

July 2011 Newsletter

By

The QC Team



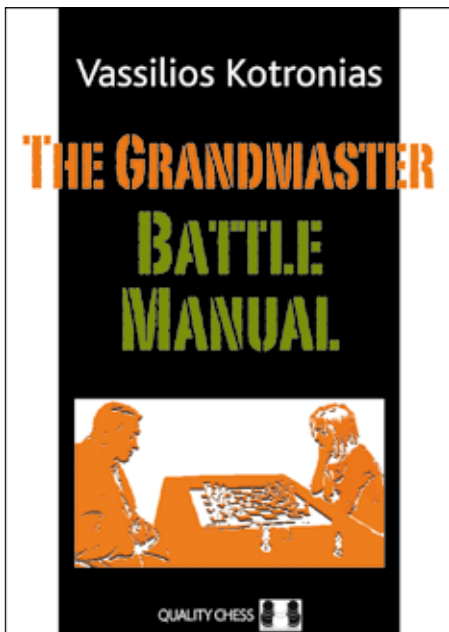
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Key to symbols used

±	White is slightly better
∓	Black is slightly better
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
=	equality
≡	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
⊖	unclear
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
!?	a move worth considering
?!	a move of doubtful value
#	mate



The Grandmaster Battle Manual explains how to be a more competitive chess player. Chess grandmaster Vassilios Kotronias has been a professional player for two decades and now he explains the secrets of his success. As a writer, Kotronias has the skill to explain in words what other top players can only express in long lists of chess moves. Improve your chess with a grandmaster guide.

Vassilios Kotronias is a chess grandmaster and 9-time Greek Champion. He is a key member of the Greek team as both a player and coach. On the international tournament circuit he is a feared competitor who is particularly noted for his profound opening preparation.

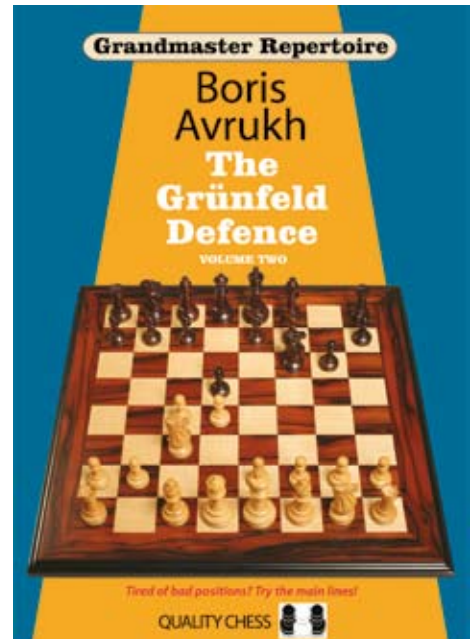
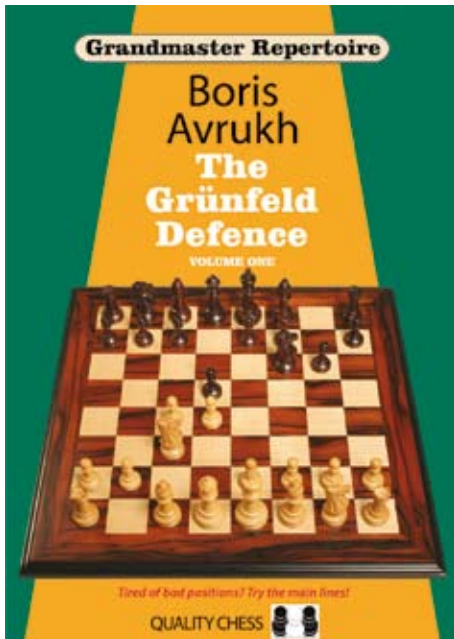
ISBN - 978-1-906552-52-7

Preface

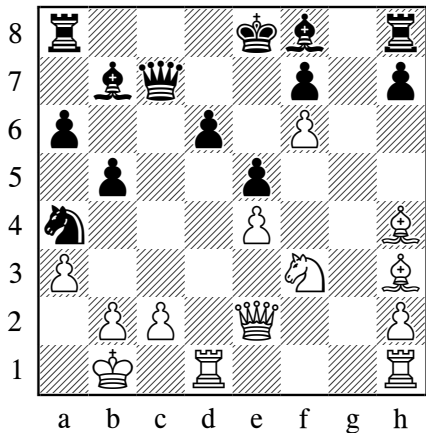
After seven months of blissful holiday, we return with a monthly newsletter with a few games with relevance to our books. We will aim to have regular contributions from our authors, but with four grandmasters and one excellent IM in the office, we will mainly draw from personal exploits.

This newsletter will mainly focus on the recent developments in the Grünfeld Defence and in the Blood Diamond variation of the Najdorf. But there will also be material relating to the English, Experts on the Anti-Sicilian and Play the Scandinavian. We hope you will find this material informative and useful.

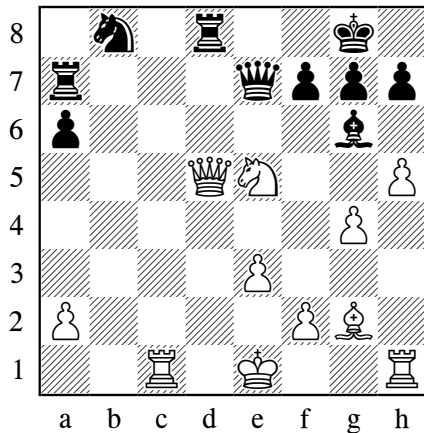
On the next page follows six puzzles. Solutions can be found at the end of the newsletter.



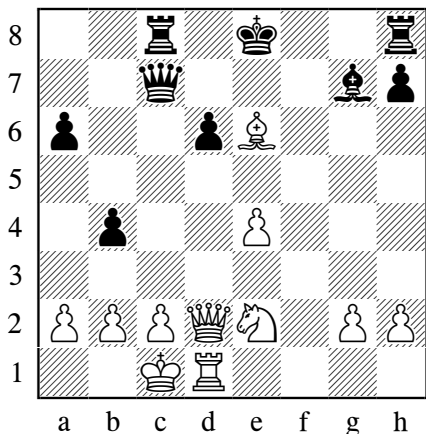
Puzzles



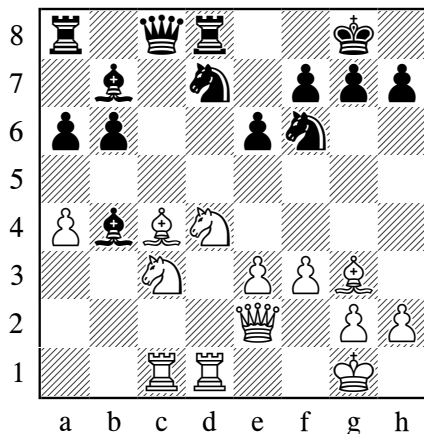
Black to play



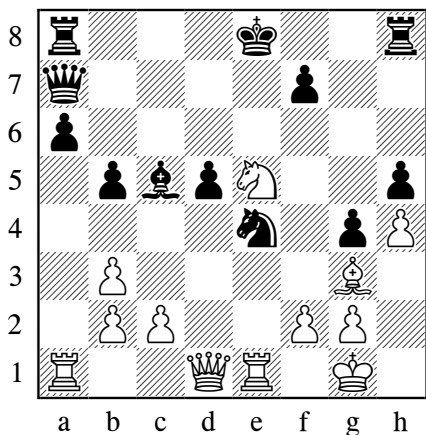
White to play



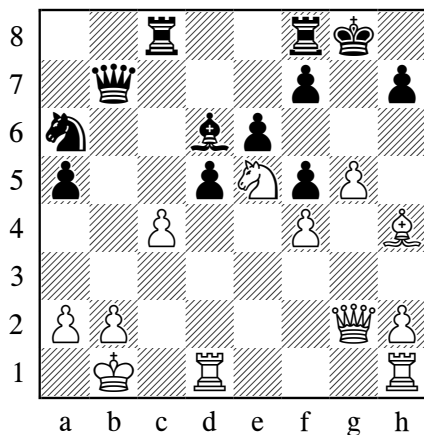
Black to play



White to play



White to play



White to play

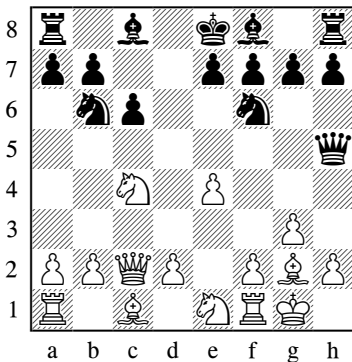
Games

Sreeves - Gupta

London Chess Classic 2010
[A11] [J. Aagaard]

No chess publisher can honestly say that their books are without flaws. Some don't even seem to care much. We do, and we try to show this by being honest about them, and point them out to our readers, especially through these newsletters. In this game White followed Mihail Marin's recommendations in GM4 to the letter; unfortunately there was a better move to be found on the way.

1.c4 ♖f6 2.g3 c6 3.♔g2 d5 4.♗f3 dxc4 5.0-0
♜bd7 6.♜a3 ♜b6 7.♞c2 ♞d5 8.♜e1 ♞f5
8...♞h5 9.♜xc4 ♜bd5 10.e4 ♜b6



11.♜d3

11.d4!±

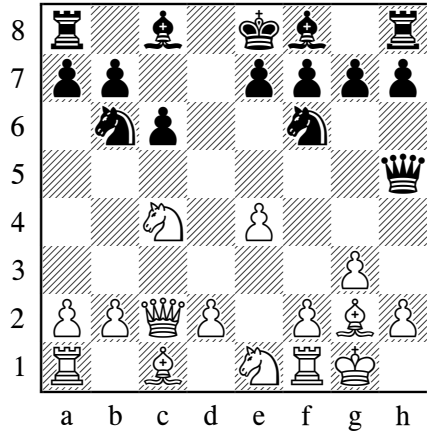
11...♜xc4 12.♞xc4 e5 13.♞c3 ♔d6 14.f4±
♔h3 15.♔xh3?

15.fxe5 ♔xg2 16.♔xg2 ♞e2† 17.♜f2 ♜xe4
18.♞d4! would have won a piece.

15...♞xh3 16.♜f2 ♞h5 17.fxe5 ♔xe5 18.d4
♔c7 19.♞b4 ♔b6 20.♔f4 0-0-0 21.♞ad1
♞he8 22.♔e5 ♞xe5 23.dxe5 ♞xd1 24.exf6
♔xf2† 25.♔xf2 ♞xh2† 26.♔e3 ♞xg3† 27.♞f3
♞d3† 28.♔xd3 ♞xf3† 29.♔c2 ♞xf6 30.♞f8†
♔c7 31.♞b4 ♞e5 32.♞c4 ♞e6 33.♞d4 g6
34.b3 h5 35.♔d3 0-1

Chigladze - Shalamberidze, Batumi 2001.

9.e4 ♞h5 10.♜xc4



10...♔h3?!

10...e5! was introduced by Balogh. It is not obvious that White has a clear path to an advantage here, although he has a number of ideas at his disposal.

11.♜e3 ♜g4 12.♜xg4 ♔xg4 13.♜d3 Thiede -
Stranz, Graz 2011.

13...♔e2!?N 14.♞e1 ♜d7±

11.♜f3 ♜xc4 12.♞xc4 ♔e6 13.♞c3 ♔d6
14.d4 ♜xe4 15.♞e1 f5= Siebrecht - Bok, Wijk
aan Zee 2011.

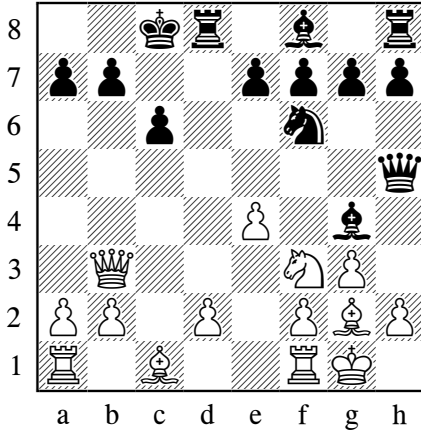
11.d4!? exd4 12.♜d3 ♜xc4 13.♞xc4 ♜g4
14.h3 ♜e5 P.H. Nielsen - Balogh, Eppingen
2010.

11.b3!N is my favourite. It looks most natural.
11...♜xc4 (11...♔g4 12.f3 ♜xc4 13.bxc4 ♔c5†
14.♔h1 ♔e6 15.♞b1 ♞b8 16.♜d3 ♔d6 17.f4±)
12.bxc4 ♔d6 (12...♔g4 13.♞b1!±) 13.♔b2 ♔e6
14.c5 ♔c7 15.♜f3 0-0 16.d4±

11.♜f3 ♜xc4 12.♞xc4 ♔g4
12...e6!?

13.♞b3 0-0-0

So far this is all according to Marin's dreams. However, at this point he completely missed the chance to bust Black's opening play. Had it been in the book, Gupta would have found the experience very disheartening for sure...

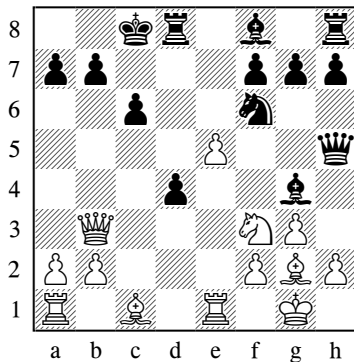


14. Re1?!

14.d4!! Ne6 (Taking the pawn with 14...dxe4 15.dxe5 d6 is not survivable: 16.e3+-) 15.f4± Black will soon be under a fierce attack.

14...e5 15.d4 exd4 16.dg5?!

At the board Sreeves lost faith in Marin's recommendation of 16.e5, as the best move,



16...de8!±N was not considered in the book. After 17.Re4! e6 18.Wa4 e5 19.Rh4 Wf5 20.dxd4 exd4 21.Rxd4 Rxd4 22.Wxd4± White is still better though. But this is not

easy to work out. The remains of the game is fantastic:

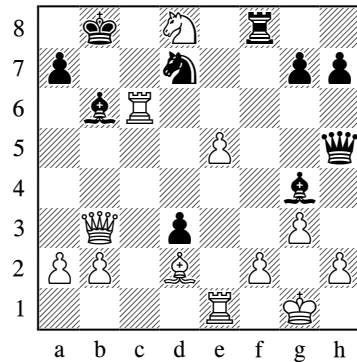
16...d3 17.e2d2 e5 18.Ra1 d7 19.e5 e6 20.dxf7 Rf8

20...Rf8 leads to equality after a suspiciously flashy computer line: 21.e6 dxc5 22.Wb4 dxe6 23.d6† eb8 24.e3 Wa5 25.Wxg4 d2 26.exd2 Wxd2 27.Rcd1 Wc2! 28.ch1 Rxf2 29.Rc1 Wxb2 30.d4 Wxa2 31.Ra1 Wc2 32.Ra1 Wa2=

21.e6?

White finally loses his way. He had to play: 21.e6! bxc6

21...cb8 22.e6 bxc6 23.e7± 22.Rxc6† cb8 23.dxd8, when he is ready to take on b6 if needed. Here Black has to find a fabulous defence:



23...Wxh2†!!

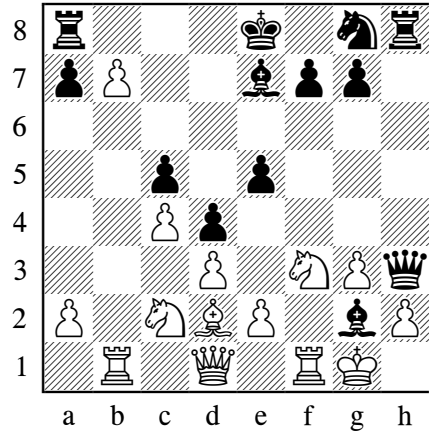
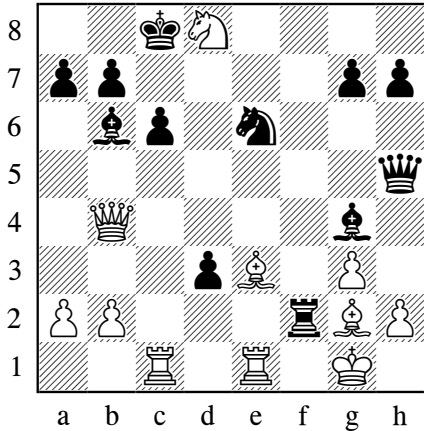
23...Rxd8 24.e6 e3 25.e7 Re8 26.We6 Rxf2† 27.chxf2 exxc6 28.Wxc6 Wxh2† 29.Wg2 Wxg2† 30.chxg2± leads to a favourable ending for White.)

24.chx2 Rxf2† 25.chg1 Rf1†!!= with perpetual check.

26.chxf1?? e3#

21...dc5!± 22.Wb4 dxe6 23.dxd8 Rxf2! 24.e3

24.chh1 Rg2 25.chxg2 Wh3† 26.chh1 e3#



24...♞xg2† 25.♔xg2 ♞d5† 26.♔g1 ♚h3
 27.♞d2 ♘g5 28.♘xc6 bxc6 29.♞xc6† ♔d7
 30.♞c7† ♔xc7 31.♚xb6† axb6 32.♞f4† ♔b7
 33.♞e7† ♚d7 34.♞xd7† ♞xd7 35.♞xg5 d2
 0-1

Oehmichen - M. Rasmussen

Danish Championship, 2011

[A12] [M. Rasmussen (trans. J. Aagaard)]

This game won the Quality Chess sponsored best game prize for an under 1900 rated player at the Danish Championship.

1.c4 c6 2.♘f3 d5 3.b3 d4

Grabs a bit of centre space and closes the long diagonal.

4.g3 c5 5.♚g2 ♘c6 6.0-0 e5 7.d3 ♚e7 8.♘a3
 ♚f5 9.♘c2 h5

Angriff!

10.♚d2 h4 11.♞b1 hxg3 12.fxg3 ♞d7 13.b4
 ♚h3 14.b5 ♚xg2! 15.bxc6 ♞h3 16.cxb7

16...♚xf3!! 17.bxa8 ♞† ♚xa8 18.♞f2 ♞xg3†!
 19.♔f1
 19.hxg3?? ♞h1#

19...♞xh2 20.♞xh2 ♞xh2

There is no salvation for White; I think everything loses.

21.♚e3

21.♞b8† ♔d7 22.♞xa8 ♞h1† 23.♔f2 ♚h4#
 would have been nice.

21...♞h1†

I do not think I found the fastest mate, but it is nice to see the opponent suffer.

22.♚g1 ♚g2† 23.♔e1

23.♔f2?? ♚h4#

23...♞xg1† 24.♔d2 ♚g5† 25.e3 ♞f2†
 26.♔c1 ♚f3 27.♞e1 dxe3 28.♞b8† ♔d7
 29.♞a5 ♞d2†

And White resigned.

