

FAGERNES CHESS INTERNATIONAL 2022

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

Second half of the double round saw a lot of evening firework in the GM group, although the first board duel between GM Kaido Kulaots and GM Aram Hakobyan was a relatively solid draw. First rated GM Arjun Erigaisi won a great game following a positional exchange sacrifice on the second board, while third rated Nihal Sarin on the third board lost following a dynamite preparation from Turkish GM Emre Can.

This round saw several sensational results from young title candidates, as Norwegian FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen punished GM Vahap Sanal for an overambitious winning attempt, while the Ukrainian refugee Semen Mitusov used the black pieces to crush GM Erik Blomqvist.

Erigaisi, Hakobyan, Can and Kulaots following this are sharing the lead at 3,5/4, ahead of a crowd of five GMs, one WGM and four FM's at 3,0/4.



Kulaots vs Hakobyan

GM Kaido Kulaots (2529) as white in a Ruy Lopez against **GM Aram Hakobyan (2612)** did not get much from the opening. In the middle game black sacrificed a pawn to exchange off the queens, and got just about enough compensation due to his active rooks and bishops. The position calmed down again as white in turn sacrificed back his extra pawn to force more exchanges.

Consequently the players before 40 moves landed in a drawn rook and bishop endgame with opposite-coloured bishops.

GM Arjun Erigaisi (2675) versus **GM Aryan Chopra (2592)** was a strategic King's Indian duel, in which white sacrificed an exchange for a pawn to get rid of black's fianchetto bishop. Black probably should not have allowed this, as white with a strong knight square at e4 and pressure against black's backward pawn at d6 had all the active possibilities with queen, rook, knight and six pawns versus queen, two rooks and five pawns. Probably black somehow still should be able to save this, but if so Chopra was unable to find out how. Erigaisi methodically increased the pressure by advancing his pawns, and as the knight intervened at d6 in move 34 black immediately resigned.



Can vs Sarin

GM Emre Can (2578) versus **GM Nihal Sarin (2648)** was a sharp duel in the Catalan, with an open line in which black before ten moves sacrificed an exchange at a8 for two pawns at b4 and c4. Black in this variation gets some counterplay against white's king and computers reported his position fine around move 12-16. Both players spent only a few minutes until move 20, when Sarin suddenly spent 40 minutes. Although Can spent nearly 25 minutes for his reply he obviously was armed with the better preparation to handle the position with queen, two rooks, knight and three pawns against queen, rook, bishop, knight and five pawns after 22 moves.

Although it was of course tempting to win a third pawn and establish two connected pawns on the queenside, 23.--- Qxa4? was a serious mistake as white suddenly had attacking plans after his instant 24.Ne4. Then the reply 24.--- Nd7? was in fact a tactical blunder, as Can in an accelerated mood needed only two minutes to confirm 25.Rxd7! Bxd7 26.Nf6+ with a mating attack.

Sarin losing in less than 30 moves of course was a surprise. Can arriving from a very strong result in the European Championship reportedly is now above 2600 live, and better not be underestimated by any of the higher rated players.



Hillarp vs Donchenko

GM Alexander Donchenko (2619) and GM Tiger Hillarp Persson (2511)

discussed a main line Caro-Kann in which white had somewhat more space, although black was perfectly fine after exchanging three sets of minor pieces. This for a long time was a game in which the players exchanged many pieces but (after move 4) no pawns.

Black established some pressure with queen,

bishop and seven pawns against queen, knight and seven pawns, as white had the more open king at c1 and too advanced pawns at e5 and h5.

Sacrificing a pawn to exchange off the queens just before 40 moves reportedly was a good plan for white. Trying to win back the pawn afterwards on the other hand was a mistake, after which black probably had a win with bishop and four kingside pawns against knight and three kingside pawns. Margins still were small. As black became too helpful exchanging pawns, white in the end after 60 moves scraped a draw – as he could sacrifice his knight on the second last black pawn in this position, leaving black with king, h-pawn and dark-squared bishop against king.

