

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

2



GM Group

This second round of the GM group became a rather hard-fought one, with five out of the top six boards getting a winner. Top-rated GM Rinat Jumabayev of Kazakhstan however got nowhere and had to accept a sensible first board draw as white against the young Indian IM Sidhant Mohapatra. GM Frode Urkedal and GM Raja Rithvik R on the other hand won more or less confidently as white against lower rated opponents on the next two boards.

Second-rated GM Krishan Sasikiran following yesterday's surprise draw hit back with a win today, and his recently arrived GM colleagues Titas Stremavicius and Tiger Hillarp both had solid working day wins in their first game of this tournament. Our new Indian chessfriend, GM Sayantan Das, also won a patient five-hour struggle.

All taken together the GMs still won only 7–3 against ten lower rated opponents: GM Elham Amar was lucky to get a draw from an inferior position against still solid CM Andreas Skotheim, while GM Erik Blomqvist lost as black against 17 year old FM Ritvik Krishnan – and GM Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen lost as white against 14 year old CM Neeraj Harish!

The top rated IMs over all had a strong round as English Ameet Ghasi joined the 2/2 group following a convincing win on the fourth board – so did Norwegians Semen Mitusov and Aksel Bu Kvaløy on the next two boards. The 16 year old Ukrainian IM Svyatoslav Bazakutsa however had to accept a draw as white against FM Alexander Øye-Strømberg, while 21 year old English IM Jonah Willow scraped a draw with a pawn less in the endgame as black against Martin Holten Fiskaaen.

Many of the possible IM-norm candidates among the young teenagers here has made a promising start. One of them definitely is Norwegian CM Evsuld Myagmarsuren, today winning a great white game against Israeli FM Raem Sherman. Although it is much too early to analyze title norm chances for specific players, we can safely conclude that the field includes many capable candidates.

The first board duel between **GM Rinat Jumabayev (2577)** and **IM Sidhant Mohapatra (2369)** started up as a King's Indian in Advance with 1.Nf3 and 2.g3, but following a later c4 transposed into an English. Mohapatra remained a few minutes ahead on the clock and had no problems as he after 15 moves had exchanged all the knights. Chances were about balanced and the position circled around black's well protected «hanging pawns» at c6 and d5. White turned down a draw offer after 20 moves. Soon afterwards Black creatively gave up a pawn to exchange the queens at b3, and later had enough pressure against white's two b-pawns to force a dead drawn endgame.



Jumabayev

The Sandinavian second board duel between **GM Frode Urkedal (2559)** and **IM Ludvig Carlsson (2334)** started up like a Catalan opening, which became very open after exchanging the c- and d-pawns. Both players held a good speed as they entered a variation in which black sacrifices a bishop at f2 for a pawn, leaving the white king in a stressed position at e3.



Out of his preparations Carlsson here spent more than 20 minutes, but then instead of the critical 20.--- Qb6+ 21.Qd4 Rc5!? took a much too slow approach with 20.--- Kh8? Urkedal immediately exchanged the disturbing knight with 21.Nxe4! fxe4 22.Rd6, and within a few more moves consolidated his extra piece. The Norwegian GM later had it all under control and had well above one hour left on the clock when finishing the game:



26.--- Rf3+ was a creative last try not working out, as white coolly played 27.Kxe4! 1-0 Black could have fought on with 27.--- Rf6 28.Qd7 Qg8, although white is a very sound bishop and pawn up after 29.Kd3.

GM Raja Rithvik R (2514) versus **FM Sergey Eliseev (2276)** had today's latest start, as Eliseev arrived more than ten minutes delayed. Following a provocative Queen's Gambit with 3.--- a6?!, the GM soon opened the center with an e4-break. White kept an initiative, developing into a direct attack after black somewhat riskily decided to castle long. Lagging behind on the clock Eliseev had an uphill struggle, but material was still in balance and the outcome still not given before black's move 28:



28.--- Qe6 holds the position together. Instead 28.--- Bd6? 29.Re1 Qe6!? was elegant, but still lost after 30.Qa5 Qd7? 31.Bxd6 Qxd6 32.Qf5+ 1-0



Laddha vs Ghasi

FM Shubh Jayesh Laddha (2308) and **IM Ameet Ghasi (2503)** discussed a Caro-Kann Advance line, in which the players exchanged their light-squared bishops and inserted h4 and h5 before continuing to develop. Black allowed his dark-squared bishop to be exchanged for a knight at c5, and did fine with his knights after 18 moves. White still was well inside the game until he went astray with 27.Qxh5? – giving up two queenside pawns without having any dangerous attacking play on the kingside. Ghasi later made the better calculations during mutual time pressure, and after the time control soon was three pawns up in the remaining queen and rook position.

