

D40

□ Vidmar, Milan Sr

■ Tarrasch, Siegbert

DSB-15.Kongress (4)

1906

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.e3 Nf6
5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a3 cxd4 7.exd4 Be7
8.Bf4 0-0 9.Rc1 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qb6
11.0-0 a6 12.b4 Qa7 13.Qd3 Rd8
14.Rfd1 Nd5 15.Bg5 h6 16.Be3 Bf6
17.Ne4 Nce7 18.g4!? Houdini gives
this as +0.4; but the move before, white
was on +1.0: so he concurs with me
that g4 is odd- white's control of the
centre isn't that secure, is it? **Kf8??**

[18...Qb8 19.h4 Ng6 20.g5 hxg5
21.hxg5 Be7 and black is better:
white can't prepare caveman tactics
on the h file by Kg2, because of Nf4+
forking; and meanwhile, black has
control of f4: roughly equal.]

19.h4 Ng8 20.g5 hxg5 21.hxg5 Be7
22.Ne5 f6 23.Ng6+ Kf7 24.Nh8+

[24.gxf6 gxf6 25.Ng5+ Ke8 26.Ne5
f5 27.Bxd5 Rxd5 28.Rxc8+ Rxc8
29.Nxe6 is Houdini's preferred main
line]

24...Ke8 25.Nc5

[⊞25.Qe2]

[25.Bxd5 is the other move Houdini
wants to play. Rxd5 (25...exd5
26.Rc7 dxe4 Diagram

(Diagram)

27.Qb3!! delightful geometry) 26.Nc3
Rf5 27.d5]

25...f5 26.Qe2 g6 27.Nxg6 b5

28.Bxd5 exd5 29.Qh5 Bxc5 30.Ne5+
Kf8 31.Rxc5

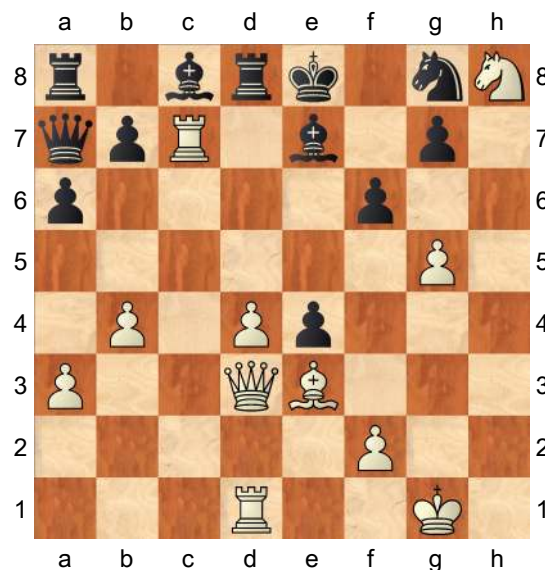
[⊞31.dxc5]

31...Qg7 32.Ng6+ Kf7 33.Rc7+

[⊞33.Nf4+ Kf8 34.Rxc8]

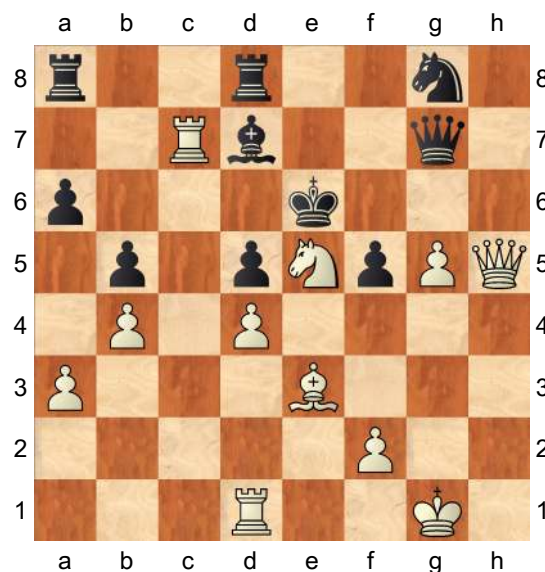
33...Bd7 34.Ne5+

[⊞34.Nh4+ Kf8 35.Nxf5! Qf7 36.g6!



Qxf5 37.g7+! cute. Kxg7 38.Qxf5
and the Bd7 is pinned.]

