

# CHESS NOTES VOL.3

## 2.b3 Sicilian (2024)



**B20**  
 **Carlsen, Magnus** **2881**  
 **Leitao, Rafael Duailibe** **2645**  
 Caxias do Sul Uva rap rapid (4) 06.03.14  
*[Illingworth, Max, MH]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4** Smerdon, David Smerdon, David  
**1...c5 2.b3** Smerdon, David: 'I know this is just a rapid game, but given that 2.b3 has been employed by Carlsen, Kramnik, Morozevich and Grischuk in the last 12 months, can we really still call it a sideline? Perhaps it's time to take this cheeky little move more seriously.'  
 Smerdon, David: 'I know this is just a rapid game, but given that 2.b3 has been employed by Carlsen, Kramnik, Morozevich and Grischuk in the last 12 months, can we really still call it a sideline? Perhaps it's time to take this cheeky little move more seriously.'  
**2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5 Bd7**  
 Smerdon, David: 'Definitely the popular choice.' Smerdon, David: 'Definitely the popular choice.'

[It's also possible to allow the doubling of the pawns: 4...Nf6 Smerdon, David 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 e5 7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bh6! 9.f4? 0-0! 0-1 (36) Zude, A (2400)-Wei, Y (2607) Caleta 2014 Smerdon, David: '0-1 (36) Zude, A (2400)-Wei, Y (2607) Caleta 2014']

#### 5.f4 a6

[5...e5 (Smerdon, David) is interesting here. White should sacrifice the pawn: Smerdon, David: 'is interesting here. White should sacrifice the pawn:' 6.Nf3 exf4 7.d3 Nge7 0.19/21 ( 7...Qa5+ -0.26/21 8.Nc3 g6 ) 8.Qd2= Ng6 and now the queen's knight should head for d5 as quickly

as possible: Smerdon, David: 'and now the queen's knight should head for d5 as quickly as possible.'

**A) 9.0-0 a6 10.Bc4 ( 10.Bxc6!? bxc6 11.h3= ) 10...Nce5 11.Bd5 Rb8 0-1 (29) Paichadze, L (2529) -Socko, B (2654) Yerevan 2014**  
 Smerdon, David: '0-1 (29) Paichadze, L (2529) -Socko, B (2654) Yerevan 2014';  
**B) 9.Nc3! Be7 10.Nd5 0-0 ( 10...Bh4+ 0.34/22 10...0-0 -0.04 11.g3! fxg3 12.0-0-0! → ) 11.0-0-0 0-0 ]**

[5...Nf6 Smerdon, David 6.Qe2 e6 7.Nf3 Be7

**A) 8.e5!?** is more forcing: Nd5 9.Qe4 -0.64/21 ( 9.exd6= -0.12/19 Bxd6 10.g3 ) 9...f5 10.exf6! Bxf6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0-0 1/2-1/2 (43) Morozevich, A (2722)-Eliseev, U (2549) Moscow 2014;  
**B) 8.0-0 0-0 9.d3 d5 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Ne5 c4! 0-0 Mamedyarov, S (2760)-Anand, V (2799) Nice 2008.**  
 Despite the result, this position is quite level, and resembles some sort of reversed Bogo-Indian.  
 Smerdon, David: 'Mamedyarov, S (2760)-Anand, V (2799) Nice 2008. Despite the result, this position is quite level, and resembles some sort of reversed Bogo-Indian.' ]

#### 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3N

[7.Qe2

**A) 7...e6 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5 20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4 Be7**



1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g  
(2515)–Virviescas Sanchez,C  
(2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/  
Canada [Siaperas] 0–1 (45) ) 8...Nf6  
9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0–0 0–0  
12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4  
Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5  
17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4  
Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5  
22.Rf3 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♕d7\_99  
(1874)–Game 2 (2170) SFN–3284  
2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John  
Watson] 0–1 (59);

**B) 7...Nf6** 8.Nc3 is another move  
order. ]

[ 7.d3 Smerdon, David d5 0.45/21  
( 7...Nf6= 0.01/20 8.Nf3 e6 9.0–0  
Be7 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0–0  
12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4  
15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4  
d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3 d4 20.Ne4  
f5 21.exf6 Qf7 22.Qg4+ Kh8  
Chapter 13 Part 2–Game 2 Game 2 )  
8.Nd2± e6?! ( 8...c4!? 9.bxc4 dxe4  
10.Qe2 e3!?∞ ) 9.Ngf3 Nf6 10.Ne5!  
Rc8 11.Qe2 Be7 12.c4!± 1–0 (66)  
Rapport, R (2687)–Tregubov, P  
(2625) Warsaw 2013 ]

**7...Nf6 8.Qe2** The position is equal.  
is another move order. **8...e6**

[ 8...b5 9.Nf3!? b4 10.Nd5! Nxd5  
11.exd5 Bxd5 12.0–0 gives White  
serious compensation for the pawn  
due to his big lead in development. It  
will also be quite easy for him to open  
the position. ]  
[ 8...d5?! 0.37/22 8...e7–e6 –0.06  
9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nh3 Nxc3 11.Bxc3  
Qd5 12.0–0± ½–½ (64) Navara,D  
(2658)–Bu,X (2640) Turin 2006 ]

**9.Nf3 Be7**

[ 9...Qc7 10.0–0–0 –0.10/16 ( 10.0–0

0.22/17 is superior. ) 10...0–0–0?!  
11.d4 d5! 12.e5 Nd7 13.dxc5  
( 13.Kb1!? Kb8 14.Rhf1± ) 13...Bxc5  
14.Nd4 Qb6 15.Qd3 1–0 (72)  
Nemcova,K (2279)–Virkud,A (2132)  
Saint Louis 2015 and we have a  
French type of position where White's  
grip over d4 gives good chances. ]

**10.0–0–0!? Smerdon, David:** 'Certainly  
an aggressive option!'

[ 10.0–0 0–0 11.Rae1 b5 12.d3  
has been the most common  
continuation, but White would much  
prefer his c3–knight on d2. ]  
[ 10.d4?! d5! 11.exd5 ( 11.e5 Ne4± )  
11...exd5 12.dxc5 0–0± should also  
be avoided. ]

[ 10.d3 Smerdon, David 0–0 11.0–0  
b5 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Bb7  
14.Rae1 Qb6 15.Kh1∞ ]

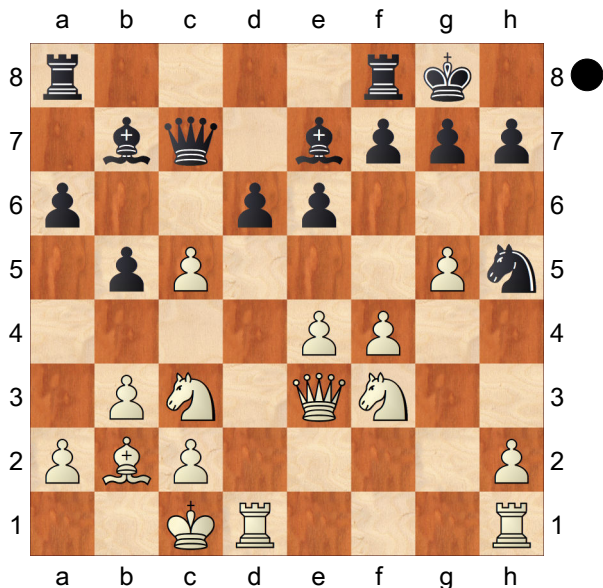
**10...Qc7**

[ 10...0–0 might be best met with  
**A) 11.d4** b5 ( 11...d5!±  
Smerdon, David ) 12.dxc5! b4  
13.Na4 And now c5xd6 would win.  
Nxe4 favours Black.;

**B) 11.e5** Nd5 12.Nxd5 exd5  
13.d4 c4!± 0–1 (41) Vukovic,Z  
(2471)–Simantsev,M (2403)  
Bucharest 2000;

**C) 11.g4!?** when White has good  
practical chances in a quick game,  
but objectively he's worse after  
11...b5! ( 11...Qc7 12.g5 Nh5  
13.f5! gives White definite attacking  
chances.; 11...Nxg4 0.01/22  
11...b7–b5 –0.59 12.Rhg1 Nf6!  
13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4± ) 12.g5  
Nh5!? White must now prevent ...  
b5–b4. 13.Qe3 Qc7 14.Ne2  
( 14.d4?! Bb7! 15.dxc5

(Diagram)



*Rac8!?*) 14...d5! 15.exd5 Bxd5  
16.Rhf1 c4! and Black's attack  
hits first. ]

#### 11.d4

[ 11.e5 dxe5 12.Nxe5 0-0  
would be level. ]

**11...cxd4?! A natural move, but White  
gets an improved Open Sicilian now.**

[ 11...0-0! 12.d5 exd5! 13.Nxd5  
Bxd5 14.exd5 Rae8 Smerdon, David:  
'=' '=' with equality is given by  
Smerdon. ]

**12.Nxd4 Rc8?! 0.64/21** This is a bit  
slow, but

[ 12...0-0 13.g4 d5 14.e5 Nd7  
15.Kb1 is also insufficient for equality.  
Black has no counterplay in this  
structure.

]

[ 12...b5 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.e5 dxe5  
15.fxe5 Nd7! is the best way to limit  
White's advantage. ]

[ Black should try 12...0-0= 0.05/22 ]

**13.g4!±** Smerdon, David: '±' '±' Smerdon,  
David: 'And now we have a, well, sort of  
Open Sicilian, but with White possessing  
a handy bishop on b2. White is better.'  
Smerdon, David: 'And now we have a,

well, sort of Open Sicilian, but with  
White possessing a handy bishop on b2.  
White is better.' Now White's attack runs  
like clockwork. **13...0-0 14.g5**

[ 14.f5! Smerdon, David Bd7 15.g5  
Ne8 16.h4→ ]

**14...Nd7 15.h4±** & Bianco is more  
active. **15...b5 16.Rhe1**

[ 16.a3! ]

**16...Rfe8 17.a3 Nc5 18.f5** 0.01/22

Smerdon, David: '?!' '?!' Smerdon,  
David: 'It's a rapid game give the WC a  
break!'

[ 18.Nxc6! Smerdon, David Qxc6  
19.Kb1 Rb8 0.88/19 ( 19...Bf8±  
0.47/19 might be stronger. ) 20.h5  
and White is faster. ]  
[ 18.Kb1± 0.55/22 ]

**18...Bf8** 0.68/21 Smerdon, David: '?' '?'

[ 18...exf5 Smerdon, David 19.Nxf5  
Bf8 aiming for ...Nc5xe4. 20.Qg2  
Re5! Threatens to win with ...Re5xf5!  
21.Nd5! Bxd5 22.Bxe5 Bxe4  
23.Rxe4 dxe5 24.Re3 Ne6± ]  
[ 18...exf5= 0.01/22 19.Nxf5 Bf8 ]

**19.f6** Smerdon, David: '!' '!' **19...a5**

1.85/19 Smerdon, David: '?' '?'. This  
costs Black the game.

[ 19...Bb7 0.81/20 19...d6-d5 0.45  
Smerdon, David 20.Kb1 Nd7  
21.Rg1→ ]  
[ Better is 19...d5± 0.48/18 ]

**20.Ndxb5 Bxb5 21.Nxb5 Qb8 22.Kb1**

Smerdon, David: '+-' '+-' **22...Nxe4**

**23.fxg7 Be7** 3.61/18

[ 23...Bxg7 1.81/22 was called for.  
24.Bxg7 ( 24.Qxe4 Qxb5 25.Bxg7  
Kxg7+- ) 24...Kxg7 ]

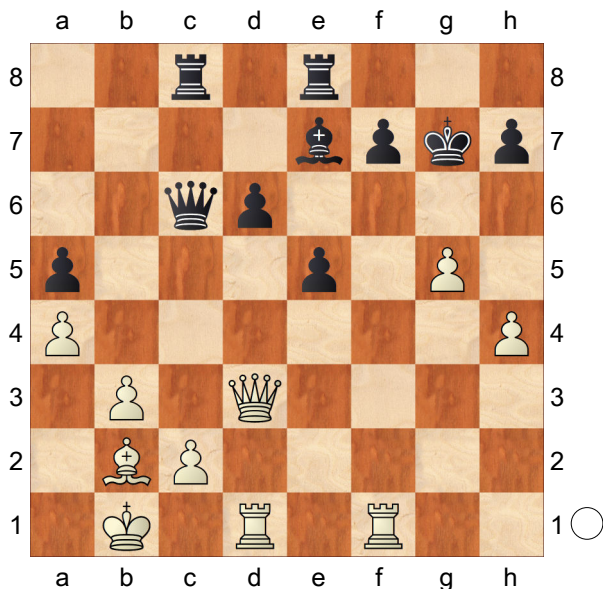
**24.Qxe4 Qxb5 25.a4** Chess con chili.

