



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 104

21st of February 2014

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Editorial Preface

With the current issue we are celebrating 2 years of Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter. First of all we want to thank everyone who has been with us for all this time already and of course also all the others who joined us later on for the support and nice feedback that we have been getting over these last 2 years.

Lately we made some little modifications, but the structure of the Newsletter is still the same as it was in our 1st issue. We hope you enjoy our work and from our side we are ready to continue for many more years!

Now to the chess events:

Except for team competitions, only 2 big opens came to an end.

The Bronstein Memorial had 3 winners: Jobava, Fedorchuk and Oleksienko, all with 7/9. The Graz Open was won by Melkumyan with a fantastic 7.5/9.

We only have to be patient for two more weeks until the Candidates and the European Championship will start with thousands of nice games!

We wish you a lot of chess fun!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Ivanisevic, Ivan(2626)**
- **Acs, Peter(2569) [D10]**

Hungarian league,
2014.02.15



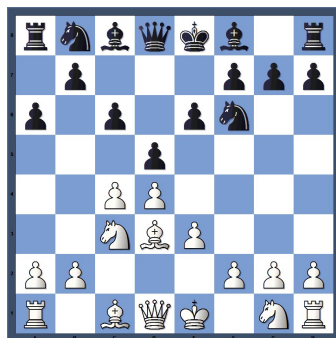
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Ivanisevic is a strong attacking player. He wins many nice games, especially with the white pieces, thanks to his sharp and dangerous openings.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6 Acs chooses his favorite Slav opening with 4...a6.

5.♙d3 A rare move, which probably wants to avoid the recently popular line of 5. Nf3 Bf5. Black has several options here, the most common being b5, but the text move is also a very natural reaction.

5...e6

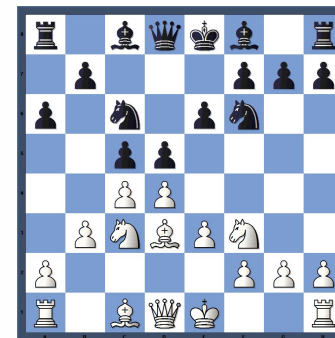


6.b3!? We are already in a more or less new position from a theoretical point of view. As White has already developed his light squared bishop, Black was ready to take on c4 to win the tempo, followed by the standard b5-c5 operation. From now on White intends to recapture with the b-pawn to

strengthen his center and also to develop the bishop to b2 later on. [6.♘f3 would transpose to a main line after 6...dxc4 7.♙xc4 b5 followed by c5.]

6...c5 This looks like a loss of a tempo, but it is actually one of the main ideas of this line. Black takes some ground by freeing his position. He intends to challenge the center with Nc6.

7.♘f3 ♘c6



8.O-O! Very deep preparation, involving a pawn sacrifice.

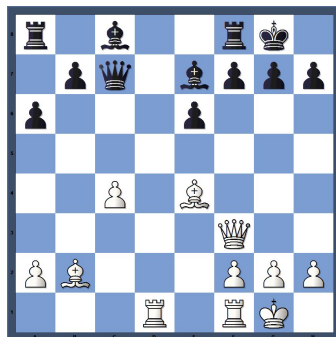
8...dxc4 [8...cxd4 9.exd4 ♙e7 was an option to avoid the complications, but then White might get a better position with 10.c5 Because of the a6 move Black has no good way to undermine the c5 pawn with b6 and it might also be unpleasant to deal with 10...O-O 11.♘a4! ♘d7 12.♙f4+; 8...♙e7 loses a tempo, so White clarifies the situation in the center: 9.dxc5! ♙xc5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.h3! Preventing Bg4, followed by Bb2 and Ne2-d4, with a typical fight against the isolated pawn, where White's chances are better.]

9.bxc4 cxd4 10.exd4 ♘xd4 There was no way back, Acs had to grab the material, otherwise Black has just given up the center.

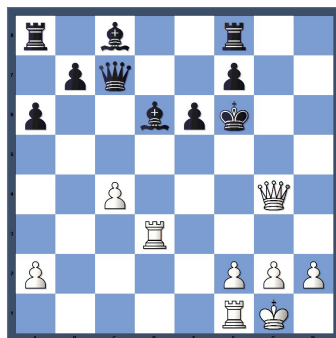
11.♘xd4 ♙xd4 12.♙b2 This game was played next to me. Ivanisevic was still blitzing out his moves. Black is seriously behind in development and he needs to lose a further tempo

to move away with the queen. If he succeeds to play Be7 and O-O on the other hand, he will end up with an extra pawn.

12...♔b6 Black brings back his queen into safety. [12...♔d8!? would probably be met similarly to the game: 13.♔f3 ♕e7 14.♖ad1 White always brings his pieces with tempo. 14...♔c7 15.♘e4 ♘xe4 16.♙xe4 O-O



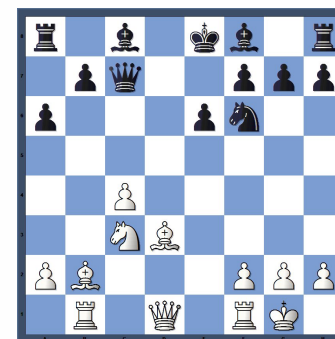
This position arises after very natural play by both sides. It might be a critical one also from the opening point of view. Black is ready to consolidate with f5 or e5, pushing back the pieces and keeping an extra pawn. Therefore White must use the moment to gain something... 17.♙xh7+! is the standard series of sacrifice, but it seems to only lead to a draw: 17...♔xh7 18.♔h5+ ♔g8 19.♙xg7! Destroying the kingside, followed by bringing the rook along the 3rd rank. 19...♔xg7 20.♔g4+ ♔f6! (20...♔h6 21.♖d3 ♙g5! might also be playable, although it looks very suspicious after 22.f4) 21.♖d3 ♙d6!



With the idea to run away with Ke7. 22.♔h4+ ♔g6 23.♔g4+! (The mate can be prevented after 23.f4 23...♔c5+ 24.♔h1 f6! 25.♖g3+ ♔f7 26.♔h7+ ♔e8-- The king escapes and Black has two extra bishops.) ; 12...♔h4!? is the computer's suggestion but for a human it looks suspicious because the queen might get stuck out of the game.]

13.♖b1 And the queen needs to move again.. .

13...♔c7



14.♘e4! White trades a defender and opens the diagonal for the b2 bishop. It is not easy to finish the development because of the g7 pawn and the pressure on the f6 knight.

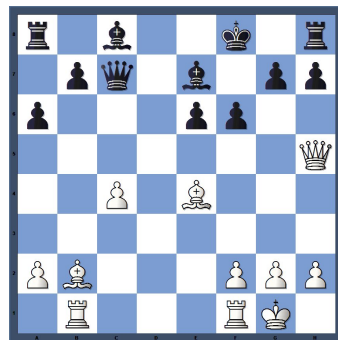
14...♙e7 15.♔f3 Overpressing the f6 knight, so Black is forced to open the long diagonal. [Another attacking option was 15.♘xf6+ 15...♙xf6 16.♙xf6 gxf6 17.♔h5 followed by Rfe1. The black king will stay in the center forever, although the final breakthrough is still far away. Black will try to shelter his king one e7.]

15...♘xe4 16.♙xe4 f6?! After a long thought, Black decided to keep the king in the center. [16...O-O! should have been played. We have the same position as in the 12...Qd8 line, with only the rook standing on b1 and not on d1. Once again the critical continuation is 17.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 18.♔h5+ ♔g8 19.♙xg7! This could be the only reason why Acs refused

to castle kingside, but it again seems to lead to a perpetual, just as in the 12... Qd8 line. 19...♔xg7 20.♚g4+ ♔f6 21.♖b3 ♕d6 22.♚h4+ ♔g6 23.♚g4+=[

17.♚h5+ Avoiding castling forever.

