

(1) Lizak,P (2418) - Varga,Zo (2452) [A11]

FSGM February Budapest HUN (4.6), 07.02.2012

[J. Shaw]

1.c4 ♖f6 2.g3 c6 3.♗f3 d5 4.♙g2 dxc4 5.0-0 This line has had a revival lately, not least because of Marin's work on it in the Grandmaster Repertoire series. **5...♗bd7 6.♗a3 ♗b6 7.♖c2 ♖d5 8.b3!?** The new trend. [8.♗e1 was Marin's move, which GM Jan Timman (see below) also considers promising.] **8...cxb3 9.axb3** It looks very likely that White has sufficient compensation for the pawn here. Why not? **9...♖f5** [A wonderful recent game by Timman (as White) continued: 9...♙e6 10.b4N ♖b3 11.♖xb3 ♙xb3 12.b5 c5 13.d3♖ White doesn't need a queen to build an attack... 13...♗fd7 (In New in Chess, Timman suggested 13...g6 but then 14.♗g5 looks promising. e.g. 14...h6?! (14...♙g7 15.♙xb7 ♖b8 16.♙c6+ ♗fd7 17.♙f4 ♖c8 18.♖ac1±) 15.♙xb7 hxg5 16.♙xa8 ♗xa8 17.♗c4!± For the moment, White has only a rook for two minor pieces, but with g5 and a7 hanging, some pawns will soon be added to the kitty. In particular, Black is in trouble on the queenside where the soon-to-be-passed b5-pawn is a monster. Note that 17...♗c7?! 18.♙xg5 ♗xb5?! 19.♖fb1 ♗d4 20.♖xa7+- is crunching.) 14.♗d2 ♙d5 15.e4 ♙e6 16.f4 f6 17.e5 ♙d5 18.e6! Beautiful; losing the e-pawn is the key idea. 18...♙xe6 19.♙xb7 ♖b8 20.♙c6 g6 21.♗ac4 ♗c8 22.♗e4 ♗f7 23.♗e5+! Exploiting the vacated e5-square. 23...♗xe5 (23...fxe5 24.♗g5+) 24.fxe5 ♙f5 25.♗xc5 ♙g7 26.d4 ♖d8 27.♖xf5! gxf5 28.e6+ ♗g6 29.♗d7 ♗d6 30.♗xb8 ♖xb8 31.♖xa7 ♗xb5 32.♖xe7 ♙h6 33.♙e8+ 1-0 Timman - S.Ernst, Wijk aan Zee 2012.] **10.d3 e5 11.♙b2± ♗d6?!** Stepping in front of a pawn roller is A Bad Idea. As Marin mentions in his books, 1.c4 may be a flank opening, but White would still love to slam his d- and e-pawns straight through the middle (Mihail probably phrased it more elegantly). [Safer was 11...♗fd7 12.e4↑ but White still has plenty of play.] **12.e4 ♖h5 13.d4± ♗fd7** Black goes into full grovel mode, as [13...exd4 14.e5 ♙xa3 15.♙xa3 traps his king in the centre.] **14.d5 cxd5 15.♗b5 ♙b8 16.♙a3** The black king now has the same problem as in the previous variation, but at least he has two pawns for the trouble. Now there is some pressure on White not to botch his winning attack; he passes the test with plenty to spare. **16...dxe4 17.♖xe4 ♗f6 18.♖b4!+- ♗bd5 19.♖c5 ♙e6 20.♖fe1** Everything wins: [20.♖ad1; 20.♗c3; 20.♗d2] **20...a6 21.♗fd4** [A punchy finish was 21.♗xe5! ♙xe5 22.♙xd5 ♗xd5 23.♖ad1] **21...♙a7** Now it's all over at once, but it was going anyway. e.g. [21...axb5 22.♗xe6 fxe6 23.♖c8+ ♗f7 24.♖xh8+-] **22.♗c7+** [22.♗c7+ Black resigned as 22...♗d8 23.♖d6+ ♙d7 24.♗xd5 wins a few pieces and then mates.] **1-0**

(2) Short,N - Jones,G [B20]

Bunratty, 20.02.2012

[J. Shaw]

