

FAGERNES INTERNATIONAL AUTUMN 2022

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

The Fagernes organizers had a somewhat disappointing warm-up to this tournament: Almost 10 players, due to illness or other personal reasons, had to cancel within the last three days before the tournament. Following this the GM group had 60 players left when the registration closed at 16.00, while the Open had 55. 115 participants was not too bad following the expectations from half a year ago, as this is a second and «extra» Fagernes tournament for this year. Still the organizer was hoping to reach 140 players one month ago, and 115 in the end will give a too big budget deficit.

Hopefully, it will still be a great tournament for all present players. While organizers of similar tournaments often have enough DGT boards to transmit only some 10 %, 20 % or at best 30 % of the games live, we now at Fagernes had too few players to fill up all our hired 60 live boards!

Among the players that had to cancel within the last 48 hours was Bulgarian GM Aleksander Delchev. The GM group still includes 11 GMs, among them 7 above 2600, hence this is the strongest tournament in the Fagernes chess history (so far). In addition to 11 GMs, the top group also includes 11 IMs, and remarkably an ELO of 2272 was needed to get a place on the top half in round 1. Chances for all kinds of title norms following this are great.

We still have to admit that four female players in the top group, and nine in total for the tournament, is a big disappointment. The introduction of money prizes for the best female players in the top group so far apparently has had no effect at all.

The first round of the GM group had an ELO difference of some 300–400 points on every board. The higher rated players of course made a big plus score at the end of the day, but the lower rated players still produced a reasonable number of surprising results. The present ten GMs surprisingly won «only» 7–3, as two young Norwegians succeeded in defeating their GM opponents – while one very young Ukrainian refugee made a sensational Fagernes debut this evening.



Praggnanandhaa vs Cherniaiev

We had a record-young first board this round, as 17-year old **GM Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu (2687)** of India had white against the 12-year old Ukrainian refugee **Tykhon Cherniaiev (2239)**. «Pragg» got some 40 minutes ahead on the clock after 16 moves, and following an early queen exchange at b3 demonstrated a promising pressure in this English fianchetto opening. Three moves later on white appeared close to winning, as black was about to lose his weak pawn at b7. Cherniaiev however defended by active means, exchanging off the other remaining pieces to reach a borderline endgame with rook, knight and four pawns against rook, knight and three pawns. While Cherniaiev instructively exchanged off more pieces Pragg failed to come up with anything special. Following this, black after 45 moves had escaped into an endgame with rook and h-pawn versus rook, f- and h-pawn. This well known rook endgame often is a theoretical draw even without the black h-pawn. Although Pragg played on for 50 moves, Cherniaiev was confident in his defence. A well deserved draw was finally agreed by the young lions after 95 moves and 5.5 hours, leaving 12 year old Tykhon as the star of the midnight hour at Fagernes.

On second board French **Clément Frederic (2234)** and Indian **GM S L Narayanan (2663)** made a slow start with a 3.Bb5+- Moscow Sicilian line. Black did fine despite his backward pawn at d6, but the position for two hours remained approximately balanced on the board and clock. 18.Na2? however turned out to be a blunder, as black instead of moving his rook from b4 could insert the neon-flashing 18.--- Nf4! and then just



Frederic vs Narayanan

pick up white's pawn on e4 with his rook. The rest was not too exciting, as black was a center pawn up with the more active pieces. Narayanan in a shark mood soon ate another pawn and then demonstrated a winning attack against white's king.

GM Anton Demchenko (2645), the winner of the Fagernes tournament in 2019 as well as the European championship in 2021, for obvious reasons has had a very demanding year so far in 2022. As Demchenko is playing under FIDE flag and all of the time has been an outspoken opponent of the war, the organizer was happy to invite him back for this tournament. Demchenko first had to turn down the invitation due to travel complications.



Shehzad (from Fagernes in April 2022)

Having succeeded in leaving Russia he however repeated his request for an invitation and was accepted less than two weeks before the tournament. As white against Norwegian **Shazil Shehzad (2224)**, Demchenko first went for a modest Reti double fianchetto. This was without too much success, as black had few problems equalizing. While black grabbed some space on the queenside, white accelerated on the kingside with e4 followed by f4–f5, and the position after 17 moves was tense. Sacrificing an exchange on b1 later was creative from a white point of view. Probably the plan still was dubious, as black by sound moves came better. As white succeeded in winning the black pawn at a3 and get two pawns for the exchange, the position appeared in dynamic balance after 29 moves.

