

ChessZone Magazine



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Games

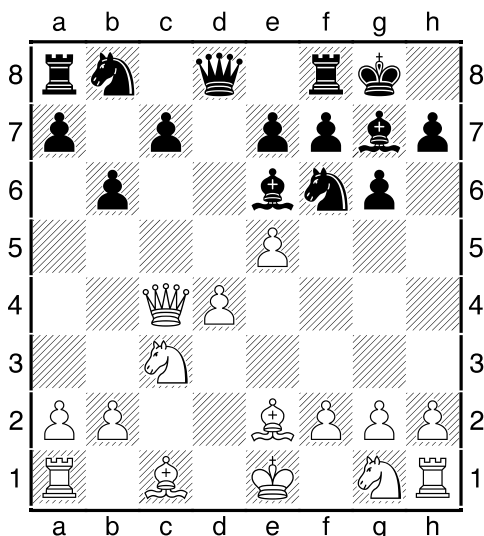
(01) Lalith,B (2579) - Gupta,A (2606)

[D81]

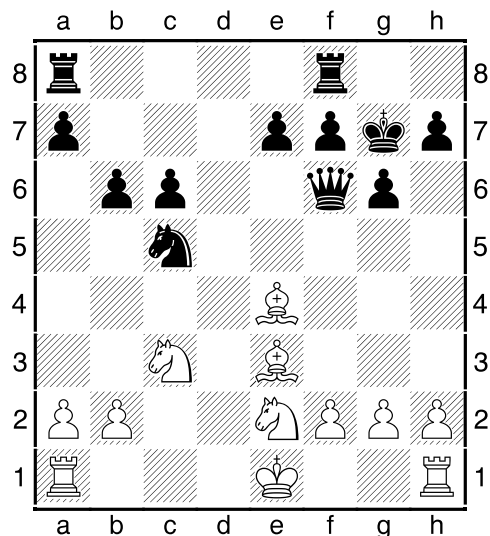
12th Delhi International Grandmasters C
New Delhi (5), 12.01.2014

[IM Sitnikov, A]

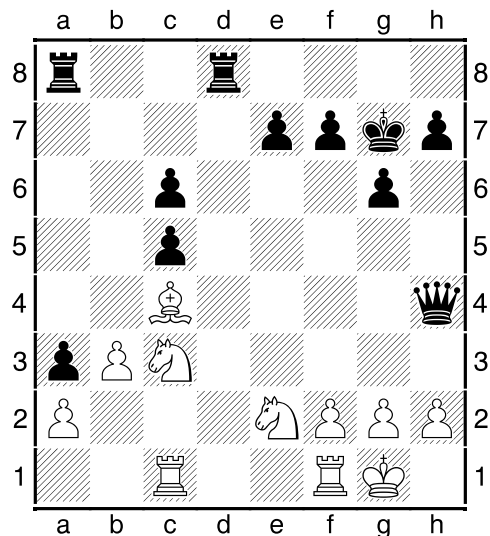
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qb3 d:c4
5.Q:c4 Bg7 6.e4 0-0 7.Be2 b6 Rare se-
quel, which, however, brings great results.
Black is ready to attack the central white
pawn and provoke its movement, then im-
mediately occupy formed outpost. **8.e5**
Be6



9.e:f6N Passing the game to irrational di-
rection. [White achieved nothing after
9.Qa4 Nd5 10.Nf3 c5 11.d:c5 Nd7! 12.Qh4
N:c5 13.0-0 N:c3 14.b:c3 Qc7 15.Ng5 h6
16.N:e6 N:e6 17.B:h6 Q:e5 18.Bc4 Qf6
19.Q:f6 e:f6 20.B:g7 K:g7 and soon rivals
signed a draw / Bluvstein, M (2558) –
Ganguly, S (2637) / Canadian op 2009]
9...B:c4 10.f:g7 K:g7 11.B:c4 Q:d4
12.Bd5 c6 13.Nge2?! [Could easily lead a
knight to the usual lawn: 13.Nf3 Qg4 14.h3!
Q:g2? 15.Nh4 and the queen in a trap]
13...Qf6 14.Be4 Nd7 15.Be3 Nc5

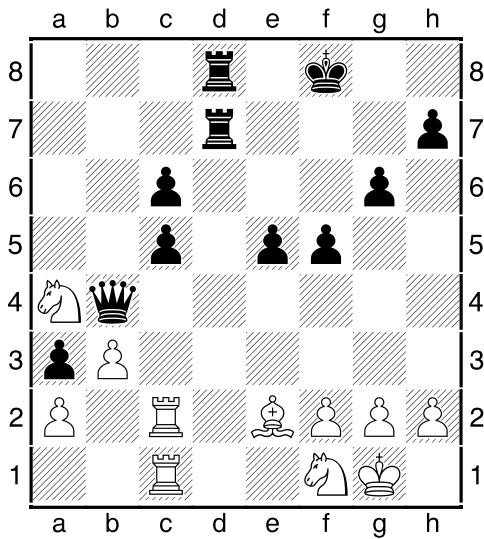


16.B:c5?! Should retreat bishop. The ex-
change here is significant positional mis-
take because makes opponent hands free
for active play in the centre and the inva-
sion on the open files. Now the black king
can breathe a sigh of relief – the remnants
of white army does not disturb him...
16...b:c5 17.Bd3 a5 18.0-0 Rfd8 19.Bc4
a4 20.Rac1 Qh4 21.b3 a3

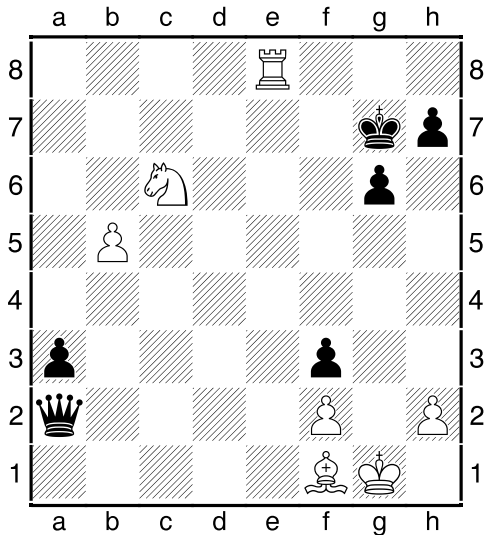


Backward pawn is fixed, however, defence
resources have not been exhausted. It's
time to build a fortress... **22.Rc2 Ra7**
23.Ng3! f5 24.Re1 Rad7 25.Nf1 White
deftly covered all the approaches to his
place. What is next?.. **25...Kf8 26.Be2 e5**

27.Na4 Qb4 28.Rec1



28...Rd2 Interesting practical solution. Now white has even some material advantage, but must keep an eye on a-pawn. If desperate queen efforts will not bear fruit, white can count on a draw by perpetual check. **29.N:d2 R:d2 30.N:c5 R:c2 31.R:c2 Qe1+ 32.Bf1 Qd1 33.Re2 e4 34.b4 Qb1 35.Nb3 f4 36.Nd4 Kg8 37.N:c6 f3 38.g:f3 e:f3 39.Re8+ Kg7 40.b5 Q:a2**



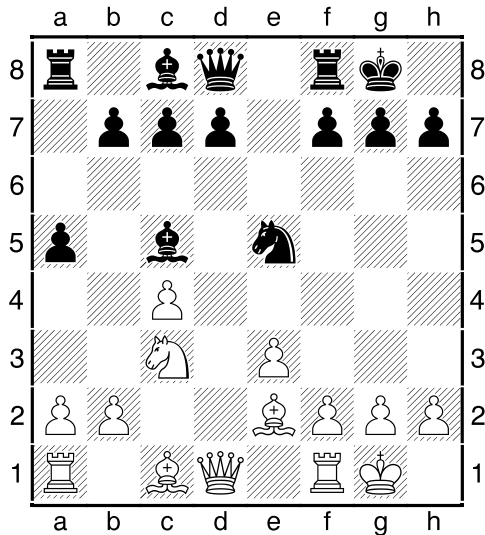
41.Nb4? And now – hand trembled. [But rooks like shooting at pawns from the rear: **41.Ra8 Qb2 42.Ra6! a2 43.b6 Qc1 44.b7 Qg5+ 45.Kh1 Qc1** with a draw] **41...Qd2?!** Once won **41... Qb1** – nothing to protect the knight. **42.Re4 h5 43.b6?** Giving more

air to the king **43. h4** – white retains a strong position... **43...Qg5+ 44.Kh1 Qc5 45.Re7+** Peculiar sense of humor under the curtain... **45...Q:e7 46.Nc6 0-1**

(02) Gelfand,B (2777) - Rapport,R (2691) [A52]

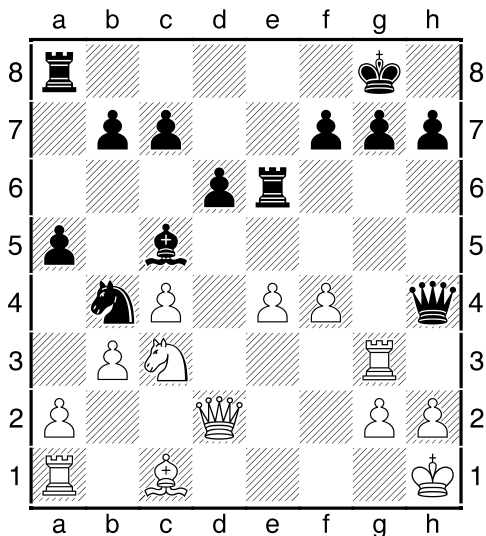
76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (2), 12.01.2014
[IM Sitnikov, A]

There was a small sensation in this game: the "newbie" beat an experienced fighter in Budapest gambit! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d:e5 Ng4 4.Nf3** As you know, tastes differ. The same argument applies to debut preferences of the players. And yet, playing against chess "rebel", it made sense to go for position with the advantage of two bishops: [4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.e3 Ng:e5 8.N:e5 N:e5 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 and in view of the threat Nd2–b3 with a further a2–a3, black should exchange on d2, which will determine a small, but persistent advantage for white] **4...Bc5** Of course! Now the white bishop will not go to the active place! **5.e3 Nc6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Be2 Ng:e5 8.N:e5 N:e5 9.0-0 a5**



