

FAGERNES CHESS INTERATIONAL 2023

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

The second round in the GM group was a remarkably hard-fought one, in which all the top seven boards somehow got a winner. Five of them were won by the white players. The young female stars from India had a terrific day: 16 year old WIM Savitha Shri Baskar defeated top rated GM Sethuraman Sethuraman on the first board, while 20 year old WGM Vantika Agrawal also very well deserved defeated third rated GM Bartosz Socko on the second board. Fourth rated Abhimanyu Puranik won by an inspired attack against Stellan Brynell in the first GM duel of the tournament, and following this Puranik is leading a group of no less than 16 players still at a 100 % score with 2/2. Keeping aside the top boards, the GM group today had a few surprising draws and wins but no real game sensations.

The first-board game between **WIM Savitha Shri Baskar (2411)** and **GM Sethuraman Sethuraman (2639)** saw a rare and rather provocative Nimzowich Opening with 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.d5 Nb8. Although white kept a space advantage, black and his knight at c5 first had reasonable counterplay.



Baskar vs Sethuraman

Savitha however made a good decision when she allowed black to exchange one knight for a bishop at e3, as white after kicking away the knight from c5 with b4 soon had a strong queenside initiative. Although black's position already was strained, 29... dxc5? was a blunder – allowing a powerful tactical break with 30.d6!. Realizing that his position was about to collapse, Sethuraman respectfully admitted the failure and immediately resigned the game.

WGM Vantika Agrawal (2407) versus **GM Bartosz Socko (2601)** was a Catalan duel in which black tried to hang on the extra pawn at c4, but soon found himself in deep trouble as white could open the center with a powerful 10.d5!.

Although missing the best continuation afterwards, white won back the pawn with a lasting pressure from her pair of bishops. After directing a strong knight to c6, white almost immediately redirected it via e5 to c4 – winning a pawn with a decisive advantage. Socko in a wrecked position felt forced to sacrifice another pawn to exchange off white's queen and fianchetto bishop, but white had no problems winning the remaining double rook endgame with two extra pawns.



Agrawal vs Socko

GM Abhimanyu Puranik (2599) versus **GM Stellan Brynell (2402)** was the first (but far from the last) GM duel in this tournament. The players discussed a complex French Advance line in which white exchanges his dark-squared bishop for a knight at h6 – leaving black with the pair of bishops and a weakened kingside pawn structure. As white went for a direct attack against the black king, black tried to survive by exchanging both the bishops and gave up his h6 pawn for the white pawn at f2. White however still kept a strong initiative and Puranik won the game in a creative style, sacrificing an exchange to complete the attack with his queen and knight against the open black king.



Puranik vs Brynell

IM Kushagra Mohan (2400) and **GM Vahap Sanal (2582)** tested out a positional Ruy Lopez line in which the d-pawns were exchanged, leaving an open d-file and a symmetrical center with a white pawn at e4 and a black pawn at e5. White first had a slight initiative, but made a risky decision when snatching a pawn at c7 with his queen. Both players missed that black at move 31 could have won with a nice tactical stroke at b3. The heat instead intensified as black sacrificed one more queenside pawn to increase his initiative, after which white sacrificed an exchange to avoid a direct attack on his king.



Mohan vs Sanal

After 36 moves the position appeared to be about in balance, as Mohan had a knight and two connected queenside pawns for the rook. He however made several mistakes around the time control. As the GM efficiently used his chances, the queen and rook after the time control soon gave him a decisive attack.

GM Frode Urkedal (2527) and **IM Mohammad Fahad Rahman (2396)** meanwhile had a hardball Botvinnik line duel in the Semi-Slav. Black hung on the pawn at c4 and apparently did fine after returning the pawn at h5. White due to his safer king had a small advantage with queen, rook, two bishops and five pawns left, but black still would have had chances if exchanging the light-squared bishops at f3 in move 26. Instead 26... c3? was a decisive blunder, as black after 27. Bxd5 exd5 28. bxc3 could not take back the pawn and immediately ran into a decisive kingside attack.



Urkedal vs Rahman (Photo: Anniken Vestby)

IM Koustav Chatterjee (2520) versus **IM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen (2369)** was a Catalan duel, in which black reached an apparently balanced position after returning the c4 pawn. After 25 moves the endgame with two rooks, bishop and five pawns against two rooks, knight and five pawns was reported a «likely draw». Although the computers gave the position as about equal, white's best moves however were much easier to



Chatterjee vs Vestby-Ellingsen (Photo: Anniken Vestby)

find that black's. As black made some inaccuracies white immediately used his chances to intervene with the rooks via the a-file, winning an exchange and the game before 40 moves.

