

B94**6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.f4 Qc7 update**

[Jacob Aagaard]

An update on the Blood Diamond variation from Grandmaster Repertoire 6. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.f4 Qc7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.fxg5 hxg5 11.Bxg5 Qc5** This is the critical position. Black does not seem to be in any bother what so ever here. Over 10 games has been played since the release of GM6, and none of these have come close to putting Black in any danger. [11...Ne5?! does not seem to be a great improvement. 12.Qe3 Nfg4 13.Qd2 Nxh2!? 14.Nd5! Qd8 15.Qc3! Rb8 16.0-0-0± Bg4 17.Be2 Qc8 18.Qg3 Bxe2 19.Nxe2 Qg4? 20.Nc7+?? (20.Qxe5!!+- dxe5 21.Nc7#) 20...Kd7 21.Qxe5± Rh5 22.Nd5 Rxc5 23.Qc3 Rxd5 24.exd5 Bh6+ 25.Kb1 Qxe2 26.Qh3+ Ng4 27.Rde1 Qc4 28.b3 Qd4 29.c3 Qg7 30.Rhf1 Qg6+ 31.Kb2 Rc8 32.Re2 Bg7 33.Rf3 Rh8 34.Qg3 Rh1 0-1, Petrisor - Berbatov, Romania 2010.] **12.Be3** [12.Qe3 **A)** 12...Nh7!? This is supposed to equalise according to our book. The jury is still out. 13.Nd5!N Nb6! (13...Nxc5? 14.b4!! is better for White. Qa7 15.Nc7+ Kd8 16.Nxa8±) **A1)** 14.b4!? Nxd5 15.bxc5 Nxe3 16.Bxe3 dxc5 17.Nf3 Bg7 (17...Nf6 18.e5 Ng4 19.Bxc5 Be6≡) 18.0-0-0 (18.Rb1 Bc3+=) 18...Nf6 19.Bd3 b6=; **A2)** 14.Nxb6 Qxb6 15.Nb3 Qc7 16.Bf4 (16.Bh4 Qxc2!? 17.Qd4 e5 18.Qd3 Qxb2∞) **A2a)** 16...Qxc2?! 17.Rc1 (17.e5!→) 17...Qxb2 18.e5 Bg7?? (18...Be6 19.exd6 Nf6∞) 19.exd6± Narmontas-Sreeves, World Junior, Chotowa 2010.; **A2b)** 16...e5! 17.Bg3 Qxc2 18.Be2 Be7∞; **B)** 12...Ng4 13.Qd2 Bg7 14.Nb3 Bxc3 (14...Qa7!? is worth a look, page 416.) 15.bxc3 Qe5 16.Bd3N Rxh2 17.0-0-0 Rxh1 (17...Qh8!? 18.Rxh2 Qxh2∞) 18.Rxh1 **B1)** 18...b5!? 19.Nd4 b4 20.Qf4 (20.Rh5 Bb7≡) 20...bxc3 21.Ne2 Nc5=; **B2)** 18...Nf8 19.Bf4 (19.Nd4!/?) 19...Qg7= 20.Bc4 Ng6 21.Bg3 N4e5 22.Na5 Nxc4 23.Nxc4 Be6 (23...b5 24.Nb6 Rb8 25.Nd5 Bb7≡) 24.Nb6 Rd8 25.Qd4 Kf8 (25...Ne5=) 26.Bf2 (26.e5!→) 26...Kg8 27.Qd2 Bxa2 28.Bd4 e5 29.Be3 Qf8? (29...Be6 30.Bh6 Qh7∞) 30.Bg5 f6 31.Rf1± Nf4 32.Bxf4 exf4 33.Qxf4 Be6 34.Rf3 Re8

35.Qh4 Re7 36.Rxf6 Qg7 37.Rf3 Qh7 38.Rg3+ Kf8 39.Qf6+ Bf7 40.Rh3 1-0 Narmontas-Huschenbeth, World Junior, Chotowa 2010.; 12.Bxf6N Nxf6 13.Nf5 (13.Nb3 Qe5 14.Be2 Bg4 15.Qd3 Rxh2≡ 0-1 Apresyan,Z (2109)-Krzyzanowski,M (2356)/Batumi GEO 2010/The Week in Chess 831 (32)) 13...Nxe4! 14.Nxe4 Qa5+ (14...Qxf5≡) 15.c3 Bxf5 **A)** 16.Ng5 Bg7 17.Bc4 (17.Nxf7 0-0→) 17...Qe5+≡; **B)** 16.g4 Be6 17.Bg2 Qe5 (17...Bh6!N 18.h4 Qb6 19.Qe2 d5 20.g5 dxe4 21.gxh6 0-0-0≡) 18.b3 f5 (18...d5 19.Qg3 Bg7-+) 19.gxf5 Qxf5 20.Qxf5 Bxf5 21.Ng3 Bd7 22.0-0 Rg8 ½-½ Andriasian,S (2188)-Doluhanova,E (2312)/Yerevan ARM 2010/The Week in Chess 825] **12...Ne5 13.Qe2 Neg4 14.Bg1 Bh6 15.Nb3** [15.Ndb5 Qc6 16.Nd4 **A)** 16...Qb6!? 17.Rb1 (17.Ndb5 Qa5!) 17...Qc7 was better. White is now struggling to equalise, but probably still should.; **B)** 16...Qc7 Black does not have to look for a draw to play this line. 17.h3 Bg5 18.Qc4 Qa5 19.Nf3 Bf4 20.b4?! (20.Bd3=) 20...Bg3+ 21.Kd1 Qd8 (21...Qh5!/?) 22.Kc1 Be6 23.Qd3 Rc8→ 24.Nd5 Bxd5 25.exd5 Rh5 (25...Ne5≡) 26.Kb2?! (26.Nd4∞) 26...Ne5! 27.Nxe5 Bxe5+ 28.Bd4 Nxd5 29.a3 (29.Bxe5 Nxb4-+) 29...Qb6! 30.Bxe5 Rxe5 31.c4 (31.Rc1 Rc3 32.Qh7 Rxa3!-+) 31...Qf2+ 32.Qc2 Qd4+ 33.Ka2 Nc3+ 34.Kb2 Ne2+ 35.Ka2 Rxc4 0-1 Aguirre Manzo-Huschenbeth, World Junior, Chotowa 2010.] **15...Qg5** [15...Qc7 16.Qc4N Qxc4 (I prefer the sharper 16...Qd8!/?) 17.Bxc4 e6 (17...Ne5 18.Bf1 Bd7≡) 18.Bd3 Bd7 19.Ke2 Ke7 20.h3 Bg5 I would guess White is a bit better here, but it is not so easy to demonstrate. 21.Bd4 Ne5 22.Bxe5 I don't like this move. dxe5 23.a4 Nh5 24.Kf3 (24.Rhg1 Nf4+ 25.Kf2 Rh6≡) 24...f5 (24...Rh6!≡) 25.Na5 Raf8 26.exf5 exf5 27.Bc4 e4+ 28.Kf2 Bh4+ 29.Kg1 Ng3 30.Nxb7 Nxh1 31.Nd5+ Ke8 (31...Kf7 32.Kxh1 Rb8≡) 32.Nc7+ Ke7 33.Nd5+ Ke8 34.Nc7+ ½-½ Bauschmann-Virnyi, Dortmund 2010.] **16.Nd2 Ne5 17.Nf3 Qh5** [17...Qg6!/?N 18.h3 (18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Qc4 Bg4≡) 18...b5 19.Bh2 Bb7 20.Rd1 (20.Nxb5 Rc8) 20...Bg5 21.Rd4 Rc8≡] **18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.g3 b5 20.a3 Bb7 21.Bg2 Rc8 22.Be3 Rxc3 23.Bxh6 Rxh6 24.0-0-0 Rc4 25.Qd2 Rh5 26.Bf3 Bxe4**