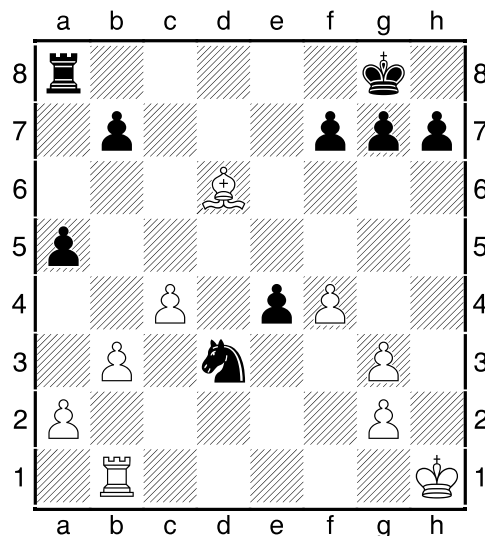
10.Kh1?! An important point. After this rather "sluggish" move white can forget of the notorious "advantage to make the first". Commentators have suggested here to arrange a surprise check black bishop: [10.Na4 Ba7 11.c5 – but perhaps black

has enough counterarguments there... 11...Qe7! 12.Qd5 (12.Bd2 Rd8 13.B:a5 (13.Rc1 d6!) 13...d6 14.Nc3 Be6 15.Nd5 B:d5 16.Q:d5 B:c5 17.Bc3 c6 18.Qe4 Ng6) 12...c6 13.Qd4 d5 14.Bd2 Nd7 15.Rac1 Bb8!] **10...d6 11.f4** White desire to be active, as well as to expel the enemy knight from the center – quite understandable. But the pawn move has a downside: it weakens e3 "colleague" ... **11...Nc6 12.b3 Re8 13.Rf3 Bf5 14.Rg3 Re6 15.Bd3 B:d3 16.Q:d3 Nb4 17.Qd2 Qe7** [17...R:e3? 18.R:e3 B:e3 19.Q:e3 Nc2 20.Qg3 N:a1 21.Nd5 and for the sake of monarch, black has to give up the faithful knight in captivity: 21...f6 22.Bb2 Kf7 23.B:a1 a4 24.b4±] **18.e4** [Harmless to black 18.a3 B:e3! 19.R:e3 R:e3 20.Q:e3 Q:e3 21.B:e3 Nc2 staying with an extra pawn] **18...Qh4**

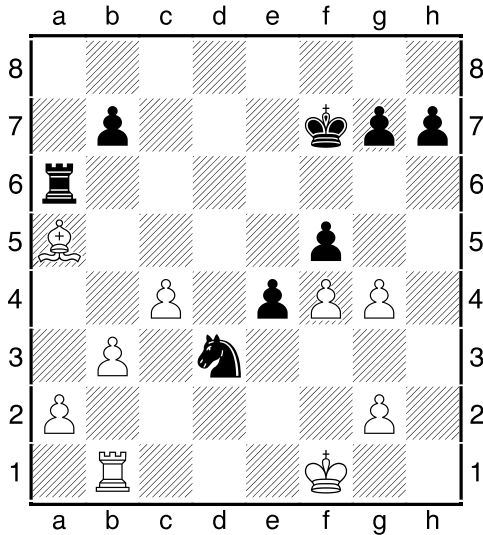


19.Rf3? Innocent rook move – a serious mistake! White underestimate the weakness of the first rank. [It was nothing to fear, take a step forward! 19.f5 Q:g3 20.h:g3 Rh6+ 21.Q:h6 g:h6 22.B:h6 Bd4 23.Bd2 a4 24.Rb1! B:c3 25.B:c3 N:a2 26.Bd2 a:b3 27.R:b3 b6=] **19...Nc2?!** Apparently, black hasn't noticed simple and powerful blow on the white center: [19...f5! 20.a3 (20.Rh3 Qf2 21.Q:f2 B:f2 22.a3 Na6 23.Be3 B:e3 24.R:e3 Rae8 25.Rae1 Nc5) 20...f:e4! 21.Rh3 e3 22.Qe2 Qf2 23.a:b4 Bd4!-+] **20.Rb1 Qe1+** [Worth to try 20...Nd4!? 21.Rh3 Qg4 22.Rg3?? (correctly 22.Qd3! Rg6 23.Qf1 f5 24.Be3! f:e4 25.Nd5 Nf5 26.B:c5 d:c5 27.N:c7 Rd8

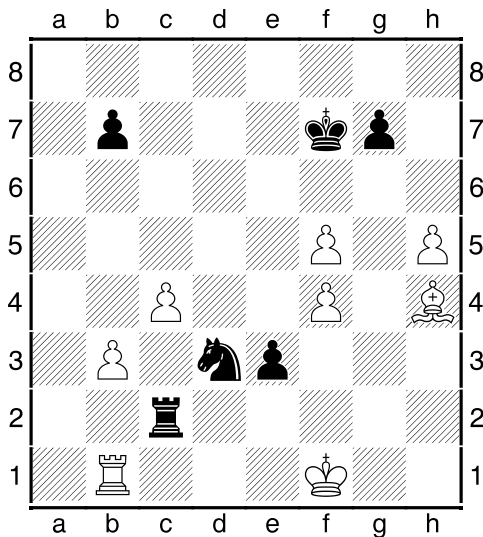
28.Nd5=) 22...Q:g3! 23.h:g3 Rh6+ 24.Kg1 Ne2+ 25.Kf1 N:g3+ 26.Ke1 Rh1#] **21.Q:e1 N:e1 22.Rg3?** There is a significant nuance in the position: should prevent release of the black knight from e1 to d3. To move away rook somewhere on the third row. But on g3 rook is unstable and it can not be kept. Black offers exchange rooks, and white has to agree because of compassion to pawn g2. [Correctly 22.Rh3! Nc2 23.Rb2 Nb4 24.f5! – black advantages had gone] **22...Rg6! 23.Nd5?!** [Not a bed of roses white way 23.R:g6 h:g6 24.Bd2 Nd3 25.g3 Bb4 26.Kg2 a4 27.Kf3 Nc5] **23...R:g3 24.h:g3 c6 25.Be3 Nd3 26.B:c5 c:d5! 27.B:d6 d:e4**



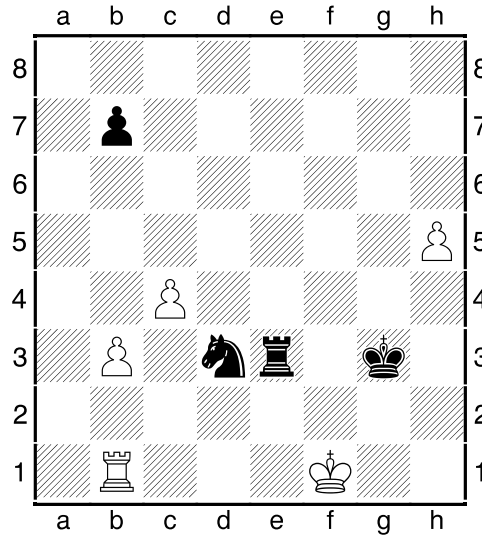
28.Kg1 f5 29.Kf1 Ra6 30.Bc7 Kf7 31.g4 Rc6 32.B:a5 Ra6



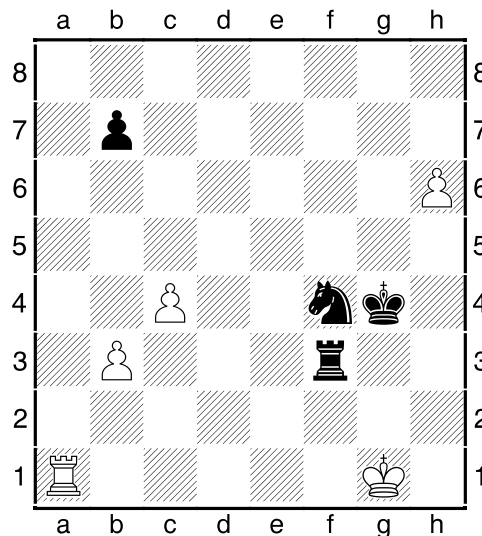
33.Bc3 White has unhealthy attention to his bishop, forgetting about the rest of the fighters. [Good practical chance could become a sacrifice 33.b4 b6 34.g:f5 b:a5 35.b5 with a further enhancement of the king] **33...R:a2 34.g:f5 e3** Active black figures reached the peak. White case deplorable. **35.g3 Rc2 36.Be1 Kf6 37.g4 h5 38.Bh4+ Kf7 39.g:h5**



39...Rh2? Black has not played enough! [After 39...e2+ 40.Kg1 Rd2 could sign pact of white troops resign] **40.Be1 Kf6 41.Kg1 Re2 42.Bc3+ K:f5 43.B:g7 K:f4 44.Bh6+ Kg3 45.B:e3 R:e3 46.Kf1**



46...Kf4?! [Easier 46...Nf4 weaving checkmate patterns: 47.h6 Re2 48.h7 Rf2+ 49.Ke1 Ng2+ 50.Kd1 Ne3+ 51.Ke1 Kf3] **47.Ra1 Rf3+** [And here quickly resolve 47...Re5 48.Ra8 Kg3 49.Rg8+ Kh3 and white gets checkmated] **48.Kg1 Rg3+ 49.Kf1 Rf3+** [49...Rh3 50.Ra7 Kf3 51.Kg1 Nf2] **50.Kg1 Kg4?** [Still won 50...Kg3 51.Ra8 (51.Rf1 Nf2; 51.h6 Rf6 52.Rf1 Nf4) 51...Nf4 52.Rg8+ Kh3 53.Re8 Ng2 54.Re2 Ne3 55.Re1 Kg3 56.h6 Kf4 57.h7 Rg3+ 58.Kh2 Ng4+ 59.Kh1 Rh3+ 60.Kg2 Rh2+ 61.Kg1 R:h7+] **51.h6 Nf4**



52.h7? This impulsive pawn step into the abyss was supposed to promote the mileage of white king on queenside, but... not happened! [A great chance to rescue ap-

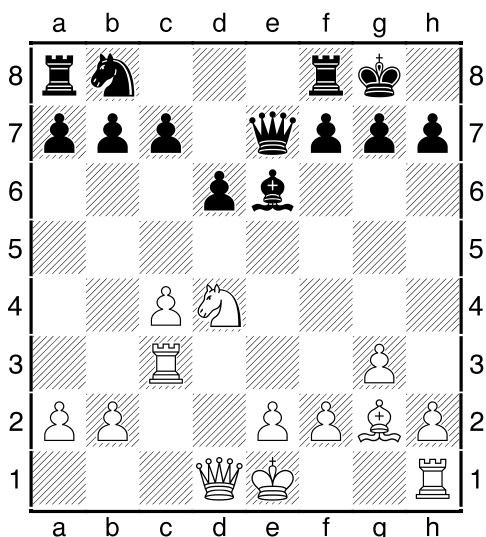
peared for white, as by magic! It was necessary urgently, without losing the momentum to run his Royal majesty... to b7 pawn! 52.Rf1! R:b3 (52...Rh3 53.Kf2 Kf5 54.b4 R:h6 55.Ke3 Re6+ 56.Kd4=) 53.Kf2 Kf5 54.Rh1 Nh3+ 55.Kg2 Kg4 56.Rd1 Rb2+ 57.Kf1 Rf2+ 58.Ke1 Rf7 59.Kd2 Ng5 60.Rh1 Kf5 61.Kc3 Kg6 62.Kb4 Kh7 63.Kb5 Nf3 64.Kb6 Re7 65.Kb5=] **52...Rh3!-+** Finally black has everything under control! White king is not escaped, and black celebrating victory in troubled fight. **53.Kf2 Kf5 54.b4 Nd3+ 55.Ke2 Ke4 56.Ra8 Rh2+ 57.Kd1 R:h7 58.Kd2 N:b4 59.Kc3 Nc6 60.Re8+ Re7 0-1**

