

Poland Reflections (4) by Dr Lyndon Bouah

1. Introduction

The event is different from other international events that I have competed in. Firstly, before you go to the hall, you must leave your watch and pen in the room. So, I can't go with my lucky pen to the venue. There is no dress code at the event. This was a discussion at the technical meeting. In our team, they called Allister over to a separate room after round one because he was wearing a hoodie! They checked for any devices so I guess he will have to leave the hoodie at home next time! I did spot a guy (not sure which country) who came with socks and flops to the venue. No issues but then I spotted he had a potato (aartappel) his front toe was showing. Now my late mother would never allow you out the house if you had a potato in your sock! And here is this guy wearing it proudly! Perhaps they must come back with dress code rules!

There is a team solely composed of five brothers playing here from the USA. They play each year.

At each round, we give little animals as gifts to our opponents. So, our opponents will have these wire animals in their homes around Europe! (supported the local guys in Rondebosch for mine!)

I spoke to GM Shabalov from the USA. We chatted briefly in the lift. I also saw GM Yermolinsky. They have won this event a number of times.

I also spoke to Paul Littlewood who wrote a great tactics book in the 80's. I told him I am still using the book!

Thanks everyone for the feedback on the games and watching it live. It really does help!

2. Poland

Poland has a long history, and I will touch on that during the two weeks. The emergence of a Polish state started many centuries ago. Slave tribes began moving eastwards towards the Poland during the 6th century. The Vistulians settled round Krakow, while the Polonians settled around in today's Wielkopolska. The ruling Piast family moulded the Polonians into a strong political unit, which became the nucleus of the Polish state. Piast ruler Mieszko (960-992) conquered the Vistulians, and his son Boleslaw the Brave (992-1025) was crowned King of Poland by Holy Roman Emperor Otto 111, securing international legitimacy.

3. Famous Polish people

Marie Curie was born on 7 November 1867 in Warsaw and died in July 1934. Her full names were Maria Salomea Sklodowska- Curie. She was born Polish and became a naturalised French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She is remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium, and her huge contribution to finding treatments for cancer.



Marie Curie

4. Polish Chessplayers

Poland also has a strong tradition of producing great woman players. According to Wikipedia the following players are Polish chess masters:

1981 – Hanna Erenska – Woman Grandmaster

1984- Krystyna Holu- Radzikowska – Woman Grandmaster

1986 – Agnieszka Brustman- Woman Grandmaster

1994 – Krystyna Dabrowska – Woman Grandmaster

1995 – Monika Socko (Bobowska) – Woman Grandmaster (1995) and Grandmaster (2008)

1997 – Joanna Dworakowska – Woman grandmaster, International master (2001)

1998 – Iweta Rajlich Woman Grandmaster, International Master (2001)

1999- Marta Michna – Woman Grandmaster -

2005- Jolanta Zawadzka – Woman Grandmaster
 2006- Beata Zawadzka – Woman Grandmaster
 2007- Barbara Jaracz – Woman Grandmaster
 2008- Monika Krupa- Woman Grandmaster
 2009- Marta Bartel – Woman Grandmaster
 2009- Joanna Majdan- Woman Grandmaster
 2010 -Karina Cylka – Woman Grandmaster, International master (2016)
 2012- Katarzyna Toma – Woman Grandmaster
 2013- Joanna Worek – Woman Grandmaster
 2014- Klaudia Kulon – Woman Grandmaster
 2020- Anna Warakomska – Woman Grandmaster
 2021- Julia Antolak- Woman Grandmaster
 2023- Maria Malicka – Woman Grandmaster
 2024- Michalina Rudzinska- Woman Grandmaster

5. South African Open

The first formal South African Open took place in 1962 in the Wilderness Hotel near George. Have a look at the illustrious list of winners! If you study the list closely you will see that in 1964 GM Lothar Schmid won the event with 11/11! In 1976 GM Miguel Najdorf and GM Micheal Stean both scored 9.5/11. So quite a list! Enjoy the walk down history.

