IMRE HÉRA – RÓBERT KAPÁS

Budapest in Black & White

Scenes from the 2024 Chess Olympiad



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HUNGARIAN CHESS FEDERATION
1921

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Explanation of symbols

+	check	!?	move deserving attention
#	checkmate	?!	dubious move
±	slight advantage for White	?	weak move
∓	slight advantage for Black	??	blunder
±	clear advantage for White	∞	with compensation
∓	clear advantage for Black	⇄	with counterplay
+–	decisive advantage for White	□	only move
–+	decisive advantage for Black	↑	with initiative
=	equal game	∞	unclear
!	good move	N	new move
!!	excellent move	⊕	time trouble



Judit Polgar with the Olympic Torch


FIDE
GENS UNA SUMUS

Part 2




IRAN
NORWAY
MAGNUS
CARLSEN
PARHAM
TABATABAEI
M.AMIN
DANESHVAR
BARDIYA
ERAM
POURYA

Day 6

Round 6, Monday

Open Section

At the halfway stage of the Budapest Chess Olympiad, the moment arrived when there was no longer a tie for first place, and experts began to wonder whether anyone could stop India, a team of young players performing with remarkable conviction. The second seed in the open section claimed another victory, this time against hosts Hungary, and with six wins from six matches the Asian powerhouse emerged as sole leader. Not only do they maintain a perfect match record, but they are also the only nation to remain unbeaten in both sections, individually and as a team as well.

So far, Arjun Erigaisi has been the star of the Indian team, having won all six of his games, including a sixth-round victory over Hungary's Sanan Sjugirov. Vidit Gujrathi also made a major contribution to the team win by defeating Benjamin Gledura on board four.

Meanwhile, the two other joint leaders, China and Vietnam, drew their match. Vietnam's Le Quang Liem defeated World Champion Ding Liren on board one, but China's Wang Yue levelled the score by beating Tran Tuan Minh on board four. For Ding, the loss was particularly painful, not only did his team fall one point behind the leaders, but he also dropped out of the world's top 20 in the live rankings as reigning world champion.

In second place, one match point behind India, are Vietnam, China and Iran. Led by Parham Maghsoodloo, Iran defeated Norway 2½–1½. Maghsoodloo held Magnus Carlsen to an 87-move draw, where Carlsen pressed hard in a pawn-up but objectively drawn endgame. The decisive point came from Pouya Idani on board four, defeating Frode Urkedal with the black pieces, securing Iran's match victory.

Round six also produced several surprises. The 18th seed Romania, held top-seeded United States to a draw, as the Americans failed to win a single game against the resilient Romanian side. Austria also drew with Poland, with Valentin Dragnev scoring a stunning win over Jan-Krzysztof Duda thanks to an impressive queen sacrifice. Meanwhile, 29th seed Lithuania and 32nd seed Georgia upset 12th seed Azerbaijan and 13th seed Spain, respectively, both traditionally strong teams.

Women 's Section

In one respect, the women's tournament mirrors the Open Section at the rest day, India stands alone at the top of the table among the ladies, too. The Far Eastern, now unquestionably star-studded team defeated Armenia 2½–1½ in the sixth round, thanks to Divya Deshmukh's win over Elina Danielian, the only game in the match to produce a decisive result. Close behind are Georgia and Poland, tied for second place, just one match point adrift of India.

Both teams secured their wins by the narrowest of margins. Salome Melia guided Georgia to victory with excellent endgame play.

Poland's win over China, though significant, was not a major surprise. Poland is seeded third, while China is fourth. However, China's consecutive defeats were unexpected given their impressive form in the first four rounds. Having lost to Armenia in round five, they stumbled again on Monday and effectively dropped out of the race for gold. Oliwia Kiolbasa, Poland's standout performer, clinched the decisive point by defeating Guo Qi on board three. Kiolbasa has built quite a reputation at Olympiads: at the 2022 Chennai event, she won nine consecutive games, and in the first half of the Budapest competition, she slashes with a score of 4½/5.

Two more lower-seeded teams produced upsets: 39th seed Peru held Hungary to draw, while 46th seed Australia stunned Israel with a win.