34...Ke6 Diagram



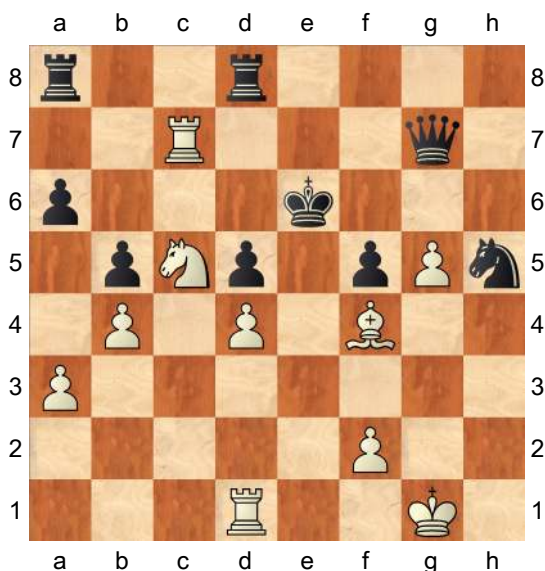
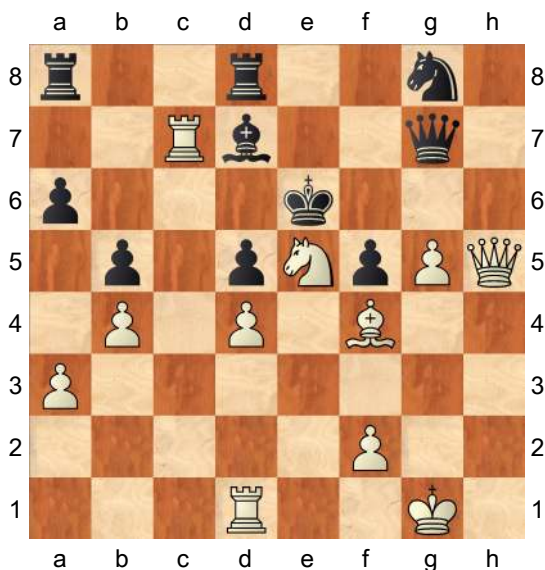
35.Nc6

[⊞35.Bf4 Diagram

(Diagram)

which Houdini says is mate in 14 Nf6
36.Nxd7! Nxh5 (36...Rxd7 37.Rc6+
Ke7 38.Rxf6+- ; 36...Nxd7 37.Rc6+
Ke7 38.Bd6+ Ke6 39.Bf8# ;
36...Qxg5+ 37.Qxg5 Rg8 38.Nc5#)
37.Nc5# Diagram

I didn't see this particular mate, and



hence discounted Bf4. Pity: the other two defences Rd7 and Nd7 are calculable, and the only reason why Houdini says #14 is because of Qg5+, so it is clearly 1-0 for white after Bf4.] [35.Rdc1 the move I chose, simply improving the placement of a badly placed piece. Nf6 the move I thought was black's best defence.

A) 36.Qh2 Ne4 37.Nxd7 (37.R1c6+ Ke7 38.Nxd7 is as good) 37...Rxd7 38.R1c6+ Ke7 39.Rxd7+ Kxd7 40.Rc7+ the point of Qh2 is revealed: control of the h2-b8 diagonal, and

especially sight of c7. ;

B) 36.Qh3 Ne4 37.R1c6+ Ke7 38.Rg6 (38.Qxf5 the computer goes on and on, but clearly white's position is overwhelming; here, the point of Qh3 is revealed: hitting f5);
C) 36.R1c6+ the move I thought of, which is winning, but Houdini has two improvements. Bxc6 37.Rxg7 Nxh5 38.Rg6+ Ke7 39.Nxc6+ Kf7 40.Ne5+ Ke7 a nice little "windmill" series of moves. 41.Rh6 where I got to in my head: white is winning, since either the Nh5 drops off, or black loses the exchange back (Rh8 Ng6+ forks, happily). And the ending is 1-0.]