Keith Rust from Kwazulu Natal has compiled a database of SA Open results which he has kindly allowed me to use in one of my books .

YEAR	No	VENUE	WINNERS	Score	Games	Perc	BEST SA PLAYER	SOURCE	COMMENTS
1962	1	Wilderness	IM Harry Golombek & GM Alberic O'Kelly	10	11	91%	J J Leicher	A	Tiebreaks not given, but I reckon HG had better Bucholtz.
1964	2	Wilderness	GM Lothar Schmid	11	11	100%	Melvin Hope	A	Ahead of GM Stahlberg & IM Czerniak.
1966	3	Durban	Bob	9	11	82%	Bob	A	

			Griffiths				Griffiths		
1968	4	Cape Town	Kurt Dreyer	9.5	11	86%	Kurt Dreyer	A	
1970	5	East London	Brian Donnelly	8.5	11	77%	Brian Donnelly	A	
1972	6	Port Elizabeth	Bob Griffiths	10	11	91%	Bob Griffiths	A	
1974	7	Durban	Albert Ponelis & Eddie Price	9	11	82%	Albert Ponelis	A, B	On tiebreak from Eddie Price.
1976	8	Cape Town	Miguel Najdorf & Michael Stean	9.5	11	86%	David Friedgood	A	Tiebreaks not known. Both IM Keene and Friedgood scored 9/11.

So dear reader you will know that Miguel Najdorf was the joint winner of the SA Open in 1976 because of an earlier article. But did you know that in 2014 Polish WGM Kataryza Toma came second in the 2014 SA Open. This is our second Polish connection.

2013	35	Port Elizabeth	GM A.Gupta, GM S.Fedorchuk, GM S. Tiviakov	9	11	82%	IM Watu Kobese	F	Commonwealth champs, numerous visiting masters.
2014	36	Bloemfontein	Merab GM Gagunashvili	10	11	91%	IM Johannes Mabusela	F	
2015	37	Cape Town	GM N.Short, GM A.Strikovic & GM A.Kunte	9	11	82%	GM Kenny Solomon	F	

