Quality Chess Newsletter

Dear Quality Chess Reader,

Welcome to the late October (okay, maybe more November) Quality Chess Newsletter.

We have new books on the way. On November 9th we will publish Positional Play by GM Jacob Aagaard and Grandmaster Repertoire 11: Beating 1.d4 Sidelines by GM Boris Avrukh. Both titles clearly tell the story of the contents.

Positional Play is the second volume of Jacob’s Grandmaster Preparation series. As with all the best instructive chess books, the reader cannot be a passive ‘consumer’ – it is essential to get involved and solve the exercises. If you put in the effort, you will be rewarded.

Grandmaster Repertoire 11: Beating 1.d4 Sidelines is a black repertoire after 1.d4 against White’s sidelines (this generally means most moves except 2.c4). GM Boris Avrukh covers almost every non-standard opening line at White’s disposal after both 1.d4 d5 and 1.d4 Nf6. Where applicable, Avrukh covers each white system after both 2...e6 and 2...g6, making this book suitable for fans of many openings, including the Nimzo-Indian, King’s Indian and Grünfeld defences.

We are also distributing to chess shops in Europe books that were published by Mongoose Press. Three new examples are: The Russian Endgame Handbook by Ilya Rabinovich, Thinking With Chess: Teaching Children Ages 5-14 by Alexey W. Root, and Amateur to IM: Proven Ideas and Training Methods by Jonathan Hawkins. I have not seen these books yet, so I will not say more, other than that English IM Hawkins is an impressive player with 2 GM norms and a 2500+ rating. If the publisher had waited a month or two, I suspect the title would be ‘Amateur to GM’.

Our chess file this month concentrates on three openings – the Grünfeld, King’s Indian and the Slav. In the first two, we cover a couple of rare lines not mentioned in Lars Schandorff’s recent book Playing 1.d4 – The Indian Defences. In the Slav, Nikos Ntirlis reveals the story of a black gambit he developed after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3. We have dubbed the line The Glasgow Kiss because Nikos’s early analysis was done in our fine city.

Regards,
John Shaw
Chief Editor
Quality Chess
"Ray" at the blog mentioned that in Schandorff’s Indian Defences book there have been two omissions in two popular openings. Both of the moves not mentioned may be rather rare but they were played by 2700+. So show them now some more respect...

1.d4 dı6 2.c4 g6 3.äc3 d5 4.äf3 äg7 5.äb3 dxc4 6.äxc4 0–0 7.e4 äe6!? 

This is not mentioned by Schandorff.

8.d5! 
This is what Black wants (obviously!) but it seems that there is no better way for gaining an edge 8.äb5 äd7 9.äc5 (9.äb3 is met by 9...c5! with counterplay for Black) 9...b6 

A) 10.äc4 c5 11.dxc5 (11.d5 is met by 11...e6!) 11...äe6 12.äd3 äc6 13.äb5 äc8 14.cxb6!? axb6 is typical Grünfeld play for Black. 

B) 10.äg5?! c5! 11.dxc5 äc6 12.äh4 bxc5 13.äe2 e6 14.äg5 (14.äf4? äbd7) 14...h6! 15.äxh6 äxe4 16.äf4 äxc3 17.äxg7 äxg7 18.bxc3 äf6= Morozevich (2770)-Giri (2696), Biel 2012. A game that may give a boost of popularity of this line for Black. 

8...äc8 
Black wants to undermine White’s centre. 

8...äg4?? 9.e5+ 

9.äe2
Proposed by Krasenkow in the latest CBM (issue 150). 

9...c6 10.0–0 cxd5 11.exd5
White has a small edge in all lines as it seems:
11...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}\text{\textit{8}}})
11...b6 12.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{h}}}\text{\textit{4}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{b}}}\text{\textit{7}}\) 13.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{1}}\) White has a strong pawn at \(d5\) and easy play after \(\text{\textit{\textbf{g}}}\text{\textit{5}}\) followed by \(\text{\textit{\textbf{c}}}\text{\textit{1}}\) 13...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{b}}}\text{\textit{d7}}\)
14.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{g}}}\text{\textit{5}}\) a6 15.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{a}}}\text{\textit{c1}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{c8}}\text{\textit{8}}\text{\textit{8}}}\) 16.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{4}}\) now \(\text{\textit{\textbf{N}}}\text{\textit{d4-Ne6}}\) is a big threat! 16...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{8}}\)

A) 17.a4 is interesting 17...e6 (17...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{x}}}\text{\textit{d5}}\) is met by 18.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{a}}}\text{\textit{xaxa6}}\) 18.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{xe6}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{f}}}\text{\textit{xe6}}\) 19.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{f}}}\text{\textit{f3}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{xf3}}\text{\textit{f3}}}\) 20.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{x}}}\text{\textit{xf3}}\)

