

## D40

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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 ]

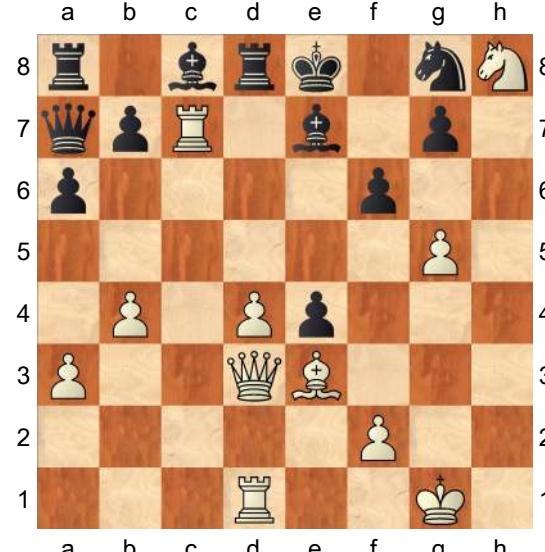
25...f5 26.Qe2 g6 27.Nxg6 b5  
 28.Bxd5 exd5 29.Qh5 Bxc5 30.Ne5+  
 Kf8 31.Rxc5

[ □31.dxc5 ]

31...Qg7 32.Ng6+ Kf7 33.Rc7+  
 [ □33.Nf4+ Kf8 34.Rxc8 ]

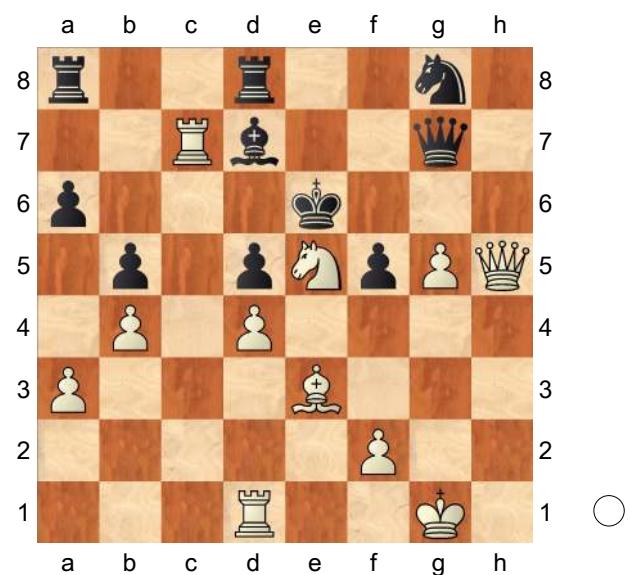
33...Bd7 34.Ne5+

[ □34.Nh4+ Kf8 35.Nxf5! Qf7 36.g6!



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

## 34...Ke6 Diagram



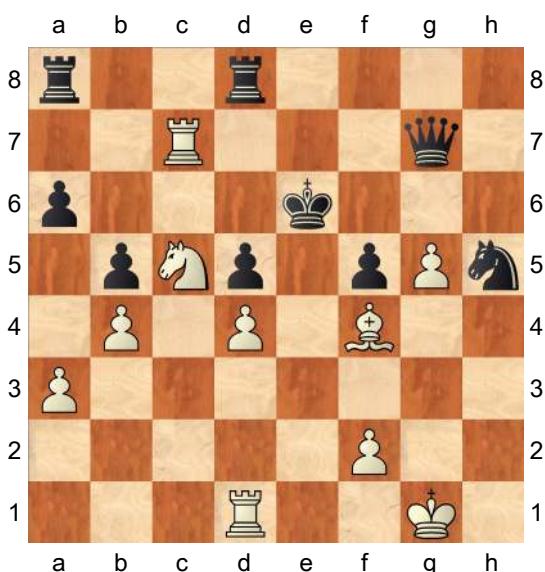
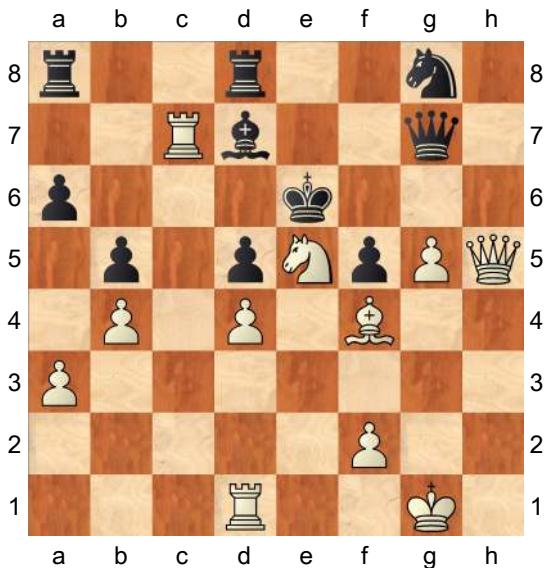
## 35.Nc6

[ □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+! dxе4 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.

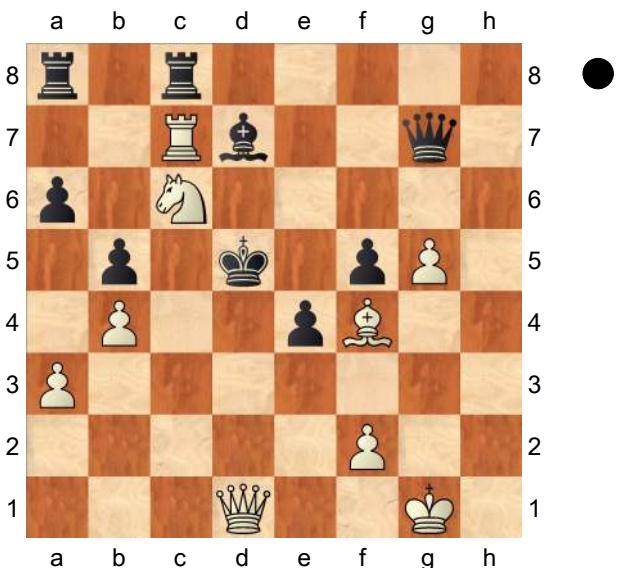
[ 35...Nf6 the move I thought was best, and indeed Houdini confirms it is (but alas, still +9), sacking the exchange. I thought the game would be prolonged and more difficult to win without the knight, hence I preferred both Kf1 and Rdc1. 36.Nxd8+ Rxd8 37.Qh2! taking an eye on h2-b8, as before. Instructive. 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

the move I missed

1-0



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

### 38.Rxe4+ Diagram