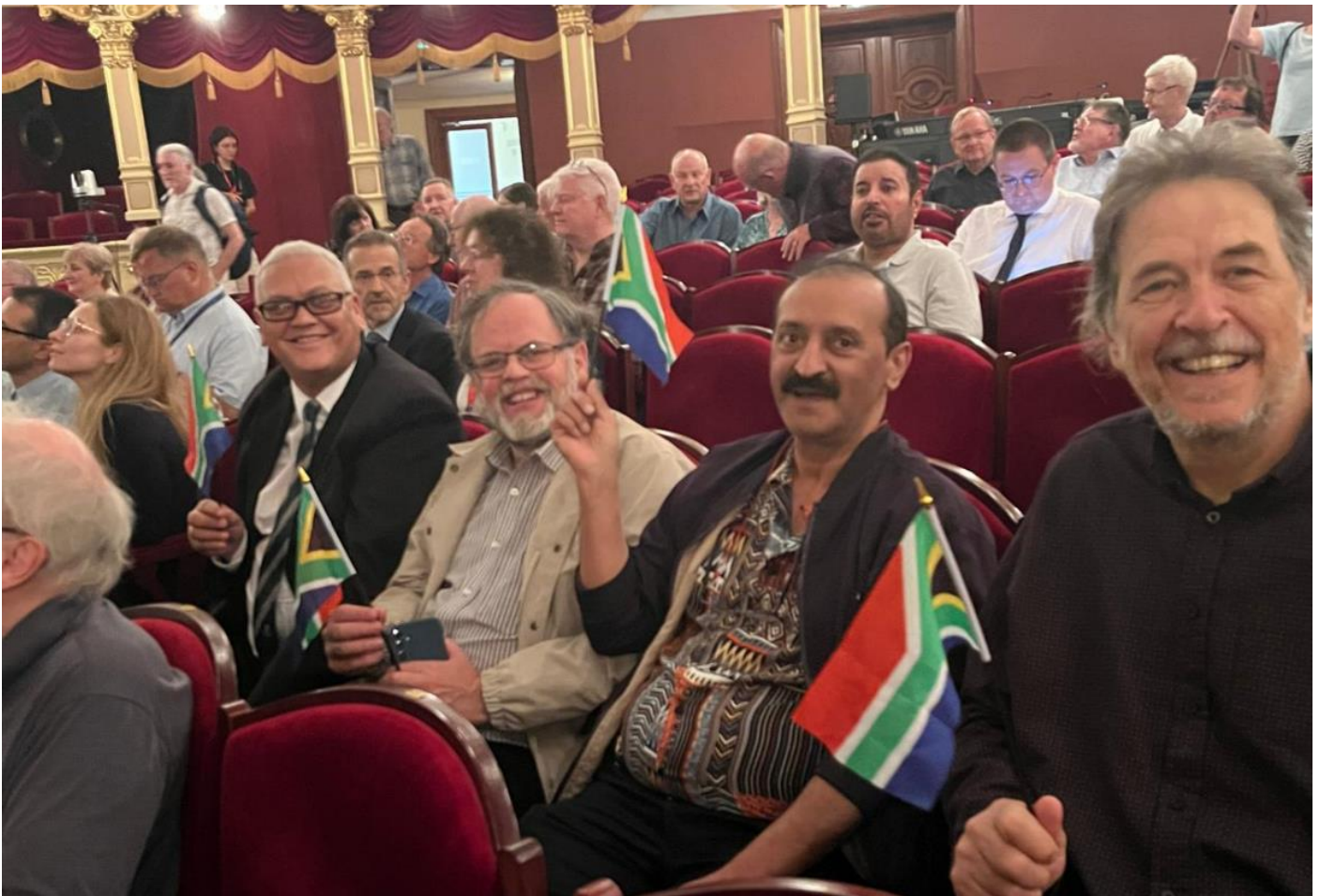


## Reflections : Poland (2) by CM Dr Lyndon Bouah

### 1. Introduction

We arrived in Krakow after some adventures. Our plane from Cape Town was an hour late which meant that we only had 30 minutes to get to our gate. Dubai is a big airport! Dr Bhawoodien who was sitting in row 19 was first out the blocks. Then Andre Schutte in row 20 something and then me in row 49. I ran and found Dr Bhawoodien at the gate waiting for us. I beat Andre to the plane! Who said black pawns don't run faster than white pawns! The opening ceremony was held at 7pm the same evening and we all enjoyed the cultural dances and also the speeches. After settling in, I attended the technical meeting on Tuesday morning. The meeting settled a few matters which was normal. By the way for those who are interested the World Seniors will be held in the Prague next year in February so start saving!