GM Sethuraman Sethuraman (2610) versus GM Frode Urkedal (2539) was a closed Ruy Lopez opening which gradually opened. Both players had scattered queenside pawns after exchanging two sets of minor pieces, but black was not worse on the board and some 20 minutes ahead on the clock after 25 moves. Black for a few moves gave up a pawn. As he regained it after 25 moves white used the chance to offer a draw before he ran too short of time to get it accepted.

GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2650) versus Edvin Trost (2342) was an open Sicilian leading to a positional struggle, in which white due to his better development and better pawn structure got a strong pressure after an early queen exchange.

The apparently natural 17... Nc5? already might have been a decisive mistake, as white efficiently opened all doors wide on the queenside with 19.b4!.

White within six more moves demonstrated a winning attack against the black king. Sasikiran earlier today complained that it was difficult to win games as black in chess, but so far has no problems to win with white.



Ingebretsen vs Sanal

Norwegian **FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2315)** as white against Turkish **GM Vahap Sanal (2593)** went for a positional Italian line, but the position accelerated as white pseudo-sacrificed a bishop at f7. White as planned won back the piece by capturing black's knight at a5. After all the minor pieces disappeared, black at move 20 was better due to his superior pawn

structure. Ingebretsen however defended well and after 30 moves had successfully exchanged one of his two isolated c-pawns. Still unwilling to accept a draw by repetition, Sanal instead exchanged his key pawn at d6 for the second white c-pawn, to continue playing for a win. This however was too much to ask from this sensible position, and after 40 moves black found himself under pressure as white also won the now weak black pawn at c6. Trying to open the a-file for the black rooks was very tempting, as white's king at g1-f2 then would be in trouble. The critical 44.--- b3? however still turned out to be a tactical blunder, as white instead of taking the pawn could spend the move to continue his own attack against the black king on h7.

The game had a nice finish as white introduced killing threats against the black king on h5 by playing 51.Kh3!. Then, as black sacrificed his last rook on g2, white just took the rook and played 53.Kh3! – after which the GM immediately stopped the clock. Sanal following this had a nightmare double round with two lost games, while 18 year old Ingebretsen after winning both has had a very promising start on this search for a second IM-norm.

GM Erik Blomqvist (2550) versus **FM Semen Mitusov (2274)** was a King's Indian Advance opening, which appeared fairly balanced after white's c- and d-pawns were exchanged for black's d- and e-pawns. White after 19 moves had a pair of bishops, but black did well with his centralized knights and rooks. Then the GM suddenly played an overambitious 20.e5?, after which the FM suddenly had a powerful counterattack with his rooks in the open d-file.

22.f4? although consequent was way too weakening for the white kingside, and black's initiative following this turned into a winning attack. Showing no respect whatsoever for the GM title of his opponent, Mitusov immediately smashed through by sacrificing his knight on g4.

Giving up the queen for a rook later did not help white for long, as black kept a winning attack with his queen and rook. Running out of time and pieces, Blomqvist stopped the clock instead of making his move 31. The young Swedish GM following this also had a nightmare double round and is down at 2,0/4, while 16 year old Ukrainian refugee Mitusov at 3,0/4 is well in the run for an IM norm.



Abdumalik vs Buchenau

Khazakstaniaian **GM Zhansaya Abdumalik (2496)** and German **FM Frank Buchenau (2269)** meanwhile had an interesting discussion about a Classical French line, in which three sets of minor pieces were exchanged early. White following this came slightly better due to black's backward pawn at e6. Black however had his bad bishop in an active position outside the pawn chain at f5, and came up with some counterplay against white's pawn at d3. After 32 moves

white had 35 minutes left, against six minutes for black, in a still complex position.

Helped by some time trouble inaccuracies from Buchenau, Abdumalik after 40 moves had the more active pieces with queen, rook, knight and five pawns against queen, rook, bishop and five pawns. The position however remained complex, as white's king at h2 was a bit open and she also had to watch out for black's pawn majority on the queenside.

