

FAGERNES CHESS INTERNATIONAL 2022

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

Starting up with 15 GMs, out of whom 6 are rated above 2600 and 9 rated above 2575, this GM group by far is the strongest one seen in Fagernes chess history so far. 5 IMs, 3 WGMs, 2 WIMs and 12 FMs also can be found among the 71 participants, and this combined with a median ELO around 2250 provides excellent chances for all kind of title norms. The first round had many exciting games and quite a few surprising game results, although the 15 GMs in the end scored a remarkable 13 wins and 2 draws.

Somewhat unexpectedly, the first board today became the first decided game, as top rated **GM Arjun Erigaisi (2675)** of India got a pleasant start with a short win against German **WIM Fiona Sieber (2248)**.

18 year old Erigaisi had spent just above half an hour on the clock when winning the game in 27 moves.

The game started up like an positional English fianchetto, but as the position opened up black's misunderstood plan with 8... Bg4?! and 9... Bxf3? soon gave white a strong pair

of bishops AND a strong initiative. Black following this already had a hard defensive struggle with her knight pinned at f6. White in an inspired mood won a pawn by a tactical 15.Qxb7! and soon landed in a won endgame with two extra pawns. Sieber was far below her best today, but losing as black against a player close to 2700 still is not a bad start when you are playing for the final WGM-norm.



Erigaisi vs Sieber

Second board duel between **Vladan Nikolic (2247)** and **GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2650)** on the other hand was a long and tense five hours battle. It all started up with a closed and positional Semi-Slav duel, fairly balanced on the clock and the board.

Not too much happened for the first two hours, as the players had only about half an hour left after 15 moves. Then white after realizing the e4-break got a promising pressure, developing into a close to winning attack. The pawn snatch 28.Nxc4? although creative was a mistake from a much better position, as black could – and did – complicate things by sacrificing his queen with 28.--- Rxc4 29.Bd2 Qxd2!. Taking the queen instead of the rook reportedly was another mistake, after which black with rook and two knights for queen suddenly was playing for a win.

The position still was very difficult to handle from both sides, and as Sasikiran had only seconds left on his clock Nikolic's queen and rook came up with counterplay against the black king just before 40 moves. After the time control white's new passed a-pawn became too disturbing, hence the GM within three more moves sacrificed one of his knights on the a-pawn – forcing a dead drawn endgame with queen and three kingside pawns versus rook, knight and three kingside pawns.



Sarin vs Ravi

Third board was the first, but for sure not the last, duel between two titleholders from India in this tournament. Finally back at Fagernes, the still only 17 year old **GM Nihal Sarin (2648)** as white against **WIM Rakshitta Ravi (2240)** went for an English double fianchetto. White spent 45 minutes on his first 11 moves and lagged behind on the clock from the opening, but came ahead on the board due to his fine knight on f4. As white had opened the position in his favour with a d3-break against black's too advanced pawn at e4,

white anyway was clearly better when black went for a loose pawn sacrifice with 16.--- f4?!. Sarin a few moves later had two sound extra pawns, but then allowed still hard-fighting Ravi a tactical counterhit. As black had got back both pawns, the position apparently was unclear when Ravi at move 31 resigned. Still Sarin probably was in full control and according to the computer analysis had a decisive attack.

Andreas Skotheim (2206) versus **GM Alexander Donchenko (2619)** was a Sicilian with 3.Bb5+, in which black had no problems after white somewhat clumsily returned his bishop via d3 to c2.

White still had a sound position before a mysterious 13.b3?, allowing black to exchange his less important pawn at b5 for the key white pawn at e4. The GM following this developed a promising pressure, which well before 40 moves turned into a decisive eight-rank attack.



Hakobyan vs Rahul

Armenian **GM Aram Hakobyan (2612)** had a long and dramatic travel from his current home in the US before finally arriving Fagernes late Saturday night. When the first round game started Sunday evening he however had few problems winning as white against Swedish-Indian **Kumar Rahul (2204)**. While Rahul spent much time in his Pirc opening, Hakobyan played very fast and confident, reaching a more or less winning attack after black allowed a powerful 10.e5!

Black felt forced to give up a pawn to exchange off the queens. Having an extra pawn AND the more active pieces, the GM had few problems winning the rook endgame.

