

(Day 7: 15:00-15:45 – Grivas)

The Exchange Sacrifice

The positional and tactical element of the exchange sacrifice (rook for bishop or knight) is a very important topic whose exploration requires advanced skills and competitive experience.

This is a difficult subject to master, as the chess-player is requested to overcome the dogmatic rules with which he has been brought up, in particular the quantitative evaluation of material. The correct implementation of the exchange sacrifice requires an open mind and a proper qualitative evaluation of the position.

In many cases the idea of sacrificing the exchange is born out of necessity, prompted by the opponent's threats (i.e. when there is no other acceptable way of meeting them). However, an exchange sacrifice of this kind (passive) does not guarantee positive results, while its failure to meet one's aims (which is quite common in this case) affects the player psychologically and causes him to refrain from such actions in the future.

In the opening and middlegame our pieces should be identified as units that, by cooperating harmoniously, shape our plans, that in turn are executed by means of moves. Each unit is an integral part of our position and we can determine our advantage or inferiority only by taking all units into account.

Naturally, it is not easy to identify which of our pieces (or even the opponent's pieces) carries out the most significant function. We have to take several strategic elements into consideration, such as the centre, open lines, initiative, attack, etc. When carrying out such evaluations the value of our rooks barely differs from that of our minor pieces, since an advantage is conferred by their fruitful cooperation and not their individual, predetermined, value.

If we accept that, as a rule, the superiority of the rook is realized in the endgame, we naturally come to the conclusion that an exchange sacrifice in the opening or middlegame may be acceptable for many reasons. Before we expand on these reasons, however, we must make an essential differentiation between two types of exchange sacrifices: the active exchange sacrifice and the passive exchange sacrifice.

The active exchange sacrifice is a rare occurrence and the goals pursued by it are:

- 1) To exploit our better development.
- 2) To destroy the opponent's pawn-structure.
- 3) To open lines in order to attack.
- 4) To assume the initiative.
- 5) To control important squares.

As explained above, the passive exchange sacrifice is much more common and may serve the following aims:

- 1) To repulse the opponent's attack.
- 2) To repulse the opponent's initiative (a more general interpretation of '1').
- 3) To destroy the coordination of the opponent's pieces.

As with all such advanced strategic and tactical elements, one factor of great significance is the perception of the right moment to carry them out. The ambitious chess-player must train himself to realize when a situation requires an exchange sacrifice, after properly evaluating the course of the game and the peculiarities specific to the position.

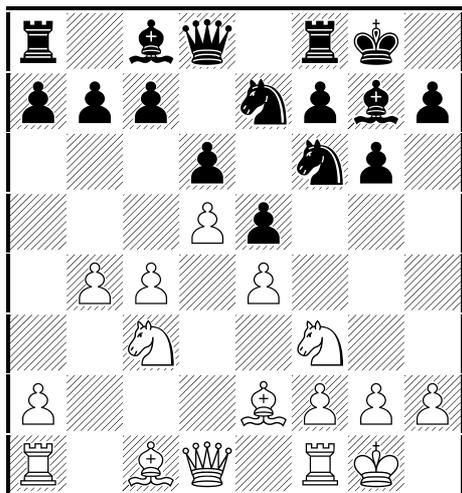
The following examples may offer some proper tuition for our subject, still though they represent only a very small portion of the concept of the exchange sacrifice.

□ **Malakhatko, Vadim**

■ **Grivas, Efstratios**

E97 Athens 2003

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3
0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 (D)



Probably the most popular system against the King's Indian in recent years. White immediately commences play on the queenside, where he stands better. On the other hand, Black has plans of his own, particularly on the kingside.

9...a5 10.Ba3

Black's results have been excellent after 10.bxa5?! c5!.

10...axb4 11.Bxb4 Nd7

Sharper lines arise after Black plays ...Nh5 on move 10 or 11.

12.a4 Bh6

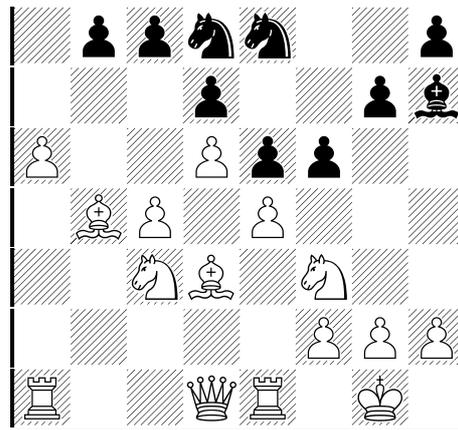
12...f5? 13.Ng5! would be a criminal mistake.

13.a5 f5 14.Bd3 Kh8

Another option is the immediate 14...Nf6 15.c5 (15.Bc2!? fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bf5 is unclear, Farago,I-Safranska,A Porto San Giorgio 2002) 15...fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bf5 18.Re1 Bxe4 19.Rxe4 Nf5 20.Qb3 b6?! (20...Qd7!) 21.cxb6 cxb6 22.a6 b5 23.Qc2! Qb6 24.Qc6 += Mueller,K-Monacel,J IECG e-mail 2001.

15.Re1 (D)

White has alternatives in 15.Nd2 (Jelen,I-Enjuto,V Bled OL 2002) and 15.Qb3 Nf6 16.c5 (Jelen,I-Gabacz,G Skofia Loka 2000).



15...Nf6

In Gustafsson,J-Larsen,K Amsterdam 2001, the inferior 15...Ng8 16.Nd2 Rf7 17.Na4 Ndf6 18.c5 was played.

16.c5 fxe4 17.cxd6

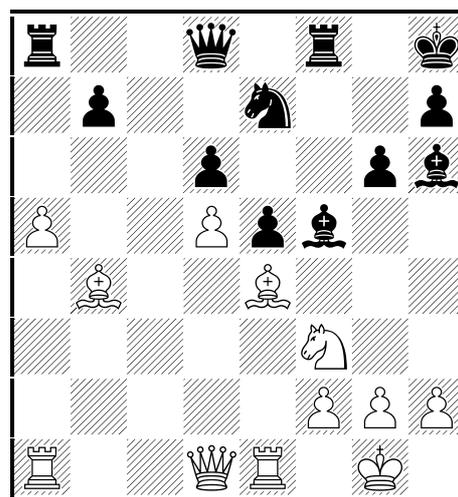
This was compulsory because if 17.Nxe4, then 17...Nexd5.

17...cxd6 18.Nxe4 Nxe4

White has a slight but permanent plus after 18...Nexd5 19.Bxd6 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 (20.Bxf8? Nec3!) 20...Qxd6 21.Qxd5 Qxd5 22.Bxd5 Rd8 23.Bc4.

19.Bxe4 Bf5 (D)

19...Nf5 20.Rb1! Qf6 21.Bc3 gave White the initiative in Zielinska,M-Blinke,D Brezeg Dolnyi 2000.



20.Qd3

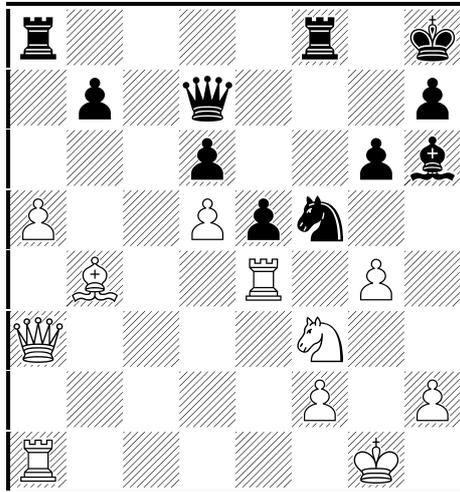
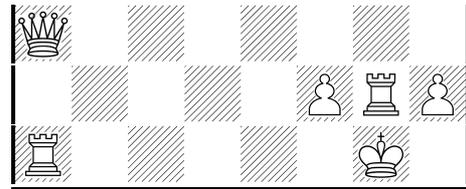
With threats like 21.Qb5 or 21.Qa3.

20...Qd7! 21.Qa3

White could try the alternative plan 21.Rab1 and Bc3, pressurizing the b7-pawn.

21...Bxe4 22.Rxe4 Nf5 23.g4 (D)

White meets the demands of this complicated position and accepts Black's intended exchange sacrifice. After 23.h3 Rf6!, intending ...Raf8 and ...Nd4, Black's kingside initiative becomes very dangerous.



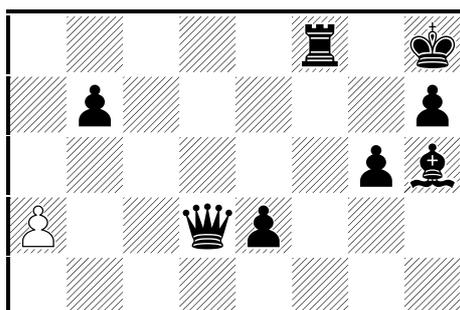
23...Ne3!! 24.Nxe5

White accepts the sacrifice, which is the correct decision on principle. Instead, White could opt for 24.fxe3 Rxf3 25.Bxd6 Bxe3+ 26.Rxe3 Rxe3 27.Qxe3 Qxd6 with chances for both sides. Naturally, it was bad to play 24.Rxe3? Bxe3 25.Qxe3 Qxg4+.

24...dxe5 25.Bxf8 Rxf8 26.Rxe3?!

After the logical sequence 26.fxe3 Qxd5 27.Qb4 (Black is better after 27.Qa4 Qd2! or 27.Ra4 Qf3!) 27...Qf7! (27...Qd3!? 28.Re1 Qc2 29.Rf1!) 28.Qb2 Qf3 29.Qg2 Bxe3+ 30.Kh1 Bd4 the position is approximately balanced. This would have been White's objectively best decision. However, White apparently underestimated the power of the h6-bishop.