B) 17.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{1}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{x}}}\text{\textit{d5}}\) 18.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{a}}}\text{\textit{xa6}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{a}}}\text{\textit{xa6}}\) 19.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{x}}}\text{\textit{d5}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{exc1}}\text{\textit{c1}}}\) 20.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{x}}}\text{\textit{xc1}}\) f6 21.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{h}}}\text{\textit{6}}\uparrow\) Bendana Guerrero -Odeev, email 2005 11...e6 12.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{xe6}}\) (12.d6? is more ambitious) 12...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{x}}}\text{\textit{xe6}}\) 13.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{b}}}\text{\textit{b4}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{wc8}}\text{\textit{c8}}}\) 14.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{g}}}\text{\textit{5}}\) was Novichkov (2415)-Odeev (2430), Moscow 1998 (14.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{h}}}\text{\textit{4}}\)? with the idea \(\text{\textit{\textbf{B}}}\text{\textit{g5}}\) and \(\text{\textit{\textbf{r}}}\text{\textit{ac1}}\) 14...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{c}}}\text{\textit{6c6}}\text{\textit{c6}}\)

12.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{1}}\)
12.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{d1}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{d6}}\) 13.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{b}}}\text{\textit{b4}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{d7}}\) 14.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{h}}}\text{\textit{3}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{f}}}\text{\textit{f6}}\) 15.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{e3}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{5}}\) 16.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{c}}}\text{\textit{5}}\) is the main line offered by the new addition of the collection of analytical tools of Quality Chess (this is Houdini 3) 12.\(h4\) is also not stupid at all. In general Black is under a bit of pressure here.

12...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{6d6}}\) 13.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{a}}}\text{\textit{a4}}\)
13.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{b}}}\text{\textit{b3}}\)? \(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{d7}}\) 14.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{e3}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{f}}}\text{\textit{f5}}\) 15.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{f}}}\text{\textit{f4}}\) is offered by Krasenkow. White seems a bit better here also.

13...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{d}}}\text{\textit{d7}}\) 14.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{f}}}\text{\textit{f4}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{b}}}\text{\textit{b6}}\) 15.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{b}}}\text{\textit{b3}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{g}}}\text{\textit{g4}}\) 16.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{e5}}\)
16.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{ad1}}\) was better.

16...\(\text{\textit{\textbf{xe}}}\text{\textit{e2}}\) 17.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{xe}}}\text{\textit{e2}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{ec8}}\text{\textit{c8}}}\) 18.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{ed1}}\text{\textit{d7}}}\)
Black has equalised.

19.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{x}}}\text{\textit{d7}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{xd7}}}\) 20.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{e}}}\text{\textit{e5}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{xe5}}}\) 21.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{xe5}}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{b5}}}\) 22.\(\text{\textit{\textbf{de1}}}\) \(\text{\textit{\textbf{fe8}}}\text{\textit{fe8}}}\)
Gordon (2539)-Howell (2620), North Shields 2012
Wang Hao (2718) – Andrey Vovk (2551) E81
26th Summer Universiade Shenzhen (3.1), 16.08.2011
Nikos Ntirlis

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♕c3 c5 7.♗ge2 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘a5
This move was played twice by Grischuk in 2012 against Vitiugov and Dreev but he never faced:

9.♗g3!
White’s idea is:

9...a6 10.♗d2 b5 11.♗h6
And now we see clearly that with the Knights placed at a5 White has the chance to start a ferocious attack against Black’s King with h4-h5. Computers aren't convinced but it seems that the Chinese Super-GM had made some home preparation.

11...e6
It makes sense to produce central counterplay in order to make the flank attack less appealing, but there is way-back for White already.

11...♕xc4 12.♕xc4 bxc4 12...♕xh6 13.♕xh6 bxc4 14.h4 transpose
13.h4 looks very dangerous for White. I didn’t go deep, but at least I refuted my PC’s first choice 13...♕xh6 14.♗xh6 ♘b8 15.0-0-0 ♘h8 16.h5 ♘g8 this is how the PC wants to defend but 17.hxg6 ♘xg6 18.♗h4 ♘f8 19.e5! dxe5 20.d6! h6 21.f4! leads to an irresistible attack.

12.h4 ♘xc4 13.♕xc4 bxc4 14.♕xg7 ♘xg7 15.dxe6 ♘xe6 16.0-0-0 ♘b8 17.h5 ♘b6 18.♗ge2
18.♗f5+ ♘xf5 19.exf5 looks even stronger but in any case Black’s position is beyond repair already. White only needs adequate attacking technique.