"The last couple of times I've played Nigel he has chosen the English but this time he reverted to 1.e4. I responded with the Sicilian and he surprised me with 2.b3. I couldn't really remember any theory on this other than a line recommended by Peter Heine-Nielsen in the Experts vs the Anti-Sicilians book. Therefore I chose 2...g6 and we had a crazy game! I was lost at various points but with little time Nigel failed to find the most convincing path and in the end I managed to grovel a draw in another rook and pawn endgame a pawn down." GM Gawain Jones on his blog gawainjones.co.uk **1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6 3.♙b2 ♗f6 4.♖f3 ♙g7N** A novelty suggested by GM Peter Heine Nielsen in Experts on the Anti-Sicilians. **5.e5 ♗g8 6.e6 ♗f6 7.exf7+ ♗xf7 8.g4 h6 9.♗c3** [The line in the book continued: 9.h4 ♗c6 (9...d5 might also be interesting) 10.g5 hxg5 11.hxg5 ♖xh1 12.♖xh1 (12.gxf6 ♙xf6!) 12...♗h5] **9...d5 10.h3** With g4 defended White looks to be threatening Nxd5. **10...e6** [10...♗c6? allows the trick: 11.♗xd5 ♖xd5 12.♙c4 Black is not quite dead, though after 12...♙e6□ 13.♙xd5 ♙xd5 14.♖e2 ♙xh1 15.f3±; 10...♙d7!? is a logical try, planning 11.0-0-0 ♙c6∞] **11.0-0-0 ♗c6 12.♖e1 ♗d4** [12...♖f8!?] **13.♖g2 ♙d7 14.♗f3 ♗xf3 15.♖xf3 ♙c6 16.♙d3 ♖d6 17.h4 g5 18.♖e2 a6 19.f4 gxf4 20.g5 ♗e4?** Short has played superbly, and now has his first big chance: [A better defence was 20...hxg5 21.hxg5 ♖xh1 22.♖xh1 ♗e8] **21.g6+** Good but not best: [21.♖h5+! ♗f8 22.gxh6 ♖xh6 23.♗xe4!+-] **21...♗e7** [The ugly 21...♗g8± was required] **22.♗xd5+!** Now Black's position should be falling apart; Jones holds it together with will power. **22...♙xd5 23.♙xg7 ♗g3 24.♖g4 ♗xh1 25.♙e5 ♖d8 26.g7** [26.♖xf4 ♖f8 27.♖xh6+-] **26...♖g8 27.♖xf4 ♗d7 28.c4 ♙c6 29.♙e4** [29.♙f5! ♖e7 30.♙c3+-] **29...♖e7 30.♙xc6+ ♗xc6 31.♖g1** [31.d4!] **31...♙d7 32.♖f3+ ♗b6 33.♖xh1 ♖ad8 34.♖h2 ♖f7 35.♖e2 ♖f5 36.h5 ♖d7 37.♖g6 ♗a7 38.♖xh6 ♖dxg7 39.♙xg7 ♖xg7** A nasty decision for move 40: can White take on e6? **40.♖e3** [The answer is "Yes". The white king escapes after 40.♖xe6! ♖g1+ 41.♗b2 ♖b1+ 42.♗a3 ♖c1+ 43.♗a4 Black has a clever try but it's not enough: 43...♖g8! 44.♖xg8 ♖xd2 With threats on b4 and h6: 45.♖xa6+! ♗xa6 (45...bxa6 46.♖f7+ ♗b6 47.♖e6+ ♗a7 48.a3+-) 46.♖e6+ ♗a7 47.a3+-] **40...♖g5 41.♖xe6 ♖xh5 42.♗b2 ♖h1 43.♗a3 ♖h3 44.♖e5 ♖xe5 45.♖xe5 ♖h2 46.♖d5 ♗b6 47.b4 cxb4+ 48.♗xb4 ♗c6 49.a4 b6 50.a5 b5 51.♖c5+ ♗b7 52.♗c3** [52.cxb5 ♖xd2 53.b6 looks passive for Black, but White has no way to improve his position: 53...♖d4+ 54.♗c3 ♖d7 The black rook "passes" by choosing semi-random squares on the 7th.] **52...bxc4 53.♖xc4 ♖h5 54.♗b4 ♖d5 55.d4 ♗b8 56.♗a4 ♗b7 57.♖b4+**

