

Lorin D'Costa

The Sicilian Scheveningen

move by move



EVERYMAN CHESS

White: Yudasin, L
Black: Kasparov, G

USSR Championship, Moscow

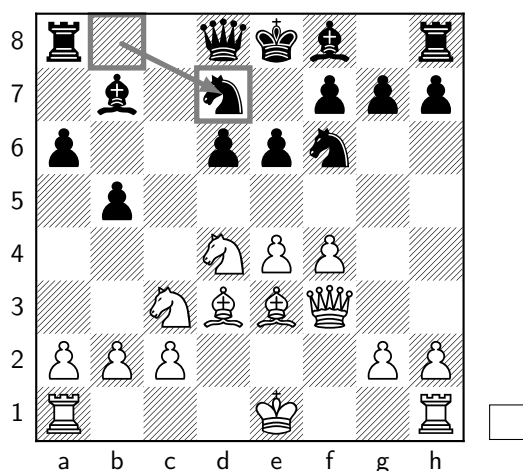
1988

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 f4 Not the most popular move, but a logical one. White can potentially push on with f5 or e5 if Black isn't careful.

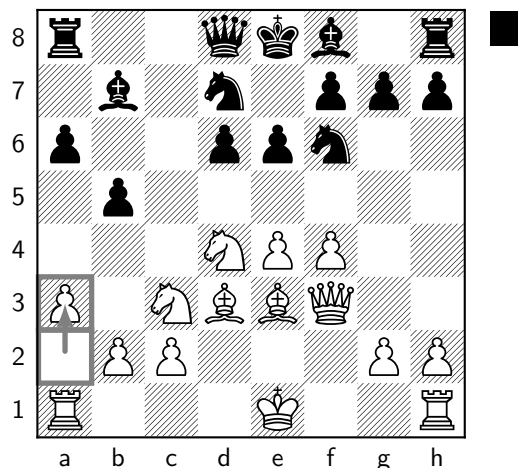
6... a6 7 ♘e3 b5 8 ♖f3 ♘b7 9 ♘d3 QUESTION: Black must make a decision about his knight on b8. Should he place it on d7 or c6 in this position? ANSWER: Here d7 is the best square, as on c6 it can become something of a tactical liability.

9... ♘bd7



9... ♘c6 10 e5! dxe5 11 ♘xc6 ♖c7 12 ♘xb5! axb5 13 ♘xb5

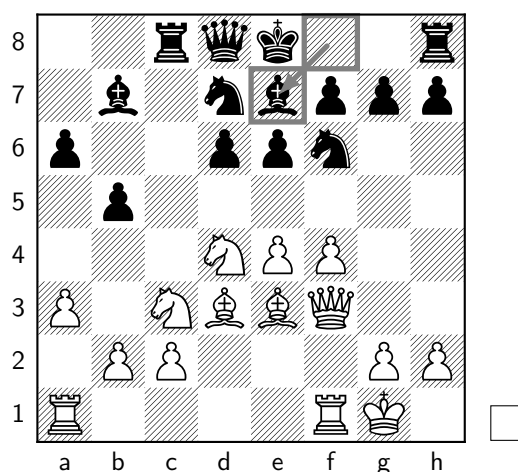
10 a3 With 10 a3 White tries to stop the threat of ...b4, but it does allow Black an extra move to develop.



10 g4

10... ♖c8 11 O-O QUESTION: How should Black develop the bishop on f8? ANSWER: It is possible for Black to play it to e7 (the normal move), but also to fianchetto it on g7. Although this takes slightly longer to carry out, the pawn on g6 does nullify White's light-squared bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal.

11... ♘e7



11... g6 12 ♖h3 ♘c5 13 e5 ♘d5 14 ♘e4 ♘xe4 15 ♘xe4 ♘xe3 16 ♖xe3 ♘xe4 17 ♖xe4 dxe5 18 ♖xe5 ♖xd4+ 19 ♖xd4 ♘c5 20 ♖xc5 ♖xc5

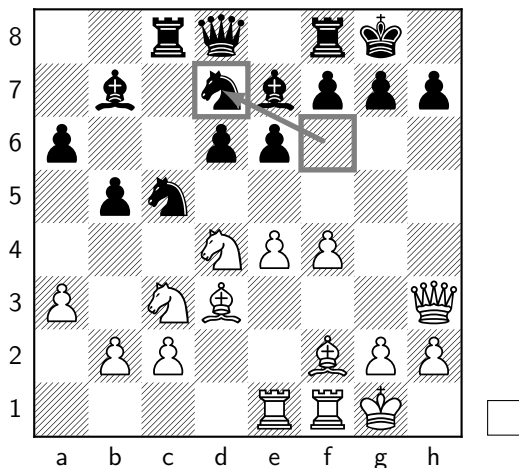
21 ♖f2 ♔e7

12 ♖ae1 O-O 13 ♔h3 With this move White gets his queen off the h1-a8 diagonal and hopes to threaten mate on h7 after a subsequent e5 push. Another idea is to play g4-g5 and kick the f6-knight away.

13... ♘c5! As expected Kasparov shows impeccable understanding of the position. Rather than being afraid of the e5 push, he counterattacks against e4 and at a stroke is able to exchange off the potentially dangerous piece on d3 that bears down towards his king on h7. The text also allows Black a square on d7 for his other knight, should he so need it.

14 ♘f2 QUESTION: Is it good for Black to play ...h6 in this position to prevent White's potential attack down towards h7?

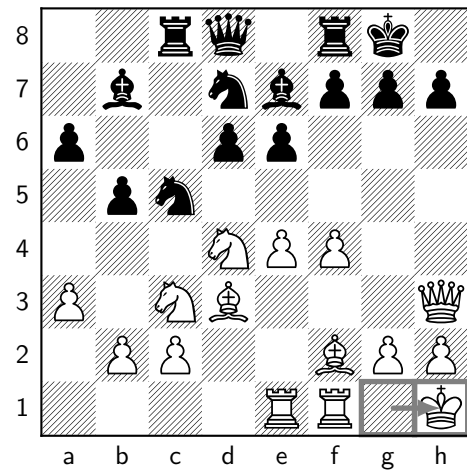
14... ♘fd7



14... h6

14... g6 15 f5 e5 16 ♘f3 ♘h5

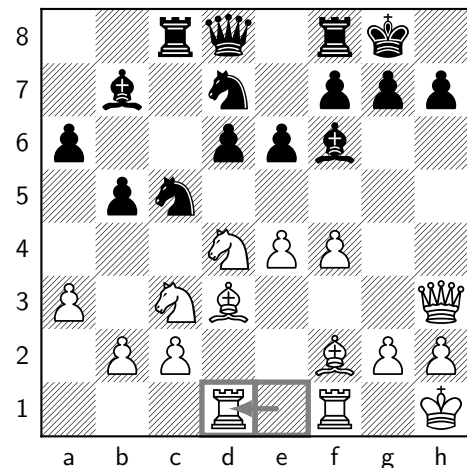
15 ♔h1 QUESTION: Why did White play Kh1? **ANSWER:** Such moves are generally classified as 'waiting' moves. White tucks his king away in the corner and awaits developments. He wants to avoid any potential tricks on the g1-a7 diagonal, although now it walks into the line of the b7-bishop which could be potentially hazardous for White.



15 f5 e5 16 ♘de2 ♘f6 17 ♘g3 d5!

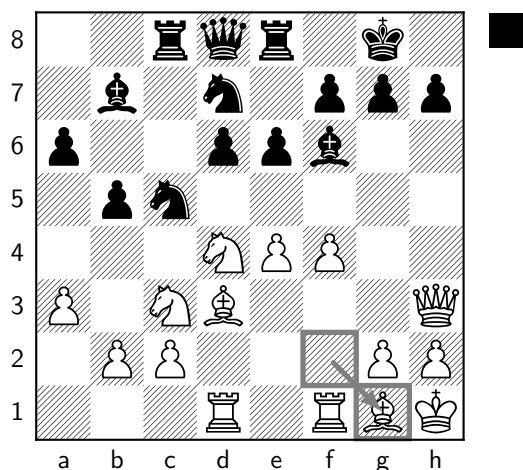
15... ♘f6 EXERCISE: Can White now go for 16 e5, attacking the f6-bishop and unleashing an attack on the pawn on h7?

16 ♖d1



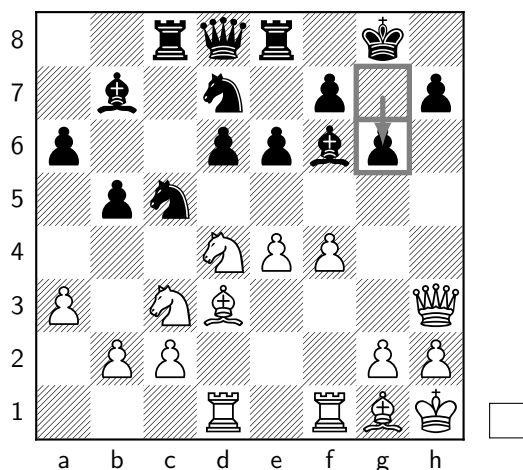
16 e5 ♘xd3! 17 exf6 ♘xf4 18 ♔g4 ♘xg2+ 19 ♔g1 ♔xf6 20 ♘e3 ♘xf1 21 ♖xf1 e5 22 ♘xf4 ♔g6 23 ♔xg6 f×g6

16... ♖e8 17 ♘g1



17 e5 ♞×d3

17...g6



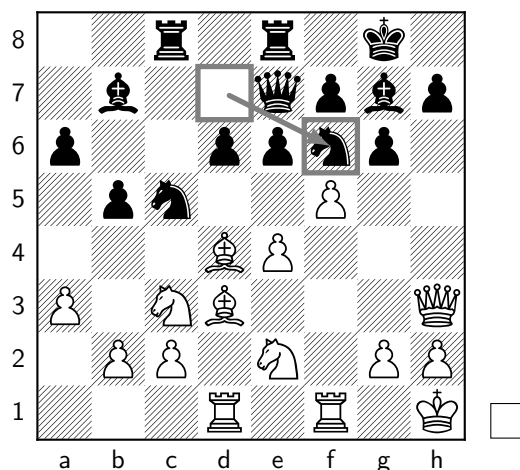
17...h6

18 ♜de2 ♜g7 19 f5 This is a typical move that White plays to try to launch an attack. Here, though, it seems rather loose, as now Black has a lovely square on e5 for his knight to hop into. A knight on e5 would be a wonderful piece, as it cannot be attacked (it is on an outpost), and defends the g6-square, as well as counterattacking against the c4- and d3-squares.

19... ♞e7 20 ♜d4 QUESTION: Should Black exchange the dark-squared bishops? If not, what should he do? ANSWER: Although it wouldn't be immediately disastrous for Black to do this, it would allow White to push on with f6 more easily. Black should generally not allow White to get a pawn to f6 as this can become a major thorn in his side. To prevent the exchange of

bishops, Black can play 20...Nf6, which attacks e4 and retains the flexibility to play e5 at some point, or 20...Ne5, which places the knight on a secure square and also nullifies the scope of the bishop on d4.

20... ♞f6

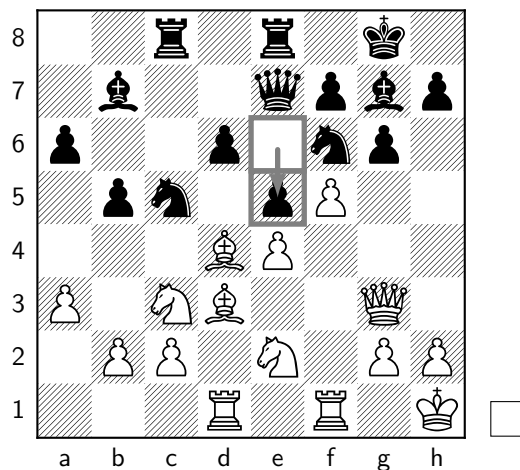


20... ♞e5 21 ♞g3 ♞cxd3 22 cxd3 ♜c6 23 ♞ge2 a5 24 ♞f4 b4 25 axb4 axb4 26 ♞ce2 exf5 27 exf5 ♞b7

20... ♜xd4 21 ♞xd4 ♞e5 22 f6 ♞f8 23 ♞f3!

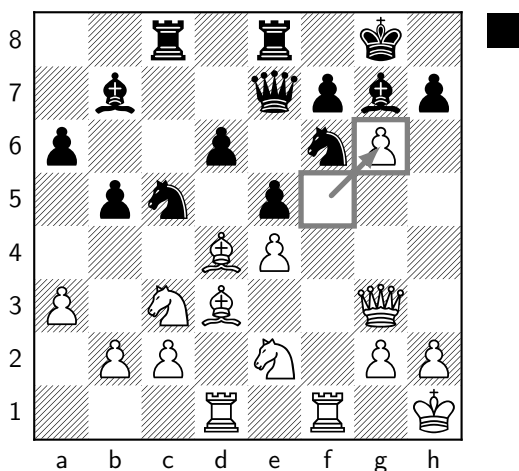
21 ♞g3 EXERCISE: Should Black capture on e4?

21...e5! Perfectly timed by Kasparov. As e4 is under threat, White must capture on c5 and accept a bad position, or sacrifice the e4-pawn and hope he obtains some compensation. Of course, against Kasparov this is hardly likely to work!



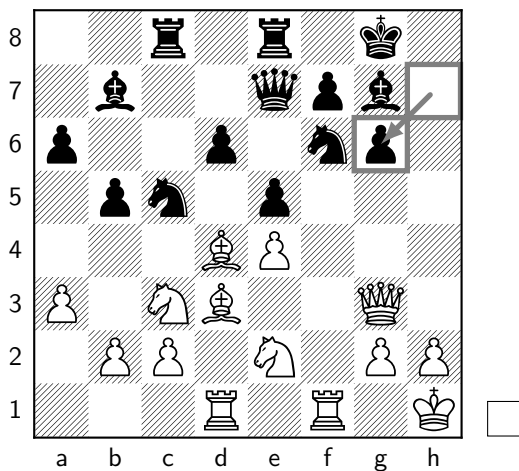
21... ♖f×e4? 22 ♙×e4 ♜×e4 23 ♜×e4 ♙×e4 24 ♙×g7 ♖×g7 25 f6+

22 f×g6



22 ♙×c5 d×c5 23 ♜g1 c4 24 ♙e2 ♜×e4 25 ♜×e4 ♙×e4

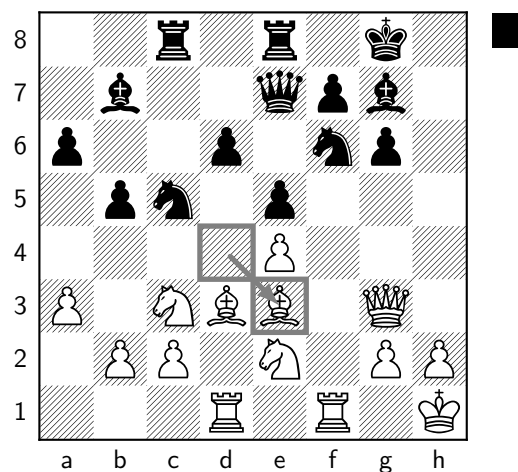
22... h×g6



22... exd4 23 g×h7+ ♖h8 24 ♜×d4 ♜f×e4 25 ♙×e4 ♜×e4 26 ♜×e4 ♖×e4

22... f×g6

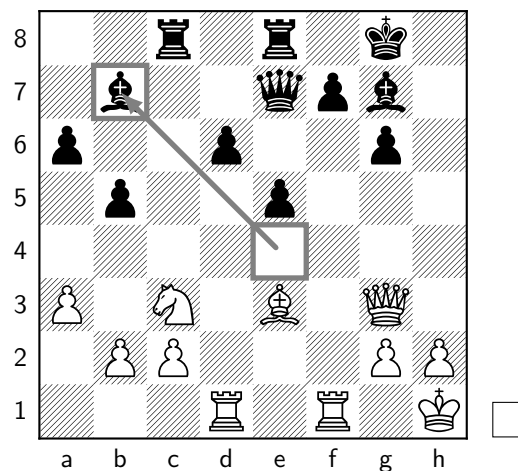
23 ♙e3



23 ♙×c5 d×c5

23... ♖f×e4 24 ♙×e4 ♜×e4 25 ♜×e4 ♙×e4 26 ♜c3 EXERCISE: Should Black capture on c2?

26... ♙b7! The safest course of action is to play the position safely. The bishop on b7 covers the d5-square and prevents the knight from jumping into this nice square.

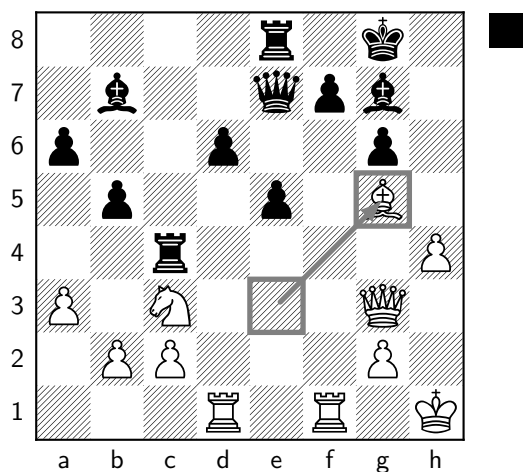


26... ♙×c2 27 ♖d2 ♙f5 28 ♜d5 ♖e6

27 h4 White wants to play h5 to try and prise open the g-file towards Black's king.

27... ♖c4! Now the counterattack comes.

28 ♙g5

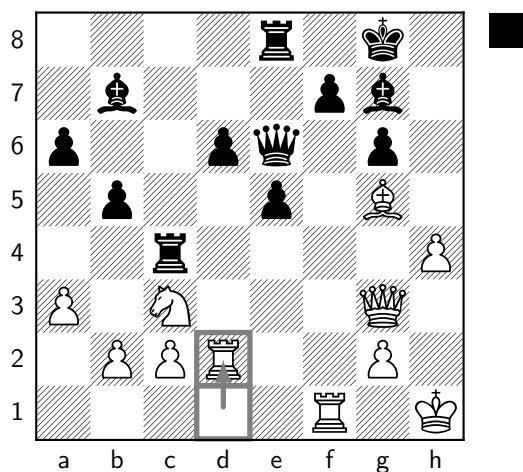


30... f6 31 ♙e3 ♜xg2! 32 ♜xg2 ♚h3+

0-1

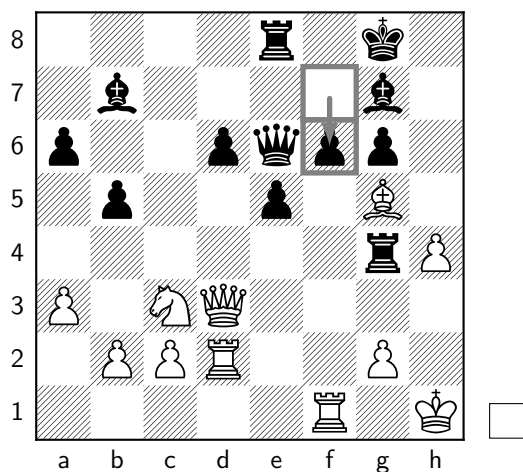
28 h5 ♜h4+ 29 ♙g1 ♜xh5

28... ♖e6 29 ♜d2



29 h5 ♜h4 30 ♚e3 ♜xg2

29... ♜g4 30 ♚d3 f6



White: Movsesian, S
Black: Kasparov, G

Sarajevo

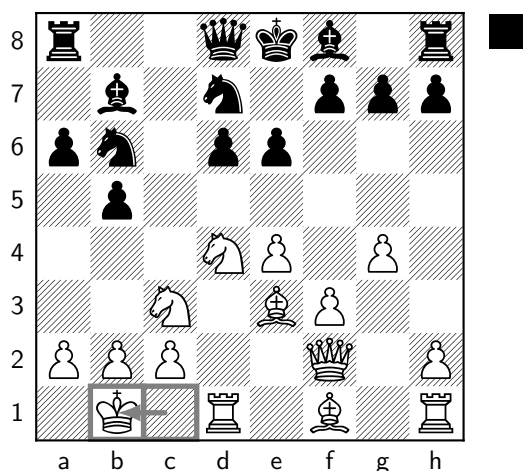
2000

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♖b3 ♕c3 a6 6 ♕e3 This is the English Attack, which will be analysed in Chapter Four.

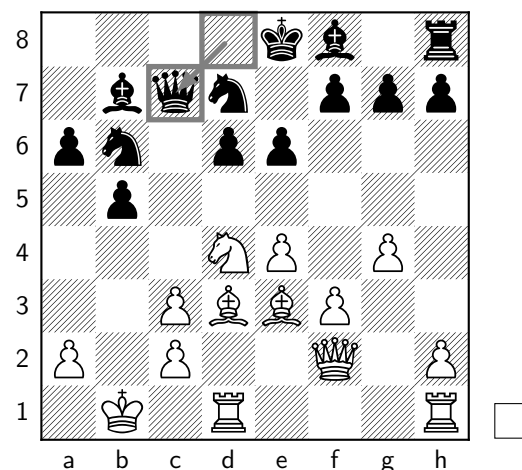
6...e6 7 f3 b5 8 ♖d2 ♗bd7 9 O-O-O ♗b7 10 g4 ♗b6 11 ♖f2 As will be discussed later in Korneev-Sasikiran, this Qf2 idea is quite popular. Hopefully Black will have had his morning cup of coffee and will realize there is a threat of Nxe6 followed by Bxb6, but in reality White's main idea is to move the queen out of the way of a ...Nc4 fork. However, as we shall see, moving the queen away from the defence of the king has its drawbacks...

11... ♗fd7 12 ♖b1?!



12 ♗d3 ♖c8 13 ♗ce2

12... ♖c8 13 ♗d3 ♖xc3! This sacrifice changes the balance of the game. QUESTION: Why can Black get away with such a move? ANSWER: Black's compensation is the fractured pawn shield in front of the white king and the fact that he can normally pick up the c3-pawn, meaning he is only one point down in the material stakes. Also, Black can attack quite fluently after the sacrifice ...Rc8 and ...Na4 are coming fast and White is forced on to the defensive. If you still need convincing, just play through this game!



14... ♗a4!? 15 ♗e2 ♕e7

14... ♕e7 15 h4 ♖c7 16 ♗e2 ♗a4 17 g5 d5 18 ♖hf1 O-O 19 ♗d4 e5 20 ♕e3 b4 21 cxb4 ♗xb4 22 exd5 ♗xd5 23 c4 ♗xc4 24 ♗xc4 ♖xc4 25 ♖xd7 ♖b5 26 ♖a1 ♗a3

15 ♗e2 White probably has to defend the c3-pawn at some point anyway.

15... ♕e7 16 g5 O-O! 17 h4 EXERCISE: What are the candidate moves for Black here? I recommend finding three possible moves before deciding which one you would go for.

17... ♗a4 ANSWER: Again we see this thematic leap. The alternatives were 17...d5 and 17...Rc8:



19...d5! 20 h2

19...d5! 20 h2

19...d5! 20 h2



20... ♖d6!

20... ♖d6!

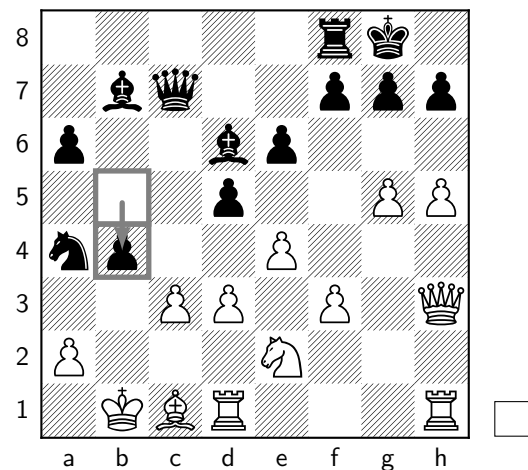
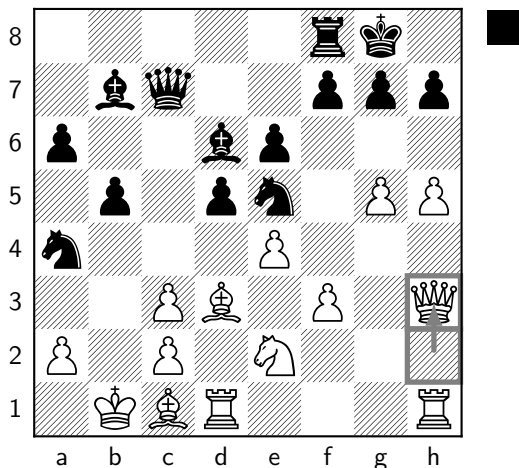
20... ♖d6!

20... ♖d6!



20...b4? 21 exd5 ♖xd5 22 ♖xh7+ ♔xh7 23 g6+ ♔g8 24 h6! ♚c4 25 ♜xd5 ♚xe2! 26 ♜xe5! ♜xc3+ 27 ♔a1 ♚xh2 28 ♜xh2 ♖d6 29 hxg7 ♔xg7 30 ♖h6+ ♔g8 31 gxh7+ ♔xh7 32 ♖xh8 ♖xe5 33 f4!

21 ♚h3?! Again this is too slow.

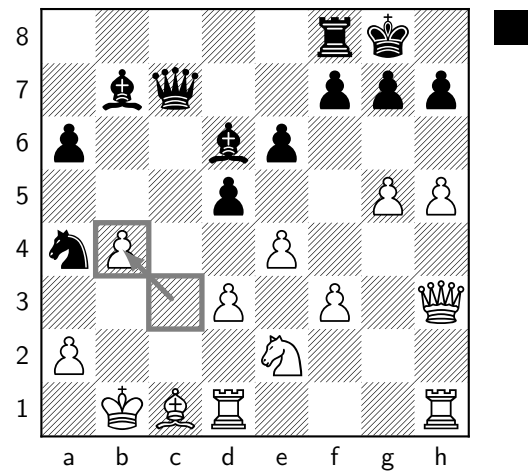
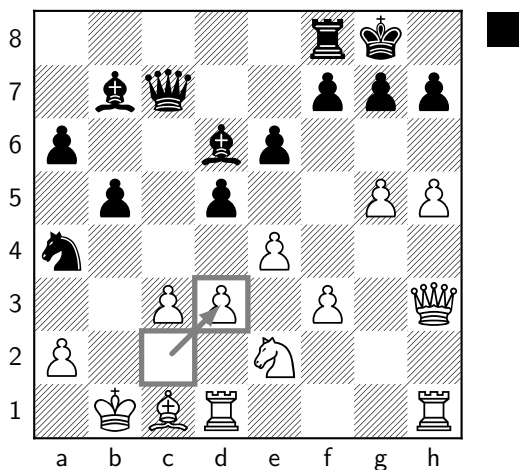


22...♜xc3+ 23 ♜xc3 ♚xc3 24 ♖b2 ♚b4 25 g6 ♖e5 26 d4 ♖f4 27 gxh7+ ♔xh7 28 ♚g4 ♖h6

23 cxb4? White cracks under the pressure. It's not surprising, though, as his king's pawn cover is being stripped and to make things worse, Garry Kasparov is sitting on the other side of the board!

21 ♖f4! b4! 22 cxb4 ♜c8 23 ♜c1 d4! 24 g6

21...♜xd3! 22 cxd3 EXERCISE: How should Black proceed? White is angling to play g6 and he is an exchange up after all. Black must certainly act quickly here.



22 ♜xd3? dxe4 23 ♜xd6 ♚xd6 24 h6 g6

22...b4! ANSWER: Do as Garry does!

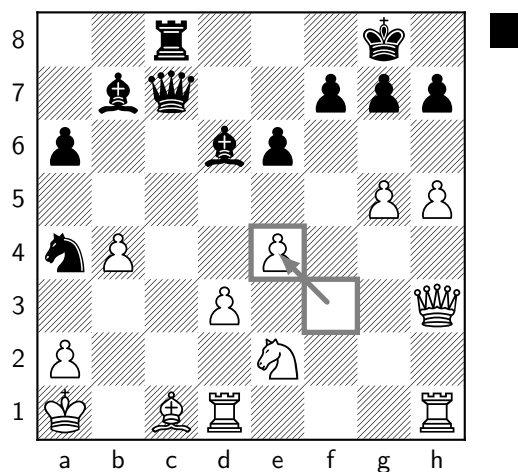
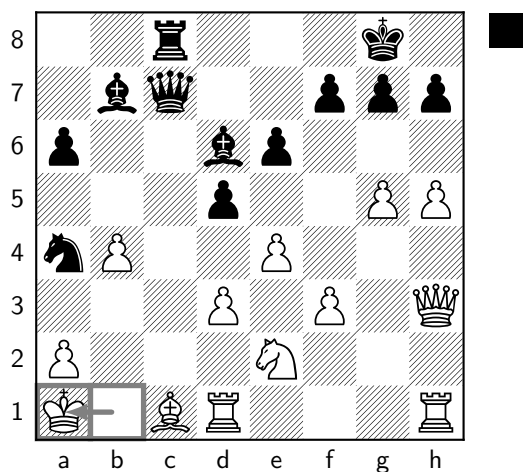
23 h6 g6

23 c4! dxc4 24 g6 cxd3 25 ♜xd3 ♜c8 26 ♜d2 ♖e5 27 ♜hd1 ♖c6!

23 cxb4? ♖xb4

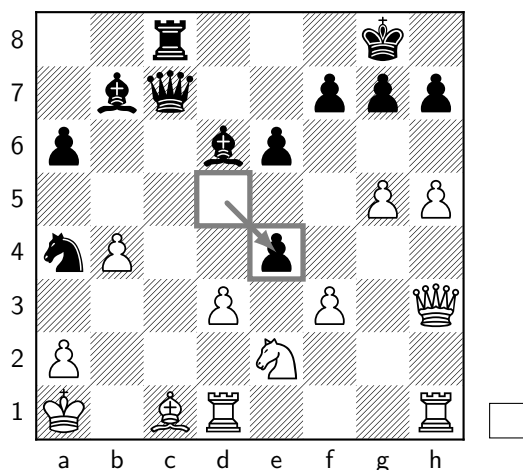
23...♜c8 ANSWER: Quick development is key! Taking on b4 would be a little bit slow in this position, whereas the text threatens ...Qc2+.

24 ♔a1 White tries desperately to hold the fort.



24 ♔f1 dxe4 25 fxe4 ♔c2+ 26 ♖a1 ♕e5+ 27 ♘d4 ♕xd4+ 28 ♗xd4 ♔xc1+!
d4 ♕xe4 28 ♕a3 ♕d5

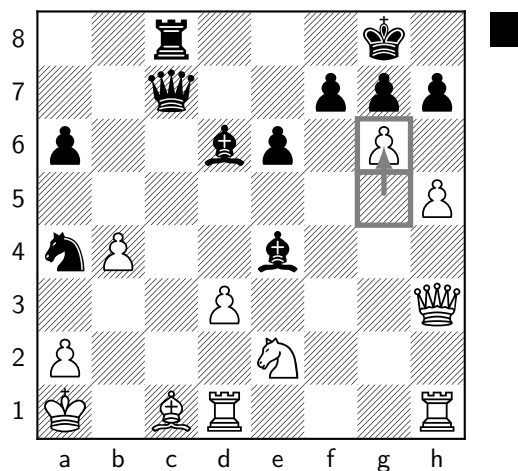
24...dxe4?!



24... ♔c2 25 ♖d2 ♕e5+ 26 d4 ♕xd4+ 27 ♗xd4
♔xe2 28 ♕d2

24... ♕xb4! 25 ♔h2 ♔c2

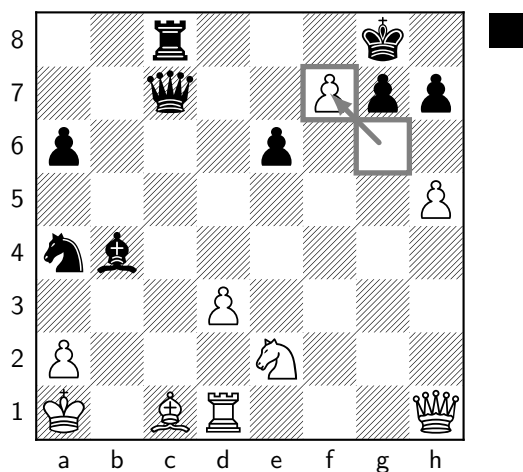
25 fxe4 QUESTION: Does Black have a killer
blow here?



26 dxe4 ♕e5+ 27 ♘d4 ♕xd4+ 28 ♗xd4 ♔xc1+!

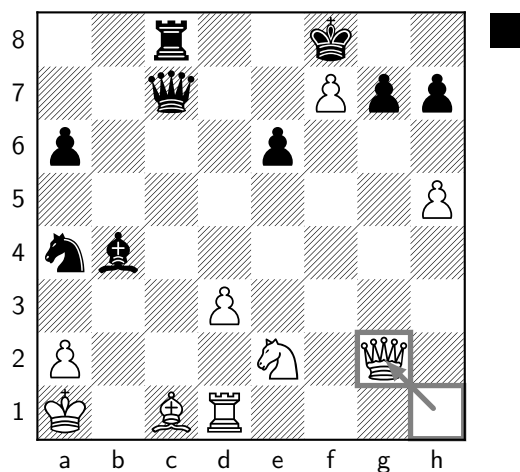
26 ♖hg1 ♔c2 27 ♘d4 ♕e5 28 ♔e3 ♕d5

26... ♕xh1 27 ♔xh1 ♕xb4 28 gxf7+ ANSWER:



28 g×h7+ ♔h8!

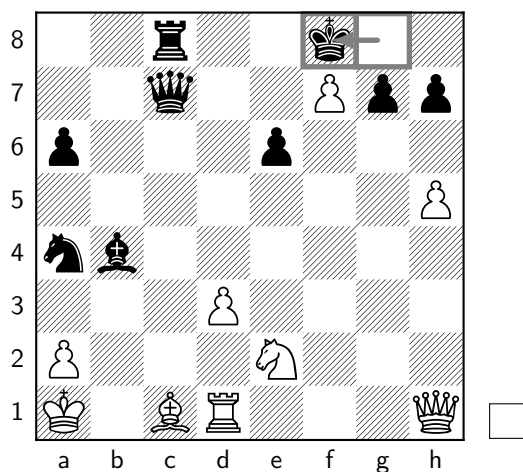
28... ♔f8! The position is complicated so we should be worrying about what tactical possibilities lie in it. Using the opponent's pawn as a shield is a good start. This is another typical way to block the opponent's attack which is worth banking in the defensive memory bank.



29 ♙b2 ♖c2 30 ♜b1 ♗xe2 31 h6! ♙c3! 32 h×g7+ ♔xf7! 33 ♗b7+ ♔f6 34 ♙xc3+ ♜xc3

29... ♜b8! Now it's the b-file Black is interested in.

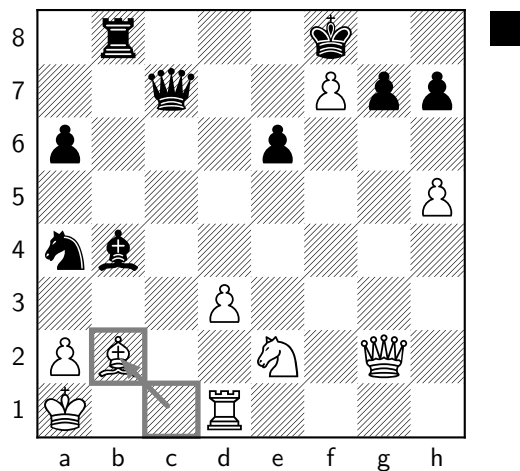
30 ♙b2



28... ♔xf7 29 ♙b2! ♜xb2 30 ♜c1 ♗e5? 31 ♗b7+ ♔f6 32 ♜f1+ ♔g5 33 d4

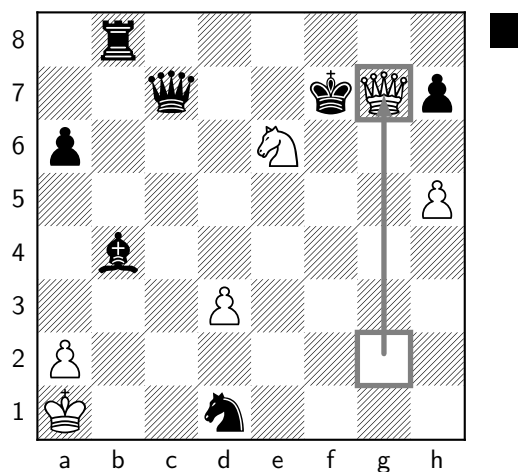
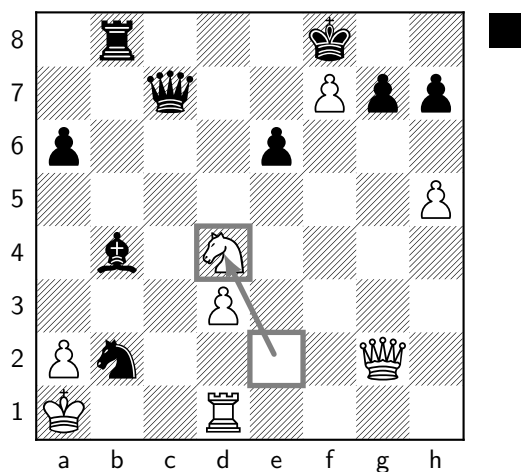
28... ♗xf7

29 ♗g2



30 ♙d2 ♙a3 31 ♙c1 ♙xc1 32 ♜xc1 ♗b6 33 ♜c3 ♜xc3

30... ♜xb2 31 ♜d4 ANSWER: Yes!



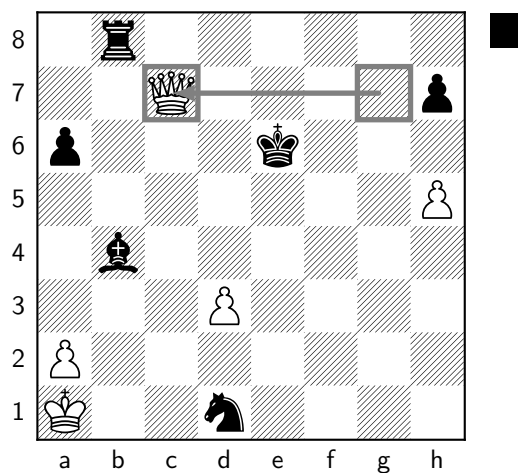
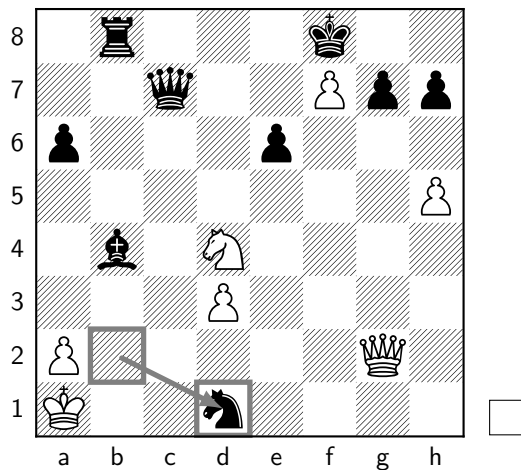
31 ♖c1 ♜e5 32 d4 ♜d5 33 ♜xd5 exd5 34 ♙xb2 ♙xc7 ♙d2+

33... ♙xc7 ♙c3+

31 ♙xb2 ♙d2+ 32 ♙a1 ♙c3+

31 ♙d4

31... ♙xd1! Cool as you like! Not only does this win a rook, but White cannot now win the queen with his intended trick (can you see why?).



34 ♜h6+ ♙f5

34... ♙c3+ Notice how calm Kasparov was when being counterattacked. A level head gets one far in any Sicilian variation and the Scheveningen is no exception.

31... ♙c3! 32 ♙xe6+ ♙xf7 33 ♜xg7+ ♙xe6 34 ♜xc7 ♙c4#

0-1

32 ♙xe6+ It looks like Black is in trouble, but Kasparov has everything worked out.

32... ♙xf7 33 ♜xg7+

White: Karpov, A
Black: Kasparov, G

World Championship (Game 24), Moscow

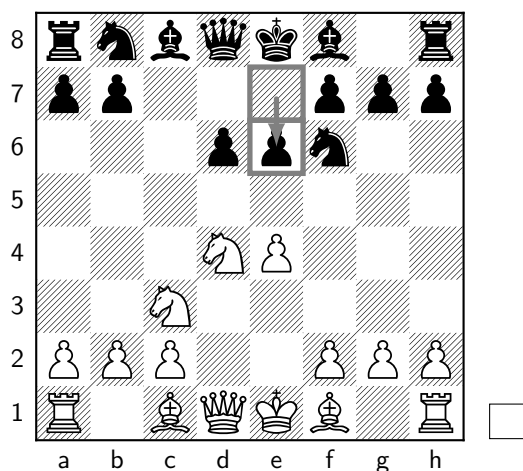
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Result: 0-1

1 e4 Here Kasparov writes: 'When with exaggerated confidence he advanced his king's pawn, I felt glad: now the battle would take place on my territory my opponent was aiming not for protracted manoeuvring, but for a hand-to-hand fight.' With this Kasparov perfectly describes the type of position that commonly arises from the Scheveningen and in which you must be ready to fight!

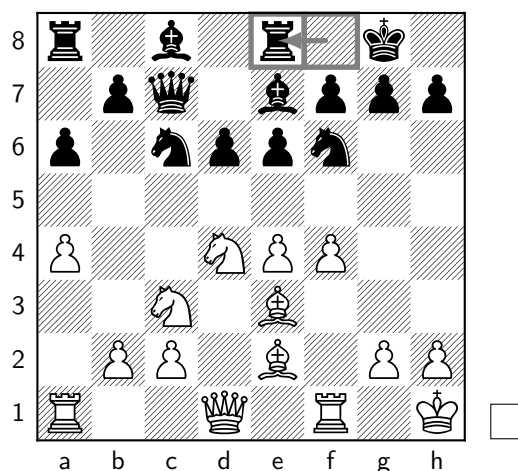
1...c5 And here Kasparov comments: 'Black also sticks to his principles: he does not avoid the Sicilian Defence, which nearly always leads to complicated, double-edged play.' Again, I have to agree with his sentiments of this opening!

2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♙f6 5 ♘c3 e6



5...a6 6 ♙e2 e6

6 ♙e2 a6 7 O-O ♙e7 8 f4 O-O 9 ♖h1 ♗c7 10 a4 ♘c6 11 ♙e3 ♖e8



11...♙d7

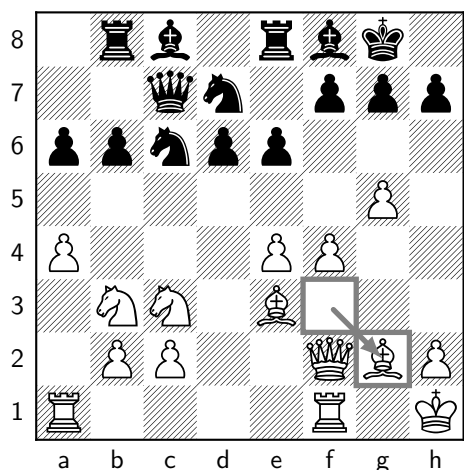
12 ♙f3 ♖b8 13 ♗d2 ♙d7 14 ♘b3 b6 15 g4 The typical way to try and push Black off the board. White decides he will have more play on the king-side than on the queenside.

15...♙c8 QUESTION: Why retreat like this? The bishop only went to d7 a few moves ago. ANSWER: The idea is to allow the f6-knight to come to d7 as White is threatening g5 to trap it. As we will see further in Aagaard-Gordon in Chapter Two, d7 is the best square for the knight as it can re-emerge on c5 or e5 as the game develops.

16 g5 ♘d7 17 ♗f2!? ANSWER:

17...♙f8! An excellent move and one that the Scheveningen player needs to be aware of. This move defends the king and helps to open the e-file for the rook on e8 (should White ever go f5, Black can consider capturing with ...exf5 to clear the file for the rook to exert influence in the centre). Black will now play ...Bb7 and ...Nb4 to control d5, a square the white knight on c3 is eyeing up. With these moves Black simply completes his development, relying on the flexibility and solidity of his position.

18 ♙g2

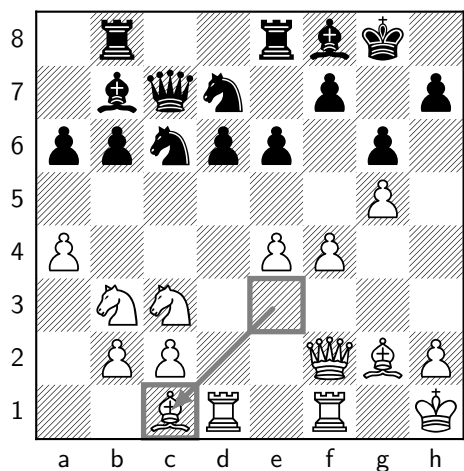


18 h4 ♖b7 19 h5

18... ♖b7 19 ♖ad1 A sensible move. White completes his development and takes aim at the d6-pawn.

19... g6 QUESTION: Why would Black want to apparently weaken his king position like this? ANSWER: The bishop on f8 can now fianchetto by coming to g7, where it will be on an active square. By analysing this game (and other games in this book), you will realize that such a move isn't in fact all that weakening for Black.

20 ♖c1!? EXERCISE: What other moves could White have played here? ANSWER: All of 20 f5, 20 Qh4 and 20 h4 came into consideration. Let's take a look:

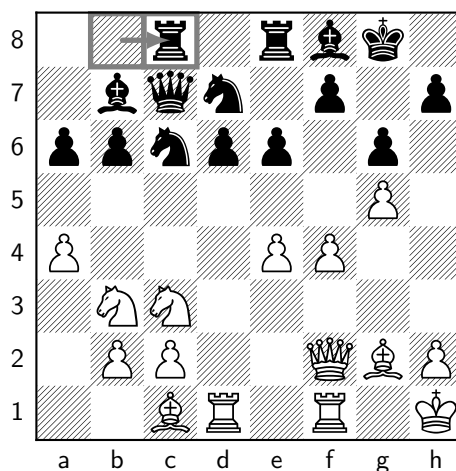


20 f5?! ♖ce5! 21 fxe6 fxe6

20 ♖h4 ♖g7 21 ♖f3 ♖b4 22 ♖h3 ♖f8

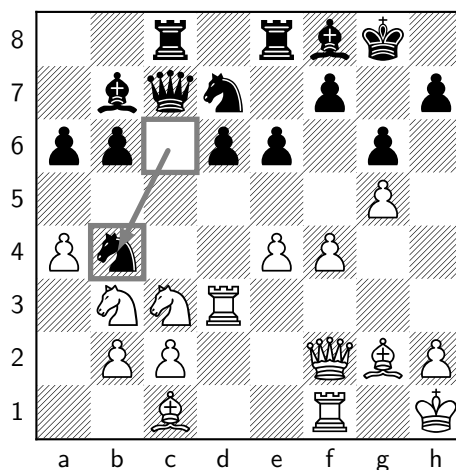
20 h4!? ♖c5 21 h5 ♖a8 22 f5 ♖e5 23 ♖d4 ♖cd7 24 hxg6 fxg6 25 fxe6 ♖xe6 26 ♖d5 ♖xd5 27 exd5 ♖e7 28 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 29 ♖d4

20... ♖bc8?!



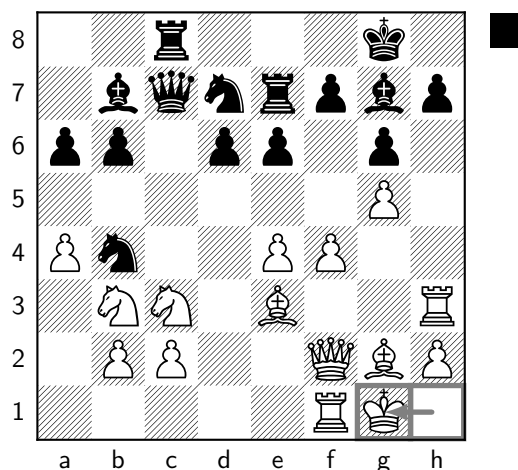
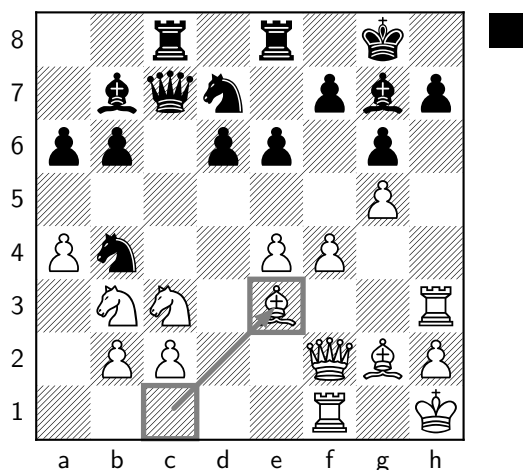
20... ♖c5! 21 ♖xc5 bxc5! 22 ♖d3 ♖d4 23 ♖h3 ♖e7!? 24 ♖h4 h5! 25 gxh6 ♖xh4 26 ♖xh4 ♖h7!

21 ♖d3 ♖b4



21... ♖g7!? 22 ♖fd1 d5!? 23 exd5 ♖b4! 24 ♖e3 ♖xd5 25 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 26 ♖xd5 exd5 27 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 28 ♖xd5 ♖c6

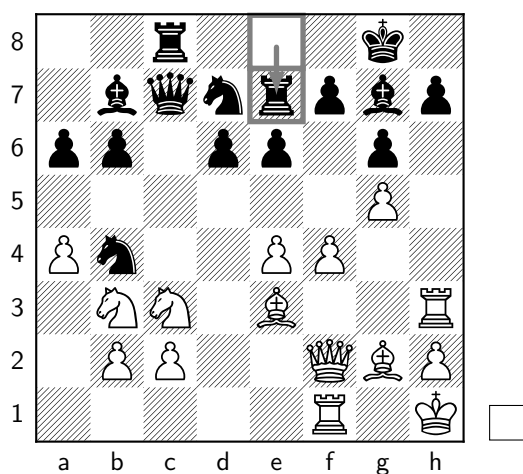
22 ♖h3 ♖g7 23 ♖e3?! ANSWER:



23 f5! exf5 24 exf5 ♖xg2+ 25 ♔xg2 ♜b7+ 26 ♔g1

23 ♖e3

23... ♜e7! Congratulations if you chose this strange looking move!



23... ♖xg2 24 bxc3 ♜xc3 25 ♖d4 ♜xc2 26 ♜xh7!! ♔xh7 27 ♜h4+ ♔g8 28 ♜h8#

23... d5!? 24 f5! exf5 25 exf5 ♜d6 26 ♖d4

23... f5 24 gxf6 ♖xf6 25 f5 exf5 26 exf5 ♜f8

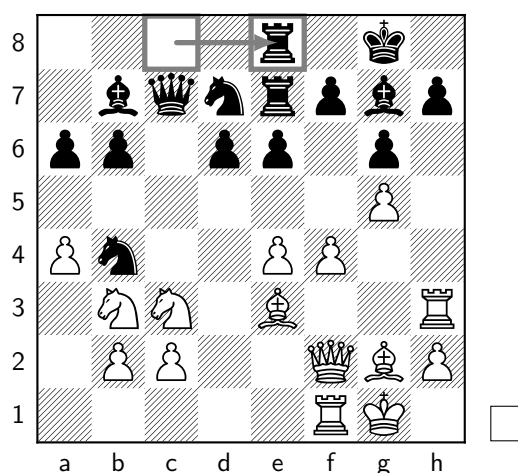
24 ♔g1

24 ♖d4 e5 25 fxe5 ♖xe5 26 ♖xe5 dxe5

24 f5 exf5 25 exf5 ♖xg2+ 26 ♜xg2 ♜ce8 27 ♖g1 ♖e5 28 f6 ♜e6

24 ♖d4 e5 25 ♖de2 exf4 26 ♖xf4 ♜ce8! 27 ♜h4 ♖f8

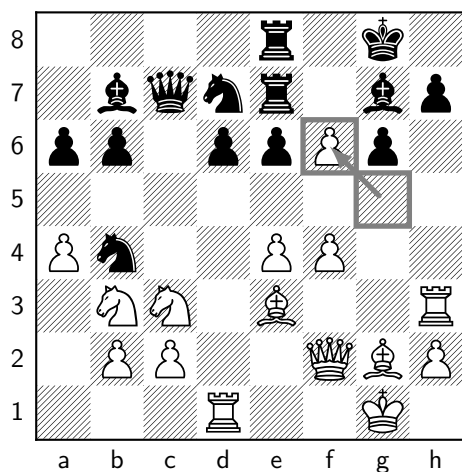
24... ♜ce8?! So this was the idea! To double rooks on the e-file. This is a prophylactic idea to try and put the brakes on the f5 advance (it would be met with ...exf5 when the e-file is open for the rooks), but if White doesn't play f5, how else is he going to attack?



24... f5! 25 gxf6 ♖xf6

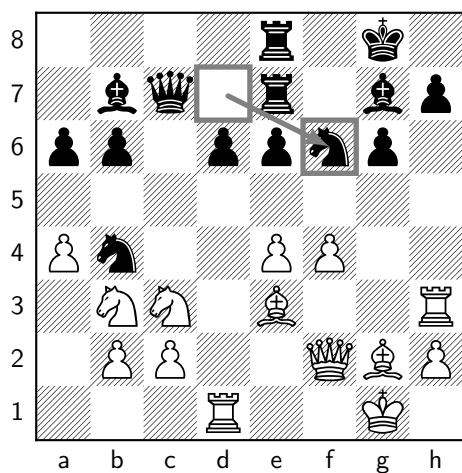
25 ♜d1! Looking at that d6-pawn again.

25... f5 26 gxf6! EXERCISE: Which way should Black now recapture on f6?



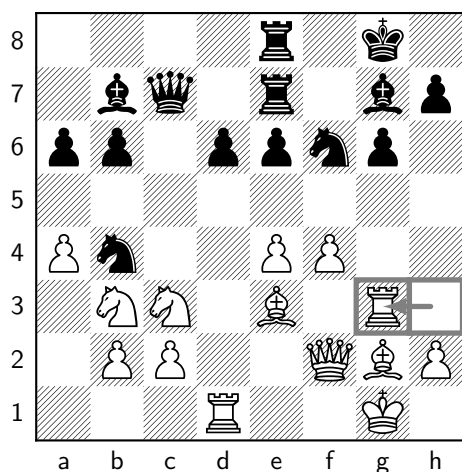
26 exf5?! exf5!

26... ♖xf6!?



26... ♖xf6 27 ♔d2 d5 28 e5 ♖g7 29 ♖d4 ♖c6
30 ♖ce2

27 ♖g3?!

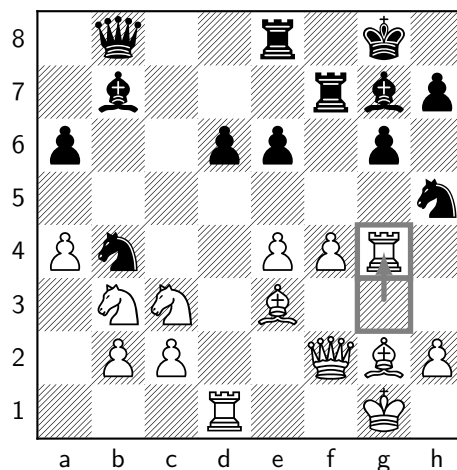


27 ♖xb6! ♖g4! 28 ♖xc7 ♖xf2 29 ♖xd6! ♖xd1
30 ♖xe7 ♖xc3! 31 bxc3 ♖xc2

27... ♖f7! Black succeeds in successfully regrouping his rooks and now takes over the initiative.

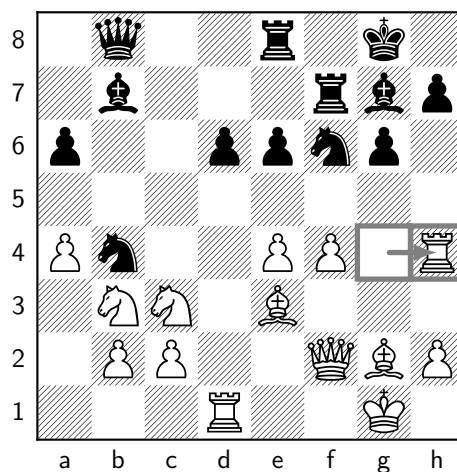
28 ♖xb6 ♖b8 So White has won a pawn, but Black has some handy compensation in the form of a newly opened b-file and pressure against f4.

29 ♖e3 ♖h5 30 ♖g4



30 ♖f3 ♖f6

30... ♖f6 31 ♖h4!? ANSWER: Surprise White!



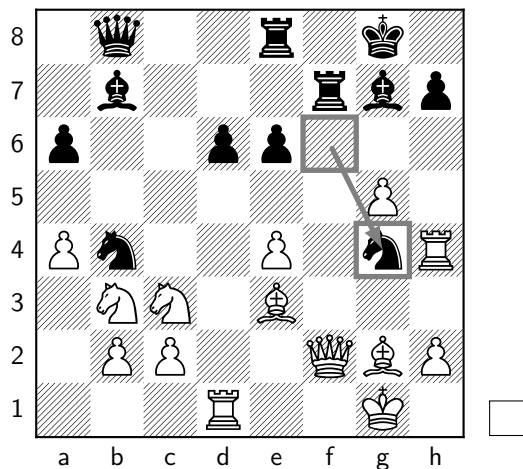
31 ♖g3 ♖h5

31 ♖h4

31...g5! Risky stuff, but White had it in his mind to be the one attacking and suddenly the tables are turned something which it is often

hard for a chess player to adapt to.

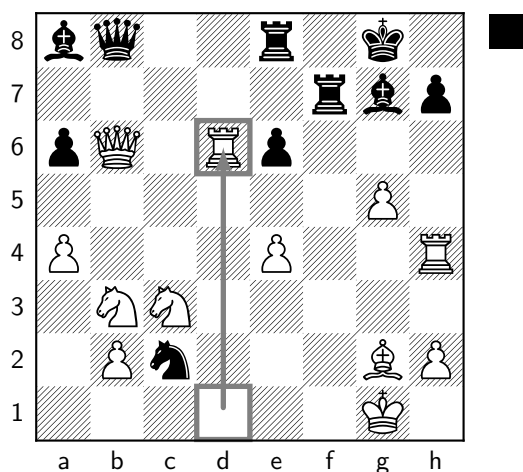
32 f×g5 ♖g4!



32... ♖×e4 33 ♖e2! ♖×c3 34 b×c3 ♖d5 35 ♖×d5 ♖×d5 36 ♖×a6 ♖×c3 37 ♖d3

33 ♖d2 ♖×e3 34 ♖×e3 ♖×c2 35 ♖b6! ♖a8
Exchanging queens would suit Black, as he has play on the queenside.

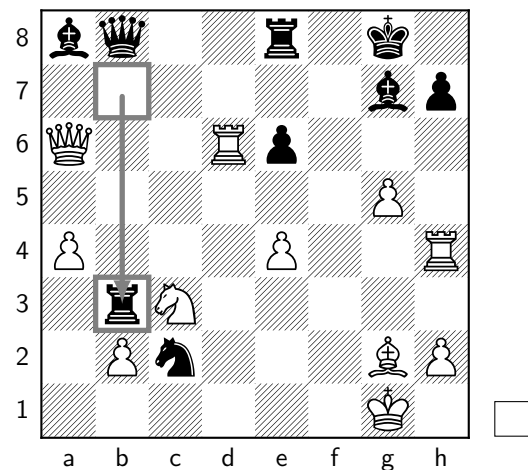
36 ♖×d6? In time trouble White blunders, which is hardly unexpected in such a complicated position.



36 ♖×b8 ♖×b8 37 ♖h3!

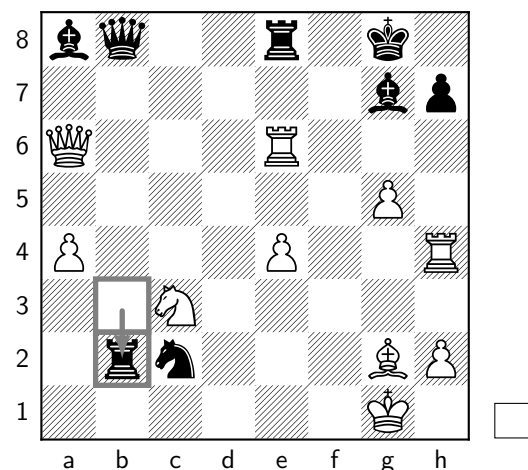
36... ♖b7! Skewering the queen against the knight on b3.

37 ♖×a6 ♖×b3?!



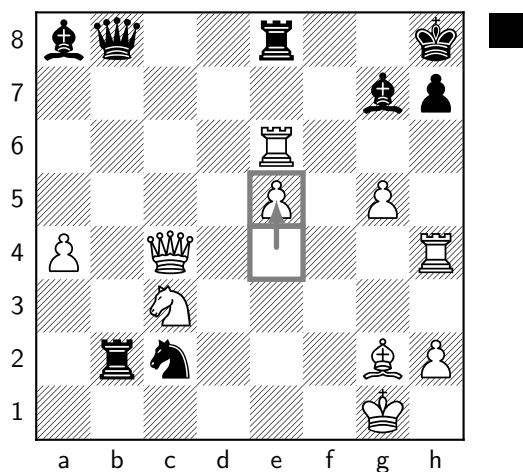
37... ♖b4! 38 ♖a5 ♖×d6 39 e5 ♖d3 40 ♖×b7 ♖e3+

38 ♖×e6 ♖×b2



38... ♖e3! 39 ♖×e8+ ♖×e8 40 ♖h3 ♖×b2 41 ♖e6+ ♖×e6 42 ♖×e6+ ♖f8

39 ♖c4 ♖h8 40 e5? With the last move of the time control, White understandably blunders for the second time.



40 ♖xe8+ ♔xe8 41 ♘d1 ♘a3 42 ♔d3 ♖a2

40... ♔a7+ 41 ♙h1 ♘xg2+ 42 ♙xg2 ♘d4+ With this game Kasparov became World Champion! A complicated fight it's safe to say, but one in which Black always had his chances.

0-1

White: Tseshkovsky, V
 Black: Kasparov, G

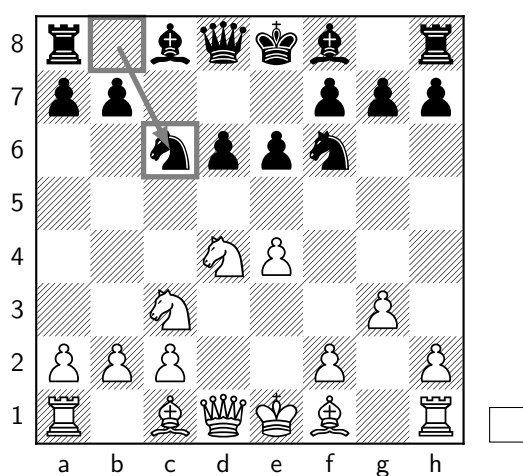
USSR Championship, Moscow

1981

Result: 0-1

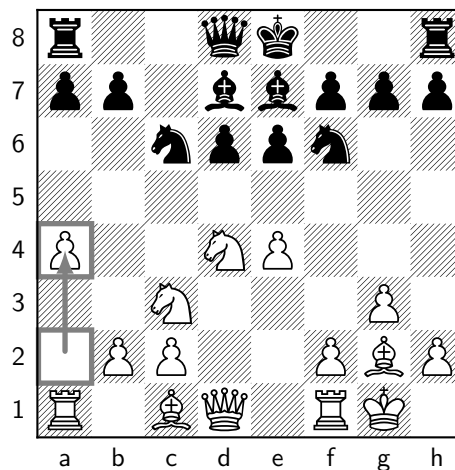
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 g3 The Fianchetto Variation will be examined more closely in Chapter Six. This system can be played against almost all the Sicilian variations and the Scheveningen is no exception.

6... ♘c6



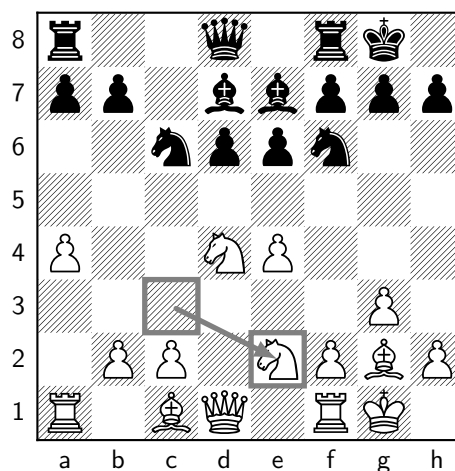
6... ♗e7 7 ♗g2 O-O 8 O-O ♘c6

7 ♗g2 ♗d7 8 O-O ♗e7 9 a4 QUESTION: Why would White be playing moves like this so early? ANSWER: White is concerned about a future ...b7-b5 break, which is one of Black's main pawn break ideas in the Scheveningen (and the Sicilian in general).



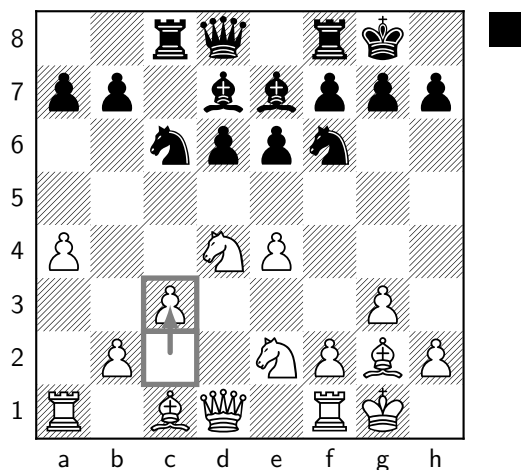
9 ♘db5 ♖b8 10 ♗g5 a6 11 ♗xf6 gxf6 12 ♘d4 ♖a7!

9... O-O 10 ♘ce2?! QUESTION: Why did White play this seemingly strange-looking move? ANSWER: White would like to play for a Maroczy Bind position with c4. The pawns on e4 and c4 would hinder Black's freeing ...d5 and ...b5 pawn breaks.



10 ♘db5 ♖b8 11 ♗e3 a6 12 ♘d4

10... ♗c8! 11 c3?! Alternatives:



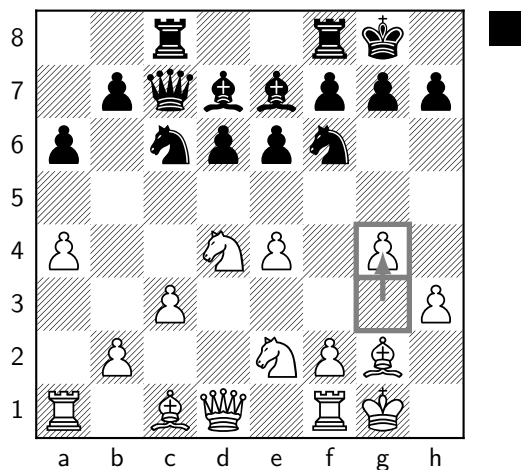
11 ♖b5 d5! 12 exd5 ♖xd5

11 b3 d5! 12 exd5 exd5

11 c4 a6 12 b3 ♔a5

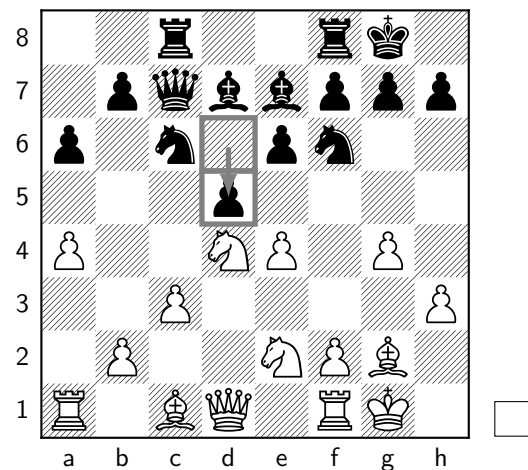
11...a6! Preventing Nb5 which would attack the d6-pawn. A typical Sicilian move, the text also gives Black ideas of ...b5 at some point.

12 h3 ♔c7 13 g4 ANSWER:



13 ♕e3 ♖a5! 14 b3 b5!

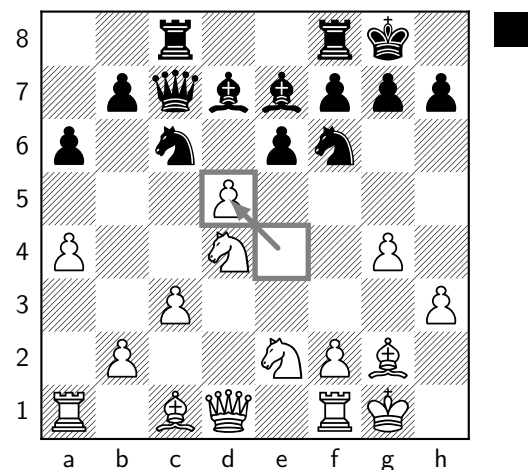
13...d5! Kasparov demonstrates his knowledge of the principles. As usual, a counter on the wing is best met by a counter in the centre!



13...♕e8 14 g5 ♖d7

13...h6

14 exd5



14 ♖xc6 ♕xc6 15 e5! ♖e4 16 f3 ♖c5 17 f4 f6

14...♖xd5 Black has a fine position. White's g4 move has only served to create weaknesses around his own king, and Black is ready to put his rooks in the centre to attack down the open files.

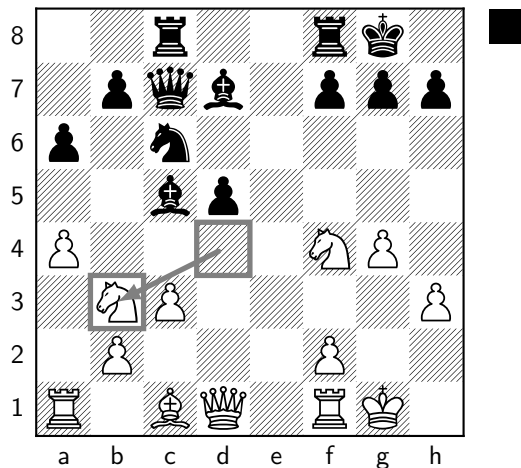
15 ♕xd5?! A risky decision. Though the d5-pawn is now ripe for the taking, White will sorely miss the bishop in the defence. That said, it's clear from such a decision that White was already unhappy with his position and thus tried to shake things up.

15...exd5 16 ♖f4 QUESTION: What to do about the pawn on d5? ANSWER: Play actively and sacrifice it! Without the bishop on g2 White's

king is even more exposed, but how to get at it?

16... ♖c5! Now this bishop comes into the game with great effect. The potential power of the Scheveningen is about to be witnessed.

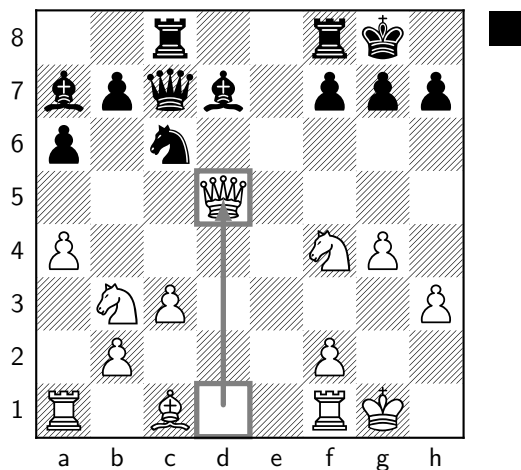
17 ♖b3? Not great, but White had already gone wrong:



17 ♖e3 ♖xd4 18 cxd4 ♖d6 19 ♖xd5 ♖h2+ 20 ♖g2 ♖c6

17 ♖xd5 ♖d6 18 ♖e2 ♖fd8 19 ♖g5 f6 20 ♖e3 ♖e5

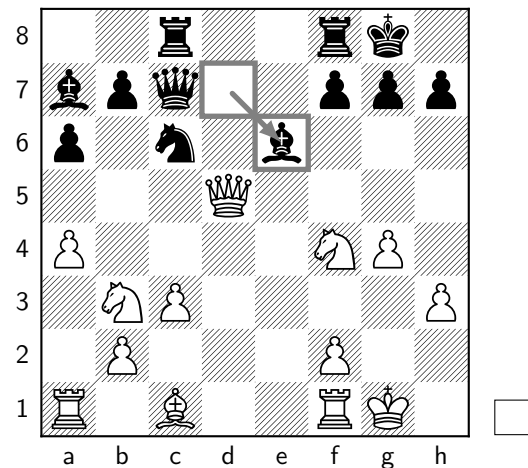
17... ♖a7! 18 ♖xd5 QUESTION: Is White just a pawn ahead for nothing? What can we do here as Black? **ANSWER:** No! White is badly coordinated, but Black does need to attack quickly before White can regroup.



18 ♖e3 ♖b8!

18 ♖xd5 ♖g3+!