FM Ward Altarosh (2200) versus **GM Sethuraman Sethuraman (2610)** was an Open Sicilian duel. After the queens were exchange white won the backward black pawn at d6, but black had 40 minutes more on the clock and was well satisfied on the board due to his active pair of bishops. Black came obviously better after winning back the pawn within a few moves. The GM later instructively opened up the kingside to win decisive material before 30 moves.



Sanal

Turkish **GM Vahap Sanal (2593)** as white against Norwegian **junior Shazil Shehzad (2195)** went for another positional Sicilian with 3.Bb5+ and 4.Bxd7+, leading to a position that was balanced on clock and board after 16 moves.

The endgame with two rooks, one knight and six pawns on each side still appeared drawish after two and a half hour, although white had a slight pressure on the board and was about a quarter of an hour ahead on the clock. Predictable enough the talented junior when running short of time lost the thread and made mistakes, which the GM efficiently punished.

White picked up two pawns and after all won the game within four hours.



Chopra vs Andersen

Morten Andersen (2190) as white against **GM Aryan Chopra (2592)** went for a Kings Indian fianchetto line, in which white was allowed to play d5 with a space advantage. 11.e5?! probably was overambitious, but still worked out very well. Black made a strange decision when playing 13... Bg4? instead of the critical 13... Nxd5!?, and after 14.Nxg4 white's strong pair of bishops in an open position soon gave him a big plus.

Black came 20 minutes ahead on the clock, but the position looked critical

as he soon had to give up a pawn. In reality white's position however was over the top point when winning the pawn, as black's more active pieces gave him full compensation in the rook and minor piece endgame. Andersen however in turn defended well, returning the extra pawn to force exchanges and land in a dead drawn rook endgame with three kingside pawns on each side after 58 moves. Although the sensation headlines were cancelled, 61 year old Andersen made a great start by drawing a more than 40 year younger and fast rising GM.

Turkish **GM Emre Can (2578)** as white against German-American **Nathanael Poysti (2190)** went for a positional Italian struggle, in which all 32 pieces were still in play after 15 moves. White kept an edge on the board and came some 20 minutes ahead on the clock. Under some positional pressure black went for dubious tactics in the third hour. White following this won two pieces for rook and pawn, with a trivially won position after the queens were exchanged.



Urkedal vs Øye-Strømberg

GM Frode Urkedal (2539) as white against **Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2157)** went for a Queen's Gambit Exchange line offering white a positional edge. Black went for an active and probably dubious defence with 17... c5?!, leading to an isolated queen's pawn position in which white was better despite black's pair of bishops. As white's pressure increased black understandably went for counterplay on the kingside, but it soon turned out that his advanced g- and h-pawns were much weaker than the white king. Øye-Strømberg

creatively sacrificed an exchange to get some counterplay, but still failed as Urkedal just before move 40 efficiently sacrificed back the exchange to raise a winning attack.

Playing his first game in Norway for some 15 years, Dutchman **Jeroen van den Berselaar (2173)** as white against **GM Erik Blomqvist (2550)** started up with 1.c4 and then transposed into a Catalan opening. Chances appeared balanced after white slightly strangely exchanged pawns at d5. Although black was half an hour ahead on the clock, he apparently had a long way to win the game after 16 moves. 17.Qf4? followed by 18.e3? however was a dubious plan, as white's queen suddenly found herself in danger of getting trapped. White in desperation tried to sacrifice his knight on e5 at move 19, but realizing how little he had got for the piece white resigned within two more moves.

Stig K. Martinsen (2155) versus **GM Kaido Kulaots (2529)** was a Classical Nimzo-Indian duel, in which white hoped that his pair of bishops would give him the better long term perspectives. Black in the meantime however did fine due to his counterplay against the isolated white pawn at c3. Although white lagged ten minutes behind on the clock, it was still a tense struggle after three hours. Accepting a queen exchange after 24 moves probably was fine from a white point of view, but if so snatching a pawn at b7 afterwards was too greedy. Black soon won back the pawn and kept a promising initiative in the endgame. As the 2100-player ran short of time and moves in the fourth hour, the GM efficiently demonstrated the road to a minor piece endgame with an extra piece.



Hillarp vs Hagner

GM Tiger Hillarp Persson (2511) as white against **Bennet Hagner (2151)** went for a Reti opening – and then apparently started wondering why, as he spent 50 minutes for the first nine moves. 9.e4!? still was a creative try for an initiative. Black's decision to give up the light-squared bishop for a knight on c4 probably was dubious, as white got rid of his backward d3-pawn and later had a safe initiative. At move 17 white had only 25 minutes left on the clock, although black had only 16. Under some mutual time pressure white increased the pressure by a powerful e5-e6 advance. Having won a pawn, the Tiger before 40 moves had found his way to a rook endgame in which his passed c-pawn was decisive.

