

FAGERNES CHESS INTERNATIONAL 2022

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

The second round of this GM group became another hard-fought one – and another very good round for the GMs. Remarkably enough the only draw on the first eleven boards was a draw between two GMs on the second board. Following this ten GMs are sharing the lead at 2/2, while the other five GMs all can be found among the eleven players at 1,5/2.



Kaasen vs Erigaisi

The board 1 duel between **IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2465)** and **GM Arjun Erigaisi (2675)** started up with a positional Anti-Meran line of the Semi-Slav opening. White apparently had the better preparation as he following an e4-break came 20 minutes ahead on the clock with some advantage on the board. Erigaisi defended actively by a double edged 19... f5!?, giving white the chance to open some air around the black king by taking the pawn en passant. Kaasen for some moves later on held a sound pressure, but Erigaisi got the help needed

to exchange off the worst dangers and later came up with some counterplay on the kingside. Exchanging queens at move 36, to leave an endgame with rook, bishop and six pawns on each side, reportedly was fine from a white point of view. But to justify this choice white in the very next move had to find a far from obvious h4-move. Failing to use that final chance with a few minutes left on the clock, Kaasen soon found his king in trouble following creative attacking play from Erigaisi. The game continued after the time control, but Erigaisi then soon forced a won rook endgame with two against zero pawns.



Brynell vs Sarin

GM Stellan Brynell (2406) versus **GM Nihal Sarin (2648)** also was a Semi-Slav duel, but players here entered the more tactically and messy Noteboom-variation, in which black tries to snatch a pawn with 4... dxc4?!. As usual in this line black soon returned the extra pawn to establish two passed pawns at a5 and b4, leaving white with a notable center advantage and a pair of bishops. White went for a rare and not too critical line with 13.c5?!, after which black could exchange one of white's bishops

to reach an about balanced (if still somewhat double-edged) position.

White later made a big decision to exchange off his bishop for a knight at f6, weakening his queenside defence while destroying black's kingside structure. The computers for some moves considered black close to winning in the queen and rook position afterwards. Sarin at that stage however was seriously short of time and had worries about his king. Brynell in short got the help needed to exchange the rooks, after which a draw was soon agreed in the queen endgame. This was the duel between the oldest and the youngest GM of the field and a fascinating generation duel, as Brynell will celebrate his 60th birthday later this year, while Sarin still is only 17.



Donchenko vs Roy

Even the third board duel between **GM Alexander Donchenko (2619)** and **IM Prantik Roy (2368)** today was a Semi-Slav opening. Black played a very unconventional line with Bb4-Bc3-Ba5. Probably the line is rare for a reason, as white by sound means got a sound plus, while black still struggled to develop his bishop on c8. The game lasted on well into the sixth hour and white probably should have been able to win it faster. Still it was all of the time an uphill battle for black

due to white's pair of bishops and more active pieces.

In the fifth hour black succeeded in exchanging one of the bishops and he even was a pawn up for a few moves, but then the combination of weak pawns and paralyzed pieces made his position hopeless. In the end after 62 moves black resigned as white had intervened with his queen at d6 and rook at a7, and was about to win heavy material.



Hakobyan vs Galinsky

True to his good and/or bad habits, **IM Timofey Galinsky (2358)** as white against **GM Aram Hakobyan (2612)** early left the opening theory discussions as he after 1.Nf3 continued with 2.d3 and 3.Nbd2. As the opening transposed into some kind of Reti, white still got some advantage following a tactical 16.e4!. White played very well for the next moves and could have had a close to winning attack if he had continued forward with 21.e5! and 22.e6. As white failed to use that chance, black got the time needed to regroup

his pieces, after which the position suddenly was in dynamic balance.

Unwilling to play the e5 advance when it was good, white instead played is as a somewhat mysterious pawn sacrifice at move 27. Hakobyan following this had an extra b-pawn and an obvious advantage in the rook and minor pieces endgame. As white won back the b-pawn just before 40 moves, the game was considered a more or less given draw. Hakobyan still played on with rook, two knights and three kingside pawns against rook, bishop, knight and three kingside pawns.

