



THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT 9



GM-group

The big question about whether we would have a Norwegian GM-norm in this tournament was answered with a “YES!” after only half an hour, as the still hot sensation man FM Benjamin Arvola got and immediately accepted a draw offer after 12 moves as white against GM Andrey Vovk.

The big question about whether we would also have a sensational Indian GM-norm was answered with another “YES” after 15 moves and three hours (!?), as FM Nihal Sarin about to come better in a complex opening against GM Alon Greenfeld also got and immediately accepted a draw offer.

For title norms this tournament had a double happy end, as Norwegian chess fans could celebrate Arvola’s IM-title and GM-norm – while 12 year old Sarin’s norm gave both him and the tournament worldwide attention.

The fight for the top prizes got less attention today, but was more exciting.

Due to his superior ELO performance of 2642, GM Andrey Vovk secured first prize honour with his first board draw. It turned out that he had to share the first prize money, as GM Boris Chatalbashev on second board some four hours later won in a patient and convincing style against GM Frode Urkedal.

While first and second prize was shared between Vovk and Chatalbashev at 6.5/9, Sweden’s new chess star Erik Blomqvist reached 6.0/9 and snatched third place with an Elo-performance slightly better than Sarin and Arvola, after winning in inspired style as white against IM John Paul Wallace.

The Swedes overall had a very strong finish, as today’s biggest surprise was FM Erik Hedman defeating GM Eduardas Rozentalis in a long and probably great game.

Sadly, the true chess gentleman Hedman at 5.5/9 still lacked 0.5 points (or more accurate 0.26 points) to make a decisive IM-norm at Fagernes.

Meanwhile WGM Marsel Efroimsky failed to make an IM-norm after losing a tight duel with GM Evgeny Postny, but this did not make much of a practical difference as Efroimsky already has archived all the norms needed to get the title.



First board game between FM Benjamin Arvola (2385) and GM Andrey Vovk (2636) was agreed drawn after 12 moves in a well-known kind of Sicilian position, balancing between slightly better for white and equal.

Eager to secure his Elo-gain and at least shared first prize (plus catching the plane back home to Ukraine), Vovk offered a draw. Arvola understandably did not say no thanks to his first GM-norm, and could be congratulated with his IM title plus the best chess result of his life – so far.

That Arvola completed his IM-title this tournament was much less sensational, but still a remarkable performance as the 24 year old Tromsø player completed his third IM-norm in the third straight tournament and within two months after the first one.

Note for the Norwegian chess history: We have never before had an International Master from the “far North”.

Scoring 6.0/8 after his delayed arrival, great-grandmaster Andrey Vovk was a very well deserved tournament winner with the best chess moves and the best Elo performance.



Bulgarian GM Boris Chatalbashev (2546) as white against much younger Norwegian GM Frode Urkedal (2552) went for a positional and sound 4.Nf3 Nimzo-Indian line, leading to a hanging pawns position in which white was slightly better.

As white played 17.b4 black should have allowed white to exchange the pawn at c5 and played on with an isolated pawn on d5, as white after 17.--- c4? got a strong bishop in the diagonal a1-h8 and promising

pressure against both the hanging pawns.

The pressure increased as black after 20.Bxf6 gxf6 also had to defend two f-pawns.

24.--- Re5? was the decisive mistake as white could answer with a tactical 25.Nxc4!, but black anyway had trouble saving all his weak pawns then.

White became so thankful winning a pawn on c4 that he immediately and unnecessarily gave back a pawn on h3. The remaining endgame with two rooks, one knight and five pawns on each side still was more or less lost for black due to his wrecked structure with four pawn islands.

Obviously enjoying such technical endgames, Chatalbashev increased the pressure and after 40 moves had reached a totally won rook endgame.

The Bulgarian GM following his slow start successfully continued in his tractor style all the way out, and in the end became one out of two players at +4 and one out of only four undefeated players. Shared first place at 6.5/9 came a bit lucky as his ELO performance of 2577 was only the fifth best of this GM-group. Still he could of course be very well satisfied about the sum of points, the final rank, the ELO – and not to forget the money.

Urkedal on the other hand never came close to his very impressive play and score from last year, and ended up with a disappointing performance of 2445.

The mature-playing whiz kid FM Nihal Sarin (2424) following a great tournament needed only a draw as white against GM Alon Greenfeld (2550) to complete his first GM norm. He did not get it for free, as Greenfeld surprised his opponent with a rare line from the Owen Defence and went for an unbalanced position.

9.Bc2?! was a bit careful from white, and black after g5-g4 followed by 10.--- 0-0-0 was slightly better

according to the computer programs. Nihal Sarin however is no computer slave.

Trusting his positional and human understanding he built up a big center with f4, castled long himself, and even according to the computer programs he was slightly better when accepting a draw offer after 15 moves.

Although short in moves this game was a tight three-hour battle, as white spent 87 minutes and black 82 minutes on the clock. Greenfeld following this draw landed on a solid result just around his Elo, while 12 year old Nihal Sarin sensationally finished shared third in the tournament and made his first GM norm. Remarkably, Sarin at Fagernes scored +1=5 against six GM opponents above 2540, and was never really in danger of losing any game.

It seems very likely that he will become a GM well before next year's Fagernes tournament.



American IM Awonder Liang (2483) as white against Hungarian GM Peter Prohaszka (2592) went for a Caro-Kann Two Knights Attack, in which white disrupt black's pawn structure slightly with 5.Nxf6+ exf6 and then exchanges the queens on e2.

The position later remained about in balance until black after 17 moves too greedy snatched a pawn on b2 with his knight. White should have exchanged one set of rooks before taking back the pawn on b7 a few moves later, but anyway came better.

While both players spent much time on the clock, black on the board succeeded exchanging off most of white's advantage. Both players had four moves minutes left for eight moves in a balanced but still interesting endgame with rook and bishops versus rook and knight, when a draw suddenly was agreed on white's suggestion after 32 moves.