27.Bxh5 Bxc2 28.Bxf7+ Kxf7 29.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 30.Kxc2 Qe4+ 31.Kc1 d5 32.Rhe1 Qf5 33.Rf1 Qg5+ 34.Kb1 Ke8 35.Rf2 Ne4 36.Re2 e6 37.Ka1 a5 38.Rd3 b4 39.Re1 Nc5 40.Rf3 Qd2 41.Ref1 Nd3 42.Kb1 Ne1 43.Rb3 Qc2+ 44.Ka2 a4
0-1 Papakonstantinou – Dastan, Batumi 2010.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mamedyarov,S	E15
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	FIDE GP Astrakhan RUS (8)	2010
	[Jacob Aagaard]	

Relevant to GM2, although not in the repertoire. I originally annotated this game for Chess Today back in May. As an experiment we are publishing a number of our titles in hardback this spring, before deciding if this is something with a future. When going through Chess Today, I saw that this game was in some way influenced by Avrukh's choice in his book, this 11. a4!? move. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 c6 7.Qc2 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.b3 Nbd7 10.Rd1 Ba6 11.a4 Rc8 12.a5 c5 13.axb6 Qxb6 14.Qa2 Bb7 15.Ba5** This is a diversion from Avrukh's recepy. [15.b4 cxb4 16.c5 Nxc5 17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.e3 Ne4 19.Be1! The novelty suggested by Boris Avrukh in his book. Ra8! 20.Ne5 Nf6 was played in Ruck-Gordon, Germany 2009. Later on Black had good chances to claim an advantage, but at this point White could have tried 21.Qa5!?! an it is not so easy for Black to generate counterplay.] **15...Qa6?N** I have not updated my database recently, but this look distinctly like a novelty. [15...Qd6 has been played a number of times, but the road to equality is not entirely clear to me, despite what Avrukh says in his book. In all of these positions White keeps a bit of pressure. A draw is often the most likely result, but it feels as if the burden of proof is on black.] **16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.b4! Nce4 18.c5!** White is coming with Nd4+b4-b5. **Ng4** Black has to seek active counterplay, but it does not appear to be enough. **19.Nd4** The critical moment of the game. White is threatening to win the queen with 20.b5. Understanably Alekseev avoided this with: **e5** However, the queen sacrifice is possible:

[19...Nexf2!? 20.b5 Qxa5 21.Qxa5 Nxd1 , where it takes some time to work out the way to an advantage for White. **A)** 22.Nc3 Bxc5 23.Rxd1 e5+; **B)** 22.c6 Bc5! 23.Qd2 (23.Ra4 Ba8 24.Qd2 Nde3 25.Kh1 Nc4 26.Qf4 Nge3! 27.Qh4∞) 23...e5 24.Ra4 Bxc6 25.bxc6 Nge3 26.Bh3 f5 27.Nc3 Nxc3 28.Qxc3 Bxd4 29.Rxd4 exd4 30.Qxd4 Rfe8 31.Qc5 a6∞; **C)** 22.Nb3! This is the only way to prove an edge. Rxc5 **C1)** 23.Bf3 is well met with Bd8! 24.Qa4 (24.Qxd8 Rxd8 25.Nxc5 looks tempting, but Black has a great riposte in: Rc8!≠ Here 26.Nb3 looks equal. White also have 26.Nxb7!? Rc1 27.Bxg4 Ne3+ 28.Kf2 Nxb7+ 29.Kg2 h5 and if anyone is in danger of losing, it is probably White.) 24...Bb6 25.Nxc5 Bxc5+ 26.Kh1 Nge3 27.Nd2 Nf2+ 28.Kg1 Nh3+=; **C2)** 23.N1d2! The path to an edge. Black does not come in time to make use of the dark squares. Here I have not found sufficient resources for Black: Ngf2 (23...Nge3 24.Nxc5 Bxc5 25.Qc7 Bb6 26.Qxb7 Nc2+ 27.Qxb6 axb6 28.Rxd1±; 23...Bd8 24.Qxd8! Rxd8 25.Nxc5 Nc3 26.Nxb7 Rb8 27.Rxa7±) 24.Kf1! Bd8 (24...Ng4 25.Rxd1 Ne3+ 26.Ke1 a6 27.Nxc5 Bxc5 28.bxa6! Nxb7+ 29.Kf1 Ne3+ 30.Kf2! Nxd1+ 31.Ke1+-) 25.Qa4! Another accurate move. (25.Qxd8 Rxd8 26.Nxc5 Ba8 27.Rxa7 Ng4 28.b6 Nxb7 29.Kg1 Ng4 30.Bf3 Ne5 31.b7 Bxb7 32.Rxb7 g6=; 25.Qb4 Rc8 26.Rxa7 Bb6 27.Rxb7 Ne3+ 28.Kxf2 Nc2+ 29.Rxb6 Nxb4 30.Nd4 Rb8 31.Rd6 Rbd8 32.Rxd8 Rxd8=) 25...Rc2 (25...Rc7 26.Qxa7±) 26.Qxa7 Bf6 27.Rxd1 Nxd1 28.Qxb7 Bc3 29.Qa7 Bxd2 30.Nxd2 Rxd2 31.Ke1 Rb2 32.Kxd1 Rxb5± The computer is not convinced that White is that much better, but I would not have this as part of my opening repertoire with Black. I would expect this ending to be lost.] **20.Nf5 Qf6** [20...Bxc5 21.bxc5 Qf6 is another tricky idea that requires a bit of accuracy to refute: 22.f3 Qxf5 23.Rf1! White ends with an extra piece. Black does not have enough compensation. (Not 23.Bh3? h5 24.Bxg4 hxg4 25.fxe4 Qxe4 26.Nc3 Qe3+ 27.Kf1 d4→ and White will be in a desperate situation.) 23...Qg5 (23...Nxc5 24.fxg4 Qxg4 25.Nc3±) 24.fxe4 Qe3+ 25.Kh1 Nf2+ (25...d4 26.Nd2+-) 26.Rxf2 Qxf2 27.exd5 Rxc5 28.Nc3 Rfc8 29.Rd1! (29.Rf1?! Bxd5!! 30.Nxd5 Rc1