With both players running short of time in a loaded open position with many active bishops and rooks, 30.Qb5? however was a dangerous mistake. Black's queen and rooks following this soon came to dominate the open center files. 16 year old Shehzad in an inspired mood found all the best moves despite some pressure on the clock, neatly deciding the game with an eight rank intervention just before 40 moves.

Sondre Lillestøl Melaa (2223) versus **GM Sethuraman P. Sethuraman (2645)** was a Pirc opening in which something went seriously wrong for black. White after castling long had an open h-file and was well ahead in development. White following this kept a promising initiative. Walking uphill Sethuraman however demonstrated his class as a defender, eventually succeeding to castle long and complete his development. The position with two rooks, knight and seven pawns against two rooks, bishop and seven pawns following this was drawish after 30 moves.



Melaa vs Sethuraman

Sethuraman as the much higher rated player left a repetition of moves with 30.—Kc7?. This proved unhealthy as white soon had another attack going against the black king – now walking around in thin air at b6. White following this still was clearly better when a draw was agreed after 41 moves. The game result of course still was great for the Norwegian junior champion. Although much better according to the computers, he still had a long road ahead of him to win this endgame from the final position.

The winner of our April tournament of this year, 41 year old **GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2636)** of India, remarkably is only seeded fifth in this even stronger field. Today Sasikiran started up as white against our new American chessfriend **Matal Prilleltensky (2222)**. White challenged to a Semi-Slav Meran duel, and got a pleasant pressure for free after black went for the passive 6... Bd6 instead of testing the critical lines with 6... dxc4. Black creatively tried to complicate the position by sacrificing his queen for two minor pieces. It was much better for white from the start, and turned winning as black at move 15 to greedily snatched a pawn at e4. Black probably took the pawn in pure desperation, as he immediately stopped the clock after white played 16.Re1 with a winning attack. This was today's shortest win if you count the moves, although it still lasted for well above two hours.



Sasikiran vs Prilleltensky



Grave vs Andersen

Jacob Templen Grave (2221) versus **GM Mads Andersen (2604)** was another Semi-Slav duel, but this time in an Anti-Meran line. The GM had no problems on the board and got nearly one hour ahead on the clock after 15 moves. After two sets of minor pieces were exchanged, white still was well inside the ring after 23 moves. Seven moves later on white was much closer on the clock and close to equal on the board, playing with queen, rook, knight and six pawns on each side. Black still had a slight initiative due to his space advantage, as he after playing e4 established promising

knight outposts at d3 and f3. The mistake came as white ran seriously short of time: 34.g4?? was much too weakening from a positional point of view and additionally a tactical blunder, as the exchange sacrifice with 34... Rxd4?! (34... Rc5! actually was more simple and even stronger) soon forced a won queen endgame. Winning after 47 moves as black, the sound Danish GM Mads Andersen made a sound start on this tournament.

GM Abhimanyu Puranik (2603)

versus **FM Mathias Unneland (2185)**

was some kind of delayed Ruy Lopez Exchange line, in which black after exchanging three sets of minor pieces reached a rather solid position.

Chances in the third hour remained close to balanced on the board, although a passed pawn at e5 gave white some chances with queen, rook, knight and five pawns against queen, rook, bishop and five pawns.

17 year old Unneland usually is a tactically alert player. Running seriously

short of time for 40 moves in a demanding position, he still blundered with 31.--- Re5?? – overlooking the not invisible 32.Qxe5! Qxe5 33.exf7 with a pawn promotion soon to follow.



Puranik vs Unneland



Al-Tarboush vs Rasmussen

FM Ward Al-Tarboush (2161)

and

GM Allan Stig Rasmussen (2531)

in the meantime discussed another rare Ruy Lopez line with Nge7. Black succeeded in exchanging off white's bishop at b3 for a knight, and due to his pair of bishops later was better. Sacrificing a pawn at b4 was creative, but still dubious, from a white point of view. Black's strong outpost on e5 later gave him the better position.

The heat however was increasing for both players, as white in the fourth hour came up with some counterplay on the kingside. The thematic knight sacrifice 28.Nf5? true enough was objectively dubious. Still it worked out very well from a practical point of view, as Rasmussen short of time overlooked a sneaky winner with 29.--- Qd2!. Instead 29.--- Qxe5?? (although natural) was a horrible blunder, as white after 30.Rxf5 soon won decisive material due to his heavyweight threat of 31.Rg5+. Although Al-Tarboush is a very capable player, especially as white in messy positions, his win against a 2500-GM of course qualifies as a full sensation. This all the more as Rasmussen somehow usually defeats almost all his opponents below 2300.