IM Semen Mitusov (2486) and **WGM Fiona Sieber (2264)** discussed a rare Ponziani opening with 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.Qa4 dxe4 5.Nxe5. White temporarily gave up a pawn – with success as he within a few moves won back the pawn with a better structure and development. Black avoided the direct dangers by exchanging queens, although white came a pawn up with an ongoing pressure. Mitusov in an inspired mood kept up the pressure very well and won decisive material after 30 moves.



Kvaløy

The highly talented Norwegian teenager duel between **CM Martin Øksendal (2271)** and **IM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2484)** started up by transposing into the «Norwegian» line of the Ruy Lopez opening, as black postponed his development to win the pair of bishops with 6... Na5?! and 7... Nxb3. White spent almost one hour and black more than one hour for the first 12 moves. Black had some worries about his uncastled king, but gradually came better due to his bishops as white failed to come up with anything disturbing. Exchanging the queens after 20 moves hardly improved white's position, as black had all the more active

pieces afterwards. Øksendal later pinned his hopes for a draw upon opposed-coloured bishops in the rook and bishop endgame, but an extra pawn combined with a three against one queenside pawn majority made this a rather trivial win for black.



Bazakutsa

IM Svyatoslav Bazakutsa (2483) versus **FM Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2248)** was another duel between two highly talented teenagers. Black tested out the rare Albin's Countergambit with 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5?! – and after 3.dxe5 went for the even more rare 3... Ne7. White here spent some 85 minutes for the first 13 moves, but following an early queen exchange he hung on the loose extra pawn at e5 with some advantage. After castling long black at move 16 won back the pawn at e5, after which the young lions soon exchanged it down to a rather safely drawn rook endgame.



Aizenberg vs Nagare

Israeli **IM Benny Aizenberg (2423)** and Indian **CM Akhilesh Nagare (2245)** instead discussed a positionally messy Sicilian Taimanov, in which white after 13 moves had almost 40 minutes less than he started up with – while black had one minute more than he had before move 1. Black's king at e7 following this probably was fairly sound, and of course it was helpful to protect the backward pawn at d6. Black obviously had the longer preparation here. White however found the better moves afterwards and after exchanging his dark-squared bishop he got a promising light-square dominance after 22 moves.

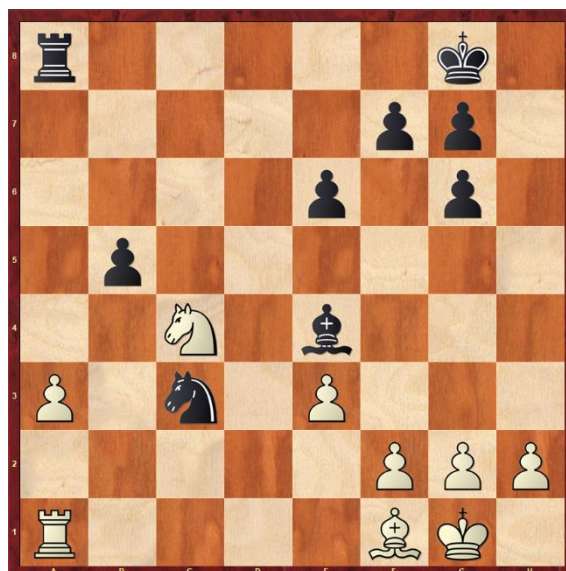
It remains a bit unclear whether black lost or voluntarily gave up his queen for one rook and the light-squared bishop a few moves later on. Anyway this proved insufficient to save the game, as white could sacrifice back an exchange and force an endgame in which his Duracell Rabbit-like queen easily outnumbered the badly coordinated black rooks.