26...Qxg4+ 27.Rg3 Qd4! 28.Rg2 Qxd5 (D)



Black now stands better thanks to his healthier pawn-structure, safer king and more active pieces. The h6-bishop can in no way be considered inferior to a white rook, as it has a greater sphere of action and several targets. Even if things don't work out well for Black and he has to acquiesce to several exchanges (queens, one pair of rooks and the queenside pawns) the resulting ending will be a draw. In view of all this White should have avoided this position, where there is danger lurking and his winning chances are almost non-existent, not to mention his severe time-trouble.

29.Rb1 Rf7!

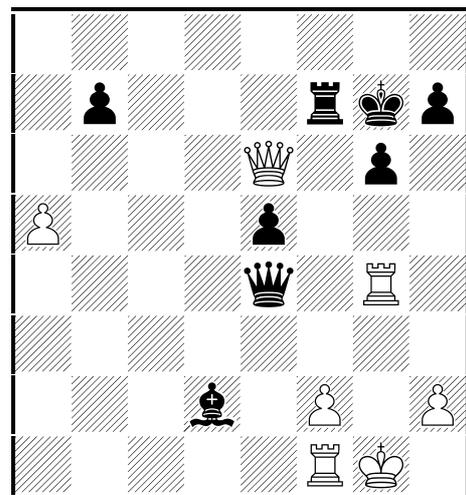
After 29...Ra8?! 30.Qb3! Qxb3 31.Rxb3 Rxa5 32.Rg4! b5 33.Rgb4 White would secure the draw.

30.Qb3 Qe4!

A queen exchange at any moment would relieve White. Instead, Black improves his position by making use of tactics.

31.Rf1 Kg7 32.Qe6! Bd2! 33.Rg4?! (D)

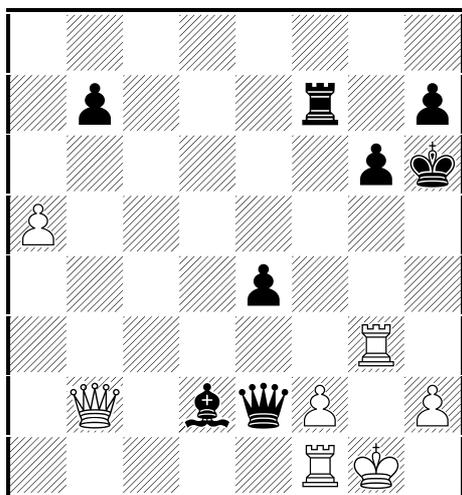
White should have preferred 33.a6! bxa6 34.Qxa6 Bc3 and ...Bd4, with a slight advantage for Black.



33...Qe2 34.Rg3 Bf4 35.Rg2 Bd2?!

After the better 35...Qb5!, intending ...Qa4 followed by ...Rd7-d1, White's defences would be stretched to the limit.

36.Qa2! e4 37.Qb2+ Kh6 38.Rg3! (D)



Black is now forced to exchange his rook with the 'bad' white rook on g3, and not the f1-rook which is vital for the defence of the first rank.

38...Rf3 39.Rxf3 exf3 40.Qxb7 Bxa5 41.Qb8!

The white queen returns to the defence in time, securing the draw. Black gave it one more shot due to White's time-pressure, but the position is very simplified and mistakes are difficult to come by.

41...Bd2 42.Qg3 Bc3 43.Rb1 Qe4! 44.Rd1 Be5 45.Qh3+ Kg5 46.Kh1 h5 47.Qe6! Kh4 48.Rc1! Qg4 49.Qxg4+ Kxg4

1/2-1/2

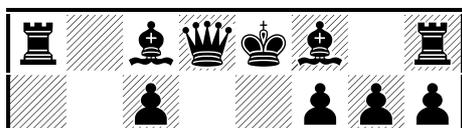
An interesting, 'extremely attractive' and rare concept is the double exchange sacrifice:

□ **Trindade,Sandro Heleno**

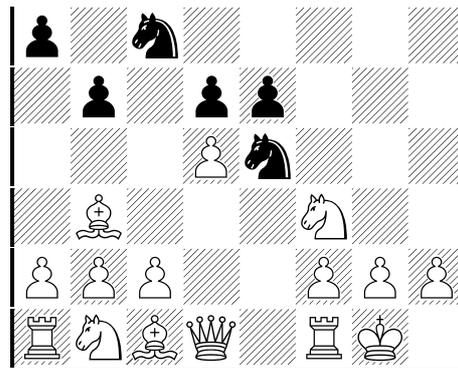
■ **Grivas,Efstratios**

C80 Belfort Wch-jr 1983

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 (D)



FIDE Trainers' Course – Antalya 2009



8.c4?

A bad move but with an effective surprising value. At those times I was not only got confused but I felt 'obliged' to beat my Brazilian opponent in any cost, in order to punish him for his 'ruthless'.

8...dxc4?!

Although the text-move cannot be strongly criticised, 8...Bg4! seems much stronger: 9.cxd5 (9.dxe5 dxc4 10.Qe2 Nc5 +/- [10...Qd3? 11.Qxd3 cxd3 12.Bd5 Nb4 13.Bxa8 Nc5 14.Na3 Be7 15.Bd2 a5 16.Bxb4 axb4 1-0 Caruso,A-Ruzzier,D/Padova 1998]) 9...Nxd4 10.Re1 f5 (10...Bxf3 11.gxf3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Nd6 13.Rxe5+ Be7 14.Qe2 [14.Nc3?! 0-0 15.Bf4 Bf6 16.Re2 Nf5 =+ Kavalek,L-Ratolistka,J/Kosice 1961] 14...Kf8 15.Nc3 oo as White finds compensation for his bad pawn-structure in his piece activity and better cooperation) 11.Nc3 Qf6! +/- . A common mistake that Black should avoid is 8...Be6? 9.cxd5 Bxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 c6 (11...Bxb3 12.Qxb3 += Blazkova,P-Slajs,V/Ceske Budejovice 1999) 12.Bc2 Bc5 13.Qe1 Qh4 14.Be3 = Vitolinsh,A-Sideif Sade,F/Beltsy 1979.

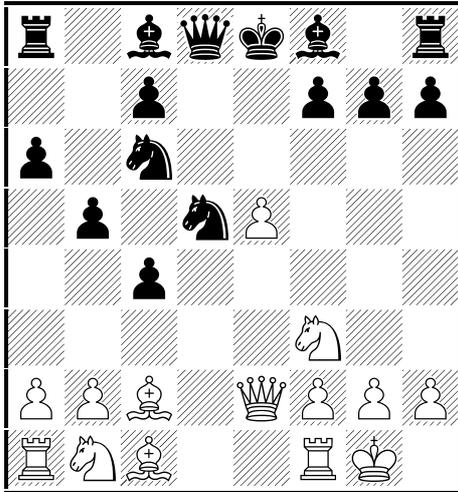
9.Qe2!

9.Bc2?! is not helping: 9...f5 10.dxe5 Qxd1 11.Bxd1 (11.Rxd1 Bc5 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Nb4 +/-) 11...Bb4 +/-.

9...Nf6!?

Black's main alternative is 9...Nd6 but this cannot give more than a draw: 10.dxe5 Nf5 11.Qe4 (11.Rd1? Nfd4 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Qe4 Bf5 14.Qxd4 Qxd4 15.Rxd4 cxb3 -/+ Kristjansson,B-Amado,C/Vrnjacka Banja 1963) 11...Bd7 12.Bc2 Nb4 13.Rd1 Nxc2 14.Rxd7 Qxd7 15.Qxa8+ Qd8 (15...Ke7?

16.Nc3 c6 17.Bg5+ +/-) 16.Qc6+ Qd7
 17.Qa8+ =.
10.dxe5 Nd5 11.Bc2 (D)



White has sacrificed a pawn but as compensation he has gained time for easy development, space advantage and safer king. Well, still Black has the pawn!

11...Bc5 12.Rd1 Nce7?

I think that Black should strongly consider to return the pawn with 12...Ncb4! 13.Be4 (13.Nc3 c6 14.Ne4 Nxc2 15.Bg5 Qc7 16.Qxc2 [16.Nd6+ Kf8 17.Qxc2 Bxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 -/+]) 16...Bf5 -/+) 13...c6 14.a3 Nd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Qxd3 Qb6 17.Qc2 where he is able to achieve a perfectly acceptable position.

13.Nc3 Be6 14.a4?

14.Ne4 Bb6 15.Neg5 Qd7 (15...h6? 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Nd4 Bxd4 18.Qh5+ Kd7 19.Rxd4 +/- Jakirlic,N-Wilkins,M/Penrith 2003) 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Ng5 Rf8 is not very clear but White could gain a significant advantage with 14.Ng5! Qd7 15.Nxe6 fxe6 (15...Qxe6 16.Qf3 Rd8 17.Ne4 +/-) 16.Qh5+ g6 17.Qh3 0-0 18.Ne4 Qc6 19.Bg5.

14...Qc8! 15.Nxd5

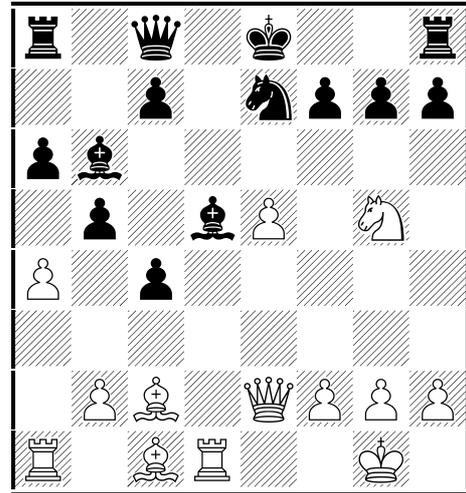
After 15.axb5 Nxc3 16.bxc3 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Ng5 Qc8 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 h6 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.Qe4 Qc6 23.Qh4 Qe6 Black equalises.

15...Bxd5

15...Nxd5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Ng5 Qc8 19.Qf3 c6 20.Qg3 seems unpleasant for Black.

16.Ng5 Bb6? (D)

Black misses his chance. He should have played 16...h6 17.Ne4 Bb4 18.Bd2 Bxd2 19.Qxd2 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Rb8 21.axb5 axb5 where he would be able to breathe freely. White still can pose some kind of initiative thanks to his better placed pieces, which fully compensate for his minus pawn.



