

ChessZone Magazine

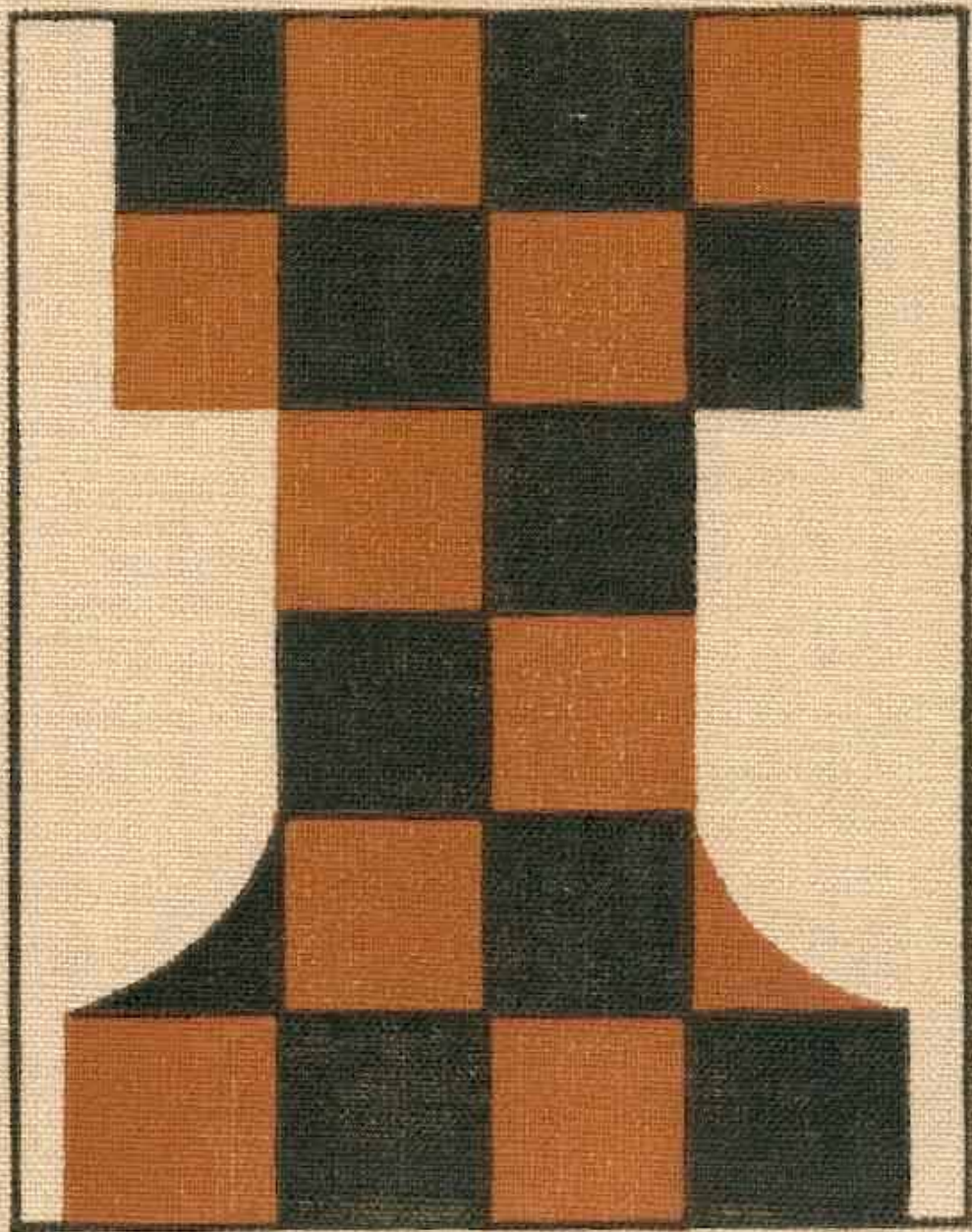


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News

Linares 2010



The Linares tournament took place in Spain 12th-25th February 2010. Veselin Topalov emerged as the winner for the first time.

He beat Boris Gelfand in the final round and edged out Alexander Grischuk by half a point.

XXVII SuperGM Linares (ESP), 13-24 ii 2010				cat. XXI (2758)														
				1	2	3	4	5	6									
1.	Topalov, Veselin	g	BUL	2805	*	*	1	0	=	=	1	=	1	=	6,5	2858		
2.	Grischuk, Alexander	g	RUS	2736	0	1	*	*	=	=	=	1	=	=	1	6	2834	
3.	Aronian, Levon	g	ARM	2781	=	=	=	=	*	*	=	=	=	=	1	5,5	2789	
4.	Vallejo Pons, Francisco	g	ESP	2705	=	0	=	=	=	=	*	*	=	=	0	4	2696	
5.	Gelfand, Boris	g	ISR	2761	=	0	0	=	=	=	=	*	*	=	=	4	2685	
6.	Gashimov, Vugar	g	AZE	2759	0	=	=	0	=	0	1	=	=	=	*	*	4	2685

FIDE Rating List March 2010

Magnus Carlsen remains top of the FIDE rating list for March 2010. Carlsen gained 3 points from his win in Wijk aan Zee. Veselin Topalov's win in Linares occurred too late to appear in the list and that would have lifted him extremely close to Carlsen again.

Vladimir Kramnik overtook Viswanathan Anand after a slightly better performance in Wijk aan Zee, but there isn't a lot between them. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov gained 19 points to move up to number 5 in the world, Alexander Grischuk moved from 15 to 7 in the world with more to come from his Linares performance.

Le Quang Liem moved from 93 to 42 after his recent performances in Moscow.

Michael Adams is back as England's number one after overtaking Nigel Short. Radoslaw Wojtaszek is the highest new entry at 70 in the world.

Giovanni Vescovi was the highest casualty dropping out of the list. The rating required to get into the list is still 2643

FIDE Rating List March 2010 Top 100											
Rk	Ja10	Name	Ti	NAT	B-Yr	ju09	se09	no09	ja10	Rat	Gms
1	1	Carlsen, Magnus	g	NOR	1990	2772	2772	2801	2810	2813	13
2	2	Topalov, Veselin	g	BUL	1975	2813	2813	2810	2805	2805	0

3	4	Kramnik, Vladimir	g	RUS	1975	2759	2772	2772	2788	2790	13
4	3	Anand, Viswanathan	g	IND	1969	2788	2788	2788	2790	2787	13
5	5	Aronian, Levon	g	ARM	1982	2768	2773	2786	2781	2782	9
6	11	Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar	g	AZE	1985	2717	2721	2719	2741	2760	9
7	15	Grischuk, Alexander	g	RUS	1983	2733	2733	2736	2736	2756	16
8	10	Svidler, Peter	g	RUS	1976	2739	2741	2754	2744	2750	9
9	6	Gelfand, Boris	g	ISR	1968	2755	2756	2758	2761	2750	7
10	9	Wang, Yue	g	CHN	1987	2736	2736	2734	2749	2749	0
11	8	Ivanchuk, Vassily	g	UKR	1969	2703	2756	2739	2749	2748	13
12	7	Gashimov, Vugar	g	AZE	1986	2740	2740	2758	2759	2740	7
13	16	Radjabov, Teimour	g	AZE	1987	2756	2757	2748	2733	2740	7
14	20	Shirov, Alexei	g	ESP	1972	2732	2730	2719	2723	2737	13
15	13	Ponomariov, Ruslan	g	UKR	1983	2727	2741	2739	2737	2737	0
16	14	Eljanov, Pavel	g	UKR	1983	2716	2717	2729	2736	2736	0
17	28	Nakamura, Hikaru	g	USA	1987	2710	2735	2715	2708	2735	21
18	12	Leko, Peter	g	HUN	1979	2756	2762	2752	2739	2735	13
19	18	Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime	g	FRA	1990	2703	2718	2718	2730	2727	9
20	19	Jakovenko, Dmitry	g	RUS	1983	2760	2742	2736	2730	2725	14
21	21	Karjakin, Sergey	g	RUS	1990	2717	2722	2723	2720	2725	13
22	22	Malakhov, Vladimir	g	RUS	1980	2707	2715	2706	2716	2721	7
23	26	Almasi, Zoltan	g	HUN	1976	2684	2685	2704	2710	2720	9
24	17	Morozevich, Alexander	g	RUS	1977	2751	2750	2750	2732	2715	6
25	23	Wang, Hao	g	CHN	1989	2690	2690	2708	2715	2715	0
26	24	Bacrot, Etienne	g	FRA	1983	2721	2709	2700	2713	2714	19
27	25	Dominguez Perez, Leinier	g	CUB	1983	2716	2719	2719	2712	2713	13
28	41	Vitiugov, Nikita	g	RUS	1987	2681	2681	2694	2692	2710	15
29	29	Movsesian, Sergei	g	SVK	1978	2716	2711	2718	2708	2709	10
30	31	Vallejo Pons, Francisco	g	ESP	1982	2693	2696	2711	2705	2708	10
31	27	Navara, David	g	CZE	1985	2687	2692	2707	2708	2708	0
32	35	Motylev, Alexander	g	RUS	1979	2710	2710	2695	2697	2705	18
33	39	Adams, Michael	g	ENG	1971	2699	2682	2698	2694	2704	10
34	40	Kamsky, Gata	g	USA	1974	2717	2692	2695	2693	2702	28
35	34	Kasimdzhanov, Rustam	g	UZB	1979	2672	2702	2705	2702	2702	0
36	30	Tomashevsky, Evgeny	g	RUS	1987	2689	2688	2708	2705	2701	14
37	33	Alekseev, Evgeny	g	RUS	1985	2714	2725	2715	2703	2700	9
38	36	Rublevsky, Sergei	g	RUS	1974	2703	2703	2697	2697	2697	8
39	37	Nielsen, Peter Heine	g	DEN	1973	2680	2687	2697	2697	2697	0
40	32	Jobava, Baadur	g	GEO	1983	2684	2696	2696	2704	2695	9
41	44	Naiditsch, Arkadij	g	GER	1985	2697	2685	2689	2687	2691	22
42	93	Le, Quang Liem	g	VIE	1991	2602	2602	2624	2647	2689	35
43	49	Akopian, Vladimir	g	ARM	1971	2712	2698	2700	2678	2688	9
44	57	Onischuk, Alexander	g	USA	1975	2699	2699	2672	2670	2687	9
45	42	Volokitin, Andrei	g	UKR	1986	2678	2681	2691	2692	2687	9
46	83	Sasikiran, Krishnan	g	IND	1981	2669	2661	2664	2653	2686	33
47	38	Short, Nigel D	g	ENG	1965	2684	2706	2707	2696	2686	13

48	45	Miroshnichenko, Evgenij	g	UKR	1978	2696	2690	2686	2686	2686	0
49	43	Bologan, Viktor	g	MDA	1971	2689	2688	2692	2692	2684	18
50	52	Bu, Xiangzhi	g	CHN	1985	2702	2702	2682	2673	2682	18
51	46	Polgar, Judit	g	HUN	1976	2687	2687	2680	2682	2682	0
52	51	Caruana, Fabiano	g	ITA	1992	2670	2662	2652	2675	2680	22
53	48	Sargissian, Gabriel	g	ARM	1983	2667	2678	2676	2680	2675	15
54	60	Kurnosov, Igor	g	RUS	1985	2669	2669	2666	2668	2674	9
55	80	Ganguly, Surya Shekhar	g	IND	1983	2637	2634	2654	2654	2672	13
56	55	Fressinet, Laurent	g	FRA	1981	2667	2658	2653	2670	2670	10
57	56	Areshchenko, Alexander	g	UKR	1986	2651	2667	2664	2670	2670	0
58	53	Georgiev, Kiril	g	BUL	1965	2645	2663	2672	2672	2669	18
59	50	Moiseenko, Alexander	g	UKR	1980	2682	2694	2677	2677	2668	9
60	82	Grachev, Boris	g	RUS	1986	2669	2684	2652	2653	2667	27
61	98	Bareev, Evgeny	g	RUS	1966	2634	2633	2634	2643	2667	18
62	72	Ni, Hua	g	CHN	1983	2701	2692	2665	2657	2667	13
63	89	Inarkiev, Ernesto	g	RUS	1985	2675	2664	2645	2649	2667	9
64	77	So, Wesley	g	PHI	1993	2646	2640	2640	2656	2665	22
65	61	Najer, Evgeniy	g	RUS	1977	2663	2681	2666	2665	2665	18
66	91	Korobov, Anton	g	UKR	1985	2623	2633	2642	2648	2663	9
67	68	Meier, Georg	g	GER	1987	2658	2664	2653	2658	2663	9
68	47	Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter	g	ROU	1976	2675	2664	2677	2681	2661	13
69	54	Harikrishna, P.	g	IND	1986	2679	2673	2672	2672	2660	27
70	--	Wojtaszek, Radoslaw	g	POL	1987	2637	2640	2637	2639	2660	18
71	63	Riazantsev, Alexander	g	RUS	1985	2647	2646	2661	2661	2660	9
72	84	Laznicka, Viktor	g	CZE	1988	2617	2634	2637	2652	2659	9
73	66	Berkes, Ferenc	g	HUN	1985	2647	2663	2661	2659	2659	0
74	--	Lautier, Joel	g	FRA	1973	2658	2658	2658	2658	2658	0
75	65	Cheparinov, Ivan	g	BUL	1986	2678	2667	2671	2660	2657	19
76	86	Khismatullin, Denis	g	RUS	1984	2604	2614	2643	2651	2657	18
77	70	Beliavsky, Alexander G	g	SLO	1953	2662	2656	2648	2657	2657	0
78	69	Nepomniachtchi, Ian	g	RUS	1990	2632	2632	2626	2658	2656	18
79	76	Avrukh, Boris	g	ISR	1978	2641	2668	2655	2656	2656	0
80	85	Timofeev, Artyom	g	RUS	1985	2681	2668	2651	2652	2655	18
81	62	Tiviakov, Sergei	g	NED	1973	2674	2670	2664	2662	2653	13
82	87	Dreev, Alexey	g	RUS	1969	2660	2662	2655	2650	2653	9
83	--	Savchenko, Boris	g	RUS	1986	2650	2638	2644	2638	2652	18
84	94	Pashikian, Arman	g	ARM	1987	2650	2663	2656	2647	2652	15
85	78	Krasenkow, Michal	g	POL	1963	2631	2651	2656	2656	2652	9
86	75	Roiz, Michael	g	ISR	1983	2658	2658	2659	2657	2652	6
87	73	Smeets, Jan	g	NED	1985	2632	2642	2650	2657	2651	14
88	90	Seirawan, Yasser	g	USA	1960	2646	2646	2649	2649	2651	1
89	74	Sutovsky, Emil	g	ISR	1977	2675	2676	2666	2657	2650	20
90	79	Fridman, Daniel	g	GER	1976	2665	2661	2649	2654	2650	10
91	--	Zhou, Jianchao	g	CHN	1988	2623	2623	2629	2632	2650	9
92	--	Fedorchuk, Sergey A.	g	UKR	1981	2655	2643	2619	2641	2649	18