Arbiters across ages and continents

GAME 20

ITALIAN GAME C54

Praggnanandhaa (IND) – Leko (HUN)

1.e4 e5 Wonderful news were announced at the end of May 2024: Peter Leko has joined the national team again! After practically five years away from the board in classical tournaments, he returned to competitive chess. During this period, he only played a couple of games in the German Bundesliga in 2023. His knowledge, class, experience and personality have always remained an enormous treasure for the chess society. As he emphasized, his return was greatly influenced not only by the domestic organization of the event but also by Richard Rapport's participation topped with the Hungarian Chess Federation's consistently positive communication.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 Neither the tournament, nor the game started without challenges for Peter. He had already played the first round and won confidently. However, in the third round an unexpected loss against the Italian Lodici occurred, after which he was given a rest. He sat back versus the future Olympic champions, aware that he would face a rising star with the black pieces. Nevertheless, he had been preparing enthusiastically since the previous day. Everyone was therefore eagerly awaiting this clash of generations.

4.d3 4.0–0 ♘f6 5.d3 0–0 6.a4 a5 7.♗g5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♗g3 d6 10.c3 ♔g7 11.♘bd2 ♗a7⇄ Alekseenko–Leko, Ulcinj 2019 and later on Black won a good game to become winner of the European Club Cup.

4...♘f6 5.♗g5 Bringing the bishop into play so early is one of the modern trends.

5...h6 6.♗h4 d6 6...0–0 7.c3 ♗e7 is a simple treatment that had been considered as a reliable handling for Black. 8.♘bd2 d6 9.a4 ♘h5

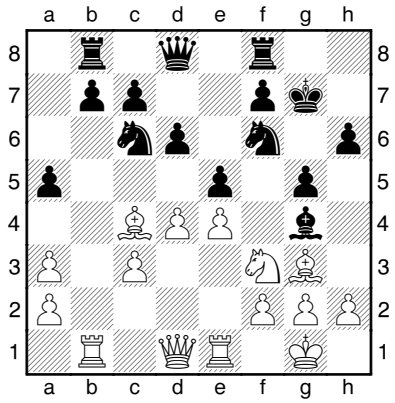
7.c3 a5 8.0–0 The less committing 8.♘bd2 is much more popular. 8...♗a7 9.0–0 g5 10.♗g3 0–0 11.a3 ♘h7 12.♔h1 ♔h8 (12...h5?! 13.h4 ♗g4? (13...g4 14.♘h2) 14.hxg5 ♘e7 15.♕e1 ♘g6 16.d4± happened a month before at the Sinquefield Cup between Praggnanandhaa–So, Saint Louis 2024. White had big advantage right after the opening.) 13.b4 f5 This should be the logical continuation after sliding away from the pin. (13...h5? happened in three games at top level already, but such an early advance turns out be very risky. 14.b5 ♘e7 Adhiban–Vidit, Kolkata (rapid) 2021 15.♘xg5! ♘xg5 16.♕xh5+ ♘h7 17.f4→ with an overwhelming attack.) 14.exf5 ♗xf5 15.d4! exd4 16.b5 dxc3 17.bxc6 b5 18.♗xb5 cxd2 19.♕xd2±

8...g5 9.♗g3 0–0 10.♘a3!?N Pragg deviates from Peter's previous game. The knight could appear both on b5 and c2 to keep eye on the centre. In case Black gives his bishop out, he can consider his position more released getting rid of the most active enemy piece. The downside of the exchange is certanly an ugly structure for longer term.

10.♖e1 ♗a7 11.♘bd2 ♘h7 12.h3 (12.d4 g4 13.♘h4 exd4 14.♖b1∞ with a total mess in Erigaisi–Ding Liren, Wijk aan Zee 2023.) 12...h5 13.d4 move order has notable statistics on White's favour. 13...♕f6 14.dxe5 (14.♗e2?! ♕g7! 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.♘c4 was seen two days ago. Lodici–Leko, Budapest 2024 16...♖e8∓) 14...dxe5 15.♗b5 g4 16.hxg4 hxg4 17.♘h2 ♕g5⇄ Erigaisi–So, Internet (rapid) 2023

10...♗xa3 11.bxa3 ♗g4 Opting for the most natural handling.

12.♖e1 ♔g7 13.♖b1 ♖b8 14.d4



Facing enemy pawns all around, the bishop pair can hardly exert its full power, so the Indian prodigy tries to open the position more.

14...♘h5! Wisely improving the knight and hitting the bishop at the same time.

15.♖e3 This move already shows that White's position is completely devoid of ideas.

