

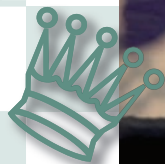


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Regaining the crown: Hou Yifan
overwhelms Anna Ushenina



- Howell's 'Game of the Month'
- Vladimir Kramnik wins FIDE World Cup Knockout
- The Sinquefield Cup



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THE BRITISH CHESS MAGAZINE

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Services, Sutton ColdfieldPrinted in the UK by
Lavenham Press Ltd**Women's World Championship**

Anna Ushenina 1.5–5.5 Hou Yifan

Taizhou, a city in North Eastern China (about 100 miles from the Yellow Sea, we think – Ed.) was the site of the World Championship Match between the holder, Anna Ushenina, 28, of Ukraine and her challenger, Hou Yifan, 19, from China. €200,000 was the purse for this projected ten-game match, which started on 10th September and was scheduled for 18 days. In the event it did not run its full course.

In 2010, Hou Yifan first became the youngest ever Women's World Champion, but was surprisingly defeated in the knockout tournament for the title a year ago. In this encounter, however, she came armed to the teeth and iPod.

The defending champion won the title in a knockout tournament in 2012, where the short match format led to the favourites being upset early on. Ushenina beat former title-holder Antoaneta Stefanova in the final.

In this year's match the Chinese grandmaster won games 2, 4, 5 and 7, the remainder being drawn.

Poor clock-handling cost the Champion, who had clearly prepared thoroughly enough, dearly. On this occasion, Hou was 109 rating points ahead of her opponent and, having regained the crown so promptly, she may now look forward to a longer reign – provided the knockout format does not trip her up again.

*Photo credits**Hou Yifan: FIDE; Jones: Carl Portman*



Editorial



Junior British Chess Magazine arrives!

In previous issues of *BCM* (January and July 2013 – Ed) we have hinted that the *BCM* team is working on a major new digital initiative. Well, after many months of planning and preparation, we are delighted and very excited to announce the launch in October 2013 of the first issue of *Junior British Chess Magazine*, our new online magazine specifically written for young chess players and everyone involved in teaching chess. At *BCM* we have long felt that actively encouraging and developing young chess players is essential and that, as a long-established part of the British chess scene, *BCM* has a role to play. We consulted widely about what we could do and received a clear message - from chess coaches, organisers and young players alike – that we should put together a chess magazine specifically written for youngsters, combining strong topical and well structured instructional material. Well, we listened and have done something about it. The result is *Junior BCM* which we

(continued overleaf)

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believe to be the first ever digital only magazine written for young chess players who wish to progress to the level of a strong club player.

The concept behind *Junior BCM* is simple. Our new magazine will be akin to a personal chess coach to help improve readers' play anytime anywhere online via a desktop, laptop, iPad or other handheld. We have also worked hard to make *Junior BCM* fun and easy to read for young players with a distinctive and eye-catching look in full colour. *Junior BCM* will appear every two months and will be packed with instructive games, opening theory, examples of practical play and coverage of junior chess events.

We are honoured that **David Levens** is the Editor of *Junior BCM*. David is a long established and hugely respected junior chess coach and writes extensively about chess for young players. In his prime he was one England's leading players, took part in several British Championships and tied for first place in the Nottinghamshire County championship on two occasions. He has notched up wins against several England international players and masters and has won many splendidly attacking Best Game prizes. David currently holds many influential positions in the chess world – he is a selector for the England junior chess teams, Director of Junior Chess for the Midlands Counties Chess Union, and has recently been appointed Manager of Coaches for the English Chess Federation. In May this year he was one of the coaches (alongside a number of GMs and IMs) supporting the English junior teams at the prestigious World Schools Individual Championships in Athens (see his report in the July 2013 issue of *BCM* – Ed). David has coached hundreds of young players many of whom have played in national junior chess teams for England, and he is still a strong and active player.

We are delighted that together with David we have made *Junior BCM* a digital reality.

From October 2013 *Junior BCM* will be available literally around the globe by using the

latest digital technology. Working in association with digital magazine app developers MagazineCloner, *Junior BCM* will be available on Apple and Android apps and on other digital platforms such as Amazon's Kindle Fire, Google Play, BlackBerry, Windows 8 and online on digital magazine newsstand www.pocketmags.com (a free Pocketmags account will enable readers to purchase and read subscriptions online using their PC, Mac as well as on the above handheld digital platforms).

We very much look forward to receiving feedback about *Junior BCM*, so please take a look! We hope you - and young players you know - will enjoy it.

Shaun Taulbut Stephen Lowe

East Midlands Chess

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Reinventing Chess Structure

Game of the Month

GM David Howell

davidwlh@aol.com



Hi, everyone, and apologies for my absence in recent issues. This month we shall look at one of my games from the British Championship. It was played in a crucial round and was probably my most creative effort. One spectator even commented afterwards that I had 'broken all the rules!' And, indeed, we shall see many unorthodox themes throughout. To provide a backdrop, I should mention that my general tournament strategy consisted of avoiding any direct opening preparation (I played four different first moves as White), and for most of my games I managed to take any tactics out of the position, often playing with minimal risk. Anyway, let us begin.

□ DWL Howell

■ PK Wells

British Championship, Torquay, 2013
English A13 [Howell]

1 c4

The English Opening seemed appropriate for this tournament.

1...e6 2 g3 d5 3 ♘g2 dxc4

With a rare move order, we have avoided any Nimzo-Indian or Catalan mainlines. Peter is known to have a strong opening repertoire, so this was probably a good practical decision on my part. However, much to my embarrassment, I was already out of theory by move 3; not something that can usually be recommended!

4 ♖a3!?

Another rare move, breaking several rules that we are taught as children. White places the

knight on the rim, allows his pawns to be doubled, and speeds up his opponent's development. On the bright side, Black feels obliged to give up the bishop pair; a high price in modern chess...

Far more common is 4 ♖a4+, and regular readers of this column will remember a similar opening in the game Howell–Hawkins, British Championship, 2012.

4...♗xa3 5 bxa3 ♞e7 6 ♜b2

Not quite new, but an important positional idea. After the game I was pleasantly surprised to find that this move was actually suggested by Mihail Marin in his excellent books on this opening, and he even awarded it an exclamation mark. Unfortunately I had been beaten to this novelty a few months prior to this game. Black's sole problem, as with many openings, is his light-squared bishop, and therefore White must try to prevent the freeing e6–e5. There is no immediate hurry to regain the c-pawn, and meanwhile those two bishops are feeling happy on their dream diagonals.

The hasty 6 ♖a4+ gives White no advantage: 6...♞bc6 7 ♖xc4 (7 ♘b2 0–0 8 ♞f3 allows 8...b5! 9 ♖xb5 ♞b8) 7...e5! and Black solves the problem of his bishop: 8 ♘b2 ♘e6 9 ♖c2 0–0 10 ♞f3 f6 11 0–0 ♞f5 with chances for both sides.

6...0–0 7 ♖c2 ♞bc6 8 ♞f3

Again preventing Peter from pushing his e-pawn. Or so I had thought...

8...e5!?

An ambitious move, which nearly succeeds in solving Black's problems. This was condemned in various reports, but in fact it makes a lot of sense. My hypermodern approach has given me a grip over the centre (with pieces, rather than pawns), so Black sensibly reacts by striving for activity before I can castle.

8...b5 is the obvious alternative, trying to

take advantage of my delay in recapturing the c-pawn. Needless to say, such a move is positionally risky and weakens Black's dark squares further. Play could continue: 9 0–0 f6 10 a4 (10 ♖fd1 e5 11 d3 was another of my over-the-board ideas) 10...a6 11 a×b5 a×b5 12 a4 when Black has simplified, but cannot hold his queenside together.

8...f6 was also interesting, preventing any notions of ♗g5 while preparing ...e5. However, after 9 ♖×c4 ♗d5 (9...♗h8 10 d4) 10 ♖c2 Black fails to liberate himself by a single tempo: 10...e5? 11 ♗g5.

9 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 10 ♗xe5 ♗c6

At the time, I was more concerned by 10...♗e6 11 ♗×b7 ♖b8, after which White must find 12 ♗e4! ♗g6 13 ♗c3, when it looks as though Black does not have sufficient compensation for the pawn: 13...f5 14 ♗g2 ♗d5 15 0–0 ♗×g2 16 ♗×g2 ♗d5+ 17 f3.

11 ♗xc6!

Parting with the bishop pair, but Black's ruined pawn structure is the more important long-term feature.

11...bxc6 12 ♖xc4?!

In hindsight, this natural move seems to be a mistake. The sneaky 12 ♖c3! would have kept some advantage: 12...♗d5 (12...f6 13 ♖xc4+ ♖f7 14 ♗d4 leads to a position similar to the game; the bishop will control everything from e3) 13 f3 f6 14 ♗xc7.

12...♖e8 13 ♗f4 ♗e6?!

Having analysed this game in depth, I came to the surprising conclusion that this is possibly Black's first (and decisive) mistake. Peter's strong and forceful play would have been fully justified after 13...♗d5! This was the move I had feared at the board, and I still cannot find a way for White to keep any tension or hope of a real advantage. It seems that Black's dynamism is just about sufficient in all variations. After 14 ♖×d5 c×d5 15 ♗xc7 (15 d3 allows 15...♖b8 and ♗lack is in time to create counterplay) 15...♗a6 16 e3 ♖ac8 17 ♗a5 d4! Black's two-pawn deficit is offset by his strong piece activity. White could hardly hope for victory with such weakened light squares.

14 ♖c3 ♗xa2

A clever tactic to restore material equality. However, it costs two precious tempi, allowing me time to consolidate. 14...♗h3 was suggested by Leonard Barden in his column, with the intention to 'make the white king a target', but this feels like a misreading of a typical computer suggestion. In fact, this move only aims for a cheap trick. White must avoid 15 f3? ♗g2 16 ♖g1 ♗×f3! 17 ♖×f3 ♖d4, with a pretty fork on the two disconnected white rooks. Instead, I had intended 15 ♖g1 ♖b8 16 f3 with a big advantage. Black simply does not have a plan, whereas I will put my bishop on e3, bring my king to f2, perhaps swap a pair of rooks on the b-file, and it is likely that Black's queenside weaknesses will eventually drop off.

15 f3

Not 15 ♖xa2? ♗d5 with another pretty fork.

15...♗d5 16 ♗f2 f5

It is unlikely that there is any rush to push my e-pawn, but Peter prevents this advance nonetheless. Over the next few moves he wisely abandons his queenside in order to search for counterplay.

17 ♖ab1 ♖b8 18 ♖×b8 ♖×b8 19 ♗e3

From this square the bishop defends my king and casts its eye on the black a-pawn. White is extremely solid and there are no targets; the same cannot be said of the Black position.

19...♖e6 20 ♖d3 ♖f8 21 ♖b1

21 ♗×a7 might have been possible, but Peter could have started an attack with 21...f4.

21...a5 22 ♗b7 ♖c8 23 ♖a7 ♖e8 24 ♗xa5

The computer's suggestion of 24 a4! would have been a beautiful demonstration of White's dominance. There is simply nothing Black can do.

24...♖e6

24...f4 does not work: 25 ♗×f4 ♖h3 26 ♗g1 and White's king hides behind his wall of pawns.

25 ♖d4?!

An inaccuracy, but fortunately not a big one.

During the game I was unhappy with myself for losing control, and I was starting to see ghosts. Peter now seized his chance to create some severe practical threats. 25 ♖a7 would have kept things firmly under control: 25...f4 26 gxf4! (26 ♙xf4 ♙c4 was the variation which scared me) 26...♗h3 27 ♔g1 and Black is running out of steam.

25...g5! 26 ♖a7 f4

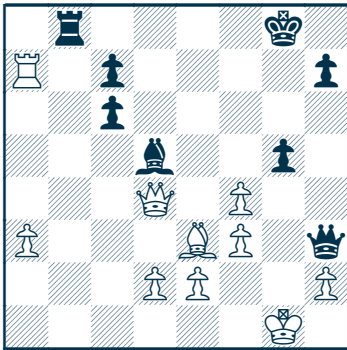
The beginning of a forcing line. Peter decides to throw everything at me, but luckily my defences hold. 26...c5! would have been psychologically hard to face. Now 27 ♗xc5? (27 ♗a4 is the key move) 27...f4 28 gxf4 gxf4 leaves everything to play for.

27 gxf4 ♗h3

27...♗h6 might have been stronger objectively, but after 28 ♔g2 gxf4 29 ♗xf4 ♗xf4 30 ♙xf4 ♖xe2+ 31 ♔g3 Black is left with a difficult endgame; one which he is unlikely to hold.

28 ♔g1 ♖b8

Suddenly it looks like Black is ready to do something nasty on my back rank. We were down to our last few minutes at this stage, but I had already foreseen a defence...



29 ♗a1!

The only move, but an extremely effective one. This paradoxical idea was inspired by a game I had seen just the night before this round; we shall soon see just how important pattern recognition can be in chess!

29...♗f5

Unfortunately for Black, he is running out of ammunition for his attack and he does not have enough time to give checks with his queen. White's threat to capture on c7 is decisive.

30 ♗e5!

The queen has done its duty and now returns to occupy a vital square.

30...♖b1+

The final roll of the dice. 30...♗h3 31 ♗xg5+ allows White to checkmate first.

31 ♔f2

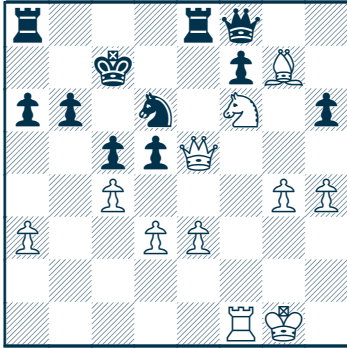
Black can no longer create threats without being mated himself, and any endgame will be hopeless, so he resigned. (31 ♔g2?? would have been a terrible 'mouse slip': 31...♗g4+! and suddenly the tables turn: 32 ♔f2 ♗g1#.)

1-0



This game gave me the confidence to go on and perform strongly in the second week of the tournament. It also stands out as a rare example of unexplored territory in chess; there are still so many positions and ideas that are rich in promise. On a personal level, it showed me something that I had long suspected – that rules are there to be broken! When we first start chess, we are taught certain concepts, and rightly so, but there are always exceptions. In this game I never castled, I de-centralised my queen and, worst of all, I never touched my central pawns; a feat that surely cannot happen often. Peter also played some original chess, and the result was an interesting game. However, before we finish, let me now explain the inspiration behind 29 ♗a1.

□ VB Kramnik
 ■ D Fridman
 Dortmund, 2013



After some spectacular sacrifices, Kramnik has built up a decisive attack. Now, however, his queen is attacked and the opponent is close to escaping. The next move made a strong impression on me:

33 ♔a1!!

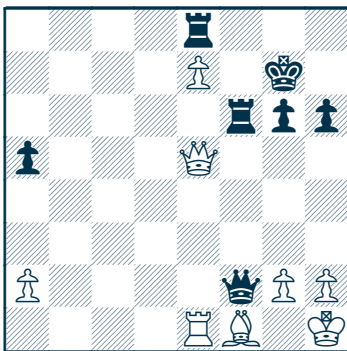
and Black resigned. He will lose his queen in all variations.

This game was played just two days before Howell–Wells and played a big part in my victory. To add to that, a few days later at the World Cup, we saw another example.

□ J Cori

■ T Radjabov

World Cup, Tromso, 2013



Black now gambled on White's weak back rank, hoping it would help him to save the game.

However, a shock was waiting for him:

30... ♖f2? 31 ♙b5 ♔h7 32 ♔a1!!

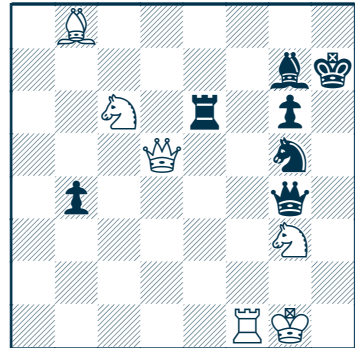
Yet again the only winning move, and causing instant resignation. This move, all the more impressive in a rapid game, immediately ends Black's back-rank hopes and wins material.

We now come to one example where decentralisation is not the way forward.

□ A Ushenina

■ P Svidler

World Cup, Tromso, 2013



Perhaps frustrated at missing an earlier win, the Women's World Champion played:

38 ♖h1+??

38 ♘g2 would have kept the game going.

38... ♗h3+ 39 ♔g2 ♖e2+

and she was forced to resign. A clear indication that sometimes rule-breaking is not the best idea. Chess is full of exceptions...and each position demands different things!



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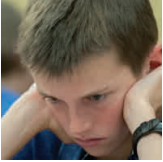


The Shock of the New

Theo Slade

theoslade@live.co.uk

Adventures in China



An email out of the blue, a phone call from the ECF Junior Director and before I knew it I was flying out of Heathrow and into Chongqing, China, representing England in the World U16 Olympiad. The England team comprised five players, captained by Roy Zhang and coached by IM Adam Hunt. I was technically the reserve, but all players played their part in securing a mid-table finish of 10/20 (34th–35th/72).

For the first two nights, we stayed at the Sofitel – a very glamorous five star hotel. The food was amazing and everyone was trying to be helpful, even if they couldn't speak English. After this we stayed at Yucai Middle School, where the event took place. All of the food and drink was free and the tournament as a whole was extremely well organised. We even had our own team guide, Kirsty, who picked us up before every game and made sure that we knew what was going on. The biggest inconvenience was the fact that our room was on the 6th floor and there was no lift(!), meaning that we had to climb around 7,000 steps during the trip.

As for the tournament itself, there were a lot of strong Chinese teams that entered at the last minute. We were all slightly disappointed by this, as the only other country we played was Indonesia. Moreover, the majority of the Chinese players were not rated and therefore we couldn't prepare

against them. As for me, I was very pleased with how often I was selected to play, and I managed to score 5.5/8 from my games.

Here's one of Roy's best games:

□ R Zhang

■ B Yanyan

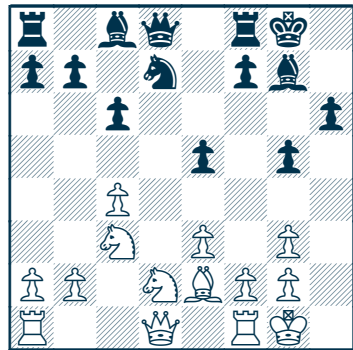
King's Indian, Smyslov E61

[Slade]

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 c4 ♙g7 4 ♗c3 0-0 5 ♙g5 h6

It seems that 5...c5 is the main line and after 6 d5 Black has a choice of moves: 6...d6, 6...b5 or 6...h6.

6 ♙h4 d6 7 e3 ♗bd7 8 ♙e2 c6 9 0-0 g5 10 ♙g3 ♗h5 11 ♗d2 ♗xg3 12 hxg3 e5 13 dxex5?! 14 ♗de4!

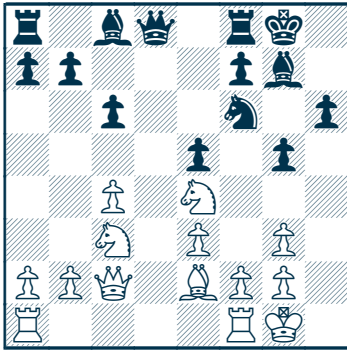


It seems to me that this recapture hands White a small advantage. The bishop on g7 looks clumsily placed and one of the white knights is ready to come to e4. Also, Black hasn't developed his queenside pieces as yet.

After 13...♗xe5?! 14 ♗de4! the d6 pawn is becoming increasingly weak.

13...♙xe5!= was the best move. Although seemingly unnatural, this move keeps the h8–a1 diagonal open and prevents any attacks on the d6 pawn. Another point to this move is that 14 ♖de4 is well met by 14...♗f6, trying to exchange pieces and ease Black's space disadvantage.

14 ♖de4 ♗f6 15 ♔c2!



A mature decision. White needs to keep pieces on to prove an advantage and this is the best square for the queen.

15...♔e7 16 ♖fd1 ♗e8?!

I don't think there is any reason to re-route this knight as it was already fine where it was. Also, Black still hasn't solved the problem of his queenside pieces. 16...♗e4! was the way to go, followed by 17 ♗xe4 ♙f5, when Black doesn't have too much to complain about in this position. Although his kingside structure is slightly damaged, it will be very difficult for White to take advantage of this. Meanwhile, he has the bishop pair and can look forward to a slightly superior endgame.

17 c5!

This move shows good understanding of the position. Roy clamps down on d6 and secures a safe edge. His space advantage is obvious and he controls the only open file on the board.

17...♙e6

17...f5! was the best move, when Black has mobile pawns.

18 g4

Very strong play. Now Roy clamps down on the kingside and makes the ...f5 thrust less favourable for Black.

18...f5 19 gxf5 ♙xf5 20 ♖b3+!

Five out of the last seven moves have been the top line of Houdini!

20...♙e6

20...♗h8 was possibly stronger, holding on to his last trump: the bishop pair.

21 ♙c4 ♙xc4 22 ♖xc4+ ♗h8 23 ♗d6 ♗xd6 24 ♖xd6

24 cxd6 was also a possibility, which I'm sure Roy considered. The text was strong enough.

24...♗f5?! 25 ♖ad1 ♗af8 26 ♖d7

Simple play and now Black's position is at breaking point.

26...♔e8 27 ♗e4 g4?

Easy to criticise, but easy to play after a long game without any attacking chances to speak of.

28 ♖xb7+- g3 29 ♗xg3 ♖xf2 30 ♖dd7

Black has no defence.

30...♖xb2 31 ♖xg7

31 ♖g4! would have forced instant resignation.

31...♖xb7 32 ♖xb7 ♖g6 33 ♖e4

A piece down with no compensation.

33...♔xe4 (33...♖xg3 34 ♖h7#) 34 ♗xe4 a5 (34...♖d8 35 ♗f6! with a mate in four: 35...♖d1+ 36 ♗h2 ♗h1+ 37 ♗xh1 and 38 ♗h7#) 35 ♖c7+- is clear-cut.

