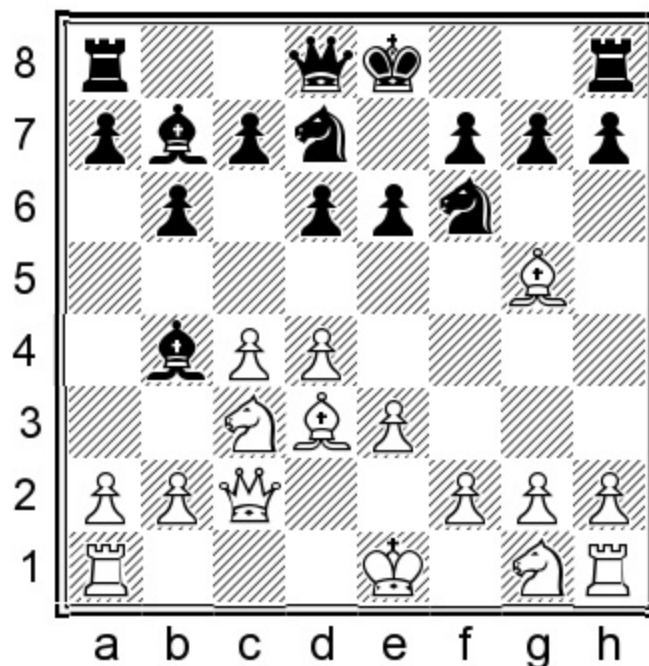


Show/Hide Solution

13...c4!= Black gains space and will follow up by pushing the a- and b-pawns. This method of releasing the tension normally comes with the drawback of giving White a free hand to play in the centre with e3-e4, but that is not on the agenda here.

27. Alekhine – Nimzowitsch, New York 1927

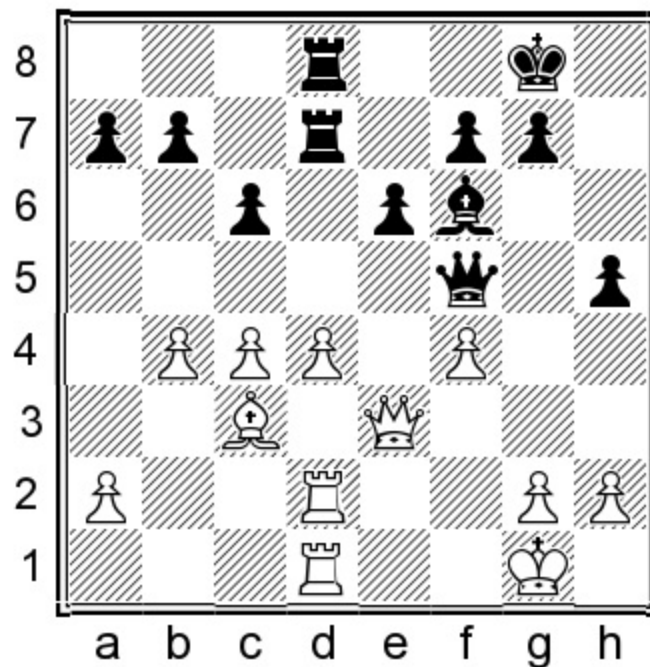


Show/Hide Solution

8.f3! A nice set-up against the bishops on b7 and b4, both of which fight for the e4-square. 8.e4?! is risky when White is less than fully developed. Black obtains good counterplay with: 8...c5! 9.d5 exd5

10.cxd5 This is the only critical move, but 10...♔e7 leaves Black with an improved Benoni position because the bishop is well placed on b4.