**25...Qc6 26.Qd3→** Black is in trouble.

**26...e5 27.Rf1** Strongly threatening

Rf1-f5. **27...Kxg7?** 7.61/23

[ 27...Rc7 2.07/21 28.Qf5 Kxg7  
29.Qxf7+ Kh8 ]



**28.Qf5?** 1.95/20

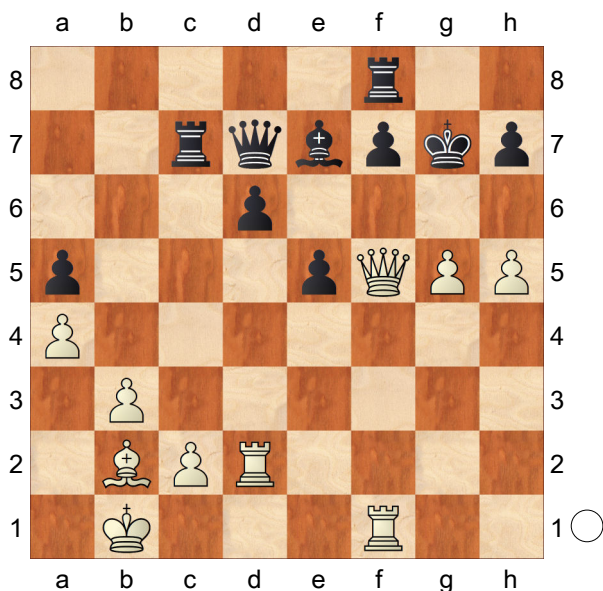
[ 28.Bxe5+! 7.61/23 Bf6 29.Bxf6+  
Kg8 30.Bb2 ]

**28...Rf8+- 29.h5 Rc7** 2.21/23

[ Δ29...Kh8 1.79/19 30.Rf3 Kg8 ]

**30.Rd2 Qd7** 3.39/25

[ Δ30...Kg8 2.20/22 31.g6 fxg6  
32.Qe6+ Kh8 33.Rxf8+ Bxf8  
34.Qf6+ ( 34.hxg6 Rg7+- ) 34...Kg8 ]



**31.Bxe5+!** White has a decisive

advantage. **31...Kg8** Hoping for ...  
Qd7xf5. **32.Qxd7 Rxd7 33.Rf5 Re8**  
**34.Bc3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.26  
(precise) /Black=0.38

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Molina,Roberto Junio Brito** **2881**

■ **Loehr,Holger** **2645**

WchT Students 03th Group2 (4) 6.3.14

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5**

**Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3N**

[ 7.d3 Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7  
10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rae1  
b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4 15.Rxf4  
Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4 d5  
18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3 d4 20.Ne4 f5  
21.exf6 Qf7 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game  
2 Game 2 ]

[ 7.Qe2 e6 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6  
10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4  
dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8  
15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7

17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5  
20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4

Be7 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g  
(2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)

Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada

[Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ) 8...Nf6 9.d3 Be7

10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5

13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4

Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8

18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6

Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 11.♞e1 h6 12.♞b1

♞d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-

3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John

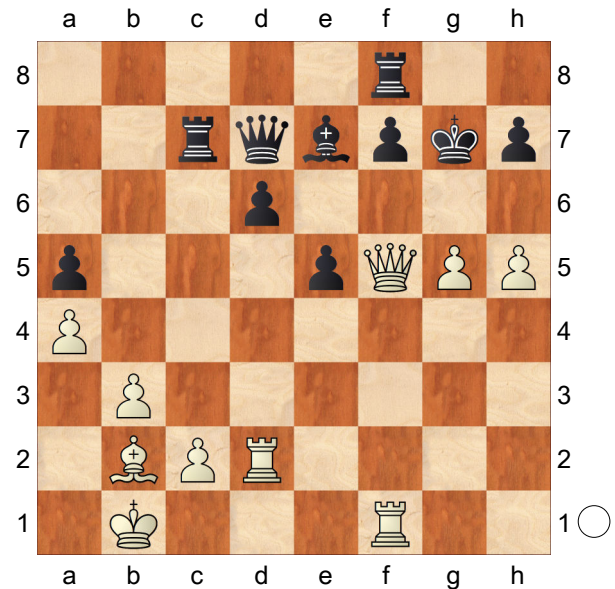
Watson] 0-1 (59) ]



7...Nf6 8.Qe2 The position is equal.  
 8...e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.d4  
 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Rc8 0.53/20  
 [ 12...0-0= 0.09/19 ]  
 13.g4± 0-0 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 b5  
 16.Rhe1 Rfe8 17.a3 Nc5 18.f5  
 -0.01/21  
 [ 18.Kb1± 0.41/17 is superior. ]  
 18...Bf8 0.50/22  
 [ 18...exf5= -0.01/21 19.Nxf5 Bf8 ]  
 19.f6 a5 1.98/20 A mistake that costs  
 the game.  
 [ 19...Bb7± 0.54/20 ]  
 20.Ndxb5+- Bxb5 21.Nxb5 Qb8  
 22.Kb1 And now f6xg7 would win.  
 22...Nxe4 23.fxg7 Be7 3.98/20  
 [ 23...Bxg7 1.81/22 24.Bxg7  
 ( 24.Qxe4 Qxb5 25.Bxg7 Kxg7+- )  
 24...Kxg7 ]  
 24.Qxe4 Qxb5 25.a4 Chess con chili.  
 25...Qc6 26.Qd3→ aiming for Re1-g1.  
 Black is in trouble. 26...e5 27.Rf1  
 Rf1-f5 is the strong threat. 27...Kxg7?  
 7.83/21  
 [ 27...Rc7 2.18/22 28.Qf5 Kxg7  
 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 ]



[ 28.Bxe5+! 7.83/21 Bf6 29.Bxf6+  
 Kg8 30.Bb2 ]  
 28...Rf8 29.h5 Rc7 30.Rd2 Qd7  
 3.28/25  
 [ 30...Qc5 1.87/21 was worth a try.  
 31.Rdd1 Kh8 ]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.29  
 (precise) /Black=0.39  
 1-0

**B20**  
 □ Carlsen,Magnus 2834  
 ■ Ehlvest,Jaen 2536  
 PRO League Stage rapid (9) 07.03.2018  
 [MH]

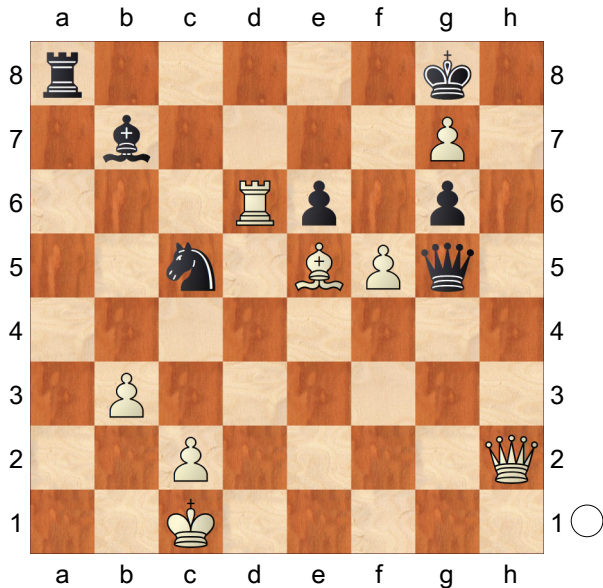
B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5  
 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3N  
 [ 7.d3 Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7  
 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rae1  
 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4 15.Rxf4  
 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4 d5



(Diagram)

(Diagram)

**29.Kb2!** The board is on fire. **29...Qxf5**



#12/22

[ 29...Qh5+- 4.14/22 30.Qd2 Re8 ]

**30.Qh8+**

[ 30.b4 Na4+ 31.Kc1 Qg5+ 32.Kb1 Qh5 33.Qxh5 gxh5= ]

**30...Kf7 31.g8Q+ Rxc8 32.Qh7+**

Deflection. What a bad dream for Black.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/  
Black=0.60**1-0**

**Carlsen,Magnus**
**B20**  
**2821**

**Shirov,Alexei**
**2714**

ACCENTUS GM Biel SUI (2) 19.07.2011  
[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4** Postny,Evgeny John Bartholomew:

'Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net):

'CT" **1...c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5****Bd7**

[ 4...Nf6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3± e5

Postny,Evgeny 7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bh6

9.f4 0-0 ]

**5.f4 a6**

[ 5...e5 6.Nf3± exf4 Postny,Evgeny

The knight has already done its job – Black can't castle to the kingside anymore. Now the white bishop can quite effectively go to h6. 7.d3 Nge7 8.Qd2 Ng6 9.Nc3 ( 9.0-0 a6 10.Bc4 Nce5 11.Bd5 Rb8 ) 9...Be7 10.Nd5 0-0 ( 10...Bh4+± 11.g3 fxg3 12.0-0-0 ) 11.0-0-0 ] [ 5...Nf6± 6.Qe2 Acevedo Millan-Weiss, IECG email 1997. Persistence with 6...e6 does not turn out well: 7.Nf3! Be7

**A) 8.e5** Nd5 9.Qe4± -0.72/20

( 9.g3=-0.14/20 ) 9...f5± 10.exf6!

Bxf6 11.Nc3± 0-0 Postny,Evgeny 12.0-0-0;

**B) 8.0-0±** 0-0 Postny,Evgeny

9.d3 d5 ( 9...a6!? 10.Bxc6

Bxc6= ) 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Ne5 c4 ]

**6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3N**

[ 7.Qe2

**A) 7...e6** 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3

Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4

12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4

14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2

16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3

Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5 20.Nf6+ Kh8

21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4 Be7

1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g

(2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C

(2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/

Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ) 8...Nf6

9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0

12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4

Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5

17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4

Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5

22.Rf3 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♕d7\_99

(1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284

2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John

Watson] 0-1 (59);

**B) 7...Nf6** 8.Nc3 ]

[ 7.d3 d5 ( 7...Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4 d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3 d4 20.Ne4 f5 21.exf6 Qf7 22.Qg4+ Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 2 Game 2 ) 8.Nd2

**A)** 8...c4 9.bxc4 dxe4 10.Qe2 e3 0.59/19 ( 10...Nf6= 0.00/20 );

**B)** 8...e6 9.Ngf3 Nf6± 10.Ne5 Rc8 11.Qe2 Be7 12.c4 ]

**7...Nf6 8.Qe2** The position is equal.

**8...e6** Postny,Evgeny: 'Alexei Shirov has a vast experience in the Meran system.'

[ 8...b5 9.Nf3 b4 10.Nd5 Nxd5 and Black can not hold the ♠b5. 11.exd5 Bxd5± 12.0-0 ]

[ 8...d5 White has undeniable compensation after 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nh3 Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Qd5 according to Carlsen. 12.0-0

Postny,Evgeny was an interesting try to complicate matters. ]

**9.Nf3 Be7**

[ 9...Qc7!∞ 10.0-0-0? 0-0-0+- 11.d4 Postny,Evgeny d5 12.e5 Nd7 13.dxc5 ( 13.Kb1 Kb8 14.Rhf1 ) 13...Bxc5 14.Nd4 Qb6 and Black will get a decent counterplay as the ♠d5 is falling. 15.Qd3! Postny,Evgeny ]

**10.0-0-0**

[ 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rae1! b5 12.d3 ] [ 10.d4 d5 11.exd5 ( 11.e5 Ne4∞ ) 11...exd5 and it's a perpetual check. 12.dxc5 0-0 ]

[ 10.d3? 0-0 11.0-0 b5! 12.e5 dxe5↑ After 13.Nxe5 Black should take the knight and not the queen: 13...Bb7! 14.Rae1 Qb6 15.Kh1 ]

**10...Qc7** Postny,Evgeny: 'This is one of the sharp lines in the Meran system.'

[ 10...0-0

**A)** 11.d4 b5 ( 11...d5 ) 12.dxc5 b4! 13.Na4 Black must now prevent c5xd6. Nxe4;

**B)** 11.e5 Nd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.d4 c4;

**C)** 11.d4= -0.21/21 remains equal.;

**D)** 11.g4+- -0.73/19 11...b5± ( 11...Qc7 12.g5 Nh5 13.f5; 11...Nxc4 12.Rhg1 Nf6!+-

Shirov should probably go for broke with 13.d4 Postny,Evgeny: '!

Postny,Evgeny: 'was the right timing for this counterpunch. The matters could become very double-edged.' cxd4 Postny,Evgeny

14.Nxd4 ) 12.g5→ Nh5 13.Qe3 Qc7 14.Ne2 ( 14.d4 Bb7 15.dxc5 Rac8 ) 14...d5 15.exd5 Bxd5 16.Rhf1± Δc4 ]

**11.d4**

[ 11.e5 dxe5 12.Nxe5 0-0 ]

**11...cxd4** Postny,Evgeny: 'Black seizes space on the queenside and gets the c5-square, but White gets the d4-square for his knight.'

[ 11...0-0 12.d5 exd5±

Carlsen Postny,Evgeny: '+-!'

Postny,Evgeny: 'The best move, robbing the b6 square from the black pieces and getting an additional option of Ba4 at some point.' After the consistent 13.Nxd5

Carlsen demonstrated how White wins: Bxd5 14.exd5 Rae8!

White's threats are overwhelming. ]

**12.Nxd4 Rc8** 0.68/22

[ 12...0-0 13.g4 d5 when Black is sort of surviving. If the immediate 14.e5 then Nd7! However, 15.Kb1+- is also winning. ]

[ 12...b5 Postny,Evgeny 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5+–  
Postny,Evgeny: 'An attempt to close some files on the queenside could not help Black either:' 15...Nd7 ]

[ 12...b5= 0.19/23 ]

**13.g4±** John Bartholomew: 'Carlsen has enjoyed much success in employing underused and somewhat forgotten lines. This game is no exception! Note that Black's most flexible move order – 11... Qc7 – could allow Black to duck this deviation altogether, i.e. 12.Bc2 (normal is 12. dxe6) as in Lautier – Gelfand, FIDE–Wch k.o. (3.3) 1997.'. &Bianco is more active. **13...0–0**

John Bartholomew: 'Biel 2011 was great because the players were encouraged to analyze their games on camera with ChessBase after each round. GM Miso Cebalo played host and the resulting videos were posted online for the chess public. Carlsen mentioned that he was aware of 13...e5 from the game Gelfand – Dreev, Tilburg 1993 (even recalling several moves and an important exchange sac), but otherwise had nothing prepared.' Postny,Evgeny: '?!' Postny,Evgeny: 'At first sight this looks like a safe option – to close the centre, considering that the black king is still uncastled. However, it releases the pressure from the strong white bind e4–d5 and now White can play on both flanks.' **14.g5**

[ Post–game, Carlsen only considered 14.f5 Bd7 15.g5 Ne8 16.h4 ]

**14...Nd7** John Bartholomew: '?!' '?!' John Bartholomew: 'I believe this is the correct punctuation for this move.' Postny,Evgeny: '?!' Postny,Evgeny: 'I don't think that Black should allow the

knight to sneak on to h6.' **15.h4!**

John Bartholomew: 'Refusing to let Black castle.' Postny,Evgeny: 'Blacks main problem is that his monarch is stuck in the centre.' **15...b5 16.Rhe1!** John Bartholomew: 'Carlsen called this move "very logical." As in certain lines of the Classical King's Indian, White discourages Black's Nh5 from utilizing the f4 square. Magnus seemed to find the move over the board, but it's worth noting that GM Ftacnik had previously mentioned 16.g3! in his annotations to the aforementioned Gelfand – Dreev game.' Postny,Evgeny: 'Restricting the knight.'

[ 16.a3+– ]

**16...Rfe8N** John Bartholomew: 'Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'N' 'N' Postny,Evgeny: 'This novelty doesn't change the evaluation of the position – White is seriously better.' **17.a3↑**

John Bartholomew: 'Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '↑' '↑' **17...Nc5 18.f5** –0.01/23 John Bartholomew: 'Carlsen thought Black was in bad shape after this move due to the coming b4 lever.' Postny,Evgeny: '?!'