All this week having a hard time winning games, third seeded Prohaszka after his delayed arrival stayed undefeated but landed on 5.5/9 and lost a few points of Elo.

14 year old Liang despite a demanding start succeeded winning a few Elo points on his first Norwegian adventure.

IM Erik Blomqvist (2548) and IM John-Paul Wallace (2404) meanwhile discussed a Slav opening line in which black first did fine after getting the time needed to place his bishop outside the pawn chain with Bg4. White's pawn offensive with e4-e5-f4-f5 first did not give him much, but as black played too slowly white still got a positional grip after placing his knight on the strong c5 square.

26.Ne6! was a logical and promising sacrifice, which gave white a winning initiative for free as black did not accept it.

Sacrificing the same knight on d5 later was not necessary, but still worked out very well.

The remaining position with queen and seven pawns versus rook, bishop, knight and four pawns was materially unclear but positionally just winning, as black had an airy king and passive pieces.

1-0 after 41 moves- as black got the time to realize he would never ever get out his paralyzed pieces.

Blomqvist's stubborn will to win in the end brought him a 2604-performance and a third place, while Wallace despite this last round collapse reached a solid 2463-performance.



Efroimsky vs Postny (front) and Wallace vs Blomqvist (back)

The Israeli duel between GM Evgeny Postny (2606) and WGM Marsel Efroimsky (2300) was a tight Queen's Gambit Tarrasch, in which black for the first two hours seemed close to the draw needed to make an IM-norm out of this. White still had a slight

initiative all the way, and black still had some problems defending her passed pawn on d4 in the endgame with queen, rook, knight and six pawns versus queen, rook, bishop and six pawns – especially after she misplaced her knight on h5.

Postny also made a few inaccuracies along the road, but still won the d4-pawn and reached a won rook endgame after 50 moves.

Despite their internal game result, start number 2 Postny scored well below expected and start number 21 Efroimsky well above expected in the tournament.

Efroimsky anyway did not need another IM-norm, and it should be a very good sign for her Elo that she could make a 2412-performance after wasting chances for more in about half her games.

FM Erik Hedman (2367) as white against GM Eduardas Rozentalis (2540) finally made a successful white preparation, entering a Bogó-Indian opening line in which white kept a queenside space advantage while black failed to come up with anything dangerous on the kingside.

After the queens and the center pawns were exchanged, white's pair of bishops gave him a pleasant pressure.

Giving up a pawn on d6 to exchange off one of the bishops probably was a mistake from black, as white later was just a sound pawn up.

The minor piece endgame after 40 moves following this was more or less winning for white, as he had an extra kingside pawn plus the better minor piece. Following what probably was a great game by the FM, the GM anyway was lost when he blundered with 47.--- Kd6? - overlooking that he could not stop white's passed pawn after 48.h5! gxh5? 49.g6.

Hedman had lost three white games earlier in the tournament, and so this great last round win was too little and too late for an IM-norm. In the end, he lacked 0.26 points to reach a 2450-performance that would have ended all doubts about his IM-title.

As GM Rozentalis had wasted way too many chances against lower rated opponents, this became one of the very few tournaments in which he did not make an IM-norm.



The teenager IM duel between Johan-Sebastian Christiansen (2429) and Valery Kazakovskiy (2454) started as a Scotch opening, in which white sacrificed his pawn on e4 after 10 moves.

Although black had a strong knight on e5 the position later was about balanced as white had a pair of bishops, and black's extra pawn on d5 was one out of two isolated d-pawns.

Although white still had his extra pawn on d5, the position due to opposite-

coloured bishops was about in balance when black after 22 moves exchanged his knight on e5 for a bishop on d3 and offered a draw.

18 year old Christiansen landed on an about average result after accepting the offer, while 16 year old Kazakovskiy never fully recovered from his unexpected first round loss and at 5.0/9 came a full point below expected score.

The Norwegian teenager duel between IM Lars Oskar Hauge (2450) and FM Eivind Risting (2250) was a Nimzo-Indian Rubinstein line in which white first came slightly better due to black's isolated pawn on d5.

Black however did fine after he was allowed to destroy white's queenside pawn structure with a pseudo sacrifice on c3.

Following more tactical exchanges the young lions landed in a balanced rook and minor piece endgame, in which black later sacrificed a pawn to get a passed and threatening b-pawn. Sacrificing a piece on the passed pawn to force a draw was not necessary, but still an elegant finish from white.

18 year old Hauge despite his very promising start landed on a performance just below expected, while 16 year old Risting without coming close to a second IM-norm made a solid plus result with a performance of 2370.



Another Norwegian teenager duel between FM Lucas Ranaldi (2309) and FM Johannes Haug (2297) from some kind of Reti transposed into a very Sicilian-like position. Black following a lot of exchanges came better in the endgame with two rooks, one bishop and six pawns on each side.

Exchanging bishops with 28.Be3? was a mistake, as the bishop was more important for white's defence than for black's attack. Probably the double rook endgame afterwards was a draw, but if so it was a difficult one as black had the better pawns and the more active rooks.

The single rook endgame was very passive from a white point of view, and definitely went lost as Ranaldi short of time blundered with 39.Ke2?. Haug efficiently used his chance to intervene on the kingside with 39.--- Kh4 and 40.--- Kh3, and soon won a second pawn with a decisive advantage.

16 year old Ranaldi until the bitter end had a pole out tournament this time, while 16 year old Haug after pole in both the last rounds ended on a very promising performance of 2404.

