

## 1. Introduction

I have reflected in earlier articles about my first two Olympic appearances. The late Mr Sandy Matthews was the chess correspondent of the Eastern Province Herald. On Saturday 15 August 1992, he wrote an article which captured the mood at the time. Sandy and I became good friends later. Mr Matthews wrote the following:

### ***“Olympian task tackled with merit***

*Those who, having neither poetry nor philosophy, nor ultimately, realism, count everything, like grocers, are doubtless dejected about Olympic team’s gaining only silver medals in Barcelona. Poor mortals! Like so many, if not most South Africans, of all hues, they form in spheres outside their immediate control, expectations in excess of intrinsic deserving and just measure. Psychologists may well conclude this is over-compensation for an inferiority complex endemic in the historical crucible of our society.*

*I shall align myself with others who, not perfunctorily, but sincerely, can see merit in our team’s performance, in the same way as I see merit in our chess players’ finishing 63<sup>rd</sup>, 18 places above their seeding, in the chess Olympiad in June. The true reward as Baron de Coubertin (is reputed to have) said, is not in the winning, but in the having taken part. Effort and endeavour speak more for character than success.*

*Our randomly (if not controversially) selected local representative in the SA Chess team, Lyndon Bouah, has spoken of the memorable time the team had in the Manila Olympiad, not only that but the benefit of the preparation and the experience there. Physical and psychological training was administered to them, and this stood them in good stead.*

*He felt that he was not so much outplayed as made to realise his (and the team’s) lack of up-to-date technique in playing at an advanced level. His own maturing as a chess player has been accelerated; and we can look forward to more accomplished performances from him.”*

I am happy that I could represent my country at the various Olympiads including this one in Poland. To be an Olympian is a special feeling. I had competed with the rest of the world on an equal footing, and I was able to hold my own and qualify for my master title in the 1992 Olympiad in Manila.

One of the fundamental principles which appear at the beginning of the Olympic Charter resonates with me and states that:

*“Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal ethical principles (Olympic Education Toolkit, 2007, a publication by the International Olympic Committee).”*

The three core values of Olympism are excellence, respect and friendship. Excellence means doing the best, on the field of play or in our professional life. The important thing is not winning, but taking part, making progress and enjoying the healthy combination of body, will and mind. Respect includes respect for yourself and your body, for other people, for rules and regulations, for sport and for the environment.

Friendship is at the heart of the Olympic movement. It encourages us to see sport as an instrument for mutual understanding between individuals, and between people all over the world (Olympic Education Toolkit, 2007, a publication by the International Olympic Committee).”

## 2. Poland

On the death of Kazimierz the Great, the Polish crown passed first to Louis of Anjou, then to his daughter Jadwiga (1373-1399). A pious woman she reigned as the country’s first female monarch alongside her husband, the Grand Duke Jogalia of Lithuania, Wladyslaw II Jagiello. Following her death, Jagiello extended the country’s frontiers, turning Poland into one of Europe’s major players. His Jagellonian descendants continued his work, including his grand- nephew Kazimierz IV Jagiello (1444- 1492) who secured Polish control over Prussia.

## 3. Famous Polish people

I am a tennis fan, and I am currently supporting Polish tennis player Iga Swiatek the world number one female tennis player. My father the late Winston Bouah inculcated a love of tennis in my siblings and me from a young age. We played at Gelvandale and Marock Road tennis courts for a long time during our high schools. She has just won the French Open for the fourth time and third in a row. (Nadal she is coming for you!).



*Iga Swiatek 4<sup>th</sup> French Open Title*

#### 4. Polish Chessplayers

One of the most famous Polish chessplayers is of course Grandmaster Akiba Rubinstein. He was a seasoned international player and was known as a supreme endgame player.