[ 18.Nxc6 and now Qxc6! reveals the point of White's rook capture on move 29, i.e. 19.Kb1 Rb8 20.h5 ]

[ Better is 18.Nxc6± 0.58/20 Qxc6 19.Kb1 ]

**18...Bf8** 0.62/21

[ 18...exf5 Postny,Evgeny 19.Nxf5+– Now 19...Bf8 Hoping for ...Nc5xe4. 20.Qg2 Re5 Threatens to win with ... Re5xf5! 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.Bxe5 allows a check on b4 regardless of how Black takes. Magnus said he initially intended 22...Bxe4 , which would also win because of



23.Rxe4 dxe5! 24.Re3 Ne6 ]  
 [ 18...exf5= -0.01/23 19.Nxf5 Bf8 ]  
**19.f6±** John Bartholomew: '!' '!' John Bartholomew: 'A known method of assaulting Black's queenside majority White intends to follow up with a2-a4. A minority attack of sorts?' Postny, Evgeny: '?' Postny, Evgeny: 'This move is not dynamic enough and allows Black to get back into the game.' **19...a5** 1.88/23 John Bartholomew: 'This exchange hastens defeat.' Postny, Evgeny: '?'. Loses the game. Postny, Evgeny: 'It's not logical to ruin a strong bind that Black has on the queenside. Also opening the c-file is clearly in White's favour.'

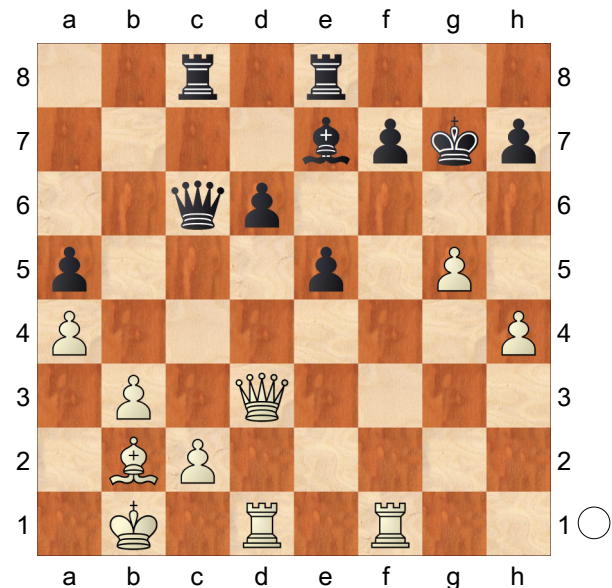
[ 19...Bb7 20.Kb1 Nd7  
 Postny, Evgeny 21.Rg1+- ]  
 [ 19...Bb7± 0.59/21 ]  
**20.Ndxb5+-** John Bartholomew: 'Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '±' '±' Postny, Evgeny: '+-'. **20...Bxb5 21.Nxb5** Postny, Evgeny: 'Now it's clear that the black king will stay in the centre forever.' **21...Qb8 22.Kb1 Nxe4** Postny, Evgeny: 'Too late.' **23.fxg7 Be7** 3.93/20

[ 23...Bxg7 1.84/24 was worth a try.  
 24.Bxg7 ( 24.Qxe4 Qxb5 25.Bxg7 Kxg7+- ) 24...Kxg7 ]

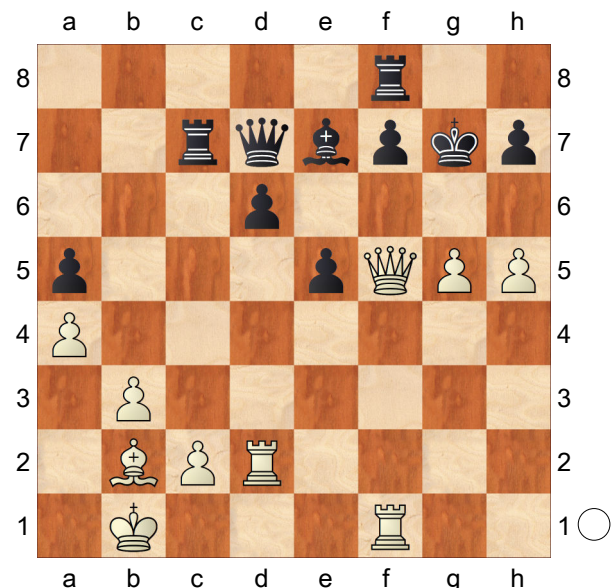
**24.Qxe4 Qxb5 25.a4** Really sharp!  
**25...Qc6 26.Qd3→** White has strong attack. Postny, Evgeny: 'White has an extra pawn and an attack.' **26...e5 27.Rf1** Rf1-f5 is the strong threat. **27...Kxg7?** 8.03/23  
 [ 27...Rc7 2.13/22 28.Qf5 Kxg7 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 ]

(Diagram)

**28.Qf5?** 1.76/22



[ 28.Bxe5+! 8.03/23 Bf6 29.Bxf6+ Kg8 30.Bb2 ]  
**28...Rf8 29.h5** John Bartholomew: '!' '!' John Bartholomew: 'Efficient! Black's position collapses.' **29...Rc7 30.Rd2** aiming for Rf1-f2. **30...Qd7?** 3.85/24  
 [ 30...Kg8 2.17/23 31.g6 fxg6 32.Qe6+ Kh8 33.Rxf8+ Bxf8 34.Qf6+ Kg8 35.hxg6 Qe8 36.gxh7+ Rxh7 37.Rg2+ Rg7 38.Rxg7+ Bxg7 39.Qxd6 Kh8 ]



**31.Bxe5+! Kg8 32.Qxd7 Rxd7 33.Rf5!**  
 John Bartholomew: 'Mikhail Golubev

(www.chesstoday.net): '! '!" **33...Re8**  
 Postny,Evgeny **34.Bc3**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/  
 Black=0.36  
**1-0**

□ **Kramnik,Vladimir**

■ **Inarkiev,Ernesto**

RUS-ch 66th Nizhnij Novgorod (6)  
 [Illingworth,Max, MH]

**B20**

**2796**

**2695**

**1.e4** David Smerdon David Smerdon  
 David Smerdon David Smerdon David  
 Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max Illingworth,  
 Max: 'David Smerdon" **1...c5 2.b3 Nc6**  
 This is Black's main move.

David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max: 'This  
 is Black's main move.

" **3.Bb2** David Smerdon: 'Here we go  
 again! Kramnik again puts faith in this  
 rare sideline, and once again is  
 rewarded, fresh off his success against  
 Kobalia in the World Cup."Here we go  
 again! Kramnik again puts faith in this  
 rare sideline, and once again is  
 rewarded, fresh off his success against  
 Kobalia in the World Cup. Illingworth,  
 Max: 'David Smerdon: 'Here we go  
 again! Kramnik again puts faith in this  
 rare sideline, and once again is  
 rewarded, fresh off his success against  
 Kobalia in the World Cup.'" David  
 Smerdon: 'Here we go again! Kramnik  
 again puts faith in this rare sideline, and  
 once again is rewarded, fresh off his  
 success against Kobalia in the World  
 Cup.' **3...d5?! David Smerdon: 'Very**  
 rare, but the idea is often seen against  
 wacky Antis, such as 2.b4, 2.f4 and of  
 course 2.c3."Very rare, but the idea is

often seen against wacky Antis, such as  
 2.b4, 2.f4 and of course 2.c3. Illingworth,  
 Max: '?!' Illingworth,Max: 'David  
 Smerdon: 'Very rare, but the idea is  
 often seen against wacky Antis, such as  
 2.b4, 2.f4 and of course 2.c3.'" David  
 Smerdon: 'Very rare, but the idea is  
 often seen against wacky Antis, such as  
 2.b4, 2.f4 and of course 2.c3.'

As with 2...d5, this merely loses time.  
 David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max: 'As  
 with 2...d5, this merely loses time."

[ 3...Nf6 David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,  
 Max' 4.e5 Nd5 was considered via  
 the 2...♘f6 move order. ]

[ 3...a6!? David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,  
 Max' feels wrong to me, but proves  
 quite flexible: 4.f4 ( 4.Nf3 e6  
 transposes to the 2.♘f3 e6 3.b3  
 system. ) 4...e6 ( 4...d5 5.exd5 Qxd5  
 6.Nc3 Qd6 7.Bd3!? Qxf4 8.Nf3 Nf6  
 9.0-0 gives White excellent  
 compensation for the pawn. ) 5.Nf3 d5  
 6.Bd3!? Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 Black has  
 succesfully equalised, and now White  
 can play normally or creatively: 8.c4!?  
 ( 8.h3 Nh6 9.0-0= ) 8...dxc4 9.Be4!  
 cxb3 10.axb3 with very interesting  
 compensation based on 0-0, ♘a3-c4  
 and ♘g5 now that the d5-pawn is  
 gone. ]

[ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Ne2  
 Be7 7.Nbc3 Nd4 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 a6  
 10.a4 b6 11.Nd5 Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5  
 13.Ng3 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5  
 Bf6 16.c4 g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 18.Ra2  
 Qe7 19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5  
 21.axb5 axb5 22.Kh1 h5 23.Bxd4  
 exd4 24.Nf5 gxf5 25.exf5 bxc4  
 26.f6 Qd6 27.fxg7 Kxg7 28.bxc4  
 Bxd5 29.Qxh5 f5 30.cxd5 Qg6  
 31.Qh4 Rbe8 32.Rf3 Re3 33.Rxe3

dx e3 34.Qe7+ Rf7 35.Qxe3 f4  
 36.Qe5+ Qf6 37.Qxf6+ Rxf6 38.g3  
 f3 39.Kg1 Rf5 40.d6 Kf6 41.Kf2  
 Ke5 42.Re1+ Kxd6 43.Re3  
 1-0, Kramnik-Kobalia, Tromso  
 2013 ]

#### 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qe5+

[ 5...Qd8 David Smerdon: 'has been played a few times, but of course White has to be better in this position.'  
 ' David Smerdon: 'has been played a few times, but of course White has to be better in this position.'

**A) 6.Qh5** David Smerdon David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon" e6 ( 6...b6 7.Bc4 e6 looks very fishy to me, but was a grandmaster's choice in Mattsson, M (2101)-Ulibin, M (2544), Stockholm (Sweden) 2010, and now David Smerdon: 'looks very fishy to me, but was a grandmaster's choice in Mattsson, M (2101)-Ulibin, M (2544), Stockholm (Sweden) 2010, and now' 8.Ne4! would have been very strong. Black has serious problems finishing his development, while David Smerdon: 'would have been very strong. Black has serious problems finishing his development, while' Bb7? should not be met by 9.Bxe6? Qe7! with compensation, but rather the simple 9.Nf3! after which Black is completely busted. David Smerdon: 'with compensation, but rather the simple 9.Nf3! after which Black is completely busted.' ) 7.Ne4! g6 8.Qf3 e5 9.Bb5± 1-0 (37) Buecker, S (2342)-Boensch, U (2540)/Germany 1994 David Smerdon: '1-0 (37) Buecker,

S (2342)-Boensch, U (2540)/Germany 1994';

#### **B) 6.Bb5** David Smerdon:

'Illingworth,Max' 6...Bd7! 7.Nf3 Nf6 transposes to the 2...d5 analysis. ]

**6.Qe2** David Smerdon: 'White's lead in development and fewer pawn weaknesses guarantee a small but stable endgame advantage.'"White's lead in development and fewer pawn weaknesses guarantee a small but stable endgame advantage. Illingworth, Max: 'David Smerdon: 'White's lead in development and fewer pawn weaknesses guarantee a small but stable endgame advantage.'" David Smerdon: 'White's lead in development and fewer pawn weaknesses guarantee a small but stable endgame advantage.'

[ David Smerdon: 'For some reason, keeping the queens on hasn't proved to be very popular, although White retains some small advantage in this case as well.'"For some reason, keeping the queens on hasn't proved to be very popular, although White retains some small advantage in this case as well: Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: 'For some reason, keeping the queens on hasn't proved to be very popular, although White retains some small advantage in this case as well.'" David Smerdon: 'For some reason, keeping the queens on hasn't proved to be very popular, although White retains some small advantage in this case as well:' 6.Be2 Bg4 ( 6...Nd4 1.13/21 6...Ng8-f6 0.35 David Smerdon David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon" 7.Nb5!± ) 7.f4 Qe6 8.h3 Bxe2 9.Ngxe2 David Smerdon: '±' '±' '±'

'±"Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon:  
'±"' (Smerdon) is also in White's favour.  
David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max:  
'(Smerdon) is also in White's favour." ]  
[ 6.Be2 is more complex. Bg4 7.f4  
Qe6 8.h3 ]

### 6...Qxe2+ 7.Ngxe2 Bf5 8.0-0-0

David Smerdon: 'Natural, but White has  
a tricky pawn sacrifice by way of  
alternative.'"Natural, but White has a  
tricky pawn sacrifice by way of  
alternative. Illingworth,Max: 'David  
Smerdon: 'Natural, but White has a  
tricky pawn sacrifice by way of  
alternative.'" David Smerdon: 'Natural,  
but White has a tricky pawn sacrifice by  
way of alternative.'

[or 8.Nd5 David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,  
Max'. Black must now prevent Nd5-  
c7+. 0-0-0 Against Nd5-c7 9.Ne3  
Bd7 10.d4± 0.00/21 ( 10.g3± 0.35/18 ) ]  
[ 8.Ng3!? (David Smerdon) is  
interesting. David Smerdon: 'is  
interesting. Illingworth,Max: '(David  
Smerdon) is interesting." Bxc2 9.Rc1  
Bg6 10.Na4 e5 ( 10...b6? 2.70/23  
10...e7-e5 -0.23 11.Bb5 Rc8  
12.d4+- ) 11.Nxc5 Bxc5 0.35/22  
( 11...0-0-0= 0.01/23 ) 12.Rxc5±

**A) 12...Nge7!** 13.Bxe5 b6  
14.Bxg7 -0.13/21 ( 14.Rxc6!  
0.24/24 Nxc6 15.Bxg7 ) 14...Rg8=  
15.Rxc6! Nxc6 16.Bc3

with a double-edged endgame to  
follow. I would rather play White if  
pushed for choice, chiefly because I  
love sacrificing the exchange (!),  
but objectively the position is  
'unclear'. David Smerdon: 'with a  
double-edged endgame to follow. I  
would rather play White if pushed  
for choice, chiefly because I love

sacrificing the exchange (!), but  
objectively the position is 'unclear'.  
';

**B) 12...f6?! 13.Ba6!± 1-0 (26)**  
Czerniak, M (2370)-Cebalo, M  
(2415)/Zagreb 1969 ]

### 8...0-0-0 9.g3 e5 10.f4!

David Smerdon: 'White ensures that the  
diagonal for his b2-bishop stays open.  
We can surmise the opening by stating  
that White has a small advantage  
thanks to his lead in development and  
an easy game.'"White ensures that the  
diagonal for his b2-bishop stays open.  
We can surmise the opening by stating  
that White has a small advantage  
thanks to his lead in development and  
an easy game. Illingworth,Max: '!  
Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: 'White  
ensures that the diagonal for his b2-  
bishop stays open. We can surmise the  
opening by stating that White has a  
small advantage thanks to his lead in  
development and an easy game.'" David  
Smerdon: 'White ensures that the  
diagonal for his b2-bishop stays open.  
We can surmise the opening by stating  
that White has a small advantage thanks  
to his lead in development and an easy  
game.'