Buchenau after getting his 40 minutes extra on the clock found a very practical solution to all his problems, as he sacrificed both his queenside pawns to intervene in the open white camp on the kingside with his queen. This created enough disturbance around white's king to force a draw by repetition. Buchenau of course could be proud to save a difficult position with black against a 33 year younger GM.

FM Elham Abdrlauf (2427) versus **IM Gerard Welling (2261)** was another fascinating generation duel, with a 46 year age difference between the players. The young lion had the upper hand from the start as white got a powerful pair of bishops and a strong initiative from this Caro-Kann Fantasy line with 3.f3. While Welling spent a lot of time without finding any good defence plan, white found a very good attacking plan when pushing his pawn forward to f6 and then intervening with a bishop at h6. Following this the Dutch veteran IM anyway was a rook down with a wrecked position when he lost on time at move 27.

The Scandinavian junior duel between **CM Ludvig Carlsson (2411)** and **FM Mathias Unneland (2254)** also was a duel between two schoolmates from the NTG chess class in Oslo. An apparently slow Italian opening suddenly accelerated when black tried to kick white's bishop backward on the kingside with 8.--- h6 and 9.--- g5?!, after which white replied with the thematic piece sacrifice 10.Nxg5!? hxg5 11.Bxg5. The sacrifice here reportedly was promising before 12.--- Kg6? and more or less winning afterwards, as white after 13.h4! followed by 14.Bxf6! won back the piece with an ongoing attack against the white king at h5. 1-0 came up after 23 moves, as black still found no counterplay after sacrificing an exchange.

WGM Teodora Injac (2406) and **FM Ward Altarbosh (2200)** discussed some strange Reti opening relative in which both players apparently did their best to destroy the pawn structure. Black after the opening felt forced to repair the white pawn structure by exchanging his bishop for a knight at c3. White following this suddenly had the slightly better pieces and the much better pawn structure with two rooks, one bishop and seven pawns against two rooks, one knight and seven pawns. Black in desperation tried to sacrifice a queenside pawn. Injac although again taking her time on the clock methodically advanced on the board later on. Altarbosh played too fast as he overlooked a tactical 40.Rxb6! winning a second pawn for white, and Injac following this had no problems winning the minor piece endgame.



Hobber vs Øye-Strømberg

FM Anders Hobber (2379) as white against **Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2157)** again played his London system and again accepted to exchange the dark squared bishop for a knight early. This time he had no success as black with his d-file control and pair of bishops had a slight pressure around move 22-27. Hobber again defended by sound means, while Øye-Strømberg found a somewhat strange plan to lock his own bishop in at the h3 square. Following some more

exchanges a draw was agreed in a balanced position after the time control.

IM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen (2370) as white against the 18 year old surprise man **Emerik Roulet-Dubonnet (2050)** today went for a somewhat unusual Queen's Gambit line with an early c5. Black had no problems from the opening. As both players were eager to exchange pieces, they after 20 moves had reached a position with two rooks, one knight and five pawns on each side, in which black was slightly better as the white pawn at b3 was a weakness more than an asset. Turning on his endgame power Vestby-Ellingsen somehow succeeded reaching a double rook endgame with three against two pawns. As he had e-, f- and g-pawns against g- and h-pawns, white had some practical chances after the first time control. While Roulet-Dubonnet now defended well with little time spent, Vestby-Ellingsen somehow loaded out towards the end of a long day. Exchanging one of the rooks was a mistake, and although playing on until move 93 white never came close to winning the remaining endgame with rook, e- and f-pawns against rook and g-pawn.



Kaasen vs Nikolic

IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2465) versus **Vladan Nikolic (2247)** was another Italian opening duel. This was a very positional one, in which black probably was fine after exchanging all the bishops. White still kept a slight initiative, which was growing as he was allowed to play d5 and Nf5 with a big space advantage.

Kaasen in an inspired mood bravely sacrificed his rook at c5, and due to his dominating knight he anyway was winning when Nikolic just

before 40 moves blundered back an exchange and stumbled into a hopeless rook endgame.



