

NATO Chess 2013 Round 1 Highlights

Jan Cheung, 21 December 2013

New Year is coming up and preparations for the 2014 Championships are started. Looking back at the games of the 2013 Championship, I saw a lot of interesting positions I wanted to share with you. Topic of this article are some highlights of round 1. Evaluate each position and try to solve the question. Good luck!

Position 1.



Position after 19...a5-a4. What should white play?

Position 2.



The same game in question 1. Look at the material difference!

Position after 49...Pd5-e4+. You have 1 minute thinking time. What should white play?

Position 3.



Position after 14...Lf6-g5. What would you play?

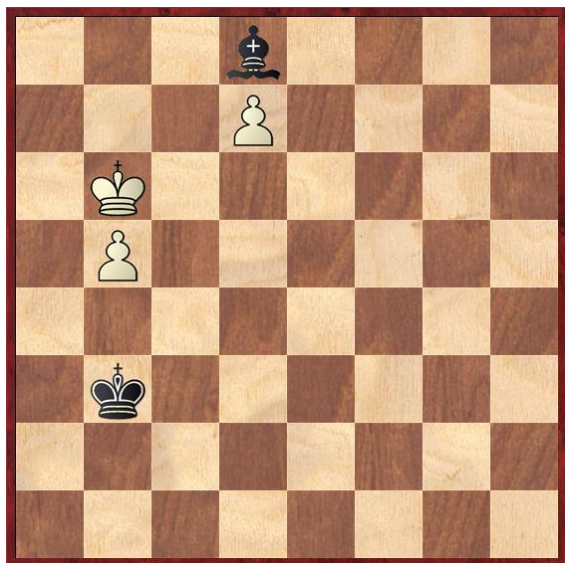
- a) 15.0-0
- b) 15.Nde3

Position 4.



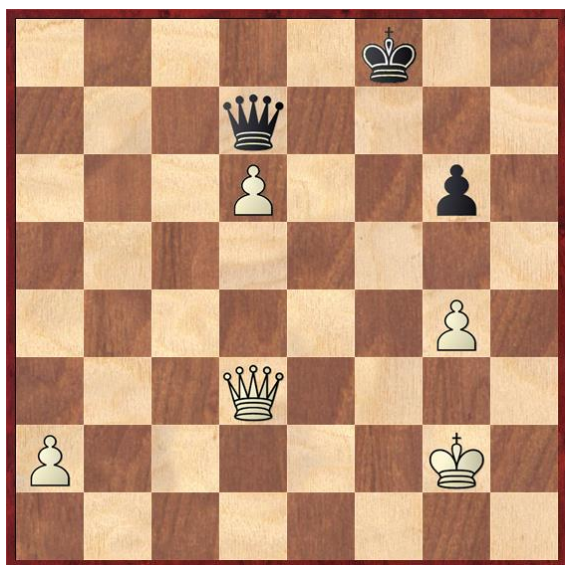
Position after 26...Nb7-d8. You have 1 minute thinking time. What should white play?

Position 5.



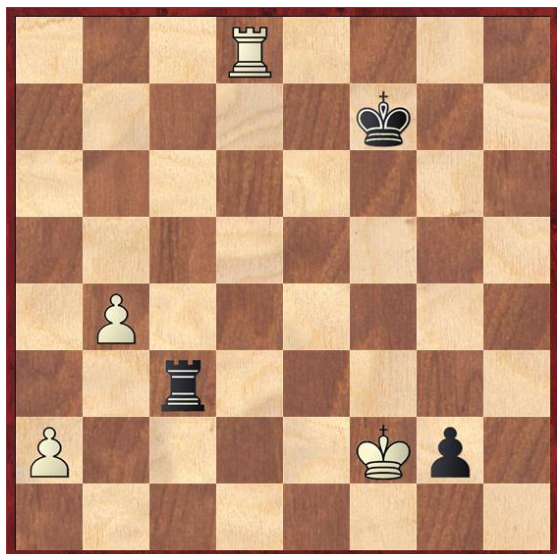
Position after 60..Lf6-d8+. You have 5 seconds thinking time! What should white play?

Position 6.



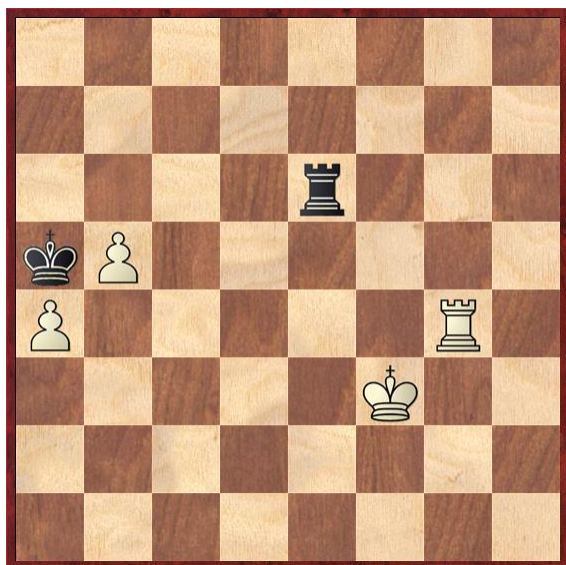
Position after 41....Qd8-d7. What should white play?