FM Jari Järvenpää (2244) versus Trygve Dahl (2099) lasted five hours and 56 minutes, and became the last game of this year's tournament. It started as a fairly balanced Sicilian with 3.Bb5+. Black came better after white wasted time with a strange Bg5-Be3-Bxf4-maneuver around move 20-23. Later black kept an initiative for 30 moves. White apparently was about to equalize when he succeeded exchanging queens on f1 after 51 moves, but as he immediately allowed an unfavourable rook exchange, black still got an advantage with rook, bishop, knight and five pawns versus rook, two knight and five pawns. Black was clearly better after winning a pawn on a6, but in the middle of the sixth hour made things difficult for himself by inviting white to establish a passed c-pawn. After exchanging the remaining rooks, black forced himself to give up the bishop on the passed pawn. Black got two pawns with an active king, and with only three minutes left on the clock white had a hard time realizing his extra knight in the knight endgame. Draw finally agreed after 80 moves, as white was about to run out of time and did run out of pawns.

16 year old Dahl despite some up and downs did very well with a performance of 2259 at Fagernes. 36 year old Järvenpää lost speed after his first round win, but in the end still won a few points of Elo and became the best Finn of this group.

GM Heikki Westerinen (2314) versus Garg Aradhya (2315) was an interesting generation duel. From a Ruy Lopez opening the game through a stream of more or less sound exchanges balanced all the way into a rook endgame with seven pawns on each side. Black still had the more active rook, and went on to win a pawn after 31 moves. True to his nature Westerinen defended actively, sacrificing his kingside pawns to establish two connected passed pawns on the queenside.



While black's extra pawn did not change much in this situation, his rapidly advancing e-pawn made all the difference.

Aradhya in the fifth hour worried a bit too much about white's queenside pawn and gave away a clearcut win in the passed pawn race. After exchanging the passed pawns he still landed safely in an endgame with rook, f- and h-pawn versus rook and h-pawn – easily winning as white's king was left offside.

72 year old Westerinen following many hard-fought games landed on a disappointing 2231-performance. 16 year Aradhya was never close to an IM-norm and lost a few Elo-points in the end, but at least got the pleasure of defeating a GM before starting his travel back home to India.



The FM duel between Luis Couso (2287) and Ward Al-Tarbosh (2219) was a Classical French one, in which white due to black's more exposed king came somewhat better in the middle game.

25.Nxf5! was a strong pseudo sacrifice, but as white chose the wrong continuation afterwards black reached a drawish (if still unpleasant) position with queen, rook, bishop and four pawns against queen, rook, knight and four pawns.

35.--- Rb2? was a mistake that could have given white a decisive attack with 36.Qh8, but as white missed his chances before 40 moves it all petered out with a drawn minor piece endgame.

Al-Tarbosh continues his advances from the last nine months, while Couso following his inefficient final rounds ended nearly one point below his expected score.

Frode Lillevold (2135) as white against FM Anders Hobber (2297) established a space advantage by playing c5 followed by b5-b6 in a Slav. Black still came better in the middle game, as white had to take care of his loose pawns on d4 and g4. Black was much better after winning the pawn on g4 in move 24, but about to run short of time he in move 31 blundered back the pawn and offered a draw. Forgetting that he would still be worse due to his pawn weakness on d4, white played on. The natural 35.--- Ne6? was a mistake as white could save a draw with a tactical 36.Nxd5!!, but missing that chance white instead lost the d4-pawn and stumbled into a hopeless knight endgame. The end

somehow was a sad one as Lillevold landed slightly below expected after losing this game, while Hobber ended clearly below expected despite winning it.

Christian Laverton (2159) and Mikael Aroven (2097) investigated a Bogó-Indian fianchetto line, in which white much due to his poor fianchetto bishop had nothing. As black did nothing, white after exchanging queens and opening the kingside with f4-f5 finally got some advantage.

Still the position was drawish before black gave white a passed e-pawn with 30... f5?.

The remaining rook and knight endgame still was no way an easy win, but Laverton played patiently on and got a decisive advantage as he just after 40 moves succeeded winning black's queenside pawns with his knight.

In this game as well the end was a bit sad as Laverton scored far below expected despite winning this game, while Aroven scored far below expected because he lost this game.

Håkon Bentsen (2074) as white against Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2074) went for an untheoretical 3.b3 in a Sicilian, and offered a draw after 9.c3.

A bit unusual, the queens and rooks all were exchanged before any of the minor pieces in this game. Black pushed on for a win into the fourth hour, but when he finally won a pawn, the opposite coloured bishops guaranteed white a draw.

3.0/9 gave a performance just as expected for Bentsen, while 13 year old Ingebretsen won a few more points despite failing to win this game.



Willy Kristiansen (2055) versus WFM Anita Grønnestad (1966) was a Catalan in which white came slightly better after regaining the pawn on c4. White remained better in the middle game but found no way to use his advantage, and offered a draw after a tame move 25.

Grønnestad as the lowest rated in this field scored about as expected, while Kristiansen for sure hoped for a performance above expected after getting his unexpected

chance to join the GM group.

IM David Eggleston (2394) did not feel fit to play the last round, and as all the other 34 players were happy to play the arbiters accepted to give him a walk over loss. His score and performance before this (and after this) was just around expected.