(03) Vaibhav,S (2547) - Akshat,K (2396) [E11]

12th Delhi International Grandmasters C
New Delhi (7), 13.01.2014

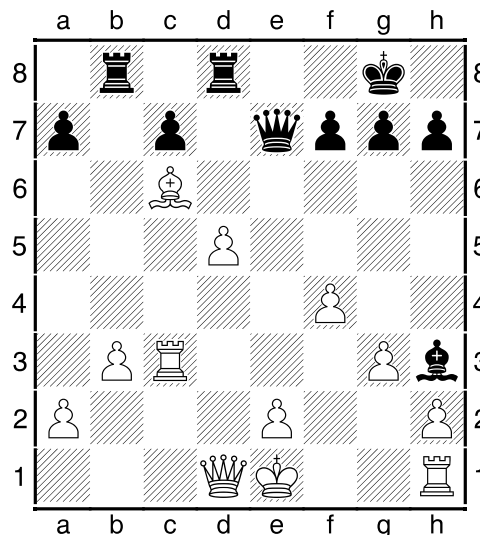
[IM Sitnikov, A]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Qe7 6.Nc3 B:c3 7.B:c3 Ne4 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Bg2 d6 10.d5 N:c3 11.R:c3 Nb8 12.d:e6 B:e6 [The main line here is 12...f:e6 13.0-0 Nd7 14.Nd4 c6 15.b4 with a slightly better chances for the white because of solid residence of the king and pressure on the queenside] **13.Nd4**

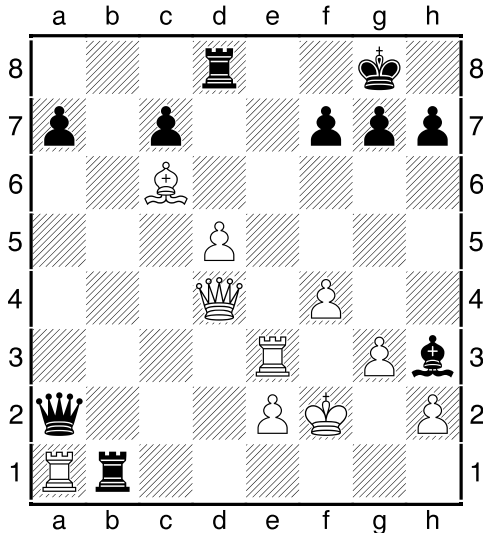


13...Nc6N [Standard approach doesn't solve all problems, for example 13...c6 14.Re3! Nd7 15.0-0 Ne5 16.N:e6 f:e6 17.c5 Nc4 18.c:d6 N:d6 19.Qb3 Rf6 20.Rd3 Nc8 21.a4 Nb6 22.a5 Nd5 23.Rfd1

Qc5 24.e4! Q:f2+ 25.Kh1 Ne7 26.Q:b7 Re8 27.R3d2 Qc5 28.b4 Qe3 29.Rd7 Rf7 30.Q:a7 - white wins] **14.N:c6 b:c6 15.B:c6 Rab8 16.b3 Bh3** Sacrificing a pawn, black deprived of the opponent's castle. However, it is quite possible artificial evacuation of the monarch. **17.f4 d5 18.c:d5 Rfd8**



Obviously, black have been generous for the sake of maximum activation heavy pieces, such Rb4-e4. So white urgently needs to strengthen the position in the centre, even returning part of the loot. **19.Qd4! Qa3 20.Kf2 Q:a2 21.Re3!** Suddenly the rivals exchanged roles. Black remains only to try the latest best chance... **21...R:b3 22.Ra1 Rb1**



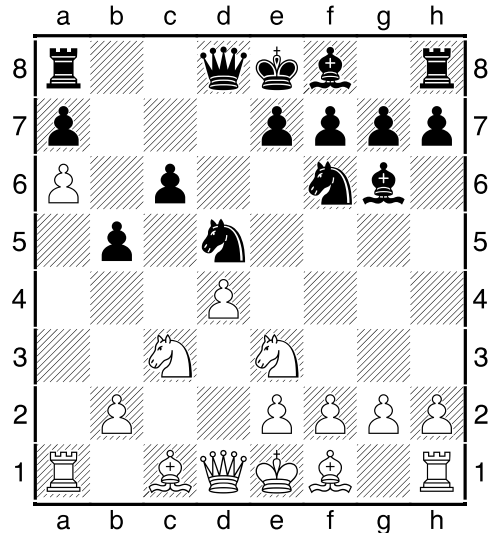
It would seem very unpleasant tactical shot. Untouchable queen, and rooks exchange will lead to eternal pursuit of bare king. But heavy rock stashed in the bosom... **23.Qe4!** Paradoxically, leaving his rook under attack, white attacks the enemy's one, while also creating a threat to checkmate. No protection. **1-0**

(04) Kotanjan, T (2500) - Petrosian, T (2654) [D17]

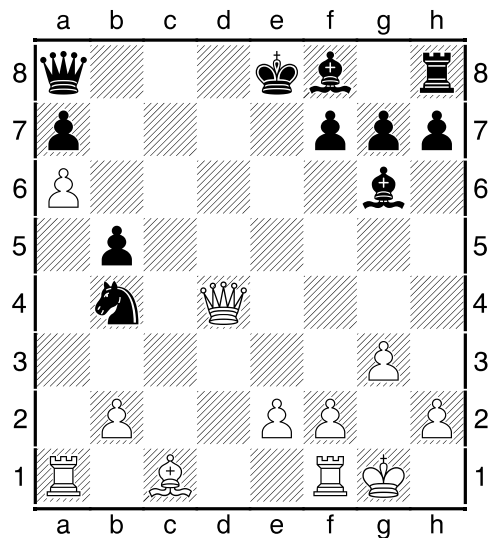
74th Armenian Championship Yerevan (2), 13.01.2014

[IM Sitnikov, A]

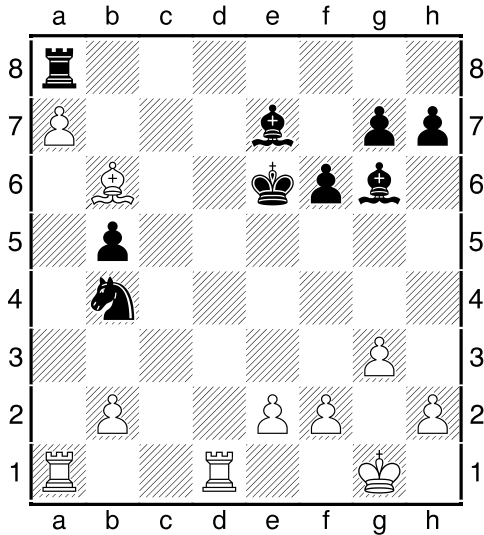
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 d:c4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.N:c4 Nb6 8.Ne3 Bg6 9.a5 Nbd5 [9...Nbd7 10.g3 e6 11.Bg2 Rc8 12.0-0 Be7 13.Nc2 e5 14.e4 e:d4 15.N:d4 0-0 16.f4 Bc5 17.Kh1 Bh5 18.Qd2 and black pieces on the kingside soon fall under pawn press / Savchenko, B (2648) – Hammer, J (2522) / Gjovik op 2009] 10.a6 b5



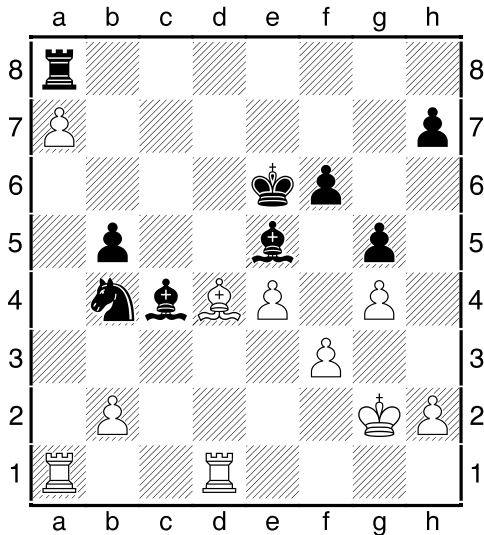
11.Ne:d5N [11.g3 e6 12.Bg2 Be7 13.Ne:d5 c:d5 14.N:b5 0-0 with full compensation for open lines / Malakhatko, V (2569) – Sulaeva, N (2470) / Cappelle op 21st 2005] **11...N:d5 12.g3 Nb4 13.Bg2 e5 14.0-0 e:d4 15.N:b5! c:b5 16.B:a8 Q:a8 17.Q:d4**



17...f6 Black lose castling. Spend time on the clumsy development, and a-pawn remains defenseless. **18.Rd1 Be7 19.Be3 Kf7 20.Q:a7 Q:a7 21.B:a7 Ke6 22.Bb6 Ra8 23.a7**

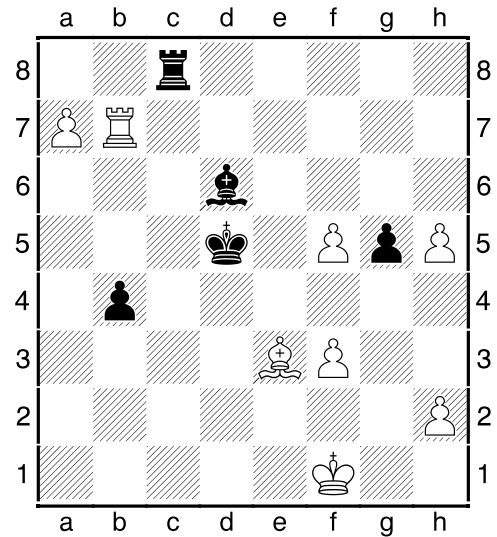


The fate of the game is practically solved. Without strong points, being "on a short leash" near the passed pawn, black will not last long... **23...Be4 24.f3 Bd5 25.e4 Bc4 26.Kg2 g5 27.g4?!** [Faster wins 27.Bd4 f5 28.e:f5+ K:f5 29.Ra5 Nc6 30.g4+ Ke6 31.Ra6 Bd5 32.Rb6 b4 33.Rb5 Ba2 34.Re1+ Kd7 35.Rb7+ Kd6 36.Rb8+-] **27...Bd6 28.Bd4?!** Careful 28. Ra3 , controlling all approaches to own camp... **28...Be5?!**



[Could extend the resistance by 28...Bb3 29.Rd2 Bf4 30.Rf2 Nc6 31.Bc5 Kd7 and king rushes to eliminate enemy infantry] **29.Bc5** [29.B:e5 f:e5 30.b3 Bd3 31.h4 g:h4 32.Rh1 Kd6 33.R:h4 Bc2 34.Ra3 Kc5 35.R:h7+-] **29...Nd3 30.Ra6+ Kf7 31.Be3**

B:b2 32.Rd6 b4 33.R1:d3 B:d3 34.R:d3 Ke6 35.Rd5 Be5 36.Rb5 Bd6 37.Rb7 Rc8 38.Kf1 Avoiding even one check... **38...h5 39.g:h5 f5 40.e:f5+ Kd5**