[ 10.Bg2 0.17/21 10.f2-f4 0.48 (David  
Smerdon) is weaker: David Smerdon:  
'is weaker: Illingworth,Max: '(David  
Smerdon) is weaker:" Nd4 11.d3 Nf6  
12.Rde1 Bd6 13.Ba3 Rhe8 14.Nxd4  
cxd4 15.Bxd6 Rxd6 16.Ne4 -0.40/23  
( 16.Nb5= -0.04/20 Rb6 17.Na3 )  
16...Nxe4± 17.Bxe4 Bd7 and Black  
has a tiny edge (0-1 (42) Ali, E  
(2312)-Franco Ocampos, Z (2516)/  
Palma de Mallorca ESP 2009) David  
Smerdon: 'and Black has a tiny edge



(0-1 (42) Ali, E (2312)-Franco Ocampos, Z (2516)/ Palma de Mallorca ESP 2009)'] ]

### 10...exf4

[ 10...e4 David Smerdon David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon" 11.Re1! Nf6 12.Nd1!± /± is a very powerful, multifunctional move, after which Black will have a hard time maintaining e4. David Smerdon: '/+/- is a very powerful, multifunctional move, after which Black will have a hard time maintaining e4.' ]

**11.Nxf4**↑ David Smerdon: 'Illingworth, Max: '↑" White is better as his pieces are much more harmoniously posted. David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max: 'White is better as his pieces are much more harmoniously posted." **11...Nf6 12.Bc4 Nd4** 0.76/22 David Smerdon: 'This move was praised by some commentators, and given a '!' by GM Ramirez, but I think this is largely on account of Kramnik's inaccurate response."This move was praised by some commentators, and given a '!' by GM Ramirez, but I think this is largely on account of Kramnik's inaccurate response. Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: 'This move was praised by some commentators, and given a '!' by GM Ramirez, but I think this is largely on account of Kramnik's inaccurate response.'" David Smerdon: 'This move was praised by some commentators, and given a '!' by GM Ramirez, but I think this is largely on account of Kramnik's inaccurate response.'

[ 12...Ng4 (David Smerdon) might have been Black's best chance of holding the fort. White might well

consider sacrificing the exchange (I know I would!) by playing 13.Bxf7 here, because after the computer's main line David Smerdon: 'might have been Black's best chance of holding the fort. White might well consider sacrificing the exchange (I know I would!) by playing 13.Bxf7 here, because after the computer's main line Illingworth,Max: '(David Smerdon) might have been Black's best chance of holding the fort. White might well consider sacrificing the exchange (I know I would!) by playing 13.Bxf7 here, because after the computer's main line" David Smerdon: 'might have been Black's best chance of holding the fort. White might well consider sacrificing the exchange (I know I would!) by playing 13.Bxf7 here, because after the computer's main line' 13.Rde1 Nge5 14.Bd5 f6 15.Rhf1 Kb8± Black is stubbornly holding on. ]

[ 12...Ng4!± 0.32/21 ]

**13.d3** 0.26/21 David Smerdon: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' David Smerdon: 'Kramnik dodges the fireworks, but in doing so gives up much of his adv'Kramnik dodges the fireworks, but in doing so gives up much of his advantage. Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '?!' David Smerdon: 'Kramnik dodges the fireworks, but in doing so gives up much of his advantage.'" antage.' David Smerdon: 'Kramnik dodges the fireworks, but in doing so gives up much of his advantage.'

[ 13.Nb5! (David Smerdon) invites complications, but they seem to favour White. David Smerdon: 'invites complications, but they seem to favour White. Illingworth,Max: '(David

Smerdon) invites complications, but they seem to favour White." David Smerdon: 'invites complications, but they seem to favour White.' Nxc2 14.Bxf7 Nb4 15.Be6+! Bxe6 16.Nxe6 Nd3+! 17.Kc2 aiming for Bb2xf6. Rd5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Rhf1 Prevents Nd3-f2. Be7 20.Nf4 Nxf4 21.Rxf4 and after all the smoke has cleared, White has a very pleasant endgame. ]

[White should play 13.Nb5± 0.76/22 ]

**13...Bd6= 14.Rdf1** -0.01/20

David Smerdon: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '?!' "

[Ramirez rejects 14.Bxf7

David Smerdon David Smerdon:

'Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon'

Bxf4+ 15.gxf4 on account of b5

"And surprisingly White's bishop on f7 starts to have some serious issues as it has no retreat squares." However, I think this position favours White and was Kramnik's best option. Let's look further: David Smerdon: "'And surprisingly White's bishop on f7 starts to have some serious issues as it has no retreat squares." However, I think this position favours White and was Kramnik's best option. Let's look further:'. Strongly threatening ...Rh8-f8. 16.Ne4! secures the bishop's future with tactics. David Smerdon: 'secures the bishop's future with tactics.' Rhf8 ( 16...Nxe4 17.dxe4 Bxe4 18.Rhe1 Bf3 19.Bxd4! cxd4 20.Rd3 is much better for White. ) 17.Bxd4 Rxd4 ( 17...cxd4 0.98/23 17...Rd8xd4 0.53 18.Ng5!± ) 18.Ng5! Rxf4 19.Be6+ Kb8 20.Rhf1 and again White has the better of the ending. David Smerdon: 'and

again White has the better of the ending.' ]

[ 14.Rde1± 0.34/21 should be considered. ]

**14...Bd7= 15.Nce2 Bxf4+ 16.Nxf4 Bc6** 0.30/23

[ ♠16...Rhf8 -0.01/22 ]

**17.Rhg1= Rd7** David Smerdon:

'Inarkiev has defended well and has almost reached equality. Kramnik finds a surprising strategic transformation to keep the pressure on."Inarkiev has defended well and has almost reached equality. Kramnik finds a surprising strategic transformation to keep the pressure on. Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: 'Inarkiev has defended well and has almost reached equality. Kramnik finds a surprising strategic transformation to keep the pressure on. "' David Smerdon: 'Inarkiev has defended well and has almost reached equality. Kramnik finds a surprising strategic transformation to keep the pressure on.' **18.Bxd4** David Smerdon: '! '!' '!' '!' Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '!' " **18...cxd4 19.b4!** David Smerdon: 'Kramnik took advantage of just the right moment in which Black was forced to recapture on d4 with the pawn. Now White has a free hand on both sides of the board, though the advantage is still not fatal."Kramnik took advantage of just the right moment in which Black was forced to recapture on d4 with the pawn. Now White has a free hand on both sides of the board, though the advantage is still not fatal. Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: 'Kramnik took advantage of just the right moment in which Black was forced to recapture on d4 with the pawn. Now

White has a free hand on both sides of the board, though the advantage is still not fatal.'" David Smerdon: 'Kramnik took advantage of just the right moment in which Black was forced to recapture on d4 with the pawn. Now White has a free hand on both sides of the board, though the advantage is still not fatal.'

**19...b5**

[ 19...Ba4!? (David Smerdon) is an interesting computer idea to swap off White's c4 bishop. David Smerdon: 'is an interesting computer idea to swap off White's c4 bishop. Illingworth,Max: '(David Smerdon) is an interesting computer idea to swap off White's c4 bishop.'" 20.g4 b5 21.Bb3! Bxb3 22.axb3 Ne8± with a long fight ahead. ]

**20.Bb3 Ng4 21.Nh5! Nxh2 0.97/22**

David Smerdon: '?' '?' '?' '?' Illingworth, Max: 'David Smerdon: '?'"

[ 21...Ne3! (David Smerdon) was the way to go, immediately fighting for counterplay. I can understand Ernesto's reluctance to go in for such a complicated line, but unfortunately he's run out of options by this point. David Smerdon: 'was the way to go, immediately fighting for counterplay. I can understand Ernesto's reluctance to go in for such a complicated line, but unfortunately he's run out of options by this point. Illingworth,Max: '(David Smerdon) was the way to go, immediately fighting for counterplay. I can understand Ernesto's reluctance to go in for such a complicated line, but unfortunately he's run out of options by this point.'" David Smerdon: 'was the way to go, immediately fighting for counterplay. I can

understand Ernesto's reluctance to go in for such a complicated line, but unfortunately he's run out of options by this point.'

22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.Bxf7

Rf8 24.Bb3 ( 24.Be6+ Kc7 Was still very unclear, despite the fact that White is temporarily up two pawns. David Smerdon: 'Was still very unclear, despite the fact that

White is temporarily up two pawns.'

25.Nxg7 nets a second pawn, but after Rf2 26.Bb3 And now Ng7-e6+ would win. Kd6! 27.h4 Ke5!

White probably cannot win. ) 24...g5! and Black has good drawing chances thanks to the misplacement of the knight on h5. David Smerdon: 'and Black has good drawing chances thanks to the misplacement of the knight on h5.'. Prevents Nh5-f4. ]

[ 21...Ne3± 0.57/24 ]

**22.Rf2!±** David Smerdon: '! '!' '!'

'!' Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '!' "

[ 22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.Bxf7 g6± ]

**22...Ng4 23.Rf4!** David Smerdon: '! '!' '!'

'!' David Smerdon: 'Very pre'Very precise.

Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '!' "

David Smerdon: 'Very precise.'" cise.'

**23...f5 2.03/21** David Smerdon: '?' '?' '?'

'?' David Smerdon: 'Going down without a f'Going down without a fight.

Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '?'

David Smerdon: 'Going down without a fight.'" ight.'

[ 23...Ne5 1.46/23 23...Ng4-e3 0.71

David Smerdon David Smerdon:

'Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon"

24.Nxg7± ]

[ 23...Ne3 (David Smerdon) would

have kept the game alive. David

Smerdon: 'would have kept the game

alive. Illingworth,Max: '(David

Smerdon) would have kept the game alive." 24.Nxg7 Rg8 25.Nh5 Hoping for Nh5-f6. Rg6 26.Rxf7 Rxf7 27.Bxf7 Rh6 28.Nf4 Against Bc6-d5 Rh2 Inhibits Nf4-e2. 29.Bb3 Bd7 And White still has a few technical difficulties, though d4 should prove more of a weakness than a strength in the end. David Smerdon: 'And White still has a few technical difficulties, though d4 should prove more of a weakness than a strength in the end.'

[ 23...Ne3± 0.88/25 ]

**24.Be6+- g6 25.Ng7!** David Smerdon: '+-' '+-' '+-' '+-' David Smerdon: 'I guess Inarkiev was hoping this knight was going to end up trapped, but Kramnik has it all figured out. Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '+-' ' David Smerdon: 'I guess Inarkiev was hoping this knight was going to end up trapped, but Kramnik has it all figured out.'" ed out.' David Smerdon: 'I guess Inarkiev was hoping this knight was going to end up trapped, but Kramnik has it all figured out.'

[ 25.Bxd7+ Bxd7 26.Re1 ( 26.Ng7 Rg8± ) 26...gxh5= ]

**25...Ne5**

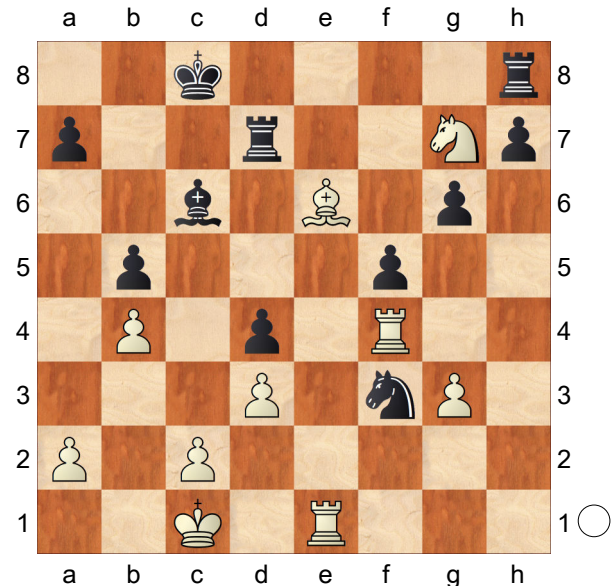
[ 25...Kc7 David Smerdon David Smerdon: 'Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon" 26.Bxd7 Bxd7 27.Re1+- ]

**26.Re1!**

[ 26.Bxd7+?! Bxd7 27.Re1 ( 27.Rxd4 Nf3± ) 27...Nc6± ]

**26...Nf3**

(Diagram)



**27.Re2! Rhd8 28.Bxd7+ Rxd7 29.Ne6 Rd6 30.Nf8** David Smerdon: '! '!' '!' '!' David Smerdon: 'The rest doesn't need commen'The rest doesn't need commentary. Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '!' David Smerdon: 'The rest doesn't need commentary.'" tary.' David Smerdon: 'The rest doesn't need commentary.' **30...h5 31.Re6 Rxe6 32.Nxe6 Bd7 33.Nf8**

[ Don't play 33.Rxf3 Bxe6 34.Rf4 Kc7 35.Rxd4 Bg8+- ]

[ But not 33.Nxd4 Ne5 34.Rf1 Kc7+- ]

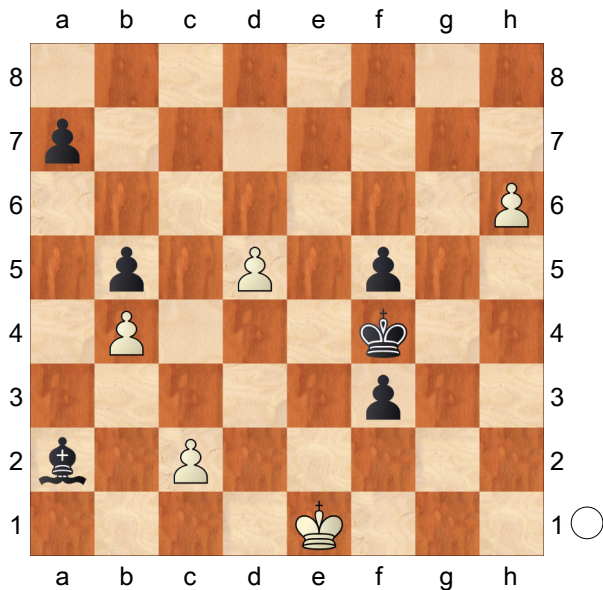
**33...Ng1 34.Kd1 Be8 35.Rxd4 Nf3 36.Rd6 g5 37.Ne6 Bd7 38.Nc5 Be8 39.Re6 Kd8 40.Nb7+ Kd7 41.Re3 g4 42.Nc5+ Kd8 43.Ne6+ Kd7 44.Nf4 Bf7 45.d4 h4? 4.26/25**

