

# Fagernes Chess International 2019

## THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

# 4



## GM-A

Top rated GM Anton Demchenko took over the driving seat tonight in a remarkable way, outplaying so far so good GM Evgeny Postny within three hours in a positional masterpiece. Still no one hour draw has been seen on the top boards, but as boards 2-5 all were drawn in the end Demchenko is now alone at 3.5/4 – but only half a point ahead of a hungry crowd consisting of eight GMs, two IMs and one WGM!



GM Anton Demchenko vs GM Evgeny Postny

Odds were low for a draw as GM Anton Demchenko (2661) and GM Evgeny Postny (2612) met on the first board in the second half of the double round. Showing an admirable lack of respect for a 2600-colleague, Demchenko however played for a win as white in a rare Caro Kann line including several tactical exchanges before 15 moves. Although white's remaining kingside pawns were two f-pawns, his more active pieces (including the king on f3) gave him an

advantage with two rooks, two knights, one bishop and six pawns on each side after 17 moves.

Demchenko in an inspired mood brilliantly sacrificed an exchange on h5 to win black's key pawn on d5 a few moves later on, and patiently played on for a win with three active minor pieces. As black's pieces had great difficulties finding any useful squares, and his king could not find a safe home, white intervened on d6 with a knight and opened the queenside with decisive effect well before 40 moves.

Probably this game is a very strong candidate as the best game of this tournament.

GM Frode Urkedal (2513) understandably felt tired, as the six-hour drama from last round finished with a disappointing draw only one and a half hour earlier. Playing the longest game on the top boards in round three, Urkedal now had the shortest one in round four as white against second rated GM Evgeny Alekseev (2649).



**GM Frode Urkedal vs GM Evgeny Alekseev**

The game got a promising start with a sharp line of the Queen's Gambit Exchange, in which black starts a kingside pawn storm with g5 and then castles long. The game slowed down as white also castled long, and none of the players looked too surprised or dissatisfied as the game was drawn in a rather blocked position after 23 moves. (Whether Alekseev ever looks surprised or dissatisfied so far remains unclear.) Urkedal of course can be proud to draw two GMs above 2600 in one day after winning his first two games, while Alekseev seems to follow the good old Russian plan about winning with white and not losing with black.

WGM Marsel Efroimsky (2286) continues to dance among the male wolves at Fagernes, today drawing a balanced four-hour struggle as black against GM Andryi Vovk (2616). The opening was a positional line of the Sicilian Dragon, in which black and her c-file did fine after white castled short. Black if anyone was closer to something in the middle game, while the endgame with queen, rook and five pawns on each side was drawish all the way.



**IM Erlend Mikalsen**

IM Erlend Mikalsen (2397) and GM Evgeny Romanov (2576) meanwhile had a heated discussion about a positionally complex French Winawer line, in which black places his king on f8 and his queen on a4 before 10 moves.

White first had some chances for a kingside attack, but black did fine after he succeeded exchanging both the obviously troublesome light-squared bishop and the potentially disturbing queens in the useful a6-f1 diagonal.

Black hung on to an extra a-pawn for some moves and then looked slightly better, but white in turn was slightly better for some moves after black suddenly decided to return the pawn by 28.--- a4?!.

Following sound moves from both players, it all dried out just after the first time control with a repetition of moves in a very drawish rook endgame.

GM Evgeny Vorobiov (2565) tried to get revenge for his ugly black loss in round three by playing hard for a win as white against IM Timofey Galinsky (2378) in round four. White established a space advantage on the kingside and black on the queenside. Then a complex struggle followed, as white tried to attack the black king on the queenside while black tried to attack white's king on the kingside. Chances remained more or less roughly balanced into a rather blocked queen and minor pieces endgame, in which white's bishop and knight worked out better than black's pair of bishops. Black's position looked critical as he lost the key pawn on e6 after the first time control. But still white had a hard time winning as he had nowhere to hide his king, in an airy endgame with queen, bishop and four versus queen, bishop and three. In the end white won a second pawn after exchanging the queens, but Galinsky once more saved himself with an endgame fortress based upon opposite colored bishops.