17...♔f8 White cannot lead a mating attack directly, he must continue with some prophylactic measures. Black has only one dream in this position, to finish the development of the queenside, for example with Bd7-c6. Therefore White puts pressure on the b7 pawn. [17...g6? is obviously a blunder because of 18.♕xg6+]



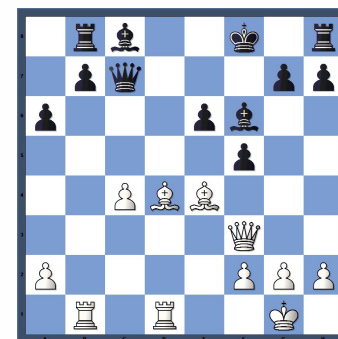
18.♚f3!? [Another strong move was 18.♖fd1!? 18...♖b8 (The idea is that after 18...♕d7 19.♕xf6! ♕xf6 20.♖xb7 wins.) 19.♕d4 Preventing Bd7 again, this time White could play Ba7. 19...b6 White has a very deep move here: 20.h3! Not necessary of course, but the point is to still keep the bishop on c8. Black has no useful move with any other pieces and 20...♕d7 allows 21.♕xb6! ♖xb6 22.♖xb6 ♚xb6 23.♖xd7± With a big advantage and here we can see that h3 is a very useful move to have the back rank opened.]

18...♖b8 19.♕d4 White opens the rook's file and intends to confuse Black with Ba7 or Bb6.

19...f5 [Ivanisevic's point of bringing back the queen to f3 becomes clear after the most obvious 19...b6 Now White plays 20.♚e3! and Black has problems with the b6 pawn. To grab the c4 pawn is of course always too optimistic. With a king on f8 one should never grab pawns and open new files for the rooks. 20...♚xc4 loses to 21.♖fc1 ♚a4 22.♚f4!+- trapping the b8 rook.]

20.♖fd1 Activating the last unemployed piece. [It would also have made sense to transfer the bishop back to e3 first with 20.♕a7 20...♖a8 21.♕e3 ♖b8 22.♖fd1 Threatening Bf4. But of course the text move is more human.]

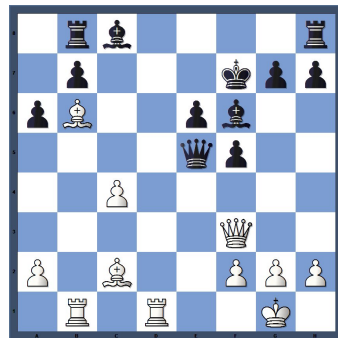
20...♕f6 The e4 bishop is suddenly hanging and Black is ready to trade some pieces to ease his defensive task. White needs to continue precisely.



21.♕b6! [21.♕a7? could be met by 21...fxe4]

21...♚e5 [21...fxe4 is refuted by 22.♚a3+! ♚e7 (22...♕e7 23.♕xc7 ♕xa3 24.♖d8+ ♔f7 25.♖xh8+-) 23.♕c5+-; 21...♚xc4 22.♚g3 ♖a8 White has many tempting options. A spectacular attacking move is 23.♕d8!+- trying to free the d8 square for the rook.]

22.♕c2 ♔f7 Black is one step closer to connecting his rooks, but developing the c8 bishop still looks like a hopeless task.



23.♖b3! White further improves his pieces.

23...h5 Black cannot move with his pieces, so he at least prevents the checks on h5. But of course it is already a bad sign if somebody has to make such moves.

24.♖e3 ♕b2 The only square for the queen.

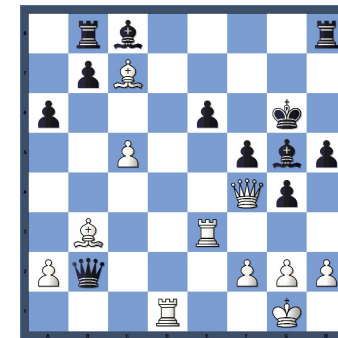
25.♗b3! might look a bit strange, but the bishop is actually going to stand extremely well after c5, getting a new target on e6!

25...g5 Black tries a clever attempt to make some artificial safety for his king on g6, but in a bad position all moves are just bad.

26.c5 ♖g6 27.♗c7! Ivanisevic continues with his precise and energetic moves! [27.♗xe6? immediately would only help Black: 27...♗xe6 28.♖xe6 ♖he8 Suddenly Black connects his rooks and gets rid of his poor c8 bishop.]

27...g4 [27...♖a8 loses to 28.♗xe6! ♗xe6 29.♖xe6 And the difference of having the Bc7 move included is that 29...♖he8 30.♗e5! wins.]

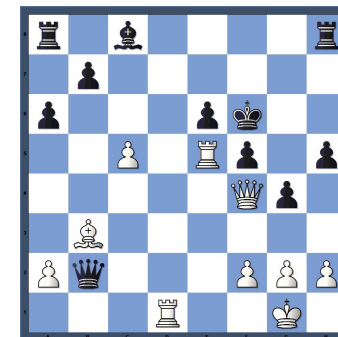
28.♕f4 ♖a8 [28...♗g5 was Acs's intention when he pushed g4, but it has a beautiful refutation!



29.♕e5! ♕xe5 30.♗xe5 ♗xe3 31.fxe3+- Black loses a full rook.]

29.♗e5! Trading the only defender of the king. Black cannot save himself...

29...♗xe5 30.♖xe5 ♖f6 Allowing White to finish the game in style. [30...♖e8 31.♖de1+- The e6 pawn will fall and it also means the end of the game as Kf6 allows Qh6.]



31.♖xf5+! exf5 32.♖d6+ ♖e7 33.♕g5+ Black resigned in view of Rd8 mate. A great attacking game! **1-0**

(2) Shimanov, Aleksandr(2658) - Rasulov, Vugar(2534) [A45]

Minsk Open, 2014.02.17

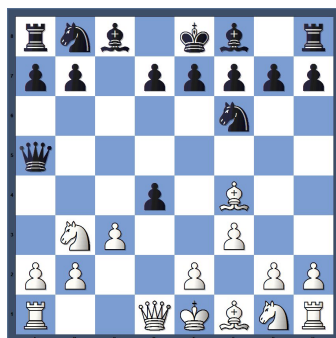


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

White wins a very nice attacking game after Black's dubious opening choice.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗g5 The Trompowsky variation. White likes using this weapon when he wants to get his opponent to less theoretical areas. Black reacts with an ambitious setup. 2...d5 is considered to be the most solid.

2...♞e4 3.♗f4 c5 4.f3 ♔a5+ 5.c3 ♘f6 6.♞d2 cxd4 7.♞b3
All these moves are well-known with thousands of games in the database. Here Black has a wide range of choices. Qd8 and Qb6 are the main moves. The text is the most ambitious and has also been tried in many games, but it seems rather suspicious to me...



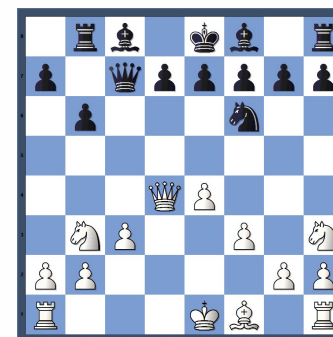
7...♔f5?! Forcing White to give up his strong bishop in order to restore the material balance, but White gets too many free tempi by attacking the wandering queen.

8.♗xb8! Quite unusual moves for both sides, but what to do, this is an unusual opening.

8...♖xb8 9.♔xd4! Gaining an important tempo again by attacking the a7 pawn. Black has no b8 knight anymore to develop with Nc6 tempo and White is intending to castle queenside to launch his attack as quickly as possible.

9...b6 10.e4 The queen has no good square to leave, it must move into another tempo to finally get away from the danger zone.

10...♔f4 11.♞h3 ♔c7



12.e5! Pushing back all the black pieces to the 8th rank.

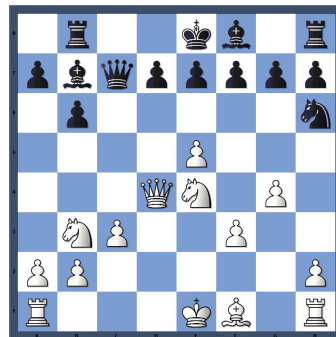
12...♞g8 Many great players - such as Ivanchuk and Svidler - have played like this as Black, but is it really worth the bishop pair to have such a passive position?! If White does not play accurately, things might quickly go in Black's favor.

13.♞f2! This looks like the most accurate move! [13.O-O-O is more common, but in this case Black is able to solve the problem of his g8 knight with 13...e6 followed by Ne7-c6.]

13...♞h6 Trying to activate the knight through f5, but after White's strong reaction the knight ends up at the edge of the board. [Now on 13...e6 White has 14.♞e4 preventing Ne7 because of the check on d6.; Maybe 13...f6 to undermine the annoying e5 pawn was an option, but I doubt that Black could objectively play like this.]

