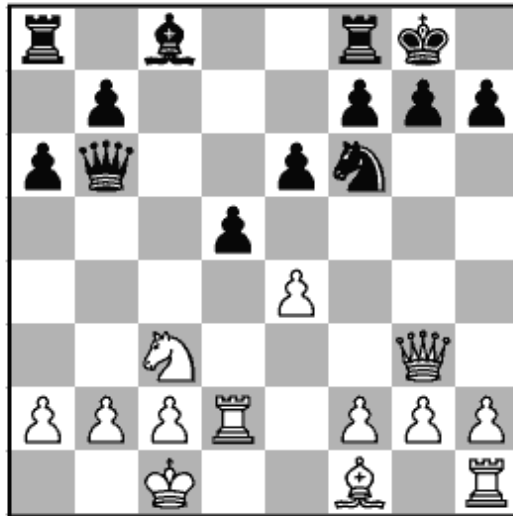
Black to play

695) Di. Wagner – Zhu Jiner

Munich (women) 2023

**24...Nxf3+! 25 gxf3 Qxe3+ 26 Qf2 Qg5+ 27 Bg4 h5 28 Qd2 Qg6
29 Qd3 f5 –+**

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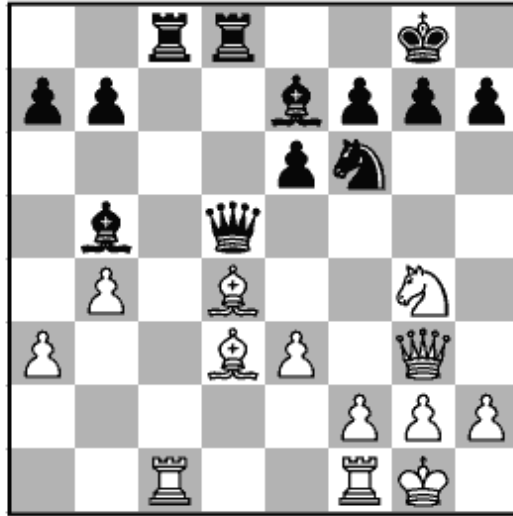


Black to play

696) Agopov – Souleidis
2nd Bundesliga 2022/3

15...d4! 16 Na4 Qa5 17 Rxd4 e5 18 Qg5 b6 0-1
White loses a piece.

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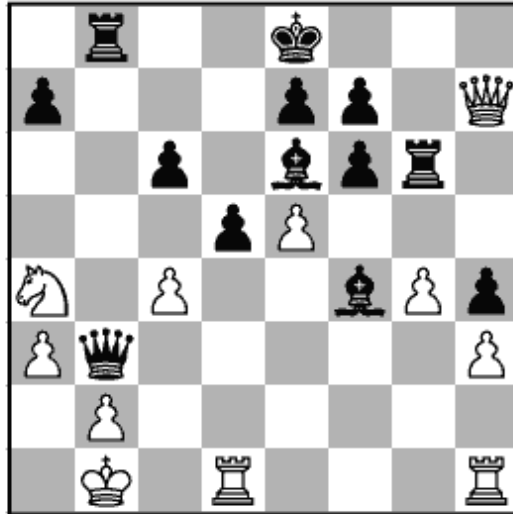
Black to play

697) Danielson – Kjartansson
Icelandic Ch, Hafnarfjörður 2023

22...Nh5! 0-1

Black wins the loose piece after 23 Qh3 Bxd3 –+.

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White to play

698) Kantans – Warakomski (variation)
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

23 Qh8+ Kd7 24 Nc5+ Kc7 25 Na6+ Kd7

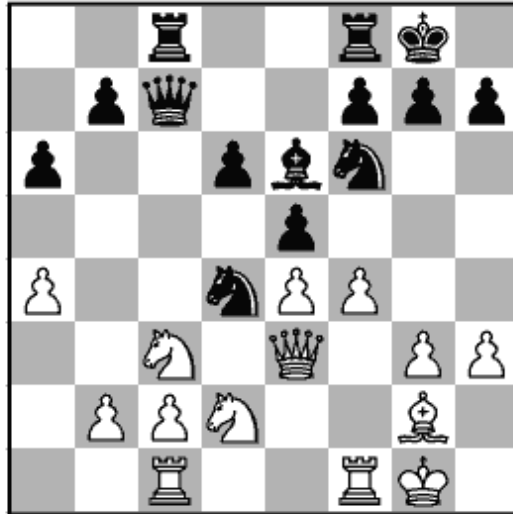
25...Kb7 26 Qxb8+ Kxa6 27 Qxb3 +—.

26 Nxb8+ Kc7 27 Na6+ Kb6

27...Kd7 28 Nc5+ Kc7 29 Nxb3 +—.

28 Qb8+ Kxa6 29 Qxb3 +—

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Black to play

699) Sadhwani – Carlsen

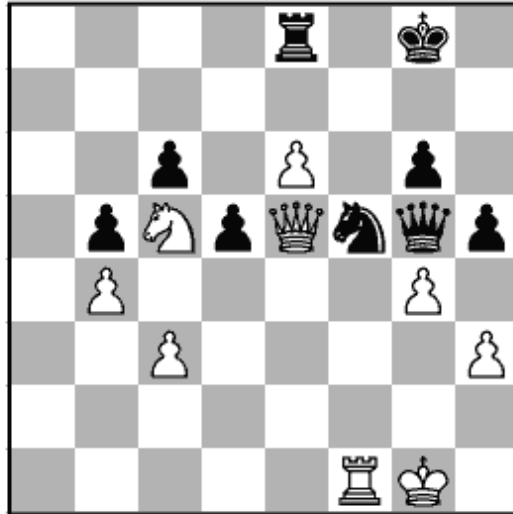
Internet rapid 2023

17...Qb6!

Black wins material because of the threat of ...Ne2+.

18 Kh2 Qxb2 19 fxe5 dxe5 20 Nd5 Bxd5 21 exd5 Nxc2 0-1

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White to play

700) Vidit – Tari
Internet rapid 2023

40 Nd7!

Black is unable to defend the f6-square.

40...hxg4

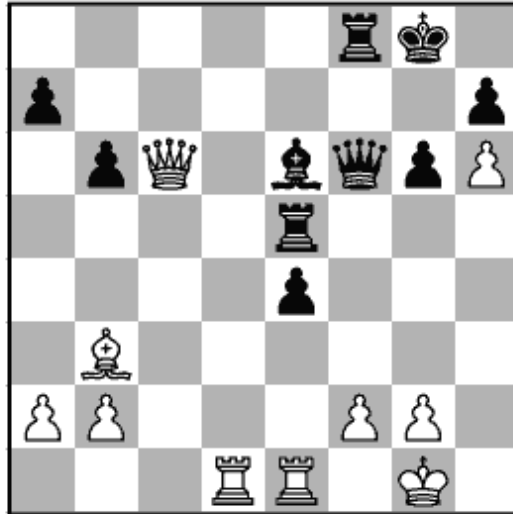
40...Qe3+ 41 Qxe3 Nxe3 42 Nf6+ Kf8 43 Rf3 +—.

41 Nf6+ Kf8

41...Kh8 42 Ne4+ +—.

42 Nh7+ 1-0

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White to play

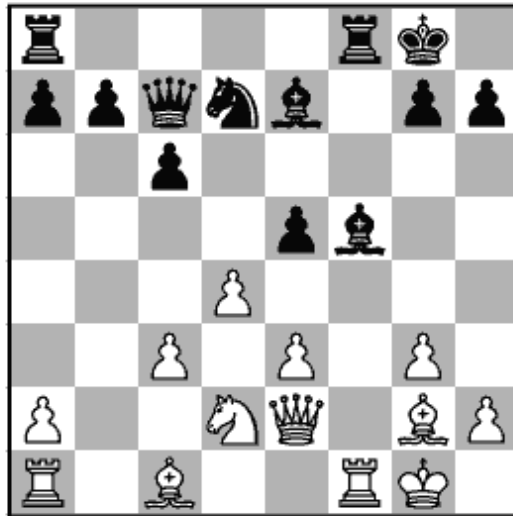
701) Martinović – Krassowizkij
Bundesliga 2022/3

26 f4! Qxf4

Or: 26...exf3 27 Qxe6+ Rxe6 28 Rxe6 f2+ 29 Kf1 +–; 26...g5 27 Re2 gxf4 28 Rd6 +–.

27 Bxe6+ Kh8 28 Qc3 1-0

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White to play

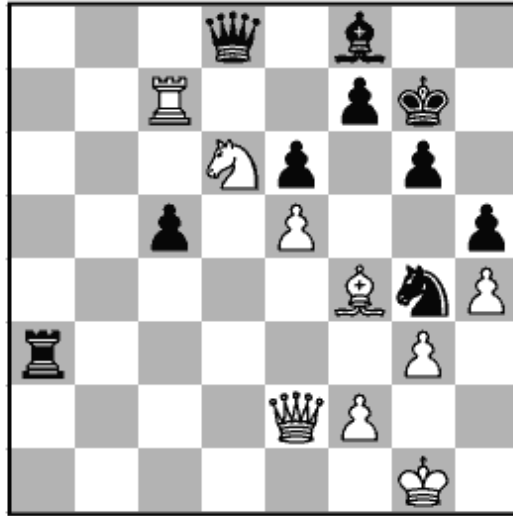
702) G. Mohr – Hajnal
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

16 Qc4+ Kh8 17 Rxf5! Rxf5 18 Qe6

Black cannot defend both pieces.

18...Rff8 19 Qxe7 Rae8 20 Qa3 exd4 21 cxd4 +-

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Black to play

703) Hauge – J. van Foreest
Norwegian Team Ch 2022/3

38...Ra1+

Black can equally well capture the knight first, viz. 38...Bxd6 39 exd6 Ra1+ 40 Kg2 with the same position.

39 Kg2 Bxd6 40 exd6 Qa8+ 41 f3

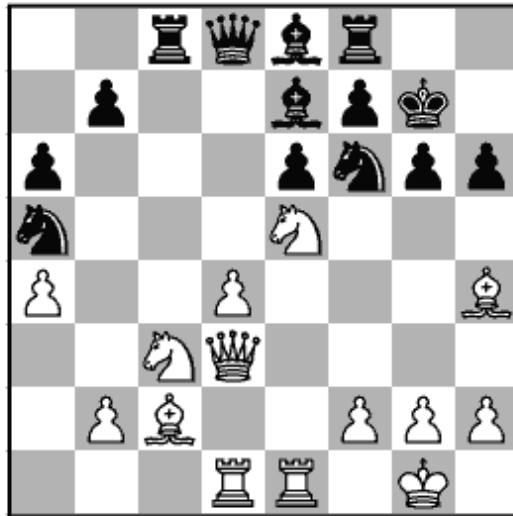
White loses his queen after 41 Qf3 Rg1+! 42 Kxg1 Qxf3 –+.

41...Ra2 42 Bd2 Qd5

White is stuck in a fatal pin.

43 Bc3+ e5 44 Bb2 Qb3 0-1

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White to play

704) V. Stefansson – Samani
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

18 d5!

Both sides must always evaluate this breakthrough in IQP structures.

18...exd5

No relief is offered by 18...Qd6 19 Bg3 Qb6 20 d6 Bd8 21 d7 +–, 18...Nxd5 19 Bxe7 Qxe7 20 Nxd5 exd5 21 Nxg6 +– or 18...g5 19 Bg3 +–.

19 Ng4

The open e-file is fatal for Black.

19...Nc6 20 Rxe7 Qxe7 21 Bxf6+ Qxf6 22 Nxf6 1-0

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Black to play

705) R. Svane – Yu Yangyi

Internet rapid 2023

22...Rd1!

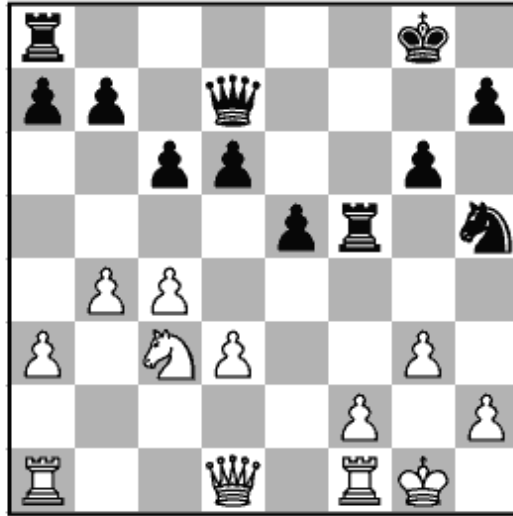
White is unable to develop his queenside.

23 Kf1

23 Re3 Bg5 –+.

23...Bg5 24 Bxg5 Rxa1 25 a3 a4 0-1

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White to play

706) Yakubboev – A. Liang

Internet rapid 2023

20 g4!

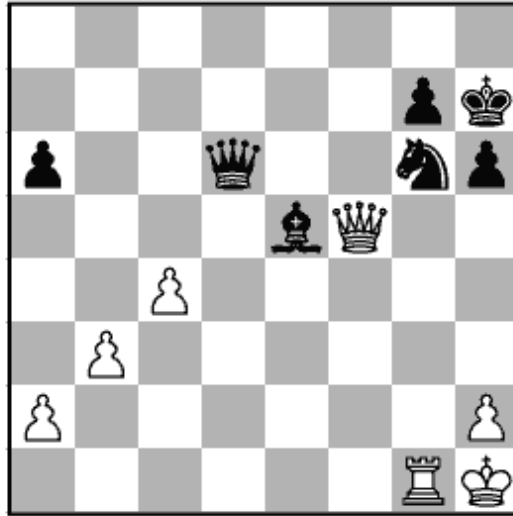
Although it looks risky to advance pawns in front of the king, White has calculated that Black's pieces cannot do any damage.

20...Rg5

20...Rf4 21 gxf5 Qh3 22 f3 +—.

21 f3 Nf4 22 h4 Rh5 23 gxf5 Qh3 24 Ra2 1-0

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White to play

707) D. Anton – L. van Foreest

Internet rapid 2023

38 h4!

White exploits the pin on the knight. After 38 Qe4? (as played in the game) Black can hold the balance: 38...Qf6 (38...Bxh2? 39 c5! +– was the game continuation) 39 c5 Bb8 40 b4 h5 41 a4 Kh6 42 b5 axb5 43 axb5 Ne5 with equal chances.

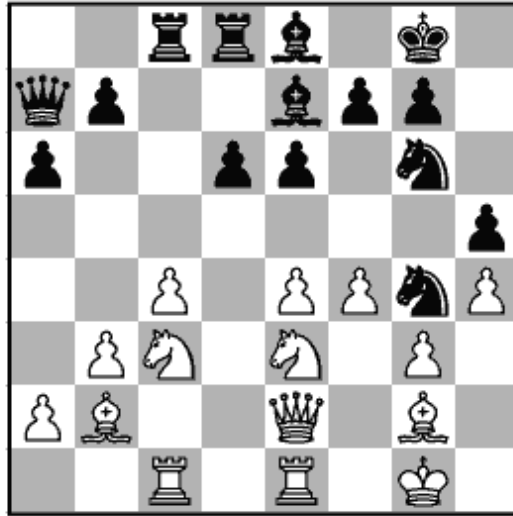
38...Qc6+ 39 Rg2 Qf6 40 Qxf6 gxf6

40...Bxf6 41 b4 +–.

41 c5 +/–

White has two potential passed pawns and good chances to win.

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Black to play

708) Iskusnykh – Pranav

Internet rapid 2023

20...d5!

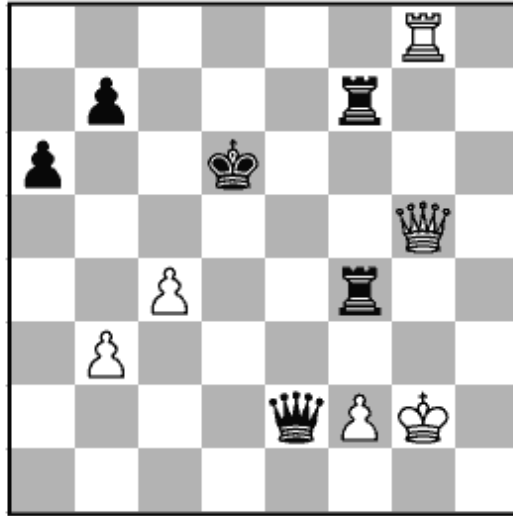
White is caught in a fatal pin along the g1-a7 diagonal.

21 cxd5

Black wins a piece after 21 Nd1 Nxe3 22 Nxe3 d4 –+.

21...Nxe3 0-1

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White to play

709) Darini – Vetoshko

Internet rapid 2023

White is a rook down, but can take advantage of Black's unprotected queen on e2.

48 Qd5+ Kc7

48...Ke7 49 Qd8+ Ke6 50 Re8+ Kf5 51 Rxe2 +—.

49 Qc5+ Kd7 50 Qc8+ Kd6

50...Ke7 51 Qe8+ Kf6 52 Qxe2 +—.

51 Rd8+

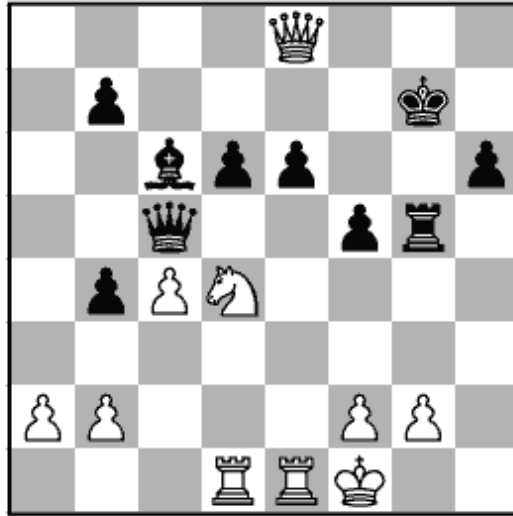
Or 51 c5+ Kd5 52 Rd8+ Ke5 53 Re8+ +—.

51...Rd7

51...Ke5 52 Re8+ Kf6 53 Rxe2 +—.

52 Rxd7+ 1-0

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Black to play

710) Pranav – Harika

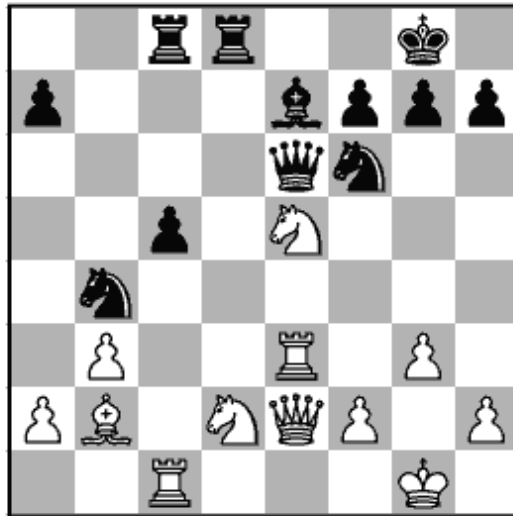
Internet rapid 2023

29...Qxc4+

In the game Black blundered with 29...Bxe8?? and lost after 30 Nxe6+ Kf7 31 Nxc5 dxc5 32 f3 +–.

30 Re2 Bxe8 31 Nxe6+ Kf6 32 Nxg5 Bb5 –+

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Black to play

711) Schreiner – Drnovšek
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

24...Nfd5! 25 Re4

After 25 Rf3 f6 –+ Black wins the pinned knight.

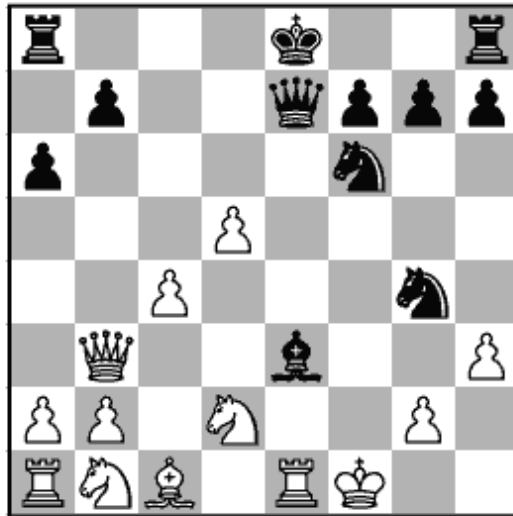
25...f5! 26 Rec4 Nb6 27 Re1

27 Rf4 Nd3 –+.

27...Nxc4 28 Ndx c4 Bf6 –+

Black has a decisive material advantage.

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Black to play

712) Magem Badals – Solodovnichenko

Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

17...Nh5! 18 Ne4

18 hxg4?? allows 18...Ng3#.

18...Nh2+ 19 Ke2 Bxc1 20 d6

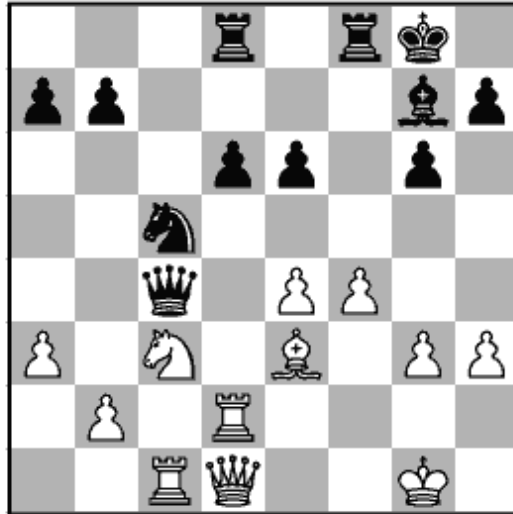
Or 20 Kd1 0-0 21 Kxc1 (21 Ned2? Qh4 –+ was played in the game)

21...f5 22 d6 Qe6 –/+.

20...Qe6 21 Nc3 0-0 22 Raxc1 f5 –/+

Black has a clear advantage and good chances to win.

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White to play

713) B. Amin – Njili
Riyadh rapid 2023

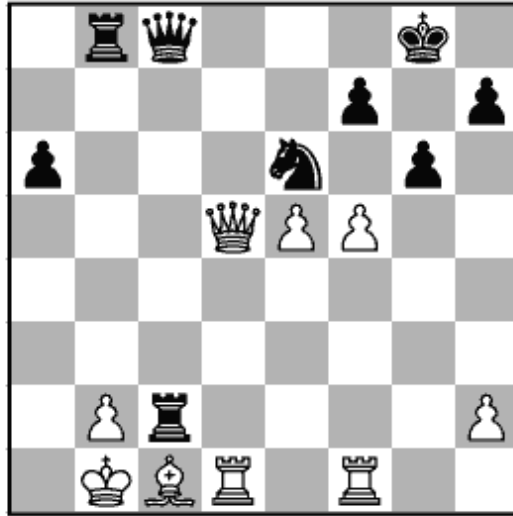
24 Ne2! Qxe4 25 Bxc5

Winning a piece because of the pin along the d-file.

25...Bxb2 26 Rb1 dxc5 27 Rxd8 Bd4+ 28 Rxd4 cxd4 29 Rb3 +-

White's material advantage is decisive.

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Black to play

714) Seyb – Martinović
Bundesliga 2022/3

29...Qc3! 30 Qa2

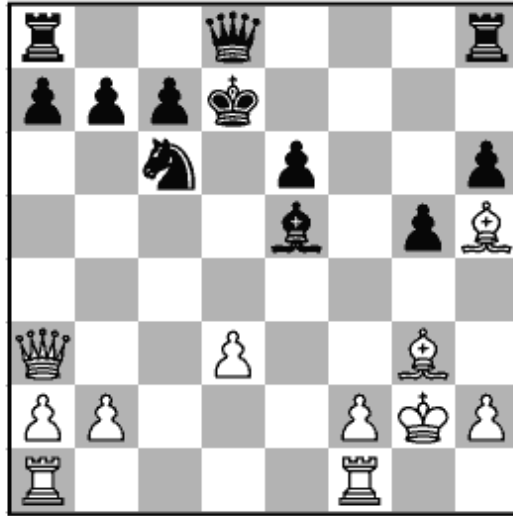
30 Qd8+ Nxd8 31 Rxd8+ Rxd8 32 bxc3 Rxc3 –+.

30...Nd4 31 Rxd4

31 fxg6 Rxc1+ 32 Rxc1 Qd3+ 33 Ka1 Nb3+ 34 Qxb3 Qxb3 35
gxf7+ Kf8 –+.

31...Qxd4 32 fxg6 Rxb2+ 0-1

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White to play

715) Caruana – Aronian

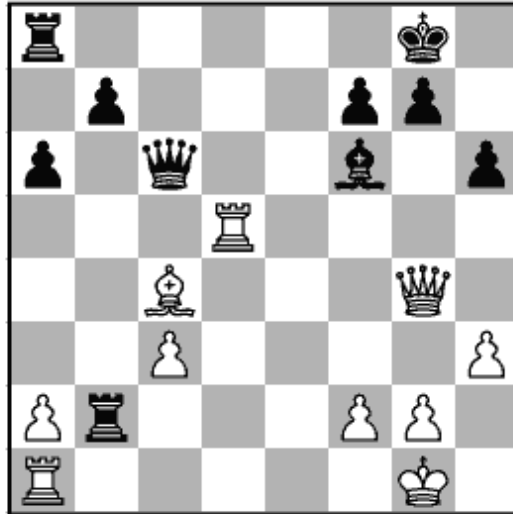
Saint Louis rapid 2023

19 Bxe5 Nxe5 20 d4 Nc6 21 d5!

White sacrifices another pawn to keep the black king trapped in the centre.

**21...exd5 22 Bg4+ Ke8 23 Qf3 Rf8 24 Rae1+ Ne7 25 Bh5+ Kd7
26 Qh3+ Nf5 27 Re5 c6 28 Rxf5 +—**

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Black to play

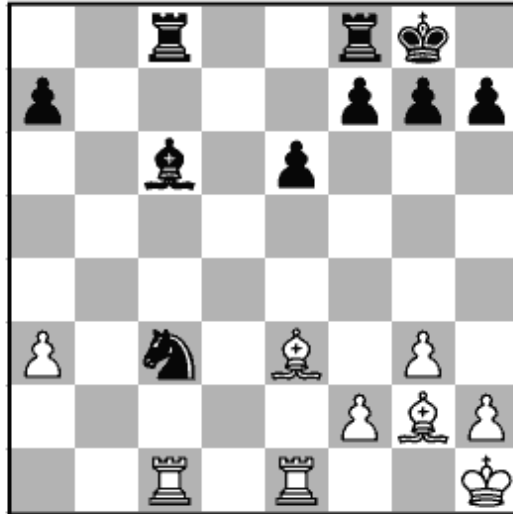
716) Nisipeanu – Markus

Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

24...b5! 25 Bb3 Rxb3! 0-1

26 axb3 Qxd5 –+.

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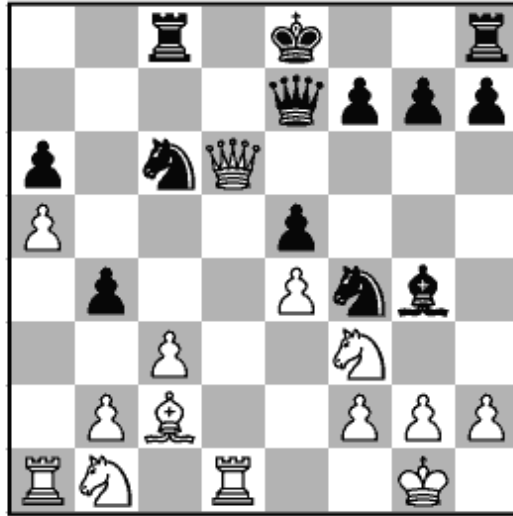
White to play

717) Fröwis – Freitag
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

24 Bxc6 Rxc6 25 Rc2! 1-0

Black will soon lose his pinned knight.

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Black to play

718) Fedoseev – Nakamura

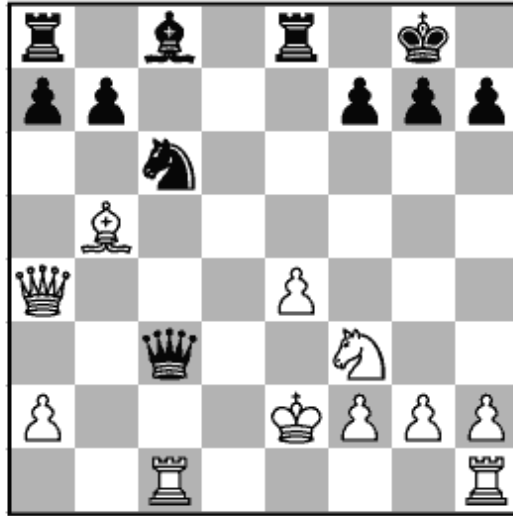
Internet rapid 2023

18...Bxf3 19 Qxe7+ Kxe7 20 gxf3 Nd4! 21 Ba4

White is unable to free his queenside after 21 cxd4 Rxc2 22 d5 Rhc8 23 Nd2 Rxb2 24 Rab1 Rbc2 –+.

21...Nxf3+ 22 Kh1 Rhd8 23 Rxd8 Kxd8 24 Bd1 Ng5 25 Ra4 Ngh3 26 Nd2 Rc6 27 Nf1 bxc3 0-1

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Black to play

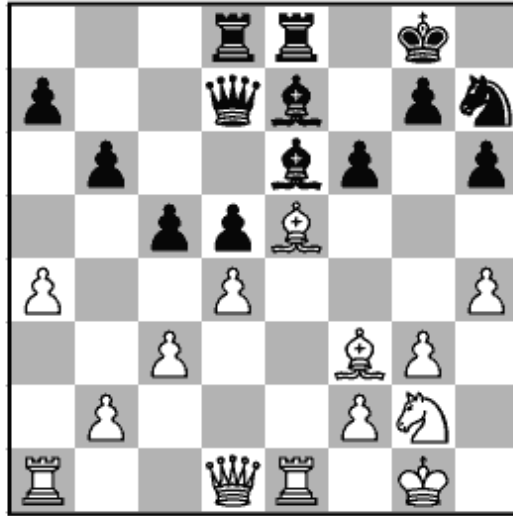
719) So – Aronian

Internet rapid 2023

**16...Qb2+ 17 Rc2 Nd4+! 18 Nxd4 Rxe4+ 19 Kf3 Qxd4 20 Qxd4
Rxd4 21 Rhc1 Be6 –/+**

Black is a pawn up with good winning chances.

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White to play

720) G. Meier – Keymer

Internet rapid 2023

22 Bc7! Qxc7

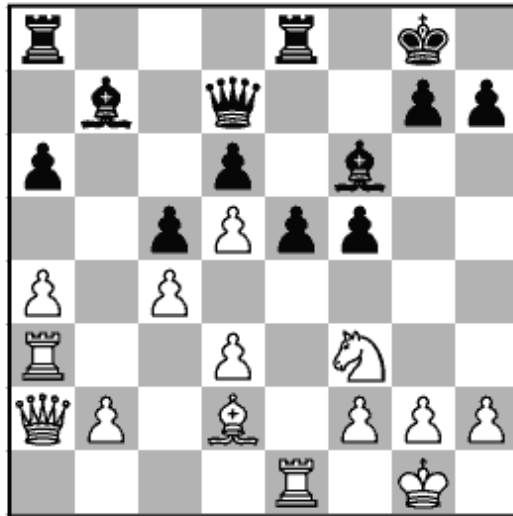
The d5-pawn falls and Black's position collapses after 22...Rc8 23 Rxe6! Qxe6 24 Nf4 Qf5 25 Bxd5+ Kh8 26 g4 +–.

23 Rxe6 Nf8 24 Re3 cxd4 25 cxd4 g6

Or 25...Bb4 26 Qb3 +–.

26 Qe2 Qd7 27 Re1 Kf7 28 Nf4 1-0

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Black to play

721) Hagner – Kaasen

Fagernes 2023

21...e4!

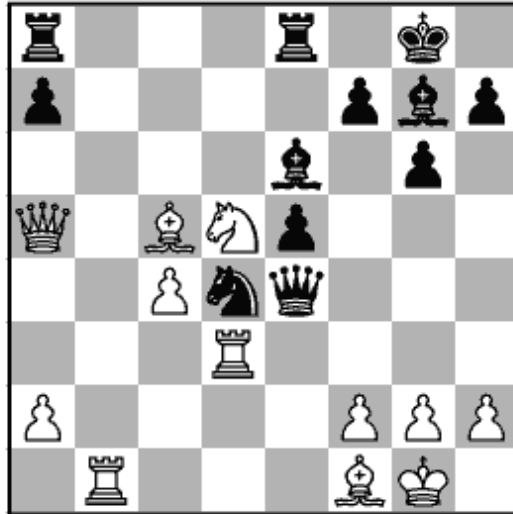
The white knight is short of squares.

22 dxe4 fxe4 23 Ng5 e3! 24 Nxh7

24 Bxe3 Bxg5 –+ costs White his knight because of the pin along the e-file, while Black wins after 24 Raxe3 Bxg5 25 Rxe8+ Rxe8 –+ because of White's weak back rank.

24...exf2+ 25 Kxf2 Bd4+ 0-1

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White to play

722) Aleksandrov – Nitin

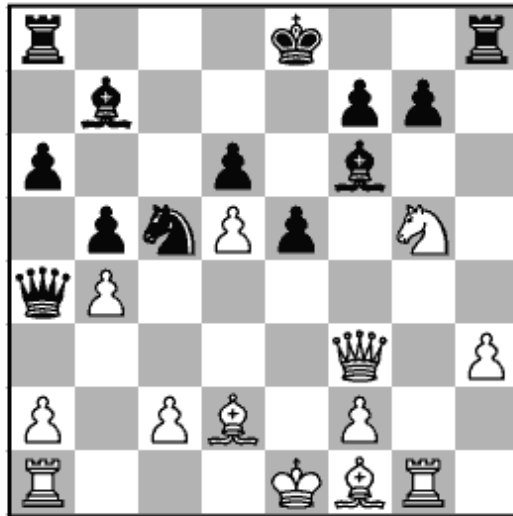
New Delhi 2023

23 Nc7! Bxc4 24 Re1! Ne2+

Black has too many pieces under attack after 24...Qc6 25 Rc3 Bxf1
26 Kxf1 +–.

25 Bxe2 Bxd3 26 Bf3! 1-0

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Black to play

723) Haring – Zilka

Slovakian Team Ch 2022/3

18...Bxg5! 19 Rxg5 Ne6!

Black is able to utilize the pin to reposition his knight.

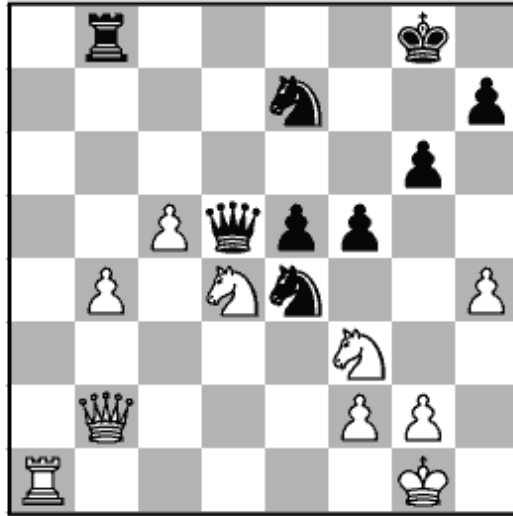
20 Rh5

No relief is offered by 20 Rg4 Qxc2! 21 Bd3 Nd4 22 Qe3 (22 Rxd4 Qb2 –+) 22...Qb2 23 Rb1 Nc2+ 24 Bxc2 Qxc2 25 Rc1 Qf5 –+, when White's d5- and h3-pawns will soon fall.

20...Rxh5 21 Qxh5 Bxd5 –+

Black's king is safe and he is a pawn up with more to follow.

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White to play

724) Pechač – Ftačník
Slovakian Team Ch 2022/3

30 Ra7! Kf8

30...exd4 31 Rxe7 Rd8 32 Qa1 (threatening to infiltrate with Qa7)
 32...Qa8 33 Qxa8 Rxa8 34 Nxd4 +—.

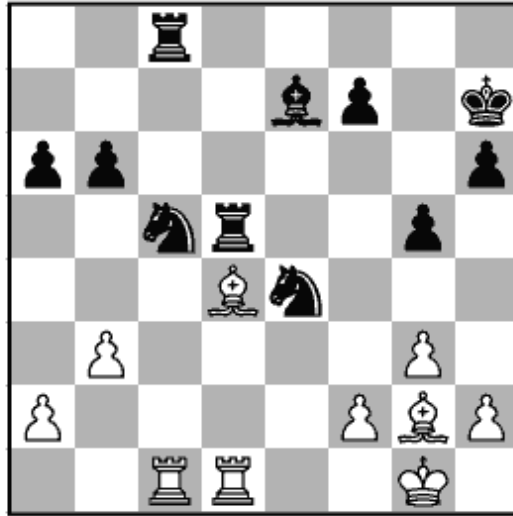
31 Rxe7! Kxe7 32 Nc6+

White exploits the loose rook on b8.

32...Qxc6 33 Qxe5+ Kd7 34 Qxb8 Qd5 35 c6+! 1-0

35...Kxc6 (35...Qxc6 36 Ne5+ +—) 36 Ne5+ Qxe5 37 Qxe5 +—.

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White to play

725) C. Horvath – Navara
Slovakian Team Ch 2022/3

29 Bxe4+!

After the move played in the game, 29 Rxc5?, Black exploited the pin along the d-file and gained a decisive material advantage:

29...Rcxc5 30 Bxe4+ f5 31 Bf3 (31 Bxd5 Rxd5 32 Re1 {32 Rd2 Bb4 – +} 32...Bb4 –+) 31...Ra5 –+.

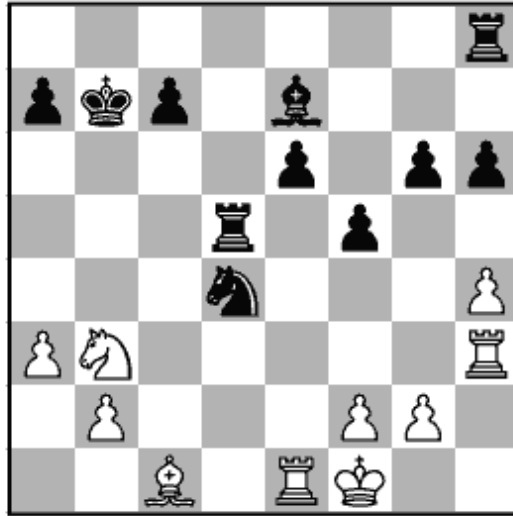
29...Nxe4 30 Rxc8 Bc5 31 Kg2! Nc3

Black loses material to a pin after 31...Bxd4? 32 Rc4 +– or 31...Rxd4? 32 Rxd4 Bxd4 33 Rc4 +–.

32 Bxc3 Rxd1 33 b4 Bd6 34 g4! +=

The idea of Rh8+, Rg8+ and Rg7+ gives White a favourable endgame, though Black should be able to hold with very precise defence.

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Black to play

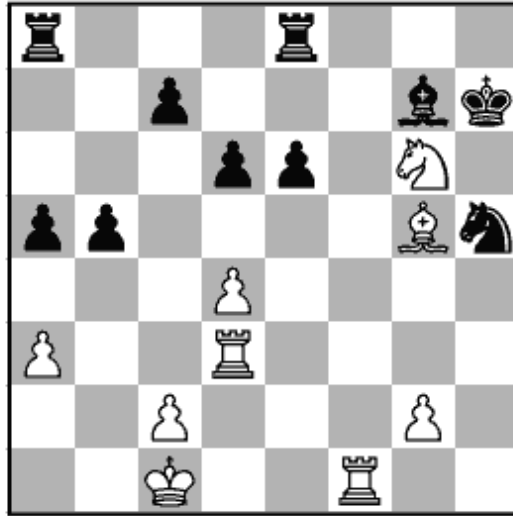
726) Dragun – Oparin

Webster Groves (team event) 2023

27...Nc2! 0-1

Black gains a decisive material advantage after 28 Rxe6 Rd1+ 29 Ke2 Re1+ 30 Kd2 Rxe6 31 Kxc2 Re2+ 32 Kb1 Rxf2 –+.

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White to play

727) Abdilkhair – Khripachenko
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

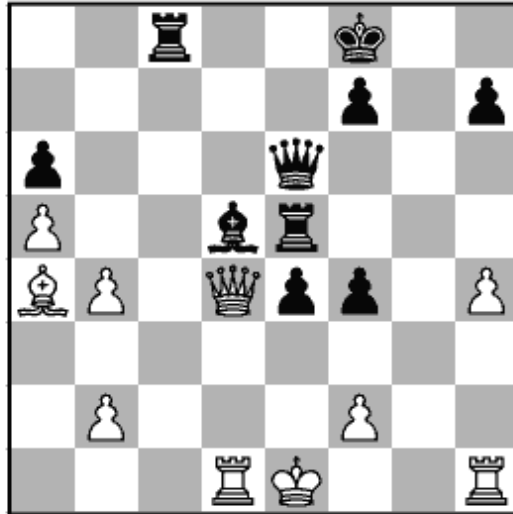
34 Ne7! Rxe7

The pinned knight is lost after 34...b4 35 Rh3 +—.

35 Bxe7 Re8 36 Bh4 +—

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

728) Lopez Rayo – Arango Arenas
Cali 2022

30 Bd7!

White wins material.

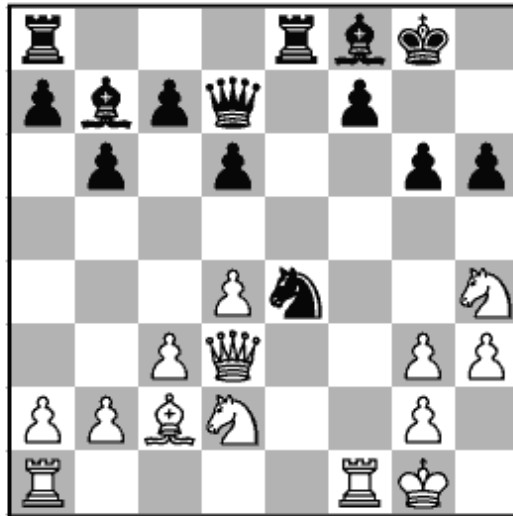
30...Rc4

30...Qxd7 31 Qxe5 +—.

31 Bxe6 Rxd4 32 Rxd4 fxe6 33 Rg1 +—

White's material advantage is sufficient for victory.

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White to play

729) T. Gueci – Szeberenyi
Budapest 2023

20 Bb3!

The diagonal switch is fatal for Black as he is unable to defend his vulnerable kingside.

20...d5 21 Nxe4 Rxe4

Or 21...dxe4 22 Rxf7! +—.

22 Nxg6! Ba6

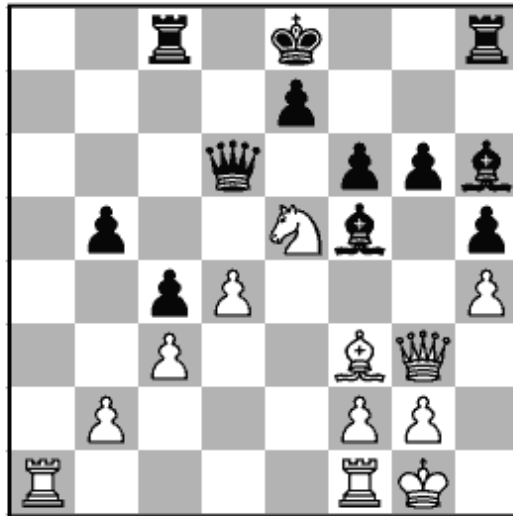
Black cannot capture the knight because of the pin: 22...fxg6 23 Qxe4 +—.

23 Nxf8 Qc8

White has several ways to win; she finished things off with:

24 Qf3 Bxf1 25 Bxd5 Re7 26 Rxf1 1-0

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White to play

730) Oberoi – J. Yu
New York 2023

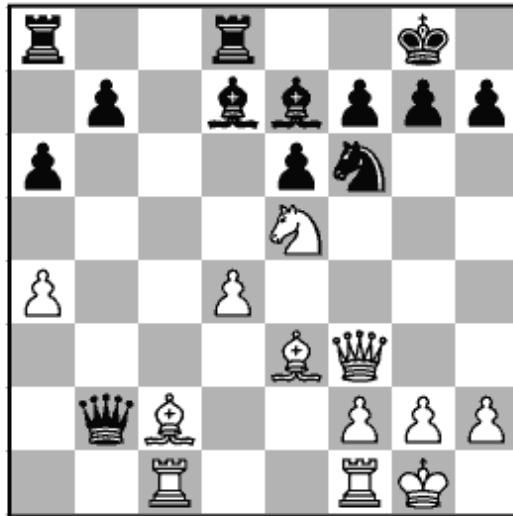
25 Bc6+! Kf8!

In the game 25...Rxc6?? allowed White to win with a deadly knight fork: 26 Ra8+ Rc8 (or 26...Bc8 27 Qxg6+ Kd8 28 Nf7+ Kc7 29 Nxd6 +–) 27 Rxc8+ Bxc8 28 Qxg6+ 1-0.

26 Nd7+ Bxd7 27 Qxd6 exd6 28 Bxd7 Rc7 29 Be6 +=

White has a slight advantage thanks to his more active bishop, but Black is still in the game.

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White to play

731) Stinka – Pourquet
Marianske Lazne 2023

19 Nc4!

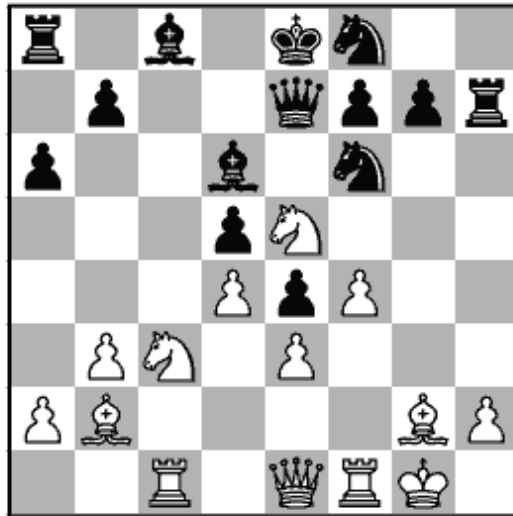
A retreating knight move to trap a piece can be easy to overlook.

19...Qb4

Or 19...Qa2 20 Qe2 g6 (20...Bxa4 21 Bxh7+ +–) 21 Ra1 +–.

20 Bd2 Qxc4 21 Bxh7+ Kxh7 22 Rxc4 +–

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White to play

732) Reizniece-Ozola – E. Cvitan

Internet rapid (women's team event) 2023

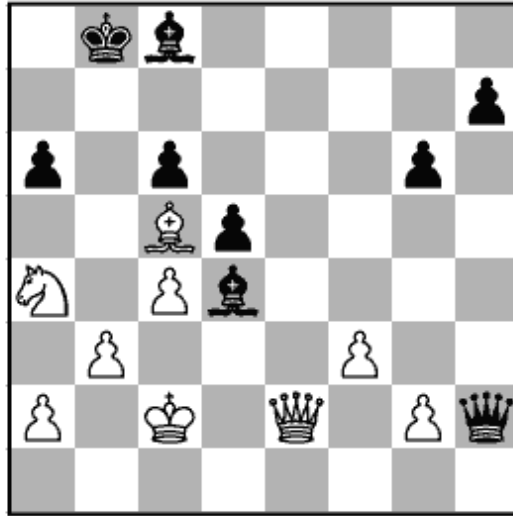
17 Nxd5!

White must play actively because 17 Rc2? (as chosen in the game) allows Black to stabilize her central space advantage with 17...Bf5 –/+.

17...Nxd5 18 Bxe4 Nf6 19 Bxh7 N8xh7 20 e4

White has two mobile central pawns in exchange for the sacrificed piece. Objectively the chances are roughly equal, but in practice it would be very easy for Black to land in trouble.

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Black to play

733) Martin del Campo – Tanenbaum
New York 2023

36...Bf5+ 37 Kd2

White also drops the loose piece on c5 if he moves his king to the first rank: 37 Kc1 Qg1+ (or 37...Bxc5 –+) 38 Kd2 Bxc5 –+ or 37 Kd1 Qg1+ –+ (or 37...Bxc5 –+).

37...Qf4+! 38 Kd1

38 Ke1 Qc1+ 39 Qd1 Qe3+ 40 Qe2 Bxc5 –+.

38...Bxc5 39 Qe8+

39 Nxc5 is met by 39...Qd4+ –+.

39...Bc8 40 Qxc6 Qd4+ 41 Ke2 Qe3+ –+

White will soon be mated.

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Black to play

734) Almeida Saenz – Tanenbaum

New York 2023

12...Qxc4!

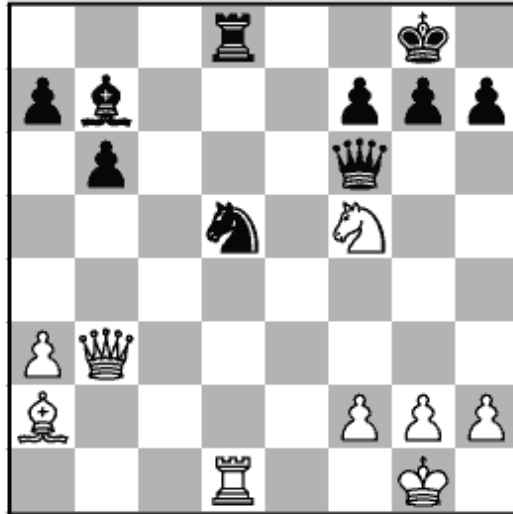
White was hoping for 12...bxc6? 13 Qxc6 Rd8 14 e4 with good compensation for the piece.

13 Bxd7+ Nxd7 14 Nxc4 Rc8

Black wins a piece because of the pressure along the c-file.

15 Nd6+ Bxd6 16 Bxd6 Rxc3 –+

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White to play

735) Yurtseven – S. Shatil
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

27 Qd3!

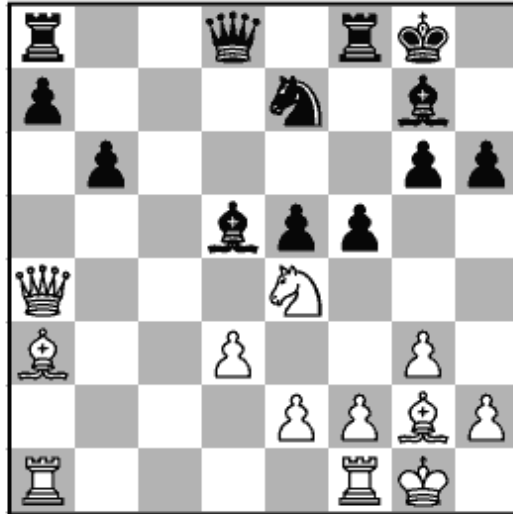
The pin on the d-file will cost Black a piece.

27...Ba6

Or 27...Kf8 28 Ne3 +–.

28 Qxa6 Nc3 29 Rxd8+ Qxd8 30 Bc4 +–

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White to play

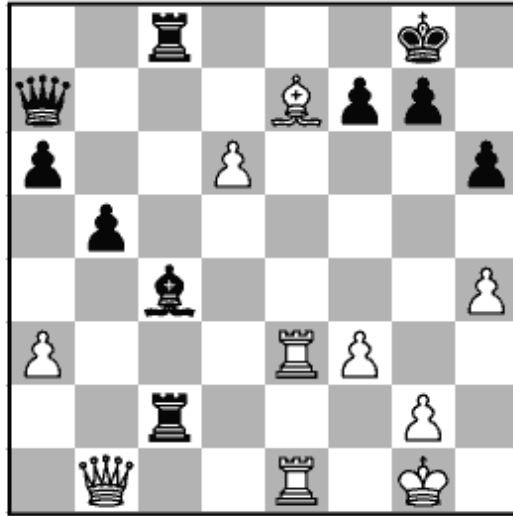
736) Jouhki – Binham
Finnish Team Ch 2022/3

20 Bxe7 Qxe7 21 Nf6+!

White wins material with a simple fork trick.

21...Bxf6 22 Bxd5+ Kg7 23 Bxa8 Rxa8 24 Qc6 +—

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Black to play

737) Zhakshylykov – Vokhidov
Tashkent 2023

38...Be2!

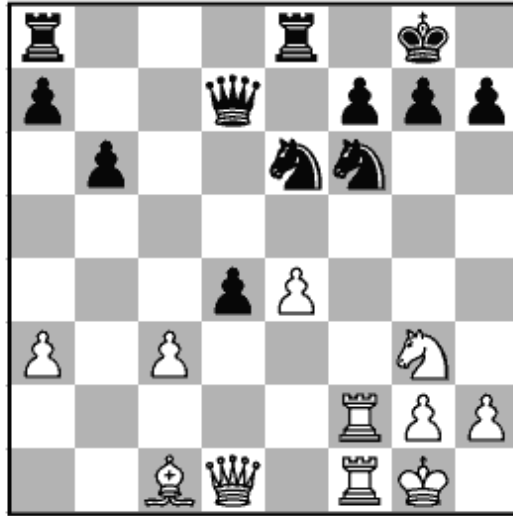
A nice interference move to cut off the protection of the rook on e3.

39 Kf2

White loses a piece after 39 d7 Qxe3+ 40 Kh1 Qxe7 41 dxc8Q+ Rxc8 –+.

39...R8c3 0-1

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White to play

738) Sivuk – Yakubbaeva
Tashkent 2023

18 Rxf6!

This temporary exchange sacrifice nets White an extra pawn and weakens Black's king position.

18...gxf6 19 Nh5 Qb5

19...Kh8 20 Nxf6 Qb5 comes to the same thing.

20 Nxf6+ Kh8 21 Nxe8 Rxe8 22 cxd4 +-

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White to play

739) L. Peng – Hakimifard
Basle 2023

18 Bg5!

Black's problem is that her minor pieces are all over on the queenside, and in some lines her dark-squared bishop and knight are unprotected.

18...f6

Black's kingside comes under assault after 18...Qd7 19 Bf6! Rfe8 (Black must give up her queen to prevent mate after 19...Bxd5? 20 Qg5 +–) 20 Rbd1 g6 (or 20...Bxd5 21 Rxd5 +–) 21 Qh6 Bf8 22 Qh4 Bxd5 23 Rxd5 Qc7 24 Rh5. Black loses material; for example, 24...Be7 25 Bxe7 Qxe7 26 Qxe7 Rxe7 27 Rxa5 +–.

19 Be4! h6

Or 19...g6 20 Bxg6 +–.

20 Bxf6

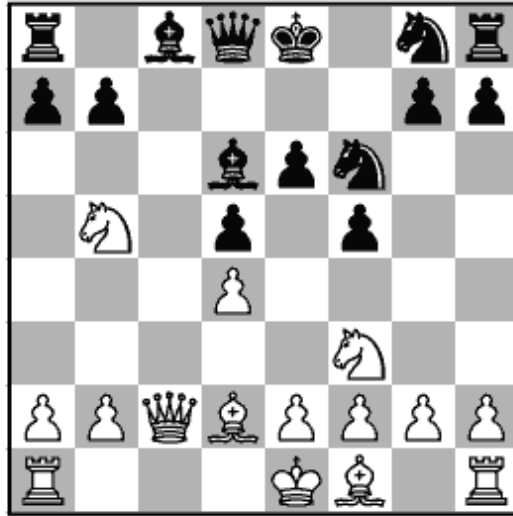
White can also capture the f6-pawn with the knight: 20 Nxf6+ Rxf6 21 Bxf6 Qxf6 22 Qxc5 +–.

20...Qe8

20...Rxf6 21 Nxf6+ Qxf6 transposes to the previous note.

21 Qg4 g5 22 Bxg5 1-0

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White to play

740) Laurent-Paoli – Hasenohr
Basle 2023

10 Qa4! 1-0

Black loses material after 10...Kf7 (10...Ke7 11 Nxd6 Kxd6 12 Ne5 +-) 11 Nxd6+ Qxd6 12 Ne5+ Kf8 (12...Ke7 13 Bb4 +-) 13 Bb4 +-.

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White to play

741) Tiviakov – Ochedzan
Paphos 2023

10 e5!

This opening trap has caught over 20 victims in my database, including masters and grandmasters.

10...Bxg2

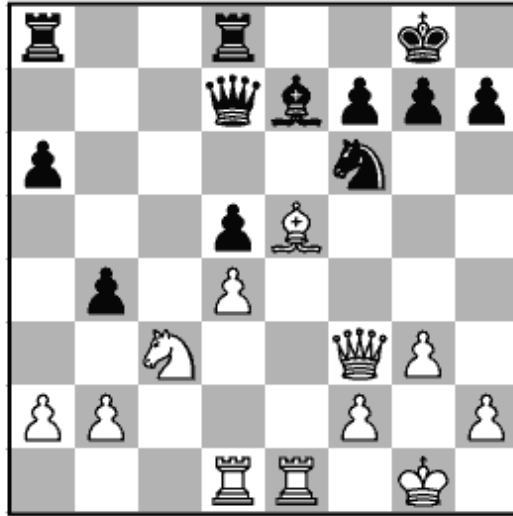
White has a decisive material advantage after 10...dxe5 11 Bxb7 exd4 12 Bxa8 +–.

11 exf6 Bb7 12 fxg7 Bxg7 13 Nxe6!

The knight sacrifice gives White a crushing attack.

13...fxe6 14 Rxe6+ Kf7 15 Rxd6 +–

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White to play

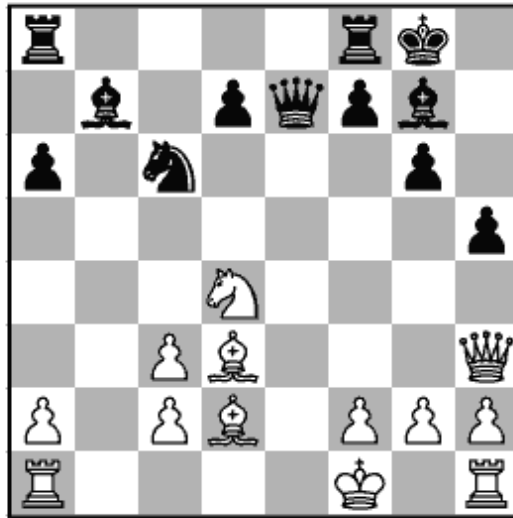
742) Tyurin – Kwon
Budapest 2023

18 Bxf6! Bxf6 19 Nxd5! Qd6

Black loses his queen after 19...Qxd5 20 Re8+! Rxe8 21 Qxd5 +–.

20 Nxf6+ Qxf6 21 Qxf6 gxf6 22 d5 +–

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White to play

743) Kanov – Stanojoski

Dimitrovgrad 2023

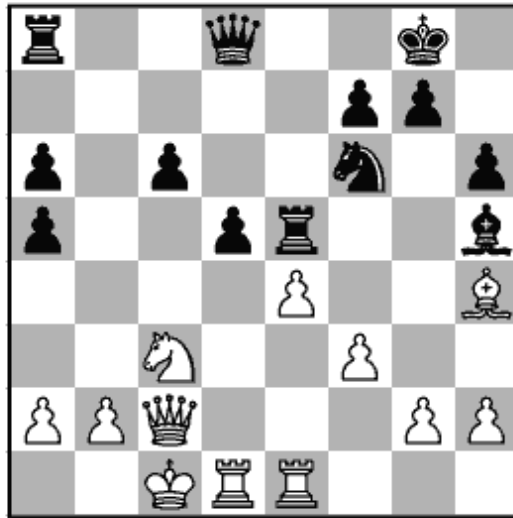
15 Nf5! Qf6

Capturing the knight leads to material loss for Black: 15...gxf5? 16 Qxf5 Rfe8 17 Qh7+ Kf8 18 Bh6 Qe5 19 Qh8+ Ke7 20 Qxg7 Qxg7 21 Bxg7 f6 22 Bh6 Ne5 23 f3 +–.

16 Nxd7 Kxd7 17 Qxd7 Rab8 18 Re1 +/-

White has an extra pawn and good chances to win.

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White to play

744) Kostov – Koutlas

Dimitrovgrad 2023

18 g4! Bg6 19 f4!

White advances his kingside pawns to crowd Black's pieces.

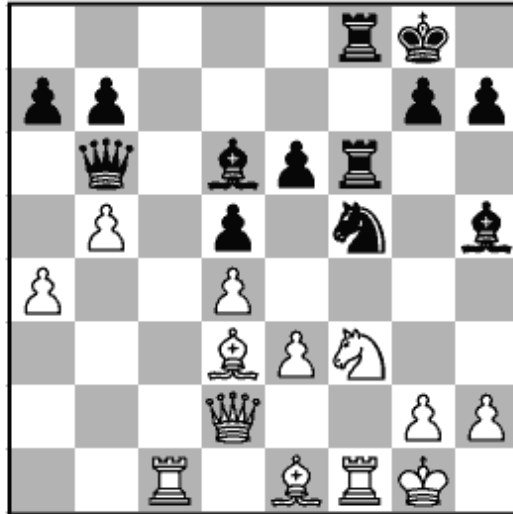
19...Rxe4

Black's light-squared bishop is buried alive after 19...Re7 20 Bxf6 gxf6 21 f5 Bh7 22 Qd2 Kg7 23 Re3 Qf8 24 Rh3 +—.

20 Nxe4 Bxe4 21 Rxe4 g5

White has several ways to keep a decisive advantage here, including 22 Rc4 gxh4 23 Rxc6 +—.

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Black to play

745) Kaphle – Markus
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

23...Nxe3! 24 Qxe3 Bf4

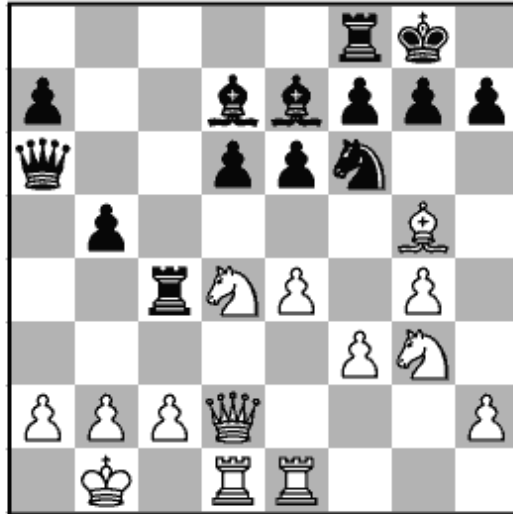
Black exploits the unprotected rook on c1.

25 Qe2

White loses too much material after 25 Bxh7+ Kxh7 26 Qd3+ Bg6 27 Qc3 Bxc1 28 Qxc1 Qxd4+ 29 Rf2 (29 Nxd4 Rxf1#) 29...Qxa4 –+.

25...Bxc1 –+

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White to play

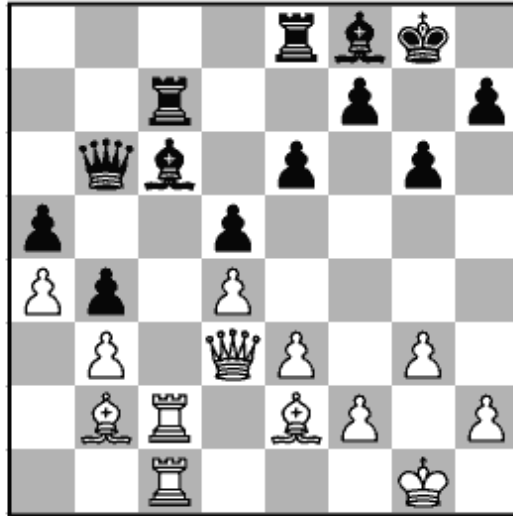
746) Rozentalis – Steindl
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

18 Nh5! Ra4

In the game 18...Kh8 allowed White to weaken Black's kingside fatally by 19 Bxf6 gxf6 (19...Bxf6 20 Nxf6 gxf6 21 Qh6 Kg8 22 Nf5! exf5 23 gxf5 leads to mate) 20 Qh6 Rg8 21 Nxf6 +- and White won five moves later.

19 Bxf6 Bxf6 20 Nxf6+ gxf6 21 Qh6 Rxa2 22 Nb3 +-

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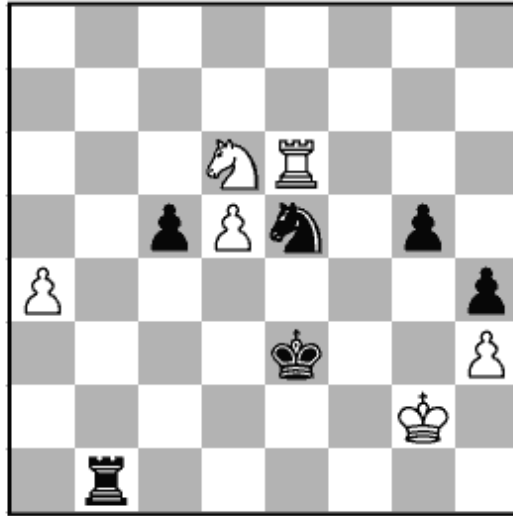
Black to play

747) Wojtaszek – Brodowski
Polish Rapid Team Ch 2023

31...Ra8! =

This is the way to counter White's pressure along the c-file: Black keeps the white queen out of the a6-square and maintains equality. Instead in the game Black lost material after 31...Rec8?? 32 Qa6! +—.

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Black to play

748) Andrianov – La Manna
New York 2022

55...Rb2+

Black must settle for a draw, which he can also achieve with
 55...Kf4 56 Rf6+ Ke3 57 Re6 =.

Instead in the game Black lost material with 55...Kd4?? 56 Nb5+!
 Rxb5 (or 56...Kxd5 57 Rd6+, when a knight fork wins a rook after
 57...Kc4 58 Na3+ +– or 57...Ke4 58 Nc3+ +–) 57 axb5 Kxd5 58 Re8
 +–.

56 Kf1 Rb1+

Or 56...Kd4 57 Rxe5! Rb6 (57...Kxe5?? 58 Nc4+ Kxd5 59 Nxb2 +–)
 58 Nf7 Rf6+ 59 Ke2 Rxf7 60 Rxg5 Rd7 61 Kd2 =.

57 Kg2 =

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White to play

749) Kunka – Krishnakumar
Charlotte 2022

10 dxe5! Nxe5

10...dxe5?! is even worse since White has an extra pawn and a superior position after 11 Rd1 Kh7 (Black protects his h6-pawn so that he can meet Bxf6 with ...gxf6; White crashes through after 11...g5 12 Nxe5! +—) 12 Bxc6 bxc6 13 Nxe5 g5 14 Bg3 +—.

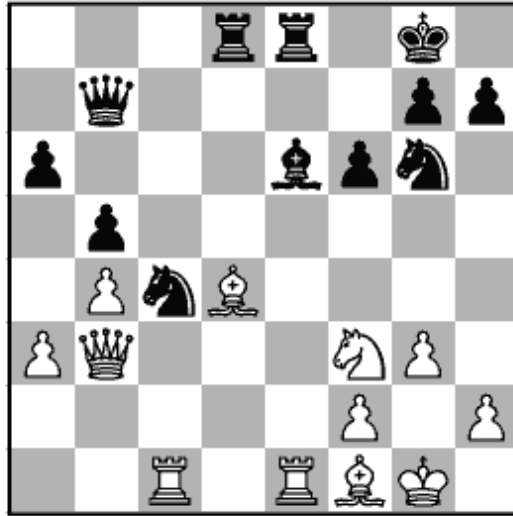
11 Nxe5 Bxb5 12 Ng4! Nxg4

12...Bxf1 13 Bxf6 +—.

13 Bxd8 Bxf1 14 Bh4 +/-

White has a material advantage and good winning prospects.

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White to play

750) Swicarz – Czernek
Karpacz 2022

26 Rxe6!

White exploits Black's vulnerability along the a2-g8 diagonal.

26...Rxe6 27 Rxc4! Kh8

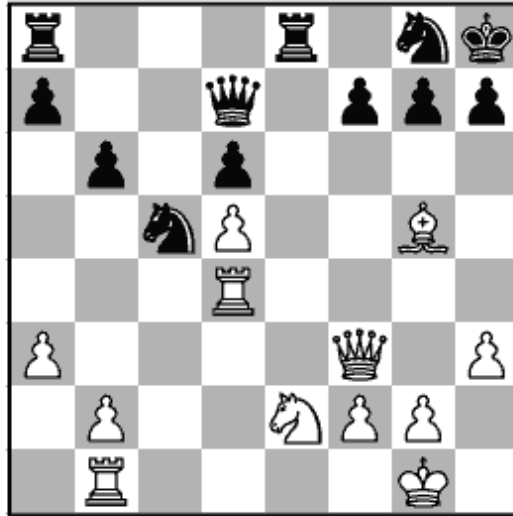
White has a decisive material advantage after 27...bxc4 28 Bxc4 Nf8 29 Bxe6+ Nxe6 30 Qxe6+ Kh8 31 Qe3 +–.

28 Rc7 Qxc7

After 28...Qe4 (as played in the game) White has several ways to conclude matters, such as 29 Rxg7! Kxg7 30 Ng5 +–.

29 Qxe6 +–

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Black to play

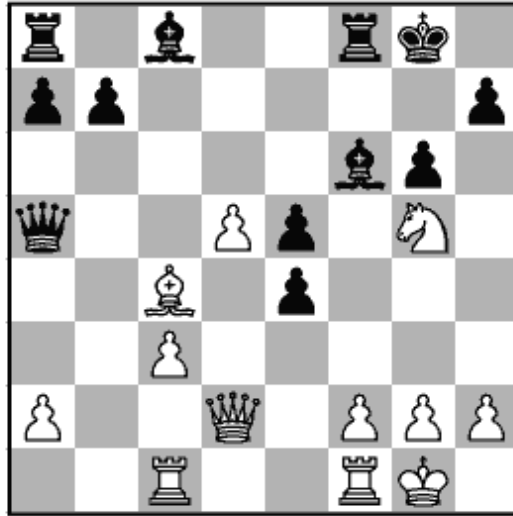
751) Subrota – Minhazuddin
Bangladeshi Ch, Dhaka 2022

22...Rxe2! 23 Qxe2 Qf5

The queen fork nets Black two knights for a rook.

24 Re1 Qxg5 –+

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Black to play

752) P. Gasimov – Ghaffarifar
Baku 2022

17...Qc5! 18 Bb3 e3!

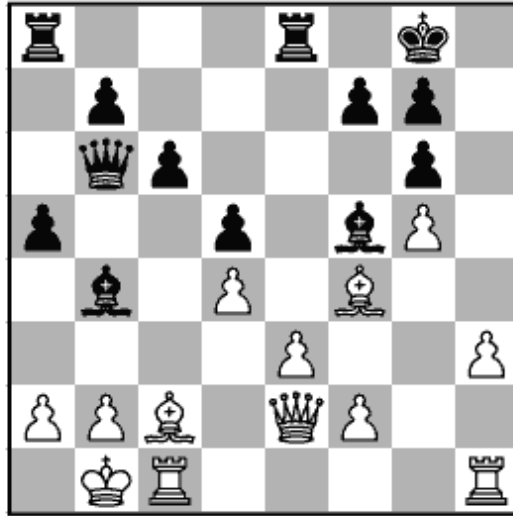
Black wins the loose knight on g5.

19 Qxe3

Or 19 d6+ Kg7 –+.

19...Qxe3 20 fxe3 Bxg5 21 d6+ Kg7 22 Rxf8 Kxf8 –+

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Black to play

753) J. Engelmann – D. Müller
Germany (team event) 2021/2

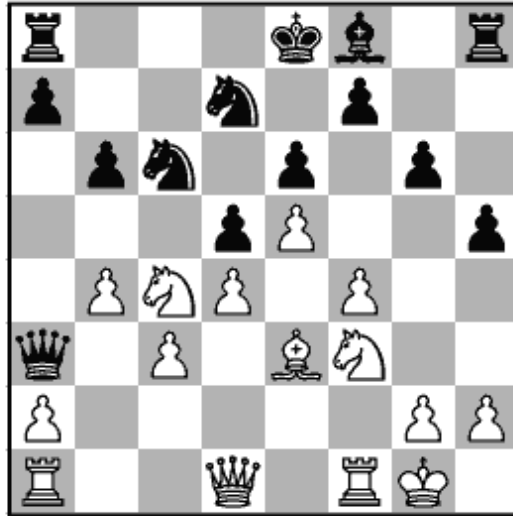
21...Qxd4! 22 Bg3

In the game, 22 Bxf5? allowed Black to win a second pawn by 22...Qxf4! 23 Bd3 Qxg5 –+.

22...Bxc2+ 23 Qxc2 Qe4 –/+

Black has an extra pawn and good chances to win.

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Black to play

754) Vyval – Cofman

2nd Bundesliga 2021/2

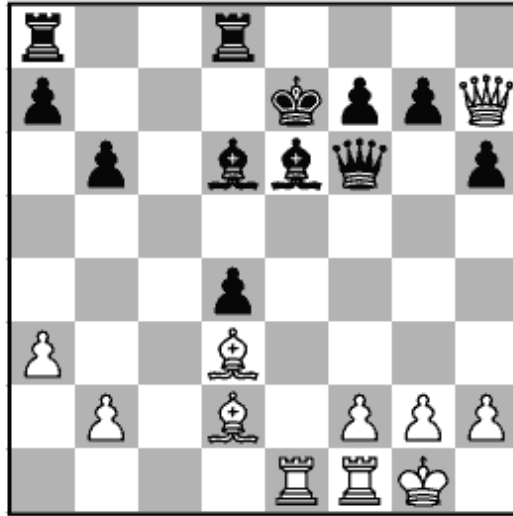
17...dxc4!

In the game, 17...Qxc3? allowed White to activate his pieces and take over the initiative with 18 Rc1 Qxb4 19 Bd2 Qb5. Then the most incisive path would have been 20 Nd6+ Bxd6 21 exd6 +—, meeting 21...Rc8 with 22 f5!.

18 d5 Nxb4! 19 dxe6 fxe6 –+

White has inadequate compensation for the lost piece.

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White to play

755) Bodi – F. Xie

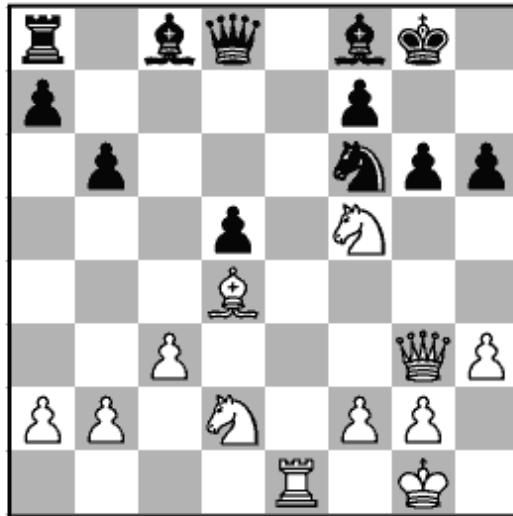
Budapest 2022

29 f4! Kd7

29...g6 was played in the game, when White took advantage of the pin on Black's f7-pawn with 30 Rxe6+ (or 30 f5 +-) 30...Kxe6 (30...Qxe6 31 Re1 +-) 31 f5+. Then 31...gxf5 would have lost to 32 Bxf5+ Ke7 33 Bd3 +-, as Black can't save his king *and* his queen.

