

NEW IN CHESS 141 Yearbook

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CHESSE OPENING NEWS

Edited by Jan Timman

From the editor



Influencers

One of the most influential grandmasters in opening theory has passed away at the age of 71: Evgeny Sveshnikov. He started playing the 'Sveshnikov Variation' – as it was later called – back in 1965 and succeeded in making it a fully-fledged system in a few years. Nowadays it is one of the main lines of the Sicilian, thanks to Magnus Carlsen who has played it frequently. John van der Wiel writes the Survey. He has the proper age for it!

Garry Kasparov was the man who influenced opening theory for decades. Recently he confided that practically all of his preparation for the World Championship Match against Short in 1993 had been refuted by today's computer engines. In a blitz tournament in Zagreb he tried out an old line of the Najdorf Sicilian without any success. Was the line really that bad? Nico Zwirs investigates it.

We welcome Max Warmerdam, who already made contributions to our FORUM section a few times, as a new Survey author. He writes on a topical line in the Berlin Defence of the Ruy Lopez.

In my Survey, I focus on a different line in the Berlin that was popular around 1900. Jackson Showalter and Harry Nelson Pillsbury were the advocates of the line in which White sacs a pawn. Then it became dormant for almost a century. Nowadays it is so popular that I had to split the Survey in two parts.

Jan Timman

Opening Highlights



Jan-Krzysztof Duda

The Polish No. 1 reached a peak in his career by winning the World Cup in Sochi. Duda (who has written various Yearbook Surveys and recently called every new issue ‘a rush of adrenaline’ in an interview with *New In Chess!*) held confident draws in three black games by **posing his opponents new problems every time in the Arbakov Attack of the QGD**. See José Vilela’s Survey on page 150. We also have Jan-Krzysztof’s own analysis of his Moscow Sicilian win against Carlsen in the semifinals (page 39)!

Levon Aronian

After a horrendous year, Levon fought his way back to the top ranks and his play looks as creative as ever. Michael Adams in his Survey on page 178 examines, among others, **a direct central push in the Classical QGA which has yielded Aronian a lot of points recently**. It’s an old invention by the Russian theoretician Anatoly Ufimtsev. This line also featured in the World Cup game Sargissian-Praggnanandhaa which is analysed by Jan Timman in the Survey.



Garry Kasparov

The return of The Boss in the Croatia GCT blitz tournament was not what he had hoped for. Most painful of all, **Kasparov was crushed three times in his old pet line 7...♖c7 in the Najdorf Sicilian**, and in *British Chess Magazine* Alex Colovic did a butcher’s job analysing these games, seeming to bury this line for good. However, as Najdorf aficionado Nico Zwiers demonstrates in his Survey on page 45, things may not be that bad for Black. The 7...♖c7 Najdorf will be back, and so will Garry!

Alexandra Kosteniuk

Even **the Giuoco Piano is not very ‘piano’ any more**. The hottest line at this moment (or, let’s say, one of many current hot lines!) is one where White leaves the good old pawn on d3 hanging – pure sacrilege! Arthur Pijpers analyses this line in his Survey on page 125. A special feature here is Alexandra Kosteniuk’s analysis of her win in exactly this line over Maria Muzychuk which was an important step for the Russian former World Champion on her way to winning the World Cup.



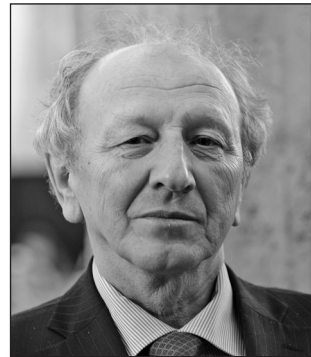


Sam Shankland

Many Grünfeld/KID players have been anxiously wondering what to do against 3.h4 recently. Some answers can be found in Ivan Sokolov's Survey on page 201. Sam Shankland's analysis of his World Cup win against Peter Svidler seems to indicate that **Black is alright against 3.h4 if he walks a very fine line**. The Survey also features Anish Giri's analysis of the brilliant game Fedoseev-Carlsen where Black was much more than fine – but Sokolov also provides some new ammo for White!

Evgeny Sveshnikov

The legendary Russian grandmaster and eminent theoretician passed away in August of this year, and being a chess openings periodical we couldn't let this pass by unnoticed. Dutch GM John van der Wiel, who has played Sveshnikov (once) as well as The Sveshnikov (a lot!), pays a **tribute to Sveshnikov by examining the state of affairs with White's h2-h4 push in four different versions**. For this special Survey (see page 61) we reserved some extra space.



Max Warmerdam

The latest Dutch grandmaster has recently been working with Anish Giri, according to many the best theoretician in the world at the moment, and very convincingly qualified for the final of the Dutch Championship which will be finished just as this Yearbook appears. After two FORUM contributions, Max's debut Survey is on **the provocative move 6...♘d7 in the Berlin Ruy Lopez with 4.d3**, which has been tried by elite players like Wesley So, Ding Liren and Sergey Karjakin. See page 83!

Nodirbek Abdusattorov

The young Uzbek GM, the 'prototype of a Wunderkind' according to our editor Jan Timman in New In Chess magazine, eliminated Anish Giri in the World Cup and reached the third round. Abdusattorov's strategic style (of course larded with sharp tactics where necessary) is perfectly suited for the Semi-Tarrasch Defence with which he beat Aravindh in the first round, a game that is analysed by Timman in Mikheil Mchedlishvili's 'Abdusattorov special' on page 166.



Your Variations

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HOT! = a trendy line or an important discovery

SOS = an early deviation

GAMBIT = a pawn sacrifice in the opening

Some sensible advice

The FORUM is a platform for discussion of developments in chess opening theory in general and particularly in variations discussed in previous Yearbook issues.

Contributions to these pages should be sent to: editors@newinchess.com

A candidate for the crown

by René Olthof

KI 30.8 (E71)

YB 103

In round 2 of the FIDE Grand Swiss in Riga, New In Chess contributor Alexander Predke followed in the footsteps of Murali Karthikeyan. Two years ago the young Indian grandmaster sacrificed his queen against two minor pieces in the Makogonov Variation of the King's Indian which proved too much for his opponent Alireza Firouzja. The spectacular move 9... ♖xc3+! netted him the Yearbook Novelty of the Year Award 2019, as reported on the FORUM pages of Yearbook 134.

Predke played the same line as White and had to deal with the aggressive pawn sacrifice 9... ♗d4 by young Uzbek grandmaster Yakubboev.

This time the white queen perished early in return for attacking chances on the dark squares. It is too soon to tell whether or not the imaginative 12.hxg4! will put this entire line out of business, but it might.

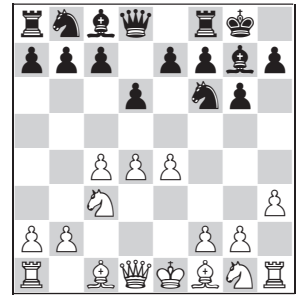
As Viacheslav Zakhartsov pointed out in his FORUM contribution in Yearbook 103, the idea behind 9... ♗d4 can be encountered in similar positions with the white pawn on a3 (instead of a2) and the black pawn on h7 instead of h6. This may or

may not influence the result of the pawn sacrifice.

**Alexander Predke
Nodirbek Yakubboev**

Riga 2021 (2)

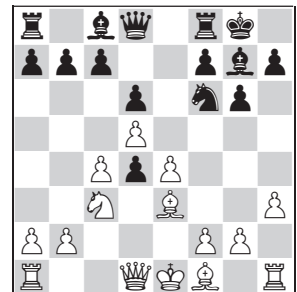
1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♖g7
4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0



6. ♖g5

A) 6. ♗f3 ♗c6 7. ♖e3

(Zakhartsov explicitly advocated 7.d5 in his FORUM contribution in Yearbook 103. This was already tried out in Vajda-E.Steiner, Győr 1924!) 7...e5 8.d5 ♗d4 9. ♗xd4 exd4



A1) 10. ♖xd4 ♗xe4 11. ♗xe4 (11. ♖xg7 ♖e8 12. ♖e2 ♗xg7 13. ♖d4+ (13. ♗b5? (Huguët-Fricker, Paris ch-FRA 1962) 13...c6!?) 13... ♖f6 14. ♖xf6+

♟xf6= was first played in Sakaev-Bologan, President's Cup, Elista 1998) 11... ♖h4 12.g4 (12. ♙xg7 ♜xe4+ 13. ♜e2 ♜xe2+ 14. ♙xe2 ♟xg7=) 12... ♜e8 13. ♙g2 ♙f5 14.0-0 ♙xe4 15. ♙xg7 ♙xg2 16. ♟xg2 ♟xg7 17. ♖d4+ ♖f6 18. ♖xf6+ ♟xf6 19. ♜fe1 (a draw was agreed here in the stem game Lutz-Finkel, Leeuwarden 1994) 19...g5 20. ♟g3 ♟g6 21.f4 f5. A virtually symmetrical double-rook ending which White managed to win in Schoppen-Beerdsen, Dieren 2019, after 22.fxg5 ♟xg5 23.h4+ ♟g6 24.g5 ♜e5 25. ♜xe5 dxe5 26. ♜d1 ♜d8 (possibly a valuable loss of time) 27.c5 h6 28.gxh6 ♟xh6 29.d6; A2) 10. ♖xd4 ♜e8 (10... ♟g4 11. ♖d2 (with the black pawn on h7 instead of h6 the queen sacrifice from the game 11.hxg4 ♙xd4 12. ♙xd4 is out of the question due to 12... ♙xg4 13.f3 ♙d7) 11... ♟xe3 12. ♜xe3 f5) 11. ♖d2 ♟xe4 12. ♟xe4 ♜xe4 13. ♙d3 ♜e8 14.0-0 1-0 (55) M.Dimitrijevic-J.Mitrovic, Serbia tt-3 2008; B) 6. ♙e3 c5 7. ♟f3 ♖a5 8. ♟d2 cxd4 9. ♟b3 ♖xc3+ 10.bxc3 dxe3 was never repeated since Firouzja-Karthikeyan, which features exactly the same material ratio as the present game. **6... ♟c6 7. ♟f3** 7.d5!?. **7...h6** The immediate 7...e5 is quite provocative: 8.d5 ♟d4 9. ♟xd4 (9. ♙e3 c5 10.dxc6 ♟xf3+ 11. ♖xf3 bxc6 12. ♜d1 ♙e6 13. ♙c5 ♟e8± M.Braun-Borsavolgyi, Hungary tt 2001/02) 9...exd4 10. ♖xd4 ♟xe4! (10... ♜e8 11. ♜e3 h6 12. ♙xf6 ♖xf6 13. ♙d3 ♙d7) 11. ♖xg7+ ♟xg7 12. ♙xd8 ♟xc3 13. ♙g5! ♜e8+ 14. ♙e3 ♟e4 15.0-0-0 a5 16. ♙d3 ♟c5 17. ♙c2±.



Alexander Predke

8. ♙e3 e5 9.d5 ♟d4

A much more adventurous continuation compared to the standard 9... ♟e7.

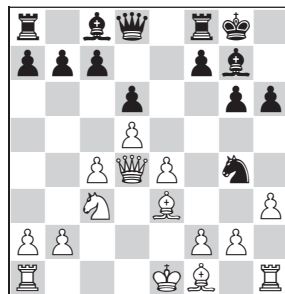
10. ♟xd4

10. ♖d2 ♟xf3+ 11.gxf3 ♟h7 12.0-0-0 ♟h5 and a draw was agreed in M.Braun-Borsavolgyi, Hungary tt-2 2005/06, 'although the board is full of pieces and Black is fine' – Zakhartsov.

10...exd4 11. ♖xd4

11. ♙xd4 allows the ploy 11... ♟xe4! 12. ♟xe4 (12. ♙xg7 ♜e8! 13. ♙e2 ♟xg7 is a dead end in terms of obtaining an opening advantage) 12... ♖h4 (an important tactical resource) 13.g4 (13. ♙xg7 ♖xe4+ 14. ♖e2 ♖xe2+ 15. ♙xe2 ♟xg7) 13... ♜e8 14. ♙g2 ♙f5! 15.0-0 ♙xe4 16. ♙xg7 ♙xg2 17. ♟xg2 ♟xg7 18. ♖d4+ ♖f6 19. ♖xf6+ ♟xf6= 20. ♜fe1 a5 21.f4 ½-½ Sidiropoulos-Kanakaris, Thessaloniki 2019.

11... ♟g4



12.hxg4!N

A brash attempt. The known alternative in the predecessor leaves the initiative entirely with Black: 12. ♖d2 ♟xe3 13. ♖xe3 f5= 14.0-0-0 (14. ♙d3!?) 14...a6 15. ♙d3 b5 16.exf5 bxc4 17. ♙xc4 ♟xf5 18.g4 ♜e8 (18... ♖h4!?) 19. ♜df1 ♜ab8 20.f4 ♜b4 21. ♙xa6 ♙d7±; 18... ♙d7) 19. ♖g3 (19. ♖d2 ♖h4 20.gxf5 ♖xc4 21. ♜hg1 g5 22. ♜g4 ♙xc3 23. ♜xc4 ♙xd2+ 24. ♜xd2±) 19... ♙e4?! (19... ♙d7 20. ♜he1 a5±) 20. ♜he1 ♖f6 (20... ♖b8 21.b3 ♖b4 22. ♟xe4 ♖a3+ 23. ♟d2 ♖b2+ 24. ♟e3 ♖c3+ 25. ♙d3 ♜xe4+ 26. ♟xe4 ♜e8+ 27. ♟f3 ♜xe1 28. ♜xe1 ♖xe1 29. ♟g2±) 21.f4 ♜ab8 (21... ♜e7 22. ♜d2 ♜ae8 23. ♙xa6+–) 22. ♜d2?? (22. ♜e3+–) 22... ♖xc3+ 0-1 Potapov-Goluch, Pardubice 2014.

12... ♙xd4 13. ♙xd4

The big question would be: are two minor pieces plus a pawn weakness on h6 sufficient long-term compensation for the sacrificed queen? In practice it may very well be.

13... ♟h7

A) 13...f6 14. ♜xh6 ♟f7 15.g5! (15. ♜h7+ ♟g8 16. ♜h6 c5 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.g5 ♟g7 19.0-0-0 ♖a5 20. ♙e2 ♖xg5+ 21. ♙e3 ♖xe3+ 22.fxe3 ♟xh6 23. ♜xd6 ♙b7 24. ♜d7 ♜ab8 25. ♟a4 ♜fd8) 15... ♜h8 16. ♙xf6 ♖xf6 17.gxf6 ♜xh6∞; B) 13... ♖g5 14. ♙e2 hardly solves Black's problem. If 14...h5 15.gxh5 ♖h6 16.g4 ♙d7 17.g5 ♖xg5 18. ♙e3 ♖e7 19.f4± is just a random sample line to illustrate this point;

C) 13...h5 14.gxh5 g5 15.0-0-0 f6 h6∞.

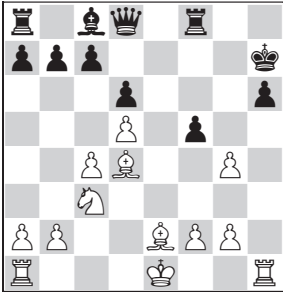
14. ♙e2 f5?

Opening up the position is wrong, because it paves the way for White's minor pieces. A) 14...c5 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.f4 c5 17. ♜xh6+! (otherwise White's attack is repulsed)

17...♖xh6 18.g5+ ♖h7 19.♙f6 and the mating threat along the h-file secures a sizeable advantage;

B) Erecting a stonewall on the dark squares with 14...f6 15.0-0-0 g5 comes to mind. On the other hand, most people would rather be White here.

15. exf5! – gxf5



16. ♖h5!

Hitting the nail on the head. Black is already totally busted due to the threat of 17.g5.

16... ♖g6

16...♖g8 17.♗d2 ♖g5 18.♖ah1 ♖xh5 19.♖xh5 and again Black cannot meet the threat of 20.g5, while 16...fxg4 fails to 17.♗d3+ ♖g8 18.♖xh6 ♙f5 19.♙xf5 ♖xf5 20.♖h8+.

17. ♗d2

17.g5 looks like a real hammer blow:

A) 17...hxg5 18.♗d2 c5 19.♖h6+ ♖xh6 (19...♗f7 20.♙h5+ ♖e7 21.♖e1+ ♗d7 22.♖h7+) 20.♖h1+ ♖g6 21.♙h5+ ♖h7 22.♙f7#;

B) 17...♖e8 18.♖xh6+ ♖xg5 19.♖h7 ♖e7 20.♖h8 ♖xh8 21.♙xh8 ♖h7 22.♙d4 ♖h1+ 23.♙f1.

17...fxg4 18. ♖ah1 ♙f5

19. ♖xh6+ ♗f7 20. ♖1h5

Stopping 20...♖g5+. Alternatively, 20.♙d3! eliminates a key kingside defender.

20... ♗e7

20...♙g6 is met by 21.♙xg4! ♙xh5 22.♙xh5+ ♖e7 23.♖h7+.

21. ♗d1

Rerouting the knight to greener pastures adds a nice touch to the game.

Again 21.♙d3! seems decisive.

21...c5 22. ♙c3 ♗d7 23. ♗e3!