[35.Kf1! the prophylactic move I considered, aimed at preventing Nf6 (unnecessarily so, as it turns out, since Bf4 has a cute mate even after Nf6). I only slightly plumped for Rdc1; in a game, I might well have chosen Kf1 which I think is the 'safer' move. Rac8

A) 36.Ra7 was my move, and turns out to be winning by the following pretty sequence. Ra8 37.Nxd7! Rxa7 38.Nc5+ Kd6 39.Bf4+ Kc6 (39...Ke7 40.Re1+ Kf8 41.Ne6+) 40.Ne6 ;

B) 36.Rdc1 the other move I considered, and also liked. Rxc7 37.Rxc7 Ne7 38.Bf4] [35.Re1 a move I saw but rejected because of Nf6-e4; but it is Houdini's second preference, after 1 Bf4! Nf6 36.Qh3 Ne4 37.Bf4 and now we can see why: the Qh3 pins the f pawn, and so Re4+ de Qb3 is threatened. Rh8 38.Nxd7 Rxh3 (38...Qxd7 39.Rxe4+! dxe4 40.Qb3+-) 39.Nc5# I wonder if Houdini smiles when making this move?]

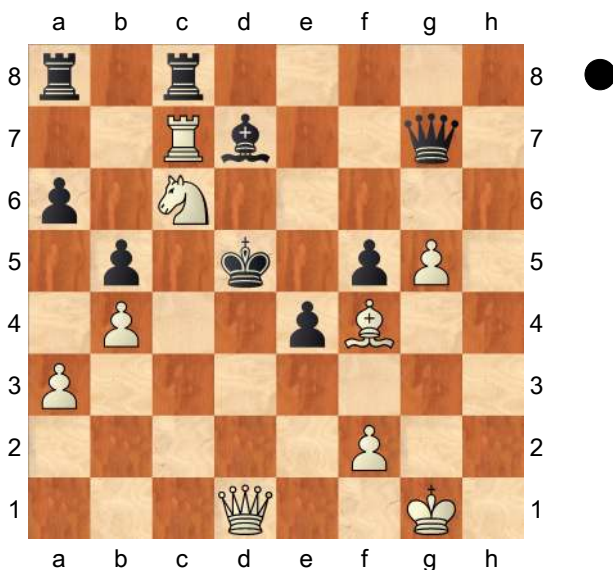
35...Rdc8? though the question mark is

unnecessary, since in any event black is lost: but Rdc8 is #7, if you are playing an engine.

[35...Nf6 the move I thought was best, and indeed Houdini confirms it is (but alas, still +9), sacrificing the exchange. I thought the game would be prolonged and more difficult to win without the knight, hence I preferred both Kf1 and Rdc1. 36.Nxd8+ Rxd8 37.Qh2! taking an eye on h2-b8, as before. Instructive. The following lines are illustrative. Houdini gives them all as +9 or higher, but to my eye, they are more unbalanced than that: yes, of course, white is far better, but I would have some capacity to muck up in the tactics. Ng4 (37...Ne4 38.Rdc1) 38.Qf4 Nxe3 39.Re1]

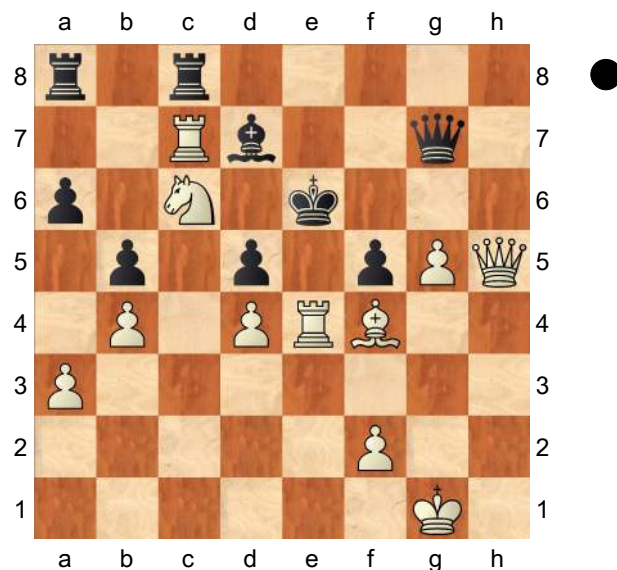
36.Bf4 Nf6 37.Re1+ Ne4

[37...Ne4 38.Rxe4+ dxe4 (38...fxe4 39.Qh3+) 39.d5+! (39.Qd1? Bxc6 still winning (Houdini says #12 after both d5+ and Rg7) but more laborious.) 39...Kxd5 40.Qd1+ Diagram



Kc4 (40...Ke6 41.Qb3#) 41.Na5# (41.Ne5#)]

38.Rxe4+ Diagram



the move I missed

1-0