

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

The first board GM duel between Titas Stremavicius and Rinat Jumabayev today was a one-hour draw, while third board IM duel between Aksel Bu Kvaløy and Ameet Ghasi became a six-hour draw.

Today's winners on the top boards following this was Indian GM Sayantan Das, winning a long endgame against IM Semen Mitusov – and IM Jonah Willow winning an intensive four hours tactical battle against GM Raja Rithvik R. Fifth board also was very important today: Second rated GM Krishnan Sasikiran is all out of the fight for top three after losing a drawish endgame – while 16 year old IM Svyatoslav Bazakutsa is in the run for top three prizes and a GM-norm after winning it.

The lead at 5,0/6 following this is shared between Jumabayev, Das and Willow, with Stremavicius, Ghasi, Kvaløy and Bazakutsa shadowing at 4,5. Willow following today's win is just ahead of schedule for a GM norm, while Kvaløy and Ghasi are on schedule. Mitusov is out of it following his second loss in a row, while Bazakutsa still needs 2,5/3 for a norm. Willow in round 7 will get a critical test as black against Jumabayev, while Kvaløy will be black against Das and Ghasi white against Bazakutsa.

The IM norm candidates had a rather hard round. The big exception however was 15 year old Norwegian CM Martin Holten Fiskaaen, suddenly now half a point ahead of schedule after a counterattack win against GM Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen. His current norm performance so far is 2513, while 2450 after round 9 is needed for a norm. 14 year old CM Evsuld Myagmarsuren is around schedule with a performance of 2440 after saving a draw against IM John Paul Wallace.

17 year old FM Ritvik Krishnan lost to his first IM opponent after surviving five games against GMs, but a performance of 2484 still is well ahead of schedule for the IM norm. A few other young players also might be in the run for a norm, but needs a strong spurt for the final three rounds. No chance for any woman title norms but still a tight race for the best woman prize, as German WGM Fiona Sieber and Irish WIM Trisha Kanyamarala both can be found at 2,5/6 following today's results.

The first board duel between **GM Titas Stremavicius (2541)** and **GM Rinat Jumabayev (2577)** was drawn by a sensible repetition after 12 moves in a King's Indian Advance.



Willow

English **IM Jonah Willow (2420)** and Indian **GM Raja Rithvik R (2514)** continued to discuss a Ruy Lopez with 3... Bc5, in which white first had a center advantage and then won a pawn for loose compensation. Black had a pair of bishops, but as white's knights found strong squares he came much better in the middle game.

As queens were exchanged after 27 moves, white was a pawn up with a winning position according to the computers. Over the board there was still much to sort out with four minutes left on the white clock and less than two on the black. Finally black came up with some counterplay on the kingside after sacrificing an exchange, while white put a rook on the eight rank and advanced his queenside pawn majority. During mutual time pressure white made the better calculations:



38.a8Q Bf1 39.Qa7! and now black tried getting 39... Bxg2+ 40.Kg1 to work, but found nothing ... 39... Bxa7 40.Nxa7! and black resigned.



IM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2484) versus **IM Ameet Ghasi (2503)** was a key game for both player's GM norm chances. They entered a rather positional Caro-Kann Exchange line, in which white had a slight structural advantage after exchanging the light-squared bishops at f5. The game somehow deadlocked with this structure, and after 43 moves no pawn had been moved for almost 20 moves. White according to the computers had a clear advantage with queen, one knight and one dark-squared bishop plus seven pawns on each side, although the closed structure made it very difficult for him to win. White kept an edge all the way into the knight endgame, but Ghasi defended by sound means and well into the sixth hour finally found a creative plan to force a draw:

Kvaløy



63.--- f4! 64.gxf4 Nf5 65.Nxf5 gxf5 66.Kd4 Kd7 67.Kc4 and white offered a draw as black had a safe fortress in the pawn endgame.



