

(Un-)Pleasant Surprises

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

The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge letters.

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Why Has Maxime Stopped Playing 'His' Variation?

by Alexey Kuzmin

SI 4.6 (B96)

YB 93

The previous Yearbook published an article by me about the variation **1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cd4 4.♗d4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♘c6**, which last year was regularly and successfully employed by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

During the last few months this variation has occurred many times, including at grandmaster level. It has been taken up by Drazic and Baklan, and Dominguez has again included it in his repertoire.

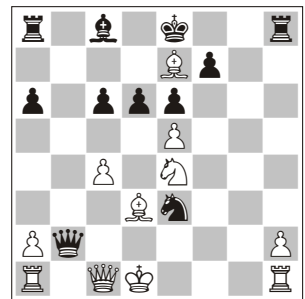
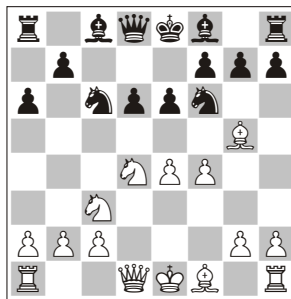


Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

NEW IN CHESS

Smeets, Jan
Dominguez Perez, Leinier
 Wijk aan Zee 2010 (7)

♙e7 16.♙e7 ♘e3 17.♚c1 ♗g2
 18.♙d1 ♗e3 19.♙e1 ♗g2
 20.♙d1 ♗e3



8.♗c6 bc6 9.e5 h6 10.♙h4 g5 11.fg5 ♗d5 12.♗e4 ♚b6 13.♙d3

In recent months all the discussions have revolved around this continuation.

13...hg5 14.♙g5 ♚b2 15.c4

This position had already been reached in a couple of games (or perhaps even more), and at this point they were cut short...

21.♚e3!?

In such situations I recall the respectful words of Vladimir

Akopian: 'He won't agree a draw, just because the position is drawn.' They were said about another player, but even so...

21...♖a1 22.♘d2 ♖h1!

After some twenty minutes' thought, the Cuban grandmaster finds an accurate continuation. Dubious was 22...♖a2?! 23.♙c2 ♖a5 24.♙e2 ♙e7 25.♖g5 ♙f8 26.♖f6, when White has the better prospects, for example: 26...♞h3 27.♘g5 ♖e5 28.♖e5 de5 29.♘h3.

23.♙d6

23.ed6? ♞h2 24.♙e2 f5-- will not do, while 23.♖d4 ♞h2 24.♙e2 ♞e2 25.♙e2 ♖h5 26.♙f2 ♖h2 does not create any problems.

23...♞h2 24.♙e2 ♖b1!

Another accurate move. 24...♞e2? was clearly weaker: 25.♙e2 ♖g2 26.♙e1 f5 27.ef6 ♞a7 28.♙b4 with an attack.

25.♘f6

After 25.♖d4 ♖a2 26.♙c1 ♞h6! it is now White who has to concern himself with how to draw: 27.♙c5 ♖e2 28.♘d6 ♙f8 29.♘f5 ♙g8 30.♘h6 ♙g7 31.♖g1 ♙h6 32.♙e3 ♙h7 33.♖h1 ♙g8 34.♖g1=.

25...♙d8 26.♖d4

Jan again gives his opponent a chance to go wrong: 26...♖a2? 27.♙c1! ♞h1 28.♙d1 ♞d1 29.♙d1 ♖b1 30.♙d2 c5 31.♙c5 ♙c7 32.♘e8 with an attack. And again Leinier finds the correct way!

26...c5! 27.♙c5 ♙c7 28.♖d6

Nothing was given by 28.♘e8 ♙b7 29.♖c3 ♖a2 30.♙c1 ♙c6.

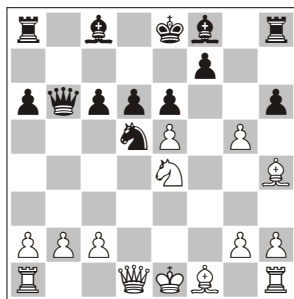
28...♙b7 29.♖e7

It was still possible to try 29.♙e3, but after 29...♞h3 30.♙f3 ♞f3 31.♙f3 a5 or 29...♖c1 30.♙f3 ♖b1 White would have had to accept the inevitable and give perpetual check.

29...♙c6 30.♖d6 ½-½

In this complicated tactical clash the 7...♘c6 variation withstood the test, but after a practically bloodless draw in the French Team Championship, Vachier-Lagrave, whose games were the ones that drew attention to the variation, has stopped employing it...

Hamdouchi,Hichem Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime France tt 2009 (3)



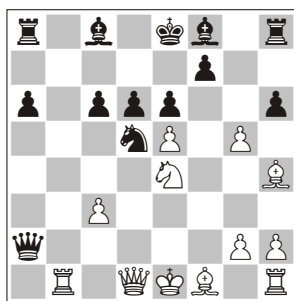
13.c3! ♖b2

I gave this game in my article (Yearbook 93), but at the time its outcome seemed to me to be quite logical...

14.♞b1

As will be seen later, it is also possible to begin with 14.g6.

14...♖a2



I think that in analysis after the game Maxime must have discovered that, whereas Hamdouchi agreed a draw after 15.♞a1 ♖b2 16.♞b1 ...

15.g6!

...would have won the game almost by force.

15...fg6 16.♙d3! ♘f4

All this had already occurred in the game Kozlitin-Nagimov, Samara 2002, but there White continued 17.♙f2? ♘g2 18.♙f1 ♘f4, when a draw – 19.♞a1 ♖b2 20.♞b1 – was now the best outcome for him. But in the game there followed 19.♘f6? ♙f7 20.♖f3 de5 with a hopeless position for White, al-

though the game nevertheless ended in a draw.

I should add that 16...♙e3 17.♘f6 ♘d8 18.♘g4 g5 19.♘e3 is hopeless for Black, and also after 16...♖g2 17.♞f1 ♖h2 (17...♘e3 18.♖a4+-) 18.♖g4 he can hardly withstand the onslaught.

17.♘f6! ♙f7 18.♙g6!

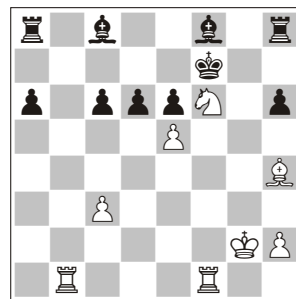
'Rybka' does not see this move in advance, and judges the variation with 13.c3 to be drawn.

18...♙g6

18...♘g6 19.0-0+- and 18...♙g7 19.♘h5+- are very simple.

19.♖g4 ♙f7 20.0-0 ♖g2

21.♖g2 ♘g2 22.♙g2



Black is two pawns up, but it would appear that the position cannot be held. For example:

A) **22...♙g7** 23.♘h5 ♙g6 24.♘g7 ♞g8 25.♙f6 de5 26.♞b4 and White's threats must decide the outcome;

B) **22...de5** 23.♞f3! e4 24.♘e4 ♙e8 25.♘f6 ♘d8 26.♞d3 ♙e7 27.♞b7 with mate. Or 23...♙g7 24.♘h5 ♙g6 25.♘g7 ♙g7 26.♙f6 ♙h7 27.♙h8 ♙h8 28.♞d1 and the helplessness of the black pieces is fatal.

It was after discovering these variations that Vachier-Lagrave stopped playing 7...♘c6.

Black's main problem is that beginning with **8.♘c6** the variation looks almost forced, and it is very difficult to avoid it.

The capture on e5 on the 9th or 10th move cannot seriously be considered. On the 12th move it can, but it looks very depressing: **12...de5** 13.♘f6 ♘f6 14.♖d8 ♘d8 15.gf6.

12...♖b8, in the hope of 13.♘d6 ♘d6 14.ed6 ♖b2 with counterplay, is also unjustified because of the simple 13.b3 or even 13.c4!?

In practice the capture on e5 has occurred on the next move – 13...de5, but here too 14.g6! is unpleasant.

After 14...fg6 Black may have some dynamic potential, but looking at his pawn structure brings tears to one's eyes!



For example, 15.♖c2 ♖b8 16.0-0-0 ♘e7 17.♘f2 ♖a5 18.♘c4 is not bad, and 15.♖g4, as Ziatdinov played against Loginov (Tashkent 1987), is also good enough: 15...♖e3 16.♘e2 ♘f4 17.♖f3 ♖e2 18.♖e2 ♘e2 19.♘e2 g5 20.♘g3 ♘g7 21.♖hf1 with advantage.

Of course, it may be objected: 'But are you sure that Vachier-Lagrave has found 18.♘g6?'

I will reply: 'No, I'm not sure, but why then has Maxime stopped playing 'his' variation?..'

A Wild Battle in the Marshall

by Jose L. Vilela

RL 17.6 (C89)

YB 91

The game Domínguez-Leko from Corus A 2010 captivated me from the moment I saw it, due to the wild tactical battle it turned into. But when taking a deeper look, it also turned out to be significant from the point of view of the opening theory of the Marshall Attack.

Dominguez Perez, Leinier Leko, Peter

Wijk aan Zee 2010 (4)

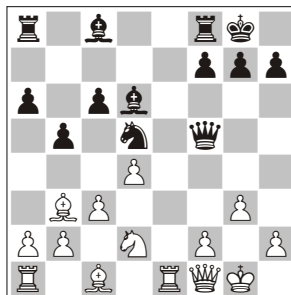
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘b5 a6 4.♘a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♘b3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.ed5 ♘d5 10.♘e5 ♘e5 11.♖e5 c6 12.d4 ♘d6 13.♖e1 ♖h4 14.g3 ♖h3 15.♖e2

In the search for new paths to present opponents with different problems, chess masters continue to expand the field of opening theory. As Lukacs and Hazai explain in their Survey in Yearbook 91, it was Svidler who introduced this move in high-level practice, against Leko himself, in Mexico City 2007. But some lesser-known players had already tried it some time before, the first one being 17-year-old Manuel Apicella in 1987 in Paris. It has the virtue of quickly trying to challenge the menacing position of the black queen on h3, but there is also the obvious drawback of delaying the development of his queenside minor pieces.

15...♘d7

The natural continuation is 15...♘g4, which has been tried quite a lot of times. Perhaps the most outstanding sample of this way of playing is the brainbreaker So-Gupta, already analysed in the aforementioned article, and featuring such amazing ideas that one of them, 18...f5!?, was proposed as a candidate for the Novelty of the Year award by New in Chess readers.

16.♖f1 ♖f5 17.♘d2



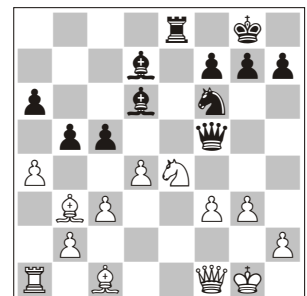
Leinier Dominguez

This move was introduced by Svidler against Grischuk in the Russian Championship, December 2009. Before that, only 17.♘e3 had been played. In a certain sense, White is playing with fire as his queenside remains undeveloped for some time yet.

17...♖ae8 18.f3

The external aspect of this move is perhaps dubious, but its idea of establishing a point of support for the knight on e4 is very interesting (and has appeared in other 15.♖e2 lines).

18...♘f6 19.a4 c5 20.♖e8 ♖e8 21.♘e4



21...♖e4!

The game gets extremely wild from now on, as Black completely neglects any material considerations. But this is still known territory, as Grischuk also played this way versus Svidler.