**GM Maxim Turov vs GM Benjamin Arvola Notkevich**

GM Maxim Turov (2584) today had white against another former Tromsø pupil, the new GM Benjamin Arvola Notkevich (2495). After three sets of minor pieces were exchanged the teacher definitely had a positional grip on this somewhat original Queen's Gambit or Nimzo-Indian Exchange line, controlling the c-file with pleasant pressure against the d5-pawn. Exchanging off the queens probably was a strategic mistake

from black, as white later had strong queenside pressure with two rooks, bishop and seven pawns against two rooks, knight and seven pawns. White's knight was caught in an awkward position at c6, and Turov reportedly was optimistic for a full point early in the evening as he won a pawn on c6 after 30 moves. A pawn down in the rook endgame, Notkevich still fought on bravely. The game became an endgame drama finishing at 23.40 – six hours and ten minutes after the start of the game. Early in the sixth hour black appeared close to a draw as he succeeded blocking white's extra pawn on b6. Black after 70 moves however was still a few minutes ahead on the clock and a pawn ahead on the board, and of course still tried to win. Some confusion followed as Notkevich claimed a draw by threefold repetition if playing 74.--- Re7, and stopped the clock – but then moved the rook to e7, as he believed the present arbiter asked him to demonstrate the move on the board. Usually a draw by repetition cannot be claimed if the piece is moved, but this was a complex case as black had claimed the draw and stopped the clock before he moved the piece - following a whispered

answer from the arbiter. The chief arbiter was called in, and after hearing both players declared the game to continue with two minutes extra for white – as the position was anyway not on the board for the third time.

After play continued Turov finally found a way forward, sacrificing his b-pawn for the black d-pawn to run for the kingside pawns. Notkevich missed his last chance to fight for a draw as he did not cut off the black king from the e-file with 81.--- Re1! (instead of 81.--- Rh1?), hence Turov after 6 hours and 10 moves could reach the black kingside pawns and won well deserved on the board.

Again fortunately none of the players did anything legally or morally wrong during the game, and the atmosphere was friendly when the smoke left after the game.



**IM Erik Santarius vs GM Erik Blomqvist**

GM Erik Blomqvist (2496) today came better from a positional Caro Kann Exchange line as white against IM Erik Santarius (2411).

Black appeared to have excellent drawing chances after exchanging three sets of minor pieces, but his early kingside offensive with h6 and g5 worked against him as white could mobilize his heavy pieces for an attack against the weakened black kingside.

As white was about to start the box

opener with 32.h4, black more or less in desperation sacrificed a pawn by 32.--- h5?.

Unshaken Blomqvist efficiently cashed in the pawn on g5 and some tactics later landed safely in a totally won queen and bishop endgame.

Entertainment expectations were high before the game between the young lions Elham Abdlauf (2123) and IM Lars Oskar Hauge (2472). The game became short and intense, probably because Hauge made the much better preparation for a rare Ruy Lopez Smyslov line with 3.--- g6.

Unknown with the position, white became much too passive after exchanging a bishop for a knight on c6 and a queen for a queen on d4, hence black's bishop soon came to dominate the board. Exchanging the second bishop for a knight on e7 turned out be another serious misunderstanding, as black's machine gun pair of bishops combined with his rook cannons in the e-file soon was ready to fire.

Abdlauf resigned early, but still not too early, at move 18 – as his cramped defensive position would anyway collapse within a few moves.

Another still young Norwegian IM, Sebastian Mihajlov (2361), also won in convincing style well before the first time control today. His opponent Aleksander Lindbøl (2139) probably did fine from the Sicilian Sveshnikov opening, but in the middle game white soon demonstrated the better understanding and after 28.f5! his positional advantage turned into a direct kingside attack.

Mihajlov creatively sacrificed his pawn at b4 to activate his queen, and in the end after 33 moves she created a decisive attack against black's king on g8 from a distant but dominant position at a7. 33.Nh6! was a nice final blow as 33... Bxh6 34.Qxh7 would be mate, while all other replies parrying the threat of 34.Nf7 mate would lose about a forest of material.



**Abyl Kizatbaty vs FM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen**

Abyl Kizatbaty (2108) versus FM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen (2333) was another duel between two talented Norwegian teenagers, also won in great style by the favorite.

White's Grand Prix attack gave no kingside attack in this Sicilian game, while black after exchanging two sets of minor pieces soon took over the initiative on the queenside.

After the rooks were exchanged in the a-file, black after 22 moved had a pleasant edge with queen, bishop, knight and six pawns versus queen, bishop, knight and six pawns.