Mitusov

IM Semen Mitusov (2486) and **GM Sayantan Das (2471)** had a tense discussion about a Classical French, leaving a symmetrical structure with a white pawn at d4 and a black pawn at d5 after exchanging the c- and e-pawns. Chances after 25 moves were approximately balanced, as white had a strong knight at the e5 outpost while black had placed his knights on the e4 and c4 squares. Four moves later the players suddenly had exchanged all the knights, leaving a position with queen, two rooks, one bishop and five pawns on each side. Computers gave this position as equal, although black had a slight pressure due to white's weakened kingside. White still overreacted when sacrificing a pawn to achieve further exchanges. Black's advantage later was unquestionable with queen, rook and five pawns against queen, rook and four pawns. The decisive moment came during mutual time pressure just before the time control:



To exchange or not to exchange the queens ... Here white definitely should have kept the queens on the board with 39.Qe5+! Kg8 40.Qe6+, as 39.Qxf3? Rxf3 40.d6 c2 41.Rc1 gave black a close to winning rook endgame. Das however in turn should have used this chance to activate the king with 41.--- Kf7! 42.Rxc2 Ke6, as white now could activate his own king and be back in the ring after 41.--- Rc3? 42.d7 Rd3 43.Rxc2 Rxd7 44.Kf2. Black still was eternally better due to his extra pawn and queenside majority, and following a few mistakes from both players the GM won after 78 moves.

IM Svyatoslav Bazakutsa (2483) and **GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2571)** discussed a rather original English fianchetto, in which the c- and d-pawns plus the queens, one set of knights and the dark-squared bishops left following tactical exchanges. Chances remained about balanced as the players after 30 moves had reached an endgame with rook, knight and three pawns against rook, bishop and three pawns. Bazakutsa however needed a win to rejoin the GM-norm run and had the slightly better pawn structure: He continued to play.



Bazakutsa

It remains somewhat mysterious why Sasikiran soon after the time control gave up his pawn at c6. According to the computers he had enough activity to balance the chances afterwards, but Bazakutsa now had an extra pawn plus a two against one queenside majority. Having one minute against five minutes on the clock, the GM became too eager to win back the pawn:



58.--- a5? 59.Rb3+ Kxf4 60.Nc6 and black suddenly was in serious problems, as white was about to get two connected passed pawns. Bazakutsa also under pressure on the clock handled the situation very well and won the game after 70 moves, as Sasikiran was forced to give up his bishop for the second last white pawn.

GM Frode Urkedal (2559) and **IM Sidhant Mohapatra (2369)** entered a Queen's Pawn in which the c-, d- and e-pawns all were exchanged early, leaving a very open position. White after exchanging both his knights had a pair of bishops, although black with a strong knight on d5 plus the more active heavy pieces no way was worse. Urkedal found nothing better than exchanges, leaving after 40 moves a balanced queen endgame which was agreed a draw after 52 moves.

CM Martin Øksendal (2271) and **GM Erik Blomqvist (2483)** started up with an apparently innocent and closed Ruy Lopez. It suddenly became rather open and tactical as black entered the rare but far from harmless Trajkovic Counterattack. White here wins a knight for a piece, but one of his rooks is stuck in a pin and black has the much better development. Øksendal although obviously unknown with all this for a long time succeeded in finding good moves, but the GM each time blitzed out his move. After the unexpected 15.--- Kh8 he was almost 80 minutes ahead on the clock.



Øksendal this time was unable to find the best moves in a difficult position, and black came much better after 16.Qh5? bxc4 17.Bd1 c3. The position however still was difficult to handle for both players, and the GM although spending much time also made mistakes:



24.--- Bxb2? 25.Rb1 Be5? and now white could turn it all around with a magic 26.Rxe6!! intending Bg7 27.Rg6! Bxh6 28.Bc3+ Bg7 29.Rxg7 or 26.--- dxe6 27.Rb7! Øksendal very understandably could not work out these lines with two minutes left on the clock, and black again had a won position after 26.Re1? Qb6 27.Be3 Qa5. The GM promoted a new queen and won well before move 40. 16 year old Øksendal at 3,0/6 is not out as an IM-norm candidate, but will need at least 2,5/3 from now on.