In case Black takes with the knight, a plausible continuation is 21...♟e4 22.fe4 ♖f1 23.♟f1 ♜e4 (23...cd4 24.ab5 ab5 25.♞a7 is also to White's advantage) 24.♙d5 ♜e8 25.ab5 ab5 26.♞a7 ♙e6 27.♙e6 fe6 28.♞d7, when White has the advantage in the endgame.

22.fe4

This is the real theoretical novelty of the game. The above-mentioned Svidler-Grischuk game continued: 22.♙c2 cd4 23.fe4 ♖c5! 24.♖f2 ♟g4 25.cd4! ♖c7 26.♙e2 ♙g3! 27.hg3 ♖g3 28.♖g2 ♙e1 29.♖f1 ♖g3 30.♖g2 ½-½.

22...♙e4 23.♙f4 ♙c6 24.d5!

Not 24.♙d6 ♖h1 25.♟f2 ♖h2 26.♟e3 (26.♟e1 ♖b2+→) 26...♖b2 and Black's attack is winning.

24...c4! 25.♙d6 ♖d5 26.♙d1 ♖h1 27.♟f2 ♖h2 28.♟e1 ♖b2 29.♞a3

White is a rook up but his pieces are extremely badly coordinated.

29...♟e4!

Mate is threatened on d2.

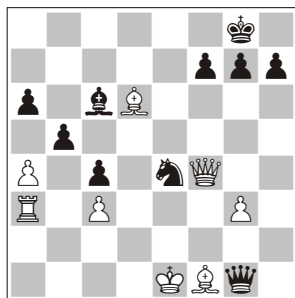
30.♖f4

There was also the option of 30.♖e2; after 30...♖e2 (30...♖c1 is not without interest either) 31.♟e2 ♟d6 32.ab5 ♙b5, an endgame would arise where Black is OK with three pawns for the exchange, and the most likely result is a draw. This kind of endgame could also have arisen a couple of times later in the game.

30...♖g2!

The queen proves very agile across the second rank, 31...♖g1 is the new threat.

31.♙e2 ♖g1 32.♙f1



It seems that White has parried all the threats, but Black has a modest-looking diverting resource up his sleeve. After 32.♖f1 ♖f1 33.♟f1 ♟d6 34.ab5 ♙b5 we would have a similar endgame to that in the notes to White's 30th move.

32...g5! 33.♖f3 ♟d2! 34.♖c6

After 34.♖f2 once again we have the already familiar endgame scheme: 34...♖f2 (34...♟f3? 35.♟e2) 35.♟f2 ♟e4 36.♟e3 ♟d6. In this case White's king is more active, but the assessment remains the same.

34...♖f1 35.♟d2 ♖f2 36.♟c1 ♖e1 ½-½

Perpetual check is unavoidable due to the extreme lack of coordination in White's camp. Both players performed at a very high level in this encounter. Theoretically, the ball is still in White's court.

Botvinnik's Notebooks

by René Olthof

SL 4.3 (D17)

There is a famous joke about Bent Larsen, often attributed to Mikhail Tal. At the drawing of lots the Magician from Riga would complain if it turned out that he would meet the tireless Danish fighter in the early rounds of the tournament. 'You never know whether Bent sits on the other side of the board or Larsen!' Meaning: you can play the future tournament winner, but also the tail-ender. What to do? Pentala Harikrishna could never have guessed what would happen when in Round 1 of the Corus B Group he crossed swords with the number 12 seed (of 14). Was he going to play Anish or Giri?

Giri, Anish

Harikrishna, Pentala

Wijk aan Zee B 2010 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♟f3 ♟f6
4.♟c3 dc4 5.a4 ♙f5 6.♟e5 e6
7.f3 ♙b4 8.♟c4!?

Apart from the insightful notes by Botvinnik on his three World Chess Championship Matches against Smyslov, the match book that *New In Chess* published last year in English contains another item few people actually know about: the notebooks Botvinnik wrote during his preparation for the matches in 1957 and 1958. These are a real treasure trove for historians and theoreticians alike. 'Really', I hear you think, 'these notes are fifty years old. Surely they cannot be relevant to modern opening theory any more'.

Well, that remains to be seen.

8.♟c4 is a rarely played sideline and surprisingly it can be found in Botvinnik's 1958 notebook.

8...♟d5

8...c5 9.dc5 ♖d1 10.♟d1 ♙c5 11.e4 ♙g6 12.♟b5 ♟a6 13.♟bd6 ♟e7 14.♟b7+→ is a 'trap' given by Botvinnik, which has people falter to this very day.

9.♙d2! ♖h4

Botvinnik's main focus during his preparations was on 9...♟b6 10.e4 ♙g6 (also weak is 10...♟c4 11.♙c4 ♖d4 (or 11...♙g6) 12.♖b3+→), which he intended to meet with 11.h4 ♙e7 (11...h6 12.♟e5 ♙h7 13.a5 ♟d6 14.♖b3+→) 12.h5 ♙h4 13.♟e2 ♟c4 14.hg6 fg6 and now 15.♙f4!, which is Botvinnik's still untried improvement on 15.♙c1 ♙e7 16.♟f2 ♟d6 17.♖b3 ♖b6 18.♖e6 ♖d4 19.♙e3 ♖f6= Botvinnik-Averbakh, 8th match game, Moscow 1957. Let's see what Botvinnik wrote in 1958:

'15...♙e7 (dubious is 15...0-0 16.g3 ♙g5 17.♙h3) 16.♖b3 ♖b6 (bad is 16...♖d4 17.♞d1 ♖c5 18.♖b7+→) 17.♖c4 ♖b2 18.♙d2 ♖a1 19.♖e6 ♟d7 20.♞h7 ♞h7 21.♖g6 ♟f8 22.♖h7 ♟f6 23.♖h8 ♟g8 24.♟f2 ♖b2 25.♙c4 ♖d2 26.♟e2+→.'

Those were the days!

Nowadays every amateur armed with a powerful computer can have a go at cracking this piece of analytical craftsmanship. Move 22



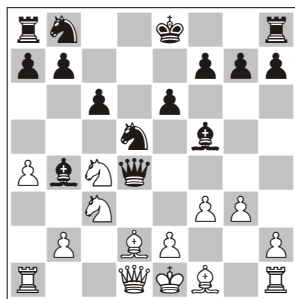
Anish Giri

would be a nice starting point and the note to move 16 seems wrong in view of 18...0-0 and if 19.b3 ♖f8.

The comment at move 15, however, seems spot on: after 17.♗h3 Black is in dire straits, e.g. 17...♖e8 18.♗b3 ♗f4 19.♗c4 ♗g3 20.♗e6 ♖h8 21.♗c8!! a5 (21...♗c8 22.♖h7! ♖h7 23.♖h1) 22.♗f7 h6 23.♗g6, winning.

Harikrishna's tactical choice in the game – he is clearly betting on Anish and not Giri – had not escaped Botvinnik's attention either.

10.g3 ♗d4



Botvinnik now intended to play 11.e3 and 12.e4, as had already happened in Mikenas-Feigins, Kemeris/Riga 1939, the stem game of the line 8.♗c4. White obtains a clear advantage after both 11...♗f6 and 11...♗c5, so there is no need to look any further.

After the game Anish confessed he had been blissfully unaware of all this inside information. He had prepared only for the most common replies 8...♗bd7 and 8...0-0 and had never heard of such things as Botvinnik's notebooks, let alone of what was in them. At the board he had briefly looked at 11.♗b3!? ♗d7 12.e4 ♗c5 13.♗d6! ♗d7 14.♗c4 – a pretty picture!



But he had not properly assessed White's chances – Black is in trouble here. He stopped looking because after a couple of minutes he saw something even more powerful.

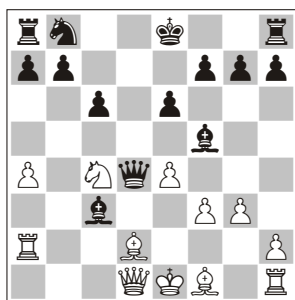
11.e4!

Giri's killer novelty.

11...♗c3

11...♗c3 is best met by 12.♗d6 ♖f8 13.bc3 ♗c3 14.♗c1 ♗e4 15.fe4 (15.♗e4 ♗e4 16.♗c3 ♗d5 17.♗c4 ♗f5 18.fe4 ♗e4 19.♖f2 is also promising) 15...♗e4 (15...♗d6 16.ef5 ♗d7 17.♗e2 ef5 18.0-0) 16.♗a3 ♖g8 17.♗e3 ♗e5 18.♗f4 ♗a5 19.♗d2 ♗e5 20.♗c3 ♗g5 21.♗e4 ♗e3 22.♗e2 ♗e4 23.0-0 and it's all over.

12.bc3 ♗c3 13.♖a2!



Possibly Harikrishna had missed this little rook move in his calcula-

tions. His queen's bishop is still under attack.

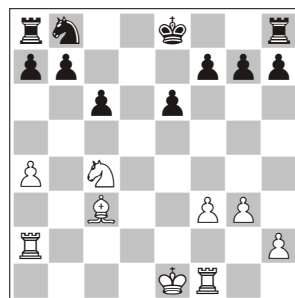
13...♗e4

White's defences run like Swiss clockwork. 13...♗g6 14.♗b3 b5 15.♗c3 bc4 16.♗b8 ♖b8 17.♗d4 is a losing option, while after 13...♗h3 14.♗b3! (surely not 14.♗h3? ♗c4 and the tables have turned) 14...♗f1 15.♖f1 ♗d2 (flipping in 15...b5 is no better: 16.ab5 cb5 (16...♗d2 17.♖d2 ♗c5 18.♗d6 ♖e7 19.bc6 ♗c6 20.♗b4+)) 17.♗b5 ♗d7 18.♖c2 a6 19.♗c6 0-0 20.♖c3 ♖c8 21.♗a4 ♗e5 22.♗b2! △ 23.♗c2) 16.♖d2 ♗c5 17.♗b7! 0-0 18.♖c2 f5 19.e5 f4 20.♖ff2 or 18...♗d7 19.♗d7 ♖fd8 20.♗c7, Black is just dead.

14.♗c1! ♗d3

14...♗f3 15.♗c3 ♗e4 16.♗e2! (16.♖f2 is slightly less convincing although Black's compensation with rook and four pawns for the queen after 16...0-0 17.♗d2 ♗d5 18.♗c4 ♗h1 19.♗d5 ♗d5 should not be enough) 16...0-0 17.♗d6 ♗g4 (17...♗d5 18.♖d2 ♗h5 (18...♗h1 19.♖d5 and 20.♗g7 is on its way) 19.♗g7! ♗e2 (19...♖g7 20.♗c3) 20.♗f8 ♗f3 21.♗b2 – game over) 18.♗g7 ♗g7 19.♗f3 ♗e5 20.♗e4 f5 (20...♗d7 21.♖e2) 21.♗g5 ♖h8 22.♖d2 ♗a6 23.0-0. White keeps the piece, while retaining the initiative.

15.♗c3 ♗c3 16.♗c3 ♗f1 17.♖f1



Compared to the main line 8.e4 ♗e4 9.fe4 ♗e4 10.♗d2 ♗d4 11.♗e4 ♗e4 12.♗e2 ♗d2 13.♗d2 ♗d5 14.♖c2 ♗a6 15.♗c4, this

ending with three pawns for a piece is clearly inferior for Black and consequently Giri had little trouble rounding up the point.

In fact, this kick start (in Round 2 he beat Nisipeanu, another pre-tournament favourite, with Black in a Petroff!) enabled the Dutch champion to settle perfectly in the tournament and later even win the B Group.

