

Chess Canada

Catch Up Issue



Chess Canada

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subscriptions

CCN is distributed by email to CFC members who have submitted their email address to the CFC:

admin@chess.ca

submissions

CCN is looking for contributions: tournament reports, photos, annotated games. For examples, see this issue or read the 2013.06 Appendix for other ideas.

suggestions

If you have an idea for a story you would like to write, email me:

cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca

- John Upper
editor CCN

Chess Canada ketchup 1

WYCC

HoD Victoria Jung-Doknjas	5
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World Senior

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- **GM Razvan Preotu**
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- **IMs Return**
Hebert, Hergott, O'Donnell
and the Ross brothers @
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- **FM Vladimir Pechenkin**
Edmonton Invitational
- **Titleists on Tour**
- **GMs Sambuev and Le**
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- **IMs Tomas Krnan and**
Aman Hambleton abroad
- **FM Thavandiran in Asia**

Cover: playing catch up

Catsup? Ketchup?

Chess Canada
Catch Up Issue



Critical Positions

selected by the editor

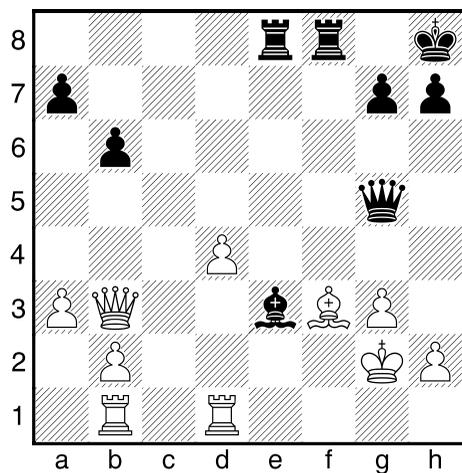
The following diagrams are critical positions from this issue of *Chess Canada*. You can treat them as exercises or as a teaser introduction to what you'll find this month.

These "critical positions" can be:

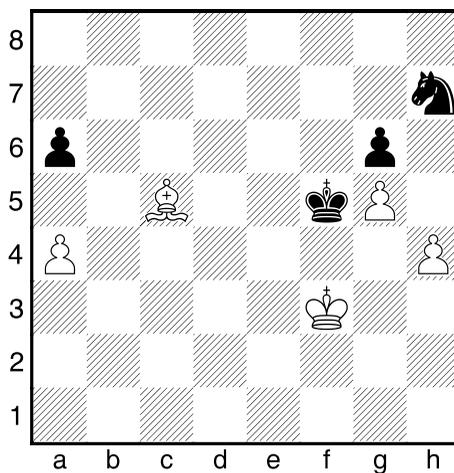
- winning combinations
- surprising tactics
- endgames requiring precise play
- simple calculation exercises
- variation-rich middlegames
- moments when one player went badly wrong.

The  and  squares next to each diagram indicate the player to move.

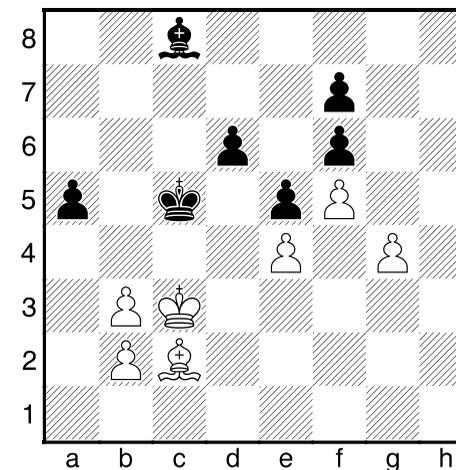
Solutions appear in the game analysis in this month's *CCN*, **in the red diagrams** in the reports named under the diagram. Critical positions usually feature significantly more analytical commentary than the rest of the game.



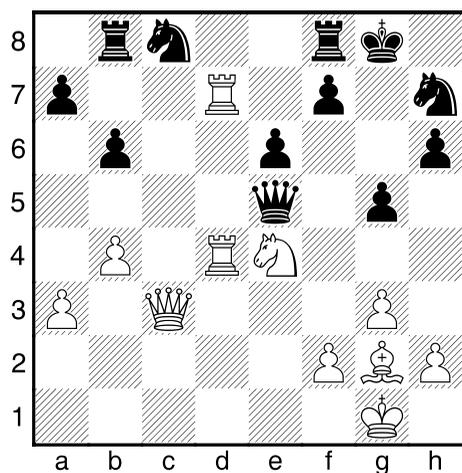
see: Szabo



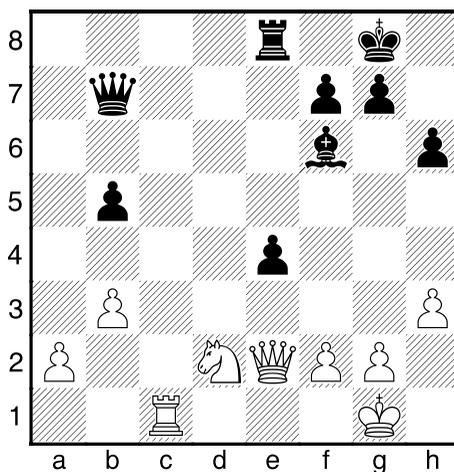
see: WYCC



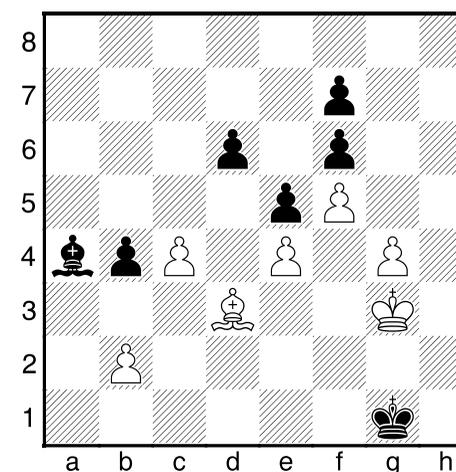
see: WYCC



see: WYCC

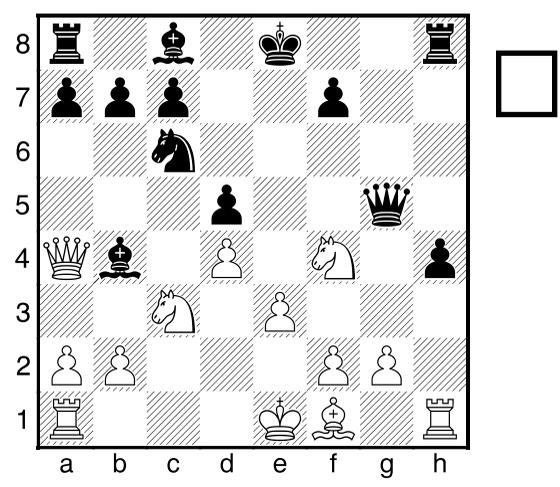


see: WYCC

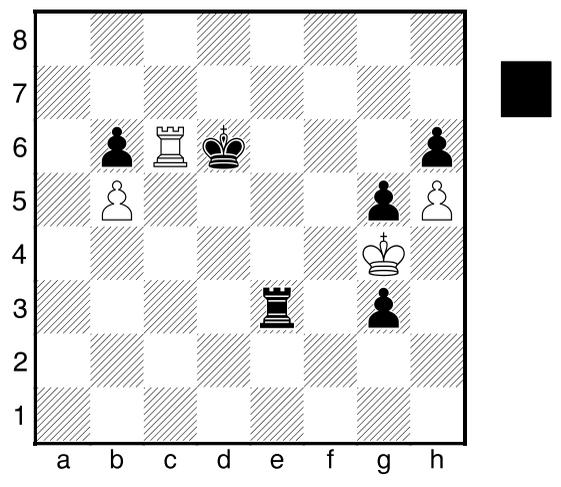


see: WYCC

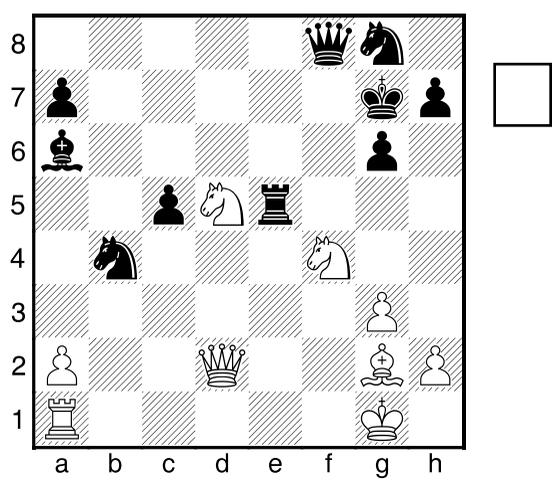




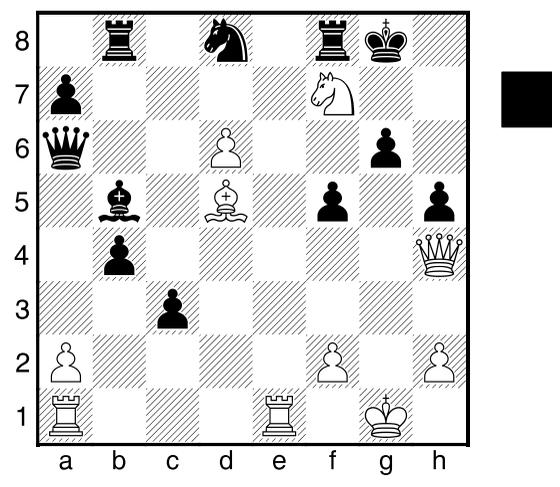
...♖g4 or ...♗d7
see: World Senior



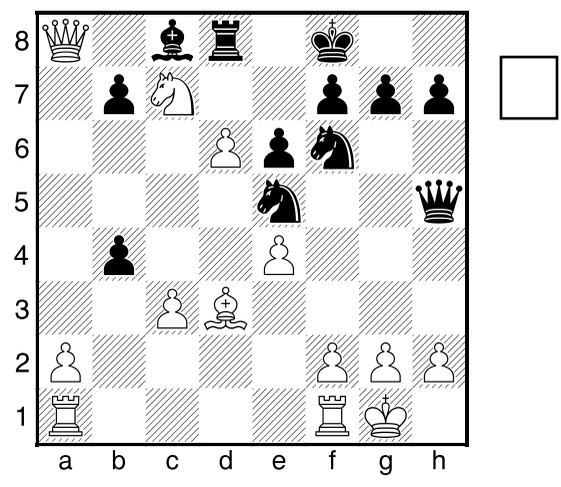
see: Events



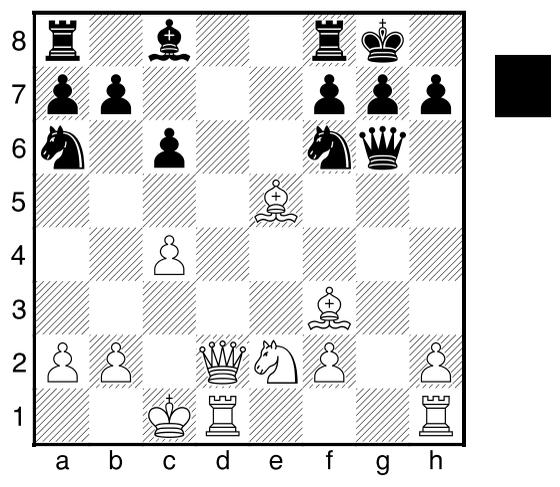
see: Events



see: Alberta



see: Events



...♖e8 or ...♗f5
see: Events

So much catch up!

This is the first of two “ketch-up” issues. It contains reports and analysis from: GM Gergely Szabo, IM David Cummings, FM Alex Yam, and game analysis by WIM Qiyu Zhou, FM Michael Kleinman and the CFC Newsfeed Team.

The next issue will include analysis and reports from:

- GMs Bator Sambuev, Alexandre Le Siege & Razvan Preotu
- IMs Tomas Krnan, Aman Hambleton, Jean Hebert, Deen Hergott, Tom O'Donnell & Dave Ross.
- FMs Paul Ross, Vladimir Pechenkin & Shiyam Thavandiran.

John Upper





On October 24 to November 6, the 2015 World Youth & Cadets Chess Championships returned to the same location as the 2010 edition of the WYCC, in picturesque **Halikidiki, Greece**.

From 2010 to 2015

The 2010 WYCC hosted 1386 players. That year, our Canadian delegation consisted of 23 players (only 2 titled players: WCM Alexandra Botez and WCM Jackie Peng), 1 coach (NM Vladimir Birarov), and 1 Head of Delegation (Andrei Botez). But at the

2010 WYCC a virtually unknown Canadian Team Member named Jason Cao score 9/11 to capture the title of the U10 World Youth Chess Champion.

Fast forward 5 years: there were **1596 players** at the 2015 WYCC, and our delegation comprised of **56 Canadian players**

(17 titled players: 2 IM/WIMs, 1 FM, and 14 CM/WCMs – including WIM Qiyu Zhou, who won the 2014 U14 Girls World Youth Chess Championship), **6 coaches** (GM Gergely Szabo, IM Aman Hambleton, IM Romeo Milu, FM Andrew Peredun, NM Mikhail Egorov, and NM Mike Ivanov).



Chess Canada



Only 3 players played on both the 2015 and 2010 Team Canada delegations: WIM Qiyu Zhou, CM John Doknjas, and CM Joshua Doknjas. The youngest Doknjas brother, Neil, was also onsite in 2010 but did not play. Now in 2015, all three Doknjas brothers played on Team Canada, and the 2010 Team Canada Official Photographer, Victoria Jung-Doknjas, got “promoted” to become the 2015 Head of Delegation (with double duty of doing some photography work).

Funding

Funding and support also played a major difference. The majority of the 2010 funding went to the 12 CYCC Champions, 1 Team Canada Coach, and 1 Head of Delegation. In 2015, with the support of CFC President Vlad Drkulec, CFC Junior Coordinator Frank Lee, and the other CFC Executives, funding was made available to the 12 CYCC Champions, 6 Team Canada Coaches, 1 Head of Delegation, and for players who won or tied for 2nd or 3rd place at the CYCC (in terms of covering their FIDE

and organization fees). Coaches were restricted to 8-10 players each, which resulted in players enjoying a much higher quality game prep and after game analysis time.

At the Venue

One of our goals was to create a memorable WYCC experience for all our Canadian players, families, and coaches. One major advantage of having been on the 2010 Team Canada Del-

egation, I knew about previous issues: very poor Internet connection, no air conditioning, and different lodging options (which in some cases required a 45 minute daily bus ride to and from the tournament hall). During our pre-2015 WYCC organization, we wanted to ensure that our Canadian delegation registered early and was assigned one of the resorts closest to the tournament halls with only a 10 minute walk to the tournament halls. In addi-

tion, players and families were pre-warned of the potential of poor onsite Internet connectivity, so that they could make alternate arrangements with their Canadian provider or locally. I also contacted the WYCC Organizer ahead of time to ensure that air conditioning would be on – in 2010, an U18 girl fainted from heat exhaustion during play in main tournament hall, and soon after that, the air conditioning was turned on.





The large number of participants required three separate tournament halls. The main one was the Olympic Hall which housed the majority of the players: U18 Open/Girls, U16 Open/Girls, U14 Open/Girls, and U12 Open/Girls. The U10 Open/Girls and U8 Open/Girls played in two smaller meeting rooms at two different hotels on the same resort property.

Access to the tournament halls was quite strict, and photography was allowed only up until 5 minutes before the start of each round, at which time all accompanying persons were asked to leave the tournament hall. So it was challenging to get photos of all our Team Canada players, but with the help of our wonderful parents, we were able to get a few nice shots of each Team Canada player. Thank you to: Vivek Srinivas, Anabelle Kovatcheva, Victoria Jung-Doknjas, Vivi-

en Lai, Toto Surya, Connie Zhou, Bo Zhang, Isabella Hui, Sandra Vettese, Janos Farkas, Isabelle Rodrigue-Lemieux, and Lisa Li.

Free Day Fun

There were 11 rounds of one 90 min + 30 sec game each day. There was one free day after Round 5. During the free day, some players and families choose to visit Thessaloniki or to visit caves with beautiful formations of stalactites and stalagmites. Many of our Canadian players decided to stay at the resort to rest or prep. Luke Pulfer's mom Julie (who is also a soccer coach) organized the **Team Canada soccer game**, which attracted some



of our American friends. Later, Nicholas Vettese's mom, Sandra, organized the always fun and exciting Team Canada Bughouse tournament. The hotel staff was very accommodating and gave us reserved access to the White Room for our **Bughouse** tournament, and the Purple Room for our Team Canada meetings and the Team Canada Celebration Event.

In 2010, I remember seeing the non-DGT boards having both Greek and English lettering for the coordinates and thought what a wonderful keepsake this would be for our players. So, I pre-arranged with the WYCC Organizer to get these Greek chessboards for all of our players and for our 6 coaches, CFC President and Youth Coordinator, who also received a Greek chessboard signed by our players. Players and coaches were presented with their Greek chessboard, the official 2015 WYCC poster, and their 2015 WYCC-FIDE certificate on the final day at the Team Canada Celebration Event. Players, coaches, and volunteers also received Team Canada red T-shirts with their surnames on the back – sponsored by the 2015 CYCC - Windsor Chess.

In bughouse, getting advice from a coach isn't cheating it's "teamwork".

above: **Andrew Peredun** at bughouse.

right: **Mike Ivanov** teaches everyone how to accept a trophy.



Team Players

Max Chen (U8)

Max won 7 games and went as high as board 4 in Round 9, ending up with 7/11.

Anthony Atanasov (U8)

Anthony scored 1.5 pts. against 3 CMs (1 from USA and 2 from India). His final result was 6/11 and he established his first FIDE rating of 1449.

Atharva Srinivas (U8)

Atharva won 3 games and established his first FIDE rating of 879.

Austin Xie (U8)

Austin scored 2.5 pts in his first 4 games and finished with 5.5/11 and established his first FIDE rating of 1192.

Andrew Xu (U8)

Andrew's 1 win and 5 draws resulted in 3.5/11, and he established his first FIDE rating of 892.

Angela Lin (U8g)

Angela won 6 games, one against a Kazakhstan WCM, and drew 1 game for a total of 6.5/11, es-

tablishing her first FIDE rating of 1206.

Yu Han (Veronica) Guo (U8g)

Veronica scored 3/4, losing in the first round to the girl who would go on to win the U8g championship. Final result was 5/11 and established her first FIDE rating of 1024.

Nameer Issani (U10)

Nameer scored 5 wins in his first 6 games and ended up with 7.5/11, good for 13th place and a 103 FIDE rating gain.

Aiden Zhou (U10)

Aiden won his first 3 games and ended up with 6.5/11.

Aahil Noorali (U10)

Aahil won 4 games and drew 4 games for a total of 6/11, which netted him a FIDE rating gain of 58 pts.

Kevin Low (U10)

Kevin won 2 games and drew 6 games, where 2 of the draws were against two other Canadian players. 6/11.

Nicholas Wu (U10)

Nicholas was undefeated in his first 4 games and ended up with 5.5/11 and a 45 FIDE rating gain.

Jonathan Zhao (U10)

Jonathan won 4 games and drew 3 games for a total of 5.5/11, and established his first FIDE rating of 1586.

Max England (U10)

Max won 4 games and drew 2 games for a total of 5/11, and established his first FIDE rating of 1575.

Neil Doknjias (U10)

Neil had only 1 loss in his first 5 games, but then finished with 4.5/11, and established his first FIDE rating of 1579.

Alan Bui (U10)

Alan scored 4/11 and established his first FIDE rating of 1404.

Jacob Gaisinsky (U10)

Jacob scored 3.5/11 and established his first FIDE rating of 1156.

Mysha Gilani (U10g)

Mysha won 4 consecutive games from Rounds 5 to 8, ending with 6.5/11.



Julia Kuleshova (U10g)

Julia scored with 5 wins and 2 draws for a total of 6/11.

Thuy Thank An Van (U10g)

Anna only lost 1 game in her first 5 games. She finished with 5/11 and established her first FIDE rating of 1288.

Jezzel Farkas (U10g)

Jezzel won her first 2 games including a win over a Russian WCM. She ended up with 4.5/11 and her first FIDE rating of 1317.





Shi Yuan Tian (U10g)

Shi Yuan won 3 games and drew 3 games for a total of 4.5/11 and established her first FIDE rating of 1158.

Nicholas Vettese (U12)

Nicholas scored 5.5 in his first 7 games. In the end he scored 7/11 which included a last-in-the-tournament-hall grueling game with FM Awonder Liang.

Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux (U12)

Shawn's 7 points were all wins, which gained him 131 FIDE points.

Eugene Hua (U12)

Eugene had 5.5 in his first 7 games, then he had back-to-back draws with 2 FMs, but lost his last two games to end with 6.5/7.

Henry Zhang (U12)

Henry's last 5 games were against higher rated opponents, where he was able to score 2.5, with a final result of 5.5/11 and a 47 FIDE rating gain.



Benjamin Lin (U12)

Benjamin went undefeated in his last 6 games and ended up with 5.5/11 and a 93 point FIDE rating gain.

Benito Surya (U12)

Benito's first game against a 2100+ opponent from China ended in a draw and then after a loss against another 2100+ player, he went undefeated in his next 5 games, ending up with 5/11.



Benito Surya signs a board.

Luke Pulfer celebrates a birthday!

Luke Pulfer (U12)

Luke scored 4.5/11 including a win over a FM from Iraq.

Adam Gaisinsky (U12)

Adam's opponents were all higher rated, except for one. He scored 4.5/11 including a win over a FM from Iraq and had a 76 FIDE rating gain.

Ethan Low (U12)

Ethan scored 4.5/11 and had a 56 FIDE rating gain.

David Makarczyk (U12)

David scored 4 wins and established his first FIDE rating of 1401.



Svitlana Demchenko (U12g)

Svitlana scored 6.5/11 including a draw with a Russian WFM and established her first FIDE rating of 1752.

Cynthia Cui (U12g)

Cynthia scored 5.5 /11 games, including a win against a Colombian WFM, and established her first FIDE rating of 1481.

Jeffrey Xu (U14)

Jeffrey was undefeated in his last 7 games and ended up with 7/11 and a FIDE rating increase of 78 pts.

Richard Chen (U14)

Richard lost his first game, but came back with a vengeance, scoring 6 wins and a draw in his next 7 games, including beating the 2014 U12 NAYCC Champion FM David Brodsky and a 2359 Ukrainian FM. Final result was 6.5/11 and a 46 FIDE rating gain.

Harry Zhao (U14)

Harry had 3 straight wins in his final 3 games with a final result of 6/11 and 110 FIDE rating increase.

Jason Cai (U14)

Jason had 5 wins and a draw for 5.5/11 and gained 46 FIDE points.

Hairan Liang (U14)

Hairan started with a loss and a win, then had 5 consecutive draws against higher rated opponents, ending with 5.5/11 and a gain of 74 FIDE rating points.

Joshua Doknjas (U14)

Joshua scored 2 wins in his first 3 games; but, ended up with 4.5/11.

Jeffrey Zhu (U14)

Jeffrey scored 4.5/11.

**Dylan Fox (U14)**

Dylan scored 3/11 and established his first FIDE rating of 1503.

Maili-Jade Ouellett (U14g)

Maili-Jade started with 3 consecutive wins, including beating a WFM from China, then she added 2 more wins and a draw, and ended up with 5.5/11.

Constance Wang (U14g)

Constance won 3 consecutive games in the middle rounds, finishing with 5.5/11 and gaining 58 FIDE points.

Mathanhe Kaneshalingam

(U14g)

Mathanhe scored 4.5/11.

Lily Zhou (U14g)

Lily gained 99 FIDE points and scored 4.5/11, all against higher rated players.

Razvan Preatu (U16)

Razvan scored 8/11 and tied for =5-7th place overall in the U16 section.

John Doknjas (U16)

John strung together 4 consecutive wins, including beating the top U16 Vietnam player, and ended up with 6/11.

**William Graif (U16)**

William started strong with 3.5/5 games, finishing with 5/11, and gaining 132 FIDE pts.

Stefano Lee (U16)

Stefano's 3 wins gained him 40 FIDE pts. —finishing with 3/11.

Qiyu Zhou (U16g)

Qiyu was the top seed in the U16g section and started strong

with 5 wins in her first 6 games, and then ended up with 7/11.

Yilin Li (U16g)

Yilin scored 4.5/11.

Adam Dorrance (U18)

Adam played well against his titled opponents (2 IMs and 7 FMs) and scored 6.5/11 and gained 147 FIDE pts.

Thiruvanan Alex Sabaratnam (U18)

Alex had a slow start, but was able to play more solid and ended with 5/11 and establishing his first FIDE rating at 1933.

Ziyuan (Sam) Song (U18)

Sam played up an age group and drew 2 FMs to add to his final result of 4/11.



Joanne Foote (U18g)

Joanne was our only U18 Girl representative who after a slow start, came back strong scoring 3.5 pts in her next 5 games, ending up with 4/11.

IM Romeo Milu

This was Romeo's first time as a WYCC coach for Team Canada. Romeo came highly recommended and was a welcome and pleasant addition to our Team.



available to help both our players and the rest of our delegation when issues arose.

NM Mike Ivanov

Mike has coached at the WYCC previously and was very accessible to his young players and to the rest of our delegation.

Team Coaches

GM Gergely Szabo

Gergely is a FIDE Trainer and was our Team Captain and onsite coach for many of the higher rated players on our Team, including IM Razvan Preotu and WIM Qiyu Zhou. Gergely had previously helped train, and was Captain for, Team Canada 1 at the 2014 World Youth U16 Olympiad.

FM Andrew Peredun

This was Andrew's 5th time as a WYCC coach and is a very popular coach among our players.

**IM Aman Hambleton**

This was Aman's 3rd tour of duty as a WYCC coach. The previous year, he helped prepare WIM Qiyu Zhou onsite during her incredible run to winning the 2014 U14 Girls World Youth Championship in Durban.

**NM Mikhail Egorov**

Mikhail is also experienced as a WYCC coach and was always



Neil Doknjas made a short speech to thank the Team Canada Coaching Team: “Coaches, on behalf of Team Canada, we would like to thank you and give each of you a signed chessboard from all your assigned players.” And 6 players, Maïli-Jade Ouellet, Joshua Doknjas, Nicholas Vettese, Max Chen, Joanne Foote, and Jezza Farkas, presented their respective WYCC coach a **Greek chess board signed by his players.**

Support Team

Victoria Jung-Doknjas

This was my second assignment as Head of Delegation (HoD) for Team Canada. Previously, I was HoD at the 2014 North American Youth Chess Championship in Tarrytown, New York; as well as Assistant HoD at two previous WYCCs. I was also the Official Photographer for Team Canada at three previous WYCCs; as well as at the 2014 U16 World Youth Olympiad (where WGM Anna Rudolf presented me with an

award for my photography work onsite).

CFC President Vlad Drkulec and **CFC Youth Coordinator Frank Lee** have been instrumental in ensuring there is proper funding to support Canadian kids travelling to international events, like WYCC, Pan American Youth CC, North American Youth CC, U16 World Youth Olympiad, etc. They also assembled the Team Canada Members for the 2015 WYCC, HoD, and recruited on-site coaches, etc.

Rene Preotu and **Bob Gillanders** helped with team registration and initial coordination for accommodations.

Final Remarks

My final remarks as Head of Delegation to Team Canada at WYCC 2015: “I hope you will carry with you many fond memories of being part of this special Team Canada and I want to thank each of you for your enthusiasm, support of one another, and for

your hard work in getting to the WYCC. God bless you all and safe travels home.”

Bughouse Moms Sandra and Victoria

56 happy young chessplaying faces is nice, but bughouse moms also know what puts a smile on adult faces.



CrossTables

<http://chess-results.com/tnr187413.aspx?lan=1&art=25&fedb=CAN&flag=30&wi=821>

Additional Photos

<https://www.facebook.com/Chess-Federation-of-Canada-163031117086480/>

CnM Report

<https://chess-math.org/blog/2015-world-youth-cadets-chess-championships-victoria-jung-doknjas>



Complete Canadian Cross Table

sorted by:

1. points
2. place
3. Rtg - TPR

SNo	Name	Group	Rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts.	Rk.	Rp	Rtg - Rp
3	Preotu Razvan	U16	2463	1	½	0	1	1	0	1	1	½	1	1	8,0	6	2431	-32
41	Issani Nameer	U10	1776	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	½	1	7,5	13	1909	133
1	Zhou Qiyu	U16g	2328	1	1	0	1	1	1	½	½	0	1	0	7,0	15	2197	-131
19	Chen Max	U08	1517	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	7,0	25	1263	-254
99	Xu Jeffrey	U14	1930	0	1	0	0	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	7,0	31	2083	153
39	Vettese Nicholas	U12	2046	1	0	1	1	½	1	1	0	1	0	½	7,0	33	2031	-15
111	Rodrigue-Lemieux Shawn	U12	1753	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	7,0	40	2002	249
64	Lin Angela	U08g	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	½	6,5	26	1206	NA
112	Demchenko Svitlana	U12g	0	1	½	½	0	1	½	1	1	0	1	0	6,5	28	1752	NA
73	Gilani Mysha	U10g	0	0	1	½	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	6,5	31	1448	NA
71	Dorrance Adam	U18	2131	½	½	½	0	1	1	0	1	½	1	½	6,5	33	2393	262
57	Chen Richard	U14	2117	0	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	0	0	0	6,5	39	2170	53
52	Hua Eugene	U12	1996	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	½	½	0	0	6,5	43	2007	11
28	Zhou Aiden	U10	1870	1	1	1	0	½	0	1	0	1	½	½	6,5	51	1673	-197
74	Kuleshova Julia	U10g	0	1	0	1	½	0	1	0	1	1	½	0	6,0	36	1513	NA
71	Atanasov Anthony	U08	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	½	1	½	0	0	6,0	44	1449	NA
58	Doknjas John	U16	2217	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	½	0	½	6,0	63	2151	-66
84	Noorali Aahil	U10	1586	0	½	1	0	1	½	½	1	1	0	½	6,0	73	1504	-82
38	Low Kevin	U10	1798	1	½	½	½	0	½	½	1	0	½	1	6,0	79	1508	-290
133	Zhao Harry	U14	1762	½	½	0	0	1	½	½	0	1	1	1	6,0	82	1967	205
23	Ouellet Maili-Jade	U14g	2005	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	½	5,5	55	1851	-154
73	Wang Constance	U14g	1650	0	1	½	0	1	1	1	0	½	0	½	5,5	64	1748	98
110	Cui Cynthia	U12g	0	0	½	0	0	1	½	1	1	0	1	½	5,5	68	1481	NA
126	Xie Austin	U08	0	1	0	½	1	0	½	1	0	½	1	0	5,5	70	1192	NA
97	Cai Jason	U14	1946	0	1	1	½	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	5,5	92	2046	100
92	Wu Nicholas	U10	1549	½	1	½	½	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	5,5	92	1589	40
185	Zhao Jonathan	U10	0	0	1	1	0	1	½	0	0	1	½	½	5,5	98	1586	NA
127	Liang Hairan	U14	1808	0	1	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	1	1	5,5	100	1910	102
116	Zhang Henry	U12	1741	0	1	0	1	0	1	½	1	0	½	½	5,5	102	1774	33
154	Lin Benjamin	U12	1540	0	½	0	1	0	½	½	1	1	½	½	5,5	113	1631	91
54	Guo Yu Han	U08g	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5,0	56	1024	NA
106	Van Thuy Thanh An	U10g	0	0	1	½	1	½	0	1	0	0	0	1	5,0	71	1288	NA
116	Sabaratnam Thiruvanan Alex	U18	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	1	½	1	1	0	5,0	79	1993	NA
119	Graif William	U16	1917	1	0	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	1	0	5,0	95	2186	269
161	England Max	U10	0	0	1	½	0	1	1	½	0	1	0	0	5,0	113	1575	NA
119	Surya Benito	U12	1731	½	0	½	½	1	½	½	0	1	½	0	5,0	127	1699	-32
47	Li Yilin	U16g	1916	1	0	0	1	½	0	1	½	½	0	0	4,5	68	1747	-169
84	Farkas Jezzyl	U10g	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	½	4,5	78	1317	NA
105	Tian Shi Yuan	U10g	0	0	0	1	1	0	½	½	½	0	0	1	4,5	82	1158	NA
76	Kaneshalingam Mathanhe	U14g	1628	0	1	½	0	0	1	½	1	0	0	½	4,5	90	1486	-142
100	Zhou Lily	U14g	1460	½	0	1	0	½	0	½	1	0	½	½	4,5	91	1687	227
160	Doknjas Neil	U10	0	½	0	1	½	1	½	0	0	½	½	0	4,5	134	1579	NA
136	Gaisinsky Adam	U12	1631	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	½	0	4,5	138	1783	152
64	Doknjas Joshua	U14	2104	0	1	1	0	½	0	1	1	0	0	0	4,5	146	1777	-327
113	Pulfer Luke	U12	1750	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	½	½	½	4,5	147	1610	-140
121	Zhu Jeffrey Xin-Yu	U14	1838	0	½	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	4,5	153	1517	-321
162	Low Ethan	U12	1481	½	0	0	½	0	1	0	1	½	½	½	4,5	155	1573	92
65	Foote Joanne	U18g	1751	0	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	½	0	0	4,0	67	1780	29
85	Song Ziyuan (sam)	U18	2055	0	1	½	½	0	0	½	0	0	1	½	4,0	97	1798	-257
156	Bui Alan	U10	0	0	0	1	1	0	½	1	0	0	½	0	4,0	152	1404	NA
195	Makarczyk David	U12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	4,0	179	1401	NA
127	Xu Andrew	U08	0	0	0	0	½	1	0	½	½	0	½	½	3,5	123	892	NA
163	Gaisinsky Jacob	U10	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	0	1	0	½	1	3,5	175	1156	NA
119	Srinivas Atharva	U08	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3,0	126	879	NA
147	Lee Stefano	U16	1566	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3,0	147	1736	170
181	Fox Dylan	U14	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	½	0	0	0	½	3,0	176	1503	NA

2015 WYCC Medal Count

FED	G	S	B	Total
IND	5	3	3	11
RUS	0	3	1	4
USA	0	1	3	4
IRI	1	0	1	2
BUL	1	0	1	2
POL	0	1	1	2
AZE	1	0	0	1
GER	1	0	0	1
GRE	1	0	0	1
UZB	1	0	0	1
VIE	1	0	0	1
SVK	0	1	0	1
HUN	0	1	0	1
CHN	0	1	0	1
ITA	0	1	0	1
MNE	0	0	1	1
ARM	0	0	1	1



Chess Canada





It's been a while since I've been at a World Youth Chess Championship: 15 years have passed since my participation in the 2000 WYCC in Oropesa del Mar (Spain), in the Under 18 group. Time went by, I became a coach, participated in several great international events, for both juniors and adults — but, until this 2015 event in Porto Carras (Greece), not in a WYCC. Being appointed Team Captain of a huge delegation was an exciting challenge for me: with 56 kids, plus accompanying persons, made the Canadian delegation the second largest, only surpassed by the USA! In addition, our tireless Head of Delegation, Victoria Doknjas, together with the coaching team and several volunteering parents, helped ensure that everyone had a great experience in Greece.

On the part of the WYCC Organizer, save a few really minor inconveniences, everything was offered regarding the conditions. In a private conversation with a member of the organizing committee, I was told that Porto Carras (our venue) was originally thought as an exclusivist luxury resort in the '70s: two 5-star hotels, marina, golf course, wellness features, etc. Although the

project failed, opening the resort to the general public was a success, and the conditions offered by the hotels Sithonia and Meliton were excellent for such an event (previously, Porto Carras hosted the WYCC in 2010 and the European Team Chess Championship in 2011, I participated in this one as a member of the Romanian men's team).

Compared with previous WYCC events, although the coaching team's number grew to 6 (NM Mikhail Egorov, IM Aman Hambleton, NM Mike Ivanov, IM Romeo Milu, FM Andrew Peredun and myself), the time we could offer to the players individually for the pre-game preparation was only 20-30 minutes. This was enough in most of the cases, but sometimes, last-minute preparations were needed (between lunch and the game). I received only positive feedback regarding the coaching team's dedication and the trainers coping with the slight "overcrowding", for which I have to express my gratitude to all participants (coaches, players, and parents alike).



Gergely Szabo is a Romanian Grandmaster and a FIDE Trainer, who successfully coached adults and juniors in several international events, such as the Olympiad, European Team Championship, World Team Championship, Youth Olympiad, World Youth Championship, etc. For more information about him, see his official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/szabogergely13/>

As writing a report which includes all the 57 players would surpass by far the projected length of the present article, I will just briefly mention the **highest scoring Canadian juniors**:

- IM Razvan Preotu (8/11, 6th, U16)
- CM Nameer Issani (7.5/11, 13th U10)
- WIM Qiyu Zhou (7/11, 15th, G16)
- Max Chen (7/11, 25th, U8),
- FM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux (7/11, 40th, U12)
- CM Nicholas Vettese (7/11, 33rd, U12)
- CM Jeffrey Xu (7/11, 31st, U14).

The focus of this article will be more on my “squad”, the 8 players who I had the pleasure to coach during this event.

A Pleasure to Coach

When writing “the pleasure to coach”, I could have also used bigger words, as “honour” or

“privilege”, because it really felt like that. Although the tournament was long and tiring (a minimum of 6 hours of coaching per day, on continuous mode, for 11 days, eventually takes its toll on anyone), I was energized by the kids’ work ethic, love for chess, and the will to learn something new. Some would argue that my group was “special” (many high-rated, strong juniors), but I got the same feedback from my WYCC room-mate, IM Romeo Milu: he was also convinced that Canadian juniors have great potential — and Romeo has around

15 years more experience as a coach than me.

The players in my group were: Qiyu Zhou (G16), Eugene Hua and Nicholas Vettese (U12), Jason Cai, Richard Chen and Jeffrey Zhu (U14), John Doknjas and Razvan Preotu (U16). Apart from the ones I mentioned among the “highest scorers”, I should also mention Richard: if not for his finish, he would’ve had even chances for a medal (after 8 rounds, he was tied for 2nd, with 6.5 points). Eugene and Jason had a good tournament on their first WYCC participation, both

performing above their initial rating. John had a great comeback in the rounds 5-8 (4 wins) in a very tough U16 group, while Jeffrey also finished strong, with back-to-back wins in the last two rounds.

Preparation in Theory

Since I’ve always thought “it’s not possible to learn chess in 30 minutes”, I have tried to keep things simple and on a well-trodden path for players. Except a few (unsuccessful) experiments, I didn’t prepare surprise weapons with my players. Of course, this



was easier to do with the ones who also were my private students, but I believe I could add some ideas even to the preparation of those who weren't. Half an hour is not enough to prepare a game on the highest possible level, but it's enough to check the lines with the highest chance to appear on the board, and to give out guidelines like "check the Yugoslav Attack if he decides to go for the Dragon and the Giuoco Pianissimo if he chooses 1...e5, by using the materials you already have" or, if there were no prepared materials, "check the Anand-Aronian game from the 2010 Wijk aan Zee tournament, it's a good model game, also annotated in the database". Surely, if the player doesn't have a proper opening repertoire, the preparation should focus on an 8-10

move long scheme, plus a few possible plans (instead of memorizing moves and choosing concrete lines).

Preparation in Practice

Let me give you a few concrete examples. The first game, played by former World Champion Qiyu Zhou, demonstrates well how a "regular" preparation should work out. Qiyu knew theory until move 9, where the opponent deviated from the normal path. Knowing the plans she should follow, it was easy for her to find the right track until move 17, when the game really began. The position was complicated (may-

be slightly better for White), but Qiyu understood the position better than her opponent, and quickly outplayed her. The finish was very nice, too...

I soon changed my mind, upon seeing some recent games.

6.♖d2 or 6.♗e3 are the established lines, but this has more venom in it than it seems at first glance.

6...g5 7.♗g3 ♘e4 8.♘ge2
Black is at a crossroad here:

8...f5

8...h5 9.f3 ♘xg3:

Analysis Diagram

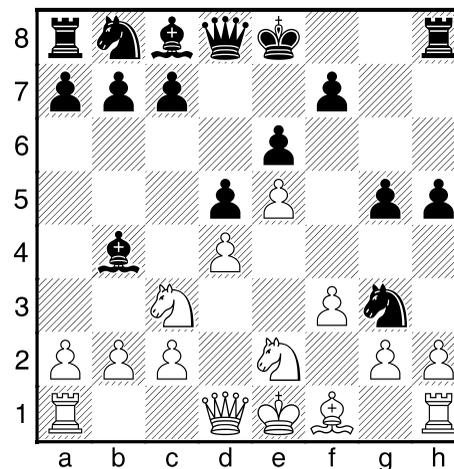
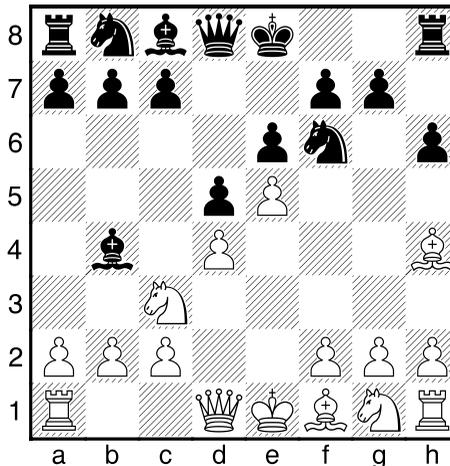
Notes by GM Gergely Szabo Zhou, Qiyu (2328)

Aakanksha, H. (2061)

C12

WYCC U16g Porto Carras (10.5),
04.11.2015

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6
4.♗g5 ♗b4 5.e5 h6 6.♗h4!?



10.♘xg3 c5 11.a3 ♗xc3+
12.bxc3 ♖a5 13.♖d2 ♘c6
14.♖b1?! (14.h4!?) 14...♖xa3
15.♗d3 cxd4 16.cxd4 ♘xd4
17.0-0 ♖e7 18.♖c3 ♘c6 19.♗b5
d4?? 20.♗xc6+ ♖f8 21.♖c4
gave White a quick victory in Karpathev, A (2472)–

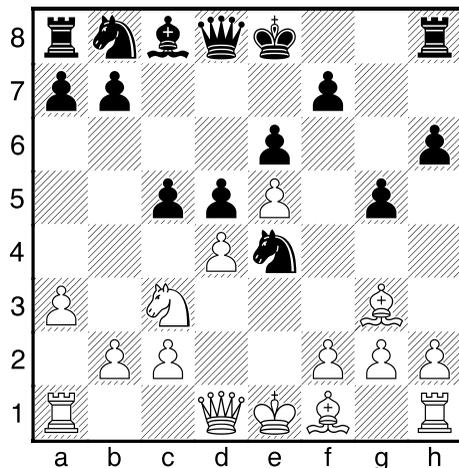
When Qiyu showed me this for the first time, I thought something like "great, another semi-correct line in which we strive for complications..." But



Wichmann, C (2363) Bad Woerishofen, 2015; but 15...h4! 16.0-0!? c4 17.♖a1 ♕e7♞ casts serious doubt on the correctness of White's concept.

10.hxg3 ♔d7 11.♕d2 ♔e7 12.g4 (12.f4!? was our pre-game preparation, considering that Black's bishop pair is currently held at bay by White's space advantage and the closed center.) 12...h4 13.g3 c5 14.gxh4 ♘c6 15.♖e3 ♖b8 16.0-0-0 cxd4 17.♘xd4 ♗xe5 18.♗xe5 ♘xe5♞ was better for Black in [Stukopin, A \(2572\)–Nakamura, H](#) Las Vegas, 2015 (0-1, 34).

8...c5 9.a3 ♔xc3+ 10.♘xc3
Analysis Diagram



10...♘xc3 11.bxc3 ♖a5 12.♕d2:

12...b6 13.h4 ♖g8 14.hxg5 (14.dxc5!? is a possible improvement here, as suggested by the engine.) 14...hxg5 15.c4 ♗xd2+ 16.♔xd2 cxd4 17.cxd5 exd5 18.a4 ♔a6 19.♔b5+ ♔xb5 20.axb5 ♘d7 21.♖h6 ♔e7 was played with mutual chances in [Kovchan, A \(2576\)–Adla, D](#) (2451) La Roda, 2015 (½-½, 67).

12... ♘c6 13.dxc5 ♗xc5 14.h4 ♖g8 15.hxg5 hxg5 16.c4 dxc4 17.♖d1 ♗xa3 18.♔xc4 (18.♔e2!?) 18...♗b4 19.♗xb4 ♘xb4 20.♔b5+ ♔e7 21.f4 a6 22.♔e2 ♔d7 23.fxg5 ♘xc2+ 24.♔f2 ♔c6♞ looked like a mess in [Kovchan, A \(2576\)–Arun Prasad, S](#) (2502) Cappelle la Grande, 2015 (½-½, 101).

10...♗a5 11.dxc5:

11... ♘xc3 12.♕d2 ♘c6 13.♗xc3 ♗xc3+ 14.bxc3 ♔d7 15.h4 0-0-0 16.f3 d4 17.cxd4 ♘xd4 18.0-0-0 ♘f5 19.♔f2± definitely didn't appeal to Black, although he managed to draw in [Popov, I](#) (2651)–Demidov, M (2498) Loo RUS, 2014 (½-½, 43).

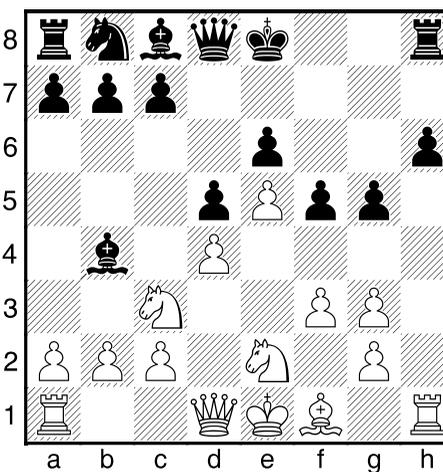
11...♘c6 12.♔b5 ♘xc3 13.♔xc6+ bxc6 14.♕d2 ♗xc5

15.♗xc3 ♗xc3+ 16.bxc3 ♖b8 17.h4 ♖g8 18.♔d2 ♖b6 19.hxg5 hxg5 20.f3± is slightly more pleasant for White, as in [Novoselski, Z](#) (2365)–Antic, D (2457) Kragujevac SRB, 2015 (0-1, 46).

9.f3 ♘xc3

9...♘g3 10.hxg3

Analysis Diagram



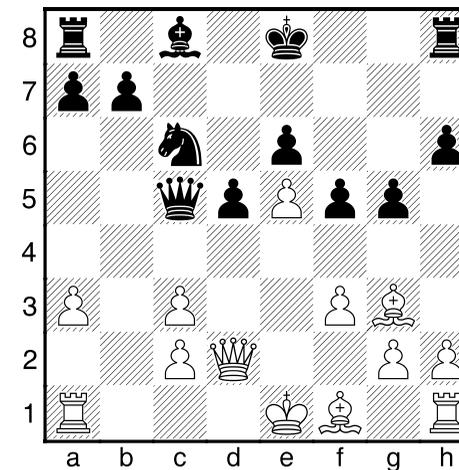
10...♔d7 11.a3 ♔xc3+ 12.♘xc3 ♘c6 13.f4 g4 14.♕d2 ♖e7 15.♘d1 0-0-0 16.♘e3 h5 17.0-0-0± This looks like a long and painful defence for Black, who couldn't resist in [Onischuk, V – Volkov, S](#) Al-Ain UAE, 2014 (1-0, 37).

10...c5?! 11.a3 ♔xc3+ 12.♘xc3

♔d7 13.dxc5 ♗c7 14.f4 ♗xc5 15.♗h5+ ♔d8 16.0-0-0→ looked very scary in [Bartel, M–Piorun, K](#) Chorzow, 2013 (1-0, 29).

10...h5 11.g4 fxg4 12.fxg4 h4 13.♕d3 ♖e7 14.a3 (14.0-0-0 ♔d7 15.a3 ♔a5 16.♘g3 ♘c6 17.♘h5↑ creates some extra trouble for Black, though.) 14...♔a5 15.♘g1 ♖g8 16.b4 ♔b6 17.♘d1 a5♞ was nothing special for White in [Mikalsen, E](#) (2161)–[Agdestein, S](#) Fagernes NOR, 2015 (1-0, 40).

10.♘xc3 c5 11.a3 ♔xc3+ 12.bxc3 ♖a5 13.♕d2 ♘c6 14.dxc5 ♗xc5



15.h4!

Qiyu uses the dynamics of the position skillfully; she needs

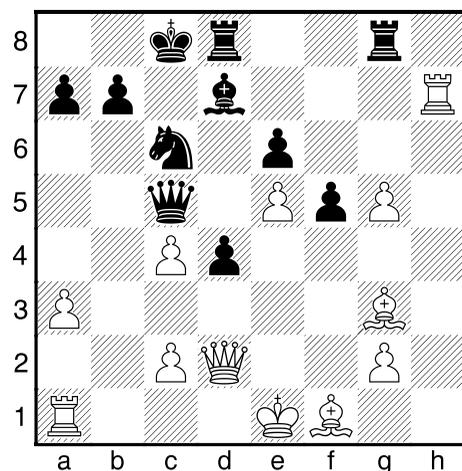


to hurry, since her queenside pawns are wrecked.