Cultural Dances



## 2. Previous Olympiads

This is Dr Shabier' second Senior Olympiad. He participated in the Olympiad in Dresden, 2018. Andre Schutte played in the Olympiad in the Czech Republic in 2020. This is Allister Metcalfe's first Olympiad. On the plane I told my fellow travellers about my first Olympiad. Please make yourself some tea/coffee at this point.

### 3.1. International Sport

The history of South African sport can be traced back to the 1800's, when sport was introduced by the British settlers. South African sport continued to develop sport clubs and federations in the 1890's and South Africa started competing in the Olympic Games soon after its rebirth in 1896. Cape Town Chess Club was established in 1885 and was soon followed by other clubs in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and elsewhere.

Once South Africa, however, formally announced the policy of Apartheid in 1948, pressure was brought to ban South Africa from most international events, including the Olympic Games. In 1963, South Africa was banned from the Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee and that was soon followed by other international sport federations. The South African Government supported rebel tours to South Africa, which was met by opposition nationally and internationally. By the mid 1970's, South Africa was effectively banned from all sporting codes internationally due to the practice of Apartheid.

In November 1991, South Africa started its first step to its unbanning by touring India on a cricket tour under the leadership of the late Clive Rice. In February 1992, the ban on South African cricket was lifted, which enabled South Africa to compete in Australia in the Cricket World Cup in 1992. South Africa then started dealing with all the international bodies responsible for sport. In June 1992, the international chess body, FIDE, re-admitted South Africa to the world chess body and South Africa competed in the 1992 Chess Olympiad, for the first time since 1974.

On 2 April 1992, I received a letter from Berte van Wyk which read, and I quote:

*"L. Bouah*

*Hostel 2, Room 38, Cecil Esau Residence, UWC*

*Dear Lyndon*

*FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD, 7-25 JUNE, Manila*

*Congratulations on your selection for the team that will represent Chess South Africa at the above mentioned chess Olympiad.*

*Now that you have been selected, an intense programme of preparation must be followed to give your team the best possible chance to perform well. More details of the training programme will follow. Please contact me as soon as possible for information on other arrangements that needs to be done before you can leave for the Olympiad.*

*Yours in chess.*

*Sincerely*

*Berte van Wyk, President"*

These were the official words in the letter that I received informing me that I was chosen to participate in the Olympiad. I was excited, because this meant that I would compete on the world stage. Only two years before in 1990, Mr John Ritchie, my schoolteacher, had indicated that the standard of chess we were exhibiting was at international standard and here I was chosen to go and compete in Manila, Philippines, in the next Olympiad. The Olympiad of course was known to me, because when we studied the games and books of famous players, they would tell us about their attendance at the Olympiads, and of course the then inevitable result of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics winning the competition. South Africa had last competed in the Olympiad in 1974 in Nice, France, but had walked out with three rounds to go after South Africa was suspended by FIDE. We would thus be in the first team to play in the Olympiad after 18 years. Our expulsion took place in 1977, but we had stopped playing in 1974 already.

The reaction to the team was a mixed one. Within the ranks of the non-racial chess movement, we celebrated the fact that the South African team was a diverse and representative team. The 1992 Olympiad team was Deon Solomons, David Gluckman, Charles de Villiers, Watu Kobese, Maxwell Solomon and Lyndon Bouah. The former players and administrators of the SA Chess Federation were however not so happy with this unified team. Newspaper articles were published in the mainstream newspapers, criticizing the fact that Maxwell and I were chosen. The players and some administrators pointed to the fact that in the Unity tournament, Maxwell and I had ended 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> in the event, and that there were other, stronger players than us at that time.

