

FAGERNES CHESS INTERNATIONAL 2021

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

The three Swedish GM-musketeers had a(nother) truly great day in Norway. GM Tiger Hillarp punished overambitious play from his young contryman IM Jung Min Seo and won another convincing game as black on first board. So did GM Erik Blomqvist against top rated GM Vahap Sanal on second board. GM Stellan Brynell meanwhile increased the pressure and won a sound technical game as white against Latvian GM Normunds Miezis.

This overall was another good round for the GMs and a remarkably hard-fought round on the top boards: GM Kaido Kulaots won by a nice attack as white against GM Frode Urkedal, while GM Vitaly Kunin and GM Titas Stremavicius succeeded in winning long endgames against IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen and FM Conor Murphy.

After seven out of the top eight boards had got a winner, Hillarp is now leading alone at a magnificent 5,5/6, half a point ahead of Blomqvist and Kulaots, while Brynell share fourth place with Kunin, Stremavicius and Norwegian IM Frode Elsness. After winning another tough endgame today Elsness is still not all out of it as a GM candidate, but he and Jung Min Seo both will need at least 2,5/3 from now.

We look forward to an exciting finish of the tournament, with Hillarp–Kulaots, Blomqvist–Kunin, Stremavicius–Brynell and Sanal–Elsness as the top board pairings for round 7.

IM Jung Min Seo (2456) versus GM Tiger Hillarp (2521) was a complex Sicilian Najdorf duel in which white first ran wild on the kingside with g4–g5 and then castled short. The Tiger as black spent much time but came up with counterplay in the c- and f-file. Black definitely came better as white after 20 moves felt forced to sacrifice his pawn at c2. White later had less time to handle a much more difficult position with a pawn less. Tiger in an inspired mood efficiently opened the kingside and intervened with his queen to win the much too advanced pawns in front of white's king.

Min Seo resigned after 40 moves as black was about to force a queen exchange and reach a rook endgame with approximately four extra pawns.



Seo vs Hillarp

GM Vahap Sanal (2585) versus **GM Erik Blomqvist (2518)** was another Sicilian duel, this one a Paulsen line, in which tactical exchanges before 25 moves lead to a position with two rooks, bishop and six pawns against two rooks, knight and six pawns.

White had better pawn structure from the start, but still black had the easier position to play due to his pressure against the white queenside pawns. Sanal after the game explained that he had been unwilling to accept a draw in an equal position, and following overambitious moves instead came much worse. As things went he resigned as Blomqvist played a tricky 32... b3!, winning a third pawn in the rooks and minor piece endgame.



Sanal vs Blomqvist

GM Kaido Kulaots (2511) versus **GM Frode Urkedal (2564)** was an Italian opening in which white got a space advantage due to his e5-pawn. Still white was only very slightly better before black more or less blundered a pawn with 16... a4? – realizing only after 17... Bc2! that he lacked time to protect the pawn, as white was also threatening 18... Qd3 with strong pressure against black's king.

Urkedal instead tried to complicate by sacrificing the pawn and open the position for his pair of bishops. Kulaots instructively sacrificed back the pawn on e6 to get the g6 square for his queen, and won by attack after 31 moves.



Kulaots vs Urkedal



Kunin

GM Vitaly Kunin (2547) and **IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2432)** discussed a closed Grünfeld-Indian line. When the position opened around move 15 black got the center, but white still was better due to his c-file control and queenside pawn majority. White turned out to have made the better evaluation when entering this position as black soon lost his a-pawn. After this white, one pawn up and with two connected passed pawns on the queenside, was close to winning.

Black succeeded in getting some counterplay with his rooks and eventually exchanged the

b-pawn, but the passed a-pawn still was an extra pawn which gave white a decisive advantage in the rook and bishop endgame. This became last game to finish today: The rook endgame with three extra pawns still gave black some hopes as white had two f-pawns and one h-pawn.

Kunin in the end after 87 moves instructively had sacrificed two of his extra pawns to exchange the rooks and reach a won pawn endgame.

FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2274) versus **GM Alon Greenfeld (2509)** was some kind of rather untheoretical Queen's Pawn opening, probably about balanced as white had the better pawn structure and black the faster development. White snatched a pawn at h7, but black had too much activity to be in danger of losing afterwards. A draw was agreed upon black's suggestion when queens were exchanged after 22 moves, as black was about to win back the pawn with a drawish rook endgame to follow. Ingebretsen moved closer to an IM-norm following this draw against a 2500-players, but still needs a strong sprint to make it.



