

(Day 5: 17:00-17:45 - Grivas)

Outpost - Open File - Semi-Open File

Open File

The creation of an open file and its occupation by a rook or even the queen is a strategic element very often encountered.

In the vast majority of games played there occurs an open file, which in most cases 'goes by unnoticed' or simply cannot be exploited by either player. There does exist a third viewpoint of course, which states that many players are at a loss when coming across this very common strategic element and fail to exploit it.

What is the use of an open file anyway? It is effectively a path via which the side that is better placed to do so can penetrate the opponent's camp. This invasion will create threats and interrupt the communication between the opponent's pieces.

Thus, the creation and occupation of an open file greatly increase our chances of achieving our overall aim of winning the game. But what are the specifics, the hidden details if you like, that define the thin line between success and failure? A possible description follows:

1) Selection of the (already or in the near future) open file and evaluation of its significance for furthering our plans.

2) Care so that the open file can be exploited by us and not our opponent. Otherwise our main priority should be to keep the file closed.

3) Transfer of our rooks to the file about to open in advance, so that we are ready to assume its control.

4) Possibility of instant transfer (or at least faster than the opponent) of our rooks on the file already or soon-to-be open.

5) Preservation of our control over the open file by doubling our rooks or avoiding their exchange for the enemy ones.

6) Exploitation of the open file by invading with our rook(s) into the enemy lines, particularly the 7th and 8th ranks.

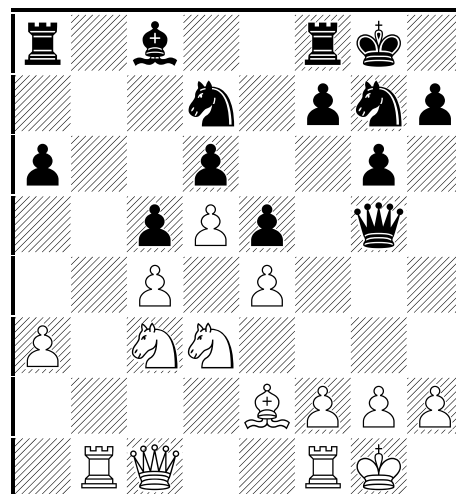
7) Cooperation of our rook(s) with our remaining pieces to enforce our aims.

The aforementioned essentially constitute the alphabet of the open file concept. Their application in practice is a difficult mission but can be taught; through time and experience there are a lot of benefits to be had.

□ Grivas, Efstratios

■ Hornung, Hans

A56 Munich 1987



With the queens off, Black will be unable to create activity on the kingside to counterbalance White's b-file play.

16...Qe7! 17.Rb2!

Preparing a possible doubling of the rooks on the b-file while, as will become clear in the future, the b2-rook performs some defensive duties as well.

17...f5 18.exf5

This was compulsory. Black was threatening ...f4 and ...g5, with good attacking chances.

18...Nxf5!

After 18...gxf5 19.f4! e4 20.Nf2, intending Ncd1-e3 and later g4!, White has the advantage.

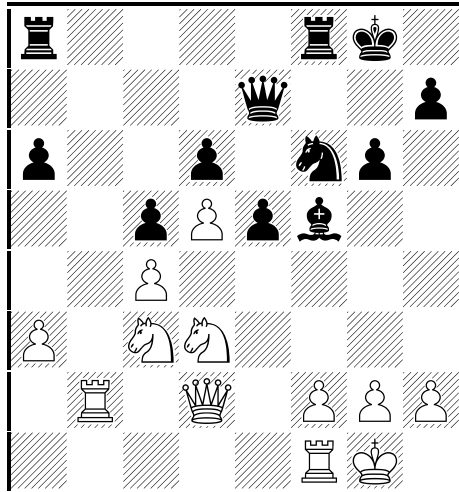
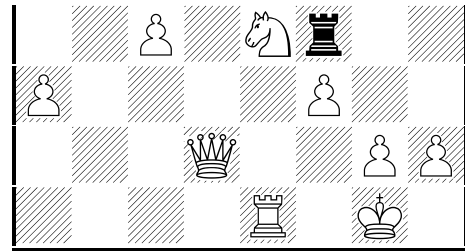
19.Bg4 Nf6!

19...Nd4?! 20.Ne4 Nf6 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6
 22.Bxc8 Raxc8 leads to an ending
 favourable for White. Black must be very
 careful in order to preserve the balance.

20.Bxf5 Bxf5

20...gxf5?! 21.f4 leaves White with some
 advantage.

21.Qd2 (D)



21...Rf7?

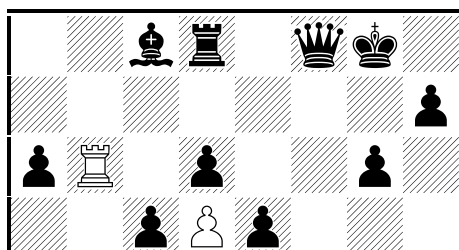
Black had made full use of White's opening
 inaccuracy and retained, up to this point, a
 dynamic position with chances for both
 sides. Now, however, it was time to contest
 the b-file with 21...Rab8! 22.Rfb1 Qc7,
 maintaining the balance.

22.f3! Raf8 23.Nf2

Black's activity has been extinguished, while
 White is planning Re1 and Nfe4, exchanging
 down to a promising ending (due to
 possession of the open b-file).

23...Bc8 24.Nfe4 Nxe4 25.Nxe4 Rf4 26.Rb6
 White's rook has invaded the b-file. White's
 threats force the black pieces to defensive
 (and consequently passive) positions.

26...Rd8 27.Re1 Qf8 (D)



White controls the only open file and has
 already started pressurizing Black's
 weaknesses; thus, he has the initiative and
 the advantage. One standard plan here is the
 advance of the a-pawn to a5, where it will
 support the white rook and fix the weak
 black pawn on a6.

28.a4! Bf5

Black has no better options. The e4-knight is
 excellently placed and must be exchanged
 sooner or later.

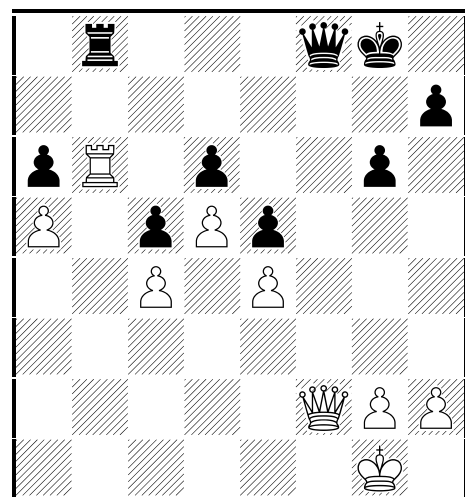
29.a5!

White should not hurry with 29.Rxa6? Bxe4
 30.Rxe4 Rxe4 31.fxe4 Rb8!, when he has
 won a pawn (which was doomed anyway)
 but allowed Black good counterplay.

29...Bxe4 30.Rxe4

Piece exchanges are in White's favour since
 they reduce Black's possibilities for
 counterplay while the weaknesses in Black's
 camp become more accessible.

30...Rxe4 31.fxe4 Ra8 32.Qe3 Rb8 33.Qf2!
 (D)



Black cannot exchange his passive rook; this
 allows White to increase his superiority by
 tactical means.

33...Qd8 34.Qb2! Ra8

After 34...Rxb6 35.axb6 White's b-pawn will promote: 35...a5 36.b7 Qb8 37.Qb6 a4 38.Qc6 a3 39.Qc8+.

35.g3 Qf6 36.Qe2! Qf8 37.Kg2 Qf6 38.Qf3 Qd8?!

Black should have tested White's technique in the rook ending by exchanging the queens, or tried 38...Qg5!?, when White would have to continue with 39.Qe2! Qf6 40.Qg4!.

39.Rb7! Qe8 40.Qf6 Rd8?

Black resigned before White could play 41.Qg7#. However, 40...Qf8 41.Qe6+ Kh8 42.Rf7 Qd8 43.Re7! Qf8 44.Qxd6 +/- is also easy for White.

1-0

Semi-Open File

A file is semi-open when one of the two sides does not have a pawn on it. This element is closely related to that of the open file, although the differences between them are anything but negligible.