The newly formed Chess South Africa, however, responded that this team was a team representing the three bodies of chess that had unified to become one federation. The three bodies were SACF, CAPSA and SACCON. FIDE had granted a special dispensation to South Africa to participate, as they were not yet full members within the FIDE family.

Because the various chess bodies had not played against each other because of Apartheid, it was not so clear who the strongest players in the country were at that time. There were of course many older and experienced players from both sides of the divide, but the players had played too little against one another to make any definitive decisions relating to who were the strongest. It was emphasised, however, that the team was a team representing unity and diversity in South Africa. Prior to 1992, South Africa had only sent teams with white players to the Olympiad as a result of the 1956 sport policy of the apartheid government. It is doubtful whether the authorities in FIDE or South Africa would have allowed a team to compete that was not representative. The prevailing climate in South Africa at the time was that there was a new South Africa in the making, so teams that left our shores must represent a diverse South Africa.

### **3.2. University of the Western Cape assists with mental preparation**

When we were two months away from the Olympiad, I had to make arrangements with the law faculty about my June examinations. I made an appointment with the Dean of the Law Faculty, Professor Smit. I was quite nervous and when the day of the appointment arrived, I was not sure what to expect. So, I was very surprised when the first question he posed to me was: "What is your rating?" We then discussed the fact that I was rated over 2000 and that I had beaten the well-known white South African champion Charles de Villiers in 1991. Professor Smit then signed the necessary papers for me to travel to the Olympiad, with the agreement that I would catch up with my June examinations in the first week of July 1992 when I returned to campus.

Berte recommended to me that I visit the Sport Science Department. I did this and met up with a senior lecturer at the time, Ms Libby Burrell. She and I agreed to meet weekly in order to prepare me mentally for the Olympiad. At our first session, she prepared a chess fitness plan for me. As there were nine weeks to departure, Ms Burrell broke up the week into cycles.

The cycles for physical fitness would consist of the following for the first week:

- Monday - Walk 30 minutes
- Tuesday - Run 10 min, walk 5 min, and run 10 min
- Wednesday - Walk 30 min
- Thursday - Run 10 min, walk 5 min, and run 10 min
- Friday - Walk 30 min
- Saturday - Run 10 min, walk 5 min, and run 10 min
- Sunday - Walk 40 min

I learnt many things in the sessions with Ms Burrell. I learnt about the 'Big Six Plan' which would consist of exercises relating to side-winders, push-ups, jack-knives, squats, dips and crunches. I was not very good at these exercises, but I understood the importance of the 'Big Six Plan'. We concentrated on the mental aspects as well.

I have all my notes from the weekly sessions that I had with Ms Burrell in her office. The lessons I learnt in 1992 have stayed with me throughout my sporting career. The following lesson from Ms Burrell has shaped my thinking:

*"To develop and maintain self-confidence you must get into the habit of thinking positively. You cannot expect to perform well if you think negatively and by placing limits on your abilities. You must ban words like "can't" and "impossible" from your mind. Think about what you would like to happen, not about what you do not want to happen. You must talk to yourself and believe in yourself. Your self-talk will determine to a large extent what you are and what you can achieve. Take control over your self-talk by reminding yourself regularly about your goals, ambitions, potential and desire to excel. Repetition is the best way to program your mind to accept positive ideas and beliefs. If you affirm these regularly, they will materialise."*

I take this opportunity to thank Ms Burrell and the Sport Science Department for their assistance in my preparation for the 1992 Chess Olympiad. Who would have known that, in 2016, I would graduate from this department with my doctorate in the philosophy of sport science, exercise and recreation!

### **3.3 Diplomatic Relations**

South Africa and the Philippines had no diplomatic relationship. The SA team had to fly to Hong Kong and use the embassy there to obtain visas to allow us to participate. As a young player, I left that to the administrators and, once we obtained the temporary visas, we then travelled to Manila. We spent time in Hong Kong before and afterwards. Mr Nigel Freeman from Bermuda hosted a dinner at a nice restaurant in Hong Kong upon our return and became a firm friend of South Africa. We walked around Hong Kong and the city made a huge impression on me. I recall travelling to Kowloon and buying traditional English fish and chips. I also saw restaurants where you could order your fish as they were swimming!