Brynell vs Shehzad

15 year old **Shazil Shehzad (2195)** as white against **GM Stellan Brynell (2406)** went for a delayed exchange line in the French. After two sets of minor pieces were exchanged black had the slightly better pieces, although the symmetric pawn structure and open e-file gave white good drawing chances. 19.g3?? however was an outright blunder, as black due to white's badly placed bishop at h5 could play a tactical 19.--- Rxe1 20.Rxe1 Qh6!. White found the

variation to save his loose bishop. After winning two of the white queenside pawns, the GM still of course had no problems winning the remaining queen and minor piece endgame.

Dusan Schwarz (2295) and **Sondre Melaa (2120)** tested out a dramatic English line in which white castled short and then sacrificed three pawns for an attack against the black king at e8.

Our new Slovakian chessfriend Schwarz in an accelerated mood after 18 moves sacrificed an exchange on e6 for a landslide attack against an all the more open black king, and went on to win decisive material before 30 moves.



Melaa vs Schwarz

Nathanael Poysti (2190) as white against **IM Prantik Roy (2368)** started up with an English opening, but soon transposed into a somewhat King's Indian-like position. White went for a tactical 14.e5!? and first came much better as he was allowed to hit in at c5 with his bishop. The white advantage increased as black in search of counterplay went for 26... f5?, more or less forcing white to play a strong pseudo-sacrifice with 27.Nc5!. Winning back the black bishop at e7, white had a strong attack



Poysti vs Roy

against the open black king in the remaining queen and rook position. This however became very messy as white became too eager to win back the pawn, allowing black to establish a highly disturbing passed pawn at b2.

In the fifth hour, the question was whether black could escape the white checks and promote the pawn at b1. Black eventually succeeded in hiding his king at a3, behind a helpful white pawn at a4. After 60 moves the remaining endgame with rook versus three pawns was a rather trivial win for the IM, although the road to reach that endgame had been long and thorny.



Sørensen vs Le Goff

Our new French chessfriend **FM Damien Le Goff (2290)** as black against **Simen Sørensen (2070)** gave his Semi-Slav opening another try. Again he demonstrated a good understanding of this opening, as black got an initiative due to his more active bishops in this Anti-Meran line.

Le Goff however again spent much time in the early middle game. After exchanging the rooks and queen Sørensen due to his queenside pawn majority put some pressure on black in the

endgame with three minor pieces and six pawns on each side. White suddenly got a winning initiative as black short of time overlooked a tactical 35.c5!. Sørensen in turn failed to find the best continuation afterwards. After getting the extra 40 minutes on the clock, players had to study a new interesting endgame with bishop, knight and three pawns against bishop and six pawns.

Le Goff's decision to advance his two connected queenside pawns at the price of losing two kingside pawns was dubious. After taking the pawns Sørensen, having 10 minutes left against 3 on the clock, however suddenly chickened out by offering a draw in a position considered +6 by the computer programs.



Mansoor vs Schneider

WGM Jana Schneider (2263) and **Afras Mansoor (2033)** in the meantime had an interesting discussion about a Ruy Lopez line in which black first had a healthy position. 20.--- Nxc2? however was a mistake, as white following some tactical exchanges could have kept an extra pawn with a much better position.

As white instead returned the pawn without finding any attack afterwards, black still reached a drawish queen and rook position with five pawns on each side.

White however still had the easier position to play. Seriously short of time black made the wrong decision as he sacrificed his a-pawn to go for a counterattack against the white king at h2. Schneider still having some 15 minutes left on the clock soon demonstrated her attack to be the fastest one, mating the black king in the thin air at h4 after 41 moves.

IM Timofey Galinsky (2358) as white against **Saad Elmi (2092)** today went for a rather quiet King's Indian Advance set up, and then started to play after his own head. After two sets of minor pieces were exchanged, white got a sound space advantage and mobilized for a kingside attack. Strangely white left the kingside attack when it was about to succeed. Although black was able to exchange off queens the remaining endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns against rook, knight and five pawns still was much better for white due to his more active pieces and passed pawn at d5. Galinsky following some more mistakes from black won this within four hours.