♙c7 58.♞c4+ ♘d7 Don't be fooled by all the (computer-assisted) improvements above: both players fought brilliantly, especially considering the rather quick time control. ½-½

(3) Molner,Mackenzie (2449) - Parligras,Mircea-Emilian (2650) [B94]

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 2012 (9.22), 01.02.2012

[J. Aagaard]

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 g5 12.e5!/? This pawn sacrifice continues to interest the masses. 12...♞xe5 13.g3 g4 14.♞d3 h5? This is too slow. It was necessary to violate all known principles in order to fight for the h1-a8 diagonal. [14...♗d5!N 15.♗xd5 (15.f6 ♗xf6 16.♙g2 ♙g7 17.♞he1 ♞g5+ 18.♙b1 d5∞ looks better for Black, but needs further investigation.) 15...♞xd5 16.♞a3! Protecting a2 and preparing Bb5+. 16...♞b8 17.♞b4 (17.♙e2 h5∞; 17.♙b5+ axb5 18.♞a7 ♞c5 19.♞xb8 ♙g7 20.♗b3 ♞e3+ 21.♙b1 0-0 22.♞c7 ♙xf5 23.♞he1 ♞a7!∞) 17...♞c5 18.♞xc5 dxc5 19.♗b5 ♙d7 20.♗c7+ ♘d8 21.♗e6+ ♘c8!/? (21...♙e8=) 22.♗xf8 ♙c6! 23.♗d7 ♙xh1 24.♗xb8 ♙f3 25.♙d7 ♘xb8 26.♞xe7 ♙d8=] 15.♙g2 ♙h6+ 16.♙b1 ♙e3?!! [16...♞c5±] 17.♗c6! ♞c5?!! Better, but entirely unattractive in practice was: [17...bxc6 18.♙xc6+ ♘f8 19.♙xa8 ♙xf5 20.♞xa6 ♘g7 21.♞he1±] 18.♗xe7?!! [White missed his chance to win the game quickly with: 18.♗a4! ♞xf5 (18...♙xf5 19.♗xc5 ♙xd3 20.♗xd3 and wins.) 19.♞xe3 bxc6 20.♙xc6+ ♙d7 21.♙xa8 ♙xa4 22.b3 0-0 23.♞hf1 and the rest is over.] 18...♗xe7 19.♞he1 ♙xf5 20.♞xe3+ ♘f8 21.♞xd6+ ♞xd6 22.♞xd6± White still has big chances in the ending. 22...♗e8 23.♙d4 ♞b8 24.♞e5 ♙e6 25.♗e4 [25.♗e2!] 25...b6 26.♗g5 ♞h6 27.h3 gxf3 28.♙xh3 ♙xh3 29.♗xh3± ♞b7 30.♗f4 ♞e7 31.♞xe7 ♘xe7 32.♗d5+ ♘f8 33.c4 ♗g7 34.♙c2 [34.♞f4!/?] 34...♗f5 35.♙d3= ♞c6 36.b3 b5 37.♙c3 bxc4 38.bxc4 ♗d6 39.♗f4 ♗xc4 40.♙d8+ ♘e7 41.♞h8 ♗d6+ 42.♙d3 ♗f5 43.♗xh5 ♞g6 44.♙e4 ♗xg3+ 45.♗xg3 ♞xg3 46.♞h2 ♙e6 47.♙f4 ♞a3 48.♙d2 ♞a4+ 49.♙f3 ♙e5 50.♞e2+ ♙f5 51.♞c2 ♞a3+ 52.♙f2 ♘g4 53.♞c4+ ♘g5 54.♞c2 f5 55.♘g2 ♘g4 56.♙f2 f4 57.♘g2 a5 58.♙f2 a4 59.♘g2 ♙d3 60.♙f2 a3 61.♙e2 ♞h3 62.♙f1 ♞h1+ 0-1