GM Kaido Kulaots (2515) versus **Kim Roger Hansen Westrum (2156)** was a Sicilian duel leading to a Maroczy, in which white due to his space advantage kept an edge after exchanging off the queens. Westrum defended actively, sacrificing a weak pawn at f5 to disrupt the white pawn structure and activate his remaining pieces in the endgame. The rook and knight endgame following this was interesting until black at move 35 misunderstood the nature of this endgame, taking back a pawn at b3 with his knight instead of with his rook.



Kulaots vs Westrum

While the knight endgame could have given the 2100-junior fair chances for a draw, the 2500-GM soon demonstrated a winning attack against black's king in the remaining rook and knight endgame.



Liabøtrø vs Abdrlauf

FM Pål-Ole Liabøtrø (2145) versus **IM Elham Abdrlauf (2495)** was the first game to finish in this GM group, as black won within 30 moves and just above two hours. The outcome was not unexpected following 17 year old Abdrlauf's strong results recently. After a balanced Trompovsky opening the game still was about equal after 24 moves. Liabøtrø in his first game at Fagernes introduced himself as a capable positional player. 25.h4?? however was an outright tactical blunder, overlooking a tactical 25.--- Qxg3!. Abdrlauf immediately made the queen move and efficiently used

his chance to force a won rook endgame within five more moves.



Johansson vs Østensen

IM Linus Johansson (2461) and **Nicolai Østensen (2136)** discussed another Semi-Slav line, in which white got a pleasant positional pressure as black was too late with his key c5-break. White following this installed a highly disturbing pair of knights at c5 and d6 before 30 moves. Linus Johansson, a 27 year old Swedish IM living and working in Oslo, creatively smashed through at move 32 by sacrificing his bishop at f5.

Norwegian **Mathias Lind Schouten (2128)** and Indian **IM/WGM Vaishali Rameshbabu (2451)** first entered a Sicilian duel, expected to become an attacking race after white castled long and black short. The position however slowed down as three sets of minor pieces were exchanged. Following this white after 23 moves still held a slight initiative with queen, rook, knight and six pawns against queen, rook, bishop and six pawns, although black was some 20 minutes ahead on the clock. As the



Schouten vs Rameshbabu

rooks were exchanged the queen and minor piece endgame appeared drawish. Vaishali with only one minute left on the clock still left a repetition to play for a win at move 34. Her cunning idea turned out to be forcing an exchange of queens, entering a bishop versus knight endgame in which it was at first sight far from obvious that black was better.

Although this probably should have been a draw, black definitely had the better chances as her king had a much bigger potential. Schouten under pressure made some mistakes early in the fifth hour, allowing black first to reach a won version of the minor piece endgame and then to win the white knight. 21 year old Vaishali, the top rated female player of this tournament, has recently made two GM norms and for sure will be a very interesting player to follow in the upcoming rounds.

IM Kirk Ghazarian (2446) versus **Martin Holten Fiskaaen (2118)** was a teenager duel, starting up with a positionally complex Sicilian line. After 20 moves black had two bishops for two knights, although white probably still was better due to his strong knight on d5 and safer king. 16 year old Ghazarian later demonstrated a very mature chess understanding, sacrificing a pawn to exchange one of the black bishops and leave black's king on f8 under permanent fire. Black within a few moves had to give up both his weak queenside pawns. Ghazarian despite mutual time pressure later had few problems forcing a totally winning minor piece endgame.



Ghazarian vs Fiskaaen



Sian vs Kaasen

The Norwegian junior duel between **Shadi Sian (2108)** and **IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2445)** saw a Grünfeld line in which white first apparently had a slight initiative. Black however later took over the initiative with a promising queenside pressure.

Whites situation after 23 moves following this was very difficult, as black had a pleasant pressure on the board and 50 minutes against 2 on the clock. According to the computers white later was better for a few moves, but he had the way more difficult position to play.

Not unexpectedly, highly talented Sian

soon blundered material when left with less than one minute to defend this demanding position. The computer programs noted of course that black also made some mistakes, but from a practical point of view this still was a convincing black win from Kaasen.

Ukrainian **FM Semen Mitusov (2415)** as white in the junior duel against Estonian **Dion Krivenko (2107)** entered an original Modern opening line, in which black instead of developing his pieces played h5 on the kingside and b5 on the queenside. With the black king still hesitating at e8, white came much better after opening the kingside with g4 followed by gxh5.