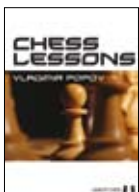
0-1

Reinderman - Rublevsky

European Championship, Aix-les-Bains 2011

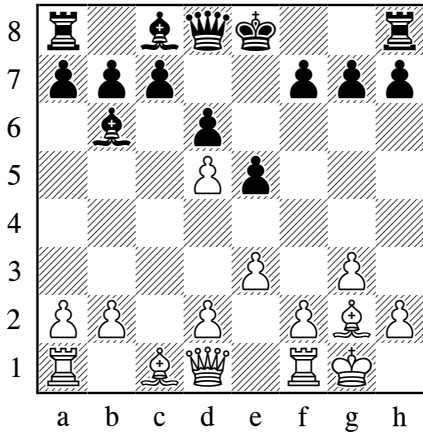
[A29] [J. Aagaard]

Chess books are still used by strong players. Marin is an author with many fans: here is a game by Dutch GM Reinderman, who clearly



has read the GM Repertoire books on the English.

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.g3 ♗b4
5.♘d5 ♗c5 6.♗g2 d6 7.0-0 ♘xd5 8.cxd5
♘d4 9.♘xd4 ♗xd4 10.e3 ♗b6



11.a4!?

Following Marin's strategic concept.

11...a5 12.d3 0-0 13.♗d2 ♗d7 14.♖c2 c6
15.♖b3 ♖b8 16.f4 ♗c5 17.♗ac1 ♗e7 18.♘h1
cxd5 19.♗xd5 ♗c6 20.e4 exf4 21.♗xf4 ♗xd5
22.♖xd5 ♖e6 23.♖xe6 fxe6 24.♗xf8† ♘xf8
25.♗xa5 ♖a8 26.♗f1† ♘e7 27.♗c3 ♖xa4
28.♗xg7 ♗d4 29.♗xd4 ♖xd4 30.♗d1± ♘f6
31.♘g2 ♖b4 32.♗d2 ♘e5 33.♘f3 ♘d4 34.g4
d5 35.g5 e5 36.h4 ♖b3 37.exd5 e4† 38.♘f4
exd3 39.h5 ♘xd5 40.g6 hxg6 41.h6 ♖b4†
42.♘g5 ♘e4 43.h7 b6
1-0

McShane - Carlsen

London Chess Classic 2010

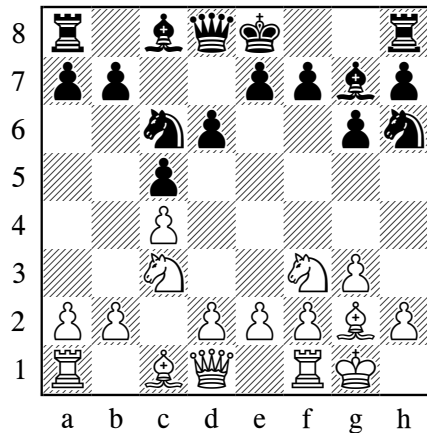
[A37] [J. Aagaard]

I am at times asked how reliable our books are, and at what level they can be used. I have to bite my tongue, because what I really wanted to say in such a situation is that player X, rated 2700+ has just bought the books on

our website - and most likely not to put under the Christmas tree. Peter Heine Nielsen said about some of our books that they were "of use even at the highest level." He is the chief second of the World Champion, so it is easy to read things into such a statement. One player who has openly said that he has read our books is English Grandmaster Luke McShane. In this game he follows the recommendation of GM Mihail Marin in Grandmaster Repertoire 5 as a stepping stone to beat the World number one. Whatever I say hereafter, I feel I can say it with full confidence. (For more, read Luke's review of the Marin books in NIC Magazine).

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.♘c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3
d6 6.0-0 ♘h6

A sideline, but still a serious option.



7.d4! cxd4 8.♗xh6! ♗xh6 9.♘xd4

Marin thinks White is better here. Carlsen does not manage to prove otherwise.

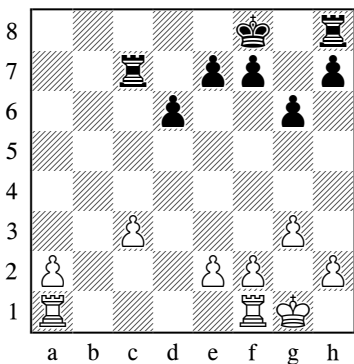
9...♘e5!?N

9...♘xd4 10.♖xd4 0-0 11.♖fd1 ♗g7 12.♖e3
♗xc3 13.♖xc3 ♖c7 14.♖ac1 ♗e6 15.♖e3!N

This is Marin's improvement in GM5.

15.c5 ♖xc5 16.♖xc5 dxc5 17.b3 ♖ad8
18.♗xb7 ♗xd1† 19.♖xd1 c4 20.♗d5 ♗xd5
21.♖xd5 cxb3 22.axb3 ♖b8 ½-½ Loginov-
Stanec, Aschach 1994.

15...♖ac8 16.♗d4 ♗b6 17.b3 ♖c7 18.♗d2±
 9...♗d7 10.c5 ♗g7 11.♗xc6 ♗xc6 12.♗xc6†
 bxc6 13.♗a4 ♗xc3 14.♗xc6† ♗f8 15.bxc3 ♖c8
 16.♗a4 ♖xc5 17.♗xa7 ♗c7 18.♗xc7 ♖xc7



19.♖b1! Marin's improvement.

19.♖fc1 ♗g7 20.a4 ♖a8 21.♖a3 ♖c4 22.a5
 ♖a6 and White was unable to convert his
 advantage in Loginov-Csom, Budapest 1993.
 19...♗g7 20.a4 ♖a8 21.♖a3 ♖c5 22.♖b4 ♗f6
 23.♗g2 ♗e6 24.h4 h5 25.♗f3± ♖ac8 26.♖bb3
 ♖f5† 27.♗e3 ♖cc5 28.f4 ♖fd5 29.♖b7 ♖a5
 30.c4 ♖d1 31.♖b5 ♖a6 32.a5 f5 33.c5 dxc5
 34.♖xc5 ♗f7 35.♖e5 ♖a7 36.♖b5 ♖a6 37.♖b6
 ♖a8 38.a6 ♖d7 39.♖c3 ♖d5 40.♖cc6 ♖g8
 41.♖b7 ♖a5 42.♗d4?

This makes the job much harder - maybe
 impossible.

42.a7! ♖a2 43.♖cc7 would have allowed
 White to win quite easily. A possible plan
 is: 43...♖e8 44.♗d4 ♖a4† 45.♗c3 ♖a3†
 46.♗b2 ♖a6 47.♖c3+-

42...♖d8† 43.♗e3

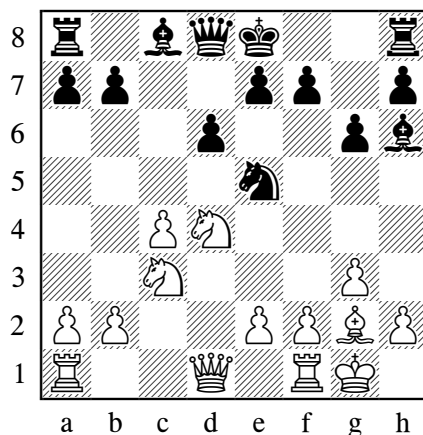
43.♗c4 ♖d2 is suddenly very complicated.
 43...♖a3† 44.♗f2 ♖d4! 45.a7 ♖e4 46.♖c3 ♖a2
 47.♖e3

Good technical play from Mihail, but Black
 keeps the rook here, hoping to have access to
 the kingside via f5 later. The win appears to
 be elusive.

47...♗f6 48.♗f3 ♖aa4 49.♖c7 ♗f7 50.♖d7 ♗f6
 51.♖b7 ♗f7 52.♖c7 ♗f6 53.♖b3 ♗f7 54.♗f2
 ♖a2 55.♖e3 ♗f6 56.♖xe4 fxe4 57.♗e3 ♖a4

58.♗d2 e6 59.♗c3 ♗f5 60.♗b3 ♖a1 61.♖c5†
 ♗f6 62.♖c7 ♗f5 63.♗b4 ♗g4 64.♖c5
 64.♗b5 ♗xg3 65.♗b6 ♖b1† (65...♗f2
 66.♖c5+-) 66.♗c6 ♖a1 67.♗b7 ♖b1†
 68.♗c8 ♖a1 69.♗b8 ♗xh4 70.a8♗ ♖xa8†
 71.♗xa8 ♗g3 72.♗b7 ♗xf4 Black makes a
 draw.

64...♖xa7 65.♖g5† ♗h3 66.♗c4 ♖a4† 67.♗b3
 ♖a1 68.♗c2 ♖a2† 69.♗d1 ♗g2 70.♖e5 ♖a4
 71.♖xe6 ♗xg3 72.♖xg6† ♗xf4 73.♗e1 ♖a1†
 74.♗f2 e3† 75.♗g2 ♖e1 76.♖f6† ♗g4 77.♖g6†
 ♗f4 78.♖f6† ♗e4 79.♖e6† ♗d4 80.♖d6†
 ♗e4 81.♖e6† ♗f4 82.♖f6† ♗g4 83.♖g6† ♗f5
 84.♖h6 ♖xe2† 85.♗f3 ♖h2 86.♖xh5† ♗g6
 87.♖g5† ♗h6 ½-½ Marin-Illescas Cordoba,
 Sanxenxo 2004.



10.♗b3!

A logical answer. Black is behind in
 development, so White quickly brings his bits
 in.

10...0-0 11.♖fd1

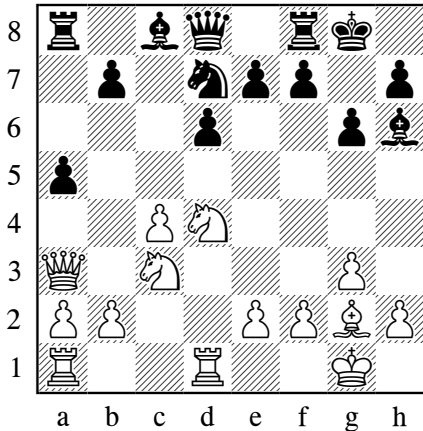
It is not so easy for Black to free himself
 here, thus he decides to lose extra time with
 the knight.

11...♗d7

11...♗d7 12.♗xb7 ♖b8 13.♗xa7 ♖xb2
 14.c5! and White appears to be a pawn up for
 nothing.

12. ♖a3!?

This is a very combative attempt, but White could also play more classical with: 12. ♖c2 ♙g7 13. ♖ac1, when again it is not so easy to be Black. For example: 13...a5 14. ♖a4! ♖b6 15. c5±

12...a5**13.b4!?**

Probably a bit too much.

13.e3 underscores that Black has no good logical moves. For example: 13...♖c5?! (13...♖a6 14. ♖a4±) 14. ♖b3! ♖xb3 15. axb3 ♖a6 16. c5!± e.g. 16...♙g7 17. cxd6 exd6 18. ♖d5 ♖c6 19. ♖xa5 ♙xc3 20. bxc3 ♖xc3 21. ♖b2 ♖c7 22. ♖a7 ♖c2 23. ♖d4 ♖c1† 24. ♖xc1 ♖xc1† 25. ♙f1 ♖c7 26. h4± and Black never truly frees himself.

13...♖a6

13...♖b6 14. c5 ♖c4 15. ♖b3 ♖d2 was indicated as playable somewhere, but after 16. ♖c2! Black has not solved his problems: 16...axb4 17. ♖d5 e6 18. ♖e3 dxc5 19. ♖xc5 e5 20. ♖xd2 exd4 21. ♖xd4 ♖a5 22. ♖xa5 ♖xa5 23. ♖xb4 ♙g7 24. ♖c4 ♖a7 25. ♖d1 ♖xa2 26. e3 and the typical “English” pressure continues.

14.b5 ♖a8 15.e3

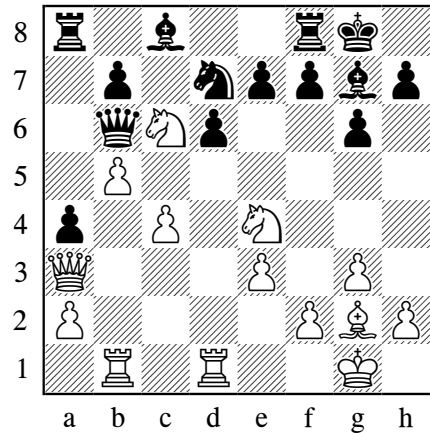
15. ♖c6 bxc6 16. bxc6 ♖b6†

15...a4! 16. ♖ab1 ♙g7 17. ♖e4 ♖b6

17...♖a5 18. ♖bc1 ♖e8 appears just as natural, but there is still a lot of play in the position - even though Black is probably equal.

18. ♖c6!

A nice tricky move.

**18...♖e8**

18...bxc6!? 19. bxc6 ♖a5 20. cxd7 ♙xd7 21. c5 ♙g4 22. ♖dc1 dxc5 looks sort of playable, but White continues to exert pressure on the black queenside after 23. ♖xc5±

19. ♖b4 f5?

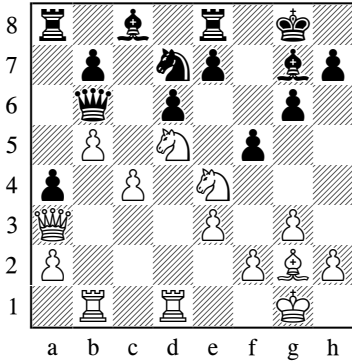
I thought this move looked horrible when played, but apparently it is positionally ok - but tactically is another matter.

19...♖a5 20. ♖d5 ♖b6 21. ♖xb6 ♖xb6 22. c5 dxc5 23. ♖xc5± was better, but not solving all problems.

20. ♖c3?

Missing a big chance.

20. ♖d5!



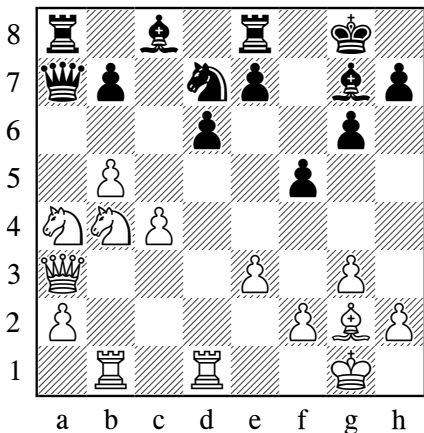
20...♖d8□ (What both players must have missed was that after 20...♖a5 White wins in one go with: 21.b6!!+- fxe4 22.♖b5 ♖a6 23.♘c7 . But as 21.♘g5 is strong too, it is puzzling that Luke did not play like this.) 21.♘g5 ♘c5 22.b6± Black should probably think about giving up the exchange, as after 22...♖b8 23.♘c7 ♖f8 24.♖b5! his position sort of collapses.

20...♖c5?

This appears to be a simple blunder. Carlsen is not starting well in this event.

20...♖a5 21.♖bc1± and it is still not so easy for Black to free himself, but the position is playable. He needs to try 21...e6 and ...♙f8 to fight for the light squares.

21.♘xa4! ♖a7



22.♘a6! bxa6

Delaying the capture only makes things worse.

23.b6 ♘xb6 24.♖xb6 ♖b8 25.c5!±

The pressure is substantial.

25...♙e6

Probably a better defence was the miserable 25...dxc5 26.♖b3† c4 27.♖xc4† ♘h8 28.♖xb8 ♖xb8 29.♖f7 ♖f8 30.♖xe7 ♖e5± with some chances in the ending.

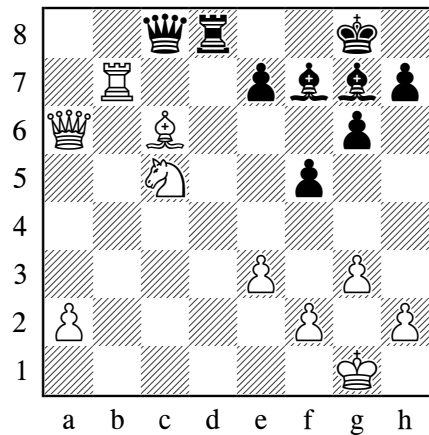
26.♖db1! dxc5!?

This loses by force, but the prospects after 26...♖c7 27.c6 are not really better.

27.♖b7 ♖xb7 28.♖xb7 ♖a8 29.♘xc5 ♖c8

30.♖xa6 ♙f7 31.♙c6! ♖d8

31...♖f8 32.a4+-



32.♘d7!!

A nice finish. The threat is 33.♖b6, with the ideas a2-a4-a5-a6-a7-a8=♖ and simply ♖c7.

32...♖xd7

32...♙e6 33.♖b6! ♙xd7 34.♙xd7 ♖c1† 35.♘g2 ♖f8 appears equally hopeless: 36.♙e6† ♘h8 37.♖b8 h5 38.♖xf8† ♙xf8 39.a4

33.♙xd7 ♖c1† 34.♖f1 ♖xf1†

As if resigning, but there is no hope left.

35.♙xf1 ♖c4† 36.♙g1 ♜xa2 37.♜a4 e5
38.f3 ♜h6 39.♜b3†
1–0

Xzibit - Sergey82
ICC 3 0 2010
[A37] [Xzibit]

This game follows Marin's GM Repertoire quite far, so we asked for Xzibit's permission to use the notes he had put on the Chess Publishing noticeboard.

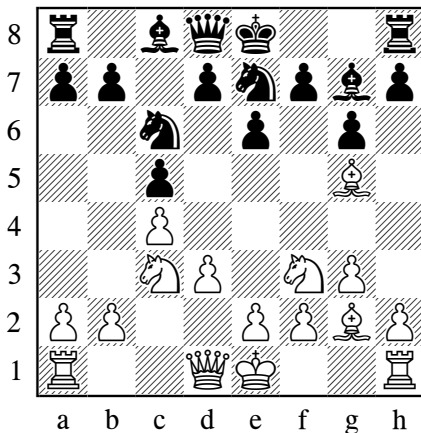
1.c4

My opponent here is an IM presumably born in 1982 and has a blitz rating on ICC of 3200, best of 3300 so obviously he is a very strong player!

1...c5 2.g3 g6 3.♜g2 ♜g7 4.♘c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3 e6

This is one of the lines I always couldn't remember what to do. Originally I wanted to play the 6.e3 Nge7 7.d4 line but it's rather dry. I have never tried 6.d4 so I looked in Marin's book.

6.d3 ♘ge7 7.♜g5

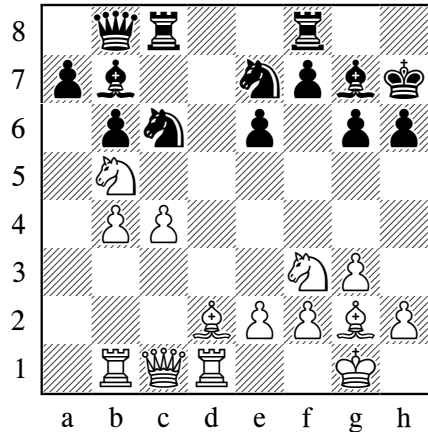


The move suggested by Marin, aiming to improve on Petrosian-Fischer by provoking ...h6. This is based on some games by Jobava mostly as has been established in the long thread about the Marin books on Chesspub.