### **3.4. Impressions of the 1992 Manila Olympiad**

Pre-tournament bulletins were handed to us upon our arrival at the hotel. It was clear to me that chess was loved in this country. The president of the country at that time was Mrs Corazon C. Aquino, who stated in her message that *"our belief in sports as a means for personal and national development spurs us to hold fast to the commitment to host the Chess Olympiad."* The FIDE President, Mr Florencio Campomanes, in the pre-Olympiad bulletin, stated that every chess player should at least once in his life see an Olympiad. It was clear that there was a rich history of chess in the Philippines.

The 1992 Manila Olympiad would be historic for many reasons. A record field of 112 nations confirmed participation, and these included the newly independent republics that emerged following the break-up of the former Soviet Union. Russia together with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Byelorussia all confirmed their participation. Campomanes further noted that this Olympiad was historic and had become more so with the celebrated return of South Africa after the 15-year seclusion from FIDE. The bulletin noted that South Africa was barred from participating in 1977, but at the March 1992 FIDE Presidential Board meeting in Graz, Austria, South Africa was readmitted at a meeting presided over by Campomanes. He declared that he was extremely delighted that South Africa was readmitted within his term, as he was also part of the fact-finding committee whose report resulted in the ban because of South Africa's Apartheid policies.



The organisation was top notch. We stayed at a hotel very close to the playing hall. At our hotel we met the Canadian team and we also met GM Boris Gulko, a former Soviet champion who was playing for the USA. We were introduced to GM Eduard Gufeld who became a good friend to us as well. I also met players from Mauritius and Jamaica and became lifelong friends with them.

In the first round, we were paired against Argentina and were beaten 4-0. The result was not unexpected given the strength of Argentina. They were headed by GM Daniel Campora. I played against the player who would become the World Junior Champion that year (1992), IM Pablo Zarnicki. I was the exchange up against him but did not keep my composure.

In the first seven rounds, I scored 3.5/7, which allowed me to qualify for a provisional rating of 2205. I was the first South African to qualify for a title at an Olympiad. The Candidate Master title was conferred upon me only twelve years later. I beat the players from Turkey, Morocco and Hong Kong and drew with Bangladesh.

During the rounds when I was not selected to play by the captain, Mark Levitt, I visited the tournament hall to continue watching the games. I enjoyed watching the World Champion Grandmaster Gary Kasparov and was entranced when he beat GM Kamsky in the Russia vs. USA match. In that game, Kamsky captured the black knight on f4 while playing the white side of a Kings Indian Defence. Kasparov then activated his Bg7 and later said that it was a basic mistake by GM Kamsky to give up his dark square bishop for a pawn in the Kings Indian Defence.

In the final standings of the Olympiad 1992, South Africa ended in position 63 from 102 countries. The top African countries were 56.Tunisia on 28, 63.South Africa on 27 points, followed by Egypt on 26.5 in position 64 and then Algeria in position 66 also with 26.5.

I had scored 3.5 points at the Olympiad. The Olympiad showed that South Africa could compete in this arena. I was however not happy with my performance. Of course, it was our first international experience and I accepted it as part of the growing pains of a chess player. The Olympiad was an eye opener and allowed us to see that we still had much work to do.



#### 4. Poland

I first heard of Poland in some war comics that I read when I was in primary school. They always stated that the Second World War started because Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939 and because of this Britain then

declared war on Germany because they had a pact with Poland. Poland has a long history and I will touch on that during the two weeks.

## 5. Famous Polish people

If you fly into Warsaw the capital city of Poland, you will have arrived at the Frederic Chopin airport. Chopin is a world-famous composer.



*Frederic Chopin*

## 6. Polish Chessplayers

According to Wikipedia the following players are chess masters:

### Pre- Fide Chess Masters

Adolf Zytogorski (1841-1861)

Jan Herman Zukertort (1860-1888)

Szymon Winawer (1867- 1901)

David Janowski (1891 -1926)

Henryk Jerzy Salwe (1903-1914)



Dawid Przepioka (1903-1938)

Teodor Regedzinki (1917-1952)

Tomorrow I shall do the post 1950 masters

## 7. Impressions of Round one

We were paired against a German team called Lubeck. They outrated us on all boards.

