

**Subject:** Australia v England at the Chess Olympiad

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Australia v England at the Chess Olympiad

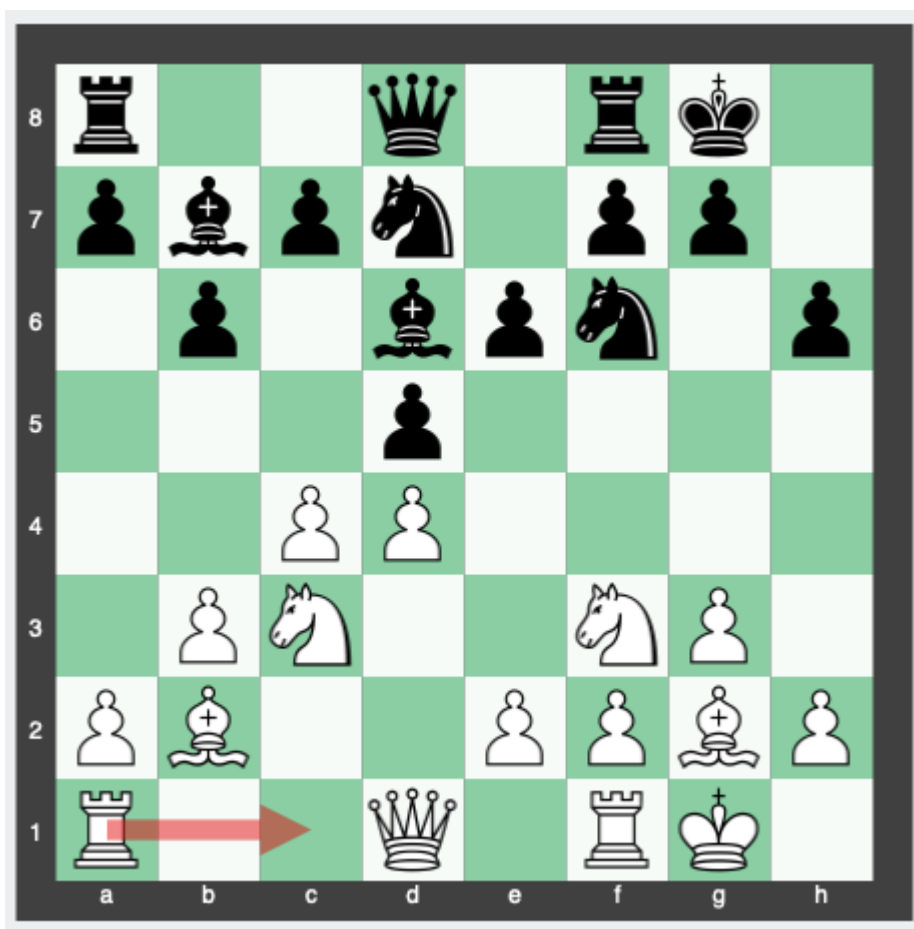
by Paul Power, Australian Chess Federation, from Budapest

Australia faced #8 seeds England today at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest Hungary.

Almost 200 countries are competing for the Olympic Championship, with USA seeded #1 and Australia #37 in the Open section.

England brought an all star team of Nikita Vitiugov, David Howell, Mikey Adams, and Gawain Jones to face Australia's Temur Kuybokarov, Bobby Cheng, Rishi Sardana and Zong-Yuan Zhao.