7...h6 8.♜d2 d5 9.a3 b6 10.0–0 ♜b7 11.♜b1 0–0 12.b4 cxb4 13.axb4 dxc4 14.dxc4 ♜c8 15.♞c1

All according to plan and here is the move that makes sense of Bg5-d2. The tempo is recovered since the h6 pawn is attacked and white has time for Rd1 etc.

15...♙h7 16.♜d1 ♞c7 17.♘b5 ♞b8



18.♘d6!

A novelty from Marin and this I could all play really fast which is obviously fairly important in a 3-minutegame!

18...♜c7 19.♘xb7 ♜xb7 20.b5 ♘d8 21.♜b4

Marin's line ends here as much better for white. I remembered this all and could play it fast and indeed white stands significantly better.

21...♜e8

It's hard to suggest moves here.

22.♜d6

22.♖e1 might be the simplest way. White wins an exchange as the rook has no squares. 22...Rc7 23.Bd6

22...♖c8 23.♗e5 ♗f5 24.♙xb7 ♗xb7

24...♖xb7 at least defends the f7 pawn but white is still in control up the exchange for little compensation if any.

25.♗xf7 ♖g8 26.g4

26.e4 must be better, not weakening the king! I must have been afraid of ...Nd4 type moves which is just seeing ghosts.

26...♖xf7 27.gxf5 gxf5 28.♙f4

I might not have selected the best way to realize the advantage. But my position is much better and should be winning. In a 3-minute game it's easy to go wrong and in time trouble I allowed him a perpetual check after some clumsy moves. So the end of this game is not important but we'll give it anyway.

28...♙g8 29.♖f1 ♗c5 30.♙xh6 ♖b7 31.f3 ♙f6 32.♙f4 ♖e8 33.♙g3 ♖g7 34.♖f4 ♖f7 35.♖c7† ♖g6 36.♖xg7† ♙xg7 37.♙d6 ♙h7 38.♙bd1 ♙g5 39.♖g2 ♖f6 40.♙f2 ♙f4 41.♙xc5 ♙xh2† 42.♖g1 bxc5 43.♙d7 ♙h6 44.♙xa7 ♙e3† 45.♖g2 ♙g6† 46.♖h3 ♙h6† 47.♖g3 ♙g6† 48.♖h2 ♙h6† 49.♖g2 ♙g6† 50.♖h1 ♙h6† 51.♖g2 ♙g6† 52.♖h3 ♙h6† 53.♖g3 ♙g6† 54.♖h4 ♙h6†

Game drawn by mutual agreement 1/2-1/2

Aagaard - Bryson
Glasgow League 2011
[B01] [J. Aagaard]

This game was played with one hour to the first 30 moves (and in theory 15 minutes to the end). Douglas and I play 1-2 times a year, and because of the tricky league system, where a draw of lots are held, I am White in

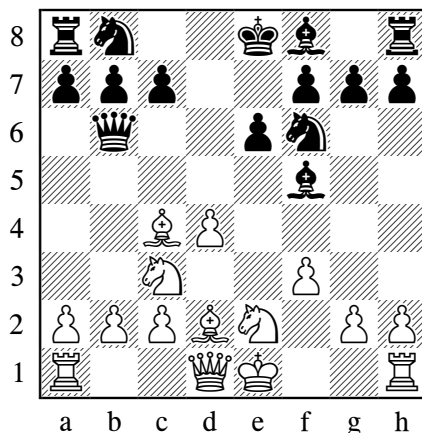
almost all games. This spring I won twice in the Scandinavian. One of them was interesting and relates to Christian Bauer's Play the Scandinavian - page 172.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♗c3 ♖a5 4.d4 ♗f6 5.♙c4 ♙g4 6.f3 ♙f5 7.♙d2 ♖b6

7...♗c6? 8.♗d5 ♗xd5 9.♙xa5 ♗e3 10.♖d2 ♗xc4 11.♖f4±

8.♗ge2 e6

8...♗c6? 9.♗a4+-



9.g4

9.a4! is an interesting idea that might lead to an edge. There are a few points to it. One in particular is that ...a5 gives White the b5-square.

9...a5 Guizar - Hynes, e-mail 2006. 10.g4!N ♙g6 11.h4 h5!

11...h6?! 12.♗f4 ♗c6 (12...♙h7 13.g5 hxg5 14.hxg5 ♙xc2 15.♙xh8 ♙xd1 16.gxf6 gxf6 17.♙xd1 ♗d7 18.♗fd5!!+-) 13.♗xg6 ffg6 14.♗b5! The point. 14...♗xd4□ 15.♗xd4 ♖xd4 16.♖e2♖ ♖xb2 17.♖xe6† ♖d8 18.♙d1 ♙d6 19.♙b5 ♙a6 20.♖c4 12.g5 ♗fd7 13.♗f4 ♗c6 14.♗b5 ♗xd4 15.♗xg6 ffg6 16.♙c3 ♗f5 17.♖e2 0-0-0 18.0-0-0 ♙c5 19.♖xe6 c6 20.♗a3 ♙b4 21.♖xg6 ♙xc3 22.bxc3 ♖c5 23.♖b2 ♗e3

24. ♖d4±

Obviously such a long computer line will contain at least 50% bullshit.

9...a6N 10.a5 ♖d6 11. ♕f4 ♖d7 12.d5 exd5 13. ♕xd5!±

9... ♖c6N 10.a5 ♖xb2 11. ♖b5 0–0–0
11... ♕xc2 12. ♖c1 ♖xc1† 13. ♖xc1 0–0–0
14. ♖xc2 a6 15. ♖bc3±
12. ♖a2 ♕xc2 13. ♖xb2 ♕xd1 14. ♖xd1 a6
15. ♖bc3±

9...c6 10.a5 ♖c7 Koshtenko - Moroz, Alushta 2002. 11. ♖g3N ♕g6 12. ♖ge4± ... ♕e7 13.0–0–0 And now 14. ♕e1! is the idea.

9... ♕g6 10.h4 h6

Although Black has made three moves with the queen, the opening is probably ok for him. I don't see anything concrete...

11. ♖f4 ♕h7?

This is a big mistake it seems. Bauer correctly points to 11... ♖c6! as the best move, although I don't think he has the best reply as his main line:

12. ♕b5!
12. ♖xg6 fxg6 13. ♖e2 e5 14.c3 exd4 15. ♖b3 ♖xb3 16. ♕xb3 ½–½ Movsesian - Azarov, Dresden 2007. Overall Black cannot be unhappy about the outcome of the opening. Probably he should have played on.

12...0–0–0 13. ♕xc6 ♖xc6 14. ♖xg6 fxg6 15. ♖e2

The position here holds advantages and possibilities for both players.

15... ♖b8
15... ♖xg4 16. ♖g1 ♖f6 17.0–0–0 ♖xd4
18. ♖b5 ♖a4 19. ♖xg6∞

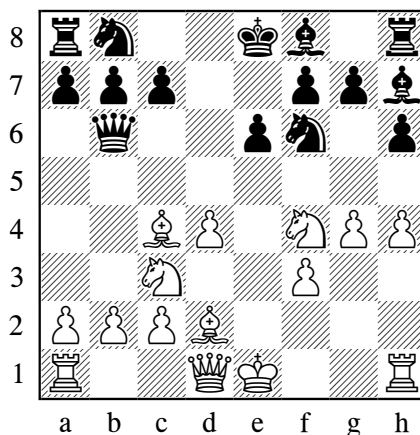
16.0–0–0∞ ♖xd4?! 17. ♕xh6 ♖d7

17... ♕a3!± 18. ♖b1±

18. ♕g5± ♕d6 19. ♖b1 e5 20. ♖he1 ♖f7 21. ♖d3 ♖d7 22. ♖xg6 ♖xf3 23. ♖e3 ♖f2 24. ♖e4

♖f8 25. ♖xd6 cxd6 26. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 27. ♕e7 d5 28. ♖xe5 ♖g6 29. ♕d6† ♖c8 30. ♖exd5 ♖xh4 31. ♕g3

1–0 Zelcic - Boettger, Dresden 2007. Nice, but White was the much stronger player.



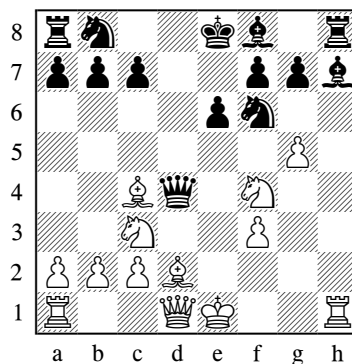
12.g5!±N

Not the best move, but in a league game you often go for the most fun.

12.d5! e5 13. ♖e2 ♖bd7 14.0–0–0 0–0–0 15. ♖d3 ♖d4 Thuesen - N.J. Fries Nielsen, Copenhagen 1991. And now 16. ♖f2!N with a clear edge for White (Bauer).

12...hxg5 13.hxg5 ♕xc2?

I was afraid of 13... ♖xd4, but White has a strong move (I never considered).



14. ♕xe6!! ♖e5†

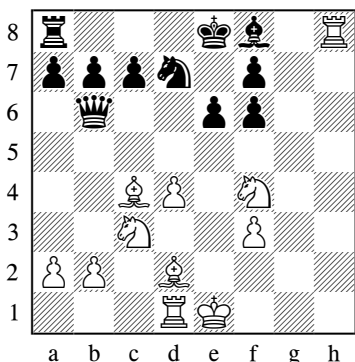
14...fxe6 15. ♖e2 e5 16.0–0–0+

14...♙xc2 15.♖xh8 ♕xd1 16.♙xf7†!! ♔xf7
17.♖xf8†+-
15.♖e2 ♖xe2† 16.♔xe2 fxe6 17.gxf6 gxf6
18.♖h5+-

However, 13...♗c6! was the best move. 14.g6!
(14.gxf6 ♗xd4) 14...0-0-0 (14...♗xd4
15.gxh7 ♖xh7 16.♖xh7 ♗xh7) 15.gxh7 ♖xh7
16.♖xh7 ♗xh7∞ e.g. 17.♙e3 ♗xd4 18.♔f2
♖xb2 19.♙xd4 ♙c5 20.♙xc5 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1
♖xc3 22.♗xe6 ♖xc2† 23.♔e1 ♖c3† 24.♔f2
♖c2†=

14.♖xh8 ♕xd1 15.gxf6 ♖xd4?!

Too many moves with the queen. 15...gxf6
16.♖xd1 ♗d7 was the best defence, but White
is better:



17.♗fd5!!

I had not seen this, I was thinking of
17.♗fe2 at first (when I played 12.g5) or
to play 17.d5!!? e5! (I believed he could play
17...0-0-0 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.♙xe6 ♖e8 ,
but had missed 20.♖xf8!+-) 18.♗g2 0-0-0
19.♗e3±)

17...exd5 18.♗xd5

a) 18...♖d6 19.♙f4 ♖e6† 20.♔f2 0-0-0
21.♙xc7 ♖c6 (21...♖e8 22.♗b6†+-) 22.♙b3
♖e8 23.♙f4 ♗d8 24.♖c1 ♖a6 25.♙c7† ♔c8
26.♙g3† (26.♗f4 ♖b5 27.♖c3+-) 26...♔d8
27.♙c4 ♖a4 28.♙c7† ♔c8 29.♙f4 ♗d8
30.♗c7 ♖e7 31.♗b5+-

b) 18...♖c6 19.♖c1 0-0-0 20.♖xf8 ♖e6†
21.♗e3 ♖h3 22.♖xd8† ♔xd8 23.♔e2+-

c) 18...♖e6† 19.♔f2 0-0-0 20.♙a5! ♖f5
(20...♗e5 21.♗b6† axb6 22.♙xe6† fxe6
23.♙c3+-) 21.♖xf8 ♖c2† 22.♖d2 ♖xd2†
23.♙xd2 ♗xf8 24.♙c3±;

15...g5!? 16.♗h5 ♗c6 17.♗g7† ♔d7 18.♖xd1
♗xd4 19.♙xg5±

16.♖xd1 ♗d7

16...g5 17.♗b5 ♖e5† 18.♗e2 ♗d7 19.♙c3
♖c5 20.♗xc7† ♖xc7 21.♙b5 0-0-0 22.♙xd7†
♔b8 23.♙a4+-

16...♖xf6 17.♗e4! (I had planned 17.♗b5?!
♗a6 (But 17...♖e5†! 18.♗e2 ♗a6± is not
crystal clear.) 18.♗xc7† ♗xc7 19.♙b4+-)
17...♖xb2 18.♙xe6! fxe6 19.♗xe6+-

16...gxf6 17.♖xf8†! I only had the second
winning option, 17.♙xe6!?, but this is of course
the way to go. 17...♔xf8 18.♗xe6†+-

17.♗b5 ♖e5†

17...♖g1† 18.♔e2 ♖c5 19.♗d3 ♖xc4
20.♗xc7† ♖xc7 21.fxg7+-

18.♗e2 0-0-0

18...g5 19.♙c3 ♖c5 20.♗xc7† ♖xc7 21.♙b5
0-0-0 22.♙xd7† ♔b8 23.♙a4+-

19.♗xa7† ♔b8 20.♙c3 ♖g5 21.♖xd7 ♖xd7
22.fxg7
1-0

A. Rombaldoni - Dvirnyy

Italian Ch. Siena 2010

[B01] [J. Aagaard]

This game, played in the 70th Italian
Championship last year. It is relevant to page
126 in Christian Bauer's Play the Scandinavian
by a very minor transposition.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♗c3 ♜a5 4.♗f3 ♗f6
5.d4 ♗f5 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗d2 ♗b4 8.0-0

Christian does not really consider this move, but the position is quickly back on track. [Christian's move order is 8.a3 ♗xc3 9.♗xc3 ♖b6 10.0-0 ♗c6!.

8...♗c6 9.a3 ♗xc3 10.♗xc3 ♖b6

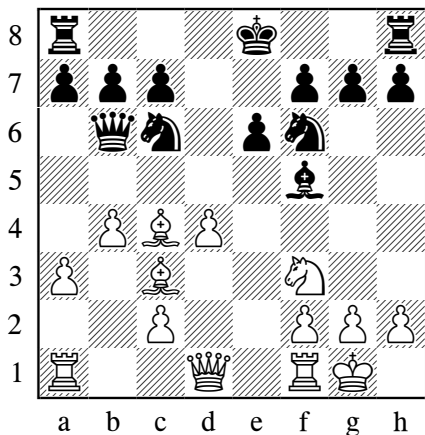
By transposition we are back in Christian's book.

11.b4

Christian does not consider this move, which looks like an omission (although you cannot cover everything, of course). However, he does consider:

11.a4 a5 12.♗b5 0-0 13.♗d2 ♗b4 14.♗c4 ♖a7 15.♗e3 ♗g6= Bruned - Strikovic, Pamplona 2005.

11.♖e1 0-0 12.b4 ♗e4 13.♗g5 ♗f5 14.♗f3 ♗e4= 15.♗d2? ♗xc2 16.♗e2 a6 17.♗c4 ♖a7= Naiditsch - Papaioannou, Novi Sad 2009.



11...0-0!N

This logical move looks best.

A previous game went: 11...♗e4 12.♗b2 0-0 and now White can play to advance the c-pawn with reasonable hopes of an advantage: 13.♗e2 ♖fd8 14.c4 a6 15.♖c1 ♗e7 16.♖e1±

Fedorchuk - Prie, Nantes 2009. Black has come from the opening in less than an optimal way.

12.b5

12.♖e1 ♗g4! =

12...♗e7

12...♗e4!? 13.bxc6 (13.♗b2 ♗a5 14.♗d3 ♗d6=) 13...♗xc3 14.♖e1 ♗d5 15.cxb7 ♖xb7 16.♖b1 ♗b6=

13.♗b4 ♖fe8 14.♖e1

14.♗e5! seems to be the most challenging approach. Still Black should be ok with 14...c6! 15.a4 ♗ed5 16.♗c5 ♖c7=.

14...♗d7□ 15.a4 a5

15...c5!?

16.bxa6 bxa6 17.a5 ♖a7∞

As far as I can see, Black has left the opening with a decent position.

18.♗b3

18.♗xe7 ♖xe7 19.♖e2 c5 20.d5 ♗f6=

18...c5 19.♗c3 ♖ec8 20.♗a4 ♗d5 21.♗xd7 ♖xd7 22.♗b2 c4 23.♖e2 ♖b5 24.♗a3 c3 25.♖d1 ♖a4 26.♗e1 ♖xa5 27.♗d3 ♗xd3 28.♖xd3 ♖b5 29.♖g3 ♖e2 30.♖ac1 ♖e4 31.♗d6 a5 32.♖fe1 ♖g6 33.♖f3 ♖a6 34.♗a3 ♖b6 35.g3 h6 36.♖e5 ♖cb8 37.♖d1 a4 38.h4 f6 39.h5 ♖e8 40.♖e4 ♖d7 41.♖e2 ♗c7 42.♗h2 ♖b1 43.♖e1 ♖d5 44.♖d3 ♖xh5† 45.♗g1 ♖d5 46.♗c1 ♗b5 47.♖e3 ♖b6 48.♖g4 g5 49.♗h2 ♗g7 50.f4 ♖f5 51.d5 ♗c7 52.fxg5 ♖xg4 53.gxf6† ♗f7 54.♖xh6 ♖g6 55.♖f4 ♖xc2† 56.♗g1 ♗xd5

0-1

Hartvig - M. Haubro

Danish Championship 2011

[B43] [J. Aagaard]

Winner of the Quality Chess sponsored prize for the best game over 1900 at the Danish Championship 2011.

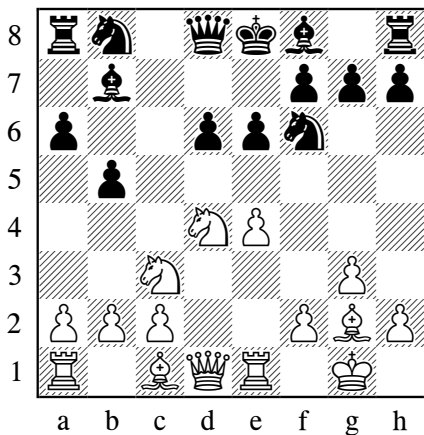
1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6
5.♟c3 a6 6.g3 b5?

Moving the e-pawn is standard here. I am a bit dubious about this move.

7.♟g2 ♟b7 8.0-0

8.a4!? has a great score in the databases. It looks like a normal reaction.

8...e6 9.♟e1



9...♟c7

9...♟bd7? 10.e5 ♟xg2?

10...dxe5 11.♟xb7 exd4 12.♟xa8 ♟xa8
13.♟xd4± is not enough compensation, but necessary.

11.exf6 ♟b7 12.♟xe6! fxe6 13.♟xe6† ♟f7
14.fxg7 ♟xg7

14...♟xg7 15.♟xd6+-

15.♟g4† ♟f7 16.♟f5†

16.♟g5!

16...♟g8

16...♟f6 17.♟d5 ♟xd5 18.♟xf6† ♟xf6

19.♟xd5†+-

17.♟d5 ♟e5 18.♟xe5 1-0 Herb -Nikolaidis, France 2002.

9...♟d7! is perhaps the best move, but the

position is dodgy. 10.a4 b4 11.♟a2 a5 12.♟b5
♟c6 13.c3± Kalignin - Rychagov, Kazan 2007.