1-0



Quick Reminder: *Buy a Cordex Binder!*



Analogy on the Chessboard

IM Julian Meszaros

For the final part of our look at using analogy in chess, let's take a look at one of my recent games from the British Championship plus a couple of game fragments from my previous practice. Knowledge of the ideas from these older games helped me to a good win against one of England's top players.

□ J Meszaros

■ SK Williams

Torquay, 2013

Dutch D02

[Meszaros]

1 d4 d5 2 ♗f3 c6 3 c3 e6 4 ♗bd2 f5

In my opinion the Stonewall is very risky against the queen's pawn openings, especially against the London System.

5 ♗e5 ♗f6 6 ♗df3 ♗e7 7 ♗f4 0-0 8 e3 c5

Black decides to play on the queenside.

9 ♗d3 ♗bd7 10 h4

This was a hard decision: I play the Stonewall myself with Black, and I knew that the right plan for White was to force g2-g4. From this point of view h2-h3 looks more logical, but with the move played I did not give up my dreams of attacking.

10... ♖e8?! 11 ♖e2 ♖h5?

This seems like a good plan, but by the classical rules of chess ('do not use your queen for blockading') it simply cannot be good.

12 0-0-0

"*Alea iacta est!*" The die is cast. At this moment, I decided to play for a win.

12...c4 13 ♗c2 ♗xe5 14 dxex5!

From a positional point of view this is a terrible

move, but I always teach my pupils that there is no successful attack with an f6 knight defending.

14... ♗e4 15 g4!

"*Eppur si muove!*" (And yet it does move!) Unexpected and effective.

Chess Coach

IM Julian Meszaros has been a professional chess coach since 1992, and currently works with both juniors and adults in London and the surrounding area.

Widely regarded as the most successful Hungarian trainer of the past two decades, he was head coach at the Peter Leko Chess School in Hungary before moving to England last year. Many of Julian's ex-students are now IMs and GMs, and he has been the main coach of many medallists in international competitions, including two age-group World Junior Champions. For nearly 20 years Julian was also the Hungarian Chess Federation's Junior Supervisor, leading its junior team in dozens of world tournaments and developing the regional and central chess school system in Hungary.

Julian speaks, translates and publishes in several languages, and has written a highly-regarded book on opposite-coloured bishop endings.

email: julianmcheslondon@gmail.com

15...fxg4

15...♖xg4 16 h5! ♔a3 17 ♖b1 ♕c5 18 ♖h4 (18 ♖dg1?? ♖xf3 19 ♖xf3 ♖d2+) 18...♗g2 19 ♖h2 ♗g4 20 ♔a1! and no more tricks: the Black queen is trapped.

16 ♖g5 b5

16...♖c5 17 ♕xh7+ ♖h8 18 ♖c2 ♖d3+ 19 ♕xd3 cxd3 20 ♖xd3 is also much better for White.

17 ♖xe4 dxe4 18 ♕xe4 ♖b8 19 ♖hg1!

19 ♖dg1 ♕b7 20 ♖xg4? (20 ♕xb7 ♖xb7 21 ♖xg4±) 20...♕xe4 21 ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 22 ♖xh5 ♕xh1 23 ♕h6+ ♖h8 24 ♕xf8 ♖xf8 and the lone white queen is not enough for the win.

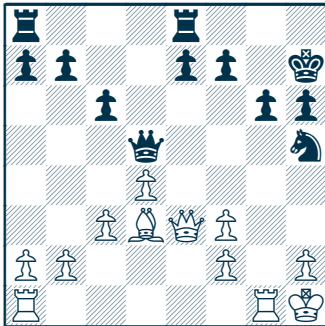
19...♖h8

Before continuing the game I would like to show you two positions from my previous practice which helped me to find the decisive combination using analogous ideas between the games.

□ J Meszaros

■ A Schneider

Hungarian Teams, 2001



After acquiring an advantage in the opening, my opponent has played a little carelessly and given me counter-chances on the open g-file. Black threatens ...e7-e5 and it may appear that White has no time to continue his attack.

21 ♖g4! e5 22 ♖ag1! ♖e6?

A move made while in shock! Black cannot take the d4 pawn:

(a) 22...exd4? 23 ♖xg6! fxg6 (23...dxe3 24 ♖g7+ ♖h8 25 ♖h7#) 24 ♕xg6+ ♖g8 25 ♕xh5+ ♖h7 (25...♖f8 26 ♖f4+ ♖e7 27 ♖g7+ ♖e6 28 ♕g4+--+) 26 ♕g6+ ♖g7 27 ♕xe8+ ♖f8 28 ♖xh6+ ♖xe8 29 ♖g7 ♖xf3+ 30 ♖g1 ♖d1+ 31 ♖g2+--

(b) But he should try to bring the knight back to the defence: 22...♖g7 23 ♖xg6 fxg6 24 ♕xg6+ ♖g8 25 ♖xh6 ♖xf3+ 26 ♖g2 ♖d1+ 27 ♖g1 ♖f3+.

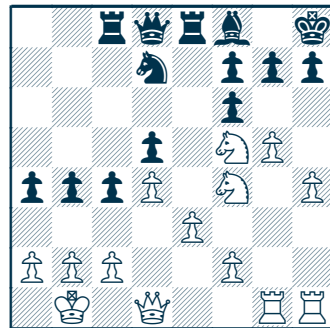
23 dxe5 ♖g8? 24 ♕c4

Game over. Black has lost the exchange. 1-0 in 36.

The next example was played in the Hungarian Team Championship of ten years ago. Black, now a strong grandmaster, has not played the middlegame well, and is just waiting for the *coup de grace*:

□ J Meszaros

■ G Szabo

**1 g6! fxg6 2 ♖xg6+**

In time trouble, my opponent played:

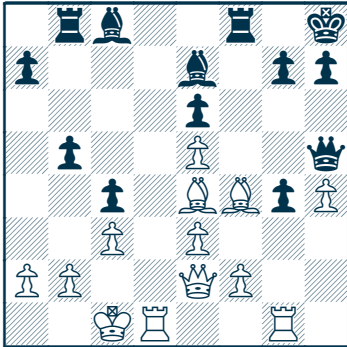
2...♖g8?

Play might have continued 2...hxg6 3 ♖xg6 ♖g8 4 ♖h5 threatening ♖h6+ ♖h7, ♖f7+, winning the black queen. 4...♖a5 5 ♖h6! There is no defence against the mate: e.g. 5 ♖hg1! also wins after 5...gxh6 6 ♖g1+ ♖h8 7

♖f7 ♖e7 (7...♙e7 8 ♖g7#) 8 ♖g8#.

3 ♜xf8 ♜xf8 4 ♜xg7+ 1-0

Now back to the main game:



20 ♜xg4 ♖e8

The only move, because after 20...♙b7 21 ♜xg7! ♖xe2 22 ♜xh7+ ♙g8 23 ♜g1+ mate is unavoidable.

21 ♜dg1 ♜f7 22 ♙xh7! ♙xh7 23 ♜g6!

The point of the combination. Williams loses his queen or gets mated.

23...♖h8

(a) 23...♙g8 24 ♖h5 b4 25 ♜h6 g5 26 ♜h8+ ♙g7 27 ♖h6#

(b) 23...♜f5 24 ♜xg7+ ♙h8 25 ♖g4 ♙b7 26 ♜h7+ ♙xh7 27 ♖g7#

24 ♖h5+ ♙g8 25 ♜h6 ♖xh6 26 ♙xh6 ♙f8 27 ♖g6

A winning position, but I had just 30 seconds per move until move 40.

27...b4 28 cxb4 ♜xb4 29 ♜d1 ♙d7

29...c3 30 bxc3 ♜c4 31 ♜d8 ♜xc3+ 32 ♙d2.

30 h5 c3 31 bxc3 ♜b6 32 ♙f4 ♙a3+ 33 ♙d2 ♙a4 34 ♜a1 ♜d7+ 35 ♙e2 ♙c6 36 ♖xe6+ ♙h8 37 ♖e8+ ♙h7 38 ♖g6+ ♙h8 39 ♜b1 ♙b2

39...♙f3+ 40 ♙xf3 ♜xg6 41 hxg6 with a hopeless position for Black.

40 ♖e8+

1-0



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Selected Games

GM Nigel Short
nigelshort@gmail.com



□ L Gerzhoy
■ ND Short

Canadian Open, 2013
QGD, Classical D63 [Short]

It is not pleasant, or polite, to mention certain things, but I was confronted by an appalling stench of cigarette smoke during this game. I had almost forgotten how distracting it can be.

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 ♘c3 ♘bd7 5 ♙g5

These standard moves took me slightly by surprise because my opponent had shown a marked tendency towards e3 systems of late.

5...h6

I never know whether this is a good or bad move in the Queen's Gambit. Half the time it

gains a tempo, but on the other occasions it just weakens the kingside – particularly in the Orthodox Variation.

6 ♖h4 ♙e7 7 e3 0–0 8 ♖c1 ♗e8

There is a good argument for 8...a6 here, although after 9 cxd5 Black is obliged to recapture 9...exd5 due to the tactical weakness on c7. And what then is the purpose of 8...a6?

9 ♙d3 dxc4 10 ♙xc4 a6 11 a4

Sensibly restraining Black's queenside expansion.

11...c5 12 0–0 cxd4 13 exd4

Probably the best, although it does leave White with an isolated pawn.

13...♗b6 14 ♙b3 ♙d7

Black seeks to solve the problem of this bishop as quickly as possible.

15 ♗e5 ♙c6 16 a5

Not bad, but very direct and committed. Instead 16 ♗xc6 bxc6 achieves precious little, as White's queenside is at least as weak as Black's.

16...♗bd5

Not wrong, but based upon an oversight despite 10 minutes thought. 16...♗bd7 is perfectly adequate.

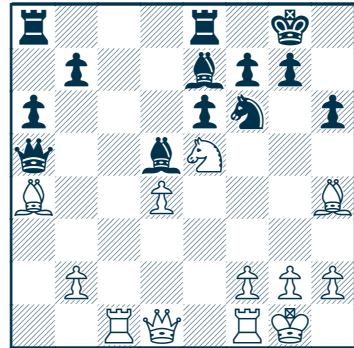
17 ♗xd5!

I had failed to take into account how potentially venomous this somewhat anti-positional move is.

17...♙xd5

17...♗xd5 18 ♗h5! (now we see why ...h6 can be hideously weakening) 18...♗f8 (18...♙xh4? 19 ♗xf7+ ♗h8 20 ♗g6+ ♗h7 21 ♙c2 is catastrophic) 19 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 20 ♗xf7 ♗xf7 21 ♙xe6 ♙e8 may be playable, but I did not like it. White enjoys a numerical superiority, plus a temporarily awkward pin.

18 ♙a4 ♗xa5



On a higher level this sacrifice may be considered wrong. Objectively correct was the cold-blooded 18...♗f8 19 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 20 ♗d7 ♗xa5 21 ♗xf6+! (21 ♗xf8? ♗xf8 is simply very bad for White, due to the weaknesses on d4 and b2) 21...gxf6 22 ♗g4+ ♗h8 23 ♗f4 ♗h7 24 ♙c2+ ♗g7! (24...f5? 25 ♙xf5+ exf5 26 ♗c5! winning material), after which White has no better than a draw.

However, one doesn't win open tournaments playing like that against 2400 players.

19 ♙xe8 ♗xe8

Somewhere around this point I checked upon my opponent as he kept disappearing for several minutes at a time. I didn't actually believe he was cheating, but one never knows in this day and age. I was very happy to find him nervously chain-smoking outside.

20 ♙xf6

Somehow, I knew this was coming. Everything about my opponent suggested he would choose the most direct option in any given position. It is not a mistake, but it would have been subtler to develop the pieces with 20 ♗e2 so as to put the rook on d1.

20...♙xf6 21 ♗h5

Here we go again. Always the most direct.

21...♙xe5 22 dxe5 ♗d2!

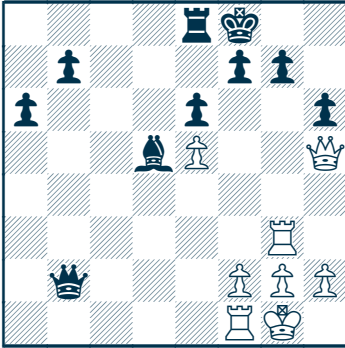
Suddenly the tide has turned. If the b-pawn falls, Black will be clearly better unless White can generate rapid counterplay.

23 ♗c3?

23 ♖c7 looks threatening but after 23...♗f8 it is not clear what his follow up is e.g. 24 ♖fc1 ♕c6!

The toughest defence was 23 b3! making it difficult to capture the pawn directly. This was the sort of fiddly move which was not my opponent's forte. Black is still doing well after 23... ♗b4 (but not 23 ♕xb3? 24 ♖c7±).

23...♗b4 24 ♖g3 ♕f8



The kingside is easily protected.



25 f4

Defending the e-pawn, but exposing his own king to serious danger, which is swiftly exploited.

25...♖c8 26 ♗g4 ♖c1!

I knew that 26...g6 was also good, but I had already calculated the win.

27 ♗xg7+ ♕e8 28 ♖g3

The checks run out after either 28 ♗g8+ ♕e7 or 28 ♗h8+ ♕d7.

28...♗d4+!

28...♕xf3 also wins, of course, but the text is even stronger.

29 ♕h1

29 ♖3f2 ♖xf1+ 30 ♕xf1 ♗d1#

29...♗a1 30 ♗h8+ ♕d7

If 31 ♕g1 ♕xf3.

0-1

Endings for Experts

GM Nick Pert

nickpert@hotmail.com



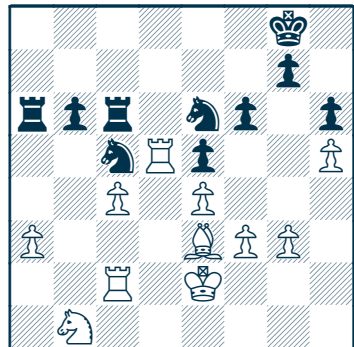
This position arose in last year's *Classic*. Carlsen had been having a good tournament whilst Anand was performing averagely, at best. Here Carlsen had a small edge in the endgame as he was a pawn up, although the a- and c-pawns were weak, and he was surely hoping to convert this advantage into to a win.

□ M Carlsen

■ V Anand

4th London Classic, 2012

[Pert]



Let's see what happened.

36 ♖b2!

The World Champion is probably planning on playing ...♖a4 to tie down the white pieces. This move intends ♖b4, when an exchange on b4 would improve White's position.

36...♙h7 37 ♖b4 g6 38 h×g6+ ♔×g6 39 ♖d2!?

Clearing the d5 square for the knight.

39...h5 40 ♖c3 ♖×a3 41 ♖d5

41 ♖b5 ♖a6 42 ♖db2 f5 is probably not enough to trouble Black seriously.

41...♙f7 42 ♖×b6 ♖b3!

Correctly, the Indian Grandmaster identifies that he should occupy the d4 square with a knight.

43 ♖d7+ ♙e8!

43...♙g6 would not be so accurate as the black king is vulnerable to mating attacks, e.g. 44 ♖d5 ♖bd4+ 45 ♙f1 ♖a1+ 46 ♙g2 ♖a2+ (46... ♖ca6?? 47 ♖e7+ ♙f7 48 ♖f5+ ♙e8 49 ♖e7+ ♙d8 50 ♖b8# is a big threat) 47 ♙h3 ♖g5+! 48 ♙×g5 ♖×f3 49 ♙d2! ♖×d2 50 ♖e7+ ♙f7 51 ♖×d2 ♙×e7 with a slight edge to White.

44 ♖b7 ♖bd4+ 45 ♙×d4 ♖×d4+ 46 ♙d1 ♙d8?!

46...♖×f3 ~ Black should grab a pawn whilst he can ~ 47 ♖a4 ♖d3+ 48 ♙e1 (48 ♙c1 ♖b3+ 49 ♙c2 ♖c5 50 ♖a8+? ♖d8) 48...♖c2+ 49 ♙e2 ♖a3=.

47 ♖d7+?!

47 f4! would keep the advantage.

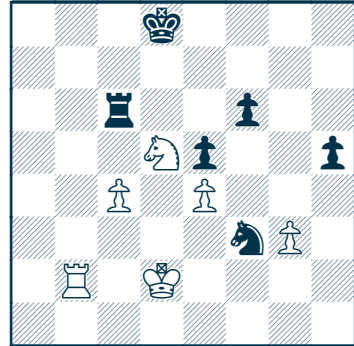
47...♙e8 48 ♖b7 ♙d8 49 ♖d5! ♖a1+

Now 49...♖×f3 does not work: 50 ♖a4 ♖d3+ 51 ♙c1 ♙c8 52 ♖h7 ♙b8 53 ♖h8+ ♙b7 54 ♖b4+ ♙a7 55 ♖h7+ ♙a8 56 ♖c7+ ♙a7 57 ♖b5+ ♙a6 58 ♖a7+ ♙b6 59 ♖×d4+--.

50 ♙d2 ♖a2+ 51 ♖b2

51 ♙c1 ♖c2+ 52 ♙d1 ♖6xc4 53 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 54 ♖h7 offers some small chances for White, although it looks rather drawish.

51...♖×b2+ 52 ♖×b2 ♖×f3+!



Taking the key pawn.

53 ♙d3 ♖g5 54 ♖b8+

54 ♖b7 looks more accurate.

54...♙d7 55 ♖b7+ ♙d6 56 ♖×f6 ♖a6!

Anand activates his rook.

57 ♖e8+ ♙c5 58 ♖c7+ ♙b4 59 ♖b7+ ♙c5 60 ♖c7+ ♙b4 61 ♖b7+ ½-½

White's advantage has gone.

Overall, great defence from Anand. He will need to be on his best form to resist the challenger in the World Championship.

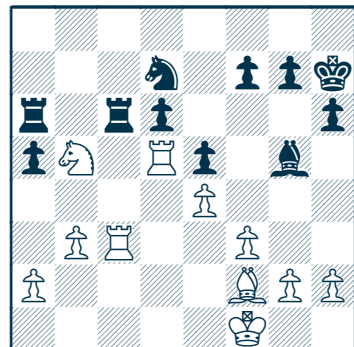


□ M Carlsen

■ V Anand

Sandes Masters, 2013

[Pert]



This position arose earlier this year in a battle between Carlsen and Anand, in Norway. Magnus has a slight edge with pressure against the backward d6 pawn.

28...♖xc3!

Anand looks to take control of the c-file.

29 ♖xc3 ♜c6 30 ♙e1

30 ♖b5 ♜c1+ 31 ♙e1 ♖b8 would give Black plenty of activity in return for the d-pawn. White may still be a little better, but strong players hate giving their opponents the initiative! 32 ♖c3 (32 ♜xd6 ♙e7 33 ♜d2 ♙b4 34 ♜e2 ♜a1 with compensation for the sacrificed pawn; 32 ♖xd6 ♖c6) 32...♖c6 33 ♜d1 ♜c2 34 ♜xd6 ♖d4 and Black has some compensation.

30...♖c5

Anand correctly identifies that he should defend his pawns with his knight on b7 to keep the bishop and rook more actively placed.

31 ♖b5 ♖b7 32 h4

As in the other game, Carlsen looks to put his pawn on h5 to try to restrict Black's kingside.

32...♙e3 33 ♙e2 ♙c5 34 h5 ♙b4 35 ♙d2

We see Carlsen trying to pin down the black king with a pawn on h5, and, once more, Anand accepts an isolated h-pawn in order to get his king active.

35...g6!? 36 a3 ♙xd2 37 h×g6+ ♙×g6

Anand does not fear having an isolated h-pawn.

38 ♙xd2 h5 39 g3 f6 40 ♖a7 ♜c7 41 ♖b5

41 b4!? a×b4 42 a×b4 ♙g5 (42...♙f7 43 ♖b5 ♜c6 44 ♖c3 ♙e6 45 ♜b5 favours White) 43 ♜b5 f5 44 exf5 ♙xf5 45 ♜b6 may give Carlsen better practical chances.

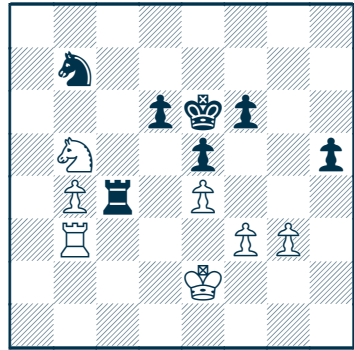
41...♜c6 42 ♙e2 ♙f7

Anand has defended well again. His king comes to the centre to support d6 and free his other pieces.

43 b4 a×b4 44 a×b4 ♙e6 45 ♜d3 ♜c4 46 ♜b3

Suddenly the white rook looks a lot more passive and Anand correctly chooses to break

right away in the centre.



46...d5!

It must have felt good to play this move after struggling with a backward d-pawn for so long.

47 ♙d3 ♜c6 48 exd5+ ♙xd5 49 ♜c3

The rook exchange will very likely lead to a draw. Although 49 ♖c3+ ♙e6 50 ♜a3 keeps the game going, it is hard to believe White has significant chances to win.

49...f5

At this stage a draw looks inevitable. Anand has managed to rid himself of his main weakness.

50 ♖c7+ ♙d6 51 ♖e8+ ♙d5 52 ♜xc6 ♙xc6 53 ♖g7 ♖d6 54 ♖xh5 e4+ 55 fxe4 ♖xe4 56 ♙d4 ♙b5 57 g4 f×g4 58 ♙xe4 g3 59 ♖×g3 ♙×b4

1/2-1/2

Once again, Anand defends excellently.



When looking at Carlsen and Anand individually, the Norwegian appears to be the stronger endgame player. However, in games between them, Viswanathan Anand seems to be able to hold Magnus Carlsen from slightly worse positions. Perhaps the

World Champion ups his game for Carlsen. He will surely need to hold some tricky end-

games if he is to have any chance of successfully defending his title.

