

Yearbook

NEW  IN CHESS 131

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CHESS OPENING NEWS

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Code System

White stands slightly better	±	excellent move	!!	see	–
Black stands slightly better	∓	bad move	?	editorial comment	RR
White stands better	±	blunder	??	Yearbook	YB
Black stands better	∓	interesting move	!?	championship	ch
White has a decisive advantage	++	dubious move	?!	zonal tournament	zt
Black has a decisive advantage	+-	only move	□	interzonal tournament	izt
balanced position	=	with the idea	△	candidates tournament	ct
unclear position	∞	attack	→	team tournament	tt
compensation for the material	∞	initiative	↑	olympiad	ol
strong (sufficient)	>	counterplay	⇌	match	m
weak (insufficient)	<	mate	#	correspondence	cr
better is	≥	novelty	N	junior	jr
weaker is	≤	zugzwang	Z		
good move	!	time	T		

From the editor



Young stars

Dear reader,

We have Vladislav Artemiev on the cover of this issue. The young Russian star is rapidly approaching the top 10 of the rating list. His opening repertoire is interesting and quite balanced. Jeroen Bosch wrote a Survey on his adoption of the so-called 'Wing Gambit' in the Symmetrical English.

Alexander Motylev's Survey on the Petroff with 3.♖xe5 d6 4.♗d3!? ♖xe4 5.♖e2 ♗e7 6.♗f4!? is very interesting. In fact White's 6th move was introduced in grandmaster practice by him in July last year and is becoming increasingly popular. Equally interesting is Erwin l'Ami's Survey on Fabiano Caruana's 10...♗d8 in the Queen's Gambit. The Dutch GM gives a clear picture of the developments on the highest level in this line. l'Ami was also instrumental in finding an antidote to the popular London System. Yet another Dutchman, Merijn van Delft, reports.

Nowadays it is possible to come up with novelties in blitz games, as Jan-Krzysztof Duda showed in a sharp line of the Scheveninger. Peter Lukacs and Laszlo Hazai wrote the Survey.

We welcome two new young contributors: the Ukrainian GM Martyn Kravtsiv and the Hungarian GM Benjamin Gledura (although the latter had already done a few Surveys in a distant past). Kravtsiv writes about the immensely popular Giuoco Piano, while Gledura reflects on his theoretical experience in a Slow Slav in the Challengers Group of Wijk aan Zee.

Also interesting is Tibor Karoly's Survey on his teammate Zlatko Ilincic's move 6...h5 in the Najdorf. It is an intriguing mixture of strategy and tactics.

Jan Timman

Opening Highlights



Vladislav Artemiev

A new chess star is born! The 21-year-old Russian broke through this year by first winning the awesome Gibraltar Open, then a fabulous $6\frac{1}{2}$ out of 8 in the Astana World Teams, then he became European Champion in Skopje. There, Artemiev beat David Paravyan with **the ‘stunner gambit’ 7.b4 in the Symmetrical English**. It’s a great line for the stronger player – Artemiev! – to ‘wing it’ in the opening and still win. Jeroen Bosch wrote an SOS on this line last year and now follows up with a Survey on page 218.

Jan-Krzysztof Duda

The young Pole also made a big name for himself with his second place in the World Blitz last year and the fearlessness with which he approaches the world’s top players. More often than not, it leads to colourful fireworks in his games. The Survey by Peter Lukacs and Laszlo Hazai on page 51 features Duda’s analysis of the game in which **he faced blitz wizard Ian Nepomniachtchi’s fierce 6.g4 in the Scheveningen Sicilian...** and won!



Benjamin Gledura

At 19, the Hungary GM has already conquered the scalps of Karpov and Anand. He also wrote two Surveys for us at an extremely young age in 2013/14 and now returns as he has a nice story to tell about his exploits in the Tata Steel Challengers. Gledura, who scored a respectable $8\frac{1}{2}/13$ in Wijk aan Zee, **posed Elisabeth Pähtz some tough questions in the Slow Slav with the uncommon 6.♘h4** – you should try it at least once in your life! See his Survey on page 148.

Martyn Kravtsiv

A young and strong GM, Kravtsiv was a triple youth champion in his home country Ukraine and won several opens in France and in booming chess country India, the latest being Gujarat 2018. He is also active as a chess coach and writer. He debuts in our Yearbook with a **highly interesting Survey on a simple counterplan against the Giuoco Piano** which may save Black a lot of trouble. Read Kravtsiv’s first Yearbook article on page 104.





Fabiano Caruana

Another new trend emerged from the World Championship match: Fabiano Caruana's **10...♗d8 in the Blackburne QGD, which leads to veritable mountains of variations**, as Erwin l'Ami vividly described it in his Survey on page 115. Perfect preparation for the second match game by the American. A surprised Carlsen reacted quietly, but from three new games in this year's Gashimov Memorial, the super-tournament in Shamkir, l'Ami gathered that Black still has some problems to solve.

Alexander Motylev

This **strange 3.♖xe5 Petroff line** cropped up in the World Championship match between Carlsen and Caruana. After 4.♗d3! and 6.♗f4, knights started dancing a wild jig even before move 10. Of course this line also found followers. Battle-hardened GM Alexander Motylev had played it twice earlier, and so the captain of the winning Russian team at the Astana World Teams was just the man to write a Survey on the line. You can find it on page 78.



Marian Petrov

Another new author is grandmaster Marian Petrov, a former Bulgarian champion, chess coach and well-known theoretician. Petrov's first Yearbook Survey features a **number of brand-new ideas against the seemingly well-trodden Main Line Scandinavian**. The article, starting on page 71 was triggered by some sweet youth memories of Petrov, and supplied with careful recent analysis, which reveals even more surprising points in this line.

Merijn van Delft

Do you find the London System annoying as Black? Then this new Survey by Dutch IM, chess organizer and theoretician Merijn van Delft may be just the thing for you. On page 196, Van Delft presents a **stunning new weapon against the London** which leads to exciting positions. The move, suggested to him by GM Erwin l'Ami, has been played with great success by several titled members of Van Delft's Apeldoorn team. Does the 'Apeldoorn Variation' mean the end of the London System?



Your Variations

Trends & Opinions

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HOT! = a trendy line or an important discovery

SOS = an early deviation

GAMBIT = a pawn sacrifice in the opening

New and old

The FORUM is a platform for discussion of developments in chess opening theory in general and particularly in variations discussed in previous Yearbook issues.

Contributions to these pages should be sent to: editors@newinchess.com

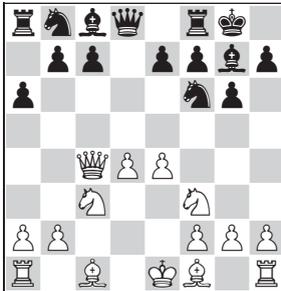
No game found

by Andras Adorjan

GI 10.3 (D96)

YB 51

Once IM Dr Liptay showed me a game Ryzhkov-Lukin from the semifinal of the Leningrad city championship from early 1969. He himself had found it in Shakhmatny Bulletin 1969/5 in a line that was called the Russian Variation: 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♗f3 ♕g7 5.♖b3 dxc4 6.♗xc4 0-0 7.e4 a6!?.

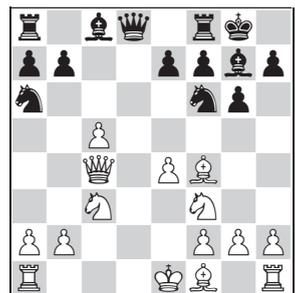


We jokingly called it the Kolkhoz Variation. The game continued 8.a4? b5! 9.♖b3 c5! 10.dxc5 ♕e6 11.♗a3 b4! 12.♗xb4 ♗c6 13.♗a3 ♖b8 14.♕b5 axb5 15.axb5 ♗d3! 16.bxc6 ♖b3 and BLACK won. I liked it, and played the line twice against Lajos Portisch: in Budapest 1970 and in Amsterdam (IBM) 1971. In the latter case I beat him too! Quite a few Hungarian players started to employ the line: Ribli, Sax, Barczay, Vadasz and Tompa, with good results. Soon 7...a6 got named the Hungarian Variation. I



Alexander Alekhine

elaborated on this in a Survey in Yearbook 98 (2011). The main line after 8.e5 still remained 8...b5 and after 9.♖b3, 9...♕b7 or 9...c5. Alas, it turned out to have been first played by **Alekhine** against Euwe in their 1935 World Championship match. Alekhine, however, got it wrong – he played 8.♕f4 b5! 9.♗xc7 ♖e8? (9...♗xc7 10.♕xc7 ♕b7 gives BLACK excellent play) and lost the game, and the match. BLACK was doing well, so White players experimented with 7.♕f4, when there came 7...♗a6 8.e4 c5 9.dxc5.





Spyridon Papakonstantinou

27.b3 ♖b6?

An inaccuracy! I should have played 27...b5, further limiting the white knight on d2. The e6-pawn is weak and can be taken at any moment, for example:

27...b5 28.♙b2 ♖xe6 29.♔g2 ♗c5 30.♙g7 ♔g7 31.♙bc1 h5, keeping a large advantage.

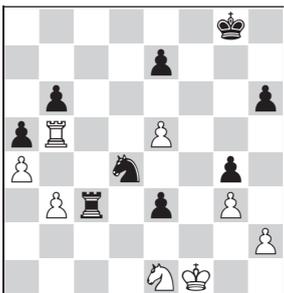
28.♙b2 ♖xe6 29.a4?

White was in time pressure. After the text move he cannot hope for much. White should have played 29.♗c4 ♗c5 30.♗c2 ♗e4 31.♙g7 ♔g7 32.♙d7 ♗bd6!?, getting a relatively less bad position with some drawing chances.

29...♗d6 30.♙e5 ♙xe5 31.fxe5 ♗e4 32.♗xe4 fxe4 33.♙d5 ♙c1 34.♙xc1 ♙xc1 35.♔f2 ♙c3!

