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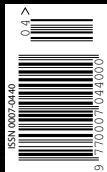
CHESS MAGAZINE

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TWO UNUSUAL
MOVES IN THE
OPENING FOR WHITE

**Don't laugh...
it may happen
to you!**

by IM Andrew Martin

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James PLASKETT

ON THE ROAD TO LA RODA

STARRING
MARKUS RAGGER

The
**Thirty
Nine Steps**

**Black is OK
against both**

1d4 and 1e4!

by IM Shaun Taulbut

CHESS QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

**Scotch on
the rocks**

by IM Gary Lane



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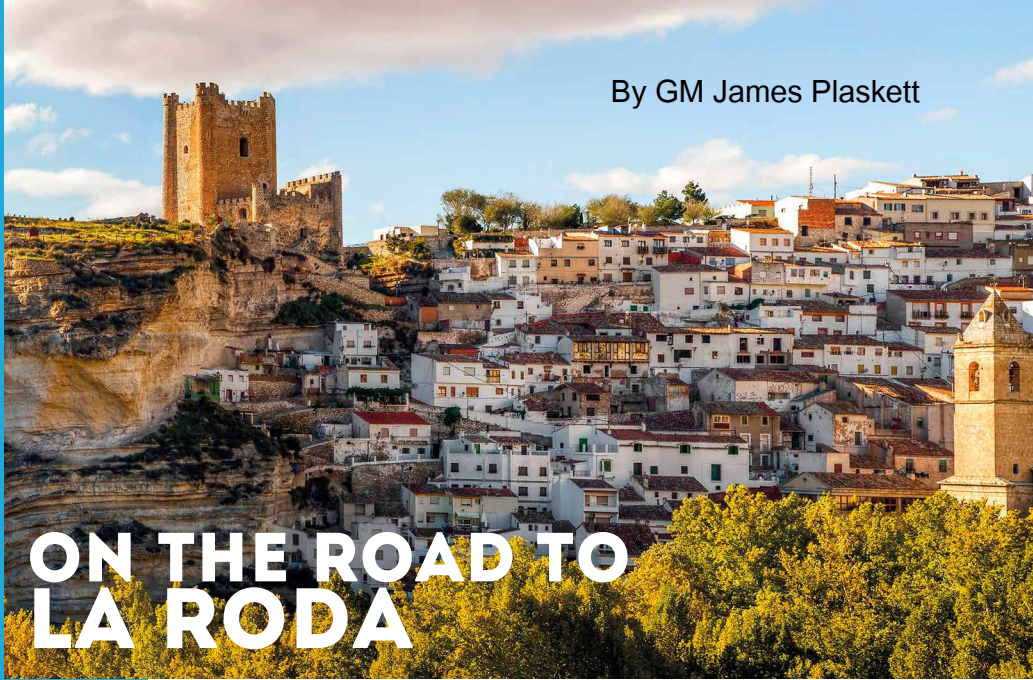
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by GM James Plaskett



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ON THE ROAD TO LA RODA

From my own praxis, a couple of Kan Sicilians.

James PLASKETT —
Marc RIBERA CEBOLLA

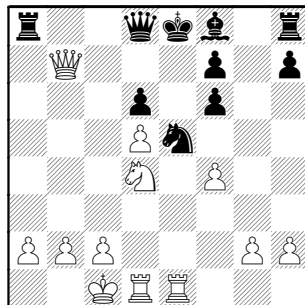
La Roda 2016, Round 5

From March 23rd to 27th 2016 a strong International Open was held in the Valencian town of La Roda. Three hundred competitors took part. It was the third such Spanish Open already this year to be won outright by 21 year old Armenian GM, Karen Grigorian, rated 2612. Remarkably, there were no less than TEN players tied for second place behind him with scores of 7/9. And I was one of those.

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 a6 5 ♜c3 ♖c7 6 ♙d3 ♜f6 7 ♖e2 d6 8 ♙g5 ♜bd7 9 f4 b5 10 0-0-0 ♙b7 11 ♜he1 11...♙e7 is now a game from my book *Starting Out: Attacking Play* vs Gausel and also Spassky – Rashkovsky, but my opponent played 11...♜c5 12 ♙xf6 gxf6 13 ♜d5!? ♖d8? 13...♖a5 was required, when I was uncertain.
14 ♙xb5+ axb5 15 ♖xb5+ ♜d7 16 ♖xb7 exd5 17 exd5+ ♙e5

Final placings:

1st K. Grigorian 7½/9
2nd-11th J. Granda Zuniga, M. Perez Candelario, A. Alvarez Pedraza, A. Bachmann, D. Popovic, V. Baklan, A. Greenfeld, J. Plaskett, M. Lopez Martinez Josep, A. Stella 7/9...



18 fxe5?? fxe5 19 ♖e6? fxe6 20 dxe6 and now, to my great surprise, he just **resigned. 1-0**

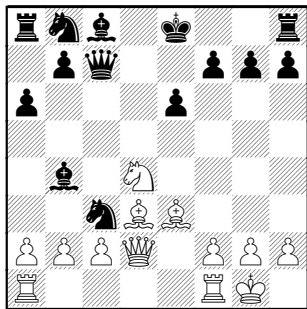
Although 20...♙e7 21 ♖c6+ ♗f8 22 ♖f1+ is certainly better for White, it's not over yet. Backwards moves with knights and queens are always amongst the hardest to spot, but how I missed 18 ♖c6+ ♗e7 19 ♖f5 mate or 18...♗d7 19 ♖xa8+ I'll never know. Nor 19 ♖c6+ ♗e7 20 ♖xe5+ dxe5 21 ♖f5 mate, for that matter.

In Round Eight I had Black versus F. Orantes Taboada (2277):

Francisco ORANTES TABOADA — James PLASKETT

La Roda 2016, Round 8

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 a6 5 ♖c3 ♖c7 6 ♙e3?! ♙b4 7 ♖d2 ♖f6 8 ♙d3 d5 9 exd5 ♖xd5 10 0-0 ♖xc3



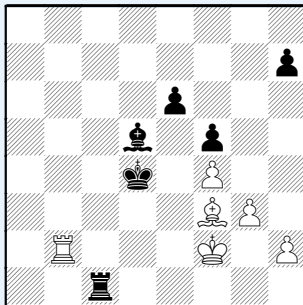
11 a3 Not **11 ♙f4?** because of **11...♖d5! 11...♙d6 11...♙a5 12 ♖b3. 12 bxc3 ♙xh2+ 13 ♗h1 ♙d6 14 ♖fd1 ♖d7 15 ♖f3 e5! 16 ♙f5 ♙e7 16...♗e7!?. 17 ♙xd7+ ♖xd7 17...♙xd7! 18 ♖xe5 ♙e6** with advantage. **18 ♖xd7+ ♙xd7 19 ♖xe5 ♙a4 20 ♖db1! f6 21 ♖c4 ♙b5 22 ♖b6? 22 ♖a5** was equal.

22...♖d8 23 a4 ♙c6 24 a5 Here I had planned **24...♗f7**. But then decided just to checkmate him instead was more my style. **24...h5! 25 ♗g1 h4 26 ♗f1 h3 27 gxh3**

Grigorian's victory was, however, no mere formality. In the very first game he was held to a draw by a player rated below 2000! And a draw based on dynamic equality, also.

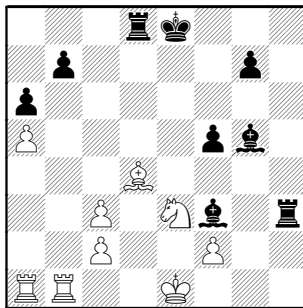
Javier MORENO TORRERO — Karen H. GRIGORYAN

La Roda 2016, Round 1



Play continued: **36...♙c4 37 ♖d2+ ♗c3 38 ♖d7 ♖c2+ 39 ♗g1 ♖b2** Black reasons that the rook on the seventh, nailing White's king to passivity on the back rank, will give cause

♙f3 28 ♙d4 f5 29 ♗e1 ♖xh3 30 ♖c4 ♙g5 31 ♖e3



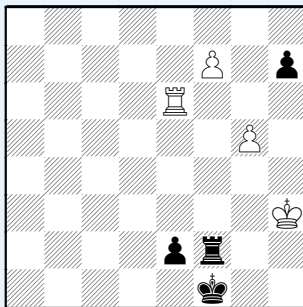
31...♙xe3 32 fxe3 If **32 ♙xe3 ♖h1** mate. **32...♖h2 33 ♙e5 ♖e2+ 34 ♗f1 ♖dd2 35 ♙g3 ♙g2+ 36 ♗g1 ♙d5 37 ♙h4 ♖g2+ 38 ♖f1 ♙c4+ 39 ♗e1 ♖de2+ 40 ♗f1 ♖ef2+**



An 21 year old Karen Grigoryan has already won three Spanish Opens this year.

to be able to sacrifice a pawn risklessly.
40 h4 ♖d3 41 ♖d6 ♙e4 White has already, since the symmetrical ending began, passed over several opportunities to stamp out all Black hopes for a win. Now Grigorian enters a rook ending by creating an advanced passed e-pawn. This looked decisive to many.

42 ♙xe4 fxe4 43 ♜xe6 ♔d3 44 f5 e3 45 f6
 By utilising his own passed f pawn – and every last chance – Moreno Torrero hangs on by the skin of his teeth to deny his Super GM opponent victory!
45...♜f2 46 g4! ♜f4 47 ♙g2! e2 48 ♜d6+ ♙e3 49 ♙e6+ ♔d2 50 ♜d6+ ♙e1 51 g5 ♜g4+ 52 ♙f3 ♜xh4 53 f7 ♙f1 54 ♜e6! ♜h2 55 ♙g4 ♜g2+ 56 ♙h3 ♜f2



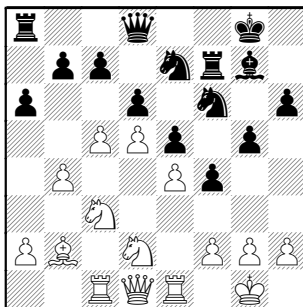
57 ♜f6 e1♚ 58 f8♚ And the pin on the f2 rook means Black has no win here.
58...♚e3+ 59 ♙g4 ♚e4+ 60 ♙g3 ½-½
 Quite astonishing.

And here's my final game:

**James PLASKETT –
 Paolo LADRON DE GUEVARRA**

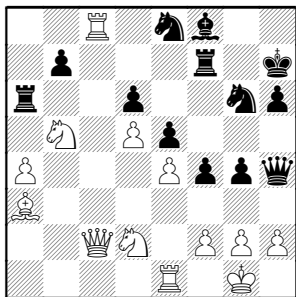
La Roda 2016, Round 9

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♙b5 g6 4 c3 a6 5 ♙a4 d6 6 d4 ♙d7 7 0-0 ♙g7 8 ♜e1 ♗ge7 9 d5 ♗b8 10 c4 0-0 11 ♗c3 h6 12 b4 ♙xa4 Varying from Plaskett – Kamsky, Lloyds Bank Masters, 1989, which had seen 12...f5 13 ♙b2!? ♚e8!? 14 ♙b3 ♙h8 15 c5 f4 16 ♗d2 g5 17 ♗c4 ♗c8 18 ♜c1 g4 19 a4 ♚g6 20 a5 h5 21 ♗a4 ♙xa4 22 ♙xa4 f3 23 ♗e3 and what White was doing on the left hand side of the board proved far more significant than anything Black did on the right and I won in 33 moves.
13 ♗xa4 f5 14 ♙b2 ♗d7 15 ♗d2 ♗f6 16 ♜c1 ♜f7 17 ♙c3 f4 18 c5 g5



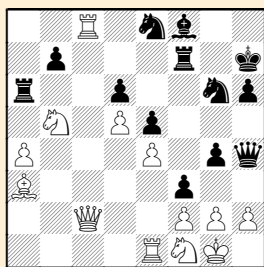
19 b5?! A sloppy move. 19 f3 would have led to a King's Indian structure, liked by an onlooking Granda Zuniga, and where Black, minus the “venom tooth” of his attack, his light squared bishop, ought to be worse.
19...axb5 20 ♗xb5 ♗g6 21 cxd6 cxd6 22 ♗c4 ♙f8 23 a4 g4 This could have been stopped, don't forget.

24 ♖a3 ♜a6 25 ♜c3 Ancient games like Miles vs Sax, Phillips and Drew Kings, London, 1980, influenced my confidence in such a preparatory rook lift. Preparatory in the senses of c-line occupation and monitoring of kingside pawn arrivals. 25...♗h7 26 ♚c2 ♘e8 27 ♘d2 ♚h4 Moments before he played this I strongly suspected that it would prove his choice. 28 ♜c8

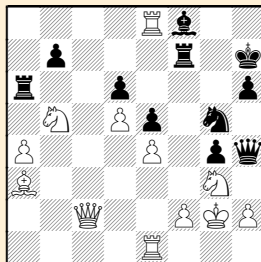


The critical moment. And I appreciated that White isn't doing nearly as well as in the Kamsky game. 28...g3?!

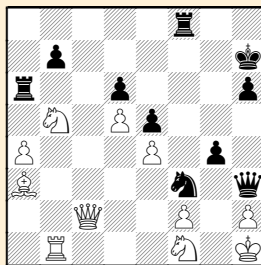
A relief. I was far more concerned about the rupture from 28...f3!, and neither was I certain about how to meet it. *Komodo* analyses 29 ♜xe8?! fxg2 30 ♘db1 ♘f4 31 ♜e3 ♘h3+ 32 ♜xh3 ♚xh3 (intending 33...g3) 33 ♚c3 ♜xa4 34 ♚xh3 gxh3. With rooks on the board a protected passed pawn at g2 is a heck of an asset, viz 35 ♘lc3 ♜a6 36 ♜b8 ♜b6 37 ♘c1 ♘e7 and things are not rosy for White. Leaving the bait at e8 to bring a defender still closer to the king with 29 ♘f1!



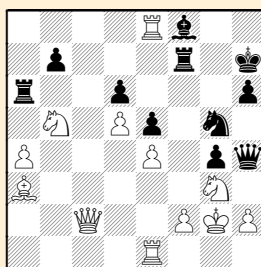
...gives these lines:
 29...fxg2 29...♘f4 transposes into the line following 30 ♜xe8! fxg2 31 ♘g3.
 30 ♘g3 ♘f4 Slower continuations such as 30...♘g7 permit effective counterplay by 31 ♘c7.
 And now:
 31 ♜xe8 ♘h3+ 32 ♚xg2 ♘g5



The breach has cost him a knight. But the threats are very dangerous. 33 ♜x8 ♜x8 34 ♜b1 ♚h3+ 35 ♘h1 ♘f3 36 ♘f1 allows Black to bring his attack to a dazzling finale via a theme I do not think I have ever seen before;



36...g3!! 37 fxg3 ♘e1! and wins. Bringing in yet another defender





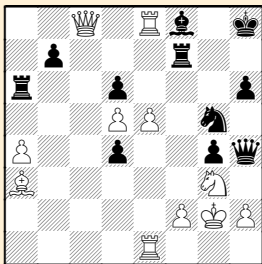
English GM James Plaskett is noted for his exciting brand of attacking chess. Photo by Harald Fietz

...by **33 ♖d4!** is superior.

The first principle of defence is the willingness to return any and all material gained. This guy does not live for long, but following **33...exd4 34 e5+** many defensive possibilities by the opening up of the black monarch start.

34...♗h8 The only square.

35 ♖c8!



And wild is the wind.
Material is now level. Black has several ways of trying to sort things out:-

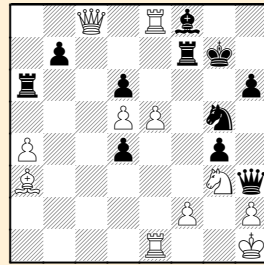
a) **35...♗g7?** permits the knight fork of **36 ♖f5+**.

b) **35...♗h7** leaves White nothing better than perpetual after **36 ♖xf8 ♖h3+ 37 ♗h1 ♖xf8 38 ♖xf8 ♖f3 39 ♖f5+** etc.

c) **35...♗g8 36 e6 ♖h3+ 37 ♗h1 ♖xf2 38 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 39 ♖c2** and Black bails out with **39...♗e4!** **40 ♖xe4 ♖f2** when it's perpetual again.

d) **35...♖h3+ 36 ♗h1 ♗g8 37 e6** transposes into c).

e) However, by **35...♖h3+ 36 ♗h1 ♗g7**



Black avoids the fork on f5 and may meet **37 ♖f5+** by **37...♗h7** with a won game, e.g. **38 ♖g1 ♖f3+ 39 ♖g2 ♖h3 40 ♖c2 ♖xf5**. So White must find something else. It has to be **37 f4**.

37...♖xf4 now allows **38 ♖f5+** and a perpetual by **38...♗g6 39 ♖e6+ ♗h7 40 ♖c7+ ♗h8 41 ♖xh6+! ♗xh6 42 ♖d8+ ♗h7 43 ♖e7+ ♗g6 44 ♖f6+ ♗h7** etc.

And not **38...♗g6?** which would lose to **39 ♖d7+ ♗g6 40 ♖e6+ ♖xe6 41 ♖xe6+ ♗g5 42 ♖g3**, e.g. **42...♖f2 43 ♖e4+**.

And on **37...gxf3** e.p. **38 ♖xh3 ♖xh3 39 e6** White is not worse.

That leaves only the direct **37...♖f3 38 ♖e2 ♖xh2**. Both kings are thus very exposed. But White still has enough.

39 ♖xh2 ♖xg3 40 ♖g2 ♖h3+ 41 ♗g1 Comprehensive analysis might prove wearisome for BCM readers, so, after the securing **41...h5** let's just take a couple of lines following a move that only an engine could spot:

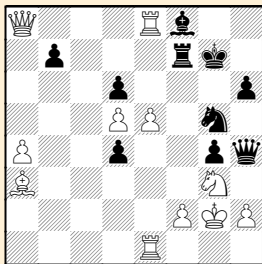
42 exd6! Taking the bishop allows perpetual by **42...♖xa3 43 ♖xg4+ hxg4 44 ♖xg4+ ♗h7 45 ♖h5+ ♗g8 46 ♖xf8+**.

And **42...♖b6** leaves White on the board

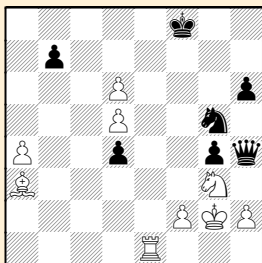
after 43 ♔c1 ♖b1 44 d7 ♜a3 45 ♜e1.

Very rare to see tripled d-pawns. The only game of mine featuring anything like that was versus Kaizauri, Ramsgate 1979.

f) Finally, one last way of avoiding the fork at f5 is the extraordinary deflection of 35...♖a8!? 36 ♜xa8 ♔g7



To defer thus costs Black a rook and time, but the threats around the white king are so severe that, what with his lack of checks and queen now so remote, he has no better defence than to immediately return material. Trying to keep it with, say, 37 ♖b1 allows 37...♜h3+ 38 ♔h1 ♔f3 39 ♔f1 and mate by the familiar device of 39...g3!! 40 fxg3 ♔e1! 37 f4? is not the way, for Black triumphs after 37...gxf3+ 38 ♔h1 f2 39 ♖f1 ♜g4 40 ♖xf2 ♖xf2 41 ♜xb7+ ♔g8 42 ♜b3 ♜h3. Hence 37 ♖xf8! ♖xf8. Here 38 ♜xb7+? ♔h8 leaves Black with a fearsome attack still, e.g. 39 ♜e7 ♜h3+ 40 ♔h1 ♖xf2, or 39 f4 gxf3 e.p.+ 39 ♔h1 ♜h3 with similar variations, as neither 40 ♖g1 f2 41 ♖f1 ♔e4 nor 41 ♜b2 f2 42 ♖f1 ♔e4 would suffice. There still IS a defence though! 38 ♜xf8+! ♔xf8 39 exd6!

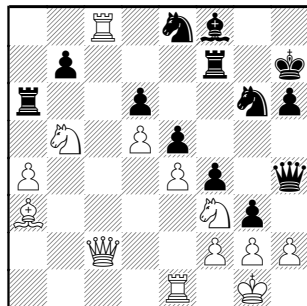


White gives back the booty (we now have a

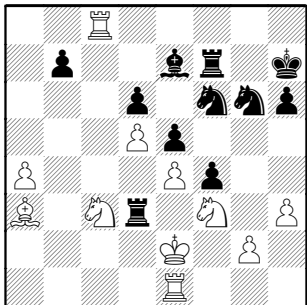
nominal material equality) and holds.

Black has nothing better than to pursue mate with 39...♔f3 when, yet again, a perpetual check results: 40 d7+ ♔f7 41 ♖e7+ ♔g6 42 ♖e6+ as 42...♔g5? loses to 43 ♔c1+. Taking on e7 with 41 ...♜xe7 42 ♔xe7 ♔xe7 leads to a tenable ending following 43 ♔f5+ ♔xd7 44 ♔xh6 ♔e5 45 ♔f5 d3 46 ♔e3.

This knight ending, then, or one of those sundry perpetual checks, would seem the logical consequence of Black's correct conduct of his initiative and his straining White to the full via 28...f3!



29 ♔f3 Whereas now, with no complications, the skies have cleared. And I was confident that, with a superior bishop, space advantage and queenside plus, I was always probably going to be just a bit better. And certainly with the easier position to play. 29...gxf2+ 30 ♜xf2 ♜xf2+ 31 ♔xf2 ♔f6 32 ♔c3 ♖b6 33 h3 ♖b3 34 ♔c1 ♔e7 35 ♔d2 ♖b4 36 ♔a3 ♖d4 37 ♔f3 ♖d3 38 ♔e2



38...♖xc3 This cheered me. With my active rook and a passed a-pawn I was now certain he was short of equality.
 39 ♖xc3 ♗xe4 40 ♖c7 ♗g7 41 ♖xb7 ♗c3+ 42 ♗d3 ♗xd5 On 42...♗xa4 43 ♖e4 ♗c5+ 44 ♖xc5 dxc5 45 ♗xe5 wins easily.

43 a5 ♖f6 44 ♖c1 ♖f8 45 ♗c4 ♖c8+!? 46 ♗xd5 ♖c5+ 47 ♗e4 d5+ 48 ♗d3 e4+ 49 ♗d2 exf3 50 ♖b2+ ♗f5 51 gxf3 ♖d8 52 ♖f7+ ♗g5 53 ♖g1+ ♗h5 54 a6 ♗h4 55 a7 ♗xf3+ 56 ♗d3 ♖c8 57 ♖a1 ♖a8 and 1-0 in 66 moves.

Chess Questions Answered

by IM Gary Lane

David Molten from Bridgend has a question about the Scotch. "I had to face the same strange variation twice in one day – at a tournament and then online. And both times I lost. What should I do in the line 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♗xd4 ♖c5 5 ♖e3 ♗f6 and now 6 ♗b5. I know how to handle the main lines but don't have a clue what to do against this knight thrust, even though it looks rather like a beginner's move."

In fact this is a variation I have looked at from time to time because it is extremely tricky for Black to unravel the complications over the board. A number of top grandmasters have also given it a try over the years and even now I still regard it as a terrific weapon for a weekend tournament. After examining it further I did find one or two things wrong with it which were revealed by computer analysis of high-level games played with this line.

