



**CHESS OLYMPIAD**

NORWAY 2014  
TROMSØ

# Bulletin

## Round 8 -10.08.14



## Trading blows

Perhaps the man of the day - Paco Vallejo claimed the scalp of none other than Vladimir Kramnik



Vassily Ivanchuk came to the board ready for a fight  
 Photo: Georgios Souleidis / [chess24](http://chess24)

## Round 8 interim report: Only the missing

Today we finally saw no surprises in terms of zero tolerance forfeits, but a mystery about attendance remains. As mentioned in previous reports, one member of the Libyan Open team is paired though never here, and this arrangement now also applies to the Burundi Open team - their second board has now been excluded from the event, along with the Burundi Women's team, for repeated non-appearance.

*By GM Jonathan Tisdall*

The organizers have promised a statement at today's official evening press conference about the Burundians - who are not just not being paired, but actually missing. To sum up - it appears that everyone who is here arrived at the board on time today.

The attention-grabbing match in the Open section turned out to be second seeds Ukraine floating up to meet 18th ranked Bulgaria. The Bulgarians looked set to continue their brisk pace, with Topalov putting legend Ivanchuk under dangerous pressure with the Black pieces, while Ivan Cheparinov startled Ruslan Ponomariov with a tactical blow that won material on board two. Ukraine have been shaky in this event, and today could spell the end of any hopes of a comeback. The tension got turned up a few notches though, with Pavel Eljanov building up a winning

advantage against the hottest man in the Olympiad, Bulgaria's Valentin Iotov.

Two dull draws were recorded on the top half of the China-Azerbaijan match, and the remaining games looked better for the white players, so an evenly balanced and tense match. The Azeris lead the event on match points, the only team with 13/14, while China, Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Romania are chasing with 12.

The sixth seeded USA's hopes of clawing their way back into the serious medals race suffered a blow when 5th seeded Hungary took first blood in their match - Richard Rapport won a piece on board three early after a gruesome tactical oversight from Alexander Onischuk.

## Local news

Although there have been no cheery headlines for the Norwegian teams lately, with world champ Magnus Carlsen crashing to defeat from a pawn up in the pivotal game of Norway 1's round 7 clash with Germany, there are still positive stories to be found about Norway 2. They continue to overperform, and players 1, 3 and 5 - IM Frode Urkedal, IM Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen, and untitled Johan Salomon are all performing well over 2600 - at this rate Urkedal would become Norway's next grandmaster. Ringdal Hansen has the required norms but needs to lift his rating over 2500, while Salomon looks guaranteed to gain some kind of international title norm if the team faces reasonable opposition the rest of the event.

## The Women's event

The script for the concluding rounds should be China aiming for perfection and hoping for

perennial champions Russia to slip up down the stretch. Russia appeared to know their lines, taking the lead against 13th ranked Hungary with a win on board three, and building up very comfortable positions on the bottom boards.

China were having trouble re-establishing their previous steamrolling rhythm against 8th ranked Poland. World Champion Yifan Hou seemed to have shrugged off her painful defeat against rival Kateryna Lagno from the day before, and was up the exchange against GM Monika Socko, but the remaining boards were evenly fought.

Other top matches were too close to call in the third hour of play.

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# Burundi players exit Olympiad

The organizers of the Tromsø Olympiad have released further details about a number of players from Burundi who are no longer being paired in the tournament. A total of seven members of the Burundi delegation are now absent from the event. Their women's team, which had been staying in private accommodation rather than a Tromsø hotel, has not been seen for several days, and two officials and one of the Open team players are gone as well.

Olympiad Press Chief Morgan Lillegård commented:

*Seven individuals from Burundi have left the Olympiad - five players - four women and one man, plus a team captain and a team leader. We are disappointed that they have not completed the event. The police were informed yesterday (Saturday) evening about their disappearance.*

*All of the missing persons have Schengen visas, which give them three months freedom of movement in the Schengen area. No laws have been broken and we have not heard anything back from the police and have no reason to suspect any trouble. The matter is now in the hands of the police, and not the Olympiad organization.*

## Round 8 report: Trading blows



Perhaps the man of the day - Paco Vallejo claimed the scalp of none other than Vladimir Kramnik.  
Photo: Georgios Souleidis / [chess24](http://chess24.com)

In the Open section, second seeds Ukraine got tough when they needed it most, turning what looked like impending defeat and the end of medal hopes into a crucial victory over 18th ranked Bulgaria. It was the opposite story for Russia, who fell out of contention for gold after suffering a demoralising draw against Spain, with Vladimir Kramnik losing with White to Paco Vallejo.

