

Catching Up

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

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Scherbakov's Slav Sac

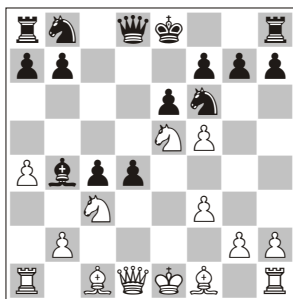
by Richard Palliser

SL 4.3 (D17) YB 20, 26, 41, 83

In Yearbook 83 Eric Prié bemoans the fact that nowadays more and more often 'published authors seem to be loftily ignorant of each other's exploits'. That can be partly explained by the large number of sources now available, but even so it was disappointing to see that Steve Giddins didn't refer to www.chesspublishing.com when writing his otherwise excellent Survey on the Slav. Had he done so, he might well have been moved to contribute some thoughts on the possibility of 15.♖a3!? in Ikonnikov-Ansell.

As shown below, Black may still be able to make a draw, but his path towards doing so is not that straightforward due in no small part to a lovely idea of Scherbakov's:

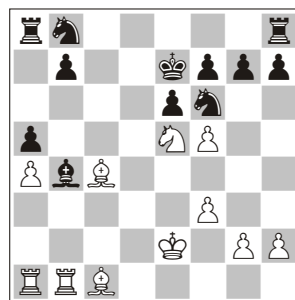
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6
4.♗c3 dc4 5.a4 ♖f5 6.♗e5 e6
7.f3 c5 8.e4 cd4 9.ef5 ♖b4



10.♖c4

The main line, but the wacky and untested 10.♖e3!? may also deserve attention: for example, 10...dc3 (10...de3? 11.♖d8 ♗d8 12.♗f7 ♖e7 13.♗h8 ♗c6 14.♖c4 ♖h8 15.♖e6 doesn't give Black enough for the exchange) 11.♖d8 ♗d8 12.0-0-0 (the main point) 12...♖e7 13.bc3 ♖c3 (also rather critical is 13...♗d5!?) 14.♖g5 f6 15.cb4 fg5 when 16.fe6 (White might also consider the exchange sacrifice 16.♖c4!? ♗e3 17.♖e6 ♗d1 18.♖d1 ♖d8 19.♖d8 ♗d8 20.b5, playing against Black's undeveloped queenside) 16...♗e3 17.♖d4 ♗a6 may well resolve to equality) 14.♖c5 ♖e8 15.♗c4 ♗bd7 16.♖a3!? with some play for the pawn; 16.♗d6 ♖e7 17.♖a3 a5! doesn't seem to leave White with anything more than a choice of how to repeat.

10...dc3 11.♖d8 ♗d8 12.♖e2 cb2 13.♖b2 ♖e7 14.♖hb1! a5! 14...♖c8?! 15.♖a3 ♖a3 16.♖b7! ♗d6 17.f4±± Gretarsson-Ansell, England tt 1999/00.



15.♖a3!?

First analysed by Scherbakov, this was still untested at the time of writing this letter.

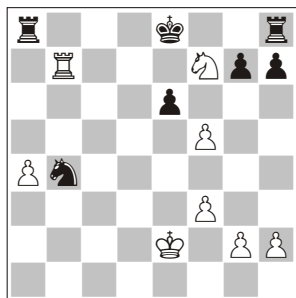
As Giddins shows, 15.fe6 fe6 16.♔a3 ♖a6 17.♔a6 ♚a6 18.♙b4 (compared with our main line, below, 18.♚b4?! ab4 19.♙b4 is much less effective since 19...♙e8 20.♚c1 ♚a8 21.♚c7 ♖d5! defends) 18...ab4 19.♚b4 b6 led to a rather comfortable draw for Black in Ikonnikov-Ansell, Hastings 2006/07.

15...♖a6

Played à la Ansell and the only move considered by Scherbakov. The other option is 15...♖c6!? when 16.♖c6 bc6 17.♙b4!? (White doesn't have to sacrifice a pawn, but after 17.fe6 ♖d5! (17...♙a3 18.♚a3 fe6 19.♚e3 ♖d5 20.♙d5 cd5 21.♚b6 ♙f7 22.♚ee6 gives White some chances in the rook ending, such as after 22...♚ab8 23.♙d3 ♚hc8 24.♚b8 ♚b8 25.♚a6) 18.♙d5 cd5 19.♙b4 ab4 20.♚b4 fe6 21.a5 ♚a6 22.♚b7 ♙f6 he finds his a-pawn well blockaded) 17...ab4 18.♚b4 ef5 19.♚b7 ♖d7 20.a5 sees White's advanced outside a-pawn compensate for the pawn minus.

16.♔a6 ♚a6 17.♚b4! ab4 18.♙b4 ♙e8 19.♚c1 ♚a8 20.♚c7 ♖d5

Probably best, although it is clear that White has some initiative for the exchange in any case. Another try is 20...ef5, but after 21.♚e7 ♙f8 22.♚b7 ♙g8 23.♖f7 ♚a4 24.♖h8 ♙h8 25.♚b8 ♖g8 26.♙c3 Black is horribly tied up and does well not to lose a pawn, such as with 26...♚a2 27.♙f1 ♚c2 28.♙e5 ♚c5 29.f4 h5 30.♚f8 ♙h7 31.♚f5 ♖f6, although this final position might well actually lead to a draw. **21.♚b7 ♖b4 22.♖f7!**



The main point of Scherbakov's brilliant sacrifice is that 22...♚f8? 23.♖d6 ♙d8 24.fe6 forces mate.

22...ef5 23.♖h8

Scherbakov stopped here, assessing White as having 'a large advantage'. That may turn out to be correct, although Black can hope to trap the knight in the corner:

23...♚a4 24.♚g7

24.♖f7 ♚a6 25.♖e5 ♖d5 is a much easier route to a draw.

24...♙f8!

Or 24...♚a2 25.♙e3 ♙f8 26.♚b7 (26.♚h7 transposes) 26...♖d5! 27.♙d4 ♖e7 28.♙e5 ♚e2 29.♙f6 ♖d5 30.♙f5 ♖e7 31.♙f6 ♖d5 32.♙g5 ♚g2 when Black should hold.

25.♚h7 ♙g8 26.♚h5 ♚a2 27.♙e3!

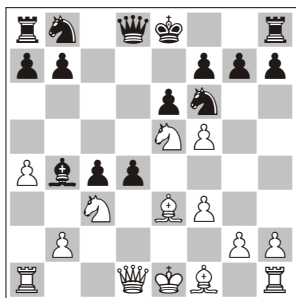
[In Paks, August 2007, Berkes played the meek 27.♙f1 against Harikrishna and a draw was agreed in this position. – Ed. note]

27...♖d5 28.♖d4 ♖f4 29.♚f5 ♖e6 30.♙e5 ♖g7 31.♚f6 ♚e2! 32.♖d5 ♙h8 33.♚h6 ♙g8 34.g4

White has three connected passed pawns against the knight, but is hampered by his cut-off king.

Editorial Postscript

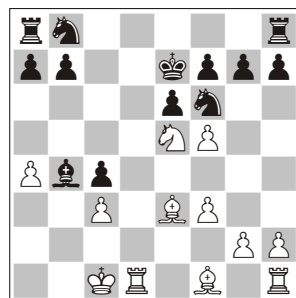
After this letter came in, its relevance was promptly demonstrated. In Bazna 2007, Jan Timman tried 15.♔a3!? against Zoltan Ribli, a game which he analysed in *New In Chess* 2007/5. Ribli avoided Scherbakov's sacrifice with the direct 21...ef5 instead of 21...♖b4. After 22.♖f7 the Hungarian grandmaster preferred 22...♚g8 and scraped a draw. But the main developments took place after 'the wacky 10.♔e3!?'.



Ruslan Scherbakov

NEW IN CHESS ARCHIVES

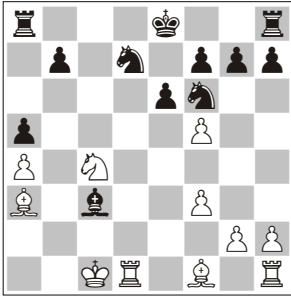
This line was first tried by Zhao Xue at the women's tournament in Bad Homburg, against Elisabeth Pähtz. That game went 10...dc3 11.♚d8 ♖d8 12.0-0-0 ♙e7 13.bc3.



This was Palliser's line. Pähtz now lost after 13...♔a3 14.♙c2 ♖d5 15.♙f2 ♚c8 16.fe6 fe6 17.♔c4 ♖c6 18.♚he1 ♖e5 19.♙d5 ed5 20.♚e5. Xue won the event.