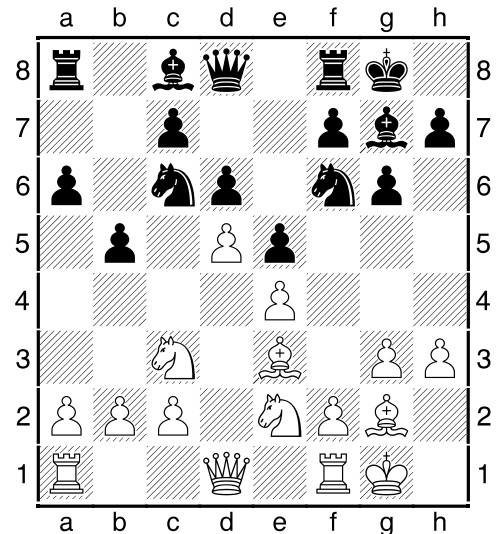
White don't hesitate "scruffy" kind of doubled pawns. One of them should become a queen. **41.h6 Kc4 42.B:g5 Be5 43.f4 1-0**

(05) Danin,A (2602) - Chatalbashev,B (2533) [B07]

Paul Keres Memorial Festival Tallinn (5), 13.01.2014

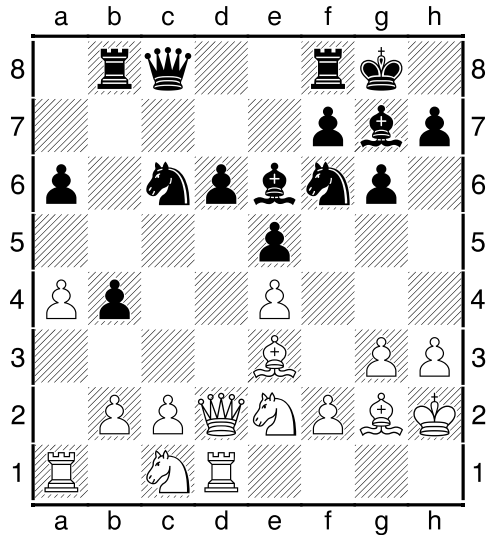
[IM Sitnikov, A]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.Nge2 e5 7.h3 Nc6 8.Be3 a6 9.0-0 b5 10.d5

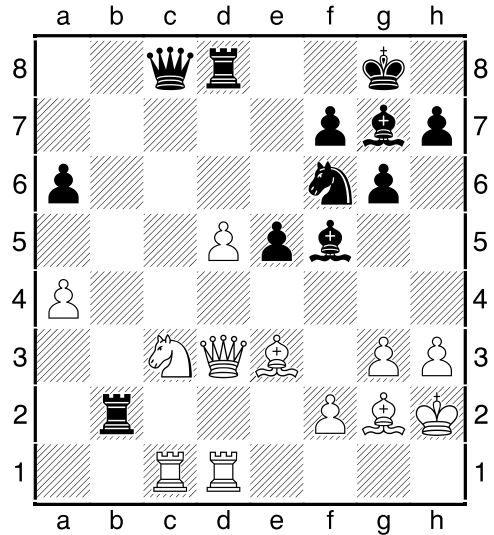


10...Ne7N [After 10...Na5 11.a4 Bd7

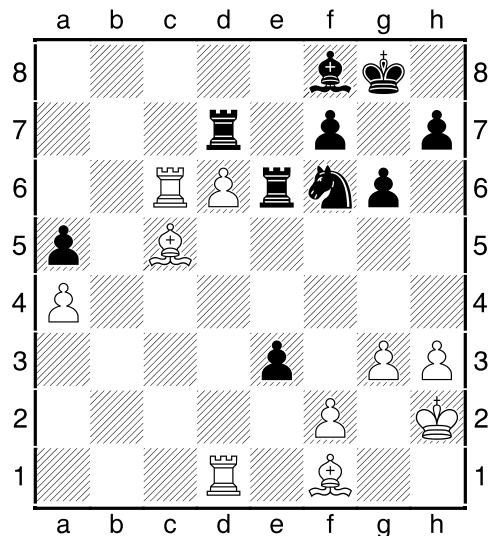
12.Qd3 b:a4 13.b4! Nb7 14.N:a4 black stallion had to accept the role of the statistician / Murdzia, P (2405) – Kalinin, O (2455) / Swidnica op 1998] **11.a4 b4 12.Na2 c5 13.d:c6 N:c6 14.Qd2 Rb8 15.Rfd1 Be6 16.Nac1** [Pawn poisoned: 16.Q:d6 Qc8 17.Qd2 B:h3 with black advantage] **16...Qc8 17.Kh2**



17...d5?! [It was possible to prepare a leisurely break in the center: 17...Rd8 18.Bg5 h6! 19.B:h6 d5 20.B:g7 K:g7 21.e:d5 B:d5 22.Qe1 B:g2 23.K:g2 Qb7 24.Kg1 R:d1 25.Q:d1 Rd8 26.Qf1 Rd2 and the white army pitiful] **18.e:d5 Rd8 19.c4 b:c3 20.N:c3** Due to inaccuracies on the 17-th move, white retains central passed pawn... **20...Nb4 21.Nd3! N:d3 22.Q:d3 R:b2 23.Rac1 Bf5**

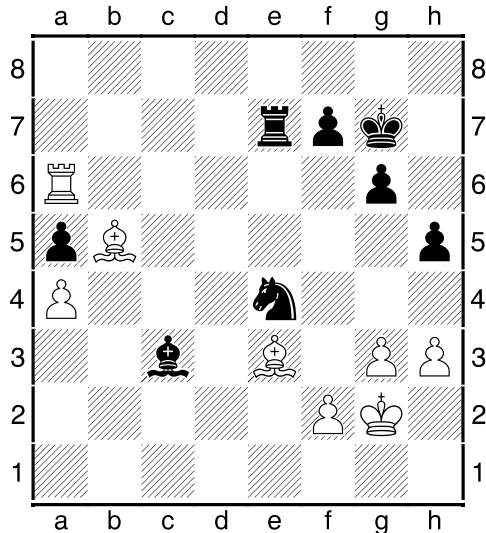


24.Ne4! This way is forced transition to the endgame, where a pair of bishops will show a solo concert... **24...Qb7 25.Nc5 B:d3 26.N:b7 R:b7 27.R:d3 e4 28.Rdd1 Rbd7 29.d6 Bf8 30.Bb6 Re8 31.Rc6 Re6 32.Bc5 a5** [Not helped 32...Ne8 33.R:a6 B:d6 34.B:d6 Rd:d6 35.Rd:d6 R:d6 36.R:d6 N:d6 37.a5 f5 38.a6 Nc8 39.g4 Kf7 40.g:f5 g:f5 41.Kg3 Kf6 42.Kf4 Nb6 43.a7 Nd5+ 44.Kg3 Nc7 45.f4 e:f3 46.B:f3 Ke5 47.Bb7 Kf6 48.Kh4 Kg6 49.Bc6 Kh6 50.Be8 Na8 51.Bd7 Kg6 52.Kg3 Kg5 53.h4+ Kg6 54.Kf4 – white gradually eats both pawns and then sends the king to the opposite flank] **33.Bf1 e3**

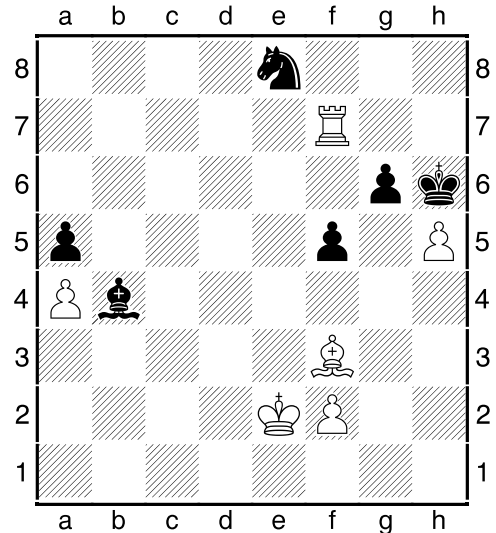


34.B:e3 [Victory was achieved easier: 34.Bc4 e2 35.Re1 Re5 36.f4 Re4 37.Bb5

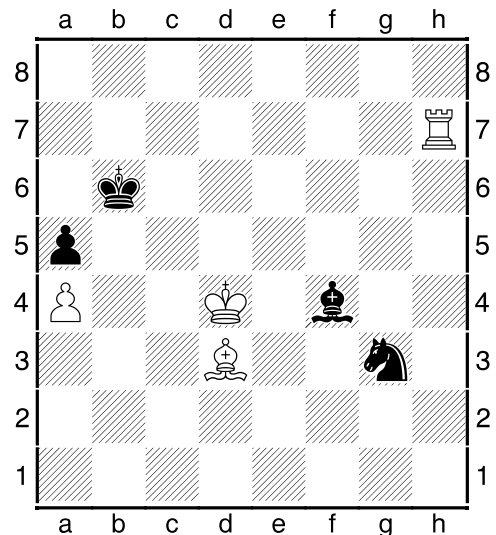
Rd8 38.R:e2 R:e2+ 39.B:e2 Ne4 40.Bb6 R:d6 41.R:d6 B:d6 42.B:a5 g5 43.f:g5 N:g3 44.Bc4 Ne4+ 45.Kg2 N:g5 46.Bd5! cutting off the knight, and in case of his exchange black soon have to lose the bishop]
34...Rd:d6 35.Rd:d6 B:d6 36.Bb5 The game enters the stage of slow maneuvering... **36...Be5 37.Rc8+ Kg7 38.Kg2 Ne4 39.Ra8 Bc3 40.Bc4 Re7 41.Ra6 h5 42.Bb5**



42...f5?! Nervous pawn movement only simplifies the task for white. **43.Rc6 Bf6 44.Bb6 h4 45.g:h4 B:h4 46.Bd8 Bf6 47.B:e7 B:e7 48.Ra6** A further problem for white – to create in the opponent's camp additional weakness to alternately attacking pawns on both flanks... **48...Bb4 49.Bc6 Nf6 50.h4 Kh6 51.Bf3 Kg7 52.Rb6 Bc3 53.Rb5 Bd2 54.Kf1 Kh6 55.Ke2 Bc3 56.Rb6 Kg7 57.Rb7+ Kh6 58.Rf7 Ne8 59.Rd7 Nf6 60.Rc7 Bb4 61.Rf7 Ne8 62.h5**



62...Ng7 63.h:g6 K:g6 64.Rb7 It is obvious that infantryman f5 soon falls under the scope. Defence here is a thankless task... **64...Bc3 65.Rb5 Kg5 66.Rb6 Kf4 67.Rc6 Bb4 68.Rg6 Ne8 69.Bd5 Nd6 70.Re6 Bc5 71.Bg2 Bb4 72.Rh6 Ke5 73.Bc6 Bc5 74.Rh4 Bb4 75.Kd3 Bc5 76.f4+ Ke6 77.Rh6+ Ke7 78.Bd5 Ba3 79.Rh7+ Kf6 80.Rd7 Kg6 81.Ra7 Bb4 82.Kd4 Kf6 83.Ra6 Ke7 84.Bb3 Ne4 85.Re6+ Kd7 86.Rh6 Bd6 87.Be6+ Kc7 88.Rh7+ Kb6 89.B:f5 Ng3 90.Bd3 B:f4**