31.Ne3 Rxf1+ 32.Nxf1 Rc1 33.h4 Rxf1+ 34.Kh2± White might win here, but the battle lies ahead.) 29...Rxc3 30.Bxc3 Rxc3 31.Qb2 Rc7 32.Qxe5 Qc5 33.Qe8+ Qf8 34.Qa4± White has finally managed to obtain control and clarity. The d-pawn is very strong.] **21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.f3! Qg5** [Objectively it was better to play 22...Ne3 23.fxe4 Nxd1 24.Qd2 Rxc5 25.Qxd1± , but it is still pretty depressing for Black.] **23.Qb3!+-** Black does not have enough counterplay for the material he will have to depart with in a moment. **Nxg3** [Or: 23...Qe3+ 24.Qxe3 Nxe3 25.Rd3! Nxg2 26.fxe4 dxe4 27.Rd7 Bc6 28.Rxa7 Ne3 29.Nc3+-] **24.hxg3 Ne3 25.Nd2 Nxd1 26.Nf1! f5** [26...Ba6!? was a lost chance to confuse matters. Although after 27.Rxd1 Bxe2 28.Rxd5 Bxf1 29.Kxf1 Qxg3 30.b5 White looks close to winning.] **27.Rxd1 f4 28.Bh3! fxc3** [28...Rb8 29.Bd7 fxc3 30.c6+-] **29.Bxc8 Rxc8 30.e4 Rf8 31.exd5 e4 32.f4 Qxf4 33.Qxg3 1-0**

□ **Wang Hao**
 ■ **Zhou Jianchao**
 1st GM Danzhou CHN (3)
 [Jacob Aagaard]

E81
2722
2652
 2010

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For aging non-talents as myself, who did not go quickly through the ranks, but used many years of hard work to improve at all, it is always quite interesting to see how the young players play. Are they simply well-prepared and tactically alert (as opposed to 'experienced' guys like myself), or do they really understand chess well?

In the case of 22 year old Zhou Jianchao I don't know what to say. He is clearly on of the rising stars in China, but in a country where players are often required to become trainers once they become old (30 that is), he might not have a great career in front of him. The play in this game was absolutely appalling. Obviously you can violate the 'rules of thumb' in chess, but you need to do so with an understanding that you do so, and take on the responsibilities it includes.

In this game Zhou moved the same piece twice in the opening, brought out the queen

early, weakened his kingside and failed to create any ways for his pieces to create counterplay on the queenside. All in all he could have resigned after 15 moves, but only did so on move 18, once his opponent had prevented a mate in one. With the look of a simul game, I invite you to one of the worst days in Zhou Jianchao's life, with every intention on showing you a masterpiece by his hand in the near future to show that this was indeed an off-day, and not general lack of chess understanding. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be3 Nfd7** I don't like the look of this move, not only because it is moving the same piece twice in the opening, but also because it is removed from the kingside after White has put up the typical attacking formation with e4, f3 and ♔e3; perfectly geared towards h4-h5 and mate. **7.Qd2 c5 8.d5 Qa5** I would go as far as to say that this is a silly move, but in practice even silly moves can be played. Basically, in chess you can do a lot of weird things and only be a bit worse. [A very young Nisipeanu, rated 2420 at the time, experimented with 8...a6 a few times. 9.Nh3 (9.a4 Ne5 10.h3 f5 11.f4 Nf7 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Nf3 e5 14.dxe6 Bxe6 15.Be2 Nc6± Zainea-Nisipeanu, Calarasi 1995.) 9...b5!? 10.cxb5 axb5 11.Nxb5 (11.Bxb5!? Qa5 12.Be2 Ne5 13.Nf2 Ba6 14.0-0 Nbd7 15.Rfc1 Rfb8± Tugui - Nisipeanu, Romania 1995.) 11...Ne5 12.Nf2 Ra4!? 13.b3 Rb4 Dydyshko-Nisipeanu, Gelsenkirchen 1995. Here I think White would have been a good deal better after 14.Nc3 Ba6 15.Bxa6 Nxa6 16.0-0 , for example: c4 17.Ne2!±] **9.Bh6!** White is taking advantage of the weakening of the kingside; both very attractive and at the same time very simple and logical. [9.h4 h5 is less clear.] **9...Bxh6** Black is seeking to force the queen away from the queenside; usually this is a good strategy in this type of positions, but here Black has weakened his kingside so it does not make as much sense. **10.Qxh6 b5!** Black would love to open up the queenside quickly, but White chooses to focus on the kingside. **11.h4?!** [Even though White has a very sound and consistent strategy, 11.cxb5! was still not a bad move. After a6 12.h4!? Nf6 13.h5 White is better on both sides of the board; e.g. axb5 14.Bxb5 Ba6 15.Ba4! and the black pieces are still not too

active. Still, there is no reason for such subtle play – cold logic works well.] **11...bxc4?** A fatal mistake. After this it is not possible for Black to create any counterplay on the queenside; giving White a lot of time to create an attack on the kingside. [11...f6 is ugly. After 12.cxb5! White would be ready to play various types of positions, not only the all-out attacking ones.; But Black had a chance to play 11...b4! 12.h5 Nf6 13.Nce2 b3+ 14.Nc3 Na6 , when the position is less clear than in the game, and where the idea of ... ♖b4 offers him some counterplay. A clear path to an advantage is not immediately apparent: 15.hxg6 fxc6 16.e5 (16.a3 Nb4 17.Rd1 Na2 18.Nge2 Ba6 19.Rh4 Rf7) 16...dxe5 17.Bd3 Rf7 18.Bxg6 Rg7 19.Bb1 Nb4 (19...Qxc3+ 20.bxc3 b2 21.Bxh7+ Rxh7 22.Qxh7+ Nxh7 23.Rb1 Rb8 24.g4±) 20.a3 Ba6] **12.h5 Nf6 13.0-0-0 Qb4?** White is this? Is a 2652 rated player going to mate his opponent with the queen alone? [13...g5 is not possible immediately. White wins with 14.e5 dxe5 15.d6 and the knight is undermined. For example: Nbd7 16.dxe7 Re8 17.Qxg5+ Kh8 18.Rxd7! Nxd7 19.h6 Rg8 20.e8Q with mate to come.; 13...Nbd7! 14.Nh3 g5! was the only way to continue the game. White naturally accepts the pawn, and after 15.Qxg5+ Kh8 16.Bxc4 I rate his chances as higher, not the least because of the extra pawn; but we are still in the early middlegame, so a lot can happen.] **14.e5!** The typical breakthrough in the centre. **dxe5 15.d6 e6** Black has no choice; even though it might not have been entirely silly to resign already here. [15...exd6 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.hxg6 is mate, and so is; 15...Nbd7 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.hxg6 N5f6 18.dxe7 Re8 , when White does not want to allow a check on e1 in various variations, and thus improves his position with 19.a3 nudging the queen that has to protect c4, Qb5 and then breaking through the defences. 20.Rxd7 fxc6 21.Rd8 Kf7 22.Qf8+ Ke6 23.g3 Black is toast.] **16.Nh3** The cavalry is coming. **Nbd7 17.Ng5 Rb8** [Most confusion was maybe offered by 17...gxh5 18.Rxh5 Re8 , but it is not too difficult to avoid 19.♗xh7 ♗xh5 with 19.Rh1 and Black has to resign.] **18.Rd2** Black resigned, his kingside is torn to pieces.