A few days later, her compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started to shine in the Canadian Open in Ottawa. He beat Suat Atalik in an important game, which followed Zhao-Pähtz until move 14, when Black tried 14...♖bd7. After 15.♖d7 ♖d7 16.fe6 fe6 17.♔c4 Atalik also lost: 17...♚hc8 18.♙b3 ♖e5 19.♙e2 ♙c5 20.♙g5 ♙f8 21.f4 ♖f7 22.♚d7 ♖g5 23.fg5 ♙e7 24.♚f1

♖e8 25.♞b7 with an extra pawn plus initiative for White (1-0, 39). It wasn't until the final round of this tournament that Black got it right. Kamil Miton 'followed Palliser's advice' and held Bu to a draw with 13...♙c3! 14.♙c5 ♖e8 15.♘c4 ♘bd7 16.♙a3 a5!.



And now, as Palliser predicted, after 17.♘d6 ♖e7 White couldn't find anything better than a perpetual check. It didn't prevent Bu from winning the Open outright, though – thanks, to no small extent, to Scherbakov's Slav sac.

More Holes Fixed?

a letter by Miso Cebalo

Gl 5.8 (D87)

YB 69, 83

As usual, I checked in Yearbook 83 all those surveys which touch my repertoire. Victor Mikhalevski's Survey 'Fixing Some Black Holes' especially drew my attention, as it appears to contradict *An Expert's Guide to the 7.Bc4 Gruenfeld* by grandmaster Konstantin Sakaev (page 188 onwards) on two points:

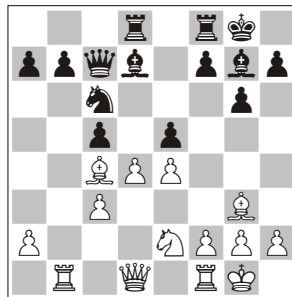
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cd5 ♘d5 5.e4 ♘c3 6.bc3 ♙g7 7.♙c4 c5 8.♗e2 ♘c6 9.♙e3 0-0 10.0-0 ♘d7 11.♞b1 ♞c7 12.♙f4

In his fragment 'A Short Line', after 12...♞c8 Mikhalevski devotes some space to 13.♞c1, on the basis of three high-level games.

1) In his conclusion, Mikhalevski states quite optimistically that

this move is the only chance for White to fight for an advantage. But Sakaev discards White's last move on page 191 of his book, claiming that 'The inclusion of the moves 13.♞c1 ♞d8 is in favour of Black, because his light squared bishop can retreat to the e8-square' without blocking the ♖f8.

B) In his fragment 'Bad Reputation, Easy Equality' Mikhalevski states that 12...e5 (instead of 12...♞c8) undeservedly has a bad reputation on the basis of two games where, after 13.♙g3 ♞ad8,

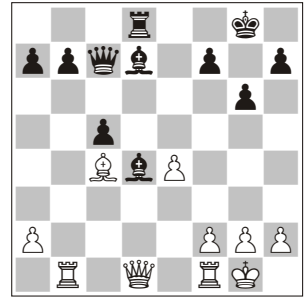


White played 14.♙d5. Sakaev, however, suggests 14.♙h4! and concludes on page 191 that after 14...♞c8 15.d5 ♘a5 16.d6 ♞b8 'Black's position is very difficult'. This may be a useful addition to the given material.

Reply by Victor Mikhalevski

Thank you for your reaction. As for point 1), I have to disagree with Sakaev. In the games I analysed White had chances to improve his play at moments which I have specified in the Survey. Moreover, sometimes the bishop returns to c8 and in that case it is better to have the other rook on d8. So it's difficult to say if the inclusion of 13.♞c1 ♞d8 benefits Black or not.

Regarding 2): In my conclusion I already mentioned that White should indeed look for improvements on the 14th move. But 14.♙h4 doesn't look entirely clear to me since after 14...ed4 15.♙d8 ♞d8 16.cd4 ♘d4 17.♘d4 ♙d4



Black seems to have compensation for the exchange.

Without Thinking

by Valery Bronznik

Gl 3.7 (D80/D91)

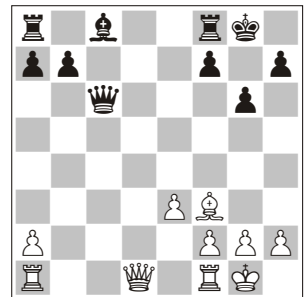
YB 76

Here are two interesting recent draws in the Stockholm Variation of the Grünfeld Indian.

Bronznik, Valery Hoegerl, Gerd

Schwegenheim 2007

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♙g5 ♘e4 5.♙h4 ♘c3 6.bc3 c5 7.cd5 ♞d5 8.e3 ♙g7 9.♗f3 ♘c6 10.♙e2 cd4 11.cd4 0-0 12.0-0 e5 13.de5 ♞a5 14.♙f6 ♙f6 15.ef6 ♞f5 16.♘d4 ♞f6 17.♘c6 ♞c6 18.♙f3



18...♞f6

Contrary to my opponent, I had hardly used up any time until this move, but here my opening knowledge ended. I only knew that Grivas, in his book *Beating the Fianchetto Defences*, calls 18...♞a6 the main line (to which

White should reply 19.♖d4!, with a slightly better position) and considers the text dubious.

19.♖a4

At home I found out that this move, which increases the pressure on the queenside, is still according to the book. Grivas mentions the following idea by Andrianov as an interesting alternative: 19.♖c1 ♖a6 20.♖c7! But isn't 19...♗e6!? (instead of 19...♖a6) with the idea 20.♗b7 ♖ab8 21.♖c7 ♗a2 a little stronger?

19...a6 20.♖ac1

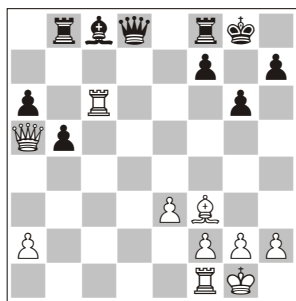
Another possibility is 20.♖ad1, as in Atalik-Zadrina, Ankara 1995, but the set-up with the white rooks on c1 and d1 looks much more natural to me.

20...b5 21.♖a5

Grivas considers this move dubious and recommends 21.♖b4 instead: 21...♖b8 22.♗d5 (22.♖c6!? ♖e5 23.♖c5 ♖e7 24.♖fc1 ♗b7 25.♗b7±) 22...♗e6 23.♖c6±/± (all these evaluations stem from the Greek grandmaster).

But somehow I'm not convinced of this. If, for instance, we investigate the line between brackets more deeply and try 25...♗xb7 (with the idea of doubling the rooks on the d-file with ...♖b7-d7, ...♖f8-d8), I fail to see any advantage for White, and also after 22.♗d5 ♖d8!? (instead of 22...♗e6) 23.e4 ♗b7 24.♖fd1 ♗d5 25.ed5 ♖d7 I cannot find anything substantial for the first player.

21...b8 22.♖c6 ♖d8



As I read in the book after the game, this position also occurred

in the encounter Petran-Okhotnik, Eger 1984. Grivas claims chances are equal here. We will soon find out if he's right.

23.♖c7!N

And that's a novelty. In the above-mentioned game White played 23.♖b4 a5 24.♖c5 ♗b7 25.♖d6 ♖c8, after which the game is really equal.

After the text, however, Black's task is considerably more difficult: firstly, he cannot develop his bishop without ceding the pawn on a6, and secondly White is threatening to reinforce his position with the natural 24.♖d1.

23...♖f6

23...♗b7?? would fail to 24.♖d1. 23...♗e6 also meets with 24.♖d1, after which the a6 pawn falls.

24.♖fc1

24.♖d1 ♖d8.

24...♖d8?

Too passive: in fact, this move should have cost my opponent the game. Instead Black had to opt for the pawn sacrifice 24...♖d8! 25.♖7c6 ♗e6! 26.♖a6 ♖a8 27.♖b5 ♖a2. With all the pawns on one side Black would have good chances of holding, even though White could still torture him for a long time.

25.♖d1?

Too hasty. Correct was 25.h3! (a *luft*, and at the same time prophylaxis against ...♗c8-g4, which is quite essential, as the ♗f3 wants to go to d5) 25...♖f6 (25...♗b7?? 26.♖d1+–) 26.♗d5 ♗f5 27.e4, and Black's chances of survival are extremely slim, especially if we take into account that my opponent only had 5 minutes left for 16 moves at this point.

25...♖f6 26.♗d5?

Another mistake. I still can't understand how I could have overlooked my opponent's next move. There are many continuations, 26.♖dc1 for instance, that would have preserved the advantage, even though White's position isn't as fantastic as it would have been after 25.h3!.

26...♗g4



Valery Bronznik

Now Black is OK. Depressed by my lapsus I played so badly in the following that in the end my position even became suspect and I could be glad with the draw.

27.f3

27.♖d4 ♖fc8 28.h3 ♖c7 29.♖c7 ♖c8 30.♖f7 ♖f7 31.hg4 ♖c1 32.♗h2 ♖c2 33.♗f7 ♗f7 34.♗g3 ♖a2∞.