GM-group

Final standings

Pl	Name	GP	n-Rtg	i-Rtg	Club	Fed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	i-Perf	i-Performance	
1	GM Andriy Vovk			2636			wo	+△21	+△22	+△17	-△08	-△02	+△03	-△04	-△05	6.5	2642	2642 (+1.80)	
2	GM Boris Chatalbashev			2546				-△25	-△14	+△24	+△20	+△05	-△01	-△04	+△06	+△13	6.5	2577	2577 (+5.20)
3	GM Erik Blomqvist			2548	Nordstrand			+△26	-△22	+△07	-△08	-△04	+△17	-△01	+△13	+△11	6.0	2604	2604 (+7.00)
4	FM Sarin Nihal			2424				+△30	+△20	-△13	-△05	-△03	+△08	-△02	-△01	-△07	6.0	2599	2599 (+21.50)
5	FM Benjamin Arvola	M	2372	2385	Tromsø			+△31	+△09	-△17	-△04	-△02	-△06	+△22	+△08	-△01	6.0	2592	2592 (+49.80)
6	GM Peter Prohaszka			2592			wo	-△18	+△14	-△12	-△11	-△05	+△16	-△02	-△09	5.5	2529	2529 (-5.50)	
7	GM Alon Greenfeld			2550				-△14	+△25	-△03	+△10	+△12	-△18	-△05	-△09	-△04	5.5	2522	2522 (-2.20)
7	GM Evgeny Postny			2606				+△27	+△11	+△12	-△03	-△01	-△04	-△07	-△05	+△19	5.5	2522	2522 (-8.40)
9	IM Awonder Liang			2483				+△15	-△05	+△30	-△13	+△18	+△20	-△11	-△07	-△06	5.5	2493	2493 (+2.80)
10	FM Erik Hedman			2367				+△33	-△17	+△21	-△07	+△15	+△27	-△13	+△24	+△18	5.5	2432	2432 (+8.50)
11	IM John Paul Wallace			2404				+△23	-△08	-△15	+△29	-△06	-△22	-△09	+△17	-△03	5.0	2463	2463 (+7.30)
12	IM Johan-Sebastian Christiansen	M	2397	2429	Vålerenga			+△28	+△29	-△08	-△06	-△07	-△19	+△21	-△15	-△16	5.0	2460	2460 (+3.90)
13	GM Frode Olav Olsen Urkedal	M	2519	2552	1911			-△19	+△36	-△04	-△09	-△17	+△15	+△10	-△03	-△02	5.0	2445	2445 (-11.80)
14	FM Johannes Haug	M	2280	2297	Nordstrand			-△07	-△02	-△06	+△36	-△23	-△29	-△19	+△25	+△27	5.0	2404	2404 (+23.60)
15	FM Eivind Olav Risting	M	2240	2250	1911			-△09	-△31	-△16	+△24	-△10	-△13	+△32	+△20	-△17	5.0	2370	2370 (+27.20)
16	IM Valeriy Kazakovskiy			2454				-△21	-△19	-△15	+△31	-△22	+△23	-△06	+△29	-△12	5.0	2342	2342 (-11.50)
17	IM Lars Oskar Hauge	M	2467	2450	OSS			+△24	+△10	-△05	-△01	+△13	-△03	-△18	-△11	-△15	4.5	2433	2433 (-1.80)
18	GM Eduardas Rozentalis			2540				-△36	-△06	-△29	+△19	-△09	-△07	-△17	-△12	-△10	4.5	2415	2415 (-14.30)
19	WGM Marsel Efroimski			2300				-△13	-△16	-△11	-△15	+△32	-△12	+△14	-△22	-△05	4.5	2412	2412 (+25.80)
20	Garg Aradhya			2315				+△32	-△04	+△23	-△02	+△21	-△09	-△25	-△15	+△29	4.5	2297	2297 (-3.80)
21	FM Jari Jarvenpaa			2244				+△16	-△01	-△10	+△34	-△20	+△35	-△12	+△30	-△23	4.5	2277	2277 (+6.60)
22	IM David J Eggleston			2394				+△35	-△03	-△01	+△26	-△16	-△11	-△05	-△19		4.0	2390	2390 (-0.20)
23	Trygve Dahl	M	2124	2099	Hell			-△11	+△27	-△20	+△25	-△14	-△16	-△29	+△35	-△21	4.0	2259	2259 (+70.40)
24	FM Ward Al-Tarbosh	1	2145	2219	OSS			-△17	+△33	-△02	-△15	+△31	+△26	-△27	-△10	-△25	4.0	2249	2249 (+6.20)
25	FM Luis Couso			2287				-△02	-△07	-△31	-△23	+△33	+△30	-△20	-△14	-△24	4.0	2211	2211 (-18.00)
26	FM Anders Hobber	M	2283	2297	Akademisk			-△03	-△35	+△34	-△22	-△29	-△24	wo	-△25	+△30	4.0	2186	2186 (-23.80)
27	FM Lucas Ranaldi	M	2273	2309	1911			-△08	-△23	-△33	+△30	+△36	-△10	-△24	+△32	-△14	4.0	2139	2139 (-37.00)
28	Christian Laverton	M	2134	2159	Trondheim			-△12	-△34	-△32	-△33	-△30	wo	-△31	-△26	+△35	4.0	2048	2048 (-25.60)
29	GM Heikki M.J. Westerinen			2314				+△34	-△12	-△15	-△11	-△26	-△14	+△23	-△16	-△20	3.5	2231	2231 (-9.40)
30	Frode Lillevold	M	2078	2135	Strømmen			-△04	+△32	-△09	-△27	+△28	-△25	+△34	-△21	-△26	3.0	2119	2119 (-6.20)
31	Håkon Bentsen	1	1981	2074	Molde			-△05	-△15	-△25	-△16	-△24	-△33	-△28	-△34	-△32	3.0	2075	2075 (-3.20)
32	Jens E Ingebretsen	2	1973	2032	Holmestrand			-△20	-△30	-△28	+△35	-△19	+△34	-△15	-△27	-△31	3.0	2053	2053 (+6.00)
33	Willy M Kristiansen	M	2088	2055	Stavanger			-△10	-△24	-△27	-△28	-△25	-△31	-△35	wo	-△34	3.0	1991	1991 (-14.20)
34	WFM Anita Grønnestad	1	1922	1966	Bergens			-△29	+△28	-△26	-△21	wo	-△32	-△30	-△31	-△33	2.5	1970	1970 (-1.40)
35	Mikael Aroven			2097				-△22	-△26	-△36	-△32	wo	-△21	+△33	-△23	-△28	2.5	1941	1941 (-30.80)
36	IM Petter Haugli	M	2228	2257	Moss			-△18	-△13	+△35	-△14	-△27					1.5	2284	2284 (+0.40)

Ranking:
1 Score: Score (=Matchpoints in team tournaments)
2 i-Perf.: i-Performance