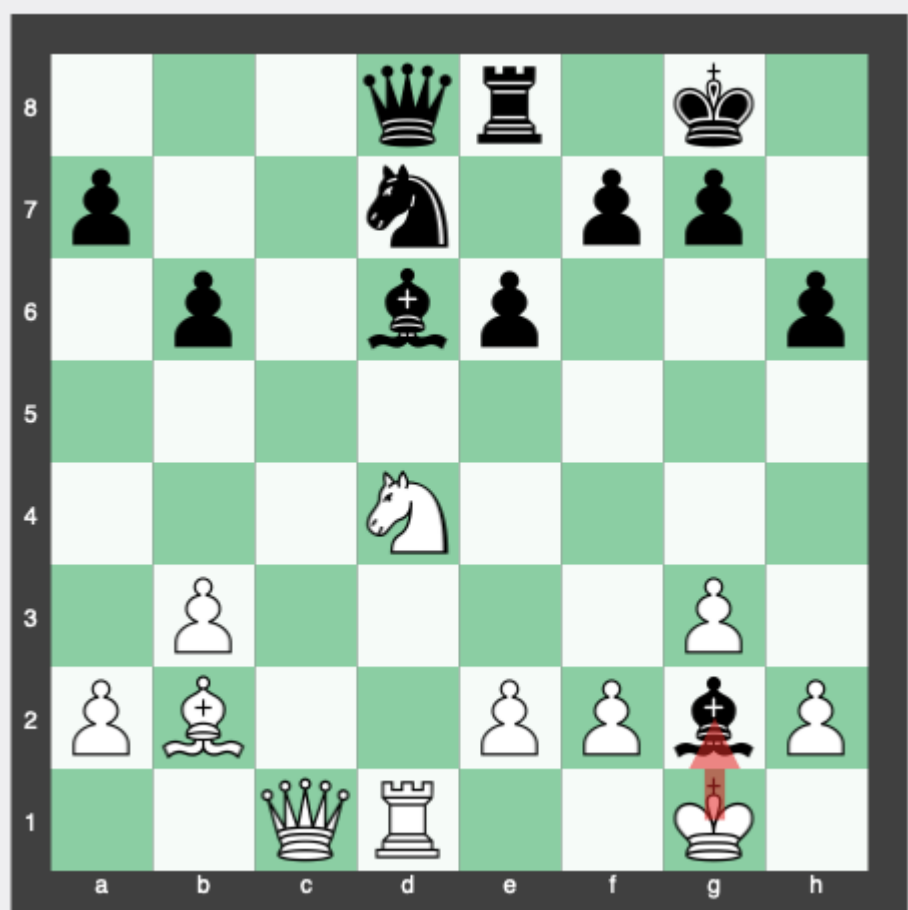
Bobby Cheng (White) played an Anti-Nimzo-Indian Queen's Gambit Declined against David Howell, reaching the same position after 10. Rc1 as Ding Liren vs Vladislav Artemiev, Goldmoney Asian Rapid, 2021



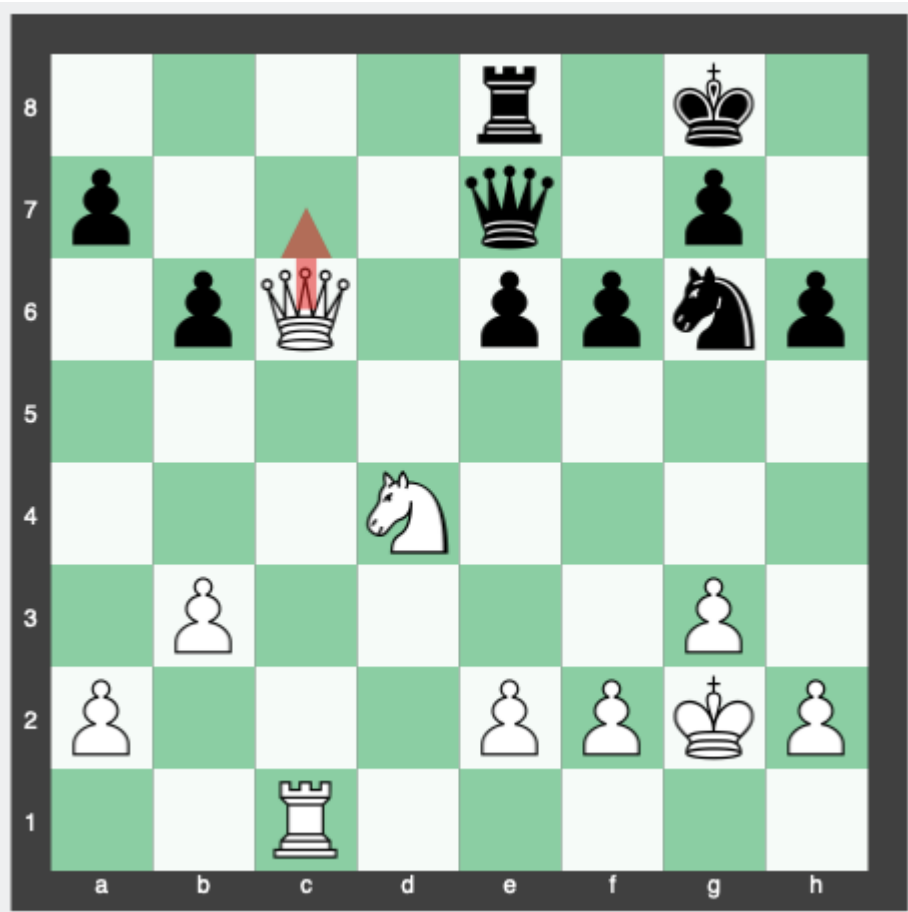
where Artemiev continued 10... c5; Howell played 10... Re8