CM Martin Holten Fiskaaen (2259) versus **IM Jonah B. Willow (2420)** saw another open Catalan duel. Something went wrong for black in this one, as white after 13 moves won back the pawn at c4 with a pair of bishops AND a pleasant initiative. Willow tried to free his position by temporarily sacrificing a pawn at e5, but Fiskaaen could return the pawn and due to his strong fianchetto bishop kept a disturbing initiative after exchanging all the other minor pieces. Willow under pressure pulled the emergency brake by giving up a pawn to exchange first the queens and then the bishops – plus the remaining queenside pawns. This turned out to be a good practical choice, as white never came up with any plan to create winning attempts in the double rook endgame with four against three kingside pawns. This endgame is known as a draw with one rook on each side, and two rooks without double pawns makes winning attempts even more difficult.



Fiskaaen

FM Kush Bhagat (2245) and **IM John Paul Wallace (2373)** investigated a positional Anti-Meran line of a Semi-Slav Defence, in which white played a bit too passive with his bishop still locked in at c1 after 15 moves. Black following a well-timed c5 break soon took over the initiative, and kept the more active pieces after the queens were exchanged. Probably this still should not have been enough to win a materially balanced rook and minor pieces endgame. Black however definitely had got the more easy position to play, when both players ran short of time for the first time control:



With one minute left of the clock, white obviously had a choice to make with his knight after 33.--- b5. Bhagat definitely should have kept his knight available for the queenside defence with 34.Nb2!, intending 34.--- b4 35.a4. Instead 34.Nd6? b4! 35.Nxe4 Nxe4 36.a4 Nc3 soon left black a passed pawn up. The game went on for 35 more moves and became the last one to finish. 15 year old Bhagat however all of the time had an uphill struggle and Wallace after five and a half hour landed in a safely won endgame with knight and two pawns against a lone bishop.

IM Tarun Kanyamarala (2369) and **GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2571)** meanwhile started up with a Nimzo-Indian Rubinstein duel, soon leading to a typical and approximately balanced hanging pawns position with black pawns at d5 and c5. With one set of knights and the light-squared bishops exchanged, chances after 20 moves were considered balanced. A critical moment came after 24 moves, as black had pushed his center pawn forward to d4. 25.exd4? turned out to be a serious positional mistake, as white found himself in a deadly pin when the d-file opened:



25.--- g6! 26.Qe5 Nxd4 27.Nxd4 Rxd4 28.Qe3 Rd3 29.Qe2 Qd5 with an eternal pin of the bishop at d2. Sasikiran soon cashed in a full piece. After the first time control the game had reached a bishop endgame in which the number of pawns was balanced, although only black had a bishop ...



Skotheim

The Norwegian duel between **CM Andreas Skotheim (2234)** and **GM Elham Amar (2540)** started up like a fairly normal Nimzo-Indian Rubinstein line, in which black could win back the pawn and approximately equalize the chances with a straightforward 12.--- Bxd5 13.exd5 Qxd5. Instead 12.--- Bg5? 13.f4 Bh4 was creative provocation but asked too much from this position, and so white due to his extra center pawn soon came better. Skotheim objectively had a clear advantage when accepting a draw by repetition after 24 moves. The 25 year old Norwegian still had a long way to reach winning chances and of course could be very

proud of his second draw against a GM above 2500.

A Caro-Kann Exchange line was tested in the game between **FM Namitbir Singh Walia (2351)** and the recently arrived Lithuanian **GM Titas Stremavicius (2541)**. White spent much time but came up with nothing except exchanges. This left black with a sound initiative as he after 20 moves had two rooks, one bishop and six pawns against two rooks, one knight and six pawns. Black after 24 moves was some 40 minutes ahead on the clock, although white still had 20 minutes to defend a fairly solid position. The GM of course played on for a win and increased the pressure by establishing a passed pawn at d5. The FM however established a blockade on the d4 square and has reasonable drawing chances – until he short of time was helpful to improve his opponent’s pawn structure:



36.Nxe4? fxe4 37.Kf2 Rf5+ 38.Ke3 Rc1 39.Re2 Rff1 40.Rdd2 Ke5 and black soon was ready to set the passed pawns into motion.