At this point I started getting ideas for tactics with rook, pawn and knight against the king and the knight on e1, who are surrounded in a web of threats!

36.♙b5 e3+ 37.♔f1 ♗d4



Developing the knight on a central square with tempo and getting closer to the king; the b6-pawn was a decoy.

38.♙xb6 ♙c1—+

That was the idea! The white knight is lost by force.

39.♙g6 ♔h7 40.♙g4 ♗c2

41.♙c4 ♙xe1 42.♔g2 ♙e2+ 0-1

Spyridon Papakonstantinou Bern, Switzerland

Power move in the Benoni

a letter by Rafal Ogiewka

BI 7.10 (A68)

YB 23

In the following line of the Benoni Four Pawns I found an important novelty on move 18. In Yearbook 23 (1992), the line was analysed by Kick Langeweg. The move 18.♙xd7, a recommendation of Robert Byrne and Edmar Mednis, was seen in a correspondence game Hovde-Schoppmeyer (1983). There Black's reply was 18...♙d4+.

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.♗c3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 ♙g7 8.♗f3 0-0 9.♙e2 b5 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 ♗g4 12.♙g5 ♙b6 13.0-0



13...♗d7! 14.e6 fxe6 15.dxe6

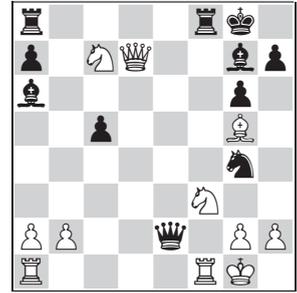
♙xe6 16.♗xb5 ♙a6 17.♗c7

If 17.♙e1 ♙xb5 18.♙xb5 ♗de5 19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 20.♙c1 ♙b6!! equalizes.

17...♙xe2 18.♙xd7

18.♗xa6 ½-½ Sosonko-

Liberzon, Bad Lauterberg 1977.



18...♙xb2!!

The power move. And now:

I. 19.♙ae1 ♙d4+! 20.♔h1

♙xe1! 21.♙xe1 ♗f2+ 22.♔g1 ♗h3+ with a beautiful perpetual check!

II. 19.♙xg4 ♙d4+! 20.♔h1

♙xa1 21.♙xa1 ♙b7! 22.♙e6+ ♙xe6 23.♗e6 ♙f5 and Black is OK!

Rafal Ogiewka Nysa, Poland

Killing the Suicide Variation

a letter by Aleksandar Savanovic

SI 30.12 (B67)

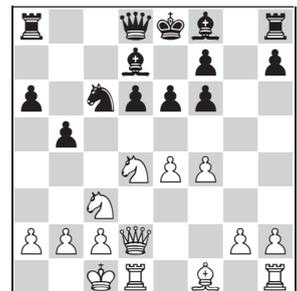
YB 53

Here is an interesting game I played recently.

Aleksandar Savanovic Zdenko Kozul

Sarajevo 2019 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♙d2 a6 8.0-0-0 ♙d7 9.f4 b5 10.♙xf6 gxf6



This was called 'Kozul's Suicide Variation' by Alex Yermolinsky. This line has

From Our Own Correspondent

A big novelty and some interesting sidelines

by Erwin I'Ami



In this column, Dutch grandmaster and top chess coach Erwin I'Ami scours the thousands of new correspondence games that are played every month for important novelties that may start new waves in OTB chess also. Every three months it's your chance to check out the best discoveries from this rich chess source that tends to be underexposed.

At the verge of finishing this column I realized that in all five games I picked this time, it is White who wins the game! This is purely accidental, dear reader, as Black is obviously still very much OK in the game of chess.

In a time when it sometimes feels like earth-shattering opening ideas are a thing of the past, I present to you Wolfgang Zugrav's amazing innovation in the Mar del Plata Variation of the King's Indian. We start off with what I think is an absolute highlight!

Wolfgang Zugrav Darko Babic

MT-Preinfalk ICCF 2017

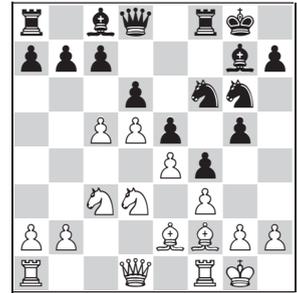
1. ♖f3 ♜f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3
♙g7 4. e4 d6 5. d4 0-0 6. ♗e2
e5 7. 0-0 ♘c6 8. d5 ♜e7 9. ♜e1
♜d7 10. f3 f5 11. ♗e3 f4
12. ♗f2 g5

One of those iconic opening lines. You need nerves of steel as White, not to feel intimidated by Black's looming kingside attack. No wonder it is strong personalities like Kortchnoi who developed this line for White.

13. ♜d3

At the top level, 13. ♖c1 is most often seen, after which Black has a choice between 13... ♜g6 and 13... ♖f6. The game continuation limits Black's options as 13... ♖f6 now runs into 14. c5 ♗h6 15. cxd6 cxd6 16. ♜b5 with direct threats.

13... ♜f6 14. c5 ♜g6



A huge tabiya, seen in dozens of top-level games. Zugrav now uncorks an absolutely stunning idea!

15. ♜b4!?!?

At first sight this looks dreadful. Where is the knight headed? The answer is, for now, nowhere! White is preparing the c5-c6 push and after ...b7-b6 plans to exchange bishops on a6. A most astonishing concept!

15... ♗f7

Preparing for the c5-c6 push. 16. c6 b6 17. ♗a6 ♗xa6 18. ♜xa6 ♖c8 19. ♜b5! would be very strong with the rook on f8 (19... ♗xa6 20. ♜xc7 and 21. ♜xa8), but here c7 is obviously defended. I had a



Wolfgang Zugrav

A very early Najdorf surprise

by Tibor Karolyi

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | ♘f3 | d6 |
| 3. | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. | ♗xd4 | ♗f6 |
| 5. | ♘c3 | a6 |
| 6. | ♙g5 | h5 |



I have been playing in the same team with Zlatko Ilincic for some time. Together we played in the first league in Matyasföld and after the financial collapse of the Budapest team we have accidentally been playing for Kecskemet as well. In these years I quite often joined his post mortems, and I could not fail to notice how much he likes to play the move ...h7-h5 in Najdorfs and in other Sicilians.

Pushing the h-pawn

As a young player I often faced Bela Perenyi, a formidable opening expert of the English Attack against the Scheveningen. One of my ideas was to stop g2-g4 with ...h7-h5. I tried it against Bela and against Andrey Sokolov. I was lucky not to lose both games and fell out of love with my own idea.

In our enjoyable post mortems I felt sometimes Zlatko was able to do well by

pushing the h-pawn. So what happened in our team game, early December in 2018? Playing right next to him I saw his opponent, Daniel Baratosi, move 6. ♙g5 against Zlatko's Najdorf. While he wrote down Daniel's move, I remember joking to myself, will he play ...h7-h5 somewhere in this line as well?

To my utter surprise Zlatko replied 6... h5. I really did not know what to think. My experience suggested that it had to be at least doubtful, but on the other hand I was aware that my long-time teammate is a serious player with a decent understanding of chess. The game can be seen in the Game Section, along with 4 other of his games with the same move!

Yes, that time against Baratosi the novelty did not pay off, but at least it increased our knowledge a bit. Kudos to the players!

First Saturday

While I was working on this Survey I got an email from Zlatko, mentioning that he played 6...h5 in the Najdorf in the December edition of the First Saturday tournament no fewer than three times. He expressed his opinion that the idea is playable. I downloaded his games and analysed them. It seems to me that the idea is feasible, and it may work out well as in a new position a lower-rated opponent can be more easily outplayed. However, I do not think that the move is perfectly okay. So, in my team events I will be in a strange situation: I will root



Zlatko Ilincic

for Zlatko, however I will not want to see this idea work.

Avoiding relegation

Lately, our team had to play a vital match to try to avoid relegation. Zlatko was Black against Gyula Feher, who is a decent theoretician. I worked with him for more than a year, helping Peter Leko. I expected him to try to give

Zlatko a hard time in the line, and was actually worried that my teammate would be swept off the board. I saw the first 10 moves, but when I finished my own game I left the venue. Later I kept looking for the result on the net. It took a good week to put the games online. I was surprised how dramatic the game had been. Later I accidentally met Gyula and told him that I had expected him to take the line apart. He told me that he had prepared hard for the game and the line cannot be taken apart.

Conclusion

I do not know what to think now. I still believe ...h7-h5 at such an early stage in the Najdorf is a move that cannot be applied every time. On the other hand I saw how often AlphaZero pushed its rook's pawns. So who knows what the future will bring?

Pushing the h-pawn

6. ♖g5 h5

Daniel Baratosi

Zlatko Ilincic

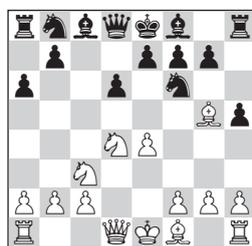
Hungary tt-2 2018/19 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4

4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 a6 6.♖g5

h5?! Against me Andrey Sokolov (Groningen Ech-jr 1981/82) placed the bishop here in two moves and I was not able to find active play. My main concern with ...h7-h5 is that it will be hard for Black to find a shelter for his king. Black stops, or should I say delays, White's attack for quite some moves. And during this time Black's attack doesn't obtain any concrete shape. Black will find life hard as soon as White reaches out to his king. Let me cite three examples where Black had no instant problem in similar Sicilian situations, but paid heavily in the long run for having no place

to castle to. These examples are: Tal-Csom, Moscow Ech-tt 1977, Karpov-Franco Ocampos, Mar del Plata 1982, and the beautiful rapid game Anand-Kasparov, Frankfurt 1998.



