

Quality Chess Puzzle Book

By

John Shaw



Quality Chess
www.qualitychess.co.uk

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Chapter 2

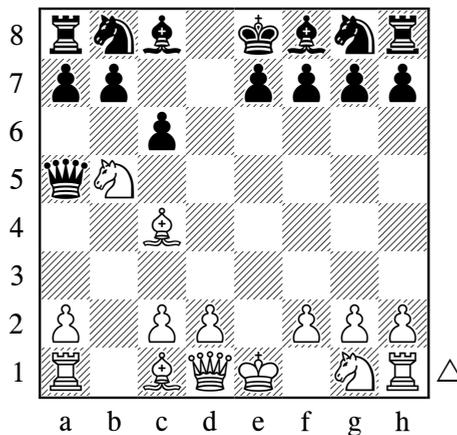
Contributions from our Readers

In this chapter all the puzzles were generously sent to us by our readers. I hope this will create a new business model in chess publishing where our readers do all the work and I reap the benefits. Naturally, the positions demonstrate a range of themes. In general, the level of difficulty is lower than later in the book, so this chapter is a useful warm-up for what is to come.

The first example was sent by Manfred Herbold of Germany. The tactic lands on move 8, but the opening moves are weird enough to be worth a look.

Herbold – Mayer, Lampertheim 2002

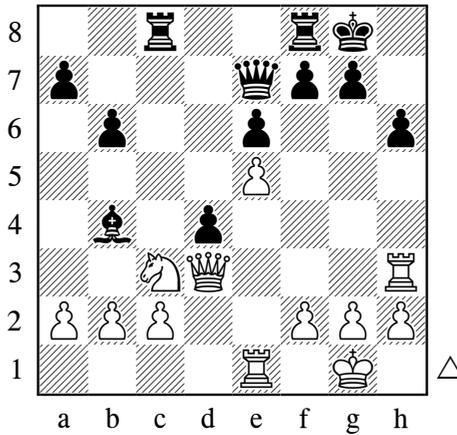
1. $\text{d}3$ $\text{d}5$ 2. $\text{e}4$ $\text{dxe}4$ 3. $\text{dxe}4$ $\text{c}d5$ Black was determined to play a Scandinavian. 4. $\text{c}3$ $\text{a}5$ 5. $\text{b}4$ $\text{xb}4$ 6. $\text{b}5$ $\text{a}5$ 7. $\text{c}4$ $\text{c}6$? 7... $\text{f}6$ would have seriously challenged the soundness of White's opening play.



8. $\text{xf}7$!! $\text{xf}7$? Black really should decline the piece, even though 8... $\text{d}8$ 9. $\text{c}3$ ± is unpleasant. 9. $\text{h}5$ † It was probably at this point that Black realized it is his queen not his king that is in trouble. 9... $\text{f}6$ In avoiding a knight check with a discovered attack on the queen, the black king sacrifices himself. The thematic line was 9... $\text{g}6$ 10. $\text{d}6$ † $\text{exd}6$ 11. $\text{xa}5$ +-. 10. $\text{b}2$ † $\text{e}5$ 11. $\text{xe}5$ † $\text{e}6$ 12. $\text{c}7$ † $\text{d}7$ 13. $\text{e}8$ #

The next position was supplied by Rui Marques of Portugal. It is White to play. There is no forced win, but there is definitely a correct way to play.

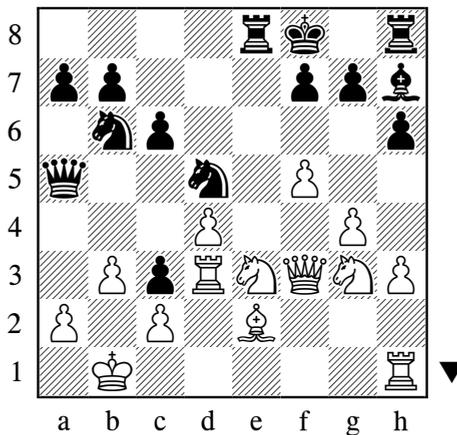
Marques – Eggert, Lisbon (rapid) 2006



22. ♖e4! The best move even though Black can hang on with accurate play. 22... ♗xe1? Black had to decline the offer with 22... ♜fd8! creating a square for the king on f8. 23. ♜f6† ♕f8 (23... gxf6?? 24. ♜xh6+→) 24. ♖h7 ♜c7! Now I cannot find a forced win, e.g. 25. ♜f3 gxf6 26. exf6 ♕e8 27. ♖g8† ♕d7 (27... ♗f8?? 28. ♜xe6†! fxe6 29. ♖xe6† ♗e7 30. f7† ♕f8 31. ♖xh6#) 28. ♖xf7† ♕c6 29. ♖xe6† ♕b7 30. c3 dxc3 31. ♖e4† ♜c6 32. ♖xb4 c2 33. ♜c3 ♕d1 34. ♜xc6 ♜xc6 35. ♖e7† ♜c7 36. ♖e4† ♜c6 37. ♖e7† ♜c7= 23. ♜f6†! gxf6 24. ♜xh6 ♗xf2†! The only try. 25. ♕xf2 ♜xc2† Now the game continued 26. ♖xc2? f5 and Black eventually lost on time. White had to avoid 26. ♕e1?? ♖b4† 27. ♕d1 ♜fc8+→. The only way to win was 26. ♕f1! when Black must give up his extra rook and a few pawns. 26... ♜c1† 27. ♕e2 ♜c2† 28. ♕d1 ♜c1† 29. ♕xc1 ♜c8† 30. ♕b1 Black must lose f6, f7 and e6. For example, 30... ♖c5 31. ♖h7† ♕f8 32. ♖h8† ♕e7 33. ♖xf6† ♕d7 34. ♖xf7† ♕c6 and now either 35. ♜xe6† or first 35. a4! will win eventually.