**15...♖g8 16.hxg5 hxg5
17.♖h7**

17.♙f2!? ♚a5 18.c4 ♚xd2+
19.♙xd2 dxc4 20.♙xc4 ♙d7
21.♖ae1± is the silicon monster's suggestion – but would you play this as White if you want to win?

**17...♙d7 18.f4 0-0-0 19.fxg5
d4 20.c4**



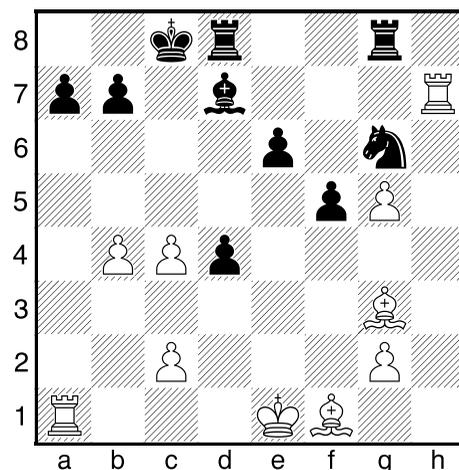
20...♘xe5?!

This is a first step into a wrong direction. 20...♙e8 21.♙f4 ♙g6 22.♖h3 ♖g7 would have led to an exciting fight – with Qiyu's usual 30 seconds on the clock...

21.♚b4! ♚xb4+?

21...♚c7 22.0-0-0 ♖xg5 is Black's only chance to fight back, having some compensation for the exchange after, let's say 23.♙h4 ♘c6 24.♚b5 ♖g4 25.♙xd8 ♚xd8.

22.axb4 ♘g6



23.♙d6!

Maybe it doesn't look that bad, but Black is lost. She has no chance to escape from the beautiful mating net White's pieces are weaving.

**23...a6 24.c5 ♖de8 25.b5
25.♖xa6 bxa6 26.♙xa6+ ♙d8
27.c6! wins as well.**

**25...♖h8 26.bxa6 bxa6
27.♙xa6+ ♙d8 28.c6 ♖eg8
29.♖xd7+ ♙e8 30.♙f1**

A great game played by the former Girls U-14 World Champion!

1-0

The next game presented here is not the fruit of the pre-game preparation. We discussed the subtleties of the line played a long time before with Razvan, in a private training session. Although his opponent played an unpretentious line, the young Canadian IM had to work hard to break through White's defences – which is maybe one of the qualities of the Alapin Sicilian: when White plays it in a non-aggressive fashion, it's not easy for Black to get the full point.

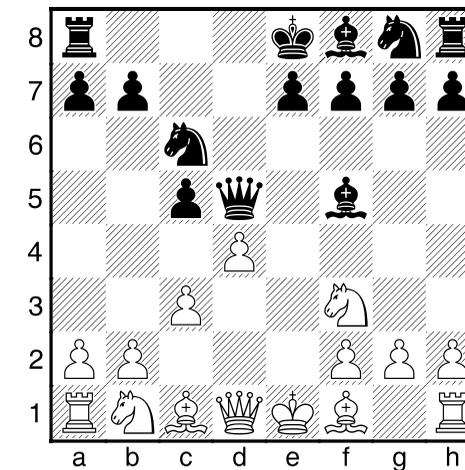
**Notes by GM Gergely Szabo
Zapata Charles, Santiago
(2246)**

**Preotu, Razvan (2463)
B22**

WYCC U16 Porto Carras (5.18),
29.10.2015

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5

♚xd5 4.d4 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♙f5!?



A relatively new line, but one which has produced decent results for Black.

6.♙e2

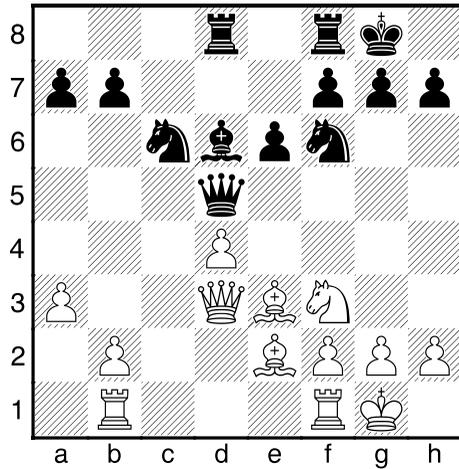
6.♙e3 and 6.♘a3 are White's other tries.

**6...cxd4 7.cxd4 ♙xb1
8.♖xb1 e6**

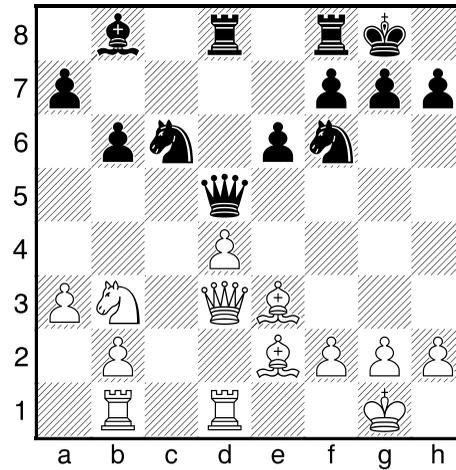
8...♚xa2?! is too risky, e.g.
9.0-0N ♚xb1? (9...e6 10.♘e5↑)
10.d5 ♚e4 11.dxc6 bxc6
(11...♚xc6 12.♘e5+→) 12.♙d3→
gives White a raging attack.

**9.a3 ♘f6 10.0-0 ♙d6 11.♙e3
0-0 12.♚d3 ♖ad8**





15. ♖fd1



15... ♞e5! 16. ♚b5

Black has equalized comfortably, but it's not so easy to break through. One of the advantages of playing with an IQP is that even if you fail with your attack (here, White failed with it right before it started), you still have good defensive chances.

13. ♞d2 ♞b8

14. ♞b3 b6!?

14... e5 15. ♖fd1 exd4 (15... e4 16. ♚b5)

16. ♙xd4 ♚e6 17. ♚c4 ♞xd4 18. ♞xd4 is just equal. Razvan thought for around 30 minutes here, trying to create something out of thin air.



editor – 16. dxe5 ♙xe5 17. f4 ♖xd3 18. fxe5 ♖xe3 19. exf6 ♖xe2 ♠ White has no comp for the pawn minus.

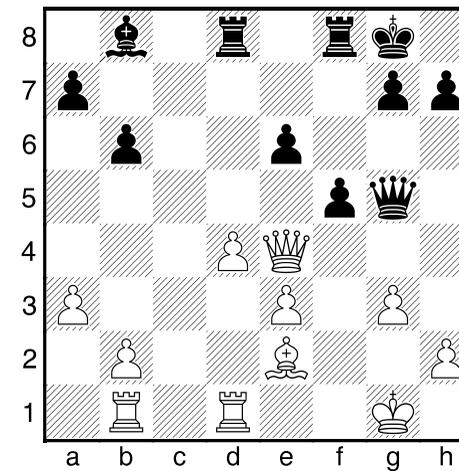
16... ♞eg4 17. g3 ♞xe3

18. fxe3 ♚e4 19. ♚d3 ♚d5

20. ♞d2 ♚g5 21. ♞e4?!

Gives Black unnecessary chances. Better is 21. ♞f3.

21... ♞xe4 22. ♚xe4 f5



23. ♚xe6+?

A bad mistake. After 23. ♚f3 Black has a more pleasant position, and could try to press on by means of 23... h5 24. ♙c4 ♖f6 followed up by h5-h4, but it's far from winning.

23... ♚h8 24. ♚f2 ♖de8

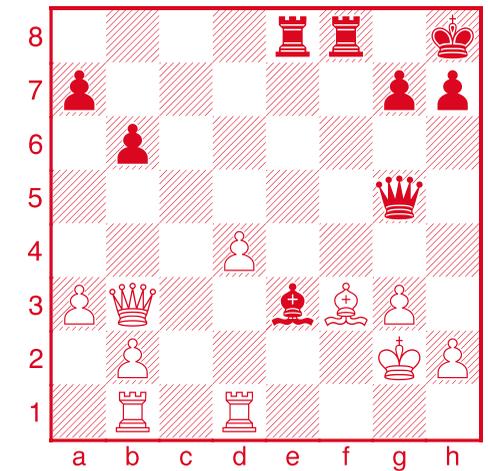
25. ♚b3 f4!

Razvan doesn't need a second invitation; Black's pieces crash through White's defences with ease.

26. exf4 ♙xf4

26... ♚h6 also wins.

27. ♙f3 ♙e3+ 28. ♚g2



28... ♖xf3 ♚ 29. ♚xf3 ♚f5+

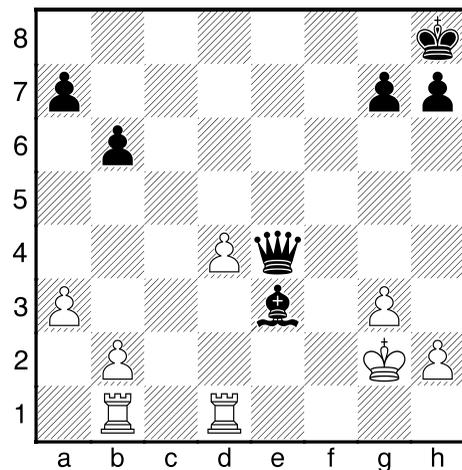
29... ♖f8+ 30. ♚e2 ♚g4+ 31. ♚d3 ♚xd4+ 32. ♚e2 ♖f2+ 33. ♚e1 ♙d2+ is quicker, but here, every road leads to Rome.

30. ♚g2 ♚e4+ 31. ♚h3 ♖e6

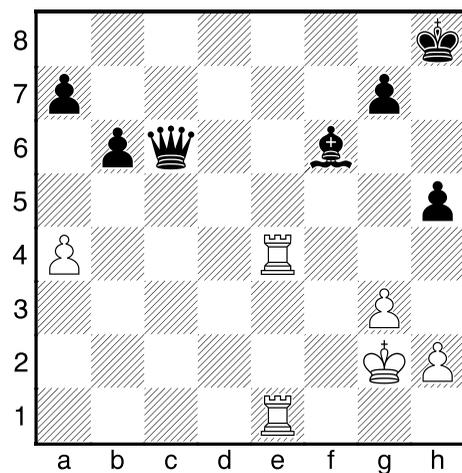
32. ♚xe6 ♚xe6+ 33. ♚g2

♚e4+





34.♔h3 ♕xd4 35.♖f1 h5
36.♖be1 ♔g4+ 37.♔g2
♕xb2 38.♖f4 ♔g6 39.a4
♔c6+ 40.♖fe4 ♕f6



White could safely resign here, after reaching the time control.

41.h4 b5 42.axb5 ♔xb5
43.♔h3 a5 44.g4 hxg4+

45.♔xg4 a4 46.♖1e3 a3
47.♖e8+ ♔h7 48.♖a8 a2
49.♖xa2 ♔c4+

0-1

As it happens, this game also was a very useful one to analyze. Razvan managed to gradually outplay his opponent by maneuvering with patience, without being afraid that his opponent might “kill the game”. It’s very important not to get upset and just keep on playing, even if the position is equal. Just pose problems for the opponent - he might crack later on.

Post Mortems

Normally, we spent around 15-30 minutes per game when analyzing it (which is obviously not much, but I had to take into account the time constraints), and I decided to be flexible about them; if someone was so upset that he decided to skip the game analysis part (announcing it after the game), I didn’t force anyone to show it. This happened rarely, since even those who lost were curious where they messed up

the game, where they could have played the opening in a more precise fashion, etc. To be as effective and useful for the kids as possible, but without killing the real “feel” of an analysis, I carefully computer-checked the opening, after which we tried together to find improvements in the middlegame and endgame. This way, they could get the precise answer to any questions they had in the opening and see how a human GM would have thought during their games (a

human GM who was closer to them in playing strength, compared to a 3200-3300 level silicon monster).

Of course, the preparation doesn’t always turn out to be a complete success. There are several causes for this, the main one being that the opponent is doing the same: the one who’s making a better read wins the “preparation duel”. As we will see, this doesn’t warrant in itself a positive result, but it’s a brick in the edifice. Sometimes, the informa-



tion on the opponent is scarce in the databases (or no games at all, in lower age categories). Sometimes, the player just forgets the preparation. And, last but not least, the coach doesn't make a good read on the opponent or is simply uninspired on a certain day. There is another possible cause of failure, but luckily, I haven't encountered it during the WYCC: when the player (not a private student) is withholding crucial information for the pre-game preparation, fearing that the coach will use that information for his own ends (if one of the coach's private students is a local rival, for example). A different case, but with similar results, appears when the player doesn't listen to the coach's recommendation, and decides to play something else — I have to praise my WYCC squad in this respect as well, as they showed remarkable discipline.

Not Perfect... but making progress

The following game is similar in a way to my final evaluation of this WYCC: although we've

made mistakes and the only top 6 finish was the one achieved by IM Razvan Preotu, in the end, the great experience gained by everyone (along with some nice rating pluses) outweighed the negative aspects of the WYCC.

Hopefully, in the upcoming years, Canada will have juniors who will achieve even better results than the past ones!

As for the game: Eugene started to play the Sicilian only for a short time, so he was not familiar with all the subtleties of lesser-played lines. Our pre-game preparation included some completely different variations, and Eugene had some trouble remembering the exact details of the line. His opponent, although slightly higher-rated, failed to punish Black's imprecision in the opening; as a result, the initiative passed slowly to Black. After a few energetic moves on the second player's part, in a slightly worse position, the American junior panicked and gave up material. Eugene didn't waste his chance and mopped up efficiently.

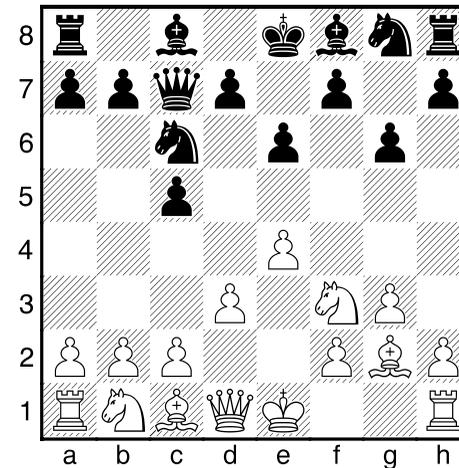
Notes by GM Gergely Szabo Wang, Wesley (2032) Hua, Eugene (1996) B40

WYCC U12 Porto Carras (7),
01.11.2015

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d3 ♘c6
4.g3 ♕c7

4...d5 is more common here.

5.♙g2 g6?!



6.0-0?!

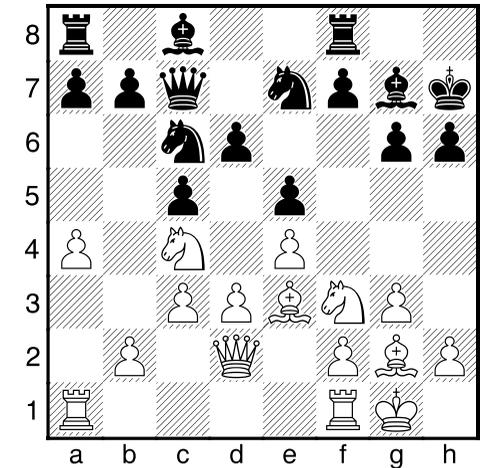
6.d4! cxd4 7.♘xd4 is why Black usually avoids this setup.

6...♙g7 7.c3 e5?!
♖7...♘ge7.

8.♘bd2?!

8.d4! cxd4 9.cxd4 exd4 10.♘a3 gives White good play again.

8...♘ge7 9.a4 0-0 10.♘c4
d6 11.♙e3 h6 12.♕d2 ♖h7



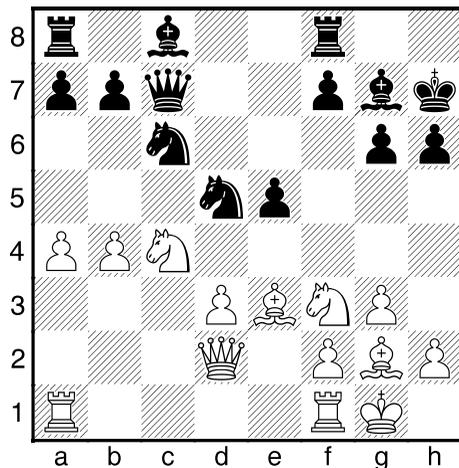
Now things are back on track again; the eventual extra tempo White has is not extremely important here.

13.b4 cxb4 14.cxb4 d5!

Eugene senses the right moment to strike back in the center. Waiting wouldn't really have done the trick: 14...♙e6 15.♖ac1 ♕d7 16.b5 ♘d4 17.♙xd4 exd4 18.♖fe1± gives White a durable plus.

15.exd5 ♘xd5

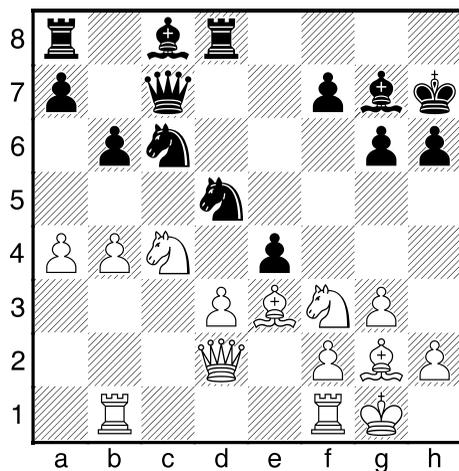




16. ♖c5?!

This helps Black coordinate his forces. Instead, 16. b5 ♘xe3 17. ♘xe3 ♘a5 18. ♖ac1 ♔d8 holds, but it looks a better try for White.

16... ♖d8 17. ♖ab1 b6 18. ♖e3 e4!



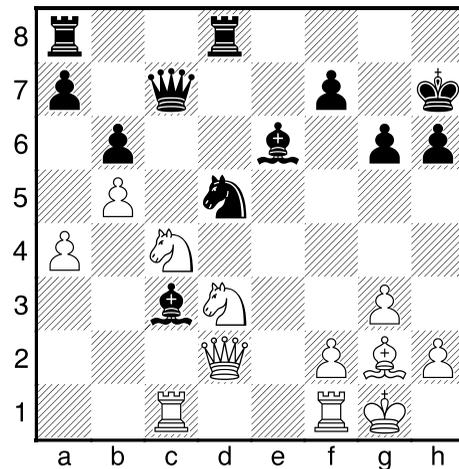
A bit paradoxically, Black opens

the center while he has two undeveloped pieces. The bad coordination of the White pieces makes it possible for him to grab the initiative.

19. ♖e1 ♖e6

19... exd3! 20. ♖c1 ♘dxb4 looks a bit scary, but it's objectively stronger than the move played in the game.

20. b5 ♘d4 21. ♖xd4 ♖xd4
22. ♖c1 exd3 23. ♘xd3 ♖c3



24. ♖xd5??

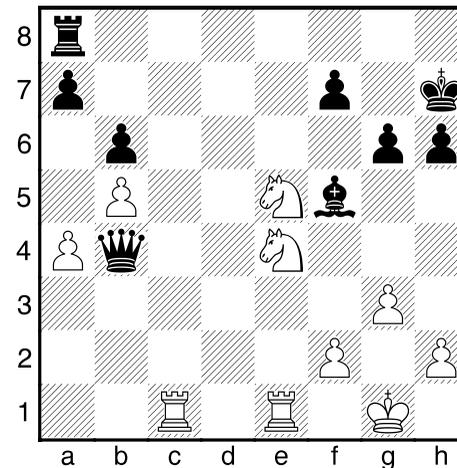
White is panicking, although he could have saved the game with 24. ♔a2:

24... ♖ac8 25. ♖xd5 ♖xd5
26. ♖xc3 ♖xc4 27. ♔a3=, or
24... ♖g7 25. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 26. ♘f4

♔b7 27. ♘xd5 ♖xd5 28. ♔a3∞.

24... ♖xd2 25. ♘xd2 ♔d6?!
25... ♖xc1! 26. ♘xc1 ♖xd5
27. ♘e4 ♖d4 is simpler.

26. ♘e4 ♔e7 27. ♖xa8 ♖xa8
28. ♖fe1 ♖f5 29. ♘e5 ♔b4



30. ♘c3?!

30. ♘c6 is more stubborn.

30... ♖e8! 31. ♖e3
♔b2 32. ♖ce1
♖xe5 33. ♖xe5
♔xc3 34. ♖e7
♔g7 35. ♖d1 ♔f3

0-1

Conclusion

Although my expectation was higher for this tournament in terms of the final results, the slight disappointment was hugely compensated by all the positive features of the event, as described above.

I'd like to finish the article by thanking everyone who contributed to the success of this superb event which was the 2015 WYCC: organizers, parents, coaches and kids alike — not forgetting about the consistent financial and moral support given to us by the CFC Executives, especially the CFC President **Vlad Drkulec** and CFC Youth Coordinator **Frank Lee**.



- GM Gergely Szabo

photos:

1. Gergely Szabo
2. Team Gergely
3. Qiyu Zhou
4. Razvan Preotu
5. post mortem
6. Eugene Hua



Chess Canada has 16 more annotated games from the WYCC.

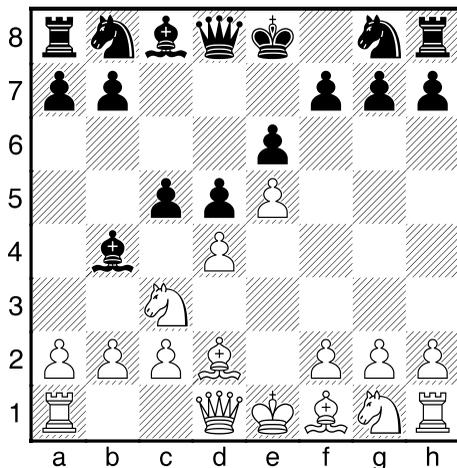
Lobanov, Sergei (2394)
Xu, Jeffrey (1930)
C17

WYCC U14 Porto Carras (1),
 25.10.2015

Notes by John Upper

Jeffrey's opponent scored 5.5/6 to lead the tournament, before losing to each of the three medal-winners, to finish with 7.5 and 10th overall.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4
4.e5 c5 5.♙d2



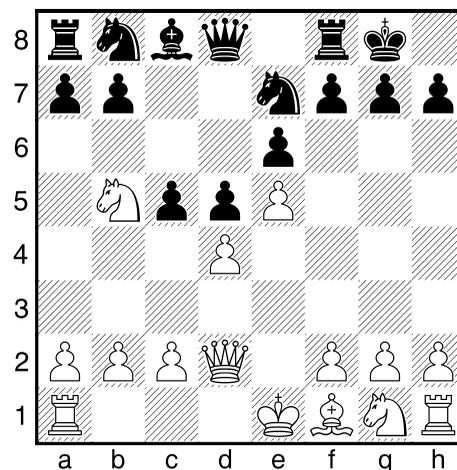
A side-line that gets no respect

by authors of books on the French defence. In my opinion, the small theoretical advantage it may give up over the extremely theoretical 5.a3 is more than made up by the prep time saved that might well leave White better prepared than Black for this sideline, particularly for amateurs.

5...♘c6

All the top players continue like this 5...♘e7 6.♘b5 ♙xd2+ 7.♙xd2 0-0:

Analysis Diagram



Here, White and Black score about 50% on all the main moves:

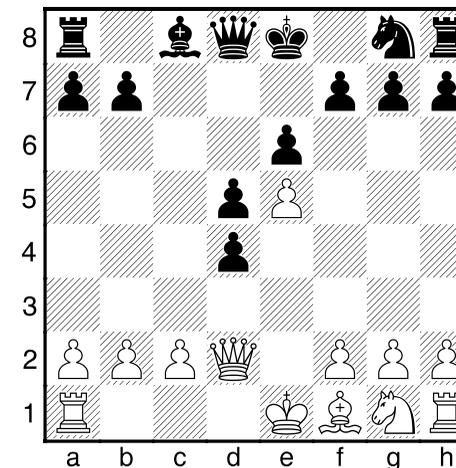
a) 8.c3 b6 slow. 9.f4 ♙a6 10.♘f3 ♙d7 11.a4± ♘bc6 12.b4! cxb4 13.cxb4 ♙b7 14.♘d6 f5?! 15.a5 ♘c8 16.♘xb7 ♙xb7 17.a6 ♙f7 18.♙b5+- White already has a winning bind, and won by tripling on the c-file. (1-0, 31) **Alekhine-Nimzowitsch, San Remo, 1930.**

b) 8.dxc5 ♘d7 9.♘f3 ♘xc5 10.♙d3 ♙b6 11.♖b1 ♘xd3+ 12.♙xd3 ♙d7 13.♘c3 ♖ac8 14.0-0 ♖c4 15.♘e2 ♘g6♯ 16.♘ed4?? ♘f4 17.♙e3 ♖xd4 18.g3 (18.♘xd4 ♙xd4 19.♙xd4 ♘e2+-) 18...♖e4 19.♙xb6 ♘e2+ 0-1 **Landa, K-Naiditsch, A Hagenau, 2013.**

c) 8.f4 a6 9.♘d6 cxd4 10.♘f3 ♘bc6 11.♙d3 f6 12.0-0 ♙d7∞ (1/2-1/2, 36) **Hector-Brynell, Lund, 2010.**

6.♘b5 ♙xd2+ 7.♙xd2 ♘xd4 8.♘xd4 8.♘d6+?! ♙f8 9.0-0-0 ♘h6 10.♘f3 ♘hf5♯.

8...cxd4



9.f4

9.♙xd4 ♘e7 10.♘f3 ♘c6 White has a small but safe plus in a typical French ending. 11.♙e3!± (≤11.♙g4 0-0 12.♙d3 f5 13.♙f4 ♙b6 14.0-0-0 ♙xf2 15.♖df1 ♙c5♯ (1/2-1/2, 60) **Gusev, N (2109)-Sambuev, B (2528) Guelph, 2008.**) 11...d4!? Risky, since it's hard to defend, but it's a standard French sacrifice to activate the light-square ♙ before it gets burried. 12.♙a3 ♙e7 13.♙xe7+ ♙xe7 14.0-0-0 ♙d7 15.♙d3± and White eventually surrounded and won the d4-pawn in: **Macieja, B - Ivanov, S (2556) Glogow, 2001 (1-0, 35).**



9...♔b6

9...♘e7 10.♘f3 ♘c6 11.0-0-0
 ♙d7 12.h4 a6 13.h5 ♖e7 14.h6
 g6 15.♔b1 0-0 16.g3 b5 17.♘xd4
 (17.♘h2!? going to g4 then
 f6 or e5.) 17...♘xd4 18.♖xd4
 b4 19.♙d3 (19.f5!?) 19...♙b5
 20.♖he1 ♖fc8 21.g4 ♖ab8 22.f5
 ♙xd3 23.cxd3 b3∞ (0-1, 52)
 Recuero Guerra, D (2424)–
 Belov, V (2578) Cappelle-la-
 Grande, 2008.

10.0-0-0

10.b4 ♘h6 11.♘f3 ♘f5 12.♙d3

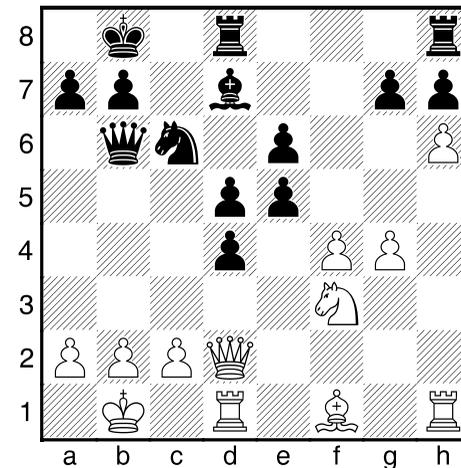
♘e3 13.♔f2 ♙d7 14.a4 a6
 15.♖hc1 ♖c8 16.♔g1 ♖c3
 17.a5 ♖a7 18.♔h1 h6 19.♖e1
 ♘c4 20.♖f2 ♘e3 21.♖d2 ♘c4
 22.♙xc4 ♖xc4 23.♖ed1 0-0
 24.♘xd4 f6 25.c3 fxe5 26.fxe5
 ♖b8 27.♖e1= (0-1, 84) **Hector-
 Hansen, L, Vejle, 1994.**

10...♘e7 11.♘f3 ♘c6 12.g4
 ♙d7 13.h4 0-0-0 14.h5 ♔b8
 15.♔b1 f6!?

15...h6 might be safer, but this
 kingside structure still slightly
 favours White, who can create a

passer in any ♔♙ ending with f5
 and g5.

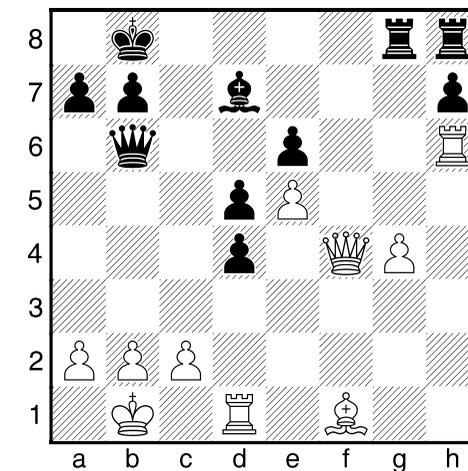
16.h6 fxe5



17.♘xe5

17.hxg7 ♖hg8 18.♖xh7 d3! (18...
 e4 19.♘xd4 ♘xd4 20.♖xd4
 ♖xd4 21.♖xd4 ♙c8 (21...♙c6?
 22.f5+-) 22.c4!±) 19.cxd3 exf4
 20.♖xf4+±.

17...♘xe5 18.fxe5 gxh6
 19.♖xh6 ♖dg8 20.♖f4



20...♖d8

20...♙e8! 21.♙d3 ♙g6 22.♙xg6
 ♖xg6 23.♖xg6 hxg6 24.♖f6±
 White gets the pawn back
 and will have a slightly better
 structure.

21.♖f6!

Now all of Black's pieces are
 defending pawn weaknesses.

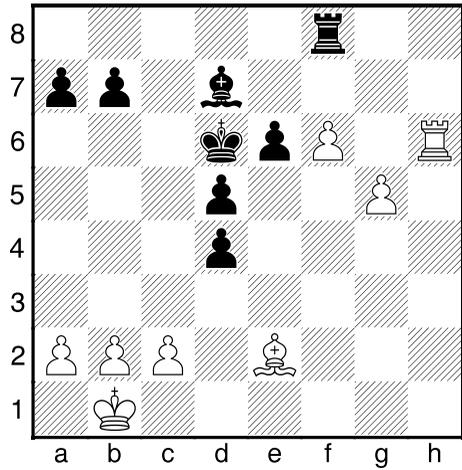
21...h6 22.♙e2 ♖f8 23.♖h1



Chess Canada



♖xf6?! 24.exf6++- ♔c7
 25.♔xc7+ ♕xc7 26.g5! ♖f8
 27.♖xh6 ♔d6



28.b4!

Eliminates the back-rank mate and so sets up the following tactic.

28...a6 29.g6! ♖xf6 30.g7
 ♖xh6 31.g8♔ ♖h3 32.♔b8+
 ♕c6 33.a4 ♖e3 34.♗d3

PS: Did you notice that White completed the entire game without bothering to recapture the pawn on d4?

1-0

Wang, Constance (1650)

Wang, Annie (2087)

C02

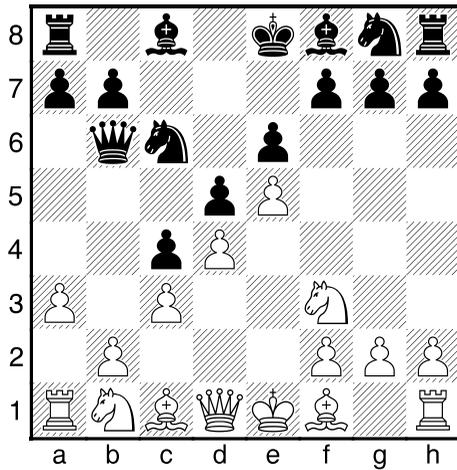
WYCC U14g Porto Carras (1),

25.10.2015

Notes by John Upper

A maneuvering game where both sides stay prepared for their opponent's pawn breaks, but don't make any of their own until just before the time control.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3
 ♖c6 5.♗f3 ♔b6 6.a3 c4

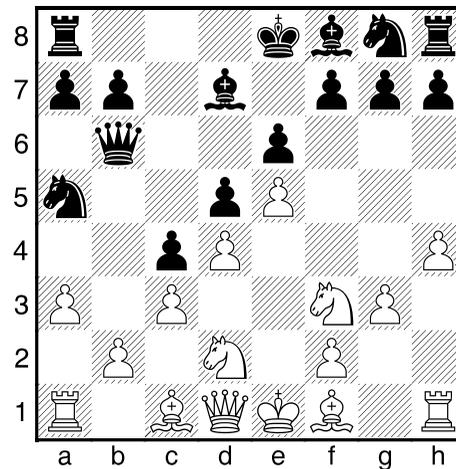


This isn't the sexy modern ...♗h6 line, as recommended in Watson's *Play the French* books. But it's strategically complex, and has been played by Kortchnoi, Petrosian and Bareev, and it is

recommended by Moskalenko in his books on the French.

Black's idea is to gain queenside space and then overprotect the light squares with moves like ...♗a5 and ...♗ge7-c8-b6 and even ...♗d7-a4. This will guarantee that White cannot break on the queenside without giving Black's pieces control and use of the light squares, especially c4. Since it would be foolish for White to break on the queenside, Black will castle long and all the pawn play will be on the kingside. White has more space on the kingside, but will castle that way too, so any pawn breaks (f4-f5 or ..f6) might open lines for Black to attack.

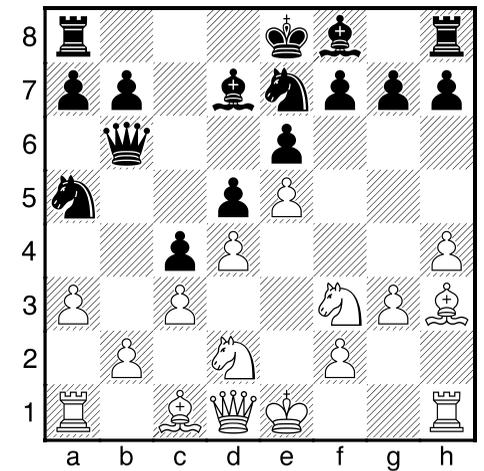
7.g3 ♗a5 8.♗bd2 ♗d7 9.h4



9...♗e7

Black follows the Moskalenko regrouping described above, but there's another more combative option: 9...0-0-0 10.♗h3 f5 11.exf6 gxf6 12.0-0 ♗h6 13.♖e1 ♗f5 (13...♖g8) 14.♖b1 ♗d6 15.♗f1 ♖dg8 16.♗e3? ♗xg3! 17.fxg3 ♖xg3+ 18.♗g2 ♖hg8 19.♖f1 ♗e8!-+ (1/2-1/2, 38) Svidler, P-Fedoseev, V, Berlin (rapid), 2015.

10.♗h3



White knows what she's doing: h2-h4 gains space and creates the possibility of further pawn breaks with h4-h5-h6, and the ♗ is more active here than on e2 or g2.

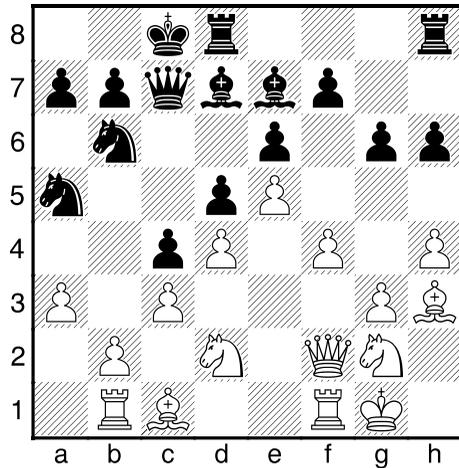
Chess Canada



10...♔c7

10...h6 11.h5 ♘c8 12.0-0 ♔c7
13.♘e1 ♘b6 14.♚e2 0-0-0
15.♘g2 ♙e7 16.♖b1 ♗dg8
17.f4 g6 Is a typical example
of both side's setups; **Svidler,
P –Andreikin, D** Moscow, 2012
(0-1, 43).

11.0-0 ♘c8 12.♘e1 ♘b6
13.f4 ♙e7 14.♚f3 g6
15.♘g2 0-0-0 16.♖b1 h6
17.♚f2



17...♘b3

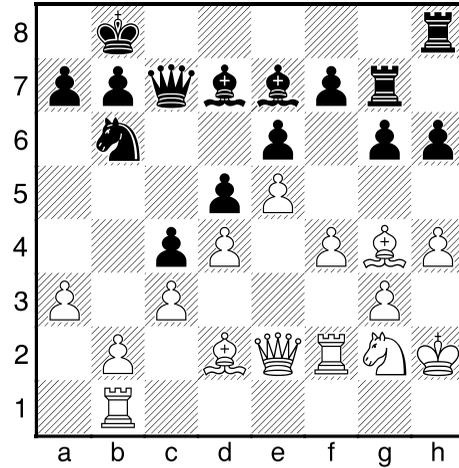
17...♙a4 hoping come out on
the other side of the pawn chain
through c2, 18.♘f3 ♔b8∞

18.♙g4

18.♘xb3 cxb3 19.♙g4 (19.g4

♙b5) 19...♙b5=.

18...♘xd2 19.♙xd2 ♗dg8
20.♚e2 ♖g7 21.♔h2 ♔b8
22.♖f2



It's the same pawn structure as
before; both players are well set
to react to the only reasonable
pawn breaks in the position on
the f, g and h-files.

22...♖gh7!?

Maybe Black wants to make this
her Nimzovich tribute game?

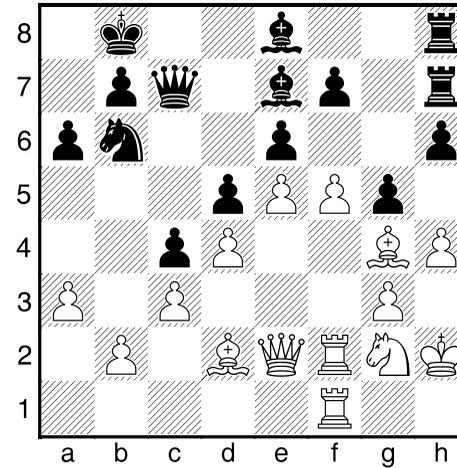
23.♖bf1 a6

23...h5 seems to leave Black
with a well-clogged kingside
and some opportunities on the
queenside.

24.♙h3

24.h5 ♖g8∞.

24...♙e8 25.♙g4 g5 26.f5?!
△26.h5 gxf4 27.gxf4±.



26...gxh4?

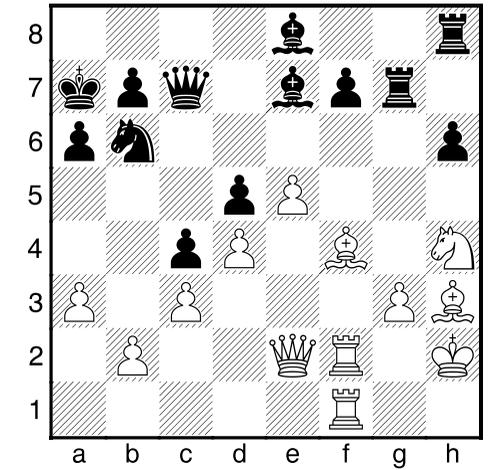
△26...h5! 27.f6
hgx4 28.fxe7 gxh4
29.♘xh4 f5!→ Δ30.
exf6?? ♖xh4+-..

27.♘xh4 exf5

28.♙xf5 ♖g7

29.♙f4 ♔a7

30.♙h3



30...♙xh4?

This would be a good trade if
Black's ♙ was on e6, since then
White's DSB would be blocked

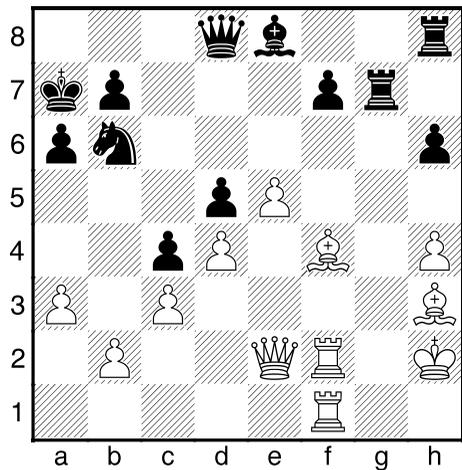


Constance Wang



out of the game. But here White's e5 pawn can move, which opens up the DSB, and Black will miss her DSB. $\triangle 30... \text{♙g5}$

31.gxh4 ♔d8



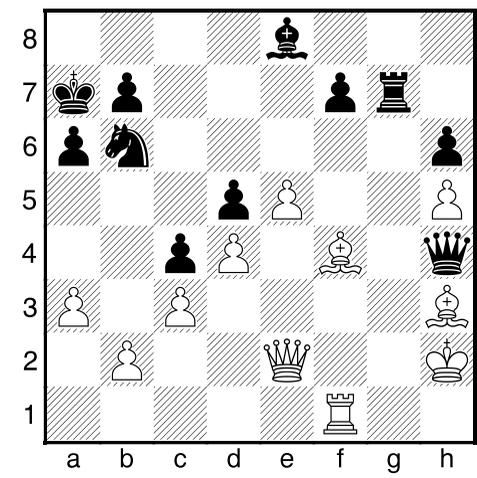
32.h5? =

Saves the pawn, but both players must have missed e5-e6, a winning clearance sacrifice which makes White's dark-square ♙ a game winner:

32.e6!+- fxe6 (32... ♔xh4? 33. ♔e5+-) 33. ♙e5+-;
 Or **32. ♖g2 ♖xg2+ 33. ♔xg2 ♔xh4 34.e6 □ Δfxe6 35. ♙e5+-.**

32... ♔h4= 33. ♖g2 ♖hg8?
 $\triangle 33... ♖xg2+= 34. ♔xg2 ♙d7=$

34. ♖xg7 ♖xg7



35. ♔f3?

35.e6! again, the clearance sacrifice, this time with the threat of ♔e5, then 35. ♔f2 ♔xh5 36. ♔f3=.

35... ♙d7 36. ♖c1??

36. ♙d2∞ is OK, but 36. ♖d1?? ♙g4-+.

36... ♙xh3-+

Winning a piece.

37. ♔xh3 ♔f2+

37... ♔xf4+-+ gets the ♙ and the ♖c1.

38. ♔h1 ♔xf4

0-1

Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn (1753)

Ognean, Mihnea Ionut (2195)

B34

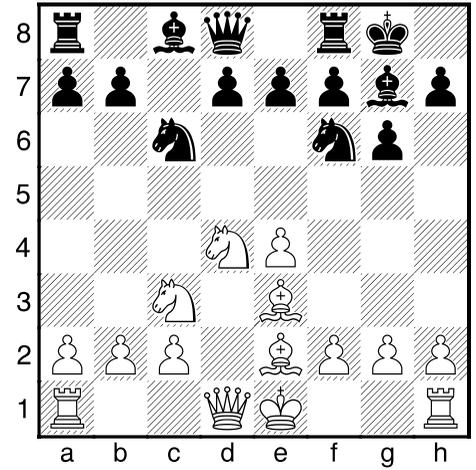
WYCC U12 Porto Carras (1), 25.10.2015

Notes by John Upper

SRL outplays his higher-rated opponent from an equal middlegame, and turns a better minor piece and control of the only open file into an extra piece. But one bad move can spoil your whole afternoon...

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 g6 3. ♘c3 ♙g7 4.d4 cxd4 5. ♘xd4 ♘c6 6. ♙e3 ♘f6 7. ♙e2 7. ♙c4 is the critical and theory-heavy line.

7...0-0



Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux

Chess Canada

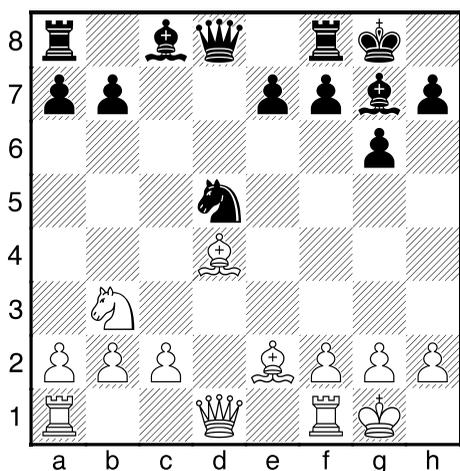


8.0-0

This is considered harmless, and Black scores about 57% after his next move, though with no elo gain.

White can discourage ...d5 with 8. ♖b3 or 8.f4 d5?! 9.e5 ♘e8 10. ♙f3 with a space advantage – Kasparov. In either case, Black is OK after 8...d6.

8...d5!= 9.exd5 ♘b4 10. ♘b3 ♖bxd5 11. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 12. ♙d4



12...♘f4

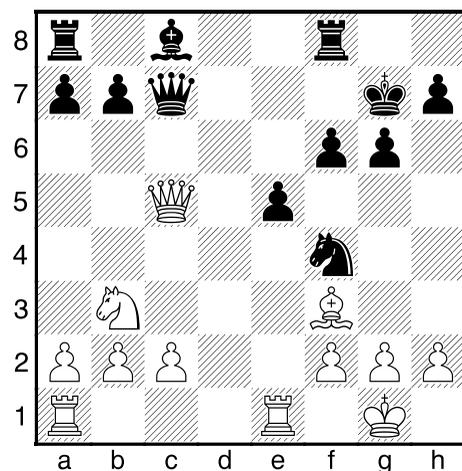
12...e5! 13. ♙c5 ♖e8 14. ♙b5 ♙d7 15. ♙xd7 ♖xd7 16.c4 ♘f6 with a decent Sicilian endgame that Black went on to win in: Ding, Y (2315)–Hou, Y (2570) China,

2010.

13. ♙f3

13. ♙xg7 was barely a game at all after 13...♖xd1 14. ♖fxd1 ♘xe2+ 15. ♙f1 ♙xg7 16. ♙xe2 ♙f5 17.c3 ♖ad8 (1/2-1/2, 17) Tolush, A – Petrosian, T Bucharest, 1953.

13...♖c7 14. ♙xg7 ♙xg7 15. ♖d4+ ♖f6 16. ♖fe1 e5 17. ♖c5



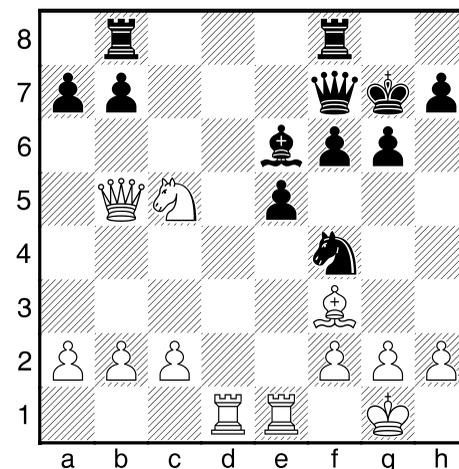
17...♖f7

Not clearly bad. Keeping the ♖s on suggest the higher-rated player as Black thought he had better chances with more pieces on... or that he wasn't confident about his chances in a Sicilian endgame.

Safer choices were:

17...♖xc5 18. ♘xc5 ♘e6 19. ♘xe6+ ♙xe6 20.b3=; or 17...♖f7! defending the ♖ and the 7th, making it easier to develop the ♙c8.

18. ♖ad1 ♙e6 19. ♖b5 ♖ab8 20. ♘c5



White has some positional threats, and Black has to be clever.

20...a6?!

20...♙f5 is equal, but after 20...♙c4 21. ♖a4 b5 22. ♖a5 Black has to find a way to defend against ♖d7.

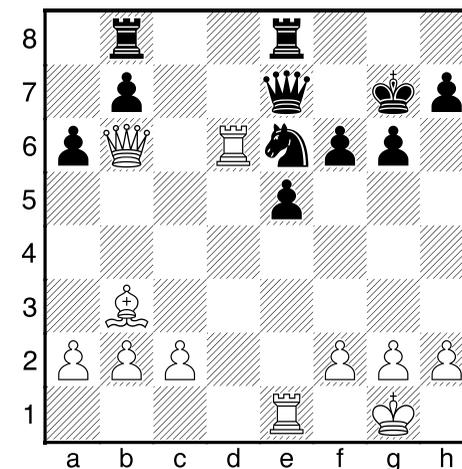
21. ♖b6

A doubly useful square for the ♖: attacking d8 and along the sixth

rank.

21...♖fc8 22. ♘xe6+ ♘xe6 22...♖xe6? 23. ♖d6+-.

23. ♙d5! ♖e8 24. ♙b3! ♖e7 25. ♖d6!±



If Black's ♘ was on c6, where it is stable and would help fight for the d-file, then the position would be only a little better for White. But here White has a big advantage: control over the only open file, an exposed ♙ to target, a much better minor piece.

25...♘f4?

Lots of options, none great: 25...♘d4?? 26. ♖xd4+-; 25...♘f8 26. ♖ed1 ♖ec8 27.h4±;



25...♘g5!? leads to some neat crosspins: 26.♖ed1 ♘f7 27.♖d7 ♖bd8! 28.♙xb7 ♖xd7 29.♖xd7 ♖d8 30.♙e6!±;

25...♘d8!? 26.♖ed1 ♘f7 and White can keep building with ♖e6, but can't immediately win a pawn with 27.♙xf7 ♙xf7 28.♖d7 ♖e7 29.♙c7 ♖be8± 30.♙xb7?? ♖d8-+.