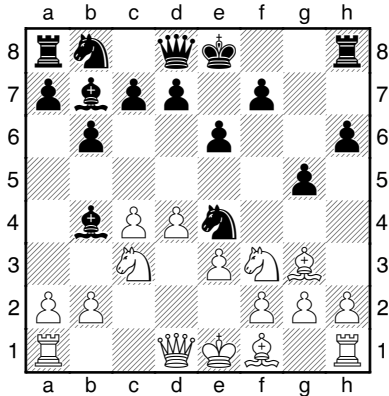
93	58	Zhigalko, Sergei	g	BLR	1989	2621	2646	2646	2668	2648	29
94	59	Smirin, Ilia	g	ISR	1968	2650	2648	2662	2668	2647	14
95	--	Gustafsson, Jan	g	GER	1979	2622	2622	2622	2627	2646	10
96	--	Andreikin, Dmitry	g	RUS	1990	2648	2659	2636	2635	2645	9
97	81	Baklan, Vladimir	g	UKR	1978	2639	2646	2655	2654	2644	9
98	96	Milov, Vadim	g	SUI	1972	2659	2659	2652	2644	2644	0
99	--	Granda Zuniga, Julio E	g	PER	1967	2647	2644	2640	2640	2643	18
100	67	Lastin, Alexander	g	RUS	1976	2648	2648	2656	2659	2643	9
101	--	Zvjaginsev, Vadim	g	RUS	1976	2635	2635	2641	2642	2643	9

Sources:

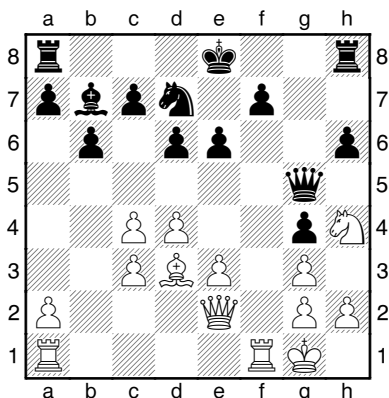
- 1) <http://www.e3e5.com>
- 2) The Week In Chess <http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html>
- 3) ChessPro.ru <http://www.chesspro.ru>
- 4) CrestBook.com <http://www.crestbook.com>
- 5) Chessbase.com <http://www.chessbase.com>

Games

(01) Parker,Jonathan (2523) - Kosten,Anthony C (2497) [E13]
 4NCL 2009-10 Hinckley Island (4), 17.01.2010
[GM Aveskulov, V]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4

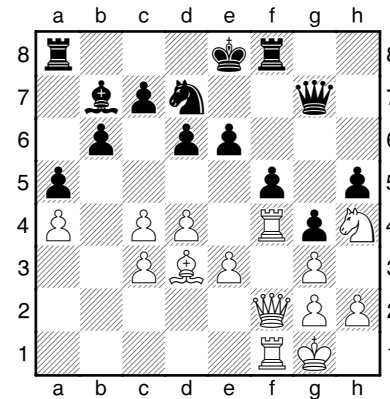


9.Qc2 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 d6 11.Bd3 Nxc3 [Different position appear after 11...f5 12.d5 but here another tens of games were played]
12.fxg3 The rule says: "to take with a pawn to the center". But rule exists for existing of exclusions. Here such one is! White gets a file "f" for own rooks and this quite well compensates a defect of pawn structure. **12...g4** [He could not move his pawns: 12...Nd7 13.0-0 Qe7 and then decide where to bring his king]
13.Nh4 Qg5 14.Qe2 [In addition White can do not pay attention to pawn e3: 14.0-0 Qxe3+?! is very doubtful 15.Kh1 since White gets too many open files to attack.] **14...Nd7 15.0-0**



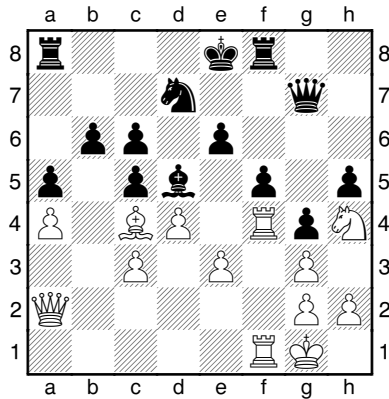
15...Rf8?! [Andrei Sokolov used a good method in this position: 15...h5 16.Rf2 Rh6?! 17.Raf1 Rf6 and Black is completely fine, Stempin - A. Sokolov, Naleczow, 1984.]

16.Rf4 h5 Pawn required a defense. **17.Raf1N** Preventing an evacuation of Black king. [There a shift of moves is possible after 17.a4 a5 18.Raf1 f5? (18...Qg7!?)=) 19.d5!± soon White won, Solozhenkin - Drey, Reggio-Emilia, 1998/99.] **17...Qg7 18.a4 a5** Inclusion of moves a4-a5 is not so simple. On the one hand if White will break with c4-c5 - this is good for him; on the other hand if White will do d4-d5 - his opponent will get a perfect target for Nc5. **19.Qf2** Catching the king in the center. **19...f5?!**

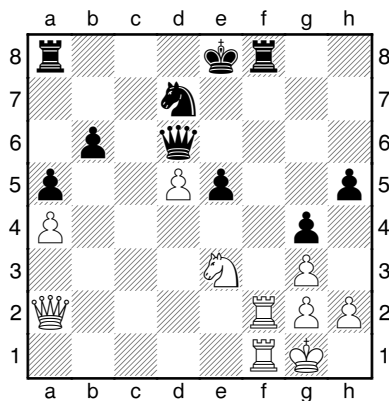


It was for nothing. [I could not find the way how White breaks through if he just marks time: 19...Bc6 20.Bc2 Bb7 21.e4 Ba6 22.Bd3 Bb7= all major pieces attack f7 point; minor pieces are not able to do something; and any pawn move in the center will present Black good outposts for own pieces.] **20.c5!?** [Initially computer is happy with move 20.d5?! but then it "understands" that nothing is free here: 20...Nc5 21.Qd2 0-0-0 22.dxe6 Nxe6 23.Bxf5 Rfe8 24.R4f2 Kb8 here he can win even one more pawn 25.Bg6 Rf8 26.Bxh5 Rxf2 27.Rxf2 but after 27...d5! White's structure is so terrible that this is even can not be questioned that Black is fine.] **20...dxc5** It is difficult to say what capture was the best. [20...bxc5 21.Qa2 Qg8 (21...d5 22.c4! breaking through Black's fortress) 22.Bc4 d5 23.Bb5 c6 24.Be2 with idea c3-c4 24...c4 25.Qa3 aiming Qd6 25...c5 and here White can play 26.e4! human intuition is not agreed with a computer's "about equal" here. I do not believe Black can defend this without opponent's assistance.] **21.Qa2 Bd5** [21...Qg8? 22.Bc4!+- e6 and f5 are hanging; After seeing the whole game it is easy to give some advice: 21...Qh6! 22.Bc4 Ke7 White can not crush a fortress: E.g. 23.d5 Ne5 24.dxe6 Nxc4 25.Qxc4 Ba6 26.Qd5 Qxe6 27.Nxf5+

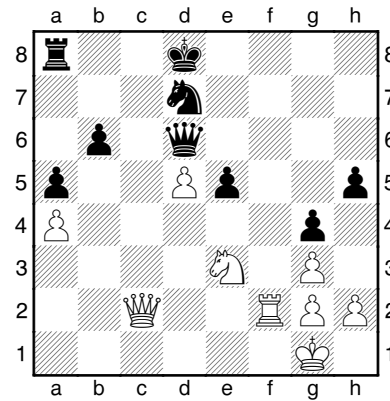
Rxf5 28.Rxf5 Qxd5 29.Rxd5 Bxf1 30.Kxf1 Rh8 and h5-h4 =] **22.Bc4 c6?**



From this time forward Parker has a serious attack that hardly can be stopped. [It was better to take on c4 22...Bxc4 and after 23.Qxc4 to play 23...Rf6 meaning such variation 24.e4 0-0-0! 25.exf5 e5! 26.dxe5 Nxe5 27.Qe4 Nc6= and Black is ok] **23.Bxd5 cxd5 24.c4!** Finishing demolition work. **24...cxd4?** Decisive mistake. [It was the last chance to offer some resistance: 24...dxc4 25.Qxc4 Qg8 but position is very unpleasant.] **25.cxd5+-** King is naked. **25...e5 26.Nxf5 Qf6 27.R4f2 dxe3 28.Nxe3 Qd6**



29.Qc2? [He misses a forced win: 29.Nf5! Qc5 (29...Rxf5 30.Rxf5 0-0-0 31.Rxh5+-) 30.Ng7+ Ke7 31.d6+! Qxd6 (31...Kxd6 32.Qd2+ Qd5 33.Rd1 Qxd2 34.Rfxd2+-) 32.Rf7+ Rxf7 (32...Kd8 33.Rxf8+ Nxf8 34.Rxf8+-) 33.Qxf7+ Kd8 34.Qe8+- But 29. Qc2 worsens nothing as well.] **29...Rxf2 30.Rxf2 Kd8**



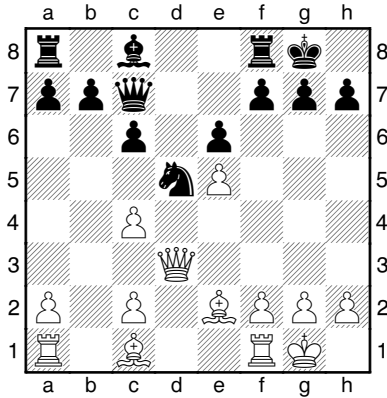
A try to evacuate the king. [A bit more stubborn is 30...Rb8 but here White also wins by force: 31.Qh7 Kd8 32.Rc2! preventing Kc8 32...Rc8 33.Nf5 Qb4 (33...Qf8 34.Ng7!+-) 34.Qg8+ Qf8 (34...Nf8 35.Qg5+ Kd7 36.Qg7+ Kd8 37.Rxc8+ Kxc8 38.Ne7+-) 35.Qg5+ Qf6 (35...Nf6 36.Ng7!+-) 36.Rxc8+ Kxc8 37.Qxh5 with threats Qe8 and Qxg4 +-] **31.Qc6!** The easiest; he wins the knight. **31...Qxc6** [31...Qb8 32.d6 and Qd5 +-] **32.dxc6 Rc8** [32...Nb8 33.Nd5+-] **33.cxd7 Kxd7** The rest of moves were not compulsory. **34.Rd2+ Ke6 35.Rb2 Rc6 36.Kf2 Kd6 37.Ke2 Rc3 38.Kd2** Black resigned. Parker masterly has exploded opponent's defense! **1-0**

(02) Adams, Michael (2694) - Halkias, Stelios (2566) [B45]

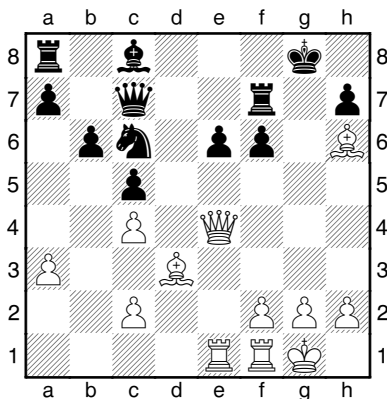
8th Gibtelecom Masters Caleta ENG (3), 28.01.2010

[IM Polivanov, A]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be2 Bb4 7.0-0 0-0?! [Usually Black doesn't disdain a pawn: 7...Bxc3 8.bxc3 Nxe4, and now White can seek for compensation by means of 9.Bd3, 9.Qd3 or even 9.Bf3.] **8.Nxc6 dxc6 9.e5 Bxc3** [Black has to spoil slightly White's pawn structure, otherwise knight c3 will jump to e4, like 9...Nd5 10.Ne4 Qc7 11.Nd6!; next variation is quite illustrative - 11...Rd8 (11...Bxd6 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.c4+-) 12.c4 Ne7 13.Qa4! Bxd6 14.exd6 Qxd6 15.Rd1 Qc7 16.Bf4!, and White wins.] **10.bxc3 Nd5 11.Qd3N** [Looks good, though 11.Bd3, which met earlier, is also acceptable - 11...f5 (11...Nxc3 12.Qh5 g6 13.Qh6) 12.Ba3 Rf7 13.c4 Nf4 14.Qf3 Nxd3 15.Rad1 Rd7 (better was 15...c5!, closing white bishop) 16.cxd3 Qb6 17.Bd6±, Boey-Denayer, Antwerp 1994] **11...Qc7 12.c4**

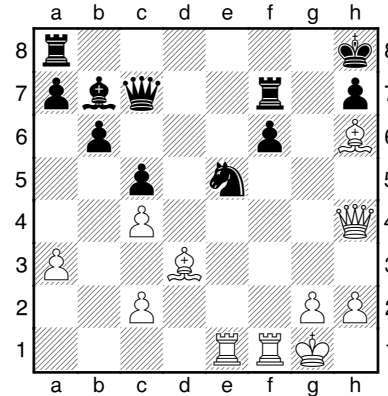


[12.Qg3!? and Bh6 don't represent any threat because of f7–f5.] **12...Nb4?** [Halkias has turned down the only possibility to strike up a battle: 12...Qxe5! 13.cxd5 Qxa1 14.Ba3 Qe5 15.Bxf8 (15.dxc6 Re8 16.Bf3 Qc7!) 15...Kxf8 16.dxc6 g6 17.Bf3 bxc6 18.Bxc6 Rb8 19.Qa3+ Kg7 20.Qxa7 Rb4! – after this nearly forced variation Black has excellent chances to equalize owing to pieces' activity.] **13.Qe4** Now black forces as if to be cut from the king flank, where the main events will have place. **13...c5** **14.Bg5!?** [Adams decided to scare an opponent by threats Bg5–f6, although it's possible to start with 14.a3 Nc6 15.Bd3 right now.] **14...b6** **15.a3** [White chooses to go for the king instead of alluring 15.Qxa8 Bb7 16.Qxa7 Ra8 17.Bd8!?!; 15.Bf6?! is worse – after 15...gxf6 16.exf6 Kh8 17.Qxa8 Rg8 18.Bf3 Nxc2 Black has a promising perspectives despite being without an exchange.] **15...Nc6** [15...Bb7 doesn't help: 16.Qg4 Nxc2 17.Bf6 g6 18.Qf4 Nd4 19.Bd3] **16.Bd3 f5** **17.exf6 gxf6** **18.Bh6** **Rf7** **19.Rae1**



White is dragging resources to the black king. We can establish a fact, that Halkias hasn't "come out from the opening". **19...Kh8** Foreknowing Re1–e3–g3. **20.Qh4!** Adams immediately uses opponent's previous move, intend-

ing Bg6. Black's reaction is forced. **20...e5** **21.f4!** Now all white pieces are in action. Powerful. **21...Bb7** **22.fxe5 Nxe5**