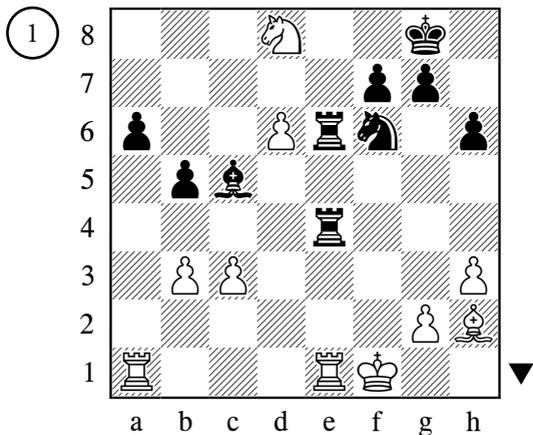
Our final example before the puzzles was sent from Glasgow in Scotland. It is Black to play.

Hellegaard – Aagaard, Denmark 2010

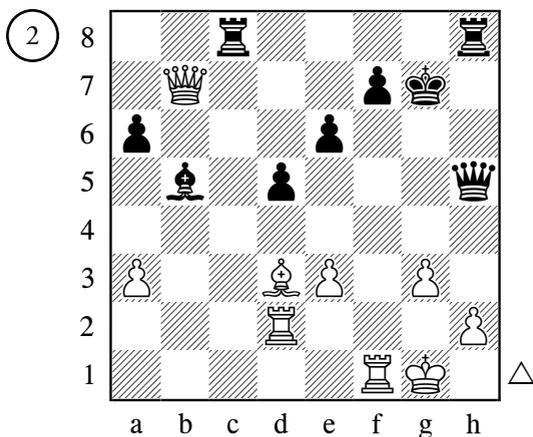


24... ♜xe3!! The tempting 24... ♜b4 is less convincing after 25. ♜xc3 ♖xa2† 26. ♕c1 and 24... ♖a3 is foiled, for the moment, by 25. ♜d1. 25. ♜xe3 ♖a3 26. ♜xc3 ♜a4! 0-1