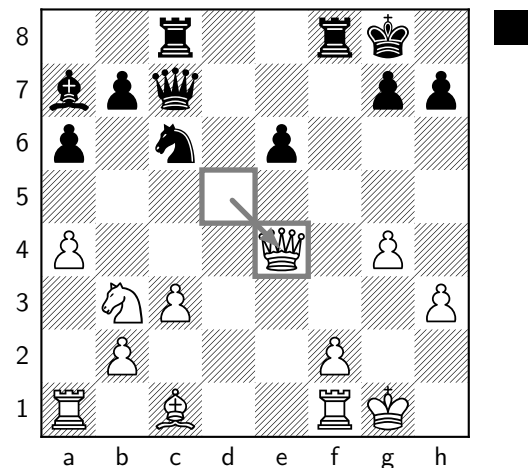
18... ♖e6!



18... ♖fe8

18... ♖cd8

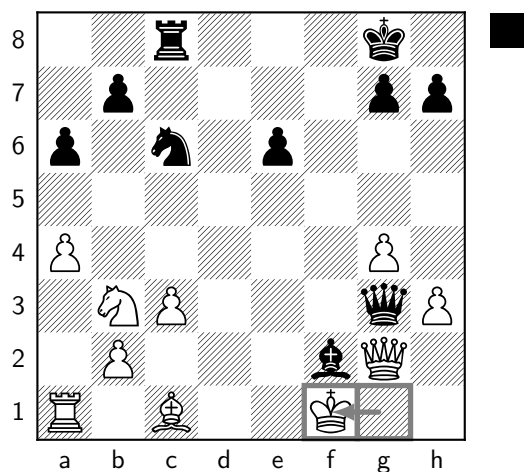
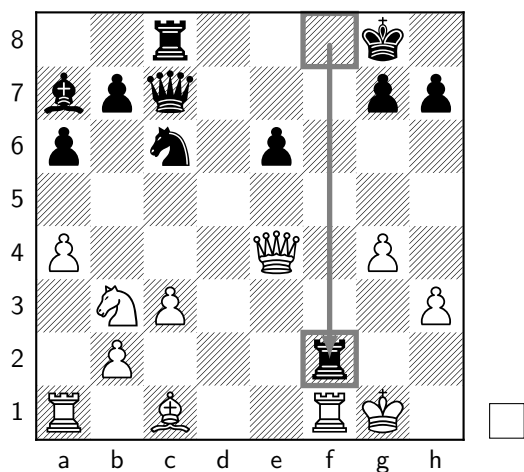
19 ♖xe6 fxe6 20 ♖e4 ANSWER:



20 ♖xe6+ ♖h8 21 ♖e3 ♖b8! 22 f4 ♖ce8

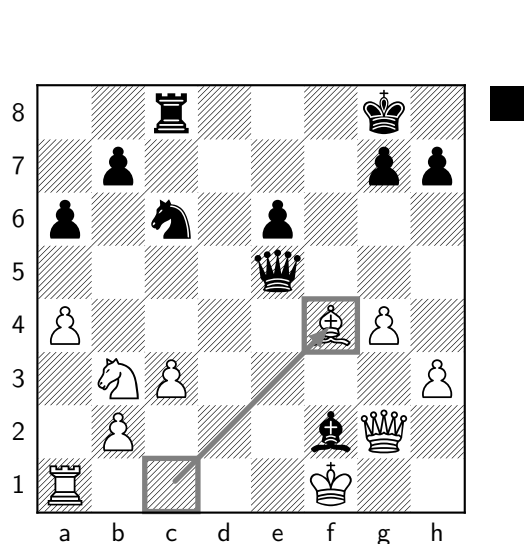
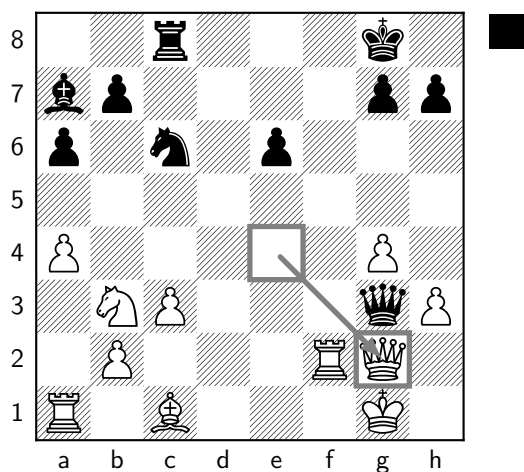
20 ♖g2 ♖e5 21 ♖e3 ♖f3+ 22 ♖h1 ♖h4! 23 ♖e4 ♖f3!

20... ♖xf2! The correct choice.



20... ♖e5 21 ♙f4! ♜f3+ 22 ♙xf3 ♜xf4 23 ♙e2 23 ♙h1 ♙d3! 24 ♙xf2 ♜f8! 25 ♙e3 ♙f1+ 26 ♙h2 ♜f2+ 27 ♙g3 ♜g2+ 28 ♙h4 ♙f6+ 29 g5 ♜e7!! 30 ♜d4 ♙xd4+!

23... ♙e5! 24 ♙f4



22 ♙h1? ♙xh3+ 23 ♙g1 ♙xf2+ 24 ♙xf2 ♜f8+ 25 ♙e2 ♙f1+ 26 ♙e3 ♙e1+ 27 ♙d3 ♜d8+ 28 ♜d4 ♜e5+!

22... ♙xf2+ 23 ♙f1?

24 ♙xf2 ♜f8+ 25 ♙g1 ♙e1+ 26 ♙h2 ♜f2

24... ♙xf4 25 ♙xf2 ANSWER:

25... ♙c4+ If only we could always play such nice games as Black against 1 e4! The key theme from this game was Black's perfectly timed ...d5 break in the centre. This gave Kasparov a good position and he went on to score a crushing victory from there.

0-1

White: Anisimov, P
Black: Belov, V

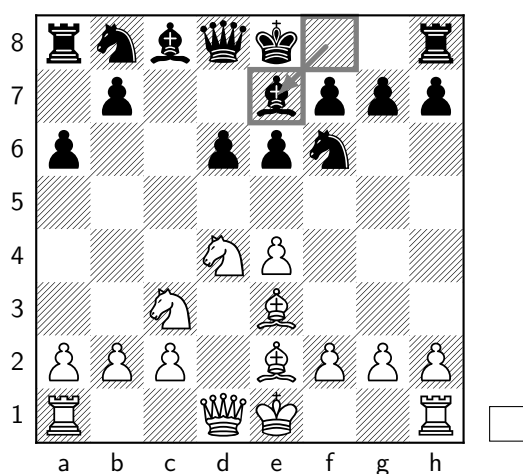
Krasnoyarsk

2007

Result: 0-1

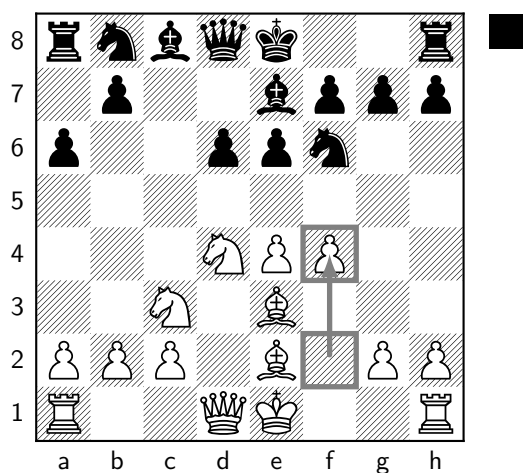
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 ♙e2 a6 My recommendation, playing the position in Najdorf/Scheveningen style. The text gives rise to a potential ...b5 push which will harass the knight on c3.

7 ♙e3 ♙e7



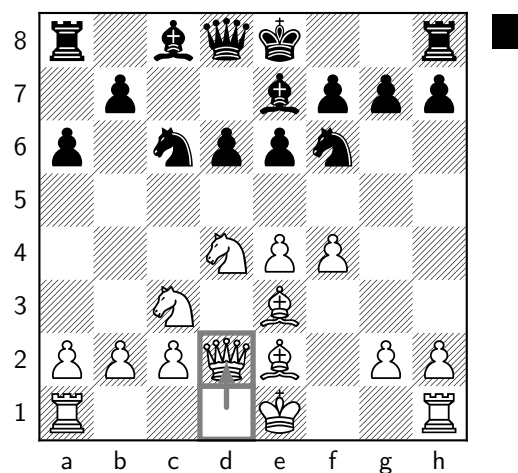
7... ♙c7

8 f4



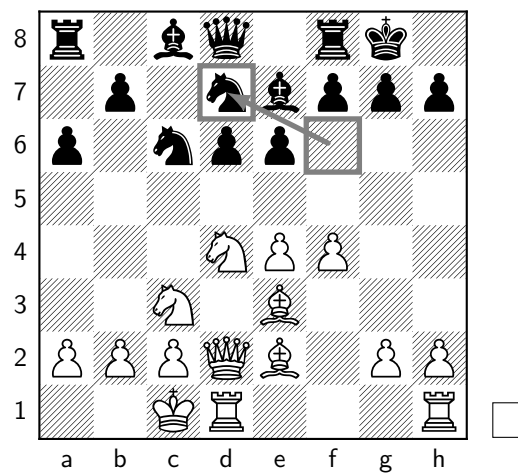
8 ♙d2 O-O 9 O-O-O ♘c6 10 f4

8... ♘c6 9 ♙d2



9 O-O O-O

9... O-O 10 O-O-O ♘d7 QUESTION: Why has Black retreated like this? What other sensible moves could he have played? ANSWER: Black pre-empts White's g4-g5 push to kick the knight away and the knight is happy to search for pastures new, mainly on the queenside. We saw this idea in Kasparov's games in the previous chapter.



10... ♘xd4 11 ♙xd4 b5 12 e5!?

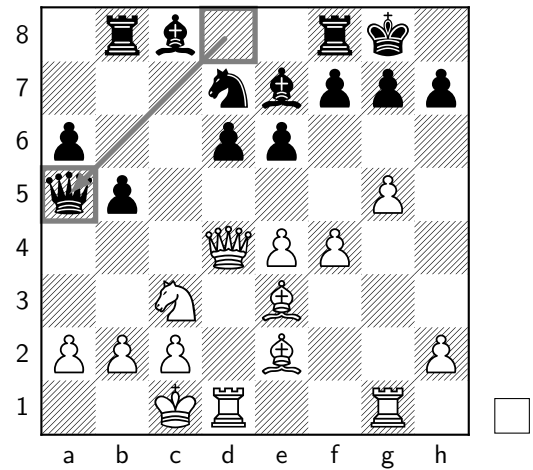
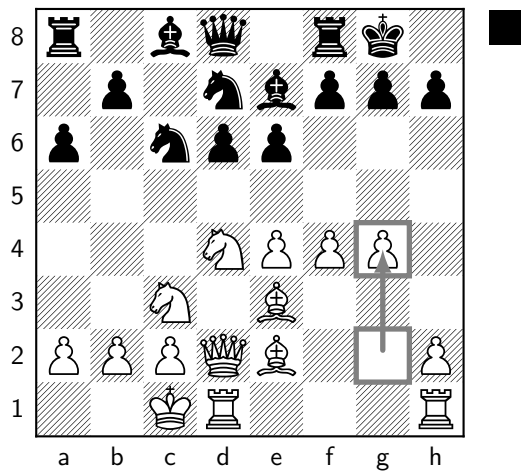
11 g4 ANSWER: Think of the typical moves we

have seen so far. Black wants to play ...b5, but cannot yet due to the knight on c6 being en prise, so first he plays...

13... ♖b7 14 h4 ♜e8 15 h5 e5

14 ♜hg1 ANSWER:

14... ♜a5! Best.



11 ♖f3 ♘b6 12 ♜e2 ♙d7 13 ♙b1 ♘a5 14 b3 ♜c7 15 ♜d3 ♘c6 16 a3 ♘xd4 17 ♙xd4 ♙c6

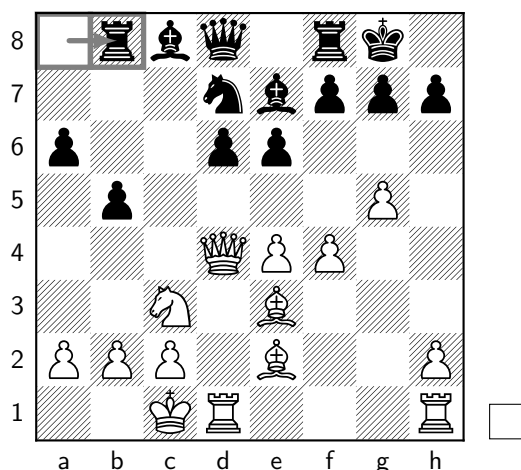
11 ♙b1 ♘xd4 12 ♜xd4 b5 13 g4 ♜a5 14 a3 ♙b7 15 g5 ♜fc8 16 h4 ♜ab8 17 h5 ♙a8 18 h6 ♙f8 19 ♙d2 b4 20 ♘a2 ♜c7 21 ♙d3 bxa3 22 b3 ♘c5 23 ♙c3 e5 24 fxe5 dxe5 25 ♜xe5 ♘xd3 26 ♜xc7 ♜xc7 27 hxcg7 ♙xcg7 28 ♙xcg7 ♙xe4 29 ♙d4 ♜xb3+! 30 cxb3 ♘c1+!

11 g4

11... ♘xd4 12 ♜xd4 ...and only then:

12... b5 Black's counterattack has been launched!

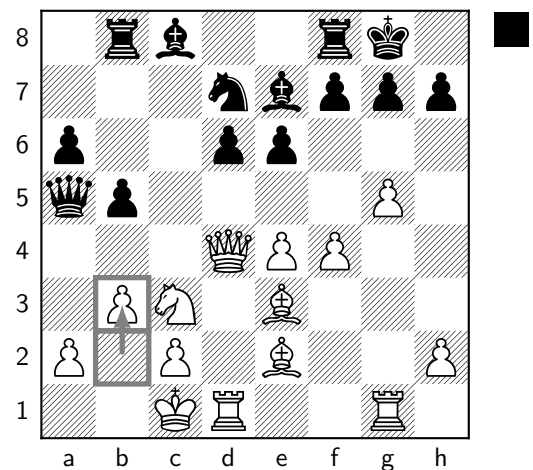
13 g5 ♜b8 QUESTION: Why did Black play this, rather than develop with ...Bb7?



14... b4 15 ♘a4 ♜a5 16 b3 ♘c5 17 ♘xc5 dxc5 18 ♜b2

14... ♜c7 15 f5 ♘e5 16 f6

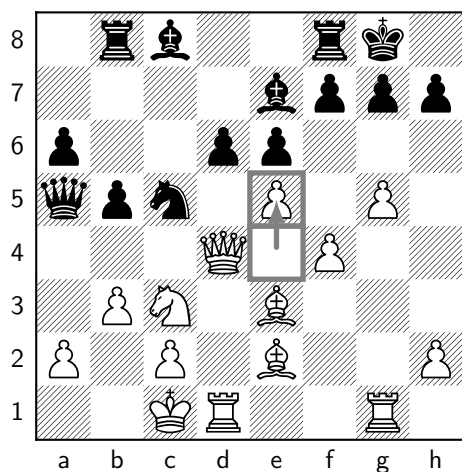
15 b3!/? White can't decide whether to play an aggressive or defensive move. Welcome to the Sicilian labyrinth... EXERCISE: Did White have a better option than this nervous defensive move?



15 f5! b4 16 f6 ♙d8 17 fxcg7 ♜e8 18 ♘b1 ♙b6 19 ♜d2 ♜xa2 20 ♜gf1 ♘e5

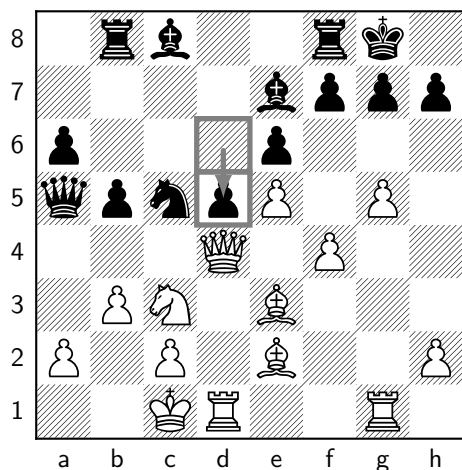
15... ♘c5 This threatens ...b4 as the knight on c3 can no longer run to a4 as planned.

16 e5



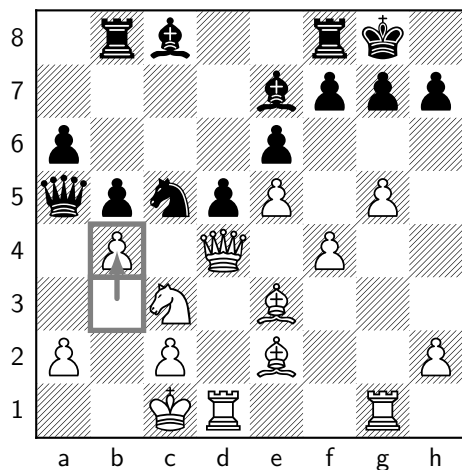
16 f5 b4 17 f6 bxc3!

16...d5!



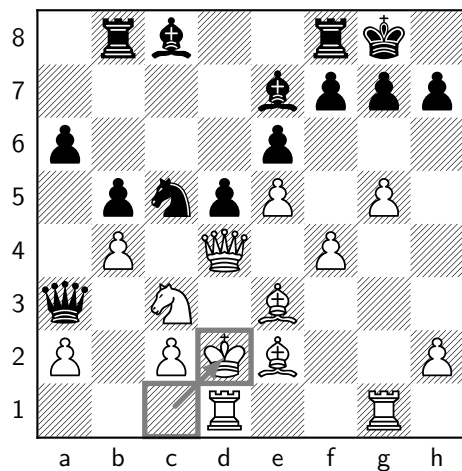
16...b4? 17 exd6 bxc3 18 ♖b1!

17 b4



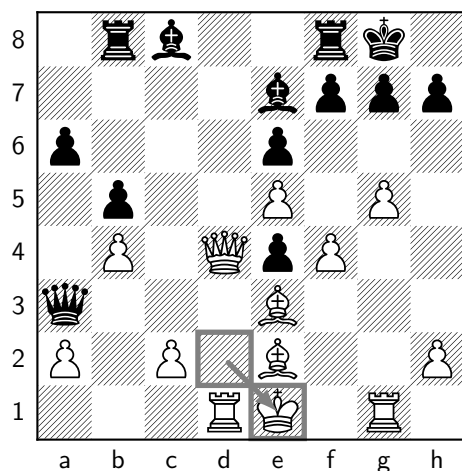
17 ♖b2 b4 18 ♜b1 ♔d7

17...♙a3+ 18 ♖d2



18 ♖b1 ♜a4 19 ♜xa4 bxa4! 20 c3 ♔xb4!

18...♜e4+ 19 ♜xe4 dxe4 20 ♖e1



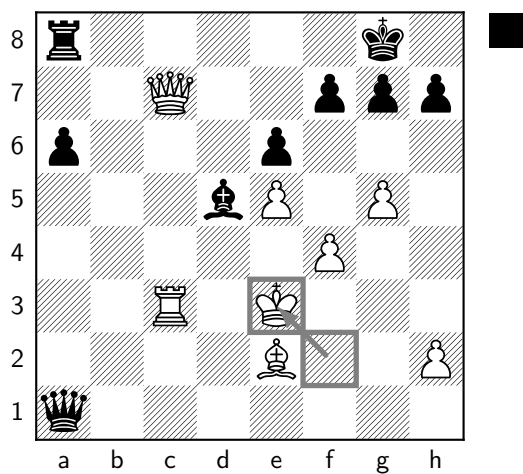
20 ♙xe4 ♔xb4+

20...♔b7 21 ♖f2 ♔xb4 White's king has been forced on to the run and Black has won a clear pawn. White can of course throw plenty of obstacles in Black's way, but the opening has been a great success for Below.

22 ♖g3 ♙a5 23 c4 ♖bd8 24 ♙a1 ♖xd1 25 ♙xd1 ♖d8 26 ♙b1 bxc4 27 ♔xc4 ♔d5 28 a3 ♔c5 29 ♔e2 ♙xa3 A second pawn bites the dust.

30 ♙c2 ♔xe3+ 31 ♖xe3 ♙a1 32 ♙c7 ♖a8 33 ♖c3 ANSWER:

33...e3+! 34 ♖xe3



34 ♖xe3 ♔d4

34... ♔g1+ 35 ♘d3 g6 36 ♔d7 ♔b1+ 37 ♘d2 ♔b2+ 38 ♖c2 ♔b4+ Once f4 goes, White loses almost all his other remaining pawns.

0-1

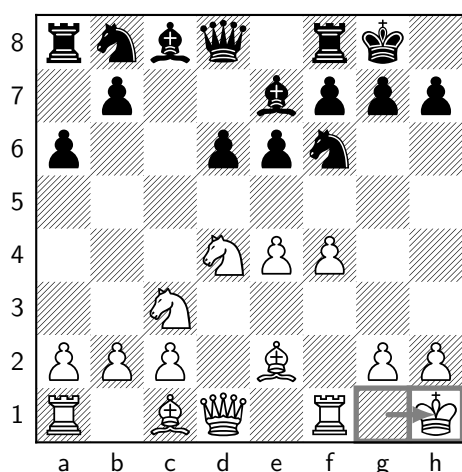
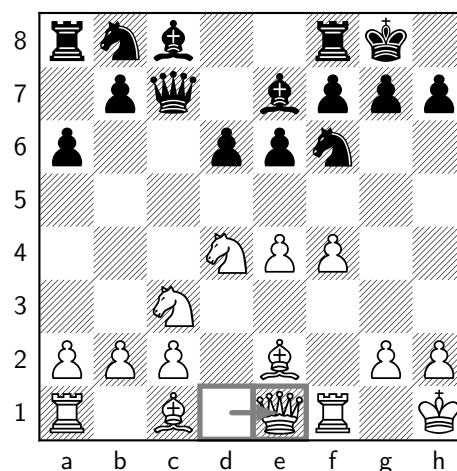
White: Filev, G
Black: Nikolov, M

Bulgarian Championship, Blagoevgrad

2009

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 d6 6 ♕e2 a6 7 O-O ♕e7 8 f4 O-O 9 ♔h1
QUESTION: Why does White put the king in the corner like this? ANSWER: As in many Sicilian lines, safeguarding the king like this is a moot point. Many believe it to be a waste of time, but others think it is a useful safety move in case the king gets into trouble on the g1-a7 diagonal. The following games will hopefully let the reader decide for themselves!



9 e5 dxe5 10 fxe5 ♕c5 11 ♕e3 ♗d5 12 ♗xd5 ♖xd5

9... ♖c7 The queen typically comes here, keeping an eye on the e5-square.

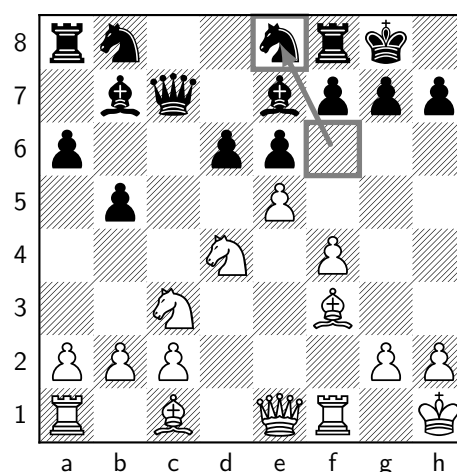
10 ♖e1 QUESTION: Why does White play this move? What is the idea behind it? ANSWER: The queen can swing to the kingside via g3 or help support the e5 push.

10 ♕e3 b5!? 11 ♕f3 ♕b7 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 ♗fd7 14 ♕xb7 ♖xb7 15 ♖h5 b4 16 ♗ce2 ♗c6 17 ♕f4 ♗xd4 18 ♗xd4 ♖e4!

10... b5 And why not? If White doesn't play a4 to prevent it, you definitely have this move on the agenda. Now a potential ...b4, kicking the c3-knight and weakening the defence of e4, is in the air.

11 ♕f3 ♕b7 12 e5 QUESTION: How should Black deal with the attack on the knight on f6? ANSWER: Normally the knight prefers to retreat to d7, but here that would allow a tactic:

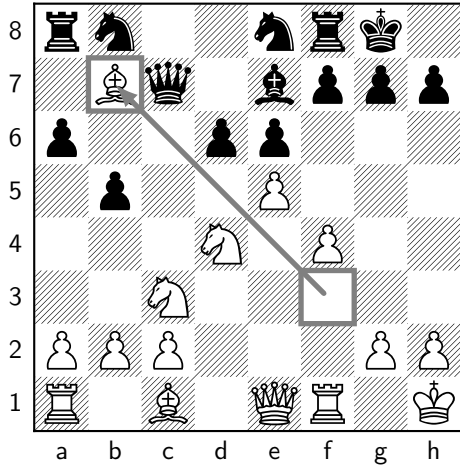
12... ♗e8



12... ♖fd7? 13 exd6 ♙xd6 14 ♖xe6! fxe6 15 ♙xb7 ♜xb7 16 ♜xe6+ ♔h8 17 ♜xd6

12... dxe5 13 ♙xb7 ♜xb7 14 fxe5 ♖fd7 15 ♜g3 ♔h8! 16 ♙f4 ♖c6 17 ♜ad1 ♜ac8

13 ♙xb7



13 f5 dxe5 14 fxe6!? ♙xf3 15 exf7+ ♜xf7 16 ♖xf3 ♖d7 17 ♙g5 ♙f8 18 a3 ♖d6 19 ♖d2 ♜xf1+ 20 ♜xf1 ♜c6 21 ♜e1 ♜e8

13... ♜xb7 EXERCISE: Pretend you are White and that you want to start attacking as quickly as possible (well, I am guessing you do, as you've played attacking moves so far!). Think about what moves you could play to set up an attack.

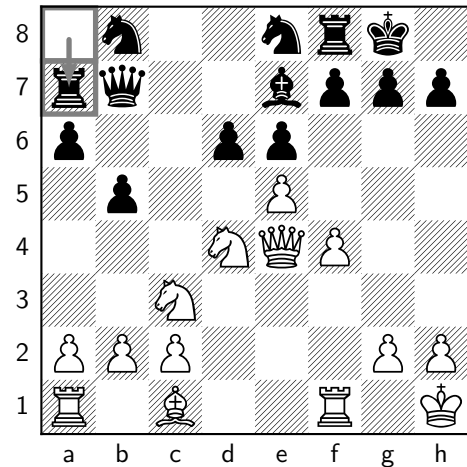
14 ♜e4 This doesn't look very aggressive, but it's probably here that White noticed the coiled spring effect behind Black's solid position. ANSWER: 14 Qg3, 14 Ne4 and 14 f5 look like better ways to attack. Let's see if they were any better:

14 ♜g3 ♖d7 15 ♙e3 ♜c8 16 ♜ad1 b4 17 ♖ce2 ♜c5!?

14 ♖e4 ♖d7! 15 exd6 ♖xd6 16 ♖xd6 ♙xd6 17 ♙d2 ♜ac8 18 ♜d1 ♖f6

14 f5 dxe5 15 ♜xe5 ♙f6 16 ♜e3 ♖c6! 17 ♖xc6 ♜xc6 18 fxe6 fxe6 19 ♙d2 ♖c7 20 ♜ae1 ♜ae8

14... ♜a7



14... d5

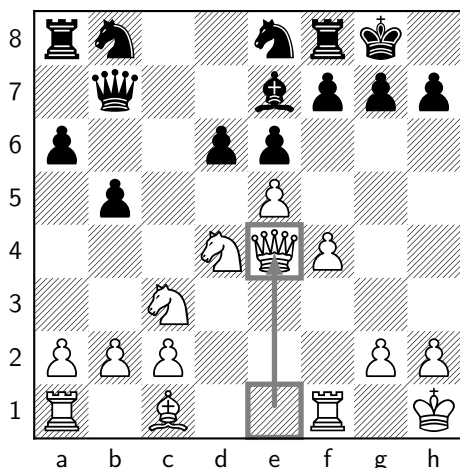
14... d5 15 ♜d3 ♖c6 16 ♖xc6 ♜xc6 17 f5

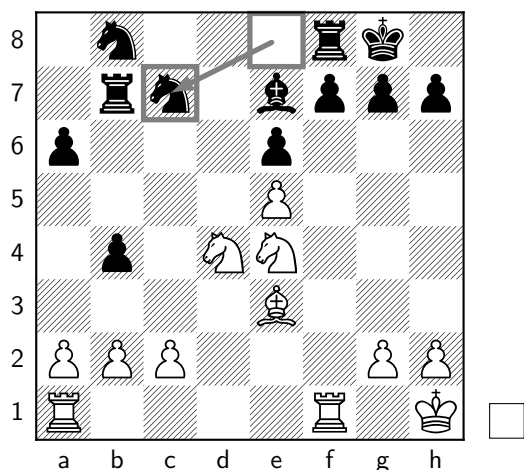
14... ♜xe4 15 ♖xe4 dxe5 16 fxe5 ♖d7 17 ♖c6!

15 ♙e3 b4 Forcing White to capture on b7. Now a queenless middlegame will be reached do you think this will be acceptable for Black?

16 ♜xb7 ♜xb7 17 ♖e4 dxe5 18 fxe5 ANSWER:

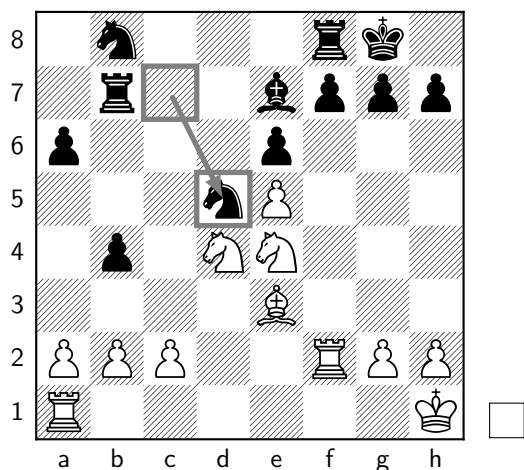
18... ♖c7! The knight is coming to d5, where it cannot be kicked away, as the c2-pawn is being held back by the black pawn on b4.





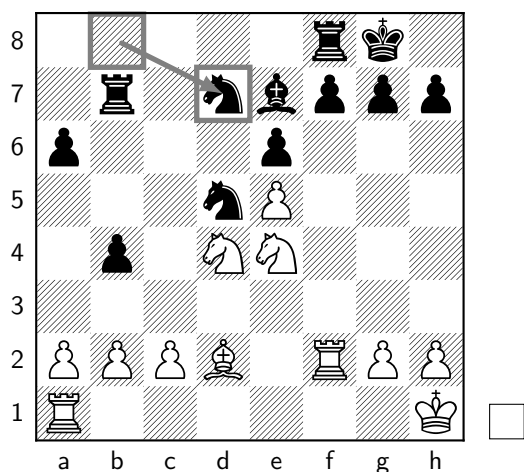
18...g6 19 ♖ad1 ♜g7 20 g4!

19 ♜f2 ♜d5!



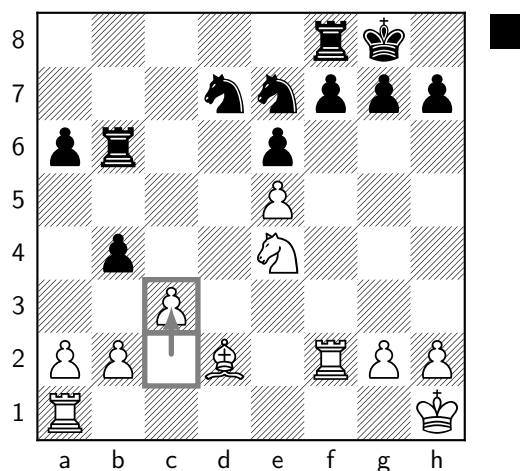
19...f5 20 exf6 gxf6 21 ♜h6 ♜f7 22 ♜af1 ♜d7
23 ♜g5!

20 ♜d2 ♜d7



20...♜c7

21 ♜c6 ♜b6 22 ♜xe7+ ♜xe7 23 c3 ANSWER:



23 ♜f4 ♜g6

23...♜xe5 24 cxb4 ♜d3! A simple fork.

25 ♜e2 ♜xb4 Black has won a pawn and now sets about converting his advantage.

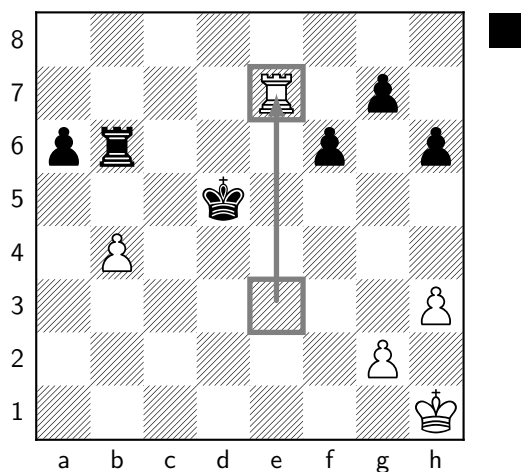
26 a3 ♜bd5 27 b4 ♜c8 28 ♜e3 ♜xe3 The knight on d5 disappears...

29 ♜xe3 ♜d5 ...only to be replaced by its comrade!

30 ♜d3 ♜c2 31 h3 h6 32 ♜f1 ♜bc6 33 ♜df3 f6 Adequately dealing with all of White's threats.

34 ♜d3 ♜f7 35 ♜c5 ♜c3 36 ♜d4 ♜xa3 37 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 38 ♜e1+ ♜e3 39 ♜xe3+ ♜xe3 40 ♜e4+ ♜d5 41 ♜xe3 ♜b6 Although White has managed to reach a rook ending, which was probably his best chance to draw, it's always nice to be in a position as Black is here where you can play for a win and you can't really lose!

42 ♜e7



42 ♖b3 a5 43 b5 ♙c4

42...g6 43 ♜h7 h5 44 ♜g7 f5 45 ♙g1 ♙c4 Excellent technique from Nikolov. The b-pawn goes and so do White's hopes.

46 ♙f2 ♙x b4 47 ♙e2 a5 48 ♙d2 ♙b3 49 ♙c1 a4 50 ♙b1 ♜e6 51 ♜b7+ ♙a3 52 ♜g7 ♜e1+ 53 ♙c2 ♜e2+ Initially Black appeared to have a passive position, but after ...Nc7 and ...Nd5! suddenly it was Black who was better!

0-1

White: Adams, M
Black: Van Wely, L

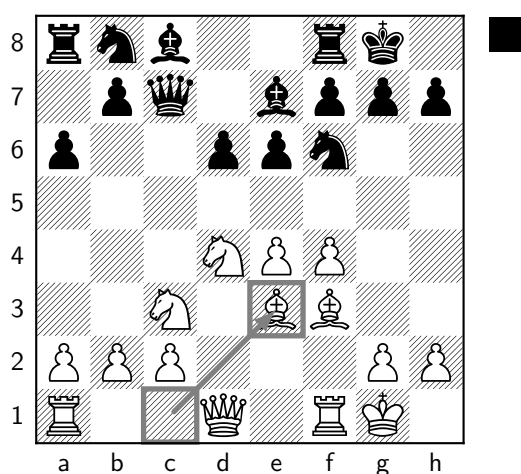
London

2009

Result: 1/2-1/2

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 ♙e2 e6 7 O-O ♙e7 8 f4 O-O 9 ♙f3 Here we see an advantage of developing the bishop to e2: it has the option of coming to f3 and pointing at Black's queenside.

9... ♚c7 10 ♙e3

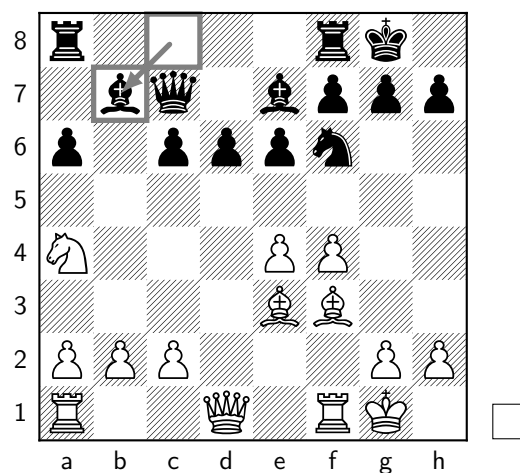


10 ♙h1 ♘c6 11 ♘xc6 bxc6 12 ♚e1 d5! 13 b3 a5

10... ♘c6 11 ♘xc6 This isn't generally a good trade for White to make, but Adams has a follow-up which will clamp down on the newly-formed black central pawn mass.

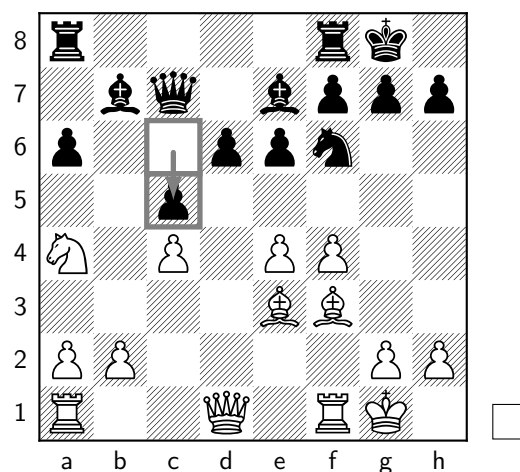
11... bxc6 12 ♘a4 QUESTION: Should Black play for ...d5 here? ANSWER: With the white knight on a4 Black must be careful not to let White get in c4 to attack any ...d5 push.

12... ♙b7



12... d5 13 e5 ♘d7 14 c4

13 c4 c5!



13... d5

14 ♚c2 ANSWER:

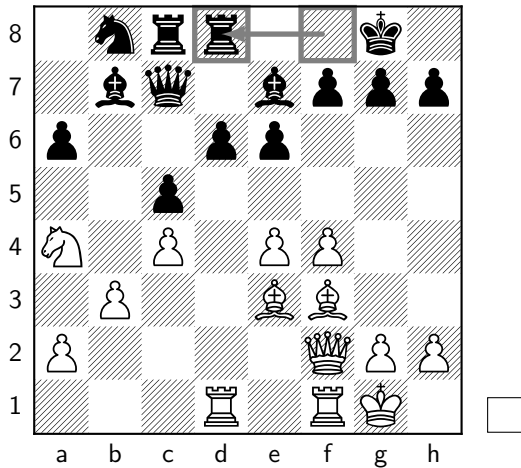
14... ♘d7 Well done if you worked out that the d4-square looks pretty ideal for it. (Though I did mention it above!) Black can now play ...Nd7-b8-c6, heading for d4.

15 b3 ♜ac8 16 ♜ad1 ♘b8! Coming to c6 and then d4 (if possible). White tries to arrange his pieces to prevent this, but this just leaves the

position level as the white pieces become tied up trying to prevent the knight jumping into d4.

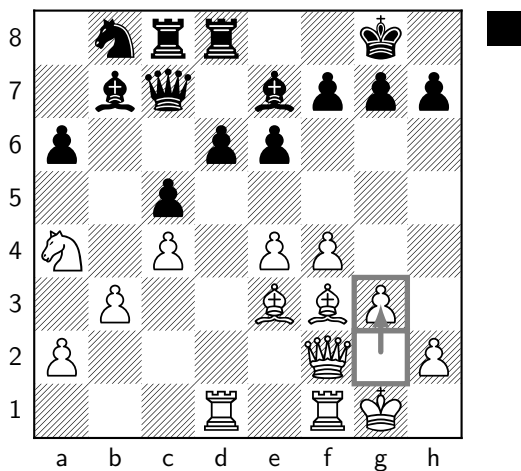
17 ♖f2 QUESTION: Can Black play 17...Nc6 immediately and head for d4?

17... ♖fd8



17... ♖c6 18 e5! dxe5 19 ♖xc5 exf4 20 ♖b6 ♖b8 21 ♖d7 ♖f6 22 ♖fd1

18 g3



18 e5!? ♖xf3 19 ♖xf3 ♖d7 20 exd6 ♖xd6 21 ♖d3

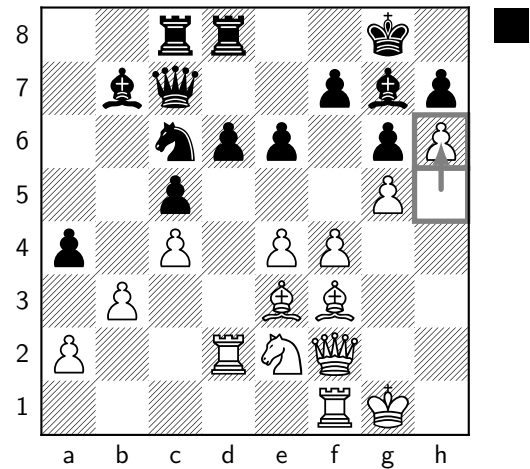
18... ♖c6 19 ♖c3 ♖f6 20 ♖e2 ♖b7 21 g4 ANSWER:

21... g6! An idea we saw in Yudasin-Kasparov in Chapter One. This lets the bishop stay on the long diagonal and provide useful defensive cover.

22 g5 ♖g7 23 ♖d2 ♖c6 24 h4 a5 25 h5 a4 Suddenly both sides get their respective attacks going

on opposite sides, but whose is the more potent?

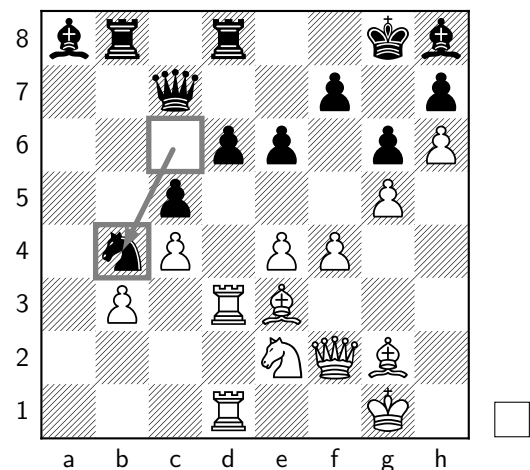
26 h6



26 f5 exf5 27 exf5 ♖e5 28 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 29 hxg6 hxg6 30 f6 ♖f8 31 ♖c1 ♖e8 32 ♖g3 ♖d7 33 ♖h2 ♖g4

26... ♖h8 27 ♖g2 axb3 28 axb3 ♖b8 Homing in on the now weakened b3-pawn.

29 ♖fd1 ♖a8 30 ♖d3 ♖b4 31 ♖3d2 ♖c6 32 ♖d3 ♖b4 Black agrees to a draw against his slightly higher-rated opponent.



32... e5 33 f5 ♖d4 34 f6 ♖xb3

1/2-1/2

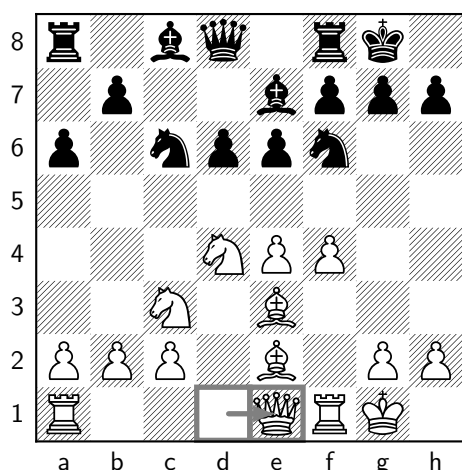
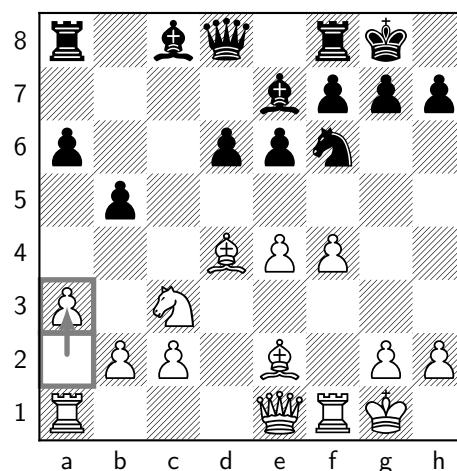
White: Kamsky, G
Black: Mamedyarov, S

Moscow

2008

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 ♙e2 a6 7 O-O ♙e7 8 ♙e3 O-O 9 f4 ♘c6 10 ♚e1 We saw this idea in Filev-Nikolov. The idea is to swing the queen around to g3, where it looks down the g-file at the black king, as well as supporting a possible e5 advance in the future. In this line White wants to do without any Kh1 move. Although this may appear to save a tempo, White will always need to watch out for tricks down the g1-a7 diagonal. This can be quite annoying, so generally Black needn't worry too much.



10 a4

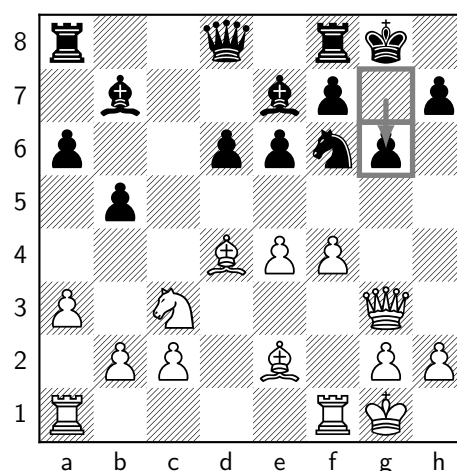
10... ♘xd4 QUESTION: Why does Black exchange like this in the centre? ANSWER: Because White hasn't played a4, Black can go for ...b5. Of course, though, he can't right away as he would lose his knight on c6!

11 ♙xd4 b5 12 a3 Preventing Black from going ...b4 and winning the e4-pawn.

12 ♖d1 ♙b7 13 ♙f3 ♚c7 14 e5 dxe5 15 fxe5 ♘d7 16 ♙xb7 ♚xb7 17 ♘e4 ♙h8! 18 ♖f4 ♚c7 19 ♚g3 ♘xe5 20 ♙xe5 ♚xe5 21 ♖xf7 ♚xg3 22 ♖xf8+ ♙xf8 23 h×g3

12... ♙b7 13 ♚g3 Defending the e4-pawn through tactical means, due to the threats against g7.

13...g6! QUESTION: Why does Black play this seemingly weakening move?

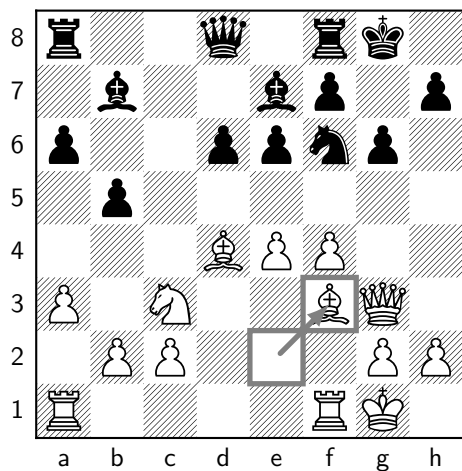


13... ♘xe4

13... ♙c6 14 ♙h1 ♚d7 15 ♖ad1 ♚b7 16 ♙f3

♖ac8 17 ♜fe1 g6

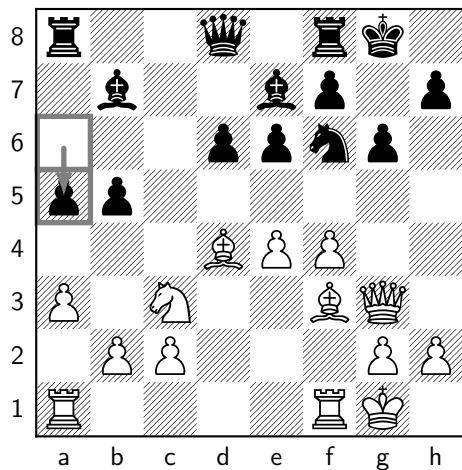
14 ♙f3



14 f5? e5 15 ♙e3 ♘xe4 16 ♘xe4 ♙xe4 17 ♙h6 ♜e8

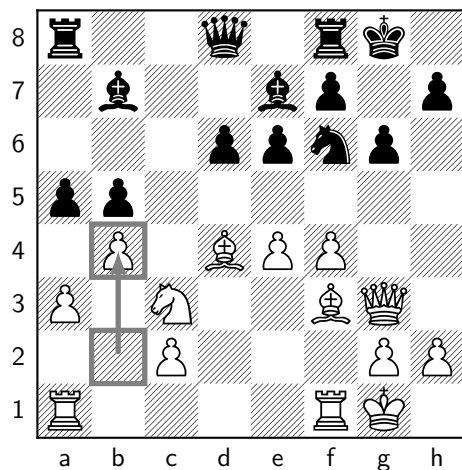
14 ♙d3 ♘h5! 15 ZZ-

14...a5!? Black can no longer play the ...Nh5 and ...Nxf4 trick, but there are other ideas at his disposal.



14...♜c8 15 ♜ae1 ♘d7

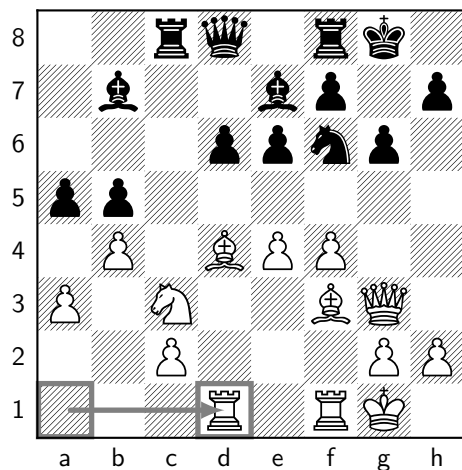
15 b4!? Returning to the radical 15 b4:



15 ♜ae1?! b4 16 axb4 axb4 17 ♘d1 d5! 18 e5 ♘e4

15 ♘xb5!? ♘xe4 16 ♜e1 ZZ-

15...♜c8 16 ♜ad1

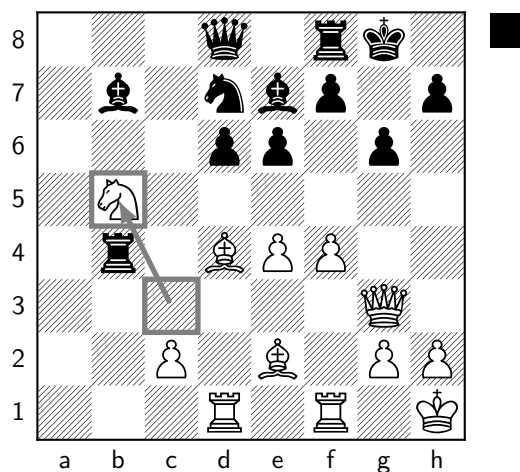
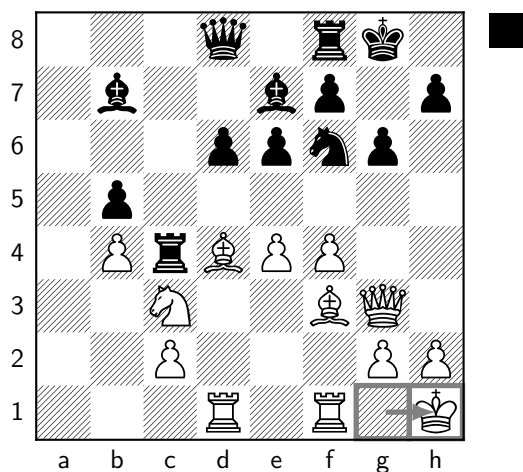


16 ♜f2 ♜c4 17 ♜ad1 axb4 18 axb4 ♜c8 19 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 20 ♘xb5 ♜xc2 21 ♜e3 ♙a6 22 ♘xd6 ♜b8 23 b5 ♙xb5 24 ♘xb5 ♜xb5

16...axb4 17 axb4 The position hinges on whose queenside is the weaker: b5 is a target, but then so too are b4 and c2.

17...♜c4! Black appears to have a very playable position here. White's queenside pawns are targets and his minor pieces are a little loose.

18 ♙h1?! Finally White feels he has to get the king off the dangerous diagonal, but this is slow.

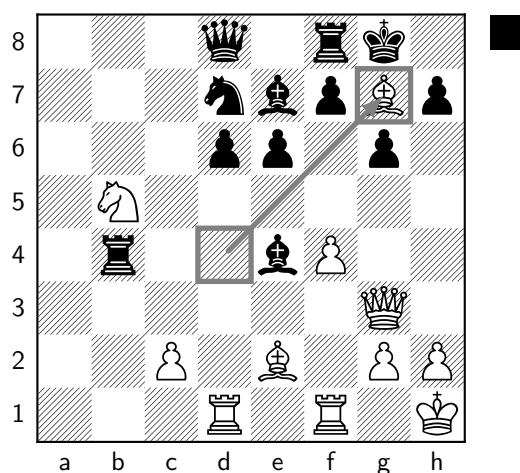
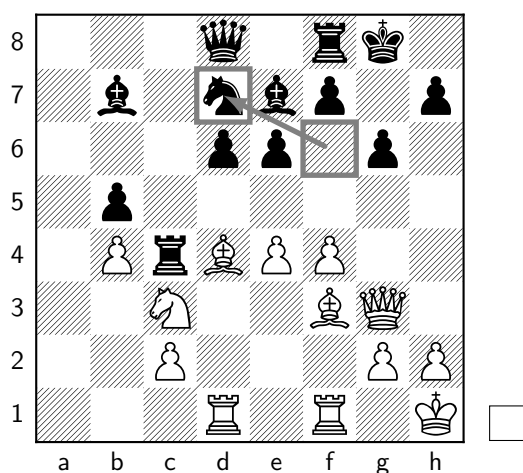


18 ♔e1!? ♖xb4! 19 ♘d5 ♗c4 20 ♘xe7+ ♔xe7 21 ♙xf6 ♔xf6 22 e5 ♔d8! 23 ♙xb7 ♔b6+ 24 ♔f2 ♔xb7 25 exd6 ♗d8

18...♘d7

20...♙xe4 ANSWER:

21 ♙g7?! I bet you didn't see that one coming!



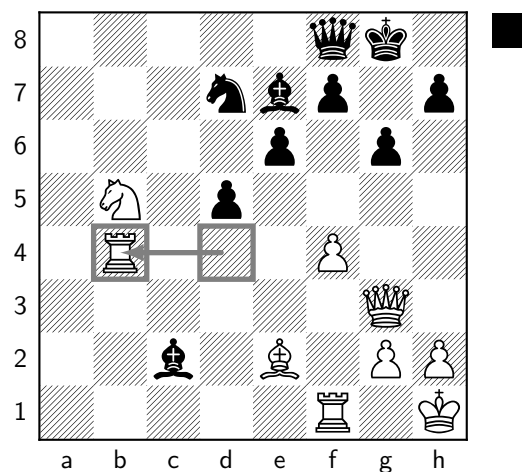
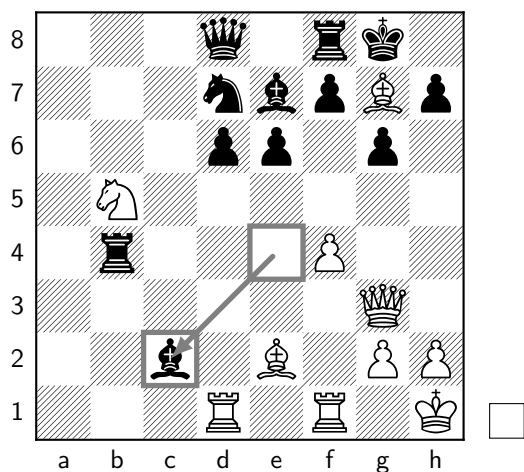
18...♖xb4?! 19 e5 ♘d5 20 ♘xd5 exd5 21 e6 fxex6 22 ♔e1!

19 ♙e2!? Sacrificing a pawn, but White will obtain some activity and pressure for it.

19...♖xb4 20 ♘xb5

21 ♙c3 ♖a4 22 ♘d6 ♙xd6 23 ♖xd6 ♔c7! 24 ♗d4 ♖xd4 25 ♙xd4 ♔xc2 26 ♖e1

21...♙xc2!

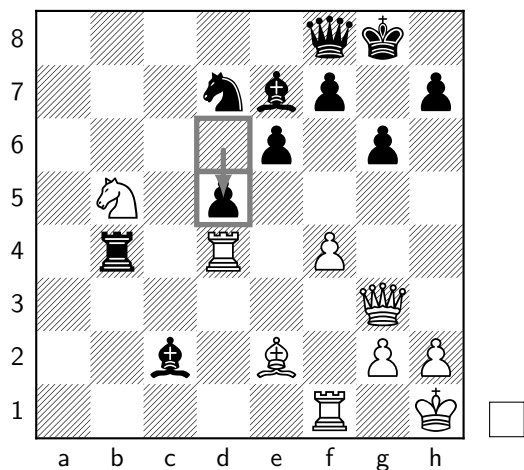


21... ♔xg7 22 ♕c3+ ♖f6 23 ♕xb4

22 ♖xf8 ♕xf8 QUESTION: Black is the exchange down, but what does he have in return? ANSWER: Black has two pawns as well the more active pieces and a passed d-pawn. With White's dark-squared bishop gone, Black also can be less fearful of being checkmated on g7!

23 ♖d4 White is struggling to do anything meaningful here, as those Scheveningen central pawns prevent any central play.

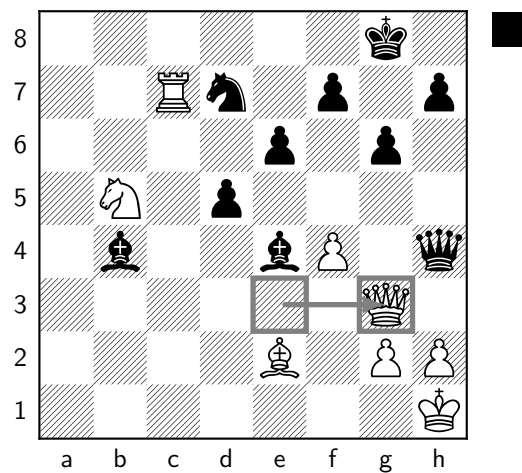
23... d5



24 ♕c3!? ♖e4 25 ♖xb4 ♖xb4 26 ♕c7 ♖f6 27 ♖a1 ♕c5 28 ♖a8+ ♔g7 29 ♖a7 ♕xc7 30 ♖xc7

24... ♖xb4 25 ♖c1 ♖e4 26 ♖c7 ♕d8 27 ♕e3 ♕h4! With an obvious threat of mate in one on e1, which surprisingly White can't deal with so easily.

28 ♕g3

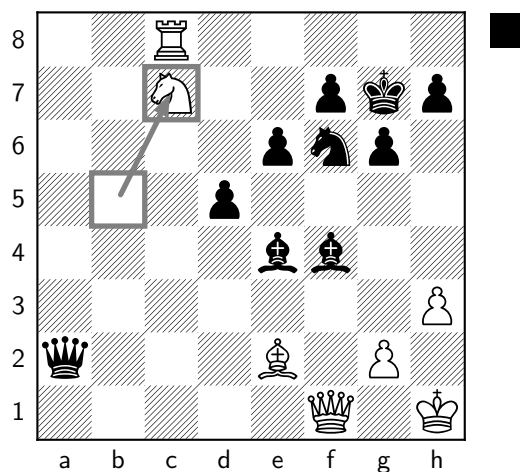
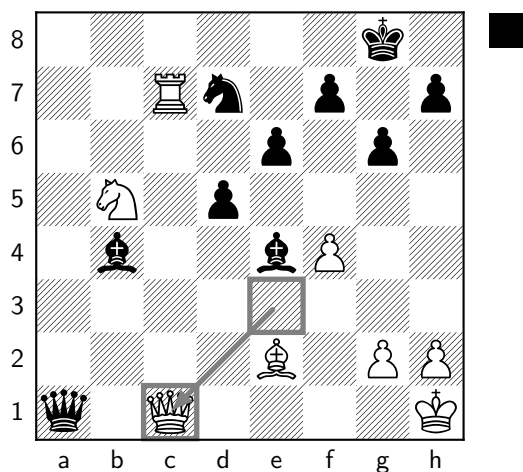


28 ♖d1 ♖f6

28... ♕f6 29 ♕e3 ♕a1+ 30 ♕c1

23... ♖b3 24 ♕e1 d5 25 ♕d2 ♖f5

24 ♖xb4



30 ♔g1! ♔b2 31 ♖c8+ ♜g7 32 ♔d4+ ♜xd4
33 ♜xd4 ♜d2 34 ♜xe6+! fxe6 35 ♖c7 ♜f6 36
♖xd7 h5 37 ♜f3 ♜xf3 38 gxf3 ♜xf4 39 ♜g2

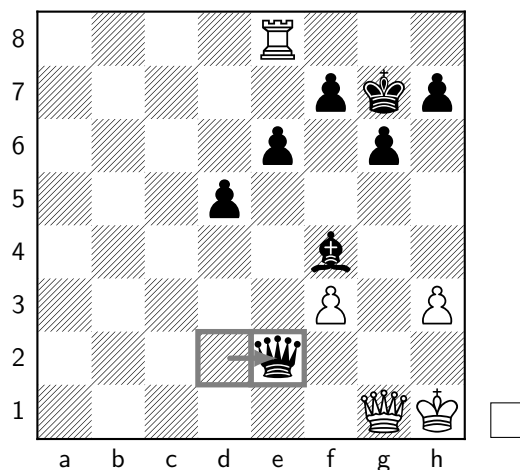
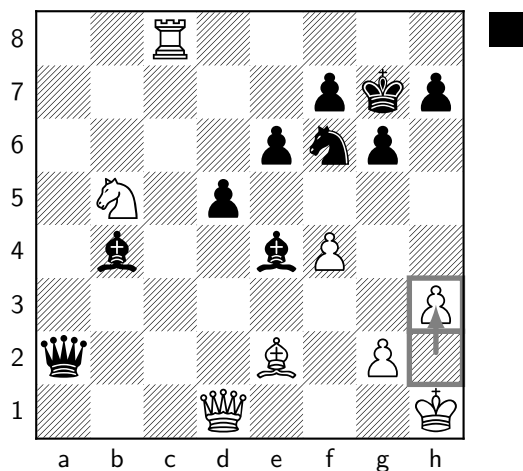
30...♔a2! Continuing to probe. Mamedyarov wants more than a pleasant ending with the bishop-pair and two pawns for the exchange.

31 ♖c8+ ♜g7 32 ♔d1 ♜f6 33 h3

35 ♖xf4 ♜xe2

35...♔d2 36 ♜e8+ ♜xe8 37 ♖xe8 ♔e3 Threatening 38...Qxh3+.

38 ♜f3 ♜xf3 39 gxf3 ♔d2 40 ♔g1 ♔e2!



40...♔e2 41 ♔g2 ♔d1+ 42 ♔g1 ♔xf3+

33 ♜c3 ♜xc3! 34 ♖xc3 ♜g4 35 ♔e1 d4 36 ♖g3
♜e3

33...♜d2 Now f4 falls and White is completely lost.

34 ♔f1?! ANSWER:

34...♜xf4! 35 ♜c7

0-1

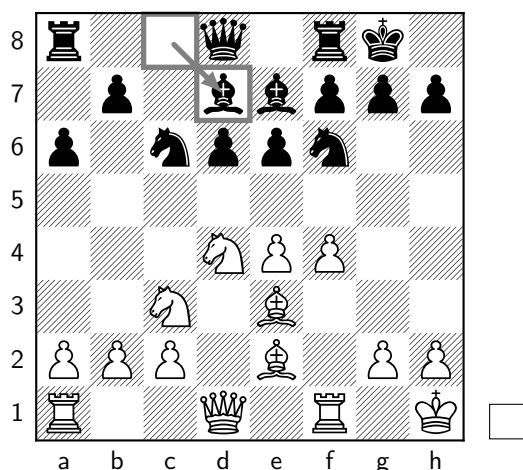
White: Sibarevic, M
Black: Kasparov, G

Banja Luka

1979

Result: 0-1

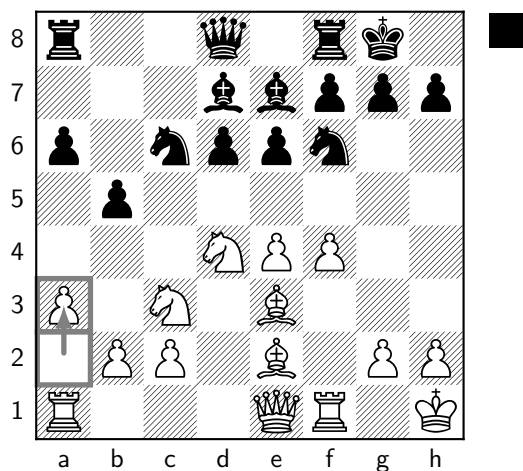
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 ♙e2 a6 7 O-O ♙e7 8 ♙e3 O-O 9 f4 ♘c6 10 ♖h1 ♙d7



10... ♙c7

11 ♙e1 b5 If White doesn't play a4 to prevent this, why can't Black push on?

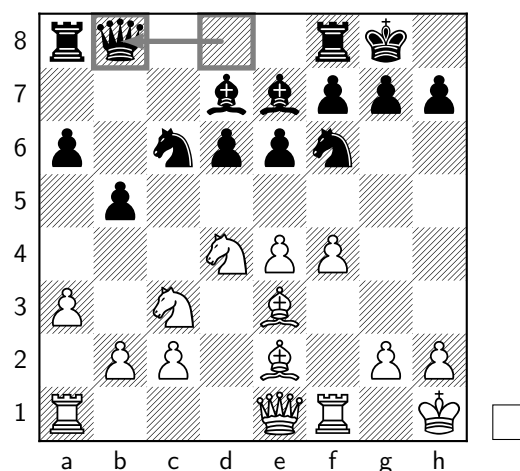
12 a3 Preventing ...b4 which would cost him the e4-pawn.



12 ♙f3 ♖c8 13 a3 ♘xd4 14 ♙xd4 ♙c6 15 ♖d1 ♙c7 16 ♖d2 a5 17 g4 b4 18 axb4 axb4 19 ♘d1

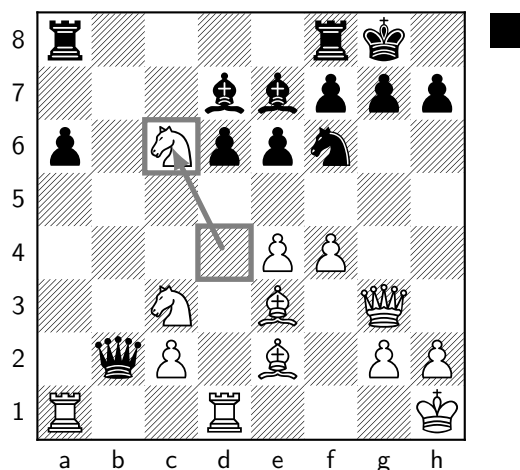
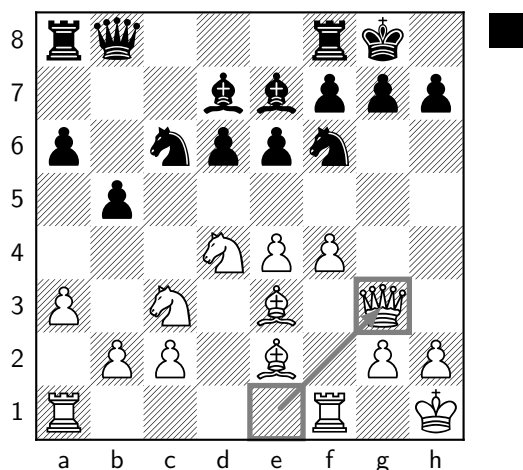
d5! 20 e5 ♘e4 21 ♖g2 f6 22 ♘e3 fxe5 23 ♙xe5 ♙d6 24 ♙xd6 ♙xd6 25 f5 ♘g5 26 ♙h4 h6 27 ♙e2 d4

12... ♙b8! ANSWER: The queen still looks at the e5-square from b8, preventing White from playing e5 himself, but the queen serves a dual purpose on b8: it also creates the possibility of pushing ...b4 and recapturing on b4 with the queen. This would immediately attack b2 and put White on the back foot.



12... ♙c7

13 ♙g3?! Not best, although Black is fine in any case:



13 d1 Qxd4 14 exd4 e5 15 ex3 ex6 16 f3
 e8 17 fxe5 dxe5 18 Qd5 exd5 19 exd5 e4 20
 ex2 c7 21 d2 ad8

13 f3 Qxd4 14 exd4 e5 15 ex3 ex6 16 g3
 e8 17 fxe5 dxe5 18 ex6 ex8 19 ex5 Qd7 20
 ex5 g6 21 ad1 Qc5 22 f3 Qe6

13 ex3 b4 14 Qd1 a5 15 Qf2 Qxd4 16 exd4 e5
 13...b4! 14 axb4 Qxb4 Now we see the main
 idea behind 12...Qb8. How can White defend b2?
 15 fdl

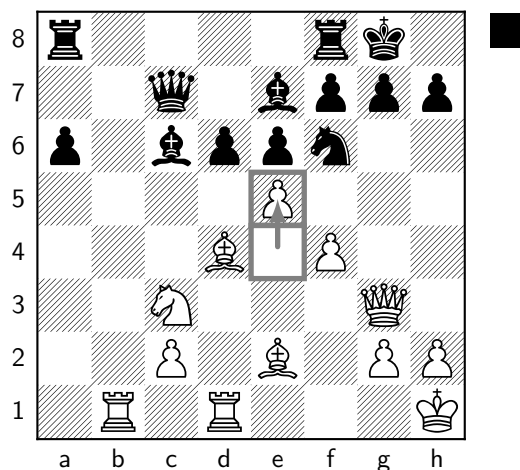
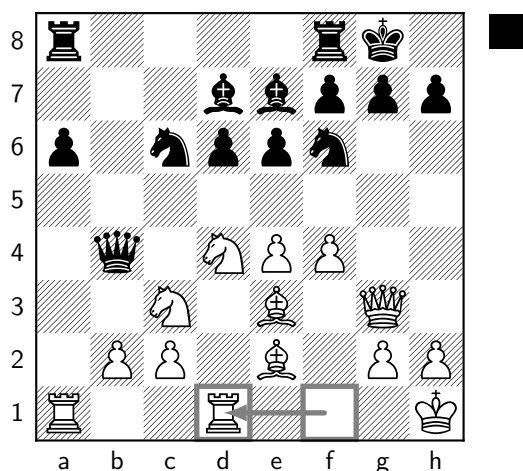
16 Qa4 Qb7 17 Qb6! Qxd4 18 exd4 ad8 19
 exa6 Qxe4

16...ex6 17 ex3 QUESTION: Can you see
 White's threat? ANSWER: White wants to play
 18 Nd5! with a discovered attack on b2 while also
 threatening to take on f6.

17...Qb7! A nice square for the queen. Now e4
 is attacked, which gives White no respite.

18 ad1 Qc7 So the queen has been chased back,
 but she already has her loot in the form of the
 b-pawn. It is now up to White to prove that he
 has any compensation.

19 e5



15 e5? Qxd4 16 exf6 Qf5!

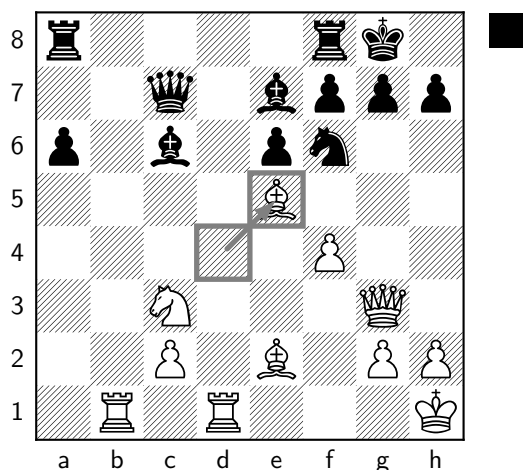
15 Qxc6 ex6 16 e5 Qe4! 17 Qxe4 ex4 18
 f3 exf3 19 exf3 Qxb2 20 af1 dxe5 21 fxe5
 Qxc2 22 ex5 ex5 23 Qxg5 ab8 24 ex3 Qg6

15 ad1 Qxb2 16 d3

15...Qxb2 16 Qxc6

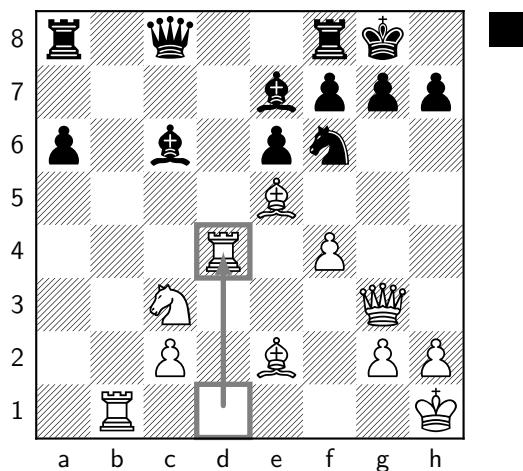
19 ex3 g6 20 f5 Qh5 21 Qg4 ex6! 22 ex6
 Qxf6 23 Qg5 Qg7

19...dxe5 20 ex5



20 fxe5 ♖e4 21 ♖xe4 ♗xe4

20... ♗c8 21 ♖d4



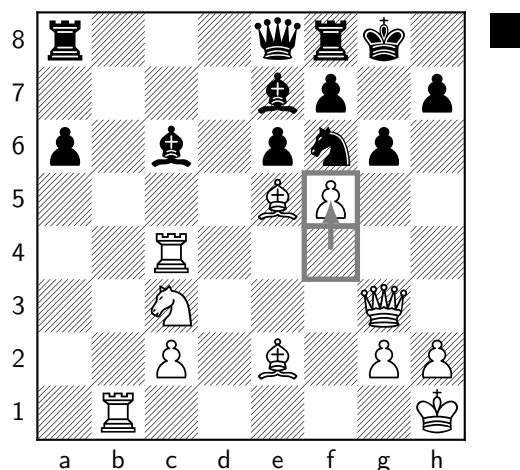
21 ♖b6 g6 22 f5 exf5 23 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 24 ♖d6 ♗xg2+!

