

## THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

# 3



### GM Group

Third round became another hard-fought one, with four decided games and three long draws on the top seven boards. First board duel between IM Aksel Bu Kvaløy and GM Frode Urkedal ended up as a tense four-hour draw, so did the third board duel between English IM Ameet Ghasi and Norwegian IM Semen Mitusov.

Sixth rated Indian GM Raja Rithvik R a bit unexpected is the only player at 3,0/3, after he today won a highly entertaining tactical game as black against IM John Paul Wallace. First rated GM Rinat Jumabayev came back on track with a patient win as white against IM Benny Aizenberg, while second rated GM Krishnan Sasikiran had to accept his second draw as white in an Indian duel against IM Moksh Doshi.

Indian GM Sayantan Das had an advantage but had to accept a draw against 17 year old FM Ritvik Krishnan, while Swede GM Tiger Hillarp failed to win a won position against 18 year old FM Alexander Øye-Strømberg. 16 year old Ukrainian IM Svyatoslav Bazakutsa meanwhile won by a nice attack as black against IM Sidhant Mohapatra.

No way to forget: 14 year old American CM Neeraj Harish produced another small sensation as he won convincingly against IM Hampus Sörensen! Also 14 year old CM Evsuld Myagmarsuren on the other hand was brought back to earth, as he today lost a difficult endgame against English IM Jonah B. Willow.

Raja Rithvik R following all this is leading alone at 3,0/3, with no less than nine players following half a step behind at 2,5/3. Top board pairings coming up for the fourth round following all this are: Raja white against Ghasi, Bazakutsa white against Jumabayev, Urkedal white against Willow, Stremavicius white against Kvaløy and Mitusov white against Harish.

The Norwegian first board duel between **IM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2484)** and **GM Frode Urkedal (2559)** started up with a safe and closed Catalan, in which black's light-squared bishop was exchanged for a knight. As the queens also left early, white's c-file and pair of bishops gave him a very slight edge despite his two b-pawns. Exchanging one set of rooks with 27.--- Rxc6 was a big, although probably sound, decision from Urkedal. White now got a passed pawn at c6, but black won the other b-pawn and so came a pawn up for some moves. Kvaløy advanced the pawn to c7 and played on for a win. As both handled this dynamic position very well between move 30 and 40, it suddenly all dried out with tactical exchanges:



35.Rxe6! Bxd4+ 36.Ke2 Rxc7 37.Bxf5 Re7 38.exd5 Rxe6+ 39.dxe6+ Kf6 40.Be4 Kxe6 41.Bxh6 and drawn agreed in a dead opposite-coloured bishop endgame a few moves later on. The 16 year old Norwegian Champion Kvaløy at 2,5/3 following this is on schedule for his third GM norm and now at 2489 he has the 2500 ELO demand within reach as well.

The second board duel between **IM John Paul Wallace (2373)** and **GM Raja Rithvik R (2514)** was a Queen's Gambit Exchange in which black first put the dark-squared bishop at b4, but then offered to exchange it at d6. With all the bishops exchanged before 15 moves, white kept a slight edge due to black's weak f5 square.

The players somehow succeeded in making a tactical mess out of this within a few moves. Raja here made the first mistakes, and Wallace at move 26 made a qualified decision to take a second pawn instead of accepting a third repetition. White in turn played inaccurate and so made an advanced blunder:



**Rithvik**



29.h3 is given as «??» by the computers, although the idea of moving the h-pawn is absolutely correct. The correct way was 29.h4! Ng3! 30.Qxg7+! Qxg7 31.Nxg7 Re1+ 32.Kh2 Nf1+, as white's king now can escape with 33.Kh3. With the pawn at h3 this variation is lost for white, and so black reached a winning position with an extra exchange after 29.--- Ng3! 30.Nxg3 Re1+ 31.Kh2 Qxf4. The game still was far from over, but Raja efficiently called Wallace's creative bluff a few moves later on:



35.Rxh6+ gxh6! 36.Qg8+ Qg7 37.Qd5 Qe5 38.Qg8+ Kf6 39.Qf8+ Ke6 40.Qe8+ Kd5 and white stopped the clock – as black now obviously had enough time and enough material to win.