Ingebretsen and Stremavicius

Lithuanian **GM Titas Stremavicius (2487)** gave his Dutch in Advance with 1.f4 another try as white against Irish **FM Conor Murphy (2428)**. Black lagged some 20 minutes behind on the clock but was fine on the board as the players exchanged down to an about balanced position with queen, rook, knight and five pawns on each side.

Black for a long time was able to protect his isolated pawn ay d4, but it still gave white something to play for. Just before move 40 the endgame with queen, knight and five pawns on each side appeared drawish, but running short of time black had a hard time to defend both his king and his pawns. Stremavicius with a GM's efficiency increased the pressure until he cashed in two weaks black pawns, and afterwards forced his way to a won knight endgame.

IM Frode Elsness (2465) versus **FM Elham Abdrlauf (2334)** was a Queen's Gambit Exchange line in which black sacrificed his key pawn at d5 before ten moves. Computers gave white a clear plus, but black's active pieces were disturbing. Elsness castled long and kept his extra pawn through tactical exchanges in the middle game, leading to an endgame with two rooks, knight and five pawns against two rooks, bishop and four pawns. Black's active pieces and pressure against the backward white f-pawn here gave him some practical compensation. Elsness however succeeded activating his king, and gradually increased the pressure although black successfully exchanged off two more pawns. After 38 moves Abdrlauf short of time too had a hard time defending with two rooks, bishop and two pawns against two rooks, knight and three pawns, as black had two isolated pawns and an exposed king at h5. 40.--- Bf4+? was a blunder as white could reply with a tactical 41.Rxf4!, after which black immediately resigned.

Abdrlauf is now behind schedule but still in the run for an IM-norm. Elsness following this win still might have chances for a GM-norm, but definitely needs a score as black against Vahap Sanal tomorrow.

GM Stellan Brynell (2431) today went for 1.d4 and came slightly better versus **GM Normunds Miezis (2467)** in a Catalan opening. As white was playing against hanging pawns at c6 and d5, he got a clear advantage after placing his knight on c5. Brynell eventually succeeded in winning both the black pawns in exchange for this e-pawn. The remaining position was very difficult for black as he had pawn weaknesses to defend both at a5 and h5. Exchanging rooks was a good practical decision from white since the remaining endgame with queen, bishop and five pawns against queen, knight and four pawns was almost impossible for black to defend. Within a few more moves white won a second pawn at f7, and later he coolly sacrificed his bishop on f1 to promote the a-pawn into a new queen at a8.



Brynell vs Miezis

Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2275) versus **GM Gudmundur Kjartansson (2433)** was another Sicilian Najdorf duel. 11.Nd5?! was much too optimistic from a white point of view, as black could win material with the violent 11.--- g5!. Kvaløy successfully messed it up by snatching an exchange on h8, but black was much better as he had a knight and two pawns for the rook with the white queen locked in at h8. White eventually got the help needed to exchange off the queens, but due to black's pawn armada still was in trouble afterwards. White creatively sacrificed an exchange to get some counterplay. Although the GM still was a pawn up in the endgame he still failed to win it due to white's barking bishops. Kvaløy succeeded in repairing this game from a dubious opening, and following this he also has repaired much from a troublesome start on this tournament.



Kvaløy vs Kjartansson

IM Marsel Efroimski (2417) versus **FM Theodor Kenneskog (2309)** was a closed Ruy Lopez line in which only one set of knights had left the board after 17 moves. As the position suddenly opened the queens were exchanged together with two sets of minor pieces and all the center pawns. Left was only a rather balanced endgame with two rooks, bishop and five pawns against two rooks, knight and five pawns. White was some 25 minutes ahead on the clock, but found no winning plans on the board and accepted a draw by repetition after the first time control.



Efroimski vs Kenneskog

This was «not a bad game, but not a very good one either» according to Efroimski, still slightly below her expected score. Kenneskog is well above expected score and still among the IM norm candidates, but also needs a strong finish.

IM Robert Baskin (2398) as white against **Tobias Lang Nilsen (2271)** checked out an unusual gambit idea in a now rare French Advance line. White following tactical exchanges got about enough compensation for the pawn, and this turned into a strong attack as black failed to get his king away from e8 in time. Sacrificing an exchange on d7 reportedly was winning for white, but the game became exciting again as he failed to find the best continuation afterwards. White still had a winning attack, but exchanging queens then was a bad idea after which the endgame was double-edged.