There followed 11. Qc2 Rc8 12. Rfd1 c5 setting off a cascade of exchanges

13. cxd5 Nxd5 14. Nxd5 cxd4 15. Qd2 Rxc1 16. Qxc1 Bxd5 17. Nxd4 Bxg2 18. Kxg2



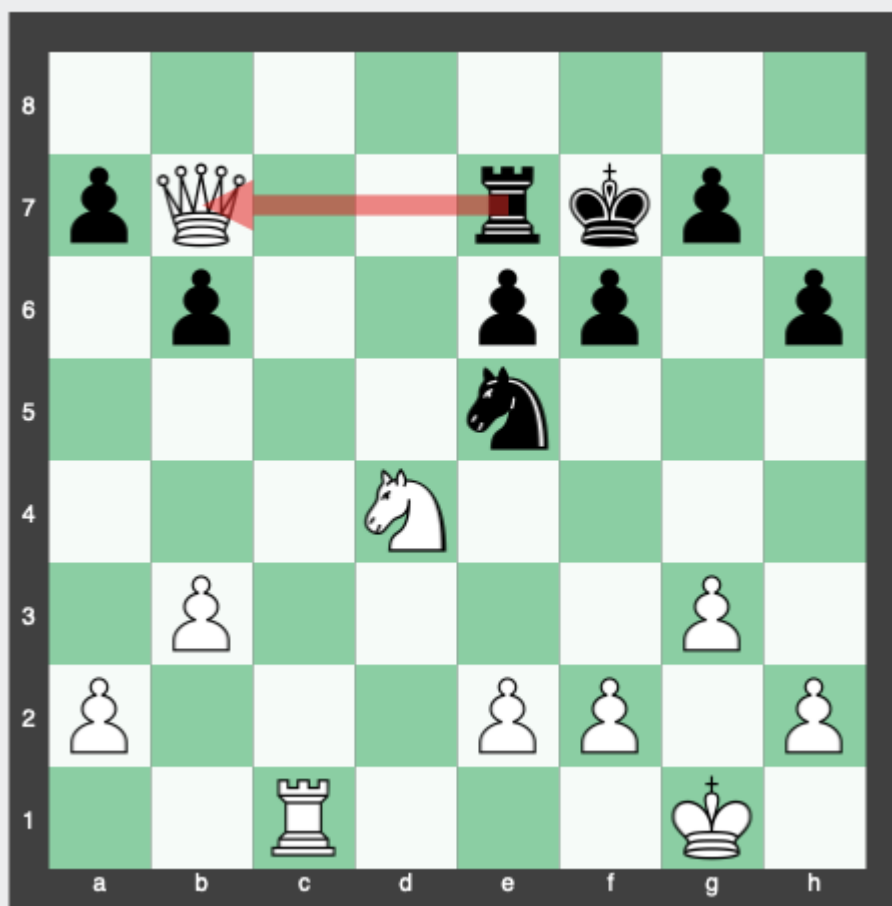
A critical position occurred after 25... Qe7



where White has the opportunity to advance 26. Qc7, but, instead, retreated 26. Qa4

And again, after 26... Qb7+, played 27. Kg1, where 27. Qc6 Qe7 28. Qc7 gives White an advantage.