WGM Olga Dolzhikova (2131)

as white against **GM Zhansaya Abdumalik (2496)** soon left the theory main lines with 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4. Abdumalik made no complaints as she came half an hour ahead on the clock, while her pair of bishops gave a pleasant initiative after an early queen exchange.

After three hours the endgame with bishop, knight and five pawns versus two bishops and five pawns still appeared to give white good chances for a draw, but the pair of bishops combined

with a kingside pawn majority still gave black promising winning chances from a practical point of view. Helped by white's time shortage before 40 moves, black instructively first created a passed pawn at h3 and then exchanged one of her bishops to force a totally won bishop endgame.



Abdumalik vs Dolzhikova



Kaasen vs Machlik

IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen

(2465) versus **Monika Machlik (2122)** was a duel between two still young, talented and ambitious former teammates from Tromsø (as Kaasen now represents the Oslo club Vålerenga). Their hard-fought game started up like a Caro-Kann Advance in which white's e5 pawn gave him some space advantage and attacking chances. Black spent a lot of time but succeeded exchanging the white

e5-pawn and then play e5 herself. Computer programs considered the position with queen, rook, two minor pieces and six pawns on each side fairly balanced after 28 moves. A human eye still would prefer white's position due to the pair of bishops, and beside black had much less time to handle the still demanding position.

31.--- Qxc5? anyway was much too greedy and was immediately punished as white demonstrated a tactical 32.Rxe5! with a winning advantage. Within a few moves after the queens left, white promoted his a-pawn.

The Oslo junior duel between **Sondre Melaa (2120)** and **FM Elham Abdrlauf (2427)** was another Sicilian duel with 3.Bb5+. Both players were slow on the clock from the opening, but white first made the better use of the minutes. True enough black did get a pair of bishops, but white had the safer king and a promising initiative due to his powerful knight on e5.

Exchanging down to a double-rook endgame was very helpful from white, as black had his king stuck at e8. Black later got a slight endgame pressure, much due to his more active king. Melaa however defended well by sacrificing his loose pawn at c3 to get counterplay against black's kingside pawns in the rook endgame. In the fourth hour this game saw an exciting pawn race as white was a pawn up with a three against one majority on the kingside, while black had a very disturbing passed a-pawn. It all slowed down just before the time control as white sacrificed his rook on the a-pawn, to reach a safe draw with king and a pawn at f7 against king and rook.

Swedish **GM Stellan Brynell (2406)** and Norwegian master player **Ola Liabøtrø (2101)** meanwhile discussed an Accepted Queen's Gambit, leading to a fairly balanced isolated queen's pawn position. White apparently did not have much on the board, but still came some 25 minutes ahead on the clock. Black continued to spend too much time, and having only five minutes left after 22 moves he still had a demanding position to play. Although slumbering so far the GM immediately woke up when smelling blood, as he after an instructive h4-h5-hxg6 smashed in with a rook sacrifice on e6 after 26 moves. With the black queen stuck on a3 black's king later was helpless, and white neatly completed the game with a rare 31.Ne5 mate.

Norwegian junior **Saad Elmi (2092)** and Serbian **WGM Teodora Injac (2406)** investigated an Italian opening line, leading to an approximately balanced position in which white had an isolated pawn at d4. Black was slightly worse on the board and some 30 minutes ahead on the clock in the middle game. Later the players by sound means exchanged down to a drawish endgame with rook, knight and four pawns versus rook, bishop and four pawns.

A wrongly set clock unfortunately caused a little break after the time control, although both players handled this very well. Later it remained a bit mysterious who was playing for a win in the minor piece endgame, which anyway was drawn after 53 moves.



Vestby-Ellingsen vs Bentsen

Håkon Bentsen (2078) versus **IM Mats Vestby-Ellingsen (2370)** saw a rare Sicilian fianchetto line with 3.g3. White was slow on the clock and the board from the opening, and black due to his space advantage came slightly better. Bentsen for a change spent a lot of time, but under some pressure balanced into a drawish endgame with one rook, two bishops and three pawns left in each army. Black's passed pawn at c4 still gave him some hope to win after 30 moves, but as white was given the chance to exchange that it all dried out with a draw a few moves later on.

