

Two Knights Defence

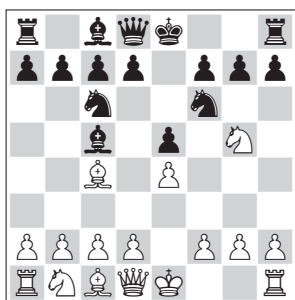
Traxler Gambit KP 12.4 (C57)

Another Look at the Traxler Gambit (2):

5. ♖f7 ♔e7 6. ♖d5

Maarten de Zeeuw

1. e4 e5
2. ♘f3 ♘c6
3. ♙c4 ♗f6
4. ♘g5 ♙c5



In Yearbook 63 we dealt with the continuation 5.d4. Here we will discuss the variation 5.♙f7 ♔e7 6.♙d5, while 6.♙b3 and the lines arising after 5.♘f7 will be the subject of future instalments.

5. ♙f7

In practice much more popular than 5.♘f7, but hardly more effective; and analytically clearly inferior. Pálkövi, however, makes it his main line, and calls 5.♘f7! 'a deviation'.

5. ... ♔e7

White has an extra pawn, and Black's king is in an unusual place. But Black's compensation is significant. He has a half-open f-file, with pressure on pawn f2 and on White's king's knight after its likely return to f3, and an open diagonal e8-h5 which he can exploit with the manoeuvre ♗e8-g6/h5, already harmoniously prepared by 5...♔e7. Black

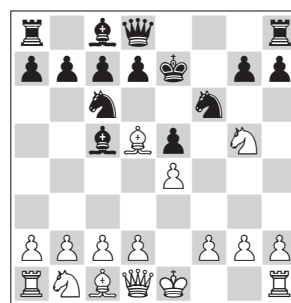
has a lead in development (White's king's bishop played three times, his king's knight twice), which dooms White efforts to open up the position early, whereas Black can mobilise all of his pieces harmoniously. The development of ♙c8 to g4 will either expose the lack of space of White's queen, or bring about a pin of ♘f3 which will be nasty, especially after White has prematurely castled kingside so that he can hardly afford the capture g2xf3. If White castles kingside early, Black has many thematic (pseudo-)sacrifices, which will be explored in the Game Section.

Given these troubles, White cannot count on an automatic win at all. According to Nimzowitsch, the candidate should advance first, but White's extra pawn is on f2 and in the middlegame there is hardly a way of exploiting it. Attempts to overrun Black in the centre with an early c3 followed by d4, seducing him to give up his central pawn e5, are over-ambitious.

The present article concentrates on those lines where White quickly plays the consolidating d3 followed by ♙e3, preferably without castling kingside, so that the eventual ...♙g4xf3 g2xf3! would result in a favourable opening of the g-file. As Black has no attacking chances against

White's queenside, his best hope is that in the ending White's extra pawn will prove worthless. This is the strategy which Anand followed in his game against Beliavsky in Linares 1991.

6. ♙d5



This overprotects the e4 pawn, so that ♘g5 can retreat to f3 more easily, but White could probably sacrifice that pawn quite easily. More important is the fact that White can exchange his bishop on c6. He might fear ...♘c6-d4, increasing the pressure on ♘f3, or seek to reduce pressure against his own pawn advancing to d4, or want to weaken the defence of pawn e5, or consider to attack the ensuing weak pawn on c6 with his queen.

As compared to 6.♙b3 there are drawbacks as well. 6.♙d5 puts White's pair of bishops in jeopardy, but Traxler games are rarely decided in the endgame, not even after 5.♙f7. Much more important is the constant possibility of ...♘f6xd5 clearing the

f-file without loss of tempo. After 6...♖f8 this becomes immediately relevant, with Black threatening 7...♗f2 ♘d5 or 7...♘d5 8.ed5 ♗f2. Moreover, on d5 the bishop obstructs the manoeuvre ♘c3-d5, which would be possible after 6.♗b3.

superior 8.d3 transposes to 7.d3 ♖e8 8.c3.

7...♖e8

7...♖f8 (7...♗g4? 8.f3+-) 8.♗e3 (8.0-0?! transposes to 6...♖f8 7.0-0 d6 8.d3; 8.♗c6 bc6 transposes to 6...♖f8 7.♗c6 bc6 8.d3 d6) 8...♗e3 9.fe3 ♘g4 10.♘h7± Heisman, White has a solid extra pawn.



Variation A 6...d6

6...d6

A peculiar move order preventing castling, but Black should provoke White into making that mistake.

6...♖e8 7.d3! ♖f8 (7...♗g6?? 8.♗f7+-; 7...d6 transposes to 6...d6. This was the actual move order in Anand-Beliavsky) and now:

A) for 8.0-0 d6 9.♗e3 ♗e3 10.fe3 ♗g6 11.♘f3 ♗h3 see Müller-Büchner, corr. 1976, in the Game Section;

B) 8.♗e3 ♗e3 9.fe3 ♗g6 10.♘f3 d6 (10...♘d5 11.ed5 ♗g2 12.♗g1 ♗f3 13.♗g7 ♗e8 14.♗f3 ♖f3 15.dc6±) 11.♘c3±.

7.d3!

Ignored in Estrin's 1978 book.

A) 7.0-0? ♗g4 is unwise. White has inflicted the pin on f3 upon himself;

B) 7.c3 (almost the only move met in practice) 7...♖e8! (to be able to recapture on c6 with the queen; 7...♖f8?! 8.♗c6 bc6 9.d4 ed4 10.cd4!±) In Karpov-Beliavsky, Spartakiad Moscow 1983, and many other games White now returned a pawn to open lines against Black's king with 8.d4?! ed4, but this is not logical as Black has a lead in development; Black's point is 9.♗c6 ♗c6! 10.cd4 ♗d4! and the attack by ♗c6 on ♗c1 prevents the recapture on d4. The

8.♗c6!

A) 8.♗e3?! (bad timing) 8...♗e3 9.fe3 ♗g6 10.♘f3 ♘d5 11.ed5 ♘b4 (Black regains the pawn) or 8...♗g6 9.♗f7 ♖h6=;

B) 8.c3?! ♖f8 (8...♗g4 9.f3 ♗d7 10.d4 ed4 11.♗c6±; interesting is 8...♘g4!? to force White to castle into it: 9.0-0 h6 10.♘f3 ♖f8 11.d4 ed4 12.cd4 ♖h5 13.dc5 ♖f3 Jonas-Vogl, corr. 1996) and now:

B1) 9.♗e3? is impossible here as 8.c3 has opened the connection between g2 and b2: 9...♗e3 10.fe3 ♗g6±;

B2) 9.♘f3 ♗g6 10.♗g5 ♗g4 11.♘bd2 (11.♗h4 ♗f3 12.♖f3 ♖h6 13.♖g4 ♗e8 14.♗c6 bc6 15.♖e6 ♗d8 16.♖g4 ♗e8 17.♖e6 repeating moves) 11...♖g5 12.♘g5 ♗d1 (Gikas-Wedberg, Lugano 1989) 13.♗d1 ♘g4 14.f3 ♘f2 15.♗c2 ♘h1 16.♖h1=;

B3) 9.0-0 ♗g4 10.♗c6 bc6 11.♘f3 ♗g6 12.♘bd2 ♘h5 13.♘h4 ♗d1 14.♘g6 hg6 15.♖d1 ♗f2 16.♗f1! (16.♗h1?? ♘g3 17.hg3 ♖h8 mate) was equal in Tiits-Frederiks, corr. 1991;

B4) 9.♗c6 bc6! Now White cannot achieve his ideal of a quick ♗e3 with the option of queenside castling. After 10.0-0 ♗g4 or 10.d4 ♗b6 11.0-0 ♗g6 12.♖e1 h6, the g5 knight will get into the pin by ♗g4, with the king castled kingside.