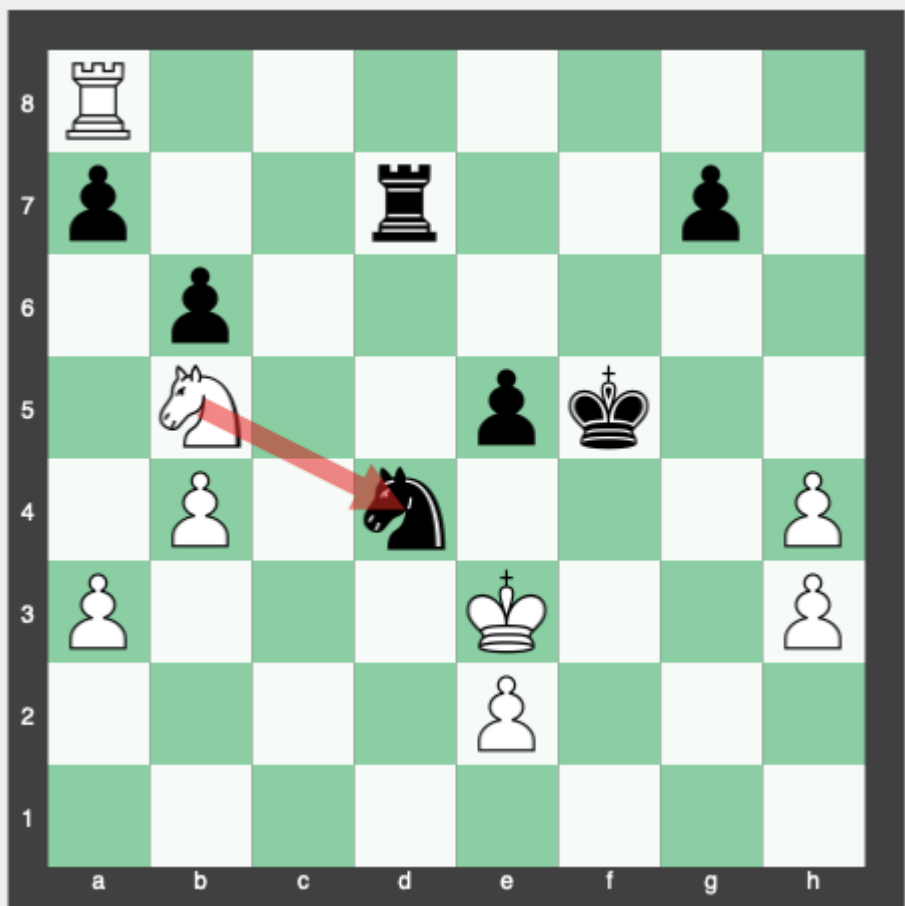
There followed 27... Re7 28. Qc4 Ne5 29. Qc8+ Kf7 30. Qxb7 Rxb7



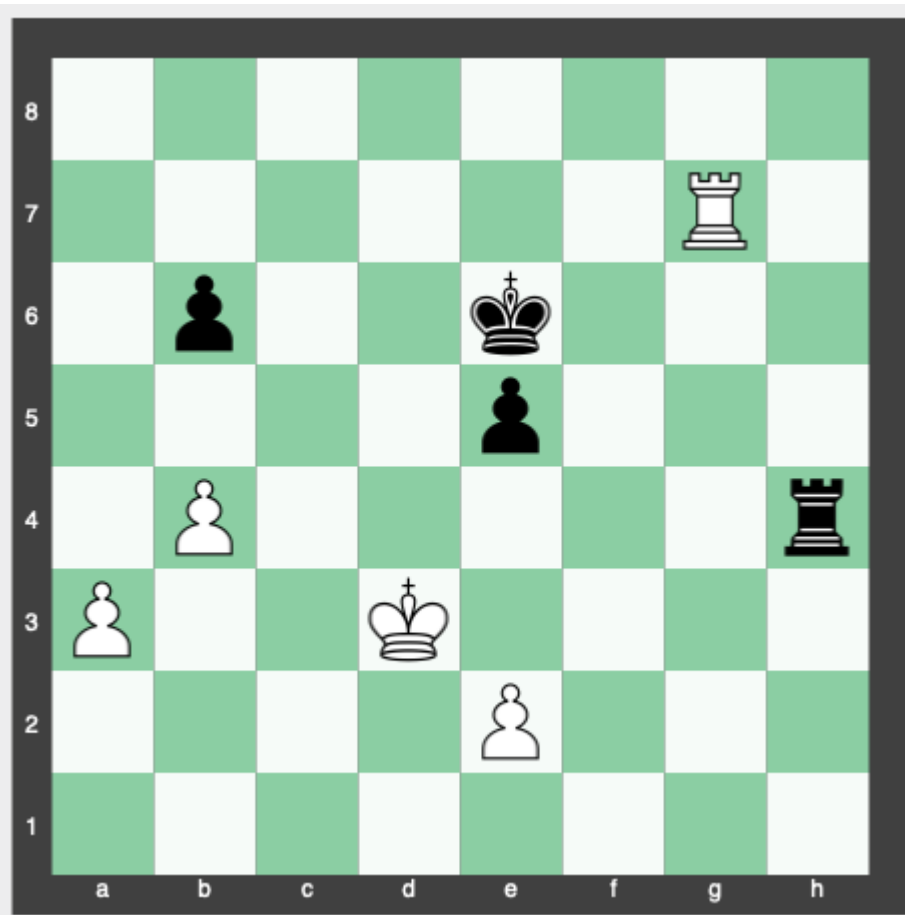
where neither side has an edge.

Spectators would have expected a draw with the Knight, Rook and pawn ending.