White eventually gave up his h-pawn to reach a knight endgame with f- and g-pawn for white against f- and two g-pawns for black. After 90 moves the final knight endgame with f-pawn versus f- and g-pawn for sure also was a draw, but as black also had the more active king white now had to defend accurately. Galinsky in the bitter end failed to do so as he allowed black to play a tactical g4 followed by g3+, establishing a passed pawn which finally decided after 95 moves.

GM Sethuraman Sethuraman (2610) and **FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2315)** discussed a rare Ruy Lopez line with 3... g6?!. This variation too might be rare for a good reason, as white had fast development and got a pleasant initiative in this isolated pawn position. Black following this was under pressure when he blundered with 19... Nf5?, somehow overlooking that white could force the black queen to an offside position at a7 and then demonstrate a winning kingside attack with a direct 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Ng5.



Sethuraman vs Ingebretsen



Our new French chessfriend **FM Damien Le Goff (2290)** as white against **GM Vahap Sanal (2593)** went for a solid if not very ambitious Nimzo-Indian line with 4.Bd2. White spent some 45 minutes for the first eleven moves, but winning the bishop pair he came somewhat better on the board. As white became too eager to exchange off pieces, black proved able to keep his kingside together while opening the queenside for a decisive counterattack before 30 moves.



Schneider vs Can

German **WGM Jana Schneider (2263)** today celebrated her 20th birthday at Fagernes, by discussing a Sicilian Dragon variation with Turkish **GM Emre Can (2578)**. All four knights were exchanged within the first 13 moves, leaving a position in which white was slightly ahead on the clock as well as the board. Ten moves later on all the minor pieces were exchanged, and the position with one queen, two rooks and five pawns on each side still was about equal. Schneider however made a strange decision when giving up her backward c3-pawn without

taking back black's pawn at e7. Although white had some pressure, black later succeeded stabilizing his kingside with an extra pawn. White later had an uphill struggle as her advanced d5-pawn also was a weakness. Fairly unsurprising the GM well before 40 moves decided the game by picking up a second pawn as well.

Swedish **GM Erik Blomqvist (2550)** as white against German **FM Frank Buchenau (2269)** went for a positional and slow King's Indian Advance set up. Black first apparently had a healthy position, but a critical moment soon came as white at played 10.e4!? to kick back the black knight from d5.

10.--- Nb4? instead of the natural 10.--- Nf6 was asking for trouble, as white after exchanging the queens at d8 could develop his queenside while attacking the black pieces with 12.a3 and 13.b4. Caught in a crumbling cockpit short of time, black anyway was in deep trouble when overlooking a strong knight intervention at b7 on move 27. Black in desperation tried to sacrifice an exchange, but Blomqvist stayed cool. White had a totally won endgame with an exchange and a pawn more, when black stopped the clock after 34 moves.



Buchenau vs Blomqvist

FM Nikolaj Zadruzny (2258) versus **GM Frode Urkedal (2539)** was another Nimzo-Indian opening with 4.Bd2. This one was leading to a fairly balanced position, although black had a slight initiative after all the knights were exchanged. After 30 moves the position with queen, two bishops and six pawns on each side was very drawish. The GM with a very slight initiative still (of course) played on.

White lagged some minutes behind on the clock with

some more traps to watch out for with queen, bishop and three pawns left on each side after 50 moves. Finding no way forward with the queens in play, Urkedal made a good practical decision to offer an exchange of them ten moves later on.

Although the bishop endgame with only two pawns left in each camp for sure first was a draw, it soon turned out to be much less trivial than expected. As white chose a too passive defence plan, black's passed e-pawn suddenly decided it all after 75 moves.



Zadruzny vs Urkedal



Welling vs Kulaots

GM Kaido Kulaots (2529) and **IM Gerard Welling (2261)** discussed a Classical French line in which black exchanged his light-squared bishop for a knight at f3. White following this had sound plus due to his pair of bishops and center advantage, although black succeeded to minimize the costs by exchanging the queens. White soon intensified the pressure by establishing a passed pawn at d6. As black for a long while defended well and succeeded in winning the white pawn at d6 in

exchange for black's pawn at b7, the endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns against rook, knight and five pawns after 40 moves looked very drawish. White however still had a two versus one majority on the queenside and the slightly better combination of pieces.