27...♗e6 28.♗e4

28.♗e6 ♖e6 29.e4 ♖fd8=; 28.e4 ♗d5 29.ed5 ♖b6 30.♖b6 ♖b6=.

28...♖fd8 29.♖dc1?!

29.♖cc1!?

29...♗c4 30.a3?!

30.♖c6 ♖b2 31.♖b1 ♖a2 32.♖a6 ♖a5 33.♖a5±.

30...♖b2 31.♖b1 ♖e2

31...♖a2±.

32.♖e1 ♖a2 33.♖a1 ♖b2± ½-½

Bronznik, Valery Henrichs, Thomas

Triesen 2007 (5)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♗g5 ♗e4 5.♗h4 ♗c3 6.bc3 dc4 7.e3 ♗e6 8.♖b1 b6 9.♗h3 ♗h6 10.♗g5

I had studied this variation a few months earlier and prepared it again especially for this game. For the previous few moves my opponent had used up quite a lot of time – I was pretty sure that this position was unknown to him.

To my surprise, he produced the next move without thinking.

10...♗g7



Now it was my turn to invest some time. The text was completely unknown to me; the usual continuation is 10...♗g5 11.♘g5 ♖d5.

Quite quickly I came to the conclusion that the white knight has no business on h3 anymore.

11.♘f4 ♗d5

And here I delved yet a little deeper into the position. My first idea was 12.e4 ♗b7 13.♗c4. I saw that 13...h6? was probably no good as after 14.♗f7! ♘f7 15.♖b3 ♗e8 16.♘e6 ♖d7 17.♘g7 ♗d8 18.♗f4 ♗e4 19.0-0 Black is on the verge of losing. But what happens if Black simply castles after 13.♗c4? Then he will accomplish a harmonious Grünfeld set-up after all, threatening to destroy my centre with 14...c5, when the ♖b1, the ♘f4 and the ♗g5 would be rather pathetic, wouldn't they? After thinking for about 40 minutes I chose a different line...

12.♗e2 (??)

Threatening 13.♘d5 ♖d5 14.♗f3. I thought Black now had to play 12...♗b7 13.0-0 0-0 (13...h6? 14.♘g6!+-) 14.♗c4 when, with the pawn on e3 (instead of e4) the move ...c7-c5 isn't that dangerous.

When I went for a stroll after my move, it suddenly dawned on me that my opponent should not play 12...♗b7 – he had a much better plan! When I returned, my darkest expectations had materialized.

12...♗g2! 13.♘g2 ♖d5

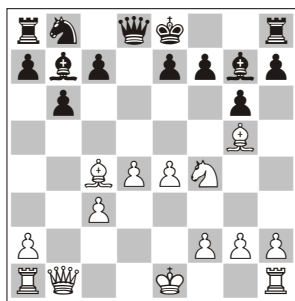
Not a motif you see every day. It's not every day either that after 13 moves White is two pawns down and totally losing, even if his first 10 moves have been quite OK.

14.♗h4 ♖g2 15.♗d2 ♖d5

Thanks to a miracle I managed to save this game, but this had nothing to do with the opening.

Immediately after the game I established two things:

- A) 10...♗g7 was not a novelty;
- B) 11.♘f4 was still correct, but after 11...♗d5 White's best reply is in fact 12.e4! (and this would indeed have been a novelty; the game Dragomirescu-Van Weersel, Kusadasi 2006, saw 12.♗h4) 12...♗b7 13.♗c4.



As I mentioned before, now 13...h6? fails to 14.♗f7! ♘f7 15.♖b3 ♗e8 16.♘e6+-.

As for 13...0-0, my assessment that Black is quite comfortable here is completely beside the point: after 14.♘d5! (I had overlooked this move) White is clearly better. The pawn on e7 becomes such a worry for Black that he won't have the time to carry out ...c7-c5, at least not for some time to come.

Exit 3...f5 in the Philidor?

by A.C. van der Tak

KP3.8 (C41)

YB 63, 76

In his book *The Philidor Files* (Everyman, 2006), Christian Bauer passes over the strong continuation 4.de5 fe4 5.♘g5 d5 6.c4

in Dgebudze-Claesen, Aalst ch-BEL 2005, a game which was given in the FORUM Section of Yearbook 76, and recommends 4.♘c3! as 'the most critical test regarding the viability of 3...f5'. After 4...fe4 5.♘e4 d5 (!) Bauer 6.♘eg5! h6 he gives a long variation starting with 7.♘f7! ♘f7 8.♘e5, and ending with a winning advantage for White.

Recently the great champion of 3...f5, James West, discussed with Dennis Monokroussos West's suggestion of 6...ed4 7.♘d4 ♖e7, which does not inspire much confidence after 8.♗e2, but even 8.♖e2!? looks like a strong reply. With this latter move White transposes to a correspondence game played in 1993/1994, which has not received any attention so far.

Betker, Jörg

Wollmann, Andreas

or ch-GER-25 Prelim 1994

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.♘c3 fe4 5.♘e4 d5?! 5...♘f6 6.♘f6 gf6 7.♗d3 (± Bauer) 7...♘c6 8.♘g5! (8.0-0 ♗g4 9.h3 ♗h5 10.d5 ♘e7= Maurits Wind) 8...♘d4 9.c3!? fg5 10.♖h5 ♘d7 11.cd4 ♖e8 12.♗f5 ♘d8 13.♗g5 ♗e7 14.♗e7± 6.♘eg5 ed4



7.♖e2!? 7.♘d4 ♖e7 (West) 8.♗e2 (8.♖e2!? – game) 8...h6 9.♘gf3 c6 (9...c5 10.♘b5 a6 11.♘c3 d4 12.♘d5 ♖d6 13.♗c4 ♘e7 14.♗f4 ♖e6 15.♘d2+-) 10.0-0 ♖f6 11.♗e1 ♗b4 (11...♗d6 12.♗a6 ♘f7 13.♗d3 ♘e7 14.♗d2 c5 15.♘b5 ♘bc6 16.♗c3 d4 17.♗c4 ♘f8 18.♘d6

♖d6 19.b4±) 12.c3 ♘d6 13.♙a6 ♗f7 14.♙d3 ♘e7 15.c4! ♚e8 16.♙d2 ♘a6 17.♙c3 ♙b4 18.♙h7 ♙c3 19.♘e5 ♗f8 20.bc3± Monokroussos. 7...♚e7 7...♙e7 8.♘d4±. 8.♘d4 ♚e2 8...h6 9.♘ge6±; 8...♘f6 9.♙f4±. 9.♙e2 ♙d6 9...c6 10.♘ge6±. 10.♘b5± ♙b4?! 11.c3 ♙a5 12.♙f4 ♘a6 13.b4 ♙b6 14.a4 h6 15.♙h5 15.♘f3!±. 15...♘e7 16.♘f7 ♘f6 17.♘h8 ♘h5 18.♙d2 ♙f5 19.a5 c6 20.ab6 cb5 21.g4 ♙g4 22.♘g6 ♗f6 23.♚g1 ♙f5 24.♘h4 ♙e4 25.ba7 g5 26.f3 ♙d3 27.♘g2 ♚a7 28.♘e3 1-0

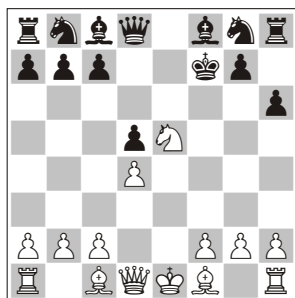
And the next game is a tragicomic example of the hardship Black subjects himself to with 6...h6:

Pavlovic,Milos

Van Dooren,Dirk

Cappelle la Grande 2006

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.♘c3 fe4 5.♘e4 d5?! 6.♘eg5 h6 7.♘f7! ♗f7 8.♘e5



8...♘e7 8...♗e6 9.♚g4 ♘e7 10.♘g6 ♗e8 11.♚e2 ♘e7 12.♘h8 ♙f5 13.g4 ♙e4 14.f3 ♙h7 15.g5 hg5 16.♙h3 ♘c6 17.c3 ♚d6 18.♚e6 ♚e6 19.♙e6 ♘d8 20.♙g4 g6 21.h4 ♙g7 22.hg5 ♙g8 23.♙f4 c5 24.dc5 d4 25.cd4 ♙d4 26.0-0-0 ♙c5 27.♚he1 ♗f8 28.♙d6+- Chr.Bauer. 9.♙d3! 9.♘g6 ♗f6 10.♚f3 ♙f5 11.♘h8 (11.g4! Monokroussos) 11...♚e7 12...♙e2 ♚e4∞ Stepanov-Maliutin, Moscow 1992 – YB/63-144. 9...♚e8 9...♘f6 10.♘g6+-; 9...♙e6 10.0-0+-. 10.0-0 ♙e6 10...♘d8 11.♙g6+-; 10...♘f6 11.♘g6+-. 11.♚e1+- 11.♘g6+-. 11...♘c6

12.♘g6 ♘d7 13.♘f4! ♙d6 14.♘e6 ♚f7 15.♚g4 1-0

So it seems that besides 4.ef5 (see Yearbook 63) and 4.de5 (YB/76) 4.♘c3 is a strong possibility as well. Exit 3...f5?