14.g4! White is going to castle queenside anyway, so such moves are easy to make. Of course with the knig on g1 we would have a different story...

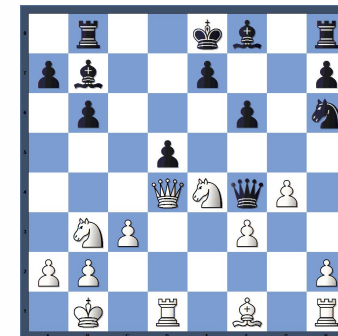
14...♙b7 15.♘e4



15...f5 The only way to get back the h6 knight to the game through f7 and to try and finish the development. However it also has the drawback that the position is going to open and then the king on e8 who will be stuck in the center is becoming more vulnerable.

16.exf6! gxf6 17.O-O-O White's main attacking idea is Bb5 followed by Rhe1, quickly punishing the king. With the following couple of moves Black would like to trade queens to avoid getting mated...

17...♙f4+ 18.♙b1 d5 The endgame would be excellent for Black as he would have no more worries about his king and also the two bishops would soon start to work. However White is not forced to move his knight...



19.g5!! White creates the threat of Nxf6 and the pawn cannot be taken as the rook is hanging on h8. Therefore Black is forced to accept the sacrifice.

19...dxe4 20.♙d7+ Shimanov sends the opponent's king on a long run.

20...♙f7 21.♙c4+ Such checks, developing with tempo, should always be given.

21...♙g6 22.gxf6!? A new file opens on the king. [Actually 22.gxh6 was also perfectly fine. The g-file opens for the rook. Even materially White is holding the balance, but of course the situation of the black king plays a more important role.]

22...♙c8 [On 22...exf6 the best is 23.♙hg1+ ♙h5 24.♙g3+- intending to mate with Rh3 followed by Rg1.; 22...exf3 23.fxe7 should not last long for Black.]

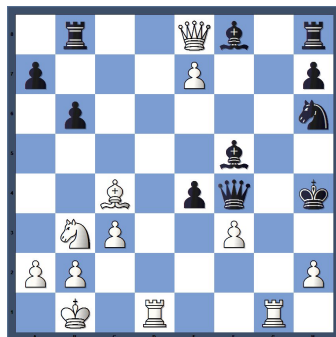
23.♙hg1+ [23.♙e8+!? to force Black to take on f6 would have been even more precise. 23...♙xf6 24.♙c6+ e6 25.fxe4 and Rhf1 next was also just a simple win for White, but the text move is also good.]

23...♙h5 The only move! It seems to be completely winning, but White should continue finding the best attacking moves. [23...♙xf6 24.♙c6+ e6 25.fxe4+- is over.]

24.♙e8+! Haunting the king, but it continues his journey at the rim of the board.

24...♔h4 25.fxex7! Usually the simplest moves are the strongest ones... White will get a new queen soon.

25...♙f5 [25...♙g7 is met by 26.♖xh8 ♙xh8 27.e8=♖+–]



26.exf8=♖ What an amazing position with three queens and an h4 king on the board!

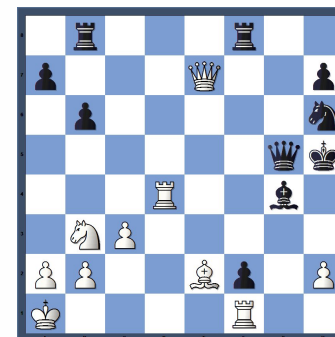
26...exf3+ 27.♔a1 ♖xf8 28.♖e7+ ♔h5 [On 28...♔h3 White has several wins. An easy one is 29.♖d2 and it is difficult to parry the Bf1 mate threat.]

29.♖d4! White continues attacking with tempo. The end should be close!

29...f2 30.♙e2+! ♙g4 31.♖f1 Blocking Black's last hope. White loses one attacking piece, but continues attacking with three, which should still be enough. [According to the machine 31.♙xg4+ 31...♙xg4 32.♖xh7+ ♖h6 33.♖d5+! ♔h4 34.♖xg4+! ♙xg4 35.♖xh6 f1=♖+ 36.♙c1+– was even stronger and Black has no defence, but Shimanov's choice is more human and looks much simpler.]

31...♖g5 White finds a pretty way to obtain a decisive material advantage: [31...♖be8 leads to a lost endgame after 32.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 33.♖xf4 ♖xe2 34.♖4xf2+–; On 31...♖f7 which would have been the best practical chance, the strongest and the most beautiful is 32.♖e6!! ♖f6 33.♖d7! ♖f7 34.♖b5+! ♖g5 (34...♖f5 loses to 35.♖xf4 ♖xb5 36.♙xb5+–) 35.♙xg4+

♙xg4 36.♖d5+– wins decisive material.]



32.♖xg4!! ♙xg4 [32...♖xe7 33.♖e4+ ♔g6 34.♖xe7+– White is a piece up.]

33.♖xh7+ ♖h6 34.♙xg4+ ♔g5 White is even materially ahead, but the f2 pawn could create some counterplay if he makes a mistake. The next move is extremely important in order to continue the hunt of the king!

35.h4+! ♖xh4 The only move, but now new unpleasant checks are coming...

36.♖g7+ ♔f4 37.♙d4!? Bishop moves were also strong, but White brings a new attacker to the game!

37...♖h8 A desperate attempt to trade queens, but of course the mate is coming soon. [37...♖xg4 is refuted by 38.♖xf2+ ♔g3 39.♖g2+ ♔xg2 40.♖xg4+– Everything is falling with check, so Black cannot make use of the weak back rank.]

38.♙e2+ ♔e4 39.♖g6+ ♔d5 40.♖e6+ [Black resigned in view of 40.♖e6+ 40...♔c5 41.b4+ ♔b5 42.♙d4+ ♔a6 (42...♔a4 43.♖b3#) 43.♙e2+ ♔b7 44.♖c6# An entertaining game!] **1-0**

(3) Akopian, Vladimir(2682) - Chatalbashev, Boris(2522) [B07]

Bronstein Mem Open A 2014(6.14),
2014.02.16



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see an interesting fighting game where White sacrificed an exchange and even went to b4 with his king, but somehow still won the game!

1.e4 d6 Chatalbashev is one of the few players who love to play the Pirc.

2.d4 ♘f6 **3.** ♘c3 **g6** **4.** ♙e3 This is one of the main lines. White does not hesitate and develops the queenside pieces quickly in order to be able to castle queenside.

4... ♙g7 [4...c6 and; 4...a6 are the two other main lines here.]

5. ♖d2 White's idea is simple, to play Bh6 at some point or to castle queenside, followed by an attack in the center.

5...c6 [White should not be afraid of moves like 5... ♘g4 because of the simple 6. ♙g5 h6 7. ♙h4 g5 8. ♙g3 and White is better.]

6.h3 I am not sure about this move. We would be back in the main lines after 6.Bh6.

6...O-O Now Black can comfortably castle kingside. Usually White's idea would be to play h4-h5, but it is clear that after 6.h3 it would at least be a loss of a tempo.

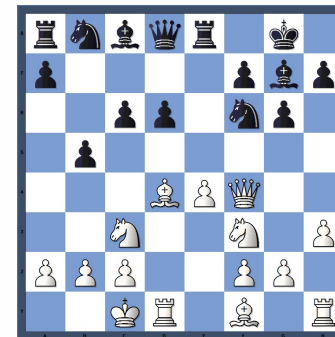
7. ♘f3 **e5** Black tries to immediately create some play in the center. [Personally I think a move like 7...b5 followed by Nbd7 and only later e5 also gives Black a playable position.]

8.O-O-O Now White already wants to play dxe5 next.

8...exd4 **9.** ♙xd4 [After 9. ♘xd4 9...b5! we end up in a very unclear position.]

9... ♖e8 **10.** ♖f4 A very logical move, protecting the e4 pawn and also putting extra pressure on the d6 pawn.

10...b5 Black finally plays b5. He wants to play b4 next.



11.e5!? White is entering deep complications. [Another interesting try could have been 11. ♙c5 11... ♖a5 12. ♙xd6 and now Black has the nice 12... ♘h5! (12...b4 was losing to 13. ♙c7!) 13. ♖g5 And White might be better, but things are pretty unclear.]