Bo.	28		South Africa	Rtg	-	12		Germany Lubeck Chess Club	Rtg	1 : 3	PGN
12.1	CM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bouah, Lyndon	1996	-	FM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Krause, Ulrich	2171	1 - 0	PGN
12.2	FM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bhawoodien, Shabir Hussain	1990	-	FM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lampe, Dirk	2158	0 - 1	PGN
12.3		<input type="checkbox"/>	Metcalfe, Allister	1889	-		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staeblein, Christoph	1991	0 - 1	PGN
12.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Schutte, Andre	1832	-		<input type="checkbox"/>	Koop, Thilo	2088	0 - 1	PGN

Allister Metcalfe lost and was the first game to conclude. He had a good position but missed a few good moves. We will go over it.

Dr Shabier Bhawoodien had a good position after losing a pawn. He then played with his normal freestyle and then in the time trouble it went awry.

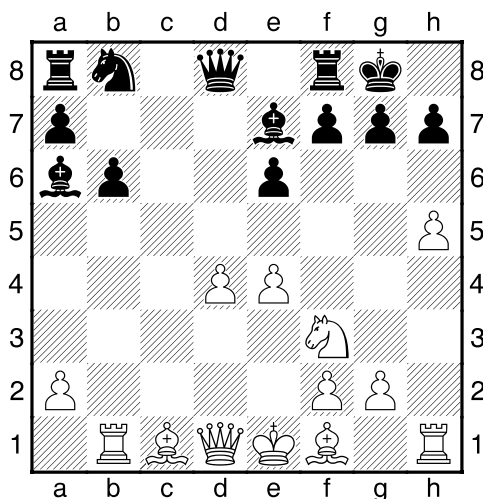
ANDRE SCHUTTE LOST AFTER TRYING TO HOLD.

THE GAME OF THE ROUND WAS THE FOLLOWING:

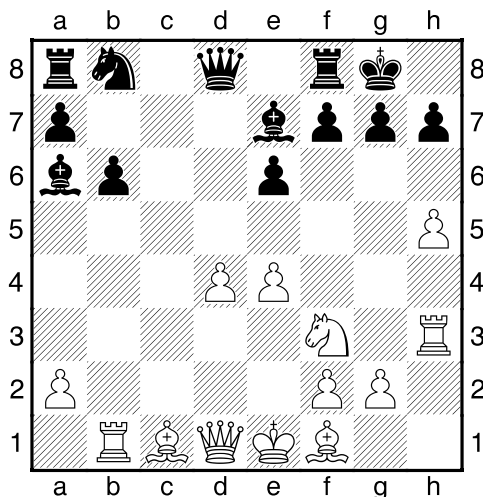
### (1) Bouah, Lyndon (1996) – Krause,Ulrich (2171) [D35]

Round 1 World Seniors (1), 02.07.2024

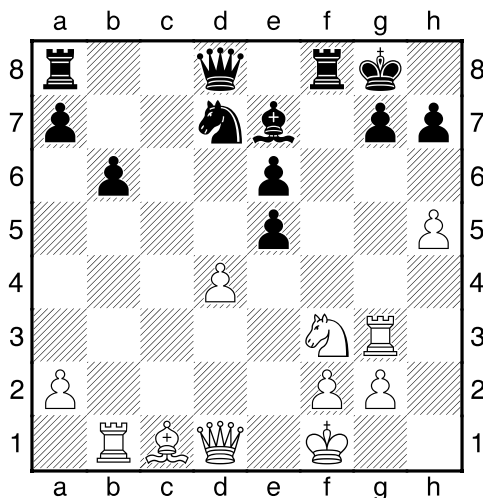
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 c5 7.Rb1 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Nf3 0-0 10.h4 b6 11.h5 Ba6 In my preparation I found a few games of my opponent. And with the assistance of my wife WIM Dr Denise Bouah I found some new games of my opponent. Thank you Dr Denise! My opponent played this in the Bundesliga in Feb 2024. I followed his game. I now surprised friend and foe with my next move. Can you find it?