30 Qe4 Rac8 31 Bb5+ Kc7 32 Ba6 +-

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White to play

756) Fitzsimons – Urh
London 2022

19 Bxf6!

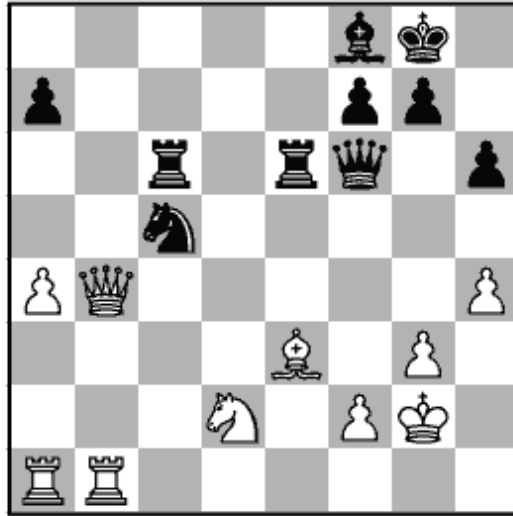
White takes advantage of Black's lagging development to win a pawn. In the game 19 Qh4? Bxf5 20 Bxf6 Qd7 (or 20...Qd6 21 Nf1!?) 21 Bd4 += left White with just a slight positional advantage.

19...Qxf6 20 Re8 Bb7

20...Qxf5? 21 Qd6 Kg7 22 Qxf8+ Kf6 23 Qh8+ Kg5 24 Re5 leads to mate.

21 Nxh6+ Kg7 22 Rxa8 Bxa8 23 Ng4 Qe6 24 Qf4 +–

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Black to play

757) Ek. Borisova – Goltseva
Moscow (women) 2022

29...Rxe3! 30 fxe3 Nd3

White is unable to save her queen and protect the f2-square.

31 Qe4

Or 31 Qb5 Qf2+ 32 Kh3 Rc2 33 Qxd3 Rxd2 –+.

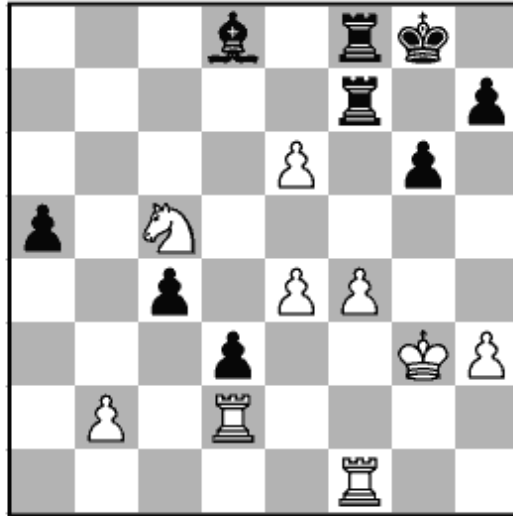
31...Qf2+ 32 Kh1

32 Kh3 Rc2 33 Qxd3 Rxd2 –+.

32...Rc2 33 Qg2

Now of several ways to win, 33...Qxe3 –+ would have been most convincing.

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Black to play

758) Mustafayev – D. Aaditya
Abu Dhabi 2022

35...Rxf4!

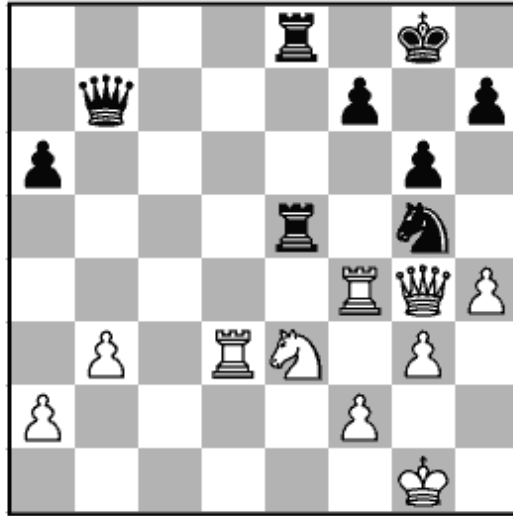
Black wins material by exploiting the upcoming pin. In the game, 35...Rg7? let White break up Black's pawns with 36 b3. Black should then have steered the game towards equality in a line such as 36...Be7 37 Nd7 Bb4 38 Rdd1 =.

36 Rxf4 Bc7 37 Kg2

Or 37 Rf2 Rxf4 38 Rxf4 Bxf4+ 39 Kf3 (39 Kxf4 d2 –+) 39...Be5 –+.

37...Bxf4 38 Rd1 Re8 –+

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Black to play

759) Large – Max Turner
Newcastle 2022

30...h5!

Black forces the white queen away from defending against a knight fork on the h3-square.

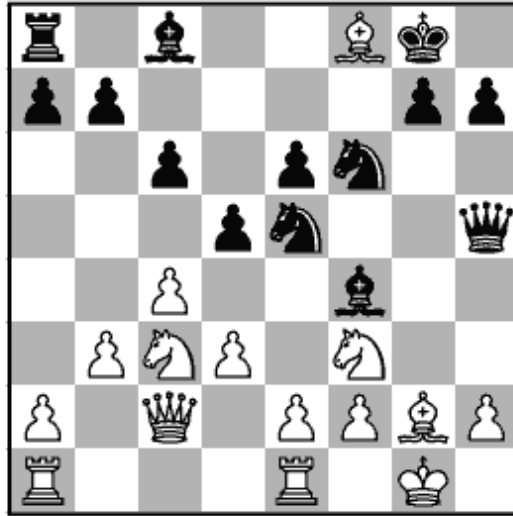
31 Qxg5

White loses further material after 31 Qd7? Qxd7 32 Rxd7 Nh3+ 33 Kg2 Nxf4+ 34 gxf4 Ra5 –+.

31...Rxg5 32 hxg5 Re5 33 Rfd4 Rxg5 –/+

Black has a material advantage and good chances to win.

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Black to play

760) Pozin – Ponfilenok
St Petersburg Over-65 Ch 2022

14...Nxf3+ 15 Bxf3

Black has a decisive attack after 15 exf3 Qxh2+ 16 Kf1 Kxf8 17 Ne2 Bd6 18 Qd2 h6 –+.

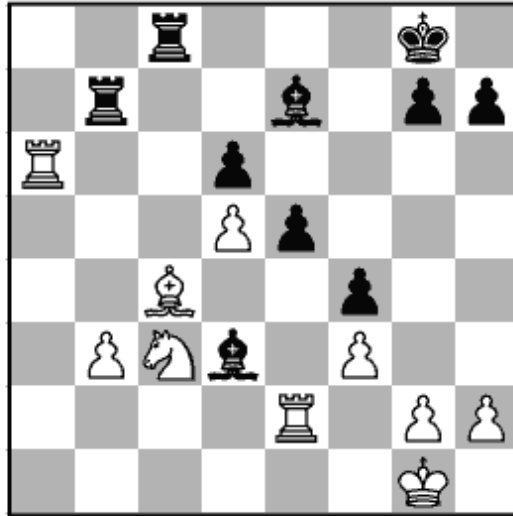
15...Qxh2+ 16 Kf1 Be3 17 fxe3

In the game White resigned after 17 Nd1 e5 in view of 18 Nxe3 Bh3+ 19 Ng2 (19 Bg2 Qh1#) 19...Qh1#.

17...e5 18 Bg2 Bh3 19 Red1 Qg3 20 Bxh3 Rxf8

White will be mated.

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White to play

761) O. Nytra – Ana. Rakhmangulova
Bratislava rapid 2022

33 Rc6! Bf5

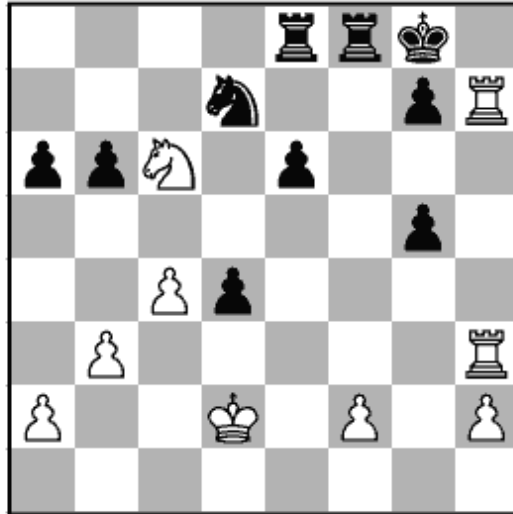
In the game 33...Ra8 cost Black a piece after 34 Bxd3 Rxb3 35 Bc2 +–.

34 Ba6! Rxc6 35 dxc6

Black is unable to deal with White's advanced c6-pawn.

35...Ra7 36 Bc4+ Kf8 37 Kf2 Bd8 38 g4 +–

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White to play

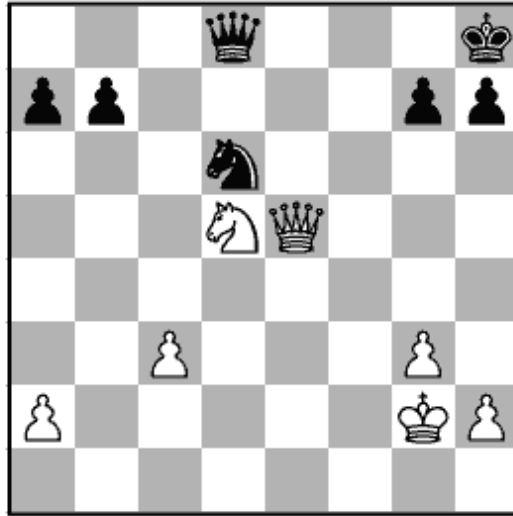
762) Stork – Pubantz

German Junior Team Ch 2022

A few moves ago Black seemed to neutralize the attack by exchanging queens, but White is able to use his well-placed rooks to win material.

34 Rh8+ Kf7 35 Rf3+ Kg6 36 Ne5+! Nxe5 37 Rfxf8 Re7 38 Re8
+–

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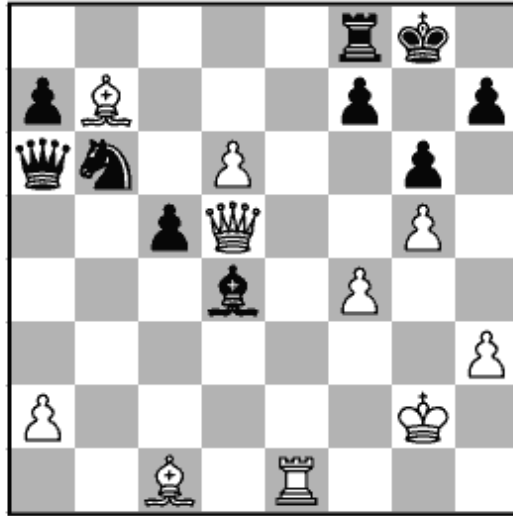
Black to play

763) B. Dimitrijeski – Mijailović
Belgrade 2022

35...Nc4! 0-1

Black wins a piece after 36 Qd4 Qxd5+ 37 Qxd5 Ne3+ 38 Kf3 Nxd5 –+.

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Black to play

764) F. Prüfer – Vogt

European Over-65 Team Ch, Dresden 2022

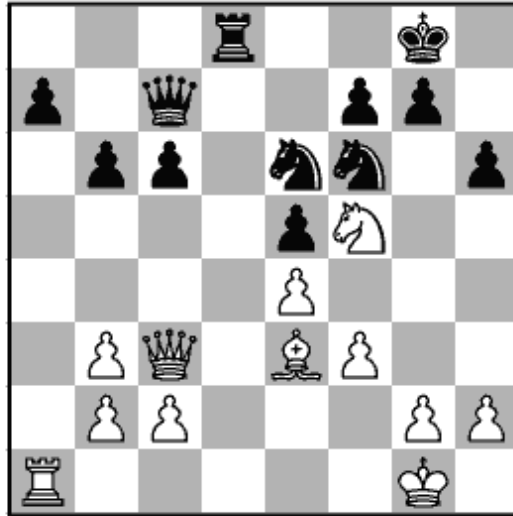
24...Qa5!

After 24...Nxd5? 25 Bxa6 Rd8 (as played in the game) the endgame is balanced as White has the bishop-pair to compensate for the missing pawn. For example: 26 Bc4 Rxd6 27 Re8+ Kg7 28 Kf3 =.

25 Qe4 Nc4! 26 Re2 Nxd6 27 Qf3 Re8 –+

Black has a clear extra pawn and the safer king.

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White to play

765) F. Villegas – Scarella

Mar de Ajo 2022

27 Qxc6! Qxc6 28 Ne7+ Kf8 29 Nxc6 Rc8 30 Nxe5

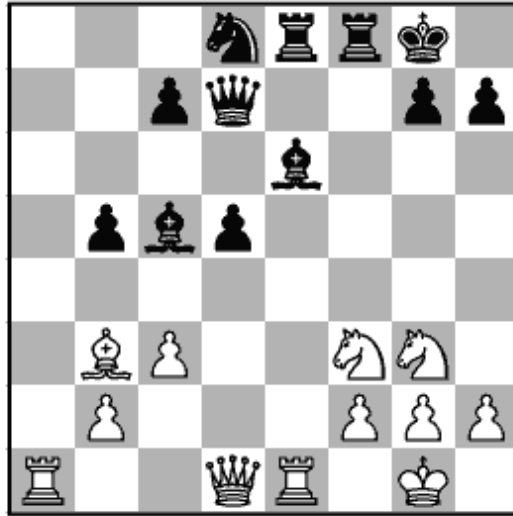
White has a decisive material advantage.

30...Rxc2

Or 30...Rc7 31 c3 Nd7 32 Nxd7+ Rxd7 33 Kf2 +–.

31 Rxa7 Rxb2 32 Rxf7+ Kg8 33 Re7 +–

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White to play

766) Falkevall – A. Sahakyan

European Under-16 Ch, Antalya 2022

20 Ne4!

White exploits the pin on the a2-g8 diagonal to manoeuvre his knight to a better square. In the game, 20 Qd3? allowed Black time to consolidate with 20...c6 21 Nd4 Qf7 =.

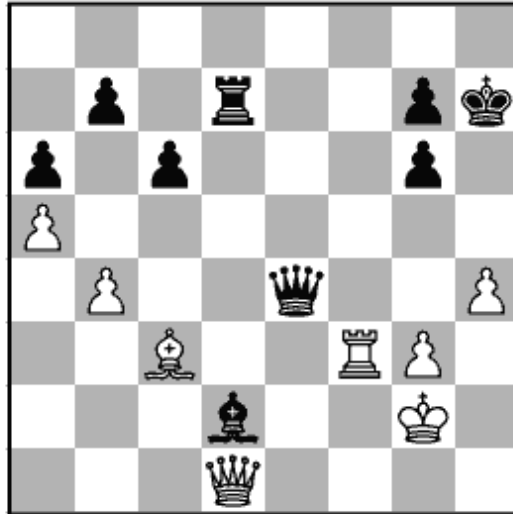
20...Nb7

White wins the d5-pawn after 20...Qc6 21 Neg5 Kh8 22 Nxe6 Rxe6 23 Qxd5 Rxe1+ 24 Rxe1 Qxd5 25 Bxd5 +/- with an extra pawn and good chances to win.

21 Ra6 Bf7 22 Neg5 Rxe1+ 23 Qxe1 c6 24 Bc2 +/-

White has a strong kingside initiative.

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Black to play

767) Jocev – Mushini

Pirot 2022

38...Rd3! 39 Bxd2 Qd5!

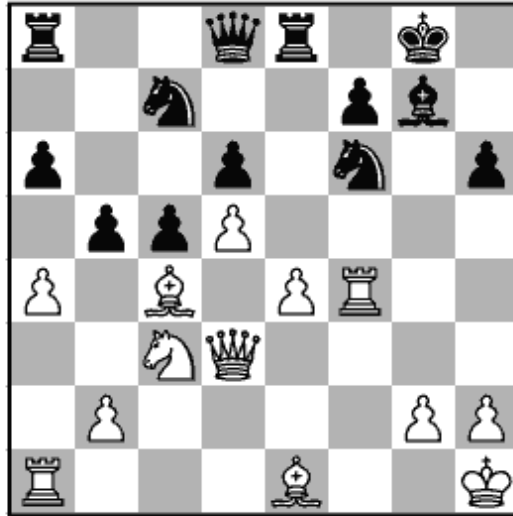
Black simplifies into a winning endgame.

40 Qf1 Rxf3

Or 40...Rxd2+ 41 Kh3 Qe6+ 42 g4 Rb2 –+.

41 Qxf3 Qxd2+ 42 Kh3 Qxb4 43 h5 Qxa5 44 hxg6+ Kxg6 –+

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White to play

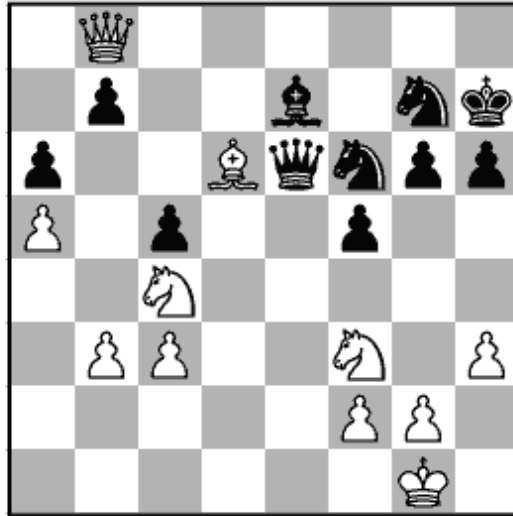
768) Mendonca – Liu Zhaoqi
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

22 Bh4! bxc4 23 Qf3

White wins back the pinned piece and leaves Black with a damaged kingside pawn-structure.

23...Re5 24 Bxf6 Qd7 25 Rf1 +-

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Black to play

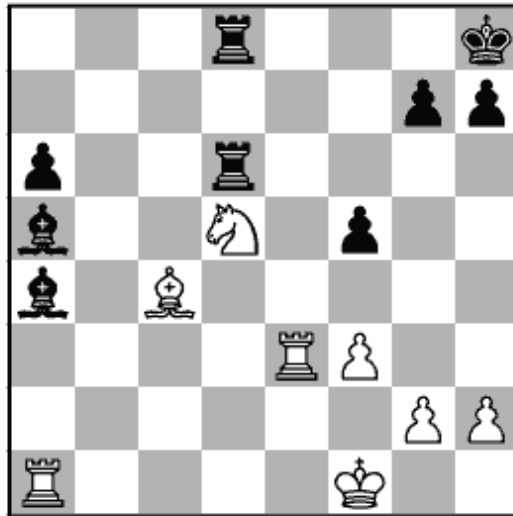
769) Kramnik – Vakhidov
Astana rapid 2023

30...Nd7! 31 Qc7 Ne8

Black wins a piece.

32 Qxb7 Bxd6 –+

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Black to play

770) Lahno – Sindarov
Astana rapid 2023

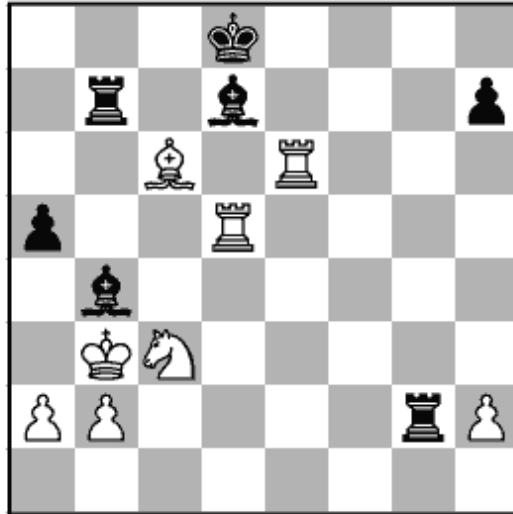
34...Rxd5! 35 Rxa4

35 Bxd5 Bb5+ 36 Kf2 Bb6 –+.

35...Rd1+ 0-1

36 Kf2 (36 Ke2 R8d2#) 36...Bb6 –+.

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Black to play

771) Kulon – Sliwicka

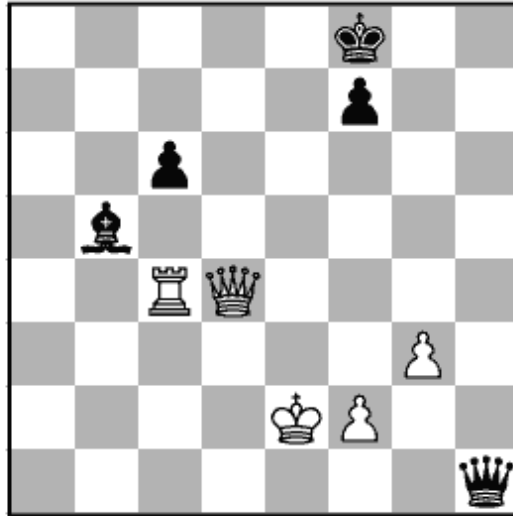
Polish Women's Ch, Warsaw 2023

31...Bd6+!

Black breaks one pin to create another pin.

32 Bxb7 Bxe6 33 h3 Rh2 –+

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Black to play

772) Besou – Droin

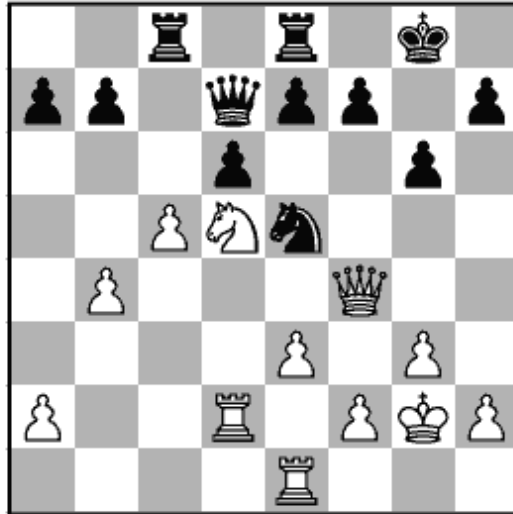
Mitropa Cup, Mali Lošinj 2023

39...Qd5! 40 Qh8+

Black wins the pinned rook after 40 Qxd5 cxd5 –+.

40...Ke7 0-1

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White to play

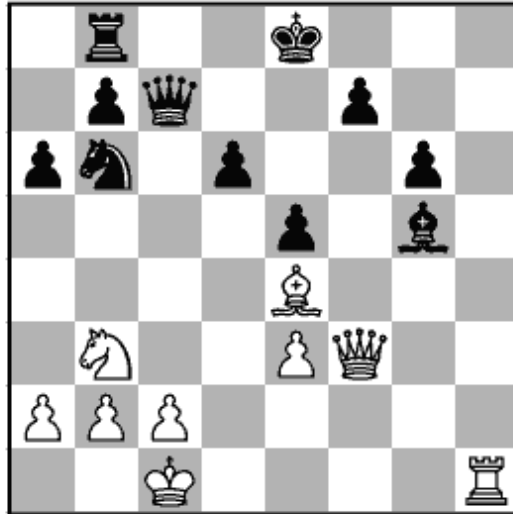
773) Pulpan – A.C. Adithya
Budapest 2023

27 Qxe5!

White simplifies into a winning rook and pawn endgame.

27...dxe5 28 Nf6+ exf6 29 Rxd7 b6 30 Rxa7 bxc5 31 b5 +-

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White to play

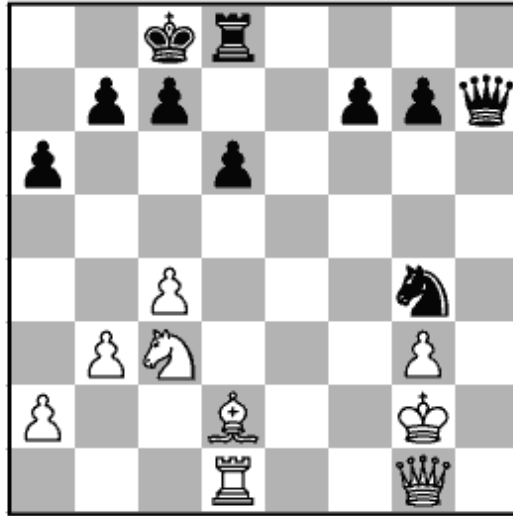
774) I. Sharma – T. Tancsa
Budapest 2023

22 Rh7!

White is two pawns down, but Black has no good defence to the threat of Bxg6.

22...Nc4 23 Bxg6 Bxe3+ 24 Kb1 Bf4 25 Qd5 +-

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Black to play

775) M. Campos – Romero Barreto
Villa Martelli 2023

25...Rh8! 26 Qh1

26 Re1 Qd3 –+.

26...Nh2 27 Kf2

27 Kg1 Qd3 –+.

27...Qf5+ 28 Kg2

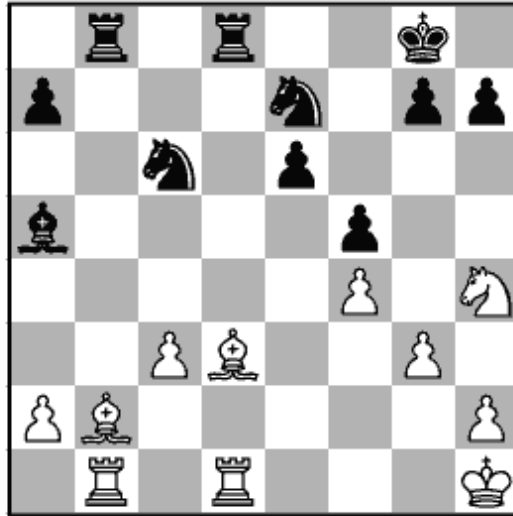
28 Bf4 Ng4+ –+ costs White his queen.

28...Qf3+

Black wins a piece via a series of checks.

29 Kg1 Qxg3+ 30 Qg2 Nf3+ 31 Kf1 Nxd2+ 32 Rxd2 Qxc3 0-1

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Black to play

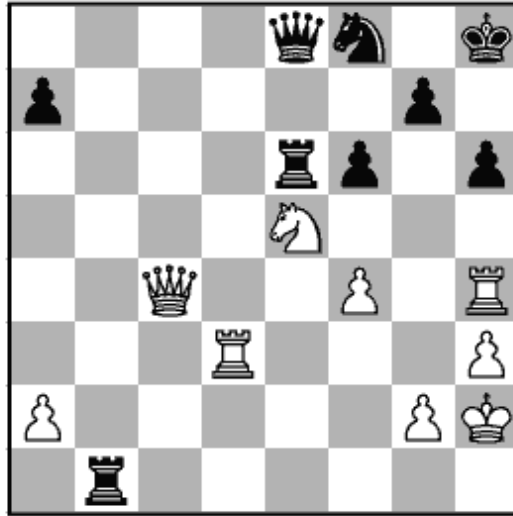
776) Perez Candelas – Saldano Dayer

Villa Martelli 2023

21...Bxc3! 22 Bxc3 Rxb1 23 Rxb1 Rxd3 24 Rc1 h6 –/+

Black is a pawn ahead with good winning chances.

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White to play

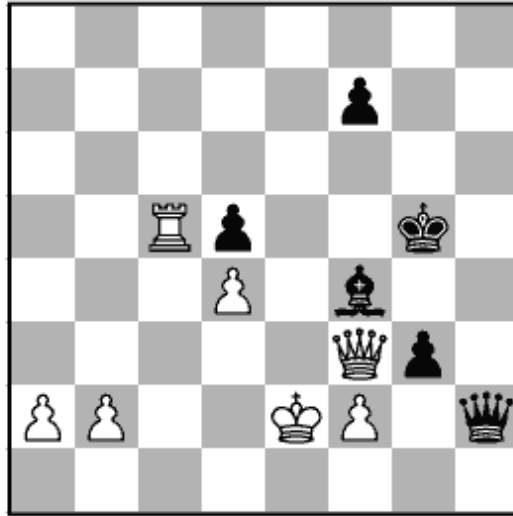
777) Gokerkan – Hakemi
Ayvalik 2023

39 Rd8! Rxe5

39...Qxd8 40 Nf7+ Kh7 41 Nxd8 +–.

40 Rxe8 Rxe8 41 Qf7 Rbe1 42 Qxa7 +–

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Black to play

778) Harff – B. Decrop

Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

42...g2!

Black has a large material disadvantage, but the pawn on his seventh rank enables him to hold the balance.

43 Qxd5+

The game ended 43 Rc8?? g1N+! 0-1.

43...Kh6 44 Qxf7

White has a few ways to force a perpetual check. Another is 44 Qf5 g1Q 45 Qf6+ Qg6 46 Qh8+ Qh7 47 Qf6+ Qg6 48 Qh8+ =.

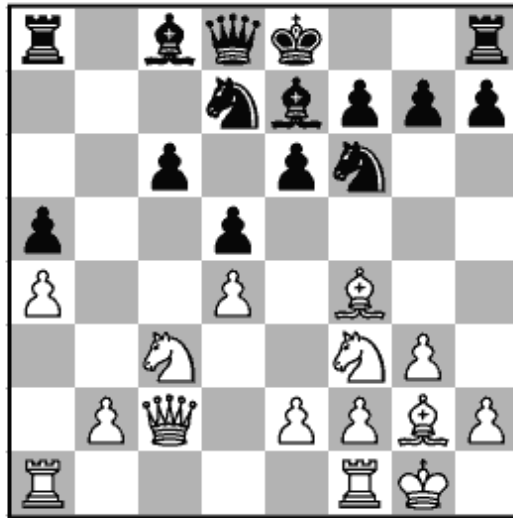
44...g1Q 45 Qf6+ Qg6 46 Qh8+ Qh7 47 Qf6+

Not 47 Rc6+?? Bd6 48 Qf8+ Kg5 49 Qd8+ Kg4 –+.

47...Qg6 48 Qh8+ =

with a draw by repetition.

[back](#)



White to play

779) Krivoborodov – Novković
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

11 Nb5!

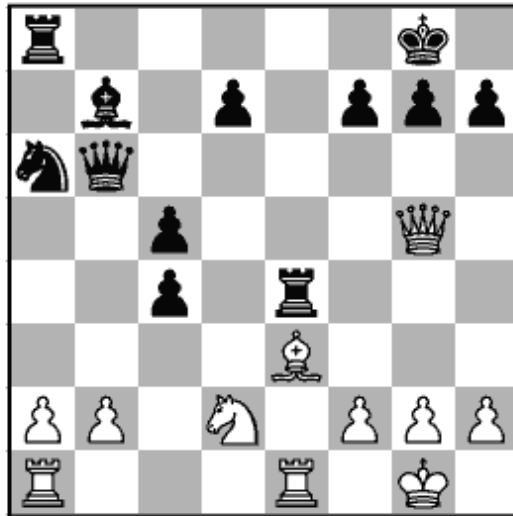
Black must be wary of this idea when he has not castled.

11...cxb5

White wins material after 11...0-0 12 Bc7 Qe8 13 Nd6 Bxd6 14 Bxd6 +–.

12 Bc7 b4 13 Bxd8 Bxd8 14 Ne5 +–

[back](#)



Black to play

780) S. Matt – C. Köpke
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

20...Re6! 21 Nxc4

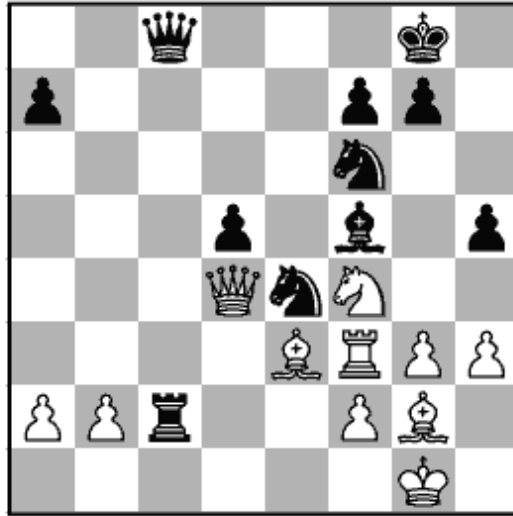
Black has a mobile extra centre pawn after 21 Qf5 d5 –+.

21...Qb4 22 Qf4

22 b3 Rg6 –+.

22...Re4 0-1

[back](#)



Black to play

781) Dvirnyy – Dardha

Catalonian Team Ch, Barcelona 2023

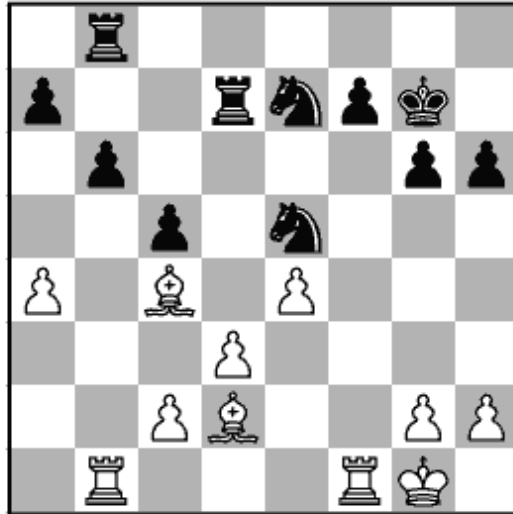
26...Ng5! 27 Nxh5?!

27 Nxd5 Nxf3+ 28 Bxf3 Nxd5 29 Bxd5 Be6 30 Bf3 Qb8 –+.

27...Nxf3+ 28 Bxf3 Nxh5 29 Bxh5 Be4 30 Kh2 Qc4 31 Qxc4 dxc4

0-1

[back](#)



White to play

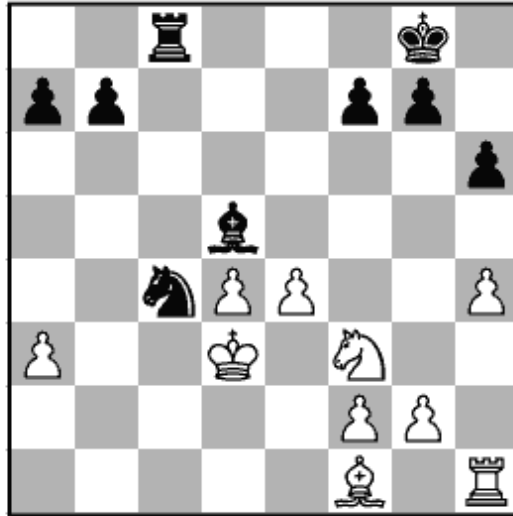
782) Bauer – D. Asllani
Swiss Team Ch 2023

24 Bc3! Nc6

Black is hopelessly tied up after 24...f6 25 Bxe5 fxe5 26 Rf7+ Kh8 27 Rbf1 Rg8 28 g4 +–.

25 Bb5 Nd4 26 Bxd7 Ne2+ 27 Kf2 Nxc3 28 Rb3 +–

[back](#)



Black to play

783) Suleymenov – Daneshvar
Astana 2023

25...Nb2+! 26 Ke3?

26 Kd2 offers more hope, as after 26...Bxe4 27 Be2 Nc4+ (27...Rc2+ 28 Ke3) 28 Bxc4 Rxc4 29 Ke3 Bd5 30 Ra1 the white king's activity is useful, though Black still has several positional pluses and can press for victory.

26...Nd1+! 27 Kf4

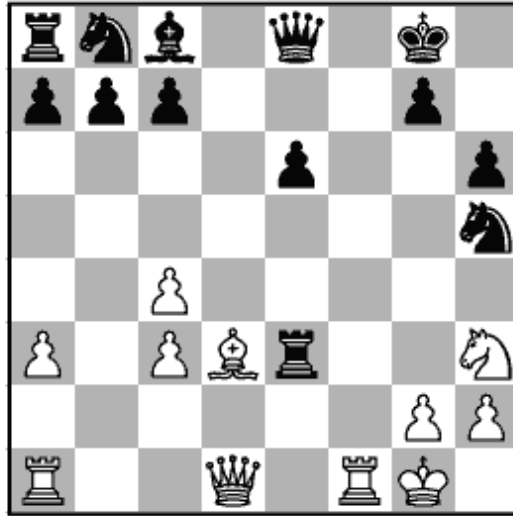
27 Ke2 Nc3+ 28 Ke3 Nxe4 29 Bd3 Rc3 –+.

27...Nxf2 28 exd5

28 Rg1 Nxe4 –+.

28...Nxb1 29 Ne5 Rd8 –+

[back](#)



White to play

784) S. Naoum – Vedmediuc (variation)

Khania 2023

16 Bg6! Qxg6

16...Qe7 17 Qxh5 +-.

17 Qd8+ Kh7 18 Rf8 Qe4?!

Or: 18...Qc2? 19 Qe8! leads to mate; 18...Qf6 19 Rxf6 Nc6 20 Qd2 +-.

19 Rh8+ Kg6 20 Qe8+ Kf6 21 Rf8+

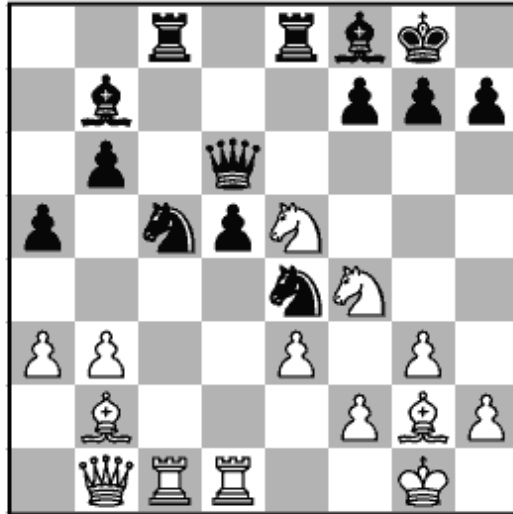
White can use the other rook and win in similar fashion to the main line: 21 Rf1+ Ke5 22 Qb5+ Kd6 23 Rd1+ Rd3 24 Rxd3+ Qxd3 25 c5+ +-.

21...Ke5 22 Qb5+ Kd6 23 Rd1+ Rd3

23...Ke7 24 Qc5#.

24 Rxd3+ Qxd3 25 c5+ Kd5 26 Qxd3+ +-

[back](#)



White to play

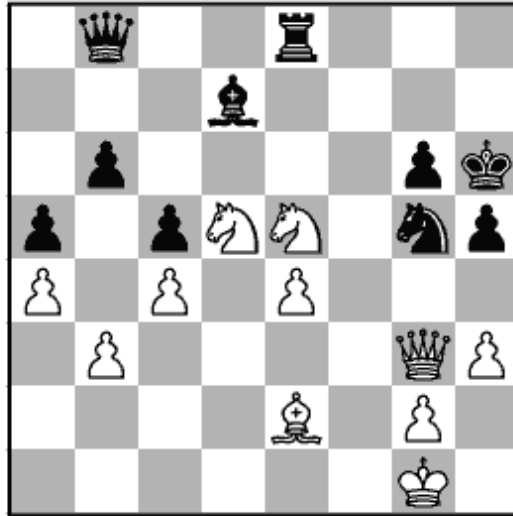
785) Yuffa – Patrascu
Bucharest rapid 2023

21 b4! axb4 22 axb4 Rxe5

White is able to exploit the pin along the d-file to win a piece after
 22...Nd7 23 Rxc8 Rxc8 24 Nxd7 Qxd7 25 Bxe4 +—.

23 bxc5 Nxc5 24 Bxe5 Qxe5 25 Qxb6 +—

[back](#)



White to play

786) Serban – Ponomariov
Bucharest rapid 2023

31 Ne7!

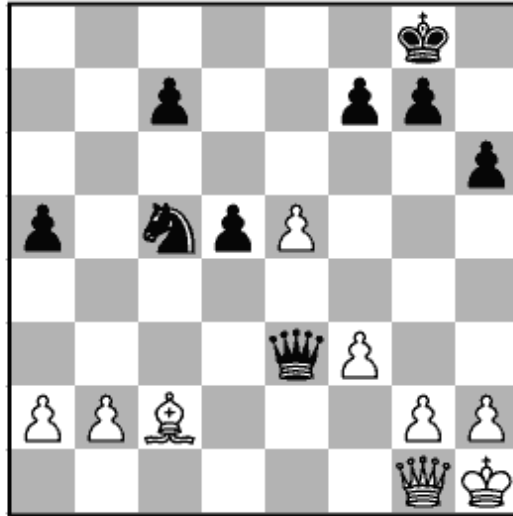
After 31 Nc7?? (as played in the game) Black could have won material with 31...Rxe5! 32 Qxe5 Ne6! (backwards knight moves based around a pin can be easy to overlook) 33 Bxh5 Qxc7 34 Qh8+ Kg5 35 Bf3 Qd6 –+.

31...Rxe7

31...Qb7 32 h4! +–.

32 Nf7+ Rxf7 33 Qxb8 +–

[back](#)



Black to play

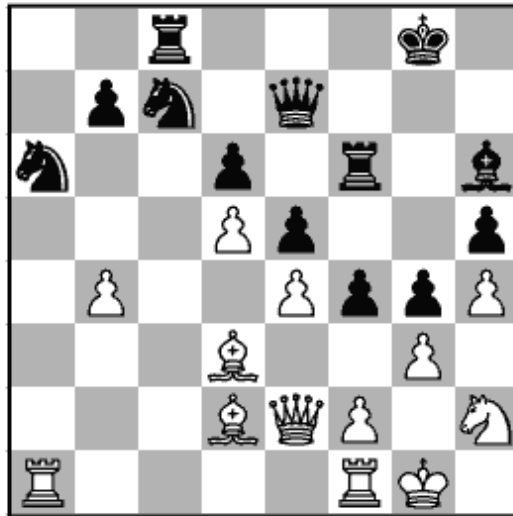
787) T. Georgescu – Harikrishna
Bucharest rapid 2023

27...Qd2! 28 Qd1

Black should win the queen and pawn endgame after 28 Qxc5 Qc1+ 29 Qg1 Qxc2 30 h4 Qxb2 –+.

28...Qxd1+ 29 Bxd1 Nd3 30 Bb3 c6 31 Ba4 c5 32 Bc6 d4 –+

[back](#)



White to play

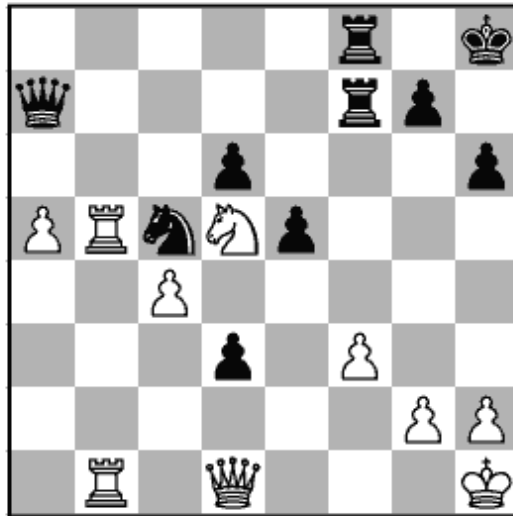
788) Magold – Costachi
Bucharest rapid 2023

29 Nxg4! hxg4

29...Rg6 30 Nxb6+ Rxb6 31 Qf3 +–.

30 Qxg4+ Kh7 31 Qxc8 +–

[back](#)



Black to play

789) Ki. Georgiev – Deac
Bucharest rapid 2023

47...e4!

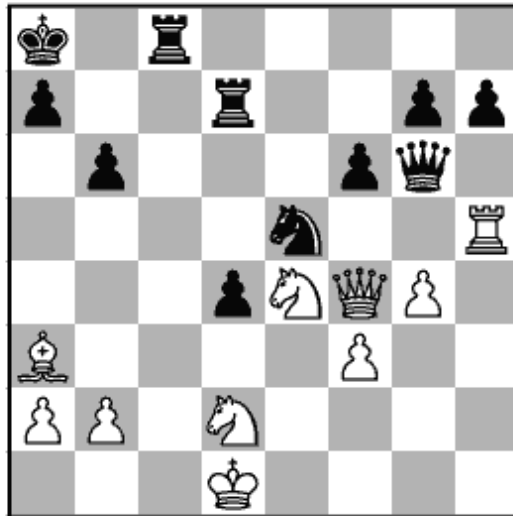
Black seeks to open lines to exploit White's weak back rank.

48 f4 e3 49 Nxe3 Ne4 50 Qe1 d2 51 Qe2 Rxf4 52 Rd5

52 Rb6 Qxa5 –+.

52...Qxe3 0-1

[back](#)



Black to play

790) K. Begmuratov – Samadov
Baku 2023

28...Rc1+! 29 Ke2

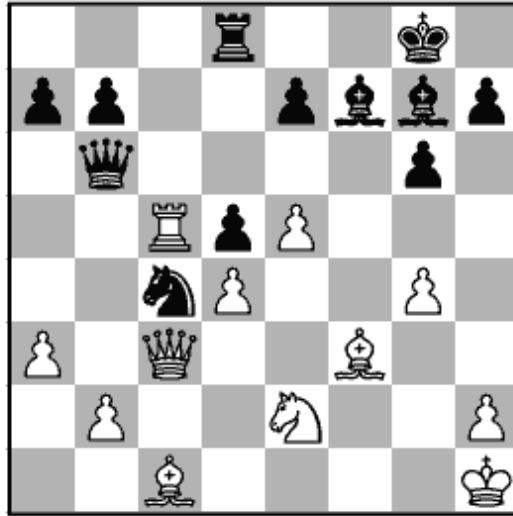
29 Kxc1 Nd3+ 30 Kb1 Nxf4 –+.

29...Re1+ 30 Kxe1

30 Kf2 Nd3+ –+.

30...Nd3+ 31 Kd1 Nxf4 32 Rh2 f5 33 Nf2 Qe6 0-1

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Black to play

791) M. Petr – Šimaček

Czech Ch, Bystrice nad Pernštejnem 2023

25...Bxe5! 26 b3

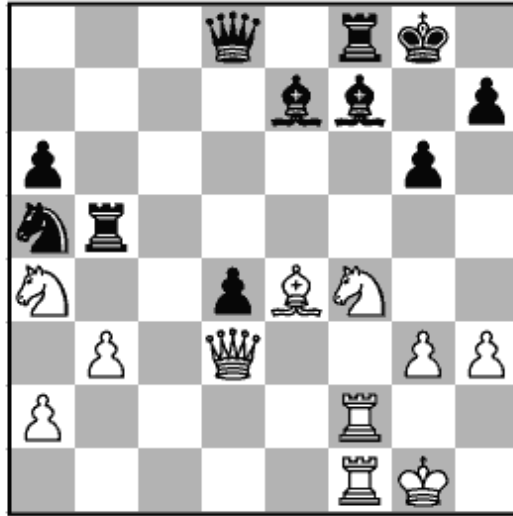
26 b4 Bb8 -+.

26...Qxc5! 27 bxc4

27 dxc5 Bxc3 -+.

27...dxc4 –+

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White to play

792) Melian – Diaz Hollemaert

Villa Martelli 2023

25 Bxg6!

White has five pieces pointing at Black's kingside so it's no surprise that this piece sacrifice works.

25...hxg6 26 Nxg6 1-0

26...Rb7 (26...Bxg6 27 Qxg6+ Kh8 28 Rf7 mates) 27 Rf4 Bg5 28 Nxf8 Bxf4 29 Rxf4 Kxf8 30 Nc5 Re7 (30...Qd6 31 Nxb7 Nxb7 32 Qxd4 +-) 31 Qh7 +-.

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Black to play

793) Nyazi – Kandil
African Ch, Giza 2023

18...Re8 19 Qf5 Nf6! 20 Be5

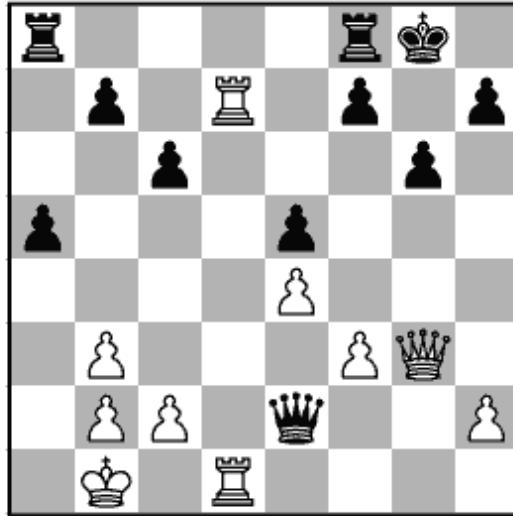
White's queen is incredibly uncomfortable on the f5-square because of the weakness of his third rank; for example, 20 bxc5 Bc8 21 Qf3 Bg4! (21...Re3? 22 Qd1 is OK for White) 22 Qg3 Re3 –+.

20...Bc8

20...Be3+ 21 Kh1 Bc8 22 Bxf6 Bxf5 23 Bxd8 transposes to the game continuation.

21 Bxf6 Bxf5 22 Bxd8 Be3+ 23 Kh1 Bxd3 24 Rf3 Raxd8 25 bxc5 bxc5 0-1

[back](#)



White to play

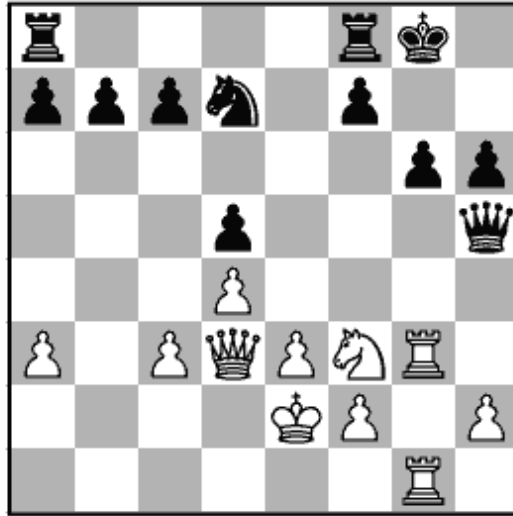
794) Martinez Duany – Pierrot
Juan Dolio 2023

23 R7d3!

Black's queen is trapped.

23...f5 24 Re1 f4 25 Qg1 1-0

[back](#)



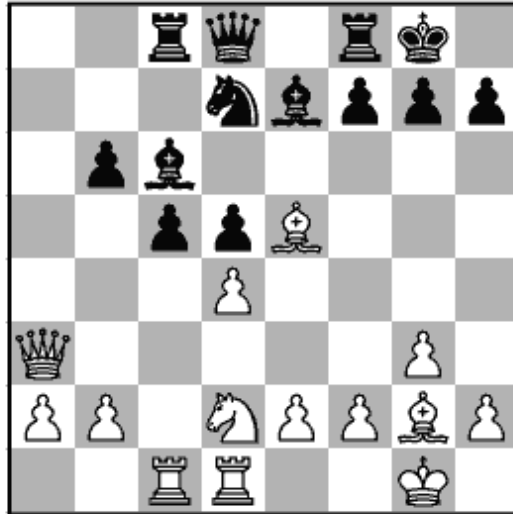
White to play

795) Mat. Latorre – A. Chandra
Juan Dolio 2023

18 Rg4! 1-0

Black is helpless against the threat of 19 Rh4 trapping the queen.

[back](#)



Black to play

796) Kezin – Alekseev
Khanty-Mansiisk rapid 2022

18...f6! 19 Bf4 g5!

Black wins a piece.

20 Qb3

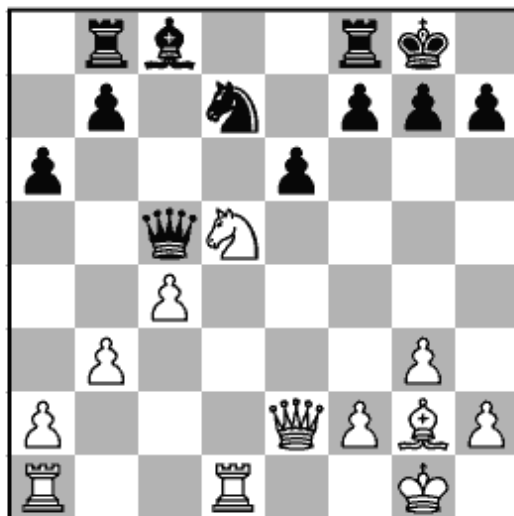
The game featured 20 Be3? cxd4 –+, and White resigned a few moves later.

20...gxf4 21 Bxd5+ Kh8 –/+

Black has a material advantage and good chances to win.

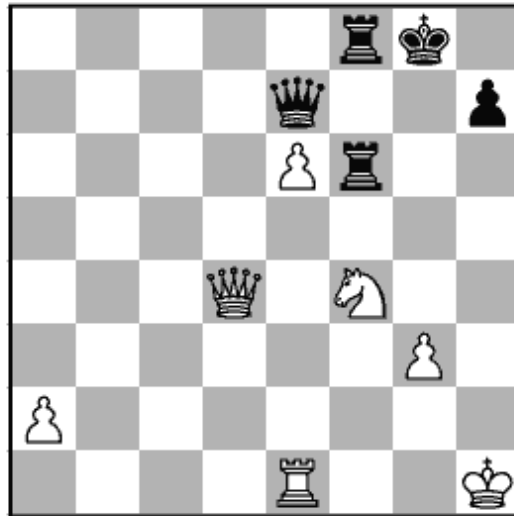
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Forks, Pins and Loose Pieces Test



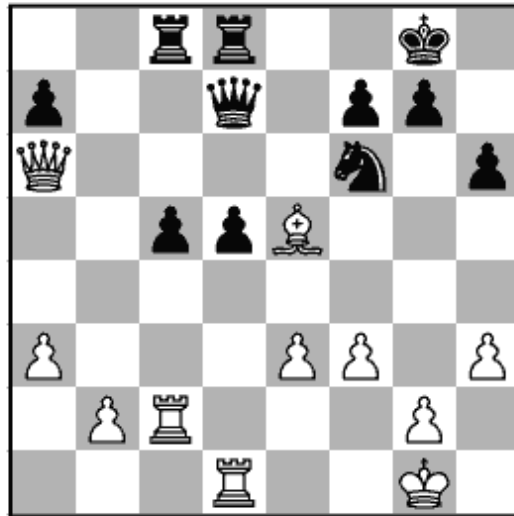
797) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



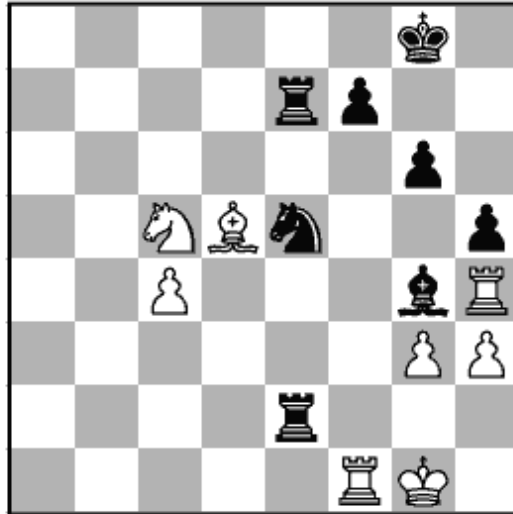
798) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



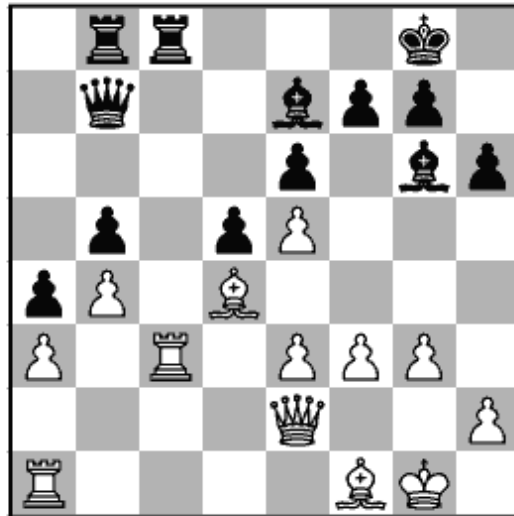
799) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



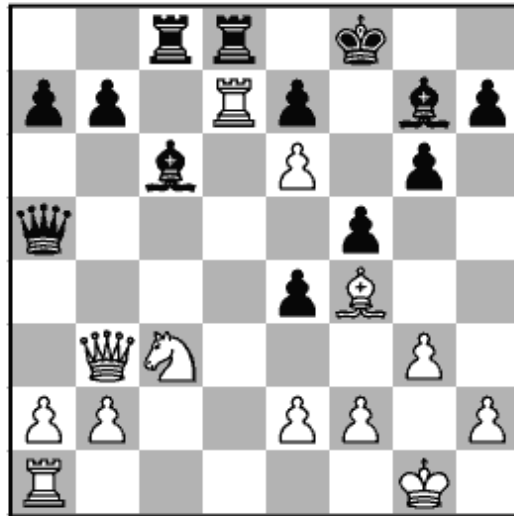
800) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



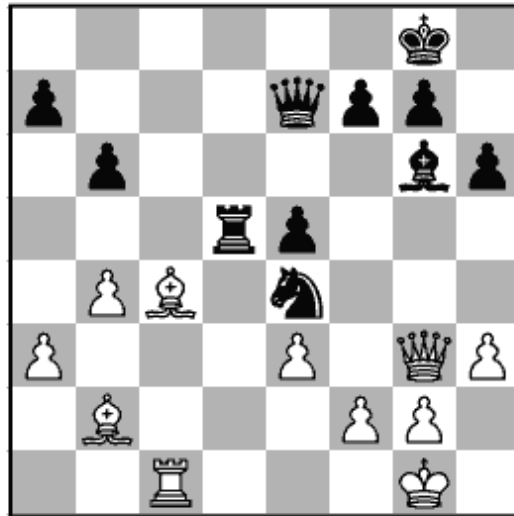
801) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



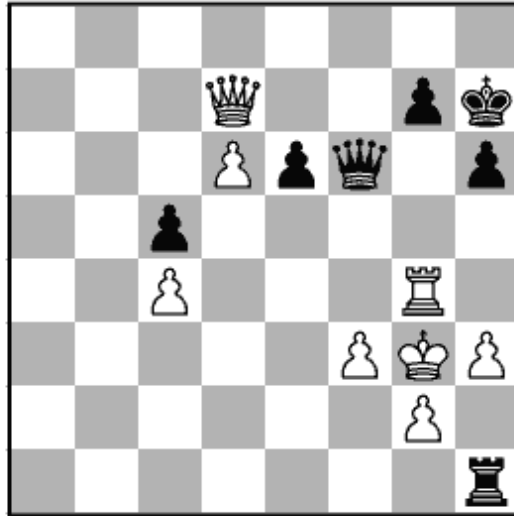
802) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



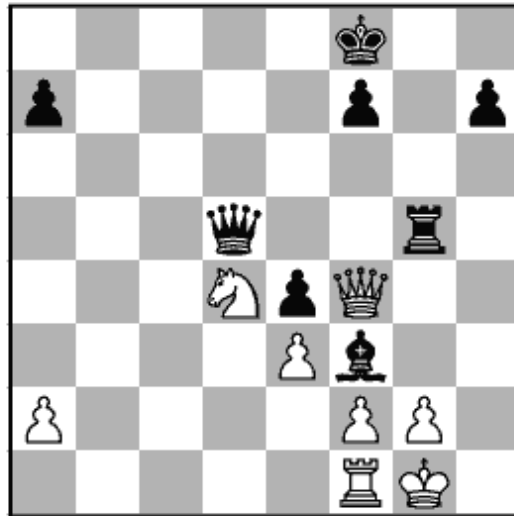
803) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



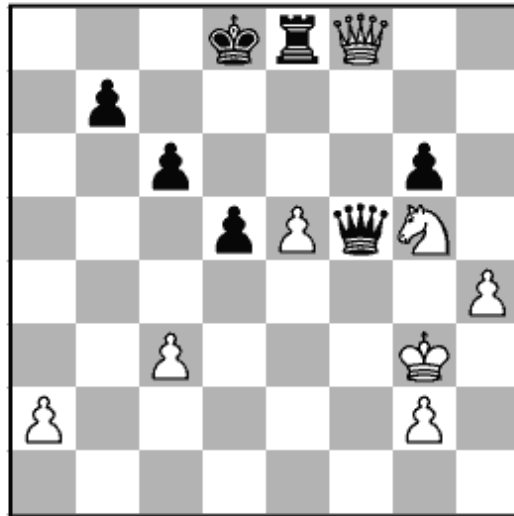
804) Black to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



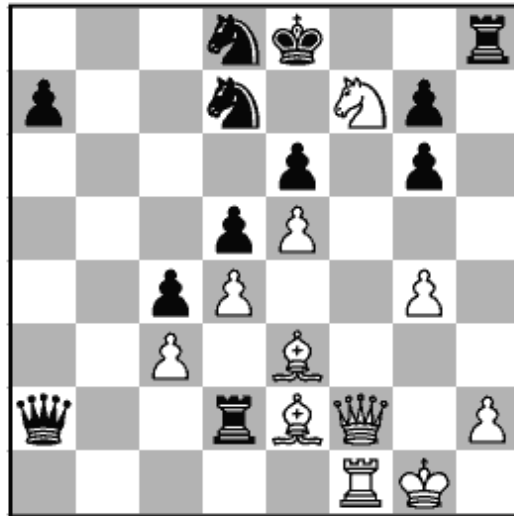
805) White to play (1 point)

[solution](#)



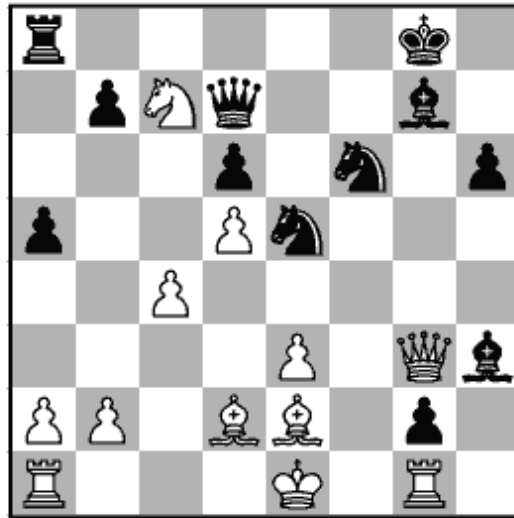
806) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



807) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



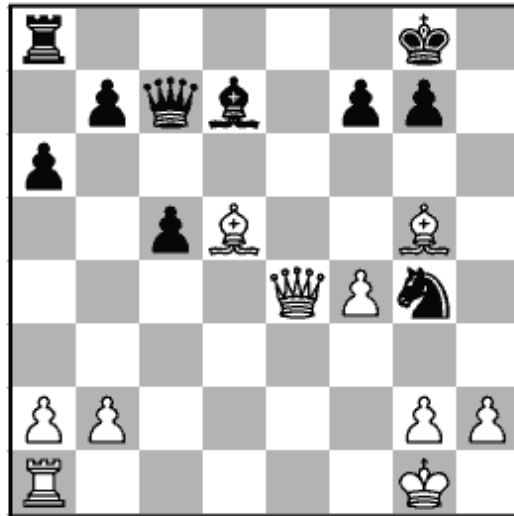
808) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



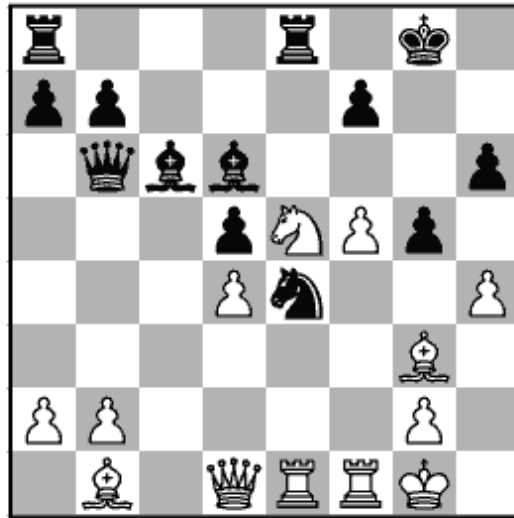
809) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



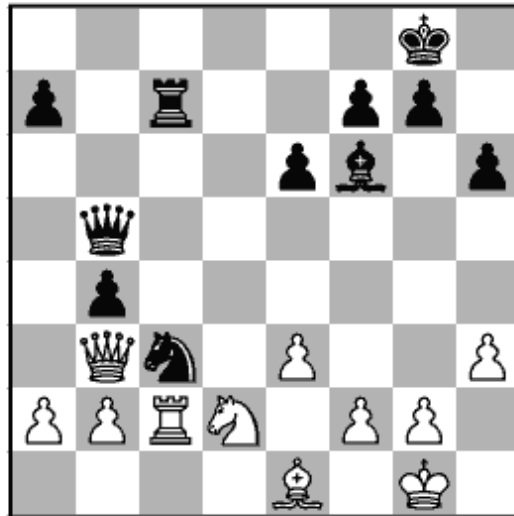
810) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



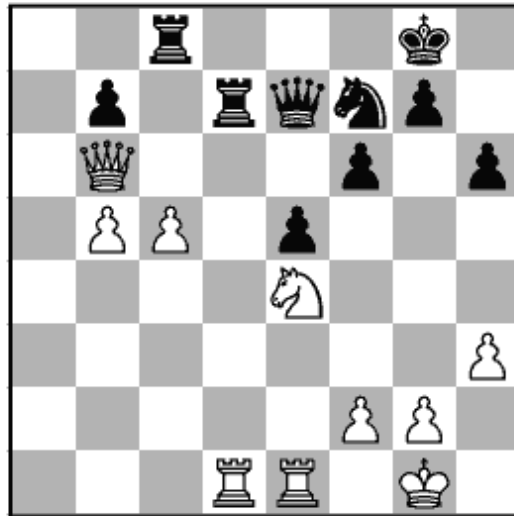
811) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



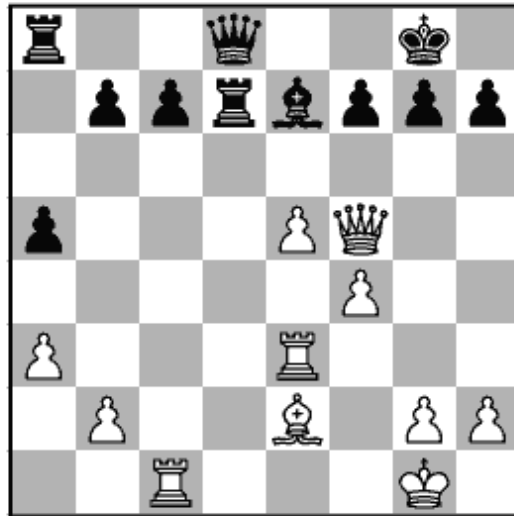
812) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



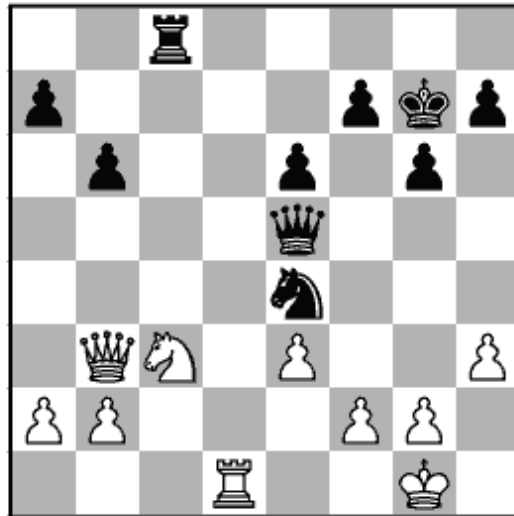
813) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



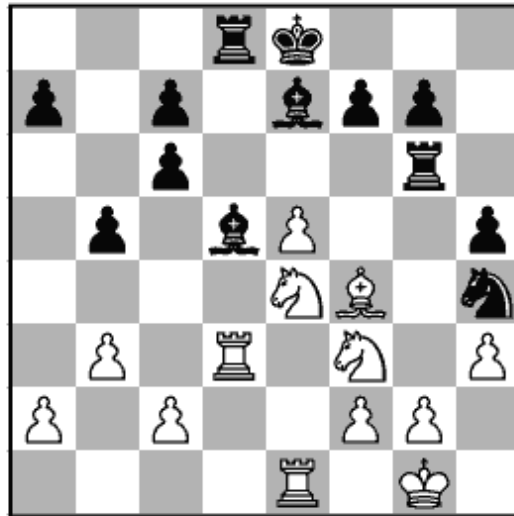
814) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



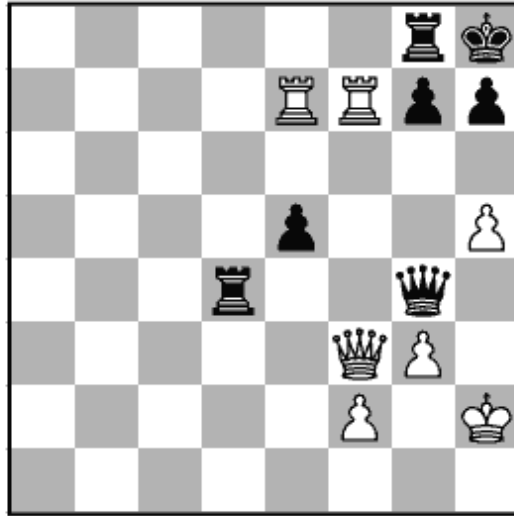
815) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



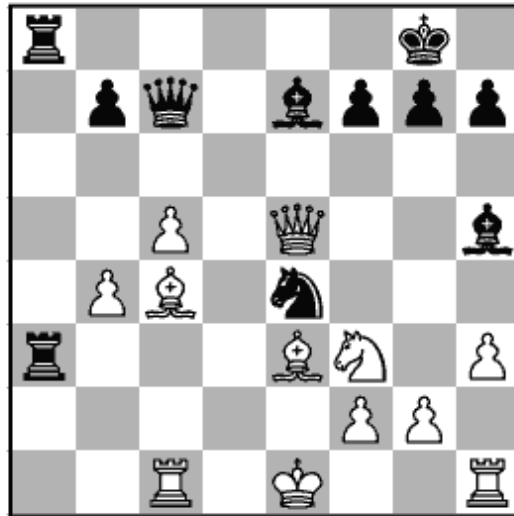
816) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



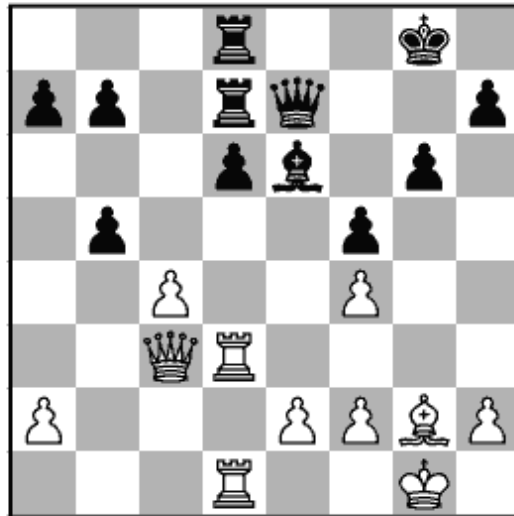
817) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



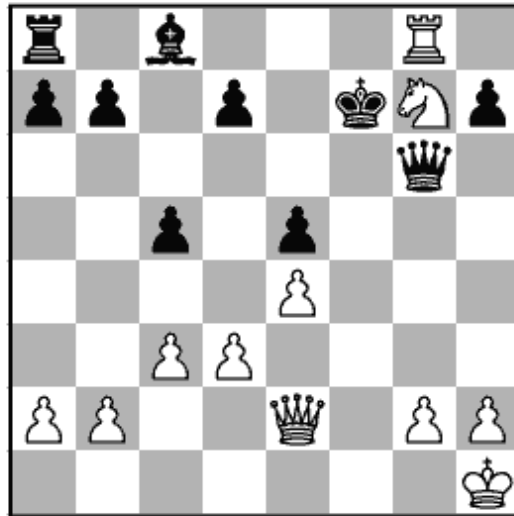
818) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



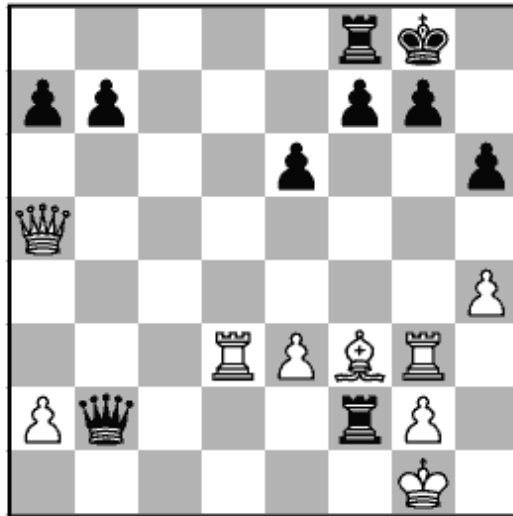
819) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



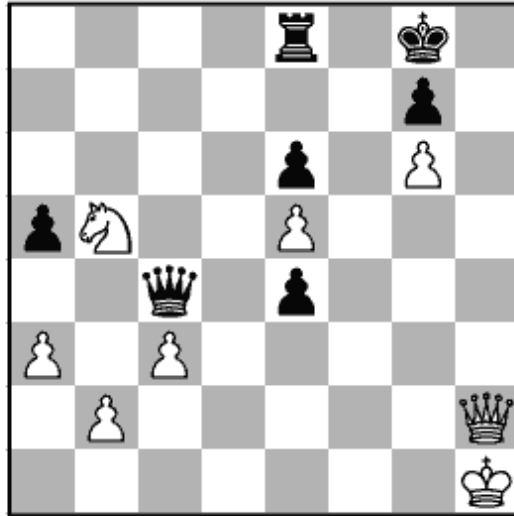
820) White to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



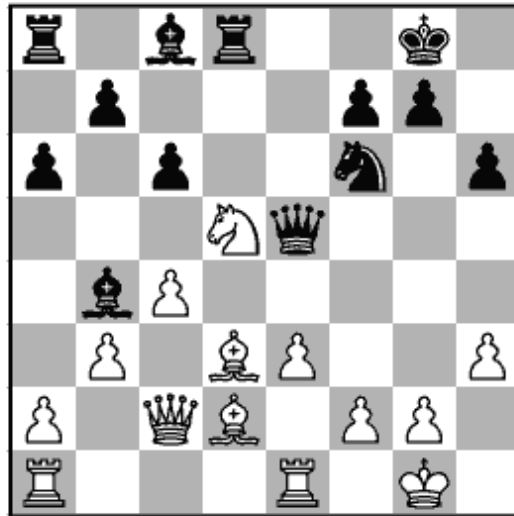
821) Black to play (2 points)

[solution](#)



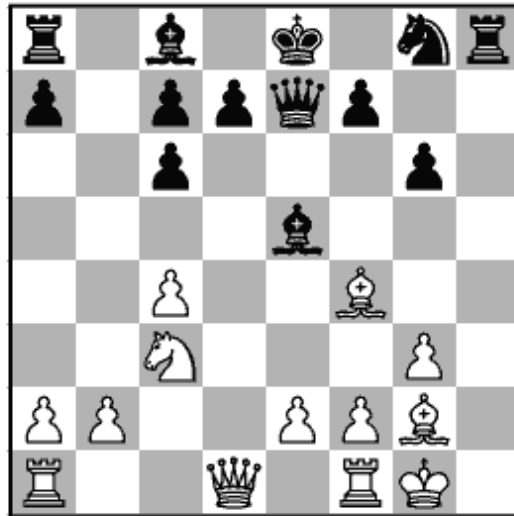
822) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