♙b1 24. ♙xg4+

24.♖c1! ♙e4 25.♖e6 ♖xf2

26.♙xg4, picking up more material, looks more

straightforward.

24... ♖c7 25. f3

Again, 25.♖c1! ♙e4 26.f3

♙d3 27.♗d2 ♙b1 28.♙f5!

♙xf5 (28...♙xa2 29.♙a5+! b6

30.♖h7+ ♖b8 31.♙c3) 29.♗xf5

♖xf5 30.♖xf5 ♖g8 31.g4+.

25... ♖e8

A) 25...a5 26.♙f5 ♙xa2

differs from the previous note

in that the winning ♙a5+ has

been made impossible, but

still 27.♙d3! is grim for Black,

for if 27...♖e8 28.♗f5 ♖d8

29.♗g7! when the e6-square is more than inviting!

B) 25...♖g8 26.♖e6 ♖f8

27.♙f5! ♖xg2+ 28.♗xg2 ♙xf5

29.♗f4! and 30.♖f6 wraps up

things nicely.

26. ♖h1

26.♖e6 ♖f7 27.♖h1+.

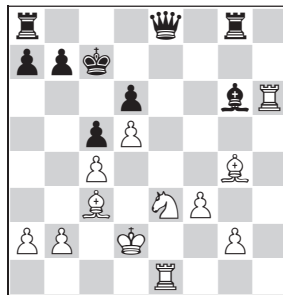
26... ♙g6 27. ♖e1

27.♙e6!+.

27... ♖g8

Creating counterplay with

27...a6± was called for.



28. ♙e6! ♖f8 29. ♖eh1

The glorious return to the h-file.

29... ♖e8

A) 29...♖e7 30.f4 (30.♙xg8

♖xg8 31.♖h8 ♖xh8 32.♖xh8

is not quite convincing; the bishop on e6 was a monster!)

30...♖af8 31.f5 ♖xf5 32.♖xg6 ♖f2+ 33.♖e1 ♖xg6 34.♗xf2;

B) 29...♖f4 30.♖6h4 ♖g3

31.♖e2! and the threat of

32.♖g4 is fatal.

30. ♖1h4 ♖xe6 31. dxe6 ♖e8

32. ♗d5+ ♖c6 33. ♗f6 ♖e7

34. ♖g4 1-0

Surely this magnificent game is a candidate for our annual Novelty of the Year contest!

Don't try this at home!

by Han Schut

GI 3.1 (D80)

Harry gets support from a knight on the rim... on the other side. Warning: don't try this at home! Violation of opening principles may lead to sudden game losses.

Magnus Carlsen uncorked another stunning novelty in the Grünfeld combining the advance of Harry the h-pawn (4.h4) with Nadanian's knight manoeuvre 6.♗a4. Black does not have a way of punishing White's extravaganza but can reach equality with either 6...♗f6 or 6...♗c6 7.e4 ♗f6 8.d5 ♗d4. In the game, Black never succeeded in breaking down White's centre and eventually succumbed to White's pieces dancing around White's central pawn structure.

Magnus Carlsen

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

Aimchess Rapid Prelim 2021 (7)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3

3.h4 is the early h2-h4 push

that Sam Shankland recently

used to beat Grünfeld expert

Peter Svidler in the Sochi

World Cup 2021: 3...♙g7

4.♗f3 ♗c6. See Ivan Sokolov's

Survey elsewhere in this

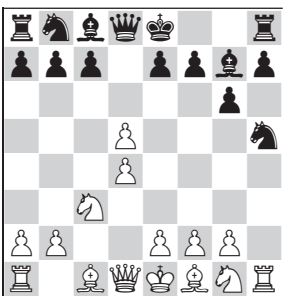
issue.

3...d5 4.h4

The Nadanian Variation 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♖a4 was introduced 25 years ago by IM Ashot Nadanian and is still used on a regular basis by Jeffery Xiong. Many chess players will remember this variation for the continuation where White has tripled isolated pawns on the e-file on move 10: 5...e5 (most popular nowadays is 5...♙g7 6.e4 ♘b6 7.♙e3 0-0 8.♗f3 ♙g4 9.♙e2 (9.♘c5 ♘c6 10.♘xb7 ♖b8 11.♙a6 ♘b4 12.♘c5 ♘xa6 13.♘xa6 ♖c8 ½-½ (61) Romanov-Nepomniachtchi, Skopje 2015) 9...♘xa4 10.♖xa4 c5 11.dxc5 ♙xb2 0-1 (44) Lysyj-Morozevich, Sochi 2007) 6.dxe5 ♙b4+ 7.♙d2 ♘e3 8.fxe3 ♙xd2+ 9.♖xd2 ♖h4+ 10.g3 ♖xa4. This position is currently considered better for White, as already borne out in Nadanian-Akobian, Yerevan 1996 (1-0, 26), analysed 25 years ago by the originator in his Survey in Yearbook 45 on page 147.

4...c5

Recent correspondence and top GM games indicate that this counter in the centre is the best way for Black to reach equality against White's flank aggression. Black does not achieve complete equality with the historically most popular move 4...♙g7 after 5.h5! ♘xh5 6.cxd5 and now:



A) 6...c6 7.e4 cxd5 8.e5 (threatening to trap the ♘h5

with g2-g4) 8...♙f8 9.♖b3 (most frequently played is 9.g4 ♘g7 10.♙g2 e6 (better is 10...♙e6, avoiding a bad bishop on c8; Black continues ...♘c6 and ...♖d7) 11.♙h6 ♘c6 12.♘f3±) 9...♘c6 10.♘f3±. White attacks the pawn on d5 and if Black defends with 10...e6 then White is better after 11.g4 ♘g7 12.♙h6;

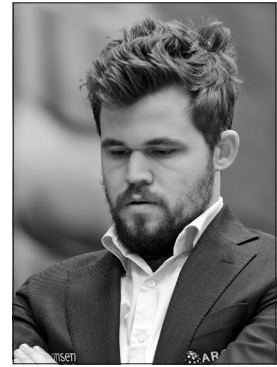
B) 6...e6 7.g4 (7.dxe6 ♙xe6 8.♘f3 ♘c6 9.e3 ♖e7 10.♙e2 0-0± Grischuk-Nepomniachtchi, Amsterdam 2019) 7...♘f6 8.dxe6 ♙xe6 9.e4 ♙xg4 10.f3 ♙e6 11.♙g5 h6 12.♙e3± Vachier-Lagrave-Nepomniachtchi, Jerusalem 2019.

5.cxd5 ♘xd5



6.♖a4N

A novelty on move 6 in the Grünfeld reminiscent of the above-mentioned Nadanian Variation in the Exchange Variation. Michal Krasenkow commented on Nadanian's 5.♖a4: 'In my opinion, this ostentatious violation of opening principles shows just lack of respect to the opponent, like being late for the game, offering a draw in a lost position etc. Of course, White can play differently (even 1.h4), not necessarily getting a bad position. Then, if he wins, he has all reasons to jeer at his opponent (ha-ha-ha, he failed to refute 1.h4 or 5.♖a4).' I am looking forward to hearing Krasenkow's comments on



Magnus Carlsen

6.♖a4, now in combination with h2-h4 ! The idea of ♖a4 is clear: White wants to play e2-e4 without Black having the option of trading on c3, and in addition ♖a4 controls and attacks the square c5.

6...♘c6

The clearest path to equality is in my opinion 6...♘f6, preventing 7.e4 and pressuring d4. Doesn't moving the same piece three times as Black seem like a fitting response to the hybrid h2-h4/♖a4 system? Modern chess, it is all about concrete analysis supported by 3600-rated engines!

A) 7.♘f3 cxd4 8.♖xd4 ♖xd4 9.♘xd4 ♙g7= and h2-h4 and ♖a4 no longer have a point;

B) 7.♘xc5 e5! 8.♘f3 (8.dxe5! ♖xd1+ 9.♘xd1 ♙xc5 10.exf6 ♙xf2 11.♙h6 ♘c6 12.e3 ♙g4+ 13.♘f3 0-0-0+) 8...exd4 9.♘b3 ♘c6 with equality.

On the other hand, after 6...cxd4 7.♖xd4 ♘f6 8.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 9.♙f4, with Black having lost the right to castle, White is slightly better.

7.e4 ♘b6?!

Better, but not easy to play against a well prepared opponent, is 7...♘f6. This move keeps more pressure on White's centre compared to 7...♘b6: 8.d5 ♘xe4 (Black's second option to get an equal

game is 8...♟d4 9.♞e2 ♜xe4 10.♞xd4 cxd4 11.♞xd4 ♜f6) 9.dxc6 ♞xd1+ 10.♞xd1 ♜xf2+ 11.♞e1 ♞xh1 12.cxb7 ♞xb7 13.♞b5+ ♟d8 14.♞f4 with a very unbalanced position.

8.d5±

White has achieved his strategic objective: control of the centre with his d5/e4 pawn formation.

8...♞e5

8...♞d4 9.♞xc5 e5 10.♞b3±.

9.h5

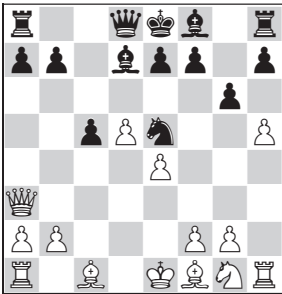
An alternative is 9.♞xc5 ♞g7

10.♞f3 ♞xf3+ 11.gxf3 0-0±.

9...♞xa4

Black cannot break up White's centre: 9...e6 10.♞xb6 ♞xb6 11.f4 ♞d7 12.dxe6 ♞xe6 13.♞f3 ♞xe4+ 14.♞f2 and White wins because of Black's vulnerable king and queen.

10.♞xa4+ ♞d7 11.♞a3



Every subsequent move by White puts pressure on Black's position. First the pawn on c5, then the ♞e5. Black never gets the chance to break up White's centre, while White increases the activity of his pieces supported by the control of the centre by his pawns.

11...♞b6 12.♞c3 ♞b4

13.♞xb4 cxb4+– 14.f4 ♞g4

15.hxg6 fxg6 16.e5 ♞f5 17.♞e2

♞g7 18.♞f3 0-0 19.♞e2 h5

20.♞d4 ♞d7 21.♞d2 ♞ac8

22.♞c1 ♞xc1+ 23.♞xc1 ♞c8

24.♞e2 ♞c4 25.♟d3 ♞c5

26.♞e3 ♞h6 27.g3

Faster is 27.♞e6 with the double threat of 28.♞xc5

and 28.♞xg4 followed by 29.♞xh6.

27...♞xe3 28.♞xe3 a5 29.♞e4

♞g7 30.♞b3 ♞c8 31.♞xa5 ♞a8

32.♞xb7 ♞xa2 33.♞c5 ♞g4

34.♞d3 g5 35.f5 h4 36.gxh4

gxh4+ 37.♟d4 1-0

White's three centre pawns decide the game.

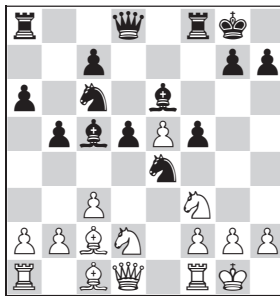
Be careful what you ask for!

a letter by Wayne R. Gradl

RL 27.11 (C80)

YB 139

I have been a fan of the Open Spanish since my High School days when as an 1800 having to face a young, talented Master in league play, I decided that it was my best chance to avoid what on paper was an almost certain loss. The reason was the then topical line going **1.e4 e5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.♞b5 a6 4.♞a4 ♞f6 5.0-0 ♞xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♞b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♞e6 9.c3 ♞c5 10.♞bd2 0-0 11.♞c2 f5!?** 11...♞xf2 followed by 12...f6 is the famous Dilworth Attack and 11...♞f5 can be viewed as the modern main line.



Now the better way for

White to proceed according

to several sources is 12.♞b3

♞b6 13.♞fd4 ♞xd4 14.♞xd4

and now instead of 14...♞xd4,

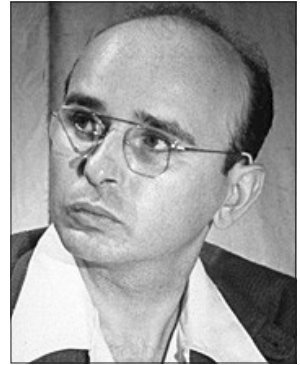
which I had seen in Smyslov-

Reshevsky, USA-USSR Radio

Match 1945, Black could

try 14...♞d7!?, intending to

answer 15.e6?! or 15.f3 with



Samuel Reshevsky in 1945

15...c5!. Here the critical line appears to be 15.f3 c5! 16.fxe4! cxd4 17.♞b3 with Black now having a choice between 17...♞e6 and a slightly worse, albeit playable position, or the exchange sac 17...dxc3+ 18.♞h1 fxe4 19.♞xd5+ ♞h8, which could be asking too much from Black's game after 20.♞g5. That I had 14...♞d7! and 15...c5! prepared for the aforementioned High School league game makes for a good story! ☺

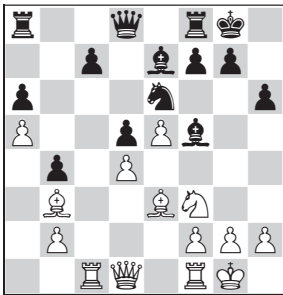
12.exf6 ♞xf6 13.♞b3 ♞b6

Here, and in other positions of the Open Spanish, I was impressed by the active development of Black's minor pieces which stand ready to confront any aggression from the other side of the board. The topical position after move 13 appeared on the board in my High School league game. My actively developed minor pieces were indeed able to successfully confront White's kingside aggressions and allowed me to reach a rook and pawn ending which I successfully held. Open Spanish mission accomplished!

That was then. What about now? When I saw Talsma, Gray and Wallis' article 'A case for 10...♞f5' in Yearbook 139, the nostalgia returned. I had to examine this case! An

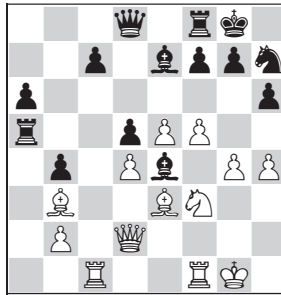
answer to 9. ♖bd2 that offers 'interesting full middlegames where Black is doing reasonably well' could be just the inspiration needed to pull Mikhalevski's book back off the shelf.

After 9. ♖bd2 ♘c5 10. c3 ♙f5!?, I agree that the main challenge for Black is 11. a4 with Black's best reply being 11... b4. Now I believe White's most enterprising try is 12. ♘d4! (the Survey's annotation) 12... ♘xd4 13. cxd4 ♘e6 14. ♘f3 ♙e7 15. ♙e3 0-0 16. ♖c1 h6 with the Survey's 17. ♘e1 being replaced by the Karpovian 17. a5!? – a reference that is loosely based on Karpov-Kortchnoi, Game 18, Merano Wch 1981, as well as Karpov's legendary grinding skills.



This move renders 17... ♖c8 problematic as 18. ♖c6 stops Black's counterplay immediately since 18... ♗d7 is answered by 19. ♙a4!, showing the utility of 17. a5!?. 17... c5? 18. dxc5 ♗xa5 19. ♘d4 ♘xd4 20. ♗xd4 leaves Black practically if not actually lost. Black's best response to 17. a5! thus appears to be 17... ♖b8, after which a middlegame position arises that as Black I would not be confident that I could punch at my weight, let alone over it, without serious home analysis. White can continue by starting a kingside attack with 18. ♘e1 or further increasing the

Karpovian clampdown with 18. ♙a4. The immediate attack with 18. ♘e1 appears to offer reasonable prospects of putting White on top, e.g. 18... ♖b5 19. g4 ♙h7 20. f4 ♙e4 21. f5 ♘g5 22. h4 ♘h7 23. ♘f3 ♖xa5 24. ♗d2 White's queen is in a better position to attack from d2, so the immediate 23... ♙xh4 should be considered, but after 24. f6 ♙g5 25. ♘xg5 hxg5 26. fxg7 ♙xg7 27. ♙c2 (to eliminate Black's best and key defensive piece) 27... ♖xa5 (what else?) 28. ♙xe4 dxe4 29. ♖f5 ♖b5 30. ♗c2 ♗d5 31. ♗h2 Black is lost.



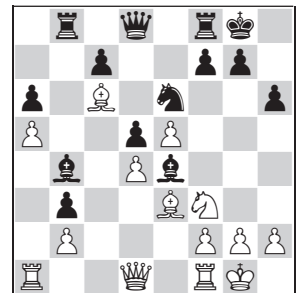
A) Now the defensive try 24... ♙xf3 25. ♖xf3 ♙xh4 looks insufficient after 26. f6:

- A1) 26... ♘g5 27. ♙xg5 ♘xg5 28. ♖f5, and Black will not survive White's attack;
- A2) 26... ♘g5 27. ♖f5 ♘e4 28. ♗g2 g5 29. ♙f2 (29. ♙c2!? or 29. ♗c2!?) 29... ♘xf2 30. ♖xf2 c5 (30... ♙xf2+ 31. ♙xf2 ♖e8 32. ♗h3 is obviously fatal for Black) 31. ♖e2 c4 32. ♙c2 b3 33. ♙f5 ♗b6 34. ♖d1;

A3) However, Black's best chance for survival could be 26... ♗d7! (instead of 26... ♘g5 or 26... ♙g5) which targets White's g-pawn. Play might then proceed 27. ♖f5 ♙xf6 28. exf6 ♘xf6 29. ♗g2! (White could bail out into a two bishops vs rook and pawns ending appraised as favorable with 29. ♖xf6

♗xg4+ 30. ♗g2 ♗xg2 31. ♙xg2 gxf6 32. ♙xh6 ♖e8 33. ♙f3, but with only two pawns left Black, especially if a Dilworth devotee, could very well hold given that my engine does not see how the bishops and rook can form a mating net) 29... ♖fe8 (29... ♘e4!?) 30. ♙xh6 ♖e4 31. ♙d1 ♗e6 (31... ♖xd4? 32. ♙xg7!+-) 32. ♙g5 ♖xd4 33. ♙f3 b3! 34. ♖f1 ♖aa4 35. ♙xf6 gxf6 36. ♗f2, when, in contrast to the main line given, Black has four pawns vs a mere bishop instead of a rook with the minus factors being that White's king is a bit less airy, while Black's is more so.