17.Rxd5!

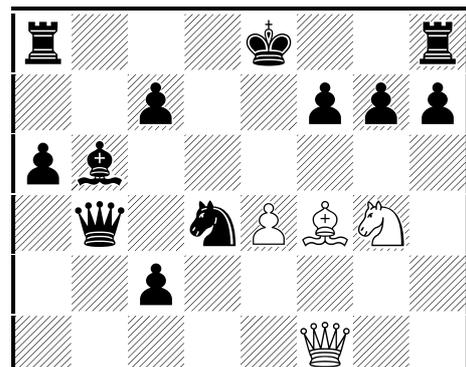
Although 17.Nxh7 is also strong, this positional sacrifice is an excellent one. Black's light squares become weak and White gains some important tempos to continue his attack on the black king.

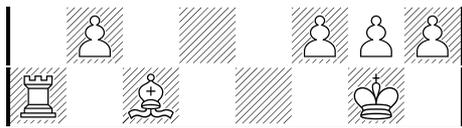
17...Nxd5 18.Qf3 Qd7 19.Bf5! Qc6

Judging by the outcome of the game, Black should have preferred 19...Qe7 20.Qxd5 Rd8 (20...0-0 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Bc2 +/-) 21.Qc6+ Kf8 22.Bf4 but this can be considered a slow but sure death.

20.axb5 Qxb5 (D)

20...axb5 21.Rxa8+ Qxa8 22.Be4 +/- is not an option either.





21.Nxf7!

The f7-pawn is of minor importance as of a material gain but the further light squares weaknesses that are created around the black king and it's presence in the centre are decisive factors.

21...Rf8

Unfortunately the black king cannot find a safe shelter: 21...0-0 (21...Kxf7 22.Bd7+) 22.Be6 Rae8 23.Bxd5 c6 24.Bxc6 Qb4 25.Qe4! Rxf7 26.Bxe8 Rxf2 27.Be3 Bxe3 28.Qxe3 simply finishes Black's survival chances.

22.e6 g6

22...h6 23.Ne5 Kd8 24.e7+! Kxe7 25.b3! (25.Ng6+ Kd6 26.Bf4+ Kc6 27.Be4 is also fine) is also a lost case for Black.

23.Bc2?!

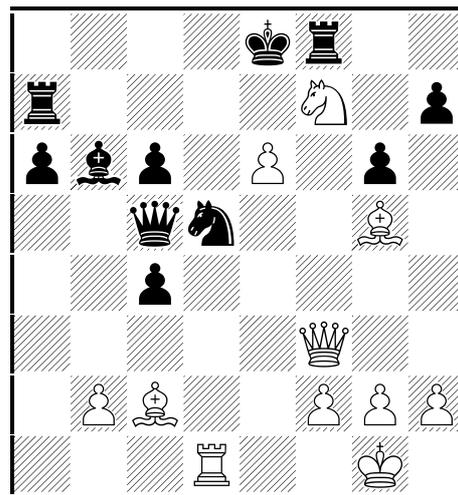
23.Be4! c6 24.Nd6+ Ke7 25.Nxb5 Rxf3 26.Bxf3 is a most simple win.

23...Qc5

Black had to take account of the 24.Ba4 threat.

24.Bg5 c6 25.Rd1 Ra7 (D)

Or 25...Rb8 26.Ba4 and Black has to resign. 26.Rxd5 Qxf2+ 27.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 28.Kxf2 cxd5 29.Ba4+ Rb5 30.Ke3 Rxf7 31.Bxb5+ axb5 32.exf7+ Kxf7 33.Kd4 Ke6 34.Bd2 +- is equally good.



26.Rxd5!

A second exchange sacrifice in the same square! But this time this sacrifice must be considered the introduction to a winning combination and not a positional one as it was the case on the 17th move.

26...Qxf2+

26...Raxf7 27.exf7+ Rxf7 28.Rxc5 Rxf3 29.Re5+; 26...cxd5 27.Ba4+.

27.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 28.Kh1! Bb6 29.Nd6#

I was so dizzy and in a heavy time-trouble, that I did not felt that this was possible. In those times when I had a quarrel with my girlfriend she was simply upset me by just shouting to me 'Trindade'!

1-0

(Day 7: 16:00-16:45 – Grivas)

The Positional Sacrifice

With the term 'positional sacrifice' we imply the surrender of material (usually ranging from a pawn to a minor piece) to the opponent, in exchange for various positional and tactical advantages.

These advantages are classified below (this list in no way claims to be conclusive):

- 1) Harmonious cooperation of our pieces.
- 2) Disorganization of the opponent's pieces.
- 3) Intrusion into the enemy camp.
- 4) Quick development.
- 5) Creation of weaknesses around the opponent's king.
- 6) Possession of the initiative.
- 7) Space advantage.
- 8) Other important strategic elements.

The positional sacrifice is an exceptionally deep and complicated element, where objective evaluation of the position and its characteristics is of primary importance.

Such sacrifices are usually long-term and the resulting positions are often far from clear. Short-term sacrifices generally have more specific tactical goals, and are termed combinations.

The side making the sacrifice will usually aim to extract from the position the maximum possible benefit, in accordance with the list of advantages above.

The side receiving the sacrifice generally switches to defence. In practice one often sees this side returning the material in order to regain the initiative or simplify into a favourable endgame (or a more simplified position in general).

Naturally, correct judgement and experience aid our decision-making process, but the element of greatest significance is the subconscious collection of 'images' from relevant examples.

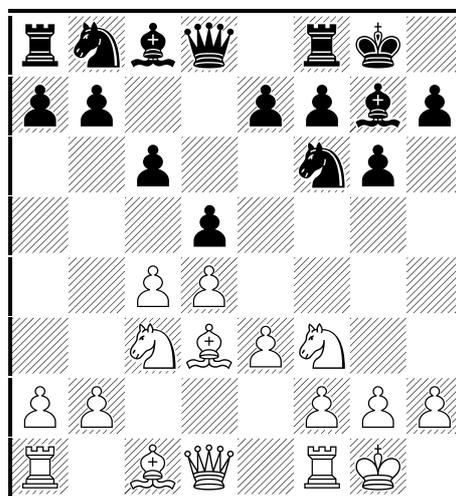
It is the duty of the chess-player to analyse such examples deeply and invest serious effort in understanding them.

□ Grivas, Efstratios

■ Radulov, Ivan

D94 Athens Acropolis 1991

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d4 Bg7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 (D)



7...Nbd7?!

An inferior continuation. Theory recommends 7...Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 e6.

8.h3

White has interesting alternatives in 8.b3 and even 8.cxd5!?. On the other hand, the immediate 8.e4?! dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 e5 leads to equality.

8...e6 9.b3 b6 10.a4!? a5 11.cxd5

White would also be slightly better after the alternative 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 Bb7 14.Bg5.

11...exd5

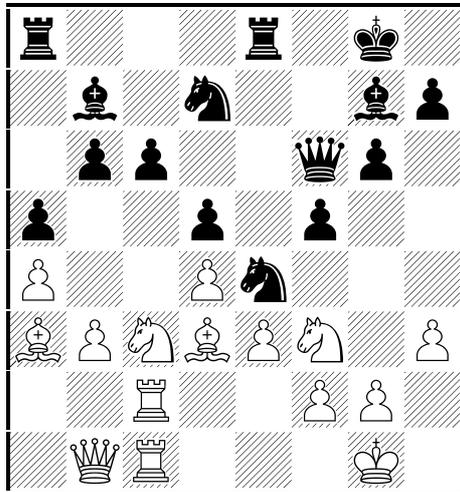
11...exd5? is a mistake: 12.Ba3 Re8 13.Nb5 and Black is suffering.

12.Ba3 Re8 13.Rc1 Bb7 14.Rc2 Ne4

Black is preparing play on the kingside with ...f5 and ...g5.

15.Qb1 f5 16.Rfc1 Qf6? (D)

A serious mistake. Black should have continued 16...g5, when after 17.Bf1 intending 18.Nxe4 White has just a slight advantage.



17.Nxd5!!

A positional sacrifice, justified by the following:

1. the harmonious cooperation and placement of White's pieces on the queenside and the c-file in particular;
2. the lack of coordination among the black pieces;
3. the possibility of invading the 7th rank with the rooks; and
4. the participation of all white pieces (Bb5 and Ne5 are coming up) in the battle.

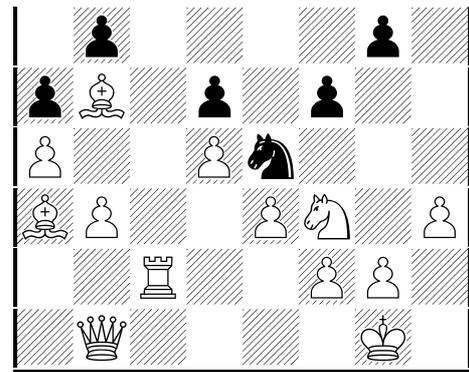
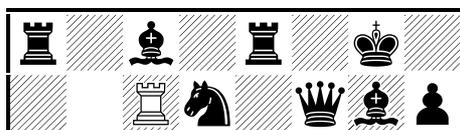
Naturally, White's initiative will prove pointless if no material gain can eventually be effected. Such sacrifices are usually based on chess intuition, which is developed slowly but steadily throughout years of study and competitive effort.

17...cxd5 18.Rc7! Bc8 19.Bb5! Qe6

19...Qf7 20.R1c2!

20.R1c6 Qf7 21.Rc2! (D)

Black would be left off the hook after 21.Qc2? Ba6!.



21...Bf8?!

Black's best option was 21...Rd8! 22.Qc1 (22.Qf1!? Rb8 23.Bc6 intending 24.Qb5) 22...Ba6 23.Rxd7! Rxd7 24.Bxa6, when White retains obvious compensation for the small material deficit (an exchange for a pawn). Of course, if 24...Rxa6?? loses to 25.Rc8+. Black's position is critical and it seems hard to suggest any decent alternative.