1-0

□	Van Wely,L	D11
■	Spoelman,W	2653
	ch-NED Eindhoven NED (3)	2580
	[Jacob Aagaard]	2010

First published in Chess Today in June. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Nc3 e6 6.h3** [6.Qb3 Qb6 7.Nh4!? was Topalov's attempt in this line. The jury is still out, but many resources have been found by both sides.] **6...Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Nbd7 8.Bd3 Bb4** [8...Bd6 9.cxd5 exd5 (9...cxd5 10.0-0 0-0 11.e4! dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 Nf6 14.Qxb7± Aronian-Fressinet, Paris 2009.) 10.g4! has given White a good score in practical play.] **9.Bd2 0-0 10.a3 Ba5!** This manoeuvre has proven to be quite difficult to refute, despite its odd appearance. From classic teaching you would think that the bishop belonged on d6, but it is apparently worth the lost tempi to get it to c7; thinking that White did not really want to play a3 and b4 anyway... **11.0-0 Re8** [The curious 11...Nc5 does not equalise: 12.dxc5 dxc4 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Rfd1± Meier-Popov, Budva 2009.] **12.cxd5** I think the reason to exchange now is that ...cxd5 is less attractive before White has played b2-b4. If the move order was 12.b4 ♗c7 13.cxd5, then 13...cxd5 becomes a more attractive option. **exd5 13.b4 Bc7 14.b5 Nf8 15.bxc6 bxc6** This is a major theoretical tabiya. White does not appear to hold the advantage. **16.Rfc1** This is probably the best choice. [16.Qd1 Ne6 17.Qa4 c5 18.Nb5 Bb6= Gelfand-Kramnik, Nice 2008.; 16.g3 Ne6 17.Qg2 Ng5 18.f3 Rb8 19.Na4 Ba5 20.h4 Ne6 21.Bxa5 Qxa5= Lysyj – Vitiugov, Serpukhov 2008.; 16.Rfd1 Ne6 17.h4 Rb8 18.g3 Adla-Fressinet, France 2009. c5!?= ; 16.e4 Ne6 17.Be3 Bb6 18.exd5 Nxd4= Cyborowski-Spoelman, Eppingen 2010.] **16...Ne6** I want White to be better at this point – but the analysis does not back it up. Besides, the weakness of the c6/d5 complex appears to quite evaporate, while the black pieces are all very harmoniously placed. **17.h4** This idea does look very weird, but it does prevent the useful ...♗g5. [17.Na4 Ng5 18.Qd1 Qd6 19.f4 Nge4 20.Bb4 Qe6 21.Qc2 is better for White according to the machine, until it realises that Black can play

dynamically with a5 22.Be1 c5! 23.dxc5 d4[∞], when the chances are rather level.] **17...c5?!N** [17...Rb8 18.Bf5 (18.Rab1 Qd6! 19.g3 Rxb1 20.Rxb1 Qxa3 21.Qd1 Qd6 22.Qa4 Bb6 White has compensation for the pawn, but to make this into an advantage appears to be difficult.) **A**) 18...Qd6 19.g3 c5 (19...Rb2!?) 20.Rab1 Rxb1 21.Rxb1 cxd4 22.Nb5 Qd7 23.Nxd4 Nxd4 24.exd4± Van Wely – Potkin, Dagomys 2008.; **B**) 18...g6!N 19.Bxe6 (19.Bd3 c5!↗ for example: 20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.Nxd5 Be5!↗) 19...Rxe6 20.Rcb1 Rb6 Black is at least equal.] **18.dxc5** [18.Nb5 Bb6 19.dxc5 Nxc5 20.Bc2 Nfe4 21.Bb4 Qxh4 22.Bxc5 Nxc5 23.Nd6 Rf8 24.Nf5 Qf6 25.Nd4 Qxf3 26.Nxf3 Rad8 27.Nd4 g6 28.a4 Rc8 29.Rd1 Bd8 30.Rab1 Bf6 31.a5 Rfd8 32.Nb5 Rd7 33.g3 Bd8 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.Nd4 Bf6 36.Rab1 Rxb1 37.Bxb1 Bxd4 38.Rxd4 Ne6 39.Rb4 d4 40.exd4 Nxd4 41.Be4 Ne6 42.Kg2 Kg7 43.Bc6 Rc7 44.Bd5 Kf6 45.a6 Nc5 46.Bc4 Ke5 47.Be2 f5 48.Rb8 Ne4 49.Rb7 Kd6 50.Rb2 Rc1 51.Rb7 Rc2 52.Kf1 Rc7 53.Rb2 Nc5 54.Kg2 Re7 55.Kf1 Kc6 56.Bf3+ Kd6 57.Be2 Nd7 58.Rd2+ Ke5 59.Bb5 Nb6 60.Be2 Rd7 61.Rb2 f4 62.Bf3 fxd3 63.fxd3 Rd6 64.Bb7 Nc4 65.Re2+ Kf6 66.Re8 Nb6 67.Rf8+ Kg5 68.Rf7 Rf6+ 69.Rxf6 Kxf6 70.Ke2 Ke5 71.Kd3 h5 72.Ke3 Nc4+ 73.Kf3 Nd6 74.Bc6 Nc4 75.Be8 Kf5 76.Bd7+ Ke5 77.Be8 Kf6 78.Bb5 Nd6 79.Bc6 g5 80.Bd7 Nf5 81.g4 hxg4+ 82.Kxg4 Nd6 83.Bc6 Nc4 84.Bb7 Ne5+ 85.Kg3 Kf5 86.Kf2 Kf4 87.Ba8 g4 88.Kg2 g3 89.Bb7 Nd3 90.Bc6 Ne1+ 91.Kg1 Nc2 92.Bb7 Ne3 93.Bc6 Ke5 94.Bb7 Kf4 95.Bc6 Nf5 96.Bb7 Nh4 97.Bc6 Ng6 98.Bb7 Kg4 99.Bc8+ Kh4 100.Bb7 Nf4 101.Bc8 Kg5 102.Bb7 Kf5 103.Bc6 Ke5 104.Bb7 Kd4 105.Bc6 Kc5 106.Bb7 Kb6 107.Kf1 ½–½ Erdos,V (2577)–Moradiabadi,E (2499)/Beijing 2008/CBM 126 Extra] **18...d4** [18...Nxc5 19.Nxd5 Be5 20.Bb5 Nb3 21.Bxe8 Nxd2 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Qe2 Bxa1 24.Rxa1 Qf6 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Rd1 Rd8 27.Rxd2 Qa1+ 28.Kh2 Rxd2 29.Qxd2 Qxa3 30.Qd5+ Kf8 31.e4 a5 32.e5 a4 33.e6 Qe7 34.g3 g6 35.Kg2 a3 36.h5 gxh5 37.f4 Qf6 38.Kf3 Qc3+ 39.Ke4 Qc2+ 40.Ke5 Qc7+ 41.Ke4 Qc2+ 42.Kf3 Qc3+ 43.Kg2 Qf6 44.Qa8+ Kg7 45.Qa7+ Kh6 46.e7 Qe6

