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# Preface

How should one solve the problem of the black pieces? In our day, it is a real practical necessity to develop rare, little-explored continuations, so that the effect of surprise will allow one to play for a win. But you have to know how to do it. There are some variations, which have plenty of surprise effect, but the weaknesses of which are simply so obvious that a strong opponent will be able to solve his problems even over the board. Then the surprise effect is liable to rebound on you. One needs great positional foundations, to avoid such problems.

The Tarrasch Defence is one of the most principled and positionally based defences. At least one black pawn remains in the centre for the long term and Black also has no difficulties with his development. In most cases, he manages to castle quickly and effectively. One very important thing is that White generally does not obtain any sort of space advantage. He does not usually get the chance for quiet, unhurried play to strengthen his advantage, as often happens in quieter variations of the Queen's Gambit.

For many years, lots of people (both people I know and strangers) have asked me to write a book on the Tarrasch, and now the time has come. The book I am presenting is not quite an opening monograph as such, more a unique journey around this opening.

The deeply-analysed games do not pretend to cover all possible ideas and variations. This would simply be unrealistic – such a book would be too large and cumbersome for the reader. I have tried above all to convey my own experience of studying the opening, to pass on my own doubts, discoveries, my pleasant and not so pleasant experiences. I have done this so as to share with the reader all these riches, although it is not for me ultimately to judge their true worth. Everything that I could possibly do has been done to neutralise those variations which, it seems to me, might present any danger to Black. In the process, I have tried to avoid long and excessively complicated or fanciful variations.

I hope that this book will be read with unhurried pleasure, just as in a restaurant one can enjoy one's favourite dishes. My 30-year experience in this great opening is before you.

I first met Boris Vasilievich Spassky, one of the 'giants' of the Tarrasch who features prominently in *The Art of the Tarrasch Defence*, in January 2005 at a session of the Spassky School in Satka. He still maintained excellent health and was keenly interested in developments in chess. Spassky was perfectly aware that without his match with Petrosian, the fate of the

Tarrasch Defence would have been different, and was aware of the latest developments. Against the Kasparov System he considered 12.♖b3, the move Karpov played against Kasparov in their 1984 World Championship match (Game 109 in this book), to be the main danger for Black. In his view, after other options Black's defence was much easier. He was skeptical of the move 17...♗h5 in the same system, which I had played in my games against Temirbaev and Iskusnyh (in spite of the fact that both games ended in a draw) – he thought this dynamic move was not good enough for equality. But he approved of 17...d4 – see Game 110 in this book. Spassky predicted a very prosperous future for the Tarrasch Defence, especially the 9...cxd4 system.

I should like to offer my heartfelt thanks to my publisher, and also to my friends Vladimir Barsky and Nikolai Ponomariov, for their invaluable assistance in the work on this book, as well as in life generally. I should also like to thank the late GM Alexander Lastin, and IM Vladimir Genba, for their excellent games, in which my limited training success is seen.

Alexey Bezgodov,  
Khanty-Mansiysk, October 2017

This book is divided into five parts:

- I) Four 'bad' lines that are actually good**
- II) White surprise lines... and what to play against them**
- III) The Kasparov System**
- IV) Giants of the the Tarrasch Defence.**
- V) Training**

## Chapter 13

# Fighting the double fianchetto

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.g3 ♘f6 7.♙g2 ♙e7 8.0-0  
0-0 9.b3



In the double fianchetto systems, like e.g. the one depicted above, White develops both bishops to the long diagonals. It can occur within the Tarrasch Defence and also the English Opening. Here there are certain specifics and subtleties, which one should know.

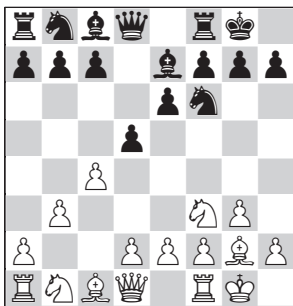
Game 63

**Igor Kovalenko** 2587  
**Alexey Bezgodov** 2500

Moscow 2012 (3)

Against the strong GM Igor Kovalenko, I wanted to play the Tarrasch, but my opponent, who has a wide opening repertoire, had other ideas. He chose a very deep and slow system, one often chosen by top players to avoid an opening theory discussion. I therefore thought it would be useful to include the game in this book, although, strictly speaking, it is not a Tarrasch Defence. Against Tarrasch experts, such systems, where White does not put his pawn on d4, are often employed.

**1.c4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.g3 ♘f6 4.♙g2  
 ♙e7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3**



I am playing directly, just as in the Tarrasch itself, although taking account of circumstances, of course.

**6...c5 7.♙b2 ♘c6 8.e3 b6 9.d4**

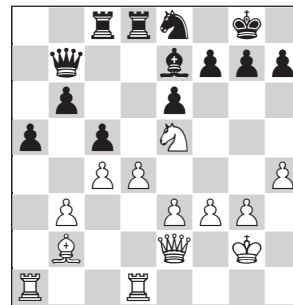
Against the topical 9.♘c3 I have several times played 9...♙b7 10.cxd5 ♘xd5 11.♘xd5 exd5 12.d4 a5! 13.dxc5 bxc5 with the possible variation 14.♘h4 ♙xh4 15.gxh4

♙xh4 16.♙xd5 ♘d8! 17.♙e5 f6 18.♙g3 ♙xg3 19.hxg3 ♙xcg2 20.♙xg2 a4=.