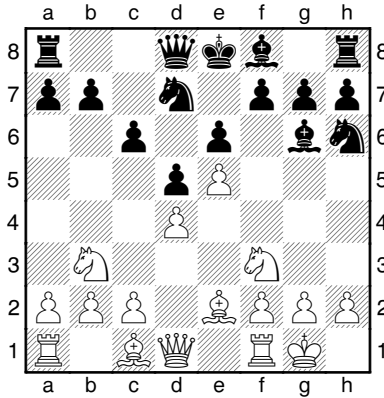
Of course, in such type of position, some combination just has to be found. So Adams did. **23.Bxh7!** **Kxh7** [23...Rhx7 24.Qxf6+ Kg8 25.Qf8+] **24.Re3 Ng6** [In the next line White is winning neatly: 24...Qc6 25.Rg3 Ng6 26.Qh5 Qe4 27.Bd2+ Kg8 28.Rf4! (only not 28.Rxg6+? Qxg6 29.Qxg6+ Rg7)] **25.Qh5 Rh8** **26.Re8!** [That's the point of Michael's conception – White is distracting rook h8. 26.Bf4+? Kg7 27.Qxh8+ Nxh8 28.Bxc7 Rxc7] **26...Rxe8** [26...Qc6 27.Bf8+–] **27.Bf4+ Kg7** **28.Qh6+ Kg8** **29.Bxc7** [29.Qxg6+? Rg7 30.Qxe8+ Kh7] **29...Re2** **30.Rf2** **Re1+** **31.Rf1** **Re2** **32.Rd1!** [This move should be calculated before 23.Bxh7 – otherwise it's just 32.Qxg6+ Rg7 33.Qxg7+ Kxg7 34.Rf2=] **32...Rxc7** **33.Kf1 Rg7** [Halkias decided not to suffer and he has chosen the quickest way to end the game. 33...Be4 34.Rd8+ Rf8 35.Rxf8+ Nxf8 36.Qxf6 was the most persistent.] **34.Rd8+ Nf8** [34...Kf7 35.Rd7+ Ne7 36.Bg3+– – all black pieces are in danger!] **35.Bd6 Rg1+** **36.Ke2** [Of course, Adams is too strong for 36.Kf2?? R7g2+ 37.Ke3 Re1+ 38.Kd3 Be4+ with mate.] **36...R7g2+** **37.Kd3** **Rd1+** **38.Kc3** One mistake (12...Nb4) – and that's the end... Grandmaster chess as they are! **1-0**

(03) Azarov, Sergei (2622) - Motylev, Alexander (2697) [B12]

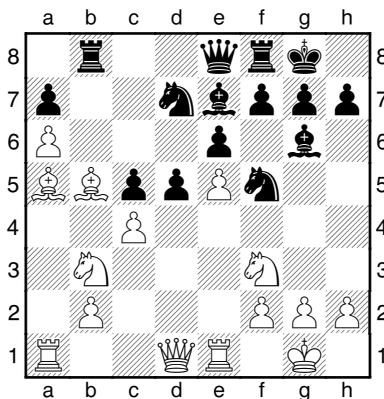
Open A Moscow (3), 01.02.2010

[IM Polivanov, A]

1.e4 c6 **2.d4 d5** **3.e5** **Bf5** **4.Nf3** **e6** **5.Be2** **Nd7** **6.0-0** **Nh6!?** [Transferring knight to f5 through h6 instead of e7 – as after 6...Ne7 7.Nh4! bishop f5 is eliminated.] **7.Nbd2** **Bg6** **8.Nb3**

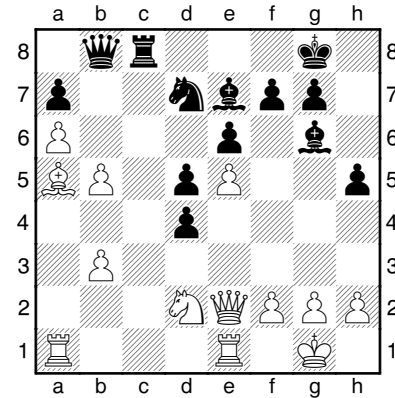


The main idea of Nd2–b3 maneuver – to embarrass a releasing advancement c6–c5. **8...Rc8!?N** [An interesting treatment of given position. Main line is 8...Nf5 9.Bd2 Be7 10.g4 Nh4 11.Nxh4 Bxh4 12.f4, but Black is dragging out with Nf5, because of which White has to invent something else.] **9.Bd2** [I doubt whether 9.Bxh6 gxh6 is dangerous for Motylev, cause Bg7 and f6 will open a position for benefit of Black.] **9...Be7 10.a4** [Here 10.Bxh6 gxh6 11.Qd2 is toothless again: 11...0-0! 12.c3 (12.Qxh6 Bxc2) 12...Kg7 with f6 or c5, but all that requires some practical verification.] **10...0-0 11.a5** In case if Black wants to move b6 for the purpose of c5 – "a"-file will be opened then. **11...Nf5** Finally... **12.a6?!** [A disputable decision – I'm sure, that standard 12.g4 Nh4 13.Nxh4 Bxh4 14.f4 is not weaker anyway.] **12...b6 13.Re1 c5 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Ba5** Apparently, lunge 12.a6 has been made exactly for this move. **15...Qe8** [15...Nb6!?] **16.Bb5** [Usually c7–c5 is met with counter-block – like 16.c4 d4 17.Bd3, intending Be4 and Nc1-d3; but Azarov decided to move Bb5 first.] **16...Rb8 17.c4**

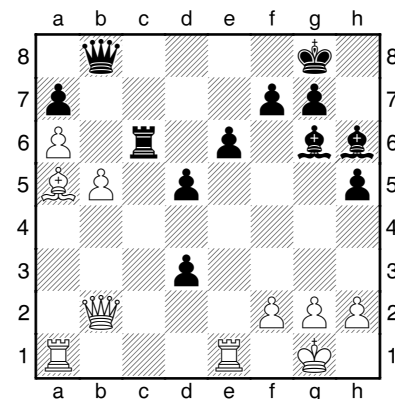


White bishops are cutting Black's queenside. It's necessary to do something...**17...Rxb5!** [The most all-out and strong continuation! Of course, 17...Qc8 is possible too, but then black

queen switches from bishop's b5 x-ray to the rook's one: **18.Rc1 18.cxb5 Qb8** Now, if pawn b5 will fall and pair c5+d5 will move forward, it will turn out badly for White... **19.Nbd2** [19.Qe2 Bh5!] **19...h5!?** [Desire to secure the knight f5 is understandable, but there is no reason to reject 19...Qxb5 20.Qa4 Qxa4 21.Rxa4 h5 Δ Nb8, Rc8–c6] **20.Qe2** [20.Qa4 c4 21.Bb4 is more active.] **20...Rc8** [Pawn's c5 advancement needs a support, otherwise 20...c4? 21.b3±] **21.b3 Nd4 22.Nxd4 cxd4**



23.b4?? Horrible mistake. White had wanted to prevent Nc5, but now he finds oneself in lost position instead. [23.Rac1!? deserves to be examined: 23...Nc5 (23...Bc2! is stronger) 24.Bb4 d3 25.Qe3 Qxb5 26.Qd4 with further Rc3 and Rec1, pinning the knight; but 23.b6!! is truly exceptional – 23...axb6 (23...Nxb6 24.Qb5) 24.a7! Qxa7 25.Bc3, taking pawn d4(25.Bb4?! Qxa1 26.Rxa1 d3! 27.Qe3 Bxb4≡ is suspicious for White)] **23...Bg5!-+** [Now pawn b5 is doomed along with a6 one; such feeling, that Azarov expected only 23...d3 24.Qe3] **24.Nf3 d3 25.Qb2 Bh6** In desperate attempt to save on b5 White has sacrificed a material. **26.Nd4 Nxe5 27.Nc6 Nxc6 28.bxc6 Rxc6 29.b5**

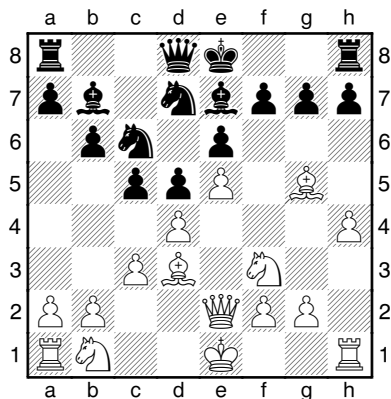


29...Rxa6! [Reasonable decision! Who needs a complications after 29...d2?! 30.Bxd2 Rc2 31.Qe5 Qxe5 32.Rxe5 Bxd2 33.b6 ? (except White, of course)] **30.Reb1 Rd6 31.Bd2 Bxd2 32.Qxd2 Rb6 33.Ra5?** On top of it all White gives away pawn b5... but his position is gloomy anyway. **33...a6 34.Qa2 Kh7 35.Rd1 axb5 36.h3 Qc7 37.Rd2 Rc6** White hasn't managed to re-form after unexpected exchange's sacrifice on 17th move.[37...Rc6 38.g3 Rc2] **0-1**

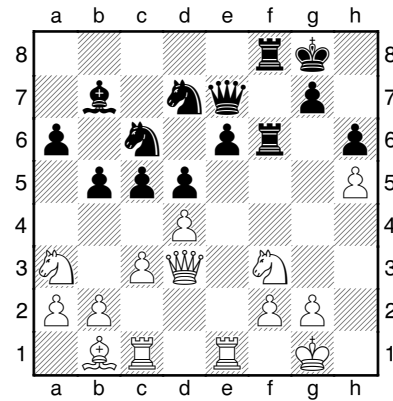
(04) Motylev,Alexander (2697) - Chernyshov,Konstantin (2556) [C00]

Open A Moscow (8), 06.02.2010
[IM Polivanov, A]

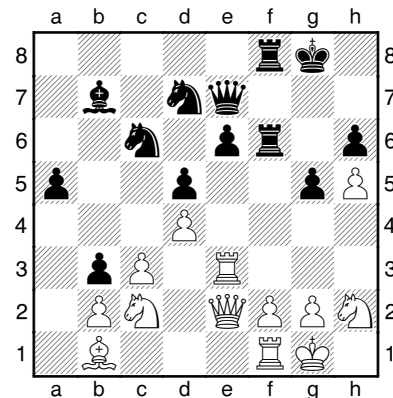
1.e4 e6 2.d4 b6!? Why not? There is nothing worse than falling into an opening bomb in decisive game with a theorist... From that point of view using of rare system makes some sense. **3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.Qe2 d5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.h4!** But rare variations are rare because they don't promise any chance for equal game, if your opponent acts strongly and resolutely. Like Motylev, it seems... **7...c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bg5 Be7**



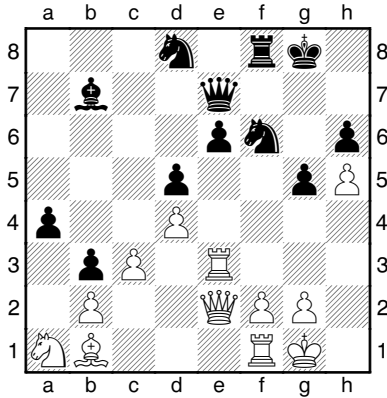
10.Na3N [Good improving in comparison with 10.a3 – such feeling, that White wants to jump Nb5–d6...] **10...a6 11.Rc1!** But in fact the knight has set free a place for the bishop to make a battery B+Q on diagonal b1-h7. This is a stern weapon... **11...b5 12.0-0 h6 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.h5 0-0 15.Bb1 f5?!** [I think, Chernyshov overestimates own position – now the problem with point h7 remains the same, plus weakening on e6. It was worth to try 15...Rfc8 16.Qd3 Nf8] **16.exf6 Rxf6** [16...Nxf6 meets strong 17.Bg6!, and pawn e6 can't be defended from e8.] **17.Rfe1 Raf8 18.Qd3**



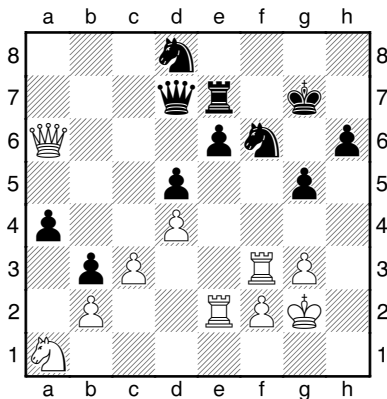
What to do?.. **18...g5!** [The best practical chance for Black! Endgame after 18...Rf5 19.Qxf5 (only not 19.g4 Rxf3 20.Qh7+ Kf7 21.Bg6+ Kf6 22.Bf5 Nde5!) 19...exf5 20.Rxe7 Nxe7 21.Re1 Nc6 22.Nc2 f4 23.Nh4 so bad, it hurts.] **19.Re3!** [Motylev gains an understanding of this position very well. First, 19.hxg6 Qg7 with ideas Rxf3+cxd4 or Ne7–g6 favours to Black; second, 19.Nh2 (heading for g4) is prematurely due 19...e5! (19...Rxf2 20.Rxe6+–) 20.Ng4 Re6 – that's why White is going to take line "e" under control, and only then proceed to Nh2–g4.] **19...b4 20.Nc2 a5 21.Rce1 c4** [Pushing white queen off from the diagonal b1-h7. 21...Qf7 22.Nh2!] **22.Qe2 Nd8 23.Rf1** Now it's all ready for Nh2–g4... **23...Nc6 24.Nh2 b3** [Standard method 24...e5 doesn't help anymore – 25.dxe5 Re6 26.Ng4 Ndx6 27.Nd4+–] **25.axb3 cxb3**



26.Na1 [If Motylev could foreseen the future, I'm sure, that he would have chosen more bright fate for the knight c2, namely 26.Ne1 e5 27.Ng4 Re6 28.Nf3 e4 29.Qb5! Nd8 (29...exf3 30.Qxb7+–) 30.Nfe5 with huge edge. But White was firmly resolved, that Black will sacrifice pawn b3 for rook's f6 salvation...] **26...a4!!** Not at all! **27.Ng4 Nd8 28.Nxf6+ Nxf6**



A situation has drastically changed. White has a clear exchange up, but his knight lead's a dog life. What to do, what to do?...**29.Re1** [White is trying mechanically to put pressure on e6, but pawn is surely protected. 29.f4! was better, making an effort to open the lines for the white rooks.] **29...Bc6 30.Bg6 Be8 31.Bf5 Bd7** Of course, White's posture is still better, and Motylev can make a draw from the position of strength. But what about the extra material?! **32.Bd3 Qd6 33.Rf3 Kg7 34.g3 Be8** Now Black is winning one pawn back, whereas White is still playing without any plan. **35.Bg6 Bxg6 36.hxg6 Qc6!** [There is no need to let in enemy's queen into own camp – 36...Kxg6 37.Qb5 Qc6 38.Qxc6 Nxc6 39.Rxe6] **37.Qe5** [I prefer grabbing hold of pawn: 37.Qd3] **37...Kxg6 38.Kg2 Qd7 39.Qe2 Kg7 40.Qa6 Rf7 41.Re2 Re7!**



