

FAGERNES CHESS INTERNATIONAL 2020

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT 9



GM Group

Illustrating the fighting spirit in this GM group, all 24 games still were running after two hours in the last round. First board meeting between IM Johannes Haug and GM Evgeny Postny still became a not too exciting draw, and so did third board meeting between IM Frode Elness and GM Simen Agdestein. The first board draw left the track open for GM Frode Urkedal, winning an unshared first prize at 7,5/9 after he today efficiently transformed a drawish rook endgame into a won pawn endgame against GM Ilmars Starostits on second board. After first staying in quarantine for ten days and then dominating the tournament together with Urkedal for eight days, first rated Postny very well deserved won an unshared second prize at 7,0/9. IM Kristian Stuvik Holm successfully sacrificed an exchange at move 5 and won an attacking game as white against GM Benjamin Arvola Notkevich, while FM Anders Hobber as black torpedoed opponent's Jens Evang Ingebretsen's IM norm hopes. Third to seventh prizes following this was shared at 6,0/9 between Haug, Holm, Agdestein, Elness and Hobber. Three of the six GMs made a score well below expected, but still the norm candidates as a team wasted too many chances in the two final rounds.

Last man standing among the norm candidates was 15 year old sensation man Mathias Unneland, completing a very well deserved IM norm as he in the last round accepted a draw in a won position as white against FM Tor Fredrik Kaasen. The tournament after all produced a new titleholder, as 17 year old Swedish player Ludvig Carlsson passed 2300 and qualified for the FM title after suddenly and quietly winning his last round game.

IM Johannes Haug (2481) against GM Evgeny Postny (2603) was the first board and the first game to finish today. Winning back the pawn at c4 white came slightly better in this Slav opening, although black had no problems after exchanging two sets of minor pieces. Draw then was agreed by a sound repetition after 20 moves and two hours.

Postny at 7,0/9 won 0 Elo points and 1600 Euros this tournament, which for sure qualifies as an improvement. Haug's chances for a GM norm disappeared before the start of this game, but picking up six more ELO points he made more patient step towards the 2500 mark.



Haug vs Postny



Tournament winner Urkedal vs Starostits

GM Frode Urkedal (2549) versus GM Ilmars Starostits (2464) was a Queen's Gambit Accepted, in which white played hardball for a win with 3.e4!?. As two sets of minor pieces were exchanged, white after 20 moves held a space advantage with a pawn at d5 and a queen at d4. Black improved his position as white was helpful exchanging his queen at a7. Following this black was close to equality in the endgame with two rooks, knight and six pawns against two rooks, bishop and six pawns. Black at this stage was half an hour ahead on the clock. A drawish double rook endgame still was slightly better for white due to his passed d-pawn, and black stumbled in one of the final hurdles as he just before 40 moves (although still more than 20 minutes ahead) took the pawn at d7. White's king was just too close to the remaining kingside pawns, resulting in a lost pawn endgame when white exchanged off the rooks with 40.Rxh7+ and 41.Rxd7. 27 year old Urkedal following this win completed the tournament with an outstanding performance of 2718 and a score nearly two points above expected. Starostits following his first loss left a few Elo points without winning any moneyprize at Fagernes.



Elsness vs Agdestein

IM Frode Elsness (2454) versus GM Simen Agdestein (2552) was a Queen's Gambit with 3... a6?!, in which white first got a space advantage following an e4-break. White however failed to find any way of preventing black from exchanging three sets of minor pieces. Following this black was very slightly better in a very drawish position with queen, two rooks, one knight and six pawns on each side, when a draw was agreed after 20 moves. 6,0/9 and shared third place was as expected for Agdestein,

while Elsness won five Elo points and some prize money without coming close to his final GM norm.