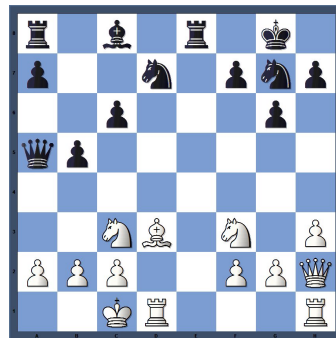
11... ♘h5 The white queen has to take a passive place.

12. ♖h2 **dxe5** [Including 12...b4 would not bring anything for Black. 13. ♘e4]

13. ♙xe5 ♘d7! A good move. At first sight White's position looks much better, but things are pretty unclear. Black can be very fast with Qa5 and b4 and the white queen on h2 is not a great piece.

14. ♙xg7 ♘xg7 **15.** ♙d3 White is planning to play Ne4 after b4 and he develops a piece at the same time.

15... ♖a5 Now b4 move is a threat.



16. ♖he1! There is no time to lose! [After the usual 16. ♔b1 16... ♘c5 the position should be around equal.]

16... ♖xe1 [After the tempting 16... b4 17. ♘e4! looks very strong. 17... ♗xa2 18. ♗d6! Another very strong move. The position is complicated, but White should be better.]

17. ♖xe1 ♘c5 Black almost finished his development.

18. ♗d6 There is no better try for White.

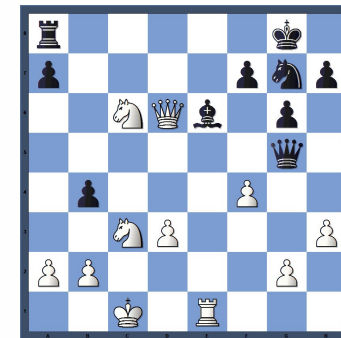
18... ♘xd3+ 19. cxd3 ♘e6! Black is done with his development, all pieces are in the game and he has a solid structure. Black can't be much worse here.

20. ♘e5? A very tricky move, but probably a mistake. [White should have tried to get control over the black squares by playing 20. a3! followed by d4 and Qc5. White's position might be a bit better.]

20... b4! Now things are getting pretty forced.

21. ♘xc6 The only move.

21... ♗g5+ 22. f4

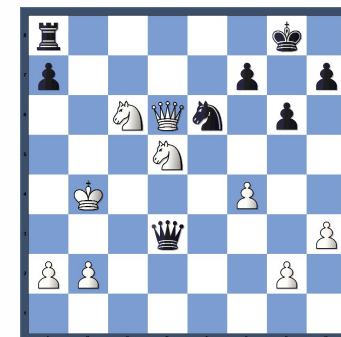


22... ♗h4! This is probably the move that Akopian missed when he played 20. Ne5?. Both the rook on e1 and the knight on c3 are attacked, so White already has no choice but to give up the exchange.

23. ♖xe6 ♘xe6 24. ♘d5! A good practical move. White doesn't care about "gambling" anymore and is ready to run with his king, in the hope to get good play on the dark squares. As we know, the queen and knights can be very dangerous pieces in the attack.

24... ♗e1+ A logical move. The white king needs to run now.

25. ♔c2 ♗e2+ 26. ♔b3 ♗xd3+ 27. ♔xb4 So far everything was forced.

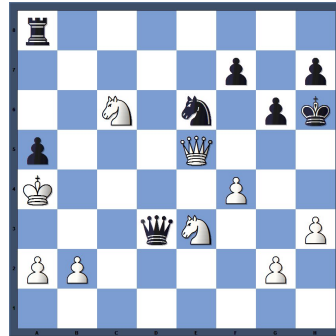


27... a5+! Another nice move by Black. The position is still very tense. Black needs to play very precisely because the white pieces could become very dangerous.

28. ♖a4 ♕g7? This is a serious mistake! Black hands the initiative over to White. [It was much easier to play 28... ♖c2+ 29. ♖a3 ♕c5+ and reach an endgame where Black is clearly better.]

29. ♖e5+ Now it is White's turn to attack!

29... ♖h6 30. ♘e3 Ng4 is a deadly threat.



30... f5?? Black panics... [After 30... ♖e4+! 31. ♖xe4 ♘c5+ 32. ♖b5 ♘xe4 we would still reach a very interesting endgame. It is hard to say who is better here...]

31. ♖xe6 Simple and strong! The game is over now...

31... ♖a6 32. g4 What a sad end of a fighting game for Black!
1-0

(4) Mista, Aleksander(2582) - Najer, Evgeny(2641) [B90]

TCh-CZE Extraliga 2013-14(7.1),
2014.02.15



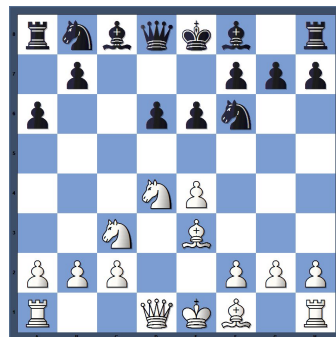
GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Najer is known as a very aggressive and fighting player. His results with White are great, but sometimes he is also just getting crushed, especially when he is Black. We will face a great attacking game by Mista, who evaluates the situation perfectly, sacrifices a rook for 2 pieces and simply mates the black king.

1.e4 c5 As for most fighting players, Najer's main opening is the Najdorf.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 So we are in the main line and now Black has to choose whether to play 6...e6 or 6...e5.

6...e6 When I was younger I had a discussion with one of my chess friends about whether the position after 6...e6 is still a Najdorf or a Sheveningen. I myself only played 6...e5 and always have been very stubborn in my opinion that in the Najdorf the pawn has to be placed on e5 and that the rest is Sheveningen! :)



7.g4!? One of the most aggressive lines. [7.f3 is the most played move here, with the idea of Qd2, g4 and 0-0-0 with many thousands of games being played here before.]

7...h6 is probably the most solid move, but it already gives White nice play. [7...e5 would lead to very forced lines. 8.♘f5 g6 (The other main line is 8...h5 9.g5 ♘xe4 10.♘xg7+ ♙xg7 11.♘xe4 d5 With an unclear position.) 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5 d5 Things are far from clear here, even after many years of computer analyses.]

8.♙g2 A tricky move. Usually White plays 8.h3, defending against Black's e5 push.

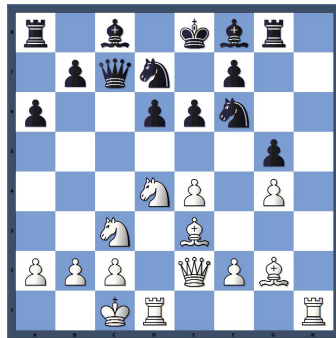
8...g5?! A very typical and logical move with the idea of taking control over the dark squares, but now White sort of saved a tempo. [Black already had to go for 8...e5 9.♘f5 g6 Now White has quite a few moves and one of the main ones is 10.h4 gxf5 11.exf5 With a very complicated position.]

9.h4! This is exactly why g5 was a bit too early. White immediately launches very dangerous play.

9...♖g8 Nothing else to do, Black needs to protect the g5 pawn.

10.hxg5 hxg5 11.♙e2 White is getting ready to castle queenside.

11...♘bd7 12.0-0-0 ♙c7 It is hard to blame Black for such a move. [But 12...♘e5 first would probably have been a better option.]



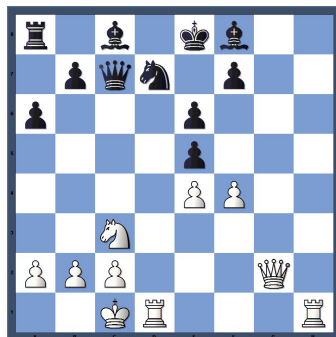
13. ♖f3! An excellent move by Mista who tries to open the position as much as possible, using the fact that Black is still undeveloped.

13... ♗xg4 14. ♕xg5 ♖ge5 Black continues trying to keep the position on the dark squares. [Even if it looks very dangerous 14... ♖c5 might have been a better try. 15. ♕h4 b5 Black's position is looking very shaky, but maybe things are still more or less OK. 16. a3 ♕b7 17. ♖d4 White is better, but the position is complicated.]

15. ♖xe5!? Mista starts a very direct attack with a nice sacrifice, but there was actually no need for it. [The more simple 15. ♖h7 would keep a big advantage and of course Black can't play 15... ♖xf3? since after 16. ♖xf3 ♖xg5 17. ♖xf7+ ♕d8 18. ♕h3 White has a mating attack.]

15... ♖xg5 16. f4 This was White's idea. A sacrifice of 2 pieces for the rook and a try to overroll Black's defence lines.