(4) From the blog [D12]

www.qualitychess.co.uk/blog www.qualitychess.co.uk/blog, 31.01.2012

[J. Aagaard]

One of our blog readers shared the following game he won as Black. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♗f3 ♗f6 4.e3 ♙f5 [4...♙g4 5.♗c3 e6 6.♞b3 ♞b6 7.♗h4 ♙h5 8.h3 is an Avrukh main line, which since has been played 100s of times.] 5.♗c3 e6 6.♗h4 ♙g4?!! This mixes up two ideas and leads to an inferior position. 7.♞b3 ♞b6 8.h3 ♙h5 9.g4 White is a tempo up on the Avrukh line and should be said to have won the opening battle, but certainly not the game! 9...♙g6 10.♗xg6 hxg6 11.g5 Apparently this is what Avrukh gives. I think it is a bit too direct, but there you go. We think differently. [11.♙g2 is a bit more flexible and would be my choice, but the text move is the favourite of the computer.; 11.♙e2 is not liked by R4, but would probably be my choice over the board. I want to play h4-h5 and when gxf5 comes, I want to play g5 and Rxh5. This is just a plan and probably not best. I am just sharing my spur of the moment thoughts.] 11...♗h5 The knight cannot easily rejoin the game here, but White also no longer has any h4-h5 plans. This is one reason I would not have advanced the g-pawn too early. It loses flexibility. 12.c5 Again I don't like this move. It was better to keep the options open with [12.♙d2] 12...♞c7 13.e4 White is neglecting his development - and weakening the f4-square. 13...♗d7 14.exd5 exd5 15.♗e2?!! Finally White is losing it. When are the pieces supposed to get out. The position might still be equal, but Black has taken over the initiative with his next move. 15...b6! 16.♞e3+? Who does this check help? 16...♙e7 17.b4?!! Creates another aim for the black attack. White is handling his pawns awfully. [17.cxb6 axb6 18.♙d2 was more prudent. A typical positional idea here is: What is the worst placed piece? For Black it is the king, but castling is not easy. So we need to protect the bishop. This can be done with two ideas. ...b5 and ...Nb6 or ...Nf8-e6. Our other positional question - where are the weaknesses? - would help us decide there. The knight should be at e6 to target d4 and f4 as well as prepare ...c5. On the other hand the advance of the b-pawn would ruin the flexibility of the black pawns and make c6 a weakness. R4 is not much help here. After some minutes it is still rating ...Qd6 and the two other options within 0.07 of each other, all with even chances. In reality ...Nf8! should be the best move for positional reasons, and the position already greatly in Black's favour.] 17...a5! Black is better. White's pawn structure is falling apart. 18.b5 bxc5 19.bxc6?!! [19.♙g2 was better. Why should White clarify the situation in the centre? 19...cxb5?!! 20.♗c3! ♗b6 21.0-0 would give White some activity and a chance to fight for equality.] 19...♞xc6 20.♙a3?!! [20.♙g2 was better, but Black has a clear advantage already. Note that White is made a fool of after 20...0-0! because of 21.♞xe7? ♞ae8 trapping the queen.] 20...♞e6! Black is now a pawn up and White's position is falling apart. 21.♙g2 cxd4!/? Objectively this is the best move, but Black would have been better off playing safe with [21...♞xe3 22.fxe3 ♙xg5 23.♙xd5 ♞c8 and Black should win with his extra pawn.] 22.♞xe6?!! This enters a plea of no-contest. [22.♞xd4! would have

demanded Black play accurately to keep his advantage. 22...♙xa3! 23.♙xd5 ♖e5!! (23...♙a6?! 24.♙e4+ ♗d8 25.♙xa8 ♜e8 26.♙b7 ♙d6! and ...Nf4 is also better for Black, but not to the same extent.) 24.♙xa8 (24.♙e4 f5 25.gxf6 ♖xf6 26.♙a4+ ♙d7 27.♙xd7+ ♗xd7 28.♙xa8 ♜xa8 and Black should win) 24...♙b2 25.♙d5 ♙xa1 26.0-0 ♙xh3 27.♙xa1 ♖f4] **22...fxe6 23.♙xe7 ♗xe7 24.♖xd4 ♖f4 25.♙f1 e5** Black is just winning. **26.♖f3 ♜ab8 27.♙d1 ♜hc8 28.a4 ♜b2 29.♙b5 ♜cc2 30.♖d2 ♖c5 31.h4 ♖cd3+** [31...♖b3! was a nice finish, but the game is quite simple of course. 32.♖xb3 ♖g2+ 33.♗f1 ♙xf2+ 34.♗g1 ♖e3 35.♜h3 ♙g2+ 36.♗h1 ♖xd1 and wins everything.] **32.♙xd3 ♖xd3+ 33.♗e2 ♖xf2 34.♗xf2 ♙xd2+ 0-1**

(5) Laznicka,Viktor (2704) - Howell,David (2603) [D23]