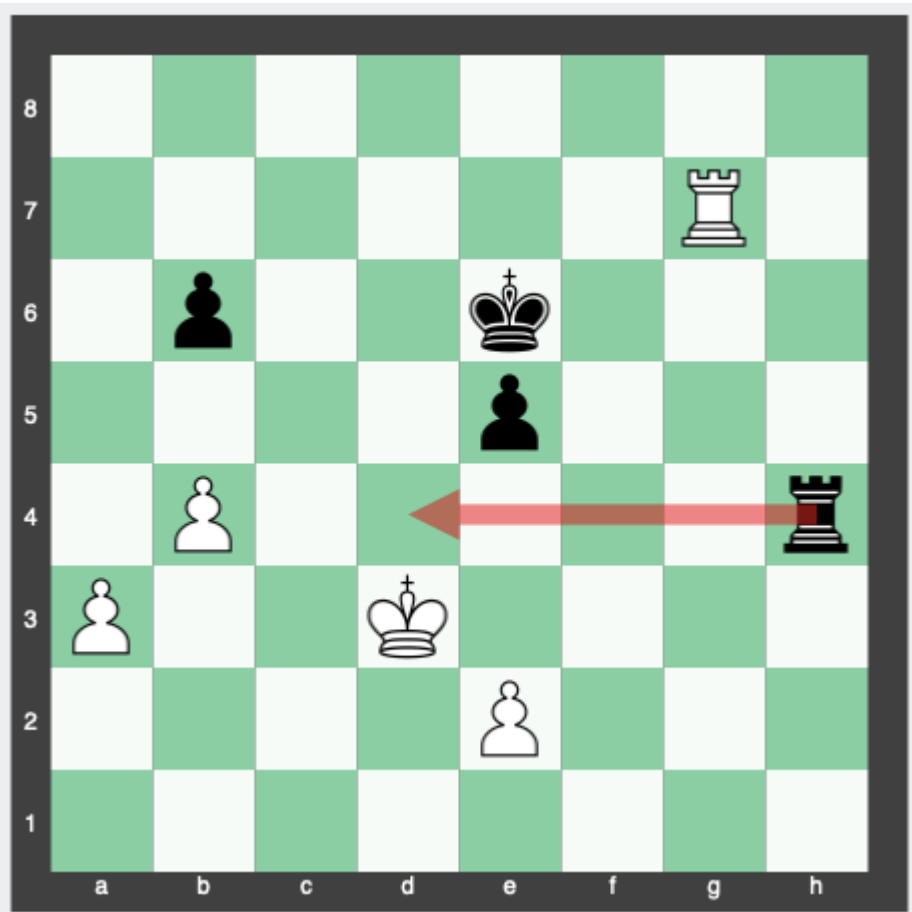
But, the game became a Rook and Pawn ending after 48. Nxd4+ Rxd4