Hillarp

The Swedish generation duel between **GM Tiger Hillarp (2455)** and **IM Ludvig Carlsson (2334)** started up as a Symmetrical English, but transposed into the Swedish Variation of a Queen's Gambit Tarrasch. Black first did fine here, as white avoided the most critical lines. Snatching a pawn with 29.--- Qxd4?! was very risky at best, but black still came a pawn up as white under mutual time pressure failed to find the punishment. Black in turn became much too eager to exchange pieces in the final moves before the time control. The players following a shaky four hour flight landed safely in a dead drawn opposite-coloured bishop endgame.

FM Kush Bhagat (2245) as white in a Sicilian against **IM Benny Aizenberg (2423)** opted out of the main lines with 3.b3 and a slow double fianchetto. Aizenberg equalized by sound means, and even came better after exchanging three minor pieces. Black later kept his initiative through a steam of more or less natural exchanges. Around move 35 the endgame with rook, bishop and five pawns against rook, knight and five pawns probably somehow should have been a draw, but black had the more active pieces and white had a hard struggle defending his isolated pawns at b4 and d6. In short patient young Aizenberg soon after the time control won a pawn and found his way to a won rook endgame.



Aizenberg

15 year old Bhagat should have saved this endgame to be in the IM-norm run, but still has a solid plus result.



GM Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen (2415) as white against **CM Martin Holten Fiskaaen (2259)** spent much time and played hard for a win in a Sicilian Najdorf, starting a kingside pawn storm with g4–g5–h4 before move 12. Black in the short run could avoid a direct kingside attack by keeping his king at e8, although white after castling long and exchanging three sets of minor pieces still had a positional advantage. White at move 28 established a passed pawn at h6, but black then used his chance to castle short and place the king at h7. White after 40 moves was almost half an hour behind on the clock, but still walked around looking for a winning plan. The position turned unclear as black went for active counterplay and exchanged his key pawn at d6 for white’s pawn at e4. Move 48–49 became decisive:

Fiskaaen



48.--- Rc3? was a blunder as 49.Rd8+! intending Bxd8 49.Rxd8+ Rxd8 50.Qf6+ or 49.--- Rxd8 50.Qxf7 now would have won immediately for white. The GM instead went for 49.Bb6? and black suddenly was a pawn up with a clear advantage in the queen and bishop endgame after 49.--- Qf5?! 50.Rd7 Rxc2+ 51.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 52.Qxc2 Qxd7. The GM soon lost another pawn and anyway was in deep trouble when another blunder came a few moves later on:



57.Bxe5? Qxe5! 58.Qxe5 Bg7 and the GM stopped the clock to congratulate his 15-year old opponent with the counterattack win. Fiskaaen has had a pole-in tournament, but obviously also been playing his best chess so far in life. Computer program give his tournament performance as 2493, but his norm performance actually is 2513 – as the low rated first-round opponent here can count for 2050. Still at least 1,0/3 more will be needed to complete the norm, and GM Urkedal tomorrow will be a(nother) critical test.

IM Moskh Doshi (2377) and **FM Dion Krivenko (2244)** had a Classical King’s Indian attacking race in which white was ahead with his queenside initiative, while black had a heavyweight counterattack coming up on the kingside. White in this case was ahead about all the time. Having won an exchange at a5, he safely gave it back at c8 to get rid of black’s light-squared bishop – which used to be a key player for black’s attacking plans. In the end white’s passed queenside pawns here outnumbered black’s attacking pawns on the kingside:



Doshi



39.Qb7 Rg8 40.Qxc8 Rxc8 41.Rc1 Bh4 42.Ba6 Rg8 43.gxh3 Bf2 44.c8Q Rg1+ 45.Kxh2 Rg2+ 46.Kxg2 1-0