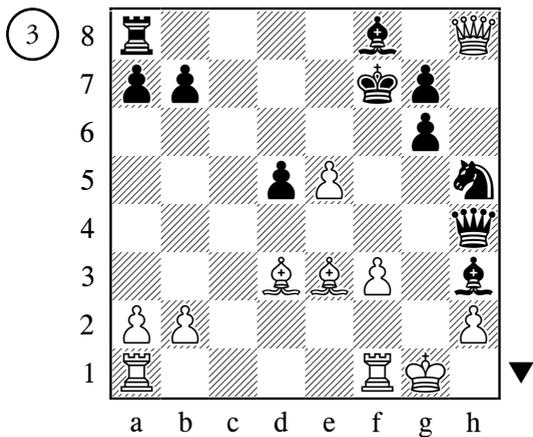
Snuverink – Lindam, Gent 2004



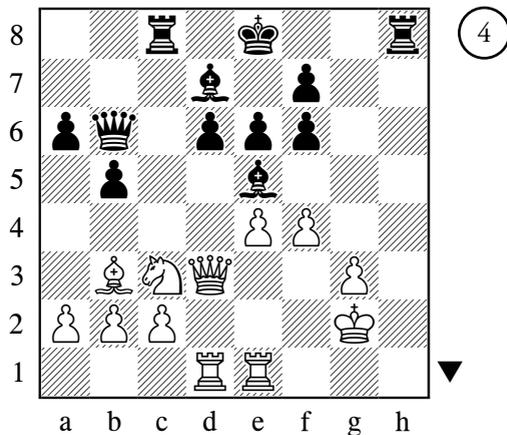
Schnoor – Peterson, Dresden 2007



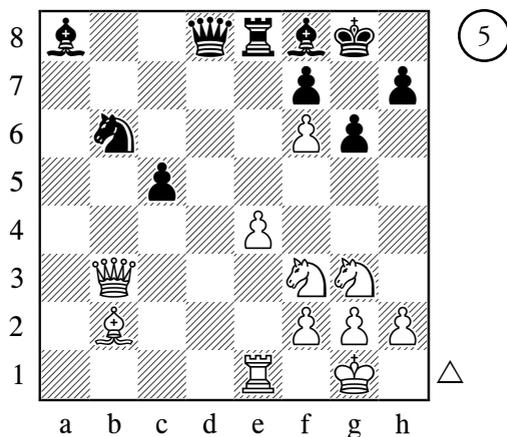
De Crop – Van Vliet, Brasschaat 2007



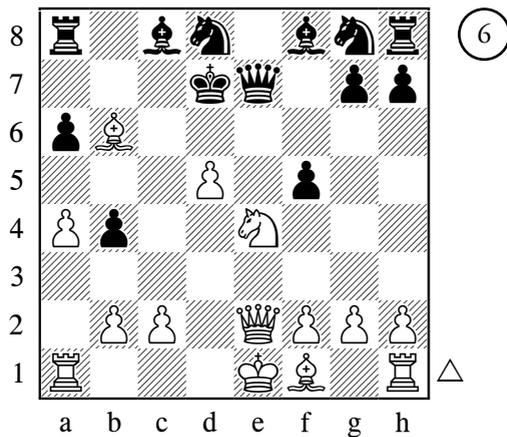
NN – Rotella, Internet Blitz 2008



Rotella – NN, Internet Blitz 2008



Dabo-Peranic – Kozul, Croatia (rapid) 2007



(1) J. Snuverink – Ingo Lindam, Gent 2004

Black went into the ending with an extra piece and an extra pawn after a nice combination, but then failed to get the most out of his investment. **30...♗g4!** A nice shot. **31.♖xe4** The only move. **31.hxg4 ♖f6†** is mate. **31...♗xh2† 32.♕e2 ♖xe4† 33.♕d3 ♖e3† 34.♕d2 ♖e5 34...♖g3!-+** won easily. **35.♗b7 ♖d5† 36.♕e2 ♖xd6 37.♗xd6 ♖xd6 38.♖h1 a5?** Only here is the win put in jeopardy. Black could win easily with **38...♖g6!** **39.♖xh2 ♖g3 40.♕d2 b4 41.cxb4 ♖xb3 42.♖h1 ♖xb4-+** and two extra pawns are plenty. **39.♖xh2 a4 40.bxa4 bxa4 41.♖h1** ♖ White has a fighting chance, but should probably still lose. Black however is having a bad day. **41...♖e6† 42.♕d3 ♖g6 43.g4 h5 44.gxh5 ♖a6 45.♖a1 a3 46.♕c4 f5 47.♕b5 ♖a8 48.c4 f4 49.c5 f3 50.c6 a2 51.c7 f2 52.♕b6 ♕h7 53.♕b7 ♖f8 54.c8=♖ f1=♖?!** This is unnecessary. Black could make a simple draw with: **54...♖xc8 55.♕xc8 ♕h6 56.♕d7 ♕xh5 57.♕e6 ♕h4 58.♕f5 ♕xh3 59.♕f4 ♕g2 60.♖xa2= 55.♖xf1 ♖xf1 56.♖c2†** Black resigned, which is the most calamitous calamity of them all. The position is a fortress. With the rook on f6, ready to go to h6, and the king on h8 or h7, the combined might of the Quality Chess office has been unable to find a win. **1-0**

(2) Ekkehard Schnoor – Eric Peterson, Dresden 2007

White played **28.♖xb5? axb5 29.♖xb5±** and held a slight edge for a while. (0-1, 107). Later he regretted not playing **28.g4!**, when Black cannot hold the defence of f7 and White simply wins. For example: **28...♖xg4† 29.♖g2** and the queen is lost.

(3) R. De Crop – D. van Vliet, Brasschaat 2007

Black won an important tempo for only a rook. **20...♖c5! 21.♖xa8 ♖g5†** White is mated. **0-1**

(4) NN – Tony Rotella, Internet Blitz 2008

21...♖h2†! Thematic and effective. **22.♕xh2 ♖f2† 23.♕h3 ♕e7** White resigned. **24.fxe5 ♖h8† 25.♕g4 f5†** and mate is near. **0-1**

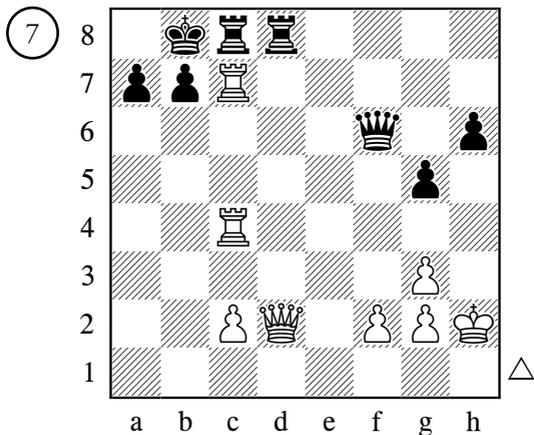
(5) Tony Rotella – NN, Internet Blitz 2008

White is generally winning, but it is fun to end with a flourish: **23.♖xf7†! ♕xf7 23...♕h8 24.♗g5 ♖d7** is equally hopeless. **25.♖xe8!** is the most effective, and also the most stylish. **24.♗g5† ♕g8 25.f7# 1-0**

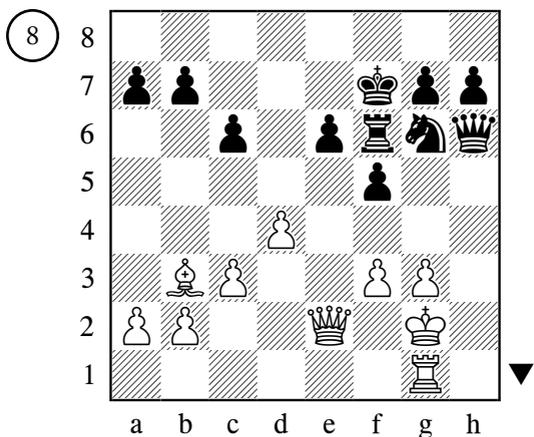
(6) Robert Dabo-Peranic – Zdenko Kozul, Croatia (rapid) 2007

White has played the game brilliantly, and now mated the former European Champion with a queen sacrifice. A real-life dream scenario: **17.♖b5†! 1-0**