*Grandmaster Akiba Rubinstein*

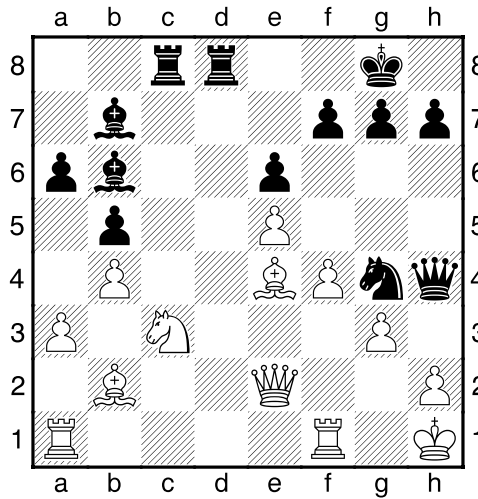
One of the games that he is most famous for is the following:

#### **Rotlewi,G – Rubinstein,A [D40]**

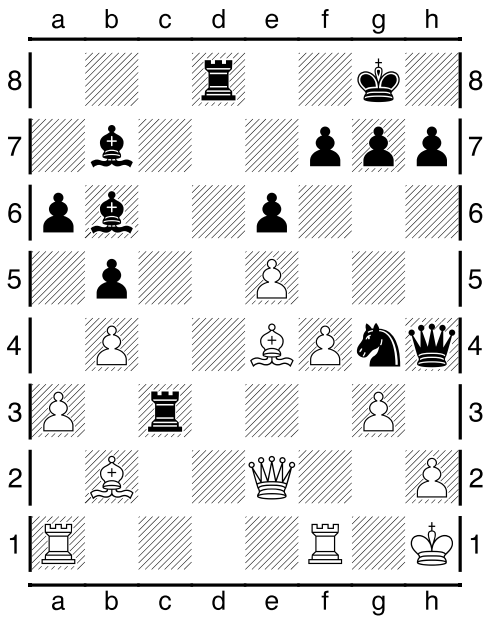
**All Russian Masters (Lodz) (6), 26.12.1907**

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.c4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.a3 a6 8.b4 Bd6 9.Bb2 0–0 10.Qd2 Qe7 11.Bd3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 b5 13.Bd3 Rd8 14.Qe2 Bb7 15.0–0 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.f4 Bc7 18.e4 Rac8 19.e5 Bb6+ 20.Kh1 Ng4 21.Be4 Qh4 22.g3**

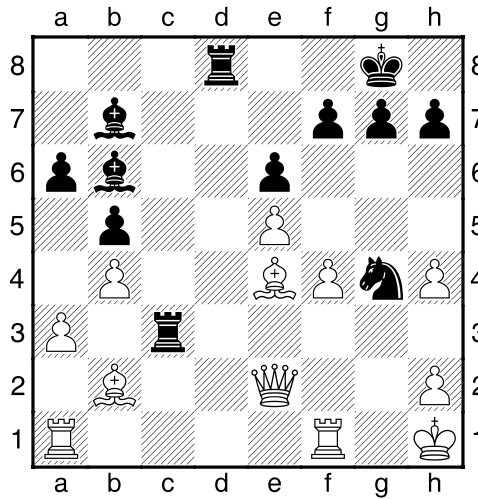
The scene is now set for one of the most astonishing combinations of all time. Can you see the move that black played now?



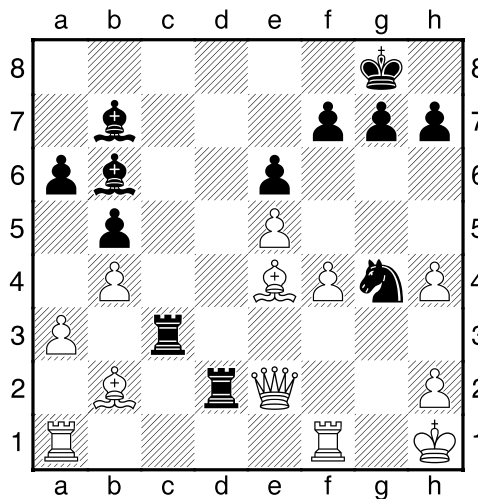
Rxc3!!! The rook sacrifices itself on c3. The move undermines the control Be4 and gives white options. Notice that three of Black's pieces are en prise. But as Tal would always say, my opponent can only capture one at a time!