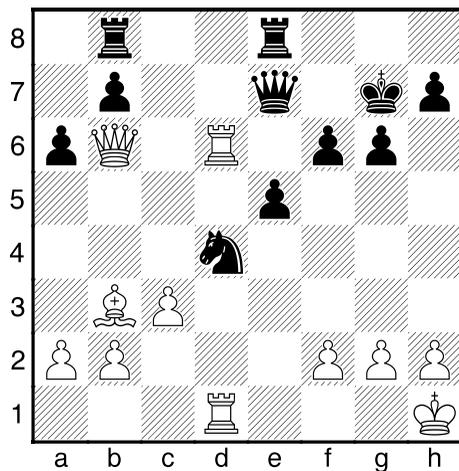
26.♖ed1+- ♘e2+

26...♙h8 27.♖d7 ♙f8 28.♖f7+-.

27.♙h1

White is in total control either way, but 27.♙f1! ends all back-rank worries.

27...♘d4 28.c3



♘ moves allow ♖d7, so Black

gives up the piece.

28...♖bd8 29.♖xd8 ♖xd8 30.cxd4 exd4 31.♙e6 ♙c7 32.h3 d3 33.♙c4

♘33.♙d5 ♙c2 34.♙e7+ ♙h6 35.♙f3+-.

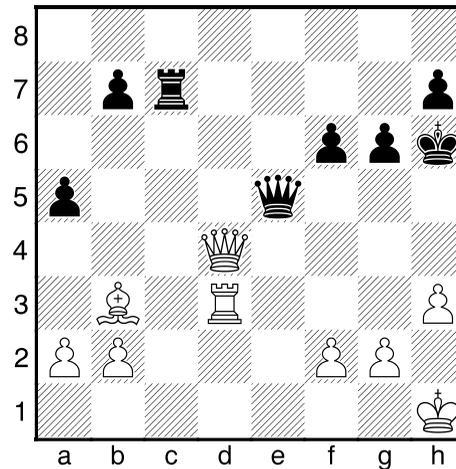
33...♙d7 34.♖d2 ♙f5

35.♙c7+ ♖d7 36.♙c8 a5

37.♙g8+ ♙h6 38.♙e6 ♙b5

39.♙c4 ♙e5 40.♖xd3 ♖c7

41.♙d4



41...♖c1+ 42.♖d1??

One bad move and it's over.

42.♙d1 ♙e1+ 43.♙h2+- and everything is defended.

42...♙xd4-+ 43.♖xc1 ♙xb2

44.♖c2 ♙b1+ 45.♙h2

b5 46.♖c5 ♙d3 47.♖c6

a4 48.♙g8 ♙d4 49.f3 b4

50.♖c4 ♙d6+ 51.♙h1 ♙g7

52.♖c8 ♙d1+

Nudging the ♙ up so that checks on the diagonal will attack the dark squares.

53.♙h2 ♙d7 54.♖a8 ♙c6!

There are no safe squares for the ♖, so the ♙g8 is lost.

0-1

Winiarski, Mikolaj (2113)

Preotu, Razvan (2463)

A64

WYCC U16 Porto Carras (1), 25.10.2015

Notes by John Upper

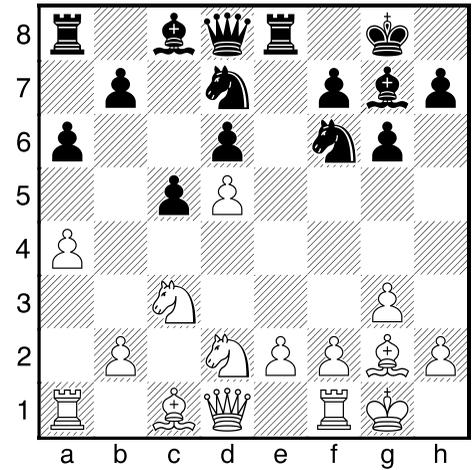
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5

4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.♘c3

g6 7.♙g2 ♙g7 8.♘f3 0-0

9.0-0 ♖e8 10.♘d2 a6 11.a4

♘bd7



12.♘c4

Although it's been played a few times by Karpov and Marin, this might be inaccurate.

Avrukh's repertoire books recommend: 12.h3!? ♖b8

13.♘c4 ♘e5 14.♘a3 ♘h5

15.e4 ♖f8 (15...♙d7∞ (0-1, 41)

Sasikiran, K-Anand, V Bastia, 2011)

16.♙h2 (16.g4?! ♙h4

17.gxh5 ♙xh3 18.h6 ♙h8 19.♙e2

f5→ Timman) 16...f5? Kasparov

17.f4 b5! 18.axb5! axb5

19.♘axb5± fxe4 20.♙xe4! ♙d7

was the start of the Olympiad

showdown between [Kortschnoi-Kasparov Luzern Ol, 1982](#) (0-1,

36).

12.a5!? b5 13.axb6 ♘xb6

14.♘b3 ♙f5 15.♘a5 ♘e4 (1-0,



Chess Canada



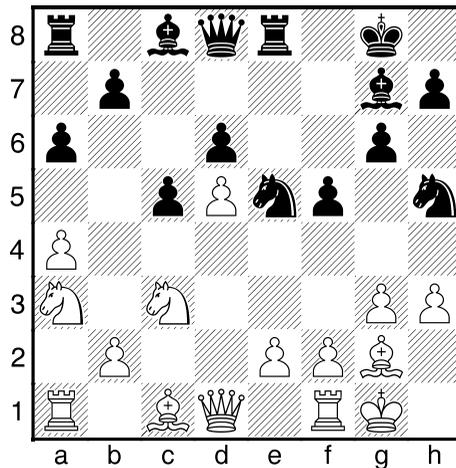
41) Topalov, V–Karjakin, S Zug, 2013.

12...♘e5 13.♘a3

13.♘xe5 ♖xe5= the piece exchange greatly relieves Black's cramped game. 14.h3 ♖b8

15.♙f4 ♖e8 16.♚d3 ♘h5 17.♙d2 f5 18.♖fb1 ♙d7 19.b4 b5 20.axb5 cxb4 21.♖xb4 ♙xb5 22.♖xb5 axb5 23.♖b1 b4 24.♘b5? ♘xg3!+ Karpov, A (2619)–Naiditsch, A (2710) Kiev rapid, 2013 (0-1, 46).

13...♘h5 14.h3 f5



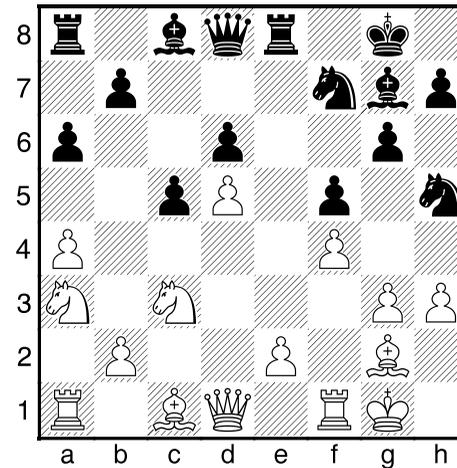
15.f4?!

15.♙h2? f4!→ Δ16.♙xf4? (16.gxf4 ♚h4 17.e3 ♙g4!-+ is almost identical to the game.) 16...♘xf4 17.gxf4 ♚h4! 18.e3 (18.fxe5? ♚f4+ 19.♙g1 ♙xe5

20.♖e1 ♙xh3-+) 18...♙g4 19.f3 ♘xf3+! 20.♖xf3 ♖xe3! 21.♖xe3 ♙xd1 22.♘xd1 ♚xf4+-+ (0-1, 38) Gonzalez Perez, A (2490)–Aroshidze, L (2539) Barbera del Valles, 2011.

15...♘f7

15...♘xg3!? is playable, but Black doesn't need to burn his bridges.



16.♚d3?!

Too optimistic: defending g3 and trying to discourage ...b5.

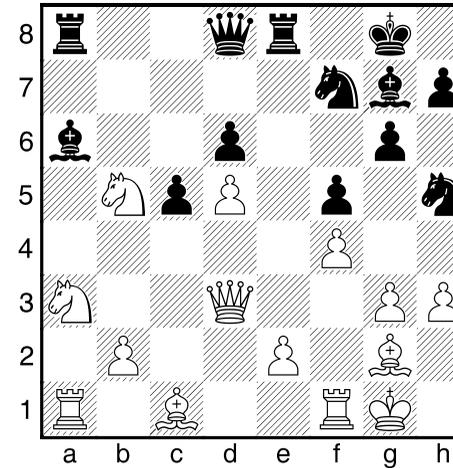
16.♚e1 would have been safer, though after 16...♙d7 any Benoni player would be very happy with Black's position.

16.♙h2 b5! 17.axb5? axb5 18.♘cxb5 ♙a6 19.♖b1 ♚d7 20.♘c3 ♙xc3 21.bxc3 ♙xe2-+

(0-1, 28) Tuhrim, R (2163)–Can, E (2498) Rethymnon, 2011.

16...b5! 17.axb5 axb5

18.♘cxb5 ♙a6



This is why Black is happy to play ...b5 as a pawn sac. Just compare the piece activity: >it is hard to identify a White piece which is well-placed or even has decent prospects if he manages to untangle.

>OTOH Black's ♘f7 (which defends d6) and his ♚ (which threatens to go to b6) are his only pieces which aren't currently attacking White's position.

19.g4

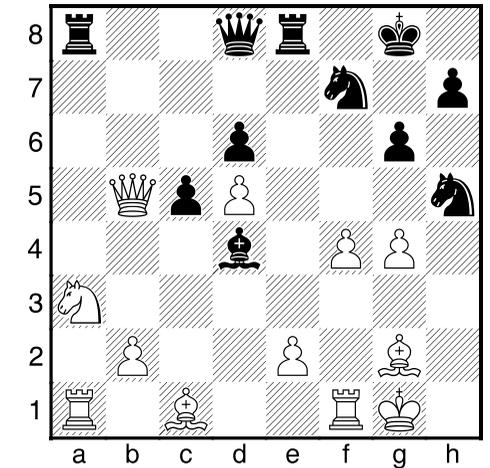
19.♖b1 unpins the ♘a3, but Benoni tricks keep on coming:

19...c4! 20.♚xc4 ♘xg3 21.♖e1 ♖b8-+ and there's no good defence to ...♚b6+ winning the ♘b5.

19...♙xb5 20.♚xb5

20.♘xb5 is the computer's preference, 20...♖xa1 21.gxh5 ♚b6 22.♙h2 ♚a6!-+ the ♚s will come off, then Black's ♖s will rule while White's ♙-pair is blocked by his own pawns.

20...fxg4 21.hxg4 ♙d4+



Once again, Black delivers death on the dark squares in a Benoni.

22.e3 ♖xe3! 23.♙xe3?!

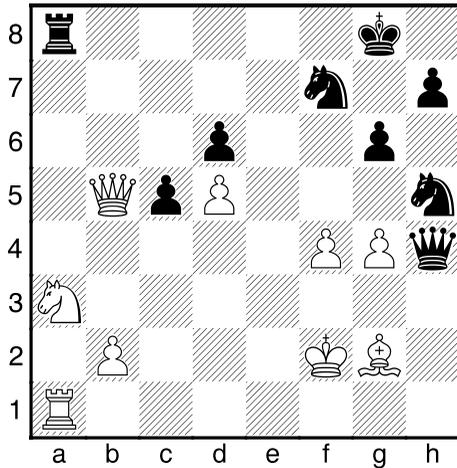
23.♘c2 is another computer improvement, which shouldn't affect the result: 23...♖b3+



24. ♖xd4 ♜xb5 25. ♜xa8 ♔xa8
26. ♖xb5 ♘f6-+.

23... ♙xe3+ 24. ♜f2 ♙xf2+
or 24... ♖xf4.

25. ♔xf2 ♜h4+



A to reinforce how well the ...b5 sac worked: 85% of White's forces are AWOL on the a and b-files while Black's pieces are tearing the kingside apart.

0-1

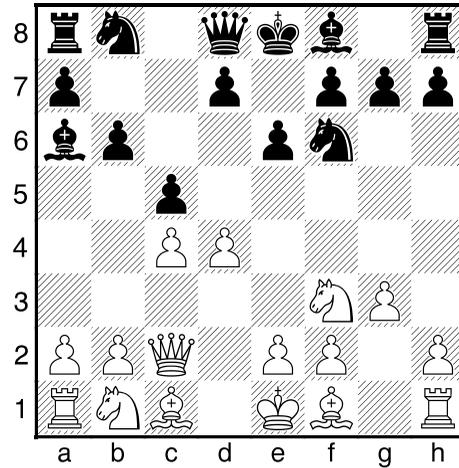
Thorgeirsson, Jon Kristinn (2282)

Preotu, Razvan (2463)
E15

WYCC U16 Porto Carras (3),

27.10.2015
Notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 b6
4.g3 ♙a6 5. ♚c2 c5



6.dxc5

6.d5 is what White plays when trying for more than equality; e.g. 6...exd5 7.cxd5 ♙b7

8. ♙g2 ♖xd5 9.0-0 (9. ♖g5?!N ♖e3!! (9... ♖b4?? 10. ♜f5+-) 10. ♙xe3 ♙xg2 11.f3 leads to an interesting mess, where computers prefer Black.) 9... ♖c6 10. ♜d1 ♙e7 11. ♜a4 ♖f6 12. ♖h4 0-0♙ with quite a few top-level games:

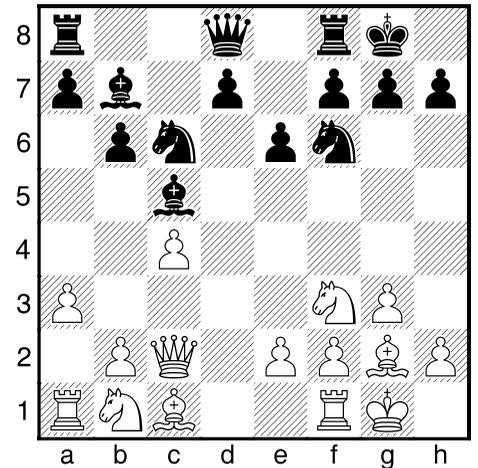
13. ♖f5 d5 14. ♖c3 ♖d4
15. ♖xd4 cxd4 16. ♜xd4
♙c5= (1/2-1/2, 36) **Radjabov, T**
-**Harikrishna, P** Shamkir, 2016.
13. ♖c3 g6 14. ♙g5 ♜b8 (1-0, 83)
Aronian -**Nakamura** Moscow, 2016.

6... ♙xc5

6...bxc5 is unbalanced and playable, but the pawn pressure on d4 doesn't seem to quite compensate for the less active

DSB after ...d6, and Black might not like the hanging pawns after an eventual ...d5.

7. ♙g2 ♖c6 8.a3 ♙b7 9.0-0
0-0



10. ♙g5

10.b4 ♙e7 11. ♙b2 ♜c8 12. ♖c3 a5 13.b5 ♖b8 14. ♜d3 ♜c7 15. ♖d2 ♙xg2 16. ♔xg2 d6 17. ♜ac1 ♜fd8 (1-0, 51) **Bachtiar, A** (2360)-**Ribli, Z** (2590) Surakarta, 1982.

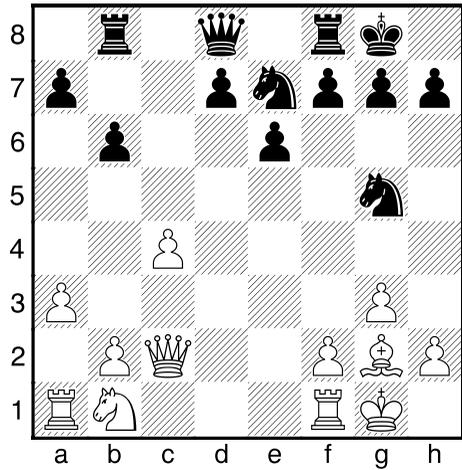
10... ♙e7 11.e4!? ♖xe4
12. ♙xe7 ♖xe7 13. ♖g5
♖xg5 14. ♙xb7 ♜b8
15. ♙g2

U16 top 6: 2 IMs, 3 FMs, and the untitled winner.



Chess Canada

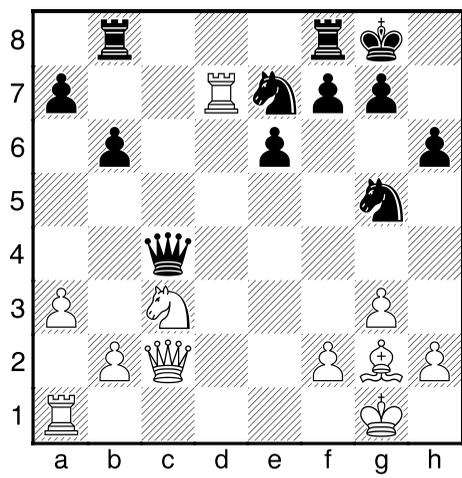




15...h6

15...f5!? controls some light squares and lets the ♘g4 go to f7.

16.♖d1 ♔c7 17.♘c3 ♔xc4
18.♖xd7



Black has a choice of ways to equalize, though that might not have been his goal against a

player he outrated by almost 200 points.

18...♘c8?!

This defends the ♖a7, but Black has difficulty activating it later. Black can give up the a7-pawn to finish developing, but with no real hope of advantage.

18...♘d5 19.h4 ♘xc3 20.♔xc3 ♔xc3 21.bxc3 ♘h7 22.♖xa7 ♖fc8=;

18...♘c6 19.♖ad1 (19.♙xc6?? ♔xc6 20.♖xa7 ♘h3+-; 19.♖c7 ♖bc8?) 19...♘e5 20.♖xa7 ♘gf3+=.

19.♖ad1 ♘h7 20.♖1d4 ♔c5

21.b4 ♔e5

22.♘e4 g5?

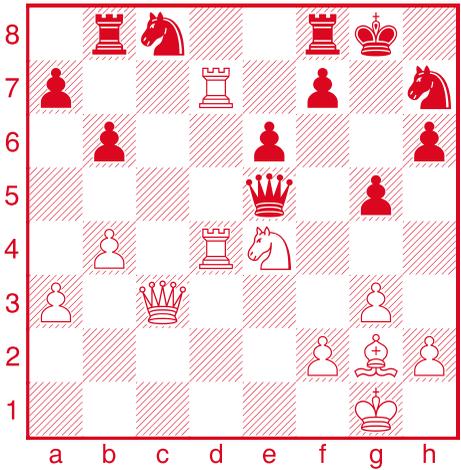
22...♘e7??

23.f4+-;

22...♖b7!±

looks like it has to lose, but it's actually the best defence.

23.♔c3



23.f4!! gxf4 24.gxf4 ♔xf4 25.♔c3 and there's no good defence to ♖d3-f3/g3.

23...b5??

23...♘f6 24.♘xf6+ ♔xf6 25.♔c7 ♘e7= and the loose ♖d4 gives

Black time to save his ♘ and ♖.

24.♖xf7!+-

On either capture on f7, the ♖d4 moves with check and a discovered attack on the ♔e5.

24...♘b6 25.♖xa7 ♖bc8
26.♔d3 ♖c1+ 27.♙f1 ♔f5
28.g4! ♔g6

28...♔xg4+ 29.♘g3 and Black is hanging on h7 and g4.

29.♘f6+

1-0

Sliwicka, Alicja (2129)
Ouellet, Maili-Jade (2005)
A31
WYCC U14g Porto Carras (3), 27.10.2015
Notes by John Upper

MJO's opponent, a Polish WFM, finished clear second with 8.5/11.

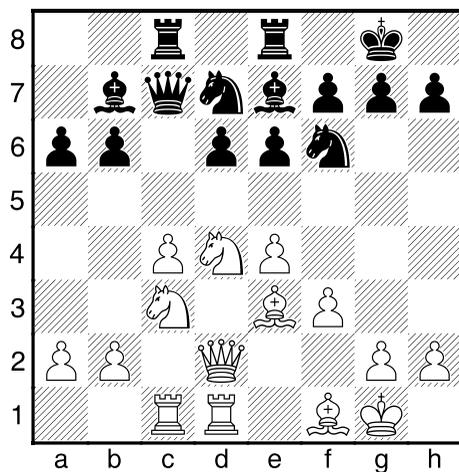
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 d6
4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.♙e2 ♙e7

5...e5 loses a tempo over ...e7-e5, but in such a closed position it's not a big deal.



MJO

6.d4 cxd4 7.♘xd4 a6 8.♙e3
 ♖c7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♚d2 ♘bd7
 11.♖ac1 b6 12.♗fd1 ♙b7
 13.f3 ♖ac8 14.♙f1 ♗fe8



Through a slightly unusual move order the players have reached a standard Hedgehog position: Black concedes space but has no weaknesses and is ready to strike at White's center with ...b5 or ...d5. When that works — as it does in this game — White can get torn apart on the over-extended kingside.

Kasparov called the Hedgehog "Virtually the greatest 'hit' of the 1970s" (*Revolution in the 70s*, Chapter 1).

It's nice to see a young player

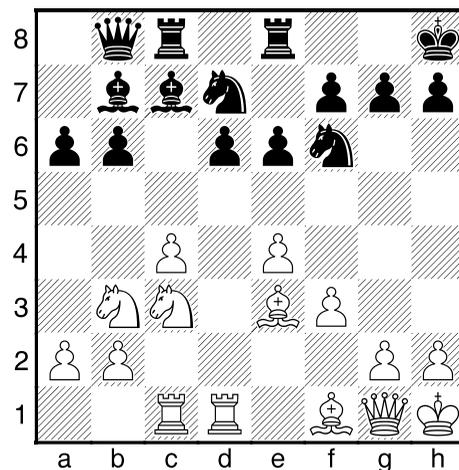
handling this flexible counter-attacking system so well as Black.

For more on this opening and its middlegames, see either of the two excellent volumes of *The Complete Hedgehog* by [Sergei Shipov](#) (Mongoose, 2009 and 2011).

15.♙f2

15.♙h1 ♖b8 16.♙f2 ♙d8 17.♘b3
 ♙c7 18.♙g1 ♗h8!

Analysis Diagram



Playing [Fischer's maneuver](#) from Garcia Soruco–Fischer (Havana Olympiad, 1966) and repeated with colours reversed in his 1970 training game vs Ulf Andersson. In both games

Fischer had a won position after 21 moves playing the Hedgehog. 19.♖c2 ♗g8! 20.♖cd2 g5! 21.♙d4 ♗g6! 22.♘c1 ♖cg8! 23.♘d3 ♗f8 24.♖e1?! g4! 25.fxg4 e5!? 26.♙e3 ♘xg4 27.♘d5 ♙d8! ♠ (0-1, 42) [Taimanov–Yusupov](#), Kislovodsk, 1982.

15...♙b8 16.a3

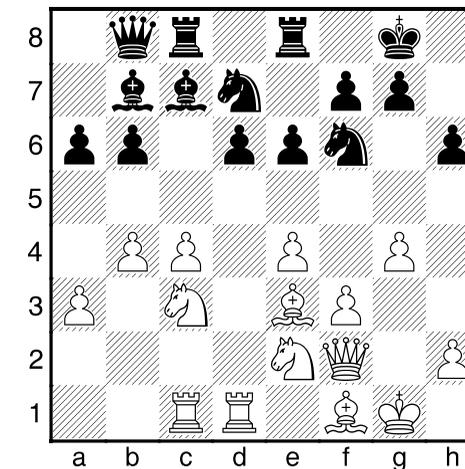
White is a tempo up on [Azmaiparashvili–Kasparov](#), where White played 2.c2-c3 then 7.c3-c4. That game showed another common maneuver in the Hedgehog: ...♙d8-c7 then ...d5: 16...♙d8 17.♖c2 ♙c7 18.g3 ♙d8 19.b3 h6 20.g4 ♘e5 21.h3 ♘g6 22.♙c1 ♘d7 23.♙g2 b5∞ 24.cxb5 axb5 25.♘dxb5 d5 26.♙e3 (26.exd5 ♙b6 27.♙e3 ♙xe3 28.♙xe3 ♙a6∞) 26...♙h4 27.♙f1 ♙a6 28.a4 ♠ ♗f6 29.♖dc1 ♗f4 30.♙a7 ♙e5 31.♙d4 ♙g5 32.exd5 exd5 ♠ 33.♙h1 ♖c6 34.♖d1 ♖ce6→ 35.♖cc1 ♙g3! 36.♙f2 ♙h4 37.♖c2 h5!+ 38.♙g1 hxg4 39.fxg4 ♘xg4 0-1 [Azmaiparashvili – Kasparov](#), London, 1993.

16...♙d8 17.b4 ♙c7

17...♘e5 18.♘a4 (18.♘b3 d5!∞)

18...d5! 19.cxd5 ♘eg4!! 20.fxg4 ♘xg4 21.♙g3 (21.♙f4 ♙g5! ♠) 21...♙xg3 22.hxg3 ♘xe3=.

18.g4 h6 19.♘de2?!



19.b5!?

19.♘b3 d5! 20.cxd5 exd5 21.♘xd5 ♘xd5 22.exd5 ♙xh2+= or 22...♘e5!?

19...d5! =

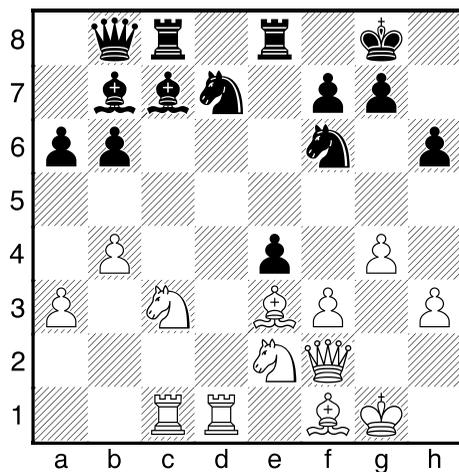
19...♘e5!

20.cxd5 exd5 21.h3?!

21.♘xd5=.

21...dxe4





22.f4!

Concedes a pawn, but denies Black's pieces use of the square e4 and the diagonals running across it.

22. ♖xe4? ♜xe4 (or 22... ♙e4 23.fxe4 ♜xe4) 23.fxe4 ♜f6.

22... ♜cd8 23. ♘g3 ♜f8

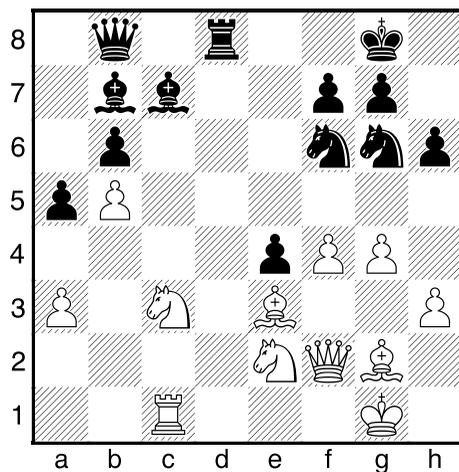
24. ♜xd8 ♜xd8 25.b5 a5

26. ♙g2?!

26. ♜f5 Δg4-g5.

26... ♜g6

27. ♜g2



27... ♜e8

27... ♜d3! ΔXe3.

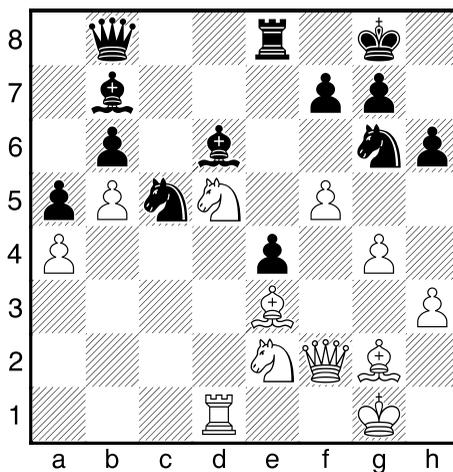
28. ♜d1 ♙d6 29.a4 ♘d7

30. ♘d5

30. ♙xb6 ♜xb6 31. ♜xb6 ♙c7 32. ♜e3 ♜xf4 Δ... ♜e6 and ... ♙b6;

White won't last long enough to make the protected passed b-pawn count.

30... ♜c5! 31.f5



31... ♙d5

31... ♜e5 threatens both ... ♜ce3 (when the ♘d5 hangs) and the possibility of ... ♜f3+ with a huge attack. 32. ♘xb6 ♜f3+ 33. ♙xf3 exf3 34. ♜c3 ♙g3 35. ♜d2 ♜xe3 36. ♜xe3 ♙h4.

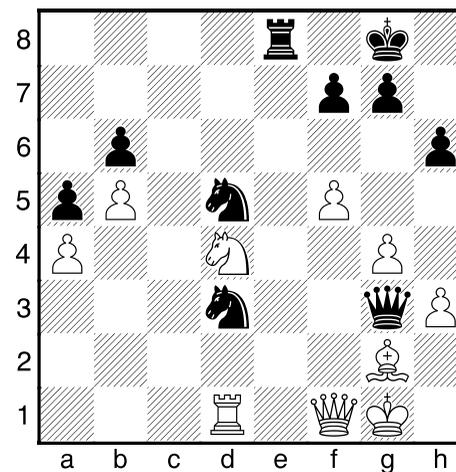
32. ♜xd5

32.fxg6! ♙e6 33.gxf7+ ♙xf7 Black is still up a pawn and White's Kingside is Swiss cheese.

32... ♜e7 33. ♜d1 ♘d3+

34. ♜f1 ♘d5 35. ♙d4 ♙c5

36. ♙xe4 ♙xd4+ 37. ♘xd4 ♜g3+ 38. ♙g2

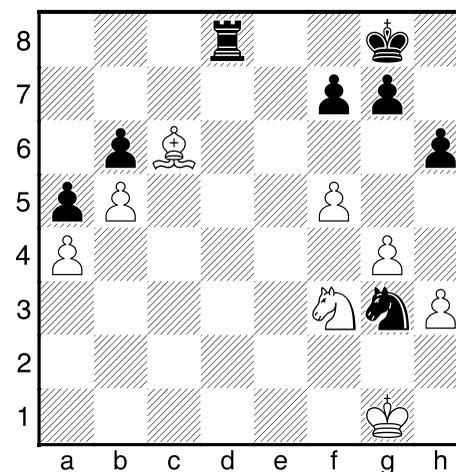


38... ♜e3

Wins an exchange and simplifies to an easily winning ending. Black also wins with the attacking 38... ♜5f4! and there's no good defence to ... ♜xh3 then ... ♜df2+.

39. ♜xd3 ♜xf1 40. ♜xg3

♜xg3 41. ♙c6 ♜d8 42. ♘f3



White has avoided mate, but has a dead lost ending, which Black converts smoothly.

42...♖e2+! 43.♔f2 ♘d4
44.♔e3 ♘xf3! 45.♙xf3 ♔f8
46.h4 f6!

Now the ♙ is useless.

47.♙e2 ♔e7 48.♙f3 ♔d6
49.♔d4 ♖e8 50.♙e4 ♖e5
51.♔e3 ♔c5 52.♔f4 ♔d4
53.♙f3 ♖e3 54.♙d1 ♖h3
55.♙f3 ♖h2 56.♔g3 ♖a2
57.g5 hxg5 58.hxg5 ♖xa4
59.♔h4 ♔e5+ 60.♔h5 ♔xf5
61.g6 ♖a3

0-1

Praggnanandhaa, R (2077)
Issani, Nameer (1776)

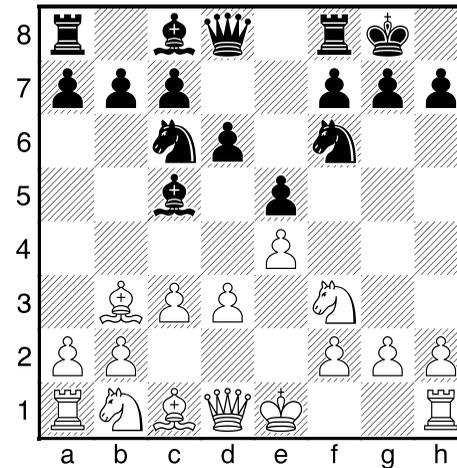
C54

WYCC U10 Porto Carras (3),
27.10.2015

Notes by John Upper

White is an FM from India who won the U10 section with 9/11 on tie-break over Makoveev from Russia.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4
♙c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 d6 6.♙b3
0-0



7.♙g5

Much less common than you might expect, especially since creating an annoying pin is strategically sensible and leads to an easy-to-understand middlegame:

if Black doesn't break the pin then White sends his ♘b1 to h5 and plays for mate;

if Black's pawns chase the ♙g5 White will break against the extended kingside pawns.

This game is a good example of that second plan.

More common is: 7.0-0 a6 8.h3 ♙a7 tucking away the ♙ and

stabilizing the ♘c6 so there are no "free" tempos to worry about when all the pieces are fighting for the center. 9.♖e1 h6 10.♘bd2 ♖e8 (10...♘h5; 10...♙e6) 11.♘f1 ♙e6 with hundreds of games.

7...♙e6

7...h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3 ♙g4 (9...♘h5 10.♘bd2 ♖f6∞ (0-1, 50) Shaposhnikov, E (2545)– Smirnov, A (2414) Kaluga, 2012.) 10.h3 ♙h5 11.h4 g4 12.♘h2 ♘e7 13.♘d2 ♘g6 14.♘c4 ♔h8 15.♖d2 ♔h7 16.0-0-0 b5 17.♘e3 ♙xe3 18.♖xe3 (18.fxe3! to attack along the f-file.) 18... a5 and White eventually crashed through Black's kingside in [Agdestein, S \(2625\)–Hammer, J \(2647\)](#) Oslo (rapid), 2014.

8.0-0

8.♘bd2 a6 9.h3 ♙a7 10.♙h4 ♔h8 11.g4?! ♘e7 12.♙xf6 gxf6 13.♘h4 ♘g6 14.♘g2 c6 15.♖f3 d5 16.♘f1 a5 17.♘g3 heading for h5 17...♙c5♣ getting back to support

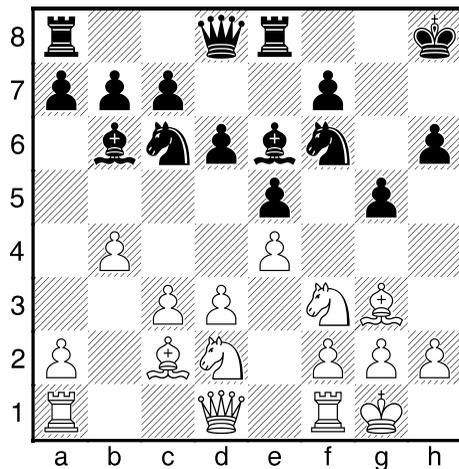
the kingside. Black's ♙-pair and center gave him a plus in [Kasparov, G \(2851\)– Timman, J \(2650\)](#) Rotterdam, 1999 (0-1, 59).

8...♖e8 9.♘bd2 h6 10.♙h4 g5 11.♙g3 ♔h7 12.♙c2 ♔h8 13.b4 ♙b6



Nameer Issani

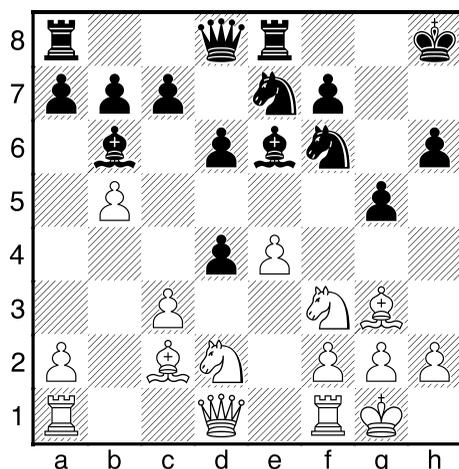


**14.b5**

14.♘b3 ♘xb3 15.♙xb3± or
15.axb3±.

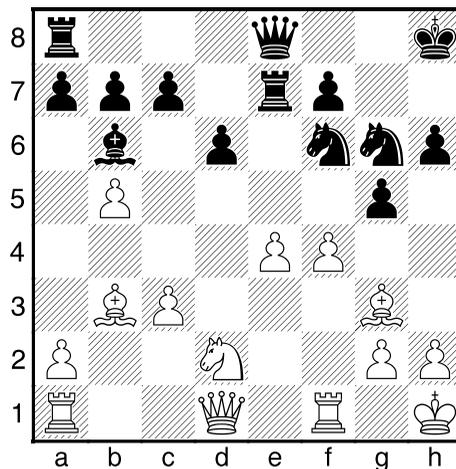
14...♘e7

14...♘a5!? the ♘a5 looks like it might get sidelined for a long time, but Black can pry it out with ...a6 and ...c6.

15.d4 exd4**16.♘xd4!**

Getting rid of the ♘e6 and preparing f2-f4 to attack Black's extended kingside is better than the more obvious 16.cxd4 ♘g6± Δ...g4.

16...♘g6 17.♘xe6 ♖xe6
18.♙b3 ♖e7 19.♙h1 ♙e8
20.f4!±



Weakening Black's pawns and opening the f-file.

20...♙e3

20...♘xe4? 21.♘xe4 ♖xe4
22.fxg5+- and Black's kingside collapses.
20...g4 keeps the f-file closed, but still loses: 21.e5 ♘h5
22.♙xg4 ♘xg3+ 23.♙xg3 dxe5
24.f5!+- and f5-f6 wins.

21.e5

21.fxg5 ♘xg5 22.♖f5 the ♘f6 is pinned to f7, so White just piles up on the f-file.

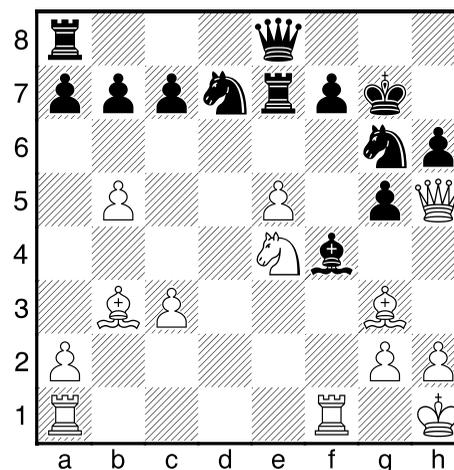
21...dxe5□

21...♘d7 22.exd6 cxd6 23.fxg5
♘xg5 (23...hxg5 24.♙xd6+-)
24.♘c4+-.

22.fxe5 ♘d7

22...♘g8± is sad but more tenacious.

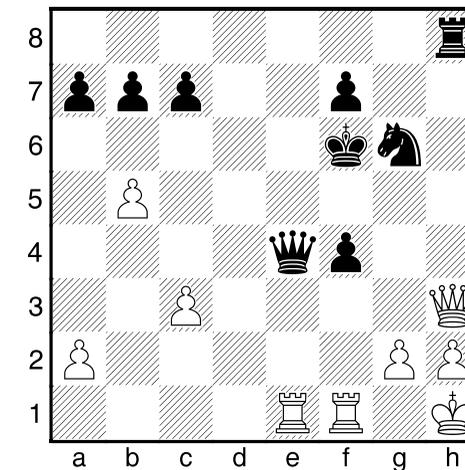
23.♙h5 ♙g7 24.♘e4 ♙f4

**25.♙xf4 gxf4**

25...♘xf4 26.♖xf4□+- gxf4
27.♘f6! threatening the ♙e8 and a fork with ♙g4+, and even just ♖f1xf4 with a crushing attack.
27...♙h8 (27...♘xf6 28.exf6+

♙xf6 29.♙xh6+ leads to mate.)
28.♙g4+ ♙f8 29.♘xd7++-.

26.♘f6 ♘xf6 27.exf6+ ♙xf6
28.♙xh6 ♖e4 29.♙d5 ♖a4
30.♙b3 ♖e4 31.♙c2 ♙e5
32.♙xe4 ♙xe4 33.♙h3
♖h8 34.♖ae1

**34...♙c4**

Black can't save the endgame after 34...♖xh3 35.♖xe4 ♖xc3
36.♖a4 ♖c5 37.♖b1!+-.

35.♙e3 ♖d8 36.♙e4 ♙xb5
37.♖d1

37.♖xf4+ ♘xf4 38.♙e7+ is faster, but White wins either way.

37...♖e8 38.♙d4+ ♖e5
39.♖fe1 f3 40.gxf3 ♙c6



41.♔g2 ♚e6 42.♖xe5 ♜xe5
 43.♖e1 c5 44.♚f4+ ♚f5
 45.♚xf5+ ♔xf5 46.♖b1 b6
 47.♔g3 ♜d3 48.h4 ♜f4
 49.♖h1 ♜h5+ 50.♔f2 ♔f4
 51.♖e1

1-0

Buiza Prieto, Eihartze
 (2057)

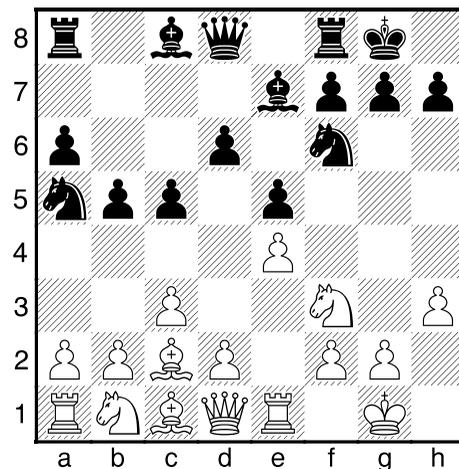
Zhou, Qiyu (2328)

C96

WYCC U16g Porto Carras (4),
 28.10.2015

Notes by John
 Upper

1.e4 e5
 2.♜f3 ♜c6
 3.♞b5 a6
 4.♞a4 ♜f6
 5.0-0 ♞e7
 6.♖e1 b5
 7.♞b3 d6
 8.c3 0-0
 9.h3 ♜a5
 10.♞c2 c5

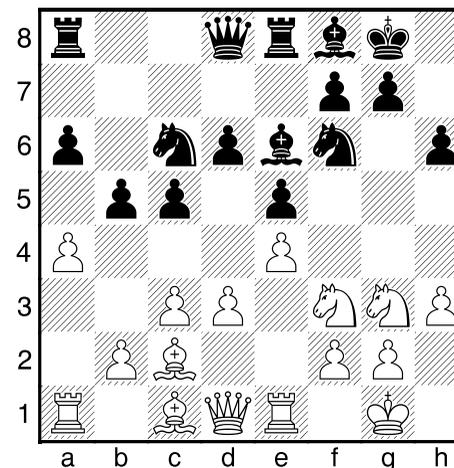


11.d3

11.d4 is 25x more common,
 but the text has been played by
[Keres](#), [Nisipeanu](#), and [MVL](#) (in a
 blitz game).

11...♜c6 12.♜bd2 h6 13.a4
 ♞e6 14.♜f1 ♖e8
 14...♚c7 15.♜g3 ♖ab8
 16.axb5 axb5= [Hamdouchi](#),
[H \(2613\)](#)–[Degraeve](#), [J \(2563\)](#)
 Nancy, 2013.

15.♜g3 ♞f8



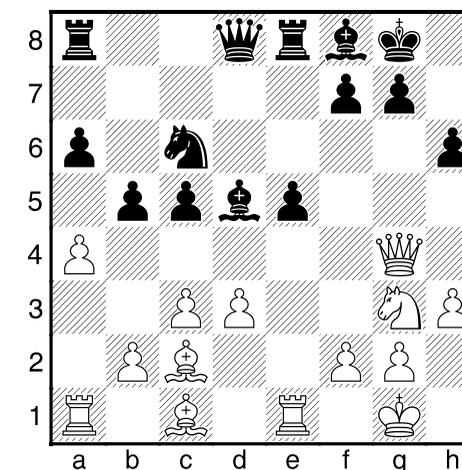
16.♜h2N

16.d4 cxd4 17.cxd4 exd4
 18.♜xd4 ♜xd4 19.♚xd4 ♖c8:

20.♞d3 ♜d7 21.axb5 ♜c5
 22.bxa6 ♜b3 23.♚a4 ♜xa1
 24.♚xa1± (0-1, 59) [Smirin](#) –
[Nikolic](#), [P \(2625\)](#) Wijk aan Zee,
 1994.

20.♚d1 ♚c7 21.♞d3 ♞c4
 22.axb5 axb5 23.♞f4 ♞xd3
 24.♚xd3 ♚c2 25.♚xb5 ♖b8=
 (½-½, 43) [Smirin](#), [I \(2644\)](#)–
[Sargissian](#), [G \(2676\)](#) Yerevan,
 2014.

16...d5 17.exd5 ♞xd5
 18.♜g4 ♜xg4 19.♚xg4



19...♞e6= 20.♚e4 ♞d5
 21.♚g4 g6

Playing to avoid the draw with
 ...♞e6.

22.h4 ♚c8 23.♚e2 h5
 24.♞g5 ♚e6 25.♚d2
 25.♜e4 ♞e7 26.♞xe7 ♚xe7
 27.♚e3±.

25...f6 26.♞h6



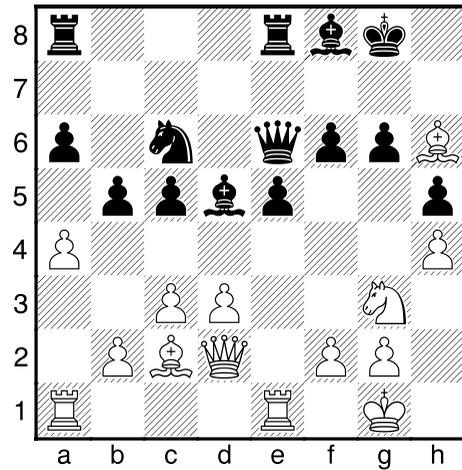
Qiyu Zhou



FIDE

Chess Canada



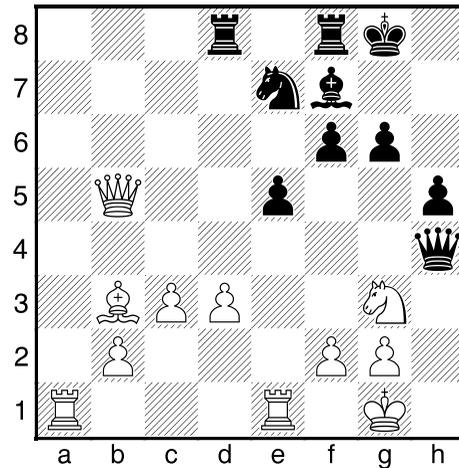


26...Kf4? 27.Bxf8

Trading some pieces leaves vulnerable squares behind Black's pawns which White can exploit; e.g. 27.axb5! axb5 28.Rxa8 Rxa8 29.Bxf8 Rxf8 30.Kf3 c4 31.dxc4 Bxc4 32.Kc5± with threats on Nc6, Bg6, and b2-b3 Xb5.

27...Rxf8 28.Kf3 Kxh4

**29.Kxc5 Rf8 30.axb5
axb5 31.Kxb5 Ne7 32.Bb3
Bf7**

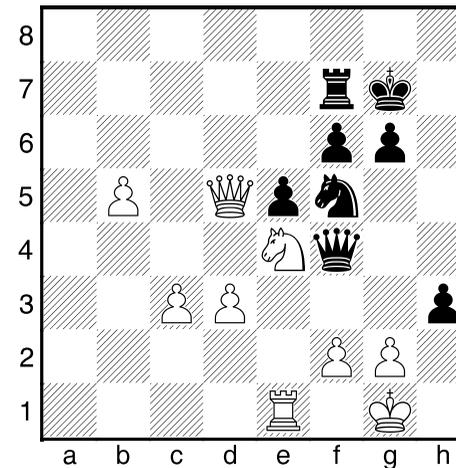


**33.Bxf7+
33.Ra7!+-.**

**33...Rxf7 34.Ra7 Kf8
35.Ne4 Kf4 36.Rd7 Rxd7
37.Kxd7 Nf5 38.Kd8+ Kg7
39.b4**

Reasonable, as the passed b and c-pawns will win any endgame, but White can play to win by attacking the Black K with 39.Ra1!

39...h4 40.Kd5 h3 41.b5



41...Kg4?

Black has enough play against White's K to force a draw, and a more prudent player would take

it: **41...hgx2!**:

**42.Nd6 Nxd6 43.Kxd6 Kh4
44.Kxg2 Kg4+** and Black can force a draw;
**42.Nc5 Rf7 43.Kxg2 e4
44.Rxe4 Nh4+ 45.Kf1 Kc1+
46.Kf2 Kc2+ 47.Kf3 Kc1+
48.Kd4 Nf3+ 49.Kc4 Nd2+
50.Kd4 Nf3+=.**

42.Nd2

42.Nc5!+- defends g2, supports b6-b7, and creates tactics with Ne6+.

42...e4!!

Best chance. White has to play perfectly to have a chance at winning.

42...Nh4? 43.g3+-;
42...hgx2 43.Kxg2±.