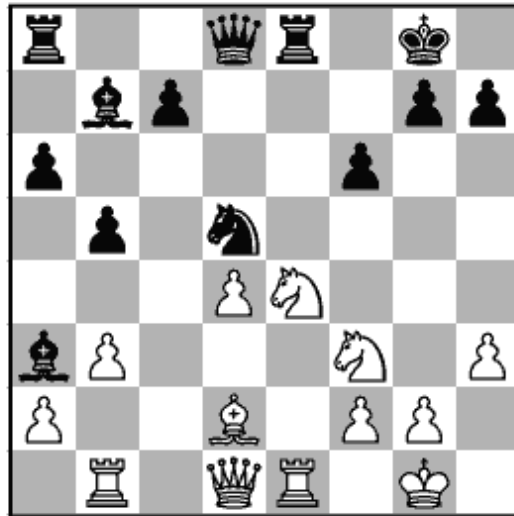
823) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



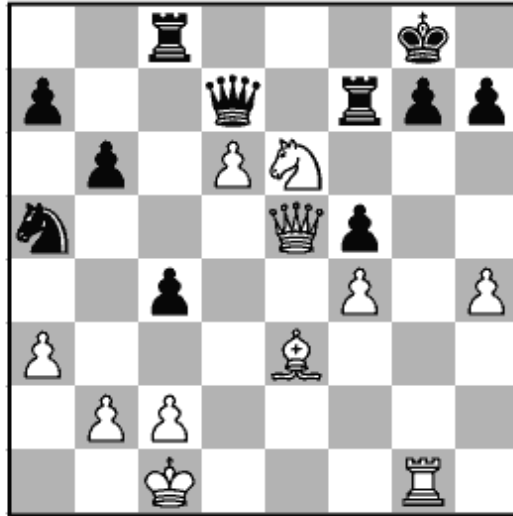
824) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



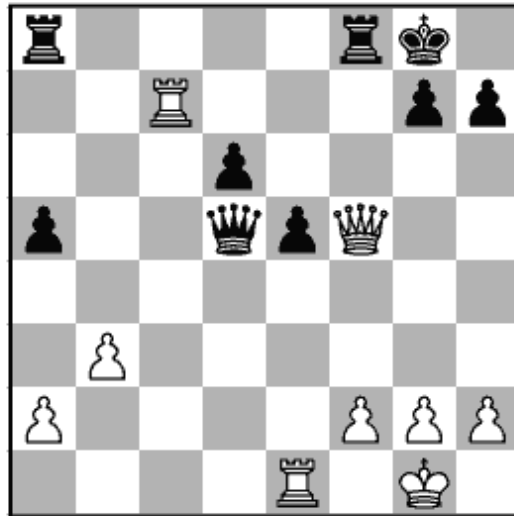
825) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



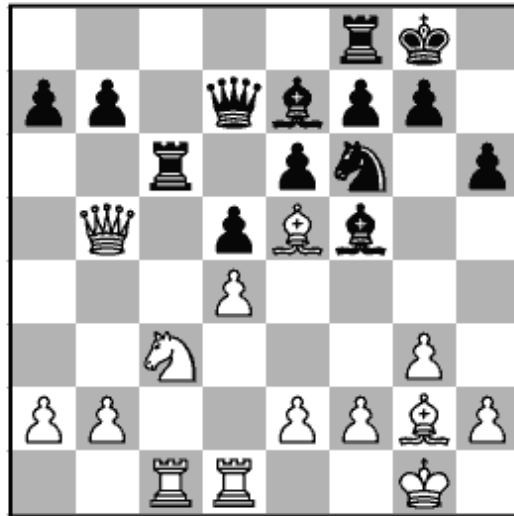
826) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



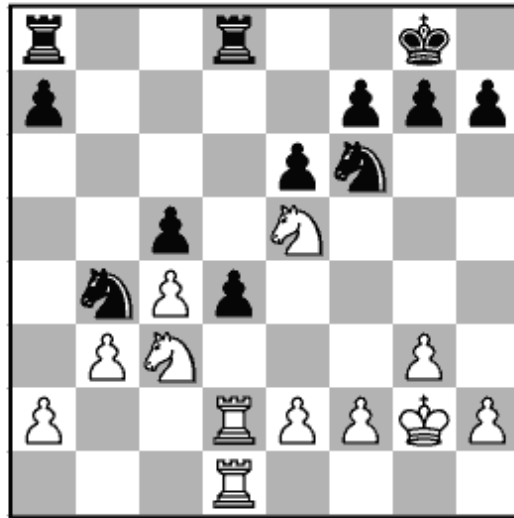
827) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



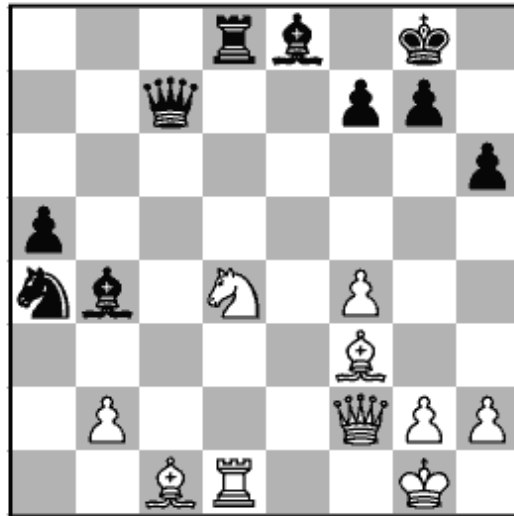
828) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



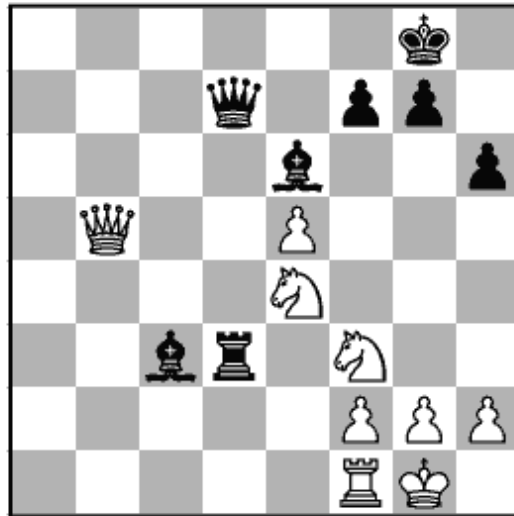
829) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



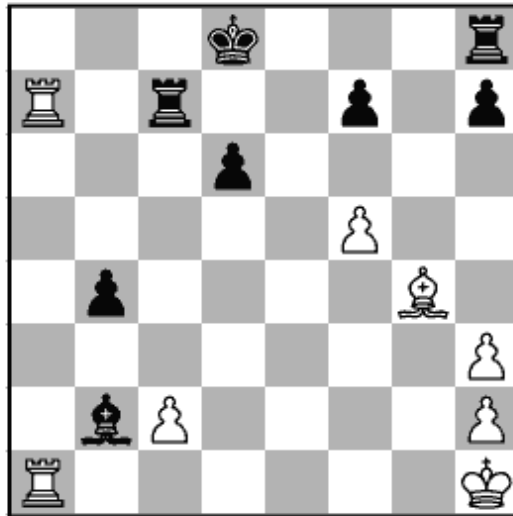
830) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



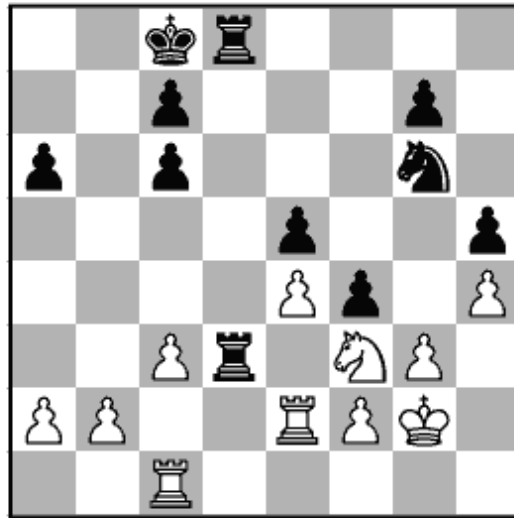
831) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



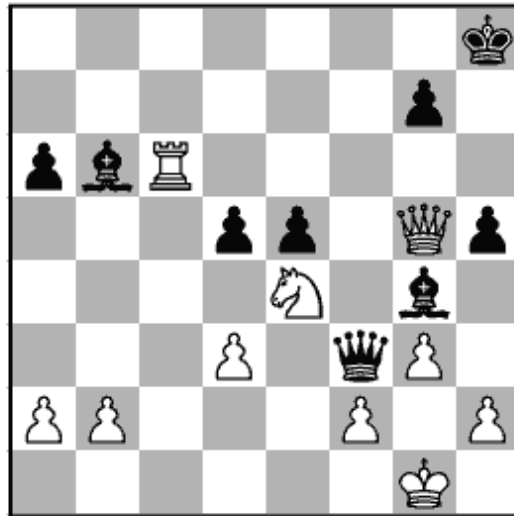
832) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



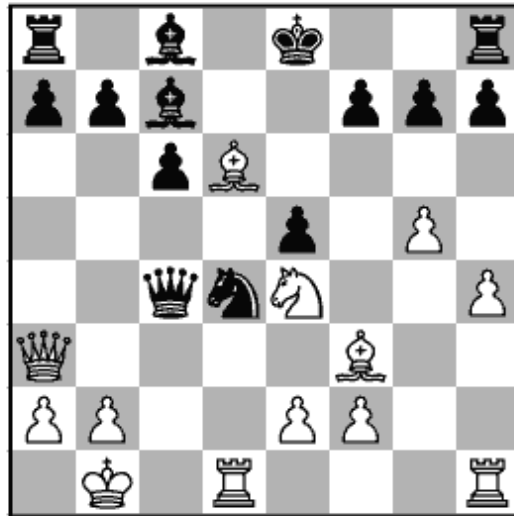
833) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



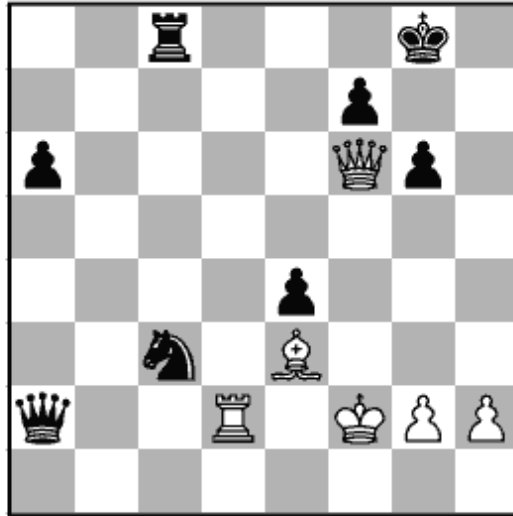
834) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



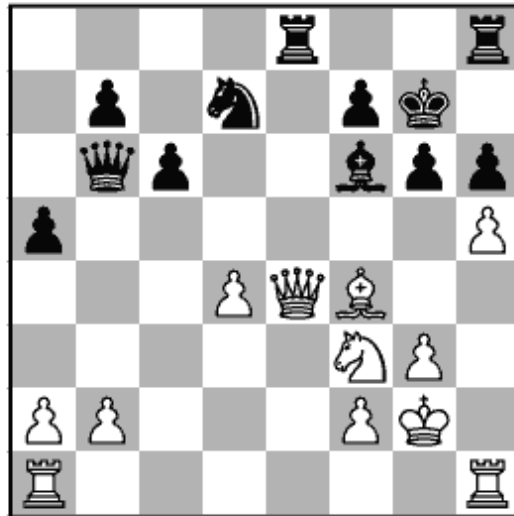
835) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



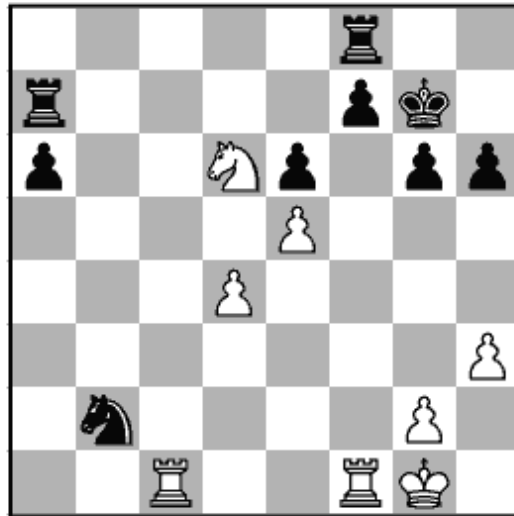
836) Black to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



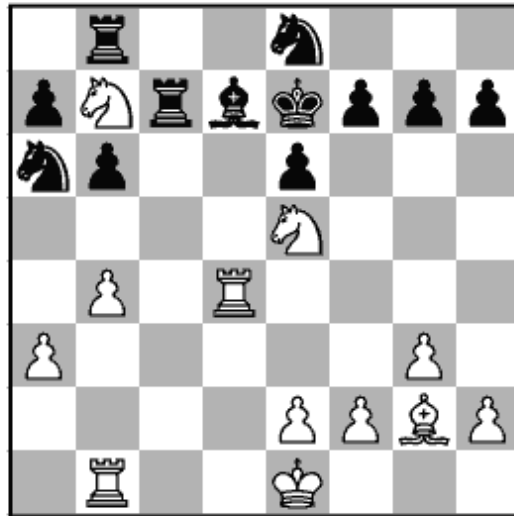
837) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



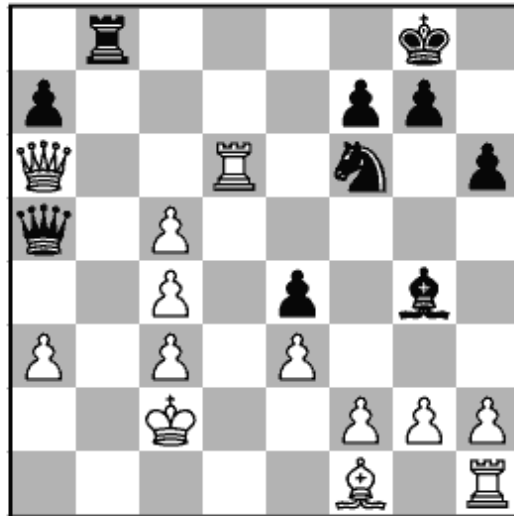
838) White to play (3 points)

[solution](#)



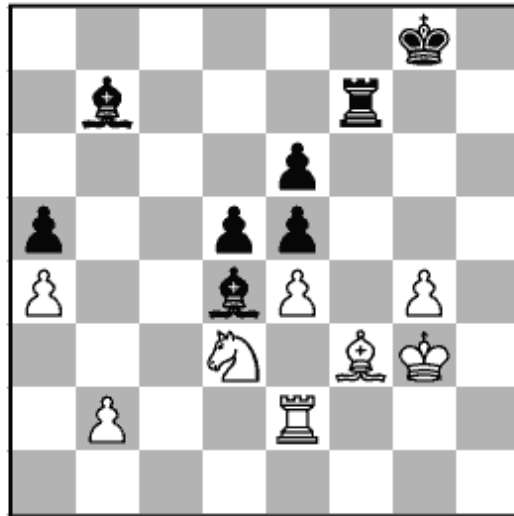
839) White to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



840) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



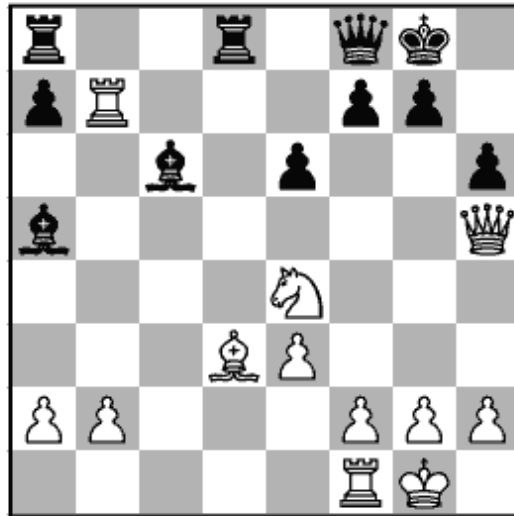
841) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



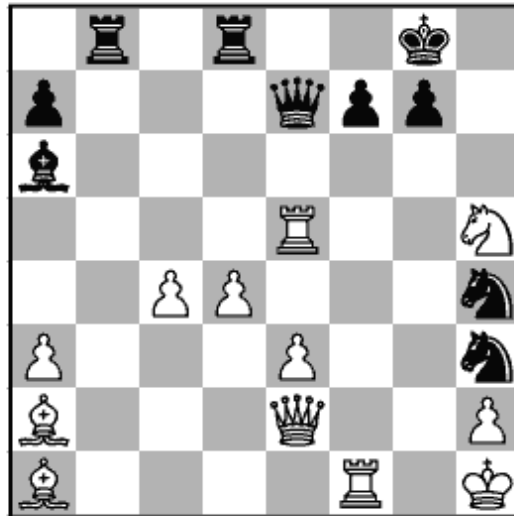
842) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)



843) White to play (4 points)

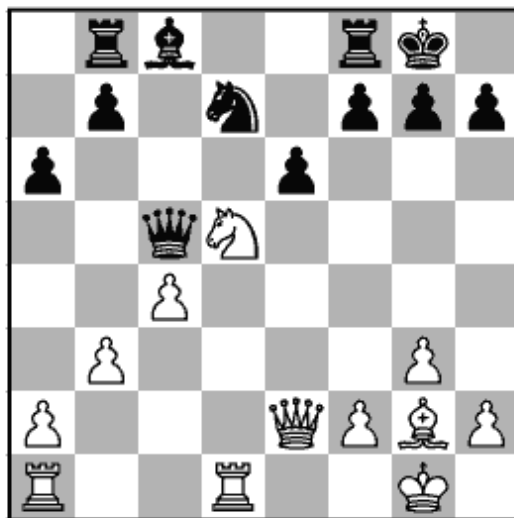
[solution](#)



844) Black to play (4 points)

[solution](#)

Solutions for Forks, Pins and Loose Pieces Test



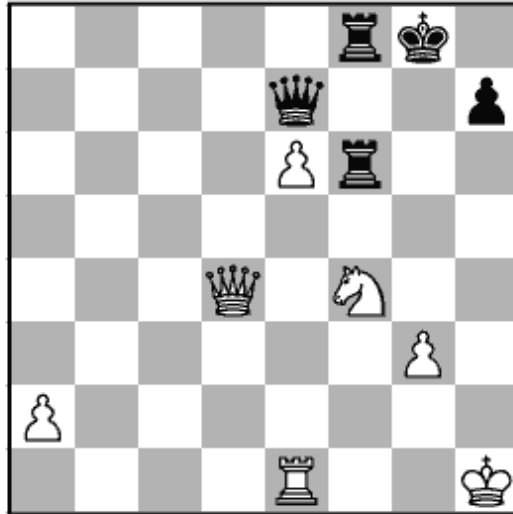
White to play

797) Navara – G. Guseinov
Braila rapid 2022

21 b4! 1-0

White wins a piece after 21...Qa7 22 Ne7+ Kh8 23 Nxc8 Rbxc8 24 Rxd7 +–.

[back](#)

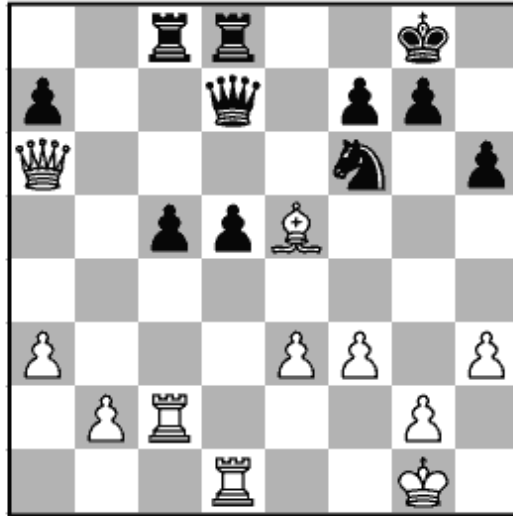


Black to play

798) Languidey – N. Filgueiras
São Paulo 2022

40...Rxf4! 41 gxf4 Qh4+ 42 Kg2 Qxe1 –+

[back](#)



Black to play

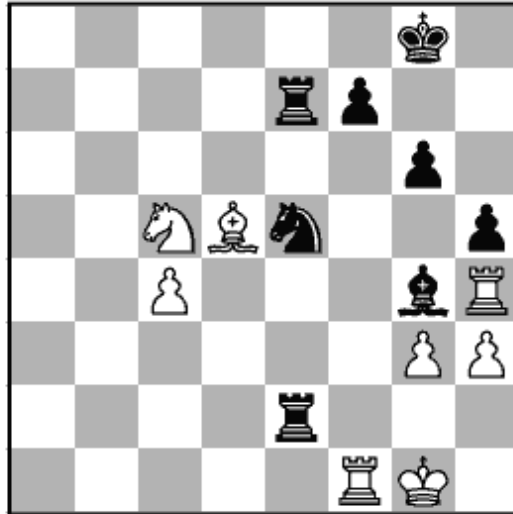
799) Alshameary Puente – Matamoros
Seville 2022

24...Qf5!

Black forks White's two loose pieces.

25 Bxf6 Qxc2 26 Rxd5 gxf6 0-1

[back](#)



Black to play

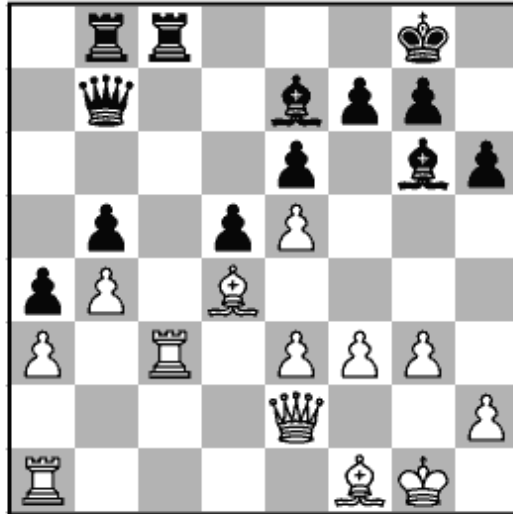
800) Liu Yan – Ding Liren
Chinese Rapid Team Ch 2022

35...g5! 36 Rxg4

36 hxg4 gxh4 37 gxh5 h3 –+.

36...hxg4 37 hxg4 Nxc4 38 Bf3 R2e3 –+

[back](#)



White to play

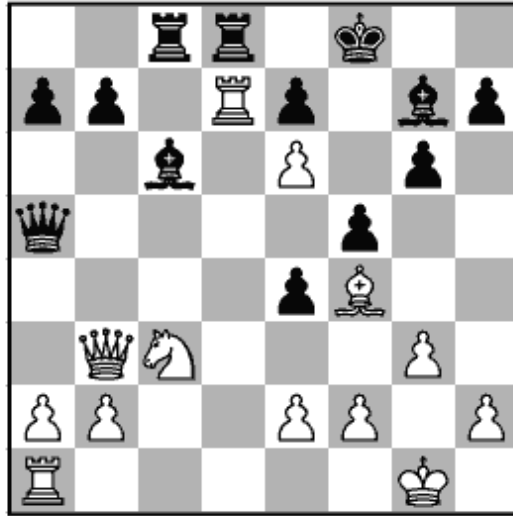
801) Neverov – A. Bai

Budapest 2022

23 Qxb5! Rxc3 24 Qxb7 Rxb7 25 Bxc3 Rc7 26 Bd4 +-

White has a clear extra pawn.

[back](#)



White to play

802) T.L. Petrosian – Yilmaz
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

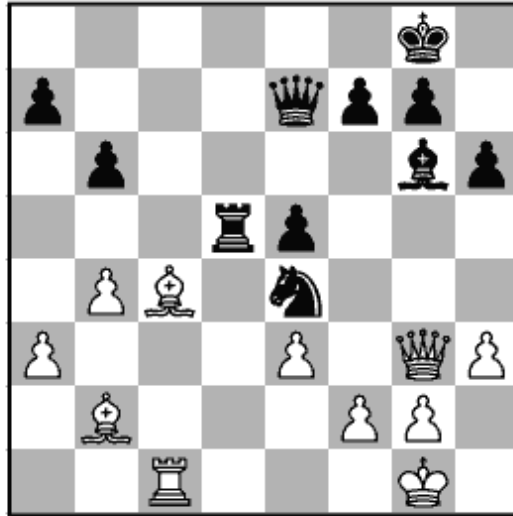
20 Bc7! Qxc7

20...Rxc7? 21 Rxd8+ Be8 22 Rad1 +–.

21 Rxc7 Rxc7 22 Rd1 +–

White has a decisive material advantage.

[back](#)

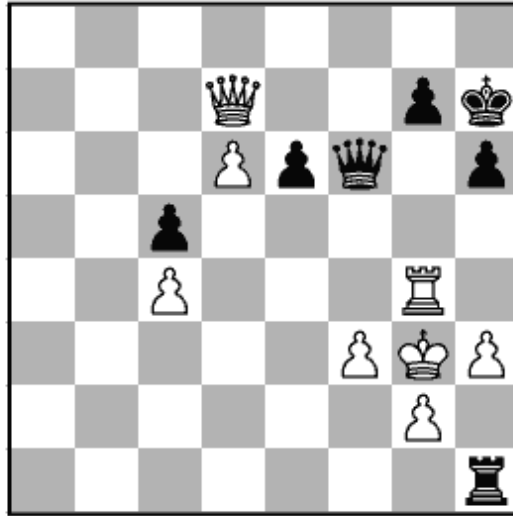


White to play

803) Weishäutel – Pezelj
2nd Bundesliga 2022/3

27 Qxg6! fxg6 28 Bxd5+ Kh7 29 Bxe4 1-0

[back](#)



Black to play

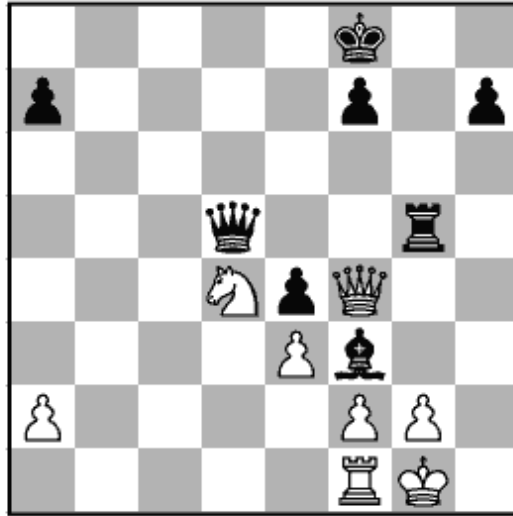
804) Agdelen – Goriachkina
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

38...h5!

Black forces the white rook to leave the g-file.

39 Re4 Qg5+ 40 Kf2 Rh2 0-1

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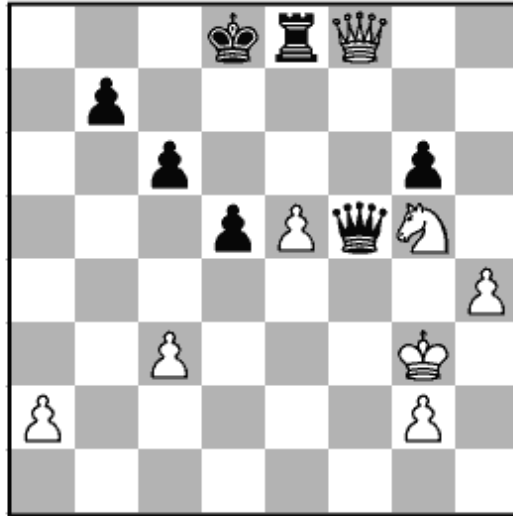
White to play

805) Grishchuk – Aditya Mittal

Internet rapid 2023

35 Ne6+! Qxe6 36 Qxg5 +–

[back](#)

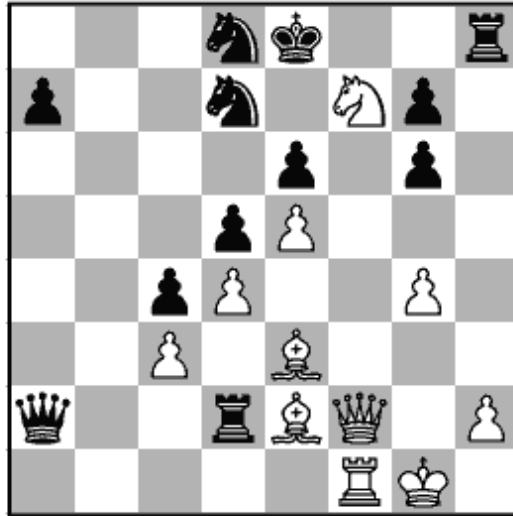


White to play

806) Safarli – I. Schneider
Tegernsee 2022

39 Nf7+ Kd7 40 Qxe8+! Kxe8 41 Nd6+ 1-0

[back](#)



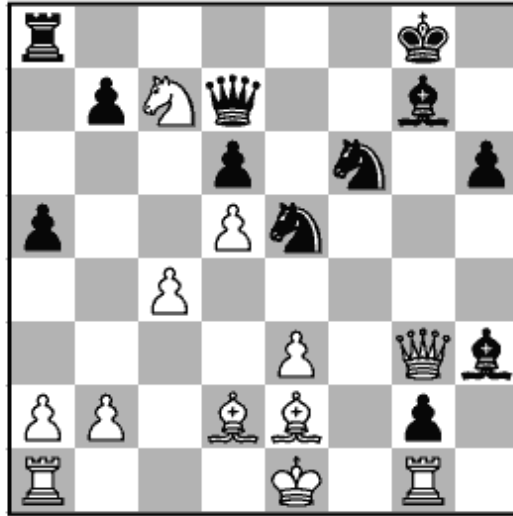
Black to play

807) Alekseenko – Andreikin
Internet rapid 2023

24...0-0! 0-1

White loses material after 25 Bxd2 Qxd2 –+.

[back](#)



Black to play

808) Sklyarov – Sepp
Finnish Team Ch 2022/3

24...Ne4! 25 Qh4

25 Qf4 Nc5 –+.

25...Ng5 0-1

[back](#)



White to play

809) Panjwani – Miezis
Chennai Olympiad 2022

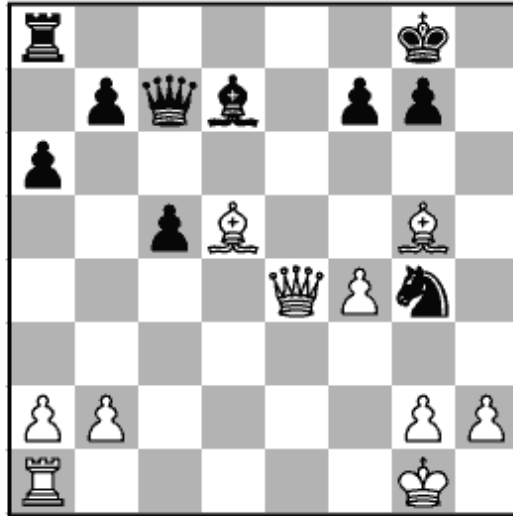
14 Nxd5! Nxd5 15 Nxc6 Qd6

15...Bxc6 16 Qxc6 +–.

16 Bxd5 1-0

16...Qxd5 17 Ne7+ +–.

[back](#)



White to play

810) Kourkoulos-Arditis – Janik
Greek Team Ch, Thessaloniki 2022

21 Qe7!

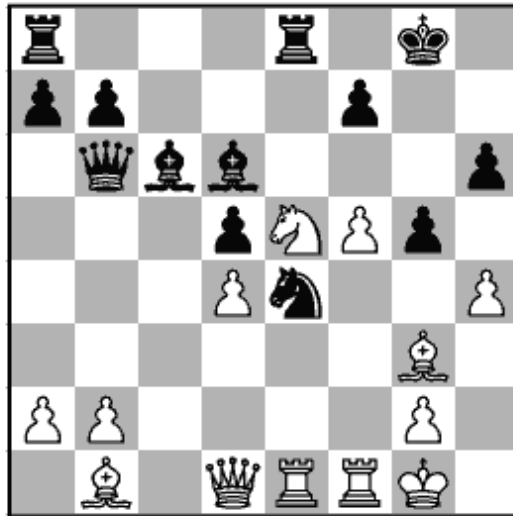
The pin prevents Black from defending his kingside.

21...Rf8 22 h3 Qb6

Or: 22...Nf6 23 Bxf6 gxf6 24 Qxf6 +–; 22...Nh6 23 Bxh6 gxh6 24 Re1 +–.

23 hxg4 Qxb2 24 Rd1 Bxg4 25 Bxf7+ 1-0

[back](#)



White to play

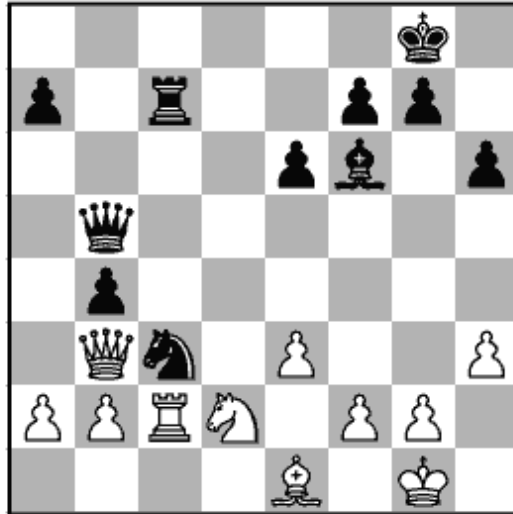
811) Pakleza – Lewtak
Polish Team Ch 2022

24 Rxe4! dxe4 25 Nc4 e3

25...Qb4 26 Nxd6 +—.

26 Nxb6 e2 27 Qb3 exf1Q+ 28 Kxf1 +—

[back](#)



Black to play

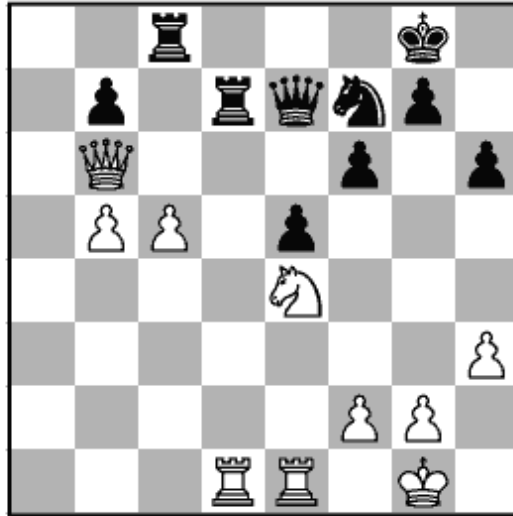
812) Beradze – Paragua
Charlotte 2022

28...Ne2+ 29 Kh1 Nc1!

White's queen is trapped.

30 Rxc7 Nxb3 31 axb3 Qe2 –+

[back](#)



White to play

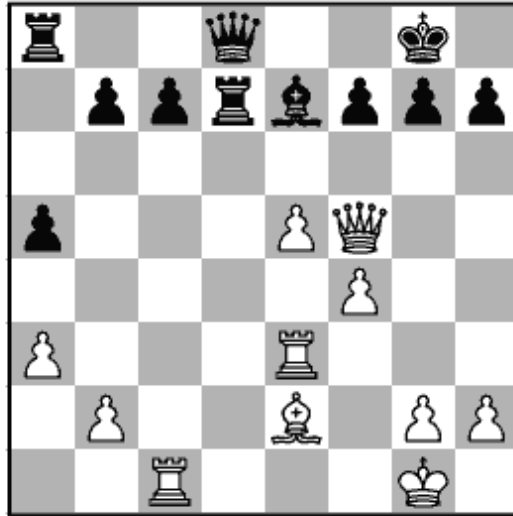
813) Malakhov – Khismatullin
Moscow rapid 2022

30 Rxd7 Qxd7 31 Qxf6! Rxc5

31...gxf6 32 Nxf6+ Kg7 33 Nxd7 +—.

32 Qg6 Qxb5 33 Nxc5 Qxc5 34 Qe6 +—

[back](#)



White to play

814) Keymer – Grandelius

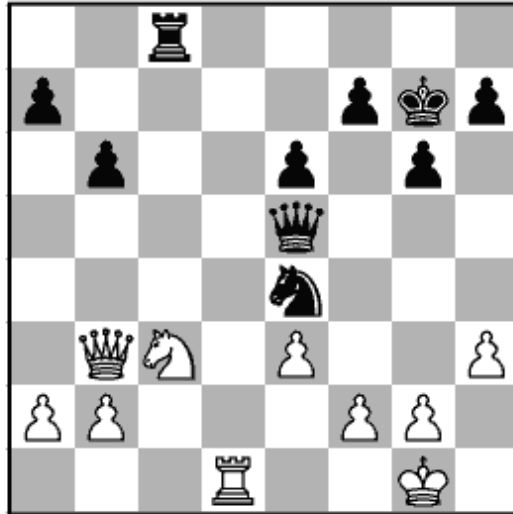
Internet rapid 2022

25 e6! fxe6 26 Qxe6+ Kh8 27 Bg4

White wins a piece because the black rook is trapped.

27...Rd3 28 Qxe7 Qd4 29 Re1 1-0

[back](#)



White to play

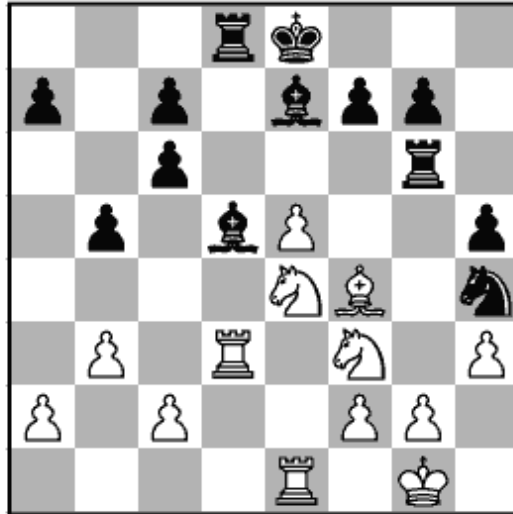
815) Artemiev – Carlsen
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

26 f4! Qf5 27 g4!

The black queen is driven away from defending the knight.

27...Rxc3 28 gxf5 Rxb3 29 axb3 exf5 30 Rd7 +-

[back](#)



White to play

816) Jansa – Omelja
Czech Team Ch 2022/3

19 Nf6+! Rxf6

19...gxf6 20 Nxh4 +–.

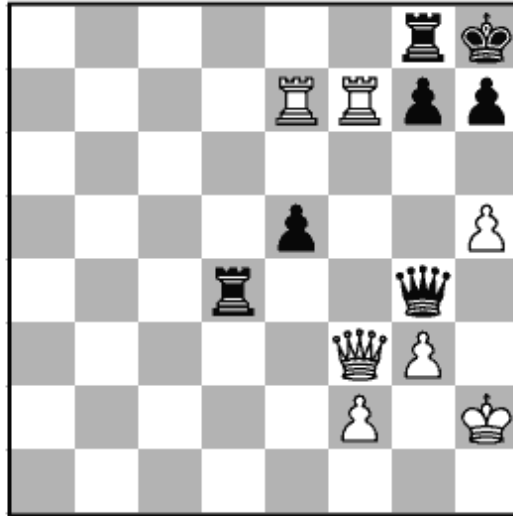
20 exf6 Nxf3+ 21 Rxf3 gxf6

21...Bxf3 22 Rxe7+ Kf8 23 gxf3 +–.

22 Rg3 +–

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

817) Stalmach – Gähwiler

Marianske Lazne 2023

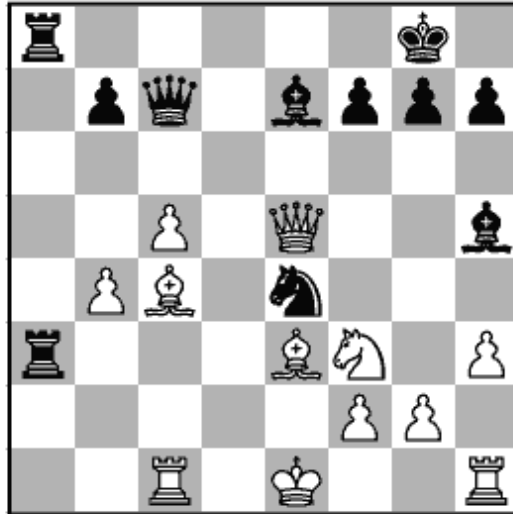
39 Rxd7! Rxd7

39...Qxd7 40 Rxd7 Kxd7 (40...Rxd7 41 Qf8+ Rg8 42 Qf6+ Rg7 43 h6 +–) 41 Qf5 Rdd8 42 Qxe5+ Kf7 43 Qf5+ +–.

40 Qf8+ Rg8 41 Qf6+ 1-0

41...Qg7 (41...Rg7 42 Re8#) 42 Rxd7 Rxd7 43 h6 +–.

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Black to play

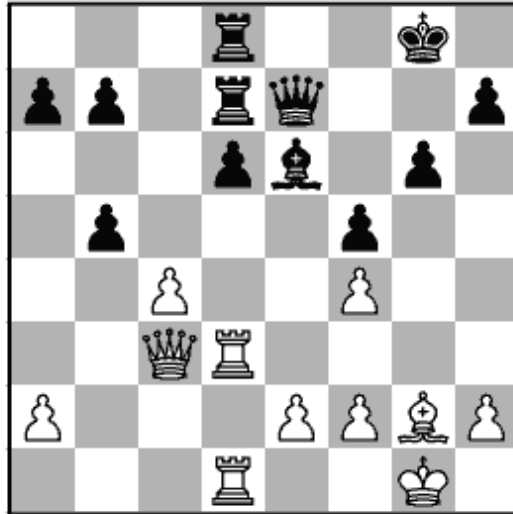
818) Sankalp – Ter-Sahakyan
Internet rapid 2023

20...Rxe3+! 21 fxe3 Bh4+ 22 Kf1

22 Nxh4 Qxe5 –+.

22...Nd2+ 0-1

[back](#)



White to play

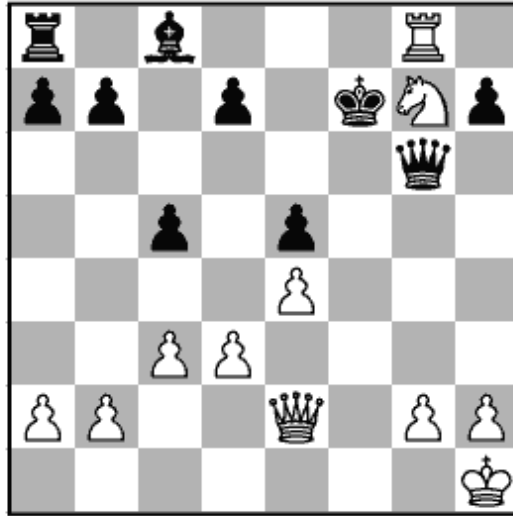
819) Meškova – Sipilä
Finnish Team Ch 2022/3

22 Re3! b4 23 Qb2

Black has no good defence against the dual threats of 24 Rxe6 and 24 Bd5.

23...d5 24 Bxd5 Kf7 25 Rxe6 1-0

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White to play

820) B. Amin – El Gindy

Riyadh rapid 2023

25 Nf5!

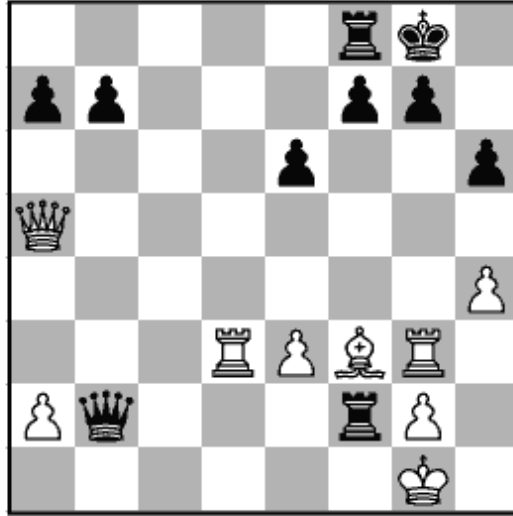
As we have already noted, retreating knight moves that set up a fork can be difficult to see.

25...Kxg8

Or: 25...Qxg8 26 Nh6+ +–; 25...Qf6 26 Rg7+ Kf8 27 Qh5 +–.

26 Ne7+ Kg7 27 Nxg6 hxg6 28 Qf2 d6 29 Qh4 Kf7 1-0

[back](#)



Black to play

821) Isik – Yilmazyerli
Turkish Ch, Kemer 2022

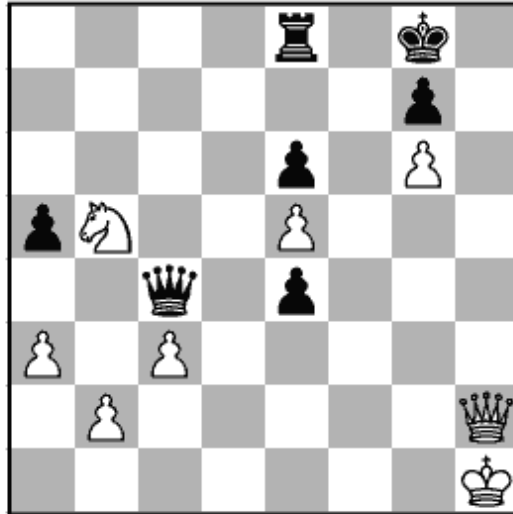
27...Rxf3! 28 Rd8

28 Rxf3 Qb1+ 29 Kh2 Qxd3 –+.

28...Qf2+ 29 Kh1 Rxc3 30 Rxf8+ Kh7! 0-1

And not 30...Kxf8?? 31 Qd8#.

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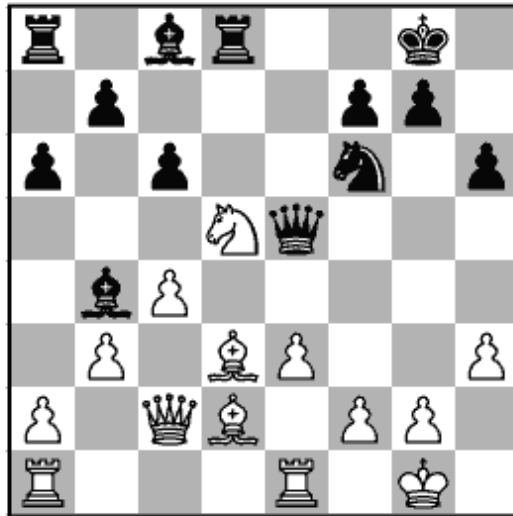
White to play

822) Casadio – Hourigan

Munich 2023

**37 Qh7+ Kf8 38 Qh8+ Ke7 39 Qxe8+! Kxe8 40 Nd6+ Kd7 41
Nxc4 +-**

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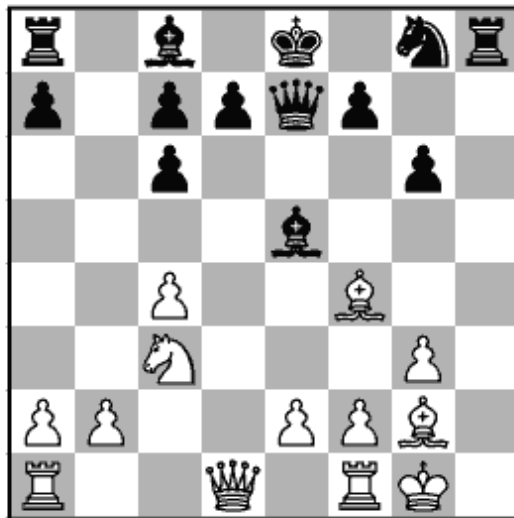


Black to play

823) Plischki – A. Mirzoev
Česke Budejovice 2022

15...Bxd2 16 Nxf6+ Qxf6 17 Qxd2 Bf5 0-1
 18 e4 Bxe4! 19 Rxe4 Qxa1+ –+.

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White to play

824) Bharath – Matinian

Internet rapid 2022

12 Nd5! cxd5

12...Qe6 13 Nxc7+ Bxc7 14 Bxc7 +—.

13 Qxd5 Bxf4

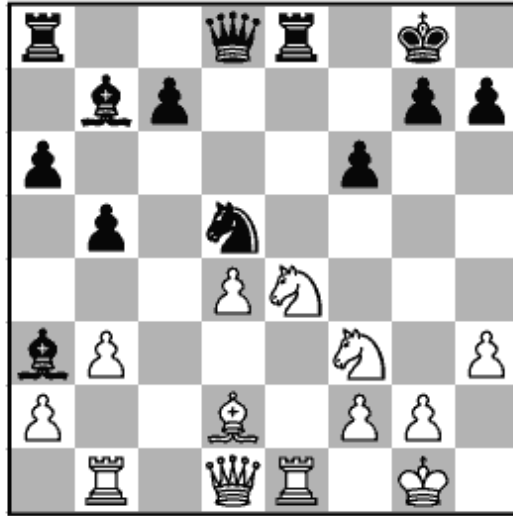
13...Rb8 14 Qxe5 Qxe5 15 Bxe5 +—.

14 Qxa8 Kd8

14...Qd8 15 Qe4+ +—.

15 Bb7 Qe6 16 Bxc8 +—

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Black to play

825) Maltsevszkaya – Ali Marandi

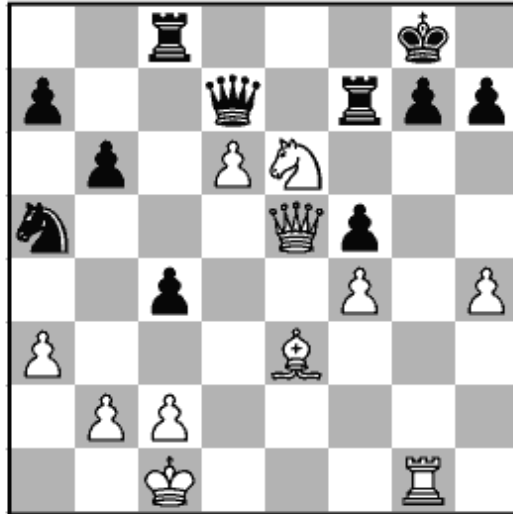
Paleochora 2022

21...Rxe4! 22 Rxe4 Nc3 23 Bxc3 Bxe4 24 Ra1 b4! 25 Nd2

Black wins material after 25 Bd2 Bb2 –+.

25...Bd3 26 Nf3 Bg6 27 Bd2 Bb2 –+

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White to play

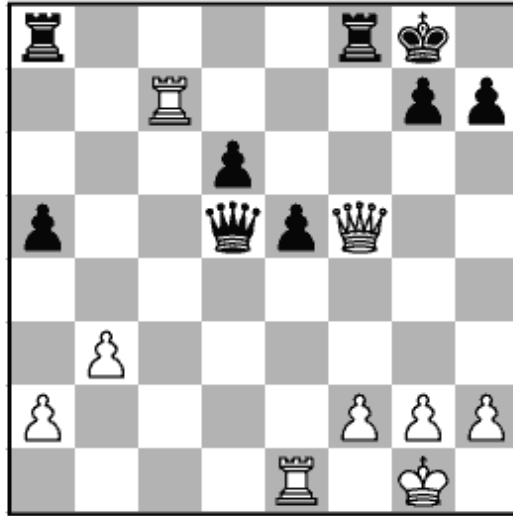
826) Alexakis – Bratović
Belgrade 2022

27 Nxc6!

In the game White played 27 Bd4?? and Black repelled the attack with 27...Nc6 28 Nxc6 Nxe5 29 Nxf5+ Ng6 –+.

27...Rxc6 28 Rxc6+ Qxc6 29 Qe6+ Qf7 30 Qxc8+ Kg7 31 Bd4+ Kg6 32 d7 +-

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White to play

827) Maerevoet – Parligras

Chennai Olympiad 2022

25 Qg4!

The white queen threatens mate, while also preparing to drive the black queen away from controlling the critical e6-square.

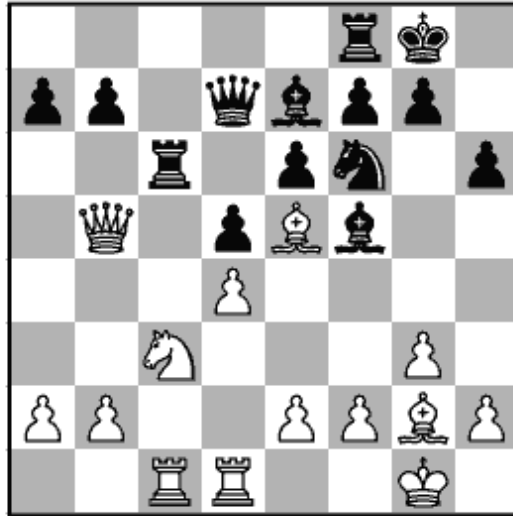
25...Rf7

25...g6 26 Rd1 Rf4 (26...Qb5 27 Qe6+ Kh8 28 Qe7 mates) 27 Rc8+ +–.

26 Rd1! 1-0

In view of 26...Rxc7 27 Rxd5 Rc1+ 28 Rd1 +– and 26...Qxd1+ 27 Qxd1 Rxc7 28 Qd5+ Kf8 29 Qxa8+ +–.

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Black to play

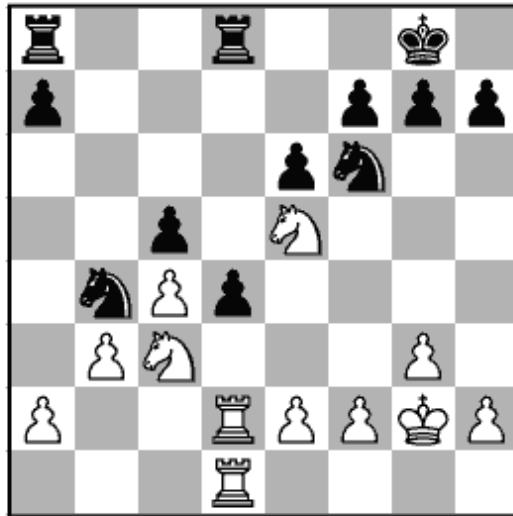
828) C. Krishna – Motylev

Leca da Palmeira 2022

15...Rxc3! 0-1

16 Qxd7 (16 Rxc3 Qxb5 –+) 16...Rxc1 17 Qa4 (17 Rxc1 Nxd7 –+) 17...Bc2 –+.

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Black to play

829) L. Carlsson – Blohberger
Uppsala 2022

19...Nd7!

Black breaks the pin along the d-file.

20 Nxd7 dxc3 21 Rd6

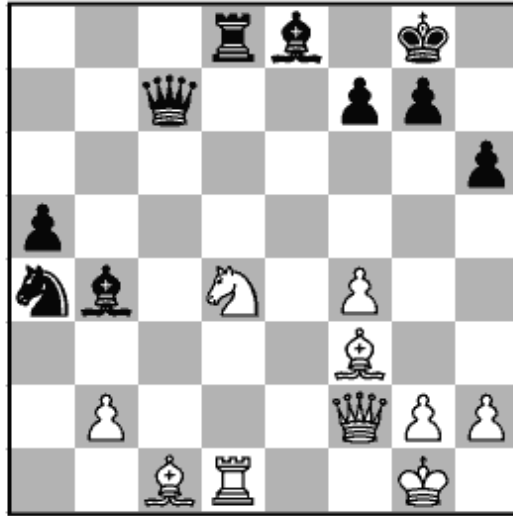
Black's advanced c3-pawn will cost White a rook after 21 Nf6+ gxf6
 22 Rxd8+ Rxd8 23 Rxd8+ Kg7 24 Rd1 Nxa2! –+.

21...Nxa2! 22 Nb8

22 Nxc5 Rxd6 23 Rxd6 c2 –+.

22...Rxd6 23 Rxd6 Rxb8 0-1

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Black to play

830) Sindarov – Yudin

World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

29...Rxd4! 30 Rxd4

30 Qxd4 Bc5 –+.

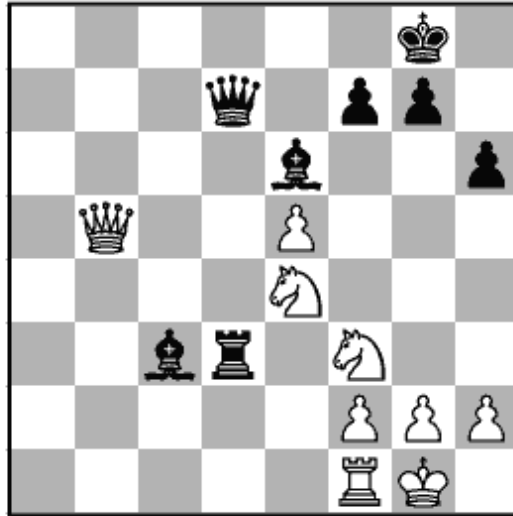
30...Qxc1+ 31 Rd1

Or: 31 Bd1 Bc5 –+; 31 Qf1 Qe3+ 32 Qf2 Qxf2+ 33 Kxf2 Bc5 34 Ke3 Nxb2 –+.

31...Qxd1+ 0-1

Black wins a piece after 32 Bxd1 Bc5 –+.

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White to play

831) Bernadskiy – Grigoriants

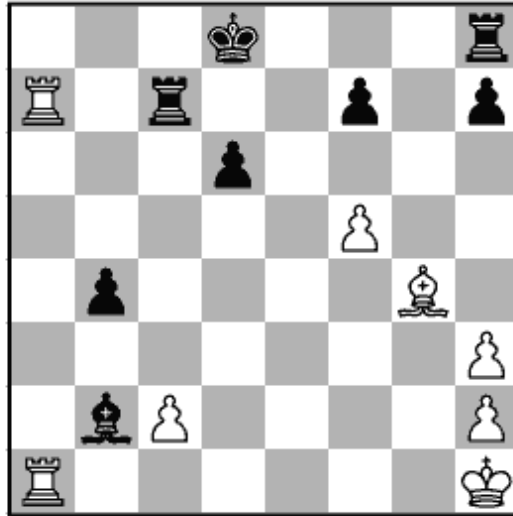
Tallinn rapid 2023

28 Qb8+! Qc8

After 28...Kh7 29 Nc5 Qd8 30 Qb1! Bf5 31 Nxd3 Bxd3 32 Rd1 Bxb1 33 Rxd8 +- White emerges ahead on material.

29 Qxc8+ Bxc8 30 Rc1 1-0

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White to play

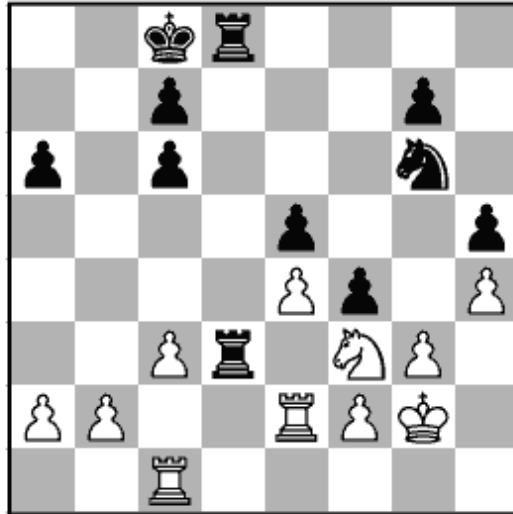
832) Volokitin – Yaniv
Israeli Team Ch 2023

30 Ra8+ Rc8

White wins material after 30...Kd7 31 f6+ Kc6 32 R1a6+ Kb5 33 Be2+ Kc5 34 Rxh8 +– or 30...Ke7 31 Re1+ Kd7 (31...Kf6 32 Rxh8) 32 f6+ Kc6 33 Rxh8 +–.

31 f6! Kc7 32 R1a7+ Kb6 33 Ra6+ 1-0

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Black to play

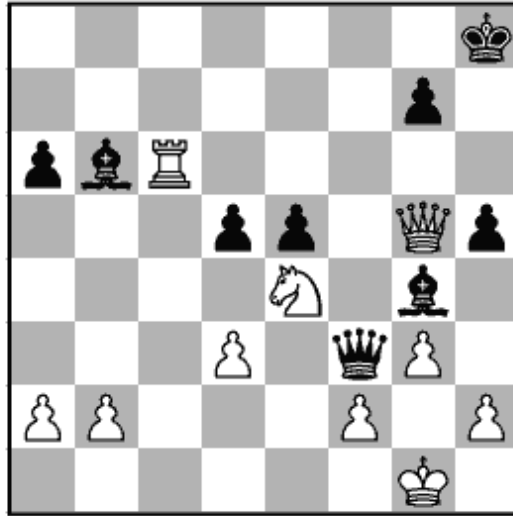
833) Lewtak – Kriebel
Slovakian Team Ch 2022/3

26...Rxf3!

Black wins a piece with an unusual fork.

27 Kxf3 Rd3+ 28 Kg2 f3+ 29 Kf1 fxe2+ 30 Kxe2 Rd8 0-1

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White to play

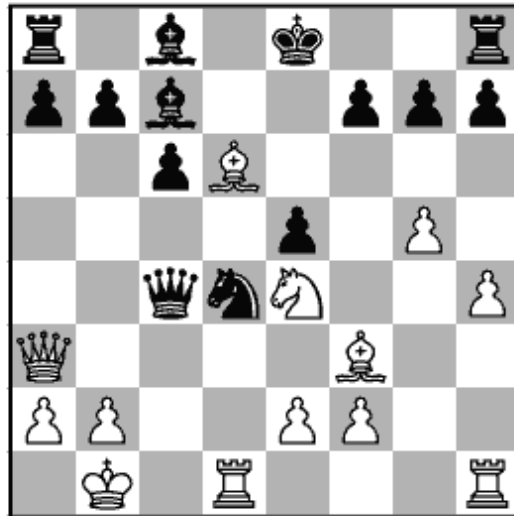
834) Fernandez Cardoso – Diaz Murgada

Cuban Ch, Holguin 2023

30 Qxh5+! 1-0

In view of 30...Kg8 31 Qe8+ Qf8 32 Qxf8+ Kxf8 33 Rxb6 dxe4 34 dxe4 +- and 30...Bxh5 31 Rc8+ Kh7 32 Ng5+ Kg6 33 Nxf3 Bxf3 34 Rc6+ Kf5 35 Rxb6 +-.

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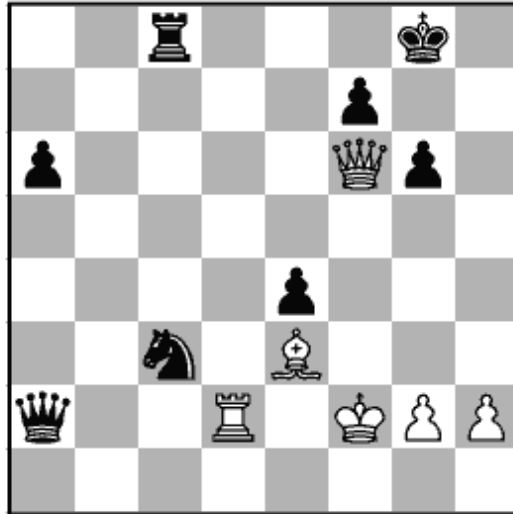
Black to play

835) Tari – A. Liang

Internet rapid 2023

**19...Qc2+ 20 Ka1 Qxd1+! 21 Rxd1 Nc2+ 22 Kb1 Nxa3+ 23 Bxa3
Bf5 –+**

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Black to play

836) Kobalia – Shevchenko
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

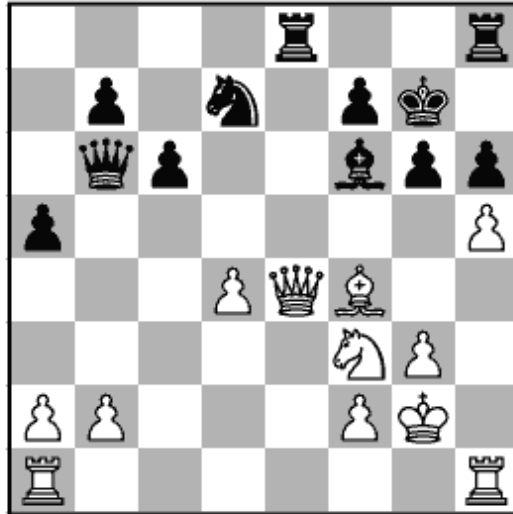
34...Qxd2+!

White's king and queen are in position to be forked by the black knight.

35 Bxd2 e3+ 0-1

Black wins after 36 Bxe3 Ne4+, 36 Kxe3 Nd5+, 36 Ke1 exd2+ 37 Kxd2 Ne4+ or 36 Kf3 exd2.

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White to play

837) Carlsen – Lazavik

Internet rapid 2023

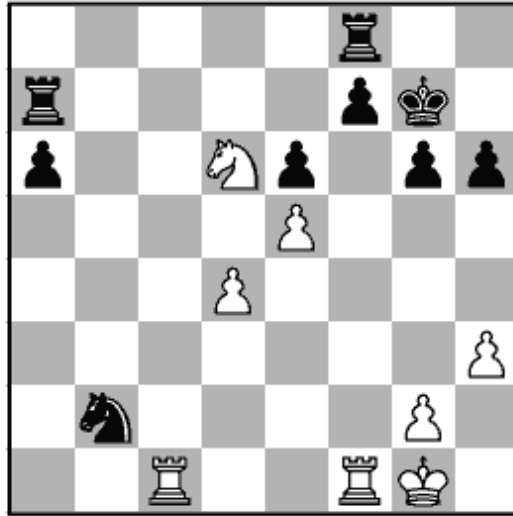
20 Bxh6+! Kxh6

20...Rxb6 21 Qxe8 +-.

21 hxc6+ Kg7 22 Rh7+! Rxh7 23 Qxe8 fxc6 24 Qxd7+ Kg8 25 Qe8+ Kg7 26 Re1 +—

White has an extra pawn and a decisive attack.

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White to play

838) Nakamura – So
Saint Louis rapid 2023

39 Rb1!

After 39 Rf3? (as played in the game) Black could have rescued his wayward knight by 39...Rb8! 40 Rcf1 a5 41 Rxf7+ Rxf7 42 Rxf7+ Kg8 43 Ra7 Nd3 44 Rxa5 Nf4, with good counterplay for the pawn.

39...Na4

After 39...Nd3 40 Rf3 +- the knight is trapped.

40 Rfc1! a5 41 Rc4 +-

and the knight is cornered.

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White to play

839) Katz – Sa. Narayanan

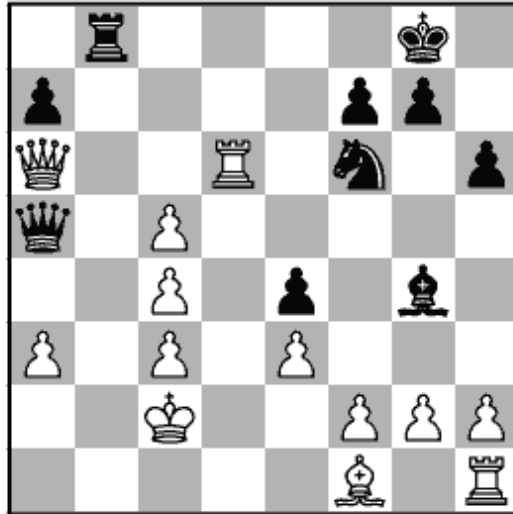
San Jose 2022

25 b5! Rxb7

25...Nc5 26 Nxc5 bxc5 27 Rxd7+! Rxd7 28 Nc6+ Kf6 29 Nxb8 +—.

26 bxa6 Rb8 27 Rxd7+! Rxd7 28 Nc6+ Kf6 29 Nxb8 Rd4 30 Rb4
1-0

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Black to play

840) Bok – So

Internet rapid 2022

21...Bd1+!!

Black takes advantage of White's overloaded rook to generate a mating attack.

22 Kxd1

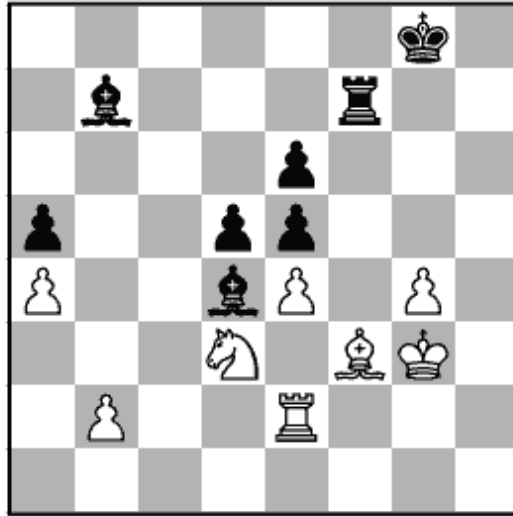
22 Rxd1 Qxa6 –+.

22...Qxc3 23 Qb5

23 Rb6 axb6 24 cxb6 Rd8+ leads to mate.

23...Rxb5 24 cxb5 Qxc5 25 Rd8+ Kh7 –+

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Black to play

841) Savitskiy – Grachev
Novorossiysk rapid 2022

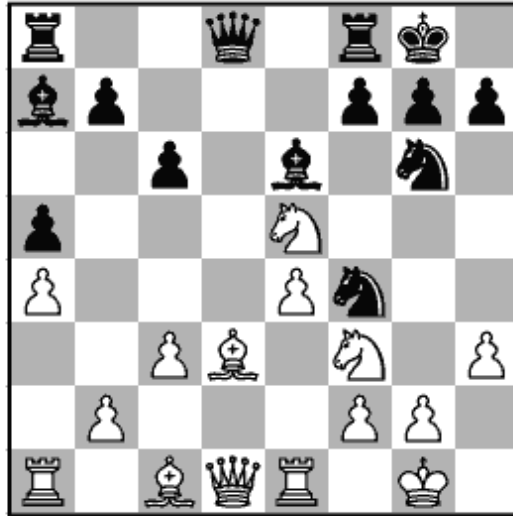
38...Ba6! 39 Rd2

39 Nc1 Bxe2 40 Nxe2 Bf2+ 41 Kg2 dxe4 42 Bxe4 Bh4 –+.

39...Rxf3+!! 0-1

40 Kxf3 dxe4+ 41 Ke2 (41 Kxe4 Bb7#) 41...exd3+ –+.

[back](#)



Black to play

842) Bethke – Parvanyan
German Ch, Magdeburg 2022

16...Nxe5 17 Nxe5 Qh4!

White can defend after 17...Qg5? 18 Qf3! Nxh3+ 19 Qxh3 Qxe5 20 Qh4, with equal chances.

18 Qf3

Or: 18 Bxf4 Bxf2+ 19 Kh1 Bxe1 –+; 18 Be3 Bxe3 19 fxe3 (19 Rxe3 Qg5 20 Ng4 h5 –+) 19...Nxh3+ 20 gxh3 Qg3+ 21 Kh1 Qxh3+ 22 Kg1 Qg3+ 23 Kh1 Qxe5 –+.

18...Ng6!

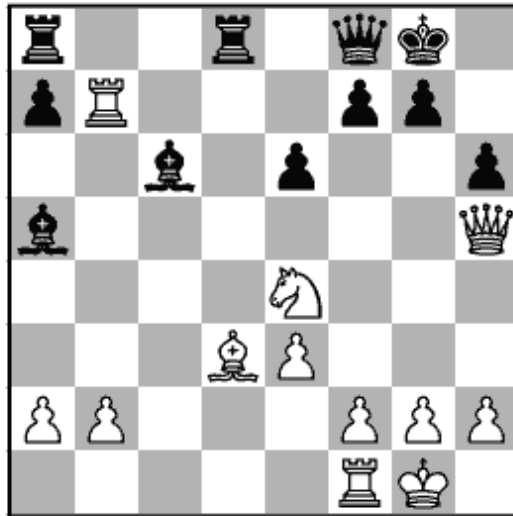
This knight retreat is easy to miss.

19 Nxc6

Or: 19 Nxg6 fxg6! –+; 19 Nc4 Bxc4 20 Bxc4 Ne5 21 Qe2 Nxc4 –+.

19...bxc6 –+

[back](#)



White to play

843) Aditya Mittal – J.B. Bjerre

Internet rapid 2022

19 Nf6+! gxf6

19...Kh8 20 Rxf7 +—.

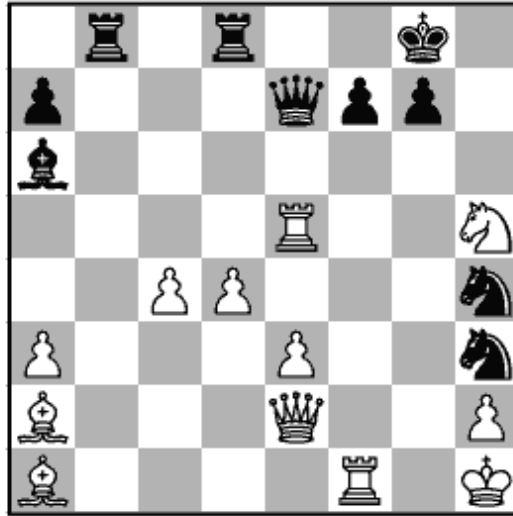
20 Bh7+! Kxh7

20...Kg7 21 Qg6+ Kh8 22 Rxf7 Qxf7 23 Qxf7 Rd7 24 Qxe6 Rxh7
25 Qxc6 +—.

**21 Rxf7+ Qxf7 22 Qxf7+ Kh8 23 Qxf6+ Kh7 24 Qe7+ Kh8 25 Qc5
1-0**

Black loses one of his bishops.

[back](#)



Black to play

844) Khanin – Raja Harshit
Las Vegas 2022

30...Qxe5! 31 dxe5 Bb7+ 32 e4 Bxe4+! 33 Qxe4 Nf2+ 34 Kg1

The key point is that 34 Rxf2 allows a back-rank mate with
34...Rd1+.

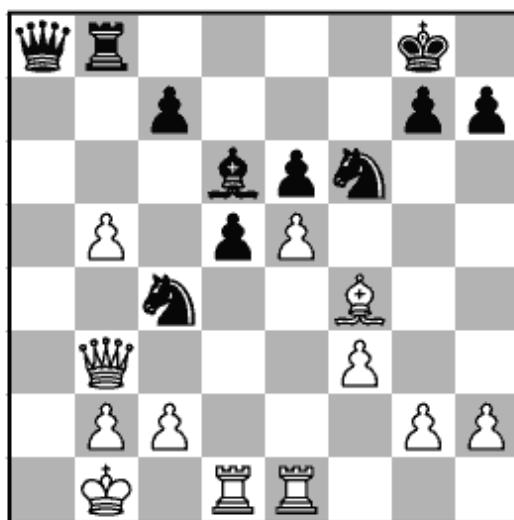
34...Nxe4 –+

[back](#)

5: Advanced Puzzles

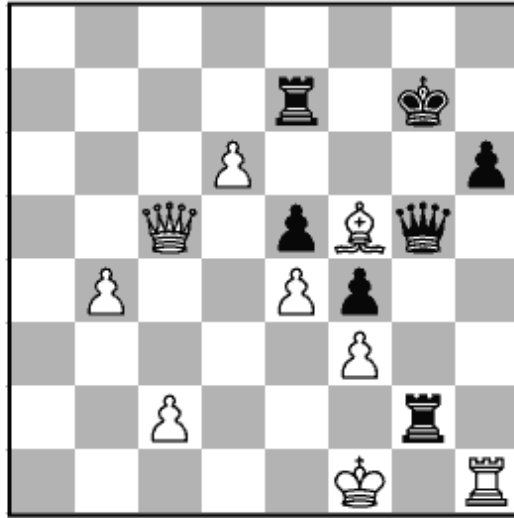
These puzzles are a step up from the earlier chapters and are intended for more advanced players. For the typical club player, it can be considered a success to identify the main idea in the position even if it is difficult to visualize the critical variations through to the end.