Final Ranking after 11 Rounds

Rk.	SNo		Name	Typ	sex	FED	RtgI	RtgN	Pts.	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4	n	w	we	w-we	K	rtg+/-
1	1		GM Gagunashvili Merab			GEO	2573	0	10	81,5	67	72,25	2369	11	10	9,99	0,01	0	0
2	2		WGM Toma Katarzyna		w	POL	2306	0	9,5	81,5	65,5	68,75	2325	8	6,5	6,08	0,42	0	0
3	3		IM Johannes Manyedi Mabusela			RSA	2226	0	9	80,5	66	63,25	2275	9	7	6,24	0,76	0	0
4	23		FM Oberholzer Francois		U20	RSA	1878	0	8	74,5	60	49,50	2080	7	4	2,53	1,47	0	0
5	6		CM Goosen Anton			RSA	2045	0	7,5	78,5	63,5	49,50	2051	8	4,5	4,62	-0,12	0	0
6	8		Kromhout Alexander			RSA	2005	0	7,5	78,5	63,5	49,00	2062	8	5	4,48	0,52	0	0
7	7		CM Mbedza Richard			MAW	2012	0	7,5	77,5	63	49,75	1997	8	5	4,89	0,11	0	0
8	4		Davies Jason S.			RSA	2119	0	7,5	77,5	62,5	51,00	2108	7	5	4,82	0,18	0	0
9	14		Mare Eben			RSA	1964	0	7,5	77	62	49,25	1994	9	5,5	4,98	0,52	0	0
10	16		Salimu Reuben			ZIM	1958	0	7,5	76	61,5	47,00	1989	7	3,5	3,32	0,18	0	0
11	13		Wilken Justin			RSA	1983	0	7,5	76	61	48,00	2047	8	4,5	4,13	0,37	0	0
12	20		Nene Themba			RSA	1914	0	7,5	71	59	46,50	2005	7	4	3,08	0,92	0	0
13	31		Acho Christian		U18	RSA	0	1839	7,5	70	57,5	42,75	1926	5	2				
14	17		Mendes Braulio			RSA	1936	0	7,5	70	57	46,50	1757	5	2	3,08	-1,08	0	0
15	22		Hoek Cornelis			RSA	1880	0	7,5	69,5	58	44,25	2008	6	3	1,99	1,01	0	0
16	12		Mmoneng Patrick L.			RSA	1986	0	7	78,5	63,5	44,75	1982	8	4	4,40	-0,40	0	0
17	10		Odendaal Frederick			RSA	1999	0	7	77	62	43,75	2095	6	3,5	3,03	0,47	0	0
18	25		Mafanya Kulasande			RSA	1865	0	7	72	58	41,50	1786	4	1	1,46	-0,46	0	0
19	45		Choko Andile David			RSA	0	1710	7	71	58	40,50	1785	5	1				
20	15		Wium Daniel			RSA	0	1959	7	69,5	57	42,00	1979	5	3,5				
21	30		Andrianandrasana Haingo Rabe			MAD	1841	0	7	66,5	55	38,75	1237	3	0	0,76	-0,76	0	0
22	11		Meiboom Cees			RSA	0	1986	7	65,5	53	39,25	1978	3	2,5				
23	36		Jacobs Kevin T			RSA	1791	0	7	65	53,5	37,25	1655	5	1,5	2,38	-0,88	0	0
24	27		WIM Solomons Anzel		w	RSA	1860	0	7	58,5	49	36,25	0	2	1,5	1,66	-0,16	0	0
25	18		Nel Andre			RSA	1932	0	6,5	72,5	58	38,75	1778	5	1,5	2,58	-1,08	0	0
26	19		Pitso Fusi Paulus			RSA	1925	0	6,5	70	56,5	37,25	1933	6	3,5	3,37	0,13	0	0
27	69		Rooplal Desmond			RSA	1532	0	6,5	69,5	58	37,25	1823	6	2	0,61	1,39	0	0
28	40		Pesa Mofoka A.			RSA	0	1734	6,5	68,5	58	35,25	1923	8	3,5				
29	28		Wasserman Johan F.			RSA	0	1855	6,5	67,5	55	37,00	1726	4	1,5				
30	52		Williams Rodney			RSA	0	1646	6,5	67	55,5	36,50	2004	4	2,5				

2014 SA Open – Top 30

WGM Toma scored 9.5/11. This is the highest score ever by a woman at the SA Open. Well done to her. She has subsequently moved to England and now represents England at international events. A few years ago she sent me a nice letter. She just lost on tiebreak last month at the England national Championship and will represent England in Budapest, Hungary.

WGM Katya Toma played for Steinitz a few years ago and I recently congratulated her on an excellent British Championship which she had in August 2019. She beat Grandmaster Keith Arkell in a lovely sacrificial game. She had the following advice to offer.

"Last few years, especially since I've moved to UK, I didn't really do any chess trainings. We all know that Caissa is ruthless, and I have faced the consequences when I went to India. First in 2017 I have lost 80 Elo points but somehow it didn't bring me to any conclusions.... And then in November last year, I have lost 114 ELO points reducing to 2164!! I haven't been that low in 15 years, shame! That made me really upset and I've realised I have hit the bottom line and either I will change something, or I should say goodbye to chess.... I love chess so I just couldn't let go.... So, it was "now or never". I did some research, I got a coach and started to work on myself. I must admit it has been tough these last few months to bring my brain from "nothing to something". I work full time as a vet and often meet my coach for a session after 10 hours of work! I am exhausted but happy as I enjoy it greatly. So, move by move, day by day the British Chess Championships has arrived. And my brain clicked. Suddenly "I woke up" and realised I still know how to play joyful chess and create memorable games and beautiful sacrifices. I also realised I need to work even harder to eliminate plenty of bad moves (Qe3? in seventh round or a5 in ninth round). What really makes me happy is

to know that improvement is still possible even though I am 34 years old amateur WGM :))) And it's always good idea to do something kind for yourself!"