43.Kxe4 Kxg5

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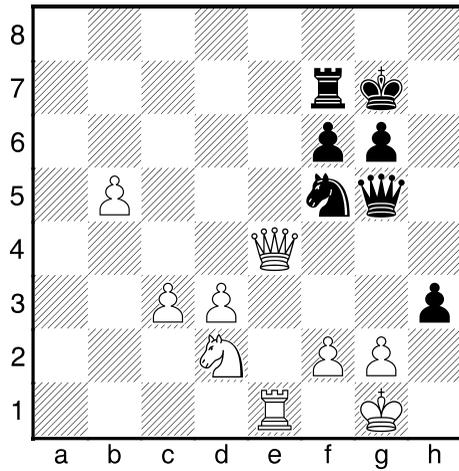
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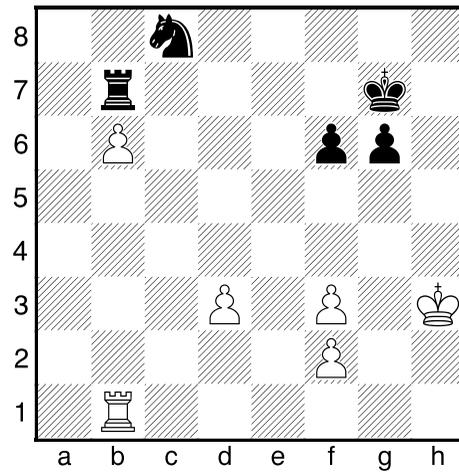


44. ♖f3?

44.f4? h2+ 45. ♔xh2 ♖g3+
46. ♔g1 ♖e7 47. ♖xe7+ ♜f;

44. ♜d1 ♜e7 45. ♖f3 hxg2
46. ♖xg2 ♖h5! 47. ♖f3! (47.f3?
♜e3 48. ♖e2 ♖g5+-+; 47. ♜f3?
♜h4-+) 47... ♖g5+ 48. ♔f1
(48. ♔h1 ♖h6+ 49. ♔g1 ♖g5+;
48. ♔h2?? ♖e8-+) 48... ♜h4
49. ♖g3 ♖xb5! 50. ♖xh4
♖xd3+ 51. ♔g2! ♜e5 52. ♜f3 ♜
xd1 53. ♜xe5 fxe5 54. ♖e7+
♔h6 55. ♖xe5 The 7-piece
Lomonosov tablebases tell us
that White mates in 55.

44... ♖xd2 45. ♜b1 ♖c2
46. ♖d1 ♖xc3 47. b6 ♖c6
48. ♖f3 ♖xf3 49. gxf3 ♜b7
50. ♔h2 ♜e7 51. ♔xh3 ♜c8



Black grabs the pawns and the
game is over.

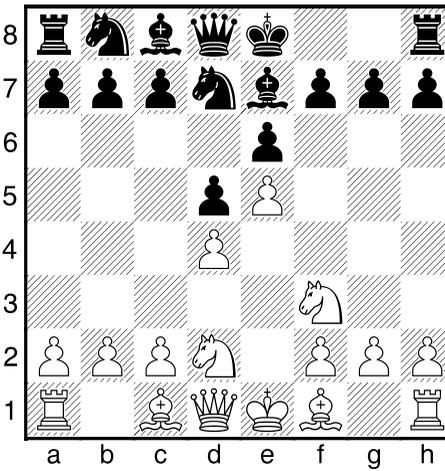
52. ♔g3 ♜xb6 53. ♜c1 ♜e7
54. ♜c7 ♔f7 55. ♔f4 ♜b4+
56. ♔e3 ♔e6 57. ♜a7 ♜d5+
58. ♔d2 ♜b2+

0-1

Graif, William (1917)
Lopez Mulet, Inigo (2333)
C03

WYCC U16 Porto Carras (5),
29.10.2015
Notes by John Upper

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♜d2 ♖e7
4. ♜gf3 ♜f6 5.e5 ♜fd7



6.c4

Black's congested queenside
makes it look reasonable to try to
blow open the center, but White's
development is no better than
Black's — arguably White would
be better off if his ♜d2 was back
on b1 — and so leading Tarrasch
players like Adams and Smirin
never play this way, but stabilize
the center with c2-c3.

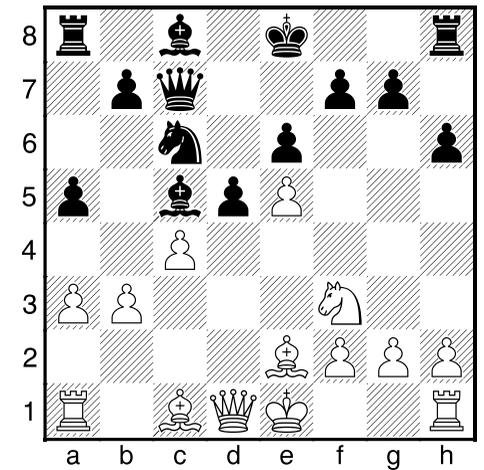
6. ♖d3 c5 7. c3 ♜c6 8. 0-0 would
transpose to a standard Tarrasch
French, where Black has done
fine with the solid 8... cxd4
and 9... a5, and also with the
unbalancing 8... g5.

6...c5! 7. ♜b3

7. cxd5 exd5 8. ♖d3 ♜c6 9. 0-0
cxd4 10. ♖e1 ♜c5 11. ♜b3

♜xb3 12. ♖xb3 0-0= **Speelman,
J (2645)–Lputian, S (2540)**
Rotterdam, 1988 (0-1, 40).

7... ♜c6 8. ♜xc5 ♜xc5
9. dxc5 ♖xc5 10. ♖e2 h6
11. a3 a5 12. b3 ♖c7!?



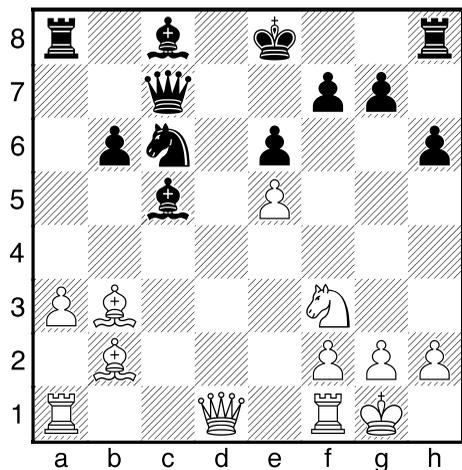
13. ♖b2

White can grab the pawn, but
Black's development advantage
lets him get it back: 13. cxd5:

13... ♜xe5 14. ♖b5+ ♖d7
15. ♖xd7+ ♜xd7 16. dxe6±;
13... exd5 14. ♖xd5 ♖e7
15. ♖e4 ♖e6 16. 0-0 (16. ♖c4 ♖xc4
17. bxc4 ♜d8±; 16. ♖b1?! 0-0C)
16... ♖xb3 17. ♖b1 ♖e6 18. ♜d1±.

13... dxc4 14. ♖xc4 a4 15. 0-0
axb3 16. ♖xb3 b6±





18. ♖xc6 ♕xf1 ♜.

18. ♖xc6?
 18. ♛g4 ♛xe5! ♜;
 18. ♖b5! and White's development makes sense.

18... ♛xc6 19. ♛g4 ♕b7
 20. a4 ♜fd8 21. ♜fd1

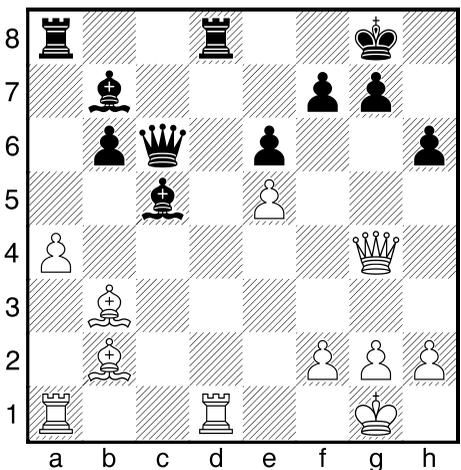
White has more space, but the e5-pawn is more of a liability than an asset, and Black's ♕s are on more effective diagonals and on more stable squares.

17. ♖d4?!
 Better are 17. ♛c2 and 17. ♜e1.

17... 0-0?!
 ♞17... ♕a6 ♜ and White has no good moves:
 18. ♜e1? ♖xd4 19. ♕xd4 0-0-0 and Black wins a piece: 20. ♜e4 ♕b7 21. ♜g4 h5-+;
 18. ♖xe6 is no good: 18... ♜xe6 19. ♛h5+ ♛f7-+;

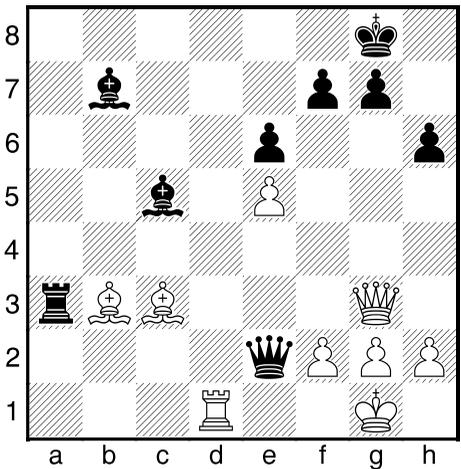


William Graif



21... b5!
 21... h5! 22. ♛g5 ♕e7 23. ♛g3 ♛e4 ♜.

22. axb5 ♛xb5 23. ♜xa8 ♜xa8 24. ♛g3 ♛e2-+ 25. ♕c3 ♜a3!



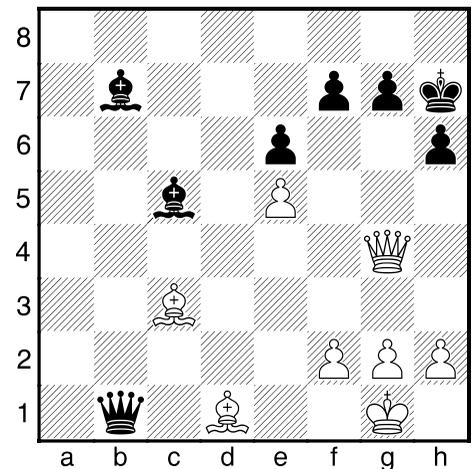
Material is equal, but the weak back-rank and loose ♕s make the tactics work for Black.

26. ♜d8+ ♔h7 27. ♕d1 ♛e4!
 27... ♜a1 28. ♛d3+ ♞ ♜.

28. ♕f3 ♜a1+
 ♞28... ♛c4 ♞29. ♕xb7 ♜a1+! #2.

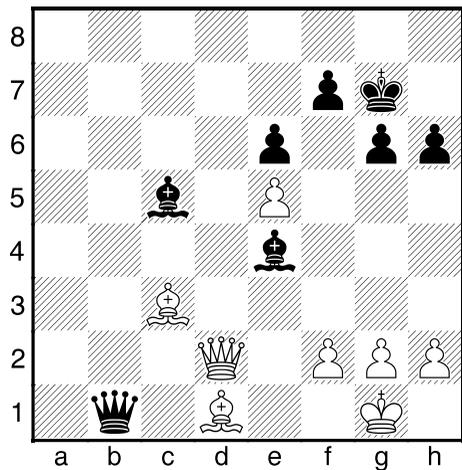
29. ♜d1 ♞
 29. ♕d1? ♕d5-+.
 29. ♕xa1?? ♛e1#.

29... ♜xd1+ 30. ♕xd1 ♛b1
 31. ♛g4



31... ♕d5?
 This error lets White save the game with some accurate ♛ moves.
 31... ♛d3! 32. ♕b2 (32. ♕e1 ♕a6-+) 32... ♕a6! and the Black ♛ gets to f1.

32. ♖a4! ♙e4 33. ♖a1! ♖d3
 34. ♖c1! g6 35. ♖d2! ♜b1
 36. ♖d7 ♔g7 37. ♖d2



37... ♙a3?!
 37... ♖b7! ♜ Δ38.g3 ♙h1+.

38. f3 ♙ ♙d3 39. h3 ♙c1
 40. ♖e1 ♙f4 41. ♙d2 g5
 42. h4 ♖a1 43. hxg5 hxg5
 44. ♙c3 ♖c1 45. ♔f2 ♙c2
 46. g3 ♙xd1 47. gxf4 ♖c2+
 48. ♖d2

1/2-1/2

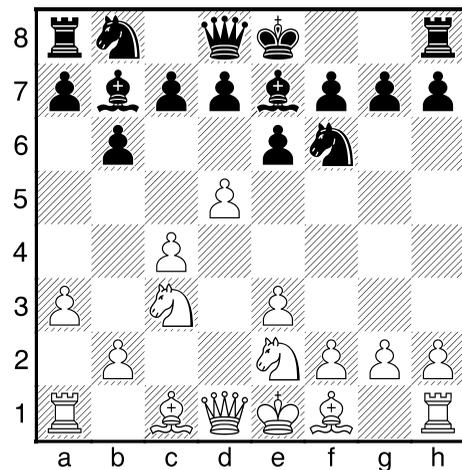
Issani, Nameer (1776)
Yingrui, Lin (1915)
 E44
 WYCC U10 Porto Carras (6),

Chess Canada



31.10.2015
 Notes by John Upper

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3
 ♙b4 4. e3 b6 5. ♘ge2 ♙b7
 6. a3 ♙e7 7. d5!



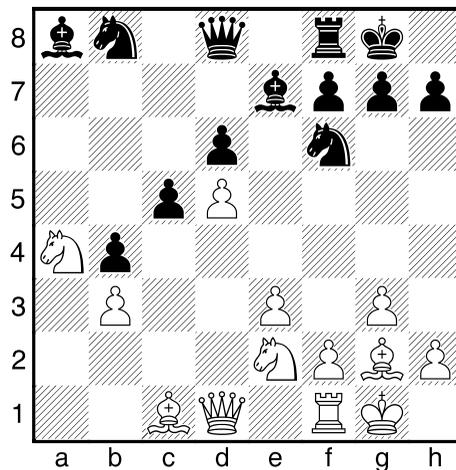
This natural move is the best-scoring. Black has to stay in "Nimzo-Indian mode" and create piece play against White's big center or he will get crushed.

7... 0-0 8. g3
 8. e4 ♖e8! 9. ♘g3 ♙d6 10. ♙e2
 ♙e5 ♞ when ... ♙xc3 would go
 back into Nimzo-Indian territory.
 8. ♘g3 ♖e8 9. ♙e2 ♙f8 10. e4
 d6 11. 0-0 ♘bd7 12. ♙e3 c6
 13. ♖d2 (13. dxc6 ♙xc6 with a
 transposition to a Hedgehog
 structure.) 13... ♖c8 14. dxe6 fxe6

15. f4 ♖e7 16. ♖ad1 ♖cd8 17. ♔h1
 ♖f7 18. ♖c2± Kasparov-Kramnik,
 Moscow (rapid), 2001 (0-1, 52).

8... b5! 9. b3 exd5?!
 ♞9... bxc4 keeps White scrambling to hold his center together. 10. bxc4 ♘a6 11. ♙g2 ♘c5 12. e4 (♞12. a4 Δ ♙a6 13. ♘b5∞) 12... ♙a6! 13. 0-0 (13. e5 ♘g4 14. d6? cxd6 15. exd6 ♙f6 16. ♙xa8 ♖xa8 Black's ♙s cut White apart.) 13... ♙xc4 14. e5 ♘xd5 15. ♘xd5 exd5 16. ♙xd5 ♙xd5 17. ♖xd5 c6 18. ♖c4 ♜ (1/2-1/2, 23) Popov, I (2568)-Andreikin, D (2625) Dagomys, 2009.

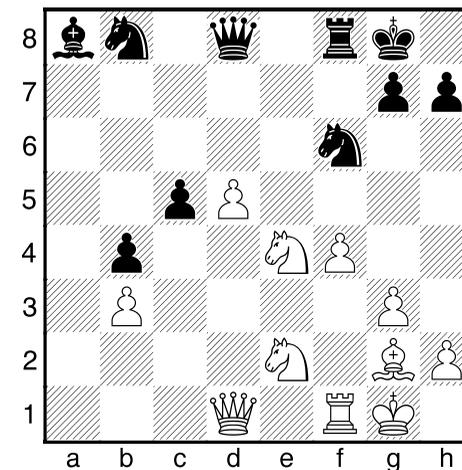
10. cxd5 a5 11. ♙g2 b4
 12. axb4 axb4 13. ♖xa8
 ♙xa8 14. ♘a4 c5! 15. 0-0 d6



And now we have an old-Indian (Benoni) structure.

16. e4
 16. ♘b2 heading for c4 is a waste of time after 16... ♘bd7 17. ♘c4 ♘b6.

16... ♘fd7 17. ♙b2 ♙f6 18. f4
 ♙xb2 19. ♘xb2 f5 20. ♘c4
 fxe4 21. ♘xd6 ♘f6 22. ♘xe4

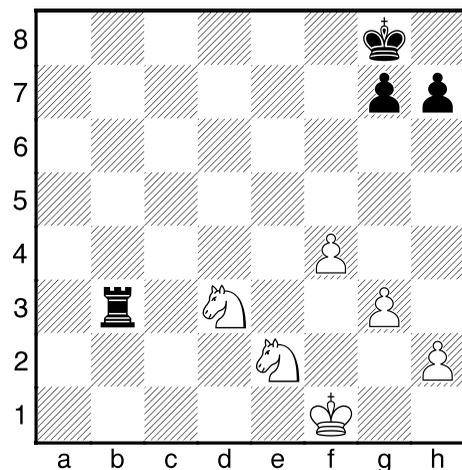


22... ♘xd5?
 22... ♘xe4 23. ♙xe4 ♘d7±.

23. ♘xc5±
 23. ♘g5! can lead to some fun tactics: 23... ♖d7 (23... ♘e3 24. ♖b1+-) 24. ♖c2 ♖f5!? 25. ♙e4 ♖xg5! 26. ♙xh7+ (26. ffg5? ♖xf1+ 27. ♔xf1 ♘e3+)=) 26... ♔h8

27.fxg5 ♖xf1+ 28.♔xf1 ♘e3+
29.♔f2 ♘xc2 30.♙xc2+-.

23...♘e3 24.♙xd8 ♖xd8
25.♙xa8 ♘xf1 26.♔xf1+-
♘a6 27.♘xa6 ♖xa8
28.♘xb4 ♖b8 29.♘d3 ♖xb3



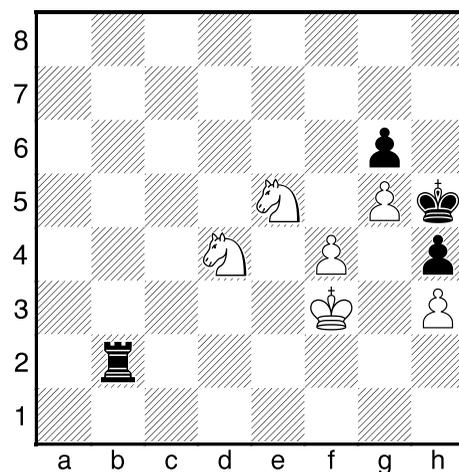
White is winning, but has to be alert to Black's many stalemate tricks.

30.♘e5 h5 31.♔f2 ♔h7
32.h3 g6 33.♘d4 ♖b2+
34.♔f3 ♔h6
34...♖a2 35.g4 ♖a3+ 36.♔g2
♔g7 37.g5 and White's ♘s win g6.

35.g4 h4!? 36.g5+
36.♘e6 wins without the "risk"

of stalemates, since Black can't even hope for counterplay with:
36...♖b3+ 37.♔e4 ♖xh3 38.♘f7+ and forks the ♖.

36...♔h5



37.f5□

Black was threatening ...♖f2 perpetual/stalemate.

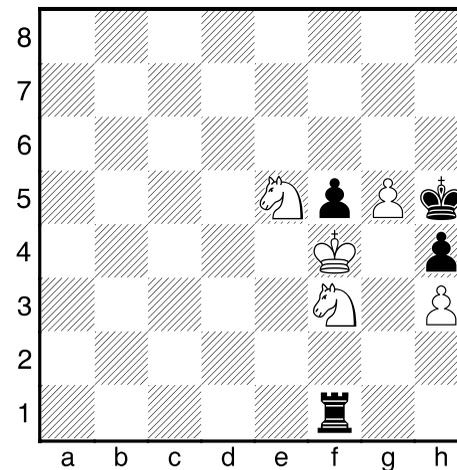
37...gxf5?!

37...♔xg5 is tougher, and forces White to play more accurately:

38.fxg6? ♔f6 39.♘d3
♖h2 40.♘f4 (40.♔g4? ♖d2=)
40...♖xh3+ 41.♘xh3 ♔xg6 this is a tablebase win (#44), but who is going to win this?

38.♘xg6! ♖b4 39.♔e4 ♖xd4+
40.♔xd4 ♔xf5 41.♘xh4+ ♔f4
42.♘g2+□ ♔g3 43.h4+-.

38.♔f4 ♖f2+ 39.♘df3 ♖f1



White's pieces are too well-coordinated now.

40.g6!

Frees the stalemate trap and the rest is easy. 40.♔xf5?? ♖xf3+
41.♘xf3= Stalemate.

40...♔h6 41.♔xf5 ♔g7
42.♔g5 ♖a1 43.♘xh4 ♖h1
44.♘f5+ ♔g8 45.♘g4 ♖g1
45...♖xh3 46.♘f6+ ♔f8 47.g7+
♔f7 48.g8♙#.

46.h4 ♔h8 47.h5 ♔g8 48.h6
♔h8 49.g7+ ♔h7 50.♔h5
♖h1+ 51.♔g5 ♖g1 52.♘e7
♖xg4+ 53.♔xg4 ♔xh6
54.g8♙!

54.g8♙??= is the last stalemate trap.

1-0

Issani, Nameer (1776)
Sosovicka, Jakub (1933)
D31

WYCC U10 Porto Carras (8),
02.11.2015

Notes by John Upper

Black plays a sharp variation, and almost immediately goes seriously wrong. White doesn't play the most accurate moves, but keeps an extra pawn into a four-♘ endgame, which he converts smoothly.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙e7
4.♙f4 ♘f6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.e3
♙f5

The Ubilava Variation.

Black posts his ♙ on its best diagonal. Doing so requires a pawn sac, but analysis shows that the pawn sac is temporary, and can lead to a forced repetition (see: Moiseenko-Shomoev below). Kasparov and his team analyzed this both



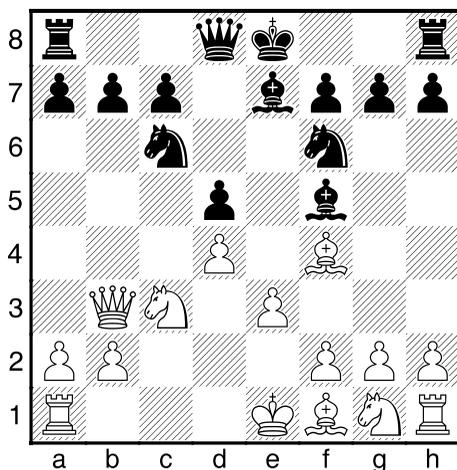
before and during his matches with Karpov, and concluded that White has no advantage.

7. ♖b3

Attacking d5 and b7 is the standard way to counter the early development of Black's DSB in d4/d5 openings.

7... ♘c6!

7... ♖c8 8. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 9. ♖xd5 ♘b4+ 10. ♔d1±.



8. ♖xb7

This is the obvious threat behind ♖b3, but it might not be White's best way to play for a win. Both a3 and g4 have been tried by top GMs:

8. a3!? preventing counterplay

from ... ♘b4 is slow but interesting, as now Black has to go into contortions defending b7:

8... ♖b8 misplacing the ♖ to argue that the ♖b3 is misplaced, 9. ♘f3 0-0 10. ♘e2± **Spraggett – Yussupov, Hastings, 1989** (½-½, 46).

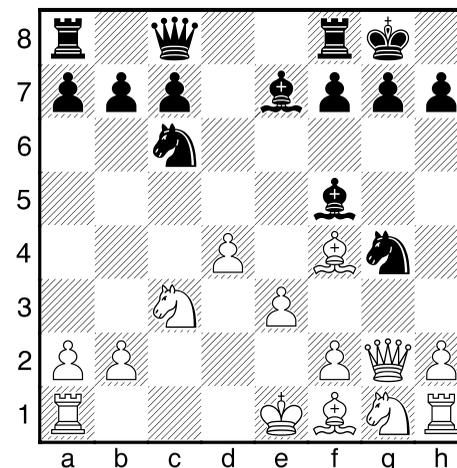
8... ♘a5 9. ♖a2 c6 10. ♘f3 0-0 11. ♘e2 b5 12. 0-0 h6 13. h3 ♖c8 14. ♖ac1 (14. b3!?) 14... ♘c4 15. a4 b4 16. ♘b1 ♘a5 17. ♘bd2 ♖b6 18. ♘b3 ♘xb3 19. ♖xb3 a5 and Black eventually played ...c5, taking on an IQP, but his control over e4 was sufficient compensation in **Peralta, F (2556)–Fridman, D (2637) Rabat, 2015** (½-½, 56).

8. g4!?:

8... ♘xg4? 9. ♖xb7 ♘b4 10. ♖c1!± deflecting the ♘ to g4 leaves the ♘b4 with no safe squares, and White doesn't need to play ♘b5+, but can combine threats to trap the ♘b4 with an attack on the c-file.

8... ♘xg4 9. ♖xd5 (9. ♘xd5? 0-0 10. ♘g2 ♘h4 11. ♘g3 ♘e6± (0-1, 39) **Topalov–Kasparov, Linares, 1997**) 9... ♖c8 Kasparov "=". 10. ♖g2 0-0∞:

Analysis Diagram

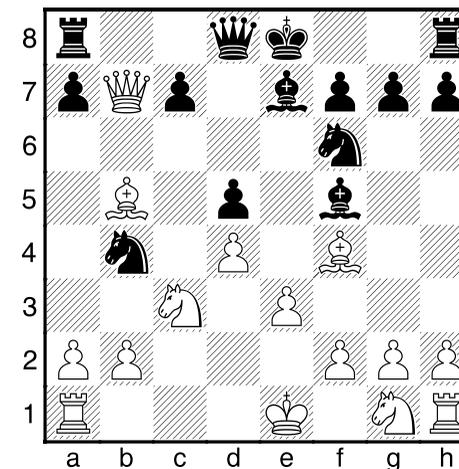


It looks like White will get a strong center and possibly an attack along the g-file, but Black is ahead in development and has very fast counterplay against White's center; e.g.

11. e4 ♘xe4?! 12. ♘xe4 ♘b4+ 13. ♘c3 ♖f5 14. ♘e2! ♖fe8 15. ♔f1 ♘f6 16. ♘h6± (1-0, 39) **Aronian–Kramnik, Monte Carlo (blindfold rapid), 2011**.

11. 0-0-0 ♘f6 12. f3 ♘g6 13. e4 ♖d8 14. ♘ge2 (14. ♘e3 ♘b4 15. a3 c5!±) 14... b5!± (½-½, 103) **Fridman, D (2670)–Prusikin, M (2545) Bad Wiessee, 2012**.

8... ♘b4 9. ♘b5+



9... ♘d7??

This allows White to develop and untangle quickly while keeping his extra pawn, after which the game has no theoretical significance.

9... ♔f8 ♞∞ is the point of ... ♘f5: Black threatens ... ♘c2+ as well as perpetuals against the White ♖. White has tried three moves here, none of which give an advantage:

a) 10. ♔d2 ♘e4+ 11. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 12. f3 ♖b8 13. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 14. ♘xc7 ♖xb5 15. fxe4 dxe4 16. b3 ♘d5= Black is down a pawn, but the strong ♘d5 and pressure on e3 gives equality; see: **Gutov, A (2445)–Stockmann, M (2255) Aix les Bains, 2011** (0-1, 26).



Nameer Issani, reflecting



b) 10.♖c1 a6 11.♙e2
 ♗e8 12.a3 ♖b8 13.♚a7
 ♖a8 14.♚b7 ♖b8 15.♚a7
 ♖a8 ½-½ **Moiseenko, A**
 –**Shomoev**, A Moscow, 2007.

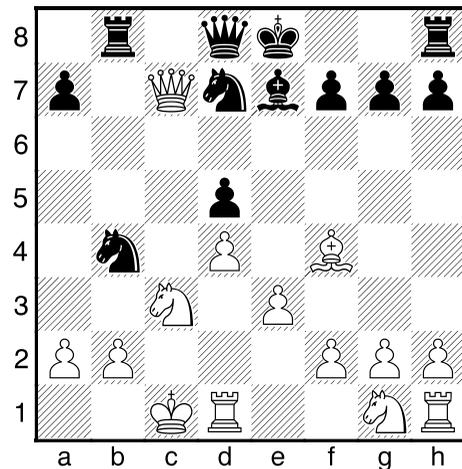
c) 10.♖d1!? a6 11.♙a4 ♖b8
 (11...♗d3+ 12.♖xd3! ♙xd3
 13.♙xc7 ♚xc8 14.♚b6 ♙b5
 15.♙b3± *White has two
 pawns for the exchange
 and Black's ♖s will have
 trouble finding open files;*
Gofshtein, L–Ubilava, E
 (2435) *Tbilisi, 1983.*) 12.♚xc7
 ♚xc7 13.♙xc7 ♖b7 14.♙a5 ♗d3+
 15.♖xd3 ♙xd3 and now not
 16.♙b3? ♙c4±, but simply 16.b3!
 It's hard to shake the feeling that
 White isn't better, with two pawns
 for the exchange and no useful
 open lines for Black's ♖s. But
 it's also hard to find any way to
 improve after something simple
 like 16...♙b5=.

10.♙xd7+ ♗xd7 11.0-0-0?
 Natural, but now capturing the
 ♖c7 gives Black tactics against
 the white ♙.

Much better were 11.♙d2
 or 11.♙e2! 0-0 12.a3 ♖b8

13.♚xc7 ♗a6 14.♚xd8 ♖xb2+
 15.♙f3 (15.♙d3?? ♗ac5+!±)
 15...♖xd8 16.♗xd5+- *White's up
 two pawns for nothing.*

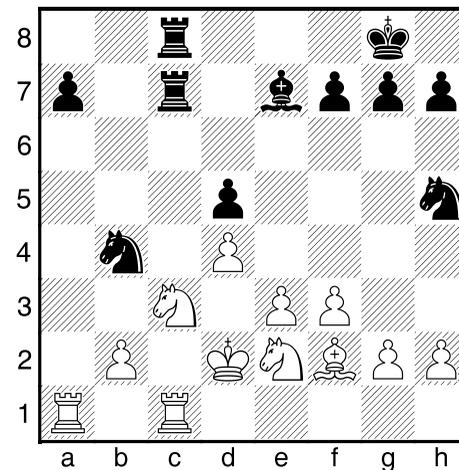
11...♖b8 12.♚xc7



12...♗xa2+! 13.♙c2
 13.♗xa2?? ♖c8-+; 13.♙b1??
 ♚xc7 14.♙xc7 ♗xc3+-+.

13...♗b4+ 14.♙d2!
 14.♙b1?! ♚xc7 15.♙xc7 ♖b7
 16.♙g3 ♗b6±.

14...♚xc7 15.♙xc7 ♖c8
16.♙g3± ♗f6 17.f3 0-0
18.♗ge2 ♗h5 19.♙f2 ♖fe8
20.♖a1 ♖c7 21.♖hc1 ♖ec8



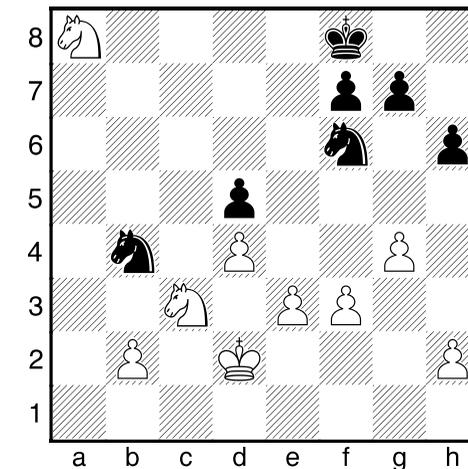
22.g4! ♗f6 23.♙g3+-
 Winning a second pawn and the
 game.

23...♖c6
 23...♖b7 24.♗xd5+-.

24.♖xa7+- ♙d6 25.♙xd6

♖xd6 26.♗b5
 26.♗xd5! ♖xc1 27.♗xf6+ gxf6
 28.♗xc1 ♖c6 29.♗d3+-.

26...♖dd8 27.♖xc8 ♖xc8
28.♗ec3 ♖d8 29.♗c7 h6
30.♖a8 ♖xa8 31.♗xa8 ♙f8



White's up two pawns and Black
 has a weakness on d5. White
 first prevents the Black ♗s from
 jumping into his back field, then
 uses his ♙ and ♗s to advance
 the b-pawn.

32.♗b5 ♙e7 33.♗b6 ♙e6
34.♗a4! ♗c6 35.♗c5+
♙e7 36.♙c3 g6 37.b4 ♙d8
38.♗a3 ♙c7 39.b5 ♗e7
40.♙b4 ♙b6 41.♗a4+ ♙b7
42.♙a5 ♗d7 43.♗c5+ ♙c7



44. ♖xd7 ♔xd7 45. ♔a6 ♖c8
46. ♔a7

1-0

Notes by WIM Qiyu Zhou

Zhou, Qiyu (2328)
Avramidou, Anastasia
(2249)
E43

WYCC U16g Porto Carras (8),
02.11.2015

This game was a turning point
in the tournament for me, as
everything went downhill after
this round.

1.d4 e6 2. ♖f3 b6 3.e3

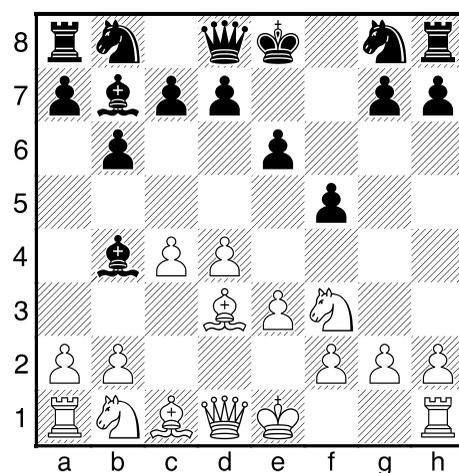
Better was to gain more space
with 3.e4 ♘b7 4. ♘d3 c5 (4... ♖f6
5. ♗e2 with a generally nice
position overall.) 5.c3 cxd4
6.cxd4 ♖f6 7. ♗e2 ♘b4+ 8. ♖c3
d5 9.e5 ♖e4 10.0-0 ♖xc3
11.bxc3 ♘xc3 12. ♖b1 (12. ♘a3?
♘xa1 13. ♘b5+ ♘c6-+) 12... ♖c6
(12...0-0? 13. ♘h7+-) 13. ♘a3±
(improving on 13. ♘g5 ♗d7
14. ♖fc1 ♘a5∞ (0-1, 71) Karlik,

J (2300)–Snorek, M (2195)
Czechia, 2000.)

3... ♘b7 4. ♘d3 f5 5.c4

Just to avoid the entire pin
situation, 5.0-0 was also
possible.

5... ♘b4+



6. ♖c3

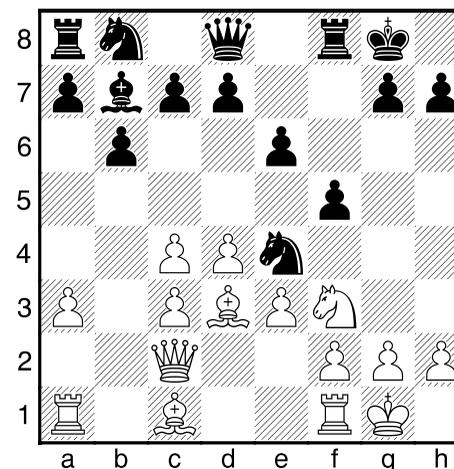
Purposefully putting the knight
under the pin was unnecessary.
After 6. ♘d2 Black has a few
good choices:

6... ♘e7 7.0-0 ♖f6 8. ♖c3 0-0
9. ♖e1 ♖e4 10.d5!?
6... ♘d6 7. ♖c3 ♖f6 8.0-0 0-0;
6... ♘xd2+ 7. ♖bxd2 ♖f6 8.0-0
0-0 9.b4.

6... ♖f6 7.a3

Unnecessary, since Black
will take on c3 in most cases
anyway. 7.0-0 ♘xc3 8.bxc3 ♖e4
9. ♗c2 0-0 and we have the
game with an extra tempo.

7... ♘xc3+ 8.bxc3 ♖e4
9. ♗c2 0-0 10.0-0



10...d6

I was slightly worried about
Black attempting an attack
on the kingside with 10... ♖f6
11. ♖e1 ♖h6. During the game I
was calculating 12.f3, however
after 12... ♗h4 White faces some
problems, e.g. 13.g3? ♖xg3
14.hxg3 ♗h1+-+ and 13.h3
♖g5 are both better for Black.
The computer gives 13.g4! as
the only move, with equality.
However, rather than 12.f3, the

correct continuation would have
been: 12.g3! ♖g5 (12... ♗g5?
13.f3 ♖xg3 14. ♗g2±) 13.f3.

11. ♖d2

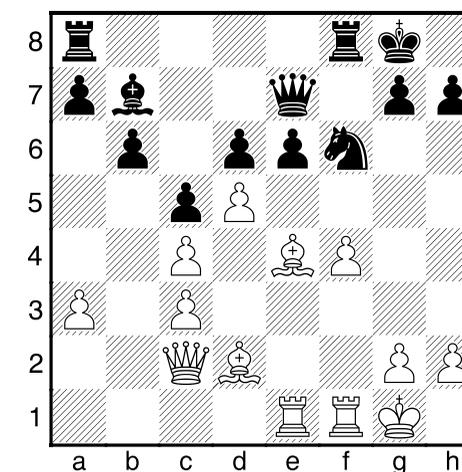
The other possibility was 11. ♖e1
♗h4 12.f3 ♖f6 13.e4 (13.g3 ♗h5)
13...fxe4 14.fxe4 ♖xe4?? (editor
– ♖14... ♘xe4!?) 15. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8
16. ♖f3 ♗g4 17.h3 ♗g6 18. ♖g5+-
d5 19.cxd5 exd5 20.c4+-.

11... ♗h4 12.f3 ♖xd2

13. ♘xd2 c5 14.d5

14.e4 f4 15.a4 (15.d5 e5 16.a4
♖d7 and Black is very solid.)
15... ♖d7 16.a5 might have also
offered some chances.

14... ♖d7 15.f4 ♗e7 16.e4
fxe4 17. ♘xe4 ♖f6 18. ♖ae1



18...♔d8

Black could have also considered 18...♖xe4:

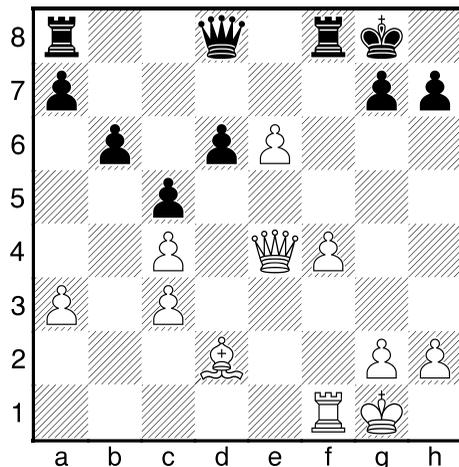
19.♖xe4 ♕c8 (19...♖f6 20.f5) 20.dxe6 (20.♖fe1 e5∞) 20...♕xe6 21.♖fe1 but Black has this trick 21...♕f5! 22.♖xe7 ♕xc2 23.♔f2 ♕d3 24.♖d7 ♕f5 (24...♕xc4 25.♖ee7 ♖f7=) 25.♖xd6 ♖fd8 most likely heading into a draw.

19.♖xe4 19...e5 20.fxe5 ♖xf1+ 21.♔xf1 ♖f8+ 22.♔g1 ♖f7 23.♕e3 dxe5 24.♖xe5 White is up a pawn, but the position is still fairly unclear.

19.♕f3

19.dxe6!? this exchange sacrifice would have been very interesting. Unfortunately I only had about 20 minutes at this point, and I decided to not calculate the line and tried to play it safe instead. 19.dxe6!? ♕xe4 20.♖xe4 ♖xe4 21.♖xe4:

Analysis Diagram



The position is unclear, but dangerous for Black:

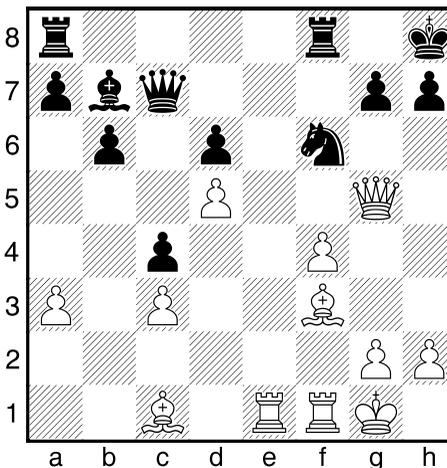
21...♖e7 22.f5 ♖ae8 (22...h6?? 23.f6 gxf6 (23...♖xf6 24.♖xa8+-) 24.♕xh6+-) 23.♕e1 ♖g5 24.♕h4 ♖h6+- Black is paralyzed.

21...♖f6 depending on my mood, I may have considered 22.g4!? (22.f5 also very logical) 22...♖h4 23.f5∞ with an interesting game at least.

19...exd5 20.cxd5 c4

After this move I thought my d5-pawn was dropping for sure.

21.♖f5 ♔h8 22.♕c1 ♖c7 23.♖g5



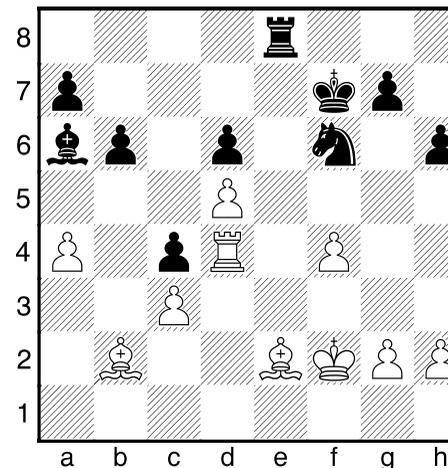
23...♖ae8

Not sure why my opponent did not try to capture the pawn: 23...h6 24.♖h4 ♕xd5 (24...♖xd5?! 25.f5 ♖ae8 26.♕xh6 gxh6 27.♖xe8 ♖xe8 28.♖xh6+ ♖h7 29.♖xd6 ♖f7± with lots of play for White.) 25.♕xd5 ♖c5+ 26.♕e3 ♖xd5 27.♕d4 ♔g8 28.♖e7 ♖f7 29.♖xf7 ♖xf7.

24.♖d1 h6

editor – 24...♖c5+! 25.♔h1 ♖a5 going after White's queenside.

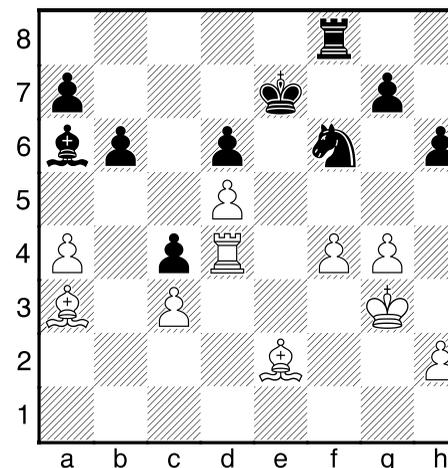
25.♖h4 ♖c5+ 26.♖f2 ♖xf2+ 27.♖xf2 ♖e7 28.a4 ♖fe8 29.♕a3 ♖d8 30.♖d4 ♖e3 31.♕b2 ♔g8 32.♖fd2 ♕a6 33.♖e2 ♖de8 34.♔f1 ♔f7 35.♔f2 ♖xe2+ 36.♕xe2



36...♖c8?

The engine simply suggests 36...♖e4+ 37.♔f3 ♖c5 38.♕xc4 ♕xc4 39.♖xc4 ♖e1 40.♕a3 likely due to the fact White's rook is not accomplishing much on c4. 40...♖f1+ 41.♔e2 ♖g1 42.♕xc5 bxc5 43.♔f2 ♖d1= and the d-pawn also drops.

37.♕a3! ♔e7 38.g4 ♖f8 39.♔g3



39...♖e8?

My opponent sort of self-destructed with this move.

Nevertheless, White's position was looking pretty good: 39...g5 just to stop g5 by White, is still much better for me, e.g. 40.h4 gxh4+ 41.♔xh4 ♔d7 42.♙xc4 ♙xc4 43.♖xc4+-.

40.g5!

White is winning, and I was really disappointed with myself for not being able to win this endgame.

40...hgx5 41.fxg5 ♘h7

42.h4 ♔d8 43.♔f3

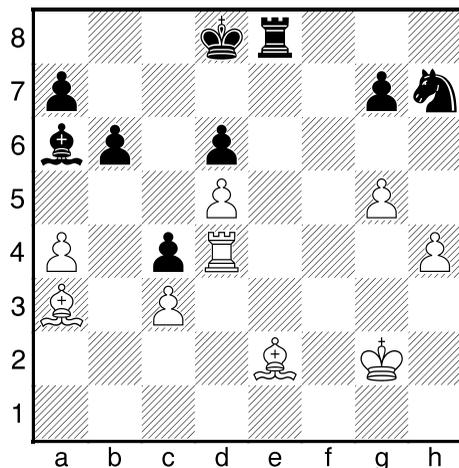
editor – 43.♙g4! giving up the ♖c3 to activate the ♙ and threatening both d6 and ♖f4-f7.

43...♖f8+ 44.♔g2

Playing to keep the Black ♖ out, but in the long run my king would have done better closer to the opponent's camp.

44.♔g4! If 44...♙c8+ 45.♔g3 ♙a6 46.♙xd6 I could consider simply taking this pawn. 46...♖e8 47.♔f2 ♙b7+-.

44...♖e8



45.♙xc4?!

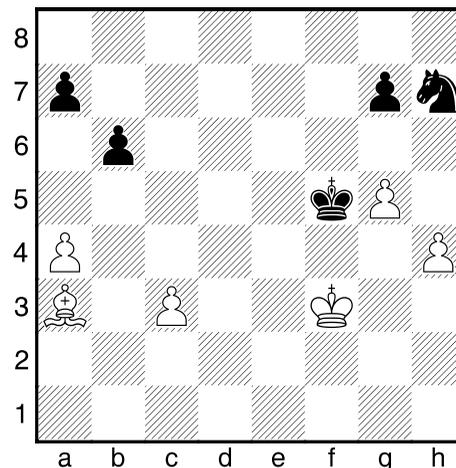
In hindsight, exchanging pieces was not the best idea, because the minor piece endgame provided some trouble. A possibility was 45.♙h5 ♖e3 46.♙xd6 ♖xc3 47.♙g6 (47.♖f4 ♔d7 48.♙e5+-) 47...♔d7 48.♙e5 ♘f8 49.♙f5+-.

editor – ?? Black's minors were both bad while White had the ♙-pair on an open board with pawns on both sides and a potential passed pawn on the h-file. So, although it wins a pawn, Stockfish rates this capture as reducing White's advantage by 1.6 pawns.

45...♙xc4 46.♖xc4 ♖e5

47.♖c6 ♖xd5 48.♖xd6+

♖xd6 49.♙xd6 ♔d7 50.♙a3 ♔e6 51.♔f3 ♔f5



52.c4

I was running low on time again around here.

52.♙b4:

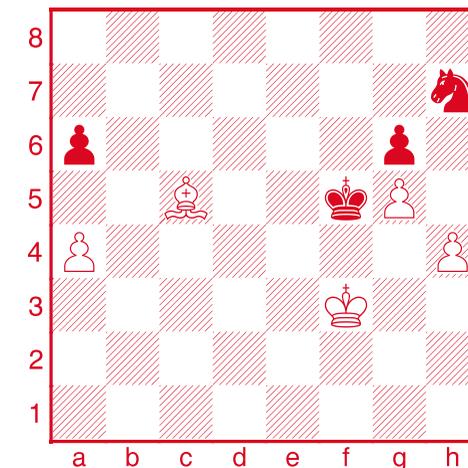
52... g6 53.♔g3 ♔e5 54.♔g4 ♔e4 55.h5 gxh5+ 56.♔xh5 ♔f5 57.♙e7+-;

52...♔e5 53.♔g4 g6 54.h5 ♘xg5 55.♔xg5? (*editor* – 55.hxg6! ♘e6 56.♔h5+-) 55... gxh5 56.♔xh5 ♔d5 57.♔g4 ♔c4= followed by a5 and the c-pawn drops.

52...g6 53.♙b4

53.c5 bxc5 54.♙xc5 a6

Analysis Diagram



editor – Black's ♘ is stuck on the edge of the board and White's ♙ can lose *tempi* by moving along the a3-f8 diagonal, which strongly suggest that White is winning. If Black's ♔ backs up then White wins by bringing her ♔ across the board to attack the a-pawn, and playing h4-h5 to create a passed pawn (supported by White's ♙) which Black's ♘ cannot stop. Black's saving trick is to sac the ♘ for the g and h-pawns and run her ♔ to c8 (and then to a8) to stop White's a-pawn.

a) 55.♔e2? ♘xg5=;

b) 55.♔g3? gives Black two ways to draw:

55...♔e5 56.♔g4 ♔e4 57.h5



FIDE

Chess Canada



gxf5+ 58. ♖xh5 ♜xg5 59. ♖xg5
 ♔d5= due to the light squared
 promotion square, and:
55... ♜xg5 56. hxf5 ♖xg5
 57. ♖f3 ♖f5=;

c) 55. ♖e3? ♖g4!= 56. ♙e7 ♖xh4
 57. ♖f4 ♖h5 58. a5 ♖h4 59. ♖f3
 ♜xg5+ 60. ♖f4 ♖h5 61. ♙xg5=
 stalemate;

d) 55. ♙b4 is the winning move.
 Black has two tries:

d1) Black can not keep the
 White King out with 55... ♖e5
 56. ♖e3 ♖f5 (56... ♖d5 57. ♖f4+-
 and h5 will come when ...gxf5
 isn't a check.) 57. ♖d4 ♖g4
 58. ♙e1+- or 58. ♙e7+-.