7. ♖e2 I like this move. For example in the 6. ♖g5 e6 7.f4 ♖b6 7.♟b3 line I play 7... ♟e7 to threaten ...h7-h6 and ...♟xe4. **7... ♟c6** 7...e6 doesn't look nice either, e.g. 8.0-0-0 ♖c7 9.f4 ♟bd7 10.g3 and White may carry out the e4-e5 break. **8.0-0-0** White develops naturally. **8... ♟xd4** 8... ♖b6 9.♟xc6 (9.♟f3 e6 10.e5

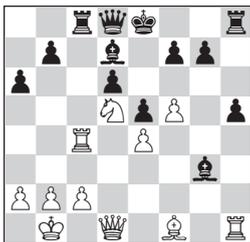
dxe5 11.♟xe5±; 9.♟b3! e6 10.♟b1±) 9...bxc6 10.e5 ♖b8 11.exf6 gxf6 12.♟e3 ♖xb2+ 13.♟d2 ♟f5 14.♖c4 – White has to be better here. **9.♟xd4 ♖a5** The variation now reminds me of the Richter-Rauzer. White's queen move looks more beneficial than Black's pawn move on the h-file. **10.f4 e5** 10... ♟d7, keeping the position closed, is less risky: 11.♟b1 (after 11.e5 dxe5 12.♖xe5 ♖xe5 13.fxe5 ♟g4 14.♟d5 ♖c8 15.♟b6 ♖c7 16.♟xa6 bxa6 17.♖hd1 ♟xe5 18.♟f4 ♖b7 19.♟xe5 ♖xb6 20.♖xd7 White has a small advantage) 11... ♖c8 12.♟h4 e6 13.♖d2±. **11. ♖a4!** Winning a tempo on the queen with a considerable advantage in development cannot be bad. This was the point where I left the venue. I thought the position looked really nice for White. 11.♟xf6!? gxf6 (11...exd4 12.♟xd4 ♟e6 13.♖f2 ♖d8 14.f5 ♟d7 15.♟d5+–) 12.♖d5 b5 13.♟b1 ♟e6

14. ♖d2 ♖c8 15. ♘d5±. **11... ♗d8**
12. ♘d5 This move eases White's grip slightly. With a development advantage it is a classical method to exchange a defending piece.

12. ♖xf6! would be almost decisive here: 12...gxf6 (12...♗xf6 13. ♘d5 ♗d8 14. ♖c4+–) 13. ♘d5 ♖e6 14. ♗d3 ♖h6 15.g3 h4 16. ♖b1±. **12... ♖e7** 12...b5 13. ♖xf6 (13. ♗xb5+ axb5 14. ♖xb5+ ♘d7 15. ♖xa8 ♗xa8 16. ♘c7+ ♖e7 17. ♘xa8 ♖xb5) 13...gxf6 14. ♖a3. **13. ♖xf6**

White's advantage again gets a bit smaller. 13. ♘xe7?! ♗xe7 14. ♗d2 0-0 (14...♘d7 15. ♖a5±) 15. ♘d3 ♘d7 16. ♖a3 ♖c6 17. ♖f1 ♗e6 18.f5 ♗e7 19. ♖e2. Here Baratosi gives 19...♖xe4 20. ♗b4 and evaluates it plus/minus. **13... ♖xf6 14.f5** After 14. ♖c4 b5 15. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 16.f5, according to the winner White would still be somewhat better. I think it is no more than a symbolic edge. **14... ♖b8** 14...b5 15. ♖a3 ♖b7 16. ♗d1 ♖c8 17. ♖d3 ♖g5+ 18. ♖b1 h4 19. ♖e2= Baratosi. **15. ♖c4 ♘d7?!** Daniel gives a better move with a relatively long line: 15...b5 16. ♖c3 ♖b7 17. ♗d3 0-0 18. ♖e2 b4 19. ♘xb4 ♗b6 20. ♖b3 ♗f2 21. ♖f3 a5 22. ♘d5 ♖g5+ 23. ♖b1 a4∞. **16. ♗d1 ♖g5+ 17. ♖b1 ♖c8 18.h4 ♖xh4 19.g3**

19. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 20. ♖c4 ♖f8± Baratosi. **19... ♖xg3??** Probably the long fight to stay alive took its toll here. Zlatko misses a brilliant possibility: 19...♖g5! 20. ♖xh5 ♖xh5 21. ♗xh5 ♖h6 22. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 23. ♖c4 ♗g5 and Black would be worse, but I suppose he could hold.

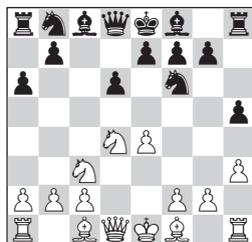


20. ♗g4!! What a lovely move! White puts the queen en prise and creates a double attack. **20... ♖f4** 20...hxg4 21. ♖xh8#. **21. ♗xg7** Now Black's position is falling apart.

21... ♖f8 22. ♘f6+ ♖e7 23. ♘h7! The rest is a slaughter. White wins easily. **23... ♖c6** 23...♖g8 24.f6+ ♖e6 25. ♖h3#. **24.f6+ ♖d7 25. ♖h3+ ♖c7 26. ♖xc8 ♖g8 27. ♗xf7+ ♖xc8 28. ♗e6+ ♖c7 29.f7 ♖h8 30.f8 ♗ 30. ♖g1 ♖xh7 31. ♖g8+–. 30... ♖xf8 31. ♘xf8** I think Black was in zeitnot, and had no time to resign. **31... ♗xf8 32. ♖xh5 ♗g7 33.a4 b5 34. ♖xc6+ ♖xc6 35. ♗c8+ ♖b6 36.a5+ ♖xa5 37. ♗d8+ ♖a4 38.b3+ ♖b4 39. ♗xd6+ ♖a5 40. ♖b2 1-0**

First Saturday 6...h5

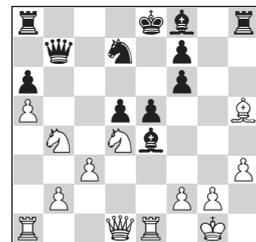
Ismayil Shahaliyev Zlatko Ilincic
 Budapest 2018 (3)
1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6.h3 h5



This push is not a novelty, which is logical as here the move looks the most justified. I would still be worrying about where the black king could find a shelter in the long run.

7. ♖g5 7. ♖c4!? e6 8. ♖b3 was tested in an Ilincic game in 2011; 7.a4! (I like this move; now White may follow up with castling, f2-f4 and f4-f5) 7...e6 (7...e5 8. ♘f3 – here the h2-h3/h7-h5 insertion surely favours White) 8. ♖c4 ♘c6 9. ♖e3 and I like the plan of castling kingside and following up with f2-f4 and perhaps f4-f5. **7...e6** The most common move. Ilincic experimented with 7...♗a5 in 2012. **8. ♖e2 8. ♗d2** b5 9.a3 ♖b7 10.0-0 ♘bd7 11.f3 ♖e7 12.h4 S.Farago-Ilincic, Budapest 2016. **8... ♘bd7 9.0-0 9.a4!?**, stopping

...b7-b5, looks reasonable: 9...b6 10.f4 ♖b7 11. ♖f3 ♖e7 12. ♗d2 ♘c5 13. ♗e3±; 9. ♗d2 b5 10.a3 ♖b7 11. ♗e3 ♖c8 12.0-0 ♖e7 13. ♖ad1 ♖xc3 (rather speculative) 14.bxc3 ♘xe4 15. ♖xe7 ♗xe7 16.c4 bxc4 17. ♖xc4 0-0 18. ♖fe1 ♗f6? 19.f3 ♘ec5 20. ♘b3!+– Pasti-Ilincic, Budapest 2019. **9...b5 10.a4!?** It makes sense to open the position as White is better developed. **10... b4 11. ♘a2 ♗b6** 11...♖b7 12. ♘xb4 ♗a5 13. ♖xf6 ♘xf6± but Black's bishop pair can become strong. **12.c3 ♖b7** 12...bxc3 13. ♘xc3 ♗xb2 14. ♗d3 ♗b6 is risky for Black, but may be all right. **13. ♘xb4 13.cxb4!** was even stronger than the game continuation. White should base his play on his better development and open the position, e.g. 13...♖xe4 (13...♘xe4 14.a5 (14. ♖e3) 14...♗a7 15. ♘xe6±) 14.b5 and Black would be close to losing, if not losing. **13... ♖xe4 14. ♖e1** After 14.a5 ♗b7 15.f3 ♖g6 16. ♗a4 Black would be struggling. **14...d5 15.a5 ♗b7 16. ♖xf6** White wins a pawn, but gives Black counterchances. **16...gxf6 17. ♖xh5 e5**



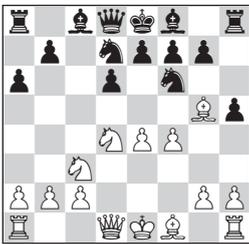
18. ♘e6?! 18. ♘dc2! keeps a knight on b4 at least for a while, e.g. 18...f5 19. ♖f3 ♘f6 20. ♖xe4 fxe4 21. ♘e3 (21. ♗e2 d4 22. ♗c4±) 21...0-0-0 22. ♖a4±. **18... ♖xb4!** Black accelerates his development. **19.cxb4 ♖e7 20. ♘c5 ♘xc5 21.bxc5 ♖xh5?** An unsound sacrifice. 21...♗c6 22. ♖f3 f5±. **22. ♗xh5 ♖g8 23.g3** After 23. ♖xe4 dxe4 24. ♗e2 Black would be a pawn down and clearly worse. **23...d4?? 23... ♗xb2±. 24. ♗e2?** 24...h4!+–. **24... ♖f3** White was still better for a while, but went on to lose: **25. ♗d3 ♖f8 26. ♖h2 ♖c6**