**9...♙b7 10.♘bd2 ♙c8 11.♙e2 dxc4  
 12.bxc4 ♘a5 13.♙fd1 ♙c7 14.♙ac1  
 ♙fd8**

Also possible is 14...cxd4 15.exd4 ♙fe8 16.d5 (there is no other active idea) 16...exd5 17.cxd5 ♙d8 18.♙xc8 ♙xc8 19.♘f1 ♘b7 20.♘e3 ♙c5 with a very complicated, but equal game.

**15.♘b3 ♘xb3 16.axb3 a5 17.♙a1  
 ♘e8 18.h4 ♙a8 19.♙c2 ♘f6 20.♘e5  
 ♙xg2 21.♙xg2 ♙b7+ 22.f3 ♙ac8  
 23.♙e2 ♘e8**



White has nothing to fasten onto. I await some aggression and strengthen my position.

**24.♙d2 ♙d6 25.♘g4 ♙c7 26.f4**

A good move, but it has drawbacks too.

**26...cxd4 27.♙xd4**

27.exd4 ♙b4 28.♙dd1 ♘d6=

**27...♙c5**

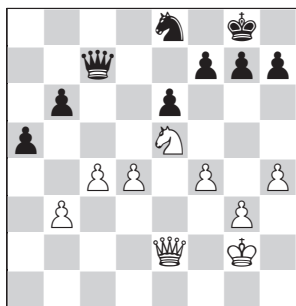
Aiming for simplification. Also possible, of course, is 27...♙b4∞.

**28.♙ad1 ♙xd4 29.♙xd4 ♙xd4**

**30.♙xd4 ♙d8**

Continuing exchanges.

**31.♘e5 ♙xd4 32.exd4**



The pieces are getting fewer and fewer. White has no advantage, but my young and talented opponent wanted to win, especially with white.

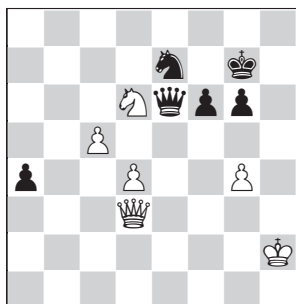
**32...f6 33.♘f3 ♕f7 34.h5 ♖c6**  
**35.♗d3 g6 36.♖h2 ♘d6 37.♘d2 b5**  
 I decided it was time to start some small activity, so as to confuse the opponent. No worse is 37...♖g7.  
**38.c5 ♘f5 39.g4 ♘e7 40.hxg6+ hxg6**  
**41.♘e4 a4**

Now I have a passed pawn.

**42.bxa4 bxa4 43.♘d6+ ♖g7 44.f5**  
**♗d5**

Activating the queen. There were many other moves.

**45.fxg6 ♗xe6**



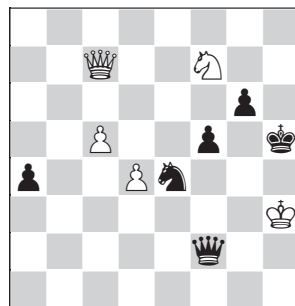
**46.♗a6?**

This is a mistake, although Black's position is already more pleasant.

**46...♗a2+ 47.♖g3 ♗b3+ 48.♖f2**  
**♗b2+ 49.♖e3 ♘d5+ 50.♖f3 ♗b3+**  
**51.♖g2**

51.♖e4 offers some hope of saving the game.

**51...♘e3+ 52.♖g1 ♘xg4 53.♗a7+**  
**♖h6 54.♖g2 f5 55.♘f7+ ♖h5**  
**56.♗c7 ♗c2+ 57.♖h3 ♘f2+ 58.♖g3**  
**♘e4+ 59.♖h3 ♗d3+ 60.♖g2 ♗e2+**  
**61.♖h3 ♗f3+ 62.♖h2 ♗f2+ 63.♖h3**



**63...g5 0-1**

A nice way to end the game.

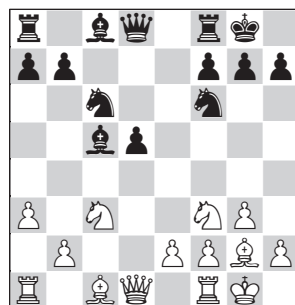
Game 64

**Andrey Derbenev** 2313  
**Alexey Bezgodov** 2558

Izhevsk 2005 (6)

After some misgivings, I decided to include this curious game, because it has a very unusual finish.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.cxd5**  
**exd5 5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.g3 ♘f6 7.♖g2**  
**♖e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5 ♖xc5 10.a3**



An insidious modern variation.

### 10...♖e8

The pawn sacrifice 10...♗e4 is very decent, and we will discuss this later.

### 11.b4 ♖b6

Now I consider this move if not a mistake, then at least a serious inaccuracy. Now White can by simple means obtain a very comfortable position, with play for two results. But since I won quickly, I do not consider a question mark against the move to be quite appropriate.

Many players prefer 11...♙e7, and this is definitely safer.

### 12.♙b2

Less accurate is 12.♗a4 ♙c7 13.♙b2 ♗e5 14.♗xe5 ♙xe5 15.♙xe5 ♖xe5 16.e3 ♙f5 17.♖d4 ♗e7 18.♗c3 h5 19.♖ac1 ♙e4∞.

### 12...♙g4

This active move could have seriously weakened my position. Yes, such things happen.

However, White also has some advantage after 12...a6 13.♖c1 ♙f5 14.♗a4 ♙a7 15.e3 ♖c8 16.♗c5 ♙xc5 17.♖xc5 ♙e4 18.♗h4±.