Anyway, first of all let's examine why the hostile knight move is such a great surprise weapon for White:

SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS

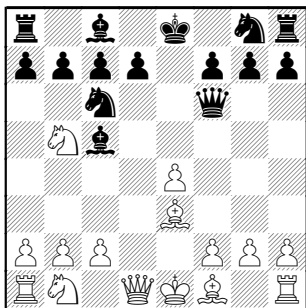


Gary Lane is a specialist in the theory and practice of the Scotch Game. Photo by Harald Fietz

Urban CRETNIK – Lorenzo PAGNUTTI

Nova Gorica 2015

1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♗xd4 ♖c5 5 ♖e3 ♗f6 6 ♗b5!?

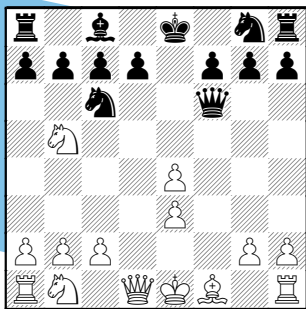


White immediately puts Black under pressure in the opening by attacking Black's bishop on c5 and also threatening to take on c7. The standard reply is 6 c3.

6...c3

Black has little choice but to accept the offer to exchange pieces. For instance:

- a) 6...b6? 7 xb6 cxb6 8 c7+ winning.
 - b) 6...xb2 7 xc5 xa1 8 xc7+ d8 9 xa8 and Black is busted.
 - c) 6...b4+ is the best of the alternatives but White has the initiative upon 7 c3 e2 8 e2 a6 9 a4!? axb5?! 10 axb5 ce7 11 b4.
- 7 fe3**

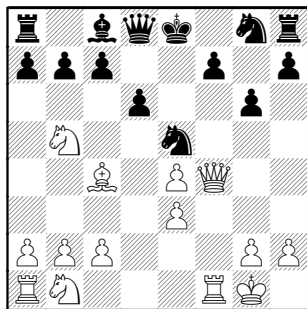


7...d8!? An obvious retreat to defend the threatened c7 pawn but it appears to be slightly inaccurate. I did wonder what would happen after 7...xb2 but soon realised that 8 c1c3!, threatening b1, creates massive problems for Black. For example: 8...b4 (8...d8 9 b1 and the queen cannot escape) 9 xc7+ d8 (after 9...f8 10 d2 b8 11 e2 f6

12 0-0 I strongly prefer White) 10 d2 b8 (10...xc7? fails to 11 d5+) 11 d7d5 c5 12 b1 (12 e2, intending to castle, also looks good) 12...ge7 13 b5 d6 14 e2 e5? 15 xe7 xe7 16 d4 with a winning position, M.Goodger – K.Bhatia, Hinckley Island 2008.

8 g4 g6?! This weakens the dark squares on the kingside and is a long-term worry. The reason why this opening is so tricky is that the right response is to give up the right to castle and play 8...f8 when White aims to profit from Black's need to spend time untangling his kingside pieces: 9 f4 d6 10 c1c3 a6 11 d4 e5 (11...f6 12 xc6 bxc6 13 0-0-0 gives White a slight edge) 12 e2 e7 13 h3 h6 14 0-0-0 G.Garmendia Vega – H.Carvalho, Antofagasta 2015.

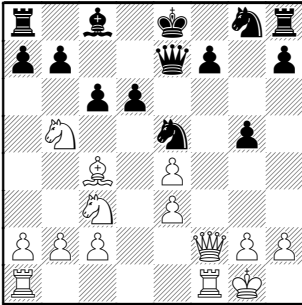
9 f4 d6 10 e4 e5 11 0-0



11...e7?! It makes sense to reinforce the f7 pawn but White's lead in development gives him the opportunity to generate tactics based on the queen's position on e7. It looks rather ugly but 11...f6 should be considered when 12 e3 gives White a comfortable game because Black will have problems whisking his king away to safety.

12 c1c3 g5 The natural 12...c6 to stop the knight from safely occupying the d5 square leads to a dire position upon 13 xd6+ xd6 14 xf7+ e7 15 ad1! f6 (15...c7 runs into the stunning 16 d5! when Black can quietly resign) 16 g3 g7 17 g5+ and White wins.

13 f2 c6



14 ♙xf7+! A typical combination in this opening which might just lead to a win of the brilliancy prize.

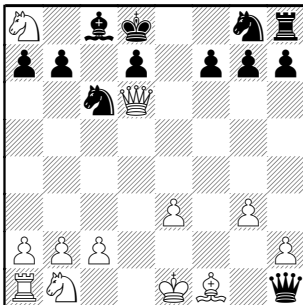
14...♜xf7 15 ♚xf7+ ♚xf7 16 ♞xd6+ ♚e7 17 ♜xf7 ♙e6 18 ♞xh8 ♞h6 1-0

In the next game a German grandmaster gives 6 ♞b5 a whirl and is rewarded with an emphatic victory. Once again, Black goes astray in the complications:

Leonid KRITZ — Peter HOHLER

Liechtenstein 2005

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♞xd4 ♙c5 5 ♙e3 ♚f6 6 ♞b5 ♙xe3 7 fxe3 ♚h4+ 8 g3 ♚xe4 This is a very tempting line for Black because there is no clear cut variation for White that achieves a clear advantage. Nevertheless I think that the practical difficulties of having your king stuck in the centre are hard to cope with when White has the simple plan of castling queenside.
9 ♞xc7+ ♚d8 10 ♞xa8 ♚xh1 11 ♚d6



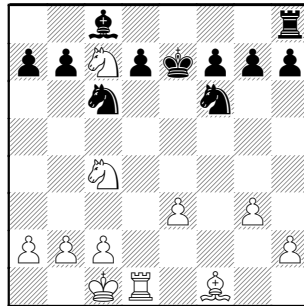
The computer reckons that Black is just about fine here and has equal opportunities. That will please those who are playing correspondence chess and have access to the latest software but I think this position is very difficult to defend. White will quickly castle queenside and then pursue the black king.

11...♞f6 12 ♞d2 ♚d5 If **12...♚e8** then **13 0-0-0 ♚xh2 14 ♞c4** gives White a very promising position.

13 ♚c7+ ♚e7 14 0-0-0 ♚e5?! It is normal for Black to want to curtail White's attack by exchanging queens but White's initiative will endure until the ending.

It might seem odd to move the queen yet again but Black has time to grab a pawn with **14...♚xa2** when **15 ♞b3 ♚a4 16 ♚d6+ ♙d8 17 ♙g2** is roughly equal, provided, of course, that Black possesses a Magnus Carlsen standard of defensive technique!

15 ♞c4 ♚xc7 16 ♞xc7



16...♞d8 In the recent game J. Gonzalez Moreno – A. Rodriguez Redondo, Tenerife 2015, Black tried to improve with **16...a6** but after **17 ♞d6 ♞e5** White played the routine **18 ♙g2** and eventually won. Nevertheless the crafty **18 ♞a8!**, an echo of the main game, actually wins by targeting the unfortunate bishop which is still on its original square.

17 ♞d6 ♞e6? Hohler is a little too eager to swap off the pieces. The right way to defend the bishop is **17...♞c6** when **18 ♙g2** maintains White's momentum.

18 ♞cb5! A simple but effective idea. White threatens **♞xa7** to snaring the bishop, which effectively signals the end of the game.

18...♞g4 19 ♞xa7 ♞xe3 20 ♞axc8+ ♚d8

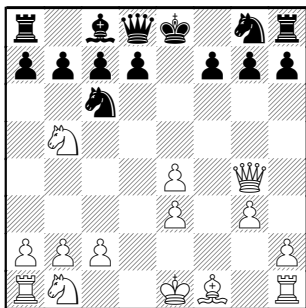
21 ♖xf7+ ♔xc8 22 ♜xh8 ♜xd1 23 ♔xd1
1-0

If Black is thinking of abandoning the line with 4...♙c5, then fear not, because well prepared players can survive the onslaught provided they know what they are doing:

Peio DUBOUE — Kevin TERRIEUX

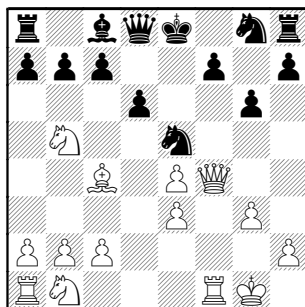
Sautron 2014

1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♗xd4 ♖f6
5 ♙e3 ♙c5 6 ♗b5 ♙xe3 7 fxex3 ♖h4+
8 g3 ♗d8 Now that White has made the
concession of g2-g3 it is right to retreat the
queen and think about defending.
9 ♖g4



9...g6 Black protects his g-pawn. However, although 9...g5 looks bizarre it is in fact reasonably safe. For example: 10 ♗1c3 d6 11 ♖e2 ♗f6 12 ♙g2 a6 13 ♗d4 ♗e5 when we see the constantly recurring theme of a strong knight on e5. Play continued 14 h3 ♙e6 15 0-0-0 ♖e7 16 ♗d5 ♗xd5 17 exd5 ♙d7 18 ♖e1 0-0-0 19 ♖f1 ½-½ Simacek – Malaniuk, Ceske Budejovice 2015.

10 ♖f4 d6 11 ♙c4 ♗e5 The right way to defend the f7 pawn. Instead 11...♙e6 would lead to a difficult game after 12 ♙xe6 fxe6 13 0-0 when White has a strong initiative. For instance: 13...♗ge7 14 ♗1c3 (I prefer 14 ♗1a3 because the obvious 14...a6 allows the neat sacrifice 15 ♗xd6+ cxd6 16 ♗c4 when White is on top) 14...♗e5 15 ♖ad1! with the brighter prospects.
12 0-0



12...♙h3! I believe that the Indian grandmaster Harikrishna was the first to play this stunning move in a tournament. Black ignores the threat to f7 and goes for a counterattack. Please note this has all been made possible thanks to the check on move 7 – forcing the advance of the g-pawn really does make a difference.

Not 12...♙e6? 13 ♙xe6 fxe6 14 ♗xc7+ ♖xc7 15 ♖f8+ ♔d7 16 ♖xa8 wins.

13 ♙xf7+ ♔d7! The king is perfectly safe on d7 whereas White's pieces suddenly appear to lack harmony and a loss of material is imminent.

14 ♗1c3 After 14 ♖f2, surprisingly, 14...g5 traps the queen. 14 ♖e1 g5 15 ♖f2 ♖f6! 16 ♙xg8 (16 ♖xf6 ♗xf6 17 ♙b3 ♗f3+ is very good) 16...♖xf2+ 17 ♔xf2 ♖f8+ 18 ♔e2 ♙g4+ 19 ♔d2 ♗f3+ wins.

14...g5 15 ♖xe5 A speculative solution to a pressing problem but Black should have no worries. 15 ♖f2 is met by 15...♗h6 and after the bishop retreats then Black can take the rook and hold an advantage.

15...dxe5 16 ♖fd1+ ♔e7 17 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 18 ♙xg8 ♖hgx8 19 ♗d5+ ♔f7 20 ♗bxc7 If you count the points, White might seem to be doing alright – but the black rooks on an open board can do terrible damage. The game concluded:

20...♖gf8 21 ♗b5 ♔g7 22 g4 ♖f7 23 ♗bc7 ♖c8 24 c3 ♖cxc7 25 ♗xc7 ♖xc7 26 ♔f2 ♙xg4 27 ♖g1 ♖f7+ 28 ♔e1 h5 29 h3 ♙xh3 30 ♖xg5+ ♔h6 31 ♖xe5 ♙d7 32 ♖d5 ♙c6 33 ♖d6+ ♔g5 34 e5 ♖e7 35 e6 ♔f5 0-1

I think 6 ♗b5 is a terrific surprise weapon and perfect for internet blitz. I suspect that top players are already preparing against it and trying to find the best way for Black to survive the onslaught so as to come away unscathed and holding on to extra material.

BLACK IS OK *against both 1 d4 and 1 e4 !*

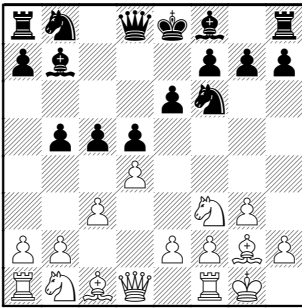
by IM Shaun Taulbut

A GOOD TRADE-OFF

Viktor LAZNICKA – Denis KHISMATULLIN

Poikovsky 2015

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 e6 3 g3 b5 Gaining space on the queenside but at the cost of making the b-pawn a potential target for White.
4 ♙g2 ♙b7 5 0-0 c5 6 c3 d5



Black opts to take control of e4 even though it blocks the diagonal of his bishop – a good trade-off.

7 dxc5 A slightly more barbed treatment came in Kamsky – Yudasin, Philadelphia 2011, when after 7 a4 b4 8 a5 bxc3 9 ♘xc3, White won in 42 moves.

7... ♙xc5 8 b4 ♙b6 9 a4 bxa4 Black cannot easily defend b5 with 9...a6 as 10 axb5 axb5 11 ♖xa8 ♙xa8 12 ♘a3 is good for White; 12... ♙c6 can be met by 13 ♘e5.

10 ♗xa4+ ♘b7 11 ♘e5 0-0 Black has developed rapidly, has good piece play and so has a small edge here.

12 ♘c6 ♙xc6 13 ♗xc6 ♘e5 14 ♗b5 ♖b8 15 ♗a6 ♖c8 Black has control of c4 and pressure against the pawn on c3, to compensate for the weak pawn on a7.

16 ♙f4 ♘g6 17 ♙d2 h5 A sudden switch



Denis Khismatullin is Bashkiriya's first ever grandmaster. Photo by Harald Fietz

of the attack to the kingside that may have surprised White.

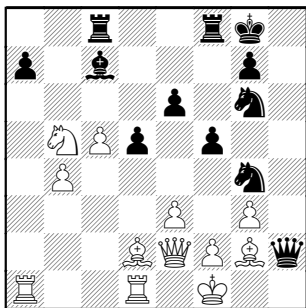
18 ♘a3 18 h4 and now **18... ♘g4** is strong for Black who can aim at f2.

18... h4 19 ♖fd1 19 ♘b5 ♘g4 20 ♘xa7 ♖a8 21 ♗b7 ♖b8 22 ♗a6 ♗f6 is the most critical line with a slight edge to Black.

19... hxc3 20 hxc3 ♘g4 21 e3 ♗g5 With the simple plan of ... ♗h5 and invading on the kingside. White rushes back his queen.

22 ♗e2 ♗h5 23 c4 f5 24 c5 ♙c7 25 ♘b5 25 ♘c2 is best, in order to bring the knight over to the kingside.

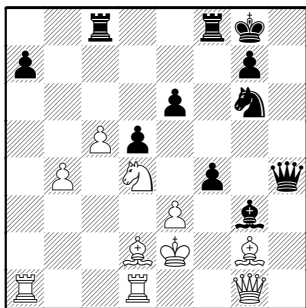
25... ♗h2+ 26 ♙f1



26...xf2!? A sacrifice which may not work, but very hard for White to meet over the board. 26...e3 27 fxg3 27 f3g3 27 ♖xg3 28 e1 is a good defence for White when Black does not have an easy continuation even though he can take the pawn on e3.

27 ♖xf2 28 e3g3 28 ♖g1 ♖h4 29 d4 f4 Opening up the f-file is logical and good.

30 e2 After 30 exf4 dxf4 31 d3 xg2 32 xg2 fxf3 33 xxf3 ff8+ 34 g2 and now 34...g4 brings decisive threats against the white king.



30...f3+ A brilliant move, exposing the white king.

31 e3f3 31 d3xf3 ♖c4 is mate.

31...ff3f3 32 e1 After 32 xxf3 de5+ 33 g ♖g4 and White has no defence to ...ff8 followed by a discovered check with the bishop.

32...de5 33 ac1 Again on 33 d3xf3 ♖c4+ mates.

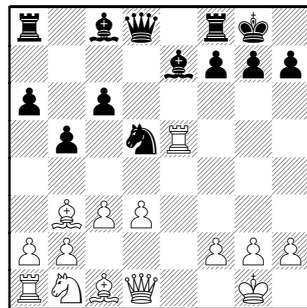
33...e1 34 xe1 After 34 d3xf3 d3xf3 35 xxf3 ♖h5+ 36 g2 ♖e2+ 37 h1 f7 with the deadly threat of ...ff8+ and wins.

34...g3 35 h1 ff3 36 g1 ff2+ 37 d1 d3 After 38 c2 ♖h5+ 39 ce2 ff1 40 xh1 f2+ wins the white queen so White resigned. 0-1

Vasily IVANCHUK — Peter SVIDLER

Reykjavik 2015

1 e4 e5 2 f3 c6 3 b5 a6 4 e4
 f6 5 0-0 e7 6 e1 b5 7 b3 0-0
 8 c3 d5 9 exd5 dxd5 10 xe5 xe5
 11 xe5 c6 12 d3



The main line was 12 d4 e6 when Black has good counterplay for the sacrificed pawn. However the text move has now become popular.

12...e6 13 e1 e5 14 f3 14 d2
 e3 15 f3, giving back the pawn,
 is easier to play, but Black has a good
 game.

14...e8 As you can see, Black exploits
 the weakness of White's back rank.

15 xe8+ 15 e3 e3 16 d2 is
 possible.

15...xe8 16 d2 If 16 d2 e6
 17 a3 e8 offers good counterplay for
 Black as the White pieces are offside.

16...e1+ 17 f1 Ivanchuk is now
 in an awkward position because of
 the pin on his back rank.

17...e6 Instead, 17...e6 18 d1
 is better for White as the black queen
 is forced back.

18 g3 18 e5 cxd5 19 xd5 d8
 20 g5 xa1 21 e8 d8 f8
 (21...xh2+ 22 xh2 xf1 23 b6
 h6 24 a8+ g7 25 xa6 xd3
 26 e3 with a small edge for White)
 is critical when 22 h4 looks the best plan
 for White.



Elite GM Peter Svidler is a faithful adherent of the Marshall Gambit. Photo by David Liada

THE UNDYING MARSHALL ATTACK

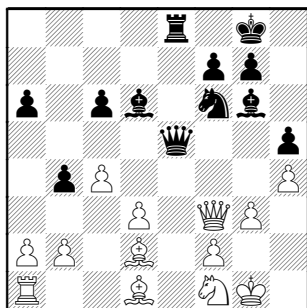
18...b4 19 h4 Again 19 $\text{♟} \times d5$ cxd5 20 $\text{♞} \times d5$ ♞d8 21 ♙g5 ♞xa1 22 $\text{♟} \times d8$ ♙f8 23 ♙a5 bxc3 24 bxc3 ♞d1 25 d4 ♙d3 26 ♞g2 leaves White slightly better even though he is tied to the defence of f1.

19...h5 20 c4 This was the last chance for 20 $\text{♟} \times d5$ cxd5 21 $\text{♞} \times d5$ ♞d8 22 ♙g5 ♞xa1 23 $\text{♟} \times d8$ ♞d1 24 ♙g2 bxc3 25 bxc3 $\text{♟} \times d3$ 26 ♞e3 ♙f1+ 27 ♙g1 .

20...♟f6 21 ♙d1 Possible is 21 d4 ♞e8 22 c5 ♙c7 23 ♙c4 , with the idea of b3 and ♙b2 .

21...♞e8 Preventing White from playing ♞e2 .

22 ♙d2 ♞e5



White has driven the enemy queen out, but has weaknesses on b2 and d3 to defend, which make the position difficult.

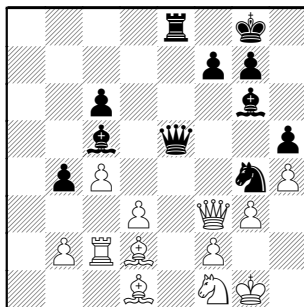
23 ♞c1 ♙c5 23...♞xb2 24 ♞xc6 ♙f8 is

also good for Black as the pawn on d3 is vulnerable.

24 a3 a5 Black maintains his bind on the position.

25 axb4 axb4 26 ♞c2 After 26 $\text{♞} \times c6$ $\text{♟} \times d3$ and White is under terrific pressure on the kingside.

26...♟g4



27 ♞e3 27 ♙f4 ♞d4 28 ♞e2 ♞xe2 29 ♞xe2 ♞xf2+ 30 ♞xf2 ♞xf2 31 ♙e3 ♙xe3 32 ♞xe3 ♞xd3 and Black has an extra pawn and an endgame that is probably winning for him.

27...♞d6 28 ♞xg4 hxg4 29 ♞xg4 ♙h5 30 ♞xh5 ♞xg3+ 31 ♙h1 ♞xf2 White has no reasonable defence to the threat of $\text{...} \text{♞g1+}$ for if 32 ♞g4 ♞f1+ 33 ♙h2 ♙d6+ wins, so he resigned. **0-1**

HACKTIVE CHESS

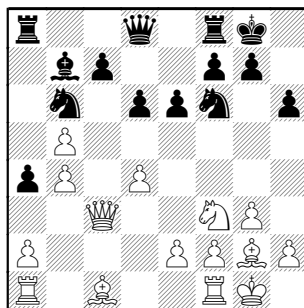
by Noam Manella

More Insidious Ideas that Redesign Thinking

The chess pieces were born to be free. They are at their best when their roads are paved and open. Players spend a lot of energy placing their pieces on the board, so that each one of them may utilise its own potential to the fullest extent. A piece which doesn't fulfill its potential shall be benched at the first opportunity. The primary tendency of every player is to look for squares for his pieces where their sphere of action increases. But the Hacktive way is completely different.

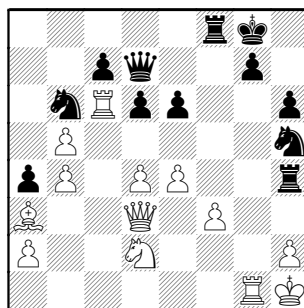
Vishy ANAND — Michael ADAMS

Madrid 1998



Black has sacrificed a pawn, gaining freedom for his minor pieces and some control of the light central squares. White's central dilemma is where to put his ♖c1. At d2? e3? f4?

16 ♔a3!? ♜c8?! 17 ♘d2 ♙xg2 18 ♙xg2 ♘fd5 19 ♚d3 f5 20 ♜ac1 ♚d7 21 e3 ♜b8 22 f3! f4! 23 gxf4 ♜xf4 24 e4 ♘f6 25 ♙h1 ♜f8 26 ♜g1 ♙h5 27 ♜c6 ♜h4



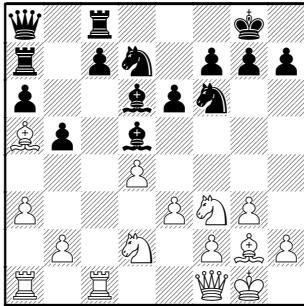
28 ♔c1 ♘f4 29 ♚c2 ♜f7?! 30 ♘f1 d5? 31 e5 ♘c4 32 ♘e3 ♙h3 33 ♜g3 ♘g5 34 ♘g4! ♜xf3? 35 ♙xg5 ♜xg3 36 ♘f6+! gxf6 37 ♙xh4 ♜g4 38 ♜xf6 ♘e3 39 ♜xc7 1-0

Vishy Anand: "Where can I put my queen's bishop in this opening?"
Photo by David Liada



Vladimir KRAMNIK – Vishy ANAND

Wijk aan Zee 2007



19 b4!? Kramnik uses Anand's own patent against him! Resorting to extreme measures in order to stop ...c5, the reigning World Champion voluntarily imprisons his proud bishop! But matters are not so simple. The black rook on a7 is also handicapped, and trying to free it by c6 may help the white bishop back into the game via b6. The question arises: how to penalise White for his risky idea? Black has a real dilemma: play actively on the other wing as in the game, or just wait.