A Joker and a Champ

by Peter Boel

VO 25.6 (A06)

19-year-old Alexander Hilario Takeda dos Santos Fier has won 9 Brazilian youth titles and the overall national crown in December 2005. He also gained the Pan-American under-20 title in 2006.

In the latest tournament he won, the VII Governador Mario Covas Internacional in Santos last May (7/9, before Gilberto Milos and Rafael Leitao) his opening choice against Cubas suggested that Fier had gotten a little overconfident.

Fier,Alexander

Cubas,Jose Fernando

Santos 2007 (4)

1.c3

The Saragossa Opening, not invented on a boat trip on the Sargasso Sea, but in the city of Zaragoza, where the Spanish master José Juncosa Molins (1885 or 1887-1972) played the opening against Alekhine. According to Edward Winter, Richard Réti wrote in a 1924 edition of the *Wiener Schachzeitung* that he travelled to Zaragoza to find out more about master Juncosa winning 29 out of 32 blindfold games in an exhibition. The Spaniard turned out to have played only 5 games as 27 opponents hadn't turned up.

So is 'Juncosa' just a 'jocose' name, like Sillius Sodus or Biggus Dickus? No. He's the real originator of 1.c3. In the Café de la Régence in 1917 he essayed it against the Greek Eugène Michael Antoniadis in order to prove that the



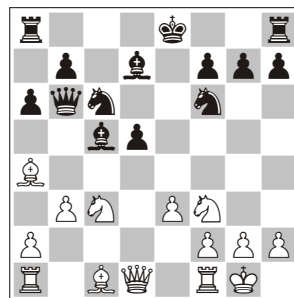
Alexander Fier

Caro-Kann was better than the French – even with white.

1...d5

Is 1...e5 better? As we say in the Yearbook, we will have to await further practical testing...

2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.e3 c5 4.b3 ♘c6 5.♙b5 ♚b6 6.c4 a6 7.♙a4 ♙d7 8.0-0 e6 9.d4 ♙e7 10.cd5 ed5 11.cd5 ♙c5 12.♘c3!



Development! Perhaps Black should now have sacked the d5-pawn with the active 12...♙d8.

12...♚a7?! 13.♘d5 b5

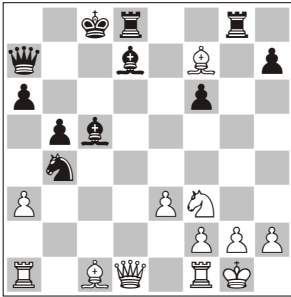
After 13...♘d5 14.♚d5 b5 15.♘e5 Black would be in the ropes. His two bishops are as much sitting ducks as the white one on a4: 15...♘e5 16.♚e5 ♙e7 17.♙a3 ♙e6 18.♚g7 ♚f8 19.♙e7 ♚e7 20.♚h7! ba4 21.♚e4 ♙d8 22.♚a4 ♚d7 23.♚a6 gives White plenty for the piece.

14.♘f6 gf6 15.b4

No catch.

15...♖b4 16.♗b3 0-0-0!?

The other, seemingly more subtle move order turns out to be worse: 16...♗g8 17.a3 0-0-0! 18.♙f7!!



analysis diagram

In this position, remindful of Nunn-Wang Hao in Amsterdam 2006, Black has three bishop moves, neither of which promises equality:

A) 18...♙h3 (18...♗g2? 19.♙g2 ♙h3 20.♙h3 ♗d1 21.♙e6! ♗d7 22.♗d1+-) 19.♙g8 ♗d1 20.♗d1 ♗g7 21.♗h4 ♗g8 22.ab4! with a strong attack;

B) 18...♙f5 19.♗b3!? ♗d3 20.♙g8 (20.ab4?! ♗b3 21.♙b3 ♗g2! 22.♙g2 ♗g7 23.♙h1 ♙e4 24.♙d1 ♗g4 25.bc5 ♙f3 is a draw by perpetual) 20...♗b3 21.♙b3 ♗d3 22.♗d1 ♙e4 23.♗e1 also with interesting attacking chances;

C) 18...♙g4! 19.♙g8 (19.♗b3 ♗d3!) 19...♗d1 20.♗d1 ♗g7! 21.♙b3 ♗c6 (21...♙f3?? 22.♙e6 ♙b8 23.♗d8 ♙c7 24.♗d7) 22.♙f1 and White is rather better.

17.♙a3! ♙h3 18.♗c1! ♗hg8



19.♗c5!?

Great! Still, more promising may have been the exchange sacrifice

19.g3, which Black cannot accept: 19...♙f1? 20.♙b4 ♙c4 21.♙c4+-.

19...♗c5 20.♗ac1 ♙g2

20...♗g2 21.♙h1 ♗c1 22.♗c1 ♙b7 23.♙b4 ♗f2 24.♗d4 is OK for Black, dixit Rybka, but White's minor pieces look quite strong.

21.♗c5 ♙b8?!

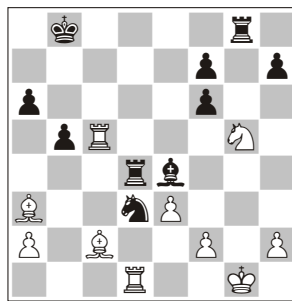
Problematic for White would have been 21...♙b7!, as after the liquidation 22.♗g5 (slightly better is 22.♗g5! ♙f3 23.♗g3) 22...♗d3 23.♗d1 ♙f3 24.♗d2 ♗c5 25.♗d8 Black can play 25...♗g5 as his king is not in check now.

22.♗g5! ♗d3 23.♗d1 ♙e4

Now 23...♗c5 favours White on account of the zwischenschach: 24.♗d8 ♗d8 25.♙c5.

24.f3!

Returning material to free his king. Instead, White could have complicated with 24.♙c2. However, Black has a fantastic alternative to 24...♗c5 here: 24...♗d4!!



analysis diagram

Keeping the white knight pinned as well as preventing the check... on d8! So 25.ed4 (25.♙f1 ♗c5 26.♗d4 ♙c2 27.♗f7 ♗c8=) 25...♗c5 26.de5 ♙c2 27.♗d7 ♗g5 28.♙f1 a5 with a probable draw.

24...♙f3 25.♗d3 ♗d3 26.♙f2 ♙b7?!

Granting your enemy the bishop pair in an open endgame is not often a good idea. Black could have forced the exchange of one with 26...♙d1!, when he isn't worse.

27.♗f3 ♗c8?! 28.♗c8 ♙c8 29.♙b4 ♙f3?

Better was the direct 29...♗d7!. In time-trouble more mistakes are

made, White making the last-but-one.

30.♙f3 ♗d7 31.♙c2?!

31...♙c3!.

31...h6??

With 31...♗d5! Black could still fight.

32.♙f5

1-0

A Bad Surprise

a letter by Jacopo Negri

FR 11.4 (C19)

YB 68, 82

Having read Istvan Almasi's Survey in Yearbook 82 I couldn't wait to test his suggestion in one of the featured games, and in the 57 Italian Correspondence Chess Championship the opportunity came.

Baiocchi, Giorgio

Negri, Jacopo

or ch-ITA 2007

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♙b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♙c3 6.bc3 ♗e7 7.♗g4 0-0 8.♙d3 ♗bc6 9.♗h5 ♗g6 10.♙f3 ♗c7 11.♙e3 c4 12.♙g6 fg6 13.♗g4 ♗f7 14.♗g5 ♗e8 15.h4 h6 16.♙h3 ♙d7 17.♗e2 b5 18.g4 a5 19.h5 g5!?