[ 45...Bc4 2.38/19 was called for. 46.Nxh5 Nxd4 ]

**46.Rxf3+- gxf3 47.gxh4 Bxa2 7.42/31** [ 47...Kd6 4.83/26 48.Ke1 f2+ 49.Kxf2 Bxa2 ]

**48.Ke1 Ke7 49.d5 Kd6 50.h5 Ke5 51.h6** David Smerdon: '!' '!' '!' '!' Illingworth,Max: 'David Smerdon: '!' **51...Kxf4**



**52.Kf2!**

[ 52.h7 is a self mate. Ke3 53.Kd1 f2  
54.Kc1 f1Q+ 55.Kb2 Qb1+ 56.Ka3  
Qxc2 57.h8Q Qb3# ]

**1-0**

□ **Hantel,Thomas**

**B20****2796**

■ **Jimenez G,Gustavo**

**2695**

World-ch18 Botvinnik-Bronstein +5-5=14 (6)  
[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d5N**

[ 3...a6 4.a4 ( 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6  
6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5  
Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1  
cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6  
18.bxa4 Nxb4 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7  
12.♚bd2 cd4 13.c,c,4 (2702) Yerevan  
2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC  
1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1  
(62) ) 4...e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nf6  
7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 cxd4  
10.Nxd4 Qb6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.a5  
Qc7 13.f4 Ne8 14.Bd3 f5 15.exf5

exf5 16.Qh5 Nf6 17.Qh3 Ng4  
18.Rf3 Ripatti,R-2.c4 e5 NLD 1851  
CBM 084 Extra [Dorner, Cranbourne]  
0-1 ]  
[ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3  
Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4  
Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4  
Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4  
h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5  
Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]  
[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5  
Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6  
10.d4 e6 11.Qd2 Queenside  
Fianchetto-2 b3 ChessPub Guide  
2017 Anti-Sicilians [ChessPublishing.  
com] ]

**4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qe5+ 6.Qe2**

[ 6.Be2 keeps more tension. Bg4 7.f4  
Qe6 8.h3 ]

**6...Qxe2+ 7.Ngxe2 Bf5 8.0-0-0**

White is slightly better. **8...0-0-0 9.g3  
e5 10.f4 exf4 11.Nxf4 Nf6 12.Bc4  
Nd4 13.d3 Bd6 14.Rdf1 Bd7**

With the idea ...b7-b5. **15.Nce2**

[ 15.Bxf7 feels hotter. Bc6 16.Nfd5  
b5 17.Nxf6 Bxh1 18.Nfe4 ]

**15...Bxf4+ 16.Nxf4 Bc6 17.Rhg1 Rd7**

**18.Bxd4 cxd4 19.b4 b5 20.Bb3 Ng4**

**21.Nh5 Nxh2** 0.88/22 Black is now  
going downhill.

[ 21...Ne3± 0.54/23 ]

**22.Rf2±**

[ 22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.Bxf7 g6± ]

**22...Ng4 23.Rf4** White has strong  
compensation. **23...f5** 1.68/22

[ 23...Ne3± 0.79/21 was called for. ]

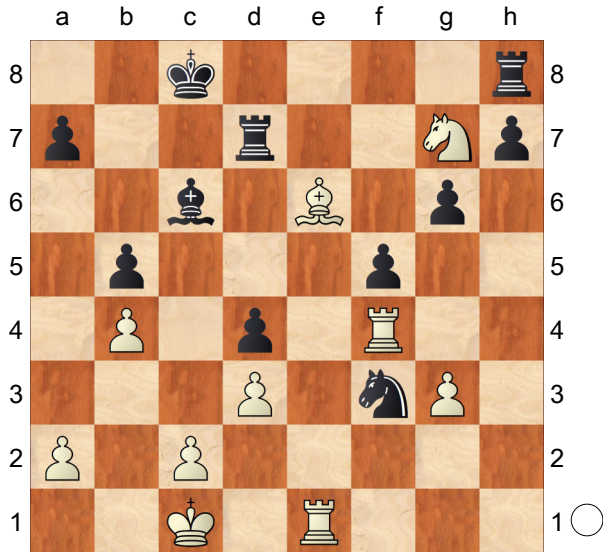
**24.Be6+-** Black must now prevent  
Nh5xg7. **24...g6 25.Ng7!**

[ 25.Bxd7+ Bxd7 26.Re1 ( 26.Ng7 Rg8 $\bar{7}$ ) 26...gxh5= ]

**25...Ne5 26.Re1!**

[ But not 26.Bxd7+?! Bxd7 27.Re1 ( 27.Rxd4 Nf3 $\bar{7}$ ) 27...Nc6 $\pm$  ]

**26...Nf3**



**27.Re2 Rhd8 28.Bxd7+ Rxd7 29.Ne6 Rd6 30.Nf8 h5 31.Re6 Rxe6 32.Nxe6**  
Endgame KRN-KBN **32...Bd7 33.Nf8**

[ Less strong is 33.Rxf3 Bxe6 34.Rf4 Kd7 35.Rxd4+ Ke7+- ]

**33...Ng1 34.Kd1** Prevents Ng1-e2.

**34...Be8 35.Rxd4 Nf3 36.Rd6 g5**

**37.Ne6 Bd7 38.Nc5 Be8 39.Re6 Kd8**

**40.Nb7+ Kd7 41.Re3 g4 42.Nc5+**

**Kd8 43.Ne6+ Kd7 44.Nf4 Bf7 45.d4**

**h4? 5.03/24**

[ 45...Bc4 2.66/21 46.Nxh5 Nxd4 ]

(Diagram)

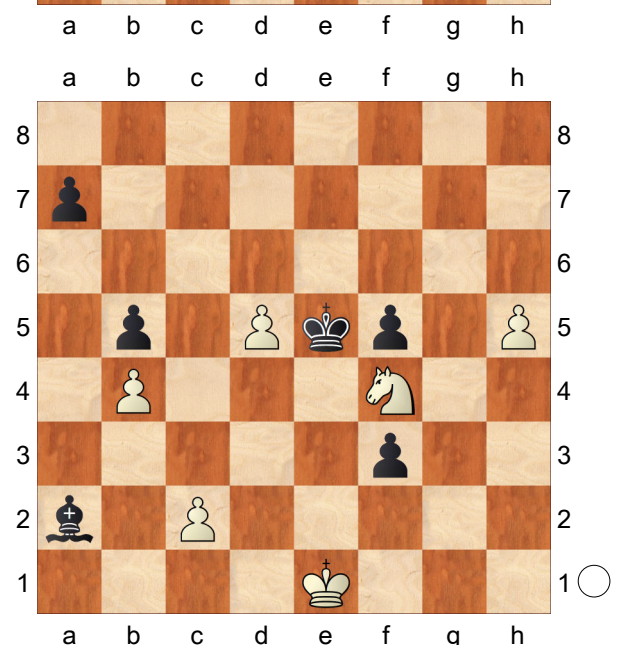
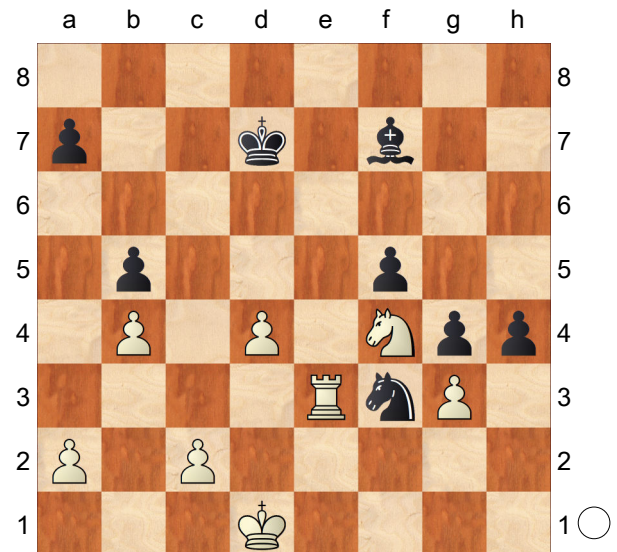
**46.Rxf3!** White is clearly winning.

**46...gxf3 47.gxh4 Bxa2 KB-KN**

**48.Ke1** d4-d5 is the strong threat.

**48...Ke7 49.d5 Kd6 50.h5 Ke5**

(Diagram)



**51.h6! Kxf4**

(Diagram)

**52.Kf2!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05

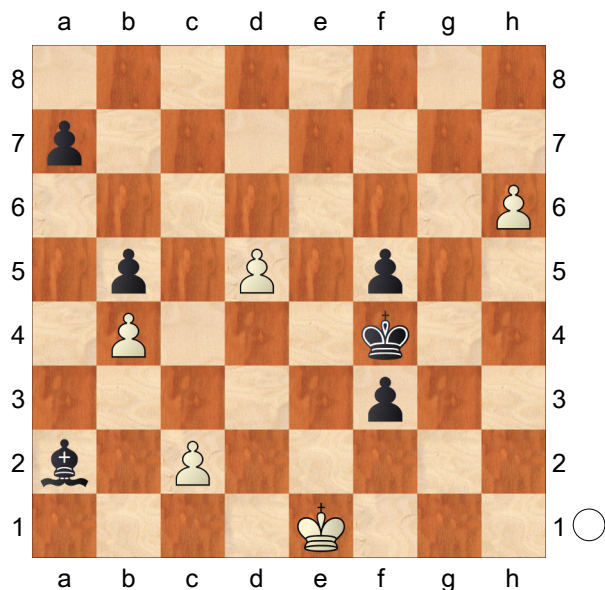
(flawless) /Black=0.22 (precise)

[ 52.h7 gets mated. Ke3 53.Kd1 f2

54.Kc1 f1Q+ 55.Kb2 Qb1+ 56.Ka3

Qxc2 57.h8Q Qb3# ]

**1-0**



□ Aronian, Levon

■ Shirov, Alexei

**B20**

**2792**

**2684**

Zuerich Chess Challenge Blitz 5th\_19489 (4)  
[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6**

[ 2...b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3 a6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qc7 8.f3 Nf6 9.Qd2 Bb4 10.a3 Be7 11.g4 0-0 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Nce2 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 d5 15.g5 Nh5 16.e5 Qxe5 17.Nc6 C 06/32 (2551)-1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.2f3 g5 5.g (2490) Budapest 2000 Telechess CBM 89 [Heemsoth; FS 12/ 74] 1-0 (45) ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade, E-12 9th move alternatives Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec

96] ]

**3.Bb2 d5N**

[ 3...Nc6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb5 Nge7 6.exd5 exd5 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxc6+ Nxc6 9.Re1+ Be6 10.d4 Be7 11.dxc5 0-0 12.b4 Bf6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.c3 Nxb4 15.Nd4 Nc6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Qd4 Rfb8 18.Qe3 Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 14 Game 14 (68) ]

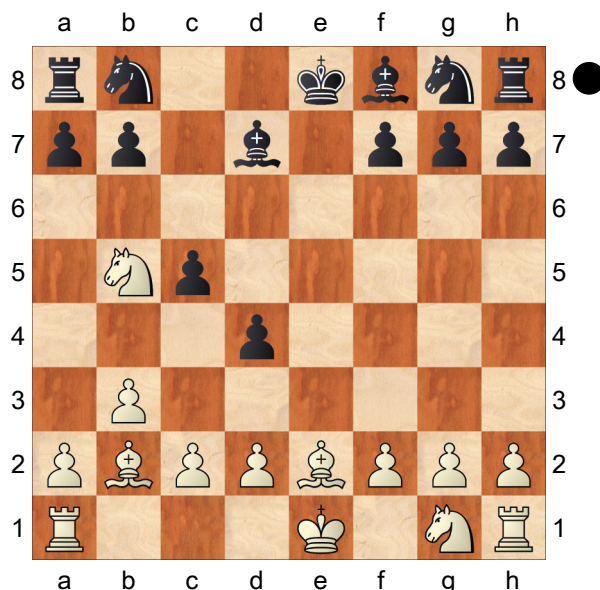
[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.c4 Nc7 7.Nc3 f6 8.Ne4 fxe5 9.Nxe5 0-0 10.d4 cxd4 11.Qxd4 Bb4+ 12.Bc3 Bxc3+ 13.Nxc3 Nc6 14.Nxc6 dxc6 15.Rd1 Sicilian Unusual-2.b3 e6 Survey 1993 Lexikon04 [Horvath, Ta] ]

**4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+**

**Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2** The position is equal. **8...d4** 0.60/21

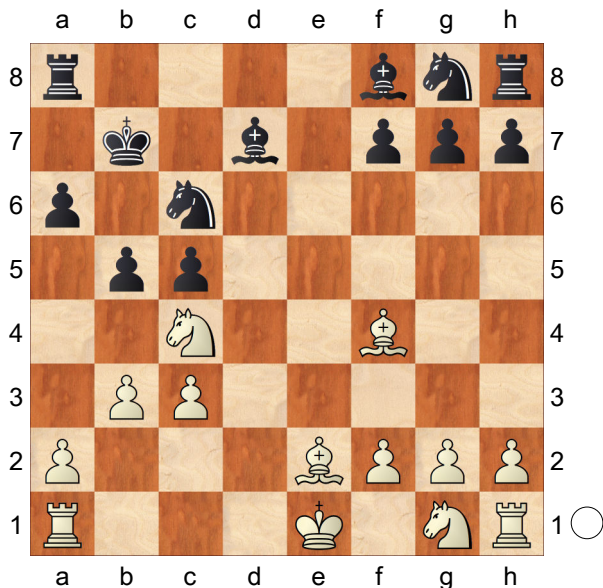
[ 8...Nf6= 0.13/20 ]

**9.Nb5!±**



Threatens to win with Nb5-c7+. **9...Kd8** Inhibits Nb5-c7. **10.c3** & Bianco is more active. **10...a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1** Hoping for Bc1-f4+. **14...b5! 15.Bf4+ Kb7** (Diagram)





**16.0-0-0! Nf6 17.Ne3 Be7 18.Bf3**  
**Rhd8 19.Ne2 Be6 20.g4 Rxd1+**  
**21.Rxd1 Rd8 22.Rxd8 Bxd8 23.g5**  
**Nd7 24.h4 f6 25.Be4 g6 26.Kd2 fxg5**  
**27.hxg5 Bc7 28.Nd5 Bxf4+ 0.89/25**  
 [ 28...Bxd5± 0.33/23 29.Bxd5 Bxf4+  
 30.Nxf4 Kc7 ]  
**29.Nexf4± Bf7 2.07/23**  
 [ 29...Bxd5± 0.98/23 30.Nxd5  
 ( 30.Bxd5 Kc7= ) 30...Kc8 ]  
**30.Ne7!+- Nde5 31.Nd3 Kb6? 3.79/25**  
 [ 31...Nxd3 2.14/26 32.Bxc6+ Kc7 ]  
**32.Nxc6 Nxc6 33.Bxc6**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.06  
 (flawless) /Black=0.18 (very precise)  
**1-0**

B20  
 Kramnik,Vladimir 2784  
 Kobalia,Mihail 2651  
 FIDE World Cup (2.4) 16.08.2013  
 [Illingworth,Max, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**  
 I think White's play is a lot easier in this  
 structure and that the computers over-

estimate Black's chances.