22.Bxf8 Kxf8 23.Qc1! Nd6 24.Bc6?!

24.Ne5! Nxb5 25.Nxf7 Nxc7 26.Nd6! is much better.

24...Rb8 25.Qa3 Qe7 26.Ne5 Rd8 27.Bxd5 Ne8

Or 27...Bb7 28.Bc6!.

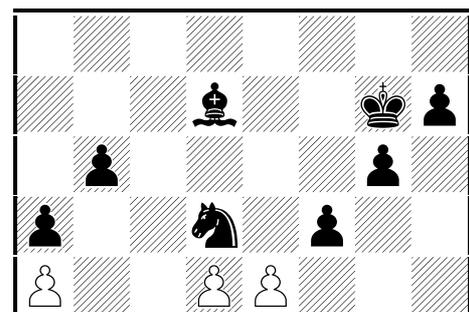
28.Qxe7+ Kxe7 29.Ra7 Kd6 30.Nf7+ Kxd5?!

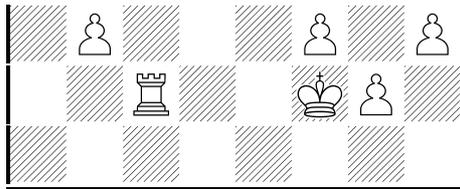
Both sides were in time-pressure, which helps to explain the multiple inaccuracies. Here Black should have opted for 30...Ke7 31.Nxd8 Kxd8, though White is still better.

31.Nxd8 Ndf6 32.Nc6 Rb7 33.Ne7+ Rxe7 34.Rxe7 Bd7 35.f3 Kd6 36.Rf7?!

36.Re5! was easy to find and would have concluded the game.

36...Ke6 37.Rf8 Ke7 38.Rh8 Kf7 39.Rb2 Kg7 40.Rxe8 Bxe8 41.Rc2 Nd5 42.Kf2 Bd7 43.e4! (D)





1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.e4
 A very interesting variation, in which White sacrifices material in the fight for the centre and the initiative.
5...b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 (D)

White has finally reached a winning position.

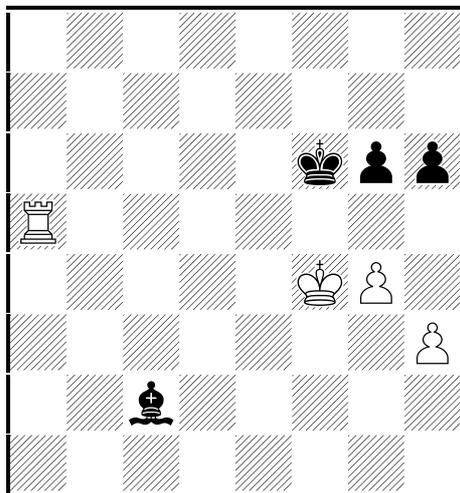
43...fxe4 44.fxe4 Nf6 45.Re2!

There was still room for error: 45.Ke3? Nxe4!.

45...Kf7 46.d5 b5 47.Ke3 bxa4 48.bxa4 Ne8 49.e5 Nc7!?

Black sets another trap. 49...Bxa4 50.Ra2 Bd1 51.Rxa5 is easy for White.

50.e6+ Nxe6 51.dxe6+ Kxe6 52.Kf4+ Kf6 53.Re5 Bxa4 54.Rxa5 Bc2 55.g4 h6 (D)



56.h4!

If Black was given time to play ...g5 he would reach a theoretically drawn ending. Indeed, the position with white pawns on h3 and g4 and black pawns on h6 and g5 is a draw.

56...Ke6 57.Ra6+!

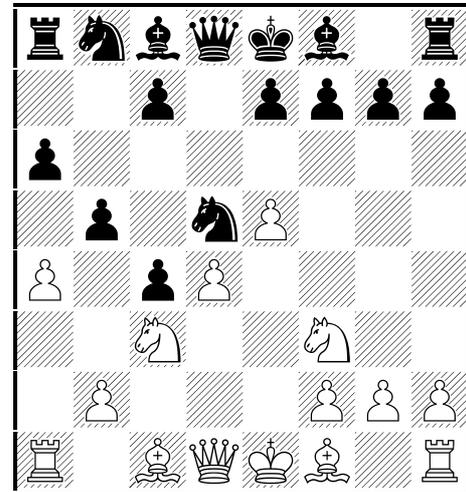
57.g5 also wins: 57...hxg5+ 58.hxg5 Bf5 59.Re5+ Kf7 60.Ke3 followed by bringing the king round to d6 and taking the g6-pawn.

57...Kf7 58.g5 hxg5+ 59.hxg5 Bd3 60.Rb6 1-0

□ Grivas,Efstratios

■ Espinosa Flores,Rafael

D24 Belfort Wch-jr 1983



7...c6?!

Better options for Black are 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qd5 and 7...e6 8.axb5 Nb6, while 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 and 7...Nb4! are also possible.

8.axb5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 cxb5 10.Ng5!

Best, despite the fact that it violates a fundamental opening principle ('do not move your pieces more than once in the opening'). 10.g3 e6 11.Bg2 Bb7 12.0-0 Be7 13.Ne1 Bxg2 14.Nxg2 Nd7 15.f4 Nb6 16.f5 was unclear in Damljjanovic,B-Rivas Pastor,M Groningen Ech-jr 1979/80; White's idea can be improved upon though.

10...f6

The only move. White was threatening 11.Qf3 and both 10...e6? 11.Nxf7! and 10...Bb7 11.e6! would lead Black to a desperate position.

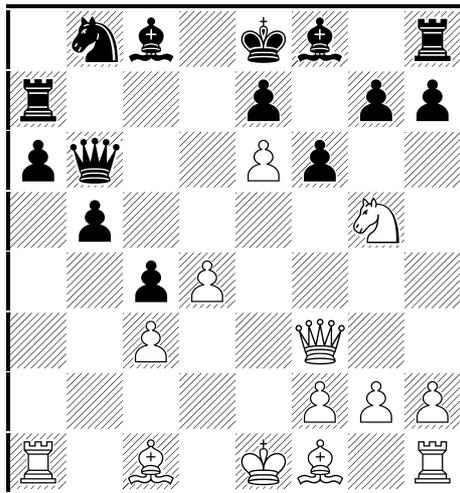
11.Qf3!

The consequences of 11.e6?! Qd5! (White is on the top after 11...fxg5?! 12.Qf3 Bxe6 13.Qxa8 Bd5 14.Qa7 e6 15.Be2) 12.Be2 fxg5 13.Bh5+! Kd8! (13...g6? 14.Bf3 Qxe6+ 15.Be3! Ra7 16.d5) 14.0-0 Qxe6 15.Re1 Qf6 16.d5 are unclear, as in PaetzT-Bernard,R Rostock 1984.

11...Ra7 12.e6 Qb6?! (D)

Black should instead prefer 12...Bb7 13.d5! Qxd5 14.Qxd5 Bxd5 15.Be3 fxg5!

(15...Rb7? 16.0-0-0!!) 16.Bxa7 Nc6 17.Rxa6 Nxa7 18.Rxa7 +=.



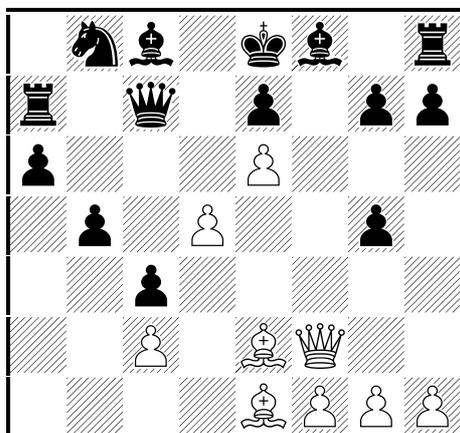
White now proceeds with a positional piece sacrifice, by which he reaps very obvious benefits:

1. better development;
2. space advantage;
3. attack on the black king;
4. disharmony in Black's camp.

13.d5!! fxe5 14.Be3!

14.Qf7+ Kd8 15.Bxg5 Rd7!! is just unclear, Sosonko,G-Rivas Pastor,M Amsterdam 1978. 14.Bxg5 Bxe6! 15.Be3 Qb7 16.Bxa7 Bxd5 17.Qe3 is also not clear at all, according to the late Tony Miles. Both these lines are good examples of what we mentioned earlier, about the defender returning the material or sacrificing even more to take over the initiative.

14...Qc7 15.Be2! (D)



White proceeds with simple developing moves, despite the fact that he has already sacrificed quite some material. However, Black is unable to complete his development and restore coordination among his pieces and, as a result, finds himself in an unenviable situation.

15...Ra8?!

Black had to try 15...Nd7!? 16.Qf7+ Kd8 17.exd7 Bxd7 18.Bxa7 (18.0-0!? Ra8 19.Bf3 is also good for White) 18...Qxa7 19.0-0 or 15...Rb7 16.g3 Bd7 17.0-0 Kd8 18.exd7 Qd6 19.Bxg5, with an advantage for White in both cases.

16.Bxg5!

Threatening 17.Qf7+ Kd8 18.d6!.

16...Qe5 17.h4! h6

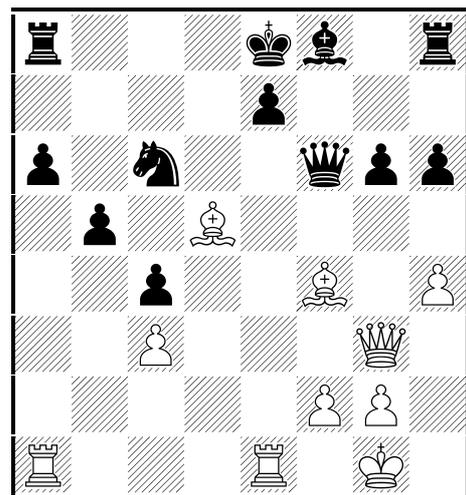
Perhaps 17...Nd7 is a better bet, returning the material with slim chances of survival.