27. ♖f5 ♗g6 28.b4 ♘d7 29. ♖e4 ♙c6 30. ♖d3 ♙b5 31.c6?! ♗xc6 32. ♖e4 ♗xe4 33. ♗xe4 ♘e7 34. ♗c1 ♘d6 35. ♗ee1 ♗g8 36. ♘g2 ♗b8 37. ♗b1 ♘d3 38. ♗b2 ♘d5 39. ♗c1 ♙c4 40. ♘f3 f5 41.h4 f6 42.h5 ♘d3 43. ♗c7? ♗h8 44.g4 fxc4+ 45. ♘xg4 ♗g8+ 46. ♘h4 ♗g2 47. ♗c5+ ♘d6 48. ♗d2 ♘f1? 49. ♗c1? 49. ♗cc2!+-, 49... ♙b5!= 50. ♗h1 ♘d7 51.h6?? ♗g6 51... ♗g4+! 52. ♘h3 ♗g6+ 53. ♘h2 ♗xh6+ 54. ♘g2 ♗xh1 55. ♘xh1 ♘d5+-, 52. ♗c1?! ♗xh6+ 53. ♘g3 ♗h3+-+ 54. ♘g2 ♗b3 55. ♗c4 ♙b5 56. ♗c8 ♗xb4 57. ♗f8 ♘e7 58. ♗h8 ♗a4 59. ♗c2 ♘e6 60. ♗h6 d3 61. ♗b2 ♗xa5 62. ♘f3 ♗a1 63. ♘e3 ♗e1+ 64. ♘d2 ♗f1 65. ♘e3 ♘f5 66. ♗h8 ♗e1+ 67. ♘d2 ♗e4 68. ♗h3 ♗a4 69. ♘e3 ♗a3 70. ♗h8 ♗a1 71. ♗h3 ♗e1+ 72. ♘d2 ♗e2+ 73. ♘c3 ♗xb2 74. ♘xb2 ♘g4 75. ♗g3+ ♘f4 76. ♘c3 f5 77. ♘d2 e4 78. ♗h3 a5 79. ♗h8 a4 80. ♗a8 ♘f3 81. ♗a5 ♘d7 82. ♗d5 ♘xf2 83. ♗xd7 e3+ 84. ♘xd3 e2 0-1

Theo Gungl Zlatko Ilincic

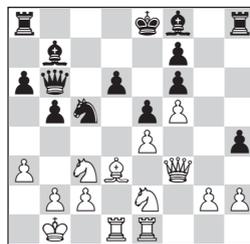
Budapest 2018 (5)

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♘g5 h5
7.f4 ♘bd7



8. ♖f3 White copies the moves they play in the main line. 8. ♖e2 e5 9. ♘f3 ♖c7 10.0-0-0 ♘b6 11. ♘b1 ♙e6 12.fxe5 dxe5 13. ♘d5 ♘fxd5 14.exd5 ♘xd5 15. ♘xe5 ♙e7 16. ♙xe7 ♖xe7 17.g3 ♘f6 18. ♘g2 0-0 19. ♗he1 ♗fe8 20. ♘f3 ♗ac8 21. ♘d3 ♖c7 22. ♖g2 b5 23. ♘f4 ♙xa2+ 24. ♘xa2 ♗xe1 25. ♘xh5 ♘xh5 26. ♘xh5 ♗xd1 27. ♘xd1 ♖a5+ 28. ♘b1 ♖e1 0-1 Saksham-Ilincic, Budapest 2018. 8...e6 Other move orders do not

look great, for example: 8... ♖c7 9.0-0-0 b5 10. ♙xf6 ♘xf6 11.e5 ♙b7 12. ♘dxb5 axb5 13. ♙xb5+ ♘d8 14. ♖e2+-, 9.0-0-0 ♖c7 10. ♘d3 b5 11. ♗he1 White plays the most natural developing moves. In the main line Black hardly ever plays ...h7-h5. My engine suggests the sacrifice 11. ♘xe6!?, and I do not see what is wrong with it: 11...fxe6 12.e5 ♘f7 (12... ♙b7 13. ♘g6+ (this check is too strong for Black) 13... ♘d8 14. ♖h3 b4 15. ♖xe6+-) 13.exf6 gxf6 14.f5 (14. ♖xa8 ♙b7 15. ♖a7 fxc5 16.fxc5 ♙e7 17. ♗hf1+ ♘g7 18.g6+-) 14... e5 15. ♖d5+ ♘g7 16. ♖e6 ♙b7 17. ♙e4+-; 11.e5 ♙b7 12. ♖h3 is equally devastating. 11... ♙b7 12.a3 White stops the b-pawn, but how about 12. ♘d5!? ? 12... ♘c5 13. ♙xf6 Doubling the black pawns may give White an advantage, but it leads to complications. 13. ♘b1 ♙e7 14.f5 e5 15. ♘b3±, 13...gxf6 14.f5 White doesn't hold back, but goes after the black king. If 14. ♘b1 0-0-0 15.f5 ♘b8 perhaps White is somewhat better, but not much. 14...e5 Not 14... ♙e7? 15.fxe6 fxe6 16. ♖h3 and White is almost winning. 15. ♘de2 I also like 15. ♘b3, e.g. 15... ♙h6+ 16. ♘b1 ♘e7 17. ♘xc5 ♖xc5 18. ♘f1 ♗ac8 19. ♖e2±, 15...h4 16. ♘b1 ♖b6



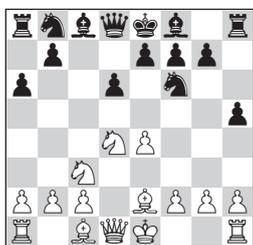
17. ♘c1 White can manoeuvre with the knights in several ways: 17. ♘a2 a5 18. ♘ec3 ♙c6 (18... b4 19.axb4 axb4 20. ♙b5+ ♘d8 (20... ♘e7 21. ♘xb4) 21. ♘xb4 ♖a5 22. ♘ba2+-) 19. ♘f1 b4 20. ♘d5 ♘xd5 21. ♗xd5±, 17... ♙h6 17...b4?! 18.axb4 ♖xb4 19. ♘la2 ♖b6 20. ♙c4 ♗b8 21.b3±; 17... ♘a4?! 18. ♘la2 ♘xc3+ 19. ♘xc3±, 18. ♘la2! ♘a4?! 19. ♘xa4! bxa4 20. ♘c3

♙c6 21. ♘a1?! 21. ♙c4! ♗b8 22.b4 axb3 23.cxb3±, 21... ♗b8 22. ♗b1 ♘d2 23. ♗ed1 23. ♘d5 ♙xd5 24. ♗e2 ♙c3 25.exd5 ♘e7 26. ♗e4 ♖xb2+ 27. ♗xb2 ♗xb2=. 23... ♙xc3 24.bxc3 ♖a7 25. ♗xb8+ ♖xb8 26. ♖f2 ♖c7 27. ♗b1 ♘d7 28. ♗b2 a5 29. ♘b1 ♘e7 30. ♘c1 ♙a8 31. ♘d2 ♗g8 32. ♗b1? 32.c4=. 32...d5! 33.exd5 ♙xd5 34.g3 hxg3 34... ♗c8! 35.c4 ♙xc4 36. ♖b6 ♖d7+-+ 37. ♖b7 ♗c7 38. ♖b6 hxg3 39.hxg3 e4 40. ♖e3 ♙d5, followed by 41... ♖xf5+-, 35.hxg3 ♗c8 36.c4 ♙xc4 37. ♖f3? 37. ♖b6 ♖d7 38.g4!± for if 38...e4?! 39.g5! fxc5 (> 39... ♖xf5) 40.f6+ ♘f8 (without the pawn exchange on move 34 this position would be winning for Black) 41. ♗h1! ♘g8 42. ♖e3 and Black is lucky to survive after 42... ♖f5 43. ♗h5 ♖xf6, 37... ♙a6+-+ 38. ♙e4 ♖d6+ 39. ♘e1 ♖d4 40. ♗d1 ♖g1+ 41. ♘d2 ♗d8+ 42. ♙d5 ♖d4+ 43. ♘e1 ♖c5 44.c4 ♙xc4 45. ♙xc4 ♗xd1+ 46. ♘xd1 ♖xc4 47. ♘d2 ♖a2+ 48. ♘e1 ♖b3 49. ♖c6 ♖xa3 50.g4 ♖e3+ 51. ♘f1 ♖d3+ 52. ♘g2 a3 53. ♖c5+ ♘d7 54. ♗xa5 ♖c2+ 55. ♘g3 a2 56. ♖a7+ ♘d6 57. ♖a5 ♖b3+ 58. ♘h4 ♖b2 59. ♖d8+ ♘c5 60. ♖c7+ ♘d4 61. ♖d6+ ♘e3 62. ♖c5+ ♘e2 63. ♖c4+ ♘e1 64. ♖e4+ ♘f2 0-1

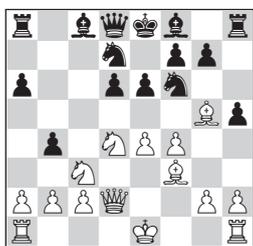
Pavel Anisimov Zlatko Ilincic

Budapest 2018 (9)

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 I would not be terribly surprised to see Zlatko not wasting any time on 5...a6 but releasing 5...h5 even one move earlier. 6. ♙e2 6.f4 – in this variation the push of the h-pawn does not seem to equalize: 6...h5 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 ♘g4 9.e6 ♙xe6 10. ♘xe6 ♖xd1+ 11. ♘xd1 fxe6 12. ♙d3±, 6...h5 To my utter surprise I discovered that ALL 17 games in the online database prior to this one were played by Ilincic. Would you believe he won 8, drew 6 as well, and lost only three out of these games?