8...bc6 9.♗e3 ♗g6

9...♗e3 10.fe3 ♗g6 11.♘f3 merely transposes.

10.♘f3 ♗e3 11.fe3 ♗g2

11...♘g4 12.♖e2 ♖h6 13.♗d2± ♗e6 14.h3 ♖hf8 15.♘c3 ♘f6 16.♖af1 ♘h5 17.♖e1 ♘f6 18.♗c1 ♖g6 19.d4 ed4 20.ed4 ♖g2 21.d5 ♗d7 22.e5 ♘d5 23.ed6 ♗d8 24.♘d5 ♖f3 25.♖f3 ♖f3 26.♖f1 1-0 Koetsier-Sage, corr. 1999.

12.♖g1 ♖h3 13.♖g7 ♗d8

14.♖g3 ♖h6 15.♖e2± ♘g4

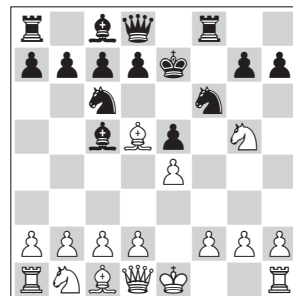
15...♗a6 16.♘c3 ♗e7 17.0-0-0 ♖ag8 18.♖dg1 ♗c8 19.d4 ♗g4 (½-½ Ballan-Herb, corr. 1996) 20.de5 de5 21.h3±.

16.h3

Anand-Beliavsky, Linares 1991. This was the featured game in Mikhailchishin's survey on this line of the Traxler in Yearbook 20 back in 1991.

Variation B 6...♖f8

6...♖f8



This threat to regain the pawn by 7...♗f2 8.♗f2 ♘d5 or 7...♘d5

8.ed5 ♖f2 prevents the immediate 7.d3 and almost forces White to choose either 7.♗f3 (which does not give White an indisputable advantage, e.g. 7...d6 8.♙c6 bc6 9.d4 ed4 10.♗d4 ♖e8 11.0-0 ♗g6 12.♙e1 ♗g4) and 7.0-0.

Variation B1
7.0-0

7.0-0
Castling kingside is not part of the plan with d3 and ♙e3 announced after 5...♗e7, and in most lines it will be hard for White to shake off the pressure exerted by ♙g4. The point of 7.♗f3, abandoning the struggle for the tempo (usually White leaves ♗g5 on its place until Black spends the tempo ...h6 to drive it away), is to support 8.c3 and d4, but this isn't part of the plan mentioned either.
7...d6
7...h6 8.♗f3 d6 9.♙c6 bc6 10.d4 ed4 11.♗d4 is dubious.

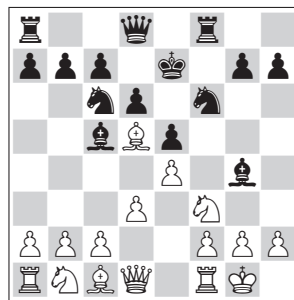
Variation B11
8.d3

8.d3?!
Whereas with the bishop on b3 8.d3 would be quite solid, here it is powerless due to the possibility of ♗f6xd5. White is already on the defence. Alternatives are:
A) 8.h3?! ♖e8 9.c3 (for 9.d3 ♗g6, see Bex-Donev, Biel 1995, in the Games Section; 9...h6 10.♗f3 ♗h5=) 9...♗g6 10.d4 ♙b6 (Black does not have a direct threat, as he should not try to regain a centre pawn, but after 11...♗h5! and ...♗f4 his initia-

tive may grow very strong) 11.♙e1 ♗h5! 12.♗f3 ♗f4 13.♙f4 ♗f4 and Black has a very strong initiative;

B) 8.♙c6! (rare) 8...bc6 9.d3 (9.c3!? ♙g4 10.♗f3) 9...♙g4 (a more accurate move order than 9...♖e8 10.♙e3 ♙g4 11.♗f3 ♗d7 transposing to 9...♙g4 but White has 11.♗d2; 10...♙e3 11.fe3 ♗g6 12.♗f3 ♙h3 (all in analogy to Müller-Büchner, corr. 1976) 13.♖e2±) 10.♗f3 ♖e8 11.♙e3 (11.h3 ♗h5 12.hg4! ♗g4 13.♙g5 ♗e8 14.♗bd2! ♗f2 15.♗f2 ♙f2 16.♗f2 ♖g5±) 11...♗d7 (11...♗h5 12.♗bd2± ♙b6 13.♙e1 h6 14.♙b6 ab6 15.♙e3 g5 16.♗f1 ♙e6 17.♗g3 ♗g6 18.d4. White has untangled himself, and proceeded to win in Kull-Lurje, Baden 1998) 12.♗bd2 ♗g6 13.c3 ♗f3 Ekenbjerg-Hjorth, Swedish Championship, Eskilstuna 1971;
C) 8.c3!, treated in the next section, is clearly best.

8...♙g4
8...♖e8?!± transposes to 6...♖e8 7.d3 ♗f8 8.0-0 d6; 8...♗d4!?.
9.♗f3

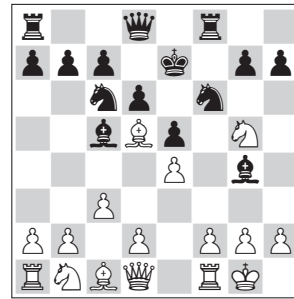


9...♗d4!
White forfeited his chance to play ♙d5xc6. 9...♙f3 10.gf3 (the weakening of White's kingside pawn structure is not necessarily lethal) 10...♖d7 should be met by 11.♙c6! and not 11.c3?! ♗h3! 12.♙c6 bc6 with the strong threat of ♗h5-f4, or 11.♗g2 ♗d5! 12.ed5 ♗d4!±.

10.♗bd2!
10.♙b7? ♗b8 11.♙a6 ♖e8 12.♗bd2 ♗g6, 10.c3? ♗f3, 10.♙g5? ♗f3 and 10.♙e3? ♗d5 (Cheymol-Carnic, Eger 1990) are all bad.
Now Treacy-Lees, United States 1984, went 10...♖e8. I suggest 10...♗f3 11.♗f3 ♗d5 12.ed5 ♙f3 13.gf3 ♗d7±. Compare my analysis in the Game Section.

Variation B12
8.c3

8.c3! ♙g4
With the idea to meet queen moves by 9...h6 and after the retreat White's kingside is torn up. Otherwise he has to play 10.h3 hg5 11.hg4, which opens Black's h-file.