Many of these puzzles build upon themes seen in the earlier chapters with an additional twist or subtlety at the end.



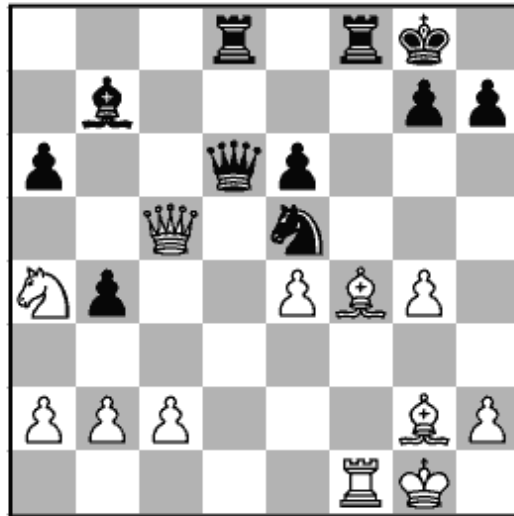
845) Black to play

[solution](#)



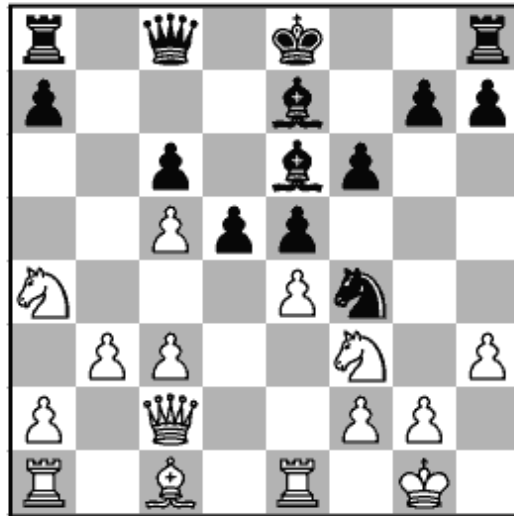
846) Black to play

[solution](#)



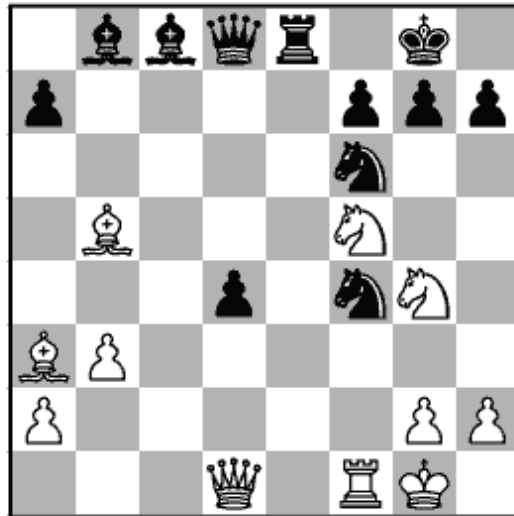
847) Black to play

[solution](#)



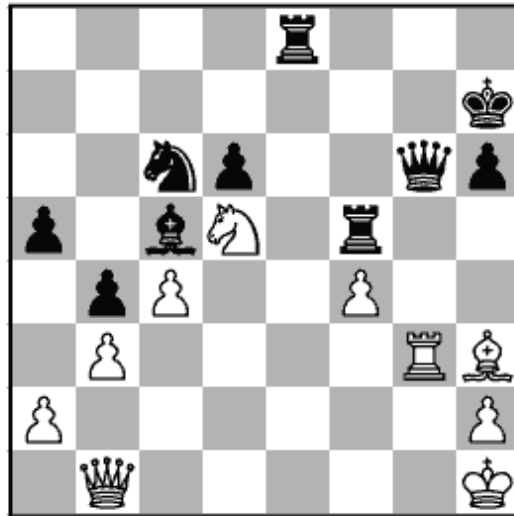
848) Black to play

[solution](#)



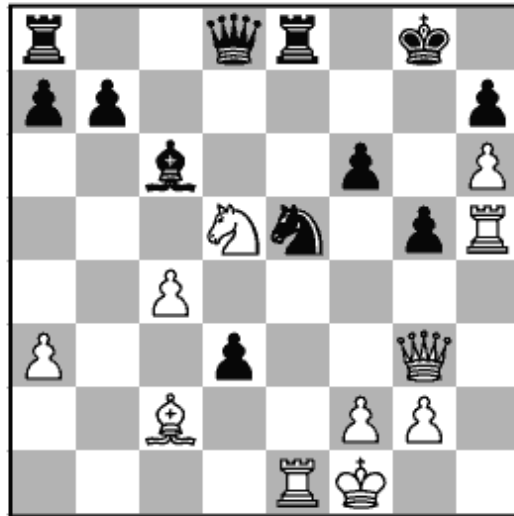
849) White to play

[solution](#)



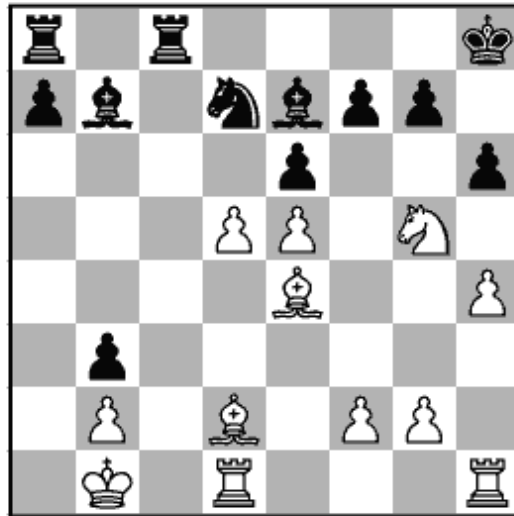
850) Black to play

[solution](#)



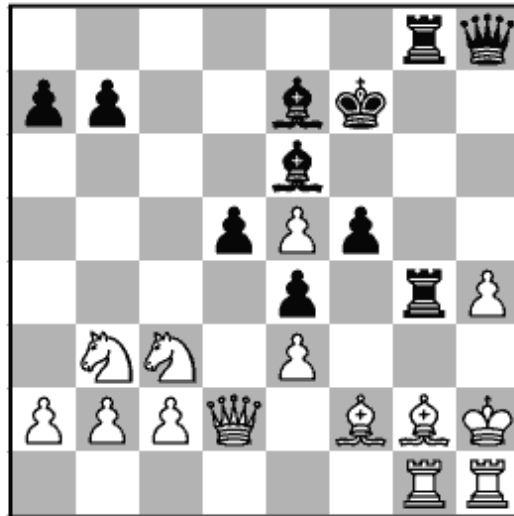
851) White to play

[solution](#)



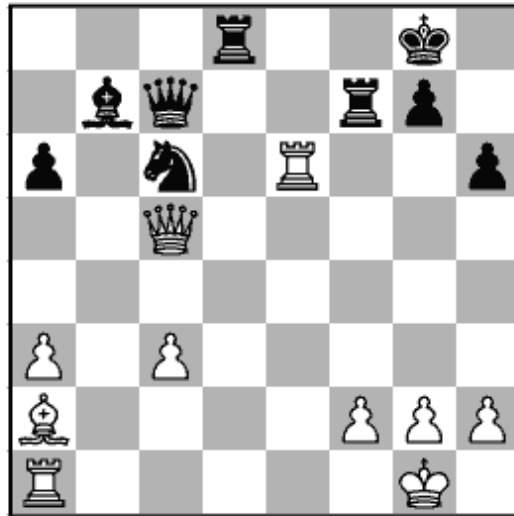
852) Black to play

[solution](#)



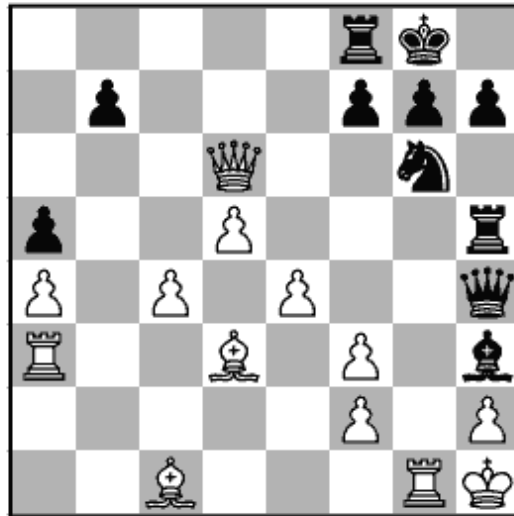
853) White to play

[solution](#)



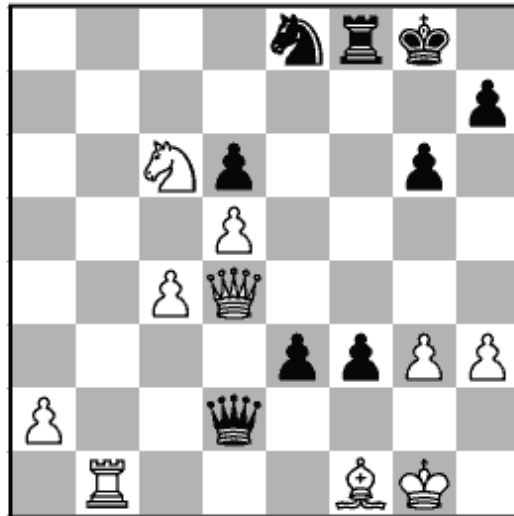
854) Black to play

[solution](#)



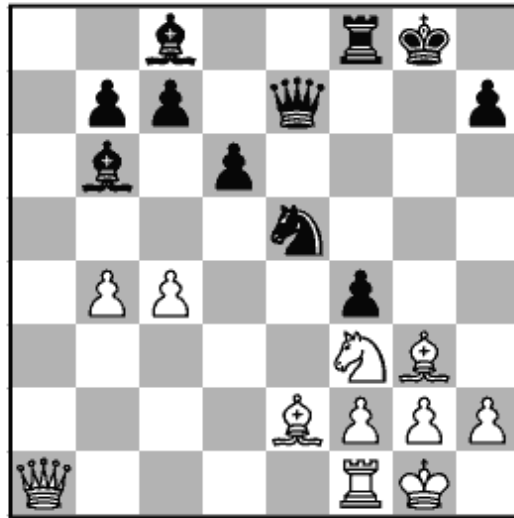
855) Black to play

[solution](#)



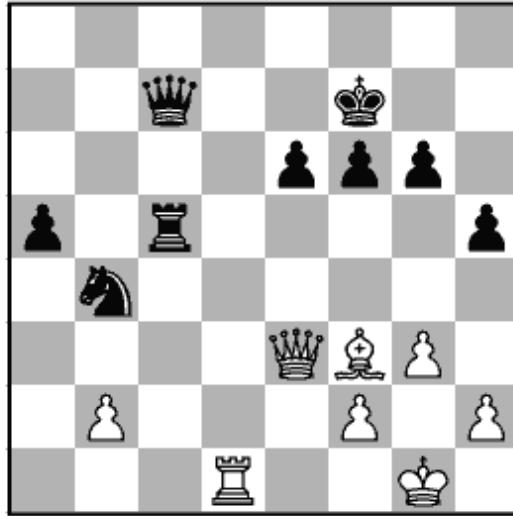
856) Black to play

[solution](#)



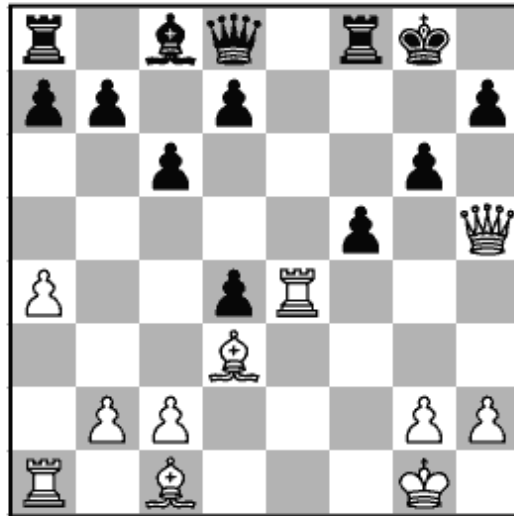
857) White to play

[solution](#)



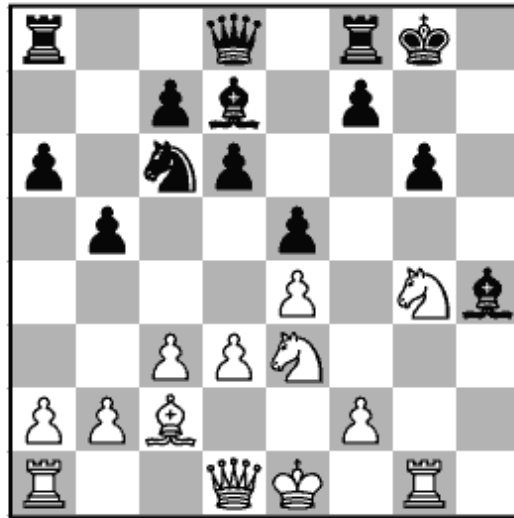
858) White to play

[solution](#)



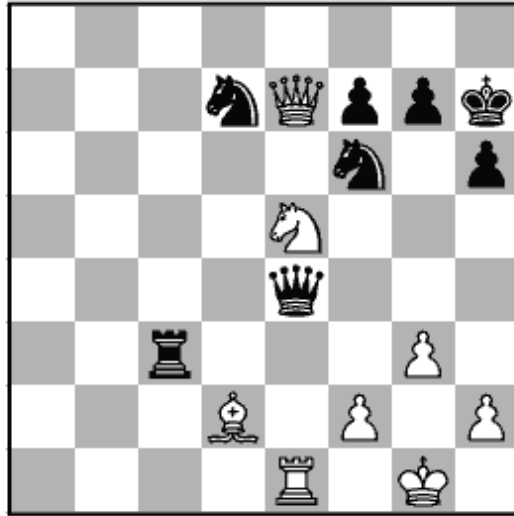
859) White to play

[solution](#)



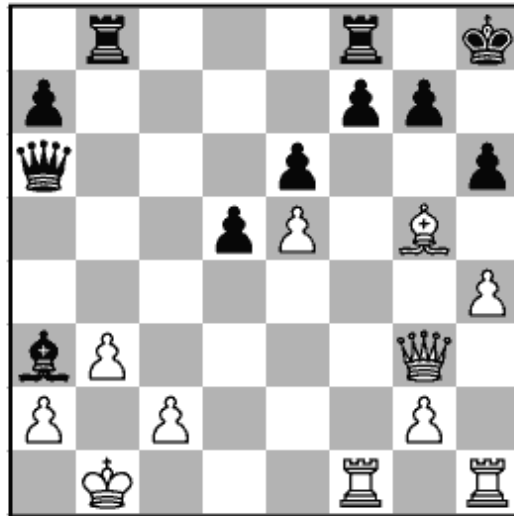
860) White to play

[solution](#)



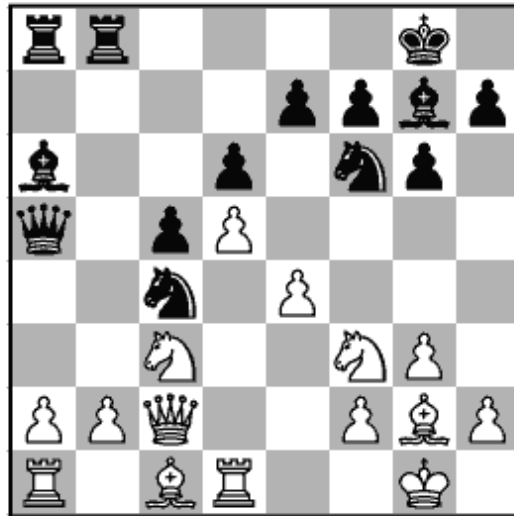
861) Black to play

[solution](#)



862) White to play

[solution](#)



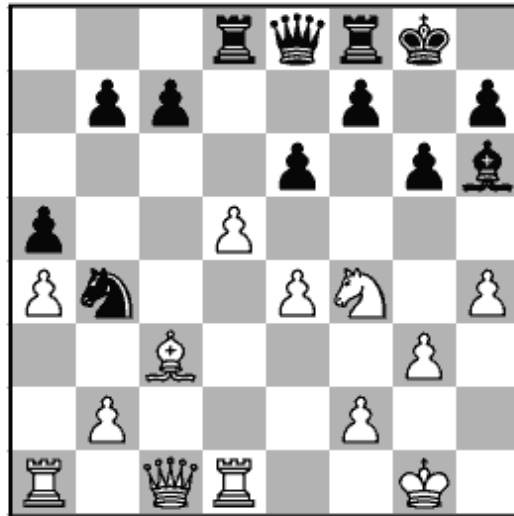
863) Black to play

[solution](#)



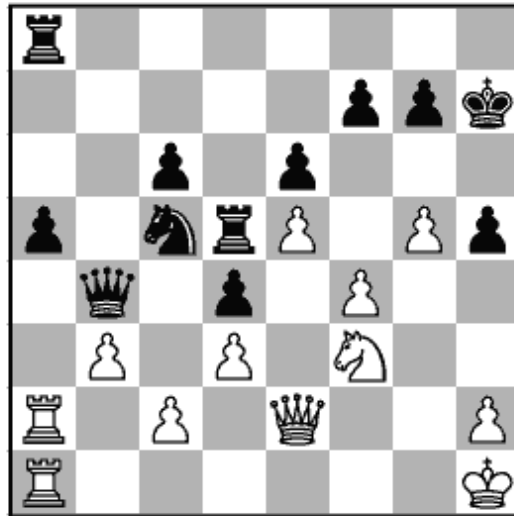
864) White to play

[solution](#)



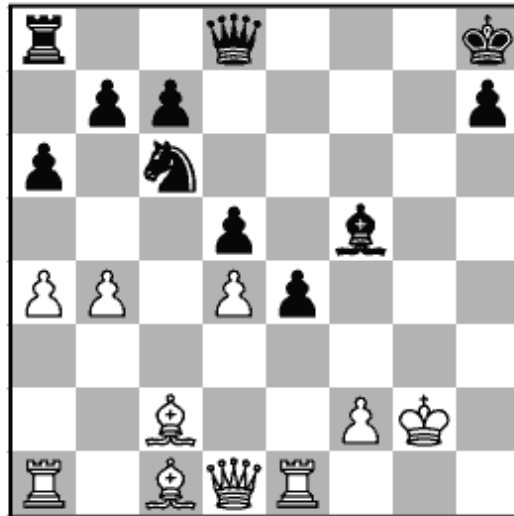
865) White to play

[solution](#)



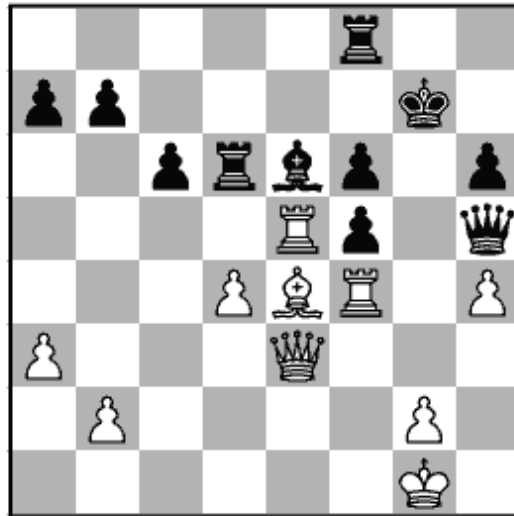
866) White to play

[solution](#)



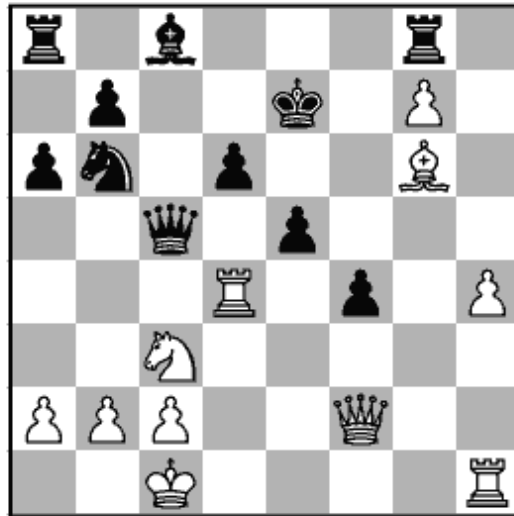
867) Black to play

[solution](#)



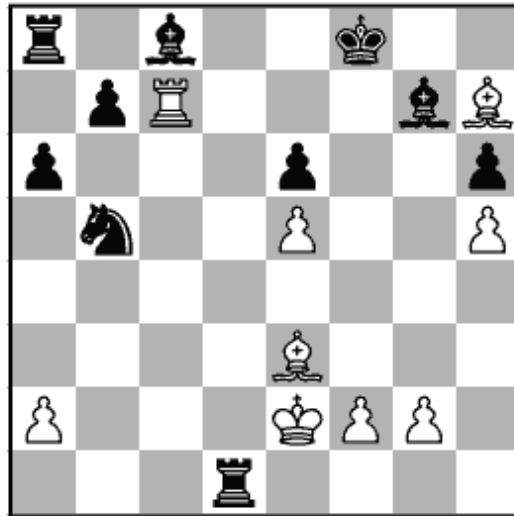
868) White to play

[solution](#)



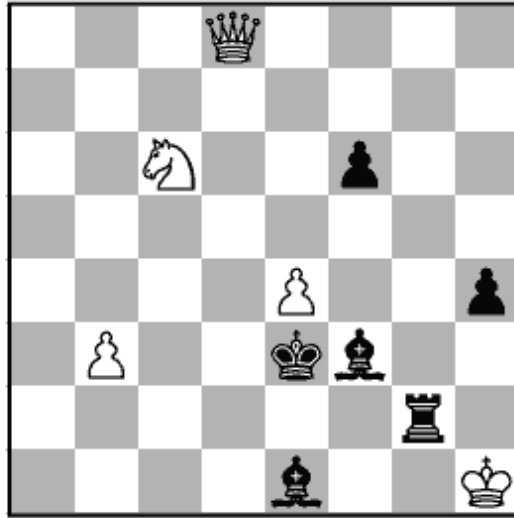
869) White to play

[solution](#)



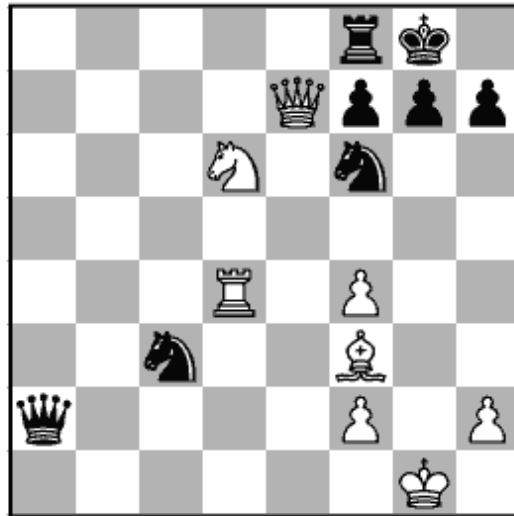
870) White to play

[solution](#)



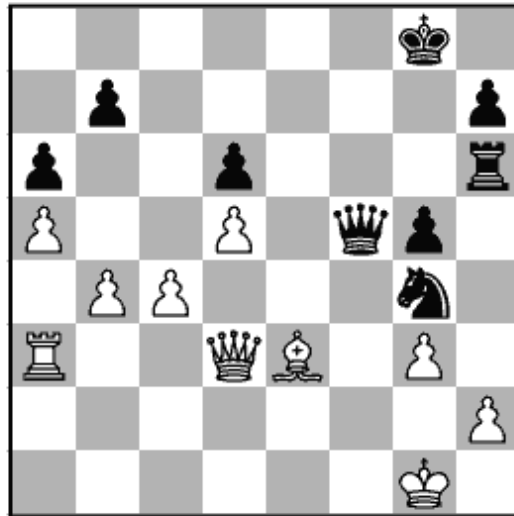
871) White to play

[solution](#)



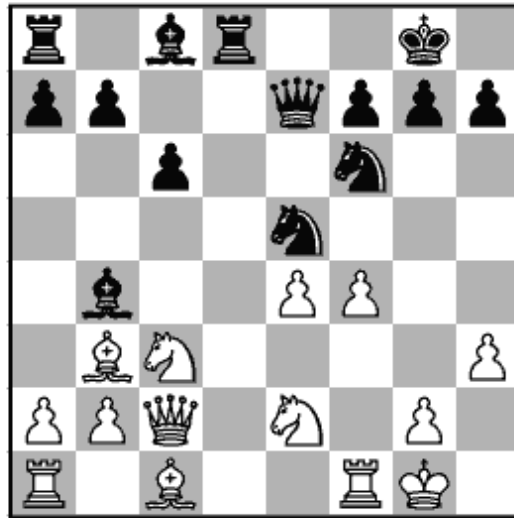
872) Black to play

[solution](#)



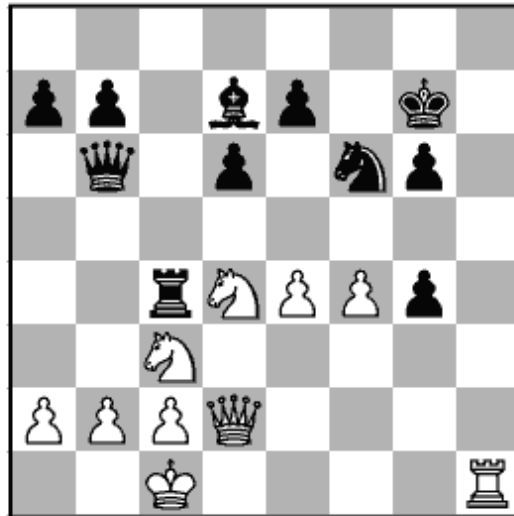
873) Black to play

[solution](#)



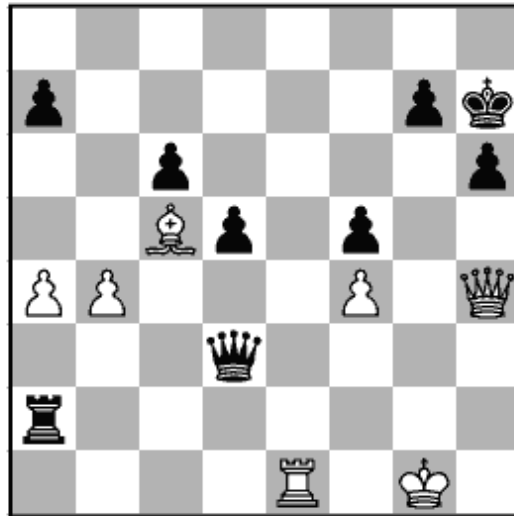
874) Black to play

[solution](#)



875) White to play

[solution](#)



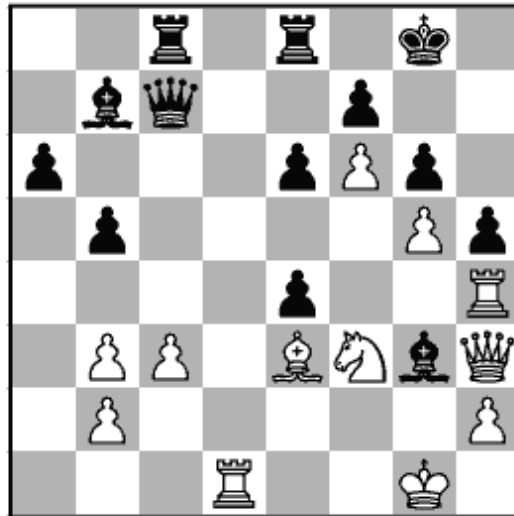
876) Black to play

[solution](#)



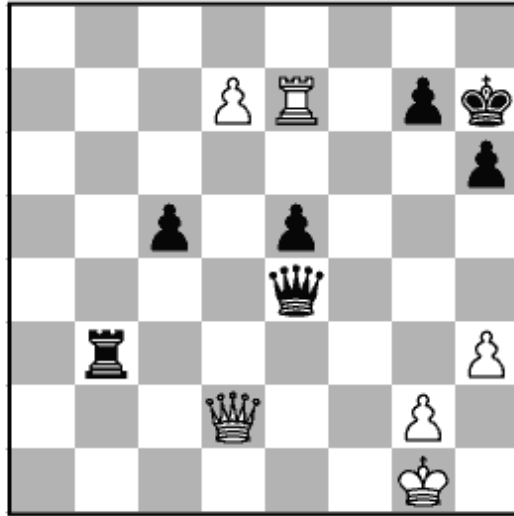
877) Black to play

[solution](#)



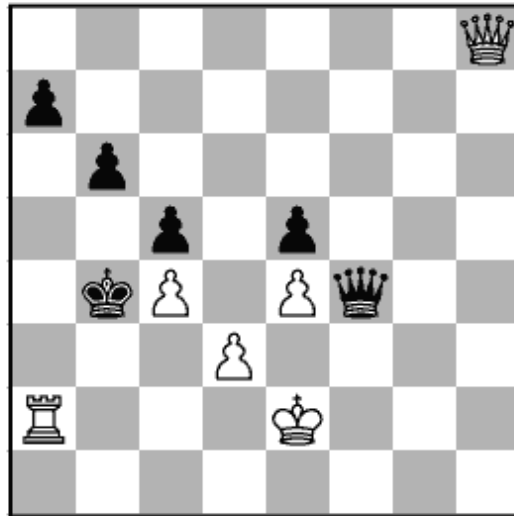
878) White to play

[solution](#)



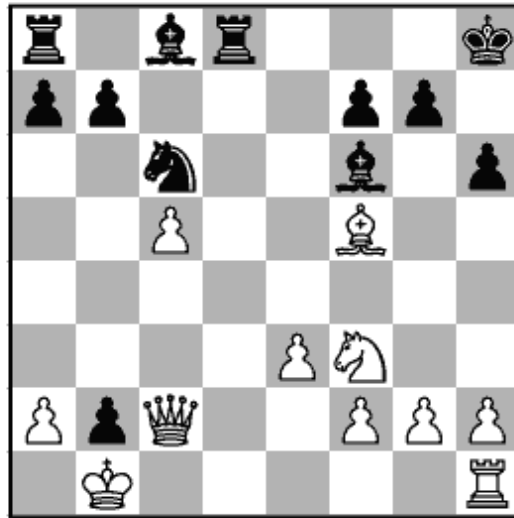
879) Black to play

[solution](#)



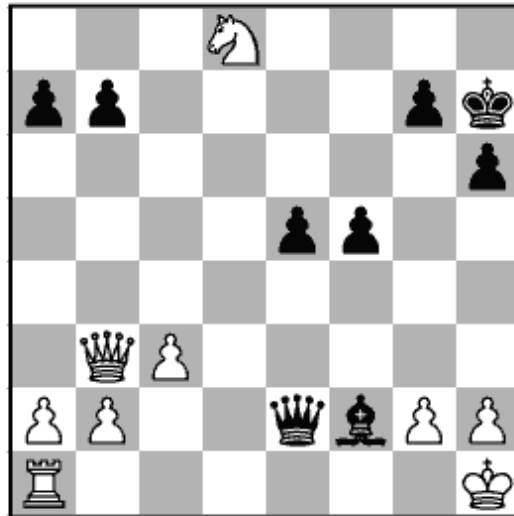
880) Black to play

[solution](#)



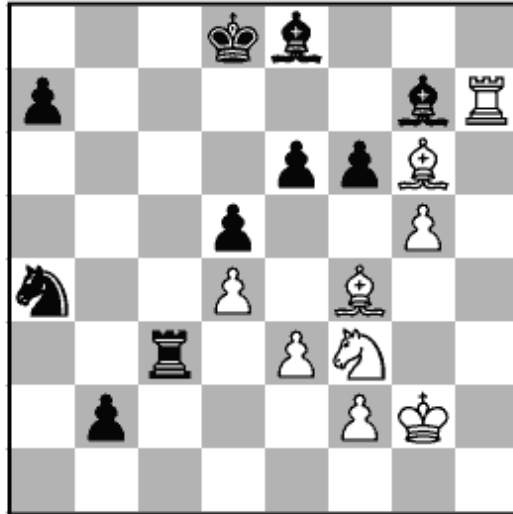
881) Black to play

[solution](#)



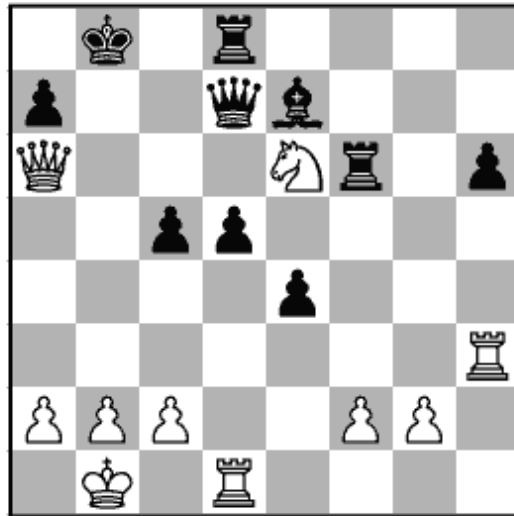
882) Black to play

[solution](#)



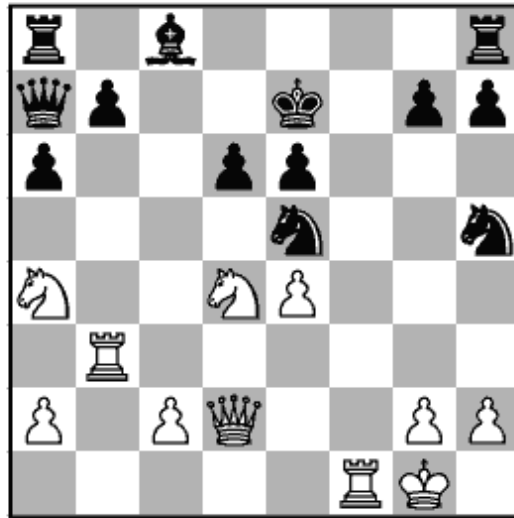
883) White to play

[solution](#)



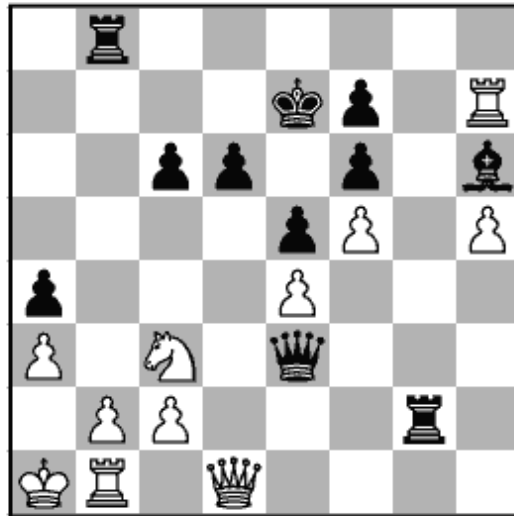
884) White to play

[solution](#)



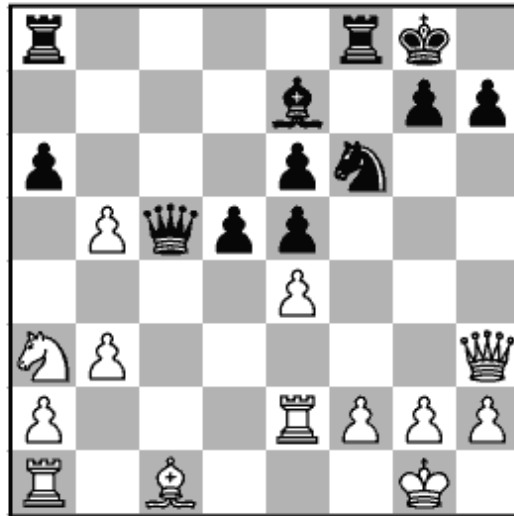
885) White to play

[solution](#)



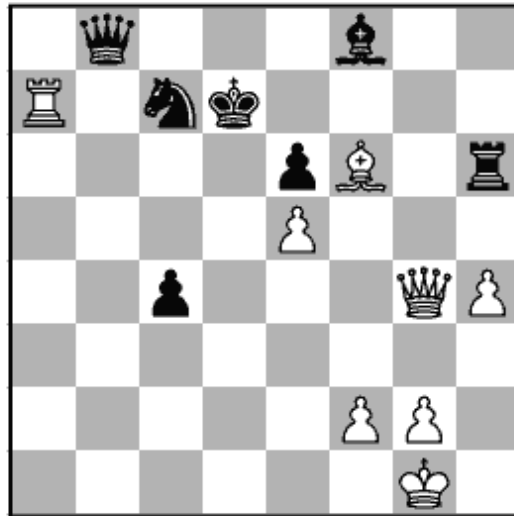
886) White to play

[solution](#)



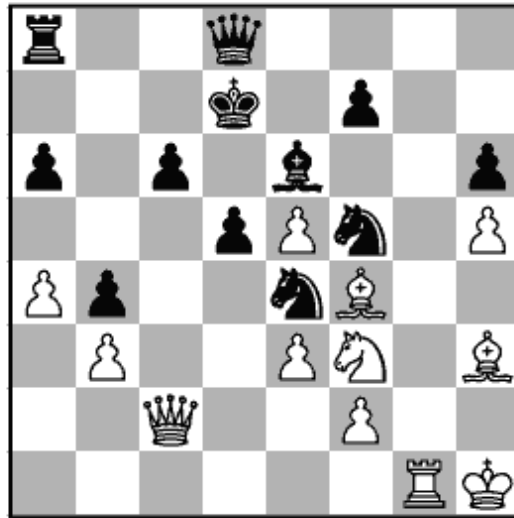
887) Black to play

[solution](#)



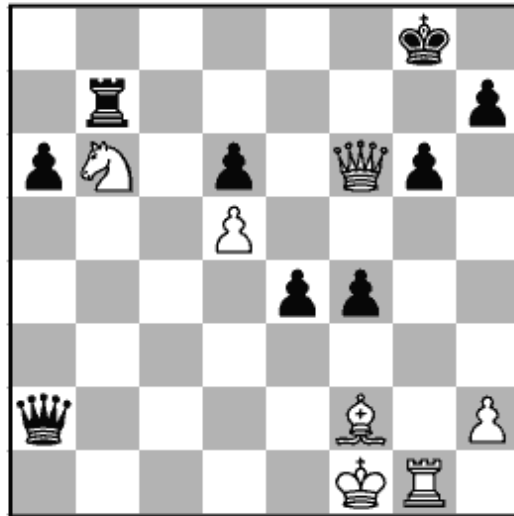
888) White to play

[solution](#)



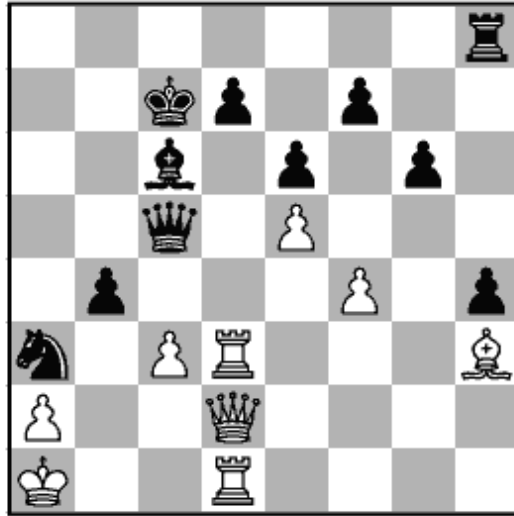
889) White to play

[solution](#)



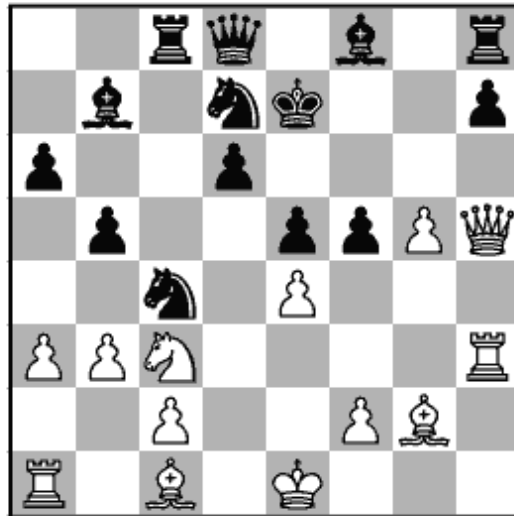
890) Black to play

[solution](#)



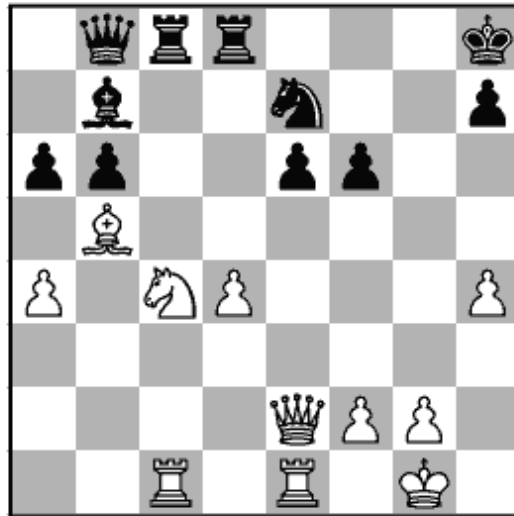
891) Black to play

[solution](#)



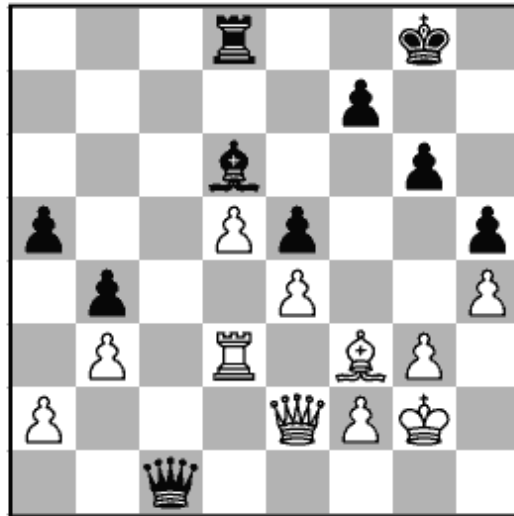
892) White to play

[solution](#)



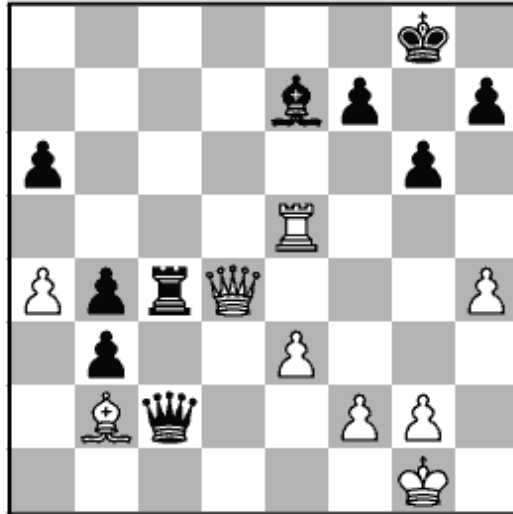
893) White to play

[solution](#)



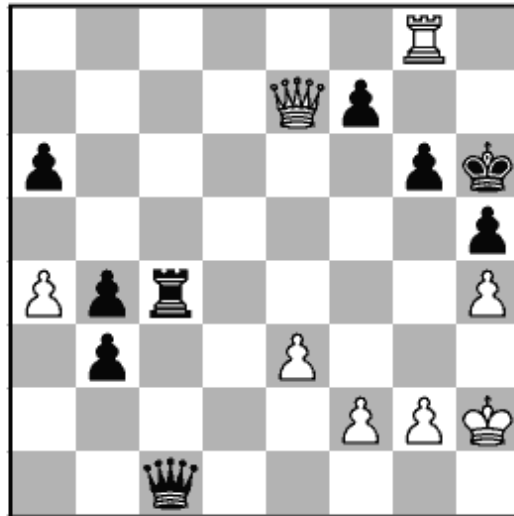
894) White to play

[solution](#)



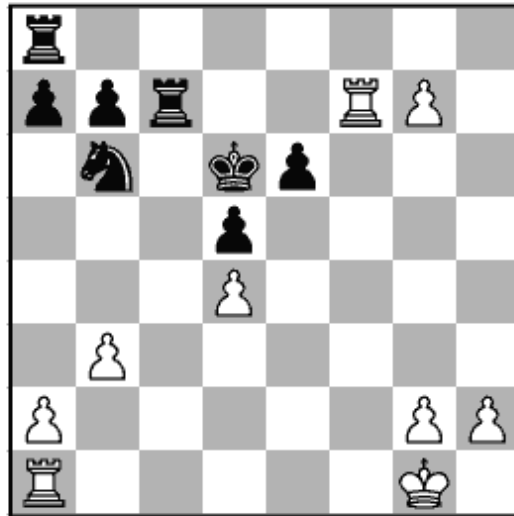
895) White to play

[solution](#)



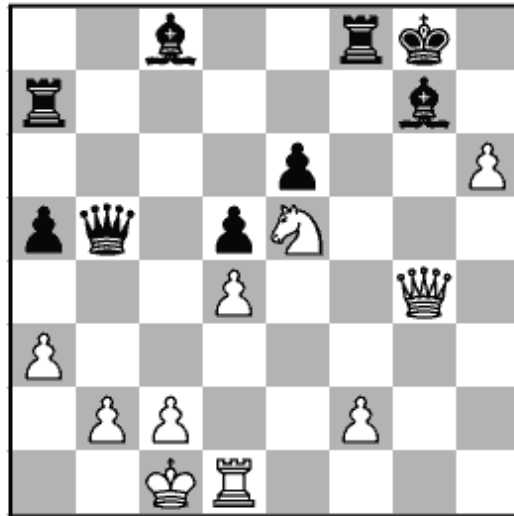
896) Black to play

[solution](#)



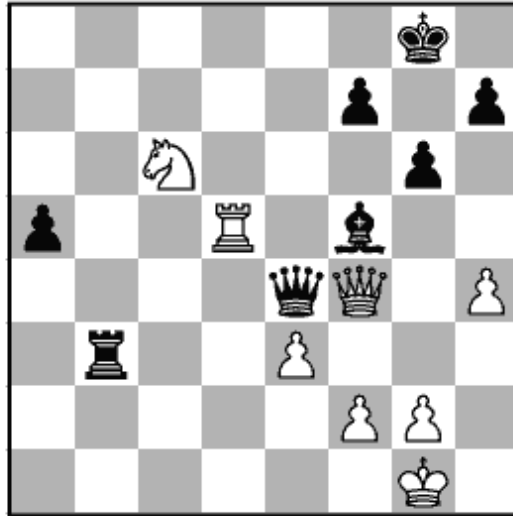
897) White to play

[solution](#)



898) White to play

[solution](#)



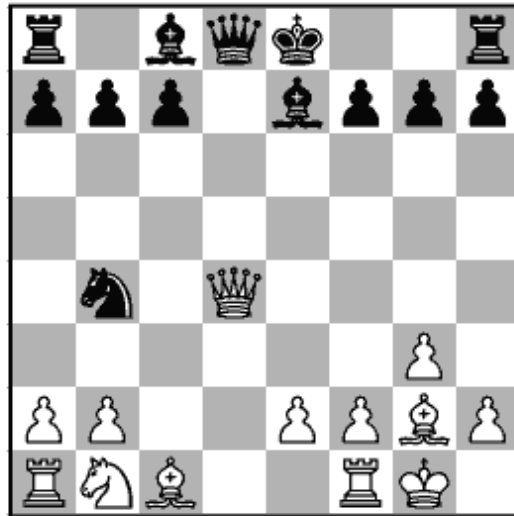
899) White to play

[solution](#)



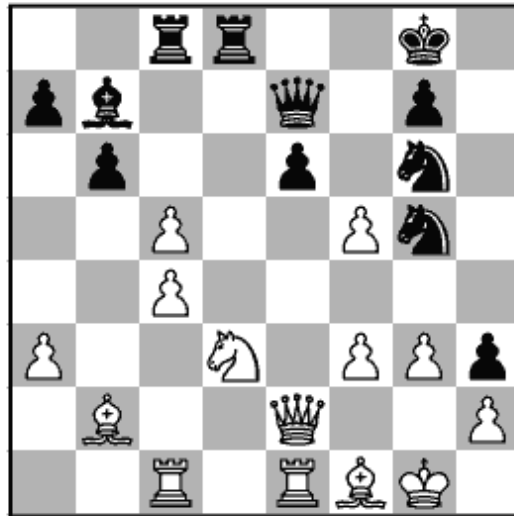
900) White to play

[solution](#)



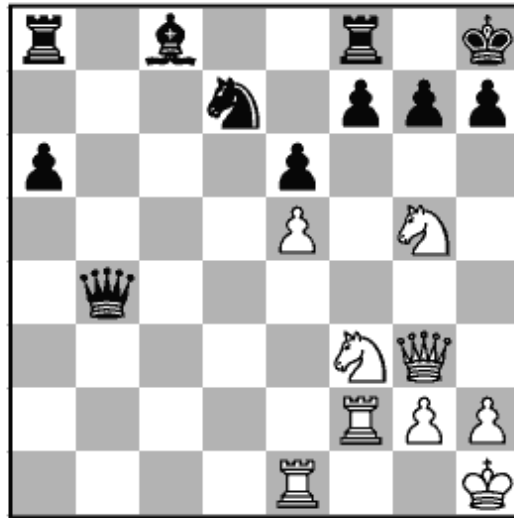
901) White to play

[solution](#)



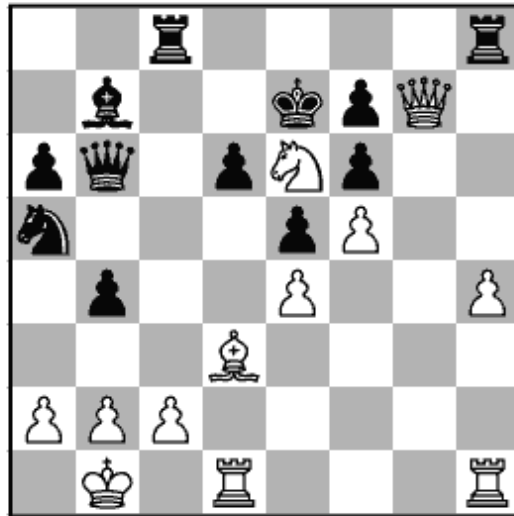
902) Black to play

[solution](#)



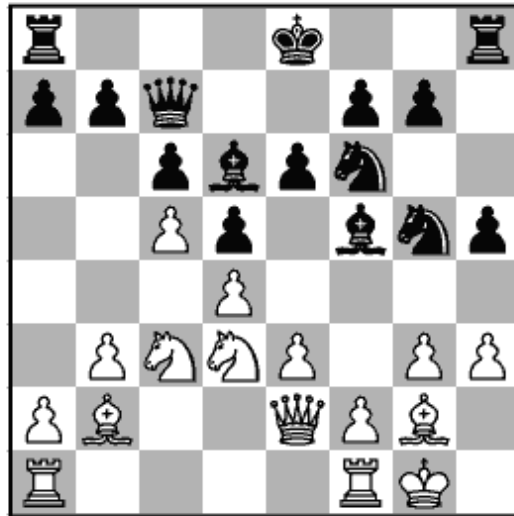
903) White to play

[solution](#)



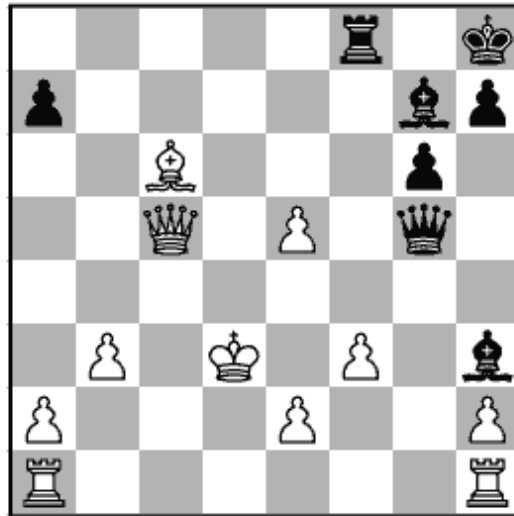
904) White to play

[solution](#)



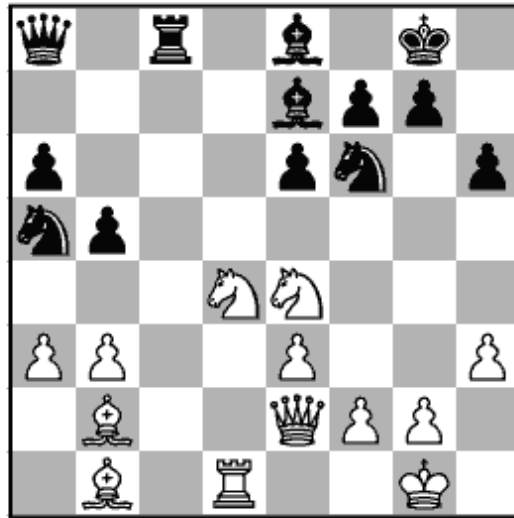
905) Black to play

[solution](#)



906) Black to play

[solution](#)



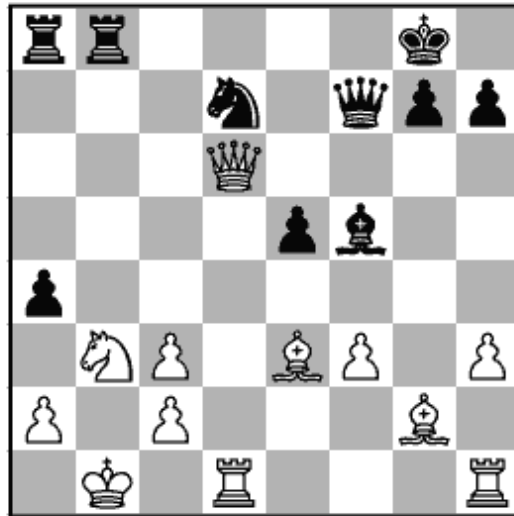
907) White to play

[solution](#)



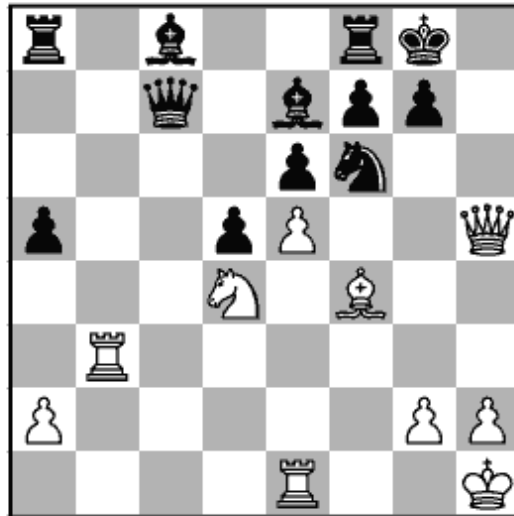
908) White to play

[solution](#)



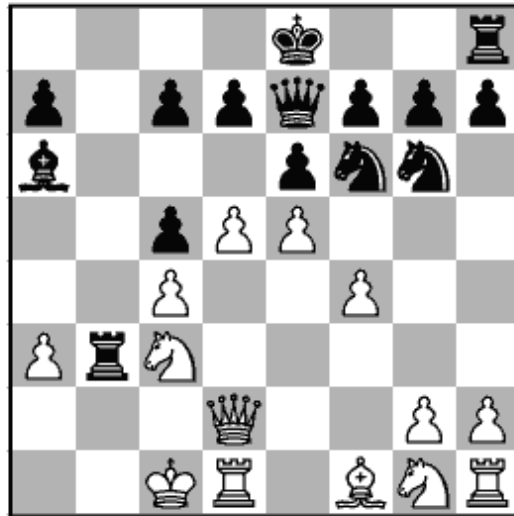
909) White to play

[solution](#)



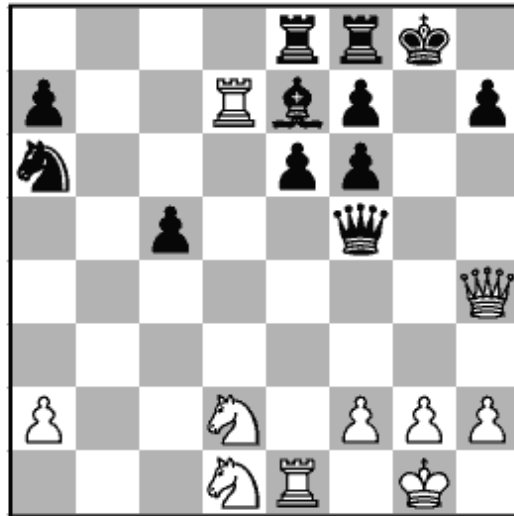
910) White to play

[solution](#)



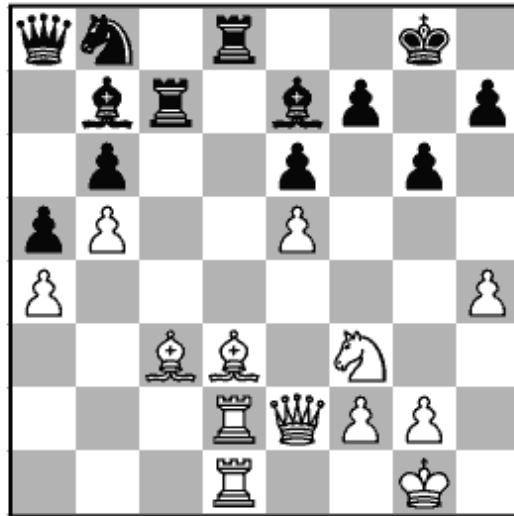
911) Black to play

[solution](#)



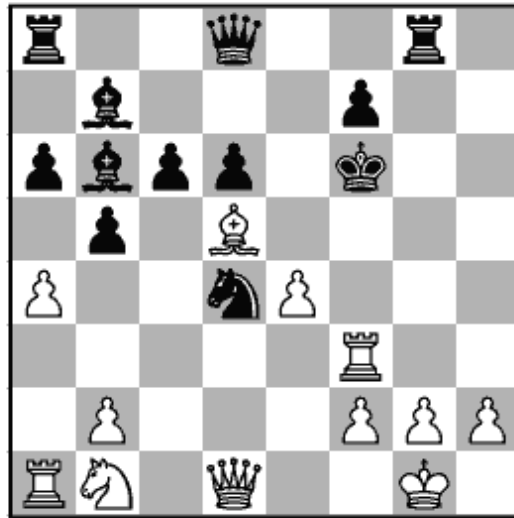
912) White to play

[solution](#)



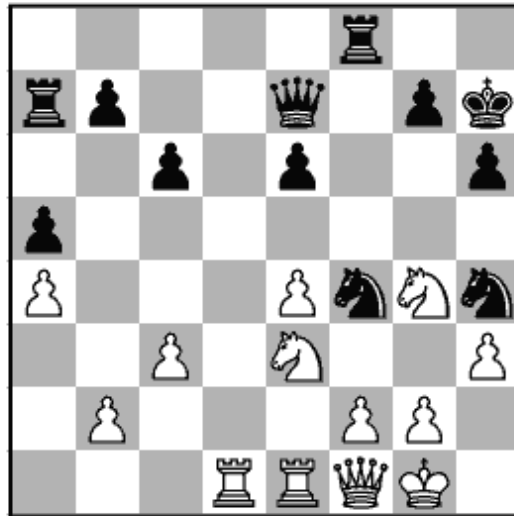
913) White to play

[solution](#)



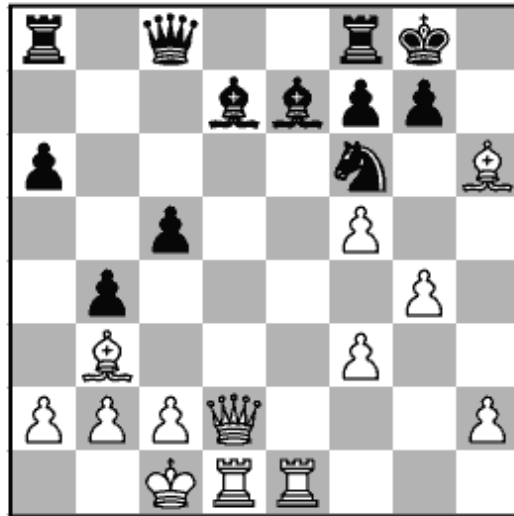
914) Black to play

[solution](#)



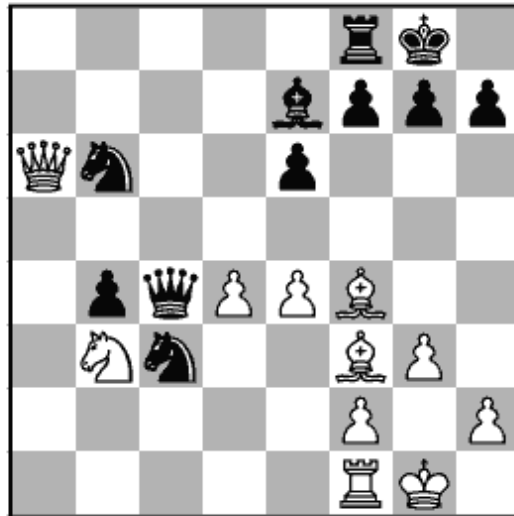
915) Black to play

[solution](#)



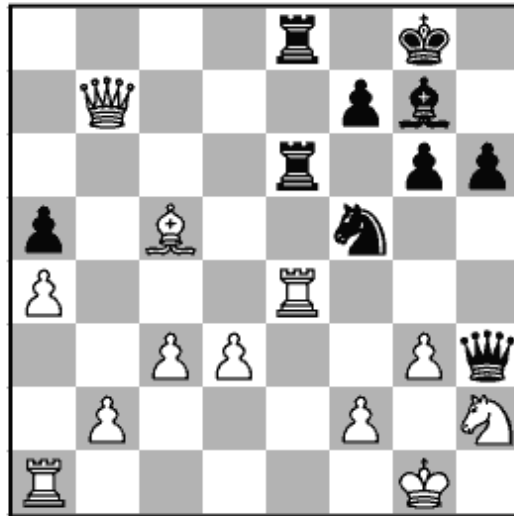
916) Black to play

[solution](#)



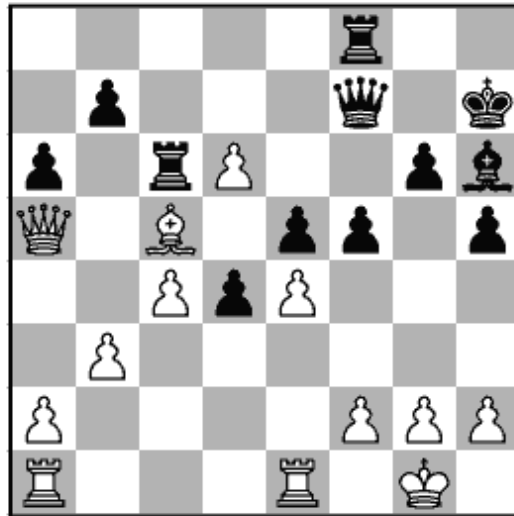
917) White to play

[solution](#)



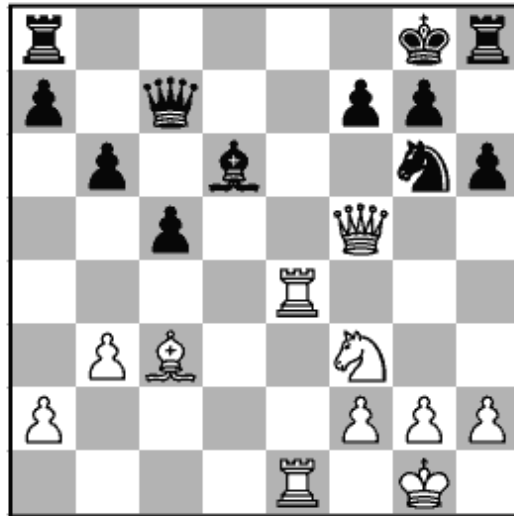
918) Black to play

[solution](#)



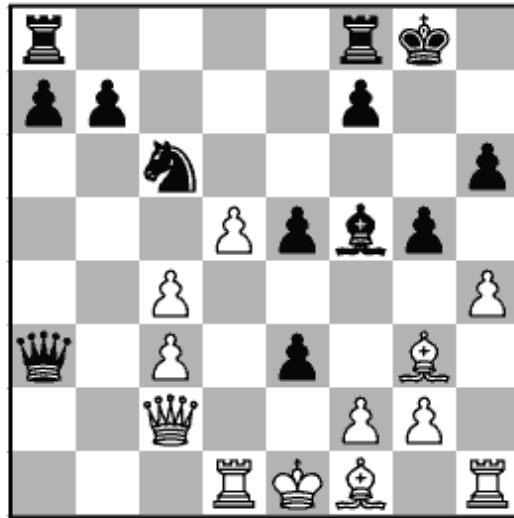
919) Black to play

[solution](#)



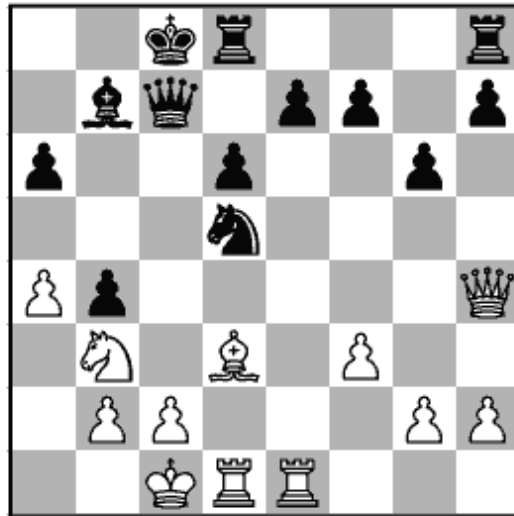
920) White to play

[solution](#)



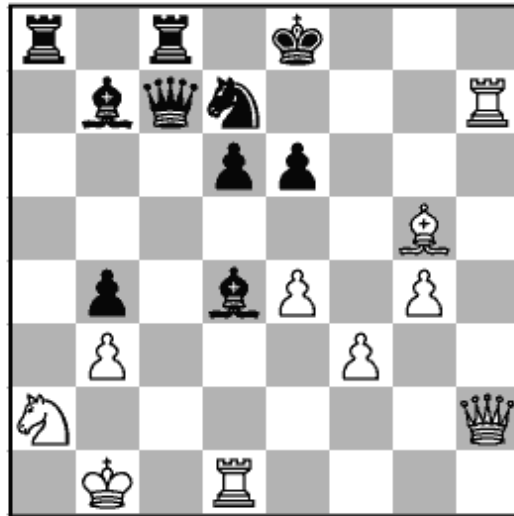
921) White to play

[solution](#)



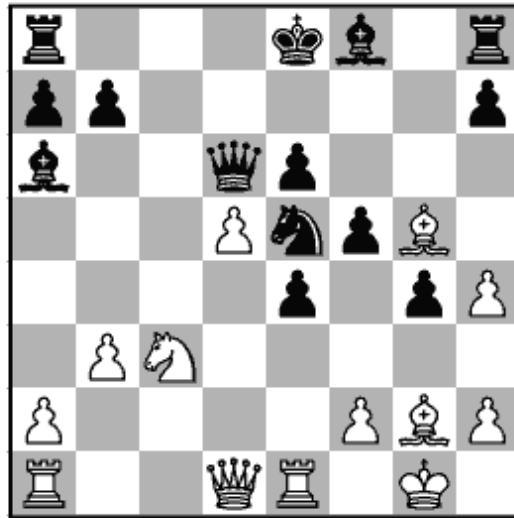
922) White to play

[solution](#)



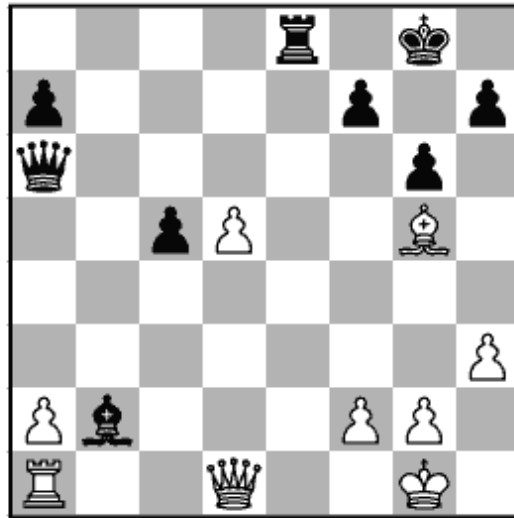
923) Black to play

[solution](#)



924) White to play

[solution](#)



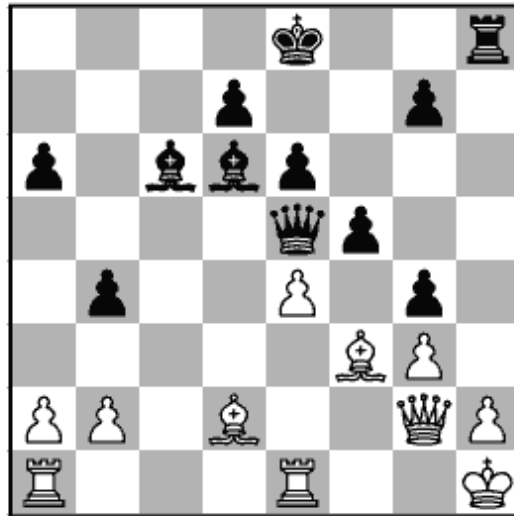
925) White to play

[solution](#)



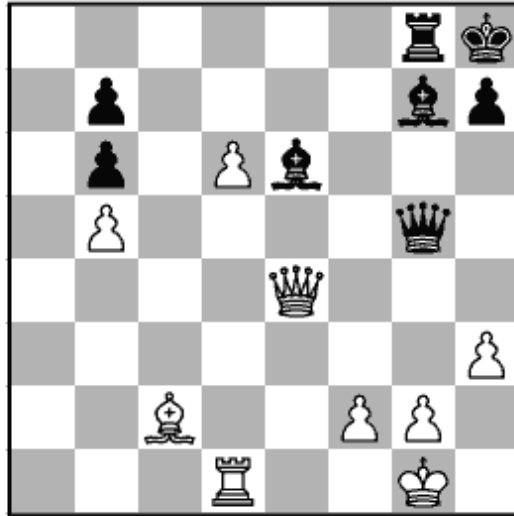
926) Black to play

[solution](#)



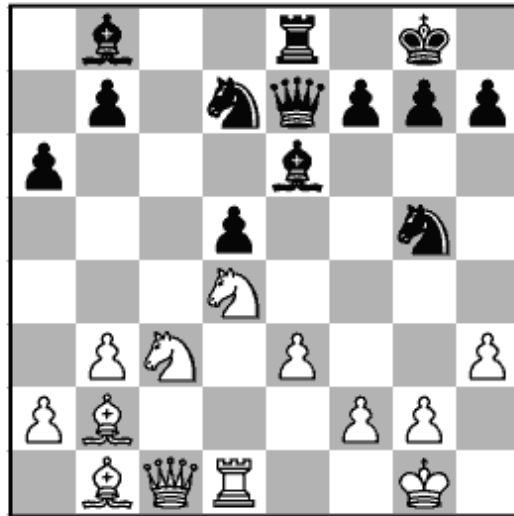
927) White to play

[solution](#)



928) Black to play

[solution](#)



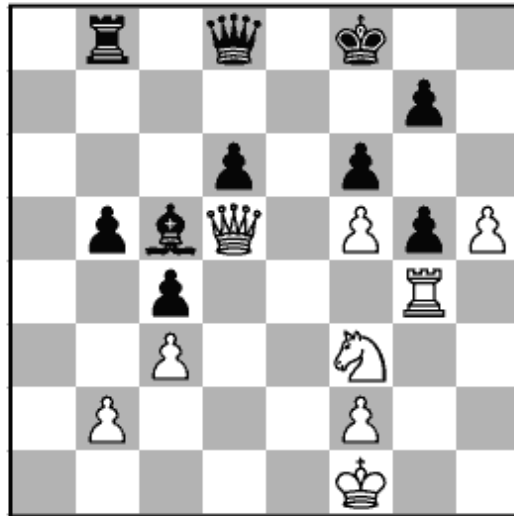
929) Black to play

[solution](#)



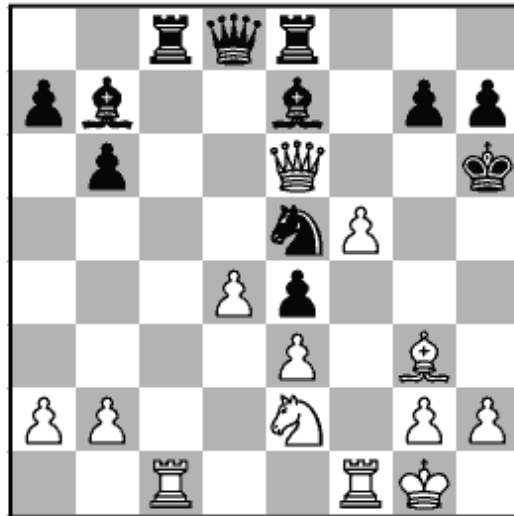
930) White to play

[solution](#)



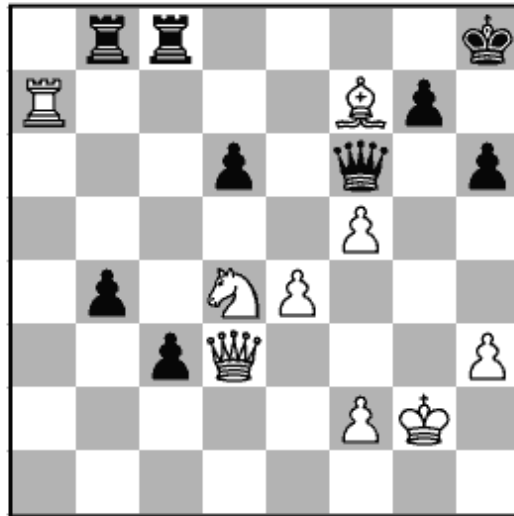
931) White to play

[solution](#)



