

Correspondence Chess News

Also –

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CCN vs IECC, Part 4 –

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From The Publisher's Desk

New Ideas In The Sicilian
Dragon (V)

By FIDE IM-Elect

Marius Ceteras

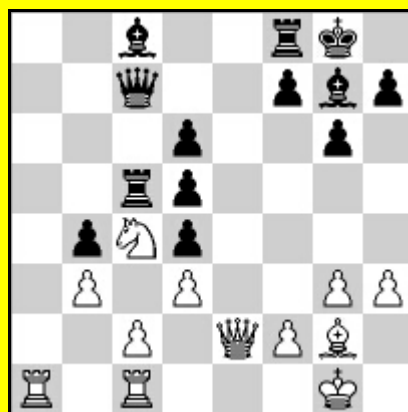
Translation by

Valer-Eugen Demian



Issue 67
19 May 2002

The Pros and Cons of
Tripled Isolated Pawns
By Dr. Mike Donnelly



Correspondence Chess News

Issue 67 – 19 May 2002

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News By Grayling V. Hill

Organizational News

The entries deadline and start date for the 21st World Championship 3/4-Final has been delayed. The new entry deadline is 12/05/2002 and the new start date is 03/06/2002.

<http://www.iccf.com/cgi-local/newspro/fullnews.cgi?newsid1020454682,24178>,

The ICCF European Tournament Office (ETO) announced the qualifications to participate in and format of the 65th European Championship Semifinal. The deadline for entry is 15/10/2002 with an anticipated tournament start in January 2003.

<http://www.iccf.com/cgi-local/newspro/fullnews.cgi?newsid1020837169,43743>,

The IECG has updated their Ratings List and Tournament Crosstables, effective 04/05/2002.

<http://www.iecg.org/Ratinfo.htm>

<http://www.iecg.org/Tourres.htm>

The IECC has updated their Rating List, Absence List, Current Events and Pyramid Standings.

<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Midfield/1264/>

The ICCF has added 648 games from the 19th World Championship 3/4-Finals to their Online Game Archive.

http://www.iccf.com/gamesarchive/archive_recentadditions.shtml

The IECC has added 447 games to their Online Game Archive for April.

<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Midfield/1264/archive.html>

New Tournament Starts

The Israeli Correspondence Chess Committee began two invitational tournaments on 01/05/2002. The Veinger Memorial A is a category XIII event with GM, SIM, and IM norms of 8/14, 6/14, and 5/14 respectively. The Veinger Memorial B is a category VIII event with GM, SIM, and IM norms of 12/16, 10/16, and 8.5/16 respectively.

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/invi/VeingerA.htm>

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/invi/VeingerB.htm>

Play will begin in the ICCF Champions League on 15/06/2002. The start lists will go out to the teams the last week of May. ICCF has 231 teams signed up and is looking for another 11 teams to round out the field. Some groups will begin with 11 teams and some will begin with 10 teams. Late entering teams may be added to the groups until 31/08/2002.

<http://www.iccf.com/cgi-local/newspro/fullnews.cgi?newsid1021213506,27278>,

The British Federation for Correspondence Chess will begin two invitational tournaments on 31/05/2002. The BFCC-40 Postal-A is a category VII event with GM, SIM, and IM norms of 11/14, 9/14, and 8/14 respectively. The BFCC-40 Email-B is a category VIII event with GM, SIM, and IM norms of 10.5/14, 8.5/14, and 7.5/14 respectively.

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/invi/BFCC-40A.htm>

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/invi/BFCC-40B.htm>

Tournament News

IM Eugene Gibney of Lloydminster, Alberta and Vince Jones of Prince George, British Columbia are the 1999 Canadian CC co-Champions.

<http://correspondencechess.com/ccca/k55.htm>

CC-SM John Timm (USA) has qualified to enter a World Championship Final from the 19th World Championship 3/4-Final. In addition, he has earned a GM norm in that tournament. The ICCF-US has provided a short profile and an annotated game by CC-SM Timm from the tournament on their website. (J. Franklin Campbell)

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/world/wccan/xixwccan03.html>

<http://www.iccfus.com/profiles/johntimm.htm>

<http://www.iccfus.com/profiles/games/johntimmgame.htm>

The crosstable for the 6th Ladies World Championship Final has been updated.

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/world/ladies/6WCLfinal.html>

The crosstables for the 19th World Championship 3/4-Finals have been updated.

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/world/wccanindex.html>

The crosstables for the 25th World Championship Semifinals have been updated.

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/world/wcsemiindex.html>

The 3rd Afro/Asian Email Championship Final, the 3rd African Correspondence Championship Final, and the 5th Afro/Asian Email Championship Preliminaries have been updated.

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/afroasia/afroasiaindex.html>

The crosstables from the 12th World Cup Preliminaries have been updated.

<http://sks.easynet.cz/web/cup2000/cup2000.htm>

The crosstables and team standings for the 4th Pacific Area Team Tournament (PATT) have been updated.

<http://correspondencechess.com/marconi/patt4.htm>

The crosstables for the ICCF World Tournament Office (WTO) Open Class tournaments have been updated.

<http://www.iccf.com/tables/world/wtoindex.html>

Chess Websites Updated

Bertrand Weegenaar has written a new *Gambit Corner* column for the IECG online newsletter. The column gives a short overview of the Marshall Gambit and provides 163 games to download, in PGN format, on the IECG website. There is also links to five games, four of which are annotated.

<http://www.iecg.dial.pipex.com/gambits/weegenaar/marshall1/marshall1.htm>

The Canadian Correspondence Chess Association (CCCA) has a new game download page. All 66 games from the Canadian team in the 13th CC Olympiad preliminaries and 104 games from

the 8th NAICC are now available in PGN and CBV format.

<http://correspondencechess.com/ccca/downloads.htm>

J. Franklin Campbell has updated the Sites of Note page at *The Campbell Report*.

<http://www.correspondencechess.com/campbell/sites.htm>

The second installment of *Step-by-Step Analysis* by Russell Black is now posted at Karsten Fyhn's *Viking Chess* website.

<http://home.worldonline.dk/kfyhn/VikingChess/index.html>

Harold Bearce has updated his Chess Stories Short Fiction website with four new stories. They include *Maybe Someday They Might Be Good* and *The Cheating Chess Tournament* by Dan Heisman, *The Elderly Man* by David Vivancos Allepuz, and *Botkin's Resignation* by Robert T. Tuohey.

<http://www.homestead.com/seventhrank/stories.html>

Miscellaneous

There will be a match for the undisputed Chess World Championship title, under the FIDE banner in November 2003. A deal was signed in Prague by a majority of the interested parties.

<http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/vent/eurotel02/unity.html>

<http://www.chessbase.com/newsdetail.asp?newsid=296>

Carlos Ros Miró, the first President of Spain's newly independent correspondence chess federation, AEAC passed away Monday, April 29th, in a Barcelona

hospital. He had been the Spanish delegate to ICCF, for 30 years, retiring at the very end of 2001.

<http://www.iccf.com/cgi-local/newspro/fullnews.cgi?newsid1020505986,83834>,

Beware The 1800s! By Ian A. Peddie

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Ian A. Peddie

It's been a while since I lost a miniature. Yes, I've lost them before and I'll lose them again. After all, it's only a game. But as the fat lady began to clear her throat in my game against Sergei Bubir, I risked a look at the tournament table. I was in good company. This man was winning, and winning, and winning. And he's gone on winning, in fact. So who was this man? Here he is, unmasked, so to speak.



Sergei Bubir

Tell us a little bit about yourself. Birthplace, age, marital status, occupation.

I was born in Krivoy Rog. My native town is situated on the banks of two rivers Saksagan and Ingulets, in the south east of Ukraine. Krivoy Rog is called the land of Metal and Iron Ore. I am 21 years old and a student of the Technical University. My future specialty is energy supply and saving. I'm not married (but I have a beautiful girlfriend) and live with my mother and father. My father Alex Bubir (IECG 2312) plays chess too.

How old were you when you began playing? Who taught you the game?

I began to play in chess at the age of 6. My first trainer is my father. After that, Victor Lutzik (now living in Germany) and Master Oleg Chaika taught me.

Do you know Anatoli Sirota, a very strong CC player who was also from Kirov Rog? (See CCN 27 for more details of Anatoli Sirota, two time Ukranian CC Champion)

I don't know about Anatoli Sirota. I know that now he lives in Melbourne. Anatoli had won the city championship before. I don't know any other players in Krivoy Rog who is very strong in both CC

and OTB chess. I have seen Anatoli only on video. However, my father is familiar (and has corresponded) with him.

I must say that you are doing very well in this tournament. What inspired your decision to play CC? Is this your first ICCF tournament and how much CC experience have you had? Any notable successes? Do you have any particular ambitions in CC?

I have no time to play OTB chess. That's one of the reasons why I play correspondence chess. In our family, my father first began playing CC. To me, Email chess is a good way to spend my time. My first tournament in ICCF is the Email Jubilee. I also play in IECC and IECG though. I won my first tournament in IECC and now I am leading in one of its Master Class Tournaments. I have no any particular ambitions in CC, as Email chess is only my hobby.

In CC, you are clearly stronger than your provisional grade of 1800. How strong are you over the board? What about your OTB experiences?

I played in a few semifinals tournaments in my town and took the third place in youth championship (one Master played in this tournament). My OTB rating is near 2000. *(Alex's IECC rating is currently 2138 and he has a 5-2-0 record-Jr Tay)*

What advice would you give to chess players starting out in CC?

My advice: don't play a lot of games, play carefully in your debut games; don't hasten (take your time) and enjoy the games.

On that note, let's have a look at Sergei's purported 'Elo 1800' play.

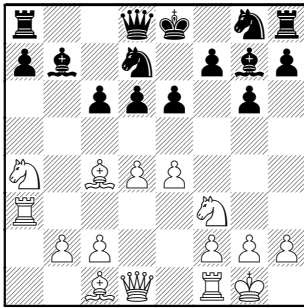
Bubir,S (1800) – Peddie,I (2205) [B06]

EM/J50/P151, 01.09.2001

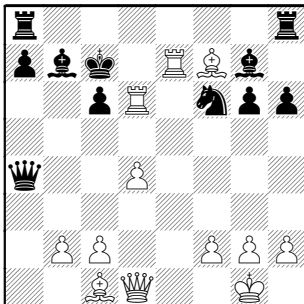
[Bubir/Peddie]

Playing someone with a rating some 400 points lower than one's own might present certain problems. Yet the following game was from the ICCF Jubilee invitational, a free event that attracted a massive entry. Because 1800 is the provisional grade given to all players new to ICCF in this tournament, that number could mean literally anything. Clearly, Sergei Bubir is far stronger than 1800-as his current score of 6/6 indicates. I wonder, however, if I would have played the Modern against a 2400 player? Much of my repertoire (if I can dignify it by calling it a repertoire) as Black tends towards French or Pirc systems. Here I chance a Modern. I'd never really played the Modern much before this game—and it shows. Venturing such a knotty system without much preparation might leave one open to criticism. Still, I had in mind some Speelmanesque brilliancy wherein Black would come slashing back from nowhere with a winning attack. Unfortunately it did not happen like that. No. Still, let me point out that what you are about to see cannot be attributed to the fact that the Modern Defense just ain't no good. The faults, errors, mistakes, howlers, are mine. As a famous Dane once put it, "mad call I it..." Annotations are by Sergei Bubir (SB) and Ian Peddie (IAP). 1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♟g7 3.♟c3 c6 4.♟f3 d6 [4...a6 was played in Rublevsky-Ibragimov, Elista 1998. White won in 37 moves (IAP).] 5.♟e2 b5 6.0-0 b4 7.♟a4 ♟d7N and not especially good (IAP). [7...♟f6 given by Bubir—and much better than the move played.] 8.a3 bxa3 9.♟xa3 ♟b7 10.♟c4 with the idea of ♟xf7 (SB) 10...♟c7?? This is a very bad move. [10...c6 Black's

position is normal. White now takes on f7 (SB). And I couldn't agree more. Here something gives me the distinct impression that I had no idea at all of what was going on. I don't recall seeing White's next move, for instance (IAP).



11.♙xf7+! Oh dear, oh dear (IAP).
11...♗d8? One more bad move. Better is [11...♗xf7 but after 12.♖g5+ ♗e8 13.♖e6 ♖c8 14.♖xg7+ ♗f7 15.♖h5 gxh5 16.♖xh5+ White's position is winning (SB).] 12.♖g5 ♖f8 13.e5 h6 14.exd6 exd6 15.♖e1 ♖f6 [15...hxg5?? 16.♖e8+ ♗d7 17.♖g4+ ♖e6 18.♖xc6#] 16.♖ae3 ♖a5 17.♖e6+ ♖xe6 18.♖xe6 ♖xa4 19.♖xd6+ ♗c7 20.♖e7+



Black has no chance of getting rescued (SB). Done up like a kipper, as they say in England

(IAP). 1-0

Schiller,W (2223) – Bubir,S (2105) [D78]

CL1-2001.17 IECC, 15.10.2001

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 d5 5.♖f3 dxc4 6.0-0 c6 7.♖c3 0-0 8.e4 b5 9.♖e1 ♙g4 10.♙f4 ♖a6 11.♖d2 ♖b6 12.c5 ♖d5 13.♙h6 b4 14.♖e2 c3 15.bxc3 bxc3 16.♖g5 ♙xh6 17.♖xg4 c2 18.♖h4 ♗g7 19.g4 f6 20.g5 fxg5 21.♖xg5 ♖ac7 22.♙e4 c5 23.♙xc2 ♙xg5 24.♖xg5 ♖e6 25.♖h4 ♖xd4 26.♖xd4 ♖f4 27.♖g5 ♖xd4 28.♙e4 ♖c6 0-1

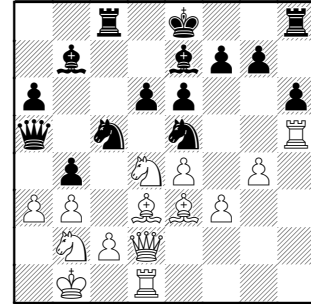
Bubir,S (2101) – Muller,H (2114) [B80]

CA-2001-0-00012 IECG, 30.07.2001

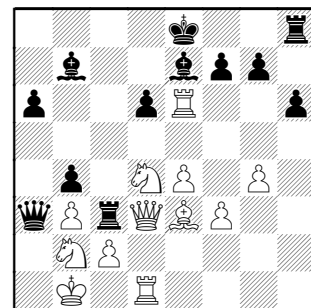
[Ian Peddie/ Sergei Bubir]

If you like your chess red in tooth and claw, then you will enjoy the following game. After White's 20th, the board erupts into a monumental slugfest. 1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♙e3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.g4 h6 [8...b4?! This move has rather gone out of fashion which is not surprising because White has done very well against it. 9.♖ce2 h6 10.h4 might leave black a little hot under the collar.] 9.♖d2 ♖bd7 10.0-0-0 ♙b7 11.♙d3 ♖e5 12.♖he1 ♙e7 An Englishman once beat a world champion with [12...♖c8 13.♗b1 ♙e7 14.h4 b4 15.♖a4 ♖a5 16.b3 ♖fd7 17.g5 (17.g5 g6 18.f4 ♖xd3 19.cxd3 hxg5 20.hxg5 d5 21.f5 e5 22.exd5 ♖xd5 23.f6 ♙d6 24.♖c2 a5 25.♙a7 ♗f8 26.♖e3 ♖e6 27.♖c4 ♗g8 28.♖xd6 ♖xd6 29.♖b2 ♖c3 30.♖c4 ♖d5 31.♖e3 ♖e6 32.♖c1 ♖a6 33.♖xc3 bxc3 34.♖xc3 ♖xa7 35.♖c7 ♖d4 36.♖xb7 ♖xd3+ 37.♖c2 ♖h2 38.♖c8+ ♖f8 39.♖xe5 ♖h1+ 40.♗b2 ♖d2 41.♖e8 ♖d6 42.♖d8 ♖e5+ 43.♗a3 ♗h7 44.♖xf8 ♖d6+ 45.b4 1-0 Short,N-

Kasparov,G/Brussels OHRA-A 1986/CBM 01 (45))] 13.h4 b4 14.♖a4 ♖a5 15.b3 ♖fd7 16.♗b1 ♖c5 17.♖b2 ♙xh4 18.♖h1 ♙e7 19.♖h5 given a "!" by Gipslis. 19...♖c8 [19...g5 20.♖h2 0-0-0 21.♖xh6 ♖xh6 22.♖xh6± Ghinda – Marin Romania 1987] 20.a3!!N

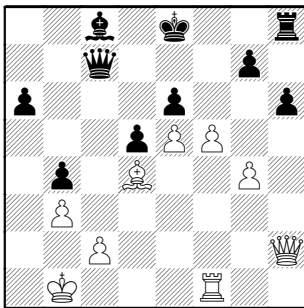


The double exclamation marks are by the winner. Still, this is an extraordinary move which must have come as a shock to Black. I won't pretend I know everything that is going on here. To his credit, Black comes back swinging. Hold tight! [20.g5 ♖cxd3 21.cxd3 d5 22.f4± was how Gipslis saw it.] 20...♖xa3 21.♖xe5 ♖xd3 22.♖xd3 ♖c3 23.♖xe6

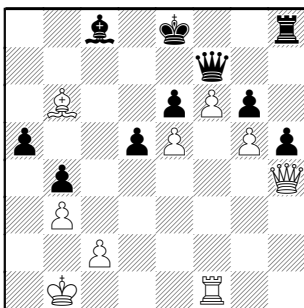


White throws the kitchen sink in. 23...fxe6 [23...♖xd3 24.♖xe7+! ♗xc7 25.♖xd3 ♖a5 26.♖f5+ ♗f8 27.♖xd6 ♗g8 28.♖b6±] 24.♖e2 ♖a5 25.♖c4 ♖xc4 26.♖xc4 d5

27.♖e2 ♔f7 [27...0-0 was something I dallied over. I'd like to be able to offer some sage advice about getting one's King out of the center. Then again, judging by my game against Bubir, I'd better not. 28.♗xc6 (28.g5 The way this game has gone, I think White might have chosen something like this had Black castled.) 28...♗f6 29.♗d4 ♗xd4 30.♗xd4] 28.e5 ♖c7 29.♖h2 [29.f4!?] 29...♗c8 30.f4 ♗c5 31.f5 ♗xd4 32.♗xd4 ♗e8 33.♗f1

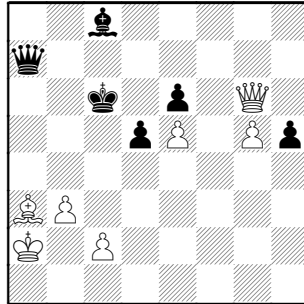


The huge complications have ended. White goes for ye olde fashioned pawn roller. 33...h5 34.♖h4 a5 [34...exf5 35.gxf5 ♖d8 36.f6 gxf6 37.e6! and it's "good night, Vienna" for Black.] 35.f6 ♖f7 36.g5 g6 37.♗b6



which leaves Black with no counterplay whatsoever. 37...♗h7 38.♗xa5 ♖b7 39.♗xb4 There's nothing wrong with a bit of honest pawn grabbing should the

occasion demand it. 39...♖b6 40.f7+ ♗xf7 41.♗xf7 ♗xf7 42.♖f4+ ♗e8 43.♗d6 ♗d7 44.♖f7+ ♗c6 45.♖xg6 ♖g1+ 46.♗a2 ♖a7+ 47.♗a3!