Galinsky vs Elmi

FM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2330) and **Eivind Grunt Kreken (2088)** tested out a rare line of an Alekhine opening today. It worked out much better seen from the white side, as his passed pawns at b5 and c5 following an early queen exchange left black with a weak pawn at a5 and a lame duck knight at b8. Kvaløy in an inspired mood went on to win the a-pawn and push forward his big queenside majority, leading to a decisive gain of material before 30 moves.

Håkon Bentsen (2078) caused a small international chess sensation by not playing 1.e4 today. As white against **FM Nikolaj Zadruzny (2258)**, he instead got slightly worse with an English fianchetto. Black won an exchange for a pawn after the queens were exchanged, but as all the kingside pawns disappeared he still had a hard time winning the game. Black probably should somehow be able to win with rook, bishop and four pawns against bishop, knight and five pawns. As he failed to find any plan but exchanges, the final version with knight and four pawns against rook and three pawns still was a fairly safe fortress for white.

Max Dahl (2054) and **FM Trygve Dahl (2252)** are not relatives, although both are talented young Norwegians born early in this century. Their opening duel today was an Anti-Dutch with 2.Bg5!?, in which white after exchanging at f6 and forcing white to exchange off his bishop at c3 got a better pawn structure for free. Black still had a solid position. After all the minor pieces were exchanged before move 20, black in the remaining queen and rooks position succeeded getting some counterplay on the kingside. The most exciting minutes of this game came with a tense passed pawn race in the queen endgame. Around move 55 Max had less than one minute left on the clock while Trygve had more than one hour. To avoid a mate white creatively promoted his passed d-pawn into a knight with check. As he then had to eliminate black's very threatening passed pawn at h2, black however could win back the knight and due his passed a-pawn was slightly better in the remaining queen endgame. Three pawns on each side however left the black king too open for winning attempts. Although still short of time, Max defended well and after 73 moves forced a draw by perpetual check.



Sieber vs Verbin

WIM Fiona Sieber (2248) as white against **Valentina Verbin (2037)** went for a Sicilian Grand Prix attack with 2.Nc3 and 3.f4.

A tight struggle followed as Sieber later castled short and sacrificed her pawn at e4 to open lines against the black king. Verbin defended well, and following some tactical exchanges returned the pawn to land in a very drawish endgame with rook, bishop and four pawns against rook, knight and four pawns. Sieber played on through the fifth hour, but after 48 moves accepted the inevitable by offering a draw.

Yoann Le Montager (2035) and **WIM Rakshitta Ravi (2240)** discussed a Scotch Gambit line in which chances were about equal after black returned the pawn. Although the game was dynamic all of the time, both players made sensible moves and before 30 moves had exchanged down to a dead drawn rook endgame.



Strand vs Skotheim

Vetle Bjørge Strand (2018) as white against **Andreas Skotheim (2206)** again went for a rather untheoretical set up with 1.d4 2.Nc3 and 3.Bf4. Skotheim appeared well prepared, and after exchanging all the bishops black had a slight initiative. Black following an instructive majority attack on the queenside got the better pawn structure. Due to his combined pressure against the isolated pawn at d4 and the backward pawn at b2, black got a pleasant pressure in the rook and knight endgame. Sacrificing the b-pawn to

exchange of the knights here hardly improved white's chances, as black in the rook endgame had five against four pawns and a painful pressure against the isolated d-pawn.

The game lasted five and a half hour, with 76 moves, but although black took his time he had it all under control after picking up the d4-pawn at move 45.

Swedish **Kumar Rahul (2204)** as white against the today 15 year old Norwegian **Sverre Lye (1994)** started up with a London system, placed a knight on the e5 square and started an aggressive pawn storm on the kingside with f4 followed by g4-g5. Whether this was sound remains unclear, but white suddenly got a decisive attack as black helpfully opened his kingside with 16... hgx5? and 17... gxh4. White in turned missed the winning plan with 19.Qd1! > 20.Qh5, but his ongoing attack smashed through as black a few moves later on allowed a winning bishop sacrifice at g6..