Gibraltar (8.8), 31.01.2012

[J. Aagaard]

This game reminded me of Chess Tactics from Scratch and the work we did for it on candidate moves and calculation. There is a very nice tactical moment that Howell calculated accurately and won a pawn. Subsequently Laznicka did not play the best way and drifted into a worse position. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♖f3 ♖f6 4.♙c2 dxc4 5.♙xc4 ♙f5 6.g3 e6 7.♙g2 ♖bd7 8.e3 ♙e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♙d1 ♖e4 11.♙e2 ♙b6 12.♖c3 ♙fd8 13.♖e1 ♖xc3 14.bxc3 ♙g6 15.e4 c5 16.♙e3 ♙a5 17.♖d3 ♙xc3 18.dxc5 ♙ac8 19.♜ab1** This is the moment I was thinking of. Black would love to take on c5, but there appears to be various variations with Rc1, attacking the queen and winning material. However, Howell looked deeper and saw the refutations to both of them. **19...♖xc5!! 20.♜bc1** Played without full control of the tactics, it turns out. [20.♖xc5 ♙xd1+ 21.♙xd1 ♙xc5 gives us another important moment. Here White apparently is winning after 22.♜c1? , but Black has a brilliant riposte in 22...♙xe3!! , winning a piece. Instead White can exchange on c5 and take on b7 with a quick draw. Probably this was the way he should have played.] **20...♖a4!! 21.♖f4!** [21.♙xc3? would give White a worse position after 21...♖xc3 22.♙e1 ♖xd1 23.♙xd1 ♜c3! where the two rooks are better than the queen, not to speak of the extra pawn.] **21...♙b4 22.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 23.♖xg6?!** [Laznicka starts drifting. The way to prove compensation for the pawn was to penetrate with the queen to c7. For my book on calculation I am working on the method of comparison, among others. Here it appears that the Qc2-c7 manoeuvre is worse when there are no back rank mate ideas. 23.♙c2! was the strong move (candidates!). The threat of Rb1 helps create sufficient counterplay. The amusing best play of both seems to be: 23...♖b6 24.♙c7 ♖a8 25.♙c2 ♖b6=] **23...hxg6 24.e5?!** [White was still in a position to play 24.♙c2 ♖b6 25.♙b3! with the idea of exchanging queens and then take on b6 to enter a drawish ending a pawn down. Notice that(25.♙c7 is no longer very good. Black takes the initiative after: 25...♜c8 26.♙xb7 ♙xc1+ 27.♙xc1 ♙e1+ 28.♙f1 ♙c5!⌘)] **24...♙c5⌘ 25.♙g5 ♙d7 26.♙c2 b5 27.h4 a6 28.♙f3 ♙d4 29.♙b3 ♙a5 30.♗g2 ♙b6 31.♜h1 ♜b4 32.♙d3 ♜b2 33.♗h3 ♙xf2 34.♙e4 ♙c7 35.h5 ♙xe5 36.♙d8+ ♙f8 37.♙d1 f6 38.♙xg6 fxg5 39.♙d7 ♙f3 0-1**

(6) Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar (2747) - Akobian,Varuzhan (2617) [D34]

Gibraltar (9.4), 01.02.2012

[J. Aagaard]

When I was playing the European Team Championship in Greece I talked to a friend about the Tarrasch. He was very surprised that we had relied on ... h6-lines instead of "his" ...Qa5 move, which he found to be fully ok. We both had some concrete reasons (given in the book) and a bad feeling in general. The following game is the kind of thing I did not want to experience with Black - nor convince others that they should endure. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♖c3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♖f3 ♖c6 6.g3 ♖f6 7.♙g2 ♙e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♙g5 c4 10.♖e5 ♙e6 11.♖xc6 bxc6 12.b3 ♙a5** [12...h6 13.♙xf6 ♙xf6 14.bxc4 dxc4 15.e3 ♙a5 is the main line from Grandmaster Repertoire 10 - The Tarrasch Defence.] **13.♙d2 ♙b4 14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♙fc1 ♙ad8** [15...♙ac8 16.bxc4 dxc4 17.a3 ♙xc3 18.♙xc3 ♙xc3 19.♙xc3 ♙fd8 20.e3 c5 21.d5 ♙xd5 22.♙xd5 ♙xd5 23.♙xc4± Zhou Jianchao - Akobian, Beijing 2008, is probably something Black should draw, even if it is a bit uncomfortable.] **16.bxc4 dxc4 17.e3 c5** [17...f5?! has a bad reputation: 18.♙xc6 f4 19.a3 fxe3 20.♙xe3 ♙xc3 21.♙xc3 ♙d6 22.♙e4 ♙fd8 23.d5 ♙xd5 24.♙g5+ ♗f8 So - Akobian, Wijk aan Zee 2010. Here So for some reason did not play: 25.♙xc4!±] **18.d5 ♙xc3 19.♙xc3!** The ending is more dangerous for Black with the queens on the board. **19...♙xd5 20.♙xd5 ♙xd5 21.♙c2 ♜b8 22.♙xc4 ♜b4 23.♜b1 ♜xb1+ 24.♙xb1 ♙b6 25.♙c2± f5** This is the position Black has been happy to enter. I am not really sure about the last move. Personally I would never advance the f-pawn unless it was absolutely forced. Still I think it is fair to say that White is a bit better and can press on for another 79 moves should he think so. **26.♙f4 ♙c6 27.h3 h6 28.♗h2 a6 29.a4 ♗g7 30.a5 ♙e6 31.♙c3+ ♙e5 32.♙c4 ♙e6 33.h4 ♗g8 34.♙c2 ♗g7 35.e4 fxe4 36.♙xe4 ♙f5 37.♙b2+ ♙d4 38.♙xd4 cxd4 39.♙xd4+ f6 40.♙b6 h5 41.♗g1 ♙d3 42.♙b7+ ♗g6 43.♗g2 ♙c4 44.♙b1+ ♗g7 45.♙f5 ♙c6+ 46.♗h2 ♗h6 47.♗g1 ♙c1+ 48.♗g2 ♙c6+ 49.♙f3 ♙d6 50.♗f1 ♗g6 51.♙e4+ ♗g7 52.♙f5 ♙c6 53.♗g1 ♗h6 54.♗h2 ♙d6 55.♗h3 ♙c6 56.f3 ♙c3 57.g4 hxg4+ 58.♗xg4 ♙b2 59.♙f4+ ♗g7 60.♙c7+ ♗g6 61.h5+ ♗h6 62.♗f5 ♙b5+**