A critical position occurred at 53. Kd3,

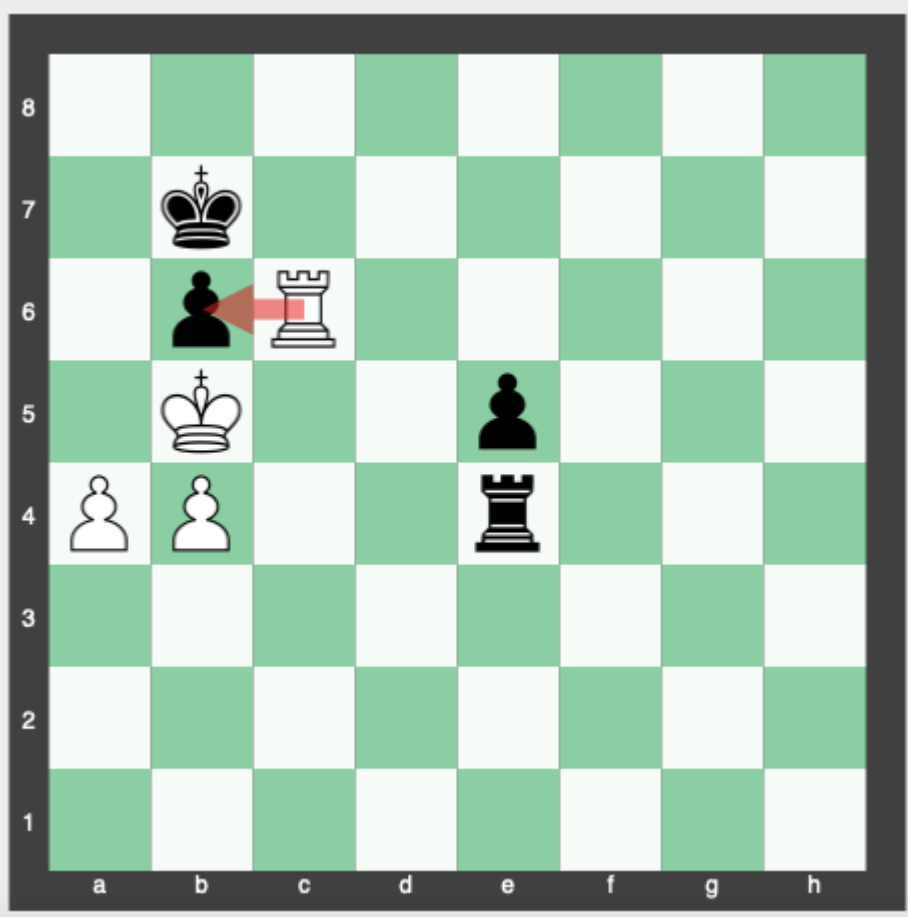


where 53... Rd4+ 54. Ke3 Rh4 55. Kd3 Rd4+ 56. Kc3 Re4 57. Kd2 draws



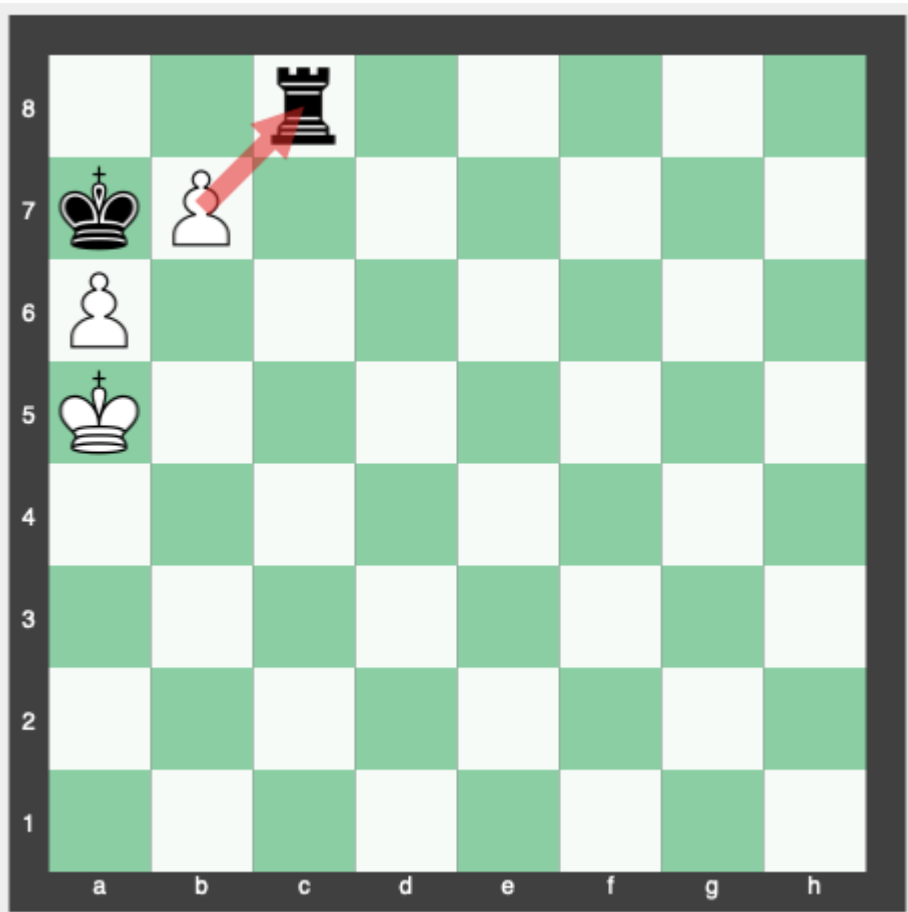
But, instead, Black played 53... Kd5 and after 54. e4+, White's Queen side pawn majority comes into play.

There followed 54... Kc6 55. a4 Rh1 56. Rg6+ Kc7 57. Kc4 Re1 58. Kb5 Rxe4 59. Rc6+ Kb7 60. Rxb6+