18.Bf4 Qf6 19.Qg3!

Threatening 20.Bh5+ Kd8 21.Bc7#. White is now clearly winning.

19...Bxe6 20.dxe6 Nc6 21.0-0 g6 22.Bf3! Qxe6 23.Rfe1 Qf6 24.Bd5! (D)

24.Be5?! Nxe5 25.Bxa8 Bg7 would not have been enough, but 24.Bd6 is also good.



Now the threat of 25.Re6 decides.

1-0

(Day 7: 17:00-17:45 - Mikhalchishin)

Isolated Pawn

A pawn is considered isolated when there are no pawns of the same colour on the neighbouring files. Thus, it has been detached from the rest of its camp's pawn-structure and can be supported only by pieces.

Isolated pawns can be classified in two categories, the flank and central isolated pawns.

The first group, flank isolated pawns, generally constitute weaknesses and as a rule should be avoided, as their positive merits are minimal to zero and without theoretical value. Exceptions occur only in case that their owner has obtained other strategic or tactical pluses in exchange for their creation.

The second case is still hotly debated, even to this day. This category will form the basis of our considerations below.

In the opening, the isolated pawn is no cause for concern for his possessor, as it can offer quick development, spatial superiority, control of central squares and the initiative.

In the middlegame, the isolated pawn, along with the advantages stated above, creates the preconditions for a powerful initiative, either in the centre or on any flank. The side with the isolated pawn is compelled to seek activity, as a passive treatment of the position leads as a rule to serious problems and, after appropriate exchanges, to a difficult ending.

Indeed, the weakness of an isolated pawn becomes evident in the endgame. The resulting problems are multiple and revolve both around strategic issues and the protection of the pawn itself, as the reduced material makes this harder.

Thus, an isolated pawn is at the same time a strength and a weakness. A strength, if the dynamic and usually short-term advantages it confers prevail; a weakness, if its static weaknesses come to the fore.

For a better understanding of the concept of the isolated pawn we have to state its strengths and weaknesses.

The fundamental weaknesses of the isolated pawn can be described as follows:

1) The pawn itself can be weak, as it cannot be protected by other pawns but only by pieces. Therefore, should it be attacked by more pieces than it is defended by, its loss is unavoidable.

2) The square in front of the isolated pawn constitutes an outpost for the opponent.

3) Passive handling of the position by its possessor, as it causes disharmony in the placement of the pieces, can have dire consequences, and not just for the pawn itself.

4) In an ending, the pawn's weaknesses becomes more pronounced, as was already mentioned above.

5) It can exert a negative psychological influence on many chess-players who, affected by the unpleasant prospect of an endgame, seek unjustifiably violent solutions in the middlegame.

The positive sides of the isolated pawn can be determined as follows:

1) It offers greater control of central squares.

2) It offers the possibility of a central strike by its advance.

3) It offers a space advantage.

4) It offers better and quicker development, especially in the opening.

5) It offers opportunities of exploiting the open and semi-open files it creates with its presence.

6) It offers the initiative in the opening and middlegame.

One very sensitive issue that both sides must attend to with great care is the matter of piece exchanges. The question to be asked is: which piece exchange is favourable for

each side, and consequently undesirable for the other? In general, the possessor of the isolated pawn should avoid unnecessary piece exchanges without gaining anything substantial in return. If he must accede to some exchange and has a choice, then it is best to avoid exchanges of the minor pieces (bishops and knights) and prefer those of the major pieces (queens and rooks). In an endgame with minor pieces the chances of survival are especially high, while in a major-piece ending these chances are virtually nil.

Finally, the player with the isolated pawn should avoid the creation of further weaknesses in his pawn-structure, as then he will have to face additional problems. However, as nothing is absolute, the solutions to these problems depend on each specific position, as well as the sum of the strategic and tactical elements that govern it.

Exploitation of Negative Aspects

□ Makridis, Efstathios

■ Grivas, Efstathios

A17 Patra tt 1981

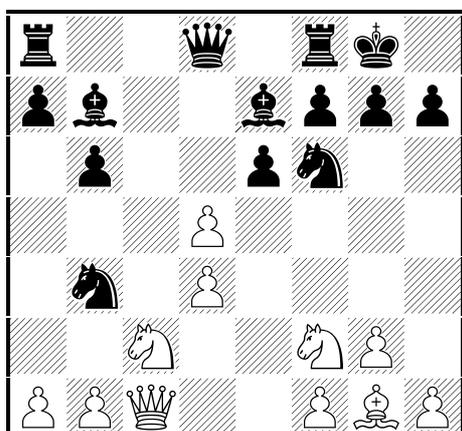
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 c5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Qc2?!

The white queen is unsatisfactorily placed on c2, as the future opening of the c-file will leave it exposed. The theoretical move 7.d4 and even 7.Re1 are considered (and must be) better.

7...0-0 8.e3 Nc6 9.d4

Perhaps 9.Rd1 is more accurate.

9...cxd4 10.exd4 d5! 11.cxd5 Nb4! (D)



The consequence of White's inaccurate 7th move.

12.Qb3 Nbx d5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6?!

White has been left with an isolated pawn on d4 and should therefore avoid any exchanges that would allow Black to head towards an ending; White's weaknesses would then be predominant. 14.Bd2 is better.

14...Nxf6

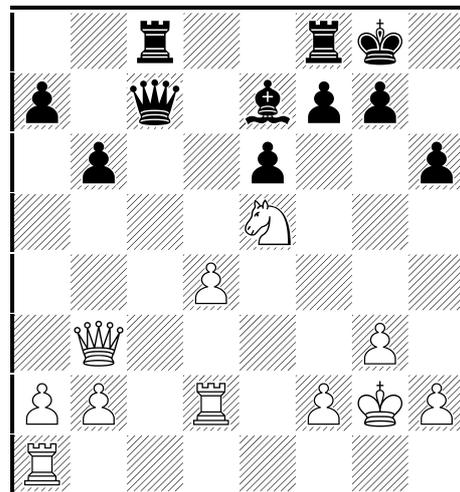
The careless 14...Bxf6?! 15.Ne4! Be7 16.Ne5 would allow White to equalize.

15.Rfd1 Rc8 16.Rd2 Ne4!

Exchanges favour Black!

17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Ne5 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Qc7!

(D)



Black must prevent White from advancing d4-d5 at all costs, as then his advantage would be significantly reduced.

20.Rad1 Bf6 21.Ng4 Bg5 22.Ne3

After 22.f4 Be7 23.d5 exd5 24.Rxd5 White has got rid of his weakness on d4 but is still at a disadvantage due to his exposed king and worse minor piece (knight vs bishop in an open position with pawns on both flanks).

22...Qc6+?!

A rather mediocre move. 22...Bxe3! 23.Qxe3 Qc4! 24.b3 Qd5+ is much better.

23.Kg1?!

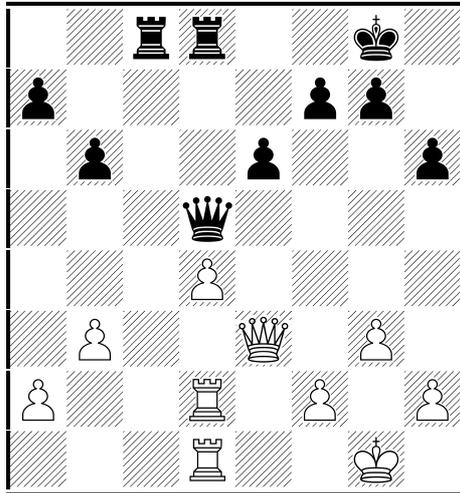
White should have taken up the chance for 23.d5! exd5 24.Qxd5 (24.Rxd5!?) 24...Qxd5+ 25.Rxd5 leaving Black only

slightly better thanks to his superior minor piece.

23...Bxe3! 24.Qxe3

After 24.fxe3 Rfd8 Black would retain his advantage, in view of the weak hanging central pawns on d4 and e3.

24...Qd5 25.b3 Rfd8 (D)



Black has the upper hand as he has a clear target (the isolated white pawn on d4). His strategy has so far been crowned with success, as he has managed to exchange all the white minor pieces. The next step is to triple the major pieces on the d-file and then push ...e5, winning the target pawn. A characteristic example of this standard procedure is the game Kortchnoi, V-Karpov, A Merano Wch m (9) 1981 (D53): 1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Rc1 dxc4 8.e3 c5 9.Bxc4 cxd4 10.exd4 Nc6 11.0-0 Nh5 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.Bb3 Nf6 14.Ne5 Bd7 15.Qe2 Rc8 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Bc6 18.Nxc6 Rxc6 19.Rc3 Qd6 20.g3 Rd8 21.Rd1 Rb6 22.Qe1 Qd7 23.Rcd3 Rd6 24.Qe4 Qc6 25.Qf4 Nd5 26.Qd2 Qb6 27.Bxd5 Rxd5 28.Rb3 Qc6 29.Qc3 Qd7 30.f4 b6 31.Rb4 b5 32.a4 bxa4 33.Qa3 a5 34.Rxa4 Qb5 35.Rd2 e5 36.fxe5 Rxe5 37.Qa1 Qe8 38.dxe5 Rxd2 39.Rxa5 Qc6 40.Ra8+ Kh7 41.Qb1+ g6 42.Qf1 Qc5+ 43.Kh1 Qd5+ 0-1.

26.Qe5

A correct reaction, preventing the aforementioned plan, as after the exchange of queens the white king can come to the

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rescue of the d4-pawn. Naturally, Black is still better as his own king can also freely participate in the battle.

26...Rc6 27.Qxd5 Rxd5 28.Kf1 g5!

Gaining space and preparing the approach of the black king.