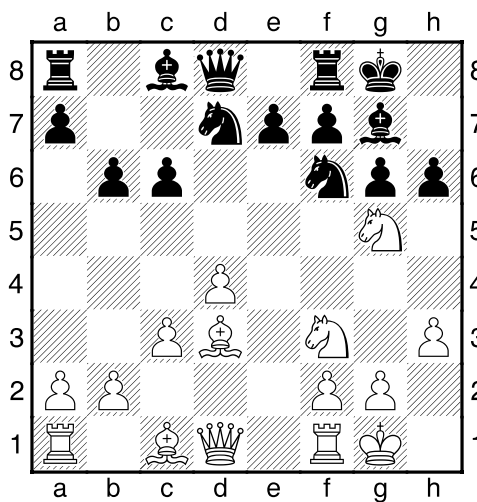
WGM Katya Toma with Steinitz Chess Club

Toma,K - Arkell,Keith [B15]

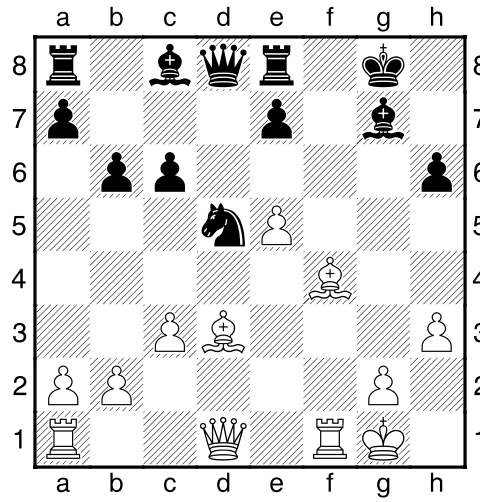
British Champs, 31.07.2019

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.h3 dxe4 6.Nxe4 Nd7 7.Bd3 Ngf6 8.c3 0-0 9.0-0 b6 10.Neg5 h6

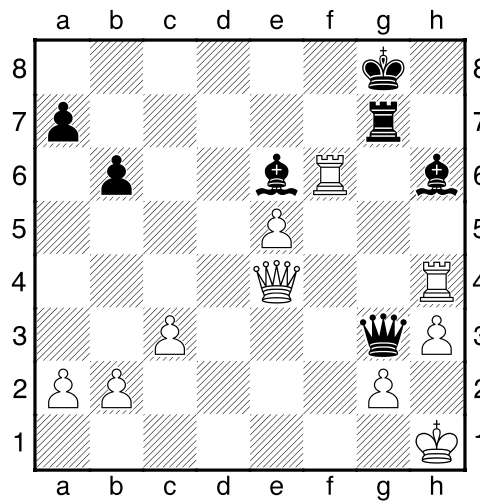
What would you play now as white? Retreat or attack?



11.Nxf7 Kxf7 12.Nh4 g5 13.Ng6 Re8 14.Ne5+ Kg8 15.f4 gxf4 16.Bxf4 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Nd5



18.Bxh6 Bxh6 19.Qh5 Nf4 20.Rxf4 Qxd3 21.Qxe8+ Kh7 22.Qxe7+ Kg8 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Rf3 Qd7 25.Qg6 Qg7 26.Qe8+ Qg8 27.Qxc6 Be6 28.Rd1 Re8 29.Rd4 Re7 30.Rh4 Qg5 31.Qa8+ Kh7 32.Qe4+ Kg8 33.Kh2 Rg7 34.Rf6 Qg3+ 35.Kh1 1-0



Well done Katya.