Mitusov vs Krivenko

Having built up a promising attacking position, Mitusov however played too slow with the mysterious 19.Kb1?. Krivenko used his chance to activate the queen via f5 with some counterplay and a messy position to follow. Mitusov, like Kaasen, however had the big practical advantage of being far ahead on the clock in a double-edged position. The 16 year old IM-elect used his chance efficiently when the blunder from his opponent came, neatly deciding the game by sacrificing a knight at e6 in move 24. Krivenko fought on into the fifth hour. Mitusov however was an exchange up and happily gave it back to force a won pawn endgame after the first time control.



Bjerke vs Arkell

The veteran duel between 64 year old **FM Richard Bjerke (2096)** and 63 year old **GM Keith Arkell (2413)** tonight was a Bogo-Indian opening duel, in which white's extra space first gave him a slight pull. 30.f4? however proved much too optimistic from a white point of view, allowing a powerful counterbreak with 30...f5!. White's king soon turned out to be much more exposed when the kingside pawns were blown up. The GM later made efficient use of his chances to win half a ton of material before 40 moves.

IM/WGM Padmini Rout (2390) as white against **Valentina Verbin (2075)** first played Nf3-g3-Bg2, but then switched to the center with d4 and c3, leaving some unusual kind of Queen's pawn fianchetto. Although thematic, black's plan to free herself with an e5 break proved much too loose in this position. Rout just won the weak pawn at e5 within a few moves and then entered tactical lines leading to a crushing attack well before 30 moves.



Rout vs Verbin

Well back above 2000 following a strong result in the World Youth Championship, 14 year old **Vetle Bjørge Strand (2053)** gave his Veresov system with 1.d4 2.Nc3 and 3.Bf4 another try as wite against Danish **FM Viktor Haarmark Nielsen (2384)**. The Veresov (again) gave white no advantage. A black failed to invent something frightening, a drawish endgame with queen, knight and five pawns on each side was on the board after 25 moves. Black still had



Strand vs Nielsen

the much better practical chances, with 30 minutes against 10 on the clock. Nielsen first rejected an offer for an exchange of queens, but happily accepted as Strand next time offered to destroy his own queenside pawn structure.

White still had some chances for a draw in the materially balanced knight endgame, but his poor structure made this painful at best. Running short of time and moves, Strand became too passive in the final moves before the time control. Nielsen following this got the help needed to mobilize his remaining forces, and after winning one of the weak white c-pawn he soon reached a won pawn endgame.



Carlsson vs Hausken

IM Ludvig Carlsson (2379) and **Andreas Skrede Hausken (2050)** discussed a doouble edged Queen's Gambit line. In this version white sacrificed a pawn at e5 to get active pieces and attacking chances against the black king at g8. As often in such positions, the 2000-player failed to find the demanding defence moves, allowing the IM to win by a violent tactical attack before 30 moves.



Ytrestøyl vs Ingebretsen

16 year old **Sindre Lyngsaunet Ytrestøyl (2045)** as the underdog against 18 year old **FM Jens E. Ingebretsen (2363)** went for an apparently slow Three Knights Game with 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3. He suddenly got a jackpot as black before ten moves allowed Nd5 followed by Nb5 – winning the pawn at c7 with a decisive advantage. Waking up one and a half hour after the start of the game, Ingebretsen found himself in a wrecked position – a pawn down with the less active

pieces and the more exposed king. Ytrestøyl later took his time on the clock and the board, and Ingebretsen somehow managed to float the wreck into an endgame in which white despite an extra exchange still had some work to do. After five hours the endgame with rook and four pawns against knight and four pawns still was winning for white. By far the longest game of this round, this still was reported a win for white after six hours and 95 moves. Down to seconds on the clock Ytrestøyl however finally missed it as he returned the exchange, as the pawn endgame later was a trivial draw.



Thavandiran vs Johannessen

IM Shyam Thavandiran (2353) versus **Heine N. Johannessen (2033)** was another Sicilian duel, leading to a Dragon-like position. White kept an initiative after all four knights were exchanged. This still was a tense struggle on the board and clock for the first two and a half hours. The IM however made the much better decisions when the promising junior weakened his own kingside in search of an attack, and white following this smashed through before 30 moves.

