

## **ROYAL DAZZLES IN LONDON**

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

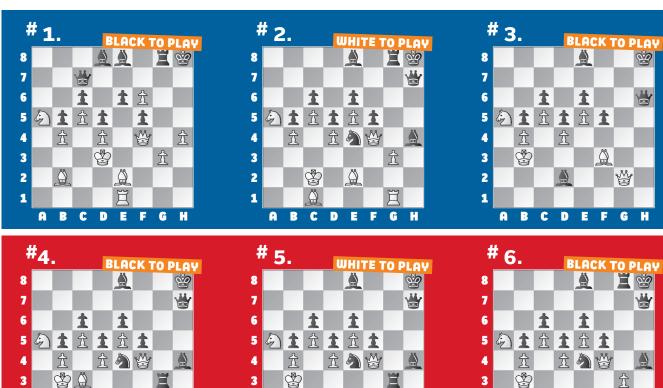
## DECEMBER 12, 2023

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.

BY JJ LANG





## **SOLUTIONS**

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 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.

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Ka3 Bc1 mate. 52.... Bxb4 winning.
4) This time, the counter-pin fails!
46.... Nxc3! 47. Rxh4 Nxe2+! It's 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,

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