This ♗ later ends Black's hope of a perpetual. 47...♖f2 48.♖e8+ ♗d7 49.♖b8 ♖xc2+ 50.♗b2 ♖c5 51.g6 ♖a5+ 52.♗b1 ♖e1+ 53.♗c1 ♖e4+ 54.♗b2 ♖xg6 55.♖d6+ ♗b7 56.♖xd7+ ♗b8 57.♗e3 ♖g2+ 58.♗a3 1-0

CCN vs IECC, Part 4 – The final saga... By Junior Tay

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Nimzo Indian Classical Variation
(4. ♖c2) 2 Black players 0!

Board 7: Grayling Hill 1 William
Hosch 1

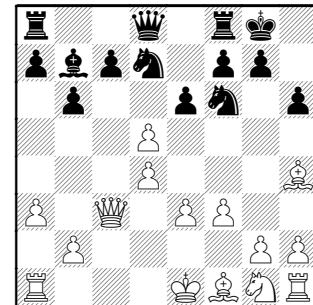
Both parties showed their prowess in handing the 4. ♖c2 Nimzo Indian although their Nimzo Indian lines were somewhat not up to scratch. A fair 1–1 result for the players.

Grayling Hill (2158) – William Hosch (2189) [E32]

CCN vs IECC Bd 7, 2001

[Junior Tay]

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♗b4 4.♖c2 0-0 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.♖xc3 b6 [6...b5!? The brainwave of the late IM Vitolins committed suicide by throwing himself off his apartment.] 7.♗g5 ♗b7 8.f3 h6 9.♗h4 d5 10.e3 ♗bd7 11.cxd5

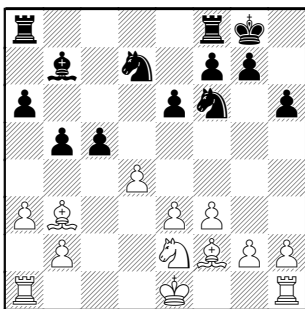


This move, which sparks off massive exchanges, was used twice by French GM Joel Lautier in his Candidates Match vs Dutch GM Jan Timman. 11...♗xd5 12.♗xd8 ♗xc3 13.♗h4 ♗d5 14.♗f2 c5 [14...f5 15.♗c4 ♗ac8 16.♗e2 c5 17.♗b5 ♗f7 18.0-0 a6 19.♗d3 b5 20.♗ac1 c4 21.♗c2 c5 22.dxe5 ♗xe5 23.♗fd1 ♗c8 24.♗c3 ♗xc3 25.bxc3 g5 26.♗d6 g4 27.fxg4 ♗xg4 28.♗g6+ ♗f8 29.♗g3 Gurevich,M–Karpov,A/Linares 1991/CBM 22/½-½ (47)] 15.♗b5 [15.c4 ♗f4 (15...♗5f6 16.dxc5 ♗xc5 17.♗xc5 bxc5 18.♗c1 ♗ac8 19.♗b5 ♗fd8 20.♗e2 ♗d6 21.♗c3 ♗b6 22.♗c2 ♗b8 23.♗d2 ♗c8 24.♗c4 ♗xb2 25.♗a4 ♗xc2+ 26.♗xc2 ♗d7 27.♗d1 ♗f8 28.♗a6 ♗e7 29.♗xc8 ♗xc8 30.♗c3 James,D–Markowski,T/London 1994/CBM 43 ext/0-1 (41)) 16.♗b5 ♗f6 (16...♗fd8 17.♗e2 ♗xe2 18.♗xe2 cxd4 19.♗xd4 ♗ac8 20.♗ac1 ♗b8 21.♗e3 ♗c6 22.♗c3 a6 23.♗d3 ♗e5 24.♗xc8 ♗xc8 25.♗xb6 ♗xd3 26.♗c7 ♗g4 27.♗xd3

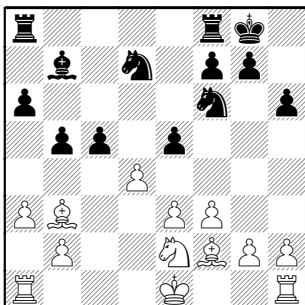
♖f2+ 28.♗e2 ♖xh1 29.♗f1 f5
 30.exf5 exf5 31.♗g1 Brunner,L-
 Almasi,Z/Horgen 1995/CBM
 50/½-½ (41)) 17.♖e2 ♖xe2
 18.♗xe2 cxd4 19.♗xd4 ♖h5
 20.♗e3 f5 21.exf5 ♗xf5 22.♗d3
 ♖f4+ 23.♗xf4 ♗xf4 24.♗hd1 ♗f8
 25.♗ac1 ♗d8 26.♗c7 ♗f7 27.♗dc1
 ♗dd7 28.♗xd7 ♗xd7 29.a4 ♗f7
 Gurevich,M-Van der
 Wiel,J/Antwerpen 1993/CBM
 37/½-½ (42)] **15...♗5f6** [The
 current "vogue" move popularised
 by GM Onischuk is 15...♗ad8
 16.♖e2 cxd4 17.♖xd4 (17.exd4
 ♖7f6 18.0-0 a6 19.♗d3 ♗c8
 20.♗fd1 ♗fd8 21.♗g3 b5 22.♗dc1
 ♖e3 23.♗c7 ♗d7 24.♗e5 ♖c4
 25.♗xc4 ♗xc4 26.♗xf6 ♗xc1+
 27.♗xc1 gxf6 28.♗f2 ♗g7
 29.♗e3 ♗d5 30.♗c8 ♗c4 31.♖f4
 e5 32.dxe5 fxe5 33.♖h5+ ♗g6
 34.g4 f5 35.h4 ♗d3+ 36.♗f2
 ♗d2+ 37.♗e1 ♗e2+ 38.♖d1 fxe4
 39.fxe4 ♗xb2 40.♗c7 ♗f7
 41.♗c6+ ♗h7 42.♗xa6 ½-½ Yu
 Mingyuan-Sinkovics,P/Budapest
 HUN 2001/The Week in Chess
 (42)) 17...e5 18.♖f5 ♖c7 19.♗e2
 ♖c5 20.♗d1 ♗xd1+ 21.♗xd1 ♗d8+
 22.♗c2 ♗f8 23.♗d1 ♗xd1
 24.♗xd1 ♗a6 25.♗xa6 ♖7xa6
 26.♗c2 ♖b7 27.♗c3 h5 28.♗g3 f6
 29.♗c4 ♖c7 30.f4 g6 31.♖h4 b5+
 32.♖d3 ♖c5+ 33.♗e2 ♗f7
 34.fxe5 f5 35.♖f3 ♗e6 36.b4 ♖e4
 37.♖d3 ♖d5 38.♖h4 ♖xg3
 39.hxg3 g5 40.♖xf5 ♗xe5 41.♖d4
 a6 42.e4 g4 43.♖c6+ ♖d6 44.♖b8
 ♗e5 45.♖d7+ ♗e6 46.♖c5+ ♗e5
 47.♖e3 ♖e8 48.♖d3+ ♗f6 49.♗f4
 ♖c7 50.♖c5 ♗g6 51.♗e5 ♖a8
 52.♖d7 ♗g5 53.♖d6 1-0 Jelen,I-
 Podlesnik,B/Kranj SLO 1999
 (53); 15...♗fd8 16.e4 (16.♖e2
 cxd4 17.♖xd4 a6 18.♗a4 (18.♗e2
 ♗ac8 19.♗d1 ♖e5 20.0-0 b5
 21.♗d2 ♖c4 22.♗xc4 bxc4
 23.♗c2 a5 24.♖e2 f5 25.♖d4 ♗d6
 26.♗fc1 ♗a6 27.♗g3 ♗b6 28.♗f2
 a4 29.e4 fxe4 30.fxe4 ♗f8+
 31.♖f3 ♖f6 32.♗e1 c3 33.♗xc3
 ♗xb2+ 34.♗g1 ♗c8 35.♗xc8+ ½-
 ½ Shipov,S-Ionov,S/Elista RUS
 2001/The Week in Chess (35))
 18...♗ac8 19.♗e2 ♖c5 20.♗c2 a5

21.♗hd1 ♗a6+ 22.♗e1 g6 23.♖e2
 ♖d7 24.♗ac1 ♖e5 25.♖f4 ♖f6
 26.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 27.e4 ♖fd7
 28.♗d1 ♗c8 29.♗b1 g5 30.♖d3
 ♖xd3+ 31.♗xd3 ♗xd3 32.♗xd3
 ♖e5 33.♗d2 ♗c1+ 34.♗e2 ♖c4
 35.♗d8+ ♗g7 36.♗d4+ e5 37.♗c3
 f6 38.a4 ♗g1 39.b3 ♗xg2+ 40.♖d3
 ♖b2+ 41.♗c3 ♗c2 42.♗d2 ♗c6
 43.♗e2 h5 44.♗e1 ♗c1 45.♗f2 ♗c3
 46.♗d6 b5 47.axb5 ♗xb3 48.b6 a4
 49.♗d7+ ♗g6 50.♗a7 ♖c4
 51.♗xa4 ♗b2+ 52.♗f1 ♖xb6
 53.♗xb6 ♗xb6 54.♗a2 g4 55.fxe4
 hxe4 56.♗g2 ♗b3 57.♗e2 ♗g5
 58.♗e1 ♗f4 59.♗f1+ ♗f3 60.♗e1
 ♗c3 61.♗f1+ ♗g5 0-1 Arlandi,E-
 Jenni,F/Charleville FRA 2000/The
 Week in Chess 317 (61)) 16...♖e7
 (16...♖c7 17.♗xd7 ♗xd7 18.dxc5
 f5 19.cxb6 (19.e5 bxc5 20.♗c1
 ♖d5 21.♖h3 g5 22.♗xc5 g4
 23.fxe4 fxe4 24.♖f2 ♖f4 25.♗g1
 ♗c8 26.g3 ♖d3+ 27.♖xd3 ♗xd3
 28.♗f1 ♗f3 29.♗c2 h5 30.♗f2
 ♗e4 31.♗cc1 ♗b8 32.b4 ♗xa3
 33.♗a1 ♗f3+ 34.♗e1 ♗xf1+
 35.♗xf1 a6 36.♗e2 ♗b7 37.♗e3
 ♗d8 38.♗d6 ♗f7 39.♖d4 ♗a8
 40.♖c5 ♗f3 41.♖b6 ♗e2 42.♗a2
 ♗c4 43.♗c2 ♗d5 44.♗f2+ ♗g7
 45.♗c5 ♗c4 46.♗f4 ♗d5 47.♗d6
 ♗g2 48.♗a5 ♗d5 49.♗c5 ♗g2
 50.♗d6 ♗d5 51.♗f2 ♗e4 ½-½
 Golod,V-Pilgaard,K/Ubeda ESP
 2001/The Week in Chess 325
 (51)) 19...axb6 20.♖e2 fxe4
 21.fxe4 ♗xe4 22.0-0 ♗d2 23.♖c3
 ♗b7 24.b4 ♗f8 25.♗a2 ♗xa2
 26.♖xa2 ♖d5 27.♗d4 ♗a8 28.♖c3
 ♖xc3 29.♗xc3 ♗xa3 30.♗d4 b5
 31.♗f4 ♗d3 32.♗g4 g5 33.h4 ♗f7
 34.hxe4 hxe4 35.♗f2 ♗d2+
 36.♗c3 ♗xg2 37.♗xg2 ♗xg2
 38.♗e5 ½-½ Kramnik,V-
 Kasparov,G/London ENG
 2000/The Week in Chess 311
 (38)) 17.♖e2 cxd4 18.♖xd4 a6
 19.♗e2 (19.♗xd7 ♗xd7 20.0-0-0
 ♗ad8 21.♖b3 ♖c8 22.♗xd7 ♗xd7
 23.♗d1 ♗xd1+ 24.♗xd1 f5
 25.♖d2 ♗f7 26.♗e2 fxe4
 27.♖xe4 ♗xe4 28.fxe4 e5 29.♖d3
 ♗e6 30.a4 h5 31.♗e3 ♖d6
 32.♗d2 ♗e6 33.♗b4 ♖d6
 34.♗xd6 ♗xd6 35.♗c4 ♗c6

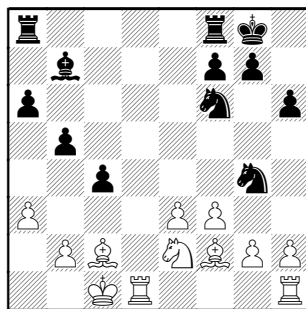
36.h4 ♖d6 37.♗b4 ♗c6 38.a5 b5
 39.♗c3 ♗c5 40.b4+ ♖d6 41.g3
 ½-½ Pogorelov,R-Kolev,A/Salou
 ESP 2000/The Week in Chess 320
 (41)) 19...♖c5 20.b4 ♖a4 21.0-0
 e5 22.♖b3 ♖c3 23.♗f1 ♖xe2+
 24.♗xe2 ♗d6 25.♗d2 ½-½
 Anand,V-Karpov,A/Monte Carlo
 MNC 1999 (25)] **16.♖e2 a6**
17.♗a4 [17.♗d3 cxd4 18.cxd4
 ♗fd8 19.0-0 ♖d5 20.♗ac1 ♖7f6
 21.♗g3 a5 22.♗e5 ♗a6 23.♗xa6
 ♗xa6 24.♗f2 ♗aa8 25.♗c4 ♖d7
 26.♗fc1 b5 27.♗c2 ♖7b6 28.♗c5
 b4 29.♗b5 ♖a4 30.♗c2 ♗dc8
 31.♗d2 ♖ab6 32.♖f4 bxa3
 33.bxa3 ♗c3 34.♖xd5 ♖xd5
 35.♗d6 h5 36.♗db2 h4 37.♗b3
 ♗c4 38.♗c5 a4 39.♗b7 ♖f4
 40.♗c3 g5 41.♖d2 ♗d8 42.♗b6
 ♗dc8 43.♗c5 ♗g7 44.♗a7 ♗d8
 45.♗bb7 ♗xc5 46.♗xf7+ ♗h8
 47.♗h7+ ♗g8 48.♗hg7+ ♗h8
 49.♗h7+ ♗g8 50.♗hg7+ ♗h8
 51.♗h7+ ½-½ Shredder 4-Junior
 6.0/Cadaques ESP 2000 (51)]
17...b5 [17...♗fd8 18.0-0-0 ♗ac8
 19.♖b1 cxd4 20.♖xd4 ♖e5
 21.♗c2 ♖c4 22.e4 ♖d7 23.♖a2 b5
 24.b3 ♖ce5 25.♗d2 ♖g6 26.♗hd1
 ♖d8 27.♖b2 f6 28.♗g3 ♗f7
 29.b4 ♖e7 30.♗b3 ♖c6 31.♖xe6
 ♖xe6 32.♗d7+ ♗f8 33.♗xe6 ♗xd7
 34.♗xd7 1-0 Arlandi,E-
 Castaldo,F/Montecatini Terme
 ITA 1999 (34); 17...cxd4 18.♖xd4
 ♖c5 19.♗c2 e5 20.♖f5 ♗fd8
 21.♗h4 ♖d3+ 22.♗e2 ♖xb2
 23.♗hb1 ♖c4 24.♗d3 ♖d6
 25.♖xh6+ ♗f8 26.♗xf6 gxf6
 27.♗xb6 ♗c8 28.♗c1 ♗e6 29.♗cc6
 ♗c7 30.e4 ♖b5 31.♗c3 ♖xa3
 32.♖f5+ ♗f8 33.♗xa6 ♗d1 34.♗e2
 ♗a1 35.♗b2 ♗d8 36.h4 ♖b1
 37.♗f2 ♖d2 38.♗d6 1-0
 Kramnik,V-Adams,M/Linares
 ESP 1999 (38)] **18.♗b3!?N**



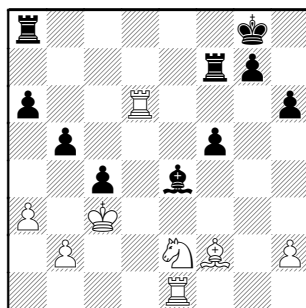
Grayling invites William to get a 3 vs 2 pawn majority on the Queenside with c5-c4. However, that will give White a free hand in the centre. Instead, "Wild Bill" goes the whole hog in the centre with [18.♙c2 ♜fc8 19.dxc5 ♖b8 1/2-1/2 Savchenko,S-Sulskis,S/Cappelle la Grande FRA 2001 (19)] 18...e5!?