Jokingly Kasparov called 8...♘d5 'a well-known losing move'. He knows Botvinnik's notebooks!

In 19th Century Style!

by Peter Boel

RG 2.1 (C43)

YB 88

In 2010 Corus introduced an increment of 30 seconds per move. This didn't prevent the players in the following game to play in a 19th century time tempo and in 19th century style!

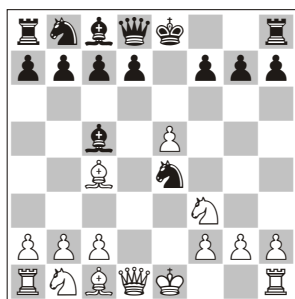
Short, Nigel

Smeets, Jan

Wijk aan Zee 2010 (13)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 ♘e4 4.de5 ♘c5 5.♘c4

After 5.♗d5 ♘f2 Bruzon against Ivanchuk (Merida 2007) played the novel 6.♘d1 – see the Survey by Jose Vilela in Yearbook 88. The text prevents the bishop from being boxed in after a check on f2, but does allow Black to capture with the knight.



5...♘f2

This will probably remain the critical move, as it is simply very good for Black! However, he must be prepared to play some swashbuckling chess.

On the more 'solid' 5...♘f2?! 6.♘e2, Gyöző Forintos in *The Petroff Defence* (Forintos/ Haag, Batsford 1991) gives 6...c6 7.♘d3 (on Forintos's alternative 7.♗f1!? strongest appears to be 7...d5! 8.ed6 ♘c5 and now 9.♘f7!? ♘f7 10.♘g5 ♘g6 11.♗d3 ♘g4! 12.♘e1 ♗e8 13.♘e4 ♗d6) 7...d5 8.ed6 (RR 8.♘e4!? ♘b6 9.♘d3 ♘d7 10.♗e1 0-0 11.♘c3 f6 gives Black dangerous compensation for the piece) 8...f5 9.♘e4 fe4 10.♘f2 and now not the suggested 10...ef3?? 11.♗e1 and White is winning, but first 10...0-0, when Black has good attacking chances for the pawn.

Also, things may not be so bad for Black after Rybka's suggestion 6...♗e7!? 7.♘d5 (7.♗d3 f5! 8.♘c3 ♘c3 9.bc3 ♘b6 10.♗f5 ♘c6 gives Black good counterplay) 7...♘f6! 8.♘g5 (or 8.♘f2 ♗c5) 8...♘b6 and White cannot profit from the pin on the ♘f6 as on 9.♘f1 there is 9...♗c5.

Another good alternative, 5...d5!?, as in Dominguez Ofretorio-Alonso Martinez, Mondariz 1994, was examined in Vilela's Survey.

6.♘f7

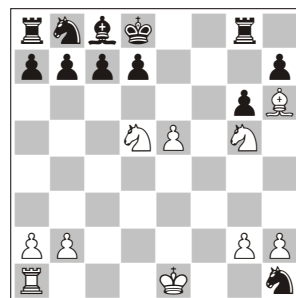
6.♗d5? ♗e7 is good for Black, as was seen in the game Nagy-Revesz, Nyiregyhaza 2002 – see Yearbook 88, page 106.

6...♘f7!?

A sound alternative is 6...♘f8, for example: 7.♗d5 ♘h1 and now an analysis by Andrey Khachaturov runs: 8.♘h5 ♗e7 9.♘g5 ♘f2 10.♘e2 ♗e6 11.♘c3! g6 12.♗e6 de6 13.♘f6 ♗g8 14.♗h1 ♘c6 15.♗d1 and 'Black is unable to develop without material loss'. Let's see: 15...♘b6 16.♘g4 h6 17.♘e4 ♘f7 18.c4 a6 19.c5 ♘a7 20.♘f2 ♘e7 21.♘e2 ♘d5 and Black hasn't yet disentangled, but there is no way through in sight for White either.

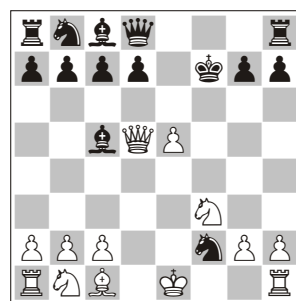
Interesting, instead of Khachatu-

rov's 8...♗e7, is 8...♘b4!? 9.c3 g6 10.♘h6 ♘e8 11.cb4 ♗e7!, when White can draw with sharp play: 12.♘g4! ♗b4 13.♘bd2 ♗g4 14.♘e4 ♗e6 15.♘f6 ♘d8 16.♘g5 ♗d5 17.♘d5 ♗g8 and now a funny move repetition:



18.♘f7 ♘e8 19.♘g5 ♘d8 etc.!: 8...♘f2 9.♘e2 ♗e7 10.♘g5 ♗e6 transposes to Khachaturov's line.

7.♗d5



7...♘g6

This crazy move, indicated by Vilela, was blitzed out by Smeets, and now Short entered the think tank. The 'normal' move is 7...♘e8 and now 8.♘g5! (better than the sharper 8.♗c5 ♘h1 according to Artur Yusupov in *C43*, the Informant monograph on the Petroff Defence, although White has good practical chances after 9.♘g5 d6! 10.♗e3) 8...♘e7 9.♘e7 ♗e7 10.♘f2 and White is a little better (Yusupov). This was confirmed in Belov-Saric, Budva Ech 2009.

8.♘g5?!N

Now it was Smeets's turn to bury his head in his hands! Vilela gave 8.♗f1 d6 9.♗f2 ♘f2 10.♘f2 h6 'when the temporarily ugly position of Black's king does not seem

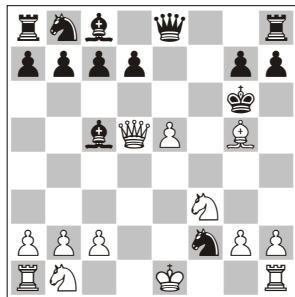
to compensate for the lost exchange'. In Stankovic-R.Hovhannisyan, Antalya U18 2009, Black gradually disentangled after 11.♖e4 ♟f7 12.♘c3 ♘c6 13.♙f4 de5 14.♗e5 ♚e8 15.♗f4 ♔g8 16.♙c7 ♗d7 17.♞d1 ♗f5 18.♘d5 ♙e6 and eventually won.

8...♗e8!?

Black could consolidate by protecting the ♙c5: 8...♗f8 9.♞f1 h6 10.♙d2 ♘a6 11.b4!? ♘b4! (first 11...c6! 12.♗b3 could be even better) 12...♙b4 ♙b4 13.♟f2 ♗c5 and Black's troubles are over – he is a pretty sound pawn up.

But the safest seems to be 8...♗g8! 9.♗c5 ♘h1. Black can consolidate with moves like ...♙a6 and ...h6, and after 10.♗d4 he now has 10...♗e6! defending on the light squares and, in some lines, with the sneaky ...♗b6!.

In the pavilion, guest commentator Paul van der Sterren already suggested White's following highly speculative move:



9.♘h4?!

Objectively best may have been 9.♞f1 (or 9.0-0!? with the same idea!) 9...♙a6 10.♞f2 ♙f2 11.♟f2 but here Short probably saw the consolidating 11...♗e6 coming; after 12.♘c3 (or 12.♗d3 ♗f5 13.♗c3 h6 14.♙e3 ♞f8 15.♟g1 ♟h7 and Black is fine) 12...♗d5 13.♘d5 ♟f7 14.♟g3 c6 White's compensation is dwindling.

9...♟g5 10.♘d2!?

Now Short was down to 12 minutes (plus increment!). Van der Sterren's initial line had gone 10.e6 ♟h4 11.g3 and now the co-



NEW IN CHESS

The talk of the town: Short-Smeets.

Magnus & Co are wondering how Jan will meet Nigel's novelty 8...♙g5.

operative 11...♟h3? 12.0-0? (12.♗f5 ♟g2 13.♗d5 ♟h3 14.♗f5 is a draw) 12...♗e6?? 13.♗h5 mate!

Of course, Black wins after 12...d6 13.♞f2 ♙f2 14.♟f2 ♙e6. But the real winner is 11...♟g4, as after 12.♗c4 Black gives both bishop and knight and then runs away from the checks.

10...♟h6?

Smeets played his tenth move at 15:16 PM, when most of his colleagues had entered the old-fashioned 'time-trouble phase' between moves 30 and 40. Even the audacious 10...♟h4!? would have won here, but also the 'normal' 10...g6, and the line found in the post-mortem: 10...d6 11.♘df3 ♟g4 and there is no follow-up after 12.♗c4 ♟h5 or 12.h3 ♟g3.

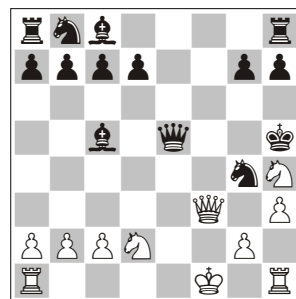
After the text a draw is inevitable.

11.♘f5 ♟g6 12.♘h4



12...♟h6

The ultimate attempt 12...♟h5!? turns out to be too risky: 13.♗f3 ♘g4 14.h3 ♗e5 15.♟f1 and now:



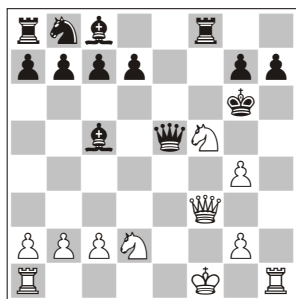
A) 15...d5 16.hg4 ♟g5 (16...♙g4 17.♗f7 g6 (17...♟h6) 18.♘hf3 and mate) 17.♗f7! ♟g4 18.♘hf3 and Black has to give up material to prevent mate: 18...♞f8! 19.♙e5 ♟g3 20.♗f8 ♙f8 21.♞e1 and White should be winning;

B) 15...♞e8 16.hg4 ♟g5 17.♘f5! g6 (17...♟g6 18.♞h5! and faced with the deadly threat 19.♘h4 Black must also give his rook on e2) 18.♘h6! ♗e2 (only move! 18...♞e7 19.♘f7 ♞f7 20.♗f7 ♗f6 21.♘f3!) 19.♗e2 ♞e2 20.♟e2 with a clear advantage to White;

C) 15...♟g5!? 16.♘e4! ♗e4 (16...♟h6? 17.hg4 will end in mate) 17.♗e4 ♘e3 18.♟e2 d6 19.♞af1! ♘f1 20.♞f1 ♘c6 21.♘f5 with a winning attack;

D) 15...♞f8 16.hg4 ♟g5 17.♘f5 (17.♗f8 ♙f8 18.♘hf3 ♟f6

19.♖e5 ♜c6! with chances to hold the endgame. But not 19...♗e5? 20.♞e1 ♜f6 21.♞e8) 17...♙g6 and here again:



18.♞h5! allows White to emerge an exchange up: 18...h6 19.♗h4 ♙h7 20.♞e5 ♞f3 21.gf3 d6 22.♞e8 and this position is extremely unpleasant for Black.

13.♗f5 ♙g6 14.♗h4

Draw agreed. With 14 moves not much increment – but a lot of excitement!