The aims pursued by the exploitation of a semi-open file are multiple, the most important being:

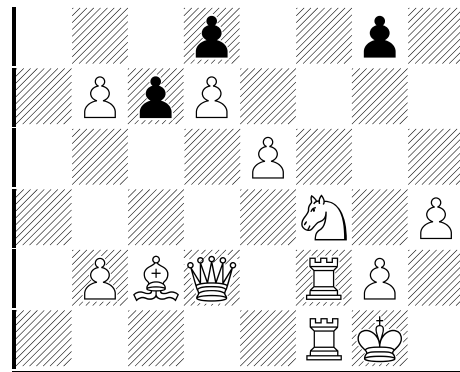
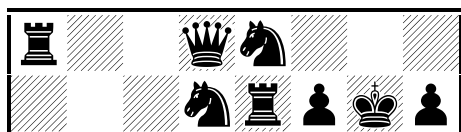
- 1) Application of pressure on the opponent's pawn on the semi-open file, when this pawn is backward.
- 2) Forcing the opponent's pieces to defend this pawn, when it is backward.
- 3) Development of the initiative through the semi-open file.
- 4) Transformation of the semi-open file to an open one, and exploitation of the open file.

The value of the semi-open file increases when there is a backward pawn on it, as well as outposts.

□ Arlandi,Ennio

■ Grivas,Efstratios

E90 Groningen Ech-jr 1986



21...Qa5?

Black gets carried away on the queenside, ignoring the looming dangers on the other flank. 21...Ra7! followed by 22...Ne5 had to be played, when Black would have excellent compensation for the pawn (control over the dark squares, outpost on e5) in an unclear position with chances for both sides.

22.Qf4! Ra7?

22...Qxb5? 23.Qh4 Ndf6 24.Ng5 was just as bad, but Black had to play 22...f6.

23.Ng5! Ndf6

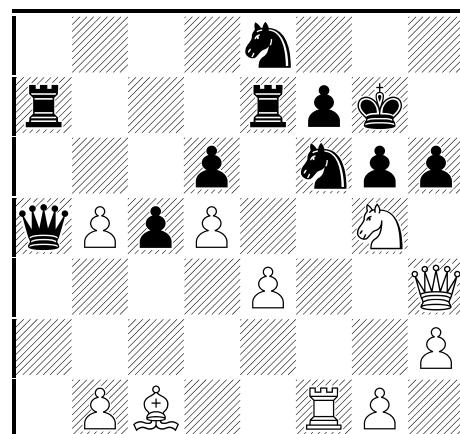
Forced (23...Ne5? 24.Ne6+! Kh8 25.Qh6! Nd7 26.e5!!).

24.Qh4

White's attack is becoming very dangerous, as now the combinational continuation 25.Rxf6! Nxf6 26.Rxf6 Kxf6 27.Ne6+ is threatened.

24...h6 (D)

24...Re5 also offers no salvation: 25.Rxf6! Nxf6 26.Ne6+ Rxe6 (26...fxe6 27.Qxf6+ Kh6 28.Qf8+ Kg5 [28...Rg7 29.Rf7] 29.h4+ Kxh4 30.Qf4+ Kh5 31.Bd1#) 27.dxe6 Qd8 28.exf7 Rxf7 29.g4!.





25.e5!

White's last piece joins the attack. He could of course also proceed with 25.Ne6+! fxe6 26.e5!! (but not 26.Rxf6? Nxf6 27.Qxf6+ Kh7 28.e5 Rg7 29.dxe6 Qd2!), but the game continuation is very strong too.

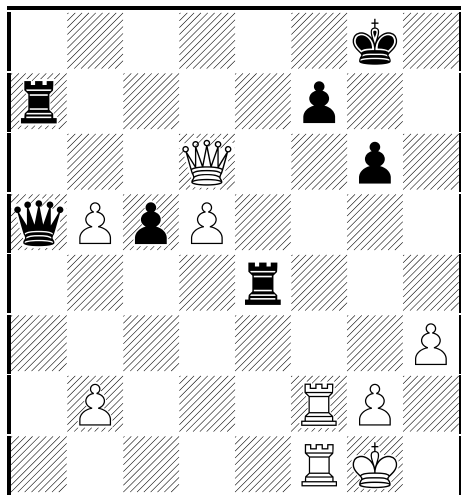
25...hxc5

Black cannot play any of the following lines: 25...Rxe5 26.Ne6+! fxe6 27.Rxf6; 25...dxe5 26.Ne6+!; 25...Nxd5 26.Nxf7! Rxf7 27.Qe4 Rxf2 28.Qxg6+; 25...Nh7 26.Nxh7 Kxh7 27.Qg4!; 25...Ng8 26.Ne6+! fxe6 (26...Kh8 27.exd6) 27.Qe4.

26.exf6+ Nxf6 27.Qxg5 Ne4?!

The passive 27...Ne8 should have been played, although White retains a very strong attack after 28.h4! intending h5.

28.Bxe4 Rxe4 29.Qf6+ Kg8 30.Qxd6 (D)



30...Qc7

No defence was offered by 30...Qxb5 31.Rxf7! Rxf7 32.Qxg6+ Rg7 33.Qxe4.

31.Qc6 Qxc6 32.dxc6 Rb4 33.Rxf7!

The last strike, and it comes via the semi-open f-file! The white c-pawn reaches the promotion square.

33...Rxf7 34.Rxf7

1-0

Forepost

The strategic element of the forepost is directly related to those of the open file and the outpost.

From this one can deduce the actual definition of the term (which is here being introduced into English-language chess literature), i.e. an outpost on an open file, on which we can place a minor piece.

But what is the use of the forepost? Why is it so important?

With the use of the forepost we achieve the blocking of a file that we are not immediately able to control. Behind the forepost we can double our rooks or manoeuvre them with complete freedom. At an appropriate moment the forepost can be removed, allowing our rooks to spring into action. If necessary, the file can be blocked again in the same way.

The piece occupying the forepost may simultaneously be able to create threats, so that the opponent is unable to fulfil all defensive requirements of his position and allow the invasion of our rooks.

In general, the combination of an open file, a forepost and an outpost is a significant strategic advantage in itself and may easily suffice for victory.

In certain rare cases the forepost may be used on diagonals that need to be blocked, utilizing the same mechanism.

□ **Grivas, Efstratios**

■ **Genov, Petar**

E15 Iraklion 1993

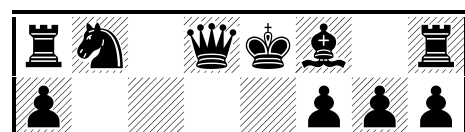
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qb3 c6?!

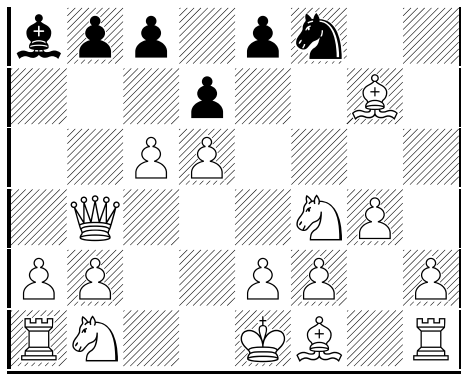
5...Nc6 remains the main line.

6.Bg5!

The automatic 6.Bg2 d5 would fully justify Black's last move. Since the h1-a8 diagonal will be blocked after ...d5, the white bishop will have no targets on g2.

6...d5 (D)





7.cxd5! cxd5

7...exd5?! 8.Bxf6! Qxf6 9.Nc3 Nd7 10.Bg2 followed by 0-0, Rfe1 and e4 promises a clear advantage to White.

8.e3! Bxf1 9.Kxf1 Be7 10.Kg2 Nc6!

The only continuation so as not to lose control of the c-file. After 10...Nbd7?! 11.Rc1 0-0 12.Nc3 a6 13.Na4 Black's problems would be insoluble.

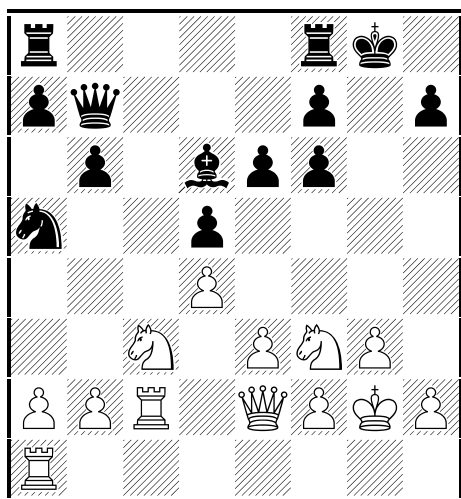
11.Rc1 Na5 12.Qb5+! Qd7 13.Qa6!

Threatening 14.Ne5!