18...♕b7 19.♕f4 ♘fb8 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.♕xe6+ fxe6 22.♗h6+ ♘f7 23.♗d2 ♘a5
23...♗d5 24.♗f4 ♘g7 25.g4 wins quickly.

24.♗e3 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.♗e5 ♘e8 27.♗f4 ♘g7 28.♗xd5 ♘h5 29.♗xc4 ♘g3 30.♗d1 ♘f5 31.g4 ♘d4
32.♗xd4+ ♘f7 33.♗f6+ ♘g8 34.♗xg6+ ♘f8 35.♗h6+ ♘g7 36.♗d6+ ♘f7 37.♗f4+ ♘g6 38.♗f5+
1-0
The Glasgow Kiss Variation

The beginning of the story... D10
2012 Nikos Ntirlis

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.©c3 ©f6 4.e3

What should a Classical Slav player do in this position? This was a question that troubled me for years, until I finally studied the Semi-Slav for the Black side, so the answer to my problem was obvious: "just play 4...e6". Soon I discovered that this was just the answer to my personal problem and not the answer to the original question.

4...©f5!
Of course! This move should be in the blood of every Slav player, right?

5.cxd5 cxd5 6.©b3

OK, so we have a problem now. Everybody plays the Bishop back to c8 now and this exchange-variation type of position has been proven to be unpleasant for Black in practice. This has been shown for years. But while I was looking to this position I noticed that my engine was running at the background and its first choice was leading to a gambit of a pawn. My first reaction was typical, "Stupid machine. Always useless in analysing early opening positions. But let's try and refute its evaluation, it will be a good training exercise for my students...."

6...©c6 7.©xb7 ©d7!
"Nice one indeed, now the Queen has few squares to go, but where is the compensation after..."

8.\texttt{b3} b8 9.\texttt{d1}
And of course I was hit with..

9...\texttt{e5!}

And after trying for literally hours, the "stupid" machine always found a way to prove dangerous compensation for Black. "Maybe this is something new? Maybe I don't have to re-invent the wheel. Let's open the database..."

After my "discovery" I needed some GM confirmation. So, I emailed the line to John Shaw and Jacob Aagaard and they gave it some attention during one of the working days at their office in Glasgow, in the heart of the headquarters of Quality Chess. After the "bosses" approved then it was the time some GM practice. I shared the analysis to one of the GMs I work with, the Italian GM Sabino Brunello. Now we had to wait for our first "victim"....
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.d3 d5 4.e3 c5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.g3 d6!
So actually this has been played in a quite serious corr. game! And the game was really exciting! Let’s see...

7...xb7
The White player correctly accepted the gambitted pawn. Soon after having studied this line I had some training games were my opponents were a bit sceptical and refused the gift.

7...b5 e6 (7...e8 and 7...b8N are also easily equal) 8.f3 is a position that is probably in Black’s favour. He can play in two ways (8.exd6+ bxc6 9.b7 bxc6 is better for Black)

A) 8...d6 not fearing 9.h4 (9.e5 0–0 10.exd6 bxc6 11.g6 e8 12.d1 e4 seems dangerous for White) 9.g4 10.h3 h5 11.g4 because after 11...g6 (11...e4 is also a typical move leading to some advantage for Black) 12.gxg6 hxg6 13.d2 a6 14.c2 g5 only Black can be better.

B) 8...h6 is what I tried in a training game 9.e5 e8 10.a4 b6 gave me a reasonable and quite active position.

7...d7!
7...g8?! was played by Paraskevi Mourouti (a former team-mate of mine!) but after 8.xc8+ Black cannot claim enough compensation for the pawn. So this leads me to believe that Paraskevi simply just blundered the pawn. (8.a6 is also quite strong here) 8.exd8 9.d6 10.a5 11.g7+ g6 12.b1 b3 13.f3 b6 14.d2 exd2 15.g4 e6 16.e7 e1 17.a4 c4 18.a2 0–0 19.b4 bx5 20.b4 a5 21.d3 and in the game Georgiadou (1670)-Mourouti (1640), Greece 2001 Black’s Benko-like compensation was not enough to draw the game.

8.a3
The basic idea of this pawn sacrifice seems to me correct because White has to allow the position with the Queen losing 3 tempi to get back to its initial square where Black opens favourably the position, or else he HAS to play a3 and if he HAS to play such a move then Black should be able to find adequate compensation somehow. In this game the strong corr. player found the only but the very efficient way to do so.