IM Kristian Stuvik Holm (2465) suddenly played extremely aggressive as white against GM Benjamin Notkevich (2482) and his Dutch Leningrad opening: As black against the cunning 2.Nc3 carelessly replied with the dubious 2... g6?!, white immediately accelerated with 3.h4!, 4.h5 and 5.Rxh5!. White got one pawn and a lot of attacking chances for the exchange, although black evacuated his king to d8. Both players spent much time from the opening, and after 14 moves white had left 21 minutes and black 35. White however upheld a powerful attack with two pawns for the exchange, and after giving up a piece for non-existing counterplay black soon drifted into a lost endgame. Holm like Elsness won five Elo points without any chances for a GM-norm this tournament, and following this win was well satisfied to finish unbeaten at 6,0/9. Notkevich no way was satisfied or unbeaten at 5,0/9, losing 16 Elo points.



Holm vs Notkevich

FM Trygve Dahl (2211) gave his pet Sicilian Moscow line with 5.f3 another try against IM Benjamin Haldorsen (2469), leading to a dynamically balanced Maroczy set up. Black had a permanent weakness in his isolated d6-pawn, but went for counterplay on the queenside and turned down a draw by repetition after 26 moves. As white accepted a queen exchange black kept his pressure in the double rook endgame. After exchanging off the final pawns on the queenside, white still found his way to a dead drawn rook endgame with rook versus rook and h-pawn. 21 year old Haldorsen never was ahead of schedule and finished a full point below expected, fortunately without losing his optimism. 20 year old Dahl despite his first round collapse reached a performance of 2372 and finished almost two points above expected score.

The junior duel between Mathias Unneland (2149) and IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2386) was a Classical King's Indian race in which white had queenside pressure and black more longterm attacking prospects on the kingside. A complex struggle followed. White came better in the fourth hour, as black's search for a kingside attack turned out to weaken his own king at h7 more than the white king at h1.



Unneland vs Kaasen

With all rooks and the dark-squared bishops exchanged, white's position turned winning as he after the first time control established a dominating pair of knights at e4 and g4. Unneland refused a draw offer at move 46, but offered himself as he accepted a knight sacrifice on g3 the very next move. Kaasen immediately accepted, correctly questioning whether he had enough attack after the sacrifice. White indeed was winning if defending correctly for the next five moves, but assuring a sensational IM-norm obviously was tempting for 15 year old Unneland – although he could have reached a moneyprize and an FM title as well if winning.

Helped by the youth coefficient, Unneland still won an outstanding 133 Elo points this week. Kaasen made a sound result, but half a point below expected score following this last round draw he is still struggling to pass 2400 again.

Also needing only a draw for an IM norm, FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2220) as white against FM Anders Hobber (2386) went for a solid fianchetto against a symmetrical English opening. As black exchanged his light-squared bishop for a knight on f3, white got a slightly inferior pawn structure, but still appeared slightly better due to his pair of bishops. White following this still was slightly ahead in an unbalanced position after 17 moves, with 35 minutes against 15 on the clock. Black however came up with counterplay due to his passed pawn at c4, and Ingebretsen spent much time without finding any road to a draw. First having played safe white then suddenly went for an attack with Qf5-Qg4-Qh3, but this turned out only to put his queen offside. Black hit back in the center, and before 40 moves reached a won position after giving up his queen for the good price of two rooks and the white key pawn at d4. In the fifth hour white's bishop sacrifice turned out to be nothing but cramp, as black could easily hide his king at g7 and decide with his passed c-pawn. Hobber at 5,5/8 in the end still had a tournament performance well above 2450. Unfortunately, along the road he first destroyed his own IM-norm chances by requesting a bye in round four and then the IM-norm chance of his round nine opponent by winning this game. Passing 2400 for the first time and finishing at 2404, Hobber continues his remarkable progress from last year. Missing the IM norm with a bitter half point, 16 year old Ingebretsen also did a great result with a performance of 2428 and won 46 more Elo points.