After the 'normal'

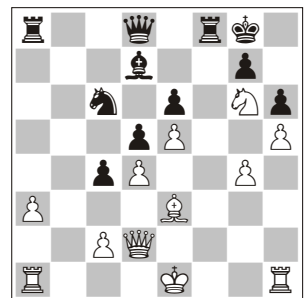
20.f4 gf4 21.♗f4 ♙e7

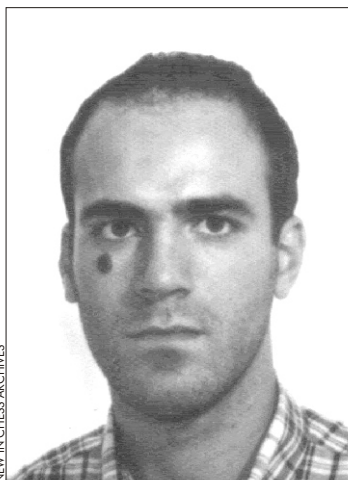
White followed the well-known game Michiels-Dgebuadze, Westerlo ch-BEL 2004, with:

22.♗d2

So with your suggestion on move 26 in mind I replied:

22...b4! 23.cb4 ab4 24.♗b4 ♗c6 25.♗d2 ♗d8 26.♗g6





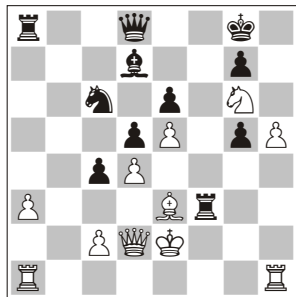
Jacopo Negri

26...♞f3!?

instead of 26...♞f7 in the above-mentioned game Michiels-Dgebuadze. But now I got a bad surprise as my opponent sent

27.g5

...and after 27...hg5 proposed 28.♖e2!!



and Black is in big trouble...

So I think the only move to keep things going after 27.g5 is the move I played:

27...♘b4!?

With the idea 28.♖d1 ♘c2! 29.♖c2 ♖a4 30.♖c1 ♞b8 31.gh6 ♞b3.

My opponent replied

28.♞b4 ♞e3 29.♖f2

...and my next move will be:

29...♞e4

The idea is 30.♞ag1 ♞b8 31.♞d2 c3 32.♞c3 ♞c8 33.♞d2 ♖b5.

Jacopo Negri

Monte Urano, Italy

Queen Moves to Elite Level

by A.C. van der Tak

RL 6.2 (C63)

YB 73, 82

There is some news regarding 4.d3 as a way to combat the Jaenisch/Schliemann Variation of the Ruy Lopez, which was dealt with in Yearbook 73.

Firstly, after 4...fe4 5.de4 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♖c5 7.♞e2 d6 8.♞c4 ♞e7 9.♘c3 ♖d7 10.♘d5 ♘d5 11.ed5 ♘d4 12.♖d7 ♞d7 13.♘d4 ♖d4, a correspondence game has been played with John Shaw's recommendation 14.a4. Rather disappointingly, White's action on the queenside did not yield anything. In his book *Play the Ruy Lopez* Andrew Greet, following Shaw and Larry Kaufman, also recommends 4.d3 as the white repertoire move against 3...f5 and states: 'This game shows that the position is too simplified for a direct attack on the king to have realistic hopes of succeeding. My advice is to play on the kingside as well.' He comes up with possible improvements for White on move 17 and 19.

Instead of 9.♘c3 there is also the sharp 9.b4!?. In the position after 16.♖f2, after a line which appears to be forced, White should have the better prospects.

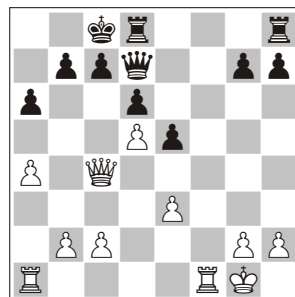
Cornejo,Walter

Fernandez,Giner

cr VIII CAAPE LADAC 2004

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♖b5 f5 4.d3 fe4 5.de4 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♖c5 7.♞e2 d6 8.♞c4 ♞e7 9.♘c3 9.b4!? ♖e6 10.♖c6 bc6 11.♞a6 ♖b6 12.a4 ♘e4 13.a5 ♖f2 14.♞f2 ♘f2 15.♞c6 ♖f7 16.♖f2 ♞hf8 (16...h6 17.♘c3 g5?! 18.♖e3 ♞hf8 19.♖g1 ♖g7? 20.♘b5+- Mader-Steil Antoni, Dresden Ech-W 2007) 17.♖g5 (17.♖e3!?) 17...♞d7 18.♞d7 ♖d7 19.♘bd2 ♖g8 (19...♖g6 Al Modiahki-El Arabi, Beirut 2000 - YB/73-95) 20.♖g3 (20.♖e3!?! a6 21.♖e2±) 20...♞ae8 21.♞e1 ♖c6 22.♘e4?! (22.c4!?) 22...♞e6 23.h4 h6

24.♖d2 ♞g6 25.♖h3 ♖d7 26.♖h2 ♞g4 27.♘f2 ♞c4 28.c3 ♖c6 29.♖g3 ♞f6=⇒ Zufic-Ivic, Omis open 2004. **9...♖d7 10.♘d5 ♘d5 11.ed5 ♘d4 12.♖d7 ♞d7 13.♘d4 ♖d4 14.a4 a6 15.♖e3 ♖e3 16.fe3 0-0-0**



17.b4 J.Shaw - YB/73-95; 17.♞f3!? ♞df8 18.♞af1 ♞f3 19.♞f3± Greet. **17...♞hf8 18.b5 18.♞fb1 ♖b8 19.♞c3 (19.b5 a5 20.b6 ♖c8 21.♞d3 ♞g4⇒; 19.e4 ♞f4 20.b5 a5 21.b6 ♖c8=) 19...♞f5 20.b5 ♞f2 21.♖h1 a5 22.♞a5 ♞e3 23.b6 cb6 24.♞b6 ♞c5=. 18...a5 19.b6 19.♞h4!? h6 20.♞e4± Greet. 19...♞f1 20.♞f1 ♖b8 21.bc7 ♞c7 22.♞b3 h5= 23.♞c1 g5 24.c4** 1/2-1/2

It is worth noting that 4.d3 with the manoeuvre ♞d1-e2-c4 has now also been played on elite level. However, instead of 10.♘d5 Carlsen opts for 10.♖g5, when Black seems to have less problems.

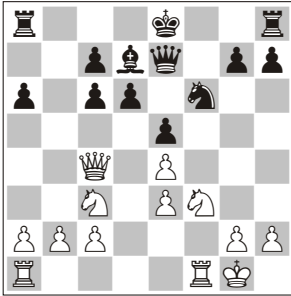
Carlsen,Magnus

Radjabov,Teimour

Porto Vecchio m 2007 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♖b5 f5 4.d3 fe4 5.de4 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♖c5 7.♞e2 d6 8.♞c4 ♞e7 9.♘c3 ♖d7 10.♖g5 a6 10...0-0-0? 11.♘d5 ♞f8 12.b4+- Jackova-Semenova, Frydek-Mistek 1997. 11.♖c6 11.♖f6 ♞f6 12.♘d5 ♞d8 13.♖c6 bc6 14.♘e3 ♞f6 15.♞ad1 a5 16.♘d2 a4 17.b4 ab3 18.ab3 ♖e6 19.♞c3 ♞a6= Obregon-J.M.Gil, Buenos Aires tt 2005. **11...bc6! 11...♖c6 12.a4 (12.♘d5**

♙d5 13.ed5 0-0 14.♘d2 ♖e8.
15.♘e4 ♘e4 16.♗e4 ♗h5 17.♙e3
♙e3 18.fe3 ♗e2= Werner-Schön,
Germany tt 1990) 12...♙a7
13.♘h4?! ♗f7 14.♗e2 0-0
15.♘f5 ♘h8 16.♘g3 ♗g6 17.♙e3
♙d4 ♣ Makka-Stiazhkina, Istan-
bul Ech-W 2003. 12.♙e3 12.♘a4
♙a7 13.♘h1 a5 14.♗d3 0-0 15.c4
♗e8 ♣ Pupke-Leisebein, cr 2004.
12...♙e3 13.fe3



13...♗f7 14.♘d2 15.♗b4 0-0
15.♗b7 ♗fc8 ♣. 14...0-0 15.♗f7
♘f7 16.♘c4 ♘e7 17.♘a5 ♗ab8
18.♗ab1 c5 18...♗f7!?. 19.a3
19.♘d5 ♘d5 20.♗f8 ♗f8 21.ed5=.
19...♙b5 19...c6. 20.♗f3 ♙d7
21.♗ff1 ♗b6 21...c6. 22.♘c4
♗b7 23.♘a5 ♗bb8 24.b4
24.♘d5=. 24...cb4 25.ab4 ♗b6
25...c6. 26.♘d5 ♘d5 27.ed5 ♗f1
28.♘f1 c6 29.dc6 ♙c6 30.c4
♙e4 31.♗b2 ♘e6 32.♘e1 ♗b8
33.b5 ab5 33...♗b6!?. 34.cb5
♗a8 35.♘c4 ♗a4 36.♘d2 ♙b7
36...♙g2!?. 37.b6 ♘d7 38.♗c2
♙c6 39.♗b2 ♙b7 40.♗c2 ♗a1
41.♘f2 ♙c6 42.♗b2 ♗a8
43.♘c4 ♗b8 44.♗d2 ♘e7
45.♘d6 ♗d7?! 45...♘e6=.
46.♘c4 ♙e6 47.♘e5 ♗b6
48.♘f3 ♗b8 49.h4 h6 50.♗d4
♗b2 51.♘d2 ♗b5 52.g4 ♗b8
53.♘f3 ♗b3 54.g5 hg5 55.♘g5
♙f5 56.♗f4 ♙g6 57.♘f3 ♗b2
58.♘g3 ♗e2 59.♗g4 ♘f6 60.♘f4
♗f2 61.♗g5 ♙c2 62.e4 ♙d1
63.♗f5 ♘e7 64.♘g3 ♗e2 65.♗e5
♘f6 66.♗d5 ♙c2 67.e5 ♘e7
68.♘d4 ♗e3 69.♘f2 ♗d3 70.e6
g6 71.♗d7 ♘f6 72.e7 ♘f7
73.♗d8 ♘e7 74.♘c6 ♘f6
75.♗d3 ♙d3 76.♘e3 g5 77.hg5
♙g5 1/2-1/2

Probably the Schliemann is not yet ripe for the museum, but almost three years after the Survey in Yearbook 73, 4.d3 still looks like an attractive option for White.