10.a4! bxa4 11.♟d5! exd5

11...♟xd5 12.exd5 e5 13.♟xa4+-

12.exd5† ♟d8 13.♟g5

13.♟xa4!?

13...♟bd7 14.♟e2

14.♟c6†±

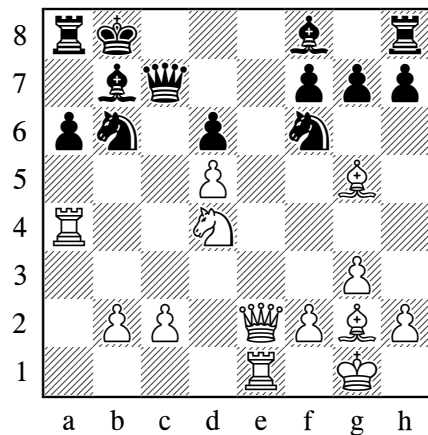
14...♟c8?!

14...♟c5 15.♟c6† ♟c7 16.♟e3 ♟e8! 17.♟d2
♟xe3 18.♟xe3 ♟xc6 19.♟c3 ♟b5 20.♟xc5†
♟xc5±

15.♟a3

15.♟xa4!?

15...♟b8 16.♟xa4 ♟b6



17.♟xf6! gxf6

17...♟xa4 18.♟e8† ♟c8 19.♟xa4 gxf6
20.♟b4† ♟b7 21.♟c6† ♟c7 22.♟c3!+-

18.♟e8†

18.♟b4! is probably stronger, but an effective attack does not have to be mathematical flawless to be appreciated.

18...♟c8 19.♟xf7 ♟c7?

19...♖d7! 20.♗e8† (20.♗xf6 ♕g7!)=
20...♗xe8 21.♞xe8† ♕c8±

20.♞e8† ♕c8 21.♘c6† ♖b7 22.♘d8†

White finds an elegant win and it is no reduction of the greatness of the game that there was a beautiful double rook sacrifice winning as well.

22.♘a5†!? ♖b8 23.♞xc8†! ♘xc8 24.♞b4†
♘b6 25.♞xb6† ♗xb6 26.♘c6† ♖c8 27.♕h3†
f5 28.♕xf5#

22...♖b8 23.♞b4!

White's attack is even unstoppable in the endgame.

23...♞a7

23...♗xf7 24.♘xf7 ♞g8 25.♞xb6† ♖a7
26.♞b3 ♕b7 27.♘d8! is equally hopeless.

24.♗h5 ♕g7 25.♘c6† ♖b7 26.♞e7 ♕d7
27.♞xg7+- ♞aa8 28.♕h3 ♖c8 29.♞xb6 ♗xb6
30.♞xd7
1-0

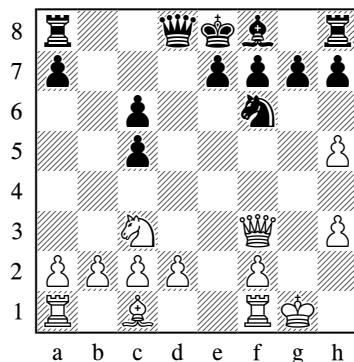
Bologan comparison

[B51] [A. Greet]

A recent double-review of Experts on the Anti-Sicilian and Bologan's The Rossolimo Sicilian came out to Tiger Hillarp-Persson's advantage. The full review can be found here: <http://www.chessvibes.com/reviews/having-fun-with-the-anti-sicilians> We did a small comparison of the two books:

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♕b5 d6 4.0-0

4.♕xc6† bxc6 Coverage starts in p78 of Experts. 5.0-0 ♕g4 6.h3 (6.c3 ♘f6 7.d3 p42 Bologan. Not in Experts at all. [7.♞e1 see Experts p81]) 6...♕h5 7.e5 dxe5 8.g4 e4 9.gxh5 exf3 10.♘c3 ♘f6 11.♗xf3

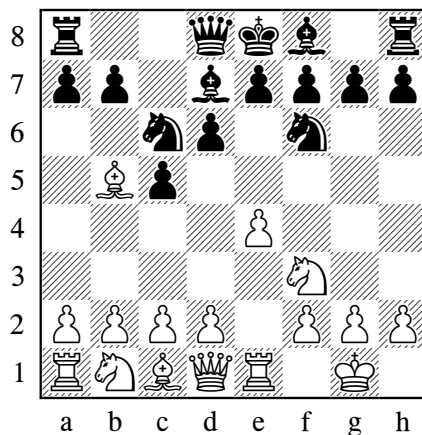


a) 11...♗d7 Tiger gives this as a second option. 12.d3 g6 13.h6 ♘d5 14.♘e4 ♗f5 15.♗g2± according to Bologan.(Tiger only mentions 15.♗xf5 gxf5)

b) 11...♞c8 is mentioned by Tiger but not by Bologan.

c) 11...♘d5 Experts p81; not considered by Bologan.

4...♕d7 5.♞e1 ♘f6



6.c3

6.h3 g6 7.c3 ♘e5 8.♕xd7† ♘fxd7 9.♘xe5 dxe5 This was a last-minute addition in Experts. Bologan cites the following game: 10.d3 ♕g7 11.♕e3 0-0 12.♘d2 ♗c7 13.♗b3 ♞fd8 14.♞ad1 a6 15.a4 ♞ab8 16.♗a3 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.♞a1 (According to Bologan the game

continued 18.c4± see page 69) 18...e6 19.c4± ½-½ Predojevic - Jankovic, Pula 2005.

6...a6 7.♙a4

7.♙f1 ♙g4 Tiger gives more thorough coverage than Bologan here, for instance 8.d4!? p88; 7.♙xc6 (p93 Tiger) is not mentioned by VB.

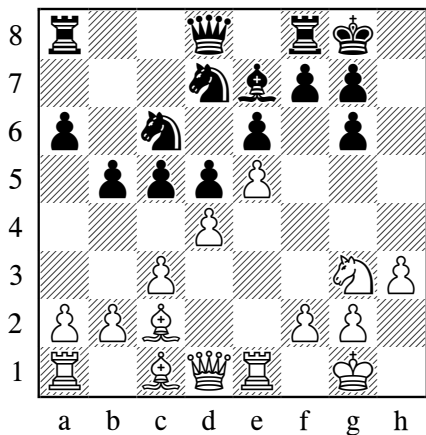
7...b5

p83 Bologan

8.♙c2 ♙g4 9.d3 e6 10.♘b2 ♙e7 11.h3 ♙h5 12.♘f1 0-0 13.♘g3 ♙g6 14.♘h4 d5 15.♘g6 hxg6 16.e5

Bologan mentions 16.f4!? d4 17.a3 ♖c7 18.e5 ♘d5 19.c4 bxc4 20.dxc4 ♘b6 21.♙d3 ♙h4 22.♘h2 a5 23.♖g4 ♙xg3† 24.♘xg3± 1-0 Pikula - Agopov, Novi Sad 2009.

16...♘d7 17.d4



17...b4

Tiger mentions this move on p100, without any further comment. Bologan gives it as his main line, focusing on the following game:

18.♘e2 ♖c7 19.a3 bxc3 20.bxc3 ♜fc8 21.♙d3 cxd4 22.cxd4 ♖a7 23.♙e3 ♙d8 24.♜c1 ♘b6 25.♘f4 ♘e7 26.♖g4 ♜xc1 27.♜xc1 ♜c8 28.♜xc8 ♘bxc8 29.♙xg6 fxg6 30.♖xc6† ♘f8 31.♘xg6† ♘xg6 32.♖xc8

♖c7 33.♖xa6±

½-½ Akopian - Tregubov, Kemer 2007

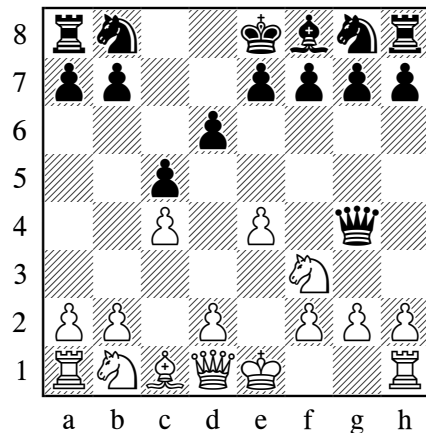
Tiger's main illustrative game continues 17...♜c8 18.♘e2 b4 19.♙d3 bxc3 20.bxc3 ♖a5 21.♙d2 cxd4 22.cxd4 ♙b4 23.♙xb4 ♘xb4 24.a3 ♘xd3 25.♖xd3 ♜c4 26.♜eb1 ♘b8 27.♜b3 ♘c6 28.♜ab1 ♜c8 29.g3 ♘a7 30.♘g2 ♘b5 31.♜1b2 ♜a4 32.♖f3 ♜cc4 33.h4 ♖d8 34.♖e3 ♖c7 35.♖d3 ♖c6 36.♘h2 ♖c7 37.♘g2 ♖e7 38.♖e3 ♜c8 39.♘c3 ♘xc3 40.♜xc3 ♜ac4 41.♜bc2 ♖c7 42.♜xc4 dxc4 43.♜c3 ♖c6† 44.♘h2 ♖d5 45.♜c1 ♘f8 46.♖c3 a5 47.♜b1 ♜d8 48.♜d1 g5 49.hxg5 ♘e7 50.♘g1 ♜h8 51.f3 g6 52.♜c1 ♜c8 53.♘f2 ♖b5 54.♜c2 ♘f8 55.g4 ♘g7 56.♘g3 a4 57.♜b2 ♖d5 58.♜b4 ♖c6 59.♘g2 ♘g8 60.♘g3 ♘g7 61.♘g2 ♘g8 62.♘f2 ♘g7 63.♘g3 ½-½ Pavasovic - Petkov, Zadar 2005

Moscow Variation - 5...♖g4

[B52] [A. Greet]

It was pointed out by readers that I did not cover 5...♖g4 in his article in Experts on the Anti-Sicilian. This was by no means an omission - the book is not a repertoire book and is not trying to cover everything. This does not mean that we cannot give a quick guide to how White should play against this move :-).

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5† ♙d7 4.♙xd7† ♖xd7 5.c4 ♖g4



This pawn-grab is extremely risky. Even a boring git like me is happy to sacrifice and attack from here!

6.0-0 ♖xe4 7.d4 cxd4

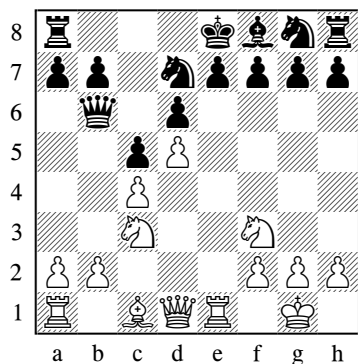
This has been the most popular choice, so I will take it as the main line. Objectively I am not sure what the best move is, as Black just seems to be struggling everywhere.

This variation has only occurred once in my own practice. The game continued as follows:

7...♘d7 8.♘c3 ♖c6 9.d5

9.♞e1 is also good, but I decided to gain space and close the centre.

9...♞b6 10.♞e1



10...h6?! A bit slow.

Black should prefer 10...♘gf6 as seen in Barinova - Y. Ivanova, Dagomys 2004. Here I think White should play the simple 11.♞b1 intending to open the queenside, just as I did in the game. Black is still unable to castle due to ♘g5.

11.♞b1 g6

Black's development is painfully slow.

12.b4 cxb4 13.♙e3 ♖a5 14.♘b5 ♘d8 15.a3!

There were other good moves, but I like the idea of opening even more lines.

15...bxa3 16.♞a1 a6 17.♞xa3 axb5 18.♞xa5 ♞xa5

So far everything has gone smoothly and had I played something sensible like

19.♞d2N

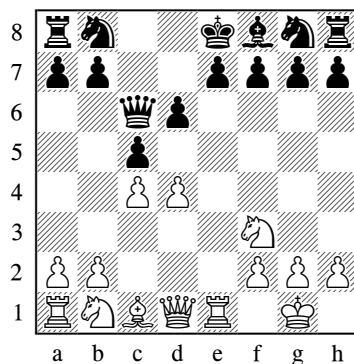
Instead I tried to be too clever and played 19.♙b6†? ♘xb6 20.♞d4, after which 20...♘d7 21.♞xh8 ♘gf6 22.cxb5 ♞xb5 gave Black some chances to survive in Greet - Formanek, Hastings 2008, although I did manage to win eventually.

19...♞a8 20.♞b2 ♘gf6 21.♞xb5

The win would have been close.

7...♞c6 8.♞e1

8.♘c3 allows Black to contemplate 8...cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♞xc4!? which looks terribly risky but might just be playable.



8...cxd4

Taking the pawn is too risky now.

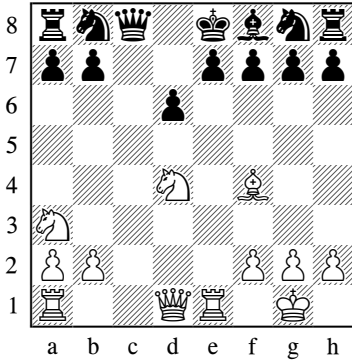
Another game continued 8...♘a6 9.♘c3 ♞d7 10.♘b5!? ♘c7 11.dxc5 ♘xb5 12.cxb5 dxc5 13.♞b3 ♘f6 Tolentino - Halay, Manila 2007. Here 14.♙f4 looks right, for instance: 14...e6 15.♞ad1 ♞c8 16.♞a4 b6 17.♘e5 ♙e7 18.♘c6 ♞b7 19.♘xe7 ♞xe7 20.♙d6 ♞b7 21.♞c4 Black is unable to castle, and White will soon open more lines with b4.

9.♘xd4 ♞xc4!?

9...♞d7 looks like the lesser evil, although Black is still struggling: 10.♘b5! e5? Too weakening. (10...e6 11.♙f4 regains the pawn while keeping some initiative for White, but still Black had to try this.) 11.♘1c3 a6 12.♞a4 ♘c6 13.♘d5 ♞c8 14.♘b6 White won material in C. Garcia - T. Davis, Los Angeles 1996.

10. ♖a3 ♜c8 11. ♕f4

White has a huge initiative, as demonstrated by the following two games:



11... ♗d7 12. ♖ab5 e5 13. ♕xe5 dxe5 14. ♜xe5 ♗e7 15. ♜d5 ♜c8 16. ♖f5 ♗f8 17. ♖xe7 ♗xe7 18. ♜e5 † 1-0 Browne - Quinteros, Wijk aan Zee 1974.

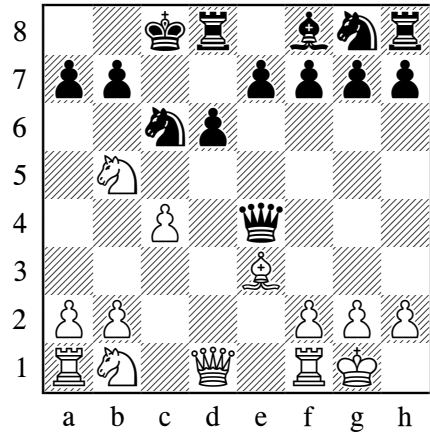
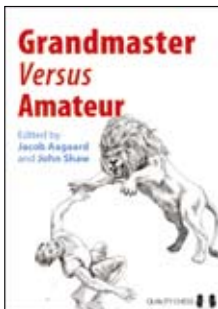
11... e5 12. ♕xe5 dxe5 13. ♜xe5 ♖e7 14. ♖ab5 ♗d7 15. ♖f5 ♖bc6 16. ♖fd6 † ♗d8 17. ♖xf7 † ♗c8 18. ♗xd7 † ♗xd7 19. ♜d1 † ♗c8 20. ♜e6 g6 21. ♖xh8 1-0 Medeiros de O - Clerici, corr. 1986.

8. ♖xd4

8. ♜e1 seems slightly less accurate, as after 8... ♗g4 White cannot take on d4 without allowing a queen exchange. 9. h3 ♗d7 The queen has escaped to a safe location, and White has expended a tempo in a less than ideal way with h2-h3.

8... ♖c6 9. ♖b5 0-0-0 10. ♕e3

It is obvious that White has more than enough play for a pawn. Black has tried a number of moves here, none of which solve his problems.



10...a6

10...b6 Maciaga - Kosturkiewicz, Wysowa 2003. 11. ♗a4N ♗b7 12. ♖1c3 White has a huge attack, with ♖d5 coming next.

Black ignored the threat with 10... ♖f6 in Barnsley - Stimpson, corr. 1973. For some reason White refrained from capturing on a7 here, but actually both 11. ♖xa7 † and 11. ♕xa7 would have given him a great position.

10... ♗xc4 Ungure - Belakovskaia, Simferopol 1992. 11. ♖1a3N ♗b4 12. ♜c1 Black is about to get mangled on the queenside.

10... ♗b8 11. ♗a4 (11. ♖d2) 11...a6 This was Pernigotti - Passoni, Italy 2004, and here 12. ♖1c3N ♗h4 13. ♜ad1 would have given White a powerful initiative.

11. ♖1c3 ♗xc4 12. b3 ♗h4

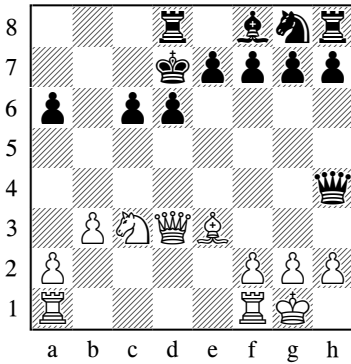
12... ♗b4 was played in Velker - Limayo, e-mail 1998. White should simply have played 13. a3N forcing 13... ♗h4, after which 14. ♖a7 † is virtually identical to the main game.

13. ♖a7 † ♗b8

13... ♖xa7 14. ♕xa7 ♖f6 15. ♜c1 ♗d7 16. ♖d5 is winning, as pointed out by Baburin.

13... ♗d7! is mentioned as the best try by

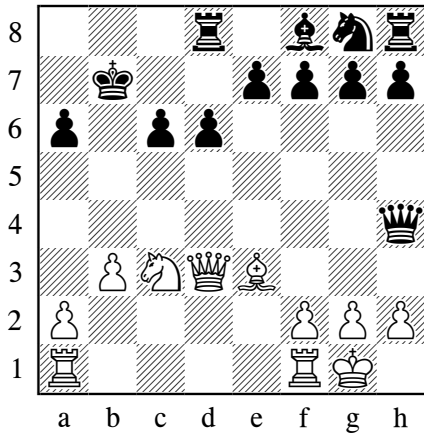
Baburin. He is probably right, although the simple 14. ♖xc6 bxc6 15. ♖d3



leaves Black with a rotten position and it is hard to believe his king will survive for much longer.

14. ♖xc6† bxc6 15. ♖d3 ♖b7

Meier - Haroutjunian, Plovdiv 2008.



16. ♖e4!N

This improvement was noted by Baburin. Here are a few illustrative lines:

16... ♖f6

16... e5? 17. ♗g5+; 16... ♖h5 17. ♖c5†+-

17. ♖c5† ♖c7 18. ♖xa6† ♖d7 19. ♗ac1

Black is busted.