IM Stephen Mannion (2142) and **GM Sayantan Das (2471)** had another Caro-Kann advance duel, in which black was perfectly fine after exchanging the light-squared bishops plus one set of knights. Black’s apparently backward pawn at e6 here was an asset in disguise, as black could play 17.--- e5 and 18.--- e4 with a promising initiative. Exchanging the queen afterwards helped white to avoid a direct kingside attack, but black later had a passed pawn at e4 plus all the better pieces. The GM took his time, but won all the more safely after 52 moves.

FM Ritvik Krishnan (2206) versus **GM Erik Blomqvist (2483)** was even another Nimzo-Indian Rubinstein duel. This was a double-edged one in which black established a pawn at c4, while white with f4 followed by e4 and e5 established a space advantage on the kingside. Black due to his fianchetto bishop at b7 and d-file control first came better, as white failed to come up with any real kingside attack. Running short of time for the first time control, the GM in this case however became too eager to exchange off pieces. The remaining endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns against rook, knight and five pawns here was better for white, much due to his active king on b5. Black still should not lose, but found himself in trouble following a too careful move 40 – and consequently chose a too passive plan afterwards. Krishnan showed no respect, marching his king up to c6 and his pawn to a5 with a decisive attack:



46.a5! Na8 47.Ba4! Kd8 48.Rb3 Kc8 49.Kd6 Rc7 50.Bc6 1-0



Hillarp vs Southcott-Moyers

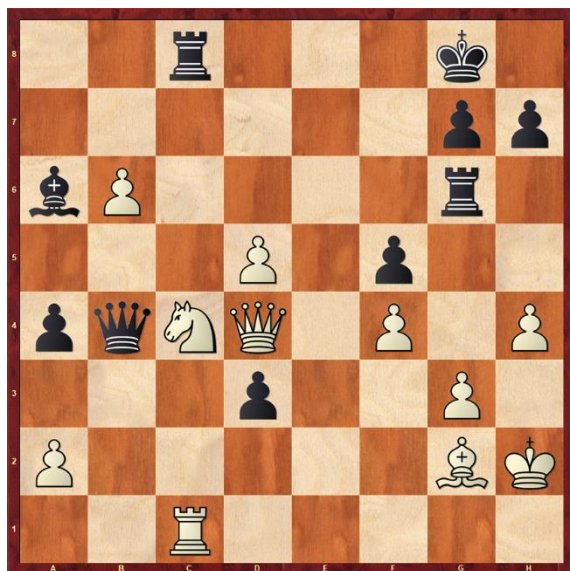
Creative Swede **GM Tiger Hillarp (2455)** as white against **CM Indy Southcott-Moyers (2143)** entered the ring armed with a slightly original King's Indian in Advance after 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 b6 3.c4 dxc4 4.Na3. White immediately won back the pawn at c5, but black did fine and solved his development problem by fairly sound exchanges. White after 17 moves still had a slight edge with two rooks, one knight and seven pawns in each camp. Inviting a rook exchange with 28.--- Rb8? turned out to be a more or less decisive mistake, as white won the remaining knight endgame rather convincingly.

The recently arrived Swede **IM Hampus Sörensen (2423)** as white against Norwegian junior **Peder Marcus Aamodt (2126)** started up with a Modern Sicilian variation, in which white took back the pawn at d4 with his queen. Black reached a fairly sound position after exchanging all the knights, although white after 17 moves still kept a disturbing initiative. Running short of time with a strained position on the board, Aamodt became too helpful when exchanging the queens and one set of rooks. Sörensen soon demonstrated the remaining rook and bishop endgame to be winning, as black could not save his weakened queenside pawns.

Norwegian **GM Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen (2415)** as white against 14 year old **CM Neeraj Harish (2024)** went back to his own teenager strategy with a positional English fianchetto. The GM obviously had much more experience with this opening line, although the teenager more or less equalized the chances by exchanging one set of knights plus the dark-squared bishops. Black became a little careless after installing an octopus knight on d3, although white in turn missed his chance(s) to undermine it:

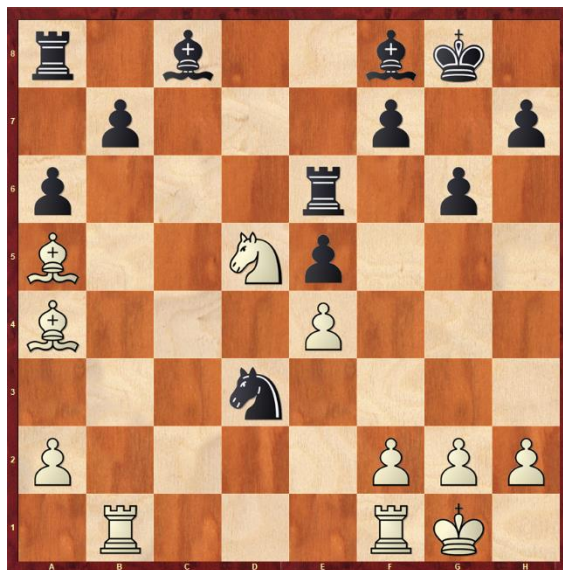


27.--- Qf7? was an instructive mistake as white now could have got a big advantage with the undermining 28.f3! After 28.Rb1? Ra6?!, white again could have got a clear advantage by 22.f3! – but instead gave up the possibility for good by a blocking 22.f4? White decision to sacrifice an exchange upon the knight later was dubious, but black in turn allowed tactical complications which could have saved white:



38.d6! Rxd6 and now 39.Qe5! would have left the position difficult to handle for both players. The GM had only three minutes left on the clock and instead lost sight completely with 39.Bd5+?? Kh8 40.a3 Rxc4! 41.Qe3 Re4 42.b7 Bxb7 0-1 Harish did very well at Fagernes during his first try last year, and has had an even better start this year!

CM Evsuld Myagmarsuren (2171) versus **FM Raem Sherman (2390)** saw a rare closed Sicilian line, in which white accepted a backward pawn at d3. This turned out to be a good decision, as white's more active bishops combined with the knight outpost at d5 gave him the more easy position to play. Although black still was struggling to complete his development after 20 moves, he might have been correct to snatch the d3 pawn with his knight. If so, he however became much too careless immediately afterwards:



22.--- Bd6?? 23.Nb6 Rb8 24.Nxc8 and black realized that he would lose an exchange with a wrecked position after 24.--- Rxc8 25.Bd7. Sacrificing a piece with 24.--- Bc5?! was a more creative try, but white soon came a bishop up in the rook and bishops endgame. 19 year old Sherman had a long and demanding travel to this tournament and for the first two games has been far below his usual strength. However 14 year old Myagmarsuren obviously is a highly dangerous and probably underrated player.



Doshi vs Bjørkan

a winning position in the rook and minor piece endgame. The IM in turn later gave up his passed pawn too easily, but still succeeded in squeezing a win from a borderline endgame with rook, bishop, h-pawn and two f-pawns against rook, knight and e-pawn.

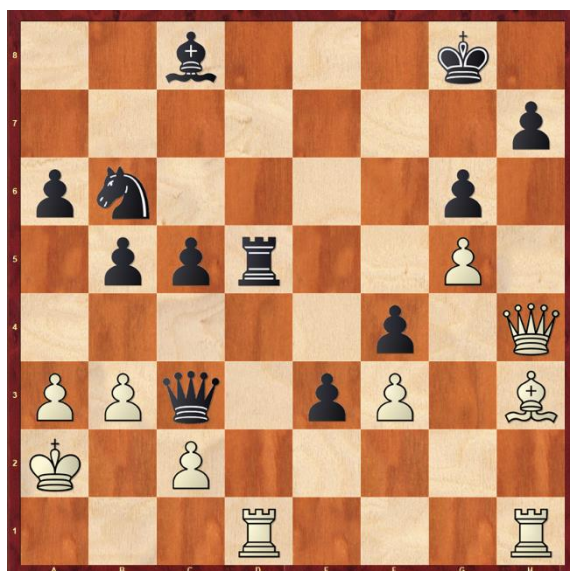
IM Moksh Doshi (2377) and **Olav Bjørkan (2022)** discussed the good old Ragozin variation of a Queen's Gambit. White here made a good decision when allowing black to exchange his light-squared bishop for a knight at f3. White true enough had to weaken his kingside by taking back at f3 with the g-pawn, but this soon was proven less important than white's active pair of bishops. Bjørkan defended well for a while afterwards, with a remarkably low time spending. He however was too fast during a critical transition to the endgame around move 25–28.