Very important and multipurpose move. First, Black wants to put Ng4 in order to prevent Rfe3, i.e. any pressure on e6. Second, Chernyshov thinks about transition Nd8–f7–d6–c4. Maybe, this was the last moment for Motylev to offer a draw. But the game goes on...**42.Rfe3 Ng4 43.Rd3 Qc6 44.Qa5** [Needless to say, that ending after 44.Qxc6 Nxc6 is very difficult for White – Na5–c4, Rb7, a3 and so on.] **44...Nb7 45.Qb4?** [45.Qa7 Rf7 46.Rf3

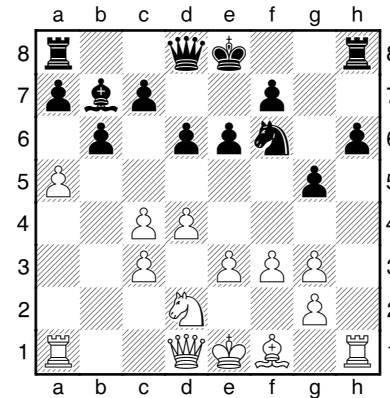
was the best opportunity to persist. Now all goes swimmingly for Black.] **45...Nd6 46.Nxb3** [Finally the knight goes to rest. 46.Rd1 Rb7 47.Qc5 Qxc5 48.dxc5 Nc4 49.Rxe6 Rf7!-+] **46...axb3 47.Qxb3 Nf5** [47...e5 was even stronger: 48.dxe5 d4+ 49.Kg1 Nxe5 50.Qb4 Nf5-+; but 47...Nf5 spoils nothing.] **48.Rf3 Rf7 49.Qb8?** [It was necessary to step back from queen's x-ray: 49.Kg1] **49...e5!** Now it's over. **50.Rxe5** [50.dxe5 d4-+] **50...Nxe5 51.Qxe5+ Kg6 52.Kg1 Qd7 53.c4 dxc4 54.g4 Nd6** Twist of fate: in a game with Azarov Motylev wins thanks to positional sacrifice of exchange. Now he is a victim because of it... **0-1**

(05) Bareev, Evgeny (2643) - Bologan, Viktor (2692) [E21]

Open A Moscow (8), 06.02.2010

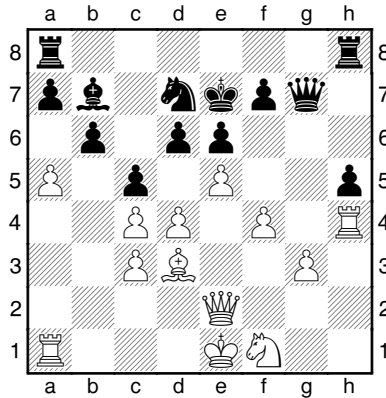
[IM Polivanov, A]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 b6 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.Nd2!? [9.Qc2 could be recommended for more cautious players, and after 9...Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Black is choosing between 10...d6 11.Bd3 f5 12.d5 and 10...Nxc3.] **9...Nxc3** [However, Bologan has decided not to take a pawn. The issue whether White has a full compensation after 9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 Bxc3 11.Rc1 Bb4 12.h4 still remains open.] **10.hxc3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 d6 12.a4 Nd7** [Apparently, Black was abashed by 12...a5 13.c5!] **13.a5 Nf6 14.f3N**

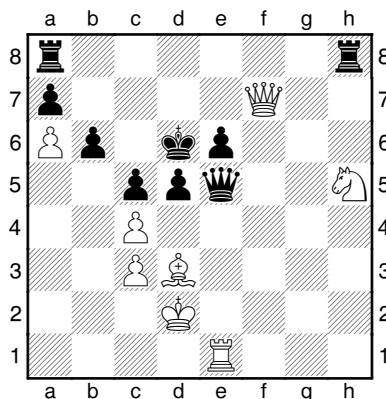


[Indeed, there is no necessity in sacrifice 14.Be2 Bxg2 15.Rh2 Bc6 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Ke7 18.g4, La Flair – Bonin, Nassau 1991] **14...h5 15.Bd3 g4!** Good idea. Black is making longer bishop's b7 range. **16.e4** [16.fxc4 Rg8!] **16...gxf3 17.gxf3 Ke7** Clearing a way for the queen d8. **18.Rh4 Qg8 19.Nf1 Qg7 20.Qe2 Nd7** Now we can trace a Black's intention – he wants to undermine White's center by means of c7–c5 using queen on g7. Of course, Bareev doesn't stay apathetically. **21.f4** [Another method of controlling with opponent's plans is

21.a6!? Bc6, and there is no c7-c5(21...Bc8 is too clumsy)] **21...c5 22.e5**

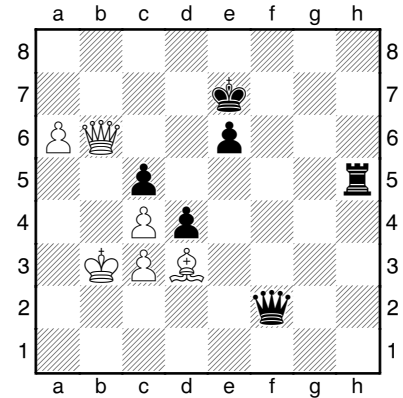


Now black queen is stopped up, but Bologan finds an interesting way to fight for the initiative. **22...f6! 23.a6 Bc6 24.d5!** Looks very strong, but Black are not empty-handed. **24...fxe5!** [Of course, not 24...exd5 25.Ne3 Qxg3+ 26.Kd2+-] **25.dxc6 exf4** The fact is that White has to cope with two threats at once – Qxc3 and fxg3+g2. **26.Kd2** [26.Rc1? fxg3 27.cxd7 g2-+] **26...fxg3 27.cxd7 Qg5+** [This check is indispensable: 27...g2? 28.Ne3 g1Q 29.Nf5+ Kxd7 30.Nxg7 Qxg7 31.Rah1+-] **28.Qe3** [28.Ne3 Raf8!] **28...Qxh4 29.Nxg3 Kxd7 30.Rh1** Series of forced moves draws to a close, and it's possible to say that a dynamic equality has established – both kings are unsafe. So, there are wide opportunities to make a mistake. **30...Qf6** [Pawn h5 can't be kept – 30...Qg4 31.Be2] **31.Nxh5 Qe5** [Black avoids a crafty trap: 31...Qh6 32.Nf4! Qxh1 (32...Qf6 33.Qe4+-) 33.Qxe6+ with mate.] **32.Qf3!** [Bareev thinks only about victory. After 32.Qxe5 dxe5 draw is the most probable outcome (outpost on e4 guarantees a quiet atmosphere for White).] **32...d5** **33.Qf7+** [33.Nf6+ Kd6! (33...Ke7? 34.Nxd5+)] **33...Kd6 34.Re1**

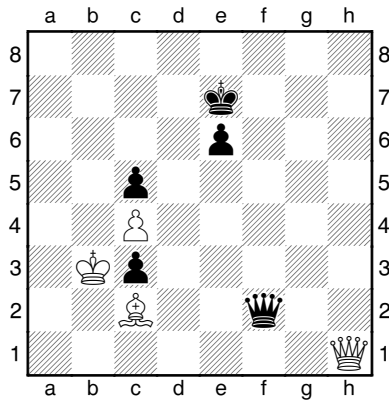


34...Raf8? [Bologan desires a winning too, but

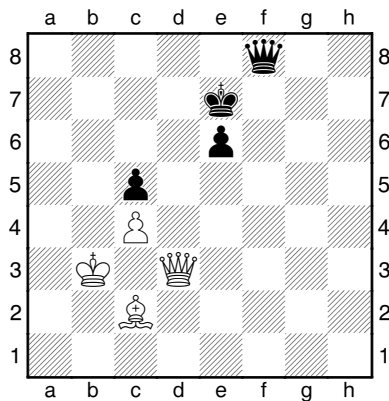
are there suitable conditions for that? **34...Rh8 35.Qg6 Rg8** (35...Rf2+? 36.Kd1) **36.Qf7=** would be naturally.] **35.Qxa7** Now, if White will survive Black's attack, pawn "a" decides fate of the game. [35.Qg6? Rf2+ 36.Kd1 Qxh5+-] **35...Rf2+ 36.Re2 d4** I bet Black pins hopes on this move. Now calm days are over for king d2. **37.Qxb6+ Ke7 38.Qb7+ Kd6 39.Qb6+** [It seems, white king could escape after 39.cxd4 Rxe2+ 40.Bxe2 Qxd4+ 41.Kc2 Rxh5 42.Bxh5 Qxc4+ 43.Kb2 Qd4+ 44.Ka3 Qc3+ 45.Ka4 Qa1+ 46.Kb5 Qb2+ 47.Ka5, but it's necessary to have a silicon brains for making such decision in time-trouble circumstances.] **39...Ke7 40.Rxf2** [Now, with king on e7, 40.cxd4? is just pointless – 40...Rxe2+ 41.Bxe2 Qxd4+ 42.Kc2 Rd8!] **40...Qe3+ 41.Kc2 Qxf2+ 42.Kb3 Rxh5**



Now swoops like Rh2 are the only hopes for Black... **43.Qc7+?** [Wrong! Queen should have stayed on "b"-line (to protect the point b4, for instance): 43.a7 Qd2 (43...Rh2 44.Qxc5+ Kf7 45.a8Q Qb2+ 46.Ka4 Qa2+ 47.Qa3+-) 44.Qb7+! Kf6 45.a8Q Qxc3+ 46.Ka4+-] **43...Kf6 44.Qd8+ Kf7** **45.Qc7+ Kf6 46.Qd8+ Kf7 47.a7 dxc3?** [Bologan missed salutary 47...Qd2! 48.Qb8 (48.Qc7+ Kf6 49.a8Q Qxc3+ 50.Ka2 Qd2+ 51.Ka1=) 48...Qxc3+ 49.Ka4 Rh8!]=] **48.Qc7+ Kf6 49.Qd8+ Kf7 50.Bc2!** [Securing against Qb2; 50.Kxc3?? Qe1+ 51.Kb3 Qb4+-+] **50...Rh1 51.Qf8+!** The last detail – now White will remain with extra piece. [51.a8Q Rb1+! 52.Ka3 Ra1+=] **51...Kxf8 52.a8Q+ Ke7 53.Qxh1**



This ending is certainly won for White, but there are still some technical difficulties. **53...Qg3 54.Qb7+ Kf6 55.Qc8 Qd6 56.Qh8+ Ke7 57.Qg7+ Kd8 58.Kxc3** One pawn less. Now king is heading to b5 for pawn c5 attack. **58...Qf4 59.Qh8+ Ke7 60.Qh7+ Kd6 61.Qd3+ Ke7 62.Qh7+ Kd6 63.Qe4** Central position – is ideal one for the queen. **63...Qf6+ [63...Qg3+ 64.Qd3+-] 64.Kb3 Qf8 65.Qd3+ Ke7**



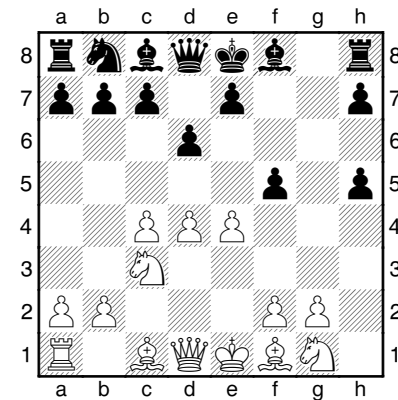
66.Qg3! Kd7 67.Be4! Bareev takes away all the "check" squares – so now king can freely go to b5. **67...Qf6 68.Qd3+ Kc7 69.Qg3+ Kd7 70.Ka4 Qb2 71.Qb3 Qa1+ 72.Kb5 Qe5** King has come to b5, and now pawn c5 should be attacked by white queen – and the game will be over. **73.Qf3 [73.Bc6+ Ke7 74.Qd3 wins even faster.] 73...Ke7 74.Bb7 Qd4 75.Qa3 Kd6 76.Qg3+ Kd7 77.Bc6+ Ke7 78.Qc7+ Kf6 79.Qh2** [It's still possible to err: 79.Qb6? Qb2+ 80.Kxc5 Qf2+ 81.Kb5 Qb2+ 82.Ka6 Qa2+=] **79...Qe3 80.Qh8+ Ke7 81.Qg7+ Kd6 82.Qf8+ 1-0**

(06) Bartel, Mateusz (2609) - Firman, Nazar (2571) [A85]

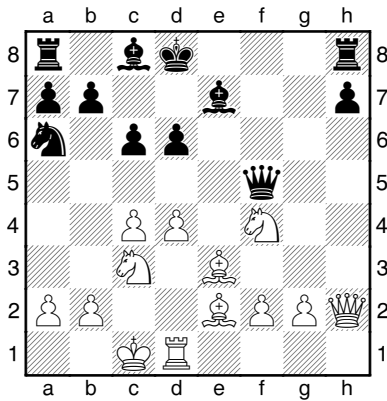
Bundesliga 2009-10 Muelheim GER (9), 07.02.2010

[IM Polivanov, A]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.h4!? "This is a very interesting direct approach against the Leningrad variation" (c) Macieja **4...d6** [In case of 4...Bg7 game takes another turn: 5.h5 Nxh5 6.e4 Nf6 (6...fxe4 7.Rxh5 gxh5 8.Qxh5+ Kf8 9.Bh6→) 7.e5 Ne4 8.Nxe4 fxe4 9.Qc2, Macieja-Akshrat, Mumbai 2008 9...Nc6 10.Be3 Nb4 11.Qb3! (11.Qxe4? d5)] **5.h5 Nxh5 6.Rxh5 gxh5 7.e4**



7...e6?N Very dubious novelty – black king hasn't manage to take refuge and getting underfoot of own pieces. [Not long ago Bartel vindicated this position with another colour: 7...Qd7 8.Nh3 Kd8 9.Ng5 Qe8 10.Be2 h6 11.Nh3 Bg7 12.Nf4, Sandipan-Bartel, Kavala 2009. That's something common – when you are encountered some troublesome variation, you could add it to the own armory.] **8.Qxh5+ Kd7 9.exf5 Qe8 10.fxe6+ Qxe6+ 11.Be2** Pawn for an exchange and naked opponent's king – of course, White is better here. **11...c6** Loophole for the king in view of Be3, Bg4. **12.Be3 Qg6 13.Qh2 Na6** [A rush for pawn gives for Black nothing but a headache: 13...Qc2 14.Rc1 Qxb2 15.c5! with threat 16.Bg4+ Kc7 17.cxd6+ Bxd6 18.Nd5+; that's why Firman covers point c5.] **14.Nh3 Be7** [Raid 14...Nb4 is unsuccessful again: 15.Nf4 Qc2 (15...Nc2+ 16.Kd2+-) 16.Bd2! Qxb2 17.Rb1 Qa3 18.Ng6+-] **15.Nf4 Qf5** [15...Qc2 16.Rb1 Qf5 17.b4] **16.0-0-0 Kd8**