13...Bd6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Nc3 Qb7 16.Qe2

The exchange of queens would significantly relieve Black (16.Qxb7? Nxb7 17.Nb5 Kd7!), who now faces a multitude of problems: not only must he cater for the c-file, but also for his kingside weaknesses.

16...0-0 17.Rc2! (D)



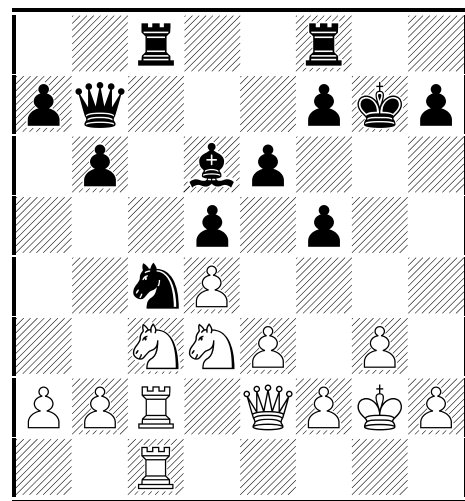
What we practically have here is a case of a forepost (the c3-knight) very close to the white camp. White will double rooks on the c-file and at the same time develop an initiative on the flank where the exposed FIDE Trainers' Course – Antalya 2009

black king resides. At the appropriate moment the forepost will be removed in such a way that Black will be unable to defend against all of White's threats. Simple plan, but the execution is difficult!

17...Rac8 18.Rac1 Kg7 19.Ne1!

A strong move, aiming at the transfer of the knight(s) to the f4-square; from there, in combination with the approach of the white queen (Qh5) they will be able to create direct threats against the black king.

19...f5 20.Nd3 Nc4?! (D)

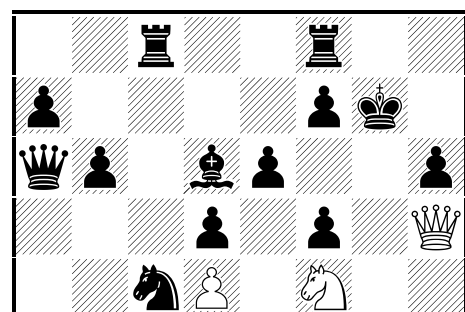


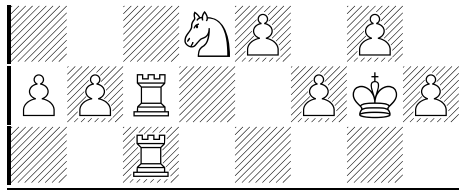
This appears strong, but in reality only serves to complicate Black's defensive task, as this knight works as a second forepost for White. Better is 20...Nc6 and ...Ne7, assigning the knight to the defence of the king.

21.Qh5 h6 22.Ne2! Qa6?

With the false impression of imminent material gain, thanks to the double threat 23...Qxa2 and 23...Nxe3+. The defensive 22...Qd7 was essential.

23.Nef4! (D)



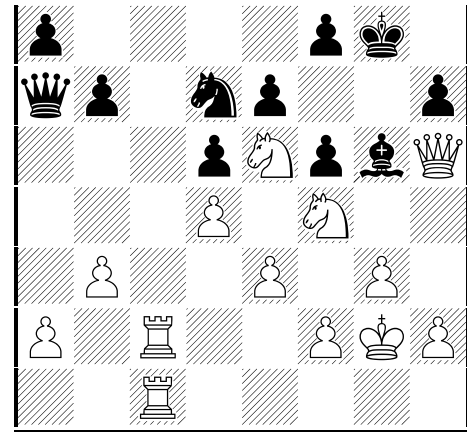


23...Be7

23...Qxa2 is no improvement: 24.Qh4! Rc7
 25.Nh5+ Kh7 26.Nf6+ Kg7 27.Nf4 Rfc8
 (27...Bxf4 28.gxf4 intending Rg1 and Kh3+)
 28.Kh1! Be7 29.g4!

24.b3 Nd6 25.Ne5! Bg5 (D)

This move loses in spectacular fashion, but anyway there was no salvation. Black could not free his position by 25...Rxc2 26.Rxc2 Rc8 in view of 27.Nxf7 Nxf7 (27...Rxc2 28.Qg6+ Kf8 29.Nxe6+ Ke8 30.Ne5+!) 28.Qg6+ Kf8 (28...Kh8 29.Rxc8+ Qxc8 30.Qxf7) 29.Nxe6+ Ke8 30.Rc7, winning for White.



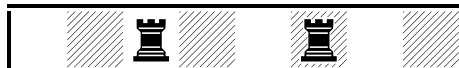
26.Nxe6+!!

White's great positional superiority creates the basic requirements for tactical combinations!

26...fxe6 27.Rc7+ Kh8 28.Qg6

Black cannot avoid checkmate.

1-0



(Day 5: 18:00-18:45 - Grivas)

Bishop vs Knight - Knight vs Bishop

Bishop against Knight

The strategic advantage of a good bishop against an inferior knight is determined by the pawn-structure. More specifically, the bishop is superior to the knight when no pawns exist in the centre but at the same time there are pawns on both flanks. It is also beneficial to the bishop if the opponent's pawns are placed on squares of the same colour as that on which it moves, since it can then attack them. Accordingly, it is preferable that fellow pawns are placed on squares of the opposite colour.

In some cases (exceptions) it is possible to demonstrate the superiority of the bishop also in positions with central pawns, provided that these pawns do not obstruct the bishop; i.e. that the bishop's own pawns are placed on squares of the opposite colour and the enemy pawns on squares of the same colour as the bishop.

The superiority of the bishop over the knight can be utilized in two main situations:

1) In the middlegame, the bishop can support an attack against the opponent's king or on any other part of the board.

2) In the endgame, the bishop - thanks to its ability to control a lot of squares from a distance - proves powerful, particularly when both sides have passed pawns. The bishop is also able to 'gain' (or 'lose') a tempo, i.e. to force the enemy knight into zugzwang; this aspect is decisive in most endgames.

In most positions that are favourable for the bishop, the possession of the prelate does not guarantee victory, but is a useful weapon in the fight for it.

□ Grivas,Efstratios

■ Khetsuriani,Besarion

E19 Athens 2003

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0

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Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 c5?!

Other lines for Black are 9...f5 and 9...d6, which I prefer to the one played, as in the game his position will be solid but he will be unable to develop any kind of initiative so as to 'disturb' White.

10.b3 Bf6 11.Bb2 cxd4

White retains the advantage after 11...Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nc6 13.e3! due to his bishop-pair and strong centre.

12.Nxd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Nc6 14.Qd3!

White must be careful; he would forego any advantage after the automatic 14.Qd2 Bxd4! 15.Bxd4 d5!.

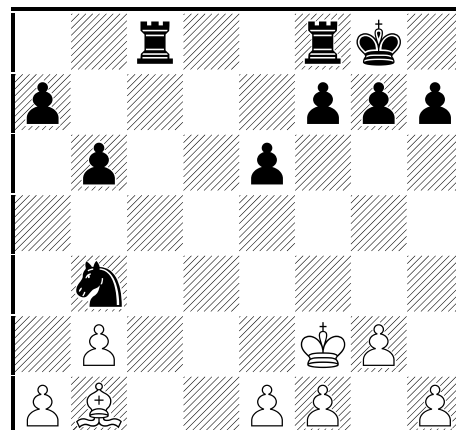
14...Bxd4 15.Bxd4 d5

This is an attempt to improve Black's play. 15...Nxd4 16.Qxd4 Qc7 17.Rfd1, gives White a slight but enduring edge, and should be compared with Grivas,E-Ionescu,C, Elista OL 1998 { @ A }.

16.Bb2! Rc8

Black's other options, 16...dxc4 17.Qxc4 and 16...d4 17.e3! dxe3 18.Qxe3, also lead to a pleasant position for White, as his bishop will eventually prove its superiority over the black knight due to the fact that there are pawns on both sides.

17.cxd5! Nb4 18.Qf3! Qxd5 19.Rfd1! Qxf3+ 20.Kxf3 (D)





White has gladly accepted the exchanges offered by Black, ending up in a pleasant endgame where he has four basic factors on which to build:

- 1) Better minor piece (bishop vs knight), taking the pawn-structure into account.
- 2) Better-placed king (centralized), in contrast to the enemy monarch who will have difficulties in occupying a satisfactory position, either active or passive.
- 3) Possibility of a white rook invading Black's camp.
- 4) Good prospects of further improving his position, while Black can only sit and wait.

20...Nd5!?