IM Moksh Amit Doshi (2397) versus **IM Elham Abdulrauf (2519)** was a nowadays rare Dutch Leningrad duel. The computers as usual in these positions gave white a theoretical advantage due to his center pawns, but underestimated black's attacking chances. Abdulrauf sacrificed a pawn to open the position for his bishops and establish a disturbing pawn at f3. White's position following this was under pressure when he blundered with the true enough tempting 33.Nxe4?, allowing black to play 33... Bd4+ and 34... f2! with a winning attack. Abdulrauf is very gifted in such tactical positions, and as Doshi was running short of time he lost decisive material within a few more moves.



Abdulrauf (Photo: Anniken Vestby)

WGM Teodora Injac (2391) and **IM Aditya Mittal (2505)** discussed a Nimzo-Indian Rubinstein line, in which white was allowed to play e4 and d5 with a space advantage. White's position appeared much better as she soon afterwards transported her knight around to the f5 outpost. It however turned out that black was not much worse as he could more or less block the position by exchanging the knight for a bishop. Injac played on for a win and succeeded in opening the queenside, winning a pawn after exchanging the queens. The endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns against rook, knight and four pawns for some moves appeared close to winning for white. Mittal however defended actively and escaped into a rook endgame in which white's extra pawn due to the reduced material made no real difference.



Injac vs Mittal

GM Eduardas Rozentalis (2504) had a shaky black game yesterday, but today won all the more convincingly as white against his young Israeli countryman **FM Benny Aizenberg (2366)**. Something went seriously wrong for black and his development in this Sicilian opening, as white could kick the black queen around and win a loose knight before 20 moves. Black tried to play on with one pawn for a piece, but losing some more pawns he stopped the clock after 30 moves.



Rozentalis vs Aizenberg

IM John-Paul Wallace (2384) versus **IM Jung Min Seo (2500)** started up like a symmetrical English, but then transposed into some kind of reversed Grünfeld. Black creatively sacrificed first a pawn at c6 and then an exchange at a8, and got reasonable compensation due to his pair of bishops. Wallace took the safe road as he exchanged off the queens with the idea of giving back the exchange, leading to a fairly balanced rook and bishop endgame. Without any further drama this was agreed a draw after 42 moves.



Wallace

WGM Pallathur Nandhidhaa (2362) versus **GM Raja Rithvik Rajavaram (2472)** was a positionally messy Sicilian Najdorf duel, in which white's queenside pawns at d5 and c5 first appeared more important than black's counterplay on the kingside. Black used a pseudo sacrifice to exchange white's c5-pawn. The passed pawn at d6 still gave white some pressure, but the GM defended by sound means and the game was drawn as the passed pawn as well was about to disappear after 34 moves.



Nandhidhaa vs Rajavaram

FM Benneth Hagner (2354) versus **IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2462)** started up like a closed Ruy Lopez, in which black sacrificed a pawn at b3 to get the pair of bishops. Black first had approximately compensation for the pawn, but suddenly got a winning initiative as white played a careless 21.c4? – allowing black to capture the white knight at f3 with a powerful 21...e4!. Realizing he was about to lose a knight for more or less no compensation, white resigned four moves later on.



Hagner vs Kaasen

German **IM Jonas Hacker (2455)** as white against Norwegian **FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2345)** went for a truly creative Sicilian opening line, in which white came better by exchanging two sets of minor pieces and putting his king at f3. Black later came up with enough counterplay against the white king, now at g3, to balance the chances. Ingebretsen however made a strange decision to accept a queen exchange, as the remaining endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns on each side was much better for white due to black's scattered pawns. As white had won one pawn and was about to win another, black just before 40 moves creatively but still insufficiently tried to sacrifice both his rook and bishop.



Hacker vs Ingebretsen

18 year old **FM Tanmay Chopra (2351)** somewhat surprisingly joined the club of players at 2/2, as he today won in inspired style with the white pieces against **IM Shete Sammed (2454)**.

The game started up a rather positional and closed King's Indian duel, but turned tactical as white after castling long took some risks to open the kingside. Black came up with counterplay and missed some chances, but white was in the driving seat for most of this game and had a winning attack after black gave up his queen for two rooks. Two rooks usually are worth more than one queen, but due to black's exposed king the white queen and knights here soon produced a decisive attack.