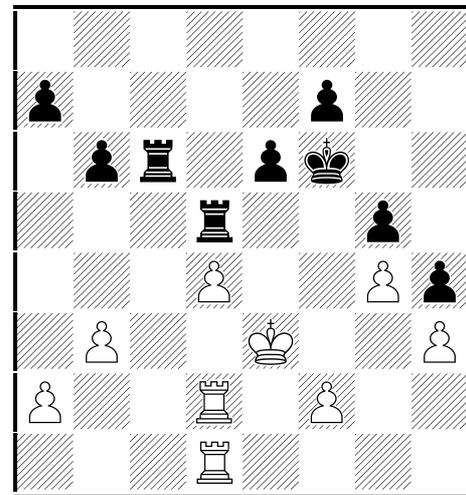
29.h3 Kg7 30.Ke2 Kf6 31.g4?!

White must generally avoid the creation of new weaknesses. The passive 31.Kd3 was necessary.

31...h5! 32.Ke3

32.gxh5? Rc8 and ...Rh8xh5 would have been even worse.

32...h4! (D)

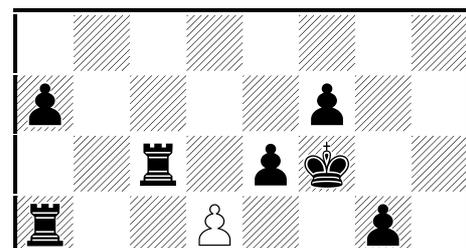


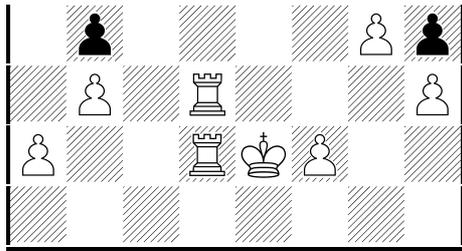
Fixing a second weakness on h3 (the first one being the d4-pawn).

33.Ke2 b5!

Black endeavours to fix a third weakness on a2. Black obtains a won position by following the well-known rule of the three weaknesses (1 weakness = advantage, 2 weaknesses = significant advantage, 3 weaknesses = winning advantage). White is unable to react as his pieces are tied to the defence of his weak pawns.

34.Rd3 b4 35.R1d2 Ra5 36.d5? (D)





Accelerating the end. White should have tried to defend with 36.Rb2 Ke7 37.Rdd2 Kd6 38.Rd3 Kd5 39.Ke3 Rc1! although it seems unlikely that he will manage to save himself.

36...exd5 37.Rxd5 Rxd5 38.Rxd5 Rc2+ 39.Rd2?!

As the pawn ending is obviously lost for White, he should have tested Black in the rook ending after 39.Ke3 Rxa2.

39...Rxd2+ 40.Kxd2 Ke5 41.Ke3 f5! 42.gxf5

Or 42.f3 fxe4 43.fxe4 a6!. The weaknesses on a2 and h3 seal White's fate.

42...Kxf5 43.f3 Ke5 44.Ke2 Kf4 45.Kf2 a6 46.Ke2 Kg3 47.Ke3 Kxh3 48.Kf2 a5 49.Kg1 Kg3 50.Kh1 Kxf3 51.Kh2 g4 52.Kh1 g3 53.Kg1 g2

0-1

Exploitation of Positive Aspects

□ **Grivas,Efstratios**

■ **Gekas,Sokratis**

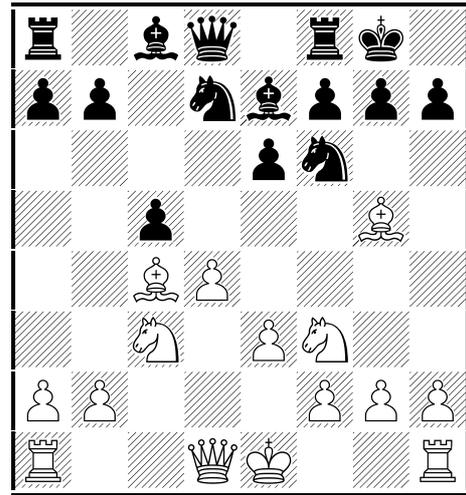
D40 Thessaloniki 1988

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Bd3!?

The Botvinnik Variation of the Orthodox Queen's Gambit, also known as the 'Variation of the Lost Tempo'! By selecting this particular line, White shows his preference for more lively positions, avoiding the stabilization of the centre after 7.cxd5. On the other hand, of course, he loses a tempo!

7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 c5 (D)

After the passive 8...c6 9.a4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.0-0 Rd8 12.a5! White was slightly better in Grivas,E-Haritakis,T Corfu 1988. 8...b6 may be compared with the game Grivas,E-Gabriel,Ch Budapest 1994 { @ A }.



9.0-0 Nb6

9...a6 would transpose to the game Grivas,E-Georgiou,An Thessaloniki 1988 { @ A }.

10.Bb3 cxd4 11.exd4 Bd7

Black can also play 11...Nfd5!? 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Re1 Rd8 14.Rc1 Nxc3 (14...Nf6 15.Qe2 Qb4 16.Ne4 Nbd5 Kortchnoi,V-Zaitsev,I Yerevan Ch-URS 1962 [17.Rc4! +=]) 15.Rxc3 Bd7 16.d5 Qd6 17.dxe6 Bxe6 18.Qxd6 Rxd6 19.Bxe6 Rxe6 20.Rxe6 fxe6 21.Rc7 Rd8 22.Kf1 Rd7 23.Rxd7 Nxd7 with better prospects in the ending for White, Timman,J-Ree,H Amsterdam 1984 { @ B }.

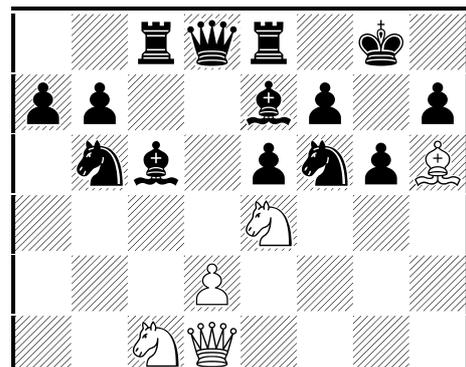
12.Ne5

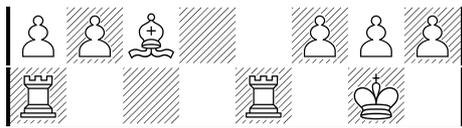
In the famous game Botvinnik,M-Vidmar,M Nottingham 1936, 12.Qd3 Nbd5?! (12...Nfd5!) 13.Ne5 Bc6 14.Rad1 was played, with advantage for White.

12...Rc8

After 12...Bc6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Rc1 White enjoys better endgame prospects.

13.Qd3! Bc6 14.Bc2 g6 15.Bh6 Re8 16.Rfe1 (D)





White has activated all his pieces, also succeeding in weakening the black king's cover in the process. Even more important is the fact that Black has failed to exchange any pieces. As a result, his position is uncomfortable and requires increased attention.

16...Nbd5 17.Bb3!

The bishop's mission on the b1-h7 diagonal has been completed, so it switches to the very promising a2-g8 one. At the same time White prevents piece exchanges with 17...Nxc3? 18.Nxf7!!.

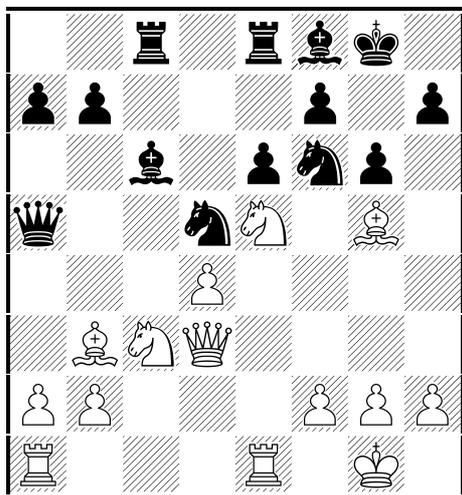
17...Bf8

Better chances are offered by 17...Qa5, intending ...Nxc3 and ...Ba4, when White retains an edge but Black succeeds in exchanging some pieces, thus relieving his position.

18.Bg5!

Exchanges favour the defending side!

18...Qa5? (D)



And here comes a blunder. Black should have focused on defence with 18...Bg7. In this particular position White has a winning line, which stems from the multiple and insufficiently protected weaknesses around the black king, on the f6- and f7-squares in particular. Black's last move was of decisive

importance, as it left the aforementioned squares and the king at White's mercy.

19.Qf3! Bg7

There is nothing better, in view of the threatened 20.Bxf6 and 20.Bxd5.

20.Ne4!

20.Bxd5? is a mistake, as after 20...Bxd5 21.Nxd5 Qxd5 Black can survive. Now there is no satisfactory defence, as Black loses quickly after 20...Nxe4 21.Qxf7+ Kh8 22.Rxe4 with an extra pawn and the threat 23.Nxg6+ hxg6 24.Rh4+, as well as 20...Qd8 21.Nxc6 Rxc6 22.Bxd5 exd5 23.Nxf6+ Bxf6 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Bxf6.

1-0

Defence with an Isolated Pawn

□ **Grivas, Efstratios**

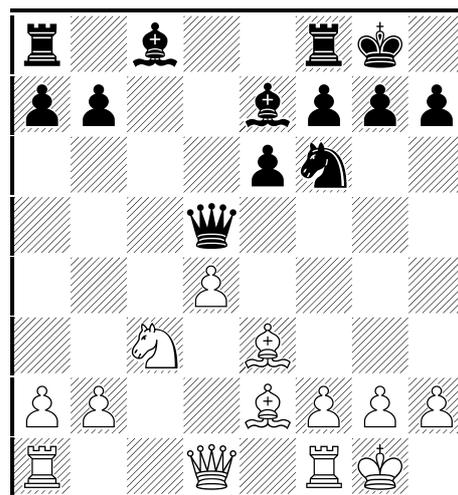
■ **Inkiöv, Ventzislav**

B22 Kastel Stari Balkaniad 1988

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Be3 cxd4 9.Nxd4!? Nxd4 10.cxd4

Black is comfortable after 10.Bxd4 0-0 11.Bf3 Qa5 12.Nd2 Qc7 13.Qe2 Bd7 14.Be5 Qc8 15.Rfd1 Rd8 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bc6, as in the game Gergs, W-Gawlikowski, A Hamburg tt 1988.