Neo-Archangelsk Brainbreaker

by Jose Luis Vilela

RL 12.6 (C78) YB 42, 46, 50, 71

From the recent Aerosvit tournament, the second-round game between Lenier Dominguez and Alexey Shirov is quite relevant for the theory of the increasingly popular Neo-Archangelsk (sometimes called the Møller Variation). This was Dominguez's only defeat, after a very interesting and double-edged struggle, where he missed the possibility to gain the upper hand at a certain point. Take a look at this brainbreaker.

Dominguez, Lenier Shirov, Alexey

Foros 2007 (2)

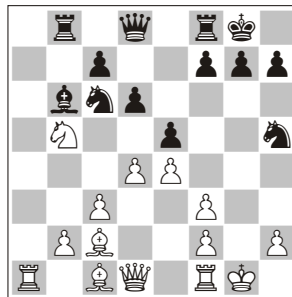
1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6
4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♙b3 ♙c5
7.a4 ♗b8 8.c3 d6 9.d4 ♙b6
10.♘a3 0-0 11.ab5 ab5 12.♘b5
♙g4 13.♙c2

13.♗e1 is the other important branch here. The text removes the bishop from the b-file and protects the e4 pawn.

13...♙f3 14.gf3

14.♗f3 is known to be harmless for Black after 14...ed4 15.♙g5 h6, J.Polgar-Shirov, Linares 1997.

14...♘h5



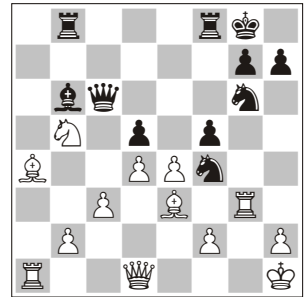
This is what can be considered a starting point in this sub-variation. Black's compensation for the pawn lies in the weakening of White's kingside structure. Whether it is enough or not is still an open question.

15.♙e3

There are very few games in the databases with this line. The text move is new in itself, although the real new feature in Dominguez's approach is that he does not play the queen's rook to a4, but leaves it on a1 instead.

A game Leko-Karjakin, Dortmund 2004, continued: 15.♘h1 ♗f6 16.♗a4 ♘f4 17.♗g1 ♘e7 18.♙e3 ♘eg6 19.♗g3 ♘h5 20.♗g4 h6 21.♘a3 ♘h4 22.♙d3 ♗a8 23.♗a8 ♗a8 24.♙e2 ♘g6 25.♘c4 ♘hf4 26.♙f1 ♗a2 27.♗b1 ♗a4 28.♗d1 ♗a2 29.♗b1 ♗a4 30.♗d1 1/2-1/2.

15...♗f6 16.♘h1 ♘e7 17.♗g1 ♘g6 18.♗g4 ♘hf4 19.♙b3 c6 20.♘a3 d5 21.ed5 cd5 22.♘b5 ♗c6 23.♙a4 f5 24.♗g3 e4 25.fe4



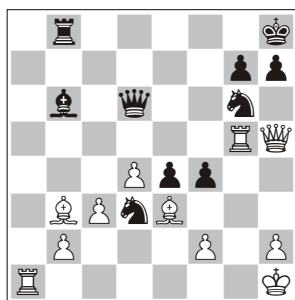
25...de4?!

A critical moment. Shirov remains faithful to his sharp style and recaptures with the d-pawn, which yields him a dangerous pawn majority on the kingside, even if the opening of the a2-g8 diagonal implies serious risks. Less risky and deserving to be tested is 25...fe4.

26.d5?

Dominguez bets, mistakenly, on the advance of his central pawns. This has the serious drawback of closing the a2-g8 diagonal, where the white bishop could do much harm to Black's position.

In his brief comments on the webpage of the tournament, GM Golubev mentions the following variation: 26. ♖a7 ♖d6 27. ♗c6 ♗d3 (trying to preserve the exchange gives White a comfortable edge: 27... ♖b7 28. ♖b3 ♖h8 29. ♗e5±) 28. ♗b8 ♖b8 (28... f4 29. ♗d7!+- is also mentioned by Golubev) 29. ♖h5 f4 30. ♗b3 ♖h8 31. ♖h3 h6 32. ♖g1 fe3 33. ♖g6 ♖f4 34. ♖b6 ♖f8!. This variation was analysed during the post-mortem by Shirov and Dominguez. Amazingly, in this final position, in spite of the huge material advantage, there is no way out to be seen for White. But I would like to take a closer look at the line: after 30... ♖h8, instead of 31. ♖h3, White has the much stronger 31. ♖g5!



analysis diagram

with the deadly mate threat of 32. ♖h7 followed by 33. ♖h5. Now, Black has no other resource than to retreat with the knight 31... ♗e7 (after 31... h6? the g6 knight would be *en prise*), after which White can strengthen his position by 32. ♖f7, threatening mate on g7.

Now Black has various options to defend g7, but all of them are unsatisfactory:

A) 32... ♖h6 33. ♗f4 and White is in control in spite of some apparent danger. For instance, if 33... ♗f2 34. ♖g2 ♗d3 (34... ♖h3 35. ♖f2 ♖f3 36. ♖g1+-; or 34... ♗h3 35. ♗b8 ♖g5 36. ♖h3+-) 35. ♗b8 ♖g5 36. ♖h1 (mate in two is threatened by 37. ♖f8 or 37. ♖e8) 36... h6

37. ♗d6 e3 and now simplest is 38. ♖a8 ♖h7 39. ♗c2. In case of 33... e3 White plays 34. ♗b8 ♗f2 35. ♖g2 ♖g5 36. ♗g3+-. The capture on f4 does not take Black anywhere either: 33... ♗f4 34. ♖f4 ♖c8 and now 35. ♖g4 is enough;

B) 32... g6 33. ♖e5! (the rook enters Black's position with devastating effect) ♗f5 34. ♖e6 ♖d8 35. ♖b6! ♖b6 36. ♖a7 ♖a7 (the only way to avoid mate) 37. ♖a7 ♖b3 38. ♖f7! (double threat: checkmate on f8 and capture of the rook on b3) 38... ♖b8 39. ♗f4! ♗f4 40. ♖c7 (again a double threat, now decisive) ♖b2 41. ♖f4 with a clearly winning position for White;

C) 32... ♖f6 33. ♖b5! fe3 34. fe3 ♖h6 35. ♖f1 (threatening 36. ♖f8. Taking the knight would be erroneous: 35. ♖e7? ♗f2 36. ♖g2 ♖h3 37. ♖f2 ♖f3 38. ♖e1 ♖e3 39. ♗d1 ♖d3 40. ♖c1 ♖e3 41. ♖b1 ♖d3 42. ♖c1 ♖e3 and White cannot escape the checks) 35... ♗g8 36. ♗e6! when the strong threat of 37. ♖b6 tips the balance decisively in White's favour;

D) 32... ♗g6 33. ♖d5 (after this move Black is not able to avoid the exchange of queens) 33... ♖f8 (if 33... ♖c6 then simply 34. ♖d7, while in case of 33... ♖f6 34. ♖f6 g6 35. ♖b5 fe3 36. fe3 f5 37. ♖g2 f4 38. ♗d5 fe3 39. ♗e4 White's superiority in the ending is clear) 34. ♖f8 ♖f8 35. ♗c1 ♗f2 36. ♖g1 e3 37. ♗c4 when White safely controls the passed pawns and has a winning position.

26... ♖f6 27. ♗b6 ♖b6 28. ♖d4 ♖b7

In view of the precarious protection of the white king, Shirov preserves the queen.