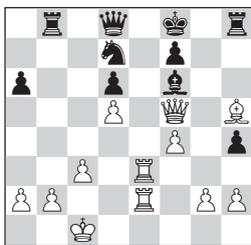


7. ♖g5 e6 In the time period 2010-13 Zlatko had done well with 7... ♖a5, scoring three wins, one loss and 4 draws with it: 8. ♗d2 e6 (8... ♗c6 9. ♗b3!?) 9.f4 ♗d7 10.0-0-0 ♗c6 11. ♗b3 (I think this move is strong – Zlatko has not faced it) 11... ♗c7 12. ♗f3 b5 13.a3 ♗c8 14. ♗b1 ♗e7 15. ♗he1 b4 16.axb4 ♗xb4 17.e5 and Black seems to be in trouble.
8. ♗d2 In 2017 Zlatko scored two wins against 8.f4. **8... ♗bd7** Zlatko deviates from earlier games where he played 8... ♗c6 9.0-0-0 ♗d7.
9.f4 b5 10. ♗f3 b4 After 10... ♗b7 11.0-0-0 (11.a3±) 11...b4 12. ♗d5 exd5 13.exd5 ♗b6 14. ♗c6 ♗c5 15. ♗d4 White has compensation for the piece.



11. ♗d5 White sacrifices a piece, which is surely dangerous for Black. 11. ♗c2 ♗b7 12. ♗xb4 ♗b8 13. ♗a4±; after 11. ♗a4 ♗b7 12. ♗xb4 ♗c7 13. ♗c3 White has little for the pawn. **11...exd5** Black more or less has to take the knight; 11... ♗b7 12. ♗xf6+ gxf6 13. ♗h4±. **12.exd5 ♗b8** 12... ♗e7 13.0-0-0 (if 13. ♗c6 ♗c7 14.0-0-0 ♗b8 15. ♗he1 ♗xc6 16. ♗xf6 gxf6 17.dxc6 ♗g4 Black is relatively safe) 13... ♗c7 14. ♗he1 ♗f8 15. ♗xb4 – White has two pawns for the piece, and Black’s pieces are somewhat shattered.
13.0-0-0 ♗e7 14. ♗he1 ♗a7 After

14...a5 15. ♗xf6 gxf6 16. ♗e3 ♗f8 17. ♗de1 ♗a7 18.f5 I prefer White as Black’s pieces have limited mobility. **15. ♗xf6** Doubling the pawns makes sure that Black will have problems with his king for a long time to come. **15...gxf6**
16. ♗xb4 16. ♗e3 ♗b6 17. ♗de1 ♗c7 18. ♗e2 ♗a7∞. **16... ♗b7!** **17. ♗c4** 17. ♗c3 ♗c7 (17... ♗f8 18. ♗e3 Rc7 19. ♗b3 ♗b7 20. ♗d3 f5=) 18. ♗e3 f5= **17... ♗c7** **18. ♗e2 ♗f8** 18...f5! 19.c3 (19. ♗d3 0-0 20. ♗xh5 ♗f6∞) 19... ♗f8 20. ♗d3 ♗f6 21. ♗xf5 ♗d7 22. ♗d2= **19. ♗d3!** The rook stands well on the third. **19...f5**
20. ♗e3 h4 **21. ♗d3** 21. ♗b1 ♗b7 22.g4 (22. ♗c6±) 22...hgx3 23.hgx3 ♗d7 24. ♗xf5±. **21... ♗f6** **22. ♗xf5** ♗xf5 23. ♗xf5 ♗d7 **24. ♗h5 ♗b7**
25.c3 ♗b8 25... ♗b6 26. ♗e2 ♗d8 27. ♗f3∞. **26. ♗e2**

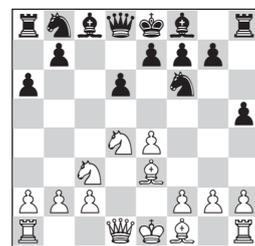


26... ♗h6?? A bad blunder. 26... ♗b7!, keeping an eye on f7, looks good enough to hold, e.g. 27. ♗e1 (27.g4 hxg3 28.hgx3=; 28. ♗xg3 ♗c5) 27... ♗b6 28. ♗e8+ ♗g7 29. ♗g4+ ♗h6 30. ♗xh8+ ♗xh8 31. ♗g5+ ♗h7. **27.g4! hxg3**
28. ♗xg3 ♗h8 28... ♗b7 29. ♗xf7+–.
29. ♗xf7 White is winning.
29... ♗h4 **30. ♗g6 ♗f6** **31. ♗e6** ♗b7 **32. ♗eg2 ♗e8** **33. ♗c8 ♗e7**
34. ♗xa6 ♗e1+ **35. ♗c2 ♗d7**
36. ♗b5 1-0

Avoiding relegation
6...h5

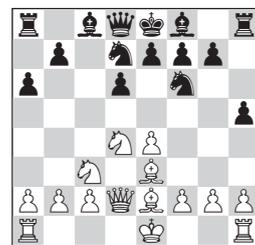
Gyula Feher
Zlatko Ilincic
 Hungary tt-2 2018/19 (9)
1.e4 c5 2. ♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4. ♗xd4 ♗f6 5. ♗c3 a6 6. ♗e3 h5 At least here Ilincic has a predecessor.

Davorin Komljenovic already played this in 2009.



7. ♗e2 ♗bd7 Bosboom’s move. Previously Ilincic had always preferred 7...e6 here. **8.0-0** White castles, not yet showing how he will try to crack Black’s position later on. With the bishop on e2, castling queenside or not castling is not fully natural. Trying to push Black back on the queenside is slow:

- A) 8.a4 ♗c5 (8...b6 9.f4 ♗b7 10. ♗f3 e5=) 9.f3 e5 10. ♗b3 ♗xb3 11.cxb3 ♗e6=;
- B) 8. ♗d2



8...e6 (8...b5?! is a bit premature, e.g. 9.a4 b4 10. ♗d5 ♗b7 (10... ♗xe4 11. ♗xb4 ♗b8 12. ♗b5 axb5 13. ♗xe4 ♗b7 14. ♗g5 ♗a5+ 15.b4 ♗xd5 16. ♗xd5 ♗xb4+ 17. ♗d2 ♗b2 18.0-0±) 11. ♗xb4 ♗b8 12. ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 13. ♗c4 ♗c8 14. ♗b3 ♗xe4 15.0-0±) 9.a4 (9.0-0 ♗e7 (9... ♗c7) 10.h3 (10.a4 ♗g4) 10... ♗c7 11.a4 b6 12. ♗g5 (12.f4 ♗b7 13. ♗f3 ♗c5=) 12... ♗b7 13. ♗fe1 ♗c5 14.f3 ♗c8=) 9...b6 10.f3 (10.0-0 ♗b7 11.f3 ♗c8 12.g3 ♗e5 13. ♗g5 (13. ♗ad1 ♗c4=) 13... ♗e7=) 10... ♗b7 11.0-0-0 (castling queenside after a2-a4 is unconventional, but ...h7-h5 is also not conventional – yet) 11... ♗c8 12.g3 (White wants to carry out g2-g4; 12. ♗b1 ♗e7 13.h3 h4=) 12... ♗e5 13. ♗g5 ♗e7 14. ♗b3

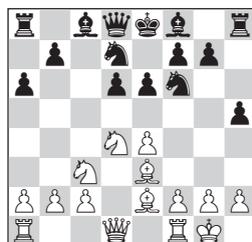
d5 (Black can free his position;
 14...♗c4=) 15.exd5 ♗xd5 16.♙xe7
 ♜xe7 17.♗xd5 ♗xd5 18.♙xa6 0-0
 19.♙xc8 ♜xc8±;
 C) 8.f4



C1) 8...e5 9.♗f3 (9.♗f5 ♖c7
 10.♞d2 (10.0-0 g6 11.♗h4 ♗h6=)
 10...♗c5 (10...g6 11.♗h4 b5 12.f5
 b4∞) 11.♙xc5 (11.fxe5 dxe5 12.♙xc5
 ♜xc5 13.0-0-0 ♙xf5 14.exf5 ♗e7=)
 11...♜xc5 12.0-0-0±) 9...b5 (9...♗e7
 10.♞d2) 10.♗d5 (10.a4 b4 11.♗d5
 ♗b7 12.0-0 ♗e7∞) 10...♗b7 11.a4 b4
 12.♙c4!? (the bishop stands well
 on c4) 12...♗e7 (12...♞c8 13.♙e2)
 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.♞e2 ♗xd5 15.exd5
 ♞c7 16.0-0-0 ♞c8 17.b3 e4 18.♗d4
 ♗b6 19.♙xa6 ♙xa6 20.♞xa6 0-0
 21.♗c6±;

C2) 8...♗c5 9.♗f3 e5 10.♗b3
 ♗xb3 11.axb3 ♗d7 12.♞d2 ♗e7
 13.0-0 ♞c8 14.♗d5 ♗xd5 15.exd5
 ♗f6 16.c4 ♗g4 17.♞ae1 ♗xf3!
 18.♞xf3 0-0 19.f5 ♞e8 20.♞c2!?
 (20.♞h3! with a dangerous
 kingside attack, e.g. 20...h4 (20...g6
 21.♞f1! exploits the newly created
 weakness along the f-file) 21.g4
 g5 22.fxg6 fxg6 23.♞f1 (23.g5 ♞d7
 24.♞xh4 ♗g7±) 23...♞f8 24.♞d3
 ♗g7 25.♞hf3 ♞e7 26.♞d2 ♗g8
 27.♗h6 ♗g7 28.♗g5 ♞d7 29.♞xf8+
 ♞xf8 30.h3±) 20...e4 21.♞f4 ♞a5
 22.♞e2 b5 (now Black has excellent
 play!) 23.♞xe4 ♞xe4 24.♞xe4
 bxc4 25.bxc4 ♞a4 26.♗f4 ♗h7
 27.g3 ♞xc4 28.♞f3? (28.♞d3∞)
 28...h4? (28...♞d1+! 29.♗g2 ♞c2∞)
 29.b3! ♞a1+ 30.♗g2 ♞c8 31.♗xd6
 ♞b1? 32.♗e5 (32.♗c7!+ when
 33.d6 is lethal) 32...♗xe5 33.♞xe5
 hxg3 34.hxg3 ♞b2+ 35.♞e2 ♞d4
 (35...♞c2!) 36.♞e4?! (36.♞e4±)
 36...♞d1! 37.f6+ g6= 38.♞f3 ♞c1
 39.♗h3 ♞c2 40.♞f2 ♞xf3 41.♞xf3
 ♞d2 42.♞c3 g5 43.♞c5 ♗g6 44.♞a5