White still had fair chances until he (in the very next move) took a pawn on c5, allowing black to exchange bishops and then intervene on a1 with his queen. The following queen and knight endgame was materially balanced, but still lost for white due to his too advanced kingside pawns and too airy king.

Vestby-Ellingsen instructively demonstrated how to attack with queen and knight, mating the white king on h1 after 36 moves.

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IM Eirik Gullaksen (2324) as white against Noam Aviv Vitenberg (2203) went for his old main weapon with 1.e4, and then for a strange Caro Kann Two Knights line in which white is playing Nb1-c3-e2 and Ng1-Nf3-Ng1 (!?) within the first seven moves.

Later on white exchanged queens and temporarily sacrificed a pawn on d4 to get an initiative. Vitenberg again took the safe course, returning the pawn to develop his pieces.

Draw agreed on white's suggestion after 24 moves, in a very balanced and not too hot endgame with rook, knight, bishop and five pawns against rook, two knights and five pawns.

Obviously underrated surprise man Sigve Hølleland (2024) today delivered another surprise which was close to a sensation, as he made a draw from a probably winning position as black against Olli Sisättö (2276).

The opening was a Nimzo-Indian with 4.Nf3, in which white might have been correct to invite the black queen in for a pawn grab on the queenside. If so, white however played wrong when exchanging in the center after taking the pawns at c3 and a3, as black got his queen out and kept his two extra pawns.

White however still had an initiative. After winning back one of the pawns he got some attacking chances with queen, two rooks and four pawns versus queen, two rooks and five pawns.

Unwilling to risk losing, Hølleland pulled the brake and returned the other pawn to exchange off all the rooks. The queen endgame was double-edged as white had a passed pawn on e6 and black two passed pawns on the queenside, but in the end after 50 moves it was a draw by repetition of checks.

Isha Sharma (1989) of India versus Jens Ingebretsen (2300) of Holmestrand was another hard-fought and long game.

It all started as a closed and about balanced Italian opening, in which black got all the time needed to advance with d5-d4-dxc3.

Later black had a slight pressure against white's backward pawn on d3. White balanced the chances by moving her knight around to f5, but as white around move 20 started to move her pieces backward,

black could establish an outpost on d3 and move in with an octopus knight. Black did not always play the best moves later on, but he still played good enough to reach a much better rooks and knight endgame after the first time control.

Sharma fought on well into the sixth hour, but following much maneuvering black won the weak c3-pawn and transposed into a totally won double rook endgame.



Isha Sharma

Always solid but never too ambitious master player Håkon Bentsen (2155) again produced the only short draw of the GM A in the second part of the double round.

Co-producer this time was our Danish friend Morten Andersen (2223), and the performance was a long Sicilian Sveshnikov theory line in which three minor pieces were exchanged – after which a draw was agreed after 19 moves.



**FM André Z. Nielsen vs FM Richard Bjerke**

The FM-duel between André Z. Nielsen (2201) and Richard Bjerke (2156) was another French Winawer with the black king on f8 and the black king on a4 after ten moves.

In this case the queen a few moves later on snatched a pawn at c2 and then returned via g6 and h7 to g8 (!?).

In short white and his barking pair of bishops had enough compensation from the start, but black in this very closed

position succeeded consolidating the position and evacuating his king to b7.

Sacrificing an exchange on a5 was thematic, although probably a bit overambitious here, as black could take back with the knight and keep the b-file closed. It still worked out fairly well as white within a few more moves got the necessary help to open the b-file.

In hot water with his king, black in turn sacrificed back an exchange on e7 to get off the queens and reach a drawish rook and knight endgame.

Although still aged only 16 Nielsen already is at his best in long endgames, and this again was demonstrated as he first got an advantage and then increased it in the fifth and sixth hours. In the end after 86 moves just before 23.30 in the evening, white had no technical problems completing the win with rook, d- and g-pawn versus rook.

Inspired by her successful turnaround as black in the third round, Monika Machlik (2059) played aggressively for another win as white against Andreas Skotheim (2182) today. White got a pair of bishops and a slight initiative from this Classical Nimzo-Indian opening. Much due to the new e5-pawn, white got a real kingside attack after black exchanged away her knight there. Although black was able to keep his kingside together he came under increasing pressure, but the outcome remained open as Monika again spent a lot of time without finding any breakthrough plan in a still messy position.