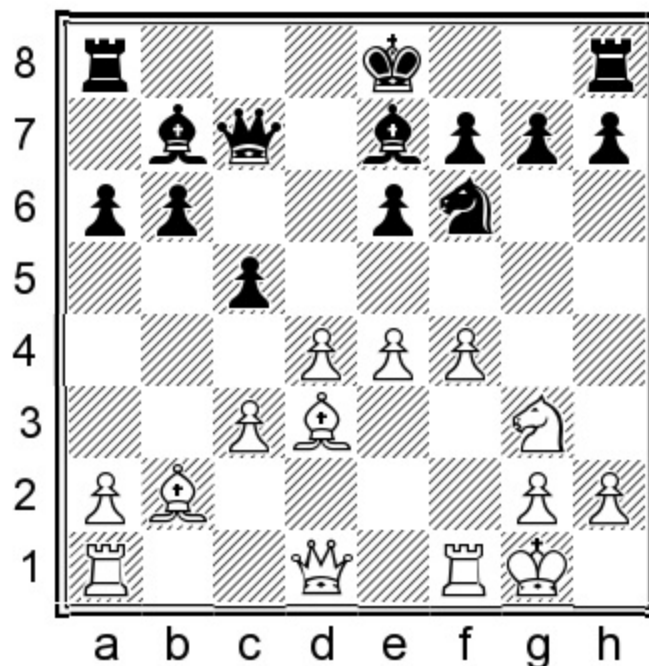
28. Kmocho – Alekhine, Kecskemet 1927



Show/Hide Solution

22...b5! Winning the d5-square for a heavy piece before White has time to interfere with a2-a4. **23.c5** Opening the c-file only helps Black, as the white rooks are busy defending the d-pawn. Kmocho tried 23.♔f3–+ but he lost a pawn and eventually the game. **23...g5** Having obtained a dominant position, Black can set about creating a second weakness.

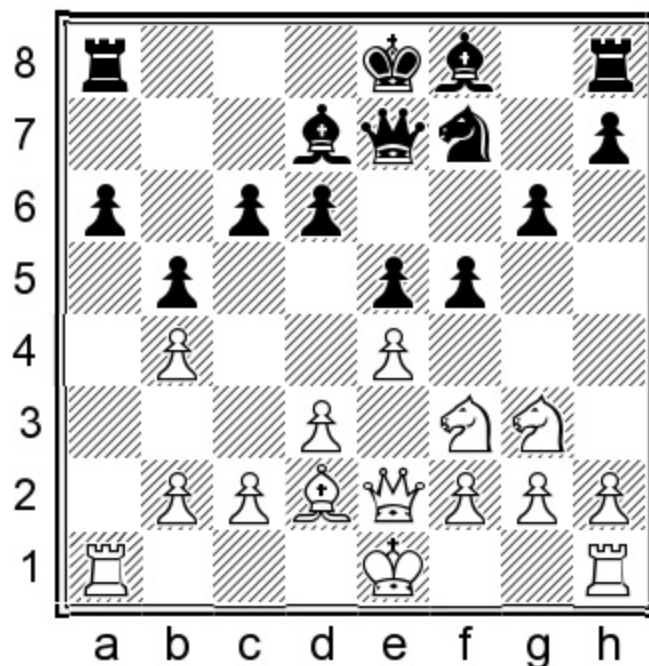
29. Bogoljubow – Alekhine, Germany/Netherlands (8) 1929



Show/Hide Solution

14...h5! Challenging the knight with extra force, as the e4-pawn is loose. There is no point in starting with 14...c4; it's better to retain the option of ...cxd4. **15.♖e2** 15.e5 gives Black the d5-square, but there is also 15...h4!?, leading to a line which is not especially relevant, but which may still be of interest to those who are curious: 16.exf6 hxc3 17.fxg7 ♜xh2 18.♞f3! ♔xe7 19.♞xg3 ♜xf4 20.♜g4 (20.♔xh2? ♞h8†–+) 20...♞xg2† 21.♞xg2 ♜e3† 22.♔f1 ♜xd3†– The position is close to equal, but I slightly prefer Black's chances with three pawns versus a piece. **15...h4** **16.♘h1**– The knight can't easily return to the game, as White needs to defend the f-pawn.