The third board duel between **IM Ameet Ghasi (2503)** and **IM Semen Mitusov (2486)** was the first duel between two GM norm candidates. Ghasi took a positional (and national) approach with an English fianchetto, but soon started a queenside initiative with 6.b4 and 8.b5. Black used his chance to take a center advantage with 9.--- d5, and white had at best a slight edge after 15 moves. A heavyweight positional struggle followed, in which none of the players made mistakes which a weaker player probably would have made. White kept a slight edge until he at move 25 accepted a queen exchange which more or less equalized the chances.

Both players continued to make sensible moves until a draw was agreed by a sound repetition shortly before move 40. 18 year old Mitusov following this increased his Elo to 2490 and is on schedule for his third GM norm. 37 year old Ghasi obviously has no worries about the 2500 Elo demand, and at 2,5/3 has had a promising start on his search for the final GM norm.



**Aizenberg**

**GM Rinat Jumabayev (2577)** versus **IM Benny Aizenberg (2423)** saw a Sicilian Four Knights opening, in which white allowed his dark-squared bishop at e3 to be exchanged for a knight. Long term chances following this appeared balanced, although the computers gave white a slight plus. Black however chose a dubious plan as he exchanged his light-squared bishop for a knight at f5 and then sacrificed a pawn at e4.

After 32 moves the remaining position with queen, one rook, one bishop and six pawns against queen, one rook, one bishop and five pawns was practically winning for white, as he had a safe king and all the more active

pieces. Aizenberg made a creative attempt to open the queenside against white's king, but Jumabayev in the fifth hour calculated very well and at move 51 could promote in a second queen at a8.



**Sasikiran**

The Indian fifth board duel between **GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2571)** and **IM Moksh Doshi (2377)** saw a closed Ruy Lopez opening, in which the players slightly originally exchanged one set of knights on g4 – leaving white with two g-pawns and a strong grip on the f5 square. White for some moves had a promising position due to his knight on that square. Sasikiran however failed to find the most critical continuation, hence Doshi could force an exchange of the disturbing knight and balance the chances in a rather messy position. Draw was suddenly agreed upon black's suggestion after 30 moves, in a roughly balanced but still

interesting position with queen, one rook, one bishop and five pawns for each player.



**Stremavicius**

Lithuanian **GM Titas Stremavicius (2541)** as white against the Norwegian junior **CM Martin Holten Fiskaaen (2259)** started up with 1.Nf3, but then soon placed pawns at d4 and c4. This allowed black to reach a Catalan-like position with his often bad light-squared bishop placed outside the pawn chain at g4. Black got the pair of bishops as white exchanged his fianchetto bishop for a knight at e4 – not for no reason as white afterwards could play 16.d5! with a troublesome initiative. 22.--- h5?! later invited for an attacking race, which the GM however won convincingly:



23.d6! h4 24.Bb6 Qf8 25.Rxa5 hxg3 26.d7 gxf2+ 27.Kf1 Rb8 28.Qxf5 and white's passed pawn combined with the kingside attack soon decided.

Fourth rated Stremavicius notably has 2/2 so far this tournament and had a very strong result on the first board for Lithuania in the Chess Olympiad a few weeks ago. Despite the delayed arrival, he is obviously a strong candidate for the top prizes.

**IM Sidhant Mohapatra (2369)** and **IM Svyatoslav Bazakutsa (2483)** meanwhile started up with a Sicilian Rossolimo line. White here exchanged his bishop for a knight at c6, leaving white with the better pawn structure and black with a pair of bishops. White placed his knight aggressively on g5 before move 10, but lost the initiative as he returned it to h3. Bazakutsa instructively mobilized his pieces for the kingside battlefield and anyway had a strong pressure when white blundered:





Now 15.h3! Nf6 16.Bc4 would have been safe and slightly better for white, while 15.Nc4? g5! 16.Ne3? gxf4 gave black a strong initiative. The Tiger picked up three pawns and reached a winning position, but then became too creative with an exchange sacrifice which left the position very messy. Well before the time control the players following this reached a drawn endgame with rook and bishop against two bishops and two scattered pawns. Øye-Strømberg at move 39 efficiently used his chance to force a dead drawn opposite-coloured endgame by sacrificing back the exchange.