Normally, the holder of the 2 ♙s will seek to open up the position. Here, William is trying to hit the White position before he completes his development 19.dxe5 ♖xe5 20.0-0 c4 21.♙c2 ♖eg4?



Overtly sharp. The problem with this idea which nets 3 pawns for a piece is that Black's king gets too exposed. 22.fxg4 ♖xg4 23.♙g3 ♖xe3 24.♙d7! ♙xg2 25.♙e1 ♖xc2 26.♖xc2 ♙e4+ [26...♙ad8 27.♙ed1 ♙xd7 28.♙xd7 f5 29.♖d2± and any pawn advances by Black will merely weaken them to the rampant ♙ on the 7th rank.] 27.♖c3 f5 28.♙f2 ♙f7 29.♙d6!



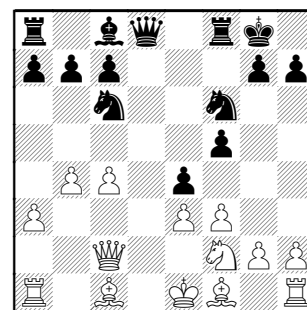
stopping g7-g5 and preparing a siege on the Black Kingside. 29...♙b7 Black is gunning for the White King too but with a piece less and the superior mobility of the White pieces, it is White who gets there first. 30.♙d4 a5 31.♖g3 ♙d3 32.♖h5 b4+ 33.♖d2 bxa3 34.bxa3 f4 [34...♖h7 35.♙gl ♙g8 (35...g5 36.♖f6+ ♖g7 37.♖d7+ ♖h7 38.♙e1+-) 36.♙dg6+-] 35.♖xf4 ♙f5 36.♖d5 c3+ 37.♙xc3 1-0

William Hosch (2189) – Grayling Hill (2158) [E32]

CCN vs IECC Bd 7, 2001

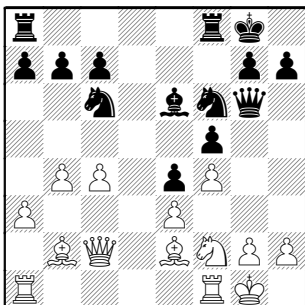
[Junior Tay]

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♖c3 ♙b4 4.♙c2 0-0 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.♙xc3 ♖e4 7.♙c2 f5 8.♖h3 d6 9.f3 ♖f6 10.e3 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.♖f2 ♖c6 [12...♙e7!? 13.♙c2 ♖c6 14.0-0 a5 1/2-1/2 Hoang Thanh Trang–Danner,G/Budapest,2001(14)] 13.b4 e4?

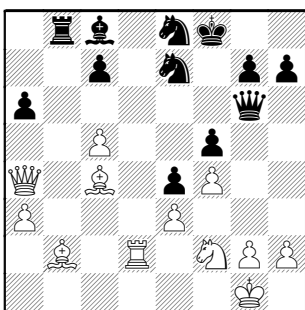


A logical looking move which unfortunately does not contribute to the fight for the critical d4 square. Moreover, it 'donates' possession of the central squares and the a1-h8 diagonal to the now majestic dark squared ♙. [The British No. 1, super-GM 'Mikey' Adams shows the way with 13...f4! 14.♙d3 a5!N 15.b5 fxe3 16.♙xc3 ♖d4 17.♙xd4?! (17.♙b2!± though the Black position is very solid.) 17...♙xd4 18.0-0 ♙c6= 1/2-1/2 Ward,C–Adams,M/Southend ENG 2001/The Week in Chess 337 (34); ≤13...♙c8 14.♙c2 ♖e7 15.0-0 ♖g6 16.♙b2 ♙e6 17.a4 c6 18.b5 c5 19.a5± Arlandi,E–Hulak,K/Makarska,1996(1/2-1/2)(63); 13...♙c6!? 14.b5 ♖e7 15.♙b2 ♖g6 16.a4 ♖d7 17.g3 f4± Konnov,O–Kuzuev,D/Orsk,2000 (1-0)(33)] 14.f4! ♙e8 15.♙e2 ♙g6?! The ♙ does not serve any purpose here. [Better is 15...♙c6 16.♙b2 ♙f7 17.0-0 ♙fd8 18.♙fd1 ♖e7± and maybe Black can

engineer a future c7-c6 and b7-b5 for counterplay. Another possible plan is ♖c8-d6.] 16.0-0 ♙e6 17.♙b2

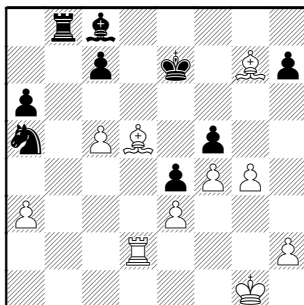


I think it will only be a matter of time before White squeezes the life out of the Black position. Black can only sit and wait for the inevitable as White can prepare his g2-g4 break at leisure. Moreover with his space advantage and well placed pieces, White is happy to exchange ♖s on the d file as Black's Queenside will be up for grabs in such a scenario. 17...♜fd8 18.♞ad1 a6 19.b5 ♘e7 20.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 21.bxa6 bxa6 22.♞d1 ♞b8 23.♞d2 ♘e8 24.♞a4+ ♙c8 25.c5 ♘f8 26.♙c4



That's it. Black has absolutely no counterplay. William does not let up for the rest of the game. A good demonstration of what the 2 ♙s can do. 26...♞c6 27.♞a5 ♞g6 28.♘d1 ♞b7 29.♘c3 ♘c6 30.♞a4 ♘b8 31.♘e2 ♘c6 32.♙a2 ♞b5

33.♞c4 ♘e7 34.♘c3 ♞b8 35.♞g8 ♘f6 36.♘d5+ ♘xd5 37.♞xd5 ♞c6 38.♙xg7 ♞xd5 39.♙xd5 ♘a5 40.g4



Yep...the long awaited break. 40...♞b5 41.♙g8 ♙e6 42.♙xe6 ♘xe6 43.gxf5+ ♘xf5 44.♞d5+ ♘e6 45.♞h5 ♘b3 46.♞xh7 ♞xc5 47.♞h6+ ♘f7 48.♙e5 ♞a5 49.♞h7+ ♘e6 50.♞xc7 ♞xa3 51.♞c6+ ♘d7 52.♞c2 ♘a5 53.♘f2 ♘c6 54.♙g7 ♞a5 55.♙f8 ♞f5 56.♙a3 ♞a5 57.♞c3 ♞d5 58.♞c4 ♞d2+ 59.♘g3 ♞d3 60.♙c1 ♞d1 61.♙b2 ♞b1 62.♙a3 ♞b3 63.♙c1 ♞b1 64.♘g4 ♞a1 65.h4 ♘e7 66.h5 ♘g8 67.f5 ♞a5 68.♙d2 ♘f6+ 69.♘g5 ♘h7+ 70.♘f4 ♞a1 71.♞d4+ ♘c6 72.♞xe4 ♞f1+ 73.♘e5 ♞h1 74.♞c4+ ♘b5 75.♘d4 ♞xh5 76.e4 ♞h4 77.♞c5+ ♘b6 78.♙a5+ ♘b7 79.♞c7+ ♘b8 80.♞c6 ♘g5 81.♙d8 ♘f3+ 82.♘e3 ♞h3 83.♞xa6 ♘b7 84.♞b6+ ♘c8 85.♙f6 ♘e5+ 86.♘d4 ♘d7 87.♞c6+ ♘b7 88.♞e6 ♘f8 89.♞d6 ♘h7 90.♘d5 ♞h5 91.e5 ♘c8 92.♞d8+ ♘c7 93.♞g8 ♘b6 94.♙d8+ ♘b5 95.f6 ♞f5 96.♙e7 ♘xf6+ 97.♙xf6 ♘b4 98.♞g5 ♞f1 99.e6 ♞d1+ 100.♙d4 ♞c1 101.e7 1-0

The final countdown...

So it's all up to the Board 6 match to decide which team experiences the thrill of victory (and the agony of defeat...). Before the match, the CCN team had declared that it's

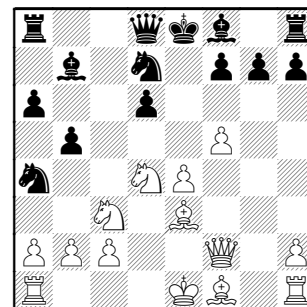
either 'Victory or Bust!'. So Volker went head on into the sharpest of all lines beginning with the Sicilian Najdorf English Attack...

Alex Bubir (2305) – Volker Jeschonnek (2211) [B80]

CCN vs IECC Bd 6, 2001

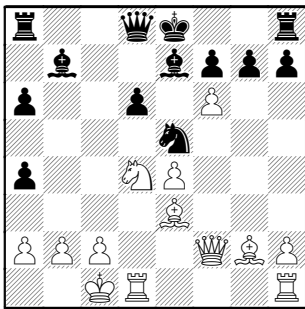
[Junior Tay, Volker Jeschonnek (VJ)]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.♞d2 ♘bd7 9.g4 ♘b6 10.♞f2 ♘fd7 11.f4 ♙b7 12.f5 exf5 13.gxf5 ♘a4?!



Given an exclamation mark by Pedersen in "The Easy Guide to the Sicilian Scheveningen". However, perhaps the whole line is dubious as Alex demonstrates adroitly. [13...♙c7 14.0-0 b4 (14...♙f6 15.♞g1 ♞c8 (15...b4 16.♘d5 ♘xd5 17.exd5 ♙xd5 18.♙g2) 16.♘dxb5 axb5 17.♘xb5! 0-0! 18.♘xd6 ♞b8 19.♙f4 (19.♙xb6 ♘xb6 20.e5 ♙xe5 21.♘c4 ♘xc4 22.♞xd8 ♙xb2+ 23.♘b1 ♙a6+) 19...♙c6∞ Ftacnik) 15.♘d5 ♘xd5 16.exd5 ♞a5 (16...♙xd5 17.♙g2±) 17.♙c4 ♘c5 18.♙b3 ♙xd5 19.♙xd5 ♞xd5] 14.♘xa4 bxa4 (VJ) The longer I looked at this position the less I liked it. The maneuver ♘b6-a4 was intended to free Black's position and to generate counterplay on the queenside. But the envisioned counterplay never really materialized because Black

is in fact too much behind in development. **15.g2 e7** (VJ) Another interesting question is what Black's position is worth when White castles kingside. I did not like the feel of [15...d5 16.0-0 but I might be wrong.] **16.0-0 d5** [16...0-0 17.e5 e4 18.g1 xg2 19.f6! 'Unclear' according to Pedersen but Brueckner shows that White is in charge here. 19...g6 20.xg2 dxe5 21.f5 dxc4 22.c4! dxc3 23.d7+ ch8 24.xh4 c7 (24...xd1 25.h6 g8 26.dg8 xg8 27.xd1 d8 28.d5±) 25.d2 b7 26.e1 df5 27.dxf5 gxf5± 1-0 Brueckner, J– Schorra, H/EM/MN/003 ICCF email 1998/Megacorr (58)] **17.f6!!**



A marvellous square clearance idea! **17...xf6 18.d5 d4** (VJ) More natural appears 18... dxc4 but I was afraid of [18...dxc4 19.dxd6! (19. d4 seems to be an excellent fall-back for White) 19...xd6 20.e5 xg2 (20...xe5 21.xb7 with advantage for White) 21.xg2 dxe5 and White has nasty attacking ideas: 22.c6+ (22. d4 dxd4 23.c6+)] **19.g3 dxe3 20.xd6 c7** (VJ) Black changes into swindle mode. The reason is that the more conservative choice 20... a5 has its problems. I thought I had to prevent the technical exchange sacrifice x dark-squared e: [20...a5 21.xc3 (21.xf6 gxf6 22.xe3±) 21...c5 22.xf6!? xxf6 23.f4 with blunt threats.]

21.e6+ fxe6 [21...d7 22.d6+ c8 (22...c8 23.xc3 (23.e6+=) 23...e5 (23...c8 24.d2± e5 25.f1± Black's pieces look great – except for his King e and c both of which have extreme difficulty extricating themselves, This dire scenario presents an extremely big problem as White's position can only get better and better.) 24.a3! c8 (24...xd6 25.d6+ c7 26.d5+ e8 27.d1! g8 28.d6+ c7 29.dxb7+ e7 30.d5+-) 25.xa4+ c6 26.a3±) 23.dxc3 c8 24.d5! dxd5 25.exd5+-] **22.xc7+- exf5 23.e5** (VJ) '!' With hindsight everything seems straightforward for White but the winning idea, beginning with 21 e6+, needed careful calculation and a good deal of courage. The loose pieces on both sides and the vulnerable kings introduce random tactics and Alex needed to make sure that Black will not rise from the dead. **23...g5** (VJ) An example of the 'mean character' of the position is that [23...c8 is refuted by 24.e6+!+- (But not 24.xb7? xxc2+ 25.b1 xe5±)] **24.xg7 xg2 25.xh8+ d7 26.xh7+ e7 27.g1 f8 28.h6 f4 29.xa6 1-0**

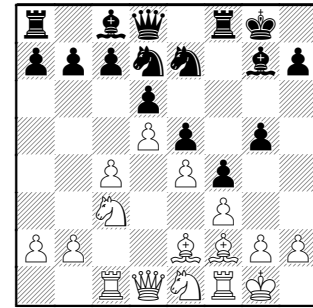
Now the score is 7.5–7.5 and the verdict hung on the Jeschonnek–Bubir game. Volker had admitted that he felt pressurized both by the fact that Alex had won their first game and that so much was at stake. Nevertheless, he decided to go for the jugular, as in accordance with our team motto. Bubir stepped into a highly theoretical King's Indian Defence minefield, something which even Kasparov has stopped short of doing these days.

Volker Jeschonnek (2211) – Alex Bubir (2305) [E99]

CCN vs IECC Bd 6, 2002

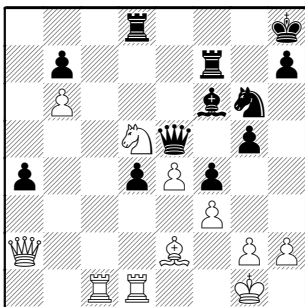
[Junior Tay]

1.d3 d6 2.c4 g6 3.d3 g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.e2 e5 7.0-0 dxc6 8.d5 d7 9.d1 d7 10.e3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.f2 g5 13.c1

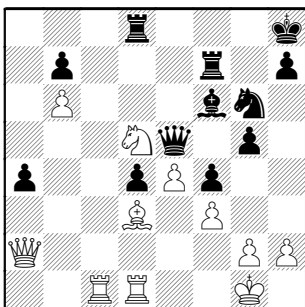


Initiating the Kozul Gambit which has given Black a very tough time in top OTB praxis. **13...d6 14.c5 dxc5 15.b4 d6 16.d5 f7 17.d3 d7 18.a4 e8** [18...h5 19.dxa7 f8 20.d5 g7 21.c4 dh8 22.g4± hxg4 23.fxg4 h7 24.g2 f6 25.h3± 1-0 Piket, J– Nijboer, F/Rotterdam NED 1999 (41)] **19.d2 b8 20.c2 20...xb5N** [20...e8 21.d2 Huzman's 21...f8!? aiming for c7–c6 has not been tested in tournament praxis. (21...h5 22.c4 h6 23.fcl g7 24.d3 d8 25.c3 g4 26.dxc7± 1-0 Piket, J– Ivanchuk, V/Wijk aan Zee NED 1999 (38))] **21.axb5 dxb4 22.b3 a5 23.b6** White, according to Piket, has a strong initiative, compensating him for material loss (Korchnoi) **23...f6 24.d4 c5** [24...d8 25.dxa5 xa5 26.bxc7 xxc7 27.xb4 xxc1 28.xc1± Despite the pawn deficit, this position is far easier for White to play. Just ompare the scope of the minor pieces.] **25.dxc6 dxc6** [25...bxc6 26.b7 a6 27.dxd6 xxd6 28.fdl+-] **26.fdl a4 27.a2** [27.a3 c7 28.d5 g4=] **27...d4 28.dxd4 exd4 29.d3 d5 30.d5 e5**

31.♖c7 ♖d8± [31...♖a5 32.♖xd5
♗h8 33.♖xf4±] 32.♖xd5 ♗h8



A very critical moment...
33.♖c7? All of a sudden, the
initiative changes hands... [33.♖c4
d3! (33...♖g7 34.♖xa4 g4±
35.fxg4 f3!↑) 34.♖xd3 ♖a8
35.♖xf4?? ♖xf4 xd3; Best is
33.♖d3!