21...g6 This appears weakening, but ideas of f5 are prevented and also there are no more ideas with Qxg7 mate on the cards.

22 ♖c4 Threatening Bf3 so Black gets out of the way.

22... ♗e8 This all looks rather passive for Black, but if left alone the a6-pawn will run down the board, so White must try some tricks soon.

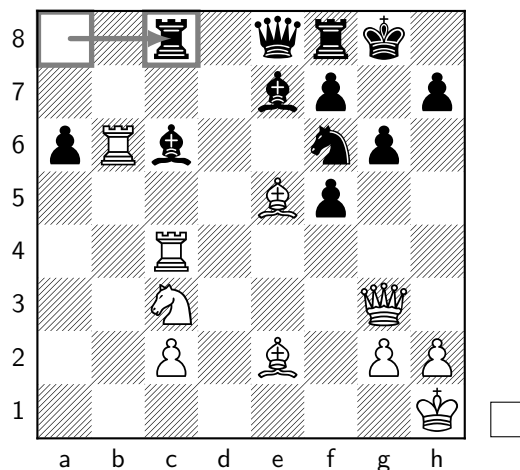
23 f5!?



23 ♖b6 ♗b5 24 ♖xb5 axb5 25 ♖c7 ♖d7 26 ♗xb5 ♖xe5!

23...exf5 24 ♖b6 QUESTION: Can Black play 24...Ne4 here?

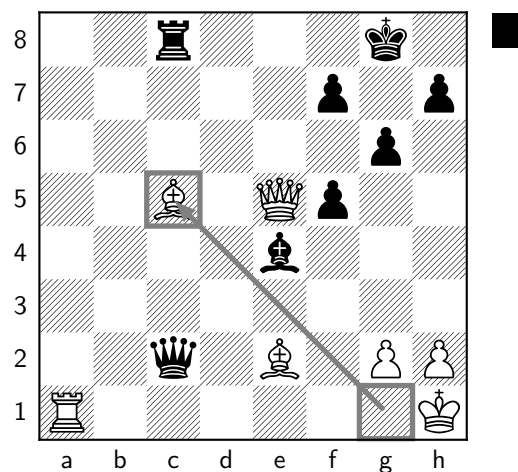
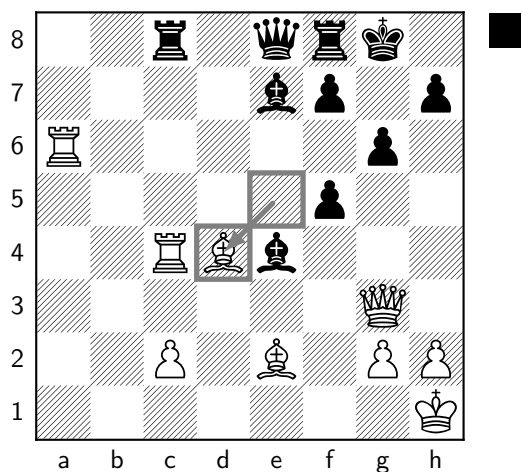
24... ♖c8!



24... ♖e4? 25 ♖xe4 ♗xe4 26 ♖xe4!! fxe4 27 ♗c4! ZZ- 28 ♖xg6+ hxg6 29 ♗xg6#

25 ♖xa6 ♖e4 26 ♖xe4 ♗xe4 Kasparov has returned one of the extra pawns, but he's still one ahead and has exchanged a pair of knights to boot.

27 ♗d4?



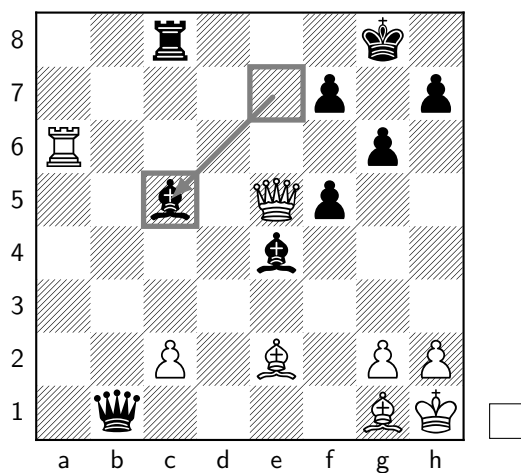
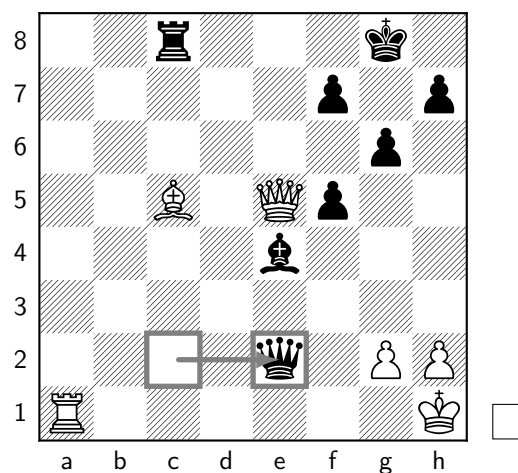
27 ♙b2! ♜b8! 28 ♜e5 ♜xb2! 29 ♜xb2 ♙xg2+ 30 ♙xg2 ♙a3!!

32 ♙f1 ♙xg1 33 ♙xg1 ♜c5+

27... ♜b5! 28 ♜xc8 ♜b1+ 29 ♙g1 ♜xc8 Suddenly the initiative is with Black; he is still a pawn up and he is attacking. White's strategy has clearly failed.

30 ♜e5 ANSWER:

30... ♙c5 Pinning and winning.



32... ♜xe2 33 ♜g1 ♙xg2+

0-1

30... ♜xc2 31 ♙f1 ♜c7

31 ♜a1 ♜xc2 32 ♙xc5?

White: Efimenko, Z
Black: Nguyen Van Huy

Dresden Olympiad

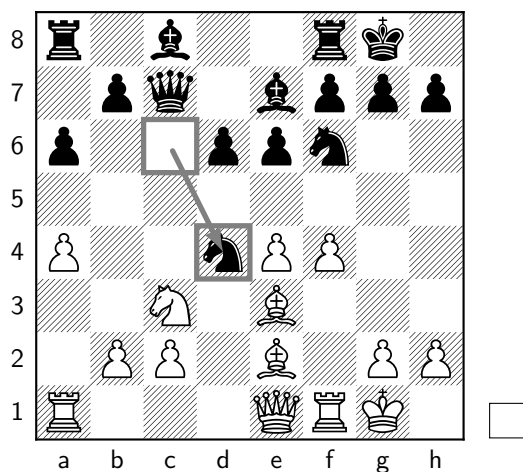
2008

Result: 1-0

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 d6 6 ♕e2 a6 7 O-O ♕e7 8 f4 ♗c6 9 ♕e3 O-O 10 a4 QUESTION: This is very popular, but why is it necessary? Can't White just get on with other useful attacking moves? ANSWER: As we saw in the last two games, Black obtains quite a lot of counterplay when allowed to advance with ...b5. White reasons that it's worth investing a tempo to prevent this freeing move.

10... ♖c7 11 ♖e1 Here White plays the Qe1 line, but replaces the useful move Kh1 with a4. This rules out any ...b5 ideas, but the question is just how exposed will the king be on g1?

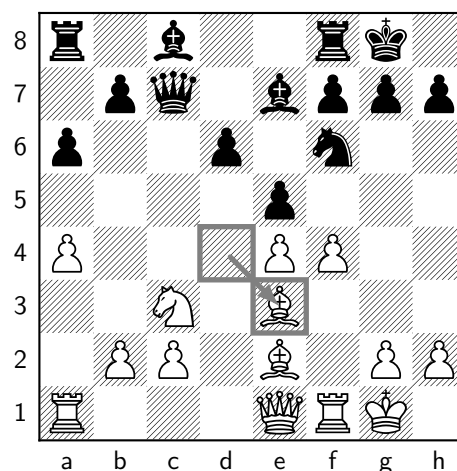
11... ♗xd4 Of course this is not the only move, but as usual there is an idea connected with it.



11... ♕d7 12 ♖g3 ♖h8 13 ♖ad1

12 ♕xd4 e5 This is the point. The bishop on c8 can emerge on more active squares than d7 (i.e. e6) thanks to this tempo-winning move.

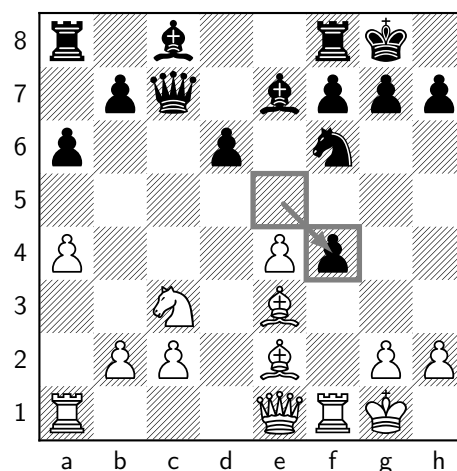
13 ♕e3 This retreat is almost always played, but of course it's not the only idea in the position.



13 fxe5 dxe5 14 ♖g3 ♕c5! 15 ♕xc5 ♖xc5+ 16 ♖h1 ZZ-

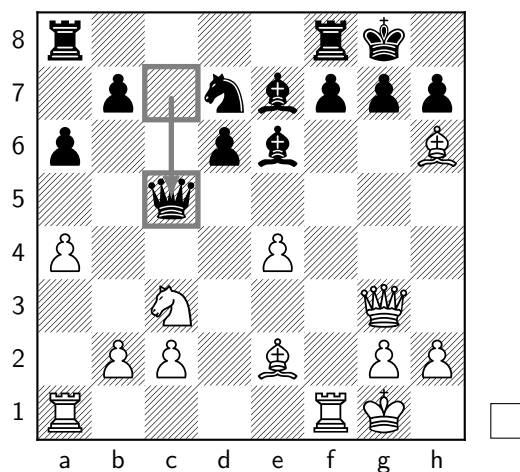
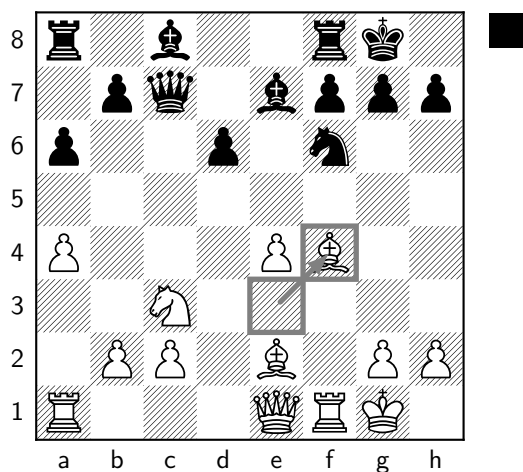
13 ♕e3

13... exf4



13... ♕e6 14 ♖g3 exf4 15 ♕xf4 ♗d7

14 ♕xf4

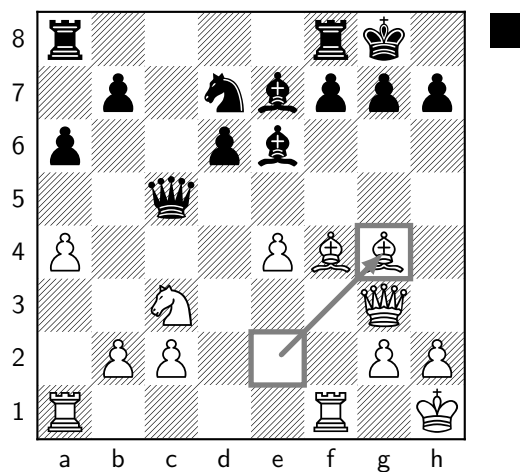
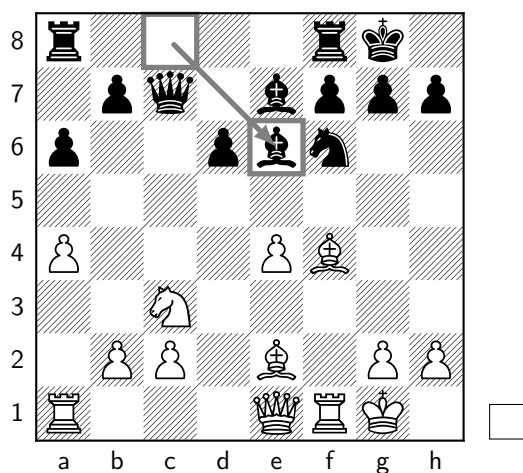


14 ♖xf4 ♕e6 15 ♖h1 ♘d7 16 ♗g3 ♕f6 17 ♕d3 16... ♕f6?? 17 ♖xf6!

♕xc3 18 bxc3 ♗xc3 19 ♖af1 ♘e5

17 ♖h1 ♗e5! 18 ♕f4 ♗c5 19 ♕g4!?

14... ♕e6



14... ♗b6+

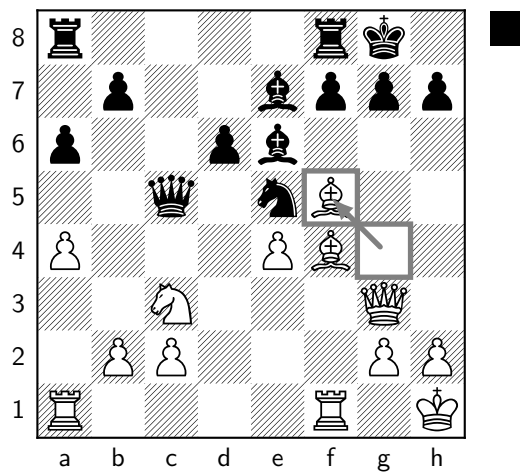
14... ♗b6+?! 15 ♖h1 ♗xb2 16 ♗g3 ♗b6 17 e5 dxe5 18 ♕xe5 ♖h8 19 ♘d5! ♗d8 20 ♖ad1 ♕d7 21 ♘xe7 ♗xe7 22 ♖xd7 ♗xd7 23 ♖xf6 ♖g8 24 ♕d3 ♖ac8 25 ♖h6!

15 ♗g3 ♘d7 16 ♕h6 ANSWER:

16... ♗c5+ Like this!

19 ♕h6 ♗e5 20 ♕f4 ♗c5

19... ♘e5 20 ♕f5

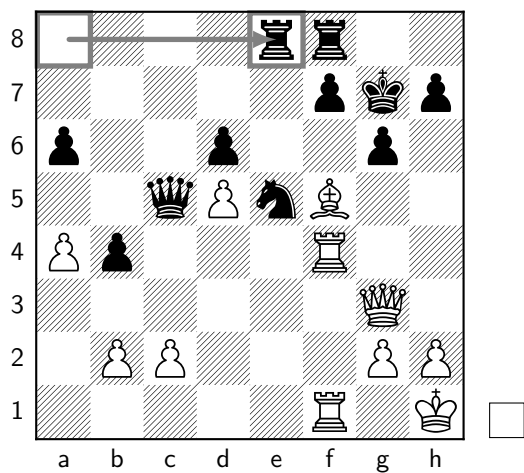


20 ♖xe6 fxe6 21 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 22 ♖xe5 dxe5

20... ♖f6 The bishop reaches the famed diagonal and Black can be quite happy with how the opening has turned out.

21 ♖ad1 g6 22 ♖h6 ♖g7 23 ♖xg7 ♖xg7 24 ♖f4 b5 25 ♖df1 b4 26 ♖d5 ♖xd5 27 exd5 After exchanging on d5 Black hopes that the beast on e5 will prove better than the bishop on f5. White may have gone on to win this encounter, but so far things are okay for Black.

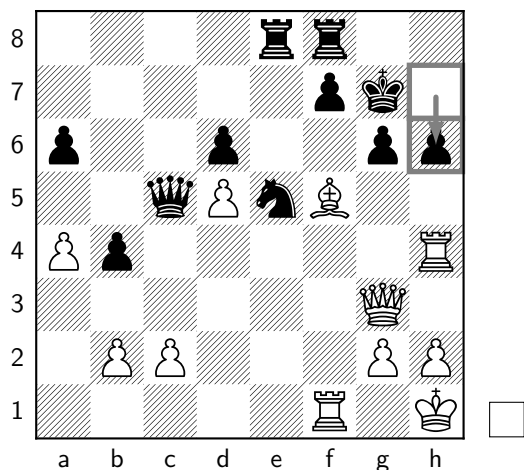
27... ♖ae8



27... ♖h8!? 28 ♖d3 a5 29 ♖h4 f5! 30 ♖h3 ♖f7

28 ♖h4 ANSWER:

28... h6! The white queen must not be allowed into the black position. Black is still reacting well here and now the threat of Qg5 and Qh6+ is parried.

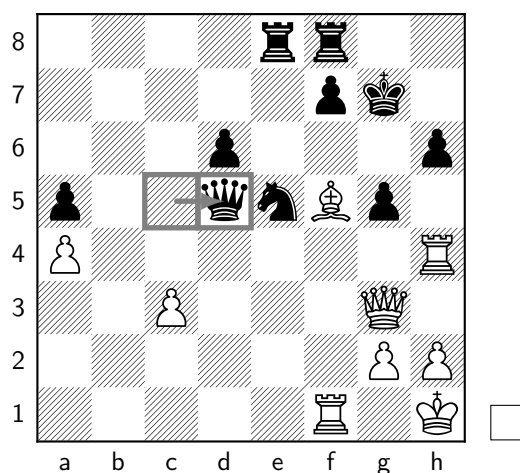


28... ♖xd5 29 ♖g5

29 ♖f4 g5 30 ♖g3 Sacrificing two tempi to try and get that bishop on f5 into the game. Black's last move may look weakening, but this position is still okay for him.

30... a5 31 c3 bxc3 32 bxc3 QUESTION: White doesn't have anything does he? Can we grab on d5? If not, what else could we play?

32... ♖xd5? ANSWER: Unfortunately Black cracks. This move looked obvious, but suddenly White can crash through on the kingside.



32... ♖b8! 33 ♖b1 f5 34 ♖hf4 ♖b3 35 ♖xf5 ♖xf5 36 ♖xf5 ♖xc3 37 ♖e1 ♖c4 38 ♖e6 ♖xa4 39 ♖b1 ♖c7 40 ♖f5 ♖e7

33 ♖xh6! Efimenko is a very strong Ukrainian Grandmaster and he doesn't need to be asked twice to sniff out a combination around the black king.

33... ♖g8



34 ♖h5

42... ♖a8 43 ♜h8+ ♔e7 44 ♜xa8 ♔xd7 45 ♜b7+ ♔e6 46 ♜b3+ ♔f5 47 ♜d1 ♔e4 48 ♜c2+ ♔f4 49 ♜f1+ ♔g5 50 ♜f5+ ♔h6 51 ♜f6+ ♔h7 52 ♜f5

Black had a solid and acceptable position until he fell for a trap on move 33. Do take care to watch out for sacrifices around your king!

1-0



34... ♔f8



White: Barron, M
Black: Ganguly, S

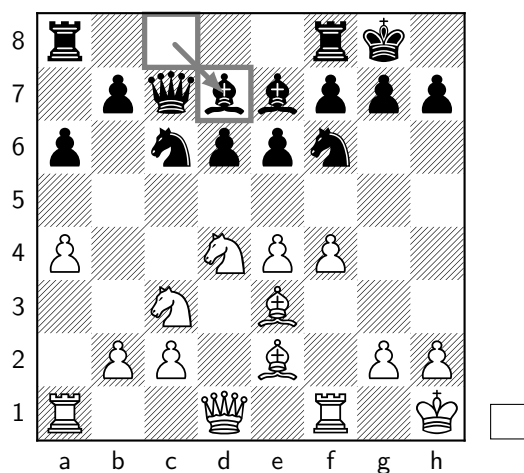
Edmonton

2009

Result: 0-1

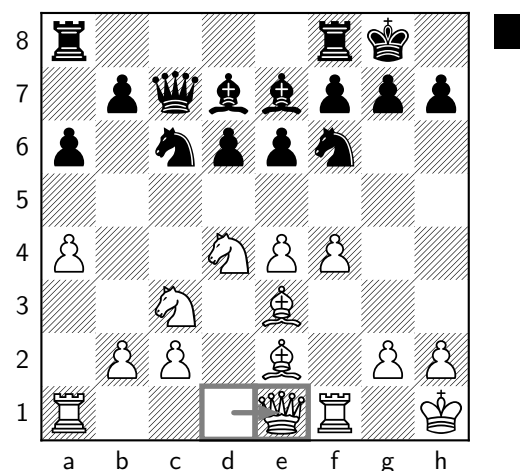
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 ♙e2 ♙e7 7 O-O O-O 8 f4 ♘c6 9 ♙e3 a6 10 a4 ♙c7 11 ♙h1 This combination of a4 and Kh1 is the most flexible idea at White's disposal. The idea is to prevent Black from doing anything immediately, without giving away which plan White might employ himself.

11... ♙d7 As mentioned in the notes to Karpov-Kasparov, this is the line I'm recommending.



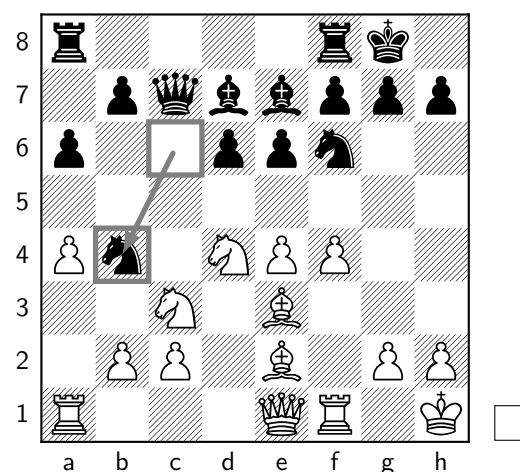
11... ♙e8

12 ♙e1 White wants everything: to prevent Black from enjoying any counterplay and to attack on the kingside himself.



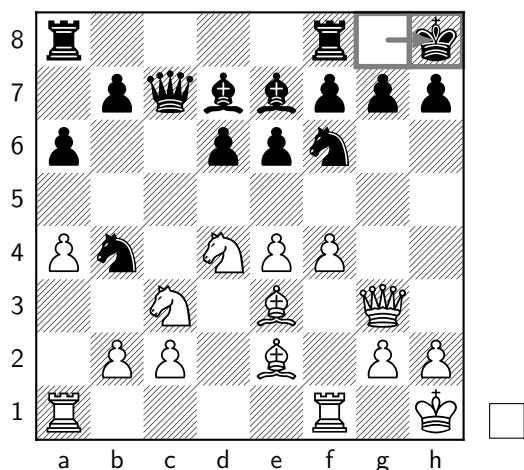
12 ♘b3

12... ♘b4!? An interesting little sideline.

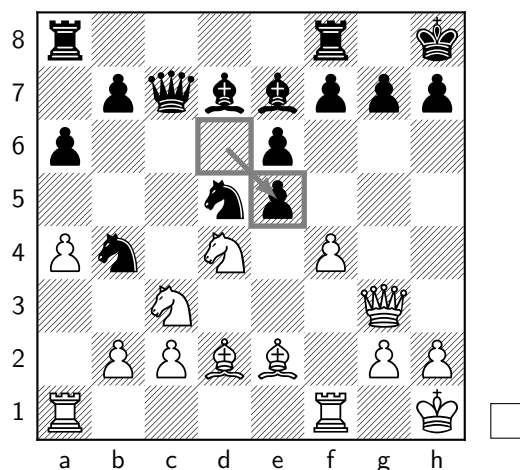


12... ♘xd4 13 ♙xd4 ♙c6 14 ♙g3 ZZ-

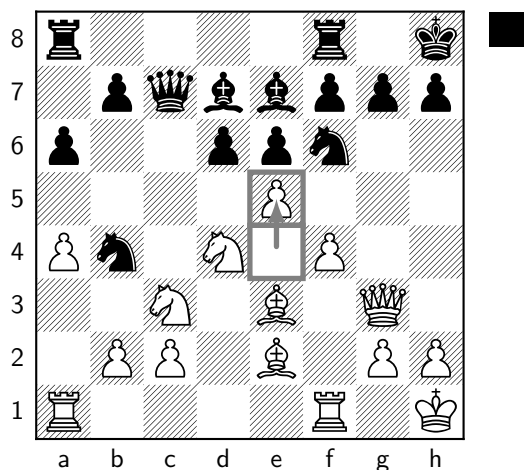
13 ♙g3 ♙h8 QUESTION: Why was this played, seeing as White had no immediate threat down the g-file?



13... ♖ac8 14 e5 ♘fd5 15 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 16 f5
14 e5

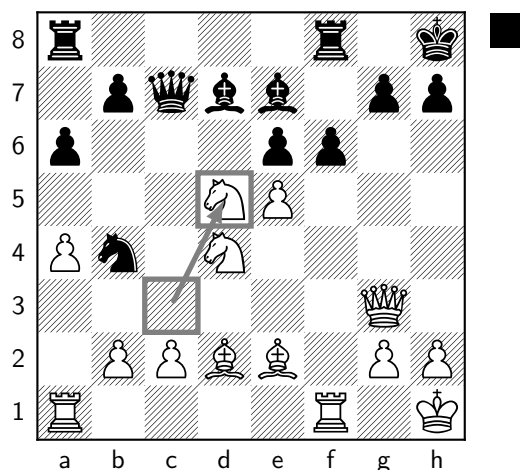


15... ♘xc3 16 ♙xc3 dxe5? 17 ♘xe6! ♙xe6 18
♙xe5
16 fxe5 f6 17 ♘xd5



14 ♖ad1 ♖ac8 15 ♙c1 d5! 16 e5 ♘e4 17 ♘xe4
dxe4 18 f5 exf5 19 c3 ♘d3 20 ♙xd3 exd3 21
♖xd3 g6 22 ♙h6 ♖fd8 23 ♖e3 ♙e6 24 ♙g5 ♖e8
14... ♘fd5 15 ♙d2 QUESTION: Should Black
take on e5 now or do it after first exchanging
knights on c3? ANSWER: It is better to capture
on e5 first, because the position will explode if
Black doesn't!

15... dxe5!

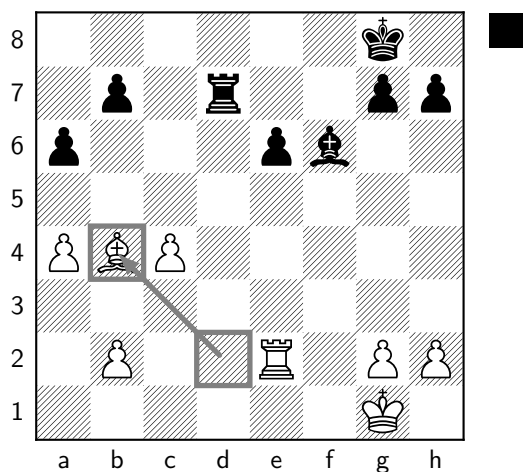


17 exf6 ♖xg3 18 h×g3 ♙xf6

17... ♘xd5 18 c4 ♖xe5 19 ♖xe5 fxe5 20 ♘f3
Now an endgame arises by force.

20... ♘f4 21 ♘xe5 ♘xe2 22 ♘xd7 ♖xf1+ 23
♖xf1 ♖d8 24 ♖e1 ♖xd7 25 ♖xe2 ♘g8 26 ♘g1
♙f6 QUESTION: How to assess this endgame?
Try to pick the good and bad points about each
side's position. ANSWER: It's a good question!
Let's take a look: 1) White has fewer pawn is-
lands (three to two). 2) The e6-pawn, though
a little weak, is passed. 3) Black's pieces are
more active than White's. Indeed, the bishop
on f6 is clearly better than its counterpart on d2.
That was all enough to convince Ganguly that he
should play for a win!

27 ♙b4



27 ♖e1 ♜f7 28 b4 ♞d1 29 ♜f2

27... ♞d1+ 28 ♜f2 ♞c1 29 c5 ♖d4+ 30 ♜f3 ♜f7!

Winning a pawn. The rest is a matter of technique.

31 ♞d2 ♞c4 32 ♖c3 ♖xc3 33 bxc3 ♞xc3+ 34

♜e2 ♞xc5 35 ♞d7+ ♜f6 36 ♞xb7 ♞c4 The white a-pawn disappears, leaving Black two pawns ahead.

0-1

White: Aagaard, J
Black: Gordon, S

British Championship, Great Yarmouth

2007

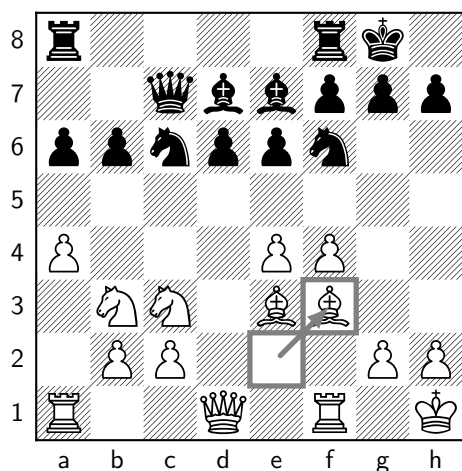
Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♗c3 e6 6 ♙e2 a6 7 O-O ♙e7 8 f4 O-O 9 ♖h1 ♚c7 10 a4 ♗c6 11 ♙e3 ♙d7 We finally reach the main line of the 6 Be2 variation.

12 ♗b3 QUESTION: Why does White retreat like this? ANSWER: After 11...Bd7 Black wants to capture on d4 and play ...Bc6. This would put pressure on e4. White argues that ...Bd7 isn't a useful move for Black and in fact gets in his way. Thus White decides to spend a move retreating his knight to prove his point.

12...b6 Preventing White from going a5 and fixing the b6-square.

13 ♙f3



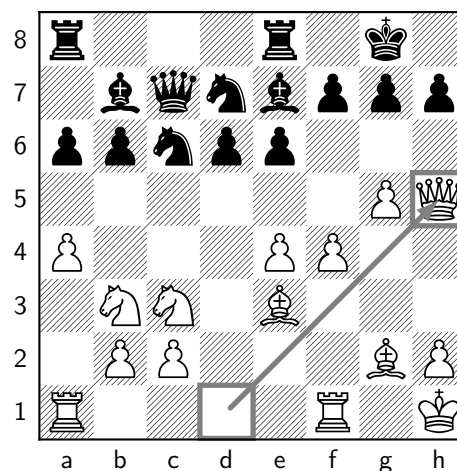
13 g4 ♙c8

13...♚fe8 14 g4 ♙c8 QUESTION: Can you remember from Karpov-Kasparov in the previous chapter why Black retreats like this? ANSWER: He vacates d7 for the f6-knight, so that it can come back into the game via c5 or e5.

15 g5 ♗d7 16 ♙g2 ♙b7 This is a key position for this line. EXERCISE: What do you think the plans for White are in this position? What moves will he play to carry these plans out? ANSWER: White's main plan is to attack! He normally plays Qh5, Rf3 and Rh3 to try and crash

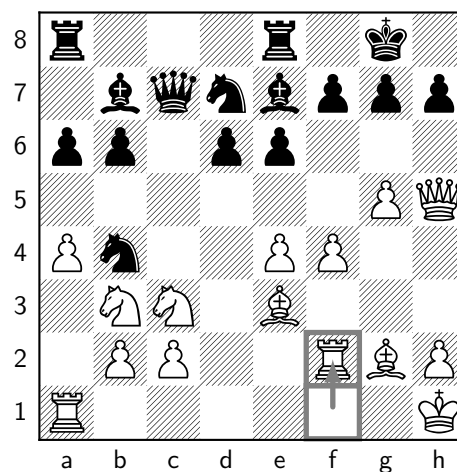
through on the h7-square. (More positional ideas will be looked at in the next game.)

17 ♚h5



17 ♚f3 ♗b4 18 ♚h3 g6 19 ♚d2 ♙f8 20 ♚f1 ZZ-

17...♗b4 18 ♚f2 Compare this position to 17 Rf3, above. White's queen is active, but he cannot get his rook to h3 via f3 (for now).

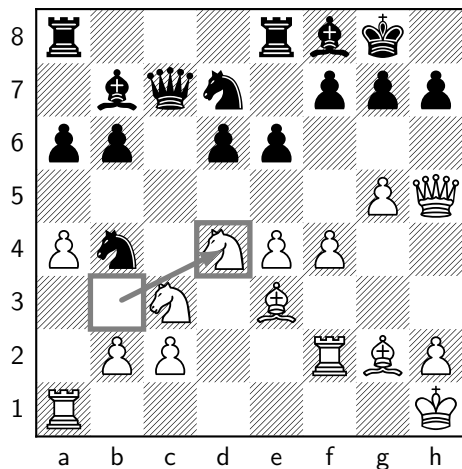


18 ♚f3 ♗xc2 19 ♚h3 ♗f8!

18...♙f8 We have seen this idea before. Black

will be looking to play ...g6 and ...Bg7 in some lines and so reactivate the bishop.

19 ♖d4

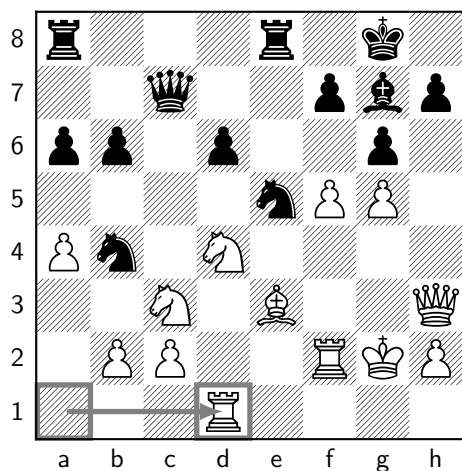


19 ♖af1 g6 20 ♖h3 ♗g7 21 ♗d4 e5

19...g6 20 ♖h3 ♗g7 Another tense position has arisen. Black awaits developments carefully, hoping to spring out from the Hedgehog-style position that he has adopted. Can White avoid being pricked by the Hedgehog's spikes?

21 f5 White thinks that he cannot hang about, so he decides to go for the typical attacking move.

21...exf5 22 exf5 ♗xg2+ 23 ♔xg2 ♘e5 24 ♖d1



24 f6 ♘c4! 25 ♗c1 ♗f8

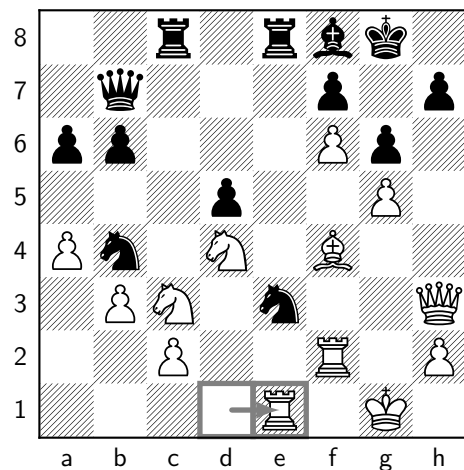
24...♖ac8 25 f6 As mentioned in the above note on 24 f6, Black shouldn't be overly scared to see this move. Of course, a pawn on f6 can be dangerous (so I'm not saying completely ignore it!),

but if White can't attack the g7- or h7-squares then Black is generally okay in this type of position.

25...♗f8 26 ♖g1 ♘c4 27 ♗c1 d5! The f8-bishop can even emerge on d6 or c5 at the right moment. Objectively this position is equal, but Black definitely has chances to better.

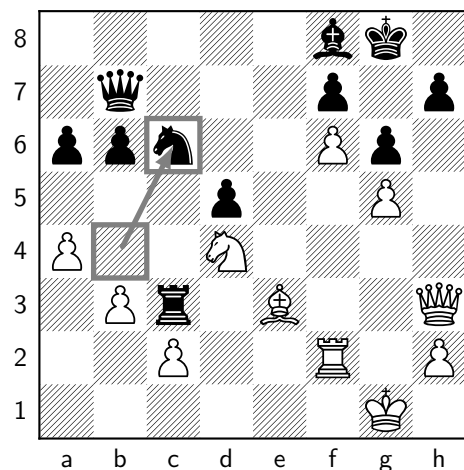
28 ♗f4 ♖b7 29 b3? ANSWER: By using the tactic of interference:

29...♘e3! 30 ♖e1



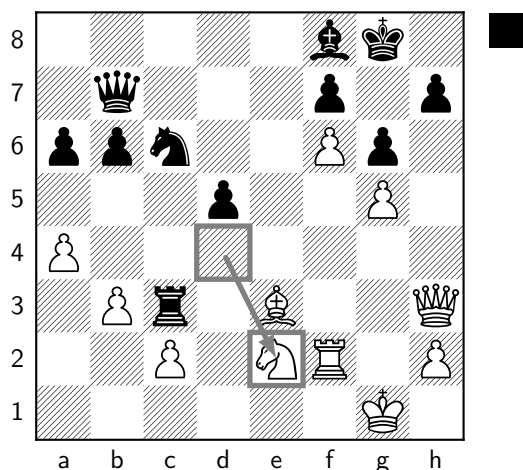
30 ♗xe3 ♖xc3 31 ♖e1 ♖e4! 32 ♖f3 ♘xc2 33 ♘xc2 ♖xc2 34 ♖d1 ♖c6 35 ♗f2 ♖ee2

30...♖xc3 31 ♖xe3 ♖exe3 32 ♗xe3 ♘c6



32...♖c7

33 ♘e2

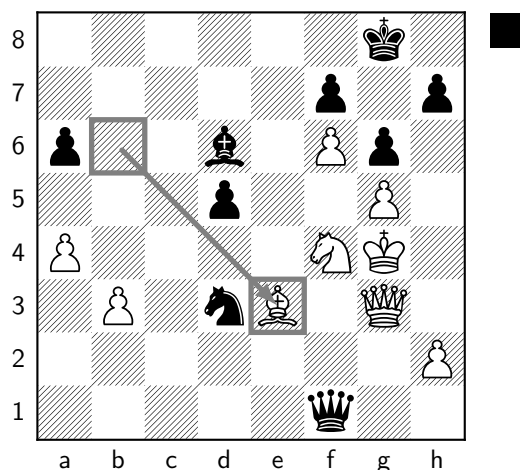


33 ♖f3 ♗x d4 34 ♕x d4 ♖x c2

33... ♖x c2 Now Black has something for his play, being a pawn ahead, and from here on things become even more difficult for White.

34 ♗f4 ♖x f2 35 ♕x f2 ♗b4 36 ♖c3 ♖d7 37 ♕x b6 ♖g4+ 38 ♖g3 ♖d1+ 39 ♔g2 ♕d6 The key defensive bishop emerges and White finds it does so with great effect.

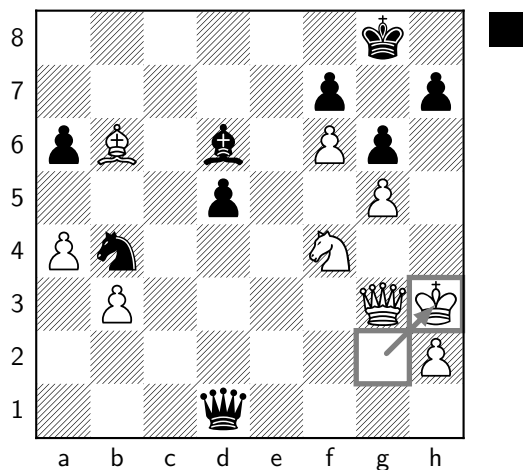
40 ♔h3? In time trouble White blunders, but his position was difficult anyway.



42 ♖x d3 ♖x f4+ 43 ♔h3 ♖x h2+ 44 ♔g4 ♖h5#

42... d4 Jacob Aagaard actually became British Champion in 2007, despite this loss, and is a greatly-respected chess author. However, even he couldn't extricate himself from the problems with his position after such a loose move as 29 b3?. So long as Black defends well on the king-side, his position has always seemed to me the easier to handle!

0-1



40 ♕f2 d4 41 ♖f3 ♖d2 42 ♖a8+ ♕f8

40... ♖f1+ 41 ♔g4 ♗d3 A deadly pin.

42 ♕e3

White: Martinez Duany, L
 Black: Fier, A

Barcelona

2009

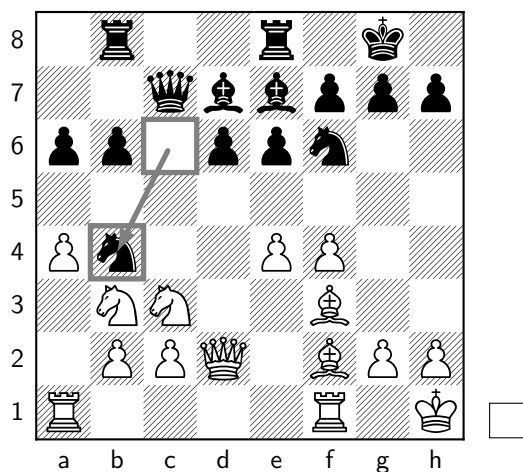
Result: 1/2-1/2

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♕e2 e6 7 O-O ♕e7 8 f4 ♗c6 9 ♖h1 O-O 10 ♕e3 ♕d7 11 a4 ♖c7 12 ♗b3 b6 13 ♕f3
 The bishop normally comes here as it covers e4 as well as the g4-square, which is helpful should White want to charge with the g-pawn.

13... ♖fe8 14 ♖d2 Here White isn't trying to push Black off the board with g4-g5, but instead is content to manoeuvre around. Plans involving Bf2-Bg3 and then trying to push with e5 are possible.

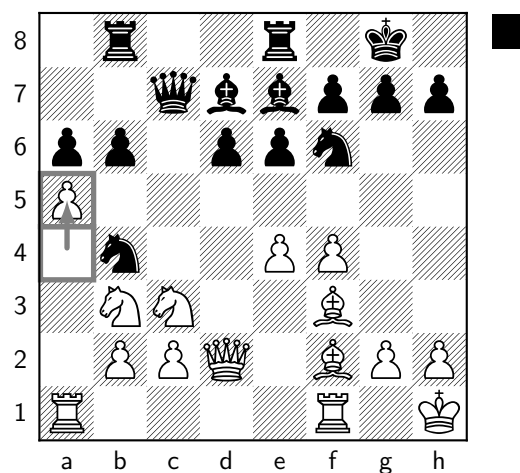
14... ♖ab8 15 ♕f2 QUESTION: What is White's plan with Bf2? ANSWER: To play Bg3 and put the bishop on the h2-b8 diagonal. This would allow White to play e5, which introduces some interesting tactics, as you will see very soon.

15... ♗b4! I believe this to be the best reply, opening the c-file and stopping the white knight coming to d5.



15... ♕c8 16 ♕g3 ♗d7 17 e5 dxe5 18 ZZ–

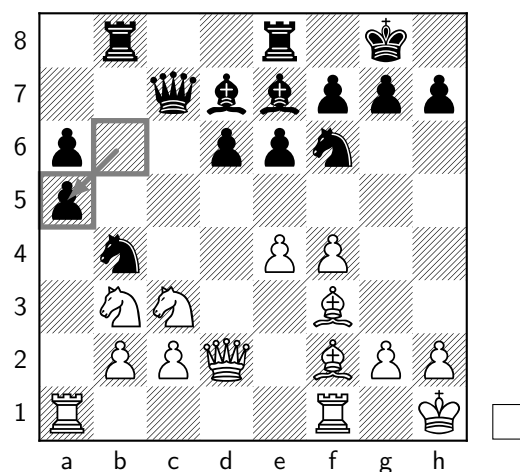
16 a5 ANSWER:



16 ♕g3 ZZ–

16 a5

16... bxa5!



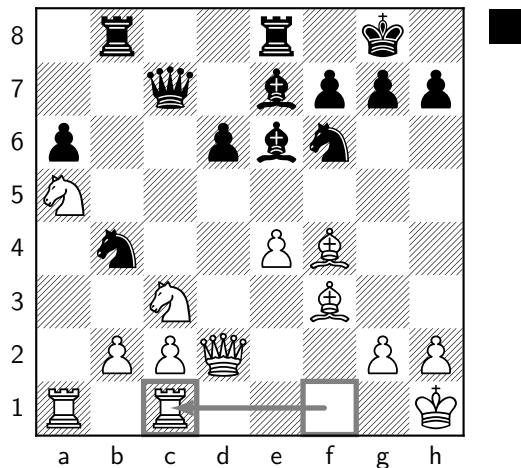
16... b5 17 ♕b6 ♖c8 18 e5! dxe5 19 fxe5 ♗fd5
 20 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 21 ♖f2

17 ♗xa5 e5 The knight on b4 helps control the d5-square, so Black can challenge the centre like this. The text also prevents White from playing his e5 trick, as we saw in the notes to Black's 16th move, above.

18 ♕g3 exf4 19 ♕xf4 ♕e6 EXERCISE: What do

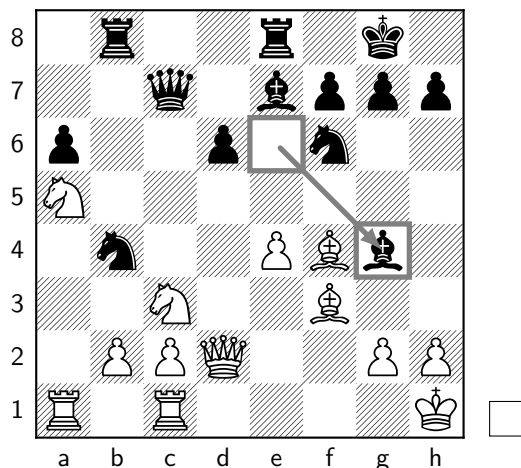
you think Black's mini-positional plan should be in this position? ANSWER: To try and put a knight on e5. Indeed, ...Nd7-e5 (or ...Ng4-e5 as in the game) would blunt the bishop on f4 and if White ever captures the knight then ...dxe5 would improve Black's pawn structure.

20 ♖fc1



20 ♖fd1 ♕f8 21 ♕xd6 ♖xd6 22 ♖xd6 ♕xd6 23 ♖xd6 ♜xc2

20... ♕g4



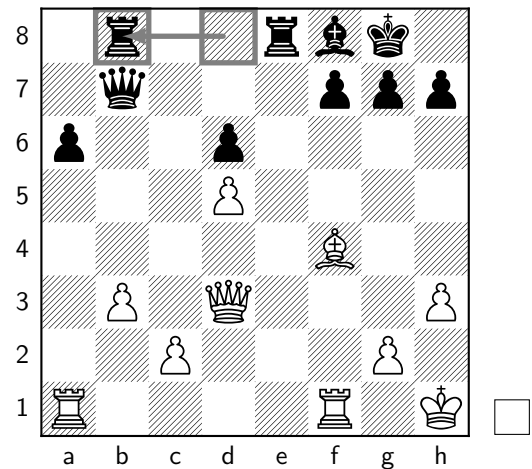
20... h6 21 h3 ♕f8 22 ♖d1 ♜d7!

21 ♕xg4 ♜xg4 22 h3 ♜e5 Black has carried out his mini-plan and is now very solidly placed indeed.

23 ♖a4 ♕f8 We have seen this defensive regrouping before!

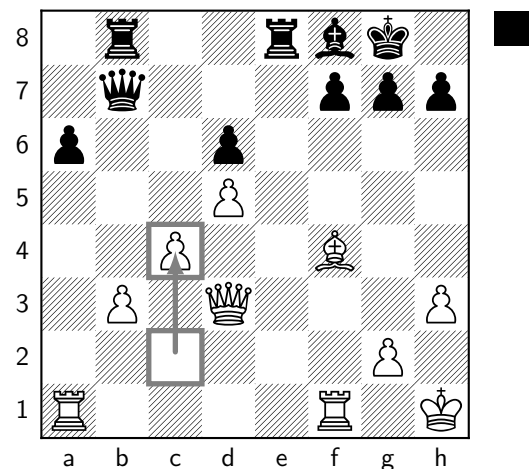
24 ♖ca1 ♖c8 25 ♖f1 ♜c4 26 ♜xc4 ♖xc4 27

♖aa1 ♖bd8 28 b3 ♖c8 29 ♜d5 ♜xd5 30 exd5 ♖b7 31 ♖d3 ♖b8?! This appears a bit strange, as now White can capture on a6 for free.



31... ♖c8 32 c4 g6

32 c4



32 ♖xa6 ♖a8 33 ♖c6

32... ♖b6 33 ♖f3 ♖b7 34 ♕d2 ♖c5 35 ♕a5 ♖c8 36 b4 g6 37 ♖af1 ♖e5 38 ♖f6 ♖h5

1/2-1/2

White: Kupreichik, V
Black: Ibrahimov, R

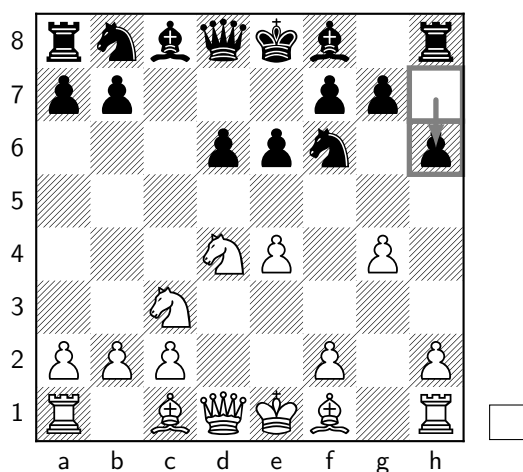
Minsk

2000

Result: 0-1

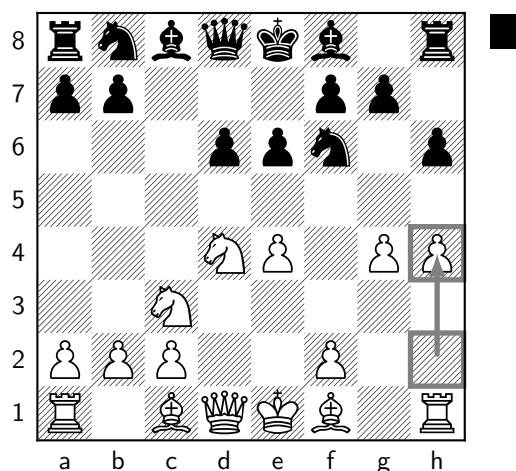
1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 e6 3 ♘f3 d6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♘xd4 ♘f6 6 g4 Paul Keres was the first to play 6 g4, in his game against Bogoljubow in Salzburg, all the way back in 1943! Why, though, would White play this move this quickly? White often plays a later g4 later in the Sicilian, but never usually so early. In short, there is no easy way for Black to refute the audacious advance immediately, especially with the c8-bishop blocked in, and the threat of playing g5 to kick the f6-knight back could be quite promising for White.

6...h6 This is my recommendation.



6...a6 7 g5 ♘fd7 8 ♙e3 b5 9 ♙g2 ♘b6 10 O-O ♙b7 11 f4 b4 12 f5!? e5 13 ♘e6 fxe6 14 ♖h5+ ♔d7 15 fxe6+ ♔c8 16 ♘d5

7 h4 The most direct approach. White isn't hanging about; he wants to get g5 in and get it in quick!



7 ♖g1 ♘c6

7 h3

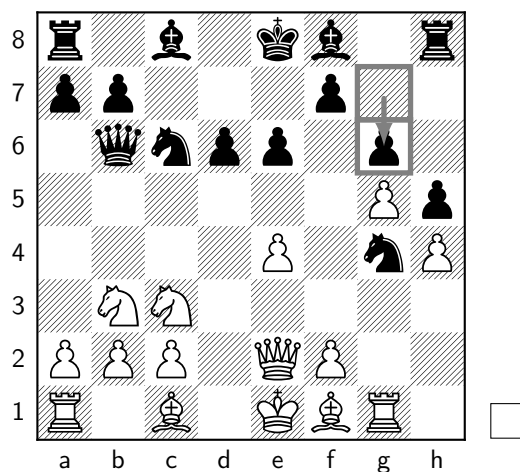
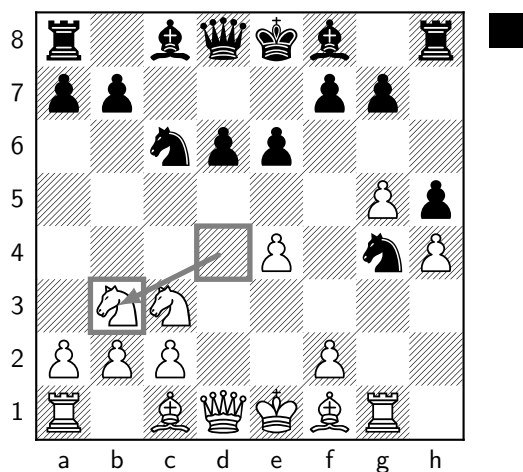
7 g5

7...♘c6 8 ♖g1 h5! This in my view is the critical test of the Keres Attack. Black doesn't let White get on with his intended plan of g5 driving the knight back, but rather challenges it head on. QUESTION: How does 8...h5 prevent White from going g5? ANSWER: It doesn't and in fact it appears to encourage this pawn advance, but there are some good points behind the move, as we'll now see.

9 g5 This appears at first sight to be the most logical move. The black knight that may now come to g4 can be kicked away with f3 at some point and White has his usual kingside space advantage. Of course, things are never that simple!

9...♘g4 The main point of playing 8...h5. The knight has no intention of going backwards and charges into White's position. Reckless or clever? I hope you will think it's the latter!

10 ♘b3 QUESTION: Why do you think White retreated like this? ANSWER: Black is intending to use his knight on g4 to go ...Qb6!, pinning the knight on d4 to the f2-pawn.

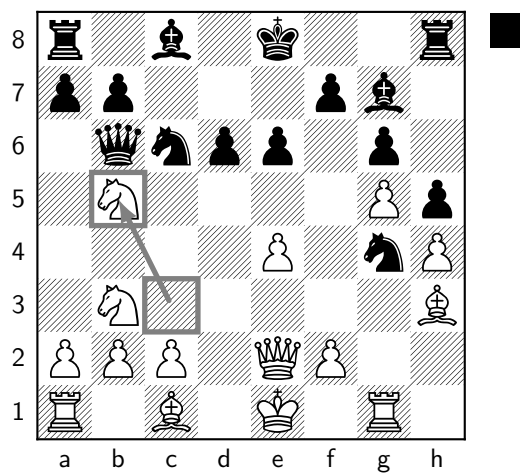
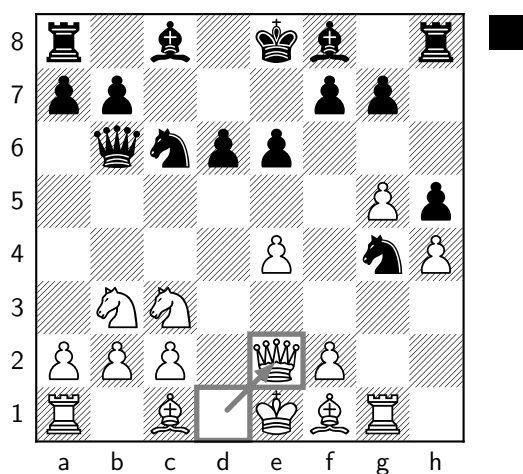


10 ♖e2 g6!? 11 ♜xc6 bxc6 12 ♖xg4 hxg4 13 ♜xg4 ♕g7 14 ♜g3 ♜b8 15 a3 ♜a5! 16 ♜h1 ♖a6 17 ♜h3 ♖e5 18 f4 ♖d4 19 b3 e5 20 ♖b2 ♖c8! 21 ♜h1 exf4 22 ♜d3 ♖e5 23 O-O-O ♖g4 24 ♜d2 O-O

11... ♖d7 12 ♜g2 a6 13 f3 ♜ge5 14 ♖e3 ♜c7 15 ♜f2 b5 16 a4 b4 17 ♜d1 g6 18 a5 ♖e7 19 ♜g3 ♖c8 20 f4 ♜d7 21 ♜d2 ♖b7 12 ♖h3 ♖g7 13 ♜b5?!

10 f3 ♜b6! 11 ♖b5 ♜e5 12 ♖e3 a6 13 ♖xc6+ bxc6

10... ♜b6 11 ♜e2

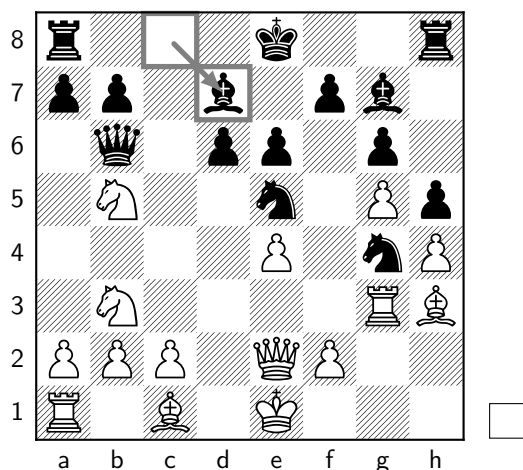


13 ♖xg4 hxg4 14 ZZ-

13... ♜ce5 14 ♜g3 ♖d7 QUESTION: This looks good, but could Black have grabbed on f2?

11 ♜g2 g6 12 ♖f4 ♜ge5 13 ♜e2 a6 14 O-O-O ♜c7 15 ♜b1 b5 16 ♜e3 ♖e7

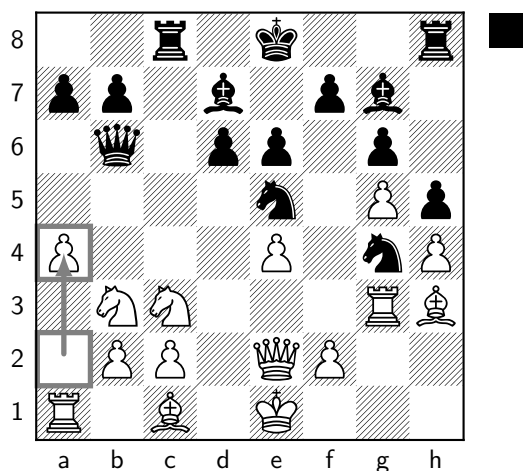
11... g6



14... dxf2! 15 e3 fd3+! 16 cxd3 fxb5

15 c3 White's strategy of attacking d6 has failed and Black has gained plenty of time for development. QUESTION: White is, however, threatening f3 trapping the knight on g4. What can Black do about it? ANSWER: Using his lead in development, Black has a tactic to prevent it:

15... c8! 16 a4



16 f3 cxc3! 17 bxc3 b5 18 g2 e3 19 d2 d5c4 20 d3 e5!

16... c4 17 cxc3 hxc3 18 gxc3 b4 So White has won his pawn, but in return Black has gained a lot. Threats on c3 hang in the air, both black rooks are already in the game, and it's not surprising that White can't deal with all these threats.

19 f1 ANSWER:

19... b2! 20 cxc3 bxc3 21 cxc3 cxc3 Having regained his material, Black is already better and he now exchanges off into a favourable

endgame.

22 g2 e5! 23 cxc3 cxc3 24 f3 fxc3+ 25 xf3 hx4 Reaching a winning ending. The rest of the moves I will give without comment, as Black clinically achieves his objective!

26 a5 b6 27 c4 e7 28 e3 d5! 29 d2 dxe4 30 cxe4 c6 31 f3 e6 32 a5 b5 33 a6 h2

0-1

White: Fier, A
Black: Ponomariov, R

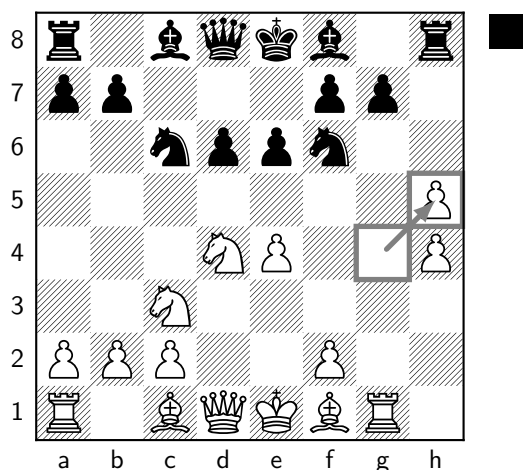
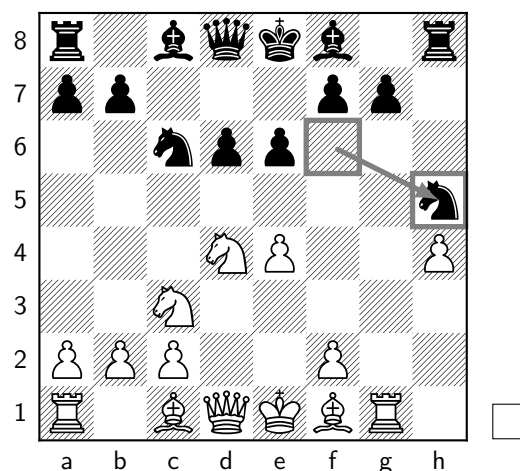
Spanish Team Championship

2009

Result: 1/2-1/2

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 Annotating this game for his Open Sicilians column on the ChessPublishing website, Richard Palliser couldn't resist noting: 'Yet another strong player decides that the Keres Attack isn't quite the terrifying weapon it was once considered to be'. That said, the Keres Attack is the most popular variation against the Scheveningen right now and the sub-variation we'll see in this game is one of the most important. I advise the reader to study this line!

6 g4 h6 7 h4 ♘c6 8 ♖g1 h5 9 g×h5

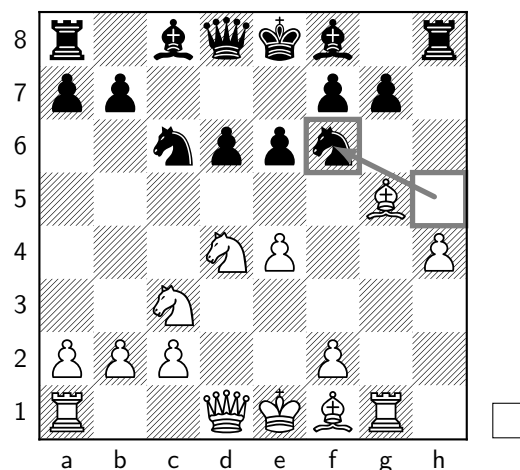


9 g5

9... ♘×h5 Returning to 9...Nxh5:

9... ♖×h5 10 ♔g5 ♖h7!? 11 ♖d2 ♖b6 12 ♘b3 a6 13 O-O-O ♔e7 14 ♖b1 ♔d7 15 ♖g3 ♖c7 16 ♔g2 b5 17 a3 ♖d8 18 f4 ♔c8 19 ♘d5!? exd5 20 exd5 ♘a7 21 ♖e1 ♖f8

10 ♔g5 ♘f6



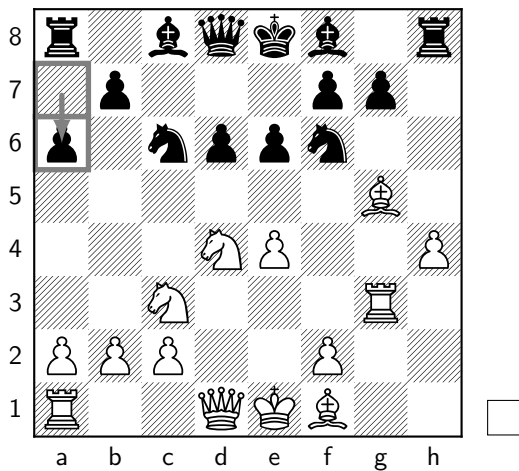
10... ♖c7!? 11 ♖d2 a6 12 O-O-O ♔d7 13 ♔e2 ♖c8 14 ♘c6 ♔×c6

10... ♖b6!? 11 ♘b3 a6 12 ♖d2 ♔d7 13 O-O-O ♖c7 14 ♖b1 ♘e5 15 ♘d4 b5 16 f4 b4! 17 f×e5 b×c3 18 exd6 ♔×d6 19 ♖×c3 ♖×c3 20 b×c3 ♔c7

11 ♖g3!? The move recommended by many sources,

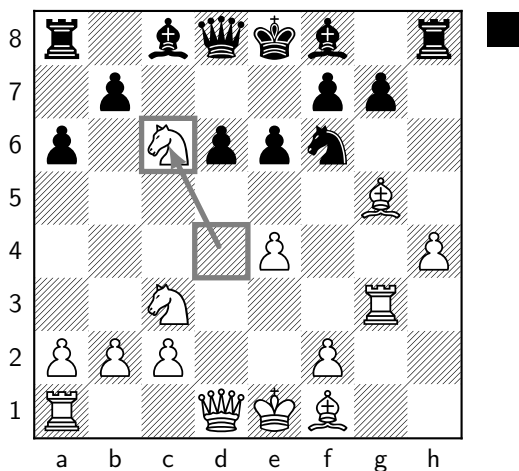
including Viktor Gavrikov in 'Experts vs. the Sicilian', and one which needs to be taken seriously. QUESTION: Why is White moving his rook like this? Why isn't he developing and trying to castle queenside? ANSWER: That is also a popular option, but with the rook move White first wants to see how Black is going to develop. The rook performs a useful function along the third rank and now White can consider f4 without worrying about ...Qb6 pinning the knight on d4 to the rook on g1.

11...a6 Black also plays a useful waiting move.



11...e7 12 d2 a6 13 O-O-O d7 14 g2 c8 15 f4 c7 16 e5!

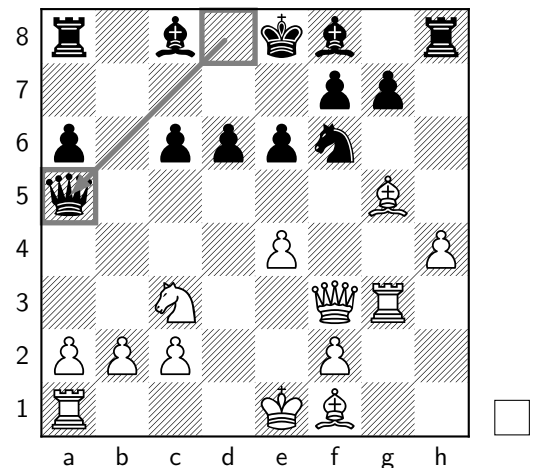
12 dxc6



12 d2 b6 13 b3 d7

12 d3 c7 13 e2 d7 14 O-O-O e5 15 d2 b5 16 f4 c4 17 e5!? dxd2 18 g2 fe4 19 dxe4 dxe4 20 exd4 c8? 21 f5! c4 22 fxe6 exd6 23 f3 d5 24 d3 c5 25 dxe6 fxe6 26 g6+ d7 27 f7+ e7 28 f5! c6 29 exd7 e3+ 30 b1 e2 31 exd6+

12...bxc6 13 f3 a5! Black sees that White will castle queenside and so places his pieces facing in that direction. Previous practice had suggested that White was a little better here:



13...e5?! 14 c4! e6 15 exd6 fxe6 16 O-O-O b8 17 h5!

13...d7 14 O-O-O e7 15 e5! dxe5 16 e4

13...b6 14 O-O-O b8 15 b3 h5 16 g1 g6 17 c4 a5 18 e5!? d5 19 b1 d7 20 f1 g7 21 e3 c7 22 f4 c5 23 e2 a5 24 g3 dxc3 25 exg3 a4 26 e2 c4 27 h5 axb3 28 cxb3 a4 29 c1

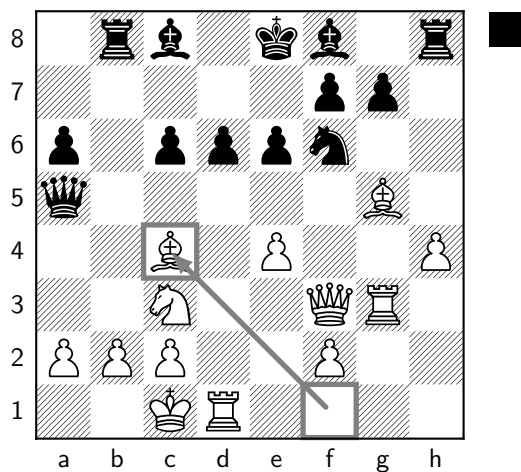
13...b8 14 c4! b6 15 b3 h5 16 g1 g6 17 O-O-O d7 18 ge1 c7 19 d3 a5 20 f4 g7 21 f5

13...e7 14 O-O-O d5 15 c4 b7 16 b3 f8 17 h5

14 O-O-O Nothing else makes much sense, but now Black will look to target b2 down the open b-file.

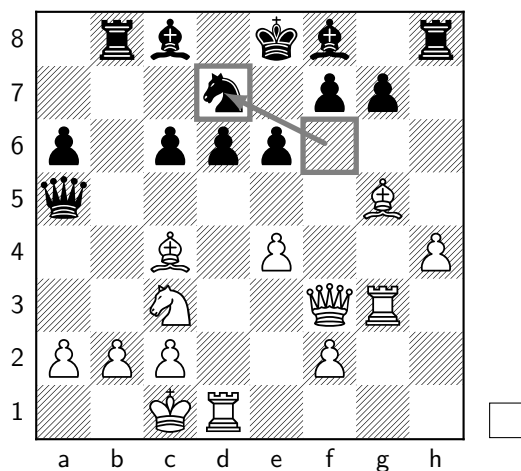
14 exf6 gxf6 15 fxf6 h5! 16 h3 e5 17 e2 e7 18 g7 h6 19 exh6 hxh6 20 h1 hxh4

14...b8 15 c4 QUESTION: Can't White capture on f6 and win a pawn?



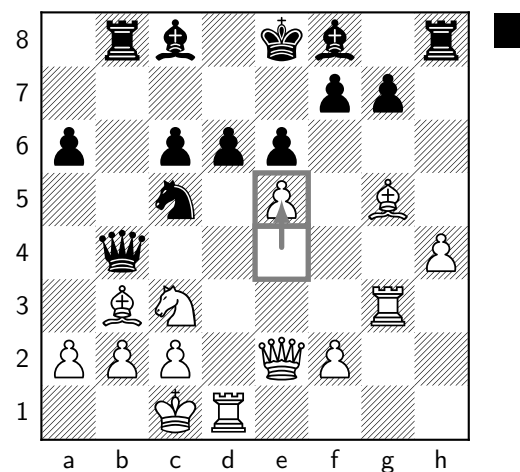
15 ♔×f6 g×f6 16 ♚×f6 ♖h6 17 ♚f4 e5 18 ♚e3
♜×h4 19 ♜g8 ♙e6 20 ♚g3 ♜f4 21 ♚g7 ♙e7

15... ♖d7! A strong regrouping and one which fully solves Black's problems.



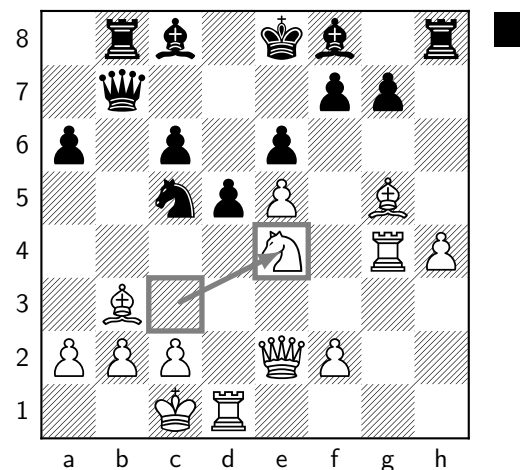
15... h5 16 gg1 g6 17 b3

16 ♖e2 ♜b4 17 ♙b3 ♘c5 18 e5! Fier hurries to create some play of his own before Black's a-pawn begins to advance. QUESTION: What is Black's plan in this position?






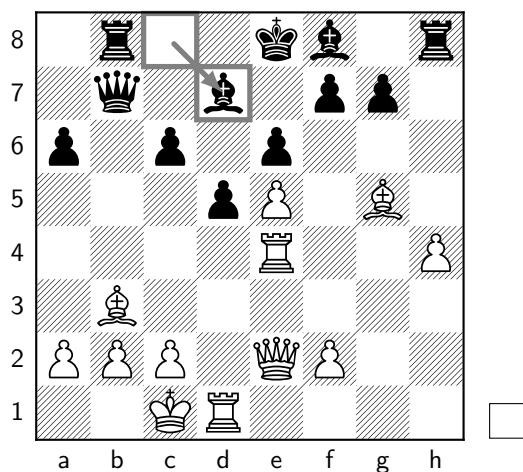
18 ♔b1 a5!

18...d5 19 ♖g4 ♜b7 20 ♘e4 White wants to get rid of Black's active knight on c5, which is supporting the ...a5-a4 advance.



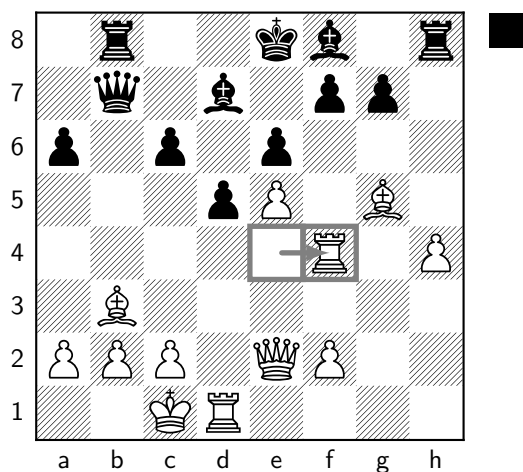
20 ♔b1 a5 21 ♘a4 ♘xb3 22 axb3 c5

20... xe4 21 xe4 d7!