Bezemer - Burg

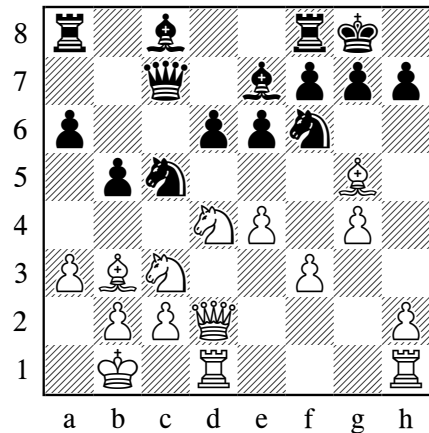
Dutch Championship 2011

[B94] [J. Aagaard]

I found this game in ChessVibes weekly magazine. It has quite an original idea; but Black seems to be ok after accurate play.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♗g5 ♖bd7 7. ♗c4 ♖b6 8. ♗b3 e6 9. ♖d2 ♗e7 10. 0-0-0 ♖c5 11. ♖3 0-0 12. ♖b1 ♖c7 13. g4 b5 14. a3

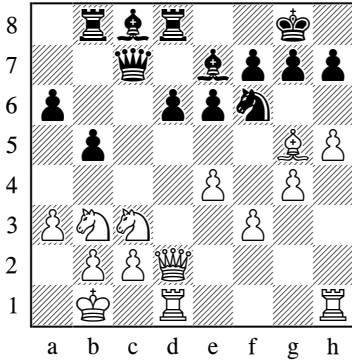
I have spent (too much/a terribly lot of time) on this line. It is really very inspired and it seems that only very accurate play can save Black.



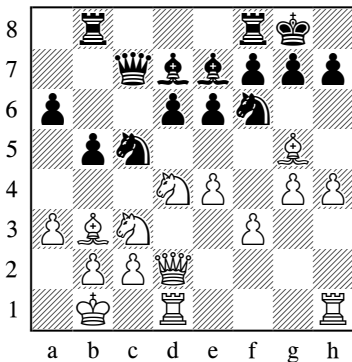
14... ♗d7!

14... ♖b8?! turns out to lead to a bit of a bother. 15. h4 ♗d7

15... ♖xb3 does not look to be enough. Black has no obvious follow-up after 16. ♖xb3! (16. cxb3 seems weakening. If Black did not have time for ...b4, I would like this. But not if he actually can play it... 16... b4 17. axb4 ♖xb4 18. ♖f5 ((18. ♖d5 ♖xd5 19. exd5 ♖b6∞)) 18... exf5 19. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 20. ♖d5 ♖c5 21. gxf5 ♖xb3 22. ♖xf6† ♖h8 23. ♖hg1 ♗xf5!↗ Palliser in Chess Publishing.) 16... ♖d8 (16... ♗d7? 17. e5+-) 17. h5!



17...h6 (17...b4 18.axb4 ♖xb4 19.h6 g6 20.♙xf6 ♙xf6 21.♘d5±; 17...a5 18.h6 b4 19.axb4 axb4 20.♘d5! exd5 21.hxg7± ♙b7 22.♙xf6 ♙xf6 23.♖xh7 ♙xg7 24.♗dh1 f6 25.g5 ♗d7 26.♚h2+-) 18.♙h4 d5 19.e5 ♚xe5 20.♘e2 ♗d6 21.g5 hxg5 22.♚xg5→)

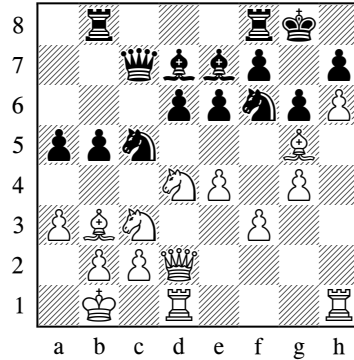


16.h5!N
16.♙xf6 ♙xf6 17.g5 ♙d8 18.h5 a5 19.g6 was Shirov - Dominguez Perez, Wijk aan Zee 2010. Here many commentators, including Ftacnik, has pointed out that 19...♙f6!N would give Black a good game.)

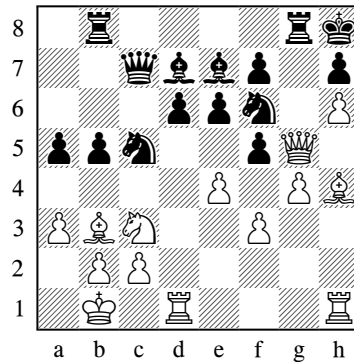
16...a5
16...h6 17.♙xh6! gxh6 18.♚xh6,
17.h6!N

17.♙e3? b4 18.axb4 axb4 19.♘a2 e5 20.g5 exd4 21.♙xd4 ♘xb3 22.cxb3 ♘d5 23.g6 h6 24.gxf7† ♖xf7 25.♖hg1 ♙g5 26.♖xg5 hxg5 27.♚xg5 ♘f4 28.h6 ♘e6 29.♚g6 ♘xd4 30.♖c1 ♙c6 31.h7† ♘h8 0-1 Van Hengel-Bezemer, Amsterdam 2011

17...g6

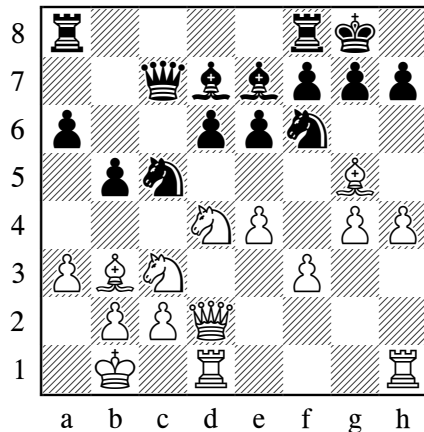


18.♘f5! gxf5?! (18...exf5□ 19.♘d5 ♘xd5 20.♙xe7 ♘xb3 (20...♘xe7 21.♚d4+-) 21.♚xd5± Bezemer) 19.♙h4! ♘h8 20.♚g5 ♖g8



21.♚xf6†! ♙xf6 22.♙xf6† ♖g7 23.hxg7† ♘g8 24.♖xh7 ♘xh7 25.gxf5 exf5 26.♙xf7+-

15.h4



15...♖b7?

This comes close to being lost by force.

15...♖fb8!N

This seems to be the only move.

16.h5!

The critical try.

White can of course go for 16.♙xf6 ♘xf6 17.g5 ♙e7 18.h5 ♖xb3 19.♖xb3 ♙e8∞, but this is hardly something for Black to fear.

16...a5

The most natural move.

16...h6!? This is very risky, but might be playable. 17.♙e3 a5 18.g5 hxg5! (18...b4?! 19.♖cb5! ♙xb5 20.♖xb5 ♖xb5 21.gxf6 ♙xf6 22.a4 ♖b6 23.♙xh6 ♖h7 24.♙f4 ♖d8 25.♙g5→) 19.h6 g6□

17.h6 g6□

Avoiding this move does not work.

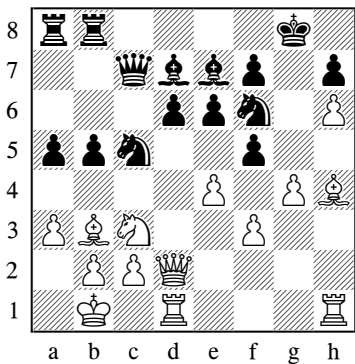
17...♖xb3 18.cxb3 b4 19.♖d5 exd5 20.hxg7 ♖d8 (20...bxa3 21.♙xf6 ♙xf6 22.♖xh7+-) 21.♖h2 h5 22.♙f4+-

18.♖f5!!

Obviously this is the critical idea.

18.♖f4! e5 19.♙xf6! exf4 20.♖d5 ♙xf6! (20...♖a7 21.♖xe7† ♖f8 22.♙d5±) 21.♖xc7 ♖a7 22.♖d5 ♙g5=)

18...gxf5 19.♙h4

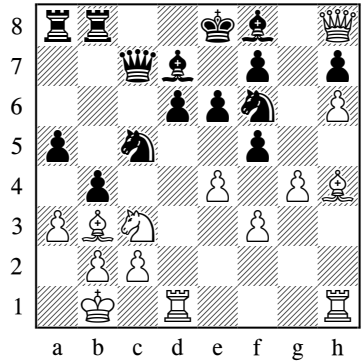


19...♖f8!!

Only this prophylactic works.

19...♖xb3 20.♖g5† ♖f8 21.♖g7† ♖e8 22.♙xf6 ♙xf6 23.♖xf6 ♖d8 24.♖g7 ffg4 25.cxb3→;

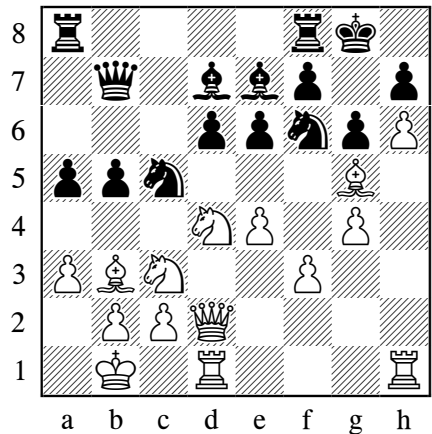
19...b4 20.e5! (20.♖g5† ♖f8 21.♖g7† ♖e8 22.♙xf6 bxc3 23.♙xe7 ♖xe7 24.♖g5† ♖e8 25.gxf5 ♙b5) 20...dxe5 21.♖g5† ♖f8 22.♖g7† ♖e8 23.♙xf6 ♙f8 24.♖h8 bxc3 25.♙xe5 ♖xe5 26.♖xe5 a4 27.♙c4 ♖xb2† 28.♖a1 ♖xc2 29.♖b1+- 20.♖g5 20.e5 ♖xb3! 21.♖g5 ♖e8 22.exf6 ♙f8 23.♖d5 ♖b7 24.gxf5 b4→ 20...♖e8 21.♖g7 b4 22.♖h8† ♙f8



As far as I can see White cannot do more than force a draw.

23.♙xf6 bxc3 24.exf5 ♖xb3 25.cxb3 c2† 26.♖xc2 ♙c6 27.♖hf1 ♖b7 28.♖b1 ♙xf3 29.♖xd6 ♙e4† 30.♖a1 ♖xb3† 31.♖a2 ♙d5 32.fxe6 ♖d2† 33.♖a1 ♖b3† 34.♖a2 fxe6 35.♙g7 ♖d2† 36.♖a1 ♖b3† 37.♖b1 ♖d2† 38.♖c2 ♙b3† 39.♖xd2 ♖g2† 40.♖e1 ♖e4† 41.♖f2 ♖f4† 42.♖g2 ♖xg4† 43.♖h2=

16.h5! a5 17.h6 g6



18. ♖f5! gxf5

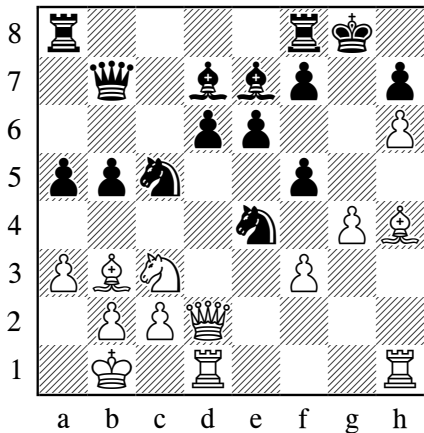
18...exf5 19. ♖d5 ♖xd5 20. ♙xd5 ♙xg5
21. ♚c3!+-

19. ♙h4

19.gxf5! ♖h8 20. ♚xd6! is even easier.

19... ♖fxe4

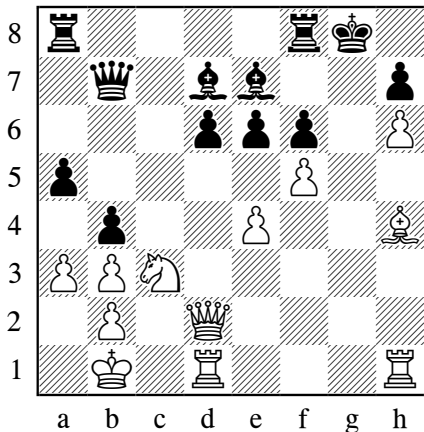
19...♖h8 20. ♚g5 ♖g8 21. ♚xf6† ♙xf6
22. ♙xf6† ♖g7 23. hxc7† ♖g8 24. ♖xh7 ♖xh7
25. gxf5 exf5 26. ♙xf7 and mate follows -
Bezemer.



20. fxe4?!

20. ♖xe4! ♖xb3 (20... ♖xe4 21. fxe4 ♙xh4
22. ♖xh4) 21. cxb3 f6 22. gxf5 ♖h8 23. ♖hg1
exf5 24. ♖xd6 ♚xf3 25. ♖de1+- Bezemer.

20... ♖xb3 21. cxb3 f6 22. gxf5 b4



23. ♚g2?

23. fxe6! ♙xe6 24. ♖d5 ♖h8
24... ♙xd5 25. ♚g2† ♖f7 26. ♚g7† ♖e8
27. exd5
25. ♖xe7 ♚xe7 26. ♚xd6 ♚xd6 27. ♖xd6 ♖ae8
28. ♖g1+- Bezemer.

23... ♖f7 24. ♚g7†

24. fxe6†

24... ♖e8 25. fxe6 bxc3 26. exd7† ♖d8?

26... ♖xd7

27. ♚g2?

27. ♖d3

27... ♚xb3?

27... ♖b8

28. e5 c2† 29. ♚xc2 ♚xc2† 30. ♖xc2 dxe5
31. ♖hg1 ♖a7 32. ♖g7 ♖xd7 33. ♖xh7 ♖xd1
34. ♖xd1 ♖e8 35. ♙e1 ♖g8 36. ♖g7?
36. b4

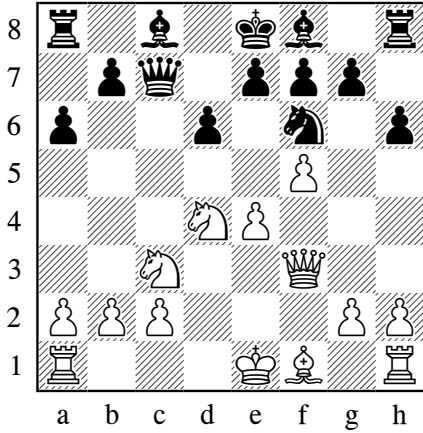
36... ♖h8 37. h7 ♖f8 38. ♖g8† ♖xg8
39. hxc8 ♚† ♖xg8 40. ♙xa5 ♖f7 41. ♙d2 ♖e6
42. b4 ♖d5 43. a4 ♖c4 44. a5 ♖b5 45. ♖e2 f5
46. ♖f3 ♙f8 47. ♙c3 ♙d6 48. ♖e2 ♙c7 49. ♖d3
♙b8 50. ♖e2 ♖c4 51. ♙d2 ♙a7 52. ♙e3 ♙b8
53. a6 ♖xb4 54. a7 ♙xa7 55. ♙xa7 ♖c4
1/2-1/2

Gharamian - Navara

European Championship, Aix-les-Bains 2011
[B94] [J. Aagaard]

Not fully up to date - but anyway, here are some
material on the Blood Diamond Variation.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6
5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♙g5 ♖bd7 7. f4 ♚c7 8. ♚f3 h6
9. ♙xf6 ♖xf6 10. f5

**10...♞c5!**

10...g5?! 11.fxg6 fxg6 12.0-0-0N
 12.♞g3 ♣g8 13.0-0-0 e5 14.♣b3 ♠e6
 15.♣d5 ♠xd5 16.exd5 h5 17.♠d3 ♠h6†
 18.♣b1 0-0-0 19.♠xg6 ♣b8 20.♞d3 ♞g7
 21.♠f5 ♞xg2 22.♣a5 ♣g7= Andriasian -
 Kohlweyer, Balaguer 2010.

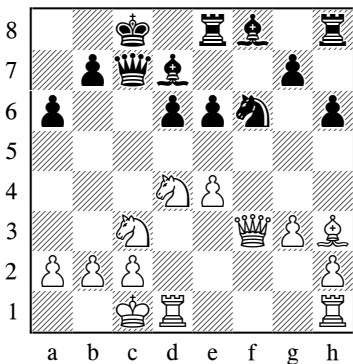
12...♠g7

12...♠g4 13.♣d5±

13.♣d5 ♞a5 14.♣b1 ♣xd5 15.exd5 ♣f8
 16.♞e4 ♠f5 17.♣xf5 gxf5 18.♞c4±

10...e5 11.fxe6 fxe6

a) 12.0-0-0 ♠d7 (12...♠e7N 13.g3 0-0
 14.♠h3 ♣d5 15.♣xd5 exd5 16.♠f5 ♞c4
 17.♞b3 ♞xb3 18.axb3 dxe4 19.♠xe4±) 13.g3
 0-0-0 14.♠h3 ♣e8



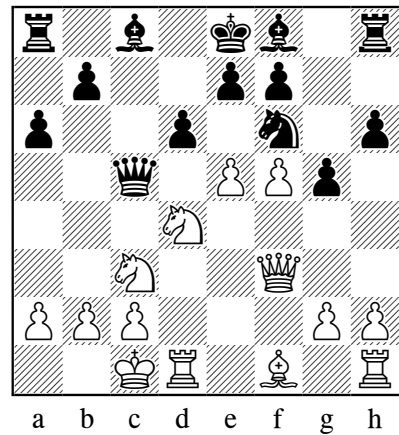
15.♣ce2!N (15.♣he1 ♣h7 16.♞e2 ♣g5

17.♠g4 g6 18.h4 h5 19.hxg5 hxg4∞ Negi -
 Yilmaz, Chotowa 2010.) 15...♞c4 (15...♣b8
 16.♣f4 e5 17.♠xd7 ♞xd7 18.♣g6 ♣g8
 19.♣f5±) 16.♣b1±

b) 12.♠d3 ♠d7 13.e5?! dxe5 14.♠g6† ♣d8
 15.♣de2 ♣c8 16.0-0-0 ♣b8 17.♣g3 ♠b4
 18.♣ce4 ♣d5= Nemeth - Szabo, Szombathely
 2010.

c) 12.g3 e5 (12...♞e7 Pluzyan - Krzyzanowski,
 Batumi 2010. 13.0-0-0±) 13.♣f5 g6 14.♣e3
 ♠g7 15.0-0-0 0-0∞

10...♠d7 11.0-0-0 ♣c8 12.♣b1 ♞c5 13.♣d5±
 Swiercz - Nyzhnyk, Wijk aan Zee 2011.

11.0-0-0 g5 12.e5!N**12...♞xe5!**

12...dxe5 13.♣db5 e4 14.♣xe4 ♣xe4
 15.♞xe4 ♠g7 (15...axb5 16.♣d5+) 16.♣d6†
 ♣f8 17.♣xc8 ♣xc8 18.♣d7±

12...g4 13.♞g3 ♞xe5 14.♠b5† axb5 15.♞xe5
 dxe5 16.♣dxb5 e6 17.♣c7† ♣e7 18.♣xa8
 exf5 19.♣he1 e4±

13.g3 g4!