### 13.♗b5?

I was lucky – over the board, my opponent was not up to the task. Now Black can breathe a sigh of relief. The essence of the position is that White should play not for the occupation of d4, but to exploit the unfortunate position of Black's pieces.

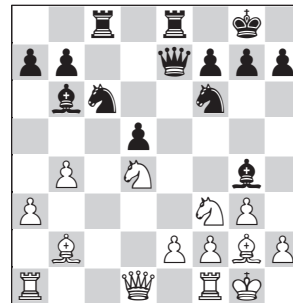
Black would hardly have been likely to win after 13.♗a4!. He does not want to retreat the bishop to c7, but

nor to exchange it. White has a very strong dark-squared bishop, and excellent chances of successful play on the queenside. Black's defence is difficult and unpleasant: 13...♙c7 (the defensive task is also not easy in the variation 13...♗e7 14.♗xb6 axb6 15.♖e1 ♖ad8 16.♖c1±; 13...♗e4 14.♖c1±) 14.♖c1 ♖c8 (equally depressing is 14...♗e5 15.h3 ♙f5 16.♙xe5 ♙xe5 17.♗xe5 ♖xe5 18.g4 ♙d7 19.♗c3±) 15.♗c5 b6 16.♗d3 ♙b8 17.♗a4 ♙d7 18.b5 ♗a5 19.♖xc8 ♙xc8 20.♙xf6 ♗xf6 21.♗d4±

### 13...♗e7

Now Black is certainly not worse. But I certainly did not think I would win in three more moves!

### 14.♗bd4 ♖ac8



### 15.♖e1?

A real mistake – White completely misses his opponent's play. Everything is fine after 15.h3= or 15.e3 ♗e5 16.♗f5=.

### 15...♗e4 16.♖c1 ♗f6

A large advantage is promised by 16...♗xf2 17.♗xf2 ♗xd4, but the text move is also strong.

### 17.e3?

It was essential to return the rook to f1, but then White stands badly.

17... ♖e5



An improbable position – White is losing a piece, after what seems such sound play around the strong point! White resigned.

Game 65

**Etienne Bacrot** 2704

**Alexander Delchev** 2622

Plovdiv Ech 2012 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.cxd5  
exd5 5.♗f3 ♘c6 6.g3 ♗f6 7.♕g2  
♕e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5 ♕xc5 10.a3  
♗e4!

In my view, the strongest reply. It is a shame to give up the pawn, but it is not done in vain.

11.♗xd5



Very logical, but Black has many resources.

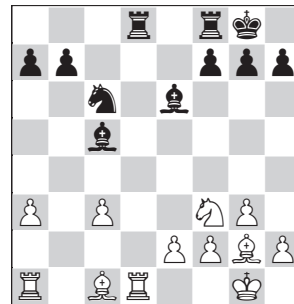
11... ♕e6 12.♗c3

White can face some danger after 12.♗e3 f5, and Black is certainly not worse, as White has problems with his development. Let us continue the variation: 13.♖xd8 ♖axd8 14.b4 ♕b6 15.♕b2 g5 16.♖ad1 f4 17.gxf4 gxf4 18.♖xd8 ♖xd8 19.♗d1 ♕c4=  
**12... ♗xc3**

Another interesting line is 12...♖xd1 13.♗xd1 ♗a5, and White's advantage is in doubt. Now we will try 14.b4 and 14.♖e1:

A) 14.b4 ♗b3 15.♖b1 ♕e7 16.♖xb3!? ♕xb3 17.♗d4 ♕xd1 18.♕xe4 ♕a4 19.♕xb7 ♖ad8 20.♗c6 ♖d7 21.♗xe7+ ♖xe7=;

B) 14.♖e1 ♗b3 15.♖b1 ♖fe8 16.♕e3 ♕f5 17.♗h4 ♗ed2 18.♗xf5 ♗xb1 19.♕xb7 ♖ad8 20.♕xc5 ♗xc5 21.♕c6 ♖e5 22.♗de3 ♗d2 23.b4 ♗ce4 24.f4 ♖e6 25.♕d5 ♖ee8 26.♕c6 ♖e6=  
**13.bxc3 ♖xd1 14.♖xd1 ♖ad8**



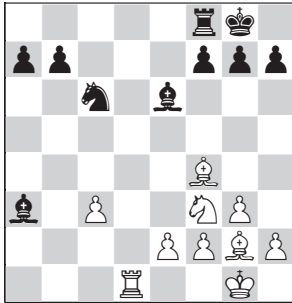
Of course, Black has compensation for the pawn; the question is whether it is sufficient to force a draw.

**15.♕b2**

The desire to hang onto the pawn is understandable, but here the bishop does not take a very active part in the game.



Later White tried 15. ♖f4 ♜xd1+ (also interesting is 15...h6!?) 16. ♜xd1 ♙xa3. Now the ball is in White's court.



analysis diagram

A) 17. ♜b1 Grandmaster Denis Yevseev once won as White with this. 17... ♜d8! 18. ♗e1 ♜d7 19. ♙xc6 bxc6 20. ♗d3 f6 21. ♜a1 ♙e7 22. ♙e3 c5 23. ♗xc5 ♙xc5 24. ♙xc5 ♜d2 25. e3 ♜c2 26. ♙xa7 ♜xc3, and the draw is fairly simple;

B) Another dangerous try is 17. ♗d4:

B1) 17... ♜d8!? Again sacrificing a pawn, but this is a very reliable move: 18. ♙xc6 bxc6 19. ♜a1 ♙c5 20. ♗xc6 ♜c8 21. ♗xa7 ♙xa7 22. ♜xa7 ♜xc3 23. f3 ♜c2 24. ♗f2 h6☞;