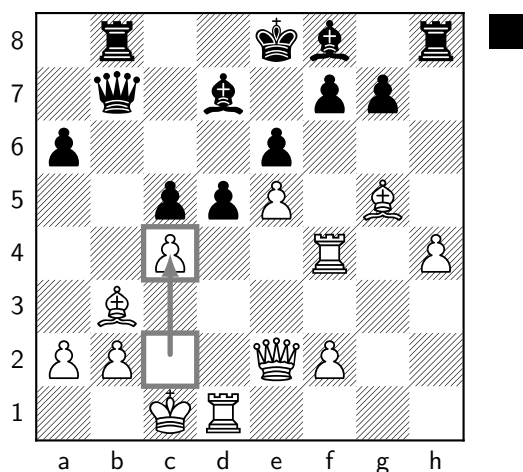
21...dxe4?? 22 ♖d8#

22 ♖f4



22 ♖a4!? c5 23 ♙x6 f6! 24 exf6 c4 25 ♙xb7
 ♖xb7 26 ♖a8+ ♔f7 27 ♖a4 gxf6 28 ♖xd7 ♖xd7
 29 ♖e3 ♖xh4

22...c5 23 c4

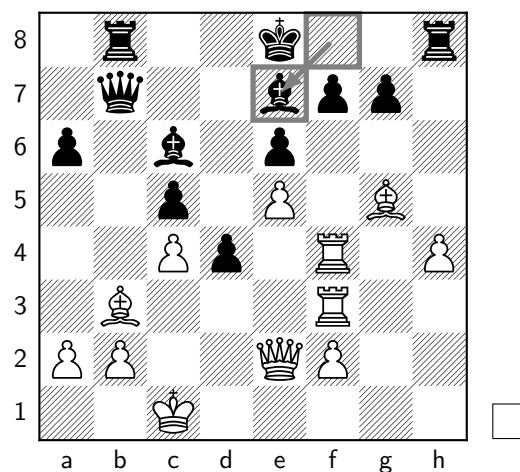


23 c3!? c4

23...d4 Not just creating a protected passed pawn,
 but a move which prevents any action down the
 d-file.

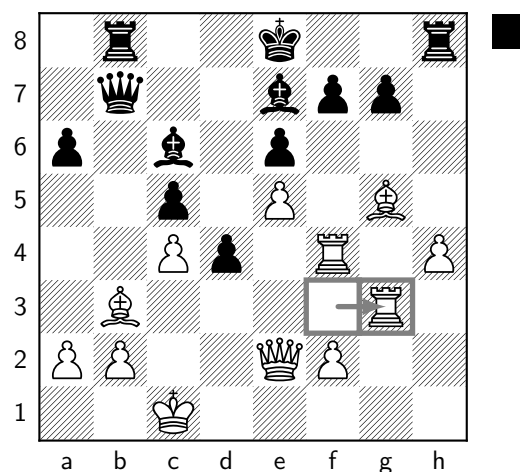
24 ♖d3 ♖c6 25 ♖df3!? A tricky move and one
 which Black needs to be on red alert against.

25...♖e7!



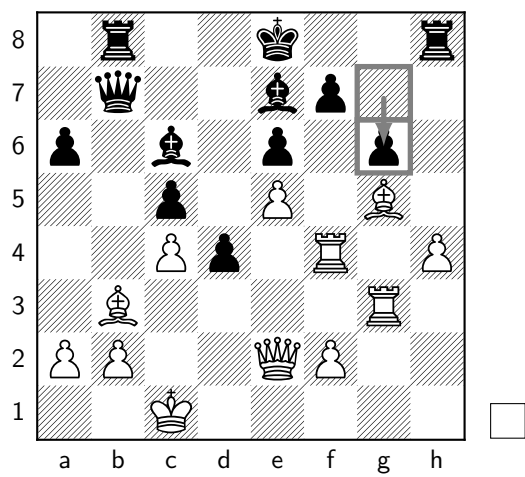
25...♖x3? 26 ♙x3 ♙x3?? 27 ♖a4+!

26 ♖g3



26 ♖xf7 ♖xg5+ 27 h×g5 ♖h1+ 28 ♔d2 ♙xf7
 29 ♖xf7 ♔xf7

26...g6 Here the game was prematurely agreed
 drawn.



26...g6 27 ♗xe7 ♔xe7 28 ♖h3 ♖h5

1/2-1/2

White: Thomassen, J
Black: Cebalo, M

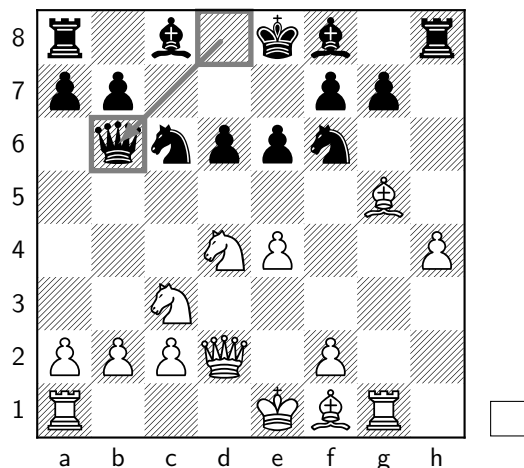
Biel

2008

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 g4 h6 7 h4 ♘c6 8 ♖g1 h5 9 g×h5 ♘×h5 10 ♙g5 ♘f6 We saw all this in the previous game. Now we come to White's typical developing plan: queen to d2 followed by castling queenside. With the king safe, White will then look to open up the position to get at the black king on e8.

11 ♕d2 ♗b6 The queen kicks the knight from d4, before dropping back to c7.

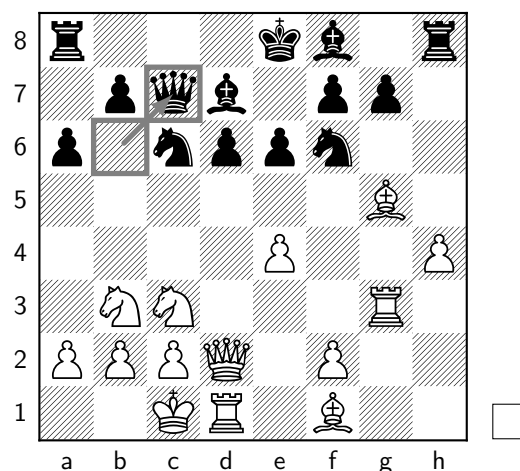


11... a6 12 O-O-O ♙d7 13 ♙e2 ♗b6 14 ♘b3 ♗c7 15 h5 b5 16 a3 ♙e7 17 ♗f4 ♗d8 18 ♙h4 ♖g8 19 h6 g6 20 ♖xd6! ♙xd6 21 ♗xd6 ♘xe4 22 ♙xd8 ♘xd6 23 ♙f6

12 ♘b3 a6 13 O-O-O 13 ♙e2 ♙d7 14 h5 ♘×h5 15 ♖h1 g6 16 O-O-O ♗×f2 17 e5 ♗f5 18 exd6 ♗×g5! 19 ♗×g5 ♙h6 20 ♗×h6 ♖×h6 21 ♘a4 ♘e5 22 ♘b6 ♖d8 23 ♘c5 ♙c6

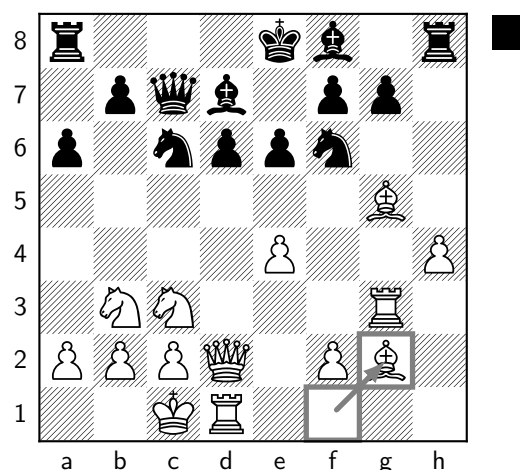
13... ♙d7 14 ♖g3 Again we see this multipurpose rook move. White can now play f4 without leaving the rook en prise on g1 and the rook can swing across the third rank in some lines.

14... ♗c7



14... ♖c8 15 ♗e1 ♗c7 16 ♙b1 b5!? 17 ♙h3 b4 18 ♘d5 exd5 19 exd5+ ♘e7 20 ♖d2 ♘h5 21 ♙xd7+ ♗xd7 22 ♖e3 f6 23 ♘d4 f×g5 24 h×g5 ♘f4 25 ♖e4 ♘xd5 26 ♘e6 ♘c7

15 ♙g2 Not White's only move:



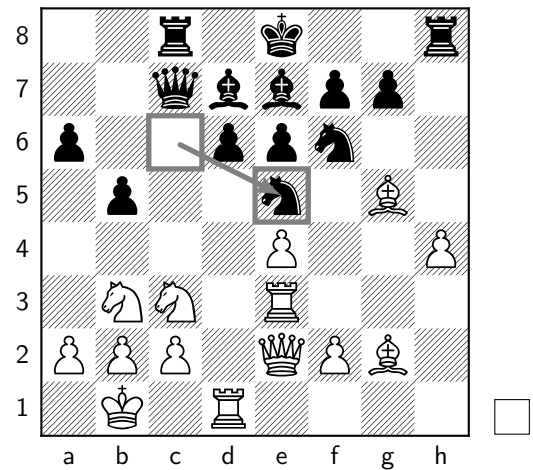
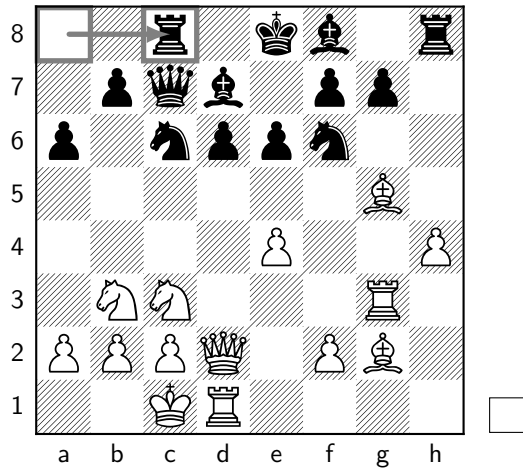
15 ♗e2 b5 16 ♙g2 b4 17 ♙×f6 g×f6 18 e5 b×c3 19 ♖×c3 f×e5 20 ♗c4 d5 21 ♖xd5 exd5 22 ♙xd5 ♖h6 23 ♙×f7+ ♙d8 24 h5 ♖d6 25 ♘c5 ♙h6+ 26 ♖e3 ♘d4 27 c3 ♘f5 28 ♙g6 ♙×e3+ 29 f×e3 ♖d1+

15 ♙e2 O-O-O 16 h5 ♙e7 17 ♗f4?! ♘×h5 18

♙xh5 f6! 19 ♖g4 f×g5 20 ♔d2 ♜df8

15 ♖g2

15... ♜c8 ANSWER: Either plan is good. It depends how you feel at the board!



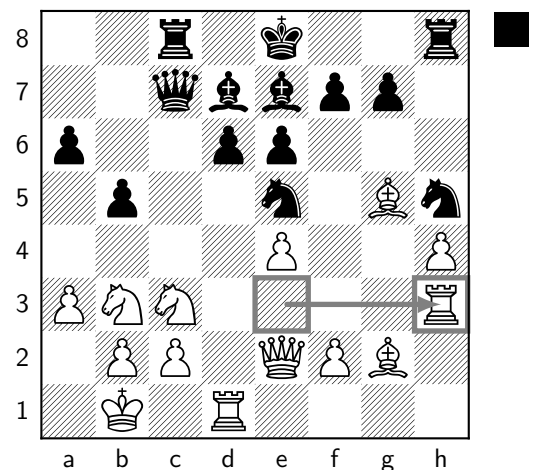
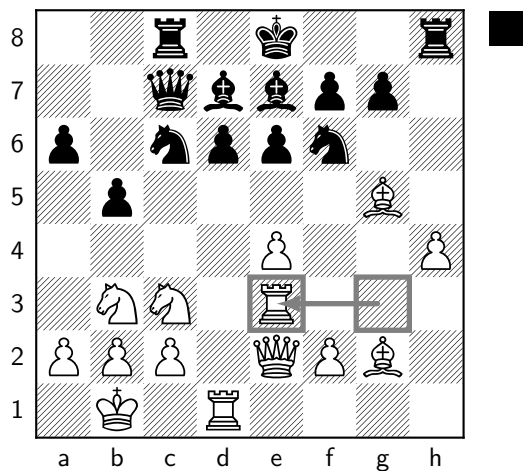
18... b4 19 ♖d5 exd5 20 exd5 ♖e5 21 f4 ♖g4!

19 a3 Now White gets to prevent ...b4 ideas and we only witness a positional masterpiece from the respected Croatian Grandmaster Miso Cebalo.

19... ♖h5 20 ♜h3

15... ♖e7 16 f4 O-O-O 17 ♔f2 ♙b8 18 f5 ♖e5 19 ♖h3 ♖c4

16 ♔e2 ♖e7 17 ♙b1 b5 18 ♜e3 QUESTION: Can you think why White may have played this? ANSWER: He sees the threat of ...b4 and wants to play Nd5 in reply. Does this work, though?



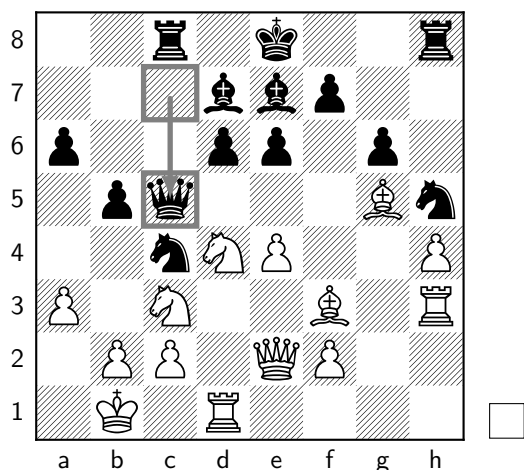
20 ♖xe7 ♙xe7

20... ♖c4 21 ♖d4 g6 22 ♖f3 EXERCISE: Choose between one of the following three moves: a) 22...Bxg5; b) 22...Qc5; c) 22...Nxb2.

22... ♔c5

18 f4 b4 19 ♖a4 ♖a7!

18... ♖e5 This is still good, but was there anything better?



22...dxb2! 23 exh5 dxd1! 24 cxd1 b4! 25 axb4 b7

22...exg5 23 hxg5 d4 24 f8+

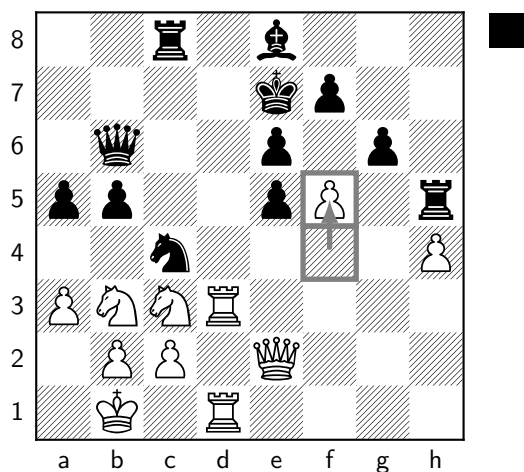
23 exh5 f8xh5 24 d3 b6 25 ex7 e7
Black should not mind his king being in the centre in the Scheveningen, as mentioned above. Those pawns on e6 and d6 do a great job of preventing any threats.

26 f4 a5 EXERCISE: Assess this position. ANSWER: This is a dream position for Black in this variation. He can play ...Rch8 and go after the weak h4-pawn, or he might play for ...b4 and go after White's king on the queenside. Moreover, Black has the better pawn structure, so any ending will be better for him.

27 e5 Uh-oh, have we missed something?

27...dxe5 No. White is just playing for tricks.

28 fhd3 ex8 29 f5



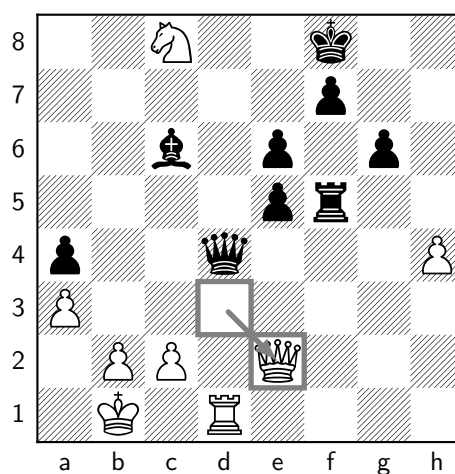
29 fxe5 fxe5 30 f3 b4 31 de4 f5 32 fg3 bxa3

29...fx5 30 de4 a4 31 bd2 c6 32 xc4 bxc4 33 d6 Possibly the players were in time trouble, as White gets some unexpected chances which he didn't deserve, but Black is still clearly better.

33...cxd3 34 xc8+ f8 Cebalo has it all worked out!

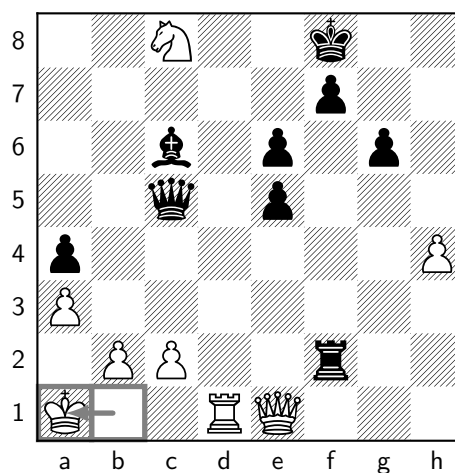
35 xd3 d4 Now he wants an ending to simplify things.

36 e2



36 xd4 exd4 37 fxd4 f1+ 38 a2 e5 39 d2 f4 40 h2 e4 41 b6 f3

36...f2 37 e1 c5 38 a1



38 c3 d5 39 d6 g2

38...g2 39 d6 xc2 40 c4 d5 41 c1

♔e2 42 ♚b4+ ♕g7 43 ♜d6 ♜f1 44 ♚c3 ♜xc1+ 45 ♚xc1 ♜b3 46 ♜e8+ ♕f8 White decided he'd had enough. Black can play this line positionally, as Cebalo did, but there were also various tactics along the way which might have decided things a little earlier.

0-1 _____

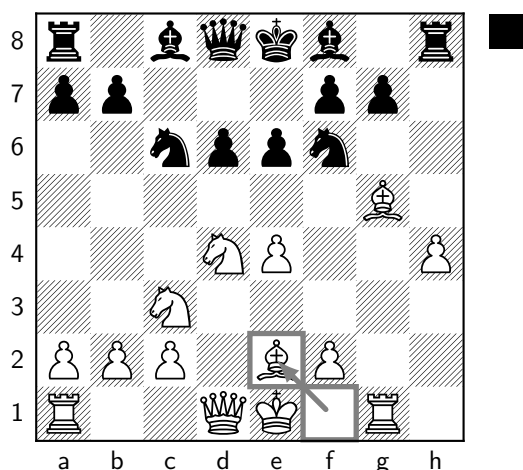
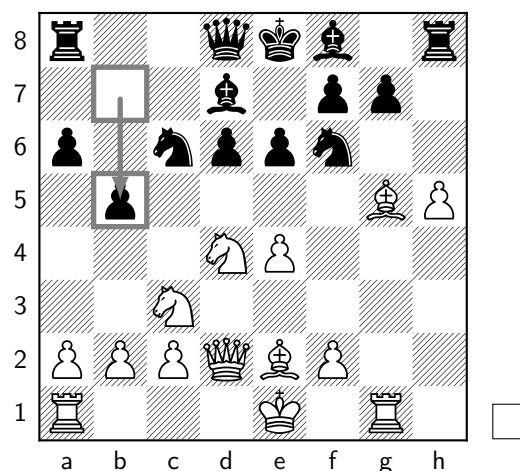
White: Eames, R
Black: D'Costa, L

London

2010

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 g4 h6 7 h4 ♘c6 8 ♖g1 h5 9 g×h5 ♘×h5 10 ♙g5 ♘f6 11 ♙e2 QUESTION: Why does White play 11 Be2? It's not as if he is going to play in the same way as in the 6 Be2 lines is he? ANSWER: Yes, that is true, but this position is very different. White wants to play h5 and deny Black the use of this square for his knight. His play is quite flexible and he might choose Qd2 and 0-0-0 or a Rg3 approach depending on how Black replies.



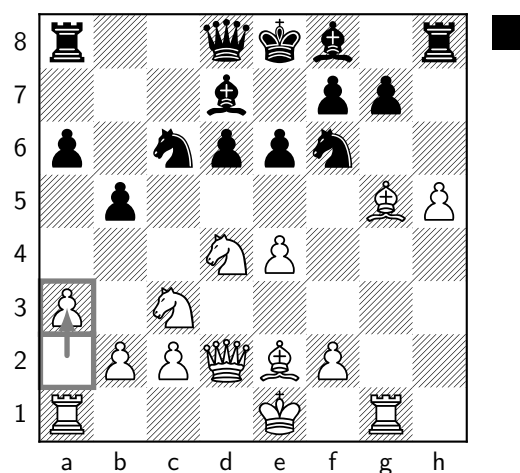
11 ♖g3

11...a6 12 h5 ♙d7 13 ♖d2 b5!? QUESTION: Why did Black play this? ANSWER: Black threatens ...b4 to win the e4-pawn, while gaining space on the queenside. It's likely White will castle there very soon which makes the move even more appealing. The drawback to it is that now Black cannot really castle either way, so the king will have to remain in the centre for a while.

13... ♙e7 14 O-O-O ♖c7 15 h6 g×h6 16 ♙×f6 ♙×f6 17 ♘f5! exf5 18 ♘d5 ♖d8 19 ♖×h6! ♙e6 20 ♘×f6+ ♙e7 21 ♖g5 f×e4 22 ♘×e4+ ♙f8 23 ♖g7+ ♙e7 24 ♖f6+

13... ♖b6 14 ♘b3 ♖c7 15 h6

14 a3 The most popular move, as ...b4 and ...Nxe4 was definitely in the air. Alternatives:



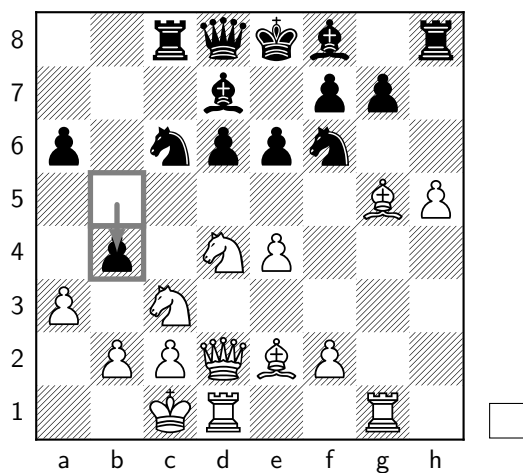
14 ♘xc6 ♙xc6 15 a3 ♖c8 16 ♖d4 ♙e7 17 O-O-O ♙b7

14 O-O-O?! b4! 15 ♘xc6 ♙xc6 16 ♘d5 ♘×e4!

17 ♖xg7 ♜xg7

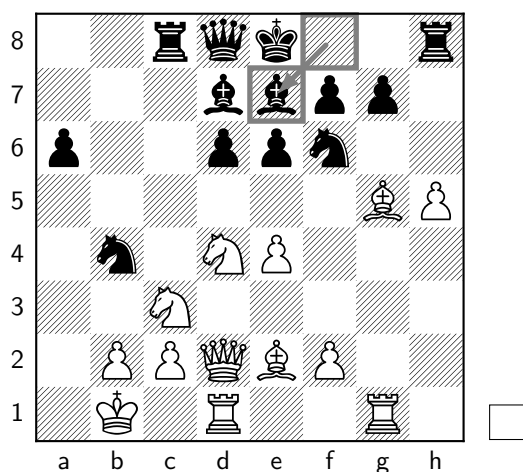
14... ♜c8 15 O-O-O 15 ♜b3 ♖e7 16 ♖e3 ♜a5!?
17 ♜xa5 ♜xa5 18 ♜xg7 b4 19 ♜a2 ♜xe4 20
♜xb4 ♜e5 21 ♜g1 ♜xc2 22 ♖d3? ♜xf2!

15... b4 This felt the most natural move. When White has played a3, this is the typical move to prise open lines on the queenside.



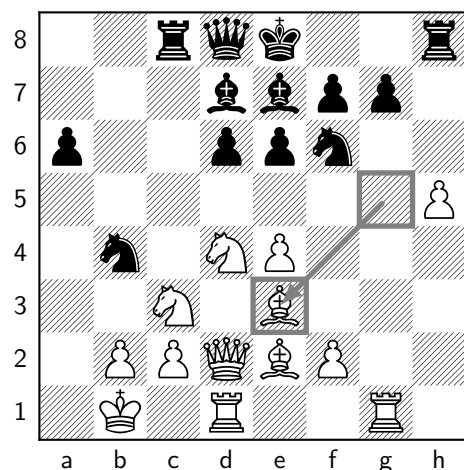
15... ♜a5 16 ♜b1 ♜c4 17 ♖xc4 ♜xc4 18 f4 ♜a8
19 e5 ♜e4 20 ♜xe4 ♜xe4 21 exd6 ♜xh5

16 axb4 ♜xb4 17 ♜b1 ♖e7



17... e5!? 18 ♜b3 ♖e6 19 f4 ♜b6 20 f5 ♜xc3
21 ♜xc3 ♜xe4 22 ♜h3 ♖d5

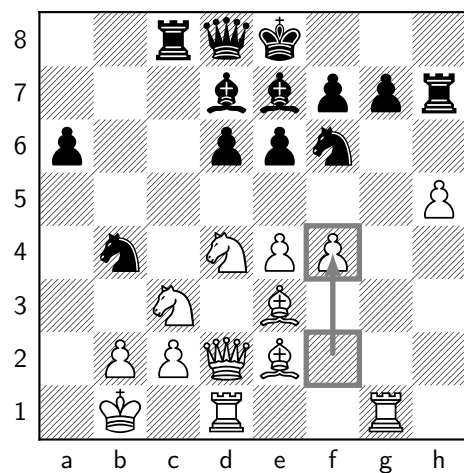
18 ♖e3



18 h6 g6 19 ♜b3 a5 20 ♜d4 ♜xc3!? 21 ♖xf6
♖xf6 22 ♜xc3 ♜xh6 23 ♜h1 ♜xh1 24 ♜xh1
♜b6 25 ♜d1 ♜c6

18... ♜h7 I like this move to defend the g7-pawn (I recommended a similar surprise weapon in the notes to Fier-Ponomarev). The rook still operates on the h-file and isn't that susceptible to attack.

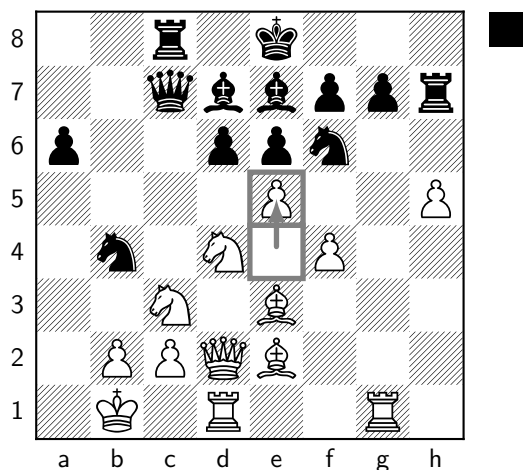
19 f4



19 h6 g6

19... ♜c7 QUESTION: Should White push with f5 or e5? ANSWER: Both breaks are on the cards and Black must be ready for both of them. Normally such moves will lead to tactics breaking out after a long spell of manoeuvring and this game is no different in such regard.

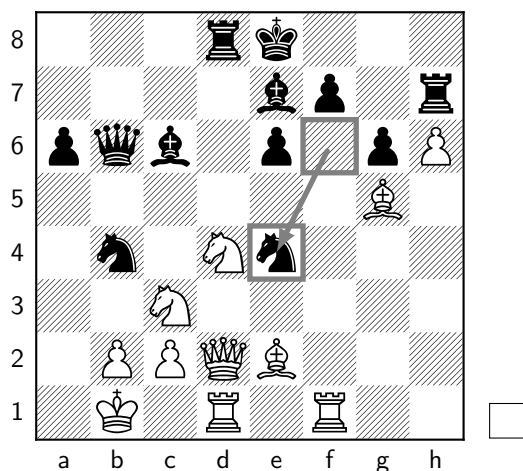
20 e5!? My opponent decides that now is the time to go for it and smash open the position.



20 f5 e5 21 b3 c6 22 f3 a5

20...dxe5 21 fxe5 ♖xe5 22 ♙f4 ♖a5 23 ♘b3
 ♜b6 24 h6 g6 A complicated position has arisen.
 Black is a pawn up, but anything can happen
 here. To be honest, I fall into that category of
 players who prefer to be material up than down!

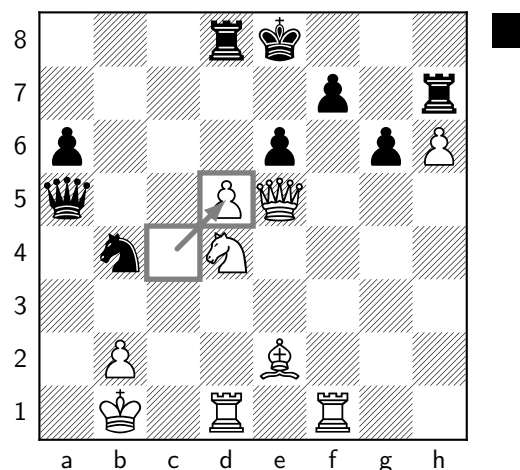
25 ♖g5 ♖c6 26 ♖gf1 ♖d8 27 ♘d4 ♘e4



27... ♖e4! 28 ♖xf6 ♖xc2+ 29 ♗xc2 ♜xd2 30 ♜xd2 ♖xf6 31 ♜xf6 ♗xc2 32 ♔xc2 ♜xh6

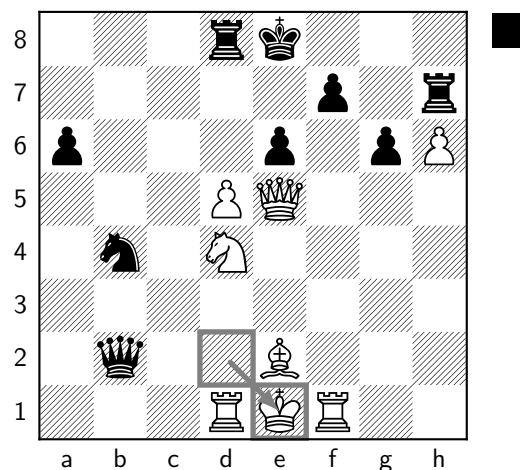
28 ♖xe4 ♙xe4 29 ♙xe7 ♔xe7 30 ♚g5+ ♕e8 31 ♚e5 ♙d5 32 c4 EXERCISE: Calculate the consequences of 32...Qa5. Who do you think will come out on top after this? Warning: this is quite a difficult exercise!

32... ♔a5!? **33 cxd5?** Black now obtains the advantage.



33 ♖c2! ♔a2+ 34 ♔c1 ♖c6 35 ♔f4 ♖a5!?

33... ♖a2+ 34 ♙c1 ♖a1+ 35 ♙d2 ♖xb2+ 36 ♙e1?



36 ♖e3! ♜c2+ 37 ♖f4 ♖xd5 38 ♜c6! ♚xe5+
39 ♜xe5 g5+ 40 ♖g3 ♜xe5 41 ♘d3 ♜e3+ 42
♜f2 ♜xd3 43 ♜xd3 ♜xh6

36... ♘c2+ 37 ♔f2 ♖xd5 Now Black is winning.

38 ♖b5+ ♔x b5 **39** ♔g7 A last trick in time trouble, but Black has enough to deal with it.

39... ♖xd4+ 40 ♔e3 ♜xg7 41 h×g7 ♘c2+ 42 ♔e2 ♚xg7

0-1

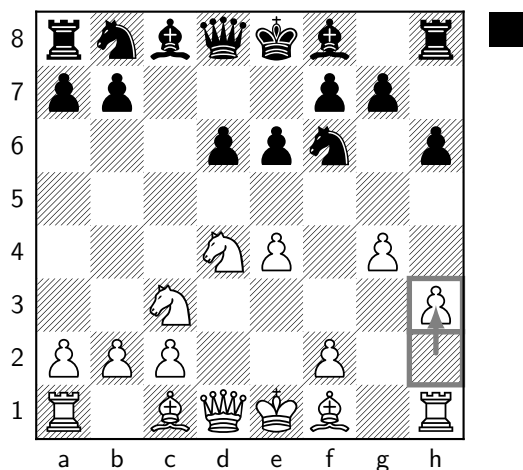
White: Haznedaroglu, K
Black: Navara, D

European Championship, Warsaw

2005

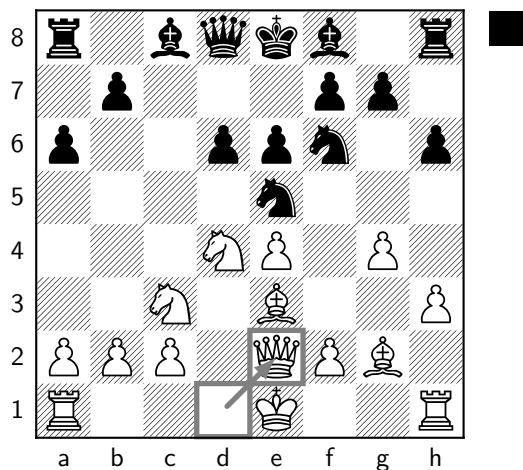
Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 g4 h6 7 h3 ANSWER: The 7 h3 sub-variation has become popular in recent years and is a firm rival to 7 h4. Instead of trying to push Black off the board, White is content with the gain of space that 6 g4 has afforded him. He normally tries to play for f4, which allows him to push further ahead with any of the e-, f- and g-pawns at the right moment.



7 h4

7... ♘c6 8 ♘e3 a6 9 ♘g2 ♘e5 10 ♖e2



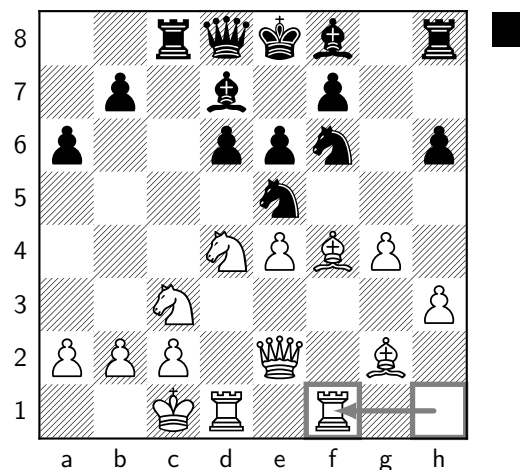
10 f4 ♘c4 11 ♘c1 ♖b6 12 b3 e5!? 13 ♘de2 ♘e3 14 ♘xe3 ♖xe3

10...g5! QUESTION: Shouldn't Black be developing instead of lashing out with such a move? ANSWER: 10...g5 actually shows good understanding of the position. White's main pawn break here is f4, so Black takes steps to prevent it. From a more concrete point of view, White was threatening 11 f4 to kick the e5-knight away and so Black needed to do something immediately to stop that.

11 O-O-O 11 f4 gxf4 12 ♘xf4 ♘d7 13 ♘f3 ♖a5!? 14 O-O-O ♖c8 15 ♘xe5 dxe5 16 ♘d2 ♘e7 17 ♖b1 ♖b6

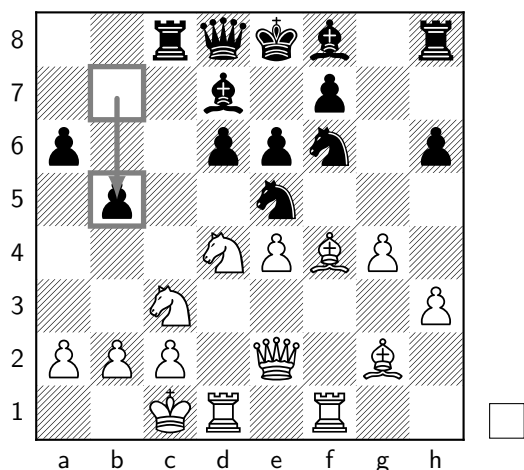
11... ♘d7 12 f4 Probably the critical test. Black now gets to secure the knight on e5, but at what cost?

12... gxf4 13 ♘xf4 ♖c8 14 ♖hf1



14 ♘f3 ♖c7 15 ♖hf1 b5 16 a3 ♘e7 17 ♘g3 ♘c4! 18 ♖d3 ♖a5 19 ♘e1 b4 20 ♘d5 bxa3 21 ♖xa3 ♖b5 22 ♖b3 ♖a4 23 ♖b1 exd5 24 exd5 ♘b5

14... b5



14... ♖xc3!? 15 bxc3 ♜c7 16 ♘b1 ♙e7 17 ♙c1 ♙a4 18 ♜f2 ♜fd7 19 ♜b3 ♙b5 20 ♜fe1 ♜b6 21 ♙f1 ♜a4

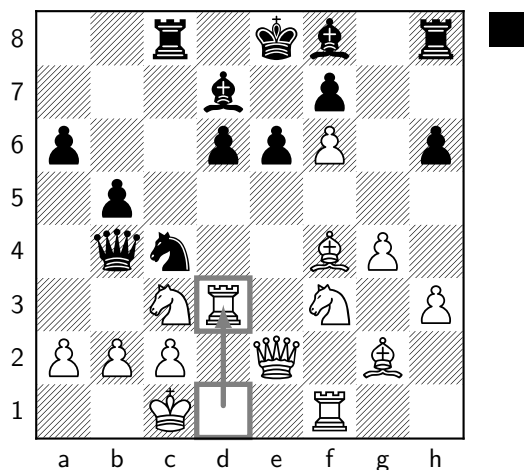
15 ♜f3 ♜c4! We saw how powerful this knight leap can be in the notes to White's 14th move, above. There are tricks in the air for sure...

16 e5 Trying to punish Black for leaving his king in the centre. That's very logical, but this advance allows a wonderful riposte.

16... ♜a5!! I doubt White even considered this! Black just ignores White's previous move and gets on with the attack. The king on e8 is fine: our friends, the d6- and e6-pawns, are covering him for the time being. Can the queenside attack break through, though?

17 exf6 ♜b4 This simple attack on b2 is very hard to meet.

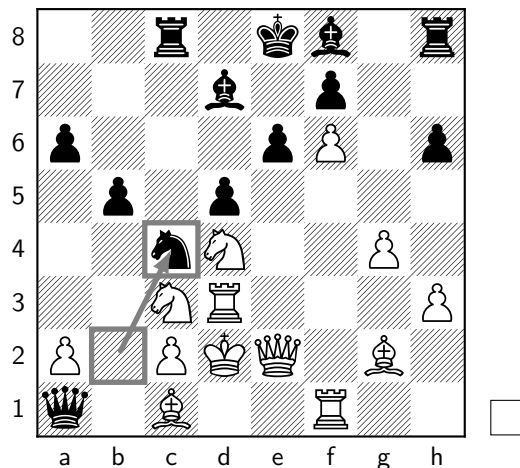
18 ♜d3



18 b3? ♜a3+

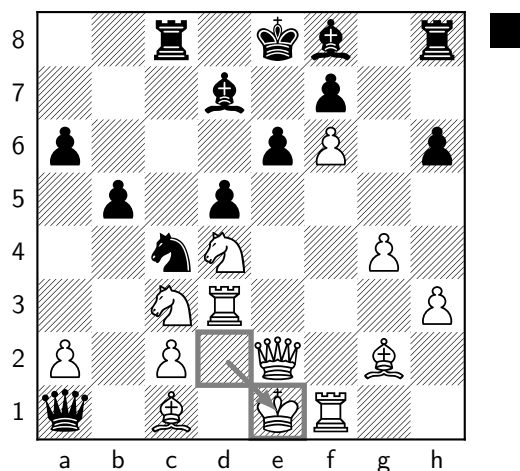
18... ♜xb2+ 19 ♜d1 ♜a1+ 20 ♙c1 ♜b2+ 21 ♜d2 ♜c4+ Black repeats moves to gain time on the clock, which is a sensible decision.

22 ♜d1 d5 23 ♜d4 ♜b2+ 24 ♜d2 ♜c4+



24... ♜xd3 25 ♜xd3 ♙b4 26 ♜e2 ♜xa2

25 ♜e1?



25 ♜d1 ♜b2+ 26 ♜d2 ♜xd3 27 ♜xd3 ♙b4 28 ♜e2 ♜xa2

25... ♜xc1+ 26 ♜f2 ♜f4+ 27 ♜g1 ♜e5 The king has escaped, but White is a pawn down with the worse position. The end is nigh.

28 ♜f2 ♜b2 29 ♜d2 ♜xc3 30 ♜xe6 A desperate sacrifice.

30... ♙xe6 31 ♜e1 ♜g3 32 ♜xe6+ fxe6 33 f7+ ♜d7

0-1

White: Buzeti, J
Black: Kovacevic, A

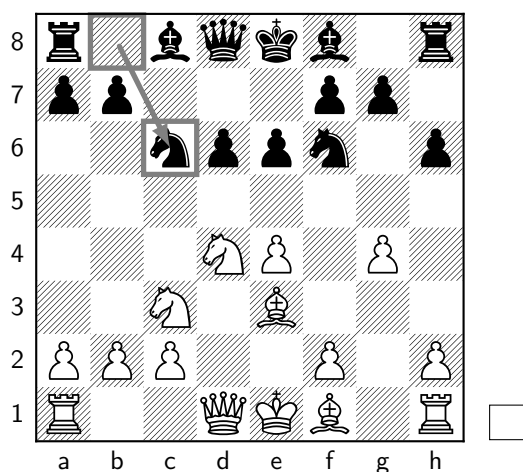
Nova Gorica

2010

Result: 0-1

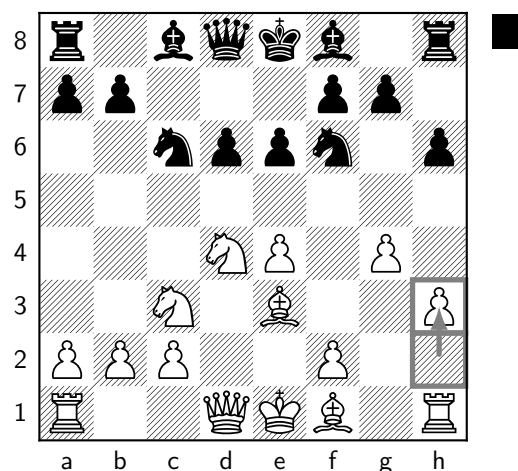
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 g4 h6 7 ♕e3 White takes advantage of the fact that Black cannot play ...h5 here, having already gone ...h6, as he does in Van Kampen-Popilsky in the next chapter. White's potential plans are to play f3, Qd2 and 0-0-0 in English Attack style, or to play Bg2 and h3, as he does in this game.

7... ♘c6



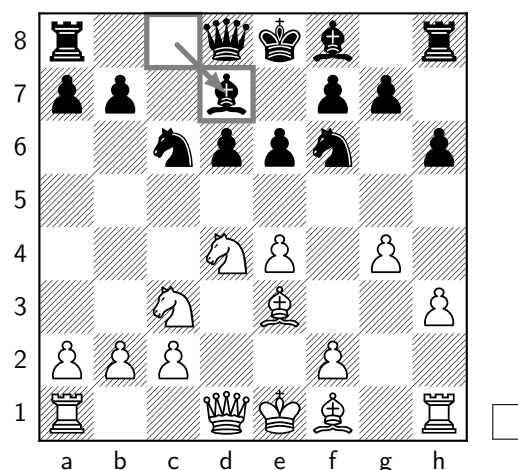
7... a6 8 h3 b5 9 a3 ♕b7 10 ♕g2 ♘bd7 11 ♖e2 g5! 12 h4 ♖g8 13 h×g5 h×g5 14 O-O-O ♖c8 15 ♕d2 ♘e5 16 ♕×g5 ♖×g5 17 f4 ♘f×g4 18 f×g5 ♖×c3! 19 g6 ♖g5+ 20 ♖b1 ♖e3 21 g×f7+ ♖e7 22 ♖f1 ♖g3

8 h3



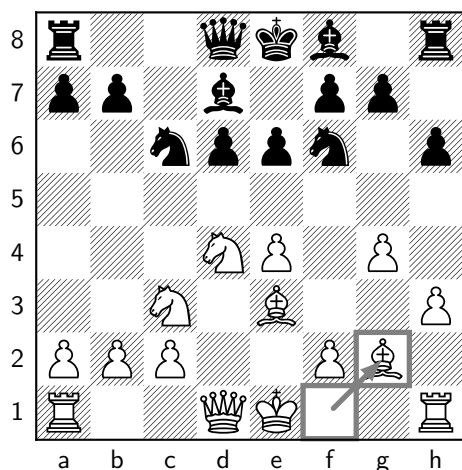
8 f3 a6 9 ♖d2 d5!? 10 O-O-O d×e4 11 ♖f2 ♖c7 12 ♘db5!? a×b5 13 ♘×b5 ♖b8 14 ♕b6 ♕b4 15 ♖b1 ♕a5 16 ♘c7+ ♖×c7 17 ♕×c7 ♕×c7

8... ♕d7



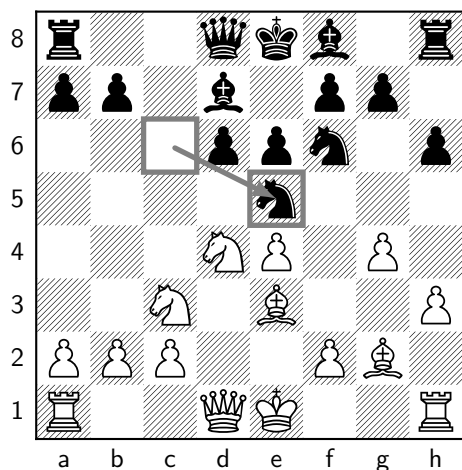
8... a6

9 ♕g2



9 ♖db5 ♗b8! 10 ♗d2 a6 11 ♖d4 b5

9... ♖e5



9... ♗e7

9... ♗e7 10 f4 ♗b8 11 O-O ♖xd4 12 ♗xd4 ♗c6 13 e5 ♖d7!? 14 ♗xc6 bxc6 15 exd6 ♗xd6 16 ♗xg7 ♗f6 17 ♖e4!

10 ♗e2 ♗c8 11 O-O-O White has quite a few moves here:

11 ♖db5?! ♗a5 12 ♖xa7 ♗xc3!

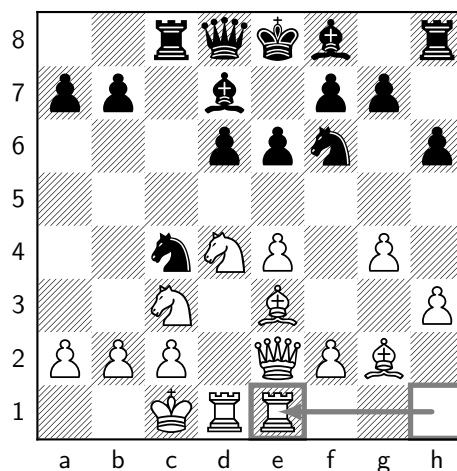
11 O-O ♖c4 12 ♗c1 ♗b6 13 ♖b3 ♗e7

11 f4 ♖c4 12 O-O-O? ♗b6! 13 b3 ♖xe3 14 ♗xe3 e5 15 ♖d5 ♗c5 16 c4 exd4 17 ♗xd4 ♖xd5 18 exd5+ ♖d8 19 ♗c3 ♗e7 20 b4 ♗b6 21 ♗e4 ♗f6 22 ♗d2 ♗e8 23 ♗he1 ♗xe4 24 ♗xe4 ♗g1+ 25 ♗e1 ♗xc4+

11 ♗d1 ♖c4 12 ♗c1 ♗b6 13 ♖b3 ♗e7 14 O-O a6 15 ♖h1 g5! 16 ♗d4 ♗c7 17 ♖d2 ♖e5 18 ♖f3

h5! 19 g×h5 g4! 20 ♖×e5 g×h3 21 ♗f3 d×e5 22 ♗dd1 b5 23 ♗g5 b4 24 ♖b1 ♗b5

11... ♖c4 12 ♗he1 Best.

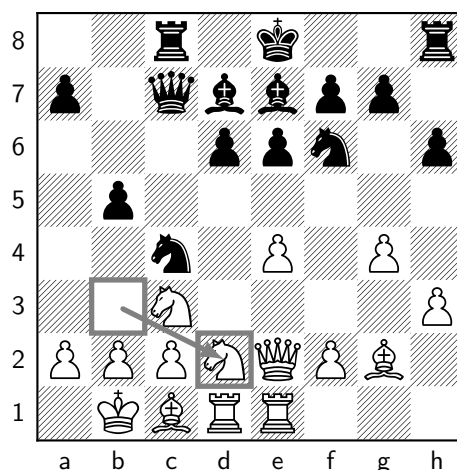


12 ♖b1 ♗b6 13 ♖db5? ♗a5

12 ♖b3 ♗c7 13 f4 ♖xb2! 14 ♖b5 ♗c4

12... ♗e7 13 ♖b1 ♗b6 14 ♖b3 ♗c7 We have seen this idea many times by now. Pulling the knight away from d4 could be a crucial tempo gain for Black later on in the game.

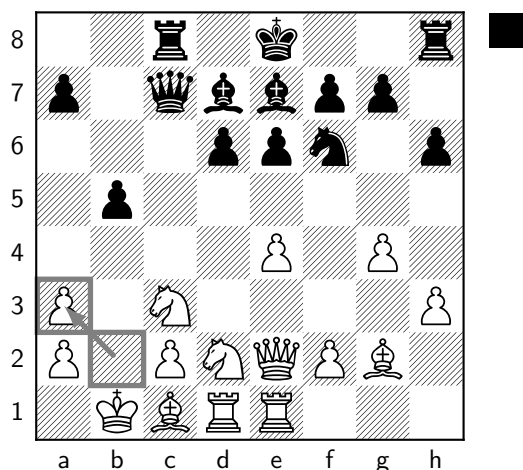
15 ♗c1 b5 16 ♖d2 ANSWER:



16 f4 b4

16... ♖a3+! Although Black stands well here, this is another useful mini-trick to know.

17 bxa3



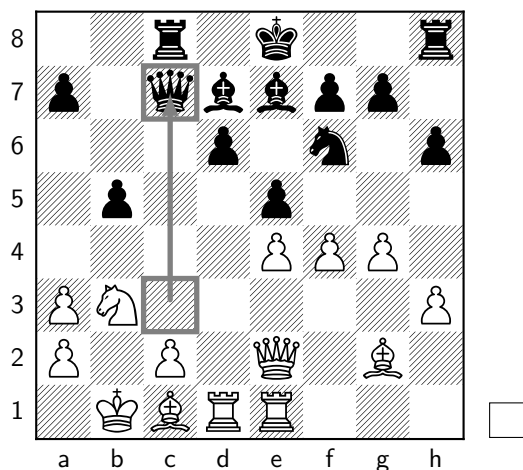
17 ♖a1 ♖xc2+

17... ♖xc3 Now the king's pawn protection is ruined, offering Black long-term attacking prospects.

18 ♖b3 e5! As there is no longer a knight able to come to d5, Black can play this with impunity.

19 f4 QUESTION: Should Black capture on f4 here? ANSWER: Black could, but this would only help White as at the moment his major pieces on the e-file aren't doing anything.

19... ♖c7



19... exf4 20 ♖xf4 O-O 21 e5

20 ♖b2 ♖c6 21 ♖c1 ♖d7 Black delays castling so as not to give White an object of attack. It is important to note that this doesn't mean that Black will never castle!

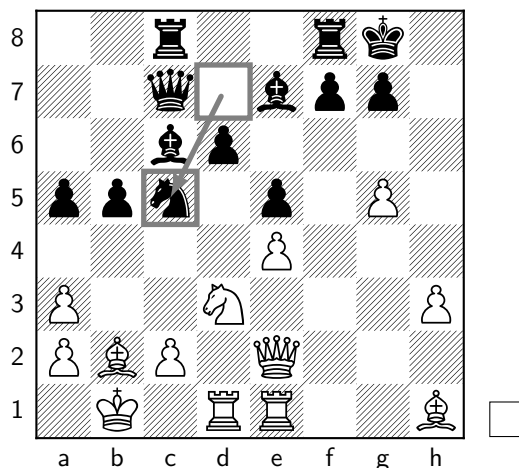
22 ♖d3 a5 Still not committing the king, thereby leaving White guessing as to whether he should

attack in the centre or the kingside.

23 ♖h1 O-O Now Kovacevic decides it is safe enough to house the king, having calculated that he is further ahead in his queenside attack than White will be on the other wing.

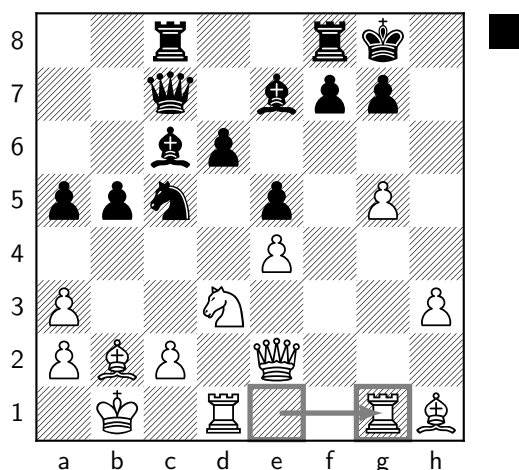
24 g5 h×g5 25 f×g5 EXERCISE: Decide whether or not Black can get away with grabbing the 'free' pawn on g5.

25... ♖c5



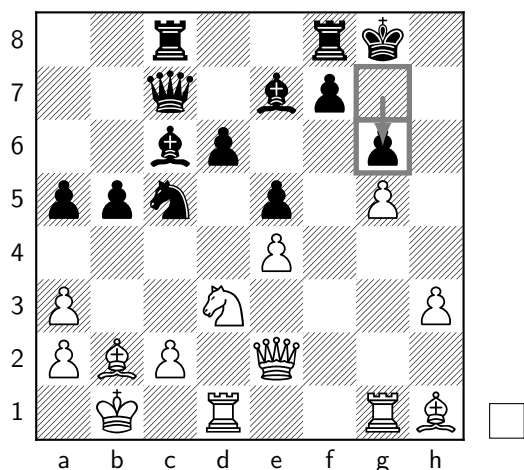
25... ♖xg5 26 ♖g1 ♖h6 27 ♖h5 ♖b7 28 ♖xh6 ♖xc2+ 29 ♖a1 ♖xd1+! 30 ♖xd1 g×h6

26 ♖g1?! EXERCISE: Decide what you would do here as Black.



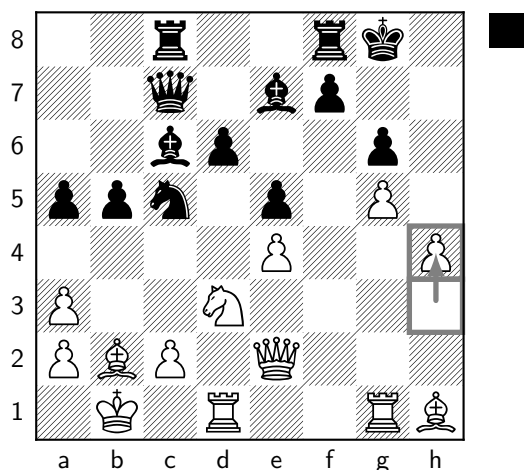
26 ♖xc5 dxc5 27 h4 b4

26... g6?!



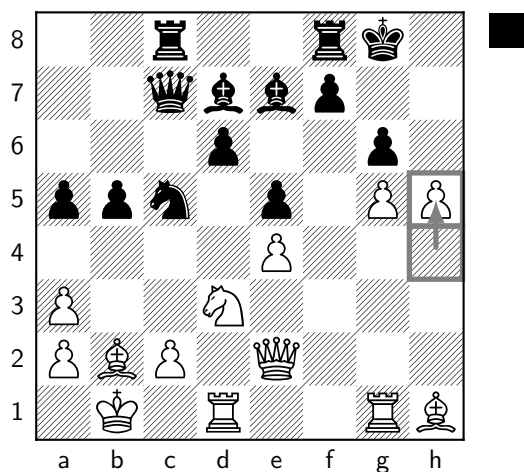
26... Nxa4!

27 h4?!



27 Nxc5! dxc5 28 Qh2 Nd6 29 h4 b4 30 h5

27... Nd7 28 h5

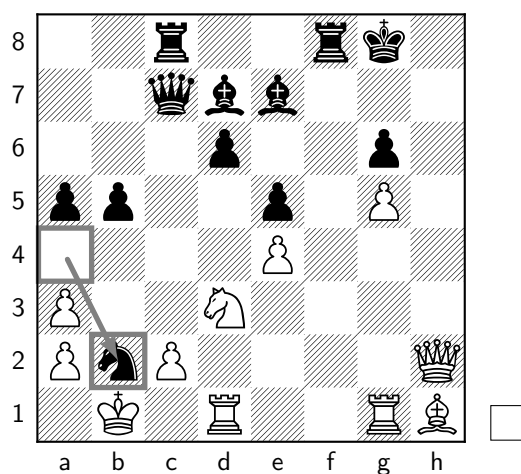


28 Nxc5 Qxc5! 29 h5 b4

28... Na4! Now Kovacevic is back on track.

29 hxg6 fxg6 30 Qh2 QUESTION: What is White getting up to with this move? ANSWER: The idea is to penetrate with the queen down the h-file, likely via h6. This would put pressure on the g6-pawn. However, as stated before, we should remain calm. Here the white king is under more pressure down the c-file, and there is a certain defensive manoeuvre that Black can employ to help defend. Can you see what it is?

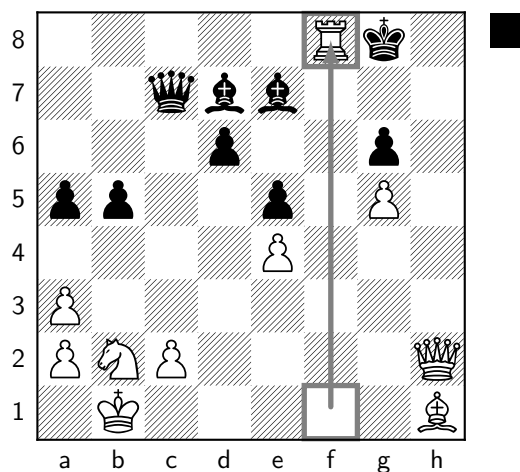
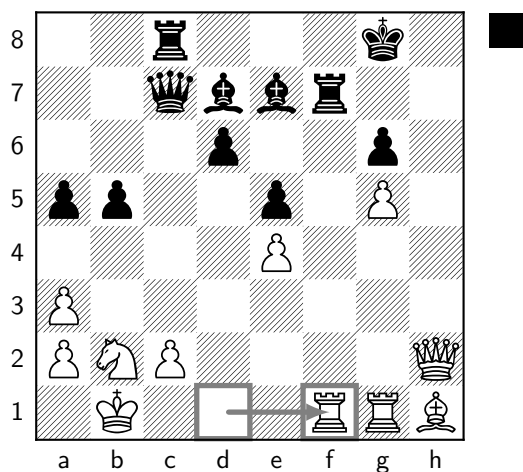
30... Nxb2



30... Rf7! 31 Qh6 Qxc2+ 32 Ka1 Nxb2 33 Nxb2 Rh7 34 Qxg6+ Kh8

31 Nxb2 Rf7! Better late than never! This rook move shores up any holes around the king. Indeed, Black's king is surprisingly solid, as White's pieces aren't in any decent attacking positions.

32 Rdf1 EXERCISE: Decide whether Black should exchange off all the rooks or keep them on for a potential attack.

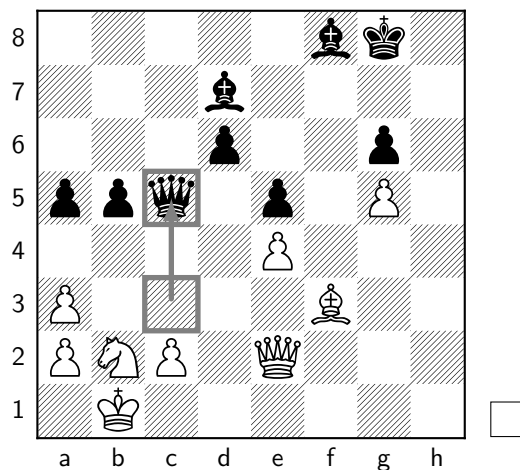
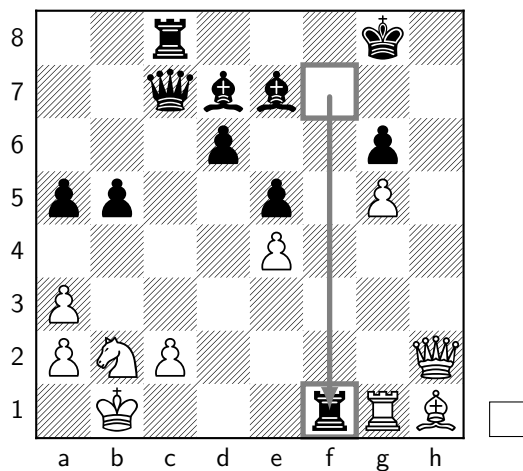


32 ♖h6 ♜xc2+ 33 ♙a1 ♜h7 34 ♜xg6+ ♙h8
32... ♜xf1+

34 ♙f3

34... ♙xf8 35 ♙f3 ♜c3 36 ♜e2 QUESTION:
Can Black capture on a3 safely?

36... ♜c5



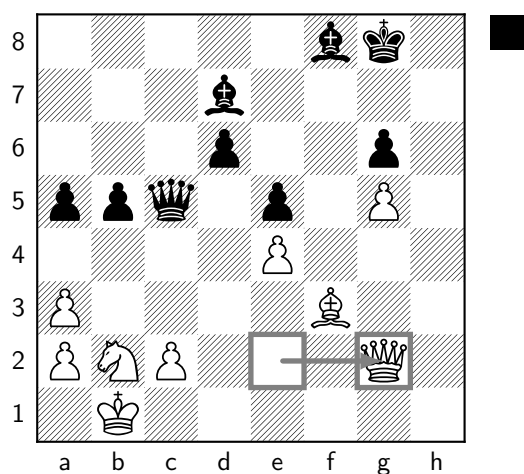
32... ♜h7 33 ♜e2 ♜c3

33 ♜xf1 ♜f8 Wise: exchanging all the rooks leaves
White with no attack and all the weaknesses.

34 ♜xf8+

36... ♜xa3 37 ♙g4 ♙xg4 38 ♜xg4 ♜e3 39 ♜e6+
♙h7 40 ♜d7+ ♙g7 41 ♙d3

37 ♜g2



37 ♖g4 ♔g1+

37... ♜e6 38 ♜g4 ♜f7 39 ♔h3 ♜e7 40 ♜d1
 ♜xg5 Resignation may appear somewhat premature, but the game is up for White as Black is planning to play ...Qe3, exchanging queens and threatening mate on c1, which at the very least leaves Black a clear pawn ahead in an endgame.

0-1

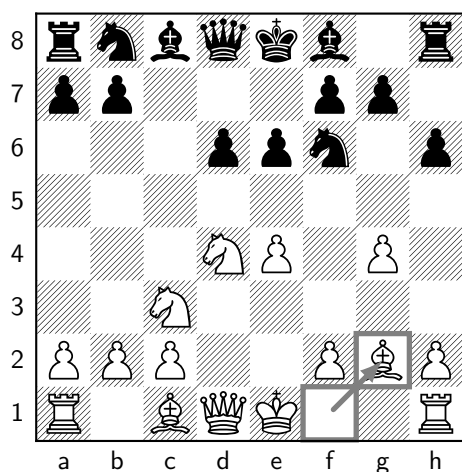
White: Short, N
Black: Sokolov, A

Bazna

2008

Result: 1-0

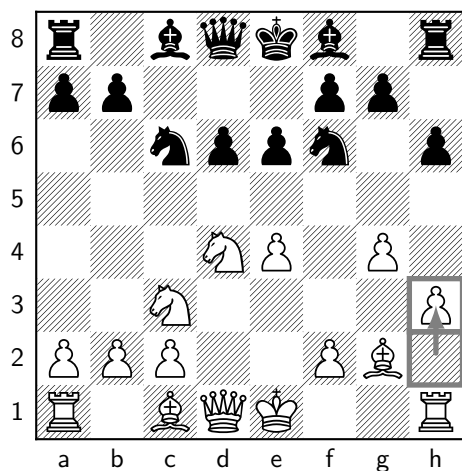
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 g4 h6 7 ♙g2



7 h3

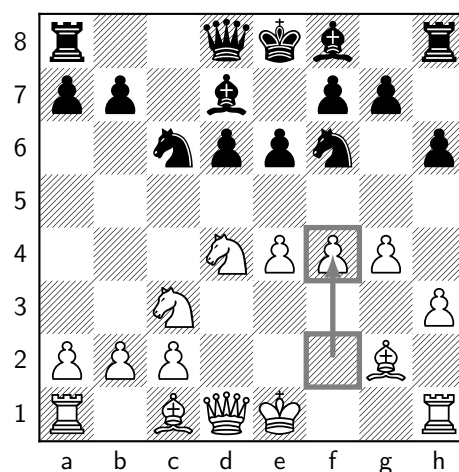
7... ♘c6 QUESTION: Can White take advantage of the bishop on g2 and capture on c6, with a quick e5 to follow?

8 h3 Opting for the aforementioned transposition...



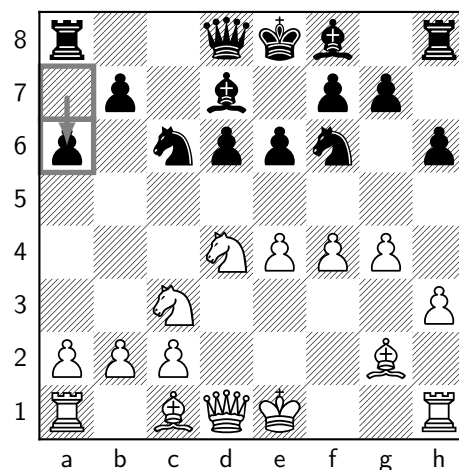
8 ♘xc6 bxc6 9 e5 ♘d5! 10 exd6 ♙xd6

8... ♙d7 9 f4!? This line with 9 f4 is probably where White will be looking towards in the near future. A quick f4 prevents Black from going ...g5 and stakes out space. In fact, White can consider the e5 push himself, along with both f5 and g5. Meanwhile Black's counterplay will invariably consist of ...a6, ...b5 and ...Rc8 as usual for these Sicilian lines.



9 ♙e3

9... a6

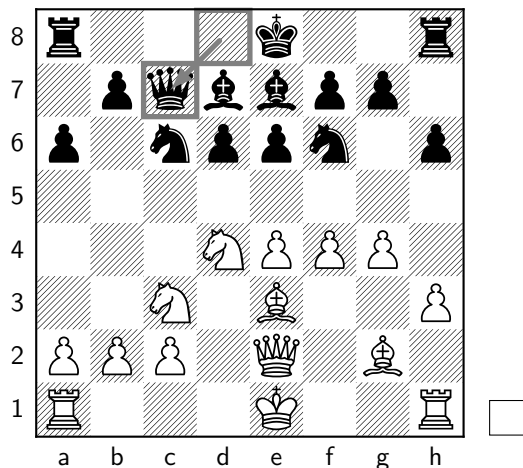


9... ♖b6!? 10 ♘b3 a5!? 11 ♖e2 a4 12 ♙e3 ♗d8
13 ♘d2 a3 14 bxa3 ♖xa3 15 ♘b3 ♙e7 16 O-O
O-O 17 ♘b5 ♖a4 18 ♘c3 ♖a3 19 ♘b5 ♖a4 20
♘c3 ♖a3 21 ♘b5

9... ♘xd4 10 ♖xd4 ♙c6 11 ♙e3 ♙e7 12 O-O-O
O-O 13 ♖hg1 ♘d7 14 ♖d2 ♖c8 15 h4 ♘b6 16
♖e2 ♘a4 17 ♘xa4 ♙xa4 18 b3 ♙d7 19 g5

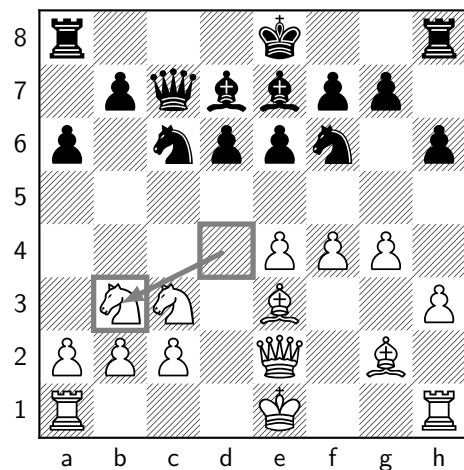
10 ♙e3 ♙e7 11 ♖e2 ANSWER:

11... ♖c7!



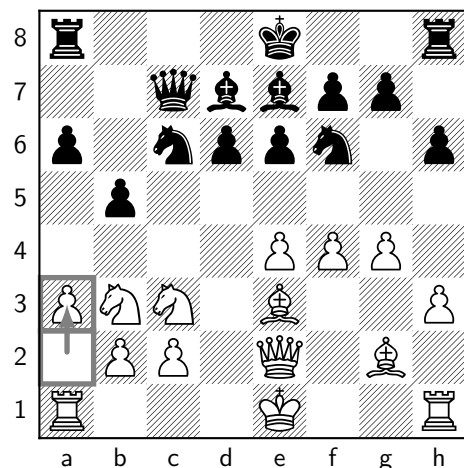
11... b5 12 e5! ♘xd4 13 ♙xd4 dxe5 14 fxe5
♘h7 15 O-O-O ♖c8 16 ♘e4

12 ♘b3 QUESTION: Why has White voluntarily retreated the knight like this? Normally Black has to work hard to make White do that! ANSWER: As we saw in the 6 Be2 lines, a set-up with ...Bd7 is geared towards playing ...Nxd4 and then ...Bc6 afterwards. White has more space here due to the f4 push and when you have more space you should want to keep pieces on, because the opponent has less room to manoeuvre within. That's the basic idea here!



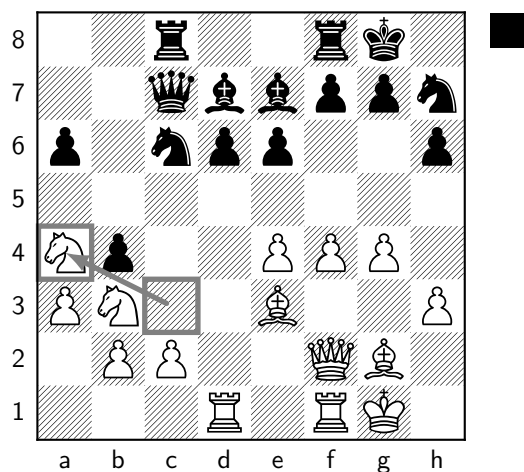
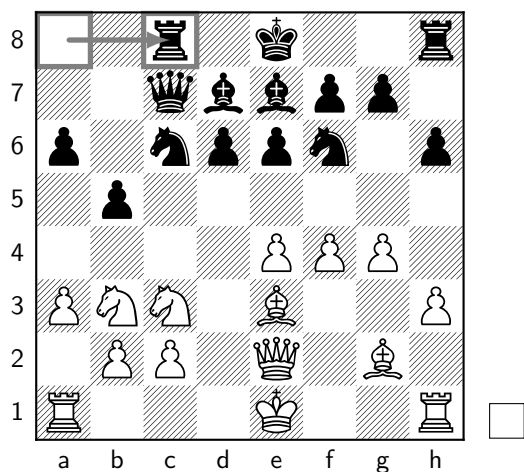
12 O-O-O ♖c8 13 ♘xc6 ♙xc6 14 ♙d4 b5 15 e5
dxe5 16 ♙xe5 ♖b7 17 ♖hg1 b4 18 ♙xf6 ♙xf6
19 ♘e4 ♙xe4 20 ♙xe4 ♖c7 21 ♖f3 g6 22 ♖b1
O-O 23 h4 ♖fd8 24 h5 g5! 25 f×g5 ♙×g5 26
♙d3 ♖c6 27 ♖×c6 ♖×c6

12... b5 13 a3



13 O-O-O ♖b8 14 ♖f2 a5!?

13... ♖c8



13... O-O 14 g5 hxg5 15 fxg5 ♖h7 16 h4 ♗e5

14 O-O ♗h7 To prevent any g5 push from White, but I can't help feeling the knight just ends up being misplaced here.

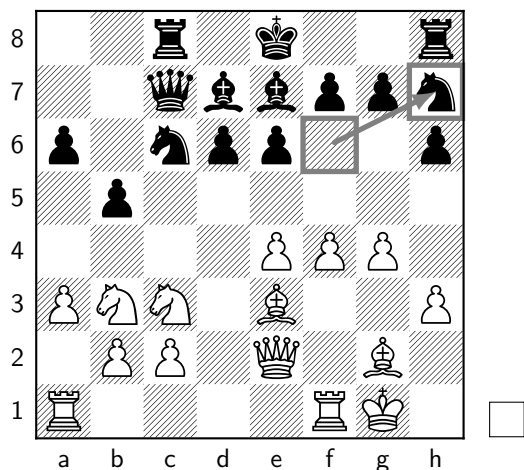
17 axb4 ♗xb4 18 ♘b6 ♖b8 19 ♘a7 ♖c7 20 e5 d5 21 ♘d4

17... bxa3 18 bxa3 ♗b8 19 ♗b6 ♖ce8 20 c4 Setting up a Maroczy Bind (the pawns on c4 and e4 help prevent Black's ...d5 break).

