

Csaba Balogh

Greatest 440 puzzles

**The best online tactics
of 2020**



Chess
Evolution

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First edition 2021 by Chess Evolution

Greatest 440 puzzles. The best online tactics of 2020
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ISBN: 978-615-5793-29-5

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Printed in Hungary

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KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞̄	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate

PREFACE

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to my good friend GM Adam Horvath, who each and every time helps me to collect, and select, the greatest puzzles of the most recent period.

As a professional chess player, I know exactly how important it is to perform well in tactical calculations. We face them so often that despite playing a great game, we can simply blunder something and throw away the point, causing ourselves sleepless nights!

For most players and chess fans, the biggest pleasure in a chess game is to beat an opponent with a beautiful combination — one which we can be proud of. However to be able to use all the given opportunities and not miss any of these chances, we must stay in sharp form all the time, which we can reach only by regularly solving puzzles.

Many puzzle books are based on artificial positions, or selected only for their beauty. The concept of my book is different. The highest priority is to “use the practical side of the puzzles” and take the level of calculation to a completely new dimension.

All the puzzles have been selected from recent games, trying to put the reader “in the shoes” of the player.

The difficulty of the different sections might also give you the right evaluation of your current tactical skills and advance them even further.

I tried to mix three things in my book:

1. Provide a lot of fun in solving the puzzles;
2. Offer you a lot of different tactical ideas, and of course;
3. Make them of direct practical use for your future games.

This last point is a very important factor to keep in mind — all the practical motifs from the book can definitely be used in your future games!

Enjoy!
Csaba Balogh

INTRODUCTION

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR OUR DEAR READERS

This book is the continuation of the successful puzzle-book series, which started with the “Greatest 365 Puzzles” and “Greatest 501 Puzzles” from the practical games of 2012. This was followed by “Tactics, Tactics, Tactics!” Volume 3 and Volume 4, which covered the best practical puzzles of 2013–2015.

The next one of the series was the “Greatest 551 Puzzles” with the combinations of 2016, followed by the “Greatest 550 puzzles” from 2017 and the “Greatest 525 puzzles” from 2018. Due to the great feedback from our readers, we decided to publish the puzzle-book on a half-yearly basis. The “Greatest 460 Puzzles” covered the first part of 2019 while the “Greatest 468 Puzzles” concluded the second part.

Due to the current global situation, chess tournaments occurred in limited numbers throughout 2020. The chess world turned to online chess and there was huge activity with numerous online events, with many different time controls, though mainly blitz and rapid. Our favorite chess players also competed in many tournaments, so we did not have to miss them completely during this difficult period.

This new book is our “Jubilee” as it is the 10th in the series. It contains 440 puzzles and they are divided into 3 chapters. You will find a huge range of tactical ideas that you can use in your own games! All the puzzles have been collected from online games throughout the year 2020. In each section, the puzzles are sorted according to the date of the game.

The book consists of three chapters:

- 1. Easy (233 Puzzles)**
- 2. Medium (146 Puzzles)**
- 3. Hard (61 Puzzles)**

All in all, 440 puzzles created by the greatest masters of our time, maestros such as Carlsen, Caruana, Ding Liren, Vachier-Lagrave, and many more.

I advise you to try to solve all the combinations in each chapter one-by-one, because a less difficult solution from the “Easy” section might be even more brilliant from the beauty point of view than a “nutcracker” from the “Medium” or “Hard” section.

Even if a puzzle can be easily solved, it sharpens your tactical skills and makes it so much easier to find solutions in a practical game, even under difficult circumstances.

To be tactically sharp is one of the basic requirements for a successful chess player!