**CM Neeraj Harish (2024)** and **IM Hampus Sörensen (2423)** had a long theory duel in a Sicilian Najdorf, as both clocks still showed about 100 minutes after 16 moves. Both players however spent a lot of time for the next seven moves, in a tense position where white held a slight initiative. White after 24 moves was half an hour ahead on the clock, while the situation on the board was loaded. This time however the IM blundered and was severely punished by his young opponent:



25.--- Nxb2?? 26.Nxd6 Bxe4 27.Nxc8! Bxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Qg6+ 29.Qg3 Rxc8 30.Qxg6 – and white had reached a safely won endgame with an extra exchange. Sörensen fought on for 20 more moves, but never got the help needed to make the game exciting again. Harish has had a dream start with 2,5/3 against one GM and two IMs (!), and obviously is well ahead of schedule for an IM norm – although still with six rounds left to go.



**Willow vs Mygmarsuren**

Young English **IM Jonah B. Willow (2420)** and even much younger Norwegian **CM Evsuld Mygmarsuren (2171)** discussed a positionally complex Sicilian Taimanov variation, in which the queens and all knights were exchanged within the first 14 moves. Mygmarsuren was half an hour ahead on the clock and confidently exchanged the dark-squared bishops as well, although the computers gave white some advantage in the remaining endgame with two rooks, one bishop and seven pawns on each side. Willow played on for a win and marched forward his kingside pawns. The position with one rook, one bishop and five pawns on each

side still was reported drawish by the computers after 30 moves. White however had the more easy position to play, and efficiently used his chance when black soon afterwards underestimated a powerful f5-break. Following this white by instructive means established a passed h-pawn which decided the game within a few moves after the time control.

**GM Elham Amar (2540)** versus **CM Akhilesh Nagare (2245)** was a Hyperaccelerated Sicilian Dragon, in which white first had a space advantage due to his pawn at e5. Black was able to exchange the pawn plus two sets of minor pieces, but white kept a pleasant plus much due to his control over the e5 square. Amar instructively kept up the pressure while allowing some exchanges, and after 30 moves had reached a won rook and knight endgame with an extra pawn.



**Krivenko**

Young Estonian **FM Dion Krivenko (2244)** as white against even younger American **FM Shubh Jayesh Laddha (2308)** tested the rare Bishop Opening with 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4. It worked out fairly well as white kept an initiative after exchanging the dark-squared bishops. Castling long was an interesting choice also working out well for white, as his attack on the kingside was ahead of black's counterplay on the queenside. Krivenko later in short picked up a pawn without giving up the initiative. Due to this four against two majority on the queenside, he had a fairly safe win in the rook and knight endgame after 40 moves.





**Skotheim**

**IM Ludvig Carlsson (2334)** and **CM Andreas Skotheim (2234)** on the other hand discussed a Scotch-like Four Knights opening, in which white kept a slight initiative after exchanging three sets of minor pieces. After 26 moves the players had reached a position with queen, one rook, one bishop and six pawns on each side, and opposite-coloured bishops here gave black fair chances for a draw. White however now had a nagging structural advantage due to black's scattered queenside pawns, and additionally the fianchetto bishop at a1 gave him some chances for a kingside attack. Exchanging the queens was a very

understandable plan from a black point of view, but the endgame later was painful at best. Forcing a rook exchange after 46 moves was ice cold from the IM, as white later was only one pawn up in an endgame with opposite-coloured bishops. White's more active king and two connected passed pawns, combined with black's still bad pawn structure, still made this a fairly trivial win.

**CM Soham Datar (2188)** versus **CM Martin Øksendal (2271)** was a tactical Sicilian Najdorf duel in which white obviously had the better preparation – as he after 11 moves was one hour ahead on the clock with a clear advantage on the board according to the computers.



It seems however that white here was much too fast and forgot to insert 12.Nc7+! Ke7 before developing the bishop to g2 ... 12.Bg2? gxh2+ 13.Kf1 Bd6! suddenly was much better for black. Both players later made some mistakes in a demanding position, but black after 22 moves had cashed in an extra bishop plus the three extra pawns – and despite some starting problems won this fairly safely.