It would seem that black gets desired – one after another exchanged the pawns, and pieces support each other. But look closely, you will notice that the knight is completely immobilized and cut off from the main place of events. Now the superior

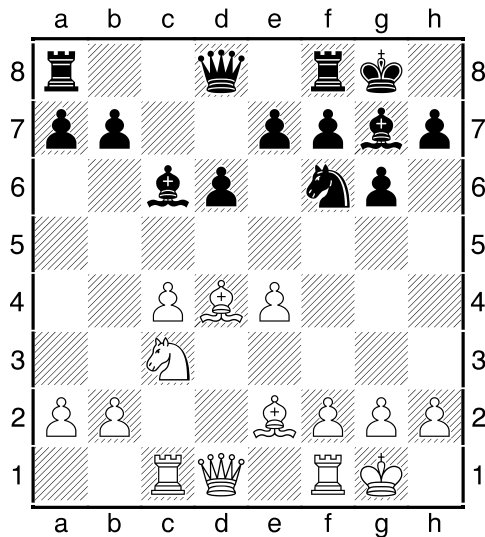
white forces fall on the enemy king. **91.Kd5 Bd2 92.Rh2 Be3 93.Rb2+ Kc7 94.Rc2+ Kb7 95.Kd6 Bf4+ 96.Kc5 Bc7 97.Rb2+ Kc8 98.Kc6 Kd8 99.Rb5 1-0**

(06) Hovhannisyan,R (2592) - Andrian,Z (2621) [B38]

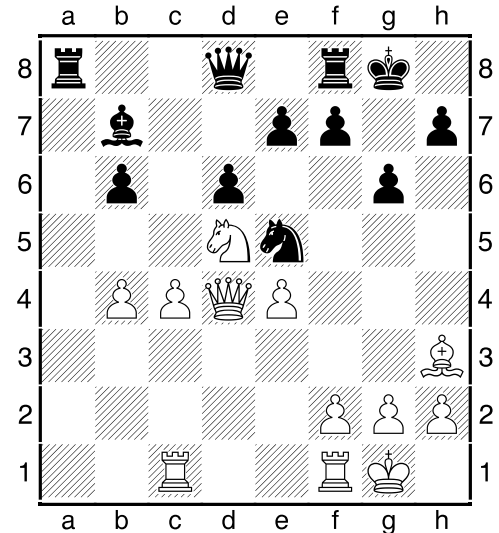
74th Armenian Championship Yerevan (3), 14.01.2014

[IM Sitnikov, A]

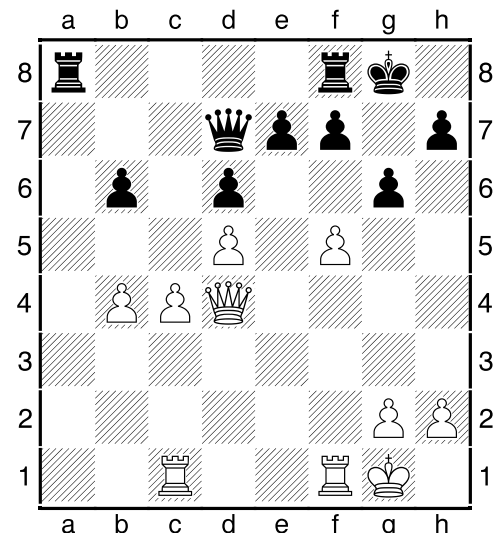
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 c:d4 4.N:d4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.e4 d6 7.Be2 Nc6 8.Be3 0-0 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Rc1 N:d4 11.B:d4 Bc6



12.Qd3 As we said in notes to the game Brkic – Stanojoski (see CZM 11/2013 issue), white increasingly abandoning the template 12. f3 in favor of queen move. Thus precluding the possibility of check Qb6 (after the exchange of dark-squared bishops), and pawn "b" fast marching forward... **12...Nd7 13.B:g7 K:g7 14.b4 b6 15.a3N a5 16.Bg4** White successfully activates the bishop, leaving a black pawn "b" without support... **16...Ne5 17.Qd4 a:b4 18.a:b4 Kg8 19.Bh3 Bb7 20.Nd5**

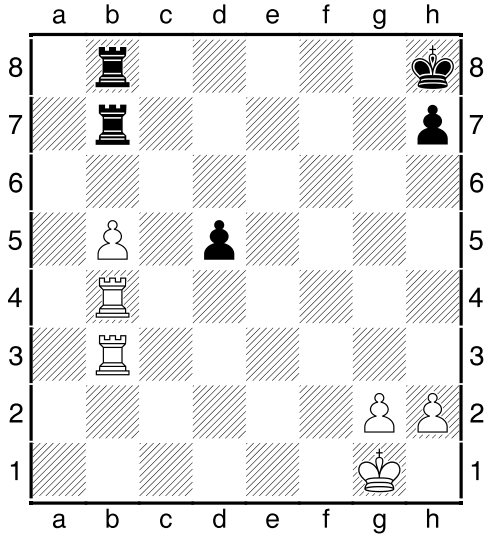


20...B:d5 [Narrow path by only moves white retained advantage: **20...e6 21.N:b6 Ra3 22.Rfd1! Qg5 (22...R:h3 23.Q:e5 d:e5 24.R:d8 R:d8 25.g:h3 B:e4 26.c5 Bc6 27.Nc4 f6 28.Nd6±) 23.Rc3 Nf3+ 24.R:f3 R:f3 25.Q:d6 B:e4 26.g3 Rc3 (26...Bc2 27.Rd2 Bb3 28.Nd7 Ra8 29.Kg2 Rc3 30.B:e6 B:c4 31.B:c4 R:c4 32.Nb6±) 27.Nd7 Ra8 28.Bf1 Rca3 29.Qd4 Bc2 30.Re1 Qd8 31.c5** and attacking opportunities in conjunction with pawns movement must succeed] **21.e:d5 Qc7 22.f4 Nd7 23.B:d7 Q:d7 24.f5!**



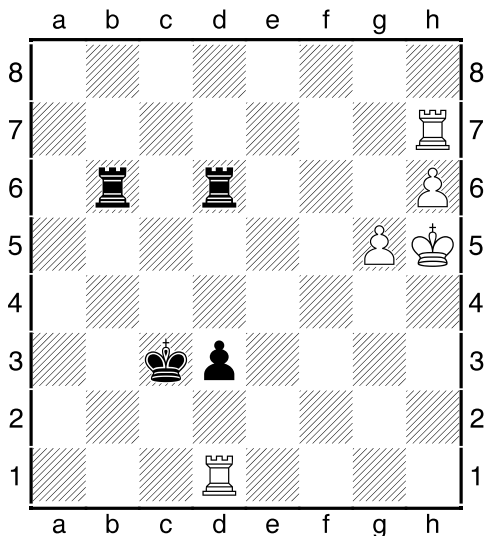
24...g:f5 Black could not endure this bone in the throat, however, now warrior dies on the queenside. **25.Q:b6 Qa7** [The matter is that after **25...Rfb8 26.Qe3 R:b4 27.Qg3+**

Kf8 28.Qc3 the rook fails] **26.Q:a7 R:a7**
27.R:f5 Rb8 28.b5 Rc7 29.Rc3 e6
30.Rg3+ Kh8 31.d:e6 f:e6 32.Rf4 d5
33.c:d5 e:d5 34.Rb3 Rcb7 35.Rfb4



Pulling alternately pawns on both flanks, white puts the opponent in a stalemate...

35...Kg7 36.b6 Kf6 37.Kf2 Ke5 38.g4 Kd6
39.h4 Kc5 40.Rb5+ Kc6 41.Rb1 Rf8+
42.Kg3 d4 43.g5 Rd8 44.R5b3 Rd5
45.Kg4 Rd6 46.h5 Kd5 47.R3b2 d3
48.Rd2 Kc4 49.Rc1+ Kb3 50.h6 Rd8
51.Rc6 Rd5 52.Rc1 Rd8 53.Kh5 Rd6
54.Rc7 It's time for a decisive breakthrough... **54...Rb:b6 55.R:h7 Kc3 56.Rd1**



56...d2 [Even with more persistent defence
56...Kc2 57.Rh1 Rbc6 58.Ra7 d2 59.Ra2+

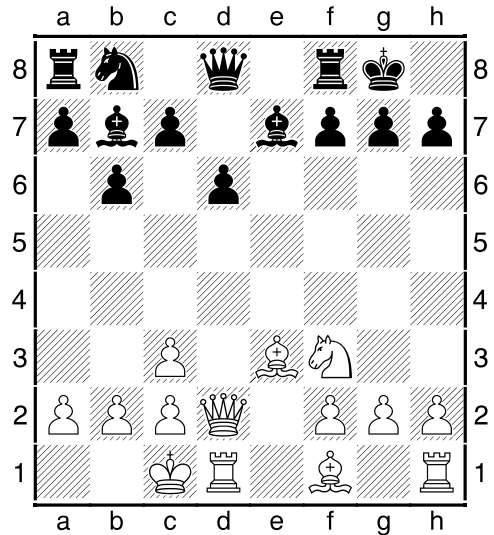
Kb3 60.Raa1 Rd7 61.Kg4 Kb2 62.Rag1
Rh7 63.Rh2 Kc3 64.Rd1 Rd6 65.Rd:d2
R:d2 66.R:d2 K:d2 67.Kh5 passed pawns
 are unstoppable] **57.Rc7+ Kd3 58.h7 Rb8**
59.Rb7 Rh8 60.g6 Kc2 61.Rbb1 Re8
62.Rh1 Rd5+ 63.Kh6 Rde5 64.Ra1 Kb2
65.Ra7 Rd5 66.Kg7 Rdd8 67.Rb7+ Kc2
68.Rc7+ Kd3 69.h8Q 1-0

(07) Dominguez Perez,L (2754) - So,W (2719) [C42]

76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (8), 21.01.2014

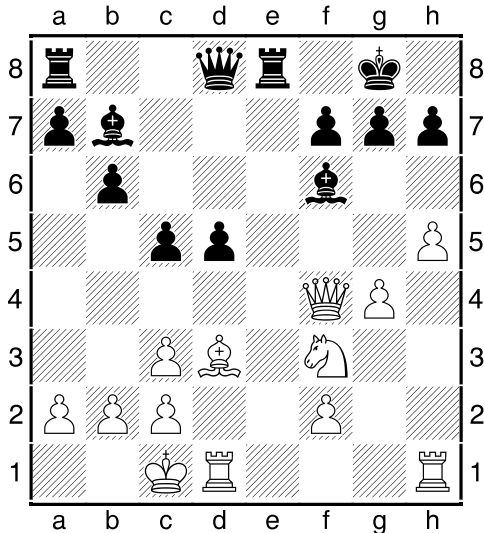
[IM Sitnikov, A]

Even in the opening with a reputation of the most boring one, you can create combination masterpieces! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6**
3.N:e5 d6 4.Nf3 N:e4 5.Nc3 N:c3 6.d:c3
Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 b6 9.0-0-0 Bb7

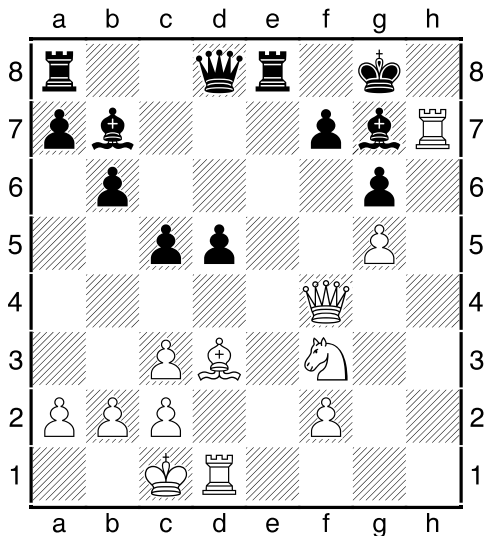


So kings found their haven on opposite flanks. What should I do in this case? Of course, first of all, to drive infantry assault!