– EASY –

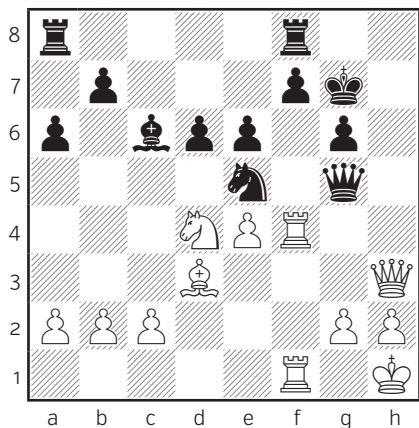


1

- ▷ **E. Bacrot**
 ▶ **E. Tejedor Fuentes**

Online chess24.com blitz, 03.01.2020

1.+-

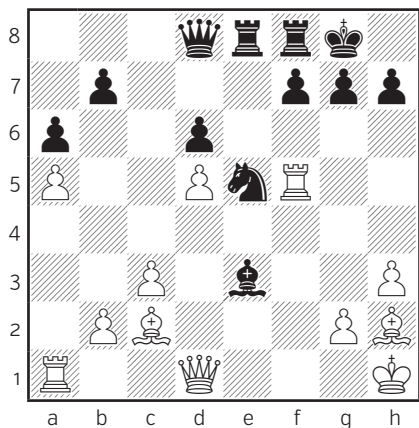


3

- ▷ **H. Nakamura**
 ▶ **I. Nepomniachtchi**

Online chess.com blitz, 05.01.2020

1.+-

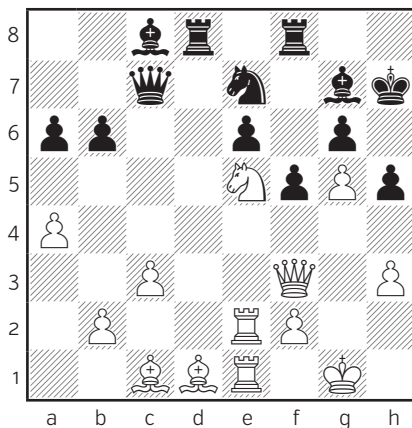


2

- ▷ **E. Bacrot**
 ▶ **E. Tejedor Fuentes**

Online chess24.com blitz, 03.01.2020

1.+-

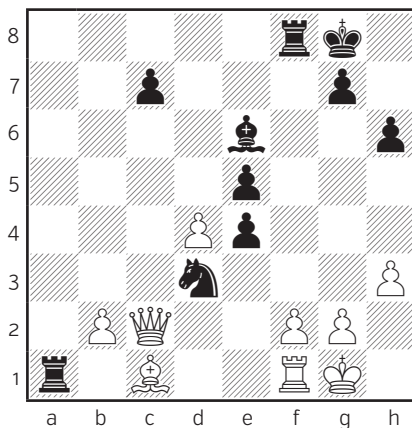


4

- ▷ **I. Nepomniachtchi**
 ▶ **H. Nakamura**

Online chess.com blitz, 05.01.2020

1...-+

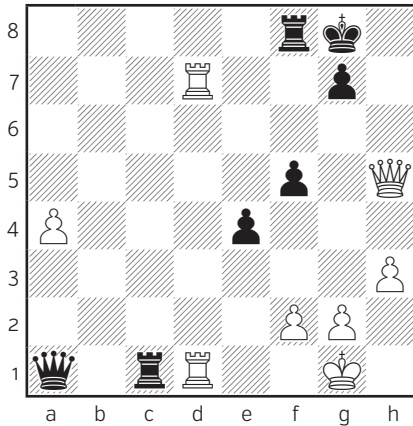


5

▷ **I. Nepomniachtchi**
 ▶ **H. Nakamura**

Online chess.com blitz, 05.01.2020

1.+-

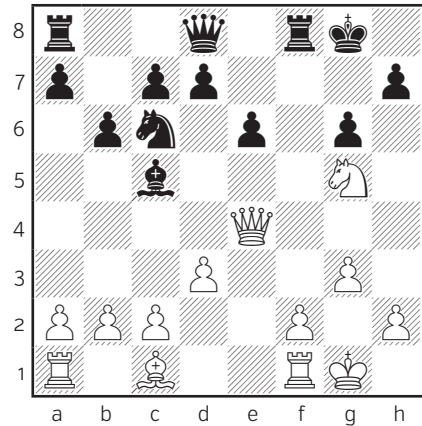


6

