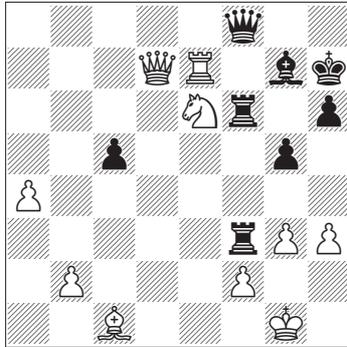


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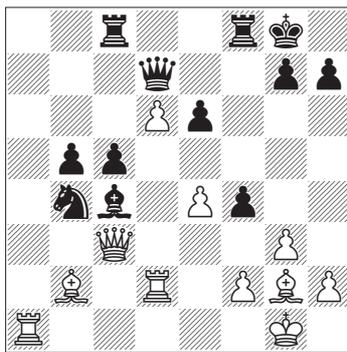
Olcayoz – Gershon

Istanbul Ech 2003

140 Black to play

White has just played Nc7-e6 , forking the black queen and the g7-bishop. How should Black react to this aggression?

(Hint: see p. 132; solution: see p. 154)



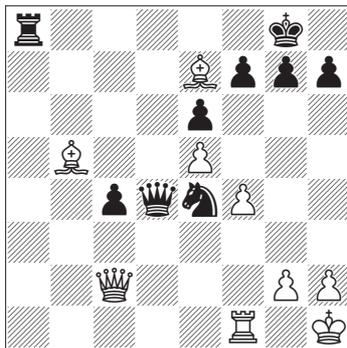
Bacrot – Lautier

Paris 2002

141 White to play

Over the last couple of years Etienne Bacrot has been challenging Joel Lautier for the honour of French no. 1. They are currently about the same strength but the rapidly-improving Bacrot is destined to win this battle. He also won this game with a nice finish. Lautier resigned after his next move.

(Hint: see p. 132; solution: see p. 154)



Kharlov – Semeniuk

Russian Cht (Ekaterinburg) 2002

142 Black to play

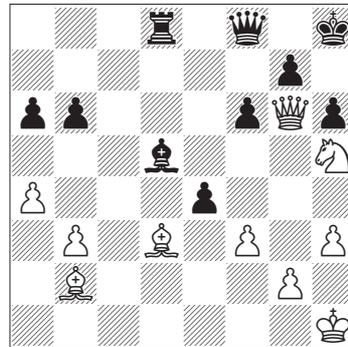
Black has just sacrificed his bishop on e7. He obviously has a strong and concrete follow-up in mind. Can you see it?

(Hint: see p. 132; solution: see p. 154)

143 White to play

Black has just defended against the threat of ♖h7# with ...e4 (...♙g8 would have been better). White now concluded the game with a pretty combination. Can you see it?

(Hint: see p. 133; solution: see p. 154)

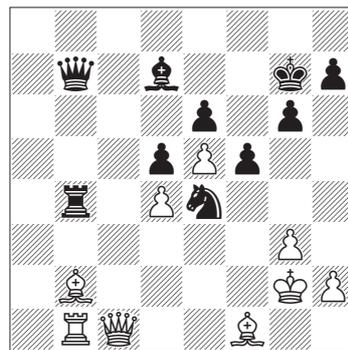


Väisser – Skripchenko
Paris 2003

144 White to play

Take one look at this position. It is obvious that White has been horribly outplayed. Just for starters he is a pawn down and caught in a horrible pin on the b-file. But chess can be a cruel game. It's not like soccer where you are 3-0 up, make a mistake and then it's 3-1. No, in chess one small slip can undo hours of good work. White is now winning. How?