16... ♖xg2 17. ♖xg2 dxe5



18. f5! Exactly! White is weakening Black's pawn structure even more. Now all the white pieces will join the attack.

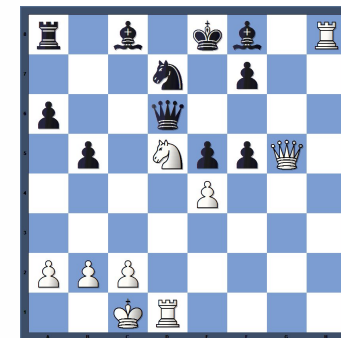
18... exf5 This move is losing, but it hard to find a better one... White's attack is just too strong.

19. ♖d5 ♖c6 [There might be a tougher fight after 19... ♖d6 but after the simple 20. ♖g5 b5 21. ♖xf5 White's attack is still deadly.]

20. ♖h8 b5 Too late Mr. Najer, too late...

21. ♖g5 Threatening to mate on e7.

21... ♖d6



22. ♖xf8+! Mista is finishing the game with a nice final blow.

22... ♖xf8 [22... ♖xf8 23. ♖c7# would have been a prettier end of the game.]

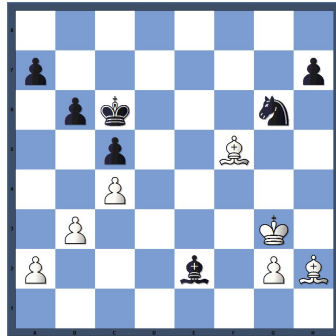
23. ♖d8+ ♖g7 24. ♖g1+ Followed by mate in a couple of moves. We saw a really great attacking game by White and another good example on how dangerous and how quickly it can be over after the smallest inaccuracy in the Sicilian! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Sargissian, G(2671)-Mochalov, E(2479)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.11
[CEWN]

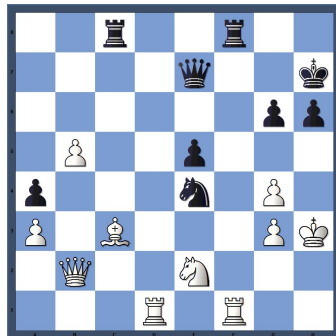
1. +-



(6) Gabuzyan, H(2534)-Zhigalko, S(2661)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.12

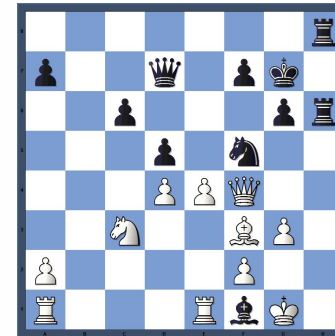
1... -+



(7) Bernardskiy, V(2565)-Shimanov, A(2658)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.14

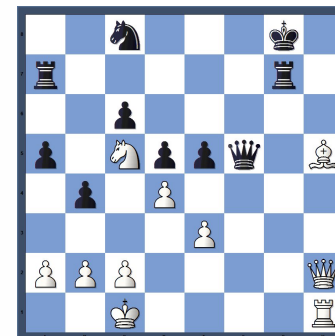
1... -+



(8) Jobava, B(2706)-Savchenko, B(2556)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15

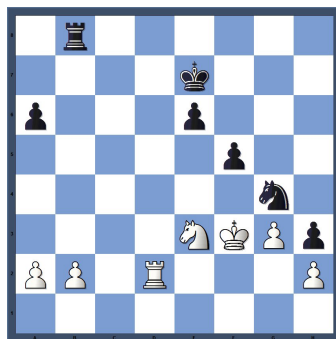
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(9) Ter Sahakyan, S(2575)-Grachev, B(2669)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15

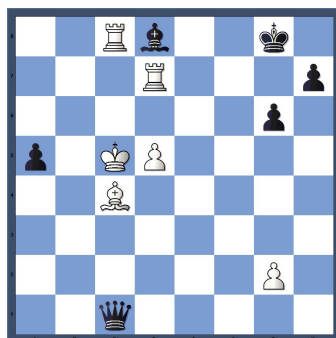
1... -+



(10) Romanov, E(2653)-Gabuzyan, H(2534)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15

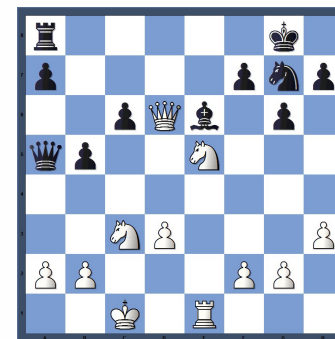
1... -+



(11) Akopian, V(2682)-Chatalbashev, B(2522)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.16

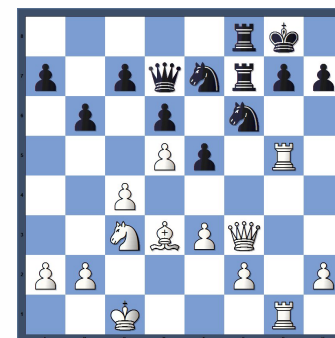
1... -+



(12) Ragger, M(2646)-Danner, G(2336)

Graz Open, 2014.02.15

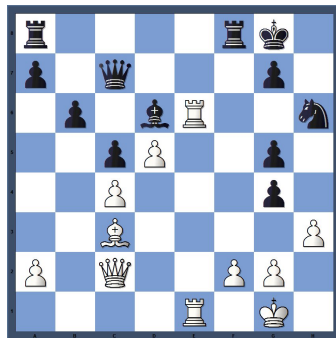
1. +-



(13) Zelcic, R(2545)-Saric, A(2540)

Croatian Championship, 2014.02.13

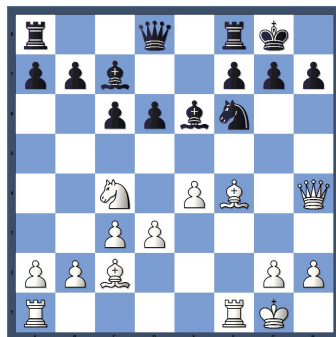
1. +-



(14) Simacek, P(2485)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2701)

Czech league, 2014.02.15

1... ♠



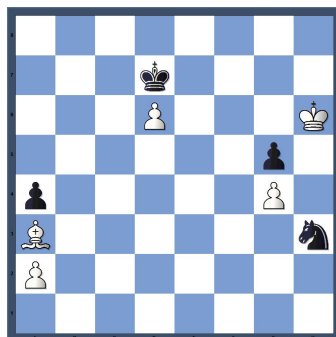
Endgame section

(15) Khalifman, Alexander(2611)
- Akopian, Vladimir(2682)

Bronstein Mem Open A 2014(5.4),
2014.02.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

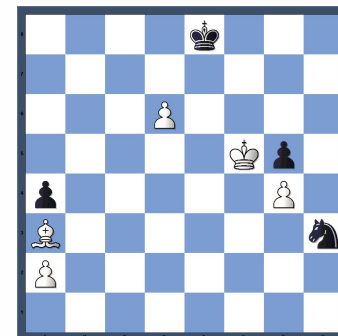


55...♔e6 White is a pawn up while the black knight on h3 is out of the game and his only function is to protect the g5 pawn. The position should be winning for White but things are not that simple. In case Black manages to give up his knight for the g4 and d6 pawns, the position would just be a draw because the a8 square is of the wrong color.

56.♟g6 A good move. Black can't do anything better than to move his king.

56...♔d7 57.♟f5 Once again Black doesn't really have a choice.

57...♔e8 [57...♔c6 would lead to an easy win for White as after 58.♟e6 ♟f4+ 59.♟f6 ♟h3 60.♟e7 the d-pawn is unstoppable.]



58.♟b2! White is using the moment to transfer his bishop from its passive position on a3 to a much more central square on e5, from where it will defend the d6 pawn and at the same time play against the black knight on h3. [58.♟e6 is premature because of 58...♟f4+]]

58...♔d7 59.♟e5 White's pieces have taken perfect places.

59...a3 is maybe Black's best chance, at least theoretically the a2 pawn could now theoretically be taken by the knight.

60.♟f6 White puts Black into the last zugzwang.

60...♟f2 Black needs to give up the g5 pawn. [60...♔e8 is not possible: 61.♟e6 ♟f4+ 62.♟xf4 gxf4 63.d7+ ♔d8 64.g5 f3 65.g6 f2 66.g7 f1=♔ 67.g8=♔+ And White is winning.]