The GM again played on in the fifth hour – and again was rewarded. Welling probably became too focused upon the queenside dangers, as he suddenly instead lost control of his kingside pawns.

While cool Kulaots snatched the h5-pawn with his bishop and the g7-pawn with his rook, Welling won one of the white queenside pawns and pinned his hope upon a passed d-pawn. Kulaots at that stage in the sixth hour however had it under control – exchanging down to a three versus two rook endgame in which the IM immediately resigned when the GM instructively placed his rook behind the passed h-pawn.



Dahl vs Hillarp

FM Trygve Dahl (2252) and **GM Tiger Hillarp Persson (2511)** meanwhile discussed a Sicilian Maroczy position, leading to a typical Hedgehog position in which white first was 20 minutes ahead on the clock and might have been slightly better on the board. If so then 19.Qf2? however was a serious mistake, allowing a powerful d5-break with a strong initiative. The white position just collapsed after this. Realizing he was about to lose heavy material Dahl stopped the clock without waiting for black's move 23.



Unneland vs Abdumalik

GM Zhansaya Abdumalik (2496) versus **FM Mathias Unneland (2254)** was a Rossolimo Sicilian, in which white exchanged her bishop for a knight at c6 to play for a center advantage and fast development. White succeeded in playing e5, but black still appeared well satisfied as he was some 25 minutes ahead on the clock with a nice bishop at b7 and some counterplay against the e5 pawn. Tactical exchanges soon resulted in a fairly balanced endgame with two rooks, one knight and five pawns on each

side. Abdumalik left a repetition at move 28, but instead offered a draw two moves later on, as the remaining queenside pawns were about to be exchanged.



Nikolic vs Chopra

GM Aryan Chopra (2592) as white against **Vladan Nikolic (2247)** started up with a positional English line, but the position soon opened – leaving an interesting position in which white had an isolated pawn at d4 and black one at c6. Black had a pair of bishops after exchanging two sets of minor pieces, but white still was reported better as his king on g1 looked much safer than the black king on e8. Nikolic again kept up with the GM for a long time, and although white

established a passed a-pawn the outcome was considered wide open after 25 moves.

White's passed pawn at a5 gave him some chances, but the endgame with rook, knight and four pawns against rook, bishop and four pawns still was drawish after 35 moves.

The natural 36... Kg6? however turned out to be a blunder as white could play 37.Nd7! threatening 38.Nf8+ with mate to follow. Black discovered the mate threat in time to avoid it, but losing a pawn he also lost the game within a few moves after the time control.

GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2650) and **Emerik Roulet-Dubonnet (2050)** started up with a Rubinstein line of the Nimzo-Indian opening. As white exchanged on d5 the position however more or less transposed into a Queen's Gambit exchange line, in which white in the footsteps of former World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik went for an ambitious set up with Nge2 and f3. Again Sasikiran used a lot of time himself and somehow also forced his opponent to do the same, as both players had only about 20 minutes left after the first 15 moves.

Black for a few moves more did fine, but 20... c5? was a tactical blunder as white could play a straightforward 21. dxc5 bxc5 22. Bxf6 gxf6 23. bxc5 with a won position. Roulet-Dubonnet instead tried to sacrifice a piece, but it was just a cramp. Black with only a few seconds left stopped the clock after 28 moves.

FM Elham Abdrlauf (2427) versus **Morten Andersen (2190)** was a Sicilian Kalashnikov duel, in which white had some initiative and black a relatively solid position following an early queen exchange. Spending nearly 70 minutes for the first 15 moves, black obviously still had some challenges to solve. He failed to do so as 18... g6? already was a decisive mistake, overlooking a tactical 19. Bxc6 bxc6 20. Nf5!. White following this won a pawn with all the more active pieces and later won the rook endgame without much of a problem.



Injac vs Melaa

WGM Teodora Injac (2406) versus **Sondre Melaa (2120)** was a King's Indian fianchetto duel, leading to a rather closed position in which black reportedly was fine despite his slightly awkward bishop at e6. The position remained in rough balance after the queens left, and the rook and minor pieces

endgame appeared drawish until Injac short of time for 40 moves blundered a pawn.