Well satisfied with a draw as black against an IM, Lang Nilsen in an ice cold mood sacrificed back the exchange to reach a bishop endgame in which the opposite coloured bishop made white's two extra pawns worthless.

FM Trygve Dahl (2249) versus **IM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen (2375)** was some Sicilian Dragon-relative, in which an attack run was expected as white castled long and black short. The position slowed down as queens were exchanged, but white's advanced kingside pawn combined with a knight on f6 gave him some pressure afterwards. Black created some counterplay on the queenside in the fourth hour and for a while seemed about to take over the initiative, but became too eager when he continued the attack with 36.--- Ra8? instead of breathing out and taking back a pawn at e6.



Dahl vs Vestby-Ellingsen

White now could play 37.e7+ and within ten more moves reached a won rook and minor piece endgame. Dahl despite his first round loss is also in the run for an IM-norm now. Curiously this was also what happened to him in this tournament last year, but then his sprint started a little too late for him to get norm chances in the last round.

Gustav Törnngren (2197) versus **Ludvig Carlsson (2374)** was a Swedish junior duel, but also a meeting between two classmates from the NTG chess study in Oslo. Still it was a hard-fought game in which white played very aggressively with g4–g5–h4 in a Queen’s Gambit opening. As white failed to find any attacking continuation on the kingside black got a clear advantage after opening the queenside. Exchanging of the queens on d1 might have been inaccurate as white’s king was now more exposed than black’s. Carlsson still had a pleasant pressure in the rook and bishop endgame, and went on to win in before 40 moves as Törnngren short of time soon lost his defence plan. Although very well deserved the outcome was not too good from a norm perspective as Törnngren is without any chances for an IM-norm, while Carlsson already has got all the norms. On the other hand every new Elo point brings Carlsson closer to the 2400-limit that will give him the IM-title.

FM Karolis Juksta (2397) versus **FM Volker Seifert (2246)** was a Classical Nimzo-Indian duel, in which black wasted a tempo with Qb6–Qc7 to provoke e3 from white. White got some initiative after castling long, as black struggled with the safety of his king on e8 as well as the development of other pieces. White reportedly missed a very strong knight sacrifice with 20.Nd5!!, but still kept an initiative with rook, bishop and four pawns left on each side. Seifert used his chance to activate the king and the kingside pawns when white played too slow, reaching a rather stagnant endgame with rook, bishop and three pawns on each side. The game was soon drawn after both players passed the time control.



Juksta vs Seifert

IM Erlend Mikalsen (2373) castled long, but first did not get much advantage from the Vienna opening against **Vladan Nikolic (2216)**. This however changed very suddenly after the opening, as black first welcomed in a disturbing white knight on f5 and then overlooked a winning knight sacrifice on g7. White within three moves won back the knight by h3xg4 and later smashed through in the now open h-file well before 30 moves.



Mikalsen vs Nikolic

Jacob Templen Grave (2202) versus **IM Julian Martin (2396)** was a Nimzo-Indian Sämisch line in which white tried to build up a center, but succeeded only to exchange all the center pawns and all the bishops. The remaining position with queen, two rooks, two knights and four pawns on each side was somewhat better for black due to his passed pawn at c4 and knight outpost at d3. Black’s active knights also gave him some tactical possibilities. As white underestimated the tactical dangers in a strained position, black could decide by sacrificing his rook on f3 at move 26.

FM Mathias Unneland (2228) versus **IM Christian Köpke (2346)** was a Benkö gambit in which white took the pawn on a6. Black for some moves was fine if not better after winning back the pawn in the early middle game, but black probably asked for too much when he sacrificed an exchange to snatch white's a4-pawn. A game changer definitely came as black afterwards overlooked a tactical Nxf7. Unneland later made all the better calculations, and black resigned after 40 moves as he was a knight down and about to lose his queen for a rook. Unneland made his first IM-norm in this tournament last year and is still in the run for a second following this win. Köpke felt out of order and requested a walk over draw for round 7 after this game.