♞d3 45.b4 ♞d4 46.♞xa6 ♞xb4
 47.g4 ♞d4 48.♞d6 ♞d3+ 49.♗g2
 ♞d4 50.♗g3 ♞d3+ 51.♗f2 ♞d4
 52.♗f3 ♞f4+ 53.♗g3 ♞d4 54.♗f3
 ♞f4+ 55.♗g3 ♞d4 56.♗f3 ½-½
 Bok-Bosboom, Haarlem 2013;
 C3) 8...e6, going for the
 Scheveningen pawn structure, is
 safer, e.g. 9.♞d2 (9.f5 e5 10.♗b3 b5
 11.a3 ♗b7=; 9.♗f3!? (White wants
 to stop ...b7-b5) 9...♗e7 (9...e5
 10.♗f5 (10.♗de2!?) 10...♞c7 11.♞d2
 g6 12.♗h4∞) 10.♞e2 g6 11.0-0-0±)
 9...b5 10.f5 (10.♗f3 ♗b7; 10...b4
 11.♗ce2 ♗b7=) 10...♗e5 (the knight
 is strong on e5, which is often the
 case in this type of pawn structure:
 10...e5 11.♗c6 ♞c7 12.♗b4±) 11.a3
 ♗e7 12.fxe6 fxe6 13.0-0-0 ♞b8
 14.♗f3 ♞c7=. **8...e6**



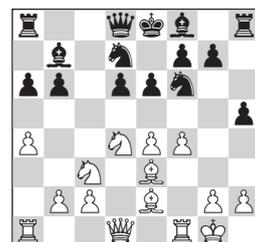
9.a4 9.f4 b5 and now:

A) 10.f5 (10.♗f3 ♗b7 11.e5
 ♗g4 12.♗xg4 hxg4 13.♞xg4
 ♞h4 14.♞xh4 ♞xh4 15.exd6
 ♗xd6 16.♞ad1 ♗c5=) 10...♗e5
 11.fxe6 fxe6 (Black's position is
 somewhat loose, but it is not clear
 whether White can make use of
 it) 12.♗f3 (12.a3 ♗e7 13.♗h1 0-0
 14.♗f3 ♗b7=; 12.a4 b4 13.♗a2
 ♞b8 14.c3 (14.h3 ♗e7 15.♗c1 ♞d7
 16.♗f3 ♗xf3+ 17.♗xf3 e5=) 14...
 bxc3 15.bxc3 ♞c7 16.♗b4 ♞xc3
 17.♗d3∞) 12...♗eg4 (12...♞c7
 13.♗xe5 dxe5 14.♗g5±; 14.♞xf6±)
 13.♞d3 ♗xe3 (13...♞d7 14.♗d4 e5
 15.♗b6 ♞b7 16.♗a5 ♗e6 17.♗h4±)
 14.♞xe3 ♗g4 15.♞d4 ♞c7 (Black
 doesn't want to tolerate the queen
 on d4) 16.♗h1 ♞c5=;

B) The safer 9...b6 probably
 doesn't come naturally to the
 mind of a player who is not afraid
 to push his h-pawn two squares
 early on. Nevertheless, I've had a
 look at it:

B1) 10.f5 ♗e5 11.a4 ♗e7 12.fxe6
 fxe6 13.♗f3 ♗eg4 14.♗g5±;
 B2) 10.♗f3 ♗b7 11.e5 ♗xf3
 12.♞xf3 dxe5 13.♗c6 e4 14.♗xe4
 ♞c7 15.♗e5 ♗xe4 16.♞xe4 ♞c8
 17.♗xd7 ♞xd7 18.♗xb6 ♞b5
 19.♗d4 ♗c5 20.b3±. **9...b6** 9...♞c7?!
 10.a5! ♗c5 11.f3 d5 12.exd5 ♗d6
 13.♗h1 ♗xh2 14.f4±. **10.f4** 10.♗c4!?
 (the idea of placing the bishop
 on c4 I have borrowed from
 Beliavsky, who beat Andersson
 with it at the Capablanca
 Memorial in 1976) 10...♗e5 11.♗a2
 ♞c7 12.♞e2 (12.h3 ♗c4) 12...♗b7
 (12...♗eg4 13.♗f4 e5 14.f3 exd4
 15.♗d5±) and now:

A) 13.♞ad1 ♗eg4 14.h3 (14.♗xe6
 fxe6 15.♗xe6 ♞e7 16.♗xf8=)
 14...♗xe3 15.♞xe3 ♞c5 (15...♗e7
 16.♗xe6±) 16.f4 (16.♞d3 ♗e7
 17.♗xe6 fxe6 18.♗xe6 ♞c8
 19.♗xg7+ ♗f8 20.♗f5 ♗xe4
 21.♗xe7 ♗xd3 22.♗xc8 ♗xf1
 23.♗xb6±) 16...♞d8 17.e5 (17.♗h2
 ♗e7 18.♞e2 g6∞; 17.♞f2 e5 18.b4
 ♞xb4 19.♗f5 ♞d7∞) 17...dxe5
 18.fxe5 ♗d7 19.♞xf7 (19.♞f4 ♗xe5
 20.♗h1 ♗d6∞) 19...♗xf7 20.♞g5
 ♞e8 21.♞f5+ (21.♗xe6+ ♞xe6
 22.♞f5+ ♗e7 23.♞xe6+ ♗d8
 24.♗h1 ♞h6=) 21...♗e7 22.♞g5+ =;
 B) 13.h3 ♗xe4 (13...♞c8 14.♗xe6
 fxe6 15.♗xe6 ♗xe4 16.♗xe4 ♗xe4
 17.♗xc8 ♞xc8 18.♗d4±) 14.♗xe4
 ♗xe4 15.♞ae1 ♗e7 (15...♞b7 16.f3
 ♗d5 17.c4 ♗c6 18.f4±) 16.♗g5
 ♗xg2 17.♗xg2 ♗xg5 18.f4± - I
 prefer White's minor pieces to
 Black's rook. **10...♗b7**

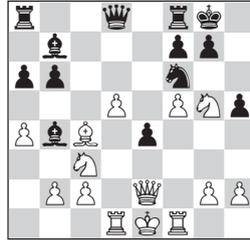


11.f5 11.♗f3 (Haast-Bosboom,
 Haarlem 2014) 11...♞c8 12.f5 (12.♗f2
 e5 13.♗f5 ♞c7∞) 12...exf5 (12...e5
 13.♗b3 h4 14.h3 ♗e7 (14...♞xc3
 15.bxc3 ♗xe4 16.c4±) 15.♗d2 ♗h7
 16.♗e2±) 13.exf5 (13.♗xf5 ♗e5

Sicilian Defence – Najdorf Variation

14. ♖d4 g6⇒) 13...d5 14. ♖e1 ♖e7±.
11...e5 12. ♟f3 d5 A standard pawn sacrifice. I got the impression that both players had had this position on the board during their home analysis. **13.exd5!** The capture 13. ♟xd5! may be an improvement: 13... ♟g4 (13... ♟xd5 14.exd5 ♟g4 15. ♟g5 ♟df6 (15... ♟c5+ 16. ♟h1) 16. ♟h1 e4 17. ♟d2 ♖c7 18.g3 ♟e7 19. ♟c4±) 14. ♟h1 (14. ♟c4!?) 14... ♟xd5 15. ♟g5 ♟e7 (15...f6?? 16. ♖xd5 fxg5 17. ♟c4+-) 16. ♟xe7 ♖xe7 17. ♖xd5 0-0 18. ♖d2 ♟c5 19. ♟d3 ♖ad8 20. ♖e2±. It is not easy to do something with the extra pawn, but a pawn is a pawn. **13... ♟g4!?** The position is highly complex, this may explain the high rate of mistakes. 13... ♟b4! 14. ♖d3 0-0 15. ♟e4 ♟xd5=. **14. ♟f2** 14. ♟g5! ♖c7 15. ♟h1 ♟b4 16. ♟e4

♟c5 17. ♟g3 f6 18.c3±. **14... ♟xf2**
15. ♟xf2 15. ♖xf2 ♟c5 16. ♟e4 ♟xf2+ 17. ♟xf2=. **15... ♟c5+**
16. ♟e1 ♟f6 Now Black is almost winning. **17. ♟c4 0-0 18. ♖e2 e4**
19. ♟g5 ♟b4 20. ♖d1



20... ♖c8 20...b5! 21.axb5 axb5
 22. ♟b3 ♖b6-+. White is completely bottled up! If 23.d6 ♟xd6 24. ♟xf7 ♖xf7 25. ♖xb5 ♖xb5 26. ♟xf7+ ♟xf7 27. ♟xb5 ♟xh2 28. ♟d6+ ♟xd6 29. ♖xd6 e3 and

despite the reduction of material, the white king is caught in open fire. **21.d6 ♟g4** 21... ♟xd6 22. ♟e6 fxe6 23. ♟xe6+ ♟h8 24. ♟xc8 ♟xc8 25. ♖d2 ♟e8f. **22.f6 gxf6**
23.h3? fxg5? 23... ♖xc4 24. ♖xc4 ♟e3 25. ♖e2 ♟xc3+ 26.bxc3 ♟xf1 27. ♟xf7 ♖xf7-+. **24.hxg4 ♟xd6**
25. ♖f5 ♖c5 26. ♟d5 26. ♟d5 ♟c8 27. ♟xe4 ♟xf5 28.gxf5 ♖e7 29. ♟xd6 ♖xe2+ 30. ♟xe2 ♖xc2+ 31. ♟d3 (31. ♟e3 ♟g7=) 31... ♖c7 32. ♟e4 ♟g7 33. ♟c4=. **26... ♟c8?!**
27. ♟f6+! ♟h8 28. ♟xe4 ♖e8? Too ambitious; 28... ♟xf5!-. **29. ♖xc5 ♖xe4 30. ♖xe4 ♟g3+ 31. ♟e2 ♟xg4+ 32. ♟e3 ♟f4+ 33. ♟f2 ♖f6**
34. ♟e1? Throwing it all away; 34. ♖c6 ♟d6+ 35. ♟g1 ♟xd1 36. ♖d5 ♖f4 37. ♖xd6+-.
34... ♟g3+ 35. ♟d2 ♟f4+ 36. ♟e1 ♟g3+ 37. ♟d2 ♟f4+ 1/2-1/2

Exercise 1



position after 10...b7-b5

With the move ...h7-h5 instead of ...♟f8-e7 Black is 'begging' for punishment. Which standard sacrifice would have been successful for White here?