▷ **M. Chigaev**
 ▶ **A. Lenderman**

Online chess24.com blitz, 08.01.2020

1.+-

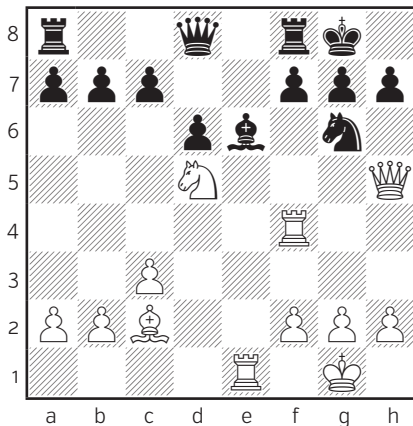


7

▷ **D. Naroditsky**
 ▶ **L. Bruzon Batista**

Online chess.com rapid, 13.01.2020

1.+-

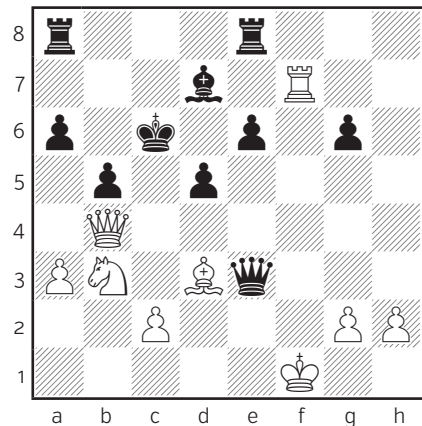


8

▷ **M. Berchtenbreiter**
 ▶ **N. Noritsyn**

Online chess.com rapid, 27.01.2020

1.+-

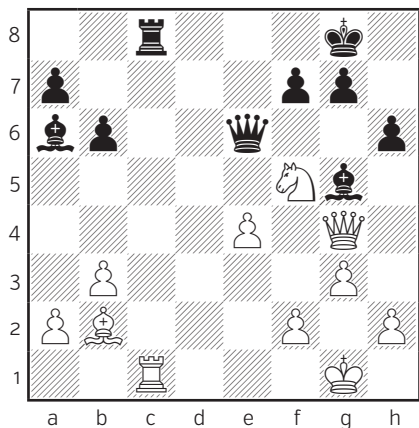


9

- ▷ **A. Gupta**
- ▷ **A. Ipatov**

Online chess.com rapid, 29.01.2020

1.+-

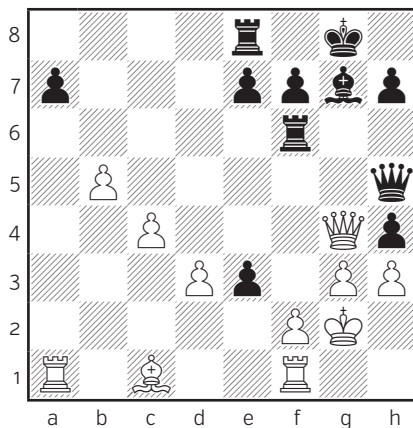


10

- ▷ **F. Rambaldi**
- ▷ **A. Gupta**

Online chess.com rapid, 29.01.2020

1...-+

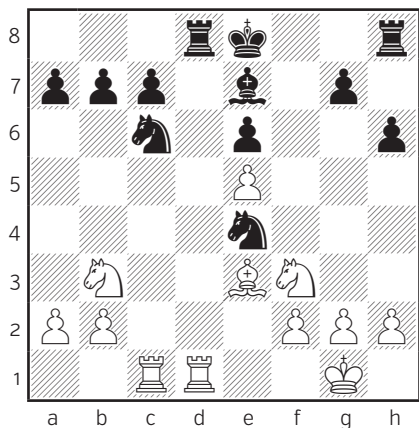


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- ▷ **P. Harikrishna**
- ▷ **Xiangyu Xu**