9.♖b3!
This is my preference.
A) 9.♖a4?!
A1) 9...h6 10.♙c6 (10. d4=; 10.♗f3 ♙f3 11.gf3 ♖d7 12.♙c6 ♖h3 13.d4! =) 10...bc6=;
A2) 9...♖e8!± (with the threat of 10...♙e2 – the direct 9...♙e2? fails to 10.♗e6! – so 10.h3 is pointless, and in fact it is hard to find any plan for White) 10.♙c6 ♖c6 11.♖c6 bc6±, White has an extra pawn but he has to manage three problems: 12...h6 followed by 13...♗e4 or by crippling White's pawn struc-

ture, and above all 12...♙e2!
13.♖e1 ♙d3, e.g. 14.h3 ♘g4!;

B) 9.♗e1 is recommended by Pálkövi:

B1) 9...♗e8? 10.h3! ♗h5
11.♙c6! (11.hg4? ♘g4 12.♘h3
♗f3=; 12...♙f2!? 13.♗f2
♗f2=?) 11...bc6 12.d4 ed4
(12...h6 13.f3+-) 13.e5! shows
the merits of 9.♗e1;

B2) 9...h6! 10.d4 ♙b6
(10...ed4? 11.♙c6 bc6 12.e5±)
11.h3 hg5 12.hg4 ♗d7, when
danger looms along the h-file.
Black's compensation is suffi-
cient for equality, Shabalov-
I. Ivanov, US Championship,
Parsippany 1996.

The text move 9.♗b3 would not
be possible with the king bishop
on b3 instead of d5, which ex-
plains why after 6.♙b3 ♗f8 7.0-0
d6 the move 8.c3 is not played at
all.



9...♙b6

Heisman rightly points out that
9...h6? 10.♗b7! ♗b8 (10...♘a5
11.♗a8 ♗d7 12.b4! yields
White ♗♗♗♗ for ♗) 11.♗c6! fa-
vours White;

Müller,D
Büchner,F
or 1976

The only example of a successful
kingside attack by Black after the
exchange of bishops on e3.

9...♘a5?! 10.♗c2 leaves Black
exposed to the fork b2-b4, e.g.
10...c6 11.b4 cd5 12.bc5 dc5
13.d4± Heisman;

9...♗c8 (protecting the b7 pawn,
but also eyeing h3) 10.♙c6 bc6
11.d4 ed4 12.♗c4 dc3 (12...♙e6
13.♗a4 dc3 14.♘c3 ♙d7
15.♘f3± intending 16.e5) 13.♘c3
h6 14.e5 hg5 15.ef6 gf6 16.♗e1±.

**10.♙c6 bc6 11.h3 h6 12.hg4
hg5 13.d4 ♗d7 14.♗d1±**

Variation B2

7...♙c6

7...♙c6!

To enable himself to play d3
without castling.

7...dc6

7...bc6 8.d3 (8.0-0 d6 transposes
to 7.0-0 d6 8.♙c6 bc6) 8...d6
(8...h6 9.♘f3±) 9.0-0?! trans-
poses to 7.0-0 d6 8.♙c6 bc6
9.d3, but 9.♙e3 seems strong.

8.d3

8.♗e2 is also promising.

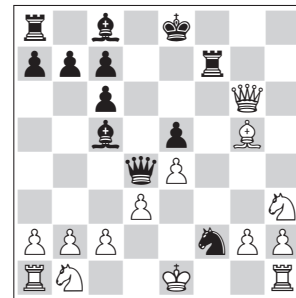
8...♘g4

After 8...♙g4 9.♘f3 Black can-
not exploit the pin. Moreover,
♘f6 can hardly move as it has to
guard the g5-d8 diagonal:
9...♘e4? 10.♗e2!+- ♙f2
11.♙f1 ♗f3 12.♗e4 ♗f7 13.♗g4.

9.♘h3 ♘f2

9...♘f6 10.♗f3, with the option
11.♗g3, or 10.0-0±.

**10.♙g5 ♙e8 11.♗h5 g6
12.♗h7 ♗d4 13.♗g6 ♗f7**



14.♗f1!

Heisman assumes White has
nothing better than 14.♗g8 ♗f8
15.♗g6 with a repetition of posi-
tion. I disagree.

14...♙h3

14...♗b2 loses to 15.♘f2, and if
15...♗a1 16.♘d1 ♗a2 17.c4!.

**15.gh3 ♙f8 16.♙e2 ♗b2
17.♗h6!**

Even stronger than 17.♘a3.

17...♙g8

17...♙e8 18.♗e6 ♗e7 19.♗c4
♗a1 20.♗c5 ♗f7 21.♗c4!+-.

18.♗g1

18.♘a3 ♙a3 19.♗g1 ♗g7
20.♙d2 ♘g4 21.♗e6 ♙h8
22.♗af1 is equally promising.

18...♘h3 19.♗g2!

19.♗g4?! ♗f2 20.♙e1 ♙f7
21.♗h5! ♙e6 22.♗h3 ♗af8!
(22...♗a1?? 23.♗f4 and Black
ends up mated) 23.♗g2 ♘d6
24.♗h6 ♘d7 25.♗f2 ♙f2
26.♙e2 ♙c5 27.♗h3 ♘d6 28.d4
♗d4 29.♗d3 ♗f2 30.♙e1 ♗d3
31.cd3 ♗g2+-.

**19...♗f2 20.♗f2 ♘f2 21.♗e6
♙g7 22.♗d7 ♙g8 23.♙f6
♗c2 24.♘d2 ♗d3 25.♗d3
♘d3 26.♙d3+-**

**1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♘f6
4.♘g5 ♙c5 5.♙f7 ♙e7 6.♙d5
♗f8 7.0-0 d6 8.d3**

Another version of this game
Müller-Büchner is dated 1977 and
is given as 8.♙c6 bc6 9.d3 ♗e8

10.♙e3 ♙e3 11.fe3 ♗g6 12.♘f3
♙h3 13.♗d2 ♘g4 14.gh3??
(14.♘h4 ♗f1 15.♙f1 ♘h2 16.♙g1
♗g3 17.♗f2 ♗f2 18.♙f2 ♙e6=
Estrin 1978) 14...♘f2 (14...♘e3
15.♙h1 ♘f1+-) 15.♙f2 ♗f3 0-1.

8...♖e8?!

8...♖g4! equalises.

9.♙e3 ♘e3

A) 9...♙g4 10.♖e1 ♙e3 (10...h6 11.♙c5 dc5 12.h3±) 11.fe3! ♖g6 12.♗h4±;

B) 9...♗d4

B1) 10.c3? ♙g4 11.♗d2 ♗e2 12.♗h1 ♙e3 13.♗e3 (13.fe3?? ♗e4) 13...♗d5 14.ed5 ♗h5

B11) 15.♗e6? ♗f3! 16.♗g5 (16.♗e2 ♗h3+- 17.f3 ♗h2 18.♗g1 ♗h4 mating) 16...♗g5 17.♗g5 ♗d3±;

B12) 15.♗e4

B121) 15...♗f3? 16.♗e2 ♗h3 17.f3 ♗h2 18.♗g1 ♗h4 when both 19.♗f2 and 19.♗g3 win;

B122) 15...♗f4±;

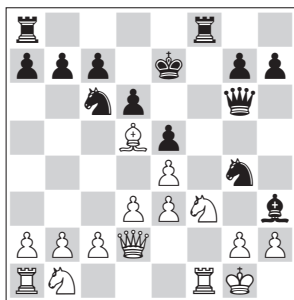
B2) 10.♗e1! c6 (10...♙g4 11.f3 is possible, as ♙e3 is protected; 10...♗g6 11.c3±) 11.c3 cd5 12.♙d4, exploiting the e-file.

10.fe3 ♗g6 11.♗f3 ♙h3!± 12.♗d2?!