Wallace

CM Evsuld Myagmarsuren (2171) as white in a Sicilian against **IM John Paul Wallace (2373)** made an aggressive and rather untheoretical start with 2.d3, 3.f4 and 6.Ng5. Black following an early queen exchange first had a promising initiative, but white in turn defended well and after 30 moves the players had reached a drawish endgame with rook, bishop and three pawns against rook, bishop and four pawns. Black had an extra f-pawn and missed a few chances to play for a win, but Myagmarsuren defended well and after the time control soon landed in a safely drawn rook endgame.

IM Tarun Kanyamarala (2369) and **FM Ritvik Krishnan (2206)** started up with a Nimzo-Indian opening, but soon transposed into the Ragozin line of a Queen's Gambit. Black after 25 moves had a pair of bishop as a long-time asset, although his dark-squared bishop at f8 was rather passive in the short run. Chances after 28 moves still were about balanced as white had succeeded in exchanging black's light-squared bishop, while black had activated his dark-squared bishop to b4. But then black at the very next move spent less than one minute – and blundered a pawn:



29.--- f5? 30.Qxd5! Qxd5 31.Nxd5 and white suddenly was clearly better, as Bxd2 32.Ne7+ Kf8 33.Nxc6 saves the extra pawn. Black later had a rather depressive position with a pawn less, and resigned as he after 42 moves was about to lose a second pawn.



Sieber vs Amar

WGM Fiona Sieber (2264) as white in a Caro-Kann against **GM Elham Amar (2540)** went for the unusual 4.Ne5?!, reportedly known as the Apocalypse Attack. The variation probably is very rarely seen for some reason, as black after exchanging the knight had no problems equalizing. White later struggled to find any active plan, while black after exchanging the queens activated his pieces with pleasant pressure against the white queenside pawns. Black won a pawn by a tactical 29.--- Nxb2! and due to white's scattered pawns he later had no problems to win the later rook endgame. Amar has had a shaky

tournament, but improved his play much today.

16 year old American **FM Shubh Jayesh Laddha (2308)** as white in a Sicilian against Israeli **FM Raem Sherman (2390)** went for a slow and safe fianchetto with 3.g3, but later mobilized for a kingside attack. Black came up with enough counterplay on the queenside and first had a slight initiative.



Now 22.Ne3? was a mistake, but black should have pinned the knight with 22.--- Qb6! instead of allowing it to reach the strong d5 square following 22.--- Nb3 23.Nd5 Nxa1? 24.Nd4! – as black to avoid mate now suddenly had to give up the queen with 24.--- exd4 25.Ne7+ Qxe7 26.dxe7 Re8. The position with mixed material still was very unclear, but white had the easier position to play and within a few moves got a dangerous attack against the black king. Laddha is in the IM-norm calculations following this win, although he will need at least 2,5/3 for the final rounds.

FM Namitbir Singh Walia (2351) today was white in a Sicilian Pelikan duel against **CM Neeraj Harish (2024)**. White came better following a well-timed 16.f4, and black's try to get counterplay by advancing his e-pawn afterwards just lost the pawn. Walia ran seriously short of time for 40 moves, but then had a very pleasant position with an extra pawn plus a strong bishop at d4 and two rooks controlling the open e-file. In this situation white repeated only to reach the time control, and having got the extra 40 minutes he soon forced his way to a totally won minor piece endgame. Walia following his too slow start is still not in the calculations for an IM-norm, while Harish following his rocket start still can make it – although he following this third loss in a row also needs at least 2,5/3 for round 7–9.