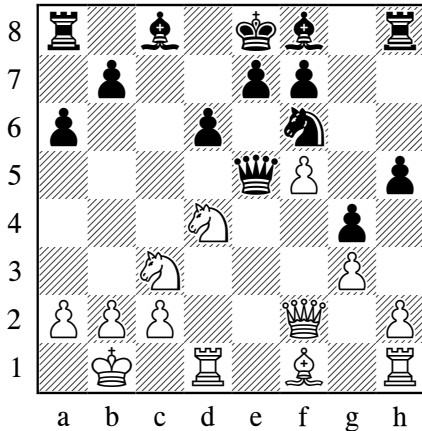
13...♠g7 14.♠g2 ♞c5 15.♣he1±

14. ♖f2 h5!

14... ♖c5 15. ♔g2 ♔d7 16. ♖he1 h5 17. ♖e2
0-0-0 18. ♗e4±

15. ♖b1

15. ♔g2? ♔h6† 16. ♖b1 ♔e3-+

**15... ♔h6!?**

15... h4!? N 16. gxh4 ♔h6 17. ♖e1 ♖f4 18. ♖e2
♖e5 19. ♖f2 ♖f4=

15... ♖c5 16. ♔g2 ♔d7 17. ♖d3 (17. ♖e2 0-0-0
18. ♗e4 ♗xe4 19. ♖xe4 ♖b6! 20. ♖d3 ♔g7?)
17... ♔h6 18. ♖e1 ♖b8 19. ♖e2 0-0∞

16. ♖e1 ♖c5 17. ♔g2± ♔d7 18. ♖e2 0-0
19. ♗b3 ♖xf5?!

19... ♖c7 20. ♖xe7 ♔g7 21. ♗e4 ♗xe4
22. ♔xe4±

20. ♖hf1 ♖g5?!

20... ♖g6 21. ♖xe7 ♖ae8 22. ♖xd6 ♔c8±

21. ♖xe7 ♖ae8 22. ♖xd6± ♖xe1†

22... ♔c8!?

23. ♖xe1 ♖e8 24. ♖xe8† ♔xe8 25. ♔xb7+-
♖e3 26. a4 ♖g1† 27. ♖a2 ♔g7 28. ♖e7 ♔d7
29. ♗d5 ♖f2 30. ♖d8† ♖h7 31. ♗xf6† ♖xf6
32. ♖xf6 ♔xf6 33. ♗c5
1-0

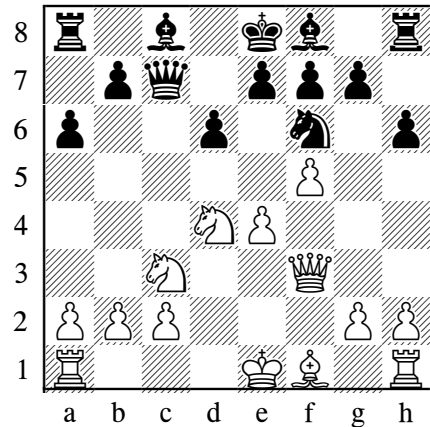
Hector - Berg

Swedish Championship, Vasteras 2011

[B94] [J. Aagaard]

This game was played just before we finished the newsletter. It shows a nice idea for White against a bad idea for Black.

1. e4 c5 2. ♗f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♗f6
5. ♗c3 a6 6. ♔g5 ♗bd7 7. f4 ♖c7 8. ♖f3 h6
9. ♔xf6 ♗xf6 10. f5



10... ♖g8?! 11. 0-0-0 g5 12. e5! dxe5 13. ♗db5
axb5 14. ♗xb5 ♖b8 15. ♖c3+- ♔d7 16. ♗c7†
♗d8 17. ♗xa8 ♖xa8 18. ♔b5 ♖c8 19. ♖a5†
♖c7 20. ♖a8† ♖c8 21. ♖a4! ♖c7 22. ♖d3
♔xf5 23. ♖c3† ♖b8 24. ♖xc8† ♔xc8 25. ♖f1
g4 26. ♖c4 ♔e6 27. ♖c5 h5 28. ♖xe5† ♖a8
29. ♖b1 ♔g7 30. ♖f4 ♖a7 31. ♖c7
1-0

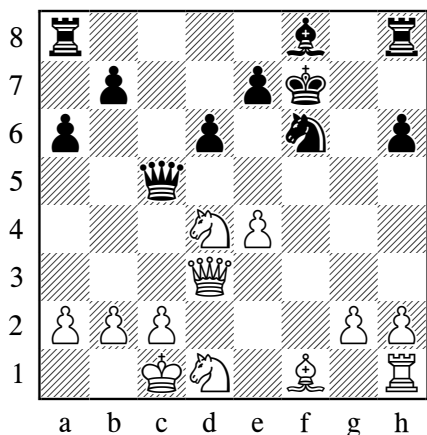
Hector - Volokitin

Schachbundesliga, Essen 2011

[B94] [J. Aagaard]

As always Jonny Hector finds a poisonous idea in his favourite 6. ♔g5 Najdorf.

1. e4 c5 2. ♗f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♗f6
5. ♗c3 a6 6. ♔g5 ♗bd7 7. f4 ♖c7 8. ♖f3
h6 9. ♔xf6 ♗xf6 10. f5 ♖c5 11. 0-0-0 g5
12. fxg6!? ♔g4 13. gxf7† ♖xf7 14. ♖d3 ♔xd1
15. ♗xd1



15... e6?!

15...h5!? 16.g3 ♖c8 17.♙h3 ♗g4 18.e5! ♜xc5 19.♙g2

15...♖c8N 16.g3!± (16.♗e3 ♜e5 17.♜b3† e6 18.♙c4 d5 19.exd5 ♜xd4 20.dxe6† ♗e8 21.♞d1 (21.e7 ♙xe7 22.♙f7† ♗f8 23.♙g6 ♞h7 24.♙xh7 ♗hx7 25.♜e6 ♞e8 26.♜xh6† ♜g7 27.♞f1† ♙f6∞) 21...♙e4 22.♜c3 (22.♗d5 ♗xd5 23.♙xd5 ♜f4† 24.♗b1 ♞c7∞) 22...♙e7 23.♙b5† ♗f8 24.♜xc8† ♗g7 25.♗f5† ♜xf5 26.♜xb7 ♜xe6 27.♜xa6 ♜e3† 28.♗b1 ♞d8±)

15...♜e5! seems to be the way to go.16.♗c3 (16.♜b3† looks dangerous, but Black weathers the storm. 16...d5! 17.♗f3 ♜xe4 18.♙d3 ♜f4† 19.♗b1 e6 (19...b5 20.♜c3∞) 20.♜xb7† ♙e7 21.♞e1 ♜b4 22.♜c7 ♜d6 23.♜c3 ♗d7 Black might beholding his own.) 16...♙g7!N (16...♖c8 17.g3 e6 18.♙h3 ♞e8 19.♞f1 ♜c5 Schaffarczyk - Meissner, Werther 2011. 20.♗ce2!+-) 17.♗f3 (17.g3 ♗d7!±) 17...♜e6∞

16.g3! ♙g7

The following should simply transpose: 16...♞e8 17.♙h3!N (17.♗c3 was played in Kokarev - Kovalyov Mumbai 2010, but looks far less dangerous.) 17...♜h5! 18.♗f2± ♙g7 19.♜b3+-

17.♙h3 ♞ae8 18.♞f1± ♞e7 19.♗e3 ♞he8 20.♗g2 ♜e5?

The only defence was: 20...b5□ 21.c3 ♜c4 22.♜xc4 bxc4 23.e5 dxe5 24.♗c6±

21.♗f4± ♜xe4 22.♜xe4 ♗xe4 23.♙xe6† ♞xe6 24.♗fxe6† ♙f6 25.♞f4 25.♗c7! ♞e5 26.♞f3±

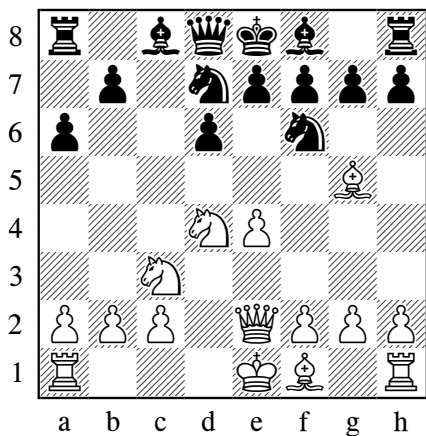
25...♗c5 26.♗xc5 dxc5 27.♗f3± ♞e2 28.♗d1 ♞g2 29.a4 ♗e7 30.b4 ♙c3 31.bxc5 ♞f2 32.g4 ♗d8 33.h4 ♗c7 34.g5 hxg5 35.hxg5 ♞g2 36.♞c4 ♙a5 37.♞e4 ♗c6 38.♞e5 ♙c3 39.♞e2 ♞xe2 40.♗xe2 ♗xc5 41.♗d3 ♙h8 42.c3 b5 43.axb5 axb5 44.♗d4 ♗b6 45.g6 ♗a5 46.♗c6† ♗a4 47.♗c2 ♗a3 48.♗b4 ♙g7 49.♗d3 ♙f6 50.♗c5 ♙h8 51.♗a6 ♙g7 52.♗b4 ♙h8 53.♗d3 ♗b3 54.♗c2 ♗a4 55.♗d4 ♙f6 56.♗e4 ♙h8 57.♗d5 ♙g7 58.♗c5 ♙f8† 59.♗c6 b4 60.cxb4 ♗xb4 61.♗f5 ♗c4 62.♗d7 ♗d5 63.♗e8

1-0

L. Milov - Gashimov
Mainz (rapid) 2010
[B94] [J. Aagaard]

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♙g5 ♗bd7 7.♜e2!?

This way of playing has lately become fashionable.



7...h6

White certainly had some chances in this game:

7...♖a5 8.h4 h6 9.♙d2 ♖b6 10.♗b3 e6 11.g4 ♗e5 12.f4!?

12.♙h3±

12...♗exg4 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 ♖c7 15.exf6 ♖g3† 16.♗d1 ♗f2† 17.♗c1 ♗xh1 18.♗e4 ♖xh4 19.♖c4 g5?

19...♖h2 20.♗bc5 ♗f2 21.♗xf2 ♖xf2

22.♖a4† b5 23.♙xb5† axb5 24.♖xb5† ♗d8

leads to a perpetual check

20.♗bc5 ♗g3?

20...b5□ 21.♗d4 ♖h2 22.a4!±

21.♖a4† b5 22.♙xb5† axb5 23.♖xb5† ♗d8 24.♙a5† ♖xa5 25.♖xa5† ♗e8 26.♖b5† ♗d8 27.♖b6† ♗e8 28.♗d6†

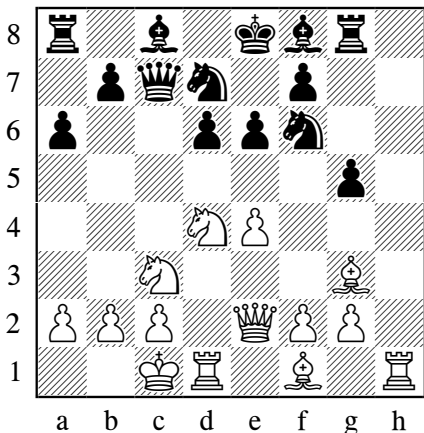
1-0 Vallejo Pons - Papaioannou, Aix-les-Bains 2011.

The entire point of White's play is to go for 7...e6 8.f4 with a transposition to fashionable stuff. However, also 8.0-0-0! is interesting.

8.♙h4 ♖c7

8...g5 9.♙g3 e5 has been played, but looks absolutely wrong. 8...e5 9.♗f5 g6 10.♗e3 ♙e7 11.0-0-0 b5 12.f3 ♙b7 13.a3 ♖c8 14.♙e1 ♗c5 15.♗b1 ♗e6 16.h4± N. Kosintseva - Bodnaruk, Moscow 2010.

9.0-0-0 g5 10.♙g3 e6 11.h4 ♖g8 12.hxg5 hxg5

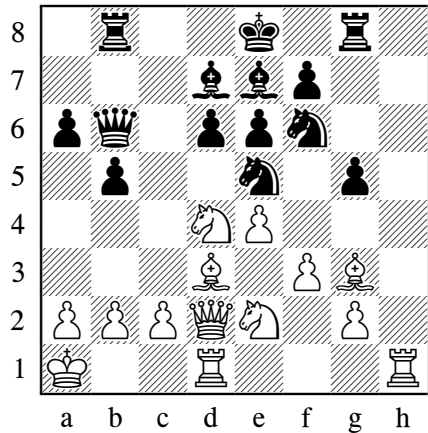


Is this playable for Black?

13.♖d2

13.♗b1 ♗e5 Fercec-Mazi, Zadar 2010 14.♗f3!? was suggested by Van Delft and Riis. After 14...♙d7 15.♖d2 ♗xf3 16.gxf3 ♙c6 (16...e5 17.♙h3 ♙e6 18.♖e3 ♙e7 Black might be ok!?) 17.♖d4 (17.♙xd6 ♖xd6 18.♖xd6 ♙xd6 19.♖xd6 ♗e7 20.♖d1 ♖h8) 17...♗d7 18.♙e2 ♙e7 Rybka thinks that White is better, but that does not make a lot of sense to me.

13...♗e5 14.f3 ♙d7 15.♗b1 ♖b8 16.♙d3 b5 17.♗ce2 ♖b6 18.♗a1 ♙e7



19.♖b1

Strange.

19...♖c8 20.♙f2? ♗xd3 21.♖xd3 e5 22.♖h6 ♖c7 23.♗b3 ♖xc2† 24.♖e3 ♖c7 25.♖h1 ♖b8 26.♖bc1 ♙d8 27.♖xc8 ♙xc8 28.♖c1 ♙e6 29.♖c3 ♗f8 30.♖d1 ♗g7 31.♖d2 ♗e8 32.♗g3 ♖h8 33.♗f5† ♙xf5 34.exf5 ♖c8 35.g4 ♖h2 36.♖c1 ♖b7 37.♖e3 ♗c7 38.♙g1 ♖g2 39.♖d1 ♖c6 40.♖d3 ♙f6 41.♖c1 e4 42.♖xc6 exd3 0-1

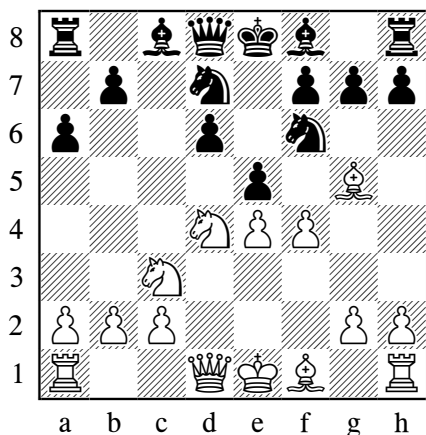


Radjabov - Nakamura

Medias 2011

[B94] [J. Aagaard]

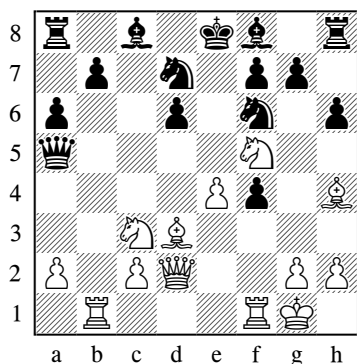
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6
5.♗c3 a6 6.♙g5 ♗bd7 7.f4 e5



This is not in GM6, but I found this game quite interesting and thought I had a bit to add.

8.♗f5 ♖b6 9.♗d2 ♗xb2 10.♞b1 ♗a3
11.♙e2

11.♙d3 h6 12.♙h4 exf4 13.0-0 also appears to be quite interesting. Probably best is 13...♗a5?!N.(13... g6 Matejovic - Hoelzl, Zadar 2009.)



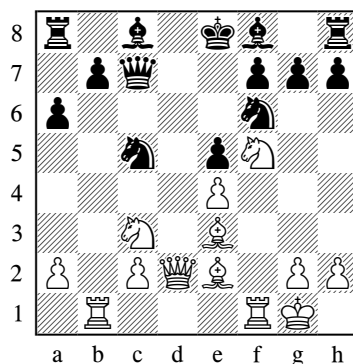
14.♞xf4!N b5 (14...g5 15.e5!∞) 15.♙xb5 axb5
16.♗xb5 ♗xa2 17.♞e1 g5 18.♗fxd6† ♙xd6

19.♗xd6† ♗f8 20.e5 gxf4 21.exf6 ♙a6 22.♙f2
♗g8 23.♗xf4= ♗f8 24.♗g4† ♗g6 25.c4 ♙xc4
26.♗xc4 ♗h7 27.♙e3 ♞a6=

11...h6!

11...♗c5 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.♙e3 ♗c7 14.0-0
♗c5

Kanovsky - Dydyshko, Frydek Mistek
2011.



Here White missed a great shot: 1
15.♗xg7†!!N ♙xg7 16.♞xf6± ♙xf6 17.♗d5
♗d6

17...♗d8 18.♙xc5 ♙e6 19.♙b6+-
18.♞b6 ♗xe4 19.♞xd6 ♗xd2 20.♗c7† ♗f8
20...♗e7 21.♞xd2+-
21.♞xf6+-

12.♙h4 exf4

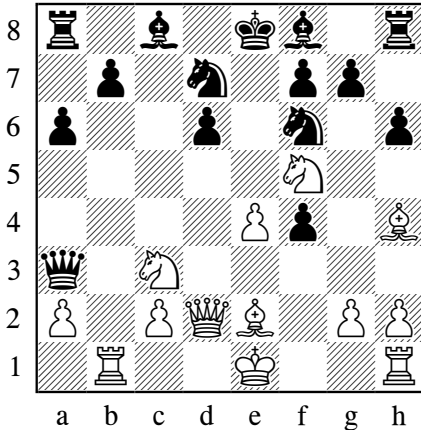
12...g6 13.♗e3 exf4 14.♗e5 ♗xd5?

14...g5!N 15.♗c7† ♗d8 16.♙f2 ♞b8
(16...♗xc7 17.♞b3±) 17.e5 dxe5 18.♙b6 ♗d6
19.♗d7d5† ♗e8 20.♙c7 ♗c6 21.♙xb8 ♗xd5
22.♗xd5 ♗xb8 23.♞b6 ♗c5= is a computer
line that needs to be checked. I feel Black is
living a dangerous life here; but it might be
right that White has no improvements.