Online chess.com rapid, 05.02.2020

1.+-

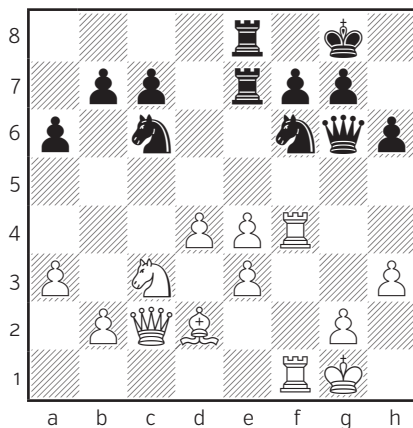


12

- ▷ **Wei Yi**
- ▷ **S. Ganguly**

Online chess.com rapid, 05.02.2020

1.+-

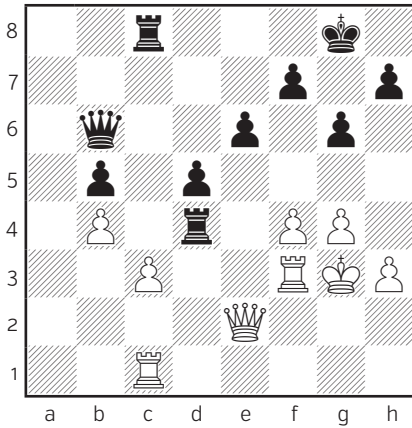


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▷ **J. Cori**
▶ **S. Sjugirov**