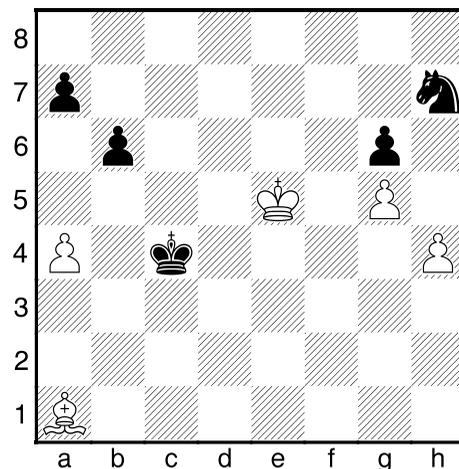
d2) Giving up the ♜ for the two
 pawns is the critical try, but it
 doesn't work now: the White
 ♖ and ♙ can win the Black
 a-pawn and prevent Black's ♖
 from getting to a8: 55... ♜xg5+
 56. hxf5 ♖xg5 57. ♖e4 ♖f6:
58. ♖d5 g5 59. ♖c6 ♖e6
 60. a5 g4 61. ♖b7 ♖d7 62. ♙e1
 ♔d8 63. ♖xa6 ♖c8 64. ♙g3+-.
58. ♙e1 is another way to

demonstrate how White cuts off
 the Black ♖: 58... ♖e6 59. ♙g3
 ♔d7 60. ♖d5 ♖c8 61. ♖c6 ♖a5
 62. ♙c7 g5 63. ♙e5 g4 64. ♙c7⊕+-

53... ♖e5 54. ♙c3+ ♖e6

Going for the c-pawn does not
 work: 54... ♖d6 55. ♖e4 ♖c5
 56. ♖e5 ♖xc4 57. ♙a1

Analysis Diagram



57... ♖b4 58. ♖e6 ♖xa4 59. ♖f7
 ♔b3 60. ♖xg6 ♜f8+ 61. ♖f7 ♜d7
 62. g6+-;
57... ♜f8 58. ♖d6 ♖b4 59. ♖e7+-;
 57... ♖d3 58. ♙b2 ♜f8 (58... ♖e3
 59. h5 ♜xg5 60. hxf6+-) 59. ♖f6
 ♖e3 60. ♖f7 ♖f4 61. ♖xf8 ♖g4
 62. ♖g7+-.

55. ♙g7
 55. ♙d4:

55... ♜f8 does not work either
 56. c5! ♜d7 (56... bxc5 57. ♙xc5
 forks ♖a7 and ♜f8; 56... ♖d5
 57. cxb6+-) 57. c6+-;

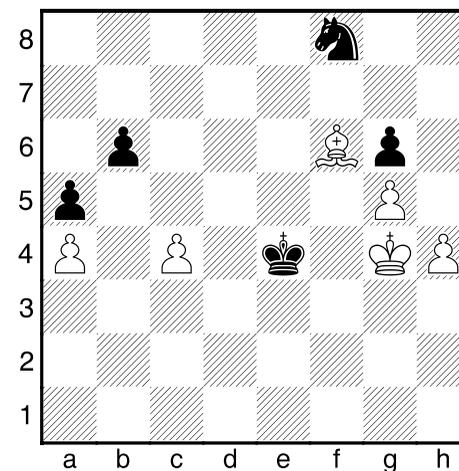
55... ♖f5 56. ♙g7 (56. c5
 bxc5 57. ♙xc5 a6 58. ♙a3 a
 breakthrough in this position
 would be difficult.) 56... ♖e6
 (56... a6 57. ♖e3 ♖g4 58. a5!!+-)
 57. ♖e4 a6 58. ♖f4 ♖d6 59. ♙b2
 ♖c5 (59... ♖e6 60. ♙a3+- and
 Black gets in zugzwang;
 59... ♖c6 60. ♙a3 ♖d7 61. ♖e5+-)
 60. h5 ♜xg5 61. hxf6!+-.

55... ♖f5 56. ♙h6 ♖e5

57. ♖g4 ♖e4

57... ♖d4 58. ♖f4 ♖xc4 59. ♖e5+-
 ♖b4 60. h5 ♜xg5 61. hxf6.

58. ♙g7 a5 59. ♙f6 ♜f8



60. ♙e7??

I cannot remember why I did
 not play this obvious move
 60. ♙d8!+-:

60... ♜e6 61. ♙xb6 ♖d3
 (61... ♜g7 62. ♙xa5+-) 62. c5+-;
60... ♜d7 61. h5 ♜e5+ (61...
 gxf5+ 62. ♖xh5) 62. ♖h4 ♜f3+
 63. ♖g3 gxf5 64. g6 ♜d4 65. ♖h4
 ♜e6 66. ♙xb6 ♖f5 67. ♙xa5 ♖xg6
 68. ♙b6+-.

60... ♜e6 61. h5 gxf5+
62. ♖xh5 ♜xg5 63. ♙d8 ♖d4
64. ♙xb6+ ♖xc4 65. ♙xa5
♖b3

I was extremely upset after this
 game, and the following round
 I lost to the bronze medallist. I
 never quite managed to recover,
 and ended the tournament three
 rounds later with 7/11.

1/2-1/2



Chen, Richard (2117) Shevchenko, Kirill (2359)

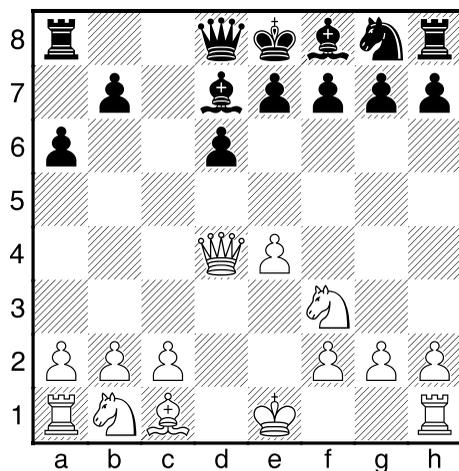
B51

WYCC U14 Porto Carras (8),
02.11.2015

Notes by John Upper

Richard's opponent is an FM from Ukraine. He finished 6th overall, losing only two games: one to Sergei Lobanov (who we saw against Jeffrey Xu) and this one.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+
♘d7 4.d4 cxd4 5.♚xd4 a6
6.♙xd7+ ♕xd7



White has given up the ♙ pair in return for a lead in development, and has options about how to develop, but Black seems to be

fine on all lines.

7.♘c3

7.♙g5!? stops ...e5, but 7... h6 8.♙h4 ♚a5+ 9.♘c3 e5 has scored well for Black; e.g. 10.♚d3 g5 11.♙g3∞ (0-1, 39) [Sutovsky, E](#) (2666)–Papa, S (2399) Geneve, 2004; and (0-1, 48) Guliev, L (2412)–[Korobov, A](#) (2705) Baku, 2012.

7.c4!? aims for a Maroczy type bind where White has traded his "bad" light-squared ♙ before it

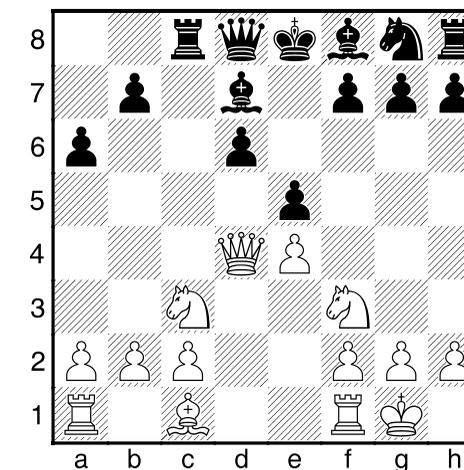
gets stuck behind pawns on c4 and e4. This was played twice by Carlsen against Anand, but even here Black can choose between slow or fast central play:

7...♘f6 8.♙g5 e6 9.♘c3 ♙e7 10.0-0 ♙c6 11.♚d3 0-0 12.♘d4 ♖c8 13.b3 White's space advantage looks like it ought to be worth something, but Black held in [Carlsen–Anand, WCh g10, Chennai, 2013](#) (½-½, 65).

Or Black can break the bind before it gets started with:

7... e5 8.♚d3 b5! 9.♘c3 bxc4 10.♚xc4 ♙e6= [Carlsen–Anand, Stavanger, 2013](#) (½-½, 59).

7...♖c8 8.0-0 e5



9.♚b4!?

9.♚d3 h6 10.♙e3 ♘f6 11.a4 (11.♘d2!?) 11...♙e7 12.a5 ♙e6 13.♖fd1 0-0 by 1930s standards, White's control over d5 and pressure on d6 would be deemed nearly winning; but decades of Najdorf experience show that it is actually White (who has no simple way to improve the position) who is in danger here, and Black — with the ♙ pair and play on the c-file — is the one who can be optimistic about this middlegame; e.g. (0-1, 48) [Spasov, V](#) (2621)–



Richard Chen



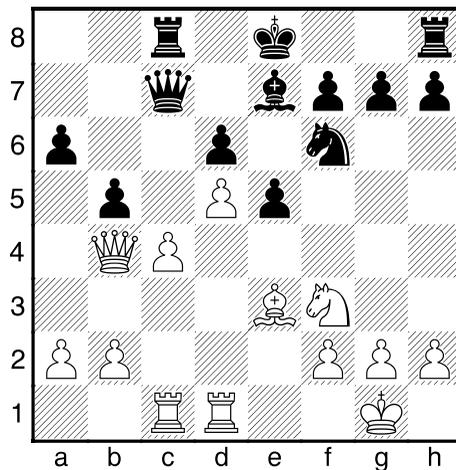
Volokitin, A (2661) Baile
Herculane, 2010.

9...♙c6 10.♙e3 ♙e7 11.♖fd1
♗c7 12.♘d5N

12...♙b6 ♗d7 13.♗b3 ♗e6 14.♘d5
♙xd5 15.exd5 ♗d7= (½-½, 94)

Hendriks, W (2407)–Baklan, V
(2634) Germany, 2014.

12...♙xd5 13.exd5 ♘f6
14.♖ac1 b5 15.c4!



15...♗b7

15...bxc4 16.♗a4+ ♗d7

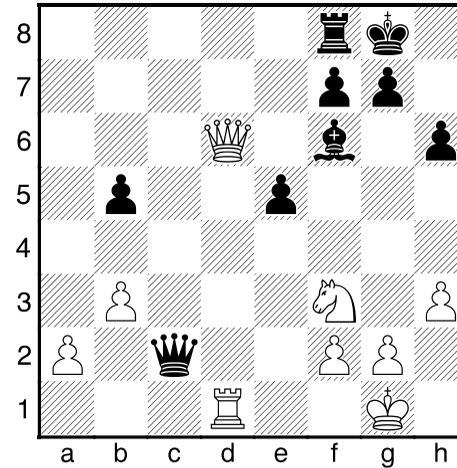
17.♖xc4 might give White some
queenside play.

16.♙g5 0-0 17.♙xf6 ♙xf6

18.b3 ♗d7 19.h3 h6

20.cxb5 axb5 21.♖c6 ♖xc6

22.dxc6 ♗xc6 23.♗xd6 ♗c2

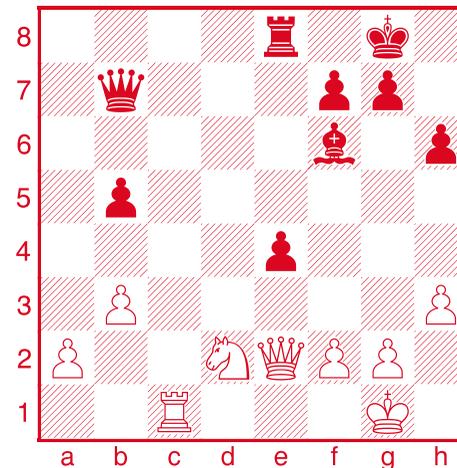


24.♗d2 ♗c7

Black was 200+ points higher
rated, and may have figured that
keeping the pieces on was his
best chance.

25.♖c1 ♗b7 26.♗e2= e4

27.♘d2 ♖e8



This position is equal: Black's
b and e-pawns are possible
targets, but the ♙ is better than
the ♘ since it has no useful
squares supported by pawns.
White now goes after the ♙b5,
trying to get it to advance and
concede the c4 square.

28.♖c5?

♘28.♘f1=.

28...♙d4?

28...e3!!⁷ this pseudo-pawn sac
turns the game around:

a) 29.♖xb5?? exf2+ 30.♙f1
(30.♗xf2 drops the ♖b5.)

30...♖xe2 31.♖xb7 ♖xd2-+;

b) 29.fxe3? ♙d4!-+ this is the
main tactical point of ...e3. It's
easy to find... if you already
know that ...e3 is a good move.

30.♖xb5 ♖xe3♠ 31.♗c4 ♖e2+
32.♗xd4 ♗xg2#;

c) 29.♘f3! exf2+ 30.♗xf2 b4⁷
with the better minor piece, pawn
structure, and king safety.

29.♖xb5±

29.♗xb5? ♗xb5 30.♖xb5 e3!

wins:

31.♘f1 e2-+;

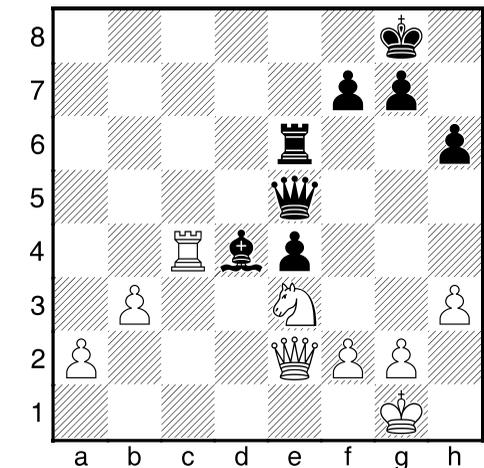
31.fxe3 ♙xe3+ 32.♙f1 ♙xd2-+;
31.♘f3 e2 32.♘e1 ♙c3-+.

29...♗c6

29...♗a6 30.♘f1± and Black
can't exploit the pin on the ♖b5
without taking a tempo to avoid
♖b8+.

30.♘f1♠ ♖e6 31.♖b4 ♗d6

32.♖c4 ♗e5 33.♘e3



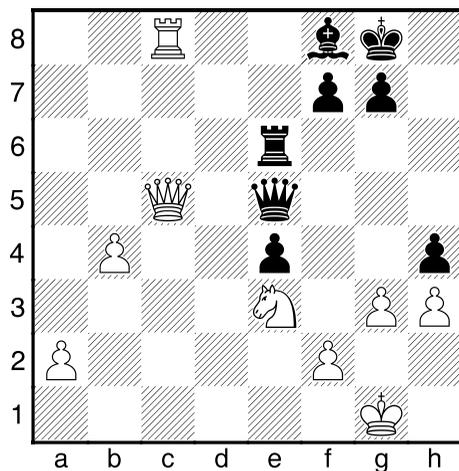
33...♙c5?

The general rule is not to trade
pieces when you're down
pawns, but here the trade would
give Black very good drawing
chances based on the exposed
White ♙ in a 4 major piece
ending. 33...♙xe3! 34.fxe3
(34.♗xe3 ♗a1+ 35.♙h2 ♗xa2±
is probably White's best try.)



34...♔a1+ 35.♔h2 (35.♔f1 ♖xa2
36.♖c8+ ♔h7 37.♔xf7 ♔xb3
White is nominally better, but
only Carlsen would win this.)
35...♔e5+ 36.g3 ♖f6= with
enough activity to draw.

34.b4 ♘d6 35.g3 h5
36.♖c8+ ♘f8 37.♔c4 h4
38.♔c5!



The ♔ exchange leaves Black
with no chance.

38...♔xc5 39.bxc5 hxg3
40.fxg3 ♖a6 41.c6 g6 42.c7
♖c6 43.♘d5 ♔g7 44.♖d8

1-0

Keymer, Kasparov, Vettese

Keymer, Vincent (2347)
Vettese, Nicholas (2046)
E11

WYCC U12 Porto Carras (8),
02.11.2015

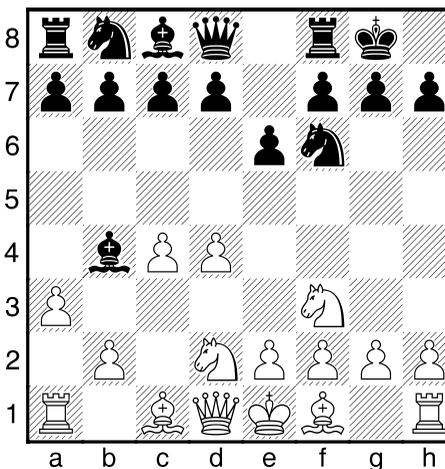
Notes by John Upper

Vincent Keymer is the current
top-hope for the next generation
of German chess fans, and has
been featured on the ChessBase
website, showing photos of him
studying with Kasparov (*below*).

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3
♘b4+ 4.♘bd2

The principled move against
the Bogo-Indian: aiming to get
the ♘-pair without making any
structural concessions, or falling
behind in development as in the
♔c2 Nimzo-Indian.

4...0-0 5.a3



5...♘xd2+

5...♘e7 6.e4 with about 1000
games in the database is far

more common. Black has a
choice about contesting the
center with the sharp ...d5 or the
clogging ...d6:

6...d5 7.e5 (7.cxd5 exd5 8.e5
♘fd7 9.♘d3 c5 10.0-0 ♘c6
11.♖e1∞ (½-½, 43) [Nyzhnyk, I](#) (2535)-[Bluvshstein, M](#) (2587)
Groningen, 2010.) 7...♘fd7
8.♘d3 c5 9.♔c2 (9.h4!?→
cxd4? 10.♘xh7+!+- (1-0, 31)
[Navara, D](#) (2700)-[Dzagnidze, N](#) (2546)
Yerevan, 2014.) 9...
h6 10.0-0 ♘c6∞ was played



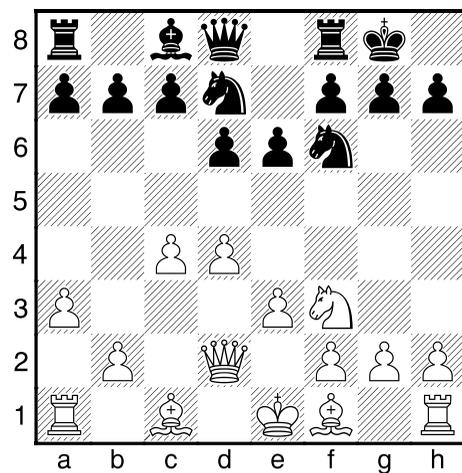
twice in the knock-out match between [Vachier Lagrave, M](#) – [Tomashevsky, E](#) Baku, 2015.

6...d6 7.♔d3 c5 8.d5 ♖bd7 9.0-0 e5 10.b4 a5 11.bxa5 ♖xa5 12.♗b3 ♖a6 13.a4 ♗h5 14.g3 g6 15.♗e1 ♗g7 16.♗g2 with something resembling a bayonette attack against an Old Indian — a KID with ♔e7 rather than ♔g7; see (0-1, 34) [Vachier Lagrave, M](#)–[Carlsen, M](#) [Leuven](#) (blitz), 2016.

6.♖xd2

6.♔xd2 is also possible; e.g. 6...b6 7.♔g5 ♔b7 but developing the ♔ to b2 ensures Black can't trade it off for one of his ♗s.

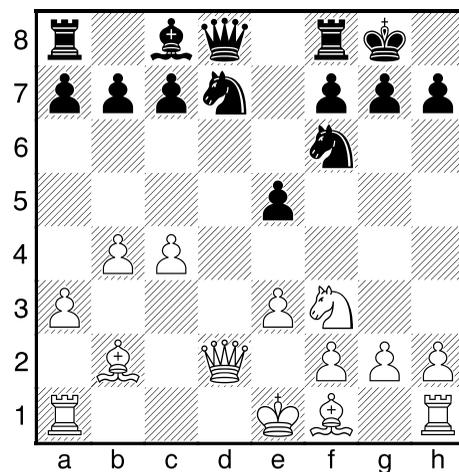
6...d6 7.e3 ♗bd7



8.b4

8.♔e2 e5 9.♖c2 ♖e7 10.0-0 ♗e8 11.b4 e4 12.♗d2 ♗f8 13.d5 ♔g4!? 14.♗b3 (14.♔xg4 ♗xg4 15.h3 ♗f6 16.♔b2 ♗8d7± with more space and an eventual queenside break.) 14...♗g6 15.♗d4 ♔xe2 16.♖xe2 ♖e5 (16...♗d7! 17.♔b2 ♗h4 18.♖g4 ♗e5 19.♖xe4 ♗ef3+ 20.gxf3 ♖g5+ 21.♖g4 ♗xf3+) 17.♗h1 b5? 18.cxb5 ♖xd5 19.♔b2 and White had strong queenside pressure in [Shankland, S](#) (2632)–[Yam, A](#) (2299) [Edmonton, 2014](#) (1-0, 41).

8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.♔b2



10...e4

10...♖e7 11.♔e2 b6 12.♖c3 ♗e8 13.♗d1 (13.0-0 c5 14.♗d2 ♔b7

15.f3 a5 16.b5 ♗f8 17.♖fd1± (1-0, 32) [Kozul, Z](#) (2610)–[Winants, L](#) (2524) [Dresden, 2007.](#)) 13...♔b7 14.0-0 ♖ad8 15.♗d2 ♗f8 16.f3 ♗6d7 17.♔d3 f6 18.♖c2 c5 19.♔c3 h6 20.♗e4 f5 21.♗g3 g6 22.♖b2 (22.♔xf5! gxf5 23.♗xf5↑) 22...h5 (1-0, 37) [Keymer, V](#) (2342)–[Fuellgrabe, T](#) (2244) [Saarbrücken, 2015.](#)

11.♗d4 ♗e5 12.h3!

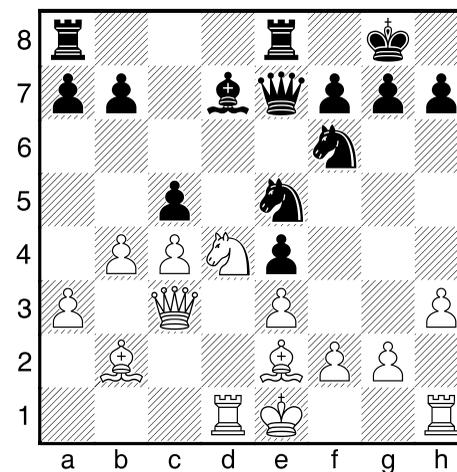
Stopping the ♔ trade that happened in [Shankland–Yam](#): 12.♔e2?! ♔g4!

12...♖e7 13.♖c3 ♗e8

14.♖d1± ♔d7 15.♔e2

15.♗b5±.

15...c5!

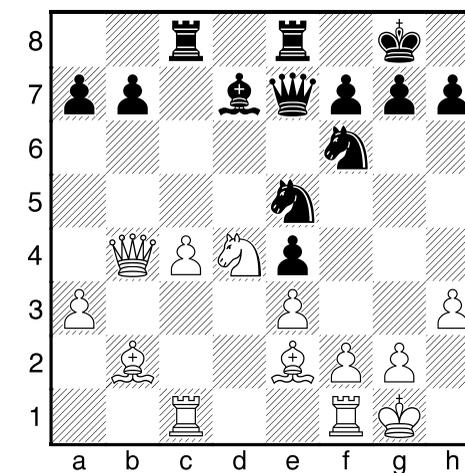


16.bxc5 ♖xc5 17.0-0 ♖ac8

18.♖c1 ♖e7?!

♗18...♗g6! lets Black keep the ♖s on, which makes the e4-pawn a useful attacking asset; e.g. Δ19.♖b4 (19.♗b5?! ♗h4!↑) 19...♖g5↗.

19.♖b4!



A queen trade eliminates a Black defender of the dark squares, making White's unopposed ♔ stronger.

19...♗d3!?

A tough decision, sacrificing the pawn to get rid of the ♔ pair. White is going to be better either way: in the middlegame with even material but extra space and the ♔s, or in the endgame

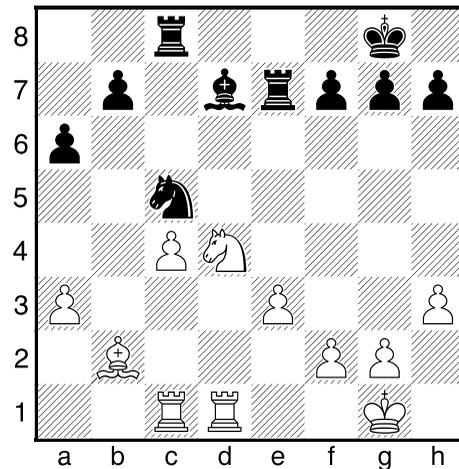


with an extra pawn but with opposite ♙s. White proves he's up to the task in the endgame.

19...♙xb4 20.axb4± White has the ♙ pair and might be able to target the queenside pawns with b4-b5, ♖b3 and ♙d4.

19...b6 20.♖fd1 and Black is struggling to find any good moves; e.g. 20...h6 21.♙xe7 ♖xe7 22.♘b5 ♙xb5 23.cxb5 ♖xc1 24.♖xc1 ♘e8± or 24...♘d3 25.♙xd3 exd3 26.♖d1 ♖d7 27.♙d4 and White wins the pawn anyway.

20.♙xd3 exd3 21.♙xe7 ♖xe7 22.♖fd1 ♘e4 23.♖xd3 ♘c5 24.♖dd1 a6



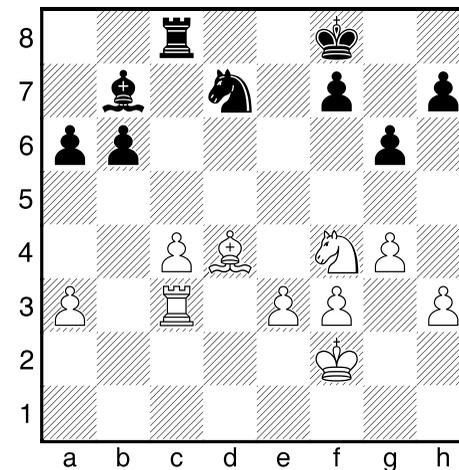
White is up a pawn for free. White's purposeful play through the rest of the game "makes a strong impression", as the Soviet analysts used to say.

25.g4 g6
25...♙a4 26.♘f5!±.

26.♘e2 ♙a4 27.♖d6 ♖d7
28.♖xd7 ♘xd7 29.♙d4 b6

29...♙b3 30.c5 ♙d5 31.♘c3 ♙c6 is another way to try to hold.

30.♖c3 ♙f8 31.f3 ♙c6
32.♙f2 ♙b7 33.♘f4

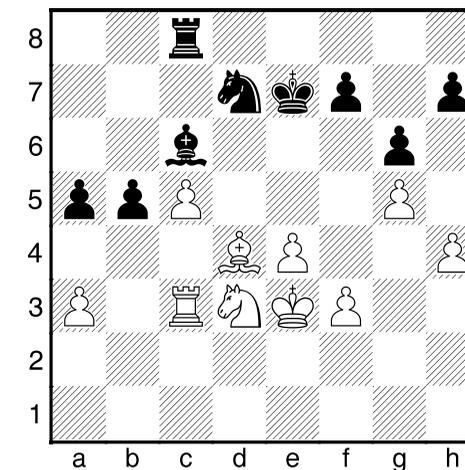


33...b5?!
33...a5!? 34.♙e2 ♙a6 35.♙d3±.

34.c5 ♙e7 35.e4 a5 36.h4
♙c6 37.♙e3 ♙b7

37...h6 stops White from opening the h-file, but it leaves the h6-pawn weak and concedes the f5 square after 38.h5!

38.g5 ♙c6 39.♘d3



Black has almost no moves. White has his minors on their best squares and now can activate his ♖.



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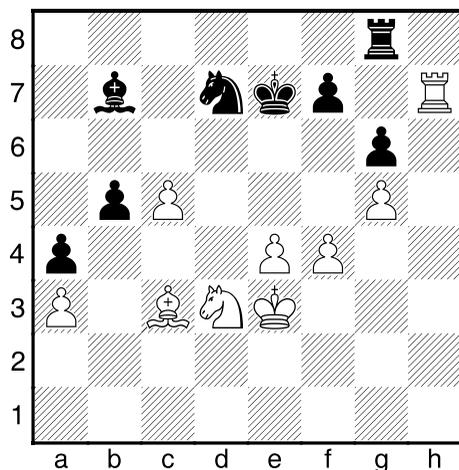
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39...♙b7 40.♖c1 ♔e6 41.h5
♙a8 42.♖h1 ♔e7 43.hxg6
hxg6 44.♖h7 ♙b7 45.f4 ♖g8
46.♙c3! a4



47.♙f6+! ♔e8

47...♘xf6 48.gxf6+ ♔xf6 49.♘e5
and there's no good way to
defend f7.

48.♖h2

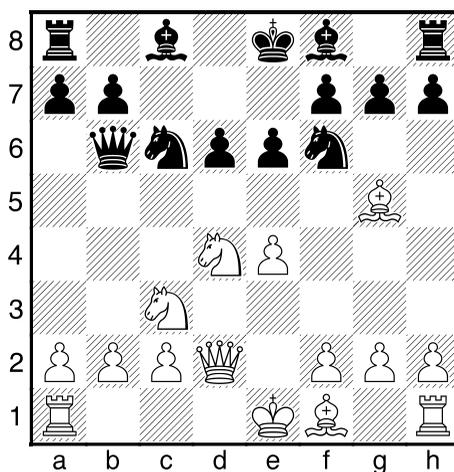
White wins with either ♖b2 or
♖d2. A smooth performance by
White against steady defence by
Black.

1-0

Vettese, Nicholas (2046)
Liang, Awonder (2365)
B60
WYCC U12 Porto Carras (10),
04.11.2015
Notes by John Upper

A marathon. Black gets an
endgame plus, but White sets
up a fortress. Black presses
and presses and presses and
eventually over-presses and is
... rewarded, because this isn't a
fairytale.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6
6.♙g5 e6 7.♖d2 ♖b6

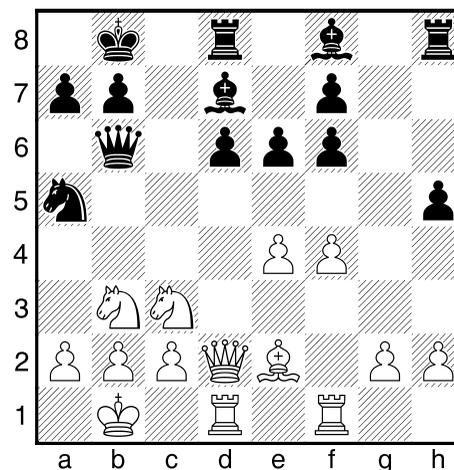


8.♙xf6

8.0-0-0 ♖xd4 9.♖xd4 ♘xd4
10.♖xd4 a6 11.f3 ♙d7 12.♘a4

♙c6 13.♘b6 ♖d8 14.♘c4 ♙e7
15.♘a5± (1-0, 37) Kasparov, G
– Mchedlishvili, M (2551) Bled,
2002.

8...gxf6 9.♘b3 ♙d7 10.0-0-0
0-0-0 11.f4 ♔b8 12.♔b1
♘a5 13.♙e2 h5 14.♖hf1



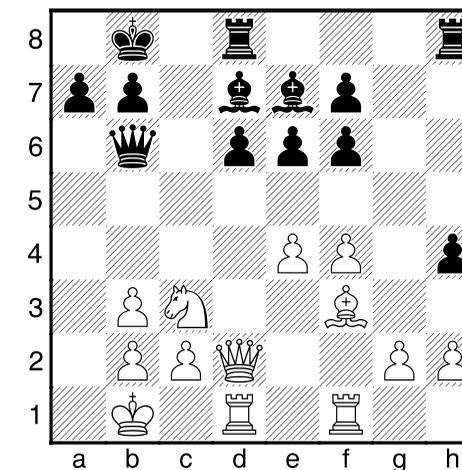
14...♘xb3

14...♙e7 15.♖f3 ♘xb3 16.axb3
♖c5 17.♖h3 h4 18.♙g4 ♙c6
19.♖d3 ♖hg8 20.h3 a6 21.♖e1±
(½-½, 52) Jakovenko, D (2732)–
Romanov, E (2624) Taganrog,
2011.

15.axb3 ♙e7 16.♙f3N

16.♖f3 transposes to Jakovenko–
Romanov (above).

16...h4

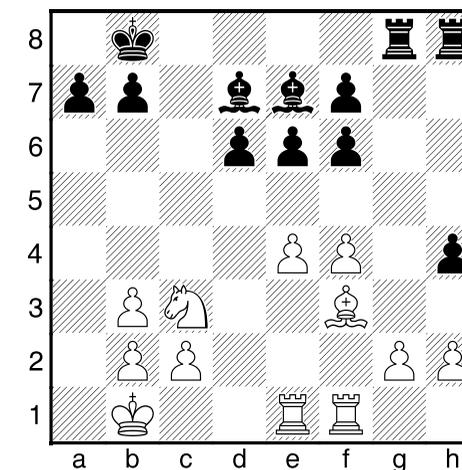


17.♖de1

It feels like White starts to drift
here. One idea is ♙g4 and f4-
f5 to pressure e6 and fight for
d5; e.g. 17.f5 ♖c8 18.♙g4 ♖c5
19.♖d3 planning either ♖h3 or
fxe6 then ♘d5.

17...♖a5 18.♖d3 ♖c8

19.♖d4 ♖c5 20.♖xc5 ♖xc5
21.♙e2 ♖cc8 22.♙f3 ♖cg8



FIDE

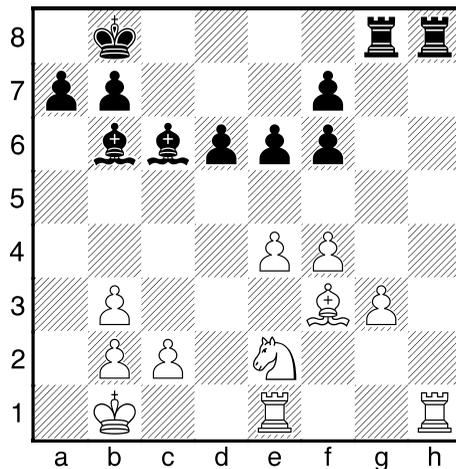
Chess Canada



23. ♖h1

A strange-looking move, but clearly White wanted to move his g-pawn and was preparing to fight for the h-file. I don't know why he wants to move his g-pawn: the ♕f3 keeps both Black rooks from doing anything on the kingside files, so doubling on the d-file or preparing f4-f5 with h3 and ♕g4 might have been better.

23... ♗d8 24. ♞e2 ♗b6 25. g4 hxg3 26. hxg3 ♗c6



27. g4?

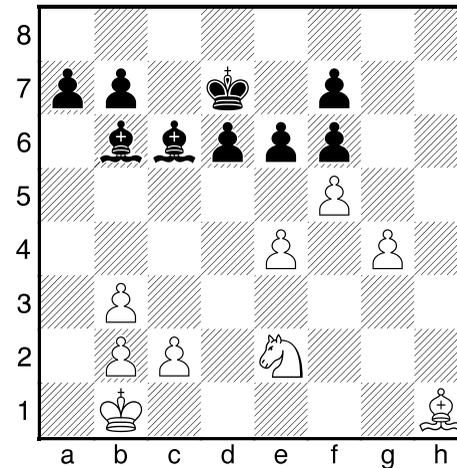
⊔27. ♖ef1 protecting the ♗ and unpinning the e4-pawn.

27... ♔c7?!

27... f5! may win a pawn: 28. gxf5

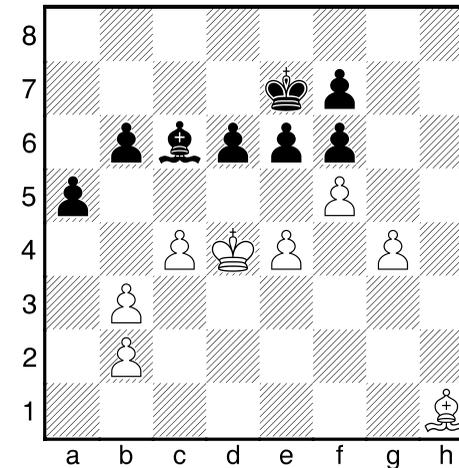
exf5 29. ♞c3 ♗a5! ♣.

28. f5! ♔d7 29. ♖xh8 ♖xh8
30. ♖h1 ♖xh1+ 31. ♗xh1



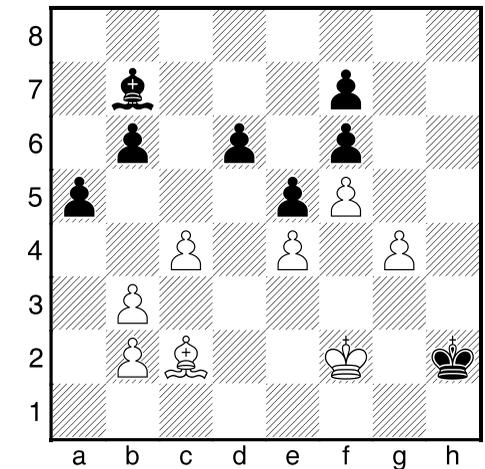
Black has the ♗ pair and the better ♗ in an ending with pawns on both sides of the board. The only things that keep White in the game are that his bad ♗ protects all his weak pawns, and there are too many pawns in the center for Black's ♗s to be able to attack both sides of the board.

31... ♔e7 32. c4 ♗c5 33. ♔c2
a5 34. ♔d3 ♗f2 35. ♞d4
♗xd4 36. ♔xd4 b6



It's a double fortress: neither side can create a double-attack or even a *zugzwang*, and so should be drawn.

37. ♗f3 ♔f8 38. ♔e3 ♔g7
39. ♔f4 ♔h6 40. ♗e2 e5+
41. ♔f3 ♔g5 42. ♗d3 ♔h4
43. ♗f1 ♗d7 44. ♗d3 ♗e8
45. ♗f1 ♗c6 46. ♗e2 ♔h3
47. ♗d3 ♔h2 48. ♔f2
♗b7 49. ♗c2

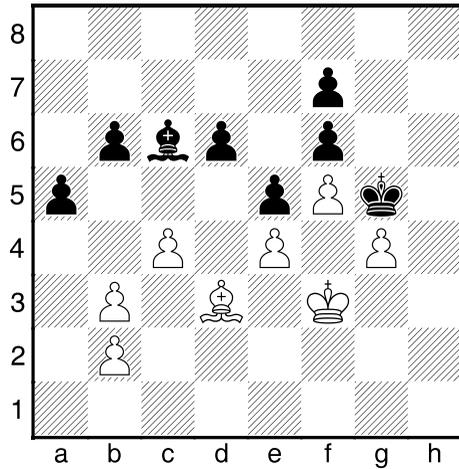


Black tries the kingside....

49... ♗a6 50. ♗d3 ♗c8
51. ♗b1 ♗d7 52. ♗d3 ♗c6
53. ♔f3 ♔h3 54. ♗f1+ ♔h4
55. ♗d3 ♗d7 56. ♗e2 ♗c8
57. ♗d1 ♔h3 58. ♗e2 ♗b7
59. ♗f1+ ♔h4 60. ♗e2 ♔g5
61. ♗d3 ♗c6

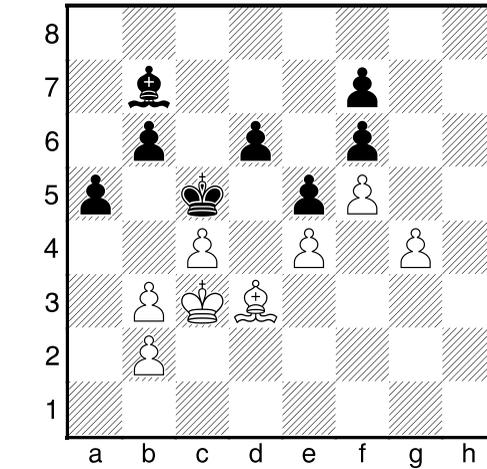
Nicholas Vettese
Signs a commemorative board.



**62. ♖e2**

62. ♖g3 Looks like the simplest way to hold, since Black can't get his ♗ going on the queenside; e.g. 62...a4? 63.b4±.

**62...♔h6 63.♗d3
♗b7 64.♔g3 ♔g5
65.♔f3 ♗c6 66.♗e2
♗a8 67.♗d3 ♗b7
68.♗e2 ♔h6
69.♗d3 ♔g7
70.♔g3 ♔f8
71.♔f3 ♔e7
72.♔e3 ♔d7
73.♔d2 ♔c6
74.♔c2 ♔c5
75.♔c3**

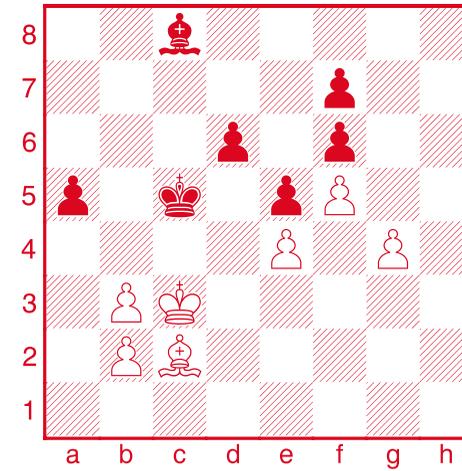


Black tries the queenside...Black can try to triple attack c4 (with ...b5 and ...♗a6) but it seems to me that White has more than one way to defend against it, including just giving up the c and b pawns for Black's b-pawn! (see the note to move 84)

75...♗c8

**75...♗c6 76.♗b1 b5 77.♗c2!
(77.♗d3?? b4+ 78.♔d2 ♔d4-+)
77...♗b7 (77...a4 78.cxb5
axb3□=) 78.♗b1 ♗c8** Black is trying to zug White so that on ...♗a6 there is no ♗a2. (78...♗a6 79.♗a2!) **79.cxb5! (79.♗c2? ♗a6 80.cxb5 ♗xb5 81.♗d1 ♗f1 82.♗f3 ♗a6 (so that on b4 axb4, ♔xb4 there will be no tempo on the ♗) 83.♗d1 d5! 84.exd5 ♔xd5-+)** **79...♔xb5 80.♗c2 ♔c5:**

Who would expect such a Marathon battle in Greece?

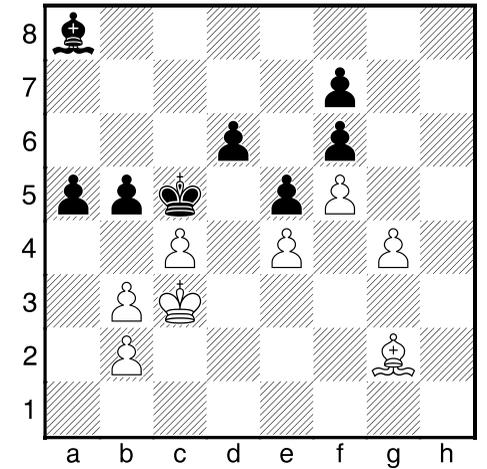
Analysis Diagram

**a) 81.♔d3 ♔b4 82.♔e3 ♗b7
83.♔d3 d5 84.exd5 ♗xd5 85.♗d1
e4+!-+;**

**b) 81.♗b1 ♗a6 82.♗c2 (82.♗d3
♗xd3 83.♔xd3 d5-+) 82...♗e2-+;**

c) 81.b4+!! a blockading sacrifice so the black ♔ can't step on b4. After 81...axb4+ 82.♔d3 ♗a6+ 83.♔e3 Black can press, but I don't see a way in.

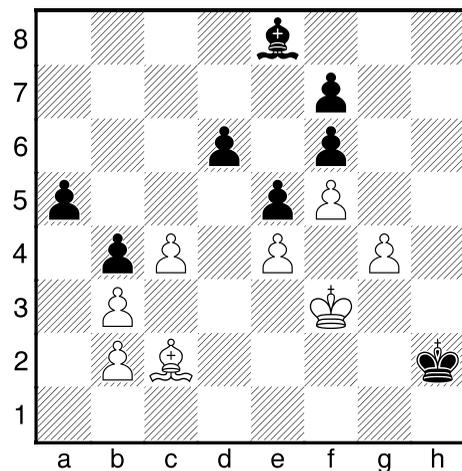
**76.♗e2 ♗d7 77.♗d3 ♗c6
78.♗b1 ♗b7 79.♗d3 ♗a6
80.♗f1 b5 81.♗e2□ ♗b7
82.♗f3□ ♗c6 83.♗g2 ♗a8**

**84.♗h1**

84.♗f3 ♗b7 85.♗g2 ♗a6 86.♗f1 b4+! 87.♔d3 a4! 88.♗e2 (88.♔e3? a3-+) 88...axb3 (88...a3? 89.bxa3 bxa3 90.♔c3 a2 91.b4+ and White is the one who will wrack his brains looking for a win.) 89.♔e3 ♗xc4 90.♗d1 computers say Black is winning, but I don't see a way to make progress.

**84...♗b7 85.♗f3 ♗c6 86.♗g2
♗d7 87.♗h1 ♗e8 88.♗f3
b4+ 89.♔d3 ♔c6 90.♗e2
♔d7 91.♔e3 ♔e7 92.♗d1
♔f8 93.♔f3 ♔g7 94.♔g3
♔h6 95.♔h4 ♗d7 96.♗c2
♗c6 97.♔h3 ♔g5 98.♔g3
♗d7 99.♗d1 ♗e8 100.♔f3**

♔h4 101.♙c2 ♔h3 102.♙d1
♔h2 103.♙c2

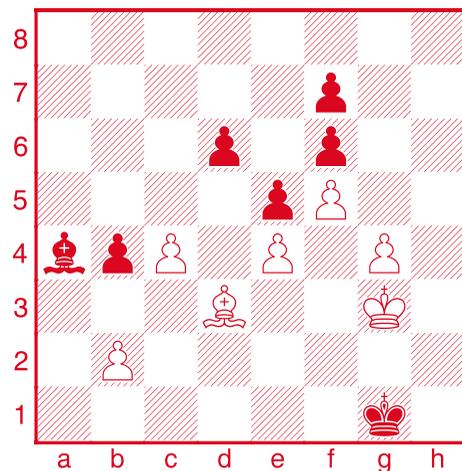


Back to the kingside...

103...♔g1?!

The black ♔ can't get past f1, so this is either a bluff or Black has decided on a bad pawn break.

104.♙d3 ♙c6 105.♔g3 a4??
106.bxa4 ♙xa4



Black's ♔ is trapped, but I suppose he hoped he could play ...♙d1 and *zugzwang* White into allowing ...♙e2 or ...♔f1 or ...♔f2, when he would be winning. White could avoid that *zugzwang* by simply oscillating his ♙ on the f1-a6 diagonal... all he has to make the diagonal longer to do so:

107.♔h4??

107.g5? = fxg5 108.f6 (108.c5? dxc5 109.f6 ♙b3+) 108...♙b3 (108...♙d7?? 109.c5! dxc5 110.♙c4+) 109.♙e2 (109.♔g4?? ♔f2 110.♔xg5 ♔e3 111.♙f1 ♔xe4 112.♔h6 d5+) 109...♙a2 (109...♙c2? 110.♙h5+-) 110.♔f3 g4+ 111.♔g3 ♙b3 (111...♙b1? 112.♙xg4 ♙a2 (112...♙xe4 113.♙h5+-) 113.♙e6!+-) 112.♙d3=.

107.c5!! Not only does this create the drawing mechanism mentioned above, it actually wins! The hard point to see is that White's f5-pawn is a promotion threat. 107...dxc5 108.♙c4 After g4-g5 and ♙xf7 Black will have to give up his ♙ to stop the f-pawn, and

White's ♙ prevents Black from trading the game-winning white b-pawn:

a) 108...♙c2 109.g5! fxg5 (109...♙xe4 110.gxf6+-) 110.♙xf7 ♙xe4 111.f6+-;

b) 108...♙e8 109.g5 fxg5 110.f6 ♙+- and the white ♔ wins the g and e-pawns;

c) 108...♙c6 109.g5! ♙xe4 110.gxf6 ♙xf5 111.♙xf7+-.

107...♔f2 108.g5 fxg5+
109.♔xg5 ♔e3+- 110.♙b1 ♙c6

110...♙c6 111.♔f6 ♙xe4
112.♔xf7 ♙xb1 113.f6 ♙a2 ♙+-.