B) The capture 24... ♙xh4! is played with the idea of breaking up White's attack via sacrifice and counter-attack: 25. f6 ♘xf6 26. ♘h4 ♘xg4 27. ♘f5 ♙xf5 28. ♖xf5 ♗h4 29. ♖f3 c5 30. ♙f4 cxd4 31. ♗xd4 ♖e8 32. ♙g2 ♘xe5 33. ♖e3 ♖e6 34. ♖xe5 ♖g6+ 35. ♙f1 ♖c5 36. ♖e8+ ♙h7 37. ♗xc5 ♗xf4+ 38. ♙e1 d4 39. ♖d1 ♗g3+ 40. ♘d2 ♗xb3 41. ♗xd4 ♗a2, with my engine appraising the rook as clearly better than the four pawns, This is definitely true, but still there is no clear win for White in sight. Moving on to the more positional 18. ♙a4, which delays, not abandons the kingside attack plan, play may continue 18... b3 19. ♙c6 ♙b4 20. ♖a1 ♙e4.



A) After 21. ♖e1 ♜c8 22.f3 ♘d8 23. ♙a4 ♙f5 24. ♘d3 c5!?

25. ♘xc5 ♙c2 26. ♜e2 ♙xc5 27.dxc5 d4!?

28. ♙xd4 ♘e6, despite being two pawns down Black seems to be hanging on, e.g. 29. ♜f2 ♚b4 30. ♙e3 ♚d8 31. ♚a3 ♘d4 32. ♙xd4 ♚dx4 33. ♙xb3 ♙xb3 34. ♚xb3 ♜xc5 35. ♚xb4 ♜xb4 36.b3 ♜c3, and White will wind up only one pawn up in this ♜ + ♚ ending;

B) After 21. ♘d2!? ♙d3 (21... ♙c2) 22.f4 ♙xf1 23. ♘xf1 ♜h4 24. ♜f3 h5 25. ♘g3 ♜g4 26. ♘xh5 ♙xf3 27.gxf3 ♙d2! 28. ♙f2 ♙xe3+ 29. ♙xe3 ♚b4 30. ♚d1 g6 31. ♘f6+ ♙g7 32. ♙xd5 c5! 33.dxc5 ♘xc5 34.h4, White has more than enough compensation for the exchange, but Black may be able to survive this ending.

So, with 17.a5!? the promise of 'interesting full middlegames' by the authors of 'A case for 10... ♙f5' stands, although the resulting middlegames are perhaps a bit too interesting for my personal taste. In any case, Black has to be careful here about what is being asked for, or at least be well prepared for it.

Wayne R. Gradl
U.S. National Master
Getzville, NY, USA

The Trompowsky Gambit

by Viktor Moskalenko

QP 7.16 (A45)

YB 92

While working on a new project on the Trompowsky and London systems (a book that will be published by New In Chess in 2022), I took advantage of my acquired knowledge at the recent Cap d'Agde chess festival, against a French grandmaster.

Viktor Moskalenko Gabriel Flom

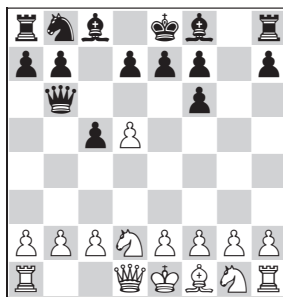
Cap d'Agde rapid 2021 (4)

1.d4 ♘f6 2. ♙g5 c5 3. ♙xf6

The immediate ♙x♘ exchange is the old main motif of the Trompowsky Attack, but it is still quite popular and playable. 3.d5!?, the main alternative, will also feature in the book.

3... ♙xf6 4.d5 ♜b6 5. ♘d2!?

A cunning version of a known gambit, not fully established yet in theory and practice.



White hopes to take advantage of his surplus in space and development, and of Black's insecure king position. 5. ♜c1 was the most common line so far.

5... ♜xb2

Any other move allows White to develop his initiative easily, e.g. 5...d6?! 6.e4! f5

(6... ♜xb2 7. ♚b1! see the main game) 7. ♘c4 ♜c7 8.exf5 ♙xf5 9. ♘e3± Groffen-Weemaes, Belgium tt 2000/01.

6.e4!

The key advance, with only 12 games in the databases.

In the past, 6.e3 f5∞ was the more common line.

6. ♘gf3!? would be similar to the game.

6...d6?

Already a big mistake.

A) 6... ♜b6?! is safer but wastes a lot of time: 7. ♚b1 ♜c7 8. ♙d3 d6 9. ♘e2 ♘d7 10.f4!±;

B) Also after 6...e6? 7. ♚b1! White seizes the initiative. If



Viktor Moskalenko

7... ♜xa2? 8. ♘c4! ♜a4 9. ♚b3 the black queen is trapped.

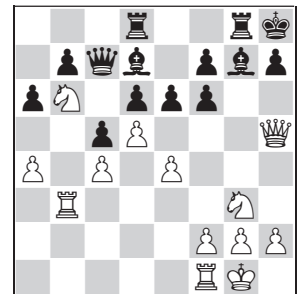
C) The best defence is 6... ♙h6 in order to simplify with ♙x♘ in turn, but this is not easy to understand, at least over the board. After 7. ♘gf3 White has good attacking chances, as you will see in my analysis in the coming book.

7. ♚b1!↑

After a few natural moves, White's attack unfolds by itself.

7... ♜c3

7... ♜xa2? 8. ♘c4– puts the black queen in trouble; or 7... ♜e5 8. ♘gf3 ♜h5 9. ♙b5+↑. **8. ♙b5+ ♘d7 9. ♘e2 ♜a5 10.0-0 ♜c7 11. ♘c4 a6 12. ♙xd7+ ♙xd7 13. ♘b6 ♚d8 14.a4 ♙g7 15. ♘g3 0-0 16. ♜h5 ♙h8 17.c4 ♚g8 18. ♚b3 e6**



19. ♜f3

Even stronger was 19. ♜h4! with the idea ♘h5/♚h3.

19... ♙e8 20. ♘h5+–

And White won easily.

Not 100 draws, no double kills

by Matthew Sadler



The influence of chess engines on modern-day play is rapidly increasing. English grandmaster Matthew Sadler is the strongest amateur player in the world. He also wrote the best-seller *Game Changer* with Natasha Regan in 2019, is fascinated by computer play and writes about it with a lot of gusto and expertise. In this column, which alternates with Erwin I'Ami's 'From Our Own Correspondent' column, Matthew introduces you to the wonderful world of chess engine openings, where everything seems possible.

Every five months, engine chess enthusiasts are treated to the grand event of the TCEC (Top Chess Engine Championship) season: the 100-game SuperFinal (SuFi) between the top two engines. In recent seasons, Stockfish and Leela have had a virtual monopoly on the SuperFinal places and Stockfish has had a virtual monopoly on the SuperFinal title! The recently completed Season 21 SuFi was no different as Stockfish ran out a convincing winner by 56-44 (+19, =74, -7). The set-up of the TCEC SuperFinal is quite unusual. The games are played at a long time control (120 minutes plus a 10-second increment) and all the games start from pre-determined opening positions. A match between Leela and Stockfish from the normal starting position would most likely end in 100 draws (yes, it has been tested!), so you need unusual and unbalanced openings to test both engines' all-round capabilities and to provide entertainment (in the form of decisive results) to the watching chatters! Fifty openings are selected and the engines play each opening twice, once with black and once with white. The 'ideal' result of an opening mini-match is a 1½-½ victory, a result which demonstrates that one engine was able to exploit its attacking and defensive chances better than the

other. A 1-1 result with reciprocal wins (a so-called 'busted opening') is generally unwanted: it indicates that the opening was excessively biased to one side. Also importantly, each game should be unique: openings with just one clear path to an advantage are likely to produce two identical games. Jeroen Noomen is the recognized SuperFinal 'bookmaker' but this season had a little twist: I was asked to collaborate with him and produce 25 of the 50 openings! I had a great time doing it, and we didn't do too badly at all, with just under 50% (22 of the 50 openings) ending in 1½-½ results with just two openings producing 'double kills'. As you can imagine, selecting openings is a fairly tricky task, somewhat akin to trying to squash jelly! I analysed and tested approximately 650 positions to select my 25 openings, running matches at long time controls (90 minutes + 5 seconds increment and 240 minutes + 30 seconds increment) between Stockfish, Leela, Komodo Dragon and Stoofvlees (those games are labelled 'Matthew Engine Games 2021' in the text). Luck however still plays a substantial part! The TCEC runs their matches on hardware vastly superior to my laptop, so interesting complications in my test games may not prove so complicated for the monster

We honour Evgeny Sveshnikov (four times)

by John van der Wiel (special contribution by Teimour Radjabov)

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | ♘f3 | ♘c6 |
| 3. | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. | ♘xd4 | ♘f6 |
| 5. | ♘c3 | e5 |
| 6. | ♗db5 | d6 |
| 7. | ♙g5 | a6 |
| 8. | ♗a3 | b5 |
| 9. | ♗d5 | ♙e7 |
| 10. | ♙xf6 | ♙xf6 |



Our hero is no more. Born in Cheliabinsk, February 1950, Evgeny Sveshnikov (who took his mother's surname) died in Moscow, August 2021, at the age of 71. Not so old, but well above the Russian average for men. Most of the last 18 years or so he spent between Latvia (where he won the national championships in 2003 and 2010) and Cheliabinsk, where the two daughters from his first marriage still live. And did you know that one of the two sons from marriage No. 2, Vladimir, is an IM who became Latvian champion in 2016? In an interview some ten years ago, Sveshnikov revealed that he had had only one trainer in his life, by the name

of Gratvol (who later moved to Israel, but they still kept in touch). So he was mostly a self-made man, our hero. Also, he admitted to having had a very serious illness at the age of 33, so this story could have been quite different!

I remember hearing a quote of Sveshnikov saying that '3.d2-d4 against the Sicilian is a mistake'. Pretty dogmatic but not altogether wrong (why trade your d-pawn for Black's c-pawn?). I am not sure that he meant it wholeheartedly, but he did do a lot for the Sicilian Alapin (2.c3) – and also for the Advance French and later in his career for the Kalashnikov Defence.

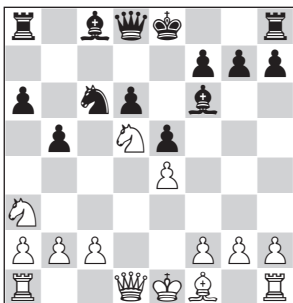
Personally, I played him once (in Sochi 1980), making sure not to use 'his' line. It was a Dragon (so he did employ 3.d4 !) and I won, with some luck. Back then his English was almost non-existent, so we couldn't talk much. But he was an interesting guy, always very optimistic about his own positions. Sveshnikov was both an artist and a researcher, as a chess player should be! One of the sad things about dying is that you may be gradually forgotten. Not a chance with one of the most famous and revolutionary openings (also used by world champions) named after you... in most countries, that is. In the Soviet Union it was called the Cheliabinsk Variation! Actually this is more correct, since his friend and fellow GM from the same town, Gennady Timoschenko, did almost as much to popularize the system.

Anno Domini 1974. In the Netherlands, we didn't have a vast trainings network (we do now), but the national youth coach, IM Hans Bouwmeester, introduced the brand-new Sveshnikov Variation to us and made us play test games with it. This early expertise was exciting and advantageous on an international level. In 1999 I wrote a book about it, treating only the 9.♘d5 lines (i.e., not 9.♙xf6 gxf6), the Sveshnikov Bijbel (= bible).

An awesome production. Lots of text and detail, but unfortunately only in Dutch. I'll try not to refer to it all the time. Also being from the 1950s (okay, only just), I honour the tradition of making the annotations by ourselves, without using an engine. Sometimes this is problematic, like in the highly complicated Game 1. But don't judge too harshly: over the board we all have to do without engine help!

H is for Honour

In this Survey we want to honour our hero in several ways. So logically I chose 'Honour Four': four different versions of the move h2-h4 in the Sveshnikov.

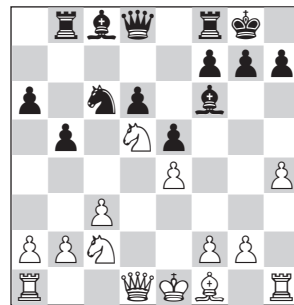


- A) 11.c3 0-0 12.♘c2 ♖b8 13.h4!;
- B) 11.c3 ♙g5 12.♘c2 0-0 13.h4 ♙h6 14.g3;
- C) 11.c3 ♙g5 12.♘c2 ♖b8 13.h4(!);
- D) 11.h4(!).

Variation A is easily the most successful exponent.



Evgeny Sveshnikov



In recent years, 13...g6 has enjoyed the most popularity – possibly a Carlsen effect. It is a way to revive the ♙f6, but it takes one more move to reach the h6-c1 diagonal. Black has to be careful and usually heads for a draw. If he doesn't, our featured recent game Sutovsky-Tzidkiya shows that this system can go completely wild, too. A fantastic game, but was everything correct?

13...♙e7 (or 13...♙e6 + 14...♙e7) has been played much more often. There were some hard times for Black after (guess whose recommendation?) 15.♙f3 and 16.♖d1 had entered the scene, but novelties by Yakovich and Eljanov saved Black's theoretical skin. See Games 3 and 4. Still, there are things to be found. Especially the set-up by Vallejo (and Agrest) in Game 6 may have serious promise.

13...♘e7 14.♘xf6+ gxf6 seemed to become the main line in the 1990s, but no, not

at all. There is no refutation, but Black's game is more vulnerable and his results are poor.

In Variation B there are some relatively rare moves that could have a bright future: 14...♖b7 for Black (Game 10) and certainly 15.♗d3 plus 16.♙d1 in Game 11, advocated in the Bijbel. This may easily have escaped the public's attention: two unknown players, and White didn't take his opportunity on move 17 and went on to lose.

Variations C and D are only semi-correct. Very often Black doesn't take on h4 (even Radjabov didn't) but they should.

The Champion's choice

So you would like to know why Carlsen plays ...0-0 + ...♖b8 and not something else, even though it is almost impossible to play for a win with it? OK, I think that against ...♖b8 and ...♗g5 he doesn't like 13.a4 bxa4 14.♗cb4 ♗xb4 when both 15.♗xb4 and 15.cxb4 are not so easy for Black; and versus ...0-0 and ...♗g5 13.a4 bxa4 14.♙xa4 a5 15.♗c4 and later 18.h4! ♗xh4 19.g3 ♗g5 20.f4 as in Giri-Shirov, Hoogeveen 2014. But that is for a future Survey, the a4 ('Anxiety Four').

Rest in peace, Evgeny. Your variation lives on.

A) The fashion – 11.c3 0-0 12.♗c2 ♖b8 13.h4 g6

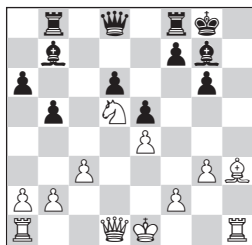
Emil Sutovsky

1

Yeshaayahu Tzidkiya

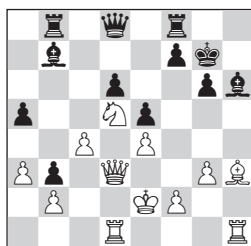
Israel tt 2021 (11)

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6
7.♗g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗d5 ♗e7
10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.♗c2
♖b8 13.h4 g6 14.g3 ♗g7 15.h5
♗e7 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.♗cb4 ♗xd5
18.♗xd5 ♗b7 19.♗h3



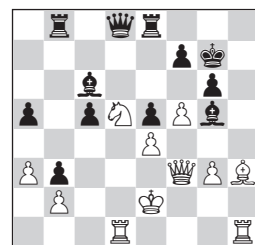
The modern approach. White takes away the c8- and d7-squares from Black, while 19...f5 20.♗b3! would be unwise. Black, in turn, can improve his dark-squared bishop: **19...♗h6 20.♗d3 ♗g7 21.♙d1 a5 22.♗e2!** A new idea. In the same position, only without 16.hxg6 hxg6, Duda-Carlsen, Moscow Blitz 2019, continued 21.a3 ♗g5 22.♗f1 b4!? 23.cxb4 ♗xd5 24.♗xd5 axb4 25.♗xd6 (25.a4!? b3) 25...♗xd6

26.♗xd6 bxa3 27.bxa3 ♖a8 28.♙d3 (28.♙d5) 28...♗fd8 and a draw soon became inevitable. **22...b4 23.c4 b3!? 24.a3**



24...♗a6? Black, an Israeli youngster, is tempted to play aggressively, and points his arrows at c4, d3, e2. Always dangerous against the big bad Sutovsky! Besides, it is hard to augment the pressure against c4 and Black appears to have missed something. Correct was 24...♗xd5 25.♗xd5 ♗c7 26.♙d3 (26.♗xd6 ♗xc4+ 27.♗f3 ♗g5 is fine for Black and so is 26.♗hf1 ♖h8) 26...♗g5 and if 27.f4, then 27...♗f6 or 27...♗e7. So theoretically the variation still looks very drawish. **25.f4!** The ♗h6 is put out of business. Also, the a1-h8 diagonal may become sensitive. **25...♗b7** Not out of luxury. Just one alternative (silly) fun line: 25...♖e8 26.f5 ♗g5 27.♗df1! ♗c8 28.f6+ ♗xf6?! (28...♗g8 is better,

and close to playable) 29.♗xc8 ♗xc8 30.♗xf6 ♗xc4 31.♗xe8+ (31.♖h7+ wins, too, but in a more difficult way) 31...♗f8 32.♖xf7+! and White wins. **26.♗c3! ♖e8 27.c5 ♗c6** Black has to stop the pawn. **28.f5!? ♗g5** Or 28...♗g5 29.cxd6. **29.♗f3 dxc5!** Not 29...♖b5 30.f6+!