After the time control black suddenly was close to winning with rook, knight and four pawns versus rook, bishop and three pawns, as he also had the more active king.

Injac after getting the extra 40 minutes however fought on remarkably well, and was rewarded as black became too eager to play the critical e3-break. As white immediately demonstrated new and disturbing checks against the black king on d3, Melaa after a few minutes of hesitation declared himself satisfied with a draw by repetition.

Pål Røyset (2133) and **CM Ludvig Carlsson (2411)** both arrived one round delayed, and then had to play each other in the second. Their game was a closed Ruy Lopez looking all the more like a Classical King's Indian race, white running on the queenside and black on the kingside. Around move 17-19 white was declared much better by the computers, and this probably was correct as the absence of a light-squared bishop made black's kingside counterattack less dangerous. Black still had some disturbing attacking plans based upon a knight sacrifice at g2. White probably first should not have allowed the sacrifice, and then not have accepted it when it came. As he did both, the position was very demanding, but maybe still defensible, when white blundered with 26.Rb2? – somehow overlooking that 26... Qh3! 27.fxg3 f2 would win about a ton of material for black.



Hobber vs Dahl

Max Dahl (2054) and **FM Anders Hobber (2379)** in the meantime discussed a very closed and little odd Slav line, in which black plays c6, a6 and b5-b4 before developing his pieces. Both players spent a lot of time from the opening and reportedly reached an about balanced position. Following some

sound exchanges black was well ahead on the clock and close to better on the board around move 20-25, when the game already was in the borderline between middle game and endgame. Dahl had less than a minute left on the clock after 25 moves. But then he suddenly was close to winning on the board, as Hobber played too fast and stumbled into a troublesome c-file pin. Dahl still had almost no time left to find the best moves. Consequently he allowed black to get relief by exchanging his knight for a bishop at d4. Hobber in turn played too fast, and should have taken white's pawn at d4 with the rook to keep the queens on the board. As he instead took with the queen, the remaining rook endgame with five pawns on each side was highly dangerous for black due to white's more active rook and passed a-pawn. Dahl however still was very short of time. Following some more time trouble inaccuracies from white, black after all scraped a draw within a few moves after the time control. Hobber before round one declared that he would play for a GM-norm, but jokingly admitted that the third IM-norm was a more realistic goal after drawing two players below 2100.



Vestby-Ellingsen vs Elmi

IM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen (2370) versus **Saad Elmi (2092)** was a closed Catalan opening in which black apparently had the much better preparation. Elmi came far ahead on the clock, while doing fine on the board after placing his troublesome light-squared bishop at a6 and getting the necessary help to open the c-file for his rooks. After 20 moves the difference on the clock was an astonishing 1 hour and 25 minutes (!), as white had

only two minutes left while black had one hour and 27 minutes. Vestby-Ellingsen however kept his focus well. White due to his better pawn structure after all was closer to something in a rather closed bishop endgame, which was agreed a draw within a few moves after the time control.



Trost vs Kreken

The junior duel between **Eivind Grunt Kreken (2088)** and **Edvin Trost (2342)** saw an interesting and double edged King's Indian Opening. 18.--- b5?!? although creative reportedly was asking for too much. It still resulted in a winning advantage for black, as white instead of the critical 19.cxb5! went for a somewhat mysterious kingside attacking plan with 19.Rf4? – allowing black to destroy his queenside with

19.--- bxa4. The attacking plan remained mysterious, as the white rook on f6 turned out to be more exposed than the black king at g8. Sacrificing the rook at d6 was a creative try from white, but black coolly returned the rook to exchange queens, after which his new passed b-pawn immediately decided.



Schwarz vs Bentsen

Dusan Schwarz (2295) versus **Håkon Bentsen (2078)** first saw an English opening line with some tactical exchanges. Although again spending much time, Bentsen probably again was fine from the opening. White however demonstrated the better understanding in the middle game, and after the third sets of minor pieces were exchanged, he had a pleasant initiative. Black sacrificed a pawn at e5 but failed to get any real counterplay, hence white's extra passed pawn at e5 gave him a rather comfortable win in the queen endgame.