IM-group

Final standings

Pl	Name	GP	n-Rtg	i-Rtg	Club	Fed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	Wins	Blacks	Mutual	Mut. color	i-Performance	
1	IM Espen Lie	M	2419	2449	Asker			-△05	+△09	+△08	+△06	+△07	+△10	-△04	-△02	-△03	7.0	5	5		2557 (+12.60)	
2	GM Ralf Akesson			2452				+△08	-△07	-△04	-△03	+△09	+△06	+△10	-△01	+△05	6.5	5	5		2502 (+7.10)	
3	GM Roeland Pruijssers			2504				-△09	+△06	+△10	+△02	-△05	-△05	+△07	-△04	-△01	6.0	4	4		2456 (-4.00)	
4	FM Sebastian Mihajlov	M	2348	2367	OSS			-△06	+△10	-△02	+△08	+△08	-△07	-△01	-△03	-△09	6.0	3	4		2471 (+25.80)	
5	FM Tor Fredrik Kaasen	M	2229	2410	Vålerenga			-△01	-△08	+△07	-△04	-△05	+△09	-△06	+△10	-△02	4.5	3	4		2341 (-7.70)	
6	IM Nicolai Getz	M	2358	2403	OSS			-△04	-△03	-△09	-△01	-△10	-△02	+△05	+△08	+△07	4.0	3	5		2299 (-11.70)	
7	FM Kalle Niemi			2337				+△10	-△02	-△05	+△08	-△01	-△04	-△03	+△09	-△06	4.0	3	4		2306 (-6.40)	
8	FM Sondre Merkesvik	M	2178	2239	Bergens			-△02	-△05	-△01	-△07	-△04	+△03	-△09	-△06	-△10	2.5	1	4		2194 (-12.00)	
9	FM Mikkel Manosri Jacobsen			2219				-△03	-△01	-△06	-△10	-△02	-△05	-△08	-△07	-△04	2.5	0	5		2196 (-7.20)	
10	Thomas Nyland	1	2053	2104	Kristiansund			-△07	-△04	-△03	-△05	+△09	+△06	-△01	-△02	-△05	-△08	2.0	1	5		2155 (+7.20)

Ranking:
1 Score: Score (=Matchpoints in team tournaments)
2 Wins: No of won games
3 Blacks: Colors (fewer white games)
4 Mutual: Result in mutual encounter
5 Mut. color: Color in mutual encounter

IM-group

The excitement of the remaining IM norm chance was all over within five minutes after FM Sebastian Mihajlov arrived, as he at move 4 offered and got a draw as black against FM Mikkel Manosri Jacobsen.

The struggle for the first prize on the other hand continued for four hours more. IM Espen Lie following a too loose sacrifice was reported lost against GM Roeland Puijssers, but following some time trouble mistakes Lie still saved the draw and assured his unshared first prize.

GM Ralf Åkesson used his chance to snatch an unshared second prize by squeezing a win out of a drawish endgame against FM Tor Kristian Kaasen. Behind Lie at 7.0/9 and Åkesson at 6.5/9, Puijssers at 6.0/9 was declared third ahead of Mihajlov as he had won more games.

On the second half of the list, IM Nicolai Getz reached 4.0/6 and sixth place after turning the board and winning another messy battle as white against FM Kalle Niemi. Thomas Nyland succeeded saving a lost rook endgame against FM Sondre Merkesvik, but finished unshared tenth although he scored above expected.



Espen Lie

First board meeting between GM Roeland Puijssers (2504) and IM Espen Lie (2449) started as a Pirc opening, in which white following the tournament situation played hard for a win with f4-f5. Black probably was fine if not better due to his counterplay on the queenside, but became too optimistic when he at move 18-19 sacrificed first a knight on b3 and then an exchange on c4 to establish two passed pawns on c3 and b3.

White first handled the situation very well, and returned a bishop for two pawns to stay an exchange up with a clearly better position.

White looked clearly winning around move 30,

as he was a sound exchange up and about to win black's pawn on a6.

For some mysterious reason white however decided to exchange one set of rooks instead of taking the pawn, and during mutual time pressure black's queen and bishop later got all the more play on the dark squares.

With less than three minutes left on the clock Puijssers threw away his remaining advantage with 40.h3?, further weakening the dark kingside squares. As white's pawn structure collapsed, he was three moves later happy to get his draw offer accepted. Lie afterwards wondered whether he could have played on for a win in the end, but following his lost position earlier in the game of course still was very satisfied with 7.0/9 and an unshared first place.

Espen's three GM norms were confirmed by FIDE a few days before this tournament, hence he lacked from the start "only" 51 ELO points to get the title. Finishing ahead both the GMs in this tournament, he now lacks "only" 38 points. First seeded Puijssers of course was not satisfied to finish shared third with 6.0/9, but admitted his play had been much too shaky.

GM Ralf Åkesson (2452) and FM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2410) discussed a King's Indian Sämisch line in which black should have sufficient compensation after white exchanges the queens on d8 and takes a pawn at c5.

As black eventually won back the pawn on b2, the endgame with rook, bishop and five versus rook, knight and five was very drawish.

Allowing white to exchange rooks was a mistake from black, as white's bishop was better than black's knight with pawns on both wings.

Probably this still was a draw. Kaasen however made another mistake as he exchanged his a7-pawn against the white d5-pawn, and later Åkesson instructively succeeded winning due to his bishop and passed a-pawn.

Åkesson following a slow start was lucky and clever to make 4.5 point out of the last five rounds, and declared himself very well satisfied with 6.5/9 and an unshared second place.

Ambitious young Kaasen obviously was dissatisfied to finish fifth 1.5 points behind his planned IM-norm after losing this long game, but fortunately kept his mood very well and remains an optimist about his chances to complete the IM-title soon.