10.h4 Nd7 However, black placed his forces very harmoniously, and his position has no hint of weakness. **11.Bd3 Nf6** All black moves seemingly logical, right – but the trouble! – when versatile castling, "normal" position moves from general considerations often don't work! **12.Bd4!** [Interesting to test in practice **12.Bg5!**? – the fact is that black can not so easy attack bishop by pawn: **12...h6?** (**12...Ne4 13.B:e4 B:e4 14.Rde1 B:g5 15.h:g5 Re8 16.Qf4 Bg6 17.Nh4!**) **13.B:h6!+-**] **12...c5 13.B:f6 B:f6 14.Qf4 d5 15.h5 Re8 16.g4?!**



And now, as paradoxically, white leads attack by "general considerations" – like it is necessary to drive all pawns to ram the opponent's defenses... But here a specific approach needed! Strong attack could be obtained without the intervention of g-pawn, which, incidentally, greatly undermined the welfare of his colleague – f3 rider. [It is likely needed for a successful attack gaps in the enemy's fortress can be accessed via the queen maneuver: 16.Qf5! g6 17.Qg4! Re7 18.Nh4 with persistent threats to sacrifices] **16...g6??** Black doesn't withstand the siege, and presents on a silver the key from gates of the castle. [It is unclear what scared him with a simple 16...d4! 17.g5 B:f3 18.g:f6 Q:f6=] **17.h:g6 h:g6 18.g5! Bg7 19.Rh7!**



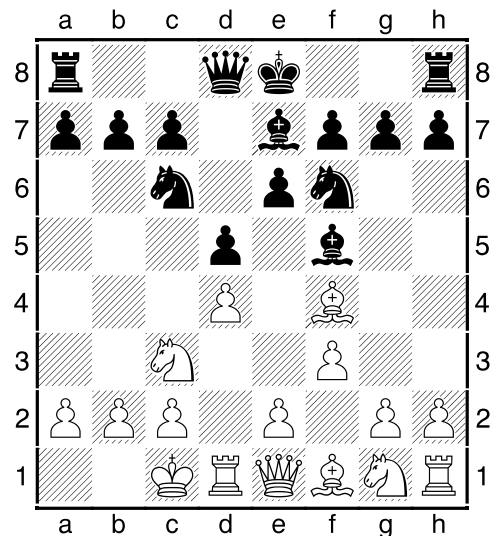
Very beautifully! Although this combinational motive not just once met in practice... **19...d4 20.Bc4! Qe7 21.Qh4** White puts heavy pieces through "h" and checkmates the opponent – the dream of any attacker! **1-0**

(08) Naiditsch,A (2718) - Harikrishna,P (2706) [D00]

76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 23.01.2014

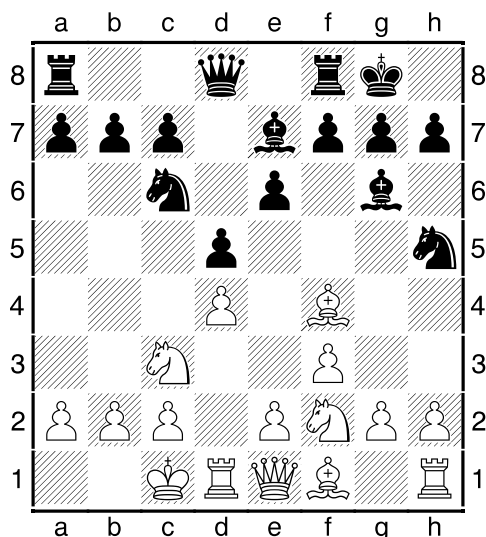
[IM Sitnikov, A]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.f3!? It is quite possible continuation. Already on the fourth move, a new interesting position! Well, it's nice that the scope for independent creativity in chess is still so wide! **4...e6 5.Qd2!?** White is quite logical. He prepares the castle long and waits for the opponent to the short side castling. [Although it was possible immediate 5.g4 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.e3 Be7 8.Bd3 B:d3 9.Q:d3 c5 10.Nge2 Nc6 11.0-0-0! and white's chances are not worse in the upcoming complex mid-game... 11...c4?! 12.Qd2 Qa5 13.e4! d:e4 14.f:e4 N:g4 15.Qe1 0-0-0 16.Qg3±] **5...Be7 6.0-0-0 Nc6** [Possible also 6...c5!? 7.d:c5 Nc6! 8.e4 d:e4 9.Qe2 Qa5 10.f:e4 Bg4 11.Nf3 Q:c5 with approximately equal chances] **7.Qe1!**



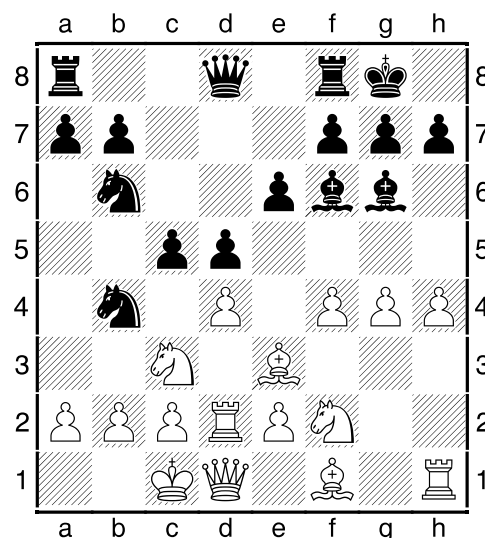
Slow and mysterious-looking maneuver white queen doesn't deserve critical arrows. Actually, this move is strong and multi-faceted. White creates confrontation

of rook to the black queen, prepares an important advance in the centre e2–e4! And also, the queen position on e1 allows one fell swoop transfer it to the kingside attack... **7...Bg6** Prevention! Now any white pawn moves without attacking the bishop. **8.Nh3?! Too slow!** [Perhaps it was time for the establishment of a marine to the center: 8.e4! 0-0 9.h4 h5 10.Bg5 with initiative] **8...0-0 9.Nf2?** Continued leisurely wandering knight, and when versatile castlings, each tempo becomes particularly important! On the field f2 knight only "gets in the way" of own pieces. [You could try 9.Bg3!? Nb4! 10.e4 d:e4 11.f:e4 but strong and vibrant play black received a slight advantage: 11...c5! 12.d:c5 Qa5 13.a3 B:c5! 14.Nf4 Rfd8 15.N:g6 h:g6 16.Kb1 Nc6] **9...Nh5!**



10.Be3? This move white own hands put an end to all his play and the rest of the game will be forced only to observe passively the enemy initiative. [But both the retreat to g3 didn't promise white happiness: 10.Bg3 Rc8!? 11.e4 d:e4 12.d5 e:d5 13.R:d5 Qe8 14.Nf:e4 f5 15.Nd2 Bg5 16.Bb5 a6 17.Ba4 b5 18.Bb3 Kh8 and black has a serious advantage] **10...Nb4 11.Rd2** [11.Nd3 c5! 12.g4 Nf6 13.h4 Rc8 14.Kb1 c:d4 15.B:d4 B:d3 16.e:d3 Nc6 17.Bf2 d4 18.Ne4 Nd5 with attack] **11...c5! 12.g4 Nf6 13.h4 Nd7 14.f4** [14.h5 N:c2 15.R:c2 B:c2 16.K:c2 c:d4 17.B:d4 e5+] **14...Bf6 15.Qd1** [15.f5 e:f5 16.h5 f4

17.B:f4 c:d4 18.Nb5 Qa5 19.h:g6 Q:a2-+] 15...Nb6

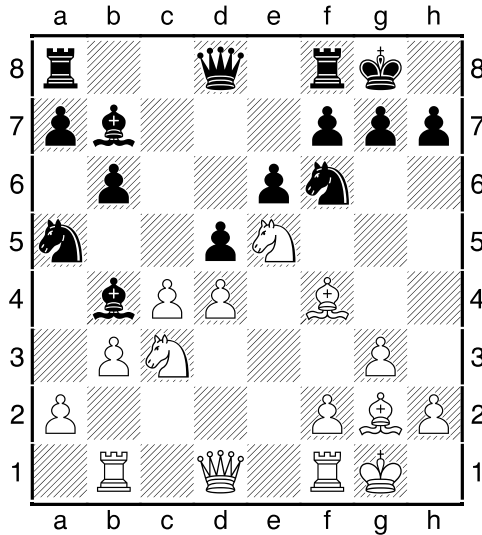
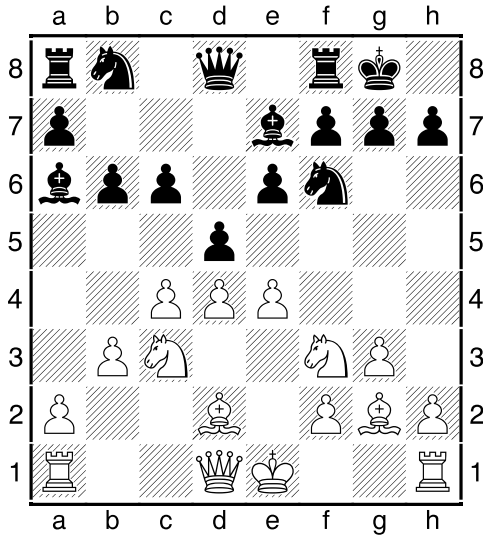


White's position is hopeless. After a few moves he resigned: his headquarters fell under the fire of the enemy artillery. **16.d:c5 B:c3 17.c:b6 a:b6 18.b:c3 N:a2+ 19.Kb2 Qd6 0-1**

(09) Aronian,L (2812) - Karjakin,S (2759) [E15]