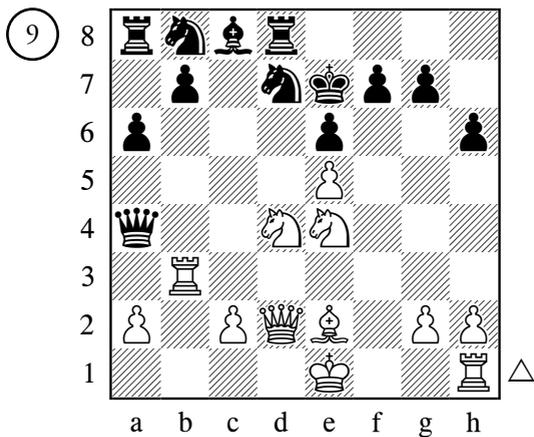
Sullivan – Rousseau, Montreal 2003



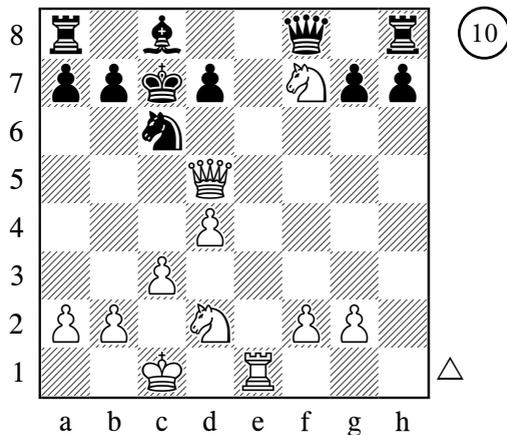
Ortkamp – Neuer, Germany 1981



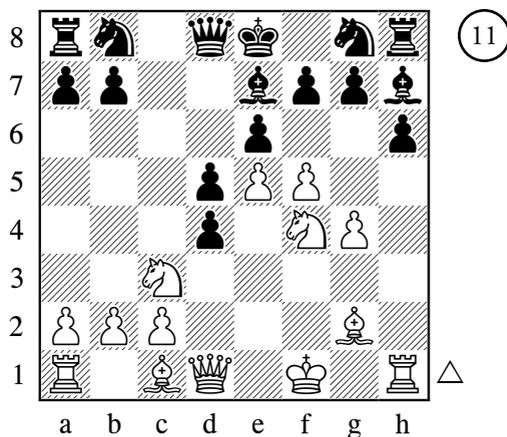
Wyss – Rölli, Switzerland (ch) 2008



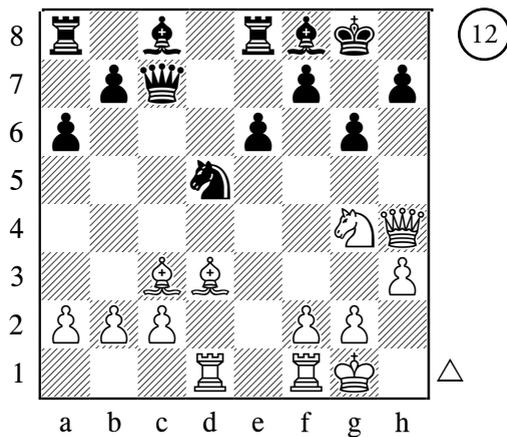
Lindam – Weber, Germany 1991



Lindam – Smithers, Correspondence 2003



Robiulle – Muneret, France 2008



(7) Neil Sullivan – Daniel Rousseau, Montreal 2003

White took control over the 7th and 8th ranks with the brutal **26.♖d7!!**, forcing immediate resignation. **1-0**

(8) Hans-Georg Ortkamp – Thomas Neuer, Germany 1981

Black won with a fine shot. **27...♗f4†! 28.gxf4 ♖g6† 29.♕f2** White is lost. After **29.♕f1** Black has **29...♖h3†!** forcing the win of material. **29...♖h2† 30.♕e3 ♖xe2† 31.♕xe2 ♖xg1 0-1**

(9) Jonas Wyss – Sabrina Rölli, Swiss Championship 2008

With the black king in the centre it is not a surprise that there is a direct win. It is also not a surprise that it is brutal and sacrificial. **17.♗xe6! fxe6 18.♖d6† ♕f7 19.♗g5†!** Not the only win, but a nice way to own the light squares. White also wins after **19.0-0† ♕g8 20.♖g3!** with a winning attack. For example: **20...♕h8 21.♖xg7!+- 19...hxg5 20.0-0† ♕g6 21.♖h3!** Accurate till the end. Black is mated. **21...g4 22.♖xe6† ♗f6 23.♖xf6† ♕g5 24.♖f5# 1-0**

(10) Ingo Lindam – Michael Weber, Germany 1991

White has a promising position and can take back the sacrificed exchange. But instead he found an instant winner: **21.♖e8!! ♖xe8** Nothing else makes any sense. **22.♖d6† ♕b6 23.♗c4†** Black resigned, facing mate-in-three. **1-0**

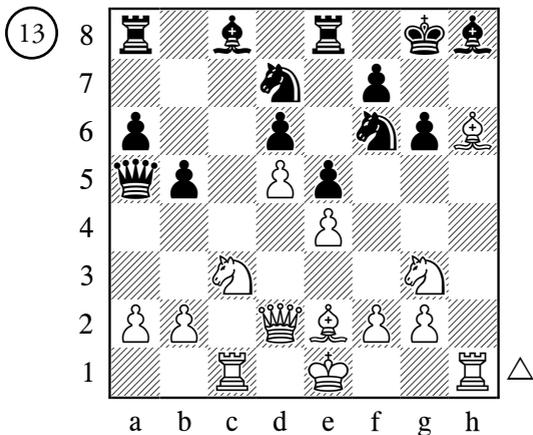
(11) Ingo Lindam – Steven Smithers, Correspondence 2003

White wins material with a neat little twist. **13.fxe6! dxc3** There is no alternative. **14.exf7† ♕xf7 15.♖xd5†!** The point. The rook on a8 cannot be defended after the queens come off. **1-0**

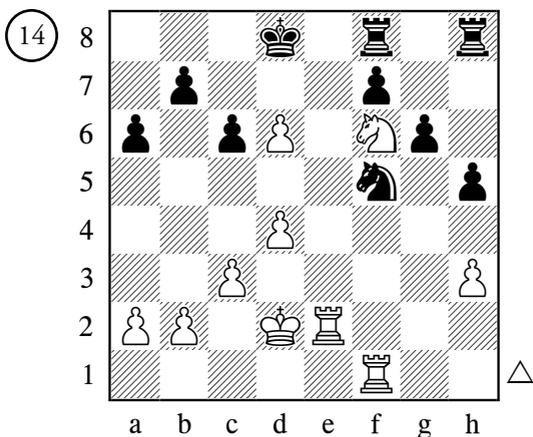
(12) J.M. Robiolle – M. Muneret, France 2008