19...e5 Anand chooses the active route, but it involves positional concessions.

20 dxe5 ♗xe5!? **21 ♖xe5 ♗xe5** **22 f3!**

Kramnik imprisons his other bishop as well. But, it's still a pair of bishops and one day they will get out of jail.

22...♗c4?! A routine move, taking control of a strong point, but now White is under no pressure and he can simply improve his position. It's hard not to see the paradox: Kramnik plays like Anand, while Anand plays like Adams. The more one analyses this position deeply, one realises that Black has no good ideas. Great positional intuition by Vladimir Kramnik! For example, **22...♗c6** fails to solve all of Black's problems after **23 e4 ♗xa5** **24 bxa5 ♗e6** **25 ♖f2**.

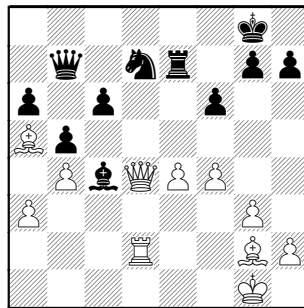
23 ♗xc4 ♗xc4 **24 ♖f2 ♗e8** **25 e4 c6** Due to the lack of better ideas, Black assists the imprisoned bishop to escape via b6. Surprisingly, the prisoner is quite happy to stay on a5.

26 ♗d1 ♗d7 **27 ♖xd7 ♗xd7** **28 ♗d1 ♖b7** **29 ♗d6 f6** **30 f4** Meanwhile ♗g2 has served



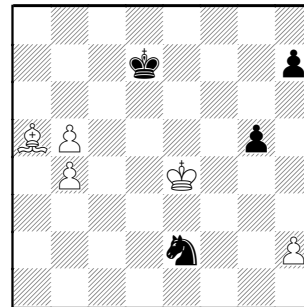
Vladimir Kramnik: "I will have to wait for the endgame to free my queen's bishop!"
Photo by David Liada

its term and is back in town.
30...♗e6 **31 ♗d2 ♗e7** **32 ♖d4**



White's pressure intensifies. Is the free bishop on c4 happier than the captive on a5?

32...♗f8 **33 ♖d8 ♗d7** **34 ♖xd7 ♖xd7** **35 ♖xd7 ♗xd7** **36 e5!** **fxe5** **37 ♗xc6 ♗f6** **38 ♗b7 exf4** **39 gxf4 ♗d5** **40 ♖f2 ♗xf4** **41 ♖e3 g5** **42 ♗xa6 ♖f7** **43 a4!** **♖e7** **44 ♗xb5 ♗xb5** **45 axb5 ♖d7** **46 ♖e4 ♗e2**

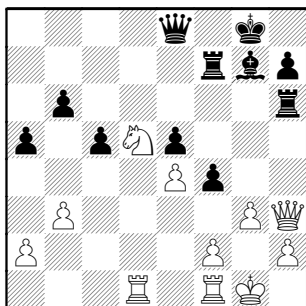


47 ♖b6 Look who is coming! This bishop didn't need to move about a lot in order to decisively influence the final result.

47...g4 48 ♖f2 ♗c3+ 49 ♔f5 ♗xb5
50 ♗xg4 ♖e6 51 ♖g5 ♖f7 52 ♖f5 ♖e7
53 ♖c5+ 1-0

Jan TIMMAN — Nigel SHORT

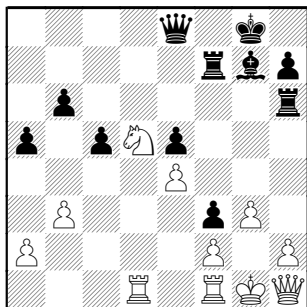
Amsterdam 1994



32 ♖g2! Timman refuses to end the battle peacefully after 28 ♖f5!? ♖e8 29 ♖h3 ♗h6 30 ♖g4 ♗g6 31 ♖h3 ♗h6 and sacrifices the freedom of his first lady. For the sake of win he locks her in the dungeon, like a Tudor king.

32...f3?! Short can't resist the temptation. Cold computer analysis demonstrates that Black would have done better to refrain from this advance, for example: 32...b5!? 33 g4 ♖c8 34 f3 c4 with a slight edge for White.

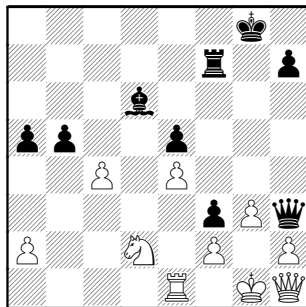
33 ♖h1



For the sake of victory, Jan Timman locked his queen in the dungeon!.

Photo by Harald Fietz

True, the queen is locked in the corner, but it's hard for Black to maintain his f3 pawn in view of the possible maneuver ♗d5-e3-f5.
33...♖e6 34 ♗e3 ♖f8? 35 ♗fe1 ♖h3
36 ♗c4 ♖e6 37 ♗d3 b5 38 ♗d2? c4? 39 bxc4
♗d6 40 ♗xd6 ♖xd6



41 ♗xf3 The royal prisoner is about to be freed.

41...♖g4 42 ♗h4! ♖b4 43 ♗f5! ♗xf5 44 exf5
♖xe1 45 ♖d5+ If you love somebody, set her free. Despite his extra piece, Black couldn't hold this position. White obtained two passed pawns which won him the game.

1-0

THE GRAND PRIX ATTACK

The Grand Prix Attack is a favourite among amateurs. It has all the ingredients of what many want: good development and chances of a kingside attack to end the game before move 40! GMs Alburt, Dzindzichashvili and Perelshteyn touted it in *Chess Openings for White Explained*. In a book review of their first edition, I pointed out that GM Yermolinsky, in *The Road to Chess Improvement*, had exactly the opposite opinion of the same position! What's a guy to do? That was back in 2007, so I decided to see what was going on in recent games. As expected, the database contained a ton of amateur games and few GM tests. There was one game that caught my eye from 2012 and we'll look at that here as our update.

Jaap HOUBEN — Alon GREENFELD

Dieren Open 2012

1 e4 c5 2 ♖c3 Evgeny Sveshnikov, in his *The Grand Prix Attack*, (New in Chess, 2013) favours 2 f4. He would rather not put the knight on c3. But what about the logical response 2...d5? Sveshnikov explains: (after 3 exd5 ♕xd5 4 ♖c3) “We have before us the basic position of the Scandinavian... but with the addition of pawn moves to f4 and c5 I think this inclusion favours White, mainly because the black queen no longer has access to the safe square a5, whilst the move ...c7-c5 itself does not really prevent d2-d4, but significantly weakens the black queenside. The move f2-f4 is useful for White, meanwhile, as he can bring his knight to e5, where it will be defended.” I can't count the number of chess authors that have disputed this even before he wrote

Openings for Amateurs

by Pete Tamburro

it. There is something about this opening that brings out differences of opinion!

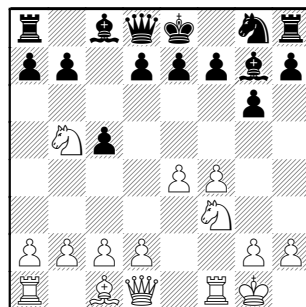
2...♗c6 3 f4 g6 4 ♘f3 ♙g7 5 ♖b5
In American Swiss tournaments in the 1970s and 80s, Sunil Weeramantry could generally be counted on to play this line at least once in the event: 5 ♖c4 e6 6 f5; however, though the 5 ♖c4 line lost ground to 5 ♖b5 it might be worth trotting out as a surprise weapon.

5...♗d4 6 0-0 Development at all costs. Never mind the loss of the bishop for a knight.

6 ♖c4 a6 7 a4 (7 0-0 b5 8 ♙d5 ♗b8) 7...e6 8 0-0 d5 and everything negative about putting a bishop on

c4 comes to the fore.

6...♗xb5 7 ♗xb5



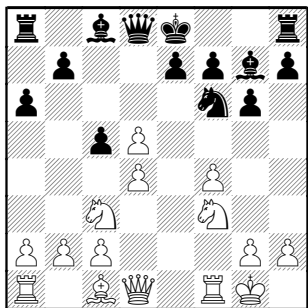
7...d5! A great lesson for beginning Sicilian players who need to learn the importance of a well-timed ...d7-d5 in all sorts of different lines.

8 exd5 Upon 8 e5 d4! 9 c3 a6 10 ♗a3 and you're back in the 1830s in McDonnell – Labourdonnais land, which, you might

recall, did not go so well for White.

8...a6 9 ♖c3 ♜f6 In my book review back then, I asked, “Who’s right – Dzindzi or Yermo?” Dzindzi felt that White will get Black tied up with pressure, and Yermo liked getting the pawn back and having the two bishops.

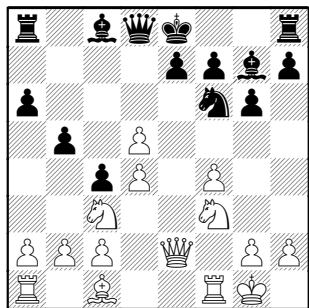
10 d4



10...c4 White would love, we are told, 10... cxd4 11 ♗xd4 0-0 12 ♙e3 but after 12... ♙f5 13 ♜e5 ♙xc2 14 ♜ac1 ♙f5 15 h3 h5! Black seems to be holding his own. The disputed line in the review dealt with 10... ♜xd5 11 dxc5 ♜xc3 12 ♗xd8+ ♜xd8 13 bxc3 where I questioned why 13... ♙e6 was not mentioned. This is the flaw in every opening book, even by GMs – they leave out some move your opponent, who is more diligent, will find.

11 ♗e2 The suggested move by Dzindzi and company. White has to use his minimal lead in development to create threats along the e-file and against c4.

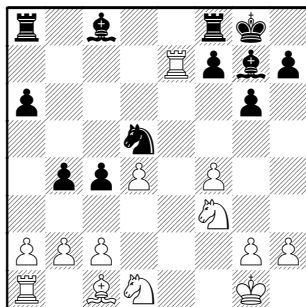
11...b5



12 ♜e1 I’ve seen weaker players leave the rook on f1 to “attack” with 12 ♜h4 0-0 13 f5 b4 14 ♜d1 ♜xd5 but Black is clearly established in the center and the queenside with sufficient defensive resources for the king. The clue for White players should be that the queenside has a rook, bishop and knight on the first rank. You need to attack when fully developed.

12...0-0! Another reason this is a good teaching game for Black. Greenfeld sees development as more important than material. He also sees the position after the exchanges on e7 where Black is obviously OK.

13 ♗xe7 ♗xe7 14 ♜xe7 b4 15 ♜d1 ♜xd5



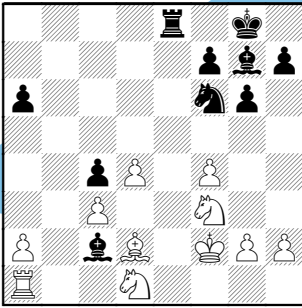
This knight is brutal. Perfectly posted, it surveys the entire board.

16 ♜e1 ♙f5 17 c3 bxc3 Also good, perhaps better, is 17... ♜fe8 18 ♜xe8+ ♜xe8 19 ♙d2



bxc3 20 bxc3 f6 21 ♖f2 ♖b8 where Black will follow up with ♖f2 and ♖f8, and despite the meagre 0.14 advantage to Black given by Komodo, Black's pieces have much more scope than White's.

18 bxc3 White can't allow 18 ♖xc3 ♖b4.
18...♖fe8 19 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 20 ♖f2 ♖c2 Certainly, threatening ♖e2+ would not have hurt with 20...♖d3.
21 ♖d2 ♖f6



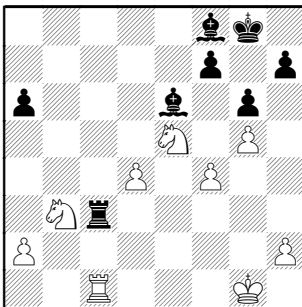
22 ♖b2 After 22 ♖g1 ♖e4 23 ♖f2 ♖d6 24 ♖e5 f6 25 ♖d7 ♖f5 26 ♖c5 ♖e2 27 ♖e1 a5 28 ♖f1 ♖c2 the game is equal, but again Black's pieces are more actively placed.

22...♖e4+ This knight certainly got its share of great squares in this game.

23 ♖g1 ♖xd2 24 ♖xd2 ♖e3 Black now has two active bishops and an active rook. Time for an accumulation of small advantages.

25 ♖bxc4 ♖xc3 26 ♖e5 ♖f5 27 ♖b3 ♖h6!? Somewhat better options were: 27...f6 and 27...♖c2.

28 g4 ♖e6 29 g5 ♖f8 30 ♖c1



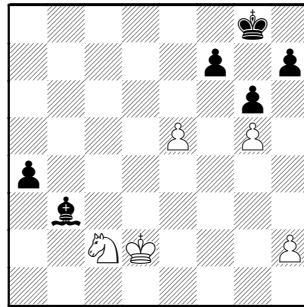
30...♖b4 Another choice was to exchange off the rooks and have the black king get active with ...♖g7 and ...f6, at which point all White's pawns would become isolated after the pawn exchange.

31 ♖c6? 31 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 32 ♖f2 ♖xb3 33 axb3 ♖xd4+ 34 ♖f3 would be enough to be equal.

31...♖xc1+ 32 ♖xc1 ♖d2 33 ♖d3 ♖e3+ 34 ♖f1 ♖c4 Apparently the nasty point missed by White.

35 ♖ce5 ♖xa2 Now the a-pawn is a monster.

36 ♖e2 ♖xd4 37 ♖b4 ♖xe5 38 fx5 ♖c4+ 39 ♖e3 a5 40 ♖c2 a4 41 ♖d2 ♖b3



The endgame efforts by White are now futile. The bishop can ably protect the a-pawn from afar and when the black king makes his entrance into the game, the White kingside pawns are too vulnerable, especially the e-pawn.

42 ♖d4 ♖d5 43 ♖b5 ♖f8 44 ♖c3 ♖e7 45 ♖c7 ♖c6 46 ♖b4 ♖d7 47 ♖a6 ♖e6 48 ♖c5 ♖b7 A very informative struggle. The Grand Prix doesn't win or lose. A good Grand Prix player will pose problems for Black. Black needs to study for the eventuality of meeting this attack, and he should have every confidence of not only defending, but perhaps winning if his opponent is not used to spirited defence. It's a fine amateur opening in that regard.

0-1



Book Reviews

WINNING CHESS MANOEUVRES

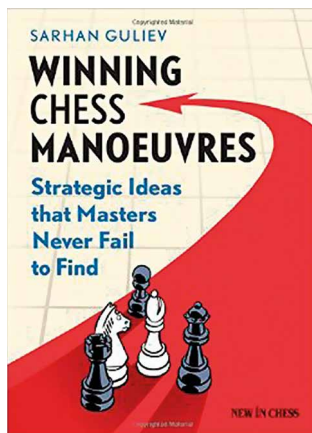
Sarhan Guliev (New In Chess)
240 pages, paperback

Here, the author demonstrates how knowledge of the games of past masters is used in modern games, with many manoeuvres (a little more about this word later) being employed repeatedly by the top players of today.

The author himself puts it like this: The chess elite, with a few rare exceptions, consists of players with a high cultural erudition in the game. It could not be otherwise. Even if a self-taught player, by dint of sheer natural talent, achieves success in the early phase of his career, there will come a time when he will need to “pore over his textbooks” to make further progress. Contemporary players know a lot, read a lot, and work a lot on the game. At the board, they are not fumbling in the dark. Their borrowings, in the great majority of cases, are conscious, not accidental. And the fact that they cannot always state exactly who the original source of the idea was, well, so what – nobody can know everything.”

In itself, this is not too surprising, since we often see the advice about learning from the games of the old masters (though in my experience, it is rarely stated exactly how we should do this).

In order to show how knowledge of previous games is used, Guliev divides the material of the 238 page book into 24 chapters, which cover various themes. For example, the chapters include topics such as “Non-Routine Exchanges”, “Positional Sacrifices”, “h2-h4, and White wins” and ones with slightly more enigmatic titles like “The Shuttle Manoeuvre”



and “Fischer’s Hedgehog and Morphy’s Needles”.

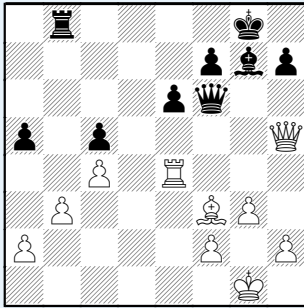
In each chapter, Guliev gives one or two modern examples of manoeuvres within the topic, and then gives at least one example of the same manoeuvre occurring in games from decades past (often the era of Alekhine, Nimzowitsch, Rubinstein, Capablanca etc.) and perhaps other recent games. He is at pains to say that this is not a historical chess book – he does not attempt to rigorously find the first occurrence of the manoeuvre under discussion – this is instead a work about how to play and how to approach the study of chess.

The manoeuvres mentioned are many and varied. Most of the chapters cover middlegame ideas, but there are several in the ending and some in the opening too.

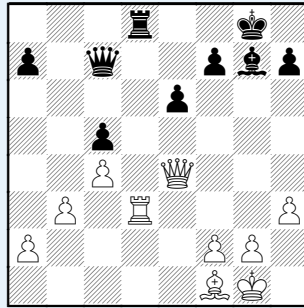
Sometimes, they are quite specific: in the Dances with Knights chapter they include the famous ♖c3-b1-d2 manoeuvre from Karpov – Spassky, 1974 (with a precedent in Lasker – Pillsbury, 1900 and examples from modern games). In the same chapter the re-positioning of the king’s knight ♖f3-g5-h3, often so that... f5 can be met by f4 is also discussed. In the chapter “The Battle of the Major Pieces” Alekhine’s Gun is one of the manoeuvres mentioned (queen and both rooks tripled on a file, with the queen on the first rank).

Other times, the manoeuvres are quite general: for example positional sacrifices, or taking on ugly-looking doubled pawns. Specific or general, the precedents given by the author are clearly the same idea – very often in a quite different position, but occasionally the positions in the classic games are eerily similar:

Shirov - Anand 2002



Botvinnik - Rabinovich 1934



In the above positions, the topic under discussion was sacrificing a pawn in order to improve drawing chances as Black has done to reach the positions above (an interesting subject in itself). In the earlier game the position arose only in a note given by Botvinnik, who said that Black will play ...a7-a5 and ensure the draw – Anand indeed drew the later game. Guliev is, rightly, polite about the top players, always saying that it is quite possible that they independently came up with the same idea that occurred in previous games: “Did Anand think this up himself at the board? It is very possible that he did. He is a player of the very highest class”. But he goes on to say “Had Anand seen this note? Who knows? I am sure he would have seen the game Botvinnik – Rabinovich, and I would like to think he saw the notes also, studied them, analysed them, found the mistakes and remembered everything”. Whatever is true for these specific positions, there is no doubt that the modern top players do work hard at studying other top level games, both old and contemporary.

For some reason, the word manoeuvre didn’t seem quite right to me at first, but on

reflection it is probably at least as good as alternative words such as motif, stratagem or idea, especially given the wide range of material covered.

At least as important as the format of the book is the presentation of the ideas by the author. As perhaps befits a FIDE Senior Coach, Guliev is able to express his ideas clearly and entertainingly – both in the written English and in the chess ideas behind the positions he covers.

Even without the historical aspect, you could view this book as an instructional manual covering a variety of topics. Guliev covers the material objectively, pointing out mistakes in past analysis and providing new analysis when necessary.

This is a very original book, with a wealth of instructional material which is well presented and the topics are clearly explained. I am sure that players of nearly all strengths would gain some benefit from reading it. Moreover, it is a very enjoyable book to read. Highly recommended.

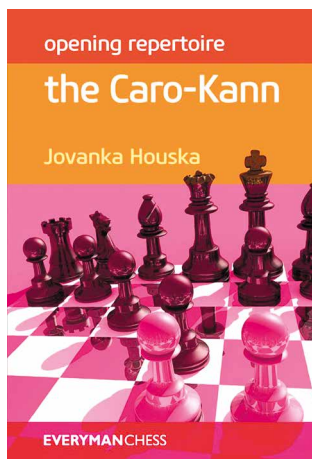
The author is a grandmaster from Azerbaijan.
C.P.

THE CARO-KANN

Jovanka Houska (Everyman Chess)

Jovanka Houska is a top player who specialises in the Caro-Kann as her defence to 1 e4, so is very qualified to write her second book on the opening.

The Caro-Kann has a reputation as a drawish defence. I have looked at database statistics over the last 5 years and its draw rate is 29%, slightly higher than the rate for all defences to 1 e4 (26%). Its win rate is 33% compared to 35% overall. So it performs just as well as other defences, with 1 in 3 games winning for Black. It has various advantages and disadvantages compared to the Sicilian or 1...e5. There is less to learn than with the other major defences, theory changes only slowly so less to do over the long term. The opening leads generally to a slower game, Black is aiming to win in the endgame rather than the middlegame, and it is important to learn ideas and plans rather than sharp tactical sequences.



I wondered how it differs from Jovanka's first book, *Play the Caro-Kann*, published in 2007. For a start, it's a lot bigger, 460 pages compared to 208. Some of this is accounted for by bigger print and diagrams, but there is also more content including three new chapters. There are some major changes. The main line with 11 ♗d2 has received an entirely new approach because new ways to attack with White have been found in the 7 years since Jovanka's previous work. The Panov-Botvinnik Attack has been completely revised as well. There are many new sections where White has come up with a new move since her last book. She has these covered, for example 4 d4 in the Two Knights Variation (1 e4 c6 2 ♖c3 d5 3 ♗f3 ♗g4 4 d4!?) is on page 400.

Here is a complete repertoire against 1 e4. All the usual Caro lines are in the book: the Classical, the Panov-Botvinnik attack, the Exchange Variation, the Advance,

the Fantasy Variation, 2 c4, Two Knights, King's Indian Attack and sundry rare lines. We amateur players like to play unexpected systems. One line, played recently in a club match, 6 ♗f4 in the Panov-Botvinnik, is not covered. However, I sympathise, as it is impossible to cover everything an amateur might play.

Jovanka says she has tried to avoid lines where Black is only playing for a draw. With the Advance Variation, I think she has failed. Alexey Dreev is a strong grandmaster who is also an expert on the Caro. His book *Attacking the Caro-Kann* was published about the same time as Jovanka's, and I doubt if either author saw the other's book before publishing their own. In it he recommends White plays the Advance, and in chapter one he covers the line Jovanka recommends. But on move 17 he gives a move not considered by her on p. 283, 17 ♗c1. This looks strong to me and Black

is almost forced to give up a pawn to develop pieces. In compensation there are the two bishops, but Black is struggling to draw.