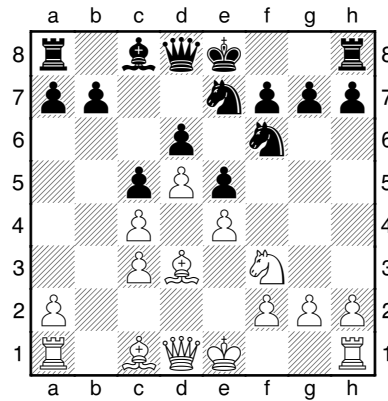


[After 16...Kc7 White are winning beautifully: 17.Nfd5+! cxd5 18.Nxd5+ Kd8 19.Nxe7 Kxe7 20.Qh4+ Kf8 21.Bh6+ Kg8 22.Qe7] **17.c5! Nc7?** [Line's "d" opening cannot be allowed – so there is only 17...d5] **18.d5!** Now Black is without single chance to survive – all White's army against him! **18...Ne8 19.dxc6 bxc6 20.cxd6 Nxd6 21.Qh6 Qf8** [21...Qe5 22.Bd4] **22.Ne6+** Stealing up to the king closely... **22...Bxe6 23.Qxe6 Rg8 24.Bg4!** [Bartel demonstrates an accuracy: 24.Ne4 Rg6] **24...Rxc4** [24...Kc7 25.Qd7+ Kb8 26.Rd4 a5 27.Qxc6+–] **25.Qxg4 Rb8?** Playing in such positions – it's just a torment, so Black has decided to finish it as soon as possible. **26.Bxa7 Rb7 27.Bc5** Knight's d6 pinning decides. **27...Kc7 28.Rd2 Qh6 29.Qg3 Rxb2 30.Be3** Strong chessplayer Firman conducts this game much below his level. **1-0**

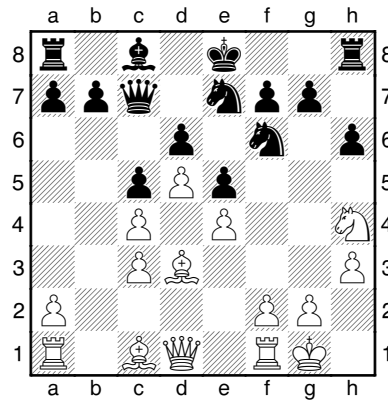
(07) Potkin, Vladimir (2611) - Korobov, Anton (2648) [E41]

9th Aeroflot Open A Moscow (4), 12.02.2010
[GM Aveskulov, V]

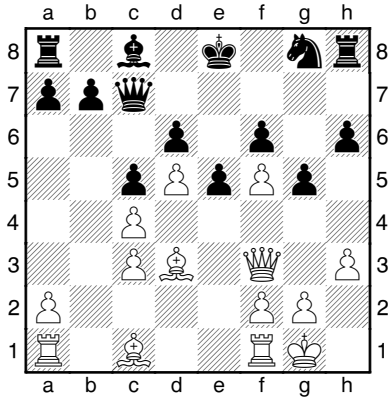
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Bxc3+ Black worsens opponent's pawn structure. Pawns go to dark squares and as a result we have a comfortable position! I advice this line to those (like me) who don't like studying a theory. **7.bxc3 d6 8.e4 e5** Knight f3 impedes f2–f4. **9.d5 Ne7=**



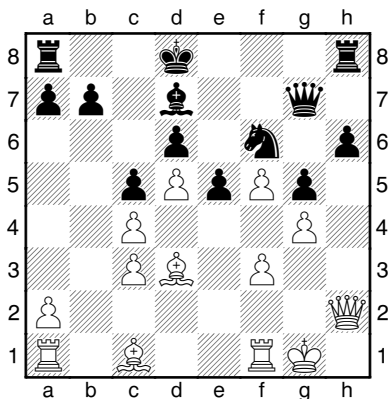
Mission is completed. I do not believe Black has any problems at this moment. **10.Nh4** [Pinning 10.Bg5 would be met with 10...Ng6 and then h7–h6] **10...h6** Black king is not planned to go to the king side. g7–g5 is an idea. **11.h3** [An analogic could happen in a case of immediate castling: 11.0-0 g5 12.Qf3 Nfg8 13.Nf5 Nxf5 14.exf5 and here the choice between f7–f6 and Nf6] **11...Qc7** Queen goes to...h7! As well this move wins some time waiting for 0-0. **12.0-0**



Time to act! **12...g5 13.Qf3** [Black has nice position after both 13.Nf3 Ng6; and 13.Nf5 Nxf5 14.exf5 e4 15.Be2 Bd7!?! with consequent 0-0-0(natural 15...Bxf5?! is a mistake because of 16.f4! Bf5 and Nf6 are hanging)] **13...Nfg8! 14.Nf5 Nxf5** Knight e7 is not very useful in upcoming position. **15.exf5 f6**

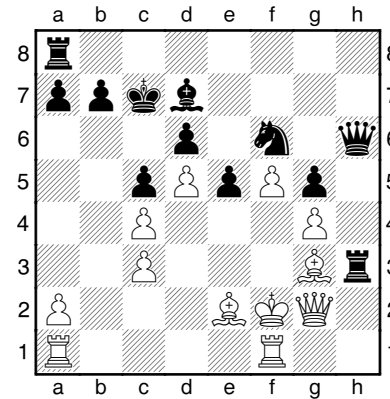


16.Qh5+ Kd8 A temporary obstacle on h5 can be pushed away by Bc8-d7-e8 **17.h4?!** [It was time to find some counterplay: 17.Rb1 Qh7 18.Qd1!? Ne7 19.Qa4 with threats at the queen side.] **17...Qh7 18.g4?!** [Interesting endgame happens after 18.Qg6!? (probably it was a last moment to try to equalize) 18...Qxg6 19.fxg6 Ne7 only 20.Bc2 (20.h5 Bg4?) 20...Rg8 21.h5 Bg4 22.Bd1 Bxd1 23.Rxd1 Nc8 24.a4 Nb6 25.a5 Nxc4 26.Ra4 b5 27.axb6 Nxb6 28.Ra6 f5 29.Bd2 Kc7 30.Rda1 Kb7 activity of White pieces + passed on g6 compensate a material deficit and weakness on d5; And nothing good happens to White in another endgame: 18.Be3 Ne7 19.hxg5 hxg5 (19...fxg5? 20.f6 Qxd3 21.fxe7+ Kxe7 22.Bxg5+±) 20.Qxh7 Rxh7 21.g4 Kc7 22.Kg2 Bd7 23.Rh1 Rah8 24.Rxh7 Rxh7 with idea b7-b5 (at once or after preliminary Kc7-b6-a5)] **18...Bd7** Bishop goes to e8. **19.hxg5** The only possible. **19...fxg5** Knight g8 becomes the Knight! **20.f3 Nf6 21.Qh2** [21.Qg6?? Qe7 and Be8 -+] **21...Qg7**

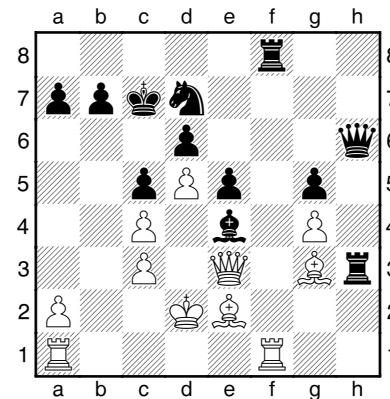


Pawn g5 is defended; h6-h5 is planned. Ukrainian got a serious initiative. **22.Be3 h5 23.Qg2 hxg4 24.fxg4 Rh4 25.Be2 Qh6 26.Bf2 Rh3 27.Bg3** [Even exchange does not promise White a good life: 27.Rfc1!? Kc7 28.Bf1 Rh8!

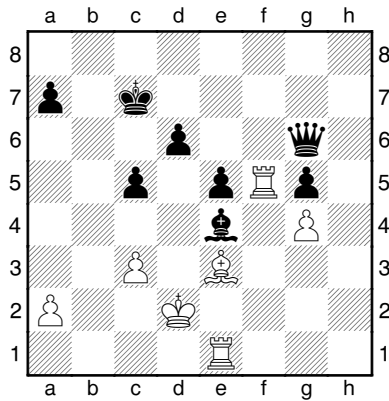
29.Qxh3 accepting is forced **29...Qxh3 30.Bxh3 Rxh3 31.Kg2 Rd3** **27...Kc7 28.Kf2**



[A bit more stubborn is 28.Rad1 Rh8 with ideas Ne4 and Rxg3 29.Rd3 Ba4! last piece comes to help 30.Re3 Bc2 Be4 threatens 31.Bf3 e4 32.Be2 Bd3! 33.Bxd3 (33.Kf2 Bxc4! 34.Bxc4 Nxc4+ 35.Ke2 Nxe3 36.Kxe3 Qh4 37.Rg1 Qf4+ 38.Ke2 Rxg3! 39.Qxg3 Rh2+-) 33...Rh1+ 34.Kf2 Nxc4+ 35.Ke2 Nxe3 36.Kxe3 g4+ 37.Bf4 (37.Kxe4 Re8+ 38.Be5 Rxe5#) 37...Rh3+-+] **28...Bxf5!** Knockout! **29.Ke1** [A main line of combination is not very difficult: 29.gxf5 Rxg3! 30.Qxg3 (30.Kxg3 Qh4+ 31.Kf3 Qf4#) 30...Ne4+] **29...Be4 30.Qf2 Nd7-+** Pawn is won; attack continues; black is winning. **31.Kd2 Rf8 32.Qe3**



32...Rf4?! [Unfortunately Ukrainian makes only sufficient mistake in this game. He could win easier: 32...Nf6! with following Bh7 and Ne4] **33.Bxf4** Is forced. **33...Rxe3 34.Bxe3 Nf6 35.Rae1 Qg6** [35...Bh7! with a double idea: Qg6 and Ne4 was a bit better] **36.Bd1 b5!?** Korobov cleans up a board near the king **37.Bb3 bxc4 38.Bxc4 Nxd5 39.Bxd5 Bxd5** Opposite colors bishops on the board only strengthen an attack. **40.Rf5 Be4**

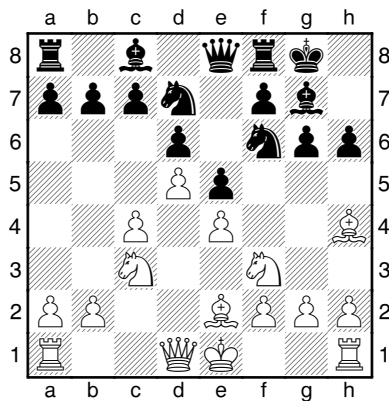


40-th move is passed; everything is clear. **41.Rxg5 Qf7 42.Rd1 Bf3 43.Rc1 Qd5+** [White resigned because of such variations: 43...Qd5+ 44.Ke1 (44.Kc2 Qxa2+ 45.Kd3 e4# (45...c4#; 45...Qe2#)) 44...Qd3-+ A brilliant game! Our congratulations to Kharkov GM with his success at Aeroflot-2010!] **0-1**

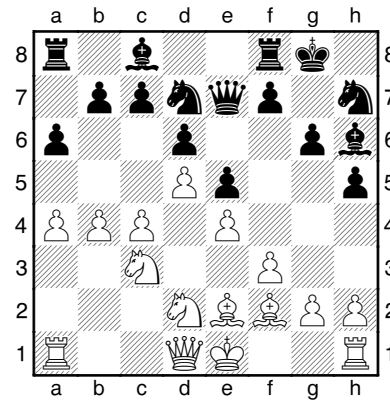
(08) Korobov, Anton (2648) - Cheparinov, Ivan (2660) [E93]

9th Aeroflot Open A Moscow (7), 15.02.2010
[GM Aveskulov, V]

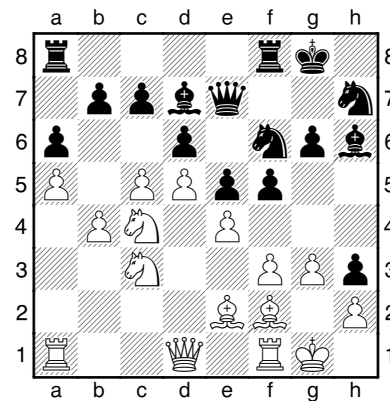
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 [7.0-0 is a classic line] 7...Nbd7 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Qe8?!



Another not the most popular variation[9...g5; 9...a5] **10.Nd2 a6** Preparing a maneuver of the knight [10...Nh7? 11.Nb5!+-] **11.b4 Nh7 12.a4 h5N** [It seems like White has got better chances in the game Nedobora – Todorkevich, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 1995: 12...Bf6 13.Bxf6 Nhx6 14.Nb3 Qe7 15.Qd2 Kg7 16.0-0] **13.f3** White bishop has caused some disorder in the Black's camp and now can go back **13...Bh6 14.Bf2** [In fact check from e3 was not dangerous: 14.0-0!? Be3+ 15.Kh1 Bd4 16.Qc2] **14...Qe7**

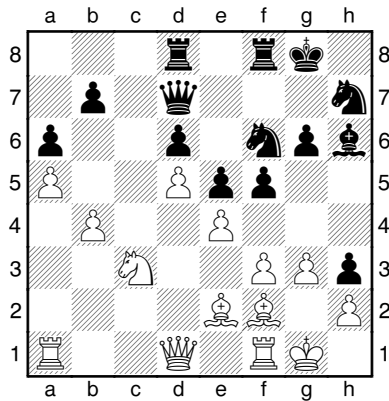


15.a5 [Preparing c4-c5. But the question is if he could do this over here: 15.c5!? dxc5 (there is no danger from 15...a5? 16.Nb5!±) 16.Nc4!? cxb4 17.d6 Qg5 18.Nd5 Qxg2 19.Rg1 Qxh2 20.Ne7+ Kh8 21.dxc7 with a crazy position. In comparison with the line from the comment to move 16. pawns are on a4 and h5. But whose advantage is it to?The most probable that Korobov meant another reply to capture on c5 (see next comment). Anyway, at this moment c4-c5 was also possible and deserved attention.] **15...h4 16.c5 h3** [16...dxc5 17.Nc4!? (17.b5!? seemingly this move was a reason why c4-c5 was preceded by a4-a5; queen side of Black is blocked and becomes a target) 17...h3 (17...cxb4 18.d6 Qg5 19.Nd5 Qxg2 20.Rg1 Qxh2 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.dxc7 with sharp position) 18.g3 Rd8 19.Qb3!? meaning d5-d6 and then Nd5(19.b5!? is still playable)] **17.g3 f5** Unfortunately we do not know why Bulgarian declined this sacrifice. **18.Nc4** [Rybka advises 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.exf5 gxf5 and here 20.Nc4 But both of these exchanges seem premature. It is a natural desire do not demonstrate own plans as long as possible] **18...Ndf6 19.0-0 Bd7**