Sian

**FM Sergey Eliseev (2276)** as white against **Shadi Sian (2182)** entered a Russian Opening, accepted a double c-pawn and castled long. Chances were about equal after 15 moves, white hinting about a kingside attack with a pawn at h4. Black could reduce the kingside dangers by exchanging three sets of minor pieces, and during mutual time pressure the players then reduced it all down to an obviously drawn bishop endgame.



Sieber vs Gaikwad

German **WGM Fiona Sieber (2264)** and Indian **FM Siddhant Gaikwad (2039)** discussed a French Advance position. White's idea to exchange her light-squared bishop for a knight at c6 might have been correct, but if so she definitely should have weakened the black kingside by exchanging the dark-squared bishop for the other knight at h6 afterwards. Allowed to place his knight in an active position on f5 and then castle short, black and his pair of bishops got the upper hand before move 15. Later black happily exchanged one of the bishops to win a key pawn at e5.

Gaikwad in an inspired mood turned his advantage into a direct kingside attack and won decisive material well before 40 moves.

**Rishi Vijayakumar (2172)** and **FM Kush Bhagat (2245)** discussed a very modern Queen's Gambit line, in which black with 4...h6?! prevented the white bishop from reaching g5. White of course instead placed the bishop at f4, but black reached about equal chances after exchanging it. Black greedily snatched a testimony pawn at b2 a few moves later on, although white's new pawn at e5 gave him full compensation and promising chances for a kingside attack. Entertaining and creative tactics followed as black was about to run short of time:



27. Bxg6+! Kxg6 28. Rxe6+ Kh7 29. Rxh6+ Kxh6 30. Qh4+ Kg6 31. f5+ Kf7 – with just about enough attack for the rook (!) according to the computers. The position was difficult to handle for both players. Black for a few moves were winning before and around the second tactical wave:



Apparently a dangerous situation for black, but he had a clever defence: 34.--- Qf2! 35. Qc1 Qxf1 36. Qxf1 Nxf5! with two rooks and one knight for a queen.

White however still had an active queen combined with three passed kingside pawns, and after some time trouble mistakes this proved sufficient to keep the balance:



The idea behind 41.h4 actually is to move up the king rather than to continue the pawn storm, but black now anyway was frightened (or tired) enough to pull the brake and force a draw by 41.--- Nxf6 42.Qh6+ Ke7 43.gxf6+ Rxf6 44.Qg7+ Ke6 45.Qg8+ ½-½

Swede **GM Erik Blomqvist (2483)** and Irish **WIM Trisha Kanyamarala (2160)** started up with a rather untheoretical and position Sicilian line. The game suddenly accelerated as white went for a classical and positional exchange sacrifice:



17.Rxe6! fxe6 18.Qe2 Rf6 19.Re1 and white got full compensation due to the e5 square and pair of bishops. Trisha found nothing better than sacrificing back the exchange a few moves later on, after which white was a pawn up with a lasting attack. The GM took the safe road and well before the first time control exchanged off the queens, to reach a rook and minor pieces endgame in which his two extra pawns were decisive.

The Norwegian duel between **Peder Marcus Aamodt (2126)** and **GM Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen (2415)** was another (and from the start more lively) Sicilian Rossolimo duel. Black's activity here proved more important than white's pair of bishops, and after 19 moves he had temporarily won a pawn at d4.



Now the straightforward 20.Qxd4 Qxd4 21.Nxd4 Bf6 leaves black with a pleasant initiative. This still should have been tried, as 20.b3? Ne5! 21.Qxd4 Qxd4 22.Nxd4 Nd3 23.Rb1 Bf6 24.Nc2 Rac8 left black with a strong initiative and white more or less in chains. The GM started up his queenside pawn majority and won within eight more moves.

**FM Raem Sherman (2390)** and **Sigurd Kittilsen (1981)** discussed an accelerated Dragon Sicilian, leading to a Maroczy Bind under circumstances favourable to white. Black was well inside the game until a rather naive blunder after two hours:



26.--- Rxf4?? 27.Rxf4 Rxf4 28.Nd5! exd5 29.Qxf4 and white was an exchange up with a winning advantage. Kittilsen remarkably had 50 minutes left on the clock, but spent only two of them to check before taking the pawn at f4.