GM Normunds Miezis (2485) and his English fianchetto opening today did not produce much of an advantage as white against well-prepared Tobias Lang Nilsen (2146). Black after 28 moves was 20 minutes ahead on the clock and slightly better on the board, in a heavyweight position with only one set of minor pieces exchanged. As white gave up his dark-squared bishop for a knight at d4, taking back with the queen instead of the pawn however was a mistake from black. White in turn for some unknown reason did not play the critical 30.Re7!. Following a queen exchange he still came better in the rooks and minor piece endgame, due to his dominating knight on the d5 outpost. Having succeeded in activating his rooks black still appeared to have fair drawing chances after the first time control. Exchanging one set of rooks however was a grave misunderstanding, as white due to black's lame bishop at b6 soon raised a winning attack in the remaining position with rook, knight and five pawns against rook, bishop and five pawns. Black following this anyway was lost when he blundered his rook and resigned after 67 moves. Miezis despite this win lost some 15 points of Elo and won only a book prize this tournament, while 17 year old Lang Nilsen despite this loss won a notable 23 points.



Miezis vs Nilsen

FM Noam Vitenberg (2298) versus FM Elham Abdulrauf (2362) was a hard-fought friends meeting, in which black was perfectly fine from a positional Queen's Gambit opening line.

18.--- c3? however was a blunder as white could and did win a piece with 19.a3! cxb2 20.Rc7 (with a triple threat against Bb7, Nd7 and Bb4). White could have played more accurately later in the middle game, but still landed safely in a won endgame with queen against two bishops well before 40 moves. This final game result strengthened the tendency for both players, after which 16 year old Vitenberg won 22 Elo points while 15 year old Abdulrauf lost 24.

FM Lucas Ranaldi (2334) and FM Gunnar Lund (2392) discussed a Queen's Indian fianchetto line in which black played d5, leading to an isolated queen's pawn position in which white had a small plus due to his control on the d4 square. White however did wrong to exchange at c5, as the following hanging pawns position with pawns at d5 and c5 was a big improvement from a black point of view. Taking the pawn at c5 with his queen still was overdoing it seen from the white side, as black after taking back one pawn at e2 and another one at b2 soon converted his middle game advantage into a won advantage. Remaining tactically alert to the end Lund after all made a sound ten points Elo plus out of this jumpy tournament, while Ranaldi landed on an about zero result although having IM norm chances until round eight.

IM Timofey Galinsky (2370) as white against Gustav Törngren (2185) tried out another London system opening line, in which white had nothing whatsoever following an early queen exchange. Allowed to exchange his dark-squared bishop for a knight at b6 with a slight disruption of the black pawn structure, white still came better in the endgame with rook, bishop and six pawns on each side. Although white eventually won one of the black b-pawns, the endgame should be a draw due to opposite coloured bishops. That was however before Törngren very mysteriously moved his bishop away from the protection of his key pawn at f6, after which white's passed new f-pawn decided within three more moves. Törngren despite this endgame blunder won 12 Elo points on the tournament and turned the tide after his disappointing result in Oslo a few weeks ago. Galinsky on the other hand lost 11 points despite his efficient savings in the two final rounds.



Galinsky vs Törngren

17 year old Ludvig Carlsson (2281) as white against WGM Olga Dolzhikova (2208) saw a Modern opening duel in which white got a pleasant initiative following a well timed e5-break. Although some 20 minutes behind on the clock, black was still fully in the game until she blundered with 19.--- Qd6?? – threatening the white rook at e5 without noting that the rook could move to h5 with a decisive mating threat at h6. No IM norm for Carlsson this tournament, but on the other hand an FM title – as he won another 36 Elo points and passed the 2300 mark following this win! Unpredictable Dolzhikova on the other hand had a blundering final move for a disappointing tournament and dropped well below 2200.

The game between Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2048) and Sergey Eliseev (2025) started with an invitation to a Sicilian Sveshnikov opening duel, but black equalised for free after white chickened out with 3.g3. Although black's knight at d4 was annoying, trying to fire it with 13.c3? backfired as black could reply with 13.- -- e5!? – leading to tactical exchanges, after which the Swiss cheese kingside worked out better for the black than



Øye-Strømberg vs Eliseev

white pieces. Although white fought on creatively, black due to his machine gun pair of bishops had no difficulties winning the rook and minor pieces endgame in the fourth hour.