12.♗e2! ♗d5 (12...♗g4? 13.gh3? ♗e3 (13...♗f2?? 14.♗f2 is totally impossible here as ♗e2 protects both ♗f3 and ♗f1) 14.♗h1 ♗f1 15.♗f1 ♗d4 16.♗bd2 is equal, but the crucial difference between 12.♗e2! and 12.♗d2?! is that 13.♗h4! ♗f1 14.♗f1 wins for White!) 13.ed5 ♗b4 14.♗c3 ♗g2 15.♗g2 ♙g2 16.♗g2 ♗c2 17.♗g3 ♗a1 18.♗a1 and White has a slight advantage. he can proceed with 19.♗c1 threatening 20.♗b5, or 19.♗g5 and 20.♗e6, or 19.d4 ed4 20.♗d4 followed by 21.♗e6.

12...♗g4!

12...♗d5?! 13.ed5 ♗b4 14.♗c3 ♗g2 15.♗g2 transposes to the line 12.♗e2 ♗d5 given above.



13.gh3??

What a horrible move to play!

A) 13.♗a3 ♗e3 14.♗h4 ♗g5 15.♗f8 ♗f8 16.♙c6 bc6 transposes to 13.♙c6 below;

B) 13.♗h4 ♗f1 14.♗f1 ♗h2 15.♗g1 ♗g3 16.♗f2 ♗f2 17.♗f2 ♙d7=;

C) 13.♙c6 bc6 (this position was also reached in the note to 8.d3)

C1) 14.♗a3 ♗e3 15.♗h4 ♗g5 16.♗f8 ♗f8 17.♗c4 (the point of 14.♗a3) 17...♗h4 17...♙e6? 18.♗f5!± ♙f5 19.♗e3+-)

18.♗e3 ♙d7 (protecting the king beforehand against the queen capture on c7. 18...♙e6? 19.♗a7 ♙c4 20.dc4! (after 20.♗c7? ♗e6 21.♗b6 Black's bishop is trapped and White can equalise: 21...♙a6 22.g3 ♗f6 23.♗a6 ♗f2 24.♗h1 ♗f3 25.♗g1) 20...♙d7 21.♗e3±)

19.♗a7 c5 20.♗h1 ♗f2 (20...♗c8 21.♗e5 de5 22.♗c5 ♗f6 23.♗f1 ♗g6 24.♗e5 ♗f8 25.♗g1±)

21.♗g1 ♗c2 22.♗c7 ♗d3 23.♗b6 ♗b5 24.♗d5 ♗e6 25.b4 ♗c6, with equality. Not 25...cb4? 26.♗c1 (threatening 27.♗c7) 26...♗b7 27.♗g5+-;

C2) 14.♗h4 is fully analogous to 13.♗h4;

C3) 14.♗c3 ♗e3 15.♗h4 ♗g5 16.♗f8 ♗f8 17.♗e1 ♗h4 18.♗e3 and 15.♗f2 ♗g2 16.♗g2 ♙g2 17.♗h4 are both equal.

13...♗f2

Also 13...♗e3 14.♗h1 ♗f1.

14.♗f2 ♗f3! 15.♗f3 ♗f8 16.♗e2 ♗g2 17.♗d1 ♗f1 0-1

Bex,Pierre-Alain

Donev,Ivo

Biel 1995 (12)

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♙c4 ♗f6 4.♗g5 ♙c5 5.♙f7 ♗e7 6.♙d5 ♗f8 7.0-0

If after 5.♙f7 White castles kingside at an early stage, Black has many thematic (pseudo-)sacrifices. The knight sacrifice on e4, to clear the f-file with gain of tempo, is illustrated by Treacy-Lees, USA 1984, and could also have oc-

curred in the present game. Then there is the manoeuvre ...♗h5-f4, followed by a knight sacrifice on g2. Finally Black can also sacrifice the exchange on f3, once or even twice.

All this misery is related to the pressure exerted by ♙g4, but if after castling kingside White questions this bishop by h3, it gives Black new possibilities:

- An active bishop sacrifice on h3 (occurs in the analysis of all games);

- A passive bishop sacrifice on g4 (in Treacy-Lees);

- Black's king's knight coming to g4 anyway (Bex-Donev). With ...♗g4, a rather hidden possibility, Black clears the f-file and attacks the weakness on f2. White's king usually flees to h1 or h2, avoiding the pin on the g-pawn with ♗g6, but at the same time unguarding f2.

- The bayonet attack ...g5-g4 (where the tempo ...h6 to drive away ♗g5 comes in handy);

- Finally ...♗h5 followed by ...♗g3 to drive ♗f1 away and win the f2 pawn.

All this means that White cannot hope to maintain any advantage after castling kingside, and basically the Game Section is one great warning against castling into Black's attack. A major exception to this rule is the line 6.♙d5 ♗f8 7.0-0 d6 8.c3! ♙g4 9.♗b3!± with the point 9...h6 10.♗b7! (Heisman).

7...d6 8.h3 ♗e8 9.d3

The main line is 9.c3 ♗g6 10.d4 ♙b6.

9...♗g6=

9...h6 10.♗f3 (10.♙c6 bc6 11.♗f3 ♗h5 transposes to 10.♗f3 ♗h5 11.♙c6 bc6) 10...♗h5 (threatening 11...♗d5 12.ed5 ♙h3!, but also 11...♙h3; 10...g5!±) and now:

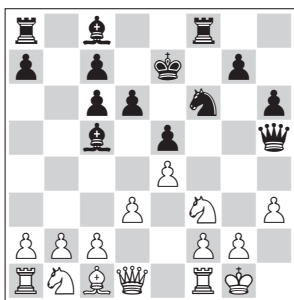
A) 11.♗bd2?! ♗d5 12.ed5 ♗b4± 13.♗e4 ♙h3;

B) 11.♙e3?!± ♙h3! (11...♗d5 12.ed5 ♙h3 13.♗e5! ♗e5

14. ♖c5=) 12. gh3□ (12. ♖c6? allows 12... ♗g4 13. ♘h4 ♗h4 14. ♖b7 ♖g2 15. ♔g2 ♘g4 mating) B1) 12... ♗h3? (threatening 13... ♘d5 and 13... ♘g4) 13. ♘h2!± (the standard reply to the bishop sacrifice on h3. 13. ♘bd2? ♘d5 14. ed5 ♗f6—+) 13... ♖e3 14. fe3 ♗e3 15. ♔h1 ♘d4 16. ♖b7 (clearing d5 with gain of tempo) 16... ♗ab8 17. ♘c3± ♗b7? 18. ♗f6+—;

B2) 12... ♘d5! (the threat which the move order 11. ♖c6! bc6 12. ♖e3 prevents) 13. ed5 ♗f3 14. ♘d2 (14. ♖c5? ♗h3—+ 15. ♗e1 dc5 16. dc6 ♗g4 17. ♔f1 ♗f2! is crushing) 14... ♗g6 (the double exchange sacrifice 14... ♗af8? does not work: 15. ♘f3 ♗f3 16. ♖c5 ♗h3 17. ♗e1 ♗f6 18. ♗e3 ♗g6 19. ♗g3 20. fg3 ♗g3 21. ♔f1. White retains a rook up) 15. ♔h2□ ♖e3□ 16. ♘f3□ ♖f4 17. ♔h1 ♗f5 (Black gets bishop and pawn for the rook, but White's kingside pawn structure is weak, Black's bishop is unassailable (unless ♘g1-e2 can be prepared), his rook is much more active than either of White's (White cannot occupy the g-file). Black can play on and try to transfer his knight to f4 or push ...h5 and ...g4) 18. ♘g1 (18. ♔g2 ♘b4) 18... ♘b4.