*By GM Jonathan Tisdal*

In the Ukraine-Bulgaria match Pavel Eljanov strung together a long series of crisp tactics to hand Valentin Iotov his first loss of the event, and to bring Ukraine level after Ivan Cheparinov had punished Ruslan Ponomarev on board two.

On first board Vassily Ivanchuk successfully weathered sustained pressure from Veselin Topalov to lessen the pressure on his team, and Anton Korobov delivered the decisive blow on board four, downing Bulgarian Krasimir Rusev to edge a vital 2.5-1.5 win.

The high-flying Czechs could not repeat the form that downed the Russians the day before, and with four draws against 32nd seed Romania, they dropped a valuable match point.

### Boiling point

China-Azerbaijan was on a slow simmer after quick and peaceful results on the top two boards. Black was on the defensive in the remaining games, but what looked like an even match exploded in the fifth hour of play. Yangyi Yu ground down Eltaj Safarli to put China in front, and then Azeri Gadir Guseinov overpressed in a tricky endgame, allowing Hua Ni to cement a surprisingly convincing 3-1 win and move the Chinese team into sole first place.

Although this could be an unusually even Olympiad, 19/22 match points have been necessary historically to take the gold medals. Using this as a benchmark, ambitious teams needed to make it to 13 today to keep pace. With that in mind, the multitude of incredibly even

matches were even more nerve-wracking. France edged out Poland thanks to a steady win from second board Etienne Bacrot, the only decisive game of the match.

### Falling short

Germany-Cuba and India-Armenia also began with three draws, and Hungary-USA was also tense, with an early win from Rapport looking likely to be erased by another rescue by American Sam Shankland, who was poised to maintain his perfect personal score by beating Judit Polgar on board four - and he did.

In the chess24 studio, Shankland revealed that he had actually prepared for this event with Wesley So and... Judit, and said he had been completely open since he did not anticipate that Polgar could be so far down the Hungarian team line-up, and that they might be discussing variations that could occur against each other

Unfortunately for both of these teams, the 2-2 result left both Hungary and the USA short of the magic 13-point mark.

India-Armenia ended with four draws, and left the defending champions - and India - a point off traditional gold pace. GM Parimarjan Negi held world no. 2 Levon Aronian to a draw.

Serbia shattered England 3-1 to revive their medal hopes – Michael Adams' win on board one kept him in the lead for the top individual gold medal, but his team's chances for metal must be more or less over.

Tomorrow's top bout will be between China and the resurgent Ukraine. Local underdog lovers will doubtless find Russia-Norway 2 to be the day's focal point.

Sergey Karjakin responded for the favorites by winning a brawl of a game against GM Ivan

Salgado Lopez to level the match, leaving the decision to fall on board two. Alexander Grischuk split the point, and the 2-2 result means that the top seeds have dropped a shocking five match points in the first eight rounds - medals of any valor will now be a big ask.

### Local news

Norway 1 hammered Bosnia & Herzegovina 3-1 in a drawless match. Magnus Carlsen resumed his business-like ways and ground down GM Borki Predojevic, as Norway swept the top three boards, winning both blacks.

### The Women's section

Buoyed by their win over China yesterday, Russia maintained their match point lead with an imperious 3.5-0.5 result, though not without some nervous moments, as former world champion Alexandra Kosteniuk was in real trouble for a while against Hungarian IM Anita Gara.

Top seeds China can only hope that the Russians stumble now. They turned in a solid 3-1 win over tough 8th seed Poland, but needed a bit of time to get their engines running at top speed.

This was a good day for Ukraine, as the third seeded women also bounced back into serious medal contention by edging out 4th seed rivals Georgia 2.5-1.5. Ninth seeds France swept the bottom boards to beat the 7th ranked USA 2.5-1.5 in a match filled with violent games. Armenia bashed Colombia 3.5-0.5 to vault back into the hunt.

### Tomorrow's top action:

Armenia get the chance to create more drama for the event, getting a shot at the triumphant Russians on top board. France will face the top seeds China, the rebounding Ukrainians also have interesting opponents, having drawn fifth seeds India.