All Eyes On Missouri!

The Sinquefeld Cup, 9th–15th September, 2013

Probably the strongest tournament ever held on US soil took place at St Louis. The event was a cool category 22, an average rating of 2797, which eclipsed even the mighty Tal Memorial. This made it the toughest event of 2013 and possibly a long time before.

The participation of the World No. 1 screamed publicity. *And he got it!*

Tournament site: www.uschesschamps.com.

□ M Carlsen

■ G Kamsky

Sinquefeld Cup, Saint Louis, 2013

Slav, D15 [Martin]

1 ♖f3 ♘f6 2 c4 c6 3 d4 d5 4 ♗c3 a6 5 e3

If 4...a6 is options-preserving, then 5 e3 is a like-for-like move. White just keeps it solid.

5... ♗f5

Obviously Black can play 5...b5 or 5...e6, intending ...c6–c5! Kamsky sticks to the Slav recipe of activating the queen's bishop early.

6 ♗d3

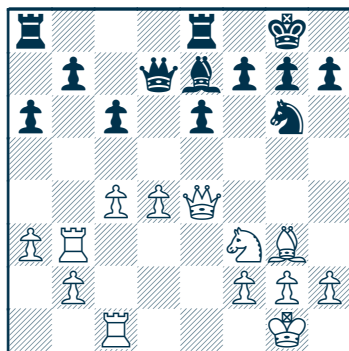
6 ♖b3 b5 7 c5 a5! goes nowhere for White.

6... ♗xd3 7 ♖xd3 e6 8 0–0 ♗b4

It's either this or 8... ♗e7. It looks as though Black is trying to provoke a2–a3.

9 ♗d2

9 a3 also went nowhere in a recent Anand game: 9... ♗e7 10 e4 dxe4 11 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 12 ♖xe4 ♗d7 13 ♗f4 0–0 14 ♖ad1 ♖e8 15 ♗d3 ♗f8 16 ♖b3 ♖c8 17 ♖c1 ♗g6 18 ♗g3 ♖d7.



White always has a nominal advantage in this

Sinquefeld Cup, Saint Louis, 9–15 ix 2013

	1	2	3	4	Total
1 Magnus Carlsen 2862 NOR	**	½ ½	½ 1	1 1	4½
2 Hikaru Nakamura 2772 USA	½ ½	**	1 0	1 ½	3½
3 Levon Aronian 2813 ARM	½ 0	0 1	**	½ ½	2½
4 Gata Kamsky 2741 USA	0 0	0 ½	½ ½	**	1½

type of position, but it is extremely difficult to take it further. For example: 19 h4 h5 20 ♖e5 ♗xe5 21 ♖xe5 f6 22 ♔g3 ♕f8 23 ♖d3 ♗f7; S Karyakin–V Anand, Sao Paulo/Bilbao, 2012, with a draw in 31 moves.

9...♗xc3 10 ♗xc3 0–0 11 a4

A new move, which plans ♗b4 after a4–a5, but whatever White plays, one forms the impression that Black is solid and has a position which is difficult to breach:

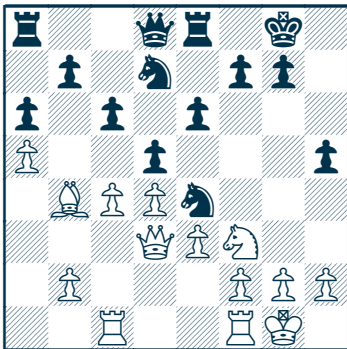
(a) 11 ♖d2 b5 (11...♖bd7 12 e4 dxc4 13 ♗xc4 ♖e8 14 f4 ♗b6 15 ♗d3 ♖ad8 16 ♖c4 ♗c7 17 ♗e2 c5 18 ♖ad1 ♗c6 19 ♖fe1 b5 20 ♖e5 ♗c7 21 b3 cxd4 22 ♗xd4 ♖xe5 23 ♗xe5 ♗b6+ 24 ♖h1 ♖xd1 25 ♖xd1 ♖d8 26 ♖xd8+= M Medic–O Jovanic, Velika Gorica, 2006) 12 cxd5 cxd5 13 a4 bxa4 14 ♖xa4 ♗b6 15 ♗b4 ♖c8 16 ♗c5 ♗b7 17 ♖fa1 ♖e8 18 ♖b4 ♗c7 19 h3 ♖d7 20 ♖b3 a5 21 ♖ba4 ♖cb8 22 ♗c3 ♖b5 23 ♖4a3 ♖ab8 24 ♖c1 a4 25 ♖d2 ♖xb2 26 ♖xa4= E Bacrot–P Stoma, Warsaw, 2011.

(b) 11 ♗b4 ♖e8 12 a4 a5! 13 ♗a3 ♖bd7 14 ♖d2 h6 15 e4 dxe4 16 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 17 ♗xe4 e5 18 ♖ad1 ♖f6=.

11...♖bd7 12 a5 ♖e4 13 ♗b4 ♖e8 14 ♖ac1

So White's plan is basically to arrange f2–f3 and hope this takes him somewhere.

14...h5!?



Kamsky sharpens the play! There were other approaches: the Stonewall setup with 14... f5 15 ♖c2 ♗f6 certainly seems playable, but

maybe 14...♖c8! was best of all, just aiming for a coordinated position: 15 ♖e1 (15 ♖d2 ♖xd2 16 ♗xd2 ♖f6 17 f3 ♗c7 18 ♖fe1 ♖cd8 19 ♗c5 ♖d7 20 ♗b4 ♖d6) 15...c5.

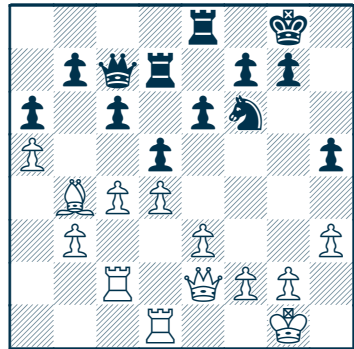
15 ♖e5 ♗c7

15...♖xe5 16 dxe5 strands the knight on e4 and is therefore inaccurate.

16 ♖xd7 ♗xd7 17 ♗e2

It's hard to say why Carlsen didn't choose 17 f3 ♖f6 18 ♗e1! with a slight edge, as this is the sort of thing he has been playing for. Moreover, ...h7–h5 looks out of place now. Very odd.

17...♖f6 18 ♖fd1 ♗c7 19 h3 ♖ad8 20 b3 ♖d7 21 ♖c2!



The rook is useful on the second rank, both for defensive and offensive purposes. White is still trying to fashion a pawn break, with either f2–f3 and e3–e4 or g2–g4 as the ultimate plan.

21...♗d8 22 ♖cc1 h4 23 ♗e1 ♖e4 24 ♗g4 g5!?

24...f5 25 ♗h5 ♖f7 26 f3 ♖g3 27 ♗xg3 hxg3 leaves both players with a weak pawn.

25 cxd5 f5 26 ♗f3 cxd5

I like 26...♖xd5! now, to keep the c-file closed, but as both recaptures are equal this is a question of taste.

27 ♖c2 ♖g7 28 ♖dc1 ♖f6

28...g4! forces the pace, but Kamsky was

getting short of time, and with the c-file open probably didn't want to go all in just yet. 29 ♖f4 ♖g5! Best, I think, but hard to play when you are thinking of the attack (29...g×h3?! 30 f3! I'm sure this is the move that put Kamsky off the whole line 30...♘g3 31 ♖h2 h×g2 32 ♙×g2 ♖b8 33 ♖×b8 ♙×b8 34 ♙×g3 h×g3+ 35 ♙×g3±) 30 ♖×g5 ♘×g5 31 ♙c7 ♙f8 which is also a difficult move to assess with little time. 32 ♙b4 ♙ff7=.

29 ♖d1 g4 30 f3!

Strong: Carlsen turns the tables. With the fall of the h4 pawn and the open c-file at his mercy, White assumes a powerful initiative.

30...g×h3 31 ♙×h4 ♖f7?

Perhaps he had to try 31...h×g2 32 ♖e1 ♖e7 33 ♙c7 ♖f8 34 ♙×g7+ ♖×g7 35 ♙c2 ♖f7 36 ♖g3! ♖×g3 37 ♙×g3 ♙e7 38 ♖×g2 ♙d7, but this could be unpleasant for a long time.

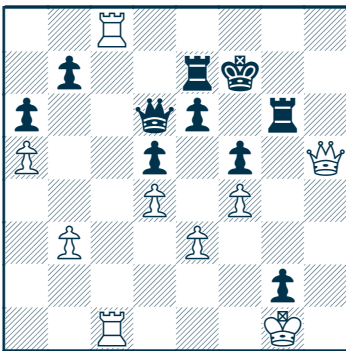
32 ♖e1!

White's queen joins the attacking party.

32...h×g2?

32...♙g8 was maybe the only try: 33 g3 ♖g6 34 ♖b4 ♖g7 35 ♖h2 ♖e7 36 ♖b6 ♙d8 37 ♙c7 ♙d7 38 ♙c8 keeps up the strong pressure, but with no clear win for White.

33 ♙c7+ ♙e7 34 ♙c8! ♖d6 35 ♙×f6 ♖×f6 36 ♖h4+ ♖f7 37 ♖h5+ ♙g6 38 f4!



Very nice. Black's major pieces run out of space and good moves. Carlsen now moves in for the

kill.

38...♖a3 39 ♖h8 ♙g7 40 ♖h5+ ♙g6 41 ♖h8 ♙g7 42 ♖f8+ ♖g6 43 ♖×g2!

With the idea of ♙g1 and then a deadly discovered check from the king!

43...♙gf7 44 ♖d8 ♙h7

44...♖b2+ 45 ♙c2.

45 ♙g1 ♖a2+ 46 ♖f3+ ♖f6 47 ♖g8 ♙h3+ 48 ♙g3 ♖×g3+ 49 ♖×g3

1-0

Nakamura took the lead with 2/2 but thereafter was unable – understandably – to convert any of his subsequent games into a full point.

□ M Carlsen

■ H Nakamura

Sinquefield Cup, Saint Louis, 2013

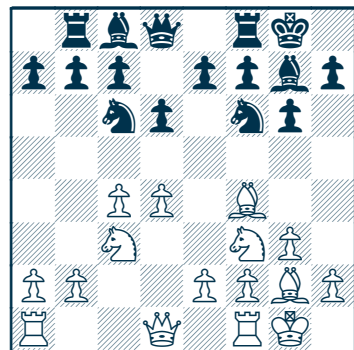
KID, Fianchetto E62

[Martin]

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖f3 ♙g7 4 g3 0-0 5 ♙g2 d6

Nakamura bravely played the King's Indian against both Carlsen and Aronian in the Sinquefield Cup.

6 ♘c3 ♖c6 7 0-0 ♙b8 8 ♙f4!?



Very unusual and 'something to break the monotony' perhaps. White prepares ♖d2 or ♖c1

and then ♔h6, with the additional bonus of preventing Black from playing ...e7–e5. This is a very recent trend with White scoring well, although I doubt that 8 ♔f4 poses a serious threat.

8...a6

There follows an encouraging recent example where White gets to execute his plan: 8...♔g4 9 d5 ♖a5 10 b3 c5 11 dxc6 bxc6 12 h3 ♔d7 13 ♖d2 c5 14 ♖ad1 ♗c6 15 ♔h6! The main point of the whole line 15...♖c8 16 ♔xg7 ♗xg7 17 ♗h2 h6 18 ♖fe1 ♔e6 19 ♗h4 a5 20 f4 ♖d8 21 ♗f3 ♖a6 22 ♖c1 ♗b4 23 e4 a4 24 f5 ♗xa2 25 ♗xa2 axb3 26 fxe6 bxa2 27 ♖c3 fxe6 28 e5 dxe5 29 ♗xe5 ♖a4 30 ♖a1 1–0; V Borovikov–M Klinova, Cappelle-la-Grande, 2013.

9 ♖c1 h6

So that Black may answer ♖d2 with either ...♗h7 or even ...g6–g5!?

10 b3!?

10 d5 looked very good in the coming game, but Black missed the best move right here, right now: 10...♗a5?! (10...e5!) 11 b3 c5 12 dxc6 ♗xc6 13 ♗d5 ♗g4 14 h3 ♗ge5 15 ♔e3 ♔e6 16 ♖d2 ♗h7 17 ♖fd1 f5 18 ♔b6 ♖d7 (1–0 in 51 moves); Zhou Jianchao–Zhao Jun, Xinghua, 2013.

10...g5! 11 d5

11 ♔d2 g4 12 ♗h4 ♗xd4 does not give White enough compensation for the pawn; nor does 11 ♔e3 ♗g4 12 ♔d2 ♗xd4 13 ♗xd4 ♔xd4 14 h3 ♗f6 15 h4 ♗h7 16 hxg5 hxg5, although the looseness of Black's king means that the defence will not be trivial.

11...gx f4 12 dxc6 fxg3 13 hxg3 b5

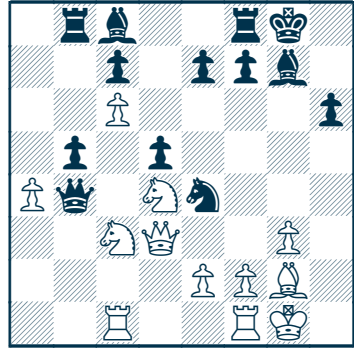
Black leaves the pawn on c6, hoping that it will get in White's way. He had plenty to think about:

- (a) 13...bxc6? 14 ♗d4 ♔d7 (14...c5? 15 ♗c6) 15 ♗xc6 ♔xc6 16 ♔xc6 with an edge for White.
- (b) 13...♗g4!? 14 cxb7 ♔xb7 15 ♗d4 e6 16 ♔xb7 ♖xb7 17 e3 ♗e5 18 ♖h5 ♖g5 19 ♖xg5 hxg5 20 ♗g2=.

14 cxb5 axb5 15 b4 d5 16 ♖d3 ♖d6 17 ♗d4

I think I prefer 17 ♖fd1 here, as after 17...♖xb4 18 a4 ♖d8 19 axb5 ♔g4 20 ♖b1 White's pieces are very well placed. Also to be considered was 17 a3!? e5 18 e4 with an unclear position.

17...♖xb4 18 a4 ♗e4!?



A complicated situation, where none of the possibilities is clear:

- (a) 18...bxa4 19 ♖b1 ♔a6! 20 ♖xb4 ♔xd3 21 ♖xb8 ♖xb8 22 exd3 a3 23 ♗db5 d4 24 ♗xd4 ♗e4 25 ♔xe4 ♔xd4 26 ♗e2 ♔b2 27 ♔d5.
- (b) 18...e5 19 ♗dxb5 d4 20 ♖b1 ♖e7 21 ♗d5 ♗xd5 22 ♔xd5 ♖a8 23 ♖a1 ♖d8 24 ♔e4 ♔e6 25 a5 ♖db8 26 ♖fb1±.
- (c) 18...♖d8 19 ♖fd1 e6.

19 ♗dx b5!?

19 ♗xd5 ♗xf2! is the point: 20 ♖xf2 ♖xd4 21 ♖xd4 ♔xd4 22 e3 ♔e5 23 ♗xe7+ ♗g7 24 ♗xc8 ♖xc8 25 ♖f5 f6=.

19...♗xc3 20 ♗xc3 ♔xc3 21 ♖xc3

21 ♖xc3 is worse: 21...♖xc3 22 ♖xc3 e6 gives Black a very healthy pawn structure and chances to pick off White's queenside pawns.

21...♔f5!

Very interesting. Black forces White to sacrifice the exchange and with his king apparently wide open gains considerable counterplay. But with the black queen able to return to g7 at a moment's notice, perhaps White's pressure is only good for equality.

22 ♖xd5

22 e4 dxe4 23 ♖e3 ♜fd8 is better only for Black.

22...♖xc3 23 ♖xf5 ♜fd8

23...♖f6 was suggested by Houdini Pro, but it only leads to a draw: 24 ♖d7! (24 ♖xf6 exf6 25 e3 ♜fd8 is better for Black) 24...♖e5 25 ♖g4+ ♖g5 26 ♖d7.

24 ♖f3!

Before undertaking anything, Carlsen anchors both his bishop and his pawn structure.

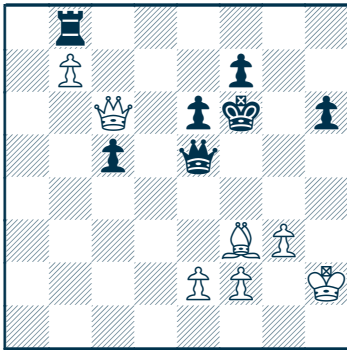
24...♖a8 25 ♖e4 ♖f6 26 ♖b4 ♖a7

Logical. However, I think 26...e6! 27 ♖g2 (27 a5 ♖e5) 27...♜d4 28 ♖b7 ♖d8 was a superior way to play the position, with Black well coordinated.

27 ♖g2 ♖da8 28 ♖g4+ ♖f8 29 ♖d7 e6 30 ♜d1 ♖e5 31 ♜h1 ♖g7 32 ♜b1 ♖xa4

So Black wins the a-pawn, but in order to do so he had to take his rooks out of play to a degree. Carlsen uses the position of the offside rooks to keep equality.

33 ♜b7! ♖4a7 34 ♖e7 ♖xb7 35 cxb7 ♜b8 36 ♖d7 c5 37 ♖c6 ♖f6 38 ♖h2



No further progress can be made by either player.

38...♖e7 39 ♖g2 f5 40 ♖c8 ♖d6 41 e3 ♖f6

½–½

□ M Carlsen

■ L Aronian

Sinquefield Cup, 2013

Ruy Lopez, Anti-Marshall C88

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♜c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♖a4 ♖f6 5 0–0 ♖e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♖b3 0–0 8 a4 b4 9 d4 d6 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 ♖xd8 ♜xd8 12 ♜bd2 h6 13 a5 ('this pawn later becomes a source of weakness' – Keene) 13...♖c5 14 ♖c4 ♖g4 15 ♖e2 ♖e6 16 ♖xe6 fxe6 17 h3 ♖f6 18 ♜e1 ♖ab8 19 ♜c4 ♜b5 20 b3 ♖d4 21 ♖b2 ♖c5 22 ♖a2 ♖xb2 23 ♖xb2 ♜e8 24 ♖a2 ♜d6 25 ♜fd2 ♜b7 26 ♜f3 ♖f7 27 ♖f1 ♖f6 28 ♖a4 ♜bxa5 29 ♜e3 h5 30 ♖ea1 ♜d4 31 ♜e1 ♖e7 32 f3 ♜d2 33 ♜d1 ♜d6 34 ♜da1 ♖d7 35 ♜d1 ♜d2 36 ♜f2 ♖c8 37 ♜fd3 ♜b5 38 h4 ♖b7 39 ♜1a2 ♖a7 40 ♖g1 ♖b6 41 ♖f1 g6 42 ♖g1 ♖b7 43 ♖f1 ♖c8 44 ♜f2 ♜d8 45 ♜ed3 ♖b7 46 ♖e2 ♖b6 47 ♖e3 ♖b7 48 ♜d1 ♖c8 49 ♜1b2 ♜d6 50 ♖a1 ♖d8 (Wrong. The position demanded 50...♜d4) 51 ♜c4 ♜xc4+ 52 bxc4 ♜b8 53 c5 ♜d7 54 ♖xa6 b3 55 ♖xc6 bxc2 56 ♜e1 ♖e7 57 ♜xc2 ♜b3+ 58 ♖e2 ♖b2 59 ♜c1 ♖a2 60 ♖e3 ♖f7 61 f4 ♖f6 62 fxe5+ ♖xe5 63 ♜e1 ♖a3+ 64 ♖f2 ♜d2+ 65 ♖f1 ♜d7 66 ♜f3+ ♖f4 67 ♖xe6 g5 68 hxg5 ♖g3 69 ♜f6 ♖a2 70 ♜e5 1–0

Hikaru Nakamura had the chance to draw level with the World No. 1 had he won his last round game versus Gata Kamsky, but in the end, he opted for a draw.

□ G Kamsky

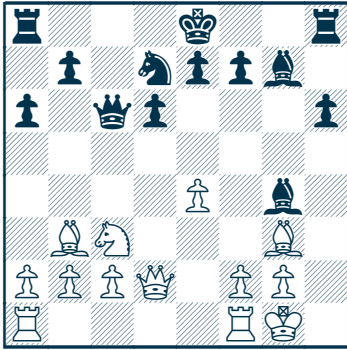
■ H Nakamura

Sinquefield Cup, 2013

Sicilian, Najdorf B90

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♖f6 5 ♜c3 a6 6 ♖e3 ♜g4 7 ♖g5 h6 8 ♖h4 g5 9 ♖g3 ♖g7 10 h3 ♜f6 11 ♖c4 ♖b6 12 ♖b3

♖c6 13 ♗xc6 ♜xc6 14 0-0 g4 15 hxg4
♔xg4 16 ♜d2 ♗d7



20 e5 ♗c5 21 ♔h4 dxe5 22 fxe5 ♔e6 23
♗xe7 ♗xb3 24 cxb3 ♜b6+ 25 ♔h1 ♖d8
26 ♜e1 ♖d4 27 ♔f6 ♔xf6 28 exf6 ♔d7 29
♖d1 ♖d8 30 ♜g3 ♔e8 31 ♜g8+ ♔d7 32
♜g3 ♔e8 33 ♜g8+ ♔d7 34 ♜g3 ½-½

Carlsen, making his last public appearance before the World Championship in November, emerged undefeated. Newsreels show a relatively relaxed Magnus in play. Whether he was ‘keeping something back’ in the realms of opening research is difficult to know. We – and this includes the World Champion – will not have long to wait and see.