An interesting idea. Two other moves were unsatisfactory: 20...Rc2? 21.Ba3! a5 22.Bxb4 axb4 23.Rd4 with material gain, and 20...Rfd8 21.Rac1! Nxa2 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Ra1 Nb4 24.Rxa7 +/-.

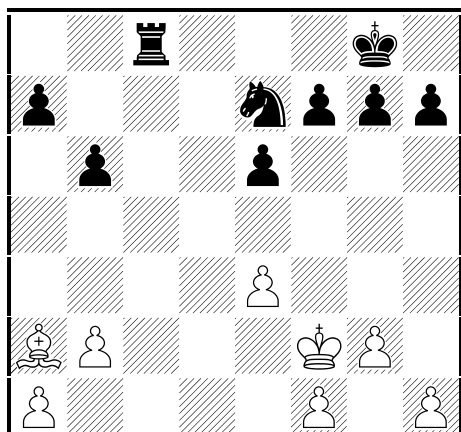
21.e4 Ne7 22.Ba3

22.Rd7 Nc6 23.Ke3 (23.Rc1?? Ne5+!) 23...Rfd8 is interesting and similar to the game.

22...Rfe8 23.Rac1!

The exchange of one pair of rooks will enable the white king to breathe more freely and will further highlight the weak points of Black's position, as the remaining black pieces will have to take on greater defensive duties. Naturally, 23.Rd7?! Nc6! 24.Ke3 Ne5! would only help Black.

23...Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rc8 25.Rd1! (D)

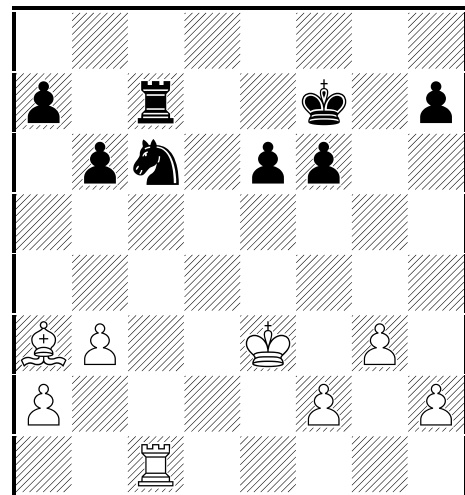


The exchange of rooks would now be in Black's favour, as then White would surrender one of his aforementioned advantages, the possibility of invading Black's lines with his rook.

25...Nc6 26.Ke3 Rc7 27.e5!

An apparently illogical move, placing the pawn on a square of the same colour as the bishop. However, this move essentially prevents the activation of the black king, who now cannot approach the centre unless Black decides to accept further pawn weaknesses. If Black waits passively then White will continue with f4, g4, Rd6, Ke4 and f5, gaining even more space and developing substantial pressure on Black's position.

27...f5 28.exf6 gxf6 29.Rc1 Kf7 (D)



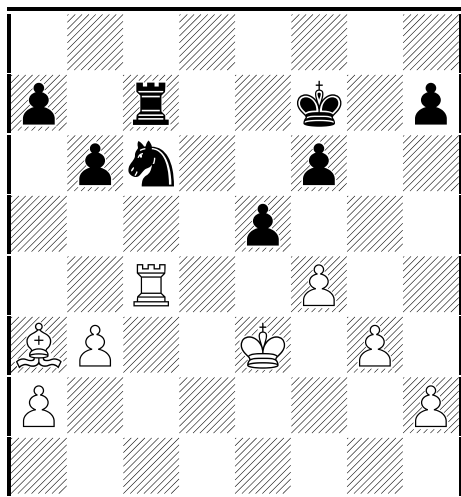
30.Rc4!

Now the white rook can swing to either side of the board. Working together with the strong bishop, it will create multiple problems for Black. The black king has improved its placement but Black's pawn-structure has deteriorated with the emergence of weak pawns.

30...e5?!

Black should have stayed passive, without exposing himself with pointless pawn moves that, although seemingly strong, actually create new targets.

31.f4! (D)

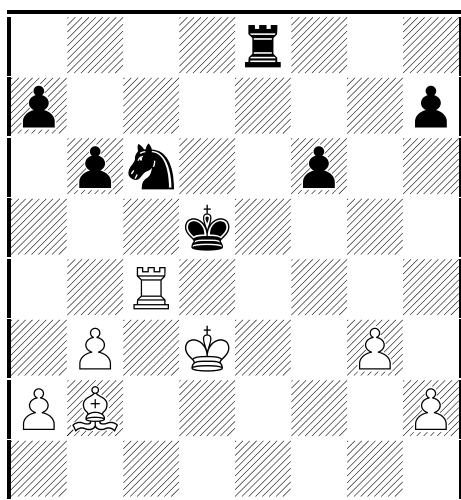


With the idea to isolate one more black pawn (apart from h7) on e5 or f6. Black wisely opts for the latter since if he were left with a pawn on e5 then all pawn endings would be lost, due to the possibility of White creating an outside passed pawn.

31...exf4+ 32.Kxf4 Ke6 33.Bb2 Rc8 34.Ba3 Rc7 35.Ke4 Rc8 36.Ke3

White has played some waiting moves to gain time and now prepares to increase the pressure with Rh4-h6 and Bb2. After the black pieces are tied to the protection of the kingside pawns, the white king will invade the queenside. A simple plan, but one that is very difficult for Black to oppose.

36...Kd5 37.Bb2 Re8+ 38.Kd3 (D)



38...Re6?

Black's position was difficult, but with this move he loses material. He should

objectively have preferred the passive 38...Rf8 39.Rh4 Rf7 40.a3 Ne5+ 41.Ke3 with advantage for White. It should be noted that Black cannot play 38...Ne5+? 39.Bxe5 Rxe5 (39...fxe5 40.Rc7 e4+ 41.Ke3) 40.Rc7 Rh5 41.h4 a5 42.Rb7 Kc6 43.Rf7 Rh6 44.Ke4, when White's superiority is more than obvious and Black's chances of survival minimal.

39.Rh4 a5 40.a3! Ne5+ 41.Bxe5 fxe5 42.Rxh7 Rf6 43.Ke3 Rc6 44.Rd7+!

The game is practically over as White has won material and is able to protect his position.

44...Ke6 45.Rd3 Kf5 46.h3 Rh6 47.g4+ Ke6 48.Ke4 Rf6 49.Rf3 1-0

Knight against Bishop

Just like the previous strategic element examined (bishop against knight), the concept of good knight against bad bishop is based upon the two sides' pawn-structures.

The presence of central pawns (especially when they are placed on the same colour squares as the bishop) generally favours the knight, as it decreases the scope of the bishop. When, moreover, the pawn-structure is relatively fixed and strong (weak) squares exist, the superiority of the knight increases, since the knight is a more suitable piece for the occupation of outposts.

The knight is a very flexible piece that can move to any square of the board, but the control it exerts is restricted to only a few squares at a time. Consequently, a closed centre or the presence of pawns on only one side of the board significantly favour the knight and make it preferable to the bishop, as the latter does have a greater radius of action but is confined to only half the squares of the chessboard. In view of the above we may define the superiority of the knight over the bishop as a consequence of the pawn-structure and especially when the centre is closed, when there is a fixed structure (on squares of the colour of the bishop) or when there are pawns only on one wing.

Although the knight's superiority usually becomes evident in the endgame, there are

many examples that display this superiority in the middlegame as well (always under the conditions mentioned above). The secret to determining which of the minor pieces is superior is the overall examination of the pawn-structure.

□ **Oney, Feridun**

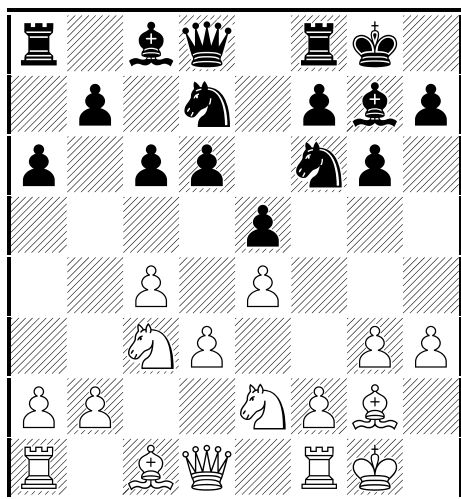
■ **Grivas, Efstratios**

A24 Athens 1984

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 e5 7.d3 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7

Black has also tried the immediate 8...a6 9.a4!? a5! 10.h3 Na6 11.f4 Nd7 12.Be3 Ndc5 with unclear play, Turner, M-Grivas, E Athens Ch-EU rpd 1997.