Overprotecting e4 against a
possible g5-g5 break as well as to
blockade the d4 pawn. Now White
introduces the threat of ♖xf4
hitting the ♖f7. The key difference
is in the power of the opposing ♖s.
33...h5?? (33...♖g7 34.♖xa4 g4
35.fxg4 ♖h4 36.♖c7 ♖xg4
37.♖xh7+! ♖xh7 38.♖xf6+ ♖xf6
39.e5+- ♖g6 40.♖xg6+ ♖xg6
41.♖a3+- ♖xg2+ 42.♖h1+-)
34.♖xf4+-] 33...♖fd7 34.♖c4
[34.♖b5 ♖d6 35.♖xa4 d3!↑]
34...d3! What's that they said
about the passed pawn's lust to
expand? Alex unfurls the King's
Indian diagonal with deadly effect.
35.♖e6 ♖a8 36.♖c7? [If 36.♖b1?

g4→; 36.♖xd3 ♖a5↑] 36...♖a5
37.♖d2 [37.♖d5 ♖b2 38.♖xf6
♖xf6 39.♖xd3 ♖c5↑] 37...♖c5
38.♖b4 [38.♖d5 ♖d4+ 39.♖f1
♖xc4 40.♖xc4 ♖xc4 41.♖xf6+-]
38...♖b2 [38...♖b2 39.♖xa4 ♖h4-
+] 0-1

and therefore

Bd 6: Volker Jeschonnek 0 Alex
Bubir 2,

An awesome result for Alex Bubir
and IECC 8.5 – CCN 7.5 (IECC
wins match!)

What a tremendous turnaround for
the IECC team, which had trailed
5.5–7.5 at one stage.
Congratulations to Conrad
Goodman and his band of gritty,
never-say-die fighters. They truly
deserved their overall win.

Well, what can I say? Live by the
sword and die by the sword, I
guess. Now we know why IECC
has such an impressive team
match record. I would like to
thank all participants of this match
for contributing to such an
exciting match, especially for
keeping us on tenterhooks for
months on end!

The Pros and Cons of Tripled Isolated Pawns By Dr. Mike Donnelly

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reserved.

In the recently concluded Russian
Correspondence Chess
Association 5 year Invitational
Event, two games of mine featured
for me a new experience, namely
possessing tripled isolated pawns.
In the analysis of both games
preceding the appearance of

tripled pawns, there seemed to be
no clear way to avoid this pawn
structure. At first I began to be
very concerned on the basis that
tripled pawns are generally viewed
as a fatal or near fatal weaknesses.
However, the evaluation of the
possible variations that might have
resulted from this pawn structure
did not clearly support this general
view and I did not seem to be
obviously losing. I checked my
chess library but at that time could
find little to help regarding the
theory of tripled isolated pawns.
At the time this feature appeared
in my games, the further
continuation of the games was
done largely via analysis. In the
present article this practical
position is extended and combined
with some theoretical
considerations of my own together
some help from more recently
published chess literature.

Considering tripled isolated
pawns, one can view them as a
member of a family – the other
members of which are the well-
known isolated d- pawn and
doubled isolated pawns. This
interrelationship can be most
clearly seen in the dissolution of a
tripled pawn formation when
successive capturing of the pawns
can reduce the pawns to doubled
ones and then to a single isolated
pawn. Again the same sort of
relationship can be present in the
building of tripled pawns from
single then doubled pawns.
However this is not so
straightforward since a tripled
pawn formation can arise via a
number of means from various
pawn structures some more
complex than others. Furthermore,
dissolution can result not only
from capture but also from
conversion to other types of pawn
structure.

Whatever the means of formation,
single, doubled, and tripled
isolated pawns share a number of

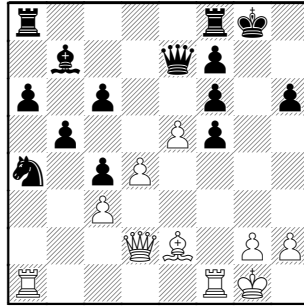
common features. For example, they can be readily blockaded by the opponent occupying the square in front of the furthest advanced pawn. Since they are isolated, and not protectable by other pawns, they must be protected by pieces. As one moves through the series from single to tripled pawns this gets harder. For example, the number of ranks, diagonals and files a single pawn can be guarded from is 8 per pawn but for tripled pawns all adjacent to each other on a file this falls to 4 per pawn (or 12 per tripled pawn). The extra pawns simply get in the way of the pieces since a pawn at the back of the line cannot be guarded from the front of the line. From both a blockading and guarding viewpoint tripled pawns can be viewed as a weakness all other things being equal on the chessboard. This is worst in an ending where a single opponent piece could hold up the progress to queening of three pawns and where there are fewer pieces available to guard them from attack. Even if one or more of the tripled pawns is exchanged for one or more of the opponents pawns the possessor can still suffer. This arises because what is left is a weak square since the pawn has fallen because there is no piece available to guard it. In addition, but more so in the middle game, another feature arises which can be a disadvantage. This is the tripled pawns formation acting as a difficult to move barrier, which prevents one's pieces supporting a king under attack. An example is the famous game Tal-Zeid, Latvian Ch 1951 (with the variation given by P.H.Clarke from his book "Tal's best games of chess"):

Tal,M – Zeid,M [D15]

Latvian Ch , quarter finals, 1951

1.d4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.♟f3 ♟f6 4.♟c3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 ♟d5 7.a4 ♟xc3

8.bxc3 a6 9.♟e2 ♟b7 10.♟g5 h6 11.♟e4 e6 12.♟a3 ♟xa3 13.♟xa3 0-0 14.0-0 ♟d7 15.f4 ♟e7 16.♟a1 ♟b6 17.♟d2 ♟xa4 18.f5 exf5 19.♟f6+ ♟h8 [19...gxf6



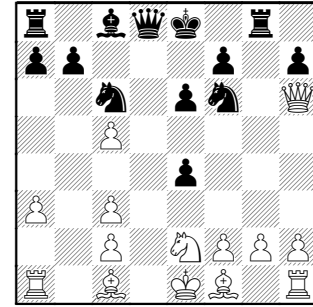
20.♟xh6 fxc5 21.♟f3 f4 (21...f6 22.♟g3+ ♟f7 23.♟g7+) 22.♟h3 f6 23.♟h8+ ♟f7 24.♟h7+ P.H.Clarke] 20.♟xf5 ♟fd8 21.♟af1 ♟c8 22.♟h5 ♟f8 23.♟f4 ♟xc3 24.♟fh4 ♟xe2+ 25.♟f2 g5 26.♟xh6+ ♟xh6 27.♟xh6+ ♟g7 28.♟xg5+ ♟f8 29.♟h8+ 1-0

So far, all negative for tripled pawns. However, recently I studied the games of the 1954 World Championship and looked closely at the pawn structures arising in the 19th game:

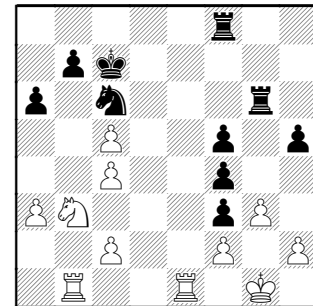
Smyslov,V – Botvinnik,M [C15]

Wch20-Moscow (19), 1954

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♟c3 ♟b4 4.a3 ♟xc3+ 5.bxc3 dxe4 6.♟g4 ♟f6 7.♟xg7 ♟g8 8.♟h6 c5 9.♟e2 ♟c6 10.dxc5



10...♟g6 11.♟d2 ♟d7 12.♟b1 ♟c7 13.♟d6 0-0-0 14.♟xc7+ ♟xc7 15.♟d4 a6 16.♟f4+ ♟c8 17.g3 ♟d5 18.♟d2 e5 19.♟b3 ♟g4 20.♟g2 f5 21.0-0 ♟f3 22.♟h3 ♟f8 23.♟fe1 ♟c7 24.♟g2 h5 25.c4 ♟f4 26.♟xf3 exf3 27.♟xf4 exf4



28.♟d2 fxc3 29.♟xf3 gxh2+ 30.♟xh2 ♟fg8 31.♟h3 ♟g4 32.♟e6 ♟xc4 33.♟f6 ♟g7 34.♟xf5 ♟xc2 35.♟g5 ♟e7 36.♟h4 ♟d4 37.♟f4 ♟b5 38.a4 ♟c3 39.♟c4 ♟ee2 40.♟b6 ♟d5 41.♟xc2 ♟xc2 42.♟e6+ ♟d7 43.♟d6+ ♟e7 44.♟xd5 ♟xe6 45.♟d6+ ½-½

What can be determined from this game is that tripled pawns, like single and double isolated pawns (unless blockaded) retain a certain dynamic character—they retain a desire to move forward and if passed to advance to a queen. Since the three pawns have most often originated from the two adjacent files then this ensures

these files will be open. They can, and often are, occupied by the possessor of the tripled pawn structure and these can be used to enter into enemy territory (for white the b- and d-files, and for black the g-file in the Smyslov-Botvinnik game). Further, the tripled pawns can often control key squares and in the Smyslov-Botvinnik game this was d4 and d6 for white and g2 for black. Again for black in this game the tripled pawns provided a larger material resource, relative to a single pawn or doubled pawns, for attempting to prize open the White king side by attacking and exchanging on g3.

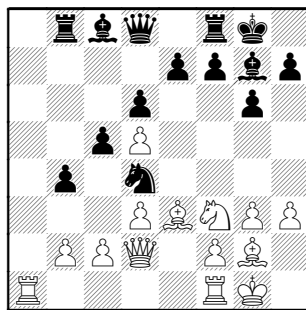
Another general comparison might be useful here. One of the advantages of single isolated pawns is the power of the pawn to control the two squares in front of it where it can attack or even capture an opponents pawn or piece. Since the pawn controls these, often key, squares this can be used to place and securely guard a piece in a strong attacking position. This concept applies to each of the tripled pawns so could be viewed as a more concentrated or potentially more powerful version of this idea particularly when the pawns are adjacent or close to each other.

The following two games are annotated with a particular focus on these theoretical and practical features of tripled pawns. In the first game the tripled pawns structure remains intact throughout the game but in the second game they are dissolved stepwise to end up being completely eliminated.

**Shishigin,N (2395) –
Donnelly,M (2375) [B25]**
RCCA 5 years 1998–2002, 1998
[M.J.Donnelly]
1.♟f3 ♟f6 2.g3 g6 3.♙g2 ♙g7

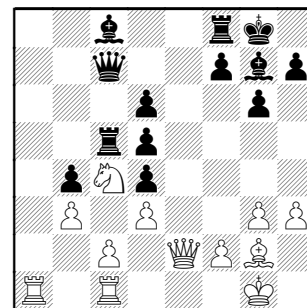
4.d3 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.e4 c5 7.♞c3

After initially keeping options completely flexible the opening is now crystalised into a line of the Closed Sicilian favoured by Smyslov and Spassky. Had white played 6.c4 an English opening would have arisen whilst 7. ♞bd2 would have given a Kings Indian Attack. **7...♞c6 8.h3** One of the commonest moves here, alternatively [8.♞c2 ♙d7 9.c3 ♞b8 10.♞c2 ♞c8 11.♞c1 e5 Gorka-Donnelly, Coventry League 1999, gave white nothing since d4 is not feasible.] **8...♞b8 9.a4 a6 10.♙e3 b5** At the time this game was played it was unclear which of blacks many choices here were best but now this move is regarded as the most logical by Gary Lane. **11.axb5 axb5 12.♞d2** [12.e5 is worthy of further investigation for example 12...♞e8 13.exd6 exd6 14.♞d2 b4 15.♞d5 ♙xb2 16.♙g5 f6 17.♙h6 Kogan-Avrakh, Internet game 2000.] **12...b4 13.♞d5 ♞xd5 14.exd5 ♞d4**



15.♙xd4 Possibly a new move here. Previously the other piece took on d4 since white usually wants to play ♙h6 and exchange bishops for example [15.♞xd4 cxd4 16.♙h6 b3 17.♙xg7 ♞xg7 18.♞f4 bxc2 19.♞xd4+ ♞g8 20.♞fc1 when white was better in Norwood-McDonald, British Championship 1990.] **15...cxd4 16.♞e2** Making way for another common idea in this variation namely to play ♞d2–c4 and to hit

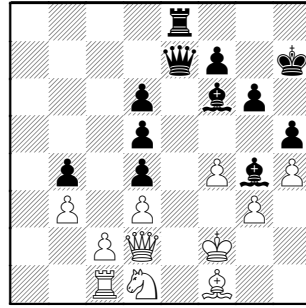
the black e7 pawn. However, here this is a vital loss of tempo since white's c2 pawn can now be pressured. **16...♞c7 17.b3** [Or 17.♞fe1 ♞e8 18.♞d2 ♙d7 19.♞b3 ♞ec8 with the idea of 20.♞xe7 ♞e8 21.♞h4 ♞xc2 with a very good position.] **17...♞b5 18.♞d2** [18.♞a4 ♙b7 19.♞a7 ♞a8 20.♞fa1 ♞xa7 21.♞xa7 ♙f6+ (Not 21...♞xd5 22.♞g5 ♞xg5 23.♞xb7 ♞e5 24.♞xe5 ♞xb7 25.♞xg7++-; 21...♞b6 22.♞xe7 ♞xa7 23.♞e8+ ♙f8 24.♞xb5±)] **18...♞c5 19.♞c4 e6** The key idea of ♞b5. White cannot take on e6 due to a later d5 by black when c2 falls. White now loses pawn but probably thought this was not too much of a problem due to the resulting tripled pawn formation and the fact that the d5 pawn is constantly under threat from the g2 bishop. **20.♞fe1 exd5**



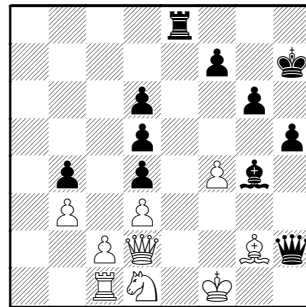
Best [20...♞xd5 21.♙xd5 exd5 22.♞d2 ♙xh3 is inadequate for black.] **21.♞b2 ♙d7 22.♞d1** So white can now cover c2 against further attack and also any possible invasion on c3 and e3 (if white plays f4). So it is not immediately clear how black can make any serious progress here. Note, however, that (a) the tripled pawns control a large part of the centre (c5,c4,c3,e5,e4 and e3) and, in addition, they are an immovable central barrier that cuts the board in half. As in the Tal game from the introduction I then used this feature to build up an attack on the

king-side since white queen-side pieces cannot readily come to the aid of their monarch. **22...h5** The attack begins by trying to soften up the g3 square by threatening h4, hxg3 and ♔e5. **23.h4** [23.♖d2 ♔f5 24.♖a2 ♖c8 25.♗xb4 ♔xd3 26.♗d2 ♔f5 and now the dynamic potential of the tripled pawns comes into play as black threatens to advance d3.] **23...♖e8** [23...♔g4 is premature since little real progress is made after 24.♗d2 ♖e8 25.f3 ♔f5 26.♔f2 ♖c3 27.♔d1 ♖c6 28.♖a2; 23...♔h6 could lead to a curious perpetual as follows 24.f4 ♖e8 25.♗d2 ♔g4 26.♔f2 ♖c2 27.♖a8+ ♔h7 (27...♔g7 28.♗xb4=) 28.♔xg4 ♖xd2 29.♔f6+ ♔g7 30.♔e8+] **24.♗d2 ♖a5** Preventing any counter-play resulting from a rook invasion along the a-file. **25.f4** This could be forced by ♔h7 and ♔h6 if required. [25.♗xb4 ♖xa1 26.♖xa1 ♗xc2 27.♗xd6 (27.♔xd5 ♗xd3 and once more the pawn's desire to move forward is here emphasised because it is now a powerful passed pawn.) 27...♔f5 28.♔xd5 ♖e1+ and although the tripled pawns have been dissolved leaving two weak squares the active play on adjacent files to the tripled pawns has carried the day.] **25...♖xa1 26.♖xa1 ♔g4 27.♔f1** [27.♔xd5 ♖e2 28.♗xb4 ♗xc2 is similar to the last note.; 27.♔f2 ♖e2 28.♗xb4 ♗xc2 29.♖f1 ♖c3 30.♗xd6 ♔e2 with a decisive advantage also follows the theme of effective piece play on the files adjacent to the tripled pawns.] **27...♗e7** The decisive idea white's king side is to be destroyed by a piece sacrifice. **28.♔f2** [28.♗xb4 ♗e1 29.♗xe1 ♖xe1 wins a piece.] **28...♔h7** Underlining the fact that white has no useful moves by cutting out back-rank checks and here I expected a resignation. However, ♔f6 immediately is even more accurate indicating to white what was to come. **29.♖c1** [29.♖a4 ♔f6 30.♖xb4 (30.♗xb4 ♔xd1) 30...♔xh4 31.♖xd4 ♗a7 32.c3 ♔f6

wins.] **29...♔f6**



30.♔g2 [30.♔g2 ♗e1+] **30...♔xh4 31.gxh4** [31.♔f1 ♗e1+ 32.♗xc1 ♔xg3+ 33.♔xg3 ♖xc1 regains the piece with a surfeit of three pawns for black.; 31.♔xd5 ♗e2+ 32.♗xe2 ♖xc2+ 33.♔g1 ♔xg3+; 31.♔f3 ♔xf3 32.♔xf3 ♗d7 33.♗h2 ♗g4+ 34.♔f2 (34.♔g2 ♖e2+ 35.♔f2 ♖xf2+ 36.♔xf2 ♗xf4+) 34...♖e2+-+] **31...♗xh4+ 32.♔f1 ♗h2**