17 ♗d5! ♔xb2 18 ♖ab1 ♔e5 19 f4 ♔g7



Guest Columnist

This month: IM Yang-Fan Zhou



At the FIDE World Cup, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave didn't manage to obtain any advantage in the first game with White and as a result a quick draw was agreed. It was never in any doubt that Kramnik was going to try to make full use of the White pieces.

- VB Kramnik
- M Vachier-Lagrave

FIDE World Cup, Tromso, 2013
QP, Slav D17 [Zhou]

1 ♗f3 d5 2 d4 ♗f6 3 c4 c6 4 ♗c3 dxc4 5
a4 ♔f5 6 ♗e5 ♗bd7 7 ♗xc4 ♗b6 8 ♗e5
a5 9 e3

9 f3 wins the fight for the e4 square, but in return Black can exchange a pair of knights, after

which White's space advantage won't be as critical since Black is less cramped: 9...♗fd7!
10 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 11 e4 ♔g6.

9...♗bd7 10 ♗c4 ♜b8!?

A novelty preparing ...e5 with the subtle point that the queen is protected on b8 as opposed to being tactically vulnerable on c7 (see below). It's not easy for White to find an advantage after this new move.

10...e6 is the normal move, after which 11 f3 ♔b4 12 e4 ♔g6 13 ♔e2 gives White a space advantage.

10...♜c7 11 ♜f3 ♔g6?! (11...♔e6 12 ♔d2 ♔xc4 13 ♔xc4(!) has been played) runs into 12 e4 e5 13 dxe5 ♗xe5 14 ♜g3 and Black runs into trouble due to the pin, as the queen is unprotected on c7.

11 ♔d3

A logical reaction as...e5 is coming. 11 ♜f3 ♔g6

12 e4?! e5 and Black is more than fine; while 11 $\text{\textcircled{e}}\text{e2 e5 12 0-0 exd4 13 exd4 \text{\textcircled{e}}b4$ is level.

11... $\text{\textcircled{e}}\text{xd3 12 \text{\textcircled{c}}\text{xd3 e5 13 0-0 \text{\textcircled{e}}b4 14 \text{\textcircled{c}}\text{f5!}$

A great square for the queen.

14... $\text{exd4 15 exd4 0-0 16 \text{\textcircled{d}}\text{d1}$

16 $\text{\textcircled{e}}\text{f4}$ looks very nice, but after 16... $\text{\textcircled{c}}\text{c8}$, with the idea of ... $\text{\textcircled{d}}\text{b6}$, it is not clear how to progress, e.g. 17 $\text{\textcircled{f}}\text{fe1 \text{\textcircled{d}}b6 18 \text{\textcircled{c}}\text{xc8 \text{\textcircled{d}}xc8 19 \text{\textcircled{e}}e2 \text{\textcircled{d}}e7 20 \text{\textcircled{e}}d6 \text{\textcircled{f}}fe8=$.

16... $\text{\textcircled{c}}\text{e8}$

An interesting plan to exchange White's active queen. 16... $\text{\textcircled{e}}\text{e8}$ is most natural, after which Black seems to be fine.

17 $\text{\textcircled{e}}\text{f4 \text{\textcircled{c}}\text{e6 18 \text{\textcircled{c}}\text{xe6 fxe6 19 \text{\textcircled{e}}d6}$

The former World Champion has a small initiative and must act quickly.

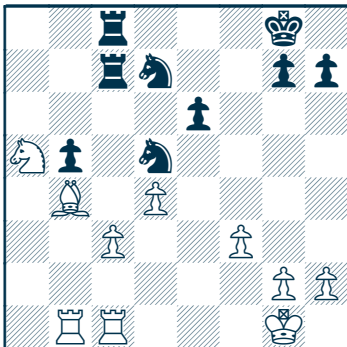
19... $\text{\textcircled{f}}\text{fd8 20 f3 \text{\textcircled{e}}xc3!?$

Maxime clarifies the position. This helps White's structure, but he has a strong idea in mind. 20... $\text{\textcircled{a}}\text{a6}$ maintains the tension, preparing the possible doubling of rooks on the a file in conjunction with ... $\text{\textcircled{d}}\text{b6}$ 21 $\text{\textcircled{d}}\text{e4}$.

21 $\text{bxc3 \text{\textcircled{d}}d5 22 \text{\textcircled{d}}dc1 \text{b5!}$

A strong pawn sacrifice which was no doubt planned in advance. White's pieces become tangled and also the c-file opens up for Black as compensation.

23 $\text{axb5 cxb5 24 \text{\textcircled{d}}xa5 \text{\textcircled{d}}dc8 25 \text{\textcircled{e}}b4 \text{\textcircled{c}}c7 26 \text{\textcircled{a}}b1 \text{\textcircled{a}}c8?!$



This move is quite logical, adding pressure to the c-pawn. However, the rook was already playing an important role on a8, tying down the a5 knight. 26... $\text{\textcircled{c}}\text{f7}$ is better: 27 h4 $\text{\textcircled{d}}\text{7b6}$ – heading to a4 – 28 $\text{\textcircled{d}}\text{b3 \text{\textcircled{a}}a2 29 \text{\textcircled{e}}a5 \text{\textcircled{c}}c6$ with sufficient activity.

27 $\text{h4 e5 28 \text{\textcircled{d}}d1 exd4 29 \text{\textcircled{e}}xd4$

Once Black takes on c3, a three against two ending arises.

29... $\text{\textcircled{d}}\text{7f6 30 \text{\textcircled{c}}h2 h6 31 \text{\textcircled{b}}b2 \text{\textcircled{d}}xc3 32 \text{\textcircled{e}}xc3 \text{\textcircled{c}}xc3 33 \text{\textcircled{e}}xb5$

This should be drawn, but Black must play very accurately, especially against *Killer Kramnik!*

33... $\text{\textcircled{c}}c2 34 \text{\textcircled{d}}b3 \text{\textcircled{c}}h7 35 \text{\textcircled{e}}db4 \text{\textcircled{f}}8c3 36 \text{\textcircled{c}}h3 \text{\textcircled{a}}a2$

36... $\text{\textcircled{e}}\text{e3!}$ is best to control e6: 37 $\text{\textcircled{d}}d4 \text{\textcircled{d}}d2 38 \text{\textcircled{d}}f5 \text{\textcircled{e}}e2$.

37 $\text{\textcircled{d}}d4$

Kramnik proceeds by improving his knight, pushing up his kingside pawns and exchanging a pair of rooks.

37... $\text{\textcircled{c}}c1 38 \text{\textcircled{d}}e6 \text{\textcircled{e}}e1 39 \text{\textcircled{d}}f4 \text{\textcircled{a}}a7 40 \text{h5 \text{\textcircled{a}}ae7 41 \text{g4 \text{\textcircled{e}}1e5 42 \text{\textcircled{d}}g6 \text{\textcircled{e}}xb5 43 \text{\textcircled{e}}xb5 \text{\textcircled{e}}e8 44 \text{\textcircled{b}}b7$

Black couldn't really have prevented much of what has occurred. Now the question is whether two pawns are enough against three. Normally, the two should be able to draw quite easily, but here White has established his knight on g6, so the task is more difficult.

44... $\text{\textcircled{d}}d8 45 \text{\textcircled{c}}g3 \text{\textcircled{c}}g8 46 \text{\textcircled{c}}h4 \text{\textcircled{c}}h7 47 \text{\textcircled{a}}a7 \text{\textcircled{c}}g8 48 \text{f4 \text{\textcircled{c}}h7 49 \text{\textcircled{b}}b7 \text{\textcircled{d}}e4 50 \text{\textcircled{b}}b4 \text{\textcircled{e}}e8 51 \text{g5 \text{\textcircled{d}}d6 52 \text{\textcircled{b}}b6 \text{\textcircled{d}}f7 53 \text{\textcircled{b}}b5 \text{\textcircled{e}}e1!$

Active defence.

54 $\text{\textcircled{d}}f8+ \text{\textcircled{c}}g8 55 \text{\textcircled{b}}b8$

g6 is coming.

55... $\text{hxg5+ 56 fxg5 \text{\textcircled{h}}h1+ 57 \text{\textcircled{c}}g3 \text{\textcircled{g}}g1+ 58 \text{\textcircled{c}}f4$

58 $\text{\textcircled{c}}h2$ wins the exchange but after 58... $\text{\textcircled{e}}\text{xg5 59 \text{\textcircled{d}}e6+ \text{\textcircled{c}}h7 60 \text{\textcircled{d}}xg5+ \text{\textcircled{d}}xg5 61 \text{\textcircled{e}}b6$ the second player can hold with 61... $\text{\textcircled{d}}f7 62$

♙g3 ♖h6 63 ♜b7 ♗g8 64 ♙g4 ♖h6+ 65 ♙g5 ♗g8.

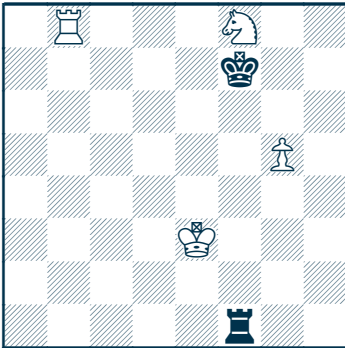
58...♜f1+?

58...♗d6! is best, when after 59 ♗g6+ ♙f7 60 ♜d8 ♙e6 Black can draw.

59 ♙e3 g6

The *only* try now, since 59...♗d6 60 ♗g6+ ♙f7 61 ♜f8+ loses.

60 h×g6 ♙g7 61 g×f7 ♙×f7



Amazingly, White only has one winning method even though he is a piece and a pawn up, and it wasn't at all easy to find.

62 ♙e4?

62 ♗d7! ♙f5 63 ♜f8+ ♙g6 (63...♙e6 64 ♜f6+) 64 ♜g8+ ♙f7 65 ♙e4! Later, in the broadcast, Nigel Short showed (to Kramnik's surprise) that Vlad had, indeed, missed this!

In fact, both Maxime and Kramnik had overlooked this intermezzo being short of time after a long battle 65...♞a5 66 ♜f8+ is the flashy finish (66 ♗f6 ♞a1 67 ♜b8 ♙g6 68 ♜b5 ♞e1+ 69 ♙d3) 66...♙g6 (66...♙e6 67 g6 ♜g5 68 ♗e5 ♞xe5+ 69 ♙f4) 67 ♗e5+ ♙×g5 68 ♜f5+.

62...♞e1+

Now Black can keep checking.

63 ♙f3 ♜f1+ 64 ♙g3 ♜g1+ 65 ♙f4 ♜f1+ 66 ♙e3 ♞e1+ 67 ♙f3 ♜f1+ 68 ♙g2

The only way to avoid the checks, but now White's pieces become too tangled when trying to save the pawn after:

68...♞f5 69 ♗h7 ♙g6 70 ♜b7 ♜f4!

Cutting off the king.

71 ♙g3 ♞a4 72 ♜e7 ♜g4+

Making use of stalemate.

73 ♙f3 ♞a4 74 ♜b7 ♜h4 75 ♗f6

Kramnik gives up the pawn.

75...♙×g5 76 ♗e4+ ♙f5

Rook vs. rook and knight is much easier to draw than rook vs. rook and bishop. Nevertheless, the Russian grandmaster tries for the win, but Maxime demonstrates a good defence – by playing actively the king is not forced to the back rank.

77 ♜e7 ♜h8 78 ♙e3 ♜d8 79 ♜f7+ ♙e6 80 ♜h7 ♜d1 81 ♗c5+ ♙f5 82 ♜f7+ ♙e5 83 ♗d3+ ♙e6 84 ♞a7 ♜h1 85 ♙e4 ♜h4+ 86 ♗f4+ ♙d6 87 ♞a6+ ♙c5 88 ♜g6 ♙c4 89 ♜c6+ ♙b5 90 ♜c1 ♜h8 91 ♙e5 ♜h4 92 ♜c8 ♜h1 93 ♗e6 ♜h5+ 94 ♙d6 ♜h6 95 ♜c1 ♙b4 96 ♙d5 ♜h5+ 97 ♙e4 ♜h4+ 98 ♗f4 ♙b5 99 ♙e5 ♜h8 100 ♜c2 ♜h4 101 ♜f2 ♙c4 102 ♙e4 ♜h8 103 ♜c2+ ♙b5 104 ♗g6 ♜h1 105 ♗e5 ♞e1+ 106 ♙d4 ♜d1+ 107 ♗d3 ♙b6 108 ♜c3 ♜b1 109 ♙d5 ♜b5+ 110 ♗c5 ♜b1 111 ♗d7+ ♙b5 112 ♜d3 ♜b4 113 ♗e5 ♜b1 114 ♗c4 ♙b4 115 ♗d2 ♜b2 116 ♙c6 ♜c2+ 117 ♙b6 ♜b2 118 ♙c6 ♜c2+ 119 ♙b7 ♜c3 120 ♜d8 ♜c5 121 ♗e4 ♜c4 122 ♞e8 ♜c2 123 ♙b6 ♞e2 124 ♙c6 ♞e1 125 ♗d6

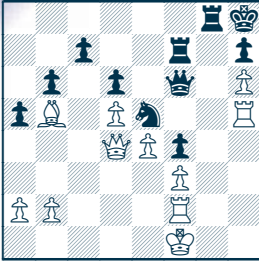
Two moves short of the 50-move rule, a draw is agreed. Kramnik missed a win after a long grind, but still managed to beat the Frenchman 1.5–0.5 in the rapid games.

1/2–1/2

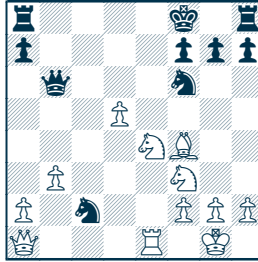


Spot the Continuation

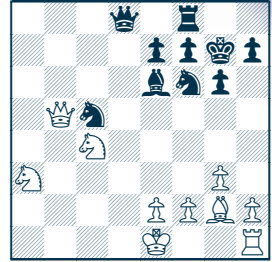
The Chinese are the new chess superpower. Solutions on p. 535



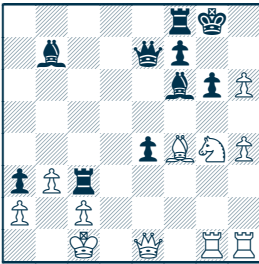
I. Zhou Weiqi–Li Shilong
Chinese Ch, Xinghua, 2010



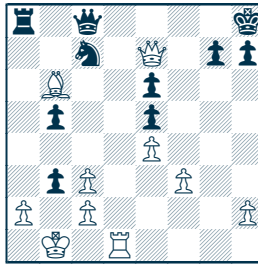
II. Ni Hua–Zhao Jun
Yongchuan Zonal, 2003



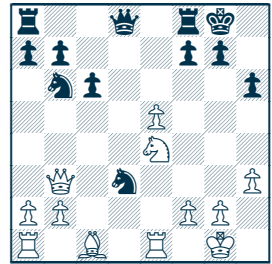
III. Stefanova–Zhu Chen
FIDE GP, Doha, 2011



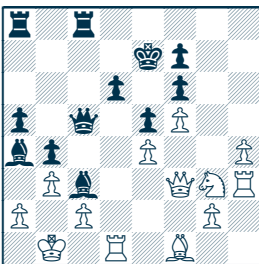
IV. Munguntuul–Hou Yifan
Women's World Ch, Nalchik,
2008



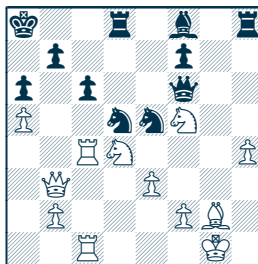
V. Smeets–Bu Xiangzhi
Corus B, Wijk aan Zee, 2007



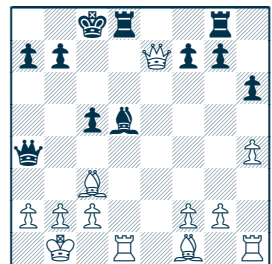
VI. Zhu Chen–Munguntuul
FIDE GP, Nanjing, 2009



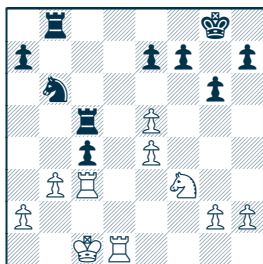
VII. Hou Yifan–Li Chao
Danzhou, 2011



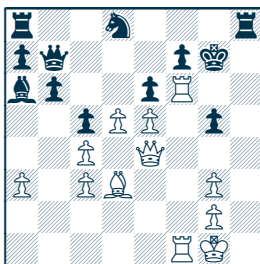
VIII. Zhu Chen–Danielian
FIDE GP, Shenzhen, 2011



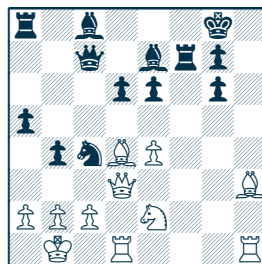
IX. Li Chao–Bu Xiangzhi
Chinese Ch, Xinghua Jiangsu,
2009

**X. Flear–Ni Hua**

Calvi Balagne Open, 2007

**XI. Zhao Jun–Xiu Deshun**

Chinese Ch, Xinghua Jiangsu, 2011

**XII. Ni Hua–Xu Jun**

Yongchuan Zonal, 2003

News from Abroad

Austria. Open in Vienna, 17th–25th August. A whole bunch of English campaigners in a massive gathering of 400!

1st= J Hawkins 7.5/9; 8th= KC Arkell 7; H Lamb 4.5; J Fraser-Mitchell and T Thurstan both 4; C Majer and RG Truman both 3; I Gooding 2.5.

Bulgaria. Sunny Beach, 31st August–8th September, saw 36-player-Swiss turn into quite a little English triumph. 1st A Rombaldoni (ITA) 7.5/9; 2nd= V Petkov (BUL) and V Bernadskiy (UKR) both 7; also JR Adair, YFG Zhou and L Trent 5.5; C Kilpatrick (all ENG) 5.

IM Norms for James and Callum.

China. The latest FIDE Grand Prix was held at Beijing, 3rd–17th August, all twelve competitors being over 2700! 'The New Century Grand Hotel' hosted this Category 21 qualifier.

Germany. Klaus Bischoff, 52, won the German Championship, 6th–14th September at Saarbruecken, with 6.5/9. 42 played including 4 GMs.

Italy. Five sections were played in the Porto San Giorgio Festival, 21st–29th August, a port on the Adriatic. Only a loss in the last round deprived David Eggleston of a top prize in the top section.

1st= M Mchedlishvili (GEO), D Dvirnyy (ITA) and OM Romanishin (UKR) all 7/9; also: DJ Eggleston 6, MJ Armstrong (both ENG) 5.5.

Norway. 127 players assembled for the **FIDE World Cup** in Tromsø, 10th August–3rd September, for this knock-out event where speed and seeding and preparation can often tell more than ability or experience. As reported last month, Jones and Adams, the English representatives, did not fare too well.

The *Quarter-Finals* resulted as follows:

EY Tomashevsky (RUS) 1.5–0.5 G Kamsky (USA)

M Vachier-Lagrave (FRA) 2.5–1.5 FL Caruana (ITA)

DV Andreikin (RUS) 2.5–1.5 PV Svidler

VB Kramnik (RUS) 1.5–0.5 A Korobov (UKR)

FIDE GP Beijing, 4th–16th July 2013

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1	S Mamedyarov 2761	AZE	*	0	1	½	1	½	0	1	½	1	1	½	7
2	A Grischuk 2780	RUS	1	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	0	½	½	1	6½
3	V Topalov 2767	BUL	0	½	*	½	1	½	1	0	1	½	½	½	6
4	P Leko 2737	HUN	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6
5	S Karyakin 2776	RUS	0	½	0	0	*	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	5½
6	Wang Yue 2705	CHN	½	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	0	1	5½
7	A Morozevich 2736	RUS	1	½	0	½	0	½	*	½	1	½	0	1	5½
8	A Giri 2734	NED	0	½	1	½	0	½	½	*	1	0	½	1	5½
9	B Gelfand 2773	ISR	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	0	*	½	1	½	5
10	Wang Hao 2752	CHN	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	1	½	*	½	1	5
11	V Ivanchuk 2733	UKR	0	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	0	½	*	0	5
12	G Kamsky 2763	USA	½	0	½	½	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	*	3½

There was only one decisive game in each of the concluding matches which, in each case, we give:

Semi-Finals:

DV Andreikin 2.5–1.5 EY Tomashevsky

□ DV Andreikin

■ EY Tomashevsky

QP, Slav D15

1 d4 d5 2 ♘f3 ♘f6 3 c4 c6 4 ♘c3 a6 5 c5 ♙f5 6 ♙f4 ♘bd7 7 e3 g6 8 ♖b3 ♖c8 9 h3 ♙g7 10 ♙e2 0–0 11 0–0 ♘e4 12 ♖ac1 ♗e8 13 ♘xe4 ♙xe4 14 ♘g5 ♘f6 15 ♙e5 h6 16 ♙xf6 exf6 17 ♘xe4 ♗xe4 18 ♙f3 ♗e7 19 h4 f5 20 g3 ♖e6 21 ♙g2 g5 22 hxg5 hxg5 23 ♖d3 f4 24 exf4 gx4 25 g4 ♖g6 26 ♖cd1 a5 27 ♗h1 ♗ae8 28 ♗h5 ♗e1 29 ♗xe1 ♗xe1 30 ♖d2 ♗e8 31 ♖xf4 ♖f6 32 ♗f5 ♖xd4 33 ♖c7 ♗f8 34 ♖xb7 ♖xc5 35 ♖d7 ♖c2 36 g5 ♙d4 37 ♙h5 ♖e4+ 38 ♗f3 ♙g7 39 ♖xc6 ♖h7 40 ♖xd5 ♖xh5 41 ♖xd4+ ♙g8 42 ♗h3 1–0

VB Kramnik 2.5–1.5 M Vachier-Lagrave

□ M Vachier Lagrave

■ VB Kramnik

Scotch C45

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♘xd4 ♙b4+ 5 c3 ♙c5 6 ♙e3 ♙b6 7 ♙d3 ♘f6 8 0–0 0–0 9 ♘xc6 bxc6 10 e5 ♘d5 11 ♙d2 d6 12 c4 ♘e7 13 ♖c2 ♘g6 14 exd6 cxd6 15 ♘c3 ♖h4 16 ♗ae1 ♘e5 17 ♗e4 ♖h5 18 ♙e2 ♖g6(!) 19 ♖d1 ♙h3 20 ♙f3 ♙f5 21 ♗h4? (21 ♗f4) 21...♙c2 22 ♖xc2?? ♘xf3+ 0–1

Final:

VB Kramnik 2.5–1.5 DV Andreikin

□ VB Kramnik

■ DV Andreikin

QGD, Tartakower D58

1 d4 e6 2 c4 ♘f6 3 ♘f3 d5 4 ♙g5 ♙e7 5 ♘c3 h6 6 ♙h4 0–0 7 e3 b6 8 ♙d3 dxc4 9 ♙xc4 ♙b7 10 0–0 ♘bd7 11 ♖e2 a6 12

♠f1 ♘d5 13 ♙g3 ♘xc3 14 bxc3 ♙d6 15 e4 ♙xg3 16 hxg3 b5 17 ♙d3 ♘b6 18 ♖e3 ♘a4 19 ♙c2 ♘b2 20 ♠db1 ♘c4 21 ♖c1 c5 22 a4 cxd4 23 cxd4 ♠c8 24 axb5 axb5 25 ♖e1 ♙c6 26 ♠b4 ♠a8 27 ♠d1 ♠a3 28 d5 exd5 29 exd5 ♠e8 30 dxc6 (!) ♠xe1+ 31 ♘xe1 ♖c7 32 ♠xb5 g6 33 ♠c5 ♘e5 34 ♙e4 ♘g4 35 ♘d3 ♙g7 36 ♙f3 ♘f6 37 ♘b4 h5 38 ♠dc1 ♠a7 39 ♘d5 ♘xd5 40 ♙xd5 ♖d8 41 c7 ♠xc7 42 ♠xc7 ♖xd5 43 ♠e1 ♙h6 44 ♠ee7 f6 45 ♠ed7 ♖a5 46 f4! g5 47 ♙h2 ♙g6 48 fxg5 ♙xg5?! 49 ♠h7 f5 50 ♠cg7+! ♙f6 51 ♠a7 ♖b4 52 ♠a6+ ♙e5 53 ♠xh5 ♖b1?! (53... ♖b5) 54 ♠a5+ ♙f6 55 ♠axf5+ ♙g6 56 ♠fg5+ ♙f6 57 ♠b5 ♖c2 58 ♠h6+ ♙g7 59 ♠bb6 ♖c5 60 ♠bg6+ ♙f8 61 ♠h7 ♖f5 62 ♠gg7 ♖e6 63 ♠e7 1-0

Thus Kramnik and Andreikin, as finalists, should join Karyakin, Aronian and the loser of Carlsen–Anand in the 2014 Candidates,

now scheduled for next March. Three places are still ‘in the lap of the gods’.