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bc4!** This is the soundest continuation,  
 organising White's pieces before playing  
 f4.

[ 4.Bb5 is possible but if taking on c6  
 isn't great then why place the bishop  
 here? d6 ( 4...Nd4!? 5.Bc4 Nf6  
 6.Nc3 is similar to the game, but Black  
 has an extra tempo. ) 5.f4

(I'm not very enthusiastic about  
 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.Ne2 Nf6 7.d3 Be7  
 (7...g6 was considered in the notes to  
 Morozevich-Moiseenko) 8.0-0 0-0  
 9.Nd2 Nh5 10.f4 Nxf4 11.Nxf4 exf4  
 12.Rxf4 Bg5 13.Rf1 Be3+ 14.Kh1  
 Bd4 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.Qf3 c5  
 17.Qg3 Be6= ½-½ (69) Socko,M  
 (2428)-Medvegy,N (2407) Szeged  
 2004 ) 5...exf4 6.Nf3 Bd7 7.0-0 Nf6  
 8.Nc3 Be7= and while the position is  
 interesting, Black doesn't seem at all  
 worse. ]

[ 4.f4?! is an interesting gambit but I'm  
 less convinced by it because of exf4  
 5.Nf3 ( ♘5.Qf3 is better, but Black  
 still obtains great play with d5! 6.exd5  
 Nd4 7.Bxd4 cxd4± ) 5...Nf6! 6.Nc3  
 ( 6.e5 Ng4! 7.Bc4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0± )  
 6...Be7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Qe2 d6  
 9.0-0-0 a6 10.a4 Bg4± and Black is  
 just better. ]

**4...d6**

[ 4...Nf6 may be the more accurate

move order, before White can fully clamp down on d5. 5.Nc3 ( 5.d3 will usually transpose to 4...d6, but it is quite interesting to try d5!? 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3 f6 8.Nc3 Nb6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nd2 0-0= with good chances because of his space advantage. ) 5...Nxe4!? 6.Nxe4 d5 7.Bd3 dxe4 8.Bxe4 Bd6 9.Nf3 ( 9.Qh5 Nd4! 10.Nf3 ½-½ (39) Romanov,E (2329)-Frolov,A (2219) Kazan 2003 g6 11.Qh6 Bf8 12.Qe3 Bg7= is fairly comfortable for Black. ) 9...0-0 10.0-0 Qc7 ( 10...f6 11.Bd5+ Kh8 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.d3± gives White clear play against the doubled c-pawns. ) 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.d3 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.Qe2∞ and White has some chances for an edge because of his better pawn structure, but Black is not without his chances (bishop pair, mobile centre). ]

### 5.d3N

[It's also possible (and indeed more common) to start with 5.Nc3

**A)** 5...g6 should be met with 6.f4! ½-½ (35) Gong,Q (2327)-Ju,W (2527) China 2014 Bg7 7.fxe5 ( 7.Nf3 exf4! ) 7...dxe5 ( 7...Nxe5 8.Nf3 Ne7 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Qf3 0-0 11.0-0-0± White's central majority provides a small plus. ) 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.d3 Be6 11.Bc1 and the position is close to equal, but I find White's game easier.;

**B)** 5...Nf6 6.Nge2 Be7 and here 7.d3 transposes to the game, while 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4!? tries to benefit from delaying d3 and I don't see a real disadvantage with this move

order. a6 9.a4 Nb4 ( 9...Nd4 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5± ) 10.d3 Bd7 11.h3± and with moves such as a5 and f5 in the air, White is better. ]

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move alternatives Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

[ 5.Ne2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7 8.d3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5 11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1 Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7 16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3 Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 6.♔d4 e5 7. ♔d3\_52284-6.♙g5 ♘bd7 7. cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

### 5...Nf6

[ 5...g6!? is the main reason I prefer the move order with 5.♘c3. 6.Ne2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nbc3 0-0 9.h3 ( 9.f4 exf4 10.Rxf4 Be6̄ ) 9...Nh5!= makes it hard for White to achieve f4 under good circumstances. ]

### 6.Ne2

[ 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Nge2 merely transposes. ]

### 6...Be7 7.Nbc3

[ 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbc3 just transposes to normal lines. ]

### 7...Nd4

[ 7...0-0 8.0-0 is perhaps the key position for the whole 3...e5 variation and here Black has a lot of alternatives to Kobalia's ...♘d4



approach, though I think Black is a bit short of equality regardless:

**A) 8...a6** 9.a4 Rb8 tries to limit White's options by keeping ...b5 in the air, but White has 10.h3 ( 10.f4 Bg4!=; 10.Qd2 Nh5!= ) 10...Nh5 ( 10...Ne8 11.f4 Nc7 12.a5 exf4 13.Nxf4 Bf6 1-0 (34) Sorensen,J (2429)-Hagen,A (2416) Denmark 2013 14.Na4! Hoping for Bb2xf6. Bxb2 15.Nxb2± is likewise in White's favour because of his far superior structure. ) 11.Nd5 Bg5 12.f4 exf4 13.Ndx4 Nxf4 14.Nxf4 Bd7 15.a5!± and White is better as Black has no pawn break and White can steadily build up a kingside attack. If Nxa5?! 16.Nh5! Nxc4 17.dxc4 f6 18.Qd5+! Rf7 1.01/22 ( 18...Kh8± 0.64/23 ) 19.Qxd6 is very strong.;

**B) 8...Be6** 9.f4 Ng4 (the exchange on f4 only helps White) 10.Qd2 Against Ng4-e3 (or 10.Bc1!?N exf4 11.Nxf4 Bd7 12.Nfd5 Bg5 13.a4± and White's position is definitely easier to play. ) 10...exf4! 11.Nxf4 Bxc4 12.bxc4 Bf6 ½-½ (57) Paichadze,L (2467)-Alsina Leal,D (2546) Kavala 2010 13.Rab1 Bd4+ 14.Kh1± and White's position is very harmonious; he will later play for kingside pressure. ]

**8.0-0** The position is equal. **8...0-0** **9.f4** I see no reason for White to dither. **9...a6** [ 9...Bg4?! Strongly threatening ...b7-b5! 10.h3 Bxe2?! 0.52/20 ( 10...Be6= 0.18/17 feels stronger. ) 11.Nxe2↑ 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, was a clear concession by Black. ]

**10.a4** Inhibits b7-b5. **10...b6**

Preventing the positional threat of a5, but now the d5 square proves a serious weakness.

[ 10...Rb8 11.a5! Be6 1-0 (54) Shaw, J (2432)-Duncan,C (2332) Birmingham 2006 12.f5!/? ( 12.Bc1!/? ) 12...Bd7 13.Ng3± ]

**11.Nd5 Rb8** 0.72/24

[ 11...Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Rb8 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.c3 dxc3 15.Bxc3± ]  
[ 11...Nxd5!± 0.32/21 was preferable. 12.Bxd5 Ra7 ]

**12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3** 0.12/21

[ ♠13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bc1↑ (Smerdon) was a clearer route to an advantage. ]  
[ 13.Nxd4± 0.55/25 exd4 14.Nxf6+ ( 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Qf3 b5= ) 14...Bxf6 15.Bc1 ]

**13...Nxd5= 14.Bxd5 Bh4**

[ 14...g6!/? also deserved attention. ]

**15.Qh5** 0.03/23

[ 15.c3± 0.38/21 Ne6 16.Qh5 ]

**15...Bf6** Kramnik's edge is no longer real, but he went on to win anyway. **16.c4** -0.32/22

[ 16.Qd1= -0.01/20 ]

**16...g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 18.Ra2 Qe7**

**19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5 21.axb5**

**axb5 22.Kh1 h5** 0.63/22

[ Black should play 22...bxc4= -0.13/20 23.bxc4 Rb6 ]

**23.Bxd4± exd4**

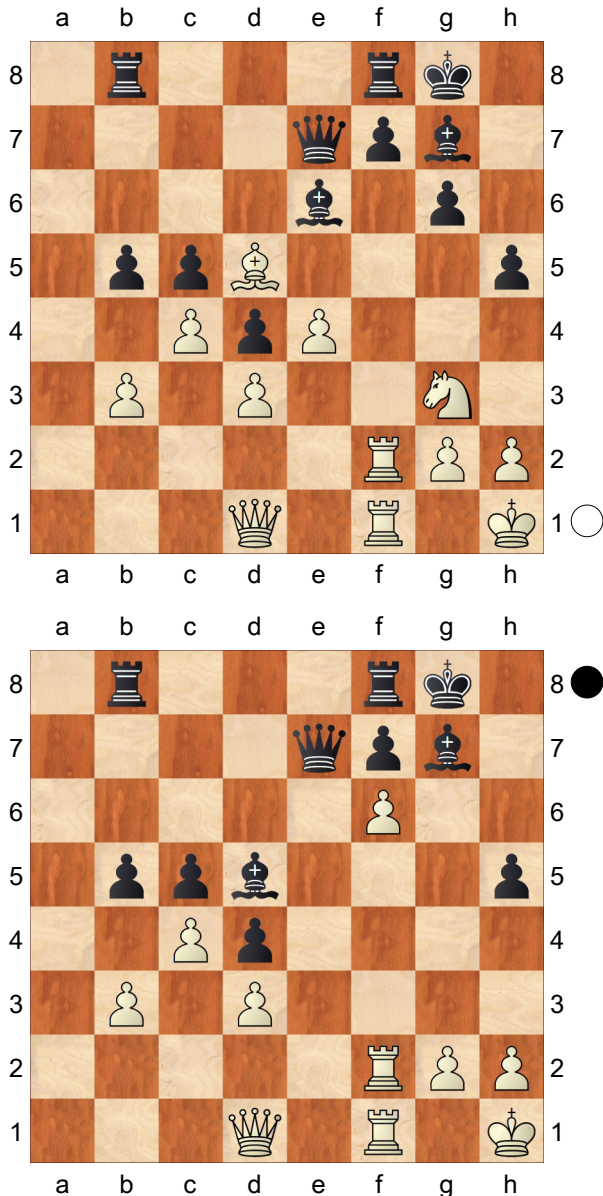
(Diagram)

**24.Nf5!** Prevents Bg7-h6. **24...gxf5**

**25.exf5 bxc4** 1.79/24

[ 25...Bxd5± 0.89/22 26.f6

(Diagram)



Bxf6! 27.Rxf6 Bxg2+! 28.Kxg2 Rfe8 ]

**26.f6+-**

[Resist 26.fxe6?! fxe6 27.Qe2 ( 27.Bxc4 Rxf2 28.Rxf2 Rf8± ) 27...Qg5 28.Bxe6+ ( 28.Qxe6+ Kh8= ) 28...Kh8 29.Bxc4 ( 29.bxc4 Rxf2 30.Qxf2 Rf8± ) 29...Rxf2 30.Rxf2 ( 30.Qxf2 Rf8= ) 30...h4± ]

**26...Qd6** 5.75/24

[ 26...Bxf6± 1.08/23 is more resistant. 27.Rxf6 Kg7 ]

**27.fxg7?** 1.62/21

[ 27.Bxe6 5.75/24 fxe6 28.Qxh5

( 28.fxg7 Rxf2 29.Rxf2 Rxb3= )]

**27...Kxg7 28.bxc4 Bxd5** 1.96/24

[ 28...Qe5± 1.14/23 29.Rf3 Rbe8 30.Bxe6 Rxe6 ]

**29.Qxh5 f5**

[ 29...Rh8? 30.Rxf7+ Bxf7 31.Qxf7+ Kh6 32.Rf6+ Qxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kh7 34.h4+- ]

**30.cxd5 Qg6 31.Qh4 Rbe8 32.Rf3**

aiming for Rf3-g3. **32...Re3 33.Rxe3**

**dxe3** Endgame KQR-KQR **34.Qe7+**

**Rf7 35.Qxe3 f4 36.Qe5+**

[ Don't play 36.Qxc5 Qxd3 37.Rg1 Rd7+- ]

**36...Qf6 37.Qxf6+ Rxf6 KR-KR 38.g3**

**f3 39.Kg1 Rf5 40.d6 Kf6 41.Kf2**

**Ke5?** #16/21

[ 41...Kg6+- 3.21/25 42.Ke3 Rd5 43.Rxf3 Rxd6 ]

**42.Re1+?** 3.15/28

[ 42.d7 #16/21 mates Rf8 43.Re1+ Kd4 44.Re8 Rxe8 45.dxe8Q Kxd3 46.h4 c4 47.h5 ]

**42...Kxd6 43.Re3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/

Black=0.58

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Hantel,Thomas**

**2784**

■ **Lependin,V**

**2651**

USA-ch New York (13.3)

16.08.2013

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

#### 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3N

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5  
8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6  
11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0  
14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5  
17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

[ 5.Ne2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7  
8.d3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5  
11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1  
Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7  
16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3  
Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 6.♔d4 e5 7.  
♔d3\_52284-6.♙g5 ♘bd7 7.  
cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In  
The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ  
March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

#### 5...Nf6 6.Ne2 Be7 7.Nbc3 Nd4 8.0-0

White has an edge. 8...0-0 9.f4 a6

#### 10.a4 Prevents b7-b5. 10...b6 11.Nd5

#### Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3 0.02/20

[ 13.Nxf6+± 0.59/22 Bxf6 14.Nxd4  
exd4 15.Qh5 ]

#### 13...Nxd5= 14.Bxd5

[ 14.Bxd4!? cxd4 15.Bxd5± ]

#### 14...Bh4 15.Qh5

[ 15.c3!? Ne6 16.Qh5= ]

#### 15...Bf6 16.c4 g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 18.Ra2

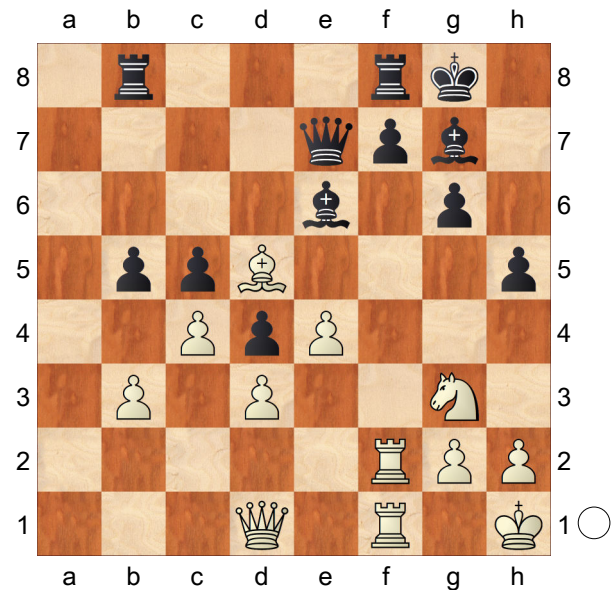
#### Qe7 19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5 21.axb5