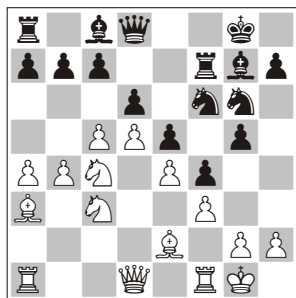
Nakamura's Next Big Scalp

by Emil Anka

KI 7.8 (E97)

YB 93

In Yearbook 93 I wrote a Survey titled 'Mate Me or Die Trying' about a great current issue in opening debates: the exciting Classical Main Line of the King's Indian Defence: 1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 ♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7 9.♗d2 ♗e8! 10.b4 f5 11.c5 ♗f6 12.f3 f4 13.♗c4 g5 14.a4 ♗g6 15.♙a3 ♞f7



The main game between 'old hand' Beliavsky and 'daredevil' Nakamura featured the interesting 16.a5! with the idea of 17.b5. There have not been any new developments in that line so far.

In our Survey the verdict wasn't clear on the old, well-known direct 16.b5. Here I suggested after 16...dc5 17.♙c5 h5 18.a5 g4 19.b6 g3 20.♙h1 the moves 20...♙f8! or even the less logical, but playable 20...♗e8!?, evaluating the position as unclear (20...♗h7 was analysed in detail and assessed as better for White). Guess what happened? Shortly after Yearbook 93 was published. GM Pascal Charbonneau's move 20...♙f8! also inspired Hikaru Nakamura!

From the theoretical point of view Gelfand played a new move (21.d6 compared to Roozmon's 21.♙g1) but it did not cause a real headache to Nakamura nor to the line. After Boris blundered (24.dc7??) Hikaru was able to demonstrate his exceptional tactical talent, even against such a great player as the current World Cup winner. 24.♙g2 instead would have kept the balance with a draw as a very likely outcome.

Gelfand, Boris

Nakamura, Hikaru

Bursa Wch-tt 2010 (5)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 ♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7 9.♗d2 ♗e8!?

For the inspiration of playing this move Nakamura will pay the next round of drinks for grandmaster Pascal Charbonneau and FIDE-master Jack Yoos, as he wrote in his analysis on the USCF website!

10.b4 f5 11.c5 ♗f6 12.f3 f4 13.♗c4 g5 14.a4 ♗g6 15.♙a3 ♞f7 16.b5 dc5 17.♙c5 h5 18.a5 g4 19.b6 g3 20.♙h1

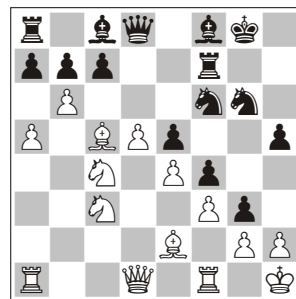
A) 20.♗b5? ♗d5 (20...♗e4? 21.fe4 ♞h4 22.hg3 fg3 23.♞f7 ♞h2 24.♙f1 ♞h1 25.♙g1+)

21.♞d5 (21.♞d2 ♞h4 22.h3 ♙h3!+) 21...♞h4 22.h3 ♙h3!+;

B) 20.ba7? ♗d7 21.♙b4 ♞h4 22.h3 ♗df8!+ Δ 23...♙h3;

C) 20.d6?! ♗d7! 21.♙b4 ♞h4 22.h3 ♗b6! ♣ Δ 23...♙h3.

20...♙f8!?



21.d6

A) 21.♙f8 ♗e4!! 22.♗e4 (22.h3 ♙h3 23.gh3 ♞c8+)

22...♞h4+; B) 21.bc7 ♞c7 22.♙g1 (22.♙f8? ♗e4!!+) 22...h4! (Δ 23...h3) 23.h3 ♙h3 24.gh3 ♞c8 25.♙g2 ♗h7 ♣ (Δ 26...♗g5).

C) This was the game that had caught Nakamura's attention: 21.♙g1 ♗h4 22.♞e1 (22.♞a2) 22...♗g2! 23.♙g2 ♞g7 24.♗e5 gh2 25.♙h1 ♗e4! 0-1, Roussel Roozmon-Charbonneau, Montreal 2008.

21...ab6 22.♙g1

22.ab6 ♞a1 23.♞a1 cd6 24.♞d1 ♞d7 (24...♗e8 25.♞a8=) 25.♙g1 ∞/=.

22...♗h4 23.♞e1

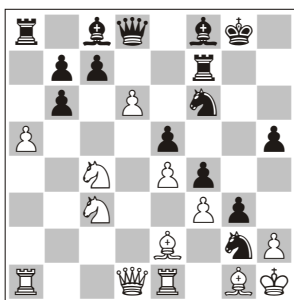
23.dc7? ♙h3!+; 23.hg3? fg3 24.♙e3 cd6! (clearly stronger than IM Mark Ginsburg's line 24...♙h3? 25.♞g1 ♙g2-25...♞c8 26.♙f1± - 26.♙g2 ♗g2 27.♙g2 ♙d6 28.♗d6 ♞d6 29.♞d6 cd6 30.♙c4± ba5 31.♙g3 ♞c8 32.♙f7 ♙f7 33.♞a3) 25.♙g5 ♗g6 26.♗b6 ♙h6! 27.♞d2 (27.♙h6?? ♗g4+; 27.♗a8? ♙g5 28.♙c4 ♗g4!+) 27...♗f4! ♣.

23...♗g2!

And now, under immense pressure, Gelfand made a surprising blunder.



Hikaru Nakamura



24.dc7??

24.♔g2 draws. Nakamura gives: 24...♖g7! 25.hg3 (25.dc7 gh2 26.♔h1 (26.♔h2? ♘g4 27.fg4 ♖h4 28.♔g2 hg4+-) 26...hg1 ♖ 27.♖g1 ♖c7=) and now:

A) 25...♖g3 26.♔h1 ♖h3 27.♔h2 ♘g4 28.♖d5 ♔h7 29.♖f7 ♔g7 30.fg4 ♖h2 31.♔h2 ♖h4 32.♔g2 ♖g3 33.♔h1 ♖h3, with a forced repetition of moves;

B) An alternative is 25...♖d7!? 26.g4 hg4 27.fg4 ♘g4 28.♔g4 ♖g4 29.♔h1 ♖h4 30.♔h2 ♖h3 (30...♖h2 31.♔h2 ♖h3 32.♔g1 ♖c3 33.♖d5 ♔g7 34.♔e5 ♖g3 35.♔f1 ♔d6 36.♖f7 ♔h6 37.♖f6 ♔h7 38.♖f7=) 31.♖d2∞/=.

Alternatives on move 24:

A) 24...h4?! 25.hg3 h3 26.♔h1 (26.♔h2 fg3 27.♔g3 ♔h5) 26...fg3 27.dc7 ♖c7 28.ab6 ♖a1 29.bc7 ♖d1 30.♖d1 ♖c7 31.♔b5±;

B) 24...♔e4? 25.♔e4 ♖h4 26.♔h1!+-;

C) 24...♔h3? 25.♔h3 ♖d7 26.♔g2 gh2 27.♔h2 ♘g4 28.fg4 hg4 29.♔g4 ♖h7 30.♔g2 ♖g7 31.♔e5+-;

D) 24...♖d7? 25.♔h1 ♖g7 (25...g2 26.♔g2 ♖h3 27.♔h1 ♖g7 28.♔f1+-) 26.♔f1+-.

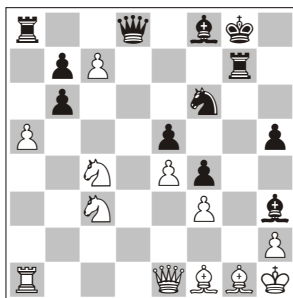
24...♔e1+- 25.♖e1

25.cd8 ♖g2 mate; 25.hg3 ♖d1 26.♖d1 ♔f3 27.♔b6 (27.♔f3 ♖c7+-) 27...♖c7 28.♔a8 ♖c3+-.

25...g2!

25...♖c7 26.hg3干.

26.♔g2 ♖g7 27.♔h1 ♔h3 28.♔f1



28...♖d3!!

Nakamura comments: 'At this point, Boris sunk into a deep think and started shaking his head. Indeed, there really is no worse feeling than when you think you have weathered the storm only to face more unpleasant surprises.'

29.♔e5

29.♔h3 ♖f3 30.♔g2 ♖g2 mate.

29...♔f1 30.♖f1 ♖c3 31.♖c1 ♖e5

32.c8 ♖c8 33.♖c8 ♖e6 0-1

Congratulations Hikaru! However, our crucial question in Yearbook 93 regarding 16.a5!? remains unanswered. So please, grandmasters: put Nakamura (or another super GM) to the test again. We chess fans are thirsting for more excitement and – yes – the truth.

Checked in the Czech

by Viacheslav Zakhartsov

SI 40.2 (B48)

YB 90, 91, 92

In Yearbooks 90, 91, and 92, Tibor Fogarasi wrote three interesting

Surveys about the sharp line with 0-0-0 in the Taimanov Variation, where Black tries to apply a different set-up than the most common 8...♔b4 and 9...♔e5. One of them I applied in one of my games at the Prague Open, and I was faced with a novelty.

Nyysti,Sampsa

Zakhartsov,Viacheslav

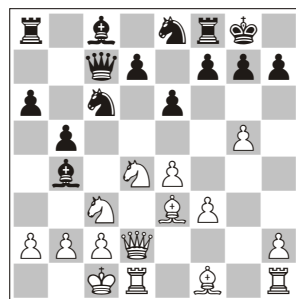
Prague Open 2010 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 e6 3.d4 cd4

4.♔d4 ♔c6 5.♔c3 ♖c7 6.♔e3

a6 7.♖d2 ♔f6 8.0-0-0 ♔b4 9.f3

0-0 10.g4 b5 11.g5 ♔e8



12.♖e1!?

Probably an over-the-board novelty. The idea is a similar to the one after 9...♔e5 10.♔b3 b5 11.♖e1, but not too dangerous for Black. Other moves – 12.♔c6; 12.♔b1; 12.a3 – were considered in Fogarasi's Survey in Yearbook 92.

12...♔b7

12...♔e7, avoiding the following sequence, was another option.

13.♔c6 ♖c6

13...♔c6? 14.♔b5 ab5 15.♖b4 ♖a2 16.♔b1 with an advantage for White.

14.♔d5!? ed5

Also possible was 14...♔d6 15.e5!? ed5 16.ed6 ♔d6 17.♔d3 ♖fe8 18.♖f2 d4 19.♔d4 ♖f3 20.♖h1f with some compensation for the pawn.

15.♖b4 de4 16.♖e4

16.♔c5?? ♖c8;

16.♔h3 ♖c8 17.c3 f5 18.fe4 ♖e4 19.♖e4 ♔e4 20.♖he1 d5干.

16...♖e4 17.fe4 ♔e4 18.♖g1 ♖c8 19.♔d3 d5

19...♔d3 20.♖d3 d6 was another possibility, but after 21.♙f4 ♗c6 (21...f6 22.♙d6 ♖d6 23.♖d6 fg5 24.♗g5 ♗f2 25.♖d2 with an equal endgame) 22.♗e1! White inevitably retrieves his pawn: 22...f6 23.gf6 ♖f6 (23...gf6?! 24.♗e7 ♖g7 25.♖d7 ♖f5 26.♖d5 ♗c5 27.♗d6 ♖d6 28.♗c5) 24.♖d6 ♖d6 25.♙d6 =.

20.♙e4 de4 21.♖d4 f5 22.gf6 ♖f6 23.♖d6! a5

23...♗f7 also promised nothing after 24.♙d4!; 24.♗a6 ♖d5 25.♙d4 ♖b4 26.♗e6 ♖c2 27.♙c3 b4.