(solutions on page 245)

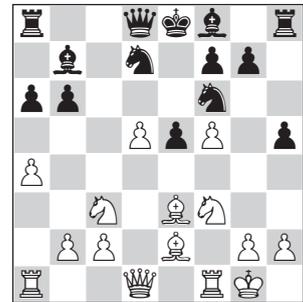
Exercise 2



position after 14...♖a8-a7

What is the best way for White to proceed?

Exercise 3



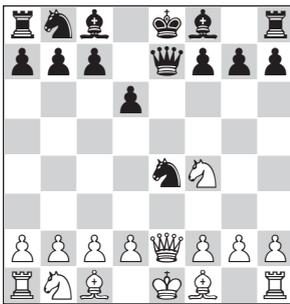
position after 13.e4xd5

Black has put a central pawn on offer. What is his best continuation?

A slow horse trot in the Petroff

by Alexander Motylev

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | e4 | e5 |
| 2. | ♘f3 | ♘f6 |
| 3. | ♘xe5 | d6 |
| 4. | ♘d3 | ♘xe4 |
| 5. | ♚e2 | ♚e7 |
| 6. | ♘f4 | |



Patience is not passive, on the contrary, it is concentrated strength – Bruce Lee
 A man who is master of patience is master of everything else – George Saville
 I whisper to my horse but he never listen – author unknown

A new concept

In the main lines in the Petroff, arising after the moves 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6, the knight jump to d3 looks meaningless. So I was pleasantly surprised to find out that White can try to squeeze something in the resulting endgame. After 4.♘d3 ♘xe4 5.♚e2 ♚e7, here 6.♘f4 is not a novelty yet, but White demonstrates a new concept – the knight will jump to the outpost on f4 and will be surrounded there by pawns on h4, g2, f3, and d4. This set-up is very stable and Black will face some difficulties getting active play. White directs the course of

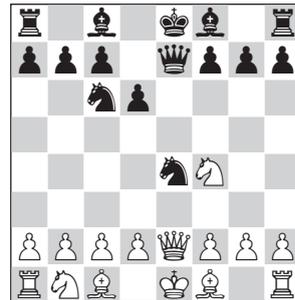
the game to a safe haven. The play can be expected to be very slow, something like a ‘Giuoco Pianissimo’ in the Petroff. But as you will see in the games, it is more like just a temporary period of relative calm. Almost all pieces are still on the board, and as soon as both sides have completed the deployment of their forces, the fight will start. I played two games this way and both of them were very tense. The variation is very young, so there is not so much theory here yet – and this is the main advantage of this line.

Three main options

Black has three main options at move 6 – 6...♘f6, 6...c6 and 6...♘c6. In fact, 6...♘f6 (the most common move) and 6...c6 don’t spoil anything. The position is about equal, White just tries to get a stable, solid position with a more or less clear plan for the next few moves.

A principled response

6...♘c6 looks like a principled response.





Alexander Motylev

Black should be ready for the complications arising after a couple of funny knight jumps: 7.♖d5 ♖d4 8.♗xe7 ♗xe2 9.♖d5 ♖d4 10.♙d3. Still, Black seems to be fine there, so White should

prefer 10.♖a3. This was the choice of World Champion Magnus Carlsen and of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. I myself wanted to avoid complications from the beginning, so I intended to play 7.c3, as did Ian Nepomniachtchi in his game vs Vidit Gujrathi in Wijk aan Zee, 2019. After 7.c3 I believe that the main move is 7...♗f6, which wasn't tested in tournament practice yet. I think soon Black will show the clear way to equality here too.

Conclusion

As nowadays White has problems getting any significant advantage in most of the main openings, this line isn't worse than many others.

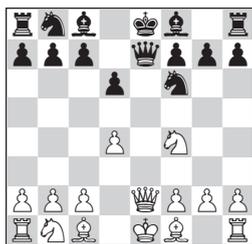
The most common reply 6...♗f6

Alexander Motylev Alexander Rakhmanov

Yaroslavl ch-RUS 2018 (8)

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.♗xe5 d6
4.♖d3 ♗xe4 5.♖e2 ♖e7 6.♗f4!?

This strange set-up came to my attention not long before this game. Only 6.♗f4 is the real novelty, before white players had tried 6.b3 and 6.♗c3 here. White would like to bore Black to death in the endgame with +0.05 and that's it. Most people get too relaxed, facing such endgames with black. 6...♗f6 7.d4



7...♖xe2+ 7...♗f5?! would be inaccurate in view of 8.♙e3. The engine often recommends 7...g5! in such positions, but I believe White can pretend to some plus

after, for example, 8.♙d3 (or 8.♖xe7+!? ♗xe7 9.♗e2 ♖g8 10.h4) 8...♖xe2+ 9.♗xe2 ♖g8 10.♖d2 (10.♖a3!? ♗c6 11.c3) 10...♗c6 11.c3 ♗d7 12.f3. 8.♗xe2 ♗c6 9.c3 g6 10.f3 ♗g7 11.h4 This is the set-up I wanted to achieve – pawns on h4, f3 and d4, defended knight on f4, a microscopic space advantage. The entire construction looks very solid and White has no chance to blunder anything in the next couple of moves. 11...h5 12.♖a3!?

Another option was to try to grab more space on the queenside – 12.a4!? ♗d7 (12...a5 13.♖a3) 13.a5 (or 13.♗f2 0-0 14.♖d2) and White can pleasantly observe his own position not paying attention to such silly things like quick development, e.g. 13...0-0 14.♗f2 b6 15.a6±. 12...♗e7?! I doubt if it is a good idea to leave the king in the centre here. Better was 12...♗d7 13.♗f2 0-0 14.♗c2! ♖fe8 15.♗e3± and Black has to reckon with g2-g4 in some cases. 13.♗b5 ♗d8 14.♗f2! Better was the 'normal' 14.a4 and White has a small edge. 14...a6 15.♖a3 b6?! Black should have played 15...b5! 16.♗c2 ♗d7 and the position is close to equal. 16.♙c4! ♖f8 17.♗c2 ♗b7

18.♗e3! I wanted to take control of the d5-square. 18...♗d7 19.a4 ♗c6 20.♖d1 More natural was 20.♖e1 and if 20...♗h6 then 21.♗c2 ♗g7 22.♗b4. 20...♗h6 21.♖d3 In case of 21.♗c2 Black could have played 21...♗xf4 22.♗xf4 ♗xa4! 23.♖xa4 b5. 21...♗xe3+ 22.♗xe3 ♗d5 Now 22...♗xa4?? is losing after 23.♖xa4 b5 24.♗e5+!. 23.b3! ♗xc4 24.bxc4 ♗f5 25.♗f4 ♗g8 Perhaps better was passive defence with 25...a5 26.♖ab1 ♖ab8 27.♖b5 ♖fe8±. 26.c5!?

Another interesting possibility was 26.a5! b5 27.cxb5 axb5 28.♖db1 ♖fb8 29.♗b4 ♗xh4 30.d5 ♗f5 31.♗c6 ♖b7 32.c4! 26...♗xh4 27.cxd6 cxd6 28.c4 ♗f5 29.c5! In case of 29.♖ab1! Black would have to find 29...♖fb8! (29...♖ab8 30.a5 bxa5 31.♗c5+ ♖c6 32.♗e4 ♗d7 33.d5!) 30.g4! (30.a5! bxa5 31.♗c5+ ♖c8!∞) 30...hxg4 31.fxg4 ♗xd4 and probably Black is holding here, e.g. 32.♗b4! (32.♗e5+ dxe5 33.♗xe5 ♖e8 34.♗xd4 ♖e6 35.♗xb6+ ♖e8) 32...♗e6 33.♖xd6+ ♖e8 34.♗e5 ♖c8 35.♗d5! ♖xc4 36.♖h1! ♗f8 37.♖h8∞. 29...h4?! Too optimistic. Necessary was 29...♗f6 30.a5 b5 31.♗b4 ♖fc8! 32.♖ab1∞ or 29...♗ge7?! 30.a5 b5 (≥ 30...bxa5 31.g4 hxg4 32.fxg4 g5

The Apeldoorn Variation

by Merijn van Delft

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | d4 | d5 |
| 2. | ♘f4 | c5 |
| 3. | e3 | cxd4 |
| 4. | exd4 | ♘c6 |
| 5. | c3 | f6 |

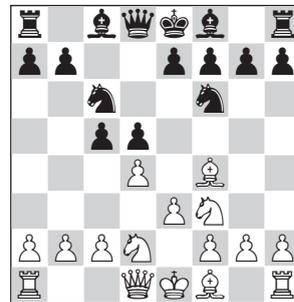


Eleven years ago I wrote my first Survey for New in Chess Yearbook, called 'The Petroff Poisoned Pawn'. Back then we wondered why Black couldn't take on a2 with the bishop after 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.♘c3 ♘xc3 6.dxc3 ♙e7 7.♙e3 (or 7.♙f4) 7...♘c6 8.♚d2 ♙e6 9.0-0-0. We analysed our brand new variation with chess friends in both Hamburg and Apeldoorn and successfully tried it in tournament practice. When we started our analyses, only one game had been played with it according to the database. By now 68 games with this line can be found, and our conclusion is confirmed: playable against 7.♙f4, but not playable against 7.♙e3.