#### axb5 22.Kh1 h5 0.65/23

[ 22...Bxd5= -0.18/20 23.cxd5 Ra8 ]

#### 23.Bxd4± exd4

(Diagram)



**27.fxg7?** 1.93/23

[ 27.Bxe6 5.53/23 fxe6 28.Qxh5  
( 28.fxg7 Rxf2 29.Rxf2 Rxb3= ) ]

**27...Kxg7+- 28.bxc4 Bxd5** 2.02/24

[ 28...Qe5± 1.45/23 is a better  
defense. 29.Rf3 Rbe8 30.Bxe6  
Rxe6 ]

**29.Qxh5** 1.20/24

[ 29.cxd5+- 2.02/24 f5 30.Qxh5 ]

**29...f5** 1.88/23 **30.cxd5 Qg6 31.Qh4**

Strongly threatening Rf2-f3. **31...Rbe8**

**32.Rf3 Re3 33.Rxe3 dxe3** Endgame

KQR-KQR **34.Qe7+ Rf7 35.Qxe3 f4**

**36.Qe5+**

[ Don't play 36.Qxc5 Qxd3 37.Rg1  
Rd7+- ]

**36...Qf6 37.Qxf6+ Rxf6 KR-KR 38.g3**

**f3 39.Kg1 Rf5 40.d6 Kf6 41.Kf2**

**Ke5?** #16/21

[ 41...Kg6+- 3.05/24 42.Ke3 Re5+  
43.Kxf3 Rd5 ]

**42.Re1+?** 3.14/27

[ 42.d7 #16/21 mates Rf8 43.Re1+  
Kd5 44.Re8 Kc6 45.Rxf8 Kxd7  
46.h4 Ke7 47.Rxf3 ]

**42...Kxd6 43.Re3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/

Black=0.58

**1-0**

□ **Hantel,Thomas**

**B20**

**2784**

■ **Predein,Vladimir**

**2651**

open Krasnodar (2.4)

16.08.2013

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink,J (2683)-11...♞c7 12.♟bd2 cd4

13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;

ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bc4 d6 5.d3N**

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5

8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6

11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0

14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5

17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move

alternatives Greek Team

Championship 2019 200 Traps In The

Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

[ 5.Ne2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7

8.d3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5

11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1

Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7

16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3

Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 6.♞d4 e5 7.

♞d3\_52284-6.♟g5 ♟bd7 7.

cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In

The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ

March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

**5...Nf6 6.Ne2 Be7 7.Nbc3 Nd4 8.0-0**

White has an edge. **8...0-0 9.f4 a6**

**10.a4** Inhibits b7-b5. **10...b6 11.Nd5**

**Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3** 0.10/21

[ 13.Nxd4± 0.57/20 exd4 14.Nxf6+

( 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Qf3 b5= )

14...Bxf6 15.Bc1 ]

**13...Nxd5= 14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5 Bf6**

**16.c4** -0.39/22

[ 16.c3= 0.01/20 was preferable. g6

17.Qd1 ]

**16...g6 17.Qd1 Bg7** -0.01/19

[ 17...Bg5 18.0-0 19.0-0 20.0-0

consideration. ]

**18.Ra2 Qe7 19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5**

-0.01/19

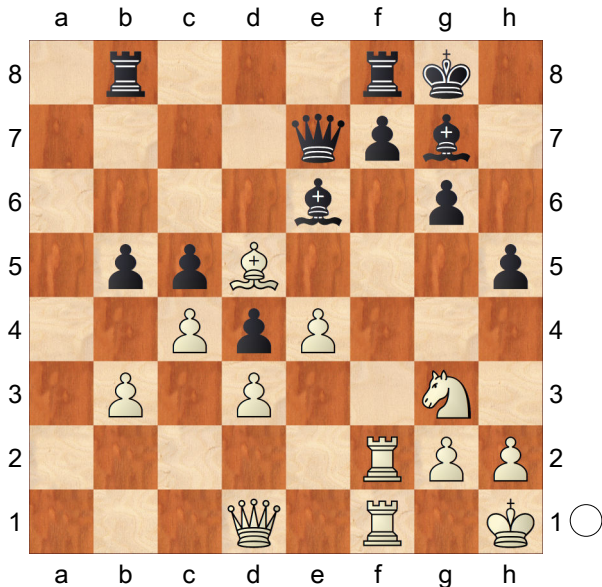


[ 20...Bh6! -0.34/21 might be stronger. 21.Qe1 a5 ]

**21.axb5 axb5 22.Kh1 h5** 0.34/22

[ Black should try 22...Kh8= -0.19/20 ]

**23.Bxd4± exd4**

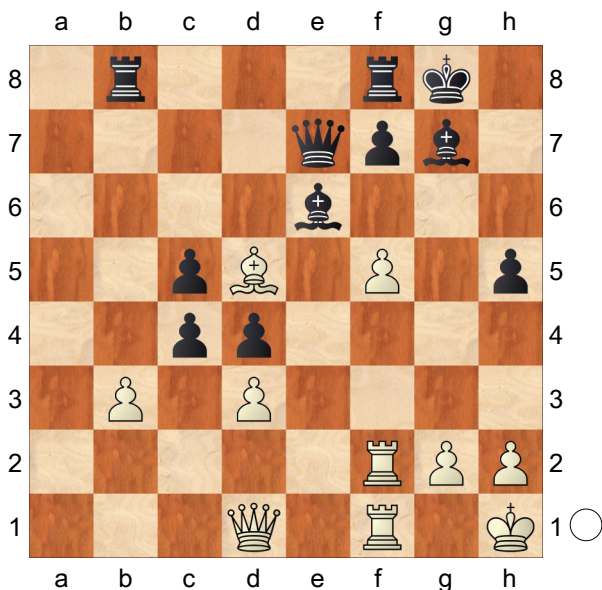


**24.Nf5! gxf5** -0.01/20

[ 24...Qg5!± 0.40/23 25.Nxg7 Kxg7 ]

**25.exf5= bxc4?** 1.62/25

[ 25...Bxd5= 0.01/21 26.f6 Bxf6!  
27.Rxf6 Bxg2+! 28.Kxg2 Rfe8 ]



Black is on the road to losing. **26.f6**

0.94/22 **Qd6?** 6.10/25

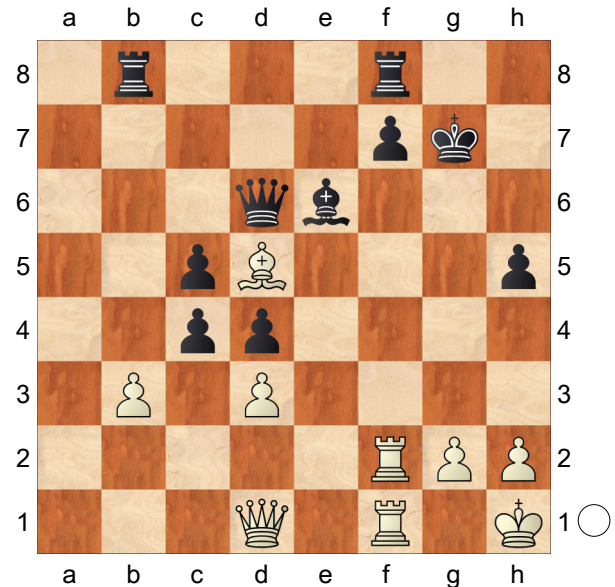
[ 26...Bxf6± 0.94/22 27.Rxf6 Bxd5

28.Qxh5 Rfe8 29.Qg5+ Kf8 ]

**27.fxg7?** 1.86/23

[ 27.Bxe6 6.10/25 fxe6 28.Qxh5  
( 28.fxg7 Rxf2 29.Rxf2 Rxb3= ) ]

**27...Kxg7+-**



**28.bxc4** 1.52/23

[ 28.Bxe6!+- 1.97/24 fxe6 29.Qxh5  
Rxf2 30.Qg5+ ( 30.Rxf2 Rf8± )  
30...Kh8 31.Qh4+ ( 31.Rxf2 Ra8± )  
31...Kg8 32.Qxf2 ]

**28...Bxd5** 2.13/25

[ 28...Qe5± 1.52/23 29.Rf3 Rbe8  
30.Bxe6 Rxe6 ]

**29.Qxh5 f5**

[ 29...Rh8? 30.Rxf7+ Bxf7 31.Qxf7+  
Kh6 32.Rf6+ Qxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kh7  
34.Qf7+ Kh6 35.Qf6+ Kh7 36.Qf7+  
Kh6 37.Qf6+- ]

**30.cxd5 Qg6 31.Qh4** And now Rf2-f3 would win. **31...Rbe8 32.Rf3**

Strongly threatening Rf3-g3. **32...Re3**

**33.Rxe3 dxe3** Endgame KQR-KQR

**34.Qe7+ Rf7 35.Qxe3 f4 36.Qe5+**

**Qf6 37.Qxf6+ Rxf6 KR-KR 38.g3 f3**

**39.Kg1 Rf5 40.d6 Kf6 41.Kf2 Ke5?**

#16/21

[ 41...Kg5+- 2.01/10 42.h4+ Kg6 ]

**42.Re1+?** 3.09/27



[ 42.d7 #16/21 mates Rf8 43.Re1+  
Kd6 44.Re8 Kxd7 45.Rxf8 Ke6  
46.h4 Kd7 47.Rxf3 ]

#### 42...Kxd6 43.Re3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/

Black=0.60

1-0

□ **Kramnik,Vladimir**

**B20**

**2784**

■ **Kobalia,Mihail**

**2651**

WorldCup 2013 (13.3)

16.08.2013

[Smerdon, David, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

#### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5?!

While White's system is harmless, this popular setup is definitely to be avoided. It might be objectively okay but White gets a very easy game. For info, 2...g6 is my preference, though Black needs to know one or two sharpish lines to play it (check out the archives).

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

#### 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3N

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5  
8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6  
11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0  
14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5  
17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec

96] ]

[ 5.Ne2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7  
8.d3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5  
11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1  
Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7  
16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3  
Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 6.♔d4 e5 7.  
♔d3\_52284-6.♙g5 ♘bd7 7.  
cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In  
The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ  
March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

#### 5...Nf6 6.Ne2 Be7 7.Nbc3 Nd4!?

Deviating from Short-Prasad (2004,  
1-0) from the archives, although we get  
a similar sort of position.

[Very instructional play by Black was  
seen in the following recent game:  
7...0-0 8.0-0 Be6 9.h3 Nh5!  
10.Nd5 Bg5 11.f4 (What else?) exf4  
12.Ndxf4 Nxf4 13.Nxf4 Bxf4 14.Rxf4  
Qg5 Against Qd1-h5 15.Qd2 Ne5  
aiming for ...Ne5-f3+! 16.Raf1  
Inhibits Ne5-f3+. Black must now  
prevent Bc4xe6. Rae8 17.Bxe6 Rxe6  
18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Qf2 1/2-1/2 Izoria,  
Z (2585)-Amanov, M (2510)/Wheeling  
2013 ]

#### 8.0-0 White has an edge. 8...0-0 9.f4

#### a6 10.a4 Inhibits b7-b5. 10...b6!?N

The first new move, but not a good one.

[Previously seen was 10...Rb8 11.a5  
Nc6 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Nd4  
0.96/21 (Black should try 13...Bf6±  
0.40/20 ) 14.f5 0.45/20 ( 14.fxe5±  
0.96/21 Bg4 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.exd6  
Bxd6 17.Qd2 ) 14...Nc6 15.Bc3 Bf6  
16.Bd2 Ne7 1.34/23 ( 16...Bd7±  
0.64/20 ) 17.Nc3± Nc6 18.Qh5 h6??  
5.68/25 ( ♱18...Ne7 2.39/21 19.Bc4  
h6 ) 19.Bxh6!+- Nd4 and now the  
inexplicable. Inhibits Rf1-f3.  
( 19...gxh6 20.Qg6+ Bg7 21.f6 )

20.Rf3?? -0.73/25 although White still won in Dimitrijevic, D (2272)-Srbis, J (2156)/Sibenik 2010 (39)

( 20.Be3+- 5.33/21 )]

[ 10...Be6 looks sensible and is the computer's top choice, but as White I like the resulting positions after 11.f5 Bxc4 12.bxc4 White will play Bc1 and Rb1 and probably flick in Nd5, with active possibilities on both sides of the board. ]

**11.Nd5** White has a nice edge **11...Rb8**

**12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3**

[It's only a rapid game, remember, but here Kramnik missed a nice opportunity: 13.Nxd4! forces Black to recapture with the e-pawn, which is suboptimal. exd4 ( 13...cxd4? 2.01/24 13...e5xd4 0.52 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Ba3 ) 14.Nxf6+! Bxf6 15.Bc1± with easy play. ]

**13...Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4?! 15.Qh5**

1.11/23

[White should play 15.c3!± 0.34/21 Ne6 16.Qh5 ]

**15...Bf6± 16.c4?! -0.37/21** Optically appealing, but I'm not sure this is best. White has a great bishop, but he would have a great bishop even if the pawn just stopped its march at c3, and then Black's powerful steed would have to retreat.

[ 16.Qd1= 0.01/19 ]

**16...g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 -0.02/19**

[ 17...Bg5 0.43/19 ]

**18.Ra2 Qe7 19.Bc3 -0.44/21**

[ 19.Bc1= -0.07/20 deserves consideration. ]

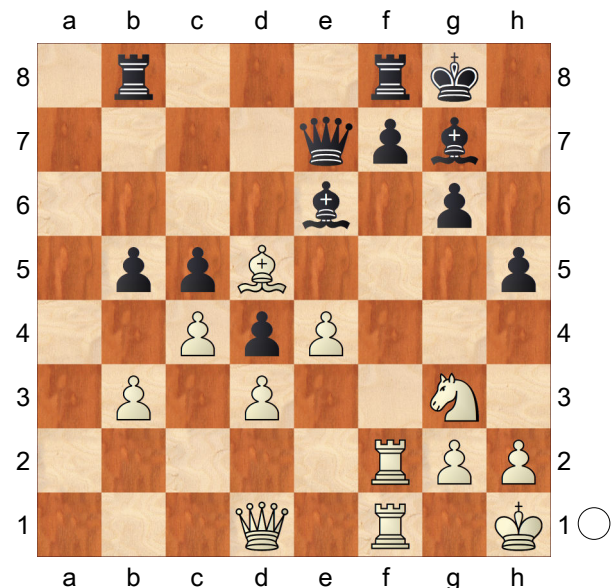
**19...Be6 -0.13/18**

[ 19...Bh6 0.44/21 might be stronger. ]

**20.Raf2 b5 -0.01/20**

[ 20...Bh6 0.34/22 should be considered. 21.Qe1 a5 ]

**21.axb5 axb5 22.Kh1 h5?** I'm not sure White is really that much better in this position, if at all, but it's certainly easier to play. Anyway, the text is a big mistake because it allows White a very active possibility that shouldn't be possible... **23.Bxd4 exd4**



**24.Nf5! gxf5 25.exf5 bxc4? 2.84/24**

This move loses the game for Black.