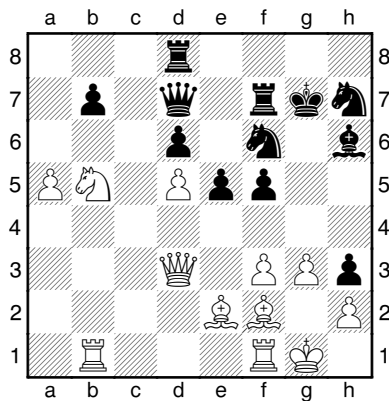


20.cxd6 All useful and evident moves finished; time to act. **20...cxd6 21.Nb6?!** Here and later

we will be talking about pawn pair e4–f5. [Apparently, it was time to take on f5: 21.exf5!? Bxf5 (21...gxf5 22.Nb6 Rad8 23.Nxd7 and then b4–b5 (see the game)) 22.g4 Bd7 23.Qd3 Kg7 24.Be3 Bxe3+ 25.Qxe3 White has clear advantage] **21...Rad8** [He could sacrifice an exchange taking on e4: 21...fxe4!? 22.fxe4 (22.Nxa8 exf3 23.Bxf3 Rxa8 with enough compensation) 22...Rad8 23.Nxd7 Qxd7 24.b5 Rc8 25.Qd3 White is better; but its edge is even more sufficient with pawns on f3 and f5] **22.Nxd7 Qxd7**

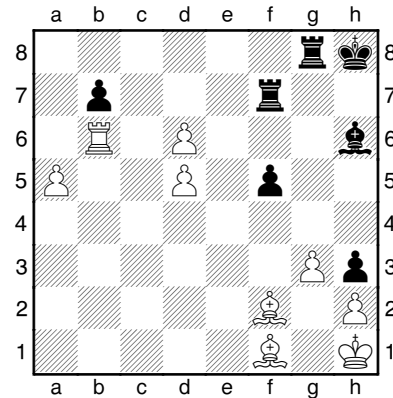


23.Qd3?! [23.exf5! gxf5 24.b5 fixes a certain "better" for White] **23...Rf7?!** [23...Rc8!? looks more apposite] **24.b5 axb5 25.Rab1** [Again exchange on f5 is a good: 25.exf5!? gxf5 (25...Qxf5 26.Qxf5 gxf5 27.Nxb5+–) 26.Bb6 Rc8 27.Nxb5 and then a5–a6] **25...Kg7?!** Another inexplicable move [Again 25...Rc8!? should be set before] **26.exf5** Finally we see it! **26...gxf5** [Exchange of queens also can not provide safe life. 26...Qxf5 27.Qxf5 gxf5 28.Nxb5±] **27.Nxb5±**

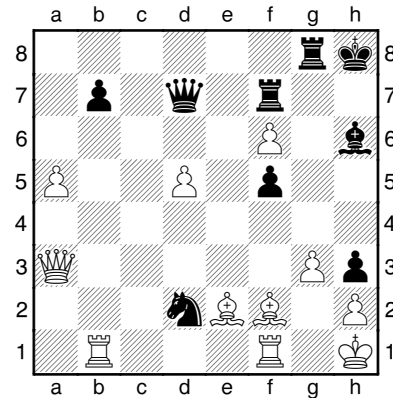


White is much better **27...Kh8 28.Kh1?!** It is odd. [A prophylactic 28.Qa3! (preventing Rg8) with following Rfd1 and Bb6 poses even more problems in front of Black] **28...Rg8 29.Qa3**

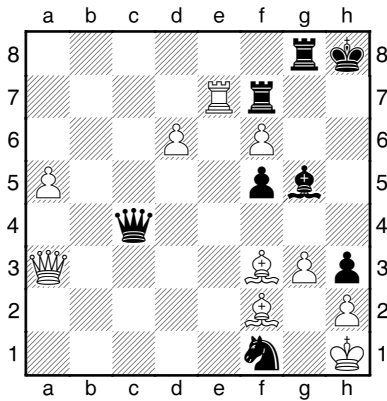
Ne8 30.f4 Nhf6 31.Nxd6! Nxd6 [31...Qxd6? 32.Qxd6 Nxd6 33.fxe5 Nfe4 (33...Nde4 34.Bd4! Nd2 35.e6 Rff8 36.e7 Rf7 37.d6+–) 34.exd6 Nd2 35.Rb6 Nxf1 36.Bxf1± see diagram]



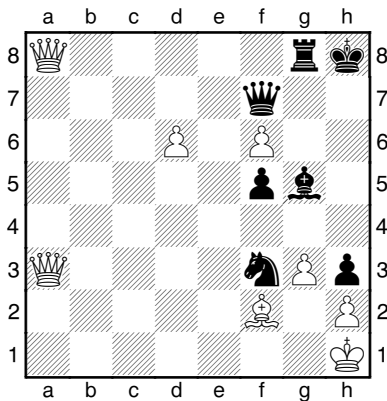
32.fxe5 Nde4 33.exf6 Nd2



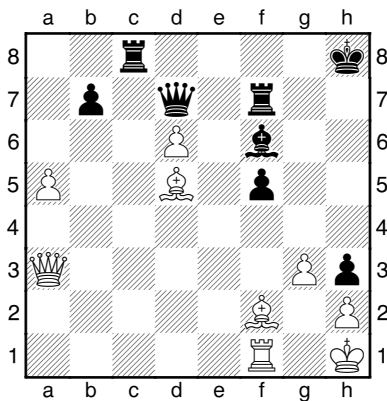
[33...Qxd5 34.Bf3 Bg5 (34...Nxf2+ 35.Rxf2 Qd4 36.Qb2±) 35.Bg1 Bxf6 36.Rfd1±] **34.Bf3?!** [Ukrainian starts missing good opportunities: 34.Rb5! Nxf1 35.Bxf1 Bg5 (35...Rxf6? 36.Bd4 Bg7 37.Bxf6 Bxf6 38.Qf3+–) 36.Qd3± taking on h3; Black's position is hopeless] **34...Bg5?!** [34...f4!? was stronger 35.g4 Nxf1 36.Rxf1 Bg5 and Black is alive] **35.d6 Nxf1 36.Rxf1** [There is nothing special (except of nice variations!) after 36.Rxb7 Qe6 37.Rxf7 (37.Re7! Rxe7 (37...Qc4?



38.Qc5!! Qxc5 39.Bxc5 Nd2 (39...Rxf6 40.d7+-) 40.d7 Nxf3 41.Rxf7 Ne5 42.Rg7! Bxf6 43.Rxg8+ Kxg8 44.a6 Nc6 45.Bb6! Kf7 46.d8Q Bxd8 47.Bxd8 Ke6 48.Bb6+-) 38.fxe7 Nd2 39.Qb2+ Kh7 40.Qb7 Rg7 41.a6 Bxe7! 42.a7 Bxd6 43.a8Q Rxb7 44.Qxb7+ Kg6=) 37...Qxf7 38.a6 Nd2 39.a7 Nxf3 40.Qxf3 (unexpectedly White loses after natural 40.a8Q??

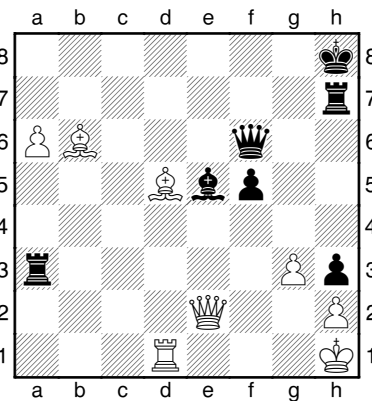


40...Ne5!! winning a queen! It is amazing! 41.Q8a5 Qb7+ with a checkmate) 40...Bxf6 41.a8Q Rxa8 42.Qxa8+ Kg7= extra pawn does not play any role] 36...Bxf6 37.Bd5 Rc8?

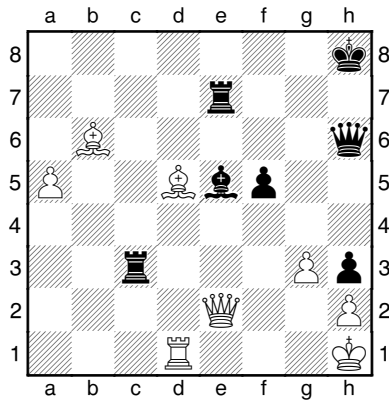


[Bulgarian also loses good opportunity

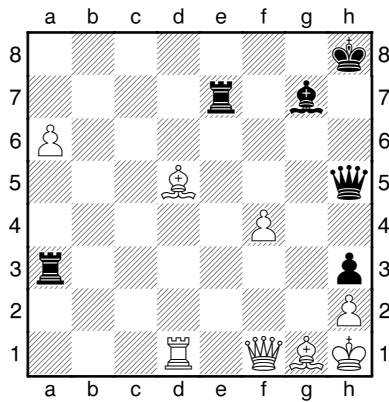
37...Qb5! 38.Rd1 Qe2 39.Qc1 Rh7! (39...Qxf2?? 40.Qh6+ Rh7 41.Qxf6+ Rhg7 42.d7+-) 40.Bg1 Rd8 41.d7 Qh5 taking on d7 and getting almost equal play(41...Rdxd7?? loses 42.Re1 Qh5 43.Bd4! Rhf7 (43...Bxd4 44.Qc8+ Kg7 45.Qg8+ Kh6 46.Re6+-) 44.Bxf6+ Rxf6 45.Qc8+-) 38.Qf3?! [After 38.Rb1!± Ivan would encounter another difficulties] 38...Rh7 39.Bb6 [39.Bg1!? is another good move; White just takes on f5] 39...Be5! 40.Rd1 Rc3? 40-th move (as usually it is) puts Black to new problems [White is still better after the best 40...Rh6! 41.Qe3 Qxd6 42.Bf3 Qf6 43.Bxb7 Rh7! 44.Qf3 (44.Bxc8?? Qc6+-) 44...Rb8 45.Bc6 but anyway it is more preferable] 41.Qe2 Qxd6 One enemy is destroyed. But there are many other problems. 42.Bxb7 Qf6 43.Bd8!± Nice diversion! 43...Qe6 [43...Qg7? 44.a6+-] 44.Bd5 Qd6 45.Bf3? Played by a human – solidly. [At the same time 45.Bb6! with idea Bb7, a5-a6-... is almost winning: 45...Qf6 46.a6 Ra3



Here computer points at the unreal resource: 47.g4!! aiming g4-g5 47...Rg7 "preventing" White's idea (47...fxg4?? 48.Qxg4 Rg7 49.Qh5+ Rh7 50.Qe8+ Kg7 51.Bd8+- with a decisive attack) 48.g5! anyway! 48...Rxg5 49.a7 Rg2 50.Bxg2 hxg2+ 51.Qxg2 Qxb6 52.a8Q+ Rxa8 53.Qxa8+- and White must win] 45...Qe6 46.Bb6 Re7? Bulgarian prevents a5-a6. [But in fact it was not a threat: 46...Qf6 47.a6? Rxf3! and White should look for a... draw! (I could not find it) 48.Rd8+? Kg7 49.Qxf3 Qxb6 50.Qb7+ Qxb7+ 51.axb7 Rh8! 52.Rc8 Rf8 53.Kg1 Kf7 (53...f4? 54.Rxf8 (54.gxf4? Rxf4 55.Rd8 (55.b8Q?? Bd4+ 56.Kh1 Rf1#) 55...Rg4+ 56.Kf2 Rb4 57.Rd3 with an unpleasant drawing endgame "rook+bishop vs. rook") 54...Kxf8 55.gxf4 Bxf4 56.b8Q+ Bxb8= draw) 54.Kf2 Ke7 55.Kf3 Rd8 56.Rc5 Ke6 57.Rb5 Bb8-+] 47.Bd5! Qh6



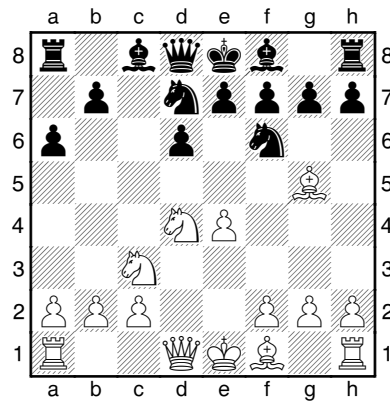
48.Qf1? [Both of players could not see a nice march from pawn "a": 48.a6!! Qxb6 49.a7! and no one can stop it 49...Rc8 **a)** 49...Qxa7 50.Qh5+ Kg7 (50...Rh7 51.Qe8+ Kg7 52.Qxe5+ Kg6 53.Qxc3+- with extra piece) 51.Qg5+ Kh7 52.Qxf5+ Kh6 (52...Kg7 53.Qg5+ Kh7 54.Be4+ Kh8 55.Rd8+) 53.Qxh3+ Kg6 54.Qg4+ Kh6 55.Be4+-; **b)** 49...Rxa7 50.Qxe5+ Rg7 51.Qxc3+-; 50.Qh5+ Rh7 51.Qxf5+- winning] **48...Bg7 49.Bg1!** Defending 1-st rank [49.Qxf5? was not good 49...Rc1 50.Qf1 Rxd1 51.Qxd1 Re5=] **49...f4** A despair that has helped! **50.gxf4 Qh5 51.a6+- Ra3**



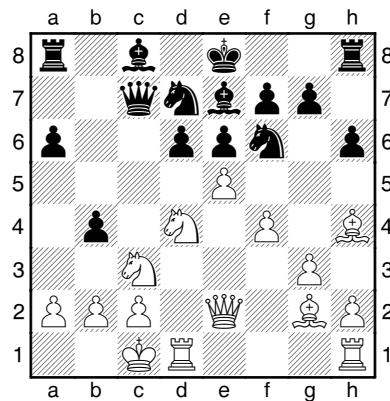
52.f5?? A blunder that can be explained only by weariness. [52.Rd3! was finishing this fight 52...Re1 (52...Rxd3 53.Qxd3+-) 53.Qxe1 Rxd3 54.Be4+-] **52...Rxa6=** Second enemy is destroyed. Now it is an easy draw. **53.Qxa6 Qxd1 54.Qa8+ Kh7 55.Bg8+ Kh6 56.Qc6+ Kg5 57.Qg6+ Kf4 58.Qg3+ Kxf5 59.Qxh3+ Qg4 60.Qf1+ Kg5 61.Bd5** Draw! What's a draw! **S - S**

(09) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2687) - Korobov, Anton (2648) [B96]
9th Aeroflot Open A Moscow (8), 16.02.2010
[GM Aveskulov, V]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3

a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7

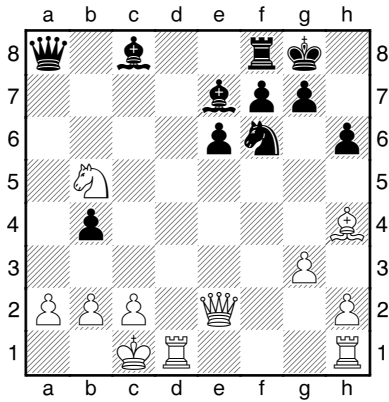


A rare move. Ukrainian GM liked it but last time he played so in 2004. **7.Qe2** [Deutsch GM also decided to surprise his opponent. Old good books were studying us to play 7.Bc4 proving that there is an advantage.] **7...e6 8.f4 Qc7 9.0-0** Now position is again almost classical. Only position of queen on e2 differs a bit. **9...Be7** [In my opinion 9...b5!? is more logical as it makes possible Bb7 before white bishop appears on g2.] **10.g3 h6 11.Bh4 b5 12.Bg2 b4!** [Non-registered in database-2010 move 12...Bb7?! evidently also is possible since it does not lose immediately: 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 g5! only 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Ndxb5! Qb6! (16...axb5? 17.Qxb5+ Kf8 18.Qxb7 Qxb7 19.Bxb7 Ra7 20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Bf3± with two extra pawns) 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 18.Bxg5 hxg5 19.Nd4 with a complicated position.] **13.e5**