6. Impressions of Round three

We played England four today. And we won!!!

Allister Metcalfe won and Andre Drew!

For a change I was finished first.

Dr Bhawoodien found himself in some difficulties early on. But he used his bag of tricks and won!

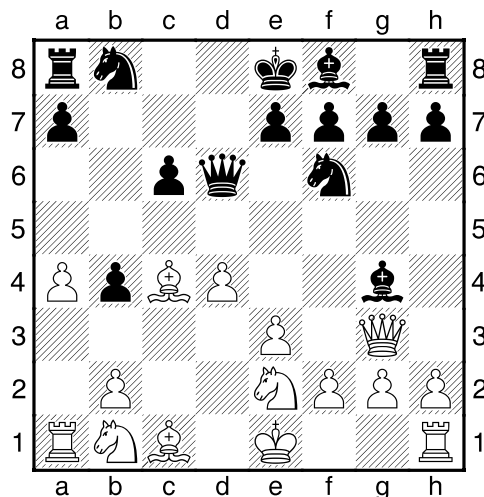
Bo.	28		South Africa	Rtg	-	31		England 4	Rtg	3½: ½
16.1	CM		Bouah, Lyndon	1996	-			Homer, Stephen J	2019	1 - 0
16.2	FM		Bhawoodien, Shabir Hussain	1990	-			Rasalingam, Haran	1944	1 - 0
16.3			Metcalfe, Allister	1889	-			Wilson, Edgar	1912	1 - 0
16.4			Schutte, Andre	1832	-	AFM		Winter, Kevin	1736	½ - ½

I played a nice game.

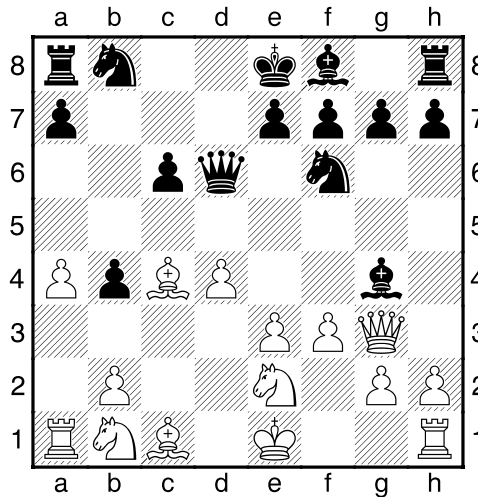
(3) Bouah, Lyndon (1996) – Homer, Stephen (1998) [D20]

England (4) (3), 04.07.2024

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 b5 4.a4 b4 5.Qf3 c6 6.Bxc4 Nf6 7.Ne2 Bg4 8.Qg3 Qd6

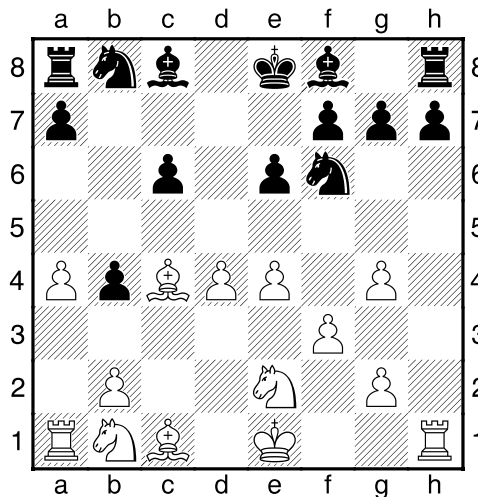


My opponent had essayed the Queens Gambit accepted. I had prepared something else so we were now on our own. My opponent now wanted to exchange queens to go for an endgame. I decided that as I had already won a tempo with Qf3 that i was going to make him work. So dear reader what should white play here?