47.Kf2 a2 48.e8Q Qxe8 49.Qxa2 Qe4 50.Qe2 Qd5 51.Qe5 Qxe5 52.fxe5 Kg5 53.Ke3 Kf5 54.Kd4 Ke6 55.Ke4 Ke7 56.Kf5 Kf7 57.e6+ Ke7 58.Ke5 Ke8 59.Kf6 Kf8 60.e7+ Ke8 61.Ke6 h4 62.gxh4 h6 63.h5 ½–½ Kveinys,A (2533)–Matamoros Franco,C (2525)/Dresden 2008/CBM 128] **19.Ne4?!** [19.exd4! Nxd4 20.Qd1 Nb3□ (20...Qe7 21.Be3 Qe5 22.g3 Rad8 23.Bxd4 Qxd4 24.Nb5 Qxd3 25.Qxd3 Rxd3 26.Nxc7±) 21.Qxb3 Qxd3 22.Qc2!± (22.Bg5 Ng4!↗)] **19...dxe3 20.Nxf6+ gxf6 21.Qxe3??** [21.Bxh7+!? Kxh7 22.Bxe3 it is not so easy for Black to prove an advantage, even if the human eye can see that it certainly must be there. However, White had a clear way to hold his own with; 21.Bc3!! , when Black has nothing better than to accept the piece with Qxd3 (21...exf2+ 22.Kxf2 Nxc5 is not a successful winning attempt by Black. 23.Qg4+! Kh8 24.Bc2± leaves the king in grave danger. Black probably has to play Qd6 25.Qf5 Qf4+ when the ending is slightly worse for him.) 22.Qxf6 exf2+ 23.Kh1 Kf8 24.Qh8+ Ke7 25.Qf6+ Kf8 with a draw by repetition.] **21...Ng5!↗ 22.Rd1** [Black wins everything after 22.Qxe8+ Qxe8 23.hxg5 Rd8–+ .] **22...Rxe3 23.Bxe3 Ne6!** Black could also win the queen, but positions where the material is not balanced are more tricky. Good technique by the young Dutch player. **24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Kf1** The computer is trying to claim that White could defend better at this stage – but I cannot see that this is the case. **Kg6 27.Ke2 Nd4+ 28.Bxd4 Rxd4 29.Rb1 Rxh4 30.Rb7 Be5 31.g3 Ra4 32.Kd3 Rxa3+ 33.Kc4 Rf3 0–1**

	A87
□ Grischuk,A	2771
■ Nakamura,H	2741
Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (9)	2010
[Jacob Aagaard]	

1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0–0 0–0 6.b3 d6 7.Bb2 From this starting position there is a lot of transposition between the lines mentioned by Boris. **c6 8.Nbd2 a5 9.c4 Na6 10.Qc2 Qc7** This particular position was not covered in GM2. You just cannot cover all positions, not only when the

opponent has made only natural moves as in this one. **11.a3 Re8 12.e4** I don't like this move much. It seems too early. [12.Rfe1 e5 13.c5 e4 14.cxd6 Qxd6 15.Ne5 Be6= Koskinen–Kauppinen, Finland 1986.; 12.Ne1 e5 13.dxe5 dxe5 $\bar{7}$ Szabo–Hera, Budapest 1995.; I would suggest. 12.Rad1!? Kh8 13.e4 (13.c5!?!; 13.Rfe1!?!N looks good as well. e5 14.c5 e4 15.cxd6 Qxd6 16.Ne5 Be6 17.f3 exf3 18.exf3 \pm) 13...fxe4 14.Nxe4 Bf5 15.Nh4 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 \pm c5 (17...e5 18.Rfe1 \pm) 18.Nf3 e6 19.h4 a4 20.bxa4 cxd4 21.Bxd4 e5 22.Be3 Nc5 23.Bxc5 dxc5 24.h5 Qf7 25.hxg6 Qxg6 26.Qxb7 e4 27.Nh4 Qg4 28.Qd7 Qxd7 29.Rxd7 Rxa4 30.Nf5 Bf6 31.Rb1 e3 32.fxe3 1–0 Rodgaard–Grimaldi, Thessaloniki (ol) 1988.] **12...fxe4** [12...e5 13.c5! \pm Bosboom–Timmerman, Netherlands 1992.] **13.Nxe4 Bf5!N** The bishop has problems finding a role in this structure, so it makes sense to exchange it. [13...Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Bf5 15.Qe3 \pm Ikonnikov–Timmerman, Huy 1993.] **14.Nh4** [14.Nfd2 Qb6 15.Rad1 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Bg4 17.Rb1 e5 18.dxe5 dxe5 $\bar{7}$] **14...Bxe4 15.Bxe4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 e5=** Black is at least level. **17.dxe5 Qb6** [17...Nc5 18.Qe3 Bxe5 19.Bxe5 Rxe5 20.Qc3 Rae8 $\bar{7}$] **18.Qc2 dxe5 19.Bc1 Nc5 20.Rb1 Ne6 21.Be3 Nd4 22.Qe4 Qc5 23.a4 Qb4 24.Kg2 Re7 25.Nf3 Nf5 26.Rfd1 Nxe3+ 27.fxe3 Rf8 28.Rf1 Qa3 29.h4 Ref7 30.Qc2 Qc5 31.Rbe1 Bh6 32.Qe4 [32.Qd3=] 32...Qb4! $\bar{7}$ 33.Rb1 Qc3 34.Rbd1 Qxb3 35.Rd3 Qc2+ 36.Rf2 Qb1 37.Rf1 Qc2+ 38.Rf2 Qxa4--+ 39.h5 gxh5 40.Rd6 Bg7 41.Kh3 h6 42.Rg6 Qb4 43.Nh4 Qe7 44.Rd2 Rf6 45.c5 Qe6+ 46.Kg2 Rxc6 47.Nxc6 Ra8 48.Qb1 Qf7 49.Rf2 Qd7 50.Kh2 Qe6 [50...e4 51.Qxe4 Re8--+] 51.Qxb7 $\bar{7}$ Re8 52.Nh4 Rf8 53.Rxf8+ Bxf8 54.Qa8 Qa2+ 55.Ng2 Qd5 56.Qxa5 Qxc5 57.Qa8 Kg7 58.Nh4 Qc2+ 59.Kh3 Qe4 60.Qb7+ Kf6 61.Kh2 Be7 62.Qa8 Kf7 63.Qb7 Qc4 64.Qc7 Qe2+ 65.Ng2 Qb5 66.Nh4 Qb2+ 67.Kh3 Qc1 68.Kh2 Qd2+ 69.Kh3 Qd6 70.Qb7 Ke6 71.Nf3 Bf6 72.e4 Qd7 73.Qb8 Kf7+ 74.Kg2 Qe6 75.Kh2 Kg7 76.Qc7+ Kg6 77.Qb8 c5 78.Qf8 c4 79.Qc5 h4 80.Nd2? [80.Nxh4+ Bxh4 81.gxh4 Kh5 $\bar{7}$] **80...Qg4! 81.Nxc4 Qe2+ [81...hxg3+ 82.Kg2 Qh4--+] 82.Kh3 Qxe4 83.Kh2 Qe2+ 84.Kh3 Qf3??****

[84...hxg3 85.Kxg3 Kh5! 86.Kh3 Bg5 ; 84...Qe1! 85.gxh4 Qh1+ 86.Kg3 Bxh4+ 87.Kg4 h5#] **85.Nxe5+ Bxe5 86.Qxe5 Qh1+ 87.Kg4 Qd1+ 88.Kh3 [88.Kxh4?? Qh1+ 89.Kg4 h5+ 90.Kf4 Qf1+ 91.Ke3 Qe1+ 92.Kf4 Qxe5+ 93.Kxe5 Kg5--+] 88...Qh1+ 89.Kg4 Qd1+ 90.Kh3 Qh1+ 1/2-1/2**