20... ♘c6 21 ♗a5 ♗f6 22 ♗xc6 ♗xc6 ANSWER:

23 e5! Timed to perfection. The newly weakened d7-square will serve as the launch pad for White's pieces.

23... dxe5 24 g5 hxg5 25 fxg5 ♗d4 Deciding to sacrifice the piece this way.



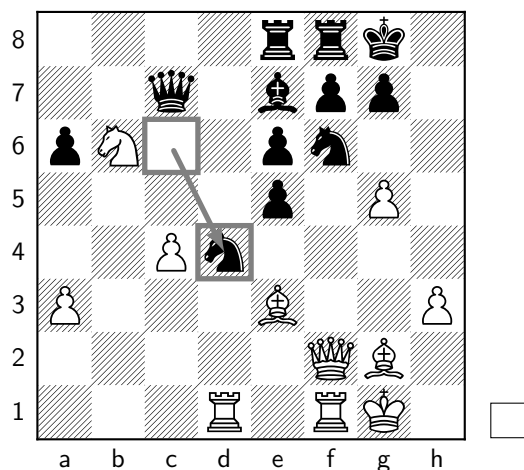
14... O-O!? 15 g5 hxg5 16 fxg5 ♗h7 17 h4 ♗e5!

15 ♖ad1 O-O 15... g5

15... g5 16 e5! gxf4 17 exd6 ♘xd6 18 ♗d5! ♖b8 19 ♗xf4

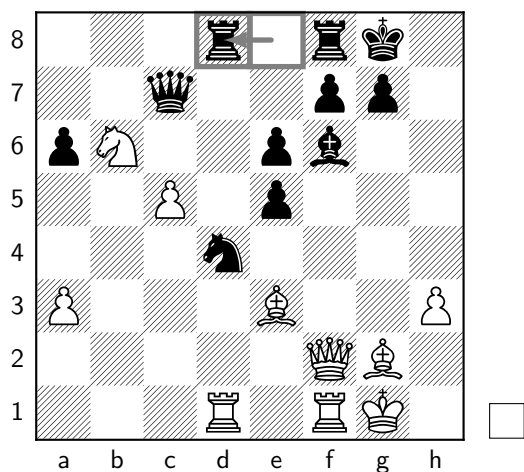
16 ♖f2 b4 Trying to obtain some counterplay.

17 ♗a4



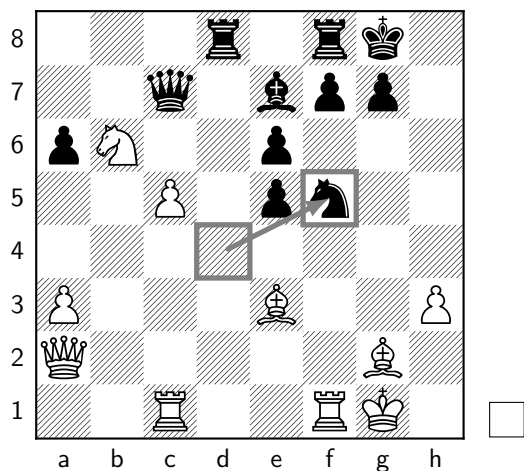
25... ♗h7 26 ♖d7

26 gxf6 ♘xf6 27 c5 ♖d8



27... ♖xc5 28 ♕d7

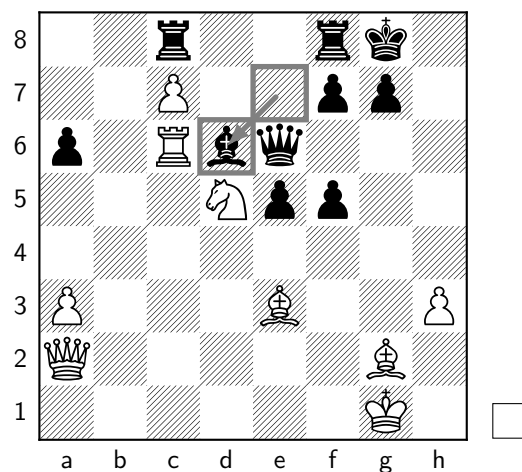
28 ♜c1 ♗e7 29 ♖a2 ♘f5



29... ♗xc5 30 ♘a4!

30 ♜xf5! Typical Short!

30... exf5 31 ♘d5 ♖d7 32 c6 ♖e6 33 c7 ♜c8 34 ♜c6! ♗d6



34... ♖d7 35 ♖d2!

35 ♖c4 ♜fe8 36 ♖xa6 ♜a8 37 ♖b6 Picking up the bishop on d6. A masterclass by Nigel Short. I believe that this little-played 9 f4 move could become popular quite soon for those looking at new ways to take on the Scheveningen. In reply Black might consider 9... Qb6!? trying to unsettle the white centre, with interesting play to follow.

1-0

White: Qi Jingxuan
Black: Andersson, U

Buenos Aires

1978

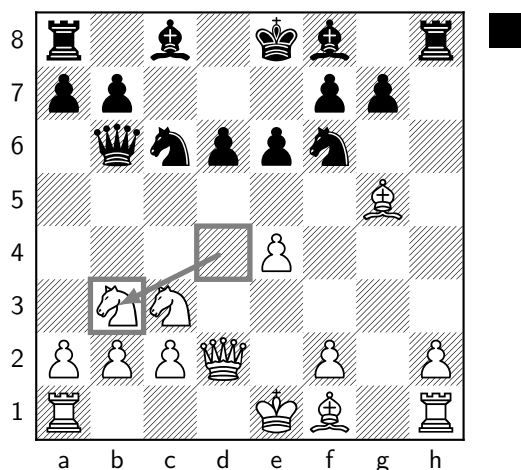
Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 g4 h6 7 g5 This was the original way to play the Keres Attack. White goes 6 g4 to play a quick g5, and nothing is going to stop him! Why Black should play 6...h6 to slow down this g5 kingside advance, in my humble view anyway, is demonstrated by Andersson in this game. Without the g-pawn, White finds it a lot harder to crash through Black's position. Remember: Black's structure is also slightly the better one after this move, so any positional, manoeuvring-type game may favour him.

7...h×g5 8 ♙×g5 ♘c6 9 ♚d2 ANSWER:

9...♚b6 Best. This typical manoeuvre sees the queen attacking that knight on d4 before retreating.

10 ♘b3 Returning to 10 Nb3:



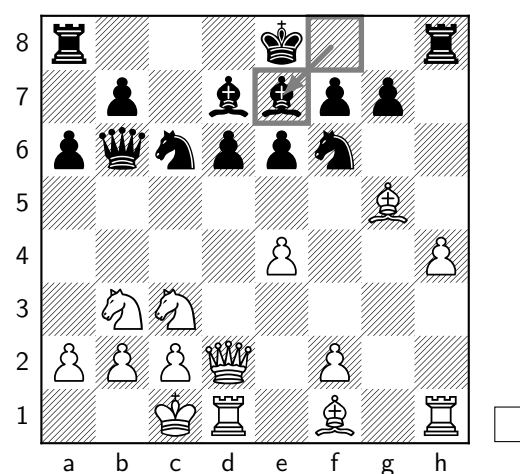
10 O-O-O ♚xd4 11 ♚xd4 ♘xd4 12 ♚xd4 a6 13 f4 ♙d7 14 ♙g2 ♙c6 15 ♚d2 ♘d7 16 f5 ♘e5 17 fxe6 fxe6 18 ♘e2 ♙e7 19 ♙xe7 ♘xe7 20 ♘d4 ♚af8 21 ♘xc6+ bxc6 22 ♙f1 g5! 23 ♚g2 g4 24 ♙xa6 ♚a8 25 ♙e2 ♚xa2 26 ♚f1 ♘f3 27 b3 ♚a1+ 28 ♘b2 ♚xf1 29 ♙xf1 ♘xh2 30 ♙e2 ♚h4 31 ♘c3 ♘f6 32 b4 ♘e5 33 ♘d3 ♚h3+ 34 ♘c4 ♘f4 35 b5 cxb5+ 36 ♘xb5 ♚h6 37 ♘c6 e5 38

♙d5 ♘f3 39 c4 g3 40 c5 dxc5

10 ♘db5 a6 11 ♙e3 ♚a5 12 ♘d4

10...a6 A typical Sicilian move, preventing anything coming to b5 and allowing the possibility of pushing ...b5 at some point.

11 O-O-O ♙d7 12 h4 ♙e7



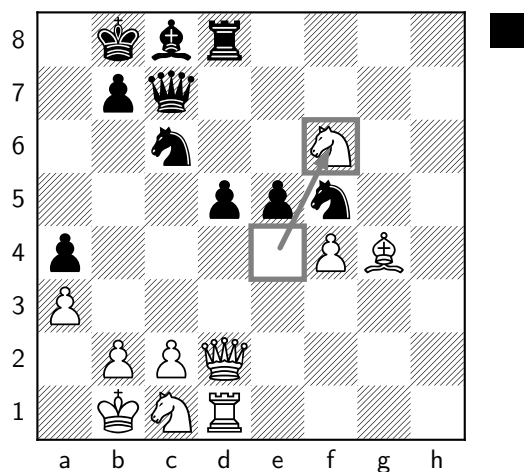
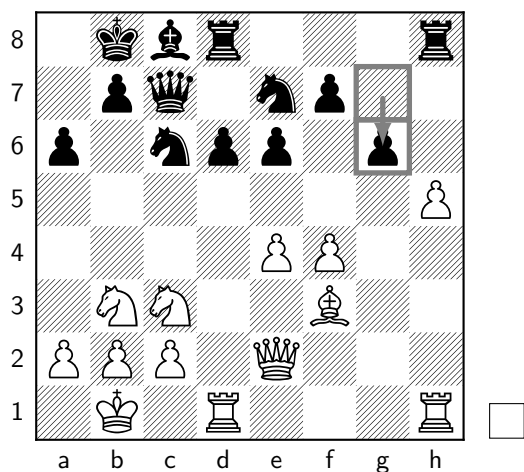
12...♚c7 13 ♙e2 b5 14 ♚he1 ♙e7 15 f4 b4 16 ♘d5 exd5 17 exd5 ♘a5 18 ♚xb4 ♘xb3+ 19 axb3 a5 20 ♚d4 ♚a7 21 ♚c3 ♚c8 22 ♙c4 ♘f8

13 ♙e2 ♚c7 14 f4 O-O-O 15 ♘b1 ♘b8 16 ♙f3 ♙c8 17 ♚e2 ANSWER: By using a nice motif:

17...♘g8! By threatening ...f6, Black forces White to exchange the dark-squared bishops. When you have less space, it's good to exchange pieces like this.

18 ♙xe7 White exchanges as the threat of ...f6 trapping the g5-bishop was on the cards.

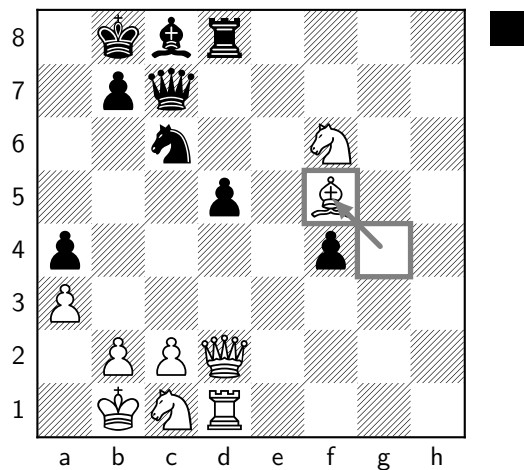
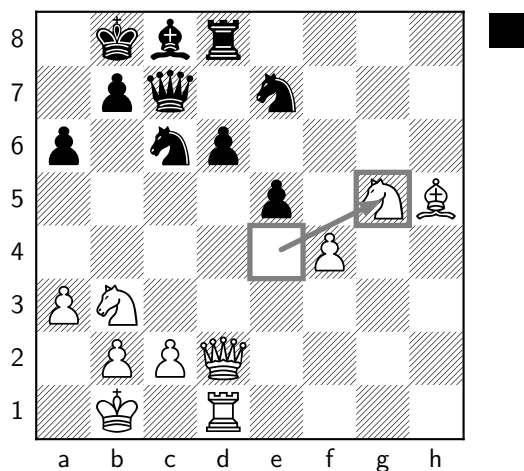
18...♘gxe7 19 h5 g6



19...f5!? 20 ♖hg1 fxe4 21 ♜xe4 ♜d5 22 ♔d2 ♖c5 e4 30 ♜xa4 d4
 ♖hf8 29...exf4 30 ♙xf5

20 a3 g×h5 21 ♖×h5 ♖×h5 22 ♙×h5 f5 Finally, this freeing move arrives. Objectively the position is about equal, but White now overpresses, presumably because he thought he was better here, which he isn't!

23 ♔d2 f×e4 24 ♜xe4 e5 25 ♜g5?!

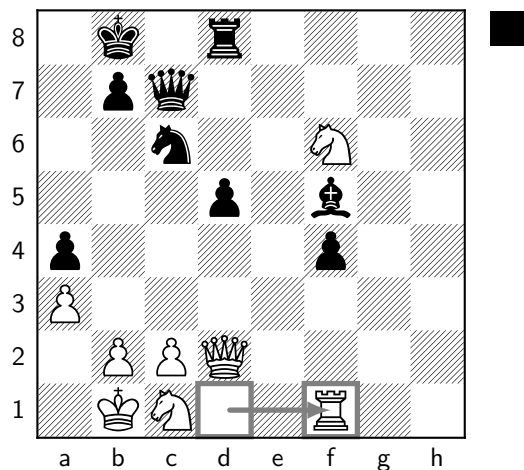


30 ♜xd5 ♖xd5! 31 ♔xd5 ♜e3
 30... ♙xf5 31 ♖f1

25 f×e5 d×e5 26 ♔f2

25...♜f5 26 ♙g4 a5! QUESTION: Why did Black play this? ANSWER: To push ...a4, which attacks the knight on b3 and once that moves away, the d4-square will be in Black's hands.

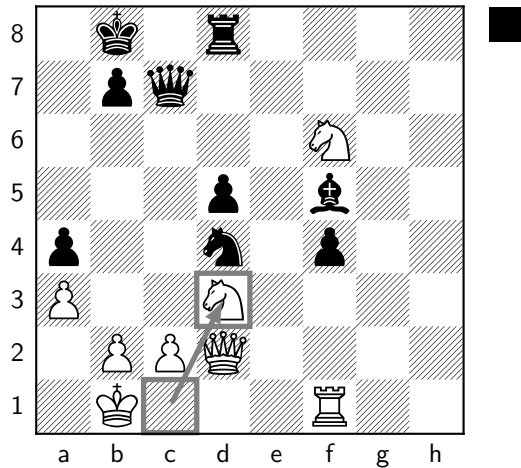
27 ♜e4 a4 28 ♜c1 d5 29 ♜f6



31 ♖xd5 ♜xd5! 32 ♙xc2+! 33 ♔a1
 ♜xd1 34 ♙xd1 ♘e5

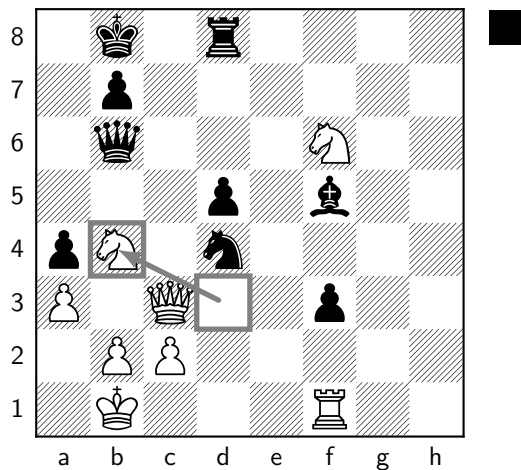
31... ♘d4! Now we see why it was important to drive away that knight on b3. Suddenly White experiences unpleasant pressure against c2.

32 ♘d3



32 ♙xd4? ♙xc2+ 33 ♔a2 ♙b1#

32... f3 33 ♙c3 ♙b6 34 ♘b4?



34 ♘h5 ♜c8 35 ♙b4 ♙xb4 36 ♘xb4 ♘xc2

34... ♙xf6

0-1

White: Meijers, V
Black: Van Wely, L

Dieren

1999

Result: 0-1

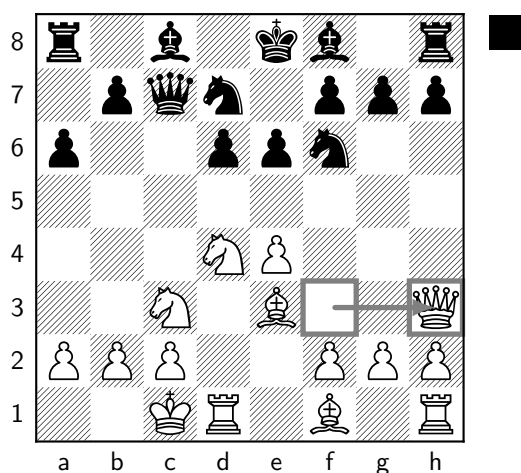
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 ♕e3 a6 7 ♖f3 QUESTION: What is White's likely set-up after this move? ANSWER: To castle queenside and play g4-g5. The queen can also go to h3 when there are some tactical threats on the e6-square and also possibly down the h-file, as we'll see further in the note to Black's 12th move, below.

7... ♘bd7 I quite like this move, which prevents an immediate 8 g4.

8 O-O-O 8 ♕e2 h5!? 9 ♕g5 ♖a5 10 ♕d2 ♖b6 11 ♘b3 ♖c7 12 a4 b6 13 ♕g5 ♕b7 14 ♖d1 ♕e7 15 ♖e3 ♘c5 16 ♘d2 ♖d8 17 O-O ♘g4

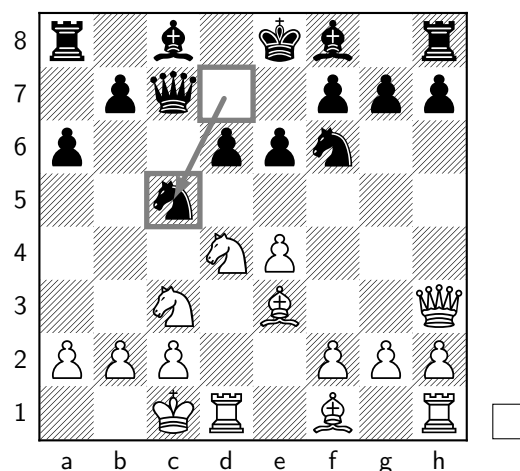
8 g4? ♘e5 9 ♖e2 ♘exg4

8... ♖c7 9 ♖h3 The queen eyes up some squares in the black camp, as mentioned above.



9 ♕d3 b5 10 a3 ♕b7 11 ♖b1 ♖c8 12 ♖g3 d5 13 ♖xc7 ♖xc7 14 exd5 ♘xd5 15 ♘xd5 ♕xd5 16 a4 e5 17 ♘f3 ♕c6 18 ♖he1 f6

9... ♘c5

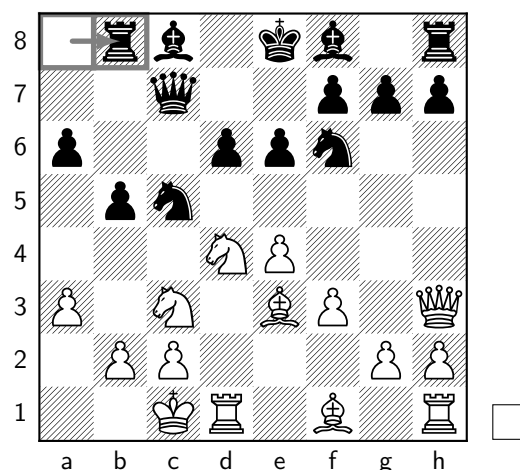


9... b5 10 a3 ♘c5 11 f3

9... b5 10 ♘xe6 fxe6 11 ♖xe6+ ♖d8! 12 ♕d4 ♕e7

10 f3 b5 11 a3 Preventing the ...b4 push, but as we shall see, White should not play this move lightly if he has already castled queenside.

11... ♖b8

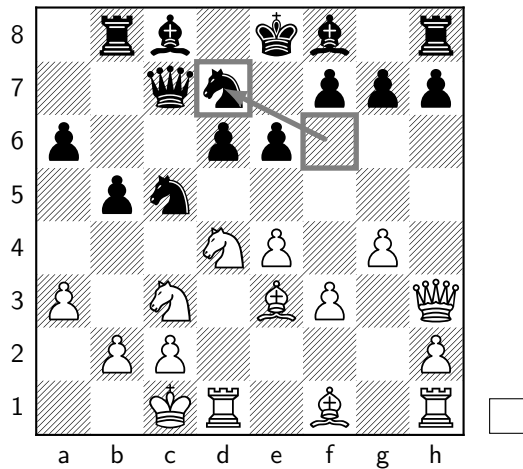


11... e5 12 ♘f5 g6 13 ♖h4! ♘cd7 14 ♕xb5!! axb5 15 ♘xb5

12 g4 ANSWER:

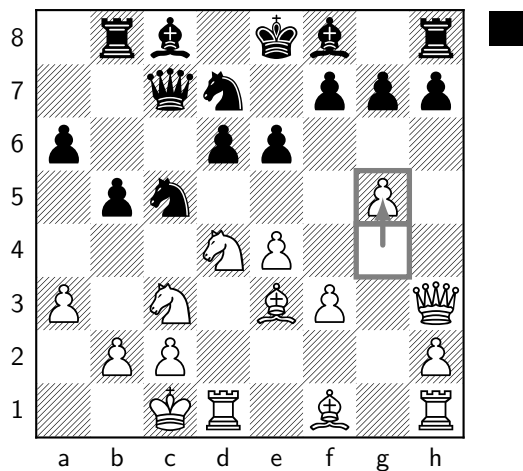
12... ♘fd7! Wisely stepping out of the way of

the g5 threat.



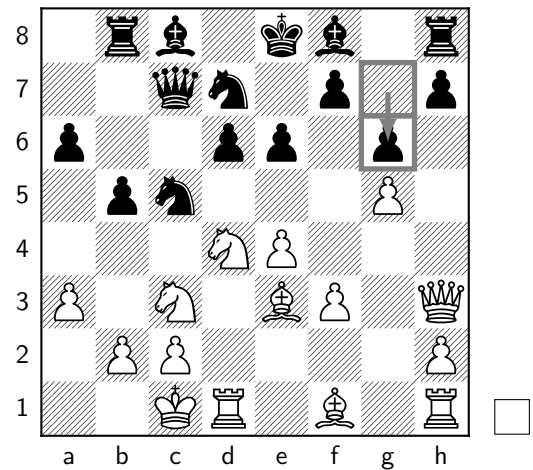
12...b4 13 axb4 ♖xb4 14 g5 ♘fd7 15 g6! ♘b6
16 ♙xh7! ♜xh7 17 gxh7 e5 18 h8 ♙ exd4 19
♜xd4 ♜xd4 20 ♙xd4 ♘e6 21 ♙e3 ♙b7 22 ♙h4

13 g5 ANSWER: Play the move yourself!



13 f4 b4! 14 axb4 ♖xb4 15 g5 ♘b6 16 f5 ♘ba4
17 ♘xa4 ♜xa4 18 ♙b1 exf5 19 b3 fxe4 20 ♙h4
♜b4 21 ♙c4 ♙b7 22 g6 ♜xc4 23 ♙xh7 ♜xh7
24 gxh7 ♜c3 25 ♜he1 ♘xb3!

13...g6! Now all the threats connected with g6
are stopped dead in their tracks and Black can
look to attack with ...b4 ideas in the near future.



13...♘b6 14 g6

14 ♙g3 Moving to allow the h-pawn to roll, but
this feels a little slow.

14...b4 Another move we have seen several times
before; Black just gets on with his play on the
queenside.

15 axb4 ♖xb4 16 h4 ♙g7 17 h5 ANSWER:

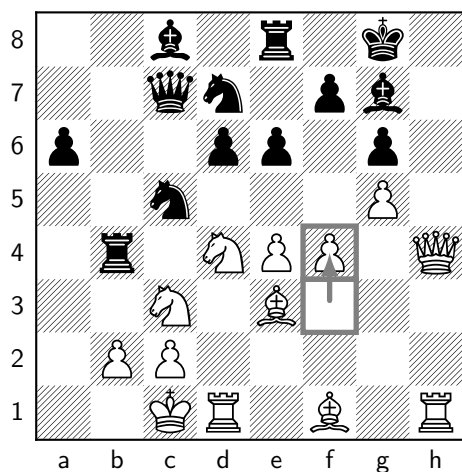
17...O-O! This appears risky, but Van Wely, a
very strong grandmaster, understands that he
has sufficient defensive resources. A true Sicil-
ian race now ensues!

17...gxh5!? 18 ♜xh5 ♙b6 19 b3 ♜xb3! 20
cxb3 ♙xd4 21 ♙xd4 ♘xb3+ 22 ♙c2 ♘xd4+ 23
♜xd4 ♙xd4

17...♙b6 18 h6 ♙xd4 19 ♙xd4 ♜xd4 20 ♜xd4
♘b3+ 21 cxb3 ♙xd4

18 h×g6 h×g6 19 ♙h4 White gets the first mate
threat in on h7. It's no time to panic though!

19...♜e8 20 f4

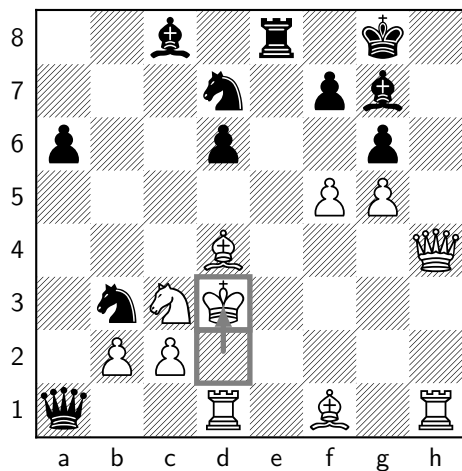


20 ♖h7+ ♔f8

20... ♗a5 21 f5 Again it appears that is White doing all the running, which is true he will be soon running with his king!

21... exf5 22 exf5 ♖a1+ 23 ♔d2 ANSWER:

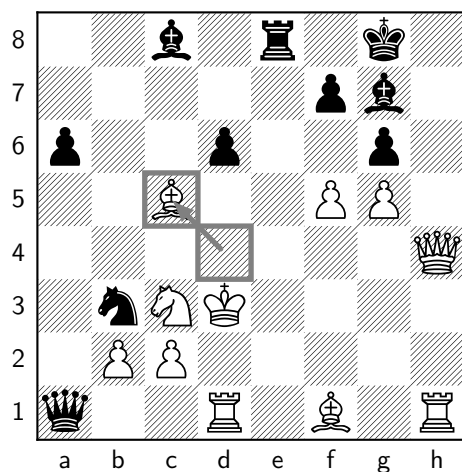
23... ♜xd4+! 24 ♙xd4 ♘b3+! 25 ♔d3



25 cxb3 ♗xb2+ 26 ♔d3 ♘c5+

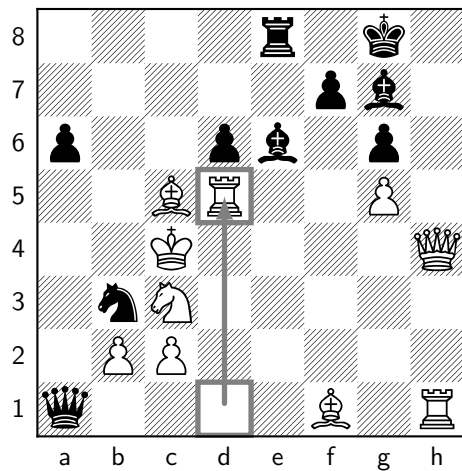
25... ♘dc5+ White's king is chased up the board to its death.

26 ♙xc5



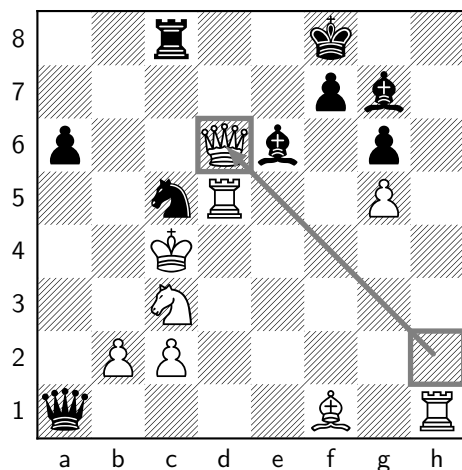
26 ♙c4 ♘a5+ 27 ♙d5 ♙b7+ 28 ♙xd6 ♙f8+ 29 ♙c7 ♜c8+ 30 ♙b6 ♘d7+ 31 ♙a7 ♜a8#

26... ♙xf5+ 27 ♙c4 ♙e6+ 28 ♜d5



28 ♘d5 ♘a5+ 29 ♙d3 ♗xd1+ 30 ♙e3 ♙xd5+

28... ♘xc5 29 ♖h7+ ♔f8 30 ♖h2 ♜c8 31 ♖xd6+



31 ♔×d6+ ♚g8 32 ♜g2 ♔×b2

0-1

White: Van Kampen, R
Black: Popilsky, G

Fermo

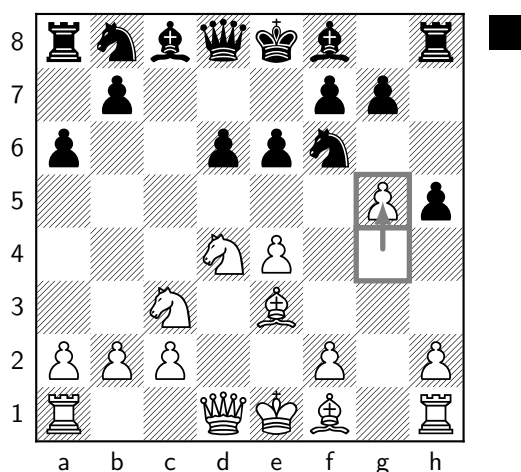
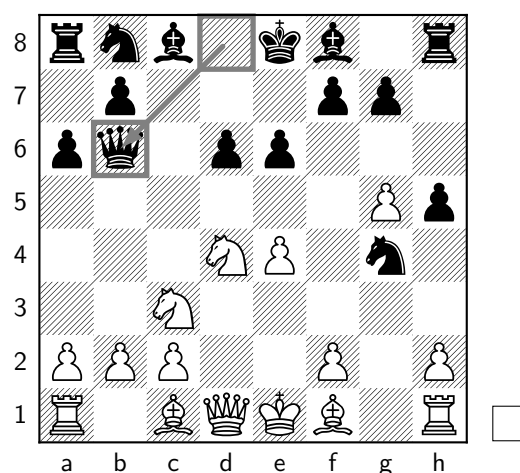
2009

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 cxd4 5 ♘xd4 a6 6 ♙e3 e6 7 g4 With this, the Perenyi Attack, White is trying to play in the style of the Keres Attack. Having gone ...a6, Black can't quite continue in the manner of the last chapter (with 6 g4 h6), but there are other ideas...

7...h5! QUESTION: Why has Black done this? Doesn't it look quite weakening? ANSWER: The idea is to meet 8 g5 with 8...Ng4, highlighting the drawback of White having played Be3.

8 g5 ANSWER:



8 g×h5 b5!

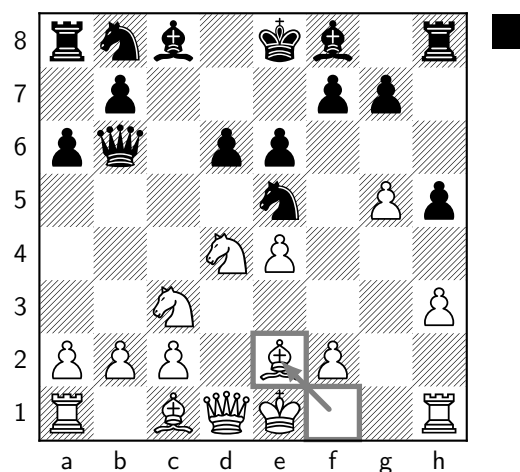
8 g5

8...♘g4! The most active move is also the best response. Just like in the Keres Attack, our knight comes to g4 to harass the bishop on e3.

9 ♙c1 ♖b6

9...♘c6?! 10 ♘xc6 bxc6 11 f4! ♖b6? 12 ♖d2! d5 13 h3

10 h3 ♘e5 11 ♙e2



11 ♘b3 ♘bd7

11 f4

11 f4? ♖xd4! 12 fxe5 ♖xd1+ 13 ♘xd1 dxe5

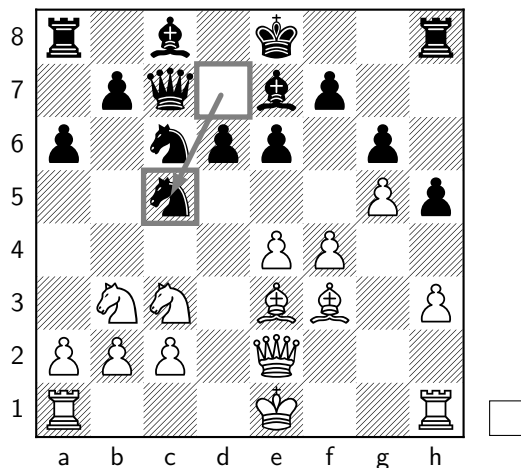
11...g6 Not just defending the pawn on h5, but preventing White from going g6 himself. We saw above after 11 Nb3 how dangerous that break can be.

12 f4 ♘ec6 The black knights might look like they

are stepping on each other's toes, but in fact they are quite well placed on c6 and d7.

13 ♖b3 ♘d7 **14** ♙f3 ♙e7 **15** ♚e2 ♜c7 **QUESTION:** Why did Black retreat the queen to c7? It's not being attacked is it? **ANSWER:** No, it's not, but the queen has done her duty, kicking the knight back to b3, and retreats to allow the b-pawn to advance. This in turn will allow the c8-bishop to develop.

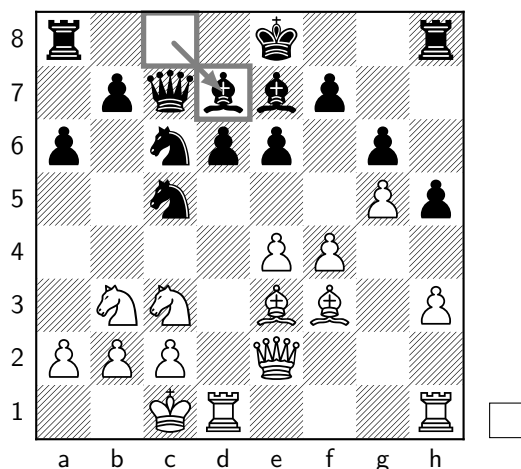
16 ♙e3 ♘c5



16...b5!? **17** O-O-O ♘b6 **18** ♙b1 ♘c4 **19** ♙c1 ♙b7

17 O-O-O **EXERCISE:** Decide if Black should play ...b5 and ...Bb7, or go ...Bd7 as that idea is too slow.

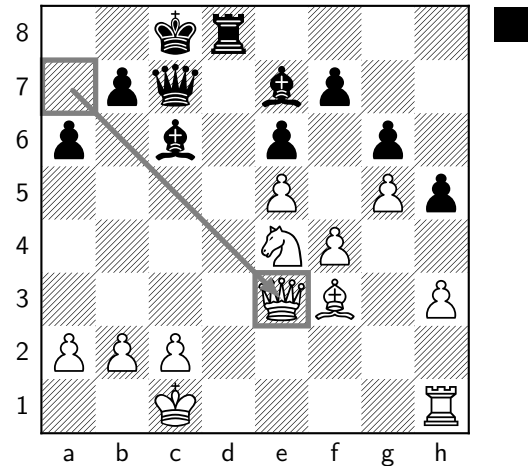
17...♙d7



17...b5?! 18 ♘xc5 dxc5 **19** e5 ♙b7 **20** ♘e4

18 ♘xc5 dxc5 **19** e5 O-O-O **20** ♘e4 Again we see the c5-pawn being attacked and Black now had to give up a pawn to get his pieces out.

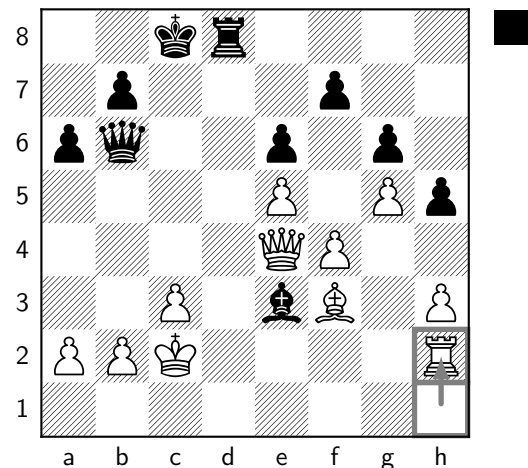
20...♘d4!? **21** ♙xd4 cxd4 **22** ♜xd4 ♙b5 **23** ♚e3 ♜xd4 **24** ♚xd4 ♜d8 **25** ♚a7 ♙c6 **26** ♚e3



26 ♚a8+ ♚b8 **27** ♚xb8+ ♙xb8 **28** ♜d1 ♙d5

26...♙xe4 27 ♚xe4 ♙c5 **28** c3 ♚b6 **29** ♙c2 ♙e3 Trying hard to create some counterplay. Now that the e4-knight is gone, things are harder for White, but he shouldn't be worse.

30 ♜h2



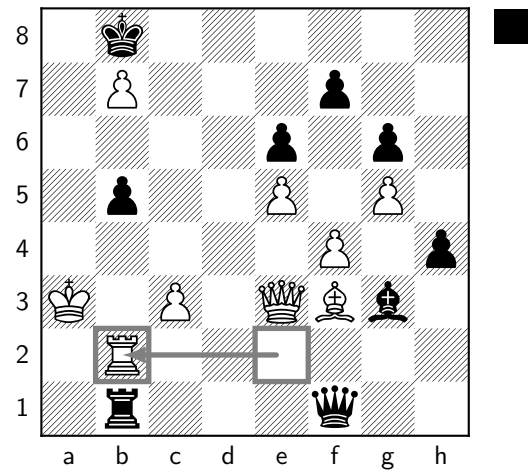
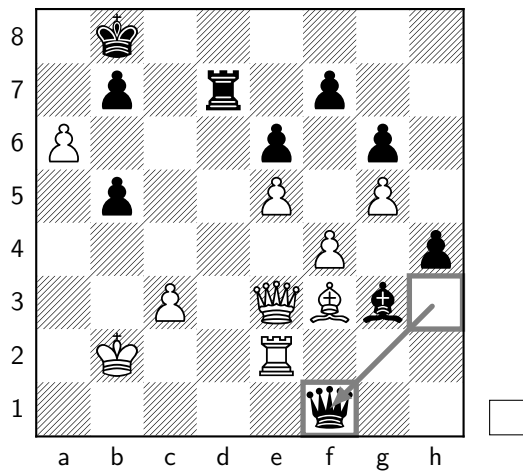
30 ♜d1 ♜xd1 **31** ♙xd1

30...♜d7 31 ♜e2 ♙f2 **32** b4 ♙g3 **33** ♙b3 ♚g1 **34** ♙b2 ♚f1 The queen penetrates White's position and suddenly Van Kampen is struggling to hold things together.

35 ♚e3 ♙b8 **36** a4 h4 **37** a5 ♚xh3 The pawn is

regained and now the position becomes crazy!

38 b5 axb5 39 a6 ♖f1



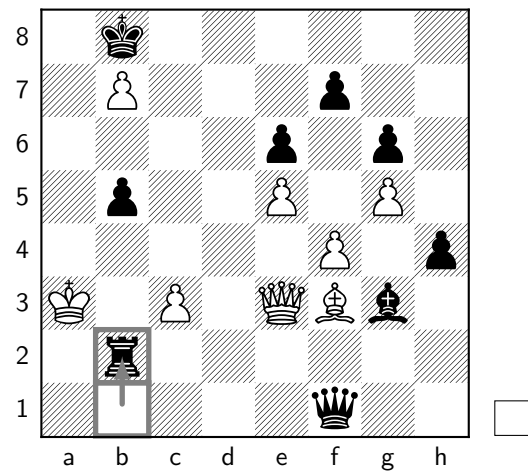
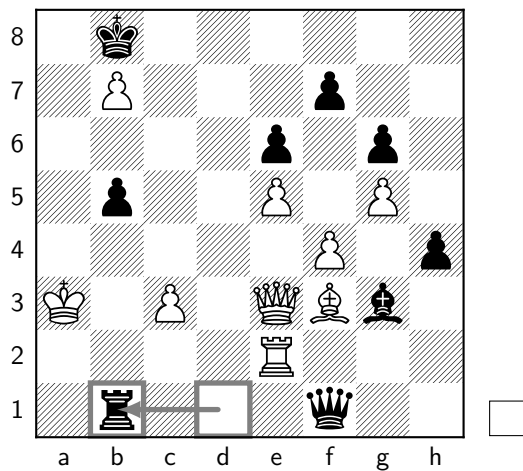
42 ♖d2! b4+ 43 ♔a4

42... ♜x b2

39... bxa6? 40 ♖b6+ ♔c8 41 ♜c6

40 axb7 ♜d1 Both kings have very few defenders around them, but who will get there first?

41 ♔a3 ♜b1



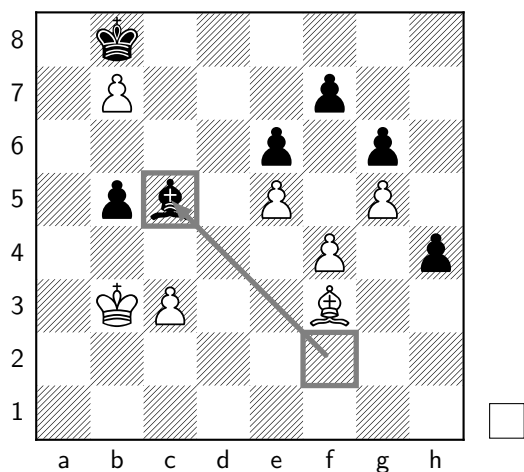
42... ♜a1+ 43 ♔b3 ♖c4+ 44 ♔c2 ♜x f4

43 ♔x b2 ♖f2+ 44 ♖x f2 ♜x f2 Endgames with bishops of opposite colours are normally drawn, but the fact that the white kingside pawns are ripe for the taking swings the game in Black's favour.

45 ♔b3 ♜c5! Very accurate play, preventing the king coming to b4.

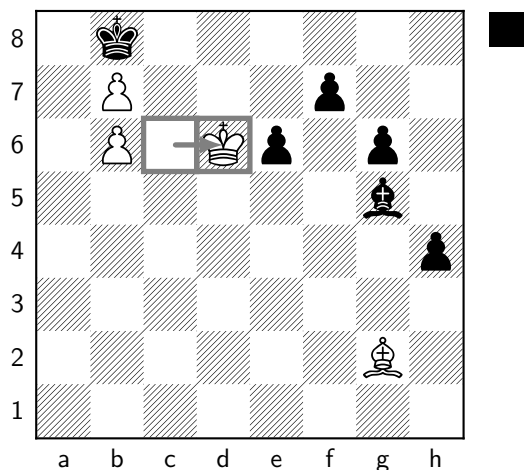
41... ♜x f4! 42 ♖x f4 ♜a1+ 43 ♔b4 ♜a4+

42 ♜b2? Collapsing.



45... ♖e3 46 ♗b4 ♕xf4 47 ♖xb5 ♕xe5 48 ♖c6
 ♕xc3 49 ♖d7 ♕d2 50 ♖e8 ♕xg5 51 ♖xf7

46 ♕g2 ♖c7 47 c4 ♕e3 48 cxb5 ♕xf4 49 b6+
 ♖b8 50 ♖c4 ♕xe5 51 ♖c5 ♕f4 52 ♖c6 ♕xg5
 53 ♖d6



53 ♖d7 e5 54 ♖e8 f5 55 ♖f7 e4 56 ♖xg6 e3 57
 ♕f3 h3 58 ♖xg5 h2 59 ♖xf5 e2

53... ♕d8 54 ♖d7 g5! 55 ♖xd8 g4 56 ♖e7 h3 57
 ♕f1 f5 58 ♖xe6 h2 59 ♕g2 f4 Although 16...Nc5
 worked out well in this game, I still prefer the
 16...b5 and ...Bb7 approach, maybe with ...Nb6
 and ...Nc4 to attack. Black also has the option
 then to castle on either wing.

0-1

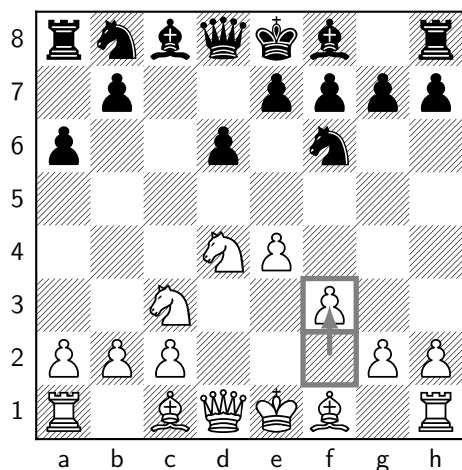
White: Zhang, M
Black: Riordan, C

Parsipanny

2009

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 f3

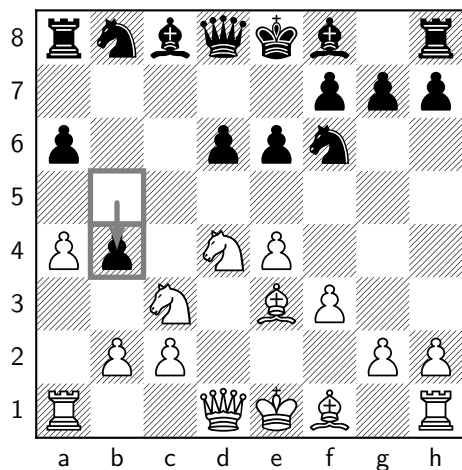


6 ♗e3

6...e6 7 ♗e3 Here we see White's most popular set-up, with Be3 and f3.

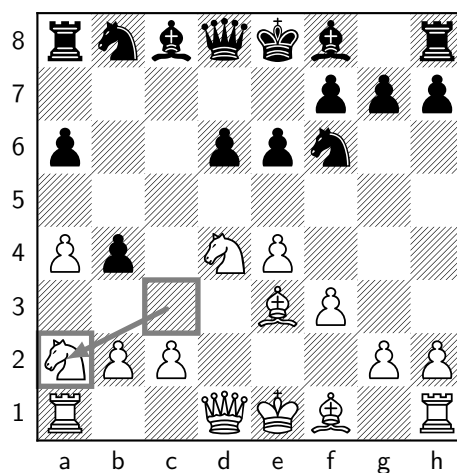
7...b5 8 a4 ANSWER:

8...b4 This is the most obvious move and the best one. The pawn attacks the knight, forcing it to move to a worse square, which gains time for Black to develop.



8...bxa4 9 ♖xa4 ♗b7 10 ♘b3 ♗e7 11 ♘a5 ♖c7 12 ♖b4 ♖xa5 13 ♖xb7 ♘fd7 14 ♗d3 ♗f6 15 O-O O-O 16 ♖a1 ♖d8 17 ♘a4

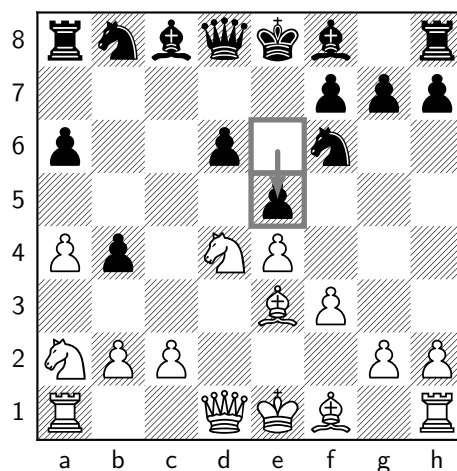
9 ♘a2 ANSWER:



9 ♘ce2 e5! 10 ♘b3 ♗e6 11 ♘g3 h6 12 ♖d2 ♘c6 13 ♖d1 g6 14 c4 h5

9 ♘a2

9...e5!



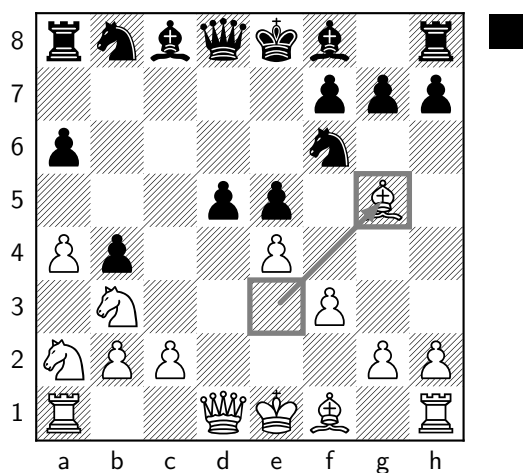
9...d5 10 e5! ♘fd7 11 f4 ♖c7 12 c3 bxc3 13 ♖c1 ♖b7 14 ♖xc3 ♘c5 15 ♖c2 ♘bd7 16 b4 ♘e4 17

♖c7 ♜b8 18 ♘d3 ♙e7 19 ♘xe4 dxe4 20 ♜xe6!
fxe6 21 ♘a7! ♘xb4+ 22 ♙e2

9...a5 10 ♘b5+ ♜bd7 11 O-O ♘b7 12 c3! bxc3
13 ♜xc3

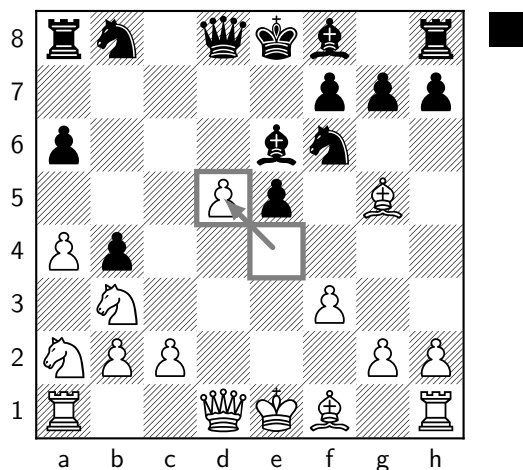
10 ♜b3 d5 This is the point. By playing ...e5, Black prevents White going e5 himself, as we saw in the previous note.

11 ♘g5



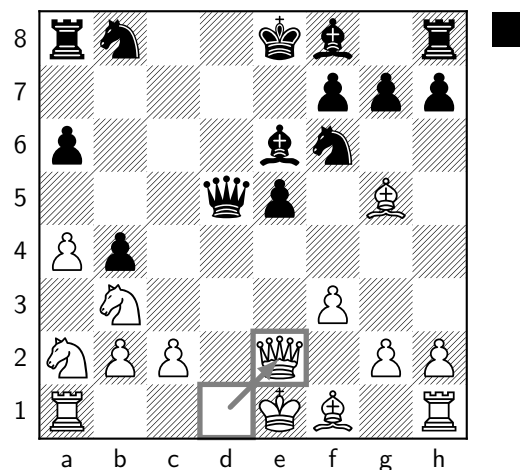
11 exd5 ♜xd5 12 ♘f2 ZZ-

11...♘e6 12 exd5



12 ♘xf6 gxf6 13 exd5 ♜xd5 14 ♜xd5 ♘xd5 15
♘d3 ♜d7 16 O-O-O ♜g8 17 ♘f5 ♘e6 18 ♘xe6
fxe6 19 g3 ♜b6 20 a5 ♜d5

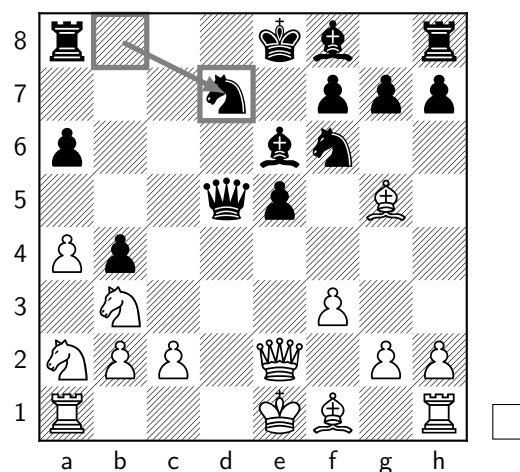
12... ♜xd5 13 ♜e2 Not the most pleasing on the eye, but White was probably a little unhappy with his position already. EXERCISE: How to protect the knight on f6: with 13...Nbd7 or 13...Be7?



13 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 14 O-O-O ♜d7 15 ♘d3 h6 16
♘h4 ♜e3

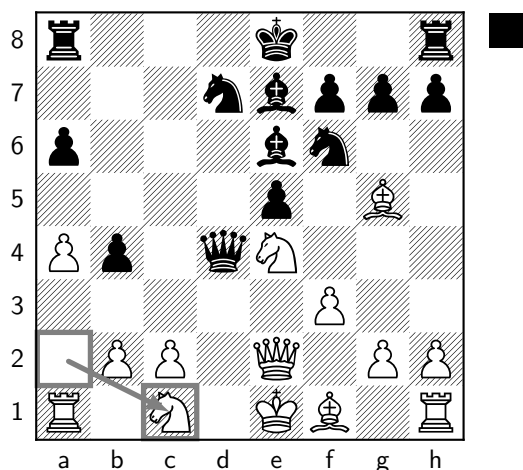
13 ♘d3 ♜bd7 14 O-O

13...♜bd7



13... ♘e7 14 ♘xf6

14 ♜d2 ♘e7 15 ♜e4 ♜d4 16 ♜c1

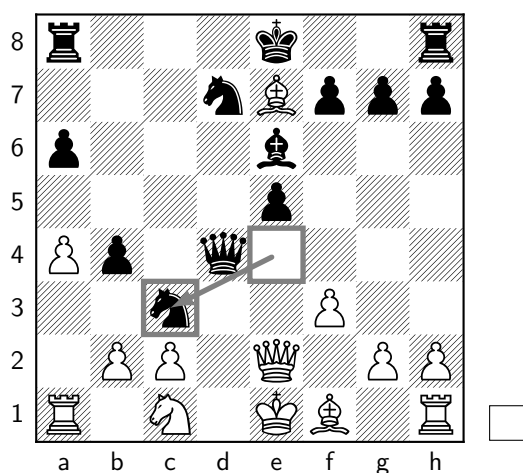


32 ♖c1 ♜a4 33 ♖c2 ♜d4 34 ♖c3 ♙f5 35 g4 ♙x d3
36 ♜x d3 ♙e6 37 ♙e3 ♜x d3+ 38 ♙x d3 g6 39
♙e4 f5+ 40 gxf5+ gxf5+ 41 ♙e3 ♙d5 42 ♙d3
f4 43 ♙e2 ♙c4
0-1

16 c3 bxc3 17 ♖exc3 O-O

16... ♖xe4 I'm not sure why Black didn't just take on b2 here, which just seems very strong.

17 ♙xe7 ♖c3



17... ♜xb2 18 ♜xe4 ♙xe7 19 ♖b3 ♜c3+ 20
♙f2 ♙xb3 21 cxb3 ♜xa1 22 ♜xb4+ ♙e8

18 ♜d3 ♙xe7 19 bxc3 ♜xc3+ 20 ♜xc3 bxc3
Black is just a pawn ahead and with a bit of technique manages to convert it.

21 ♖e2 ♜hc8 22 ♜a3 ♜ab8 23 ♖xc3 ♜b2 24 ♙d2
♖c5 Black's activity is far too much for White's uncoordinated forces to handle.

25 ♙c1 ♜b4 26 a5 ♖b3+ 27 cxb3 ♜xc3+ 28
♙d2 ♜xb3 29 ♜xb3 ♜xb3 30 ♙xa6 ♜a3 31 ♙d3
♜xa5 The rest of the moves I will give without comment, as they are not directly relevant to the opening. Black plays for the win and eventually gets there!

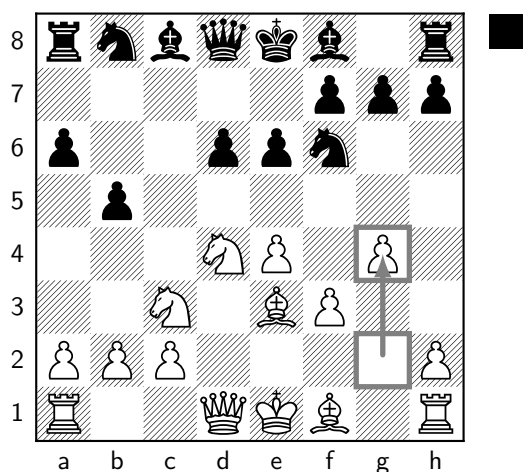
White: Almasi, Z
Black: Cheparinov, I

European Team Championship, Crete

2007

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5
♗c3 a6 6 f3 e6 7 ♕e3 b5 8 g4

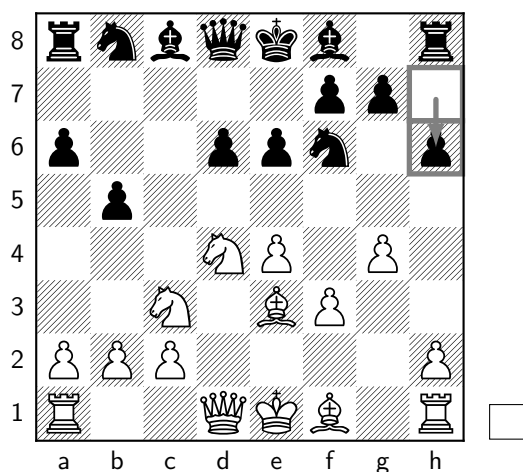


8 ♖d2

8 g4 ♘bd7 9 g5!

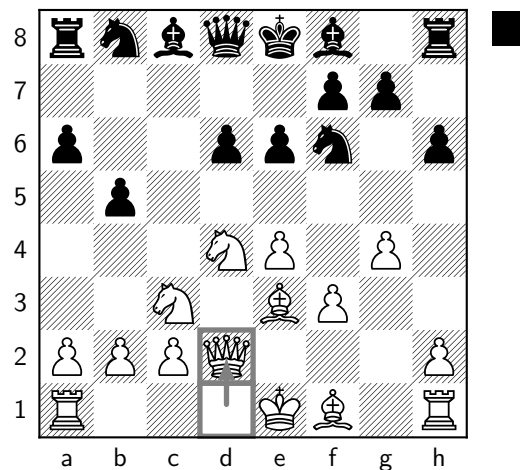
8 g4 h6

8... h6



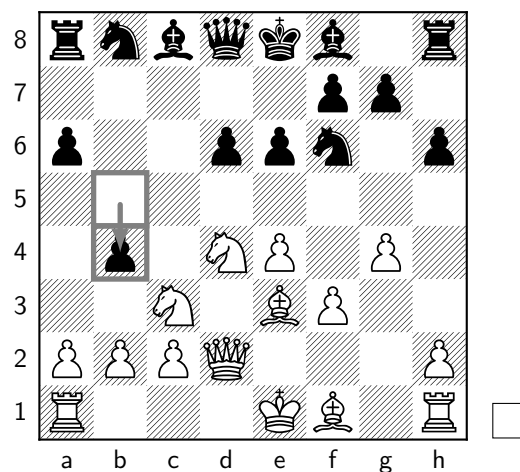
8... ♘bd7 9 ♖d2 ♘b6 10 O-O-O ♕b7 11 ♘b3!
♗c6 12 ♖f2 ♘d7 13 h4 ♖c8 14 g5

9 ♖d2



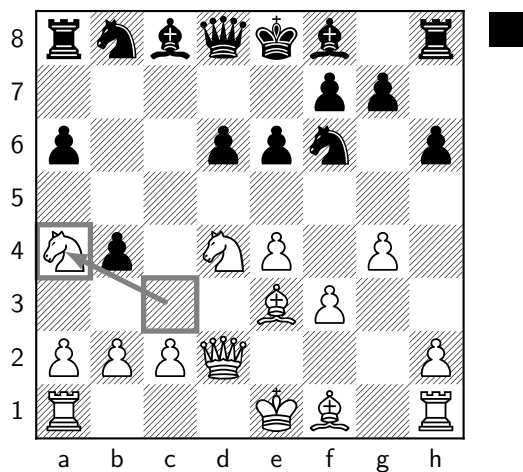
9 h4 b4 10 ♘ce2 e5 11 ♘b3 ♕e6 12 ♘g3 d5 13
♖g1 ♗c6 14 g5 hxg5 15 hxg5 d4 16 gxh6 dxe3 17
♖xd8+ ♖xd8 18 O-O-O+ ♖e8 19 f×g7 ♕×g7
20 ♗c5 ♘d4 21 ♗xa6 ♕h6 22 ♖b1 e2 23 ♕×e2
♗×e2 24 ♗c7+ ♖e7 25 ♗f5+

9... b4 Not the only move, nor the most popular,
but I like this disruptive approach. By immedi-
ately questioning the knight on c3, Black will de-
velop according to how White reacts.



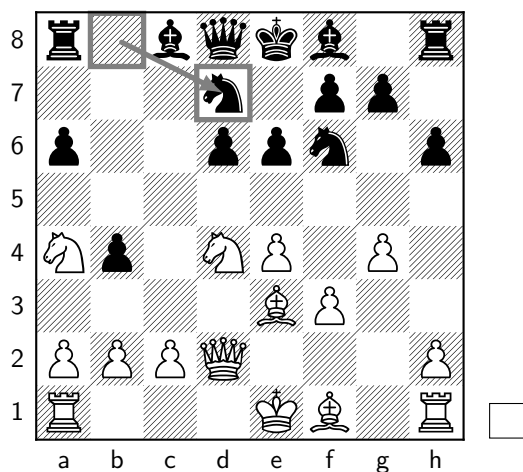
9... ♘bd7 10 O-O-O ♕b7 11 h4 b4 12 ♘a4 ♖a5
13 b3 ♗c5 14 a3 ♗xa4 15 axb4 ♖c7 16 bxa4

10 ♖a4 'Knights on the rim are dim' is the saying, but the knight notices a good square on b6 and it will be protected after Nb3 if it runs into trouble.



10 ♖ce2 e5 11 ♖f5 d5! 12 exd5 ♖xd5 13 ♖xd5 ♜xd5 14 ♙f2 ♙b7 15 ♙g2 g6 16 ♖e3 ♖xe3 17 ♙xe3 ♖d7 18 ♖g1 ♙c5 19 ♙xc5 ♖xc5 20 f4 e4 21 O-O-O h5 22 g5 ♖d8 23 ♖xd8+ ♙xd8 24 h4 ♙c7

10... ♖bd7



10... ♙b7

10... ♙b7? 11 ♖xb4! ♖c7 12 ♖b6 ♖a7 13 O-O-O

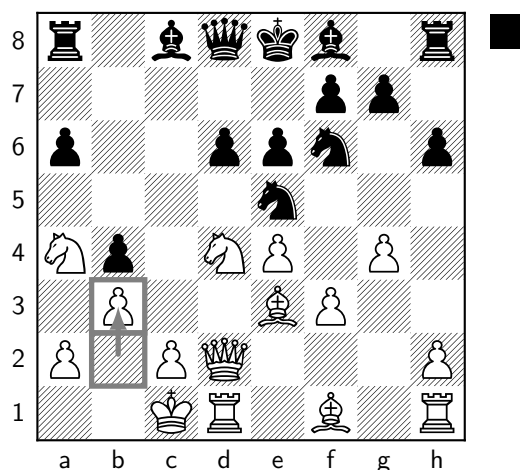
11 O-O-O 11 ♖xb4

11 ♖xb4 d5! 12 ♖d2 dxe4 13 O-O-O ♙b7

11 ♖c6 ♖c7 12 ♖xb4 d5 13 exd5 ♙xb4 14 ♖xb4 ♖xd5 15 ♖d2 ♖xe3 16 ♖xe3 ♖xc2

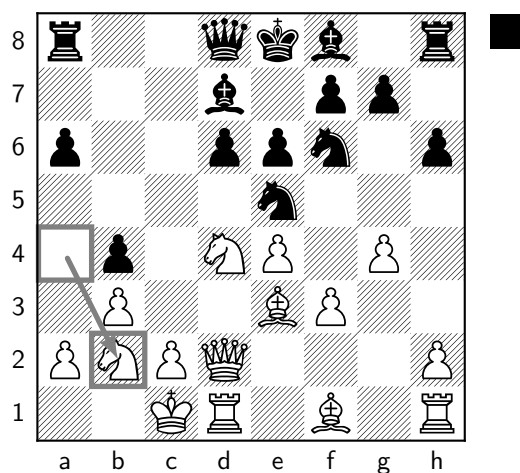
11... ♖e5! Another one of those 'what's this?' moves. White has five pieces developed to Black's two, and yet the knight moves yet again! Well, the idea is to play ...Bd7, exposing the knight on a4. Also the reader should be used by now to the fact that the king will remain on e8 for a while, meaning time can be spent doing other things. The knight on e5 also eyes the f3-pawn and those pawns on d6 and e6 form the usual protective barrier, meaning there are no immediate threats.

12 b3



12 ♖xb4 ♙d7 13 ZZ-

12... ♙d7 13 ♖b2

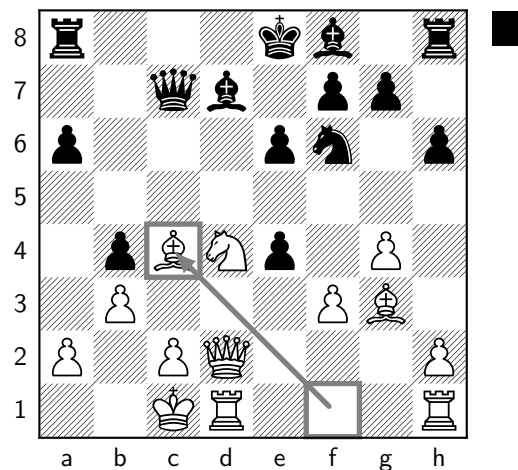
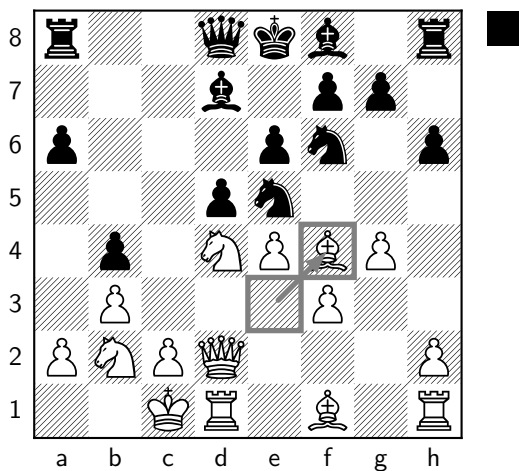


13 ♖xb4 d5 14 ♖c3 ♙xa4 15 bxa4 ♖c8 16 ♖b2 ♖d6!?

13... d5 Care should be taken before playing such a move, because the king is still on e8. However, as there is no knight on c3, this central pawn

break is okay. The f8-bishop also happens to defend b4.

14 ♖f4 ANSWER:

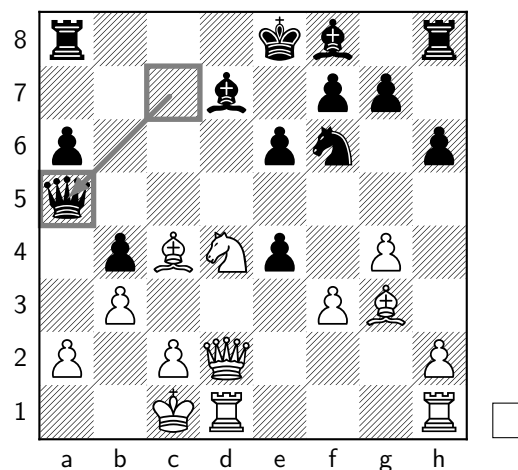
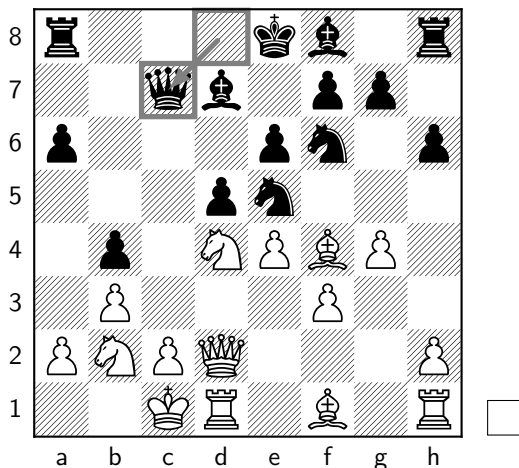


17 ♖xc7 ♖xd2 18 ♖xd2 exf3 19 ♖xf3 ♖c5

17... ♖a5 Gaining time by attacking a2.

14 exd5 ♖xd5

14... ♖c7 Surprisingly it's best to defend the knight with the queen. It seems at first strange to self-pin like this, but there is no good way for White to take advantage.



17... ♖b7

18 ♖b1 ♖e7 Finally deciding to develop!

19 h4 ♖d8 20 ♖e3

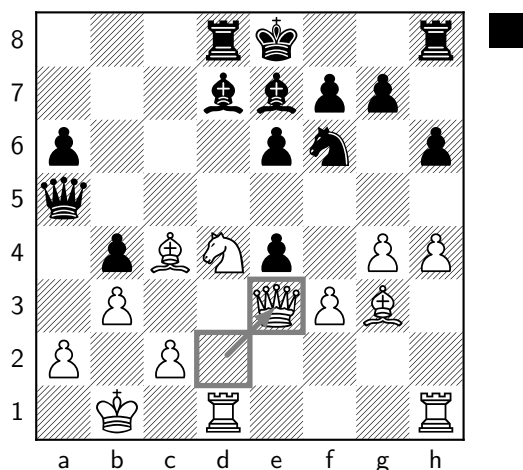
14... ♖d6 15 exd5 ♖xd5 16 ♖f5!

14... ♖g6 15 e5!

15 ♖g3 dxe4 16 ♖c4 ANSWER:

16... ♖xc4! Black hasn't blundered as he can now capture on c4 and counterattack against White's queen on d2.

17 ♖xc4



20 g5 ♘h5 21 ♙h2 e5! 22 ♘e2 exf3

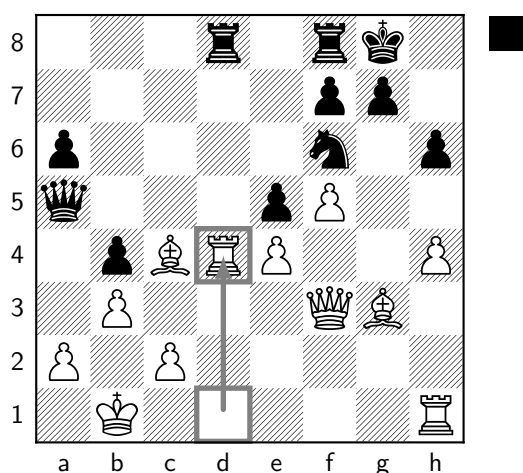
20...e5 21 ♘f5 ♙xh5 22 gxf5 QUESTION: Choose between castling or grabbing another pawn on f3 before trying to castle on the next turn. ANSWER: It's best not to be greedy!

22...O-O I'm sure Cheparinov was extremely happy with how the opening has turned out. The king has been evacuated to safety and all of his pieces are well placed.

22...exf3 23 ♖a7!

23 fxe4 ♙c5 24 ♖f3 ♙d4 Now the bishop enters the game and it induces White to panic as the threat of ...Qa3 followed by mate is quite strong.

25 ♖xd4?!



