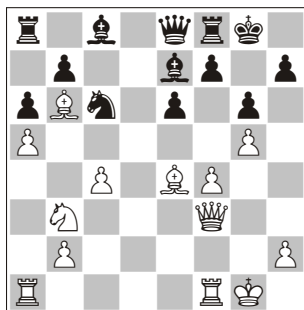


SADLER ON BOOKS

by MATTHEW SADLER



Creak, crunch, groan, snap. Yes, the first Bundesliga weekend of the season was the occasion of much pain and torment in the Sadler brain. I had the uncomfortable feeling of living in a time zone a couple of moves behind my opponents for most of the weekend. The pain started with the annual club blitz championship, where I lost 7 and won 8. A couple of incidents left me rather perplexed. First this game with white against a fast-moving German FM:

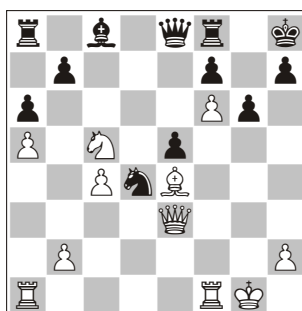


I felt that I was in the middle of playing a rather beautifully-controlled Scheveningen, but the course of events was rather humbling:

21...e5 22.f5 ♖g5

Oops. I missed that those pawns were connected. Never mind, it's still a brilliant pawn sacrifice...

**23.♗c5 ♖e7 24.f6 ♖c5
25.♘c5 ♘d4 26.♙e3 ♚h8**

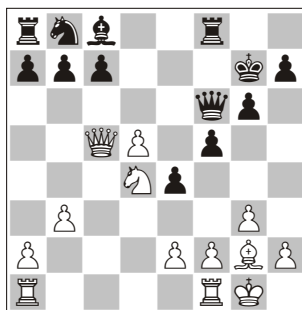


Hmm, not so obvious. Well, let's build up the pressure: Black is just paralysed anyway.

27.♙h6 ♖g8 28.♗a3 ♙f8!

Took me a while to realise that c5 was also attacked here. Compelled to exchange the queens, I lost after further adventures.

A few rounds later, I came up against Kasimdzhanov with black (or somebody whose name is approximately spelt like that!) 'Finally - an easy pairing!' I cried, assuring myself of winning the pre-game psychological battle at least. We got this:



At this point, I thought deeply, invested a minute of precious time and came up with

16...♘d7

I don't really want to comment on all the things I missed when I played this move, but the thing that I *most* missed was

17.♘e6 ♙e6 18.♙f8

It really was the weirdest feeling. As if I wasn't quite seeing any of the connections between pieces, which when you think about it is the basis of combinations. If you don't even spot the basic relationships - 'his queen is attacking my rook' then you might as well put a notice on your side of the board saying 'Welcome to my pieces!'.

I spent some time that evening doing a few tactical tests to try to get some tactical feeling back, but it wasn't too successful. Anyway the weekend went through somehow. I only blundered one pawn, but I was so scared of putting stuff en prise that I played very colourlessly. Draw with white, loss with black was the natural result.

So the week after, I was in a bit of a bad mood, flicking aimlessly through the review books, getting a little hazy at the mass of variations in some of the opening books. And then I started reading *Lessons in Chess Strategy* by Valeri Beim (Gambit) again.

Great games, a lot of exercises to practise each of the themes treated in the book's nine chapters, and an original way of looking at the obvious things we take for granted. Warmly recommended.