C) 11... ♖c6! bc6 (11... ♖h3? 12. gh3 ♗h3 13. ♘h2 bc6 14. ♗f3 is too early yet)



Now the threat is not only 12... ♘e4!! 13 de4 ♖h3 14. ♘bd2 ♗g4, but also 12... ♖h3 13. gh3 ♘e4 14. ♔g2 ♗g6 15. ♔h1 ♘f2. White can play:

C1) 12. ♘bd2 g5∞ 13. d4 (13. ♘h2 g4± 14. ♘b3 ♖b6 White's problem is that he cannot capture on g4, as that would launch Black's pieces: 15. hg4? ♖g4 16. ♗d2 ♖e2 17. ♗h6 ♖f1 18. ♗h5 ♘h5 19. ♖g5 ♔e6 20. ♗f1 ♘g3) 13... ed4 14. ♘b3 g4 (14... ♖h3? 15. gh3 ♗h3 16. ♘h2 White consolidates his extra piece) 15. ♘f4 ♖d4 16. ♘d4 gh3 17. ♗h5 ♘h5 18. ♖h6 ♗g8 19. g3 ♘f6=;

C2) 12. ♖e3= C21) 12... ♘e4? 13. de4 ♖h3 14. ♘bd2!+— (14. gh3 ♗f3 15. ♘d2 ♗af8 16. ♘f3 ♗f3 17. ♖c5 dc5 is only equal) 14... ♗g4 15. ♘e1! and ♗d1 is protected as 12. ♖e3 has cleared the first rank;

C22) 12... ♖e3± 13. fe3 g5 C221) 14. ♘h2 g4 15. ♘d2 (15. hg4?? ♘g4 16. ♘g4 ♖g4—+) 15... gh3 16. ♗h5 ♘h5 17. ♗f8 ♔f8 18. ♗f1 ♔e7=;

C222) 14. ♘bd2 g4 15. hg4 ♘g4 16. ♗e1±;

C23) 12... ♖h3! = 13. gh3 C231) 13... ♘e4 and now:

C2311) 14. ♘e5 ♗e5 15. d4 ♗f5 16. dc5 ♗h3 17. cd6 ♔d7 18. dc7 ♔c7 19. ♘d2=;

C2312) 14. de4 ♗f3 15. ♘d2 ♗af8! (the double exchange sacrifice on f3, in a passive form. 15... ♗h3? loses to 16. ♗h5 ♗h5 17. ♖c5) 16. ♘f3 ♗f3 17. ♖c5 ♗h3 18. ♗f3=;

C2313) 14. ♘h2! ♗d1 15. ♗d1 ♘f2 16. ♖f2 ♗f2 17. d4 ♖d4 18. ♗d4 ♗h2 19. ♔h2 ed4 20. ♘d2±;

C232) 13... ♗h3! is the right way to equalise, viz. 14. ♘e5 (14. ♖c5? ♘g4! and 14. ♘bd2? ♘g4! both lose. 14. ♘h2 is the standard defence against the bishop sacrifice on h3, keeping away Black's knight from g4, but there follows 14... ♖e3 15. fe3 ♗e3 16. ♔h1 ♘h5! 17. ♗h5□ ♗f1 18. ♘f1 ♗c1!±) 14... ♖e3 15. ♗f3 ♗f3

10. ♔h1 10. ♖c6 bc6 11. ♔h1 h6 12. ♘f3 ♗h5 transposes to 10. ♔h1 h6

11. ♘f3 ♗h5 12. ♖c6 bc6.

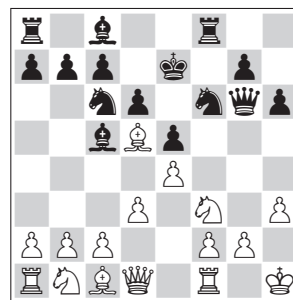
10... h6!

White is better after 10... ♘d5?

11. ed5 ♘b4 12. ♘e4!

11. ♘f3

11. ♖c6 is met by 11... hg5.



11... ♘g4?!

Inferior provided White finds the only reply 12. ♗e2.

A) 11... ♘d5 12. ed5 ♘b4 13. ♘c3 ♗h5 (threatening 14... ♖g4, 14... ♖h3, even 14... ♘c2) 14. ♘e1 ♗d1 15. ♘d1 ♘d5±;

B) 11... ♗h5 (threatening both 12... ♘d5 and 12... ♖h3; the position is similar to 9... h6 10 ♘f3 ♗h5, with ♔g1 being on h1) 12. ♖c6 bc6 (threatening both 13... ♖h3 14 gh3 ♘e4 15 ♔g2 ♗g6 and 13... g5) when White has two ways to proceed:

B1) 13. d4 ♖h3 (13... ♘e4 14. ♔g1 ♖h3 15. ♘e5□ ♗d1 16. ♘c6 ♔d7 17. ♗d1 ♖b6 18. f3 ♔c6 19. fe4 ♖g4 20. ♗d2 ♗ae8 21. ♘c3 ♖a5 22. ♗d3 and after Black's capture on c3 it will be opposite coloured bishops) 14. gh3 (14. dc5? ♘e4!±) 14... ♘e4 15. ♔g2 ♗g6 16. ♔h2 ♖d4 17. ♘bd2 ♘d2 18. ♖d2 ♖b2 19. ♗b1=;

B2) 13. ♘bd2 g5

B21) 14. ♘b3? ♖h3 15. ♘c5□ ♖g4 16. ♔g1 dc5 17. ♗e1□ ♘d7 18. ♗e3□ ♗f4± threatening 19... ♖f3 20 ♗f3 ♗h4—+;

B22) 14. ♘h2? g4 White cannot capture on g4, so Black can capture on h3 whenever he wants.

B23) 14. d4 ed4 15. e5 ♘d5

B231) 16. ♗e1? (unguarding f2)

16...♙h3! 17.ed6 ♚d8—+;
 B232) 16.♞e2 ♚d8 (16...♙h3?
 17.gh3 ♞h3 18.♗h2 de5
 19.♗b3±) 17.ed6 cd6 18.♗d4
 ♞e2 19.♗e2=;

B233) 16.♗e4 ♙h3 17.♗g3
 ♞f7 18.♗g5 ♙g2 19.♚g2 hg5
 20.♙g5±.

12.♙c6?

A) 12.hg4? loses to 12...♙g4
 13.♙c6 (13.♗bd2 ♗d4! 14.♙b7
 ♞ab8) 13...♞h5 (or 13...♞f3
 14.gf3 ♞h5—+) 14.♚g1 ♙f3
 (14...♞f3) 15.gf3 ♞f6 and mate
 will follow;

B) 12.♞e1? ♞f3! (12...♞h5?!,
 threatening 13...♞f3, 13.♞e2 ♞f3
 14.♞f3 ♗d4 15.♞g3 ♗e2 16.♞f3
 ♗f2 (16...♗d4 repeats moves)
 17.♞f2 ♙f2 18.♞h5 ♗g3 19.♚h2
 ♗h5±) 13.gf3 ♞h5 14.♚g2 ♗h2!
 (crowning the manoeuvre started
 with 11...♗g4) 15.♚h2 ♞h3
 16.♚g1 ♗d4 17.♗d2 ♗c2 is not
 just winning the queen, but mating
 on move 26!;

C) 12.♚g1? loses to 12...♗f2
 13.♞f2 ♙h3 (or 13...♞g3 14.♞e2
 ♗d4) 14.♙g5 hg5 15.gh3 g4;