B2) A crazy pawn race in the spirit of the Grünfeld does not lose either: 17... ♗xd4 18. cxd4 b5 19. ♙c6 b4 20. d5 ♙f5 21. ♙d6 (or 21. d6 b3 22. d7 b2 23. d8 ♜ ♜xd8 24. ♜xd8+ ♙f8 25. ♜d1 b1 ♜ 26. ♜xb1 ♙xb1=) 21... ♜c8 22. ♙c5 a5 23. f3 f6 24. e4 ♙d7 25. ♙xb4 axb4 26. ♙xd7 ♜c3 27. ♙e6+ ♗f8 28. d6 b3 29. d7 ♙e7 30. ♜b1 ♜xf3 31. ♙xb3 ♙d8☞

**15... ♗a5 16. ♗d4 ♙b3!**

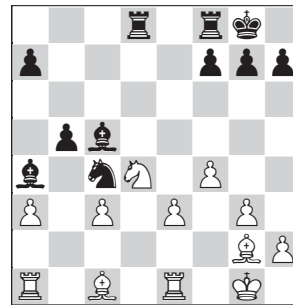
Alexander Delchev's preparation is excellent. The black pieces are

extremely active, whilst White finds it hard to strengthen his position.

**17. ♜e1**

A simple draw results by force after 17. ♗xb3 ♗xb3 18. ♜xd8 ♜xd8 19. ♜b1 b5 20. e3 ♗d2 21. ♜d1 ♜d6! 22. ♙c6 ♗f8 23. ♗g2 ♗c4 24. ♜xd6 ♙xd6 25. ♙c1 ♙xa3 26. ♙xb5 ♙xc1 27. ♙xc4 ♙b2 with a completely equal opposite-coloured bishops ending.

**17... ♙a4! 18. e3 ♗c4 19. ♙c1 b5 20. f4**



**20... ♙b6**

Even more accurate is 20...a6!.

**21. ♜b1 ♙a5 22. ♜b4**

An ingenious try, but White cannot hope to win.

**22... ♙xb4 23. axb4 f5**

The enterprising 23... ♜fe8! 24. ♗f2 ♜c8 25. e4 a5!, and the extra exchange can give Black chances.

**24. e4 fxe4 25. ♗e6 ♙c2 26. ♗xd8 ♜xd8 27. ♗f2 a6 28. ♜e2 ♙b1 29. ♜e1 ♙c2 30. ♜e2 ♙b1 31. ♜e1 ♙c2 ½-½**

Game 66

**Jonathan Hawkins** 2511

**Matthew Sadler** 2646

England 4NCL 2013/14 (6)

**1. d4 e6 2. c4 d5 3. ♗c3 c5 4. cxd5 exd5 5. ♗f3 ♗c6 6. g3 ♗f6 7. ♙g2**

**♙e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5 ♖xc5 10.a3  
♘e4! 11. ♖xd5**

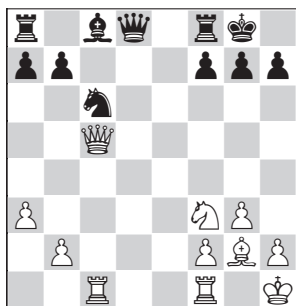
This is a drawing line.

11. ♘xd5 was examined in Bacrot-Delchev above.

**11... ♘xc3 12. ♖xc5 ♘xe2+ 13. ♔h1**

The fact that the king has to move into the corner helps Black's defence. The undefended f2-pawn may matter at some point, and the king has a harder time coming into play in the endgame. Even the weakness of White's back rank can play a role.

**13... ♘xc1 14. ♖axc1**



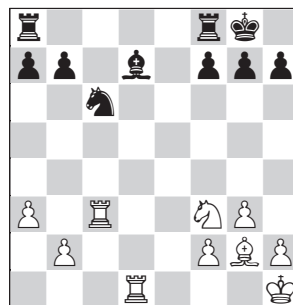
**14... ♖f6**

Attacking the b2-pawn. I do not recommend 14... ♖b6 15. ♖xb6 axb6 16. ♖fd1±. By comparison with the game Makarov-Lastin (see Game 69), the pawn stands better on a3.

**15. ♖c3**

A precise reaction is required after 15.b4 ♙g4 16. ♘g5 ♖ad8 17. ♘e4 ♖e6 18. ♖b5 (18.b5 ♘d4 19. ♖xa7 b6 20. ♖fe1 ♖h6! with the initiative) 18... ♖e7 19. ♘c5 ♙e2! (exchanging blows) 20. ♖xb7 ♙xf1 21. ♖xf1 ♖xb7 22. ♘xb7 ♖c8 23. ♘d6 ♖cd8 24. ♘b7 ♖c8=.

**15... ♖xc3 16. ♖xc3 ♙d7 17. ♖d1**



**17... ♖fd8**

It is clear that the exchanges have exhausted the position and we have a position of complete equality.

**18. ♖cd3 ♙f5 19. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8**

**20. ♖xd8+ ♘xd8 1/2-1/2**

Game 67

**Vladimir Potkin** 2666

**Wojciech Moranda** 2560

Legnica Ech 2013 (4)

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5**

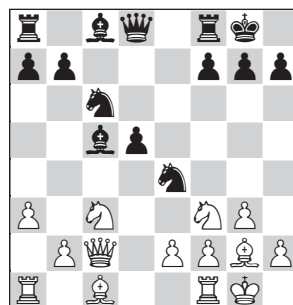
**5. ♘f3 ♘c6 6.g3 ♘f6 7. ♙g2 ♙e7 8.0-0**

**0-0 9.dxc5 ♖xc5 10.a3 ♘e4 11. ♖c2**

Fighting for an advantage. But Black is well-prepared for this move too.