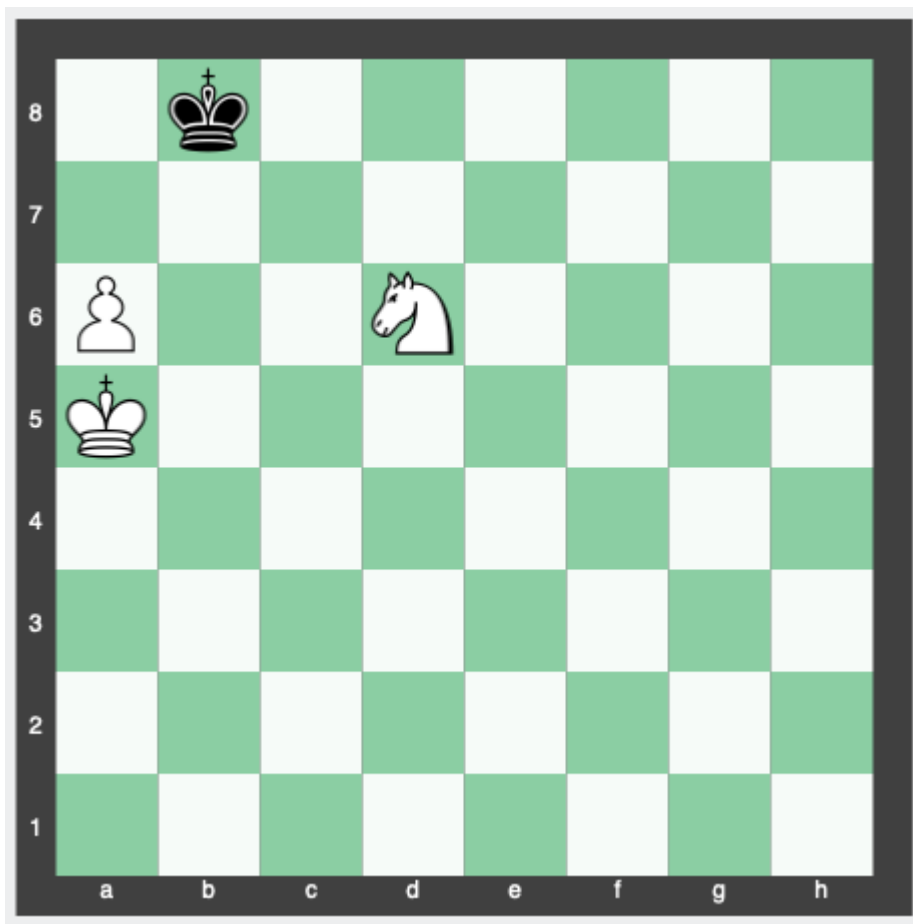


With a tablebase win.

Then on 81. bxc8=N+



Black resigned on 82. Nd6



On board 1, Temur Kuybokarov (Black) scored a solid draw with the highly ranked Nikita Vitiugov.

On board 3, Mikey Adams triumphed over Rishi Sardana.

On board 4, Gawain Jones over-powered Zong-Yuan Zhao. (1.5-2.5)

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The Australian Women's team played Costa Rica.

Australian Jilin Zhang's opponent, Sofia Mayorga Araya, survived to a drawn Rook and pawn ending.

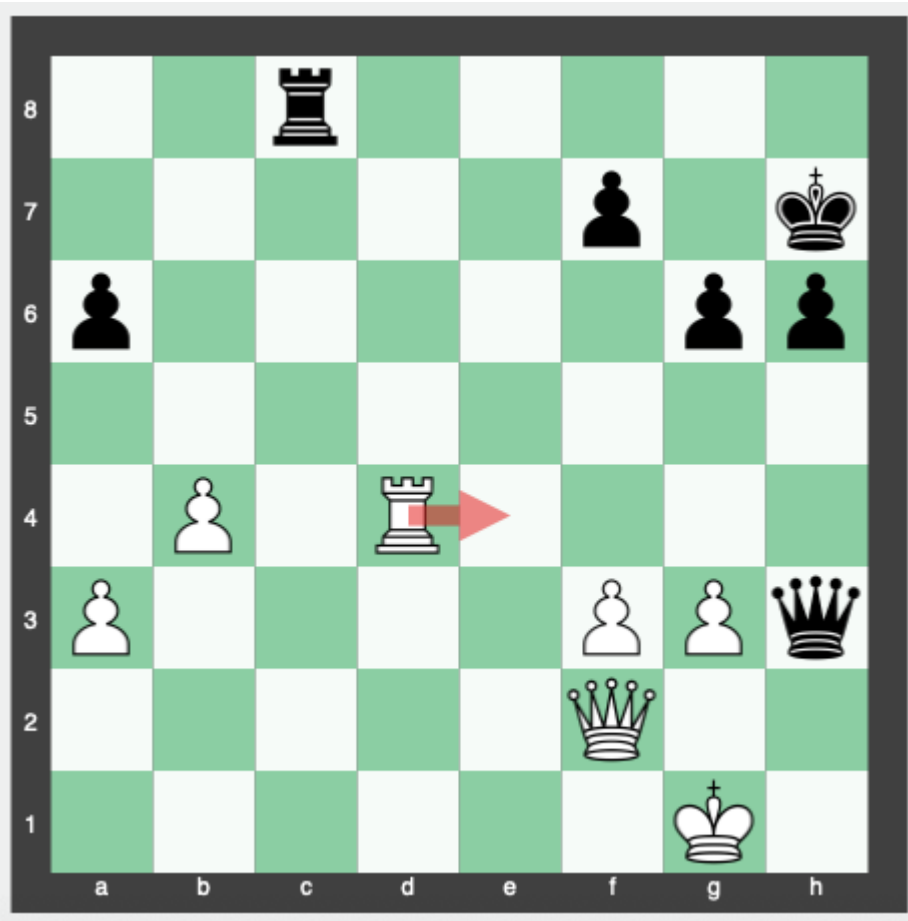
Australia's Giang Thu Nguyen survived to a drawn Rook and pawn ending.