Following this white's extra a-pawn soon gave him

Teenagers **Pantham Kaewpitakkun (2023)** and **FM Dion Krivenko (2244)** this afternoon investigated a rather provocative Modern opening with 1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.Nc3 a6?!. White established a center advantage by 9.d5, and was better after castling long. A tense attacking race followed in the third hour, as white went for a pawn storm on the kingside and black for a counterattack on the queenside. The game was instructive as white, with a lot of time left on the clock in a messy position, played too fast and carelessly when black from move 25 ran seriously short of time.



27.Qf2? allowed a powerful exchange sacrifice with 27... Rxd5!, leading to a won position after 28.exd5 e4+ 29.Ka2 e3. Black in turn lost touch after 30.Qh4 Rxd5?, leaving the position highly unclear after 31.Bh3 Qc3. But then white, with fifteen minutes against one, again moved too fast:



32.Rxd5?? Qxc2+ 33.Ka1 Qc3+ 34.Ka2 Nxd5 and black soon won.



Kittilsen

Sigurd Kittilsen (1981) and **IM Gerard Welling (2206)** both spent much time from a Scotch opening, in which white after exchanging one set of knights had a slight center advantage and a pleasant initiative. Welling however defended by sound means and white found nothing better than exchanges – leading after 24 moves to an approximately balanced endgame with two rooks, one bishop and seven pawns on each side. Opposite-coloured bishops here voted overwhelmingly for a draw, and this finally became the outcome after 58 moves.

The Norwegian generation duel between 61 year old **Jan Sørgerd (1966)** and 19 year old **CM Kim Roger Hansen Westrum (2205)** saw a fairly balanced duel in the Moscow line of a Semi-Slav Defence. Sørgerd true to his solid style exchanged his dark-squared bishop for a knight at f6, instead of sacrificing a pawn. Around move 15–20 black’s pair of bishops gave him at best the slightly better long term perspectives. Sørgerd and his knights meanwhile came up with promising pressure against the backward black pawn at c6. Giving up the dark-squared bishop for a knight with 29.--- Bxe5? was a serious mistake from black, as white later had a passed pawn at e5 and a pleasant pressure. Black still had a solid position and Westrum came up with some counterplay on the kingside. White at move 40 used his chance to take the pawn at c6 – allowing and more or less forcing black to force a draw by perpetual check in the queen endgame.



Hetland vs Gudbrandsen

FM Gustav Gudbrandsen (2197) at age 60 still by heart is an attacking player, and as white against 15 year old **Even Huneide Hetland (1970)** entered an ambitious Sicilian Grand Prix Attack. White kept a slight initiative, although black defended soundly and following tactical exchanges the players after 25 moves had reached a balanced position where white’s more active pieces compensated for black’s extra pawn. Both players took the safe road as white accepted a queen exchange to win back the pawn, and then at move 30 offered a draw in a balanced endgame with two rooks, knight and four pawns against two rooks, bishop and four pawns.

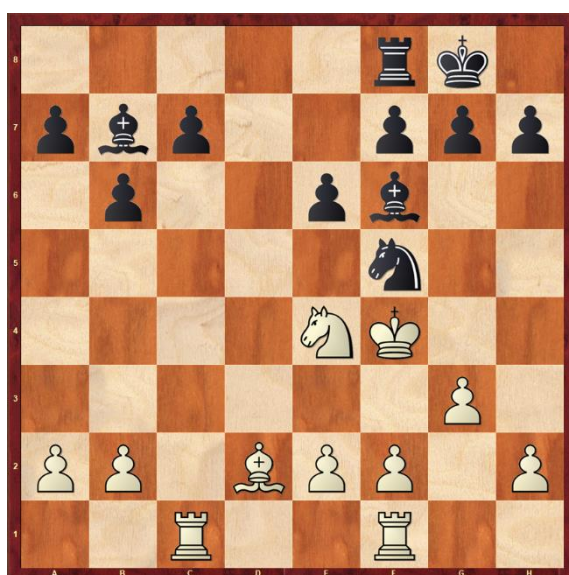
Elias B. Rustan (1941) and **CM Soham Datar (2188)** started up with a Modern 1.e4 g6, but as black soon followed up with Nf6 this transposed into a positional King's Indian line. Chances remained about equal following a stream of more or less sound exchanges for the first 20 moves. White however became too eager to exchange the rooks as well. The better pawn structure and more active king suddenly gave black a pleasant edge in the minor piece endgame with knight and six pawns against bishop and six pawns. Datar here demonstrated strong endgame technique and won safely after 45 moves.