0-1

Notes by
FM Michael Kleinman
Garriga Cazorla, P. (2422)
Dorrance, Adam (2131)
B30

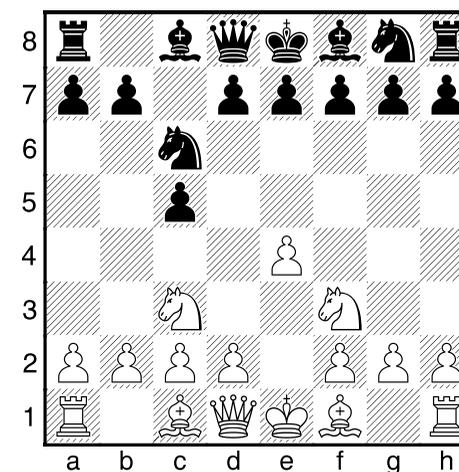
WYCC U18 Porto Carras (11.18),
05.11.2015

The following was first posted on the CFC Newsfeed:

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/704>

This week, I chose to analyse one of Adam Dorrance's game from the 2015 WYCC. Adam put in a strong performance and gained around 150 FIDE rating points. I decided to annotate his last round game against a higher-rated player. Adam played quite solidly, and even outplayed his opponent with the Black pieces and gained some winning chances. Enjoy!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3



White usually chooses this move order to avoid the Sveshnikov.

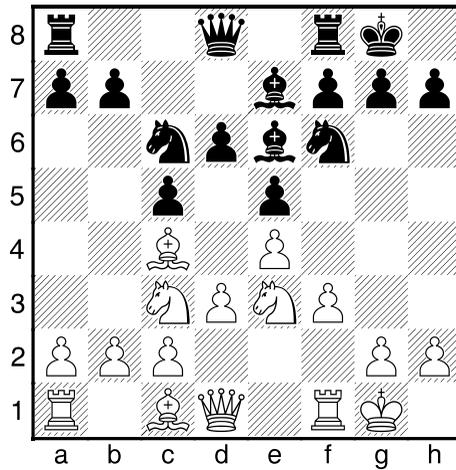


3...e5

This is probably the most principled response. At first, it looks a bit weakening to create the hole on d5, but whenever White tries placing a Knight there, it will be exchanged.

4.♘c4 ♘e7 5.d3 d6 6.♘d2

White is trying to bring his other Knight to e3 to plop a Knight on d5. If he is able to do this he will stand clearly better.

**6...♘f6 7.♘f1 ♘g4 8.f3 ♘e6
9.♘e3 0-0 10.0-0**

White may be slightly better here, but the position is very close to equal.

10...♘d4

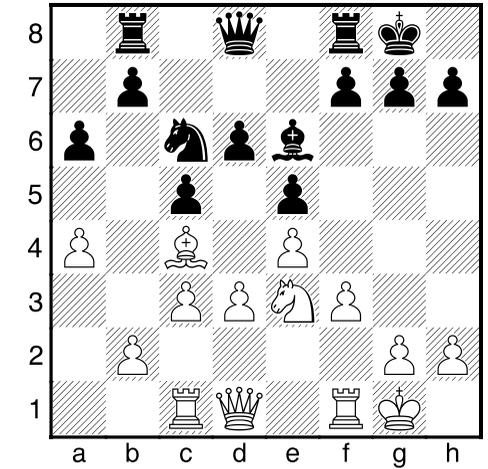
10...♘b8 is how many previous games continued. Adam's decision of activating the Knight to d4 was extremely logical as well. 11.a4 ♘b4 12.♘cd5 ♘bxd5 13.exd5 ♘d7 14.f4 e4 (1-0, 39) **Naiditsch-Mamedyarov, Antalya, 2004.**

11.a4**Adam Dorrance**

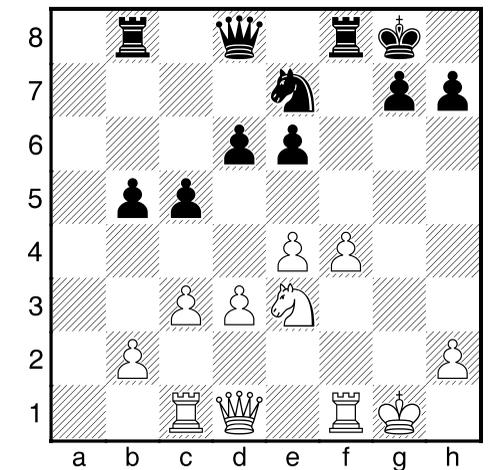
11.f4 seems logical to me 11...exf4 12.♘xf4 ♘xc4 13.dxc4± (13.♘xc4 d5=).

11...♘b8 12.♘cd5 ♘xd5**13.♘xd5 ♘g5**

Getting rid of Black's bad bishop.

14.c3 ♘xc1 15.♖xc1 ♘c6**16.♘e3 a6****17.g3**

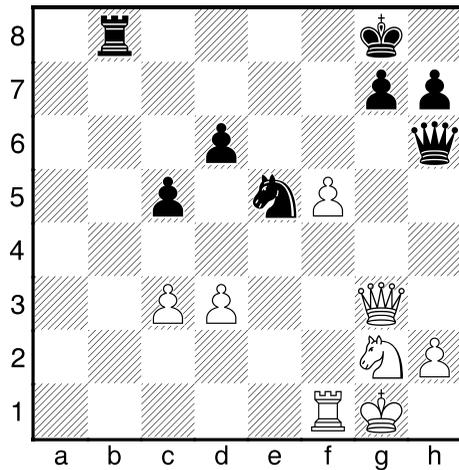
17.♘d5 ♘e7 18.♘xe6 (18.♖b3!?) 18...fxe6 19.d4 cxd4 20.cxd4 ♖b6!∞.

17...b5 18.axb5 axb5**19.♘d5 ♘e7 20.♘xe6 fxe6****21.f4 exf4 22.gxf4**

Black has played very logically, and now stands a little better.

22...♘g6
22...d5̄.

23.♖g4 ♖f6 24.♘g2 b4
25.f5 ♘e5 26.♖g3 exf5
27.♖xf5 ♖h6 28.♖cf1 ♖xf5
29.exf5 bxc3 30.bxc3

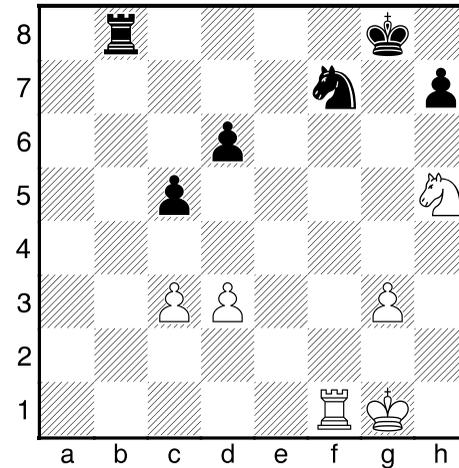


30...♖f6

This is the safer choice, but Black could have played the enterprising ...♖d2!

30...♖d2 was possible to attack the d3 pawn. It does look a bit dangerous to abandon the Black king though. 31.f6 g6 32.♖h3 ♖xc3 33.♖e6+ ♘f7 34.♖e1 ♖d4+ 35.♖h1 h5̄.

31.♘e3 ♘f7 32.♘d5 ♖g5=
33.f6 ♖xg3+ 34.hxg3 gx6
35.♘xf6+ ♖g7 36.♘h5+
♖g8



37.d4 cxd4 38.cxd4 ♘g5
39.♖f5 ♘e6 40.d5 ♘d4
41.♖f6 ♖b1+ 42.♖g2 ♘b5
43.♖h3 ♖d1 44.♘f4 ♖g7
45.♘h5+ ♖g8 46.♖e6 ♖xd5
47.♖g4 ♖e5 48.♘f6+ ♖g7
49.♖xe5 dxe5 50.♘xh7
♖xh7 51.♖f5 ♖h6

1/2-1/2

thanks

to the parents who took their kids and posted their photos online.

to all the players who agreed to annotate their games.

photos

almost all of the photos are from Canadian HoD **Victoria Jung-Doknjas**.

photo of Vincent Keymer and Garry Kasparov from ChessBase:

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/chess-talent-vincent-meets-garry>



Strategy
GAMES AND ACCESSORIES





Acqui Terme, Italy
November 10-21, 2015

In November 2015, Acqui Terme, Italy was the venue for the 2015 FIDE World Senior Chess Championships.

Bigger and Younger

Although this was the 25th edition, the tournament has seen significant changes in the last few years. Starting in 2014, FIDE redefined Senior Chess and created an additional age band for players aged 50+, thus opening up a new sphere of competition for a whole generation of players. The original 60+ Senior category was replaced by a new 65+ category. Attendance at the World Senior has been growing rapidly. The total of over 300 players in Acqui Terme was

around double the participation of the 2014 Championships in Greece. The lure of a vacation in a pleasant European location, with one game a day, and no games against underrated juniors, is proving rather popular!

Rustic Italy

Acqui Terme is a small market town in Northern Italy, and is famous for its natural hot springs as well as being in the centre of a major wine producing region. The photo below shows the ruins of a Roman aqueduct which is the symbol of the town.



Players were accommodated in some 10-11 official hotels, all within walking distance of the playing hall, which was a spacious and comfortable convention centre. Although this meant there wasn't a single social 'hub' outside the playing hall, there was a collegial atmosphere among the smaller groups staying in each hotel. My hotel was a former monastery, as reflected in the rather spartan nature of the rooms. However I shared a dining table with **GM Keith Arkell** of England and **IM Roddy McKay** of Scotland (among others), which made for entertaining discussions. The organizers also arranged **two blitz tournaments, wine tasting events** on several evenings as well as a **choice of excursions** on the rest day. All in all it was an enjoyable experience both on and off the chess board.

The event itself featured four separate sections: Open and Women's Championships in both 50+ and 65+ categories. A number of chess legends were present, including former Women's World Champion GM Nona Gaprindashvili, and famous former Soviet **GMs Balashov, Kupreichik, Vasuikov** and **Vaisser** in the Open 65+ sections. Top seeds in the 50+ Championship were **GMs Predag Nikolic** and **Eduardas Rozentalis**, both active 2600 level players.

The top seeds won three of the four championships, the exception being GM Vladimir Okhotnik, third seed in the 65+ section, who repeated his 2011 World Senior triumph to win the tournament.

2015 World Senior Champions

Open 50+	GM Predag Nikolic
Women 50+	WGM Galina Strutinskaia
Open 65+	GM Vladimir Okhotnik
Women 65+	GM Nona Gaprindashvili



Canadians

Four Canadians played this year: Brian McLaren from BC, and Bill Doubleday, Andrew Zybura and myself from Ontario. We scored as follows:

Open 50+

IM David Cummings	6.5/11
Brian McLaren	6
Andre Zybura	4.5

Open 65+

William Doubleday	5.5/11
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Notes by IM David Cummings

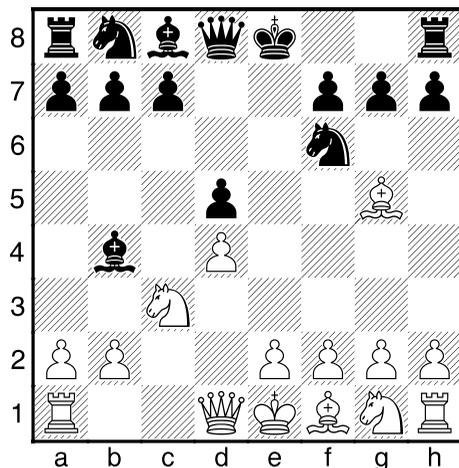
Cummings, David (2307)

Furman, Boris (2218)

D35

FIDE World 50+ (7), 17.11.2015

1.c4 e6 2.♘c3 d5 3.d4 ♘f6
4.cxd5 exd5 5.♙g5 ♙b4

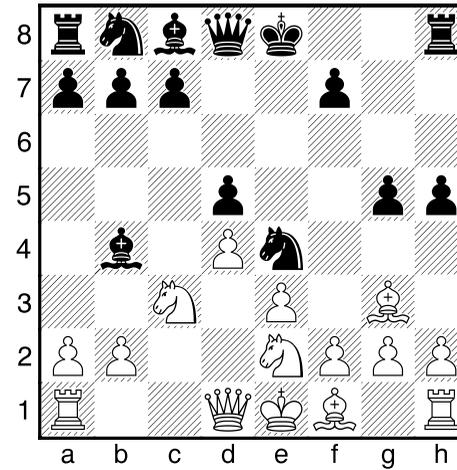


A slightly unusual line, a kind of hybrid between the Nimzo-Indian and Queen's Gambit Declined.

6.e3

6.♘f3 would transpose into the Ragozin system, but with Furman's move-order White has the flexibility to develop his g1-knight to e2.

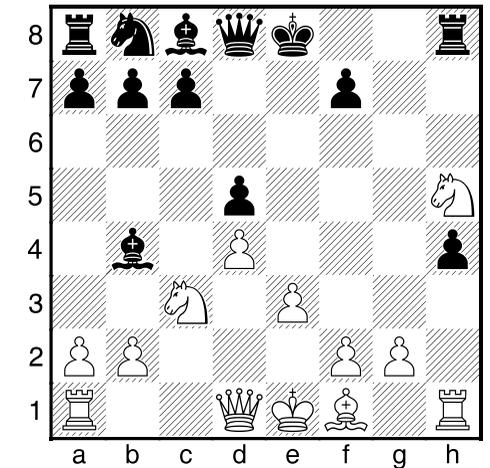
6...h6 7.♙h4 g5 8.♙g3 ♘e4
9.♘ge2 h5



When preparing for this game, I noticed that my opponent played this rare line, and had achieved a decent position against GM

Sturua (2014 World 50+ and 2015 European 50+ Champion). So before the game, I looked at this line briefly with the engine. Time well spent, as it turned out.

10.h4 ♘xg3 11.♘xg3 gxh4
12.♘xh5



12...♙g5?!

In the light of White's next move, I thought my opponent may have played 12...c6, when I had prepared 13.a3 (13.♙f3 ♙g5 14.♙e2 ♙e6 15.0-0-0 ♘d7 16.g3 draw agreed, was played in Moranda, W (2591)-Rosenthal, D (2401) Germany, 2013.) 13...♙d6 and now White can try the tricky 14.g3!? hxg3 15.♙f3!? gxf2+ 16.♙d2 with good attacking chances for White.



Instead, my opponent continued to follow his game against Sturua, and so allowed my next move.

13. ♖a4+

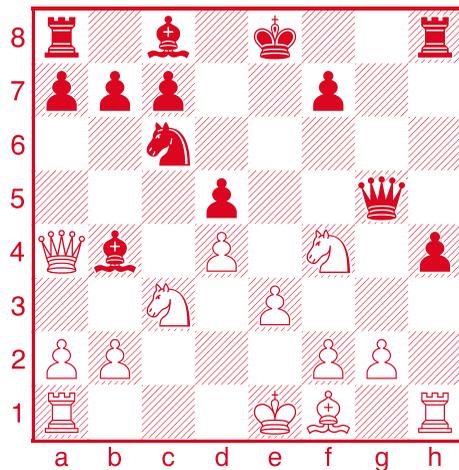
A big improvement over 13. ♘f4 c6 14. ♕d3 ♕d6 when Black got an acceptable position in Sturua, Z (2525)–Furman, B (2225) Porto 2014; White only won after a long struggle (1-0, 63).

13... ♘c6

Black blocks awkwardly with the knight. Instead, 13... c6 14. ♖xb4 ♗xh5 or (14... ♖xh5 15. e4 when Black's king is exposed) 15. 0-0-0 is also good for White who has a big lead in development.

14. ♘f4

14. ♕b5?? ♕xc3+ 15. bxc3 ♗xh5 was played in an old game Calvo Minguez, R–Ghitescu, T (2450) Havana 1966 (1/2-1/2, 28), but Black could have won on the spot with 15... ♖xh5 16. ♕xc6+ bxc6 17. ♖xc6+ ♔e7 and if 18. ♖xa8 ♕a6 Black wins the queen because of the threat of mate on e2.



14... ♕g4?

Preventing White from castling but allowing a big tactic.

14... ♕d7 is more natural and what I was expecting. Now 15. 0-0-0 ♕xc3 16. bxc3 0-0-0 would be roughly equal. But I was intending 15. ♖b5! This slightly unusual move is more or less all I could remember from the computer analysis. The point is to attack both the b-pawn and the d-pawn:

15... 0-0-0 16. ♘fxd5! wins a pawn for White since Black can't continue 16... ♘xd4? because of the deadly discovered check 17. ♘b6+ axb6 18. ♖xg5 winning the queen.

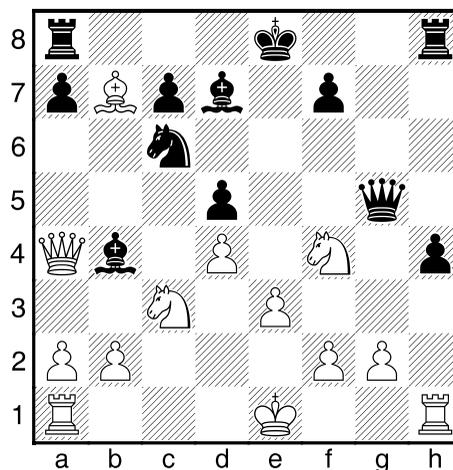
15... ♘xd4 16. ♖xb7 and now 16... ♕c6 (16... ♗d8 17. 0-0-0 and

White will win the d-pawn at least) 17. ♕b5!! is a nice blow. White is much better after 17... 0-0 18. ♕xc6 ♗ab8 19. ♖xc7 ♗fc8 20. ♖d7 and White will emerge from the complications with extra material.

15. ♕a6!

I was happy to spot this over the board.

15... ♕d7 16. ♕xb7



16... ♘xd4

If Black tries 16... ♕xc3+ 17. bxc3 ♘d8 White wins after 18. ♖b3! (18. ♖a6?! can be met by 18... ♗h6) 18... ♗b8 19. ♖xd5 escaping from the pin with a crucial tempo on Black's queen.

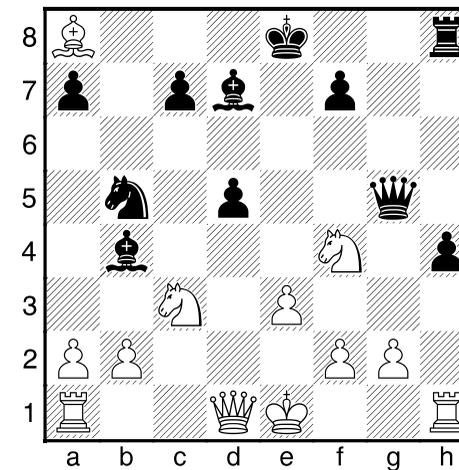
17. ♖d1!

This retreating move is the key to the position. In fact it is the only winning move. If 17. ♖a6? ♕b5! and Black is back in the game. 18. ♕c6+ ♕xc6 19. 0-0-0 is very unclear.

17... ♘b5

17... ♗b8 18. ♖xd4 hits the h8-rook and so wins after 18... ♕xc3+ 19. ♖xc3+-.

18. ♕xa8 +-



18... ♘xc3

18... d4 looks a bit scary at first sight but White can consolidate with either 19. a3 or the simple (19. ♔f1 dxc3 20. bxc3 is also good enough) 19... dxc3 20. axb4 cxb2 21. ♗b1 ♘c3 22. ♖d4 winning easily.



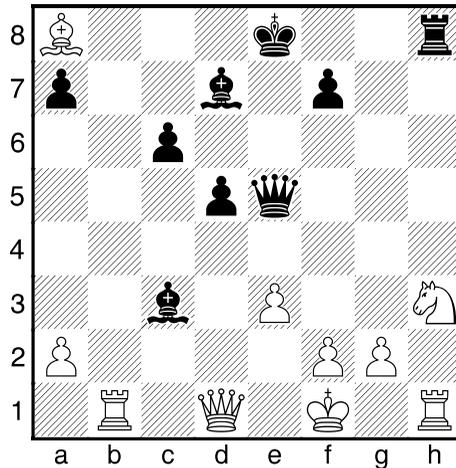
FIDE

Chess Canada



19.bxc3 ♖xc3+ 20.♔f1 h3
or 20...♙xa1 21.♚xa1 0-0
22.♙xd5 ♜b8 23.♔g1 ♙f5
24.♔h2 with a safe extra piece.

21.♘xh3 ♚e5 22.♞b1 c6



23.♚a4 0-0
23...♞h6 then simply 24.♔g1
unpins the h3-knight.

24.♙xc6 ♙f5 25.♞d1 ♙e4
26.♙xd5
Ending all resistance.

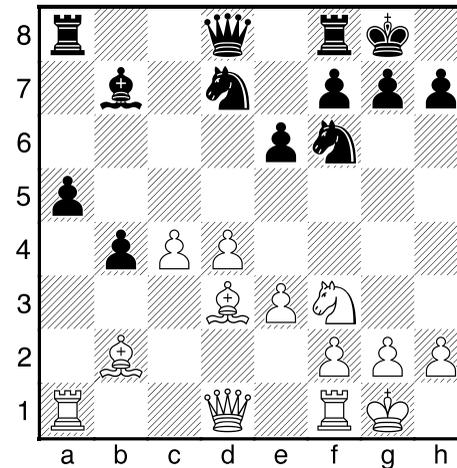
26...♙xd5 27.♚g4+
27.♚g4+ ♚g7 28.♚xg7+ ♔xg7
29.♞xd5 and even I should win
this one :)

1-0

Sorm, Daniel (2353) McLaren, Brian (2167) D31

FIDE World 50+ (11), 21.11.2015
Notes by John Upper

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6
4.♘f3 dxc4 5.a4 ♙b4 6.e3 b5
7.♙d2 a5 8.axb5 ♙xc3 9.♙xc3
cxb5 10.b3 ♙b7 11.bxc4 b4
12.♙b2 ♘f6 13.♙d3 ♘bd7
14.0-0 0-0



“the point in the game that might
be called the starting position for
the main line Noteboom”

– Scherbakov, *The Triangle
System* (Everyman, 2012).

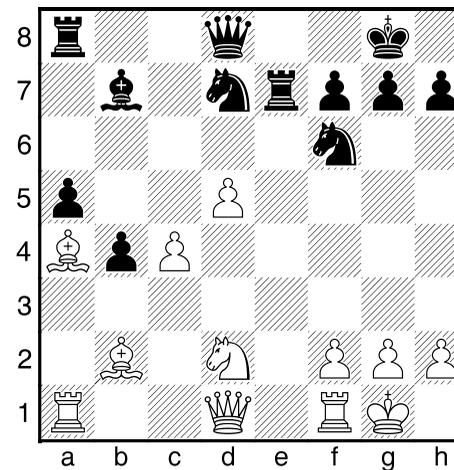
15.♘d2 ♞e8
15...♚c7 16.♙c2 ♞fe8 (16...
e5 was [So,W-Porper,E Calgary](#)

2013, (½-½, 32); see *Chess
Canada*, July 2013.) 17.♙a4;
15...e5 16.d5!? ♞e8 is similar
to the game, but without as
many open lines for White on the
kingside.

16.♙c2 e5
16...♚c7 17.f4 ♘b6∞.

17.♙a4 exd4
Scherbakov recommends
17...♚c7, though his continuation
18.dxe5 ♞xe5 19.♙xe5 ♘xe5
with no eval might be a cause for
concern.

18.exd4 ♞e7 19.d5



Both of White's ♙s are better
than Black's ♙b7, and Black's ♘s
will have a hard time finding safe

and useful squares. Before Black
can even dream of advancing his
queenside passers White uses
his extra kingside space and
center control to start a winning
attack.

19...♘e5 20.♚b3 ♘fd7
21.♚g3 ♞a6 22.♙c2 f6
23.♞fe1 ♚e8 24.♙a4 ♘g6
25.♘f3
25.f4+- is strong too.

25...♚d8 26.♘d4 ♘c5 27.♙b5
♞a8 28.♘f5+- ♞xe1+ 29.♞xe1
♚f8
29...♙c8 30.♞e8+.

30.h4 a4 31.h5 a3
31...♘e5 32.f4 (32.h6 also wins,
since 32...g6 33.♞xe5! owns the
diagonal.) 32...♘ed7 33.♘e7+
♔f7 (33...♔h8 34.♘g6+-)
34.♘g6 hxg6 35.hxg6+ ♔g8
36.♚h3+- and just look how
useless Black's three minors are.

32.♙d4 b3 33.hxg6 h6
34.♚c7

1-0



20th Battle of Alberta



by FM Alex Yam



The Battle of Alberta is a one-day, two round event, between two teams of twelve players: one team from North of the Red-Deer River, the other from South.

The event has been run since 1996, making the September 9, 2015 event the 20th edition. Once again, it was held midway between Edmonton and Calgary at the Red Deer Lodge.

Format: 12-player team event, two games per player, total points wins. Board order is strictly by rating. In the event of a tie, the defending champions keep the Trophy. Time control is G/90 +30s.

North Defends Title

In 2014 the North won 16½ - 7½, but this year they didn't have Alberta's top titled players: IM Edward Porper or IM Richard Wang. That might have given the South some reason for hope, but the result was an even bigger win for the North: 17½ - 6½. In fact, while the North won four matches by the maximum 2-0, the South won only one in-

dividual match, 1½- ½ thanks to FM Dale Haessel. Bragging rights definitely go to the North this year.

Chess Canada has three games from the 20th Battle of Alberta, each annotated by FM Alex Yam. Bitan Banerjee was the top performer, with a 2701 TPR. Here is one of his two wins.

- editor



Notes by FM Alex Yam

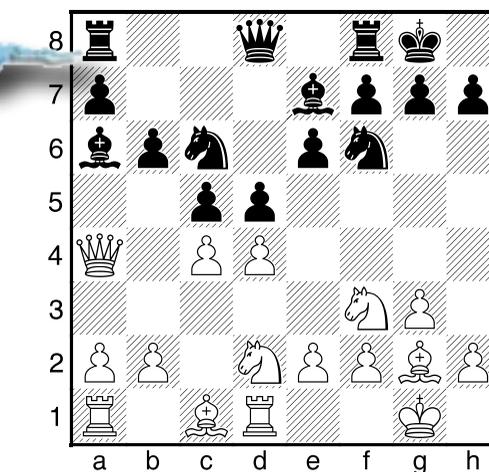
Banerjee, Bitan (2312)

Ng, Gary (2301)

E15

Battle of Alberta 2015 Red Deer (1), 12.09.2015

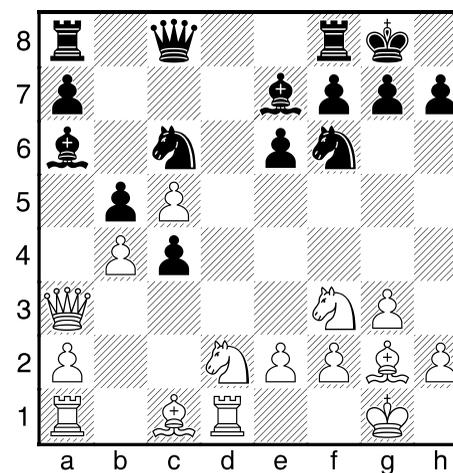
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6
4.g3 ♕a6 5.♙c2 d5 6.♘bd2
♙e7 7.♙g2 0-0 8.0-0 c5
9.♖d1 ♘c6 10.♙a4!?



Although contemporary opening analysis overturned most of the classical advice, there is still some truth to "avoid making too many queen moves in the opening".

10...♙c8 11.dxc5 dxc4

12.b4 b5 13.♙a3♭



Black should better exploit the fact that White can't defend his b-pawn with the a-pawn with 13...♙b7! and then 14...a5, undermining the b4-c5 pawn chain.

13...♘d5 14.♘e1?

White can't hold on to his b-pawn:

14.♖b1 ♘dxb4 15.♖xb4 ♙xc5-+;

14.♘e4 this move fits more with the spirit of his position. A retreating move is rarely a good idea in a double-edged position.

14...♘dxb4?

14...♙f6 15.♘e4! (editor - ♖15.♖b1) 15...♙xa1 16.♘d6 ♙d7 17.♙xa6 ♘cxb4 18.♙a3∞ editor

Chess Canada



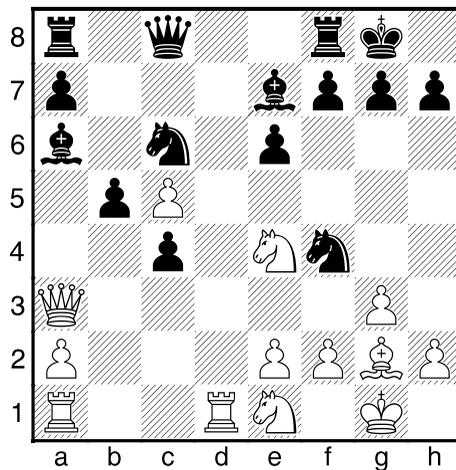
– 18...a5±;

14...♘cxb4! Black was probably afraid of the move 15.e4 but Black wins with: (15.♙b2 ♖xc5-+) 15...♙xc5 16.exd5? (16.♖f3 ♘b6-+) 16...♘d3 17.♖c3 ♘xf2-+.

15.♘e4 ♘d5

Now Black had to waste time moving his knight back and forth, allowing counterplay.

16.♙f4 ♘xf4

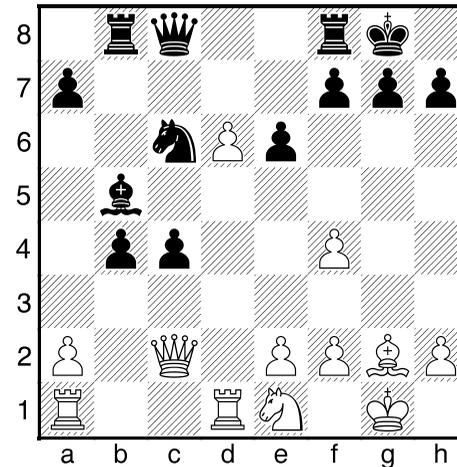


I am not a big fan of this move as it opens the long diagonal and the d-file but White is threatening to play ♙d6.

17.gxf4 b4 18.♖a4?

Much stronger is 18.♖e3 or 18.♖f3.

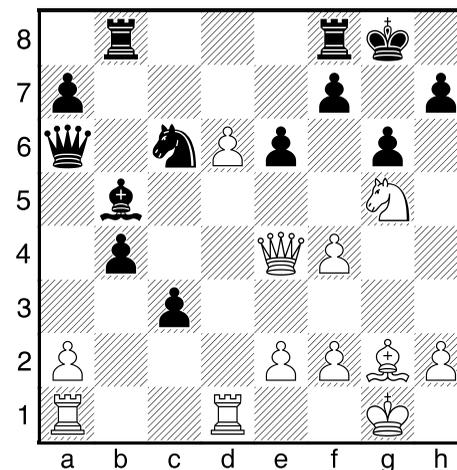
18...♖b8 ♘19.♘d6 ♙xd6 20.cxd6 ♙b5 21.♖c2



21...c3?

Now Black's queenside lost some of its dynamic. Better try is either ...♖d8 dealing with the strong d6 pawn or activate his passer with ...b3.

22.♘f3 ♖a6 23.♘g5 g6 24.♖e4



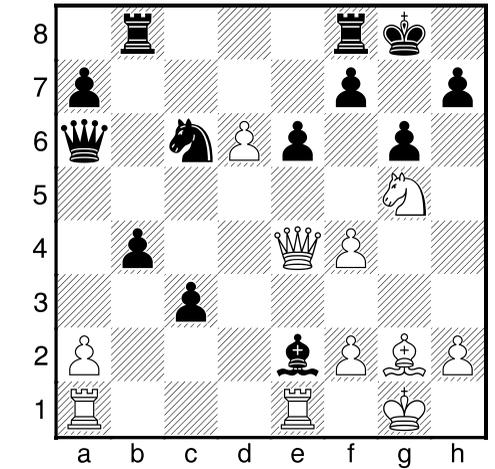
With Black's pieces stuck on the queenside, it's logical for White to play on the kingside.

24...♙xe2?

Black should not tolerate the knight on g5, generating attacking chances against e6, f7 and h7. Ideally, White's knight belongs on the e4 square. This was the perfect opportunity to drive it back out of play on h3 or block the bishop on f3. Having said that, I totally understand why Gary didn't want to weaken his kingside pawn structure with ...h6: 24...h6 25.♘xe6 ♖be8 26.♙h3 ♘d8 27.f5 fxe6 28.fxe6 ♘xe6! 29.♙xe6+ ♔h7 30.♖d5 ♙xe2 31.♖e1 ♖b5 32.♖xb5 ♙xb5 33.♖ad1 ♖d8± *editor* – Black is almost winning here — after ...♖fe8 and bringing the ♔ to f6 White's d-pawn can't survive.

25.♖e1

This position illustrates some ideas behind playing position with material imbalance that is worthy of a diagram:



25...♙b5?

Such a natural move to make. Gary probably played this move without much thought.

He had a much better move, but to be fair to Gary, it is a move that even most GMs can miss.

25...♙c4!!

This move accomplishes so many things at the same time:

- 1) safeguard the a2-g8 diagonal
- 2) completely killing off White's attacking ambition
- 3) eliminating the dangerous d6 pawn
- 4) threatening to play ...♙d5
- 5) going into the endgame with 3-1 queenside majority while laughing at White's broken kingside pawns.

This is a bargain in a position with two pawns for a piece!



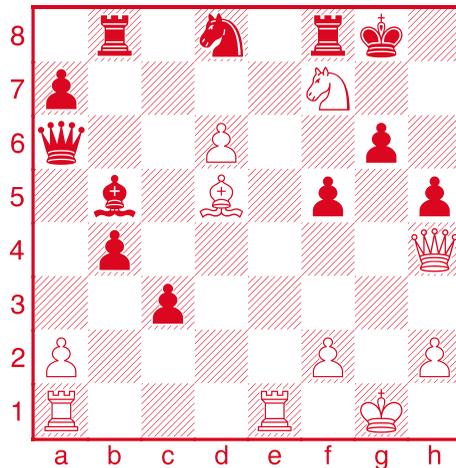
26. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 27. ♕xc6 ♖b6
28. ♕a4 ♖xd6 ♠ White would have a long defensive task ahead of him with little counterplay and pawn break.

26.f5! exf5 27. ♖h4 h5

28. ♕d5 ♘d8?

28... ♖g7 or 28... ♖b7 was a better try to defend the second rank or keep the queen out of the f6 square. For example, 28... ♖g7 29. ♘xf7! ♖xf7 30. ♕xf7 ♖xf7 31. ♖e7+ ♘xe7 32. ♖xe7+ ♖g8 33. ♖e6+ ♖h7 34. ♖e7+ ♖g8 35. ♖e6+=.

29. ♘xf7



29... ♘xf7??

The losing mistake. When defending against attack on

one's king, it is very important to take your time and carefully think over each alternative because you never know when one bad move can completely destroy your position, as in this case.

Black could seek salvation with this move **29... ♖xf7**, although the variation is almost impossible to find over the board:

30. ♖e7?? ♕c4+;

30. ♖f6 ♕e2 (preventing ♖e7) 31. ♖xg6+ ♖f8 32. ♖h1 ♖d3 33. ♖h6+ ♖g8 (*editor* – ♖33... ♖e8=) 34. ♖g6+ (*editor* – ♖34. ♖g1+ ♕g4 35. ♕b3↑) 34... ♖f8=.

30. ♖f6 ♖b6 31. ♖e7 ♕e8 32. ♖xe8

White played lots of positionally suspect moves during the game and yet won the game by constantly posing his opponent problems to solve and set as many obstacles as possible for White to convert his advantage. Overall, Bitan still played pretty well in this game.

1-0

editor - FM Dale Haessel was the only player from the South to win his match. Here is the decisive game of his match against the highest-rated woman in Alberta.

Notes by FM Alex Yam Matras-Clement, Agnieszka (2246) Haessel, Dale (2294)

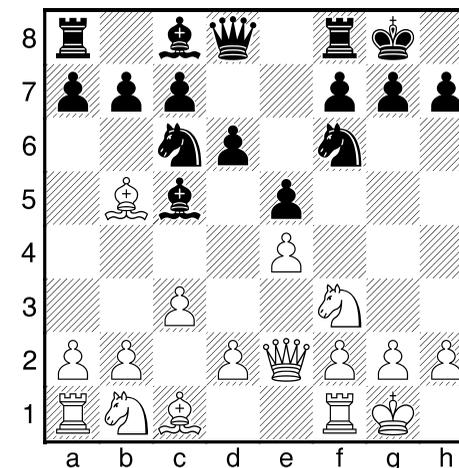
C65

Battle of Alberta 2015 Red Deer (1), 12.09.2015

1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♕b5 ♘f6 4. ♖e2

4. d3 is a much more common move.

4... ♕c5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6



7.h3

My database indicates that higher-rated players prefer either 7. ♖d1 or 7.d3.

I am not a strong advocate for 7.h3 because it seems an unnecessary waste of time and weakening of the kingside since 7... ♕g4 is not a real threat.

Instead, 7. ♖d1 ♖e8 8.d3 a6 9. ♕xc6 bxc6 10. ♘bd2 a5 11. ♘c4 h6 12. ♘xa5 ♖xa5 13.b4 ♕xb4 14.cxb4 ♖a4 15.a3 ♕d7 16. ♘d2 ♖a8 17. ♕b2 ♖a7 18. ♖dc1 ♖b8 19. ♖c2 ♕g4 20. ♖e1 ♘h5 21.g3 ♕d7 22. ♖e2 ♘f6= (0-1, 52)

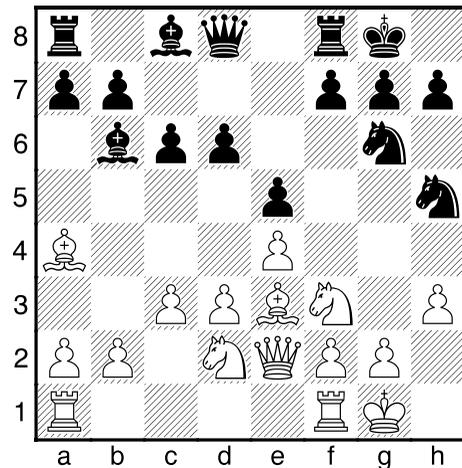
[Milos, G \(2574\)–Kasparov, G \(2838\) Prague, 2002.](#)

7... ♕b6 8.d3

Considering that White never got anything going during the game, White should start some queenside operation with 8.a4 a6 9. ♕xc6 bxc6 10.a5 ♕a7.

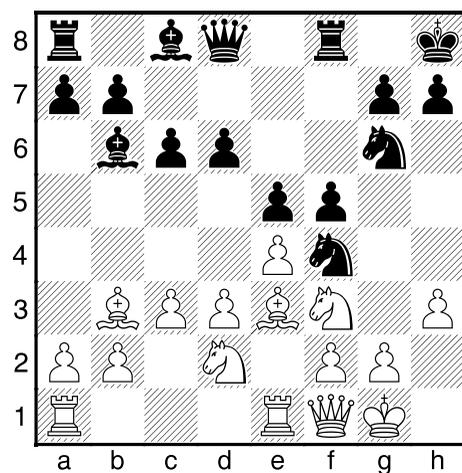
8... ♘e7 9. ♕e3 ♘g6 10. ♘bd2 c6 11. ♕a4 ♘h5





White developed as in the variations without ♖e2. Mixing different opening systems together is usually not a good idea. Black already stood better with better pieces coordination.

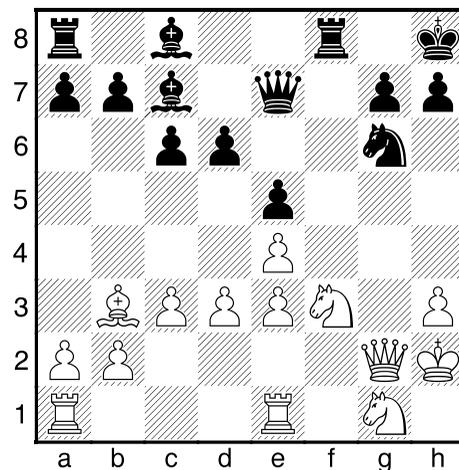
12. ♖fe1 ♘hf4 13. ♚f1 f5
14. ♙b3+ ♔h8



15. ♔h2?

For better or for worse, White should play 15. ♙xb6. What ended up happening in the game was that Black traded off one of his knights for White's important dark-square bishop with a mini-combination. ♔h2 just put the king into the firing line of Black's pieces.

15... ♙c7 16. ♘g1 ♘xg2
17. ♚xg2 f4 18. ♘df3 fxe3
19. fxe3 ♚e7



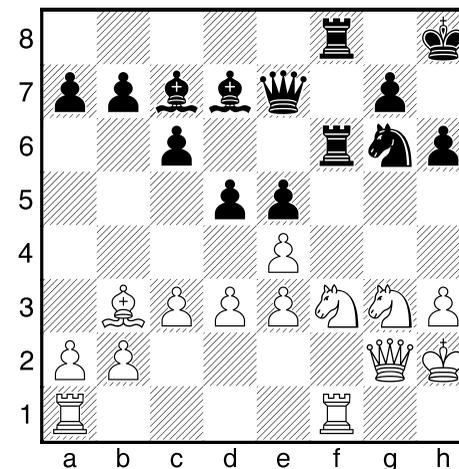
20. ♘g5?

A further waste of time. The idea is to weaken the defense of the g6 knight. White should play ♖f1 and either plan to trade off rooks or add an attacker to the f7 square.

20... h6 21. ♘5f3 ♖f6 22. ♘e2
♙d7 23. ♘g3?

The a1 rook is collecting dust. White should play ♖g1 and put the other rook to f1 rather than improving the e2 knight.

23... ♖af8 24. ♖f1 d5



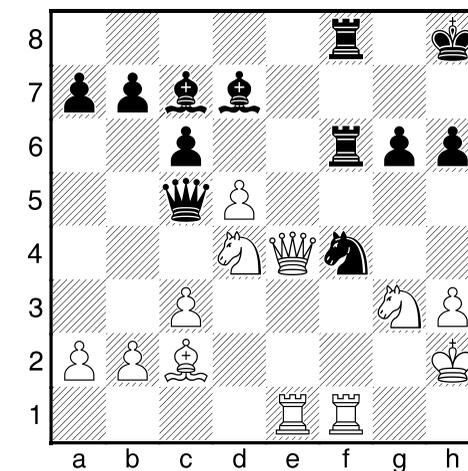
25. exd5??

I understand the need to undouble her e-pawn. However, she paid dearly for it. As a general rule, defenders do not want to open up lines. Now the b8-h2 diagonal and the e-file are open. Every black piece is better than its counterpart. The end is near for White. Much better is 25. ♔h1, stepping out of the potential influence of the c7 bishop.

25... e4 26. dxe4 ♚xe4
27. ♙c2 ♚xe3?

Black had a immediate win with: 27... ♚xf3! 28. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 29. ♙xg6 (29. ♖g1 ♘h4+) 29... ♖xg3 30. ♚xg3 ♖f2+ 31. ♔h1 ♙xg3-+.

28. ♖ae1 ♚c5 29. ♘d4 ♘f4
30. ♚e4 g6



31. ♘e6

I have to give credit to Clement's fighting spirit. However, it was hard to suggest a move for her. Lost positions breed bad moves.

31... ♙xe6 32. dxe6 ♖xe6
33. ♚d4+ ♚xd4 34. cxd4
♖xe1 35. ♖xe1 ♘h5

The opening phase is the most important aspect of chess in the modern era. It is very easy to

drift into a passive, defensive position and playing without a plan with a few early innocent-looking moves, as illustrated by this game.

0-1

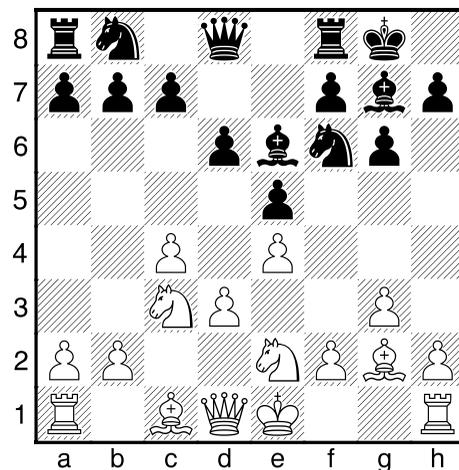
editor - Our third game is the FM vs FM match on top board.

Notes by FM Alex Yam
Pechenkin, Vladimir (2379)
Yam, Alex (2386)

A24

Battle of Alberta 2015 Red Deer (1), 12.09.2015

1.c4 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.♔g2
 ♔g7 4.♘c3 0-0 5.d3 e5 6.e4
 d6 7.♘ge2 ♔e6



North		Result	South	
FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2379	1½ - ½	FM Alex Yam	2386
Rafael Arruebarrena	2354	1 - 1	Dan Kazmaier	2305
Bitan Banerjee	2312	2 - 0	Gary Ng	2301
Belsar Valencia	2299	1½ - ½	David Zhang	2298
WIM A. Matras-Clement	2294	½ - 1½	FM Dale Haessel	2271
David Miller	2285	1½ - ½	Diwen Shi	2242
Nicolas Haynes	2277	2 - 0	Siarhei Leuchanka	2221
Robert Gardner	2256	2 - 0	Vlad Rekhson	2207
Sasa Grumic	2233	2 - 0	Yassen Bogoev*	1828
Micah Hughey	2148	1½ - ½	Georgi Kostadinov	2091
Dante Briones	1987	1 - 1	Jim Daniluk	1999
Mike Zeggelaar	1985	1 - 1	Mohammed Felah	1901
	2234	17.5 - 6.5		2171

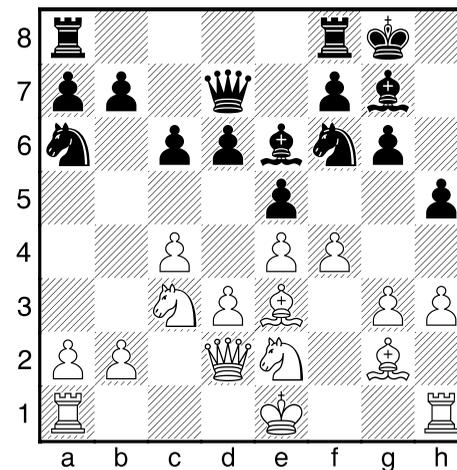
*Alternate; substituted for Kris Boehmer

We have entered into Penchenkin's favourite Botvinnik system. The resulting position is, in my opinion, relatively dry. It calls for slow strategic maneuvering. This partially explains my mistake on move 13, when I tried to stir things up with unnecessary complications.

8.h3

Delayed castling system. The usual move is 0-0. I guessed White didn't like the look of ...♔d7 followed by ...♔h3.

8...♔d7 9.♔e3 ♘a6 10.♔d2
 c6 11.f4 h5



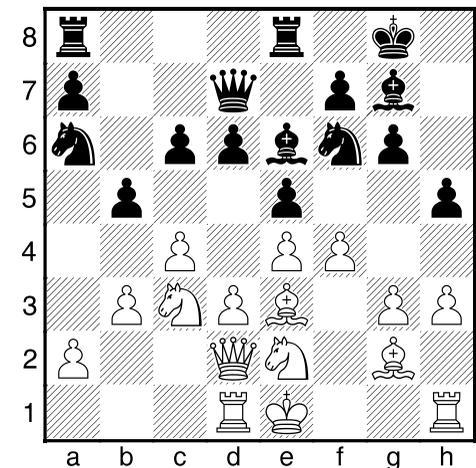
It's either this move or ...♘e8 and then ...f5. Since White still

had the option of queenside castling, I thought the ...f5 break with the potential opening of the g-file would be very risky for Black.

12.♔d1 ♔fe8

Better is 12...♘c7. The pseudo-active moves like ...♘b4 or ...♘c5 can always be driven away by white pawns.

13.b3 b5?



14.cxb5

With the potential exchange sacrifice in mind: 14.cxb5 cxb5 15.f5 gxf5 16.exf5 ♔xf5 17.♔xa8 ♔xa8 With the good bishop and a pawn, pressure against d3 and h3, I thought I would have good compensation and I didn't look

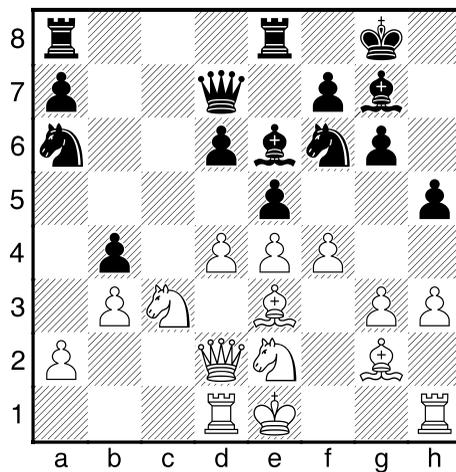


further. Of course, computers always love to prove how wrong my evaluation of the position. With: 18.♙h6! White emphasizes how weak just my kingside is.

14...cxb5 15.d4 ♖b7?

Much better is 15...b4!

Analysis Diagram



I saw this obvious move during the game and I saw three possible replies to it:

- 1) d5,
- 2) ♖d3 and
- 3) ♘a4.