Joel Paul Ganta (2031) from India has done well in several tournaments recently and reportedly might be heavily underrated. He still got a disappointing first round loss as white against American **IM Justin Sarkar (2350)**. Black messed up the position with the unusual Ulvestad variation (5... b5!?) in a Two Knights opening. Although his king on d8 was a bit awkward, black soon developed a strong initiative. Obviously not well known in this territory, white spent a lot of time without finding any good plan. The natural 12.d3? reportedly was a serious mistake, increasing further the activity of black's pieces. In this game black's king turned out to be fairly safe at c7 while black won a lot of time kicking around the white queen. Consequently, black before 25 moves demonstrated a winning counterattack against the white king at g1.



Ganta vs Sarkar

18 year old **Emerik Våpenstad Roulet-Dubonnet (2343)** following several strong weekend tournaments entered the board as a big favourite as white against **Per Fredrik Holand (2024)**. Facing the Slav opening, Roulet-Dubonnet still went for a rather tame exchange line. White for a while had a positional edge due to his knight on c5. Black in turn achieved counterplay by exchanging one knight at e4 and then intervening on the new d3 outpost with the remaining knight. As white played too hard for a queenside attack, black eventually won the white pawn at b4 and for some moves had an advantage. After 40 moves the remaining endgame with rook, knight and four pawns on each side still appeared drawish. Now playing too hard for a win on the kingside, white however lost his key e-pawn for nothing. Black this time made efficient use of his chances, and after five hours landed in a safely won rook endgame.



Roulet-Dubonnet vs Holand

The Norwegian generation duel between **Gunnar Stray (2015)** and **FM Andre Gjestemoen-Vonhirsch (2329)** transposed into some kind of Grünfeld Exchange line, in which black first came clearly better after establishing a dominating knight on c4. Black however spent much time without finding any of the best plans. After the knights were exchanged, white suddenly had a promising pressure just before 30 moves. Black at that stage also was seriously short of time, with less than one minute left on the clock.

Although creative, black's try to sacrifice a pawn at g5 was very dubious. White within a few moves came a pawn up with the more active pieces and the better king. Sacrificing an exchange at h6 at move 36 following this was consequent, but still insufficient, from a black point of view.

Inserting 38.Rb8+?? before taking the rook on h6 in turn however was an outright blunder from white, and following this black's kingside attack crashed through within a few moves after the time control.



Nilsen vs Austad

Tobias Lang Nilsen (2280) versus **Eirik Strøm Austad (1985)** was an accelerated Dragon Sicilian. Chances appeared fairly balanced after the queens, one set of knights and the light-squared bishops left before 20 moves. White due to his nice knight on e4 still came better for a few moves. As black succeeded exchanging off the knights too, he was close to a draw in the double rook endgame with six pawns on each side. White's protected passed pawn at c5 gave him some possibilities, but the position became double-edged as black went for counterattack with his rook and picked up a white pawn at g2.

Black for sure later had a draw within reach for a few moves. White due to his passed c-pawn and more active king however still had the much easier position to play. In the end after five and a half hour white forced black to sacrifice his rook on the c-pawn – leaving a safely won endgame with king and rook versus king and h-pawn.



Grønnestad vs Kvaløy

WFM Anita Grønnestad (1970) versus FM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2278) was a modern Queen's Gambit line (Ragozin) in which black put his dark-squared bishop on b4 and got an active position after advancing his pawns on both wings. Sacrificing a bishop at h3 later might not have been objectively correct, but it still was an interesting plan which gave a winning attack within a few more moves. With both players running seriously short of time around move

25, white however got the help needed to bolster her kingside. After snatching a pawn at d5, she was better for a few moves. Black came back on the track with a winning kingside attack, but failed to find the best continuation with one minute left on the clock. While 31.--- Rgxg3! would have been a rather straightforward mate in four moves, 31.--- Rgxg3?? was a blunder inviting white into the game again. Black still had the last laugh in this funny game as Grønnestad, now below a minute herself, blundered with 34.Rxg3??. This from a high voltage position in which white had an extra rook for two pawns. Kvaløy this time efficiently used his chance to win back a full rook, landing safely in a won queen and knight endgame after the time control.

FM Nicolai Kistrup (2274) and Evsuld Myagmarsuren (1952) meanwhile discussed an unconventional Slav line, in which white first played g3 and then exchanged off the c-pawns at d5. Usually this is not a good mixture, but in this case white due to his superior pawn structure still came better after all the knights were exchanged.