Russia. 1st September. The Moscow Blitz Championship was won by S Karyakin (RUS) with 14.5/19; 2nd A Riazantsev (RUS) 13.5 ... 20 players.

Poikovsky was the venue for the Karpov sponsored American, an annual and massively strong competition. A round-six loss for the eventual winner did nothing to halt his progress in this category 18 event.

Spain. Linares staged the Spanish Rapid-play Championships, 19th–25th August. HJ Plaskett (ENG) tied for first with 7/9.

Barcelona hosted the ‘Internacional de Sants’, 23rd August–1st September:

1st B Adhiban (IND) – fresh from a strong World Cup showing – 8.5/10; 2nd= J Cori (PER), V Potkin (RUS), J Gustafsson (GER) and B Firat (TUR) all 8; also LAR D’Costa 6.5; J McPhillips 6; GP Burton (all ENG) 4.5 ... 310 players.



14th Karpov GM, 28th August–7th September 2013

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1	Pavel Eljanov 2702	UKR	*	0	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	6
2	Alexander Motylev 2663	RUS	1	*	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	5½
3	Ernesto Inarkiev 2693	RUS	0	½	*	½	½	1	½	0	1	1	5
4	Ian Nepomnyashy 2723	RUS	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	0	½	1	4½
5	Alexander Onischuk 2667	USA	½	½	½	½	*	0	½	½	1	½	4½
6	Emil Sutovsky 2660	ISR	0	½	0	½	1	*	½	1	1	0	4½
7	Dmitry Jakovenko 2724	RUS	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	4½
8	Viktor Bologan 2672	MDA	½	0	1	1	½	0	0	*	0	1	4
9	Viktor Laznicka 2677	CZE	½	½	0	½	0	0	½	1	*	½	3½
10	Ivan Cheparinov 2678	BUL	0	½	0	0	½	1	½	0	½	*	3

News from the British Isles

The **Berks & Bucks Congress** was held at Tyford, 24th–26th August.

Championship: 1st JD Wager (undefeated) 5/6; 2nd MJ Wadsworth 4.5; 3rd= RD de Coverly and C Purdon both 4 ... 16 played.

Challengers: 1st JS Shakespeare 5.5/6; 2nd M Lucey 5; 3rd S Borland 4.5 ... 13 players.

Reserves "A": 1st DJ Turner 5/6; 2nd TJ Rixon 4.5 ... 16 ran.

Reserves "B": 1st= K Sawers and M Smith both 5/6 ... 17 played.

Reserves "C": 1st= A Balaji and PS Collis both 5/6 ... 15 players.

Brighton. A new club is being set up on Tuesday afternoons by *LifeLines*. Players age 50+ welcomed, especially learners. A volunteer led-project. Phone (01273) 684384 and ask for Krishan.

Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, 2013, 'Terafinal', held at Loughborough 17th–18th August, was won by Marcus Harvey *Marlborough* with 16/18, 2nd Akshaya Kalaiyalahan *Nonsuch* 15, 3rd= Maria Wang *Oxford High* and Yang-Fan Zhou *Whitgift* both 14, 5th= William Foo *Wellington College*, Andrew Horton *Ashton*, Tharshan Kuhendiran *Wilson's*, Naomi Wei *City of London* and J-L Weller *All Saints* all 13 ... 58 played in this top section.

Diary. Basildon Rapidplay, organised by Two Kings Chess and Basildon CC, is scheduled for Sunday, 17th November. www.BasildonChess.org. One section, six rounds. Nathanael Lutton, 23 Whitmore Way, Basildon, Essex SS14 3NT.

South Wales New Year Congress at Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, 3rd–5th January, 2014. Open/U1800/U1550. 5 round Swisses. First round: 6.30 pm start. Kevin Staveley, 57 Treharne Street, Cwmparc, Rhondda CF42 6LH. kevin.staveley@btinternet.com.

76 played in the Adam Raooof's **Golders Green** Rapidplay on 3rd August. The top section was won by PS Cooksey with 5.5/6.

Leek. 84 played, 6th–8th September:

Main "A": 1st AT Richardson 4/5.

Main "B": 1st MI Connor 4.5/5.

Main "C": 1st Sharon Daniel 4.5/5.

Obituary

Correspondence and *otb* player, **Robert E. Rough** (?– *Inverness* 12 ix 2013), has died. He had been club secretary locally, but his wit and good humour will be remembered far and wide. He was 63.

Paignton. 150 played in the longstanding Devon Congress, now shifted to Torquay.

Premier: 1st KC Arkell – lost to Steve Berry, see below – 6/7; 2nd SH Berry 5.5; 3rd= F Rayner (WLS), A Crombleholme, C Fegan, D Mackle and S Dilleigh all 4.5.

□ SH Berry

■ KC Arkell

Ron Bruce Premier, 2013

Symmetrical English A39

1 c4 c5 2 g3 ♘c6 3 ♘c3 g6 4 ♙g2 ♙g7 5 ♘f3 ♘f6 6 d4 cxd4 7 ♘xd4 ♘xd4 8 ♖xd4 ♗xd4 d6 9 0–0 0–0 10 ♗d3 ♘d7 11 b3 ♘c5 12 ♗d2 ♗b8 13 ♙b2 b6 14 ♗ad1 ♙b7 15 e4 a6 16 ♖fe1 ♙a8 17 ♖e2 ♗d7 18 h4 h5 19

♖d5 ♙xb2 20 ♚xb2 ♙xd5 21 exd5 b5 22
 cxb5 ♜xb5 23 ♞e3 ♞e8 24 ♞de1 ♞b7 25
 ♚d2 ♚b5 26 ♙f1 ♚b6 27 ♙c4 f5 28 ♞3e2
 ♙h7 29 ♙d3 ♚d8 30 ♙xf5! (30...e5) 30...
 gx5?? 31 ♞e6 ♖xe6 32 ♞xe6 ♞h8 33
 ♞h6+ (33 ♚g5! is quicker) 33...♙g7 34
 ♚g5+ ♙f7 35 ♚g6+ ♙f8 36 ♞xh8# 1-0

Spot the Continuation Solutions (see p. 530)

I. 1...♞g1+! 2 ♙e2 ♞e1+! 0-1 (3 ♙xe1 ♖xf3+ 4 ♞xf3 ♚xd4 is disastrous.)

II. 1 ♖xf6! ♞d8 (1...♖xa1 2 ♖d7+ ♙g8 3 ♖xb6 axb6 4 ♞xa1+-) 2 ♖e5! and Black resigned in view of 2...♚xf6 3 ♖d7+! ♞xd7 4 ♚xf6 ♖xe1 5 ♚c6+-

III. 1...♖d3+! 2 ♙f1 (2 exd3 ♚xd3 3 ♖e3 ♚c3+ 4 ♙e2 ♚xa3) 2...♖e5 (2...♖f4! was more crushing: 3 ♚b3 (3 gx4 ♚d1#) 3... ♚d4 4 f3 ♙xc4 5 ♖xc4 ♞a8+-) 3 ♖e3 ♚d6 4 ♚b2 ♞b8 5 ♚a1 ♚xa3! 0-1

IV. 1...♞fc8! 2 ♞h2 ♞xb3! 3 axb3 a2 4 ♚a5 a1♚+ 5 ♚xa1 ♙xa1 and White resigned a few moves later

V. 1...♖d5! 2 exd5 bxc2+ 3 ♙xc2 ♞xa2+ 4 ♙b1 ♞a1+! (the point!) 5 ♙xa1 ♚xc3+ saving the day: 6 ♙b1 ♚b3+ 7 ♙c1 ♚c3+ 8 ♙b1 ♚b3+ 9 ♙a1 ♚c3+ ½-½

VI. 1 ♙xh6! ♚d5 (if 1...gxh6 then 2 ♞ad1 ♖d5 3 ♞xd3 ♚a5 4 ♚d1 ♞fe8 5 ♞g3+ ♙f8 6 ♚c1! ♞e6 7 ♖c5 ♞ae8 8 ♞e4 with a winning attack) 2 ♚c3 ♖a4 3 ♚d2 f5 4 ♙xg7! fxe4

Challengers: 1st N Burrows, C Costello, BW Hewson and M Waddington all 5.5/7.

Intermediate: 1st= DR Rogers and A Wiggins both 5/7.

Minor: 1st JR MacDonald 5.5/7.

Morning U180: 1st= P Isherwood and R Sanders both 4.5/5.

5 ♚h6 ♞xf2 6 e6 ♞xg2+ 7 ♙xg2 ♖f4+ 8 ♚xf4 ♙xg7 9 ♚xe4 ♞e8 10 ♚xd5 cxd5 and White won

VII. 1...♙xb3! 2 cxb3 a4 3 ♙c4 axb3 4 ♙xb3 ♞xa2 5 ♙xa2 b3 6 ♙xb3 ♚a3 7 ♙c2 ♚b2+ 8 ♙d3 ♙a5 9 ♙c4 ♞xc4! 10 ♖e2 (10 ♙xc4 ♚c2+ forces mate) 10...♚c2+ 11 ♙e3 ♙b6+ 0-1

VIII. 1 ♞xc6! ♖xc6 2 ♖xc6 bxc6 3 ♖d4 ♚g6 4 ♞xc6 ♚b1+ 5 ♙h2 ♙d6+ 6 ♞xd6! ♞xh4+ 7 ♙g3 ♞g8+ 8 ♙f3 ♞h3+ 9 ♙xh3 ♚h1+ 10 ♙e2 ♖c7 11 ♚xf7 ♞b8 12 ♚xc7 1-0

IX. 1...♚xa2+ 2 ♙c1 ♚a1+ 3 ♙d2 ♚xd1+! 4 ♙xd1 ♙f3+ 5 ♙c1 ♞d1#

X. 1...cxb3! 2 ♞xc5 bxa2 3 ♞a5 ♞c8+ 4 ♙b2 ♖c4+ 5 ♙xa2 ♖xa5 and Black went on to win the ending 0-1

XI. 1 ♚g6+! fxg6 2 ♞xg6+ ♙h7 3 ♞xg5+ ♙h6 4 ♞g6+ ♙h7 5 ♞g4+ ♙h6 6 ♞f6+ ♙h5 7 ♞h4+ (7...♞h4+ ♙g5 8 ♞g6#) 1-0

XII. 1 ♙f5! (clearing the way for the queen to go to the h-file) 1...exf5 2 ♚h3 1-0 If 2... ♞f6 3 ♚h8+ ♙f7 4 ♞h7 ♙f8 5 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 6 ♚xf8+ ♚f7 7 ♚d8 winning

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In the Spotlight – with Carl Portman

featuring... GM Gawain Jones



Describe yourself in three words.

Big, friendly giant!

What might people be surprised to know about you?

Despite my name I'm as English as everyone else, born in Yorkshire and both parents born in Lancashire. Gawain is the name of one of 'The Knights' of the Round Table', King Arthur's nephew.

What's so great about chess?

Every game is unique and gives everyone a creative output.

Recommend one chess book that every club chess player should own

Other than my own?! I think Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series are fantastic.

How do you deal with a loss?

I think I deal with them better than I used to. Normally a beer or three with some friends or a meal with my wife.

Give one top tip for the amateur to improve at chess.

Analyse your own games, preferably with others, but alternatively just by yourself. Write down what your thoughts were during the game and the variations you analysed (as much as you can remember). Only after you've done that, check what the computer's variations are and try to compare.

Are computers ruining the game?

I don't think so, but then computers have been a part of my whole chess life really. At the top level openings are becoming more creative to try to avoid heavy theory build-up.

Who was your chess hero as a kid and why?

Garry Kasparov. I watched him retain the World Championship title against Nigel in 1993 and was really impressed with his style. I also loved Alexander Morozevich's crazy ideas and tried to copy his openings, not completely successfully! I got really nervous when I played him in my first Olympiad in Dresden in 2008.



Gawain Jones

What other interests do you have besides chess?

I used to play rugby when I was growing up and like to watch the games and follow other sports. I enjoy cycling and love playing virtually any board game.

Do you have any phobias?

No, I don't think so, except possibly ants! I had a bad experience when playing in Greece where I woke up with ants in my bed.

What is your pet hate?

Loud, obnoxious people.

What is your all-time favourite quote (not chess)?

I love Terry Pratchett's books and so I'll give a couple of his. First a chess-related one: 'Most gods throw dice, but Fate plays chess, and you don't find out until too late that he's been playing with two queens all along.'

'I'll be more enthusiastic about encouraging thinking outside the box when there's evidence of any thinking going on inside it.'

Do you have a favourite song or band?

It depends on my mood. I listen to a lot of comic stuff but my favourite at the moment is probably Newton Faulkner. I watched him live and was really impressed.

And your favourite film?

I tend to watch more series than films but there are a few good ones. I don't like watching the same film over and over again but John Cleese's 'Clockwise' comes to mind as something I'd like to watch at the moment.

What country would you most like to visit and why?

I want to visit the Cook Islands, in particular the island of Manihiki. It's a tiny place with a population of a couple hundred but it's where my father-in-law's from and I think it would be fascinating.

Who in the world would you most like to meet and why?

Lots of interesting people in the world but I'm sure a chat with Stephen Fry would be quite illuminating.

If you had a spare half a million which charity would you donate it to and why?

Sadly, I'm a long way from that and so haven't really investigated. At the moment we like to get 'The Big Issue' (magazine) so possibly something to do with that.

Share with us one of the happiest memories of your life.

I loved my time living in New Zealand but maybe it has to be the couple of weeks spent in South Africa last summer, when we got married.

Can you give us an amazing statistic?

At any given moment 0.7% of the world's population is drunk.

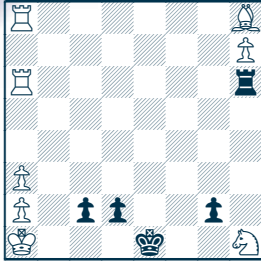
Finally, what question should I have asked you but didn't?

Can't think of anything!

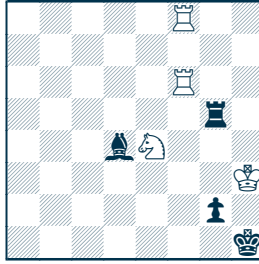
Endgame Studies

Ian Watson

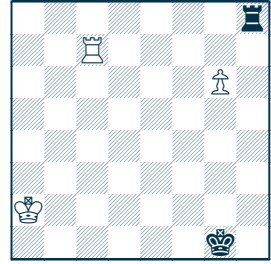
ian@irwatson.demon.co.uk



I Akobia & D Gurgenzidze
ARVES Jenever Tÿ 2011
Win



G Nadareishvili
Win



D Gurgenzidze *Shakhmaty v SSSR 1981*
Win



Where is the strongest chess-playing region in the world? Around Moscow maybe? Perhaps, but I'd vote for the Caucasus mountains: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. They've produced Aronian, Mamedyarov and Radjabov, not to mention World Champions like Kasparov, Gaprindashvili and Chiburdanidze. It's not only chess playing, it's chess compositions too. This year's World Congress of Chess Composition was held in Batumi, Georgia, in September, so in gratitude to the Georgians for hosting it, here are three studies by some of their famous composers.

Akobia and Gurgenzidze's study solves by **1 ♖e8+ ♚f1 2 ♗g3+ ♚f2 3 ♗e4+ ♚e2 4 ♗xd2+ ♚xd2 5 ♙c3+ ♚xc3 6 ♜c6+ ♚d2 7 ♜d8+ ♚c1 8 ♜xh6 g1♙ 9 h8♙ ♙d4+ 10 ♙xd4.**

The theme is underpromotion to a bishop by both Black and White. There is also 'phoenix' of the white bishop, meaning it disappears and is reborn. The sidelines are

2...♙g1 3 ♙d4+; and 5 ♜d6+ ♜xd6 6 ♙c3+ ♙xc3 7 h8♙+ ♙d2; and 5 ♜d8+ ♙e2 6 ♜e8+ ♙d1 7 ♜d8+ ♙e2; and 5...♙d3 6 ♜e1 ♜h1 7 ♙b2; and 6 ♜c8+ ♙d3 7 ♙b2 g1♙; and 6...♙d3 7 ♜d8+ ♙e4 8 ♜c4+ ♙e3 9 ♜c3+ ♙e4 10 ♜g8; and 8 ♜g8 ♜xc6 9 ♜xg2 ♜h6; and 8 ♜d8 ♜xc6 9 h8♙ g1♙; and 8...g1♙ 9 ♜h1 ♙xh1 10 h8♙; and 9 h8♙ ♙d4+.

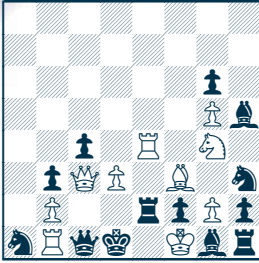
You can find more of Iuri Akobia's compositions at www.akobiachess.gol.ge

Now two for you to solve – nowhere near as complex as that one! The first is short and sharp. It was composed by Grandmaster of Chess Composition, Gia Nadareishvili. The second is the rook ending by David Gurgenzidze, also a Grandmaster of Chess Composition. White will try to bring his king over to support the pawn, but the solution doesn't begin 1 ♙b3? which is met by 1...♜h5 2 g7 ♜g5 and the white king won't be able to approach the pawn.

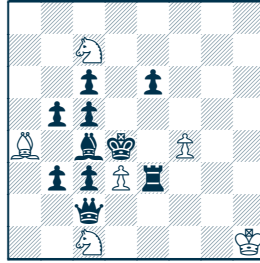
The solutions are on p. 540.

Problem World

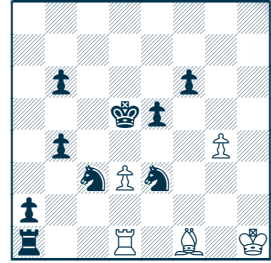
Christopher Jones
 cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk



Ashot Uzunyan *Armenia*
 Selfmate in 2
 Original



K.R. Chandrasekaran *India*
 Helpmate in 2 – 3 solutions
 Original



Christopher Jones *Bristol*
 Helpmate in 3 (b) ♖f1→b1
 Original



This month we have three new entries in the *BCM* Composing Competition, all from previous contributors (new contributors especially welcome!).

We start with a selfmate. In this genre, White is trying to force a reluctant Black to checkmate White. In Ashot's example, there are a number of Black moves that would enable White to achieve his goal. For instance if it were Black to play then 1... cxd3 would allow 2 ♕xe2+! dxe2. It turns out that White's task is to find a move that does not spoil any of the set mates. Not 1 ♖d4? because then after 1...cxd3! 2 ♕xe2 cannot be met by dxe2 (pinned) and is indeed mate by White – definitely not what we want. But it is the e4♖, not actively involved in any of the set mates, that must make the waiting key move (would it have been possible for the composer to involve the e4♖ actively in some way? – the sort of comment that it is easy to make from the sidelines) and it turns out that the uniquely

successful move is 1 ♖f4! Now we have 1... cxd3 2 ♕xe2+ as before; 1...♗c2 2 ♗e3+ ♗xe3; 1...♙xb1 2 ♙d2+ ♙xd2; 1...♘h3 any 2 ♗xf2+ ♕xf2; and 1...♕xg4 2 ♕xe2+ ♕xe2.