A10

 Anti dutch
 Update

[Marin]

1.c4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.d3 0-0 6.e4 d6 7.Nge2 I first became interested in this variation long time before starting the work on the English trilogy. The Leningrad Dutch has always attracted me from Black's point of view and I have been keeping it in my repertoire as a surprize weapon. When one of my friends asked for more psychologic details, I answered that I tend to use this opening when I am in desperate need to win or to make a draw, without realizing that this covers the whole area of a chess player's ambition. (Indeed, who would desperately need to lose?). One of the virtues of the Leningrad Dutch is that it can be played against different white setups and against all initial moves with the exception of 1.e4, of course. However, I did not feel comfortable against the Botvinnik triangle and certainly had no intention of transposing to a 1...e5 English by playing 1...e5 at a later stage. What if I would keep my king's pawn on the initial square and take over the control of the d4-square with ...c5 instead? I understood rather soon that **fxe4** has some important drawbacks: it clears the d-file for the white major pieces and unblocks the white f-pawn in view of the thematic advance to f5. [This is how I came to the conclusion that 7...c5 is to be preferred, but when working on the second volume I discovered a way to an advantage for White: 8.exf5! gxf5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Bg5 (See Vol 2, Chapter 28, page 404). Curiously, I forgot to insert the line with a previous exchange on e4 and I fulfil my duty by doing it now.] **8.dxe4 c5 9.0-0 Nc6 [Black does not gain much by hurrying with the advance of the e-pawn: 9...e5 10.f4**

10...♘c6 would transpose below, while other moves tend to lead to even bigger problems. Be6 (10...exf4 11.Bxf4± leaves the d6-pawn vulnerable.) 11.b3 Qd7 (Once again, releasing the tension is inadequate: 11...exf4 12.Bxf4 Ne8 13.e5±) 12.f5! Despite Black's efforts, the advance of the f-pawn is possible. If delayed for one move, it would become problematic because of ...♘c6. gxf5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Bxb7 Qxb7 15.Rxf5± Black has chronic weaknesses on light squares and may be left with a bad bishop in the endgame.] **10.f4** White has to hurry with this move, in order to be able to meet ...e5 with f4-f5, before Black gets to play ...exf4. Just a few days after I had written this update, the game Garcia Palermo-Bonafede was played (see the next game), demonstrating how strong White's attack is after f4-f5. **Be6** The most flexible approach. [10...e5?! is strongly met by 11.f5 Nd4 12.Qd3± Black can do little against the systematic kingside plan based on h3, g4, ♕g5, ♖f2, ♗af1, etc.; Preparing the queenside counterplay with 10...a6 11.h3 Ne8 12.Be3 Nc7 delays the development too much and leaves White with free hands in the centre. 13.e5± Soffer-Grinshpun, Israel 2003; 10...Bg4 does not lead anywhere after 11.h3 Bxe2 12.Nxe2 followed by ♕e3, ♗d2, ♗ad1 and g4.] **11.Nd5 Qd7 12.Qd3 Bh3** Hoping to weaken the white king's defence. [12...Bg4 was tried in Gorbatow-Genocchio, Cutro 2000 13.Ne3!N The bishop has problems maintaining stability. Bh3 (13...Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nd4 15.Qd3± leaves Black with chronic problems on light squares, which are only partly compensated by his central knight.) 14.Bd2 Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Planning ♗ad1 followed by ♕c3, with pressure in the centre. e5 This attempt to make use of the slight advance in development is unsound strategically and does not work out well tactically. 16.f5 Nd4 17.Nc3 gxf5 18.Nxf5 Nxe4 Black has been aiming for this trick; otherwise, he would have had to endure passive defence, with a bad bishop ending in perspective. 19.Nxe4 Rxf5 20.Rxf5 Qxf5 21.Rf1 After the forced exchanges, it is White who is better developed already. Black cannot prevent the enemy rook's intrusion through the sixth or seventh rank. Qg6 (21...Qe6 places the queen on a vulnerable square: 22.Ng5 Qg6 23.Qxg6 hxg6 24.Rf7 b5

25.Rd7 bxc4 26.Rxd6 Rb8 27.Bc3± Black's extra pawn is irrelevant and his counterplay has been stopped.; 21...Qd7 allows 22.Rf6) 22.Nf6+ Bxf6 23.Qxg6+ hxg6 24.Rxf6± White retrieves the pawn and keeps the better structure and the more active rook.] **13.Bd2** The quickest way to complete the development. **Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Rad8** So far, we have followed Gelfand-Kindermann, Biel 1995. **15.Bc3!N** Anticipating Black's answer. **e6** What else? Black has no other useful moves at his disposal, while White still disposed over ways of increasing his pressure with ♗ad1 followed by ♗d2. **16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Bxf6 Rxf6 18.Rad1±** White has space advantage and the d6-pawn needs constant care. White can combine plans based on ♗d2 with the advance of the kingside majority. One important thing to be taken into account is that ...e5 needs to be answered with f4-f5 in most of the cases.

	A10
□ Garcia Palermo,C	2465
■ Bonafede,A	2310
70th ch-ITA Siena ITA (5)	2010
[Marin]	

1.c4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.e4 fxe4 7.dxe4 0-0 8.Nge2 c5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.h3?! This is an inaccurate move order. [We can consider the game as relevant with the (not actually played) move order 10.f4 e5 11.f5 a6 12.h3] 10...a6?! [As explained in the previous game, 10...e5 was necessary, in order to meet 11.f4 with exf4, leading to unclear play.] 11.f4 e5 12.f5 Nd4 This knight seems to have a great position, but does not cross White's attacking plans in any way. **13.g4** Threatening to bury the bishop alive with g5 followed by f6. **Ne8 14.Nd5 Rb8** Little by little, Black loses his threat completely. [14...b5 would have been more active, although after 15.Qd3 the character of the game would have remained the same: Rb8 16.Nxd4 exd4 17.g5± with huge space advantage.] **15.a4 b6 16.Nxd4 cxd4?! Hard to understand. [16...exd4 would at least have cleared the e5-square for the bishop, although the plan based on ♗d3 and g5 would have remained**

very strong.] **17.Qd3 g5** The only way to prevent g4–g5, but now White gets a comfortable target on g5. **18.h4 h6** [18...gxh4 19.g5±] **19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Qd2!!** This slightly unnatural move is the most rapid way of regrouping the forces for the final attack. The pressure against g5 is strengthened and the third rank is cleared for the rook's transfer from one wing to the other. **Bh6 21.Ra3 Nf6 22.Rh3 Nxd5 23.exd5!** Unlike Black, White chooses the best capture in the centre. The e4–square is cleared for the bishop, although White would have had a winning position without this detail, too. **Rf6 24.Be4 b5 25.Qh2 Kg7** [25...Kg7 and, not waiting for 26.Bxg5 Bxg5 27.Rh7+, winning the queen, Black resigned.] **1–0**

A26

□ **Marin,M**■ **Movsziszian,K**

Catalan team championship, Division de Barcelona (5.1)
[Marin]