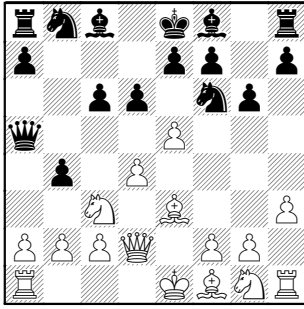
There is no defence to ♔e2+. **0-1**

Kazoks (LAT),A (2415) – Donnelly (ENG),M (2375) [B07]

RCCA 5 years 1998–2002, 1998 [M.J.Donnelly]

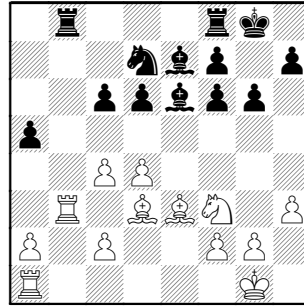
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♔f6 3.♔c3 g6 4.♔e3 Over the last few years this has become one of the most fashionable lines for white since it is such a flexible move and subsequent play can be positional

or attacking in nature. **4...c6 5.h3** At the time these opening moves were played I thought this was a very infrequently played move as I could only find a handful of games with it in my database (not a surprise really as I had just moved from paper Informators to electronics editions on a 20MB hard drive 286 computer). In fact it is described as rare in the most recent book on the Pirc by Videki whilst McNab and Nunn's treatment in the Ultimate Pirc is scarcely more detailed. With the benefit of extensive game collecting from the Internet as well as the use of recent commercially produced databases I now have hundreds of games with this line. So with hindsight I can now determine this move was being extensively played by many strong GMs during 1997–98 and this has continued to the present day. Fortunately I side-stepped the issue somewhat by choosing one of the rarest replies which has also remained in this state to the present day. **5...♗a5** More frequently seen are 5...♔g7, 5...♔bd7 and 5...b5 although the latter is deemed inferior due to 6. e5. **6.♗d2 b5** [6...♔bd7 7.♔f3 ♔g7 8.♔d3 0-0 9.0-0 e5 with a playable game Roser–Chabanon FRA ch 1999.] **7.e5** [7.♔d3 b4 (7...♔g7!?!; 7...♔bd7!?! 8.f4 b4 9.♔d1 c5 10.c3 ♔b7 11.d5 bxc3 12.♔xc3 ♔g7= Ardeschi–Darban, IRI ch 2001.) 8.♔ce2 ♔g7 9.♔f3 0-0 Beliavsky–Gufeld, Baku 1980 when Nunn and McNab give an advantage to white after 10.a3] **7...b4**

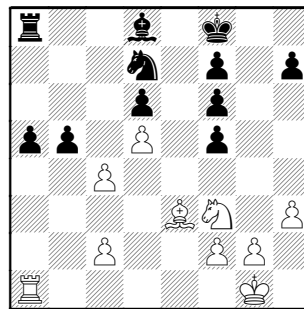


[7...♖fd7 8.f4 gives a strong white centre and (8.exd6 exd6 9.d5 or (9.♙g5 are both disruptive for black.))] 8.exf6 bxc3 9.♙xc3 ♙xc3+ 10.bxc3 exf6 Given as equal by Nunn and McNab based on Shovanov–Odessky, St. Petersburg 1996 but that book had not been published at this point in the game hence I though we had arrived at an original position. 11.♘f3 ♙e6 [11...♙g7 12.♙f4 ♘d7 13.♙b1 ♙e8+ 14.♘d2±; 11...♘d7 12.♙b1 ♘b6 13.c4 ♙e6 14.♘d2± with more space and easier development for white in both cases.] 12.♙d3 ♘d7 [12...♙g7 13.♙f4 leaves the d6 pawn in difficulties again.] 13.c4 ♙e7 14.0-0 [14.♙h6 ♙f8 (or 14...♘d8 15.♙d2 ♘c7 16.♙a5+ ♘b6= but not ; 14...♘b6 15.♘d2 ♘d7 16.a4 ♙he8 17.a5 ♘c8 18.♙b1 ♘c7 19.0-0 ♙b8± when black is too cramped.) 15.♙f4 ♙e7 16.♙b1 0-0 with a playable position.] 14...0-0 15.♙fb1 ♙ab8 [15...♘b6 16.♘d2± (16.c5 dxc5 17.dxc5 ♘d5 18.♙b7 ♘xe3 (18...♙c8 is stronger when the c5 pawn will soon fall.) 19.♙xe7 ♘d5 20.♙b7 ♙fb8 21.♙ab1±)] 16.♙b3 Putting pressure on black by following a procedue well known to oth players especially. Namely in a conflict over an open file the threat to double rooks (and thereby control the file) forces an exchange that in turn generates pressure on another weakness on the freshly opened file (i.e the

black pawn on a7). 16...a5

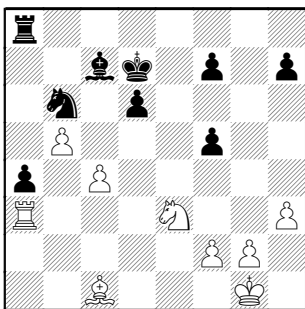


An essential tempo gain. This move, threatening a4 which would force white to exchange rooks and hence loose control of the file, allows the pawn to be guarded by the bishop on e7. The subsequent play here indicates black is heading towards a position where he will have tripled pawns. 17.♙ab1 ♙xb3 [17...♙b4 does not work due to 18.♙xb4 axb4 19.♙xb4 d5 20.c5] 18.axb3 ♙a8 19.♙a1 ♘f8 Essential to guard the black pawns in later play. 20.b4 ♙d8 [Incorrect is 20...a4 21.b5 cxb5 22.d5 bxc4 since 23.dxe6 attacks d7 winning for white.] 21.b5 cxb5 22.d5 ♙f5 23.♙xf5 gxf5

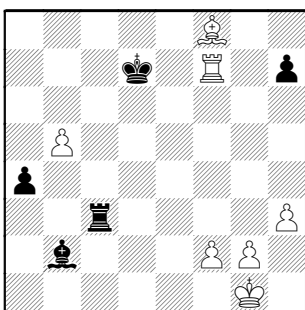


So black has incurred the tripled pawn weakness but as some compensation at this point has a good blockade (control of the b6 square) on the passed white pawn about to appear on b5, a strong passed a-pawn and reasonably

active pieces. Although whites pawn structure looks very good in fact the d5 pawn is weak and also offers black some counter-play. However, here there is, in contrast to the first game, not a major part played by active piece play on the files adjacent to the tripled pawns because the heavy pieces have been reduced to a single rook each so this idea seems more relevant to middle-game positions rather than endgames. 24.cxb5 ♘b6 25.♘d4 [25.♙xb6 ♙xb6 when black can indeed generate some play on the file adjacent to the tripled pawns via ♙e8 and ♙c4 (or via simply ♙c8).] 25...♘xd5 26.♙h6+ [26.♘xf5 maybe stronger here 26...♘xe3 27.♘xe3 (27.fxe3 ♙b6) 27...a4 (27...♙b6 28.♘d5 ♙c5 29.♙a4; 27...f5±) 28.♘d5 but all these variations are unclear and difficult to evaluate.] 26...♙e8 27.♘xf5 So one of the weak pawns has been exchanged off for one of whites central pawns but as before this leaves a weak square and the knight is ideally posted on f5. This point in the game also marks the start of the dissolution of the pawns to total elimination and this is one obvious way in dealing with a potentially weak pawn structure. 27...♙c7 28.♙a3 Good play blockading the passed pawn at a3 combined with the option of the rook moving along the third rank contributing to an attack on the black king. [28.♙d1 ♘c3; 28.♘xd6+ ♙xd6 29.♙d1 ♙f4 are both fine for black.] 28...a4 [28...♘d7 is also possible since the too ambitious 29.♙g3 a4 30.♙g7 a3 31.♙xf7+ fails too 31...♘e6 (but not 31...♘c8 32.♙c1 a2 33.♙f8+ ♘b7 34.♙xa8 ♘xa8 35.♙b2 ♘b4 36.♙xf6=)] 29.♙c1 [29.♙d3 fails of course to 29...a3 30.♙xd5 a2] 29...♘d7 30.c4 ♘b6 [30...♘b4 31.♙d2 ♘c2 32.♙a2 a3 33.g4 when the knight is in difficulties.(33.♙c3 ♙a5 gives play.)] 31.♘e3 f5

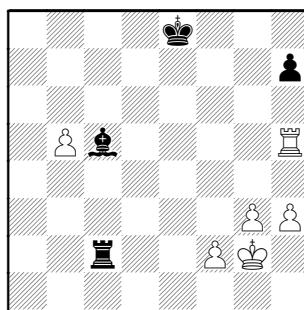


Another example of the dynamic potential, of here, doubled pawns. The f5 pawn offers itself for the more important c4 pawn and threatens f4. [31...Rc8 playing on the adjacent open file seems worse due to 32.f3 Re5 33.b2 Rxe3 (33...Rc5 34. d4) 34.Rxc3 Qxc4 35.Re2 when white is clearly better.] 32.Rc3 f4 33.Qc2 Qd8 34.Qa3 Qf6 35.Rf3 Rc8 36.Qxf4 Once more the disappearance of one of these types of pawns leaves a weak square but once more black exchanges a weak pawn for the better one on c4 thereby reducing the influence of this transition. 36...Qxc4 37.Qxc4 Rxc4 38.Qxd6 Qb2 39.Qf8 Rc3 40.Rxf7+



White has won material but (a) all parts of black's main weakness (the originally tripled pawns) have vanished and (b) the passed a-pawn guarantees black will survive. 40...Qe8 41.Rf5 a3 42.Qxa3 Qxa3 43.Rh5 Rc1+

44.Qh2 Qd6+ 45.g3 Rc2 46.Qg2 Qc5



The counter offensive against f2, which incidentally reinstates the blockade of the b-pawn, saves the h-pawn and therefore the game. 47.Rf5 Qe7 48.g4 Qd4 49.Qg3 Qe6 50.f4 Rc3+ 51.Qg2 Qc3 52.Rh5 1/2-1/2

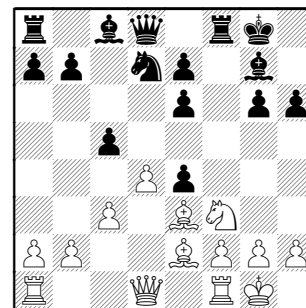
The above two games might imply that tripled pawns are barely a weakness at all but the following game provided by fellow CCN contributor V.E.Demian, whose notes (marked VED) I have expanded upon, is a salutary lesson in their defects.

Demian, V – Tod [B07]

University OTB qualifier
Timisoara, Romania, 1986
[Valer-Eugen Demian and M.J.Donnelly]

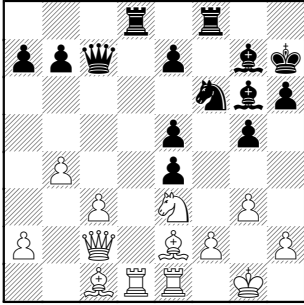
The above two games might imply that tripled pawns are barely a weakness at all but the following game provided by fellow CCN contributor V.E.Demian, whose notes (marked VED) I have expanded upon, is a salutary lesson in their defects. 1.d4 d6 2.e4 Qd7 Reasonably often played and a move that can lead to original positions but Qf6 remains as the most common choice here for black. 3.Qf3 c5 [3...c6 4.Qc4 b5 5.Qd3 Qb7 6.Qf4 a6 7.c3 when white controls the centre, Petrosian-Kasparian, Armenian

Ch 1946.; 3...g6 was used in a more recent example from postal play 4.Qc4 Qb6 5.Qc2 Qf6 6.Qc3 Qg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.a4 a5 9.h3 c6 10.Qc3 d5 when black had equalised as in Novosad-Mogstad, EM/M/GT 1998.] 4.c3 g6 5.Qc4 VED: I have used this setup with a lot of success during my University years 5...Qgf6 [5...e6 was played in Bronstein (L)-Larsen, Buenos Aires 1986.] 6.e5 d5 7.Qe2 [7.exf6 dxc4 8.0-0 Qxf6 9.Qa4+ Qd7 10.Qxc4 is equal and therefore weaker than whites chosen move.] 7...Qe4 8.0-0 Qg7 9.Qe3 0-0 10.Qbd2 Whites solid central pawn structure, in particular the e5 pawn, gives white more space and an edge here. 10...h6 [10...Qxd2 11.Qxd2 Qc7 looks a better try here but (11...e6 is worst due to the impending black square weaknesses around the king after 12.Qh6)] 11.e6 [A nice temporary pawn offer to weaken black's structure in contrast 11.Qxe4 dxe4 12.Qd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 f5 looks OK for black.] 11...fxe6 12.Qxe4 dxe4



VED: Triplets! 13.Qh4 cxd4 14.Qxd4 e5 15.Qe3 Qh7 16.Qc2 Qf6 17.Qad1 Qc7 18.g3 Qh3 19.Qfe1 g5 20.Qg2 Qad8 Black has correctly aligned his rooks for potential play on the files adjacent to the tripled pawns. The problem here is that white can contest the d-file and the d3 square whilst on the f-file there is similarly no white weaknesses to attack since

both f2 and f3 are covered. **21.♖c1 ♜f5 22.♜e3** A good example of blockade of the tripled pawns, as discussed in the introduction, that firmly stops any way for the pawns to advance. **22...♜g6**



VED: Those triplets are well supported by Black's pieces and cover a lot of squares on "d-" and "f-" columns. The downside is the positional aspect: they cut Black's position in two separate entities. White dominates the Queenside and Black's Kingside pieces are passive and have a hard time to get into the action **23.b4 ♜d6 24.c4 ♜fd8 25.c5 ♜d3!?** A good effort to get counter-play by offering the exchange. If white takes the rook then exd3 provides black with a powerful passed pawn and liberates the two bishops. Unfortunately white can ignore this idea and play to put pressure the e5 component of the triplets. **26.♜b2 ♜d5 27.♜xd5 ♜8xd5?!** VED: Desperately trying to unbalance the position and get that pair of Bs involved [27...♜3xd5 is much better since after 28.♜xd5 ♜xd5 29.♜h5 ♜c6 30.♜xg6+ ♜xg6 31.♜xe4 white is only slightly better and black has got rid of one of the triplets and exchanged a lot of pieces that could potentially attack the remaining doublet. In addition, black finally gets some possible play on the file adjacent to the triplets, via the option of ♜d2 (MJD).] **28.♜xd3 exd3 29.♜c4**

An essential gain of tempo which allows white enough time to re-establish a constraint of the black pawns. **29...e6 30.f3** Fine play controlling e4 (thereby preventing black supporting his advanced d3 pawn with e4) and reducing the three central pawns to an immobile target. **30...♜c6 31.♜e3 d2 32.♜e2 ♜a4 33.♜xd2 ♜xb4 34.♜xd5 exd5 35.♜xe5 ♜xc5 36.♜xg7 ♜xg7 37.♜g2 ♜f7** Black has no time to generate some vestige of play from advancing the d-pawn due to the weakness of the black second rank and the openness of the black king position. **38.g4 d4 39.♜e8 ♜d6 40.♜e5 ♜xe5 41.♜xe5** VED: Now it is just a matter of technique to bring home the point. **41...d3 42.♜f2 ♜f6 43.♜a5 a6 44.♜e3 ♜e6 45.♜c5 ♜d7 46.h4 gxh4 47.♜c1 h5 48.♜h1 hxg4 49.fxg4 ♜f7 50.a3 ♜c4 51.♜xh4 b5 52.g5 ♜e7 53.♜f4 a5 54.g6 ♜g8 55.♜xd3 b4 56.a4** Now the a5 pawn is a fixed target and with its fall white gains another passed pawn thus overwhelming black's defences. **56...♜e6 57.g7 ♜f7 58.♜d4 ♜e6 59.♜f2 b3 60.♜c5 1-0**

Summary

Tripled isolated pawns are generally considered to be a major weakness. However, when other features on the chessboard are taken into consideration this situation, like so many others in chess as indeed in Life itself, is not so clear cut. As described in the introduction, and expanded upon in the annotated games, tripled pawns can offer both advantages as well as disadvantages. If the advantages are a dominant feature of the game then one can not only tolerate their presence in one's own pawn structure but actually go on to gain the advantage and even win. If on the other hand the disadvantages dominate then the owner can

expect to suffer and may well lose relatively easily.

References

Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy, John Watson, Gambit Publications Ltd., 1999 (discussion of doubled and tripled pawns)

2. Understanding Pawn Play in Chess, Drazen Marovic, Gambit Publications Ltd., 2000 (discussion of doubled pawns)

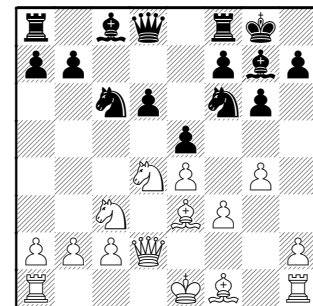
3. Mikhail Tal's Best Games of Chess, Peter Clarke, G.Bell and Sons, 1961 (illustrative game position).

New Ideas In The Sicilian Dragon (V)

By FIDE IM-Elect
Marius Ceteras
Translation by
Valer-Eugen Demian

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1.e4 c5 2.♜f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♜xd4 ♜f6 5.♜c3 g6 6.♜e3 ♜g7
7.f3 ♜c6 8.♜d2 0-0 9.g4 e5



The vast majority of chess players are hunting for that dream article full of theoretical novelties to give them an edge in their encounters. I know this feeling very well, as I have done the same for a long time. Just very few are interested to know how a novelty actually comes to life, or about all those frustrating countless hours of work to reach it. The tip of the iceberg seems more important today in everyone's rush for a good result. This time I would like to take the risk and tell you a story about a theoretical novelty and how it actually materialized.