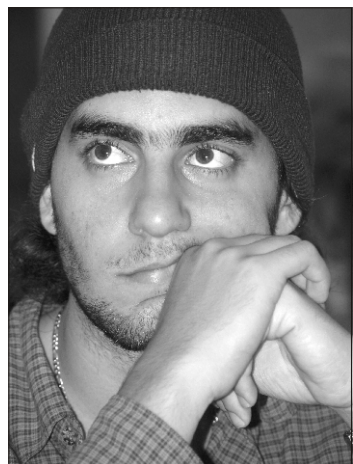
29. c4 ♗e2 30. ♖a7 ♗g3 31. hg3 ♖c8

The advance 32... f5-f4 is threatened, with great danger for White.

32. ♖c7

Perhaps 32. ♗d6 was a better practical chance.

32... ♖a6 33. d6 e3! 34. fe3 ♖a8 35. ♖h2 ♗e5



Lenier Dominguez Perez

A quicker finish was provided by 35... f4! 36. ef4 ♖fe8+-, as Shirov himself has pointed out.

36. ♖c5 ♗g4 37. ♖g1 ♖h8 38. ♖d5 ♖a5 39. ♖d4 ♖be8 40. b4 ♖d8 41. ♖a3 ♖e4 42. ♖c5 ♖e5 43. ♖d4 f4! 44. ef4

44. ♗d1 fg3! 45. ♖g4 ♖ef5 was also without hope, as Golubev indicates.

44... ♖e1 45. ♖g2 ♖e8 46. ♗d1 ♖h5

0-1

An enjoyable, unorthodox game, where Shirov's tactical qualities emerge once again. Probably 25... de4?! will not be repeated, but 25... fe4 might be tested in the future.

Clearly Worse

by Bogan Lalic

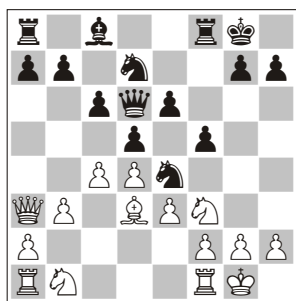
SL 1.3 (D30)

YB 35

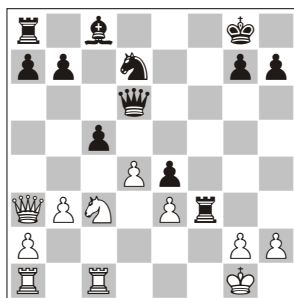
Here is a recent game played in London which proves that 12. ♖a3?! is clearly worse than 12. ♗c3, as two earlier games, Aronian-Radjabov, Antalya 2004, and Bareev-Yusupov, Prague 2002, already indicated. My novelty on move 14 does not change this assessment. My opponent made very good use of his opportunity, so a draw was the optimal result for me in this game.

Lalic, Bogdan
Fowler, Simon
London tt 2007 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♟f3 c6 4.e3
♟d6 4...♟f6 5.♟d3 ♟bd7 6.b3!?:
6.♟c3 dc4 would transpose to the
Meran Variation. 5.♟d3 f5 6.b3
♟f6 7.0-0 ♟e7 7...0-0 8.♟a3±
8.♟b2 0-0 9.♟c1 ♟bd7 9...b6
10.♟a3 ♟b7 11.♟d6 ♟d6 12.♟c3
♟bd7 13.cd5! ♟d5 (13...cd5
14.♟b5!) 14.♟d1 ♟ac8 15.♟c4
♟7f6 16.♟b2 ♟fd8 17.h3 ♟c3
18.♟c3 ♟e4 19.♟b2 c5? (≥
19...♟e7±) 20.dc5 ♟d1 21.♟d1
♟d1 22.♟h2 ♟c5 23.♟e6 ♟f8
24.♟c4 b5 25.♟e2 ♟d6 26.♟d4
b4 27.♟c4+- ♟d5 28.♟f5 ♟f6
29.♟e5 1-0 Ivanchuk-Nogueiras,
Havana 2007. 10.♟a3 ♟e4
11.♟d6 ♟d6 12.♟a3?!
12.♟c3!? b6 13.♟b1! ♟b7 14.b4
♟ac8 15.♟e2 ♟e7 16.♟b2 and
White was slightly better in
Rahman-Lodhi, Parsvnath 2007.



12...c5! 12...♟a3?! 13.♟a3±.
13.cd5 13.♟b2 b6=; 13.dc5
♟dc5 14.♟d1 b6 15.♟e2 ♟b7
16.b4 ♟d7 17.cd5 ed5 18.♟d4 f4
with an attack for Black,
Aronian-Radjabov, Antalya Ech
2004. 13...ed5 14.♟c1N 14.dc5
♟dc5 15.♟e2 f4 16.ef4 ♟f4 17.b4
♟f6 18.♟bd2 ♟c3 19.♟c3 ♟c3
Bareev-Yusupov, Prague rapid m
2002. 14...f4!→ 15.♟c3 ♟ f3
16.fe3 ♟f3! 17.♟e4 17.gf3??
♟g6 18.♟f1 ♟ ♟e5!+-;
17.♟e4!? de4 18.♟c4 ♟f7 19.♟f1
♟f6 ♟ 20.dc5 ♟e7. 17...de4!
17...♟e3? 18.♟d5 ♟h8 19.♟e1!
♟f4 (19...♟c3?? 20.♟e8 ♟f8
21.♟f1+-) 20.♟b5!±.



18.gf3 ef3 19.♟b2 19.♟e4?
♟e7+-; 19...♟e6+-; 19.♟h1?!
♟e7! 20.dc5 ♟e3 21.♟b2 ♟f6!
(≤ 21...♟c5 22.♟e1 ♟d4
23.♟d1!) 22.♟e1 ♟c5. 19...cd4
20.ed4 ♟d4 21.♟f2 ♟g4
21...♟f2 22.♟f2 ♟e5 23.♟g3=.
22.♟g3 ♟d4T 22...♟e5 23.♟g4
♟g4 24.♟e4. 23.♟f2 ♟g4
24.♟g3 ½-½

A Complex Alekhine Line

a letter by Herbert Nagel

AL 8.6 (B03)

In a correspondence chess group last year, in three out of five black games the Argunov Variation of the Four Pawns Attack of the Alekhine Defence appeared on the board.

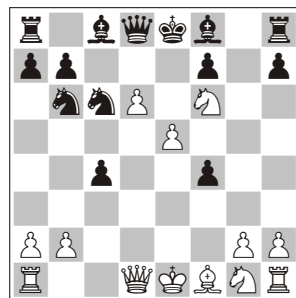
In the games with Miethke and Bobel my opponents chose the unambitious 10.♟f3. I had no problems to equalize, but I was not able to gain any clear advantage.

With Joachim Walther, an interesting game developed after the ambitious 10.d6. With 17...♟b8 I followed a suggestion of Burgess's (*The Complete Alekhine*) after a sac of my queen for two minor pieces. The arising position is highly complex. Computer programs (I only use Fritz6) favour White due to the material plus, but they underestimate the long-term prospects of Black's initiative. A horrible blunder on move 32 put an end to the interesting part of this game.

Walther, Joachim
Nagel, Herbert
cr WT/M/1063 2006

1.e4 ♟f6 2.e5 ♟d5 3.d4 d6 4.c4
♟b6 5.f4 de5 6.fe5 c5 7.d5 e6
8.♟c3 ed5 9.cd5 c4 10.d6
The less ambitious 10.♟f3 ♟b4
11.♟c4 ♟c3 12.bc3 ♟c4 13.♟a4
♟d7 14.♟c4 ♟b6 15.♟f4
(15.♟b5 ♟d7 16.♟d7 ♟d7 17.d6
♟c8 18.♟d2 ♟c4 19.♟f4 occurred
in Bobel-Nagel, cr 2006. Now I
played 15...♟e6 to give my king an
active role on d7 and e6, and a
draw was reached on the 31st
move) 15...♟d5 16.0-0 0-0
17.♟a3 ♟d8 18.♟g5 ♟e6 19.♟d6
h6 (19...♟ac8 did not attract me
because of the attack against my
king via 20.♟ad1 ♟c4 (20...♟a2
21.♟e4 g6 22.♟b7) 21.♟d4 ♟a2
22.♟e4 g6 23.♟h4) 20.♟e6 ♟e6
21.♟c5 ♟d5 22.♟d4 ♟c4? (better
was 22...♟d7 targeting the e5
pawn) 23.♟a7! resulted in a draw
in 29 moves in Miethke-Nagel, cr
2006.

