

Judit Polgar - Carlsen 2022

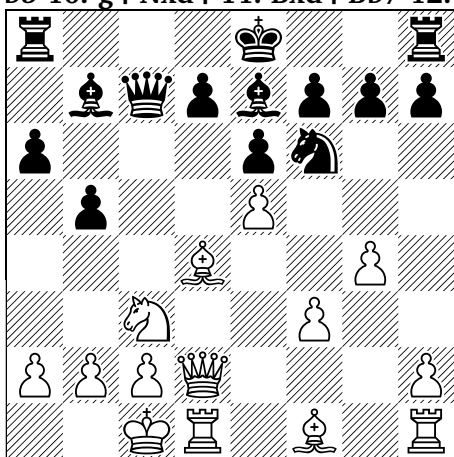
On July 2nd, 2022 during the candidate's chess tournament in Spain, Judit Polgar (White) and Magnus Carlsen (Black) play a casual blitz (3+0) skittles game in the park.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6

It's unusual for Carlsen to play the *Sicilian Taimanov* chess opening.

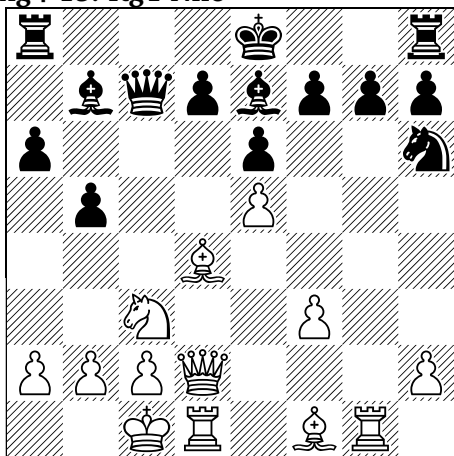
Polgar is no stranger to the Sicilian Taimanov, having played it with the Black pieces in a famous 1994 game against Shirov in Argentina.

5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. f3 Be7 9. O-O-O b5 10. g4 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 Bb7 12. e5



The usual moves to make here are Kb1 or g5, but Polgar played the novelty move e5.

12... Nxg4 13. Rg1 Nh6



White could not play 13. fxg3 because then Black's bishop would have taken the rook on h1.

While 13... Bxf3 is technically Black's best move

here, there were a number of tactical complications Black would have been exposed to, such as 14. Bg2 Bxg2? 15. Qxg2 and now both Black's a8 rook and g4 knight are under attack, causing him to lose a piece.

14. Bd3 Bf8

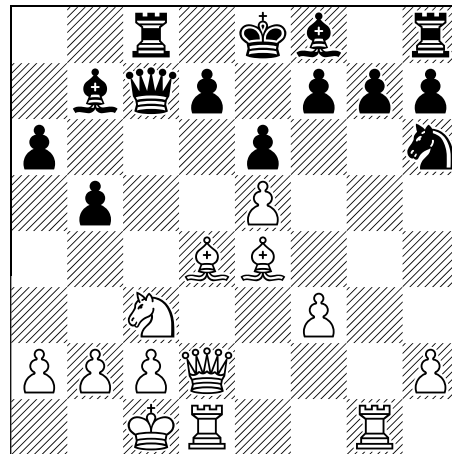
Black is now forced to put his dark-squared bishop back on its home square. Other moves are worse. For example, if Black instead played 14... O-O?, Black would have been exposed to a mating attack, such as 14... O-O? 15. Rxg7+ Kxg7 16. Rg1+ Ng4 17. Rxg4+ Kh8 18. Qh6 Bg5+ 19. Rxg5 Qxc3 20. Qg7#

Black can make other moves after 14... O-O?, but they all lead to checkmate.

Back to the game that was on the board, it continued as follows.

14... Bf8 15. Be4 Rc8?

Rc8 was a blunder; White can now move and win:



16. Bb6!

Black cannot save both his queen and king. For example, if Black now plays 16... Qxb6??, White can mate with Qxd7#. The audience, after realizing Polgar was winning, cheered. Magnus played the lost position for a few more moves:

16... Bxe4 17. Bxc7 Bc6 18. Bd6 Nf5 19. Ne4 1-0

And this is how Judit Polgar beat Magnus in only 19 moves.