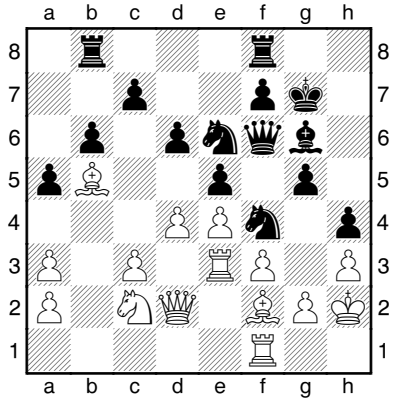
15...♘f4! A perfect placement for the cavalier, while the bishop is still useless on g3.

16.h3 ♗h5 17.♕d2 ♕f6 Consequently improving his pieces step by step.

18.♔h2 b6 19.♗b5 ♘d8 20.♘e1 Since there is less pressure on d4, the knight can be finally regrouped.

20...♘de6 21.♘c2 ♗g6 Vacating the field for the pawns.

22.f3 h5 23.♖f1 h4 24.♗f2



24...♘h5?! The moment where Black's play falters a bit. I assume, he even was not entirely certain how to continue. The idea of the move may be to make the f4 square accessible for the other knight. However, his well-coordinated pieces required some pawn dynamics to make the enemy wall start to crumble.

24...c5 was a good attempt to provoke a closed position, after which launching ...f7–f5 ahead would be possible. 25.d5 ♘c7 26.♗c6 ♕e7 27.c4 f5 28.exf5 ♗xf5 29.♖b3 ♘e8 30.♘e3 ♗g6 31.♘g4 ♘f6 with an edge on kingside. It is still questionable though, whether there will be a substantial breakthrough as the game progresses.

25.♔g1 ♔h7 26.♖d1 ♖bd8 27.♖ee1 ♘hf4 Eventually he returned with the same knight.

28.♘e3 White has efficiently redeployed his pieces, so his position will be tougher to crack.

28...♕g7 29.♕b2 f6 30.♖d2 ♕e7 31.♖ed1 ♔h8 32.♕b3 ♕h7 33.♗c4 ♖de8 34.♕b5 ♖e7 35.♗f1 ♗e8 36.♕b2 ♗g6 37.♖e1 ♖ee8 38.♕c1 ♖e7 39.♕d1 ♖ee8 40.♕a1 ♖e7 As no significant improvement has been seen recently, an outcome of a stationary war is expectable.

41.♕c1 ♖ee8 42.♕b2 ♖e7 43.♖dd1 ♖ee8 44.♖d2 ♖e7 45.♖dd1 True to his reputation, a completely professional, reliable game by Leko. It was great to see the long queues in front of the venue waiting for his autograph. **½–½**

GAME 21

QUEEN'S GAMBIT D15

Dardha (BEL) – Santos Flores (ECU)

1.c4 c6 2.♘f3 d5 3.e3 ♘f6 4.d4 a6 The Chebanenko variation is one of the most solid setups in the Slav defence.

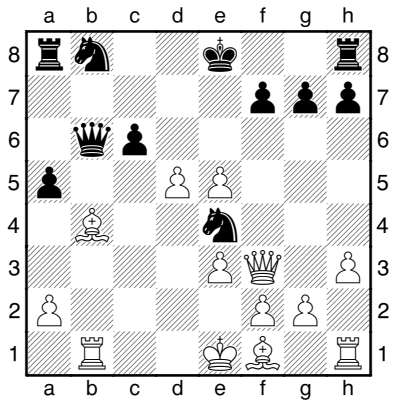
5.♘c3 b5 6.b3 ♗g4 7.h3 ♗xf3 8.♕xf3 e5 An admirably daring choice from the much lower rated South-American.

8...e6 is a less adventurous alternative. 9.♗d2 ♗b4 10.♗d3 ♕a5 11.♖c1 ♗xc3 12.♖xc3 ♕xa2 13.♕d1 0–0 14.0–0 ♕a3 15.cxd5 exd5 16.b4! ♕xb4 17.♖c5 ♕a3 18.♕c2⩱ Malakhov–Movsesian, Sochi 2012

9.dxe5 ♗b4 10.♗d2 ♗xc3 11.♗xc3 ♘e4 12.♗b4 bxc4 13.bxc4!? Most likely the least known attempt.