Although the cockpit around Andreas after 36.f5! was crumbling anyway, 36.--- Qf8xa3? definitely was an overambitious try to escape in a parachute, and black looked ready for a hard landing after 37.f6!. With seconds left on the clock Monika missed the fastest win with the elegant 39.gxf7!, but 39.g7+!? proved sufficient as black's kingside collapsed around the king on g7 within a few more moves. Monika again thought for some half an hour on move 41, but then finished in great style sacrificing a bishop on g5 and a rook on d7 to mate the black king stuck on h7.

Despite the wasted chances from round 1 and 2, Monika following two wins in the double round is still a hot WIM norm candidate.

Pål Røyset (2167) for some reason so far seems to work out much better with his results as white against lower rated opponents than as black against higher rated opponents. His second white win, against Sigurd Loe Grøver (2020), still was a much more turbulent one.

The Classical French opening was no big success for white, as the players after 18 moves had exchanged down to an about balanced endgame with rook, bishop and six pawns versus rook, knight and six pawns. After the last rooks were exchanged as well, white's knight first appeared better than black's bishop in the minor piece endgame, but this changed as black got active on the kingside and for some moves had the initiative. The endgame then appeared drawish until Grøver short of time for the critical move 40 blundered a pawn. Røyset became so relieved that he in turn took the pawn in a wrong way, after which black with the simple 45... fxe3 could have had excellent drawing chances with bishop and three pawns versus knight and four pawns. Instead 45... a5? was a strange and fatal second pawn blunder, after which Røyset had no problems completing the win.



**Pål Røyset**

Sander Fuglestein (2000) versus FM Trygve Dahl (2275) was another exciting duel between two highly talented Norwegian teenagers.

It all started as an airy King's Indian duel, in which black had an initiative after the e- and f-pawns were exchanged. White defended soundly by exchanging off the enemies, and after 30 moves a drawish queen endgame with six pawns on each side was on the board.

As black used the first chance to exchange the queens as well, a drawn but still not harmless pawn endgame appeared after 32 moves.

Underestimating black's creative plan to break up the queenside, white chose the wrong plan and had to enter a passed pawn race leading to a queen endgame with two pawns for black and one for white.

Although this was a theoretical draw white under pressure chose the wrong defense plan. And although black missed a short line to force a won pawn endgame, he instead found a long line to exchange one pawn and then force a won pawn endgame.



WGM Olga Dolzhikova (2231) and Edit Machlik (2109) know each other very well from Norway's national woman team. Today they apparently surprised each other by ending up in a very rare Caro-Kann line in which white got a pleasant edge due to more space and a pair of bishops. After the queens were exchanged on f3 black's position looked solid in a short run, but risky in a long run, as white had all the possibilities. As Machlik (of course) was about to run seriously short of time for 40 moves, Dolzhikova instructively opened the position for her bishops and rooks by a d5-break. 1-0 after 37 moves, since black was already a pawn down and about to lose her key pawn on f7.



**Edit Machlik**



**FM Daniel Nordquelle**

FM Daniel Nordquelle (2264) and Frode Lillevold (2076) both had a disappointing first third of the tournament, but still they following a rather dry Italian opening created a firework in the fourth round. White played d4, c4 and b4 with an all the more threatening space advantage on the queenside, while black spent a lot of time without finding any good plan on the queenside or kingside. 29.Qd2?! might have overlooked cxb5 30.cxb5 Bb3 with a somewhat disturbing double attack on Ra4 and Rd1. White after forcing the bishop on b3 to exchange for a knight on d5 still had the more active pieces with queen, two rooks and five pawns on each side after 33 moves. Lillevold became so eager to exchange queens that he immediately blundered a pawn, and the rook endgame with two pawns more for white anyway was a straightforward win when black at move 38 formally lost on time.

In case someone out there now wonders what about FM Anders Hobber (2295), he needed a rest and requested a walk over draw in the fourth round. This means that a) Hobber cannot make an IM-norm as he will not play nine games and b) WFM Anita Grønnestad (1954) got a walk over win tonight. Both players will be back tomorrow.

# GM-B (ROUND ROBIN)

Round 4's big winner was 16 year old FM Andreas Garberg Tryggestad, winning well deserved in a four-hour battle against top rated GM Eduardas Rozentalis.