The page before Jovanka gives an alternative line, but here I think I can improve. In her note to move 13 on page 282 she misses the strong 17 ♖d2! (instead of 17 ♖f1). The whole system seems risky to me and after move 10. White has scored an impressive 73% in my database. Apart from this, I think the lines look very good. I can see by looking at the impressive bibliography she has studied other relevant Caro books. I found an instance where she was so impressed with the line proposed she has adopted it instead of her previous suggestion. Very objective thinking. She has found improvements where necessary to counter dangerous proposals from other authors.

During the text Jovanka includes comments designed to help memorise the line. One example: In the Pseudo-Panov she says after the move 12 ♗b5+ “White wants to make it as awkward for Black as possible to capture the d-pawn so he forces Black to place a piece on d7. I call this the “Endgame Line” just to make it clear in my mind that the game will transpose to a tame endgame”.

This is a really great idea that more authors could take up.

In many sections there is a useful discussion of the plans to be adopted. And this is emphasised on appropriate moves with supporting comments to guide us through the variations. For instance the comment: “Black uses his knights to harass the white bishop while at the same time pre-empting any pressure White may place on the e7-pawn. The plan is to get in...b7-b5, develop the bishop to b7 and so bring another piece to attack the d5-pawn.” I admire the effort



Jovanka Houska won the silver medal on board one for England in last year's Women's European Team Championship. Photo by Harald Fietz

that has obviously gone into the explanations of moves, and the clarity of the descriptions of the plans to be adopted by both sides. I think this book is a must have for every Caro player. Don't be put off by the size of the book, it is easy and pleasant to read and the ideas and plans are the important parts to remember, and they are extremely well presented.

The authoress is an English International Master.

V.B.R.

50 YEARS AGO

by Alan Smith

The first events of 1966 had already started the year before. Spassky and Uhlmann tied for first place at Hastings, each scoring +6 =3. Meanwhile the USA Zonal was taking place in New York. Fischer won his seventh national title, but lost to both his nearest rivals in the process. Fischer +8 =1 -2; Reshevsky, Robert Byrne + 5 =5 -1.

The main event of the year was to be the world championship match between Tigran Petrosian and Boris Spassky. The champion warmed up by taking part in a six player training tournament. He was comfortably first, Petrosian +7 =2 -1, two points clear of Boleslavsky, while Korchnoi struggled. Petrosian's one loss came as Black versus Boleslavsky when he tried the unusual 1 e4 ♘f6 2 e5 ♘g8.

In the match Petrosian established a two point lead by winning game 10, Spassky levelled the score by winning games 13 and 19. At this stage the momentum may have been with him, but Petrosian had three Whites to come and only needed draws to retain



The English team at Havana '66 (from l. to r.) Peter Clarke, Peter Lee, Norman Littlewood, Owen Hindle, Raymond Keene, Bill Hartston

his title. Petrosian won games 20 and 22, Spassky got a late consolation in game 23, but the overall score was +4 =17 -3 in the champion's favour. This was the first time since Alekhine – Bogoljubow 1934 that a World Champion had won a World Championship match! Spassky showed great resilience to recover from a two point deficit and the experience would prove important in the next cycle.

If 1966 was a stellar year for English football, English chess teams did not fare so well. Fifth in the Clare Benedict was followed by a mediocre performance in the Student Olympiad at Orebro. The Olympiad team performed creditably at Havana, finishing 20th in the absence of Penrose. Peter Clarke proved to be a capable top board scoring +2 =10 -1, while the 19 year old Bill Hartston scored +6 =8 -1 on board 3. Of the teams without a titled player, only Austria finished above them.

The strongest tournament of the year was the second Piatigorsky Cup held in Santa Monica. This pitted the World Champion and his challenger against eight other grandmasters, only two of whom had never played in a Candidates tournament. Petrosian struggled throughout, losing to Portisch and twice to Larsen. Fischer started slowly, but a run of poor form at the end of the first half saw him in ninth place at the half way stage. His comeback in the second half, +6 =3, raised him to second place a half point behind Spassky. Larsen led after ten rounds but scored only a solitary draw in his next five games. He rallied to finish third and included three of his games in the 1970 volume of his best games. Final scores: Spassky +5 =13, Fischer +7 =8 -3, Larsen +7 =6 -5, Portisch +3 =13

-2, Unzicker +2 =15 -1 with Reshevsky and Petrosian on 50% followed by Najdorf, Ivkov and Donner.

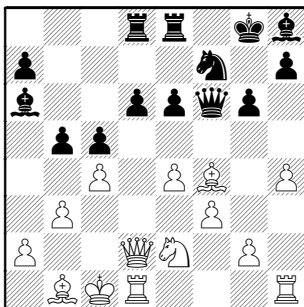
The 1966 British championship was held in Sunderland. The defending champion, Peter Lee, was playing at Orebro. Penrose returned to his best form and won his seventh title with a round to spare, +7 =3 -1.

Next a game that shows the dangers of castling on opposite sides, it is a thematic play by White in the Samisch, but on this occasion White's attack is a bit slow getting started. Nicolai was a regular visitor to British chess events and won the 1964-65 Hastings Challengers.

Werner NICOLAI — Owen M. HINDLE

Eastbourne 1966

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 ♙e3 b6 7 ♗d2 7 ♙d3 is better since 7...c5 is then a mistake, because 8 e5! ♘e8 9 ♙e4 nets the exchange.
 7...c5 8 ♘ge2 ♘c6 9 d5 9 ♗d1 ♙b7 10 b3 e5 11 dxc5 dxc5 was Bjornsson – Tal Reykjavik 1964. Tal won in 34 moves.
 9...♘e5 Panno preferred 9...♘a5.
 10 ♘g3 ♗e8 11 ♙h6 ♙h8 12 h3 ♙a6 13 b3 e6 14 dxe6 14 f4 is consistent, while 14 ♙e2 with the idea of castling short is safer.
 14...fxe6 15 0-0-0 ♘f7 16 ♙f4 ♘d7 17 ♙d3 17 ♙xd6? ♘xd6 18 ♗xd6 runs into 18...♗f6! and White is very weak on the dark squares.
 17...♗f6 18 ♘ge2 ♘de5 19 ♙b1 ♗ad8 20 ♗c2? ♘c6 21 h4 ♘d4 22 ♗d2 ♘xe2+ 23 ♘xe2 b5



24 g4 bxc4 25 g5 ♗a1 26 h5 cxb3 27 hxg6 hxg6 28 axb3? A blunder but White is

already lost 28 ♘g3 bxa2 29 ♗xa2 ♗c3+ 30 ♗c2 ♗a3+ 31 ♘d2 ♗xf3 is hopeless.
28...♗a3+ 29 ♘c2 ♗b2 mate.

Morning Star 3rd October 1966

1966 closed with three important events held over the New Year. Botvinnik won at Hastings despite playing well below his best. Fischer was back to top form at the USA championship, scoring +8 =3 to win by a two point margin. Meanwhile the Soviet Union Zonal took place at Tbilisi. Stein won, followed by Geller, while Gipslis, Korchnoi and Taimanov faced a play-off to decide the two remaining places in the Interzonal.

Perhaps the surprise of the year came in the South American Zonal, when the 14 year old Henrique Mecking tied for first place. He had to wait until 1967 to clinch his place in the Interzonal.

Now for one of the games of the year. Players of a nervous disposition should look away now. No rooks are moved in this game, which has echoes of Anderssen's "Immortal game".

Leonid STEIN — Isaak BIRBRAGER

USSR Team, Moscow 1966

1 e4 c6 2 d3 This was also a favourite of Bobby Fischer.
 2...d5 3 ♘d2 dxe4 Not the best, 3...♗c7 is more testing.
 4 dxe4 ♘f6 4...e5 is more consistent, which

should transpose into a type of Philidor's Defence.

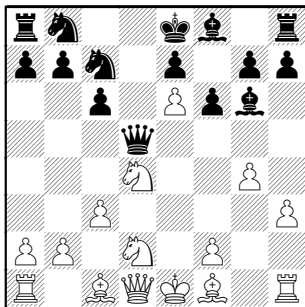
5 ♖g3 ♙g4 **6** h3 ♙h5 6...♙xf3 7 ♗xf3 ♘bd7 8 ♙e2 e6 9 0-0 ♖c7 was a later attempt at an improvement, which did not succeed, and played in Hort – Pomar Wijk aan Zee 1972, But White won in 25 moves.

7 e5 ♘d5 **8** e6!? A positional pawn sacrifice to disrupt Black's pawn structure.

8...f6 A bold decision, I suspect the position after 8...fxe6 did not appeal to Black.

9 g4 ♙g6 **10** ♘d4 Now the game revolves around the fate of the e6 pawn.

10...♘c7 11 c3 ♗d5



12 ♗b3!! A real surprise, effectively refuting Black's play.

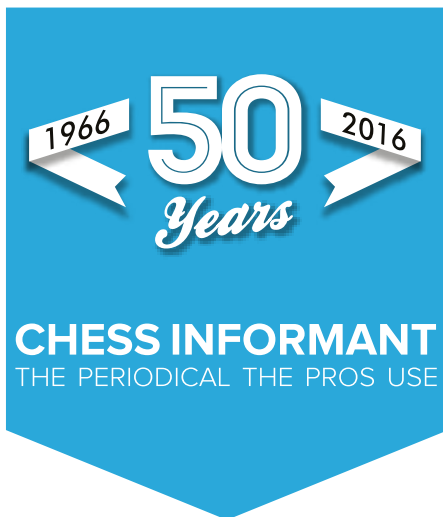
12...♗xh1 Black has little choice as 12...♗xb3 13 axb3 leaves him struggling to untangle his kingside.

13 ♗xb7 ♙d8 **14** ♘2f3 ♙d3 **15** ♙f4 ♗xf1+ **16** ♙d2 ♗xf2+ **17** ♙d3 ♘xe6 The only alternative was 17...♘ba6 but then White has 18 ♙c4! and Black is effectively material down due to his imprisoned kingside.

18 ♘xe6+ ♙e8 **19** ♗c8+ ♙f7 **20** ♘fg5+ **1-0** If 20...♙g6 21 ♗e8+ ♙h6 22 ♗h5 mate, or 20...fxg5 21 ♘xg5+ ♙g6 22 ♗e8 mate.

Field 10th November 1966

These were the days when the Soviet Union dominated world chess. The selectors replaced the older members of the 1964 side, Botvinnik, Smyslov and Keres, with Tal, Korchnoi and Polugaevsky. They won by a five point margin ahead of the USA, for whom



Fischer was on top form, scoring +14 =2 -1.

In individual tournaments the domination was also pronounced. There were just three times that Soviet grandmasters did not at least share first prize in the 1966 tournaments they contested. Ivkov edged out Antoshin at Venice, Olafsson outpointed Vasyukov at Reykjavik, but the best result was Bent Larsen's victory at Le Havre. He finished two points clear of Polugaevsky and Krogius and defeated them both in well played endgames.

The field of chess literature saw two important newcomers, Harry Golombek's Saturday column in The Times began on New Year's Eve 1966, and earlier in the year the first issue of Sahovski Informator (Chess Informant) was published in Belgrade. Harry continued his column for two decades, Informator is still with us today.

Finally a glimpse of the future. The fourteen player tournament at Trinec, starting at the end of December, might have passed unnoticed, but the Soviet Chess Federation erred, sending two juniors to compete in what turned out to be a senior event. They need not have worried Viktor Kupreychik tied for second place a point and a half behind the unbeaten winner, the 15 year old Anatoly Karpov.

DON'T LAUGH... IT MAY HAPPEN TO YOU!

Here I go off-piste, to take a look at two unusual moves in the opening for White on the 6th move – one against the King's Indian and the other against the Sicilian. However, though rather unorthodox, even perhaps open to ridicule, they should not be underestimated as they have each proved to be effective weapons in practical play. So let's give them a closer look.

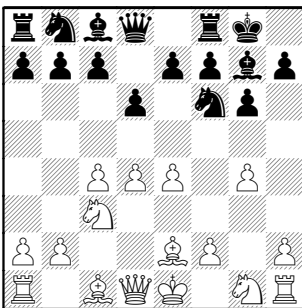


warns IM Andrew Martin

Alejandro HOFFMAN — Mark LYNCH

US Open, Reno 1999

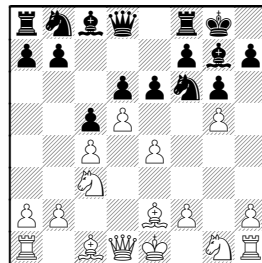
1 d4 ♘f6 2 e4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♙e2 0-0 6 g4!?



Here it is. 6 g4 is not thought to be much good, but I can assure you it is difficult to face. I once had a crazy game as Black against Simon Williams in this variation,

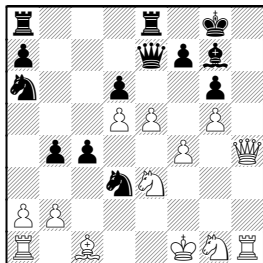
which eventually ended in a draw but gave me a healthy respect for White's chances. The plan, if White is allowed to carry it out, is brutal: g4-g5, h4-h5, ♖d3-g3-h4, hxg6 and hopefully carnage. Don't laugh. It may happen to you!

6...e5 The standard King's Indian reaction. The other jab in the centre, 6...c5 scores best. Make your own mind up about two recent examples: 7 d5 e6 8 g5

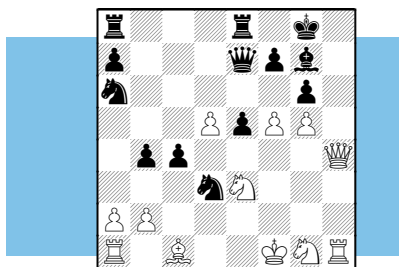


a) After 8...♗e8 White set his plan in motion: 9 h4 exd5 10 cxd5 ♘c7 11 h5 b5 12 ♕d2!?. The queen is heading for h4 via a slightly different route. 12...b4 13 ♘d1

♖e7 14 ♜f4 ♜e8 15 f3 ♘d7 16 ♘e3 ♘e5
 17 ♜h4 I would not like to be Black in
 this situation, despite what the engines say.
 17...♙a6 18 hxg6 hxg6 19 ♙xa6 ♘xa6
 20 ♖f1 c4 21 f4 ♘d3 22 e5

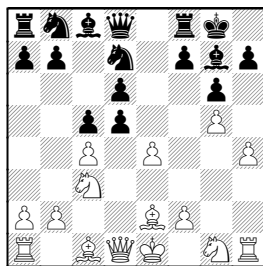


22...dx5? (Black had an unappetizing
 choice: 22...♘c7 23 f5 ♜xe5 24 f6 ♜f4+
 25 ♜xf4 ♘xf4 26 fxg7 ♘d3 27 ♜h3±;
 Keeping calm with 22...♜ac8 runs into
 23 f5! ♜xe5 24 f6 ♜f4+ 25 ♜xf4 ♘xf4
 26 fxg7 ♘d3 27 ♘e2 ♖xg7 28 ♘g4 ♘c7
 29 ♙e3 ♘xd5 30 ♙xa7 ♜e4 31 ♙d4+
 with better play for White.) 23 f5



A typical pawn attack in this line, which
 showed its effectiveness after 23...f6 24 ♘g4
 ♜d7 25 ♜h7+ ♖f8 26 ♜xg6 fxg5
 27 ♘f6+- ♜f7 28 ♜h8+ ♙xh8 29 ♘h7+
 ♜xh7 30 ♜xh7 ♙f6 31 ♜g6 ♖e7
 32 d6+ ♖d7 33 ♜xf6 ♘ac5 34 ♙e3 ♜f8
 35 ♜e7+ ♖c6 36 ♙xc5 ♘xc5 37 ♜c7+ ♖d5
 38 ♜d1+ ♘d3 39 b3 ♜ac8 40 bxc4+ ♖d4
 41 ♜xa7+ ♖e4 42 ♜b7+ ♖d4 43 ♜d5+
 1-0 Otero Acosta – Fernandez Cardoso,
 Havana 2010)

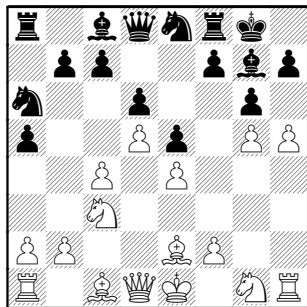
b) That leaves us with 8...♘fd7 which was
 the considered choice of Joe Gallagher in a
 game which continued 9 h4 exd5



10 cxd5 (10 exd5 is very unclear, but
 Black has chances along the e file:
 10...♜e7 11 ♜h3 (11 h5? ♙xc3+ 12 bxc3
 ♘e5 13 ♖f1 ♘xc4!) 11...♘b6 12 ♜e3
 ♜d8 13 ♘f3 ♙f5 14 ♖f1∞) 10...♜e7
 11 ♜c2 (11 h5 ♙xc3+ 12 bxc3 ♜xe4)
 11...♘a6 12 h5 ♜b8 13 ♘f3 b5 14 ♙e3
 ♘b6 15 ♜h4 (15 ♘xb5 ♙g4 16 a3 ♙xf3
 17 ♙xf3 ♘xd5 18 exd5 ♜xb5 19 ♜b1
 ♜fb8 20 hxg6 fxg6±) 15...♘c4 16 ♙c1
 ♘b4 17 ♜b3 f5 18 h6 ♙h8± Kociscak –
 Gallagher, Zillertal 2015.

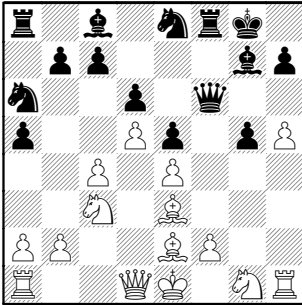
But 9 dx6! seems much better to me:
 9...fxe6 (9...♘b6!?) 10 ♜xd6 ♘c6 11 ♘f3
 ♜xf3 12 ♙xf3 ♘d4 13 ♙g4 (13 ♙d1 ♙e5)
 13...♘c2+ 14 ♖d1 ♘xa1 15 ♙xe6+ ♖h8
 16 ♙f4∞.

7 d5 a5 8 h4 ♘a6 9 g5 ♘e8 10 h5



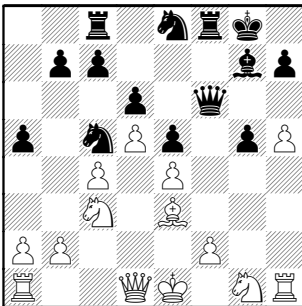
10...f5 Black is starting to worry about
 the impending queen manoeuvre, but now
 Hoffman is able to change plan and play in a
 farh more positional way. Meanwhile 10...c6
 11 ♜d3 (Of course 11 ♙e3 cxd5 12 cxd5 ♙d7
 13 ♘f3 is quite possible, with play similar to
 the Averbakh variation) 11...♘c5 12 ♜g3
 f5 13 gxh6 ♘xf6 14 hxg6 ♘fxe4 15 ♘xe4

♖xe4 16 ♖g2 leads us on a wild trail.
11 gxf6 ♖xf6 12 ♖e3! g5



13 ♖g4! Very nice. The exchange of light-squared bishops emphasizes the weakness of the f5 square.

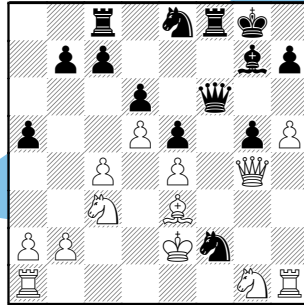
13...♗c5 Maybe he should take on g4, but White is to be preferred after **13...♖xg4 14 ♖xg4 h6 15 0-0-0 a4 16 ♖b1 a3 17 b3 ♖f7 18 ♗ge2. 14 ♖xc8 ♖xc8**



15 ♖g4 15 h6! should be carefully considered: **15...♖xh6 16 ♖h5 ♖g7 17 ♗f3! (17 ♗h3 ♖f3 18 ♗xg5 ♖xh5 19 ♖xh5 ♗f6 20 ♗e6+ ♗xe6 21 ♖xh6+ ♖g6 22 ♖h1!±) 17...♖g6 18 ♖h3 (18 ♗xg5 ♖xh5 19 ♖xh5 ♖g8 20 ♗e6+ ♖h8 21 ♖xh6 ♖g1+ 22 ♖e2 ♖xal 23 ♗xc5 dxc5 24 ♖xc5 b6 25 ♖e7∞) 18...♗f6 19 ♖xc5 g4 20 ♖xh6+ ♖xh6 21 ♖xh6 ♖xh6 22 ♖e3+ ♖h5 23 ♗g5±.**

15...♗d3+? Black loses the plot – such a common situation when one is under pressure. He should just move the rook,

15...♖a8, but even then **16 h6! ♖xh6 17 ♖h5 ♖g7** and now **18 ♗f3** or **18 ♗h3** takes us back into a previous line.
16 ♖e2 ♗xf2

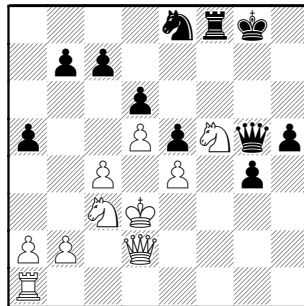


17 ♖xc8 Why not? Black has overlooked that his knight is trapped.

17...♗xh1 18 ♖h3 ♗f2 19 ♖g2 Suddenly, White's task becomes a lot easier.

19...♖h6 20 ♖xf2 ♖xh5+ 21 ♖d3 g4 22 ♖e3 ♖g6 23 ♗ge2 h5 24 ♗g3 ♖h6 25 ♗f5 There was never any compensation, because of this very idea. After the arrival of the knight on f5, Black could resign.

25...♖g5 26 ♖xg5 ♖xg5 27 ♖d2



27...♖xf5 27...♖xd2+ 28 ♖xd2 ♗g7 was relatively best, but then **29 ♖f1 ♗xf5 30 ♖xf5 ♖xf5 31 exf5 ♖f7 32 ♗e4** should lead to a technical win.

28 exf5 ♖xf5+ 29 ♗e4 ♖h7 30 ♖e2 ♗g7 31 ♖f1 ♖g6 32 ♖f6 **1-0**

You play this line at your own risk, but

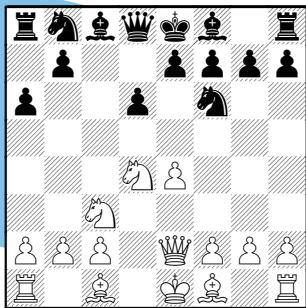
one can certainly state that 6 g4!? is worth consideration and would make a very good surprise weapon.

Rasmus SKYTTE — Igor TEPLYI

Aarhus Chess House 2016

These days you can expect almost anything in the opening, as long as it is half-reasonable, has the element of surprise behind it, and has the capacity to put the opponent on the spot. Consider White's idea in the following game.

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♚e2!?



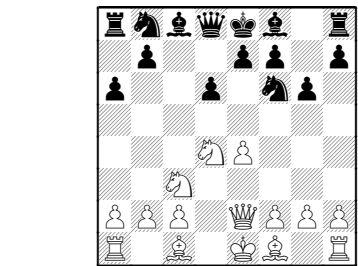
I can honestly say that I had never seen this move played against the Najdorf until very recently, although checking it out, I find that 6 ♚e2 has been tried quite a few times. As Fischer said: "Something to break the monotony?!" The points of the move seem to be:

- a) To set up a quick e4-e5
- b) To castle long as soon as possible
- c) A kingside pawn storm with f4 and g4, probably followed by ♗g2.