(Hint: see p. 133; solution: see p. 154)

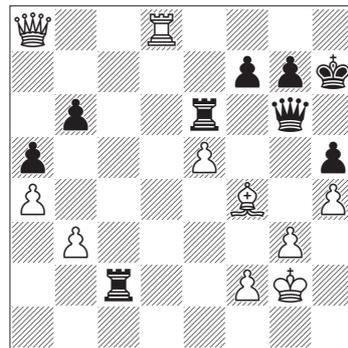


Ahues – Schoris
Dresden 1907

145 Black to play

White has just sacrificed the exchange on d8 and now threatens ♖h8#. As ...♖xf2+ doesn't offer any hope of a perpetual, Black must move his queen to free g6 for the king. Do you prefer ...♙g4 or ...♙f5? In the game Black made the wrong choice. What happened to him?

(Hint: see p. 133; solution: see p. 154)



Bogdanovski – Mitkov
Macedonian Ch (Gevgelija) 2002

2...♙xf7 3 ♖d7+ ♙f8 4 ♜e6+ ♙g8
5 ♖g1+

It's mate next move.

139)

1...♖f3+ 2 ♙h2 ♙g1+!

The star move.

3 ♙xg1

Or 3 ♖xg1 ♖d2+ 4 ♖g2 ♖xg2#.

3...♖xg3+ 4 ♙f1 ♖f3+ 5 ♙g1
♖g8+ 0-1

White resigned as mate follows on g2.

140)

1...♖xg3+! 2 ♙h1

Other moves lead to mate in two; e.g., 2 fxg3 ♖f1+ 3 ♙h2 ♖f2# and 2 ♙f1 ♖xf2+ 3 ♙e1 ♖g1#.

2...♖xh3+ 3 ♙g1 ♖g3+ 4 ♙h1
♖xe6

4...♖a8+ also wins; for example, 5 ♖b7 ♖xb7+ 6 ♖xb7 ♖xe6 7 fxg3 ♖e1+ 8 ♙g2 ♖xc1 and Black has an extra piece.

5 ♖xg7+

5 ♖xe6 ♖f3+ 6 ♙h2 ♖g2#.

5...♖xg7 0-1

White resigned in view of huge material losses; e.g., 6 ♖xg7+ (6 ♖xe6 ♖b7+) 6...♙xg7 7 fxg3 ♖e1+.

141)

1 ♖a7!! and Black resigned in view of the line 1...♖xa7 2 d7!, when there is no sensible way to prevent ♖xg7#.

142)

1...♜f2+! 2 ♙g1

The knight can't be taken (2 ♖xf2 ♖xf2 3 ♖xf2 ♖a1+), while 2 ♖xf2 ♖a1+ is also terminal.

2...♜h3+ 3 ♙h1 ♖a1! 0-1

The final blow! White resigned in view of inevitable mate; e.g., 4 ♖xa1 ♖xa1+; 4 gxf3 ♖xf1+ 5 ♙g2 ♖g1# and 4 ♖e2 ♖g1+! 5 ♖xg1 ♖xg1#.

143)

1 ♜xf6!

Threatening ♖h7#. 1 ♜xg7 also wins but it is less clean.

1...♙g8

1...gxf6 2 ♙xf6+.

2 ♖xh6+! gxf6 3 ♜h5+ 1-0

Black resigned due to 3...♙h7 4 ♙xe4+ ♖f5 5 ♙xf5#.

144)

White won with the wonderful:

1 ♙a3!! ♖xb1

Otherwise Black simply loses his rook.

2 ♖h6+!! ♙xh6

Other moves are met by 3 ♖f8#.

3 ♙f8+ 1-0

Black resigned as all he can do is choose between 3...♙g5 4 h4+ ♙h5 5 ♙e2# and 3...♙h5 4 ♙e2+ ♙g5 5 h4#.

145)

The game finished **1...♖f5? 2 ♖h8+ ♙g6 3 ♖h6+!! 1-0**. Black resigned in view of 3...gxf6 4 ♖g8#.

1...♖g4 is the better choice as now after 2 ♖h8+ ♙g6 3 ♖g8 (3 ♖h6+? gxf6 4 ♖g8+ ♙f5) 3...♙f5 4 ♖xf7+ ♙e4 the black king escapes the immediate attack. Whether this is losing for Black is irrelevant as it is the only chance (and not that clear).

146)

1...♜f1!