The game between FM Mikkel Manosri Jacobsen (2219) and FM Sebastian Mihajlov (2367) was agreed draw after five minutes and four moves, in a symmetric Slav Exchange line. The outcome no way was unexpected – as white had a long way back home to Denmark and black a short way to the 6/9 needed for a norm.

Jacobsen following this draw finished near his expected score despite a pole out tournament, while Mihajlov was very happy to stay undefeated and complete his third IM-norm.

One of his earlier norms included only seven games, and following today's draw he did not pass the 2400 mark (his live ELO peaked at 2397 before last round). Still the title feels close for Mihajlov after this performance, as he is now lacking only one norm and seven ELO points.

IM Nicolai Getz (2403) versus FM Kalle Niemi (2337) was a rather unorthodox Catalan, in which black went for a direct bayonet attack with h5-h4 on the kingside. Both players made several mistakes in a



positionally complex and tactically loaded position, but as black made fewer mistakes he around moves 28-33 had a decisive kingside attack.

Counterattacking with 32.e5! might have been theoretically dubious, but still it was practically a good choice as black to win had to find the far from obvious 32.--- c4!! > 33.--- Bc5.

Short of time black instead went for 32.--- Rh8??, and found himself lost after white

closed the h-file in front of his own king and opened the f-file against black's king with 33.Nh4!.

White later made the better calculations in a time trouble mess, and was a rook up with the safer king after 40 moves.

Getz had a disappointing tournament but still repaired a lot by winning the last three rounds, while Niemi instead went from a modest plus result to a modest minus result as he failed to complete his won position today.

Thomas Nyland (2104) as white against FM Sondre Merkesvik (2239) went for a slow 1.e3, and later transposed into a Colle system – which turned into some kind of Dutch Stonewall in advance as white played 9.f4?! and 10.Ne5.

Conditions were not the best as black could soon kick away the knight with 11...f6. The position opened soon afterwards, and tactical exchanges left a position about in balance after 23 moves.

Black came slightly better as white was too eager to exchange of the queens, but the rook endgame with five pawns on each side still should have been a draw.

In a struggle circling around white's isolated pawn on d5, black's Ke7-Kd6 definitely was a better plan than white's h3-g4-gxf5, hence black at move 39 won the pawn.

White still got some counterplay on the kingside, and the game culminated with an exciting pawn countdown as white had passed f- and h-pawns, while black had a- and b-pawns.

Reportedly it was first a win for black, then a draw for one move, then winning for black after he sacrificed his rook on white's f-pawn – and then finally it ended up a draw as black took the safe solution and won back the rook, instead of playing a probably won endgame with queen versus rook and advanced pawn.

Merkesvik had a pole out tournament almost all the way, but 2.5/9 still was no disaster for the eight rated. Rated more than 100 points below the second lowest rated and invited in a substitute three days before the start of this tournament, Nyland after all declared himself satisfied with one game win and two points.



Elo-group

16 year old Aleksander Lindbøl completed the best tournament of his life so far with a seventh convincing win, and at 8.0/9 he very well deserved the unshared first prize.

Second board was a relatively short draw between Tor Wetle Hoem and Anton Darnell, which turned out to assure second prize to Darnell and third to Hoem.



The remaining excitement about the first prize of Aleksander Lindbøl (1971) did not last long, as his virtually blind opponent Kai-Roger Johansen (1929) for once also lost sight on the chessboard – blundering a piece with 14.--- Qc7??. as white could reply 15.Bxg4 Nf6xg4 16.Bg5xe7.

Lindbøl got the chance to confirm his 8.0/9 and unshared first prize with a classical smothered mate with 30.Qg8+! Rxg8 31.Nf7 mate.

Realizing that first prize was anyway out of his reach, 19 year old Anton Darnell (1959) confirmed his unshared second prize by drawing Tor Wetle Hoem (1965) as black after 19 moves – in a balanced but still interesting King's Indian position.



The fourth prize and the last game of the group was decided on the third board: A loose search for a kingside attack from the Hell chairman Torbjørn Dahl (1962) gave 16 year old Alta girl Ingrid Greibrokk (1929) a chance to win decisive material on the queenside early in the middle game. As she missed her chances then, white got a powerful attack and after nearly five hours went on to win the endgame with queen and bishop versus two rooks.

Third and fourth prize following this went to Hoem and Dahl, as the players with the best Buchholz on 6.5/9, while Jonas Rasmussen (1859) and Erling Skjelstad (1671) made solid plus results on ELO and also reached 6.5/9 after winning their games in the last round.

Erling Skjelstad's game against Maria Næss (1659) from the first move was a remarkable illustration of the constructive attitude in this open:

Both players were offered a walkover win as their opponents due to illness could not play the last round, but preferred instead to play a game against each other.



Maria Næss



Mansoor - Mjaaland

First rated Afras Mansoor (2037) made a strong spurt by winning his three last games, but still only reached 6.0/9 and tenth place.

Second seeded Alf Lundberg (2011) definitely played much better on his guitar this time, and despite his promising start landed in the crowd at 5.0/9 after luckily scraping a draw in the last round.

Super veteran Aage Mella (1724) got tired in the end and lost his two final games, but 3.0/7 still is very respectable from an 83 year old man – especially as he spent two of the evenings playing the rapid chess tournament.

Unrated surprise man Rune Kleiven Rynning also lost both his final games, but still qualified for a promising first ELO of 1547.