So, as Morecambe and Wise might put it: all the right moves, but in the wrong order. What should Black do? He has a wide choice.

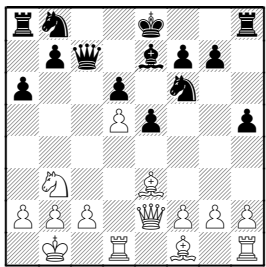
6...e5 The traditional Najdorf response. 6...♗c6 only seems to encourage White: 7 ♗xc6 bxc6 8 e5!? ♗d5 9 exd6 (9 ♗d2!? ♗xc3 10 ♗xc3 d5 11 h4) 9...♗xc3 10 bxc3 ♚xd6 11 ♗e3 e6 12 ♖d1

♗c7 13 ♗d4 c5 14 ♗e5 ♚c6 15 ♚h5 ♖a7 (15...♚e4+ 16 ♚e2 ♚c6 17 ♚g4 h5 18 ♚g5 ♗b7 19 f3) 16 ♗e2 ♚e4 (16...♚xg2 17 ♗f3 ♚g6 18 ♗c6+ ♗d7 19 ♚f3) 17 0-0 ♚g6 18 ♚h4 ♗d7 19 ♚f4 ♗c6 20 ♗f3 ♗xf3 21 ♚xf3 1-0 A.Czebe – R.Szekerkes, Hungary 2013, in view of 21...f6 22 ♚c6+ ♗f7 23 ♗b8!.



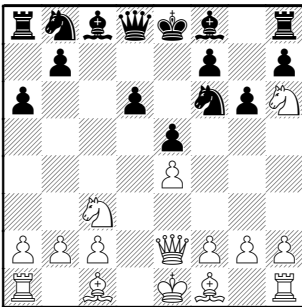
seems sensible and has been tried a number of times. Nevertheless: 7 ♗g5 ♗g7 8 0-0-0 0-0 (8...♗bd7 9 f4 ♚a5 10 ♗b1 0-0 11 g4 ♖e8 12 h4 ♚c5 (12...h6 13 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 14 f5 (14 ♗b3 ♚b6 15 g5 ♗g4 16 ♚g2 ♗xd1 17 gxf6 ♗xc2+ 18 ♚xc2 ♗xf6 19 ♗d5)) 13 h5 ♗b6 14 f5 e6 15 hxg6 fxg6 16 ♗e3 exf5 17 ♗xf5 ♗xe4 18 ♗xe4 ♚e5 19 ♗xg7 ♚xe4 20 ♗xe8 1-0 Ozer – Radovanovic, Novi Sad 2016. White's opening idea was carried out to perfection here.) 9 e5 ♚a5 10 ♗xf6 exf6 11 exd6 ♖d8 12 ♚e7 ♗f8 13 ♚xf6 (13 ♚c7 ♗c6) 13...♖xd6 14 ♚f4∞.

As far as I can tell 6 ♚e2 was popular about ten years ago. A world-class player keeps the Black position flexible: After 6...♚c7! 7 ♗e3 e5 8 ♗b3 ♗e7 9 0-0-0 ♗e6 10 ♗d5 ♗xd5 11 exd5 h5 12 ♗b1



We have transposed to some sort of English Attack. 12...♖bd7 13 h4 ♜c8 14 c4 a5 15 a3 ♘g4 16 ♜h3 ♘xe3 17 ♚xe3 g6 18 ♙e2 a4 19 ♘c1 f5 20 ♘a2 ♘c5 21 ♚g3 ♘f7 22 ♜hh1 ♙f6 23 ♜d2 e4 24 f4 ♚a5 25 ♚e3 ♙e5 and Black had organised his game, albeit in a rather unorthodox fashion. Rodriguez Guerrero – Karjakin, San Sebastian 2006. Make of these references what you will. Surely 6 ♚e2 cannot cause too many sleepless nights, but it certainly seems to have practical sting.

7 ♘f5 g6 7...d5 8 ♙g5 d4 9 0-0-0 ♘c6 10 ♚f3 is quite unclear.
8 ♘h6



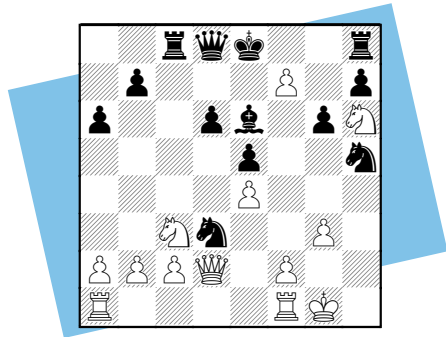
The obscurity continues. The only time I have seen something like this was in the Caro-Kann: 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 dxe4 4 ♘xe4 ♙f5 5 ♘c5 b6 6 ♘a6!?

Facing this as Black your immediate attention turns to whether you can trap the knight. I don't think this is possible and so playing in the centre makes a lot of sense. Of course, you will not be able to castle short for a while.

8...♙e6 9 ♙g5 ♙e7 10 ♚d2 Some rearranging is in order.
10...♖bd7 11 ♙d3 ♘c5 12 h4 ♜c8 13 0-0!?

White is really doing his best to be unpredictable. Black has a nice position, but his king in the middle causes concern. The pesky knight on h6 is doing a good job!

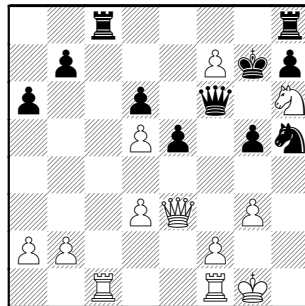
13...♘h5 14 g3 ♙xg5 15 hxg5 f6 16 gxf6 ♘xd3? 16...♘xf6 17 ♚e3 ♚b6 18 ♜ab1 ♜f8 looks better to me.
17 f7+! Probably underestimated.



17...♘f8 17...♙xf7 18 ♘xf7 ♘xf7 19 ♚xd3 ♘g7 20 ♜ad1 ♜c6 21 ♘d5 was perhaps what Black did not like and White must surely be a bit better. This line, however, is preferable to the game.

18 cxd3 ♘g7 19 ♜ac1 ♚f6 20 ♘d5 ♙xd5 21 exd5 ♚f3 22 ♚g5 ♚f6 23 ♚e3±

Suddenly, Black's position is precarious. The knight on the rim is about to play a decisive role.
23...g5



24 ♘g8! A rather unique winning move.
24...♜hxg8 24...♘xf7 25 ♜xc8; 24...♚xf7 25 ♚xg5+ ♚g6 26 ♚e7+.
25 fxg8 ♚+ ♜xg8 26 ♜c7+ ♘h8 27 ♜fc1 1-0

What do you make of 6 ♚e2 ? Interesting, to be sure.



By Alex McFarland

Ask the Arbitrator

WHEN WRITE IS WRONG!

Recent editions of the British Chess Magazine have focussed on the London Classic and the Hastings Congress. It is therefore appropriate if this column looks at some incidents which arose during those events.

In the Hastings Masters there was a problem with a titled player who did not keep his scoresheet up to date. As the Masters was played with 30 second increments, players were expected to record every move even if they fell below 5 minutes on the clock. One player did not do this. On the first occasion he did not record the last 7 moves of the game. As the arbiters had been watching other games where the players were surviving on their increments at the end of the first session, this failure to record was not noticed until an arbiter collected the scoresheets from the players at the end of their game. The player was reminded of the Laws and given a verbal warning. As you might expect the arbiters were to be extra vigilant in future rounds to make sure that the player would follow the rules.

Article 8 deals with the requirements for recording and in particular for this case 8.1.a

8.1.a *In the course of play each player is required to record his own moves and those of his opponent in the correct manner, move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, in the algebraic notation (Appendix C), on the "scoresheet" prescribed for the competition. It is forbidden to write the moves in advance, unless the player is claiming a draw in accordance with Article 9.2, or 9.3, or adjourning a game in accordance with Appendix G.1 a.*

The player continued to fall foul of the arbiters over his recording in further rounds and was eventually warned that he would lose if he did not obey the Laws.

The words "as clearly and legibly as possible" in the above Law can cause problems. Arbiters accept that when under pressure, either through a shortage of time or a position requiring deep thought, a player's writing will deteriorate. The scoresheet given opposite is from one of the player's games. In this case the player was again given a warning. Black's 21st move only says R with no square given and Black's 28th is missing completely. Other moves seem to have only one character when 3 were required to describe the move. As a rule of thumb it is not unreasonable for the arbiter to expect the player to be able to read the scoresheet. If that cannot be done then the player has failed to fulfil the requirements. In another game the arbiter made the player rewrite a series of moves when his scoresheet appeared to show that an extra two moves had been played. This was not a case of moves being written in advance but simply the player making



meaningless squiggles twice for some moves, once when he had made the move and then again when the arbiter walked by. Twice the player was warned at the end of his game about the quality of his writing. He insisted that it was legible. He was then given a scan of one of his scoresheets and asked to read out the moves. The player asked for the name of the opponent. The arbiter, realising that a player of his standing could simply work out what had been played if he knew the game, refused to give that information. The player was not happy about this and eventually had to admit that he could not read his own writing. At that point the final warning was issued.

Having received the final warning the player then made a significant effort to comply and, although there were other minor transgressions, no further action was taken.

At the London Classic Rapidplay the following situation arose. A player moved his pawn to the 8th rank. Before he could exchange this for a queen his opponent made a move. The first player then removed the pawn and completed his next move (including pressing the clock) by putting the queen on c7 without having first placed his queen on the promotion square. The opponent claimed the game as an illegal move has been played.

The Laws are quite clear that if the first player had pressed the clock before exchanging the pawn for a queen, then he would have played an illegal move and the opponent would have been entitled to claim the game, as currently one illegal move loses in Rapidplay and Blitz. Failure to promote properly is defined as an illegal move.

In normal circumstances the second player moving before the first has pressed his clock is not in itself illegal. Indeed in Blitz games it would often be impossible for the arbiter to be able to determine the exact sequence of events and whether the clock had been pressed before the piece was moved or vice versa. The first player is still allowed to press his clock. Therefore a sequence A moves, B moves, A presses clock, B presses clock is possible under the Laws. However in this case the second player has moved before allowing a proper move to be made, which is not allowed. The second player should therefore not benefit from his improper action.

The Laws do not state what penalty should be applied in every situation. This is deliberate. The Laws of Golf is a huge tomb because it does try to cover every situation. The FIDE Rules Commission feels that arbiter's discretion is an important part of the Laws.

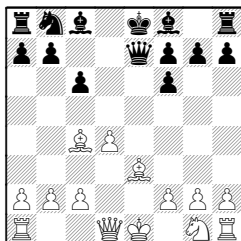
In this case it would not be unreasonable for the arbiter to restore the position to before the pawn was promoted and give that player some additional time. The player had clearly been distracted in the act of promoting and should be allowed to carry out the processes without distraction. The amount of extra time given could be 30 seconds to a minute. If the arbiter felt that the opponent had been deliberately trying to create the situation by his actions then one minute would be more appropriate but if the arbiter felt that it was just a situation which had developed in the heat of the moment then 30 seconds might be better compensation.

The major talking point in the main event, part of the Grand Tour, was the tie-break system used. There was general concern that the player who finished second in the tie-break procedure did not finish second overall. Having used a method of tie-break to decide the winner, the rules then reverted to another clause to decide who was second. Public opinion felt this was wrong. It has been reported that British Arbiter David Sedgwick has been appointed as the Chief Arbiter of the Grand Tour and will be looking at the tie-break situation.

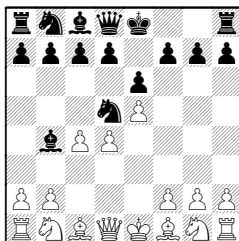


FIND THE WAY TO WIN

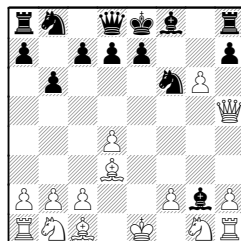
...IN THE OPENING!



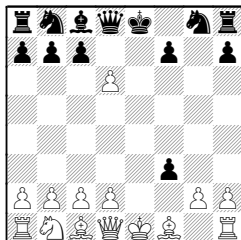
1) Caro-Kann Defence
Black to move



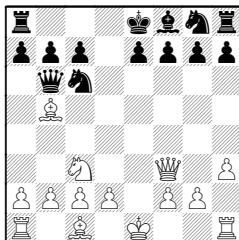
2) Alekhine's Defence
White to move



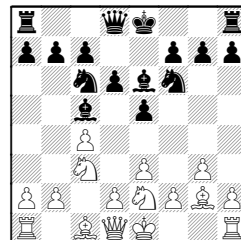
3) Owen's Defence
White to move



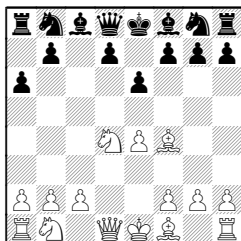
4) From Gambit
Black to move



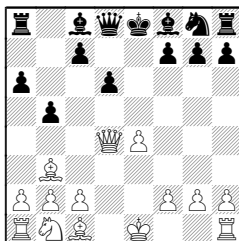
5) Centre Counter Game
White to move



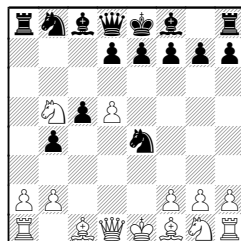
6) English Opening
White to move



7) Sicilian Defence
Black to move

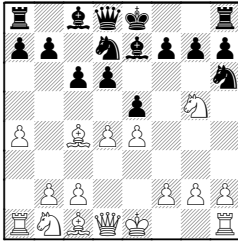


8) Ruy Lopez
Black to move

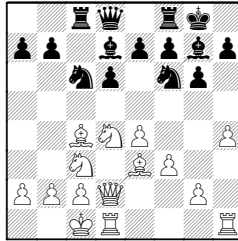


9) Benko Gambit
White to move

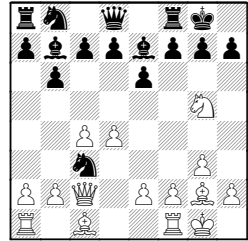
Solutions on page 250



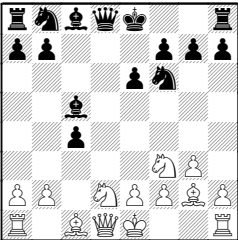
10) Philidor's Defence
White to move



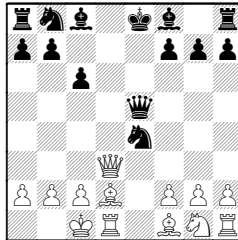
11) Sicilian Defence
Black to move



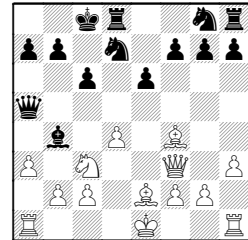
12) Queen's Indian Defence
Black to move



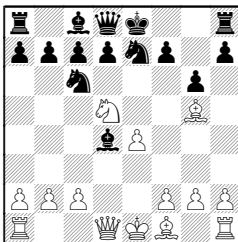
13) Catalan Opening
Black to move



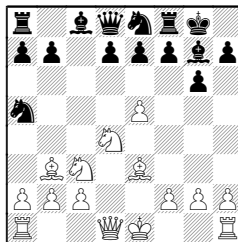
14) Caro-Kann Defence
White to move



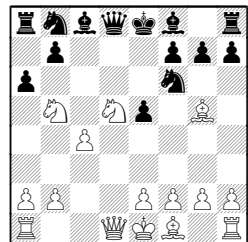
15) Centre Counter Game
White to move



16) Three Knights Game
White to move



17) Sicilian Defence
White to move



18) Queen's Gambit Declined
Black to move

CULTURE SHOCK!

By Theo Slade



Just over five months ago my family and I moved from Cornwall, England, to Orlando, Florida, the Land of Opportunity. It was something that we had been thinking about and planning for a long time, and finally, we took the plunge. Orlando, known as The City Beautiful, is much more than just theme parks; it really is a beautiful place to live. And as for the chess, well, the only “Floridian” players that I knew of were Caruana and Nakamura, and if you ignore them, then who is there?! So you can get a good picture inside your mind of what I was thinking when boarding the Virgin Atlantic plane to make the giant leap across the pond.



As you can tell from my headline, the chess culture out here is completely different from what I imagined it to be, even if my original interpretation was somewhat wishful. Oh, and another thing, not only did we move countries, away from family and friends, but I also moved from an Academy which had only just been founded two years before, to a virtual school in America. I now attend Orange Country Virtual School (OCVS), which is kind of a normal school; it is just that there is no building! I do my work online and submit it for my teachers to mark. I have to be disciplined, but if and when I am, it gives me time and flexibility to study and play chess.

Secondly, there are rarely “set” scoresheets. Most players merely record their moves in their scorebooks. Next, you have to bring your own set and clock to the game. As you can imagine, boards come in all shapes and sizes (mostly square!), and sets

vary from the regulation Staunton pieces to the very ornate – nice to look at, but difficult to play with. Everyone also seems to have a different clock, although analogue clocks are unheard of (woo hoo!). The first battle with one's opponent is to decide whose set to use! In my short spell here I have already had two disputes with my opponents before a pawn has even been pushed...

Overall, American events are less formal. Players are allowed to listen to music through their headphones, and if someone's phone goes off the arbiters (or Tournament Directors (TDs), as it would be over here) do not mind it as much as they do in England. This leads to some funny scenarios. In one tournament, where several GMs were playing, someone's phone went off extremely loudly, and everyone looked round. As you do, he just apologised nonverbally and walked out of the playing room quickly. As it transpired after the game, his phone went off because of a tornado alert! It was all over the news, and there was a possibility of it actually affecting us! Thank goodness it did not...

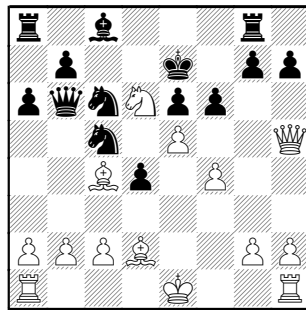
The game that I have chosen to feature is not necessarily typical of the tournaments I have been playing in. Maybe next time I can tell you about the choice between two- and three-day schedules, the option to buy yourself back into the tournament if you lose your Friday night game (!), and even different time controls for different rounds!! Normally I have no time to prepare, I have few, if any, games of my opponent, and I do not know my opponents anyway. However, this game was an exception because I had already played Cooke before. See Cooke – Slade, Turkey Bowl, 2015.

Just generally, I would say that I am quite an emotional person, and my coach has tried to curb this. One massive advantage of living here is that I am now coached by GM Lars Bo Hansen, and his wife, WIM Jen Hansen, who have a very innovative training system, which you can even access from the UK! If you are interested, you can find out more at orlando-chesshouse.com. However, this tournament was a team event, and I always get a bit (!) more emotional in these events, because I have a passion for winning as a team, rather than just individually...

Theo SLADE – E. COOKE

US Amateur Team South, 2016

1 e4 e5 My previous game against Cooke had gone: 1...e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 ♗f6 4 e5 ♗fd7 5 f4 c5 6 ♗f3 ♗c6 7 ♙e3 cxd4 8 ♗xd4 ♗b6 9 ♗cb5 a6 10 ♗f5 d4 11 ♗bd6+ ♙xd6 12 ♗xd6+ ♗e7 13 ♙d2 f6 14 ♗g4 ♗g8 15 ♙c4 ♗c5 16 ♗h5



16...fxe5 17 fxe5 ♗xe5 18 ♗xc8+ ♖axc8 19 ♗xe5 ♗xb2 20 0-0 ♗xc2 21 ♙g5+ ♗d7 22 ♙xe6+ ♗xe6 23 ♖f7+ ♗c6 24 ♗xe6+ ♗b5 25 ♖xb7+ ♗c5 26 ♙e7 mate, Cooke – Slade, Turkey Bowl 2015. **2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♗f6 5 0-0 b5 6 ♙b3 ♙e7** I knew this was an inaccurate move order and that 7 d4! was the refutation, but I could not remember the theory and so eventually decided upon playing by the rules (somewhat belatedly) by playing **7 d3**, transposing

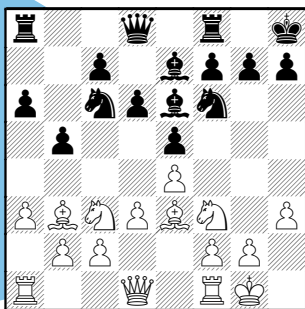
to 6 d3, which I know really well!

7...d6 8 a3 0-0 9 ♖c3 ♙g4 10 ♙e3 Still in theory here, but now Cooke uncorks a Cookey move.

10...♗h8 Trying for ...f5, but I wasn't going to allow this, neither for love nor money.

11 h3! New.

11...♙e6



12 ♙d5! I thought that this was “Giri-like,” but actually, there was an amazing resource that I had overlooked, or, at least, it was amazing for me! :) 12 ♙d5!!± ♙xd5 13 exd5!!± I find this the real star move, recapturing with the pawn and blocking in the light squared bishop! But White will play c3, ♙c2, and maybe d4 and everything is alright.

12...♙xd5 13 exd5 ♖b8 13...b4! It's amazing what you miss... 14 dxc6 bxc3 15 bxc3 ♗e8 and the position is only equal because of the weak c6-pawn and undeveloped pieces.

14 d4 ♖bd7 15 ♙e1 ♖g8 16 ♖e4 Stopping ...f5, but embarrassingly completely overlooking 16...h6.

17 dxe5 dxe5 18 b4 ♖gf6 Clever; he knows he can't caveman me.

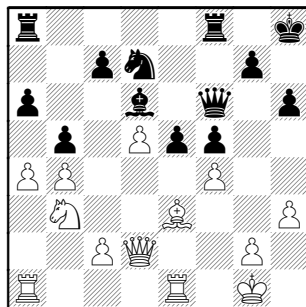
19 ♖xf6 (=) Dammit! Too relaxed and full of myself here. Needed to be more vigilant, and then I would have earned my draw for the team efficiently and with peace of mind. Stockfish says it is not even that bad.

19...♙xf6 20 ♖d2 Played after a long “think.” I was very annoyed with myself, telling myself what an idiot I was, but I

pulled myself together in time.

20...♙e7 Happy to see this; I was scared of 20...e4.

21 ♖b3 f5 22 f4 ♙d6 23 ♗d2 ♗f6 24 a4



Getting into time trouble now. And time trouble here is a LOT different from time trouble in the UK. Here, there is no thirty-second increment. Instead, we have a five-second delay. “What on earth is that?!” I hear you ask. “That” is: when I hit my clock, my opponent's clock does not start ticking for five seconds. The idea of this is to give each player sufficient time to record his move. However, when EITHER player gets down to less than five minutes, BOTH players can stop recording...

24...♗ae8 25 ♖c5 ♖b6 26 a5 ♖c4 27 ♗f2 ♖g8 27...♖xe3! 28 ♗xe3 exf4 29 ♗d2 ♙xc5+ 30 bxc5 ♙e3±

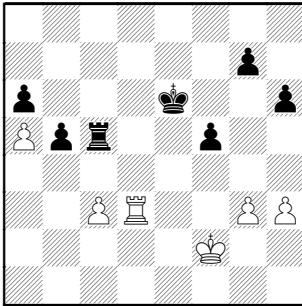
28 ♖d7 ♗f7 29 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 30 fxe5 ♖xe5 31 ♙c5 Now I enter swindle/beast mode!