Øye-Strømberg

CM Akhilesh Nagare (2245) versus **FM Alexander Øye-Strømberg (2248)** saw a Scotch Four Knights opening which did not work out too well for white, as black kept a structural advantage after exchanging three sets of minor pieces. Black was helpful to repair the white pawn structure while exchanging the queens soon afterwards, leaving after 20 moves a very equal endgame with two rooks, one light-squared bishop and six pawns on each side. Black still kept a slight initiative, much due to his more active king, and following lame play from white he succeeded in picking up two white pawns in the rook and bishop endgame. Øye-Strømberg stays in the IM norm race, but also should need 2,5/3 from now on.



Koduri

IM Hampus Sörensen (2423) versus **Advaitt Srikant Koduri (2162)** was a Grünfeld-like Slav Exchange position, in which black clearly underestimated the c-file dangers. The IM instructively tripled his heavy pieces in the c-file – and then exchanged all of them to reach a completely winning minor pieces endgame. Black respectfully stopped the clock as his queenside after 29 moves was about to collapse.

Lukas Dominik Gåslund (1905) and **FM Sergey Eliseev (2276)** discussed some Queen's Gambit and Catalan relative in which chances after exchanging two sets of minor pieces were about equal, as black's pair of bishops compensated for white's fine knight and chances for a minority attack on the queenside. Exchanging the light-squared bishops was a mistake from a black point of view, as white later held a slight advantage due to his better minor piece. Chances for a while were about equal, and the position rather slow – but this suddenly changed:



31.Rh7+!? Kxh7 32.Qxf7+ Kh6 33.Rh1+ Kg5 34.Rh4!? and now 34.--- Rf8? was a blunder which gave white a decisive attack after 35.Qc4! Qd5 36.Qe2 Bxd4 37.Nxe4+. The situation became messy again following a move 40 blunder from white, but black's king still was in trouble and white a few moves later efficiently used his chance to complete the attack:



42.--- Kb3? 43.Qc3+ Ka4 44.bxa5 Qxa5 45.Nd6+ 1-0



Skotheim

CM Andreas Skotheim (2234) and **CM Indy Southcott-Moyers (2143)** meanwhile had investigated a Ruy Lopez exchange line, in which black's extra pawn following an early queen exchange just about compensated for his inferior structure with two c-pawns and two h-pawns. Following a rook exchange at move 34, black was a pawn up and slightly better in an endgame with rook, knight and six pawns against rook, bishop and five pawns. The crippled pawn structure still made winning attempts difficult, and within a few moves after the time control the game was drawn by a repetition.

The game between **FM Sidhant Gaikwad (2039)** and **IM Gerard Welling (2206)** saw a rather closed Caro-Kann, in which no pawn was exchanged for the first 14 moves. Much due to this black reportedly was fine, although white had a center advantage and a pair of bishops. As the position gradually opened white could consolidate his king at b1, with chances for a kingside attack due to his pair of bishops and mobile kingside pawns. Blocking down the kingside with 25.g5? was a serious positional misunderstanding, but white still got a dangerous attack as he was allowed a tactical f5-break a few moves later on. Around move 30 white was short of time on the clock, while black was short of moves on the board:



Now the simple and strong 33.Re6!, to protect the d6-pawn and prepare 34.Rf1, would have been critical. Instead 33.Qb2? Rg8 34.Rxd7 Qxd7 35.Qf6+ Qf7 36.d7 Rb8 37.d8Q+ Rxd8 38.Qxd8+ Kg7 was shrinking but still holding for black. Much due to black's more open king, white still was clearly better in this queen and rook position when accepting a draw after 47 moves.

CM Kim Roger Hansen Westrum (2205) and **Peder Marcus Aamodt (2126)** made a modernistic Veresov start with 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e4!?, but the game soon slowed down. Queens, one set of knights and all the center pawns were exchanged within the first 12 moves. The position following sensible moves from both players later balanced into an rook and knight endgame which was drawn by a repetition after 32 moves.