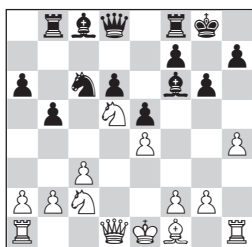


Has White miscalculated, since 30.f6+ ♗xf6 31.♗xf6 ♗b5+! doesn't work? Is there an attack? Was 28.f5 too optimistic? The answers: no, yes, no! **30.fxg6 fxg6 31.♗f5!!** Amazing stuff. **31...♗xd5** If 31...♖f8 then 32.♖h7+! and 31...♖h8 32.♗xg6! ♗f8 33.♗f5 is playable but much better for White. The only question: is 31...♗b5+!? 32.♗e1 gxf5 33.♗xf5 ♖h8 34.♖xh8 (34.♗xe5+? ♗f6) 34...♗xh8 35.♗xe5+ ♗h7 really winning for White? Maybe not, but apparently 32.♗f2! is, see: 32...gxf5 (32...♗d6 32.♗f4; 32...♖b7 33.♗xg6 and 32...♖b6 33.♗xb6 ♗xb6 34.♗d7 are all insufficient

for Black) 33.exf5 and now: 33...♖h8 34.♗xh8 ♖xh8 35.♗h1; 33...♗g8 34.f6+; 33...♗f8 34.♗h7+; 33...♗b6 34.♗g4, all winning. These, for once, are computer lines, especially the last one being extremely hard to find over the board! **32.♗xg6(?)** Too fancy, I think. 32.♗xd5 ♖f6 (32...♗b6 33.♗g4!) 33.♗d7+ ♗g8 34.♗d3! gxf5 35.exf5 might actually work for White. Therefore Black can't really avoid 33...♗e7 (instead of 33...♗g8) 34.♗xe7+ ♗xe7 35.♗xg6 with good chances for White. **32...♗c4+(?)** 32...♗f6(!) can't be refuted: 33.♗h7+ ♗g8 and then? Instead, another gem for White would be 32...♗g8 33.♗h7+! **33.♗e1 ♖f6?** Here 33...♗f8! was necessary: 34.♗h7+ ♗xg6 35.♗h5+ ♗f6 and Black lives. **34.♗d7+!** **♗g8 35.♖h5** Now Black is in dire straits. **35...♗e7 36.♗xe7 ♗d8 37.♗f5 ♗d2+ 38.♗f2 ♗f8 39.♗c7 ♗g8 40.♖g6 ♖xg6 41.♗xg6 ♗d6 42.♗f5 ♗g5 43.♗h8 ♗d8 44.♗b7** With 45.♗h7 coming up. **44...♗f6 45.♗b8+ 1-0**

Wesley So 2
Magnus Carlsen

Stavanger 2019 (7)
1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6
7.♗g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗d5 ♗e7
10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.♗c2
♗b8 13.h4 g6

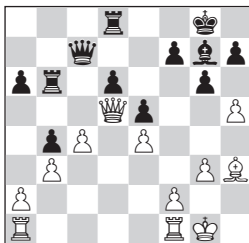


14.g3
A) 14.♖f3!? was Lang-Svoboda, Ceske Budejovice 2000. Two low-rated players, and Black immediately collapsed via 14...♗g7! 15.h5 ♗e7? (15...♗e6) 16.h6+— but the idea is interesting. Black should bite: 14...♗hx4 and now White can play for compensa-

tion and initiative with either 15.0-0-0 or 15.g3 ♗g5 16.♖g2 and 17.♖h2. Yet another version of the somewhat dubious pawn sac, worthy of some study?;

B) 14.♖d2!? ♗e6 (14...h5!?) 15.♗ce3 ♗g7 (15...♗hx4 16.g3 and 17.f4 looks dangerous) 16.h5 ♖g5 (16...f5!?) 17.♗c7! ♗fd8 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.♗xa6 ♗b7 was played in D.Aleksandrov-Shihaliyev, St. Petersburg 2020. The game saw some complicated stuff with 20.a4 ♗a5, but I believe simply 20.♗d5 would already be promising for White. 14.♖d2 could certainly have a future.

14...♗g7 15.h5 ♗e7 16.♗ce3 ♗xd5 16...f5 is risky: 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.exf5 ♗xf5 (18...gxf5 19.♖h5 looks unpleasant) 19.♗xf5 (I like 19.♗g2) 19...♗xf5 20.♗g2 a5 21.a3 (why not 21.♗e3 ?) 21...♖d7 22.♗e3 ♗e6. Here White would have been at least equal with 23.♗d5, intending 24.♖g4, but he fell for 23.♗e4 ♖f7 24.♗h2?! (24.0-0) 24...d5! Ehmman-Engert, Germany U18 2016. **17.♗xd5 ♗e6 18.♗h3 ♗xd5 19.♖xd5 b4 20.c4 ♖c7 21.0-0 ♗b6 22.b3 ♗d8**

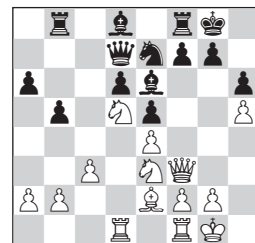


23.a4!? After 23.♗ad1 ♗c6 and 24...♗c5, Black has nothing much to fear. Nor does he really after the text. **23...bxa3 23...♗c6 24.a5 ♗c5 25.♖d2** could have become a bit more interesting. **24.hxg6 hxg6 25.♗xa3 ♖c5 26.♗fa1 ♖xd5 27.cxd5 ♗h6 28.♗xa6 ♗xb3 29.♗a8 ♗xa8 30.♗xa8+ ♗f8** Safer than 30...♗g7 31.♗a7. **31.♗d7 ♗b4 32.♗a4** If 32.♗a7, Black doesn't need to take on e4. He can defend his structure by 32...♗e7(!). **32...♗b2 33.♗a7 ♗e7 34.♗c6 ♗f8 35.♗b7 ♗xb7 36.♗xb7 ½-½**

A) The most games – 11.c3 0-0 12.♗c2 ♗b8 13.h4 ♗e7

Oliver Kurmann 3
Simon Widmer

Zug 2005 (7)
1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗d5 ♗e7 10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.♗c2 ♗b8 13.h4 ♗e7 14.♗ce3 ♗e6 15.♖f3(!) ♖d7 16.♗d1 ♗d8 17.♗e2 The first over-the-board game with the ♖f3 + ♗d1 set-up was Van der Wiel-De Vreugt, Wijk aan Zee 2003. Appropriately, since I had already advocated it in my book in 1999. To be honest, back then I thought 17.♗f5 (instead of 17.♗e2) would be strong, but after 17...♗xf5 Black is fine: 18.exf5 e4 or 18.♖xf5 ♖xf5 19.exf5 ♗e7. **17...♗e7 18.h5** The stem game continued with 18.g4?! a5 19.h5 ♗xd5 20.♗xd5 ♗xd5 21.♗xd5 b4 22.c4 ♖e7 and White had nothing. Later, after Black had found an adequate reaction to 18.h5, Kotronias-Yakovich, Port Erin 2007, saw the new attempt 18.♗d2!? ♖b7 19.g3 ♗xd5 20.♗xd5 f5!? 21.exf5 ♗xf5 22.♖e4 ♗b6 23.0-0 (23.♗g4 ♗xd5, but now regrettably Black cannot play ...♗b8. No worries:) 23...♗xd5!? 24.♖xf5!? ♗f8 25.♖h3 (not 25.♖d3?? ♗h1) 25...♖f7 26.♗h5 g6 27.♗d1 ♗xa2 and the complications led to more or less equal chances. **18...h6 19.0-0**



19...♗b6 This 'logical part of Black's plan' is not ideal. In Karjakin-Yakovich, Sochi tt 2007, Black launched the improvement 19...♖c8!. He still controls the f5- and e7-squares and intends to

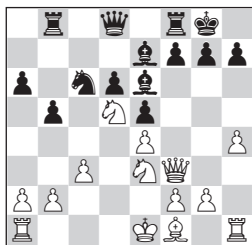
play 20...♟xd5, now that e4xd5 is no longer a problem. After 20.♟xe7+ ♟xe7 21.♟f5 ♖c7 22.♟d3 ♟g5 23.♟c2 b4 Black was at least equal and after 24.♟xd6?! (24.♟b3) 24...♟fd8 25.♟f5 bxc3 26.bxc3 ♟xa2 even more than that. **20.♟f5! ♟xd5 21.♟xd5** That's the point. 21...♟xd5 runs into 22.♖g4. In fact this was allowed (wilfully?) in Korneev-Khairullin, Russia tt 2006, via 20...♟xd5 21.♟xd5 ♟xd5 22.♖g4 ♟xf5, but Black doesn't get quite enough for the queen. **21...♟xf5 22.exf5 ♖e7 23.f6!** More powerful than 23.♟d3, played 1.5 months later in Kudrin-Eljanov, Khanty-Mansiysk 2005 (1-0, 51). **23...♖xf6 24.♖xf6 gxf6 25.♟xd6 ♟fd8** Or 25...♟g7 26.♟fd1 a5?! 27.♟d3! **26.♟fd1 ♟g7 27.g3 a5 28.♟g2 b4??** Black had to play 28...♟xd6, but he would still face great difficulties. **29.♟xb6** Ouch! **29...♟xd1 30.♟xb8 ♟d2 31.cxb4 1-0**

Sergey Karjakin Alexander Moiseenko

4

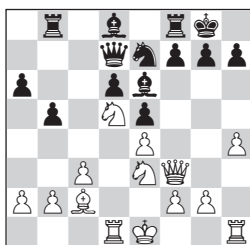
Warsaw Ech 2005 (10)

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 e5 6.♟db5 d6 7.♟g5 a6 8.♟a3 b5 9.♟d5 ♟e7 10.♟xf6 ♟xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.♟c2 ♟b8 13.h4 ♟e7 14.♟ce3 ♟e6 15.♖f3



15...♖d7 An early divergence for Black is 15...g6. In Kornilovich-Iljin, Sochi 2017, Black had a pleasant game after 16.h5(!) ♟g5 17.g3 ♟g7! 18.♟h3 ♟e7 19.♟d1 (19.h6+ ♟h8 doesn't really work) 19...♟xd5 20.♟xd5 f5! 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.exf5 gxf5. However, ...♟e7 with ...g7-g6 is not a great combination and White should prefer 16.g3, not to let his opponent revive the ♟e7 so easily. **16.♟d1 ♟d8**

Here 16...♟h8 was tried once. There followed 17.♟f5 (17.♟e2 and 17.♟d3 look fine, as Black isn't doing much) 17...♟d8 18.♟e2 g6 19.♟fe3 f5. All this for free? Not quite, as the ♟f8 is hanging: 20.h5! g5 (20...♟g8!?) 21.♟xf5 (21.exf5 is already better for White, but he wants more) 21...♟xf5 22.g4 ♟d4!? Duarte-Di Benedetto, Buenos Aires 2008, and now, instead of 23.♟xd4! exd4 24.exf5 ♖g7 (when Black is OK), White should have opted for 23.cxd4 ♟a5+ 24.b4 ♟e6 25.♖e3! with a big advantage. **17.♟d3** This is the other main treatment. The bishop travels to c2 and often b3. Too slow? **17...♟e7 18.♟c2**



18...♟xd5 Less than a week later, same tournament, in a Rapid play-off, Eljanov surprised Karjakin with a big improvement: 18...b4!

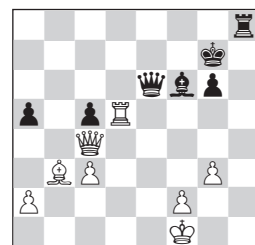
A) 19.cxb4 ♟xd5 20.♟xd5 ♟xd5 21.♟xd5 ♟xb4 22.♟b3 (22.b3 ♟b6; 22.♖a3 a5; 22.♖d3 ♟xb2) 22...a5 with equality;

B) 19.♟b3 was tried later that year: 19...bxc3 20.bxc3 ♟b6 21.♟xe7+ (21.0-0 ♟xe3=) 21...♖xe7 22.♟f5 ♟xf5 23.♖xf5 ♟c5 1/2-1/2 Yemelin-Smirnov, Kazan 2005;

C) 19.♟xb4 a5 20.♟d3 ♖c6 21.♟b1 (21.0-0 ♟xa2) 21...f5! 22.exf5 e4 23.♖g4! ♟xf5 24.♟f4. Here Eljanov went wrong and eventually even lost. After 24...♟xb2! 25.0-0 (25.♟xe6? loses to 25...♖xc3+) 25...♟c8 26.♟xf5 ♟xf5 27.♖g3 d5(!) Black would have had an excellent game, helped by the tactics 28.♟xd5 ♟xb1 and 28.♟xd5 ♟c7!. Until today, 18...b4! is seen as the convincing antidote to this 17.♟d3 line.

19.♟xd5 ♟xd5 20.♟xd5 b4 21.♖d3 bxc3 22.bxc3 ♟b6

23.♟b3 a5 24.g3 ♖c7 24...♖c6 25.0-0 a4 26.♟c4 doesn't seem to solve Black's problems. **25.0-0 ♟e7 26.♟e1!** This game is a masterclass by Karjakin. With quiet manoeuvres, not weakening himself by f2-f4, he gets the rook to the ideal square f3, combining offence and defence. **26...♟c6 27.♟e3 ♟h8 28.♟f3 g6 29.♟b5 ♟c5 30.♟xc5 dxc5 31.♖d5 ♖d6 32.♖c4 f6 33.♟d3 ♖c7 34.h5 34.♖e6!+-** **34...♟g7 35.hxg6 hxg6 36.♟g2 ♖c8 37.♟d1 f5 38.♖d5 fxe4 39.♖xe5+ ♟f6 40.♖xe4 ♟e8 41.♖c4 ♖b7+ 42.♟g1 ♟h8 43.♟d5 ♖e7 44.♟f1 ♖e6**



45.♟xc5 ♖h3+ Not fearing 45...♟h1+ 46.♟g2 ♖h3+? 47.♟f3. **46.♟e2 ♟e8+ 47.♟d2 ♟d8+ 48.♟c2 ♟f8 49.♟xa5 ♖g2 50.♟a7+ ♟h8 51.♖f4 g5 52.♖f5 ♟g7 53.♟f7 ♟xf7 54.♟xf7 ♖c6 55.♖h3+ ♟h6 56.♖e6 ♖xe6 57.♟xe6 ♟g7 58.♟d3 ♟f6 59.♟g4 ♟e5 60.♟c4 ♟d6 61.a4 ♟c7 62.a5 ♟c6 63.♟f3+ ♟c7 64.♟b5 g4 65.♟xg4 ♟d2 66.c4 ♟e1 67.♟f3 ♟xf2 68.g4 ♟e3 69.a6 ♟b8 70.c5 ♟a7 71.c6 ♟b8 72.g5 1-0**

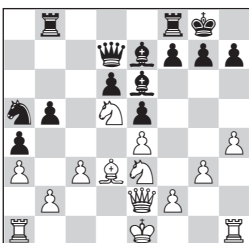
Eelke de Boer Wan Yunguo

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Vlissingen 2018 (3)

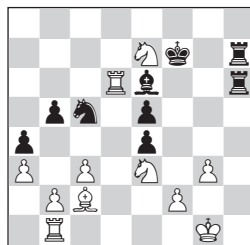
1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 e5 6.♟db5 d6 7.♟g5 a6 8.♟a3 b5 9.♟d5 ♟e7 10.♟xf6 ♟xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.♟c2 ♟b8 13.h4 ♟e7 14.g3 In this innocent-looking variation White has one sneaky objective: 14...♟e6 15.a3 and then 16.♟cb4 when Black probably has to swap knights on b4. a3xb4 then looks like a big positional achievement, but in fact Black has few worries.