31...♙xd5 32 ♙xd6 ♗xd6 33 ♖xe5 ♗xe5 34 ♙e1 ♗d5 35 ♗c5!= ♗d2 36 ♙e7 36 ♙f1 was much better and maybe I can even ethically make a draw, but I was too emotional/excited.

36...♗c1+ 37 ♖h2 ♗f4+ 38 ♖g1 ♖d8 Strong play from Cooke, making me earn my salt.

39 ♙e1 ♖h7 40 ♙f1 Admitting my error. 40...♗d4+ 41 ♗xd4 ♖xd4 42 c3 “Come on! Let's hold this!” I was thinking to myself.

42...♙c4 43 ♖f3 ♖g6 44 ♖f2 ♖f6 45 g3 ♖e6 46 ♖d3 c5 47 bxc5 ♖xc5

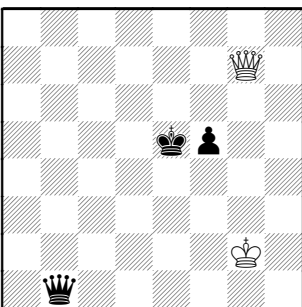


48 ♔f3 I touched my king to play 48 ♔e3, then realized 48...♗d5 wins for him. Gotta be careful! Then played it to f3 – no harm was done.

48...g5 49 h4 gxh4 50 gxh4 ♖c4 51 ♔g3 ♔e5 52 h5 ♗a4 53 ♗d8 ♗xa5 54 ♗h8 Now I had very little time (seconds) to his enormous, in comparison, time advantage (at least twenty minutes). However, I schooled him in this ending, even with less time and fewer years. Do not mess with me in the ending! :) 54...♗a3 55 ♗xh6 ♗xc3+ 56 ♔g2 ♗c7 57 ♗xa6 ♗b7 58 h6 b4 Thought I was dead lost here but then came up with an ingenious save.

59 ♗g6 Both of us stared at this position in disbelief, knowing that it should be a draw, but how has this happened?! Probably 56...♗c7 was a bit hasty.

59...b3 60 ♗g7 ♗xg7+ = 60...♗b8 61 h7 b2 62 ♗g8 61 hxg7 b2 62 g8 ♖ b1 ♖ 63 ♖g7+



I kept on checking him for ages. I think we must have literally played this endgame

for thirty or maybe even forty moves. If he won, then we would tie the match 2-2, but if I drew then we would sneak it at 2½-1½ and progress to the final round with a real shot at winning something. His team was very unbalanced because he was by far the highest rated player in it, so you could tell that he really wanted to win. I was not writing down the moves at this point (since I only had literally four seconds – plus the five-second delay), so I could not claim any draws. Also, his time was merrily ticking down from twenty minutes right down, as it turned out, to almost ten seconds. According to a spectator, we repeated the position with my queen on c5 and his king on e5 four times apparently, but I could not claim anything because I was not recording. I was frustrated but concentrated. If I drew we would win the match and have a shot at the U1800 trophy, but if I lost then I would disappoint the onlooking team that I wanted to impress...

63...♔f4 64 ♖g3+ ♔e4 65 ♗f3+ ♔d4 66 ♗f2+ And then, unbelievably... 66...♔d3?? 67 ♗xf5+ ♔c3 68 ♗xb1 The only thing that can explain my emotional state is that it was just like...



...Arsenal's Mesut Ozil after scoring a winning goal!

RAPIDPLAY CHESS

Where anything can happen!

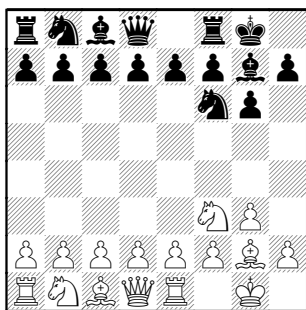
International Arbiter and Organiser Adam Raof runs a great many excellent tournaments throughout the year, among them the regular Golders Green rapidplays in North London, which are always a pleasure to play in – win or lose.

The following games may be regarded as typical of the thrills and spills players can expect from rapidplay chess, where amateurs can meet – and even beat! – grandmasters.

Donatus JATAUTIS –
Alexander CHERNIAEV

Golders Green Rapidplay 2016

1 ♖f3 ♗f6 2 g3 g6 3 ♙g2 ♙g7 4 0-0 0-0
5 ♜e1



An unusual move by my Lithuanian opponent, but not bad at all.

5...♗c6 6 e4 d6 This is not an outright mistake but 6...e5 was simple and strong.

By GM Alexander Cherniaev



GM Alexander Cherniaev is a regular participant in Adam Raof's rapidplay tournaments in north London. Photo by Brendan O'Gorman

7 d4 ♙g4 I knew ...♙g4 was not a very good idea and 7...e5 was still correct. Now it's possible for White to exchange queens – just what I didn't want.

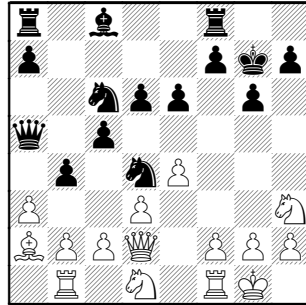
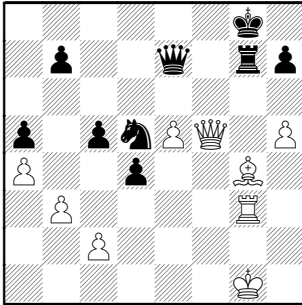
8 h3 ♙xf3 9 ♙xf3 e5 10 dxe5 ♗xe5
11 ♙g2 ♜e8 12 ♗c3 c6 13 a4 a5 14 b3
♞c7 15 ♙a3 This is an interesting plan, but I prefer the more usual 15 f4 ♗ed7 16 ♙e3 with the advantage.

15...♞ad8

16 ♞d2 16 f4 can be met by 16...♞b6+ 17 ♗h1 ♗ed7 18 ♞xd6 (18 ♙xd6 ♗h5) 18...♞f2!?

16...♙f8 17 f4 Perhaps 17 ♞ad1!?

17...♗ed7 18 ♗h2 ♗b6 19 ♞f2 d5
20 ♙xf8 ♞xf8 21 e5 ♗fd7 22 ♜e2 ♞de8
23 ♞ae1 ♗c8 From here I stopped writing down the moves because I was in acute time trouble. And after many moves, we arrived at this position:



Visualising this position in advance, I was planning ...c8h8, but at the last moment I saw the combination ♖c8+ ♜g8; ♜xg8+ ♙e6+ followed by ♜g8 mate. So I played ...b6. My opponent replied ♙g2 and here I finely blundered with ...f5; ♜e6+ and White won the game but even without the blunder I think I was losing anyway.

15 f4?? A very serious blunder. Immediately after playing 15 f4 I saw why! After 15 ♖e3 b3 16 ♜xa5 ♖xa5 17 cxb3 ♖axb3, Black is better but at least not winning in a few moves. Of course I was on bad form that day...

15...bxa3?? 15...b3 wins at once! Then 16 ♜xa5 bxa2 wins material.

16 c3 ♜b8 17 b3 ♙a6 This is a mistake. 17...f5 was far stronger.

18 ♜f2 ♖b5 19 f5 Now White has obtained the initiative on the kingside.

19...exf5 20 exf5 f6 21 ♖f4 ♖c7 22 ♖e3 ♖e5 23 h4 ♜be8 24 b4 cxb4 25 ♜xb4 d5 26 d4 Around here we were both short of time.

I should also mention that my opponent turned up about 10-15 minutes late for this game!

26...c6 26...c4 was a better try.

27 ♜b1 ♖e7 28 ♜a1 This is the deep and a very strong idea. The point is to bring the bishop into action. Also White wants to keep an eye on Black's passed pawn and prevent his rook from becoming active.

28...b8 29 ♙b1 ♜b3 30 ♖d1 Another backward move by White, but it is a good one.

30...f8 31 ♙c2 ♜3b6 32 f6 g6 h6 33 ♜e3

Alexander CHERNIAEV — John PIGOTT

Golders Green Rapidplay 2016

1 e4 c5 2 a3 A rarely played move but in my opinion it's better than it looks.

2...g6 Theory recommends this reply, but I think 2...c6, or even 2...e6, is stronger.

3 ♙c4 I believe this is the best way to go for White. For instance 3.h4 can be met by 3...d5!?

3...c6 The most accurate move. If 3...g7, then 4 ♜f3 e6 5 d3 ♖c6 6 ♖e2 ♖ge7 7 ♖bc3, with the idea of ♙a2 and h4 can be unpleasant for Black.

4 ♖c3 ♙g7 5 d3 d6 6 ♙a2 e6 6...f6 can be met by 7 f4!?

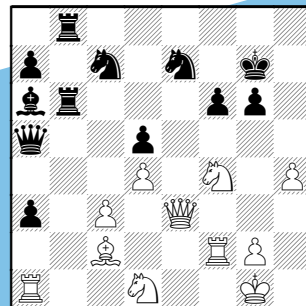
7 ♙e3 ♖ge7 8 ♜d2 I think I should have played 8 ♖ge2 first.

8...d4 9 ♜b1 This is too slow. Still 9 ♖ge2 was better.

9...a5 A good reaction by Black.

10 ♖h3 This is too risky. 10 ♖ge2 was correct but it does not promise the knight any great future.

10...b5 11 0-0 b4 12 ♖d1 ♖ec6 13 ♙h6 0-0 14 ♙xg7 ♙xg7



Now Black is helpless against White's attack.
 33...♖e8 34 ♗g3 f5 35 h5 ♔c4 36 hxg6 ♖h8
 37 ♗g5 ♜f6 38 ♘h5+ ♜xh5 39 ♗xh5 ♘xg6
 40 ♜xf5 1-0

Final scores in the February Golders Green Rapidplay Open were GM Jahongir Vakhidov 6/6 (£100); FM Jovica Radovanovic 4½ (£50); GM Alexander Cherniaev, Donatas Jatautis, Michael Healey, Akito Oyama 4. Taran Jina 3½ won the Under 2000 prize (£30).

CAN YOU FIND THE CHECKMATE IN 25 MOVES?

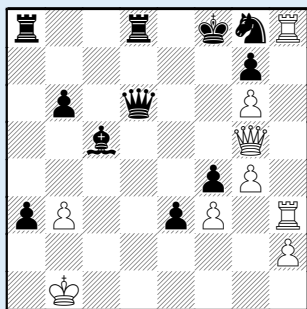
by Richard Guerrero

www.ajedrezespectacular.com

Based on the game...

Westler — Krejcik

Vienna 1913



White to play and mate in 25 moves

Solution on page 251.

Starring Markus Ragger

Ever since it was first published way back in 1915, the spy thriller *The Thirty Nine Steps*, has been adapted for stage and screen over and over again, thereby making its principal character, Richard Hannay, effectively the rightful forerunner of James Bond himself. We might also mention that the show is currently on tour in the UK, after closing a nine year run at the Criterion theatre, in London's Piccadilly Circus. Readers interested in chess history might recall that the Criterion was the venue for the mighty London Tournament of 1883, sensationally won by Zukertort – who also had a great run, scoring 22 points from 26 games and outdistancing his rivals by a full three points!

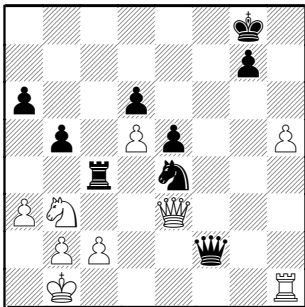
Anyway, back to the present, in Gibraltar we were treated to a chessic version of *The Thirty Nine Steps*, featuring a fresh adaption by Austrian grandmaster Markus Ragger, presently the world's highest rated player under 2700, who won each of his first four games in precisely 39 moves! And if that wasn't enough, after an interval of just one round he then proceeded to make a diamond-cut-diamond draw with the eventual winner of the tournament, Hikaru Nakamura – again in 39 moves.

Here is how the story unfolds...

THE THIRTY NINE STEPS

Paul ZWAHR — Markus RAGGER

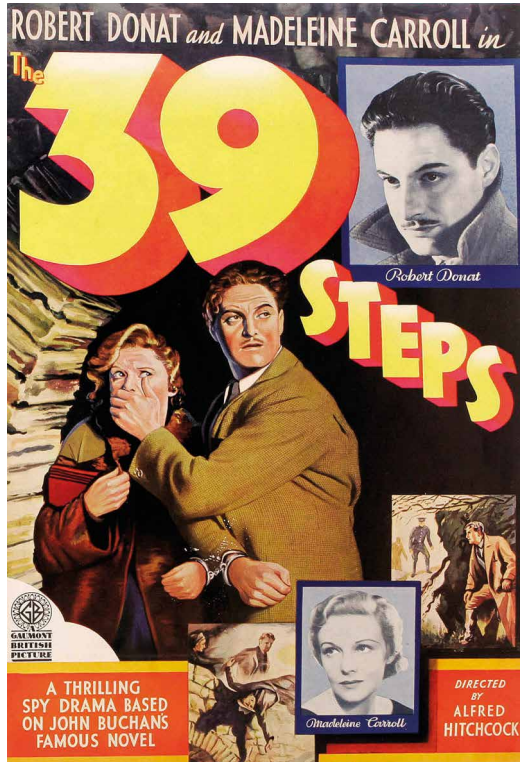
Round 1, Tradewise Gibraltar 2016



In the aftermath of a strategically finely-played Sicilian Defence, Ragger has just played $\dots\♖f2$, confident that after an exchange of queens, he will pick off White's lonely pawns on d5 and h5. So White declined the offer by **31 ♖d3**. Indeed $31 \♗xf2 \♜xf2$ $32 \♞f1 \♞f4$ $33 \♜a5 \♜e4$ leads to a lost endgame for White. **31...♜g3** **32 ♞h3** Though this attacks the hostile knight, White's rook gets into serious trouble on this square. However, upon $32 \♞c1 e4$ $33 \♗d2 \♗xd2$ $34 \♜xd2 \♞d4$ White will undoubtedly still lose those far advanced pawns.

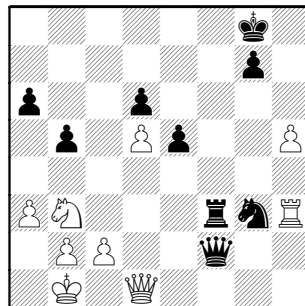
32...♜g4 **33 ♗d1** If $33 h6 \♗g2$ and Black wins the hemmed in rook, whereupon $34 \♞xg3 \♞xg3$ $35 \♗f5$ can be met by $35...♗h3$ consolidating his material advantage.

33...♜f4 A decisive relocation of the rook.



$34...♗g2$ is again threatened. Of course not an immediate $34...♗g2$ because of $\♗xg4$.

34 ♗d3 Renewing the attack on the black knight, which Black covers with **34...♞f3**, after which White hoped to keep the enemy queen tied to the defence of the rook by playing **35 ♗d1**.



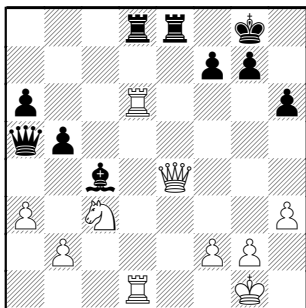
But Black could now have played 35...♖xb3 so that 36 cxb3 ♖f5+ regains the rook with a knight interest, and upon 37 ♖e6+ he has nothing to fear after 37...♖f7 38 h6 gxh6 39 ♖xh6 ♖xe6 40 dx6 ♗e4 – with a sure win. However Ragger preferred 35...♖g2 upon which White tried the deflection 36 ♖h2 If 36 ♗c1 Black replies 36...♖f4 trapping the rook on h3, but not 36...♖f1 37 ♖xg3 which wins for White.

36...♖f1 Better than 36...♖xh2 37 ♖xf3 ♗xh5 which is however also decisive.

37 ♖xg2 ♖xd1+ 38 ♖a2 ♗xh5 39 ♖d2 ♖e1 The 39th step: Now the e-pawn will advance to victory. **0-1**

Markus RAGGER – Justin TAN

Round 2, Tradewise Gibraltar 2016



Here, to make progress, White proceeded to attack the a6 pawn by 26 ♖c6 ♖c8 27 ♖b7 but then realised he could not capture it by 27 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 28 ♖xa6 because of 28...b4! winning a piece.

27...♖c7 After 27...♖a8 28 ♖b6 ♖h7 29 ♖dd6 continues to target the a6 pawn.

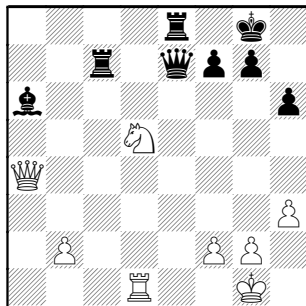
28 ♖xa6 A desperado – both queens are en prise!

28...♖xa3 Desperado meets desperado. If 28...♖xb7 29 ♖xa5 wins a pawn.

29 ♖xb5 Yet another desperado. 29 bxa3 ♖xb7 keeps material level.

29...♖e7 If 29...♗xb5 to defend the rook on e8 then again 30 bxa3, leaving White a pawn up.

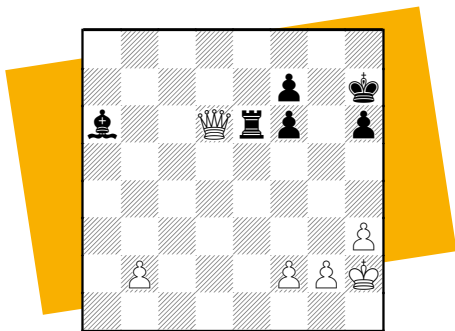
30 ♖a4 ♗xa6 31 ♗d5



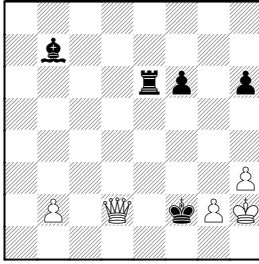
The point. Black is temporarily a rook up but all his pieces are hanging.

31...♖d7 31...♖e4 32 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 33 ♗xc7 leaves White a passed pawn up, but there is still a long way to go to score the full point after 33...♗c4. And if 31...♖f8 32 ♗xc7 ♗e2 33 ♗xe8 ♗xd1 34 ♗f6+ gxf6 35 ♖xd1 with a winning queen and pawn endgame.

32 ♗f6+ gxf6 33 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 34 ♖xd7 ♖e1+ 35 ♖h2 ♖g7 36 ♖g4+ ♖h7 37 ♖b4 ♖e2 38 ♖d6 ♖e6



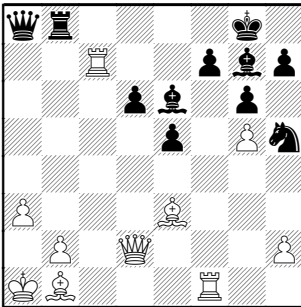
39 ♖f8 1-0 Black resigned as on the 39th step he realised Black's queen will easily show its superiority over his rook and bishop. For example: 39...♖g6 40 ♖g8+ ♖f5 (If 40...♖h5 41 ♖g4 mate) 41 ♖xf7 ♗c4 42 ♖h5+ ♖e4 43 ♖c5 ♗d3 44 ♖b4 ♗d5 45 ♖c3+ ♖e2 46 ♖c2+ ♖e1 47 ♖c5 47...♗b7 (47...♖e5 48 f4 ♖e4 49 ♖xd5 wins) 48 ♖c1+ ♖xf2 49 ♖d2+



49...♙f1 (If 49...♞e2 50 ♞f4+ ♔e1 51 ♞c1+ ♔f2 52 ♞g1 mate) 50 ♔g3 ♞e2 51 ♞f4+ ♔f3 52 ♞c1+ ♞e1 53 ♞d2 ♞e2 54 ♞d1+ ♞e1 55 ♞xf3+ ♔g1 56 ♞f2+ ♔h1 57 ♞xe1 mate.

Prasana VISHNU – Markus RAGGER

Round 3, Tradewise Gibraltar 2016



Ragger has sacrificed the exchange for two connected central passed pawns and open lines – along which he can attack the white king.

30...♞f4 31 ♞a7 Surrendering his two bishops and losing control of the dark squares by 31 ♔xf4? is not advisable, e.g. 31...exf4 (threatening ...♞xa3+) 32 ♞c3 ♞a5 33 ♞ff3 ♞xg5 and Black will regain the exchange and win with his kingside pawns, e.g. 34 ♞xd6 ♞b5 35 ♞d2 ♔e5 36 ♔a2 ♔xc3 37 ♞xc3 ♔xa2 38 ♔xa2 ♞e5 39 ♞f3 g5 40 ♞d3 ♞e8.

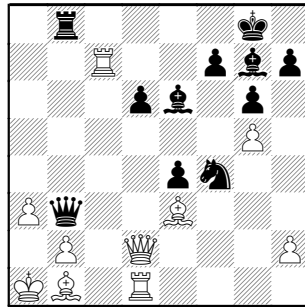
31...♞c6 32 ♞c1 ♞d5 33 ♞d1? He had to play 33 ♞c3 to cover the b3 square and shield his king, so vulnerable on the long a1-h8 diagonal. Then, in addition to

33...♞xd2 34 ♔xd2 ♞d5, he has a promising queen trade for rook and bishop which offers him dangerous compensation after 33...♞b5 34 ♞a5 ♞xa5 35 ♞c8+ ♞xc8 36 ♞xa5 ♞d5 etc.

33...♞b3! A winning incursion.

34 ♞c7 After 34 ♞c1 ♞d5 35 ♔g1 e4 36 ♞c2 e3 37 ♞c1 ♔f5 38 ♞e2 ♞f4 the black pieces come raining down on White's position.

34...e4



Threatening not only to take the b2 pawn but also to play ...♞xa3+ because of the pinned b2 pawn.

35 ♞c3 ♔xc3 36 ♞xc3 If 36 bxc3 ♞xa3+ 37 ♔a2 ♞xa2 38 ♞xa2 ♞xc3+ mating.

36...♞xd1 37 ♔xf4 ♞f3 38 ♞d2 If instead 38 ♞xf3 exf3 and the black rook invades and assists the advance of his passed f-pawn.

38...♞e8 39 ♞xd6 39 ♔e3 d5 or 39...♞c8 40 ♞d4 ♔b3.

39...e3 The 39th step – a small step for the e-pawn but a giant step for Ragger in clinching his third consecutive victory.

0-1

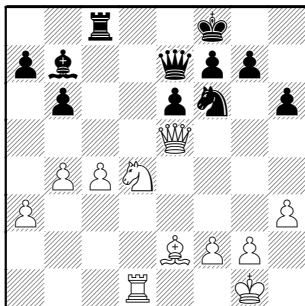
White resigned since if now 40 ♞e5 e2 41 ♔g3 ♞f1 42 h4 (42 b3 ♞c8 43 ♞b2 ♔f5 wins) 42...♞c8 43 ♞a5 ♔f5 44 ♔e1 ♞f4 45 ♔xf5 gxf5 46 ♔a2 ♞c4+ 47 ♔b1 ♞d3+ 48 ♔a2 ♞c1 49 ♞d2 (49 h5 ♞c4+ 50 b3 ♞c2 mate) 49...♞c4+ 50 b3 ♞c2+ wins.

And so on to Round Four when Ragger faced another strong opponent who eventually won a prize for the best score made by a woman in the tournament.