D) 12.♞e2 is the only way to
 protect both pawn f2 and ♗f3.
 Now there is no consistent fol-
 low-up to the sally 11...♗g4:
 12...♞h5 (threatening both
 13...♞f3 14.♞f3 ♗d4 15.♞g3
 ♗e2 16.♞f3 ♗d4 and 13...♗f2!
 14.♞f2 ♙h3! 15.♙e3 (15.gh3
 ♗d4) 15...♙g4 16.♚g1 ♗d4
 17.♙d4 ♙f3 18.gf3 ♙d4 19.c3
 ♙f2 20.♚f2 ♞h2) 13.♙c6 (neu-
 tralising both threats) 13...bc6
 (still with the threat of 14...♗f2
 15.♞f2 ♙f2 16.♞f2 ♙h3±)
 14.♗bd2 g5 (this position is simi-
 lar to 11...♞h5 12.♙c6 bc6
 13.♗bd2 g5, with the addition of
 ♞e2 (which is useful) for White
 and ...♗g4 (which is useless, ob-
 structing the advance ...g4) for
 Black) 15.c3 ♗f6 (admitting that
 11...♗g4?! was wrong) 16.d4.
 Now 16...♙h3? 17.gh3 (17.dc5?
 ♙g2! 18.♚g2 ♞g4 19.♚h1 ♞h5)
 17...♞h3 comes to nothing be-
 cause of 18.♗h2 ed4 19.e5±, but
 after 16...♙b6! White cannot stop

the advance g5-g4.

12...♗f2! 13.♞f2 ♙f2 14.♙a4

There appears to be no salvation in
 this precarious position:

A) 14.♞f1 keeps an eye on g1,
 but unguards ♗f3.

A1) 14...♞f3?± 15.gf3 ♙b6
 (threatening 16...♙h3 winning the
 queen) 16.♞g2 ♞g2 17.♚g2 bc6;

A2) 14...♙b6?!± 15.♙d5 ♙h3
 16.♗bd2 ♙c8 (threatening
 17...♞h5) 17.♞e1 (unpinning he
 knight) 17...♞f4 (threatening
 18...♞h5 19.♗h2 ♙f2 and
 20...♞h2 21.♚h2 ♞h4 mate)
 18.d4 (18.♗h4 ♞h5 19.♗df3 ♞g4
 is hopeless) 18...c6 19.♗c4
 (19.♙c4) 19...♞f3 20.♗b6 ♞h5
 21.♚g1 ab6 22.gf3;

A3) 14...♞g3! (threatening
 15...bc6 and 15...♞f3!) is the
 correct reply, and if 15.♗c3 ♞f3!,
 though not 15...bc6?? 16.♗e2!;

B) 14.♞e2

B1) 14...♞g3?! 15.♗bd2 (over-
 protecting the traditional weak-
 ness: ♗f3) 15...♙h3 16.gh3 bc6
 (16...♞f3 17.♗f3 ♞f8 18.♞f1 ♞f3
 19.♞g2 bc6 20.♞f3 ♞f3 21.♚g2
 ♞f8; 16...♞h3 17.♗h2 bc6±)
 17.♞f1 ♞f3 18.♗f3 ♞f3 19.♞g2
 ♞g2 20.♚g2 ♞f8 21.c3±;

B2) 14...♙b6! does the job:
 15.♙d5 ♙h3 16.♗bd2 ♙g4
 17.♞e1□ c6 18.♙c4 ♞f4 (threat-
 ening 19...♙f3 20.♗f3 ♞h5
 21.♗h2 ♞h4) 19.♞h4□ ♚d7
 20.♗g1 (20.♞h2 ♞f8 21.♗g1
 ♞f2—+) 20...♞f2 21.♗h3 ♙f3
 22.♞f2 ♙f2 23.♗f3 ♞g3.

14...♙h3!

A twofold overburdening theme.
 The g2 pawn has to protect both
 the h3 pawn and ♗f3 (and obstruct
 the connection between ♞g6 and
 the mating square g1), while ♞d1
 has to protect both ♗f3 and square
 g1.

15.gh3

15.♙g5 hg5 16.gh3 ♞h5 (16...g4
 17.♗h2 gh3 18.♞g4 ♞g4 19.♗g4
 ♞f4 20.♗f2 ♞f2 21.♗c3) 17.♚g2
 ♙d4 18.♗c3 g4—+.

15...♞f3

This forces mate on the 22nd move
 at the latest. White resigned.

Treacy, Joseph
 Lees, David

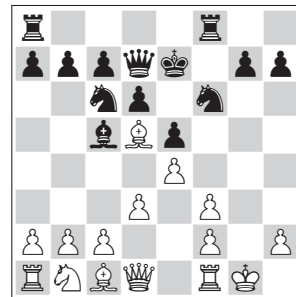
United States 1984

**1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♙c4 ♗f6
 4.♗g5 ♙c5 5.♙f7 ♚e7 6.♙d5
 ♞f8 7.0-0 d6 8.d3 ♙g4 9.♗f3**

9.♞d2!?

9...♗d4!±

9...♙f3 has never been played in
 practice. 10.gf3 ♞d7



analysis diagram

A) 11.c3?—+

A1) 11...♗d5?! (an attempt to
 clear the f-file without wasting
 time, and obtain the f5 square for
 the rook. The objection is that ♗c6
 comes under attack) 12.ed5 ♞h3
 13.dc6 ♞f5 14.d4 ♞h5 (14...♞af8
 15.♞e1 ♞h5 transposes) 15.♞e1
 ♞f8 16.dc5 ♞f6 (16...♞f3=)
 17.cd6 cd6 18.♞d3 ♞f3=;

A2) 11...♞h3! 12.♙c6 (12.d4
 ♗h5 13.dc5 ♗f4 14.♙f4 ♞f4
 15.cd6 cd6 16.♞b3 ♗d8! 17.♗d2
 ♞f6 18.♙f7 ♚f8) 12...bc6 13.b4
 (13.d4 ♗h5! 14.dc5 ♗f4—+
 15.♙f4 ♞f4 16.cd6 cd6 17.♞d2
 ♞af8 and here 18.♞d6 is the only
 move to avoid immediate mate;
 18.♞e3 c5) 13...♙b6—+

A21) 14.d4 ♗h5 15.de5
 (15.♙g5 ♚d7—+) 15...♗f4 16.ed6
 cd6 17.♙f4 ♞f4 18.e5 d5;

A22) 14.a4 ♗h5! (threatening
 15...♗f4 16.♙f4 ♞f4, as well as
 15...♞f3. 14...g5? 15.♚h1 g4
 16.♙g5 ♚d7 17.♗d2 gf3 18.♞f3
 ♞f3 19.♗f3 yields White the ad-
 vantage) 15.♙g5 ♚e8 and the
 threat of 16...♗f4 17.♙f4 ♞f4 is
 decisive;