13.♕g4 c5 14.f3 ♘c6 could result a double-edged game. 15.fxe4 ♘xb4 16.♕xg7 ♖f8 17.exd5 ♕h4+ 18.♔e2 ♘xd5⩲; 13.e6 fxe6 14.bxc4 ♘d7 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.♗d3 ♖b8 17.♗xe4 ♖xb4 18.♕h5+ ♔e7=

13...♕b6 14.♖b1 a5 15.cxd5



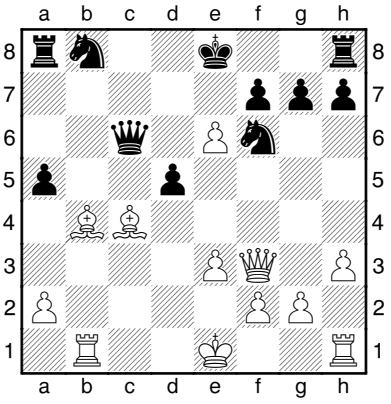
15...cxd5N A good improvement by a simple recapture. The Ecuadorian IM introduces high-class preparation so far.

15...♘c3? was a reckless attempt. 16.e6 ♖a7 Bujisho–Friess, Belfort 2010 17.♕g4! ♘xb1 18.exf7+ ♖xf7 19.♕c8+ ♕d8 20.♕e6+ ♖e7 21.♗xe7 ♕xe7 22.♕c8+ ♕d8 23.♕b7 ♘a3 24.dxc6 ♘c2+ 25.♔e2+–

16.♗c4 ♕c6 16...♕b7! was the right place to keep on f7 too. 17.e6 ♘f6 18.exf7+ ♔xf7 19.0–0 White has no choice but to sacrifice the bishop, yet under circumstances that are incomparably worse than in the game. 19...axb4 20.♖xb4 ♕xb4 21.♗xd5+ ♔e7 22.♗xa8 ♘bd7 with a game for without burdens for Black.

17.e6! ♘f6? The sole but decisive error.

One has to admit, the complications after 17...fxe6 18.♕h5+ ♔d7 19.♗a3 are anything but easy to grasp. (19.♕f7+ ♔c8 20.♕xg7 ♖d8 21.♗d3 axb4 22.♗xe4 dxe4 23.0–0 ♖xa2 24.♖xb4⩲) 19...dxc4 20.f3 ♘f6 21.♕f7+ ♔c8 22.♕xg7 ♘bd7 23.♕xh8+ ♔c7 24.♕g7 ♖g8 The only ray of hope is the rook's infiltration; otherwise, the substantial material advantage can be easily converted. 25.♕h6 ♖xg2 26.e4□ c3□ 27.♕e3 ♘h5! The last key move. 28.♖c1 ♘g3⩱



18.♗a3!! The accurate direction to prepare ♖c1. 18.♗c3 ♕xc4 19.♗xf6 gxf6 20.♕xf6 does not give more than a draw after 20...0–0 21.♖b7 ♕c1+ 22.♔e2 ♕c2+=

18...♕xc4 18...dxc4 loses the queen right away. 19.♖xb8+

19.♖c1 ♕a6 20.exf7+ ♔xf7 21.♖c7+ ♔g8 22.♕f5! The Belgian grandmaster relentlessly seizes his opportunity and collects the full point with flawless technique. White is threatening to give a check from c8 and he is getting ready for ...♘bd7 as well.

22...g6 22...♘bd7 23.♖xd7 ♘xd7 24.♕xd5+

23.♕e5 ♘bd7 24.♖xd7! The final flash that ends the contest.

24...♘xd7 25.♕xd5+ ♔g7 26.♕xd7+ ♔h6 27.g4 Despite the great hide-and-seek, Black's king will soon find itself in a mating net on the edge of the board.

27.♗b2 ♖hg8 28.g4 was also strong.