An attractive variety of mates by a variety of Black pieces. If you compete in the British Solving Championships it is well worth looking at problems like this: once you get into the selfmate way of thought the selfmate in 2 is often one of the easiest ways to gain points.

Our other two problems are helpmates: Black plays first and collaborates with White to reach a position in which he is mated. In the 2-mover, I can do no better than quote the composer:

"The idea is square vacation by Black followed by the occupation of that square by the same black piece (here, the B) with mate on that square. Three such solutions are shown".

The mechanism works because White must be allowed to guard with his ♕ a po-

tential flight square initially guarded by the ♖ that administers mate: **1 e5** ♗xb3 **2** ♗e6 ♖xe6; **1 b4** ♗xc6 **2** ♗b5 ♖xb5; **1 b2** ♗xc2 **2** ♗b3 ♖xb3.

The 3-mover would, I think, be more difficult to solve. We need to open lines for the w♖ and w♗, and an experienced solver

might guess the complementary ways in which this is done in the two solutions. In the diagram position we have **1** ♖e4 dxe4+ **2** ♗c5 ♗b5 **3** ♖f1 (unpin) ♗d5 and then in the second part of the problem, positioning the w♗ at b1 instead of f1, we have **1** ♖c4 dxc4+ **2** ♗e6 ♗d7 **3** ♖d1 (unpin) ♗f5.

Endgame Study Solutions (See p. 538)

G Nadareishvili

1 ♖f1+ g1♖+ **2** ♖xg1+ ♖xg1 **3** ♖f2 ♗e5 **4** ♖h2+ ♗xh2 **5** ♖f2 mate.

D Gurgenzidze

1 g7 ♖b8 **2** ♖b7 ♖c8 **3** ♗b3 ♗g2 **4** ♖c7 ♖d8 **5** ♗c4 ♗g3 **6** ♖d7 ♖e8 **7** ♗d5 ♗g4 **8** ♖e7 ♖g8 **9** ♗e6 ♗g5 **10** ♗f7 wins.



Book Reviews



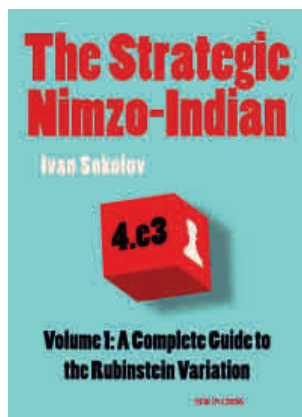
‘Chess is a process of thought conditioned and limited by the Institutes and Rules of the game. The judgments of thought are certified or visibly expressed upon the chessboard in movements of various forces...’ – *‘The Principles of Chess in Theory and Practice’* – James Mason (Horace Cox 1896).



‘The Strategic Nimzo-Indian: Volume 1 A Complete Guide to the Rubinstein Variation’ – Ivan Sokolov (New in Chess 2012). Paperback. 416 pages.

Ivan Sokolov’s books are legendary, including *‘Ruy Lopez Revisited’* and back in the day a Cadogan monograph on the Classical Nimzo-Indian (4 ♖c2). This one is no exception; I have no hesitation in saying it’s one of the best opening books for ages.

In general terms it is somewhere between a White repertoire book and a comprehensive treatise. As White you can use this book for a complete repertoire, but not for Black: certainly as Black you wouldn’t be able to rely on this book for most variations (the main exception to this would be the old main line of the whole opening (1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♗b4 4 e3 0–0 5 ♗d3 d5 6 ♖f3 c5 7 0–0 ♖c6 8 a3 ♗xc3 9 bxc3 dxc4 10 ♗xc4 ♖c7), where so far as I can tell the coverage is essentially comprehensive). By the same token, if you already have your pet methods in these lines as White then you won’t necessarily find them covered here. On the other hand,



for either side you will certainly find plenty of ideas. For example, for Black there is the variation 4 e3 0–0 5 ♘d3 d5 6 ♗f3 c5 7 0–0 ♖c6 8 a3 ♙xc3 9 bxc3 ♗e8!?, which I've never seen before, but which has some intriguing differences from the similar 9... ♙c7, which Sokolov covers nicely.

The book has two main strengths. The first is a multitude of throw-away lines which indicate the standard mini-plans for both sides (but particularly White) in typical structures. These remind me very much of the splendid *'Winning Chess Middle-games'* (which in fact would be an excellent complement to this book for anyone seriously interested in understanding these systems).

For one example among many, take the position opposite.

Sokolov explains here that Black's bishop belongs prophylactically on c6, the rooks on d8 and e8, and that rather than advancing his queenside pawns (for fear of opening lines for the c1 bishop) Black should concentrate on looking for opportunities to disrupt White's build-up on the kingside by pushing the g- or h-pawn, while White should focus on gaining space and trying to improve his dark-squared bishop gradually. Sokolov's coverage is built around the two games Karpov–Spassky, Leningrad, 1974, and Yusupov–Belyavsky, Munich, 1994, in both of which Black handled the position brilliantly (in the former case only after losing a tempo with ... ♙e6 before relocating via d7 to c6) and which Sokolov explains superbly. (This position is not in Sokolov's recommended White repertoire.)

The second great strength is simply the enthusiasm for White's cause which shines through and the sheer number of improvements proposed, many of which involve the sacrifice of material.

For one example of the latter (among many), in the Reykjavik variation (starting from the main position given above after seven moves; 8 a3 ♙a5!?), a standard reference in many books is Bronstein–Moiseev, Moscow, 1951, which went 9 cxd5 exd5 10 dxc5 ♙xc3 11 bxc3 ♙a5 12 ♖b1 ♙xc3 13 ♖b5 ♙e7 14 c4 a6 and now Sokolov points out, almost in passing, the sacrifice 15 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 16 cxd5 ♗e5 17 ♗xe5 ♙xe5 18 ♙b3 with advantage to White (rather than Bronstein's feeble 15 ♖b2?).

As to the former, I suspect the assessment of White's chances in this book is a little on the optimistic side (not a problem in my view; objectivity in opening books is a thing not much to be desired). According to Sokolov the only major system in which Black can equalise is 4 e3 c5 5 ♘d3 0–0 6 ♗f3 b6 7 0–0 c5. Black has a few routes to this position, and Sokolov's repertoire basically seeks to avoid it by 4 e3 c5 5 ♗e2, or 4...0–0 5 ♘d3 c5 6 ♗e2 (a particularly controversial proposition since many players are unhappy in the IQP positions which result with White's knight on e2), or 4...b6 5 ♗e2. If the book has a weakness then I think this would be it (a defect of its qualities), and a more studious and better-informed friend than I tells me that in various variations there are known moves for Black which have equalised in previous practice and are overlooked. If true – and my friend is very reliable – this

frankly wouldn't trouble me all that much; if you want any book to give a bulletproof repertoire without using a database you are likely to be disappointed, and this book's qualities more than make up for any issues such as this.

Finally, I put the book to the traditional test of comparing it to a recent repertoire from John Emms's admirable (although aimed at lower-rated players) *'Nimzo-Indian: Move by Move'* which recommends the very Reykjavik variation I mentioned earlier.

Sokolov's remedy against this is the new idea 9 cxd5 exd5 10 dxc5 ♟xc3 11 bxc3 ♟g4 12 ♖b1 ♚c8 13 h3 (and not 13 ♚c2 ♟xf3 14 gxf3 ♚h3 15 ♟e2 ♗e5 16 ♚d1 ♖fd8 17 ♖xb7 ♗e4! 18 ♚d4 ♗g6 with mate, as in Sadler–Pelletier, Bundesliga, 2003/4 – no wonder Sadler gave the game up shortly after this) 13...♟h5 14 ♟e2 ♖d8 15 ♟b2 ♗e4 16 ♚c2! (this is Sokolov's new idea in this position, which is widely held to be fine for Black).

Theory has no doubt ignored this move on the grounds that it loses material after 16...♗xc5 17 c4 (the only consistent move) 17...♟g6 18 ♚c3 d4 19 exd4 ♗a4 20 ♚b3 ♟xb1 21 ♚xa4, but Sokolov gives plenty of analysis to back up his belief that White has good chances for the exchange here.

It's hardly surprising that Emms didn't consider that (especially since actually this is only his secondary recommendation); he relies on Sadler–Pelletier. In Emms's main line (12 c4, which Sokolov also covers) both books give pretty much the same existing theory, while Sokolov also considers 12 a4, which Emms doesn't mention.

However, in Emms's main repertoire choice for Black, the Parma variation with 8...♗bd7, it is Emms who has a nuance which Sokolov doesn't consider. Sokolov considers that all of White's main moves (9 ♚e2, 9 ♚b3 and 9 a3) give him good chances of the advantage. After 9 ♚e2 Emms's excellent coverage (based on the limpid positional masterpiece Lautier–Carlsen, Khanty-Mansiysk, 2005) continues with 9...b6 10 ♖d1 cxd4 11 exd4 ♟xc3 12 bxc3, and now Carlsen chose 12...♚c7 (as opposed to 12...♟b7). As I understand it, the point of this move is, by attacking c3, to slow down White's plan of ♟d3 and c4 by one move, so that after 13 ♟b2 ♟b7 14 ♟d3 (as in the game) Black is in time for 14...♗d5, when the threat of ...♗f4 to trade a pair of minor pieces (almost always a good idea for Black in this set-up) gives Black equal chances. Sokolov doesn't consider 12...♚c7 at all (he focuses on 12...♟b7 13 ♟d3 ♚c7 14 c4 ♖fe8, as in Aronian–Leko, Nalchik, 2009, in which Black was crushed). Why a Nimzo expert like Leko should choose what according to me is simply an inferior order of moves like this is a mystery (the answer to which almost certainly involves Leko knowing an awful lot of things I don't, of course).

Still, at the least we can say that there is something missing here which Emms explains and Sokolov could have done with explaining. Bottom line, though, a really fine book and a great resource for either White or Black in this line, although perhaps in slightly different ways.

These days, the author is a Dutch Grandmaster.

www.newinchess.com.

J.J. Cox



'The French Winawer' by Steve Giddins is a recent addition to Everyman's 'move by move' series, in which the topic of the book (usually, but not always, an opening or defence) is presented through the analysis of a number of complete games.

This book, which deals with 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♙b4, is a well-produced 287-page volume containing 25 main games from this opening. In addition to the usual analysis, the author adopts the Q&A approach typical of the series, with questions such as: "So what are the differences between this setup and that which we saw in the previous game?" and "Why doesn't Black just recapture on c5?", being answered generally by wordy replies of explanation, but often with concrete analysis when called for.

Another commendable feature of this book is that entire games are annotated. The stress is certainly on the opening, but the middlegames and endings also receive good attention, so that the reader is not just left wondering why one side may be better, or why the player actually won the game. Indeed, in many cases other complete games are included within the main games.

Giddins obviously believes in studying the classics, as he includes games by Botvinnik, Smyslov, Uhlmann and so on, when he feels they best demonstrate the themes of the variation. He does this mainly (but not only) with the positional lines, where this approach probably works best. This is not to say that the book is out of date – many games from the 2010s are included, and topical lines (for example in the Poisoned Pawn variation) – receive good coverage. Interestingly, the positional lines (7 ♘f3, 7 a4, 7 h4) are given substantially more coverage than the Poisoned Pawn variation (7 ♙g4).

These features, together with the clear annotations and explanations, place the emphasis on understanding rather than rote learning of this opening. However, the book is by no means lightweight – there is a lot of theory contained in the games and the breadth of the opening is covered well, including the sidelines from move 4 onwards.

Reviewer's verdict: this is an excellent book and can be recommended to anyone thinking about taking up the Winawer, or to players who already play it and wish to improve their understanding. For those taking up the Winawer from new, they may subsequently find that they also need a traditional variations opening book (Steve Giddins himself points the reader in the direction of John Watson's *'Play the French'* occasionally in the text), and it may well be that Giddins's book and a traditional book work best in combination (though I repeat that Steve's book is not skimpy on theory). Highly recommended.

The author is an English FIDE Master.

www.everymanchess.com.



Colin Purdon



'The Complete Albin Counter-Gambit: A Dangerous Weapon against the Queen's Gambit' – Luc Henris (Jean-Louis Marchand Editions 2013). Paperback. 616 pages. 7" × 9". Figurine algebraic. Detailed bibliography.

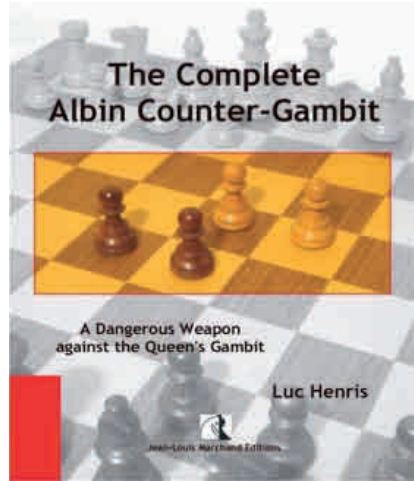
Jean-Louis Marchand, Rue de Belle Vue, 60, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

This is a book about 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5. It is the largest book dealing with a specific line that we have ever seen. In short, it is an encyclopaedia. The diagrams are large: something older readers may appreciate. 3 dxe5 is considered in each of the four sections with 3...d4 4 ♖f3 ♗c6 usually following.

Part 1 deals with 5 a3. Part 2 has 5 g3. Part 3 looks at 5 ♗bd2 and finally Part 4 deals with earlier divergences. Very detailed indexes needed and provided.

The author is a Belgian FIDE Master.

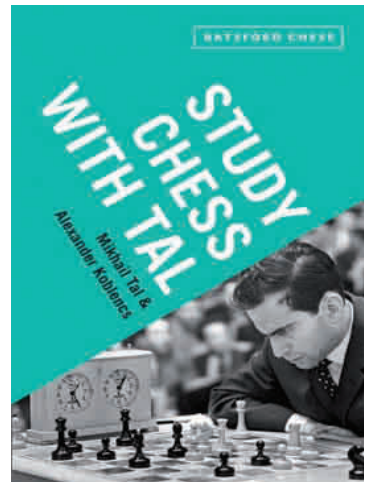
www.marchand.be



'Study Chess with Tal' – Mikhail Tal and Alexander Koblencs (Batsford 2013). 270 pages, figurine algebraic notation. The return of an old (1980s) favourite. Deep analysis of 46 games, played 1956–76, by the eighth World Champion and 3 by others. Many examples feature the Sicilian and the Caro-Kann. Questions placed throughout the text with answers at the back. Would probably inspire all competitive players; nothing here to overwhelm the less gifted or experienced. At £15.99, the quoted cover price, this is a considerable bargain.

The authors were, respectively, a Soviet grandmaster and a four-time Latvian champion and trainer.

www.anovabooks.com



Quotes and Queries

Alan Smith

caissals@hotmail.com

6008 Jonathan Penrose was born on 7th October, 1933, a teenage prodigy who grew up in a chess-playing family. His father Lionel was a prominent problemist who played in four Varsity matches, defeating T.H.Tylor on Board 1 in 1920 and playing on the middle boards for the Essex County Team. His elder brother Oliver was also a junior champion. Both made their British Championship debut in the first Swiss System event, at Felixstowe, in 1949.

Jonathan could not have had a tougher start. In Round 1 he faced the 1947 Champion, Harry Golombek. After losing he might have expected an easier ride in the second round, but instead he faced the reigning champion, Reginald Broadbent. He rallied well after losing his first three games, to score $+4 =2 -5$. Oliver scored a point more ($+4 =4 -3$), but faced a less daunting field. Felixstowe proved a useful training ground. Before his 15th birthday Jonathan won the London Championship ahead of experienced internationals List, Reilly and Wheatcroft. The following year he produced a stellar performance at Southsea – he defeated Bogoljubow, Tartakower and Prins – scoring $+5 =4 -1$ to share third prize with Golombek and Lothar Schmid, just half-a-point behind the joint winners, Tartakower and Bisguier.

The BCF did not send a side to Dubrovnik in 1950, but Penrose was selected to play in the next Olympiad at Helsinki, on Board 2. He made the best percentage score of the British team and held his place on Board 2 until Leipzig 1960, when he moved up to

top board. His score at Leipzig was $+6 =6 -4$, which might not seem impressive, until you examine the strength of his opponents. He defeated Euwe and drew with Fischer, Gligoric and Najdorf. Then, in the final round, he beat Tal. This was the first win by a British player over a reigning World Champion since 1899.

Penrose was awarded the International Master title at the 1961 FIDE congress.

Jonathan did even better at his next Olympiad, Varna 1962, scoring $+9 =7 -1$, albeit against a slightly weaker field. He missed the next two Olympiads, but returned at Lugano, 1968, where his $+10 =5 -0$ was the second best score on top board. In two subsequent appearances Penrose struggled.

Penrose made two attempts to qualify for the Interzonal and was a creditable seventh at Madrid in 1960. Three years later at the Enschede Zonal JP came tantalisingly close to finishing in the top three. He started with a 23-move win over Filip, and led after nine rounds, before consecutive losses to Darga and Kupper took the wind out of his sails. Even so he finished fourth with $+10 =3 -3$, just half a point behind Darga and Lengyel, but ahead of Pomar and Filip.

Jonathan Penrose is the most successful player in the history of the British Championship, but he was by no means an overnight success. His early appearances showed the promise of what was to come: third equal at Buxton 1950, defeating both Broadbent and Winter; he led after eight rounds in 1955, but faded in the closing

rounds; in 1957 he was second equal, undefeated. Success in Swiss System events is hard won, while an all-play-all will inevitably give one game against those doing badly. In a Swiss if you are leading then all you meet are other players in form.

Penrose gradually developed the stamina for eleven round events and success soon followed. In 1958 he won his last four games to tie with Leonard Barden and duly won the play-off match. Penrose again tied first in 1959, but Harry Golombek and Michael Haygarth were no match for him in the play-off tournament. He went on to win the next four events, losing just one game in the process, to Leonard Barden in 1961.

Penrose was slow to recover after a first round loss in 1964 and finished sixth equal, well behind Haygarth. There was another Yorkshire success the following year when Peter Lee took the title. Penrose was undefeated, but finished half a point behind. The dip in form was purely temporary: four more successes followed at Sunderland 1966, Oxford 1967, Bristol 1968 and Rhyl in 1969. His tenth victory established a record which seems unlikely to be challenged.

All eras come to an end. Dr Penrose lost three times in the first week at Coventry 1970, but recovered to finish second equal, a point behind the winner, Bob Wade. Penrose struggled at Blackpool, 1971, losing a key game to Raymond Keene, who won the event, but he was back in the leading group the next year at Brighton, where he was undefeated and shared second place. Illness and diminishing stamina caused him to abandon *otb* play in favour of correspondence play where he excelled, obtaining the grandmaster title in 1983.

Here is an example of his ability to bounce back. In Round 8 Penrose lost to the

1964 Champion, Michael Haygarth. In the next round he faced the 1965 Champion, and uncorked a novelty.

□ J Penrose

■ PN Lee

Bristol, 1968

Sicilian, Najdorf B93

[Smith]

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 f4 (This is not the sharpest line against the Najdorf, but it requires careful defence by Black) **6... ♖c7 7 ♙d3 g6 8 0-0 ♙g7** (8... ♖c5 is met by 9 ♘h1) **9 ♘h1 b5** (The 1966 edition of *“Die Sizilianische Verteidigung”* by Schwarz considered this a viable alternative to 9...0-0, but it proves inferior) **10 a4!** (A novelty, Schwarz only considered 10 a3) **10...b4 11 ♘a2 ♙b7** (11...a5 allows 12 ♘b5 and suddenly the black queen lacks a good square) **12 ♖e2 ♘xe4 13 ♙xe4 d5 14 ♙f3 ♙xd4 15 ♘xb4 ♖d6 16 ♖d2 ♙e3 17 ♖xe3 ♖xb4** (Black has escaped without losing a pawn, but White's bishops soon force him to make further positional concessions) **18 ♙d2 ♖d6 19 ♙c3 0-0 20 ♖d4 f6 21 ♖ad1 ♖d8 22 ♙a5 ♖d7 23 c4 ♙g7 24 cxd5 e6 25 ♙b4 ♖c7 26 d6 ♖d8 27 ♖c1 a5 28 ♙a3 ♖a6 29 ♙xb7 ♖xb7 30 ♖e4 ♖d7** (Averting the loss of the pawn, but allowing a winning combination) **31 ♖xb7! 1-0** (31... ♖xb7 32 ♖c7+ ♖xc7 33 dxc7 and the pawn queens). 'The Times', 7th September, 1968.

Any doubters who do not find his record impressive should take note of these further triumphs. Penrose defeated: Rossolimo at Hastings 1950–51; Olafsson at World Junior, 1953; Lothar Schmid at Amsterdam 1954; Bobotsov at Munich in 1958; Gurgenzidze at Budapest, 1959; O'Kelly at Madrid, 1960; Robatsch at Hastings 1960–61; Portisch at

Varna 1962; Donner, Anglo Dutch Match, 1965; Mecking at Hastings 1966–67; Larsen at Dundee 1967; while at Palma 1969 he defeated Bobotsov, Mecking and Panno.

(Also see *BCM* 05/11, p. 260)



Passed Pawns in the Middlegame: Part 3

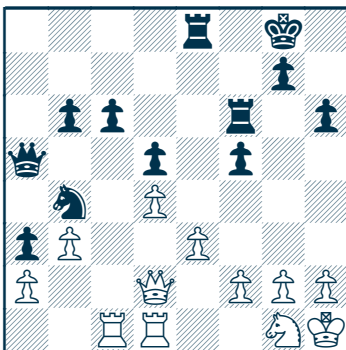
David LeMoir
BCM Archive © 03/81

Our last example (*BCM* 07/13, p. 385) was crude but typical. On the other hand Nimzowitsch was noted for the subtlety of his ideas, and in the next example creates a position in which his passed pawn nicely complements his attack.