The extremely erudite GM Vladimir Potkin did not manage to create serious problems for Black.

Of course, 11. ♖d3 ♘xc3 12. ♖xc3 is the same.



**11... ♘xc3 12. ♖xc3 ♙b6**

The bishop can also retreat to e7, but I prefer the text. Black has the idea of advancing his central pawn in the future.

**13.b4**

White has no other active idea.

**13...♙f5**

One can also consider 13...♙g4!?

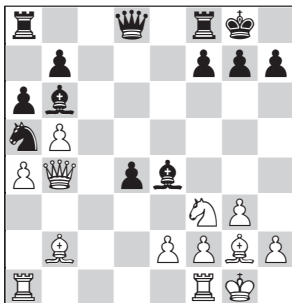
**14.♙b2**

Let us also consider 14.♞d1 d4 15.♖b3 ♞e8 16.♞d2 ♙e4 (I like slightly less the line 16...♖e7 17.♙b2 ♞ad8 18.♞ad1) 17.♙b2 a5 18.♞c1 axb4 19.axb4 ♞c8 20.♗xd4 ♙xg2 21.♗f3 ♗d4 22.♞xc8 ♖xc8 23.♗xd4 ♙h3 24.e3 ♞d8 25.♖c3 ♖xc3 26.♙xc3 f6. Despite the pawn minus, Black is not worse.

**14...d4 15.♖d2 ♙e4**

The ideal square for this bishop. Black is ready to repulse all of his opponent's tries.

**16.a4 a6 17.b5 ♗a5 18.♖b4**



**18...axb5**

Black was probably still following his home analysis. Also sufficient for equality is 18...♖d5 19.♞ad1 d3 20.bxa6 ♞xa6 21.♖c3 f6 22.♗h4 ♖c5! (exchanging queens and going into an ending where the weak extra pawn gives White no winning chances): 23.exd3 ♙xg2 24.♗xg2 ♖xc3 25.♙xc3 ♗c6 26.♞b1 ♞f7

27.♗f4 ♙a5 28.♙xa5 ♞xa5 29.♞fe1 ♞d7 30.♞e4 g5 31.♗e6 ♗e5 32.♞eb4 ♞d6 33.♗c7 ♗xd3 34.♞xb7 ♞xa4 35.♗e8 ♞e6 36.♗g7 ♞e1+ 37.♞xe1 ♗xe1 38.♗h5 ♞a6 39.f4 gxf4= But this path is more complicated and strewn with tactical subtleties.

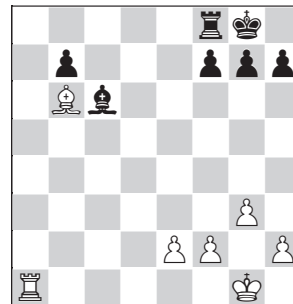
**19.axb5**

The assessment is not changed by 19.♙xd4 ♙xd4 20.♗xd4 ♙xg2 21.♖xg2 ♗c6 22.♗xc6 bxc6 23.a5 ♞a6=.

**19...♖d5 20.♙xd4 ♙xf3 21.♙xb6 ♙xg2 22.♞fd1 ♗c6 23.♖xf8+**

Or 23.bxc6 ♞xa1 24.♞xa1 ♖xc6 (24...♙h3 25.f3 ♖xc6=) 25.♖c5=.

**23...♞xf8 24.♞d5 ♙xd5 25.bxc6 ♙xc6**



The remaining play is pointless, as the board is too empty.

**26.f3 ♞e8 27.♖f2 f6 28.g4 ♖f7 29.h4 ♞e5 30.♞b1 ♞b5 31.♞xb5 ♙xb5 32.e4 ♙a4 33.♖e3 h6 34.h5 ♙d1 35.♖f4 ♖e6 36.♙c5 b5 37.♙f8 ♖f7 38.♙b4 ♖e6 39.♙f8 ♖f7 40.♙a3 ♖e6 41.♙f8 ♖f7 1/2-1/2**

Game 68

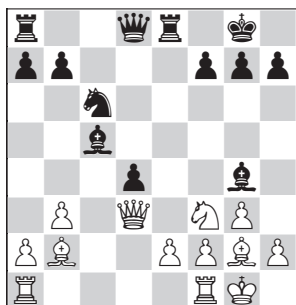
<b>Alexander Vaulin</b>	2490
<b>Alexander Obukhov</b>	2415
Krasnodar 1997	

My contemporary GM Alexander Obukhov has played the Tarrasch

since he was a child. If it had not been for his influence, my opening tastes would probably have been different. In this game, we reach a standard position with the double fianchetto system in the Tarrasch (such formations were once dubbed by the classics as ‘the stupid, double-hole variation!’).

A position worth examining in detail is that arising after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗f3 ♘c6 6.g3 ♗f6 7.♙g2 ♙e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5 ♙xc5 10.b3 ♗e4 11.♙b2 ♗xc3 12.♙xc3 d4 13.♙b2 ♙g4 14.♚d3 ♜e8. In the present game, this position arises after 13 moves.

**1.c4 ♗f6 2.g3 c5 3.♙g2 ♘c6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗f3 d5 6.cxd5 ♗xd5 7.0-0 ♙e7 8.d4 0-0 9.♗xd5 exd5 10.dxc5 ♙xc5 11.b3 ♙g4 12.♙b2 d4 13.♚d3 ♜e8**



The weaknesses of the pawns on d4 and e2 balance each other, which means that exchanges are inevitable.