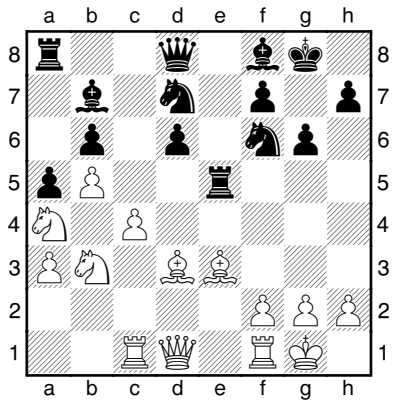
27...♕c4 27...♕f6 could not really help either. 28.♗e7! ♕a1+ 29.♔e2 ♕xa2+ 30.♔f1 ♕c4+ 31.♔g2 ♕e4+ 32.f3 ♕c2+ 33.♔g3+–

28.f4 ♕c3+ 29.♔f2 ♕c2+ 29...♕xa3 30.g5+ ♔h5 31.♕g4#

30.♔g3 g5 31.fxg5+ ♔g6 32.♖c1 1–0

Selection of exciting moments

Moroni (ITA) – McShane (ENG)



17...♖xe3!! A very deep exchange sacrifice. It instantly cracks the enemy kingside and eliminates one of the most useful pieces.

18.fxe3 ♗h6 19.♔h1 ♘e5! Wisely strengthening his play instead of grabbing the pawn.

20.♗e2 ♘e4 Marvellous stallions occupied the centre, while the white rooks are just stuttering.

21.♗f3 ♗xe3 22.♗xe4 ♗xe4 23.♕e2 So far the game management had been excellent by the English elite grandmaster. The following powerful continuation could have put the finishing touch on it:

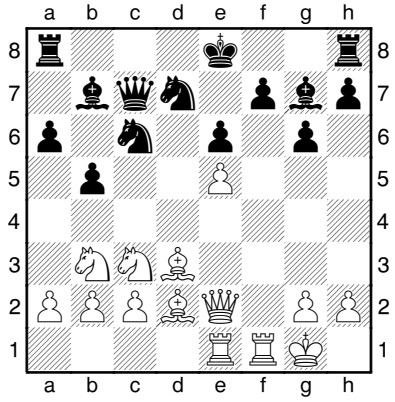
23...♕g5! In contrast to his previously generous play, Black suddenly became seduced by material possessions and continued with 23...♗xc1? , which immediately let his large advantage slip away. 24.♕xe4≌

24.♖c3 ♘g4 25.h3 f5! Perhaps this corraboration was missed.

26.♘d2 26.hxg4 ♕h4#

26...♗xd2 27.hxg4 ♖e8!–+

Tissir (MAR) – Bachmann (PAR)



15.♘d5!! A fabolous sacrifice that is not rare in Sicilians. However, the situation is far more complex, since the target — the black king — can slip away by castling before being hunted down.

15...exd5 16.e6 0–0 17.exf7+! 17.exd7? ♕xd7 18.♘c5 ♕c7∓ is just a pawn down for nothing.

17...♔h8 18.♗xg6! ♕b6+ Smartly inserting a check.

18...♘ce5 is no remedy for the wounds. 19.♗xh7 ♖xf7 20.♗f5 ♘f8 21.♕h5+ ♔g8 22.♗f4 ♕b6+ 23.♗e3 ♕c7 24.♗d4→; 18...hxg6? would have run into a mating net. 19.♕e6 ♘f6 20.♖xf6 ♗c8 (20...♗xf6 21.♕h3+ ♗h4 22.♕xh4+ ♔g7 23.♕h6+

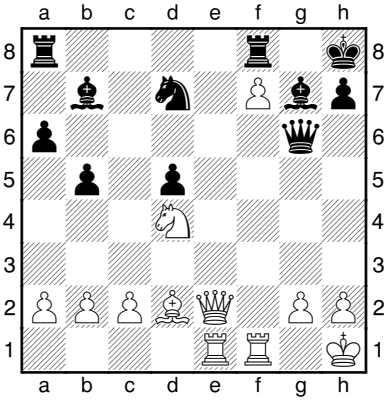
♔xf7 24.♕h7+ ♔f6 25.♕xc7) 21.♕xc6 White can regain the material with profit. 21...♕xc6 22.♖xc6 ♖xf7 23.♖e8+ ♖f8 24.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 25.♖xg6+–

19.♔h1 19.♗e3 would be met by 19...♘d4!

19...♘d4? A wrong direction, which lobs up a big opportunity for his opponent.

19...♘ce5 was the proper reply. 20.♗xh7! ♔xh7 21.♕h5+ ♗h6 22.♖xe5 ♘xe5 23.♕xe5 ♕g6 24.♕e7 ♗c6∞ 25.♗xh6 d4□ (25...♕xh6?? 26.♘d4 ♖ac8 27.♘e6+–) 26.♗g5 ♗d5 27.♘xd4 ♖xf7 28.♖xf7+ ♕xf7 29.♕xf7+ ♗xf7 In spite of the three enemy pawns for the exchange, Black should hold it.