Elo-group

Final standings

Pl	Name	GPn	Rtgi	Rtg	Club	Fed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	Med	Buchh	Buchholz	Berger	i-Performance
1	Aleksander Lindbøl	2	1907	1971	1911		+23	+38	+12	+11	+07	+03	-02	-09	+08	8.0	40.5	51.5	45.00	2236	(+101.20)
2	Anton Darnell	1	1872	1959	OSS		+44	+50	+18	-07	-09	+11	-01	+04	-03	7.0	39.0	50.5	37.25	2099	(+32.60)
3	Tor Wetle Hoem	1	1866	1965	Molde		-34	+30	+25	+17	+15	-01	+16	+16	-02	6.5	38.0	50.0	34.50	1943	(-0.20)
4	Torbjørn Dahl	2	1814	1962	Hell		+32	+31	-11	+38	+28	-05	+14	-02	+09	6.5	37.0	48.0	32.25	1988	(+8.40)
5	Jonas H Rasmussen	2	1799	1859	Bergens		+20	+43	+10	+44	+13	-04	-09	+27	+11	6.5	36.0	46.0	31.25	1947	(+25.60)
6	Erling Skjelstad	2	1577	1671	SMPOAA		-42	+60	+17	+12	+29	+07	-11	+15	+39	6.5	30.5	38.5	26.75	2008	(+59.40)
7	Mathias Nesheim	2	1900	1996	OSS		+25	+26	+08	-02	-01	-06	-19	+36	+24	6.0	39.5	51.5	31.00	1917	(-13.60)
8	Kai-Roger Johansen	1	1924	1929	NSSF		+38	+17	-07	-19	+36	+12	-16	+14	-01	6.0	37.0	49.0	29.75	1941	(+5.20)
9	Ingrid Greibrokk	1	1862	1929	Alta		+48	+26	+42	-13	-02	wo	+05	-01	-04	6.0	36.5	44.5	27.75	1971	(+20.80)
10	Afras Mansoor	2	1939	2037	Soråshøgda		+19	-18	-08	-36	+40	-34	+41	+35	+20	6.0	30.5	40.5	26.25	1827	(-72.80)
11	Hans Rånby	1	1891				+45	+37	+04	-01	+22	-02	+06	-17	-05	5.5	40.5	51.0	26.75	1881	(+0.80)
12	Sara Næss	2	1791	1909	Vålerenga		+27	+34	-01	-06	+19	-08	+39	-24	-16	5.5	36.0	47.5	25.00	1825	(-31.60)
13	Alena Ayzenberg	2	1660	1992	Bergens		+39	+33	+14	-09	-05	-17	+32	+19	+30	5.5	35.5	45.5	25.25	1831	(-30.80)
14	Snorre Skrede	1	1819	1920	Sandnes		+41	+28	-13	-22	+42	+21	-04	-08	+27	5.5	34.0	44.0	24.50	1887	(-1.20)
15	Ingvar Gundersen	1	1825				-43	+37	+39	+20	-03	-27	+21	-06	+29	5.5	33.0	43.0	24.25	1741	(-16.20)
16	Tomi Tocklin	1	1812				-40	-29	+23	-21	+41	+42	-08	-03	+12	5.5	33.0	43.0	24.25	1796	(-1.20)
17	Amalie Isabel Merkesvik	3	1645	1714	Bergens		+47	-08	-40	-08	+45	+13	-42	-11		5.5	31.0	37.5	22.25	1864	(+46.80)
18	Karim Ali	2	1709	1841	Fribonden		+27	+10	-02	-28	+23	+31	-03	-20	+37	5.0	36.0	47.0	24.00	1786	(-10.60)
19	Sondre Lillestøl Melaa	3	1565	1708	OSS		-10	+45	+46	-08	-12	+29	-07	-13	-21	5.0	36.0	45.5	22.75	1865	(+60.80)
20	Bendik Mjaaland	3	1297	1536	OSS		-05	-10	+31	-15	-38	+26	+23	+18	-10	5.0	35.0	45.0	24.50	1804	(+58.20)
21	Andreas Tenold	3	1525	1687	Nordstrand		-22	+27	+47	-16	+24	-14	-15	+33	-19	5.0	35.0	44.0	22.75	1788	(+40.80)
22	Alf W. Lundberg	1	2011				+21	+36	wo	-14	-11	-28	-27	+39	+25	5.0	31.0	36.5	19.00	1784	(-78.80)
23	Erik Grindbakken	3	1450	1644	Stjernen		-01	+58	-16	+30	-18	+37	-20	+43	+34	5.0	30.0	40.5	17.00	1632	(-2.00)
24	Kristoffer Gressli	2	1575	1752	Stjernen		+49	-42	+32	-41	-21	+47	+28	-12	-07	5.0	30.0	39.5	20.50	1745	(+1.00)
25	Morten Rolstad	3	1527	1668	OSS		-07	+52	-03	-40	-27	+49	+46	+45	-22	5.0	29.5	39.0	17.75	1690	(+4.20)
26	Gusztav Jr Lang	1	1753				+52	-07	+44	+34	-39	-20	+55	+51	+36	5.0	26.5	35.5	17.50	1643	(-21.60)
27	Knut Syse	3	1273	1534	OSS		-18	-21	+53	+37	-25	+15	+22	-05	-14	4.5	34.0	43.0	18.25	1690	(+54.80)
28	Alf Marius Foss Olsen	3		1712	Akademisk		+59	-14	+43	+18	-04	-22	-24	-30	+46	4.5	32.0	40.5	16.50	1683	(-14.80)
29	Andreas Sebastian	2	1708	1810	Porsgrunn		-20	+16	+34	+36	-06	-19	+43	+46	-15	4.5	31.5	41.0	17.00	1639	(-70.80)
30	Rasmus Arvola Gabrielsen	4	1346	1484	Kirkenes		-29	-03	+38	-23	+59	+50	-34	+28	-13	4.5	31.0	39.5	16.25	1695	(+75.20)
31	Lars Erik Brobakken	3	1500	1740	Lillehammer		+04	+04	+20	+43	+44	-18	-35	+34	+41	4.5	28.5	38.0	15.50	1627	(-24.60)
32	Maria Greibrokk	3	1495	1638	Alta		-04	+54	-24	+52	-39	wo	-19	-41	+40	4.5	28.0	34.5	13.50	1639	(+1.20)