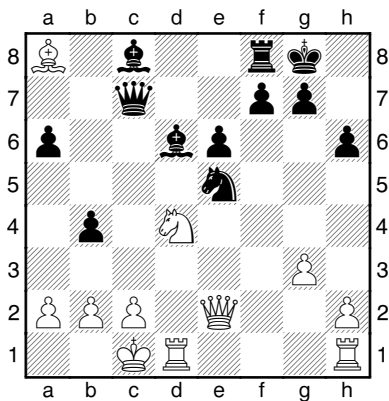


[Otherwise Black is fine: 13.Na4?! Rb8] **13...dxe5 14.Bxa8?N** Not the best novelty. [In the game Korsunskiy-Ivanov S., Leningrad, 1989 White played another sharp move 14.Ndb5?! whereupon Black got a good position (but finally lost): 14...axb5 (14...Qb8! was even stronger; minor pieces of White are hanging in course: 15.fxe5 (15.Bxa8 bxc3

16.Nxc3 Qxa8 15...Nxe5 16.Bxa8 bxc3
17.Nxc3 g5! with better position) 15.Nxb5 Qa5
16.Bxa8 0-0 17.fxe5?! (17.Bc6! exf4 18.Bxd7
Bxd7 19.Rxd7 Nxd7 20.Bxe7 Re8 21.Bd6
Qxa2 22.Rd1 and position becomes even more
unclear) 17...Qxa8 18.exf6 Nxf6

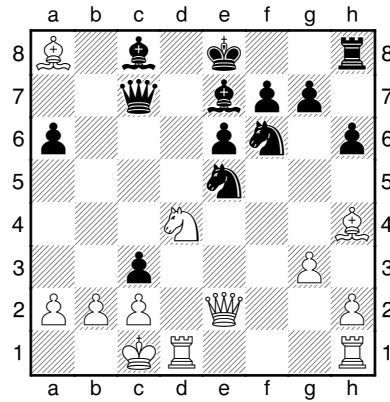


Black has a great compensation for an exchange.; Another probable (and seemingly the best one) continuation is 14.fxe5!? Nxe5! a) 14...bxc3!? 15.exf6 Qb8! 16.bxc3 (16.Bxa8?? Qxb2#) 16...Nxf6 17.Bc6+! an important check 17...Kf8 18.Bxa8 Qxa8 White is exchange up but he has an ugly pawn structure; opponent has a pair of bishops; all the fight is ahead.; b) 14...Qxe5? 15.Ne4! the strongest (15.Qxe5?! Nxe5 16.Bxa8 bxc3 17.Nc6! White is just a bit better) 15...Nxe4 (15...g5!? 16.Bxg5 hxg5 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Bxa8± with some chances for Black) 16.Bxe4 Bxh4 (16...Bg5+ 17.Kb1 Rb8 18.Nc6 getting a winning position) 17.gxh4 Qf4+ 18.Kb1 Rb8 19.Rhf1 Qc7 20.Qg2+- with multiple threats to Black king; 15.Bxf6 (15.Bxa8?! bxc3 16.Rhe1 cxb2+ 17.Kb1 Bd6 here White himself should be careful) 15...Bxf6 16.Ne4 (16.Bxa8? bxc3 with an excellent compensation for an exchange) 16...Be7!? 17.Nd6+ Bxd6 18.Bxa8 0-0

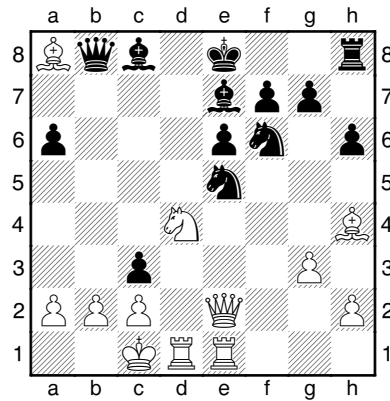


Black is ok] 14...bxc3 15.fxe5 [After 15.Nc6? he has an unexpected 15...Bb7! 16.Nxe7

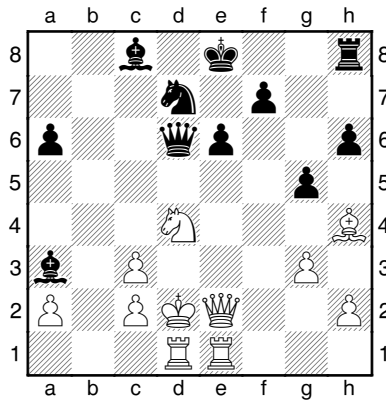
(16.Bxb7 Qxb7-+) 16...Bxa8 17.Rhe1 cxb2+
18.Kxb2 Kxe7 19.fxe5 Qxe5+ (19...g5 20.exf6+
Nxf6 21.Qxa6 Qc5! 17 (21...gxh4?? 22.Qa3+-))
20.Qxe5 Nxe5 21.Rxe5 g5 17 Black has to win] **15...Nxe5**



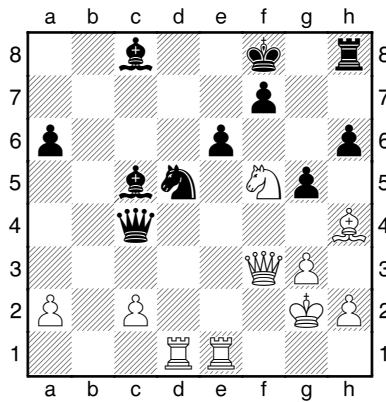
As a result of all exchanges Korobov got a good compensation for an exchange; his pieces are very harmonious; meanwhile white bishop h4 is in trap; king is unsafe. **16.Rhe1 Qb8!**



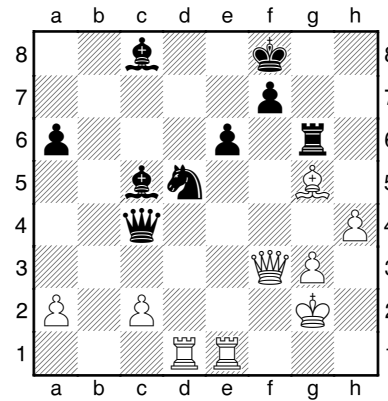
17.bxc3? Another mistake. Since then White is in big troubles. [Only correct is 17.Nb3! cxb2+ 18.Kb1 Qxa8 19.Qxe5 0-0 20.Qc7 with a fighting position] 17...Ba3+ 18.Kd2 Nfd7! 17 His pieces are aiming at the White king 19.Bc6 [Naiditsch tries to prevent g7-g5 somehow 19.Bg2 g5! 17 But it also does not help him.] 19...Nxc6 20.Nxc6 Qd6+ 21.Nd4 g5! 17



The beginning of the end. **22.Qh5** A threat is **Rxe6 22...Nf6 23.Qf3 Nd5 24.Nf5** [Alternative is **24.Ke2** but Black has a precise move **24...Qc5!** (the last chance was hidden in such line: **24...gxh4? 25.c4! Ne7 26.Nb5! Qe5+ 27.Kf1±**) **25.Kf1 gxh4** and **26.Nxe6?** is not saving as well **26...fxe6 27.Rxd5 (27.Qxd5 0-0+!** a nice trick) **27...Qxd5! 28.Qxd5 0-0+!** with a simple win] **24...Qc5 25.c4** [In a case of **25.Rb1** he can take on h4 **25...gxh4 26.gxh4** and continue attack **26...Nb6+!**] **25...Qb4+ 26.Ke2** [26.Kd3 Qc3+ 27.Ke2 Qxc4+ see the game] **26...Qxc4+ 27.Kf2 Bc5+ 28.Kg2 Kf8+**



Everything is hanging. White is hopeless. **29.Kh3** [29.Nxh6 Rxh6 30.Bxg5 Rg6 31.Rf1 (31.h4



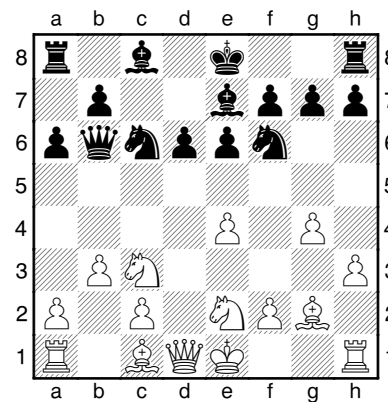
allows a nice combination **31...Rxc2** and **White king has no place to hide 33.Kh1 (33.Kf1 e5 34.g4 Bxg4!-+; 33.Kh3 Qh7+ 34.Kg2 e5!-+ 35.Qxd5 Qh3+ 36.Kf3 Bg4+ 37.Ke4 Qh7+ 38.Kxe5 Qf5#)** **33...Qh7+ 34.Kg2 e5** with analogic variations) **31...f6! 32.Bd2 Bb7 33.Kh1 Bc6+!** **29...Bb7 30.Re4 Qxc2 31.Rxe6** [31.Nd4 Bxd4 32.Rdxd4 gxh4+!] **31...Nf4+!** **32.gxf4** [32.Qxf4 Bg2+ (32...gxf4?? 33.Rd8#) 33.Kg4 Qxd1+ with a checkmate] **32...Qxf5+** White resigned. Ukrainian attacked at one breath! **0-1**

(10) Topalov, Veselin (2805) - Grischuk, Alexander (2736) [B90]

XXVII SuperGM Linares (5), 18.02.2010

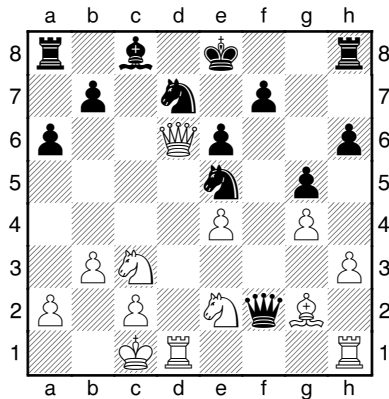
[GM Aveskulov, V]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 Nf6 8.h3 Nc6 9.g4 Qb6 Not a very usual for 6.h3 line reply. **10.Nde2N** [Naiditsch and Domingues at World Blitz Championship (Moscow, 2009) against Grischuk were playing 10.Nb3] **10...e6 11.Bg2 Be7 12.b3!?**

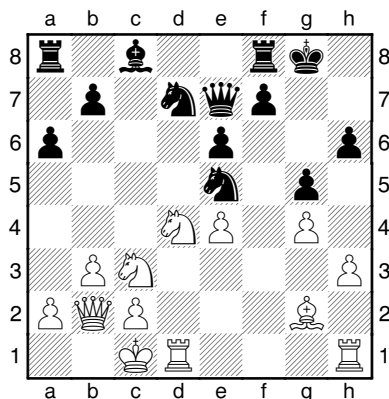


An unordinary way to develop **Bc1.12...h6** Russian GM plays more in "Najdorf" style; e.g. **g7-g5** is planned now, then knight goes to **e5. 13.Qd2 g5 14.Ba3 Ne5 15.0-0** [It is difficult

to believe that Bulgarian was studying deeply his perspectives in the endgame that coming after 15.Rd1 h5 16.f3 Bd7 17.Bxd6 Bxd6 18.Qxd6 Qxd6 19.Rxd6 Ke7 his style is too aggressive for this.] **15...Qxf2** [In my opinion, a sacrifice of pawn deserves attention: 15...Bd7!? 16.Bxd6 Bxd6 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 h5 and Ke7, Rac8 etc. Bg2 is bad; dark squares are fixed while all Black pieces have good places to take them] **16.Bxd6 Bxd6 17.Qxd6 Nfd7**

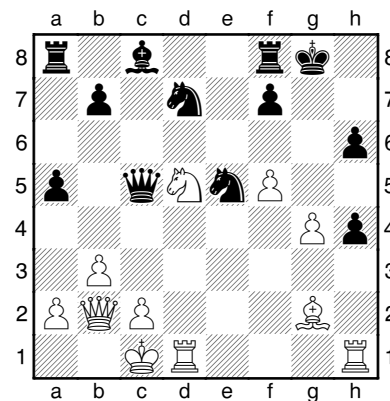


18.Nd4! Such move could be overlooked **18...Qf6** [It happened so that Bg2 is untouchable: 18...Qxg2? 19.Nxe6! fxe6 20.Qxe6+ Kd8 21.Qf6+ Kc7 22.Qd6+ Kd8 23.Nd5 Rh7 24.Rhf1+–] **19.Qa3!?** [Many commentators have pointed at 19.Na4!? I think Black can get a good position by means of: 19...Rb8 thinking of b7–b5 (queens can not be exchanged: 19...Qe7 20.Qc7 Qd8 21.Qc3± and Black king is in troubles) 20.Nb6 Qe7! 21.Nf3 (21.Qc7 Qd8 22.Qxd8+ Kxd8= Black is ok) 21...Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Ng6! this is the move allows Black to keep a balance. 23.Rhd1 Nxb6 24.Rxb6 Bd7= Probably such kind of variations have forced Topalov to look for maneauver of queen from d6 to b2.] **19...Qe7** Ncb5 was a threat. **20.Qb2!** 0-0

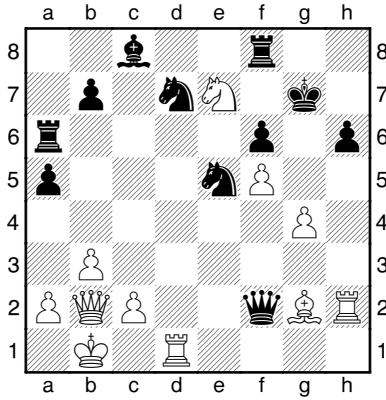


Making use of White queen's being too far. [At

the same time development of queen side was a good alternative 20...b5!? 21.Nc6! nice but not very effective 21...Nxc6! 22.Nd5 exd5 23.Qxh8+ Qf8 24.Qc3 Qa3+ 25.Kb1 Qc5 and Black has no problems 26.Qxc5 (26.Qg7 d4 27.Qxh6 Bb7 and 0-0-0=) 26...Nxc5 27.exd5 Ne5 28.d6 Rb8 29.Rhf1 Ncd7=] **21.Nf5!?** A brave decision. [Many players would play 21.Nce2 and in their own fashion were right. As for me, Topalov's move is the best one in this position. In addition, analysis proves a correctness of this sacrifice.] **21...exf5 22.Nd5 Qc5 23.exf5 a5!** Rook is planned to develop to a6. **24.h4 gxh4!**