Zhiyuan Shen and Karina Bogantes Robleto had an evenly contested game ending in a Rook and pawn ending draw.

So the result of the match hinged on board 4's Alaina Vincent versus Victoria Canales Chinchilla.

Vincent played the Black side of a Sicilian Defence.

At move 57... Qxh3



the game looked headed for another draw, where 58. Re4 would hold the balance, defending against 58... Rc1 by 59. Re1

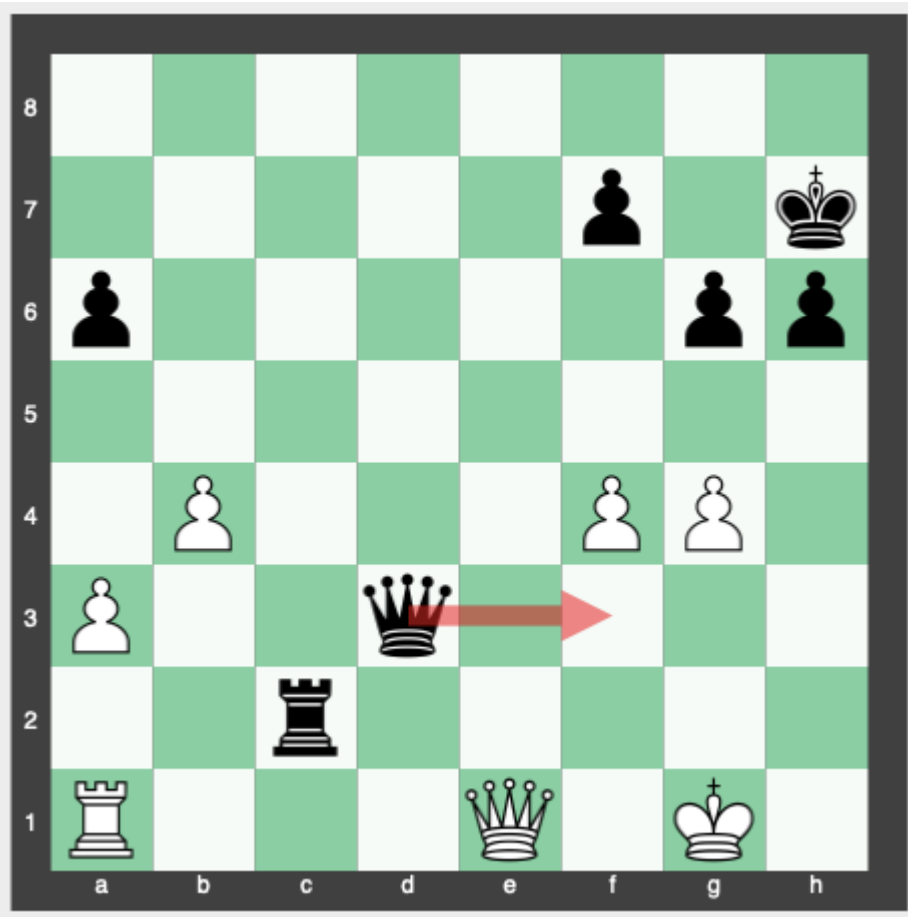
But, instead, White played the retrograde 58. Rd1, evidently fearful of Black's ... Rc1

There followed 58... Rc3 and White must lose pawns.

Forced on the defensive, White continued 59. Ra1 Qf5 and cracked under pressure playing 60. f4 and White's Ra1 is out of play leaving King and Queen to the mercy of Black's Rook and Queen.

There followed 60... Qd3 61. g4 Rc2 62. Qe1 Qf3





White resigned as Checkmate follows.

(2.5-1.5)

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