FM Anders Hobber (2379) as white against **Eivind Grunt Kreken (2088)** went for a positional approach with a London System. Black might have been inaccurate with his e5-break, as white got some pressure against black's d5-pawn after all four knights were exchanged. White eventually succeeded in winning the pawn, although the endgame with rook, bishop and four pawns versus rook, bishop and three pawns still proved too drawish due to the opposite-coloured bishops.

Prantik Roy (2368) and **Simen Sørensen (2070)** discussed a Queen's Gambit line with Bf4, in which the c- and d-pawns soon were exchanged. Playing with a pair of bishops, black had no problems after Nh5-Nxg3. White got some advantage on the clock, but not much on the board, as the position balanced into a drawish endgame with rook, knight and six pawns against rook, bishop and six pawns. As Sørensen became too passive when running short of time, Prantik in between move 35 and 40 however switched the rook and minor piece endgame from drawish to winning.

German junior **Laurin Perkampus (2061)** and Ukrainian **IM Timofey Galinsky (2358)** played a Dutch Stonewall. White came first slightly better after exchanging dark-squared bishops, although black after 13 moves was 50 minutes ahead on the clock. White however continued to spend too much time without finding any active plan. Although black after 20 moves had a slight c-file initiative, white still had a sound position until a much too weakening 22.e4?. When finally getting the chance the IM made efficient use of it, exchanging down to a rook and minor piece endgame which was winning due to white's lame knight on a4.



Kvaløy vs Roulet-Dubonnet

18 year old **Emerik Våpenstad Roulet-Dubonnet (2050)** became today's sensation man in the GM group, winning as white against 13 year old FM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2330). This was a true sensation not only following the expectations before the game, but also following the predictions after 25 moves. The opening was a fairly closed Nimzo-Indian Rubinstein line, in which white was slightly better on the board and 15 minutes ahead on the clock. White's plan for a kingside

pawn storm however was a bit loose, and the tide first turned in favour of black after he instructively hit back in the center. Black was reported close to winning after a powerful 20... d4!, creating a passed pawn and opening a long diagonal for the bishop at b7. Five moves later on black had a winning counterattack against the white king on f2.

Exchanging off the knights with 26... Ne4+? however was a serious misunderstanding, after which the white king could breathe much more easily. That proved a decisive turning point in this game, as the 2000-player later made much better decisions than the 2300-player while both ran short of time. Kvaløy resigned without waiting for white's move 40, as white was now material up and had mate in a few rather obvious moves.

Young **Max Dahl (2054)** surprisingly saved a draw as black in a long duel against even younger Swedish **Edvin Trost (2342)** tonight. The opening was a closed Semi-Slav in which black played 2... c6 and 5... c5, leaving white with a slight pull in an isolated queen's pawn position. As white later exchanged his knight on c6 to play against black's hanging c- and d-pawn, he had a clear advantage due to his pressure against the backward black pawn at c6. Dahl however defended well and succeeded first to exchange off his bad bishop, and then to create counterplay on the kingside in the remaining queen and rook position. Stork despite a somewhat open king played bravely on for a win in the fifth hour. Although he came a pawn up in the final queen endgame, there was no winning chances due to black's passed and highly disturbing c-pawn.



Ingebretsen vs Westrum

FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2315) as white in another Norwegian junior duel against **Kim Roger Westrum (2046)** went for some rather unusual kingside fianchetto, and got a pleasant edge after black helpfully locked in his own bishop at b7 with 9... c4?. The game was more or less decided as black three moves later overlooked a tactical 12.Nxc4!. Following this white came a pawn up with the more dangerous attack, and although the position looked a bit messy white completed his attacking win after only 27 moves.

Valentina Verbin (2037) versus **Dusan Schwarz (2295)** was a Dutch opening duel in which something went wrong for black, leaving white with a space advantage and the much better bishop after two sets of minor pieces were exchanged. White following this still was clearly better after 27 moves, when the players cooperated to draw the game by a threefold repetition of moves.

Players before the start of this round gave a supporting applaud to the two young Ukrainian refugees taking part in the tournament. One of them is 16 year old **FM Semen Mitusov (2274)**, afterwards entering the ring as black against talented Bergen junior **Afras Mansoor (2033)**. The opening was an Accepted Queen's Gambit in which white due to his pawn at e5 got a space advantage. A tense and double-edged struggle followed as white searched for a kingside attack, while black tried to bolster the kingside while opening the queenside for counterplay.