White, Stahlberg, has just played 26 ♖g1 intending to have some central control after 27 ♘f3 and 28 ♘e5. Black's reply seems intended simply to meet this, but things are rarely that simple with Nimzowitsch!

□ AG Stahlberg
■ A Nimzowitsch
Gothenburg, 1934

[LeMoir]



26...f4! 27 exf4 ♖e4 28 g3 ♖b5!

Now the knight cannot move since 29...♗e2 would follow, while 29 ♗e1 allows 29...♘d3.

29 ♗c3 c5!

The other side of the plan started by 26...f4 becomes clear. White's possibilities of active play have been restricted, so Black increases central control, using the fact that White no longer has a pawn at e3 to support d4. Almost incidentally Black creates a passed pawn.

30 dxc5 bxc5 31 ♖dc1 ♖c6 32 ♗e3 ♗ce6 33 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 34 f3 ♗e8 35 ♗e1 ♗xe1 36 ♗xe1 ♗d7 37 ♗c1 d4!

The pawn marches on. Note in what follows how easy Black finds it to attack the enemy king and advance his passed pawn. White's meagre force cannot cope with both at once.

38 ♘e2 ♖b5 39 ♗e1 ♗d3 40 ♘c1 ♗xf3+ 41 ♗g1 ♗f7! 42 ♗f2 ♗e4 43 ♗f1 d3 44 ♗d1 ♗e3+ 45 ♗g2 d2

After 45...d2 46 ♘e2 ♘d3 there is no defence to 47...♘b2.

0–1 (Also see *BCM* 05/34, p. 219.)

It sometimes pays to remember the power of the passed pawn when you are defending.



Test Your Chess

IM Shaun Taulbut

shauntaulbut@aol.com



You have the White pieces alongside Bulgar Veselin Topalov, FIDE World Champion 2005. You face Alexander Morozevich, as gifted and natural

a player as you could ever meet. We are in China. Cover the page with a piece of paper (would it help to cut a piece to fit?) and try to predict – jot them down – Topalov's moves starting at move 4. Pay special attention when selecting moves 13, 14, 19, 22, 33 and 38. That's where the big points lurk.

□ VA Topalov

■ AS Morozevich

FIDE GP Beijing, 2013

Philidor's, Nimzowitsch C41 [Taulbut]

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♘f6 3 ♘c3 e5

4 ♘f3

3 points for this natural developing move, which transposes to a Philidor Defence.

The exchange 4 dxe5 dxe5 5 ♖xd8+ ♘xd8 6 ♙g5 ♙e6 leads to a slight advantage for White and scores 2 points.

4... ♗bd7

5 ♙c4

3 points. The natural move of the bishop has threats against f7 if Black is careless.

5... ♙e7

6 0-0

2 points. The sacrifice 6 ♙xf7+ ♘xf7 7 ♖g5+ ♘g6 8 ♗e6 ♖g8 9 ♗xc7 ♗b8 is good for Black and only scores a point.

6... 0-0

7 a4

2 points. White wishes to retain his bishop on the strong a2–f7 diagonal and this enables White to retreat the bishop, if necessary to b3 or a2.

7... c6

8 ♖e1

3 points; White overprotects e4 preparing for Black exchanging in the centre with ...exd4.

8... a5

9 h3

2 points. A useful move preventing Black from putting a piece on g4 and allowing White to develop his queen's bishop on e3, if desired.

9... ♗b6

10 ♙b3

2 points. The retreat to a2 is also possible and scores a point.

10... ♗fd7

Black has difficulties developing his queen's bishop and evolves a plan to try and force off the White king's bishop.

11 ♙e3

2 points. White waits for Black to commit himself.

11... exd4

12 ♗xd4

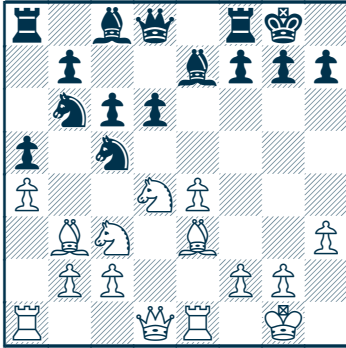
2 points. The best recapture aiming the knight at f5. The alternative recaptures are:

(a) 12 ♙xd4 ♙f6 (12... ♗c5 13 ♙xc5 dxc5 14 ♖xd8 ♙xd8 15 ♗ad1 is slightly better for White) 13 e5 dxe5 14 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 15 ♙xe5 with an edge for White scores two points.

(b) 12 ♖xd4 ♗c5 is satisfactory for Black and

only scores a point.

12...♘c5



Black's plan to neutralise the bishop on b3 is clear, but has taken some time.

13 ♖f3!

6 points. White aims for a kingside attack, not fearing the loss of the bishop.

13 ♖a2 ♖bxa4 14 ♗xa4 ♗xa4 15 ♕xf7+ ♕xf7 16 ♖xa4 ♕f6 is good for Black and therefore only scores a point.

13...♗xb3

14 cxb3!

4 points for this unusual recapture, which does not allow the black knight into c4. 14 ♗xb3 ♗c4 is good for Black and only merits a point.

14...♕e6

14...♕f6 15 ♖ad1 is the critical line, when White is only slightly better.

15 ♖ad1!

3 points for this fine positional move aiming at the Black pawn on d6. 15 ♗xe6 fxe6 16 ♖g4 e5 is good for Black because of his strong pawn centre and only scores a point.

15...♗d7

Black aims to put this knight on c5. 15...♗c8 is a more passive alternative.

16 ♖g3!

4 points. White has a slow but powerful plan

of f4.

16...♗e5

Not 16...♗h4? when 17 ♖xd6 is winning.

17 ♖e2

4 points for this simple preparatory move. Not 17 f4? since 17...♗h4 wins the exchange.

17...♗g6

18 f4!

4 points. White has the threat of f5, winning material.

18...c5

18...♗h4 is well met by 19 ♖h2.

19 ♗f5!!

6 points for this clever pawn sacrifice. 19 ♗xe6 fxe6 20 ♖g4 ♖d7 (20...♖c8 is only slightly better for White) 21 e5 is awkward for Black and scores 3 points.

19...♕xb3

20 ♖dd2

2 points for this move, retaining pressure against the pawn on d6.

20...♖c8

21 ♖f2

4 points for this mysterious rook move protecting f3. The immediate 21 h4 ♕xh4 22 ♗xh4 ♖xh4 23 ♖xh4 ♗xh4 24 f5 d5 25 ♕g5 d4 26 ♗d1 ♗xf5 27 exf5 f6 28 ♕f4 ♖fe8 29 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 30 ♗f2 ♕xa4 gives a position where Black has good compensation for the piece.

21...♗h8

22 h4!!

6 points; White has prepared this dangerous thrust aiming to blast open Black's kingside.

22...♖g8

After 22...♕xh4 23 ♗xh4 ♖xh4 24 ♖xh4 ♗xh4 25 f5 f6 26 g3 ♗xf5 27 ♖xf5 White's extra piece outweighs the Black pawns.

23 h5

3 points, driving the black pieces to the back

rank.

23... ♖f8

After 23... ♖h4 24 ♗xe7 ♜xe7 25 f5 cuts off the knight and it will be lost.

24 ♗xd6!

4 points, smashing the Black position by a temporary piece sacrifice.

24... ♙xd6

25 e5

2 points, winning back the piece.

25... f5

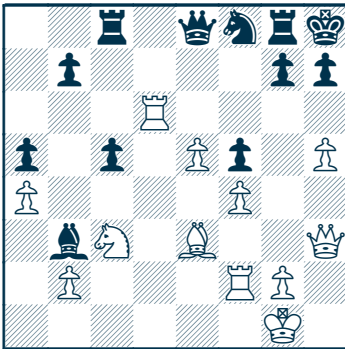
After 25... ♖c6 26 ♗e4 ♙xa4 27 ♗xd6 ♜c7 28 f5 with a strong attack. The white knight on d6 dominates the position.

26 ♖xd6

3 points for this recapture. 26 ♗b5 ♙e7 27 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 28 ♖d2 is also strong and scores 2 points.

26... ♜e8

27 ♖h3



3 points, both defending h5 and threatening the pawn on f5.

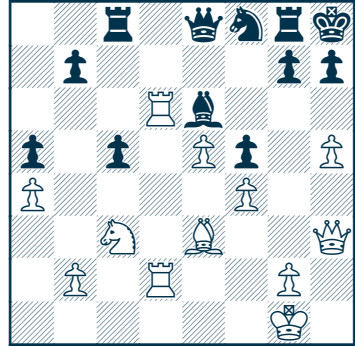
27... ♙e6

After 27... g6 28 h×g6 ♖×g6 29 ♜×f5 ♖×d6 30 e×d6 ♗d7 31 ♙d2 is winning for White.

Or 27... ♙f7 28 ♜×f5 ♙×h5 29 ♖fd2 ♙g6 30 ♖h3 ♙f7 31 ♗e4 ♙e6 32 g4 ♜xa4 33 ♗g5

♜a1+ 34 ♙h2 ♙c4 35 e6 h6 36 ♗f7+ ♙h7 37 f5 with deadly threats against h6.

28 ♖fd2



3 points. White has control of the d-file.

28... h6

29 ♗b5

3 points for this move, aiming to invade on d6 later and attacking c7.

29... ♗d7

30 ♜f3!

4 points for this fine positional move, aiming at b7.

30... b6

31 ♜d1

4 points; the pressure on d7 forces the win of material.

31... ♗f8

After 31... ♖d8, 32 ♗c7 wins.

32 ♖xb6

2 points. Black's queenside is destroyed and the pawns on c5 and a5 will fall.

32... ♜e7

33 ♜f3

4 points. White retains his pressure and aims to invade with his rook on b7.

33...♘d7

34 ♖b7

3 points.

34...♖b8

35 ♖a7

3 points; retaining the pin on the knight.

35...♗gd8

36 ♗d6

3 points. White now focuses on the bishop on e6 which defends the knight on d7.

36...♖f7

37 ♘c7!

3 points; a decisive attack on e6.

37...♙c4

38 e6!

4 points; winning material.

38...♖e7

39 ♗xd7

1 point for this capture.

39...♗xd7

40 exd7

1 point.

40...♖xd7

41 ♘b5

3 points. White defends his pieces.

41...♖e6

42 ♖g3

3 points; White attacks g7 and consolidates his extra piece, so Black resigned.

1-0

Now total up your points.

99+ Grandmaster

91-99 International Master

81-90 FIDE Master

65-80 National Master

41-64 County Player

21-40 Club Player

11-20 Novice

0-10 The ECF, or your national federation, can help you locate your nearest club. Play online, consider signing up for lessons with a coach or form a group of like-minded friends either at work, school or college. Contact us direct, address in the front, if you really get stuck.

Chess Questions Answered

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The Quiz



How to win quickly with the Grünfeld? This is the question from Tom Black *Birmingham* who has been avoiding the main line Grünfeld by testing

the variation with 4 ♙f4. He writes "In the line 4...♙g7 5 ♘f3 c5 6 dxc5 ♖a5 7 cxd5 ♘xd5 8 ♖xd5 ♙xc3+ 9 ♙d2 I have drawn three games and lost one. How can I improve or is there an alternative?"

The line is perfectly acceptable, but you need a good memory to stay on top of the situation. An alternative is to give the 4 ♖f4 line a twist, when there are plenty of ways for Black to go wrong. Here are a couple of games to give you inspiration to adopt another line.

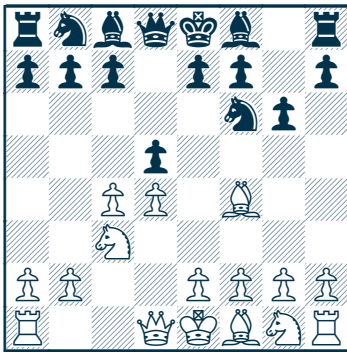
□ M Krishnan

■ M Kiran

Bhubaneswar Open, 2011
Grünfeld D82

[Gary Lane]

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 ♖f4



I think this line is perfect for weekend tournaments for players who have limited time to study. This is because the emphasis is on straightforward development rather than trying to play something cutting edge, so it has fewer complicated variations. After all, the main line 4 exd5 ♘xd5 5 e4 ♘xc3 6 bxc3 is tested constantly at the highest level, so trying to keep up with the latest developments can lead to an instant loss if you have missed a crucial game.

4... ♖g7 5 e3

This is the twist that I was thinking of to steer the game into a different type of setup, because the development of the king's knight is delayed.

5...c5

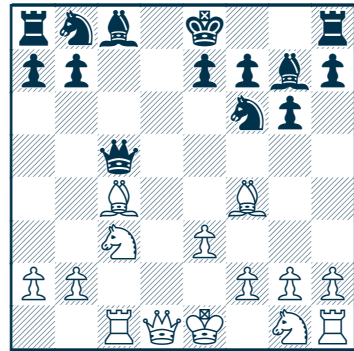
This challenge to White's centre is a popular

reply. Instead, 5...0-0 allows White the option of winning a pawn: 6 cxd5 ♘xd5 7 ♘xd5 ♖xd5 8 ♖xc7. This tricky line is a test of Black's knowledge, because if Black doesn't know what to do then White is just a clear pawn up: 8... ♘a6 9 ♖xa6 ♖xg2 10 ♖f3 ♖xf3 11 ♘xf3 bxa6 12 ♖c1 f6 (12... ♖b7 is met by 13 ♖e2 with equal chances) 13 ♖c5 ♖f7 14 0-0 ♖f8 15 ♖c2 ♖b7 16 ♘d2 ♖e8 ½-½ E Postny–M Vachier-Lagrave, Haguenau, 2013.

6 dxc5 ♖a5 7 ♖c1!? dxc4

The alternative 7... ♘e4 is discussed in the next game.

8 ♖xc4 ♖xc5?



This natural response has been played in numerous games but curiously it is not always punished. The confusion for Black is caused by getting the line mixed up with one featuring an early ♘f3, and the difference will soon become clear. The main line is 8...0-0 when A Hevia–Y Bacallao Alonso, Santa Clara, 2013 went 9 ♘f3 ♖xc5 10 ♖b3 ♘c6 11 0-0 ♖a5 12 h3 ♖f5 13 ♖e2 with equal opportunities.

9 ♘b5!

The big threats are ♘c7+ and ♖xf7+, which will both win material, and it is surprisingly difficult to find a decent answer. I had a look at a lot of games in this position, but strangely quite a few people tried 9 ♖b3 and after 9...0-0 10 ♘f3 play has transposed to the traditional line outlined in the note to Black's eighth move.

9... ♖b4+ 10 ♖f1 0-0

Or 10... ♖a6 11 a3 ♖c5 (if 11... ♖xb2 then 12 ♜b1 traps the queen) 12 ♖xf7+ (of course the hidden attack on the black queen is a theme in this line) 12... ♖xf7 13 ♜xc5 ♖xc5 14 ♖f3 ♖f5 15 ♖e5+ ♖f8 16 ♖d4 ♜c8 17 ♖xf5 gxf5 18 ♖c2 ♜d8 19 ♖xc5 ♜d1+ 20 ♖e2 ♜xh1 21 ♖c4 1-0 M Dziuba–A Petriso, Eforie Nord, 2010.

11 a3 ♖a5 12 b4 ♖a6 13 ♖c7 ♖xa3

Black is able to grab some material, but it won't be enough to compensate for the rook.

14 ♖xa8 ♖c6 15 ♖e2 ♖g4

If you get this far then it is useful to know the winning line after 15...e5. For instance: 16 ♖g3 ♖xb4 (16... ♖g4 17 ♖c7 ♖xb4 18 f3 with a clear advantage) 17 ♖c7 ♜d8 18 ♖b3 ♖d2 19 f3 (19 ♖xf7+! ♖h8 20 ♖e6 also wins easily) 19... ♖a5 20 ♖xf7+ ♖f8 21 ♖a2 ♖c6 22 ♖e6+ ♖xe6 23 ♖xd2 ♜xd2 24 ♖xe6 1-0 A Aleksandrov–T Nedev, Rethymnon, 2003.

16 ♖c7 ♖e4 17 f3 ♜d8

Black has active play, which might be good enough for a quick game on the Internet, but when you have plenty of time to ponder what to do then giving back some material is a perfect plan.

18 ♖d5 e6 19 fxe4 exd5 20 exd5 ♖e5 21 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 22 ♖b3 1-0



Naturally Black has one or two alternatives to a knockout game in 22 moves, so let's take a look at a couple of grandmasters handling the opening.

□ R Leitao

■ A Fier

Brazil Championship, 2011

Grünfeld D82

[Gary Lane]

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 d5 4 ♖f4 ♖g7 5 e3 c5 6 dxc5 ♖a5 7 ♜c1 ♖e4

The triple attack on the queen's knight gives White cause for concern, but prior knowledge of the move means there is nothing to worry about.

8 cxd5 ♖xc3 9 ♖d2 ♖xa2 10 ♜xc3!?

The modern reply, offering the exchange in return for a strong attack. This unusual move is not even mentioned in the Grünfeld books from ten years ago, so you might well catch out a few players. 10 bxc3 has been known as the solid reply for some time and featured in the celebrated game TV Petrosian–RJ Fischer, Buenos Aires, 1971; now play might continue: 10... ♖a5 (after 10... ♖xd2+ the ending favours White upon 11 ♖xd2 ♖d7 12 ♖b5 0-0 13 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 14 e4, with the superior chances) 11 ♖c4 ♖d7 12 ♖f3 ♖xc5 13 ♖e5 ♖xe5 14 ♖xe5 f6 15 ♖f3 0-0 16 0-0 ♖g7 17 ♜fe1, with equal opportunities in the game E Levin–S Klimov, St Petersburg, 2012.

10...0-0

The critical line has to be the immediate 10... ♖xc3, but few people are willing to take the risk and the practical results are in White's favour. In the top-level rapid game Wang Yue–M Carlsen, Leon, 2009, play continued: 11 ♖xc3 f6 (11... ♖a1+ 12 ♖d2 f6 13 ♖f3 0-0 14 ♖h6 ♜f7 15 ♜g1 threatening to move the white-squared bishop with a discovered attack on the black queen favours White) 12 ♖f3 ♖d7 13 ♖e2 ♖xd5 14 0-0 ♖c6 (the short-term problem is that the black king is stuck in the centre as 14...0-0? allows 15 ♖c4) 15 b4 a5 16 b5 ♖b4 17 ♜d1 ♖e4 18 ♖e1 ♖d5 19 ♖d2 e6 20 ♖c2 0-0 21 ♖d6 ♜fd8 22 ♖d4 ♖h4 23 g3 with the advantage.

11 ♖c4 ♖xc3!?

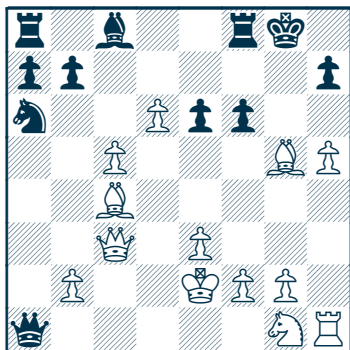
Fier just cannot resist the lure of the exchange and aims to resist the forthcoming attack and use the extra material to win in the long term. The alternative 11... ♖a1+ has gone out of fashion since the game B Gulko–D Eckert, Saint Louis, 2009, which continued 12 ♜c1 ♖xb2 13 ♖f3 ♖d7 14 ♖e2 ♖a3?! (maybe 14...a5 should be considered) 15 ♖d4 ♖xd4 16 exd4 ♖f6 17 ♖f3 ♜d8 18 0-0 ♖xd5? Black adds a pawn to his collection but overlooks the possibility of his queen being trapped: 19 ♖xd5 ♜xd5 20 ♜a1 ♖b3 21 ♜fb1 1-0

12 ♖xc3 ♖a1+ 13 ♖e2 f6 14 h4 ♖a6

Black keeps the queen on a1 to restrict the king's knight, but naturally must try to catch

up with his development on the queenside to stay in the game.

15 d6+ e6 16 h5 g5 17 ♕xc5!?



I can't help feeling that the average player might be thinking about resigning around here because the position looks so bleak, but grandmasters are always resourceful when the going gets tough.

17... ♖xc5!

The knight is heading for the e4 square if given the chance. Or 17...fxg5? 18 h6 ♖f7 19 ♖h5 and Black will soon be checkmated.

18 ♖d4 fxg5 19 h6 ♖f7 20 ♖h5 ♖e4!

It says something about this variation that Black has to continue to play like a top grandmaster just to survive. This ingenious idea gives away the knight to put a brake on White's onslaught.

21 ♖f3

Or 21 ♖xe4 ♖xb2+ 22 ♔d1, when Black can keep checking to secure a draw, or go for it with 22...♔d7!, when 23 ♖xg5+ ♔h8 gives him an edge.

21...g4 22 ♖g5+! ♖xg5 23 ♖xg5 ♖a4!

The only way to avoid defeat, but once again Black comes up trumps with the right move.

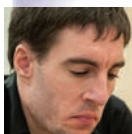
24 ♖xf7 ♖c2+ 25 ♔e1 ♖c1+ 26 ♔e2 ½-½

A spectacular draw, but I have a feeling that most players cannot defend like a grandmaster!

Dortmund 2013

IM Tom Rendle

thomasrendle365@hotmail.com



Michael Adams made an excellent start to this year's Dortmund event, after he moved to 1½/2, by grinding down Dmitri Andreikin in typical fashion on

the White side of the Berlin Defence. Here we see Mickey employing the 'Berlin Wall' as Black to great effect against Italian superstar Fabiano Caruana.