**14.h3 ♙xf3 15.♙xf3**

White is not promised any advantage after 15.exf3 ♚e7! 16.♜fd1 ♚e2= or 15.♚xf3 ♚e7 16.♜ac1 ♚xe2=.

**15...♗e5 16.♚e4 ♗xf3+ 17.♚xf3 ♚e7 18.♜fe1 ♜ad8 19.♜ad1 ♙b4**

**20.♜f1 ♚xe2 21.♚xe2 ♜xe2 22.♜xd4 ♜xd4 23.♙xd4 ♜xa2 24.♜c1 h5 25.♜c8+ ♔h7 26.♜c7 ♔g6 27.♜xb7 a5**

Draw. A simple-looking, but instructive game.

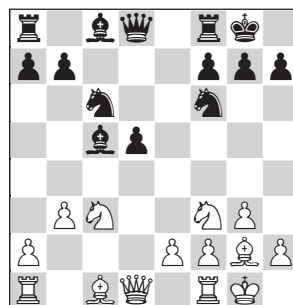
Game 69

**Marat Makarov** 2512

**Alexander Lastin** 2625

Krasnodar ch-RUS 2002 (2)

**1.♗f3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.c4 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 ♗f6 6.♙g2 ♙e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.♘c3 ♘c6 9.dxc5 ♙xc5 10.b3**



**10...♗e4**

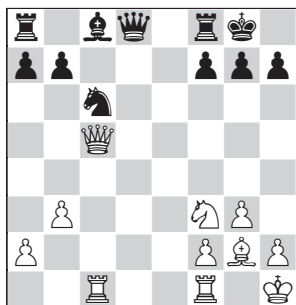
At the time I worked with Alexander Lastin, a gifted Russian GM. In this tournament, he became Russian Champion. I taught him the Tarrasch and he played several instructive games with it.

**11.♚xd5**

Practically agreeing a draw.

White can avoid any danger with 11.♗xd5 ♙e6 12.♗e3 ♚f6 13.♙d2 ♜ad8 14.♚c2 ♗xd2 15.♗xd2 ♙xe3 16.fxe3 ♚e5.

**11...♗xc3 12.♚xc5 ♗xe2+ 13.♔h1 ♗xc1 14.♜axc1**



**14...♗b6 15.♘e5 ♘xe5**

I offer as the main variation 15...♗xc5 16.♞xc5 ♘xe5 17.♞xe5 ♞d8=, but Lastin's choice is also good.

**16.♗xe5 ♗a6 17.♞c2 ♖e6 18.♞fc1**

Draw in view of the obvious 18...♞ad8=.

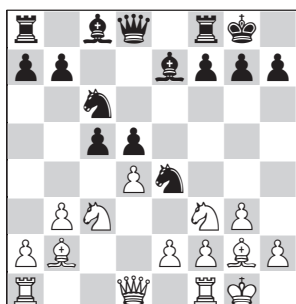
Game 70

**Vasily Papin** 2462

**Vladimir Genba** 2441

Russia tt 2009 (7)

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 ♘c6 6.♖g2 ♘f6 7.0-0 ♖e7 8.♘c3 0-0 9.b3 ♘e4 10.♖b2**



**10...cxd4**

I helped IM Vladimir Genba master the subtleties of the Tarrasch. The capture on d4 is my recommendation. In the great majority of cases, Black plays 10...♖f6.

**11.♘b5**

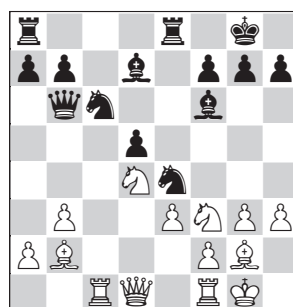
White achieves nothing after 11.♘xb4 ♘xd4 12.♗xd4 ♖f6 13.♗d3 ♖f5 14.♗f3 (toothless is 14.♞a1 ♞e8 15.♘xe4 ♖xb2 16.♗d2 dxe4 17.♗xb2 ♗e7=) 14...♖e6 15.♞ad1 (or 15.♞fd1 ♗a5 16.♞ac1 ♞fc8=) 15...♗a5 16.♘xd5 ♖xd5 17.♗f5 ♗xa2=.

**11...♖f6**

A) The bishop can also be placed elsewhere: 11...♖c5 12.♘fxd4 ♖d7 13.♞c1 ♖b6, and White does not achieve much;

B) Weaker is 11...♘c3 12.♘xc3 dxc3 13.♖xc3 ♖f5 14.♘d4±.

**12.♘bxd4 ♞e8 13.♞c1 ♗b6 14.h3 ♖d7 15.e3**



**15...a5**

I would have considered 15...♞ac8!? 16.a3 ♗a6 17.b4 ♘e7=.

**16.♖a1 ♘b4 17.a3**

Draw.

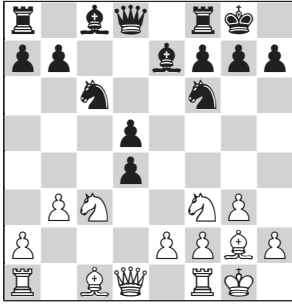
Game 71

**Sergey Kiselev** 2480

**Alexey Bezgodov** 2557

Moscow 2000 (6)

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 ♘c6 6.♖g2 ♘f6 7.0-0 ♖e7 8.♘c3 0-0 9.b3 cxd4**



A pragmatic decision, which does not require much concrete knowledge from Black. It is clear that the white bishop is coming to b2, so it will be hard for him to organise pressure against d5.