Mansoor spent much time, but found many good moves, and white reached a winning attack as black under pressure went for dubious tactical counterplay with 29... Bh6?. Mansoor within a few moves picked up an exchange on a8 and reached a won position with queen, rook and six pawns against queen, bishop and six pawns. Mitusov and his bishop, helped by Mansoor's running clock, still fought on well and proved able to come up with some counterplay in the fourth and early fifth hour. Objectively speaking, white still was winning when he decided to take the safe half point and draw the game by a repetition of checks after 49 moves.

FM Damien Le Goff (2290) versus **Yoann Le Montagner (2035)** was today's most unfortunate pairing, as the players are travel friends coming all the way from France to play this tournament. The players sportily accepted the situation without any protests and made an exciting game out of it. The opening was some Grünfeld fianchetto in which black came 15-20 minutes ahead on the clock, but white kept a positional grip after three sets of minor pieces exchanged. Having picked up the a7-pawn with his queen, white anyway was much better when black overlooked a powerful d5-break resulting in a winning attack well before 40 moves.

FM Frank Buchenau (2269) versus **Vetle Bjørge Strand (2018)** was a somewhat French-like Caro-Kann opening, in which the young black player bravely snatched both the white center pawns at d4 and e5 with his queen. Another tense struggle followed as black kept the two extra pawns while white kept a pair of bishops and a strong initiative. Still having his king at e8, black spent way too much time and faced a tough uphill struggle with less than five minutes left on the clock after 20 moves. More than 40 years older than his opponent in this game, Buchenau kept up the pressure well and used the chance to make a breakthrough when 14 year old Strand ran seriously short of time. White's promising attack turned winning as black overlooked a tactical 27.Bxg6! and ended with a decisive material win eight moves later on.

Sverre Lye (1994) versus **WGM Jana Schneider (2263)** was a hard-fought game in which both players spent much time, and although lasting «only» 55 moves it was the last game to finish in the GM-group this round. The opening was a fairly closed and fairly balanced Ruy Lopez, in which 14...exd4 was the first exchange. The position lightened up as black after 21 moves sacrificed an exchange at e4 to hit in on f2 with her queen. Lye however defended well, returning the exchange to reach a drawish endgame with rook, bishop and six pawns on each side. Opposite-coloured bishops apparently made this very drawish, but Schneider played on and just before 40 moves sacrificed a pawn to play for a dark-square attack. After the time control white, having three against two pawns, was the player to leave a repetition of moves. That decision was not without risks, as black was allowed to push her passed pawn forward to f3, leaving white with a worried king on h1 and black with an active king around e4. White and his passed a-pawn should have been able to save the position after five hours, but Lye spent much time and made the final blunder with an apparently natural 48.a6? – as black had just the time needed to play 48...Ke3! and 49...Kf2 with the decisive mate threat 50...Rg1.

The Dutch veteran **IM Gerard Welling (2261)** as white against Norwegian junior **Andreas Skrede Hausken (1991)** meanwhile had made a slow start, with a Colle system transposing into a Dutch Stonewall in advance. It first nearly backfired as black got a sound advantage after exchanging the light-squared bishops. White came under pressure as the position opened, but kept chances about balanced with queen, rook, knight and five pawns each side. Far ahead on the clock, Welling gradually came better and just before 40 moves won a pawn. The endgame with rook, knight and three pawns versus rook, knight and two pawns still gave black excellent drawing chances. That was, until he became too eager to exchange the knights and blundered with 41...Nd2?? – resigning as Welling efficiently played 42.Rd6! with a decisive material win.



Zadruzny vs Sekkingstad

Thomas Sekkingstad (1979) versus **FM Nikolaj Zadruzny (2258)** was another Classical Nimzo-Indian duel in which white came well ahead on the clock, as black had spent 70 minutes on his first 12 moves. More important, black however then had got a promising initiative, after white too fast played the too weakening 12.f3?. Our new Swedish guest Zadruzny efficiently forced his way to a more or less won endgame with an extra pawn, in which his rook and bishop was superior to white's rook and knight. The final minor piece endgame after the first time control

was a trivial win, as black was a pawn up while his bishop dominated white's knight.

FM Mathias Unneland (2254) versus **WFM Anita Grønnestad (1941)** saw a Sicilian Accelerated Dragon duel, in which white got a pleasant initiative on the board with some 45 minutes more on the clock. As black found no active counterattack white increased the pressure, playing first with a strong knight on d5 and then with a pair of bishops. Unneland later efficiently opened the kingside, winning a piece before 40 moves. As white could continue the attack with an extra piece, he after the time control had few problems winning the game.