Working on the trilogy dedicated to the English repertoire took more than three years. For the biggest part of this time, it helped me improving my results with white greatly. There came a time, though, when I had to pay the prize of getting saturated. Writing down the final form of the second and third volume kept me away from tournament practice for more than a half of a year. This is a good explanation of the fact that my results with my favourite opening became disastrous shortly after that, but the good news is that there is nothing wrong with the repertoire itself. I have selected two of my most painful moments of this period. The first of them was an isolated game in a team event; For almost six months I had played no single game at normal time rate! **1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 e5 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 Nc6 6.Nge2 f5 7.d3 Nf6 8.0–0 0–0 9.Nd5 Be6 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.Qd2 Rf7 12.b4 Raf8 13.b5 Nd8** An almost identical position, but with the a–file open, was examined in Vol 1, Chapter 18, Line B5, on page 226. It had occurred in a game played by my wife. Although I had been following it from close and had praised her for the excellent win, I... completely forgot about it

when facing the current position against Karen. **14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.d4?!** [My wife had provoked general exchanges on f6 and only then captured on f5. The move order is not too relevant, but it is essential to get rid of the strong black bishop. **16.Nxf6+! Rxf6 17.d4 exd4** (I was afraid that after **17...e4**, my pressure against the e4–pawn would not yield anything more than a draw by repetition with ♖c3–d5–c3, but this is not true. **18.Nc3 Re6 19.Rae1 Qe7 20.Re2 Nf7 21.Rfe1 Ng5 22.Nd5 Qd8 23.h4** Black will lose his central pawn, since **Nh3+ 24.Kh2** leaves the knight trapped.) **18.Nxd4 Bh3 19.Bxh3 Qxh3 20.Rae1±** White has more space and a better development. The attempt to equalize at once with **Ne6?** allows simplifying to a winning pawn ending: **21.Nxe6 Rxe6 22.Qd5 Rfe8 23.Rxe6 Qxe6 24.Re1 Qxd5 25.Rxe8+ Kf7 26.cxd5 Kxe8 27.f4 Kd7 28.Kf2 c6** Black has to create a passed pawn as soon as possible, but this will not save him. **29.dxc6+! bxc6 30.a4!** Only this way of reacting to the queenside tension leads to a win. White wins queenside space, but even more important is the fact that the c6–square is not available to the black king. In certain cases, the rapid switch from one wing to another will be impossible. **cxb5 31.axb5 Ke6 32.Ke3 Kd5 33.g4** Black will be in zugzwang soon.] **16...Bg7!** This bishop will cause White lots of troubles. **17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.Rad1 Bh3 19.Qe3 c6** [When thinking over my 16th move, I was seduced by the line **19...Bxg2?! 20.Kxg2 c6 21.Qxe5! dxe5 22.Nf6+ Rxf6 23.Rxd7±**, but Black can avoid it without any major inconvenients.] **20.bxc6 bxc6 21.Nb4 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Qb7 23.Qb3 c5+!?** An interesting practical decision. The weakness of the b3–pawn will be more relevant than the strong centralized knight. **24.Nd5 Qxb3 25.axb3 Rb7 26.f4 Bg7** With his e2–knight dominated by the enemy bishop, White is clearly fighting for equality. Being short of time, I went down painfully. **27.Rf3 Nc6 28.Rdd3 Rfb8 29.Rfe3 Na5 30.f5 Be5 31.fxg6 hxg6 32.Nef4 Kf7 33.Rf3 Rxb3 34.Nc7 Rb2+ 35.Kh3 Nxc4 36.Nfd5+ Kg7 37.Ne6+ Kh6 38.Rf7 a5 39.Ne7 a4 40.Nf8 Rxf8 41.Rxf8 a3 42.Ra8 a2 43.Ra7 Kg5 44.Nc6 Bf6 45.Rd5+ Kh6 46.g4 Rb3+ 47.Kg2 Ne3+ 0–1**

A29
2597
2496
 □ **Marin, M**
 ■ **De La Villa Garcia, J**
 Torneo de Campeones Benasque (4.1) 2010
[Marin]

This game was played in my first proper tournament after a nine month break. **1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.a3 0-0 9.b4 Be6 10.Rb1 f6 11.d3 Nd4 12.Nd2 c6 13.Nde4 Bf7 14.Nc5 Qc7 15.e3 Ne6 16.N3e4 Nxc5N** [In Vol 1, Chapter 25, Line A1 on page 329, I examined 16...f5, as faced by my wife in a correspondence game.] **17.Nxc5 Rfd8** By choosing this way of placing his rooks, Black obviously aims to play ...a5 soon. Otherwise, his a8-rook would remain passive. **18.Qc2** [The tempting 18.Bh3, threatening ♗e6, weakens the pressure against the c6-square allowing the freeing sequence Bxc5! 19.bxc5 Nd7 20.Qc2 b6=; It was essential to take measures against ...a5. 18.Bd2! I played so terribly bad in Benasque this year that I instinctively tried to forget everything about it. Therefore, I cannot be sure about my train of thoughts when the game reaches this moment, but believe that the recommended move was my first instinctive reaction. This is quite logical, since in a similar position (same volume and chapter, line A4 on page 334) I recommended ♗d2 as a novelty. Last, but not least, when confronted with a new position, I always tend to follow the classical precepts. In this situation, it is desirable to develop the bishop before defining the queen's intentions. a5 Otherwise, ...♗fd8 is hard to justify. 19.Nxb7! This is the main tactical idea behind the previous move. Rxd3! Being unsure of myself because of the prolonged lack of practice, I prematurely panicked when noticing this move. (19...Qxb7 20.bxa5± is simply bad for Black.) 20.Nxa5 Rad8 (20...Rxa5 21.bxa5 Nc4 leaves White with a dangerous passer after 22.a6! for instance Rxd2 23.Rb7 Qa5 24.Qg4±) 21.Rb2 Qd7 22.Bxc6 Qd6 23.Qc1 Rxd2 24.Nb7 Qe6 25.Rxd2 Rxd2 26.Qxd2 Qxc6 27.Na5 Qf3 28.Qd1 Qa8 29.Qe2± The long tactical sequence has led to a position with a slight material advantage for White. The queenside pawns are dangerous, while the back rank may cause Black some