**10. ♖xd4 ♕g4**

One of many possible moves.

Both 10...♕c5!? and 10...♖e8 11. ♕b2 ♕c5 are perfectly possible.

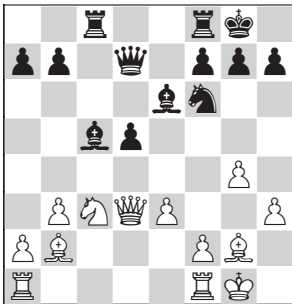
**11. h3 ♕e6**

White's achievements are also not great after 11...♕h5.

**12. ♕b2 ♖d7 13. g4**

Nothing real is offered by 13. ♗xe6 fxe6 14. e3 ♖ad8∞.

**13... ♖ac8 14. e3 ♗xd4 15. ♖xd4 ♕c5 16. ♖d3**



**16...h5**

This may look unusual, but it is not a bad way to create counterplay.

**17. ♗a4**

The following is just a way of offering a draw: 17.g5 ♕xh3 18.gxf6 ♕xg2 19.♗xg2, and Black gives perpetual check.

**17... ♕e7 18. f3 ♖d6**

Here I was probably wrong.

A) The best idea to obtain full counterplay involves a blow in the centre: 18...b5 19. ♗c3 d4 20.exd4 ♖fd8 21. ♖ac1 (21. ♖ad1 b4 22. ♗e4 a5∞) 21... ♖xd4+ 22. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 23. ♗e4 ♖dd8=;

B) It is also possible first to exchange 18...hxg4 19.hxg4 b5 20. ♗c3 d4 21.exd4 ♖fd8, also with a safe position for Black.

**19. ♗c3**

Very strong is 19.g5 ♗e8 20.f4! ♖a6 21. ♖xa6 bxa6 22.f5 ♕d7 23.h4, and Black's position is unattractive.

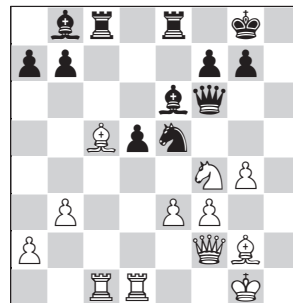
**19...hxg4**

Both I and Sergey Kiselev underestimated the strength of the simple idea 19...d4 20.exd4 ♖g3 21. ♗e2 ♖d6∞.

**20. hxg4 ♖fe8 21. ♗e2 ♕d8 22. ♕d4 ♗d7**

Also good is 22...♕c7!?

**23. ♖ac1 ♗e5 24. ♖d2 ♕c7 25. ♕c5 ♖d8 26. ♗f4 ♕b8 27. ♖fd1 ♖f6 28. ♖f2**



The ♖b8 poses some danger to White.

**28... ♖c6**

The pawn sacrifice is not the only move, but is a perfectly good decision. White has no advantage.

**29. ♖xd5 ♖h6 30. ♖c3 ♖e5 31. ♖d6 ♖xb3**

Regaining the pawn and forcing a draw. I missed the idea 31... ♖xc3 32. ♖xc3 ♖d8 33. ♖xb8 ♖xd1+ 34. ♖f1 ♖d2 35. ♖g3 ♖c6. Admittedly, even if I had seen this, though, I would probably not have played it. The text move is more solid.

**32. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 33. axb3 ♖xc3**

**34. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 35. f4 ♖b6 36. ♖d3 ♖b4 37. ♖f3 ♖c5 38. ♖f2 g6 39. g5 ♖d8 ½-½**

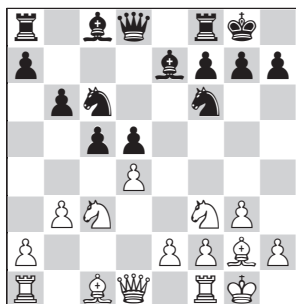
Game 72

**Ognjen Cvitan** 2550

**Alexander Lastin** 2628

Moscow Wch 2001 (1)

**1. c4 e6 2. ♖f3 d5 3. d4 c5 4. cxd5 exd5 5. g3 ♖c6 6. ♖g2 ♖f6 7. 0-0 ♖e7 8. ♖c3 0-0 9. b3 b6**



The idea of a counter-fianchetto came to me when preparing Alexander Lastin for the knock-out

World Championship in Moscow. An unusual picture arises for the Tarrasch, more in the spirit of the Queen's Indian.

**10. ♖e5**

On 10. ♖b2 there would follow 10... ♖a6!. More about this in the next game.

**10... ♖xd4**

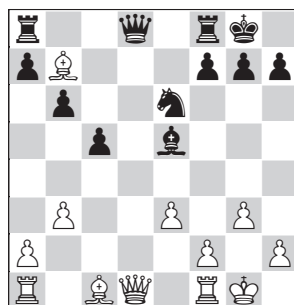
Leading to a virtually equal position, with just a symbolic advantage to White.

Equally good is 10... ♖b7 11. e3 (White gets nothing from 11. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 12. dxc5 bxc5 13. ♖g5 ♖c8 14. ♖c1 d4, and he does not manage to exploit the weakness of the enemy queenside) 11... ♖xe5 12. dxe5 ♖e4 13. ♖e2 a5 14. f3 ♖g5 15. h4 ♖e6 16. f4 f5 17. ♖c3 ♖c7 18. ♖f2 ♖d7 19. ♖d2 ♖ad8 20. a4 ♖e6 with a very complicated game.