15.♗xd5 ♙g7 16.♗c7† ♗f8 17.♞b3 ♗xa2
Espinosa Aranda - Idani, Porto Carras 2010.
Here, instead of the (reasonable) capture of
the rook on a8, White could have gone for
the kill with:

18.0-0!N ♞b8

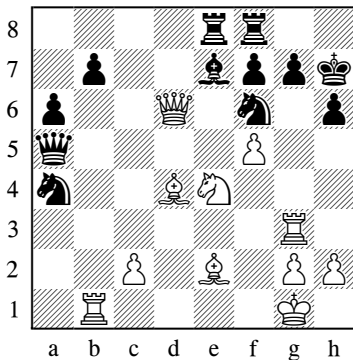
18...♙e5 19.♘xa8±
 19.♗xf4 ♖e5 20.♙f6 ♗xc2 21.♙xe5 ♗xb3
 22.♘d5 ♙e6 23.♙xd6† ♖g8 24.♙xb8 ♙xd5
 25.exd5 ♗xd5 26.♙d1 ♗b3 27.♙d7+-



13.0-0N

13.♙f2 ♘c5 (The critical line here might be: 13...♗a5N) 14.0-0 g6 15.♘xd6† ♙xd6 16.♗xd6 ♗xc3 17.♙d4 ♗xc2 (17...♗c6 18.♗xf4 Δ0-0?! 19.♗xh6! ♙e8 20.♙f4 ♙xe4 21.♙c4!!→) For example: 18.♙fc1 ♗xe2 19.♙b2 ♗xe4 20.♙bc2 ♗xd4† 21.♗xd4 0-0∞

14.0-0 ♙xf5 15.exf5 ♙e7 16.♙d4 0-0 17.♙f3 (17.♗xf4∞) 17...♗a5 18.♗xf4 ♙ae8 19.♙g3 ♖h7 20.a4 ♙d8 21.♗xd6 ♘xa4 22.♘e4 ♙e7



23.♙xf6!! ♙xd6 24.♙xg7† ♖h8 25.♘g5 ♙xh2†
 26.♖h1 1-0 Ganguly - Spoelman, Wijk aan Zee 2011.

13...g6 14.♙xf4 g5 15.♙b3 ♗a5 16.♘xd6† ♙xd6 17.♗xd6 gxf4 18.♙a3 ♗b6† 19.♗xb6 ♘xb6 20.♙xf6 ♙g8 21.♙b3 ♘d7 22.♘d5 ♙g6 23.♙d4

Apparently this is where Nakamura's preparation stopped. 23.♘c7† ♖f8 24.♙b2 ♙a7 25.♙a3† ♖g7 26.♘e8† ♖h7 27.♘d6 ♙a8 28.♙h5 ♙g7 29.♙xf7 ♘e5 30.♙d5 f3 31.g3 ♙h3 32.♙b2 ♙f8 33.♘f5 ♙e7 34.♙g8† ♖h8 35.♙d5 ♖h7=

23...♙c6 24.c4?!

24.c3∞

24...b5! 25.cxb5 axb5 26.♘c3?

26.♙b2 ♙a3 27.♖f2 ♙a6†

26...♙a6 27.♖f2 ♙d6?

27...b4! 28.♙xb4 ♙xe2 29.♖xe2 ♙a3 30.♙b3 ♙xb3 31.axb3 ♘f8†

27...♘c5!?!±

28.♙b4 f6 29.♖f3 ♙c8 30.♘xb5 ♙xb5

31.♙xb5 ♖e7

½-½

Wang Yue - Zhou Jianchao

Danzhou 2011

[B94] [A. Greet]

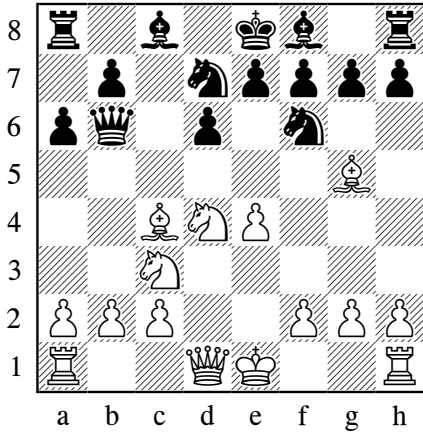
In this game White succeeds with a hyper-aggressive approach which was not considered in Lubomir Ftacnik's "Grandmaster Repertoire 6" book on the Sicilian Najdorf. The game was annotated for ChessPublishing by Richard Palliser, who I have referenced where appropriate.

1.♘f3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙g5 ♘bd7

Recommended in Chapter 22 of GM 6. Ftacnik also considered 6...e6 in Chapter 21.

7.♙c4 ♗b6!?

7...e6 is the other big move.



8. ♖d2!?

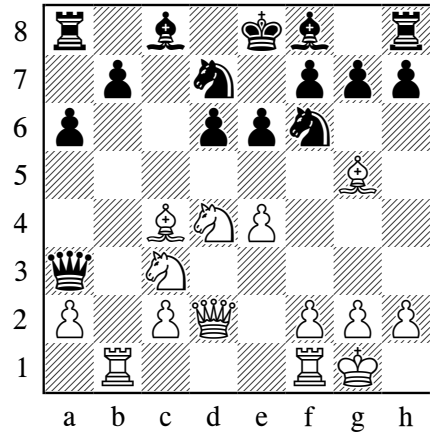
The book mainly focused on 8. ♘b3, but this 'Modified Poisoned Pawn' variation must be White's most ambitious approach. I should mention that at the time when GM 6 was published, this whole line was pretty experimental, so it is hardly surprising that many new ideas have surfaced. The GM Repertoire books tend to be at the cutting edge of present theory, and in some cases they have even influenced subsequent theoretical trends as prominent players sought to test and refine the authors' recommendations.

8... ♖xb2 9. ♚b1 ♖a3 10.0-0 e6

This was proposed as a novelty in GM 6. It has since been tested in four games (including the present one), with Black scoring a mere half point!

Zhou Jianchao decided to try the text move after suffering an unpleasant reversal with 10... ♖c5 the previous month: 11. ♘d5 ♘xd5 (Palliser mentions 11... ♘b6!? as a possible improvement although Black's position looks risky in any case.) 12. ♘xd5 f6? 13. ♘e6 ♖c4 14. ♚b4 ♖xa2 15. ♘ec7 ♔f7 16. ♘xa8 1-0 Li Chao - Zhou Jianchao, Xinghua Jiangsu 2011.

10... ♖a5 was mentioned in GM 2, where it was noted that White had the option of forcing a draw: 11. ♘d5 (11. ♘d5!? Lagarde - Guttulsrud, Batumi 2010.) 11... ♖xd2 12. ♘c7 ♔d8 13. ♘de6 † fxe6 14. ♘xe6 † ♔e8 15. ♘c7 † ♔d8 16. ♘e6 † ♔e8 ½-½ Luther - Bischoff, Austria 2002.



11. ♘e6!?

Repeating an idea which had previously been used by Cheparinov.

11. ♚b3 ♖a5 † was mentioned in GM 6.

11. ♔h1 ♘e7

11... ♘c5!?

12. f4 b5

12... ♘c5!? is mentioned by Palliser.

13. ♘b3 ♘c5 14. ♘xf6 ♘xf6 15. e5

This led to wild complications in Andriasian - Raykhman, Kalamaria 2010.

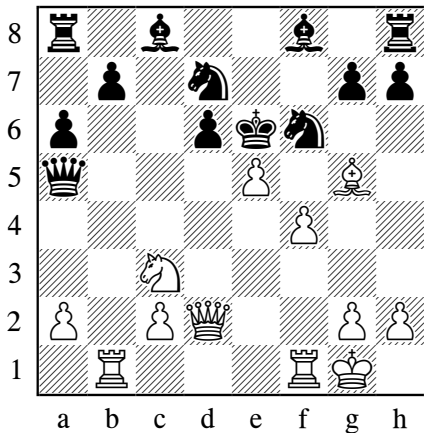
11... fxe6 12. ♘xe6 ♖a5

12... ♔f7!? may be playable although it looks a bit fishy. 13. ♘d8 † ♔e8 14. ♘xb7 ♘xb7 15. ♘xf6 gxf6 (15... ♘xf6 16. ♚xb7 ♘) 16. ♚xb7 ♚b8 17. ♚xb8 † ♘xb8 18. ♘d5 ♘ (analysis by Palliser) White has ongoing compensation, and I can't imagine many players lining up to take Black's side of this position.

13.f4 ♖f7 14.e5!

Surely the most dangerous and consistent move.

In a previous game, which reached this position via a different opening sequence, White went for a slower approach: 14.f5?! ♙e7 15.♖e3 ♜e8 16.♗g3 (16.♘d5!? ♘xd5 17.exd5 ♘f6 18.c4 Palliser) 16...♘c5 17.♘xg7 ♜g8! 18.♘e6 h6 White's attack ran out of steam, Robson - So, Lubbock 2010.

14...♗xc6**15.♗h1!?**

How to assess this move? Wang Yue certainly scores top marks for coolness, tucking his king into the corner while two pieces behind, even if the idea was prepared at home. Still, I cannot help but feel sceptical about White's play, and I would be surprised if he repeats it.

First, it should be noted that 15.exf6?! is premature, and after 15...♗xf6 16.♗d3 ♖f7 17.♙xf6 gxf6 White's compensation is dubious, as pointed out by Palliser.

Cheparinov preferred 15.♞be1! and after 15...♗f7 16.♗h1 the same position was reached - see the note to Black's 16th move below. It seems to me that Cheparinov's move

order is the better one, as Black is denied the option mentioned in the note to the next move. 16.e6†!? ♖g8 17.e7 is another idea; 17...h6 looks like the right response. Maybe this will prove the most important direction for future investigations...

15...♗f7**15...dxe5**

This was another way to question White's idea. There are two main replies:

16.♙xf6 gxf6!

Palliser gives 16...♘xf6 17.fxe5 ♘d7 (Palliser mentions that 17...♘e4? is dangerous due to 18.♗f4! ♗xc3 19.♗xe4 ♗xe5 20.♗d3,) 18.♞bd1 and questions White's compensation. He may well be right, but the text move looks even better.)

17.fxe5 ♜g8! 18.exf6 ♜g5!

Despite the exposed king position Black seems to be doing well, for instance

19.♗d3 ♖f7! 20.♗xh7† ♖e8

White does not have enough for the two pieces.

16.fxe5 ♘e4!

but not 16...h6? 17.exf6 hxg5 18.♞be1† ♘e5 19.♗xg5 with a strong initiative)

17.♗f4 ♘xg5 18.♘e4!!

A fantastic shot, but ultimately even this is insufficient.

Palliser mentions 18.♗f5† ♖e7 19.♗xg5† ♖e8→ when Black should win relatively easily

18...♘xe4! 19.♗f7† ♖xe5

White has two ways to win the enemy queen, but Black's four(!) extra pieces ensure him of the better chances, despite his 'active' king position!

20.♗f5†

20.♞f5† ♖d6 21.♞xa5 (21.♞d1† ♗d2!→)

21...♘ec5 Black has good winning chances.

20...♘d6 21.♗xa5 ♘ec5

The powerful knights control enough

important squares to enable Black to survive.

Here is one possible line:

22.♖b6† ♕c7! 23.♖bf6†
23.♖xa6†? b6-+
23...♗b8 24.♖xf8 ♖xf8 25.♖xf8 b6 26.♖xc8†
♗xc8 27.♞e1 ♗b7+

16.♖be1

White can regain one piece at any time of his choosing, so it is logical to bring another piece into the attack and keep Black guessing.

16...h6!

Improving over a previous game.

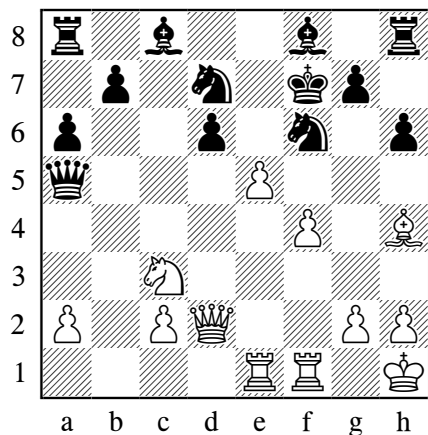
21...♗b6? 17.exf6 gxf6 18.♗xf6! ♖g8
18...♗xf6?? 19.♗e4†
19.♗d4 ♗a4?
A mistake in a difficult position.
20.♞e2! ♗d7
20...♗f5 21.♗xa4+- ♞xa4? 22.♞h5† with
mate to follow.

21.f5

Black has no good defence against ♞h5†.

21...♖xg2
21...♖g5 22.♗e4+-
22.♗xg2 ♗xc3 23.♞h5† ♗g8 24.♞g5† ♗f7
25.♞f6† ♗g8 26.♞h8†
1-0 Cheparinov - Kadric, Aix-les-Bains
2011.

17.♗h4



17...♗b6?

Palliser quite rightly points out that

17...dxe5!
would have put White's compensation in
doubt.

18.fxe5

Or 18.♗xf6 gxf6 19.fxe5 ♗xe5 - see 18.fxe5
♗xe5 19.♗xf6 gxf6 below.

18...♗xe5 19.♗xf6

19.♖xf6†? gxf6 20.♗xf6 ♗f3! (20...♗xf6??
21.♗d5†+-) 21.gxf3 ♖g8 Black should be
able to win with his extra material, as shown
by Palliser's analysis.

19...gxf6 20.♖xf6† ♗g7 21.♖ef1

21.♞f4 ♞xc3 22.♖f1 ♞c7! 23.♖f7† ♗xf7
24.♞xc7 ♗e6 Black has too much for the
queen - Palliser.

21...♗e7 22.♞f4 ♗f5!! 23.♖xf5 ♖af8

Black keeps an extra piece and should go on
to win.

18.exf6 g6

Objectively the position is still unclear, but
over the next few moves Black's position goes
downhill. The remainder of the game is not so
important for our study of the opening, so I
will limit myself to a few brief comments.

19.♞e3

19.♗f2!? may have been better.

19...♗d7 20.f5 g5?!

Black should have preferred 20...gxf5!?
21.♞f3 h5! - Palliser.

21.♗f2! g4? 22.♞g3!

22.♞e4!? ♖e8 (22...♞xc3 23.♗xb6 ♞c6
24.♞xg4) 23.♞xg4! ♞xf5 24.♞xf5 ♗xf5
25.♖xe8 ♗xe8 26.♗d4 was given by Palliser as
better for White, but the game continuation is
even stronger.

22...♖c8?

Better was 22...♖e8 although 23.♖xe8 ♗xe8
24.♞xg4 ♞xc3 25.♗d4 should win for White.

23. ♖xb6

23. ♖xg4! was a quicker route to victory:
 23... ♖xf5 24. ♖xg4 ♖xf6 25. ♖d4 ♖g5
 26. ♖e4 ♖e7 27. ♖xh8 ♖xh8 28. ♖d5† ♖g7
 29. ♖xe7#

23... ♖xc3 24. ♖xg4 ♖xf6 25. ♖d4 ♖g5
 26. ♖e4 ♖e7 27. ♖xh8 ♖xh8 28. ♖d5† ♖g7
 29. ♖xe7#

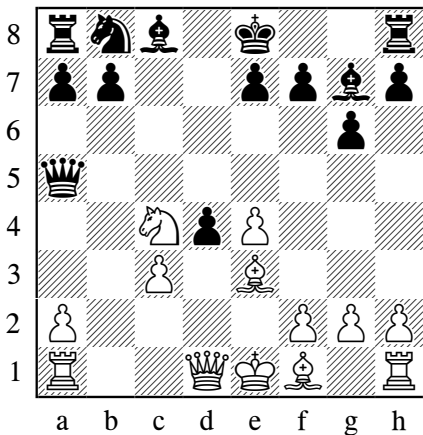
To conclude, the theoretical jury is still out on 11. ♖xe6!?. Black missed at least one opportunity (17... dxe5!) to obtain the advantage in the present game, although White also has other avenues to explore, such as 15. ♖be1 ♖f7 16. e6† as noted at move 15.

1-0

Aronian - Sutovsky

8th World Team Championship, Ningbo 2011
 [D85] [J. Aagaard]

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♖f3 ♖g7 4. ♖c3 d5
 5. cxd5 ♖xd5 6. e4 ♖xc3 7. bxc3 c5 8. ♖e3
 ♖a5 9. ♖d2 cxd4 10. ♖c4!?



Avrukh said that this move was found after the writing of the Grunfeld books - "or it would of course have been in there." Furthermore it was only good for one game in his opinion. It is a bit sad that he then failed to get great benefit as White, when he introduced it, and that his player lost subsequently against it in

the World Team event, where Avrukh is present as a second for the Israeli team.

10... dxe3?!

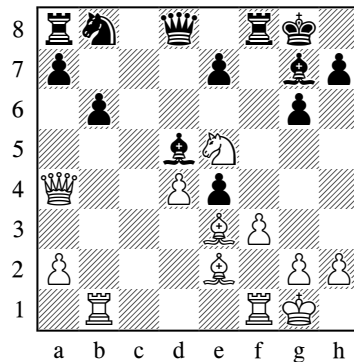
Typical Sutovsky, but not very practical. Black is playing for a draw only.

10... ♖d8 11. cxd4 f5!

This seems best.

11... 0-0 12. ♖b1! f5 is probably a bit less accurate. 13. exf5 (13. ♖e5!? N f4 14. ♖c4† ♖h8 15. ♖c1 ♖c7 16. ♖d3 ♖xe5 17. dxe5 ♖d8⇒ 18. ♖c2 ♖e6 19. ♖b3 ♖xc2 20. ♖xc2 b6=) 13... ♖xf5 14. ♖xb7 ♖c6 15. d5 (15. ♖e5!? ♖xe5 16. dxe5 ♖xd1† 17. ♖xd1 ♖xe5 18. ♖c4† e6 19. ♖xa7±) 15... ♖c3† 16. ♖d2 ♖d4! 17. ♖e3 ♖a5 18. ♖xc3 ♖xc3† 19. ♖d2 ♖a1† 20. ♖d1 ♖c3† 21. ♖d2 ♖a1† 22. ♖d1 ½-½ Avrukh - Kovchan, Mulhouse 2011.

12. ♖b1 fxe4 13. ♖e2 0-0 14. 0-0 b6 15. ♖e5 ♖e6 16. ♖a4 ♖d5 17. f3



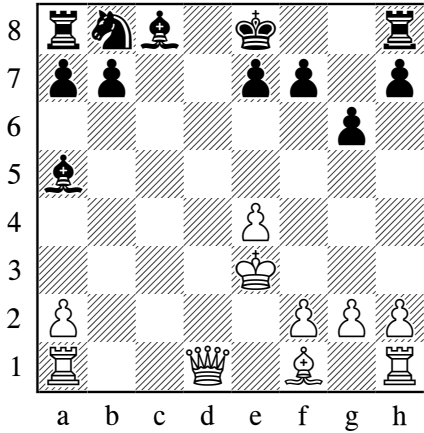
The question is if White has a slight advantage here or not. My guess is that if there is an advantage, it is very slight.

17... exf3 18. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 19. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 20. ♖c4† ♖h8 21. ♖xf3 ♖g8 22. ♖c7 ♖e8 23. ♖b7 ♖d7 24. ♖e1 ♖c8 25. ♖e4 ♖f8 26. ♖c1 ♖d8 27. ♖g5 ♖f6 28. ♖c6 ♖g7 29. h3 h6 30. ♖xf6 exf6 31. d5 ♖e8 32. ♖f1 ♖g8 33. ♖d4 ♖d8 34. ♖xe8† ♖xe8 35. ♖c7 f5 36. ♖e6 ♖f6 37. ♖xa7 ♖c8 38. ♖f4 ♖c1† 39. ♖e2 ♖c2† 40. ♖d1 ♖f2 41. g3

g5 42. ♖h5 ♙c3 43. ♗c7 ♙e5 44. ♗e7 ♙c3
 ½–½ Deep Fritz 12 T4 - Deep Rybka 4 x64 T4,
 Antalya 2011.