Following this GM Alon Greenfeld took the lead alone at 3.0/4 by drawing an intensive game as black against IM Kristian Stuvik Holm.

Second place at 2.5 is shared between Rozentalis, Holm and the young Belarus IM Valery Kazakovskiy, the latter today winning a long endgame following a successful middle game attack against FM Alex Betaneli.

The IMs are still struggling to win games, but chances for an IM-norm are fairly good as Tryggestad and Gunnar Lund both are at 2.0/4.

Today's sensation man in the GM B obviously was Nordstrand junior FM Andreas Garberg Tryggestad (2305) defeating top rated GM Eduardas Rozentalis (2568).

It all started as a rare Classical French opening line, in which white got pleasant pressure against the backward black pawn on e6 without risking too much in the f-file.

Having secured the center with d4 and c3, white also got the better chances for a kingside attack. 20.Ne4?! was a bit careful, as 24.f4! would have given a dangerous attack while 20.Nxe6! would have won a pawn. Rozentalis came back in the game as he now got the time to organize the classical e5-break.

As both the e-pawn and the queens were exchanged, the remaining position with two rooks, bishop, knight and five pawns on each side after 26 moves was considered about balanced.

For mysterious reasons Rozentalis gave up his pawn at g6 a few moves later on.

During mutual time pressure the young FM later just played better than the experienced GM. The rook and knight endgame after the first time control was very promising for white, as he had an extra pawn and an active seventh rank rook. Rozentalis still had chances for a draw until he at move 42 much too carelessly snatched back a pawn with Rxh4?? - blundering the rook as white suddenly demonstrated an elegant mating attack with 43.Nd5! > 44.Nf6 and 45.Rh7 (as 43.--- Kg8 44.Ne7+ Kf8 45.Ng6+ would win the rook stranded on h4).



FM Andreas Garberg Tryggestad



**GM Alon Greenfeld vs IM Kristian Stuvik Holm**

IM Kristian Stuvik Holm (2467) today played for a win as white against GM Alon Greenfeld (2514). It happened with a Queen's Gambit Exchange line, in which the queens are exchanged on e7 before ten moves.

Later white's better development should be more important than his isolated pawn on d4. Greenfeld probably also thought so, as he gave himself an isolated pawn on d6 to exchange the dark squared bishops.

The GM later lagged far behind on the clock but defended creatively on the board, sacrificing his d6-pawn to exchange one set of knights and get some counter play in the c-file.

White's idea turned out to be giving up his remaining two minor pieces to play on with rook and six pawns versus bishop, knight and five pawns. White's extra pawn was passed, but as it was blocked on d5 black was considered better around move 22-30.

Black might have had something somewhere, but helped by his advantage on the clock white succeeded exchanging all the queenside pawns. In the final position after 44 moves black still was clearly better with bishop, knight and three kingside pawns versus rook and three kingside pawns. But obviously he had a very long road to winning chances, and Greenfeld at the end of the double round day was satisfied with a black draw now leading to an unshared first place. Holm saved his GM norm chances, but still need 4.5/5 to make it.

IM Oskar von Bahr (2404) versus IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2385) was a rare Reti opening line in which white got the pair of bishops and black the slightly better pawn structure following an early exchange at f3. It looked fairly balanced, and became so even more as black late repaired white's pawn structure to exchange queens and one of the bishops. Draw agreed after 24 moves in a not too exciting position with two rooks, bishop, knight and five pawns against two rooks, two knights and five pawns.



**IM Oskar von Bahr vs IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen**

This means that von Bahr now cannot make a GM-norm even if winning all his five remaining games, while Kaasen can now only make a GM norm if winning all the five remaining games.

German GM Felix Levin (2476) first got an edge as white against Norwegian junior Gunnar Lund (2271) in an Old Indian opening, as he established a center advantage with d5 and e4 against d6 and e5.

13.Ne1?! however was a bit too slow, and the situation became unclear as Lund immediately hit back on the kingside with a thematic counter play 13... f5. The position remained in some kind of dynamic

balance later on, as white went for counter play on the kingside with f4, while black transported his knight around to a c4 outpost on the queenside. Following some tactical exchanges, a draw was agreed upon black's suggestion after 30 moves. Black if anyone was slightly better with rook, two bishops and five pawns against rook, bishop, knight and five pawns, but this offer still qualified as a sound decision following a sound black game from Lund. Although Lund is a very tactical player, his strategy now seems to be making an IM-norm with eight draws and one win somewhere. Anyway of course he has done a very good result so far, while Levin following a triple puncture start finally got a score today.