□ FL Caruana

■ M Adams

Dortmund, 2013

Ruy Lopez, Berlin C67

[Rendle]

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♗b5 ♖f6 4 0-0 ♖xe4 5 d4 ♖d6 6 ♗xc6 dxc6 7 dxex5 ♖f5 8 ♖xd8+ ♔xd8 9 h3 ♗d7

Instead, 9...♔e8 was Andreikin's choice, but he was left slightly worse against Adams after 10 ♖c3 h5 11 ♗f4 ♗e7 12 ♖ad1 ♖h4 13 ♖hx4 ♗hx4 14 ♖e2! M Adams–D Andreikin, Dortmund, 2013.

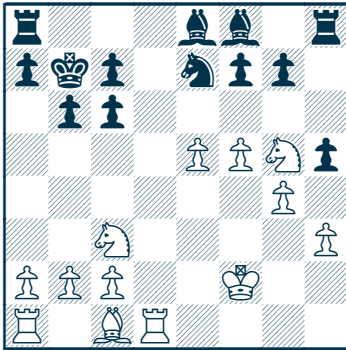
10 ♖d1 ♔c8 11 g4 ♖e7 12 ♖g5 ♗e8 13 f4 h5 14 ♖f2!?

The first new move of the game.

14 f5 had previously been tried by Caruana, but Black was able to hold on to a draw after 14...hxg4 (14...b6 is perhaps a safer alternative to the complications of 14...hxg4) 15 hxg4

♖h4 (15... ♗d5!?) 16 ♜f2 ♙xg4 17 ♖h1 (17 ♗h7 ♗xf5 18 ♗xf8 b6 and Black has two pawns and excellent play for the sacrificed piece) 17... ♗xf5 18 ♖h8 ♙c5+ 19 ♜f3 ♙g1 20 ♙xe8+ ♗d7 21 ♙xa8 ♗d4+ 22 ♗e4 ♙xc1 23 b4 ♙b6 24 c4 c5 25 a3 ♙e1+ 26 ♗d3 ♙d1+ 27 ♗c3 ♙c1+ 28 ♗d3 ♙d1+ 29 ♗c3 ♙c1+ 30 ♗d3 ½-½ F Caruana–VB Kramnik, Moscow, 2013.

14...b6 15 f5 ♗b7 16 ♗c3



This looks very comfortable for White and it takes some fantastically creative play from Adams to demonstrate that Black is in fact OK here.

16 c4 is worth investigating instead although Black can play in a similar vein to the game with 16... h×g4 17 h×g4 ♖h2+ 18 ♗g3 ♙c2 19 ♗h7 c5 20 ♗xf8 ♙c6 and again it seems that Black is OK here. For example 21 ♙g5 ♙g2+ 22 ♜f4 ♙f2+ 23 ♗e3 ♙f3+ 24 ♗e2 ♗xf5 25 g×f5 ♙xf5 26 ♙g1 ♙xf8 27 ♗c3 ♙xe5+ 28 ♗d3 f6 29 ♙d2 g5 and Black's three pawns ensure he should not be worse in the ending.

16...h×g4 17 h×g4 ♖h2+!

The start of a strong piece sacrifice.

18 ♗g3 ♙xc2 19 ♗h7?!

This was the move that Fabiano had been pinning his hopes on. It traps the bishop on f8, but energetic play from Adams keeps him in the game.

19 e6! seems more dangerous to me. The idea is that after 19... f6 20 ♗h7 c5 21 ♗xf8 ♙c6 now the knight can escape from f8 although

after 22 ♗g6 ♗xg6 23 f×g6 ♙g2+ 24 ♜f4 ♙f2+ 25 ♗e3 ♙f3+ 26 ♗e2 ♙e8 Black clearly has excellent compensation for the piece. Still, White might be a touch better after 27 ♗d5!

19...c5! 20 ♗xf8 ♙c6 21 f6?

The first serious error of the game and it puts Caruana in a lot of trouble.

21 ♙g5! would have kept the game level, for example 21... ♙g2+ 22 ♜f4 ♙f2+ 23 ♗g3 ♙g2+ 24 ♜f4 ♙f2+; White should take the draw here as Black has more than enough for the piece after 25 ♗e3?! ♙f3+ 26 ♗e2 ♗xf5! 27 g×f5 ♙xf5 28 ♙g1 ♙xe5+ 29 ♙e3 ♙xf8 and the four pawns are clearly better than the piece here.

21...♙g2+ 22 ♜f4 g×f6 23 exf6 ♙f2+! 24 ♗e3

24 Kg3 is even worse, as after 24... ♙xf6 25 ♙g5 (25 ♗h7? loses immediately to 25... ♙f3+ 26 ♗h2 ♖h8) 25... ♙f3+ 26 ♗h4 ♙xf8 27 ♙xe7 ♖h8+ 28 ♗g5 ♙g8+ 29 ♗h4 f5! The king on h4 is in terrible trouble trapped on the edge of the board; 24 ♗e5? allows the very nice 24... ♙e8! 25 ♙f4 (25 f×e7 ♙xe7+ 26 ♗e6 ♙xe6#) 25... ♗g6+ 26 ♜f5 ♙e5#

24...♙xf6 25 ♗h7 ♙f3+ 26 ♗d2 ♙d8+ 27 ♗c2

27 ♗e2 ♖h8 also wins the piece back as 28 ♗g5? loses to 28... ♖h2+ 29 ♗e1 ♙ff2 and White must lose material.

27...♙xc3+!

Adams now regains the piece and has an easily winning endgame.

28 b×c3 ♙a4+ 29 ♗b2 ♙xd1 30 ♙g5 ♗c6 31 ♙xd1 ♙xd1 32 ♙f4 ♙xg4

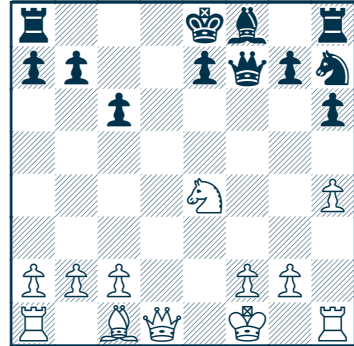
White has no tricks left here and Adams's technique is easily up to the task of winning from here.

33 ♗f6 ♙f3 34 ♗e8 ♗a5 35 ♗xc7 ♙c6 36 ♗c2 ♗c8 37 ♗d3 ♗d7 38 ♗c2 ♗c4 39 ♗a6 ♙b7 40 ♗b8+ ♗c8 41 ♗d3 b5!

The knight on b8 will be lost after 42... f6 and ... ♗e5, so White has to resign.



After six rounds in this year's Dortmund the race for the title was neck and neck between Michael Adams and Vladimir Kramnik, both on 5/6 and two points ahead of the field. Round 7 proved to be decisive, as Kramnik slipped up, losing as Black against Dmitry Andreikin. This allowed Adams to open up a gap with the following nicely controlled win over Igor Khenkin.



□ M Adams

■ I Khenkin

Dortmund, 2013

Caro-Kann, Classical B18 [Rendle]

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖d2 dxe4 4 ♗xe4 ♕f5 5 ♗g3 ♕g6 6 h4 h6 7 ♗f3 ♗f6

Slightly unusual from Khenkin. Black normally plays 7...♗d7 to prevent the knight from entering e5.

8 ♗e5 ♕h7 9 ♕d3 ♗bd7 10 ♕xh7

10 f4 had previously been played by Adams but it didn't turn out to be quite as testing after 10...e6 11 ♕xh7 ♗xh7 12 ♕e3 ♕e7 13 ♗f3 ♗a5+ 14 c3 ♗hf6, and Black had equalised; M Adams–S Mamedyarov, London, 2012.

10...♗xe5 11 dxe5 ♗a5+

11...♗xd1+ 12 ♕xd1 ♗xh7 13 ♕e2 would have given Adams just the kind of endgame advantage he craves. White is better due to his space advantage and the awkward placement of Black's knight on h7.

12 ♕f1 ♗xh7 13 e6

A very standard idea from Adams, breaking up Black's kingside pawn structure.

13 ♗e2 e6 may be a little better for White, but Black is very solid so it's a tough position for White to make progress from.

13...♗d5

After 13...fxe6 14 ♗e2 it's unlikely that Black will hold on to e6 for long.

14 exf7+ ♗xf7 15 ♗e4

The first new move comes from Mickey, and although Black may be able to equalise here it will take some very accurate play.

15 ♗f3?! was a rather unambitious choice in V Kovalev–A Dreev, Legnica, 2013, and after 15...♗xf3 16 gxf3 e6 17 ♕f4 ♕e7 18 ♕e5 0–0 19 f4 ♗ad8 Black was already slightly better and went on to grind out a win.

15...♗f6 16 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6?!

Khenkin makes his first mistake and it leads to a rather unpleasant middlegame for Black.

16...exf6! was the right way to recapture. After 17 ♗h3 ♕e7 Black is going to castle into safety. Black's kingside pawn structure isn't ideal, but with rooks coming to the centre very quickly he should be OK here.

17 ♗h3!

An unconventional, if obvious, way to bring the rook into the game quickly highlights the problems of Black's last move – the queen on f6 is a clear target here.

17...e6 18 ♕e3 ♕e7?!

18...♗d8 19 ♗h5+ ♗f7! was a better defensive try for Black although the ending after (19...g6?! 20 ♗f3! gxh5 21 ♗xf6 ♕e7 22 ♗f4 and ♕lack is in a lot of trouble) 20 ♗xf7+ ♕xf7 21 ♗f3+ ♕e8 22 ♕xa7 ♕e7 and obviously White has good winning chances here.

19 ♕d4 ♗g6?!

This loses a pawn immediately but Black's position was already much worse.

20 ♗g3 ♗f5 21 ♗xg7 ♗f8 22 ♗g4

With an extra pawn and a good position Adams is happy to exchange queens here, at least if the circumstances are favourable.



22...♖d8 23 ♖e1 ♗d6 24 c3

A typical 'Mickey' move, not really doing much but just protecting the bishop on d4 and asking Black to come up with a plan.

24...h5 25 ♖g6+ ♔d8 26 ♗xf5 ♖xf5 27 ♖g8+ ♔d7 28 g3 c5 29 ♕e3 ♕f6 30 ♖f8 a6?! 31 ♖f7+!

Black is losing a second pawn and against Adams the resulting endgame is hopeless, so Khenkin resigned.

31 ♖f7+ ♔c8 (or 31...♔c6 32 ♕f4! e5 (32... ♖dd5? 33 ♖xe6+) 33 ♕g5 ♖e6 34 ♖xf6 ♖exf6 35 ♕xf6 ♖xf6 36 ♖xe5) 32 ♕xc5! ♖xc5 33 ♖xf6 is easily winning.

1-0

Sam at the Back

Samuel Franklin

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The following game is a demonstration of the combined importance of opening knowledge and calculation. Even at the top level, games are lost very early on due to calculation errors in unfamiliar territory.

□ F Vallejo-Pons

■ P Negi

Spanish Team Ch, 2013

Sicilian, Taimanov B47

[Franklin]

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗c6 5 ♗c3 ♖c7 6 f4 a6 7 ♕e3

Vallejo's choice is infrequently played (although there are still a few hundred games) and it may be interesting to consider Negi's thought process. For example, he may have assumed that Vallejo had something specific

This win left Adams a point clear of Kramnik going into the final two rounds, and in Round 8 he comfortably drew with Black against Meier, leaving him only needing a draw with White against Kramnik in the final round to win the tournament. He achieved this easily, forcing a draw on move 14 and thereby finishing half a point ahead with 7/9. Adams performed above 2900, which almost certainly ranks as his best tournament performance, taking his rating to 2761, a career high.

prepared or he may simply have felt more relaxed playing against this arguably less challenging variation. 7 ♗xc6 is the most popular choice and is a fairly clear-cut attempt at gaining an initiative. 7...♖xc6 (*alternative captures – 7...bxc6 or 7...dxc6 – are less popular and make a6 hard to justify*) 8 ♕d3 b5 9 ♖e2 ♕b7 10 ♕d2 followed by long castling gives White an easy-to-play attacking position. Objectively it may promise little, but it certainly feels more comfortable for White.

7...♗xd4

7...b5 keeps more tension in the position and is the sharper option. 8 ♕d3 ♗xd4 9 ♕xd4 ♖xf4?! 10 ♖f1 ♖c7 11 ♖f3, for example, is a dangerous pawn sacrifice.

8 ♖xd4 b5

In the sharper lines of the open Sicilians, where theory is developing daily, the initiative can be lost in the early stages very suddenly. Here

White needs to commit to a plan.

9 0-0-0

This setup is relatively popular and understandably so. It looks very natural to castle long with more space and a lead in development, but Black is very solid and is able to develop with great speed by making threats against c2 and e4 with the b4 push. 9 ♖e2 ♗b7 10 0-0 ♜c8 has been tested many times as well. Generally White's plans revolve around the central push e5, after which he will have to decide upon which side of the board to concentrate operations. 11 ♜fd1 (11 ♜ad1 is also possible, and the choice of rook can be rather revealing) 11... ♖f6 12 e5 ♖d5 13 ♖xd5 ♗xd5 14 a4 with the initiative.

9... ♗b7 10 ♗e2

10 ♗d3 was T Radjabov–Y Pelletier, Biel, 2006, where after 10... ♜c8 11 ♗b1 ♜c5! Black pragmatically went into an endgame: 12 ♜xc5 ♗xc5 13 ♗xc5 ♜xc5 14 e5 f5! and now 15 ♜d2 ♖e7 16 ♜hd1 looks like only a symbolic edge for White.

10... ♜c8

Threatening ...b4.

11 ♜d2 ♖f6

Renewing the threat.

12 ♗f3

12 e5 b4! Meeting e5 like this is a common theme in this line 13 ♖b5 axb5 14 exf6 ♗c5! 15 ♜xc5 ♜xc5 16 ♗xc5 ♜xc5 17 fxg7 ♜g8 18 ♜e1 (18 ♗d3 ♜xg7=) 18... ♗xg2 (18... ♜xg7 19 g3 gives White an edge) 19 ♗d3 ♗d5 (19... ♜xg7? 20 ♜g1) 20 ♜g1 f5=.

12... ♗e4

Suddenly Black is well developed and I think he already stands equal. White's opening play has been unimaginative and uncritical. Perhaps Vallejo was beginning to get frustrated.

13 ♜hd1

13 e5 b4 (again a strong counter) 14 ♖e4 (14 ♖a4 ♗xf3 15 gxf3 ♖d5 16 ♖b6 ♖xb6 17 ♜xb6 ♜xb6 18 ♗xb6 ♜c6=) 14... ♗xe4 15 ♗xe4 ♗c5! (15... ♖xe4 16 ♜xe4 was also equal, but ♗c5 is more clinical) 16 ♜d3 (16 ♜xc5? ♜xc5

17 ♗xc5 ♖xe4 hands the advantage to Black) 16... ♗xe3 17 ♜xe3 ♖xe4 18 ♜xe4 ♜a5 19 ♜d3 (19 ♗b1? loses to 19... b3) 19... ♜c7 20 ♗b1 0-0 and again this e5–b4 exchange has led to an equal position.

13 g4 has also been tried and is perhaps the best practical try for realistic winning chances 13... d5!? (13... ♗c5 14 ♜xc5 ♜xc5 15 ♗xc5 ♜xc5 16 g5 ♖g8 17 ♜hd1 ♜c7 18 ♜d4 makes it look like White is making progress, but in fact with no weaknesses and a solid position Black was ready to push back in Y Masserey–P Cramling, Horgen, 1995 18... ♖e7 19 a4 ♖c6 20 ♜d6 b4 21 ♖e2 h6! with counterplay) 14 exd5 b4! A familiar theme by now. 15 ♖a4 ♗xd5 16 ♗xd5 ♖xd5 17 ♖b6 (17 ♜xg7? ♗f6 18 ♜h6 ♜c6 with advantage to Black) 17... ♖xb6 18 ♜xb6. Now in F Nijboer–J Polgar, Wijk aan Zee, 1998 Black characteristically chose the sharp 18... ♜c4 (18... 0-0, however, was also sufficient for equality).

13... 0-0

Incredibly this position has been reached six times before and in every case White has pushed e5!

14 e5

White's problem is that he lacks targets and already Black's position is already starting to show dynamism, so if White plays a waiting move like 14 ♗b1 then Black is ready to take over the initiative: 14... b4 15 ♖a4 (15 ♖e2 d5 16 e5 ♖d7 with a very good French setup for Black as he has good chances to create threats on the queenside and White's pieces are clumsily placed) 15... d5! 16 e5 ♖d7 is also good for Black; the immediate threat is ... ♗c6.

14... b4!

Of course.

15 exf6??

White's first error in the game, yet it is also decisive. On the one hand it reflects insufficient opening preparation, while on the other it is a pure calculation mistake. It is always hard to rationalise such blunders from players as strong as Vallejo. White's moves up to this point have all looked very natural, so he may have complacently felt that the tactics just 'ought' to work for him.

15 ♖a4 was best and has been played a few times. 15...♗xf3 16 gxf3 ♘d5 17 ♘b6 ♘xb6 18 ♗xb6 ♗c4 gives Black the 'better side of equality'. For example, 19 ♖b1 ♗fd8 20 ♗b7 g6 21 ♗b6 ♗b8 22 ♗a7 ♗a8 23 ♗b7 ♗ab8=.

15...bxc3

Astonishingly, another grandmaster has lost in exactly the same way!

16 fxe7

16 ♗xc3? ♗xc3 17 fxe7 (17 bxc3 ♗a3+ 18 ♖b1 ♗xf3 19 gxf3 ♗b8+--+) 17...♗xe3 18 exf8♗+ ♖xf8 19 ♗xb7 ♗b8 20 ♗f3 ♗xf4 J Hector–P Cramling, Valby, 1991 (0–1).

16...cxd2+ 17 ♖xd2 ♖fe8 18 ♗xb7 ♗xb7 19 ♗xd7 ♖xe7 20 ♗xb7 ♖xb7

The ending may not look so bad for White as he has one pawn for the exchange and a passed c-pawn. In reality, the rooks make life very difficult for him, and at super-grandmaster level the defender will have to suffer for a long time. Moreover, Vallejo must have been in a bad place, having likely felt hard done by for his opening mistake.

21 ♖d6 ♖bc7 22 c3 ♖c6 23 ♖d7

In general, when an exchange down in an ending more chances of saving the game are kept by leaving a pair of rooks on to create counterplay.

23...f6 24 ♖c2 ♖8c7 25 ♖d8+ ♖f7

Good technique. He first of all prevents the advance of White's queenside majority and improves the position of his king.

26 a4

Psychology is very important in technical endings – the defender must stay focused and convince himself of the need to make his opponent really labour for the win.

26...e5 27 fxe5

27 g3 was more stubborn, as in the game Black gains a passed pawn and the c6 rook quickly becomes active on the third rank. After 27...exf4 28 ♗xf4 ♗e7 29 ♖d3 ♗ce6, planning to penetrate via the e-file, there is still work to do.

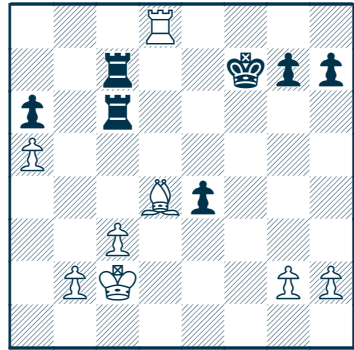
27...fxe5

27...♗e7!? 28 ♖d3 ♗xe5 was also possible if Black prefers to play less committally.

28 a5 e4!?

It is better to delay this push, which takes a lot of flexibility out of Black's position. The e4 square was really a great spot for the king to occupy. 28...♗e6 was better.

29 ♗d4?



White's second and final error of the game. Vallejo loses focus, or maybe he was already feeling too pessimistic. 29 ♖d2 was better, preventing the game's decisive rook swing. Of course, Black will use the activity of his rooks to push for a long time, but there is nothing concrete yet. 29...♗g6 30 g3 ♖e6 31 ♖e2 ♖d7 32 ♗h8 h6 (32...♖d5? Black can't just force the position 33 ♖xh7 ♖xa5 34 ♗h4=) 33 ♖c8, with an advantage, but White is still playing.

29...h6 30 h3 ♖g6 31 g4 ♗h6

Black's rook decisively loosens up White's defence.

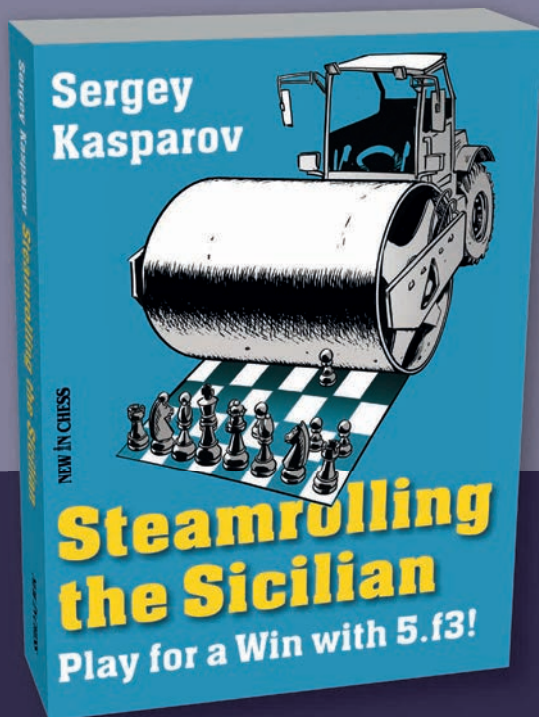
32 b4 ♗e7! 33 ♗c5 ♖ee6 34 c4

34 ♖d7+ ♖e8 (34...♖g6? 35 ♗d4) 35 ♖xg7 e3 is still winning.

34...e3 35 b5 e2 36 ♖f8+ ♖g6 37 ♗b4 e1♗ 38 ♗xe1 ♖xe1 39 ♖d2 ♗a1 40 ♖f2

Negi did very well to punish White's play from move 15, but overall it seemed more a case of Vallejo losing the game than Negi winning it.

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