Online chess24.com blitz, 17.02.2020

1.+-

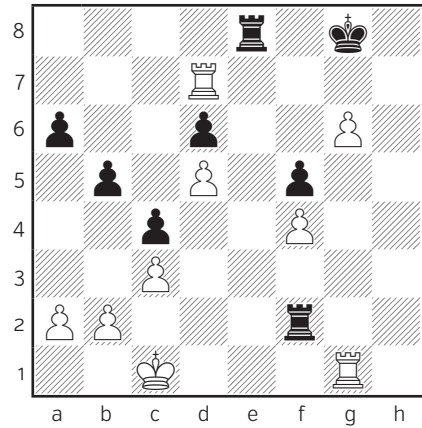


14

▷ **H. Nakamura**
▶ **W. So**

Online chess.com blitz, 21.02.2020

1.+-

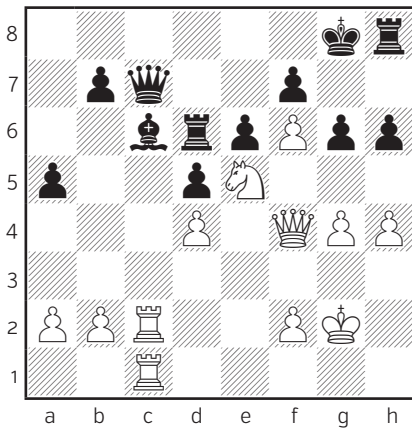


15

▷ **G. Meier**
▶ **I. Kovalenko**

Online chess24.com blitz, 01.03.2020

1.+-

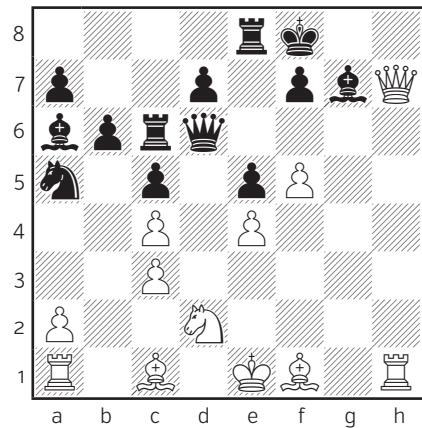


16

▷ **I. Cheparinov**
▶ **M. Carlsen**

Online chess24.com blitz, 11.03.2020

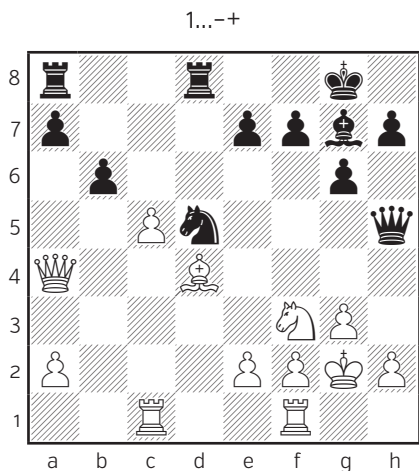
1...-+



17

- ▷ **A. Donchenko**
 ▶ **S. L. Narayanan**

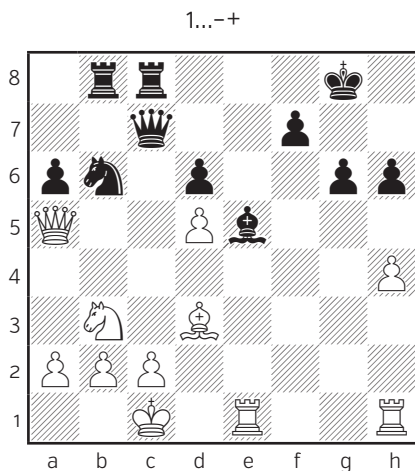
Online chess24.com blitz, 12.03.2020



18

- ▷ **J. Tayar**
 ▶ **Y. Zherebukh**

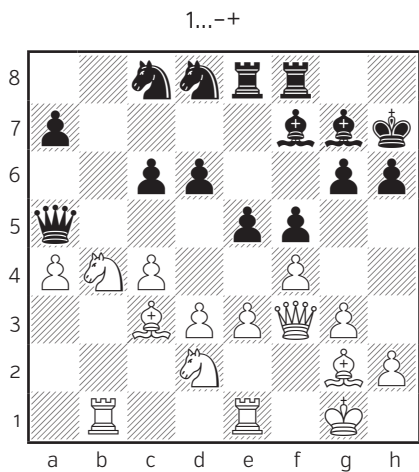
Online chess.com blitz, 21.03.2020



19

- ▷ **N. Abdusattorov**
 ▶ **M. Chigaev**

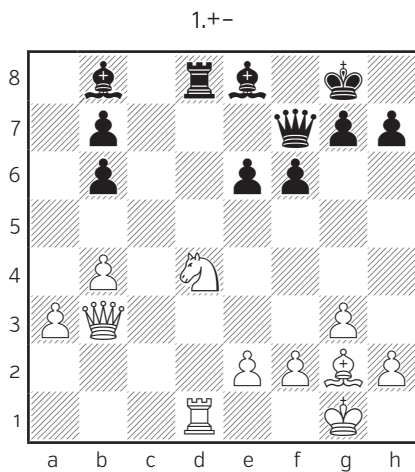
Online chess24.com blitz, 28.03.2020



20

- ▷ **E. Iturrizaga**
 ▶ **N. Abdusattorov**

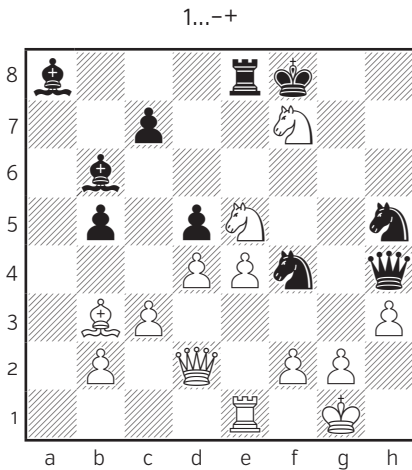
Online chess24.com blitz, 01.04.2020



21

▷ **S. Sjugirov**
▶ **M. Carlsen**