## Annotated games

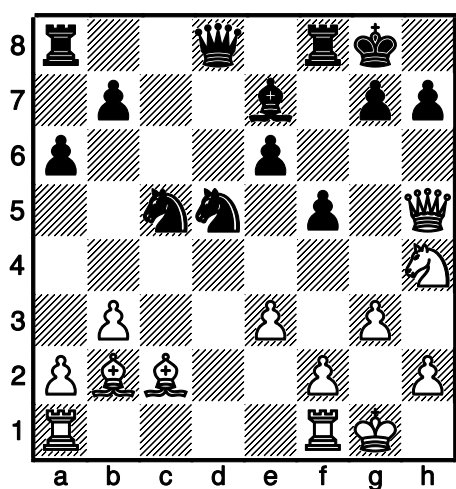
By GM Einar Gausel

Pavel Eljanov (2723) -  
Valentin Iotov (2553)  
WCO2014 Tromsø (8.3), 10.08.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6  
5.♗bd2 ♙f5 6.♗h4 ♙e4 7.♙e2 e6 8.0-0  
♙d6 9.g3 ♗bd7 10.♗xe4 ♗xe4 11.♙d3  
♗ef6 12.b3 0-0 13.♙b2 c5 14.cxd5 ♗xd5  
15.dxc5 ♗xc5 16.♙c2 With both bishops  
ready for action, White is looking to strike  
before Black has time to reinforce his  
kingside.

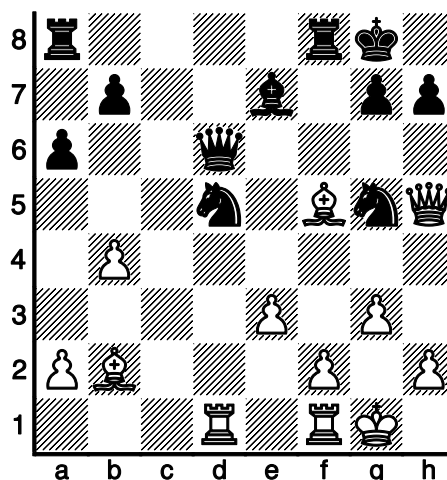
16...♙e7? 16...♖c7 was preferable, since  
Black then would be able to answer  
17.♖h5 with 17...g6

17.♖h5 f5  
Black gets mated in record time after  
17...g6 18.♗xg6 fxg6 19.♙xg6



18.♗xf5! exf5 19.♙ad1 ♖d6 20.b4! ♗e6  
20...♗e4 runs into 21.♙xd5 ♖xd5 22.♙b3

21.♙xf5 ♗g5  
21...♙xf5 22.♖xf5 ♗ec7 23.e4 ♙f8 24.♖g4  
♙f6 (24...♗f6 25.♙xd6 ♗xg4 26.♙d7)  
25.♙a3 and White wins his piece back  
with two extra pawns in the bank.



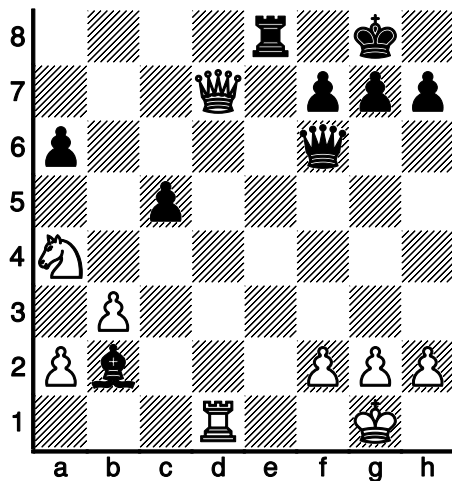
22.♙xd5! ♖xb4 22...♖xd5 23.♙xh7+ ♗h8  
24.♙c4+ ♗g8 25.♙xd5+-

23.♙d4 ♙ad8 24.♙xd8 ♙xd8 25.♖g4 ♖c4  
26.h4 ♖d5 27.♙xh7+ ♗xh7 28.hxg5  
♖xg5 29.♖e4+ ♖g6 29...♖g6 30.♖xb7  
and Black has nothing to show for the  
missing pawns.