12.Rh3! Chess consists of ideas and I found this idea very appealing. The rook comes into the game early and gets my opening thinking. Before this game I studied a book on GM Planinc so I had some creative juices flowing!



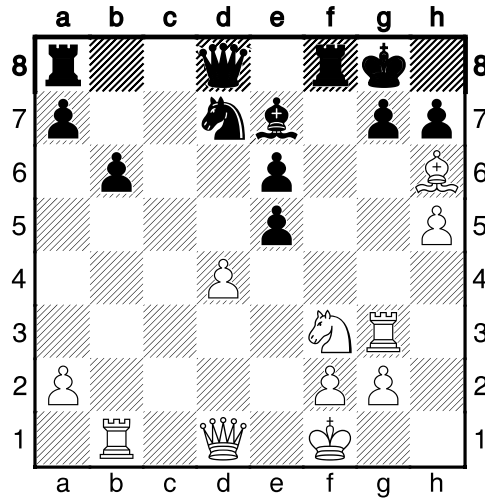
Bxf1 13.Kxf1 Nd7 14.e5 f6 15.Rg3 fxe5



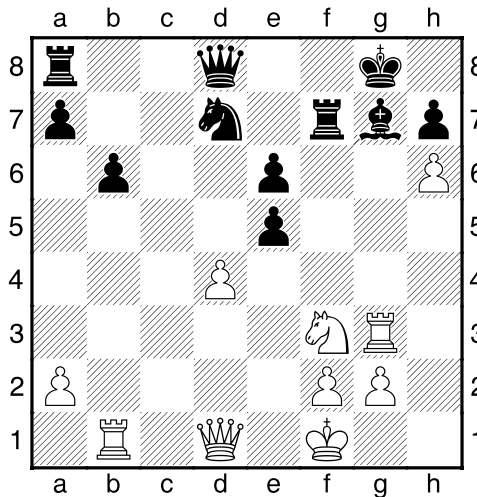
We have reached in the position above a critical position. A critical position can arise in the middle-game as that moment may transform the game into something else. You, dear reader, must have the ability to identify when your game has reached the critical moment and then act accordingly.

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

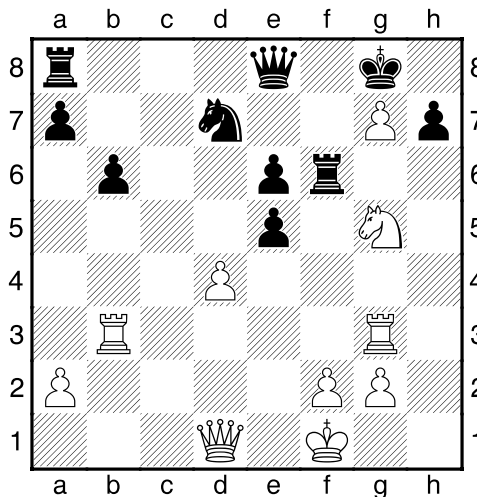
1. A position in which a decision has to be taken regarding possible exchange. If the exchange is forced, there is no change compared with the previous critical positions.
2. A position in which a decision has to be taken regarding a possible change in the pawn formation. Especially the central pawns.
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.



16.Bh6 Bf6 17.Bxg7 Bxg7 18.h6 Rf7 I have kept the initiative and now needed to make some decisions. I decided to keep up the pressure and brought my knight closer



19.Ng5 Rf6 20.hxg7 Qe8 There was no some time trouble on my opponents side. The question is now what to play so that i keep the game going. My opponent told me after the game he liked my next moves as I bring the last piece into the game.



21.Rbb3 Rd8 22.Rbd3 e4 23.Nxe4 Rh6 24.Qf3 Qh5 25.Qf4 Qh1+ 26.Ke2 Rh4 27.Nf6+ Nxf6 28.Qxf6 Re8 29.Rdf3 Re4+ 30.Re3 Rxe3+ 31.fxe3 Qb1 32.Rf3 Qc2+ 33.Kf1 Qc1+ 34.Kf2 Qd2+ 35.Kg1 Qc1+ 36.Rf1 1-0 The checks have ended and mate cannot be stopped.