9.h3 a6 (D)



10.Be3

Another possibility is 10.a4!? Ne8 11.a5 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.d4 Qf6 14.Be3 Qf7 15.d5 c5 16.f4 e4 with a satisfactory position for Black, Koliopoulos, K-Grivas, E Athens 1992, but White can improve his play.

10...b5 11.Qd2 Bb7 12.Bg5?!

A pointless move. White should prefer 12.b4 or 12.f4 with an unclear position.

12...Nc5! 13.b4 Ne6 14.Bh6

This shows how pointless 12.Bg5 was, as White has now been compelled to waste a tempo.

14...Bxh6! 15.Qxh6 c5!

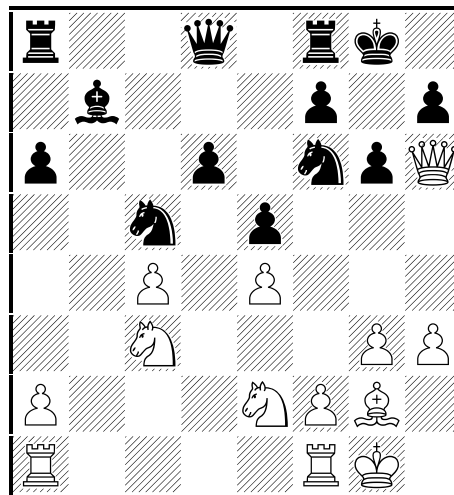
After Black has rid himself of his 'bad' bishop (with some help from White), he attacks the centre, where he hopes to assume the initiative by tactical means.

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16.bxc5

Both 16.cxb5 cxb4 17.bxa6 Bxa6 and 16.a3 cxb4 17.axb4 bxc4 18.dxc4 Rc8 would win a pawn for Black.

16...bxc4! 17.dxc4 Nxc5 (D)



Black has a more pleasant position as his pawn-structure is healthy; moreover, his pieces are better placed and have targets, while White's are still searching for prospects.

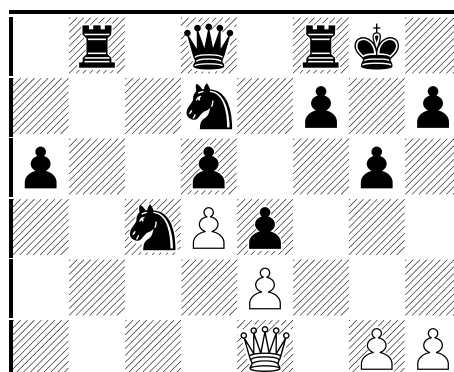
18.Qe3 Nfd7!

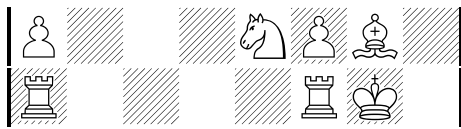
Threatening 19...Nb6!

19.Nd5?

This seems to solve White's defensive problems but in reality only leads him to a very difficult position, as the situation now stabilizes in favour of the black knights. The only move was 19.Nc1! (to defend with 19...Nb6 20.Qe2) intending 20.Nb3, exchanging one of the strong black steeds. Black retains a slight advantage but there is a long fight ahead.

19...Bxd5! 20.cxd5 Rb8 (D)





Black's superiority has increased because his knights are stronger than the miserable g2-bishop, while he can also develop a strong initiative on the queenside by transferring his major pieces to that flank.

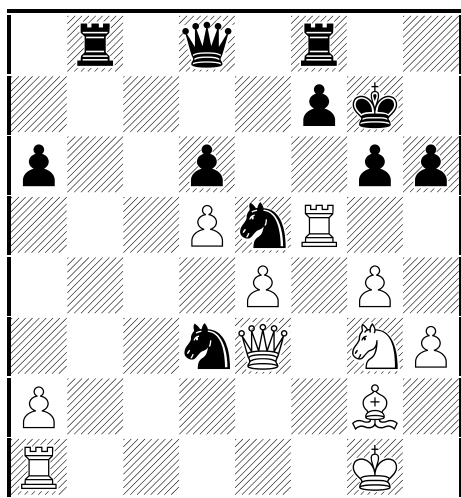
21.g4?!

A mistaken treatment of the position. White's counterplay should focus on two main ideas: getting rid of the g2-bishop or improving it (h4 and Bh3) and the development of an attack against the black king, on the opposite flank to which Black's forces will be deployed. The text-move weakens all the dark squares on White's kingside and reduces the effectiveness of the g2-bishop.

21...Kg7! 22.Ng3 h6

Black has taken preventive defensive measures and now threatens 23...Qg5!. The exchange of queens will stop White's offensive, ensuring Black a very favourable endgame. White, realizing his difficult positional predicament, decides to complicate even at the cost of further weakening his position.

23.f4 exf4 24.Rxf4 Ne5 25.Rf5! Ncd3! (D)



The black knights 'dance' on the chessboard, in contrast to the g2-bishop that watches events from a distance in dismay.

26.Kh2 Qb6!

The exchange of queens determines the outcome in Black's favour. White cannot avoid it (27.Qe2 Qb2!).

27.Qxb6 Rxb6 28.Rff1 Rb2

The superiority of the black knights, in conjunction with possession of the 2nd rank, secures Black the positional advantage required to win the game.

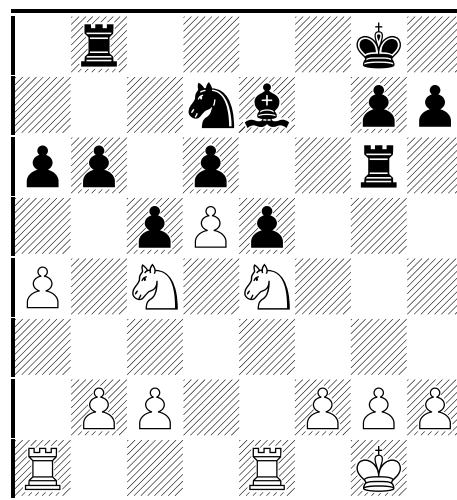
29.Kg1 Rc8 30.Bh1 Rcc2 31.Rfb1 Nf4 32.Rxb2 Nxh3+

0-1

□ Grivas,Efstratios

■ Vidarsson,Jon

A46 Reykjavik 1994



The white knights dominate the board, forestalling any active ideas Black may have.

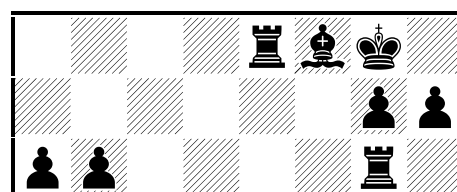
19...Bf8 20.b3 Nf6?!

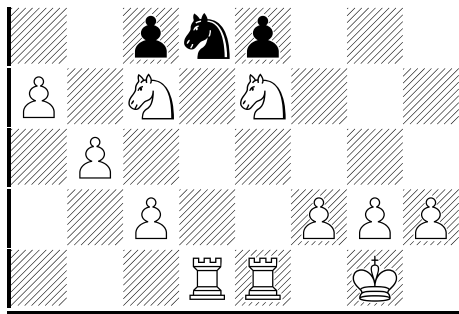
It is hard to suggest anything better than this move, by which Black tries to involve himself in the game, even at the cost of the deterioration of his pawn-structure.

21.Nxd6 Nxd5

Unfortunately for Black, he cannot get rid of his bad bishop as he loses a pawn after 21...Bxd6 22.Nxd6 Nxd5 23.Nc4.

22.Nc4 Re8 23.Rad1 (D)





White's superiority is undeniable and is mainly based on his superior minor piece. A significant role in White's advantage is played by Black's ugly pawn-structure and the passivity of his pieces.

23...Nf4 24.g3 b5 25.axb5 axb5 26.Ne3

The careless 26.Na3? would lose all of White's advantage after 26...c4! 27.Nxb5 cxb3 28.cxb3 Rb8.

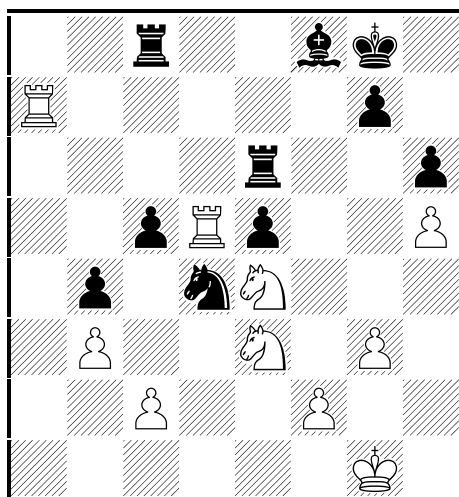
26...Ne6 27.Rd7 Nd4 28.Ra1!