Remarkable 5,0/9 gave a tournament performance above 2200 and a new Elo above 2100 for 13 year old Eliseev, while 14 year old Øye-Strømberg at 4,0/9 also won more than 40 new Elo points.

Sigve Hølleland (2133) as white against Dion Krivenko (2047) went for a Botvinnik English set up transposing into a Sicilian Maroczy position under favourable circumstances for white, as he got direct pressure on the backward d6-pawn. 13.--- d5? blundered the pawn with the idea of blundering a bishop. Hølleland took first the pawn and then the bishop, won the game in 26 moves and picked up 28 Elo points on this tournament. 14 year old Krivenko lost a really strong result as he blundered in this last round game after wasting a won position against IM Galinsky in the second to last round, but still won nearly 40 Elo points and continues his remarkable progress this year.



Vestby-Ellingsen vs Machlik

The Tromsø duel between IM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen (2362) and Monika Machlik (2082) was a main line Caro-Kann opening, in which white due to his e5-pawn kept a slight initiative after three sets of minor pieces were exchanged. The queen and bishop endgame with seven pawns on each side appeared drawish, although bishops were equally coloured and white still has a kingside space advantage.

As black coordinated her forced for a successful defence in the fifth hour, a draw by repetition appeared likely after 60 moves. Vestby-Ellingsen instead pushed

his luck too far when sacrificing his h5-pawn, as black could (and did) snatch the pawn and keep together her kingside position.

From a computer perspective black was winning both before and after white sacrificed a second pawn to exchange bishops. From a human perspective the position still was difficult to play for black with less than one minute left on the clock. Although natural, advancing the passed pawn with 83.--- h5? was a hasty decision weakening the dark squares on the kingside, and white after 84.Qh4! had sufficient counterplay for a perpetual check. Draw after 91 moves and 370 minutes, as black missed a threefold repetition.

Following this Machlik failed to win the game, but succeeded winning 14 Elo points and to delay the prizegiving by 14 minutes. 17 year old Vestby-Ellingsen did not succeed in anything this tournament, and finishing below 50 % with a performance of 2165 he dropped 22 Elo-points.

Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2174) versus Andreas Skotheim (2120) was a closed Ruy Lopez duel in which white did not come up with anything promising, hence black came slightly better after realizing the d5-break and exchanging one set of rooks in the a-file. Black later had first pressure and then an extra pawn at e3 in the rook and minor pieces endgame, and kept fair winning chances until he at move 47 blundered back the pawn. 21 year old Skotheim continues his good results at Fagernes and won nearly 30 more Elo points, while 12 year old Kvaløy following various ups and downs landed just below his expected score.



Kvaløy vs Skotheim

Andreas Tenold (1935) as white against Håkon Bentsen (2120) went for a Nimzo Indian set up with 4.f3, and got a space advantage after e4 and d5. Although creative, black's knight sacrifice at d5 reportedly just won back the material with a balanced position. Black however got the initiative, leading to a winning attack as white at move 21 put his queen on c6, overlooking a strong Nf4! with threats against the white king. Black in turned played too fast the next moves, and found nothing better than exchanges. Draw agreed as queen were exchanged after 28 moves, leaving a balanced double rook endgame with five pawns in each army. Bentsen following this finished just below his expected score, while Tenold as the second lowest rated player won 71 Elo points and passed 2100 for the first time.



Shehzad vs Mansoor

Shazil Shehzad (2188) versus Afras Mansoor (2117) was another young teenager duel, a not too friendly cousin meeting, and another positional Ruy Lopez duel. White kept a slight initiative due to his e4 pawn after three sets of minor pieces were exchanged, but black around move 20-25 had enough counterplay to balance the chances. As black ran short of time, 29.--- b4? however was a too careless try to exchange queenside pawns – as 20.axb4 Qxb4 21.e5! followed by 22.Nd5! picked up an exchange with a winning position for white. As black soon ran short of time and pieces, white efficiently

completed his attack and had an extra rook on the board after 40 moves. In the end 14 year old Shehzad made a performance of 2151 and 16 year old Mansoor a performance of 2152 this tournament, meaning that the last round winner lost some 22 Elo points while the loser gained 12.