Andre Gjestemoen von-Hirsch (2192) and **FM Noam Vitenberg (2305)** today discussed a Reti position in which black takes over the center. The conclusion about this particular line became that black due to his e-file control and pair of bishops was better. Sacrificing the dark squared bishop on h6 at move 26 was a promising decision, but as black accepted the offer white chickened out by a perpetual check draw instead of continuing the attack.



Fossum vs Altarbosh with Gjestemoen von-Hirsch in the back

FM Ward Altarbosh (2177) as white against **FM Øystein Bøyum Fossum (2302)** established an ambitious center advantage. Attacking with his bayonet h-pawn he also got a strong attack after black greedily snatched a pawn at c4. Altarbosh in an inspired mood sacrificed a knight on d5 to establish two passed pawns at e6 and f7. He was rewarded as black within a few moves was forced to return the piece to stop the pawns – leading to a double rook endgame in which white's two extra pawns gave him a safe win.

FM Fredrik Lindh (2296) and **Andreas Skotheim (2146)** instead tested out a positionally double-edged Sicilian line, in which white's advanced pawns at d5 and f5 combined with the pair of bishops gave him chances for a kingside attack in the middle game. As white turned his queen around to the kingside black however intervened with a lot of counterplay on the queenside.



Lindh vs Skotheim

Black for some moves was two pawns up, but then had to sacrifice his knight to stop white's pawn storm on the kingside. The remaining position

with queen, two rooks, bishop and two pawns against queen, two rooks and six pawns was very difficult for both players. Taking another white pawn at f5 was tempting from a black point of view, but still backfired in his face as he short of time blundered with 39... Ke6?? – overlooking a neon light flashing 40.Rf1! followed by 41.Qxf6+, with heavy artillery firing after the black king. White later sacrificed his bishop on e3 on the highway to mate black's king on d3.

Lindh following this tight win also survived as an IM-norm candidate, but also must win several more games to make it.

Morten Andersen (2182) as white against **Emils Mierins (2057)** took the Benkő gambit pawn, and after creating a passed pawn at a5 was clearly better in the middle game. Advancing the pawn to a6 at move 23 might have been too early, but white won back the pawn at e7 within a few moves and was close to winning after 30 moves. Running short of time white however lost control on the position in the fourth hour, allowing black to snatch back a pawn at b2 and then exchange it down to a bishop and rook endgame with three pawns on each side. Black now was closer to winning chances due to his passed pawn at c3. Andersen however refound his strength after getting the extra 40 minutes on the clock, and the game was soon agreed draw after he succeeded in placing his rook as guard on c7.

Teenagers **Ileysaa Bin-Suhayl (2168)** and **Sverre Lye (1858)** entered a somewhat original line of closed Catalan, in which white played his bishop via c1 to d2, e3 and f4 – and then exchanged it for a knight on d6. As black found nothing better than giving up the pair of bishops a few moves later on, white after all got a pleasant advantage due to his center advantage and superior light squared bishop. White's advantage increased as he established a knight on the d6 outpost, but decreased again as he withdraw the knight back to c3.

Sverre Lye's hard work to save a difficult position however was wasted as he short of time to reach 40 moves overlooked a tactical 37.Rxf5!, after which black's kingside collapsed within a few more moves.



Shehzad vs Grøver

Sigurd Grøver (2105) and **Shazil Shehzad (2249)** started up with some kind of strange Queen's Pawn opening, in which white got a big center advantage after he was allowed to play Nf3–Nc3–d4–d5–e4–e5 – and then added fuel by h4–h5. White later had a strong initiative most of the time, but the advantage jumped back and forward several times in a messy middle game. White's exchange sacrifice on f1 reportedly was loose, but worked out well as black did not dare to take the exchange. White due to his passed pawn on d6 later was reported close to winning in the rooks and bishop endgame. Black eventually succeeded first transform the d6-pawn into a c7-pawn and then to block it with a rook on c8. His position still was cramped until white helpfully exchanged of the rooks on terms favouring black. In the remaining bishop endgame black could go around to b5 with his bishop and win the passed pawn, after which the players soon exchanged down to a dead drawn pawn endgame.