Andreas Skrede Hausken (1991) as white against **Morten Andersen (2190)** went for an Alapin Sicilian line with 2.c3. White's center pawn at e5 often gives him some attacking chances in this line. Here they turned into a winning attack as black after 14 moves gave up his key dark-squared bishop for a knight at g5. Although white failed to find the most direct attacking continuations afterwards, he kept lasting pressure. Andersen after his horrible bishop exchange defended very well for a long while. Finally back in the game with queen, two rooks, bishop and four pawns against queen, two rooks, knight and four pawns, our old Danish chessfriend at move 34 however blundered when inviting for a queen exchange with 34.--- Qf5?? – overlooking a tactical 35.Rxd5! which won a knight and immediately decided the game.



Grønnestad vs Hagner

Bennet Hagner (2151) versus **WFM Anita Grønnestad (1941)** saw a tense duel in an accelerated Dragon Sicilian. White after castling long first had a strong initiative, but black came up with some counterplay following a thematic exchange sacrifice with 17.--- Rxc3. Playing with two bishops for rook and knight in an all the more open position, black took over the initiative. She suddenly had a winning attack after white much too careless allowed black to open the

b-file for her rook. Sacrificing back an exchange might have been white's best try in this situation, but still it proved insufficient as black later had 1-2 more pawns with a fast running h-pawn. Neatly finishing off this game by a tactical 44.--- Qxb1+!, Grønnestad at 2,0/4 is in the run for a WIM-norm so far.

Kim Roger Westrum (2046) versus **Jeroen van den Berselaar (2173)** was another free thinking duel of the Fantasy line of the Caro-Kann opening. Black first was fine after both players castled long, although the situation on the kingside was messy. White's creative bishop sacrifice with 20.Bxa6?!? actually was a blunder which could have been punished by 20.--- Qa5!, but as black instead took the bishop he within a few moves ran into a massive attack.

WGM Olga Dolzhenkova (2131) versus **Stig K. Martinsen (2155)** was another Sicilian Alapin duel, which first was very complex and then following a lot of exchanges resulted in a balanced and pretty straightforward position with queen, rook, knight and six pawns on each side. As both players had only two minutes left on the clock and understandably were eager to avoid another loss at this stage, a draw was agreed on black's suggestion after 29 moves.



Kvendseth vs Machlik

Thyra Kvendseth (1941) versus **Monika Machlik (2122)** was a both exciting and entertaining five-hour duel between two talented young Norwegian WIM norm candidates. The start was a Queen's Indian opening and after ten moves reportedly perfectly fine for black. If so she however made something wrong the next moves, as white's powerful pair of bishops combined with a bayonet h-pawn gave Kvendseth a more or less winning initiative after 20 moves. Machlik succeeded saving

her king by giving up pawns to exchange pieces, but the endgame with rook, bishop and six pawns against rook, knight and four pawns after 28 moves still was winning for white. Now Kvendseth in turn lost her thread completely, while Machlik activated her pieces and got a disturbing counterplay against white's somewhat scattered pawns. Having lost her passed pawn at c5 white forced an exchange of rooks, only to discover that black due to white's poor structure had the better chances with knight and three pawns against bishop and four pawns. This minor piece endgame from the start was a draw. After Kvendseth overlooked a tactical 37.--- Nd4!, which Machlik despite her obligatory time shortage found, white suddenly was unable to stop black's passed pawns in the d-file and h-file. A time trouble mistake from Machlik gave Kvendseth one more chance to save it. White's position however was very difficult at this stage and black in the fifth hour went on to promote her h-pawn, reaching a won endgame with king and queen versus king and pawn at f6.

Norwegian master player **Pål Røyset (2133)** and German master player **Laurin Perkampus (2061)** on the other hand discussed a Caro-Kann Panov line, in which white for some moves hung on an extra pawn at d5. As black won back that pawn, the players exchanged off the queens and entered an about balanced endgame with two rooks, knight and six pawns against two rooks, bishop and six pawns. Black however succeeded in demonstrating that his rook and bishops were a better team than white's rook and rather passive knight at f3.