Another new variation

Two years ago something similar happened. A new opening variation was born and we started analysing it with

friends. So it was about time to write my second Survey. Let's start at the beginning. The London System (1.d4 followed by ♘f4 on either move 2 or 3) has become very popular in recent years for several reasons. It has always been a very solid weapon for those who want to avoid sharp main-line theory. Interestingly, elite players, led by World Champion Magnus Carlsen, started picking up on the London System as well, since it contains more poison than it was always thought. White's modern approach is to avoid the comparably slow move c2-c3 for as long as possible and sacrifice the b2-pawn when needed: 1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♙f4 c5 4.e3 ♘c6 5.♘bd2!.



And here Black has to make an important choice. The main options are: fixing the central structure with 5... cxd4, going after the poisoned pawn with 5... ♚b6, going for the exchange of bishops with 5...e6 followed by ...♙d6, and bringing the bishop outside the pawn chain with 5...♙g4. These London System main lines are still hotly debated today.

A smart transposition

Meanwhile, I started wondering what the differences were after the immediate 1.d4 d5 2.♘f4. The first main discovery was that after 2...c5! 3.e3 cxd4! 4.exd4, we have actually transposed to an innocent variation of the Caro-Kann. The Exchange Variation of the Caro-Kann, 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 (CK 2.6 – B13), has actually gained in popularity in recent years, possibly for the same reason as the London System has: a reappraisal of this structure in White's favour. It's actually a Carlsbad structure with colours reversed and White enjoying a useful extra tempo. But 4.♘f4 is not popular at all in this Caro-Kann move order. While we were trying to understand why this is the case, a key concept was discovered.

Maximum flexibility

After the standard follow-up 4...♟c6 5.c3 we reach an important position.



It turns out that having the king's knight still on g8 gives Black maximum flexibility as to the development of his pieces. He can choose to first bring the light-squared bishop outside the pawn chain, and the knight can be developed in a more elastic way with ...♟ge7. What is even more interesting is that, as White has committed himself to ♘f4 so early,



Max Warmerdam, Thomas Beerdsen, Robby Kevlishvili and Jorden van Foreest

this bishop can actually become a target. In July 2017 I had an interesting chat with Erwin l'Ami on this subject. He explained that he was not very happy with his choice of 5...♟f6, one month earlier at the Dutch Championship against Erik van den Doel. By now it is obvious that this puts an end to Black's useful flexibility. Erwin went on to explain that 5...♘f5 is the solid option and 5...f6 the creative bonus option ('voor de liefhebber' in Dutch).

Putting it to the test

One month later at the Vlissingen tournament, I shared this piece of insight with my house mates, and our house scored two nice wins with it. In the sixth round Stefan Kuipers won his game by using the ambitious 5...f6 and three days later in the final round Marcel Boel (the younger brother of our New in Chess editor Peter Boel) also won by using the same variation. Two months later Stefan scored another smooth win. At the time of writing (March 2019), 5...f6 has been played ten times, including games by our Apeldoorn team mates Thomas Beerdsen (three times) and Robby Kevlishvili (twice). The score is great for Black (+7 =3 -1) and the positions are fun to play.

Since Erwin also played for Apeldoorn as a teenager, I suggest we call this line the Apeldoorn Variation.

Conclusion

Of course, more analyses and further tests are needed to be able to draw definite conclusions. It is likely that the move order 1.d4 d5 2.♘f4 will lose popularity because of Black's smart transposition to the Caro-Kann. Whether it is the sharp 5...f6 or the solid 5...♙f5 that will bother White most in the future, remains to be seen. Often a variation declines in popularity when there is more than one problem.

A more accurate move order seems to be 1.d4 d5 2.♘f3, since Black will also need to commit himself to 2...♘f6, losing his maximum flexibility. In that case 3.♙f4 is better timed, and an interesting battle lies ahead.

Asking yourself fundamental questions in the opening, especially when it comes to move order issues, is essential for understanding the strategies in the opening and early middlegame. First doing some research on your own, then discussing it with your friends and only then asking a grandmaster for advice is an effective and fun method.

5...f6 6.♙d3

Taylan Gülsen
Stefan Kuipers

Viissingen 2017 (6)

1.d4 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.♙f4 is the Caro-Kann move order, leading to the same position. **1...d5 2.♙f4** The main line of the London System runs 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♙f4 c5 4.e3 ♘c6 5.♘bd2! and here Black has an important choice to make: 5...cxd4; 5...♗b6; 5...e6; or 5...♙g4. **2...c5!** This straightforward reply has always been underestimated. **3.e3**

A) After the modest 3.c3 cxd4 (3...♘c6 is also possible) 4.cxd4 ♘c6 we have transposed to the Exchange Variation of the Slav and just like in our main line Black can make use of his maximum flexibility: 5.e3 (5.♘c3 e5!?) 5...♙f5!?

6.♘c3 e6 7.♗b3 ♗d7 8.♘f3 and here Black has the key move 8...f6!;

B) 3.e4 see Coenen-Van Delft;

C) 3.dxc5 ♘c6 is also fine for Black: 4.e4 (4.♘f3 e6 and Black regains the pawn and gets good counterplay) 4...♘f6 5.e5 ♘e4 6.♘d2 ♘xc5 with a healthy position.

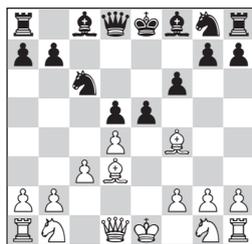
3...cxd4! The smart transposition to the Caro-Kann. **4.exd4 ♘c6**

5.c3 5.♘f3 is met by 5...♙g4. **5...f6!?** 5...♙f5 is the solid alternative, see Kryakvin-Van Delft for an overview; 5...♘f6?! loses maximum flexibility, see Van den Doel-L'Ami. **6.♙d3** A tempting move, but this backfires.

A) 6.♘f3 is the other main line, see Agrest-Beerdse for an overview;

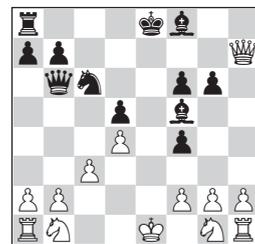
B) 6.♙b5 has not been tried in tournament practice yet. The game may continue 6...e6 7.♘f3 ♘ge7 and now Black can meet 8.0-0 with 8...g5 followed by ...♙g7 and ...0-0. Black's flexible pawn structure offers him possibilities both in the centre and on the kingside.

6...e5!



The key tactical point of the whole variation. Black is going to sacrifice an exchange. **7.♗h5+** 7.dxe5 see Birkisson-Beerdse; 7.♙g3 see Golubov-Kevlishvili. **7...**

g6 8.♙xg6+ hxg6 9.♗xh8 exf4 10.♗xg8 ♙f5 11.♗h7 This is the most popular move here, but it's not the best. 11.♘e2 see Solera Castellano-Moll. **11...♗b6**



Now White doesn't have a good way to defend b2. **12.♘f3 12.b3 ♘xd4!** is a cute line illustrating the power of the black bishops: 13.cxd4 ♙b4+ 14.♘f1 ♗xd4 15.♗g8+ ♘e7, winning. **12...♗xb2 12...♗a6** see Le Clercq-M.Boel. **13.0-0 ♗xa1** Now the roles are reversed: Black is a piece up and White is trying to make use of the black king still being in the centre. Black's position is too solid though, and he has a winning advantage. **14.♗xb7 14.♘h4 ♘e7** defends everything. **14...♗c8 15.♗e1+** 15.♘h4 see De Vleeschauer-Vrolijk. **15...♙e7** This is inaccurate. Correct was 15...♘e7! 16.♘h4 ♘f7 17.♘f5 gxf5 and everything is defended.

What's in a name?

by Glenn Flear



Englishman Glenn Flear lives in the south of France. For every Yearbook he reviews a selection of new chess opening books. A grandmaster and a prolific chess author himself, Flear's judgment is severe but sincere, and always constructive.

How can one explain a chess game without referring to the Four Knights, the King's Indian, or some other opening? Indeed, we would really struggle in our chess conversations if plausible move sequences, right at the beginning of games, hadn't been designated with a description or appellation. Many years ago, in a particular context, there may have been good reasons why a set-up was named after a piece disposition, a country, a city, a player, a tournament, or even a whimsical animal. No doubt many such propositions have been duly forgotten, but a certain number have stuck with the public and now seem second nature to us. It seems that in many cases alternative names could have been chosen and might even prove to be historically more appropriate.

Which brings us to the Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian Defence. In the West this doesn't seem to be particularly controversial, but Gennady Timoschenko sees things differently, expressing the feeling that his own efforts have not been recognized. So he suggests plausible alternatives before settling on the term Chelyabinsk Variation, the standard term in Russia. The use of 'Sveshnikov' seems to have come about largely due to an influential book, after which former

names were superseded, so perhaps once Timoschenko's work becomes widely-known things might change again...

Gennadi Timoshchenko
Sicilian Defense
The Chelyabinsk Variation:
Its Past, Present and Future
Russell Enterprises 2018

It's a chunky 440-page work woven into 200 chapters, each of which represents a different 'try' essentially encapsulated by a model game. It's a very personal book with the author disclosing plenty of anecdotes as well as his own role in the development of this variation, essentially as a player in the old days, and more of an analyst in later years. Many a Foreword in an opening monograph is little more than a gentle preamble with no more than passing interest. Here things are different, as apart from pointing out a number of significant moments, Garry Kasparov basically gives a full-blown book review! You might be (as I was) surprised by the idea of using so many chapters, but the presentation of the material comes across as excellent. Despite the heavy nature of much of the theory, it flows so naturally once divided into twelve well-chosen sections. It makes me wonder why others haven't previously used Timoschenko's model! My