25 ♙e1 ♖a3 26 c3 bxc3 27 ♙xc3 ♙xc3 28 ♖xc3

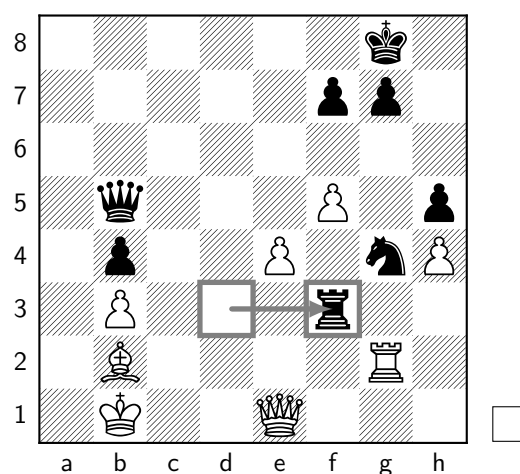
25...♖xd4 26 ♙d3 h5! Borrowing from the Keres Attack yet again. The f6-knight will come to g4

and seal off the open g-file, which is the only source of counterplay here for White.

27 ♙f2 ♖d6 28 ♙e3 ♘g4 29 ♖g1 ♖fd8 30 ♙g5 ♖c5 31 ♖g2 ♖8d7 32 ♙e2 a5 33 ♙c1 ♖d4 34 ♙d3 ♖c6 35 ♙b2 ♖4d6 36 ♖g3 After a lot of protracted manoeuvring, Black now decides to go for it.

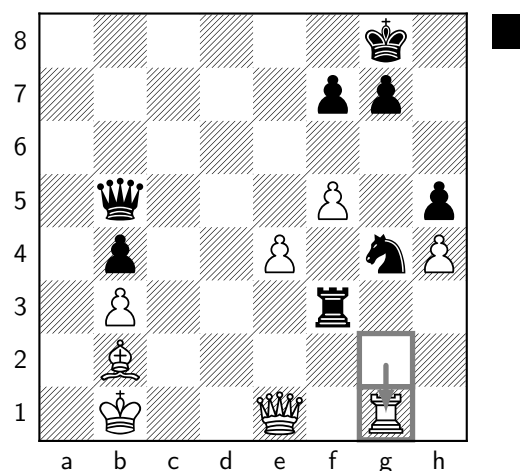
36...a4! 37 ♙xe5 ♖xd3 38 cxd3 ♖b5 This double attack on d3 and e5 regains the pawn while keeping an attack.

39 ♙b2 ♖xd3 40 ♖e1 axb3 41 axb3 ♖f3 Threatening ...Rf1.



41...♖xb3

42 ♖g1

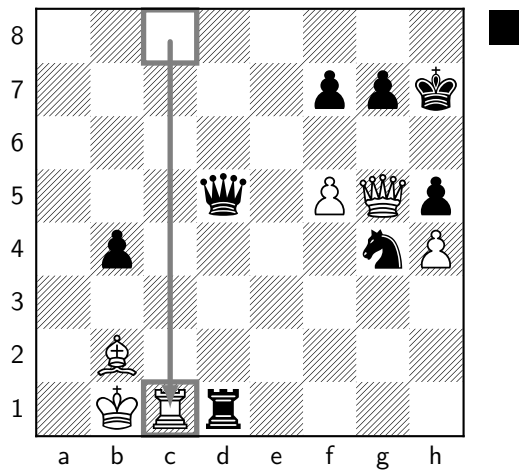


42 ♖a2 ♖a6+! 43 ♖b1 ♖f1

42...♖xb3 43 ♖d2 ♖c4 44 ♖c1 ♖xe4+ 45 ♖a2

♖d3 46 ♜c8+ ♔h7 47 ♚g5 Desperately trying for a counterattack, but Black gets there first.

47... ♜d5+ 48 ♔b1 ♜d1+ 49 ♜c1



49 ♜c1 ♜b3+ 50 ♔a1 ♜a3+ 51 ♔b1 ♜d3+ 52 ♔a1 ♜a6+

49... ♜d3+ 50 ♔a2 ♜a6+ 51 ♔b1 ♜xc1+ 52 ♜xc1 b3 Here we saw the advantages of an early ...b4: White's set-up is disrupted and Black can get in an early ...d5 as the knight isn't on c3 anymore. Of course it all needs to be timed correctly, but if Black does, a promising middlegame position can be reached.

0-1

White: Vuilleumier, A
Black: D'Costa, L

Lagos

2006

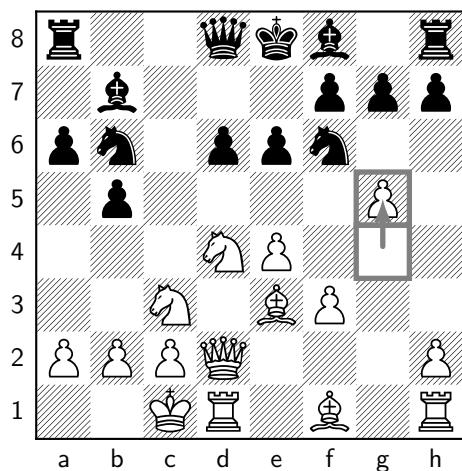
Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 ♙e3 e6 7 f3 b5 8 ♚d2 ♘bd7 9 O-O-O

This is the most natural set-up for White in the English Attack. He gets castled on the queenside before setting about attacking on the kingside. Indeed, the g- and h-pawns are normally thrown forward to try and open up the kingside, where the black king tends to hide out.

9... ♙b7 10 g4 QUESTION: White is threatening g5 to attack the f6-knight. Where is the best retreat square for it? ANSWER: The knight wants to go to d7, which means that the other knight on d7 needs to move out of the way.

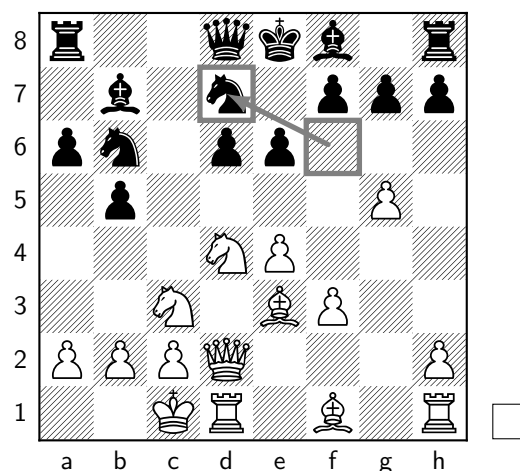
10... ♘b6! 11 g5



11 ♘b3

11 ♘b3 ♚c8! 12 ♘a5 ♙a8 13 ♙b1 ♙e7 14 ♚g1 O-O 15 a3 d5 16 g5 ♘fd7 17 exd5 ♘xd5 18 ♘xd5 ♙xd5 19 ♙e2 ♚c7 20 ♙f4 ♘e5 21 ♘b3 ♙d6 22 ♙g3 ♚fd8

11... ♘fd7 From here the knight can come to good squares such as c5 and e5.

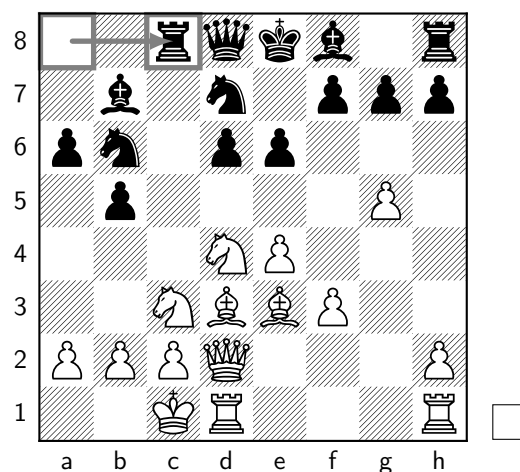


11... ♘h5

11... ♘g8

12 ♙d3 The idea of this is to allow the c3-knight to drop back to e2 behind the bishop. This keeps White controlling any black knight invasion on c4 for now anyway!

12... ♚c8

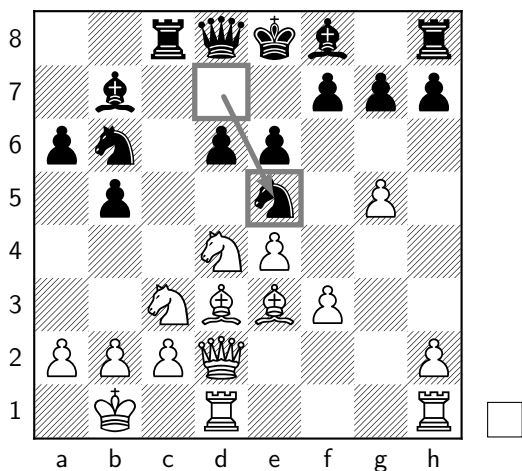


12... b4 13 ♘ce2

13 ♙b1 Getting off the semi-open c-file.

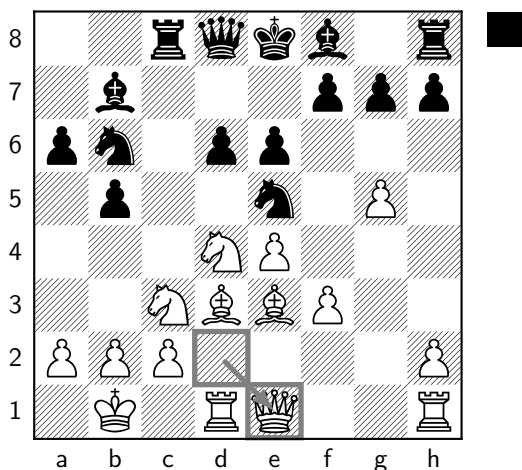
13... ♘e5 QUESTION: Why does Black move this knight again rather than develop? ANSWER:

To quickly come to the c4-square. Otherwise White can play f4 and prevent the ...Ne5-c4 manoeuvre.



13...Be7 14 f4 O-O 15 f5 Be5 16 fxe6 b4 17 Qce2 Qbc4 18 Qxc4 Qxc4 19 Qd3 Qxg5 20 Qxg5 Qxg5

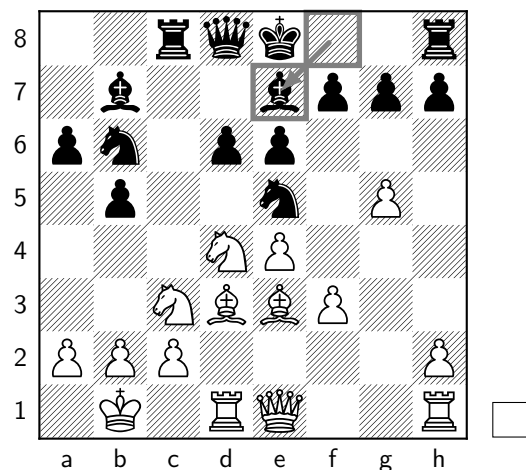
14 Qe1 We have reached one of the critical positions of the English Attack. The queen on e1 covers against any sacrifices on c3 and White hopes to launch on the kingside with h4, h5, g6, etc.



14 Qf2 Qxc3!? 15 bxc3 Qa4 16 Qe2 Qc7 17 h4 Qe7 18 h5 O-O

14 b3 d5! 15 exd5? Qb4! 16 Qde2 Qxd5 17 Qd4 Qxf3

14...Be7 Returning to 14...Be7:

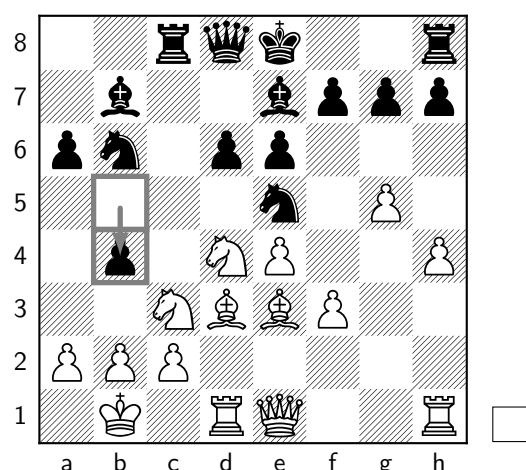


14...Qbc4 15 f4! b4 16 Qa4 Qxd3 17 cxd3 Qa5 18 Qc1 Qa3+ 19 bxa3 Qxa4 20 Qxb4 Qxb4+ 21 axb4 d5 22 a3 dxe4 23 Qhe1 exd3 24 f5

14...b4 15 Qce2 d5 16 h4 Qd6 17 Qf4 O-O 18 g6! Qa4 19 gxf7+ Qxf7 20 Qfxe6 Qe8 21 Qg1 g6 22 h5!

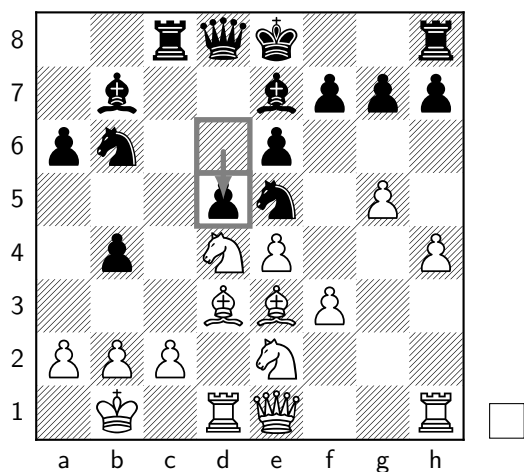
14...Qec4 15 Qc1 g6!? 16 h4 Qg7 17 Qce2 Qa4! 18 Qxc4 bxc4 19 Qb4 Qc5 20 Qxc4 O-O 21 Qb4 Qc7 22 Qa1 d5 23 exd5 Qxd5 24 h5 Qfd8

15 h4 b4



15...d5

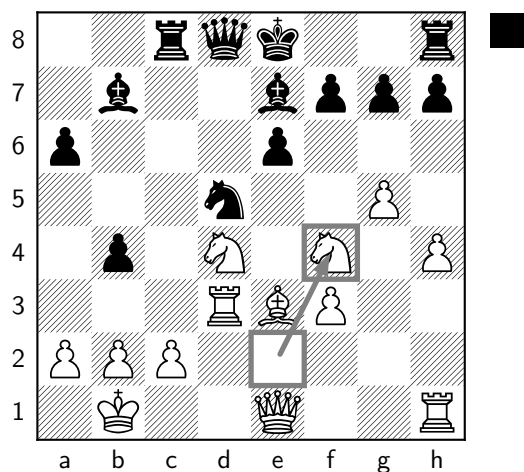
16 Qce2 d5



16...a5 17 ♖b5+ ♜bd7 18 h5

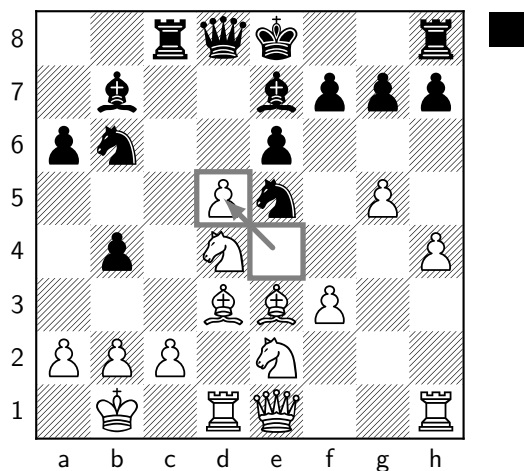
16...d5

17 exd5 ANSWER: Although all three moves are playable, I don't think the game move is the most testing for Black.



19 ♙c1 ♚c7

19...♚a5

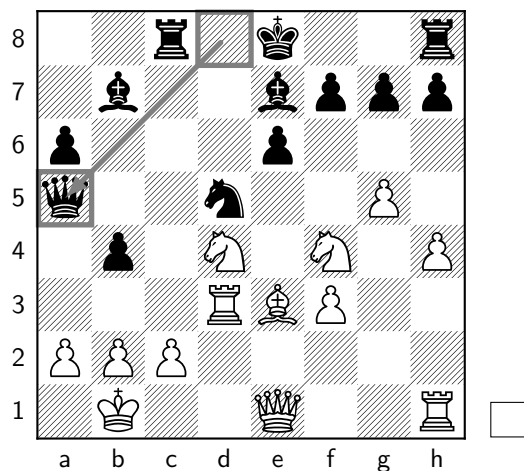


17 h5 ♜bc4 18 ♙c1 ♚b6 19 ♙xc4 ♜xc4! 20 exd5 ♙xd5 21 g6 ♙f6! 22 gxf7+ ♜xf7

17 ♜g3 O-O 18 h5 ♚c7

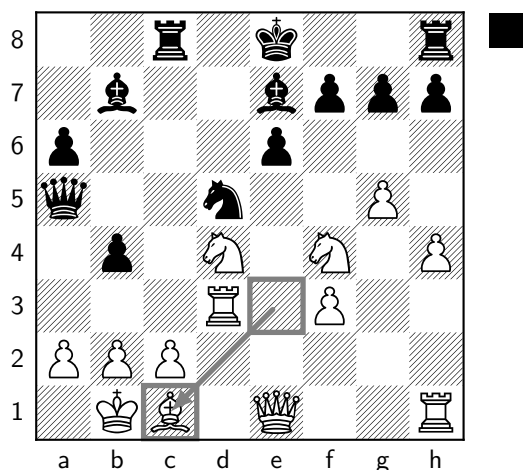
17...♜xd3 Now White won't want to capture on d3 with the c-pawn as this would ruin his pawn structure.

18 ♜xd3 ♜xd5 19 ♜f4



19...♚c7! 20 ♜xd5 ♙xd5 21 ♚f2 O-O 22 h5 a5 23 g6 f×g6 24 h×g6 h×g6 25 ♚g2 ♜×f3! 26 ♚×g6 ♙f6 27 ♚h7+ ♜f8

20 ♙c1



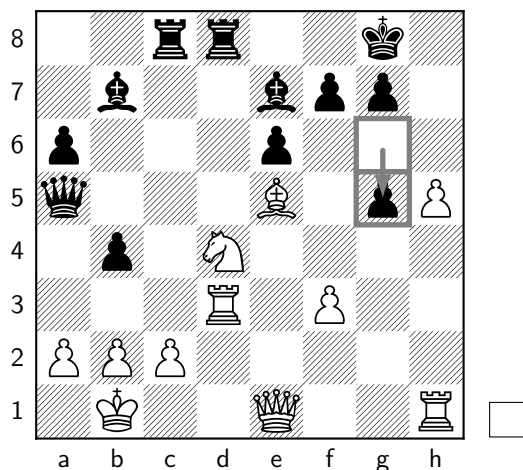
20 $\text{Nxd6!?$ fxe6 21 Nxe6 Qf7 22 Qd4 Qa4 23 Rh2 Rhe8 24 h5 Qf6 25 g6+ Qg8 26 h6 Qd7 27 gxh7+ Qh8 28 hxg7+ Qxg7!

20... Nxf4 21 Qxf4 O-O Here I felt Black could be content with the position: the two bishops in an open position and a solid enough king. Of course White can attack (which my opponent was only too happy to do!) and now the game starts to become interesting...

22 Qe5 Rfd8 Here Black threatens ... Rd5 and White's central pieces in the centre look quite uncoordinated. So Vuilleumier goes for the immediate attack:

23 $\text{g6!?$ hxg6 24 h5 ANSWER:

24... g5 Keeping lines as closed as possible must be best. Why open up files for the opponent to use towards your king?

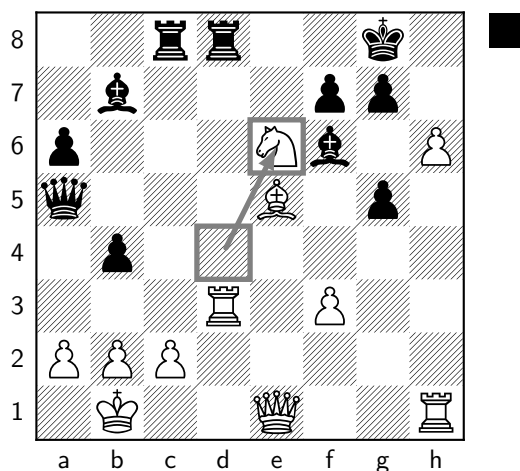


24... gxh5? 25 Qg3! g6 26 Nb3 Qb5 27 Rhxh5 Qf6 28 Rxd8+ Rxd8 29 Qxf6

24... Rd5 25 Nb3 Qb5 26 Rxd5 Qxd5 27 hxg6 fxg6

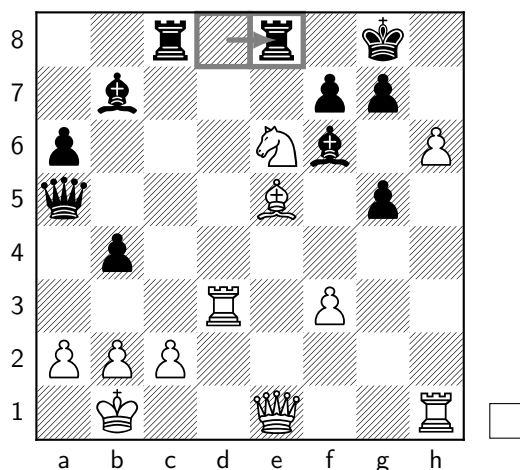
25 h6 Qf6 The defence I had seen after playing 22... Rfd8 . Black defends actively, which is important in such positions.

26 Nxe6 This may look crushing, but as a Scheveningen player you will learn to keep your head when others may lose theirs around you.



26 Qxf6 gxh6 27 h7+ Qh8

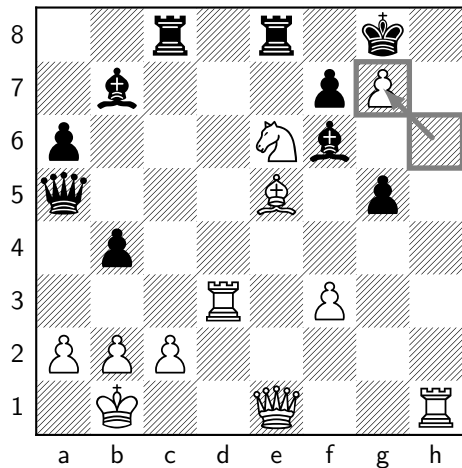
26... Re8! Cool defence! It is easy to panic when you see such a move as Nxe6 , but as mentioned previously, Black hasn't done much wrong so it's hard to believe such sacrifices can work so easily.



26...f×e6? 27 ♖×f6 g×f6 28 ♚×e6+

26...♖×d3 27 h×g7 ♗×g7 28 ♗×g7 f×e6 29 ♚×e6+ ♘×g7 30 ♚e7+ ♘g6 31 ♚×b7

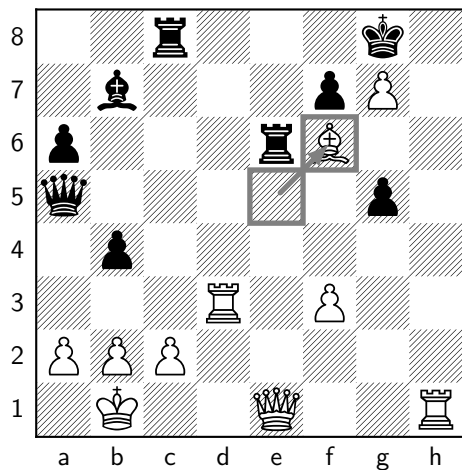
27 h×g7



27 ♗×f6 g×f6 28 ♖e3 ♗d5!

27 ♖e3 ♖×e6 28 ♗×f6 ♖×e3 29 h7+ ♘h8 30 ♗×g7+ ♘×g7 31 ♚×e3 ♚d5

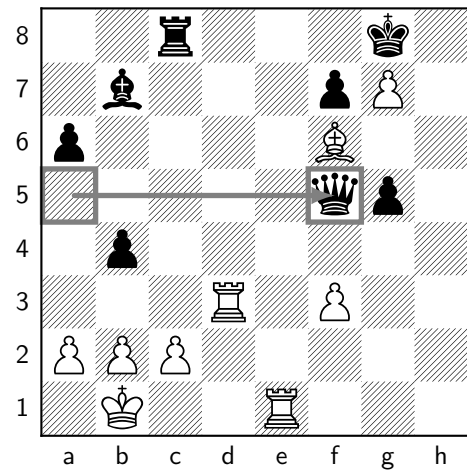
27...♖×e6 28 ♗×f6



28 ♖h8+ ♘×g7 29 ♗×f6+ ♖×f6 30 ♖×c8 ♗×c8

28...♖×e1+ 29 ♖×e1 If it was White's turn, then Rh1 would be crushing, but one tempo makes a massive difference in a position like this.

29...♚f5 Not the only good move.



29...b3! 30 ♖c3 ♚×a2+ 31 ♘c1 ♚a1+ 32 ♘d2 ♚a4 33 ♖×c8+ ♗×c8 34 ♖h1 ♚f4+ 35 ♘e2 ♚×f6

29...♚b6 30 ♗d4 ♚h6 31 ♖de3 f6 32 ♖e8+ ♖×e8 33 ♖×e8+ ♘×g7

30 ♗d4 ♗×f3 Covering h1. White is lost.

31 b3 f6 32 ♖e7 ♗e4 33 ♖e3 ♗×c2+ 34 ♘b2 ♗b1 As it turned out, it is White who is getting mated.

0-1

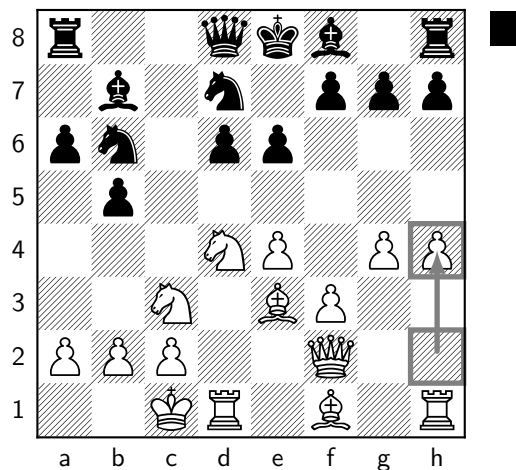
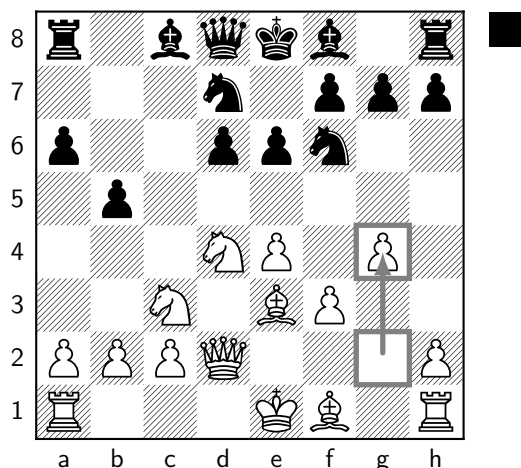
White: Zakurdjaeva, I
Black: Zuriel, M

Oropesa del Mar

2000

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5
♘c3 a6 6 ♙e3 e6 7 f3 b5 8 ♖d2 ♘bd7 9 g4



9 a4 b4 10 ♘a2 d5! 11 ♘xb4 dxe4 12 ♙e2
♙b7 13 O-O ♖c7 14 a5 exf3 15 ♙xf3 ♘e5 16
♙xb7 ♖xb7 17 ♘d3 ♘xd3 18 ♖xd3 ♙e7 19
♖b3 ♖xb3 20 ♘xb3 ♖c8 21 ♖fc1 ♘d5 22 ♙d2
♖c4 23 ♙e1 ♙g5 24 ♘d2 ♖d4 25 c4 ♘b4 26 ♖d1
♙e3+ 27 ♙f1 ♘c2 28 ♖a4 ♙e7 29 ♙e2 ♖hd8 30
♖c1 ♘xe1

9... ♘b6 10 O-O-O ♙b7 11 ♖f2 QUESTION:
What is the idea behind this move and how should
Black respond? ANSWER: As we discussed back
in Movsesian-Kasparov, 12 Nxe6 is threatened
and also any ...Nc4 forks are avoided. Best now
is to continue with the same knight manoeuvre
we have seen before:

11... ♘fd7! Defending its friend on b6 and seek-
ing pastures new, just as you will have seen in
the other games in this chapter.

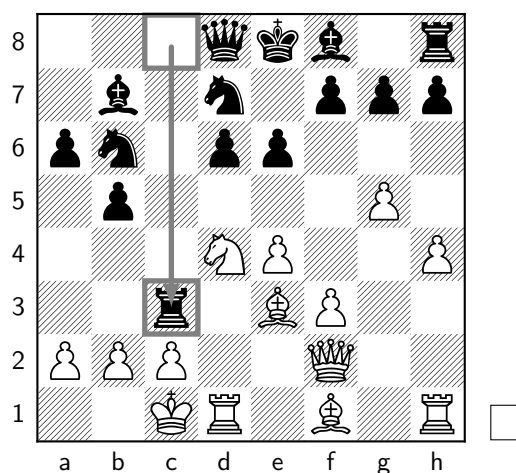
12 h4

12 ♙b1?!

12 ♙d3

12... ♖c8 13 g5 ANSWER:

13... ♖xc3! Of course!

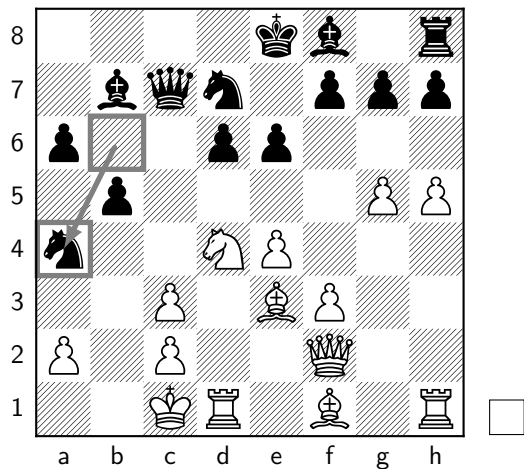


13... b4 14 ♘ce2 ♘c4

14 bxc3 ♖c7 15 h5 ANSWER:

15... ♘a4 As Nimzowitsch said, 'the threat is
greater than the execution'. After this move White
will always need to worry about the c3-pawn,

hence why we probably shouldn't capture it immediately.



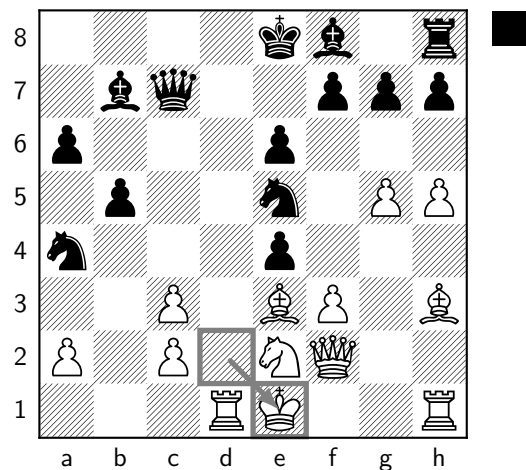
15... d5 16 ♖b1 ♘a4 17 ♘e2 dxe4 18 fxe4 ♘dc5

15... ♙xc3 16 ZZ-

16 ♘e2 d5 As mentioned above, this move frees the dark-squared bishop and snipes at White's centre.

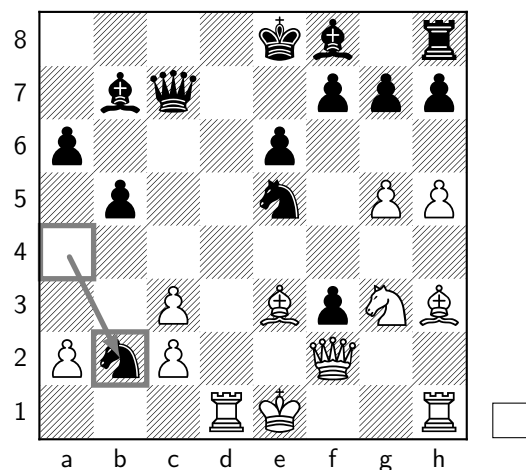
17 ♙h3 ♘e5 This knight, having searched for pastures new, finally finds them. It will now join in the attack and with good effect.

18 ♖d2? Clearly White panicked here and decided to head for the hills. Of course, those hills aren't necessarily any safer!



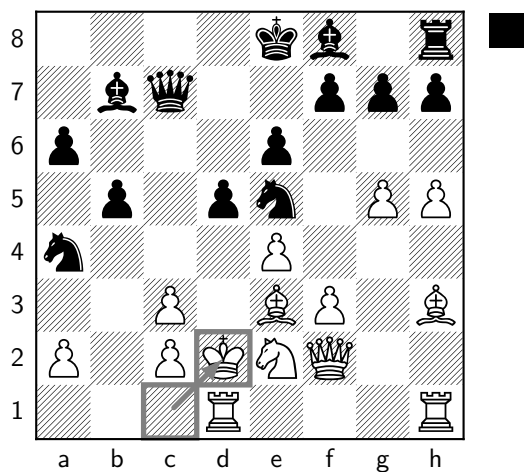
19 f4 ♘f3+ 20 ♖c1 ♙a3+ 21 ♖b1 ♘xc3+ 22 ♘xc3 ♙xc3 23 ♙d4 ♙b4+ 24 ♖a1 e3! 25 ♙xe3 ♘xd4 26 ♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 27 ♙xd4 ♙xh1

19... exf3 20 ♘g3 ♘b2



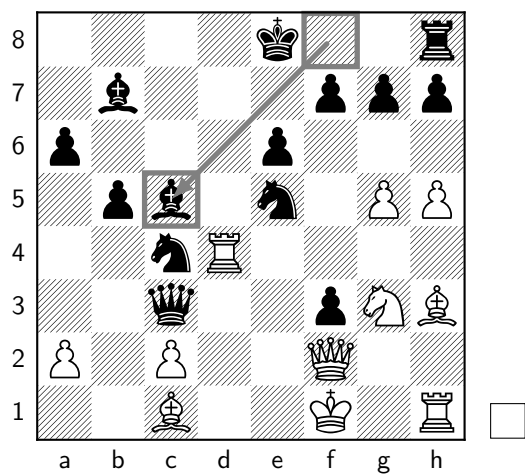
20... ♘xc3 21 ♙d4 ♘c4

21 ♙d4 ♙xc3+ 22 ♖f1 ♘bc4 23 ♙c1 ♙c5



18 g6 ♙a3+ 19 ♖b1

18... dxe4 19 ♖e1



23... ♖c5 24 ♜d8+ ♔xd8 25 ♚xc5 ♘d2+

0-1

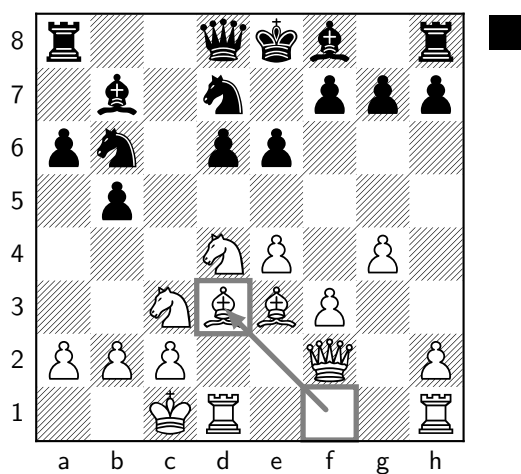
White: Korneev, O
Black: Sasikiran, K

Corsica (rapid)

2005

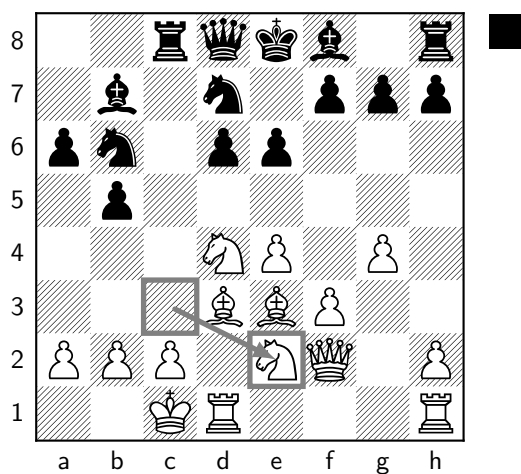
Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 d3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4 d6 5 dxc3 a6 6 e3 e6 7 f3 b5 8 d2 bd7 9 O-O-O b7 10 g4 b6 11 f2 fd7 12 d3 Returning to 12 Bd3:



12 b1 c8 13 d3

12... c8 13 dce2 ANSWER:

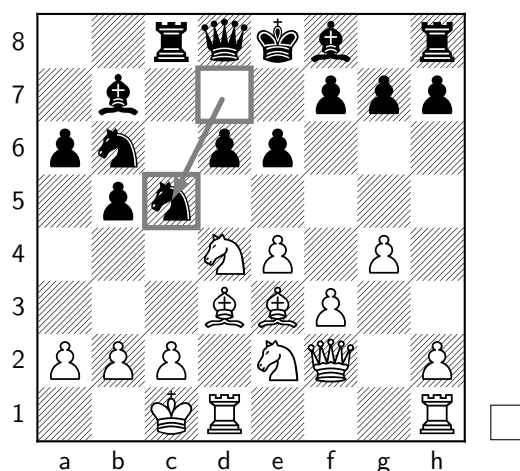


13 b1 c3! 14 bxc3 c7 15 d2 d5 16 e5 d4 17 d4 xe5 18 g3 d6 19 f4 xd3 20

xd3 O-O 21 Wh4 f6 22 h3 h6 23 g5 fxg5 24 fxg5 e7 25 xg7!! xg5 26 xh6!! xh4 27 g1+ h8 28 xh4 e7 29 g7+ g8 30 xf8+ xf8 31 h8+ f7 32 h7+

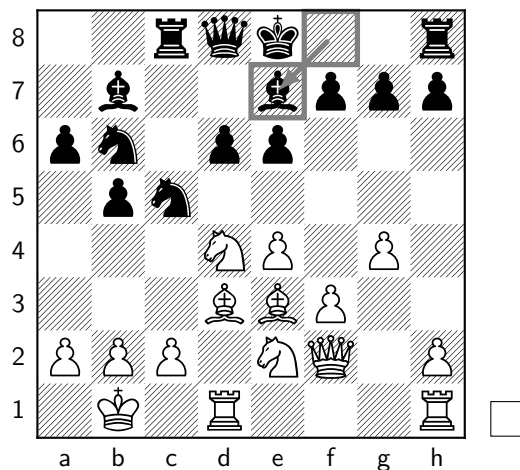
13 dce2

13... d5



13... d5? 14 dxe6! fe6 15 xxb6

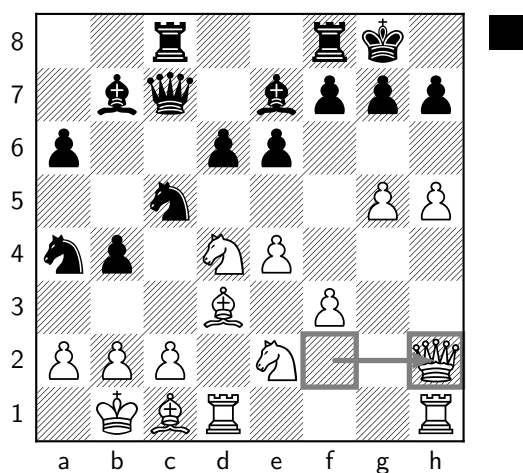
14 b1 e7 This offers the chance to castle whenever Black wants; something I think he should definitely be interested in doing!



14... ♖ba4!? 15 b3 ♜x d3 16 cxd3 ♜c5 17 ♜g3 ♜e7 18 ♚b2 b4 19 ♜h5 ♜g8 20 ♜e2 g6 21 ♜hf4 a5 22 d4 ♜d7 23 d5 e5 24 ♜d3 ♜a6

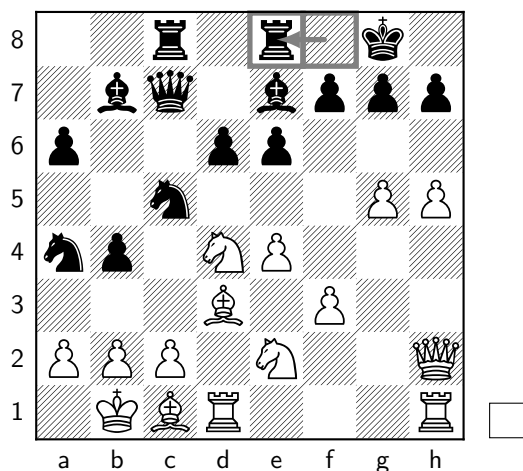
15 h4 ♚c7 16 g5 ♜ba4 17 ♜c1 b4 18 h5 O-O
Both sides have been getting on with their respective attacks and the typical Sicilian race is very much on.

19 ♚h2 QUESTION: What is a useful defensive set-up that Black can employ here? ANSWER: ...Rfe8 and ...Bf8 is one good way to shore up the kingside. The bishop will defend g7 and the rook covers any sacrifices on e6.



19 g6!? h6 20 gxf7+ ♜xf7 21 ♜hg1

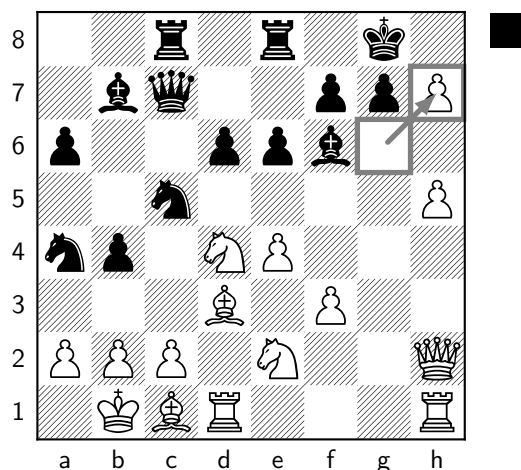
19... ♜fe8!



19... ♜x d3 20 cxd3 e5 21 ♜f5 ♜xg5 22 ♜a1 ♜f6 23 ♜hg1 ♜h8

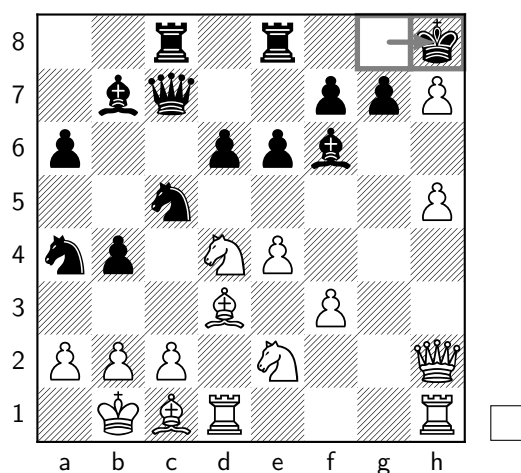
20 g6 ♜f6 A more active square than f8, though going there would have been okay too. The point is to defend g7, as the g-file is about to be opened.

21 gxf7+ QUESTION: Should the king capture on h7 or hide behind the pawn on h8? ANSWER: Each position requires you to work out which option is best, although here only the game move works.



21 h6 fxf7 22 hxf7 ♚xg7

21... ♜h8 Definitely the safest move.

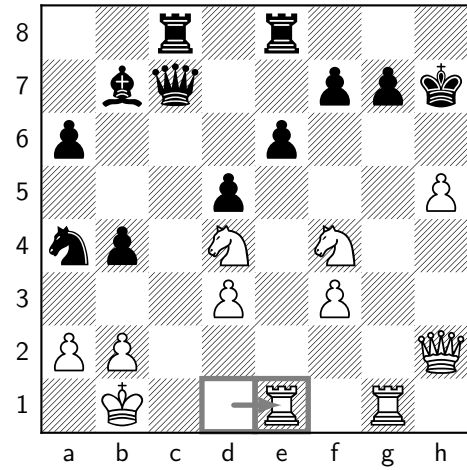
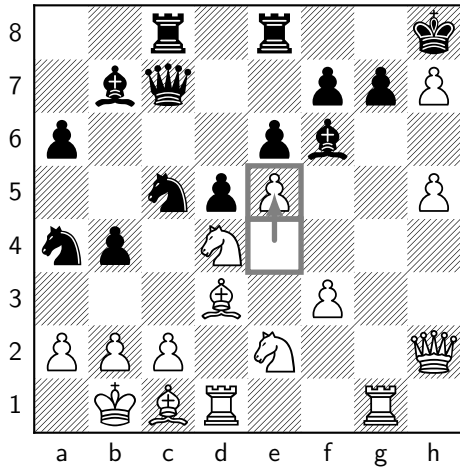


21... ♜xh7? 22 e5+ ♜x d3 23 exf6 ♜xc1 24 ♜dg1! gxf6 25 ♚g2 ♜g8 26 ♚g6+!! ♜xg6 27 hxf6+ ♜g7 28 gxf7+ ♜f8 29 ♜h8+ ♜e7 30 f8 ♚+ ♜x f8 31 ♜g7+ ♜f7 32 ♜xf7+ ♜x f7 33 ♜h7+ ♜e8 34 ♜xc7 ♜xe2 35 ♜xb7 ♜xd4 36

♖xb4

22 ♖hg1 d5 Sasikiran is happy to exchange queens, as this reduces White's attacking potential.

23 e5



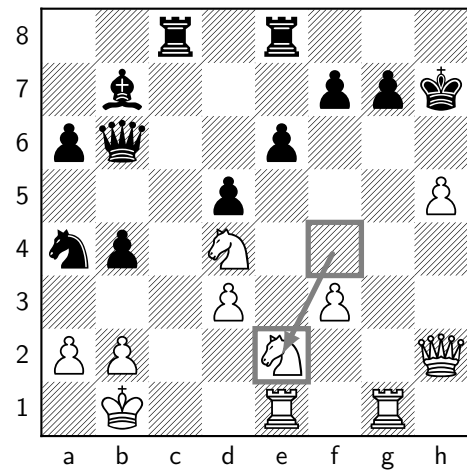
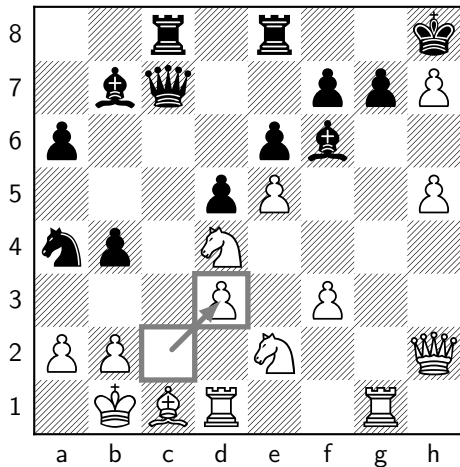
**27 ♖dxe6! fxe6 28 h6 g×h6 29 ♖×h6+!! ♖×h6
30 ♖g6+ ♖h7 31 ♖h1#**

27... ♖b6 28 ♖fe2

23 ♖xc7 ♖xc7 24 exd5 ♗xd5

23 ♖g2 ♖xd3 24 cxd3 ♖b6 25 ♖b3 ♖×h7

23... ♖xd3 24 cxd3



28 ♖g2 ♖xd4

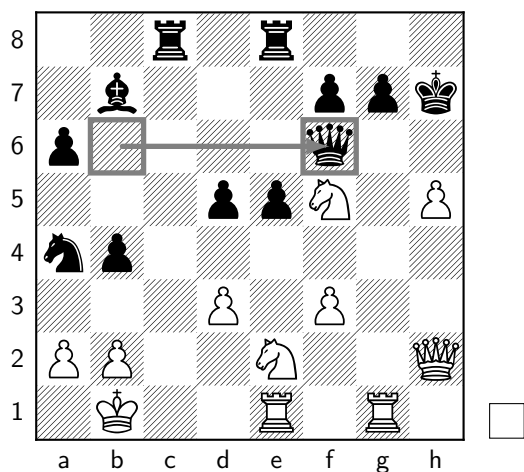
28 ♖dxe6 fxe6 29 h6

28... e5 29 ♖f5 ♖f6

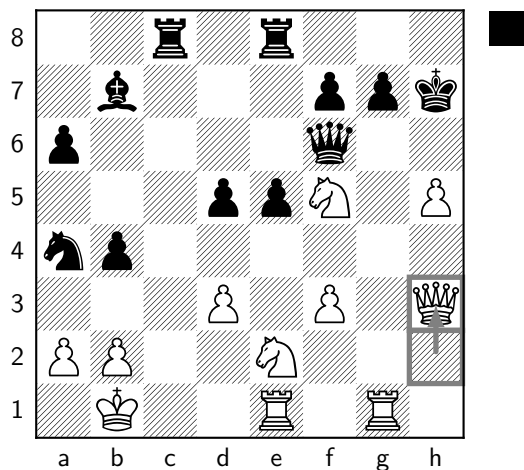
24 exf6 ♖×h2 25 f×g7+ ♖×h7

24... ♗×e5 25 ♗f4 ♗×f4 26 ♖×f4 ♖×h7 The position is very unclear and anything could happen. Indeed, it's not surprising that already a deep combination exists.

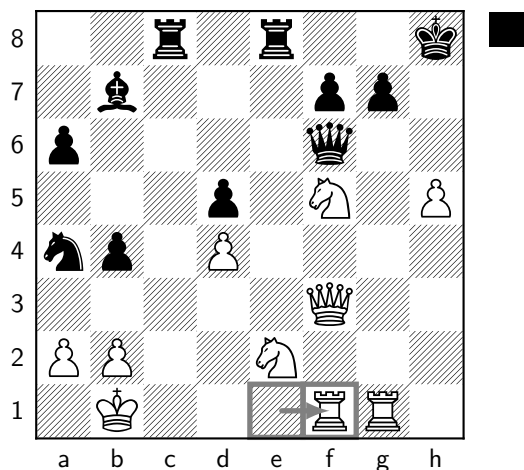
27 ♖de1 Played to stop ...Qe5, so that now Qg3 is a threat.



29...b3 30 ♖xg7+ ♔h8 31 a3 ♜f6 32 ♜h3 e4
33 ♘ed4 exd3
30 ♜h3

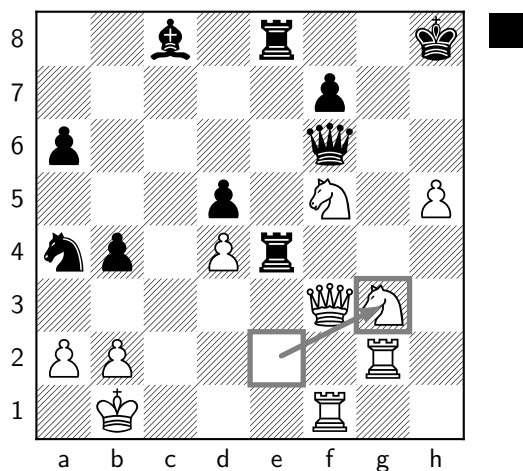


30 ♖xg7+ ♔h8 31 ♜h3
30...e4 31 d4 exf3 32 ♜xh3 ♔h8 33 ♖ef1



33 ♖xg7

33...♖e4 34 ♖xg7 ♖ce8 35 ♖g2 ♙c8 36 ♘eg3??

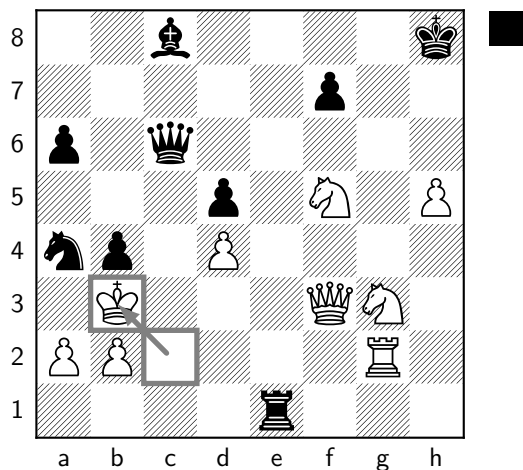


36 ♘fg3

36...♖e1+ 37 ♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 38 ♔c2 ANSWER:

38...♜c6+ You have proven yourself as a confident attacking player if you found this followed by the finish:

39 ♔b3



39 ♔d2 ♜c1+ 40 ♔d3 ♘xb2+ 41 ♖xb2 ♜c3#

39...♜c4+ 40 ♔xa4 ♙d7+ 41 ♔a5 ♜b5# An entertaining game to say the least! This game sums up the English Attack: both sides didn't give an inch and anything could have happened.

0-1

White: Haslinger, S
Black: D'Costa, L

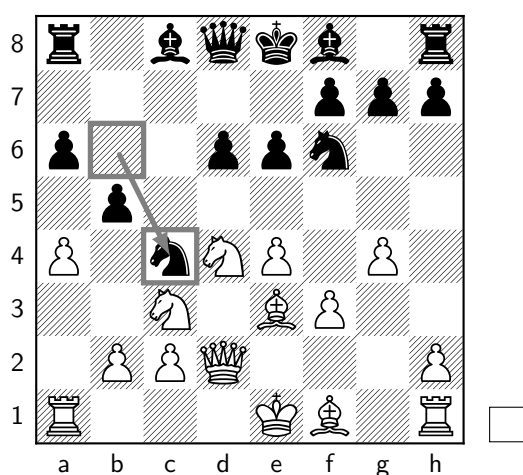
Haarlem

2011

Result: 1/2-1/2

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5
♗c3 a6 6 ♙e3 e6 7 f3 b5 8 ♖d2 ♗bd7 9 g4 ♗b6
10 a4!? ANSWER:

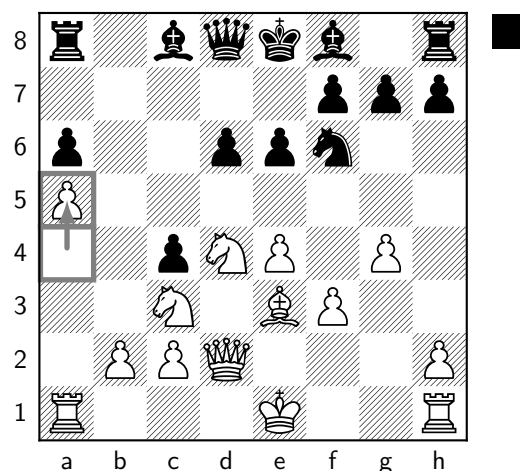
10... ♗c4! Although all three moves are playable,
I believe the game move to be the strongest...



10... b4 11 ♗a2 ♗xa4 12 ♗xb4 ♗c5 13 ♗bc6
♖c7 14 ♖a5! ♖xa5+ 15 ♗xa5 ♙b7 16 b4 ♗cd7
17 g5 ♗g8 18 b5 axb5 19 ♗xa8+ ♙xa8 20 ♙xb5
e5? 21 ♗b8 exd4 22 ♙xd4

10... bxa4 11 ♗xa4 ♗xa4 12 ♗xa4 ♗d7 13 ♙e2
♙b7 14 O-O h5 15 g5 ♗c5 16 ♗a2 g6 17 b4 ♗d7
18 ♗b3 ♗e5 19 ♗a5 ♙c8 20 b5 axb5 21 ♗c6!

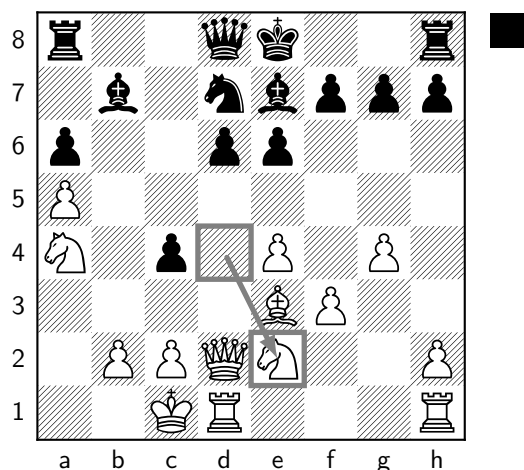
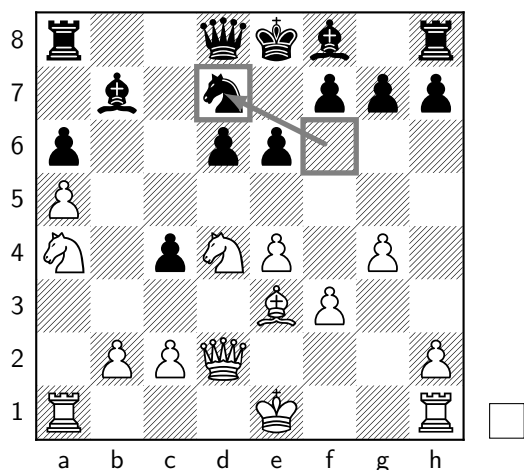
11 ♙xc4 bxc4 12 a5 The modern way to play this
position. QUESTION: What is White's plan in
this position? ANSWER: To play Na4 and Nb6
when the b-file will be sealed. This allows White
to castle queenside without needing to worry about
any attacking ideas after ...Rb8.



12 O-O ♙b7 13 g5 ♗d7 14 f4 ♗c5 15 ♖g2 g6
16 ♗ad1 ♖c7 17 ♖g4 h6! 18 f5 gxf5 19 exf5 e5
20 ♗e6 fxe6 21 ♖h5+ ♗d8 22 f6 ♖c6 23 ♗d2
♗c7 24 g6 ♗g8 25 g7 ♙xg7 26 ♖f7+ ♗d7 27
♖xd7+ ♗xd7 28 f×g7 ♗xg7+ 29 ♗f2 d5

12 g5 ♗d7 13 h4 ♙b7 14 h5 ♖a5 15 ♖g2 ♖b4
16 O-O-O ♗b8 17 g6 ♙a8 18 gxf7+ ♗xf7 19
♗d2!?

12... ♙b7 13 ♗a4 ♗d7! On the current evi-
dence I prefer 13...Nd7 to 13...d5 as it allows
Black decent counterchances. Of course, theory
can change and the reader can investigate him-
self whether these lines with 13...d5 might not be
appealing to him. That is the beauty of chess:
nothing is set in stone and variations can fall in
and out of fashion like the wind.



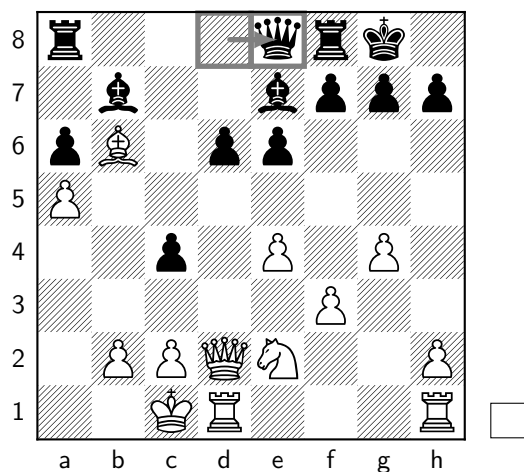
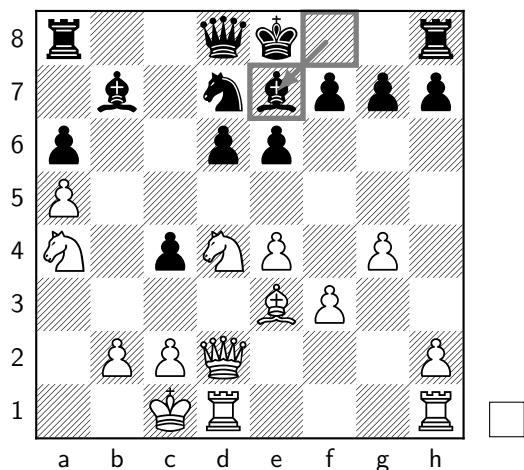
13...d5 14 e5 ♖d7 15 f4!? ♔h4+ 16 ♕f2 ♔xg4 17 ♜g1 ♔h5 18 b4

14 O-O-O ♕e7 Best, although again it's worth checking the alternatives:

15 ♔b4 ♜b8

15 h4 h5!? 16 g5 g6 17 ♖e2 O-O 18 ♖b6 ♖x b6 19 ♕x b6 ♔c8

15...O-O 16 ♖b6 ♖x b6 17 ♕x b6 ♔e8! I didn't want to have my queen on the d-file in the line of White's major pieces. Also, after a future ...f5 the queen can possibly swing out to the kingside.



14...♔c7 15 ♖e2 ♕e7 16 ♖b6 ♖x b6 17 ♕x b6 ♔c6 18 ♖c3 O-O 19 ♜he1 ♜fe8 20 f4 ♔c8 21 g5 d5!? 22 exd5 ♕xd5 23 ♖xd5 exd5 24 ♔xd5 c3 25 b3 ♕b4 26 ♖b1 ♔g4 27 ♜g1 ♔e2 28 f5 ♔e5 29 ♔c4 ♔b5 30 ♜d5 ♔xc4 31 bxc4 ♜ab8 32 ♖a2 ♜e2 33 ♜c1 h6 34 h4 ♜e4 35 ♜cd1 ♜xc4 36 ♜1d4 ♜xd4 37 ♜xd4

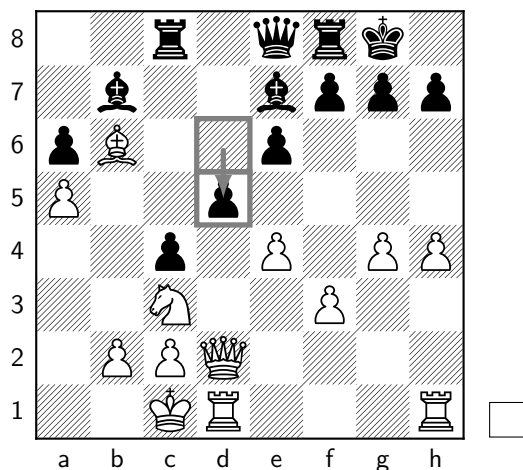
14...♜c8 15 ♔c3 ♕e7 16 ♖e2 O-O 17 ♕d4 f6 18 ♖f4 e5 19 ♖e6 exd4 20 ♔b4! ♔e8 21 ♖xf8 ♕xf8 22 ♔xb7

15 ♖e2

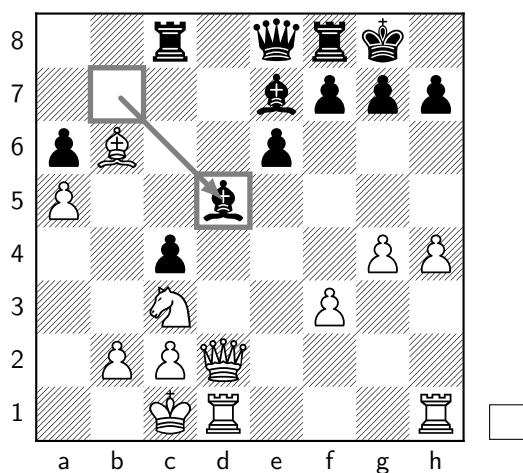
17...♔d7 18 ♖c3 ♜ac8 19 ♔e3 ♕d8 20 ♜d2 ♕x b6 21 ♔x b6 ♜c6 22 ♔b4 ♔c7 23 ♜hd1 ♜d8 24 ♖a4

18 ♖c3 ♜c8 19 h4 QUESTION: Black now has a chance to play a pawn break, but which is better? a) 19...f5; b) 19...d5. ANSWER: Both are options, but I probably didn't play the best one!

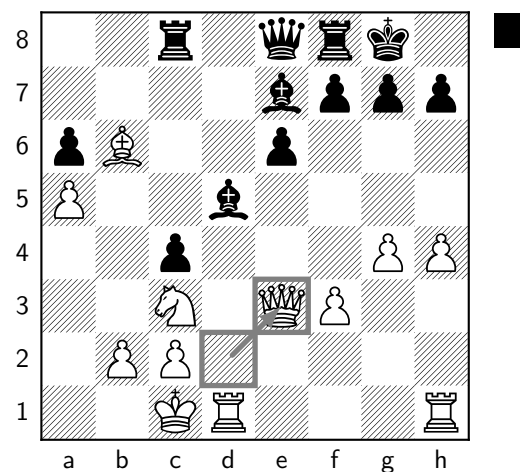
19...d5!? Even though this turned out well in the game, I don't think this was the correct pawn break.



19...f5! 20 gxf5 exf5 21 Rhg1 Qh5 22 Bd4 Rf7
20 exd5 Bxd5



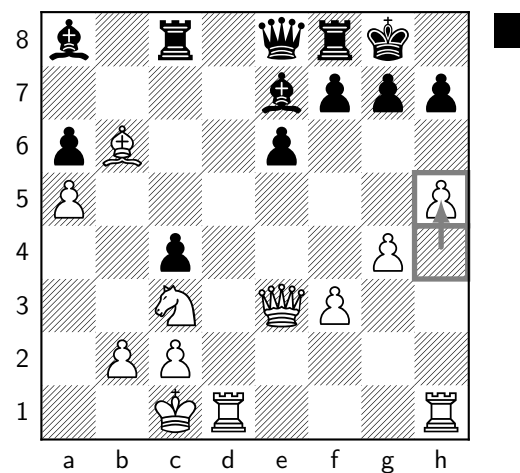
20...Bb4 21 d6 Qd7 22 Rhf1 Rc6 23 Qd4 Qxd6
24 Qxd6 Bxd6 25 Ne4
21 Qe3



21 Nxd5! exd5 22 Qxd5 Qa4 23 Bb1 Bf6 24
Bd4 Bb8! 25 Bxf6 gxf6 26 Qd4 Bb5

21...Ba8! This is better than putting the bishop on b7, as there it would be susceptible to future tactics involving Rd7 ideas. Now, having played a successful pawn break to open up the position for his bishops, the second player can be happy with the outcome of the opening.

22 h5



22 h5 Qc6

1/2-1/2

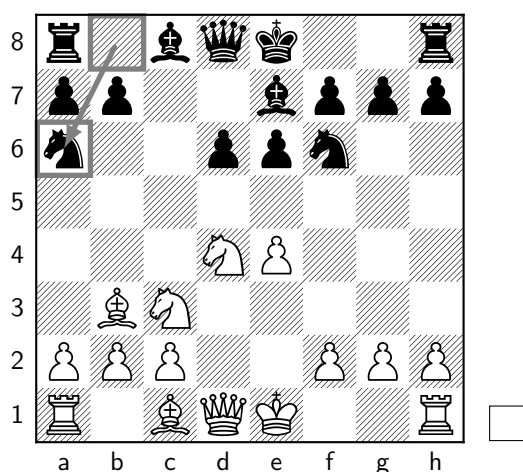
White: Tomba, I
Black: Fedorchuk, S

Porto San Giorgio

2007

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♙c3 e6 6 ♚c4 ♚e7 7 ♚b3 ♘a6 Here we see an extra advantage that Scheveningen players have over Najdorf players. QUESTION: I can see the knight wants to come to c5, but why can't it go via d7?



7... ♘bd7 8 ♚xe6!? fxe6 9 ♘xe6 ♖a5 10 ♘xg7+ ♗f7 11 ♘f5 ♘xe4? 12 ♖h5+ ♗f6 13 ♖h6+ ♗xf5 14 g4+

8 ♖f3 ♘c5 Now the knight reaches c5 without Black having to worry about any sacrifices on e6. The reason why Najdorf players cannot play this idea is because they already have a pawn on a6 and so the ...Na6-c5 manoeuvre (which I'm sure they all secretly want to carry out!) is impossible.

9 g4 ♖a5 Threatening 10...Ncxe4 winning a pawn.

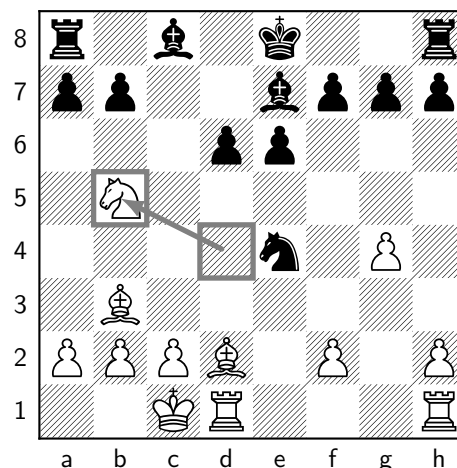
10 ♚d2 QUESTION: Is there anything Black can do here? With this early g4 advance White's position looks a little unstable. ANSWER: Black can in fact win a pawn:

10... ♘cxe4! 11 ♘xe4 ♖e5 This double attack wins Black his piece back.

12 O-O-O 12 ♚e3!? ♖xe4 13 ♖xe4 ♘xe4 14 ♘b5 ♗d7 15 f3 a6 16 fxe4 axb5 17 O-O-O ♗c7

18 ♖hf1 ♖f8 19 ♖f3 ♚d7 20 ♖df1 f6

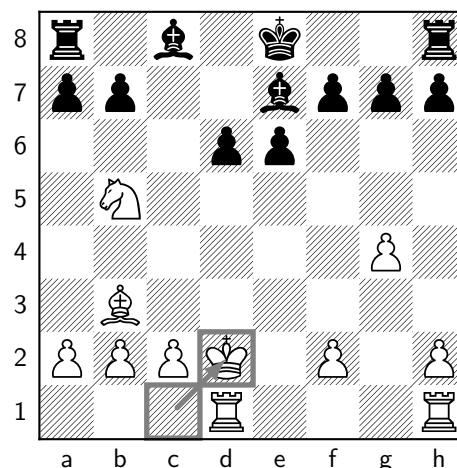
12... ♖xe4 13 ♖xe4 ♘xe4 14 ♘b5



14 ♚e3 ♚d7

14... ♘xd2 QUESTION: Can't White just win the exchange here with a check on c7?

15 ♗xd2



15 ♘c7+ ♗d7 16 ♘xa8 ♘xb3+ 17 axb3 b5 18 ♖he1 ♚b7

15... O-O We're only 15 moves in and Black has already obtained a technically won position.

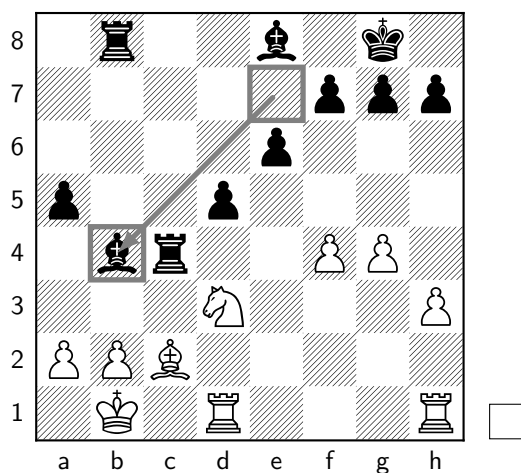
16 ♖c1 d5 17 f4 ♔d7 18 ♜d4 ♜fe8 19 h3 EXERCISE: How should Black try and make use of the extra pawn? Which side of the board should he be playing on?

19... b5 ANSWER: It's easiest to try and do something on the queenside, as most of the black pieces are there.

20 c3 a5 Black expands to open lines for his bishops.

21 ♔c2 ♜ab8 22 ♜f3 ♜ec8 23 ♜e5 ♔e8 24 ♜d3 ♜c4 25 ♖b1 b4 This gives Black a passed d-pawn. Notice how Fedorchuk uses the idea of accumulating small advantages in order to improve his position.

26 cxb4 ♔xb4



26... axb4

27 ♜hf1 ♔d6 28 ♔b3 ♜c7 29 ♜c1 ♔b5 30 ♜fd1 ♜xc1+ 31 ♖xc1 ♔xd3 32 ♜xd3 ♔xf4+ A second pawn goes. White is hoping that the opposite-coloured bishops will save him, but with rooks on the board there is no draw!

33 ♖b1 ♔e5 34 ♜d2 g6 35 ♔d1 ♖g7 36 b3 ♜c8 37 ♜c2 ♜xc2 38 ♖xc2 f5 Normally endings with bishops of opposite colours are drawish, but here Black is two pawns to the good and can steam-roll those central d- and e-pawns quickly down the board.

39 ♖d3 ♖f6 40 ♖e3 ♖g5 41 ♖f3 ♔d6 There's no stopping the e-pawn, whereas White's two queenside pawns are easily held by the pawn on a5.

White: Vazquez Torres, A
Black: Suba, M

Collado Villalba

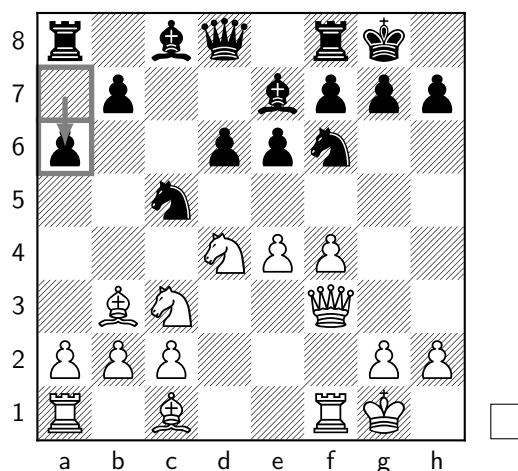
2009

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 cxd4 5 ♘xd4 e6 6 ♙c4 ♙e7 7 O-O This line is called the Fischer-Sozin Attack, as it was the famous Bobby Fischer who came up with the idea of following up Bc4 and 0-0 by attacking the e6-pawn with f4-f5. Let's see in this game how Black can cope with this plan.