For 1), I didn't want to trade my LSB for knight because my LSB currently prevents White from castling. I didn't even bother analysing the other two replies, so I saved more energy for calculation later.

a) 16.d5? bxc3 17.♙xc3 ♙xd5 18.exd5 exf4 19.♙xf4 g5! 20.♙c4 (*editor* – the point of ...g5 is 20.♙xg5 ♘e4 21.♙c1 ♘xg3-+) 20...gxf4 21.♙xa6 fvg3-+;

b) 16.♙d3 exd4! 17.♙xd4 bxc3 18.♙xa6 c2 19.♙c1 ♖ac8 20.♙d3 d5! trying to get the f5 square for

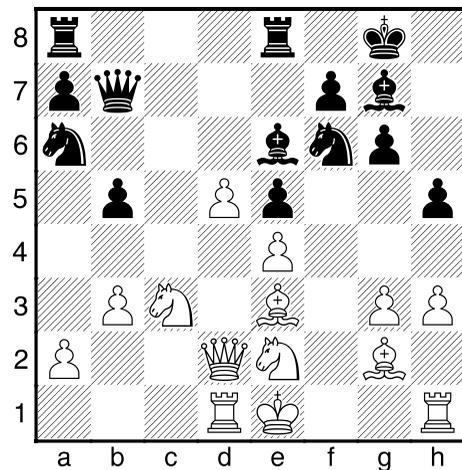
my bishop, 21.♙xf6 ♙xf6 22.♙xc2 dxe4 23.♙xd7 ♙xd7 24.♙xc8 ♙xc8=;

c) My engine like Black's chances after: 16.♘a4 ♖b7, which is much stronger than in the game because Black threatens to take on e4 and also

to open up the e-file through multiple pawn exchanges. 17.dxe5 ♘xe4 18.g4 dxe5 19.♙d3 f5 20.fxe5 hxg4 21.hxg4 ♙xe5 22.gxf5 ♙xf5 23.♙c4+ ♖f7! 24.♙xa6 ♙g3+ 25.♘xg3 ♘xg3 26.♙xa8 ♖xe3+ 27.♙f2 ♙c8+ 28.♙xe3 ♖e8+ 29.♙f3 ♙xa6 30.♙d5+ ♙g7 31.♙xg3 ♖e5+ 32.♙g2 ♖e2+ 33.♙g3=.



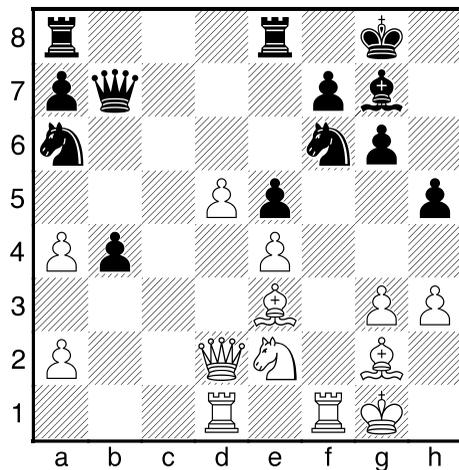
16.fxe5 dxe5 17.d5?



It looks visually appealing to create a protected passed pawn with gain of tempo. However, as it turns out the e5 pawn is taking away diagonal and squares from the e2 knight and g2 bishop. Much better is dxe5! At the cost of slight weakening of White's pawn structure, White releases all the energy from his minor pieces.

17...♙d7 18.0-0 b4 19.♘a4
White must accept the weakening of its queenside. The plan ♞b1 with the eventual idea of reaching for the c4 square is way too slow.

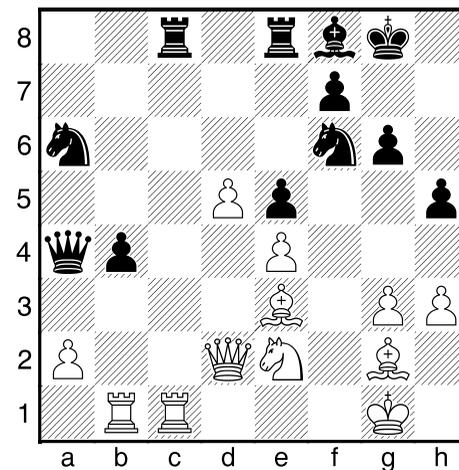
19...♙xa4 20.bxa4



20...♖ac8

Here I had to debate which rook to the c-file. I thought that once Black committed the e-rook, pushing the d pawn would be a good plan for White. I decided on moving the a-rook just so that the other rook can block the d-pawn in case of d6. 20...♖ec8 21.a3 ♖ab8 22.axb4 ♞xb4 23.♖c1 a5± I saw something like this in the game and I rejected it because with each exchange the protected d-passer becomes stronger and stronger.

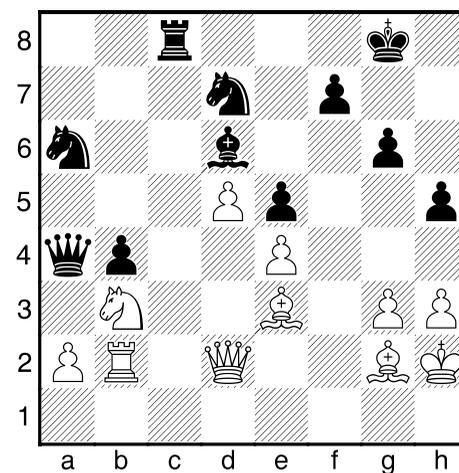
21.♖b1 ♙d7 22.♖fc1 ♙xa4
23.♙xa7 ♙f8 24.♙e3



24...♙d6?

Black ♙ could have equalized right away with: 24...♙c5 25.♙xc5 ♞xc5 26.♖xb4 ♞cxe4!

25.♙h2 ♞d7 26.♖b2 ♖xc1
27.♞xc1 ♖c8 28.♞b3



28...♖c7

Stronger is 28...♖c3 29.♖c2 ♞ac5 30.♖xc3 bxc3 31.♙xc3

♞xe4 32.♙c8+ ♞f8=.

Here I offered a draw and my opponent immediately accepted. I assessed this position as slightly worse for Black because I just didn't see how I could either improve the position of my pieces further or break into White's position. At the same time, I still had to deal with the d-passer and White's bishop pair.

Overall, I was glad to draw in this game. As you can read from the above analysis, at no point in the game was Black actually better. Black actually had to play a few accurate moves just to keep the balance. Psychologically, this was not a good feeling, which partially explained my loss in the next round.

1/2-1/2

Links

<http://www.reddeerlodge.ca/>

photos

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEdmontonChessClub/>





2015 WYCO

The 2015 World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad was held Aug.19-29 in Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia. It was a 10-round, 4-player-per-team tournament. 35 teams were entered, including eight from host country Mongolia.

Four teams finished with 16/18 points, with **Iran** winning on tie-break over **India**, **Russia** and **Hungary**. The four-way tie does not reflect the performance of the Iranian team, as they defeated India 4-0, and Russia 2.5-1.5 and lost only their final match to 5th place China.

Contrary to the published rules, the Iranian team was allowed to compete without a female player, so their four boys played all 10 games each. In 2014, Iran had one girl on their team; she played one game and the team got the Bronze medal.

Canadian Team

Canada sent three teams to the 2014 WYCO in Gyor, Hungary. This time, Canada sent only one team to Mongolia: **Zong Yang Yu** (6/9), **Diwen Shi** (6/9), **Yinshi Li** (3.5/8), **Joey Zhong** (6/9), **Rachel Tao** (1.5/5).

The Canadian team finished 8th, losing +0 =2 -2 in the last round to 4th place Hungary.



Rules are...

- a) rules.
- b) made to be broken.

2.2. Each FIDE member federation has the right to send one team having free board and lodging from 19th to 29th August 2015. Each team shall comprise 4 players and 1 reserve (one of whom must be a girl) and 1 captain with valid license as FIDE Trainer.

Notes by **FM Michael Kleinman**
Vokhidov, Shamsiddin
(2367)

Yu, Zong Yang (2230)
B75

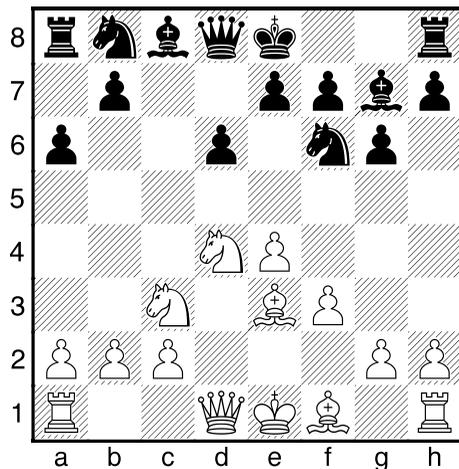
World Under 16 Chess Olympiad 2015 Ulaan Bataar (8.1), 26.08.2015

The following game first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed:
<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/653>

This week I chose to annotate a game played at the recently concluded U16 Olympiad. It features Zong Yang Yu, Canada's first board, playing a higher-rated opponent with the black pieces. He chooses a positional sub-variation of the Dragon and proceeds to outplay his opponent quite convincingly, constantly putting his pieces on better squares than his opponent. Enjoy.



1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♖c3 g6
6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 a6



Black opts for a 'Dragadorf' setup which allows for more flexibility than the concrete dragon variations.

8.♙d2

8.♙c4 ♘bd7
9.♙d2 b5
10.♙b3 ♙b7
11.♙h6 (11.0-0-0
♗c5 12.♙h6)
11...♙xh6
12.♙xh6 ♙b6
13.0-0-0.

8...♗bd7

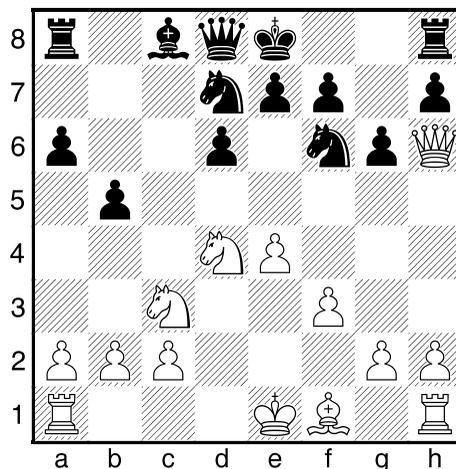
Note that in all standard Dragon

variations, the Knight goes to c6 instead of d7.

9.♙h6

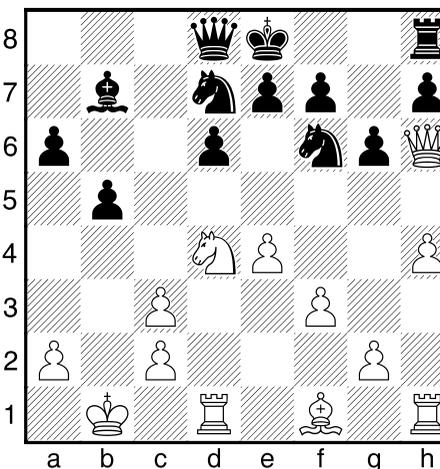
9.0-0-0 b5 10.g4 ♙b7 11.a3
♗b6 12.♙h6 ♙xh6 13.♙xh6 ♙c7
14.h4.

9...♙xh6 10.♙xh6 b5



Personally, I like developing the f1 bishop to b3 against this Dragadorf setup because it protects the king against potential exchange sacrifices on c3 and always hits the f7 square.

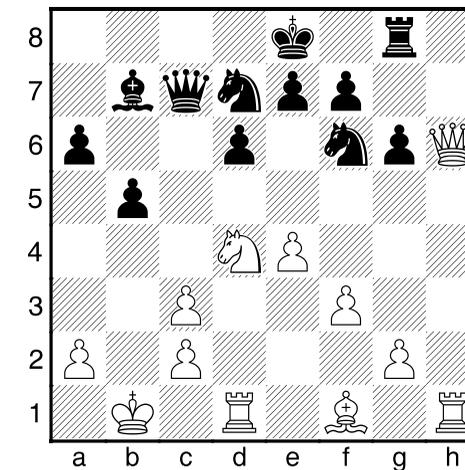
11.0-0-0 ♙b7 12.♙b1 ♖c8
13.h4 ♖xc3 14.bxc3



This exchange sacrifice is extremely typical in Dragons as it offers lasting compensation due to the double isolated pawns and the weakened White king.

14...♙c7 15.h5

♖g8 16.hxg6 hxg6



17.c4

17.♙e3 keeping the pawn makes more sense 17...d5 18.e5 ♙xe5 (18...♗xe5 19.♖e1 ♗c4 20.♙xc4 dxc4±) 19.♙xe5 ♗xe5±.

17...bxc4 18.c3 e5 19.♗c2 g5!



This is what a team looks like.

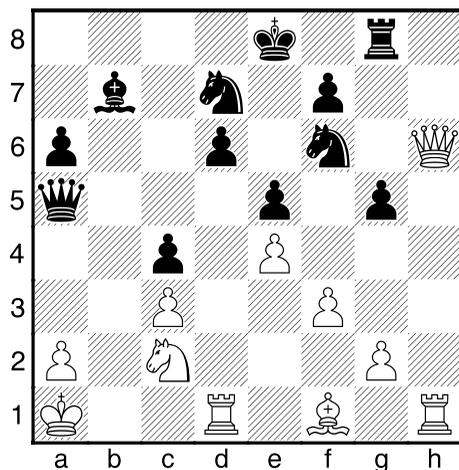


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Cutting off the White queen.

20. ♔a1 ♚a5



21. ♖xd6??

21. ♔b2 ♘e7 22. ♙xc4 ♖c8
23. ♘a3 ♖xc4 24. ♘xc4 ♚b5+
25. ♔a1 ♚xc4 ♖.

21... ♚xc3+ 22. ♔b1 ♔e7!

Now the Black rook will swing to b8. White's king is just too weak.

23. ♖xd7+ ♘xd7 24. ♔c1
♖g6! 25. ♚h5 ♘c5 26. ♙e2
♘d3+ 27. ♔d1 ♘f4

0-1

2015 CHOM

The 2015 Championnat ouvert de Montréal was held September 11-13 at the Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf.

The Open section had 39 players including three GMs: Sambuev, Roussel-Roozmon and Le Siege. **GM Bator Sambuev** won with a perfect 5/5. **Steve Bolduc** and **Olivier Kenta Chiku-Ratte**, and **Zong Yang Yu** were tied for 2nd-4th with 4/5.

Oddly, Sambuev didn't get to play either of the other GMs, both of whom dropped points in round 3: Thomas losing to Olivier-Kenta, and Alexandre drawing with Goran Milicevic, then losing to Bolduc in round 4.

Chess Canada has two games from CHOM, including one of the the key matchups from round 3.

Chiku-Ratte, Olivier-Kenta (2369)

Roussel-Roozmon, Thomas (2466)

E16

Montreal op (3.3), 26.08.2015

Notes by Keith MacKinnon

The following game first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed: <http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/663>

Olivier-Kenta has made big gains in his chess recently, and he tied for second at this year's Montreal Open behind GM Sambuev.

A key game on his way to

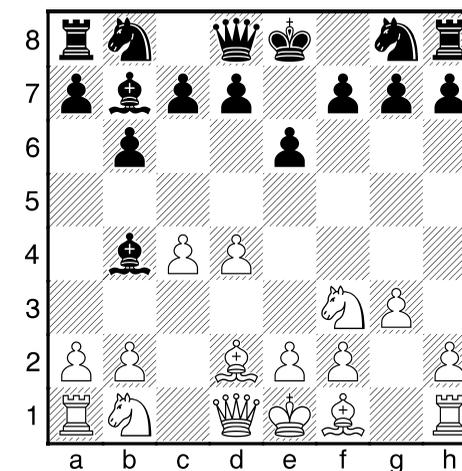


4/5 was his nice third round win again GM Roussel-Roozmon. After an offbeat opening that resembled a Queen's Indian, he sacrificed a pawn for positional compensation and managed to take home the full point. Have a look!

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3. ♘f3 ♙b7
4.g3 ♙b4+

4... ♘f6 leads us back to the main lines of the Queen's Indian.

5. ♙d2



5... ♙xd2+

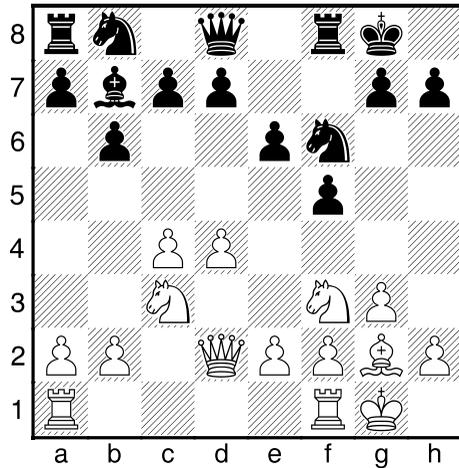
5... ♙xf3 6.exf3 ♙xd2+ 7. ♚xd2
(7. ♘xd2 ♘e7) 7...d5 The position is unbalanced, but Black should be doing well.

Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratte



6. ♖xd2 f5!?

6... ♞f6 7. ♕g2 0-0 8. 0-0.

7. ♕g2 ♞f6 8. 0-0 0-0 9. ♞c3**9... ♞e4**

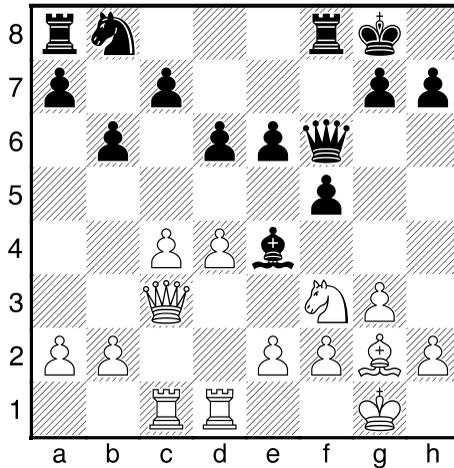
GM Roozmon probably wanted to avoid complications after:
9... ♖e7 10. d5!

10. ♖c2 ♞xc3 11. ♖xc3 ♕e4

11... d6 12. ♖fd1 ♞d7 heading for f6 to control e4, but White has other plans 13. ♞g5 ♖xg5 14. ♕xb7 ♖ad8=.

12. ♖fd1 ♖f6

12... d6 13. ♞e1 ♕xg2 14. ♞xg2=.

13. ♖ac1 d6**14. c5! ♖e7**

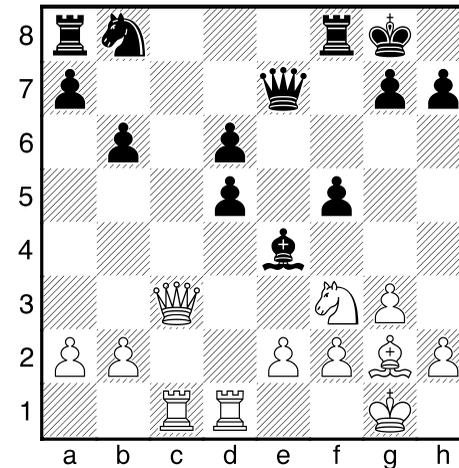
White ends up slightly better in the following: 14... dxc5 15. dxc5 ♖xc3 16. ♖xc3 ♞a6 17. ♞e5 ♕xg2 18. ♖xg2 ♖ad8 19. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 20. cxb6 (20. ♖a3 ♞xc5 21. ♖xa7±) 20... axb6 21. ♖c6.

15. cxd6 cxd6 16. d5!?

16. ♞d2 ♕xg2 17. ♖xg2 because of White's dominance on the c-file, he has a clear advantage.

16... exd5

It was probably better to decline the pawn sac: 16... e5 17. ♕h3 ♕xf3 18. ♖xf3 e4 19. ♖c3 ♞a6.

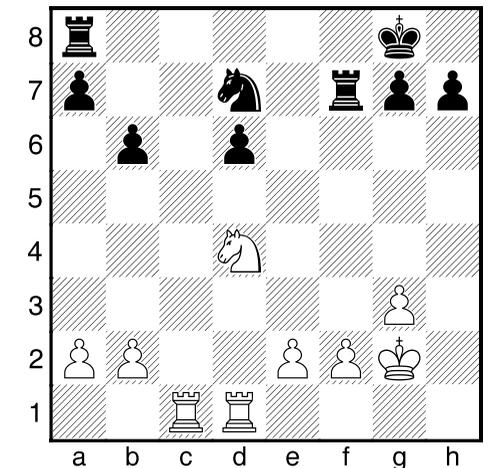
**17. ♞d4**

17. ♕h3± maybe even better, to be keep the Bishops on board with the idea of putting the Knight on d4 quickly. The

Black Bishop could even get into trouble as f2-f3 will become a threat. 17... f4 18. ♞d4 fxg3 19. hxg3 ♞a6 20. f3 ♕g6 21. ♕e6+ ♖h8 (21... ♕f7? 22. ♞f5+-) 22. ♕xd5±.

The next few moves were well played by both sides.

**17... ♕xg2 18. ♖xg2 ♞d7
19. ♖c7 f4 20. ♖b7 fxg3
21. ♖xd5+ ♖f7 22. ♖xf7+
♖xf7 23. hxg3**



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23...♖f6

23...♖e8 and Black has a long road ahead of him to get a draw, but it should be possible.

24.♖c6?!

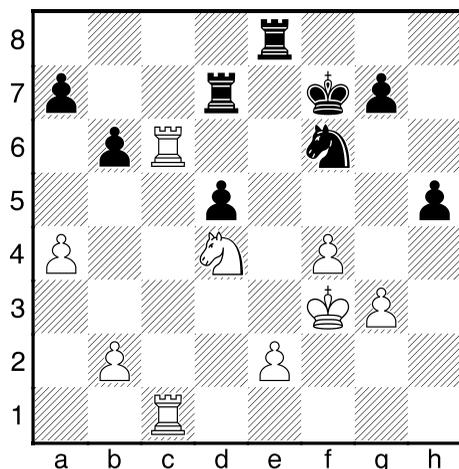
24.f3 keeping the Knight out of g4 and e4. The hole on e3 won't be so serious 24...♘d5 25.♖d3.

24...d5

24...♘g4! 25.♘f3 ♖e8 26.♖c2 (26.e3?? ♖xf3-+) 26...♖fe7 Black is fighting on.

25.♖dc1 ♖d7 26.f3 h5 27.a4 ♔f7 28.f4?

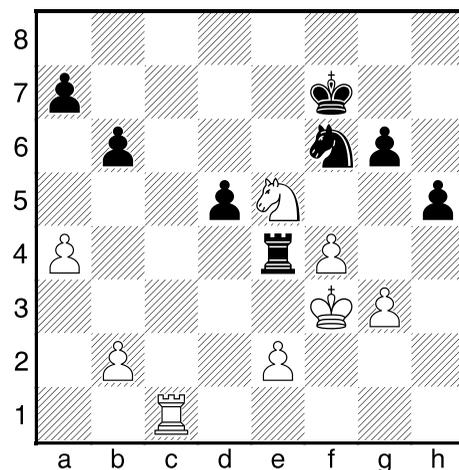
28.b4 looks like a good alternative; f4 was very committal.

28...♖e8 29.♔f3**29...g6**

♠29...♖e4!= ♠30.e3 ♘g4 31.♘f5 ♖b4↗.

30.♖c7! ♖de7?

The reason this is a mistake is because White gets an extra tempo in getting his Knight to e5. ♠30...♖ee7 31.♖xd7 ♖xd7 32.♖c8± and White has ideas like ♘c6-e5.

31.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 32.♘c6 ♖e4**33.♘e5+****33...♔g8**

33...♔e8 34.♖c8+ ♔e7 35.♖c7+ ♔e8 36.♖xa7 ♘g4 37.♘xg4 hxg4+ 38.♔f2!± (38.♔xg4 ♖xe2 39.♖b7 ♖e6 Black should be able to draw with best play in this rook endgame.) 38...♖b4 39.♖g7 ♖xb2

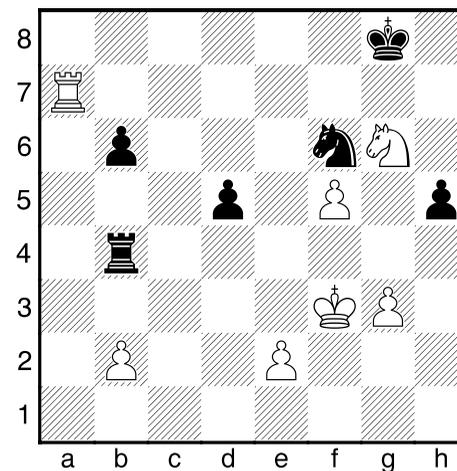
40.♖xg6 d4 41.♔e1!+-.

34.♖c8+ ♔g7 35.♖c7+ ♔g8**36.♘xg6**

36.♖xa7 ♖b4 37.♖b7±.

36...♖xa4 37.f5 ♖b4

37...a5 38.♖c6 ♘g4 39.♖xb6±.

38.♖xa7**38...♖xb2?**

There weren't many good choices, but this looks like it loses by force.

39.♔f4! ♖xe2

39...♘e4 40.♘e7+ ♔f8 41.e3+-.

40.♔g5+- ♘g4

40...♘e4+ 41.♔h6 and ♖g7#.

41.f6 ♘xf6 42.♔xf6 ♖f2+**43.♔g5 ♖f7**

43...♖e2 44.♔h6 mate next.

44.♖xf7 ♔xf7 45.♔xh5

By getting in front of one pawn the White ♘ can stop them both.

1-0

**Milicevic, Goran (2390)
Robichaud, Louis (2117)**

D00

Montreal op (5.6), 13.09.2015

Notes by Keith MacKinnon

The following game first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed: <http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/689>

This year's Montreal Open drew out a number of inactive players, including FM Goran Milicevic. I chose to annotate his last round game against a strong expert of the Montreal chess scene, Louis Robichaud. The game is interesting in that it shows FM Milicevic going for the quick kill with an early Kingside pawn storm but

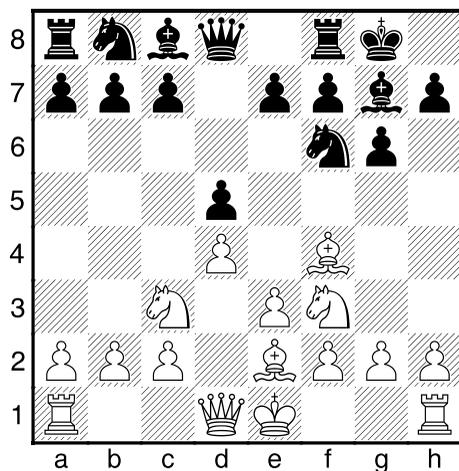


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having his attack parried and then almost getting into trouble late in the game. There is a lot to learn – especially from the psychological side (due to the rating difference between players) from the following game. In a final round game where the White player has a significant rating advantage, you know he's playing for the win. It's interesting to see how Louis neutralizes White's advantage and then has his own chances to win.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♘c3 d5
4.♙f4 ♙g7 5.e3 0-0 6.♙e2



6...b6

6...c5 is Black's most frequent continuation:

7.dxc5 ♖a5 8.♘d2 ♚xc5

9.♘b3 ♚b6 10.a4 (0-1, 68)
Krishna, C (2367)–Jones, G
(2615) London, 2015.

7.♘e5 ♘c6 8.0-0 (0-1, 36)
Wang, R–So, W Edmonton,
2014.

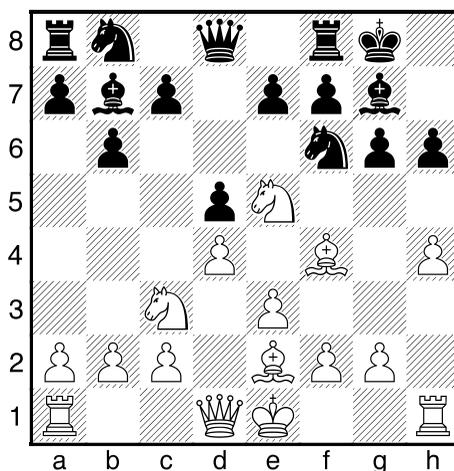
7.h4!?

The standard plan. It looks very aggressive at first sight, however 7.♘e5 ♙b7 8.h4 is another move order.

7...h6

Typically not necessary.

8.♘e5 ♙b7



9.f3

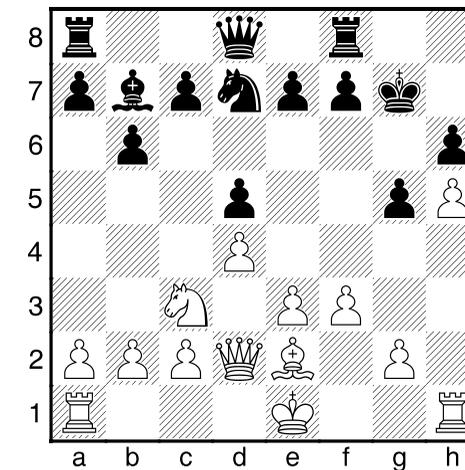
I'm not so sure about this move. I don't think that White needs to prevent the Black Knight from

jumping to e4. I might have preferred: 9.g4 ♘fd7.

editor – the computer rates White as having a near-winning attack after: 9.h5! g5! 10.♙xg5! hxg5 11.h6 ♙h8 12.h7+ ♚g7 13.f4!N or 13.♙d3± (1-0, 26) Hebden, M (2510)–Birnbom, N (2395) Rishon Le Ziyon, 1992.

9...♘bd7 10.♚d2 ♘xe5
11.♙xe5 ♘d7 12.♙xg7
♙xg7 13.h5
13.0-0-0!? ♘f6 14.♚b1±.

13...g5



14.f4!?

White is playing aggressively, as



FM Goran Milicevic
At the 2016 CHOM.



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he should, with the Black King somewhat open.

14...e6

14...gxf4 15.exf4 ♘f6 16.0-0-0 ♖g8 17.g4 ♘e4 18.♗xe4 dxe4 19.♖hg1±.

15.0-0-0 ♘f6?!

Heading for e4, but prevents ...♖xg5. Instead, ...c5 or ...♖c8 starting queenside counterplay would be safer.

16.♕d3?!

This move does not stop ...♘e4. There were several better options:

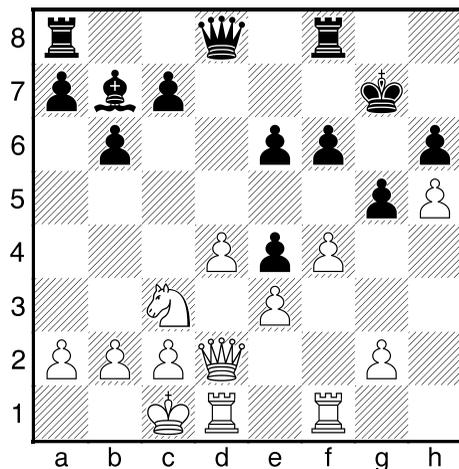
16.fxg5! hxg5 17.h6+ leads to a sizeable advantage for the White player. 17...♖h8 18.♖b1± or 18.♖e1!?

16.♖df1± not as good as fxg5, but still active and good.

16...♘e4

Black's gamble pays off. He gets his Knight to e4 without shattering his Kingside.

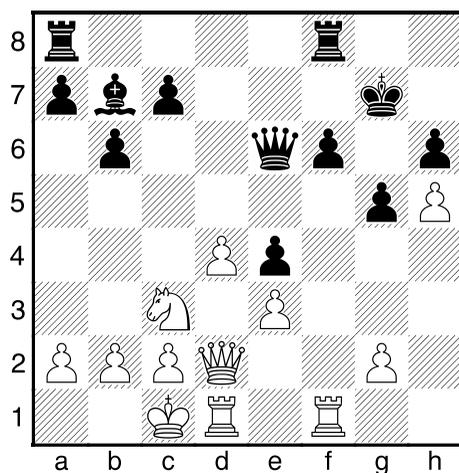
17.♕xe4 dxe4 18.♖hf1 f6



19.f5?

Likely the start of a bad plan. Instead, White should try 19.g4 giving the Queen options on the second rank or 19.fxg5 hxg (not 19...fxg5? 20.d5! would be major trouble for the Black player).

19...♖e7 20.fxe6 ♖xe6



21.d5

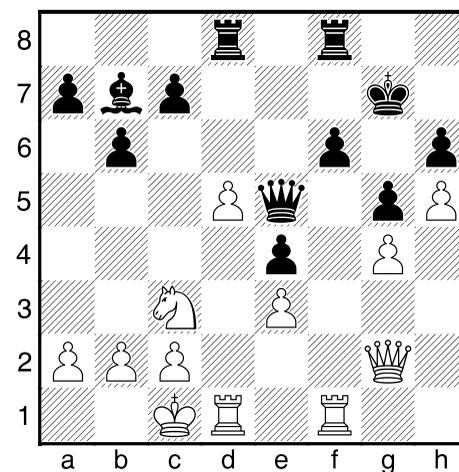
Now Black gets to place his Queen on its ideal square, and any miniscule advantage White held fizzles out over the next few moves.

21.♖b1 may well be the best move. He needs to slow-play this position to hope for something down the line.

21...♖e5 22.g4!

Prevents Black from gaining space and supporting his e4 pawn with ...f5.

22...♖ad8 23.♖g2



23...♕c8

23...♕xd5?? 24.♖f5+-.

23...c6!= 24.dxc6 ♕xc6 25.♖xd8 ♖xd8 26.a3.

24.♖d4 f5 25.♖fd1

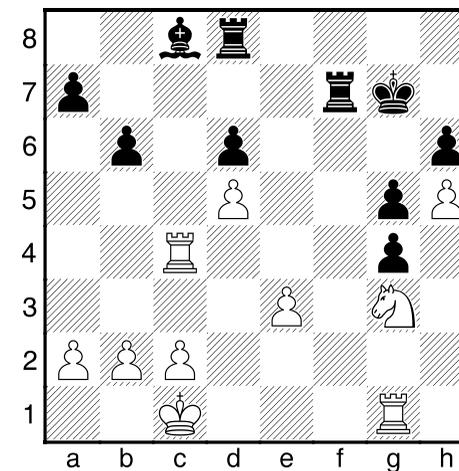
25.gxf5 ♕xf5 26.♖c4 ♖f6± and Black should be holding this position.

25...fxg4 26.♖xe4 ♖f6

27.♖g3 ♖f7 28.♖c4 ♖d6=

29.♖xd6 cxd6 30.♘e4 ♕f5

31.♘g3 ♕c8 32.♖g1

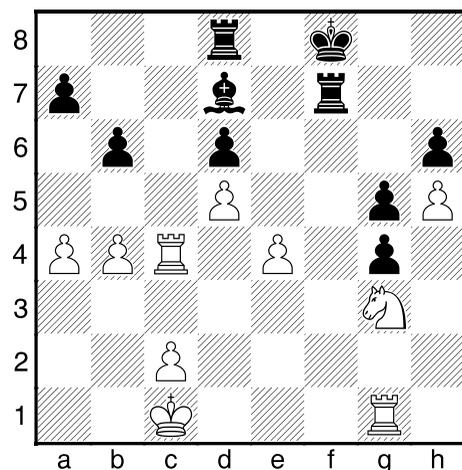


White reveals he is playing for the win, as opposed to the move repetition which could have occurred had he gone back to e4 with his Knight.

32...♕b7 33.e4 ♕c8 34.a4

♖f8 35.b4 ♕d7



**36.b5**

36.♖c7 leads to a draw if Black finds the following line: 36...♖c8 (36...♙xa4 37.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 38.♘f5=) 37.♖xa7 ♖f2 38.♖xd7 ♖cxc2+ 39.♔d1 ♖fd2+ 40.♔e1 ♖h2 41.♔d1 ♖hd2+=.

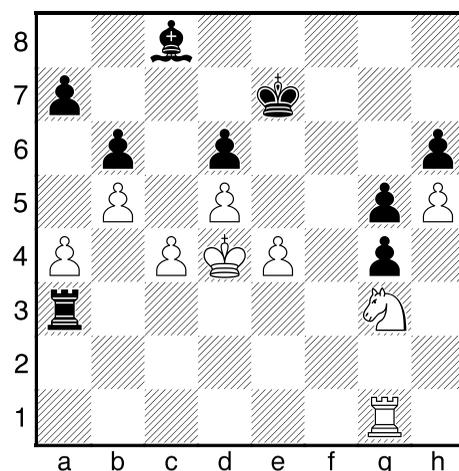
36...♖c8 37.♖xc8+

37.♖c6! a risky plan, but probably the best way to play for the win: 37...♙xc6 38.bxc6 ♖f6 39.♘f5 ♖e8 40.♖xg4 ♖e5= Black could

sack his rook for the Knight, but after 41.c4 the position is almost a fortress (for both sides) as it is.

37...♙xc8

Black is now in the driver's seat.

38.♔d2 ♔e7 39.♔e3 ♖f3+**40.♔d4 ♖a3 41.c4****41...♖xa4**

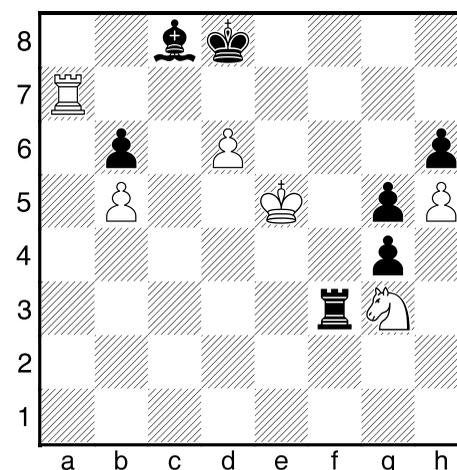
41...♔f6 42.♖f1+ ♔g7 43.♖g1 ♔f6 44.♖f1+=.

42.e5 dxe5+ 43.♔xe5 ♖xc4**44.♖a1**

A neat trick.

44...♖f4

44...♖c7?? 45.d6++-.

45.♖xa7+ ♔d7 46.d6+ ♔d8**47.♖a8+ ♙c8 48.♖a7 ♖f3****49.♖h7?**

editor – 49.♖g7!! is a very surprising way to bring the

♖ to stop Black's g-pawn:

49...♔d7 (49...♔e8 50.♖g8+ ♔d7 51.♖g7+=) 50.♖g8+ ♙e8 51.♘f5 ♙Δg3 52.♘xh6 ♙g2 53.♖xg5 ♖f2=.

49...♖xg3?

This was Black's chance to play for the win. 49...♔d7! Here's a sample line: 50.♘e4 g3 51.♘xg3 ♖xg3 52.♖xh6 ♙xb5 53.♖h8+ ♙e8 54.h6 g4 55.♔f4 ♖g1 56.♖h7 (56.h7 ♖h1 57.♔xg4 b5+) 56...g3 57.♖b7 g2 58.♖b8+ ♔d7 59.♔f3 ♙g6 60.♔f2 ♖b1 61.♔xg2 ♔xd6+=.

50.♖h8+ ♔d7 51.♖h7+ ♔e8**52.♖h8+ ♔f7**

52...♔d7 53.♖h7+ ♙=.

53.♖xc8 ♖d3 54.♖c7+ ♔e8**55.♔e6 ♖e3+ 56.♔f5 g3****57.♖c2 ♔d7**

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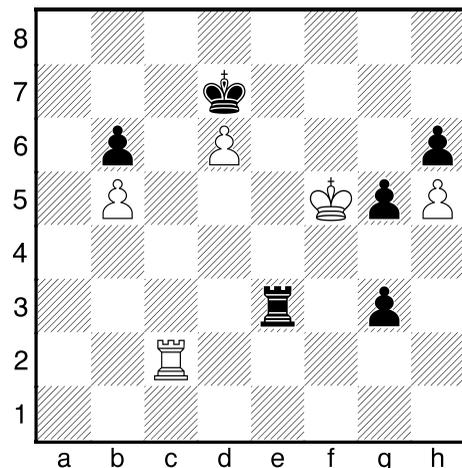


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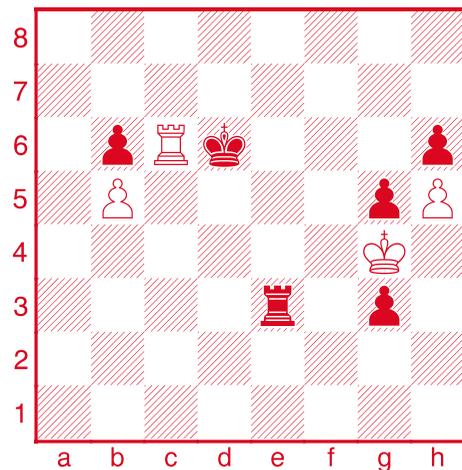
58. ♔g4

editor – ?? After this I think Black is winning; ♠58. ♖d2.

58... ♔xd6

58... ♖b3!?

59. ♖c6+



59... ♔d5

editor – ?? 59... ♔e5!-+

60. ♔h3 (60. ♖xb6 g2-+; 60. ♖c2 ♖b3-+) 60... g4+ ♠ 61. ♔g2 ♔f4 ♠ 62. ♖xh6 (62. ♖c2 ♔g5-+) 62... ♖e2+ 63. ♔g1 ♔g5 ♠ 64. ♖xb6 and now not 64... ♔xh5?? 65. ♖b8=, but 64... ♔h4!-+ when the white umbrella shields the Black ♔.

60. ♔h3 ♖e6 61. ♖c8 ♖e3

62. ♖c6 ♖e6 63. ♖c8 ♖e3

64. ♖c6 ♖e6

64... g2+ 65. ♔xg2 ♖e6 66. ♖c2=.

There are a couple of lessons to take from this game. The first is that one should not panic when under a major attack on his or her king. I would have likely been quite afraid of the position after the first 10 moves, but Mr. Robichaud kept his cool and didn't succumb to the opening pressure. The second lesson is that the higher-rated player must be careful about playing for the win at all cost. Here, FM Milicevic could have been in big trouble had Mr. Robichaud found 49... ♔d7 (*editor* – or 59... ♔e5).

1/2-1/2

Aurora Fall Open

The Aurora Fall Open took place October 3-4, 2015. **Mark Plotkin** was held to a draw by his father in round 3, but won his other games to finish first with 4.5/5. FM Victor Plotkin was second with 4/5, and Jason Cai and Joey Zhong were 3rd-4th with 3.4/5.

Chess Canada features one exciting game from the 2015 Aurora Fall Open.

Vettese, Nicholas (2276)
Yu, Wenlu (2051)

B41

Aurora (1.3), 03.10.2015

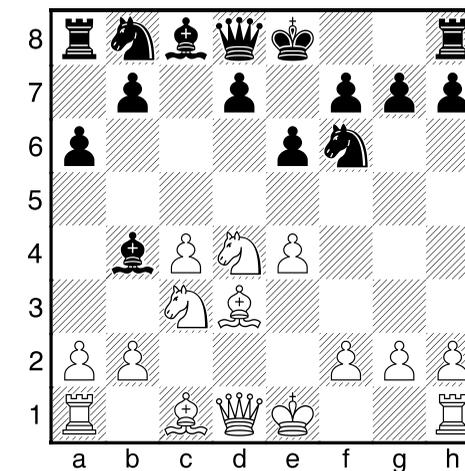
Notes by Felix Dumont

The following game first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed: <http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/686>

This week's game is incredibly tactical and fun to watch. No one could have predicted the outcome of the game!

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4

4. ♖xd4 a6 5.c4 ♖f6 6. ♖c3 ♖b4 7. ♖d3



We have reached a common position from the e6 Sicilian where White has a Maroczy bind setup.

7... ♖xc3+!?

This move does weaken White's pawn structure, but also releases some pressure and opens the b-file, so it's not clear it's Black's best option.

7... ♖c6 8. ♖xc6 dxc6 is the most common continuation.

8.bxc3 ♖a5

While it may seem like Black's queen is better on a5 than on d8, it no longer protects the d6 pawn and Black has one less tempo.

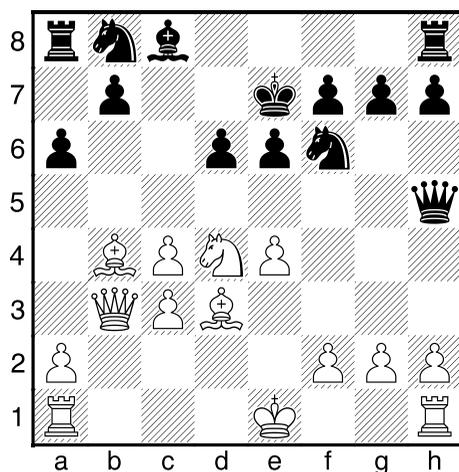


So, playing ...d6 right away was probably better.

9. ♖b3 d6 10. ♘a3 ♔e7?

There is no way it can be good for Black to play ...♔e7 in this position, especially when White has the e5 break. ♠10...e5.

11. ♘b4 ♕h5



12. ♕a3

Missing a much better move: 12.f4! looks risky, but it works! 12...e5 (12...♖d8 13.e5+-) 13.fx5 ♕xe5 14.0-0!+-.

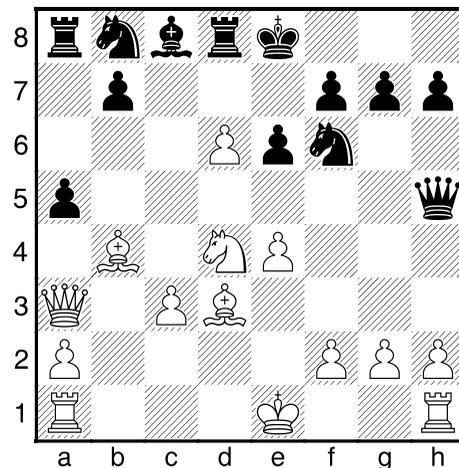
12...♖d8 13.c5

13.♖d1 would be a simple way for White to put more pressure on d6.

13...a5?

As ugly as it may seem 13...♔f8 may be Black's best option, 14.cxd6 ♘bd7±.

14.cxd6+ ♔e8



15. ♘b5

editor – This gets an exchange, but White had a cleaner win: 15.d7+!:

15...♕xe7 16.♕f8! ♘g8 17.♕xg7;

15...♘bxd7 16.♕e7+- in return

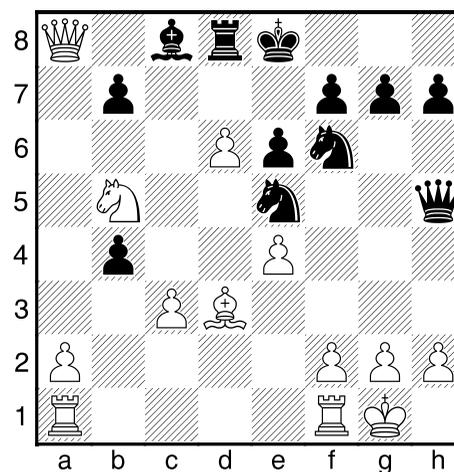
for his d6-pawn, White picks up the exchange on d8 instead of a8, which both eliminates the active ♖ and keeps the white ♕ more centralized, all while still keeping the black ♔ in the center.

15...axb4 16. ♕xa8 ♘c6

17.0-0

White is still clearly winning. So why is this the Game of the Week? Because Black has not given up!

17...♘e5!



An exclamation mark for the perseverance, but White is still clearly winning.

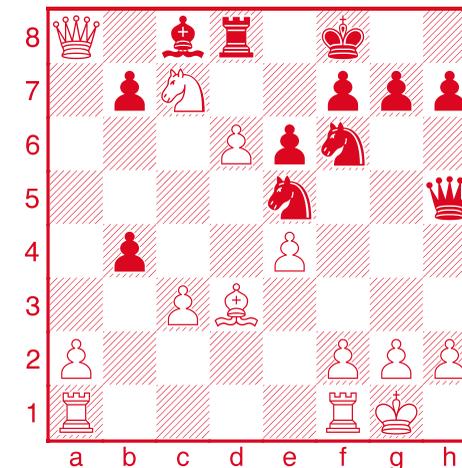
18. ♘c7+

18.♖fd1 is a simple and effective way to protect the Bishop while maintaining the pressure.

editor – White might have been worried about Black counterplay after: 18...♘xd3 19.♖xd3 ♕e2 20.♖ad1 ♘xe4 but it was nothing to worry about so long as White had already seen the spectacular win: 21.♕xc8!!

since 21...♖xc8 22.d7+ ♔d8 23.dxc8♕+ ♔xc8 24.♖d8#.

18...♔f8



19. ♘b5?

White doesn't seem to realize that Black could soon have a strong attack. White should have kept some pieces to protect his king.

editor – ♠19.♖fd1 ♘eg4 20.h3 ♕c5! 21.hxg4 ♘xg4 22.♖d2 bxc3 23.♖c2 ♕xd6± and Black still has decent swindling chances.

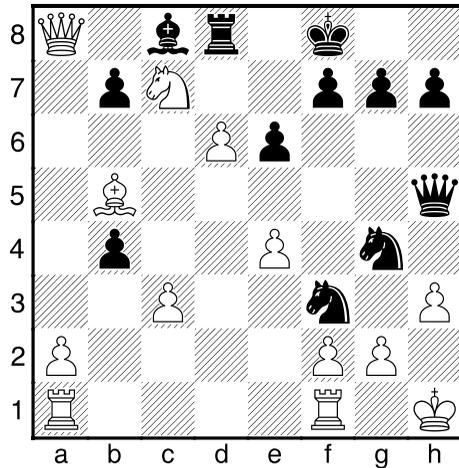
editor – ♠19.d7 gives up the pawn for a tempo to regroup, 19...♘exd7 20.♖ad1±.

19...♘fg4! =



19...♖f3+ 20.gxf3 ♘g4=.

20.h3 ♘f3+♠ 21.♔h1
21.gxf3 ♖xh3 22.fxg4 ♖xg4+
and Black has a perpetual.



21...♘g5?

Missing an opportunity to get a draw: 21...♖e5♠ 22.g3 ♘e3! (22...♘xf2+? 23.♔g2±) 23.fxe3 (23.♖fc1? ♖h5+) 23...♖xg3 24.♖xf3 ♖xf3+= with another perpetual.