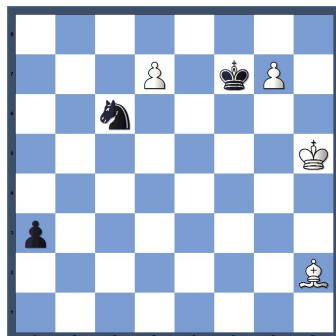
61.♟xg5 ♔e6 62.♟h2 Of course White holds on to the d6 pawn and he prepares the march of the g-pawn.

62...♟e4+ 63.♟h5 [63.♟h6 would have led to a more simple win.]

63...♟c3 At least Black is getting the a2 pawn, but White is still in time to get a winning position.

64.g5 ♟xa2 65.g6 ♟b4 The black knight is joining the defence from the c6 square and stopping the d-pawn.

66.g7 ♟f7 67.d7 ♟c6 Both white pawns are stopped, but Black is practically paralyzed.



68.♙e5! The last exact move. The white bishop is the clearly winning the endgame as he is both protecting the g7 pawn and stopping Black's pawn from promoting.

68...♘d8 69.♙a1 a2 70.♙g4 The game is over. All White needs to do is to come back to b3 with the king and take the a2 pawn, then to go c7 with the king and protect the d-pawn. Black can only watch...

70...♘e6 71.♙f3 ♖g8 72.♙e3 ♖f7 73.♙d2 ♘d8 74.♙c2 ♘b7 The last trick...

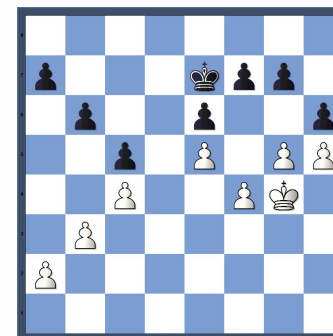
75.♙c3 followed by Kb2. Very nice endgame technique by Khalifman! **1-0**

**(16) Grachev, Boris(2669)
- Tiviakov, Sergei(2639)**

Minsk Open, 2014.02.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

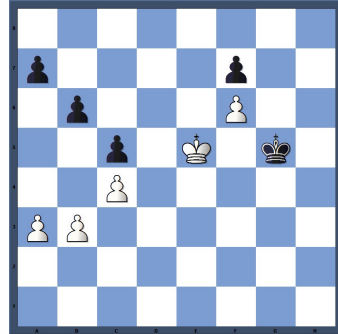


Pawn endgames are always very tricky and require very exact calculation. In the current position White has a big space advantage, but it looks almost impossible to break through as the black pawns are controlling all the invading squares of the king. However White makes a last attempt...

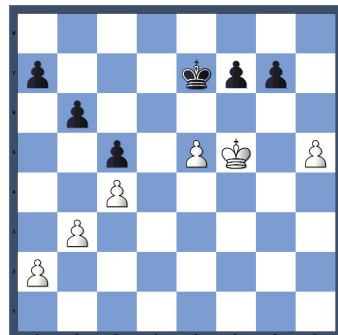
47.f5?? The only attempt to create an invading square for the king, but it is actually a blunder which could have cost to the game. In case of other moves Black would just have waited with the king with Kd7-e7 and held the draw. [If White includes 47.gxh6 47...gxh6 48.f5 he is not threatening to play f6 as the g-pawns are not on the board anymore, which is why Black can simply ignore everything and play 48...♙e8 49.♙f4 ♙d8= With an inevitable draw.]

47...exf5+? The most natural reaction, but it spoils the sudden chance. [47...hxg5! would have won for Black as the following lines demonstrate: 48.♙xg5 (48.f6+ 48...gxh6 49.h6 does not help. 49...f5+ is the simplest, creating a protected passed pawn. (49...♙f8 is also good. 50.exf6 ♙g8 51.♙h5

♔h7 52.♔xg5 e5 53.♔f5 ♔xh6 54.♔xe5 ♔g5 White loses the f-pawn. A last try could be 55.a3 with the idea to play b4, bxc5 and the king is going to take the c-pawn, thus also obtaining a passed pawn. However Black simply plays



55...a5!-+ (55...♔g6? 56.b4)) 50.♔xg5 ♔f8 51.♔h5 (51.♔f6 loses the pawn race by one tempo: 51...♔g8 52.h7+ ♔xh7 53.♔xf7 f4 54.♔xe6 f3-+) 51...♔g8 52.♔h4 ♔h7 53.♔g5 f4!-+ With an easy win. Black takes on h6, creates a new passed pawn with Kg6, f6 and easily converts the extra pawn.) 48...exf5 49.♔xf5



49...g6+!! This sacrifice is the whole point! Black uses the logic of the distant passed pawn. He deviates the king in order to win the e-pawn. 50.hxg6 fxg6+ 51.♔xg6 (51.♔e4 leads to the classical distant passed pawn situation. Black wins by sacrificing it: 51...♔e6 52.♔f4 g5+ 53.♔e4 g4 54.♔f4

g3 55.♔xg3 ♔xe5 followed by Kd4-c3 etc, collecting the pawns.) 51...♔e6 The king excellently stands on e6 as it also wins an important tempo by preventing the king's approach to the f-file... 52.♔g7 ♔xe5 53.♔f7 ♔d4 Black is much faster. 54.♔e6 ♔c3 55.♔d6 ♔b2 56.♔c6 ♔xa2 57.♔b7 ♔xb3 58.♔xa7 ♔xc4-+]

48.♔xf5 hxg5 49.♔xg5 ♔e6 50.♔f4 ♔d7 51.♔f5 ♔e7 [With the king on d7, Black cannot play 51...g6+? because White is not forced to take twice on g6, but plays 52.♔f6! gxh5 53.♔xf7 and wins.]

52.♔f4 [And a draw was agreed since both sides are just waiting. 52.♔f4 52...♔d7 53.♔e4 ♔e6 54.♔f4 ♔e7=] **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Arnous de Riviere, Jules
- **Morphy, Paul**[C58]

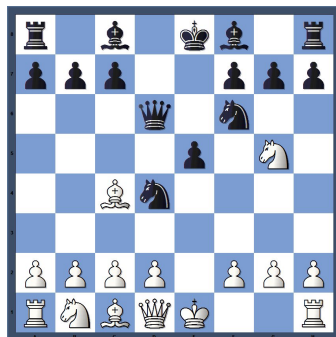
Paris m, 1863



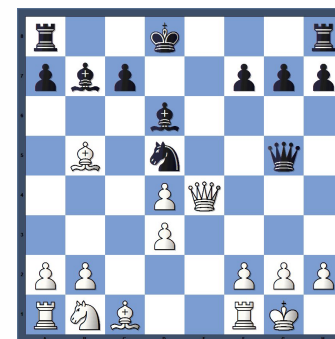
GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♗f6 4.♗g5 In these days most of the players chose very aggressive continuations and many games were very complicated.

4...d5 5.exd5 ♗a5 The main move. An interesting variation to surprise the opponent can be [5...♗d4!? 6.c3 (6.d6? A bad move as White falls into the following trap: 6...♙xd6



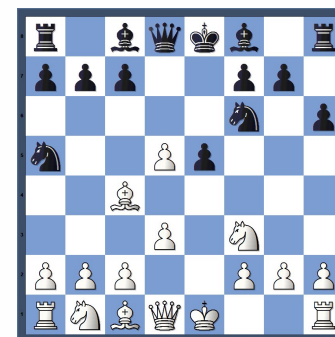
7.♗xf7 (7.♙xf7+ 7...♙e7 8.♙b3 ♗xb3 9.axb3 h6 10.♗f3 e4 11.♗g1 ♙f7 With more than compensation.) 7...♙c6 8.♗xh8 ♙xg2 9.♙f1 ♙e4+ 10.♙e2 ♗f3#) 6...b5 7.♙f1 ♗xd5 8.cxd4 ♙xg5 9.♙xb5+ ♙d8 Black is hoping to activate the pieces and get the initiative. 10.♙f3 ♙b7 11.O-O e4 (11...exd4 12.d3+=) 12.♙xe4 ♙d6 13.♙e1 (13.d3??



loses to 13...♙xh2+! 14.♙xh2 ♗f4! 15.♙xf4 (15.♙xb7 15...♙h4+ 16.♙g1 ♗e2#) 15...♙h5+ 16.♙g1 ♙xe4 17.dxe4 ♙xb5+; 5...♗xd5 6.d4!]