The game between Lars Johan Brodtkorb (2166) and Alexander Fossan (2171) made a hesitant start as black arrived 20 minutes delayed and still had to wait some 15 minutes for his opponent. Finally arriving white went for a slow Grünfeld Indian line, and black following an early queen exchange had an initiative around move 15-25. Black in turn spent a lot of time without finding the most critical moves. With three minutes left on each clock the position was suddenly drawn in a nearly balanced rook and minor pieces endgame after 32 moves.

Both players appeared rusty, spent too much time and finished more than a point below expected score following an uphill tournament.



Fuglestein vs Skaslien

16 year old Sander Fuglestein (2109) and 17 year old Ingrid Skaslien (1976) meanwhile discussed a closed Catalan position in which white got a space advantage after playing e4, and then kept the advantage on the board and clock for the next three hours.

As white had two against one pawn on the queenside, controlled the d-file with his rook and had the better minor piece, he after 30 moves had very promising pressure with queen, rook, bishop and five pawns against queen, rook, knight and five pawns.

White however gently first offered to exchange off the rooks and then offered a draw, realizing that white's queen and knight now were as good as his queen and bishop. Following this draw Fuglestein finished more than a full point below expected score in the end. Skaslien with a performance above 2100 won 50 Elo points and immediately struck back from her disappointing result in Oslo a few weeks ago.

Simen Sørensen (2047) versus Sigurd Loe Grøver (2145) was an Accepted Queen's Gambit in which white after taking back the pawn at c4 started to do nothing full time, while black mobilized his queenside pawn majority and got promising pressure after realizing c4 and b4.

Having gotten the pair of bishops as well, black was clearly better when he after 19 moves unnecessarily gave up his a5-pawn. Having snatched the pawn, white became so thankful that he immediately parked his queen offside on h3, allowing black to win back the a-pawn with a winning queenside attack. Black in turn became so thankful finally having got a won position that he allowed white to activate his queen by a knight sacrifice at f7.

Both players looked a bit shaky following a turbulent tournament, and after some more mistakes from both sides the game was suddenly drawn during mutual time pressure after 36 moves.

Although material was balanced with one queen, one rook, one bishop and four pawns in each camp, black due to his passed pawn at b3 and more active pieces still was close to winning.

Sørensen following this scraped three new Elo points out of the tournament, while Grøver wasted much too many chances and dropped to just above 2100.

62 year old FM Richard Bjerke (2144) at the end of a tough tournament got another generation duel as white against 18 year old FM Andre Nielsen (2218). White first had a space advantage from this Dutch Leningrad opening and then picked up a pawn at b7 with some advantage. White however failed to find the best moves in a dangerous position after snatching the testimony pawn. Winning back the pawn at b2 black soon had the safer king and the much more active pieces. Nielsen still in an inspired mood gave himself an uplifting finish to a depressing tournament result, as he neatly decided by a tactical 21.--- Rxf2+! – leading more or less forced to a won pawn endgame eight moves later on. Nielsen still lost 35 Elo points on this tournament, while Bjerke lost 42 and despite his many merits now is in danger of falling below 2100.



Bjerke vs Nielsen

Sondre Melaa (2210) also gave himself a successful last round in a more or less disastrous tournament, today winning as white against his NTG classmate Thyra Kvendseth (2017). Due to his dominating e5-pawn and pair of bishops, white got a sound space advantage from this Modern opening. Both players missed a decisive tactical 24.b4! after black blundered a knight with 23.--- Nc4??. Although black saved her knight and was able to exchange off the queens a few moves later on, white kept a strong initiative into the endgame. After rooks were exchanged too, the pair of bishops combined with an extra passed pawn in the a-file gave white a trivial endgame win in the minor pieces endgame after the first time control. Melaa had some tough rounds following his delayed start on this tournament, and lost 56 Elo points despite winning both his final games in convincing style. Kvendseth also improved somewhat following her disastrous start with 0/4, but still dropped below 2000 following this last round set back.