24.♙d4 ♖f7 25.♗a6 ♗a8 26.♖b6 ♗ab8

26...♗fb8 27.♗c6 ♗c8 28.♗b6.

27.♗a6 ♗a8 28.♗b6 ♗ab8 ½-½
We can conclude that 14.♖d5!? is an interesting pawn sacrifice, but it doesn't promise more than equality for White.

The following game was my first and only black victory in Prague.

**Bodiroga, Predrag
Zakharov, Viacheslav**
Prague Open 2010 (6)

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♖f3 b6 4.g3 c6 5.♙g2 ♙b7 6.♖c3 d5 7.0-0 ♙e7

I had decided on a pet set-up of Sergey Tiviakov, to which he had devoted a Survey in Yearbook 91.
8.♖d2 0-0 9.♗e1

White prepares e4, avoiding the line 9.e4 dc4 10.♖c4 ♙a6 11.b3 b5 12.♖e3 b4 13.♖e2 ♙e2 14.♗e2 ♗d4, as in the game Aronian-Tiviakov in the Yearbook 91 Survey.

9...♖bd7

9...♖a6 also needs practical testing.

10.e4 dc4

10...de4 11.♖de4 ♖e4 12.♖e4 ♖f6 13.♖c3 leads to a slightly better position for White. I was striving for more complicated play.

11.♖c4 b5 12.♖e3 b4

A novelty. The moves 12...♖b6 and 12...a6, which had previously occurred in practice, seemed too slow to me.

13.♖a4 ♖b6

13...c5 14.d5 leads to a worse position for Black: 14...ed5 (on 14...♖b6 15.d6! ♙d6 16.♖b6 ab6 17.e5 wins a piece: 17...♙g2 18.♖g2! 18...♙e5 19.♗d8 ♗f8 20.♗e5) 15.ed5 ♙d6 16.♖f5 ♖b6 17.♙g5 h6 (17...♖a4 18.♗a4 h6 19.♙h4) 18.♖d6 ♗d6 19.♙f6 ♗f6 20.♖c5 ♙d5 21.♙d5 ♗ad8 22.♖e4 ♗f5 23.♙f7 ♗f7 24.♗e2±, and White is a pawn up.

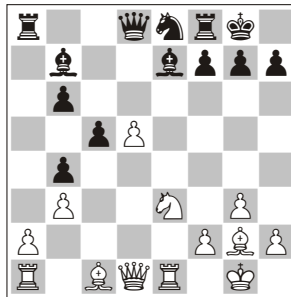
14.♖b6

14.♖c5 was a principled continuation: 14...♙c5 15.dc5 ♗d1 16.♖d1 ♖a4 17.♖d4 (17.♖c4!?) 17...a5 18.♖c4 ♖c5 19.♙f4 ♖a4 20.♖d2 c5 21.f3 ♙c6 22.♙e3 ♖d7 23.♗ad1, and White has more than enough compensation for the pawn.

14...ab6 15.b3

15.e5 ♖d5 16.♖d5 cd5=.

15...c5 16.d5 ed5 17.ed5 ♖e8



18.♖f5

White tries to attack. 18.♖c4 is harmless: 18...♙f6 19.♖e5 (19.♙b2 ♙b2 20.♖b2 ♖d6, and Black is doing fine) 19...♖c7 20.d6 ♙g2 21.♖g2 ♖b5 22.d7 ♙e5 23.♗e5 ♗a7, winning the d-pawn; but 18.♖g4! (preventing 18...♙f6) was very strong: 18...♖d6 19.♙b2 ♗e8 20.♗d3 with complex play.

18...♙f6 19.♗b1?!

19.♙f4! was a strong developing continuation: 19...♙c8 (19...♙a1 20.♗a1 f6 21.♖e7 ♖h8 22.♖c6 ♙c6 23.dc6 with full compensation for the exchange; 19...♗d7!? deserves serious attention) 20.♖e7 ♙e7 21.d6 ♙f6 22.♙a8 ♙a1

23.♗a1 ♖d6 24.♗d1 ♖b5 25.♗d8 ♗d8 26.♙c6 ♙a6 27.♙b5 ♙b5 28.♙c7 ♗a8 29.♙b6 c4 30.bc4 ♙c4 31...♙c5=.

19...♗a2

Now Black is a healthy pawn up.

20.d6 ♙g2 21.♖g2 ♗d7

22.♗g4 ♖h8 23.♙f4

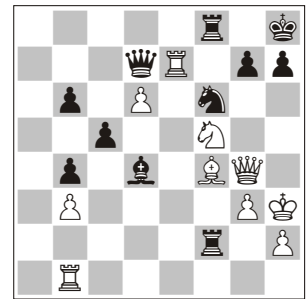
23.♖d1 g6 24.♖e3 ♗c6 25.♗f3 ♗f3 26.♖f3 ♙d4 27.d7 ♖c7 28.♙b2 ♖e6 29.♖c4 ♗d8±.

23...♙d4 24.♖e3?

A decisive mistake in time-trouble. 24.♗e7 ♗f2 25.♖h3 ♗c6 26.♗g1 ♗a2 27.♖d4 cd4 would give Black a big advantage, however White would have some counterchances.

24...♗f2! 25.♖h3 f5 26.♖f5 ♖f6 27.♗e7

27.♗g5 ♖g8 28.g4 ♙f6 29.♗h5 ♗f4-+; 29...g6-+.



27...♗h2!

0-1

Thanks to this victory I joined the group of leaders. By winning the next game, I became the sole leader and ended up the sole winner of the Prague Open.

Testing Vachier's Idea

by Nikolay Ninov

SI 19.14 (B90)

YB 93

During the 2009 Gros Xake Taldea open in San Sebastian I was finishing my Survey on the Perenyi Gambit, which appeared in Yearbook 93. While trying to succeed for the deadline on the 30th of September, my result was 6 points

from 7 rounds with good chances for a grandmaster norm. Eventually I did not get it because of a 'timely' FIDE innovation from July, changing the rule of calculating Elo ratings in a tournament for title norms.

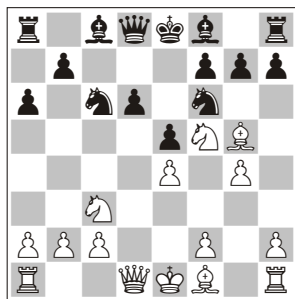
Nevertheless, I'd like to say to players all over the world: 'Do not be afraid to contribute to a Yearbook while playing a tournament!' What I could not guess was that the aforementioned Survey had a lot to do with the coming first match of the new season of the French team championship. As early as October 4, an opportunity came not only to test Vachier-Lagrave's idea of 8...♘c6!?, but to use one of my own recommendations. Here I would like to represent this encounter together with some additional material.

Karim,Ismael

Ninov,Nikolay

France tt 2009

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cd4 4.♘d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.♗f5 ♘c6!? 9.♗g5



Strictly speaking, this is a novelty. My young and very well prepared opponent blitzed it out, as well as the next series of moves. After the game he let me know that during that same week he had given lectures exactly on the Perenyi and he had had to explain the ideas behind 9.♗g5 too!

Moreover, it appeared that Ismael had analysed (in a joint session) the whole line with 8...♘c6!?, with none other than Maxime Vachier-

Lagrave!!! It is remarkable that in all known correspondence games the most principled continuation 9.♗g2 g6 10.♖e2! gf5 11.ef5 ♗g8 12.h3 has always been met by 12...♘e7!?, which, as I noted in Yearbook 93, 'is another critical position to be solved'. It brought Black three impressive wins! In two of them 18...h5! shook the trust in the widely-quoted game Nikolenko-Lepeshkin – please, for details refer to the annotations of its author Alexey Vol. Note that the winner added a '?!' to 7.g4 and that in the only drawn game Black came out of the opening with a clear advantage!

9...♗e6 10.♗g2 h6 11.♗f6 ♖f6 12.♘d5 ♖d8

Following my statement in Yearbook 93 – Black is playing in the spirit of the Lasker/Pelikan variation, aiming at exploiting the drawbacks of the early advance of White's g-pawn. In the post-mortem Ismael told me that the inventor Vachier-Lagrave considered 12...♗d5 to be perfectly playable. **13.♖d2 ♗c8 14.c3 g6 15.♘fe3 h5 16.gh5**

Another almost instantly played move. The alternative 16.h3 condemns the bishop to a much more passive role in comparison to the game, true, at the cost of destroying the pawn structure.

16...♗h5 17.0-0-0 ♗h4

Here I hesitated for a long time between the text and 17...♗h6 and finally decided to deprive White of possibilities like 18.h4!?. Anyway, Black seems to have a satisfactory position in either case.

18.♗b1 ♗h6 19.♖e2 ♘e7 20.♘e7 ½-½

Black did not experience great difficulties in his first confrontation with 9.♗g5, so there is one more reason to recommend 8...♘c6! As Ismael observed 'we both had done our homework and this was the normal outcome.'

Here are the promised examples from the practice of the correspondence players.

Gorelikov,Andrey

Vol,Alexey

cr St Petersburg-ch 1991

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cd4 4.♘d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.g4?! e5 8.♗f5 g6 9.♗g2 gf5 9...d5 10.♗g5 gf5 11.♘d5 ♗e7 (11...♖a5 12.♗d2 ♖d8 13.♗g5=) 12.♗f6 ♗f6 13.ef5 h5 14.h3 ♗d7 15.♖e2 hg4 16.hg4 ♗h1 17.♗h1 ♗c6 18.0-0-0 ♗d5 19.♗d5 ♗g5∞ ½-½ Tolnai-Gavrikov, Berlin 1989.

10.ef5 ♗g8!?

10...h6 11.♖e2 ♗g8 12.h3.

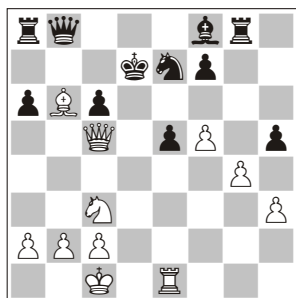
11.h3 ♘c6 12.♖e2 ♘e7 13.f4 ♖c7 14.0-0-0

14.fe5 de5 15.♖f2 ♗d7 16.0-0-0 (16.♗b6 ♖c4! 17.♗b7 ♗b8 18.♗g2 ♘e5 19.♘d5 ♘d5 20.♗d5 ♖d5 21.♗h2 ♖e4 22.♗f1 ♖c4-+, Vol) 16...♗c6 17.♗b6 ♖b8 18.♗he1 h5! (Vol's improvement upon 18...♘d7 19.♗c6 bc6 (19...♘c6!?) 20.♗a5 f6? 21.♖h4! ♖b7 22.♖h7 ♗g7 23.♘e4! ♘d5 24.♖g7 1-0 (28) Nikolenko-Lepeshkin, Moscow 1989) 19.♗c6 (19.♗c5 ♗g2 20.♗d6 ♖c8 21.♖g2 ♖c6 22.♖c6 bc6 23.♗e5 ♗h6 24.♗b1 ♗g5 25.♗d6 ♗h4!-+ 26.♗ed1 ♘fd5 0-1 (31) Sgouritsas-Capoccia, cr Email 2000) 19...bc6



Nikolay Ninov

(19...♖c6? 20.♘d5 ♘d5 21.♙d5 hg4 22.f6! gh3 23.♙f5 ♘h6 24.♘d1 ♖g6 25...♙c5 ♗c7 26.♞ee5!+-, Vol) 20.♗c5 ♘d7 21.♙d7 ♘d7



22.♞e5?? (22.♙d1 ♘d5 23.♙d5! cd5 24.♗d5 ♘d6 25...♙c5 ♗c7 (25...♙e7? 26.f6!+-; 25...♙d8 26.♘e4 ♗b5 27.♘d6! ♗f1 28.♘d2 ♗f4 29.♙e2 ♗h2 30.♙e1 ♗g3 31.♘d1+-) 26.♗f7 (26.♘e4? ♖gc8) 26...♙c6 27.♗d5=, Vol) 22...♘f5!+- 0-1 (♠ 23.♗a5 ♘b4!), Yurchenko-Vol, cr St Petersburg-ch 1991.