8.b5 seems winning because White has the double threat of Nc7+ and Qxa8 followed by Nc7, but when Black finds the only defence 8.g8 White has to justify moving again a developed piece while already behind in development 9.d2! accurate but not sufficient (9.a3 a5 9...xa7 a5+) 9...e6 followed by Rb8 and Ne4 with
more than enough comp, and if 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xa7}}} 11...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xa7}}} 12...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{a8}}} 12...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b7}}} 13...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e4}}} Black's position seems very promising 8...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f3}}} 9...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b8}}} 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{c6}}} 8...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{a6}}} 9...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e2}}} seems entirely unnatural but it was something I tried against my machine when I was first investigating this gambit continuation. After all, it causes no surprise the fact that the machine was keeping me... (9...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d3}}} 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b1}}} 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{c8}}} is again very strong for Black) 9...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f5}}} 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{a3}}} 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{a6}}} 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b4}}} 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{a5}}} and Black has again at least enough compensation. 8...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b3}}} 9...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d1}}} e5 is examined in some detail next.

8...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e8}}} 9...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{a6}}} e5!

Opening the position when White is behind in development.

10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d5}}}

No good alternative exists 10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f3}}} 11...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b6}}} places the Queen in a stupid square giving Black even more time 11...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d6}}} 12...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{h3}}} (12...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d5}}} 13...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e5}}} 13...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d4}}} 0–0 14...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{c6}}} 15...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e2}}} 16...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xd4}}} 16...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b8}}} 12...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g3}}} 12...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g4}}} 12...0–0 13...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g3}}} this logical way of trying to continue development can be punished in an instructive way 13...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d4}}} 14...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xd4}}} 15...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xd4}}} 16...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d8}}} 16...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b8}}} 17...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b4}}} 17...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g3}}} winning!

10...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d4}}}

11...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e6}}}

11...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{a4}}} is met by the very impressive 11...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{b4}}} 12...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xb4}}} 13...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d2}}} 13...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d2}}} 14...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xd2}}} 14...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{dxe3}}} 15...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e1}}} 15...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e1}}} 16...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f3}}} 0–0; 15...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f2}}} 16...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xf2}}} 17...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g4}}} 17...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g4}}} 18...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xd3}}} 0–0 and with such a King at g3 Black can even sac a whole piece just like that! 19...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{xe5}}} 19...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g5+}}} 20...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f2}}} 20...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{h4+}}} 21...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g3}}} 22...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f4+}}} 22...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g2}}} 22...\textit{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e4+}}}
11. \( b5 \) \( b6 \)
12. \( \text{a4} \) dxc3 13. exf6 \( \text{xf6} \)
14. \( \text{b1} \) \( \text{g6} \)–+

11...dxc3 12. bxc3 \( \text{xf6} \)

13. \( \text{dxe2} \)

13. \( \text{d2} \) is very unnatural but cannot be punished. Without analysing deep the position in think that Black has adequate play after 13... \( \text{g6} \) with some sample lines:

A) 14. \( \text{d1} \) \( \text{b6} \) 15. \( \text{e2} \) \( \text{xa3} \)

B) 14. \( \text{d3} \) \( \text{f5} \) 15. \( \text{c4} \) (15. \( \text{d5} \) \( \text{e4} \)) 15. ... \( \text{e5} \) 16. \( \text{d4} \) \( \text{d6} \) 17. \( \text{f3} \) \( \text{xf3} + \) 18. \( \text{gxf3} \) 0–0

C) 14. \( \text{e2} \) \( \text{b6} \) 15. \( \text{f4} \) \( \text{b1} + \) 16. \( \text{c1} \) \( \text{xc1} \) 17. \( \text{xb1} \) \( \text{xb1} \) 18. \( \text{d3} \) \( \text{e5} \) 19. \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{a2} + \) 20. \( \text{e1} \) \( \text{c2} \) 21. \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{e7} \) 22. \( \text{e2} \) \( \text{b1} + \) 23. \( \text{c1} \) 0–0 up again, this is mainly "hand-analysis". It is so fun spending time at the club with friends analysing beautiful complicated positions like this and when returning home and the computer gives another move as more accurate I prefer leaving the "human" move in my analysis when the assessment is not different.

13... \( \text{e5} \)! 14. \( \text{d4} \) 0–0 15. \( \text{e2} \)

White is ready to go safe after castling, so Black strikes hard!

15... \( \text{xd4} \) 16. \( \text{xf6} \) \( \text{c2} + \) 17. \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{gxf6} \) 18. \( \text{xc2} \) \( \text{f8} \)

And now White faces difficult problems! I have strong doubts if this could be help over the board. In corr. chess it proved possible.

19. \( \text{b2} \)

19. c4 \( \text{a4} + \) (19... \( \text{b5} + \) 20. \( \text{c3} \) \( \text{b6} \) is another beautiful idea) 19. \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{b6} \) 20. \( \text{e1} \) \( \text{a5} \) winning.