22.♕xg6! The most effective solution. White is also winning after **22...♕e5 ♖e7 23.♕f6!**, when Black should give up the exchange. **22...fxg6 23.♖xd5! exd5 23...♕g7** was possible, but after **24.♗f6†** or **24.♕xg7 ♖xg7 25.♗f6†** Black is dead anyway. **24.♗f6†** Black resigned. A possible line was: **24...♕f7 25.♖xh7† ♕g7 26.♖xg7†! 1-0**

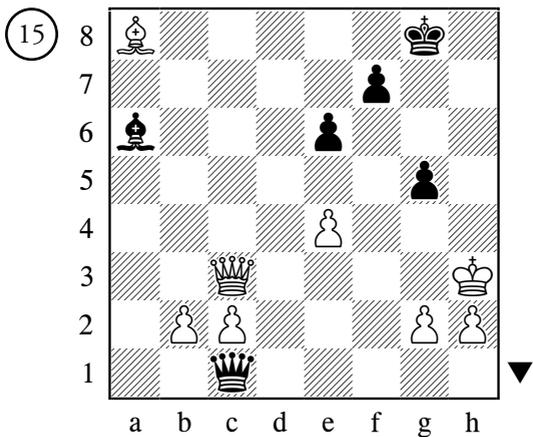
Soszynski – Henderson, Nottingham 1999



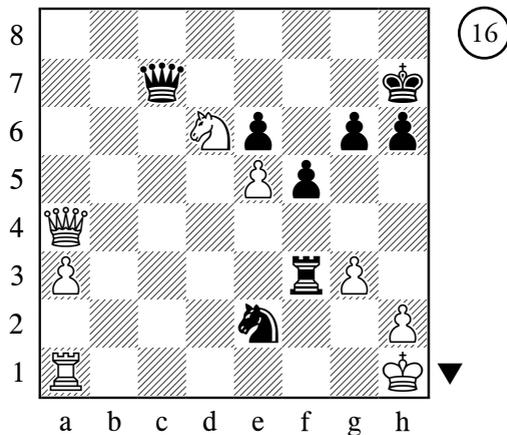
Ljubicic – Peranic, Croatia 2000



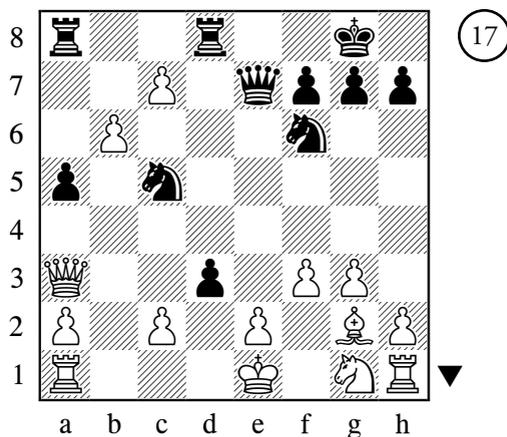
Sanchez – Semprun, Spain 2006



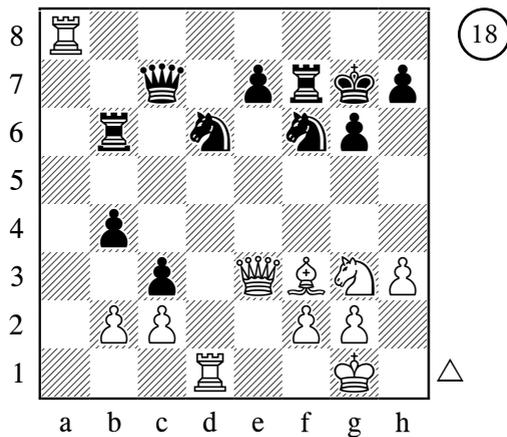
Gardner – Scoones, Canada 1985



Papatryfonos – Bibby, Calvia (ol) 2004



Bemrose – Ramachandran, Australia 2005



(13) Marek Soszynski – B. Henderson, Nottingham 1999

White has a promising position, but to be able to exploit the weaknesses on the kingside and in the centre at the same time requires violence. **17. ♖f5! ♜xe4** Trying to make it to an ending, but there is no happiness there either. The more critical 17...b4 is best met with 18. ♕f8! (although 18. ♜xd6!? also wins) 18... ♖h5 19. ♞xh5! gxh5 20. ♕xd6 and the black king lacks a defence. Black cannot take on c3, as it would allow the rook to quickly reroute to g3 with terminal effect. **18. ♜xe4 ♞xd2† 19. ♜xd2 gxf5 20. ♜xd6** Complete collapse. **20... ♞d8 21. ♕h5 ♜f6 22. ♕xf7† ♜h7 23. ♕f8† ♖h5 24. ♞xh5# 1–0**

(14) Filip Ljubcic – Robert Dabo Peranic, Croatia 2000

34. ♞xf5! gxf5 35. d7! Black is paralysed. White is in no hurry to give the check on e8, but first brings the king to f5. **35... ♞hg8 36. ♜e1 h4 37. ♜f2** Black resigned. 37...a5 38. ♜f3+– **1–0**