Verbin vs Mitusov

Semen Mitusov (2274) as white against **Valentina Verbin (2037)** left the main lines of Sicilian theory for a sound if not too ambitious set up with 2.Nc3 and 3.g3. The struggle intensified as white later went for a pawn storm on the kingside with g4-g5-f4-f5-f6. The critical moments came in between move 20 and 25, as white sacrificed a key pawn at d3 without having anything forced on the kingside afterwards. Verbin failed to find the critical defensive moves – hence white

after all smashed through on the dark kingside squares to win by mating threats after 30 moves.

The junior duel between **FM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2330)** and **Afras Mansoor (2033)** made a fresh start with a rare 3...f5!?!-gambit in a Ruy Lopez opening. White probably made a good decision when returning the pawn, as he kept a sound pressure afterwards. Then before 20 moves white suddenly had a winning initiative, as black misparted his queen at b7 and gave white the chance to intervene at e7 with his rook.

Kvaløy was back on track today and made creative use of the g7 square – first hitting in with a decisive 23.Nxg7 and then a final 29.Qg7 mate.



Machlik vs Sieber

Monika Machlik (2122) had her second black and second Caro-Kann Advance against **WIM Fiona Sieber (2248)** today. This time Machlik went for 3...c5?!, but without much success as white hung on an extra pawn at c5 with some advantage. While both players ran short of time Machlik missed some possibilities to level the chances. White still was 1-2 pawns up all of the time, and after the time control her passed c-pawn soon gave her an extra queen in the queen endgame.



Skotheim (front) and Liabøtrø vs Ravi (back)

WIM Rakshitta Ravi (2240) and **Ola Liabøtrø (2101)** today discussed a Ruy Lopez opening, but Ravi obviously had the better arguments after hitting in at f7 with a knight sacrifice before ten moves. Liabøtrø found nothing better than returning the piece. This left him in a rather depressing position as white after exchanging off the queens had an extra pawn plus a pair of bishops, while black's bishop at b7 was locked in behind his own pawn at d5. Black later succeeded in exchanging one of the bishops, but did not get any real counterplay. Two pawns up for many moves, white probably should have been able to win this endgame without having to play with bishop and two pawns versus knight and one pawn. As both her pawns were advanced and passed pawns it was still a controlled win.

Simen Sørensen (2070) versus **Andreas Skotheim (2206)** first saw a Nimzo-Indian Sämisch line with 4.f3 – leading to a positional mess in which had an extra pawn at c5, but a queenside pawn structure looking like a modern art exhibition. White in turn gave up his pair of bishops to destroy black's pawn structure with Bxa6 bxa6. For a few moves white had double isolated c-pawns, while black had double isolated a-pawns. The position normalized and probably was about equal after black won back the pawn at c4.

23.Rc3? however was some kind of tactical blunder from white, as black at the end of the following tactical exchanges won the second white c-pawn with a big advantage. Black's extra pawn due to the structure did not make much of a difference, although black had all the more active pieces.

Exchanging one set of minor pieces was an improvement from a white point of view, but he later lost his defence and drifted into a lost queen endgame with two pawns less. Skotheim however in turn failed to find the best winning plans in the queen endgame, and ended up giving back one of the pawns without finding any place to hide his king.

After 90 moves a borderline endgame with queen and g-pawn versus queen, f-pawn and a-pawn was on the board – with both players having only a few minutes left on the clock. Later the game, already the last one in the playing venue, just went on and on. Although black missed some winning chances in the sixth hour, Simensen under time pressure defended great in the seventh. White several times completed his move with one second left on the clock, but later built up a margin of 1-2 minutes. Sacrificing his f-pawn to advance the a-pawn, black succeeded in reaching a2 with the pawn, but never to promote it. As black after 142 moves locked in his own king ahead of the pawn at a1, the position was objectively drawn, although white still had to watch out for some lines in which black could force a queen exchange. Skotheim in the end demonstrated a good sense of irony when sacrificing the queen to stalemate his own king in front of the pawn at a1. Skotheim following this failed to win the game, but successfully delayed the pairing of round three with some 90 minutes for all his competitors. Lasting 158 moves on the board and 7 hours 15 minutes on the clock, this hopefully will remain the longest game of this Fagernes tournament.