B) 11.♚g2?!±

B1) 11...♗d5! 12.ed5
 B11) 12...♗d4! explains the need for 11.♗c6
 B111) 13.f4 ef4 14.f3 ♖f6—+;
 B112) 13.♗g5 ♖e8 14.♗d2 (14.f4 h6 15.♗h4 ♖f4) 14...♗f3 15.♗f3 ♖g4 16.♖h1 ♖f3; B113) 13.♗d2 ♗f3 14.♗f3 ♖g4 15.♖h1 ♖f3 (15...♖f3 16.♖g1=) 16.♖f3 ♖f3; B12) 12...♗b4 13.♗c3! (13.c4? ♖f5!) 13...♖d4 (13...♖f5 14.a3 ♗c2 15.♖c2 ♖f3 16.♖g1 ♖f6 17.♗e4 ♖g6 18.♗g3 ♖g3 19.hg3 ♖g3 20.♖h1 ♖h3 21.♖g1 ♖g4 22.♖h2 ♖f8 23.d4 ♖f5 24.♖f5 ♖f5 25.dc5±) 14.a3 ♗c3 15.ab4 ♗b4 16.d4! (threatening 17.c3, trapping the bishop) 16...♖b5 (16...♖f5 17.c3 ♗h5 18.h4±) 17.c3 ♗a5 18.c4!±;

B2) 11...♗h5 12.♗g5 ♖e8 13.c3 ♗f4 14.♗f4 ♖f4 (idea: 15...♖h4) 15.♗c6 (15.h3 ♖h4 16.♖h1; 15.♖g1 ♖h4 16.♖h1 ♖f2 17.♖g2 ♗b6) 15...bc6 16.♖g1 ♖h4 17.♖h1 ♗f2 18.♖g2 ♗b6 19.d4;
 C) 11.♗c6! ♖c6 12.f4 ef4 is equal unless White plays 13.♗f4? ♗e4! 14.♖g4 ♗f2! 15.♖f2 ♗f2.

10.♗bd2! 11

A) 10.♗e3? ♗d5 Cheymol-Carnic, Eger 1990;

B) 10.♗b7? ♖b8 11.♗a6 ♖e8 (11...♗f3 12.gf3 ♗h3 13.♖e1 ♖e8 14.♖h1) 12.♗bd2



Compare the game, where White similarly spends a tempo to withdraw the king's bishop from d5. In this case White took a pawn.

B1) 12...♖h5?!=
 B11) 13.c3?! ♗f3 14.♗f3 ♗e4 15.de4 ♖f3 16.♖d5 (16.♗e2?

♖f2! is almost a transposition to Treacy-Lees; 16.♖d2? h6—+ 17.♖d5 ♖h4 18.♗e3 ♗e3 19.fe3 ♖b2 (here Black can exploit the open b-file) 20.♖ab1 ♖b1 21.♖b1 ♖f2 22.♖h1 ♗h3 23.gf3 ♖h3)

B111) 16...♖h4! 17.♖d2 h6 18.b4 ♗b6 19.♖e1 ♖bf8 (19...♖h3 20.gf3 ♗h3 (20...♗f3 21.♗e2 ♖h3 22.♗f3 ♖f3 23.♗f4 ef4 24.♖d1 ♖h3 25.♖h1 ♖c3±) 21.♖e2 ♖f8 22.♗e3 ♖f6 23.♖h1 ♗f1 24.♖f1 ♗e3 and Black is better because of the opposite coloured bishops) 20.♗e3 ♖h3 21.gf3 ♗h3; B112) 16...♖h3?! 17.♗f4! ef4 18.gf3 ♖g6 19.hg4 ♖g4 20.♖h1 ♖f3 21.♖g1 ♖g4±;

B12) 13.h3 (best, as it would have been in Treacy-Lees)

13...♗f3 (a passive bishop sacrifice on g4 would not help. White continues 14.c3) 14.♗f3 ♗f3 15.♖f3 ♖f3 16.gf3 ♗h5 17.c3 ♗f4! and the exchange of White's bishop for this knight will lead to opposite coloured bishops. White is dominating after 17...♖f3? 18.d4!+- ed4 19.♗e2 ♖h3 20.♖g2 dc3 21.b3;

B2) 12...♖g6! 11 (threatening 13...♗f3 14.♗f3 ♗e4)

B21) 13.♗h4?! ♖h5 14.♗df3 ♗e4 15.de4 ♖f3 16.♖d2 h6 17.c3 ♖h4 18.cd4 ♗d4 19.♖e1 (19.♖c2 ♖f2! 20.♖f2 ♖f8—+) 19...♖h3 20.gf3 ♗h3 21.♖e2 ♖b2! (exploiting the b-file opened by 10.♗b7?!) 22.♖f3 ♖b6 23.♗c4 ♗a1 24.♖f7 ♗d8 25.♖f8 ♗d7 26.♖g7 ♖e7 27.♖e7 ♗e7 28.♖d1 d5!—+;

B22) 13.♖h1 ♗d7
 B221) 14.c3? ♗f3—+ 15.♗f3 (15.gf3 ♖f3 16.♗f3 ♖h5) 15...♖h5 16.d4 ♖f3 17.dc5 (17.♖d2 h6 18.♖g1 ♗f6—+) 17...♖h3—+ 18.f3 ♖h2 19.♖g1 ♖b2! (once again that b-file) 20.♗b2 ♖h4 and it will soon be mate;

B222) 14.♗h4 ♖d1 15.♗g6 hg6 16.♖d1 ♗c2 17.♖b1 ♖f2 18.♗f1 (intending 19.♗g5 and 20.♗h4) 18...♗d4 19.♗g5 ♖e8

20.♗h4 ♖f8;

C) 10.c3? ♗f3 11.gf3 ♗h3 12.♖e1 ♖e8

C1) 13.♖h1 ♗f2 (13...♗d5 14.d4) 14.♖e2 ♗d5 15.♖f2 ♗f4 16.d4 ♖h5 17.♗f4 ♖f4 18.♗d2 ♖af8;

C2) 13.♖d2?—+ ♗d5 14.ed5 ♖f3 15.♖g5 ♗d7 (15...♖f8 16.d4 h6) 16.d4 ♖f7 (protecting g7) 17.♗e3 (17.dc5 ♖f2 18.♗d2 ♖f8 and mate on move 25) 17...h6 0-1 Mataev-Dobrotin, Moscow 1996;

D) 10.♗g5? ♗f3 (this bishop gets in a vertical pin along the g-file) 10...♗f3 11.gf3 ♗h3 12.♖e1 ♖e8 13.f4 ♖g6 14.♖f3 ef4.

10...♖e8

A) 10...♗d5= 11.ed5 ♖e8 ('Black has a decisive attack', according to Estrin, but he overestimates the fragmentation of White's kingside pawn structure. Black equalises, but does not win) 12.h3 (12.c3 ♗f3 13.♗f3 ♖h5 14.d4 ♗b6 15.♖d2 ♗f3 16.♖g5 ♖g5 17.♗g5 ♗d7 18.gf3 ed4) 12...♗f3 13.♗f3 ♗f3 14.gf3 ♖h5 15.♖g2 (White's position looks critical, but there is no win for Black here) 15...♖f6 16.f4 ♖g6 (16...♖h4 17.♖f3=) 17.♖h2 ♖h4 18.♖f3;

B) 10...♗f3! 11.♗f3 (11.gf3 ♗h3 12.♖e1 ♖e8 13.♗f1—+ ♖g6 14.♗g3 h5) 11...♗d5 (11...♖e8 12.♗b7 ♖b8 13.♗a6 ♖g6 14.♗h4±; 11...♗f3 12.gf3 ♖d7 13.♖g2 ♗d5 14.ed5 ♖f5 (with the option 15...♖h5, to which White could respond 16.h4) 15.f4 ♖af8 16.♖e1 ♗d8 with the idea 17...g5 and 18...gf4) 12.ed5 ♗f3 (12...♖e8? loses to 13.♗g5! ♗d7 14.♗e5) 13.gf3 ♗d7 14.♗e3 ♖f5 (14...♖h4 15.♗c5 dc5 16.♖e1= with the option ♖e4) 15.♗c5 dc5 16.♖e2 ♖f6 (16...♖h4 17.♖e4 and now it is the queen which uses e4 to parry Black's initiative) 17.♖ae1 ♗d6.