Shadi Sian (2182) as white in a Slav against **Kristoffer Wang Strømhaug (1960)** somewhat unambitiously went for a symmetric exchange variation. The game became a bit more double-edged as black first gave up his light-squared bishop for a knight and then accelerated on the kingside with 11.--- h6 followed by 12.--- g5, but chances for the first 22 moves still remained about balanced. Then black somehow suddenly cramped, allowing white by sound means to intervene in the c-file and undermine black's queenside pawns. Sian used his chances efficiently and won the game after only 33 moves.



Sian

The duel between **Aidas Juodziukynas (1917)** and **Rishi Vijayakumar (2172)** started up with a lively Catalan duel, in which black within the first ten moves had given up his rook at a8 for a knight and a center pawn. Exchanging the queens was natural for the player with a material advantage, but still here a dubious decision from white. Allowing black to exchange his knight for the light-squared bishop at f3 was a mistake, which became more serious as white took back with the king. Black's active minor pieces gave him a dangerous attack even without queens on the board, and 12 year old Rishi neatly became the first player to win a game today:



21.--- e5+! and white stopped the clock as 22.Kf3 Nd6 wins a piece for black while 22.Kxf5 Bc8 is an elegant mate!

Lukas Dominik Gåsland (1905) as white against **Advaitt Srikant Koduri (2162)** went for a positional double fianchetto within a King's Indian in Advance. White later kept a very slight edge, while the players within 30 moves exchanged it all down to a drawn endgame.



Kanyamarala vs Simonsen

Irish **WIM Trisha Kanyamarala (2160)** and Norwegian talent **David Mindestrømmen Simonsen (1930)** entered a Three Knights line of a Grünfeld Indian Defence. Black took a pawn at c4, but white within a few moves won it back at c7. White later established a big center, and happily exchanged her f4-pawn to win the black pawn at c4 – establishing a passed pawn at c3. Simonsen however demonstrated sufficient counterplay against white's center pawns and kingside. Following this the game in the fourth

hour balanced into a drawish endgame with one rook, one bishop and three pawns on each side. White finally won a pawn after exchanging the rooks, but it was too little and too late as opposite-coloured bishops here gave black a safe draw.

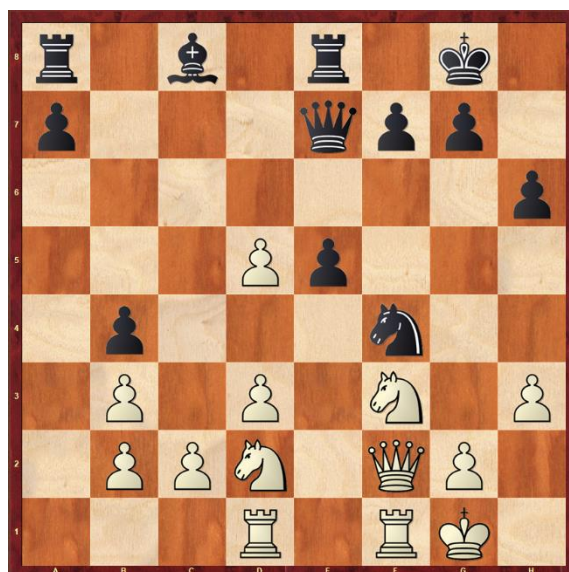


Gaikwad

Finally, Indian **CM Siddhant Gaikwad (2039)** and Norwegian **Sebastian Lien (1911)** discussed a Russian opening in which white sacrificed his f-pawn to open the kingside for an attack. Black dubiously gave back the pawn at c5 under unfavourable circumstances, and then went for a much too loose exchange sacrifice. Black realized the failure and stopped the clock after 23 moves, as white was an exchange up with an overwhelming advantage.