Swedish **Kumar Rahul (2204)** as white against German junior **Laurin Perkampus (2061)** tested out a rare London system relative with 2.Bf4 3.e3 4.Nc3, leading to an apparently normal and fairly balanced position after nine moves. Then strange things happened: First black got a strong attack by an aggressive h5-h4-hxg3, but closed the h-file for himself with gxh2+. White in turn then for some moves had a gifted e-file counterattack against the black king on e8, before he mysteriously played Rf3 to exchange a rook. Some more or less sound exchanges later, white due to his better pawn structure probably was playing for a win from the start of the rook endgame. Black on the other hand was a pawn up and much better when a draw suddenly was agreed two moves before the time control. All taken together I guess a draw probably was a fair outcome.

Kim Roger Westrum (2046) versus **FM Ward Altarbosh (2200)** was a Scotch opening duel, in which white invited to a repetition of moves which black declined after the opening. Although 14... f6 was a sound set up, 15... g5? was much too weakening for the black kingside. It still worked out fairly well as white was helpful to exchange off the queens, leaving a roughly balanced endgame with two rooks, one bishop and seven pawns on each side. Temporary sacrificing a pawn at h7 to exchange of all the rooks reportedly was sound from a black point of view, although the remaining bishop endgame was very drawish. The pawn endgame actually was a fairly safe draw, but having got 40 minutes extra on the clock white fatally miscalculated with a tricky 41.c3+??: Black could (and did) take the pawn, as his passed pawns after 42.b5 Kc2 came as fast as white's. Finding himself in a lost queen endgame, white immediately drifted into another pawn endgame, only to discover that this edition was nothing but lost.

Shezil Shehzad (2195) versus **Yoann Le Montagner (2035)** was even another Sicilian with 3.Bb5+, leading to a Maroczy set up in which black was able to realize the d5-break. This however did not solve his problems as white could play e5 with some advantage. Although positionally natural, 17...h5? was a grave error, giving white the chance to play a tactical 18.Ne4! followed by 19.Nc5 with a positional iron grip. Young Shehzad later instructively exchanged off the queens to reach a rooks and knight endgame in which black soon proved unable to defend his backward pawn at c6.

Nathanael Poysti (2190) and **Sverre Lye (1994)** discussed a four knights English line. It did not work out too well from a white point of view, as black after an early queen exchange had the better pawn structure. Lye in an inspired mood went for an exchange sacrifice, giving him a passed pawn and a strong initiative. Although black probably had something better earlier on, the bishop endgame with an extra queenside pawn first was clearly better for him. Lye however became so eager to activate his king that he forgot to protect the extra pawn. For some moves afterwards he was even reported in danger of losing. The remaining bishop endgame with only two bishops left on each side still was a safe draw, as white could at best reach a well known draw fortress position with king, h-pawn and light squared bishop against king.

Vetle Bjørge Strand (2018) as white against **Jeroen van den Berselaar (2173)** succeeded in getting a slight plus from his first rather uncoventional opening with 1.d4 2.Nc3 and 3.Bf4. Black gradually took over the initiative and was closer to winning chances with two bishops and six pawns against bishop, knight and six pawns. The double minor piece endgame however became dangerous for black despite his pair of bishops, as he locked his dark-squared bishop in an offside position behind the enemy lines. White and his mobile knight following this missed several winning chances in the fifth hour. When white finally won a pawn black however was over the hill, and had few problems to block down the bishop endgame.

Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2157) versus **Thomas Sekkingstad (1979)** was another Caro-Kann with 3...c5?!. Black was in real danger after this opening, and although white played too slow he got a pleasant plus due to his pair of bishops. The endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns on each side first appeared drawish, but white's better pawn structure combined with his more active rook soon gave him a clear advantage. Black still had chances for a draw until he blundered with 31...Ra4+?!, forcing white to play 32.Ke5! with a decisive attack against black's king and bishop. Black actually could not save both his king and bishop following this, and resigned as the bishop went lost a few moves later on.