10...♟c6 11.♟f4 g5 12.♟e4 gf4
13.♟f6



13...♟f6 14.ef6 ♟e6 15.♟h5
♟d6 16.0-0-0 0-0-0 17.♟f3 ♟b8
18.♟b1
18.♟d4 ♟d5 (18...c3 19.♟e6 cb2
20.♟b2 fe6 21.♟b5 ♟e5
22.♟d4±) 19.♟f5 ♟c7 20.♟e7
♟e4 21.♟e1 ♟d4 22.♟c6 ♟c6∞.
18...c3
18...♟b4!? 19.a3 (19.♟d4 ♟d5
20.♟a1 ♟e4∞) 19...♟d4d5 20.♟c4
♟f6 (20...♟c4 21.♟d5 ♟d5
22.♟d5+-) 21.♟h4 ♟c4 22.♟f6
♟hg8 23.♟g5+-.
19.♟b5

19.b3 c7 (19...a4 20.f3 c7 21.c2+-) 20.b5 d5 21.f3 c3 22.c3 f5∞.

19...b4

The direct attack 19...c2!? may be best: 20.c2 b4 21.b1 a2 22.a1 d6d5 with interesting play.

20.bc3 d4d5

20...a2 21.f3 (21.b2 was played in 1999 in the correspondence game Sperhake-De Luca: 21...d5? 22.f5 d5 23.f1 e6 24.d4+-) 21...a6 (21...d5 22.c4 d3 23.a1 f6 24.f4 dfe4 25.c1 b5 26.cb5 and White is well coordinated) 22.g5 d5 23.a2 f6 24.e6 h5 25.d8 f8 26.c4 did not appeal to me.

21.f3

21.f3 a6 22.a6 b6 23.d4 f6 24.a5 b7 25.e6 fe6 26.f6 d6 27.e5 f8 28.f6 d5∞.

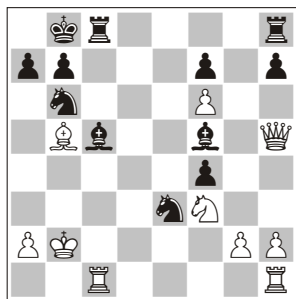
21...c8

21...f6!? is a computer move that wins a pawn but wastes time: 22.f4 d5 23.d4 e3 24.e6 fe6 25.g3±.

22.c4 e3 23.c5 f5 24.b2

After 24.a1 c5 25.a4 f8 26.f7 b5 27.b2 b4 28.d4 b6 Black has the initiative; 24.f5 returns the queen: 24...f5 25.cb6 ab6 26.g5 c1 27.c1 f8 28.c4 e3 29.b3 g8 30.f7?! a3 31.e5 g2 32.f7 f3+-.

24...c5



25.f3

After 25.f7 the power of Black's minor pieces can be demonstrated



NEW IN CHESS ARCHIVES

Herbert Nagel

in an attack on the king: 25...a6 26.e2 a4 27.b3 (27.a1 a3) 27...b5 28.g5 f8! 29.e6 c2 30.c2 c2 31.c2 a3 32.b1 d2+-; 25.g4 fg3 26.hg3 a6 27.g4 g4 28.e5 a8 29.c5 ab5 30.e3 c5 31.a1 (31.c5?? a4) 31...f8±.

25...a6

25...bd5 26.c4 b4 (26...f8 27.d5 f5 28.f7 g6 29.e6 f8 30.f7 f8 31.f6 f5d6 32.c3 d5 33.e5 e7 34.e7 e7 35.f7±) 27.g5 c7 28.e3 e3 29.c3 e4 30.b5 c3 31.c3 a2 32.b2.

26.f3

26...e3 27.f8 c8 28.d3 e6 29.g5 d4 30.b1±.

27.f5 ab5 28.b3!

28.c5? c5 29.c5?? a4; 28.f4 a8 29.a1; 29.d4 a3+-; 28.a1 f8 29.e4 d4 30.a4 d6 31.f4 ba4 32.a4 f8+-; 28.b1 c4 29.h3 f8+-.

28...c4 29.a4 d6

The alternative was 29...ba4!?. I wanted to play for the full point, so this move was not my choice; 30.a2 (30.a4 d6 31.c3 c6+-) 30...d6 31.f4 f8 32.c5 c5 33.d6 c7=.

30.a2

30.ab5 a5 31.b2 a3 32.a3 c1±.

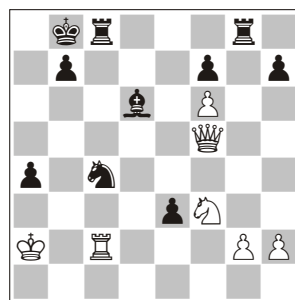
30...hg8

30...ba4? 31.d3+-; 30...d2 31.c8 c8 32.d3 b4 33.ab5 (33.e3 c2 34.a1 c3+-) 33...c3 34.f5 a7 35.d4±; 30...c5 31.d7 (31.d3 f8 32.ab5 e5 33.e3 b5=) 31...c7 32.b5 f8±.

31.c2

31.g3 d2 32.c8 c8 33.ab5 f3 34.f3 c5 and here I prefer Black; 31.ab5 g2 32.c2 (32.a1 b6 33.c8 d8 34.e4 e2) 32...f2 33.f2 ef2 34.d4 h2 35.f2 e5±.

31...ba4



32.c4??

A horrible blunder. In correspondence chess it is often due to a notation error or a wrong position in the analysis. 32.d3 g4 33.c4 g4 34.d6 a7 35.d3 e2 36.e3 f8± was equal.

32...c4 33.g3 g8 34.e1 c1 35.a5 e2 36.d2 e5 37.a3 f8 0-1

**Herbert Nagel
Vienna, Austria**

An Old Nut

a letter by Martin Skjöldebrand

FR 5.4 (C12)

YB 71

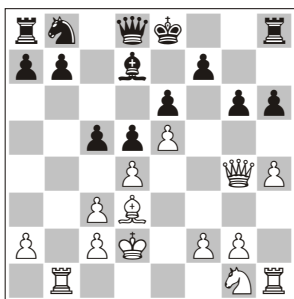
As an old-time MacCutcheon player I enjoyed the series of articles on the French by Glek and Cebalo in Yearbook 70-72. Me and a club mate played a few blitz games along the lines of Ganguly-Hariharan, Calicut 2003 (YB 71) some time ago, waiting to

launch an idea suggested there by Cebalo on an unsuspecting world. In the current SCT Open an opportunity arose when I met Erik Blomqvist as Black. The game may be of some theoretical interest as an illustration of the suggestion given to White's 14th move. Instead of 12...♙c6, Black gives the b-pawn to develop and surround the enemy rook. Blomqvist sacrificed the exchange.

**Blomqvist,Erik
Skjöldebrand,Martin**

Täby 2007 (4)

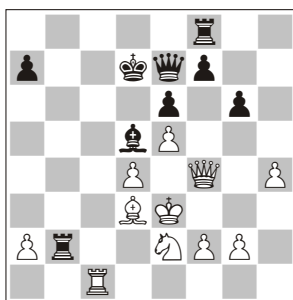
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6
4.♙g5 ♙b4 5.e5 h6 6.♙d2 ♙c3
7.bc3 ♘e4 8.♚g4 g6 9.h4 c5
10.♙d3 ♘d2 11.♙d2 ♙d7
12.♚b1



12...♘c6 13.♚b7 cd4 14.cd4
♚a5 15.♙e3 ♘b4 16.♘e2 0-0-0
17.♚b4 ♚b4 18.♚f3 ♚hf8

This leads to a somewhat passive position, where Black thought it necessary to sac a pawn to get active piece play. A better try for an advantage might be 18... ♚e7 with the idea of hiding the king on a8 if allowed. My silicon monsters suggest that the text move is sufficient for a roughly equal game, however.

19.c4 ♙c6 20.♚c1 ♘d7 21.♚f4
♚b8 22.♚h6 ♚e7 23.♚f4 ♚b2
24.cd5 ♙d5

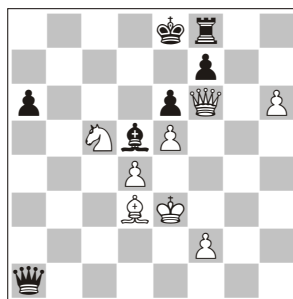


From here on the computers suggest going for the g2 pawn rather than the one on a2. I was afraid of getting the bishop dislodged by a timely f2-f3, though.

25.♘c3 ♙c6 26.♘e4 ♚b4
27.♘c5 ♘e8 28.♚d1 ♚a2 29.g4
♚b2 30.♚f6 ♙d5 31.h5 gh5
32.gh5 a6?

Time-trouble. The idea is that there isn't a check on a6 when Black tries to exchange rooks and enter the back rank. Better was the manoeuvre ...♚f8-g8-g4.

33.h6 ♚a1 34.♚a1 ♚a1



35.♙a6?

Time-trouble again. 35.♘a6! wins due to the check. Now there are perpetuals on the back rank.

35... ♚e1 36.♙d3 ♚d1 37.♙c3
♚a1 38.♙c2 ♚a2 39.♙d3 ♚b1
40.♙d2 ♚b2 41.♙e3 ♚c1
42.♙d3 1/2-1/2

**Martin Skjöldebrand
Tyresö, Sweden**