It all started during July 2001 when I received my 1st email move from Giancarlo Marcotulli (ITA). Our game was supposed to be part of a Dragon thematic tournament organized by IECC. The mandatory moves to start every game were: 1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♗f6 5. ♗c3 g6 6. ♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♗c6 8. ♖d2 O-O 9.g4 so our game practically got going with 9... e5. My first reaction was one of disappointment! As I said before, my plans for this tournament were to verify some ideas and analysis, increase my knowledge of the Dragon and to gather new material to improve my articles. This move 9... e5 seemed completely ordinary, rarely seen in practice and considered dubious by both ECO and GM Tiviakov's monograph on B75-76, which were my main theoretical sources then. My knowledge of this line was vague at best and the only thing stuck in my mind was that only one Knight retreat out of the 3 available was good.

I decided to follow Tiviakov's written advice (perfectly permitted by the IECC rules of play...) and replied with the "forced" 10. ♗b3. The next few moves were played pretty fast 10...a5 11. ♗b5 ♗e6

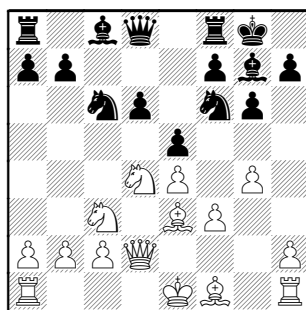
12.O-O ♗xb3, but my state of mind was in confusion. On one hand, it was kind of wierd to be in the position of a "postman", practically copying Tiviakov's moves and transmitting them as my own, my only concerns being to avoid clerical errors and to make sure my messages were reaching Giancarlo. On the other hand, I started to ask myself why he chose a line condemned by the ± signatures of two well known GMs such as Akopian and Tiviakov. Something was not right here and I decided to spend more time, digging deeper to understand what was going on.

My only source of inspiration in the main line was the Informator 45 analysis of the game Akopian – Smirin, 1989 (given in Tiviakov's monograph as well).

Monograph – Tiviakov [B76]

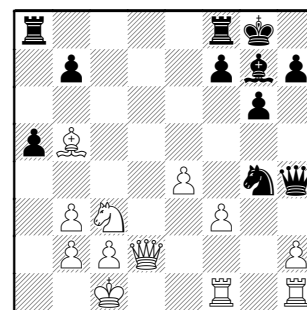
[Ceteras]

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♗c6 8.♖d2 0-0 9.g4 e5

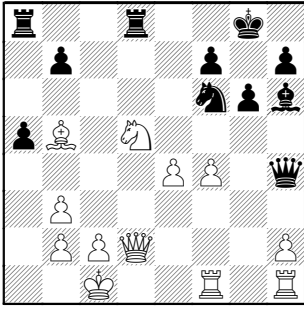


10.♗b3 Other alternatives for White are presented as well [10.♗db5?! a6 11.♗xd6 ♗d4 12.♗xd4 cxd4 13.♗xc8 ♖xc8 Savereide–Chiburdanidze, 1980 Inf.30/415; 10.♗xc6 bxc6 11.0-0 d5 (11...♗e8± Tiviakov) 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.♗xd5 ♗xd5 (13...♗b7?! 14.♗c4 ♖c8 15.♗b3± A.Ivanov–Basin,1987) 14.♖xd5

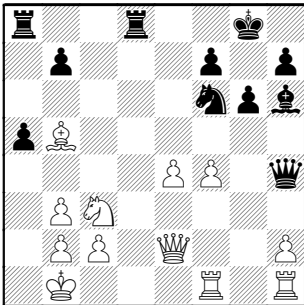
♖xd5 15.♖xd5 ♗b7 with the idea ♗xf3± Tiviakov; 10.♗de2 ♗e6 (10...d5?! 11.cxd5 ♗d4 12.♗xd4 cxd4 13.♗xd4 ♖e8+ 14.♗e2 ♗xd5 15.♗xg7! ♖h4+ 16.♗d1 ♗e3+ 17.♗c1± Miles, Moskow) 11.0-0-0 ♖a5 12.♗b1 ♖fd8 13.g5 ♗h5 14.♗d5 ♖xd2 15.♖xd2 ♗xd5 16.cxd5 ♗c7∞ Fedorov–Khalifman, 1983.ECO does not even mention these lines, focusing exclusively on the game Akopian–Smirin and the conclusion 18.♖df1! ±] 10...a5 [10...♗c6!? Δ11.0-0-0 ♗xb3 12.axb3 ♗d4 Tiviakov] 11.♗b5 ♗e6 12.0-0-0 ♗xb3 13.axb3 ♗d4 14.♗xd4 cxd4 15.♖xd4 [15.♗c2?! ♗d7 16.♗xd4 (16.♗b1 a4!± Short–Karlsson, 1983/84 Inf.37/227) 16...♗c5 with the idea ♖b6∞ Minic, Sindik] 15...♗xg4 [15...♗xc4 16.♖xc4 ♗xc3 17.bxc3 ♖g5+ 18.♗b2 ♖xb5 19.♖xd6± Akopian, Dementiev] 16.♖xd6 [16.♖g1 ♖g5+ 17.♗b1 ♗xc3 18.bxc3 ♖xb5 19.♖xg4 a4±; 16.♖d2 ♗xc3! 17.bxc3 ♖b6! 18.fxg4 ♖xb5 19.♖xd6 a4± Akopian,Dementiev] 16...♖g5+ 17.♖d2 ♖h4 [17...♗h6 18.♖xg5 ♗xg5+ 19.♗b1 ♗f2 20.♖d5! ♗xh1 21.♖xg5 ♖ad8 (21...f5 22.e5 ♖ad8 23.♖g1! ♗f2 24.♖e1! ♗h3 25.e6 ♖fe8 26.e7 ♖b8 27.♗xe8 ♖xe8 28.♗b5+; 21...♗f2 22.♗d5±) 22.♗d5 f5 23.cxf5!±] 18.♖df1!



18...♖fd8 19.♖e2 [19.♗d5 ♗h6 20.f4 ♗f6!±



Personally I don't agree with the 'equal' assessment because of 21.♙f2! ♜xf2 22.♘xf6+ ♔g7 23.♘h5+ (23.♞xf2!?) 23...gxh5 24.♞xf2± Ceteras] 19...♙h6+ 20.f4 ♘f6 [20...♘e5 21.♙f2 ♜xf2 22.♞xf2 ♘g4 23.♞f3 ♘e5 24.♞ff1± Akopian, Dementiev] 21.♙b1±



Akopian-Smirin, 1989 Inf.45/25

I looked at it again and suddenly I remembered what GM Bent Larsen said once, "Any long analysis has to be wrong", a fact proved so many times. Now I was really willing to sit down and find the needle in the haystack. Easier said than done as the amount of possible work awaiting me seemed overwhelming, so I decided to filter the analysis a bit and see what my intuition would say. I didn't have to go too far, as a secondary line at move 17 felt like a possible key moment of the whole analysis. It had a ±

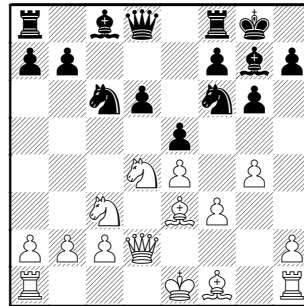
conclusion at the end, an unusual way of dealing with a position where White was actually down an exchange. The only lines confirming this were the ones where Black would have played a premature f7-f5, which actually helped White's plans. I concentrated my analysis at this point and came with the following results:

Ceteras analysis [B76]

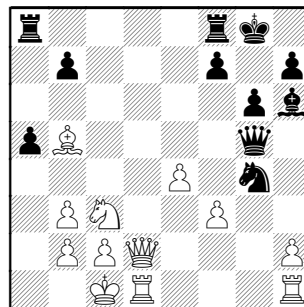
2001

[Ceteras]

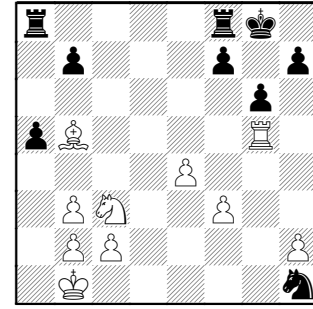
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♞d2 0-0 9.g4 e5



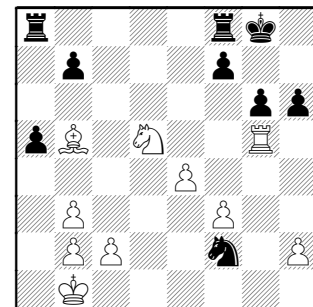
10.♘b3 a5 11.♙b5 ♙e6 12.0-0-0 ♙xb3 13.axb3 ♘d4 14.♙xd4 exd4 15.♞xd4 ♘xg4 16.♞xd6 ♞g5+ 17.♞d2 ♙h6



What follows is pretty much forced 18.♞xg5 ♙xg5+ 19.♙b1 ♘f2 20.♞d5 ♘h1 21.♞xg5

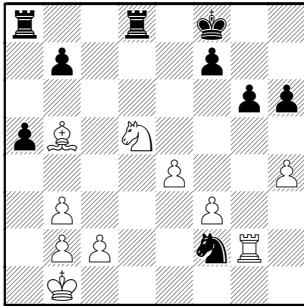


The key moment! It is clear that the whole struggle is concentrated around the Black Knight. If it is able to return into play without making many positional concessions, the verdict ± is not justified. White should keep it trapped there for as long as possible. 21...♘f2 The following moves were also considered: [21...♞fd8 22.♘d5 Cute idea, intending ♞g2-d2, ♙f1-g2 22...h6 23.♞g2! ♘g7 24.♞d2 f5 25.e5 ♘f7 26.♙f1 ♘f2 27.c4±; 21...♞ad8 22.♘d5 f6 (22...f5 23.exf5!± Akopian; 22...h6 23.♞g2!) 23.♞g2 ♘g7 24.♞d2 f5 25.e5 ♘f7 26.♙c4 b5 27.♙xb5 ♘c6 28.♘f4+ ♘xc5 29.♘d3+ ♘f6 30.♞d1+; 21...h6 22.♞g2! Setting up another trap to catch the Knight with: ♙b5-d3, ♘c3-d1, ♞g2-g1] 22.♘d5 [± Akopian] 22...h6!



An important move, which immediately queries the current ± verdict. The idea is simple: to offer the Knight a huge support

square on g5. **23.♖g3** [23.♖g2?! ♖h3 24.f4 ♖fd8] **23...♖fd8** [23...♗g7 24.h4 ♖ad8 25.♖g2 ♖h3 26.♖g3 (26.♖h2? ♖g1! 27.♖f2 f3+) 26...♖f2=] **24.h4 ♗f8 25.♖g2 ♖h3!** [25...♖h1? 26.♖g1 ♖f2 27.♖f1 ♖h3 28.♖h1 ♖f2 29.♖h2 ♖d1 30.♖c2+-] **26.♖g3** [26.♖h2 ♖g1 27.♖f2 ♖h3 28.♖f1 ♖ac8 29.♖h1 ♖c5 30.♖a4 (30.♖e2?! ♖dxd5 31.exd5 ♖f4+; 30.♖f1? ♖f4 31.♖xf4 ♖d1+ 32.♖a2 ♖xc2 33.♖d3 ♖xh1 34.♖xc2 ♖xh4 35.♖d5 ♖h2+) 30...b5 31.♖xh3 bxa4 32.bxa4] **26...♖f2 27.♖g2=**



I was already feeling a bit dizzy following Akopian's idea of chasing the Black Knight from the game and I started my own search for a different plan. The important ideas to consider were :

- 1) Delaying the exchange on d4 until a favorable moment arises;
- 2) Attacking ♖f6 with g4-g5, forcing him to retreat and weaken Black's defence of the d5 square;
- 3) Stopping or at least delaying Black's Queenside play.

OK then, now I actually needed to produce a move. Luckily after 12... ♗xb3, there were only two alternatives 13.axb3 and 13.cxb3, both playable and without major differences between them. My decision to go ahead with 13.cxb3

was based on a few positional details such as:

- 4) Opening the c-file could be beneficial for White as it could serve as a future route for my Rooks on their way to attack Black's position. Possible Queenside operations can be considered as blocked Bg7 would be unable to participate in the proceedings;
- 5) Keeping a pawn on a2 would provide more protection for White's King in case Black pushes a5-a4 forcing the opening of the a-file;
- 6) Anticipating exchanges on "d4", as a future Black pawn there will not disturb White's Queenside pawn formation after the possible d4-d3 push;
- 7) Taking into account that the White King is not really in danger as a result of this move. There's always the simple ♖b1 to pull the King to safety.

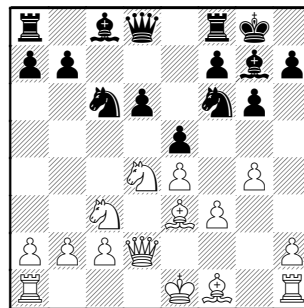
This is the whole story of how I came to play the apparent novelty 13.cxb3 ...

Ceteras,M – Marcotulli,G [B76]

2001

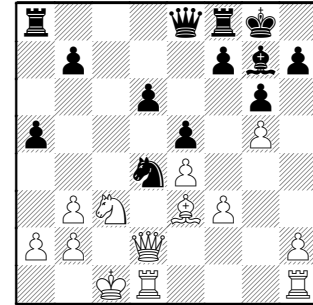
[Ceteras]

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 g6 6.♖e3 ♖g7 7.f3 ♖c6 8.♖d2 0-0 9.g4 e5

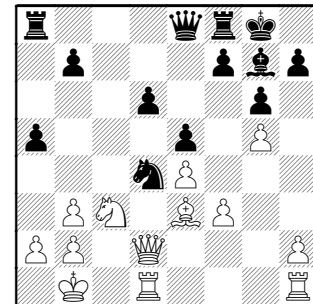


10.♖b3 a5 11.♖b5 ♖e6 12.0-0-0

♖xb3 13.cxb3 ♖d4 14.g5 ♖e8 [14...♖d7 15.♖xd7 ♖xd7 16.♖b1 ♖xf3 17.♖xd6 ♖xd6 18.♖xd6 ♖ad8 19.♖xd8 ♖xd8 20.♖d5 b5 21.h3±; 14...♖h5 15.♖xd4 cxd4 16.♖d5 ♖c8+ 17.♖b1 ♖c5 18.♖d3±] **15.♖xe8 ♖xe8**

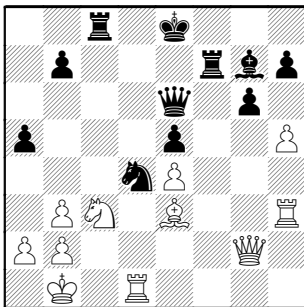


[15...♖xe8 16.♖b1 ♖xf3 17.♖xd6 ♖d4 (17...♖xd6 18.♖xd6 ♖ad8 19.♖xd8 ♖xd8 20.♖d5 intending 21.h3±) 18.♖xd8 ♖cxd8 19.♖d5±] **16.♖b1!**



His Majesty is safe and the c-file becomes available for the White Rooks [16.♖xd4!? exd4 17.♖d5 a4 18.♖b1 (18.b4? a3 19.♖b1 axb2! (19...♖c8? 20.bxa3 ♖e5 21.♖d3±) 20.♖c7 (20.♖xb2 d3 21.♖b3 ♖e5 22.♖f6+ ♖xf6 23.gxf6 ♖a6 24.♖d3 ♖fa8+) 20...♖a4 21.♖xa8 ♖xa8 22.♖xb2 d3 23.♖b3 ♖xb3+ 24.axb3 ♖a1#) 18...axb3 19.a3 ♖e5 20.♖he1 (20.h4 d3 21.♖h2? (21.♖f6+ ♖xf6 22.gxf6 ♖xf6 23.♖xd3 h5=) 21...♖d4! 22.h5 ♖fc8! a)22...♖xa3 23.♖c7+ ♖h8 24.hxg6 ♖a1+

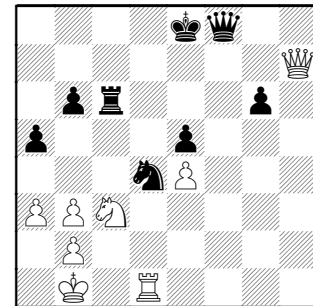
25.♔xa1 ♖a4+ 26.♔b1 ♖a2+ 27.♔c1 ♖a1+ 28.♔d2 ♖xb2+ 29.♔xd3+; **b)22...gxh5 23.♕f6+ (b)23.♖d2?? ♖xa3!-+)** 23...♔h8 24.♖xh5 h6 25.f4 **(b)25.♖xh6+ ♕xh6 26.♖xh6+ ♔g7 27.♕h5+ ♔g8 28.♕f6+=)** 25...♖f2 26.♖h2 ♖c2+ 27.♖xc2 bxc2+ 28.♔c1 cxd1♖+ 29.♔xd1+-; 23.hxg6 (23.♕e7+?? ♔f8 24.♕xc8 ♖xc8-+) 23...♖c2 24.gxf7+ ♔xf7 25.♖f4+ ♔e8+) 20...♖fc8 21.f4 ♖c6 22.♖b4 ♖c2 23.♖xb7 (23.♖xb3?! d3 24.f5? gxf5 25.exf5 ♖xd5-+) 23...♖c8 24.♖xb3 d3 25.e5±] **16...f5!** There's no other way to get counterplay. Black gets more space for his pieces on the King side in their assignment to protect the King [16...♕xf3?! 17.♖xd6 ♕d4 18.h4±] **17.gxf6 ♖xf6** [17...♕xf6!? 18.f4±] **18.f4** [Less appealing was the following possible ending: 18.♕xd4 exd4 19.♖xd4 ♖xf3 20.♖xd6 ♕xc3 21.♖d5+ ♖f7 22.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 23.bxc3±] **18...♖c8** [18...♖f7 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.h4↑] **19.h4** Now the battle becomes more dynamic as White tries to weaken Black's King side. So far, there's no clear attack in sight but soon a new target would be available for White to aim at **19...♖f7 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.h5 ♖e6** [21...g5 22.♕xg5 ♕f3 23.♖g2±] **22.♖g2 ♔f8?!** I question this idea of hiding the King in the center, as it isn't safer here than where it came from. [⊔22...♖c6 23.♖h3!↑] **23.♖h3 ♔e8**