(15) Lidia Sanchez – Fernando Semprun, Spain 2006

Black organizes a surprise mating attack with a few clever twists. **28...e5! 29. ♕d5** 29. ♞f3 loses to the nice line: 29... ♞e1! 30. ♞g4 ♞e3† 31. ♞f3 g4†!! 32. ♜xg4 ♕e2–+ **29... ♞f4** The quickest way to mate, but Black was also winning after: 29...g4†!? 30. ♜xg4 ♕e2†–+ **30. ♕xf7† ♜g7 0–1**

(16) David Gardner – Dan Scoones, Canada 1985

Black managed to unsettle the white pieces with a lovely punch. **46... ♞xa3!** White resigned. After 47. ♞xa3 ♞c1† 48. ♜g2 ♞g1† 49. ♜f3 ♜d4† Black would win the queen. **0–1**

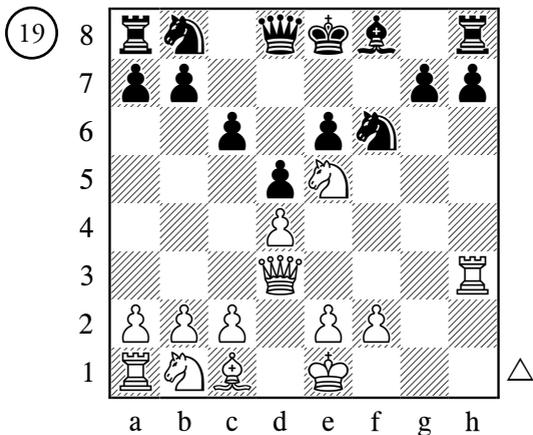
(17) Constatinos Papatryfonos – Simon Bibby, Calvia Olympiad 2004

Black is able to give up a lot of pieces, as his opponent's king is in trouble. **19...d2†!** 19... ♖ce4 20. cxd8=♞† ♞xd8 21. ♞xd3! ♣ is less clear. **20. ♜d1 ♜ce4!** An elegant solution. Black could also win with: 20... ♖d5!? 21. cxd8=♞† ♞xd8 22. e4 ♖a4!!–+ **21. fxe4** Resignation. 21. cxd8=♞† ♞xd8 changes nothing. 21. ♞e3 ♖d5! is another way to end the game. **21... ♞xa3 22. cxd8=♞† ♞xd8 23. ♖f3 ♞b2 0–1**

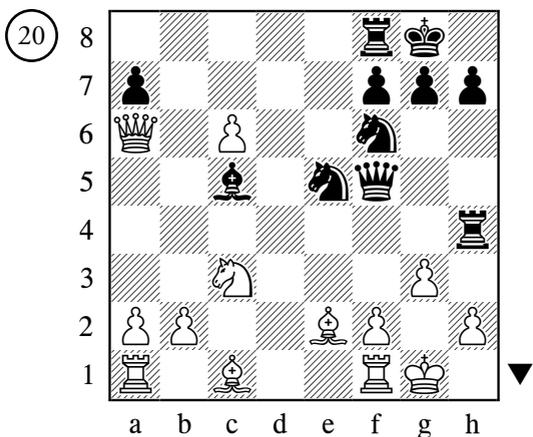
(18) Trevor Bemrose – Rajendran Ramachandran, Australia 2005

White has a good position, but to win it still requires work. White did this with a nice shot. **26. ♞xd6! ♞xd6** Black saw no reason to fight on with a piece less. **27. ♖f5†! gxf5 28. ♞g5# 1–0**