6.d3 [6.♙b5+ 6...c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 leads to a very complex line.]

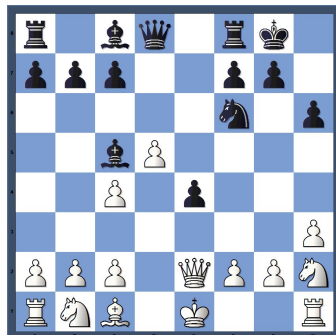
6...h6 7.♗f3



7...e4! Not allowing White to coordinate his pieces.

8.♙e2 ♗xc4 9.dxc4 ♙c5 10.h3 White wants to control the important g4 square. [10.O-O 10...O-O 11.♗fd2 ♙g4 12.♙e1 ♙e8 13.♗b3 ♙d6 And Black has a very strong mating attack!]

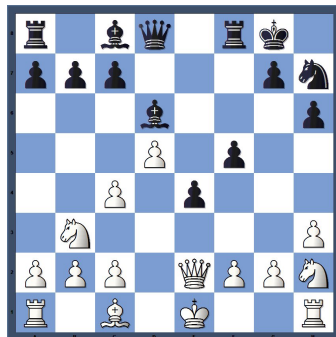
10...O-O 11.♘h2



11...♗h7 A concrete plan. Black is getting ready to put pressure after f5-f4. [11...e3 12.♕xe3 ♕xe3 13.fxe3 ♖e4 14.O-O (14.♖g1 14...♗d6†) 14...♗g3 15.♗f2 ♗xf1 16.♗xf1 If black doesn't manage to destroy the position in the center White can get a huge initiative after Nc3-e4 etc.; 11...b5 12.O-O (12.cxb5 12...♗xd5 13.O-O ♗e7 Followed by Bb7-f5 and Black gets excellent play.) 12...bxc4 13.♗c3∞]

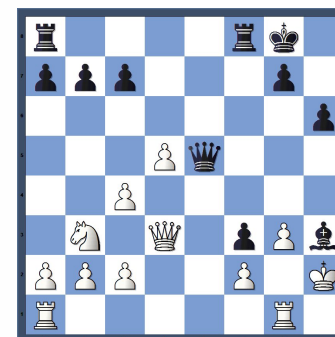
12.♗d2 [12.♗c3 12...f5 13.♕e3 ♕d6 From a practical point of view the white king should of course look for a safer place, but after 14.O-O-O! ♕d7 the position is still unclear.]

12...f5 [12...e3 13.fxe3 ♕xe3 14.♗xe3 ♖e8 15.♗e4 ♗h4+ 16.♖d1 (16.g3 16...♗xe4 17.♗xe4 ♖xe4+ 18.♖f2 ♖xc4 19.c3 ♕xh3-+) 16...♖xe4 17.♗f3! ♗e7 18.♗c3 ♗f6 The idea is to activate the pieces and destroy White's position by playing b5.] **13.♗b3 ♕d6**



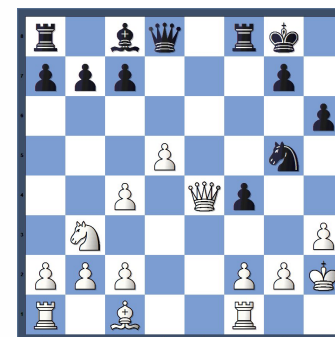
14.O-O?! This move is like a "harakiri". White still had the possibility to do castle queenside... [14.♕d2 14...f4 (14...c5!? 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.O-O-O ♗e7∞) 15.O-O-O ♗g5∞]

14...♕xh2+ [14...♗g5 15.f4! The only move to stop the pawns from advancing. 15...exf3 16.♗xf3 ♗e4 17.♗d3 c5!? 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.♕e3 ♗e7 With the idea to play c5 in order to activate the light squared bishop and to limit the knight on b3. Black has compensation for the pawn.; 14...f4 15.♗xe4 ♗g5 16.♗d3 f3 (16...♕f5†) 17.♕xg5 ♕xh2+ 18.♖xh2 ♗xg5 19.♖g1 ♗e5+ (19...♗h4 20.♗d2 ♕g4 21.♗d4 h5 22.♖ae1 fxg2 23.♖xg2 ♗xh3+ 24.♖g1± Xg7) 20.g3 (20.♖h1 20...♗h5 Xh3) 20...♕xh3

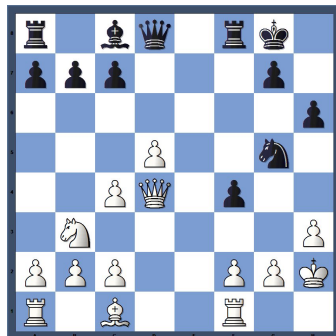


21.♗d4! ♗h5 22.♗h4 And without the queens Black's position is worse.]

15.♖xh2 f4 16.♗xe4 ♗g5

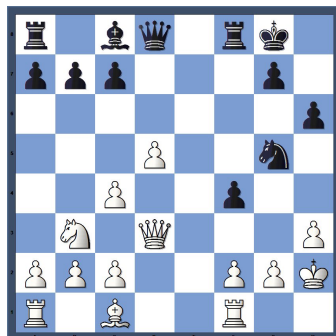


17.♗d4??

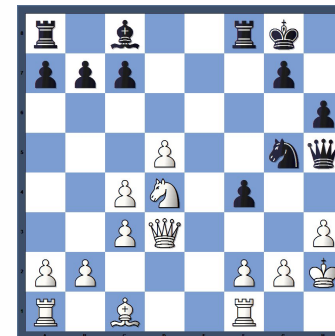


The decisive mistake! Let's check other options:

[The queen defends the position over the 3rd rank and prevents any sacrifice of the knight on f3. 17. Qd3



17... Qe8! A strong move with the idea to connect the queen to the attack. (17... f3 18. Qxg5 Qxg5 19. Qg1 We already saw this position in the previous line. 19... Qf4 20. gxf3 Qh5 21. Qg3 Qh4 22. f4 Protecting h3 and soon White will get a strong attack. 22... Qxf4 23. Qe1 Qxf2+ 24. Qg1→) 18. Qd4 The knight is going to help. (18. f3 18... Qxh3 19. gxf3 Qh5 With at least a draw.) 18... Qh5 And now Black's idea is to sacrifice on h3. 19. c3 (19. Qd2 19... Qxh3 20. gxf3 Qae8 With the idea to play Re4-Rxd4 or Re3. 21. Qe6 Qf3+ 22. Qg2 Qh4+ 23. Qh1 Qf3=; 19. Qe1 19... Qxh3 20. gxf3 c5 21. dxc6 Qad8↑)



19... Qxh3 20. gxf3 Qae8 21. Qh1 Qe4 22. Qd2 Qh4 23. Qg2 (23. Qaf1 23... Qe3!) 23... f3+ 24. Qf1 Qxh3 25. Qe3 Qg4 26. Qxe4 Qg2+ 27. Qe1 Qxh1+ 28. Qd2 Qxa1 29. Qe6+ Qh7 30. Qxh3 Qxb2+ 31. Qc2 Qxa2∞; 17. Qg6 Objectively this move can be good for white but to play it during the game is almost impossible! 17... Qf5 18. Qh5 Qxc2 (18... Qd6 19. Qd4 f3+ 20. g3 Qxh3 21. Qe1± The black pieces lost coordination...) 19. Qd4 (19. Qd2 19... Qd3 20. Qf1 Qd6 21. f3 Qae8) 19... Qd3 20. Qd1 Qxc4 21. h4 Qe6 21... Qe4 22. Qe6 Qf6 23. Qxf8 Qxf8 24. f3+=]

17... Qf3+! Yes! A simple but nice tactical motif. Black is winning immediately...