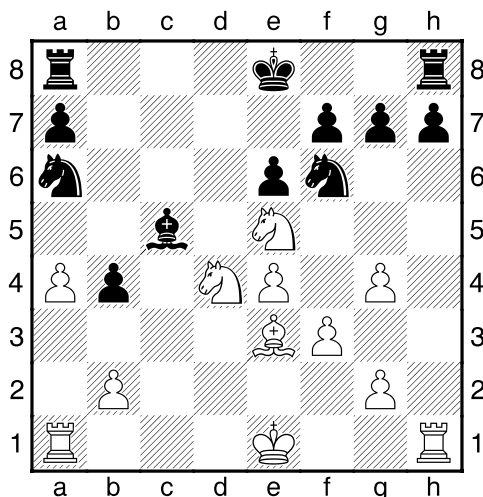


I decided to play pawn to f3 as I gain a tempo and e4 will be supported.

9.f3 Qxg3+ 10.hxg3 Bc8 11.e4 e6 12.g4 In a recent book i was going through they said if you can you should push pawn to g4 if there is no issues. My opponent now spent 40 minutes thinking. He was competing with Dr Bhawoodien for thought for 55 minutes in his game on one move! I was effectively threatening g5 to g6. Then e6 would be weak if Nfd7. He thought a long time before playing his move. I was happy because the threat is worse than the execution!



Ba6 13.Nd2 Bxc4 14.Nxc4 Na6 15.Ne5 c5 16.Be3 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Bc5

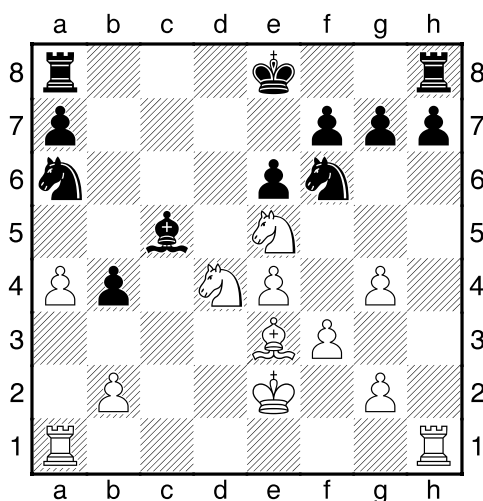


We have reached in the position above a critical position. A critical position can arise in the middle-game as that moment may transform the game into something else. You, dear reader, must have the ability to identify when your game has reached the critical moment and then act accordingly.

Grandmaster Dorfman in *The Method in Chess* (SARL Game Mind, 2001) proposes three criteria for the existence of a critical position:

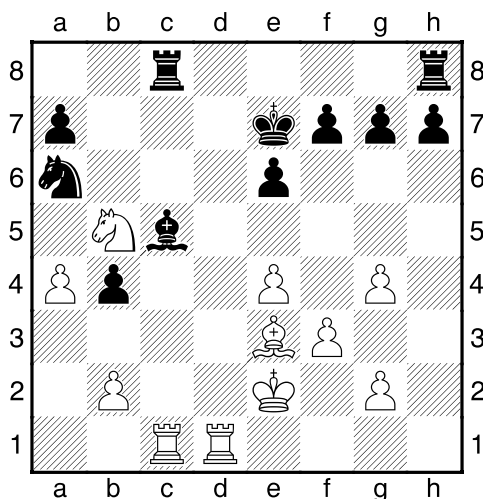
1. A position in which a decision has to be taken regarding possible exchange. If the exchange is forced, there is no change compared with the previous critical positions.
2. A position in which a decision has to be taken regarding a possible change in the pawn formation. Especially the central pawns.
3. The end of a series of forced moves. Here one should not draw a parallel between forced moves and the moves relating to combinations.

I was happy with my position. I subscribe to the Petrosian principle that all pieces must be defended at all times. I needed to assess this critical position and after a few minutes of contemplation I went for an interesting continuation. My opponent in the analysis room afterwards said he did not expect it. Can you see it?