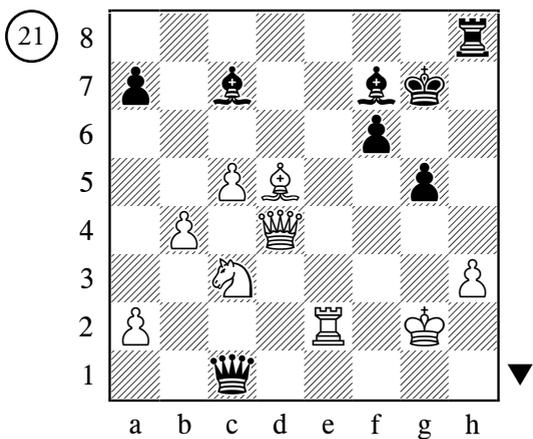
Lindam – Renner, Stuttgart 1995



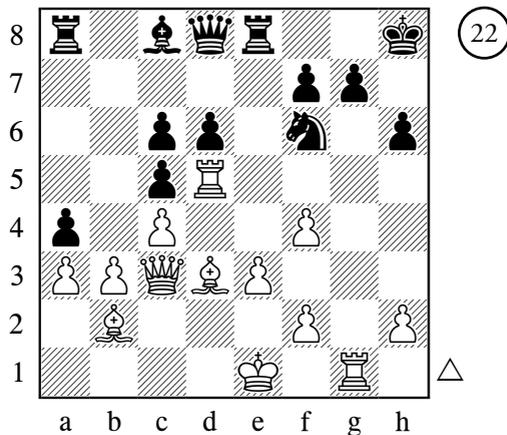
Cooper – Stimpson, England 2004



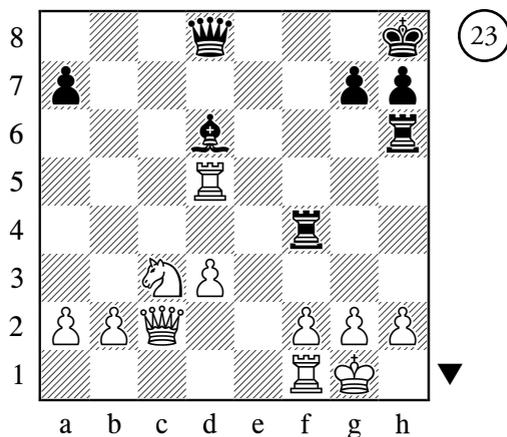
King – Marques, Internet Blitz 2008



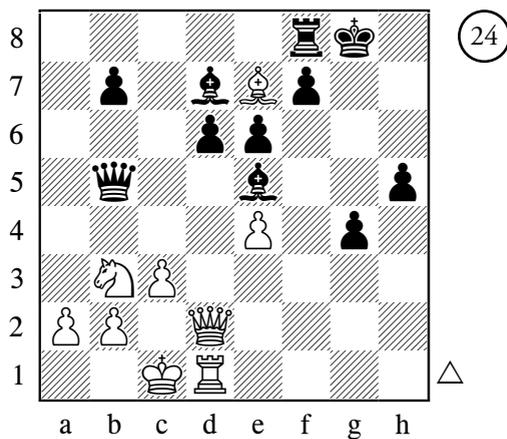
Van Vliet – Roos, Belgium 2007



Swede – Hannum, Café (friendly) 2008



Semprun – Faller, England 1983



(19) Ingo Lindam – Kai Renner, Stuttgart 1995

White wins with a classic king hunt. **10.**♖xh7! ♖xh7 **11.**♗g6† ♕e7 **12.**♗f7† ♕d6 **13.**♕c4† dxc4 **14.**♙f4† ♕d5 **15.**♕c3† ♕xd4 **16.0–0–0†** ♕c5 **17.**♙e3† The queen is not enough. The rest is a bit silly, but still fun. **17...**♕b4 **18.**♗xb7† ♗b6 **19.**♙xb6 g6 **20.**♙c7† **20.**a3# **20...**♕c5 **21.**♕a4# **1–0**

(20) L. Cooper – P.M. Stimpson, England 2004

Black is very active, but his attack could quickly lose momentum. In the game he made sure this did not happen. **19...**♗h3!! **20.**gxf4 ♕f3†! Blocking the f-pawn. These two great moves could of course be inverted. **21.**♙xf3 ♙d6 White cannot avoid mate. **22.**♖d1 ♙xh2† **23.**♕h1 ♙g3† **24.**♕g1 ♗h2† **25.**♕f1 ♗xf2# **0–1**

(21) Jens K. King – Marques, Internet Blitz 2008

Although only an Internet blitz game, Black found a wonderful combination. **32...**♖xh3!! **33.**♕xh3 There is no reason not to take the rook. After something like **33.**♕d1, Black wins trivially: **33...**♗h2† **34.**♕f1 ♖xe2 **35.**♕xe2 ♗c2† **36.**♕e1 ♙g3† **37.**♕f1 ♗f5†→ **33...**♗f1†! The important follow-up check. White is mated. **34.**♙g2 White cannot elude his fate: **34.**♖g2 is best met with: **34...**♙c6†!! **35.**♙xe6 ♗f3† **36.**♖g3 ♗xg3#; **34.**♕g4 ♙h5†! **35.**♕xh5 ♗h3† **36.**♗h4 ♗xh4#] **34...**♗f5† White resigned. The next check is on h7, and it hurts. **0–1**

(22) D. van Vliet – A. Roos, Belgium 2007

White needs to strike or cry. A fancy move like **19.**♗h5 only leads to a perpetual check, but White can strike much harder with: **19.**♗xf6!! ♗xf6 This does not change much. **19...**gxf6 **20.**♗h5 and Black is mated. **20.**♙xf6 cxd5 **21.**♖xg7 ♖e4 The only way to avoid mate, but not a way to live. **22.**cxd5 ♙f5 **23.**♖g5† ♕h7 **24.**♖xf5 ♖ae8 **25.**♙e5 **1–0**

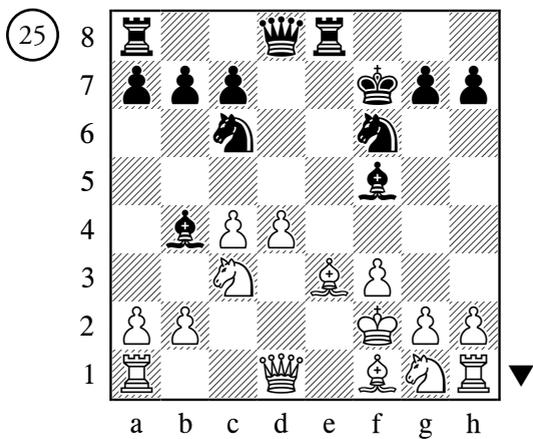
(23) A. Swede – W. Hannum, Café Friendly 2008

A sudden chance, and Black created a little masterpiece. **24...**♖xh2!! **25.**g3 The only attempt. **25.**♕xh2 is refuted by thematic means: **25...**♗h4† **26.**♕g1 ♖h1† **27.**♕xh1 ♗h4† **28.**♕g1 ♗h2# **25...**♗h4!! But this ends all discussion. **26.**gxf4 ♖g4# **0–1**

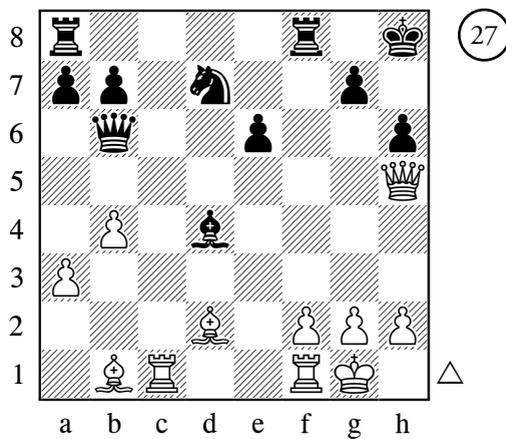
(24) Fernando Semprun – A. Faller, England 1983

