

participant, 14-year-old IM Shreyas Royal, earned his second GM norm.

Royal earned his norm thanks to a win over GM Jules Moussard. A key moment is shown in our **example**, and variations are shown in each puzzle. Watch out: some are tricky!

Here, Royal busted out the phenomenal **48. ... Bg5!** when White's only move was **49. Qxg3**. After **49. ... Bxd2 50. Qh2 Rxg2 51. Qxh6+** (or 51. Qxg2, see **Puzzle 3**) **51. ... Bxh6 52. Bxg2**, the endgame

is simply won thanks to the bishop pair and extra pawn.

**BLACK TO PLAY**



### ROYAL DAZZLES IN LONDON

In the London Chess Classic, the oldest participant (52 year-old GM Michael Adams) won the tournament and the youngest

# 1.

**BLACK TO PLAY**



# 2.

**WHITE TO PLAY**



# 3.

**BLACK TO PLAY**



# 4.

**BLACK TO PLAY**



# 5.

**WHITE TO PLAY**



# 6.

**BLACK TO PLAY**



### SOLUTIONS

**1) 42. ... Rxg3+** White's queen is now hanging. **43. Qxg3** Or worse: 43. Kd2 Qxf4+ and White does not even get a rook back. **43. ... Qxg3+** winning.  
**2)** The pawn is pinned to the rook, but White wins with a counter-pin: **45. Rh1!** Black has no response. **3)** White could have avoided trading queens on h6, but after **51. ... Qe3+**! White is lost. **52. Ka2** Alternatives: 52. Kc2 Bxb4 winning; 52. Kb2?? Qc3+ 53. Kb1 Qc1+ 54. Ka2 Qc2+ 55.

Ka3 Bc1 mate. **52. ... Bxb4** winning.  
**4)** This time, the counter-pin fails!  
**46. ... Nxc3! 47. Rxh4 Nxe2+**! It's the check! **5)** White is in check, but so what? **46. Ka2** Black's bishop is still pinned, while White's king is finally safe. Worse was 46. Kc2?! Rg2, when after 47. Rxh4 Rxe2+ 48. Kb3 Bh5!, Black can safely interpose having captured the e2-bishop!. **6)** Another pin, but this time Black wins. **45. ... Bg5!!** Not 45. ... Rxg3+, see Puzzle 5. Instead, Black parts with the queen,

but after **46. Rxh7+ Kxh7**, White's only safe moves are **47. Qf1** or 47. Qf3 when **47. ... Nd2+** and Black is up an Exchange. This is easily the hardest position of the bunch, and it is shared because it is astoundingly beautiful (how can Black just give up the queen!), not because we expected our readers to find it. But if you did: wow! All positions are variations from Moussard – Royal, London, 2023. For the full game, see our coverage of on *Chess Life Online*.