Laurin Perkampus (2076) versus **Mathias Lind Schouten (2166)** was another teenager duel and started up with a positional line of a Classical King's Indian. Black apparently had the better preparation as he after the opening established a promising space advantage on the kingside. As white lagged behind on the clock 24.Ne4? was a mistake. Black however decided to sacrifice an exchange on the knight instead of just playing around it with a strong attack for free. Following a few moves of confusion for both players, they reached a closed endgame with two rooks and seven pawns against rook, knight and seven pawns. Black's knight on Nd4 was about as strong as white's rook on a1, while black's king at f5 was much more active than white's on f1. Perkampus was some 45 minutes behind on the clock and down at 0.02 several times, but between move 30 and 35 white still succeeded in activating his rooks. Exchanging one rook often is a good plan for the player with material advantage in such endgames. This one however was an interesting exception: 36.Re3+? was a decisive mistake as black's passed pawn at f3 after 36... Rxe3 37.fxe3 paralyzed white for the rest of the game.

Schouten showed excellent understanding as he entered the endgame, in which his knight and active king instructively outmaneuvered the white rook. White's last trap was 57.Rd6 after which the automatic 57...c1Q?? would have fallen into a stalemate after 58.Rxd5+, but Schouten played accurately all the way and soon won after 57...c1R!

Sergey Eliseev (2041) against **Bennet Hagner (2133)** was a young teenager duel ending up with another very interesting endgame. It all started as a Caro-Kann, suddenly accelerating as white sacrificed a bishop with 15.Bh5! and 16.Bxf7+!?. Sacrificing an exchange on f5 later was consequent and reportedly fine, but as white failed to find the best continuation black was better for a few moves before he in turn blundered. The position of course was extremely demanding to handle for both players. A few mistakes later black offered a draw in a still chaotic position with queen, rook and six white pawns against queen, rook, knight and three black pawns. White turned down the offer, but did so by a too greedy pawn snatch. After this black was close to winning for a few moves before he by tactical means exchanged down to an endgame with knight and two pawns against five pawns. It looked promising for black due to white's poor structure. Although black won three pawns, he however due to white's active king and distant h7-pawn was unable to win with knight and two pawns against two pawns.

Sondre Melaa (2117) versus **Jonas Hodneland Rasmussen (1995)** was a messy King's Gambit both players spent a lot of time investigating. White some 15 moves later had won back the gambit pawn on f4, but instead sacrificed a new pawn at h4. Although black had a pair of bishops plus an extra pawn, white after 24 moves still left a repetition of moves to go for a kingside attack. It worked out in accordance with his plans as black at move 29 blundered by withdrawing his queen from f6 to d8, instead of creating chaos by a counterattack on the white queen. With black's queen gone as a kingside defender, white within three more moves efficiently smashed in at g6 with mate to follow.

Afras Mansoor (1931) versus **Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2111)** could have been another very interesting teenager duel. Black however had the much better preparation for this creepy Owen's defence, and as white failed to get out of the dangers in time or to find the critical lines over the board, he was a pawn and an exchange down with a wrecked position when the smoke left after 17 moves. Øye-Strømberg took the safe and long road as he sacrificed back an exchange, but had no problems winning the remaining rook endgame with one extra pawn and the better structure.



Øye-Strømberg vs Mansoor

Caro-Kann had been an opening fashion so far this tournament, and was demonstrated again the game between **Brede Andre Hagen (1973)** and **Christian Grundekjøn (2102)**. The line should not be repeated by many Caro-Kann enthusiasts as white following a violent 17.g4! won a piece for two pawns with a close to winning position. Black's search for counterplay on the kingside only led to another piece lost on the e-file, hence white very well deservedly won in only 26 moves.

Andreas Tenold (1995) versus **Pijus Greicius (2080)** was a Nimzo-Indian duel which first looked about balanced and rather strategic. The game suddenly turned very tactical as white took back the black knight at g5 instead of the one at c5 in move 23. As black used his chance to jump in at b3 and later found about all the best moves, this ten moves later resulted in a queen endgame with two extra pawns for black. White was invited back to the game as black for mysterious reasons later returned one of the pawns and gave white a passed a-pawn. Black still won this game, as white a few moves after the time control even more mysteriously exchanged queens to reach a lost pawn endgame.



Tenold vs Greicius

Valentina Verbin (2023) versus **Andreas Skrede Hausken (1936)** saw another closed Ruy Lopez position, which for 20 moves remained roughly balanced. Black came better as he was allowed to take white's key pawn at d5, and white's position seemed ready for delivery as she gave up a second pawn on e3. Black then allowed a messy exchange sacrifice on f6 – which white found. Finally having reached a unclear position with counterchances, white however blundered a rook the next move and resigned when the smoke cleared a few moves later.