19... \( \text{f5} + \) 20. \( \text{c1} \) \( \text{xb2} \) 21. \( \text{xb2} \) \( \text{d2} + \) 22. \( \text{b3} \) \( \text{xe2} \) 23. \( \text{a2} \) \( \text{e6} + \) 24. \( \text{c4} \) \( \text{xa2} \) 25. \( \text{xa2} \) \( \text{xc4} + \)

I would say that Black has a slight advantage but the game continuation probably proves that it is just a draw. Anyway, reaching such an endgame with Black right from the opening (because I believe that both sides played the best moves after that a3 approach) is something I would very much like in every game!

26. \( \text{b2} \) \( \text{e6} \) 27. \( \text{e1} \) \( \text{d6} \) 28. \( \text{g3} \) \( \text{f8} \) 29. \( \text{e6} \) \( \text{e7} \) 30. \( \text{a6} \) \( \text{c5} \) 31. \( \text{a4} \) \( \text{h5} \) 32. \( \text{e4} \) \( \text{d6} \)

\( \frac{1}{2}–\frac{1}{2} \)
Horvath, Csaba (2509) – Sabino Brunello (2587) D10
Arvier 01.05.2012
Nikos Ntirlis

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.ćc3 ćf6 4.će3 ćf5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.ćb3 ćc6 7.ćxb7 ćd7 8.ćb3 ćb8 9.ćd1 e5!

![Chess Board Diagram]

Exactly what we had analysed! Sabino was very kind to say in his analysis of this game in an Italian magazine that he played an idea that I showed him some time ago and he liked so much as to give it a try against a solid GM. Luckily for those that don’t read Italian, Sabino was generous enough to give a lecture during the Greek team championship this July where he shared with us some of his analysis and thought during this game. You can find his lecture here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJZwUrlG7Q4.

I am not familiar with Sabino’s analysis in the Italian magazine, but I’ll try to enrich Sabino’s comments from the above video lecture with analysis of my own.

10.ćxe5
10.ćf3 and some other minor lines are examined in our last game.

10...ćxe5 11.ćc2
A solid move 11.ćge2 ćc5 gives Black good compensation as can be shown in the following lines:

![Chess Board Diagram]

A) 12.ćf4 0–0
    A1) 13.ćd3 ćxd3+ 14.ćxd3 ćg4! 15.ćf3 (15.ćc2 is met by 15...d4) 15...ćd7 16.0–0 će8 with obvious counterplay.
A2) 13.\(\text{dxe}2\) \(\text{cxd6}\) 14.0–0 \(\text{e}8\) and it is not easy to find a decent plan for White. If he tries to simplify with 15.\(\text{dxd}3\) then 15...\(\text{cxd}3\) 16.\(\text{exd}3\) \(\text{e}7?!\) with \(\text{Red}8\) coming next, Black keeps the bind.

B) 12.\(\text{bxd}4\) 0–0 13.\(\text{a}3?!\) (13.\(\text{exe}2\) is best and after 13...\(\text{fe}7\) 14.0–0 \(\text{e}8\) we have simply transposed to our main game) 13...\(\text{fe}4?!\) it is time to jump! 14.\(\text{exe}2\) \(\text{h}4!\) 15.\(\text{exe}4\) (15.0–0 is met by the typical 15...\(\text{b}6\) and White is lost) 15...\(\text{xex}4\) Black has attacking chances.

11.\(\text{fd}4?!\) seems bad and simply is bad 11...\(\text{g}6:\)

A) 12.\(\text{a}3\) \(\text{xc}5\) 13.\(\text{dxd}5\) (13.\(\text{b}4\) \(\text{xb}6\) 14.\(\text{a}4\) 0–0 15.\(\text{xb}6\) \(\text{xb}6\) 16.\(\text{f}3\) \(\text{fe}8\)) 13...0–0 14.\(\text{xf}6+\) \(\text{xf}6\) 15.\(\text{xd}7\) \(\text{xf}4\) 16.\(\text{e}2\) \(\text{fd}8\)

B) 12.\(\text{e}3\) \(\text{xc}5\) 13.\(\text{dxd}3\) (13.\(\text{exe}2\) 0–0 14.\(\text{dxd}5\) \(\text{cxd}6\) 15.\(\text{b}4\) \(\text{xd}5\) 16.\(\text{bxc}5\) \(\text{e}8\)) 13...0–0 14.\(\text{xb}6\) \(\text{h}x\text{g}6\) 15.0–0 \(\text{e}7\) 16.\(\text{b}3\) \(\text{bc}8\) and here after 17.\(\text{xd}5\) \(\text{xd}5\) 18.\(\text{xd}5\) \(\text{fd}8\) Black keeps pressure.