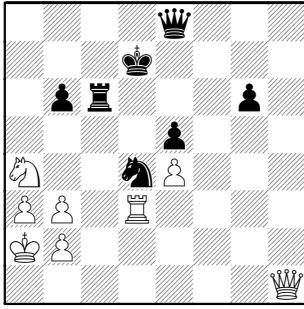
A critical moment! White has

improved its position and now it's time to take action. It is not easy to decide what to do as for a while, I remained obsessed with the idea of concentrating on the weak g6 pawn and ♕g7. I tried to put something together, but couldn't find anything satisfactory. Then, it occurred to me to take advantage of another weakness: the exposed position of the Black King. [23...♖fc7 24.hxg6 hxg6 25.♖g3 ♖c6 26.♖g1 ♔f7 27.♕d5 ♖c2? 28.♖f1+-] **24.hxg6 hxg6 25.♕h6!** As long as the plan is to attack the King, exchanging ♕g7 would make it easier for White to penetrate. I realized Black could decline this exchange, but decided to test it anyway. There's always 25.♖h7 available now or later on. [Much weaker would have been: 25.♖g3 ♖c6 26.♕e2 ♕c2 27.♕c1 ♖d7±] **25...♕h8** [25...♕f8? 26.♕xf8 ♖xf8 27.♖f1 b5 28.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 29.♕d5+-; 25...♖d7?! 26.♕xg7 ♖xg7 27.♖h8+ ♔d7 28.♖h6±; 25...b5? 26.♕xg7 ♖xg7 27.♖h8+ ♖g8 28.♖h2 ♖xh8 29.♖xh8+ ♔d7 30.♖g7+ ♖e7 31.♖xg6+-] **26.♕e3** If a ♕ trade is not possible, then my ♕ has no business there anymore and this retreat seems the best compared with: [26.♕d2 ♕g7 27.♖g3 (27.♕d5 ♖a6 28.♖c3 ♖c6 29.♕e3 ♖e2 30.♖xe2 ♕xe2∞) 27...♖a6±; 26.♖g3 ♖c6 27.♖g1 b5 28.a4 ♖xb3 29.♕xb5 (29.axb5 ♕xb5 30.♕xb5 ♖xb5 31.♖xg6 ♖d3+ 32.♔a2 ♖c4 33.♖g8+ ♔e7 34.♖g5+ ♕f6 35.♖xf6+ ♖xf6 36.♖lg7+ ♖f7 37.♕g5+ ♔d6 38.♖d8+ ♔c5 39.♖xd3 ♖xg7 40.♖d5+ ♔c6 41.♖xe5=) 29...♖f3 30.♖xf3 ♕xf3 31.♖f1 ♖d3+ 32.♔a1 ♕d4 33.♕xd4 ♖xd4 34.♖f8+ ♔e7 35.♖xh8 ♖xa4+ 36.♔b1 ♖d1+ 37.♔a2=; 26.♕g5 ♕g7] **26...♕g7 27.♖h7** The idea is still ♕h6 and force the exchange **27...♖c6** [27...b5 28.♕h6 ♕xh6 29.♖xh6 ♖g7 30.♕e2±; 27...♖fc7 28.♕d5±] **28.♕h6 ♕xh6** [28...♕f8 29.♖h8 ♖f6 30.♖g8±] **29.♖xh6 ♖f6** [29...b5 30.♖h8+ ♖f8 31.♖xf8+

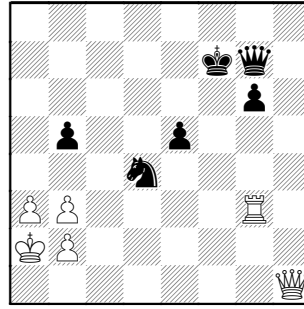
♔xf8 32.♕xb5 ♕xb5 33.♖f1+±] **30.♖h3 ♖f2 31.♖h8+ ♖f8 32.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 33.♖h7 b6** [33...♖f3 34.♖h8+ ♔f7 35.♖xe5+-; 33...♖f2 34.♖h8+ ♔d7 35.♖g7+ (35.♖xe5?? ♖c2+ 36.♔a1 ♖xd1+ 37.♕xd1 ♖c1#) 35...♔c8 36.♖g8+ ♔d7 37.♖h1+- ♕e6 38.♖h7+ ♔d6 39.♖b8+ ♕c7 40.♖d8+ ♔c5 41.♕a4+ ♔b4 42.♖d1 ♖d4 43.a3+ ♔b5 44.♖e2+] **34.a3!**



A quiet move before the storm! It provides a safe shelter for the King and releases ♖d1 from defensive duties to join the attack. [34.♕b5 ♖f3 35.♖g8+ ♔e7 36.♖g7+ ♔d8 37.♖xd4+!? exd4 38.♖xd4+ ♔e7 39.♖e5+ ♔f7 (39...♖e6? 40.♖xe6+! ♔xe6 41.♕d4+-) 40.♖d5+ ♔e7 41.♖xc6 ♖d1+ 42.♖c1 ♖d3+ 43.♔a1 ♖xb5 44.♖d1±] **34...♖f2** [34...♖f7? 35.♖h8+-; 34...♖d6 35.♔a2±] **35.♔a2!± a4** [35...♖xc3 36.♖h8+ ♔d7 (36...♔f7 37.♖h1 ♔e6 38.♖e8+ ♔d6 39.♖d8+ ♔e6 40.♖h7+-) 37.♖xe5+-; 35...♖f6 36.♕d5 ♖f8 37.♖f1+-; 35...♖f8 36.♖h1+-; 35...♖c2 36.♖g8+ ♔d7 37.♖h1+-] **36.♕xa4±** [36.bxa4? ♖xc3! 37.♖h8+ ♔d7 38.♖xe5 ♖xa3+! 39.♔xa3 ♖f3+-] **36...♖f7** [36...b5 37.♖h8+ ♔d7 38.♖xe5+-; 36...♖c2 37.♖g8+ ♔d7 38.♖h1+-] **37.♖h8+** [37.♖xf7+? ♔xf7∞] **37...♔d7 38.♖d3 ♖e8** [38...♖c6 39.♖h3+-; 38...b5 39.♖xe5+-] **39.♖h1!**



The idea is ♖d1 protecting b3 and bringing the ♔a4 into the battle. 39...♖f7 [39...b5 40.♔c3 b4 41.♔b5 bxa3 42.♔xd4 exd4 43.♖xd4+ ♔c7 44.♖h4+ ♔f7 45.♖d8 ♖c7 46.♖f2+ ♔c6 47.♖d4 ♖d6 48.♖c4+ ♔f6 49.♖c3+ ♔f7 50.♖h8 ♔e6 51.bxa3+-] 40.♖d1! [≤40.♖h3?! ♖c6 41.♖h7+ ♔e8 42.♖h8+ ♔e7 43.♖h4+ ♔f7 44.♖h7+ ♔f6 and it is not clear at all for White how to continue the attack.] 40...♔e7 [40...♖f2 41.♔c3 b5? 42.♖d2 ♖c3 43.♔xb5+-; 40...♖f4 41.♔c3] 41.♔c3 Finally the Knight joins the attack. 41...♖d6 42.♖h3! Better than 42.♔d5+ when after the exchange sacrifice on d5, this Rook needs to be very active. 42...b5 [42...♔d7 43.♔d5+-; 42...♖c6 43.♖h7+ ♔f8 44.♔d5 ♖xd5 45.exd5 ♖xd5 46.♖d3 ♖c6 47.♖c4+-] 43.♔d5+ ♖xd5 44.exd5 ♖xd5 45.♖g4 ♔f7 46.♖g3 ♖c6 [46...♖c6 47.♖xc6+ ♔xc6 48.a4+-] 47.♖h4 ♖f6 [47...♔f5 48.♖h7+ ♔g7 49.♖c3 ♖b7 50.♖c1+-] 48.♖h7+ ♖g7 49.♖h1!



Once again and for the last time White uses h1 as a pivotal point in his maneuvers, this time eyeing the Queen side. 49...♔e6 50.♖c1 ♖g8 [50...♔f6 51.a4 bxa4 52.♖g5+ ♔f7 53.bxa4+-] 51.♖g5 ♔d5 [51...♖f7 52.♖xg6+ ♖xg6 53.♖xg6+ ♔f5 54.♖d6+-] 52.♖f6 ♖e6 53.♖xe6+ [53.♖xe6+ ♔xc6 54.♖xg6 e4 55.♔b1 e3 56.♔c2 ♔d4+ 57.♔d3 e2 58.♔d2+-] 1-0

Cute little story with a happy ending, right? Not exactly, my friends, as the story continues! A few days later after playing the apparent novelty 13.cxb3, I paid my regular visit to the Chess Club Potaissa Turda for the weekly training sessions. I noticed with pleasure that our sponsor just brought to the club new books on the Dragon, purchased from Germany: Attila Schneider "Sicilian Dragon Classical and Levenfisch Variations" (1999 edition), Mikhail Golubev "Easy Guide to the Dragon" (1999), Eduard Gufeld & Oleg Stetsko "Ultimate Dragon" (2001). Following is their opinions on the 9... e5 line:

A. Schneider: 9... e5 10. ♔de2 (10. ♔b3 a5 11. ♔b5 ♔e6 12.O-O-O ♔xb3 13.axb3 ♔d4! 14. ♔xd4 exd4 15. ♖xd4 ♔xg4 16. ♖xd6 ♖g5+ 17. ♖d2 ♔h6! 18. ♖xg5 ♔xg5 19. ♔b1 ♔f2 20. ♖d5 ♔xh1 21. ♖xg5 ♖ad8 22. ♔d5 h6! with

advantage for Black. Personally, it is not clear to me what Black would do in the event of 23. ♖g2 followed by ♖d2, ♔f1-g2.) 10... ♔e6 11.O-O-O ♖a5 12. ♔b1 b5 13. ♔g3 ♔d4!? 14. ♔xd4 b4! 15.3 exd4 16. ♔ce2 d5 with chances for both sides.

M. Golubev: 9... e5!? 10. ♔b3 a5 11. ♔b5! ♔e6 12.O-O-O ♔xb3 13.axb3 (13.cxb3!? ♔d4 14. ♖g2 ... Feldmus-Rinikis, corr.1987. This little commentary nullifies my apparent novelty, clearly played for the first time 14 years ago. My first thought was "OK, if it's not 13.cxb3 then it should be 14.g5" but with novelties you never know!) 13... ♔d4 14. ♔xd4 exd4 15. ♖xd4! ♔xg4 16. ♖xd6 ♖g5+ 17. ♖d2 ♔h6!? (17... ♖h4 18. ♖df1! ± Akopian-Smirin, 1988) 18. ♖xg5 ♔xg5 19. ♔b1 ♔f2 20. ♖d5 ♔xh1 21. ♖xg5 ♖ad8 (21... ♔f2 22. ♔d5 ♖ad8 23.h4! ... Shirov; 21...f5 22.e5 ♔f2 23. ♔d5 ♖fd8 Tezic-Gojkovic,1990) 22. ♔d5 h6! A.Schneider; 22... f5 23.exf5! ± Akopian & Dementiev.

Here I would like to point out the great diplomacy shown by GM Golubev when in the above analysis, the clear verdict ± by Akopian & Dementiev was mentioned, but the dubious ± one by Schneider was left out.

E. Gufeld & O. Stetsko: They are pretty much in agreement with Tiviakov's monograph.

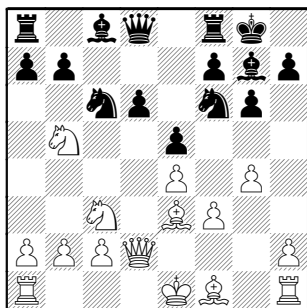
Before assembling this article together, I managed to gather relevant games from a few databases. This enabled me to offer you a better look at the most important games played with this line as a bonus.

10. ♔db5 variant [B76]

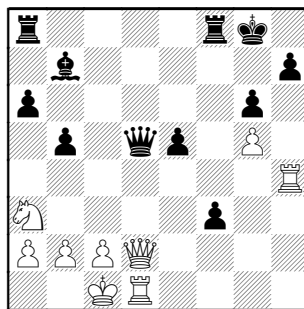
[Ceteras]

1.e4 e5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 g6 6.♔e3 ♔g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♖d2 ♔c6 9.g4 e5

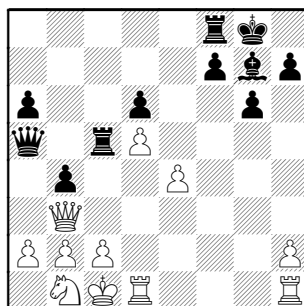
10. ♖db5



10...a6 11. ♖a3 [11. ♖xd6 ♖d4 12. ♖xd4 exd4 13. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 (13...dxc3 14. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 15. ♖b6 cxb2 16. ♖b1 ♖ab8 17. ♖c4 ♖d6 18. ♖d5) 14. ♖c2 ♖b6 15. ♖b1 ♖d7 16. ♖f4 (16. ♖g3 ♖e5 17. ♖e2 ♖fd8 18. ♖f1 d3 19. ♖xd3 ♖c4 20. ♖e2 ♖e3+ 21. ♖e1 ♖xc2+ 22. ♖xc2 ♖b4+ 23. ♖f1 ♖d2 24. ♖b3 ♖xe2 25. ♖xe2 ♖d2 26. ♖e1 ♖xb2 27. ♖d1 a5 28. ♖gl a4 29. ♖xa4 ♖xa2 30. ♖b5 ♖b3 0-1 Rydeman-Ljungberg, R corr 1988) 16...♖h6 17. h4 ♖xf4 18. ♖xf4 ♖xc2 19. ♖d3 ♖b4+ 20. ♖f1 ♖xb2 21. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 22. ♖c7 ♖a1+ 23. ♖g2 ♖xa2+ 24. ♖h3 ♖e6 25. ♖b1 h5 26. ♖xb7 hxc4+ 27. fxc4 ♖e5 28. ♖e2 ♖c8 29. ♖b8 ♖xb8 30. ♖xb8+ ♖g7 31. ♖b2 d3 32. ♖d1 ♖f6 33. ♖d4 ♖xc4 0-1 Savereide, D-Chiburidanidze, M 1980] 11...b5 [11...♖d4 12. ♖g2 (12. ♖xd4 exd4 13. ♖e2) 12...♖e8 (12...b5 13. ♖d5 (13. ♖c2 d5 14. g5 (14. ♖xd4 exd4 15. g5) 14...♖h5 15. ♖xd4 exd4 16. ♖xd4? (16. ♖f2 ♖b7!↑) 16...♖xd4 17. ♖xd4 ♖f4 (17...♖xc5!?) 18. ♖f1 dxc4 19. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 20. fxc4 ♖b7 21. ♖gl ♖d4 22. ♖f2 ♖ad8 0-1 Scherfe, F-Zaniratti, corr 1988) 13...♖xd5 14. exd5 ♖xf3+! 15. ♖xf3 e4 16. 0-0 exf3 17. h3 f5 18. ♖g5 ♖d7 19. ♖f4 fxc4 20. hxc4 ♖e5 21. ♖xc5 dxc5 22. ♖h4 ♖b7 23. g5 ♖xd5!