After a rugged Slav Defence the following tightly-knit position was reached.

Markus RAGGER – Anna MUZYCHUK

Round 4, Tradewise Gibraltar 2016



Markus Ragger – Step by step on the path to elite grandmasterdom.
Photo by Harald Fietz

22...a6 But this move should be questioned, as it weakens both the a- and b-pawns. Better was **22...♙a6** to meet **23 ♖b5** with **23...♗d7 24 ♜d4 ♙xb5 25 cxb5**.

23 ♖b3 ♗d7 24 ♜e3 ♜c7 25 ♙f3 ♙xf3 26 ♜xf3

Threatening ♜a8+ winning the a6 pawn.

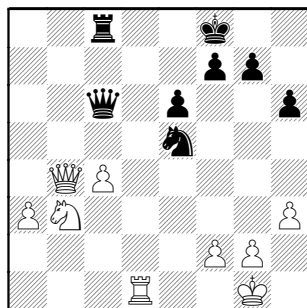
26...a5 26...♞xc4 27 ♜b7 ♙e8 28 ♜xa6 ♜h4 29 ♜a4 ♜d8 30 ♗d4 ♞c8 31 ♗c6 ♜c7 32 ♗e5 ♞d8 33 ♗xd7 ♞xd7 34 ♜b5 winning the b6 pawn and remaining with two connected passed pawns.

27 bxa5 bxa5 28 ♗xa5 ♜c5 Envisaging a recovery of the c4 pawn due to White's precariously placed defending knight.

29 ♜a8+ ♞c8 30 ♜b7 ♗e5 31 ♗b3 ♜c6 After **31...♜xc4**, **32 ♞c1** wins either the queen or the rook. We also see how valuable it is to create a flight square for the castled king, i.e. by the h2-h3 move that was made ten moves ago!

32 ♜b4+ After **32 ♜xc6 ♞xc6 33 c5 ♞a6** the game is still not won for White, so Ragger keeps queens on the board.

32 ♜b4+ After **32 ♜xc6 ♞xc6 33 c5 ♞a6** the game is still not won for White, so Ragger keeps queens on the board.



32...♙g8 32...♙e8 33 c5 ♜c7 (33...♞d8 34 ♞xd8+ ♙xd8 35 ♜b8+ ♙e7 36 ♜xe5 wins) **34 ♜e4 ♙f8 35 ♞c1 (35 ♜h7 is met by ♗g6)** **35...♗c6 36 ♗d4** and White makes progress towards the pushing of the c-pawn.

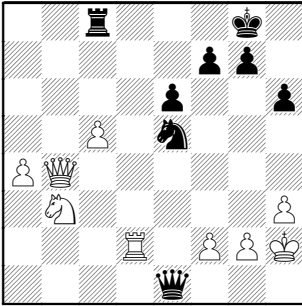
33 c5 ♜a6 34 a4 ♜e2 34...♗c6 35 ♜b5 ♜a8 36 ♞d6 ♗e5 37 a5 and the pawns move on without any serious counterplay by Black, e.g. **37...♜e4 38 a6 ♜e1+ 39 ♜f1**.

35 ♞d2 More active than the safer looking **35 ♞f1**.

35...♜e1+ 36 ♙h2 Threatening ♞d8+ winning the queen.

Markus RAGGER – Hikaru NAKAMURA

Round 6, Tradewise Gibraltar 2016

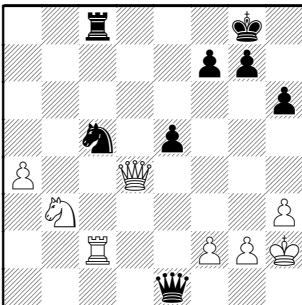


36...♖d3 Upon 36...♖f8 follows 37 a5 ♗c6 38 ♖a4 and the further advance of the a-pawn. But Anna Muzychuk prefers to go down fighting.

37 ♖d4 ♗xc5 37...♖e5+ 38 ♖xe5 ♗xe5 39 a5 ♗f8 40 a6 ♖a8 41 ♖d6 ♗e7 42 ♗d4 and the white knight will enter decisively either on b5 or c6, after driving away its black counterpart with f2-f4.

38 ♖c2 38 ♗xc5 ♖xc5 39 ♖xc5 ♖xd2 40 a5 is also winning for White, although Black has at least equalised the pawns.

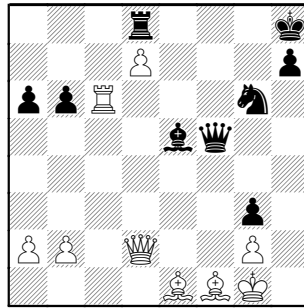
38...e5



39 ♖e3 The 39th step! 1-0

If 39...♖xe3 40 fxe3 wins the pinned knight. 39...♖d1 40 ♖xc5 ♖b8 41 ♖b5 also wins for White.

The more 39-movers he won, the tougher the opposition Ragger faced. And they don't get much tougher than Hikaru Nakamura, whom he encountered in Round 6.



The American champion had been playing in his customary sharp style. But Ragger knows his opening theory and matched his famous opponent blow for blow. In this position he played 37 ♖c8! and after 37...♖xc8, instead of recapturing the rook at once, he continued with the surprising 38 ♖d3! since if 38...♖xd3 39 dxc8♖+ ♗g7 40 ♗xd3 wins.

So Nakamura played 38...♖f8 and after 39 dxc8♖ ♖xc8 just in the nick of time, on the 39th step a draw was agreed, since 40 ♗xg3 ♗xb2 41 ♗f2 41 ♖xa6 ♖c5+ 42 ♗f2 ♗d4 43 ♗xd4+ ♖xd4+ 44 ♗h1 ♖h4+ 45 ♗g1 ♖d4+ leads to a perpetual check.

At the halfway stage of the tournament Markus Ragger was actually in the joint lead, but he eventually fell back to 9th position after further draws against very strong opponents, such Etienne Bacrot and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, and was unable to climb higher up those 39 steps...

As a final word we note that in the live ratings for early April, Ragger – yes, you guessed it – is ranked 39th in the world!

QUOTES AND QUERIES

By Alan Smith

6056 Cases of mistaken identity are all too common in the chess world. An early example is the case of the two Dufresnes. The two were contemporaries, Jean was born in Berlin in 1829, Gustav a year later in the Netherlands. They were both strong enough to defeat the redoubtable Adolf Anderssen.

Jean is chiefly remembered as the loser of the Evergreen Game, but he won a tournament at the Berlin Chess Club in 1853, ahead of Karl Mayet and Max Lange, then defeated Mayet in a match the following year. Gustav was active in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Batavia then Liverpool. He defeated Amos Burn on equal terms and played board 4 for Lancashire in the first county match. Both were partial to the Evans Gambit.

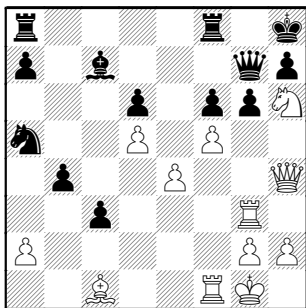
G. DUFRESNE – T. GRUBE

Liverpool – Manchester 1872

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♙c5 4 b4 ♙xb4
5 c3 ♙c5 6 d4 exd4 7 0–0 d6 8 cxd4 ♙b6
9 d5 ♘a5 10 ♙b2 f6 11 ♙d3 ♘e7 12 ♘c3
0–0 13 ♘e2 ♘g6 14 ♘g3 ♘e5 In another
game between the two, Grube tried 14...c5
15 ♖c1 ♙d7 16 ♘f5 ♙xf5 17 exf5 ♘e5 but
lost in 25 moves.

15 ♘h4 c5 Black's pawn majority counts
for little until the endgame.

16 ♖c1 ♘xd3 17 ♗xd3 ♙c7 18 ♘gf5 c4
19 ♗g3 ♙xf5 20 ♘xf5 ♗d7 21 ♖c3 b5
22 ♗g4 ♘h8 23 ♖g3 g6 24 ♗h4 ♗f7
25 ♘h6 ♗g7 26 f4 b4 27 f5 c3 28 ♙c1



28...♘c4 Amos Burn suggested 28...g5 as
an improvement, but the outcome is still in
the balance after 29 ♗h5 ♗e7 30 h4 ♗e8
31 ♗xe8 ♖ae8 32 hxg5.

29 fxg6 hxg6 30 ♖h3 ♗h7 31 ♗g4 a5
32 ♘f5 gxh5 33 ♖xh7+ ♘xh7 34 ♖xf5 1-0

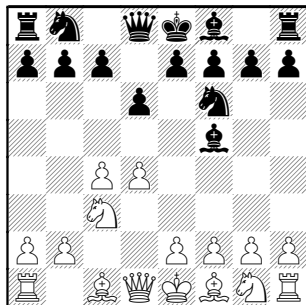
*The notes to this game are taken from
Liverpool Weekly Albion 30th November 1872*

There was confusion between two players with
similar names in the early 20th century. E.E.
Colman played varsity chess for Cambridge
University, then took up a post in Singapore.
He is the subject of Olimpiu Urcau's book
Surviving Changi, which covers his invention
of the Colman Variation of the Two Knight's
Defence. At the same time there was a
West Australian player E.A.Coleman. State
champion in 1920, he also was responsible
for inventing a variation, but his authorship of
3...♙f5 in the Old Indian has been forgotten.

Rev S.S. BULLEN – E.A. COLEMAN

West Australia championship 1917

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 d6 3 ♘c3 3 ♘f3 ♙f5 was
first played five years later. 3...♙f5



4 e3 4 ♘f3 transposes into Grunfeld – Reti, Bad

Pistyva 1922, which continued 4...h6 5 g3 c6 6 g2 c8 7 h3 b7 8 d2 e5 9 d5 e7 10 e4 h7 and Reti went on to win in 26 moves, a game which won one of the brilliancy prizes. 4...b7 5 e2 5 d3 xd3 6 xd3 e5 7 d2 g6 8 ge2 g7 was tried in Younkman – Coleman, Albany 1920. Black won in 26 moves.

5...e5 6 dxe5 xe5 7 f3 c6 8 0-0 e7 9 g5? d7 10 f3 0-0 11 e4 e6 12 e1 f5 13 d3 fe4 14 xe4 de5 15 xe5 xe5 16 f4 xd3 17 xe6 xf4 18 e1 g6 19 d5+ f7 20 xb7 e5 21 b3? White's game rapidly goes downhill after this. White is fine after the simple 21 e4. 21...c6! 22 b2? 22 a6 is mandatory. 22...h4 23 a6 xe1 24 xel d3 25 b1 e7 26 d1? In trying to escape further material loss White overlooked a mate on the move. 26...e1 mate. 0-1

Victoria Weekly Times 10th November 1917

If you believe what the old 4NCL bulletins tell you, then Andy Smith played for two teams at the same time during a weekend at Wigan in 1997. In fact Andy only played for Slough and your columnist was the player representing North West Eagles.

6057 The most common cases of mistaken identity concern the Laskers, Berthold, his brother Emanuel and their distant relation Edward. All three lived in Berlin, London and New York. All three were at some stage of their lives referred to as Dr Lasker. Berthold was a physician, while Emanuel and Edward were awarded doctorates for their academic efforts. Berthold Lasker may not have been at quite the same level as the other two, but he was of genuine master class. He had the distinction of sharing first prize with his brother at Berlin 1890. He scored +5 = 1 - 1 and drew their playoff game. Here is an example of his play:

Dr Berthold LASKER – Horacio CARO

Berlin 1890

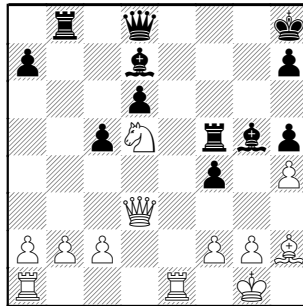
1 e4 e5 2 f3 c6 3 b5 d6 4 d4 exd4 5 xd4 d7 6 c3 f6 7 0-0 e7 8 xc6

9 xc4 0-0 10 d3 h8 11 h3 c5 12 f4 h5 13 h2 f5 14 e5 f4 Trying to block White's bishop out of the game.

15 d5! b8 16 f3 g6 17 xh5 gxh5 18 exd6 cxd6 There is a case for 18...xd6!?

which keeps White's bishop quiet. 19 d5 g5 19...xb2 is inferior on account of 20 xf4.

20 fe1 f5 21 h4



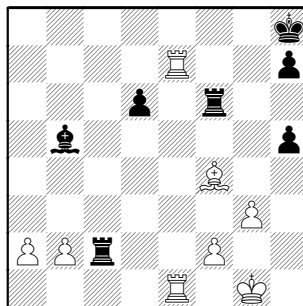
21...c4 This costs a pawn, but Black cannot have liked the look of 21...h6 22 e7 f8 23 c3+ g8 24 f6!.

22 xc4 xh4 23 xf4 f8 24 g3 c8 25 d4+ f6 26 xf6 xf6 27 xf6+ xf6

28 e7 The exchange of queens has not blunted White's edge, he has an extra pawn, the better structure and the safer king.

28...g4 29 xa7 xc2 30 e1 e2 30...e2 is met by 31 xe2 xe2 32 d7 which wins a second pawn.

31 e7 b5 If 31...g4 then 32 e3 keeps up the pressure.



32 d1! c6 This protects d6 indirectly

because of the weakness of White's back rank. White's reply turns the tables. **33 ♖e5! ♜xf2 33...dxe5 34 ♜d8+.**

34 ♜xf6+ ♜xf6 35 ♜f1 ♜xf1+ 36 ♜xf1 ♜g8 37 ♜f2 ♜b5 38 ♜e3 1-0

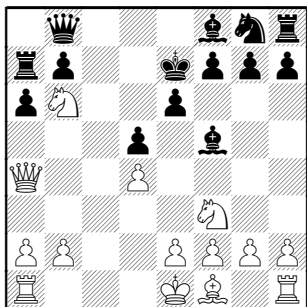
Deutsche Schachzeitung August 1890

Incidentally, in the same event Horatio Caro defeated Emanuel Lasker in 14 moves, it proved to be the shortest loss of his tournament and match career.

Horacio CARO – Dr Emanuel LASKER

Berlin 1890

1 ♜f3 d5 2 d4 ♜f5 3 c4 c6 4 ♖b3 ♗c8 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 ♜c3 e6 7 ♜f4 a6 8 ♜a4 ♜a7 9 ♜b6 ♖d8 10 ♜xb8 ♗xb8 11 ♗a4+ ♜e7



12 ♜c1 g5 13 ♜e5 ♜h6 14 ♜c8+ 1-0
Since 14...♜f6 15 ♜d7+ forks king and queen.

By way of a postscript, even as recently as the latest Gibraltar tournament, an English chess reporter confused Anna and Mariya Muzychuk, attributing Anna's win against the strong French grandmaster Laurent Fressinet, to Mariya!

Endgame Studies

Why not try composing a study yourself? With a good program to check your analysis, it's no longer the hard grind it used to be. If you want to have a go, send me your composition and it may appear in BCM. Here are four studies newly composed by BCM readers. Each is White to play and draw.

The first of the two studies by Paul Michelet is an extended version he has made of a study of his which appeared in *Correspondence Chess* magazine last year. The solution is **1 ♜d2 ♜xd2 2 ♜e7 e1 ♖+ 3 ♜xe1 ♜xe1+ 4 ♜h3 b2 5 ♜a4 b1 ♖ 6 ♜c2+ ♗xc2** stalemate. If 2...b2 3 ♜d7+ ♜g5 4 ♜e5+ ♜f6 5 ♜xe2 b1 ♖ 6 ♜xd2 draws. If White tries 1 ♜e7, Black doesn't play 1...e1 ♖+, but instead will queen his b-pawn after 1...b2 and that looks winning but it's not completely clear, so if any reader would like to analyse that line in detail I'd be pleased to see your conclusions.

The second Michelet study solves by **1 ♜xh7 ♜xh7 2 ♜a4 e3 3 ♜xc2 e2 4 ♜d1**, with two underpromotion lines: **4...e1 ♜ 5 ♜a4** and **4...e1 ♜ 5 ♜h5 ♜c2 6 ♜e2**. After the knight promotion, it looks as if 5 ♜e2 would work, but after 5...♜c2 we would reach a position of zugzwang – after White moves his bishop, the knight will be able to travel to a square from which it can threaten two mates at once. So instead White first goes to h5 and only after 5...♜c2 does he play 6 ♜e2 which transfers the zugzwang to Black, who has to release the White king or allow ♜d1. This is an outstanding composition – White sacrifices both his pieces, Black underpromotes twice, to two different pieces, and there is a reciprocal zugzwang to finish. All that from a position with only two bishops and a knight.

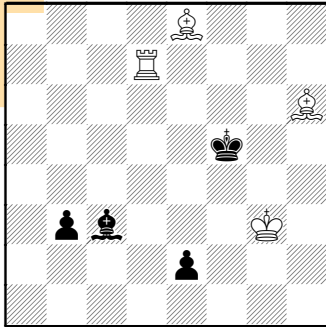
Now test your solving skills on the two studies by Paul Byway. Six moves to find in the first and seven moves in the second. No other clues, because neither is difficult!

Solutions on page 248

YOUR OWN COMPOSITIONS!

by Ian Watson

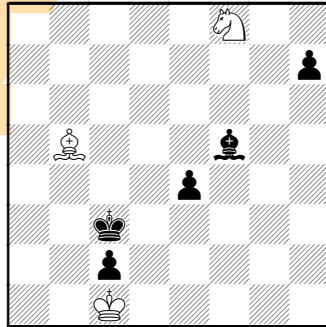
ian@irwatson.demon.co.uk



P Michelet

Original composition

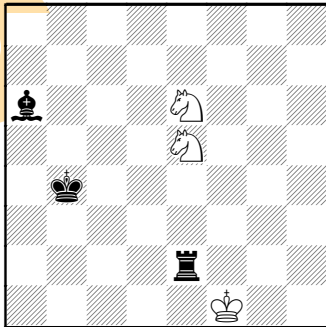
DRAW



P. Michelet

Original composition

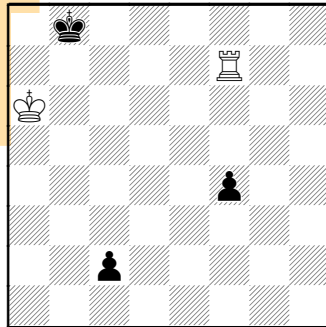
DRAW



P. Byway

Original composition

DRAW



P. Byway

Original composition

DRAW

Endgame Studies Solutions

(See page 247)

3 **Byway:** 1 ♖d3+ ♙xd3
2 ♗f4 ♖d2+ 3 ♗e1 ♗c3
4 ♗d5+ ♗c2 5 ♗b4+
♗c1 6 ♗a2+ ♖xa2
stalemate. White sacrifices
both his knights.

1 ♗c7? ♖xe5+ 2 ♗xa6+ ♗b5
3 ♗c7+ ♗b6 4 ♗a8+ ♗b7. In the
main line, 2...♖e3+ 3 ♗f2 draws, and
there are also 5 ♗e3+ ♗c1 winning,
5...♗c3 6 ♗d5+ repetition and
6...♗c2 7 ♗b4+ repetition. This study
is a correct setting of an unsound
study by CM Bent.

4 **Byway:** 1 ♖b7+ ♗c8
2 ♖b5 c1♖ 3 ♖f5 ♖f1
4 ♗b5 ♗d7 5 ♗c4 ♗e6
6 ♖f8 ♖f3 7 ♗d4 and
Black cannot make
progress (e.g. 7...♗e7
8 ♗e4). White threatens to sacrifice
his rook and Black responds with an
underpromotion to a rook.
1 ♖f8+? ♗c7 2 ♖f7+ ♗d6 3 ♖f6+
♗d5 4 ♖f5+ ♗e4 5 ♖c5 ♗d3
6 ♖d5+ ♗c4 7 ♖d8 f3 8 ♖c8+ ♗b3
9 ♖b8+ ♗a3 10 ♖c8 f2 wins. In the
main line, if Black promotes to a
queen, then of course 3 ♖c5+ ♖xc5
stalemate. There are also 3...♖c4
4 ♗b5 ♖e4 5 ♗c6 ♗d8 6 ♗d5 ♖a4
7 ♗e5 drawing, and 4...f3 5 ♗c4 f2
6 ♗d3 ♖d1+ 7 ♗e2 drawing. This
study is an extension of a study by
E.B. Cook, which was first published
in 1864(!).



by Christopher Jones

Grandmaster of
Chess Composition

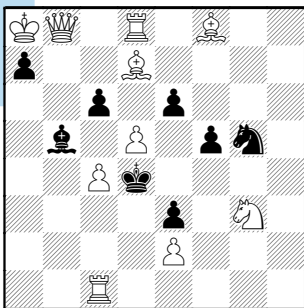
As usual, in order to enjoy
these original problems to the
full it may be best to have a
quick go at solving them, or at
least speculating as to what the
solutions might look like. But
don't feel constrained to do so (in
any problem worth its salt there is
some enjoyment to be had from
just playing through the solution)
and in particular don't get bogged
down in the last one, which may
take even experienced solvers
some time to unravel. Remember
that in helpmates Black
generally plays first, initiating a
collaborative sequence of moves
leading to his being mated. I
say *generally* because when
the stipulation includes a half-
move (as happens in our fourth
problem) it's White who initiates
the sequence – so we look for
what would be a helpmate in 5
preceded by a white move. Also
whilst in introductory mode a
warm welcome to this column to
Yuri and Ioannis!