**11. e3 ♖e6 12. ♖xd5**

Only equality results from 12. ♖c6 ♖e8 13. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 14. ♖xd5 ♖f6 15. ♖b1 ♖b7 16. ♖e7+ ♖xe7 17. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 18. ♖xb7 ♖ad8=.

**12... ♖b7 13. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 14. ♖xb7 ♖xe5**



**15. ♖b1**

I think a slightly stronger line for White is 15. ♖xa8 ♖xa1 16. ♖f3, but

here too, a draw is the most likely outcome.

**15...♖b8 16.♙g2 ♖c7 17.♚e2 ♜fd8  
18.♙d2 ♜d7 19.♜fc1 ♜bd8 20.♙e1  
♚d6**

It is difficult for White to activate his bishops, without allowing drawish simplifications or creating weaknesses in his own position. But without decisive action, the solid black position cannot be breached.

**21.♙f1 g6 22.♜c2 ♖e7 23.♜d2 ♜xd2  
24.♙xd2 ♘c7 25.♙e1 ♚d7 26.♜c1  
a5 27.♙f3 a4 28.♜d1 ♚xd1 29.♚xd1  
♜xd1 30.♙xd1 axb3 31.axb3 ♘d5  
32.♙d2 ♙f8 33.♙e2 ♘c3+34.♙xc3**  
Draw.

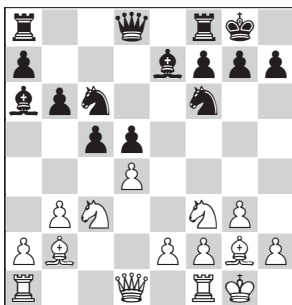
Game 73

**Rinely Comas Colon** 1810

**Suzie Blackburn** 1967

Istanbul ol W 2012 (8)

**1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.♙g2 ♘f6 4.♘f3  
♙e7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5  
8.d4 ♘c6 9.♙b2 b6 10.♘c3 ♙a6**



By transposition, we have reached what we may call the ‘counter-fianchetto system’ of the Tarrasch.

**11.♜e1**

A piquant variation involving an exchange sacrifice is 11.♘e5 ♘xd4 12.e3 ♙xf1 13.♙xf1 ♘e6 14.♘xd5 ♘xd5 15.♙xd5 ♖e8 16.♙f3 ♙f6=.

**11...♜c8**

She could also have simplified the game immediately: 11...♘e4 12.dxc5 ♘xc3 13.♙xc3 bxc5 14.♘e5 ♘xe5 15.♙xe5 ♙b7 16.e3 ♚d7=

**12.♜c1**

And here is another simplifying line: 12.♘e5 ♘xd4 13.e3 ♘c6 14.♘xd5 ♘xe5 15.♙xe5 ♘xd5 16.♙xd5 ♙f6 17.♙xf6 ♚xf6 18.e4 ♜cd8 19.♚c2 ♙c8=

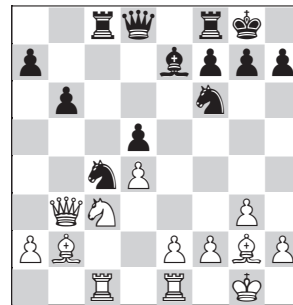
**12...c4**

Interesting is 12...♘e4!?. She could also have awaited White’s next move with 12...♜e8!?

**13.bxc4 ♙xc4 14.♘e5 ♘a5 15.♘xc4**

There is nothing frightening for Black after 15.e4 dxe4 16.♘xe4 ♘d5= (or 16...♙xa2=).

**15...♘xc4 16.♚b3**



**16...b5!**

An ingenious resource, showing White that the d5-pawn is not so easy to get at. Now a strange episode unfolds.

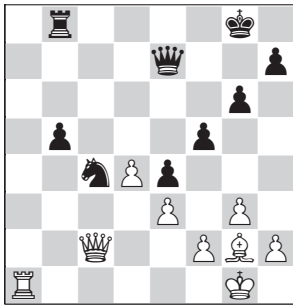
**17.♜ed1? ♜b8?**



17...♘a5 wins a piece! 18.♖xb5 (no better is 18.♖c2 b4–+) 18...♗b8–+  
**18.e3 ♖a5 19.♙c2 ♗fd8 20.♙c1 a6**  
**21.a4 ♖b6 22.axb5 axb5 23.♙d2**  
**♖e6 24.♙a1 ♘e4 25.♘xe4 dxe4**  
**26.♙b4**

Apart from the curious exchange of blunders at move 17, the players play pretty correctly.

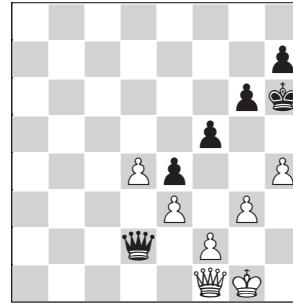
**26...g6 27.♙xe7 ♖xe7 28.♙ca2**  
**♗d7 29.♙a8 ♗db7 30.♙xb8+ ♗xb8**  
**31.♖c2 f5**



**32.♗b1**

More accurate is 32.♙f1!.

**32...♘g7 33.♖c3 ♘h6 34.♙f1 ♖a3**  
**35.♗b3 ♖a7 36.♙xc4 bxc4 37.♗xb8**  
**♖xb8 38.♖xc4 ♖b1+ 39.♖f1 ♖c2**  
**40.h4 ♖d2**



**41.♘g2**

White did not attempt to win this queen endgame. Draw.