Chopra vs Sammed

FM Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2329) versus **IM Hampus Sørensen (2448)** started up like a closed Ruy Lopez, in which all 32 pieces still were on the board after 20 moves. A few moves later the position suddenly opened as white sacrificed a knight at h5 to go for a direct attack against the black king. White in the first wave got three pawns and approximately enough attack for the piece. Sørensen however proved able to turn the open kingside against white's king on f1, and made all the better decisions with both players running short of time for 40 moves. Black following this suddenly won the game by mate just before the time control.

IM Praneeth Vuppala (2437) versus **Sanket Chakravarty (2327)** was a Caro-Kann with 3... c5?!, in which white first got the safer king and the slightly better position. After three sets of minor pieces were exchanged, black however succeeded in finding a safe place for his king at b8 and start a poisonous counterattack against the white king at g1. During mutual time pressure, Chakravarty instructively redirected his queen via b6 to c6, protecting his own king while creating decisive threats against the white king.



Vuppala vs Chakravarty

Swedish **IM Erik Hedman (2323)** and Armenian **IM Emin Ohanyan (2434)** discussed a rare Sicilian line in which the queens and all the knights were exchanged within the first 15 moves, leaving two rooks, two bishops and six pawns on each side. White first was slightly better here, but creative Ohanyan succeeded in exchanging the light-squared bishops at b5 and got sufficient counterplay on the queenside. Black took over the initiative and after doubling the rooks in the c-file he was about to win a pawn at c2 after 31 moves. White's position following this was difficult, but still far from resignable, when Hedman lost the game on time.

Moldovian **Valentina Verbin (2071)** and Austrian **FM Lukas Dotzer (2416)** today discussed a complex Sicilian line in which black played 2... e6 followed by 5... e5, accepting a backward pawn at d6. Black came up with sufficient counterplay on the kingside after exchanging two sets of minor pieces. After 20 moves black definitely had taken over the initiative. White still had fair chances until she blundered with 25.Qh3? – overlooking a straightforward 25... Nxe2 26.Rxe2 Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1 Bxd5 27.cxd5 Qc1+ with a decisive attack against white's king in the remaining queen and rook position.



Verbin vs Dotzer

Dotzer probably could have won this position faster, but took the safe path as he after cashing in two pawns exchanged down to a won rook endgame.

Ukrainian **IM Semen Mitusov (2412)** as white against Mongolian **CM Chinguun Bayaraa (2203)** made a very modest start with 1.e4 c5 2.Be2?!. As black in turn chose a patient set up white could still establish a space advantage by an e5 advance. Mitusov in an inspired mood sacrificed a pawn with 16.b4! to open the queenside for a decisive attack against the black king at e8. Eliminating white's pawn at d6 obviously was a very natural plan from a black point of view. 27... Rc6? still became the decisive mistake, as white could play 28.Bb5! Rxd6 29.Qa3! with crushing threats against the black pieces.

Second rated **GM Samvel Ter-Sahakyan (2613)** of Armenia immediately recovered from his first round draw, winning a very convincing attacking game as white in a Ruy Lopez against **CM Andreas Skotheim (2228)**.

GM Erik Blomqvist (2523) as black in a Queen's Gambit against **Eivind Grunt Kreken (2144)** needed some more time, and white's position appeared fairly healthy following an early queen exchange. The GM not unexpectedly made the better decisions later on, increasing the pressure until winning a pawn. White later soon forced a double minor piece endgame in which his extra pawn and pair of bishops made the win rather trivial.



Kreken vs Blomqvist

The 62 year old Canadian veteran **IM David Cummings (2318)** remains a hard nut to crack for the GMs, and today made a draw as black against **GM Tiger Hillarp (2513)**. The Swedish chess tiger today creatively sacrificed a piece at h6 to open the position around black's king, but Cummings soon demonstrated disturbing counterplay against white's king at g1. Open kings after the first time control made the remaining queen endgame a more or less given draw, as none of the players could escape checks from the opponent's queen.

The 62 year old Danish veteran **Morten Andersen (2156)** also came up with his second surprise draw in a row. This one came as black against a somewhat shaky version of the Estonian **GM Kaido Kulaots (2494)**.

The GM established a pawn at e5 and first had an edge in this Sicilian opening. Sacrificing an exchange later asked too much from the position, although white's pair of bishops gave him some compensation. Kulaots bravely left a repetition to play on with an inferior position just before move 40, but a bit unexpectedly he instead offered a draw in an about balanced and still interesting position at move 47.