Position 7.



Position after 47...Rh3xc3. What should white play?

Position 8.



Position after 60...Kb6-a5. What should white play?

Position 9.



Position after 20.Qa4-c6. What should black play?

Position 10.



Position after 37.Kf2-f3. What should black play?

Position 11.



Position after 15...c7-c6. Assess the position after 16.Ne2. Are other moves possible? Assess the position.

Position 12.



Position after 18.e4-e5. What is black best choice?

Solutions

Position 1 is Maes – Helbig (1.3) Currently, white has less space, but this is a temporary problem because f2-f4 is a plan. With 1.Nxe5 Bxe5 2.Bb4 white can improve his position. In the game white choosed another possibility. 1.Nxe6 fxe6 2.Ne1 but this is less better because in the first option Bd2 has moved to a better square.

Position 2 is the same game Maes – Helbig (1.3). In the game white played 50.Bxf4. After 50...Qxe4 51.dxe4 Txf4 white lost both pawns of the e file and lost. It is time to calculate. Is the position lost for white? After 50.Kf3! Ne6+ 51.Kg3 Qxe4 52.dxe4 Ra8 53.h4 Ra5 54.h5 Rxe5 55.Kf3 Rb5 56.Bd2 Rb3+ 57.Be3 Kg7 (otherwise white will play 58.h6) 58.e5! Rb4 59.Kg3 Re8 60.Bc1 white can defend this position.

Position 3 is Skwarcynski – Rosenkilde (1.4).Black has a better development, so white has to develop his pieces. In the game white played 15.Nde3. Perhaps white thought that the threat Ra1-d1 was strong, but now black can exchange one of his worst pieces in the Svesnikov: 15...Bxe3 16.Nxe3 Be6 and black has solved his opening problems. The right move is 15.O-O, keeping the tension.

Position 4 is the same game Skwarcynski – Rosenkilde (1.4). With 27.Nc5! white can win material. In the game white played 27.Ne1? Nb7 28.Nd3 Nd8? 29.Ne1? Nb7 30.Nd3 with a three fold repetition.

Position 5 is HC Andersen –Demjen (1.5). It is important to restrict the participation of the blacks king. . 61.Kc6 or 61.Ka6 wins. In the game perhaps time trouble occured. White played 61.Kb7? Kb4 62.b6 Kb5 63.Kc8 realizing that after 63...Bxb6 is a draw

Position 6 is Michalski – Tikerpuu (1.12). White didn't notice any danger and took the pawn at g6. After 42.Qxg6? black forced stalemate with 42...Qc6+ 43.Kf2 Qf3+ 44.Ke1 Qe2+. 42.Kg3 could be played.

Position 7 is Alaslar – De Cat (1.14). With 42.Rd2! white could do two things simultaneously with his rook,1) to attack the passed pawn at g2 and to support the white pawns on the rear. In the game white played 48.a4? After 49... Rc2+ 49.Kg1 Ke7 50.Rd4 Ke6 51.b5 Rb2 52.Rg4 Kd6 53.Rxg2 black could save the game directly with 53...Rb4, despite white has two pawns up. In the game black didn't play 53...Rb4 and the game struggles on.

Position 8 is the same game Alaslar – De Cat (1.14). White has one plan to improve his position with bringing his rook to a6. With the tactical 61.Kf4! black is unable to keep his rook on the 6th row because white has the possibility Rg4-g6-a6+. If the black rook leaves the 6th row, the white king will

be heading to c5 to support the passed pawns. Note that 61...Kxa4 fails to 62.Kf5+ picking up the rook at e6. In the game white played 61.Re4? Rh6? (61...Rd6! 62.Kf4 Rd5! Leads to a draw) 62.Kf4? (62.Kg4! preventing Rh6-h5 should be played) 62...Rh5 and the game ended in a draw.

Position 9 is the game Narman – Kocur. It looks like black is in trouble. Ba6, Qc7 and pawn d6 is attacked. What after 20...Qxc6 21.dxc6? Could the passed pawn stopped? Yes: After 21...dxe5! black has the possibility of e7-e6 stopping the passed pawn. The game is nearly equal. In the game black must have overseen this possibility and played 20...Rb7, losing the bishop at a6.

Position 10 is the game Leveillee – Van Run (1.21). A time trouble scene. After 37...Qxb7+ 38.Nxb7 Bd5+ black wins a piece.

Position 11 is the game Cohnen – Vuitton. After 16.Ne2? black could execute a double attack with 16..Ne4, attacking Bd2 and field g5, attacking Qf3 and Rh3. A rule of thumb is to improve the position of the worst piece first. Nc3 has a defensive task of guarding e4. What is white worst piece? Bd2 couldn't be improved, but Rh3. With 16.Rh4!? Na6 17.Qh3!? white could offer an exchange of queens. The position is nearly equal.

Position 12 is the game JM Nielsen – Bublys. A position with an unusual material unbalance. White has a dangerous attack. A rule of thumb is to attack an important attacker. With 18...Qd7 intending 19...Qg4 black could keep the tension. In the game black played 19..Rg8 and lost the game after both sides missed their chances.