63.♔xf6 ♖g5+ 64.♔e6 ♖e3+ 65.♔d7 ♔xh5 66.f4 ♔g4 67.♔c8 ♖b3 68.♖e5 ♖b4 69.♔c7 ♖b3 70.♔c6 ♖b4
 71.♖g5+ ♔f3 72.♖h5+ ♔g3 73.♖g5+ ♔f3 74.♔c7 ♖b3 75.♖f6 ♖b4 76.♖e5 ♔g4 77.f5 ♔g5 78.♔c6 ♖b3
 79.♖c5 ♖b8 80.♔d7 ♖b7+ 81.♔e6 ♖b3+ 82.♔d7 ♖b7+ 83.♔d6 ♖b3 84.♔c7 ♖f7+ 85.♔b6 ♖e8 86.♔xa6 ♖a8+
 87.♔b6 ♖b8+ 88.♔c6 ♖c8+ 89.♔d5 ♖d7+ 90.♔c4 ♖a4+ 91.♔c3 ♖a1+ 92.♔b4 ♖b2+ 93.♔a4 ♖a2+ 94.♔b5
 ♖b3+ 95.♔c6 ♖a4+ 96.♔c7 ♖f4+ 97.♔b7 ♖e4+ 98.♔a7 ♖e8 99.♖d5 ♖e7+ 100.♔b8 ♖e8+ 101.♔c7 ♖e7+
 102.♔c8 ♖a7 103.f6+ ♔xf6 104.♖d8+ 1-0

(7) McKay,Roddy - Aagaard,Jacob [D34]

Glasgow League New in Chess, 31.01.2012

[J. Aagaard]

The following game was played on board one in the local league where I live. Rod is a talented IM who decided to just play for fun on rare occasions. Many times I have been in trouble with him, just to make up for it in time trouble. Recently I seem to have gotten the best of him. The game was played with 1 hour for 30 move and another 15 to the end. I played a bit fast while Roddy got into time trouble, accelerating his downfall. Most of the game it was just unclear. I think. 1.♔f3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.♔g2 ♔c6 4.d4 ♔f6 5.0-0 e6 6.c4 ♔e7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.♔c3 0-0 9.♔e3 c4 10.♔e5 ♔f5 [10...h6 is interesting, in order to play ...Bf5, but I was ready for the main line a moment ago and I am ready now. Such options are more important for people who wants to play 9.Bg5 cxd4. The main point is to avoid; 10...♔e6?! 11.♔xc4! dxc4 12.d5± .] 11.♔g5 ♔e6 12.e3 h6 13.♔xf6 ♔xf6 14.f4 ♔e7 15.♖f2 This has been played twice in the database. My response is obvious, but still a novelty. Knowing the typical ideas of the positions helped me a lot during this game. [15.g4 is Khalifman's idea, but is neutralised with: 15...b5!N as can be seen in Chapter 4 of Grandmaster Repertoire 10 - The Tarrasch Defence.] 15...♖b8!N 16.♖h5 g6! [I could not resist the temptation of hitting the queen back and playing this standard regrouping. Especially after calculating the consequences of Qxh6 accurately. However, in the cold light of day, one it tempted to ask what the White idea is after 16...b5 . Maybe it was 17.f5 planning planning 17...Bc8 18.Ng4. But what about 17...♔xf5 18.♖xf5 g6 . Here the computer gives the amazing line: 19.♔xd5! ♔xd5! (19...gxh5 20.♔xf6+ ♔h8 21.♖xh5 ♔g7 22.♖f1 with compensation.) 20.♔xg6 ♔xe3 21.♖f3 ♖xd4 22.♔xf8 ♖xf8 23.♖b1 and allegedly the position is equal - though I prefer Black in a practical setting. 23...♔d1+ 24.♔h1 ♖e8 25.♖f5 ♖e1+ 26.♔f1 ♔g7] 17.♖e2 [17.♖xh6?! is refuted by 17...♔f5 18.♖h3 ♔xe5! The move order is important. a) 18...♔xd4?! 19.♔g4!; b) 18...♔xe3?! 19.g4 ♔xe5? (19...♔xg4!∞) 20.♖xe3±; 19.fxe5 ♔xe3 20.g4? ♔xg4 21.♖f4 ♔xe5 22.♖h6 ♔g4! 23.♖g7 24.g4 f5 This is not how you normally play and here it is just a bit inaccurate I think. [I played quite quickly throughout the game, not wasting time on seeing that 18...b5 was ever so slightly more accurate and that White did not have 19.f5 gxf5 20.gxf5 because of 20...♔xf5! 21.♔c6 ♖g5↑ .] 19.h3 A bit slow. [19.gxf5! ♔xf5 20.♖f3 (20.e4! ♔xe4 21.♖xc4+ ♔h7∞) 20...♔e6 21.♖g3 ♔f5 22.♖f3=] 19...b5 20.♔f3 b4!? Preparing to sacrifice the exchange, if allowed. [20...♖d6 21.♖g2∞] 21.♔a4 ♖c8 22.♖g2 [22.♔c5 ♖xc5 23.dxc5 ♔xe5 24.fxe5 ♖c7] 22...♔xe5 23.fxe5 f4 [23...♖a5 24.b3 c3∞ was also possible. The computer says Black is just better, but I personally find the position rather unclear. I was only too happy to protect my queen a bit.] 24.♖d2 [24.♔c5? certainly does not work now. After 24...♖xc5 25.dxc5 fxe3 26.♖xe3 d4 27.♖e3 White's position is unbearable.] 24...♖d7 I quite liked this move, even if the details were lost on me. There are other good moves such as [24...c3! , but the main question is of course why I did not play; 24...♖a5 . What I saw was that my usual idea does not work here: 25.♔c5 ♖xc5 26.dxc5 fxe3? (26...g5!∞) 27.♖xe3 d4 fails to get compensation on account of 28.♖xd4! ♖xf3 29.♖d6 ♔f7 30.♖f1± and White keeps his extra exchange without having to face an avalanche of pawns.] 25.b3 [I did not have full control over 25.♖xb4 fxe3 26.♖f1 ♔c6 27.♖c3 ♔xe5 28.dxe5 ♖xa4 29.♖xe3 ♔h7 , but Black is doing ok here.; 25.♔c5 is still met with 25...♖xc5 26.dxc5 fxe3 27.♖xe3 d4∞ , although the position is not nearly as clear as I imagined during the game (and I still found it pretty unclear). The main point is that it is unpleasant for White.] 25...c3 26.♖e1! [I expected 26.♖d3 which I found stronger because of the ...Ne7-h4 manoeuvre. It was to become apparent that my opponent had not anticipated this idea at all.] 26...g5! The attraction of putting the knight on h4 is just too great to miss. [26...♔c6! 27.♖xe3 ♔xe5? ♔xe5! was something I did spot during the game, but I did not see the point of it. The point is to play ...Qe7-g5, force White to take on f4 and with the d4-pawn. Too deep for my wrists I must say.] 27.a3 Seeking counterplay. [27.h4? ♔g6 28.hxg5 hxg5 would only favour Black as he is the one on the attack.] 27...bxa3! [I refrained from playing 27...♔g6! , because I did not see what to do after 28.axb4? ♔h4 29.♖f2 ♔xf3+ 30.♖xf3 ♔xg4 31.hxg4 ♖xg4+ 32.♔f2 fxe3+ 33.♖xe3 Admittedly I did not look very hard either. Or I would have seen 33...♖xf3+ 34.♖xf3 ♖f8 winning at once. Again I was a bit restless and playing too fast.] 28.♔xc3 Maybe there is some difficult improvement here, but practically there was nothing better for him with 40 seconds on the clock. 28...♔g6 29.♖xa3? [After 29.♔d1 ♔h4 30.♖f2 my intention had been to play 30... Qe7, which is actually quite a good move it turns out. But even stronger would have been 30...h5! 31.exf4 hxg4 with a devastating attack.]