Melaa vs Kvendseth

Hallvard Haug Flatebø (1877) today was white is a Sicilian duel against Pål Røyset (2150), but came second from the opening after a too loose pawn sacrifice at f4. Castling long did not help much from white's perspective, as black could start a queenside pawn storm while keeping his king safe at e8.

24.--- Be7? to protect the d6-pawn was a truly backward move from black, as white could have got a powerful counterattack by a thematic 25.Nd5!-sacrifice. As white missed that chance and black soon brought himself back on track with the bishop at f6,

the game before 40 moves reached a queen and minor pieces endgame in which black due to his pair of bishops and extra pawn was totally winning.

Black invited white into the discussion again by becoming too careless when advancing his pawns. After white blundered a piece, black still landed in a won endgame with queen, bishop and pawn against queen and pawn in the fifth hour. 0-1 as white blundered a queen exchange after 66 moves limited Røyset's deficit to 22 Elo-points.

The motivated substitute Flatebø had seven exciting games in the GM group. He still got a depressing 0/7 out of them as he failed to use his chances and keep up the quality of moves during long games against higher rated opponents.



Flatebø vs Røyset

GM-group, top-20

1. GM Frode Urkedal	NOR	7.5/9
2. GM Evgeny Postny	ISR	7.0
3. IM Johannes Haug	NOR	6.0
4. IM Kristian Stuvik Holm	NOR	6.0
5. GM Simen Agdestein	NOR	6.0
6. IM Frode Elness	NOR	6.0
7. FM Anders Hobber	NOR	6.0
8. IM Benjamin Haldorsen	NOR	5.5
9. Mathias Unneland	NOR	5.5
10. IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen	NOR	5.5
11. FM Trygve Dahl	NOR	5.5
12. FM Gunnar Lund	NOR	5.5
13. FM Noam Aviv Vitenberg	NOR	5.5
14. GM Normunds Miezis	LAT	5.5
15. FM Jens E. Ingebretsen	NOR	5.0
16. GM Ilmars Starostits	LAT	5.0
17. GM Benjamin A. Notkevich	NOR	5.0
18. Ludvig Carlsson	SWE	5.0
19. IM Timofey Galinsky	UKR	5.0
20. Sergey Eliseev	NOR	5.0
(48 players)		



Postny, Urkedal and Haug

Open Group

In the Open we got an exciting last round leading to three well-deserved qualifiers for next year's GM group, as all the top seven boards got a game winner. Leading 13 year old Sverre Lye (1799) was under pressure as black from the opening, in which a creative pawn sacrifice gave his 11 year old opponent Louis Khoo-Thwe (1835) a strong initiative.

Lye however efficiently used his chance as white blundered with 17.Bd6?, and after 17...Nd8!

(with a counterattack on white's Re6) black soon came an exchange up with

a won position. Lye had an easy win with an exchange and a pawn up in the early endgame, and efficiently sacrificed back the exchange to reach a won pawn endgame.

Leading alone at 6,5/8 before the last round, 13th rated Lye following this win got an unshared first prize. It seems likely that Sandnes talent Sverre Lye will be rated well above 2000 before the GM group in 2021, as he improved 100 points following this outstanding result.



Khoo-Thwe vs Lye

Another very young talent already had qualified for the GM group as 15 year old Mathias Lind Schouten (1822) on second board won in only 21 moves as white against the grown up sensation man Mikkel Lien (1677).

Lien actually did fine from this French defence, but collapsed and disappeared within three more moves after overlooking a crushing knight sacrifice at f7.

11th rated Schouten reached 7,0/9 and shared second prize following a wild spurt with four wins in a row.