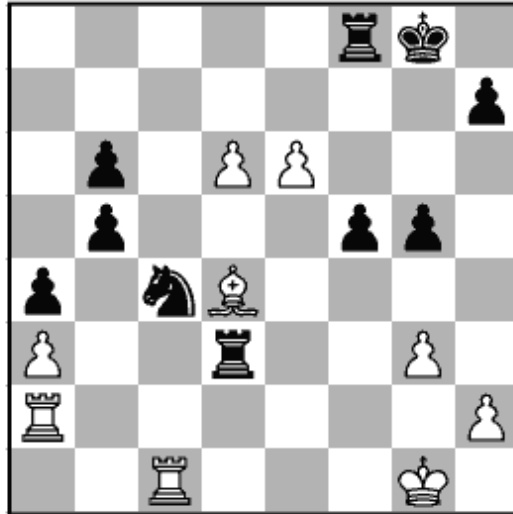
932) Black to play

[solution](#)



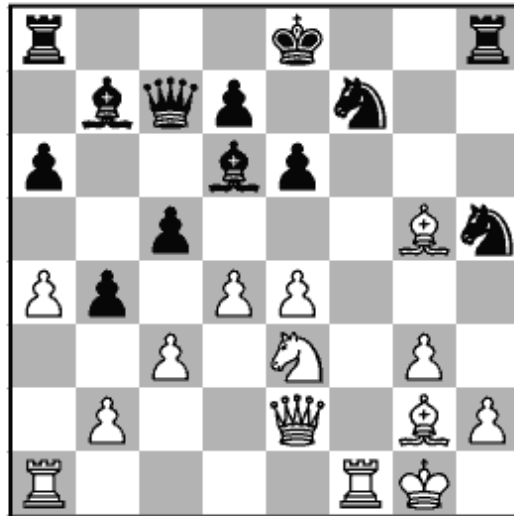
933) Black to play

[solution](#)



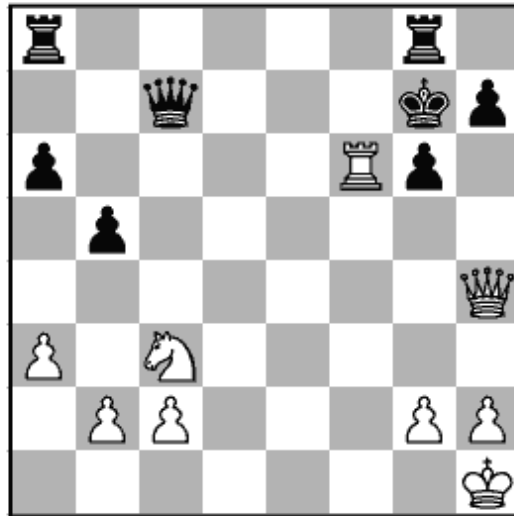
934) White to play

[solution](#)



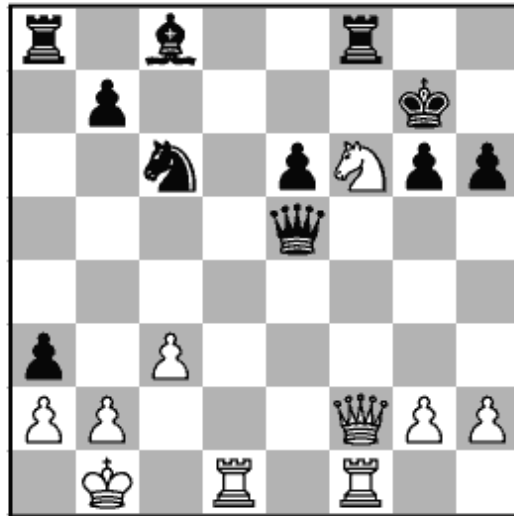
935) White to play

[solution](#)



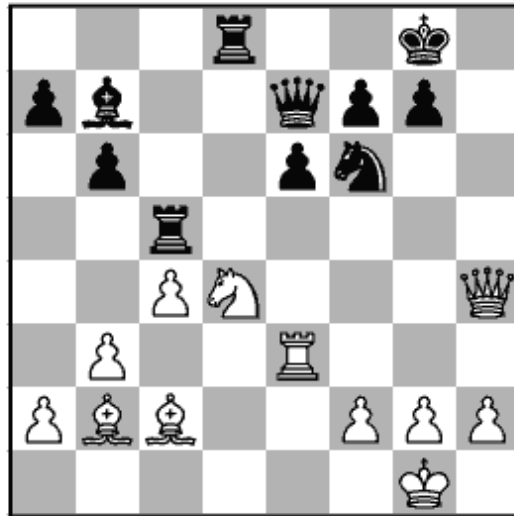
936) White to play

[solution](#)



937) White to play

[solution](#)



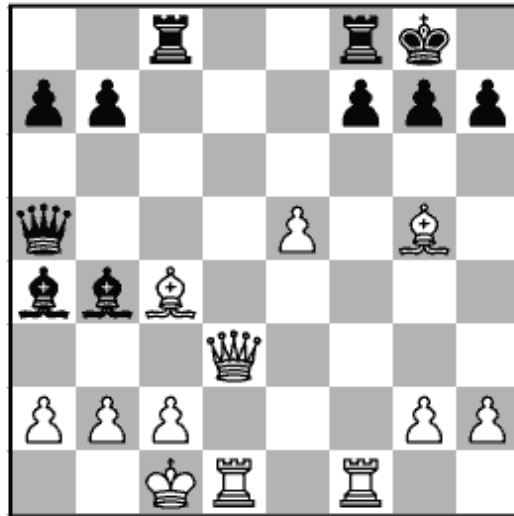
938) White to play

[solution](#)



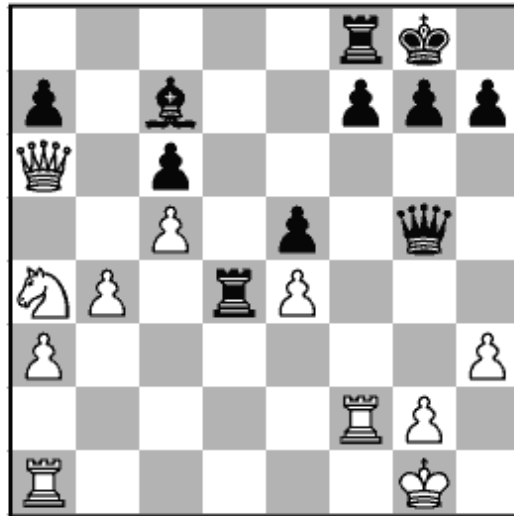
939) White to play

[solution](#)



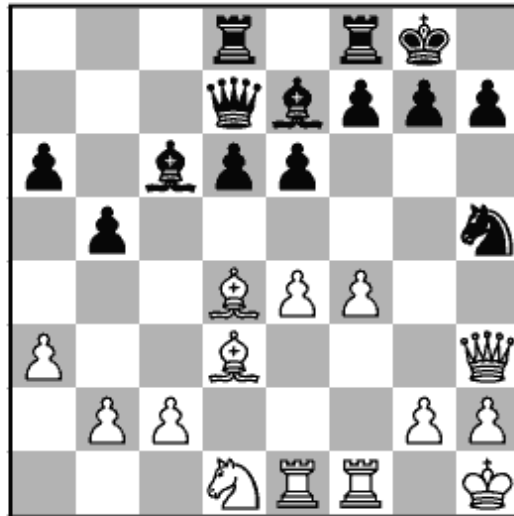
940) Black to play

[solution](#)



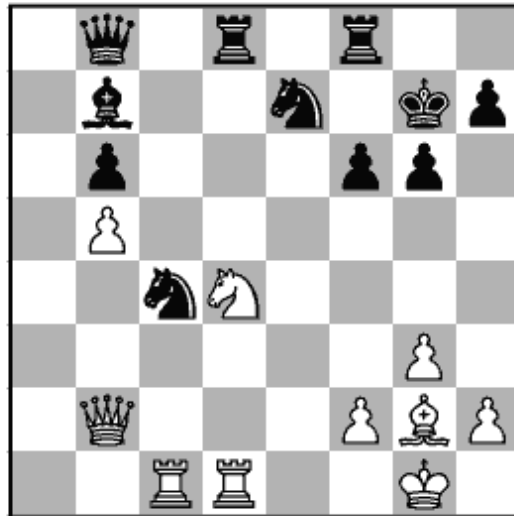
941) Black to play

[solution](#)



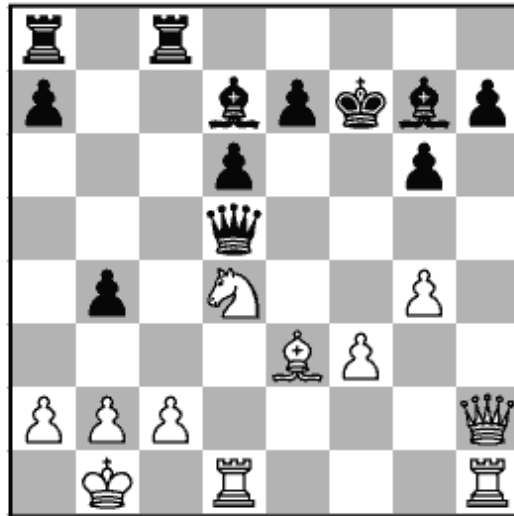
942) Black to play

[solution](#)



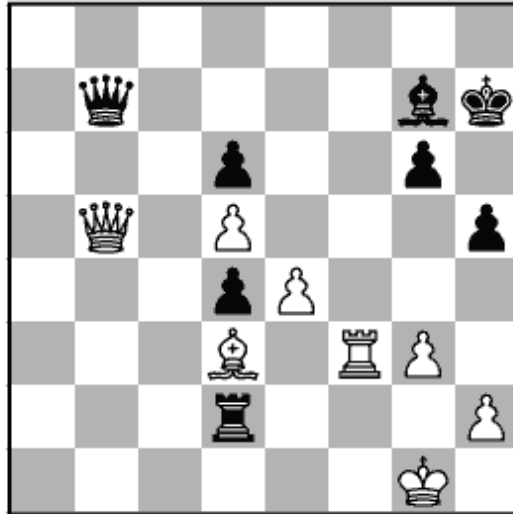
943) White to play

[solution](#)



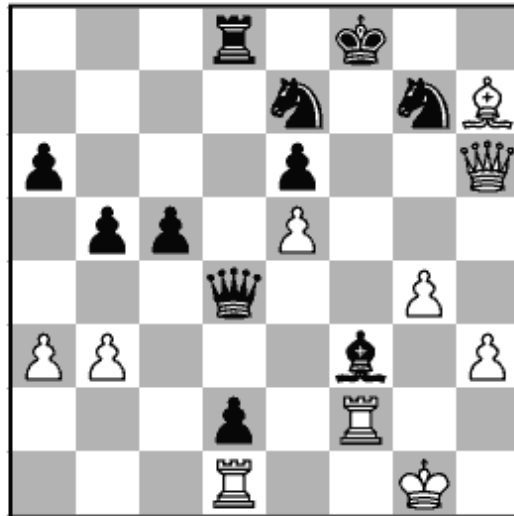
944) White to play

[solution](#)



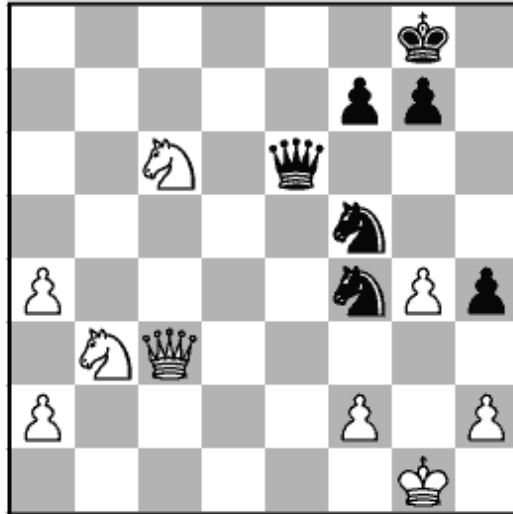
945) Black to play

[solution](#)



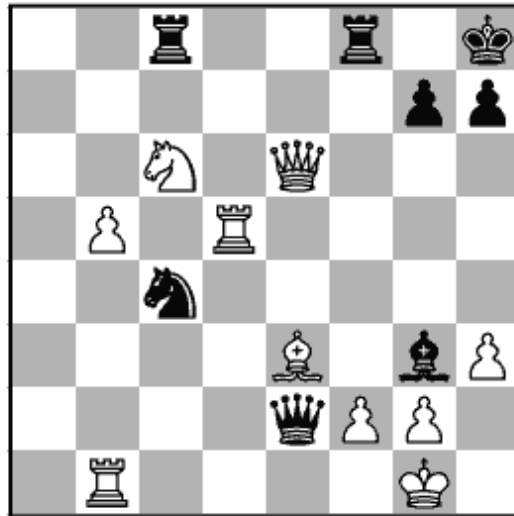
946) Black to play

[solution](#)



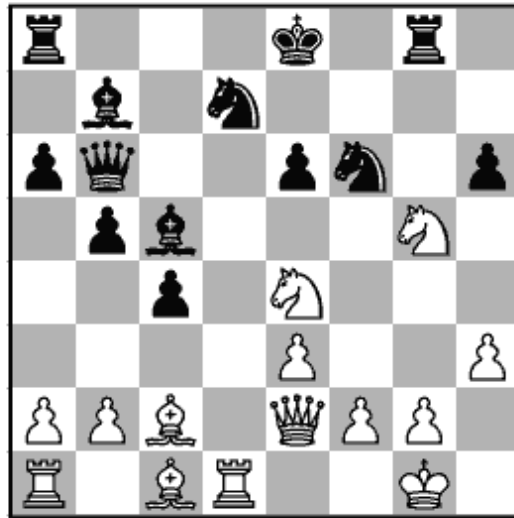
947) White to play

[solution](#)



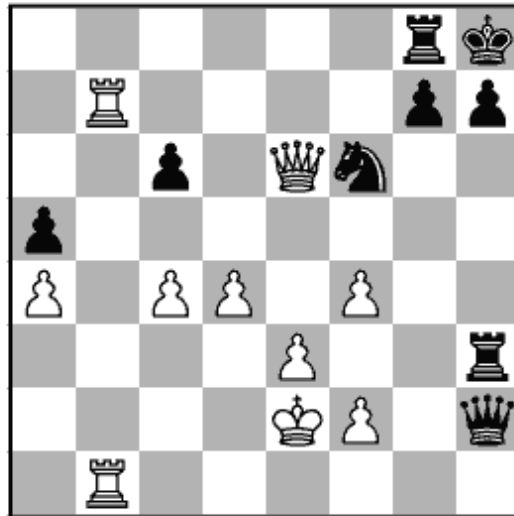
948) White to play

[solution](#)



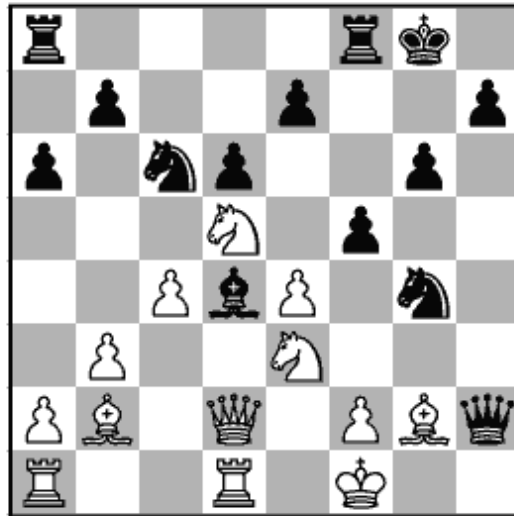
949) White to play

[solution](#)



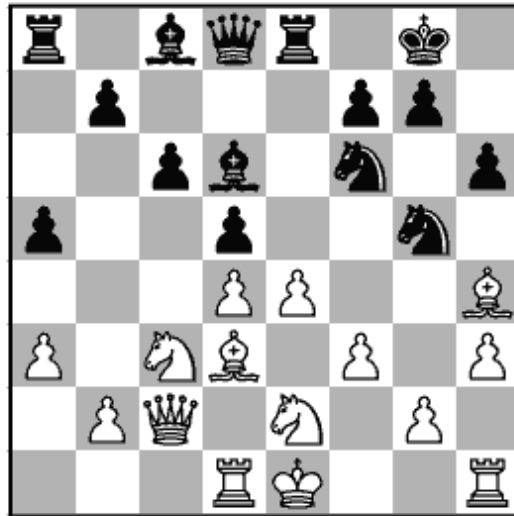
950) White to play

[solution](#)



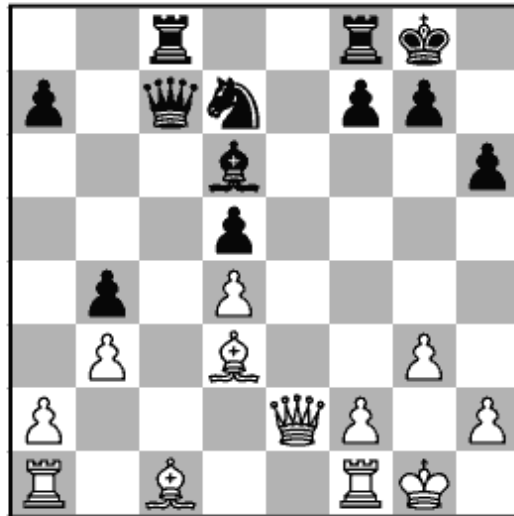
951) Black to play

[solution](#)



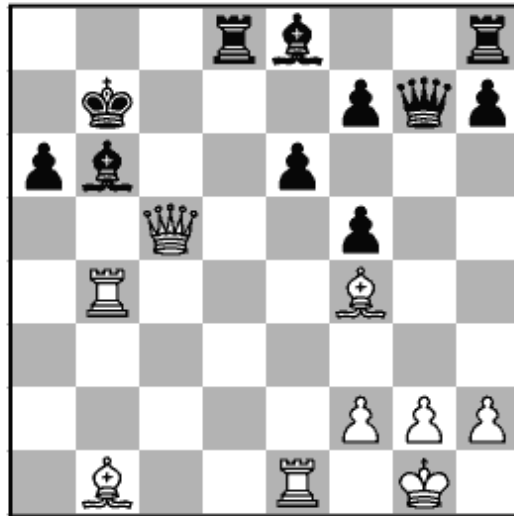
952) Black to play

[solution](#)



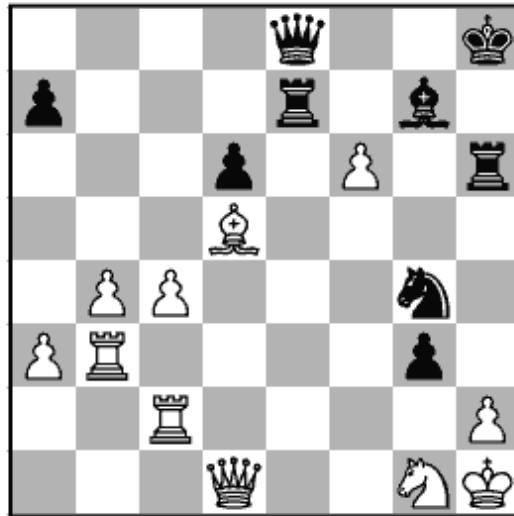
953) White to play

[solution](#)



954) Black to play

[solution](#)



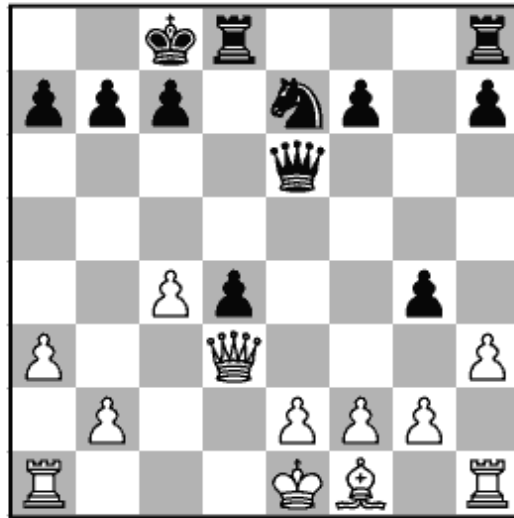
955) Black to play

[solution](#)



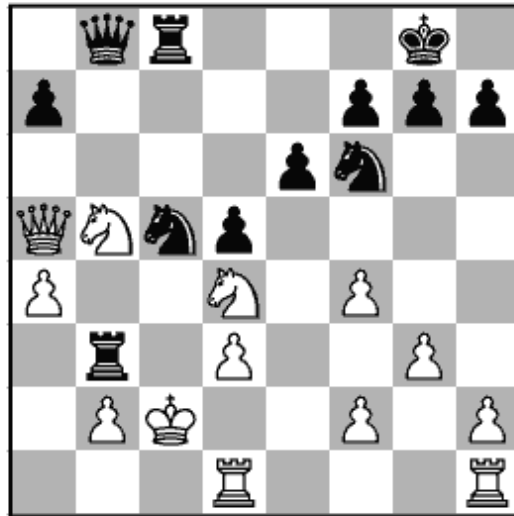
956) Black to play

[solution](#)



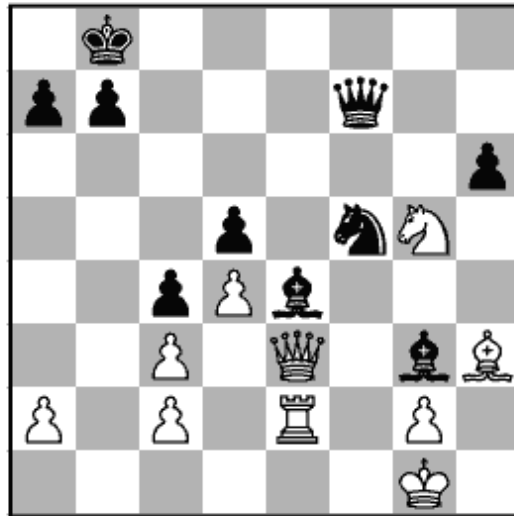
957) Black to play

solution



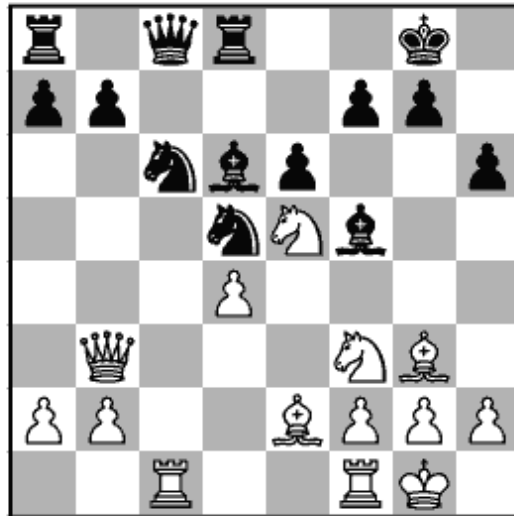
958) White to play

[solution](#)



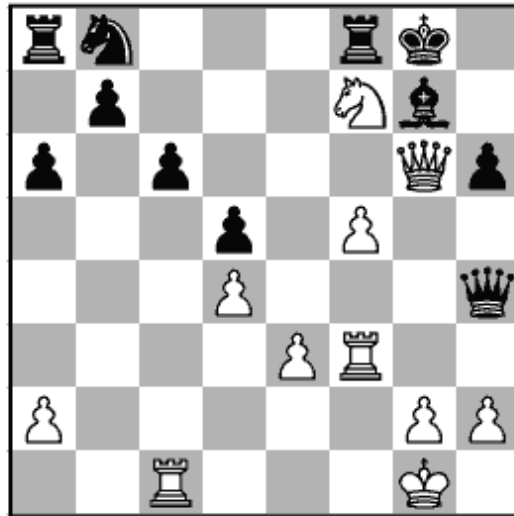
959) Black to play

[solution](#)



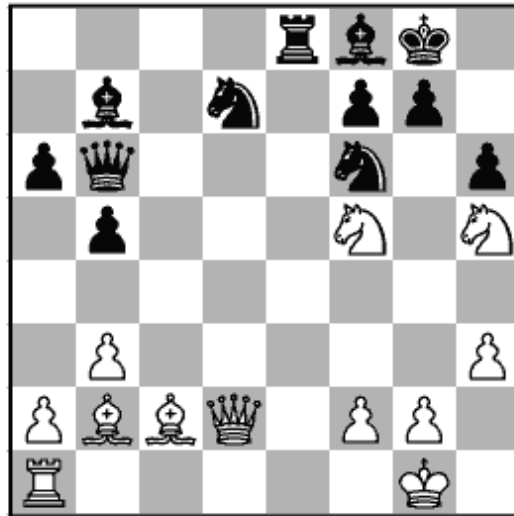
960) White to play

[solution](#)



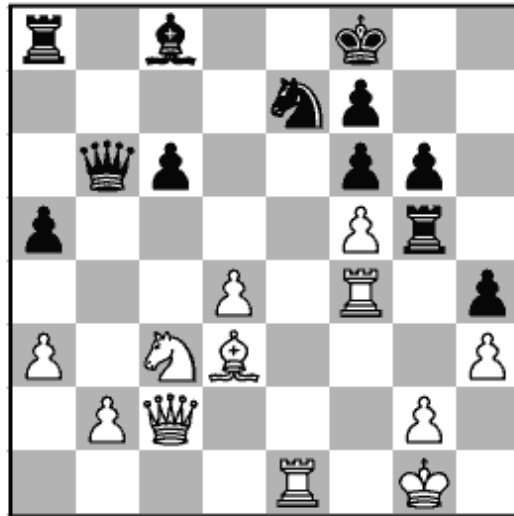
961) White to play

[solution](#)



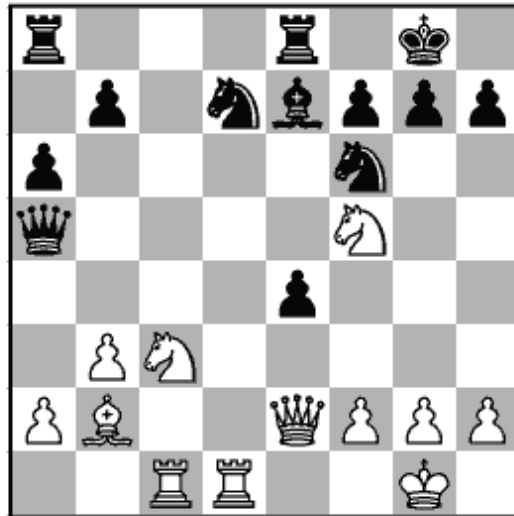
962) White to play

[solution](#)



963) White to play

[solution](#)



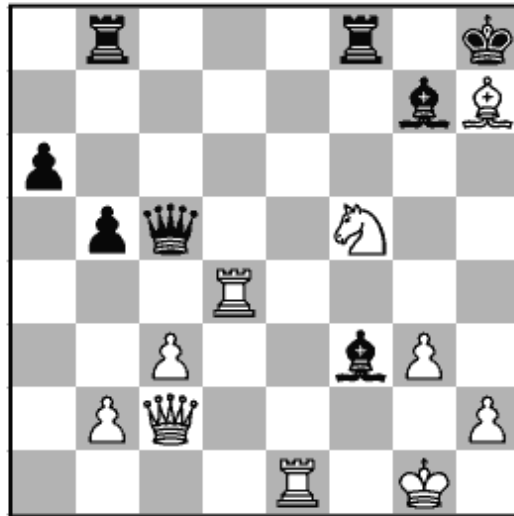
964) White to play

[solution](#)



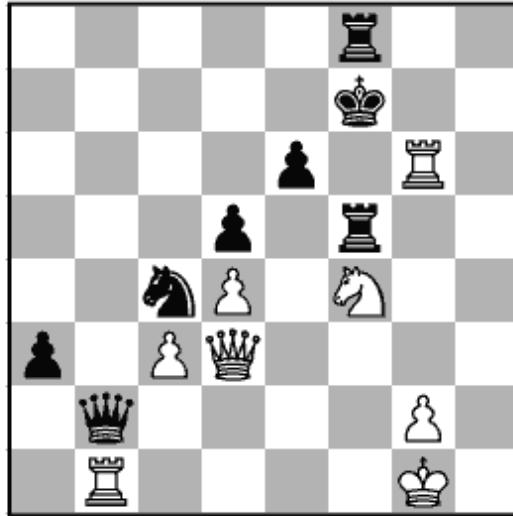
965) Black to play

[solution](#)



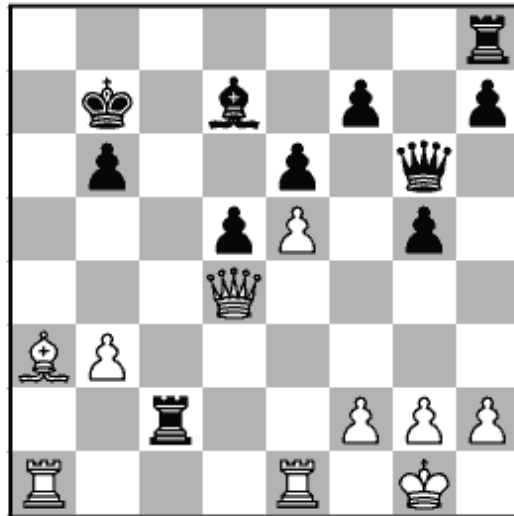
966) Black to play

[solution](#)



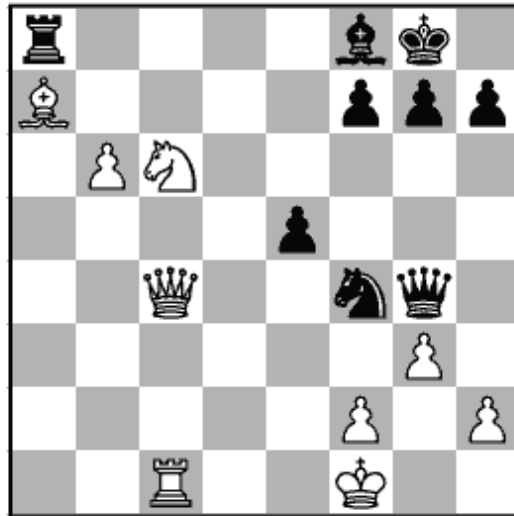
967) Black to play

[solution](#)



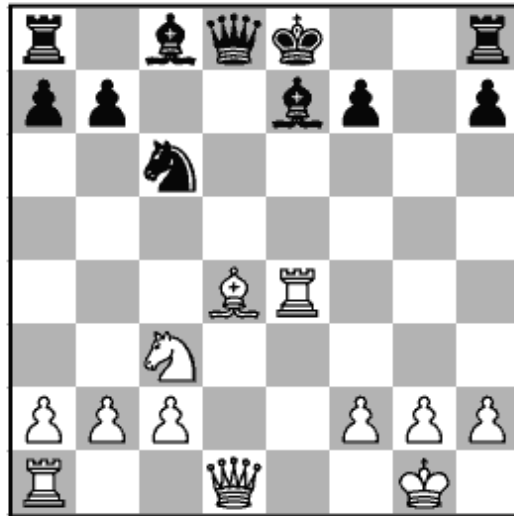
968) White to play

[solution](#)



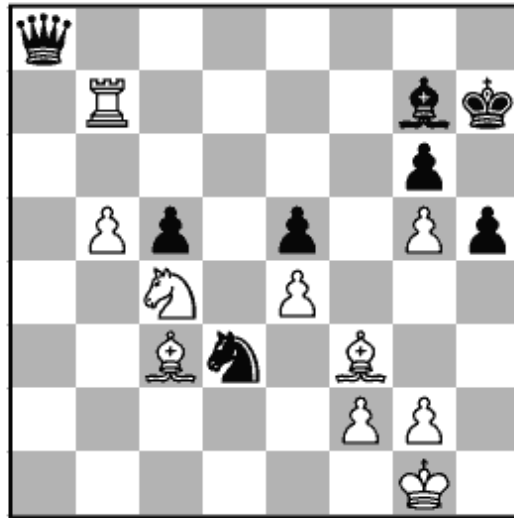
969) Black to play

[solution](#)



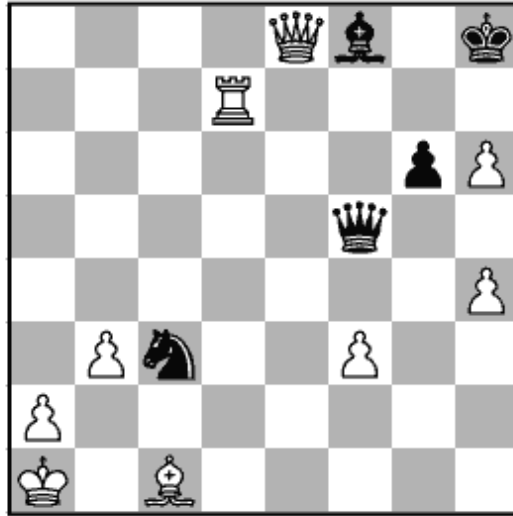
970) Black to play

[solution](#)



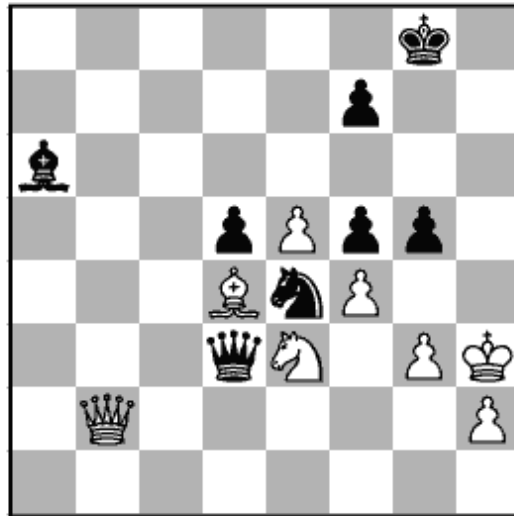
971) White to play

[solution](#)



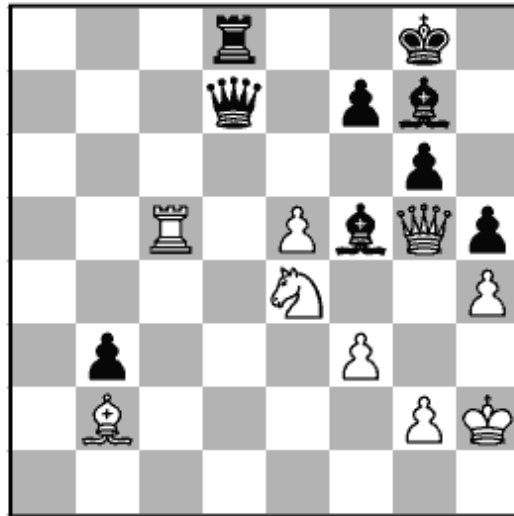
972) White to play

[solution](#)



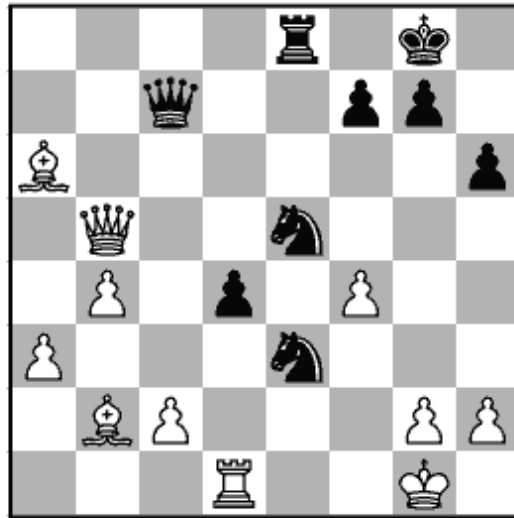
973) White to play

[solution](#)



974) White to play

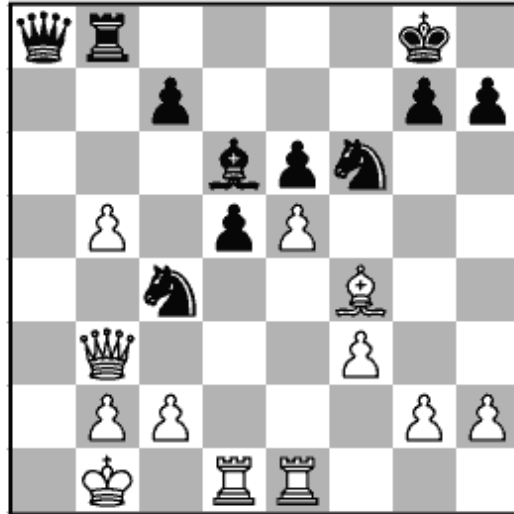
[solution](#)



975) Black to play

[solution](#)

Solutions for Advanced Puzzles



Black to play

845) J. Williams – G. Nagy
New York 2022

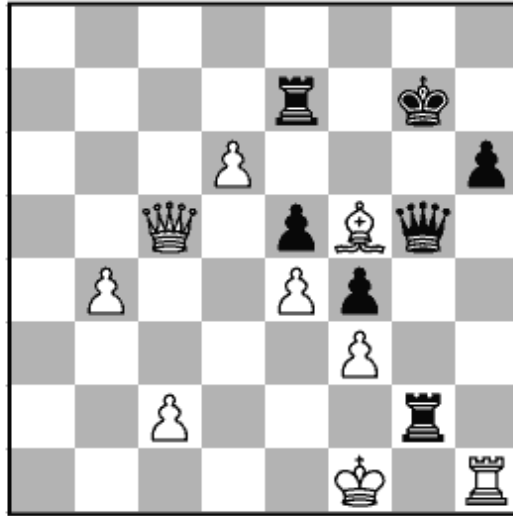
23...Ba3! 24 Bc1

24 bxa3 Rxb5 –+.

24...Nd7 25 bxa3 Qa5 26 Ka2 Rxb5 0-1

27 Qd3 Nc5 28 Qe2 Qc3 –+.

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Black to play

846) Sindarov – Nihal

World Rapid Team Ch, Jerusalem 2022

42...Rd2!

The game ended 42...Qg3? 43 Rh3! Qg5 44 dxe7 1-0.

43 Ke1 Qg2! 44 Rg1

Or 44 Qg1 Re2+ 45 Kd1 Rd2+ 46 Ke1 Re2+ with perpetual check.

44...Re2+ 45 Kd1 Rd2+ 46 Kc1

46 Ke1 Re2+ also repeats.

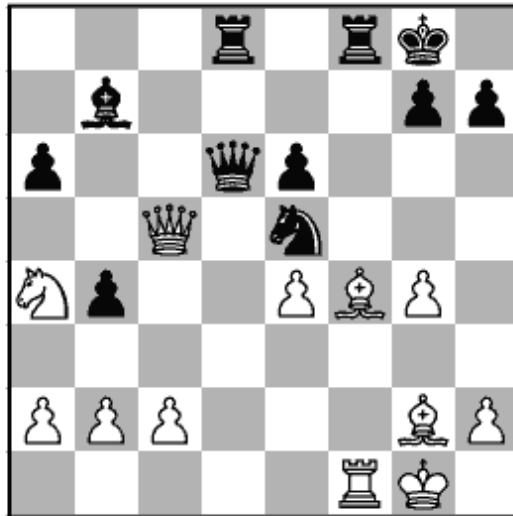
46...Rxc2+! 47 Kb1

47 Qxc2?? Qxg1+ –+.

47...Rb2+

The game ends in a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

847) Samsonkin – Bosiočić
Waterloo 2022

20...Nf3+! 21 Rxf3

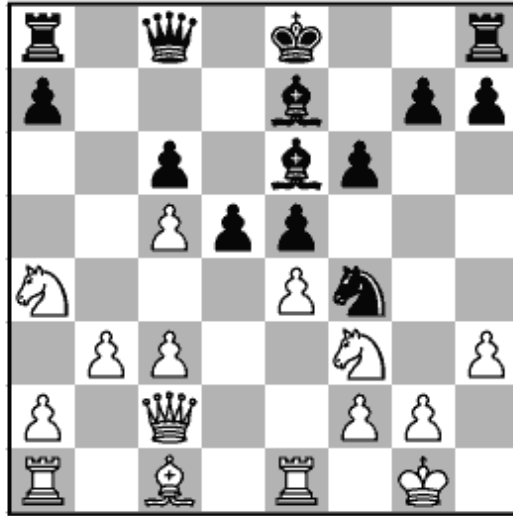
21 Bxf3 Qxf4 –+.

21...Qd1+ 22 Kf2

22 Rf1 Rxf4! 23 Rxd1 Rxd1+ 24 Bf1 Rdx1+ 25 Kg2 Bxe4+ 26 Kh3
R1f3+ 27 Kh4 h6 –+.

22...Bxe4 –+

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Black to play

848) Rodrigue-Lemieux – Bosiočić

Waterloo 2022

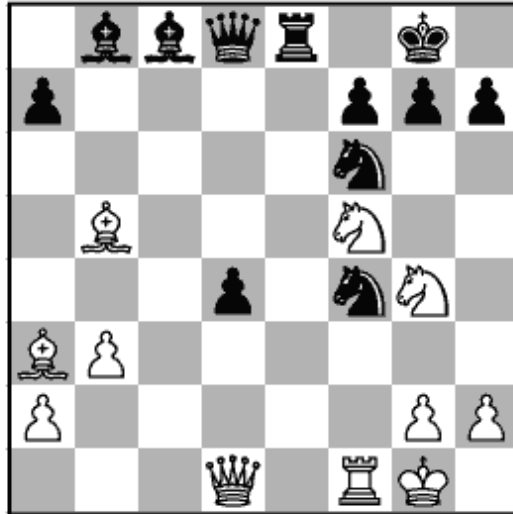
16...Nxg2!

16...Bxh3? loses to 17 Bxf4!.

**17 Kxg2 Bxh3+ 18 Kh2 Qg4 19 Rg1 Qh5 20 Rg3 Bf5+ 21 Kg1
Bxe4 22 Qe2 f5 0-1**

White has no good defence against the threat of ...f4.

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White to play

849) C. Cruz – Korley
Charlotte 2022

24 Be7! Rxe7 25 Nxf6+ Kh8

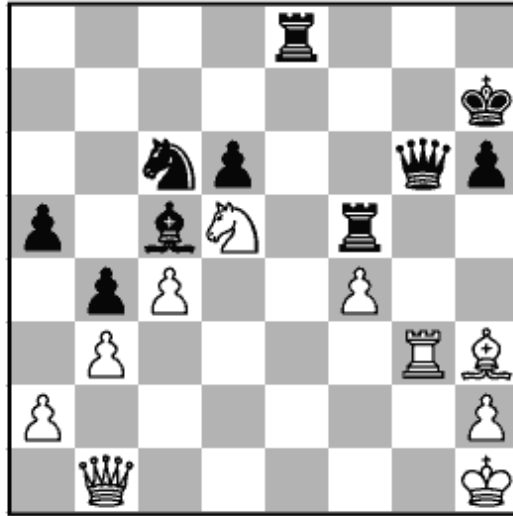
25...gxf6 26 Qg4+ Ng6 27 Nxe7+ Qxe7 28 Qxc8+ +–.

26 Nxe7 Bb7

26...gxf6 27 Nxc8 Qxc8 28 Qxd4 +– or 26...Qxe7 27 Qc2! +–.

27 Nh5 +–

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Black to play

850) Erdogan – Salem

Sharjah rapid 2022

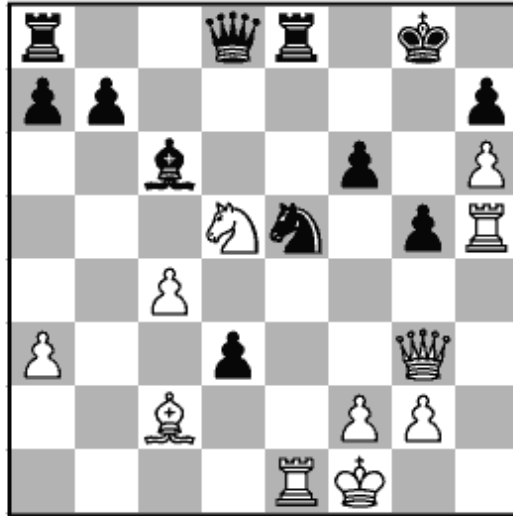
33...Rg5! 34 Nf6+

34 Qxg6+ Rxc6 35 Bf5 Re1+ (or 35...Re6 –+) 36 Kg2 Rg1+ 37 Kh3 Rxc3+ 38 hxc3 Nd4 –+.

34...Kh8! 35 Qxc6 Re1+ 36 Kg2 Rxc6 0-1

37 Rxc6 Rg1+ 38 Kf3 Rxc6 –+.

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White to play

851) Grigoriants – A. Horvath
Hungarian Ch, Budapest 2022

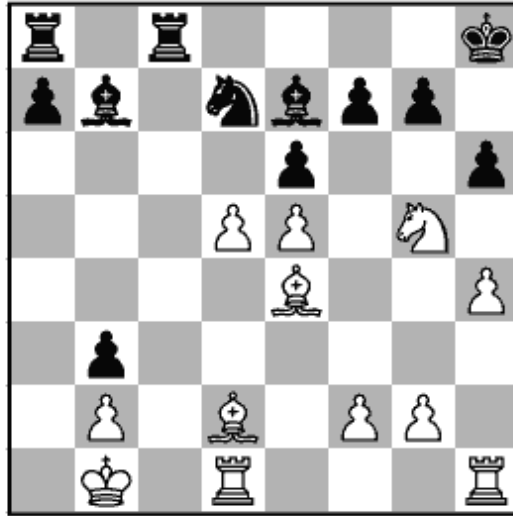
24 Rxc5+! fxc5 25 Rxe5 Bxd5

25...Rxe5 26 Qxe5 Qf8 27 Qxc5+ Kf7 (27...Kh8 28 Ne7 and White wins due to the threat of Qe5+) 28 Qf5+ Ke8 29 Nc7+ Ke7 30 Qe5+ Kd7 31 Bxd3 +—.

26 Rxc5+ 1-0

26...Kf7 27 Qf4+ Ke6 28 Re5+ Kd6 29 Rxd5++ +—.

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Black to play

852) Kazhgaleyev – K. Kazakov
Kazakh Ch, Semey 2022

21...hxg5!

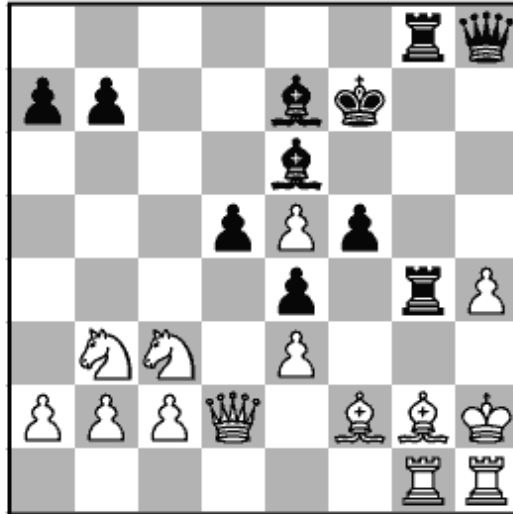
In the game, 21...f5? allowed White to save his knight by 22 dxe6, when after 22...Bxe4+ 23 Nxe4 Nxe5 24 Ng3 Rc2 25 Nxf5 Nc4 26 Bc1 Bf6 the chances would have been roughly equal.

22 hxg5+ Kg8 23 Bh7+ Kf8 24 d6

24 Bd3 Ke8 25 dxe6 Nf8 26 exf7+ Kxf7 –/+.

24...Bxg2 25 dxe7+ Ke8! –/+

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White to play

853) M. Nowak – Wieczorek
Karpacz 2022

24 Nxd5!

24 Ne2?? was played in the game, and Black broke through along the h-file with 24...Bxh4 25 Bh3 Bxf2 –+.

24...Rd8

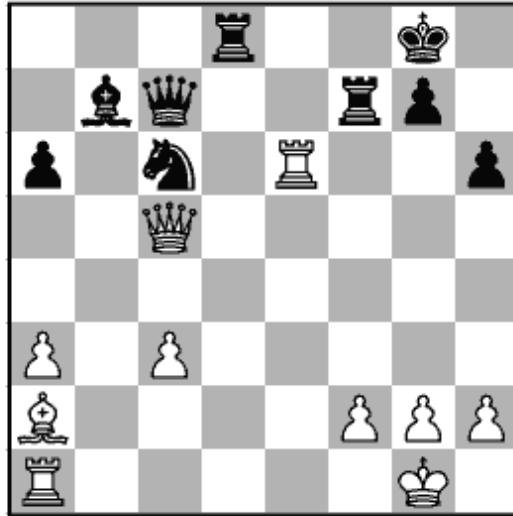
24...Bxh4 25 Bh3 Bxf2 26 Rxg4 +–.

25 Bh3 Qxe5+

25...Rxd5 26 Qc3 +–.

26 Bg3 +–

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Black to play

854) Bartel – Dvirnyy
Sant Boi 2022

24...Kh8! 25 Rxc6 Rfd7!

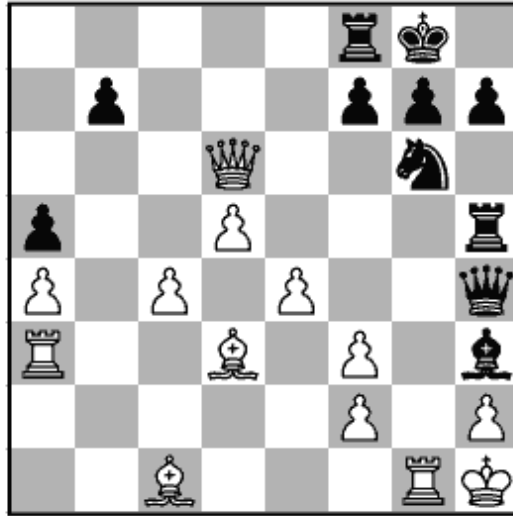
Black threatens mate with an intermezzo.

26 Rxc7

White allows himself to be mated rather than play on a rook down.

26...Rd1+ 27 Rxd1 Rxd1# (0-1)

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Black to play

855) N.S. Mohammad – S.L. Narayanan
Bangladeshi Team Ch, Dhaka 2022

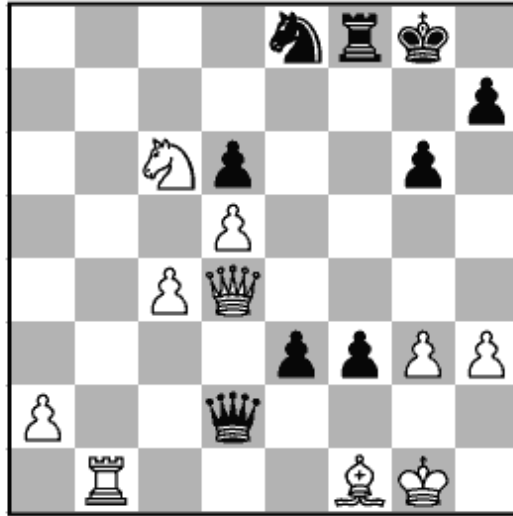
23...Ne5 24 Bb2 Qxf2 25 Bc2

25 Be2 f6 26 Bxe5 fxe5 27 Raa1 Bf1 –+.

25...Rg5 26 Rxg5 Qf1+ 0-1

27 Rg1 Bg2#.

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Black to play

856) Sumets – K. Grigoryan
Sitges 2022

35...Qe1!

In the game, 35...Qf2+? 36 Kh1 Nf6 37 Ne7+ Kf7 38 Qa7 = gave White sufficient counterplay against the black king.

36 Ne7+

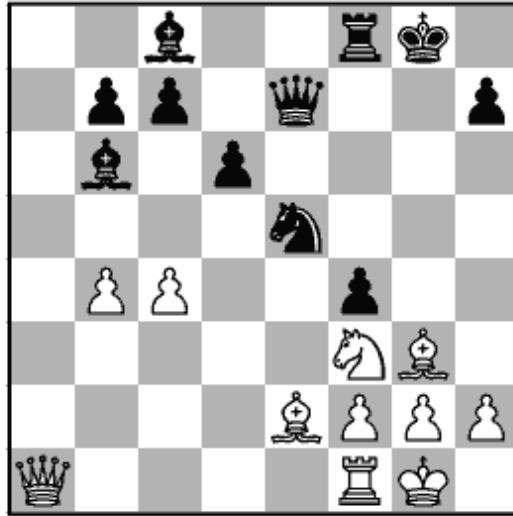
36 Rxe1 f2+ 37 Kh2 fxe1Q –+.

36...Kf7 37 Qa7 f2+ 38 Kg2 e2 39 Nf5+ Kg8

Not 39...Kf6?!, when 40 Qd4+ Kf7 (40...Kg5 41 Qh4+ Kxf5 42 Qf4#) 41 Rb7+ leads to mate.

40 Nh6+ Kh8 41 Bxe2 Qxb1 42 Bf1 Qe4+ 43 Kh2 Qf3 –+

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White to play

857) Sargsyan – Plichta

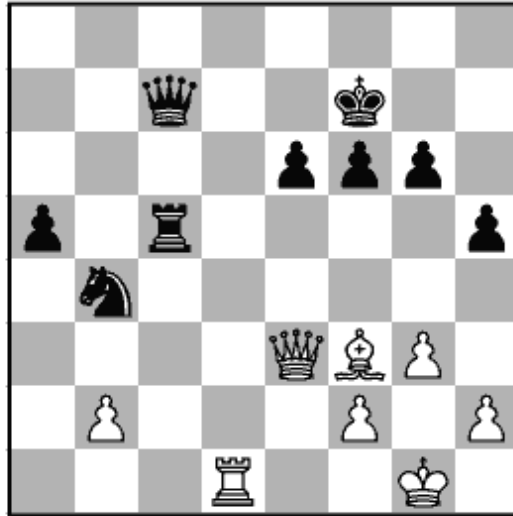
European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

20 Bh4!

White sacrifices a piece to open lines against Black's king.

**20...Nxf3+ 21 Bxf3 Qxh4?! 22 Bd5+ Rf7 23 c5! dxc5 24 Qe5 Bd7
25 Ra1 c6 26 Ra8+ Bd8 27 g3 1-0**

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White to play

858) Chigaev – Zhalmakhanov
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

34 Qh6!

The fact that Black has moved all his kingside pawns leaves him vulnerable to an invasion along his second rank.

34...f5

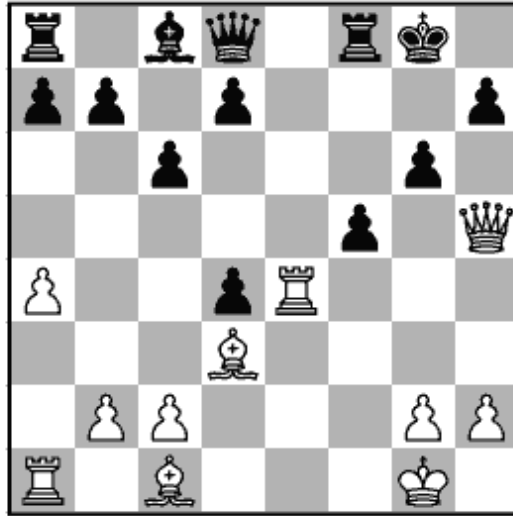
34...Qe7 35 Qh7+ Kf8 36 Qh8+ Kf7 37 Rd8 +—.

35 Qh7+ Kf6 36 Rd7 Rc1+ 37 Kg2 Qc4 38 Qg7+

Or 38 Qe7+ Ke5 39 Qg7#.

38...Kg5 39 h4+ 1-0

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White to play

859) Balakrishnan – Yu. Quesada Perez
Saint Louis 2022

18 Rg4! fxg4

If Black refuses to capture the rook then White's extra piece is stronger than the black pawns; e.g., 18...Qe8 19 Rg5 Qe1+ 20 Bf1 Rf6 21 Qf3 d6 22 Rg4 +—.

19 Bxg6 hxg6

Black's lack of queenside development proves fatal after 19...Qe7 20 Bh6! hxg6 21 Qxg6+ Kh8 22 Bxf8 Qxf8 23 Re1 +—.

20 Qxg6+ Kh8 21 Qh5+

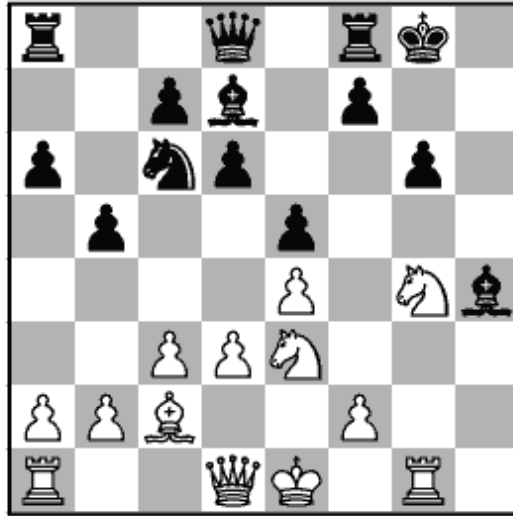
White picks up the g4-pawn with a series of checks; the immediate 21 Bg5 +— is also sufficient.

21...Kg8 22 Qxg4+ Kh7 23 Qh5+ Kg8 24 Qg6+ Kh8 25 Bg5 Qa5 26 Rf1

Or 26 Bf6+ +—.

26...Rxf1+ 27 Kxf1 1-0

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White to play

860) Kaczur – A. Popovics
Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

19 Nh6+ Kh7

Or: 19...Kg7 20 Nhf5+ Bxf5 21 Nxf5+ Kh7 22 Qg4 +–; 19...Kh8 20 Nhf5 Rg8 21 Qf3 +–.

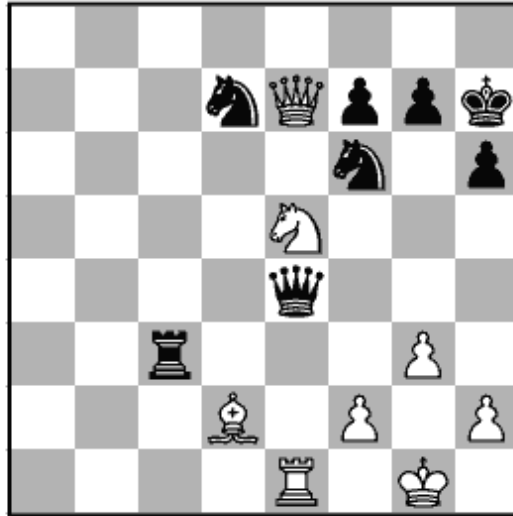
20 Nhf5 Bxf5

The game ended 20...Rh8 21 Qh5+! 1-0. Black will be mated:
 21...gxh5 22 Rg7# or 21...Kg8 22 Rxg6+ fxg6 23 Bb3+ d5 24 Bxd5+ Be6 25 Bxe6+ Kf8 26 Qxh8#.

21 exf5 Qf6 22 Qg4 Ne7 23 Rh1 g5 24 0-0-0 +–

Black has no good defence to White's threats, which include 25 Ng2.

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Black to play

861) Jones – Huschenbeth
Bundesliga 2021/2

33...Rc1! 34 Rxc1

Black wins a piece after 34 Bxc1 Qxe1+ 35 Kg2 Nxe5 –+.

34...Nxe5 35 Bb4 Nd5 36 Qc5 Nf3+ 37 Kg2

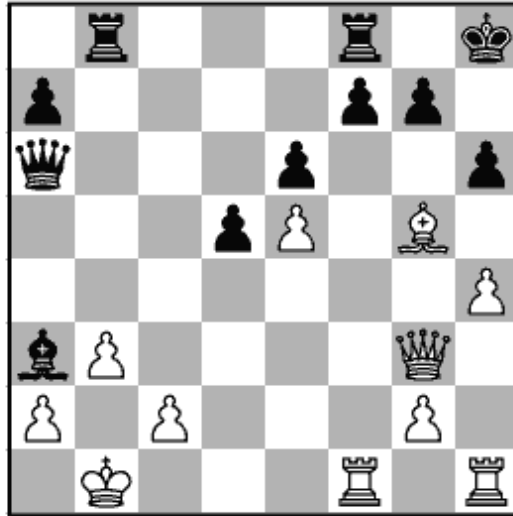
37 Kf1 Nd4 (threatening 38...Qh1#) 38 Kg1 transposes to the main line.

37...Nd4+

The game continuation 37...Ne1++ 38 Kf1 Nd3 –+ was also good enough.

38 Kg1 Ne2+ 39 Kf1 Nxc1 –+

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White to play

862) Antipov – Homa
Philadelphia 2022

21 Bxh6! Rg8

21...gxh6 22 Rf6 Kh7 23 Qf4 leads to mate.

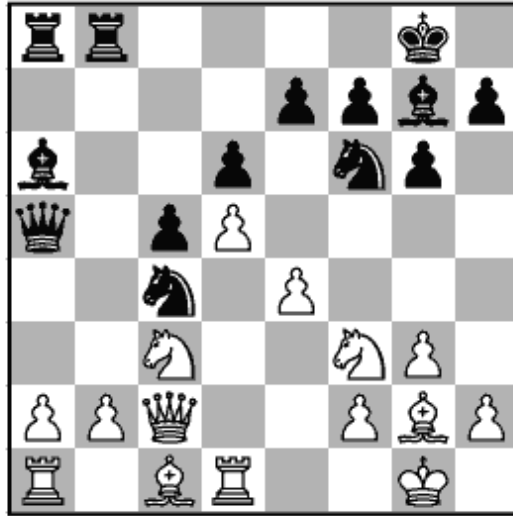
22 Bg5

Now White's h-pawn is poised to march down the board.

22...Rb4 23 h5 Qe2 24 h6 Rg4 25 hxg7++ Kxg7 26 Bh6+ Kg6 27 Rf6+ 1-0

27...Kh7 28 Bf8+ Rh4 29 Rxh4+ Qh5 30 Rxh5#.

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Black to play

863) Yanayt – Padhya
Philadelphia 2022

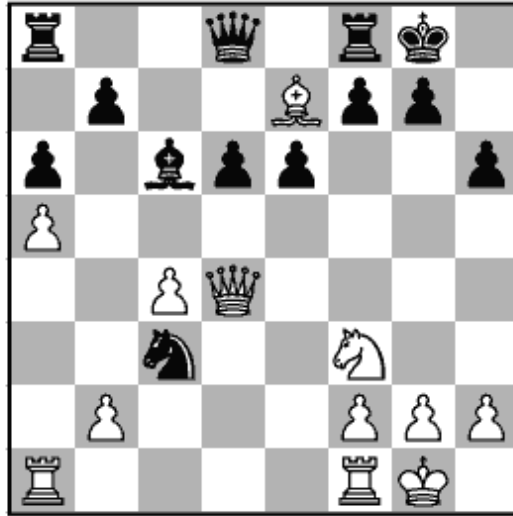
15...Nxb2!

15...Nd7?! was played in the game, when White should have given back his extra pawn and struggled on with 16 a4 Nxb2 17 Bxb2 Rxb2 18 Qxb2 Bxc3 19 Qc2 Bxa1 20 Rxa1 Rb8 –/+.

16 Bxb2 Rxb2 17 Qxb2 Nxe4

Black will win back his sacrificed material and be left with a strong passed c-pawn; for example, 18 Re1 Nxc3 19 Qd2 Ne2+ 20 Rxe2 Bxe2 21 Re1 Qxd2 22 Nxd2 Bd3 23 Rxe7 c4 –+.

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White to play

864) H. Stefansson – A. Donchenko
Česke Budejovice 2022

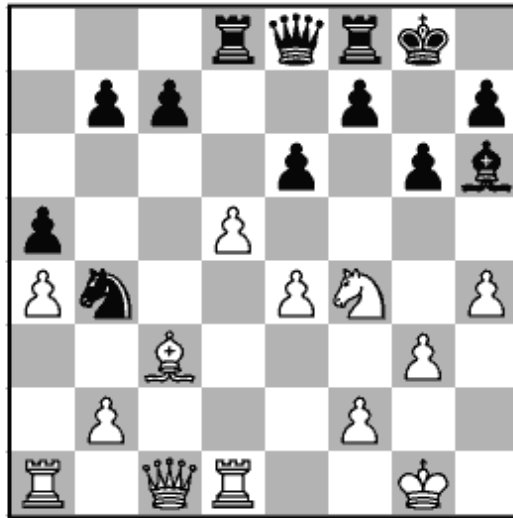
15 Qh4! Ne2+ 16 Kh1 g5

After 16...Qc7? 17 Bxf8 (as played in the game) White gains a decisive material advantage; e.g., 17...Bxf3 18 gxf3 e5 19 Be7 Nf4 20 Rad1 +–.

17 Bxg5 hxg5 18 Nxc5 Kg7 19 Rae1 Rh8 20 Qg4 +/-

White is significantly better due to Black's unsafe king.

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White to play

865) Andreikin – Vokhidov

Internet rapid 2022

25 Nh5! gxh5

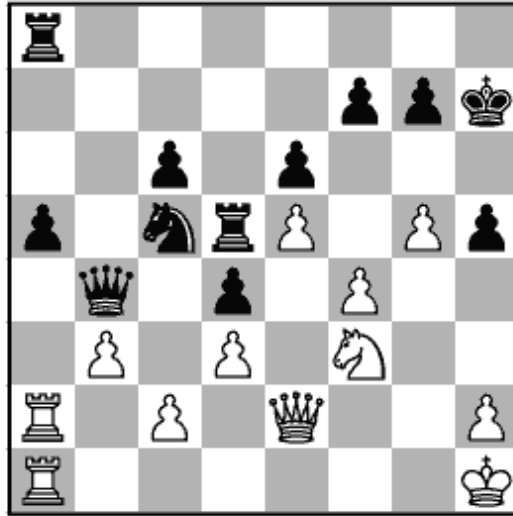
25...Bxc1 26 Nf6+ Kh8 27 Nxe8+ +—.

26 Qxh6 f6

26...e5 27 Qg5+ Kh8 28 Bxe5+ f6 29 Bxf6+ Rxf6 30 Qxf6+ Kg8 31 Rac1 +—.

27 Bxf6 Rd7 28 Qg5+ Qg6 29 dxe6 Rxd1+ 30 Rxd1 Rxf6 31 Rd8+ Kg7 32 e7 1-0

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White to play

866) Martinez Duany – Garrido Outon
Gijon 2022

34 g6+! fxg6

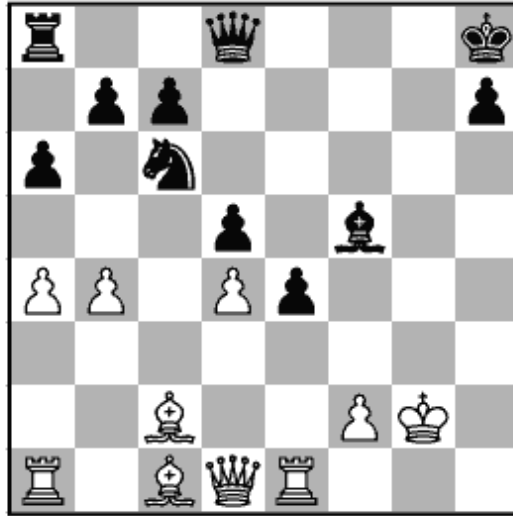
34...Kg8 35 Nh4 fxg6 36 Nxc6 Re8 37 Rg1 +- gives White a decisive attack.

35 Rg1 Qb8 36 Nh4 Qe8 37 Nxc6 Qxc6

37...Nd7 38 Qxh5+ Kg8 39 Qg5 Kf7 40 Raa1 +-.

38 Rxc6 Kxc6 39 Ra1 Nd7 40 Rg1+ 1-0

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Black to play

867) de Firmian – Kaidanov

USA Seniors Ch, Saint Louis 2022

26...Qh4! 27 Ra3 Rg8+ 28 Kf1

Black has a decisive material advantage after 28 Rg3 Qh3+ 29 Kg1 Rxd3+ 30 fxd3 Qxd3+ 31 Kh1 Bg4 –+.

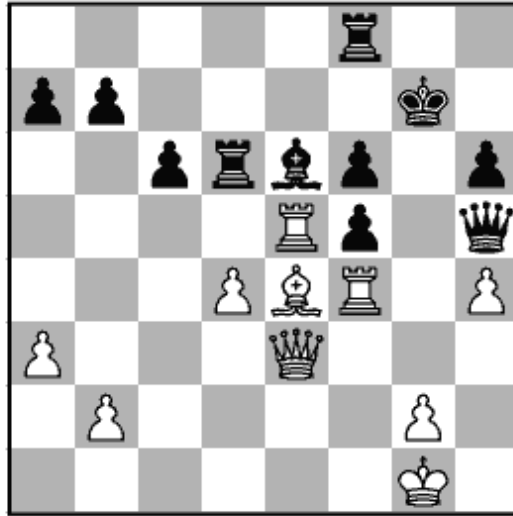
28...Bg4 29 f3

29 Qxd3 Rxd3 30 Be3 Ne7 –+.

29...Bh3+ 0-1

30 Ke2 Rg2+ 31 Ke3 Qg5+ 32 f4 Qg3+ 33 Qf3 Qxf3#.

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White to play

868) Mardov – Ar. Guo

USA Under-16 Ch, Schaumburg 2022

28 Bxc6!

After 28 Bxf5?? (as played in the game) White loses material. The game ended 28...fxe5 29 Qxe5+ Rf6 30 g4 (30 Rg4+ Qxg4 31 Bxg4 Bxg4 –+) 30...Qxh4 31 Qxd6 Qg3+ 0-1.

28...Qd1+

28...fxe5? 29 Qxe5+ Rf6 30 Bf3 Qe8 31 Qxd6 +–.

29 Kh2 Qb3

29...fxe5? 30 Qxe5+ Rf6 31 Bf3 +–.

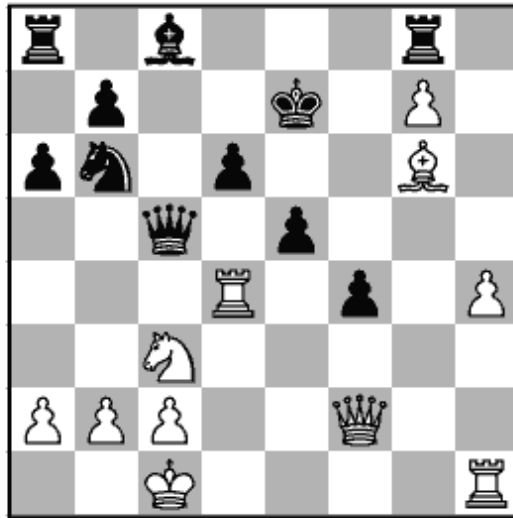
30 Qxb3 Bxb3 31 Re7+ Rf7 32 Rxb7 Bd5

32...Rxc6? 33 Rxb3 +–.

33 Bxd5 Rxd5

Now 34 Rxf7+?! Kxf7 leaves White's rook too passive for him to have real winning chances, so he should stay in a four-rook ending with, e.g., 34 Rb3. Then White's extra pawn will provide some prospects of victory once he has stabilized the position and activated his pieces.

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White to play

869) A. Hong – D. Brodsky
USA Junior Ch, Saint Louis 2022

21 h5!

Not 21 Rd2?? Qxf2 22 Rxf2 Be6 –+, when Black will capture the g7-pawn and advance his centre pawns.

21...Qxd4

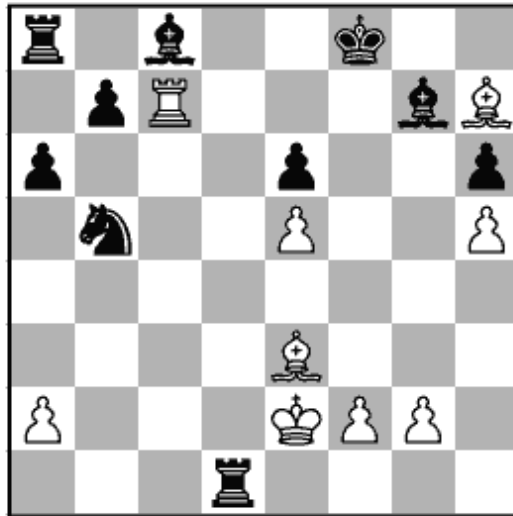
White's connected passed pawns on the kingside are decisive after 21...exd4 22 Ne4 Qe5 23 h6 Bf5 24 Qh4+ Ke6 25 Bxf5+ Qxf5 26 Re1 Kd7 27 Nf6+ Kc6 28 Nxg8 Rxg8 29 h7 +–.

22 Qh4+ Kd7 23 h6

White's far-advanced kingside pawns and Black's lack of queenside development are weightier factors than the sacrificed rook.

23...Kc6 24 Be4+ Kc7 25 Qf6 Bd7 26 Rd1 Qe3+ 27 Kb1 Kb8 28 h7 +–

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White to play

870) Andreikin – A. Sorokin

Internet rapid 2022

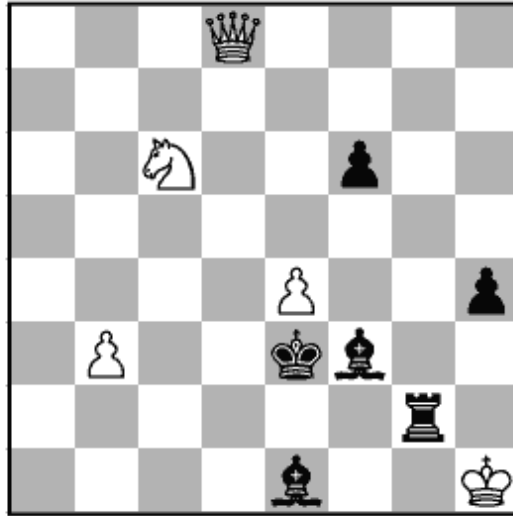
24 Bc5+! Ke8 25 Rxc7 Nc3+

25...Rc1 26 Bg6+ Kd8 27 Be7+ Kc7 28 Bg5+ Bd7 29 Bxc1 +–.

26 Kf3 Nd5 27 Bg6+ Kd8 28 Bd6 1-0

Black is helpless against the threat of Rg8+ followed by Be8+.

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White to play

871) Aronian – Erigaisi

Internet rapid 2022

58 Qb6+!

White must keep the d4-square free for a possible knight check; the game continuation was 58 Qd4+?? Ke2 59 Qc4+ Kf2 60 Qc5+ Kf1 0-1.

58...Kd2

58...Kd3 59 Qd8+ Kxe4 (59...Ke3 60 Qb6+ repeats) 60 Qe7+ (60 Qd4+ also draws) 60...Kf4 61 Qxf6+ Kg3 62 Qe5+ Kf2 63 Qd4+ Kg3 64 Qe5+ with perpetual check.

59 Qd8+ Kc1

59...Ke3 60 Qb6+ repeats.

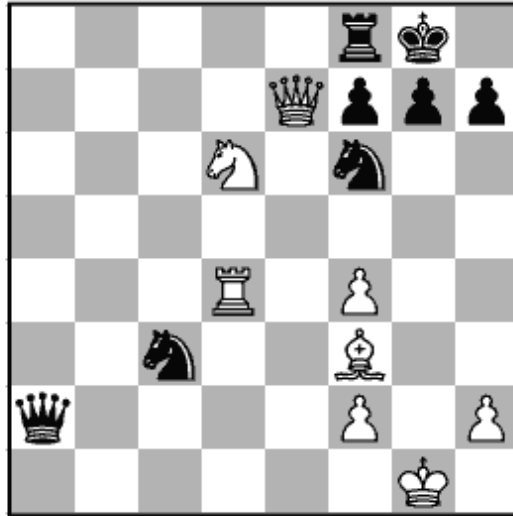
60 Qxf6 Rg3+ 61 Kh2 Rg2+ 62 Kh1

62 Kh3 Rg3+ 63 Kh2 Rg2+ repeats.

62...Rg3+

Again we have a perpetual check.