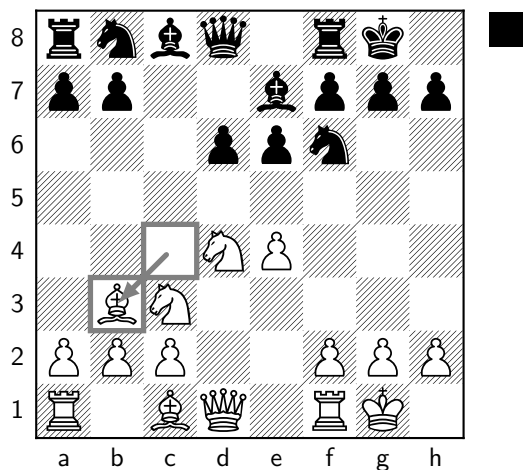
7 a3 O-O 8 ♙a2 ♘c6 9 O-O ♙d7 10 ♙h1 ♘xd4 11 ♙xd4 b5 12 f4 a5 13 e5 dxe5 14 fxe5 ♘e8 15 ♙f4 ♙c6 16 ♙f2 ♙d7 17 ♖ad1 ♙b7 18 ♘e2 ♘c7 19 ♙g3 ♖fd8 20 ♙g5 ♙xg2+! 21 ♙xg2 ♙xg2+ 22 ♙xg2 ♙xg5

7...O-O 8 ♙b3 QUESTION: Why does White always retreat the bishop to b3? The bishop on c4 prevents Black playing his ...Na6 idea, so why not leave it there?



10...e5!? 11 ♘f5 ♙xf5 12 exf5 e4 13 ♙h3 ♘xb3 14 axb3 d5 15 ♙e3 d4 16 ♖fd1 ♙c5 17 ♘e2 dxe3! 18 ♖xd8 ♖fxd8 19 b4 ♙b6 20 c4 ♖d2

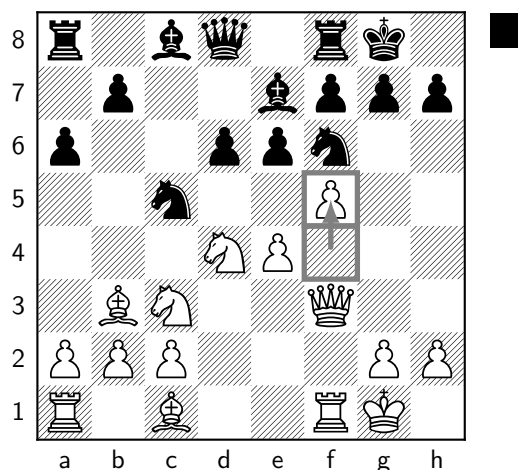
11 f5



8 f4 ♘xe4 9 ♘xe4 d5 10 ♙d3 dxe4 11 ♙xe4 ♘d7 12 ♙e3 ♘f6 13 ♙f3 ♘d5 14 ♙c1 ♙f6 15 c3 ♙a5

8 ♙e3 ♘xe4 9 ♘xe4 d5 10 ♙d3 dxe4 11 ♙xe4 ♘d7 12 c3 ♘f6 13 ♙f3 a6

8...♘a6 9 f4 ♘c5 10 ♙f3 a6



11 ♙e3 ♙c7 12 f5 b5

11...e5 12 ♘de2 b5 13 g4 ♙b7 14 ♘g3 EXERCISE: The threat of g5 looms over Black's head. What can we do about it? ANSWER: As we have come across already, a wing attack is usually best countered with a reply in the centre.

14...♘xb3 15 axb3 b4



16 g5



16 ce2 d5!

16... bxc3 17 gxf6 ♖xf6

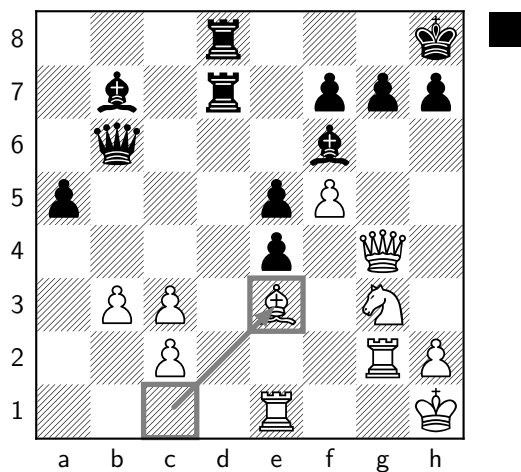


18 bxc3 QUESTION: What should Black do now?
ANSWER: Open lines for the bishops, starting
with our favourite move...

22 ♖g2 ♖d7



23 ♖e1 ♜ad8 24 ♙c1 a5 25 ♚g4 dxe4 26 ♙e3
 Blockading the e4-pawn so as to try and nullify
 the power of the bishop on b7 down towards the
 white king.



26 ♖xe4 h6 27 ♙e3 ♜c6 28 ♙g1 ♜d1! 29 ♜xd1
 ♜xd1 30 ♜xd1 ♜xe4 31 ♜d2 ♙g5 32 ♜f2 ♙h4
 33 ♜d2 ♙e1

26... ♜c6 27 c4 g6 28 ♜eg1 a4 29 ♖h5 ♙e7 30
 bxa4 ♜xc4 31 f6 ♙f8 It may appear that White
 resigned prematurely, but in truth he has no at-
 tack and Black is going to pick up a4 and just be
 two pawns ahead.

0-1

White: Li Shilong
Black: Ehlvest, J

Moscow

2007

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 ♙c4 ♙e7 7 ♙b3 ♘a6 8 f4 ♘c5 9 ♖f3 O-O 10 ♙e3 White plays la Vazquez Torres in our previous game, except that he has preferred to develop the dark-squared bishop rather than commit his king.

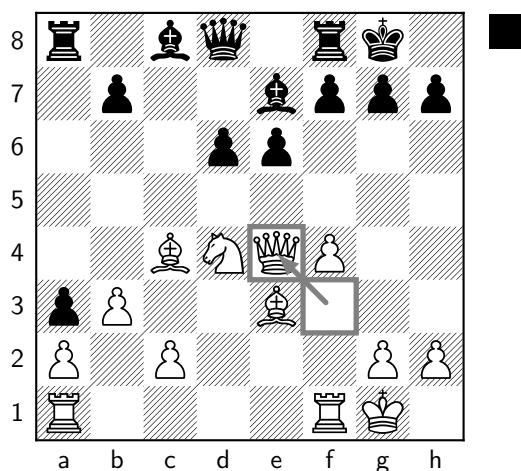
10...a5 QUESTION: Why has Black done this? Now the b5-square is permanently weak. ANSWER: The idea is to attack the bishop on b3 with ...a4. The knight on c5 is well placed to help out with this. The loss of the b5-square isn't so important and Black can always cover it with ...Bd7 and possibly ...Qb6 in some lines. More pressing, though, for White is how to deal with this threat of ...a4?

11 O-O 11 O-O-O a4 12 ♙c4 a3 13 b3 ♘fxe4 14 ♘xe4 ♘xe4 15 ♖xe4 d5 16 ♙xd5 exd5 17 ♖d3 ♙f6 18 ♖b1 ♙e8 19 ♙he1 ♙g4 20 ♙c1 ♙e4 11 a4 e5! 12 ♘f5 ♙xf5 13 exf5 e4 14 ♖e2 ♘xb3 15 cxb3 d5 16 ♙d1 ♙c8 17 O-O ♙c5

11...a4 12 ♙c4 a3 13 b3 ANSWER:

13...♘cxe4! Reverting to the fork trick.

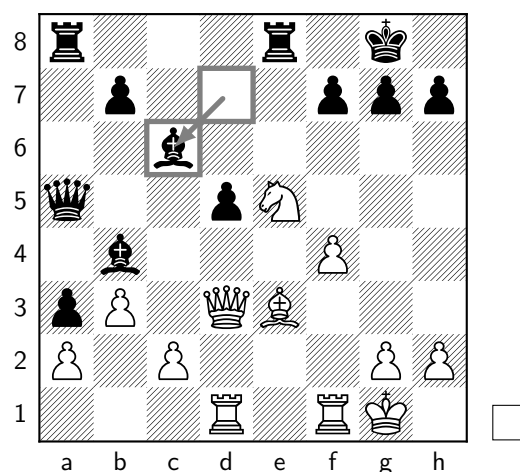
14 ♘xe4 ♘xe4 15 ♖xe4 Now Black has space for his bishops to become more involved.



15 ♙xe6 fxe6 16 ♖xe4 d5 17 ♖d3 ♙d7

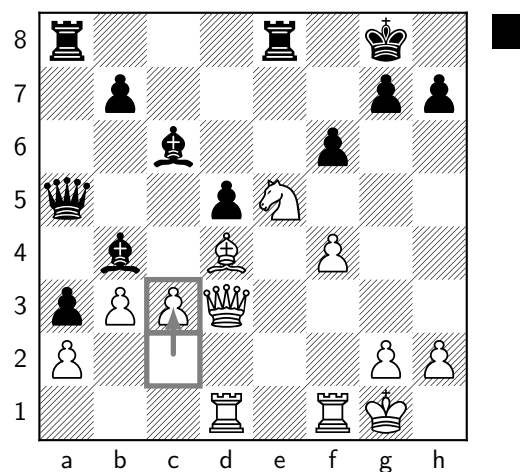
15...d5 Black achieves easy equality.

16 ♙xd5 exd5 17 ♖d3 ♙e8 18 ♙ae1 ♙d7 19 ♘f3 ♖a5 20 ♘e5 ♙b4 21 ♙d1 ♙c6



21...♙b5 22 ♖xd5 ♙xf1 23 ♖xf7+ ♖h8 24 ♙d7 ♙e7 25 ♙xe7 ♙xe7 26 ♖xe7 ♖e1 27 ♘f7+ ♖g8 28 ♘h6+ ♖h8! 29 ♘f7+ ♖g8 30 ♘h6+

22 ♙d4 f6 23 c3



23 ♘xc6 bxc6

23...f6xe5 24 cxb4 ANSWER:

24... ♖b5! A neat little tactic. Surprisingly the white pieces aren't well placed.

25 ♗xe5 ♖xd3 **26** ♜xd3 ♗b5 **27** ♜xd5 ♗xf1 **28** ♖xf1 ♜ed8 **29** ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 White may have two pawns for the exchange, but the b-pawns are doubled and in reality only Black can win here (which he eventually does).

30 ♖e2 b5 **31** ♗c3 ♖f7 **32** ♗d2 ♖e6 **33** ♗c1 h5! A nice move, holding back White's kingside majority which he would have thought about advancing with g4 at some point.

34 h3 ♖f5 **35** ♖e3 h4 **36** ♗xa3 ♜a8 **37** ♗c1 ♜xa2 **38** ♗d2 ♜xd2! Transposing to a winning king and pawn ending. White's extra b-pawn is of no use here.

39 ♖xd2 ♖xf4 **40** ♖e2 ♖e4 **41** ♖d2 ♖d4 This idea of ...a5-a4 gives Black good chances for equality, if not more, and that's something the second player should certainly be content with.

White: Giroyan, G
Black: Nasuta, G

Porto Carras

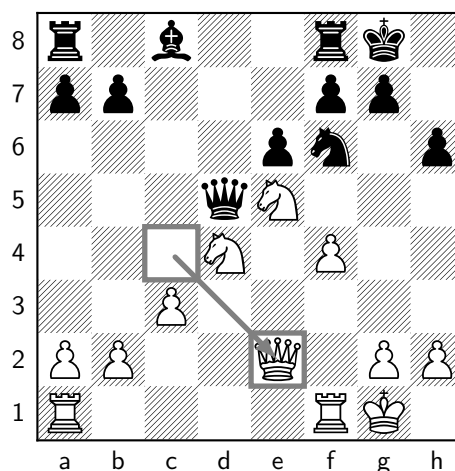
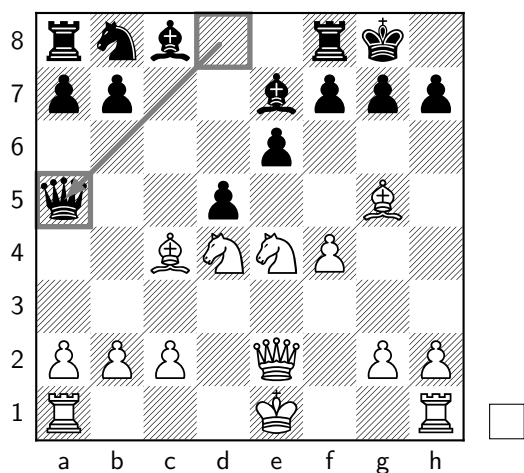
2010

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 ♙c4 ♙e7 7 ♙g5 White is trying to mix all the variations into one.

7...O-O 8 f4 ANSWER:

8...♘xe4! 9 ♘xe4 d5 10 ♚e2 ♚a5+



17 ♚xd5 ♘xd5 18 c4 ♘e3 19 ♚fe1 ♚d8 20 ♘df3 ♘f5 21 ♚ad1!

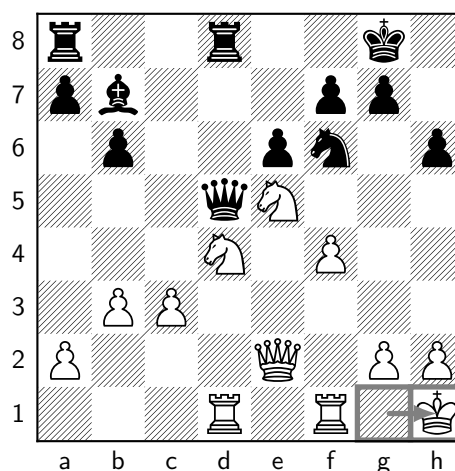
17...b6 Now Black gets developed and can be satisfied with how the opening has turned out.

18 b3 ♙b7 19 ♚ad1 ♚fd8 20 ♙h1

10...♙xg5!? 11 ♘xg5 dxc4 12 O-O-O c3

11 c3 ♙xg5 12 ♘xg5 dxc4 13 ♚xc4 h6 14 ♘gf3 ♘d7 15 O-O ♘f6 16 ♘e5 ♚d5 QUESTION: Do you think Black would prefer to see White retreat and keep the queens on, or swap off here? ANSWER: With a lead in development we can see why White thought he should keep pieces on, but in fact White could have gained more time with a queen exchange.

17 ♚e2

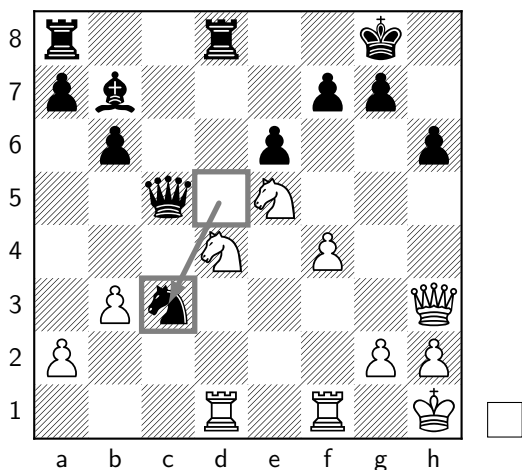


20 ♚d3 ♚ac8 21 ♚fd1 ♚e4

20...♚c5 21 ♚e3 Of course White saw Black's next move, but must have assumed he had a winning attack.

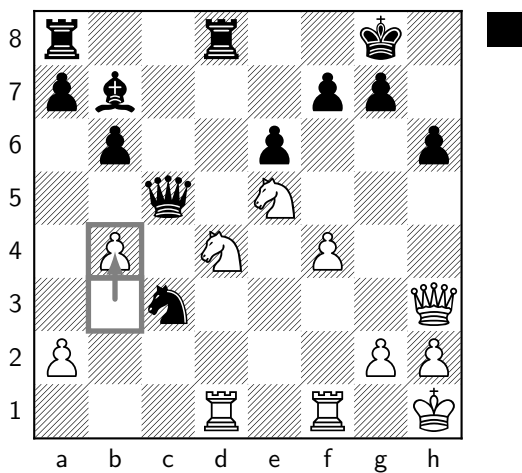
21...♘d5 22 ♚h3 QUESTION: Should Black capture on c3 with the knight or the queen?

22... ♖xc3



22... ♖xc3 23 ♖d3 ♖xf4! 24 ♖xc3 ♖xh3 25 ♖xh3 ♖xd4

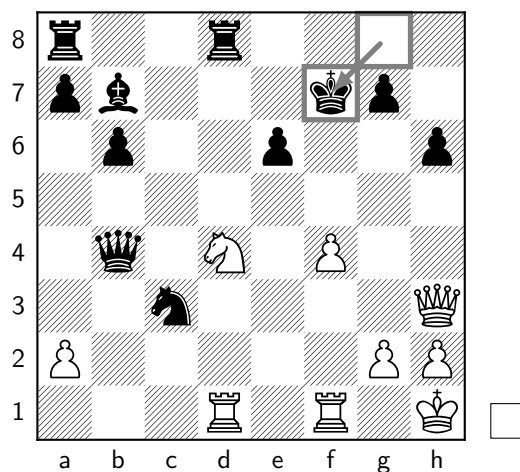
23 b4



23 ♖xf7 ♖xf7 24 ♖xe6+ ♖f8

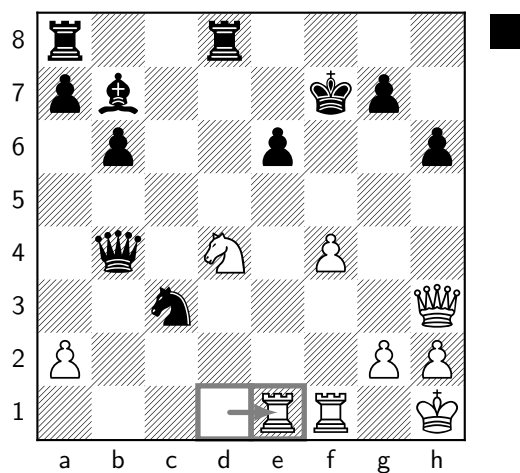
23... ♖xb4 24 ♖xf7 ANSWER:

24... ♖xf7!



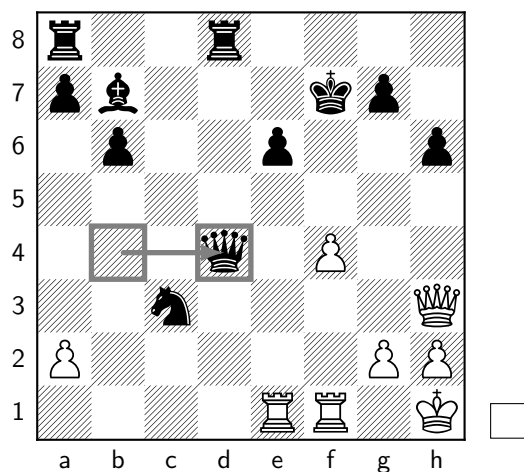
24... ♖xd4 25 ♖xh6+! ♖f8 26 ♖xe6 ♖c4 27 ♖f5+ ♖e8 28 ♖fe1+ ♖e4 29 ♖g6+ ♖f8 30 ♖f5+ ♖e8 31 ♖g6+

25 ♖de1



25 ♖xe6+ ♖f8 26 ♖e5 ♖e8 27 ♖e6+ ♖xe6 28 ♖xe6 ♖xd1

25... ♖xd4



25... ♙xd4! 26 ♚xe6+ ♜f8

26 ♚xe6+ ♜f8 27 ♜e5 ♙e4! Preventing White's only trick of Rf5+.

28 f5 ♙d6 White resigned as he is two pieces down for not much compensation. Yet again we saw White banging his head against the brick wall that is the Scheveningen. Sacrificing all over like this is generally not likely to work, though there were some mines for Black to avoid before he could emerge with the advantage.

0-1

White: Mantovani, R
Black: Cebalo, M

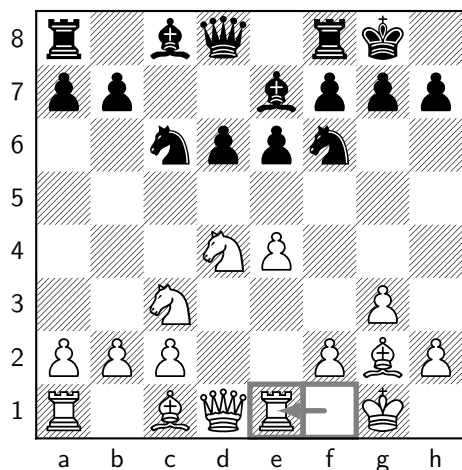
Forli

1995

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 fxd4 f6 5 f3 c3 d6 6 g3 e7 7 g2 O-O 8 O-O c6 This is an important tabiya for the Fianchetto Variation. White has a number of moves here do not be alarmed, though, since so long as you know the typical ideas for Black in these positions you can't really go wrong! Plans that White can use include: 1) Play f4, g4-g5 and attack on the king-side. White may argue this is an improved version of certain 6 Be2 lines as there White often played Be2-Bf3-Bg2, so here he saves two tempi not playing this manoeuvre. If things were that simple, though, everyone would be playing 6 g3 rather than 6 Be2! 2) Play a4, Be3 and wait for Black to lash out. This is the more restraining idea. 3) Play Nxc6 and e5, radically altering the pawn structure and heading for an endgame.

9 e1 Alternatives:



9 e3

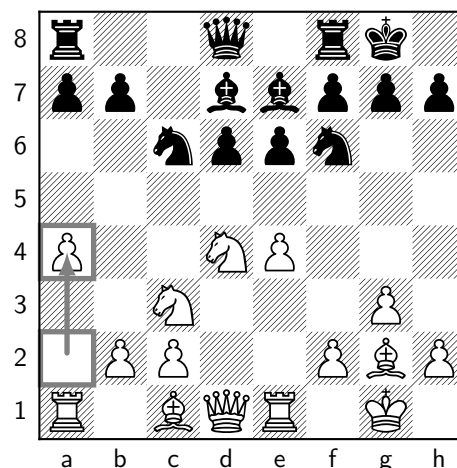
9 fxc6

9 f3 c7 10 a4 b6 11 f5 d7 12 g4 a6 13 f5d4 fxd4 14 fxd4 b7 15 e1 g6 16 h3 e5 17 f3 c6 18 a5 b5 19 f4 b7

9 b3 e7 10 b2 c8 11 fde2 a5 12 h3 fd8

13 h1 e8 14 e1 b5 15 a3 b6 16 d1 b4 17 axb4 fxb4 18 d2 a5

9... e7 10 a4



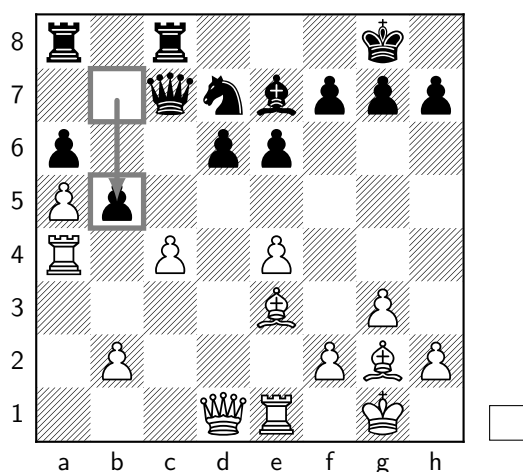
10 fxc6 exc6 11 e2 c8 12 f4 b6 13 e3 e3 14 xe3 a6 15 a4 d8 16 f4 c7 17 ed1 fd8 18 a5 h6 19 f3 h7 20 e3 g5 21 f2 g6 22 f1 g4 23 d3 g7 24 f4 h5 25 d4 h8 26 e3 h4

10... a6 11 fxc6 exc6 QUESTION: Why did White take on c6 and allow Black to bring the bishop to this nice square? ANSWER: So White could now play:

12 a5 Preventing Black's b-pawn from moving and trying to reduce Black's counterplay. However, I very much like the way Cebalo handled his forces from here on.

12... f7 13 e3 c7 14 a4 xa4 15 xa4 fc8 16 c4 ANSWER:

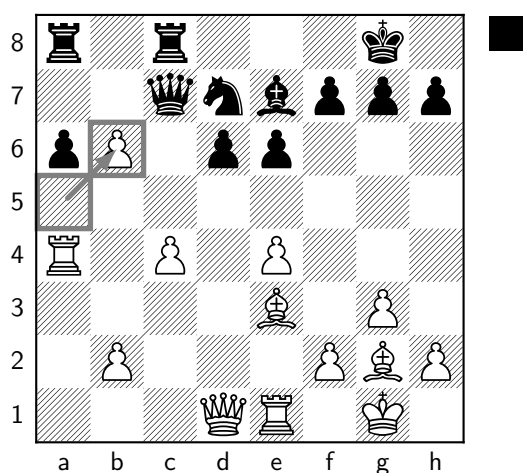
16... b5!



16... ♟f6 17 ♔d2 ♞c5 18 ♖a3! ♜d7 19 b3 h6
20 ♜d1 ♟e7 21 ♖a2 ♞c5 22 b4 ♜d7 23 c5!

16... ♞e5 17 b3

17 a×b6



17 c×b5 a×b5 18 ♖a3 ♜×a5

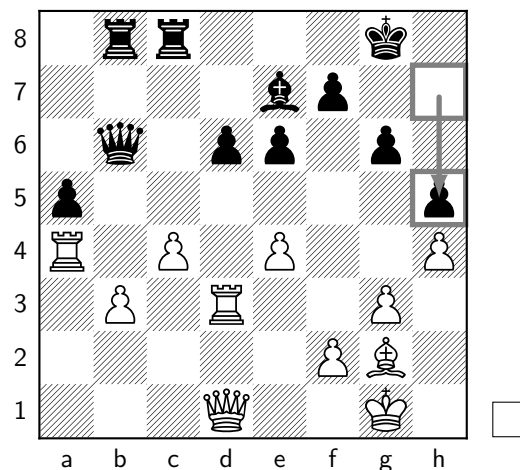
17... ♞×b6 18 ♟×b6 Forced, as otherwise the c4-pawn was dropping.

18... ♔×b6 QUESTION: Should the players shake hands on a draw here? ANSWER: Well, let's take a look at the specifics of the position: 1) If Black's bishop could get to c5, it will be far better than White's bishop on g2. 2) The b2- and c4-pawns are just as weak as Black's a6-pawn, which isn't easily attacked. Overall, the position is just slightly easier for Black to play and that's why Cebalo decided to try and squeeze something from it.

19 b3 ♖ab8 20 ♖e3 a5 21 ♜d3 g6 With Black

having a dark-squared bishop and White only having a light one, there is no chance of being checkmated on g7 here.

22 h4 h5 Now it's Black who is trying to prevent White from doing anything, but maybe this wasn't necessary.



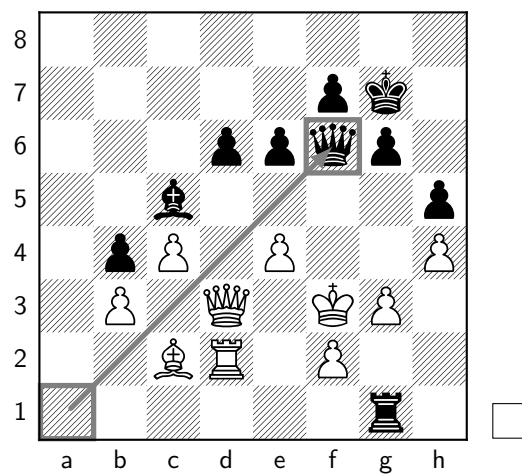
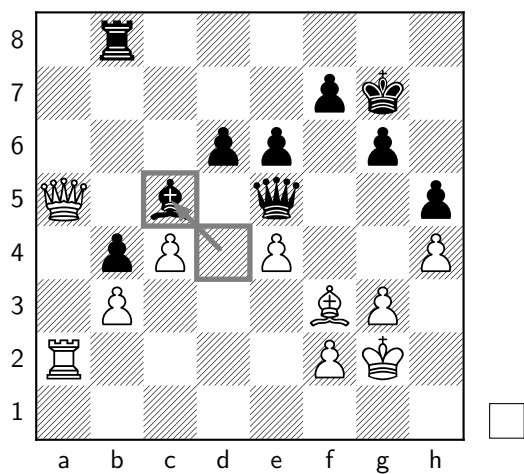
22... ♜c5!

23 ♟f3 ♔c5 24 ♔a1 ♟d8! Displaying excellent positional understanding. The text doesn't just defend the pawn on a5, but brings the bishop round to the a7-g1 diagonal. Moreover, there's not a lot White can do here but wait around.

25 ♔a3 ♖b4 26 ♖×b4 a×b4 27 ♔a2 ♟b6 Here comes the bishop, ready to probe. It is clearly a better piece than its counterpart on f3. The only thing is: is this enough for Black to win?

28 ♟g2 ♔e5 29 ♜d2 ♟d4 30 ♔a4 ♖b8 31 ♖a2 ♟g7 32 ♔a5 QUESTION: Should Black exchange queens?

32... ♟c5



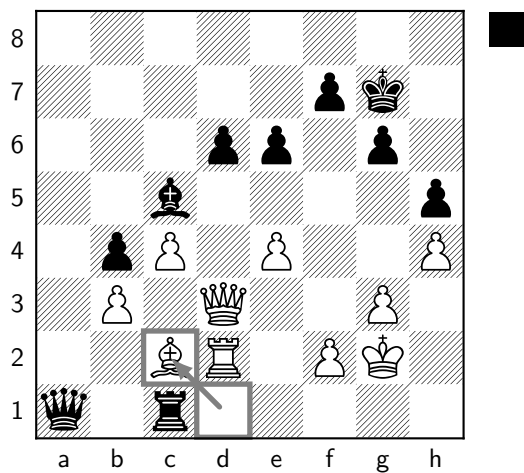
32... ♕xa5 33 ♖xa5 ♟c5 34 ♞e2

40... ♕f6+ 41 ♔e2 ♕xf2#

33 ♜d2 ♖c3 34 ♖a2 ♜a8 35 ♖b2 ♜a3 36 ♟d1

♜a1 37 ♖c2 ♜c1 38 ♖d3 ♖a1 39 ♟c2? AN- 0-1

SWER:



39 ♖e2

39... ♜g1+ 40 ♔f3 ♖f6+

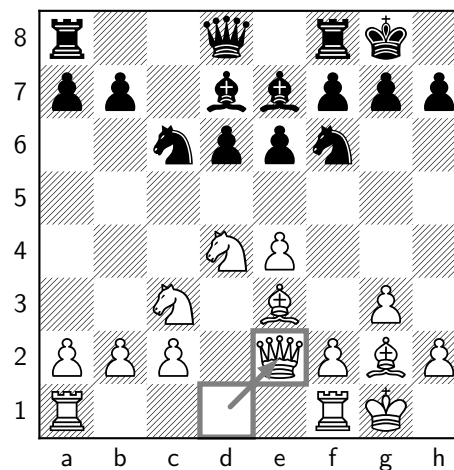
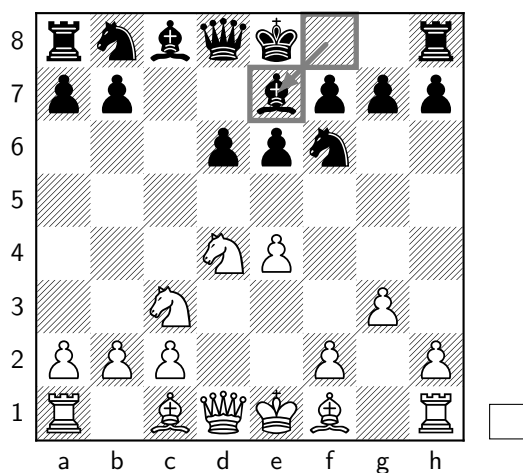
White: Andriasian, Z
Black: Van Wely, L

Hoogeveen

2007

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3
d6 6 g3 ♕e7



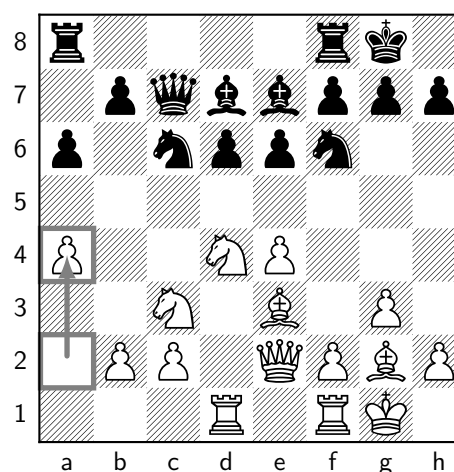
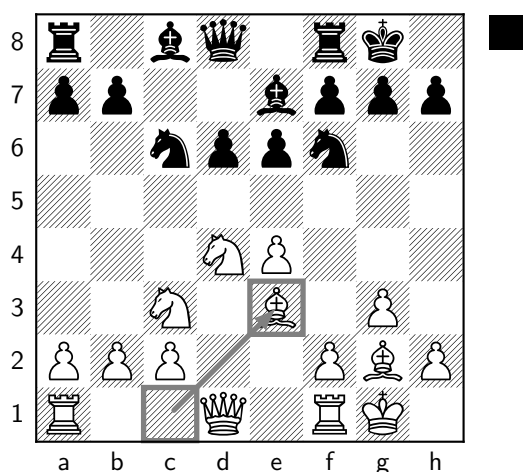
6... ♘c6 7 ♕g2 ♕d7 8 O-O ♕e7 9 ♕e3 O-O 10
♖e2 a6

7 ♕g2 O-O 8 O-O ♘c6 9 ♕e3 By far the most popular move. This simply develops a piece towards the centre.

10 ♘b3 ♘e5 11 ♖e2 ♖c7 12 ♘d4 a6

10... a6 11 ♖ad1 ♖c7 Again there are many different moves, but sensible replies should do the trick.

12 a4 Alternatives include:



9 a4 a6 10 ♕e3 ♖c7 11 ♖e2 ♕d7 12 ♖ad1

9... ♕d7 10 ♖e2 White continues to sensibly develop and await events.

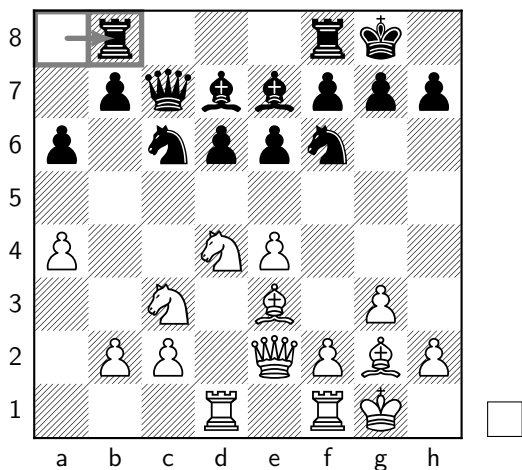
12 g4 ♘xd4 13 ♖xd4 e5 14 ♖c4 ♖d8 15 g5 ♘g4
16 ♕d2 b5 17 ♖b4 ♕xg5

12 f4 ♖ac8 13 f5 b5 14 a3 ♘xd4 15 ♕xd4 e5 16

♙e3 ♜c4 17 ♞d3 a5

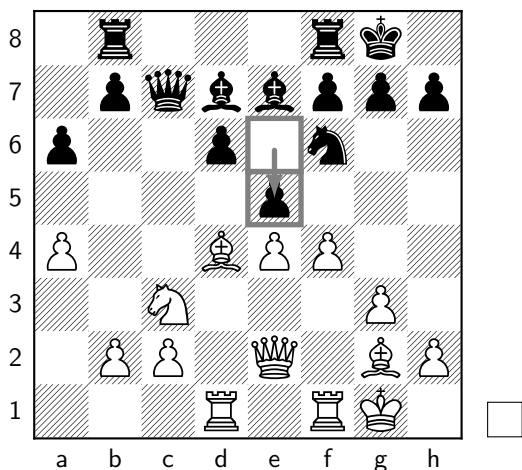
12 h3 b5 13 a3 ♞ac8 14 ♜xc6 ♙xc6 15 ♞d2 ♜b7 16 ♙g5 a5 17 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 18 ♞xd6 ♙e5

12... ♞ab8 QUESTION: Why did Black play this move, rather than move a rook to the semi-open c-file? ANSWER: The idea is to help push ...b5. White has a lot of pieces opposing it, so Black needs to fight for the b5-square.



12... ♞ac8 13 h3 ♜e5 14 g4 h6

13 f4 ♜xd4 14 ♙xd4 e5! The correct advance.



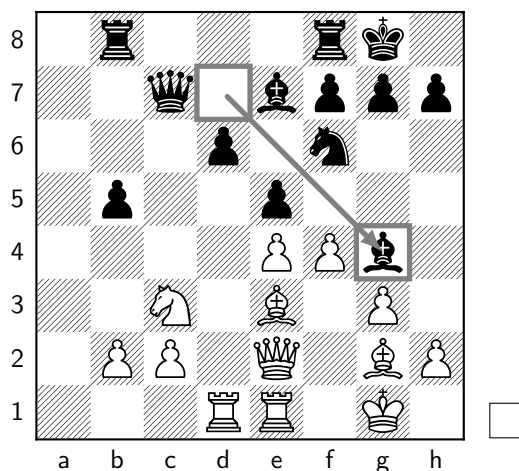
14... b5 15 e5!

15 ♙e3 b5 16 axb5 axb5 Although the position is level right now, I like the fact that there is a clear plan here for Black: push with ...b4 and see what we can do on the queenside! The c2-pawn

in particular looks like a good target to aim at. Black's king is also quite safe on g8 and he will always have long-term chances against the white king now that White has played f4.

17 ♞fe1 EXERCISE: Choose the move you would prefer to play next: a) 17...b4; b) 17...Rfc8; c) 17...Bg4. ANSWER: All three moves are perfectly fine for Black!

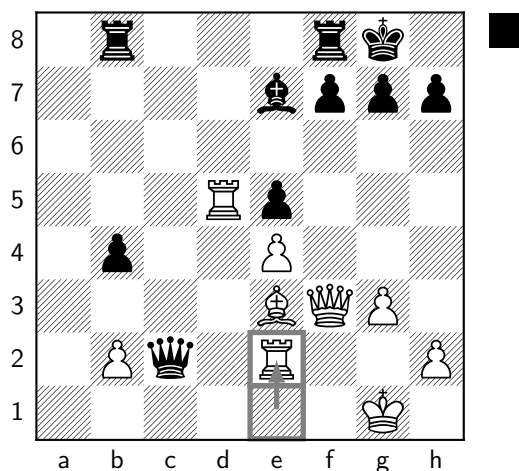
17... ♙g4 This is good, but was not the only decent option:



17... b4 18 ♜d5 ♜xd5 19 ♞xd5 ♙e6 20 ♞d2

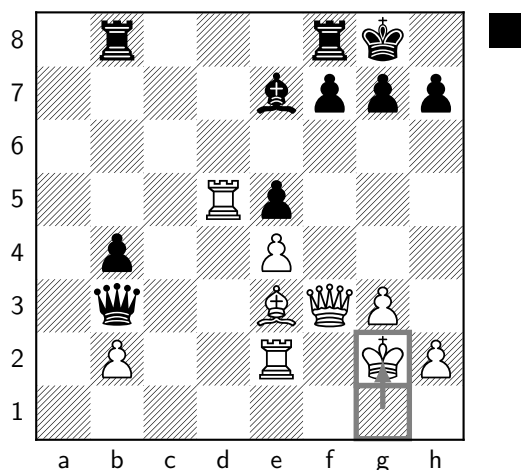
17... ♞fc8 18 ♞d2 b4 19 ♜d5 ♜xd5 20 exd5 ♙f6!

18 ♙f3 ♙xf3 19 ♜xf3 b4 20 fxe5 dxe5 21 ♜d5 ♜xd5 22 ♞xd5 ♜xc2 23 ♞e2



23 ♞xe5 ♙f6 24 ♞h5 ♜xb2

23... ♖b3 24 ♔g2



running in this position.

43 ♖×f6+ ♔h7 44 ♔f2? ♜c2
0-1

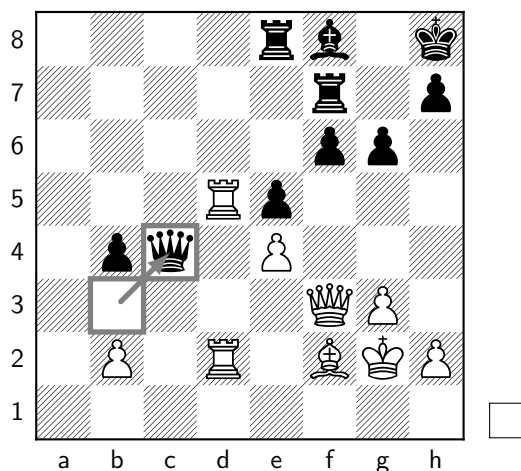
24 ♜×e5 ♘f6 25 ♜h5 ♘×b2

24... f6 25 ♖f5 ♔h8 26 ♜d7 ♜f7 27 ♘f2 ♘f8

Black is happy to exchange rooks, as he is a pawn to the good.

28 ♜d5 ♜e8 29 ♜ed2 g6 30 ♖f3 QUESTION:
Should Black exchange queens?

30... ♖c4!?



30... ♖×f3+ 31 ♔×f3 ♜c8 32 g4 ♔g8

31 b3 ♖c6 32 ♖d3 ♜c8 33 ♜a5 ♔g7 34 ♜a6
♖c1 35 ♖d5 h5 36 ♜da2 White is trying hard
to keep Black at bay, but Van Wely eventually
gets through.

36... ♘c5 37 h4 ♘×f2 38 ♜×f2 ♜c2 39 ♜a2 ♜c3
40 ♜ad2 ♖b1 41 ♜f3 ♜fc7 42 ♖d6 ♖×e4 It
may appear Black has erred by allowing some
counterplay, but in fact Black is making all the

White: Kovalevskaya, E
Black: Vitiugov, N

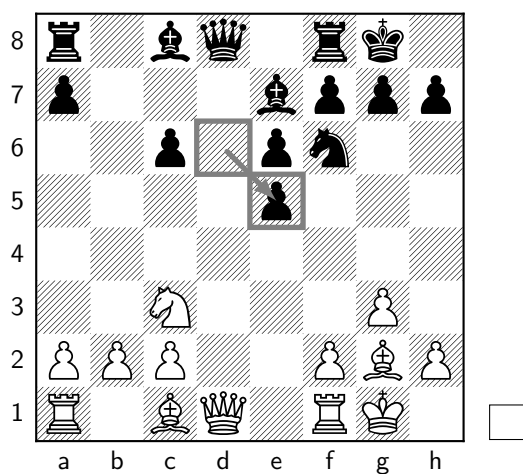
St Petersburg

2002

Result: 0-1

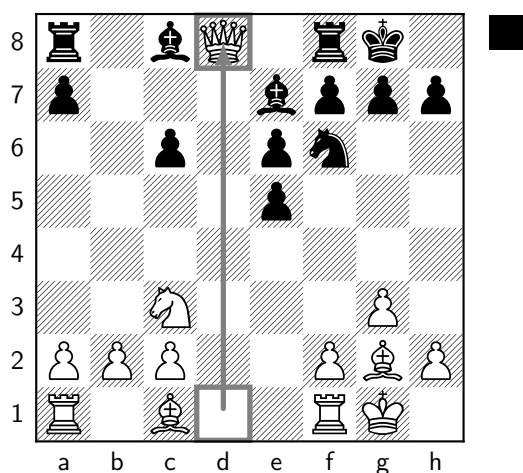
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 g3 ♙e7 7 ♙g2 O-O 8 O-O ♘c6 9 ♘xc6 bxc6 10 e5 The logical follow-up; otherwise it doesn't make sense to exchange knights on c6.

10...dxe5!



10...♘d5 11 exd6 ♙xd6 12 ♘e4 ♙c7 13 c4 ♘b6 14 ♙e2 e5 15 ♙e3

11 ♙xd8

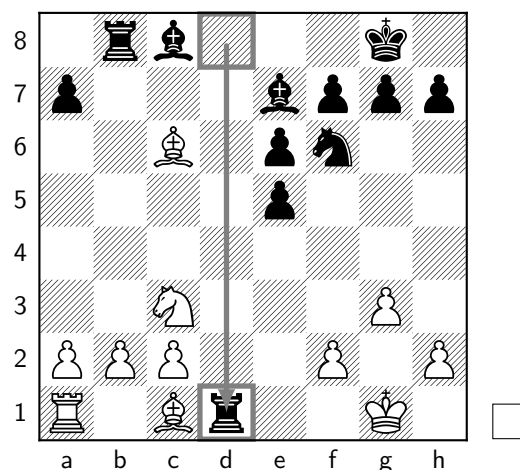


11 ♙xc6 ♙b8 12 ♙xd8 ♙xd8

11...♙xd8 12 ♙xc6 ♙b8 13 ♙d1 It's clear what

White's strategy is: swap off pieces and hope that his better pawn structure will be to his advantage in an endgame.

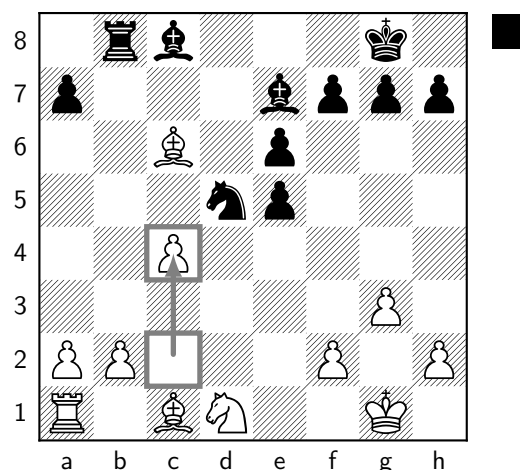
13...♙xd1+



13...♙a6 14 ♙xd8+ ♙xd8 15 b3 ♙c8 16 ♙b5 ♙xc3 17 ♙xa6 ♙b6 18 ♙d3 ♙d4 19 ♙b1 e4!

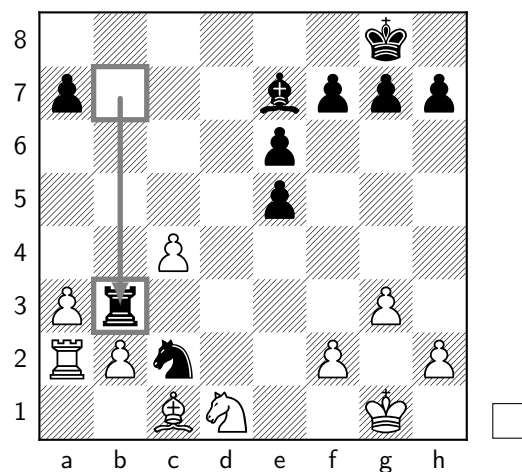
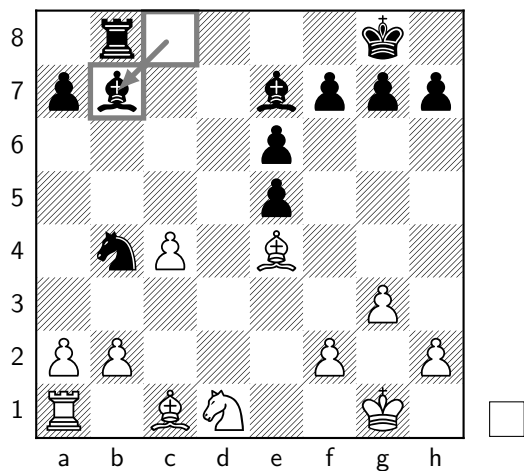
14 ♘xd1 ♘d5! I like this move, which at first sight doesn't appear to do much. However, White wanted to play Be3 and that is now prevented. Secondly, the text tempts White into playing c4 to kick the knight away...

15 c4



15 a3 ♖a6 16 b4 ♗e2! 17 ♘e3 ♗f3

15... ♘b4 16 ♗e4 ♗b7

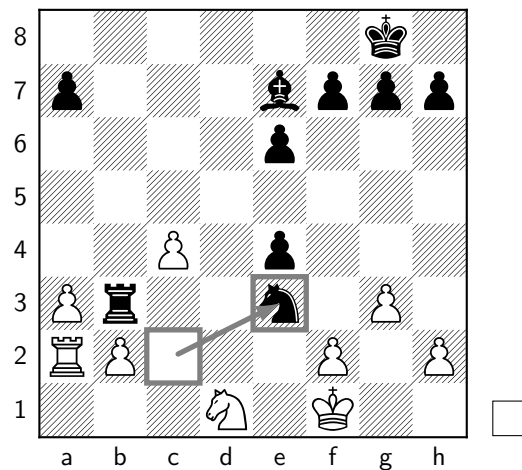
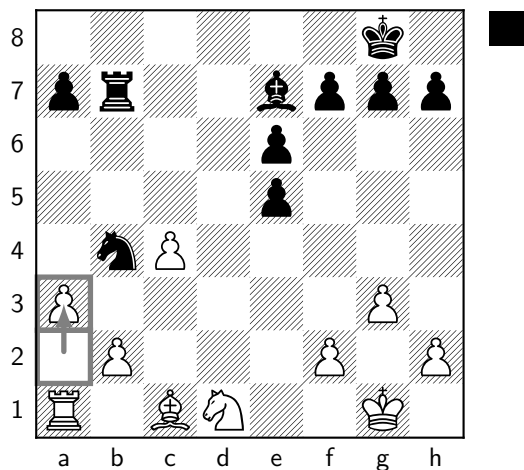


19... a5 20 b4!

20 ♖f1 e4 21 ♗e3 ♘xe3+

16... f5! 17 a3 fxe4 18 axb4 ♖xb4 19 ♖xa7
♖xc4 20 ♗e3 ♗b4 21 ♖g2 h6

17 ♗xb7 ♖xb7 18 a3



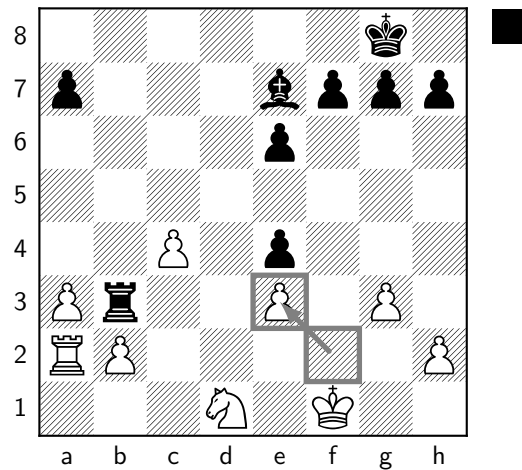
21... a5

22 fxe3

18 ♗d2 ♘d3! 19 b3 e4 20 ♗c3 f5 21 ♘e3 ♗c5

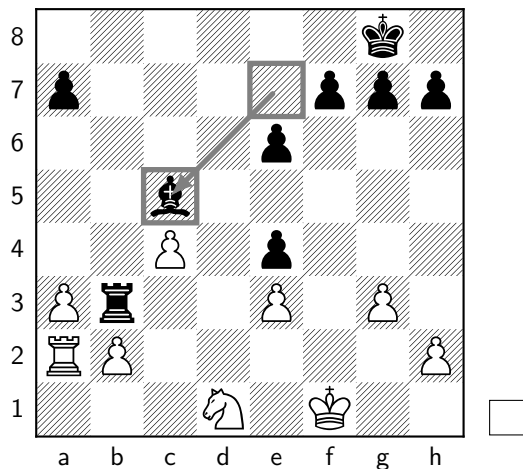
18... ♘c2 19 ♖a2 ANSWER:

19... ♖b3! Well done if you saw that White wants to play b4 and activate the rook on a2.



22 ♖xe3 f5 23 ♜d1 ♙f6 24 ♖e2 ♖f7 25 ♖d2
 ♙d4 26 ♖c2 ♜f3 27 b4 ♙xf2

22... ♙c5



22... ♙f6 23 ♖e2 ♖f8 24 ♖d2 ♖e7 25 ♖c2 ♜d3
 26 b4 ♖d7

23 ♖e2 f5 24 ♜a1 ♖f7 25 ♜c1 a5 26 ♜c2 g5
 27 ♜c3 ♖e7 28 ♜d1 h5 29 ♜c3 ♜b8 30 ♜c2

QUESTION: How can Black open the position to his advantage? ANSWER: The kingside is where Black's pawn majority lies and indeed he has a nice plan to open things up on that front:

30... h4 31 g×h4 g4! Well played. The rook can gather in the h4-pawn and this leaves White with another weakness to worry about on h2.

32 ♖f1 ♜h8 33 b4 A desperate sacrifice for counterplay, but it doesn't work.

33... a×b4 34 a×b4 ♙×b4 35 ♜b2 ♙d6 36 ♜c3 ♜×h4 37 ♜b5 ♜×h2 38 ♜×h2 ♙×h2 The ending is completely won for Black.

39 c5 ♖d7 40 ♜d4 ♙e5 41 c6+ ♖d6 42 c7 ♖×c7 43 ♜×e6+ ♖d6 44 ♜d8 ♙f6 45 ♜b7+ ♖c6 46 ♜a5+ ♖b5 47 ♜b3 ♖c4 48 ♜c1 ♙e5 49 ♖e2 ♖c3 50 ♜a2+ ♖b3 51 ♜c1+ ♖b2 52 ♖d1 g3 53 ♜e2 g2 54 ♖e1 ♙g3+ Surprisingly it was Black who called the shots after the queens came off. I especially liked Vitiugov's 14...Nd5! idea, after which White was the side struggling to hold on.

0-1

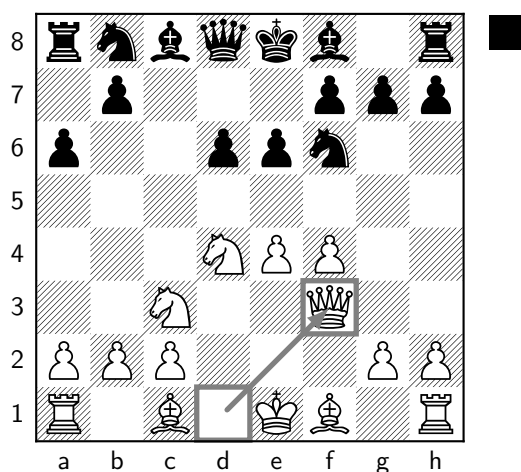
White: Van der Weide, K
 Black: Van Wely, L

Dutch Championship, Leeuwarden

2001

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 f4 a6 7 ♚f3 This is the way to keep the f4 line independent. QUESTION: What do you think White's set-up will be after this? ANSWER: White generally plays Be3 and g4 to attack Black early on the kingside. The queen on f3 helps support the centre, as well as any future kingside pawn advances.

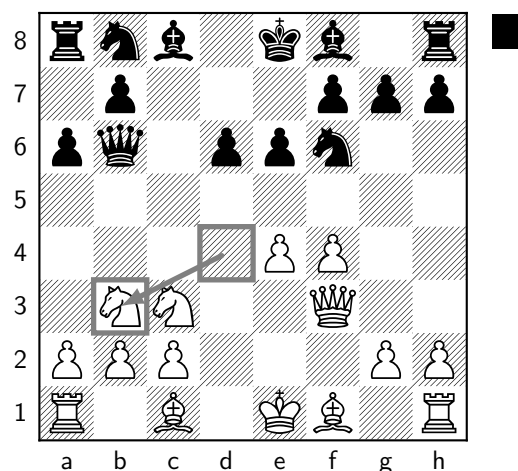


7 g4 e5!? 8 ♘f3 ♙xg4 9 fxe5 ♘fd7! 10 h3 ♙xf3 11 ♚xf3 ♘xe5 12 ♚g3 ♘bd7 13 ♙e3 ♜c8 14 O-O-O ♘f6 15 ♙d4 ♚c7 16 ♜h2 g6 17 ♜f2 ♙g7 18 h4 O-O

7 ♙e2 ♙e7

7... ♚b6 Here I rather like this queen sortie which attempts to kick the knight on d4 away.

8 ♘b3



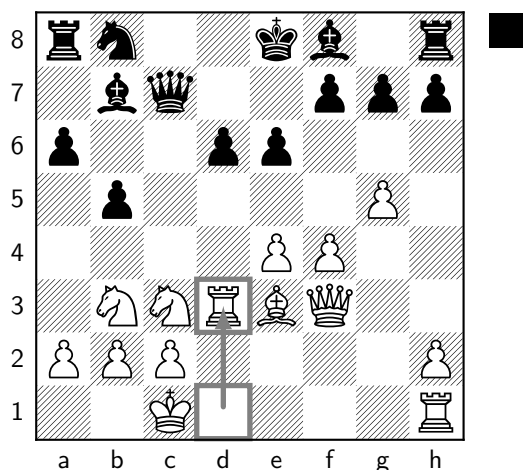
8 a3!? ♘c6 9 ♚Z-

8... ♚c7 9 g4 QUESTION: Why is White advancing like this so early, instead of developing his pieces? ANSWER: As in other variations of the Scheveningen, White can play useful attacking moves whilst waiting to see how Black develops. Of course, Black can do the same!

9... b5 Our general counter. White opened the long light-squared diagonal, so Black seeks to put the bishop on b7 as quickly as possible.

10 g5 ♘fd7 11 ♙d3 ♙b7 12 ♙e3 ♘c5 13 O-O-O White can also castle kingside here as he does in the next game.

13... ♘xd3+ 14 ♜xd3



14 cxd3 b4

14... ♖d7 QUESTION: Hasn't Black lost a lot of time capturing on d3 and is therefore a long way behind in development? ANSWER: As usual, those good guys on e6 and d6 shield the king on e8 and provide it with decent protection. Black also doesn't declare which way he may castle, thereby avoiding giving White a target.

15 ♖hd1 b4 16 ♘e2 ♗c8 17 ♖3d2 ♙e7 18 ♘g3 QUESTION: Is it safe for Black to castle now? ANSWER: Yes, as the rook on h8 will need to join the action soon. Moreover, if White tries to pawn-storm we have our usual defensive methods to counter with.

18... O-O Now White can see which way to attack and the typical Sicilian race to mate is on.

18...a5 19 ♖b1 a4 20 ♘c1 O-O

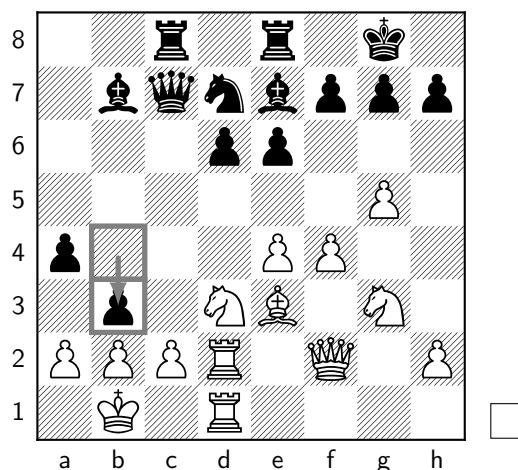
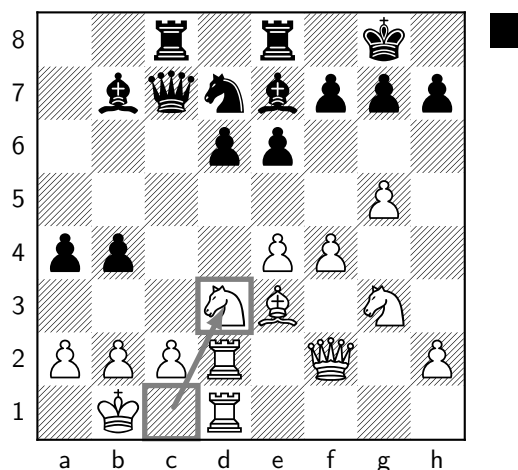
19 ♗f2 a5 20 ♖b1 a4 21 ♘c1 ANSWER:

21... ♗fe8! The idea is to drop the bishop back to f8 to protect the king.

22 ♘d3 ANSWER: It's best to push the pawn that attacks two of the opponent's defensive pawns.

22 f5 ♙f8 23 f6 a3

22... b3!

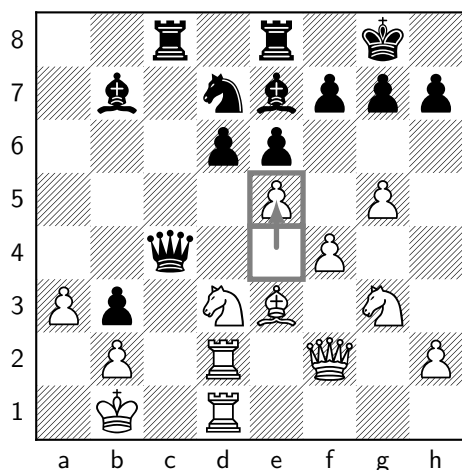


22...a3 23 b3 ♗c3 24 ♙d4

23 cxb3 axb3 24 a3 White employs a typical defensive idea to reduce the impact of the oncoming attack, but Black still has targets.

24... ♗c4! Now we see why the bishop on d3 was exchanged earlier. The e4-pawn suddenly becomes weak and isn't easy to defend.

25 e5



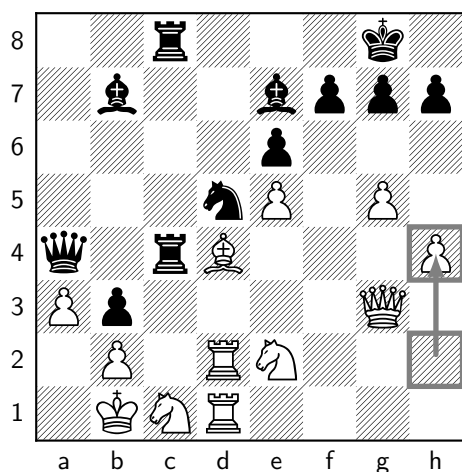
25 ♖f3 f5 26 ♜f2 ♜f8

25...dxe5 26 fxe5 ♖b5 Now the queen eyes up the e5-pawn.

27 ♖f4 ♜c4 28 ♙d4 EXERCISE: Spot Black's best square for the knight (which isn't really in the game at the moment). ANSWER: d5 would be a lovely square, for both defensive and attacking purposes.

28...♜b6 29 ♜e2 ♜d5 30 ♖g3 ♖a4 Inching forward. Now sacrifices can be considered as all the black pieces are in good positions.

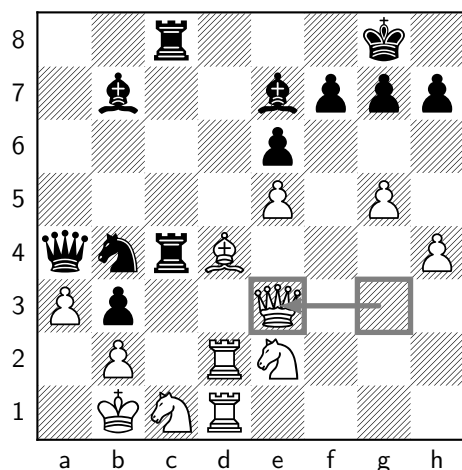
31 ♜dc1 ♜ec8 32 h4



32 ♜xb3 ♜b4! 33 ♜ec1 ♙e4+ 34 ♙a1 ♜c2+ 35 ♙a2 ♙xa3!

32 ♖xb3 ♜xc1+! 33 ♜xc1 ♜xc1+ 34 ♜xc1 ♖xb3

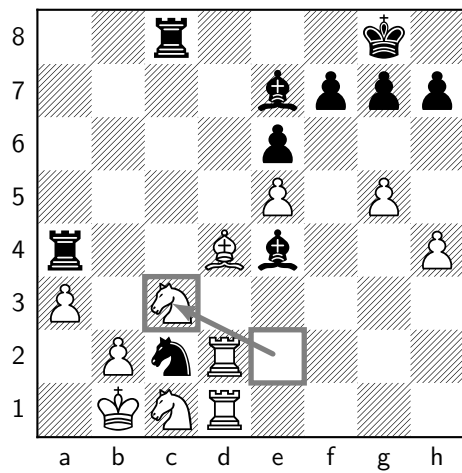
32...♜b4 33 ♖e3



33 axb4 ♜xc1+ 34 ♜xc1 ♜xc1+!

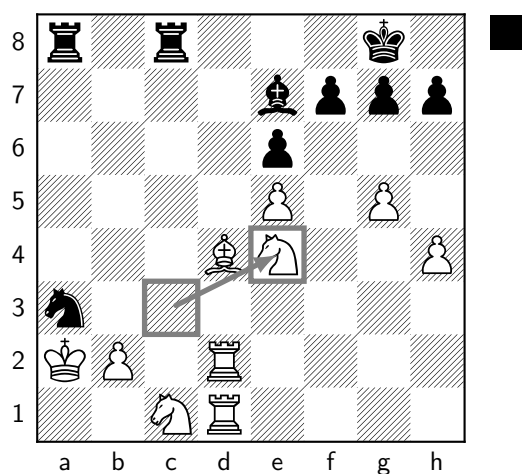
33...♜c2 34 ♖xb3 ♙e4 Amazingly even with the queens exchanged, White is in huge trouble due to his king position.

35 ♖xa4 ♜xa4 36 ♜c3 There was no real defence.



36 ♙a2 ♜xa3 37 bxa3 ♜xa3+ 38 ♙b2 ♜b8+

36...♜xa3+ 37 ♙a2 ♜aa8 38 ♜xe4



38 bxa3 ♖xa3+ 39 ♗b2 ♜b8+

38... ♖c2+ 39 ♗b3 White either missed Black's next or, more likely, he sportingly allowed a neat finish:

39... ♖a1#

0-1

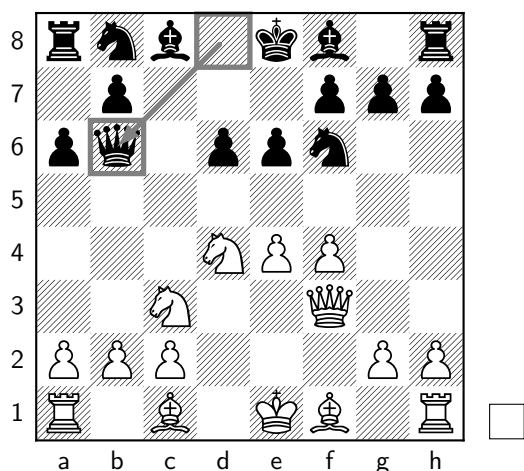
White: Mortensen, E
Black: Hansen, C

Copenhagen

1995

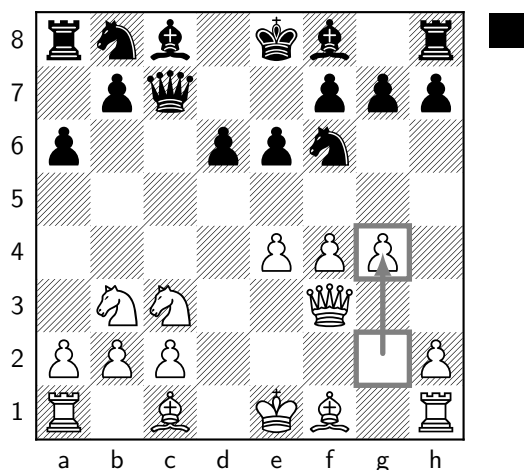
Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 f4 e6 7 ♖f3 ♖b6 The by now usual manoeuvre.



7... ♖c7

8 ♘b3 ♖c7 9 g4



9 a4 b6 10 ♘d3 ♘b7 11 O-O g6 12 ♘d2 ♘g7 13 ♖ae1 ♘bd7 14 ♖h1 O-O 15 ♖h3 d5! 16 exd5 ♘xd5

9...b5 10 ♘d3 ♘b7 11 g5 ♘fd7 12 a3 This secures the knight on c3, but Black should always

be happy to see this little nudge. If White now castles queenside we have a lever to open up that side with ...b4 and the text also doesn't develop a piece, meaning Black isn't likely to be wiped off the board any time soon.

12... ♘c5 Moving the knight again, but we saw in the previous game how this makes way for the other knight on b8 to come to d7.

13 ♘e3 ♘bd7 14 O-O Here, compared to the previous game, White decides it's safer to castle kingside than queenside. For now those advanced kingside pawns aren't a problem, but should the position ever open up...

14 O-O-O ♘e7 15 ♖b1 ♖b8 16 h4 b4 17 axb4 ♘xd3 18 ♖xd3 ♘a8

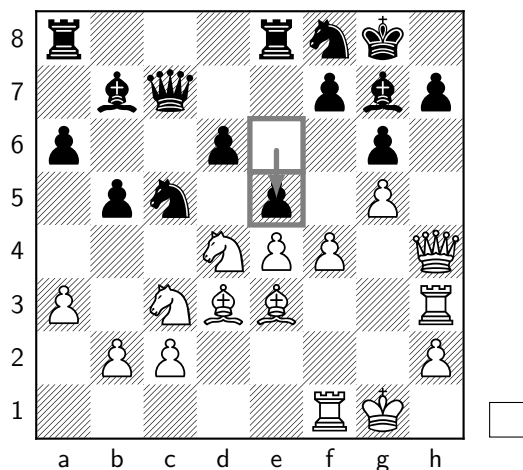
14... ♘e7 15 ♘d4 QUESTION: So the knight returns to d4, but does that mean Black has won or lost a tempo with his ...Qb6-c7 idea? ANSWER: Now that White has played his knight back to d4, Black has indeed won a tempo. Imagine if Black had played 7...Qc7 instead of 7...Qb6: the knight would already be on d4, so White would have an extra move. Of course, chess isn't that easy, but Black can claim a minor victory when White loses time like this!

15... O-O 16 ♖h5 White decides to attack with his pieces instead of pawn-storming. QUESTION: How to deal with the oncoming Rf3 and Rh3? ANSWER: Remain cool, calm and collected; then play a defensive manoeuvre which should be familiar by now...

16...g6! 17 ♖h6 ♖fe8 18 ♖f3 ♘f8 19 ♖h4 ♘g7 20 ♖h3 ♘f8 Just in time! Were you worried for a moment? Do not be if you've read the whole book to this point, you should have been cool as instructed!

21 ♖f1 ANSWER:

21...e5! I like this move, as it creates room for the pieces to join the game.



21... Bxc3 22 f5 exf5 23 exf5 Ba8 24 f6 Bb7 25 Bg4 Qd7 26 fxg7 Qe5

21... Bxe7!? 22 Qde2 Bae8 23 Bf2 Qcd7 24 Qd4 e5 25 fxex5 Qxe5 26 Qf4? Qg4!

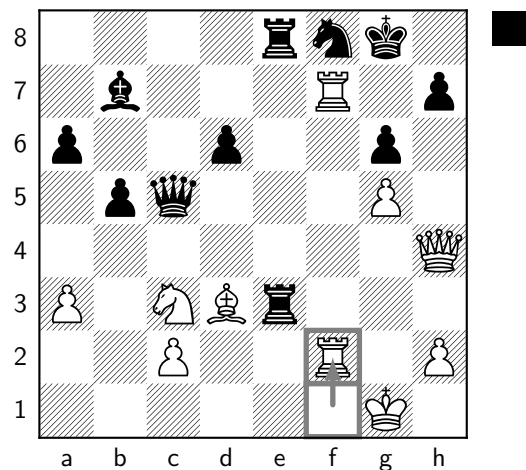
22 fxe5 Bxe5 23 Bhf3 Be7 24 Qde2 Bae8 25 Qf4 ANSWER:

25... Bxc3! Again, timed to perfection. Giving up this bishop requires nerve as the dark squares around the king can become weak, but all the other black pieces are so well placed that Hansen believes this exchange should work for him.

26 bxc3 Qxe4 Not just winning a pawn, but liberating both of Black's rooks and the bishop on b7.

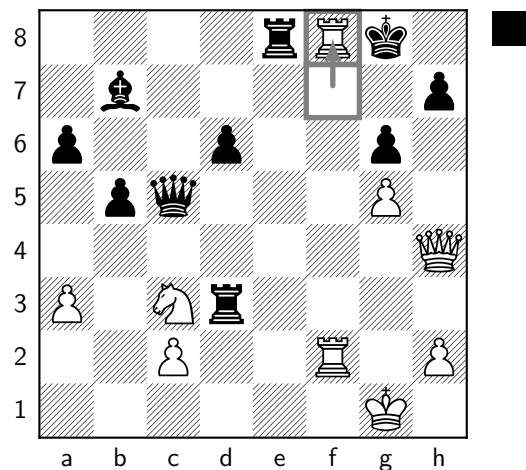
27 Qe2 Qxc3 28 Qxc3 Bxe3 29 Bxf7 Bc5! It appears that White is the one attacking, but Black's counterattack is alive and kicking.

30 B1f2



30 Bxb7 Bxd3+ 31 Qh1 Bc6+ 32 Qg1 Bf3 33 Bxf3 Bxf3 34 Bc7 Be3+ 35 Qg2 Be5!

30... Bxd3! 31 Bxf8+



31 cxd3? B1e1#

31... Bxf8 32 cxd3 Bxf2 33 Bxf2 Bxc3 A very well played game by Black. Hansen timed his ...e5 break at the correct moment and then defused his opponent's counterplay with 25...Bxc3.

0-1

White: Polgar, J
Black: Polugaevsky, L

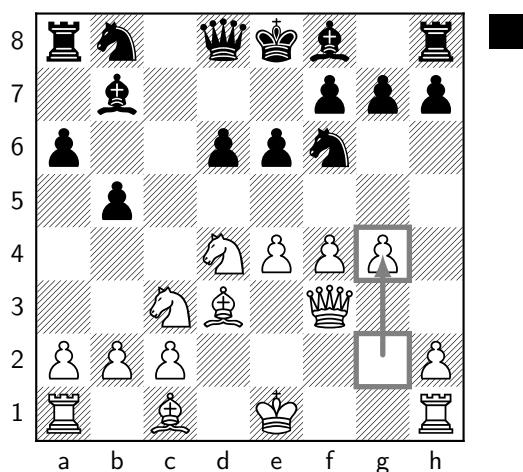
7th matchgame, Aruba

1991

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 f4 e6 7 ♘d3 b5 This feels a bit risky, but White cannot take advantage of the long diagonal towards a8. Black's bishop will come to b7 and attack the centre from there.