60 year old **FM Gustav Gudbrandsen (2197)** and 16 year old **Kristoffer Wang Strømhaug (1960)** entered an Italian Four Knights opening, but both players soon slowed down after white left the old main lines in favour of the rare 6.--- Nd4?! White hung on his extra pawn at d5 and had a winning attack running before move 25, as black's kingside pawn storm turned out to weaken his own king more than his opponent's.

The Hell (chess club) teenager duel between **Shadi Sian (2182)** and **Olav Bjørkan (2022)** started up with a Classical Nimzo-Indian opening, in which white after exchanging the c- and d-pawns had the more active pieces. Black with a symmetrical pawn structure still had no big problems before he was too careless about where to put his queen:



Now 19.--- Qe8!, to save the queen and protect her knight, would have given white only a slight initiative. Instead 19.--- Qb8? was immediately punished by 20.Bh7+ Kh8 21.Rxd7 Bxb2 22.Qxb2 Kxh7. Now 23.Ne5! was best according to the computers, although 23.Rcc7?! Bxf3 24.Rxf7! also soon gave a decisive advantage.

The Scottish generation duel between 59 year old **IM Stephen Mannion (2142)** and 12 year old **Rishi Vijayakumar (2172)** naturally started up with a lively Scotch Gambit in which white won back the pawn, although black's pair of bishops gave him the slightly better long term perspectives. After 30 moves all the bishops were exchanged and the remaining position with queen, one rook, one knight and five pawns on each side appeared drawish. Short of time Mannion temporarily gave up a pawn, and then a decisive moment came at move 39:



Now 39.Rxf7+! Kg8 40.Rd7! wins back the pawn and force a piece exchange with a very drawish position. Mannion however missed this with one minute left on the clock. After 39.Nc6? Rd2! 40.Rf4 Ne3 41.Re4?! Rxc2+ black instead won a second pawn and went on to win the game. Curiously in last year's tournament Stephen and Rishi also were the only two players from Scotland, they also had to play against each other – and Rishi also won a long and exciting game.



Datar

Sigurd Kittilsen (1981) versus CM Soham Datar (2188) was a positionally complex Sicilian Pelikan duel, in which black had got a pair of bishops and equal chances after 13 moves. Black then creatively sacrificed one pawn at f5 and one more pawn at d5 to open the position for his bishops and push the remaining center pawn forward to e4. 21.c3? although apparently natural turned out to be a serious mistake, as black afterwards could push his pawn forward to e3 with a strong attack. White's decision to sacrifice a knight for three pawns might have been the best practical try, but it still proved insufficient as black's kingside attack smashed through well before 40 moves.



Kanyamarala

15 year old **Even Huneide Hetland (1970)** and 18 year old **WIM Trisha Kanyamarala (2160)** today discussed a Sicilian Richter-Rauzer line, in which white came better after exchanging two minor pieces. White after 20 moves had a promising advantage, much because white's king at b1 was much safer than black's king at e8. Exchanging queens at e5 after 27 moves was still fine for white, as he in the meantime had exchanged one of the black bishops and won two pawns. White however had to give back one of his loose pawns afterwards, and as he chose the wrong plan here the double rook endgame suddenly was drawish. The materially balanced rook endgame later was drawish, but Trisha instructively used her chance to win it following a blunder from white:



Now 50.Ke3! was needed, to keep the king within reach of the queenside pawns. Instead 50.Kg2? was a decisive step in the wrong direction, and so black suddenly had an easy win after 50.--- Rb1!
 51.Re2+ Kf7 52.Kf3 Rb2 53.Kf2 Kg7! 54.Ke3 Rxe2+ 55.Kxe2 Kh6.

Pantham Kaewpitakkun (2023) and **Sebastian Lien (1911)** started up with a Caro-Kann Two Knights and then both spent much time from the opening. Black had a slight initiative and temporarily won a pawn, although white was about to win back the pawn with even chances when black offered (and got accepted) a draw after 20 moves.