This was all the more impressive as

the young Tromsø player following wins in round one and two got only 0,5/2 out of the following double round, after he Tuesday morning was knocked out by an allergy attack.

Like Sverre Lye, Schouten following this inspiring result should have a good hope to be above 2000 when hopefully returning for his first GM group in the Easter 2021.



Schouten vs Lien

The road to 2000 obviously is longer for 30 year old Jamie Cross (1711), an Australian club player and economist living in Oslo and working at the University since last year.

Still Cross also well-deserved reached 7,0/9 after defeating second rated Elias Hestvik (1893) with the black pieces in the last round. White mysteriously just gave up his pawn at c3 after 16 moves, after which black remained clearly ahead on the board and clock into the endgame.

This game became the final drama of this group, as white nearly succeeded blocking the position in the rook and bishops endgame. Due to his extra passed pawn at a4 black still was winning all of the time, and he finally found one of the keys to open the position in the double rook endgame early in the sixth hour. Critically short of time and about to lose a second pawn, Hestvik anyway was completely lost when he blundered a bishop and resigned after 70 moves.



Hestvik vs Cross

On fourth board, top rated Terje Lund (2104) just after the opening missed a Nf5 hammer hit and went mate after only 21 moves as black against Johannes Melkevik (1858). This somehow illustrated a very open Open group, in which Melkevik in the end was the only player rated among top ten to reach top five.

Fourth prize at 6,5/9 was shared between Melkevik and Olav Erikstad (1736), the latter winning jackpot from a dubious French gambit line after his opponent Sivert Ihlen (1871) somehow overlooked a neon flashing 13.Bg6!.

Also many young players outside top ten made remarkable Elo gains from this tournament: Most notably 17 year old Jon Holtan Øverbø at 5,5/9 won 127 points, while 14 year old Amadeus Henrik Evenshaug and 18 year old David Hellesøy at 4,5/9 both won 88 points.

A final illustration of the outstanding fighting spirit in this Open came as two players on the lower boards by accident overslept the early last rounds. Opponent's Sara Marie Skaug Bjørkly (1439) and Bjørn Dypvik (1540) after waiting for one hour preferred to play against each other instead of getting a walk over win. With the players having 4,0/8 and 3,5/8 the arbiters saw no reason not to accept this, and a hard fought four hours draw happily finished well in time for the prizегiving.

Our tournament following this finished on a happy note, as all 98 players able to play the last round got a game then. Although many players of course were disappointed by their sum of points, Elo performances and/or moves, everyone in the end seemed to agree that it was great being able to meet for a serious and long over-the-board tournament again. Meanwhile the organizer happily exhaled after being able to complete the tournament only six months delayed and without any complications. We much hope being back with an even bigger and stronger Fagernes tournament (and even longer round reports) during the Easter holiday from March 28 to April 4 next year.

That's it – for now!

Open group, top-20

1. Sverre Lye	NOR	7.5/9
2. Mathias Lind Schouten	NOR	7.0
3. Jamie Cross	AUS	7.0
4. Johannes Melkevik	NOR	6.5
5. Olav Erikstad	NOR	6.5
6. Mikkel Lien	NOR	6.0
7. Louis Khoo-Thwe	NOR	6.0
8. Misha Galinsky	NOR	6.0
9. Andreas Skrede Hausken	NOR	6.0
10. Elias Hestvik	NOR	6.0
11. Terje Lund	NOR	5.5
12. Evsuld Myagmarsuren	NOR	5.5
13. Brage Modell	NOR	5.0
14. Sivert Ihlen	NOR	5.0
15. Kristoffer Wang Strømhaug	NOR	5.0
16. Thomas Berg	NOR	5.0
17. Rune Kleiven Rynning	NOR	5.0
18. Egil Melkevik	NOR	5.0
19. Jon Holtan Øverbø	NOR	5.0
20. Sigurd Lye	NOR	5.0
(55 players)		



Schouten, Lye and Cross

Photos: Round 9 by Malgorzata Kopaczek-Styczen / Prize giving by Tom Eriksen

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