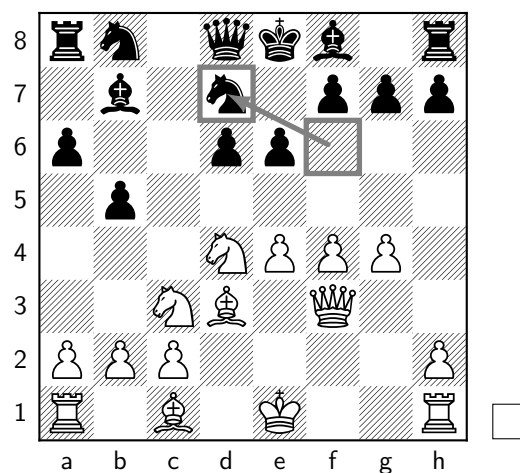
8 ♖f3 ♘b7 9 g4!? ANSWER:



9 ♘e3 ♘bd7 10 g4 b4 11 ♘d1 e5 12 ♘b3 d5 13 ♘f2 ♘e7 14 O-O-O O-O 15 f5 ♖c7 16 g5 dxe4 17 ♘xe4 ♘xe4 18 ♘xe4 ♖fc8 19 ♖d2 ♘xe4 20 ♖xe4 a5 21 ♖b1 a4 22 ♘c1 a3 23 ♖hd1 axb2 24 ♖xd7 bxc1 ♖+ 25 ♘xc1 ♖a5 26 ♖d5 b3! 27 ♖xb3 ♖cb8

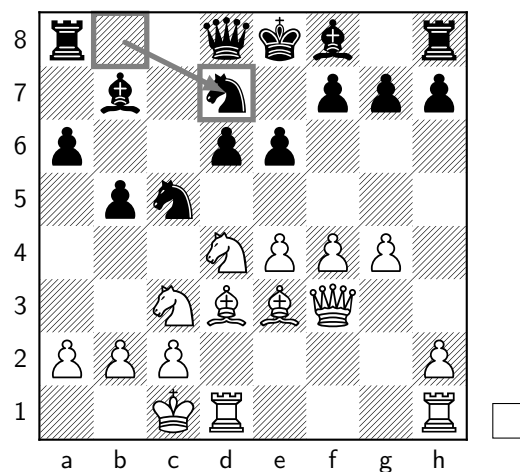
9 g4

9... ♘fd7! However, I prefer the text move to 9...h6. The knight hops out of the way of the threat and wanders over to pastures new on the queenside.



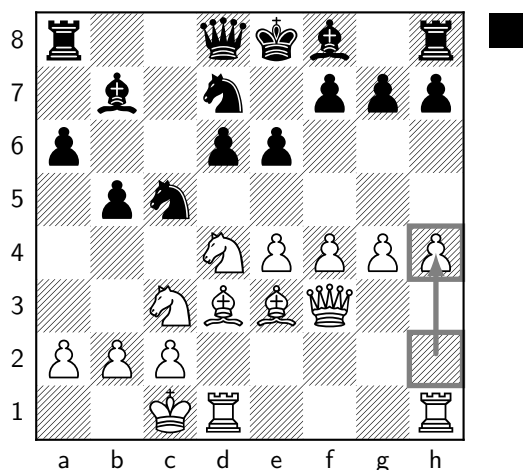
9...h6 10 ♘e3 ♘bd7 11 ZZ-

10 ♘e3 ♘c5 11 O-O-O ♘bd7



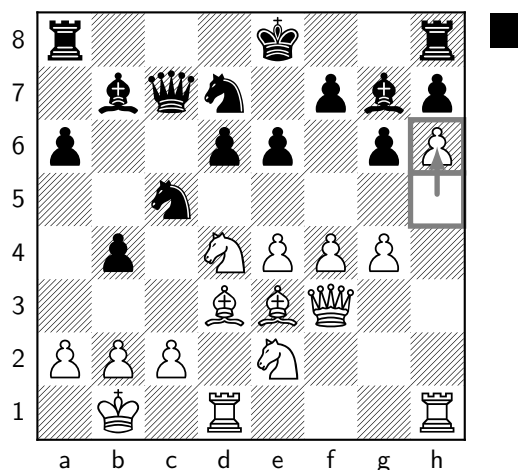
11...b4 12 ♘ce2 ♘bd7 13 ♖b1 ♖c7 14 g5 g6 15 h4 ♘g7 16 h5 ♖g8! 17 ♘g3 O-O-O

12 h4



12 g5 b4 13 ♞ce2 ♞c7 14 ♟b1 g6 15 h4 ♟g7

12...b4 13 ♞ce2 ♞c7 14 ♟b1 g6! QUESTION: Surely it's bad to weaken yourself on the side of the board where you are being attacked, so why is Black doing this? ANSWER: To fianchetto the bishop to g7 which will hold Black's position together. Remember too that Black doesn't have to castle kingside into the attack!



16 hxg6 hxg6 17 ♞xh8+ ♟xh8 18 ♞h1 O-O-O

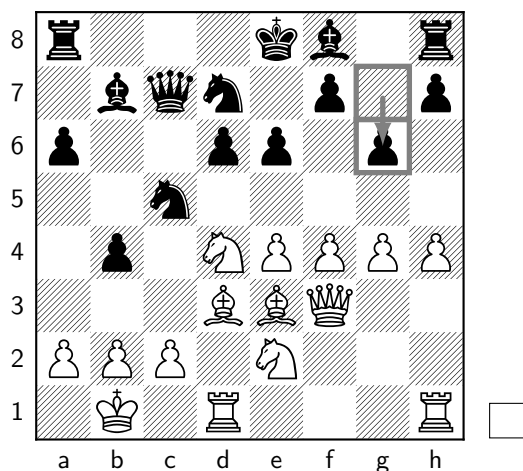
16...♟f6 17 g5 ♟e7! It appears that White has gained a lot of time on the kingside by pushing those pawns with tempo, but by playing h6 Polgar can no longer prise the black king open with g5-g6, which as we know is the normal method.

18 ♞g3 QUESTION: When will Black be able to castle? ANSWER: Now!

18...O-O! As long as he watches out for a mate on g7, Black deems that his king should be safe enough on the kingside. The situation is very different now with that pawn on h6 blocking the h-file.

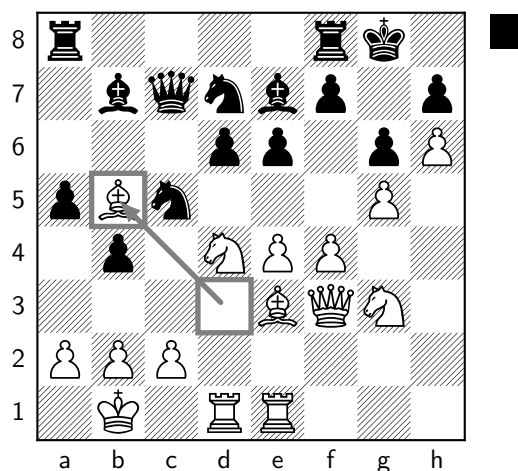
19 ♞he1 a5 Commencing a pawn storm down the queenside towards the white king. And why not?

20 ♟b5



14...♟e7 15 g5 ♞c8

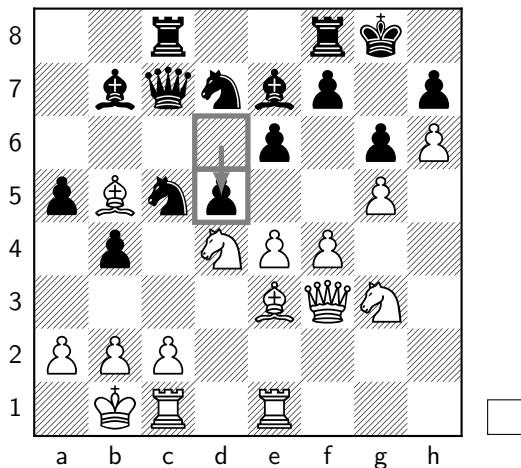
15 h5 ♟g7 16 h6



20 ♞g4 ♞xd3! 21 cxd3 ♞c5 22 f5 ♟a6 23 fxg6 hxg6 24 ♞e2 d5

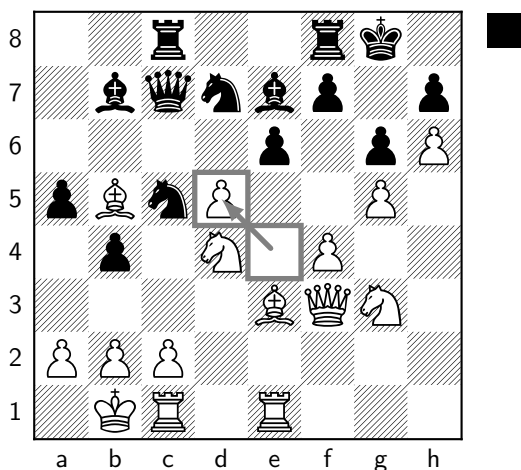
20...♖ac8 21 ♖c1?! Obviously concerned about the c2-pawn, but this is a little passive. QUESTION: What can Black play here? ANSWER: There are a few good moves, but...

21...d5! ...is another well-timed central break which opens the position to Black's advantage.



21...a4

22 exd5



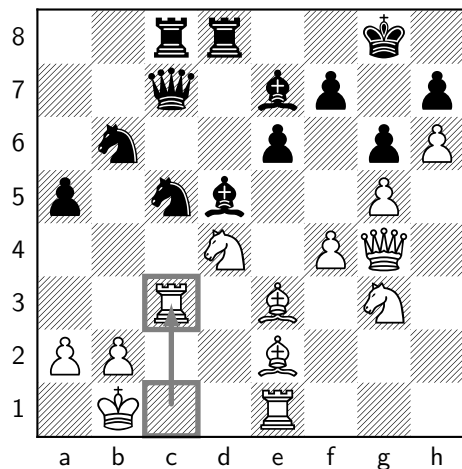
22 e5 ♖b6 23 b3 ♘e4 24 ♖xe4 dxe4 25 ♔h3 ♘d5!

22...♙xd5 23 ♔g4 ♖fd8 24 ♙e2 ♘b6 Another dream position for Black. White cannot do anything apart from try and parry Black's threats. Polugaevsky simply funnels his pieces towards the queenside and looks for a breakthrough.

25 c4 Lashing out to try and gain some space,

but this merely gives away the b-file.

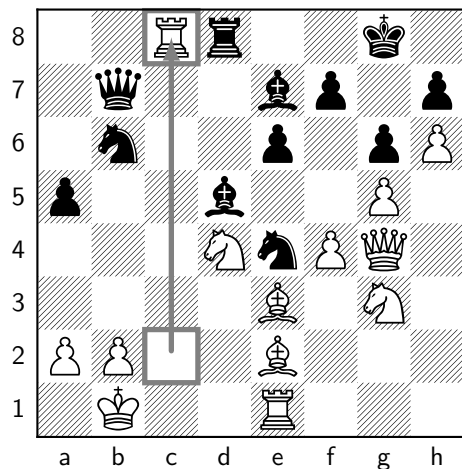
25...bxc3 26 ♖xc3



26 ♘b5 ♔b7 27 ♘xc3 ♘ba4!

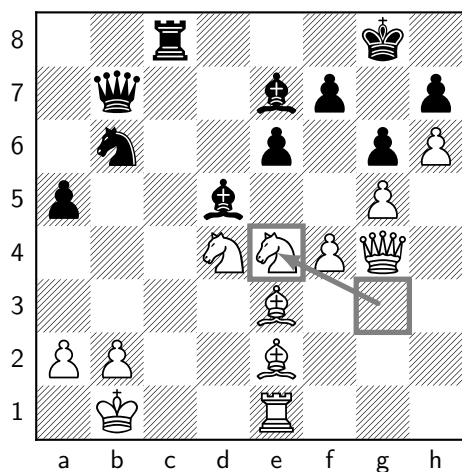
26...♔b7! 27 ♖c2 ♘e4! EXERCISE: How does Black gain a big advantage after 28 Rec1?

28 ♖xc8



28 ♖ec1 ♖xc2! 29 ♘xc2 ♘a4 30 b3 ♙xb3!

28...♖xc8 29 ♘xe4

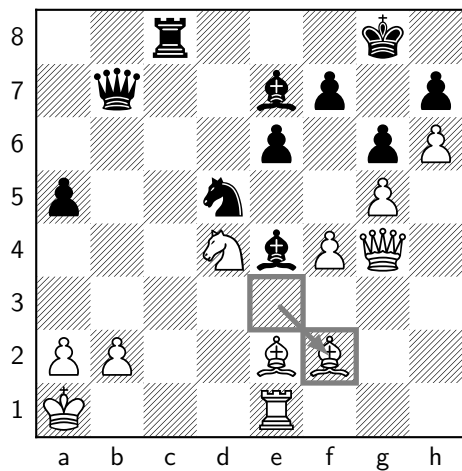
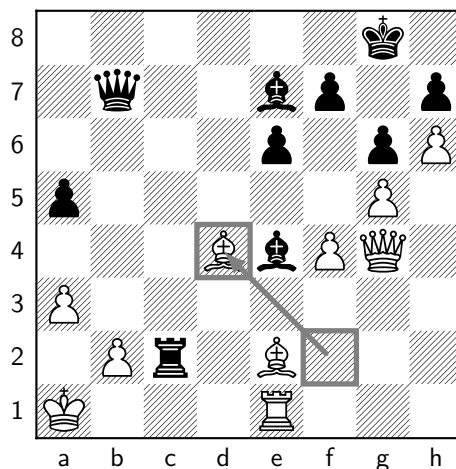


29 ♖c1 ♖c3+! 30 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 31 bxc3 ♖c4+ 32 ♖b3 ♖xe3

29... ♖xe4+ 30 ♖a1 ♖d5 31 ♖f2

32... ♖d5! 33 a×b4 a×b4

33 ♖xc2 ♖xc2 34 ♖d4 ANSWER:

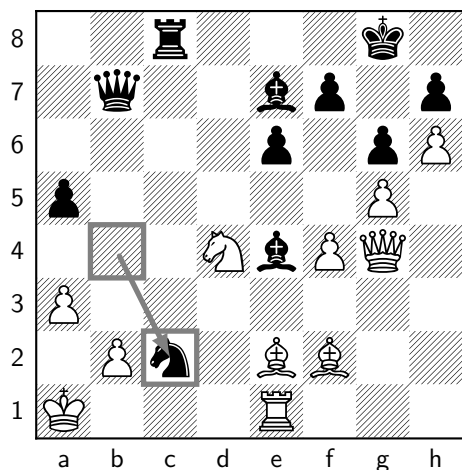
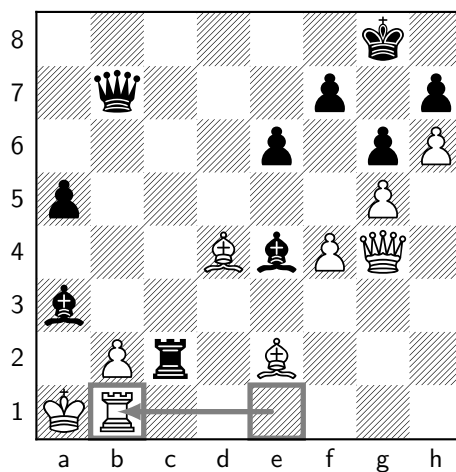


31 ♖d2 ♖b4 32 a3 ♖d5 33 a×b4 a×b4

31... ♖b4 32 a3 ♖c2+

34 ♖b1 ♖xa3! 35 b×a3 ♖a2+!

34... ♖xa3! 35 ♖b1



35 b×a3 ♖b3

35... ♖b3 Once White played h6 and sealed the h-file, the black king was able to safely castle. This gave Polugaevsky all the time in the world to attack on the other side.

0-1

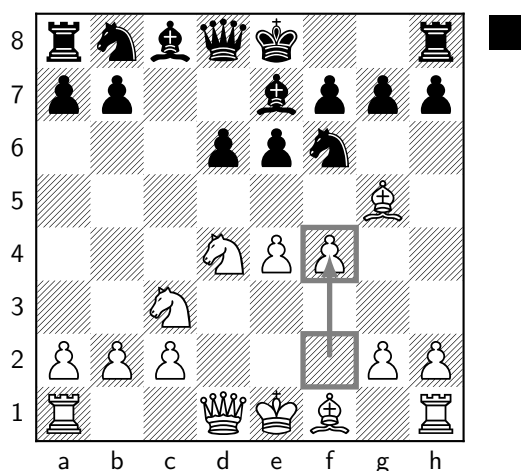
White: Simacek, P
Black: Movsesian, S

Hustopece (rapid)

2009

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 e6 6 ♕g5 ♕e7 7 f4 Trying to play a la the 6 Bg5 Najdorf. Instead of this pawn push White has a variety of queen moves at his disposal:



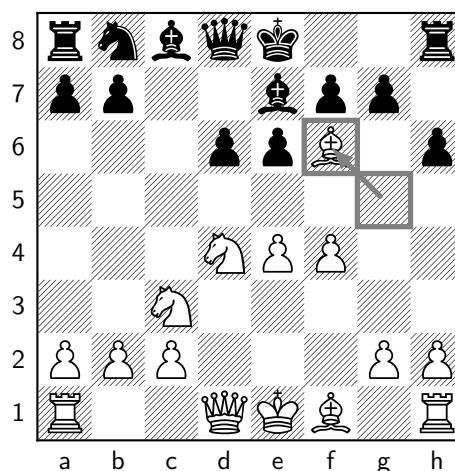
7 ♖d3 a6 8 O-O-O b5 9 f4 b4 10 ♗ce2 ♗b7 11 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 12 ♖c4 O-O 13 ♖xb4 ♖c7

7 ♖e2 ♖a5 8 h4 ♗c6 9 ♗b3 ♖c7 10 O-O-O a6 11 g4 b5 12 a3 b4 13 axb4 ♗xb4 14 ♗g2 ♖b8 15 ♗e3 a5 16 g5 ♗a6 17 ♖d2 ♗d7 18 f4 O-O

7 ♖d2

7...h6! Here we see the difference with the Najdorf: ...Be7 is a much more useful move than ...a6. Indeed, Black has some tricks up his sleeve that ensure White cannot reach the dangerous theoretical lines he may crave.

8 ♗xf6



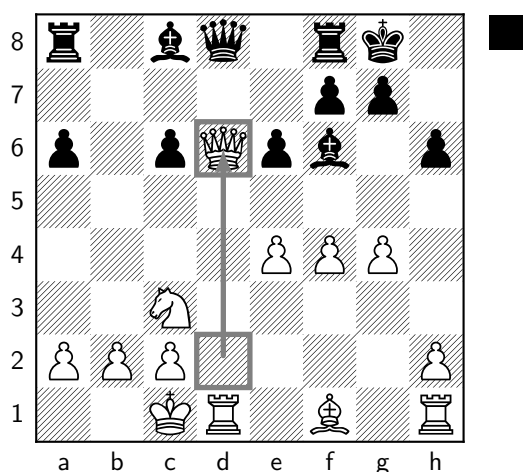
8 ♗h4 ♗xe4! 9 ♗xe7 ♗xc3 10 ♗xd8 ♗xd1 11 ZZ-

8... ♗xf6 9 ♖d2 O-O 10 O-O-O QUESTION: Yes, it's nice to have the bishop-pair, but isn't our d6-pawn about to come under attack? ANSWER: Well, it may do, although Black's next protects it to some extent, but we have already seen the power of a bishop on f6 and this game definitely furthers that case.

10...a6 Preventing Ndb5 when the d6-pawn would have been doomed.

11 g4 ♗c6 EXERCISE: Has the super grandmaster missed that White can now win the d6-pawn? Try to calculate what may have convinced Black to play this move. ANSWER: 11...Nc6 develops a piece, clears the long diagonal for the bishop on f6, helps open the b-file once Black recaptures on c6, and there is a tactical shot behind Movsesian's play.

12 ♗xc6 bxc6 13 ♖xd6

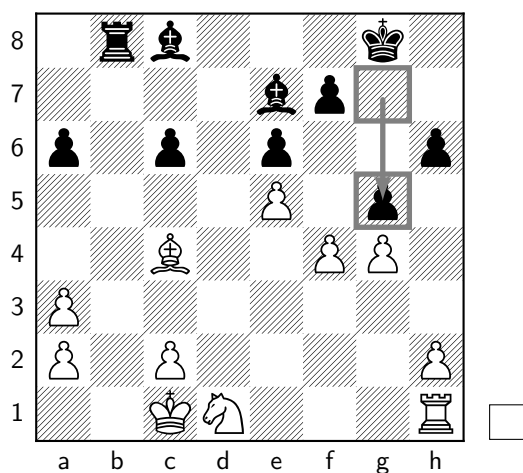


13 h4!?

13... ♖b6 14 e5 ♜d8 15 ♖a3 ♖e3+ 16 ♔b1 ♜x d1+ 17 ♜x d1 ♖x a3 18 bxa3 ♜b8+ 19 ♔c1 ♜e7 Black will regain the a3-pawn and be at least equal.

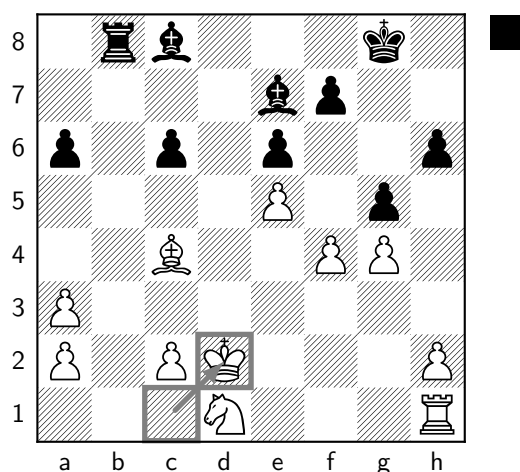
20 ♜c4 QUESTION: What should Black play next? ANSWER: Although White's queenside formation has already been destroyed, a second front can be opened up on the other side. The next move is very much a grandmasterly one.

20... g5! Congratulations if you spotted this! Or should I say, didn't grab immediately on a3?



20... ♜x a3+ 21 ♔d2

21 ♔d2



21 f x g5? ♜x g5+

21... g x f4 22 ♜f1 ♜g5 23 ♜f2 c5 24 ♜d3 ♜d7 25 ♔c3 ♜c6 26 ♜x f4 ♜d8 27 ♜d3 ♜e3 28 ♜x a6

This routine grab lets Black's bishops do the talking, although this was a rapid game so neither player had time to calculate properly.

28... ♜d4+ 29 ♔d2 ♜x e5 This position is definitely easier for the bishops.

30 h4 ♜g7 31 ♔e2 ♜a8 32 ♜c4 ♜a4! Again the grandmaster eschews the routine grab of material for something better.

33 ♜b3 ♜e4+ 34 ♔d2 c4 35 ♜b4 ♜b5 With the bishop on b3 trapped, it is in essence game over. White only plays on as both players were likely down to their last couple of minutes.

36 ♜g1 c x b3 37 a x b3 ♜e2+ 38 ♔d1 ♜h2 39 a4 ♜e2+ 40 ♔c1 ♜d4 41 ♜g3 ♜e5 42 ♜g1 ♜x h4 43 ♜c6 ♜f4+ 44 ♔b2 ♜x g4 45 ♜e1 ♜g2 46 a5 h5 47 ♔a3 h4 48 c4 ♜d6+ 49 ♔a4 ♜f3 50 ♜d4 ♜a8 Black's h-pawn is the faster. The main trick to remember is the 7...h6 8 Bh4 Nxe4! idea (which we saw earlier in Giroyan-Nasuta from Chapter Five). This equalizes and also gives Black chances for a pleasant endgame grind.

0-1

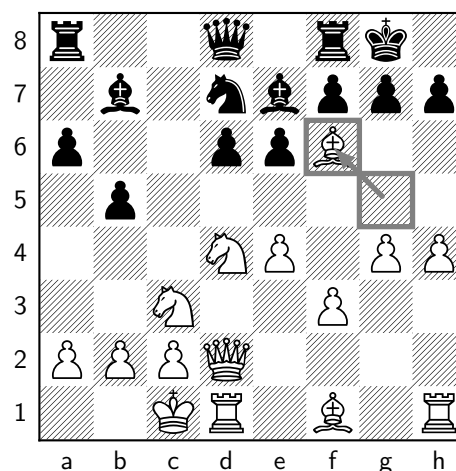
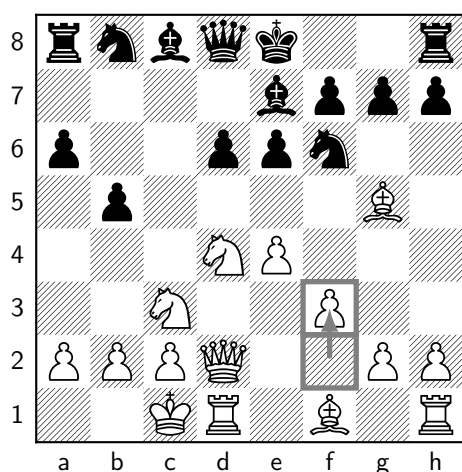
White: Metz, H
Black: Dao Thien Hai

Budapest

1995

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 ♕g5 ♕e7 7 ♖d2 a6 8 O-O-O b5 9 f3 White is trying to play as he often does in the Richter-Rauzer variation of the Classical Sicilian, but again here Black enjoys a more flexible development.



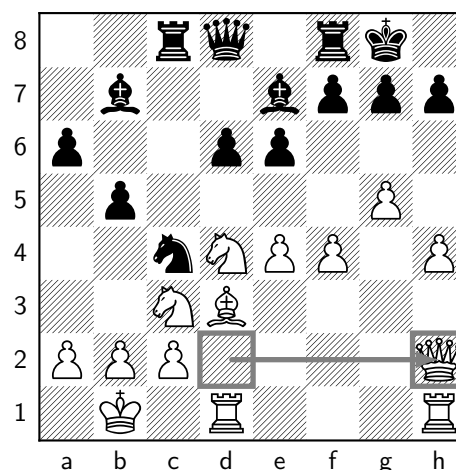
12 ♕e3 b4 13 ♘ce2 d5! 14 g5 ♘h5

12... ♘xf6 13 g5 ♘d7 14 ♕d3 ♖c8 15 ♖b1 ♘e5 16 f4 ♘c4 17 ♖h2 EXERCISE: Which of the following three moves would you play and why? a) 17...Qb6; b) 17...d5; c) 17...b4.

9 ♕d3 ♕b7 10 ♖he1 ♘bd7 11 f4 b4 12 ♘a4 ♖a5 13 b3 ♘c5 14 a3 ♖c8 15 axb4 ♘xb3+ 16 ♘xb3 ♖xa4 17 ♖b2 d5

9... ♕b7 10 h4 O-O 11 g4 ♘bd7 QUESTION: Aren't we quite far behind in our attack, since White has already got in g4 and h4? ANSWER: For White to even try and break through, he has to play h5, g5 and g6. Moreover the bishop on g5 is currently blocking the way. So that gives Black four moves to conjure up some attacking ideas. If you think that's possible, then you are a Sicilian player!

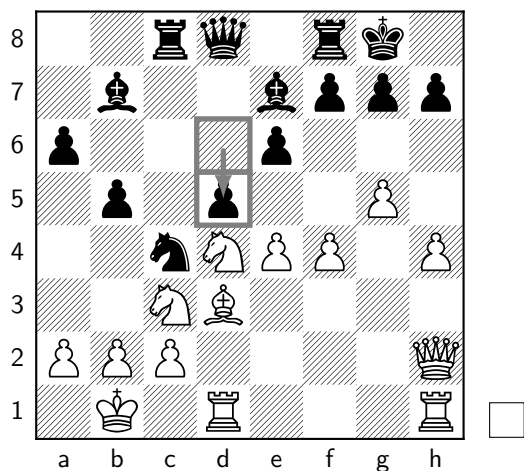
12 ♕xf6 White decides not to waste time by bringing the bishop back in order to play g5.



17 ♕xc4 ♖xc4 18 f5 b4! 19 ♘ce2 ♕xe4 20 fxex6 ♕xh1 21 ♖xh1 ♖a5

17... d5!? ANSWER: After this push White normally chooses to play e5, blocking the centre, so I hope you had an idea behind 17...d5 if you chose

it.



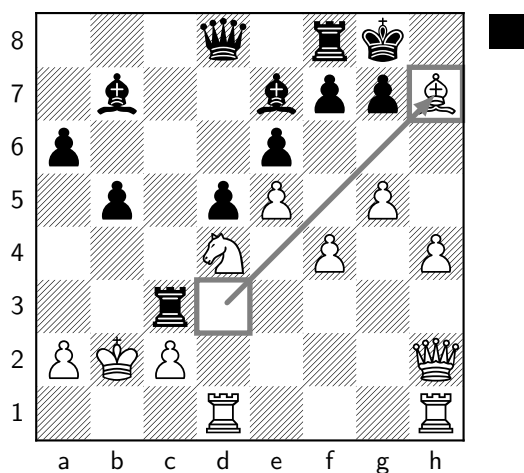
17... ♖b6

17... b4 18 ♘ce2

18 e5 The typical move to close the position, but White is in for a shock... QUESTION: Can you now see why ...d5 was played? ANSWER: Black can uncork the following combination:

18... ♘xb2! 19 ♖xb2 ♙xc3!! The sacrifices rain down on White.

20 ♙xh7+ Not so much a Greek Gift sacrifice, but a clearance of the d3-square for the king. (How many times has that been said before?)

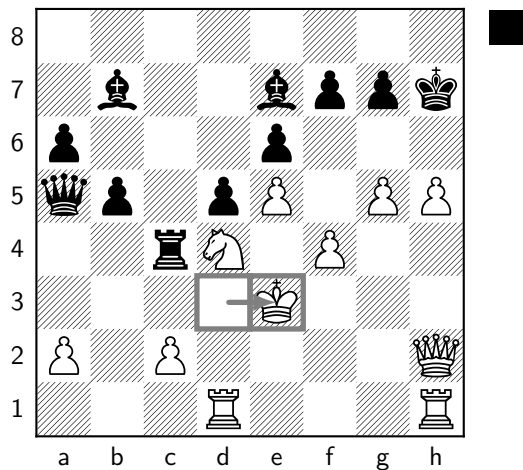


20 ♖xc3 ♙a5+ 21 ♖b2 ♙a3+ 22 ♖b1 ♙c3

20... ♙xh7 21 ♖xc3 ♙a5+ 22 ♖d3 ♙c8 Black is

an exchange down, but as we've seen before with these ...Rxc3 ideas (Movsesian-Kasparov comes to mind from Chapter One), Black has compensation since the white king doesn't enjoy much protection.

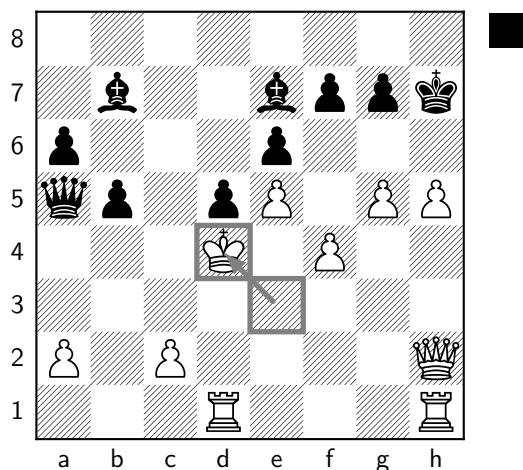
23 h5 ♙c4 24 ♖e3 ANSWER:



24 g6+ ♖h6 25 ♖e2

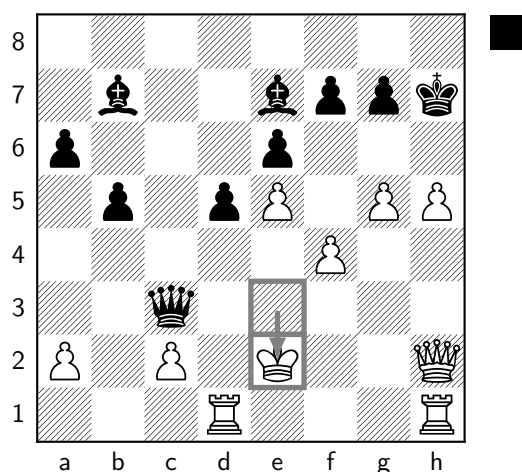
24... ♙xd4! Giving up another exchange! The sacrifices rain down upon White like a cold shower.

25 ♖xd4



25 ♙xd4 ♖c3+ 26 ♙d3 d4+ 27 ♖e2 ♙xc2+ 28 ♙d2 d3+

25... ♖b4+ 26 ♖e3 ♙c3+ 27 ♖e2



27 ♖d3 d4+ 28 ♔f2 ♕xc2+

27...d4 It's amazing how Black is two exchanges down and yet has a huge attack!

28 g6+ ♔h6 Black's king is safe enough here. His queen and bishops now cause havoc.

29 ♜hg1 ♖f3+ 30 ♔e1 ♘b4+ 31 ♜d2 ♗e3+ 32 ♔d1 ♘f3+ 33 ♔c1 ♗a3+ 34 ♔b1 ♘c3! Forcing mate. Metz sportingly allows Black to complete the job.

35 ♗g3 ♗b2# Here a typical Sicilian position with opposite-side castling arose and suddenly Black could sacrifice a lot of his pieces. Be on the lookout for these wild sacrifices!

0-1

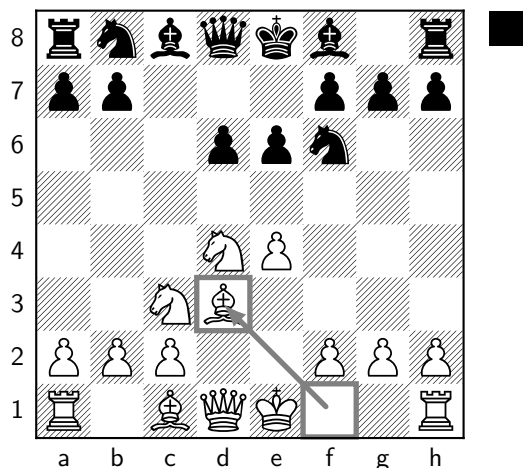
White: Durao, J
Black: Andersson, U

Nice Olympiad

1974

Result: 0-1

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5
♘c3 e6 6 ♙d3 Returning to 6 Bd3:

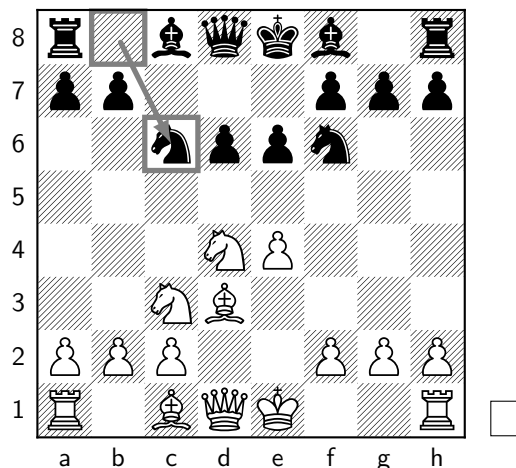


6 ♙e2 ♘c6 7 ♘xc6 bxc6 8 g4 h6 9 ♙g2 e5 10
h3 ♙b6 11 f4? ♙e7 12 f5 ♙a6 13 ♙f3 d5! 14
exd5 cxd5 15 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 16 ♙xd5 ♙h4+

6 ♙f3 ♘c6 7 ♙e3 ♙e7 8 ♙e2 O-O 9 ♙d1 ♘xd4
10 ♙xd4 ♙a5 11 ♙e3 ♙d7 12 O-O ♙c6

6 ♙b5+ ♘bd7 7 f4 a6 8 ♙xd7+ ♘xd7!? 9 ♙f3
♙b6! 10 ♘b3 ♙e7 11 ♙e3 ♙c7 12 O-O-O O-O
13 f5 b5 14 a3 ♙b8 15 g4 ♘e5 16 ♙g3 a5 17 g5
♙e8! 18 f6 ♙f8!

6... ♘c6 QUESTION: Why did Black play this,
rather than any other move?

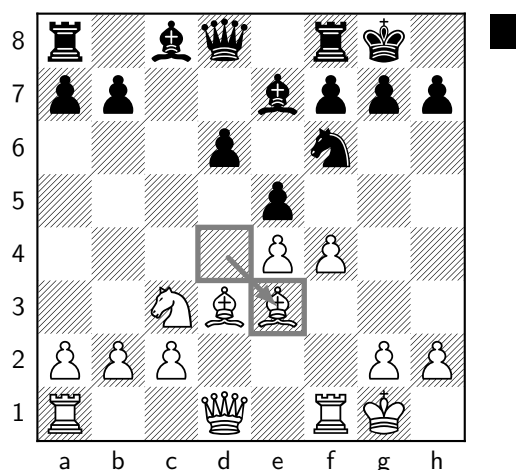


6... a6

6... ♙e7

7 ♙e3 ♙e7 8 O-O O-O 9 f4 EXERCISE: Which
move would you play here? a) 9...a6; b) 9...e5;
c) 9...Nxd4. ANSWER: All three are of course
playable, but Andersson gains an immediate edge
with a nice mini-combination:

9... ♘xd4 10 ♙xd4 e5! 11 ♙e3



11 fxe5 dxe5 12 ♙xe5 ♘g4! 13 ♙f4 ♙b6+ 14
♙h1 ♘f2+ 15 ♙xf2 ♙xf2

11... ♘g4 This is one reason why the bishop prefers

to be on e2, as then moves like this leap are prevented. Now Black seizes the bishop-pair.

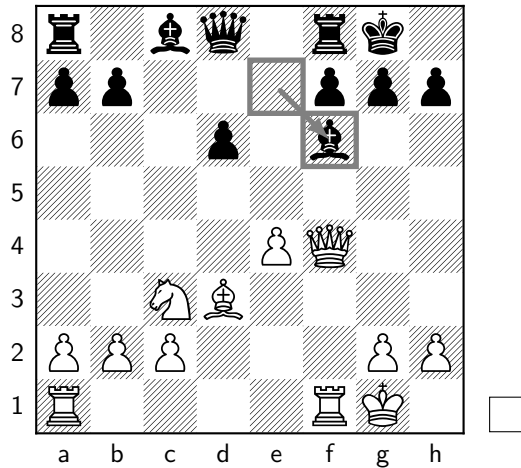
12 ♖f3 ♜xe3 13 ♖xe3 exf4 14 ♖xf4 ANSWER:

14... ♜f6! As expected, Andersson knows where to place his pieces. The dark-squared bishop already gives Black more than a pleasant game. It is far better on e5, controlling the whole board, than on e7.

technique in converting his advantage it is typically impressive.

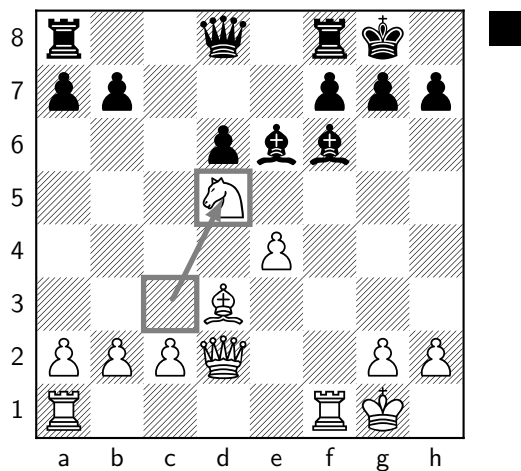
26 ♖g5 ♜g7 27 ♜d3 ♜e5 28 ♖f4 ♖e7 29 ♖f2 ♜c8 30 ♜a3 ♜e8 31 ♜b1 ♜e2 32 ♖f3 ♜e1 33 ♜c2 ♜xf1+ 34 ♖xf1 ♖e2 35 ♜d3 ♖d2

0-1



14... ♖b6+ 15 ♜h1 ♖xb2 16 ♜d5 ♜d8 17 ♖xd6 ♜e6 18 ♜fb1!

15 ♖d2 ♜e6 16 ♜d5



16 ♜h1 ♜c8 17 ♜d5 ♜xb2 18 ♜ab1 ♜xd5 19 exd5 ♜c3

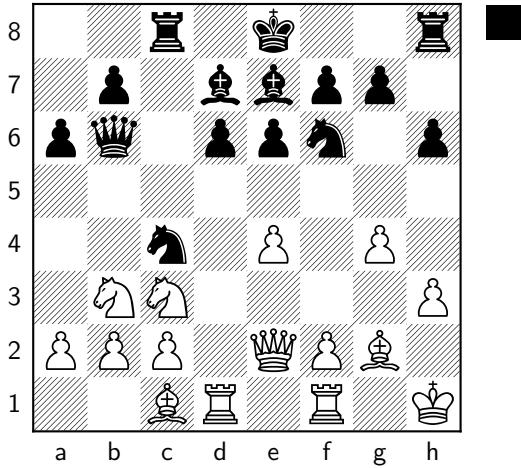
16... ♜xb2 17 ♜ab1 ♜d4+ 18 ♜h1 b6 19 c4 ♜e5 20 ♖e3 ♜c8 21 ♜b3 g6 22 ♜a3 ♖d7 23 ♜e2 ♜c5 24 ♜a6 ♜xd5 25 exd5 ♜e8 Observe Andersson's

White: Exercise 1
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

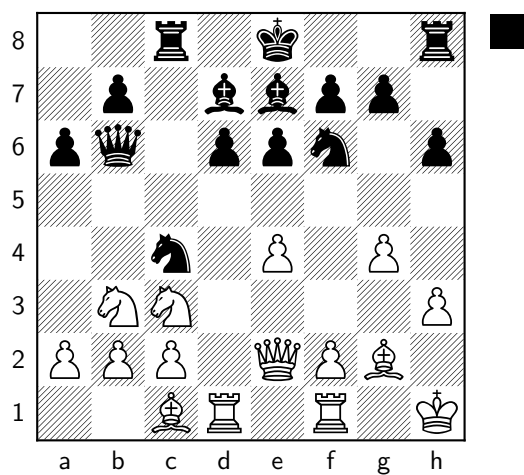
White: Solution to Exercise 1

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



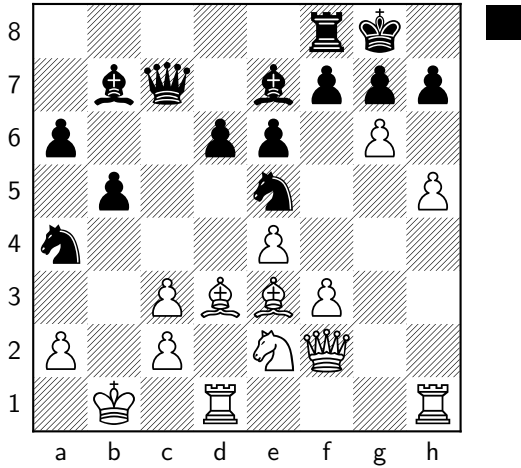
16...g5 17 ♖d4 ♔c7 18 ♘d2 ♙e5 19 ♘f3 h5
*

White: Exercise 2
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

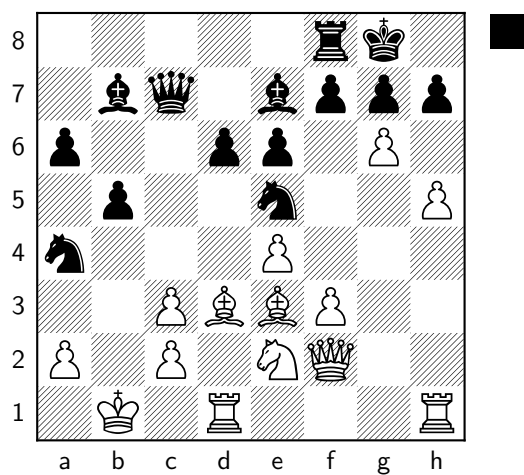
White: Solution to Exercise 2

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



20...f×g6 21 h×g6 h6

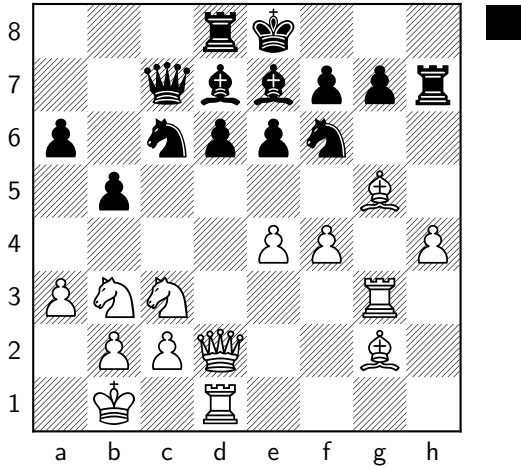
*

White: Exercise 3
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

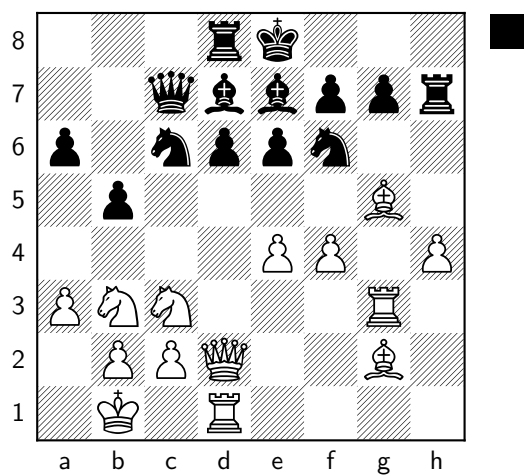
White: Solution to Exercise 3

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



19... ♕c8 20 ♞d5 exd5 21 exd5

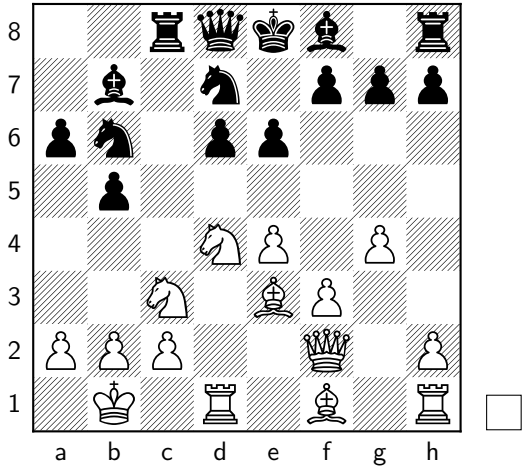
*

White: Exercise 4
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

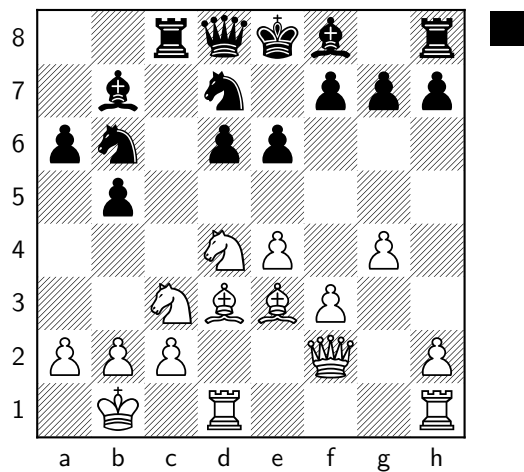
White: Solution to Exercise 4

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



14...Rxc3 15 bxc3

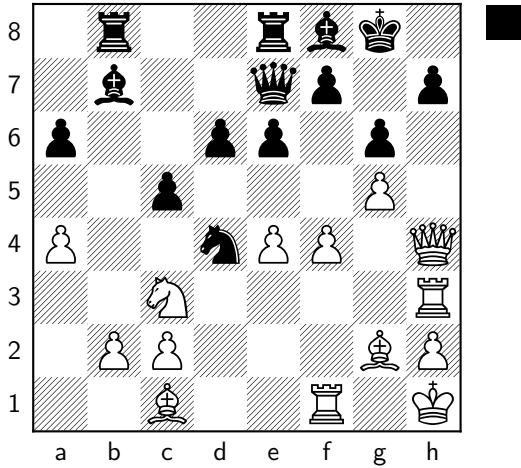
*

White: Exercise 5
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

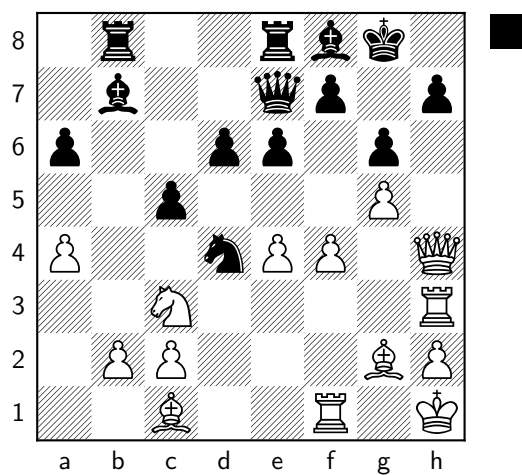
White: Solution to Exercise 5

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



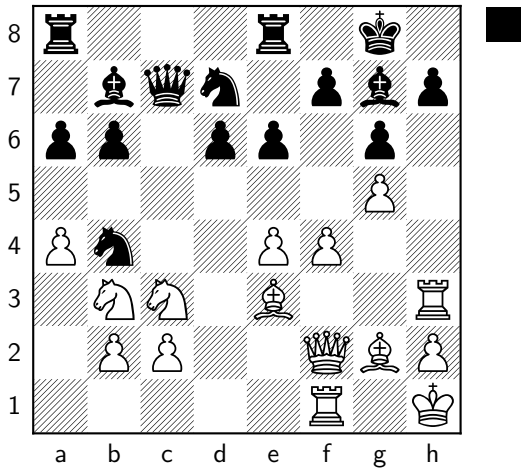
25...h5 26 g×h6 ♔×h4 27 ♖×h4 ♔h7
*

White: Exercise 6
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

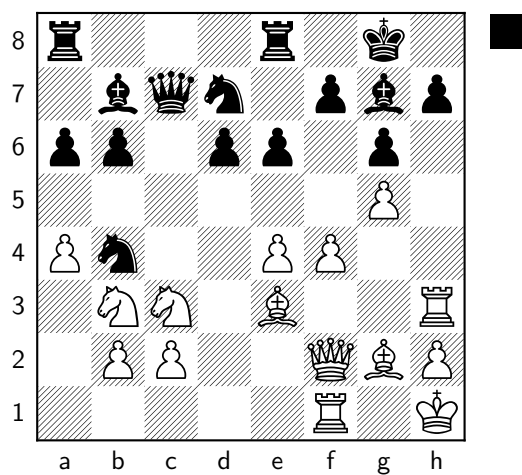
White: Solution to Exercise 6

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



22... ♖e7 23 ♘d4 e5 24 f×e5 ♙×e5

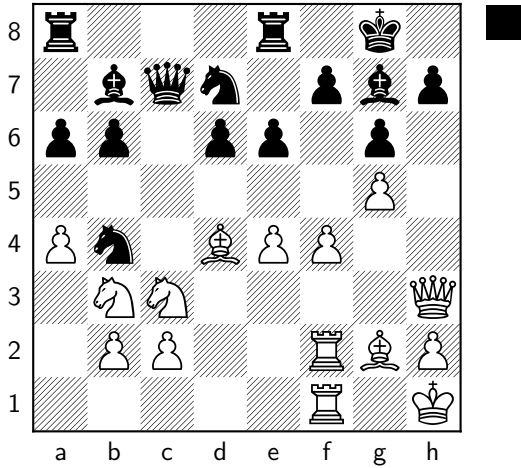
*

White: Exercise 7
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

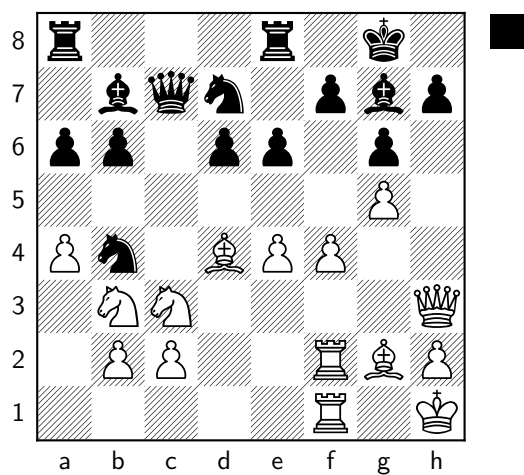
White: Solution to Exercise 7

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



22...e5 23 fxe5 ♘xe5 24 ♙xe5 ♖xe5 25 ♖xf7
♙e7 26 ♖xe7 ♙xe7

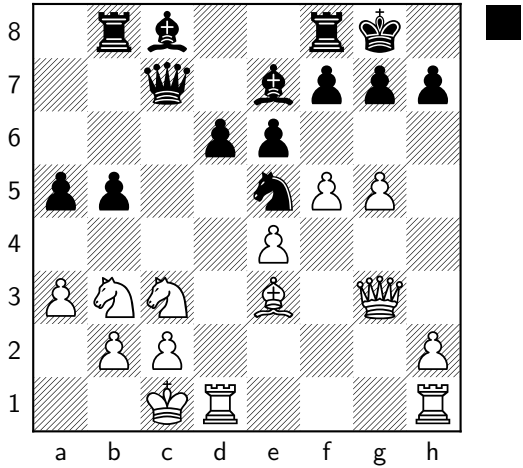
*

White: Exercise 8
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

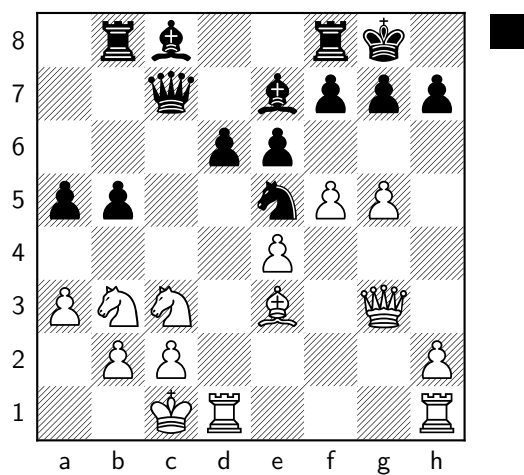
White: Solution to Exercise 8

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



18... ♖e8 19 f6 ♘f8 20 f×g7 ♘×g7

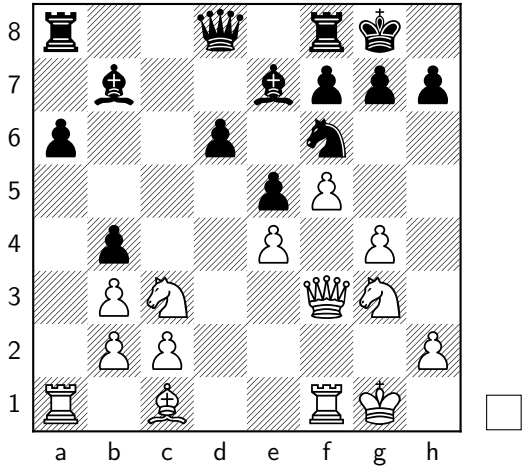
*

White: Exercise 9
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

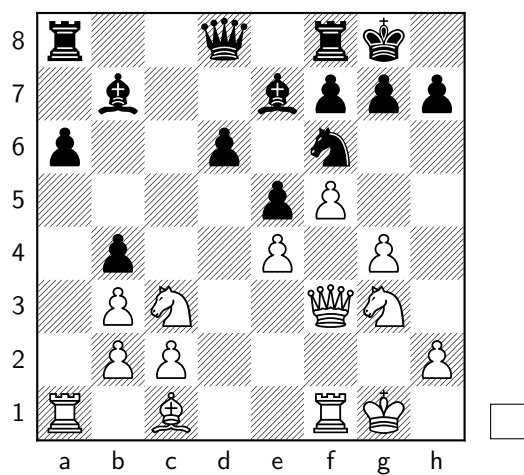
White: Solution to Exercise 9

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



16 ♖ce2 d5

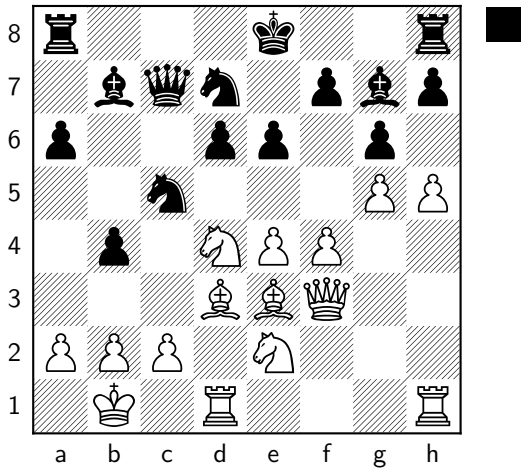
*

White: Exercise 10
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

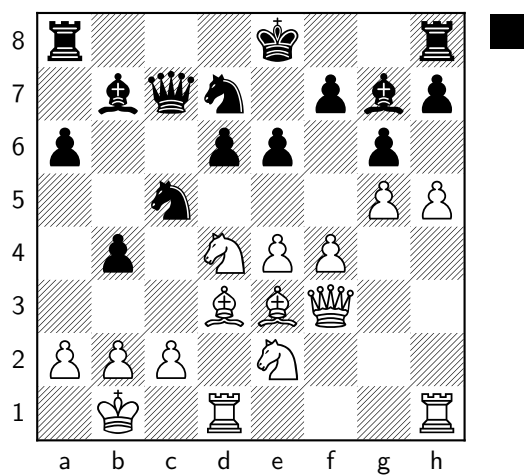
White: Solution to Exercise 10

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



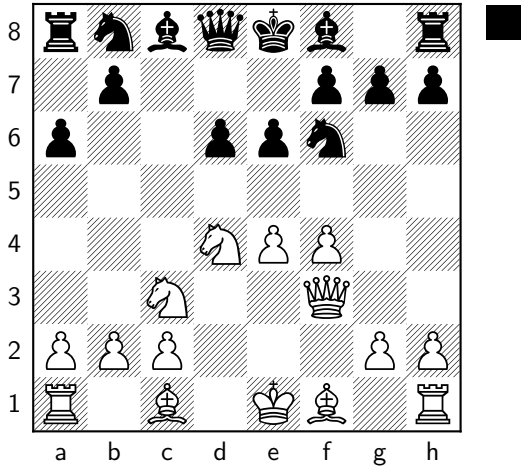
17...Rg8 18 Ng3 O-O-O
*

White: Exercise 11
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

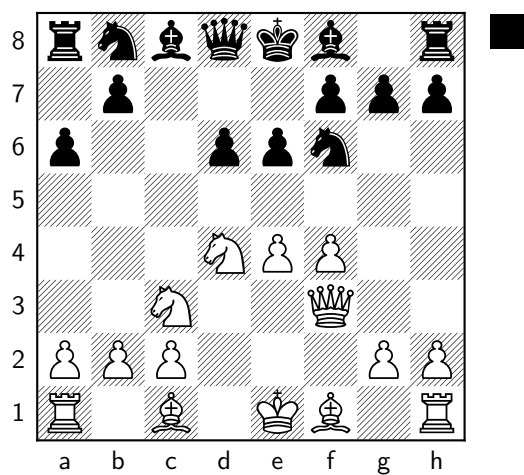
White: Solution to Exercise 11

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



8... ♖b6 9 ♘b3 ♚c7

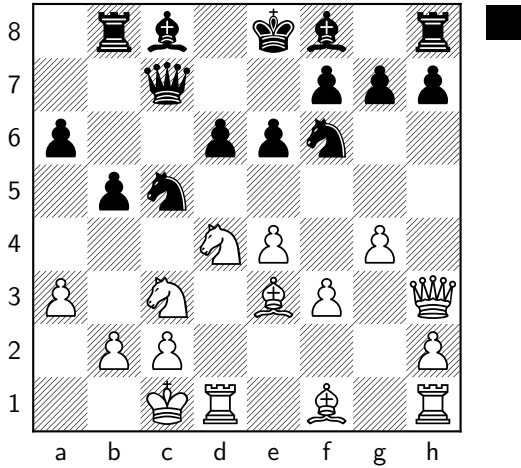
*

White: Exercise 12
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

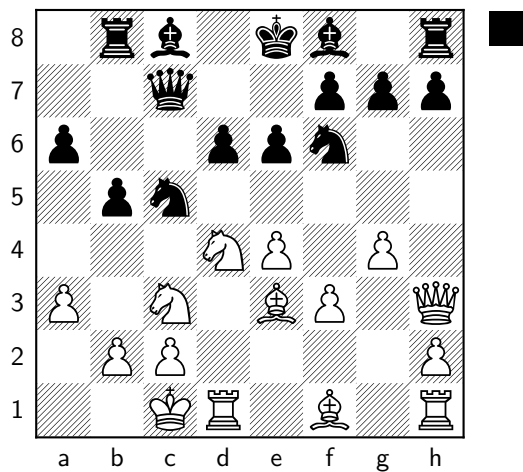
White: Solution to Exercise 12

?

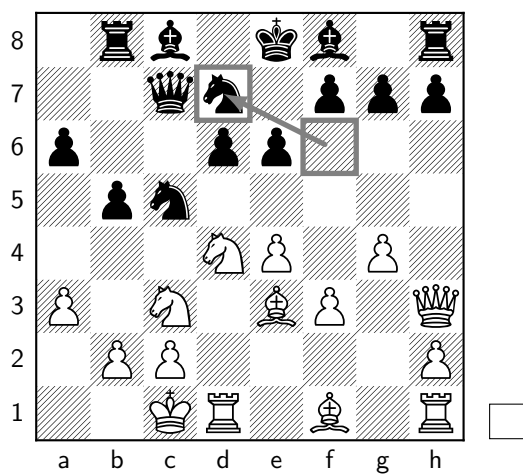
Black: ?

2012

Result: *



13... Nfd7



13... b4 14 a×b4 ♖×b4 15 g5 ♜fd7 16 g6 ♞b6
17 ♚×h7

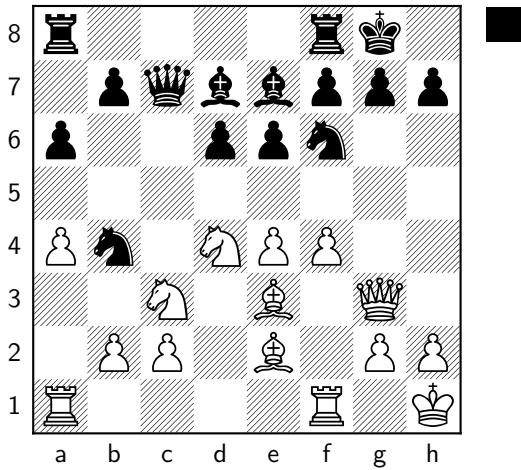
*

White: Exercise 13
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

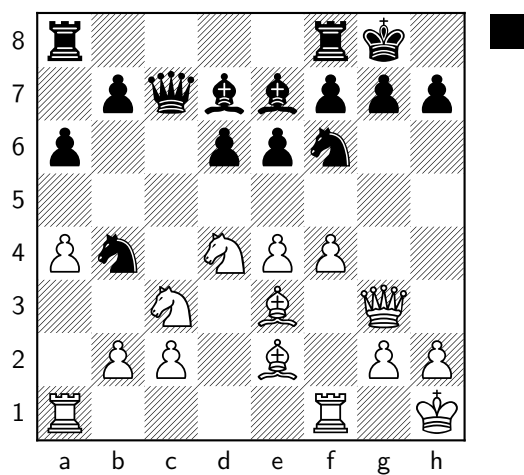
White: Solution to Exercise 13

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



14... ♔h8

*

White: Exercise 14

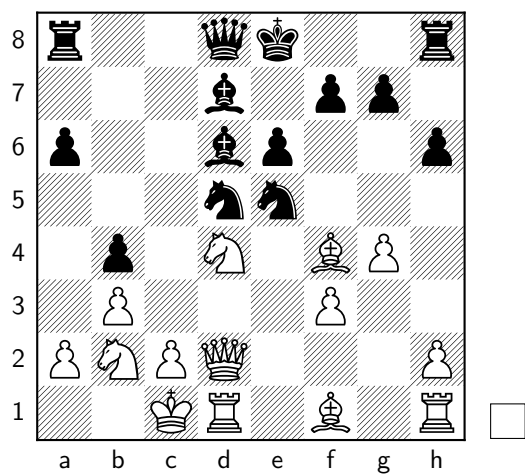
?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *

Fen: r2qk2r/3b1pp1/p2bp2p/3nn3/1p1N1BP1/1P3P2/PNPQ3P/2KR1B1R
w kq - 0 16



*

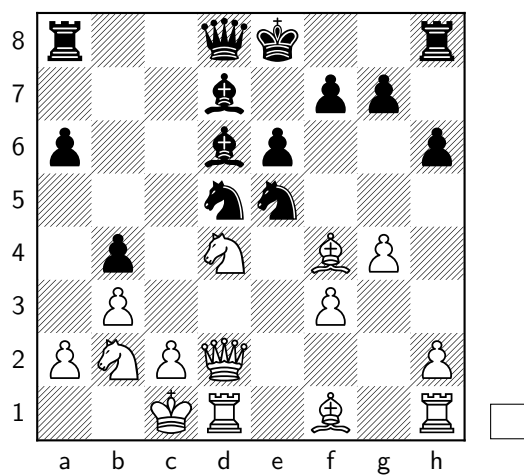
White: Solution to Exercise 14

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



16 ♖f5

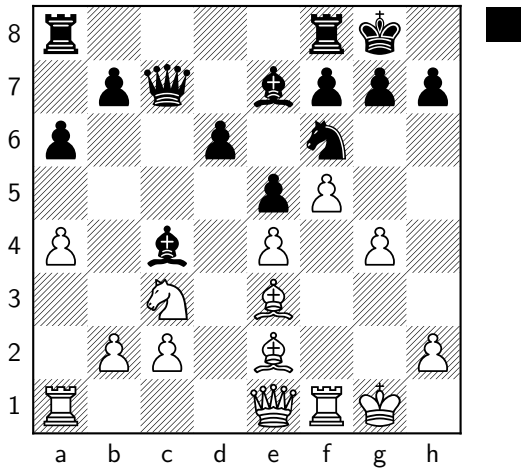
*

White: Exercise 15
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

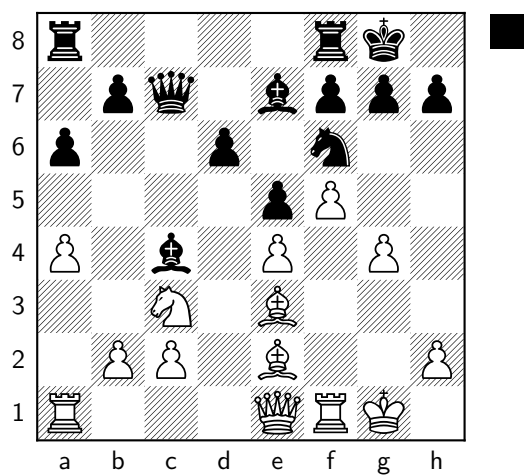
White: Solution to Exercise 15

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



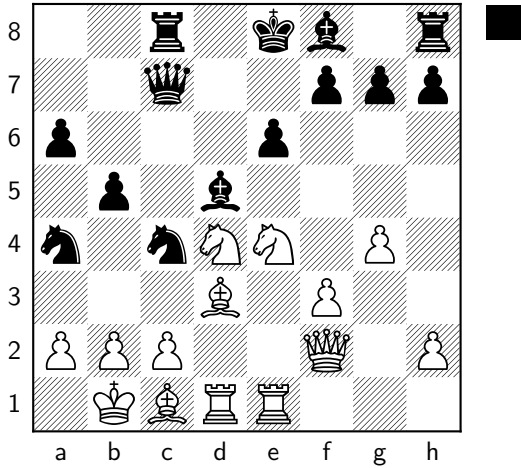
16...d5 17 g5 ♖xe4 18 ♗xe4 dxe4 19 f6 ♔c5
*

White: Exercise 16
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

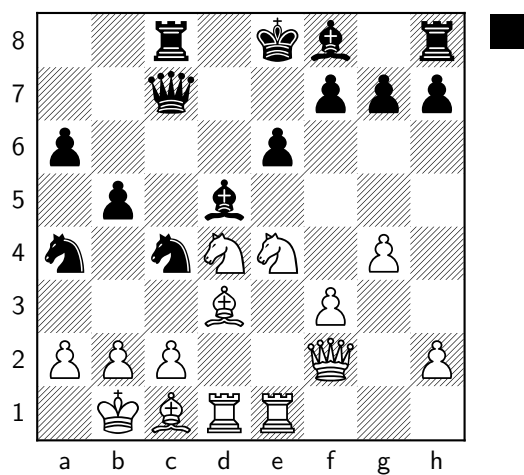
White: Solution to Exercise 16

?

Black: ?

2012

Result: *



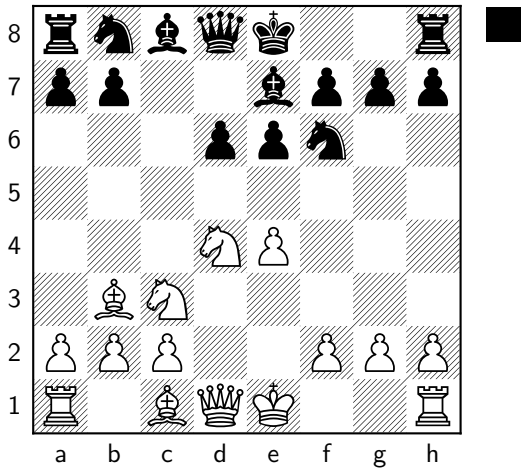
20... ♖a×b2 21 ♙×b2 ♜×b2 22 ♔×b2 ♙×e4 23
♙×e4 ♚c3+ 24 ♖b1 ♙a3
*

White: Exercise 17
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



*

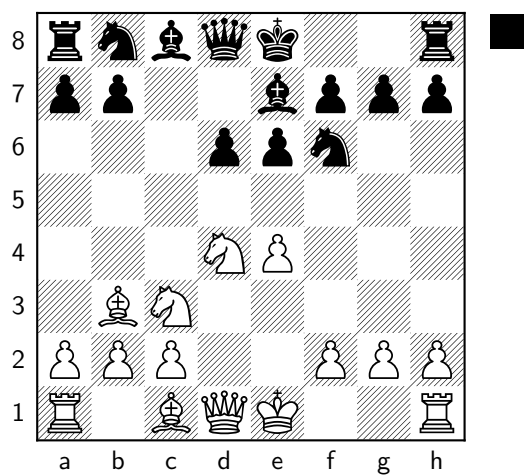
White: Solution to Exercise 17

?

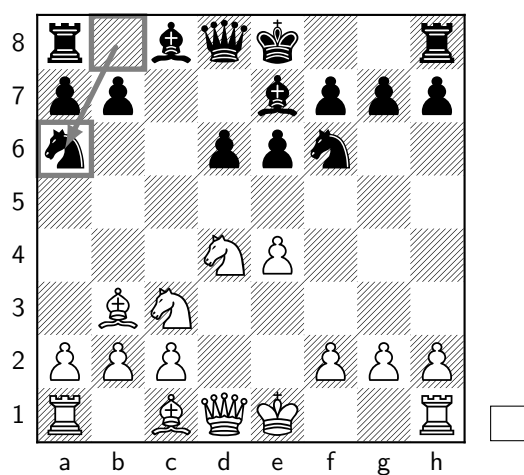
Black: ?

2012

Result: *



8... Nf6



8... Nbd7 9 fxe6 fxe6 10 Nxe6 Qa5 11 Nxe7+
Qf7 12 Nf5

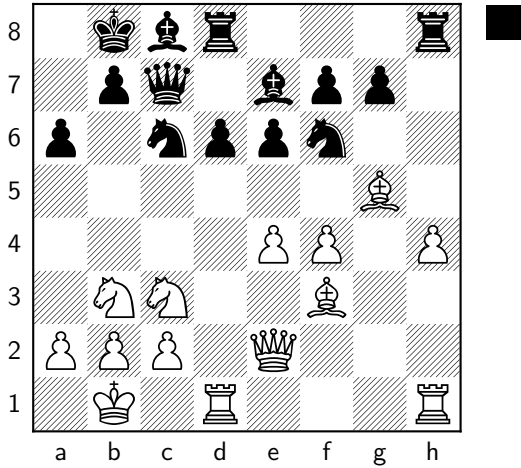
*

White: Exercise 18
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



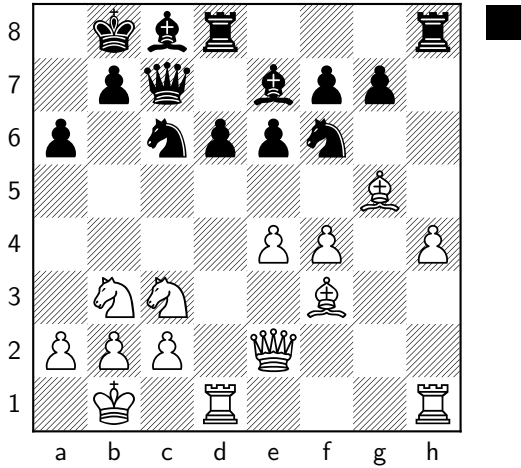
*

White: Solution to Exercise 18
Black: ?

?

2012

Result: *



18... Nf8
*