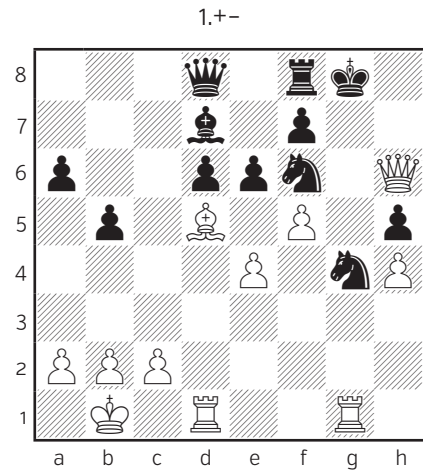
Online chess24.com blitz, 07.04.2020



22

▷ **D. Paravyan**
▶ **D. Dvirnyy**

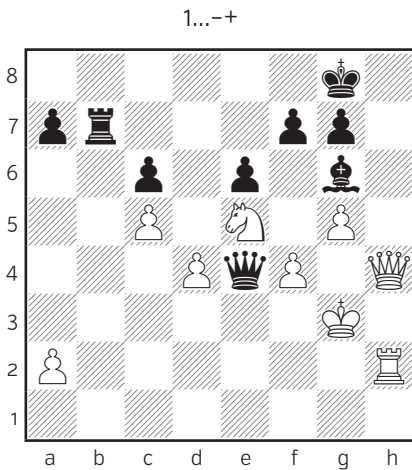
Online lichess.org blitz, 12.04.2020



23

▷ **S. Vidit**
▶ **P. Svidler**

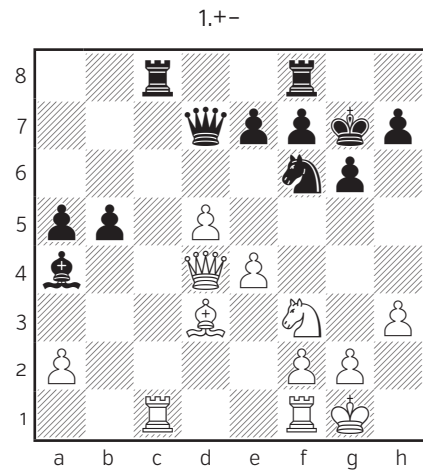
Online Pepe Cuenca Invitational blitz,
13.04.2020



24

▷ **S. Vidit**
▶ **P. Svidler**

Online Pepe Cuenca Invitational blitz,
13.04.2020

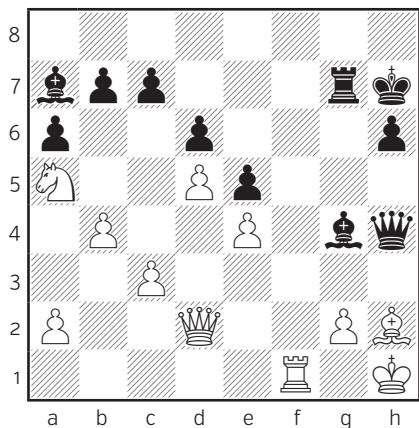


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- ▷ **D. Anton Guijarro**
 ▶ **P. Svidler**

Online Pepe Cuenca Invitational blitz,
 14.04.2020

1...-+

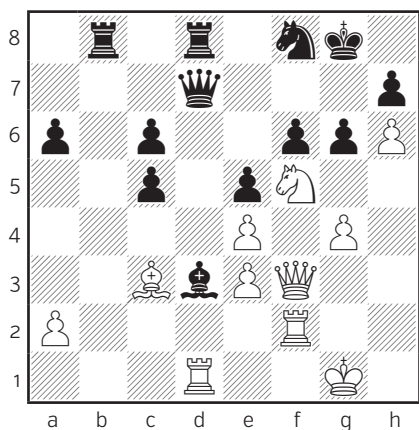


27

- ▷ **V. Baklan**
 ▶ **S. L. Narayanan**

Online Abu Dhabi chess.com blitz,
 15.04.2020

1...-+

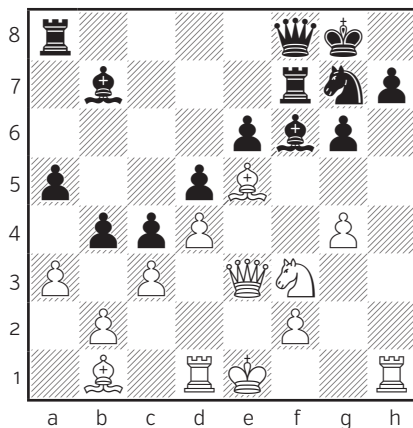


26

- ▷ **G. Gajewski**
 ▶ **N. Abdusattorov**

Online Abu Dhabi chess.com blitz,
 15.04.2020

1...-+



28

- ▷ **Z. Andriasian**
 ▶ **M. Bartel**

Online Abu Dhabi chess.com blitz,
 15.04.2020

1...-+