White would like to play **25.**♗g5†, but after **25...**♙g7! the queen on b5 would interfere and give Black the edge. Instead White found a tricky little deflection in **25.a4!** forcing Black to resign in view of the mate. **1–0**

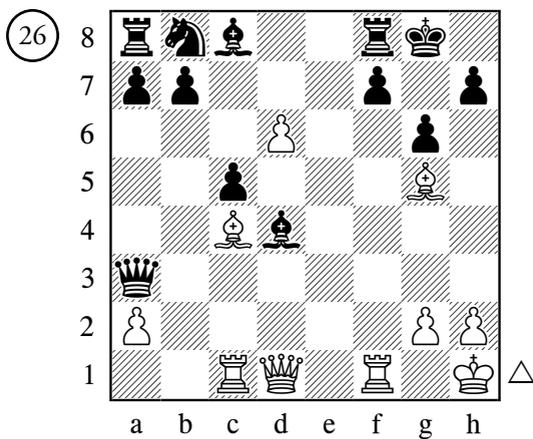
NN – Rotella, Internet Blitz 2008



Mihoci – Ziskovic, Croatia 2004



Rotella – NN, Internet (rapid) 2008



(25) NN – Tony Rotella, Internet Blitz 2008

Black won with a demolition on the dark squares. **10...♞xe3! 11.♔xe3 ♕c2!!** The really brilliant move, luring the queen to a worse square. **11...♗xd4!?** is very good for Black, but not as direct. **12.♞d2 12.♞xc2 ♞xd4† 13.♔e2 ♕xc3 14.bxc3 ♞e8†**—+ is hopeless. **12...♗g4†! 13.fxg4 13.♔e2 ♞e7†** and the queen is gone. **13...♞g5†** The point. **14.♔f2** In blitz, who can blame him. **14.♔e2 ♞e8† 14...♞xd2† 15.♗ge2 ♗xd4 16.♞e1 ♞e8 0–1**

(26) Tony Rotella – NN, Internet (rapid) game

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0–0 6.♗f3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♕e2 exd5 9.cxd5 ♞e8 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxex5 ♗g4 12.♕g5 ♞b6 13.0–0 ♗xe5 14.♗xe5 ♕xe5 15.♕c4 ♞xb2 16.d6 ♞f8 17.♞c1 ♕xc3 18.♞b1 ♕d4† 19.♔h1 ♞c3 20.♞c1 ♞a3 21.♞xf7!! This attack was all home preparation. However, this does not reduce the pleasure for the player in executing it. **21...♞xf7 22.♞e2!** The dual threat of ♞e8† and ♕xf7† followed by ♞e7† is too much to handle. The queen is by the way better placed on e2 than on e1, as was played in two games. The main difference is that the defence attempted by Black in this game would be far more successful, as White would lack ♞c4 in the end. **22...♞a4** The other line runs: **22...♕e3 23.♕xe3 ♔g7 24.♕xf7 ♔xf7 (24...♕g4 25.♞d2) 25.♞f1† ♔g7 26.♕c1+– 23.♕xf7† ♔g7 23...♔xf7 24.♞e7† ♔g8 25.♕h6** is just mate. **24.♕b3! ♞d7 25.♞xc5!!** Another great shot. **25...♗c6** Or **25...♕xc5 26.♞e5† ♔f8 27.♞h8#**. **26.♞xc6! bxc6 27.♞c4** Black resigned. **1–0**

(27) Ivica Mihoci – Nikola Ziskovic, Croatia 2004

The first move is easy, but the subsequent win is very hard to find. It all ends in a rook ending where White has to show a bit of accuracy to win. **26.♕xh6!** This is easy enough, and in the game Black did not make it harder than this. **26...♕xf2†?** This loses quickly, as the rook can come to c3. The accurate defence was **26...♗f6**, and now **27.♞h3, 27.♞g5** and **27.♕xg7†!** all lead to the same position after a few checks. **27...♔xg7 28.♞g6† ♔h8** Here White cannot do more damage with the pieces he does have in the attack, but he can bring more in. It is not possible for Black to get rid of the queen from g6. **29.♞cd1!! ♞ac8** The only defence. **30.♞d3 ♞c3 31.♞fd1 ♞fc8** It seems as if Black has managed to keep control, but the set-up of his pieces is fragile. **32.♞g5!!** With the threat ♞h4† and ♞xd4. Black has no easy way to meet this. **32...♗h7** The best among not many options. (**32...♞d8** is well met with the curious **33.♔f1!!** threatening ♞h4† and ♞xc3, without having any irritating **...♕xf2†** interfering. And **32...e5** is refuted with **33.♞xc3 ♕xc3 34.♞h6†** and the opening of the a2–g8 diagonal is lethal.) **33.♞h4** Here Black has a real choice for once. Probably best is **33...♕xf2†** to keep some pieces on the board. (After **33...♞xd3 34.♕xd3 ♞c7 35.♕xh7 ♕xf2† 36.♞xf2 ♞xf2† 37.♔xf2 ♔xh7 38.♞d6** White has a winning rook ending. **38...♞c2† 39.♔f3 ♞c3† 40.♔e4 ♞xa3 41.♞xe6 ♞a4 42.♞e7† ♔g6 43.♞xb7 a5 44.♞b6† ♔g7 45.♔f5 axb4 46.g4 ♞a5† 47.♔f4 ♞a4 48.h4 b3† 49.♔g3+–) **34.♞xf2 ♞xf2† 35.♔xf2 ♗f6 36.♞e1+–**, but the extra pawn still needs to be converted in practical play. **27.♔h1 ♗f6 28.♕xg7† ♔xg7 29.♞g6† ♔h8 30.♞c3 1–0****