11.\(\text{a}3\) is not something special 11...\(\text{dxd}6\) 12.\(\text{ge}2\) (12.\(\text{f}4\) \(\text{g}6\) 13.\(\text{f}3\) 0–0 14.\(\text{g}3\) \(\text{c}5\)) 12...0–0 13.\(\text{f}4\) \(\text{c}6\) 14.\(\text{e}e2\) \(\text{e}e4,\) 11...\(\text{xd}5\) \(\text{xd}5\) (11...\(\text{c}6\)?) 12.\(\text{xd}5\) \(\text{b}4+\) 13.\(\text{xd}2\) \(\text{xd}2+\) 14.\(\text{xd}2\) \(\text{fd}6\) is fine for Black according to Sabino. The main idea is that the b2 pawn is in danger after \(\text{Rxb}2\) because \(\text{Qxb}2\) is not possible because of the discovered check from the Knight.

11...\(\text{dxd}6\) 12.\(\text{f}3\) 0–0

12...\(\text{e}7?!\) is seen briefly in the comments of the following game.

13.0–0

13.\(\text{xd}5?!\) \(\text{xd}5\) 14.\(\text{xd}5\) \(\text{c}6\)→

13...\(\text{e}7\) 14.\(\text{d}4\) \(\text{fe}8\)

"Black’s compensation is in the style of Benko Gambit" says Sabino. Houdini 3 gives a modest plus to White’s position and an evaluation of "=.". From a human perspective White’s position is difficult to play and quite sensitive because a single mistake can give Black a big advantage.

15.\(\text{xb}5\)

15.\(\text{h}3\) might be a better try, but in a recent Bundesliga game the usually quite well prepared Ragger played 15...\(\text{b}6??\) and comfortably drew (although not without some adventures!). Here is the whole game for you to see
and work 16.a4 b4 17.a5 b8d8 18.d2 c4 19.a4 xc4 bxc4 20.d2 e4 22.d3 e2 23.a4
d6 24.a3 xa3 25.a3 x6 26.d1 g6 27.a1 g7 28.d1 b8 29.e5 c5 30.e1 b8 31.c1 b7 32.b8
e8 33.g3 h6 34.g2 c3 35.a6 c7 36.e3 e4 37.d8 d7 38.a8 c8 39.e1 d6 40.a5 c7
41.e3 c4 42.a3 43.a3 d5 44.e5 d6 45.d6 d6 46.c2 c2 c6 47.a7 c7 48.a6 d2
d6 d6 f8 50.d8+ g7 51.h4 f6 52.d5 h1 53.f5 d1 54.d6 g1+ 55.f3 d1 56.h8 d7 57.d8
f6 ½-½ Melkumyan (2649)-Ragger (2655), Forchheim 2012.

15.a6 c5 is a move that its points were explained exceptionally well by Sabino in his lecture. In the future, after a Knight jump to e4 this Rook might suddenly find a route to White’s King side after Nxe4 dxe4. Also the Bishop is unprotected on a6 and can fall victim of a trick like Bxh2+ followed by Qd6 16.b3 can be met by 16...Rc7 and White’s pieces don’t make much sense but also the tactical solution 16...f3+ seems strong 17.gxf3 (17.xf3 g4 traps the Queen) 17...hxh2+ 18.xh2 e4 and White’s King is helpless...

15...c5 16.d2?
This is a clear mistake but you only need one in this position to be suddenly lost 16.b4 is "the equalising" move according to Sabino 16...xd4! 16...c5! 17...xd4 bxa4 and White the two Bishops but Black is active and the presence of the strong outpost at c4 improves the value of the Knights. Black can actually play here something like Ne8-Nd6 to have even more control over c4. Sabino would prefer Black and my engine supports his preference.

16...c4 17.a4 xb2?

18.e1 c4 19.a5 c4 20.b3?! a6
20...xa5 leads to a beautiful win as Sabino’s PC showed him after the game 21.xa5 b6 22.e1 xf2
d2 xf2 x3 24.c2 d2 25.d1 and it looks like White has survived but after 25...a6 is the typical little move which is difficult to see at the end of the combination and it is this little push White needs to collapse here.

21.xc5 xc5 22.xc4 dxc4 23.f3 axb5 24.fxe4 g5 25.c7 c8
"A bit lazy", Brunello. Quicker were 25...c6!.

26.f4 g6 27.axb5 wb4 28.xg3 xb5
But this is still winning. Note that Black now is a pawn up! So the gambit proved to be a good investment after all! The rest is self-explanatory.