33	Ida Lahlum	3	1448	1742	1911		+53	-13	+48	-42	-22	-41	-45	-21	+35	4.5	27.5	36.0	16.25	1669	(-13.00)
34	Sondre Stai	3	1399	1644	Trondheim		+03	-12	-29	-26	+46	-10	-30	-31	-23	4.0	35.0	45.0	19.75	1693	(+20.00)
35	Jonas August Bernstein	4	1369	1593	Stjernen		-08	-46	+30	+37	+52	+36	+31	-10	-33	4.0	30.0	39.0	14.75	1699	(+19.20)
36	Aage Mella	2	1599	1724	Strømmen		+55	-09	wo	+10	-08	+46	wo	-07	-26	4.0	29.5	35.5	12.50	1688	(-5.00)
37	Kazim Yilmaz	3	1360	1566	Modum		-12	-15	+49	-35	-53	-40	+57	+56	-18	4.0	27.5	35.5	12.50	1526	(-10.00)
38	Karl Sebastian	2	1563	1750	Porsgrunn		+58	-01	+51	-04	-20	+39	wo			4.0	21.0	29.0	12.75	1738	(+2.00)
39	Maria Næss	3	1529	1659	Vålerenga		-13	+49	-15	+60	+26	-38	-12	-22	-06	3.5	34.0	42.5	12.50	1648	(-7.60)
40	Sigurd Lauvås Gaure	3	1320	1504	OSS		-16	-20	-17	-25	-10	-37	-44	+47	-32	3.5	33.0	42.5	15.00	1542	(+10.00)
41	Erlend Reigstad	3	1481	1576	Hamar		-14	+59	+50	-24	-16	-33	-10	-32	-31	3.5	33.0	41.0	12.50	1648	(+22.80)
42	Hassan Kashwan	M					+06	+24	+09	+33	-14	-16	-17			3.5	32.0	38.5	18.75	1861	(+16.00)
43	Ariza Hina	4	1335	1525	Soråshøgda		+18	-05	-28	-31	+55	+51	-29	-23	-48	3.5	31.0	40.5	13.75	1586	(+19.60)
44	Leif E Wærstad	3	1456	1628	OSS		-02	+53	+26	-05	-21	-45	-40	-48	-49	3.5	30.0	40.0	13.25	1531	(-21.80)
45	Karl-Johan Rist	3	1281	1563	Alta		-11	-19	+58	+59	-17	+44	-34	-25		3.5	28.0	33.5	10.25	1546	(-3.80)
46	Rune Kleiven Rynning	4		Florø			+50	+35	-19	+51	+48	-36	+47	-29	-28	3.5	27.5	36.0	12.75	1547	(-1.20)
47	Kjetil Selvik	5	928	1911			-17	wo	-21	-45	+50	-24	-46	-40	+52	3.5	27.0	32.5	8.25	1521	(-3.20)
48	Lars Martin Krogseth	3	1361	1618	Lillehammer		-09	+55	-33	-47	-46	+53	-25	-44	-43	3.5	26.5	35.5	11.25	1493	(-18.80)
49	Vebjørn Maanum Leonhardsen	4	1245	1282	Bærum		-24	-39	-37	+38	-34	-25	+52	+55	-44	3.5	26.0	33.5	10.75	1407	(+33.60)
50	Anastasia Edakina	3	1455	1735	OSS		+46	-02	-41	wo	-47	-30	-54	+59	-51	3.5	23.5	30.5	8.75	1353	(-46.60)
51	Paul Emil Hjelm-Hansen	3	1404	1611	Trondheim		wo	wo	-38	-46	-54	-43	+59	-26	-50	3.5	19.5	24.5	7.00	1470	(-16.80)
52	Morten S Smedsrud	4	1125	1352	Stjernen		-26	-25	+55	-32	-35	-54	-49	+60	-47	3.0	26.5	33.5	8.25	1320	(-20.40)
53	Areeb Mansoor	5	544	1061	Soråshøgda		-23	-44	-27	+54	-37	-48	-60	+58	+57	3.0	23.5	30.0	8.75	1170	(+24.40)
54	Alexander Skrede	5	646	1055	Sandnes		-21	-32	-60	-53	+56	-52	-50	-57	-56	3.0	22.0	28.5	8.50	1206	(+43.20)
55	Terje Skonseng Naudeer	4		Nordstrand			-26	-48	-52	wo	-43	-60	-26	-49	+59	3.0	21.5	26.5	4.00	1139	(-3.60)
56	Bjarne J. Engevik	2	1611	1787	Strømmen		+60	-22	-52	wo	-29	-51	-35	wo	-37	3.0	21.0	26.0	5.25	1465	(-55.80)
57	Mathias Oliver Skrede	5	507		Sandnes		wo	-11	-06	-27	+60	-23	-37	-54	-53	2.5	27.0	33.5	3.50	1150	(-15.60)
58	Sissel M. Engevik	5	1185	Strømmen			-28	-23	-45	-49	-54	-59	wo	-53	+60	2.5	21.0	26.0	3.50	1126	(-29.60)
59	Elma Selvik	5	697	1911			-28	-41	wo	-45	-30	+58	-51	-50	-55	2.0	24.0	28.5	2.50	1211	(-6.40)
60	Per Magnus Larsen	4	1056	1361	Porsgrunn		-56	-06	+54	-43	-39	-55	+52	-52	-58	2.0	21.0	30.0	6.00	1234	(-26.40)

1 Score: Score (=Matchpoints in team tournaments)
 2 Med Buchh: Median Buchholz (reduced by the lowest and highest opponent scores)
 3 Buchholz: Buchholz, no reductions (=Teampoint buchholz in team tournaments)
 4 Berger: Sonnenborn-Berger(=Teampoint berger in team tournaments)

Group winners



GM Andriy Vovk



IM Espen Lie



Aleksander Lindbøl

Title norms



GM-norm: FM Nihal Sarin



GM-norm: FM Benjamin Arvola



IM-norm: FM Sebastian Mihajlov

All photos: Tom Eriksen