10...0-0 11.Nc3 (D)



11...Qa5!

Other moves are unsatisfactory:

a) 11...Qd8 12.Bf3 Bd7 13.d5 exd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Bc6 16.Qxd8 Rfxd8 17.Bxc6

bxc6 18.Rac1 Bf6 19.b3 Rd6 20.Rc4 is much better for White, Sydor,A-Drimmer,D Bath Echt 1973.

b) 11...Qf5 12.Bd3 Qh5 13.Qxh5 Nxb5 14.d5 Nf6 15.Bc4 exd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Be6 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Rac1 with a permanent edge for White, Rause,O-Agopov,M Jyvaskyla 1994.

12.Bf3

White failed to achieve any advantage after 12.Qb3 Bd7 13.Bf3 Bc6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Qb7 Bb4 16.Rfc1 Bxc3 17.Rxc3 Rab8 18.Qxc6 Rxb2 in Hegde,R-Roy Chowdhury,S Calcutta 1996.

12...Bd7?!

Better is 12...Rd8 13.Re1 Bd6 14.Qb3 Rb8 15.Rac1 b5 16.Bg5 Be7 17.Bf4 Bd6 18.Be5 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Nd7 20.Rcd1 b4 21.Qa4 ½-½, Bukacek,E-Peterwagner,H Austria tt 1989.

13.Qd2?

Naturally, 13.Bxb7? Rab8 14.Bf3 (14.Qb3? Qc7) 14...Rxb2 is pleasant for Black. White should have executed the advance 13.d5! which promises at least a slight edge, due to his more active pieces. The text-move has a double purpose (14.Bxb7 and 14.Nd5) but Black easily counters White's intentions.

13...Qa6! 14.a3?!

White erroneously persists in chasing the advantage. Instead, a repetition by 14.Be2 Qa5! 15.Bf3 Qa6 should have been preferred.

14...Bc6! 15.Be2 Qa5

Black has every reason to be satisfied with the outcome of the opening, as White has ended up in a passive position and without any prospect of activity.

16.Qd3 Rac8 17.Rac1 a6 18.Rfd1 Nd5

Although Black's plan is clear (piece exchanges), he could have delayed it for a while in favour of 18...Rfd8.

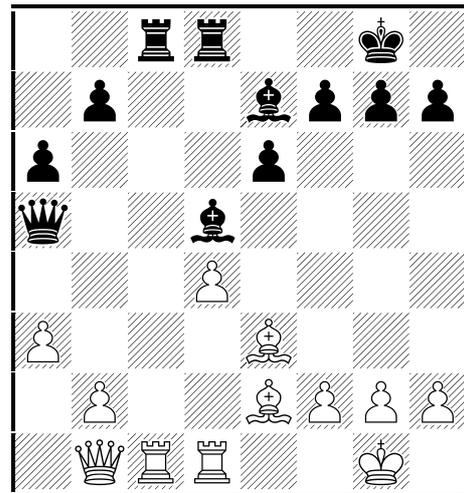
19.Nxd5 Bxd5

After 19...Qxd5?! White can equalize: 20.Bf3 Qd7 21.Bxc6 Rxc6 22.Rxc6 Qxc6 23.d5!.

20.Qb1!

White wishes to exchange the major pieces and defend a slightly inferior position. This is the correct approach, as the alternatives would have unpleasant consequences.

20...Rfd8 (D)



White is now all set and proceeds to exchange the major pieces. It must be noted that the absence of knights is in favour of the side with the isolated pawn (i.e. the defending side in our case), as *the knight is the indicated piece to be placed on the outpost in front of the isolated pawn.*

21.Rxc8! Rxc8 22.Rc1 Qd8 23.Rxc8 Qxc8 24.Qd3 Qc6 25.f3 Bd6 26.Qd2 Qc7 27.h3 h6 28.Bd3 f5 29.Qc2!

Offering the exchange of the last remaining major piece, so that the white king can come to the centre and assume defensive duties. Perhaps Black should have avoided this exchange, but White's position would anyway be passive but satisfactory - naturally with the draw as its ultimate aim.

29...Qxc2 30.Bxc2 Bg3 31.Bd3! g5 32.Kf1 Kg7 33.Ke2 Kf6 34.Bd2 h5 35.Ba5 h4 36.Bd2 Bf4 37.Bxf4 gxf4 38.Kd2 Ke7

Black no longer has any winning chances as White has full defensive control of the position; the absence of major pieces guarantees White half a point.

½-½

(Day 7: 18:00-18:45 - Mikhalchishin)

The Bishop Pair

The possession of a pair of bishops (against a bishop and a knight, or a pair of knights) is an important strategic element that may guarantee superiority and even determine the outcome of the game.

The basic requirements for the exploitation of this element are:

- 1) Open centre (currently or in the future).
- 2) Presence of pawns on both flanks.

Consequently, possession of the bishop-pair does not always guarantee an advantage. Only after careful examination of the respective pawn-structures and the situation in the centre are we able to determine whether possession of this element is an advantage.

Most chess-players have a strong liking for the bishop-pair regardless of the specific features of the position. This phenomenon has a simple explanation: a strong positional player can more easily transform the position so as to suit the bishops than to suit a pair of knights. However, it has to be reminded that it is the pawns (placement, pawn-chains), the soul of the game, that determine whether possession of the bishop-pair is an advantage.

The strength of the bishop-pair (provided of course that the above-mentioned requirements are met) can be exploited either in the middlegame or the endgame.

In the middlegame, bishops can control many squares and from a distance; this implies better control of the position and the prospect of creating a direct attack, either against the king or against other weaknesses. Bishops are also able to restrict the opponent's pieces and create severe (and often insoluble) problems to the opponent, exactly due to their long range of action, which allows them to switch quickly from one target to another without even needing to approach it.

In the endgame the power of the bishop-pair

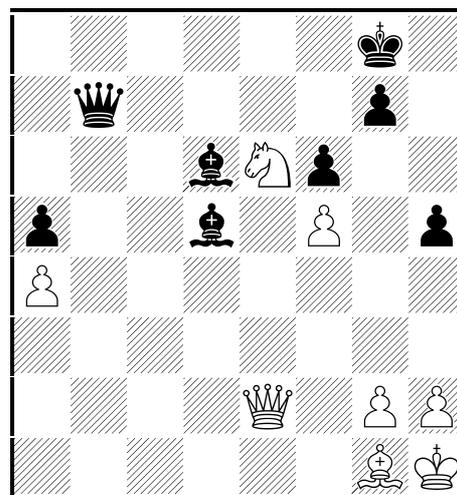
pair is decisive, since the absence of an adequate number of defensive pieces allows the bishops to impose their control on the position almost entirely. It is then possible, by skilful manoeuvring, to restrict the opponent's pieces and highlight weaknesses and entry squares.

Just like with any other strategic element, the boundaries between success and failure are not always clearly visible. The examples that follow will help to impose on the reader a deeper understanding of the positive aspects of the bishop-pair.

□ **Schuh,Hubert**

■ **Grivas,Efstratios**

A31 Strasbourg 1984



Black fixed the target pawn on a light square, where it will always be threatened by the d5-bishop. Black's bishop-pair, augmented by the fact that there are no central pawns and that play develops on both flanks, prove deadly. White has no possibility of creating counterplay, and is thus condemned to a slow but certain death.

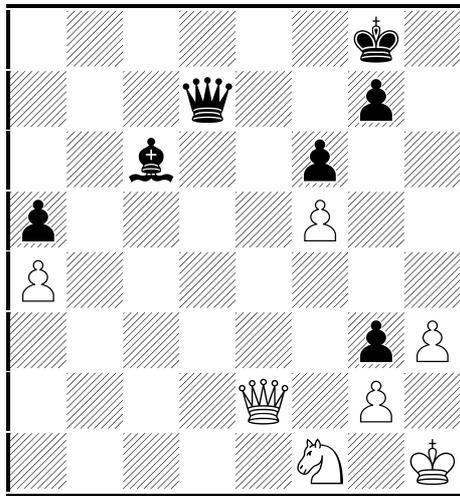
44.h3 h4 45.Nd4 Be4 46.Nf3 Bg3 47.Nd2 Bc6 48.Bh2

This speeds up the finish. White should have

tried 48.Nc4 Bc7.

48...Qd7! 49.Bxg3 hxg3 50.Nf1 (D)

50.Qc4+ Bd5 51.Qc2 Qe8! does not save White either.



50...Qxf5 51.Nxg3 Qxh3+ 52.Kg1 Qd7!

Certainly not 52...Qxg3? 53.Qe6+ Kf8 54.Qxc6, when Black has lost the greater part of his advantage.

53.Nh5 Qd4+! 54.Kf1

54.Kh1? loses on the spot: 54...Qa1+ 55.Kh2 Qe5+.

54...Be4! 55.Nf4 Qxa4 56.Qh5 Qa1+

57.Kf2 Qd4+ 58.Kg3 Qe3+

0-1

□ Grivas,Efstratios

■ Barlov,Dragan

A55 Kastel Stari Balkaniad 1988

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e4 Nbd7 5.Nf3 e5 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Rb1!?

White's alternatives include 8.Qc2 and 8.d5.

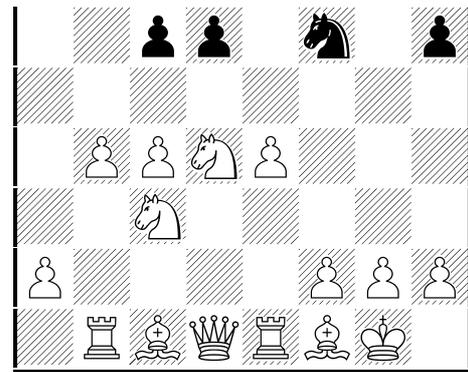
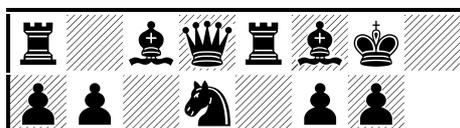
8...Re8 9.Re1 exd4?!