The young lions **CM Indy Southcott-Moyers (2143)** and **IM Tarun Kanyamarala (2369)** entered the still very interesting Kasparov-Petrosian line with 4.a3! in a Queen's Indian. The d- and e-pawns both were exchanged within the first 15 moves, leaving a very open and rather balanced position without center pawns. Bishops usually are stronger in knights in such opens position, hence white's decision to exchange his dark-squared bishop for a knight at move 18 gave black an edge. White placed a knight on the d5 outpost, after which black first placed his knight on the d4 outpost and then sacrificed an exchange upon the white knight. Black got excellent compensation with one pawn plus a strong knight outpost and a pair of bishops. White's situation appeared critical as black won a second pawn at b2. Soutcott-Moyers however had a cunning plan for a counter-sacrifice:



**Southcott-Moyers**



37.Rxe6! Qxe6 (37.--- fxe6!? could be a winning try, although white will soon win back one of the queenside pawns after 38.Qd7) 38.Qxe6 fxe6 – and the opposite coloured bishops were about to save white despite black’s two extra pawns. Tarun played on for almost 40 moves more, sacrificing back one of the pawns to activate his king, but Indy defended well and had his half point under control.



**Walia**

**Even Huneide Hetland (1970) versus FM Namitbir Singh Walia (2351)** saw a closed and awaiting Ruy Lopez in which no piece or pawn were exchanged for the first 20 moves. The game suddenly lit up as white around move 21–23 gave up a bishop for three queenside pawns. White due to his passed pawn at a6 reportedly first had just about enough compensation, although black still had the more easy position to play. Walia proved able to keep the pawn blocked while exchanging pieces, and so white’s compensation gradually vanished. Hetland following this anyway was in trouble when he short of time blundered two pawns and resigned.



Mannion

This high level tournament today saw an IM veteran duel at board 24, with 65 year old Dutchman **Gerard Welling (2206)** handling the white stones against 59 year old Scotchman **Stephen Mannion (2142)**. Both players made sensible moves all the way, without running too many risks. Consequently a balanced Nimzo-Larsen Attack with 1.b3 d5 2.e3 resulted first in a balanced middle game, and then before move 30 in a safely drawn endgame with queen, one bishop and four pawns on each side.

The Norwegian teenager duel between **CM Kim Roger Hansen Westrum (2205)** and **Lukas Dominik Gåsland (1905)** saw a Sicilian Najdorf opening line, in which white got a sound plus on the clock as well as on the board. Black placed his knight on the d4 square and doubled for counterplay in the c-file, but ran into a nice tactical hit following 15.--- Qc7?:



16.Nd5! Nxc2+ 17.Kd2 Qc5 18.Rc1 Qf2+ 19.Qe2 and white soon had a piece more.



**Bjørkan vs Gudbrandsen**

The Norwegian generation duel between 14 year old **Olav Bjørkan (2022)** and 60 year old **FM Gustav Gudbrandsen (2197)** tested out a positional Benkö Gambit line, in which the half-open a- and b-file gave black compensation for the missing b-pawn. Chances were about balanced following an early queen exchange, and remained so as both players overlooked a not

invisible tactical 25.--- Rxb2+! which could have won two minor pieces for a rook.

Black later exchanged his fianchetto bishop for a knight to win back the pawn, but this plan proved dubious as white later kept a promising initiative. Gudbrandsen went for dubious tactical complications, and white following this was much better when forcing a draw in a rather original position after 35 moves.



White forced a draw by 35.Bh6+? intending Kh8 36.Bg7+ Kg8 37.Bh6+ and so on. Instead 35.Be5+! Kf8 36.Bxd6+ Ke8 37.Bxb8 is much better for white – as 37.--- Rxb8? is losing to 38.Rg8+.