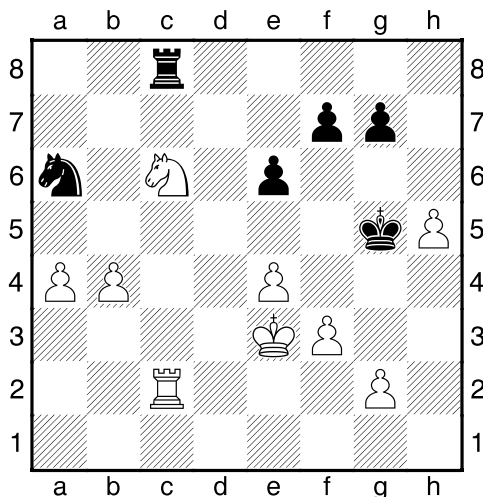


18.Ke2! The king is a fighting piece. The king comes closer to the centre. There is no light squared bishop that can attack the king. The Be3 is now defended and the rooks are united. I had adjusted position to be close to a winning endgame.

Rc8 19.Rac1 Nd7 20.Nxd7 Kxd7 21.Rhd1 Ke7 22.Nb5 **My opponent cannot defend a7. The Na6 needs to play a role but sadly has not moved yet since being on the rim.**



Bxe3 23.Kxe3 b3 24.Nxa7 Rc2 25.Nc6+ Kf6 26.Rxc2 bxc2 27.Rc1 h5 28.gxh5 Rc8 29.Rxc2 Kg5 30.b4 1-0 A nice finish. **The king is majestic on e3 and the black king needed to be careful because of Ne7 check and the king side pawns. My opponent and i retired to the analysis room where we shared ideas and analysed a bit.**

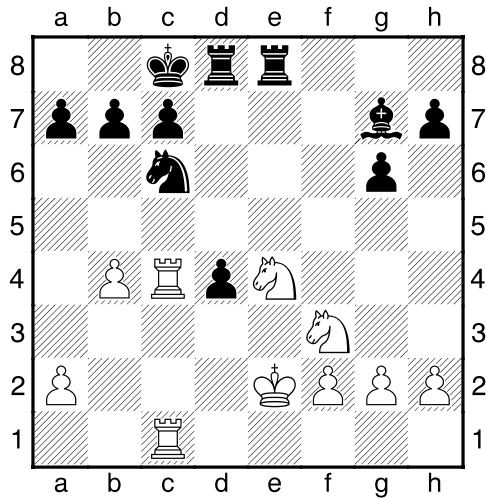


Allister Metcalfe scored a nice victory today. He played well on the light squares. Check his game!

Metcalfe,A – Wilson ,E [A13]

Vs England (3), 04.07.2024

1.c4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Bc4 Be6 7.Qb3 Nb4 8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.Nf3 Nd3+ 10.Kf1 Nc5 11.Qc4 Qd3+ 12.Qxd3 Nxd3 13.Ke2 Nxc1+ 14.Raxc1 Nc6 15.d4 0-0-0 16.Rhd1 g6 17.Ne4 Bg7 18.Rc4 Rhe8 19.b4 e5 20.Rdc1 exd4 what should white play now?



21.Kd3! **it is the day of the majesty!** Re7 22.b5 Ne5+ 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.g3 Bg7 25.a4 Rde8 26.Nd6+ Kd7 27.Nxe8 Kxe8 28.Rxc7 Be5 29.Rxe7+ Kxe7 30.f4 Bd6 31.Kxd4 Ke6 32.Ke4 h6 33.h3 g5 34.f5+ Kf6 35.g4 Bg3 36.Rc8 Bh2 37.Ra8 Bg1 38.Rb8 Bf2 39.Rxb7 Bg1 40.Rh7 a5 41.Rxh6+ 1-0

Thanks for all the comments and well wishes!

Regards

Dr CM Lyndon Bouah