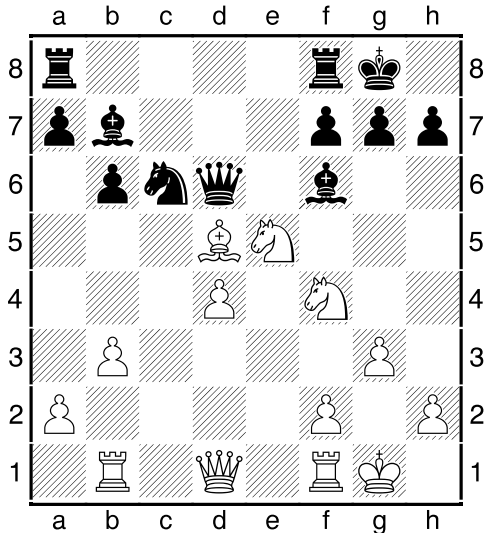
76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 23.01.2014
[IM Sitnikov, A]

In the ninth round held a duel which actually called the name of the winner of the tournament. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3** Rivals for the third time in the last two years lead discussions in this variation of Queen's Indian, which had a reputation as "modest" and usually led to a draw seared items. However, in recent years, have found many new and interesting here. [The most actively debated acute option with the pawn sacrifice: 5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.d5!?] **5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bg2 c6 9.e4 d5** **Дарова**

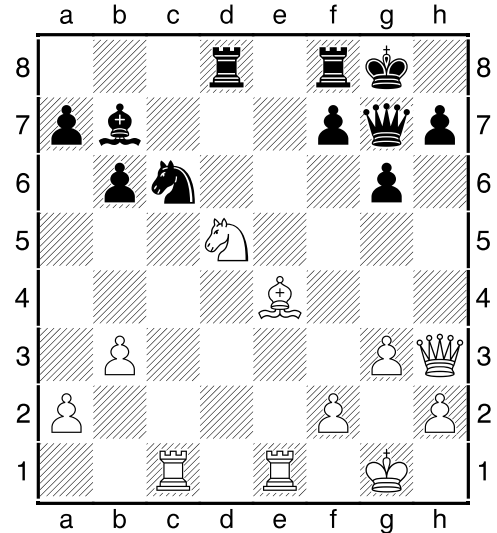


10.e:d5 [Trying to maintain the pawn center is not entirely successful: 10.Qe2 b5! 11.e5 (just bad 11.e:d5? e:d5 12.c:b5 c:b5 13.N:b5 Ba3!! and white lose a piece / Tukmakov, V (2575) – Chernin, A (2570) / Moscow 1987) 11...Nfd7! 12.c:b5 c:b5 13.Qe3 b4 14.Ne2 Nc6 15.Rc1 Qb6 16.Nf4 Rac8 17.Bf1 Rc7!?, and black has slightly better prospects further in the game] **10...c:d5** [Weaker is 10...e:d5 11.0-0! d:c4 12.Re1 Re8 13.b:c4 B:c4 14.Ne5 Q:d4 15.Bg5! Q:c3 16.Rc1 Qa5 17.R:c4 h6 18.Ra4 Qc5 19.Qb3 Rf8 20.B:f6 B:f6 21.N:f7 Qc3 22.N:h6+ Kh8 23.Nf7+ Kg8 24.Ne5+ Q:b3 25.a:b3±, and white has a clear advantage in the endgame] **11.Ne5 Bb7** [Earlier in this position Sergey preferred 11...Nfd7?! 12.0-0! N:e5 13.d:e5 Nd7 14.Re1, ~~здесь он впродолжении игры~~ 14...d:c4! (14...d4 15.Nb5!) 15.B:a8 Q:a8, ~~и тогда~~ 16.Bh6! Rd8 17.Qg4 – white developed a dangerous initiative and achieved victory / Aronian, L (2816) – Karjakin, S (2778) Sao Paulo/Bilbao 2012] **12.0-0 Nc6 13.Bf4 Na5 14.Rc1 Ba3 15.Rb1 Bb4** ~~Дарзав~~

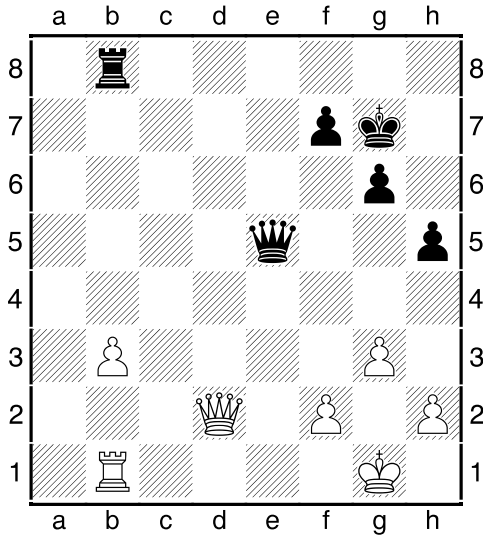
Rivals lightning played debut. Which is not surprising – this position was also found in one of their fights. **16.Ne2** [In previous times Levon played 16.Na4 Ne4 17.a3 Be7 18.c:d5 e:d5 19.b4 Nc6 20.Rc1 Rc8 21.Bh3 f5 22.f3 Nd6 Black has a good game. It is unclear what exactly does a white knight on the edge of the board. 23.Qd3 N:e5 24.d:e5 R:c1 25.B:c1?! Nc4! now Black seizes the initiative 26.f4 b5! 27.Nc3 Qb6+ 28.Rf2 d4 29.Ne2 Rd8! 30.Q:f5 d3! 31.Qe6+ Kf8 32.Qf5+?! Ke8! 33.Q:h7 d2! 34.B:d2 R:d2 35.e6 Rd1+ 36.Bf1 Q:e6 37.Qh5+ Kf8 38.Nc3 Qc6 0-1 Aronian, L (2813) – Karjakin, S (2767) / Stavanger 2013] **16...Nc6 17.Bg5 Be7 18.Nf4 Qd6** Karjakin shows refinement. [Position after the 18th move of White Sergei had to defend already. As they say, better luck next time, and he chose 18...Ne4? 19.c:d5! e:d5 20.N:c6! B:c6 21.B:e7 Q:e7 22.Re1! Qf6 23.Rc1 Bb7 24.Rc7 Rab8 25.Qc2! Q:d4 26.Rd1 Qf6 27.N:d5 B:d5 28.R:d5 Nc5 29.R:a7 And further – it endgame technique. In Leko – Karjakin, 2013 black stubborn defense saved half a point.] **19.B:f6 B:f6 20.c:d5 e:d5?!** Black choose the path of suffering .. [20...N:d4 21.Ng4 (21.d:e6 B:e5 22.B:b7 Rab8 23.e:f7+ Kh8 24.Be4 B:f4 25.g:f4 g6 26.Qd3 R:f7 27.Rbd1 Rd8 28.Qe3 R:f4=) 21...e5! 22.Nh5 Be7 23.N:e5 B:d5 24.Ng6 h:g6 25.Q:d4 g:h5 26.B:d5 Rad8=] **21.B:d5** ~~Дарзав~~



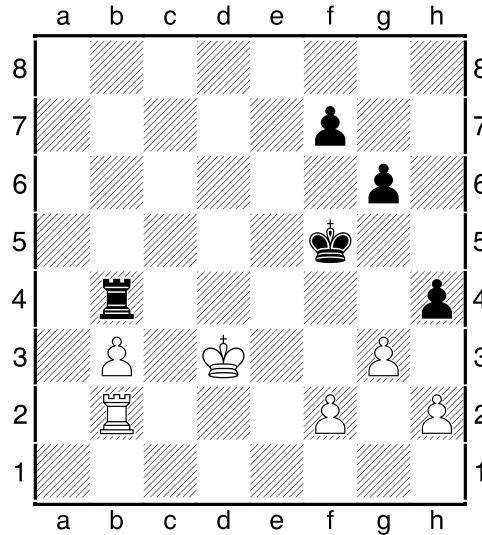
21...B:e5?! Nobody marked inaccuracy. After this move white will have a lot of pressure in the center and diagonal h1-a8. And even if black contrived to exchange light-squared bishops, it may not bring the desired relief to him... [Stronger 21...Rad8 22.N:c6 B:c6 23.B:c6 Q:c6 24.d5 Qb7 Now keep the white pawn not easy. This can only be weakened his king's pawn cover: 25.Qh5 g6 26.Qf3 Be5 27.Rbd1 B:f4 28.g:f4 Rd6 29.Rd4 Rfd8 30.Rfd1 Qd7 There will be difficult for white to make any progress, because his pieces chained to the protection of the central pawn. In addition, dual infantries "f" don't paint his position] **22.d:e5 Q:e5 23.Re1± Qf6 24.Nh5** [Looked tempting both 24.Qe2!? Rad8 25.Qe4; and 24.Qf3!? Rad8 25.Qg2 Rd7 26.b4] **24...Qh6 25.Qg4 Qg6 26.Qh3** [Exchange of queens greatly facilitates black game: 26.Q:g6?! h:g6 27.Nf4 Rad8] **26...Rad8 27.Nf4 Qf6 28.Be4** [Need to increase pressure on the long diagonal: 28.Qg2! Ba8 (28...Rd7 29.b4 Kh8 30.Rbd1 Rfd8? 31.Rc1! Rd6 32.b5) 29.Rbd1 Ne5 30.B:a8 R:a8 31.Qe4 Rae8 32.Re3 Qc6 33.Q:c6 N:c6 34.Rc3 Rc8 35.Nd5 Rfd8 , and white wins a pawn with good chances for victory: 36.Kg2 Kf8 37.N:b6 a:b6 38.R:d8+ R:d8 39.R:c6] **28...g6 29.Nd5?!** Active attack doesn't cause any damage to black. On the contrary, this move helps opponent release knight from the tangle. [29.Qg2 Rd2 30.Rbc1 Re8 31.h4] **29...Qg7 30.Rbc1** ~~Draw~~



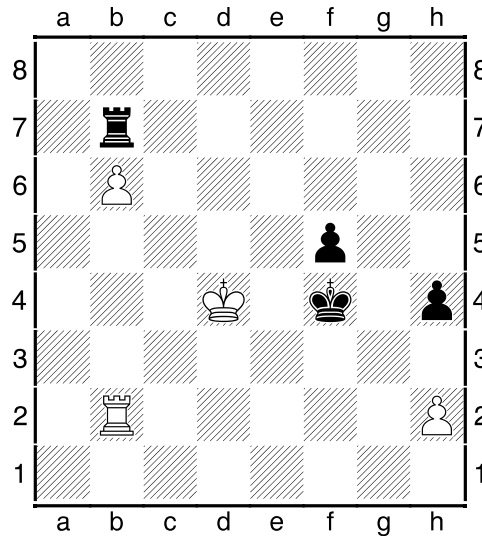
30...Kh8? Black, not seeing the danger, made a careless move by king, which was blunder. But just how large "margin of safety" in chess! Black more than once or twice in the future could make this game a draw! [Was right to bring in a battle the second rook: 30...Rfe8! with full equalization] **31.N:b6! a:b6 32.B:c6 B:c6 33.R:c6 Rd2** Despite losing a pawn, black pieces activity and limited remaining material on the board gives him a good chance to save the game. **34.Qh4** [Looked interesting 34.Qc8!? R:a2 35.Re8 Kg8 36.R:b6 but black has the opportunity to convert the game into a rook endgame and put his rook behind the enemy passed pawn: 36...R:e8 37.Q:e8+ Qf8 38.Qe5 Ra8 39.b4 Qe8 40.Q:e8+ R:e8 41.b5 Re1+ 42.Kg2 Rb1! Detailed analysis of this and similar rook endings you can find in the wonderful "Endgame tutorial" by Mark Dvoretzky. With accurate play black can achieve a draw] **34...R:a2 35.Qb4 h5 36.Q:b6 Ra1 37.Rcc1 R:c1 38.R:c1 Qb2 39.Rd1 Kh7 40.Qb5 Kg7 41.Qd3 Rb8 42.Rb1 Qe5 43.Qd2** ~~Draw~~