The question is: should he allow this idea or prevent it with an early ...a6-a5? White can also pursue this plan with the immediate 14.a3, as happened in Topalov-Leko, Dortmund 2005: 14...e6 (or 14...a5 15.c3) 15.c4 b4 16.axb4 a8 17.g3 (now we have transposed to 14.g3) 17...d7! (17...a5 18.xb5 xd5 19.xd5 axb4 20.xa8 xa8 21.xa8 xa8 22.d2! gives White winning chances thanks to the light squares and his b-pawn) 18.g2 (not 18.b6? b7 19.xa8 xe4+ 18...d8 19.0-0 c6 (more active play via 19...a7 20.d3 g6 21.f3 f5 22.exf5 gxf5 23.c4! was unclear/not so easy for Black in Baramidze-Uwira, Bad Zwosten 2004) 20.e3 a5 21.bxa5 xa5 22.f5 d7! 23.d2 c7 24.e3 (24.xg7) and the position was as good as equal. Most games with 15/16...xb4 16/17.axb4 become pretty drawish, even if White may have a mini-edge. **14...e6 15.a3 a5** One last example with 15...d7 16.c4: 16...xd5 was Lanka-Van Kooten, Groningen 2002. After 17.xd5 b6 18.h3 b7 19.0-0 a5 20.c2 b4 21.e3 g6 22.a4 White had a nice advantage (although he lost). **16.c3 a4!** The big danger for Black was revealed after 16...e8?! (the same would happen after 16...d7!) in Karjakin-Shirov, Heraklion Ech-tt 2007: 17.a4! (with serious trouble on the a4-e8 diagonal) 17...b4 (17...bxa4 18.xa4 d7 19.b5 or 19.a2 is difficult, too) 18.b5 d7 19.0-0 bxc3 20.bxc3 f8 21.d3 and White was clearly better. In games with a3-a4 (under these circumstances) Black does extremely badly. **17.d3 d7 18.e2 a5!**



19.b1?! A big moment. Should White win a pawn?

- A) 19.xe7+ xe7 20.xb5 b7 and Black regains the pawn or, after 21.c4, plays 21...b3 and 22...d4;
- B) 19.xb5 xb5 20.xe7+ h8 21.xb5 xb5 22.0-0-0 fb8 23.xd6 xb2 24.hd1! g6 or 24...b1+ and Black has sufficient compensation;
- C) 19.0-0-0(!) is recommended by Karjakin and awaits its first test in over-the-board play;
- D) 19.d1(!) is from the stem game (a very significant one) Lanka-Sprenger, Hamburg 2003. After 19...d8 20.0-0 b3 21.c2 c5 22.d2 g6 23.h2 g7 24.f3 possibly the critical position had arisen. Instead of the slow 24...e8?!, shouldn't Black try 24...f5!? or 24...b7? Sure, he has some vulnerable spots, but also decent pieces and activity. Can White find an advantage? **19...d8 20.0-0 b3 21.f3 22.h5 c5 23.c2 f5 24.hxg6 fxe4?!** I can't see anything wrong with 24...hxg6, but apparently Black had more ambitious ideas. **25.h5 b7 26.b4!** The vulnerability of d6 is telling now. **26...f6 27.xh7+ xh7 28.gxh7+ xh7 29.xd6 e7 30.bd5 f6 31.xe7+ f7**

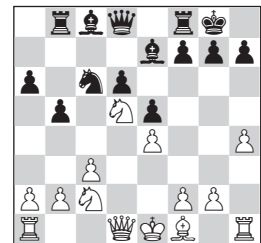


- 32.g4 32.f1 h3+! 33.e2 xd6 34.f7 f5 f6 35.h4 g8** leaves Black an exchange up. **32...h1+ 33.g2 h1h2+ 34.f1 xe7 35.d2 d3!** This is different cook, our national football coach would say! Now it's Black who can play for a win. **36.xd3 exd3 37.xd3 f7 38.f5+ f6 39.g1 h3 40.f1?! 40.d3?! 40...xf5 41.gxf5 g7+**

42.g2 h4 43.f3 h3 44.f1 xf5 45.f2 f4 46.f1 h2 With 47.g1 e3 48.c2 h4 or 48...hxg2+. **0-1**

Francisco Vallejo Pons 6
Alessio Valsecchi

Skopje Ech 2019 (6)
1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.dxd4 f6 5.c3 e5 6.d5 b5 7.g5 a6 8.a3 b5 9.d5 e7 10.xf6 xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.c2 b8 13.h4 e7



14.d3

A) 14.e2!? may be called a positional sacrifice. It led to a big advantage for White in Staniforth-S.Jones, South Wales 2018, after 14...hx4 15.g4 e6 16.f3 g6(?) 17.c3 g5?! 18.h3 h6 19.xe6 fxe6 20.xe6+. I think Black should have gone 16...h6, when 17.h3 xg4 18.xg4 g5 19.g3 might still provide some interesting compensation;

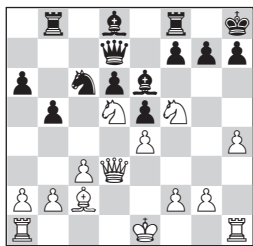
B) A more regular guest is 14.c3 e6 15.a4. In this system, with the knight on e3 and not so much pressure against b2, Black usually keeps the pawn on b5, not to give White the c4-square for free. Nevertheless Rmus-Dujkovic, Montenegro tt 2007, was unclear with compensation for Black after 15...bxa4 16.xa4 d7 17.xe7+ (17.a2 xh4) 17...xe7 18.a3 (18.xa6?! xxb2 19.xd6) 18...c6 19.d1 xe4 20.xd6 c7 21.xa6 d5!. A more regular example: 15...d7 16.axb5 axb5 17.a6 d8 18.d3 e7 19.c4 xd5 20.cxd5 b6 21.e2 b7 22.a1 and Black had equal chances in Baghdasaryan-Alsina Leal, Kavala 2010, although his 22...f5! was possibly too risky (22...c5).

14...**♙e6** 15.**♗ce3 ♖d7** 16.**♚f5 ♜h8** Somewhat better than 16...g6?? 17.**♗fxe7+ 1-0** Foster-S.Jones, Gatwick 2013. **17.♙c2**

Two older examples:

A) 17.**♖d2 ♙d8** 18.**♙c2 ♗e7** 19.**♗de3** (19.**♗fxe7**) 19...**♙b6!** 20.**♗xe7** (20.**♖xd6!**? **♖xd6** 21.**♗xd6** g6 and the **♗d6** is in danger) 20...**♖xe7** 21.**♙b3 ♙xe3** with easy equality, Agrest-Svensson, Sweden tt 2005;

B) 17.**♖f3 ♙d8** 18.h5 **♙g5** 19.**♗d1** (now it is more like the 15. **♖f3** system) 19...a5 20.**♖g3** h6 21.0-0 is more or less equal, albeit a little passive for Black, who therefore embarked on the adventurous 21...g6!? in Schippers-Dek, Netherlands tt 2015. **17...♙d8** **18.♖d3**



If Black wants to look for improvements, he might do so here. **18...♗e7** Some alternatives:

A) 18...g6 19.**♗fe3** f5 20.h5! looks wrong, but 19...**♗g7** (instead of 19...f5) might be playable;

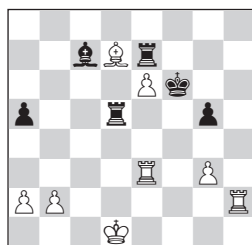
B) 18...**♙xf5** 19.exf5 e4 (if this is strong, then Agrest's 17. **♖d2** must be preferred) and now:

B1) 20.**♖e3 ♖xf5** 21.**♙xe4 ♖h5!** 22.**♙f3 ♖e5** 23.0-0-0 **♗e7** is very close to equal;

B2) 20.**♖h3 ♖e8** 21.0-0-0 (21.f6 doesn't look so dangerous, but White's structure is more robust) 21...**♖e5** is harder to assess. Let's hope for practical tests!

19.♗fxe7 ♙xe7 **20.0-0-0 ♙d8** **21.f4!** **♖b7** 21...**♙xd5** 22.**♖xd5** exf4 23.e5 will be problematic for Black and I wouldn't trust 21...exf4 22.**♗xf4**, forcing Black to soon play ...g7-g6, either. **22.f5 ♙xd5** **23.♖xd5** **b4(!)** Can Black hold the ending with passive play? On 23...**♖xd5** 24.**♖xd5 ♙c7** White

has a strong plan with 25.b4, 26.**♗d2**, 27.**♖a1** and 28.a4, so I think 24...**♙e7** and 25...**♖fc8** should be tried, but Black will have to suffer. Giving a pawn for some activity, as happens in the game, is objectively not better, I think. But somehow Vallejo, being two pawns up later on, doesn't manage to win! **24.♖xb7 ♖xb7** **25.cxb4 ♖xb4** **26.♖xd6** a5 **27.♖h3** h6 **28.♗d5** g6 **29.fxg6** fxg6 **30.♖f3 ♖e8** **31.g3 ♖b7** **32.♙a4 ♖g8** **33.♖xe5 ♗g7** **34.♗d5 ♖e7** **35.e5 ♙c7** **36.♖e3 ♖f8** **37.e6 ♖f2** **38.♙d7 ♗f6** **39.♗d2 ♖f5** **40.♗d1** g5 **41.hxg5+ hxg5** **42.♖h2 ♗d5+**



43.♗d2 **43.♗e2!?** **43...♖xd2+** **44.♗xd2 ♖h7** **45.♗d3** g4 **46.♙a4 ♙e5** **47.♙b3 ♙xb2** **48.♖e4 ♙e5** **49.♖xg4 ♖h3** **50.♗e2 ♖xg3** **51.♖a4 ♙c7** **52.♖c4 ♙d6** **53.♖h4 ♖c3** **54.♖h6+** **♗g7** **55.♖h1 ♖c5** **56.♗d3 ♗f6** **57.♖h6+** **♗g7** **58.♖h1 ♗f6** **59.♖h7 ♖c7** **60.♖h6+** **♗g7** **61.♖h1 ♗f6** **62.♗d4 ♙b4** **63.♖h6+** **♗e7** **64.♗e5 ♙d6+** **65.♗f5 ♙b4** **66.♖h7+** **♗d6** **67.♖h4 ♗e7** **68.♗g6** **♗d6** **69.♖e4 ♙c3** **70.♖e3 ♗e7** **71.♖f3 ♙b4** **72.♗d3** a4 **73.♙d5 ♖c5** **74.♗f5 ♖c2** **75.♙f3 ♖c5+** **76.♙d5 ♖c2** **77.♖e3 ♖f2+** **78.♗e5 ♙d6+** **79.♗d4 ♖f4+** **80.♗c3 ♙b4+** **81.♗b2 ♗d4** **82.♖e5 ♗d2+** **83.♗c1 ♗d4** **84.♙f3 ♖f4** **85.♙d1 ♖c4+** **86.♙c2 ♖c6** **87.♖e4 ♙a3+** **88.♗d2 ♖xe6** **89.♖xa4 ♙c5** **90.♗c3 ♖e5** **91.♖a8** **♗d6** **92.a4 ♙b6** **93.♗b4 ♗c7** **94.♖g8 ♙c5+** **95.♗c4 ♙e7** **96.♙d3 ♖a5** **97.♗b3 ♗d5** **98.♗c3 ♙f6+** **99.♗c2 ♖c5+** **100.♗d2 ♙c3+** **101.♗e3 ♖e5+** **102.♙e4 ♖c5** **103.♖g6 ♙e5** **104.♖a6 ♖c3+** **105.♗e2 ♙d4** **106.♙d3 ♗b7** **107.♗d6 ♙b6** **108.♗d7+** **♗c6** **109.♖h7 ♙c5** **110.**

a5 ♖a3 **111.a6 ♙d4** **112.♖h6+** **♗c7** **113.♖h4 ♙c5** **114.♙c4 ♖e3+** **115.♗d2 ♖e7** **116.♗c3 ♗b6** **117.♖h6+** **♗a7** **118.♗b3 ♖c7** **119.♙b5 ♙b6** **120.♖g6 ♖h7** **121.♙c4 ♖c7** **122.♙b5 ♖h7** **123.♖e6 ♖g7** **124.♙e2 ♖g3+** **125.♗b4 ♖e3** **126.♙c4 ♖xe6** **127.♙xe6 ♗xa6** ½-½

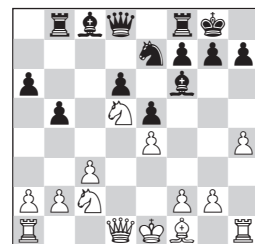
Sharper but less popular – 11.c3
0-0 **12.♗c2 ♖b8** **13.h4 ♗e7**

Garry Kasparov
Joel Lautier

7

Moscow ol 1994 (7)

1.e4 **c5** **2.♗f3** **e6** **3.d4** **cxd4** **4.♗xd4** **♗f6** **5.♗c3** **♗c6** **6.♗db5** **d6** **7.♙f4** **e5** **8.♙g5** **a6** **9.♗a3** **b5** **10.♗d5** **♙e7** **11.♙xf6** **♙xf6** **12.c3** **0-0** **13.♗c2 ♖b8** **14.h4 ♗e7** Very trendy in the 1990s, but rarely seen in this millennium.

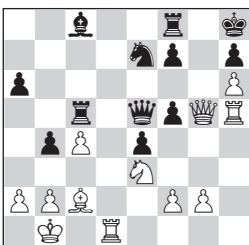


15.♗xf6+ Not to be feared is 15.**♗c3** **♗xd5** 16.**♗xd5 ♙e6** (16...**♙b7** 17.g3 b4! is also good) 17.g3 (17.**♗xf6+!**?) 17...**♗d7** 18.**♙g2 ♙d8** 19.**♖d2** a5 (19...**♙b6**) 20.a3 (20.**♗d1!**?) 20...**♙xd5** 21.**♖xd5** b4 with equality, Kolev-Pierrot, Orense 1996. **15...gxf6** **16.♙d3** **d5** 16...f5 is hard to handle for Black, with many weaknesses, e.g. 17.exf5 ♗xf5 (17...♙xf5 18.♙xf5 ♗xf5 19.♖d3! is also good for White – 19...e4 20.♖d5) and now:
A) 18.**♖h5** e4 19.**♙e2 ♗g7** (19...a5!?) 20.**♖h6** **♙b6** 21.**♖d2** was advantageous for White in Hjartarson-Schandorff, Reykjavik 1997;
B) 18.**♖f3** **♗g7** 19.**♗b4** f5! 20.**♙c2 ♙b7** 21.**♙b3+** **♗h8** 22.**♙d5** e4 23.**♖d1** a5 24.**♗c2** and White still had a slight edge in Korneev-Kulaga, Minsk 1998;

C) 18. ♖b4(!) may be even better than all the above.

17. exd5 An original idea was 17. ♖f3 dxe4 18. ♗xe4 f5 19. ♖g3+ ♘g6 20. h5 f4! (20... fxe4 21. hxg6 would be structurally great for White) 21. ♖d3 (it is – too – hard to justify 21. ♖h2 ♘e7 with ...f7-f5 coming up soon) 21... ♖xd3 22. ♗xd3 ♘e7 23. g3 (23.0-0-0!? ♗b7 24. f3) 23... ♗b7 24. ♖h4 ♖bd8 25. ♖d1 ♗f3 26. ♗e2 ♖xd1+ 27. ♗xd1 ♗xd1 28. ♗xd1 ♖d8+ 29. ♗e2 ♘d5 and Black had a good ending in Sollefeld-Mohandesi, Vlissingen 2003. **17... ♖xd5**

18. ♘e3 ♖e6 19. ♖h5 e4 After this game, 19...f5 became the main move. Solozhenkin-Sitnikov, St Petersburg 1999, now went 20. ♗c2 ♖g6 (not 20... ♖d8? 21. ♘xf5! ♘xf5 22. ♖g5+) 21. ♖g5 f6 22. ♖xg6+ hxg6 23.0-0-0. Black's pawns look nice, but after 23... ♘g7! 24. h5 g5 25. h6+ ♘h8?! 26. f3 f4 27. ♘d5 ♘f5 28. ♘xf6! he was already facing defeat. Better was 23... ♖b6! (instead of 23... ♘g7) 24. f3 ♗e6 25. ♗b3 ♘f7 26. ♖d7 f4! when Black has chances to equalize. **20. ♗c2 b4 21. c4 ♘h8?!** 21...f5 is not a great idea either: 22. ♖g5+ ♘g6?! 23. h5 f6 24. ♖h6 and White dominates the dark squares, but 21... ♖d8(!) makes more sense, stopping 0-0-0. Then 22. c5! ♘g6 and 22. f3 ♗b7 are survivable. **22.0-0-0 f5 23. ♖g5 ♖b6 24. h5 ♖c6?!** Not a good day for Lautier. Better was 24... ♖g8 25. ♖f4 ♖h6, which is 'only' clearly better for White. **25. ♗b1 ♖c5 26. h6! ♖e5** If 26... ♖g8, then 27. ♖d8. **27. ♖h5!**



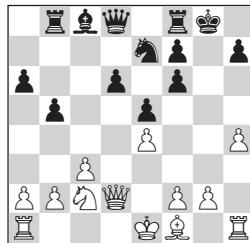
27... ♖g8 27... ♘g6 28. ♖d8 and 27... ♗c6 28. ♘g4! (or 28. ♖d5!) 28...fxg4 29. ♖g7+ can't save Black.