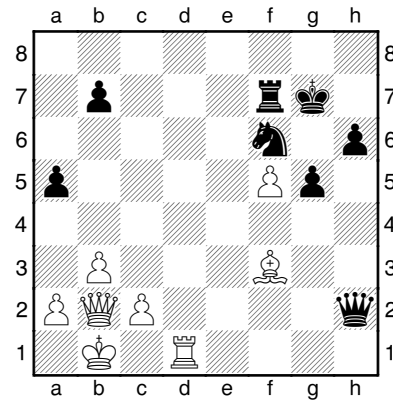


For Black it is easier to develop a pawn h6. **25.Rxh4?!** [I do not think many of us could find 25.Kb1! with idea Qc1 to support g4–g5. After this Black is in troubles. E.g. 25...Ra6 26.Qc1 Qf2! defending a pawn (26...Kg7? 27.Rxh4 Rh8 28.g5!±) 27.Bf1! Rc6 28.Bb5 (28.Ne7+?! Kh7 29.Nxc6 bxc6 with a safe position) 28...Kh7 29.Rdf1 Qg3 30.Rhg1! Qh3 31.g5±] **25...Ra6** Now he is ok. **26.Kb1?** An untimely prophylactic. [White needed to bring a rook a bit back. 26.Rh3! with unclear play; 26.Rdh1?? Nd3+–+] **26...Qf2 27.Ne7+ Kg7?** Voluntarily pinning own knight. [A precise 27...Kh7! was winning: 28.Rdh1 (28.Rh2 Qg3 29.Rdh1 Nxc4+) 28...Qxg2 29.Qc1 Nxc4 30.Ng6 fxc6 31.Rxh6+ Kg7! 32.Rh7+ Kf6–+ Black king surrounded by own pieces is safe] **28.Rh2** Again we have an unclear position. **28...f6?**

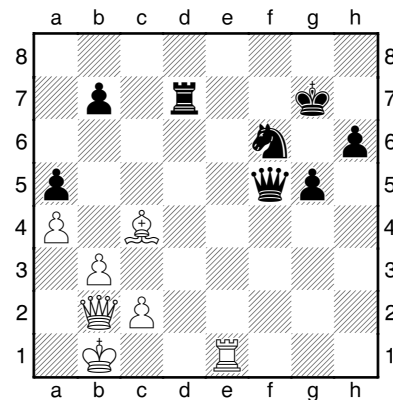


Closing a 6–th rank. [It was necessary to play more active 28...Re8! but here one has to calculate such variation: 29.Nxc8 Rxc8 30.Bxb7 Qxh2 31.Bxc8 Ra7 and to see that Nd7 is fine 32.Bxd7 (to be honest, White can play 32.Qc1! with following g4–g5 and Rg1; everything is still difficult) 32...Rxd7! 33.Rxd7 Qg1+ 34.Qc1 Qxc1+ 35.Kxc1 Nxd7-+] **29.g5?** [Topalov was playing very fast to push at opponent and has missed a winning opportunity 29.Qc1! Nxg4 (29...Rh8 30.Nxc8+-) 30.Nxc8 Nxh2? **a)** 30...Nc5 Nc8 is trapped but Black has no time to capture it 31.Rf1! Qe3 (31...Qg3 32.Rh5! Rxc8 33.Rg1!+-) 32.Qxe3 Nxe3 33.Rg1! Kf7 34.Rxh6 Rg8 (34...Rxc8? 35.Rh7+ Ke8 36.Bd5 with checkmate) 35.Rh7+ Kf8 36.Re1! Rxd7 (36...Nxd7? 37.Rd1! Rg7 38.Rd8+ Kf7 39.Rhh8 Rg5 40.Rdf8+ Kg7 41.Ne7!+- and checkmate is coming) 37.Rxe3+-; **b)** 30...Nde5 31.Bxb7 Nxh2 32.Bxa6 material balance is renewed but attack is still going on; 31.Rxd7+ Rf7 32.Rxf7+ Kxf7 33.Bxb7 rook is trapped 33...Ra7 34.Qxh6! Qg1+ 35.Qc1! Qxc1+ 36.Kxc1 Rxb7 37.Nd6+-] **29...fxg5!** Again Black is fine. [29...hxg5?? 30.Rdh1+-] **30.Nxc8 Raf6!-+** A missed resource! **31.Ne7 R8f7?** [Grischuk misses another win: 31...Qg3 32.Rdh1 Ng4 33.Ng6 Re8 34.Qd4 Nb6 35.Bc6! Re1+! 36.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 37.Kb2 Nxh2 38.Qd8 Rxf5-+ To justify Russian we need to say that he was in big time troubles.] **32.Nd5**

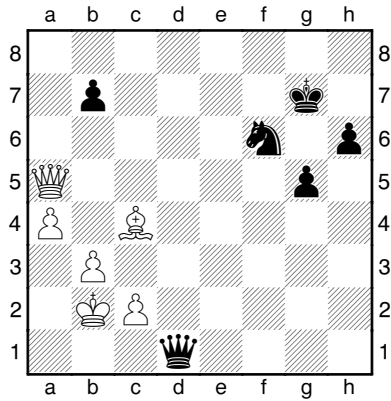
32...Nf3?! An inaccuracy. [32...Ng4! was much better 33.Rhh1! (33.Nxf6? Ndx6 34.Bd5 Qxh2 35.Bxf7 Kxf7 36.Qd4 Qe2+ bringing the queen back and thinking of pushing pawn "h" forward.) 33...Qxg2 34.Qd4 centralizing and getting a reasonable compensation] **33.Bxf3! Qxh2 34.Nxf6 Nxf6=**



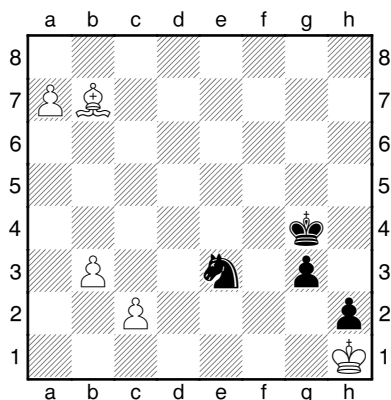
Sharp part of the game is over. **35.a4 Qf4** It is extremely important do not allow White queen to come to the center **36.Bd5 Rd7** Pinning the bishop but.. **37.Re1!** A nice trick. **37...Qxf5** Right reaction. Pawn is free. [37...Rxd5?? 38.Re7+ with checkmate] **38.Bc4?**



Series of mistakes goes on. [Topalov had to play 38.Be6 Qf2 39.Qe5! Re7 40.Qxa5 winning a pawn back.] **38...Qf2?!** Removing a protection from e5 square. [38...Qf4 was much better keeping a control under e5.] **39.Qe5 Qd4 40.Qf5** Bd3 threatens. **40...Qg4 41.Qxa5 Rd1+** Decreasing an attacking potential of White. **42.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 43.Kb2**

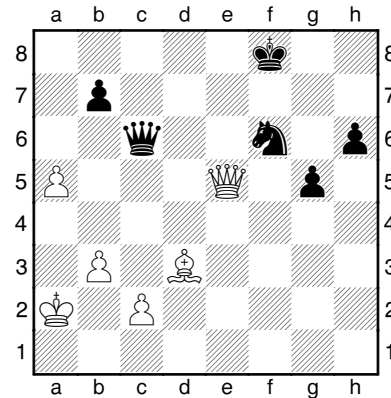


43...Qd6 [Russian GM has not dared to exchange queens. Analysis demonstrates us that endgame was equal: 43...Qd4+ 44.Qc3 Qxc3+ 45.Kxc3 h5 46.a5 h4 47.Be6 covering h3 and going to c8 47...g4 48.Kd4! (48.Bc8?? g3+) 48...Kg6 (48...g3 also makes a draw 49.Ke3 Ne4! 50.Bh3 Nf2 51.Bc8 h3 (51...Ne4? 52.Kf3! and there is no fork from g5) 52.Ke2 (52.Bxh3 Nxh3 53.Kf3 Nf4 54.Kxg3 Nd5 55.Kf3 Kf6 56.Ke4 Ke6=) 52...Kf6 53.Bxb7 Ng4 54.Kf1 Ne3+ 55.Kg1 h2+ 56.Kh1 Kg5 57.a6 Kg4 58.a7

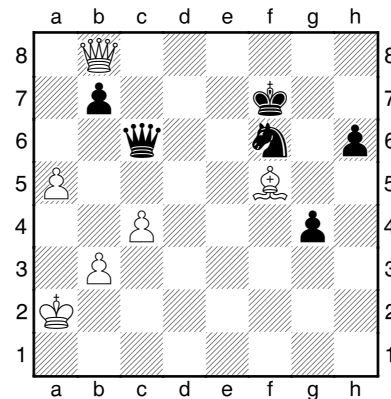


(58.Bc8+ Kf3 59.Bb7+ Kg4=) 58...Nd1! 59.Kg2 (59.a8Q?? Nf2+ 60.Kg2 h1Q#) 59...Ne3+ 60.Kh1 Nd1=) 49.Bc8 h3 50.Ke3 (50.Bxb7?? g3 51.a6 g2 52.a7 g1Q+ check!) 50...Kg5 51.Bxb7 g3 52.Ke2 (52.a6 Ng4+ 53.Kd3 g2=) 52...Ng4 53.Kf1 Ne3+ 54.Kg1 h2+ 55.Kh1 Kg4 56.a6 Nd1 with the same draw. But: pawn here

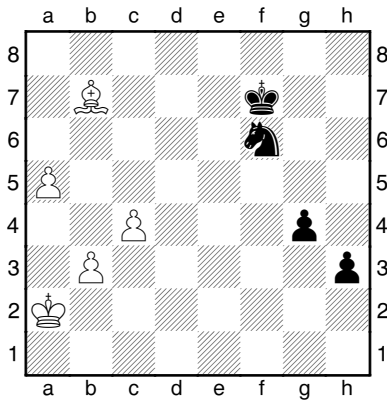
on a6 but not on a7! 57.Kg2 Ne3+= But position is still drawn.] **44.Qa7 Qe5+ 45.Ka2 Qe4?!** [This is a mistake. 45...Qc7! was necessary: 46.a5 Ne4 47.a6 (47.Qd4+ Nf6 and Black is ok) 47...Qa5+ 48.Kb1 Qe1+ 49.Kb2 Qc3+=] **46.Bd3 Qc6 47.a5** now a5-a6 is a real threat **47...Nd5** preventing White's idea; but now White queen comfortably occupies a central square **48.Qd4+ Nf6 49.Qe5 Kf8**



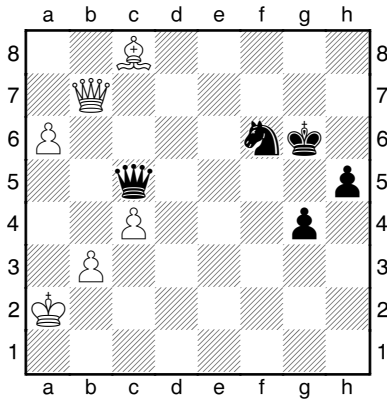
[Apparently, 49...Kf7! was better; there is no danger from bishop's check 50.Bc4+ Kg6 51.Qe6 Qc7! with a good play(51...Qxe6? 52.Bxe6+- this endgame is a few tempos worse than the previous one.)] **50.c4?** [50.Kb2! with idea b3-b4-b5 was more logical; 50.b4? Qa4+] **50...g4 51.Bf5 Kf7 52.Qb8**



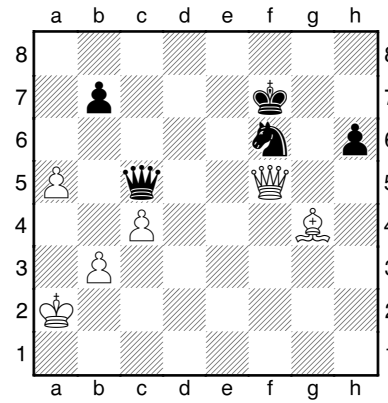
52...Ne8?? A fatal mistake. [Correct move is 52...h5 53.Bc8 and here 53...Qc5! (53...h4? is not good 54.Qxb7+ Qxb7 55.Bxb7 h3



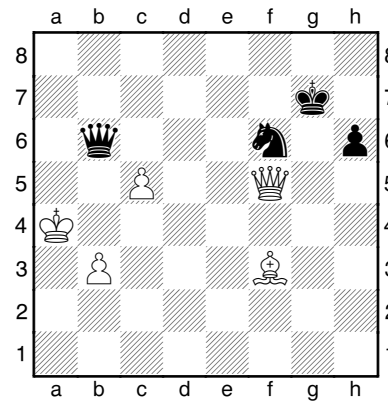
g4-g3-g2 threatens. draw? 56.Bc8! no! this trick is very welcome to be memorized: bishop ops itself stops 2 connected pawns 56...h2 57.Bb7 Ne8 58.a6 Nc7 59.a7+-) 54.Qxb7+ Kg6 55.a6



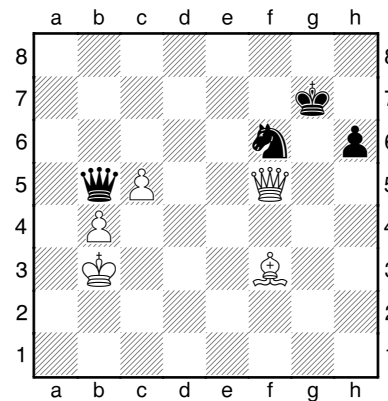
Otherwise Black pushes a pawn "g" But now there is a perpetual 55...Qa5+ 56.Kb1 (56.Kb2 Qd2+ 57.Kb1 Qd1+ 58.Kb2 Qd2+ 59.Ka3 Qa5+=) 56...Qe1+ 57.Kc2 Qe2+ 58.Kc3 Qe1+ 59.Kd4 Qf2+ 60.Ke5 Qc5+ 61.Ke6 Qf5+ 62.Kd6 (62.Ke7 Qc5+ 63.Kd8 Qd6+ 64.Bd7 Nxd7 65.Qxd7 Qxa6=) 62...Ne4+ 63.Kc7 (63.Kc6?? Qc5+ 64.Kd7 Qd6+ 65.Ke8 Nf6#) 63...Qe5+ 64.Kd8 (64.Kb6?? Qc5#) 64...Qh8+!=] 53.Qf4! The easiest. Pawn is won and there is no compensation. 53...Qc5 54.Bxg4+ Nf6 55.Qf5!+-



All squares are protected. Time to push pawns! 55...Qd4 56.Bf3 Qf2+ 57.Ka3 Kg7 58.Ka4 b6 59.axb6 [59.a6?? Qa2+ 60.Kb4 Qxa6] 59...Qxb6 60.c5



There is no perpetual. The rest is easy. 60...Qa7+ 61.Kb5 Qb8+ 62.Kc4 Qg8+ 63.Kc3 Qe8 64.b4 Qe1+ 65.Kc4 Qf1+ 66.Kb3 Qb5



67.Bd1! Bishop is being transferred to d3. 67...Qc6 68.Bc2 Kf7 69.Bd3 Black resigned since white pawns are unstoppable. 1-0

Editorial staff:

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email: chesszone@ya.ru