29.c3 c6
30. $\text{a}2$ h6 31. $\text{e}2d2$ $\text{e}6 32. $\text{e}e1$ $\text{a}8 33. h3 $\text{g}6 34. $\text{h}h2$ $\text{c}5 35. $\text{a}3 $\text{g}3 36. $\text{d}d8^+ $\text{h}7 37. $\text{x}a8 $\text{g}2^+ 38. $\text{h}h1 $\text{x}a8 39. $\text{x}a8 $\text{d}d2
0–1
Winants (2543) - Shaw (2424) D10
40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR (4.37), 31.08.2012
Nikos Ntirlis

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Qc3 Qf6 4.e3 e5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Qc6 7.Qxb7 Qd7 8.Qb3 Qb8 9.Qd1 e5
"I played your Slav Gambit" said to me John during the "book signing" even at the Olympiad. While some meters away Polgar, Marin, Flear, Schandorff and many other Quality Chess authors were signing books to the happy chess fans that were around at the official book store of the organiser, I, John and Jacob were discussing this exact line!

10.Qf3?! 10.Qge2 10.Qb5 10.a3 and other silly moves are just waiting to be tried. Most of them should be met simply by ...Bd6. Black cannot kill White just yet. He needs some development to do so.

10...c4
"I probably should have played just...Bd6 here" John said.

10...Qd6 was in fact tried in a very serious encounter between two 2700 opponents 11.dxe5 (11.Qe2 is possible, but now ...c4 comes under better circumstances because the Knight cannot jump to e5, but also 11...O-O is possible which will certainly transpose to lines we have seen or will see in a while 11.Qxe5 Qxe5 12.Qxe5 Qxe5 must be fine for Black. The pressure will mount after Qc7 at White’s King side) 11.Qxe5 12.Qe2 Qc7?! another interesting way to play the position. We can assume with some certainty that a close to 2700 player has seen this position before in his "home-lab" (12...Qc7 transposes to the Brunello game) 13.Qd4 0-0 14.h3? (14.0-0 Qc4 leads to the following complications 15.b3 Qxh2+ 16.Qh1 Qd6 17.a3 Qa5 18.Qb5 Qxb5 19.Qxf8 Qe5 20.Qe7 Qc3 21.Qc2 Qe4 and Black is better! I don’t know if this line is forced or not, but it is certainly attractive from Black’s point of view) 14...Qe4 (14...Qc4 15.Qc2 Qe8 must give Black great compensation also) 15.Qxe4 dxe4 16.b3 Qc5 there are many interesting possibilities here and I believe that this is not the most accurate for Black, but still I couldn’t prove it wrong (16...Qd8 going to f6 must be investigated with detail)

A) 17.0-0 Qg6 (17...Qf3+ 18.Qxf3 Qe5 19.g3 exf3 20.h4 Qh3 21.Qe1 looks scary for White but the cool-headed PC sees nothing and prefers White) 18.Qf4 exf3 19.Qxf3 Qc6 20.Qd4 Qbd8 21.Qxc5 Qxc5 22.Qh2 Qf6 23.Qd1 Qxd1 24.Qxd1 Qe5 leads to equality according to Houdini 3. As I said, I don’t trust this line entirely.
B) 17.b2 a5+ 18.b1f1 efc8 19.g3 b6 20.g2 h5 (20...b8?!?) 21.h4 g4?! (21...d5!!) 22.c1! and White had some edge in Wojtaszek (2713)-Wang Yue (2691), Poikovsky RUS 2012, a game that ended a draw nevertheless. Another success story for the "Glasgow Kiss" gambit and certainly lots of virgin ground to investigate!

11.d5 d6 12.xd7 xd7

13.b5

13.b2 may be even better and was a choice of a Quality Chess GM author, the "Tactimania" Glenn Flear. The first time I met Flear was during the European Team Championship in Porto Carras 2011 when during my army service I managed to get some free days to go and help the Danish team during the event. Flear was the captain of the English team and was having a chat with the reserve player of the team for that day, GM Pert. Pert is writing a book for Quality Chess, a GM Repertoire on the Classical Slav! So you can imagine me promoting "my line" to the two Englishmen the first minutes I introduced myself to them despite Jacob’s warning that I shouldn’t begin talking to everybody using chess variations! Both are known Slav Defence fans and both showed a level of scepticism to this gambit. To be honest, I also was sceptical during that time. Now I can state with some confidence that I am pretty sure that the gambit is sound! 13...h5 14.a3 a5 15.f3 cxf3 16.xf3 c7 17.xd5 b6 18.xd5 c7 19.a2 b2 20.c5 f6 21.e4 a5 22.xc1 h4 23.c2 b6 24.c4 c8 25.c4+ c8 26.d2 c7 27.b5 c6 28.d2 c6 29.d5 d5 30.c5 d5 31.b5 a5 32.a4 b4 19.xc4 dxc4 20.c4 g6 21.a3 d6 22.b4 c4 23.c3 c7 24.a2 d5 25.a2 c7 26.a2 c5 27.d2 a6 28.a4 a5 29.b5 a5 30.b5 a5 31.b5 a5 32.a4 b4 27.a2 d5 33.b3 a6 34.d5 c5 45.b5 a5 44.c5 a5 45.b3 b7 46.b5 f5

23...a5 was better but still tough. Now White is winning but John managed not to spoil the good percentages of the gambit and gained the half point!