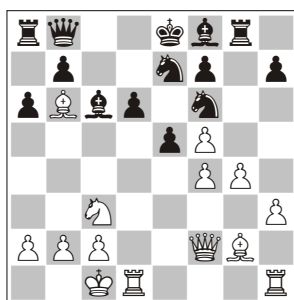
14...♙d7

14...♙f5 – Vol.

15.♗f2

15.♙d2!?: 15.g5 ♘f5 16.fe5 de5 17.♙f4 0-0-0 18.♙e5 ♙e8 19...♙c7 ♞e2 20.♘e2 ♘c7 21.♙b7 ♘b5 22.♙f3 ♖g5 23.♘c3 ♙c4 24.♙e2 ♙e2 25.♘e2 ♙h6 26.♘b1 ♘e3 27.♙dg1 ♙d5 28.♘c3 ♙d2 29.♖g3 ♘h5 30.♖g8 f5 31.♙a8 ♙g7 32.♙a6 f4 (32...♙c3 33.bc3 ♘g3 34.♖g1 f4) 33.♘e4 ♙c2 34.♙c1 ♙c1 35.♘c1 ♘c4 36.b3 ♘e5 37.♘d2 ♘c6 38.♘c5 ♘d6 39.b4 ♘d5 40.♘d3 ♘e5 41.♘e5 ♙e5 42.♘d3 ♘f6 43.a4 ♙d6 44.♙a5 ♘e6 45.b5 ♘d7 46.♘e2 ♘d5 47.♙a7 ♘c5 48.a5 ♘c4 49.b6 ♘b5 50.♘f3 ♙b8 51.♙h7 ♘a5 52.b7 ♘b6 53.h4 ♘b7 54.h5 ♘c5 55.♖g7 ♘c6 56.h6 ♙e5 57.♞e7 ♘d7 58.h7 ♘f8 59.♞e5 ♘h7 60.♙f5 ♘d6 61.♘f4 ♘e6 62.♞e5 ♘f6 63.♙b5 ♘f8 64.♙b6 ♘f7 65.♘f5 ♘d7 ½-½, Viola-Capoccia, cr Email 2000.

15...♙c6 16.♙b6 ♗b8



17.g5 ♙g2

17...♘d7 18.♘e4 ♘b6 19.♘f6; 17...♘f5 18.♙c6 bc6 19.gf6 ♙h6 20.♙he1 (Vol).

18.gf6!

18.♗g2 ♘d7.

18...♘c8□

18...♙h6 19.♙hg1 ♙f4 20.♘b1 ♘c8 21.♖g2 ♖g2 22.♗g2 ♘b6 23.♗g8+-;

18...♙h1 19.fe7 ♙h6 20.♙h1 ♙f4 21.♘b1 ♗c8 22.♙d1 ♗f5 23.♙d6 ♘e7 24.♗c5 ♘e8 25.♘d5+- (Vol).

19.♙hg1 ♘b6 20.♗b6 ♗c8!

21.♙d6!

21.♙d2 ♗f5 22.♖g2 ♖g2 23.♖g2 ♗f4.

21...♗f5!

21...♙d6? 22.♗d6 ♗d7 23.♗e5 ♘f8 24.♗c5 ♘e8 25.♙e1+-, Vol.

22.♙d2

22.♘d5 ♙d5 23.♖g8 ♗f4, Vol.

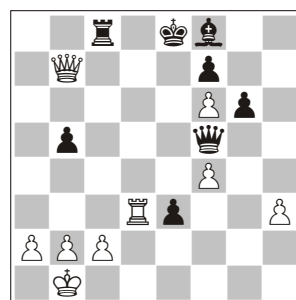


22...♙g6! 23.♘b5!

23.♖g2 ♖g2 24.♖g2 ♗f4 25.♙d2 ♙h6+-;

23.♖g1 ♗f4 24.♘b1 ♗f6 25.♗f6 ♖f6 26.♖g2 ♖f4, (Vol).

23...ab5 24.♖gg2! e4 25.♗b7 ♙c8 26.♖g6 hg6 27.♘b1 e3 28.♙d3



28...♙d6!!

0-1

ChessPublishing Anniversary Competition

a letter by Tony Kosten

OO 7.1 (D58)

YB 91, 92

When the 10th anniversary of ChessPublishing.com was approaching, I thought it would be appropriate to celebrate this in some way, but was lacking any good ideas for how. So I decided to ask on the ChessPub.com openings Forum whether any of the members had any good ideas. To my surprise, special anniversary T-shirts and coffee mugs seemed to be the most popular answer, but I decided to ignore this and instead go with a ‘best of’ download and a theoretical competition – this was a site that dealt with opening theory, after all!

Actually, we had already had a few of these theoretical competitions before when the content was decided by well-known analyst Stefan Bücker and the prizes were subscriptions to his Kaissiber magazine, but he was busy getting the latest issue to the printers and so, instead, I asked our friends at New in Chess if they would like to pick a suitable topic and donate some prizes, which I am happy to say they did.

Peter Boel, Managing Editor, wrote back: ‘We think the QGD Tartakower with 8.g4 might be a suitable starting position:

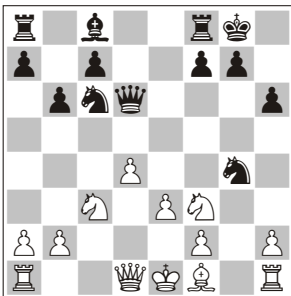
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♖e7
4.♗f3 ♗f6 5.♙g5 h6 6.♙h4 0-0
7.e3 b6 8.g4!?



There was a Survey on this line by René Olthof in Yearbook 91, and a letter by Peter Heine Nielsen in the Forum Section of Yearbook 92 (page 10), calling it “a fun line”. The Forum members had a month to come up with suitable improvements for either side, and each novelty had to be supported by convincing analysis, Stefan and I acting as ‘analysis police’.

Somewhat surprisingly, it soon became apparent that all of these suggestions were going to be for the black side, except for Stefan’s own contributions! In fact, it seemed that only Stefan and I really liked the white position at all, preferring his strong centre and practical attacking chances to Black’s solid position and castled king.

At the end of the competition the judges decided that the winner was ‘gewgaw’ with an improvement on the stem game Barbero-Vegh, where Black grabbed the pawn: 8...♗g4 9.♙e7 ♖e7 10.cd5 ed5 11.♗d5 ♖d6 12.♗c3. and now 12...♗c6

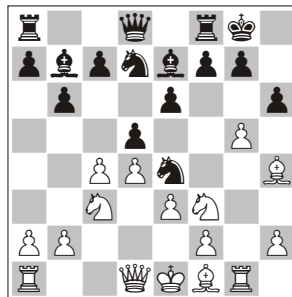


NEW IN CHESS

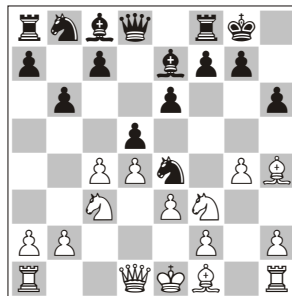
Tony Kosten

Aiming for piece play and keeping the light-squared bishop on the h3-c8 diagonal.

Second prize went to ‘Papageno’ who suggested a classical Tartakower development pattern: 8...♗bd7 9.♗g1 ♙b7 10.g5 ♗e4, pinning the g-pawn and preparing to exchange some pieces:



Third prize was given to ‘Keano’, who liked the immediate 8...♗e4, trying to stop g4-g5 completely:



All the original analysis for these, plus the other entries, is still easily consultable on the website www.chesspublishing.com.

All-in-all a great success – anyone who plans to play this line as White or Black in the future will need to take heed of all these ideas and abundant analysis. Many thanks to New In Chess for their sponsorship, and the time they spent picking the topic and judging the various entries.

Tony Kosten,
Chamalières, France

Two Marshall Slavs

by Gerhard Schröder

SL 6.1 (D31)

YB 89, YB 90

This year in the Deutscher Email Schach Club I played two games with the Marshall Gambit in the Slav. In both cases I managed to obtain a decisive advantage in an instructive way.

Schröder, Gerhard
Schneider, Dietmar

Germany DESC-Pokal 2008 (2r
2009

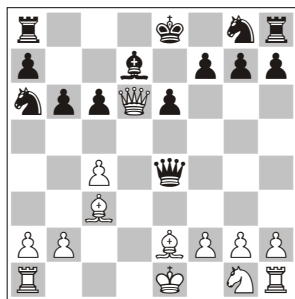
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 e6 4.e4
de4 5.♗e4 ♙b4 6.♙d2 ♖d4
7.♙b4 ♗e4 8.♙e2



8...♖g2?!

My second game went 8...♗a6 9.♙a5! (‘!?’ Atalik) 9...b6 (Dautov: ‘Probably the best reaction to the white bishop sortie. Black does not fear the ‘weakness’ on c6 and makes use of the

zwischenzug b7-b6 quick development of his queenside. Good alternatives are 9...♙d7 and 9...f6') 10.♚d6! (Atalik: 'The most challenging move') 10...♙d7 11.♙c3! ('! J. Cox) and now:



A) 11...♙e7 12.♞d1 ♞d8, for example:

A1) 13.♙f3 f6 14.♙d4 c5 15.f3 ♚h4 16.g3 ♚h3 17.♙f1 ♚h6 18.♙b5 ♙f5 19.♙c7 ♙c7 20.♚c7 ♚e3 21.♙e2 ♙d4 22.♙d4 cd4 23.♚a7 0-0 (23...d3 24.♞d3 ♚c1 25.♞d1 ♚b2 26.♙f2±) 24.♚b6 e5 25.♚b3 ♚b3 ½-½ Annageldiev-Korneev, Ashkhabad 1996 (75);

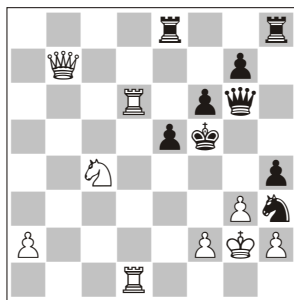
A2) 13.♚a3!N ♙c8 14.♞d8 ♙d8 and now:

- 15.♙g7 ♞e8 16.♚d6 ♙d7 17.♙f3 ♚b1 18.♙d2 ♚h1 19.♙e5 ♙c5 20.♚b8 ♙c8 21.♙f6 ♞e7 22.♙f7 ♙e8 23.♙d6 ♙f8 24.♙e7 ♙e7 25.♙c8=;

- 15.♚d6 ♙d7 16.♙g7 ♚b1 17.♙d1 ♞e8 18.♙f3 ♙f5 19.♙f6 ♙c8 20.♚a3!.