20.♘xd4 ♕xg6 On the verge of victory, White's hand trembled, and the game took a complete turn. It is really a pity, since he has shown outstanding attacking skills so far.



21.♕e7! This powerful counterblow must have been underestimated by both players.

21...♗xd4 22.♕xd7 ♗c6 23.♕e7 ♗g7 23...♖ac8 24.♖e6 ♕xc2 25.♗c3 (25.♗h6 wins as well.) 25...♗xc3 26.♖xc6+–

24.♖e6 ♕xc2 25.♗h6 The material advan-

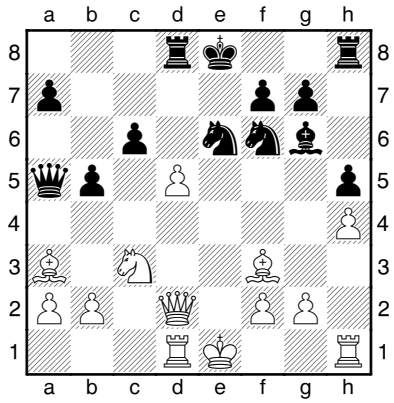


The trademark cap of the Turkmen ladies

tage will not last long in view of the shaky bishop on c6 and the highly fragile king's position.

25...♕xb2 26.♖xc6 ♗xh6 27.♖xh6+–

Osmak (UKR) – Injac (SRB)



20.dxe6! A strong queen sacrifice based on the exposed enemy king. Anyway, White is getting enough material for it.

20...♖xd2 21.♗xc6+ ♔d8 22.♖xd2+ ♔c7 23.♗xb5 fxe6 24.0–0? Being already on course for a world record of the latest castling, she could really have postponed it by a move or two more.

24.♖d6! is much more determined, threatening to trap the queen from a6. 24...♔b7 (24...♕xa3 25.♖c6+) 25.♗c6+ ♔b8 26.0–0 ♖d8 27.♖xe6+– and the black monarch is still insecure even on b8, as there are ♗d6+ or ♖e7–b7 in the air.

24...♖d8 25.♖xd8 ♔xd8 26.♖d1+ ♔c8 27.♗c4 ♗f5 28.♗d6? Proceeding strangely, since the bishop obstructs the powerful rook from here.

28.♗e7 was more supportive. 28...♔b7 29.♖d6±

28...♘g4? Seeking for counterplay by a wrong execution.

28...♔b7 is wiser to find a bit safer area. 29.♗f4 ♕b4 30.♘b5 a6 31.♘d6+ ♔a8 32.b3 ♗c2! 33.♖d2 e5 tiny blow could have brought the hopes back. 34.♗g5 ♕c3∞

29.b4 ♕a3 30.♘b5 ♕a4 31.♖c1 ♔d7 32.♗c5 a6 33.♘d6 ♗c2 34.♖e1 34.b5 could have been advanced.

34...e5 35.f3 ♘f6 36.♖xe5 The Ukranian IM solves the rest quite simply.

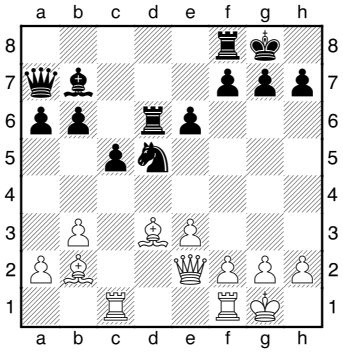
36...♕a3 37.♖e7+ ♔c6 38.♗xa6 ♕c1+ 39.♔h2 ♕f4+ 40.g3 ♕d2+ 41.♔h3 ♗f5+ 42.♘xf5 ♕c1 43.b5+ 1–0