The game between 14 year old **Advaitt Srikant Koduri (2162)** and 61 year old **Jan Sørgerd (1966)** was a London System, in which black and his fianchetto set up first did fine. A King's Indian set up with d6 probably was better than the chosen Grünfeld set up with 9...d5?!, as black now had his bishop locked in at b7. White due to his c-file control and a strong knight outpost at c5 later came much better. Black succeeded in exchanging three sets of minor pieces, including all the knights, although white still kept a notable advantage due to his dark-square dominance and better light-squared bishop. Sørgerd however is known as a stubborn defender, and efficiently used the chance for counterplay after the first time control:



44... Rc6! 45.Rxd5?! Rxc2 46.Rxd7 Rc1+ 47.Kh2 Rc4 and black won back the pawn with a drawish position. Koduri played the rook endgame all out, but Sørgerd defended solidly and got his well deserved draw as the players ran out of pawns after 71 moves.



**Kaewpitakkun**

The talented Norwegian teenager duel between **David Mindestrømmen Simonsen (1930)** and **Pantham Kaewpitakkun (2023)** started up with a rather positional Grünfeld fianchetto, in which black equalized after white allowed his dark-squared bishop at e3 to be exchanged for a knight. Black's pair of bishops gradually increased their strength, and black came clearly ahead as white at move 20 gave up his key pawn at d4 for very loose compensation. Pantham later picked up a second pawn along the seventh rank, and two pawns up he had no problems winning the remaining rook and equal-coloured bishop endgame.

**Kristoffer Wang Strømhaug (1960)**, as white in another talented Norwegian teenager duel against **Aidas Juodziukynas (1917)**, today got a promising attacking position in a Sicilian Najdorf. White here left his own king at e1 to start up a pawn storm on the kingside. As black had no real counterattack, white had a winning advantage around move 21–28. A tactical queen exchange still was fine from a white point of view, but Strømhaug chose the wrong direction in the very important next crossroad:



# Open Group

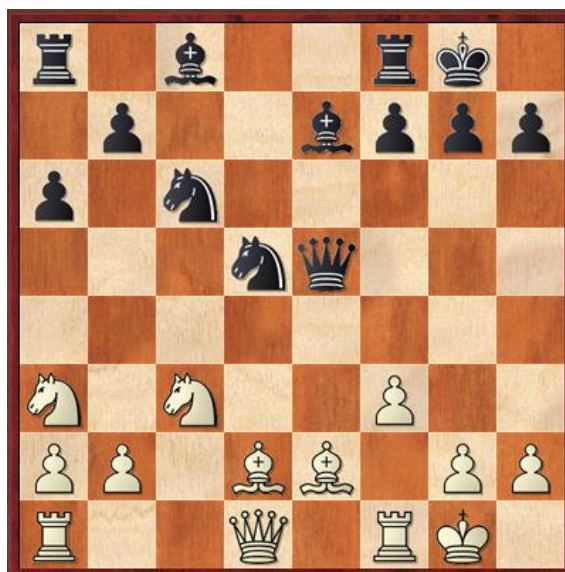


Bech

In the **Open group**, second rated and 17 year old player **Håvard Eriksen Bech (1939)** today dominated the first board and won very well deserved as white against our so far solid French chessfriend **Benjamin Spagnoli (1851)**.

White following a traditional Queen's Gambit Tarrasch opening duel got the upper hand in an isolated pawn position, and won a pawn with a clear advantage in the early middle game. Bech in a patient positional masterpiece kept up the pressure and after 40 moves was three pawns up in a queen endgame.

Second board also got a well deserved and young winner from the North of Norway: Third rated and 18 year old **Nikolai Olsen Wernberg (1906)** came better from the opening as black against the 11 year old sensation man **Terje Kevin Lysen (1590)**, and efficiently used his chance as white blundered:



15.Bc4? Nxc3! 16.Bxc3 Qe3+ 17.Kh1 Bxa3 and black won a full piece.

Third board was a rather one-way-driven veteran duel between 68 year old **Mykhailo Kuzmenko (1806)** and 72 year old **Ole Smeby (1851)**. Something went seriously wrong for black in this London System, as white after 10 moves had won a pawn at b7 with a clear advantage, and soon afterwards also won an exchange for nothing. Kuzmenko completed the game with simple and strong attacking chess:



32.Rc8 Rxc8 33.Rxc8+ Kf7 34.e5 Be7 35.Qh3 Qg1 36.Qh5+ with a mate to follow much too soon.