**GM Felix Levin vs Gunnar Lund**



**IM Valery Kazakovskiy vs FM Alexander Betaneli**

Following three rather dry draws, IM Valery Kazakovskiy (2440) got his first win as white against FM Alexander Betaneli (2235) today. Although white got a space advantage after e4 followed by e5, black hit back on the queenside with c5 and probably was fine from this Catalan opening. 14... exd5? however was a strange positional mistake. White later had a pleasant edge in an isolated pawn position, and his fianchetto bishop on b2 was much better than black's on b7.

While black failed to find any useful plan afterwards Kazakovskiy's pieces soon accelerated, and before 30 moves white could sacrifice a knight on h6 with decisive threats on the a1-h8 diagonal. Betaneli took the absolute emergency exit as he sacrificed his queen upon the monster bishop at b2. Kazakovskiy did not find any of the shortest cuts later on, but although the game lasted 53 moves white was in control with queen for two minor pieces in the endgame. Kazankovskiy at 2.5/4 after this win is on schedule for a top three prize, but still needs 4.5/5 to make a GM norm.

# OPEN GROUP (SWISS)

Following unexpectedly many draws on the top boards in the first two rounds of the Open, we now have much fewer draws than expected in the meetings between high rated players. All the top three boards got a winner tonight, and following this we still have three players sharing the lead at an amazing 4/4 in this group.



Jonas Hodneland Rasmussen vs Øyvind Ukkelberg

The board one game between Jonas Hodneland Rasmussen (1993) and Øyvind Ukkelberg (1939) today gave an early firework, as black sacrificed a pawn before ten moves and an exchange before 15. Although white's king on e2 looked a bit skeptical, taking the exchange on f8 reportedly was fine. If so white however chose the wrong plan afterwards, hence his king had to run out on h3. Black after 21

moves was a rook down, but could have forced white to force a draw by perpetual check by playing 21.--- Rf6! (with the threat of 22.---- Rh6+) .

Playing for a win with 21.--- Bc8?? (threatening 22.--- e5+) was a blunder, as white after 22.Bc4! and 23.Rf1! could save his king, keep the rook and complete his development.

22 year old hard-working Rasmussen continues his progress and might well be above 2050 following this tournament.

Second board game between Afras Mansoor (1965) and Omer Amir Akdag (1901) continued for some hours more, as Akdag after winning a pawn played on for a win with rook and three versus rook and two pawns. Probably this was a draw, but it was no way easy with pawns on both wings. Mansoor tried to demand a draw with 90 seconds left on the clock just before 60 moves. The chief arbiter noted the offer and postponed the decision, as black was a pawn up and still had legitimate winning plans to try. The decision soon afterwards came on the board, as Mansoor demonstrated a wrong defense plan and soon drifted into a lost rook versus rook and pawn endgame. 17 year old Akdag, originally from Turkey, is a new young chess friend from Kirkenes who so far appears to have master strength.



**Afras Mansoor vs Omer Amir Akdag**

Our 39 year old tournament troubadour Alf W. Lundberg (1932) today entered the chessboard against 12 year old opponent Shazil Shehzad (2024), armed with nothing but an English fianchetto. While black did nothing on the queenside, white soon started a pawn storm on the kingside and completed the attack by opening the h-file just after 30 moves. Lundberg definitely has been inspired as a guitarist and a chess player so far this week.

The fourth board duel between Gunnar Brandshaug Dale (1903) and Sondre Lillestøl Melaa (1991) lasted 90 moves. The last 50 or so was an endgame with rook and two pawns against bishop and three pawns, but as Dale still failed to demonstrate the winning plan Melaa miraculously scraped a draw.

Following this Rasmussen, Akdag and Lundberg are now sharing first place at 4/4, a full point ahead of 13 other players.

Second rated Jo Kristian Løberg (2045) today won in convincing style as white against Karim Ali (1838) and can be found in the group of 13 players at 3.0/4, while first rated Henrik Øie Løbersli (2102) dropped another sound draw against 16 year old Elias Hestvik (1746) and is in the group of 12 players at 2.5/4.

Still few draws and many exciting games on the lower boards, but almost none of them are won by the lowest rated player.