Long-term engagement

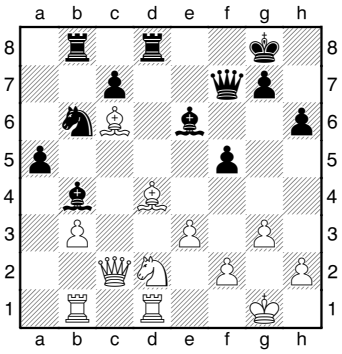
Puzzles from Round 6

(77) Twin warheads



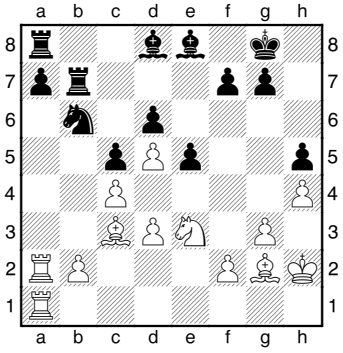
White to move

(78) Inflammatory material



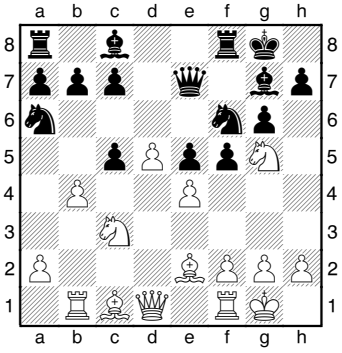
Black to move

(79) Causing an open wound



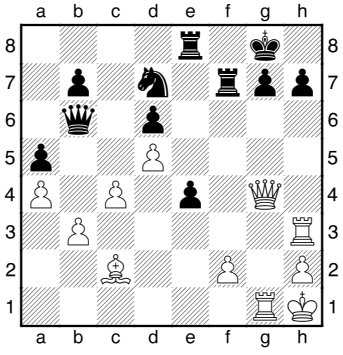
White to move

(80) Ticklish checks



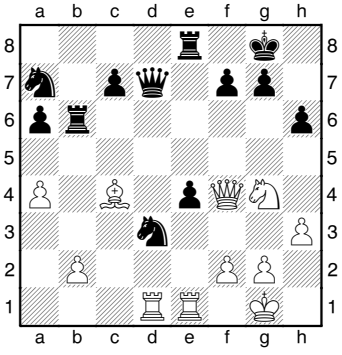
White to move

(81) Step over the shadow of fear



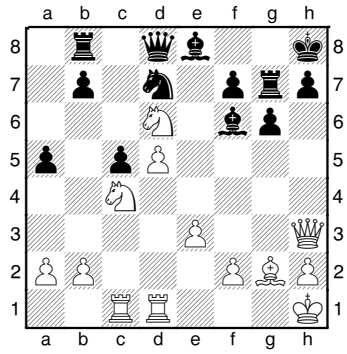
White to move

(82) Ignite the rockers



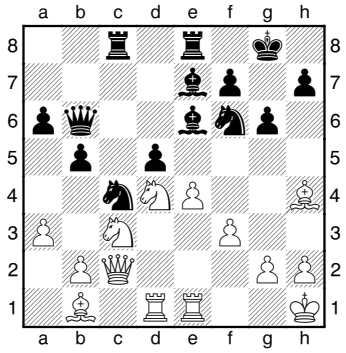
White to move

(83) Overloaded system



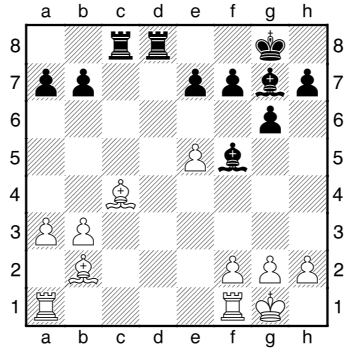
White to move

(84) Take it easy!



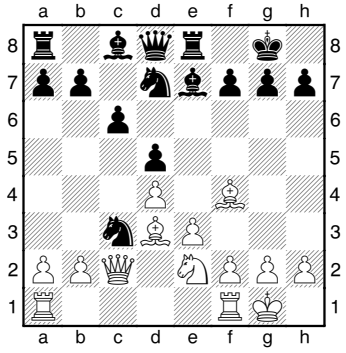
Black to move

(85) Shifting to the other side



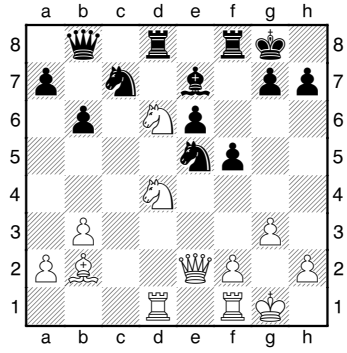
Black to move

(86) Intermezzos in between



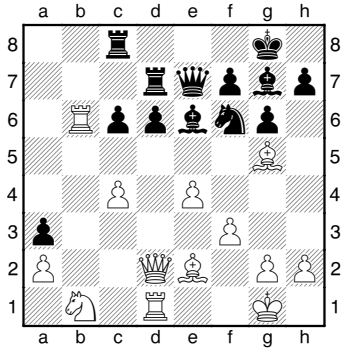
White to move

(87) Who laughs at the end?