problems. At the same time, it is not easy for Black to organize a kingside counterattack based on the absence of the g2-bishop.] **18...a5 19.e4** I was happy when I found this plan, but bitter disappointment was awaiting me. [Had I anticipated the danger, I might have looked for counterchances after 19.Bh3 axb4 20.Ne6!? Bxe6 21.Bxe6+ Kh8 22.axb4 Qd6 23.Bf5 g6 24.Be4 f5 25.Bf3 Qxd3 26.Qxd3 Rxd3 Black has won a pawn, but White gets enough counterplay with: 27.b5 e4 28.bxc6 (28.Be2 c5! offers Black excellent compensation for the exchange.) 28...exf3 29.cxb7 Rb8 30.Rxb6 Rd7 White has nothing better than forcing a draw with 31.e4 fxe4 32.Re6=] **19...axb4 20.axb4 Nd7 21.Be3 Ra2 22.Qc3** My confidence was supported by the fact that my experienced opponent sank into deep thought. Exchanges on c5 would lead to structural problems for Black after bxc5. White increase his pressure with ♗h3 and prepare for a good moment to start active operations in the centre with d4 or f4. Also, he could neutralize Black's pressure along the only open file with ♖a1. **b5!!** Actually, I saw this move coming just seconds before it was effectuated on the board. All of a sudden, ... ♗xc5 becomes a threat, because bxc5 leaves Black with a dangerous passed pawn. If knights get traded without structural modifications, the weakness of the d4-square is more relevant than that of the c5-square, because the b4-pawn is weak. At the same time, the weakness of the c6- and d3-pawns compensate for each other. **23.Rfd1 Nxc5 24.Bxc5 Bxc5 25.Qxc5 Qd6 26.Qxd6 Rxd6 27.Bf1 g5** White's position is quite unpleasant. I believe that somewhere later I missed some drawing chances, but this hardly is relevant for our theoretical discussion. **28.Ra1 Ra4 29.Be2 h5 30.f4 gxf4 31.gxf4 exf4 32.Kf2 Kg7 33.Kf3 f5 34.Kxf4 fxe4 35.dxe4 Rf6+ 36.Ke3 Rxb4 37.Rg1+ Bg6 38.Bxh5 Rxe4+ 39.Kd3 Rd6+ 40.Kc3 Kh6 41.Rxg6+ Rxg6 42.Bxg6 Kxg6 43.Kd3 Rc4 44.Rf1 Kg5 45.Rf8 c5 46.Rc8 Kg4 47.Rg8+ Kf5 48.Rh8 Rd4+ 49.Ke3 Ke6 50.h4 b4 51.Rc8 Kd5 52.Rd8+ Kc4 0-1**

Vassallo Barroche,M **A29**
2422
 Recuero Guerra,D **2457**
 ch-ESP El Sauzal ESP (6) **2010**
[Marin]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3
0-0 9.a3 Be6 10.b4 f6 11.Rb1 Nd4
12.Nd2 c6 13.Nde4 Bf7 14.Nc5 Qc7
15.e3 Ne6 16.N3e4 Nxc5 17.Nxc5 a5N
 Recuero is a pupil of Jesus De la Villa and the present game was played two months after Benasque. Apparently, they both came to the conclusion that attacking b4 is better done at once, before White gets to play ♔d2. I must confess that I had a similar train of thoughts: after the summer tournaments I had analyzed this move without knowing that it had actually been played! **18.e4?!** Same plan, same problems... [In this concrete situation, when Black has no pressure along the d-file yet, 18.Bh3! is the correct reaction. Apart from creating the threat of ♘e6, White prevents ... ♘d7, which is an essential element in Black's general plan. axb4 19.axb4 Rfe8 20.e4± To be followed by ♔e3. This is an improved version of my plan against De la Villa, since the king's bishop is more active while Black's minor pieces are restricted.] **18...axb4**
19.axb4 Rfd8 20.Qc2 We have transposed back to the previous game now. White lost even quicker this time. **Nd7 21.Be3 b5**
22.Nxd7N Qxd7 23.Rfd1 Ra4 24.Qc3 h6
25.Rd2 Rda8 26.d4 Bxb4 27.Rxb4 Rxb4
0-1

Marin,M **A10**
2575
 Manolache,M **2540**
 Romanian team ch Baile Herculane (9) **2010**
[Marin, Stoica]

After such repeated insuccesses with my favourite opening, I decided to switch to 1.d4 for the rest of the summer. This helped a lot "disintoxicating" and, when I arrived at the Romanian team championship in September, I was ready to play 1.c4 in at least part of my games. Here is the most interesting of them, in which neither player could grasp the essence of an apparently dull position. **1.c4**

Nf6 2.g3 d6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4
c5 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3
 In the introduction to the Anti KID chapter of the second volume, I expressed my initial doubts regarding the effectiveness of this setup, as well as the positive feedback of my young team mate Tiberiu Georgescu who employed it very successfully. With Tibi just a couple of boards away from me, I decided to give it a try myself, especially that I did not feel confident in some of the systems employed by my opponent in the fianchetto KID. **e5?!** Quite a surprize. It is supposed that Black should avoid pawn symmetry once he has developed his king's knight in front of the f-pawn. However, proving the defects of the last move is not simple in practice. **9.a3?!** This eventually led to a theoretical success, but only as a consequence of Black's inadequate answer. White should make use of the possibility of advancing his f-pawn without being blocked in time with ...f5. [9.h3?!, preventing ...♔g4, is interesting, but possibly too slow. Be6 10.f4 Qd7 11.f5!? Otherwise, it is not easy to make progress. (11.g4 weakens the dark squares and can be met by exf4 12.Nxf4 Qd8! Black clears the d7-square, preparing the optimal regrouping with ...♘d7-e5.) 11...gxf5 12.Bg5 White should have good compensation for the pawn, but Black is well developed and may be able to defend.; 9.f4! is strongest. Bg4 Does not cross White's plans: 10.f5!± White is in no danger of losing this pawn, because of the pressure along the f-file. The threat is h3, followed by a complete consolidation with g3-g4(-g5). Compare also with the game Garcia-Bonafede above. gxf5?! This only clears squares for the white pieces. 11.exf5 Qd7 12.Bg5± Since ...♔xf5 is impossible in view of ♔xf6 followed by g4, winning a piece, Black is strategically hopeless.] **9...a6 10.Rb1 Bd7?!**
 [My opponent unnecessarily shied away from queenside symmetry: 10...Rb8 11.b4 cxb4 12.axb4 b5 13.cxb5 axb5 14.h3 This is the move I had planned. (14.Be3 Ng4 reveals the fact that, for certain purposes, the knight is well placed on f6.; 14.f4 Bb7 15.f5 gxf5 16.Bg5 is ineffective because of Qb6+ 17.Kh1 Ne7 18.Qd2 d5 Black has excellent development and no real worries. In this line, we can notice that the whole queenside operation has opened the g1-a7 diagonal and

cleared the b7-square for Black, while White got no benefits in exchange.) 14...Be6 15.f4 Ne7! Preventing f4-f5. (I superficially relied on the fact that after 15...Qd7? 16.f5 the c6-knight is hanging, which was my justification for the whole preparatory queenside plan.; 15...exf4 16.gxf4 Ne7 also looks playable.) 16.f5 As we will see, White is not sufficiently well developed for this attacking action. gxf5 17.Bg5 h6 18.Bh4 Qb6+ 19.Kh1 d5 20.exf5 Bxf5 Once again, Black has solved his defensive problems with a well-timed check on b6 and can hope to convert his extra-pawn.] **11.b4 b6 12.h3±** Finally, the opening has turned to White's favour. Black is under some pressure on both wings. The rest of the game, in which White failed to make the best out of his chances, is irrelevant for the theoretical discussion, as the major inaccuracies are behind already. **Nd4 13.a4 cxb4 14.Rxb4 Bc6 15.Bg5 Ne6 16.Be3 Nd7 17.d4 exd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 Bf6 20.Qd2 Rc8 21.Rfb1 Ba8 22.Nd5 Bxd4 23.Qxd4 Bxd5 24.cxd5 Rc5 25.Bf1 Qc8 26.Kg2 Re8 27.h4 h5 28.Be2 Rc2 29.Bd3 Rc5 30.Be2 Rc2 31.Bd3 Rc5 32.Be2**
½-½