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Black to play

872) Gähwiler – M. Petrov

Biel 2022

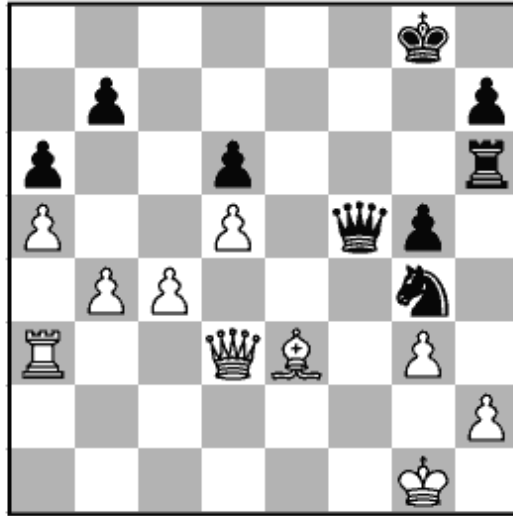
29...Qa1+ 30 Kg2 Ne2! 31 Rc4

31 Bxe2 Qxd4 –+.

31...Qg1+ 32 Kh3 Qf1+ 0-1

33 Bg2 Ng1+ 34 Kg3 Nh5+ 35 Kg4 Qxg2+ 36 Kf5 (36 Kxh5 Qh3+ leads to mate) 36...Qd5+ 37 Kg4 Nf6+ 38 Kg3 Qf3+ 39 Kh4 Qg4#.

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Black to play

873) Abdusattorov – Gukesh

Biel 2022

38...Nxe3! 39 Qxe3 Qb1+ 40 Kg2 Qc2+ 41 Kf1

Black wins the white queen after 41 Kg1 Qxh2+ 42 Kf1 Rf6+ 43 Ke1 Qh1+ 44 Kd2 Qg2+ 45 Qe2 Rf2 –+.

41...Rf6+ 42 Ke1 Qb1+ 43 Kd2 Kf8 44 Kc3

44 Rb3 Qf1 –+.

44...Rf1

44...Qd1 also wins.

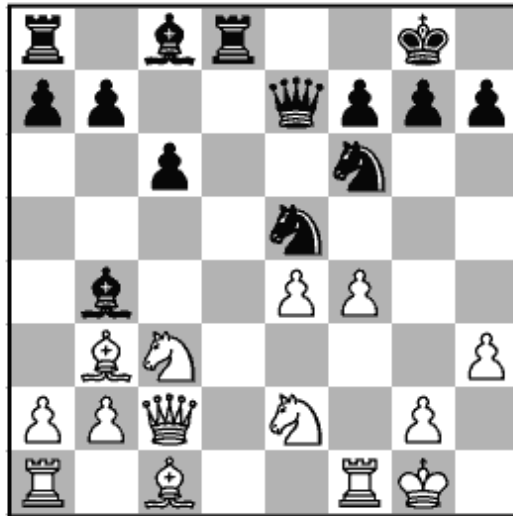
45 Qe2 g4 46 Kd4 Rd1+ 47 Kc3

47 Ke3 Qc1+ 48 Kf2 Rd2 –+.

47...Qc1+ 0-1

48 Kb3 Rd2 –+.

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Black to play

874) Duda – Aronian

Internet rapid 2022

13...Bc5+ 14 Kh1 Nd3 15 e5

15 f5 Ng4! 16 g3 Ngf2+ 17 Kh2 b6 –+.

15...Ng4! 16 Ne4

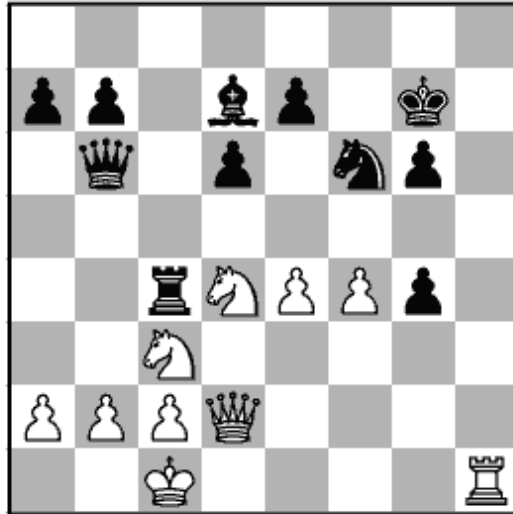
16 hxg4?? allows 16...Qh4#.

16...Bf5

White has no answer to Black's swarming minor pieces.

17 N2g3 Ndf2+ 18 Nxf2 Bxc2 19 Nxg4 Bxb3 20 axb3 Rd3 –+

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White to play

875) Hakobyan – Matinian

Internet rapid 2022

21 f5! Ng8

21...Kf7? 22 fxg6+ Kxg6 23 Rh6+ Kf7 24 Qg5 +–.

22 Nce2 Qc5 23 Qg5

After 23 b3?! (as chosen in the game) Black could have bailed out into an endgame, albeit a very bad one, by playing 23...Rxd4 24 Qxd4+ Qxd4 25 Nxd4 +–.

23...Qe5

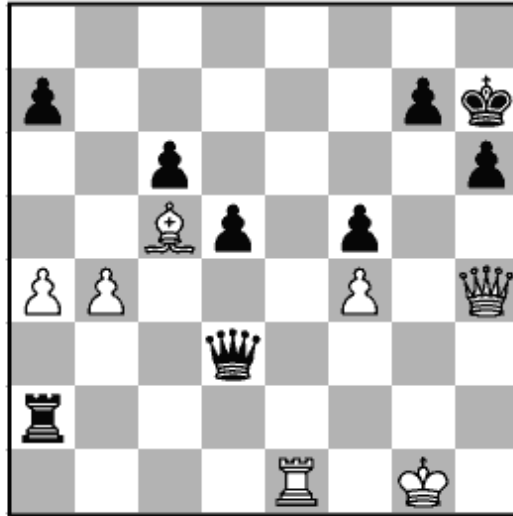
23...Rxd4 24 Qxg6+ Kf8 25 Rh7 leads to mate.

24 Qxg6+ Kf8 25 Qxg4 Rxd4 26 Rg1 Nh6 27 Qg6 Qf6

27...Nf7 28 Qg8#.

28 Qxf6+ exf6 29 Nxd4 +–

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Black to play

876) Caruana – J. van Foreest
Internet rapid 2022

32...d4!

Black prevents White's bishop from retreating along the g1-a7 diagonal and threatens 33...Qf3. After the immediate 32...Qf3? 33 Bf2 Rxa4 34 Re7 Ra1+ 35 Be1 d4 (as played in the game) White should have headed for a draw by 36 Rxg7+! Kxg7 37 Qe7+ Kg6 38 Qe6+ Kg7 39 Qe7+, with perpetual check.

33 Rf1 Qe3+ 34 Rf2 Ra1+ 35 Kg2

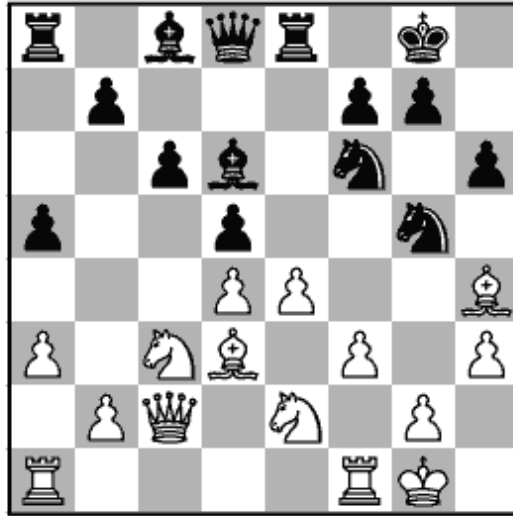
35 Kh2 Qe1 –+.

35...Qe4+ 36 Rf3 Ra2+ 37 Qf2

37 Kg3 Qe1+ leads to mate.

37...Rxf2+ 38 Kxf2 Qc2+ 39 Kg3 d3 –+

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Black to play

877) Kowalski – Gatineau
Lodz rapid (team event) 2022

16...Nfxe4!

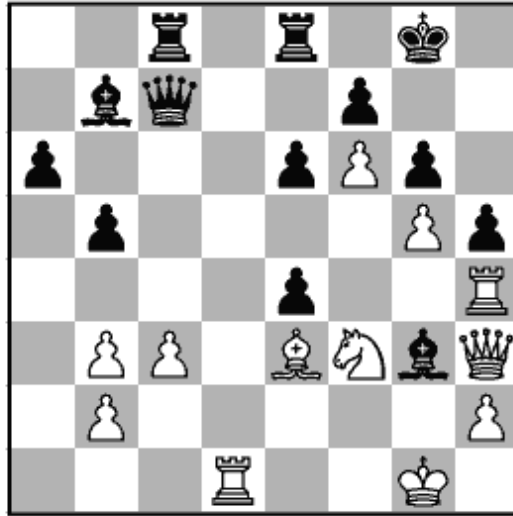
This idea has claimed a number of high-ranking victims.

17 fxe4?! Nxh3+! 18 gxh3 Qxh4 19 Rf2 Bxh3 20 Rd1

Black has two extra pawns and a winning attack after 20 Nxd5 cxd5 21 e5 Rac8 22 Qd2 Be7 –+. And once you have seen Black's next move in the game, it is clear that Black will meet 20 e5 with 20...Rxe5! –+, as in Karpeshov-Y.Meister, Perm 1997.

20...Re5! 21 dxe5 Bc5 –+

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White to play

878) Fernandez Guillen – Plazuelo Pascual
Seville 2022

28 Rxh5! gxh5

28...Bxh2+ 29 Nxh2 gxh5 30 Qxh5 Qg3+ 31 Kh1 Red8 32 Rg1
 leads to mate.

29 Qxh5 Red8

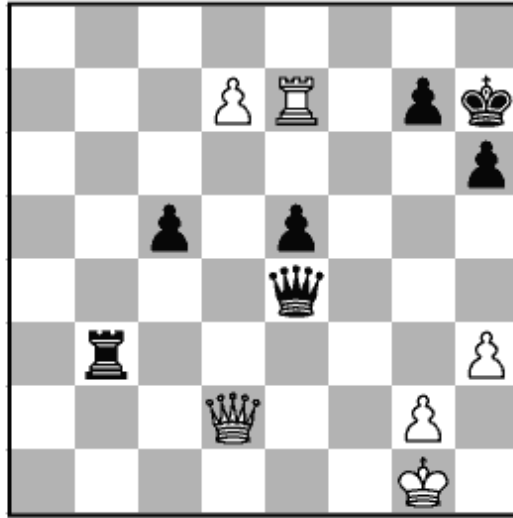
Black has no good defence to the mate on g7. In the game,
 29...Bd6 led to a win for White after 30 g6 fxg6 31 Qxg6+ Kh8 32 Ng5
 Rf8 33 f7 Bxh2+ 34 Kh1 1-0.

30 Qh6! Bxh2+ 31 Kf1! Rxd1+ 32 Ne1!

Not 32 Ke2?? exf3+ 33 Kxd1 Qd6+ 34 Bd4 Qf8 –+.

**32...Rxe1+ 33 Kxe1 Qg3+ 34 Bf2 Qxg5 35 Qxg5+ Kf8 36 Qh6+
 Ke8 37 Qxh2 +–**

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Black to play

879) So – J. van Foreest
Zagreb rapid 2022

53...Rd3! 54 d8Q Rxd8 55 Qxd8 Qe3+ 56 Kf1

56 Kh1 (56 Kh2 Qf4+ is the same) 56...Qc1+ 57 Kh2 Qf4+ 58 Kg1
 Qe3+ repeats the position.

56...Qf4+ 57 Ke2 Qe4+ 58 Kd2 Qf4+

58...Qb4+ also maintains equality.

59 Kc3

59 Kd3 Qf1+ 60 Kc3 Qc1+ comes to the same thing.

59...Qc1+ 60 Kb3

60 Kd3?? Qd1+ –+.

60...Qb1+ 61 Kc4 Qb4+

The game ended 61...Qc2+?? 62 Kb5 c4 63 Qc7 Qxg2 64 Qxe5 1-0.

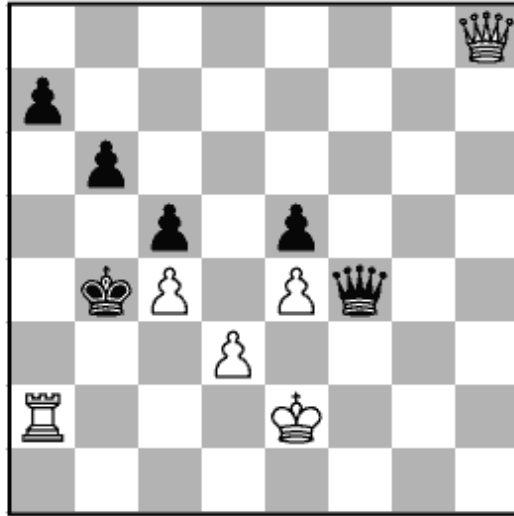
62 Kd3 Qb1+ 63 Ke3 Qe1+ 64 Kf3 Qf1+ 65 Ke3

White must avoid 65 Kg3?? Qf4# and 65 Kg4?? Qf4+ 66 Kh5
 Qg5#.

65...Qe1+ =

White cannot escape the checks, so it is a draw.

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Black to play

880) J.-M. Degraeve – Decuignière
Saint-Affrique 2022

51...Kb3!

Black nudges the white rook off the second rank so that White cannot use it to shield his king from checks. In the game White was able to safeguard his king after 51...Qg4+? 52 Kf1 Qf3+ 53 Kg1 Qg3+ 54 Rg2 Qe3+ 55 Kh1 +-.

52 Ra1

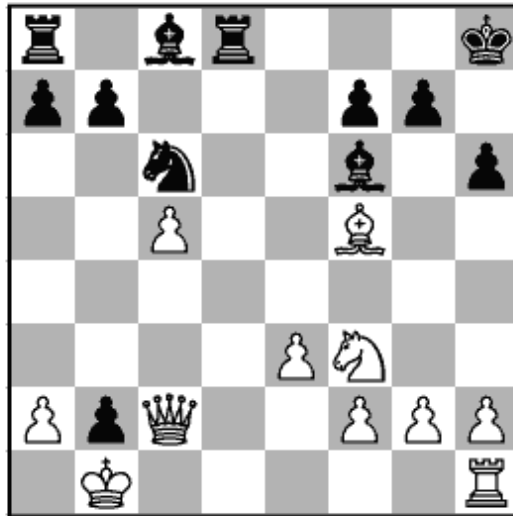
52 Rd2 Kc3 53 Rd1 (53 Ra2 Kb3 repeats the position) 53...Qg4+ 54 Ke1 Qg1+ 55 Ke2 Qg4+ = with a draw by repetition.

52...Qg4+ 53 Kf2

53 Kf1 Qf3+ 54 Kg1 Qg3+ 55 Kh1 Qf3+ 56 Kh2 Qf2+ 57 Kh3 Qf3+ 58 Kh4 Qf4+ 59 Kh3 (59 Kh5?? Qh2+ -+) 59...Qf3+ repeats the position.

53...Qf4+ 54 Ke2 Qg4+ 55 Kd2 Qg2+ 56 Ke3 Qg3+ =
 with perpetual check.

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Black to play

881) Kalesis – Livaic

Greek Team Ch, Thessaloniki 2022

17...Nb4! 18 Qe4 Nd5

White is unable to defend the c3-square.

19 Qg4 Nc3+ 20 Kc2

20 Kxb2 Nd1++ 21 Ka3 Nxf2 –+.

20...Bxf5+ 21 Qxf5 Rd5 22 Qg4 Rxc5 23 Kxb2

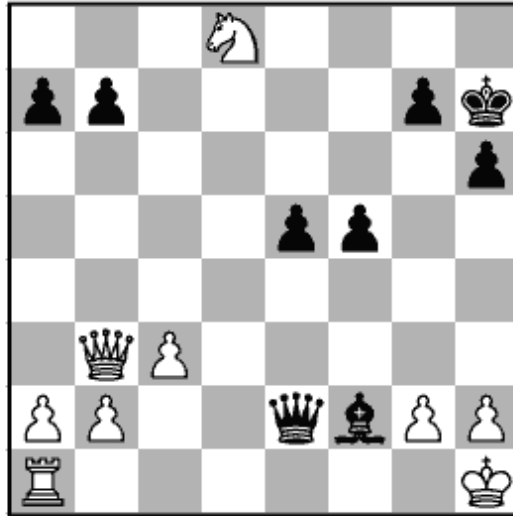
23 Qb4 Na4+ 24 Kb1 Rac8 –+.

23...Ne4+ 24 Kb1 Rac8 25 Nd4

25 Qd7 Rb5+ 26 Qxb5 Nc3+ 27 Kb2 Nxb5+ –+.

25...Nxf2 26 Qf3 Nxh1 0-1

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Black to play

882) Aghamaliyev – Haznedaroglu
Turkish Team Ch, Ankara 2022

24...Be1!

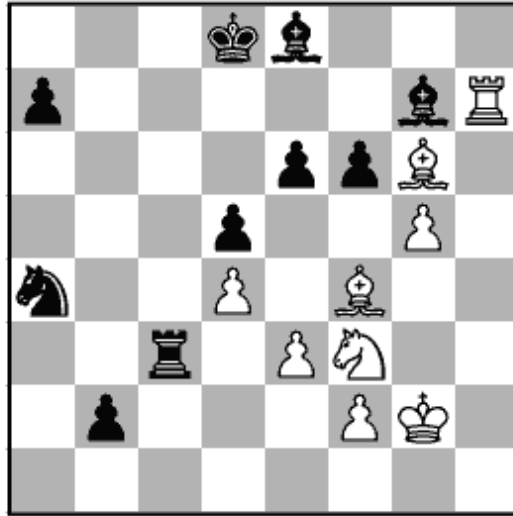
This puzzle is a good example of why it's important how many active pieces you have in play – Black is a rook down, but White's pieces are all out of play.

25 h4 Qf1+ 26 Kh2 Qf4+ 27 Kg1

27 Kh1 Qxh4+ 28 Kg1 Bf2+ 29 Kf1 Bb6 30 Qc2 e4 –+.

27...Bf2+ 28 Kf1 Bb6+ 29 Ke2 Qf2+ 30 Kd1 Qf1+ 31 Kd2 Qxg2+ 32 Kd1 Be3 0-1

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White to play

883) Jobava – M. Pranesh
Abu Dhabi 2022

33 Rxd7 Bxd7 34 gxf6! Bh5

34...b1Q 35 Rg8+ Kd7 (35...Be8 36 f7 Qg6+ 37 Bg5+ +–) 36 Ne5+ Kc7 37 Nxd6+ Kc6 38 f7 Rc1 39 Bh2 Qe4+ 40 Kg3 +–.

35 Rg8+ Kd7 36 Ne5+ Kc7 37 Nc4+ Kd7

37...Kb7 38 Nxb2 Nxb2 39 Rb8+ Ka6 40 Rxb2 +–.

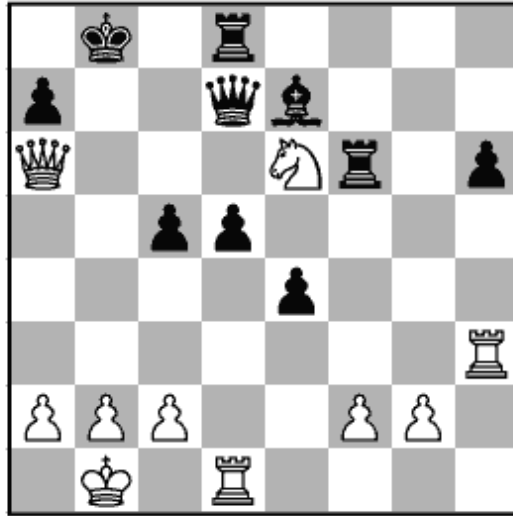
38 Rg7+ Kd8

38...Kc6 39 Nxb2 Nxb2 40 Rc7+ Kb5 41 Rxc3 +–.

39 Bc7+ Ke8 40 Ne5 Bf7 41 Rh7 1-0

41...Bg8 42 Re7+ Kf8 43 Ng6#.

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White to play

884) Safarli – Mosadeghpour

Turkish Team Ch, Konya 2022

33 Rb3+ Ka8 34 Rb6! e3

34...d4 35 Rc6 +–.

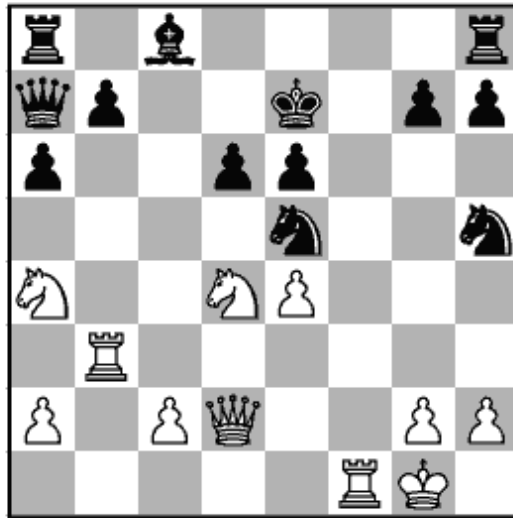
35 fxe3 Qc8 36 Rxd5 Rdf8

36...Qxa6? allows 37 Nc7#.

37 a3 1-0

Black is hopelessly tied up; for example, 37...Rxe6 38 Qxc8+ Rxc8 39 Rxe6 +– or 37...Rh8 38 e4 Rg8 39 e5 Rfg6 40 Nc7+ Qxc7 41 Rxc7 +–.

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White to play

885) Xu Yi – Xu Xiangyu
Chinese Rapid Ch, Shao Xing 2022

18 Qg5+!

In the game, 18 Qf2?? allowed Black to develop his queenside and consolidate his extra pawn by 18...Bd7 19 Nb6 Rhf8 20 Qh4+ Nf6 –+.

18...Ke8 19 Nb6!

Not 19 Qxh5+?? g6 20 Qd1 b5 21 Nb2 Nc6 22 c3 e5 –+.

19...g6

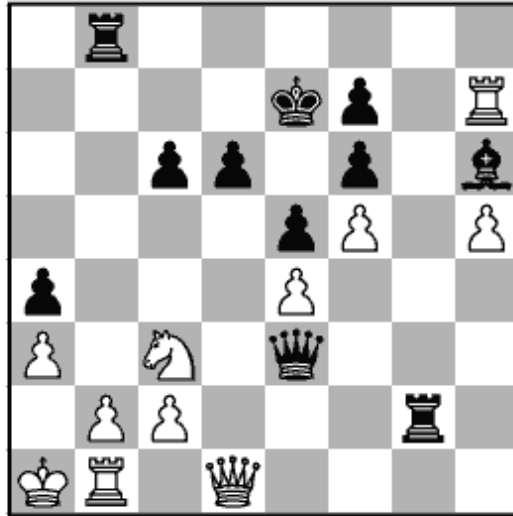
19...Rb8 20 Qxh5+ g6 21 Qh6 +–.

20 g4 h6 21 Qd2 Ng7 22 c4

Black is hopelessly tied up; for example:

22...Bd7 23 c5 dxc5 24 Qf4 +–

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White to play

886) Perez Candelario – Portela Peleteiro
Maia 2022

35 Qf1!

White takes advantage of Black's weakness on the light squares.

35...Rxc2 36 Qc4 d5

36...Rf8 37 Qe6+ Kd8 38 Qxd6+ Kc8 39 Qxc6+ Kb8 40 Qxf6 +—.

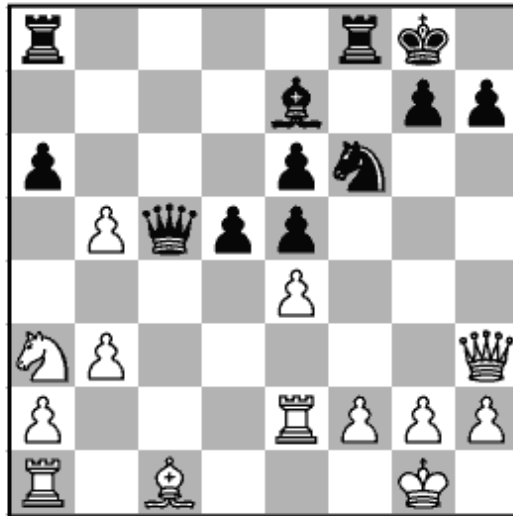
37 Qxc6

The game continuation was also good enough: 37 Nxd5+ cxd5 38 Qxc2 Rb7 39 Qc6 1-0.

37...Rxc3 38 Qe6+ Kd8 39 Qd6+ Kc8 40 Rh8+

Black will be mated.

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Black to play

887) H.A. Nezhad – Aravindh
Dubai 2022

19...Nxe4 20 Qxe6+

20 Rc2 Qd6 –+.

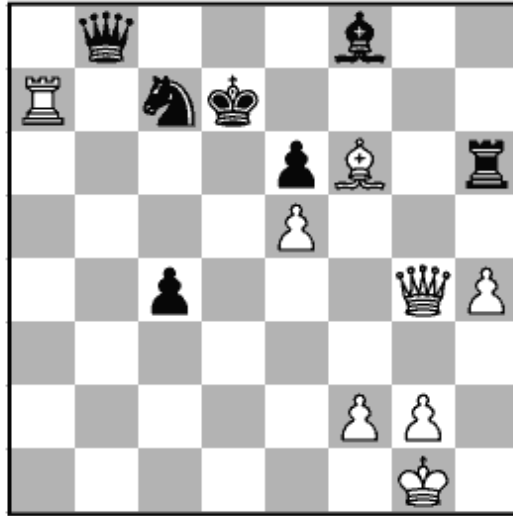
20...Kh8 21 Rc2 Rxf2! 22 Rxc5 Bxc5 23 Be3

23 h4 Rf6+ –+.

23...Bxe3 24 Kh1 Rf6 0-1

25 Qxd5 (25 Qxe5 Nf2+ 26 Kg1 Ng4+ 27 Qxe3 Nxe3 –+) 25...Ng3+
 26 hxg3 Rh6#.

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White to play

888) Zeltsan – D. Khamrakulov

New York 2022

34 Qd1+!

After 34 Ra1?! (as played in the game) Black could have resisted with 34...Nd5 35 Rd1 Qa8 36 g3 +/-.

34...Ke8

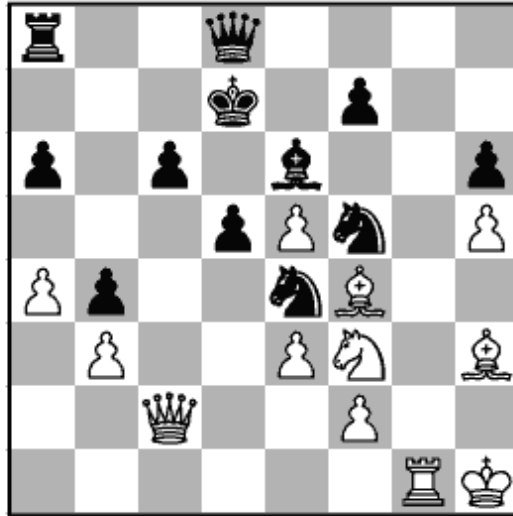
34...Kc6 35 Qa4+ Kb6 36 Bg5 Bc5 (36...Qxa7 37 Be3+ +–) 37 Qa5+ Kc6 38 Qxc7+ Qxc7 39 Rxc7+ Kxc7 40 Bxh6 +–.

35 Qa4+ Qb5 36 Ra8+ Kf7 37 Rxf8+ Kxf8 38 Qa3+ Kf7

38...Kg8 39 Qg3+ mates.

39 Qe7+ Kg6 40 Qg7+ Kf5 41 Qxh6 +–

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White to play

889) L. van Foreest – Kriebel
Polish Team Ch 2022

30 Bxf5 Bxf5 31 e6+!

White opens the diagonal for his dark-squared bishop.

31...Ke7

31...Kxe6 32 Nd4+ +—.

32 Qxc6 Bxe6

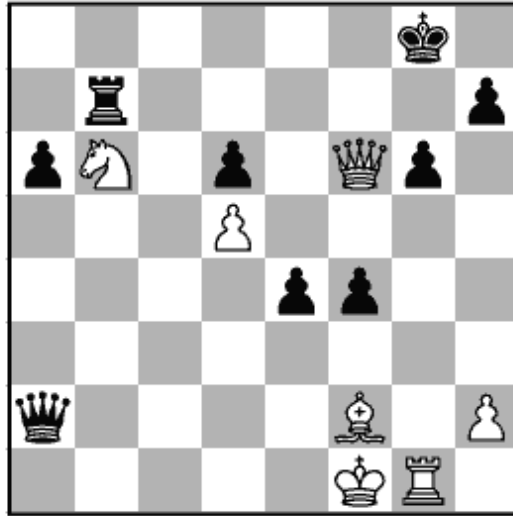
32...Nxf2+ 33 Kg2 Nh3 34 Qb7+ Kxe6 35 Nd4+ Kf6 36 Rf1 +—.

33 Qb7+ Kf6

33...Bd7 34 Qxb4+ Kf6 35 Qd4+ Ke7 36 Qe5+ Be6 37 Nd4 +—.

34 Be5+ Kf5 35 Nd4+ Kxe5 36 Nc6+ Kf6 37 Nxd8 Rxd8 38 f3 1-0

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Black to play

890) Nybäck – Shabalov
Tallinn rapid 2022

33...e3!

33...f3? was played in the game, allowing White to consolidate his material advantage: 34 Qe6+ Rf7 35 Qxe4 Qa1+ 36 Qe1 Qb2 37 Rg4 1-0. The only other playable move is 33...Rf7!?, but this is a lot less forcing and may leave Black defending an awkward ending.

34 Qe6+

Or 34 Rxc6+ hxc6 35 Qxc6+ Rg7 36 Qe8+ Kh7 37 Qh5+ Kg8 38 Qe8+ = with perpetual check.

34...Rf7 35 Be1 Qxh2 36 Nc4 e2+ 37 Qxe2 Qh3+ 38 Kf2

38 Qg2 Qd3+ 39 Qe2 (39 Kf2?? f3! –+) 39...Qh3+ =.

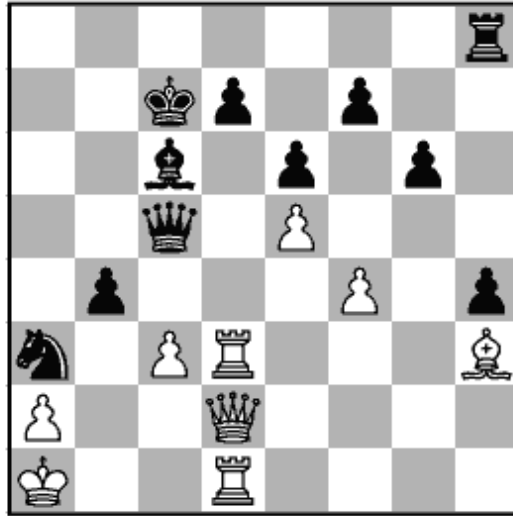
38...Qh4+ 39 Kf1

39 Kf3 Qh3+ =.

39...Qh3+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

891) Suarez Uriel – Martin Duque
Gijon 2022

35...b3! 36 axb3

36 Rxd7+ Kb6 37 Rd6 Nc4 –+.

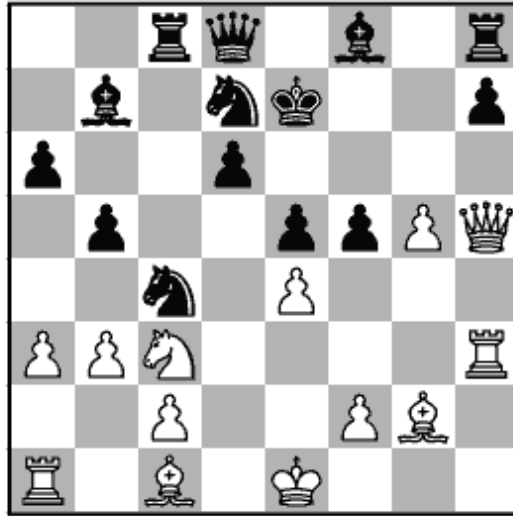
36...Ra8 37 Qc1

White's line-up of major pieces along the d-file forms a wall that prevents his own king from escaping after 37 Rxd7+ Kb6 38 Kb2 Nc4+ 39 bxc4 Qa3+ 40 Kc2 (40 Kb1 Be4+ 41 Rd3 Bxd3+ 42 Qxd3 Qa1+ 43 Kc2 Ra2+ 44 Kb3 Rb2#) 40...Be4+ 41 Rd3 Qa2+ 42 Kc1 Qa1+ 43 Kc2 Bxd3+ 44 Kxd3 (44 Qxd3 Ra2+ 45 Kb3 Rb2#) 44...Rd8+ –+.

37...Nc4+ 38 Kb1 Qa7 –+

The game continuation 38...Qf2 was also good enough after 39 R1d2 Nxd2+ 40 Qxd2 Qa7 41 Kc2 Be4 0-1.

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White to play

892) Khegay – Vorobiov
Cheliabinsk 2022

19 exf5! Bxg2 20 f6+ Ke6

20...Nxf6 21 gxf6+ Kd7 22 Qg4+ Kc7 23 Qxg2 Nb6 24 a4 +—.

21 Qg4+ Kf7 22 Qxg2 Ncb6 23 Rxh7+ Rxh7

23...Kg8 24 Rxh8+ Kxh8 25 Ne4 +—.

24 g6+ Kg8

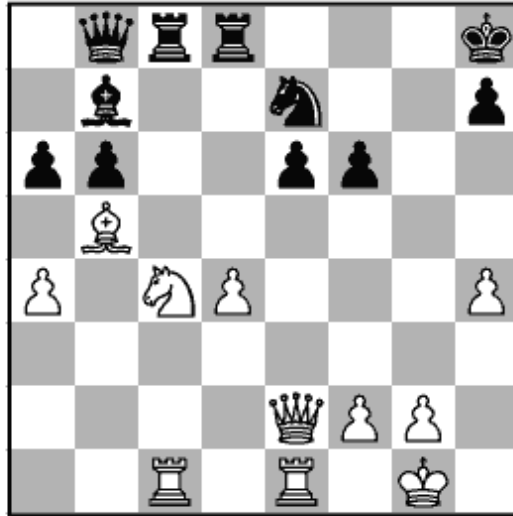
24...Kxf6 25 Bg5+ +—.

25 gxh7++ Kxh7 26 Ne4 Qe8

After 26...Nxf6 27 Ng5+ the black queen is lost.

27 f7 1-0

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White to play

893) Carlsen – Duda

Internet rapid 2022

24 Qxe6!

Not 24 Bd7? Rg8! 25 Qxe6 Rxc2+ 26 Kf1 Qf4 –+.

24...Nd5

24...axb5 25 Qxf6+ Kg8 26 Rxe7 mates.

25 Bd7 Rc7 26 Ne5! Rxc1

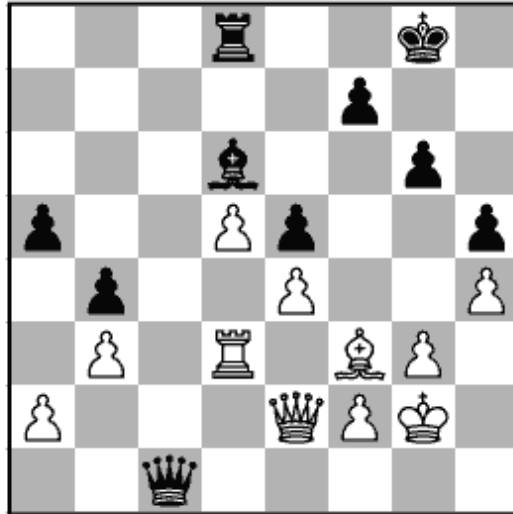
26...fxe5 27 Qxe5+ Kg8 28 Rxc7 Qxc7 29 Be6+ leads to mate.

27 Nf7+ Kg7 28 Rxc1 Qf4 29 Re1 +–

White has an extra pawn and a safer king.

29...Rg8 30 Nd6 Ba8 31 Re4 1-0

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White to play

894) M. Jurčik – Mrva

Slovakian Ch, Kežmarok 2022

36 Bxh5! Rc8

36...gxh5 37 Qxh5 Qc7 38 Rf3 Bf8 39 Rxf7! Qxf7 40 Qg5+ Bg7 41 Qxd8+ Kh7 42 Qxa5 +—.

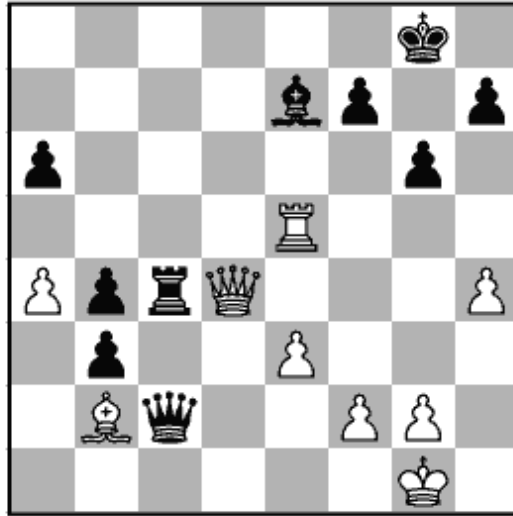
37 Bxg6 fxg6 38 Qg4 Bf8

38...Qc5 39 Qxg6+ Kh8 40 Rf3 Rf8 41 Rxf8+ Bxf8 42 Qh5+ Kg8 43 Qxe5 +—.

39 Qxg6+ Bg7 40 d6 Rf8 41 d7 Qc5 42 d8Q Qxf2+ 43 Kh3 1-0

43...Qf1+ 44 Kg4 Qe2+ 45 Kg5 +—.

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White to play

895) A. Barseghyan – Pultinevicius
Tsaghkadzor 2022

32 Qd8+! Kg7

Other moves lose: 32...Bxd8?? 33 Re8#; 32...Bf8? 33 Re8 Qb1+ 34 Kh2 Rxh4+ 35 Kg3 Rg4+ 36 Kxg4 h5+ 37 Kh3 Qxb2 38 Rxf8+ Kg7 39 Qe7 Qxf2 40 Rb8 Qf5+ 41 Kh2 +–.

33 Rxe7+ Qxb2 34 Rxf7+

Forcing a draw. In the game he chose to play on with 34 Re8, and was rewarded with a blunder a few moves later, though at this point the chances are roughly equal.

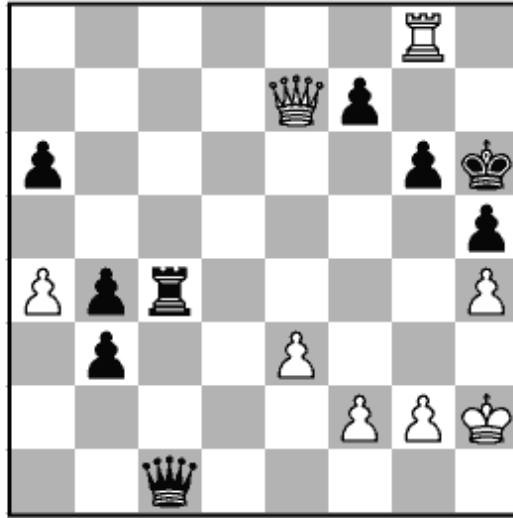
34...Kxf7 35 Qd7+ Kf6 36 Qd6+ Kf5 37 Qd5+ Qe5

37...Kf6 38 Qd6+ =.

38 Qf7+ Qf6 39 Qd5+ Qe5 40 Qf7+ =

The game is a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

896) A. Barseghyan – Pultinevicius (variation)
Tsaghkadzor 2022

37...Rc8! 38 Rxc8

38 Qxf7?? loses to 38...Qc7+! 39 Qxc7 Rxc7 40 Rb8 a5 –+.

38...Qxc8 39 Qxf7 Qb8+ 40 g3 b2

40...a5 41 Qxb3 Qf8 42 Kg1 is equal; although Black has a protected passed b-pawn, his king is too exposed to checks from the white queen.

41 Qf6

41 Qe7 b1Q 42 Qg5+ comes to the same thing.

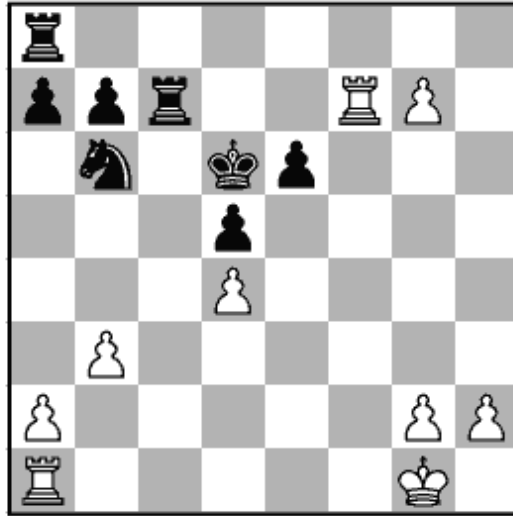
41...b1Q 42 Qg5+ Kg7 43 Qe7+ Kg8 44 Qe6+ Kh7

With 44...Kf8 45 Qf6+ Ke8 46 Qh8+ Kd7 47 Qxb8 Black gives back one queen to avoid an immediate draw, but he won't be able to make anything of his passed b-pawn without allowing a later perpetual check. So the queen endgame is level.

45 Qe7+ Kh6 46 Qg5+ =

with a draw by repetition.

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White to play

897) E. Rozen – Maenhout

European Clubs Cup, Mayrhofen 2022

31 Rxc7! Kxc7 32 Rf1 Rg8

32...Nd7 33 Rf7 Rg8 transposes to the game continuation (next note).

33 Rf7+ Kc6

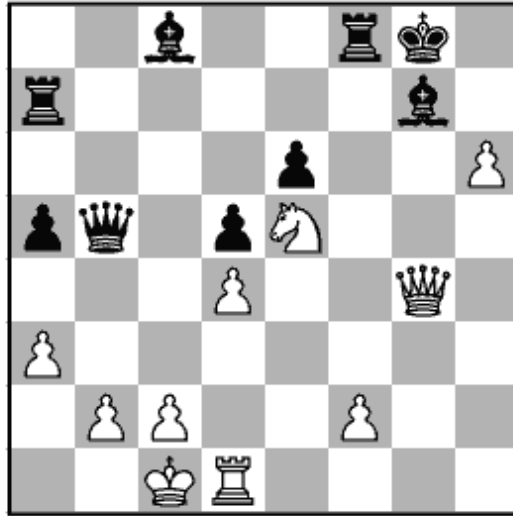
After 33...Nd7 (as played in the game) Black was unable to stop White's connected passed pawns: 34 h4 Kd8 35 h5 Ke8 36 Rxd7 Kxd7 37 h6 1-0.

34 h4 Nc8 35 h5 Nd6 36 Re7 Nf5 37 Rxe6+ Kd7 38 Rf6 Ne3

38...Nxg7 39 Rg6 +—.

39 h6 Ng4 40 h7 Nxf6 41 h8Q +—

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White to play

898) Mamedyarov – Giri

Internet rapid 2022

23 Rh1! Rxf2

23...Rf6 24 hxc7 Rxc7 25 Qh4 leads to mate.

24 h7+ Kf8

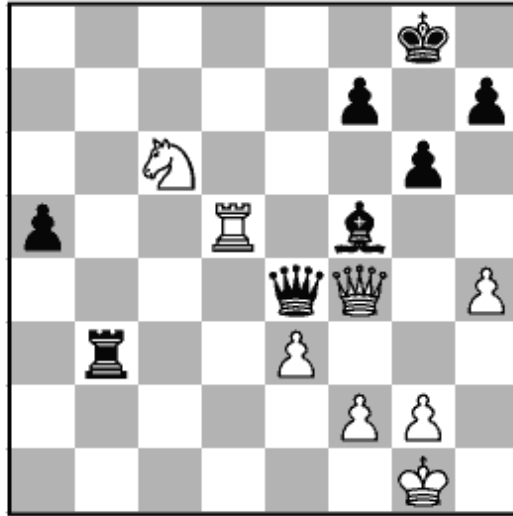
24...Kh8 25 Ng6#.

25 Qxg7+ Rxc7 26 h8Q+ Rg8 27 Ng6+ Ke8

After 27...Kf7 28 Rh7+ Kxc6 29 Qxg8+ Kf5 30 Rf7+ Ke4 31 Qg4+ Ke3 32 Qg3+ Black is soon mated.

28 Qxg8+ Kd7 29 Ne5+ Kd6 30 Nd3 1-0

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White to play

899) A. Donchenko – Parvanyan
Bundesliga 2022/3

36 Rxf5!

After 36 Qh6? Rb8 37 f3 (as played in the game) Black could have avoided tactical issues on the kingside by 37...Qe6! 38 Qf4 Re8, with equal chances.

36...Rb1+ 37 Kh2 gxf5

37...Qxf5? 38 Ne7+ +–.

38 Qg5+ Kf8

Black loses his queen after 38...Kh8 39 Qf6+ Kg8 40 Ne7+ Kf8 41 Nxf5 Ke8 42 Nd6+ Kd7 43 Nxe4 +–.

39 Qf6 Qg4

39...Kg8 transposes to the note to Black's 38th move.

40 Ne5 Qh5 41 Nd7+ Ke8 42 Qd4

White's queen and knight give him a relentless initiative and Black will have to give up a couple of pawns to avoid mate; for example: 42...Ke7 43 Nf6 Qd1 44 Qe5+ Kd8 45 Qxa5+ Ke7 46 Nd5+ Ke6 47 Nf4+ Kf6 48 Qc3+ Ke7 49 Qe5+ +–.

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White to play

900) Klekowski – Ganguly
Chiang Mai 2022

15 Bd4!

After 15 Rg1?! (as played in the game) Black could have resisted with 15...Qxd3 16 Bxd3 gxf6 17 Nb5 Na6 18 Rc1 +/-, though he is worse due to White's more active pieces.

15...Bxh1

15...Nc6 16 fxg7 Qe6+ 17 Kd2 +/-.

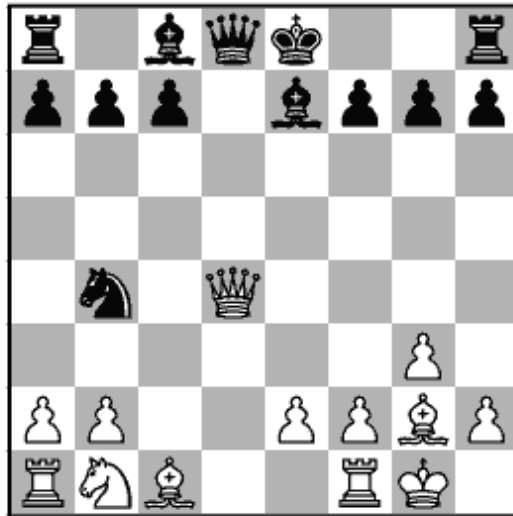
16 Bh3 Qd6

16...Qd8 17 0-0-0 gxf6 18 Qe2+ Be7 (18...Qe7 19 Bxf6! Qxe2 20 Rd8#) 19 Bxf6 +/-.

17 Nb5

White has decisive threats; for example: 17...Qf4 18 fxg7 Bb4+ 19 Kf1 Rg8 20 Bc5 Bxc5 21 Re1+ Be7 22 Qh7 +/-.

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White to play

901) Assaubayeva – Osmak

Cap d'Agde rapid 2022

10 Qxg7! Bf6 11 Qh6 Nc2 12 Nc3

White's emphasis is on rapid development to exploit the vulnerable position of the black king. This idea has claimed a number of victims since the early 1990s.

12...Nxa1 13 Rd1 Bd4

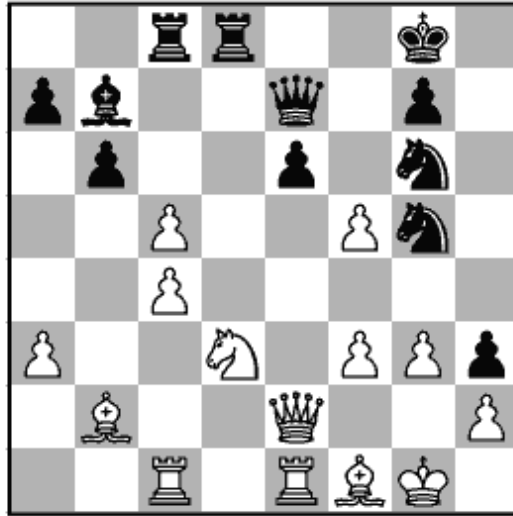
13...Bd7 14 Nd5 Be5 15 Bg5 +—.

14 Nd5 Nc2 15 Bg5 Qd6 16 Rxd4 Nxd4

16...Qxh6 17 Nxc7+ Kf8 18 Rd8+ Kg7 19 Bxh6+ Kxh6 20 Rxh8 Rb8 21 Be4 +—.

17 Nf6+ Ke7 18 Ne4+ Kd7 19 Nxd6 +—

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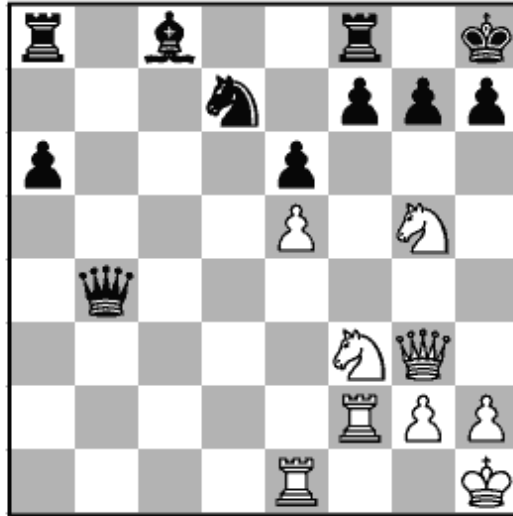
Black to play

902) B. Jacobson – Sadhwani
Saint Louis 2022

24...Nh4! 0-1

25 gxh4 Nxf3+ 26 Kf2 Qxh4+ 27 Ke3 Qg5+ 28 Nf4 (28 Kf2 Qg1#)
 28...exf5 29 Qxf3 (29 Bxh3 Re8+ -+) 29...Qg1+ 30 Qf2 Re8+ 31 Kd3
 Qxf2 -+.

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White to play

903) Zelčić – Bukal
Croatian Ch, Split 2022

27 Nxh7! Kxh7 28 Ng5+ Kg8 29 Rf4 Qd2 30 Qh4 Qd3 31 Rfe4

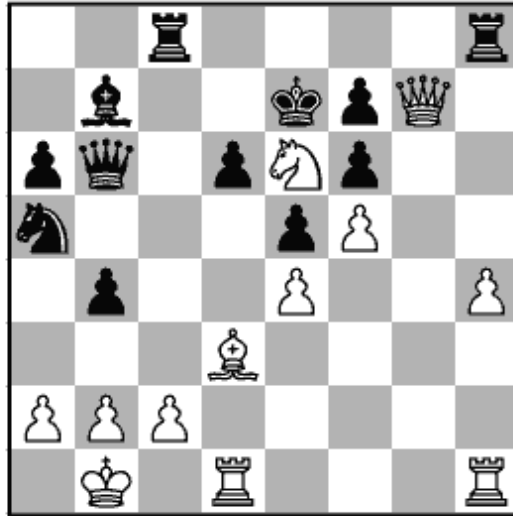
Black is unable to defend the h7-square.

31...Rd8 32 Qh7+ Kf8 33 Nxf7! Bb7

33...Kxf7 34 Rf4+ Nf6 35 Rxf6+ Ke8 36 Qxg7 followed by mate.

34 Ng5 Nxe5 35 Qh8+ Ke7 36 Qxg7+ 1-0

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White to play

904) Panelo Muñoz – Fier

Gijon 2022

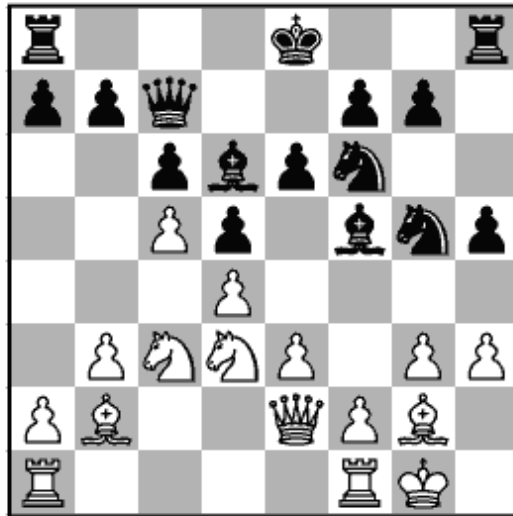
28 Ng5! fxg5 29 f6+ Kd7

29...Ke6 30 Be2 +–.

30 Qxf7+ Kc6 31 hxg5 Rhf8 32 Qe6 Rce8 ½-½??

The game was agreed drawn here, but after 33 Qf5 Bc8 34 Qf1 Bg4 35 Rc1 +– White's advanced kingside pawns are unstoppable.

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Black to play

905) Makarian – Jobava

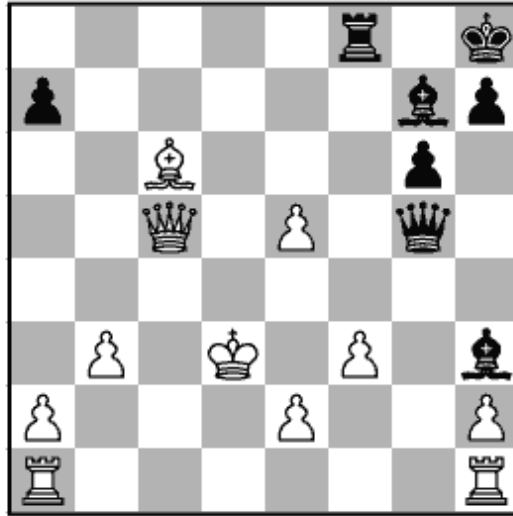
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

15...Bxg3! 16 fxg3 Bxd3 17 Qxd3 Qxg3 18 Ne2

18 Rxf6 Nxf3+ 19 Kh1 gxf6 20 Qf1 Nf2+ 21 Kg1 Ng4 22 Qf4
Qxe3+ 23 Qxe3 Nxe3 –+.

18...Nxf3+ 19 Kh1 Qh4 20 Bxf3 Qxf3+ 21 Kg1 Rh6 –+

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Black to play

906) Giri – Dubov
World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

29...Rd8+ 30 Kc4

White's king is too exposed and his rooks are passive bystanders; for example, 30 Bd5 Qxe5 31 e4 Rc8 32 Qb4 Rc3+ 33 Ke2 Qf4 –+ or 30 Kc2 Bf5+ 31 Be4 Qd2+ 32 Kb1 Rc8 –+.

30...Be6+ 31 Kb5

31 Bd5 Qxe5 32 Bxe6 Qc3+ 33 Kb5 Rb8+ 34 Kc6 Rb6+ leads to mate.

31...Bf8 32 Qc3 Rb8+

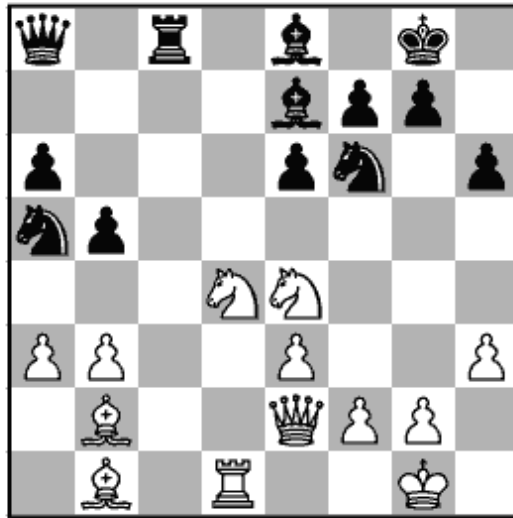
Or 32...Qe7 –+.

33 Ka4 Qe7 34 a3 Bxb3+

Or 34...Rb6 –+.

35 Qxb3 Rxb3 36 Kxb3 Qe6+ 0-1

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White to play

907) A. Gupta – Sengupta

Indian Ch, New Delhi 2022

25 Nxe6! fxe6

25...Nxe4 was played in the game, when White won material with 26 Nxg7 Rc5 (26...Rd8 27 Rxd8 Qxd8 28 Bxe4 +–) 27 Nxe8 +–.

26 Nxf6+ Bxf6

26...gxf6 27 Qd3 Kf8 28 Qh7 leads to mate.

27 Bxf6 gxf6 28 Qg4+ Kh8

Or: 28...Kf8 29 Qb4+ Kg7 30 Qxa5 +–; 28...Kf7 29 Bg6+ Kf8 30 Qb4+ Kg7 31 Bxe8 +–.

29 Qxe6 Qb7 30 Qxf6+ Qg7 31 Qxa6 +–

White has four pawns for the piece and an ongoing attack.

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White to play

908) Külaots – Prraneeth
Stockholm 2022/3

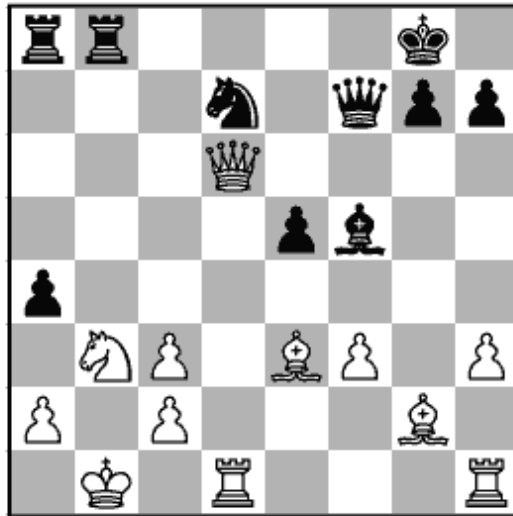
19 Bxh6! Ng6

After 19...gxh6?!, as played in the game, White obtained a winning attack with 20 Qh5 Kg7 21 e6 Rf8 (21...fxe6 22 Rxe6 Nf6 23 Rxf6 Kxf6 24 Qxh6+ Kf7 25 Ndf3 +–) 22 Nf5+ Nxf5 23 Qxf5 +–.

20 Nf5 gxh6 21 Qh5 Re6 22 Nxh6+ Kg7 23 Nxf7! Qg8 24 Ng5 Ndf4 25 Qg4 Re7 26 Ndf3 +–

White has a powerful and unrelenting attack, though Black can certainly put up stern resistance.

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White to play

909) Mammadzada – Ning Kaiyu

Xi'an (women) 2023

22 f4! Rxb3+

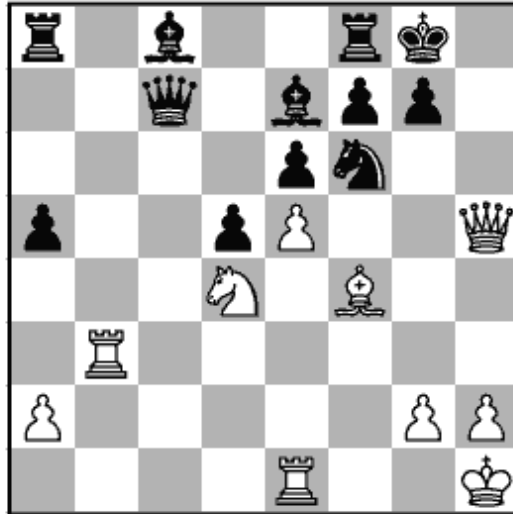
22...axb3 23 Bd5 bxc2++ 24 Ka1 cxd1Q+ 25 Rxd1 +–.

23 Ka1! Ra5

After 23...e4 24 cxb3 axb3 (as played in the game) White has several good moves, including 25 Rd2 +– with an extra rook.

24 cxb3 axb3 25 a3 +–

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White to play

910) Safarli – Abasov

Baku 2023

22 exf6! Qxf4 23 fxg7 Kxg7 24 Rh3 Rg8

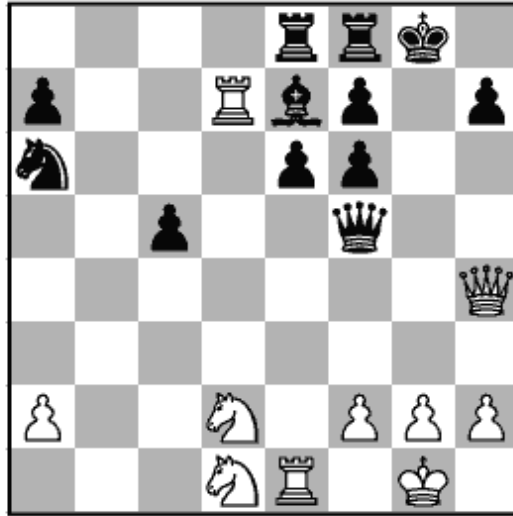
24...Bg5 25 Qh7+ Kf6 26 Rf3 +–.

25 Qh7+ Kf8

25...Kf6 26 Rh6+ Rg6 27 Qh8+ Kg5 28 Rh5+ Kg4 29 Ne2 leads to mate.

26 Rf3 Qxf3 27 Nxf3 +–

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White to play

912) Gatineau – L. Papp
Budapest 2023

21 Re3!

A rook-lift along the third rank is often effective when the defender's kingside pawn-structure has been compromised.

21...Kh8 22 Rg3 Rg8 23 Ne3 Qe5

The only open square for the black queen.

24 Ng4 Qa1+

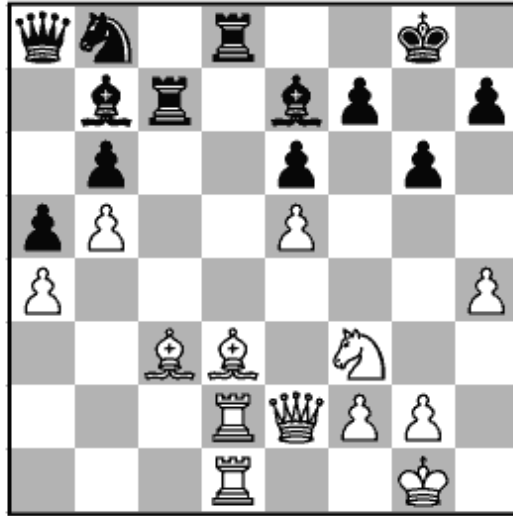
Also hopeless is 24...Rxc4 25 Qxc4 f5 26 Qa4 +–, while the game ended 24...Qg5 25 Nh6! 1-0 (in view of 25...Qxh4 26 Nxf7#).

25 Nf1 Rg6 26 Nh6 Nb8

26...Kg7 27 Nxf7 Rxc3 28 Nd6 +–.

27 Rc7 +–

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White to play

913) Bortnyk – C. Yoo

Internet rapid 2023

24 Bxg6!

This combination works because Black's queen is far away from the kingside.

24...Rxd2 25 Bxh7+ Kxh7

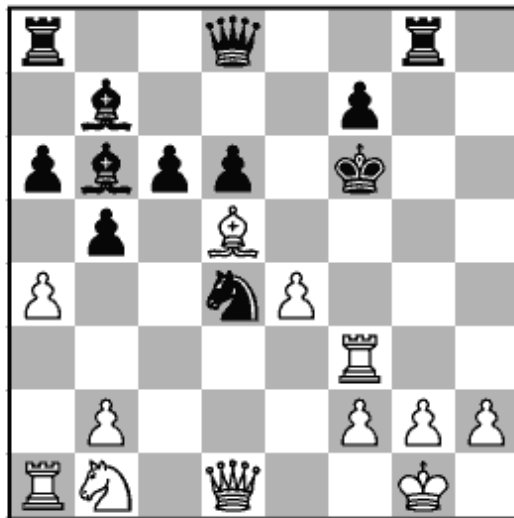
25...Kg7 26 Bxd2 Bxf3 27 gxf3 Kxh7 28 Kh2 Nd7 29 f4 +–.

26 Ng5+ Kg8

26...Bxg5 27 Qh5+ Bh6 28 Bxd2 +–.

27 Rxd2 Nd7 28 Qh5 Bxg5 29 Qxg5+ Kh7 30 Rd3 Qf8 31 Rg3 +–

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Black to play

914) Vachier-Lagrave – Wei Yi
Internet rapid 2023

20...Nxf3+!

In the game, 20...Ke5?? 21 Rxf7 +- left the black king in too precarious a position.

21 Qxf3+ Kg7 22 Qxf7+ Kh6 23 Ra3

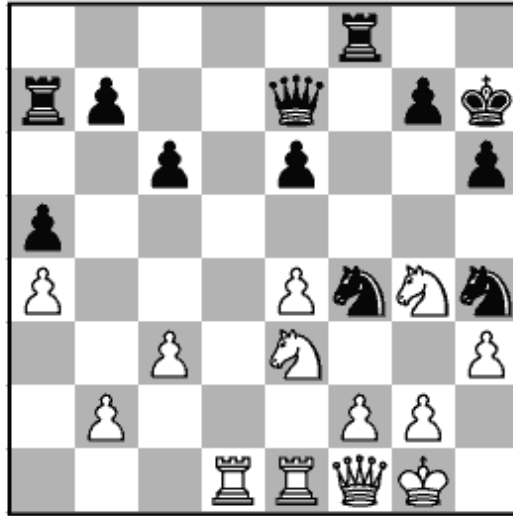
Or 23 Qxg8 Qxg8 24 Bxg8 Rxd8 +-.

23...Qh4! 24 Rg3 Rf8 25 Rg6+

25 Qe6+ Rf6 26 Qxg8 Bxf2+ 27 Kh1 Bxg3 +-.

25...Rxd8 26 Qxf8+ Kh7 27 Qf7+ Rg7 28 Qf5+ Kh6 +-

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Black to play

915) Carbonell Sancho – Velten
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

23...h5! 24 Ne5

In the game, White's position quickly collapsed: 24 Nh2? Nhxg2! 25 Kh1 (or 25 Nxg2 Nxh3+ 26 Kh1 Nxf2+ 27 Kg1 Nxd1 28 Nf3 Qc5+ 29 Kh2 Nf2 –+) 25...Nxe1 26 Rxe1 Qh4 0-1.

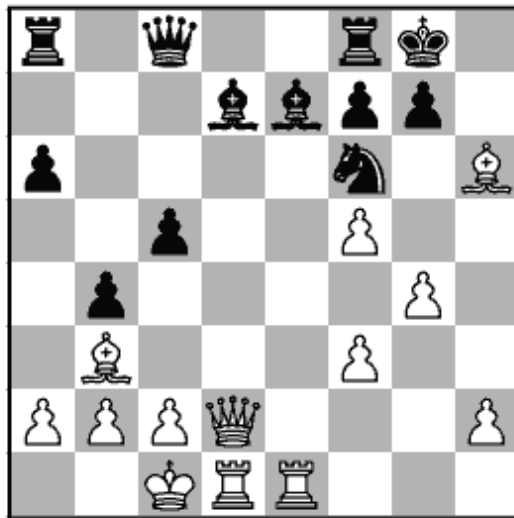
24...Qg5 25 Nd3

White's kingside is fatally weak after 25 g3 Qxe5 26 gxh4 b5 –+, followed by doubling rooks along the f-file.

25...Nf3+ 26 Kh1 Nxd3 27 Rxd3 Nxe1 28 Qxe1 b5

Black has a material advantage and good chances to win.

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Black to play

916) Azarov – Moussard
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

20...Bd8!

The game ended 20...gxh6?? 21 Rxe7 (or 21 Qxh6 +–) 21...c4 22 Qxh6 cxb3 23 Qg5+ Kh7 24 Qg6+ 1-0.

21 g5

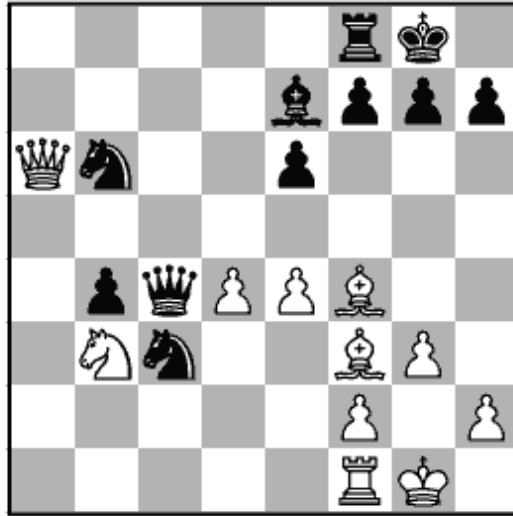
Black is able to defend his kingside after 21 Qg5 Ne8! –+.

21...c4 22 gxf6 Bxf6 23 Bxg7

Or 23 Qxd7 cxb3 24 axb3 Qxd7 25 Rxd7 gxh6 –+.

23...Bxg7 24 f6 Bxf6 25 Rg1+ Kh7 26 Rg5 Bf5 –+

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White to play

917) Esipenko – Xu Yinglun

Internet rapid 2023

22 Qxb6 Qxb3 23 Qb7 Re8

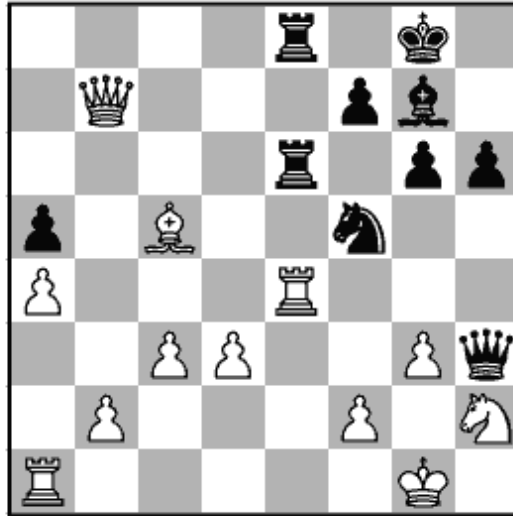
The game ended 23...Bf6 24 Bd6 Bxd4 (24...Rd8 25 e5 +–) 25 Bxf8 Kxf8 26 Qd7 1-0.

24 Ra1 Na2 25 Kg2

White's pair of bishops and potential passed d-pawn will prevail.

25...Qb2 26 Qd7 Kf8 27 Rf1 Qc3 28 Bc7 b3 29 d5 +–

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Black to play

918) Speelman – Roberson
British League (4NCL) 2022/3

23...Rxe4 24 dxe4 Nxg3! 25 fxe3

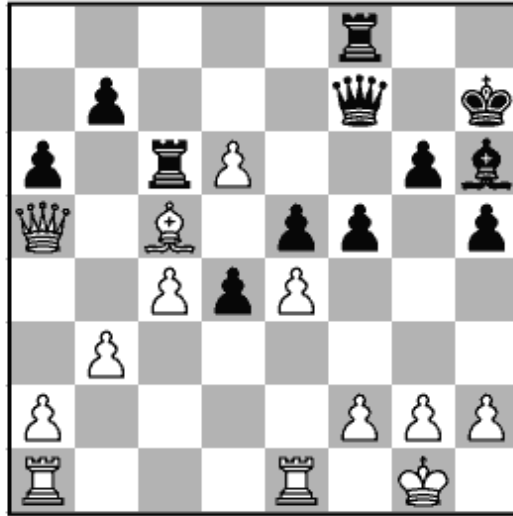
Or 25 Qb5 Re5 26 fxe3 Qxe3+ 27 Kh1 Rh5 28 Qe2 Rxc5 –+.

25...Qxe3+ 26 Kh1 Be5!

The game ended 26...Rb8?! 0-1?, but White could have resisted with 27 Bf2! Qxh2+ (27...Qf4 28 Be3) 28 Kxh2 Rxb7 29 Ra2 Be5+ 30 Kg2 Rb3 –/+.

27 Bg1 Rb8 –+

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Black to play

919) Breder – A. Donchenko
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

25...b6! 26 Bxb6 fxe4 27 Kh1

In the game White allowed a back-rank mate: 27 Rxe4?? Qxf2+ 0-1.

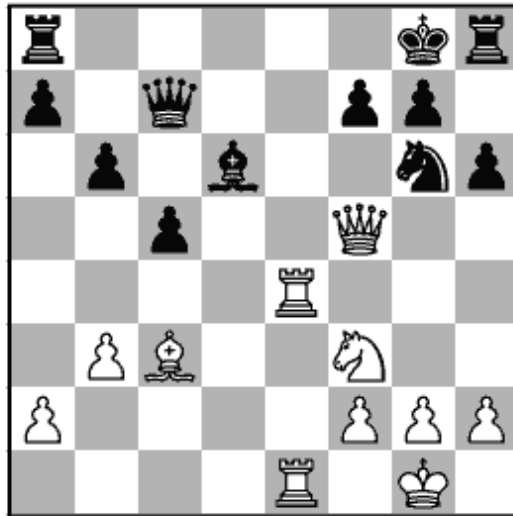
27...Qxf2 28 d7 Bd2 29 Qxe5 Bxe1 30 Bxd4 Qxd4 31 Qxd4 Rf1+ 32 Qg1 Rxd4 33 Kxg1 Ba5

33...Bh4 34 Rd1 Bd8 comes to the same thing.

34 Rd1 Bd8 -/+

Black has good chances to win.

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White to play

920) Mazur – Piesik
Slovakian Team Ch 2022/3

25 h4! h5

25...Ne7 26 Qg4 Rh7 27 Be5 f5 28 Qh3! Bxe5 (28...fxe4 29 Qe6+ Kf8 30 Bxd6 +–) 29 Rxe5 g6 30 Re6 Rd8 31 h5 g5 32 Ne5 +– gives White a relentless initiative while it is difficult for Black to untangle his kingside pieces.

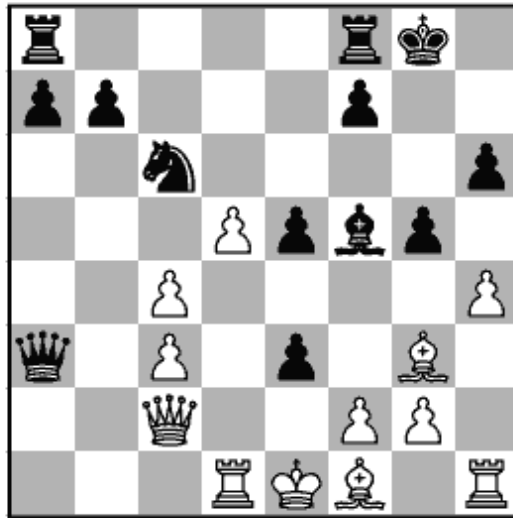
26 Ng5 Rf8

In the game Black lost after 26...Rh6? 27 Re7! 1-0.

27 Re8 Nxe4 28 Qh3 Ng6 29 Bb2!

Black has no good defence to the threats along the a1-h8 diagonal; for example, 29...Rh6 30 Qc3 Ne5 31 Rxf8+ Kxf8 32 Qe3 +–.

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White to play

921) Balog – Aczel
Slovakian Team Ch 2022/3

19 Qxf5!

After 19 Bd3? (as played in the game) Black could have maintained the balance by exploiting the position of the white king with 19...e2! 20 Qxe2 Qxc3+ 21 Qd2 (21 Rd2? Nd4 22 Qe3 f6 =+) 21...Qxd3 22 Qxd3 Bxd3 23 Rxd3 Na5, when the chances are roughly equal.