1-0

Krasimir Rusev (2548) -  
Anton Korobov (2680)  
WCO2014 Tromsø (8.4), 10.08.2014

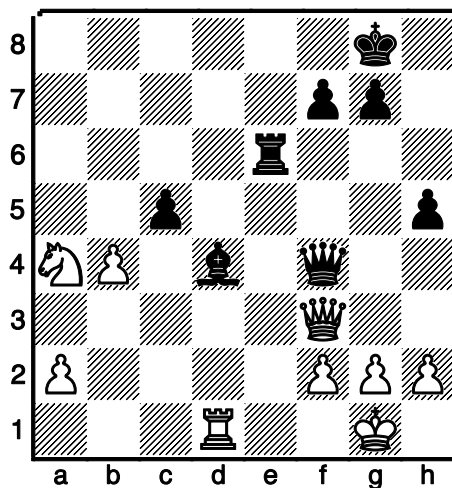
1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.♗c3 c6 5.e3  
♗bd7 6.♖c2 b6 7.b3 ♙b7 8.♙b2 ♙d6  
9.♙e2 0-0 10.0-0 ♙e8 11.♙ad1 ♖e7  
12.♙fe1 c5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.cxd5 exd5  
15.♗b5 ♙b8 16.♗c3 d4 17.♗a4 a6  
18.♖f5 ♙e4 19.♖h3 dxe3 20.♙d3 ♙xd3  
21.♙xe3 ♙e4 22.♗g5 ♙e5 23.♗xe4 ♙xb2  
24.♗xf6+ ♖xf6 25.♙xe8+ ♙xe8 26.♖xd7



26...♖e5 27.♗d3 ♘d4 This monster bishop certainly outclasses the white knight on the rim, but the game is far from over.

28.♙xa6 h5 29.♗d3 ♖e6 30.b4? True, ♘a4 is not a happy horsey, but panicking only makes matters worse. Black wins by force after 30.h3 ♖f6 31.♖f1 ♖xf2! , but White can still put up a fight after; 30.♖f1 h4 31.h3

30...♗f4 31.♗f3



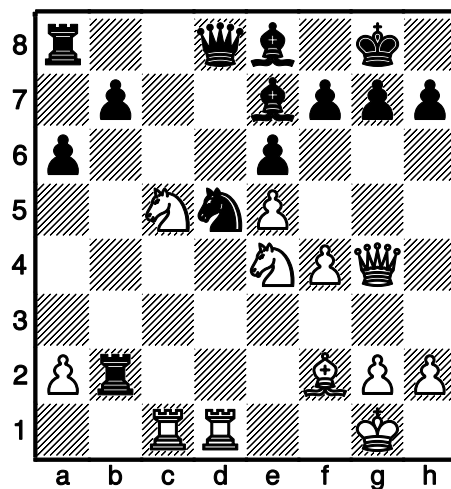
31...♗d2! 32.g3 32.♖xd2 ♖e1#

32...♗xb4 33.♗b3 ♖e1+ 34.♖xe1 ♗xe1+ 35.♔g2 ♗xf2+ 35...♗xf2+ 36.♔h3 ♗f1+ 37.♔h4 ♘f6+ 38.♔xh5 ♗f5#

0-1

Vladimir Kramnik (2760) -  
Francisco Vallejo Pons (2698)  
WCO2014 Tromso (8.36), 10.08.2014

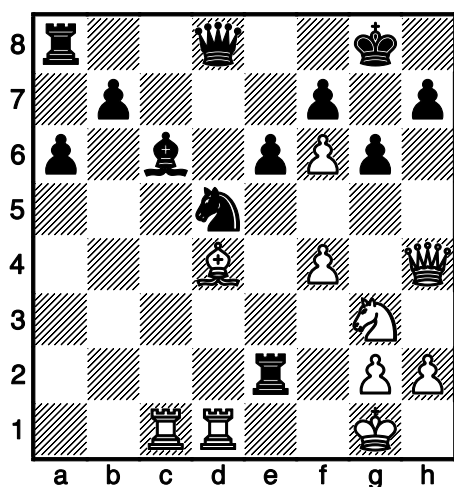
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.e4 ♘b4 6.♙g5 c5 7.♙xc4 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♗a5 9.♙d2 ♗c5 10.♙b5+ ♙d7 11.♘b3 ♗c7 12.♖c1 ♘c6 13.0-0 0-0 14.♗e2 ♖fd8 15.♙g5 ♙e7 16.♙e3 a6 17.♙d3 ♙e8 18.f4 ♘g4 19.♗xg4 ♖xd3 20.♙f2 ♗d8 21.e5 ♘b4 22.♘c5 ♖d2 23.♘3e4 ♖xb2 24.♖fd1 ♘d5



25.♘f6+?! White's best was probably 25.♙d4 ♖xa2 26.♘xb7 ♗d7 27.♘bd6 with some piece activity for the pawn.