Black came clearly better after winning a pawn on the queenside. As white still failed to find any good plan his queenside pawns also collapsed in the fifth hour. Since black had two f-pawns and one h-pawn he still had some work to do with 2-3 pawns more, but in the end after six hours the rook endgame with four against one pawn still was a trivial win.

Thomas Sekkingstad (1979) and **Ola Liabøtrø (2101)** investigated an Accepted Queen's Gambit line, in which the conclusion was that white should not repeat this line, as black got a slight initiative after the c- and d-pawns were all exchanged. White after 21 moves had equalized on the board and was well ahead on the clock, but then he played much too fast with 22.Nc4? – overlooking a tactical 22.--- Nxa4! which won a sound pawn for black. As white's play later was disillusioned, the extra pawn soon became a dangerous passed pawn. White had to pay another pawn and exchange queens to get rid off the passed pawn, after which black with two extra pawns had no problems winning the remaining rook endgame.

Open Group

The fourth round was even more hard-fought in the Open group, as all the ten first boards in the end had a winner. 12 year old **Nicolai Østensen (1875)** on first board continued his success as a fast attack player, winning a pawn after the opening and winning by mate before 25 moves as white against 14 year old sensation man **Lukas Dominik Gåsland (1474)**.

Second board meeting between **Misha Galinsky (1748)** and **Terje Lund (2032)** was a much longer and more even battle. Galinsky had a promising queenside pressure in the middle game, but as his opponent ran short of time Lund efficiently used his chance for a counterattack on the white queenside pawns. White had a pair of bishops on a fairly open board, but that did not help much as black after the time control had three more pawns in the minor pieces endgame.

On the third board 15 year old **Heine Johannessen (1907)** came back on track by a nice win against **Sondre Stai (1685)**, as black in that game also used his chance to win material efficiently.

On fourth board 13 year old **Martin Holten Fiskaaen (1895)** had to work somewhat longer for the full point as black against **Rune Kleiven Rynning (1666)**. Black however was better from the opening, a pawn up after 20 moves and completely winning in the bishop endgame after 40 moves.

The dominance of young Norwegian players in this group was further strengthened as 14 year old **Kristoffer Wang Strømhaug (1767)** as black against German **Johannes Reinhardt (1893)** on fifth board reached a won endgame around move 20.

The sixth board duel between **Tormod Carlin (1620)** and **Ask Amundsen (1838)** was a more shaky game in which a surprise was expected as white after 28 moves was a piece up with a winning advantage. White however immediately overlooked a tactical stroke, and as 16 year old Amundsen used his chances efficiently he soon reached a totally won endgame.

Following this Østensen at 4,0/4 is the only player in the tournament left with a perfect score, but he is still running only half a point ahead of Lund, Heine Johannessen, Fiskaaen, Strømhaug and Amundsen. Lund at age 51 will increase the average age on the top boards a lot, as all the others are 16 or younger.

Relatively few surprising results were seen on the lower boards today, although **Martin K. Andersen (1565)** again showed himself as heavily underrated by winning a long endgame with an extra exchange as black against **Theo Johannessen (1751)**.

First rated **Irina Donchenko (2057)** hit back with a win tonight, but still is only at 50 % score following her somewhat rusty start.

The group at 2,0/4 curiously includes both the highest rated and the lowest rated player of the tournament, as 40 year old **Marie Vatneødegård (1079)** today got her second game win when defeating **Håvard Skotheim (1319)**, following sound positional play through four hours.

One out of very few drawn games this round came after six hours hard fighting on board 15, as **Sigurd Lye (1740)** due to the stalemate rule could sacrifice his kamikaze rook all around the queenside and save a draw in an otherwise dead lost rook endgame against **Aleksander Johansen (1534)**. Curiously it happened on the day Sigurd Lye had his 17th birthday, while his brother Sverre playing in the GM group had his 15th birthday. Congratulations to both of them – while we look forward to an exciting round five in both groups of this tournaments.



Lund vs Galinsky



Stai vs H. Johannessen



Østensen vs Gåsland



M.K. Andersen vs T. Johannessen

Photos by Tom Eriksen