19...Qxc3+ 20 Ke2 Nd4+

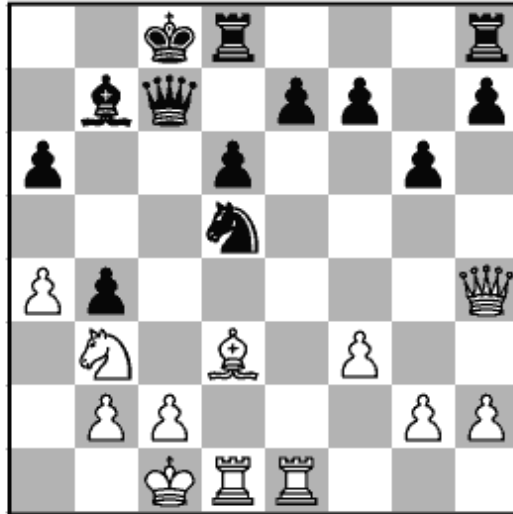
Black's attack also runs out of fuel after 20...Qxc4+ 21 Kxe3 Qc3+ 22 Rd3 Qc5+ 23 Kf3 Nd4+ 24 Rxd4 Qxd4 25 Bd3 g4+ 26 Qxg4+ Qxg4+ 27 Kxg4 +-. White's two bishops and passed d-pawn will be too much for the black rooks.

21 Rxd4 exd4

Or 21...Qxd4 22 fxe3 Qxc4+ 23 Kf2 Qxd5 24 Bd3 Rfd8 25 Be4 Qe6 26 Qxe6 fxe6 27 hxg5 +-.

22 hxg5 Rae8 23 Qd3 Qb2+ 24 Kf3 f5 25 gxh6 +-

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White to play

922) Navara – Ftačník
Slovakian Team Ch 2022/3

19 Bxa6! Bxa6 20 Rxd5 Bc4

White picks up the loose b-pawn after 20...e6 21 Rd4 +—.

21 Rxe7 Qc6 22 Ra5! Bxb3 23 Qe4! d5

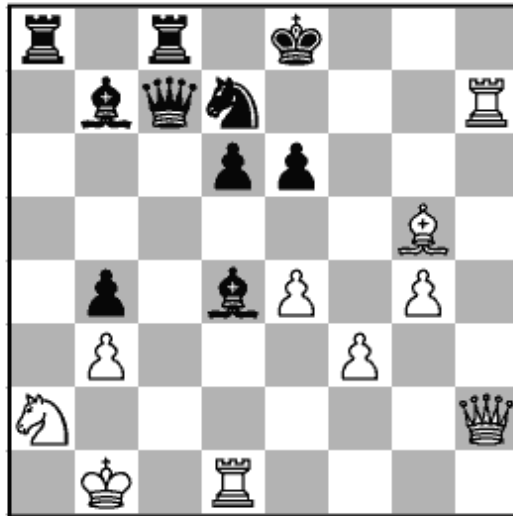
White's idea is that after 23...Qxe4 24 fxe4 he wins the bishop because of the mate threat on a8.

24 Qd3 Rd7

Another nice point is 24...Bxa4 25 Rc5! Qxc5 26 Qa6+ Kb8 27 Qb7#.

25 Rxd7 Bc4 26 Qd4 +—

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Black to play

923) I. Martić – A. Petrović
Novi Banovci 2023

31...Qc2+!

The only move to counter White's kingside mating threats.

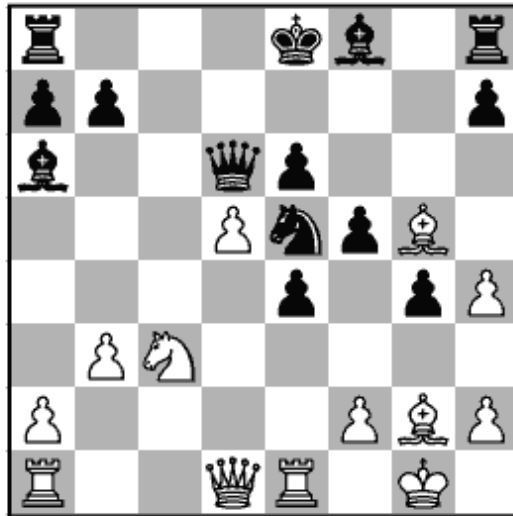
32 Qxc2 Rxc2 33 Kxc2 Rxa2+ 34 Kb1

34 Kd3?? Bc5 (or 34...Bb6) leads to mate as White cannot defend against the dual threats of ...Ba6# and ...Ne5#.

34...Ra1+ 35 Kc2

Now Black's safest option is 35...Ra2+ with a draw by repetition. Instead 35...Rxd1 (as played in the game) 36 Kxd1 may give White a slight edge thanks to his active rook.

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White to play

924) Rademakers – Hilwerda
Dutch League 2022/3

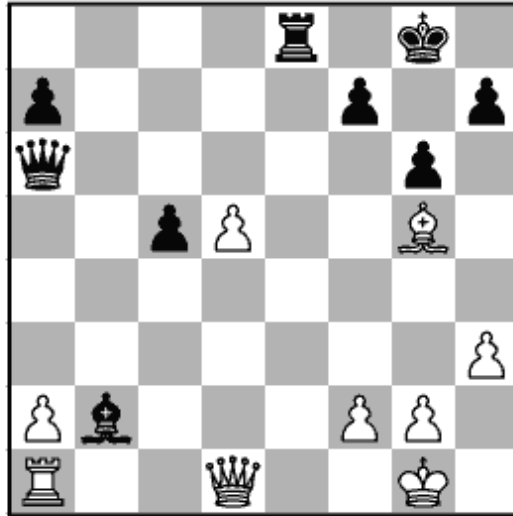
20 Rxe4!! h6!

In the game 20...fxe4? left Black's king too exposed: 21 Nxe4 Qb6 22 Nf6+ Kf7 23 dxe6+ Kg7 (23...Qxe6 24 Bd5 +--) 24 Nxg4 Bd3 (24...Qxe6 25 Bf6+ Qxf6 26 Nxf6 Kxf6 27 Qd4 +--) 25 Bf6+ Kg8 26 Bxe5 1-0.

21 Bf6 fxe4 22 Bxh8 exd5 23 Qxd5 Qxd5 24 Nxd5 Bd6

Black has a playable game and near-equality.

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White to play

925) Szeberenyi – P. Balint
Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

21 d6! Bxa1 22 d7 Rb8 23 d8Q+ Rxd8 24 Qxd8+ Kg7 25 Be7!

Black must fatally weaken his pawn-structure to deal with the threat of Qf8#.

25...g5

Or 25...h5 26 Qf8+ Kh7 27 Qxf7+ Bg7 28 Bxc5 +–.

26 Bxc5 Bf6

Or 26...Qxa2 27 Qxg5+ Kh8 28 Qd8+ Kg7 29 Qf8+ Kg6 30 Qg8+ Kf6 31 Qxh7 +–.

27 Qf8+ Kg6 28 Qg8+ Kf5 29 Qxf7 +–

White has won a critical pawn.

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Black to play

926) Daroczi – V. Balint
Budapest 2023

16...Rxf3! 17 gxf3

White's king is in a mating-net after 17 Bxe7? Qxe7 18 gxf3 Qg5+ 19 Kh1 Qf4 –+.

17...Nf5!

In the game, 17...Bc7?! let White retain his dark-squared bishop and after 18 f4 h6 19 Bh4 g5 20 Bg3 gxf4 21 Bh4 he had a playable game.

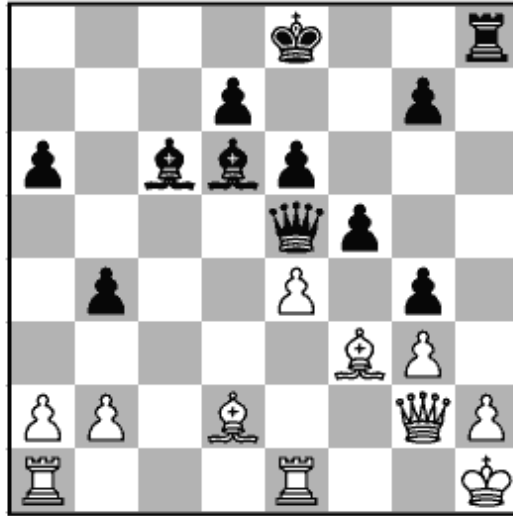
18 Rae1 Qg6 19 f4 h6 20 Re5! Bd7

White wins material after 20...hxg5?? 21 Qb1 gxf4+ 22 Kh1 +–.

21 c4 Rf8 22 cxd5 Kh8 23 dxc6 bxc6 =+

Black has the superior pawn-structure and White's king is exposed.

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White to play

927) Nyysti – Ozdemir
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

26 Bf4!

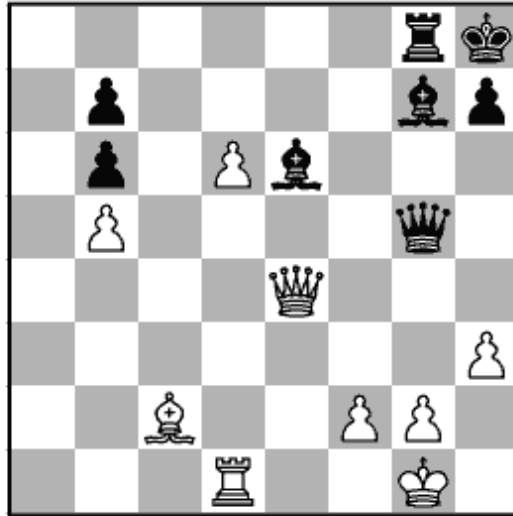
In the game, 26 Bxg4? Qxg3 27 Qxg3 Bxg3 28 Re2 fxe4 29 Bxb4 Bf4 =+ gave Black reasonable compensation for his slight material deficit thanks to his active bishop-pair.

26...gxf3 27 Qd2! Qb5

The queen is dominant after 27...f2 28 Bxe5 fxe1Q+ 29 Rxe1 Bxe5 30 Kg1 Bxe4 31 Qxb4 d5 32 Re3 +/-.

28 Bxd6 fxe4 29 Qf2 +/-

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Black to play

928) Höfelsauer – Praznik
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

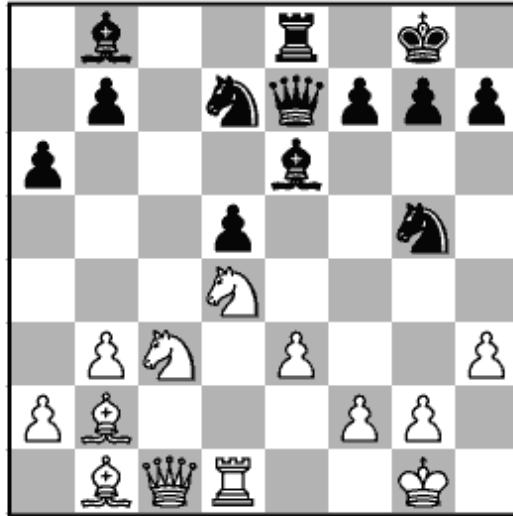
29...Qg6!

The game continued 29...Qh6? 30 d7 Rd8 31 Rd6! +/-, when Black had difficulty coping with White's far-advanced d-pawn.

30 d7 Qxe4 31 Bxe4 Rd8 32 Rd6 Bc4 33 g4 Bxb5 34 Rxb6 Bxd7 35 Rxb7

Black has a slight material advantage, but a draw is likely because of the reduced material.

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Black to play

929) Souček – Ludvik
Czech Team Ch 2023

23...Nxh3+! 24 Kf1

White's king is too exposed after 24 gxh3? Bxh3 25 f4 Qh4 26 Qc2 Nf6 27 Qf2 Qg4+ 28 Kh1 Qh5 –+.

24...Nxf2!

This knight sacrifice works because White has a lack of pieces defending his kingside.

25 Qc2

In the game, 25 Kxf2?! Qh4+ 26 Ke2 Bg4+ 27 Kd3 Qf2 –+ gave Black a decisive attack.

25...Nf6 26 Kxf2

26 Qxf2? Ng4 27 Qe1 Qf6+ 28 Nf3 Qh6 –+.

26...Ng4+ 27 Ke2 g6 –/+

Black has a strong attack for a small material investment.

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White to play

930) Pham Tran Gia – Halak
Budapest 2023

20 Nd7!

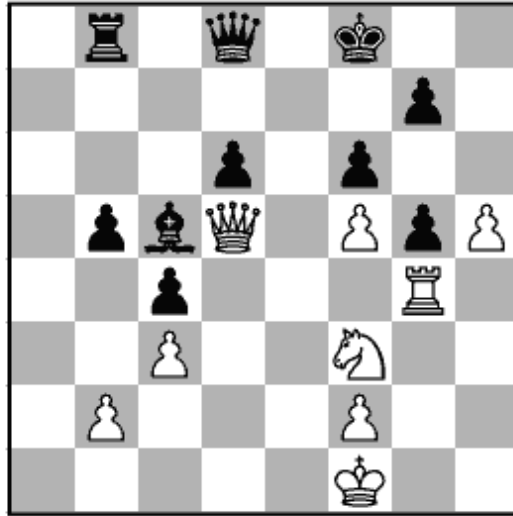
Or 20 Ng4! Rxc6 21 Nxf6+, transposing to the main line below.

20...Rxc6

Black actually played 20...Qxd7?, when his vulnerable g7-square cost him the game: 21 Qxf6 Nf5 22 Rh5! Re8 (or 22...Nxe6 23 Ne7+ Qxe7 24 Qxe7 +–) 23 Rxf5 with mate coming on g7.

21 Nxf6+ Kh8 22 Nh5+ e5 23 Qb4 Rb8 24 Nxg3 +–

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White to play

931) Nepomniashchy – Ding Liren (variation)
World Ch (5), Astana 2023

39 Nh4!! gxh4

Or 39...Ke8 40 Re4+ Kd7 41 Ng6 Kc7 42 Re7+ Kb6 43 Rxc7 +–.

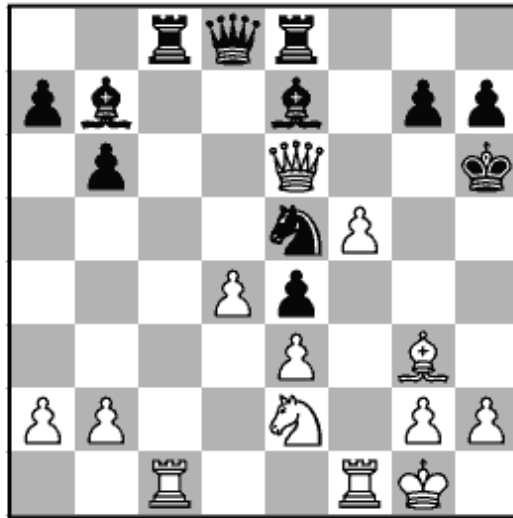
40 h6! g5

After 40...Qe7 41 h7 +– White's h-pawn will promote.

41 fxg6 Qd7 42 g7+ Ke7 43 g8Q Rxc8 44 Qxc8

Mate follows.

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Black to play

932) Mladek – Hagner

Mitropa Cup, Mali Lošinj 2023

22...Bf6! 23 Bf4+ g5! 24 fxg6+ Kg7!

24...Kxg6?? 25 Qh3 +- gives White a decisive attack.

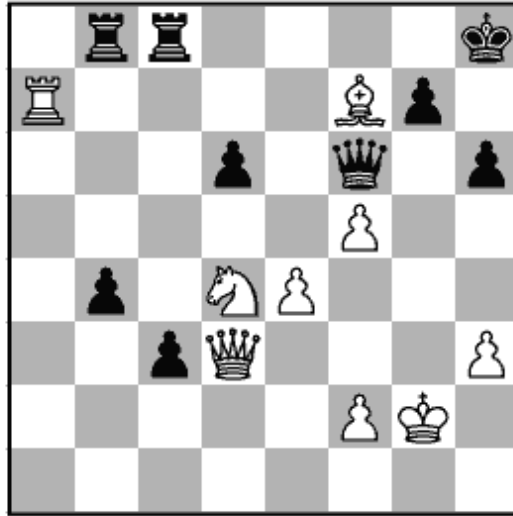
25 Qh3

In the game, the immediate capture of the knight by 25 Bh6+? Kxh6 26 Qh3+ Bh4 -+ left White too much material down.

25...Nxg6 26 Bh6+ Kh8 -/+

Black has a piece for two pawns and good chances to win.

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Black to play

933) Vokhidov – Nigmatov
Tashkent 2023

39...Qg5+ 40 Kf1 Qc1+ 41 Ke2 Qb2+!

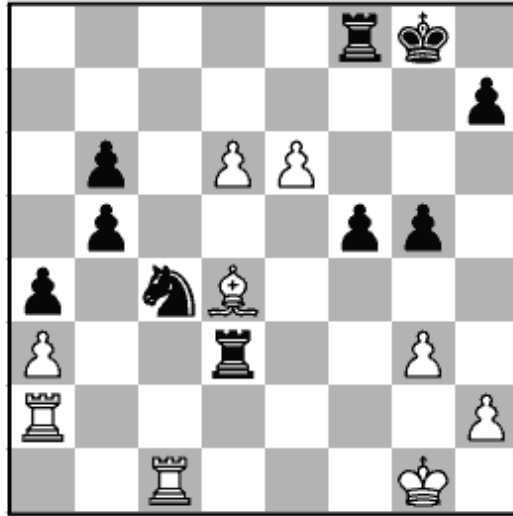
Black positions his queen on the optimal square before advancing his passed pawns. Too hasty is 41...c2? 42 Ra2! b3 43 Bxb3 Rxb3 44 Nxb3 Qb1 45 Ra6 Qxb3 46 Qxb3 c1N+ 47 Kf3 Nxb3 48 Rxd6 with a likely draw.

42 Nc2

42 Qc2 b3 43 Bxb3 Rxb3 –+.

42...b3 43 Bxb3 Qxb3 –+

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White to play

934) Pranav – J. van Foreest
Ciudadella de Menorca 2023

34 d7!

This surprising piece sacrifice is the way forward for White. In the game White played 34 e7?, when Black managed to eliminate the advanced white pawns by 34...Rxd4 35 exf8Q+ Kxf8 36 Rf2 Rd5, with equal chances.

34...Rxd4 35 Rf2! Re4

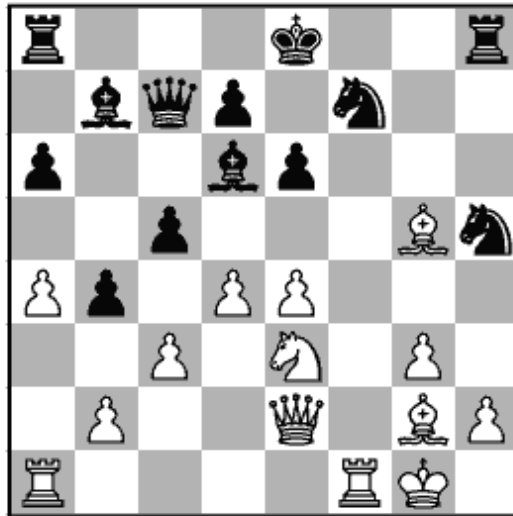
After 35...f4 36 gxf4, 36...gxf4? allows 37 Rg2+ Kh8 38 e7, mating.

36 Rxf5 Rd8 37 Rcf1

Black is unable to prevent White from promoting the d-pawn.

37...Rxe6 38 Rf8+ Rxf8 39 Rxf8+ Kxf8 40 d8Q+ Kf7 41 Qxg5 +–

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White to play

935) T. Sosa – Santos Ruiz
Ciudadella de Menorca 2023

20 Rxf7! Kxf7 21 Rf1+ Kg8

White has a decisive material advantage after 21...Ke8 22 Qg4 cxd4 23 Bf6 Nxf6 24 Qg6+ Kd8 25 Qxf6+ Kc8 26 Qxh8+ Qd8 27 Qxd4 +–.

22 Qg4 Ng7 23 Bf6 Bf8

23...Rh7 24 Qg6 (intending Ng4) 24...Bf8 transposes to the game.

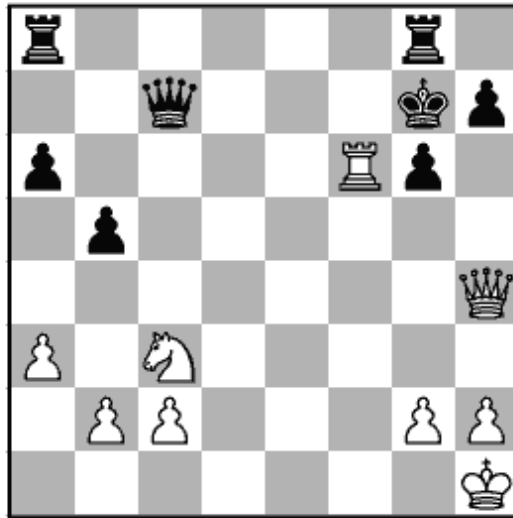
24 Qg6 Rh7

24...d6 opens a line for the black queen to participate in the defence, but this does not really help: 25 Bxg7 Qxg7 (or 25...Bxg7 26 Qxe6+ Kh7 27 Rf5, mating) 26 Qxe6+ Kh7 27 Rf7 +–.

25 Ng4 1-0

25...Kh8 26 Be5 Qd8 27 Nf6 +–.

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White to play

936) Fayzullaev – Vokhidov
Tashkent 2023

26 Re6!

After 26 Qd4?? (as played in the game) Black drove the white queen away and exploited his material advantage following 26...Qc4! 27 Qe5 Rge8 28 Re6+ Kf7 29 Rf6+ Kg8 –+.

26...Rge8 27 Nd5! Qd8

Or 27...Qf7 28 Qd4+ Kh6 (28...Kf8?? 29 Qh8+ Qg8 30 Rf6#) 29 Qh4+ Kg7 30 Qd4+ = with a draw by repetition.

28 Re7+

28 Qd4+ Kh6 29 Rxe8 Qxe8 30 Qh4+ Kg7 31 Qf6+ Kh6 32 Qh4+ = is another path to perpetual check.

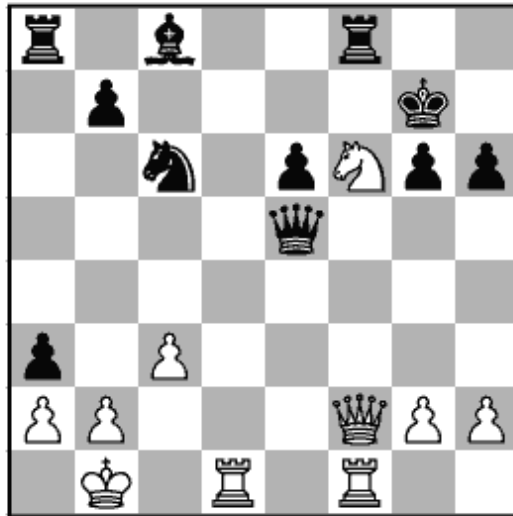
28...Rxe7 29 Qf6+ Kh6 30 Qh4+

30 Qf4+ is also a draw.

30...Kg7 31 Qf6+ =

with perpetual check.

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White to play

937) Tsydypov – Fayzullaev
Tashkent 2023

24 Ne8+!

24 Nh5+? Kh7 25 Qxf8 Qe4+ 26 Kc1 (26 Ka1 axb2+ 27 Kxb2 Rxa2+ 28 Kxa2 Qc2+ 29 Ka3 Qxc3+ 30 Ka4 Qc4+ 31 Ka3 Qc3+ =) 26...axb2+ 27 Kd2 Qd5+ 28 Ke3 Qe5+ 29 Kf2 (29 Kd3 Qd5+ 30 Ke3 Qe5+ repeats) 29...Qf5+ 30 Qxf5 gxf5 with roughly equal chances.

24...Kh7 25 Qxf8 Qe4+ 26 Kc1 axb2+ 27 Kd2!

White has no escape from the checks after 27 Kxb2? Rxa2+! 28 Kxa2 Qc2+ 29 Ka1 (or 29 Ka3 Qxc3+ 30 Ka4 Qc2+ 31 Ka3 Qc3+ =) 29...Qxc3+ 30 Kb1 (30 Ka2?? Nb4+ 31 Qxb4 Qxb4 -+) 30...Qb3+ 31 Kc1 Qc3+ 32 Kb1 Qb3+ = with a draw by repetition.

27...Qd5+ 28 Ke3 Qe5+

Black runs out of useful checks after 28...Qg5+? 29 Rf4 Qe5+ 30 Kf2 +- and will be mated shortly.

29 Kf2 Qf5+

Black's king is trapped in a mating-net after 29...g5? 30 Kg1 +-.

30 Qxf5?

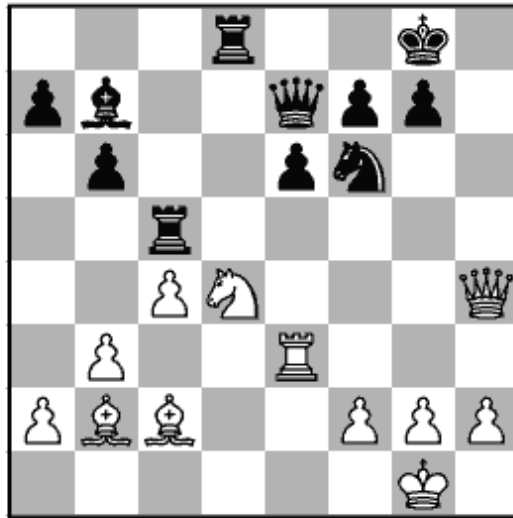
White should have played 30 Kg1 Qxf8 31 Rxf8 Rxa2 32 Nd6 Bd7 (32...Ra1 33 Rff1 +-) 33 Nc4 +-.

30...exf5?

30...gxf5! makes it harder for the white rooks to penetrate, and offers Black real chances of saving the game.

31 Rfe1 Rxa2 32 Rb1 Na5?! 33 Nd6 1-0

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White to play

938) Abdisalimov – K. Begmurotov
Tashkent 2023

23 g4!

White aims for Rh3 without allowing the reply ...Rh5.

23...Qd6 24 g5 g6

Retreating the knight gives White several attractive options. For example: 24...Ne8 25 b4 Rxc4 (25...Re5 26 Qh7+ Kf8 27 Rxe5 Qxe5 28 Qh8+ Ke7 29 Nc6+ Bxc6 30 Bxe5 +-) 26 Qh7+ Kf8 27 Qh8+ Ke7 28 Nf5+ Kd7 29 Nxd6 Nxd6 30 Qh7 +-.

25 gxf6 Rh5 26 Qg3 Qxg3+

In the game Black played 26...Qc5, when 27 Nxe6! Qc6 28 f3 Rd2 29 Bxg6 led to mate.

27 Rxd3 e5 28 Nf3 e4 29 Nd4 +-

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White to play

939) L. Ernst – I. Martinovici
Lyons 2023

16 Bf4

White is two pawns down so he needs to exploit the pin along the e-file before Black can consolidate his position.

16...Nfg4 17 Bxe5 Nxe5 18 Qh5 g6

18...Nxd3 is perhaps more resilient, but Black loses material after 19 Qg4! g6 20 Qxd4 gxf5 21 Rxe8 Rfxe8 22 Qxd3 +–.

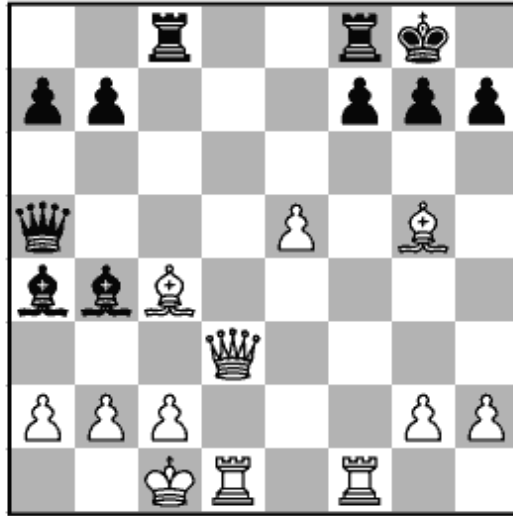
19 Qh6! gxf5 20 Bxf5!

20 Qg5+? was chosen in the game, but loses a tempo and gives Black sufficient counterplay. After 20...Ng6 21 Rxe8 Raxe8 22 h4 (22 Bxf5? Re2 –/+) Black should have played 22...Be4! with roughly level chances thanks to his huge swathe of pawns after 23 Bxe4 fxe4 24 h5 Re5 25 Qg4 c5 26 hxg6 hxg6.

20...Ng6 21 Rxe8 Rfxe8 22 h4 Re2 23 Bh3 +–

The tempo White have saved means that he has managed to play h4 before blocking the h-pawn with Bh3. This makes an enormous difference!

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Black to play

940) Koutlas – Stanojoski
Dimitrovgrad 2023

19...Bb5!

In the game, 19...Qxe5? 20 Rf5 gave White a dangerous initiative. Black then played 20...Qxh2? and lost quickly after 21 Rxf7!, but even the more resilient 20...Qc7 21 b3 Bc6 22 Bf4 +/- is highly unpleasant for Black.

20 Bxb5 Qxa2 21 c3

Black has queenside pressure after 21 c4 a6 22 Bxa6 Qxa6 23 Kb1 Rxc4 -/+.

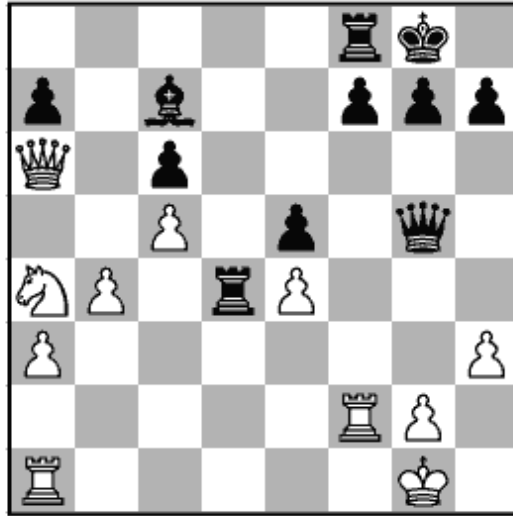
21...Rxc3+! 22 Qxc3

22 bxc3?? allows 22...Ba3#.

22...Bxc3 23 bxc3 Qa5 24 Bd7 Qxc3+ 25 Kb1 Qxe5 -/+

Black has good chances to win because of White's exposed king.

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Black to play

941) Kilgus – De. Wagner
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

Both players' minor pieces appear out of play at the moment, but Black's next move sets up the idea of ...Bd8-h4 to win the pinned white rook.

23...Qe3! 24 Rf1

Or 24 Nb2 Rd2 25 Nd1 Qd4 26 Qf1 Rd8 –+.

24...Rd2 25 Qc4

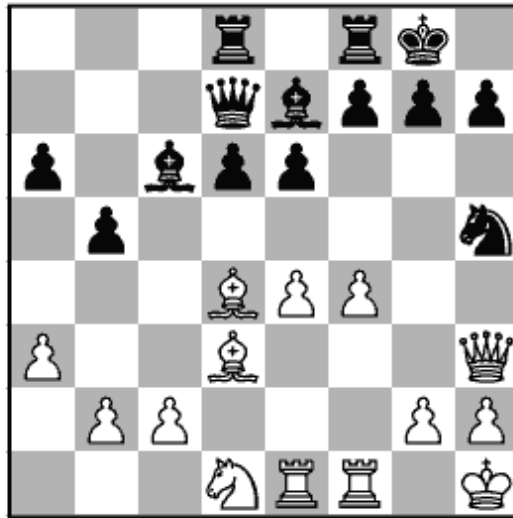
White's position will collapse once Black activates his bishop. For example: 25 Qxc6 Bd8 –+.

25...Rxf2 26 Rxf2 Bd8 27 Kf1

After 27 Qc3 Bg5 28 Kf1 Qxe4 –+ White loses a key pawn and his knight is hopelessly out of play.

27...Bh4 28 Re2 Qxa3 29 Ra2 Qg3 30 Qe2 Qh2 0-1

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Black to play

942) D. Munkhzul – Karavade
Delhi (women) 2022

18...Nxf4! 19 Rxf4 e5

This is a well-known simplifying manoeuvre in the Sicilian Defence; here it works because White's knight is out of play on the back rank.

20 Rg4

Black is able to rebuff White's attack after 20 Qg3 exd4 21 Nf2 Qe6 –/+ , retaining an extra pawn and good chances to win.

20...exd4 21 e5 g6 22 e6 Qe8!

And not 22...fxe6?? 23 Bxg6! +–, when White obtains a decisive attack.

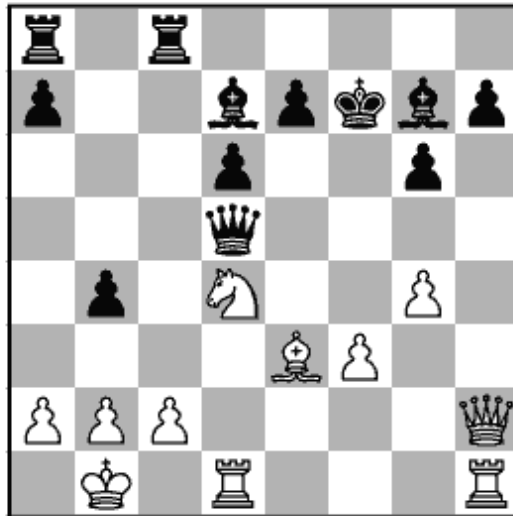
The queen retreat enables Black to retain her extra pawn along with a powerful pair of bishops. White now pressed forward with a doomed attack, rather than embarking upon a depressing battle for survival:

23 Qh6?! f5 24 Rg3 Bf6 25 Nf2

In the game White chose 25 Bxf5, but Black easily repelled the attack and won the game after 25...Bg7 26 Bxg6 hxg6 27 Rxg6 Qe7 –+.

25...Qe7 –+

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White to play

944) M. Ivanović – M. Mitrović
Pirot 2022

21 Nf5!

White must avoid trapping his own queen after 21 Qxh7?? Rh8 –+.

21...Qe5 22 Qxe5 Bxe5 23 Rxh7+ Kg8 24 Rxe7

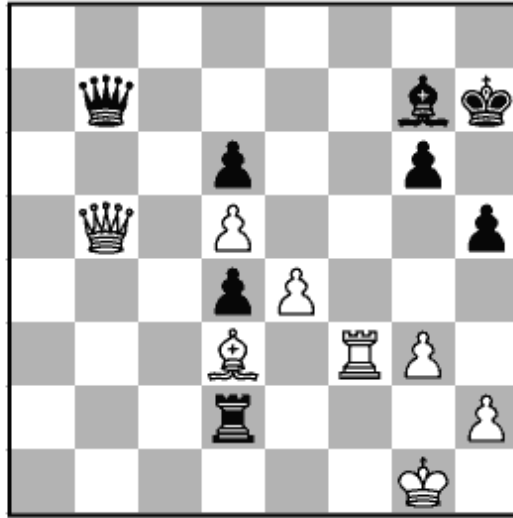
The greater activity of White's rooks makes all the difference here.

24...Ba4

White has a clear extra pawn after 24...Bxf5 25 gxf5 gxf5 26 f4 Bf6 27 Re6 Rf8 28 Rxd6 +–.

25 Nh6+ Kf8 26 Rf7+ Ke8 27 b3 +–

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Black to play

945) Järvenpää – Nevanlinna
Finnish Team Ch 2022/3

35...Qc8!

This is the correct square for the black queen because it can infiltrate along the c-file or via the h3-square in some lines. After 35...Qa7? White can maintain the balance by exposing Black's king: 36 e5 Bxe5 and now 37 Qe8!? (as played in the game) is far from bad, but the clearest path is 37 Bxg6+ Kh6 (or 37...Kxg6 38 Qe8+ Kg5 39 Rf7 Qa1+ 40 Rf1 Qxf1+ 41 Kxf1 Rxh2 42 Qg8+ =, leading to a draw by repetition) 38 Bd3 Qa1+ 39 Bf1 Qd1 40 Rd3 =.

36 Bf1

Or 36 e5 Qh3! –+.

36...d3! 37 Bxd3

37 Rxd3 Ra2 intending ...Qc2 –+.

37...Qc1+ 38 Bf1

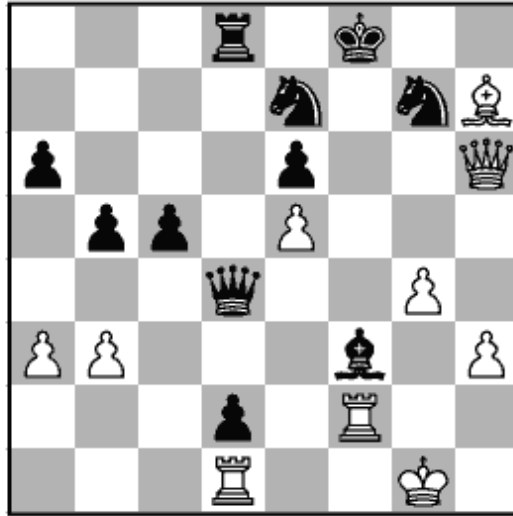
White's poor king position is also fatal after 38 Rf1 Qc3 39 Rf3 Qa1+ 40 Bf1 Qd4+ 41 Kh1 Qxe4 42 Bg2 Qc2 –+.

38...Bd4+ 39 Kh1 Qc2

White's position collapses after a long but forcing line: 40 Qd7+ Kh6 41 Qh3 Qxe4 42 g4 h4 43 Qxh4+ Kg7 44 Qh3 Rf2 45 Bg2 Qe2 –

+,

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Black to play

946) P. Papp – Ga. Farkas
Hungarian Team Ch 2022/3

37...Qxf2+!

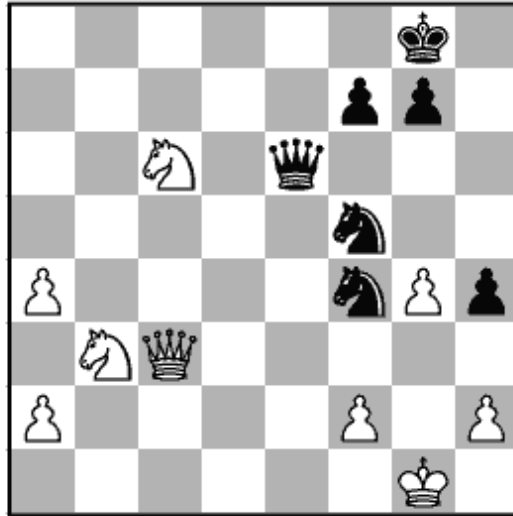
In the game Black played 37...Ke8??, losing material and the game after 38 Rxd2 (or 38 Bg6+ Nxg6 39 Qxg6+ +–) 38...Qa1+ 39 Rf1 Qxf1+ 40 Kxf1 Rxd2 41 Qxd2 Nd5 42 Qg5 1-0.

38 Kxf2 Bxd1 39 Qf6+ Ke8 40 Bg6+ Nxg6 41 Qxg6+ Kd7 42 Qxg7+

White has no way to stop Black's passed d-pawn. For example: 42 Qb1 Bxb3 43 Qxb3 Ke7 44 Qd1 c4 45 Ke2 c3 –+.

42...Kc6 43 Qe7 Bxb3 44 Qxd8 d1Q –+

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White to play

947) Belke – Konaplev
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

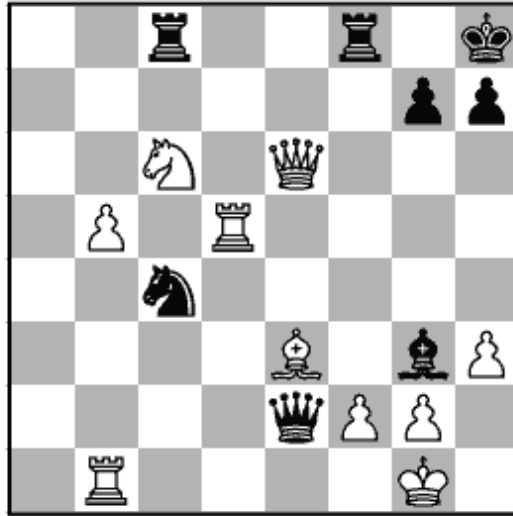
44 Qe5!

White prevents the black queen from infiltrating. In the game, 44 gxf5?? allowed Black a forced mate: 44...Qe4 45 f3 Qe2 0-1.

44...Nh3+ 45 Kf1 Qc4+ 46 Ke1 Nf4 47 Qb5 Qc3+ 48 Kd1 Qf3+ 49 Kc1 Qc3+ 50 Kd1 Qf3+ =

Neither side has anything better than repeating.

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White to play

948) Shoshin – Mushini

Pozarevac 2022

34 Rf5! Rfe8

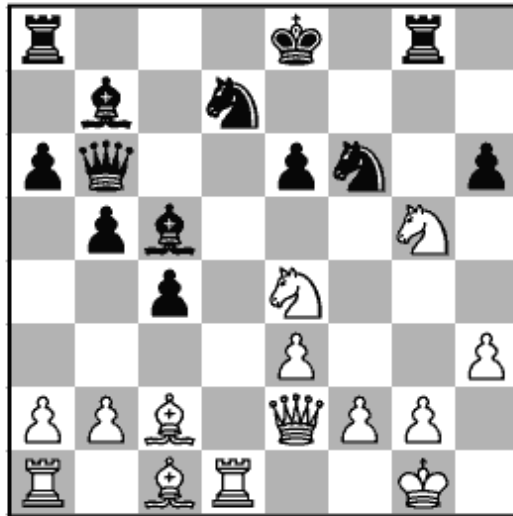
After 34...Nxe3 (as played in the game) White could have consolidated his material advantage with 35 Qxe3 Qc2 (or 35...Qxe3 36 Rxf8+ Rxf8 37 fxe3 Bf2+ 38 Kh1 Bxe3 39 b6 +—) 36 Rxf8+ Rxf8 37 Rf1 +—.

35 Ne7 Rcd8 36 fxg3 Nxe3 37 Rf2 Qd3

White's passed b-pawn is the decisive factor after 37...Rd1+ 38 Rxd1 Qxd1+ 39 Kh2 Qd8 40 Qxe3 Rxe7 41 Qc5 +—.

38 Re1 Nd5 39 Re5 Nxe7 40 Qf7 Qxg3 41 Rxe7 +—

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White to play

949) N. Ristić – Shoshin

Pozarevac 2022

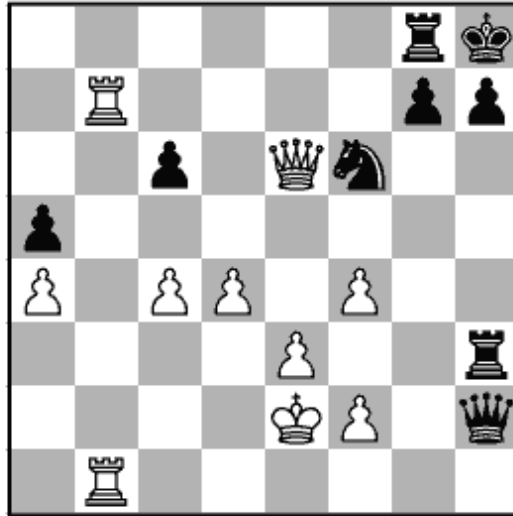
17 Rxd7! Nxd7 18 Qh5+ Kd8 19 Qxh6 Bd5

White's more active pieces and safer king give him a decisive advantage after 19...Kc7 20 Nxc5 Nxc5 21 Qh7+ Nd7 22 e4 e5 23 Be3 +–.

20 Nxc5 Nxc5 21 e4 Bc6 22 Be3 +–

White is winning because the black king has no safe haven.

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White to play

950) Yakimova – Tomilova
Cheliabinsk (women) 2022

28 Rxc7! Kxc7

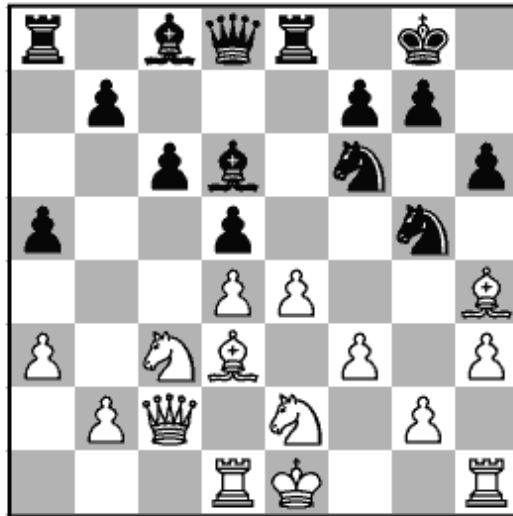
Black loses her queen after 28...Rxc7 29 Qxf6 Rxe3+ 30 Kxe3 Qh3+ 31 f3 Qc8 32 Qe5 followed by 33 Rb8 +—.

29 Rb7+ Kg6 30 Rf7

White simplifies into a winning pawn endgame. This is much easier to calculate than 30 Qf7+ Kf5 31 e4+ Kxe4 32 Qe6+ Kxd4 33 Qxf6+ Kc5 34 Qe7+ Kxc4 35 Qe4+ Kc5 36 Qc2+ Kd6 37 Qd2+, leading to mate.

30...Rxe3+ 31 Kxe3 Qh4 32 Rxf6+ Qxf6 33 Qxg8+ Kh6 34 Qg5+ Qxg5 35 fxg5+ Kxg5 36 f4+ +—

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Black to play

952) M. Jacobsen – Pniaczek
Krakow 2022

15...Nfxe4!

This combination is possible because of the loose bishop on h4.

16 fxe4 Nf3+ 17 gxf3 Qxh4+ 18 Kd2

Black develops a relentless initiative after 18 Kf1? Bxh3+ 19 Rxh3 (19 Kg1? Re6 –+) 19...Qxh3+ 20 Kf2 Be7 21 e5 Bh4+ 22 Kg1 f6 –+.

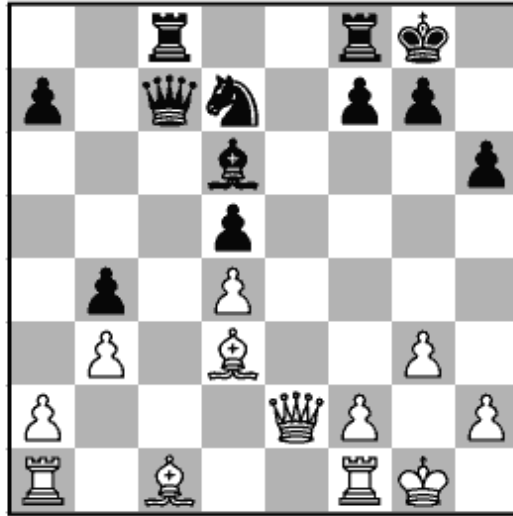
18...Qg5+ 19 Ke1

Not 19 f4? Bxf4+ 20 Nxf4 Qxf4+ 21 Ke2 dxe4 –+.

Now Black should play **19...Qh4+** with a draw by repetition.

In the game Black had insufficient compensation for the piece after 19...Qg2? 20 Rf1 Bxh3 21 Rf2 Qg5 22 e5 Be7 23 f4 +–.

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White to play

953) Adewumi – Nakada

New York 2022

23 Bxh6!

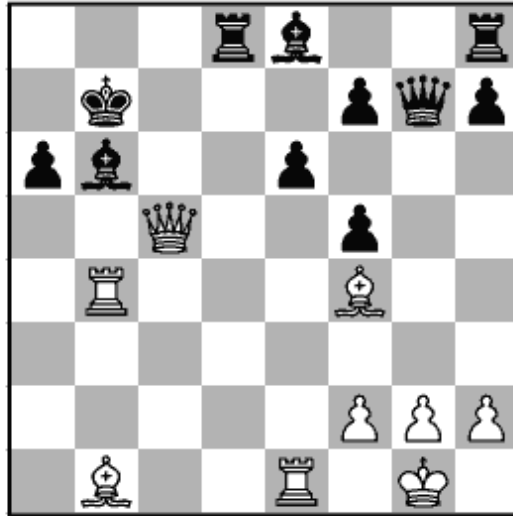
This bishop sacrifice is effective because Black does not have any defenders around his king.

23...gxh6

In the game 23...Nf6 24 Rac1 Qb6 25 Be3 +- left White with an extra pawn and the bishop-pair.

24 Qg4+ Kh8 25 Qf5 Kg7 26 Qh7+ Kf6 27 Qxh6+ Ke7 28 Rac1 Qb6 29 Rfe1+ Kd8 30 Qg5+ f6 31 Rxc8+ Kxc8 32 Qxd5 +-

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Black to play

954) J. Pein – Urhegyi
Budapest 2022

28...Bb5! 29 Rxb5 axb5 30 Qe7+

Or 30 Qxb5 Rd5 –+.

30...Ka6!

After 30...Ka8? (as played in the game) White could have generated a decisive attack by 31 Bxf5! exf5 32 Qa3+ Kb7 33 Qf3+ Ka6 34 Be5 +–.

31 Qa3+ Ba5 32 Bc7 Qc3 –+

[back](#)



Black to play

956) Yarashov – Olcum
Mersin 2022

16...Bc6!

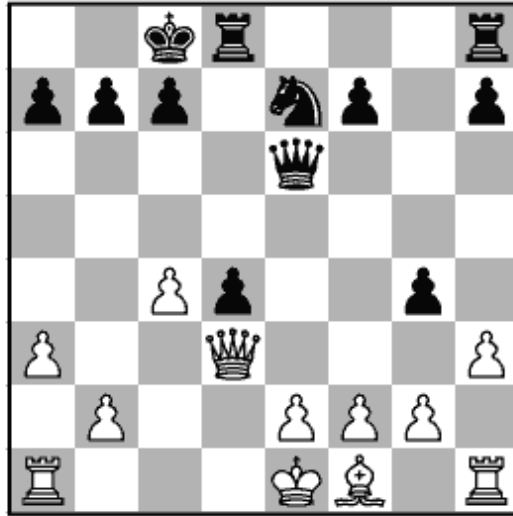
Another good option is 16...Bf5!?. In the game Black played 16...Rxe4?, but there is no effective follow-up. After 17 Qxe4 Nf5 (17...Bc6 18 Nd5 +–), White would have done best to play 18 Nd5 c6 19 Ne7+ Nxe7 20 Qxe7 Bxb2 21 Rd1 +–.

17 Bxc6 bxc6 18 0-0 Rxe2! 19 Qg4

Black has a decisive attack after 19 Kg2 Nf5 20 Qf4 Ne3+ 21 Kf3 (21 Qxe3 Rxe3 22 Bxe3 Rb8 –+) 21...Nxf1 22 Kxe2 Qxh3 –+.

19...Qxg4 20 hxg4 Rxb2 21 Rac1 Nf3+ 22 Kg2 Ne5 –+

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Black to play

957) Konyves – Leszko

Vecindario 2022

16...g3! 17 Qxg3

White's pieces are paralysed after 17 fxc3 Nf5 18 0-0-0 Ne3 –+.

17...d3 18 Rd1

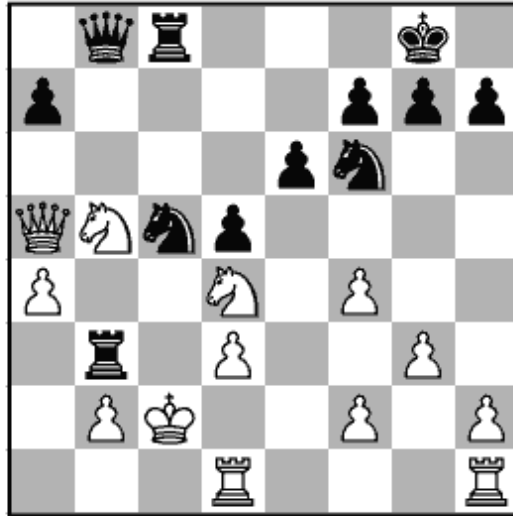
White is unable to complete his development after 18 e3 f5 (not 18...Qxc4?? 19 Qg4+ Qxg4 20 hxg4 +–) 19 Rd1 Qxc4 20 Qf3 Rhf8 –+.

18...Nf5 19 Qg5 Rhg8 20 Qc1

After 20 Qh5 d2+ 21 Rxd2 Rxd2 (as played in the game) White's king will perish in the centre of the board. For example: 22 Kxd2 Rd8+ 23 Ke1 Qd7 –+.

20...dxe2 21 Rxd8+ Rxd8 22 Bxe2 Nd4 23 Qd2 Qe4 –+

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White to play

958) Hernandez Amura – F. Villegas
Buenos Aires 2022

20 Kb1!

In the game White blundered with 20 Qxa7??, when 20...Rxb5! 21 Nxb5 Nxa4+ 22 Kb1 Qxb5 –+ won material.

20...Rxd3 21 Nxa7! Nb3 22 Qa6 Rxd4

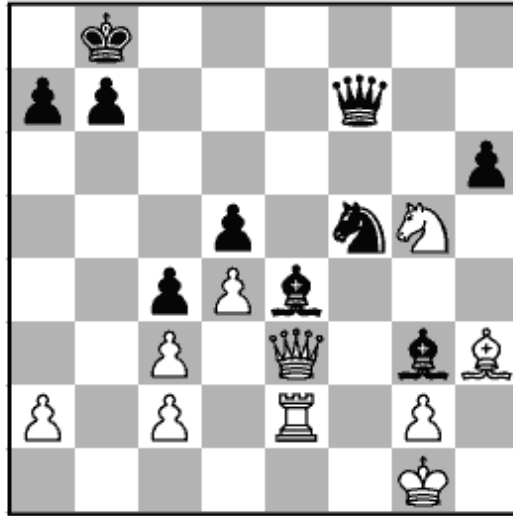
22...Rxd1+ 23 Rxd1 Rc5 24 Nac6 +–.

23 Nxc8 Nd2+ 24 Rxd2!

Not 24 Ka1?? Qb7! 25 Rxd2 Qxa6 26 Rxd4 Qxc8 –+.

24...Rxd2 25 Nb6 +–

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Black to play

959) Ocampos – Belmonte
Buenos Aires 2022

40...Bh2+! 41 Kh1

41 Kxh2 Qc7+ 42 Kg1 Nxe3 43 Nxe4 dxe4 44 Rxe3 Qf4 –+.

41...Qh5!

In the game Black went astray with 41...hxg5?!, and White consolidated his material advantage by 42 Qxg5 Bc7 43 Rf2 +–.

42 Qc1

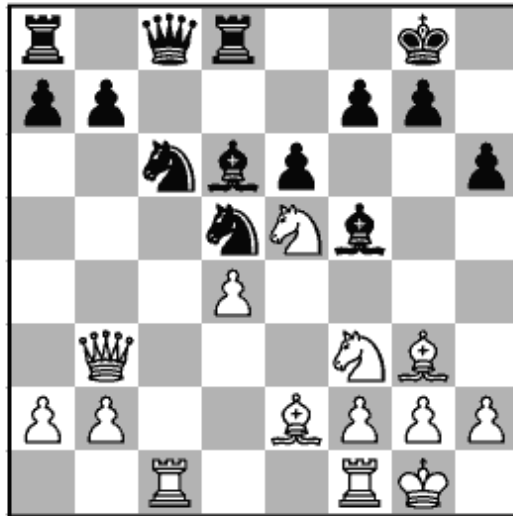
42 Qf2 Bg3 –+.

42...Bd6 43 Nxe4 dxe4 44 Re3

White's king is in a mating-net after 44 Re1 Ng3+ 45 Kg1 Ne2+ 46 Rxe2 Qxe2 –+.

44...Nxe3 45 Qxe3 Qd1+ 46 Qg1 Qxc2 –+

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White to play

960) Renner – Höfelsauer
Austrian Team Ch 2022/3

16 Ba6! Bxe5

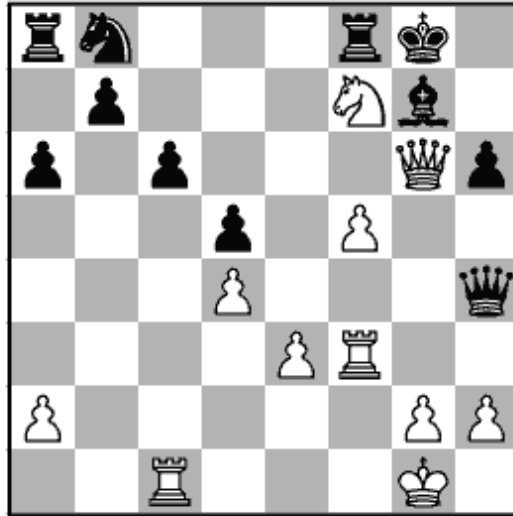
16...bxa6 17 Nxc6 +–.

17 Bxb7

After 17 Nxe5 (as played in the game) White obtains a material advantage, but Black could have resisted for a while because of his knight outpost on the d5-square: 17...bxa6 18 Nxc6 Re8 19 Ne7+ Rxe7 20 Rxc8+ Rxc8 21 h4 +–.

17...Rb8 18 Bxc8 Rxb3 19 axb3 Bxg3 20 Rxc6 +–

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White to play

961) Høi – M. Jacobsen
Danish Team Ch 2022/3

27 f6!

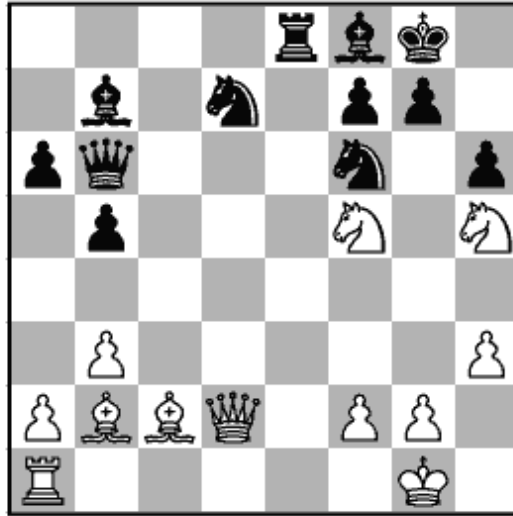
After 27 Rh3? (which was played in the game) Black obtained several pieces for his queen by 27...Qxh3 28 gxh3 Rxf7 =+.

27...Rxf7 28 fxg7 Qe7

This allows White to secure a winning rook and pawn endgame, but after 28...Rxf3 29 Qe8+ Kxg7 30 gxf3 +- White wins by bringing his rook to the g-file.

29 Qxh6 Rxf3 30 Rcf1 Nd7 31 Rh3 Rh7 32 Qxh7+ Qxh7 33 Rxh7 Kxh7 34 Rf7+ Kg6 35 Rxd7 +-

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White to play

962) Rakshitta – Konyves

Budapest 2023

24 Nhxg7!

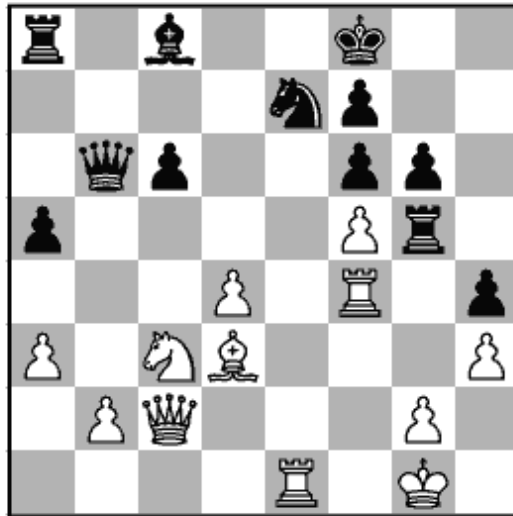
24 Nxf6+? was played in the game, but Black rebuffed the attack with 24...gxh6 25 Qd3 Be4 26 Qg3+ Kh7 –+.

24...Bxg7 25 Nxb6+ Kh8

25...Kf8 26 Nf5 Qc6 27 Qg5 +-.

26 Nf5 Qc6 27 Qg5 +-

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White to play

963) L. van Foreest – S. Kuipers
Belgian Team Ch 2022/3

24 fxc6! Bxh3 25 Re2

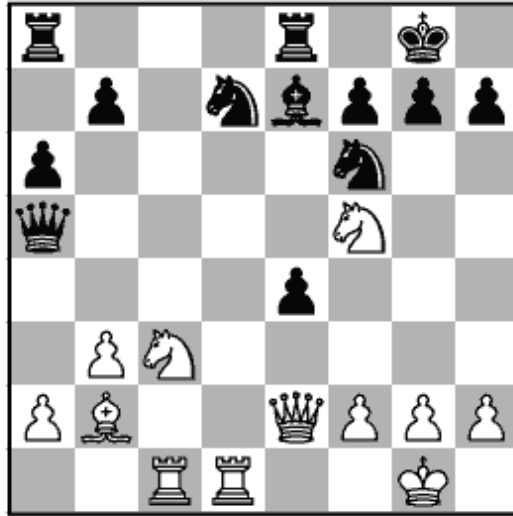
White has correctly calculated that he can easily defend his g2-pawn and increase the pressure on Black's kingside.

25...fxg6

After 25...Rd8 (as played in the game) White could have infiltrated Black's kingside and won material by 26 Na4 Qa7 27 Nc5 Nxc6 28 Bxc6 Rxc6 29 Rxh4 +-. White wins the bishop as 29...Bg4 30 Rh8+ Rg8 31 Qh7! leads to mate.

26 Rxf6+ Kg7 27 Rd6 Re8 28 Qd2 Rg4 29 Qe3 +-

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White to play

964) Rahal – A. Jacobson
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

17 Nxg7!

In the game White went astray with 17 Nd5? Nxd5 18 Qg4? (18 b4! Qxa2 19 Ra1 Qb3 20 Bxg7 is roughly equal) 18...g6 19 Nh6+ Kf8 –+.

17...Rec8

17...Kxg7?! 18 Nd5 Kf8 19 Qe3! Rec8 20 Qh6+ Ke8 21 Bxf6 (White simplifies into a winning major-piece endgame) 21...Nxf6 22 Nxf6+ Bxf6 23 Qxf6 Rxc1 24 Rxc1 Qd2 25 Rf1 +–.

18 Nd5 Nxd5 19 Rxc8+ Rxc8 20 Nf5 Kf8 21 Nxe7 Nxe7

21...Kxe7? 22 Qxe4+ Kf8 23 Rxd5 +–.

22 Rxd7 +/-

White has good chances to win due to Black's weak pawns and exposed king.

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Black to play

965) Kayonde – Adly
African Ch, Giza 2023

14...d5! 15 cxd5

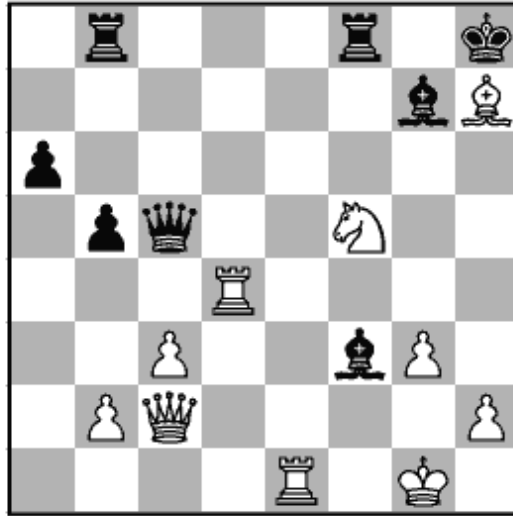
15 Qxd5 Rd8 –+.

15...Nd4 16 Qd3

White's lack of development is fatal; for example, 16 b4 Qa4 17 bxc5 Bf5 –+.

16...Bf5 17 e4 Bxe4 18 Qxe4 Rae8 19 Be5 f5 20 Qb1 Nb3 –+

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Black to play

966) Kaczmarczyk – S. Brunello
Swiss Team Ch 2023

32...Rxf5!

32...Kxh7? was played in the game, when White could have forced a draw by repetition; e.g., 33 Ne7+ Kh8 34 Ng6+ Kg8 35 Ne7+ Kh8 36 Ng6+ =.

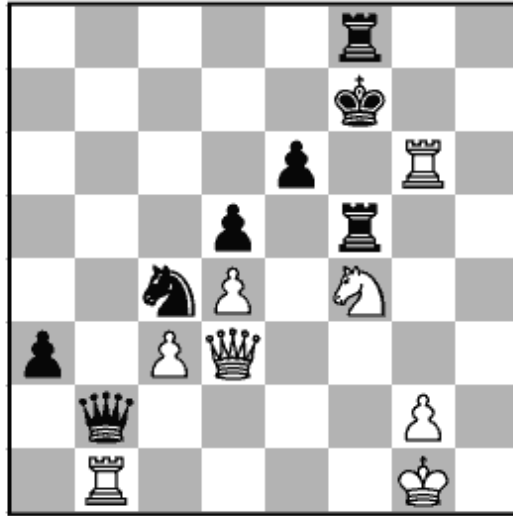
33 Bxf5

33 Qxf5? Bxd4+ 34 cxd4 Qxd4+ 35 Kf1 Bg4 36 Qf7 Bh3+ 37 Ke2 Qe5+ 38 Kd1 Rd8+ –+.

33...Rf8 34 Re6 Rxf5 35 Qd2 Bxd4+ 36 cxd4 Qf8 37 Rxa6 Kg8 –/+

Black has good winning chances.

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Black to play

967) Sadhwani – Fier
Havana 2023

32...Rxf4! 33 Rxb2 axb2

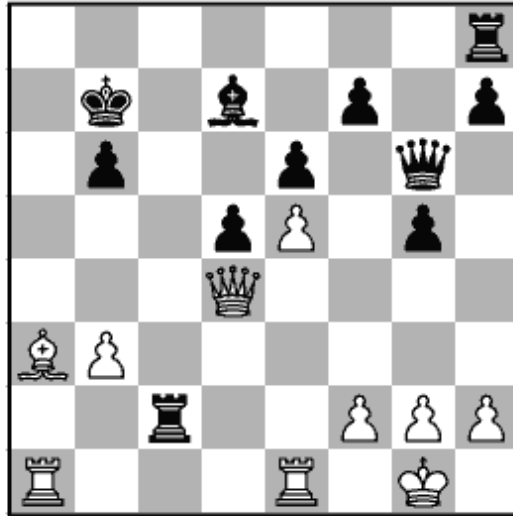
White's queen is tied down by Black's b2-pawn.

34 Rh6 Ke7 35 Kh2 R4f6 36 Rh5

36 Rh7+ R8f7 –+.

36...Nd2 37 c4 b1Q 38 Qa3+ Kf7 0-1

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White to play

968) Albornoz Cabrera – Miranda Mesa
Havana 2023

29 Bc1!

The bishop switches diagonals to target Black's vulnerable b6-pawn.

29...Rhc8 30 Be3 R8c5

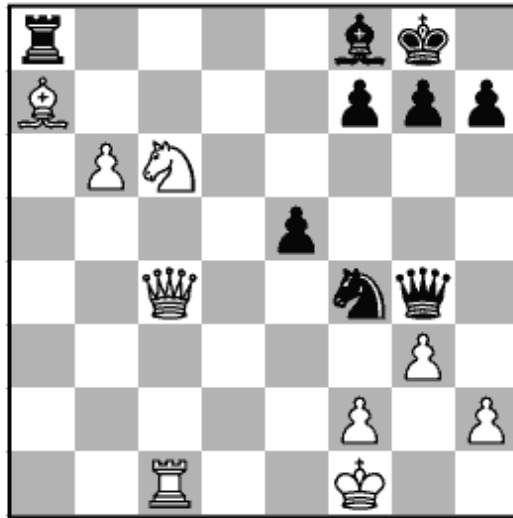
30...R8c6 31 Qa4 +–.

31 Qb4 Qd3

31...Rc6 32 Qa3 +–.

32 Bxc5 Rxc5 33 Qa3 1-0

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Black to play

969) Art. Martirosyan – Davtyan
Jermuk 2023

33...Re8!

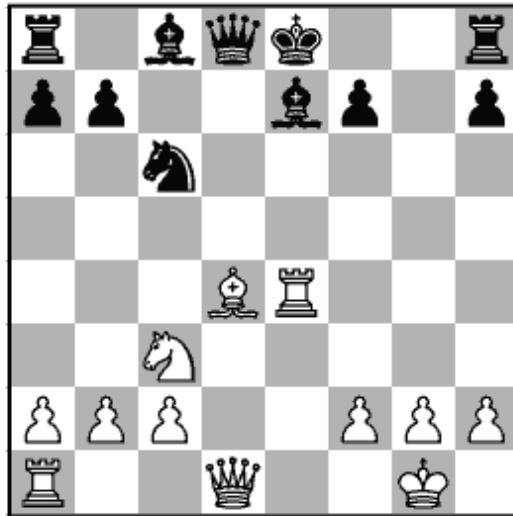
In the game 33...Qh3+?? left Black's queen and knight out of play, which White exploited with 34 Ke1 Ng2+ 35 Ke2 Re8 36 Qe4 f5 37 Qd5+ Kh8 38 b7 +—.

34 gxf4

Both 34 Qe4 f5 35 Qc4+ Kh8 36 Bb8 Ba3! 37 gxf4 (37 Bxe5 Bxc1 38 gxf4 Qd1+ 39 Kg2 Qg4+ =) 37...Qh3+ 38 Kg1 Qg4+ 39 Kf1 Qh3+ = and 34 b7 Qf3! 35 gxf4 exf4 36 Kg1 Qg4+ 37 Kf1 Qh3+ 38 Kg1 Qg4+ = also end in perpetual check.

34...exf4 35 b7 Qh3+ 36 Kg1 Qg4+ 37 Kf1 Qh3+ =
 with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

970) Ilamparathi – Samant
Baku 2023

15...0-0

After 15...Rg8? 16 Qh5 Be6 (as played in the game) White should have created counterplay on the kingside by 17 Qxh7 Rg6 18 Rd1 Bf8 19 h4, with roughly equal chances.

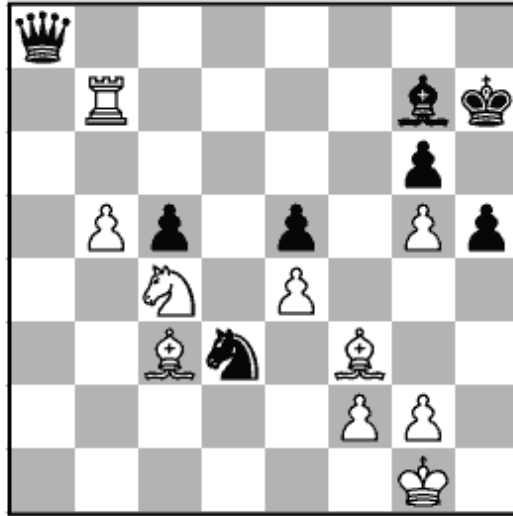
16 Rg4+ Bg5!

This idea works for Black because he is attacking White's bishop on d4. Not 16...Bxg4? 17 Qxg4+ Bg5 18 Be3 Ne5 19 Qg3 f6 20 h4 with roughly equal chances.

17 Rxc5+ Qxc5 18 Ne4 Qh4 19 Nf6+ Kg7 20 Bc3 Rd8 21 Qe2 Kg6 –+

Black has an extra rook.

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White to play

971) Valerga – Paveto

Villa Martelli 2023

34 Rd7!

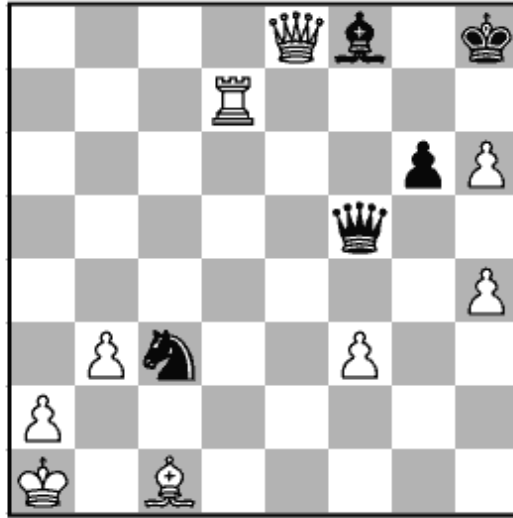
34 Na5? was played in the game, allowing Black to solve the problem of his e5-pawn by 34...Qd8 35 Be2 Nf4. White should then have settled for 36 Bf3 Qxg5 with equal chances.

34...Qa2 35 Nb2! Nxb2

35...Qb1+ 36 Kh2 Nxf2 37 Bxe5 +–.

36 Bxe5 Kg8 37 Rxg7+ Kf8 38 Rxg6 +–

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White to play

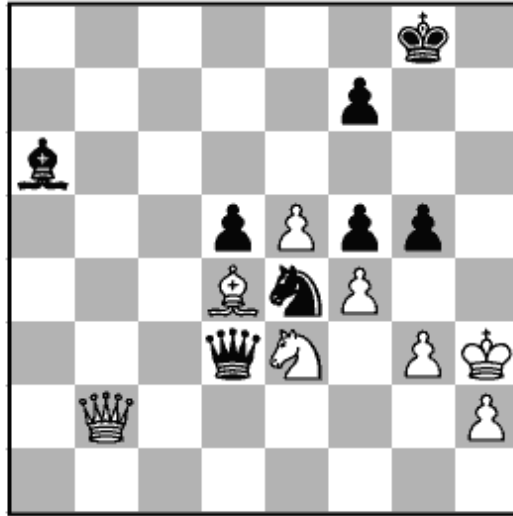
972) Tran Minh Thang – T. Munkhzul
Jakarta 2023

46 Rd3! 1-0

46...Qxd3 47 Qxf8+ Kh7 48 Qg7#.

Note that the white king cannot escape the checks by 46 Kb2? Qb1+! 47 Kxc3 Qxc1+ 48 Kd3 Qd1+ 49 Kc4 Qc2+, when Black secures a draw by repetition after both 50 Kd5 Qd3+ 51 Kc6 (51 Ke6?? Qf5#) 51...Qa6+ 52 Kc7 Qa7+ 53 Kc6 Qa6+ = and 50 Kb5 Qc5+ 51 Ka6 Qc6+ 52 Ka7 Qc5+ 53 Ka8 Qc6+ 54 Ka7 Qc5+ =.

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White to play

973) Klimentov – A. Fedorov
Sochi (team event) 2023

41 Qb8+!

41 fxc5? was played in the game, and Black then generated a mating attack with 41...Nxc5+ 42 Kg2 (42 Kh4 Nf3+ 43 Kh5 f4 –+) 42...Qe4+ 43 Kf2 Qh1 –+.

41...Kh7 42 Qf8

The key idea for White is to attack Black's f7-pawn, so he can also draw with 42 Qe8 = or 42 Qc7 =.