25...♙xf6 26.exf6 g6 27.♙d4 ♖xa2 28.♗h4 White's attack is looking dangerous, but Black is just in time with counter play along the second rank.

28...♙c6 29.♘e4 ♖e2 30.♘g3



30...♘xf4! 31.♙xf4 ♖xg2+ 32.♙f1 ♙b5+ 33.♙e1 ♗f8 34.♙xf4 ♗b4+ 35.♖c3 ♖g1+ 36.♙d2 ♖d8 and White loses the farm.

31...♗d5 32.♘e4 As mate on g2 was threatened, White had no other choice but to return the piece.

32...♗xe4 33.♗xe4 ♖xe4 34.♙b6 g5 Black is three pawns up and should win easily as long as he avoids tricks on the back rank.

35.♖d2 h6 36.♙d8 a5 37.♙e7 a4 38.♖c3 ♙h7 39.h3 ♙g6 40.♙h2 ♖f4

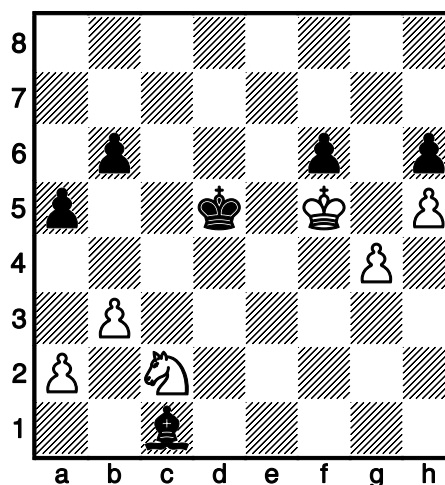
0-1

Gadir Guseinov (2613) -  
Hua Ni (2666)

WCO2014 Tromso (8.28), 10.08.2014

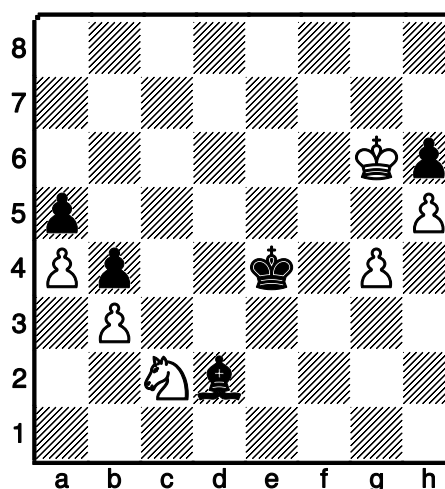
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dx4 4.♘xe4 ♙f5  
5.♘g3 ♙g6 6.h4 h6 7.♘f3 e6 8.h5 ♙h7  
9.♙d3 ♙xd3 10.♗xd3 ♘f6 11.♙d2 ♙e7  
12.0-0-0 c5 13.♘e4 ♘c6 14.♙c3 ♗d5  
15.♘xf6+ gxf6 16.dxc5 ♗xd3 17.cxd3  
♖g8 18.g3 ♙xc5 19.d4 ♙e7 20.d5 ♘b4  
21.♙xb4 ♙xb4 22.dxe6 fxe6 23.♖h4 ♙c5  
24.♖e4 e5 25.♖d2 ♙f7 26.♘h4 ♙e6 27.g4  
♖ac8 28.♙d1 ♖gd8 29.♖xd8 ♖xd8+  
30.♙e2 a5 31.♖c4 ♙b4 32.♖c2 ♖d4 33.f3  
e4 34.♘f5 exf3+ 35.♙xf3 ♖d2 36.♖xd2  
♙xd2 37.♙e4 ♙c1 38.b3 b6 39.♙d4 ♙d2

40.♙d3 ♙g5 41.♙e4 ♙c1 42.♘d4+ ♙d6  
43.♙f5 ♙c5 44.♘c2 ♙d5



45.♙xf6 45.a4 may have been an improvement. White is in full control, and there's no need to initiate complications before conditions to do so are optimal.