Solutions are given
on page 254



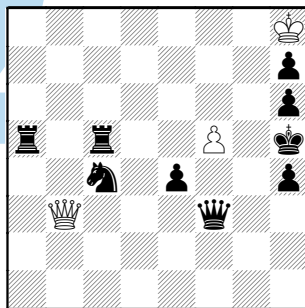
**PROBLEM
WORLD**

1



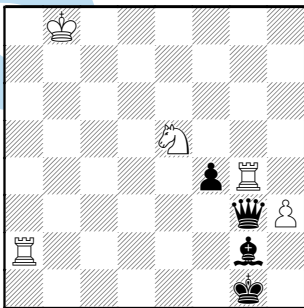
John Rice Surbiton
Mate in 2
ORIGINAL

2



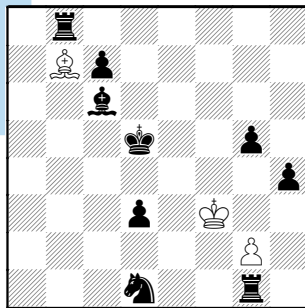
Yuri Belokon Ukraine
Helpmate in 2 - 2 solutions
ORIGINAL

3



Michael McDowell Southend-on-Sea
Helpmate in 2 - 2 solutions
ORIGINAL

4



Ioannis Kalkavouras Greece
Helpmate in 5.5
ORIGINAL

SOLUTIONS TO FIND THE WAY TO WIN

(pages 230-231)

- 1) 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 dxe4 4 ♜xe4 ♜f6 5 ♜xf6+ exf6 6 ♙c4 6 c3 is an alternative. 6...♙e7+ A “trappy” move. 7 ♙e3 7 ♙e2 or 7 ♙e2 should be preferred. *Diagram position.* 7...♙b4+ wins the loose bishop on c4.
- 2) 1 e4 ♜f6 2 e5 ♜d5 3 d4 e6?! 3...d6! and even 3...♜b6!? can be considered. 4 c4 ♙b4+? 4...♜b6 is better. *Diagram position.* 5 ♖e2! Not 5 ♙d2 or 5 ♜d2 as this non-routine move wins a piece! If 5...♜b6 (or 5...♜e7 6 a3 ♙a5 7 b4 ♙b6 8 c5) 6 c5 ♜d5 7 a3 ♙a5 8 b4 etc.
- 3) 1 e4 b6 2 d4 ♙b7 3 ♙d3 f5?! 4 exf5 ♙xg2 5 ♙h5+ g6 6 fxc6 ♜f6?? 6...♙g7! 7 gxh7+ ♜f8 8 ♜f3! is the main line, favouring White. *Diagram position.* 7 gxh7+! ♜xh5 8 ♙g6 mate.
- 4) 1 f4 e5 2 fxe5 d6 3 exd6 ♙xd6 Threatens mate in 3. 4 ♜f3 g5 5 e4? 5 d4 or 5 g3 is usual. 5...g4 6 e5 Better is 6 ♜d4 ♙h4+ 7 ♖e2 g3 – but it’s not appealing for White! 6...gxf3 7 exd6 *Diagram position.* 7...♙h4+! 8 g3 ♙e4+ 9 ♖f2 ♙d4+ 10 ♖e1 Or 10 ♖xf3 ♙g4+. 10...f2+ 11 ♖e2 ♙g4 mate.
- 5) 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♙xd5 3 ♜c3 ♙a5 4 ♜f3 ♙g4?! Better is 4...♜f6. 5 h3 ♙xf3?! 5...♙h5! 6 ♙xf3 ♜c6? 6...c6! 7 ♙b5 ♙b6? *Diagram position.* The damage has already been done but 7...0-0-0 or 7...♙d8 had to be tried. 8 ♜d5! ♙a5 9 b4 winning the queen.
- 6) 1 c4 e5 2 ♜c3 ♜c6 3 g3 ♙c5 4 ♙g2 d6 5 e3 ♜f6 6 ♜ge2 ♙e6?? Better to develop with 6...0-0 or play 6...a6, creating an extra square of retreat for the bishop. *Diagram position.* 7 d4! exd4 8 exd4 ♙b4 9 d5 wins a piece.
- 7) 1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 a6 5 ♙f4?? There were many sound alternatives instead – including 5 ♙d3, 5 ♜c3 and 5 c4. *Diagram position.* 5...e5! 5...♙a5+ 6 ♜c3 e5 fails to 7 ♜b3!. 6 ♙xe5 ♙a5+ 7 ♜c3 ♙xe5 wins.
- 8) 1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 d6 5 d4 5 c3, 5 0-0, 5 ♙xc6+ or 5 c4 are good alternatives. 5...b5 6 ♙b3 ♜xd4 7 ♜xd4 exd4 8 ♙xd4?? Falling for the “Noah’s Ark Trap”. 8 ♙d5 or 8 c3 are better. *Diagram position.* 8...c5! 9 ♙d5 Mate and a rook are threatened but Black has an easy solution. 9...♙e6! 10 ♙c6+ ♙d7 11 ♙d5 c4! wins a bishop.
- 9) 1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 ♜c3 axb5 6 e4 b4 7 ♜b5 ♜xe4? 7...d6 8 ♙f4 g5 is theory. *Diagram position.* 8 ♙e2! ♜f6?? 8...f5 9 f3 ♙a5 10 fxe4 ♙a6 11 exf5 ♙xb5 12 ♙h5+ g6 13 fxc6 ♙g7 14 gxh7+ ♜f8 15 ♙f5+ ♖e8 16 ♙g6+ ♜f8 17 ♙h6 1-0 Zontakh – Milanovic, Belgrade 1998. 9 ♜d6 mate.
- 10) 1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 ♜d7 4 ♙c4 c6 5 ♜g5 ♜h6 6 a4!? ♙e7? Note that this particular developing move reduces the black queen’s mobility. Better is 6...exd4. *Diagram position.* 7 ♙xf7+! ♜xf7 8 ♜e6 ♙b6 or 8...♙a5+ 9 ♙d2 ♙b6 10 a5 ♙xb2 11 ♙c3. 9 a5 ♙b4+ 10 c3 ♙c4 11 ♜c7+ ♜d8 12 b3 wins, as does 12 ♜a3.
- 11) 1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3 g6 6 ♙e3 ♙g7 7 f3 0-0 8 ♙c4 ♜c6 9 ♙d2 ♜d7 10 0-0-0 ♙c8 11 h4?? 11 ♙b3! *Diagram position.* 11...♜xd4! LPDO (Loose pieces drop off!) 12 ♙xd4 Or 12 ♙xd4 ♙xc4. 12...♜g4 13 ♙d3 ♜xe3 wins.
- 12) 1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♜f3 b6 4 g3 ♙b7 5 ♙g2 ♙e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♜c3 ♜e4 8 ♙c2 ♜xc3 9 ♜g5? Both 10 ♙xh7 mate and 10 ♙xb7 are threatened, seemingly forcing

9...♙xg5 10 ♖xb7. However... *Diagram position.* 9...♗xe2+! 10 ♖h1 or 10 ♗xe2 ♙xg2 11 ♗h5 ♙xg5 12 ♙xg5 f6. 10...♙xg2+ 11 ♖xg2 ♙xg5 should win with an extra knight and pawn.

13) 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 g3 dxc4 5 ♗bd2?! Better was either 5 ♙g2 or 5 ♗a4+. 5...c5 6 dxc5? This greatly aids Black's development; better are 6 ♗a4+ and 6 ♗xc4. 6...♙xc5 7 ♙g2? 7 ♗a4+! is correct. *Diagram position.* 7...♙xf2+! 8 ♖xf2 If 8 ♖f1 ♗g4 9 ♗a4+ ♙d7 is strong. 8...♗g4+ 9 ♖e1 ♗e3 0-1 As played in Veitch – Penrose, Buxton 1950 since 10 ♗a4+ ♙d7 11 ♗b4 ♗c2+ nets the queen.

14) 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 dxe4 4 ♗xe4 ♗f6 5 ♗d3 e5? This loses time; better is 5...♗xe4 6 ♗xe4 ♗d7. 6 dxe5! ♗a5+ 7 ♙d2 ♗xe5 8 0-0-0! ♗xe4?? 8...♙e7 had to be tried. *Diagram position.* 9 ♗d8+! ♖xd8 10 ♙g5+ ♖c7 11 ♙d8 mate The cognoscenti will recognise this as Reti – Tartakower, Vienna 1910.

15) 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♗xd5 3 ♗c3 ♗a5 4 d4 c6 5 ♗f3 ♙g4?! Better are 5...♗f6 and 5...♙f5. 6 ♙f4 e6 7 h3 ♙xf3 8 ♗xf3 ♙b4 9 ♙e2 ♗d7 10 a3 0-0-0? 10...♗gf6 would have avoided the following. *Diagram position.* 11 axb4! ♗xa1+ 12 ♖d2 ♗xh1 13 ♗xc6+! bxc6 14 ♙a6 mate An example of Boden's mate.

16) 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♗c3 g6 4 d4 exd4 5 ♗d5!? ♙g7 6 ♙g5 ♗ge7? Natural but not good; 6...♗ce7!. 7 ♗xd4 ♙xd4 Not 7...♗xd4? 8 ♙xe7!. *Diagram position.* 8 ♗xd4! ♗xd4 8...0-0 9 ♗f6+ ♖h8 10 ♗g4+! ♗xd4 11 ♙f6+ ♖g8 12 ♗h6 mate. 9 ♗f6+ ♖f8 10 ♙h6 mate Compare this position to the previous note and observe how the knight and bishop have changed places!

17) 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 g6 5 ♗c3 ♙g7 6 ♙e3 ♗f6 7 ♙c4 0-0 8 ♙b3 ♗a5?! 8...d6, 8...d5 or 8...♗a5 were better alternatives. 9 e5! ♗e8? 9...♗xb3! 10 exf6 ♗xa1 11 fxg7 ♗xc2+ or 11...♖xg7

was a better line of play. *Diagram position.* 10 ♙xf7+! ♖xf7 10...♗xf7 11 ♗e6!. 11 ♗e6! ♖xe6 11...dxe6 12 ♗xd8 ♗c6 13 ♗d2 occurred in Fischer – Reshevsky in a US Championship game! 1-0 in 42. Let's see what happens now that Black wishes to keep his queen! 12 ♗d5+ ♖f5 13 g4+ ♖xg4 14 ♗g1+ ♖h4 15 ♙g5+ ♖h5 16 ♗d1+ ♗f3 17 ♗xf3 mate.

18) 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 ♗f6 4 ♗f3 c5 5 ♙g5 5 cxd5 is more usual. 5...cxd4 6 ♗xd4 e5 7 ♗db5 a6 8 ♗xd5? 8 ♗a4! ♙d7 9 cxd5 leads to interesting play. *Diagram position.* 8...axb5! 9 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6! White was no doubt expecting 9...gxf6 10 ♗xd8+ ♖xd8 11 ♙xf6+ winning. 10 ♙xf6 ♙b4+ 11 ♗d2 ♙xd2+ 12 ♖xd2 gxf6 and Black won in Fine – Yudovich, Moscow 1937.

DID YOU FIND THE CHECKMATE IN 25 MOVES?

by Richard Guerrero

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1 ♗xg8+!! ♖xg8 2 ♗h8+! ♖xh8 3 ♗h5+ ♖g8 4 ♗h7+ ♖f8 5 ♗h8+ ♖e7 6 ♗xg7+ ♖e6 (6...♖e8 7 ♗f7 mate) 7 ♗f7+ ♖e5 8 ♗f5+ ♖d4 9 ♗e4+ ♖c3 10 ♗c2+ ♖d4 (10...♖b4 11 ♗c4+ ♖a5 12 ♗a4 mate) 11 ♗c4+ ♖e5 12 ♗e4+ ♖f6 13 ♗f5+ ♖g7 (13...♖e7 14 ♗f7 mate) 14 ♗f7+ ♖h6 (14...♖h8 15 ♗h7 mate) 15 ♗h7+ ♖g5 16 h4+! ♖f6 17 ♗f7+ ♖e5 18 ♗f5+ ♖d4 19 ♗e4+ ♖c3 20 ♗c2+ ♖d4 (20...♖b4 21 ♗c4+ ♖a5 22 ♗a4 mate) 21 ♗c4+ ♖e5 22 ♗e4+ ♖f6 23 ♗f5+ ♖g7 (23...♖e7 24 ♗f7 mate) 24 ♗f7+ ♖h6 (24...♖h8 25 ♗h7 mate) 25 ♗h7 mate.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR FOR MAY

1 May: Barnet Junior Chess Tournament and Training Day

St Paul's C of E Primary School, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London NW7 1QU. Contact: Laurie Winston e-mail: training@barnetjuniorchess.com Tel: 07804 047647 Web: <http://www.barnetjuniorchess.com> – starts 12:00pm ends 5:00pm. ECF graded games and training from professional coaches in small groups. Age group prizes, certificates, medals and cash awards. Children are fully supervised – parents do not need to stay.

2 May: CCF Bank Holiday Blitz

84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman
e-mail: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions>
– starts 7:30pm ends 10:15pm. 12 round blitz with 3 minutes each per game + 2 second Fischer increments from round 1.

5 May: Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz Chess Tournament

Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London NW11 8BS.
e-mail: adamraoof@gmail.com Tel: 07855 036 537 Web: <http://www.hendonchessclub.com/blitz/> – 7:30pm - 10:00pm.

6 May: Gosforth Kids Chess Tournament

Newcastle Great Park Community Centre, Roseden Way, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 9BD 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Contact: Charlie Storey e-mail: storey@charliechess.com Coaches are DBS-checked and parents may stay. Charlie Storey is an official ECF Academy Under 18 Chess Coach. Chess tournament starts at 5:30pm – coaching / friendly games before that from 4:30pm - 5:30pm.

6-8 May: Calderdale Chess Congress

Lee Mount Social Club, Lee Mount Road, Halifax, Yorkshire HX3 5EQ. Contact: N. Boustred e-mail: nboustred@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 079039137856 Web: <http://noelschess.weebly.com> – 3 sections – Open, Major (under 159) and Minor (under 119) using AUG 2015 Grades. Beautiful Yorkshire countryside with excellent town so bring camera and catch train or come by car.

7 May: Golders Green Rapidplay Congress

Golders Green Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG. Contact: Adam Raooof
e-mail: adamraoof@gmail.com Web: www.goldersgreenschess.blogspot.co.uk/ – Open, Under 170, Under 145 and Under 120 sections, 6 round Swiss open, £500.00 prize fund

7-8 May: 3rd Hastings and St Leonards Weekend Chess Tournament

Pelton House 2 Cornwallis Terrace Hastings East Sussex TN34 1EB. Contact: Marc Bryant. e-mail: bryant8830@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01424 436313 Web: <http://www.hastingschess.club/> – Any chess player graded under 195 – one section only. Only the first 30 entries will be accepted.

13 May: Gosforth Kids Chess Tournament

Newcastle Great Park Community Centre 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Contact: Charlie Storey. Details as above.

13-15 May: 50th Jubilee Rhyl Chess Congress

Town Hall, Wellington Road, Rhyl, Denbighshire, North Wales LL18 1AB. Contact: Mr S Hamilton e-mail: hamilstu62@outlook.com Tel: 07444355871.

13-15 May: 27th Frome Chess Congress

Selwood Academy, Berkley Road, Frome, Somerset BA11 2EF. Contact: Gerry Jepps
email: gnjepps@btinternet.com Web: <http://www.somersetchess.org> 4 sections: Open, Major (U165), Intermediate (U140), Minor (U110). The Open is FIDE-rated and a WECU designated British Championship qualifying event. (There will be a second British Championships qualifying place if there are 20 or more Open entries.) The Congress is part of the Tradewise Grand Prix and includes the Somerset Championships. Restaurant facilities on-site and free car parking.

14-15 May: 39th Hampstead Congress

Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NS U1900/U2200/U135. Contact: Adam

Raof Details as above – Under 2200 (ECF 200), Under 1900 (ECF 160), Under 135 (ECF graded not FIDE rated) congress every month! Now in SECTIONS. All moves in 60 minutes each PLUS 30 seconds a move throughout. £150 1st, £75 2nd in each section PLUS rating prizes. Space STRICTLY limited space, so enter early! <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk> for details of times and fees (ECF Gold Membership required for ENGLISH players).

15 May: Kent JCA GP 7 – Bromley High School

Bromley High School, Blackbrook Lane, Bromley, Kent BR1 2TW. 9:30 am – 7:30 pm.

Contact: webmaster@kjca.org Website: <http://www.kjca.org/event/120> ECF rapidplay – all juniors welcome!

20 May: Gosforth Kids Chess Tournament

Newcastle Great Park Community Centre 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Contact: Charles Storey. Details as above

21 May: Sussex Junior Worthing Rapidplay

Worthing College, Sanditon Way, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9FD. Contact: Sandra Manchester e-mail: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org> 6 round Swiss in 4 sections – U18 Major, U18 Minor, U11 Major, U11 Minor. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2015.

21 May: 7th Muswell Hill Rapidplay

Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, London N2 9HR. Contact Adam Raof. Details as above - 10:30 am – 5:45 pm SWISS 6 ROUNDS Open/Major U160/Amateur U120; Time Control: G25+5 seconds a move throughout; £500 prize fund.

26 May: 6th Pimlico Summer Tournament

St Saviour's Church Hall, St. George's Square, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QN. 6:30 pm. Contact: Steve Sonniss e-mail: pimlicochess@aol.com Web: <http://www.pimlicochessclub.com/summer-open-tournament/5> round Swiss standard play tournament – starts Thursday 26 May and held every Thursday evening until 30 June, excluding 23 June due to the referendum. 3 ECF graded sections – Open, U150 and U120. Tradewise Grand Prix qualifier. ECF silver members and above. £25 to enter.

27 May: Gosforth Kids Chess Tournament

Newcastle Great Park Community Centre. 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Contact: Charlie Storey. Details as above.

27-29 May: Huddersfield Congress

Huddersfield Ukrainian Club, 7 Edgerton Road, Huddersfield, HD1 5RA. Contact: Nigel Hepworth e-mail: nigel@huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk Website: <http://www.huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk>

27-30 May: e2e4 Gatwick Whitsun Congress Crowne Plaza London-Gatwick Hotel

Contact: Sean Hewitt e-mail: gatwick@e2e4.org.uk Web: <http://www.e2e4.org.uk/gatwick/may2016/index.htm> Four FIDE rated sections – Open; U2050; U1850; U1650. FREE ENTRY for women and girls.

28 May: Poplar Rapidplay

Langley Hall, St.Nicholas Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD. Norman Went e-mail: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07905 360659 Web: <http://www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub> – starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss seeded rapid-play tournament with two grade banded sections; Minor Under 130 and Major Under 171.

28-30 May: 48th Cotswold Chess Congress

King's School, Gouda Way, Gloucester, GL1. Contact: John Harris e-mail: jibs@dmshome.co.uk

Web: <http://cotswoldcongress.co.uk/> Accommodation – <http://www.thecityofgloucester.co.uk/> Refreshments throughout the day. Bookstall and ample free parking available in the school grounds. Both bus and train stations are only ten minutes walk.

28-30 May: Castle Chess 12th Potters Bar Congress

(1st FIDE-rated) Potters Bar United Reformed Church. Contact: Tony Corfe / Marc Shaw e-mail:

tony@castlechess.co.uk Website: <http://castlechess.co.uk> OPEN (FIDE), MAJOR (FIDE) U1800, MINOR (non-FIDE) U120 incl Challenger U100. Guaranteed prize fund minimum £150 per event. 6 rounds – two per day. Played in a modern church hall. Grassed area and plenty of parking.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

...it must be 1 ♖x♗!

In John's 2-mover we'd like to play ♖x♗, to threaten a mating capture of the other ♖ by the ♖d5. But which ♗ should the ♖ capture? Try 1 ♖xc6 (threat 2 dxe6). Now the defences ...e5 and ...♖xc6+ fail respectively to 2 ♖a7 and 2 dxc6. But there is no mate after 1...♗e4!, which accordingly is the refutation. So we turn to 1 ♖xe6!, and now indeed all Black's defences fail: ...c5/...♗xe6/...♗f7/...♗e4/...♖xc4/...cxd5 to, respectively, ♖g7/dxe6/♖f4/♗xf5/♖b2/♖xd5. Very good and varied use made of White's forces, particularly that hemmed-in ♖!

...it must be 2...♖xf5 mate!

Yuri's problem is a nice illustration of a popular helpmate motif: the route taken by the ♖ depends upon the order in which Black plays his moves – 1 ♖xf5 ♖h3 2 ♗e5 ♖xf5# and 1 ♗e5 ♖e6 2 ♖xf5 ♖xf5#. Each of Black's first moves has a gate-opening effect.

...we have a move to spare!

Michael's diagram shows a *half-pin*. Whenever you see one of these in a problem you can be fairly sure that in the solutions the half-pin will become a full pin of each of the relevant pieces in turn, a pin that will be necessary for the mate to work. Armed with this tip you may quite quickly see mates by ...♖a1 after the ♖ blocks h2 and by ...♗f3 when the ♖ blocks f1. But you may be tempted then to say, "but the problem isn't sound because it only takes Black one move to play those blocks, and there's nothing else he needs to do". But what he needs to do is to find an extra move

and the only way in which he can do so is to preface the blocking move by a purely waiting move – which, nicely, entails going to h3 in both solutions – 1 ♖xh3! ♗d3 2 ♖h2 ♖a1 and 1 ♖xh3! ♖h2 2 ♖f1 ♗f3. Note too that the mates are both *model mates*: each square around the ♖ is either blocked or guarded only once; and that there's a nice reciprocity in the functions of the ♗ and the ♖a2.

...aren't there two ways to do this?!

It is very well worth spending some time mulling over the solution to Ioannis' helpmate. There is what might loosely be described as a *try*: a line of play that seems as though it will work but which narrowly fails. This line of play is in fact as attractive as the actual solution of many helpmates (and indeed as Ioannis comments is reminiscent of some forerunner helpmates) – 1...♗g4? 2 ♗d6 ♗f5 3 ♖xg2 ♖f3 4 ♗d7 ♖g4 5 ♗c8 ♗e6 6 ♖b7 ♗e7 – but because of the capture of the ♖g2 there is now 7 ♖xg4! So instead we have to use similar strategic motifs to achieve a similar result but without capturing the ♖g2. We start with some nice interplay of the bishops, which is the precursor to further attractive line play: 1...♖c8! 2 ♖a8 ♖g4 3 ♗c6 ♗e4 4 ♗b7 ♗f5 5 ♗c8 ♗e6 6 ♖b7 ♗e7#. Do admire the way in which although all the main players eventually go to the same squares they go by completely different routes (attractive in itself) and in the case of the actual solution the ♖, paradoxically (far be it from me to allude to a famous Reti study...), starts off by going to the square on which the ♖ will be mated.

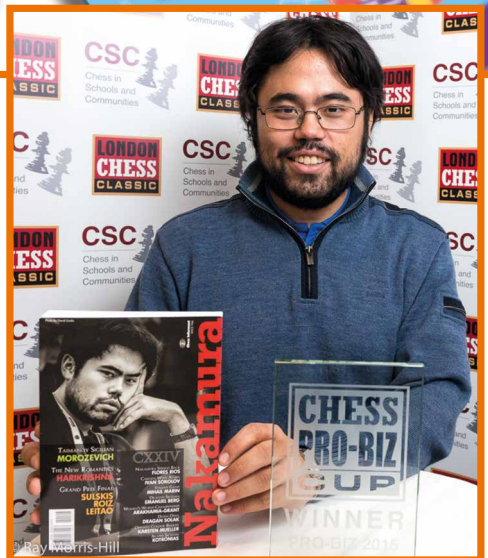
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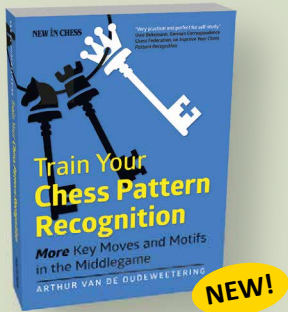


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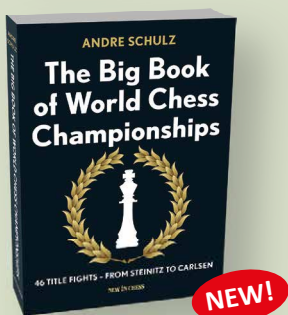
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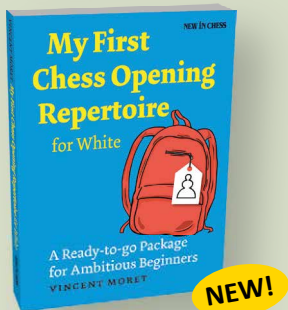
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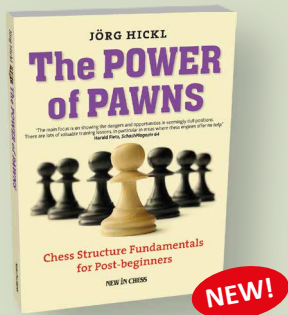
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