0-1 Zanetti, A-Starace, U corr 1984) 13. g5 ♖h5 14. ♖d5 ♖e6 15. 0-0 ♖xd5 16. exd5 b5 17. c3 ♖f5 18. ♖f1 ♖ 1/2-1/2 Gutierrez, J-Mendoza, 1988] 12. ♖d5 ♖xd5 13. exd5 e4 14. 0-0 ♖e5 15. fxe4 ♖xc4 16. ♖e2 b4 17. ♖b1 ♖c8 18. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 [18...♖c4!? 19. ♖xb4 ♖a5 20. c3 ♖xb4 21. cxb4 ♖xb2+ 22. ♖c2 ♖xc3+ 23. ♖xb2 ♖xc4+ 19. ♖e2 ♖xc3 20. ♖xc3 ♖a5 21. ♖b3 ♖c5

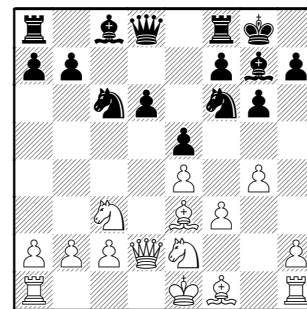


22. ♖d3? [22. ♖de1 ♖fc8 23. ♖c2+ 22...♖fc8 23. ♖f1 ♖xc2+ 24. ♖xc2 ♖xc2+ 25. ♖xc2 ♖xa2 0-1 Magem Badals, J-Romero Holmes, A 1987

10. ♖de2 variant [B76]

[Ceteras]

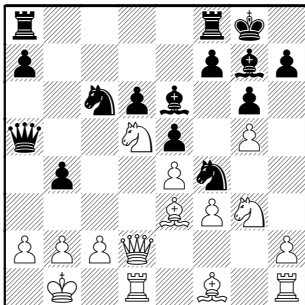
1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 g6 6. ♖e3 ♖g7 7. f3 0-0 8. ♖d2 ♖c6 9. g4 e5 10. ♖de2



10...♖e6 [10...d5?! 11. exd5 ♖d4 12. ♖xd4 exd4 13. ♖xd4 ♖e8+ 14. ♖c2 ♖xd5 15. ♖xc7 ♖h4+ 16. ♖d1 ♖c3+ 17. ♖c1 ♖xc7 18. ♖d4+ Moshopoulos-Alain, 1985] 11. 0-0 ♖a5 12. ♖b1 [12. a3!? ♖fd8 (12...♖fc8 13. g5 ♖h5 14. ♖d5 ♖d8 15. ♖b1 b5 16. ♖g3 ♖xc3 17. hxc3 ♖xd5 18. exd5 ♖d4 19. ♖xd4 exd4 20. ♖d3 ♖ab8 21. f4 h6 22. gxc6 ♖f6 23. g4 ♖b6 24. g5 ♖h8 25. f3 b4 26. axb4 ♖e5 27. fxg6 fxg6 28. b5 ♖c5 29. ♖e2 a6 30. ♖e4 ♖xb5 31. ♖xc6+ ♖h8 32. ♖h7# 1-0 Ehrke, A-Romero Holmes, 1988) 13. g5 ♖h5 14. ♖d5 ♖xd2+ 15. ♖xd2 ♖xd5 16. ♖xd5 ♖c7 17. ♖d1 d5 18. ♖h3 ♖f8 19. ♖hg1 b6 20. ♖gf1 ♖g7 21. ♖d2 ♖e6 22. exd5 ♖d4 23. ♖xd4 exd4 24. ♖b4 a5 25. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 26. ♖xd4 ♖xc5+ 27. f4 ♖c7 28. f5 ♖d6 29. ♖d2 ♖c8 30. ♖d1 ♖c3 31. ♖g4 ♖d8 32. c3 ♖c5 33. h3 ♖c3 34. ♖e1 ♖g3 35. ♖f1 ♖c3 36. fxc6 hxc6 37. ♖f3 1/2-1/2 Stripunsky, A-Milu, R 1994]

12...b5 13. g5 [13. ♖d5 b4 14. ♖c1 ♖ac8 15. ♖b3 ♖a4 16. ♖c4 ♖xd5 17. ♖xd5 ♖d4 18. ♖xd4 exd4 19. ♖xd4 ♖xc4 20. ♖d2 ♖e5 21. ♖e2 ♖c7 22. f4 ♖d7 23. h4 ♖fc8 24. ♖d2 ♖b6 25. h5 ♖d7 26. hxc6 hxc6 27. ♖d3 ♖c7 28. e5 ♖xd5 29. ♖xd5 dxc5 30. f5 gxf5 31. ♖g1 ♖c6 32. ♖a5 ♖c4 33. ♖xa7 ♖g4 34. ♖gd1 ♖f6 35. ♖a5 ♖gc4 36. ♖d6 ♖g5 37. ♖d5 ♖c7 38. ♖d7 ♖f6 39. ♖xc7 0-1 Marcet Bisbale, A-Martin Gonzalez, A 1994; 13. ♖g3 ♖d4 14. ♖xd4 b4 15. b3 exd4

16.♖ce2 d5 17.e5 ♖d7 18.♖xd4
 ♖xc5 19.♙c2 ♖ac8 20.♖gf5 ♙xf5
 21.gxf5 ♖c3 22.♗f4 ♗b6 23.h4 h6
 24.♖hg1 ♗f6 25.♙b5 ♖xf3 26.♖g4
 ♖xd4 27.♗xd4 ♗xf5 28.♙d3 ♖xd3
 0-1 Toth,A–Farago,S 1998]
13...♖h5 [13...b4 14.gxf6 bxc3
 15.♖xc3 ♙xf6 16.♖d5 ♙d8
 17.♗xa5 ♙xa5 18.♙h6±] **14.♖d5**
b4 15.♖c1 [15.♖g3 ♖f4!∞

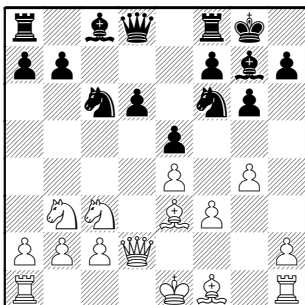


15...♖fb8 16.♖b3 ♗d8 17.♙a6
 ♖a5 18.♗d3 ♙f8 19.♖d2 ♖b7
 20.♖xb4 ♖c5 21.♖xc5 ♖xb4
 22.♖xe6 fxe6 23.♙c4 ♗c8 24.♙b3
 a5 25.c3 ♖b7 26.♗c4 ♖f7
 27.♗xc8 ♖xc8 28.♖c1 ♖f4 29.♙d1
 ♙e7 30.h4 h6 31.a3 hgx5 32.hgx5
 ♖d8 33.b4 d5 34.♙xf4 exf4 1-0
 Schenk,A–Nieuwenhuis,P 1997

10. ♖b3 variant [B76]

[Ceteras]

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 g6 6.♙c3 ♙g7
 7.f3 0-0 8.♗d2 ♖c6 9.g4 e5
 10.♖b3



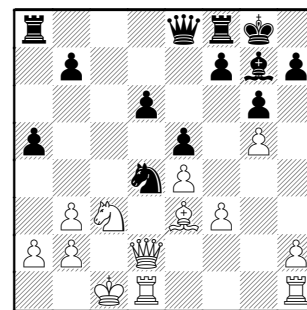
10...♙a5 [10...♙c6 11.0-0-0 ♖c8

12.h4 f5 13.gxf5 gxf5 14.♙h3 ♗e7
 15.♙g5 ♗f7 16.h5 ♖h8 17.h6 ♙f6
 18.♙xf6+ ♗xf6 19.♖b1 ♙xb3
 20.axb3 ♖d4 21.♖d5 ♗f7 22.♗c3
 f4 23.♗f2 ♖c6 24.♗h4 ♖f6
 25.♖c3 ♖d4 26.♗f2 ♗e7 27.♙f1
 ♖g8 28.♖b5 ♖xb5 29.♙xb5 a6
 30.♙c4 ♖g3 31.♖hg1 b5 32.♙d5
 ♖xd5 33.♖xd5 1-0 Lacasa Diaz,J–
 Mateu Palau,X 1996] **11.♙b5**
 [11.0-0-0 a4 12.♖a1 ♖d4 13.♙xd4
 exd4 14.♖b5 a3 15.♖xa3 ♙xg4
 16.♙c2 ♙c6 17.♖b3 ♖d7 18.♖b1
 ♗b6 19.♖b5 ♖a4 20.a3 ♖fa8 21.f4
 ♖c5 22.f5 ♖xc4 23.♗c1 ♙xf5
 24.♙d3 d5 25.h4 ♙d7 26.♙xc4
 dxc4 27.♖5xd4 ♙xd4 28.h5 ♙f5
 29.♗d2 e3 30.♗c1 0-1 De
 Jong,T–Van der Tuuk,J 1986;
 11.a4 ♗e7 12.h4 h5 13.g5 ♖c8
 14.♖d5 ♗d7 15.♙h3 ♗d8 16.♙b6
 1-0 Walter,G–Heinrich corr 1985]

11...♙e6 12.0-0-0 ♙xb3 13.cxb3
 [13.axb3 ♖d4 14.♙xd4 exd4
 15.♖c2 (15.♗xd4 ♖xg4 16.♗xd6
 ♗g5+ (16...♗h4 17.♖hg1 ♖e5
 18.♖df1 ♖fd8 19.♗c5 ♗f4+
 20.♖b1 ♖xf3 21.♖xf3 ♗xf3
 22.♖f1 ♗h3 23.♗c7 f6 24.♖d5
 ♖f8 25.♗xb7 ♖ab8 26.♗c6 ♖h8
 27.♖f4 ♗c8 28.♖f3 ♖d8 29.♖h3
 ♗g4 30.♗c7 ♖bc8 31.♗f7 ♗xf4
 32.♗xg6 h6 33.♖g3 ♖c7 34.♙c4
 ♗e5 35.c3 f5 36.exf5 ♗f6 37.♗h5
 ♖c5 38.♙d3 ♖xc3 39.bxc3 ♗xc3
 40.f6 ♗xb3+ 41.♖c1 0-1
 Pulkkinen,K–Pirttimaki,T 1994)

17.♗d2 ♗h4 18.♖df1 ♖fd8 19.♗c2
 ♙h6+ 20.f4 ♖f6 21.♖b1 ♙xf4
 22.e5 ♖h5 23.e6 fxe6 24.♗xe6+
 ♖h8 25.♖d5 ♗g5 26.♖xf4 ♖xf4
 27.♗b6 ♖h5 28.♖f7 ♖f8 29.♗d4+
 ♖f6 30.h4 ♗f5 31.♙d3 ♗c6
 32.♙c4 ♗c6 33.♖c1 ♖xf7 34.♙xf7
 ♖f8 35.♖e7 b5 36.c4 bxc4 37.bxc4
 ♗f3 38.c5 ♗f5+ 39.♖a1 ♗f1+
 40.♖a2 ♗f5 41.♙c4 ♗f3 42.♖c6
 ♗g4 43.♖c3 ♗xh4 44.c6 ♖g7
 45.c7 ♗g4 46.♖c1 1-0
 Akopian,V–Smirin,I 1988)
 15...♖d7 16.♖b1 a4 17.bxa4 ♖c5
 18.♗b4 ♗b6 19.b3 d3 20.cxd3
 ♖a6 21.♗d2 ♖c7 22.d4 ♖xb5
 23.axb5 ♖a3 24.♗b4 ♖fa8 25.♖c3
 ♙xd4 26.♖a4 ♖8xa4 27.bxa4 ♙c5
 28.♗b2 ♗a5 29.♖d4 ♖xf3 30.♖c4

b6 31.♖d1 ♗a8 32.♗c2 ♗f8 33.g5
 ♗e7 34.h4 ½-½ Short,N–
 Karlsson,L 1983; 13.♙xc6 bxc6
 14.cxb3 ♖c8 15.h4 f5 16.h5 f4
 17.♙f2 g5 18.♖b1 ♖f7 19.♖a4
 ♖b7 20.♖c1 ♗c7 21.♖c2 c5 22.♖d1
 ♗f7 23.♗d5 ♗xd5 24.♖xd5 ♙f6
 25.♖d3 ♖f7 26.♖c4 ♙e7 27.♖c3
 ♖c7 28.♖d5 ♖xd5 ½-½
 Huberty,M–Berezin,O 1997]
13...♖d4 14.g5 [14.♙xd4 exd4
 15.♗xd4 ♖xg4 16.♗xd6 ♗g5+
 17.♗d2 ♙h6 18.f4 ♗c5 19.♗d4
 ♙xf4+ 20.♖b1 ♗xd4 21.♖xd4
 ♖fd8 22.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 23.♖d5 ♙e5
 24.h4 h5 25.♖f1 ♖g7 26.♙c4 ♙g3
 27.♖b6 ♖c5 28.♙d5 f6 29.♖h1 f5
 30.♖c4 fxe4 31.♙xe4 ♖d4
 32.♙xb7 ♖xc4 33.bxc4 ♖xc4
 34.♖c1 ♖xh4 35.♖c5 ♙c1 36.♖c5
 ♖b4 37.♙g2 ♙c3 1/2-1/2
 Etmans,M–Van Gaalen,B 1986]
14...♖e8 15.♙xe8 ♗xe8



Recognize this position? **16.♙xd4**
 exd4 17.♖d5 a4 18.♗b4 d3
 19.♖xd3 a3 20.♖f6+ ♙xf6
 21.gxf6 ♗e5 22.♗d4 ♗g5+
 23.♖b1 ♖fc8 24.♖hd1 ♗g2
 25.bxa3 ♖c2 26.♖3d2 ♖xd2
 27.♖xd2 ♗xf3 28.♗xd6 ♗xe4+
 29.♖b2 h5 30.a4 ♗f3 31.♗e7 ♖c8
 32.♖a3 ♗h1 33.♖b4 ♗c6
 34.♖d8+ ♖xd8 35.♗xd8+ ♖h7
 36.♗d4 g5 37.♗d3+ ½-½
 Bobras,P–Kislov,M 1996

I would like to offer you another
 cc game played by another
 Romanian player Iulian Nicula
 (White) who faced Giancarlo

Marcotulli (ITA) too. I would like to thank Iulian for providing his annotated game for the present article.

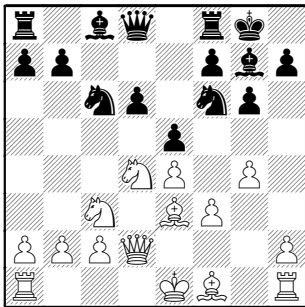
Necula,I – Marcotulli,G

[B76]

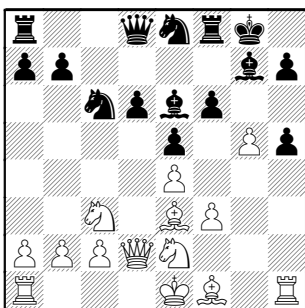
IECC, 2001

[Necula]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7
7.f3 ♗c6 8.♖d2 0-0 9.g4 e5

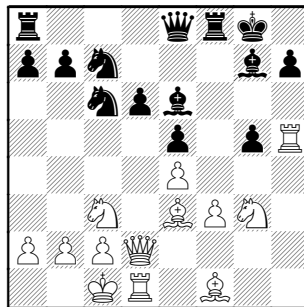


The idea of this move would be to enable ♗e6. Unfortunately, it weakens d6, d5 and blocks the ♗g7. 10.♗de2 Also possible are 10.♗db5, 10.♗xc6 or 10.♗b3. I chose the text with the idea of using this Knight in a future attack on the King side. 10...♗e6 11.g5 ♗e8 12.h4 f6?! [12...f5 13.gxf6 (13.♗h3!? ♖a5 14.h5 ♗c8 (14...♗b8) 15.hxg6 hxg6) 13...♗xf6 14.0-0-0 ♗xh4] 13.h5 gxf5?

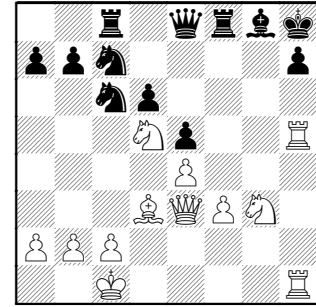


Helping White's attack where opening the h-file plays a big role.

Better is 13...fxg5 followed by 14.hxg6 h6. Also possible is 13...f5 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.♗h3 ♗d4 [13...fxg5 14.hxg6 h6; 13...f5 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.♗h3 ♗d4? (15...♖a5 16.exf5 (16.a3 ♗b8 17.0-0 b5 18.♗d5 b4) 16...gxf5 17.f4 (17.0-0-0 ♗xa2 18.♗xa2 ♖xa2 19.♗c3 ♖a1+ 20.♗b1 ♖a5 21.♗f1 ♖xd2+ 22.♗xd2 ♗f7 23.♗c3) 17...d5 18.fxe5 ♗xe5) 16.♗xd4 exd4 17.♗xd4 ♗xd4 18.♖xd4 ♖xg5 19.♗xf5! ♖g3+ 20.♗e2 ♖g2+ 21.♗c3 ♖g5+ 22.♗f2+-] 14.♗xh5 ♗c7?! Maybe 14...fxg5 is better, even if opening the g-file as well doesn't look very appealing. 15.0-0-0 ♖e8 Now 15...fxg5 is risky business! 16.♗g3 fxg5?!



Finally! Unfortunately, only White is pleased with the outcome. Probably 16...♖f7 is not enough either because of 17.gxf6 and it is open season at Black's castling position 17.♗xg5 ♗h8 18.♗d5 ♗c8 19.♗d3 ♗h6 20.♗h5 ♗xe3 21.♖xe3 ♗g8 22.♗dh1



Here Black prefers resignation to suffering. 1-0

Before I conclude the article, here are some pointers I would like to share with you:

1. There is no perfect theoretical article, regardless of how good it seems.
2. Careful double-checking of any analysis before use is recommended.
3. When you are done with this article, please don't forget to apply conclusions 1 and 2.

Your opinions and suggestions on this series "New Ideas In The Sicilian Dragon" are valuable to me! Please send your feedback to me via CCN.

P.S. It will not surprise me one bit that a reader (after taking the time to scrutinise this article) should send me an email with the following comments, "I found your 34.a3 ... novelty rather interesting. Up to that moment your material has been identical with my game from Japan's Championship, year 19XX..."

**From The Publisher's
Desk
By John C. Knudsen**

Welcome to FIDE IM-Elect Marius Ceteras, who joins the CCN staff as a columnist. Marius is a long-time contributor to CCN.

We have some exciting things coming up which you will not want to miss. Not the least of which are interviews and annotated games from three strong correspondence chess players – Russian Olympiad Member IM Valery Aleshnia, the IECG Champion Dr. Albrecht Fester, and World Championship Qualifier SIM John Timm.

As always, we appreciate your feedback! You can always submit a letter to the editor or sign our guestbook at the web site:

<http://ccn.correspondencechess.com/>

Won't you take a moment to do this? Our staff appreciates your feedback.

Sincerely,

John C. Knudsen
Publisher,
Correspondence Chess News