Talented junior **Elias B. Rustan (1941)** as white in a Najdorf Sicilian castled long and first was ahead in the attacking race against the solid veteran **Jan Sør gjerd (1966)**. Castling long from Sør gjerd was an emergency exit, as white won a pawn at f7 with a clear advantage. The tide however turned as Sør gjerd got the help needed to win back white's f-pawn. White apparently got thin compensation for a sacrificed piece, but creatively saved the situation by sacrificing a rook as well:



29.Rxd6! Kxd6 30.Qd5+ Ke7 31.Qxg5+ Kxe6 32.Qxc5 Qe7 33.Qc4+ – and the game was correctly agreed a draw some 14 checks later on.

The Norwegian junior duel between **David Mindestrømmen Simonsen (1930)** and **Aidas Juodziukynas (1917)** started up with a Sicilian Richter-Rauzer opening line, in which black after exchanging his dark-squared bishop soon started to suffer on the dark squares. Black additionally failed to castle in time. Simonsen by far had his best game so far in this tournament, and neatly decided by tactical means after only two hours:



20.Nd6+ Kf8 21.Nxf7! Nxf7 22.Qd7! Qxd7 23.Rxd7 1-0

Open Group

17 year old Harstad junior **Håvard Eriksen Bech (1939)** is still dominant in the **Open** group, and reached an outstanding 5,5/6 as he today won as black against talented 15 year old **Edvard Reinertsen (1783)**. Black came better from this Queen's Gambit duel, but the game still was exciting until white for one move totally lost his concentration:



27.Qh5?? g6 0-1

The second board duel between 18 year old **Nikolai Olsen Wernberg (1906)** and 14 year old **Mikkel Damtoft Solbakken (1817)** had some of the same situation. Black came slightly better from the opening and efficiently used his chance to win following a grave blunder from white:



16.Qb3?? Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Qxf3 18.Qxb7 Nxd4! 0-1

Third board duel between **Benjamin Spagnoli (1851)** and **Mykhailo Kuzmenko (1806)** avoided blunders and sudden changes. White had an initiative but failed to make anything concrete out of it, hence the game was drawn by a repetition after 26 moves.

Fourth board duel between **Tord Albrigtsen (1634)** and **Aksel Elias Gjersvik (1693)** on the other hand saw a very sudden change. White dominated the first two hours and was two pawns up with a won position, but then spoiled it with a one-move blackout:



28.g4?? Nf4+ 29.Kf1 Nxh3 and black was totally winning. Both players were probably shocked by this when the game finished a few moves later on:



White played 35.Nxe4+, to which black replied 35.--- Qb1+ 36.Kg2 Qxe4 37.Kg3 Qd3 and white resigned. Both players signed the scoresheets with result 0-1. White then left – before anyone realized that black was himself in check when he gave the check at move 35. If the game was still in play, it should have been stopped and moved back to the illegal move position. Here the chief arbiter (= me) decided that no action was taken, as the players had finished the game and signed the scoresheets with a win for black. In this case black also would have had a clearly winning position even if he had to play 35.--- dxe4 instead of 35.--- Qb1+. Obviously the situation was without any bad intention from any side of the board.

Fifth board saw the 35 year old top-rated **Mathias Nesheim (1981)** winning convincingly as white against the 15 year old talent **Øyvind B. Træen (1711)**. Nesheim following this is a candidate for top three, but still he is only sharing fifth place at 4,0/6 with four other players. Bech at 5,5 is still leading half a point ahead Solbakken, while 31 year old Spagnoli and 12 year old Elias Aksel Gjersvik are sharing the third place at 4,5.

No sensations to report from the lower boards today, although 12 year old **Jørgen Edelsteen (1635)** surprisingly saved a difficult rook endgame as black against **Rune Kleiven Rynning (1818)**.

Gjersvik white against Bech and Solbakken white against Spagnoli will be the top board pairings for round 7.



Edelsteen



Vishwanathan Krishnan

Photos by IA Monica Lauvik Fjeldstad