Vachier Lagrave - Morozevich
 Biel 2011
 [D87] [J. Aagaard]

11. ♖xa5 ♙xc3† 12. ♗e2 ♙xa5 13. ♗xe3±

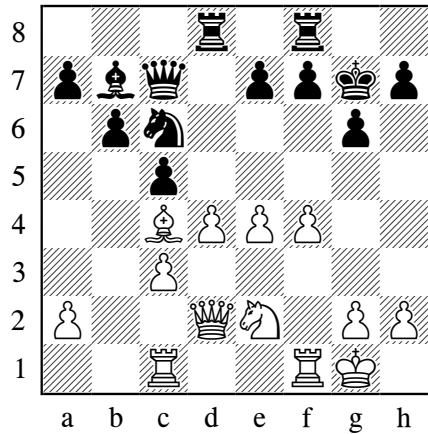


It seems to us as if Black is struggling to find compensation here. The computer says White is a bit better; but probably it is over-valuing Black's counterplay. The king seems to be safe.

13...0–0 14. ♙b5 a6 15. ♙a4 b5 16. ♗d5 ♞a7
 17. ♙b3 ♙g4 18. ♗g5 ♙b6† 19. ♗f4 ♙e6?
 20. ♙xe6 fxe6† 21. ♗g3± ♖c6 22. ♗h3 ♖d4
 23. ♞hd1 ♞c7 24. ♞ac1 ♞xc1 25. ♞xc1 ♖e2
 26. ♗e5 ♙d4 27. ♗xe6† ♞f7 28. ♞c8† ♗g7
 29. g3!+- ♖g1† 30. ♗g2 ♞xf2† 31. ♗h1 ♖f3
 32. ♗xe7† ♗h6 33. ♗f8† ♗h5 34. ♞c5† ♖g5
 35. ♞xg5† ♗xg5 36. ♗d8† ♙f6 37. ♗d3 ♗g4
 38. ♗e3
 1–0

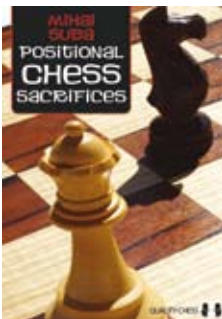
1. c4 ♖f6 2. ♖c3 d5 3. cxd5 ♖xd5 4. e4 ♖xc3
 5. bxc3 g6 6. d4 ♙g7 7. ♙c4 c5 8. ♖e2 ♖c6
 9. ♙e3 0–0 10. 0–0 ♗c7 11. ♞c1 b6 12. ♗d2
 ♙b7 13. ♙h6 ♞ad8 14. ♙xg7 ♗xg7 15. f4!

This aggressive move was not covered in GM9 and certainly requires accurate preparation. There should be several playable moves for Black, but the Rybka favourite 15... ♗d7 looks a bit dodgy.



15... ♗d7?!
 15... ♖a5N 16. ♙d3 ♗d6 17. f5
 17. ♗e3 e6 18. f5 exf5 19. exf5 ♞fe8 20. f6†?
 ♗xf6!
 17... ♖c6 18. ♞f3 cxd4 19. ♞h3 h5 20. cxd4
 20. ♖g3 ♞h8 21. fxg6 fxg6 22. ♗g5 ♗f8
 23. ♞f1† ♗e8∞
 20... ♖xd4 21. ♖f4 ♞h8
 (21...h4 22. ♖h5†!+-)
 22. fxg6 ♙xe4 23. gxf7→

15... cxd4N 16. cxd4 ♗d6 17. d5 ♖a5 18. ♙d3
 e6 19. ♖d4! exd5 20. e5 ♗e7 21. f5! ♗xe5
 22. f6† ♗h8 23. ♗h6 ♗xd4† 24. ♗h1 ♞g8
 25. ♞f3 ♗g4 26. ♞h3 ♗xh3 27. ♗xh3±



15...♖d6!N

This looks best - in the spirit of Avrukh.

16.d5

16.♖cd1 cxd4 17.cxd4 ♖b4! =

16...f5!? 17.♙b5

17.e5?! ♖c7!

17...fxe4 18.c4 ♔g8 19.♖e3 ♘d4 20.♘xd4
cxd4 21.♖xe4 d3 22.♖xd3 e6 23.♖e3 exd5
24.c5 bxc5 25.♖xc5 d4⇄

16.♙b5!

Securing that the correct material is left on the board.

16...♖e6

16...a6 17.♙xc6 ♖xc6 18.d5 ♖c7 19.c4±
Degardin - Giroyan, Montlucon 2011.

17.f5! ♖d6

17...♖xe4 18.♖f4 ♖e5

18...♖d5 19.♖h4 h5 20.♖xh5! gxh5 21.♖g5†
♔h7 22.♘f4+-

19.♘g3! cxd4

19...f6 20.♖e1±

20.♙xc6 ♙xc6

20...dxc3 21.♖xc3 ♖xc3 22.♖xc3 ♖d1†
23.♔f2 ♖c8 24.♙f3 ♖d2† 25.♔e3 ♖xa2
26.♖xc8 ♙xc8 27.fxg6 hxg6 28.♖c4 ♙e6
29.♖c7±

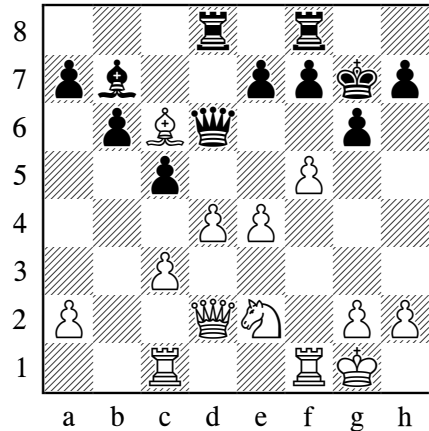
21.cxd4 ♙a8

21...♙b7 22.♖c2! ♖d5 23.♖h4+-

22.♖c2 ♖f6 23.fxg6 ♖xg6 24.♘f5† ♔h8
25.♘xe7 ♖e6 26.♖c7 ♖d7 27.♖xd7 ♖xd7
28.♖e3 f6 29.♖f2±

18.♙xc6

18.♖f3!? Golubev. 18...♔h8 (18...cxd4?
19.♖h3 h5 20.♘g3! ♖h8 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.♖g5
♙c8 With a clear edge for White - Golubev.
23.♖xh5 dxc3 24.♖xh8 ♖xh8 25.♙xc6 ♖xc6
26.♖xe7† ♔h6 27.♖e5 ♖f8 28.♖xc3 ♖e6
29.♘f5†! gxf5 30.♖xe6† ♙xe6 31.♖c6±)
19.♙xc6 ♙xc6 20.d5 gxf5 21.♖xf5 ♙d7 22.♖h5
♙g4 23.♖h4 ♖g8 24.♖f1 ♖g7±



18...♙xc6 19.d5 ♙d7 20.c4 ♖e5 21.♖c3±
♖h8 22.♖h3 f6 23.♖f4 b5 24.♖h6† ♔f7
25.♘f4 ♖dg8 26.♘e6

26.♖e3 ♔e8 (26...♖d4 27.♘e6+-) 27.cxb5
♙xb5 28.♖c1†

26...bxc4 27.♖a3 ♖xe4 28.♘g5†?

28.fxg6† ♖xg6 29.♘g5† ♖xg5 30.♖xg5 ♖g8
31.♖h5† ♔f8∞

28...fxg5 29.fxg6† ♔e8+- 30.♖xa7 hxg6
31.♖a8† ♙c8 32.♖xg5 ♔d8 33.d6 ♖d4†
34.♖f2 ♖d1† 35.♖f1 ♖d4† 36.♖f2 ♖d1†
37.♖f1 ♖xd6 38.h3 ♖d4† 39.♔h1 ♖f8
40.♖e1 ♖f6 41.♖g3 ♖hf8 0-1

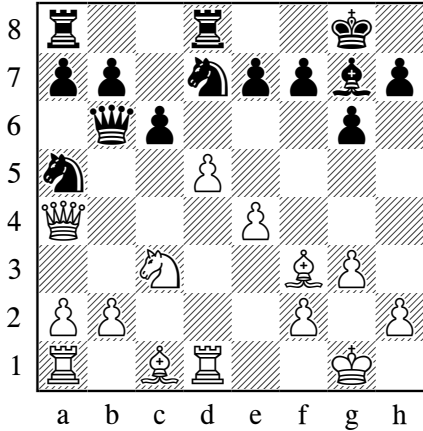
Giri - Swinkels

Dutch Championship, 2011

[D98] [B. Avrukh]

One of the Quality Chess blog readers declared that the repertoire given in GM8 was refuted by Giri. Although he played a nice game, it seems a good deal over the top to speak of refutations...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♖b3
dxc4 6.♖xc4 0-0 7.e4 ♘c6 8.♙e2 ♙g4 9.d5
♘a5 10.♖b4 ♙xf3 11.♙xf3 c6 12.0-0 ♖b6
13.♖a4 ♘d7 14.♖d1 ♖fd8 15.g3!?



White makes useful move, waiting for Black activity.

15...Bac8

Black quickly faced unexpected difficulties in the game.

15...d5 is less good, in view of 16. Bc2 d5 17. Bb1 Bb4 18. g5±.

16. g4!

Black went down very quickly after:

16...d5?! 17. Bc2 e6 18. g5 Be8 19. a4! dxa4 20. Bxa4 cxd5 21. exd5 d5 22. dxe6 fxe6 23. Bc1 d5 24. e3!
1-0

Improvement to Giri-Swinkels 2011

[D98] [B. Avrukh]

1. d4 f6 2. c4 g6 3. d3 d5 4. f3 g7 5. Bb3 dxc4 6. Bxc4 0-0 7. e4 d6 8. e2 g4 9. d5 a5 10. Bb4 xf3 11. exf3 c6 12. 0-0 Bb6 13. Ba4 d7 14. Bd1 f8 15. g3!?

White makes useful move, waiting for Black activity. Here my recommendation will be:

15...h5N

In my opinion quite useful move, Black covers g4-square and ready to continue with Bc8. In the game Black continued with natural:

16. Bc2

I don't see what White can benefit from insertion of g3, h5 to compare with lines I examined in the book after 16. e2 d5 17. Bc2 Bb4 18. e3 ex3 19. Bc1 b6 (19...Bb6) 20. ex5 Bxc5 21. Bxc3 Bxc3 22. Bxc3 cxd5 23. Bxd5 Bdc8 and this endgame looks pretty much the same like in my book.

16...Bc8 17. e3

Black has nothing to worry about after 17. g5 cxd5 18. exd5 Be8, or 18...f6.

17...Bc7 18. Bc1 cxd5 19. Ba4

In this line I found some difference to compare with position without g3, h5 moves.

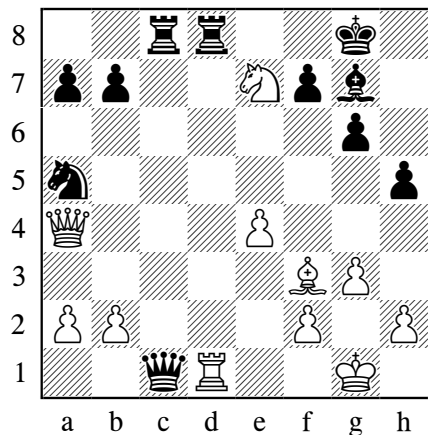
19...d5

Black has some problems after 19...d4 20. d5 Bb6 21. Bxc8 Bxc8 22. dxd4 d5 23. Bc2±

20. ex5 Bxc5 21. dxd5

This idea is possible. White has luft for his king, thanks to g3-move, but this hardly pose problems:

21...Bxc1 22. dxe7†



22...d5!

Black also make use of h5-move, Black king

is more comfortable there to compare with h8-square, as he shouldn't worry about check on the back rank.

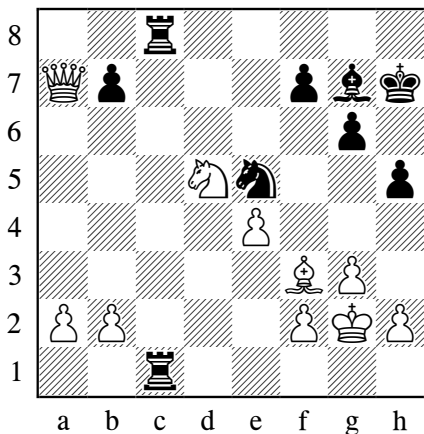
23. ♖xc1 ♖xc1† 24. ♔g2 ♘c4

Most probably Black should hold also after 24... ♘c6 25. ♘xc6 bxc6 26. ♖xa7 ♖d2.

25. ♘d5

In case of 25. ♙e2 Black has beautiful 25... ♖d2! 26. ♙xc4 ♖cc2 and now according to machine the only move, which allows White to escape 27. ♔f3 ♖xf2† (27... ♙xb2!?) 28. ♔e3 ♖cd2! 29. e5 ♙xe5=.

25... ♘e5 26. ♖xa7 ♖dc8! ♞



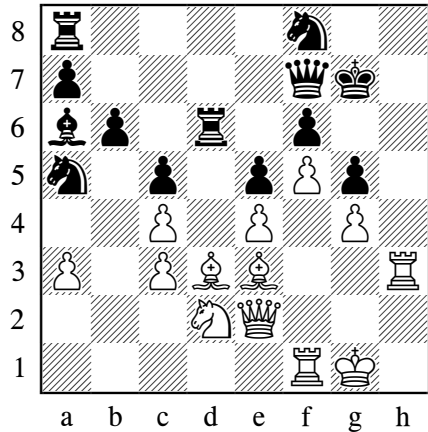
Black's activity is fully compensates his material deficit.

Antonsen - Kristiansen
 Danish Championship 2011
 [E32] [J. Aagaard]

My initial favourite (before I checked the details) for the best game prize at the Danish Championship was the following game:

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙b4 4. ♖c2 0-0 5. e4 d6 6. a3 ♙xc3† 7. bxc3 e5 8. ♙d3 ♘c6 9. ♘e2 b6 10. 0-0 ♘d7 11. ♙e3 ♙a6 12. ♘g3 ♘a5

13. ♖e2 ♖e8 14. f4 f6 15. ♘f5 ♔h8 16. ♖f3 g6 17. ♘g3 c5 18. dxe5 dxe5 19. f5 g5 20. ♘f1 ♖f7 21. ♘d2 ♖fd8 22. g4 ♔g7 23. h4 h6 24. ♖h3 ♘f8 25. hxc5 hxc5 26. ♖f1 ♖d6



27. ♖f3!! ♖ad8?

Black fails to spot White's concept.

27... ♖d7! 28. ♖h2 (28. ♙xg5! was Antonsen's idea. 28... fxg5 29. ♖h2 ♘c6 30. ♖h8 ♙b7! 31. ♖fh3 ♖xd3 32. ♖xd3 ♖xd3 33. ♖h6† ♔f7 34. ♖xf8† ♖xf8 35. ♖e6† ♔g7 36. ♖g6†=) 28... ♖xd3 29. ♖h8 ♖xe3 (29... ♙xc4 30. ♖h6† ♔f7 31. ♙xg5 ♖d6 32. ♙e3±) 30. ♖xe3 ♙xc4 31. ♖ch3 ♙g8 32. ♖3h6 ♖d3 33. ♖h5 ♖xd2 34. ♖g6† ♔f7 35. ♖gxcg8† ♔e7 36. ♖g7† ♘d6 37. ♖f7 ♖e1†=

28. ♖h2!+- ♖xd3

28... ♖g8 29. ♙xg5! fxg5 (29... ♘h7 30. ♙h6† ♔f7 31. ♖fg3!+-; 29... ♔f7 30. ♙h6+-) 30. ♖xe5† ♔f7 31. ♖h2!+-

29. ♖h8! ♖d7 30. ♖fh3

Black is mate in three.

1-0

Solutions to Puzzles

1. Can - Guliev Konya 2011

20...♖c3!! 21.bxc3 ♜xc3† 22.♙b2 ♜xe2⦶
23.♜xe5!?! dxe5! 24.♙d7† ♙d8 25.♙g4†
♙c7 26.♙d7†
26.♙xe2 ♙xe4+-

26...♙c6 27.♙xf7 ♜f4 28.♙d7† ♙b6 29.a4
♙c5 30.♙f5 ♙c8 31.♙d1 bxa4 32.♙xc8
♙axc8 33.♙dd7 ♙c6 34.♙e1 ♙hd8 35.♙xd8
♙xd8 36.♙xh7 a3† 37.♙a2 ♜e2 38.♙a5 ♙b8
39.♙c7† ♙d6 40.♙e7 ♙b2† 41.♙a1 ♜d4
0-1

2. A. Hunt - Cheparinov European Club Cup, Plovdiv 2010

20...♙h6!
0-1

3. Aveskulov - Shabala Ukrainian Ch. semi-final Alushta 2011

22.♙xe4! dxe4 23.♙xa6!
1-0

4. Gharamian - Slobodjan Schachbundesliga 2011

23.hxg6! ♙xd5 24.gxh7† ♙h8 25.♜xf7†!
25.♙c8†?? ♙d8!±
1-0

5. Nyzhnyk - Mirzoev Konya 2011

19.♜xe6!! fxe6
19...♙e8 20.♜g5 ♙f8 21.♜ce4+-

20.♙xe6† ♙h8 21.♜e4! ♙xc1
21...♙c5 22.♜d6!+-

22.♙xc1 ♜xe4 23.fxe4 ♜c5 24.♙d5 ♙xd5
25.exd5 ♜e4 26.♙e5 ♙f8 27.♙g4 ♜c5
28.♙f1 ♙a7 29.a5 bxa5 30.♙d4 ♙b7 31.♙g5
♙e8 32.d6 ♜e6 33.♙d5 ♙bb8 34.d7
1-0

6. Salgado Lopez - Acs Paks 2011

25.g6! fxg6
25...♙xe5 26.gxh7† ♙xh7 27.fxe5 (27.♙f6
♙xb2†+-) 27...♙g8 28.♙h3 ♙g6 29.♙g5†
♙g8 30.♙f6 ♙f8 31.♙hg1 ♙xg1 32.♙xg1 ♙e8
33.♙h7!+-

26.♜xg6 ♙g7
26...hxg6 27.♙xg6† ♙g7 28.♙xe6†+-

27.♙e2!! hxg6 28.♙xe6† ♙h7 29.♙xd6+-
♜c5 30.cxd5 ♙fe8 31.♙f6 ♙e2 32.♙he1
♙xf6 33.♙xf6 ♙xe1 34.♙xe1 ♜e4 35.♙xe4
fxe4 36.d6 e3 37.d7 e2 38.dxc8♙ e1♙†
39.♙c1 ♙e4† 40.♙a1
1-0

Edited by Jacob Aagaard and John Shaw

Experts *on the* *Anti-Sicilian*



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