Gambit Play by Angus Dunnington (Everyman) is a bright and breezy book from the increasingly prolific English IM. You could call it an 'inspirational effort' in the sense that it tries to give a feel of gambit play by showing a number of attractive examples rather than by drawing any novel conclusions about the nature of this type of chess. Such an attitude can also be quite helpful, however. Reading in the train, I came across this charming miniature:

Gil

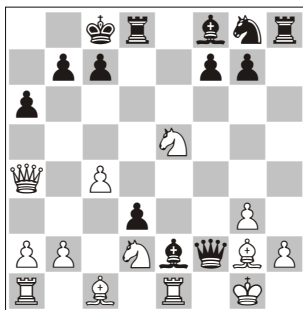
Leontxo Garcia

Benidorm 1983

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4
4.♟f3 ♞c6 5.g3 ♟g4 6.♟g2
♞d7 7.0-0 0-0-0 8.♞b3 h5
9.♟bd2?**

Dunnington points out that 9.♟d1! is quite a typical idea as the threat of 10.♞d4 is very hard to meet.

**9...h4 10.♞h4 ♟e2 11.♞e1 d3
12.♞hf3 ♞f5 13.♞b5? a6
14.♞a4 ♟e5 15.♟e5 ♞f2!!**



Yep, 16.♟f2 ♟c5 is mate!

So, imagine my surprise when playing White for Amersfoort in the National Cup competition, a couple of days later, I came up against:

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4
4.♟f3 ♞c6 5.g3 ♟e6 6.♞b3!?**

Well, not quite the same but easy to play in analogy with the other game.

6...♞d7 7.♟g2 ♞b8!? 8.0-0 b5!

And now you guessed it

9.♟d1!

When 9...bc4 can be met by 10.♞d4! Instead Black played 9...♟ge7 when the game was extremely complicated. However, it's a good illustration of how useful such 'inspirational' books can be. Because the examples are so picturesque, you do tend not to forget them! For me however, the book's biggest drawback is the price: 15 pounds for 124 pages is really pretty steep.

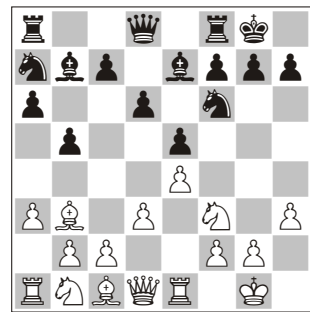
Finally, just a roundup of two more opening books that I've been dipping into with pleasure.

The Marshall Attack by Bogdan Lalic (Everyman) and **English ...e5** by Alex Raetsky and Maxim Chetverik (Everyman) are more of the typical Everyman fare of easy to read opening books based on series of illustrative games rather than strings of variations numbered up to b2121344. Lalic in particular does a nice job of covering a large number of the sharp sidelines. I couldn't help chuckling about this idea of Mark Hebden's in the 8.h3 anti-Marshall:

**1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♞c6 3.♟b5 a6
4.♟a4 ♟f6 5.0-0 ♟e7 6.♞e1
b5 7.♟b3 0-0 8.h3 ♟b7 9.d3
d6 10.a3**

and now the lovely

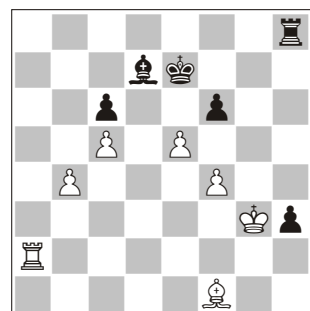
10...♞a7!



As Lalic explains: 'Black makes it hard for White to carry out his main manoeuvre ♞c3-d5 since Black can then simply exchange on d5 to achieve a strong position in the centre.'

The difference between this, at first glance, strange move and 10...♞b8 is that here Black can quickly play ...c7-c5 and ...♞a8-c8.' You can tell that Hebden is a man who knows his Lopez!

Finally, I've just realised that I've forgotten to give the answer to puzzle I showed last time.



Tal-Trifunovic
Palma da Mallorca 1966
White to play and win

**1.e6!! ♟e6 2.♞a7 ♟d7
3.♟h2!! ♞h5 4.b5! ♞c5 5.♟h3
f5 6.bc6 ♞c6 7.♟f5 ♞d6
8.♟g3!!**

Winning! Magical Tal! ■