45...♙e4 46.♙g6 b5 47.a4 b4 48.♙f6 ♙g5+ 49.♙g6 ♙d2



50.♘e1? White could have secured a draw with 50.♙g7 ♙d3 51.♘xb4+ axb4 52.a5 ♙c3 53.a6 ♙c3 54.♙f7 ♙xb3 55.g5 ♙c4 56.gxh6 b3 57.h7 b2 58.h8♗ b1♗ 59.♗c8+ , but since China were up 2-1 at this stage, I imagine Guseinov felt obliged to press for a win at all costs.

50...♙xe1 51.♙xh6 ♙d2+ 52.♙g6 ♙f4  
53.g5 ♙g4 54.h6 ♙c3 55.♙f7 ♙xg5

0-1



## Announcements

### Doping Control:

The Chess Olympiad in Tromsø has made preparations for the Norwegian Antidoping Association to perform doping tests. According to Olympiad Press Officer Morgan Lillegård, the checks may be performed on Monday and Tuesday after the round:

“Players may be contacted shortly after their game and taken to a room on the 4th floor.

For obvious reasons, it is not known which players will be asked to submit a sample, but in other sports they select some of the top performers and some others chosen randomly.”

### The Qatar Masters Open raffle:

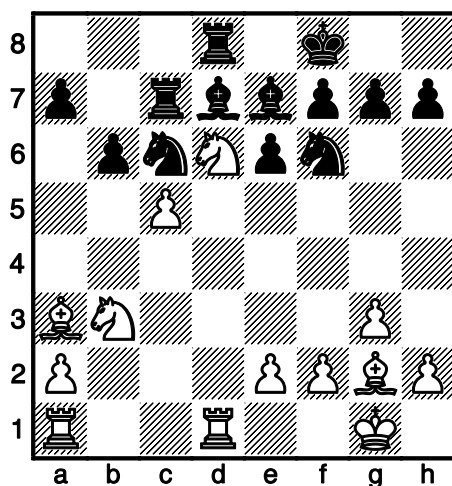
The first lucky winners of flights and accommodation to attend the 2014 Qatar Masters Open in Doha are WGM Ticia Gara (rated 2321, Hungary) and GM John Paul Gomez (2526, Philippines). Our congratulations! Olympiad participants can still enter the draw by using the boxes in the players' entrance.



## Blunders, upsets and brilliances

By GM Einar Gausel

Ivan Cheparinov (2681) -  
Ruslan Ponomariov (2717)  
WCO2014 Tromso (8.2), 10.08.2014



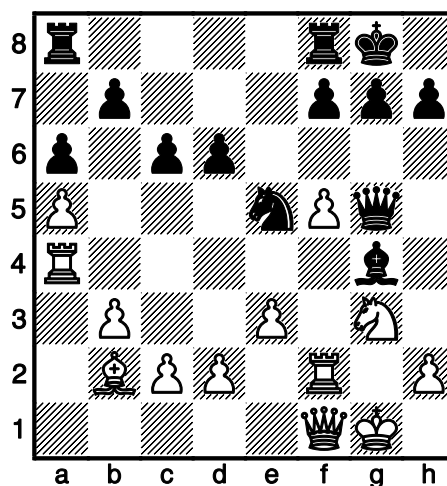
18...♖b8? 19.♗b5! ♜cc8 19...♙xb5  
20.♞xd8+ ♙xd8 21.cxb6+ ♕e8 (21...♞e7  
22.bxa7) 22.bxc7+-

20.♗xa7 ♞c7 21.cxb6 White is simply two pawns up and winning.

21...♞c2 22.♗d4 ♞c4 23.♞ac1 ♞xc1  
24.♙xe7+ ♕xe7 25.♞xc1 ♕d6 26.♗db5+  
♙xb5 27.♗xb5+ ♕e7 28.a4 ♞d2 29.♗c3  
♗fd7 30.a5 ♞b2 31.♞a1 ♞c2 32.♞a3 ♞c1+  
33.♙f1 ♗c6 34.♗b5 ♗ce5 35.b7 ♗c4  
36.a6 ♗xa3 37.♗xa3

1-0

Richard Rapport (2704) -  
Alexander Onischuk (2659)  
WCO2014 Tromso (8.38), 10.08.2014