43...h4? An important point. Black permits the exchange of queens, but opponent's rook takes an ideal position – behind the passed pawn! Obviously, black would quickly lock the enemy infantryman, bring the king, exchange remaining kingside pawns. Let's see what came of it. [43...Kh7 44.b4 Qe4 45.Rb2 Rb5 46.h4 Rd5 47.Qe2 Q:e2!? 48.R:e2 Rd1+ 49.Kg2 Rb1] **44.Qb2! Q:b2 45.R:b2 Rb4 46.Kf1 Kf6 47.Ke2 Kf5?!** Where is the king? – The big secret! [More stubborn send king to fight the dangerous passed: 47...Ke5 48.Kd3 Kd5 49.Kc3 Re4 50.b4!? Kc6 51.Kd3 Re1 52.Rc2+ Kd5 53.Rc5+ Kd6 54.Rc4 h:g3 55.h:g3 Rf1 56.Rc2 Rb1 57.Kc3 Kc6 58.Kc4 and the result of the game here remained questionable] **48.Kd3** ~~Дарова~~



48...g5? Finally ruining the game. Urgently needed to run the king to the queenside! By move in the game nobody fights against passed pawn. **49.Kc3 Rb7 50.b4 Kg4 51.b5 Kh3 52.g:h4! g:h4 53.f4 Kg4 54.b6 f5 55.Kd4 K:f4** ~~Дарова~~

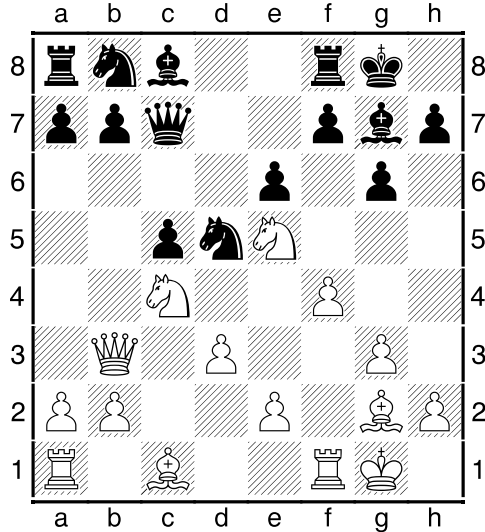


56.Rb3! Technical solution! [Black likely relied on inaccurate 56.Kc5 Kf3 57.Kc6 Rb8 58.b7 f4 59.Kc7 Rf8 60.b8Q R:b8 61.K:b8 h3 62.Kc7 Ke4 63.Kd6 f3=] **56...h3 57.Kd5 Kg4 58.Kc6 Rb8 59.Rg3+! Kh4 60.b7 f4 61.Rg7 1-0**

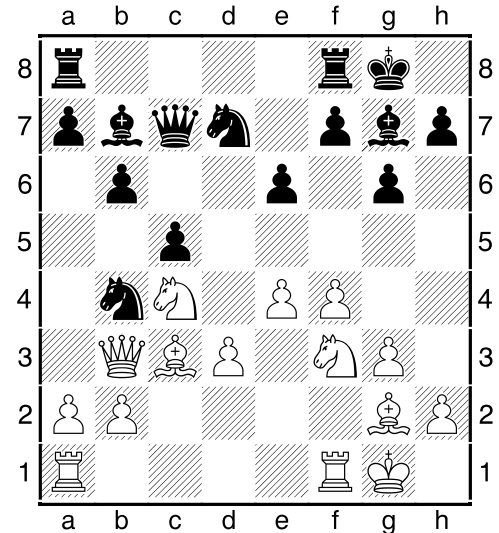
(10) Caruana,F (2782) - Naiditsch,A (2718) [A09]
76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (10), 25.01.2014

[IM Sitnikov, A]

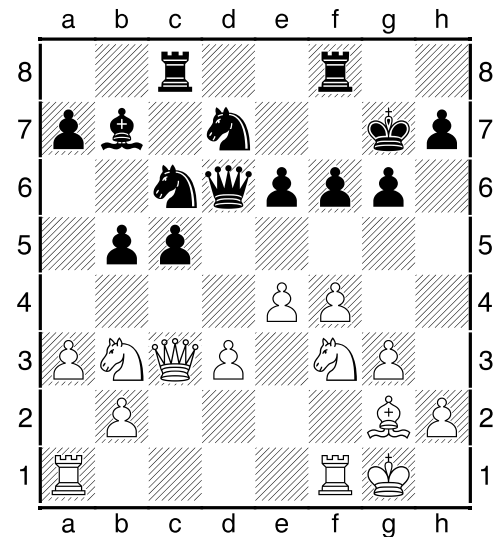
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 g6 4.c4 d:c4
5.Na3 Bg7 6.N:c4 c5 It took just six
moves, and the position is almost never
met in practice! Already in the beginning of
the game you can find an interesting one
less traveled path. It would wish! 7.Nfe5 0-
0 8.d3 Nd5 9.Qb3 e6 10.0-0 Qc7 11.f4!



White must hold ground in the center.
Otherwise, in case of knight retreat, black
hold e6–e5 and will stand better... 11...Nd7
12.Bd2 b6 Black did not dare to take the
donated a pawn, and he was right! Com-
pensation would be very powerful, and
black risked quickly lose: [12...N:e5
13.N:e5 B:e5 14.f:e5 Q:e5 15.Rf2 Ne3
16.Bf3 Nf5 17.Bh1 Nd4 18.Qc3f N:e2+?
19.R:e2 Q:e2 20.Bh6] 13.Nf3! Exchanges
usually beneficial for defensive side. So
here: to successful development initiatives
white useful to keep in game more piec-
es... 13...Bb7 14.e4 Nb4 15.Bc3

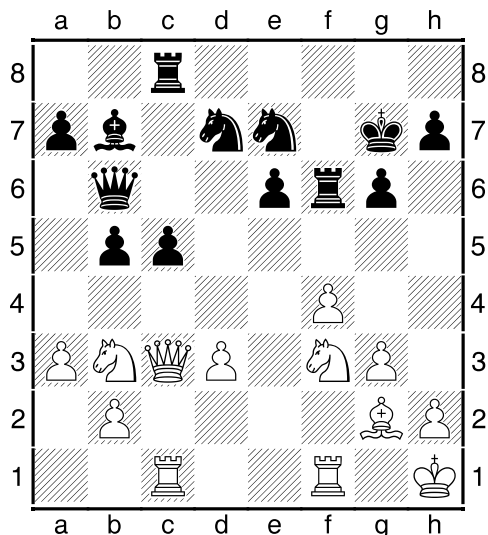


[15.a3!? Nc6 16.e5 Ne7 17.Bc3] 15...b5!
16.B:g7 K:g7 17.Qc3+ f6 18.Ncd2
[18.Ne3!? Rad8 (18...Qb6 19.a4 a6 20.d4
B:e4?? 21.d:c5 Q:c5 22.Nd4!)] 18...Qd6
19.a3 Nc6 20.Nb3?! White overly cautious.
[Immediate breakthrough in the center
would allow him to reach pawn c5: 20.e5!
f:e5 21.N:e5 Nd4 22.N:d7 Q:d7 23.B:b7
Q:b7 24.Q:c5±] 20...Rac8



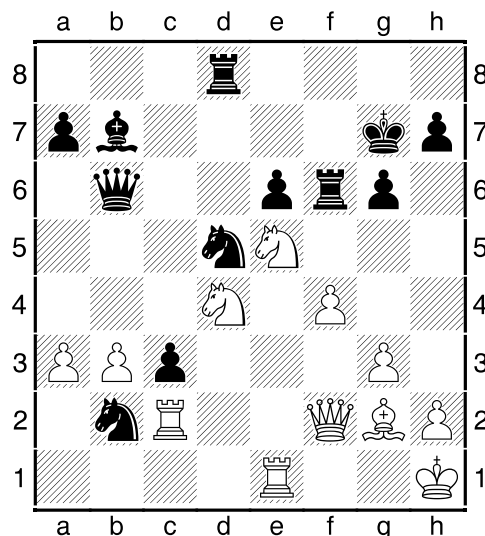
21.Rac1?! Again at a critical moment Fa-
biano indecisive! [In the current situation,
the pawn breakthrough brought more divi-
dends: 21.e5! f:e5 22.N:e5! and black
cannot lossless untangle this "vicious cir-
cle": 22...Nd4 23.N:d7 B:g2 24.N:f8 B:f1
25.N:d4 Q:d4+ 26.Q:d4+ c:d4 27.N:e6+
Kf6 28.N:d4 B:d3 29.Rd1 and in this ex-

emplary embodiment, the best scenario for black, he still falls into the bleak ending] **21...Ne7 22.e5?** White realized that "poke" at the most inopportune moment when the black pieces are perfectly coordinated! Line "f", which white so kindly opened for opponent play, backfire him in this game... **22...Qb6! 23.e:f6+ R:f6 24.Kh1**



[It was time for safety reasons to think about queens exchange 24.Qa5!?] Further part of the game Naiditsch holds very clearly. As if sensing opponent uncertainty, black started playing with a vengeance! **24...Nd5! 25.Qd2 c4! 26.d:c4 b:c4 27.Nbd4 Nc5! 28.Rc2 Nd3 29.b3 Nb2 30.Ne5** White suddenly decided to show activity. [If throw to fight against "subversive" c4 another heavy gun: 30.Rfc1 variants lead us to the complicated endgame where the parties are roughly equal chances: 30...c3 31.R:c3 N:c3 32.R:c3 Rd8

33.Q:b2 B:f3 34.N:f3 Rd1+ 35.Bf1 R:f1+ 36.Kg2 Rd1] 30...c3 31.Qf2 Rd8! 32.Re1?



[It seems, should play only 32.Qg1! leading the queen of confrontation with the enemy rook through "f" : 32...N:f4 33.g:f4 R:d4 34.R:c3 Here the white balances on the edge, but like holds] **32...N:f4!** Furious blow! At first it seems like just an exchange pawns, leading to the complete chances equation... But it is not so! **33.g:f4 R:d4 34.R:c3 Nd1!** Unusual "fork" decides the fate of the game. **35.Rc7+** Witty, but black "humor is not understood"... **35...Kg8! 36.Qc2 Rd:f4 37.R:b7 Nf2+ 38.Kg1 Nh3+ 39.Kh1 Rf1+!** Worthy end! In two moves to the checkmate white resigned. **0-1**

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