28. ♘g4!! Beautiful. 28...fxg4 29. ♖xe5+; 28... ♖xg5 29. ♘xe5 ♖xh5 30. ♖d8+; 28... ♖e6 29. ♖d8 ♘g6 (29... ♖g6 30. ♖xe7) 30. ♖xg8+ ♘xg8 31. ♖d8+, everything wins. **1-0**

**Gata Kamsky
Joel Benjamin**

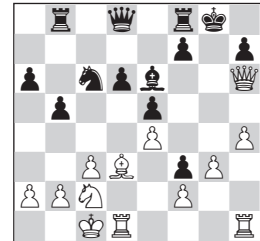
San Diego ch-USA 2004 (6)

**1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. d4 cxd4
4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♗c3 e5 6. ♖db5 d6
7. ♗g5 a6 8. ♘a3 b5 9. ♘d5 ♗e7
10. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 11. c3 0-0 12. ♘c2
♖b8 13. h4 ♘e7 14. ♘xf6+ gxf6
15. ♖d2**



15...f5 Pretty unusual. So is 15... ♗e6 16.0-0-0 ♘c6 17. ♖h6! ♘h8! (Black should have tried 17...b4) 18. h5 (threatens 19. ♖xd6!) 18... ♗xa2 19. ♖h3 ♖g8 20. ♖hd3 and Black was in big trouble in Feher-Priehoda, Hungary tt 1995. The main move is 15... ♗b7 (it's better to attack e4 than a2) from a famous game Kasparov-Kramnik, Novgorod 1994: 16. ♗d3 d5 17. exd5 ♖xd5 18.0-0-0 e4 19. ♗e2 ♖xa2 (19... ♖e5!?) 20. ♖h6 ♗e6 21. ♘d4 ♖b6 22. ♖h3 ♘h8 23. ♗g4 ♖g8 24. ♘e6?! (according to Kasparov, 24. ♗e6! would have been best, and unclear (!) via 24... ♖g6 25. ♖f4 fxe6 26. ♖xb8+ ♖g8 27. ♖h2) 24... ♖g6 25. ♖f4 and now, instead of 25... ♖e8? 26. ♖d6 after which White won in great style, Kramnik could have stopped White's attack by 25... ♗d5!. On move 16, instead of 16. ♗d3, I mentioned 16.0-0-0! in my book. After 16... ♗xe4 (16...d5 17. ♖h6!) 17. ♖xd6, most endgames tend to be promising for White. But alas, 16.0-0-0 has never been played over the board yet. Was Kamsky planning it? **16. ♖g5+ 16. exf5 ♘xf5 17.0-0-0** comes into

consideration. **16... ♘h8 16... ♘g6?!** 17. exf5 ♖xg5 18. hxg5 ♗xf5 19. ♘b4! is good for White. **17. ♖f6+ ♘g8 18.0-0-0 ♗e6 19. ♗d3 ♘c6 20. ♖h6** More promising than 20. ♖xd8 ♖fxd8 21. exf5 ♗xa2. **20...f4** Not 20... ♗xa2? 21. ♘e3. **21. g3 f3**

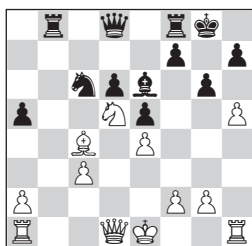


22. ♖g5+ Definitely, 22. ♘e3 and 22. ♘e1 are serious candidates, too. On the latter probably only 22... ♗f6! is playable, rather than 22... b4 23. ♘xf3 f6 24. ♘g5 ♖e7 25. ♘xe6 ♖xe6 26. b3!. **22... ♘h8 23. ♖xd8 ♖fxd8 24. b3** The endgame looks good for White. At some point he will win a pawn, but Benjamin manages to find some nice counterplay. **24... a5 25. ♗b2 b4 26. c4 ♘g7 27. ♗f1 a4 28. ♗h3 ♖a8 29. ♖xe6 fxe6 30. ♖d3 ♖a6 31. ♖xf3 ♖da8 32. ♖a1** Or 32. ♖d1 axb3 33. axb3 ♘d4!. **32... axb3 33. axb3 ♖xa1 34. ♘xa1 ♘d4! 35. ♖d3 ♘f6 36. ♘c2 ♘xc2 37. ♖f3+ ♘e7 38. ♘xc2 ♖a2+ 39. ♘d1 ♖a1+ 40. ♘e2 ♖a2+ 41. ♘f1 h5!** Black's activity pays off. This ending is unwinnable. **42. ♖d3 ♖c2 43. ♘g2 ♖c3 44. ♖e3 ♖c2 45. ♘f3 ♖d2 46. ♘g2 ♖c2 47. ♖d3 ♖c3 48. ♖f3 ♖c1 49. ♘h2 ♖f1 50. ♘g2 ♖c1 51. ♖e3 ♖c2 ½-½**

A) A no-no – 11. c3 0-0 12. ♘c2 ♖b8 13. h4 a5

**Volodymyr Vetoshko 9
Vincenzo Montilli**
Pardubice 2017 (3)
**1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. d4 cxd4
4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♗c3 e5 6. ♖db5 d6
7. ♗g5 a6 8. ♘a3 b5 9. ♘d5 ♗e7
10. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 11. c3 0-0 12. ♘c2
♖b8 13. h4 a5 14. ♘ce3 14. g3**
(not necessary yet, but otherwise

Shabalov shows very good understanding) 14...g6 (14...e7) 15.♖ce3 ♟g7 16.h5 ♟e6 17.a4! (for more supremacy on the light squares) 17...b4 (17...bxa4 18.♞xa4 ♟e7!?) 18.♟c4 bxc3 19.bxc3 ♟e7 20.♟f1 ♟xd5 21.♟xd5 ♞d7 22.♟g2 ♟fc8 23.♞d3 ♟c5 24.♞ab1! ♞bc8 25.c4 ♟f6 26.♞b7 was very difficult for Black in Shabalov-Kharlov, Woburn 1998. **14...b4 15.♟c4 bxc3 16.bxc3 g6** Zhou Weiqi-Li Zunian, Suzhou 2006, continued 16...h6 17.g3 ♟e8 18.♞f3 ♟e6 19.♞d1 ♟e7 20.0-0 a4 21.♞b1! ♟f8 22.♟b5 ♟d7 23.♞d1! (23.♟xa4 ♟d4! is 'only' clearly better) 23...♟a7 24.♟xd7 ♞xd7 25.♞b4 ♞xb4 26.cxb4 with a large advantage for White. **17.♟xf6+!**? 17.g3 maintains a firmer central grip, but here, too, Black's life isn't easy. **17...♞xf6 18.♟d5 ♞d8 19.h5 ♟e6**



20.♞d2 Threatening 21.♞h6. If 20.hxg6, Black would go 20...fxg6. **20...g5 21.0-0** 21.h6 is interesting but maybe not so effective, when Black defends with ...♟h8 and ...♟g8. Having castled, White will soon demonstrate an excellent plan. **21...h6 22.♟e3! ♞c7 23.♞fd1 ♞fd8 24.♟xe6 fxe6 25.a4** Even this structure is hard to handle for Black, with limited piece mobility. **25...♟e7** After 25...♞f7 White has a pleasant choice between 26.♞e2 and 26.♞a2 (26.♞ab1!). **26.♞a2 ♟f7 27.♞d3 ♞b6 28.♞ad1 ♟c6 28...♞db8 29.♟c4. 29.♟g4!** Already Black's position is falling apart. **29...d5** On 29...♞xc3 there is 30.♟xe5+. **30.♟xh6+ ♟g7 31.♟g4 ♞xc3 32.♞d2! ♞xd3 33.♞xg5+ ♟f7 34.♞xd3 dxe4 35.♞f6+ ♟e8 36.♞h8+ 1-0**

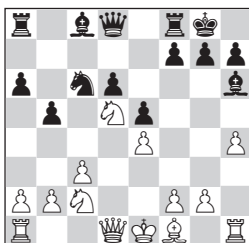
Variation B

11.c3 0-0 12.♟c2 ♟g5 13.h4

Markus Löffler 10 Ilia Balinov

Passau 2000 (4)

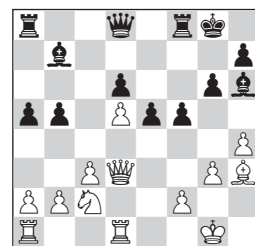
1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 e5 6.♟db5 d6 7.♟g5 a6 8.♟a3 b5 9.♟d5 ♟e7 10.♟xf6 ♟xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.♟c2 ♟g5 13.h4 ♟h6



14.g3 I don't believe in 14.g4(!): too weakening, not hurting Black enough. The oldest example is, in fact, quite illustrative: 14...♟f4 15.♞f3 ♟e6 16.♟xf4 (16.♞d1!) 16...♞f6! 17.g5 ♞xf4 18.♞xf4 exf4 19.♟h3 ♟e5 20.♟xe6 fxe6 21.0-0-0 ♞fd8 22.♟d4 ♟f7 23.♞h3 ♟e7 24.♟f3 ♟g4(!) 25.♞d2 ♞ac8 and Black was slightly better in Minic-Langeweg, Budva 1963. **14...♟b7!?** Not often employed, but so far Black does well with it in the battle for the centre. **15.♟h3** Probably not the best move. What else?

A) 15.a4!? is important, since against ...♟b7 White always likes to have a bishop on c4. I think Black should react sharply: 15...b4! (15...♟e7!?) 16.cxb4 (is 16.♟cxb4 better?) 16...♟e7 17.♟c4 ♟c8 18.♟xe7+ ♞xe7 19.♞e2 ♞xc4! 20.♞xc4 ♟c8 21.♞e2 f5 22.0-0 ♟xe4 with serious compensation for Black. All pretty unclear and practical tests are missing so far; B) 15.♟g2 is more solid: 15...♟e7 (15...a5!?) 16.♟cb4 ♟xd5 (not ambitious enough? That depends on 16...a5 17.♟xe7+ ♞xe7 18.♟d5 ♞e6(?)) 19.♟c7 ♞c4 20.♟xa8 ♟xe4. This could be interesting, but no: 21.♟b6 ♞c6 22.♟d5! and White wins outright) 17.♟xd5 ♟c8 18.a4

♟xd5 (18...♟c5!?) 19.♞xd5 ♞b6 20.♞b3 ♟d2+ 21.♟e2 and White had some advantage in Rantanen-Saastamoinen, Finland tt 2012/13. **15...a5** 15...♟e7, also not bad, was played in Martinez Lopez-Fluvia Poyatos, Catalunya ch U18 1998: 16.♟cb4 f5 17.exf5 a5! (17...♟xf5) 18.f6? (why not 18.♟xe7+ ♞xe7 19.♟d5 ?) 18...gxf6 19.♟xe7+ (19.♟e6+! ♟h8 20.♟c2, but Black is doing well anyway after 20...f5) 19...♞xe7 20.♟d5 ♞f7 21.♟g2 ♟h8 22.0-0 f5 with good prospects for Black. **16.0-0** I think 16.♞d3 is more relevant. In that case Black should continue ambitiously with 16...♞b8 (or else 16...♟e7). **16...♟e7 17.♞d3 ♟xd5 18.exd5 g6 19.♞fd1 f5**



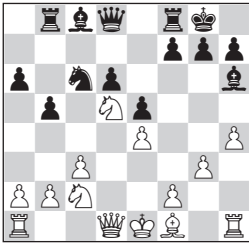
20.b4 20.♞xb5 ♟a6 looks very dangerous indeed. **20... a4 21.♟f1** Now 21.♞xb5! ♟a6 22.♞xa4 might be considered. Admittedly, White's kingside looks quite shaky then. **21...♟a6** After this Black has pressure against c3 and prospects on the kingside. It suffices to win a relatively convincing game: **22.♟e3 ♟c8 23.♞ac1 ♞f7 24.♞c2 ♞fc7 25.♞dc1 ♞f6 26.♟e2 ♟h8 27.♞d1 ♟xe3 28.fxe3 g5 29.h5 g4 30.e4 fxe4 31.♟xg4 ♟g8 32.♟g2 e3 33.♞f3 ♞h6 34.♟f5 ♟c8 35.g4 ♞f4 36.♞xf4 exf4 37.♞f1 ♟xf5 38.gxf5 ♟g7 39.♞xg7 ♞xg7+ 40.♟h2 e2 0-1**

Lucian Catalin Carmaciu 11 Lucian Costin Miron

Bucharest U20 2008 (9)

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 e5 6.♟db5 d6 7.♟g5 a6 8.♟a3 b5 9.♟d5 ♟e7

10. ♖xf6 ♗xf6 11.c3 0-0 12. ♖c2 ♜b8 13.g3 ♕g5 14.h4 ♖h6



15. ♗d3(!) Finally, the move I recommended in my book (1999) was played. The text move postpones the choice for ♖f1, first trying to build pressure against d6 and b5 in order to hinder Black's liberation operations.

A) 15. ♖h3 is/was popular, but I fail to see why. Here are some experiences with this move:

A1) 15... ♖xh3?! 16. ♜xh3 a5 17. ♗ce3?! (17.g4! is good for the light squares and at some point there may be ♜h3-d3) 17... ♖xe3 18. ♗e3 ♗e7 19.h5 f5 20.exf5 ♗xf5 21. ♗d5+ ♖h8 22. ♖xf5 ♜xf5 23.h6 with some chances for White, Polgar-Topalov, Bilbao blindfold rapid 2006;

A2) 15... ♖e6 (simple and good): A21) 16. ♖e6 fxe6 17. ♗de3 ♖xe3 18. ♗e3 ♗a5 (there is nothing wrong with 18... ♗e7, either) 19.0-0 ♗c4 20. ♗e2 ♗c7 with equality in Ivanchuk-Lautier, Monaco blindfold 1999;

A22) 16. ♖f1 a5 17. ♗d3 ♗e7 18. ♖g2 ♗xd5 (18... ♖xd5!? 19.exd5 f5) 19.exd5 ♖xh3+ 20. ♜xh3 ♗c8 and Black was at least equal in Kosteniuk-Hagarova, Bled ol 2002.

A3) 15... ♖b7!? 16.0-0 a5 17. ♗d3 (17. ♗a3!?) 17... ♗e7 18. ♗ce3 ♖xe3 19. ♗e3 ♗b6 20. ♜ad1 ♜fd8 21. ♜d2?! (21. ♖g2 is equalish) 21...d5! and the World Champion got an edge (White might have tried 22. ♜fd1! now) in Pichot-Carlsen, Banter Blitz Cup 2019.

B) Finally, there is 15. ♖g2 which is solid but nothing special: 15...a5 16.a3 ♗e7 17. ♗ce3 ♖xe3 18. ♗xe3 ♖e6 19.0-0 ♗b6 20. ♗d2 ♜fd8 21. ♜fd1 h6 22. ♗d3 ♗c5 23. ♗f5!?

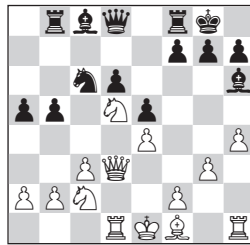
(23.b4!?) 23... ♗xf5 24.exf5 ♖b3! with a good game for Black, Livshits-Shabalov, Beijing Rapid 2008.

15...a5

A) 15... ♖e6 deserves consideration, too. 16. ♖h3 (this also could (and does!) transpose from 15. ♖h3 ♖e6 16. ♗d3) 16... ♗d7 17. ♖xe6 fxe6 18. ♗de3 ♜bd8 19.0-0 ♜f3 20. ♗e2 ♜df8 21.a4 ♖xe3 22. ♗xe3 ♗f7 23.axb5 axb5 24. ♜a6 ♗h5 25. ♗xb5 ♗g6 26. ♖g2 ♗xe4 27. ♖g1 ♗a7 28. ♗c6 ♖xe3 29. ♗xe4 ♜xe4 30. ♜xa7=;

B) If 15... ♗a5, 16.b3! is strong, e.g. 16... ♗b7 17.b4.

16. ♜d1



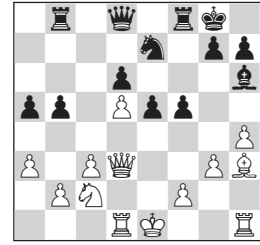
16... ♖e6?! A poor move, in my view, as is 16...f5 17. ♖g2 (17. ♖h3!?). Practice or study will have to show the merits of 16...b4! (a pawn sac, if need be – 17. ♗c4) and 16... ♖h8.

17.a3?!

A) 17. ♖h3 b4 18.c4 b3 19.axb3 ♖xd5 20. ♗xd5 ♗b6 21. ♗xd6? (a mistake) 21... ♗xb3? (21... ♜fd8! 22. ♖d7 ♗d4 23. ♜xd4 exd4 24. ♗xb6 ♜xb6 25.c5 ♜xb3 26.c6 ♜xb2-+) 22. ♗xc6 ♗xc2 23.0-0 ♖e3 24. ♜d7 ♖d4 (0-1 (53) Hector-Krasenkow, Malmö 1995, via the move order 11.c3 ♜b8 12. ♗c2 ♖g5 13. ♗d3 0-0 14.g3 a5 15.h4 ♖h6 and now 16. ♜d1 etc.) 25. ♜b7=;

B) White misses the instructive 17. ♗a3!, creating wonderful squares for the white pieces and more pressure. Then White is clearly better.