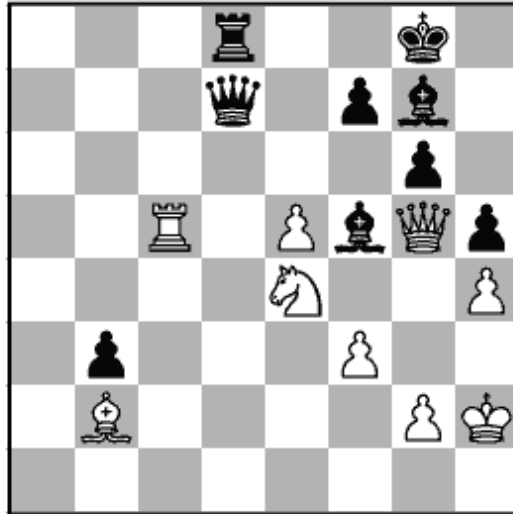
42...Qxe3

42...Qf1+ 43 Ng2! (not 43 Nxf1?? Bxf1#) 43...Qf3 44 Qxf7+ Kh6 45 Qf8+ is a similar draw: 45...Kg6 (or 45...Kh5; Black mustn't let the f5-pawn fall with check) 46 Qg8+ Kh6 =.

43 Qxf7+ Kh6 44 Qf8+

It's a draw by repetition. Again Black should play 44...Kg6 or 44...Kh5, and not 44...Kh7?? 45 Qxf5+ Kg7 46 Qd7+ Kg6 47 Qe6+ and 48 Bxe3.

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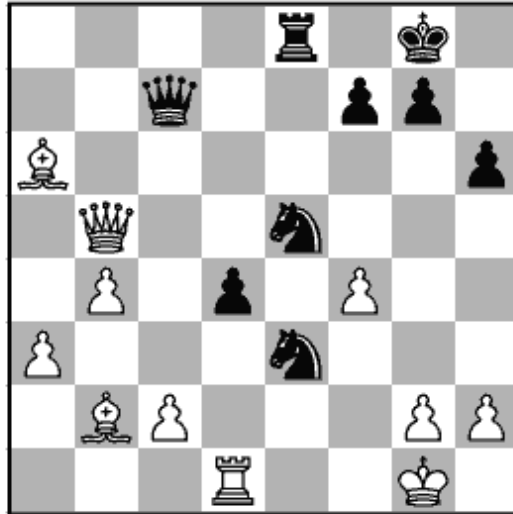
White to play

974) Bodnaruk – Pogonina
Sochi (women's team event) 2023

49 e6! fxe6 1-0

50 Nf6+ Bxf6 51 Qxf6 Qd6+ 52 Be5 Qf8 53 Qh8+ Kf7 54 Qh7+ Ke8
55 Qa7 Qe7 56 Qa4+ Qd7 (56...Kf8 57 Rc7 +-) 57 Qxb3 Rc8 58 Ra5
+-. .

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Black to play

975) B. Jukić – Bertović
Croatia Cup, Mali Lošinj 2023

25...Qxc2! 26 Qxe8+ Kh7 27 Bf1

27 Bd3+ Nxd3 28 Qe4+ f5! 29 Qf3 Qxb2 –+.

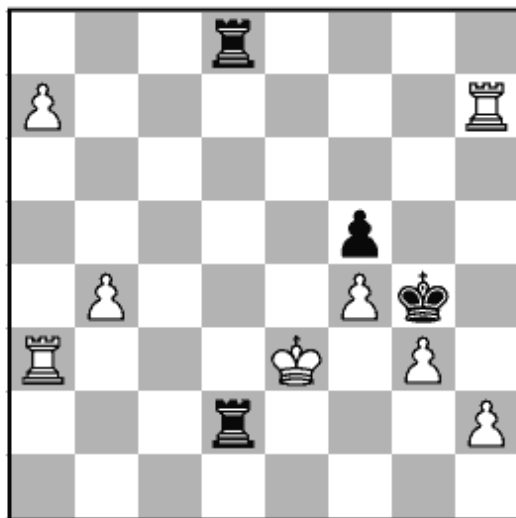
27...Qxd1 28 Qb5 N5c4 0-1

Or 28...d3 –+.

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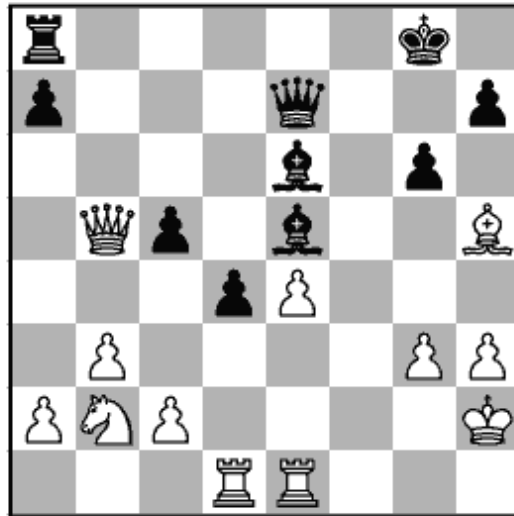
6: Deadly Puzzles

Congratulations on working your way through the book so far! We end with a short chapter of 26 puzzles intended to stimulate your creativity and help you search for unexpected beauty in your games. These positions are similar to those in the 'Advanced Puzzles' chapter, but are even more challenging in some way, generally due to additional subtleties or hard-to-see ideas. Enjoy, and remember to review the book periodically to keep your tactical skills sharp!



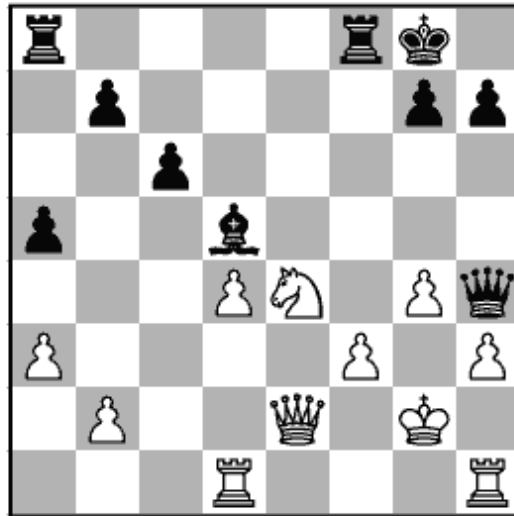
976) Black to play

[solution](#)



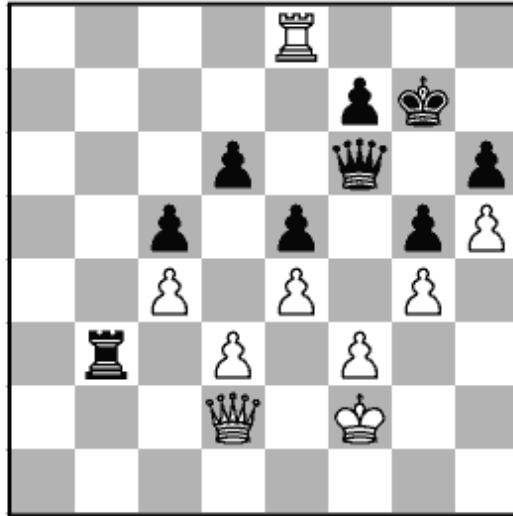
977) Black to play

[solution](#)



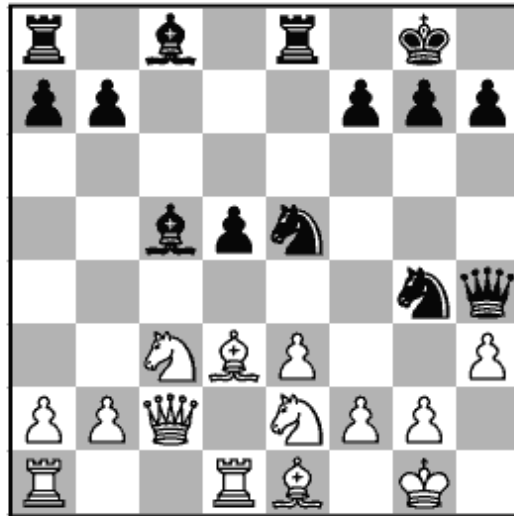
978) Black to play

[solution](#)



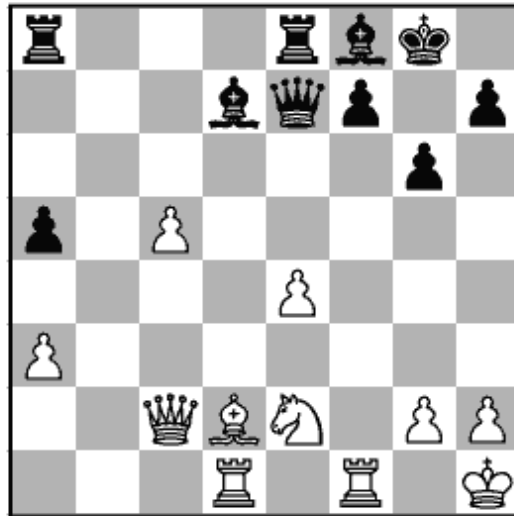
979) Black to play

[solution](#)



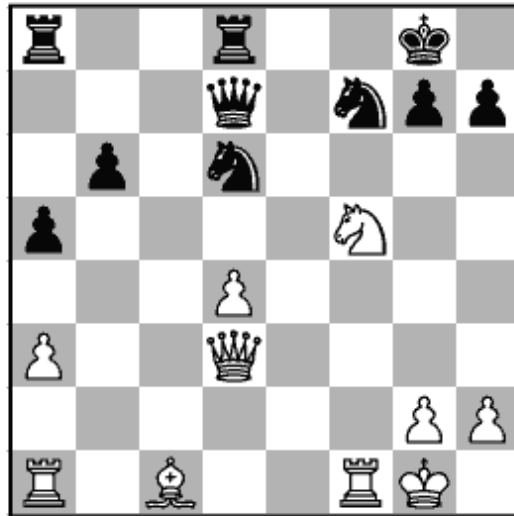
980) Black to play

[solution](#)



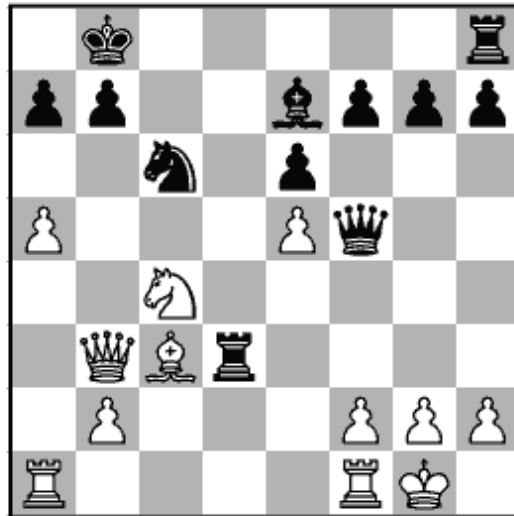
981) White to play

[solution](#)



982) White to play

[solution](#)



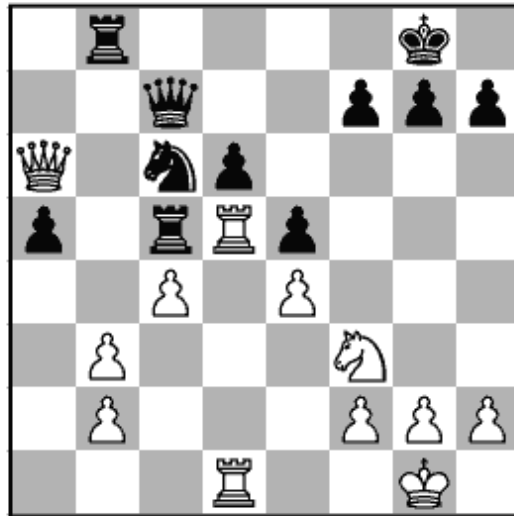
983) Black to play

[solution](#)



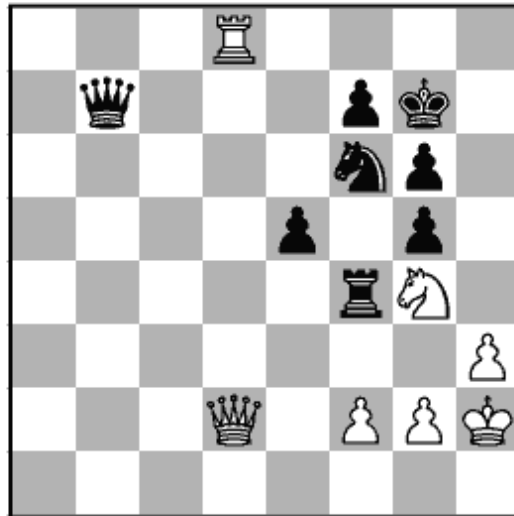
984) White to play

[solution](#)



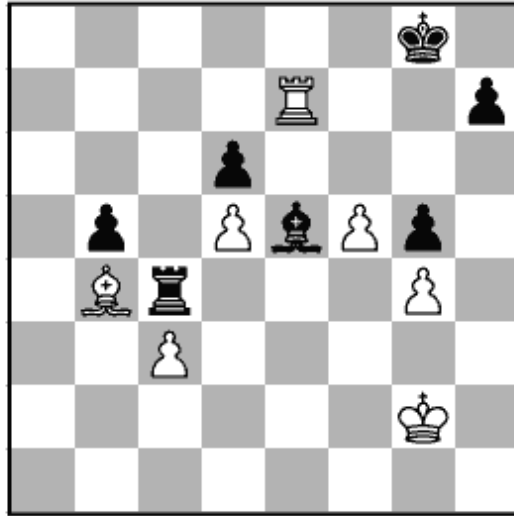
985) White to play

[solution](#)



986) White to play

[solution](#)



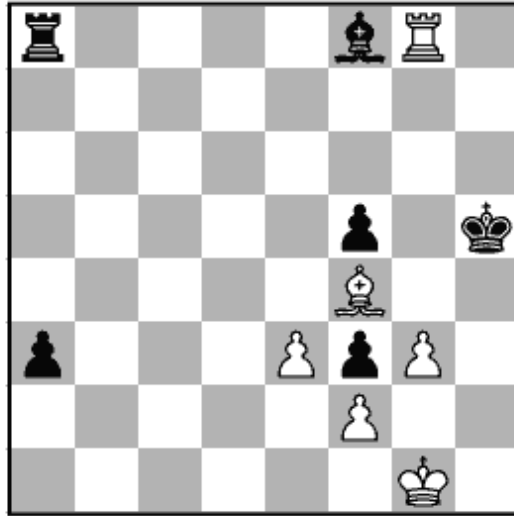
987) White to play

[solution](#)



988) White to play

[solution](#)



989) White to play

[solution](#)



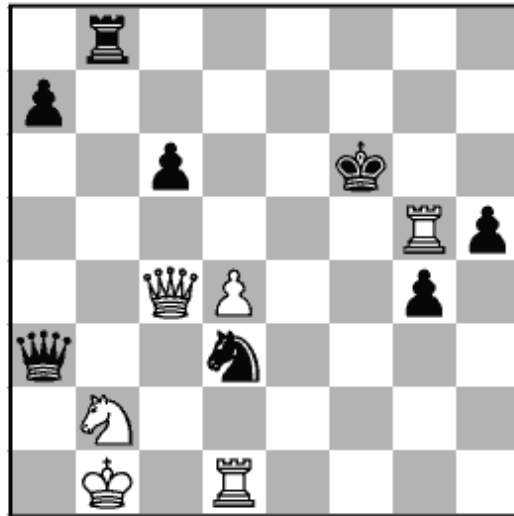
990) White to play

[solution](#)



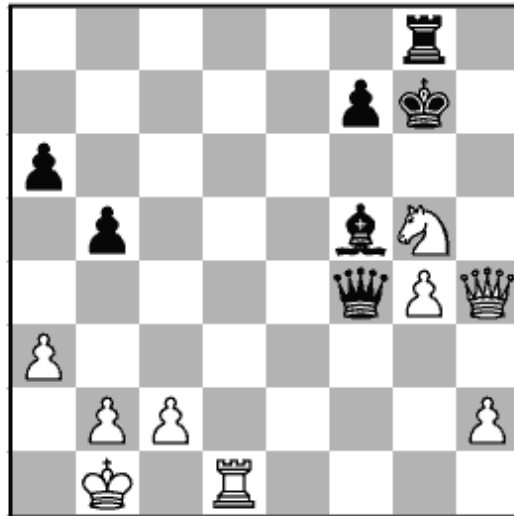
991) White to play

[solution](#)



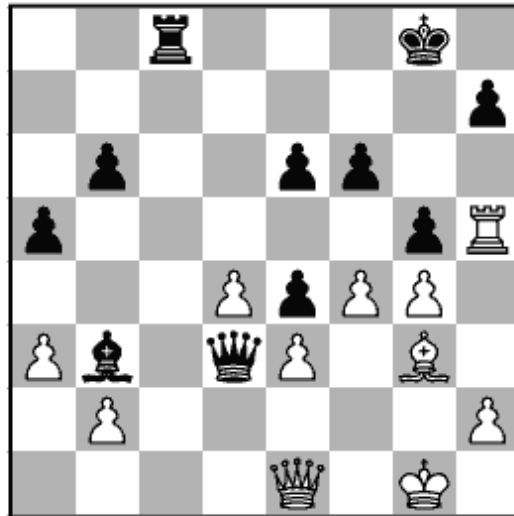
992) White to play

[solution](#)



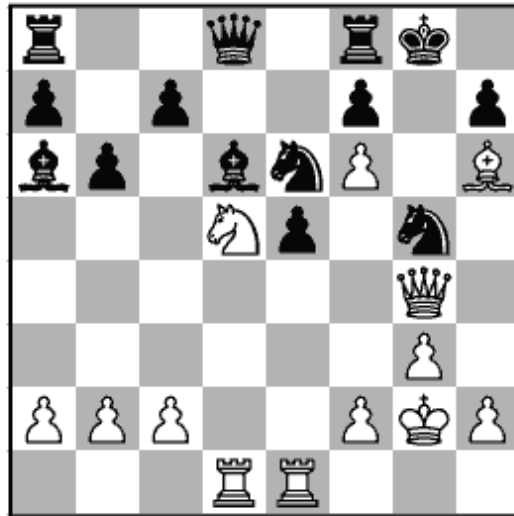
993) White to play

[solution](#)



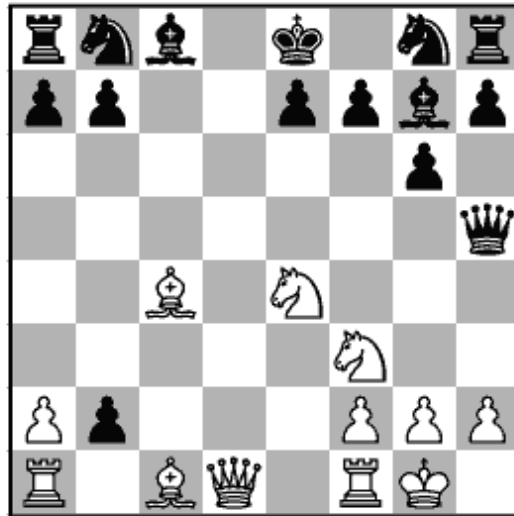
994) White to play

[solution](#)



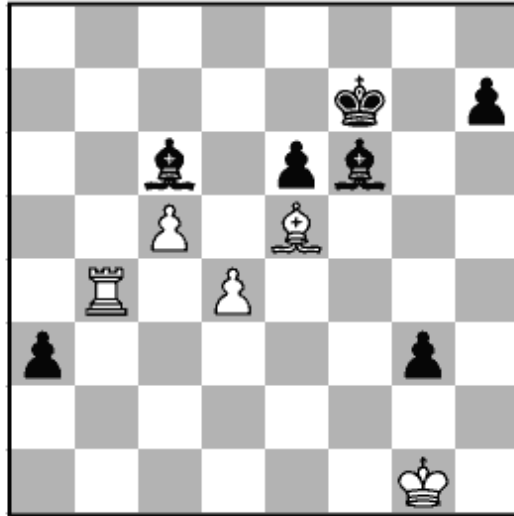
995) White to play

[solution](#)



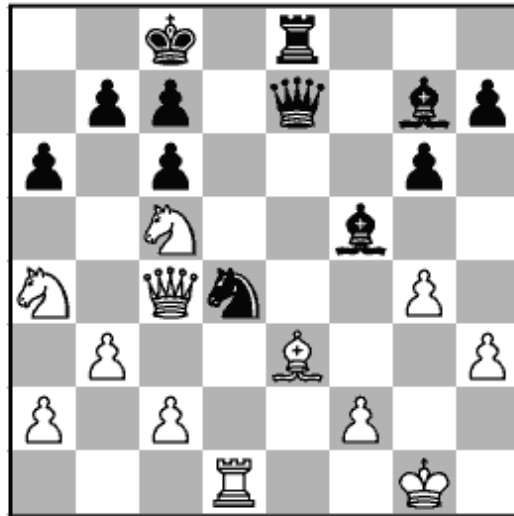
996) White to play

[solution](#)



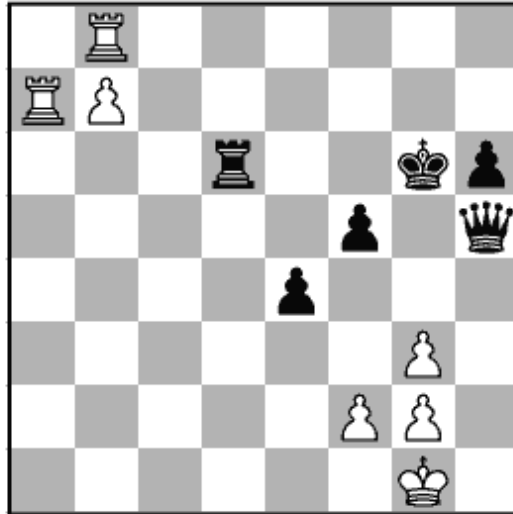
997) White to play

[solution](#)



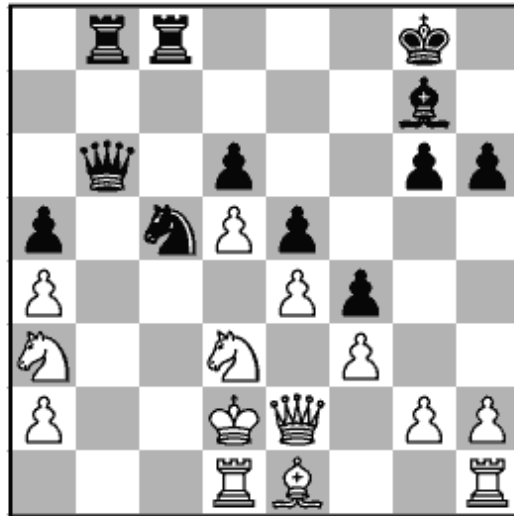
998) Black to play

[solution](#)



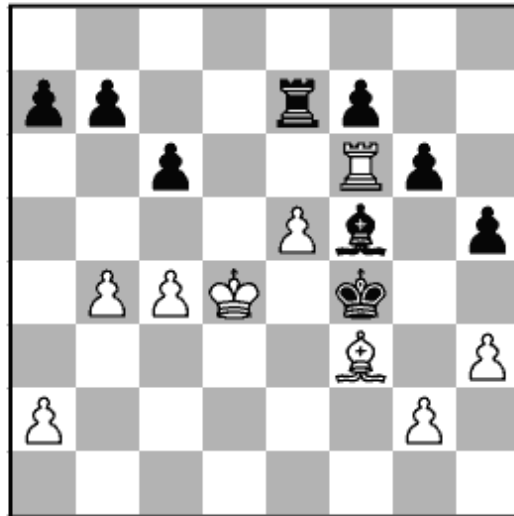
999) White to play

[solution](#)



1000) Black to play

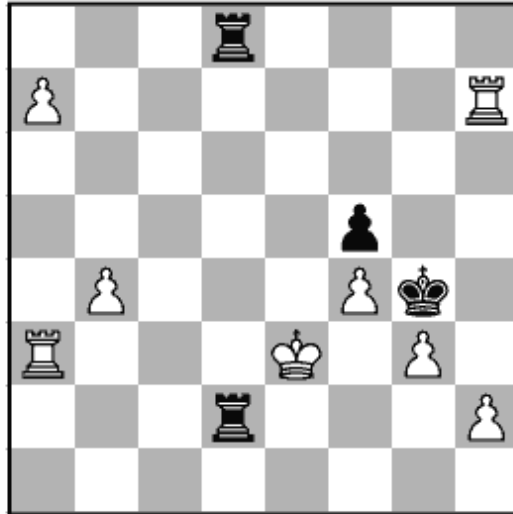
[solution](#)



1001) Black to play

[solution](#)

Solutions for Deadly Puzzles



Black to play

976) Goganov – N. Petrov
Khanty-Mansiisk 2022

45...Re2+!

In the game, Black played 45...Rd1?? and resigned before White could reply 46 Rh4#.

46 Kxe2 Rd2+!

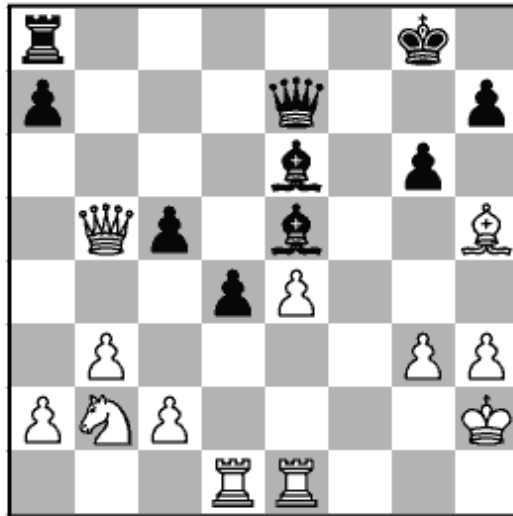
If White captures the rampaging rook it is a draw by stalemate.

47 Ke3 Re2+ 48 Kd4 Re4+ 49 Kd5

49 Kd3 Rd4+ 50 Kc2 Rd2+ 51 Kb3 Rb2+ 52 Kc3 Rc2+ =.

49...Rd4+ 50 Kc5 Rd5+ 51 Kc6 Rd6+ 52 Kc7 Rc6+ 53 Kd8 Rc8+ 54 Ke7 Re8+ 55 Kd7 Rd8+ =
with a draw by repetition.

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Black to play

977) An. Kozak – Lagarde
European Rapid Ch, Katowice 2022

22...Qh4! 23 Qe2?!

23 Qd3 is more resilient, but Black has a decisive attack after 23...Qxh3+ 24 Kg1 Bxg3 (Black threatens 25...Qh2+ followed by mate) 25 Re2 Qxh5 26 Rf1 Bf4 27 Nd1 (27 Qf3 Qxf3 28 Rxf3 Bg4 leads to a bad endgame for White) 27...Rf8 –+.

23...Bxg3+ 24 Kg1 gxh5 25 Qa6

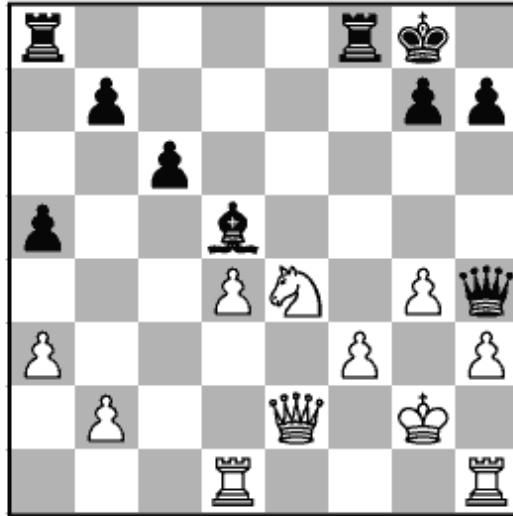
25 Rf1 Bxh3 26 Rf5 Kh8 27 Qxh5 Bf2+ 28 Kh1 Qxe4+ 29 Qf3 Bxf5 –+.

25...Bf2+ 26 Kf1 Qxh3+ 27 Ke2

27 Kxf2 Qh2+ 28 Kf3 Rf8#.

27...Qe3+ 28 Kf1 Bh3# (0-1)

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Black to play

978) Lamaze – Kunin

Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy 2022

28...Rxf3! 29 Kxf3

29 Qxf3 Rf8 30 Qxf8+ Kxf8 31 Rhe1 h5 –+.

29...Rf8+ 30 Ke3

30 Kg2? Bxe4+ leads to mate.

30...Bxe4 31 Rh2?!

31 Kxe4 Re8+ 32 Kd3 (32 Kf3? Qf6+ 33 Kg3 Rxe2 –+) 32...Qg3+
33 Kd2 Rxe2+ 34 Kxe2 Qg2+ 35 Kd3 Qxb2 –+.

31...Qg5+

Or the crisper 31...Qg3+! 32 Kd2 Bf3! –+.

32 Kxe4 Re8+ 33 Kf3

33 Kd3 Qb5+ –+.

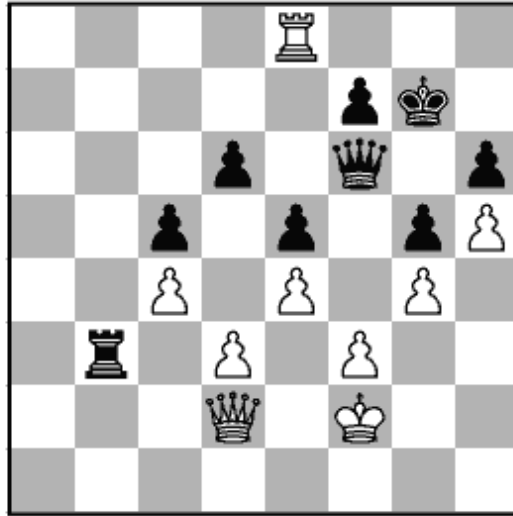
33...Qd5+ 34 Kf2 Rxe2+ 35 Kxe2 Qe4+ 36 Kf1

36 Kf2? Qc2+ –+.

36...Qf3+ 37 Ke1 Qg3+ 38 Rf2 Qxh3 –+

Black went on to win.

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Black to play

979) Hector – Westerberg
Swedish Ch, Uppsala 2022

46...d5!!

The 'impossible' pawn-break works because White's rook is out of play.

47 exd5

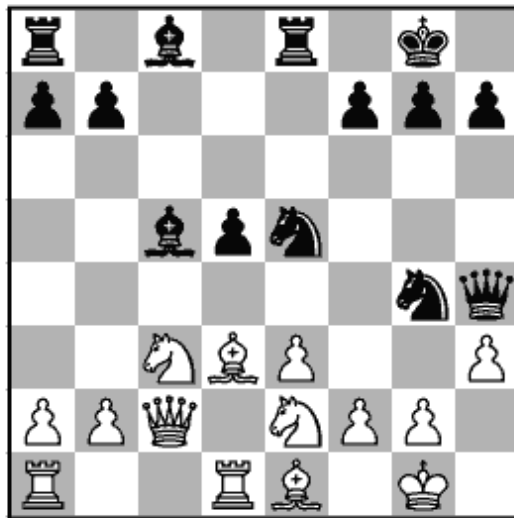
47 cxd5 c4! 48 d6 c3! 49 Qe3 Qxd6 50 Rc8 Rb2+ 51 Kg3 Qd4 52 Qxd4 exd4 –+.

47...e4! 48 Qe3

48 Rxe4 Rb2 –+.

48...Rb2+ 49 Kf1 Rb1+ 50 Kf2 Qb2+ 51 Qe2 Qd4+ 52 Kg3 exd3
0-1

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Black to play

980) B. Jacobson – A. Hong
USA Junior Ch, Saint Louis 2022

14...Nf3+! 15 gxf3 Nxe3! 16 Qa4

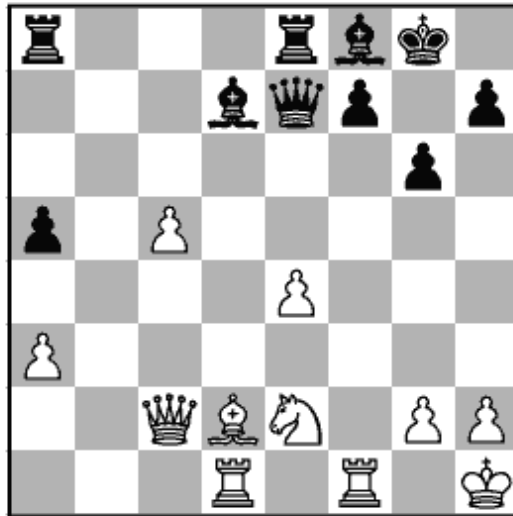
16 Qd2 Qxh3 –+.

16...Qg5+ 17 Ng3 Bxh3 18 Bd2 Qf6 19 Bxh7+

Black's pieces are too active; for example, 19 Be2 Nxd1 20 Bxd1 Bxf2+ 21 Kh2 (21 Kxf2 Qb6+ mates) 21...Bd7 22 Qxd7 Qh4+ 23 Qh3 Bxg3+ 24 Kg2 Qd4 –+.

19...Kh8 20 Bf5 Nxf5 21 Nxd5 Qg6 0-1

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White to play

981) Praggnanandhaa – Arjun
Paraćin 2022

22 Bg5!

This tactic enables White to take over the seventh rank.

22...Qxg5 23 Rxd7 Re7

After 23...Qxc5? (as played in the game) White won by targeting the f7-pawn: 24 Qa2 (or 24 Qb3 Be7 25 Rxf7 +–) 24...Be7 (24...Re7 25 Rxf7 +–) 25 Rxf7 1-0.

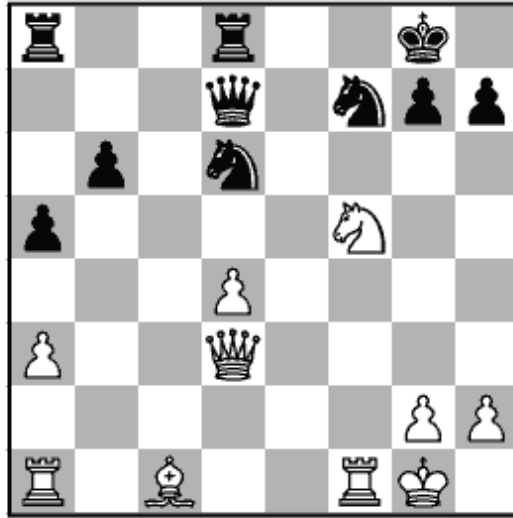
24 c6 Rxd7

White has a strong passed c-pawn after 24...Qe5? 25 Rxe7 Bxe7 26 Qc4 Qe6 27 Qd5 Bd6 (27...Rd8 28 Nf4! Rxd5 29 Nxe6 Rd3 30 Rc1 +–) 28 Nd4 Qe7 29 Nb5 Be5 30 Qd7 Kf8 31 Qxe7+ Kxe7 32 a4 +–.

25 cxd7 Qb5 26 Rd1 Rd8 27 a4 Qb7 28 Qd3 +/–

White has an extra pawn and good chances to win.

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White to play

982) Duda – Sevian

Internet rapid 2022

23 Nxc3! Kxc3 24 d5 Nh8!

The only move to stay on the board. In the game Black lost quickly after 24...Rg8? 25 Qg3+ Kf8 26 Bh6+ Ke7 27 Rae1+ 1-0.

25 Bb2+ Kg8 26 Qc3 Ng6 27 Rf6 Qg7 28 Raf1 Rac8 29 Rxc3 Rxc3 30 Rxc3+ Kg8 31 Bxc3+ Kg8 32 a4 +=

White is a pawn ahead, but Black has drawing chances.

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Black to play

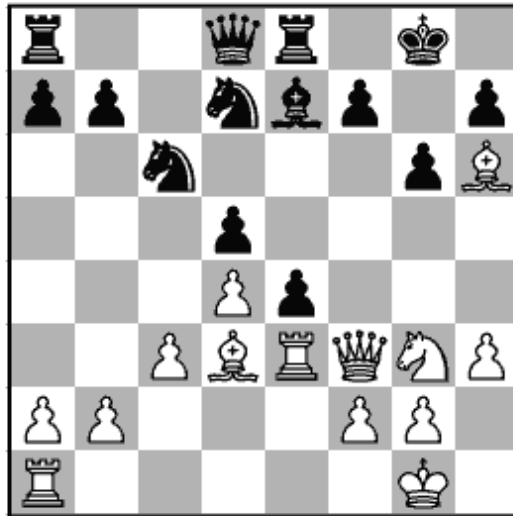
983) Dobrowolski – A. Donchenko

Pardubice rapid 2022

19...Nd4! 20 Qa4 Ne2+ 21 Kh1 Rh3!! 0-1

22 Ne3 (22 gxf3 Qf3#) 22...Rxf2+ 23 Kxf2 Qh5+ 24 Qh4 Qxf4#.

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White to play

984) So – Melkumyan
Chennai Olympiad 2022

19 Rxe4!! Nf8

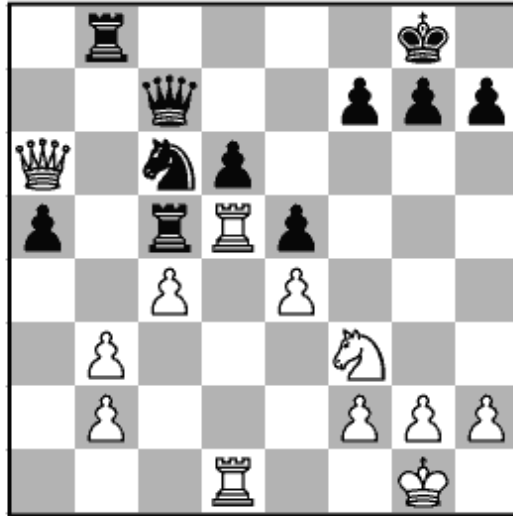
White's beautiful mating combination is revealed after 19...dxe4 20 Qxf7+! Kxf7 21 Bc4+ Kf6 22 Nxe4+ Kf5 23 g4+ Kxe4 24 Re1+ Kf3 25 Bd5# (or 25 Re3#).

20 Rf4 f5 21 Nxf5 gxf5 22 Rxf5 Qd6

22...Ng6 23 Rxd5 +–.

23 Qg4+ Ng6 24 Rxd5 +–

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White to play

985) Nisipeanu – Ajay Krishna
Dubai 2022

29 Rxd6! Rb6

29...f6 30 Rd7 Qc8 31 Qxc8+ Rxc8 32 R1d5 Nb4 33 Rxc5 Rxc5 34 Kf1 +–.

30 Qa7!!

A beautiful idea to exploit Black's weak back rank.

30...Qb8

Or: 30...Qxa7 31 Rd8+ Nxd8 32 Rxd8#; 30...Nxa7 31 Rd8+ Qxd8 32 Rxd8#.

31 Qe7

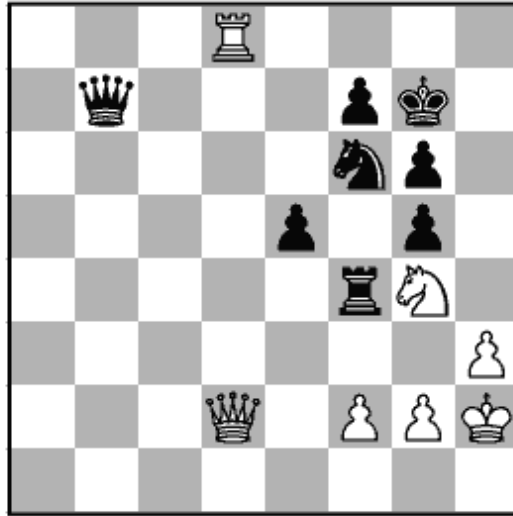
31 Ng5 also wins.

31...Qf8

31...Nxe7 32 Rd8+ Qxd8 33 Rxd8#.

32 Rd8 Nxd8 33 Rxd8 1-0

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White to play

986) Sindarov – Gareyev
Tashkent 2022

48 Qd6! Nxg4+?

48...Qb4 puts up more resistance. White wins a piece after 49 Nxf6 Qxd6 50 Ne8+ Kf8 51 Nxd6+ Ke7 52 Nb7 Rxf2 53 Rc8 +/-, though the endgame is not so easy to convert.

49 hxg4 Rxg4 50 g3

Black has a two-pawn advantage, but his king is under attack.

50...Re4 51 Rb8 Qa7 52 Qf8+ Kf6 53 Qd8+ Kf5

53...Kg7 54 Qh8#.

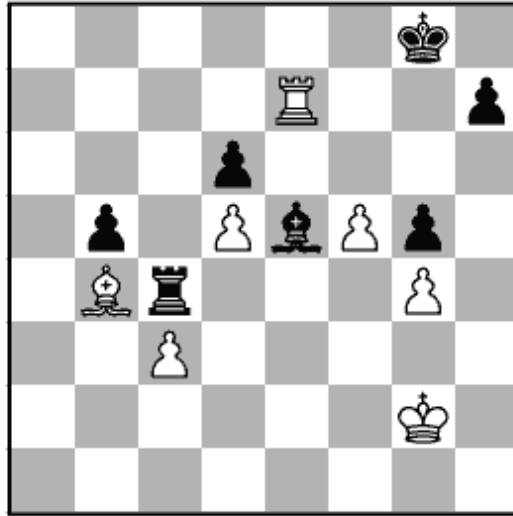
54 Rb6 Rd4 55 Qf6+ Ke4 56 Qc6+ Kf5

56...Rd5 57 f3+ Ke3 58 Rb3+ Ke2 59 Qc4+ Ke1 60 Rb1+ Rd1 61 Qc3+ Kf2 62 Rb2+ mates.

1-0

There would follow 57 Qf3+ Rf4 58 g4#.

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White to play

987) Shankland – Moradiabadi
USA Ch, Saint Louis 2022

41 Rxe5!

A beautiful liquidation. White has accurately calculated the ensuing pawn ending.

41...Rxg4+

41...dxe5 42 d6 Re4 43 Kf2 +–.

42 Kf3 Rxb4 43 cxb4 dxe5 44 d6 Kf7 45 Ke4

This king and pawn endgame is winning for White, via a transition to a queen ending.

45...g4 46 Kd5 g3 47 d7 g2

47...Ke7 48 Kc6 g2 49 f6+ Ke6 50 d8Q g1Q 51 Qe7+ Kf5 52 f7 +–.

48 d8Q g1Q 49 Qc7+ Kg8 50 Ke6 h6

After 50...h5 51 Qf7+ Kh8 52 Qxh5+ Kg8 53 Qe8+ Kh7 54 Qg6+ Qxg6+ 55 fxg6+ Kxg6 56 Kxe5 +– we have a new king and pawn ending, that White again wins!

51 Qf7+ Kh8 52 Qe8+ Kh7 53 Qd7+ Kh8 54 f6 +–

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White to play

988) Ivanchuk – J. van Foreest

World Rapid Team Ch, Jerusalem 2022

26 Nd7!!

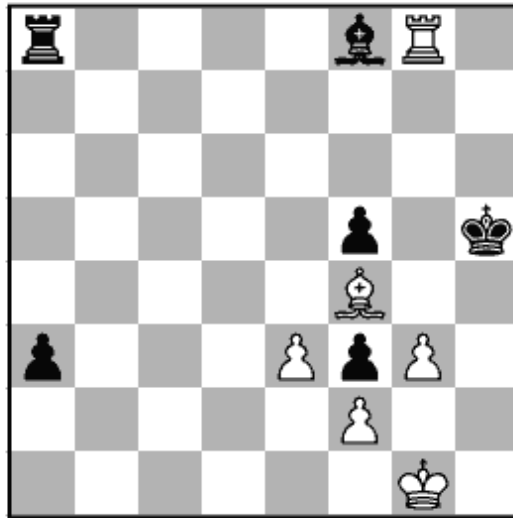
A fantastic idea to exploit White's control over the c8-square.

26...Rexd7

Other moves are no help; for example, 26...Nbx d7 27 Rxc7 Bxc7 28 Bxe7 Qxe7 29 Rxc7 +–, 26...Rcx d7 27 Bxd6 Rxd6 28 Rc8 +– or 26...Rxc2 27 Nxf6+ Kg7 28 Rxc2 Bxa3 (White wins the black queen after 28...Kxf6 29 Rc8 Qxc8 30 Bxc8 Bxa3 31 Bxa6 +–) 29 Rc8 Qd6 30 Ne8+ Rxe8 31 Rxe8 +–.

27 Bxd6 Rxc2 28 Rxc2 Rxd6 29 Rc8 Qxc8 30 Bxc8 +–

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White to play

989) Adly – Dardha

World Rapid Ch, Almaty 2022

35 Kh2! a2

35...Ra4 36 Rxf8 a2 37 Be5 Kg6 38 Ba1 +—.

36 g4+! fxg4

36...Kh4 37 Bg3#.

37 Rg5+ Kh4

37...Kh6 38 Ra5+ Kg7 39 Rxa8 +—.

38 Rd5 a1B

38...Bd6 39 Bg3+ Bxg3+ 40 fxg3#.

39 Bg3# (1-0)

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White to play

990) E. Bogdanov – Licznerski
Bialystok 2022

18 Ne5!!

An easy move to overlook. After 18 Nd6+? (as played in the game) Black consolidated his material advantage by 18...Kf8 19 Nh4 Nxh4 20 Qxe7+ Kg8 –+.

18...Qxe6

Or 18...Bd3 19 Nxg7+ Kf8 20 Qxd5 Nxd5 21 Ne6+ Kg8 22 Nxd3 +–.

19 Nxg7+ Kf8 20 Nxe6+ Kg8 21 Nxg6 +–

White has a decisive material advantage.

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White to play

991) Rakhmanov – Akbas
European Ch, Vrnjačka Banja 2023

17 Bh4! Re8

Or 17...g5 18 Rxe6! fxe6 19 Qg6+ Kh8 20 Qxh6+ Kg8 21 Qxg5+ Kh8 (21...Kf7 22 Qg6+ Ke7 23 Qg7+ Rf7 {23...Kd6 24 Bg3+ +—} 24 Bxf6+ Kd6 25 Qxf7 +—) 22 Qh6+ Kg8 23 Qg6+ Kh8 24 Bxf6+ Qxf6 25 Qh7#.

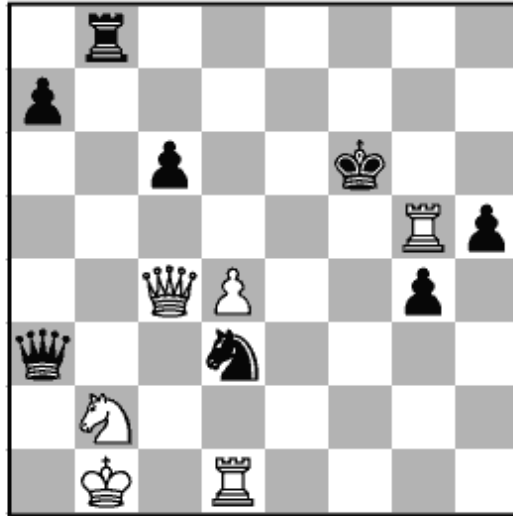
18 Bxf6 gxf6 19 Qh7+ Kf8 20 Qxh6+ Ke7 21 Rxe6+ Kxe6

Black's king is also flushed out after 21...fxe6 22 Qg7+ Kd6 23 Ne4+ Kd5 24 Bb3+ Kxe4 25 Qg4+ Kd3 26 Rd1+ Ke2 27 Qe4#.

22 Bf5+ Ke7 23 Re1+ Ne5 24 dxe5 Bxc3 25 exf6++ Kd6 26 Qf4+ Kc5 27 b4+ Bxb4 28 Rc1+ 1-0

28...Bc3 29 Rxc3+ Kd5 30 Qd4#.

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White to play

992) Wei Yi – Rasulov
Internet rapid 2023

40 Rb5!!

An unusual and instructive method of breaking the pin along the b-file.

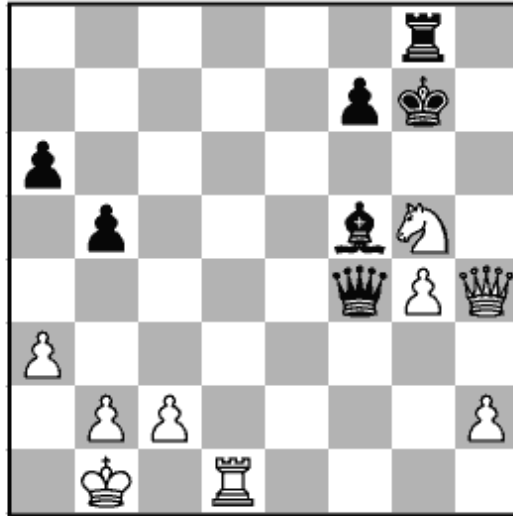
Instead 40 Rf5+? Kxf5 41 Qf7+ Kg5 42 Qg7+ Kf4 was played in the game, which should then have ended in a repetition after, e.g., 43 Qc7+ =.

40...cxb5

Black loses his rook and the game after 40...Rxb5 41 Qxc6+ Ke7 42 Qxb5 Qxb2+ 43 Qxb2 Nxb2 44 Kxb2 g3 45 Rh1 Kf6 46 Rh3 +–.

41 Qc6+ Kg7 42 Qd7+ Kh8 43 Rxd3 +–

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White to play

993) W. Watson – H. Möhn
Bundesliga 2022/3

32 Qe1!!

After 32 Nxf7?? (as played in the game) Black drew White's king out into the open by 32...Bxc2+! 33 Kxc2 Qe4+ 34 Rd3 (34 Kb3 Qc4#) 34...Qe2+ 35 Kc3 (35 Rd2 Rc8+ –+) 35...Rc8+ 36 Kb4 Qxd3 –+ and won the game shortly.

32...Bxc2+

Black has to try this. Other moves are bad:

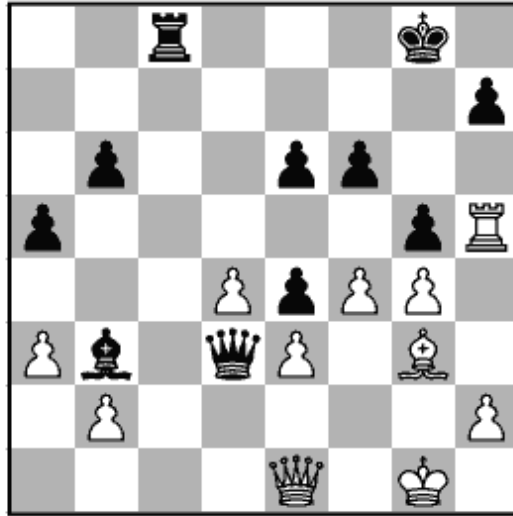
a) 32...Bxg4? 33 Qh4! Rh8 34 Ne6+! fxe6 35 Rd7+ Kg6 36 Qxh8 Qf1+ 37 Ka2 Qc4+ 38 b3 Qxc2+ 39 Qb2 +–.

b) 32...Qxg4? 33 Qe5+ f6 34 Qe7+ Kh6 (34...Kg6 35 Qh7+ Kxg5 36 Qxg8+ +–) 35 Qxf6+ Kh5 36 Qf7+ Bg6 (36...Kh4 37 Rd4 +–) 37 Qf3 Kxg5 38 h4+! Kh5 39 Rd5+ Kxh4 40 Qf2+ Kh3 41 Rd4 Be4 42 Qe3+ Qf3 43 Qxe4 Qxe4 44 Rxe4 +–.

33 Kxc2 Rc8+ 34 Kb1 Qxg5 35 h3 +=

White has an extra pawn and winning chances.

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White to play

994) Ka. Larsen – J. Lauridsen
Danish Team Ch 2022/3

30 fxg5!

In the game White played 30 Bf2??, but this left him with no counterplay so Black infiltrated with his rook: 30...Rc2 31 fxg5 Rxb2 32 Qf1 Rb1 0-1.

30...e5

White is also able to expose Black's king to a barrage of checks after 30...f5 31 Be5 Rc2 32 Rxh7 Kxh7 33 Qh4+ Kg8 34 Qh8+ Kf7 35 g6+ Ke7 36 Qg7+ Kd8 37 Qf8+ Kd7 38 Qd6+ Kc8 39 Qb8+ Kd7 40 Qd6+ =, with a draw by perpetual check.

31 gxf6 Rc2 32 Bxe5 Rxb2

Challenging White to prove his case. Black could also take a simple path to a draw himself by 32...Re2 33 Qc1 Rc2 34 Qe1 Re2 =, repeating.

33 f7+ Bxf7 34 Rxh7 Bc4 35 Rh8+ Kf7 36 Rh7+ Ke8

36...Kg8 37 Rh8+ repeats.

37 Rh8+ Kd7 38 Rh7+

A more forcing method is to give up the rook to bring in the queen: 38 Rd8+ Kxd8 39 Qh4+ Kc8 40 Qh8+ Kb7 41 Qb8+ Ka6 42 Qa8+

Kb5 43 Qe8+ Ka6 44 Qa8+, with perpetual check. But in general it is more practical to avoid sacrificing when there is a simpler option.

38...Ke8

This is the king's only safe square. Black must avoid 38...Ke6?? 39 d5+ Kxe5 40 Qg3+ Kxd5 41 Rd7+ Kc6 42 Qc7+ Kb5 43 Rxd3 +—.

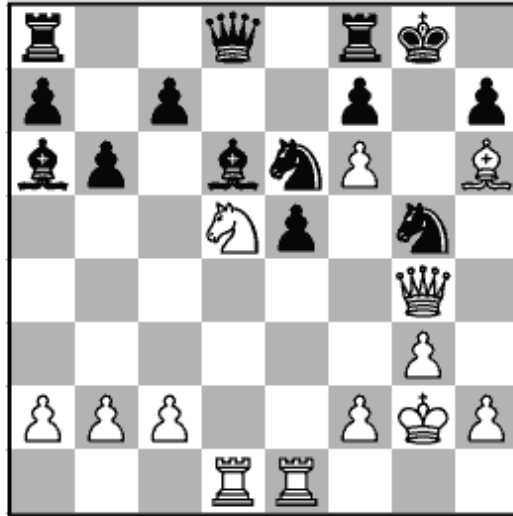
38...Kc6?? also loses to 39 d5+, picking up the b2-rook, while

38...Kc8?? fails because of 39 Rc7+.

39 Rh8+ =

It's a draw by repetition.

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White to play

995) Lohvinov – Ja. Schneider
Rosenheim 2023

22 Ne7+ Bxe7!

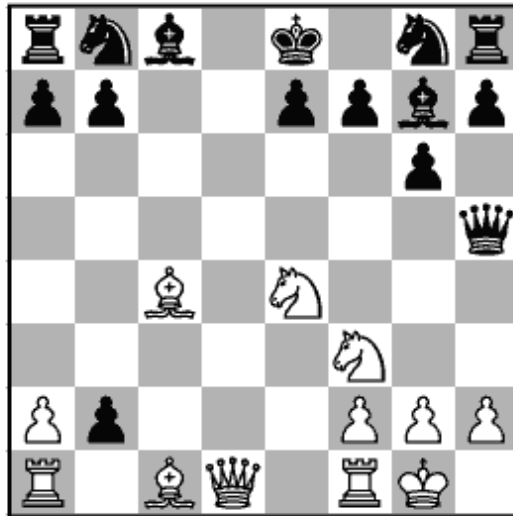
The best try. The game ended in checkmate after 22...Kh8? 23 Bg7+ Nxg7 24 fxg7+ Kxg7 25 Qxg5+ Kh8 26 Qf6# (1-0).

23 Rxd8 Bb7+ 24 Kf1!

This is the correct square for the white king to avoid a potential knight check on the f3-square. After 24 Kg1? Rfxd8 25 fxe7 (25 Bxg5 Bd6 26 Bh6+ Kh8 27 Bg7+ Kg8 =) Black survives by 25...f5!! 26 exd8Q+ Rxd8 27 Qxf5 (27 Qxg5+ Nxg5 28 Bxg5 Rd5 =) 27...Nf3+ 28 Kf1 (28 Kh1?? Nh4+ -+) 28...Nxh2+ 29 Kg1 (29 Ke2?? Nd4+ -+) 29...Nf3+ = with a draw by repetition.

24...Rfxd8 25 fxe7 Rd4 26 f4 Bf3 27 Qh4 +-

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White to play

996) Soham – Schlegel
Rosenheim 2023

10 Bxf7+!!

The bishop sacrifice enables White to generate a ferocious attack.

10...Kxf7

10...Kf8? 11 Qd8+ Kxf7 12 Nfg5+ +–.

11 Qb3+ Kf8

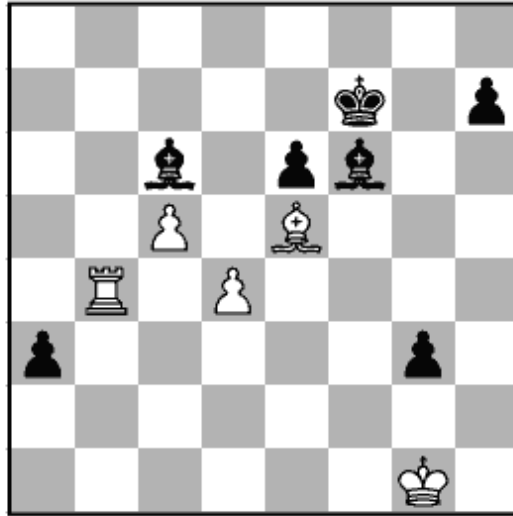
11...Ke8 12 Bxb2 +–.

12 Neg5 Nh6 13 Bxb2 Qg4

After 13...Rg8 (as played in the game) White could have regained his sacrificed piece and won additional material by 14 Nxh7+ Ke8 15 Bxg7 Rxg7 16 Qc3 Rxh7 17 Qxc8+ Kf7 18 Qxb7 +–.

14 Rad1 Nc6 15 Rfe1 +–

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White to play

997) Amdouni – Doluhanova
Lyons 2023

53 d5!!

This line-clearance sacrifice saves the game. In the game 53 Rb3? allowed Black to retain her a-pawn by 53...a2 54 Ra3 Bxe5 55 dxe5 Bd5 56 c6, when 56...Ke7 57 Ra8 h5 →+ would have been winning for Black.

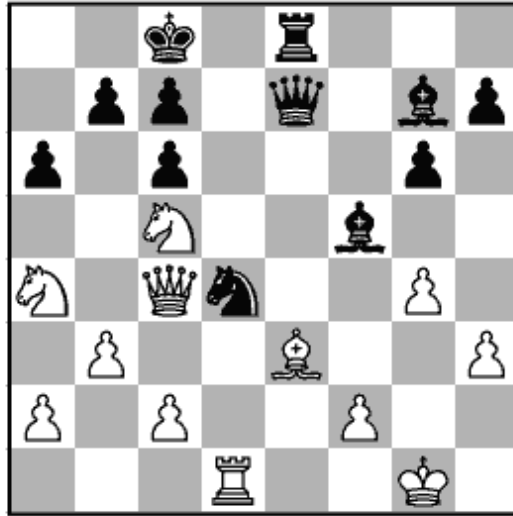
53...Bxe5

Black loses a piece after 53...Bxd5?? 54 Rf4 +– or 53...exd5?? 54 Rf4 +– (or 54 Bxf6 Kxf6 55 Rb6 +–).

54 dxc6 Ke7 55 Ra4 Kd8 56 Rxa3 Kc7 =

The endgame is equal.

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Black to play

998) K. Balajayeva – Sandu
Chennai Women's Olympiad 2022

22...b5!

Usually it is a bad idea to advance pawns in front of your king when you are being attacked, but here White's a4-knight is unable to get in on the action. Instead in the game Black chose 22...Nf3+?, when 23 Kg2! b5 24 Qb4! would have been winning for White.

23 Qb4 Qh4! 24 Bxd4

Not: 24 Qa5? Rxe3! 25 Qxa6+ Kd8 –+; 24 Rxd4? Rxe3! 25 fxe3 Qg3+ 26 Kf1 Qf3+ 27 Ke1 Qxe3+ 28 Kd1 Bxd4 –+.

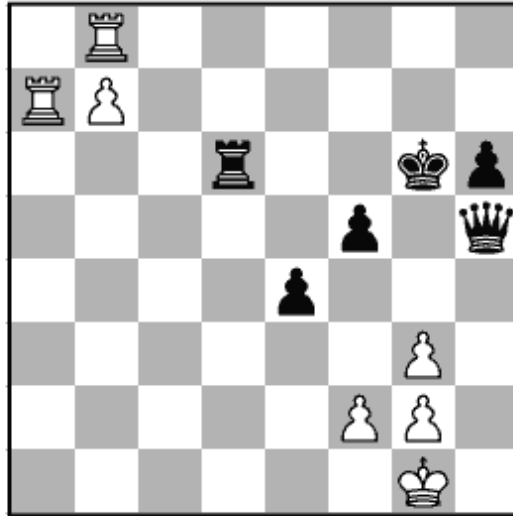
24...Qxh3! 25 Bxg7 Re4

Black can also play 25...Be4 26 Nxe4 Qxg4+ 27 Kh2 Qh4+ 28 Kg1 Qg4+ =, drawing thanks to the pin along White's fourth rank.

26 Nxe4 Qxg4+

With a draw by repetition after either 27 Kh2 Qh3+ 28 Kg1 Qg4+ or 27 Kf1 Qxd1+ 28 Kg2 (28 Qe1?? Bh3+ –+) 28...Qg4+ =.

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White to play

999) Elmi – Ars. Davtyan

World Under-16 Ch, Mamaia 2022

59 Rg8+!

59 Ra1?? was played in the game, when Black exploited the poor position of the white rook to win White's b7-pawn: 59...Rd1+ 60 Rxd1 Qxd1+ 61 Kh2 Qd5 (Black prevents Rg8+; he can also play 61...Qb3 →) 62 Kg1 Kg7 63 Kh2 Qf7 0-1 (in view of 64 Kg1 Qc7 →).

59...Kf6 60 Rf8+!?

This rook check gives Black a chance to go wrong. The direct path to a draw is 60 Ra1 Rd1+ 61 Rxd1 Qxd1+ 62 Kh2 Qh5+ 63 Kg1 Qd1+ =.

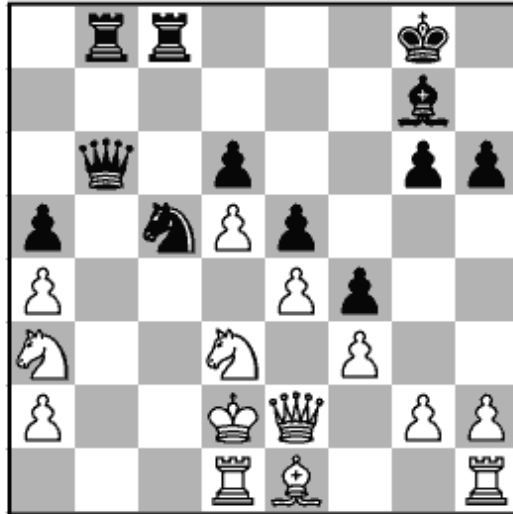
60...Ke6

Black could also play 60...Kg6 61 Rg8+ =, but must avoid 60...Ke5?? 61 Rxf5+!! Kxf5 (61...Qxf5 62 b8Q +-) 62 Ra5+ Kg6 63 Rxh5 Rb6 64 Re5 Rxb7 65 Rxe4 +-.

61 Ra1 Rd1+ 62 Rxd1 Qxd1+ 63 Kh2 Qh5+ 64 Kg1 Qd1+ =

Black delivers perpetual check.

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Black to play

1000) B. Jacobson – Aravindh
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

24...Qb3!!

Black infiltrates White's position and wins back his piece. Less effective is 24...Nxd3? 25 Nb5! Nxe1 26 Kxe1 Rc5 =+.

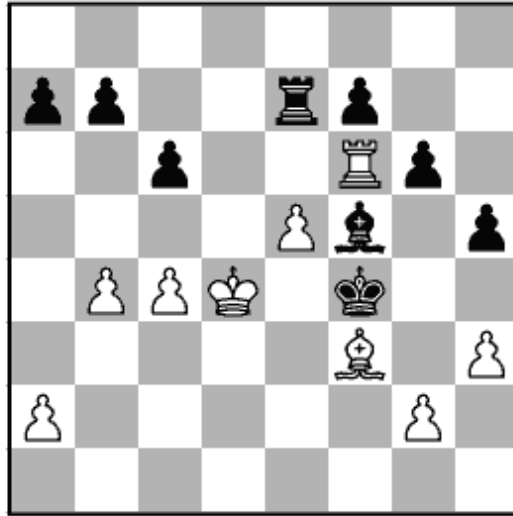
25 Rc1

Or: 25 axb3 Nxb3#; 25 Nxc5 Qb4+ 26 Kd3 Qd4+ 27 Kc2 Rxc5+ –+.

25...Qxa3 26 Rc2 Nxd3 27 Qd1 0-1

27...Rxc2+ 28 Qxc2 Rb2 –+.

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Black to play

1001) Zhao Yuanhe – Asis Gargatagli
Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2023

30...Rd7+ 31 Rd6

31 Kc3 Kxe5 32 Rxf5+ Kxf5 –+.

31...f6!! 0-1

32 Rxd7 (32 c5 fxe5+ 33 Kc3 e4 –+) 32...fxe5+ 33 Kc5 Bxd7 –+.

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First published in printed form in the UK by Gambit Publications Ltd in 2024

First Kindle edition published by Gambit Publications Ltd in 2023

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ISBN-13: 978-1-80504-060-6

ISBN-10: 1-80504-060-X

Printed edition:

ISBN-13: 978-1-80504-057-6

ISBN-10: 1-80504-057-X

Gambit Publications Ltd, 27 Queens Pine, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 0TL, England.

E-mail: info@gambitbooks.com

Website (regularly updated): www.gambitbooks.com

Edited by Graham Burgess

Kindle edition prepared by Graham Burgess

Cover image by Michael Nunn

Gambit Publications Ltd

Directors: Dr John Nunn GM, Murray Chandler GM and Graham Burgess FM

German Editor: Petra Nunn WFM

Bookkeeper: Andrea Burgess

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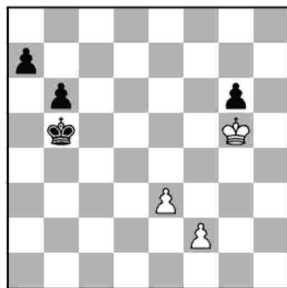
Rather than just being a picture of the current board position, every diagram is now also a link to a Lichess analysis board of that position. This enables the reader to move the pieces around, use a cloud engine, look up games that have reached this position, check it against seven-man tablebases, play it out against other humans or engines, and much more. You can also save variations and export the position to other chess software.

How this works will depend on your device and browser (if your device has no browser, or a very basic one, then the feature will not be available at all). If you have the Lichess app installed, then the link will be used by the app. Otherwise the Lichess website will be used. If you are offline, then the app will still work, but with fewer features.

On some devices, especially ones with a larger screen, you will have the option of a split screen view ([iOS info](#) / [Android info](#)), with the Kindle app and the Lichess app side-by-side. The following three screenshots are from an iPad mini. In the first we see seven-man tablebases being accessed, in the second an engine (Stockfish with NNUE), while the third illustrates the database function.

Ke4 Kc4 50 f4! b5 and 49 e4 a4 50 e5! a3 51 e6! Kc6 52 Kg6! Kd6 53 Kf7! a2 54 e7! a1Q 55 e8Q! Qa2+ lead to queen endings that are tablebase draws, but where White must play accurately.

46 Kxg4! Kc5 47 Kg5 Kxb5 (D)



White to play

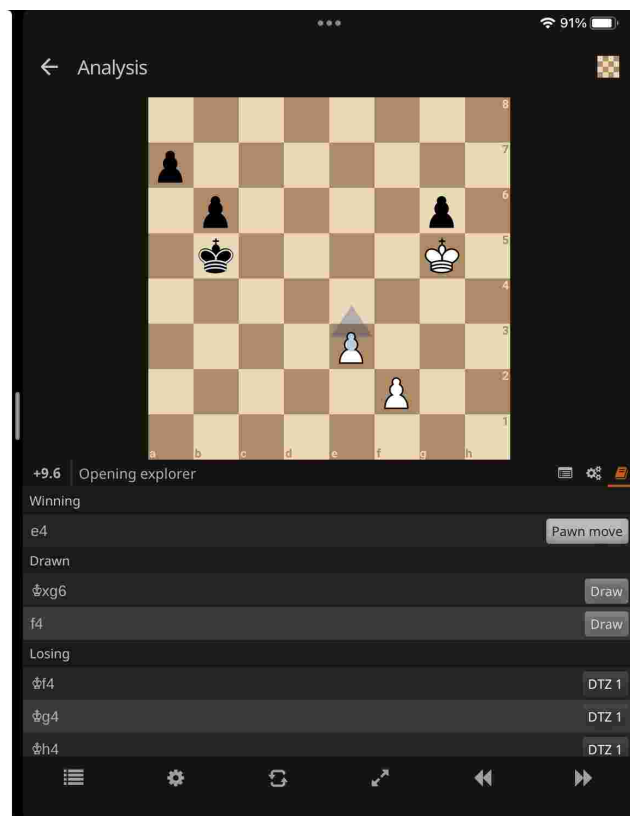
48 Kxg6?

The final blunder in the pawn endgame (but not in the game as a whole!). 48 e4! wins comfortably.

The move played leads to an objectively drawn queen ending. Play continued (apparently with very little time for either side) until the 103rd move, with the assessment changing repeatedly until Black lost on time in a then-drawn position.

Location 2896 of 4188

77%



ELEMENTS OF CHESS STRATEGY (CHESS: UKRAINIA...

"Quite a distinctive case is that fairly familiar situation which for brevity we may characterize as 'hunting the hunter'. This occurs when both players take delight in heading for the same position, since one of them has 'cast a net' while the other has noticed a hole in it." (Yakov Damsky).



Black to play

Fischer – Shocron
Mar del Plata 1969

Black's position is perfectly acceptable. At this point, after 38...Qd7! 39 Rxc4?! Qd3, with

Location 2912 of 4759

40...Rb1 to follow, he would have every chance of going over to the counter-attack. Shocron, however, decided to 'dig a pit' for his opponent – but fell into it himself:

38...Qd8? 39 Rxe6 Qc8

It's too late to back out: 39...fxe6 40 Qxe6+ Kf8 41 Qxe5 Kf7 42 Bc6 and 43 Bd5+.

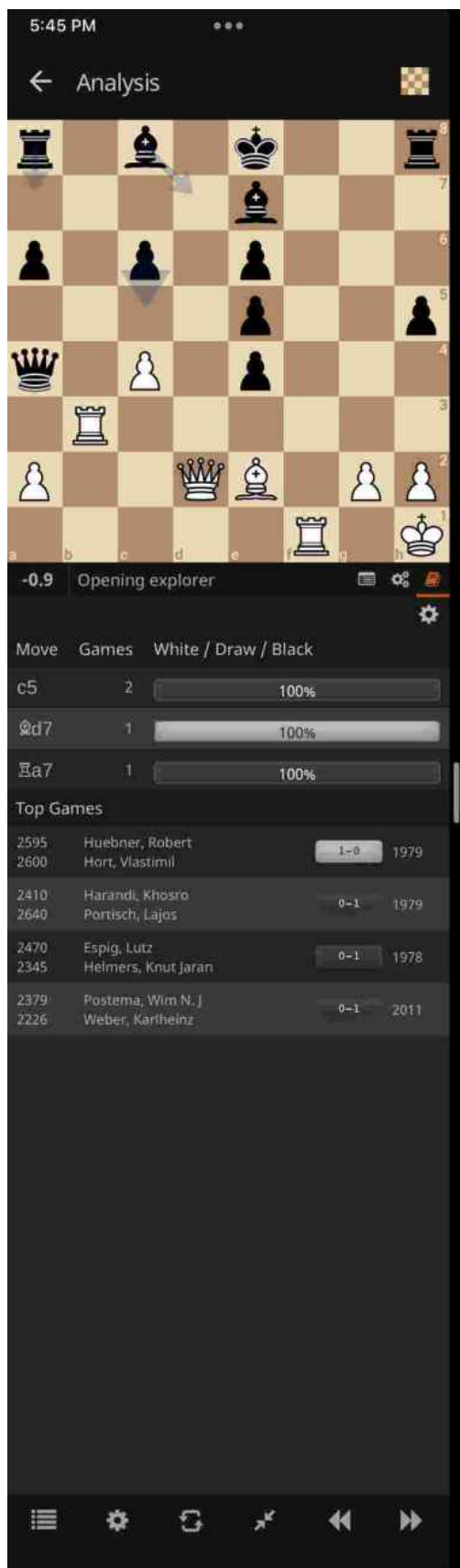
40 Bd7!! 1-0



White to play

Bannik – Tal
USSR Ch, Moscow 1957

68%



Game 40

L. Majstorović (Yugoslavia) – G. Sanakoev

'Serbia 30' International Tournament, 1983-5

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation [B97]

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2 Qxb2 9 Rb1 Qa3 10 f5 Nc6 11 fxe6 fxe6 12 Nxc6 bxc6 13 e5 dxe5 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Ne4 Be7 16 Be2 h5 17 Rb3 Qa4 18 c4 f5 19 0-0 fxe4 20 Kh1 (D)



Black to play

Modern research into the openings goes very deep. We suppress a smile when we say that both sides have selected the very best continuation right up to move 20, but the fact is that this position has been seen time and again. I shall not try to answer the question as to what impels the players to follow step by step along the same path that dozens of others have trodden before. Is it deep knowledge, or a fear of straying from the beaten track into a minefield? Is it simply the prospect of a full-blooded struggle with chances for both sides?

To be sure, White has a powerful attack while Black has a large material plus – though he would be glad to give up part of it (not all!) to bring his king to a safer zone. In this position Black generally used to transfer his rook from a8 to c7 and his queen to c5, in an attempt to shelter his king on the queenside – where it would be protected by his numerous pieces, one of which, after all, is an *extra* piece. For instance, a game Harandi-Portisch, Interzonal tournament, Rio de Janeiro 1979, went 20...Ra7 21 Qc2? [2022: modern computer analysis suggests 21 Qc3! as best, and leading to equality] (Black successfully defends in the event of 21 Rb8?! Rc7 22 Qc3? Rf8 23 Rxf8+ Bxf8 24 Qxe5 Qc3 ...)

Location 3431 of 5489 67%

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Fundamental Chess Endings

Now we proceed to more complicated examples, where extensive manoeuvring of the kings is necessary:

2.63 (a7 = 2a) +/-

Em.Lasker and G.Reichhelm
Chicago Tribune, 1901

The key squares are b5, g5 and h5. The shortest route between them for White is c4-d3-(e2/e3)-(f2/f3)-g3-h4 and for Black b6-c7-(d7/d8)-(e7/e8)-(f7/f6)-g6 (the vertical lines in the diagram indicate that the squares e1-e3 correspond to the squares d7-d8 and that f2/f3 corresponds to e7/e8 and g3 to f6/f7). On the kingside Black has more squares and we only number h4 = 6 = g6. If Black's king has arrived on the kingside he has the possibility of a counterattack against the white f-pawn, so White can't simply go back and try again. It is clear now that for the system on the queenside, the distance to the kingside is of interest. The squares on the d-file for White correspond to squares on the c-file for Black. It follows: c4 = 1 = b6, d3 = 2 = c7, c3 = 3 = b7, d2 = 4 = c8, c2 = 5 = b8. The remaining

Em.Lasker and G.Reichhelm

14.07 2 ♖b1 ♔a8 3 ♜b2 ♔b8 4 ♜c2 ♜b7 5 ♜c
1.58 2 ♜b2 ♔a8 3 ♜c3 ♜b7 4 ♜c4 ♜b6 5 ♜b3
1.58 2 ♜a2 ♜b7 3 ♜b2 ♔a8 4 ♜c3 ♜b7 5 ♜c4

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