Verbin vs Hausken

Kim Roger Hansen Westrum (1945) and **FM Richard Bjerke (2102)** discussed a rare French Winawer line with 5.Bd2. In this version of it white temporarily sacrificed a pawn in the center, and kept a slight initiative after regaining the pawn. The players later spent much time but balanced steadily into a drawish position with queen, rook and five pawns on each side. Black's king however still was more exposed, and consequently he had much more difficulties to find the best moves. After black weakened both his king and his pawns with 27...h5?, white soon had a dangerous attack. As white had won two pawns, black anyway was lost when he short of time blundered a rook and resigned just before 40 moves.

Max Dahl (2041) versus **Emerik Roulet-Dubonnet (2084)** was another Norwegian junior duel. This one started up with a Bogó-Indian opening in which white got a promising space advantage. Then white following a long think went for a tactical Bxe5, leading to an about balanced position after black returned the piece. And then black at move 21 offered a draw, which was accepted.

Christian Tunge (2044) and **Simen Sørensen (1975)** started up with an English fianchetto, but moved towards an open Catalan as white later played d4. White first got a promising pressure, but probably wasted most of the advantage when halting his development to ask for a queen exchange (which was of course accepted). Later black had few problems blocking white's passed d-pawn while completing his development, and a draw was agreed upon white's suggestion in a balanced position after 24 moves.



Sørensen vs Tunge

Terje Lund (2024) versus **Håkon Bentsen (2088)** today was a highly entertaining, if far from perfect, last board battle. It all started with an Accepted Queen's Gambit, leading to an isolated Queen's Pawn position under favourable circumstances for white. In the early middle game black helpfully exchanged of his bishop for a knight on c3 to repair white's pawn structure and give him a pair of bishops.

Lund played very well for the first 25 moves, building up a strong kingside attack. Turning down various dangerous attacking plans to win an exchange for a pawn was not the best solution, but still good enough for a clear advantage. Black however got some counterplay, and the tide turned as white at move 36 suddenly allowed black to take the key center pawn at d4.

Both players missed that white had a winning rook sacrifice on g7 at move 39, but the position remained chaotic after white instead went for the same sacrifice at move 40. Black after 45 moves had king, queen and knight against queen and five pawns, but with the knight stranded on a2 he still had a hard time escaping white's checks without losing the knight. The position following this probably still was drawish when white at move 59 made the final blunder by taking the white pawn at a6 – somehow overlooking that his king was in danger in another corner and that he would have to sacrifice the queen after 59.--- Qh5+ 60.Kg3 Ne2+.

Open Group

Round 6 became a hard fought one also in the Open, in which all the first four boards got a winner.

The Dahl family had a great day as **Torbjørn Dahl (1876)** on the first board kept up the pressure through the middle game and succeeded realizing his extra pawn (and later extra bishop) in the endgame against **Sigurd Kittilsen (1881)**.

On the second board 15 year old **Dion Krivenko (2045)** got a tight Sicilian battle as black against 50 year older **Ragnar Edvardsen (1865)**, but finally found a winning attack during the last moves before the time control.

Third board was a teenager duel in which **Eivind Grunt Kreken (1838)** got the upper hand from a Trompovsky opening, and later increased the pressure until winning in the endgame as white against **Ask Amundsen (1816)**.

Meanwhile 1.a3?! gave **Misha Galimsky (1756)** no success in another teenager duel on fourth board, as his opponent **Max Moe Pedersen (1837)** by sound means came better from the opening and soon raised a strong attack in the middle game.

Twelve year old **Martin Holten Fiskaaen (1829)** and ten year old **Evsuld Mygmarsuren (1650)** also aspires for top three after convincing wins today.

45 year old chess daddy Dahl however now leads alone at 5,5/6, half a point ahead of Kirvenko and Kreken, while Kittilsen, Pedersen, Fiskaaen and Mygmarsuren are the only players at 4,5/6.

Not too many surprises were observed on the lower boards today, although the unrated ten year old **David Mindestrøm Simonsen** prolonged his success with a draw as black against **Guttorm Andersen (1731)**.

Top boards for round 7 might well be decisive to identify the first prize winner in this group – and they will be Krivenko–Dahl, Kittilsen–Kreken and Pedersen–Fiskaaen.



Kittilsen vs Dahl



Andersen vs Simonsen

Photos by Tom Eriksen