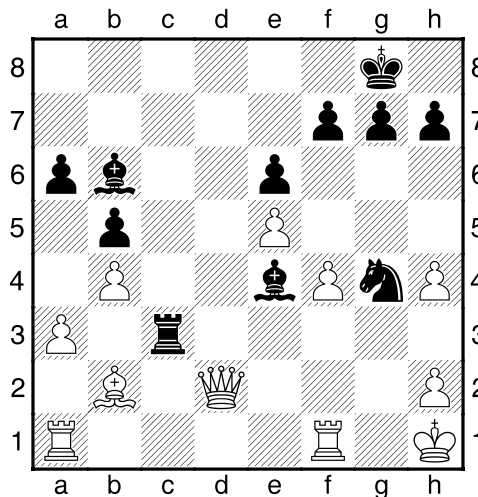
23.gxh4 white now decided to capture the queen so that the threat of mate on h2 is covered. What should black play now? Black has three moves en prise. Think carefully what the threats are:



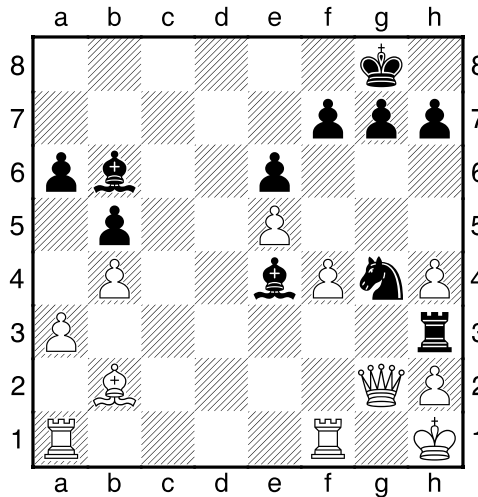
23...Rd2!!! And now there are four pieces en prise! But as Tal would always say, my opponent can only capture one at a time!



24.Qxd2 Bxe4+ The Bishop has a clear diagonal!



25.Qg2 Rh3 0–1 An absolutely fantastic position. Again, there are various pieces hanging but white is unable to capture. This game is the Polish Immortal!



## 5. The role of a captain

I have been given the privilege by Chess South Africa to be the captain of the team. I have had the privilege of captaining South Africa at the following events:

- 2002 Slovenia Olympiad
- 2003 All African Games in Nigeria
- 2004 Calvia Olympiad in Spain
- 2008 Zone 4.3 team Championship in Mozambique
- 2014 Olympiad in Norway
- 2016 Olympiad in Azerbaijan
- 2018 Olympiad in Georgia

I have also captained Western Province in the Interprovincials (12 times) and also my local chess club Steinitz between the years 1999 to 2023. I have learnt the following:

### Lessons learnt from the art of captaincy

1. Be humble. Captaining a team is a privilege and honour that is not bestowed on everyone.
2. Respect every player. Every player makes a contribution to the team. Every point counts the same.
3. Praise publicly and criticize in private. When someone has done great work, praise them in front of others, when you need to have strong words, do it in private.
4. Understand that everyone has a different context in their life. Their context may affect their game. Understand the context and work with what you have.
5. Understand your role as captain. In the last few years, I understood my role as captain of my local chess club was to ensure the team victory and not necessarily individual honours. Individual honours will follow team victories.
6. Speak to players well beforehand if you intend dropping them for key games. Players do not want to find out on the team sheet. Explain to the affected player what your reasoning is. He or she may not agree with you, but at least they will understand the rationale.

7. Ensure that you understand that when you are a non-playing captain that you are there to serve the team and the country. Ensure that players know where the coffee and soft drinks are. Check regularly on the water supply and be visible and present where the match is being played. Even if the match is the last one to finish, the captain stays with that player.

8. The captain must understand that he does not need to be the best player in the team. The captain must enable the best team to play on the day even if it means substituting himself or herself. In 2018, I had a bad season on the top board for my club. The following season I dropped myself to board three to allow others an opportunity to play ahead of me. I could still contribute to the overall success of the team.

9. The captain must motivate and encourage each and every player. Different players need different energy. Sometimes a player just needs a little motivational talk while, others may need to be reminded of incentives etc. Understand each player and work to his/ her strengths.