B) 11...f6 12.♙f3 0-0 (12...e5? 13.♙d2 ♚g2 14.♙h5 g6 15.♙f3 ♚h3 16.♙c6+-) 13.♚a3!N ♙b7 14.♙d2! (14.♞d1 e5 15.♞d2 ♚b1 16.♙d1) 14...♚g6 15.0-0 e5 16.♙f3 ♙h6!? 17.b4 (for the sacrificed pawn White does not only have the bishop pair, but also a space advantage and a dangerous attack) 17...♙f7 18.b5 ♙c7 19.bc6 ♙c6 20.♙c6 ♙c6 21.c5 ♙d5□ (21...♙b7 22.cb6 ab6 23.♙c4 ♙g5 24.♚b3; or 21...♞d3 22.♚a7!! with a winning attack) 22.cb6 ab6 23.♚fc1 ♙d7 24.♙b4 ♙g5 25.♞d1! h5 26.♙c4 ♙e6□ 27.♚b3! ♙f3 28.♚f3□ ♙b4

29.♚b7 ♙d3 30.♞ab1 ♙f4 31.♚b6 ♙f5□ 32.♞bd6 ♞de8 33.g3 ♙h3 34.♙g2 h4



35.♙e5! The white pieces cooperate optimally. 35...♞e5 36.♚b1 1-0 Schröder-Harbs, corr. 2009.

9.♙f3 ♚g5 10.♙e2 ♙d7 11.♞g1 ♚h4



12.♙c3!

A) 12.♚d2 ♙e5 13.♚e3 and now:

A1) 13...♙c4 14.♚c5 ♙e7 15.♞g5+-;

A2) 13...♚f6 14.♙h5 ♙c4 15.♚c5±;

A3) 13...♚c4 14.♙c3 ♙f3 15.♚f3 ♙e7 16.0-0 b5 17.♞g7 ♞f8 18.♙b1 ♙b7 19.♞g5 ♙d5 20.♙g7 c5 21.b3 ♙b4 22.bc4 ♙f3 23.♙f8 ♙f8 24.♞d2=;

B) 12.♚d6 ♚e7 (12...♚f6!?∞) 13.♞g7 ♚d6 14.♙d6 ♙e7 15.♙g3 b6 16.0-0± Lueders-Jenull, Berlin 2005 (½-½, 51);

C) 12.♞g4 ♚h2 13.♞g7 ♙e5 14.♙g2 ♙g6? 15.♚d2!! ♙f6 16.0-0 ♙d7 17.♞g1! a5 18.♙d6 ♚h4 19.♙g3 ♚f6 20.♚h6 ♙de5 21.♞d1 ♙g4 22.♚d2 e5 23.f3 ♙f8 24.♞g6 hg6 25.♙c3 ♙f5 26.fg4∞.

12...e5

12...♙e7 13.♞g7 ♚h2 14.♚d3 ♙g6 15.0-0 ♚h6 16.♙c2 e5 17.♙g4.

13.♞g7 ♚f6

13...♚c4 14.♙h5 ♙h6 15.♚d2 ♚e6 16.0-0±;

13...♚h2 14.♚d6 ♙e7 15.♞g5 ♞g8 16.♙b4 c5 17.♙c5 ♙c5 18.♞g8 ♙g8 19.♚c5 ♙f6 20.♚c7!±.

14.♞g3 ♙e7 15.♚d2 ♙b6

15...♙f5 16.♞g1 c5 17.♙d5 ♙d4 (with the idea 18...♙b6) 18.♙d4 cd4 19.f4±.

16.0-0 ♙e6 17.b3 ♙f5

Or 17...♙d7 and now:

A) 18.♙d4 ed4 (18...0-0 19.♚e3!! ed4 20.♞d4 ♚f5 21.♞g5 ♚h3 22.♞h5+-) 19.♙d4 ♙e5□ 20.♙e1 ♙7g6□ 21.♞e5 ♙e5 22.♚e3±;

B) 18.♙e4! with the idea 19.♞d3!

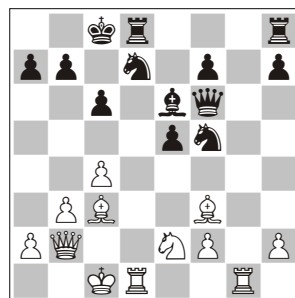
In case of 18...0-0 White has pressure along the d-file and can sacrifice ♞d7! in many lines.

18.♞g1! ♙d7□ 19.♚b2 0-0-0

A) 19...♙e3 20.♞d3 ♚f3 21.♙e5 ♙e5 22.♚e5 ♚e2 23.♞d2 and Black is forced to give his queen;

B) 19...♙h4 20.♙e4 ♙g6 21.♙g6 hg6 22.♞d7!;

C) 19...♚h6 20.♙d2! ♚h4 21.♙g5 ♚f2 22.♞gf1 ♚c5 (22...♚h2 23.♙f4!) 23.♙f4 ♙c4 24.bc4 ♚c4 25.♙b1 ♙e3 26.♙e6!! ♚e6 27.♙e3+-.



20.♞d7!! ♙d7

20...♞d7 21.♙e5 ♚h6 22.♙f4 ♚f8 23.♚e5 ♙d8 24.♙g5 ♙c8 25.c5! ♙e7 26.♙f4 ♙d8 27.♙d4 ♞g8 28.♞d1+-; 20...♙d7 21.♙e5 ♚h6 22.♙f4 ♚f8 23.♞d1 ♙c8 24.♞d8 ♚d8 25.♚e5+-.

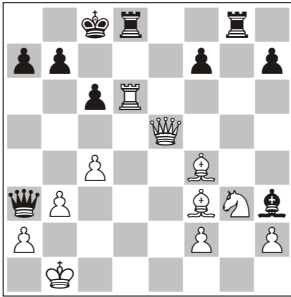
21.♙e5 ♚h6□ 22.♙f4! ♚f8□

22...♚e6? 23.♚a3 and 24.♚a5.

23.♚e5 ♚a3 24.♙b1 ♙d6

25.♙g3! ♞hg8 26.♞d1 ♙h3

26...♖g6 27.♘e4 ♕f5 28.♔a1 ♕e4
29.♕e4 ♖e8 (or 29...♗e6)
30.♕f5+-.
27.♗d6



27...♗d6□
27...♗d6 28.c5! is the beautiful point of the previous move! Black is totally lost: 28...♕f5□ 29.♗f5 ♗e6 30.♕c1!.

Also after the text, the endgame is winning for White, though it requires some accuracy.

28.♗d6 ♗d6 29.♕d6 ♘d7
30.♕c5! b6 31.♕e3 f5 32.♘c2 ♗f8 33.♕f4 ♗e8 34.c5!?
34.♘d2! ♗e7 35.b4 a5 36.c5! bc5□ 37.ba5+-.
34...bc5 35.♕e3 c4 36.b4 ♕g4
Or 36...a5 37.ba5 f4 38.♕f4 ♗f8 39.♘e2+- etc.
37.♕g2

Decisive material loss, connected with a destroyed pawn structure, is inevitable and therefore Black resigned. This move allowed me to equalize in this cup duel and we had to draw lots. I was the lucky one and went on to the third round.

Gerhard Schröder
Hamburg, Germany

Black Jet in the MacCutcheon
by Viktor Moskalenko

FR 5.3 (C12) YB 86

The following analysis may be helpful as an update of a revolutionary idea for Black against the modern 6.♕e3.

Sanchez Ibern, Marc
Moskalenko, Viktor
Sitges 2009 (6)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6
4.♕g5 ♕b4 5.e5 h6 6.♕e3

An aggressive and quite fashionable option. For the price of a pawn, White tries to keep more pieces on the board and to attack (according to Touchstones +T3 (development) and +T5 (Time), as I explained in my book *Revolutionize Your Chess*. However, Black has an interesting resource!

6...♘e4 7.♗g4 g6!
This 'Black Jet' defence is better than 7...♘f8. The g-pawn will soon come into action in the attack.

8.a3 ♕c3 9.bc3 c5!
I recommend this active defence, rather than 9...♘c3 10.♕d3†.

10.♕d3



The key position of the 6.♕e3 set-up.

10...h5!
This is a relatively untested line. I developed it in my book *The Flexible French*, but last year the idea has gone through a bit of an evolution. Right now, the text is Black's best weapon against 6.♕e3. Black diverts the white queen from the fourth rank, preparing ...♘c3. If now 10...♘c3? 11.dc5!, and the white queen controls the key squares d4 and b4: 11...♗a5?! 12.♗b4!±. And after an immediate 10...♗a5, 11.♘e2! is also better for White, according to the Touchstone of development.

11.♗f4
The most principled move. However, the white queen has three

other squares to retreat. Let's check them:

A) 11.♗f3 ♘c3! 12.dc5 (12.♘e2?! ♘e2 13.♕e2 cd4 14.♕d4 ♘c6≠ Birmkott-Van Schyndel, Leverkusen 2009) 12...♘c6 13.♗f4 (13.♕d2 ♘e5!?) (13...♘a4 14.♗f4 ♘c5 15.♘f3 b6 16.0-0∞ Goh Wei Ming-Eraschenkov, playchess.com 2005) 14.♗f4 ♘d3 15.cd3 d4 16.♘f3 0-0!⇒ 13...d4 14.♕d2 g5 (14...♘d5!?) 15.♗g5 ♗g5 16.♕g5 ♘e5.

Black has succeeded in destroying White's pawn centre. 17.♘f3?! (this pseudo-active move leads to some problems. It was better to play 17.♕f6 ♘d3 18.cd3 ♗g8 19.♕d4 ♘a4∞ (or 19...♘d5 20.g3 ♕d7 21.♘f3 ♕c6 22.♘e5 ♘b4 23.♘c6 ♘c2 24.♘d2 ♘a1 25.♘a5 b6 26.♗a1 ba5 27.♗b1 ♗g5! with chances for both sides, Kosteniuk-Zhukova, Gibraltar 2010) when Black has enough counterplay for the pawn, for instance: 20.♘f3 ♕d7 21.♗b1 ♕c6 22.♘e5 ♕g2 23.♗g1 0-0-0 24.♗b4 f6 25.♗a4 fe5 26.♕e5 ♗d3 27.♗a7 ♘d7=) 17...♗g8 18.♕f6 ♘d3 19.cd3 ♘d5 20.♕d4 ♗g2≠ (White is weak on the light squares, which gives his opponent some advantage) 21.♕e5 ♗g4! 22.h3 ♗a4 23.♗g1 f6! 24.♕b2? ♘f7≠ Sutovsky-Wang Hao, Poikovsky 2008;

B) 11.♗d1 ♘c3 12.♗d2 ♘e4 (12...cd4!?) 13.♕d4 ♘e4 14.♕e4 de4 15.♘e2 ♘c6 16.0-0 b6 17.♗fd1 ♕b7⇒) 13.♕e4 de4 14.♘e2 ♘c6 15.♗d1 cd4 16.♘d4 ♘d4 17.♕d4 (Kanarek-Lortkipanidze, Fermo jr 2009) 17...b6⇒;

C) 11.♗h3 (a modest retreat) 11...♘c3 12.dc5 d4! (12...♘c6?! 13.♘f3 d4 14.♕g5!↑ Loskutov-Khantuev, Irkutsk 2009 and Aranovitch-Pelagatti, Nice 2009) 13.♕d2 ♘d7!⇒.

11...g5!
A true attack MacCutcheon style! 11...♘c3? would be a big mistake due to 12.dc5 ♘c6 (12...♗a5 13.♗b4!) 13.♘f3± Link-Horther, Germany tt 2005/06.

12.♗f3□ ♘c3!

Just in time.

13.ccd5

13.♖e2 ♖e2 14.♙e2 cd4 15.♙d2?! (15.♙d4 ♖c6⇒) 15...♖c6♣ Larrat-Delabaca, France 2009.