Andreas Skrede Hausken (1991) versus **Stig K. Martinsen (2155)** was some kind of Pirc opening in which white got a pleasant pressure. Hausken creatively sacrificed his pawn at e5 to open the position and strengthen his initiative. Martinsen understandably was not keen to return the pawn at e7 with an inferior position, but 17...e6? still qualified only as a tactical blunder as white after a tactical 18.Qe5+ f6 19.Nxf6! soon won decisive material.

Bennet Hagner (2151) versus **Thyra Kvendseth (1941)** to the contrary was a positional Ruy Lopez duel in which something went wrong for black in or just after the opening. White following an early queen exchange got a comfortable plus due to his pair of bishops and a-file possession. While black still struggled to castle, white before 20 moves intervened with the rook on a7, winning a pawn at c7 with a decisive advantage. The game formally lasted until move 41, but then it was not too exciting as white had an extra piece in the rook and minor pieces endgame.



Dolzhikova vs Grønnestad

WFM Anita Grønnestad (1941) versus **Olga Dolzhikova (2131)** was a Modern opening which appeared a bit dubious from a black point of view, as white played e5 with a sound space advantage. Sacrificing a knight on e6 later was an interesting if not obvious choice, as white got three pawns and lasting attacking chances for the piece. Black played too slowly for the next moves, giving white the necessary time to castle short and play f4-f5 with a powerful attack. Black's decision to sacrifice back a piece for two pawns at e5 following this was understandable, but still insufficient, as white later was a pawn up with a lasting attack. Overall playing a very good game today, Anita had few problems forcing a won endgame and Dolzhikova resigned after 35 moves.

Sverre Løe Grøver (2149) unfortunately had to inform the organizer that he due to temporary illness cannot enter the tournament from round three, and following this the GM group will include the 70 players we saw this round.

Open Group

The Open had a sad start on the second round, as third rated **Eirik Aarnes (1973)** following illness was unable to start the second board meeting against **Misha Galinsky (1748)**. Not feeling better in the evening, Aarnes unfortunately had to withdraw from the tournament as well.



Lye vs Lund

On first board, second rated **Terje Lund (2032)** after three hours was reported close to winning as black against **Sigurd Lye (1740)**.

As Lund later overlooked a tactical trick (which Lye did not), white in turn also was reported close to winning – before the game was agreed a draw with queen and three pawns versus rook, bishop and four pawns.

Top rated **Irina Donchenko (2057)** has had a very demanding start on this comeback as she sensationally lost as white against 14 year old **Lukas Dominik Gåsland (1474)** today. Gåsland true enough won as Donchenko short of time blundered a piece, but black at that stage was two pawns up after recovering from a very dubious position.

Fifth rated Bergen junior **Heine Johannessen (1907)** following all this is the highest rated player at 2,0/2, today winning convincingly as white against our Australian chessfriend **Jamie Cross (1735)**.

More surprising results however followed on the next board: Highly talented **Martin Holten Fiskaaen (1895)** in the end of a jumpy game was lucky to get a draw in a dead lost position, while the highly capable **Evsuld Myagmarsuren (1888)** never recovered from a disastrous opening and did lose (by mate) as black against **Rune Kleiven Rynning (1666)**.

Also very young **Nicolai Østensen (1875)** on the other hand continued his great result from the Kragerø tournament, today winning a nice attacking game as white against **Håkon Hembre Helgøy (1683)**.

A 22 year old sensation man among the eleven players at 2,0/2 in this group is **Edvard Andersen (1555)** from Trondheim, today winning a long endgame after punishing a dubious piece sacrifice from highly talented **Jiahao Eric Ji (1784)**.

Among surprising results from the lower boards we noted that 13 year old **Tord Albrigtsen (1296)** scraped a draw from a difficult endgame as black against **Pascal Paulien (1815)**, while **Andrea Schneider (1229)** as black efficiently punished **Karol Lalla (1520)** for his too loose tactical calculations. The Germans following this still have a hard time in this group, although **Johannes Reinhardt (1893)** hit back with a nice win today.



Hina vs T. Johannessen



Østensen vs Helgøy



Damiano vs Dybvik



Flatebø vs Bollestad

Photos by Tom Eriksen