Kulaots vs Andersen

Norwegian junior **Shazil Shehzad (2212)** also came up with a second surprise draw, this time as black against **FM Sambit Panda (2452)**. White came slightly better from the Queen's Gambit and had a pressure in the middle game. Black however defended well and kept his position together into a drawn endgame with rook and three pawns on each side.

Polish **GM Monika Socko (2432)** and Norwegian **Monika Machlik (2136)** meanwhile had a tense discussion about a rare and somewhat half-open Catalan line, in which white got no advantage following an early queen exchange. Black's position still was no worse in the end of the third hour.

As both players ran short of time in the fourth hour black however failed to find any active plan, while white finally made progress on the queenside.

The GM instructively increased the pressure in the fifth hour, winning a pawn at a5 and then making a decisive queenside intervention with her rooks.



Socko vs Machlik

14 year old Norwegian **FM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2266)** has had two long and somewhat shaky games, but is at 1.5/2 after he today won as white against also 14 year old English **IM Shreyas Royal (2439)**. The game was a messy Sicilian battle, in which black in the fourth hour had got a dangerous attack on the kingside. As white had to give up an exchange, black after 40 moves had a winning position with queen, rook and three pawns against queen, knight and four pawns. Kvaløy barely passed the first time control and then spent some 15 minutes for his move 41, but chose the consequent 41.b5!?. Stressed by white's two queenside passed pawns, Royal lost sight and allowed white more counterplay. Still an exchange down, Kvaløy at move 51 left a repetition to play on for a win. Royal immediately blundered as he allowed white to force an exchange of queens. White's knight later had the black pawn at h3 under control, and it soon turned out that black's lone rook was unable to stop white's two connected passed pawns.

Shreyas Royal unfortunately felt ill during this long game, and with permission from the arbiters he afterwards withdrew from the tournament. As only two rounds have been played, the organizer still considers it important to keep an even number of players in the GM Group.

15 year old **Linus Sandstad (1912)** as the top rated player in the Open following this was offered a delayed promotion to the GM Group. Sandstad following a few minutes of considerations accepted this offer, and will start his tournament in the GM group with 0.5/2 from two walk over games.

IM Zhen Yu Cyrus Low (2425) today demonstrated the better understanding of a French Advance as white against **Max Dahl (2152)**, as white's pair of knights soon proved better than black's pair of bishops. White's position turned winning after black had to exchange one of the bishops, and white after four hours was a piece up with a winning attack.

IM Linus Johansson (2463) also recovered with a crushing win as white against **Manmay Chopra (2113)** today. White at an early stage demonstrated the better understanding of this King's Indian position, and after 27 moves had won a piece with an ongoing attack.

Pankit Mota (2101) as white against **FM Edvin Trost (2398)** in a Caro-Kann found an interesting knight sacrifice at f7, but the tide soon turned in favour of black as white failed to find the critical continuation afterwards. Black after 22 moves had reached a won position with two bishops for rook and pawn, and Trost later had no problems winning.

The Norwegian junior duel between **FM Saad Elmi (2321)** and **Ben Samuel Groth Skaar (2103)** started up with more or less balanced chances in a Sicilian opening. Elmi however demonstrated the better understanding during the following exchanges. The position with queen, two rooks and six pawns following this was troublesome for black. After winning a pawn and establishing a passed pawn at e6, Elmi efficiently decided the game by giving up his queen for two rooks at move 40.

Johannes von Mettenheim (2317) won a pawn as white in a Catalan opening against **Håkon Bentsen (2088)**, but black's better pawn structure made the double rook endgame close to equal. Bentsen here defended well, and Mettenheim with a few minutes left on the clock finally gave up the winning attempts after 87 moves.

The Veresov opening system with 1.d4 2.Nc3 and 3.Bf4 gave white less than nothing in the game between **Alexander Rosol (2076)** and **CM Sauat Nurgaliev (2286)**. Black later soon took over the initiative. The endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns against rook, knight and five pawns was a sweet dream from a black point of view, as white had the less active pieces and nightmare pawns. Nurgaliev in the end just before 50 moves decided by an attack against the white king.

The Indian duel between **Arhan Chethan Anand (2285)** and **Saketh Pedagandham (2074)** was a dry six hours Queen's Gambit battle. Black first was healthy, but white had growing pressure in the middle game. Much due to black's poor bishop inside his pawn chain, white was close to winning in the endgame with rook, bishop, knight and six pawns on each side.

Although well ahead on the clock, 14 year old Anand in the sixth hour appeared a bit tired and hesitated for a long time in a won bishop endgame.