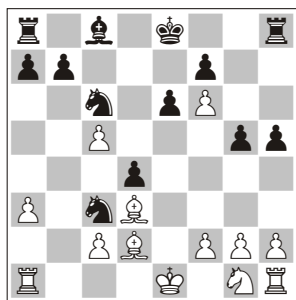
13...d4

13...♖c6 14.♖g3? ♖a5! (14...♙g8? 15.♖f3† Oparaugo-Repplinger, Germany 2009) 15.♙d2 ♖c5 16.♖g5 ♖e4! 17.♙e4 Heimann-Pötsch, playchess.com 2009. Tricks: 17...♖d4!♣.

14.♙d2 ♖c6

Threatening 15...♖e5. 14...♙d7?! is an interesting tactical idea: 15.♖g3 (15.♙c3 ♙c6! 16.♙e4 dc3 17.♙d1 ♖c7 18.♙c6 ♖c6 19.♙d6 ♖e5 20.♖f6 ♖g6⇒) 15...♙c6∞ Hutois-Peynichon, Aix-les-Bains 2009.

15.♖f6 ♖f6 16.ef6



Another key position in this line.

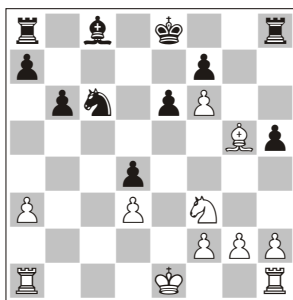
16...♖a4!

The dynamic move I suggested in *The Flexible French*. Black can play 16...g4, but this is a bit passive: 17.♙c3 dc3 18.♖e2 ♖e5 19.♙e4 ♖b8 20.h3 ♖d8 21.♖c3 ♙d7 22.a4 ♖c8! 23.♙b7 ♖c5 24.♖e4 ♖c2= with a draw in 44 moves in Yakovenko-Vitiugov, Moscow ch-RUS 2007.

The option 16...♖e5 could be enough for a draw: 17.♖e2 ♖d3 18.cd3 ♖e2 19.♖e2 g4=.

17.♙g5 ♖c5 18.♖f3!

18.♖e2?! ♖d3 19.cd3 b6 20.♖d2 ♙b7 21.♙ac1 ♙d8 22.♖f4?! h4 (22...e5 23.♙he1 ♖d7♣) 23.♙he1 (Goh Wei Ming-Smerdon, Dresden ol 2008) 23...♖d7♣; 18.f4?! e5!? 19.fe5 (D.Wells-Groffen, Liverpool 2008) 19...♖e5!†. **18...♖d3 19.cd3 b6!**



Now Black has good counterplay, thanks to his superior pawn structure in the centre.

20.♖c1 ♙b7 21.0-0

21.h4 ♖d8! 22.♖e2 ♙d5! 23.♖c4 ♖d7 24.♙hc1 ♖c8⇒ 25.♙d2? ♙a6 26.♙c2 e5!† 27.♖e1 e4♣ Erdogdu-Kindermann, Novi Sad Ech-tt 2009.

21...♖d8!

A key set-up is ...♖d8-♖d5-♖d7! **22.♙fe1 ♖d5! 23.♙e4 ♖d7** 23...♙g8!? was a more active move order; 24.h4 ♖d7⇒.

24.♙h4?

This is too ambitious. Better was 24.♙f4, preparing ♖e5, with a quite balanced position. 24...♙a6!?!⇒.

24...♙f5

24...♙a6!?! 25.♙d1 e5!; 24...♙a5♣.

25.♙f4 ♖c5 26.♙e1 ♙a6

25.../26...♙a5!.

27.♙h4 e5

27...♖c8!♣.

28.♙fe4 ♙d3 29.♖e5 ♖e5

30.♖e5 ♖e5 31.♖e5

The game ended dramatically in extreme time-trouble – Black won after many mistakes on move 65.

New Ideas for Black in the Lolli

by Dan Heisman

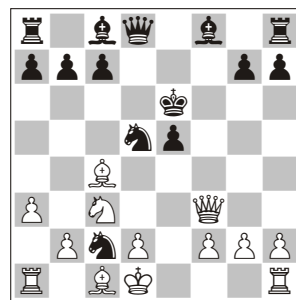
KP 12.1 (C57)

YB 75, 76

The other night at our Main Line Chess Club I was watching a game between two beginners which featured the Fried Liver Attack. White won quickly, and after the game I was reviewing it with them. I have written two CD's on the Two

Knights (Traxler and Fried Liver/Lolli via www.chesscentral.com), and had suggested changing the names of the Fried Liver to 'The Bad Fried Liver' and the Lolli to 'The Good Fried Liver' since traditionally it had been held that after **1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♙c4 ♖b6 4.♖g5 d5 5.ed5 ♖d5** the Lolli **6.d4** gave good promise of a white advantage, while the Fried Liver **6.♖f7** was held roughly equal.

In the Fried Liver, one of the main lines is 6...♖f7 7.♖f3 ♖e6 8.♖c3 ♖b4 9.a3 (9.♖e4 c6 10.a3 is another good try for a small White advantage) 9...♖c2 10.♖d1

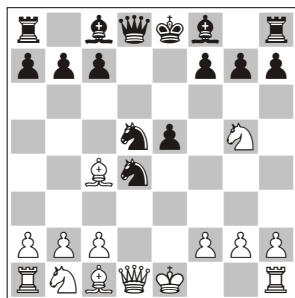


and now Black may have two reasonable defences:

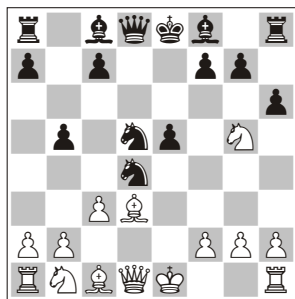
A) 10...♖d4 11.♙d5 ♖d7 12.♖g3 ♖f6 13.♙e1 c6 14.♙c4 ♖c7 when White has only a tiny edge, for example: 15.d3 ♙d6 16.♖e4 ♖f5 17.♖g5 ♖g5 18.♙g5;

B) 10...♖a1 is possibly playable too, e.g. 11.♖d5 c6! 12.♖c7 ♖d6 13.♖a8 and here 13...♖h4 seems OK after 14.♖d3 ♖d4 15.♖d4 ed4 16.d3. An older article by Bücker in Kassiber gave 16.♙e1?!, but Black seems to be more than fine after 16...b5 17.♙a2 d3 and Black is better after both 18.♙e8 ♙d7 and 18.♙e3 ♙f5. Since my Fried Liver/Lolli CD was written in 2001, nine years had passed and I wondered what Rybka, on a quad processor, would think of some of the main lines. So I had Rybka examine some of the CD's conclusions in the Lolli. Within a few minutes Rybka was questioning one of my key find-

ings. After **1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♗f6 4.♗g5 d5 5.ed5 ♗d5 6.d4** Black can try **6...♗d4!?**.



A rare line, almost never mentioned in opening books because **7.c3** seems to win a piece, but even in 2001 it was clear Black can try both **7...f6** and **7...b5**. In the latter Rybka found improvements that changed the assessment of the line. After **7...b5** in my CD I had concluded that White had to try **8.♙d3** for any advantage, because **8.♙d5 ♗d5 9.cd4 ♗g2 10.♖f1** and now **10...♙b4** (a new Rybka move) **11.♗c3 f6 12.♗f3 ♗f3 13.♗f3 ♙g4** with excellent compensation. After **8.♙d5 ♗d5, 9.f3** is a good suggestion by expert Brian Karen. Black should try **9...c5** to capture on d4 with the c-pawn, e.g. **10.O-O f6 (10...h6 and 10...♙e7** are similar tries which may be good for approximate equality) **11.♗e4 ♙e7 12.cd4 cd4** seems to provide sufficient compensation for Black. But after **8.♙d3 h6:**



9.♗h5 hg5 10.♗h8 e4 11.♙e4?! ♗e7 12.♗d2 ♗c2 13.♗d1, Rybka found **13...♙f5!**. A big and meaningful improvement over **13...♗a1**. Already Black is better:

14.♙c2 (14.♙f5 ♗ce3! 15.fe3 ♗e3 16.♗e2 ♗f5 17.♗f1 ♗e3 -+) **14...♙g4 15.f3 (15.♗f3 ♗c3 16.bc3 O-O-O 17.♙d2 ♙f3** and Black is winning, e.g. **18.gf3 ♗d7** or **18.♗c1 ♙g2) 15...♗e3 16.♗e1 ♗c2** with a winning attack.

So that means that White had to improve earlier with **9.♗e4** or **9.♗h5 hg5 10.♗h7 e4 11.cd4**. But in neither does White get more than a normal advantage:

A) **9.♗e4 ♗c6 10.♙b5 ♗d7 11.O-O a6 12.♙a4 ♗b6 13.♙c2 ♗d1 14.♖d1 ♙e6 15.♗g3** and Black's game should be playable;

B) **9.♗h5 hg5 10.♗h8 e4 11.cd4 e3 12.O-O ♗f6** and again White has at most an edge, e.g. **13.♗c3 ♗d4 14.♙g5 ♗c3 15.bc3 ♗g4 16.♖ae1 (16.♙e3 ♙b7 17.f3 ♗c4 (18.a4 ba4 19.♙d4 ♗d7=) 18.♖fd1 O-O-O** with approximate equality) **16...♙e6 17.♖e5** yields a slight white advantage in the unbalanced position after **17...f6 18. h3 ♗c4 19.♗h5 ♗d7 20.♗f3 fe5 21.♗a8**.

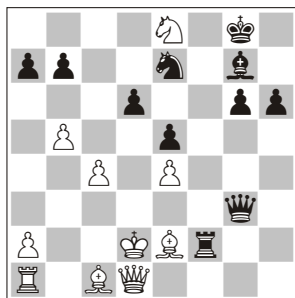
If this analysis survives the test of time, then **5...♗d5** may be no worse than the alternatives **5...♗a5, 5...♗d4, and 5...b5**. If White retains a slight edge in both The Fried Liver and The Lolli, then I can no longer claim that one is The Good Fried Liver and the other is The Bad Fried Liver – they both may be equally playable.

Best Novelty by Stellwagen

by the Editorial Staff

KI 4.9 (E97)

YB 90, 93



Isn't this just the position to find a good opening novelty? Well, in fact that is what Yearbook readers thought.

With his amazing discovery **24...♗f3!** in the Bayonet King's Indian (see Yearbook 93, page 11/12, FORUM contribution by Mikhail Golubev) against Loek van Wely in Amsterdam NH 2009, Daniel Stellwagen was declared the winner of the 2009 Yearbook Novelty of the Year Award by our readers. He got 52.8% of the votes and earned 350 euro.

Second was Jonny Hector's novelty **12...0-0-0** and **13...♗c5** in the Krause Slav (24.5%) – see the Survey by Larry Kaufman on page 149 of Yearbook 93, a Survey which in fact triggered this competition! Third came Vladimir Kramnik with his **17.♗h6** against Arkady Naiditsch in Dortmund (17%, Yearbook 93, Survey Lukacs/Hazai, page 184), and fourth with 5.7% came Abhijeet Gupta with his novelty **18...f5!?** in the Marshall Ruy Lopez (Yearbook 91, Survey also by Lukacs/Hazai on page 110).

A raffle among the readers resulted in a free Yearbook subscription for Larry Rydel from Lander, Wyoming (USA).



Daniel Stellwagen

NEW IN CHESS