10. The captain must be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Any team may have a bad day. In any competition, there may be losses and there will be wins. Accept both of these and thank the opposing captain for the match and wish them well.

## 6. Impressions of Round Six

We played in the main venue today. Normally we play in the adjoining hall. my game was one of those all outs. I was not sure that my king side attack is justified but I thought what the hell. Glory will not come from passivity. So, I played f4 and again found my rook on the g-file. But yeah, readers we need to find some good moves for me at the end! Mark Lewis found my winning move! I missed Nh6 + on move 36!

Allister Metcalfe seemed to be OK, but he fell in the middlegame.

Andre tried to push but it was not to be.

So yesterday after the matches, Shabier went to the bookstore, and he looked at some lines in the Sicilian. And lo and behold the position appears today.

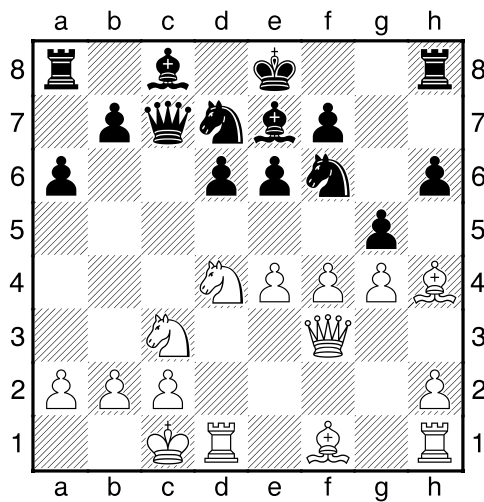
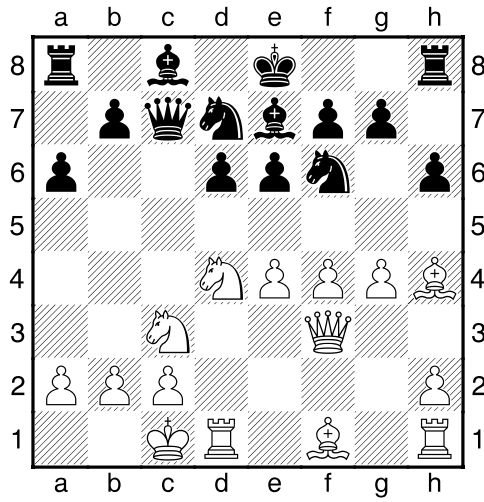
We lost today 2.5 to 1.5

Bo.	28		South Africa	Rtg	-	14		Germany Graal	Rtg	1½:2½
9.1	CM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bouah, Lyndon	1996	-		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Westphal, Wolfgang	2172	½ - ½
9.2	FM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bhawoodien, Shabir Hussain	1990	-		<input type="checkbox"/>	Dettmann, Gerd	2121	1 - 0
9.3		<input type="checkbox"/>	Metcalfe, Allister	1889	-		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moritz, Hartmut	2002	0 - 1
9.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Schutte, Andre	1832	-		<input type="checkbox"/>	Dettmann, Holger	1965	0 - 1

### (6) Dettman ,G – Bhawoodien,S [B99]

Vs Germany men (5), 06.07.2024

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 h6 11.Bh4  
The Bishop should have exchanged itself!



12.fxg5 Ne5 13.Qg3 Nfxg4 14.g6 fxg6 15.h3 g5 16.hxg4 gxh4 17.Qg2 Rg8 18.Nf3 Rxc4 19.Qe2 Nxf3 20.Qxf3 Bg5+ 21.Kb1 Rf4 22.Qh5+ Qf7 23.Qxf7+ Rxf7 24.Rxd6 Be7 25.Rb6 Bc5 26.Rb3 b5 27.Bh3 Ke7 28.a3 Bb7 29.Bf1 Rg8 30.Bd3 Rg1+ 31.Rxc4 Bxc4 32.Ne2 Bf2 33.c4 h3 34.Bc2 h2 35.Rh3 Bg1 36.Rxc4 Rf2 37.Ng3 Bc6 38.cxb5 axb5 39.e5 Rg2 40.Be4 Bxe4+ 41.Nxe4 Bd4 42.Rh7+ Kd8 0-1