17... ♗e7 18. ♖h3?! 18. ♗xe7+ ♗xe7 19. ♗xd6 ♗xd6 (19... ♗b7!?) 20. ♜xd6 ♜fd8 21. ♜xd8+ (21. ♜d3!?) 21... ♜xd8 22. ♖xb5 ♜d2 is promising for Black, so White should prefer 22. ♗e3, which may be equal. 18... ♖xd5 19.exd5 f5



Now Black is doing quite well. The rest is less interesting. 20.0-0 ♗b6 21. ♖h1 ♜bc8 22.g4 fxg4 23. ♖xg4 ♖c4 24.f3 ♗g6 25. ♗e2 ♗xh4 26.a4 ♗f5 27. ♜g1 ♜xa4 28. ♗a3 ♗e3 29. ♗xb5 ♗xb5 30. ♗xb5 ♗xd1 31. ♜xd1 ♜d8 32. ♖f5 g6 33. ♖c2 ♜h4+ 34. ♖g1 ♖e3+ 35. ♖g2 ♖f4 36. ♜h1 ♜xh1 37. ♖xh1 ♖e3 38. ♗a3 ♜c8 39. ♖a4 ♖c1 40. ♖d7 ♜c5 41.b4 ♖xa3 42.bxc5 ♖xc5 43. ♖g2 ♖f7 44. ♖g3 ♖e7 45. ♖a4 ♖e3 46. ♖g2 ♖d8 47. ♖f1 ♖d2 48.c4 ♖c7 49.c5 dxc5 50. ♖e2 ♖f4 51. ♖d3 ♖d6 52. ♖c4 h5 53. ♖c2 h4 54. ♖d3 h3 0-1

Alonso Zapata 12

Fidel Corrales Jimenez

Aguascalientes 2007 (6)

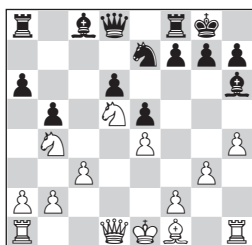
1.e4 c5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♗f6 5. ♗c3 e5 6. ♗db5 d6 7. ♖g5 a6 8. ♗a3 b5 9. ♗d5 ♖e7 10. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 11.c3 0-0 12. ♗c2 ♖g5 13.h4 ♖h6 14.g3 ♗e7

Somewhat similar is 14... ♖e6.

A) Now, as often, 15. ♖h3 doesn't promise White much. Pogats-G. Kiss, Hungary tt 1996/97, went: 15... ♜a7 16. ♖f1 ♗e7 17. ♗cb4 a5! 18. ♗xe7+ ♗xe7 19. ♗d5 (not 19. ♗c6 ♖xh3+ and 20... ♗d7; but 19. ♖xe6!?) is more reasonable) 19... ♗b7 20. ♖g2 ♖xd5 21. ♗xd5 ♗xd5 22.exd5 g6 and Black had a pleasant endgame;

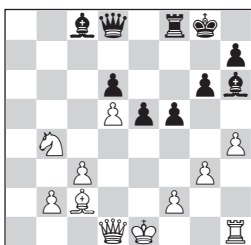
B) White's other option is more valuable: 15.a4(!). In Sulskis-Timoshenko (Georgy, not Gennady), Cappelle-la-Grande 1998, this gave White some advantage via 15...bxa4 16. ♜xa4 a5 17. ♖c4! ♜b8 18.b4 axb4 19.cxb4. If Black doesn't want to play this type of position, he needs

to try 15...♟e7!? 16.axb5 (16.♟cb4 is a good alternative, which may transpose to this game after 16...bxa4 17.♟xa6) 16...♟xd5 17.exd5 axb5 18.♟xb5 ♟xa1 19.♟xa1 ♟b6 20.c4 ♟a5+ 21.♟e2 ♟b8 and Black had interesting compensation in Federic-Salai, Slovakia tt 2011/12. This requires further study!
15.♟cb4



15...♟e6 A good move is 15...♟b7. After 16.a4 (16.♟xe7+!?) Black has time for 16...a5. Instead, Dgebuadze-Shikerov, Sofia Wch U26 1994, went 16...♟xd5 17.♟xd5 bxa4 18.♟xa4 ♟xd5 19.♟xd5 ♟b6 20.♟b4 ♟c5 21.♟c4 ♟xd5 22.♟xd5 ♟ab8 23.♟xb8 ♟xb8 24.b3 ♟b5 25.♟e2 a5 26.♟a1 g5. Here 27.hxg5 ♟xg5 28.♟d3 with 29.♟c4 and 30.b4 offers excellent winning chances. After 27.h5 g4 28.♟a4?! ♟g7 the game was less clear. 15...♟xd5 was played in Peter-Klink, Germany tt 2002/03. A timid start, but after 16.♟xd5 g6 17.♟g2 ♟b8 18.0-0 f5 19.exf5 gxf5 20.♟h5 ♟g7 21.♟ad1 e4 things were heating up. White should be OK, but 22.♟d2 ♟e5! 23.♟fd1 ♟b7 soon led to a black initiative. I believe White should have gone 22.♟g5(!) when the vulnerability of pawn d6 and squares e7 and c6 may give him some chances.
16.a4 In an earlier game, Zapata chose the slower 16.♟d3. This has the drawback that Black may go 16...a5 17.♟xe7+ ♟xe7 18.♟d5 ♟xd5 19.♟xd5 b4, when he is very close to equal. And as the game went: 16...♟xd5 17.♟xd5 ♟c8 18.a4 ♟xd5 19.♟xd5 b4 20.♟xa6 ♟c5 21.♟d3 bxc3 22.b4 ♟c6 23.♟b5 ♟c7 24.♟a2 ♟c8, things were very unclear and eventually went out of

hand in Zapata-Urbe, Medellin la Raza 2003. 16...bxa4 Now 16...a5! runs into 17.♟xe7+ ♟xe7 18.♟c6!, winning a pawn. 17.♟xa6!? ♟xd5 18.exd5 ♟d7 19.♟b7 ♟a7 20.♟c6 f5 21.♟xa4 This looks alright. If it is not, White should opt for 21.♟xd7 ♟xd7 22.♟c6. 21...♟xa4 22.♟xa4 On 22.♟xa4 Black plays 22...♟c8 as well. There is always some danger for White's king. 22...♟c8 23.♟c2 g6 23...f4 24.g4! is not to be feared.



24.♟e2?! Surprisingly quickly, things can go south here. 24.♟c6 may be playable but looks strange. I like 24.h5!? to create some counter-pressure and make it harder for Black to hurt his opponent. Still, 24...♟g5 may be quite dangerous. 24...f4! 25.♟e4 25.0-0 ♟h3, 25.g4 f3 and 25.gxf4 ♟xf4 all look disastrous. White is left with little choice. 25...fxg3 26.fxg3 ♟a5! Pretty amazingly, White collapses in all lines. 27.♟c2 27.♟d1 ♟a4+; 27.♟c2 ♟a6 or 27...♟a2; 27.♟b1 ♟a1. 27...♟a7! Curtains! 0-1

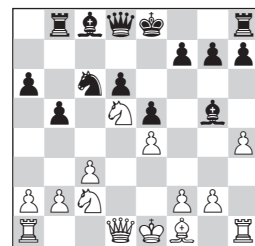
Variation C

11.c3 ♟g5 12.♟c2 ♟b8 13.h4

Daniil Dubov 13 Teimour Radjabov

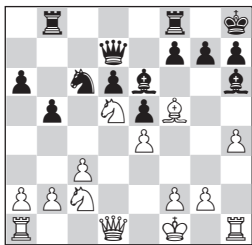
Airthings Masters sf 1.4 2020 (2.14) This was an important game, played on New Year's Eve, the last one before January 1, 2021. I needed a draw to secure victory in the first set of the semi-finals. But making a draw against Daniil is harder than beating him or losing to him. ☹️ 1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 e5 The

Kalashnikov, my weapon as Black for many years. This time it transposed to the Sveshnikov. It sometimes does, but there are many subtleties. 5.♟b5 d6 6.♟1c3 a6 7.♟a3 b5 8.♟d5 ♟f6 Now White has different ways to play. One is 9.c4, another is 9.♟xf6+ followed by 10.c4. The positions are complicated, with chances for both sides. 9.♟g5 We are back in the 9.♟d5 line of the Sveshnikov. I did not remember my notes and did not expect it, so please do not repeat my opening play in this game. ☹️ 9...♟e7 10.♟xf6 ♟xf6 11.c3 ♟g5 12.♟c2 ♟b8 13.h4! A very interesting move, that I had not seen in this position before. But it's one of the typical ideas in the Sveshnikov. JvdW: Besides, 13.h4 had been played several times before, often with 13...♟xh4 earlier on, and later, strangely enough, usually with 13...♟h6. The first game was Karakehajov-Ni, Youth Olympiad, Artek 1999.



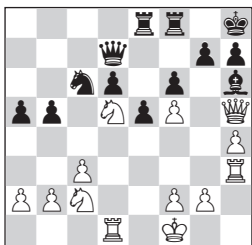
13...♟h6? This is pretty bad. After 13...♟xh4 14.g3 ♟g5 15.f4 exf4 16.gxf4 ♟h4+ 17.♟d2 Black cannot castle (because of 18.♟h5!), but it seems there is a solution here: 17...♟f8!, planning ...g7-g6 and ...♟g7 – Black escapes any danger and is a pawn up in a complicated middlegame battle, where he is not worse at all. JvdW: And even better may be 17...g6!?, keeping the option of castling. 14.♟e2? White could have exploited my mistake with 14.a4!, when castling is perhaps the best way for Black to go, but for everyone who understands the Sveshnikov it is terrible to see the weakness on b5 that will be a long-term headache:

14...bxa4 15.♘cb4 ♝xb4 16.♘xb4 ♘d7 and now the problem is that after 17.♖xd6 Black does not have ...♗e7, as the bishop is on h6, which changes the evaluation of the position totally. White is winning. JvdW: But first 15... ♗d7, instead of 15...♘xb4, should be playable. **14...0-0 15.♗g4** Daniil goes for a practical approach. The bishop is planning to get to f5 and provoke ...g7-g6, or otherwise White will play ♖h5. **15...♗e6** The natural move, but maybe 15...♗b7!? was easier. I was afraid to leave the king's flank this way. But Black can play ...♗e7 anytime soon and just parry all of the attacks by White, and ...♗a5 may also be an option. After 16.♗f5, 16...g6 followed by ...♗g7 and ...f7-f5 is perfect for Black. **16.♗f1?** He wants to go g2-g3/♗g2, but it seems too slow. The immediate 16.g3 followed by ♗de3 would have made more sense. But we should not forget that Daniil needed to win. **16...♖d7?!** Better was 16...a5, threatening ...b5-b4, but also taking the b4-square under control: 17.a3 ♗e7 and ♗b4 is never possible. **17.♗f5** A nice trick, if Black takes... **17...♗h8** Sidestepping any ♗e7 checks. After 17...♗xf5? 18.exf5 ♖xf5 19.♘cb4! White wins, as the knight can't be taken due to ♗e7+, picking up the queen.



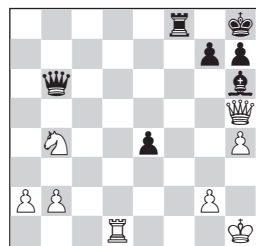
18.♖h5 A perfect set-up in a must-win game: the bishop on h6 is pinned, ♗f6 is in the air, g2-g4 is always possible and the d5-square is well controlled. And White's king is safe. **18...♗xf5?** I think tiredness was telling here. Never ever in my life, if fresh

and stable, would I go for this concession. I think that Daniil's reply confirms that emotional and physical factors were crucial in our decision-making here, but what is a game without mistakes? Not that exciting usually! Black had two much better ways to continue: – 18...b4!? 19.cxb4 ♖a7!! 20.a3 ♗xd5 21.exd5 ♗e7 22.♗d1 ♗g8!! Brilliant! Love it ☺. ...g7-g6 is threatened and Black has enough counterplay. Or 18...♗e7 19.♗xe7 ♖xe7 20.♖h3 d5 and Black is fine. **19.exf5?** We both had missed that 19.♖xf5! gives White a huge advantage! The endgame is bad for Black, due to the bishop on h6 and the pawn on d6, while White's knight on d5 is amazing as well. And after 19...♖e8 20.♗d1 White's play is simple and he is dominating. **19...f6 20.♗d1** A critical position. Black has to act fast. Once White puts his queen on e4 and the rook comes from h1 to d3, it will be time to resign. **20...a5?!** I thought I could afford this, in order to stop ♗cb4 forever, but it's too slow. Instead, 20...e4! was called for: 21.♖h3 ♖be8, when Black is fully in the game: ...♗e5 is coming and I have enough counterplay. **21.♖h3! ♖be8?**



22.♖h3? I think Daniil had already planned his combination, otherwise exposing the rook to ...e5-e4 is strange. Both 22.♗a3! and 22.♖e2! would have given White excellent play. **22...e4 23.♗xf6?** Going back to h3 was necessary, but admitting that ♖h3 was a loss of tempo is extremely hard. The sacrifice is objectively bad, but practically venomous. **23...♗xf6 24.♖xd6 ♗xf5!?** Playing it kind

of safe. The e-pawn is good and White's king is vulnerable. After 24...♖xd6!, 25.♖xd6 ♖c8! 26.f6 scared me a lot. I did not see how to proceed and completely missed that after 26...♗e5! 27.f7 I have the important check 27...♖c4+ and I am completely winning! **25.♖xc6 ♖xf2+ 26.♗xf2 ♖xc6 27.♗g1?!** 27.♗d4! ♖f6+ 28.♗e2!? is a devilish trick: 28...♖f8 (28...♖g8 draws, but looks less natural) 29.♖f5!! and White is winning suddenly! **27...b4 28.cxb4** After 28.♖xa5 I had two options: taking on c3 or playing the immediate ...e4-e3. Both are good for Black and should lead to a draw. **28...axb4 29.♘xb4 ♖b6+ 30.♗h1 ♖f8**



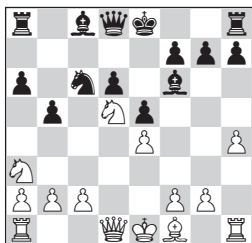
31.a3? 31.♗c2 ♖xb2 with a draw is not what Daniil wanted, even though it was kind of best. **31...e3?** Nice to have this pawn advanced, but missing a quite simple victory: 31...♖f2!, threatening to take on b2 and supporting the e-pawn. **32.♖e5 ♖g6 33.♗d5 ♖c2 34.♖g1 34.♗d4** was necessary: 34...♖xb2 35.♖e4 ♖xe5 36.♖xe5 ♖f1+ 37.♗h2 g6 with equality. **34...♖f2!** **35.♖e7 e2 36.♗c3 ♗g5!?** 36...g5!! was winning at once! **37.♖xg5** As 37.hxg5 ♖h4 is mate. **37...e1♖ 38.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 39.♗h2 h6 40.♗g3 ♖c1 41.♖d6 ♖f1** Black wins both after 41...♖g8! and 41...♖c8! 42.♖d7 ♖f4+ 43.♗g1 ♖b8. **42.♖d8+ ♗h7 43.♖d3+ ♗h8** As a draw doesn't bring him anything, Daniil keeps looking for a win and overpushes. **44.♗e4 ♖h1+ 45.♗g3 ♖xb2 46.♖d8+ ♗h7 47.♖d3 ♖e5+ 48.♗g4 ♖e6+ 49.♗f4 ♖xh4+ 50.♗e3 ♖g4 51.♗f3 ♖f5+ 52.♗e3 ♖f4+ 53.♗d4 ♖d6+ 0-1**

Radjabov M/21-1-15 (abridged)

Variation D**11.h4****Murray Chandler
Bachar Kouatly****14**

Baguio City Wch-jr 1977

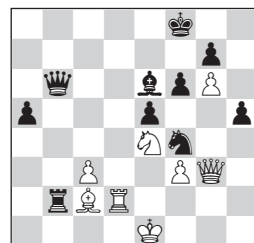
This game was also annotated by I.Almasi in Yearbook 32 on page 66. **1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗d5 ♗e7 10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.h4?!**



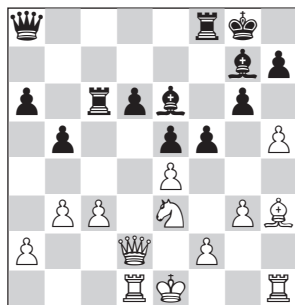
11...♗xh4! Not all databases contain this game and strangely enough Black usually plays another move. 11...♗e7 is quite reasonable, as White hasn't done much for his centre. But

things can also go south here. L.Bronstein-Ligterink, Haifa ol 1976, went 11...0-0?! 12.c3 ♗e6 13.♗c2 ♗xd5 14.exd5 (I would prefer 14.♗xd5 ♗e7 15.♗b3 and 16.0-0-0) 14...♗e7 15.♗e3 ♗c8 (15...g6(!) should be fine now) 16.♗d3 ♗c5 17.♗f3 ♗c8?! 18.♗f5 ♗e7? 19.♗h6+! 1-0. **12.♗xh4** White can 'live on' with 12.g3, 12.♗h5 or 12.c3, but much compensation is not to be expected. **12...♗xh4 13.♗c7+ ♗e7 14.♗xa8 ♗xe4+ 15.♗e2 15.♗e2!?**, but 15...♗d4 16.♗b6 ♗e6, for instance, looks quite strong. **15...♗b4+ 16.c3** Better than 16.♗d2 ♗xb2 17.♗c1 ♗c3+. **16...♗a5 17.♗e3 ♗e6 18.♗b6** After 18.♗b6 ♗xb6 19.♗xb6 ♗b8 Black regains the piece as well. Possibly 18.♗g5+ ♗d7 19.♗xg7 ♗xa8 20.♗xh7 was White's best shot at damage limitation. **18...♗b8 19.♗g5+ ♗f8 20.♗d1 ♗xb6 21.♗xd6 b4** There is no need for sharp play, but this is strong and Black is winning. **22.♗b1 ♗xa2 23.♗d2 bxc3**

24.bxc3 ♗e6 25.♗d3 h6 26.♗h4 ♗c7 27.♗e4 a5 28.g4 ♗e7 Not 28...♗d8? 29.♗xc6. **29.♗g3 ♗g6 30.♗c2 ♗f4** You may argue that 30...♗d8 is more practical, but Black is just playing very well. So far... **31.g5 h5 32.♗d2 ♗b2 33.g6 f6 34.f3 ♗b6**



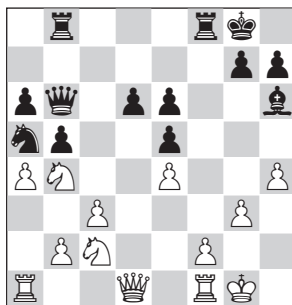
35.♗xf6!? gxf6? Simplest was 35...♗xc2 36.♗xc2 ♗b1+ 37.♗d2 ♗b3 and wins. **36.g7+ ♗g8?** 36...♗e7! was necessary. 37.g8 ♗xg8 38.♗xg8 ♗e3+ 39.♗d1 ♗e6 40.♗h7+ ♗f8=. **37.♗h7+! ♗xh7 38.g8 ♗+ 1-0** After 38...♗xg8 39.♗d7+ Black is mated. What a tragedy!