29...♖h4 30.♙e2 [I was expecting 30.♖f2 ♗xf3+ 31.♖xf3 ♙xg4 32.hxg4 ♖xg4+ 33.♗f2 fxe3+ 34.♖xe3 Here I had looked at ideas such as ...Qxf3 and ...Rxc3 afterwards, but the computer points to a simple solution I would have found for sure, had I gathered my thoughts. 34...♖xf3+! 35.♖xf3 and now either 35...Qxd4+ or 35...♖f8 , but winning.] 30...♗xg2 [30...f3 also won of course, but I saw a simple way to win a rook and went with it.] 31.♗xg2 f3+! 32.♙xf3 ♖f7 White resigned. The point is of course that after 33.♙e2 Black wins with 33...♖xc3! 34.♖xc3 ♖f2+ 35.♗h1 ♖xe2 36.♙a1 ♖f2 and mate is near. 0-1

(8) The Kaufman Repertoire - for Black and White [D34]

New in Chess New in Chess, 30.01.2012

[J. Aagaard]

"The Kaufman Repertoire for Black & White" was published by New in Chess just a few days ago. The book has some interesting features in it, but also some I doubt that have come to stay (here I specifically talk about having a front page in each end, so you have to turn the book over to read the 'other' half of the book. Beyond the first 10 seconds light appreciation of this gimmick, I just found the idea annoying.). We quite like his approach to the repertoire, based on simplicity, which we think a lot of readers will like. This is also what we are aiming for in our Playing 1.d4 and Playing 1.e4 books out this spring. I would personally be a bit afraid to play some of the very sharp lines he recommend with only 1-2 games in my memory database. But for many this is exactly the place to start. Obviously the most interesting aspect for us is how the book reacts against our recent publications. It was with delight I noticed that we were clearly ahead when it comes to the Tarrasch. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗f3 ♗c6 6.g3 ♗f6 7.♙g2 ♙e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5 ♙xc5 10.a3! Nikos and I suggested this move as the most dangerous in our book: Grandmaster Repertoire 10 - The Tarrasch Defence. We also came up with a very interesting and non-compliant way to meet it: Kaufman's main attention is drawn to the following line: 10...♙e6? This is a very passive move. I am surprised that Kaufman did not realise that this is not how Black wants to play this opening. [10...♗e4! was our reaction. The fight for the e4- and d4-squares are in general the positional topics of this opening. If Black takes on d4 without controlling the square, White appears to be better. And in this line (as other places), White will be better if he controls the e4-square comfortably, as it prevents activity. 11.♖xd5 (11.♗xd5N ♙e6 12.♗c3 is the other critical variation. We claim that Black has enough compensation for the pawn in more than one way. This has yet to be tested it seems.) 11...♗xc3 12.♖xc5 ♗xe2+ 13.♗h1 ♗xc1 14.♖axc1 ♖f6 15.b4 (15.♖c3 ♖e8 16.♖b5 Tokarev - Bezgodova, Kazan 2010. 16...h6! 17.♗d1 ♖b8=) 15...♙g4 16.♗g5 ♖ad8 17.♙xc6 bxc6 18.f3 ♙f5 19.♗e4 ♙xe4 20.fxe4 ♖b2,, 1/2-1/2 Hiarcs 13.1 T4-Thinker 5.4D x64 T4, Antalya 2010.] 11.b4 ♙e7 12.♙b2 ♖c8 I cannot remember exactly what we had against Kaufman's suggestion 13.♖c1 [because we ditched the entire variation for Black on account of 13.♖b1!!± , which controls the e4-square. Only one game was played with this and it was a pure smacking: 13...♖d7 14.♗d1 ♖fd8 15.♗g5 d4 16.♗b5 ♙f5 17.♖a2± ♗d5? 18.♗xd4+- ♙xg5 19.♗xf5 ♖xf5 20.♖xd5 ♖xd5 21.♖xd5 ♖xd5 22.♙xd5 b5 23.f4 ♙f6 24.♙xf6 gxf6 25.♖c1 ♗e7 26.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 27.♗f2 f5 28.♗e3 ♗f8 29.♗d4 ♗e7 30.♗c5 ♗d6 31.♙c6 a6 32.♗b6 ♗c4+ 33.♗xa6 ♗xa3 34.♙xb5 ♗c2 35.♗a5 ♗e3 36.♙d3 ♗f1 37.♙xf5 1-0 Wieczorek - Olenderek, Suwalki 1999.] 13...h6 [The other line given by Kaufman is: 13...♖d7 14.e3 ♖fd8 15.♗e2 ♗e4 16.♗f4 a6 17.♖e2 ♙d6 18.♗xe6!?N (The computer's suggested improvement on 18.♖fd1 ♙xf4 19.exf4± Mikhalchishin - Halkias, Terme Zrece 2003, though it should be said that White was close to winning this game as well.) 18...fxe6 Slightly unnatural to me, I would take with the pawn, but it is fair to say White is a bit better anyway. 19.♗d4±] 14.♗d4 ♗xd4 15.♖xd4± a5? 16.♗xd5!± and so on, Hera - Kostic, Graz 2011. Line

(9) Catalan analysis - GM Rep 1 [E04]

29.02.2012

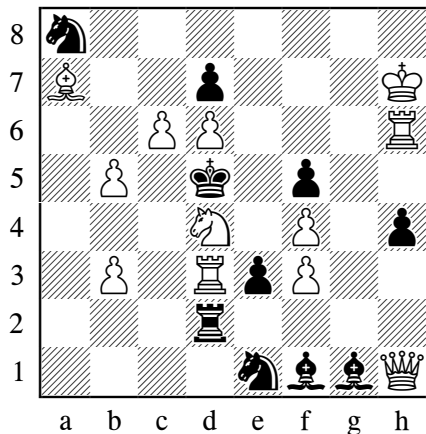
[J. Shaw]

It was pointed out to us that the following line is less clear than was first thought in Grandmaster Repertoire 1 - 1.d4 Volume 1. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 ♗f6 4.g3 dxc4 5.♙g2 b5 6.a4 c6 7.axb5 cxb5 8.♗e5 ♗d5 9.♗c3 f6 The critical move, though more common is [9...♙b4 when White scores heavily after 10.0-0] 10.♗g4 ♙b7 11.e4 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 ♙e7 [12...♙d6!?] 13.♗h6 Avrukh's spectacular idea. [White could play in simple dull style with 13.0-0 0-0 14.♗e3 and plausibly claim his centre compensates for the missing pawn.] 13...a6 14.♖h5+ ♗d7!N A wild idea that makes sense the more one looks at it: the king steps away, creating the threat of ...Qe8, exchanging queens. [14...g6 is the move mentioned in the book 15.♖e2 e5!/? A new idea suggested by a reader, but... 16.0-0! White should keep the centre open and thus avoid d4-d5. The question is: what happens if Black grabs the pawn? 16...exd4 (16...♗d7 17.♖d1) 17.cxd4 ♖xd4 (17...♗c6 18.♖d1♖) 18.♙f4 Black's passed queenside looks impressive, but his king will face the wrath of White's entire army. We shall offer a few lengthy but sensible sample lines: 18...♗d7 (18...♖d3 19.♖g4 ♖d7 20.♗f5 ♖c8 21.♖ad1 ♗f7 22.♖h4 gxf5 23.♖h5+ ♗g8 24.♙h3! ♙xe4 25.♖fe1+-) 19.♖fd1! The other