After black lost his isolated pawn at c6, the position with queen, rook, bishop and five pawns against queen, rook, bishop and four pawns appeared close to winning for white. 12 year old Evsuld however fought on well in his defence. Receiving the necessary help to exchange off the rooks, he still had fair chances for a draw with queen, bishop and three pawns against queen, bishop and four pawns. Kistrup of course played on for a win and succeeded in giving himself some chances by forcing an exchange of the bishops. The queen endgame with an extra pawn for white still was a borderline case – until black at move 51 much too carelessly decided to force a queen exchange at e4. Although black first had the more active king, white's extra pawn made this pawn endgame very dangerous for black. Kistrup around 23 in the evening instructively demonstrated that white could return the extra pawn, taking over the king initiative and winning the remaining pawn endgame with two pawns on each side.



Amundsen vs Welling

17 year old **Ask Amundsen (1869)** as white against 63 year old **IM Gerard Welling (2272)** was a fascinating generation duel, in which the older player by far also was the fastest one.

The much more experienced IM after 15 moves was some 50 minutes up on the clock, but in trouble at the board. White due to his strong outpost on e5 and pressure against the backward pawn at e6 here came much better after exchanging three sets of minor pieces. White still

had a pressure with queen, two rooks and six pawns on each side after 35 moves. Feeling the pressure from his clock, Amundsen helpfully exchanged queens to reach drawish rook endgame. The remaining rook endgame was very drawish, but black now had the better practical chances, as he is an IM and had a full extra hour on the clock to handle the position with rook and five pawns on each side. Amundsen appeared to be under some pressure with only seven minutes left on the clock after 46 moves, but proved able to speed up in time. As both players appeared satisfied to exchange off the remaining pieces at this stage, the game was drawn with only the kings left on the board after 59 moves. Although he had more within reach, draw against an IM of course qualifies as a great start for the lowest rated player of this field.

GM Frode Urkedal (2523), **Laurin Perkampus (2123)** and **Eivind Grunt Kreken (2107)** all played the last round of the European Chess Club Cup today, but will arrive tomorrow and start up their Fagernes tournament with a walk over draw from the first round. So is the situation for **IM Kjetil Stokke (2307)**, as he for work reasons could not arrive before Monday.

Open Group

The top players all taken together had a less shaky start in the Open group.

First rated **FM Joachim Solberg (2167)** won confidently as black against 15 year old **Lukas Dominik Gåsland (1604)**, while second rated **Mikael Aroven (1997)** also won a nice attacking game as white in a Swedish duel against **Henrik Johansson (1589)**.



Gåsland vs Solberg

Third board however saw a very surprising outcome: **Roaul Abrahamsson (1904)** was too loose with an exchange sacrifice, and later lost the endgame as black against 19 year old **Sondre Andreas Pedersen (1581)**. This game was a true generation duel, with a remarkable 48 year gap between the players.

Another surprise came in on the fifth board: **Max Moe Pedersen (1881)** was under pressure as black, and in the end was satisfied to find a drawn queen endgame against **Sebastian Lien (1568)**.

A surprise draw was close in a highly entertaining sixth board game between **Sigurd Kittilsen (1864)** and **Zoé Corfield (1554)**. Although white won a queen for two minor pieces after promoting to a new queen, black's passed pawn at e2 should have been sufficient to save her if she had played the tricky and strong 44... Be6! instead of the tricky and far less strong 44... Ne6?.



Kittilsen vs Corfield

The top ten players from the Elo list following this won their first round with a fairly impressive 8.5–1.5, compared to 7.0–3.0 in the GM-group.

Only three out of 27 games in this Open group tonight had no winner. The higher rated players won almost all the decided games on the lower boards. An exception was 17 year old and for sure underrated **Sverke Linga Øfeldt (1411)**, snatching the full point as his opponent **Morten Rolstad (1782)** blundered a piece in a drawish endgame. There are way too few female players in the Open group as well, but we noted that our new Latvian chessfriend **Ramona Golsta (1766)** started up her Fagernes career with a very convincing win as black against Bergen veteran **Terje Lie (1397)**.

The game between **Daniel Garatun Rusten (unrated)** and **Nikolai Olsen Wernberg (1630)** had a both elegant and comic finish as black mated the white king on h4 with 32.--- g6-g5#. The players then «discovered and agreed» that white could continue with 33.hxg6+ e.p.???. Neither of them noted this move was illegal, as the pawn was coming from g6 and not directly from g7.

While the game due to mate did not continue on the live board, the players with a lot of enthusiasm played some 20 moves more before concluding the game – again with a win for black.

In the opinion of the arbiters and for the history of the tournament, these last 20 moves were only analyses, as the game was immediately and definitely finished by the fully legal mate.



Round 1 at Fagernes

Photos by Tom Eriksen