Open Group

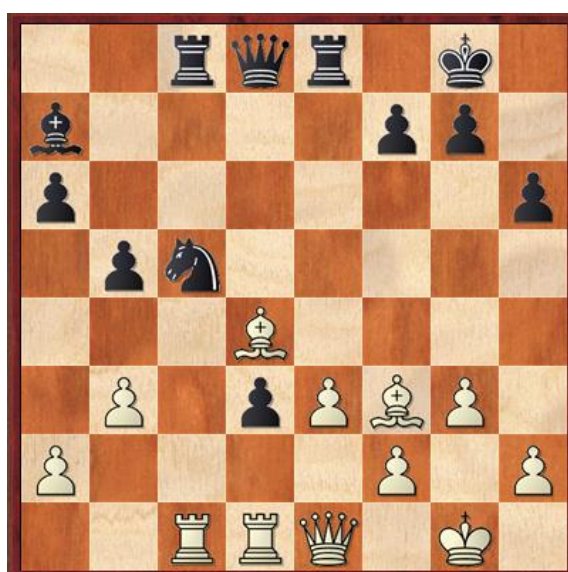
In the **Open**, top board players **Alina Shehzad (1803)** and **Håvard Eriksen Bech (1939)** both spent a lot of time in the opening and early middle game. The game still finished well before the time control following a nice tactical hit from 17 year old Bech:



22.--- Bxh3!? 23.Ne1? Bxg2! 24.Kh2?! Bxf1 25.Nxf1 Qg5 26.Ng3 Qh4+ 0-1

18 year old **Nikolai Olsen Wernberg (1906)** in the meantime had dominated as white on the second board against 15 year old **Edvard Reinertsen (1783)**, and safely won the endgame due to his extra exchange. White for a long time also dominated the third board duel between 72 year old **Ole Smeby (1851)** and 15 year old **Øyvind B. Træen (1711)**. Smeby following active counterplay from his opponent however failed to win despite an extra pawn in the rook endgame.

Fourth board duel between **Jakob Sælen Høifødt (1722)** and **Benjamin Spagnoli (1851)** was a double-edged battle suddenly decided by a blunder:



After 23.--- Qxd4!? white definitely should have tested the straightforward 24.exd4 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 d2 26.dxc5 dxc1Q 27.Rxc1 Bxc5 with about equal chances. The too tricky 24.b4? Qf6 25.bxc5?! Qxf3 instead lost a full piece and the game.

Fifth board duel between **Rune Kleiven Rynning (1818)** and 12 year old **Aksel Elias Gjersvik (1693)** was a rather solid 23-move draw. The draw in the sixth board teenager duel between **David Kristiansen (1639)** and **Mikkel Damtoft Solbakken (1817)** was much less obvious: Kristiansen had first a winning attack and then an extra exchange in the endgame, but Solbakken fought on well and saved half a point due to his barking bishops.

Seventh board had a hard-fought four-hour duel between the Gjøvik players **Sebastian Sigvaldsen (1507)** and **Mykhailo Kuzmenko (1806)**, in which the 68 year old black player gradually built a decisive kingside attack.

Eight board saw a well deserved surprise as **Terje Kevin Lysen (1590)** soon took over the initiative and won within 28 moves as black against **Vidar Kopperud (1774)**. Eleven year old Lysen following this sensationally is sharing the lead at 2/2, together with Bech, Wernberg, Spagnoli and Kuzmenko. Top rated **Mathis Nesheim (1981)** recovered from yesterday's loss by winning patiently as white against **Vishwanathan Krishnan (1550)**.

The most surprising result on the lower boards today was local junior **Mikael Ruud (1597)** winning a highly entertaining attacking battle as black against **Sophie Damiano (1806)**.



Both players had been close to winning earlier in the game, but now an airy perpetual check with 32.Ng7+ Kh6 33.Nf5+ Kh5 34.Ng7+ was expected. Sophie instead decided to throw more petrol on the fire with 32.Ne7?, but suddenly ran out of steam after 32.--- Qa5! 33.Qf3+ Kh6 34.Qh1+? Qh5. 14 year old Ruud efficiently turned the attack against white's king following 35.Qxb7? Qg5+ 36.Kd1 Rd8+ 37.Bd5? Bh5+ 38.Ke1 Qe3+ 39.Kf1 Rf8+ 40.Kg2 Rf2+ 41.Kg1 Qe1 mate!

Photos by IA Monica Lauvik Fjeldstad