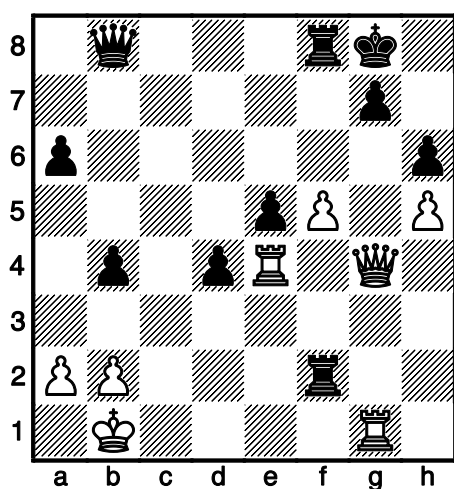


20...f6? 20...♞fe8

21.♙xe5 21.♙xe5 dxe5 22.♞c4+ ♕h8  
23.♞xg4 leaves White with an extra piece.

1-0

Silje Bjerke (2189) -  
 Khayala Isgandarova (2190)  
 WCO2014 Tromso (8.34), 10.08.2014

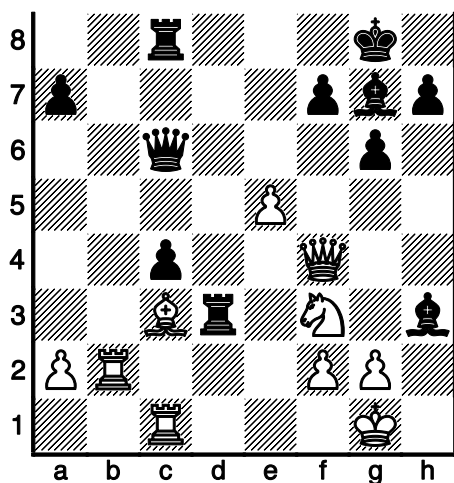


39...♖c8?? 39...♖c7-+

40.♖xg7#

1-0

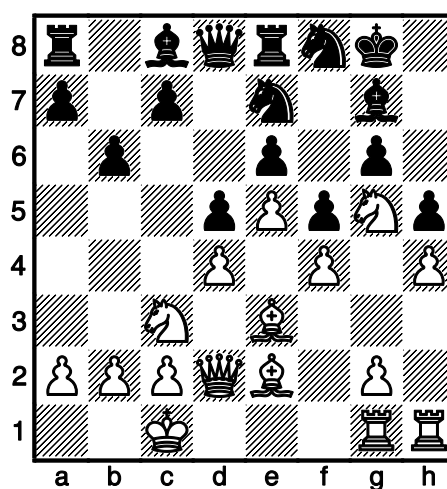
Novendra Priasmoro (2250) -  
 Iliia Smirin (2656)  
 WCO2014 Tromso (8.7), 10.08.2014



27...♙xg2! 28.♔xg2 ♙h6! 29.♖xh6 ♖xf3+  
 30.♔g1 ♖xc3 31.♖e1 ♖g4+ 32.♔h2 ♖f3  
 33.♖e3 c3 34.♖c2 ♖c4 35.♖xf3 ♖xf3  
 35...♖xf3 36.♖h3 ♖f4+ 37.♖g3 (37.♔g1  
 ♖d2!) 37...♖f5 38.♖c1 ♖h5+ 39.♔g2  
 ♖g4+

0-1

Art Christopher (1668) -  
 Mdluli Meluleki  
 WCO2014 Tromso (8.23), 10.08.2014



14.g4! fxg4 15.♙xg4 hxg4 16.♖xg4 ♙h6  
 17.h5 ♔g7 18.♖h2 ♖f5 19.♙d2 ♖xd4  
 20.hxg6 ♖f5 21.♖f7 ♖e7 22.♖xh6 ♖xg6  
 23.♖xg6+ ♔h7 24.♖xf5+ ♔xg6 25.♖xe7+  
 ♔25.♖h5#

25...♖xe7 26.♖h5+ ♔g7 27.♖h7+ ♔f8  
 28.♖h8+ ♔f7 29.♖h7+ ♔g6 30.♖xe7 ♙b7  
 31.♖f6+ ♔h5 32.♖g5#