This exchange in the centre is inferior to the more common 9...a6 and 9...Qc7.

10.Nxd4 Bf8 11.Bf1 h6

Preparing...d5, which is not adequate at this point: 11...d5?! 12.exd5 Rxe1 13.Qxe1 cxd5 14.cxd5 Nb6 15.Bg5! +=.

12.b4 (D)



12...Nb6

Again 12...d5?! 13.exd5 Rxe1 14.Qxe1 cxd5 15.c5! would be good for White.

13.Bf4 Ng4! 14.h3

The careless 14.Nc2?! Qf6 15.Qd2 Be6! (15...Nxf2? 16.c5!) even passes the advantage to Black.

14...Qf6! 15.Bg3 Ne5 16.Qb3 a5

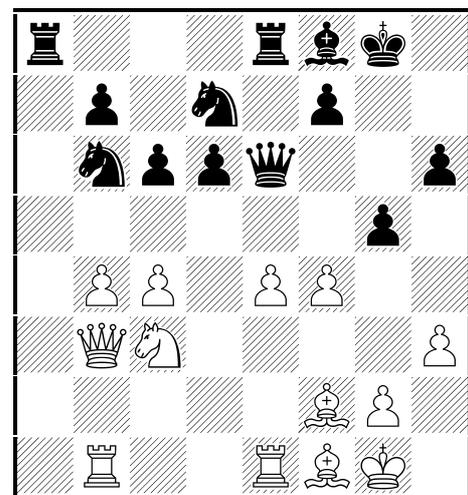
White retains the upper hand after both 16...Nexc4? 17.Bxc4 d5 18.Bxd5! cxd5 19.e5 and 16...Be6 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.a4! followed by 19.a5 (but not 18.f4? Nexc4 19.f5 Qf6 20.Bxc4 Qd4+!).

17.a3 axb4 18.axb4 Be6 19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.f4! Ned7

The tactical shot 20...Nexc4? would be a mistake: 21.f5 Qf6 22.Bxc4 Qd4+ 23.Bf2 and White wins.

21.Bf2 g5?! (D)

This move seems to cause White problems, but in fact Black should have preferred the quiet 21...g6 +=.



22.e5!

The correct reaction. White refuses to weaken his king (22.g3?) or surrender the very important e5-square (22.fxg5?). Instead, he opens up the position, hoping to benefit from his potentially powerful bishop-pair and the weaknesses around Black's king, caused by the ambitious 21...g5?!

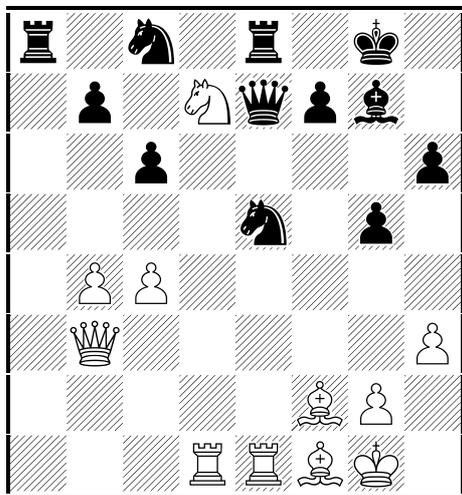
22...dxe5 23.fxe5 Bg7 24.Rbd1 Nc8 25.Ne4?!

White should have proceeded in the same dynamic spirit with 25.Nd5!! cxd5 26.cxd5 Qe7 (26...Qg6? 27.Bd3 Qh5 28.g4!) 27.d6 Qd8 (27...Qf8 28.Bb5 Ncb6 29.Bxb6 Nxb6 30.Bxe8 Rxe8 31.d7 Rd8 32.e6! +-) 28.e6! fxe6 29.Rxe6 Kh8 (29...Rxe6 30.Qxe6+ Kh8 (30...Kf8 31.Bc4) 31.Bd4 Bxd4+ 32.Rxd4 Qf6 33.Qxf6+ Nxf6 34.d7 Nxd7 35.Rxd7 +/-) 30.Bd4! Nf6 31.d7! Qxd7 32.Rxf6 and it becomes clear that Black will not be able to survive.

25...Nxe5

Another option was 25...Bxe5!? 26.Qf3! intending 27.Ng3 and 28.Bd3, with initiative for White.

26.Nc5 Qe7 27.Nd7! (D)



27...Nd6?

A serious error, induced in time-trouble. Black's only chance lay in 27...f6! 28.Bd3!! Qf7 29.Bf5 Nxd7 30.Rxe8+ Qxe8 31.Bxd7 when White has a strong initiative for just one pawn and his light-squared bishop has no worthy opponent. On the other hand, 27...Kh8? loses quickly to 28.Nxe5 Bxe5 29.Rxe5 Qxe5 30.Re1 Qxe1 31.Bxe1 Rxe1

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32.Qc3+.

28.Nxe5!

After the text-move, Black falls victim to a simple combination that costs him two minor pieces for a rook. The resulting position is easily won for White.

28...Bxe5 29.Rxe5! Qxe5 30.Bg3 Qe3+ 31.Qxe3 Rxe3 32.Bxd6

White got two powerful bishops for a black rook and he is on the full control of the position. The end cannot be far away...

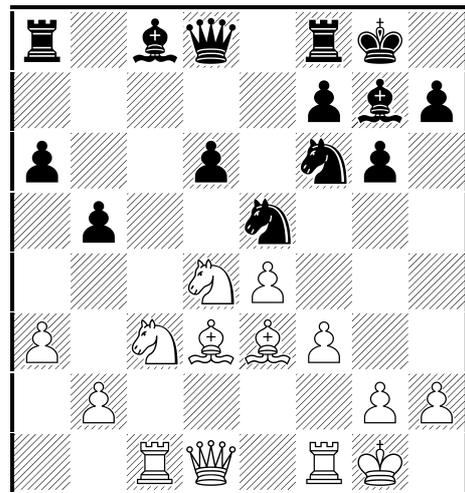
32...Rd8 33.c5 Rb3 34.Rd4 Rb2 35.Re4 Ra8 36.Bc4 Ra1+ 37.Kh2 Rc1 38.Re8+ 1-0

□ **Kalesis,Nikolaos**

■ **Grivas,Efstratios**

E81 Corfu 1991

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 a6 6.Be3 c6 7.Bd3 b5 8.Nge2 0-0 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Rc1 e5 11.a3 exd4 12.Nxd4 Ne5 13.cxb5 cxb5 (D)



14.Kh1?!

After several theoretical moves in this Saemisch King's Indian, White plays a rather dubious novelty. 14.Rf2 is better, with chances for both sides.

14...Bb7

The tempting 14...d5?! would stumble upon 15.Bg5! with a strong initiative.

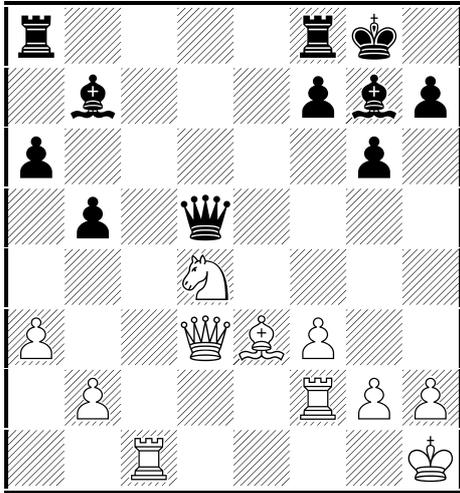
15.Rf2?

But now this natural-looking move is a serious mistake. 15.Bg5 had to be preferred.

15...d5! 16.exd5

White probably overlooked the tactical variation 16.Bg5? Nxd3 17.Qxd3 dxe4 18.fxe4 Ng4!.

16...Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Qxd5 (D)



The dust has settled and Black enjoys an undisputed superiority, with the bishop-pair in an open position. Tactics are in the air...

19.Rd2 Rac8 20.Re1 Rfe8 21.Qb1?

Allowing Black to enter a nice combination. 21.Kg1 =+ was a must.

21...Qh5?

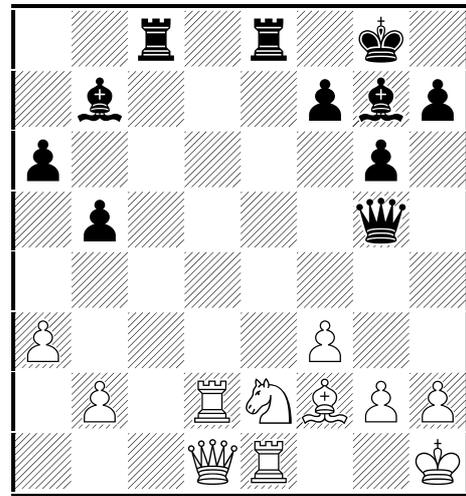
Missing that 21...Rxe3! 22.Rxe3 Bxd4 works immediately, due to the loose queen on b1 and White's weak back rank: 23.Qd1 Bxe3! 24.Rxd5 Bxd5 or 23.Red3 Qf5.

22.Qd1 Qh4!

Threatening to win by 23...Rxe3 24.Rxe3 Bxd4.

23.Bf2 Qg5 24.Ne2?! (D)

Black now converts his superiority without much effort. 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Ne2 offers better defensive prospects.



24...Rcd8!

By exchanging the White's defensive d2-rook, the white weaknesses will be accessible to Black, as the defensive white pieces are reducing.

25.Be3 Qh4 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Qc1 Bxb2

Black won material without losing any of his advantages.

28.Bg5 Qf2! 29.Qb1 Re8 30.Qd1 Bc3 31.Bd2 Bxd2 32.Qxd2 Bd5

White resigned in view of 33.Rg1 Rxe2 34.Qxd5 Re1 35.Qd8+ Kg7. A crystal-clear game, in which Black made exemplary use of his bishop-pair.

0-1