Pedagandham had his golden chance to claim a draw by threefold repetition at move 79, but made the move on the board before making the claim. Following this Anand had the move and the right to play on. White finally found one of the winning plans following this, and neatly decided the game with a tactical 87.g7!.



Anand vs Pedagandham

The teenager duel between **CM Jack Mizzi (2049)** of Malta and **FM Magnus Ermitsch (2277)** of Germany started up with a Catalan opening, in which chances were about balanced following an early queen exchange. Black's queenside pawn majority gave him the better long term perspective, and as white helpfully placed his pawn at a4 it became a decisive target.

Martin Holten Fiskaaen (2040) versus **FM Sourath Biswas (2265)** was a King's Indian duel in which white was better most of the time.

As Fiskaaen was (again) running short of time for 40 moves, he suddenly overlooked a nasty counterthreat in the diagonal h8-a1. White following this had to give up an exchange on the bishop at g7, and black later had a controlled win in the endgame.



Fiskaaen vs Biswas

CM Adithya Chullikkad (2259) versus **Martin Øksendal (2060)** was another teenager duel and another Sicilian battle. White got the better of this one, and following a tactical Nd5 he won a pawn at d6. Øksendal however fought on well and got the chance to win back the pawn with a tactical counterblow at e4, after which a draw was agreed in an about balanced rook and knight endgame.

The American-German duel between **Shelev Oberoi (2226)** and **Michael Ermitsch (2047)** remarkably was another Sicilian with 2.Be2?! Even more remarkably white here came clearly better after establishing a space advantage with e5 and d4. The game was decided within 22 moves as black misplaced his queen on the queenside, and had to give up a piece.

Peder Marcus Aamodt (2022) versus **FM Emerik Roulet-Dubonnet (2215)** instead was another Norwegian junior duel and another Catalan opening. White soon won back the pawn at c4 in this one, but black appeared healthy until he blundered with 19... Ba8?? – overlooking a tactical 20.d5! which soon gave white a decisive attack. Black was invited back into the game as white afterwards played 21.Qe5? instead of the winning 21.Qg4!. The rook and bishop endgame after 30 moves following this was drawish. White however still had the more easy position to play due to his passed pawn at e6, and Aamodt succeeded in reaching an easily won bishop endgame.



Roulet-Dubonnet

The duel between 14 year old **CM Juan Gomez Aguirre (2206)** and 12 year old **Philip Rosol (2010)** was a Benkö Gambit which did not work out too well from a black point of view, as white kept an extra pawn at b5 with a notable advantage. Aguirre instructively increased the pressure by intervening on the queenside with his rook and queen, and black's position became definitely hopeless as he had to exchange off the queens at c6. White's two connected passed pawns later soon decided in the rook and knight endgame.

The Norwegian teenager duel between **CM Sverre Lye (2212)** and **Vetle Bjørge Strand (2026)** for 20 moves was a fairly balanced and rather quiet Caro-Kann. The game suddenly accelerated as white sacrificed his key center pawn at e5 to go for a direct kingside attack with Ng5–Qh5–Rh4. It was dubious from the start and following some mistakes from both players resulted in a knight endgame with an extra pawn for black. White however had the more active king and proved able to exchange the remaining pawns.



Lye vs Strand

WIM Rucha Pujari (2195) versus **Sindre Ytrestøyl (1987)** was a Queen's Indian fianchetto in which white following a well timed Ng5-hit won the pair of bishops with strong pressure. Black's position collapsed as he lost the key pawn at d5 a few moves later on, and white reached an overwhelming rook and minor piece endgame before 30 moves.

Jonas Hodneland Rasmussen (1976) as white against **FM Mathias Unneland (2188)** went for 1.d4 followed by some slow double fianchetto, and black equalized by sound exchanges. After 16 moves the remaining position with two rooks, bishop, knight and seven pawns on each side appeared equal and rather drawish, much because of the opposite-coloured bishops. Ten moves later black had a promising initiative, as white helpfully exchanged his knight for black's bishop and at the same time scattered his own pawns. White however came up with some counterplay and the tide suddenly turned as black blundered an exchange by overlooking a nasty 32.Ke3! – leaving black's active rook at d4 without evacuation squares. As white could immediately also force an exchange of black's second rook, the remaining endgame was a trivial win.

Johannes Hentrich (2166) versus **Sigurd Lye (1980)** was a long theory duel in a Sveshnikov Sicilian, after 24 moves leading to a drawish endgame with rook, knight and six pawns on each side. Black had a slight initiative, but white defended safely into a rook endgame which was agreed a draw after 39 moves.