1-0

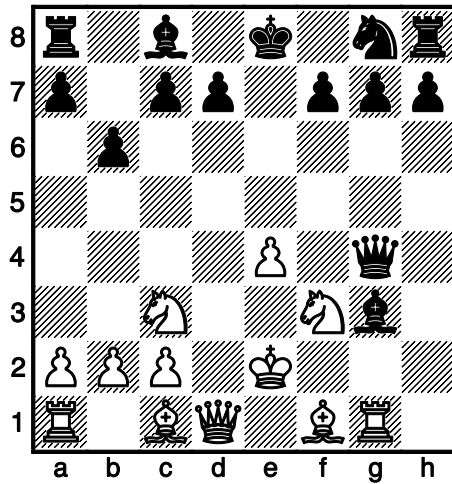
Hamda Al-Hajri -  
Ul Ummi Nameeqa

WCO2014 Tromso (8.4), 10.08.2014

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.f4 ♙c5 4.♗f3 exf4  
5.d4 ♗xd4!? 6.♗xd4 ♖h4+ 7.g3?! 7.♙e2  
d5∞

7...fxg3 8.♗f3? ♙f2+? 8...g2+ 9.♗xh4  
gxh1♖-+

9.♙e2 ♖g4 10.hxg3 ♙xg3 11.♞g1 b6



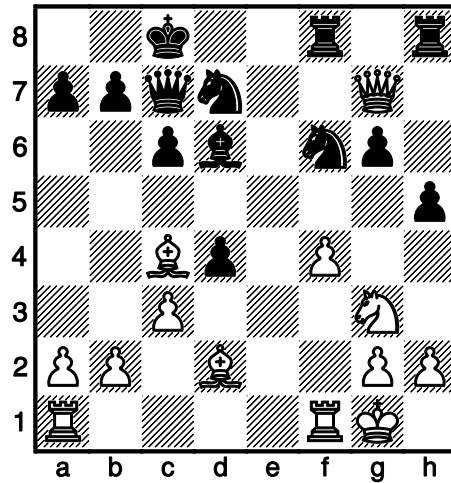
12.♖e1? 12.♙e3+-

12...♙a6+ 13.♙e3 ♖f4+ 14.♙d4 c5+  
15.♙d5 ♗f6#

0-1

Ildiko Madl (2347) -  
Valentina Gunina (2524)

WCO2014 Tromso (8.38), 10.08.2014

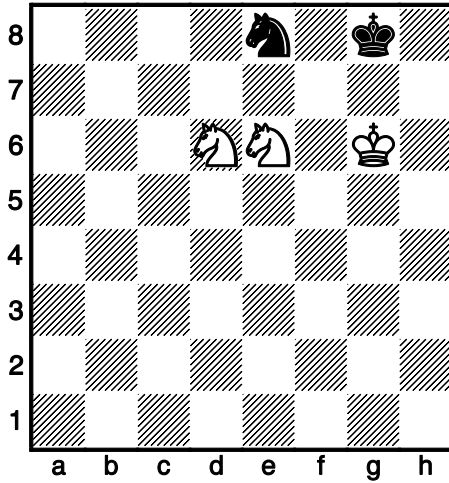


18...♖b6! 19.♙h1 h4 20.♗e2 h3 21.♖xg6  
♞hg8 22.♙xg8 ♞xg8

0-1

## Chess Puzzles

White to move and win



**1. ♖f7!**

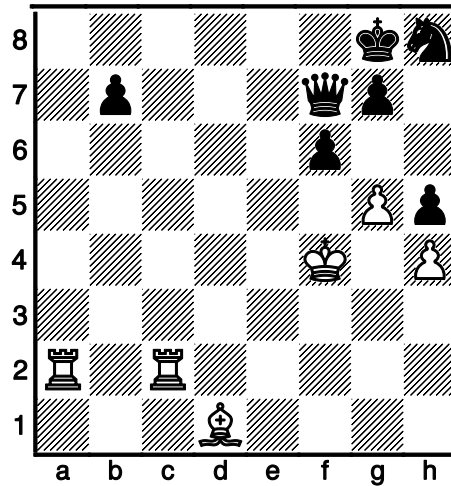
1... ♖xe8? ♔h8 and there's no way White can force mate.

**1... ♖d6 2. ♖h6+ ♔h8 3. ♖g5!**

Zugzwang!

**3... ♖c4 4. ♖gf7 mate. (Berger 1921)**

White to move and win



**1. ♖a8+ ♔h7 2. ♖xh8+! ♔xh8 3. ♖c8+ ♔h7 4. g6+! ♔xg6**

4... ♗xg6 5. ♕c2 and White wins the queen.

**5. ♕xh5+! ♔xh5 6. ♖h8+ ♔g6 7. h5 mate.**

(Grzeban 1958)