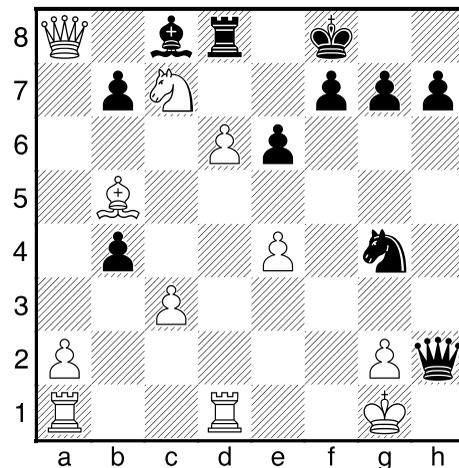
22.f3??

White went from a winning position to an equal position, and now he is losing!

editor – 22.♖a5♠+:-

22...♘h3? 23.♘e6+♠ and Black's house collapses first.

22...♖xd6 23.♖xb4+-.
22...♖h4 defending the ♖d8
23.♔g1 ♘e5 (23...♘h3+
24.gxh3 ♔g8 getting out
of the check from ♘xe6,
24...♖xh3 25.♘e6+♠+
again.) 25.♔g2+- and White
is up a ♖.) 24.d7! ♘ef3+
25.♔h1♠ ♘xh3 26.g3!
♘xf2+ 27.♔g2 it looks
crazy, but White is winning,
since (again) if 27...♖xe4
28.♘e6+!+-.
22...♘h3! 23.fxg4 ♘f2+
24.♔g1 ♘xg4 25.♖fd1
♖h2+



There is nowhere to hide.

26.♔f1 ♖h1+ 27.♔e2
♖xg2+ 28.♔d3 ♘e5+

29.♔e3 ♖f3+ 30.♔d2 ♖xd6+
31.♘d5 ♖xc3+ 32.♔e2
exd5 33.♖ac1 ♖f3+ 34.♔d2
♖g2+ 35.♙e2 ♘c4+ 36.♔e1
♖g1+ 37.♙f1 ♖g3+ 38.♔e2
♖e3#

A nice finish to this incredible game.

0-1

2015 BC Closed

The 101st BC Closed was held October 9-12, 2015. It was an 8-player RR with an average rating of 2262.

Top-seed **FM Jason Cao** retained his title with 5/7 (+3 =4 -0), half a point ahead of **Tanraj Sohal** (+2 =5 -0). **Andrea Botez** won the women's title with a perfect 6/6, a full two points ahead of Paula and Alice Brewster.

Chess Canada features two of Jason's games.

Cao, Jason (2402)
Pechisker, Alfred (2258)
B80

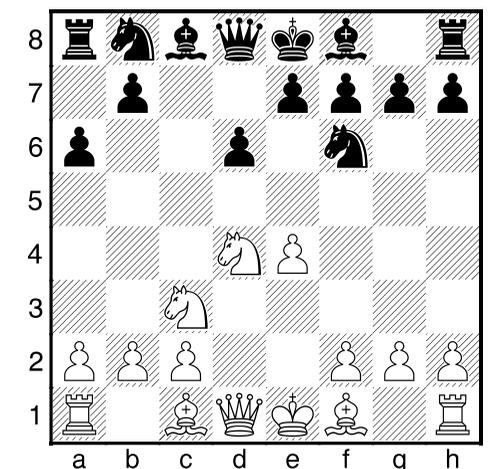
100th BC Closed (5.2),
11.10.2015

Notes by Felix Dumont

The following game first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed: <http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/694>

This game is extremely tactical and instructive. Both players played a fair number of good moves, but also quite a lot of mistakes (but that is to be expected in such positions!). I am convinced everybody will love going through it as much as I did. The game is from the 100th BC Championship, which FM Jason Cao won.

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



Chess Canada



Black opts for the Najdorf variation of the Sicilian Defense, which should already hint us that the game is going to be interesting!

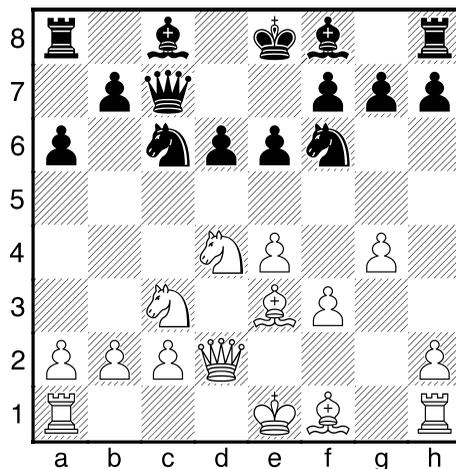
6. ♖e3

White had three other popular options: 6. ♖g5, 6. ♖c4, 6. ♖e2.

6... ♞c6!?

It is not the first time this move has been played, but it is often considered somewhat inferior to the main lines where the knight instead goes in d7. However, Black may have wanted to surprise his opponent.

7.f3 ♕c7 8. ♕d2 e6 9.g4



So far the position is quite

typical for a Sicilian, although one may still argue that the knight could be better in d7.

9...h6?!

This move is quite weakening. Black's plan at this point is probably to keep the king in the center, or even to castle queenside, but ...h6 seems hardly justified. 9... ♖e7 10.0-0-0 b5 11.g5 ♞d7 12.h4 would be the most typical continuation.

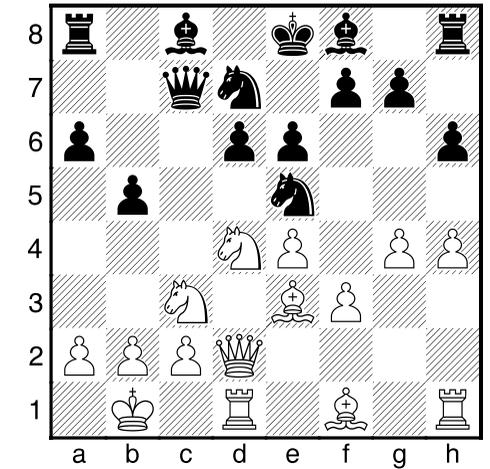
10.0-0-0 ♞e5 11.h4

White has the advantage of having a very easy plan, whereas Black will have to play very carefully.

11... ♞fd7

It's really not clear what is Black's objective now... It's time for Black to start his own attack: 11...b5

12. ♔b1 b5



13. ♖e2

While this move may not seem bad at first, it loses some momentum for White. 13.g5 hxg5 14. ♖xg5 ♞c4 15. ♖xc4 bxc4 16.h5 seems like a very interesting way for White to continue the game.

13... ♞b6 14.f4?

If White's plan was to chase the e5 knight, why do it now that the c4 square is supported by another knight?

14... ♞ec4 15. ♖xc4 ♞xc4 16. ♕d3

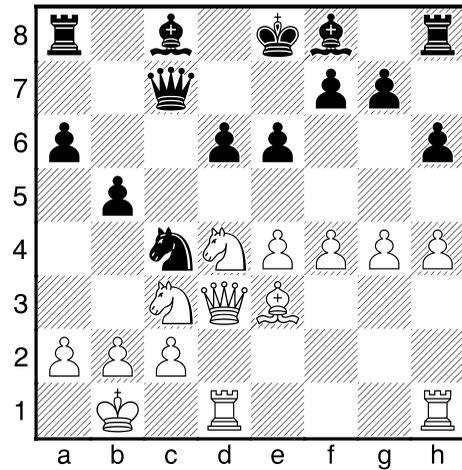


2015 BC Closed



Chess Canada

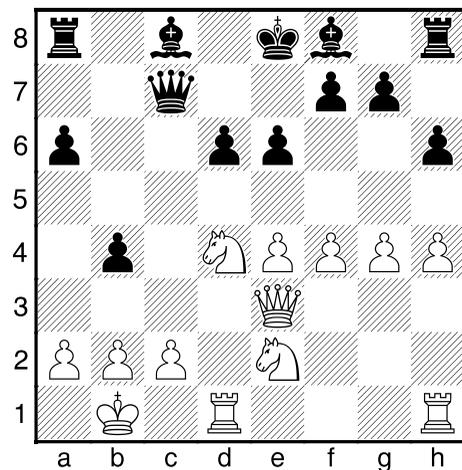




16...b4 17.♘ce2

Black is suddenly doing much better than a few moves ago. Obviously, the position is extremely sharp and no one could predict the outcome of the game, but any improvement is good to take!

17...♗xe3 18.♙xe3

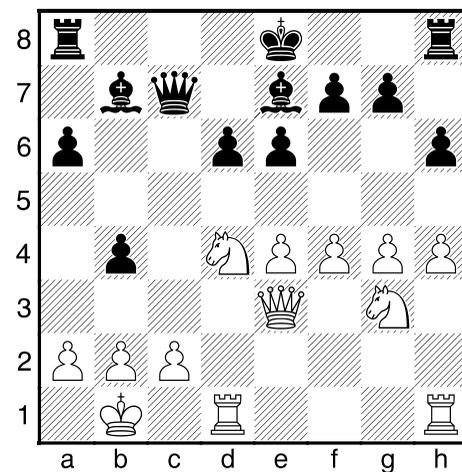


18...♕b7?

Missing a nice move: 18...e5! ♞ A thematic move in Sicilians: it opens another line for the ♕s while taking away the only good central squares for White's ♘s. It looks so anti-positional to concede d5 that many players wouldn't consider it, but the white ♘s are poorly-placed to exploit d5; e.g. 19.♗f5 g6 20.♗fg3 ♕xg4 ♞.

19.♗g3 ♕e7

19...♖c8 would have been best, indirectly protecting e6 by attacking c2.



20.f5!?

This only works if White has seen the complicated lines that follow.

Simpler is 20.♙b3! and White is starting to have a lot of pressure on the center.

20...e5 21.♗b3?

The whole point of f5 was that White could gain a nice advantage with a positional pawn sac: 21.f6! exd4! (21...♕xf6 22.♗df5± ♖d8? 23.♗h5!+-) 22.fxg7 ♖g8 23.♙xh6 ♖c8!∞.

21...f6

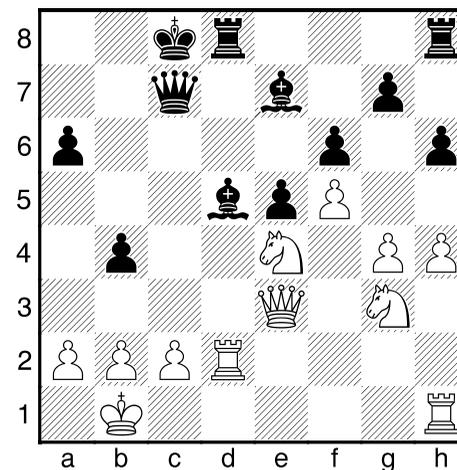
Stopping the f5-f6 pawn sac. 21...a5! seems very strong for Black.

22.♗d2

editor – 22.♗h5!?

22...d5 23.exd5 ♕xd5

24.♗de4 0-0-0 25.♖d2



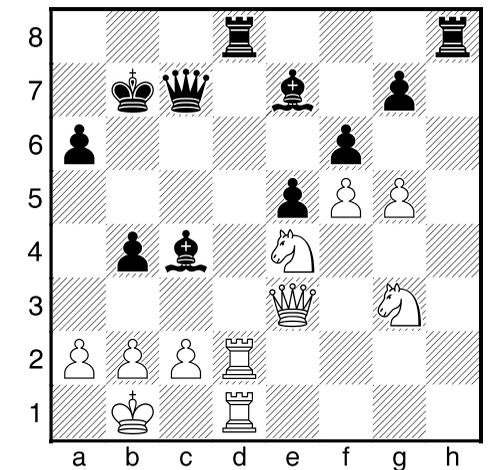
25...♗b7

25...♙a5! 26.b3 ♕c5 27.♙f3 and Black may be better, although both players have to be extremely careful.

26.♖hd1 ♕c4 27.g5?

♖27.♗c5+ ♕xc5 28.♙e4+ ♗a7 29.♙xc4 and the position is pretty much equal... which might not have suited the much higher-rated player with White.

27...hxg5 28.hxg5



28...fxg5

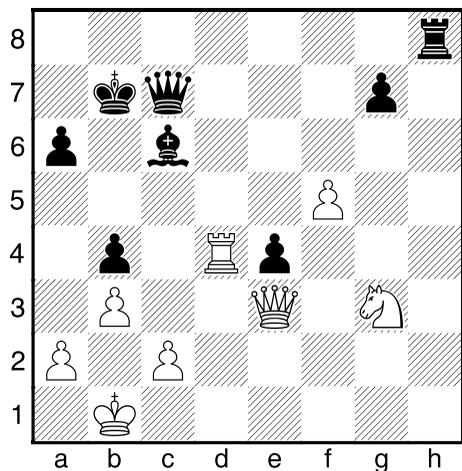
28...♖xd2 29.♗xd2 ♖d8 And again Black has quite a lot of pressure.

29.♗xg5 ♖xd2 30.♖xd2

♕xg5 31.♙xg5 e4

31...♙b5 And the position is unbalanced, both roughly equal.

32.b3 ♙b5 33.♚e3 ♙c6
34.♖d4



34...a5?

It only took a few moves for Black to get into serious trouble. This is a common problem when you have a good position for the moment, but long-term challenges like an exposed king.

editor – The computer finds 34...♚b6! when a piece exchange should reduce the problems with Black's exposed ♔: 35.♘xe4 ♖h4 36.♚d3 (Δ36.♘d6+ ♔b8!) 36...♔a7±.

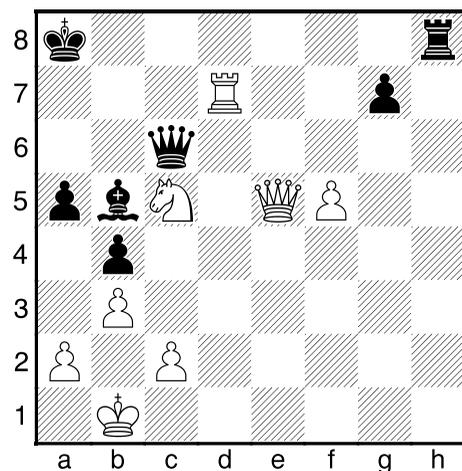
35.♘xe4+-

editor – Black might have

thought this was impossible because of the pin on the e-file, but 35...♖e8 36.♘c5+ ♔a7 37.♘e6+- shows that the "pin" is no problem.

35... ♔b8 36.♘c5 ♙b5
37.♖d7 ♚c6
37...♙xd7?? 38.♘a6+-.

38.♚e5+ ♔a8



39.♚xg7

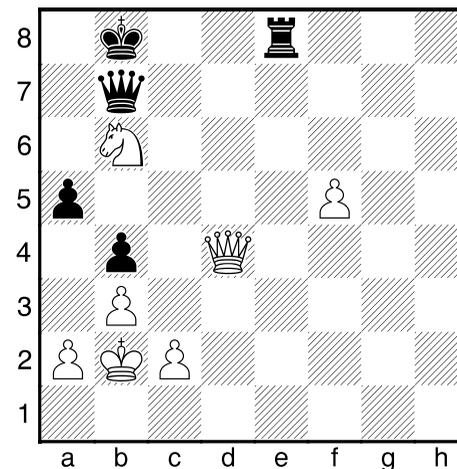
♠39.♖d6! ♚h1+ 40.♔b2 ♚f3 41.♘e4 and it's time to resign.

39...♚h1+ 40.♔b2 ♙xd7
41.♚xd7

Although White didn't manage to convert the advantage as easily as he should have, Black should

still be lost.

41...♚f3 42.♘a4 ♚b7
43.♚d4 ♖e8 44.♘b6+ ♔b8



45.♘c4?

45.f6 ♚c7 46.♘d7+!
♔c8 47.f7+-.

45...♚c7?

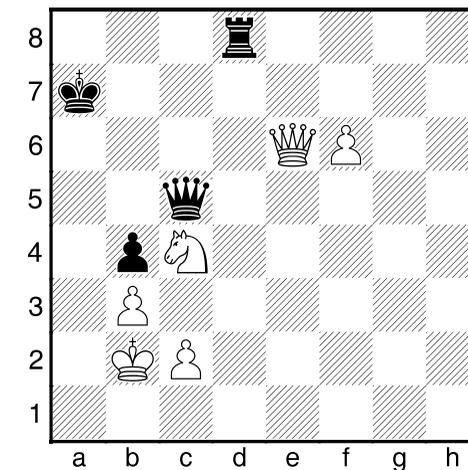
45...♚a7! 46.♚h4 ♚c5 and it's not so easy for White to find a winning continuation.

46.a3 ♖d8 47.♚f6
♔a7?

47...bxa3+ 48.♘xa3
♚d6=.

48.axb4 axb4

49.♚e6 ♚c5 50.f6



50...♖d1??

50...♔b8! and there's nothing White can do to win the game anymore.



Joe Roback and Andrea Botez TD and 2015 BC Women's Champion, respectively.



editor – 50...♙d4+ 51.♚a2 ♖a8!?
should hold too.

51.♙e7+♚+- ♙xe7 52.fxe7
♖e1 53.♘d6

1-0

Moore, Harry (2204)
Cao, Jason (2402)

B26

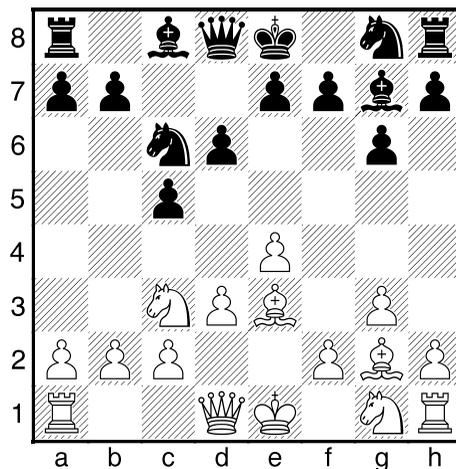
100th BC Closed (6), 12.10.2015

Notes by John Upper

A very interesting
game.

White plays in old-
fashioned Canadian
style — Closed vs the
Sicilian — but plays
the middle-game like
a young man: finding
a strong pawn sac for
central pressure and
what could have been
a big upset.

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6
3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7
5.d3 d6 6.♙e3



6...e6



Lynn Stringer and Harry Moore visited the 2014 BC Championship. In 2015, Harry competed.

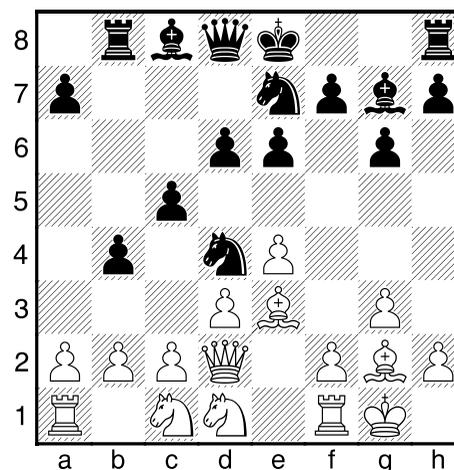
6...e5 also scores decently,
but ...e6 is more ambitious, not
conceding any central square to
White.

6...♖b8 preserves both e-pawn
options.

7.♙d2 ♖b8 8.♘ge2 ♘d4
9.0-0 b5 10.♘c1

Looks odd, but White wants to
prevent piece exchanges with
the idea that an eventual c2-
c3 and d3-d4 will leave Black
congested.

10...♘e7 11.♘d1 b4

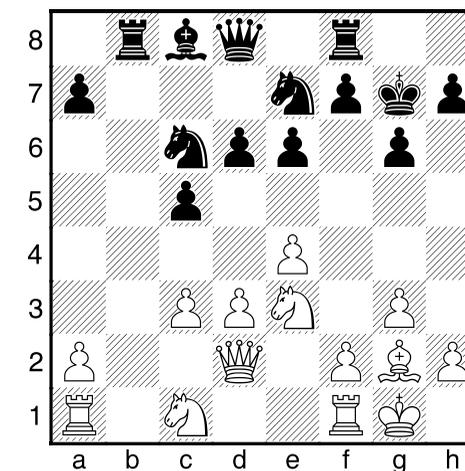


12.c3

Spassky played these Closed
Sicilian lines regularly; here
is one of his later games:
12.a3 a5 13.axb4 axb4 14.c3

bxc3 15.bxc3 ♘dc6 16.♙h6
0-0 17.♙xg7 ♚xg7 18.♘e3 d5
19.♙c2 Black's kingside looks
a bit porous, but after... 19...
d4! 20.♘c4 e5 21.♘b3 dxc3
22.♙xc3 ♘d4 23.♘xd4 cxd4
24.♙a3 f6 White wasn't able to
exploit it in [Spassky–Portisch
Mexico Candidates, 1980](#) (1/2-1/2,
50).

12...bxc3 13.bxc3 ♘dc6
14.♙h6 0-0 15.♙xg7 ♚xg7
16.♘e3



"White's central control and
kingside chances grant him a
small advantage in this position
which has been reached several
times." – Richard Palliser,
Starting Out: The Closed Sicilian
(Everyman, 2006).



Chess Canada





16...♙a6

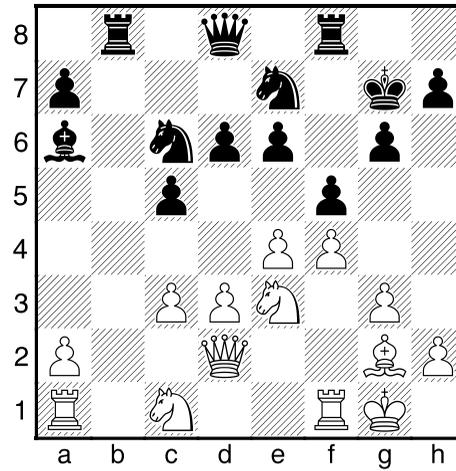
The following game clearly shows White's ideal attack: f2-f4-f5, open a file on the kingside and mate: **16...e5 17.♘b3 ♙a6 18.f4 f6 19.♖f2 ♗b6 20.♖af1 ♘a5 21.♘xa5 ♗xa5 22.♙h3 ♗b5 23.c4 ♗b7 24.♙e6 exf4 25.gxf4 ♗b4 26.♗c1 ♙c8 27.f5! gxf5 (27...g5 28.♘g4 h5 29.♘xf6 ♙xf6 30.♗a1+-) 28.♖g2+ ♙h8 29.♘d5 ♗b7 30.♗h6 ♘g8 31.♙xg8 ♖xg8 32.♗xf6+ 1-0 **Biyasas, P–Mednis, E Norristown, 1973.****

16...♗b6 17.♘b3 a5 18.♗c2 ♙a6 19.♖ab1 ♘e5 20.c4 ♘5c6 21.f4 f6 (21...a4∞) 22.♗c3 ♗b4 23.♗a1!± Narciso Dublan, M (2505)–Aroshidze, L (2565) Figueres, 2013 (1-0, 45).

17.♘e2

17.f4! is the most direct. The Biyiasas game above and this game between Moore and Cao show what can happen if White gets in f4–f5, so Black usually stops it with ...f5. (17...♗b6 18.♖f2± blocking the diagonal and defending b2.) Here are a couple of examples:

Analysis Diagram



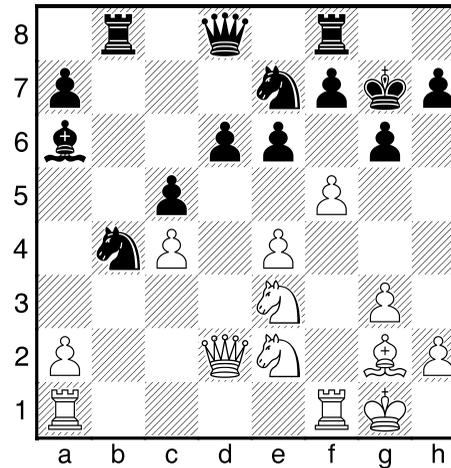
18.exf5 exf5 (18...gxf5±) 19.♘b3 ♗d7 20.♖fe1 ♖be8 21.♖e2 (21.d4!± Δc4 22.d5!) 21...♘g8 22.♖ae1 ♘f6 23.c4 h6 24.♘d5 ♖xe2 25.♖xe2 ♘xd5 26.♙xd5 ♖e8 27.♙f2 ♖xe2+ 28.♗xe2 ♘b4= Stukopin, A (2380)–Naroditsky, D (2335) Kirishi, 2009 (1-0, 62).

18.♖f2 ♗d7 19.♘b3 ♙b7 20.g4 a5! 21.gxf5 exf5 22.♘d5 ♙a8 23.c4 a4 24.♗c3+ ♙g8 25.♘d2 ♘d4 26.♖e1 ♖f7 27.♘f1 ♘xd5 28.cxd5 ♖bf8 29.e5 dxe5 30.♖xe5 ½-½ Garcia Castro, P (2390)–Peralta, F (2574) Barbera del Valles, 2009.

17...♘e5 18.f4!N

An enterprising pawn sac. In all five other games, White played c3-c4, and Black was OK with a piece on d4.

18...♘xd3 19.c4 ♘b4 20.f5↑



20...♘g8 21.fxe6

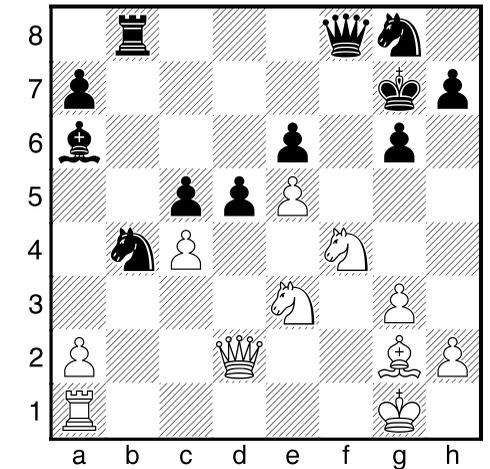
21.♖ad1!? ♗e7 22.a3! ♘c6 23.♗xd6± Δ♘d4? 24.♖xd4 cxd4 25.f6+-.

21...fxe6 22.♖xf8 ♗xf8

23.e5!? d5

23...dxe5? 24.a3 wins the ♘ for a couple of pawns.

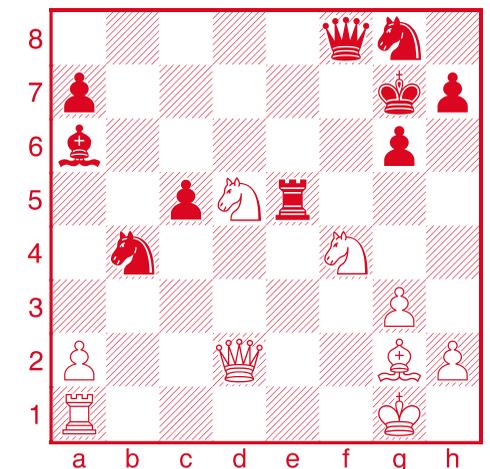
24.♘f4



24...♖e8?!

Black gets more counterplay with the threat of ...♗xe5, so ♘24...♗e7, e.g. 25.cxd5 exd5 26.a3 (26.♘exd5 ♗xe5=) 26...♗xe5 (26...d4 27.axb4 dxe3 28.♗xe3 ♙c4 29.bxc5+-) 27.♖e1 ♘c6∞.

25.cxd5 exd5 26.♘exd5 ♖xe5?



Maritime Open

29 players competed in the 2015 Maritime Open. **Elias Oussedik** and **Adam Dorrance** tied for first at the, each scoring +4 =2 -0, including a third-round draw against each other. Special mention to **Chirs Felix**, who held Oussedik to a draw in the final round, despite being outrated by 437 points!

Oussedik, Elias (2367)
Saunders, Stephen (2135)
 B96
 2015 Maritime Open (5),
 12.10.2015

Notes by Keith MacKinnon

The following game first appeared on the CFC Newsfeed:
<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/718>

One Maritime chess player making large strides in his chess is my good friend, Elias Oussedik. Here is a game he won in the penultimate round at the recently concluded Maritime Open, in which he tied for first

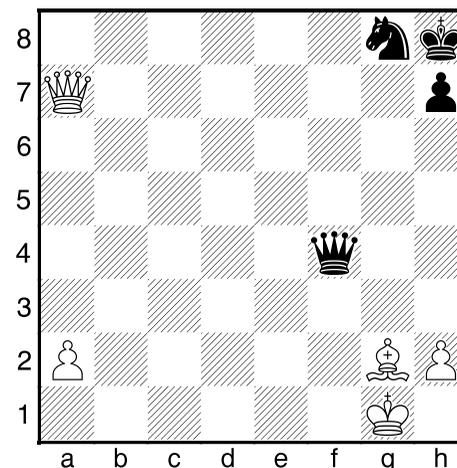
39.♔h1 ♖c1+ 40.♞g1 ♜c3
 stopping checks on the long
 diagonal 41.♞f2 ♞a1+ 42.♔h2
 ♞e5+ 43.♞g3 ♞a5 44.a4± and
 White starts to make progress.

37...♞c1+ 38.♙f1 ♞g5+
 39.♞g2 ♞e3+ 40.♔h1 ♘f6
 41.♞a8+ ♔g7 42.♞b7+
 ♘h8 43.♞b8+ ♘e8 44.♞b2+
 ♘g7 45.♞b8+ ♘e8 46.♞b2+
 ♘g7 47.h3 h5 48.♞e2 ♞f4
 49.♞g2 ♘f5= 50.♞a8+ ♔g7
 51.♞b7+ ♔f6 52.♞c6+ ♔e7
 53.♞c5+ ♔f6 54.♞f8+ ♔g5
 55.♞d8+ ♔g6

1/2-1/2

be harder for Black to hold.
 33.♞xf3 ♞xc5+ 34.♞f2 ♞xf2+
 35.♔xf2 gxf4 36.gxf4±.

33.♘e6+! ♞xe6 34.♞xd4+
 ♞f6 35.♞xa7+ ♔h8 36.gxf4
 ♞xf4



37.♞f2
 37.h3!? ♞c1+ 38.♔h2 ♞f4+



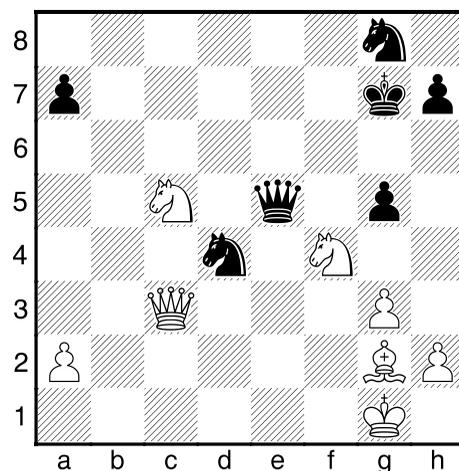
Joe Roback, Jason Cao, Alonso Campos TD, 2015 BC Champion, BCCF Pres., respectively.

27.♞c3?±

△27.♞b2+- doesn't lose
 a tempo after ♘xb4 cxb4,
 and this gives White time to
 eliminate a defender of the ♖e5.
 27...♞d6 (27...♘c6? 28.♘e6+-)
 28.♘xb4 ♖cxb4 29.♞e1 ♔f6
 30.♘d5+! ♔e6 (30...♔f5?
 31.♙h3+) 31.♞xe5+! ♞xe5
 32.♘c7+ ♖+-.

27...♞d6 28.♞e1
 28.♘xb4?? cxb4 29.♞b2 ♘f6±.

28...♘c6 29.♘c7 ♘d4
 30.♞xe5 ♞xe5 31.♘xa6 g5
 32.♘xc5



32...gxf4

32...♘f3+!? is the computer's
 choice, but this leads to a
 queenless endgame which would

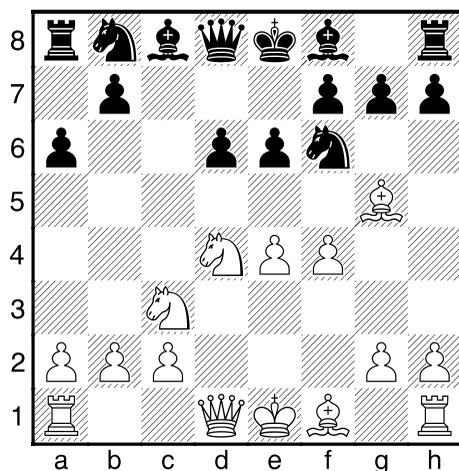


with another rising player, Adam Dorrance. All Open Sicilian players will definitely want to have a look at this one!

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6
6.♖g5**

One of the critical tests of the Najdorf.

6...e6 7.f4



The correct follow-up. There are some other moves (♖d2 or ♖f3) played less successfully.

7...♗c6 8.♗xc6

8.♖d2 ♖b6 9.0-0-0 ♖xd4 allows Black to trade a lot of pieces – certainly not something Mr. Oussedik wanted to do 10.♖xd4

♗xd4 11.♖xd4 ♖e7.

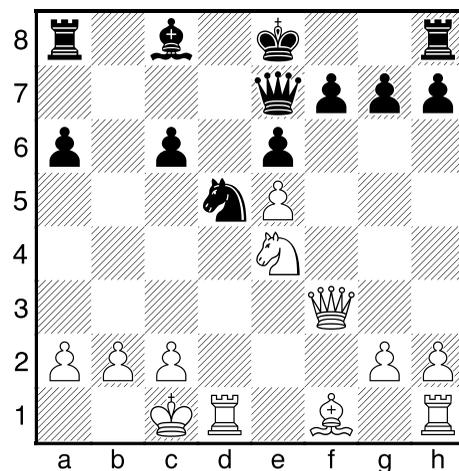
8...bxc6 9.♖f3

9.e5 leads to forced play. When playing weaker opponents, it is often good to avoid those types of moves. The main line continues: 9...h6 10.♖h4 g5 11.fxg5 ♗d5 12.♗e4 ♖b6∞ It's hard to tell what's going on here, but I can say that this is the type of position to enter only with strong preparation.

9...♖b6

9...♖e7 10.0-0-0 scores very well for White – and for good reason. White's pieces are on excellent squares 10...♖c7 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 ♗d5 13.♖xe7 ♖xe7 14.♗e4

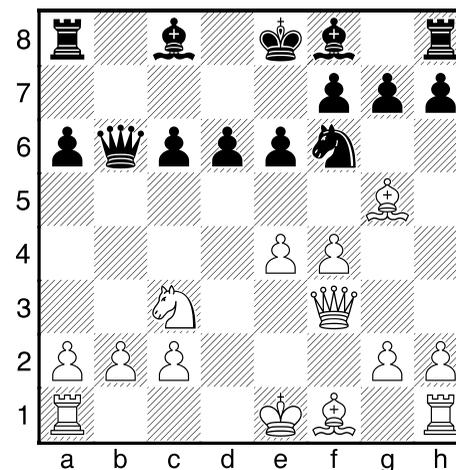
Analysis Diagram



Black has some lasting weaknesses (a6, c6) as well as more immediate problems on d6 and a weak kingside after ...0-0 c4.

editor – here's a Spraggett game where his much lower-rated opponent tried a very worthwhile piece sac which should have paid off when Spraggett mysteriously weekend his king with a2-a3:

14...0-0 15.c4 ♖b8! (15...♗c7 16.♗f6+! ♖h8 17.♖d3+-)
16.cxd5 exd5 17.♗d2 a5 18.a3? (18.♖c3!±) 18...g6 (♗18...♖e6∞ and Black doubles ♖s on the b-file. If you take just a quick look at the position it might seem absurd that this could be enough comp for Black... but just try to defend it as White.)
19.♖c3 d4?? Either Black was feeling much too generous, or he had already written off this game as lost. 20.♖xd4 ♖d8 21.♖c3 ♖f5 22.♖c4+- (1-0, 26)
Spraggett, K–Borondo Garcia, R (2054) Seville, 2006.



10.♖c4!?

A good practical choice, which dares Black to take on b2.

10.0-0-0 ♖b8 11.b3 d5 is theory, but White's dark squares around his King start to look a bit shaky. There was a nice White win in the following game, however: 11...♗d7 12.♖b1 h6 13.♖h4 g5 14.♖g3 ♖a5 15.♖e1 ♖a3 16.g3 a5 17.♖d2 ♖g7 18.♖c1 ♖c5 19.♖b2 0-0? 20.h4→ ♗f6 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.e5! g4 23.exf6! 1-0 Solodovnichenko, Y (2558) – Lagarde, M (2414) Paris, 2010.

10...♖e7

10...♖xb2 a sample line runs 11.0-0 ♖b6+ 12.♖h1 ♗d7!= White has full compensation for the pawn, and he clearly has the



initiative. Perhaps 13.♔h3 ♘c5 14.f5!.

I feel like 10...d5 11.♙b3 plays into White's hands by opening lines.

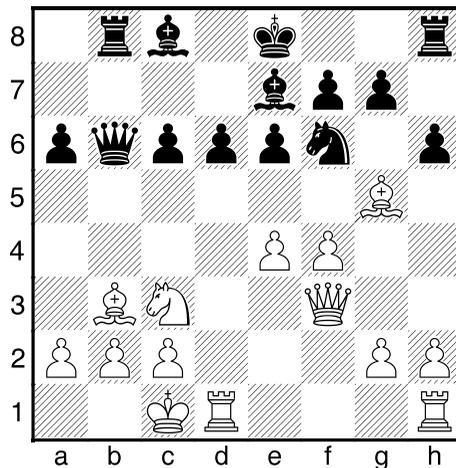
11.0-0-0 ♖b8

editor – 11...0-0 is the computer's first choice, but one can see why a human might want to avoid it: 12.e5!? dxe5 13.fxe5 ♘d5 14.♙xe7 ♗xe7 15.♘e4 and White has a risk-free advantage in development and dark-square control.

12.♙b3

Here we see the big difference between 10.0-0-0 versus 11.0-0-0 after 10.♙c4.

12...h6



13.♙h4

13.♙xf6?! Looks tempting since Black may need to double his pawns, but on closer inspection, we see that he can actually sacrifice his d6 pawn for strong compensation 13...♙xf6 (13...gxf6 14.f5± thematic) 14.♖xd6 ♙e7 15.♗d2 0-0 and ...c5 with the threat of ...c4 comes quickly. Black also has the two bishops, so he has nothing to worry about here.

13...♙d7?

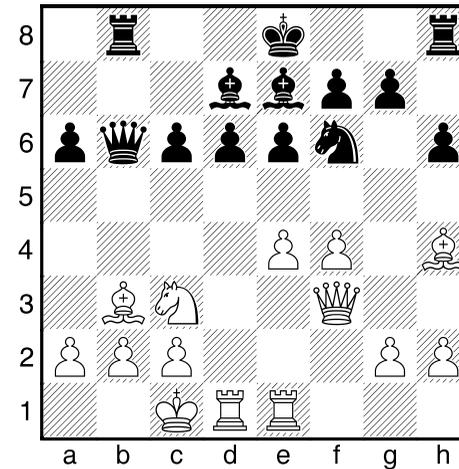
First real mistake of the game.

13...g5? is a thematic idea, but it doesn't work here (due to tactical and positional reasons) 14.fxg5 ♘d7 controlling the e5 square, but it fails tactically to 15.g6+- (15.♙g3 even this would be good enough for a large advantage) 15...♙xh4 (15...♘e5 16.gxf7+ with an extra pawn and terribly exposed Black ♔.) 16.♗xf7+ ♔d8 17.g7+-.

14.♖he1

A natural move, but it gives Black some resources. Better was 14.e5± dxe5 15.fxe5 ♘d5 16.♙xe7 ♗xe7 17.♔b1 to avoid

...♗e3+ (which now drops the ♗ to ♘xd5+) and preparing ♖hf1.



14...♗b7?

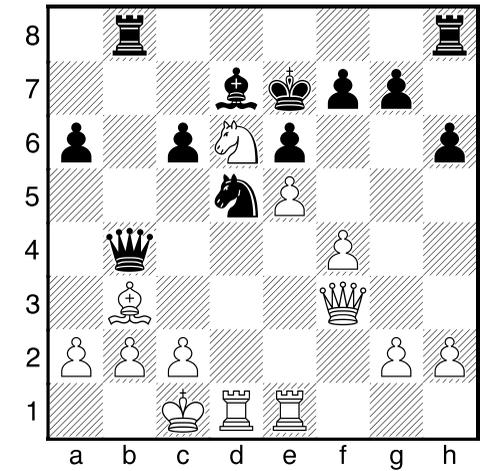
From this point on, Black has no real chance.

14...c5! 15.e5 ♙c6 (15...c4? 16.♙f2 ♗b4 17.a3 ♗b7 18.♗xb7 ♖xb7 19.♙xc4+-) 16.♗h3 dxe5 17.fxe5 ♘g8! and Black is holding on (17...♘d5 18.♘xd5 ♙xd5 19.♙xe7 ♗xe7 20.c4±) 18.♙f2±.

15.e5!

Breaking through.

15...♘d5 16.♙xe7 ♗xe7 17.♘e4 ♗b4 18.♘xd6



18...f5

Notice that 18...♗xf4+ loses to 19.♗xf4 ♘xf4 20.♖f1 g5 21.g3+-.

18...♔f8 was perhaps the best move, but it should make no difference. 19.♖e4 and Black is playing without his ♖h8 and almost without the ♙d7.

19.c4 ♘xf4

19...♘c7 20.g4+- tears away at the ♔'s loose cover.

20.♗xf4 a5 21.♗d2

21.♘xf5+ exf5 22.e6 is a pretty finish, but there was no need to be fancy.

21...a4? 22.♘xf5+ exf5 23.♗xd7+ ♔f8 24.♗xf5+ with mate in 4.



Varennnes

The **8th Varennnes Open** was held November 6-9, 2015.

21 players, 7 of them over 2300, competed in the top section. **GM Bator Sambuev** won, defeating **GM Alexandre Le Siege** in round 4 and conceding a draw to **IM Jean Hebert** in the last round. **Zong Yang Yu** and **Olivier Kenta Chiku-Ratte** were =2nd with 4/5, 1/2 a point ahead of Le Siege and Hebert.

Chiku-Ratte, Olivier-Kenta (2386)

Zhu, Hong Rui (2286)

D31

Varennnes op (5.2), 08.11.2015

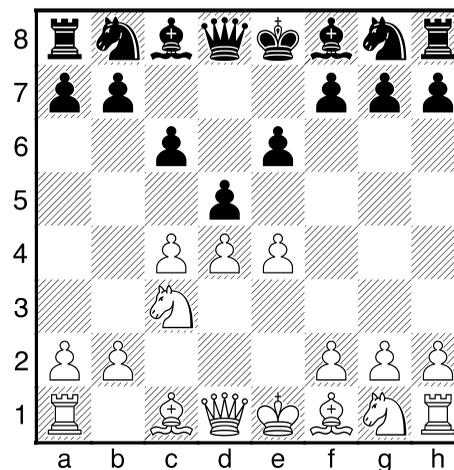
Notes by Felix Dumont

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/722>

It was not my intention to use two of Olivier's games for the GOTW, but this one could not be overlooked. It's not every day a strong national master loses in 18 moves! Part of it was clearly

thanks to Olivier's preparation, but the result could have been quite different if Black had been just a little bit more careful.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 4.e4!?



The (other) Marshall Gambit

Both players have played each other countless times, so there is little doubt Olivier-Kenta wanted to surprise his opponent. 4.♘f3 ♘f6 would lead to a Semi-Slav defense, a much more common opening.

4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♙b4+

6.♙d2 ♚xd4

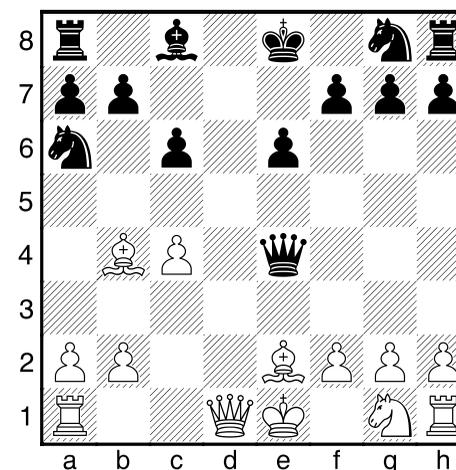
Did White just lose a central pawn? Yes, but White hopes to

have some serious play on the dark squares in exchange. White is clearly prepared for this line, but the question is whether Black also is.

7.♙xb4 ♚xe4+ 8.♙e2

8.♘e2!? avoids losing a pawn, but at the cost of less coordinated pieces. Still, the position can still be surprisingly dangerous for both players! 8...♘a6 9.♙f8! ♘e7 (9...♙xf8 10.♙d8#) 10.♙xg7 ♙g8 with an unclear position.

8...♘a6



9.♙d6

A somewhat odd looking move. Yet, it makes a lot of sense as by protecting the h2 pawn, White

threatens to trap Black's queen if she captures the h1 rook.

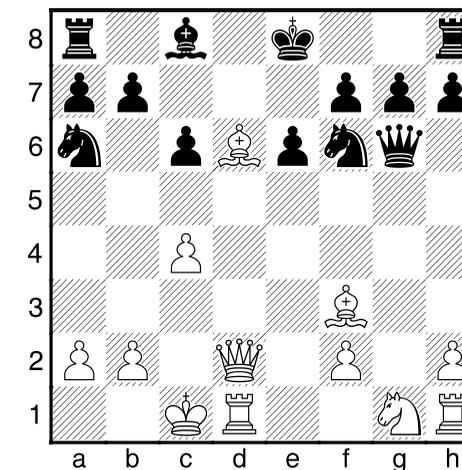
Another option was: **9.♙a5 b6 10.♙d6 ♙d7 11.♙c3 f6 12.♘f3** with quite a few GM games.

editor – Another is the crazy-looking: **9.♙f8!?** ♘e7 (9...♙xf8?? 10.♙d8#) 10.♙xg7 ♙xg2? (10...♙g8♞) 11.♙f6♞+- ♙d7 (11...♙xh1 12.♙d6+-) 12.♙f3 ♙g8 13.♙d6 ♘f5 14.♙e5 ♙g6 15.♙xh8 ♘b4 16.♙d1 0-0-0 17.♙f6 ♙g8 18.♙e4 1-0 **Gunina, V** (2528)–**Alieva, A** (1994) Sochi, 2015.

9...♙xg2 10.♙d2 ♘f6

10...♙xh1?? 11.0-0-0 ♘f6 (11...♙e4 12.♙g3+-) 12.♙f3+-.

11.♙f3 ♙g6 12.0-0-0



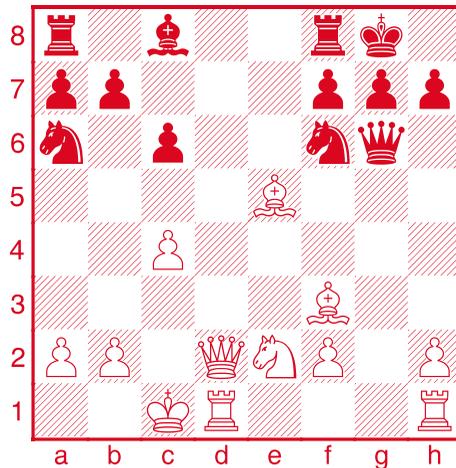
The position is now very hard to evaluate. Black is up two pawns, but has a king in the center and poorly coordinated pieces.

12...e5! 13.♔xe5 0-0?

A seemingly innocent move. While it now seems Black is out of his theory, White probably had anticipated this move.

13...♔e6! 14.♘e2 ♚f5 and it would be fair to say that both players have equal chances in this position, although anything can happen.

14.♘e2

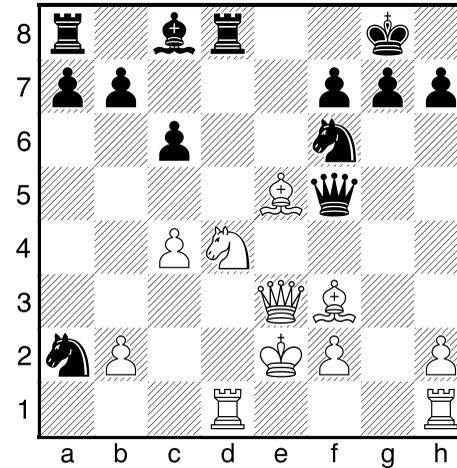


What's better: ...♖e8 or ...♚f5?

14...♖e8?

14...♚f5! and we now get into an extremely complicated line: 15.♚e3 ♘b4 16.♘d4 (forced) 16...♘xa2+ 17.♔d2 ♖d8 18.♔e2

Analysis Diagram



a) 18...♚d7 19.♖hg1+-;

b) 18...♚xe5 19.♚xe5 ♖e8
20.♚xe8+ ♘xe8 21.♘xc6 bxc6
22.♖d8 1-0 Braun, A (2536)–Van der Werf, M (2389) Wijk aan Zee, 2008.

c) 18...♖xd4? 19.♔xf6!+- is a huge improvement on 19.♖xd4? ♔e6 20.♖g1↑ (1-0, 34) Kuljasevic, D (2464)–Robson, R (2368) Richardson, 2007.

d) 18...♚g6 19.♖hg1 ♔g4

20.♔xf6 ♚xf6 21.♖xg4 and it's really hard to tell where the game is going, although White's extra piece may be decisive.

15.♖hg1!

And the game is arguably already over!

15...♚f5?

15...♖xe5 ♗ 16.♖xg6 hxg6 Is Black's best chance, but holding this would not be easy.

16.♖xg7+!! ♔xg7 17.♖g1+ ♔h8 18.♚h6

1-0



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