11.♗c4? 11

A costly tempo. The point is to avoid ...♗d5 clearing the f-file, and probably also to play c3, d4 and finally ♗e2 to terminate the

pin of ♖f3.

11.h3! is a better line of defence:

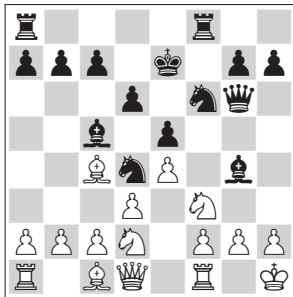
A) 11...♖h5 (the passive bishop sacrifice on g4) 12.♗b7 (12...♗c4 transposes to 11...♗c4) 12...♗ab8 13.♗a6 ♖e8 12.♗bd2 ♖h5 13.h3;

B) 11...♗f3 12.♗f3 ♗f3 13.gf3 transposes to 11...♗f3;

C) 11...♗f3 12.♗f3 ♗f3 13.gf3 ♖h5 14.♗g2 ♗d5 15.ed5 transposes to 10...♗d5.

11...♖h5?!=

11...♖g6! (threatening 12...♗f3 13.♗f3 ♗e4) 12.♗h1 (there is nothing else. 12.♗h4? is refuted by 12...♖h5 13.♗df3 ♗e4! 14.de4 ♗f3)



analysis diagram

A) 12...♖h5?± 13.c3 ♗f3 (not 13...♗e4?? 14.cd4!+-)

A1) 14.♗f3? ♗e8! (14...♗e4 15.de4 ♗f3 16.♗g5) 15.♗g5 ♗d7 16.♖b3 c6! (16...♗f3 17.♖b7 (threatening 18.♗b5 ♗e6 19.♖d5 mate, so there is no time for 17...♗h3??) 17...♖g5 18.♗b5 ♗e7 19.♖a8±; 16...♗b6 17.♗e5 de5 18.♖b5 c6 19.♖e5 ♗f6 20.♗f6=) 17.h4 ♗c7 (17...♗f3 18.♖b7 ♗c7 19.♗e6 ♗e6 20.♖c7 ♗ae8=) 18.♗h2 ♗e2 19.♖b7 ♗b6+-;

A2) 14.gf3 ♗h3 15.♗g1 ♗f2 16.♗g7 ♗d8 17.♖e2±;

B) 12...♗d7! (in analogy to the line 10.♗b7 ♗ab8 11.♗a6 ♖e8

12.♗bd2 ♖g6!) 13.♗h4 (13.c3 ♗f3 14.♗f3 ♖h5 15.d4 ♗f3 16.dc5 ♗h3!-+) 13...♗d1 14.♗g6 hg6 15.♗d1 ♗c2 16.♖b1 ♗f2± Black has an extra pawn.

12.c3

12.h3= (intending 13.c3 ♗f3 14.♗f3; Black cannot increase the pressure)

A) 12...g5 13.c3 ♗f3 14.♗f3 ♗f3 15.♖f3 g4 16.♖g3±;

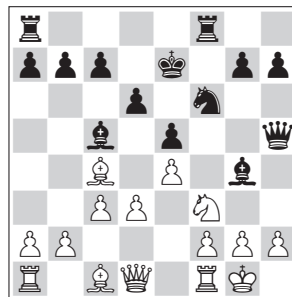
B) 12...♗f3 13.♗f3 ♗e4?! (13...♗f3 14.♖f3 ♖f3 15.gf3 ♗h5=) 14.de4 (14.♗d4 ♖d1 15.♗d1 ♗f2 16.♗e6 ♗d1 17.♗c5 dc5 18.♗g5 ♗d6 19.♗d1±) 14...♗f3 15.♗h1, with 16.♗e2 to come;

C) 12...♗f3 13.♗f3

C1) 13...♗h3?! 14.gh3 ♗e4 (14...♖h3? 15.♗h2!±) 15.♗d2 (15.♗g2? ♖g6 16.♗h1 ♗f2 17.♗f2 ♗f2±; 15.♗h2 ♖d1 16.♗d1 ♗f2 17.♗f1 ♗d3 18.♗g2=) 15...♖d1 (15...♖g5 16.♖g4 ♖g4 17.hg4 ♗f2 18.♗g2 ♗g4 19.♗e4) 16.♗d1 ♗f2 17.♗b3 (17.♗f1 ♗d3 18.♗h1 ♗f1 19.♗f1 ♗c1 20.♗c1 ♗f8±) 17...♗d1 18.♗c5 dc5 19.♗g5 ♗d6 20.♗d1 ♗f3 21.♗g2 ♗af8 22.♗h4=;

C2) 13...♗f3 14.♖f3 ♖f3 15.gf3 ♗h5, when White's extra pawn is useless.

12...♗f3 13.♗f3



13...♗e4!?

The thematic knight sacrifice on e4. If 13...♗d7 14.d4 ed4 15.cd4

♗f3 16.dc5 ♗f2 17.cd6 cd6.

14.de4?

14.♖e2 leads to equality:

A) 14...♗f3?± 15.♖e4 (now in both lines the position of ♖e4 on the e-file and the pin of pawn e5 play a crucial role) 15...♗h3 (15...♗af8 16.d4) 16.♗f4;

B) 14...♗g5 15.♗g5 ♖g5 16.♗g5 ♗e2 17.♗e6 ♗f1 18.♗f1±;

C) 14...♗g3 15.hg3 ♗f3 16.♗g5±;

D) 14...♗c3 15.bc3 ♗f3 16.♖e4 ♗b6 (16...♗af8 17.d4 ♗b6 18.♗e2=) 17.d4 ♗c3 18.de5 de5 19.♗b2 ♗c4 20.♖c4 ♗e2 21.♖b4± c5? 22.♖e4±;

E) 14...♗f2 15.♗f2 ♗f3 16.gf3 ♗f2 17.♖f2 ♗f3 18.♖g2 ♗af8 19.d4=;

F) 14...♗f3 15.gf3 ♗g5 16.♗g5 ♖g5 is equal due to the opposite coloured bishops: 17.♗h1 ♗d8 18.♗g1 ♖f6 19.f4=.

14...♗f3 15.♗e2

15.♖d2 ♗f2? wins only one pawn: 16.♖g5 (16.♗f2 ♗f8 17.♖g5 ♗e8+-) 16...♗f6 17.♗h1 ♖g6!. 15...h6! on the other hand prevents the check on g5. Now White has no defence against 16...♗af8 or 16...♗h3.

15...♗f2 16.♗g4

16.♗f2 ♗e2 17.♗g5 ♖g5 18.♖e2 ♗f8 transposes to the game.

16...♗e2

Now after White's best reply, 17.♗h1 ♖g4 18.♗g1, Black will be an exchange and two pawns up, maintaining a positional advantage.

16...♖g4 17.♖g4 ♗f4 nets Black a piece, or the exchange plus two pawns

17.♗f2 ♖g4 18.♗g5 ♖g5 19.♖e2 ♗f8 20.♗af1 ♗f2 21.♗f2 ♖c1 22.♖f1 ♖b2 23.g3 ♖a2 24.♗g2 ♖f2 25.♗f2 ♗f2

White resigned.