White will increase his advantage as his rooks will occupy the 7th rank.

28...Rb6 29.Raa7 b4 30.h4!

Intending the further advance h5-h6, destroying Black's defence. The balance is now decisively tipping in White's favour as he is constantly improving his position while the black pieces have fallen into passivity.

30...Nb5 31.Ra5! Reb8 32.h5 h6 33.Nc4 Re6 34.Rd5 Nd4 35.Ne3 Rc8 36.Ra7! (D)



A small material gain with 36.Nxc5 does not figure in White's plans. His position is so good, that to give up one of his knights he must obtain something really big in return!

36...Nb5 37.Rb7 Nd4 38.Kg2 Ree8 39.Ng4

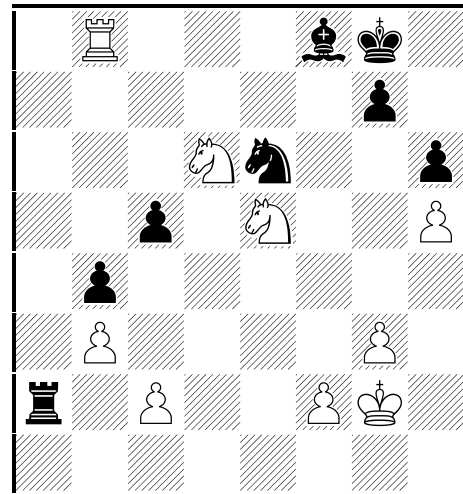
Re6 40.Ne3 Ree8 41.Rdd7 Red8 42.Ng4!

White wins material without surrendering any of his advantages.

42...Rxd7

42...Re8 43.Nef6+ gxf6 (or 43...Kh8 44.Nxh6!) 44.Nxf6+ Kh8 45.Rh7#.

43.Rxd7 Kh8 44.Nxe5 Kg8 45.Ng4 Rc6 46.Rd8 Ne6 47.Rb8 Ra6 48.Ne5 Ra2 49.Nd6! (D)



The start of a nice combination, highlighting the ineffectiveness of the black pieces that are unable to react.

49...Rxc2 50.Nf5! Re2 51.Ne7+ Kh7 52.N7g6! Rxe5

Pure desperation, but 52...Kg8 53.Nd7! or 52...Bd6 53.Rh8# is certainly no better!

53.Nxe5 Bd6 54.Rb6 Bxe5 55.Rxe6 Bd4 56.Rc6 Kg8 57.f4 Kf7 58.Kf3 Ke7 59.Ke4 Kd7 60.Kd5 Ke7 61.Rxc5

1-0

(Day 5: 19:00-19:45 - Mikhalchishin)

Most Important Tactical Elements

Grandmaster Richard Teichman used to say that in chess we have 95 per cent of tactics! Maybe it is a bit exaggerated, but tactics is everywhere -in openings, endgames, when we conduct plan, attack especially and even in defence. There are many good books on tactics, many exercises, classification of motifs and elements exists, but there is no totally correct system how to study tactics.

Very practical advice was given by great Smyslov.

SMYSLOVS CLASSIFICATION OF TACTICS.

1 Check. Yes, it is the most powerful accelerator in chess process.

2 Pin. Yes, effective and unpleasant weapon.

3 Double attack. Great David Bronstein said -CHESS IS THE GAME OF DOUBLE ATTACK.

4 Unprotected pieces, majority of tactical operations have idea not mate, but win of some material.

And adding different tactical elements and motive in one variation we obtain chess combination. simple, as that!

DESTROYING THE DEFENSIVE PIECE, DEFLECTION.

Different kinds of forms and sometimes badly conducted by the greatest. But even mistakes are instructive.

(1) Kozul, Zdenko (2612) - Nisipeanu, Liviu Dieter (2584) [E32]

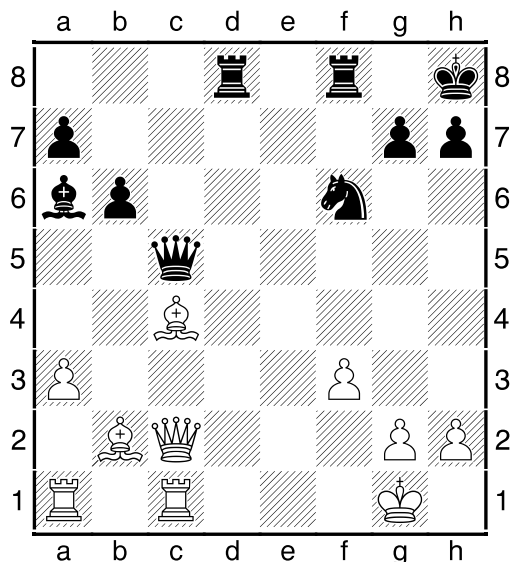
EU-chT (Men) 12th Batumi (5.1), 03.12.1999

[Golod, V]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.e3 Relatively rare move. [7.Bg5!? Is the main line, another possibilities

is: 7.♘f3!?!; 7.g3; 7.b4.] **7...Bb7 8.b3!?** Besides, white has several options: 8.b4!?!; 8.Nf3!?! and 8.f3 **8...d6** [Another alternative is: 8...d5!?! 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.Be2 dxc4 (10...Rc8!?! 11.0-0 c5= Nikitin, A) 11.bxc4 c5 12.0-0 Rc8 13.Bb2 cxd4 14.exd4 b5!?!= See comments to Karpov, A-Kasparov, G/ USSR(ch), 1988/Inf 46/752 (½-½)(Karpov, An) (30)] **9.Bb2** [In my opinion a little worse is: 9.f3 (Δ ♔d3, ♘e2) 9...c5 (9...Nbd7!?! 10.Bd3 e5 11.Bf5 Re8 12.Ne2 e4 13.f4 d5= Arlandi, E-Greenfeld, A/Haifa (EU-chT), 1989 (0-1)(31)) 10.dxc5 (≤10.Bb2 Qe7 11.Nh3 cxd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qh4 Nbd7 14.e4 Rfc8 15.Qf2 Nc5 16.Qe3 b5↑ Akhsharumova, A-Suba, M/Hastings, 1988 (½-½)(74)) 10...bxc5 11.Bd3 a5 12.Ne2 Nbd7 (Δ12...Nc6) 13.a4 Ne5 14.Bc2 Nc6 15.Bb2 Nb4 16.Rd1 Re8 17.0-0 d5= Seirawan, Y-Ehlvest, J/Rotterdam, 1989 (½-½)(24)] **9...Nbd7 10.f3N Δ ♔d3, ♘e2, 0-0** and so on. [10.Rd1 -was checked in the previous game of the Eu-chT Batumi, 1999 10...Ne4 11.Qc2 f5 12.Nh3 Qh4⇒ Kozul, Z-Kacheishvili, G (½-½)(71)] **10...c5** Is the best move. [Dubious: 10...e5 Δ11.d5 e4 12.Ne2 Δ13.♘d4 or ♘g3 with positional advantage of white.] **11.Bd3** [≤11.dxc5 bxc5 12.Rd1 Qb6 =/≠] **11...cxd4 12.exd4** [Much worse is: 12.Qxd4 d5↑] **12...Rc8** [Also good enough: 12...d5 13.Ne2 (Badly: 13.c5? in view of: 13...Rc8 Δ14.b4 e5! 15.dxe5 Nxe5↑) 13...Rc8 14.Qd2 -transfer to 12...♞c8] **13.Qd2** [Weakly right away: 13.Ne2 because of: 13...b5↑] **13...d5= 14.Ne2 dxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7** [In my opinion slightly better is: 15...Re8 Δe5] **16.0-0 e5 17.Bf5** [Worse is: 17.d5 because of:

17...Ba6 18.Rac1 Nc5 19.d6 (19.Bc2!?)
 19...Qc6 (19...Qxd6?? 20.Bxh7+)
 Δ20.Bxe5 Nb3 21.Qg5 Qc5+! 22.Kh1 h6
 23.Qf5 Nxc1 24.Rxc1 Rce8 25.Bxf6
 (25.f4?? Bc8+) 25...Qxf5 26.Bxf5 Rxe2
 27.Be7 Re8 (27...Rb8!?) 28.d7 R2xe7
 29.dxe8Q+ Rxe8 30.Kg1 Re5± ⊥;
 17.Rfe1!?) **17...Rcd8!?** [Loses right
 away: 17...Qxc4? 18.dxe5 Qd5 19.Rad1
 Rc7 (19...Rfd8 20.Qf4+-) 20.Qf4 Nh5
 (20...Qc5+ 21.Bd4+-) 21.Qg4+-; Also
 can be recommended: 17...exd4!?
 18.Bxd4 Rcd8 19.Rad1=] **18.Qc2 exd4**
19.Nxd4 [≤19.Bxd4 Rfe8 20.Rfd1 Ne5
 =/±] **19...Ne5 20.c5!** Differently, after:
 [20.Rac1?! Qc5 21.Qf2 Rfe8 black has a
 positional advantage.] **20...Ba6!** This
 move better than: [20...Qxc5 21.Qxc5
 bxc5 22.Nb3±; or 20...bxc5 21.Nb5 Qb8
 (21...Qb6? 22.Bxe5 Qxb5 23.Bxf6 gxf6
 24.Rab1±) 22.Rfe1± (22.Nxa7!?)
 22.Qxc5?? Rd5 23.Qb4 Nc6-+]
21.Rfc1 Nc4 22.Ne6! Beautiful tactical
 trick! [≤22.Bd3 Nxb2 23.Bxa6 bxc5!
 (23...Rxd4 24.Qxb2 Qe5 (24...bxc5??
 25.Qxd4+-) 25.Qe2 Qxe2 26.Bxe2=)
 24.Nb5 Qb6 25.Qxb2 Nd7!±] **22...fxe6** □
23.Bxe6+ Kh8 24.Bxc4 Qxc5+ Diagram



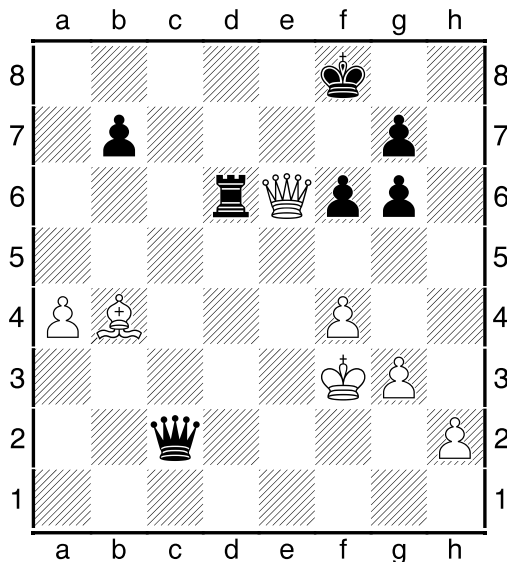
25.Kh1?? Gross tactical blunder. [It is
 necessary: 25.Qf2 Qxf2+ 26.Kxf2 Bxc4
 (26...Rd2+ 27.Kg1 □ (27.Kg3? Nh5+
 28.Kh4 Bxc4 29.Rxc4 Rxb2 30.Kxh5
 Rxc2-+)) 27...Bxc4 (≤27...Rxb2
 28.Bxa6=) 28.Bxf6 -transfer to
 26...♙xc4) 27.Bxf6 Rd2+ 28.Kg1

(28.Kg3 gxf6 29.Rxc4 b5↑) 28...gxf6
 29.Rxc4 Re8±] **25...Rc8??** Probably
 black blundered(as well as white),
 because he didn't see 26...♙d1+ (after
 25...♙xc4 26.♙xc4) or because of
 zeitnot. [Win right away: 25...Bxc4
 Δ26.Qxc4 (=26.Bxf6 gxf6 (26...Rxf6??
 27.Qxc4 Rd1+! 28.Rxd1 Qxc4 29.Rd8+
 Qg8 30.Rxc8+ Kxc8±) 27.Qxc4 Rd1+!)
 26...Rd1+! 27.Rxd1 Qxc4-+] **26.Bb3**
Qe3 [Senselessly: 26...Qb5 Δ27.Qd1
 Rcd8 28.Qc2 Rc8 29.Qd1= (29.Bc3!?)]
27.Bc3 [27.Qd1?? is refuted by:
 27...Rcd8 Δ28.Qc2 Rd2 29.Qc3 Qf2-+]
27...Bc4 [Dubious: 27...Rc5 Δ28...♙fc8
 in view of: 28.Qd2 ±/=] **28.Bxc4 Rxc4**
29.Qd2 Qxd2 Black transfers to equal
 endgame. **30.Bxd2 Rfc8 31.Kg1**
 Δ32.♙f2 and merely afterward: ♙xc4.
31...Kg8 32.Kf2 Kf7 33.Rxc4 Rxc4
34.Rc1 [≤34.Ke3 Nd5+ 35.Kd3 b5 =/±]
34...Rxc1 35.Bxc1 Ke6 [≤35...Nd5
 36.Ke2 b5 37.Kd3 Ke6 38.Kd4 with
 slight advantage of white.] **36.Bb2**
Ne8!? **37.Ke3 Kd5 38.g4** White's plan
 is: f4-f5, g5, ♙f4 and f6. **38...b5**
 [Perilously: 38...Kc4 Δ39.f4 Kb3?
 40.Bd4! Kxa3 41.f5 h6 42.h4 Kb4 43.g5
 hxg5 44.hxg5 Kc4 45.Bxg7!+- (45.f6?
 gxf6 46.gxf6 Nd6±)] **39.f4 g6**
 Δ40...♙d6(×f5) **40.f5 gxf5 41.gxf5 Nd6**
42.Kf4 Nc4 43.Bc1 □ **a5 44.Kg5 b4**
45.axb4 axb4 46.h4 [Also draw after:
 46.Kh6 Ke5 47.Kxh7 Kxf5 48.Kg7 b3
 (48...Ne5 49.h4 Kg4 50.Kf6 Nd3 51.Bd2
 b3 52.Bc3 Kxh4 53.Kf5=) 49.h4 Kg4
 50.Kf6 Kxh4 51.Ke6 Kg4 52.Kd5 Na5
 53.Kc5=] **46...b3 47.h5 Ke5** [=47...b2
 48.Bxb2 Nxb2 49.Kh6 Ke5 50.Kxh7 Kxf5
 51.h6 Nd3 52.Kg7 Ne5 53.h7 Ng6=]
48.Bf4+ Kd5 49.Bc1 Ke5 50.Bf4+
 [=50.Kh6 Nd6 (50...Kxf5 51.Kxh7 b2
 52.Bxb2 Nxb2 53.Kg7 Nd3 54.h6 Ne5
 55.h7 Ng6=) 51.Kxh7 Kf6 52.Kg8 Nxf5
 53.Bb2+ Kg5 54.Kf7 Kxh5 55.Ke6 Ne3
 56.Ke5 Nc4+ 57.Kd4 Nxb2 58.Kc3=]
50...Kd5 Despite the tactical mistakes
 the game very interesting. ½-½

(2) Borisek, Jure (2442) – Rozic, Vesna (2158) [C10]

9.HIT open 2004 A (1)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4
 Bd7 5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.0-0 Ngf6
 8.Ned2 Bxf3 9.Nxf3 Be7 10.b3 0-0
 11.Bb2 Re8 12.c4 c6 13.Qe2 Qc7
 14.Ne5 Rad8 15.f4 c5 16.dxc5 Bxc5+
 17.Kh1 Nf8 18.Rad1 Ng6 19.Bc3 Qe7
 20.Qe1 Qc7 21.b4 Be7 22.Qe2 a6
 23.a4 Bd6 24.Rde1 Qe7 25.Qb2 Nh5
 26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.c5 Bc7 28.g3 Rd5
 29.Nc4 Nf6 30.Be5 Red8 31.Kg1 Ne8
 32.Qg2 f6 33.Bb2 Qd7 34.Qe4 Kf7
 35.Kh1 a5 36.Ne3 Rd2 37.Nc4 Rd5
 38.Bc3 axb4 39.Bxb4 Qc6 40.Kg1
 R8d7 41.Nd6+ Nxd6 42.Qxe6+ Kf8
 43.cxd6 Bb6+ 44.Rf2 R7xd6 45.Kf1
 Bxf2 46.Kxf2 Rd2+ 47.Ke3 R2d3+
 48.Kf2 Rd2+ 49.Re2 Rxe2+ 50.Kxe2
 Qc2+ 51.Kf3 Diagram



51...Qc6+?? [51...Qc3+!!] 52.Kg4 1-0

(3) Borisek, Jure (2258) – Rozic, Vesna (2077) [C02]