18. gxf3 Qh4 19. Qh1 Qxh3 20. Qd2 [20. Qg1 20... Qg5+ 21. Qh2 Qg2#]

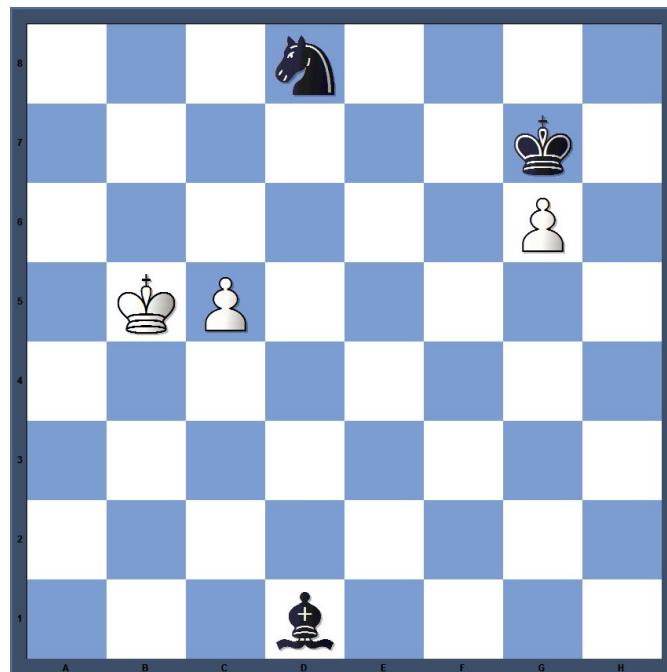
20... Qf6 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky

[CEWN]

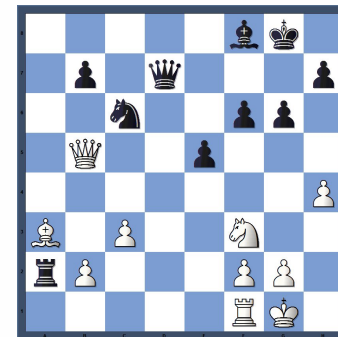
1. =



Solutions

(19) Salgado Lopez, I(2597)-Henrichs, T(2477)

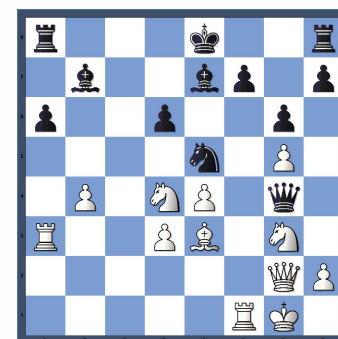
Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.03



25. ♔b3+! ♔f7 26. c4!+-

(20) Spragett, K(2544)-Pahtz, E(2458)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.04

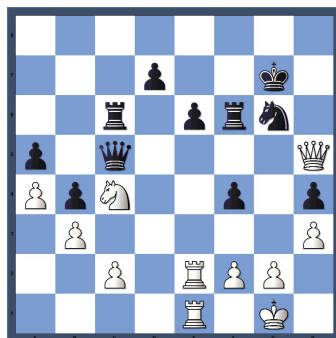


22. ♘df5!! ♗xf5 23. h3! ♔xg3 [23... ♔h4 24. ♘xf5 ♔h5 25. ♘g7+ ♔f8 26. ♘xh5+-]

24. ♔xg3+-

(21) Cheparinov, I(2672)-Kamsky, G(2709)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.06



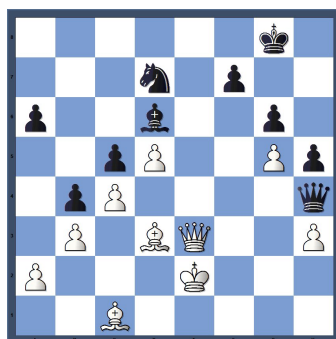
31. ♖e5! [31. ♘e5?? 31...d6]

31... ♜f8 [31... ♘xe5 32. ♖xe5 ♜e7 33. ♖g5+-]

32. ♖g5+-

(22) Rodshtein, M(2682)-Mareco, S(2582)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.06

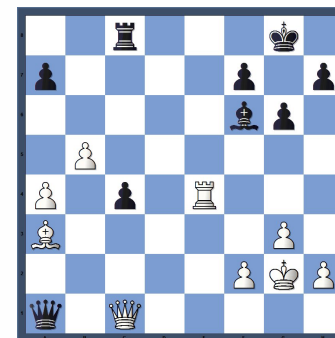


37. ♘xg6! ♘e5 [37...fxg6 38. ♜e6+ ♜h8 39. ♘b2+!+-; 37... ♘e5 38. ♘e4+-]

38. ♘f5 ♘d4 39. ♜f4 1-0

(23) Meister, P(2399)-Fier, A(2572)

German league, 2014.02.08

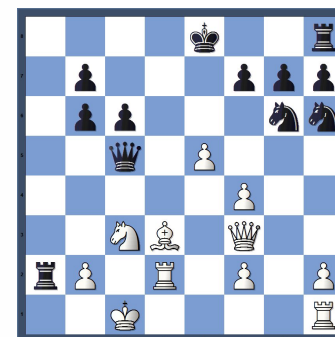


37. ♜xa1? [37. ♜xc4!! +- 37... ♖xc4 38. ♖e8+ ♜g7 39. ♘f8+ ♜g8 40. ♘h6#]

37... ♘xa1∞

(24) Fridman, D(2602)-Ernst, S(2573)

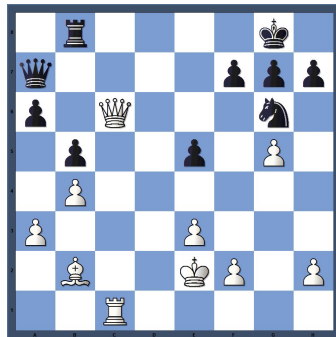
German league, 2014.02.09



21. ♘xg6! hxg6 22. b4!! ♖a1+ 23. ♜b2 ♜xc3+ 24. ♜xc3 ♖xh1 25. e6+-

(25) Swiercz, D(2630)-Vishnu, P(2468)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.05

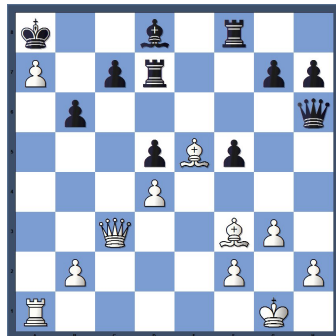


27. ♖xe5! ♜f8 [27... ♞xe5 28. ♚c8+ ♜xc8 29. ♜xc8#]

28. ♘d6+-

(26) Moiseenko, A(2710)-Alekseenko, K(2459)

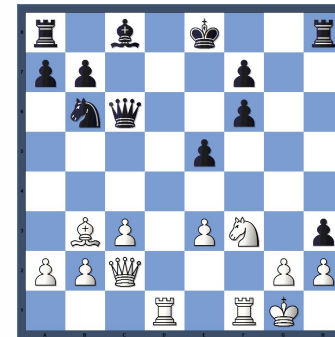
Moscow Open, 2014.02.06



37. ♘xg7!! 1-0 [37. ♘xg7 37... ♚xg7 (37... ♜xg7 38. ♘xd5+-) 38. ♚c6#]

(27) Popov, I(2653)-Kabanov, N(2501)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.07

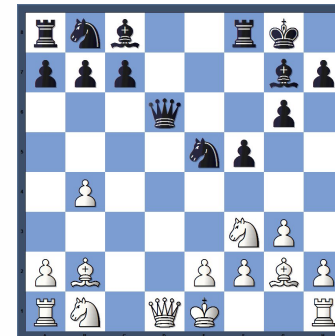


18. ♘xf7+! ♚e7 [18... ♜xf7 19. ♞xe5+-]

19. ♚g6 hxg2 20. ♜f2+-

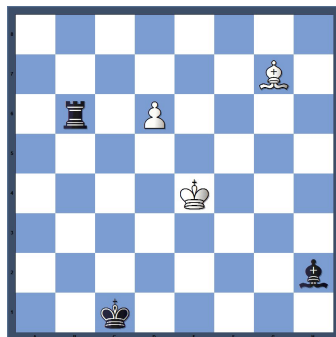
(28) Shomoev, A(2568)-Bortnik, A(2463)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.09



11. ♞xe5! 1-0 [11. ♞xe5 11... ♘xe5 12. ♚d5+! ♜xd5 13. ♘xd5+ ♜g7 14. ♘xe5+-]

(29) Kubbel



1. ♗e5! ♜b4+ [1... ♗xe5 2. ♖xe5=]

2. ♖d5 ♜b5+ 3. ♖c6! ♜xe5 4. d7 ♜e6+ 5. ♖b7! ♜d6 6. ♖c8
♜c6+ 7. ♖b7 ♜c7+ 8. ♖a8 ♜xd7