White to move

(88) Pretending to blunder



Black to move

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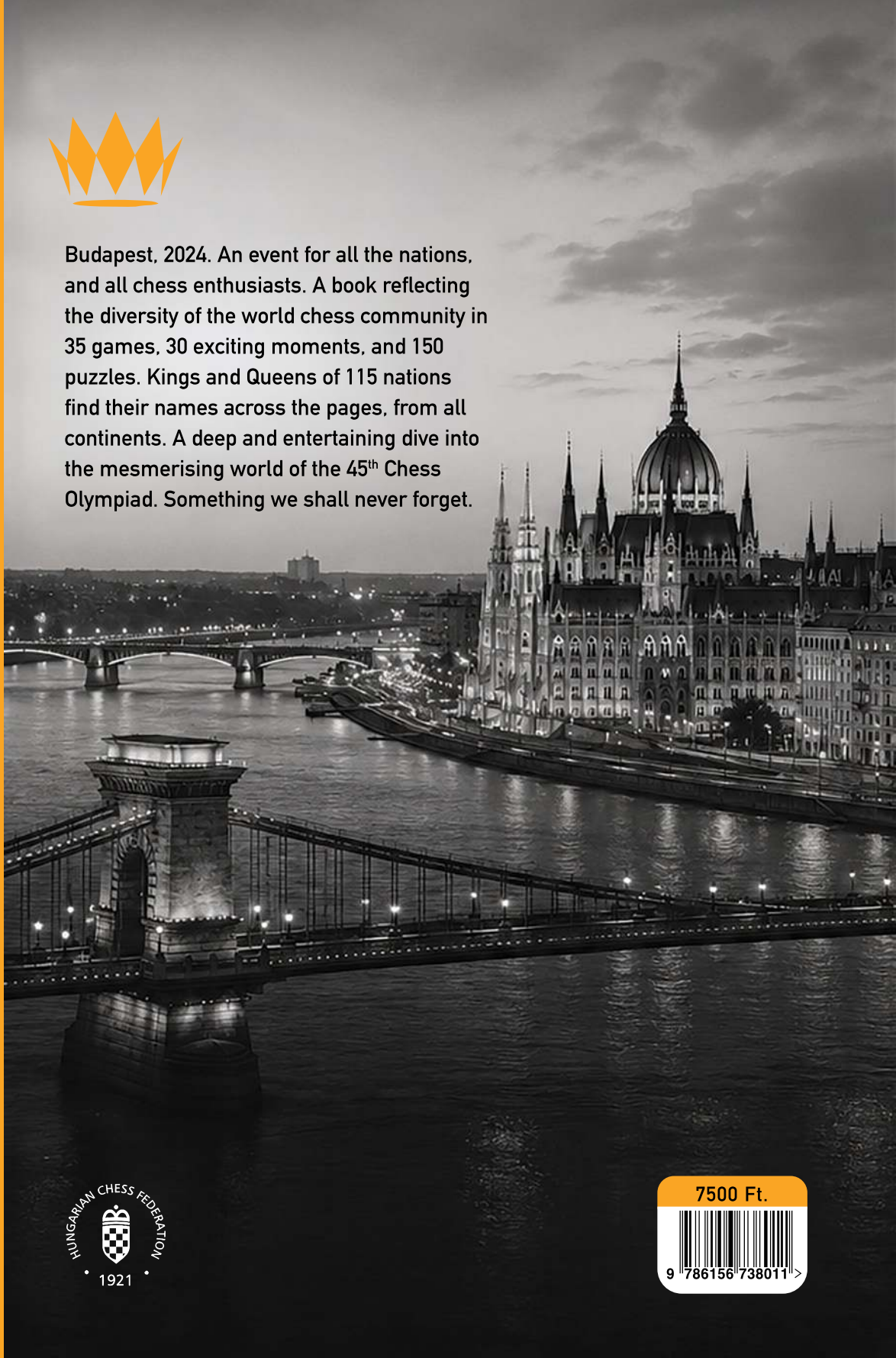
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