Exercise 1

position after 23...f7-f5

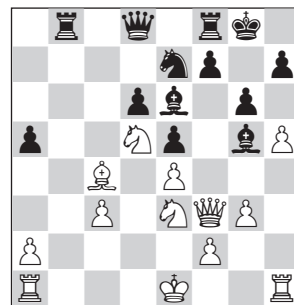
A tricky position, with all those long diagonals waiting to open up. How can White avoid being overrun?

(solutions on page 244)

Exercise 2

position after 19.a2-a4

Is White producing a positional masterpiece?

Exercise 3

position after 20...♗c6-e7

Is there a road for White to a clear positional advantage?

Bishop to g5 or not?

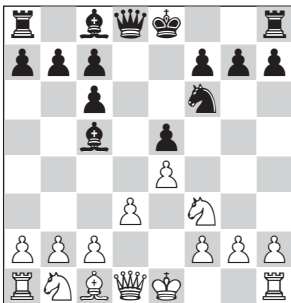
by Max Warmerdam

- | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | e4 | e5 |
| 2. | ♘f3 | ♗c6 |
| 3. | ♙b5 | ♗f6 |
| 4. | d3 | ♙c5 |
| 5. | ♙xc6 | dxc6 |
| 6. | 0-0 | ♘d7 |



Let's take back one step first.

- 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♗c6 3.♙b5 ♗f6 4.d3 ♙c5 5.♙xc6 dxc6**



6.0-0

This logical move is one of the more critical attempts, and one which I have used myself in recent years. The idea is very simple. By castling kingside, we are not only trying to finish our development, but the main idea perhaps is to protect the f2-pawn with the rook. This means that White is now actually threatening to take the pawn on e5



Giri-So, Carlsen Invitational KO rapid sf 2021

without having to worry about ...♙d4, which is often the problem after White plays ♗xe5. A downside of this move is that White is committing the king to the kingside. Around the year 2018, it was trendy to go for 6.♗bd2 with the idea to keep the option open to castle queenside and launch a kingside attack. A kingside attack can potentially still be launched, but it is of course much more difficult with white's king on g1 instead of b1.

6...♘d7

This position is the starting point of this Survey. The move looks somewhat illogical at first as the knight is blocking Black's light-squared bishop, but the knight is normally misplaced on f6 in this structure. Typically, the best square would be e6 as from there the knight is controlling the important squares d4 and f4. Once you know this, the move ...♘d7 starts to make sense as the knight is trying to travel via f8 to e6. Alternatives to 6...♘d7 that should be mentioned are 6...♙d6, 6...♙e7, and the trendy 6...♙g4. 6...♙g4 used to be considered dubious after 7.h3 ♙h5 8.g4 ♙g6 9.♗xe5,

however, Magnus Carlsen recently uncorked the novelty 8...♖xg4! 9.hxg4 ♗xg4 10.♙e3 ♗e7!, after which things turn out not to be simple at all. A recent update in this line was Giri-Tari from Tata Steel 2021 (see also Han Schut's FORUM item in Yearbook 138 on page 15).

7.c3

Probably the most critical attempt against 6...♘d7. White is pushing for d3-d4 as quickly as possible to put pressure on e5. As trading in the centre with ...exd4 often helps White, Black usually intends to keep the tension in the centre and wants to solidify the e5-pawn with the move ...f7-f6. Later on, Black can start thinking about rerouting the knight to f8 or b6 to allow the light-squared bishop to come back to life. Even though typically the knight goes to f8 in these Berlin positions, in this specific line it hops to b6 more often. This is because it is simply easier to get in, as after Black has castled kingside there will be a rook on f8 in the way. The knight on b6 is also controlling the important

c4-square. This is typically a square White reroutes the knight to (b1-d2-c4) to put pressure on e5 and the bishop that is typically on d6. We will see examples of when Black should keep the tension in the centre or release it with ...exd4 in the top-level games I have selected. The more interesting thing these days is, however, whether we should even allow the bishop to come to g5. The current trend is to spend time on preventing it with 7...h6, whereas up until recent times everybody simply castled in this position.

Conclusion

The trend these days seems to be to delay castling with the idea to either prevent ♗g5 with ...h7-h6, or to allow it and storm on the kingside with ...h7-h5 and ...g7-g5. The move 7...h6 in this position is certainly interesting, and the way forward for White is unclear. Hopefully we will soon see more battles between top players to see the next try by White, as more testing is definitely needed.

7...0-0

Max Warmerdam
Jan Werle

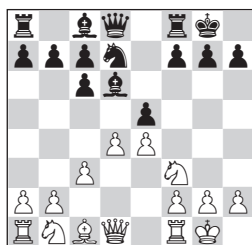
1

Netherlands tt 2019/20 (6)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6

4.d3 ♗c5 5.♗xc6 dxc6 6.0-0 ♘d7

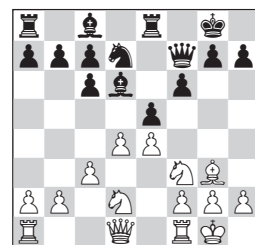
7.c3 0-0 8.d4 ♗d6



9.♗g5! Although it seems to take a lot of time to reroute the bishop to g3 like this, it is simply the

ideal square for the bishop. Due to the structure that has arisen after ...dxc6, the pressure on e5 will be somewhat annoying for Black. On g3, the bishop will also be an excellent defender of White's king. 9...f6 10.♗h4 ♖e8 The typical manoeuvre for Black in these structures. The queen will be excellently placed on f7 where it protects the king on the weakened light squares, and most importantly it is removed from the h4-d8 diagonal. After Black has achieved ...♖f7, Black intends to follow this up with ...♗e8 and usually ...♘b6. 11.♘bd2 ♖f7 12.♗g3 As there is no longer anything to be achieved on the h4-d8 diagonal without the pin on the f6-pawn, the bishop now finds an excellent square on g3 where

the pressure on the h2-b8 diagonal will be somewhat annoying for Black. Black can always get rid of this pressure with, for example, 12...exd4, but after 13.cxd4 White will have an advantage with his strong centre, grabbing space. 12...♗e8

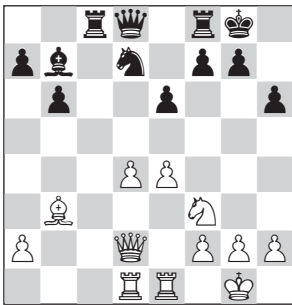


13.♖c2 This is the right square for the queen. On c2 it simply protects the e4-pawn, enabling the knight on d2 to be more flexible. This

An Abdusattorov special

by Mikheil Mchedlishvili (additional notes by Jan Timman)

- | | | |
|-----|------|-------|
| 1. | d4 | d5 |
| 2. | c4 | e6 |
| 3. | ♘c3 | ♗f6 |
| 4. | ♗f3 | c5 |
| 5. | cxd5 | ♘xd5 |
| 6. | e4 | ♗xc3 |
| 7. | bxc3 | cxd4 |
| 8. | cxd4 | ♙b4+ |
| 9. | ♙d2 | ♙xd2+ |
| 10. | ♚xd2 | 0-0 |
| 11. | ♙c4 | ♗d7 |
| 12. | 0-0 | b6 |
| 13. | ♖ad1 | ♙b7 |
| 14. | ♗fe1 | ♖c8 |
| 15. | ♙b3 | h6 |



We are starting our Survey about this highly topical Semi-Tarrasch line from the position after 15...h6, which has been around since 2009.

As the database shows, together with 15...♗f6, 15...h6 is one of the two/three most played moves in this position; clear first is 15...♖e8. Sometimes Black plays 15...h6 and then at some point ...♖e8, or 15...♖e8 and at some point ...h7-h6, and these positions can transpose. 15...h6 is generally a useful move for Black, who is asking White how he plans to continue here.



Nodirbek Abdusattorov

Rare moves

We can start looking at White's possibilities with 16.d5 which was played in Inyan-Dragnev (Game 1). I think this move is a bit premature, and Black has ways to get a good position as the analysis shows.

16.h4 or 16.♚f4 are rarely played but possible moves, however I don't see any problems for Black after them. I personally started to play this line with white hoping to put the rook on e3, play h2-h3 and, most probably, ♗e2 (in some cases even ♗e1). I feel this is the most promising set-up for White and that is why I think that 16.♖e3 and 16.h3 are the most principled moves.

Another rare move

16.♖e3 is rarely played in comparison with 16.h3. However this move was recommended by Samuel Shankland in Part III of his *Lifetime Repertoires Chessable* course against 1.d4. Now after 16...♗f6 or 16...♖e8 White can play 17.♗e2 and then d4-d5, or first 17.h3 and

then d4-d5, with a promising position. 16...♟f6 doesn't allow White to play 17.♟e2 as 17...♟g4 is possible, but White can push 17.d5 here. See Jan Timman's comments to the game Aravindh-Abdusattorov (Game 4) below.

The main move

16.h3 is the main move. Now I believe that 16...♟c7?! from Kobo-Abdusattorov (Game 5) is inaccurate because of 17.d5!. 16...♟e8 allows White to get the desired set-up with 17.♟e3 (see the comments to 17.♟f4 in Mamedyarov-Navara – Game 6). Now after 17...♟f6 18.♟e2 ♟f4 (Game 8), 19.e5 gives White the better chances. After 17...♟f6 18.♟e2 White

gets the usual set-up – please check the comments to Goryachkina-Ju Wenjun (Game 9).

16...♟f6 is another possibility, which I like most for Black as it doesn't allow ♟e3. After both 17.♟f4 and 17.d5 Black looks fine as the comments to Basso-Nisipeanu (Game 11) show.

Conclusion

Overall I think that for the moment Black is in good shape in this line. I personally prefer for Black to play ...♟f6 immediately whenever possible, just not to allow White to build the set-up with ♟e3/♟e2, which seems to be most promising for the first player.

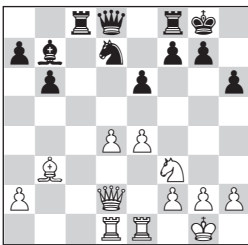
Rare moves

15...h6

Panneerseluam Iniyan 1 Valentin Dragnev

Stavanger 2021 (10)

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 e6 3.♟c3 d5 4.cxd5
♟xd5 5.e4 ♟xc3 6.bxc3 c5 7.♟f3
cxd4 8.cxd4 ♟b4+ 9.♟d2 ♟xd2+
10.♟xd2 0-0 11.♟c4 ♟d7 12.0-0
b6 13.♟ad1 ♟b7 14.♟fe1 ♟c8
15.♟b3 h6



16.d5 This move always has to be considered, but here I think it is slightly premature. 16...exd5 16...♟c5 17.♟f4 ♟f6 is also not bad. 17.♟xd5 17.exd5 ♟f6. Now White doesn't have 18.d6 because the knight on f3 is hanging, and 15...h6 turns out to be a useful move, preventing ♟g5. 17...♟xd5 17...♟c5!? is a solid

move, improving the position. Black can decide later whether to take on d5 or not, e.g. 18.♟f4 ♟c7 19.♟g4 ♟cd8 20.♟d4 ♟c8=, covering the f5-square. 18.exd5 ♟f6 After 18...♟e8 Black has no problems, and piece exchanges are in his favour. The passed d-pawn can be easily controlled. 19.d6 19.♟d4 ♟e5 20.♟e2 ♟fe8=.

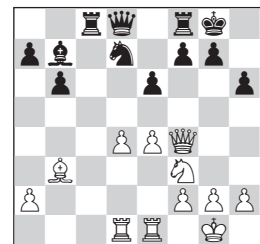
19...♟fd8 20.♟d5 g6? Really a weak move; Black had much more useful moves at his disposal. Also, the text weakens the kingside for no reason. 20...♟f8 looks logical, to try to attack the d-pawn. Black's next move can be ...♟c5, e.g. 21.♟e5 (21.♟e7? ♟xe7) 21...♟c5 22.♟d4 ♟e6 23.♟e4 ♟f4 and Black is fine. 20...♟c5 21.♟b7 ♟f8 is similar. 21.h3 a5? It's hard to understand this move. Probably Black wanted to put a pawn on a defended square? Anyway, in just two moves Black has gone from a good position to being almost lost now. 21...♟c5 was the best defensive try, e.g. 22.♟b7 ♟g7 23.♟xa7 ♟c6. 22.♟e7+ ♟g7 23.♟d4 ♟c5 23...♟f8 24.♟c6 ♟d7 25.♟ee1. 24.♟c6 ♟d7 25.♟ee1 ♟xd6 26.♟xd6 ♟xc6 Now it is

only a technical task for White to win, which he did ... 1-0 (46)

Igor Kovalenko 2 Vladimir Kramnik

Berlin Wch Rapid 2015 (9)

1.d4 ♟f6 2.♟f3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.♟c3
c5 5.cxd5 ♟xd5 6.e4 ♟xc3 7.bxc3
cxd4 8.cxd4 ♟b4+ 9.♟d2 ♟xd2+
10.♟xd2 0-0 11.♟c4 ♟d7 12.0-0
b6 13.♟fe1 ♟b7 14.♟ad1 ♟c8
15.♟b3 h6 16.♟f4 An active
move, but it is not clear if White
really needs the queen on the
kingside.



16...♟c7 16...♟f6 is also fine, e.g. 17.♟g4 ♟fd8 18.♟e3 ♟e7 19.♟f4 a5 (starting queenside expansion) 20.d5 exd5 (20...b5! was even better, when Black is pressing; he has a queenside initiative) 21.exd5 ♟f6= Fedoseev-Zhou Weiqi, China tt

Catching the eye

by Glenn Flear



Englishman Glenn Flear lives in the south of France. For every Yearbook he reviews a selection of new chess opening books. A grandmaster and a prolific chess author himself, Flear's judgment is severe but sincere, and always constructive.

There are so many chess media options around these days as online sites invent new ways of getting their products into your basket. Videos aside, famous classics are revived, and established opening theory is re-jigged, re-packaged and digitalized. Fortunately, fresh new material is still being thought up, but in order to catch the public's eye, the choice of title or author can be 'make or break' for commercial success.

So getting Fabiano Caruana (the highest-rated author around) on board is the obvious choice to get anyone's attention. Naturally, chess aficionados recognize such a household name, but many will be keen to get his work on the Ruy Lopez due to his great experience handling both colours. For many, Mihail Marin and Gawain Jones are well-known as players, but also have a good track record as

authors. Finally this quarter, there is a new book by Oscar de Prado, a name that might have some of you stumped! Sure, he isn't as well known as the other authors cited above, but he was involved in the well-received *The Agile London System* brought out by New in Chess in 2016. Now, that might ring a bell, perhaps! Read on to find out more...

Oscar de Prado
The London System in 12 Practical Lessons
New In Chess 2021

The word London has become (for many) synonymous with a certain type of opening mentality. I mean ultra-solid, plodding, not bad, but somewhat limited. Indeed, amateurs and juniors often wheel out the London System with a sort of 'let's get the pieces out in a standard manner and then hope for the best' philosophy. However, if you already have *The Agile London System* (written with Alfonso Romero, see my review in Yearbook 121), and enjoyed its content, you'll perhaps be quite receptive to an update.

The Spanish pair, even back then, used extensive notes and a wide selection of options to bring alternative treatments to our attention. Here, Oscar de Prado (this time all alone) goes even further and broadens and