SLO–chTB U18 Areh, 2001

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3
 Bd7 6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb5 8.0-0 Bxe2
 9.Qxe2 Nc6 10.Nc3 Rc8 11.Be3 Nge7
 12.g4 Ng6 13.Rad1 Be7 14.Kg2 h6
 15.Rh1 Nh4+ 16.Nxh4 Bxh4 17.f4 Be7
 18.Rhf1 Bb4 19.f5 Rf8 20.Nb1 Qd8
 21.a3 Be7 22.Qd3 Qd7 23.Nc3 Na5
 24.f6 gxf6 25.exf6 Bd6 26.Bxh6 Rh8

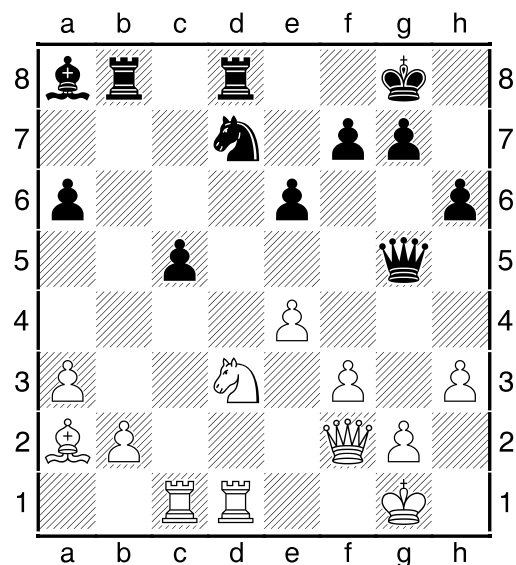
27.g5 Nc4 28.Rf2 Kd8 29.Kh1 Kc7
 30.Bg7 Rhd8 31.g6 Kb8 32.Re1 Re8
 33.Rfe2 a6 34.Nd1 Bc7 35.Ne3 Nd6
 36.Ng4 Nf5 37.Nh6 Nxh6 38.Bxh6 ffg6
 39.Qxg6 Bd6 40.f7 Red8 41.Qxe6 Qc6
 42.Rc1 Qb6 43.Rxc8+ Rxc8 44.f8Q 1-0

(4) Euwe, Max – Yates, Frederick [D64]

London BCF Congress London (12),
 1922

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7
 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Rc1 c6 8.Qc2
 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.0-0
 Rd8 12.Ne4 Nf8 13.a3 Bd7 14.Nc5 Be8
 15.e4 Nb6 16.Ba2 Rab8 17.Rfe1 Nbd7
 18.Nd3 Rbc8 19.Qa4 a6 20.Qb3 b6
 21.h3 c5 22.dxc5 Nxc5 23.Nxc5 bxc5
 24.Red1 Rb8 25.Qc2 Bc6 26.Ne5 Ba8
 27.f3 Qg5 28.Nd3 Nd7 29.Qf2 h6

Diagram



30.Nxc5?? In much better position
 young Euwe wants to win material
 30...Nxc5 31.Rxd8+ Rxd8 32.Qxc5
 Rd1+ 0-1

(Day 5: 20:00-20:45 - Mikhalchishin)

Principles of Opening Play Building a Repertoire

Opening preparation is the most important part of the preparation of the top player. But juniors either spent a lot of time on the opening.

The most important part of trainers understanding of opening preparation of juniors is knowledge of historical development of the opening theory.

1 at the beginning in middle ages players understood the importance of first two elements of openings

Development of the pieces and coordination of them on certain squares, first of all on f7. For these reason it was played simple Italian game.

2 Then they understood the role of the centre and started to play in Italian c3 and d4, trying to drive opponents pieces to passive positions.

3 Then players realized that to achieve 3 described goals is possible with the help of pawn sacrifice and gambits appeared.

4 next periods was the development of the central strategy and the end of 19 century and Spanish and Queens's gambit became the modern openings.

5 Appeared first player, who started deeply develop opening ideas and became father of Modern openings – Akiba Rubinstein.

6 Hyper modernism appeared. Reason was changing of the middle game strategy – centre is strong and powerful, but it is possible not to try to obtain strong centre, but to attack it! And such openings as Grunted defence, Ninzoindian and Alekhin defence appeared. And two of them are still the most important openings nowadays.

Every opening has its own tricks and trainers must warn juniors about them! Even top players are falling into them!

FIDE Trainers' Course – Antalya 2009

1) Vasiukov, Evgeni (2575) – Razuvaev, Yuri S (2490) [B06]

Rubinstein Memorial 10th Polanica Zdroj (4), 1972

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 c5 6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nh6 8.Qc1 1-0

There are even faster tragedies on GMs level, like next games. Reason is that angle check is very easy to overlook.

(2) Farago, Ivan (2515) – Blumberg, Vladislav (2360) [D11]

Budapest FS06 GM Budapest (4), 1994

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 c6 4.e3 Be6 5.Ng5 Qa5+ 0-1

4 Wrong tricky attitude by trainer. Some trainers recommends to their pupils to play for cheap tricks. It is not recommended.

17.11.2009

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nd4 4.Nxe5 Qg5 5.Nxf7 Qxg2 6.Rf1 Qxe4+ 7.Be2 Nf3# Line

Answer to question – what to do, when opponent of our pupil prepares refutation with the Help of Fritz.

First of all it is possible to find other ways as opening theory is so rich.

(3) [C56]

16.11.2009

[Mihalchishin, Adrian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 It is more positional move than that way of the pupil and it is necessary to find games of top

specialists in this line ,as Sveshnikov here and to follow their games. [5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qa5 (8...Qh5 9.Nxe4 Be6 10.Bg5 h6 (10...Bd6 11.Nxd6+ cxd6 12.Bf4 Qc5) 11.Bf6) 9.Nxe4 Be6 10.Neg5 0-0-0 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Rxe6 Qd5] 5...d5 [5...Ne4; 5...Ng4] 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 It is position with Whites exchanging on c6, then attacking Knight on e4.Black on the other side have its own chances with f7-f6 or c6-c5.

In Persia in satrange players started to play from some certain positions and in chess we have many important positions, like in Nimzoindian.

(4) TIBIA [E59]

17.11.2009

[Mihalcisin,Adrian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bd3 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qc7 Modern tabiyah.It is the position in which both sides have plenty of opportunities. But the evaluation of positions not changed –unclear. And every player can chose his own way, according to his knowledge and preferences. **11.Bb5** [11.Bd3; 11.Ba2; 11.Qc2; 11.Bb2; 11.a4] **Line**

Kasyanov's classification of the openings

1 Solid or sound openings.Spanish,Nimzoindian.

2 Semi correct openings–Kings Indian or Sicilian.

3 Dubious openings.Alehin defence or Dutch defence.

Geller's classification

1 Openings, which you can play well.

2 Openings which you'll play badly.

Bronstein on opening repertoire of the masters. Above 2200

FIDE Trainers' Course – Antalya 2009

1 Forced variations,like Sicilian
2 Tabiyahs, like Nimzoindian main line.
3Systems of common sense like Caro Cann.

Generally all players have in some way to repeat historical development of the openings.

Ere we have two important mistakes

1As GM Averbakh experienced–his first opening was Caro Cann and he explained that nothing worse can happen to young player. They have to study openings with the centre strategy.

2Trainers give to juniors own repertoire, even if it doesn't fill players style. There are clubs and even countries, where for example all players adopt French defence! It is allowed just when trainers gives to the player two openings and one of them own.

Two important remarks.

How to teach young players to play gambits ,as many can be scared to sacrifice a pawn? It is possible to give simuls or to play monthly one training tournament. When all players play gambit. And for both sides to understand not just attack, but defence either.

How to avoid that fact that Youngs are trying to play too complicated long lines, which they don't understand? Just to let them do it ,helping to understand plans. As juniors firstly have very good memory and want to use it. Secondly, they always have some favourite [players and want to copy their repertoire.

Every one–two year's player has to introduce new opening to his repertoire. Reason is simple -just in this case player studies to play new positions. There are few examples of two extremely talented players, who had very well prepared main opening weapon (Sveshnikov with his Sicilian and Vaganian with French) and did not like to study some new ways. They never achieved the level of

their talents.

How to check the affectivity of the repertoire of our player?

Statistical method.

We need minimum 5 games of our pupil in certain variations.

Second step is to divide them on results.

Then to make evaluation in each category of the opening result.

Then we can make analyse. If player

has bad result but stays better after opening—it means that he has to study plans in the middle game from top players, playing this line.

If player has bad results and bad position after opening—it means that he does not know opening theory here properly.