Dahl vs Kvendseth

Tyra Kvendseth (1941) versus **FM Trygve Dahl (2252)** was a complex Dutch fianchetto duel, in which black was some 25 minutes ahead on the clock after 20 moves. The position then was reported fairly balanced with two rooks, bishop and six pawns against two rooks, knight and six pawns. White's advanced pawn at e6 however was a weakness more than an asset in this endgame. Black succeeded reaching a winning position by opening the queenside to advance his c-pawn. Although prolonging the struggle by exchanging

the passed pawn, he landed safely in a won minor piece endgame with knight and four versus bishop and four scattered kingside pawns.

In case some readers now wonder about **CM Ludvig Carlsson (2411)** and/or **Pål Røyset (2133)**, both had a delayed arrival and will play the tournament from round two with a walk over draw from round 1. **Sigurd Loe Grøver (2149)** due to temporary illness will not be able to play the first two rounds, but will be welcome to join the tournament if he can play from round three on Tuesday.

Open Group

Despite an ELO difference around 400-500 points in almost all games, the Open had more surprising results than the GM group today. One of them notably came on the first board, as 39 year old **Martin K. Andersen (1565)** succeeded in reaching a rook endgame with an extra pawn as white against German **Irinia Donchenko (2057)**. The game became the last one in this round 1, finishing around 23.30 in the evening.



Andersen vs Donchenko

Chess mother Donchenko however proved herself a skilled defender and had no problems saving the endgame with one kingside pawns against two kingside pawns.

The Andersen brothers from Trondheim overall had a great start on their first Fagernes tournament, as the 17 year younger brother **Edvard Andersen (1555)** on the fourth board made a sensation by winning as black against **Hallvard Haug Flatebø (1917)**. White true enough was reported close to winning from the unusual Black Knight's Tango opening, and after castling long had a decisive kingside attack before 20 moves. Then Flatebø however decided to blunder his knight on h5 instead of using it to complete the attack. Edvard Andersen cashed in the knight, later played very well, and had everything under control in the endgame with two rooks and one bishop against the lone white queen.

Meanwhile on the second board **Terje Lund (2032)** was more or less winning with an extra pawn after the opening against **Ulrikke Langvik (1563)**, and never looked back later on.

Another sensation however was close on the third board, as **Eirik Aarnes (1973)** played a bit too creative as black with the exchange sacrifice 14.--- Bb4?. His opponent **David Hellesøy (1561)** could have cashed in material with an advantage, but after he missed that chance black soon demonstrated a winning attack.

The talented young teenagers **Heine Johannessen (1907)** and **Martin Holten Fiskaaen (1895)** won their games in a fairly convincing style on the fifth and sixth board.

The seventh board however saw a surprise which could very well have been a full sensation: German **Johannes Reinhardt (1893)** as black against 16 year old Bergen player **Ariza Hina (1524)** was an exchange down with a wrecked position, but after four hours the German forces in this game finally came up with enough counterplay to draw by a perpetual check.

Another very young shark to note in this field is eleven year old **Evsuld Myagmarsuren (1888)**, winning in two hours as white against our new German chessfriend **Karol Lalla (1520)**.

Many long and exciting games, with a few sensational outcomes, were seen on the lower boards in the Open. The Germans overall had a bad start here, as **Pascal Paulien (1815)** was in deep trouble from the opening and lost a long endgame as black against the underrated 14 year old **Lukas Dominik Gåsland (1474)**.

The also underrated and nearly local 13 year old Hemsedal player **Tord Albrigtsen (1296)** also made a promising start, with a draw as white against 15 year old Bergen player **Theo Johannessen (1751)**. Albrigtsen even was somewhat better in the final rook endgame position.



Theo Johannessen vs Albrigtsen

No way to forget, 40 year old Stjernen player **Marie Vatneødegård (1079)** also appears strongly underrated, and in her first Fagernes game produced a sensational win as she hit back with a mating counterattack from a very difficult black position against **Jonas W. Strømsodd (1604)**.

Our second young Ukrainian refugee in this tournament, 17 year old **Mihail Tiupenko (1621)**, this round was one of the many players from the upper half of the ELO list winning in a more or less convincing style.

Photos by Tom Eriksen