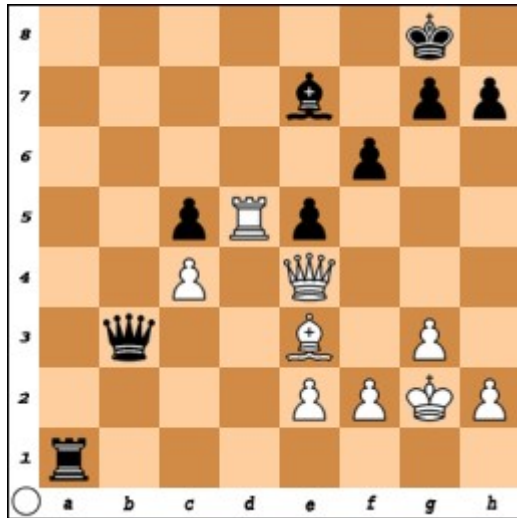


Inside Chess Club

Missed opportunities

Here are two positions from a drawn game played at HMP Wandsworth.



White to move. Can you see a strong move?

1 Rd8+ Bxd8

It looks as though white has lost a rook but the Queen gets a lot of dangerous checks.

2 Qd5+ Kf8
3 Qxd8+ Kf7
4 Qd7+ Kg6

If 4 ... Kf8 5 Bxc5+ Kg8 6 Qe8 checkmate

5 Qe8+ Kf5
6 g4+ Kxg4
7 Qd7+ Kh5

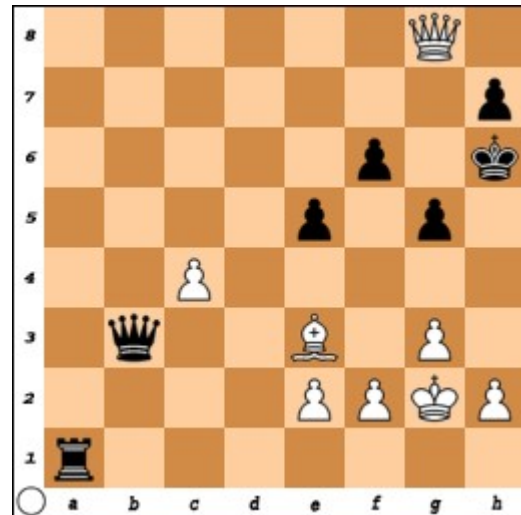
If 7 ... f5 8 Qxg7+ Kh4 9 Qg5 checkmate

8 Qf5+ g5

If 8 ... Kh4 9 Qh3 checkmate

9 Qxh7+ Kg4
10 Qh3 checkmate

All white's moves are forcing moves, checks. Black has very few choices and ends up getting checkmated. However, this line is difficult to see because it is 10 moves deep.



Here is a position from later in the same game. It is White to move.

White played h4 but there is a stronger move.

1 Qf7

This is very strong because threatens the pawn on f6 and stops the King running away to h5.

The only way for Black to defend the pawn on f6 is to play 1 ... Ra6 but then White can play 2 Bc5. What does this threaten?

The answer is Bf8 checkmate. The only way to stop it is 2 ... Qb8 3 Bf8+ Qxf8 4 Qxf8+ but this loses the Queen.

Black's other try is to play

1 Qb1
2 Qxf6+ Qg6

2 ... Kh5 allows 3 Qg5 checkmate

3 Bxg5+ Kh5
4 Qxe5 Qxg5

It looks like White has lost the bishop but the key to this position is that the Black rook is undefended on a1.

5 Qxa1

White is now four pawns up and should win.

Inside Chess Club

Four puzzles



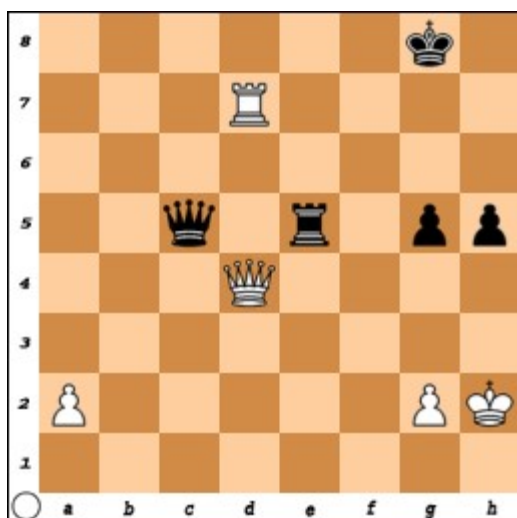
White to move and win

White wants to play Qg7 or Qf6 but the Black Queen and Rook are defending. One move forces Black to move the Queen or the Rook

1 Re8 Qxe8

If 1 ... Rxe8 2 Qg7 checkmate

2 Qf6+ Rg7
3 Qxg7 checkmate

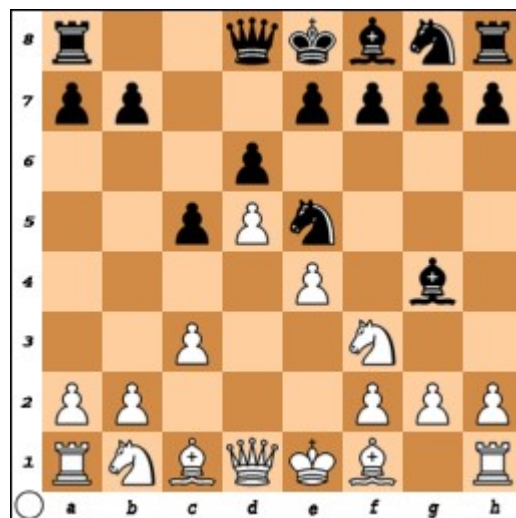


White to move and win

1 Qd3 Rf5
Forced to stop Qg6+ or Qh7+
2 Qb3+ Kh8
3 Qb8+ Qf8

4 Rd8 wins the Queen

If 3... Rf8 4 Qb2+ and checkmate on g7



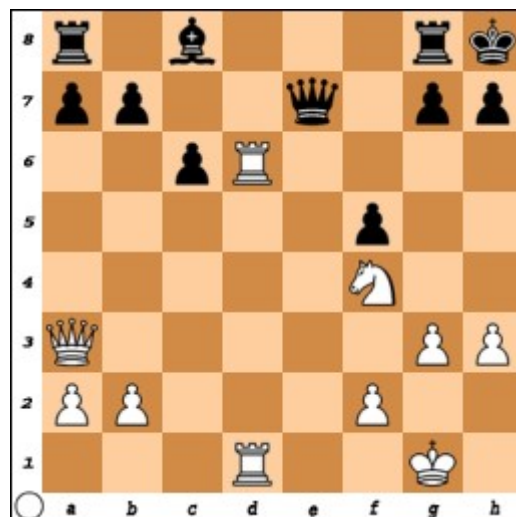
White to play and win a piece

1 Nx5 Bxd8

It looks like White has lost a Queen but there is a lethal check

2 Bb5+ Qd7

3 Nxd7 wins a piece



White to move and win

1 Rh6 gxh6
White threatens Ng6 checkmate.
2 Qxe7 wins a Queen
If 1 ... Qxa3 then Ng6 Checkmate