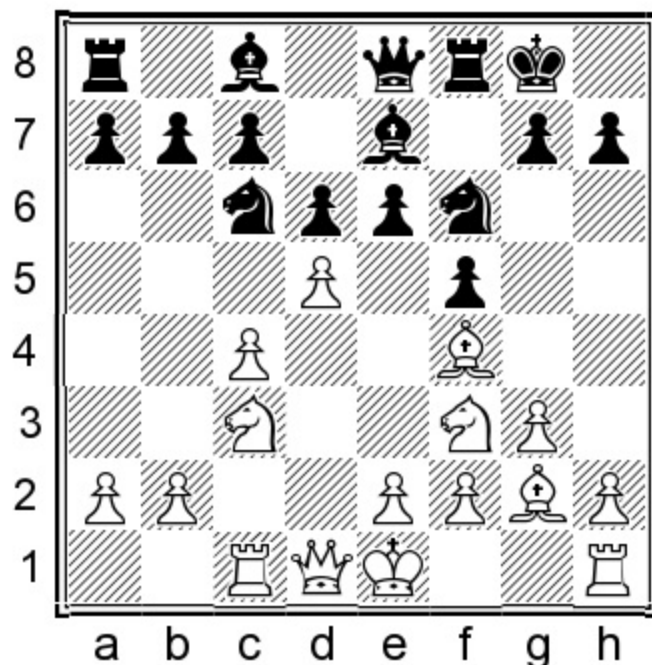
30. Yates – Alekhine, San Remo 1930



Show/Hide Solution

16...f4 Black gains space and avoids giving White a chance for exf5. Black will follow up by pushing the g-pawn.

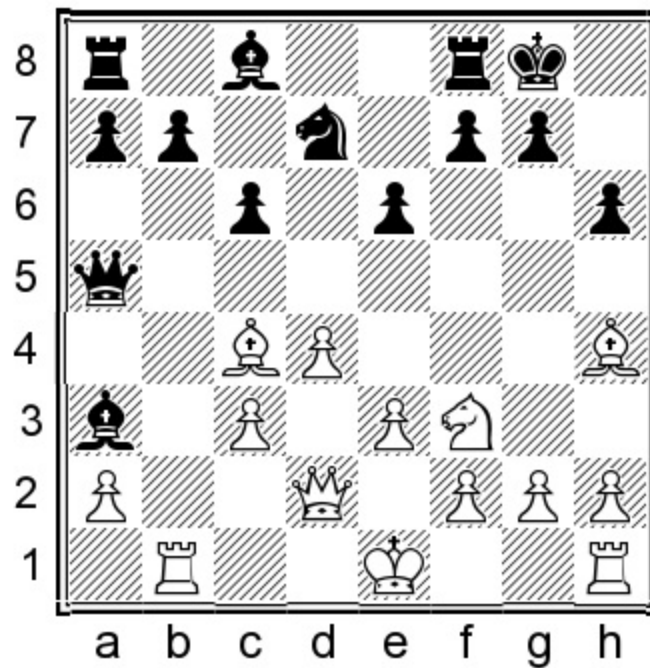
31. Bogoljubow – Alekhine, Germany (11) 1934



Show/Hide Solution

9...♞d8! Black avoids gifting White an open c-file, and prepares to recapture on e6 with the knight. 9...exd5? 10.cxd5± **10.♞b5** is met by **10...♞d7** or even 10...♞xd5!?.