Fourth board between **Mikkel Damtoft Solbakken (1817)** and **Rune Kleiven Rynning (1818)** on the other hand turned a lot back and forth. Black was a very sound pawn up from this Catalan opening, and definitely reached a winning position as he later won a second pawn at e5. 14 year old Solbakken however fought on well and suddenly got the help needed:



Rynning in a winning position had 36 minutes left on the clock, and seen in retrospect he definitely should have spent more than three of them upon the first move. 27.--- Rxf2?? 28.Rxf2! Rxf2 29.Bxh7+ Kxh7 30.Qxe5 Nxe5 31.Kxf2 suddenly resulted in a winning endgame for white. Rynning succeeded to restart himself and for a few moves later had the draw within reach, although Solbakken and his rook still prevailed in the end.

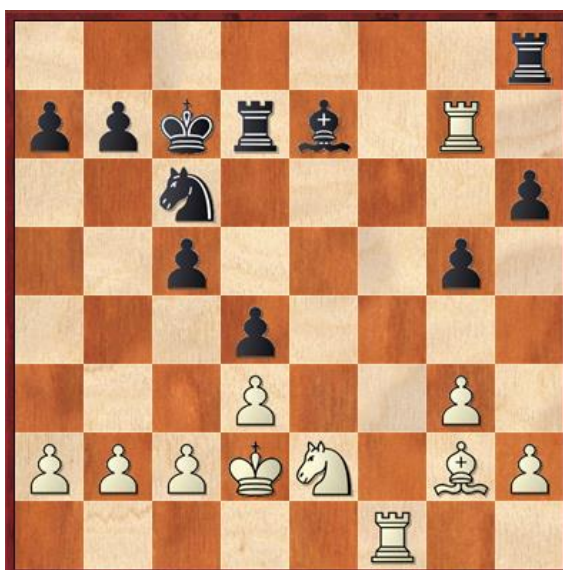
Fifth board apparently was not that exciting, as 15 year old Bergen player **Øyvind B. Træen (1711)** came much better from the opening and following a winning middlegame found a crushing endgame win as white against **David Kristiansen (1639)**:



22.d7! Rc7?! 23.d5 Nd8 24.Bb5 Kg7 25.d6 Rc6 26.Bxc6 Nxc6 27.Rhe1 Rd8 28.Re7 Kf8 29.Rde1 and 1-0 due to a massive win of material. The game still lasted well above three hours and appeared much more exciting than it ever was according to the computers, as Træen had less than a minute left on the clock from move 16.

No complaints about the fighting spirit in the Open, as the top eleven boards all had a winner today! A notable surprise was **Tord Albrigtsen (1634)** winning a slightly better rook and minor piece endgame as black against **Daniel Vollheim (1858)**.

12 year old **Aksel Elias Gjersvik (1693)** is still doing very well, as he from an approximately balanced position efficiently used his chance against **Alina Shehzad (1803)**:



26.--- Rf8?? was a blunder – which white after less than a minute refuted by 27.Rxe7! Rxf1 28.Rxd7+ Kxd7 29.Bxf1.

Another highly talented 12 year old, **Jørgen Edelsteen (1635)**, recovered from a lost position and had a draw within short reach in an interesting bishop endgame – as white against top rated **Mathias Nesheim (1981)**:



Now 36.Kb3 Kxa5 37.Bc3! would have been an almost studylike fortress draw. Black instead prevailed as white had to move after 36.Bb2? Bxb2! 37.Kxb2 Kxa5 38.Kb3 Kb5.

The Open has had very few draws for all the first three rounds, and following this Bech, Wernberg and Kuzmenko all still have a 100 % score at 3,0/3! Fourth place is shared between Aksel Elias Gjersvik, Træen and S1olbakken at 2,5. Top board pairings coming up for the fourth round here are Wernberg–Kuzmenko, Solbakken–Bech and Gjersvik–Træen.



**Aksel Elias Gjersvik**



**Sophie Damiano and Lars Olof Nord**

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**Photos by IA Monica Lauvik Fjeldstad**