24.xa2 b5 25.xc2 bxc2 26.bxc2 bxc2 27.b5 a6 28.a4 a5 29.b5 a5 30.b5 a5 31.a4 b5 32.a4 b5 33.b1 h4 34.d2 b3 35.b2 b3 36.b3 c3 37.c2 c3 38.c1 c3 39.c6 f6 40.c6 b3 c7 41.b5 c2 42.b3 c2 43.b3 c1 44.b5 a5 45.b5 a5 46.c3 b7 47.c6 f5 48.c7 b2 49.c2 a7 50.c4 c7 51.c5 e3 52.c7 h2 53.d1 b2 54.f5 c7 55.c4 d4 56.c1 d6 57.e4 b1+ 58.b2 xh2 59.xh2 g1+ 60.xc2 d5 61.d5 b5 62.d5 b5 63.c2 c3 64.e4 c4 65.d3 e5 66.d3 a7 67.e4+ f6 68.e4 g7 69.f6 g8 70.a5+ f4 71.d5 g3 72.a6 g1 73.b6 c7 74.c3 f4 75.h6 f4 76.f5 c5 77.g7 c8 78.c4 b6 79.c7+ f6 80.b8 g1 81.d5 g5+ 82.e4 h2 83.f8+ g7 84.a8 e5+...
85.\textit{d}3 \textit{d}g3 86.\textit{e}e4 \textit{f}f6 87.\textit{e}c3 \textit{g}g5 88.\textit{f}f3 \textit{g}g7 89.\textit{a}a6+ \textit{e}e5 90.\textit{a}a5+ \textit{f}f6 91.\textit{b}b5 \textit{c}e6 92.\textit{b}b6+ \textit{e}e5 93.\textit{g}g6 \textit{c}e1 94.\textit{g}g4 \textit{d}d2 95.\textit{f}f5 \textit{g}g5 96.\textit{e}e6+ \textit{d}d4 97.\textit{e}e4+ \textit{d}d5 98.\textit{e}e8 \textit{d}d4 99.\textit{e}e6 \textit{c}c1 100.\textit{a}a2 \textit{g}g5 101.\textit{e}e4+ \textit{c}c5 102.\textit{e}e5+ \textit{d}d6 103.\textit{d}d5+ \textit{e}e7 104.\textit{b}b1 \textit{f}f6 105.\textit{f}f5+ \textit{e}e7 106.\textit{b}b5 \textit{f}f6 107.\textit{b}b6+ \textit{e}e5 108.\textit{a}a5 \textit{c}c1 109.\textit{e}e6+ \textit{d}d5 110.\textit{a}a6 \textit{g}g5 111.\textit{e}e6+ \textit{d}d4 112.\textit{b}b3 \textit{c}c1 113.\textit{b}b5 \textit{g}g5 114.\textit{e}e6 \textit{h}h6 115.\textit{d}d5+ \textit{c}c3 116.\textit{e}e4 \textit{g}g5 117.\textit{f}f5 \textit{g}g7 118.\textit{c}c5+ \textit{b}b4 119.\textit{c}c6 \textit{g}g5 120.\textit{d}d5 \textit{c}c3 121.\textit{c}c2 \textit{g}g5 122.\textit{e}e6 \textit{e}e7+ 123.\textit{d}d5 \textit{g}g7 124.\textit{e}e6 \textit{f}f6 125.\textit{c}c4+ \textit{b}b5 126.\textit{f}f4 \textit{g}g5 127.\textit{f}f3 \textit{b}b4 128.\textit{d}d4 \textit{b}b5 129.\textit{d}d5 \textit{b}b4 130.\textit{b}b3+ \textit{a}a4 131.\textit{f}f3 \textit{b}b4 132.\textit{c}c5 \textit{b}b4 133.\textit{c}c3+ \textit{b}b4 134.\textit{c}c2 \textit{b}b5 135.\textit{c}c6 \textit{b}b4 136.\textit{c}c5 \textit{b}b5 137.\textit{e}e4 \textit{b}b4 138.\textit{c}c8 \textit{b}b5 139.\textit{f}f5 \textit{b}b4 140.\textit{d}d5 \textit{d}d2 141.\textit{e}e6 \textit{c}c3 142.\textit{d}d8 \textit{c}c5 143.\textit{f}f6 \textit{g}g5+ 144.\textit{f}f3 \textit{g}g7

I have no more to say on this gambit. The QC team did everything they could to warn you. This gambit exists and can kill you. Which side do you want to be? Happy hunting!
½–½