FM Mahitosh Dey (2154) as white against **Jiahao Eric Ji (1959)** went for a slow Queen's Pawn fianchetto with 1.d4 2.Nf3 3.g3. The open d-file later gave white a slight initiative, although black proved able to defend and following some small tactics the endgame with rook, bishop, knight and four pawns against two rooks and five pawns first was about balanced. In the fourth hour white however demonstrated the much better understanding with bishop, knight and four pawns against rook and five pawns, and white's passed h-pawn made a parade march after he had picked up three black pawns.



Ji

Ask Amundsen (1937) versus **Evsuld Myagmarsuren (2139)** was a Sicilian in which white castled long and black short. An exciting attack race was suddenly decided as white blundered with 16.h5?? – overlooking that white after 16.--- Nxd4! could not take back the piece with either the bishop at e3 or the queen at d2.

Finally another Norwegian junior duel between **Shadi Sian (2137)** and **Amadeus Hestvik Evenshaug (1930)** started up like a rather aggressive Benkő Gambit in which black first sacrificed one pawn at b5 and then a knight at e4. Black after 11 moves had only one pawn for the piece, but still with reasonable compensation as white's pieces looked a bit overstretched. Sacrificing another pawn with 12.--- c4? however was a decisive mistake, as white instead of returning his extra piece could exchange both the piece and the queen. After this black at move 19 just resigned, as he was a full piece down in an endgame.

Open Group

In the Open, the top board games were **Linus Sandstad (1912)** versus **Rune Kleiven Rynning (1681)** and **Sigurd Kittilsen (1822)** versus **Oliver Bach (1668)**. The white players dominated both games and in the end had controlled wins in the rook endgames.



Sandstad vs Rynning

The rising star **Lukas Gåsland (1813)** as black on the third board started up with a safe Caro-Kann opening, but still won a nice attacking game in less than 30 moves against too optimistic **David Hellesøy (1606)**.

Fourth board on the other hand saw a surprising win for the lower rated black player, as **Erlend Reigstad (1594)** following an interesting knight sacrifice against **Tim Spanton (1806)** got the necessary help to reach a won rook and minor piece endgame.

63 year old **Karim Ali (1771)** joined the group at 2/2 by winning a nice attacking game against **Jan Ove Odden (1551)**, while 11 year old **Jiabao Eivind Ji (1704)** was a bit lucky to turn the table as **Emilie Lazareva (1483)** first had a winning attack.

Following IM Shreyas Royal's withdrawal, Linus Sandstad after winning his two first games in the Open already qualified for the GM group – and consequently of course he had to leave the Open. (Although a GM some years ago actually asked if he could play in the GM group and Open at the same time!) The new top rated player here is recently arrived **Jon Arne Stokhaug (1843)**, but he will start his tournament at 1.0/2 after missing both the first rounds. Top board pairings for round 3 following this will be Reigstad white against Kittilsen and Gåsland white against Ali, while Ji will get the black pieces against **Dag Arild Andersen (1776)**.

The unrated 16 year old local player **Imtiaz Ali** improved a lot from black in the first game to white in the second, and won a crushing attacking win against the much more experienced tournament player **Leiv Ole Bollestad (1401)**.

Most of the higher rated players won their games also in the second round, but we had more surprising outcomes on the lower boards this round. 11 year old **Henrik Nome (1073)** in his first game for this tournament soon came under pressure as black against 15 year old **Elma Selvik (1623)**, but Henrik first defended stubbornly for a long while and then efficiently used his chances to turn the attack against white's king when Elma miscalculated a combination after the first time control.



Selvik vs Nome

Today's most unlucky close to sensation came in the game between 13 year old **Alina Shehzad (1251)** and 14 year old **Rafe Rehman (1824)**. Alina as white built up a powerful attack and won a queen for a rook. She spent too much time in a completely winning position in the fifth hour, allowed some counterplay, but still bravely left a repetition to play for a win with less than 40 seconds left on the clock. Although black now had got a rook and bishop for the queen, Alisha still had a winning attack when she made her move one second too slow and lost on time after 84 moves.

11 year old **Sindre Kvedalen** also ended up just a close to surprise today, as he despite an extra piece lost a jumpy endgame against **Håvard Skotheim (1314)**. Second round also was a hard-fought one in the Open, as 16 out of 21 games had a winner in the end.

3 photos by Anniken Vesty (credited) and the rest by Tom Eriksen