rook is needed to take on a6 in some lines. (19.♖ad1 ♖b6 (19...♗a7 20.♖xd7 ♗xd7 21.♗g4+ ♗e8 22.♖e6 ♗d4 23.♗f3!+-; 19...♗c3 20.♖xd7 ♗xd7 21.♖c1 ♗a3 22.♖d1+ ♗e8 23.e5+-) 20.e5 (20.♗f5 ♗e5) 20...♗xg2 21.exf6 (21.♖xd7 ♗xd7 22.exf6 ♗xf6 23.♖d1+ ♗e8 24.♖d6 ♗f3 25.♗xf3 ♗xd6 26.♗xa8+ ♗d8=) 21...♗xf6 22.♗xg2 0-0-0 23.♖xd7 ♖xd7 24.♗f3 ♖a7 25.♗e1,,) 19...♗b6 20.e5 ♗xg2 21.exf6 ♗xf6 22.♗xg2 ♗f8 23.f3 ♖e8 24.♗b2 ♗c6 (24...♗g7? 25.♖d7) 25.♖xa6 (25.♖d6 c3 26.♗b3 ♗c4) 25...♗xa6 26.♖d6 ♗xd6 27.♗xd6 ♗g7 28.♗g4 ♖hf8 29.♗f4±] **15.♗g4** Saving the knight allows Black to play chase-the-queen, but sacrificial ideas simply do not work: [15.♗h3 gxh6 16.0-0 (16.♗f7 f5 17.d5 ♗g8 18.dxe6+ ♗d8) 16...♗c7 17.♗xe6 ♗d6+; 15.♗f7 ♗e8 16.d5 g6 17.♗h3 ♗xf7 18.♗e3 ♗d8+] **15...♗e8 16.♗h3 h5 17.♗e3 g5!** Two large pieces could be in trouble: the white queen and the black king. One "star" move could change everything, but so far it seems roughly level in a messy difficult position. **18.f3** The best defence. [The problem with 18.g4 hxg4 is that recapturing looks bad: 19.♗g3 (19.♗xg4?! ♖h4 and ...Bxe4) 19...♗c6+; 18.♗a3? allows Black to demonstrate his threat: 18...g4 19.♗h4 ♗d8+] **18...♗c7! 19.♗xe6** [19.0-0 ♗g8 (19...♗c8!?) 20.f4 ♗d7 slightly favours Black.] **19...♗b4 20.♗xf6!** White must go for it. [The simplifying 20.♗xe8 ♗xc3+ 21.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 22.♗xd2 ♖xe8 leaves White "just" a pawn down, but it's a big pawn.] **20...♗xc3+ 21.♗e2 ♗xa1** White has decided to be a rook down rather than a pawn down, and yet he seems to be equal this way! **22.♗d2!** This leads to a draw. I tried and failed to find a win with two alternatives. I will mention the troublesome defences in case someone else can do better: [22.♗a3 ♗c3 23.♗d6+ ♗c8 24.♗xg5 ♗c6; 22.♗xc4 bxc4 23.♗xg5 ♗c6 24.♖xa1 ♗d7] **22...c3** [There is no time for 22...♗b2?? 23.♗a5+ ♗c8 24.♗h3+ g4 25.♗xg4 hxg4 26.♗xg4+ ♗d7 27.♗d6+] **23.♗xg5 cxd2 24.♗c5+ ♗c6** 25.♗d5+ ♗b8 26.♗d6+ ♗a7 27.♗c5+ ♗b8= A dull and disappointing draw... **Line**

(10) Bakshi,Gyorgy - Mate in 3

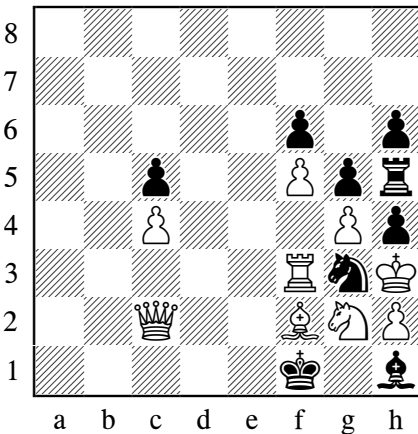
Sakkelet, 1998



White to play: mate in 3

(11) Bereznoi, Yuri - Selfmate in 2

Chervony Girnik, 1966



White to play. Selfmate in 2 (that is, White forces Black to mate him, while Black tries to avoid mating White)

(12) Bakshi, Gyorgy - Mate in 3

Sakkelet, 1998

[C. McNab]

It is natural to look for some way to use the set-up on the d-file. This will involve White moving the knight with discovered check, in reply Black captures the checking rook, and then the knight delivers mate. There are three obvious routes for the knight: e2-c3 or c2-b4 or f5-e7. However at present all of these fail: 1.Ne2+ Rxd3 defends c3; 1.Nc2+ Nxd3 defends b4; and 1.Nxf5+ Bxd3 pins the knight. But if White can entice one of these three black pieces away.. . **1. ♖g2** White threatens 2.Qg8#. **1... ♗xg2** The other variations are [1... ♖xg2 2. ♖c2+ ♖xd3 (or 2... ♗xd3) 3. ♖b4#; 1... ♖xg2 2. ♖e2+ ♖xd3 3. ♖c3#; 1... ♖c7 Many solvers failed to include this defence against Qg8# in their solutions, thereby dropping a point. 2. ♖e6+ ♖xd3 (2... ♗xd3; 2... ♖xd3) 3. ♖xc7#; 1... ♖b6 2. ♖g8+ ♖c5 3. ♖c4#] **2. ♖xf5+ ♖xd3** [or 2... ♖xd3] **3. ♖e7#**

(13) Bereznoi, Yuri - Selfmate in 2

Chervony Girnik, 1966

[C. McNab]

Many players have difficulty getting their heads around this type of problem, in which White's task is to force Black to deliver mate, while Black tries to avoid doing so. Here Black's only move with the bishop, 1...Bxg2, would be mate, so White's aim is to somehow force that. Black has just three other legal moves (with the knight), although currently White is ready for them. After any of 1...Ne4 2.Qd3 or 1...Ne4 2.Qxe4 or 1...Nxf5 2.Rxf5, Black is forced to play 2...Bxg2#. However, there is no white first move which maintains these variations. Instead, after the solution, the response to each of the three knight moves is changed. **1. ♖e3 ♖e2** [1... ♖e4 2. ♖xe4 ♗xg2#; 1... ♖xf5 2. ♖xf5 ♗xg2#] **2. ♖xe2 ♗xg2#**