32. Alekhine – Nimzowitsch, Zurich 1934

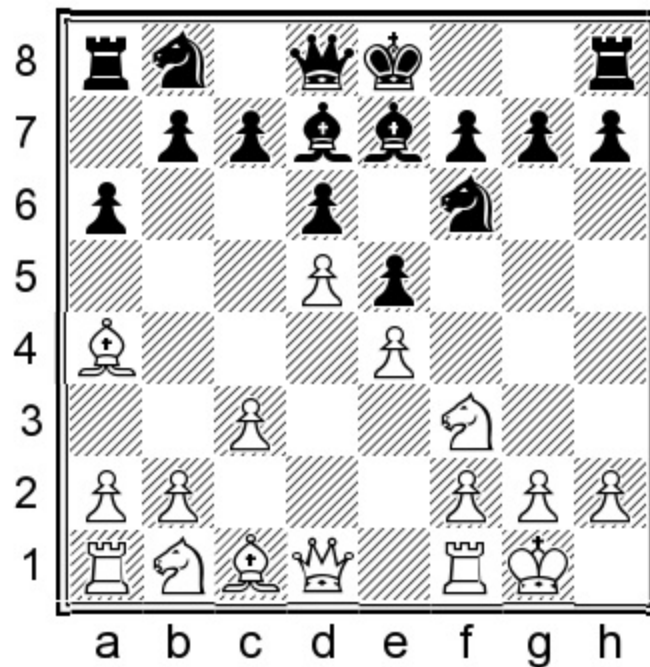


Show/Hide Solution

13...e5!= The bishop on c8 is no longer a problematic piece, and the potential queen exchange on d2 will suit the player with fewer central pawns.

13...b6 is an attempt to exchange bishops but 14.♞d3!± is a good reply.

33. Alekhine – Johner, Zurich 1934



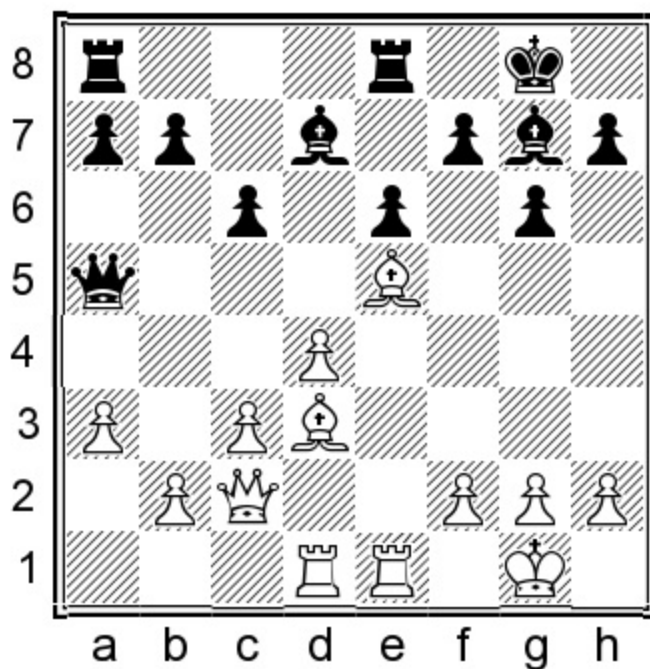
Show/Hide Solution

9...c2! Avoiding simplifications is best, as Black's light-squared bishop and queenside knight both belong on d7. Black needs the bishop to support future counterplay with ...f5, so ideas involving

...♙g4 and exchanging on f3 are nothing to be afraid of.

9.♙xd7† ♜bxd7=

34. Lasker – Capablanca, Moscow 1935



Show/Hide Solution

19.h4! With a few black pieces stuck on the queenside, White has time to open the h-file and go for an attack. A test solver opined that 19.♙c1 ♜ad8 20.b4 is a good alternative. It's true that White stands much better here too, but I see no point in delaying the more incisive plan of attacking on the kingside. **19...♙d8 20.h5 ♙g5** Black needs to defend against a sacrifice on g6. **21.hxg6 21.♙xg7?** ♜xg7 makes life easier for Black, who now has the option of bringing a rook to h8 in case the h-file opens up **21...hxg6 22.♙e3+–** White has a decisive attack.

Jose Raul Capablanca

“People who want to improve should take their defeats as lessons, and endeavour to learn what to avoid in the future. You must also have the courage of your convictions. If you think your move is good, make it.”

35. Lasker – Bogoljubow, Nottingham 1936