[ 25...Bxd5 was of course critical, but despite being two (!) bishops down, temporarily, White is better: 26.f6! Bxf6 27.Rxf6 and Black has to bail out with Bxg2+! 28.Kxg2± but White has tremendous pressure. ]  
[ 25...Bxd5= 0.02/25 and Black stays safe. 26.f6

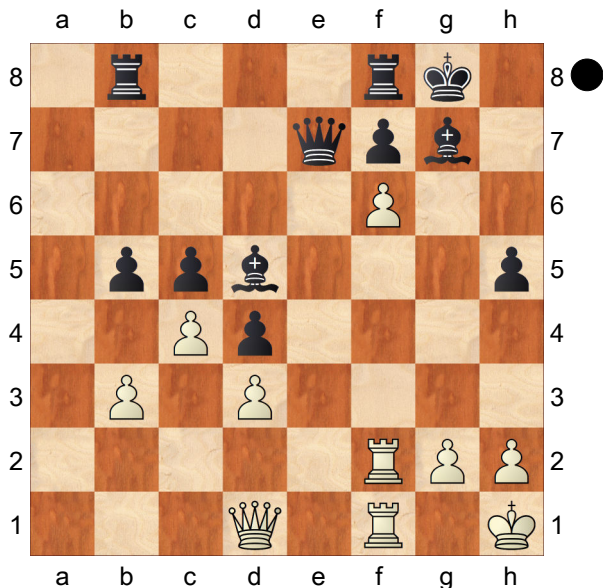
(Diagram)

Bxf6! 27.Rxf6 Bxg2+! 28.Kxg2 Rfe8 ]

**26.f6!** This zwischenzug again!

[Weaker is 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Qe2 ( 27.Bxc4 Rxf2 28.Rxf2 Rf8± )

27...Rxf2 28.Bxe6+ ( 28.Rxf2 Re8± )



28...Kh7 29.Rxf2 Qg5± ]  
**26...Qd6** 7.29/23  
 [ 26...Bxf6 1.79/22 27.Rxf6 Kg7 ]  
**27.fxg7?** 1.47/23  
 [ 27.Bxe6! fxe6 28.Qxh5!+- ]  
 [ 27.Bxe6+- 7.29/23 fxe6 28.Qxh5  
 ( 28.fxg7 Rxf2 29.Rxf2 Rxb3= ) ]  
**27...Kxg7± 28.bxc4 Bxd5** 1.86/23  
 [ 28...Qe5± 1.35/22 29.Rf3 Rbe8  
 30.Bxe6 Rxe6 ]  
**29.Qxh5** 1.44/24  
 [ Better is 29.cxd5+- 1.86/23 f5  
 30.Qxh5 ]  
**29...f5** 1.79/22  
 [ 29...Rh8? 30.Rxf7+ Bxf7 31.Qxf7+  
 Kh6 32.Rf6+ Qxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kh7  
 34.h4+- ]  
 [ 29...Bxc4± 1.44/24 is a better  
 defense. 30.dxc4 f6 ]  
**30.cxd5+- Qg6 31.Qh4** And now Qh4-  
 e7+ would win. **31...Rbe8 32.Rf3**  
 Hoping for Rf3-g3. **32...Re3 33.Rxe3**  
**dxe3** Endgame KQR-KQR **34.Qe7+**  
**Rf7 35.Qxe3 f4 36.Qe5+**  
 [ Don't play 36.Qxc5 Qxd3 37.Rg1  
 Rd7+- ]  
**36...Qf6 37.Qxf6+** Kramnik takes the  
 pragmatic approach. **37...Rxf6** KR-KR

**38.g3 f3 39.Kg1 Rf5 40.d6 Kf6**

**41.Kf2 Ke5?** #16/21

[ 41...Kg6+- 3.04/23 42.Ke3 Re5+  
 43.Kxf3 Rd5 ]

**42.Re1+?** 3.13/27

[ 42.d7 #16/21 mates Rf8 43.Re1+  
 Kf6 44.Re8 Kg7 45.d8Q Rxe8  
 46.Qxe8 Kf6 47.Kxf3 ]

**42...Kxd6 43.Re3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/

Black=0.51

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Caruana,Fabiano**

**2781**

■ **Xu,Yi**

**2507**

Titled Tuesday intern op 29th Mar Early blitz (11)

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
 C 06/32 (2752)-13.♙ad1 ♔b6 14.b3  
 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
 T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

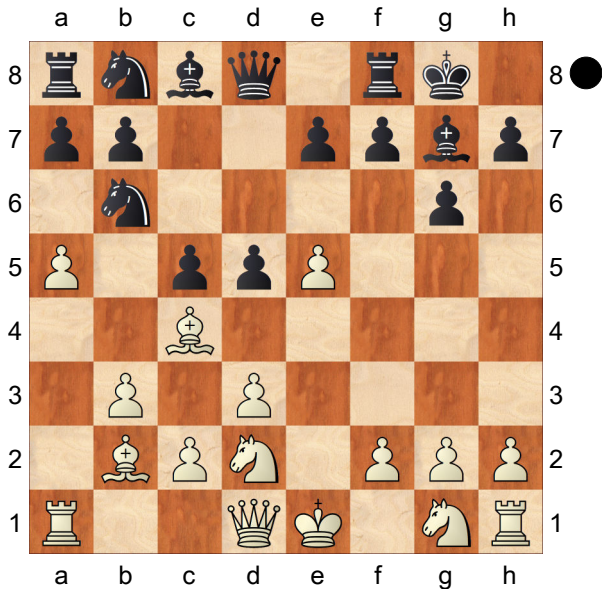
[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Bc4N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella] ]

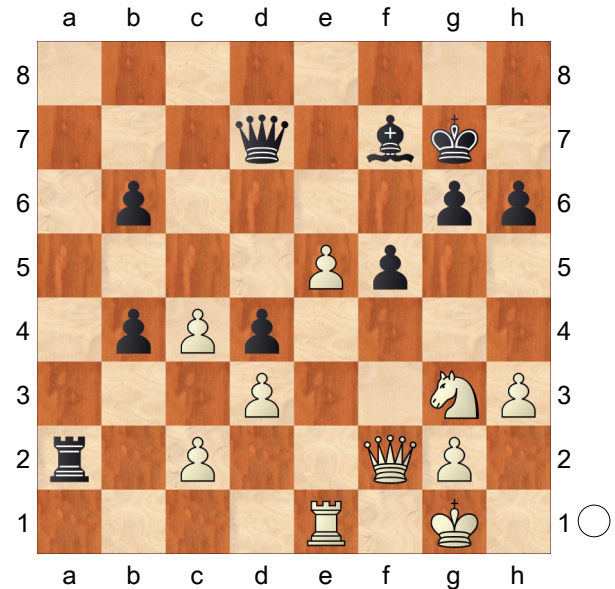
**5...Nb6! 6.d3 Bg7 7.Nd2** -0.75/21

[ 7.Qc1= -0.15/19 ]  
**7...0-0 8.a4** -1.48/21  
 [ 8.Qb1 -0.92/19 ]  
**8...d5 9.a5**



**Nxc4** -0.83/21  
 [ 9...N6d7! -1.59/21 10.Bxd5 Nxe5  
 11.Bxe5 Bxe5 ]  
**10.bxc4 d4 11.f4 Nc6 12.Nb3 f6**  
**13.exf6 exf6 14.Nf3 Bg4** -0.58/22  
 [ 14...Re8+ 15.Kf2 Qd6 ]  
**15.0-0 b6 16.h3 Be6 17.Bc1**  
 -0.80/20  
 [ 17.axb6 18.Rxa8  
 Qxa8 19.Re1 ]  
**17...Qd7**  
 [ Much weaker is 17...Nxa5 18.Nxa5  
 ( 18.Qe1 Bd7 18...bxa5 19.Nd2= )  
**18.Bd2 Rae8 19.Re1 Bf7 20.Rxe8**  
**Rxe8 21.Qf1 Bf8 22.Nh2 f5 23.Nf3**  
**h6 24.Qf2 Bg7 25.axb6 axb6 26.Nc1**  
**Bf6 27.Ne2 Kg7 28.Ng3 Nb4** -0.01/22  
 [ 28...Qb7 -0.50/19 should be  
 considered. ]  
**29.Bxb4= cxb4 30.Re1** -0.40/23  
 [ 30.Ne5= 0.01/21 deserves  
 consideration. Bxe5 31.fxe5 ]  
**30...Ra8** 0.42/22  
 [ 30...Rxe1+ 31.Qxe1

**Qa4 ]**  
**31.Ne5 Bxe5** 1.11/24  
 [ Black should play 31...Qc7± 0.48/19 ]  
**32.fxe5± Ra2**



**Strongly threatening ...b4-b3! 33.Re2**  
 0.29/21  
 [ 33.Ne2± 0.99/22 ]  
**33...Be6= 34.h4 h5** 0.61/22  
 [ Black should try 34...Ra5= -0.01/20 ]  
**35.Qf4± Qd8** 0.84/20  
 [ 35...Qe7!± 0.49/22 feels stronger. ]  
**36.Kh2** 0.41/22  
 [ Better is 36.Re1± 0.84/20 ]  
**36...Ra1** 1.21/26  
 [ 36...Kh7!± 0.41/22 ]  
**37.Rf2± Re1** 1.86/22  
 [ 37...Ra5± 1.11/23 is a better  
 defense. ]  
**38.Ne2+- Rb1** 3.19/22  
 [ 38...Qc7 1.74/22 39.Qg3  
 ( 39.Nxd4 Qxe5 40.Qxe5+ Rxe5±;  
 39.Qxd4 Bf7± ) 39...Kh7 40.Nxd4  
 Qxe5 41.Qxe5 Rxe5 ]  
**39.Nxd4 Bf7** 6.73/22  
 [ 39...Qe7 2.83/21 40.Qg5 Kf7 ]  
**40.Nf3** 2.95/19  
 [ 40.e6 6.73/22 Be8 41.e7 Qxe7  
 42.Re2 ]

**40...b3** 4.64/18[ 40...Ra1 2.95/19 was worth a try.  
41.Re2 Qc7 ]**41.cxb3 Qxd3** 16.21/23

[ ♠41...Kg8 4.79/19 42.d4 Qb8 ]

**42.Rd2 Qf1 43.e6 Qh1+ 44.Kg3 Bxe6**White mates. **45.Qe5+ Kh7 46.Rd8****f4+ 47.Qxf4 Rb2 48.Ng5+ Kh6****49.Qf8#**Weighted Error Value: White=0.28  
(precise) /Black=0.53**1-0**☐ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime****B50****2780**☒ **Maze,Sebastien****2596**

PRO League Stage rapid (5) 07.02.2019

*[MH]*

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**[ 3...e6 4.f4 d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5  
Qe7+ 7.Qe2 Bd7 8.Nf3 a6 9.Bxc6  
Qxe2+ 10.Kxe2 Bxc6 11.d4 Nf6  
12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Nd2 Nd7 14.Rae1  
f6 15.Nxc6 Rxc6 16.dxc5 Bxc5  
17.Kf3+ Kf7 18.c3 6.h4 ♔g5 7.hg5  
♔g5 8.♘h (2390)–Jovic,L (2460)  
Groningen 1989 ZUS C73 [John  
Watson] ½–½ (52) ]**4.Nf3**[ 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4  
7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6  
10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8  
13.0–0 0–0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5  
16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade,  
E–12 9th move alternatives Greek  
Team Championship 2019 200 Traps  
In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/  
APA Dec 96] ]**4...d6 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0–0N**

[ 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.0–0 0–0 8.Ne1 a6

9.a4 Bg4 10.f3 Be6 11.g3 Rb8

12.Ng2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5

Bxd5 15.Ne3 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 f6

Chess Informant ECO Survey 2001 ]

**6...Nh6** 0.58/19

[ 6...Nf6= 0.27/19 ]

**7.c3 0–0 8.d4** White is slightly better.**8...Qc7** 0.81/18

[ 8...exd4± 0.36/21 9.cxd4 Bf6 ]

**9.Na3 Kh8 10.Nc2 f5 11.exf5 Nxf5****12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qe2! Nd6 14.Ne3**  
–0.15/21

[ 14.Nxe5± 0.56/20 Bf6 15.Nxc6

Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Qxc6 17.Ne3 ]

**14...Nxc4= 15.Qxc4 Na5** 0.90/22

[ 15...Qd6= –0.01/19 ]

**16.Qe4± Bf6 17.Rad1** 0.75/21

[ White should try 17.c4 1.34/22 ]

**17...Nc6 18.Ba3** 0.40/23 &Bianco is  
much more active.

[ 18.b4± 0.74/20 ]

**18...b6± 19.Nd5** Pair of Knights!**19...Qb7 20.Nxf6 gxf6 21.Rd6**

–1.02/21 Against Nc6–d4

[ 21.Nh4= 0.29/21 keeps the  
balance. ]**21...Ne7** 0.22/23[ 21...Nd4!± –1.02/21 22.Qxb7 Ne2+  
23.Kh1 Bxb7 ]**22.Nd2** –0.10/20

[ ♠22.Qxb7 0.22/23 Bxb7 23.Nh4

( 23.Rd7 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Rg8+ 25.Kh1  
Nf5= )]**22...Nf5=**

[ 22...Qb8!? 23.Nc4 Bb7= ]

**23.Rd3 Qxe4 24.Nxe4 Ba6 25.c4****Nd4 26.Bb2 Rad8 27.Bxd4** –0.62/21

[ White should play 27.Re3!= 0.01/21 ]

**27...cxd4± 28.f3 b5** –0.12/21

[ 28...Bb7± –0.56/20 ]

**29.Rc1!= bxc4 30.bxc4 Rc8! 31.Nd2**

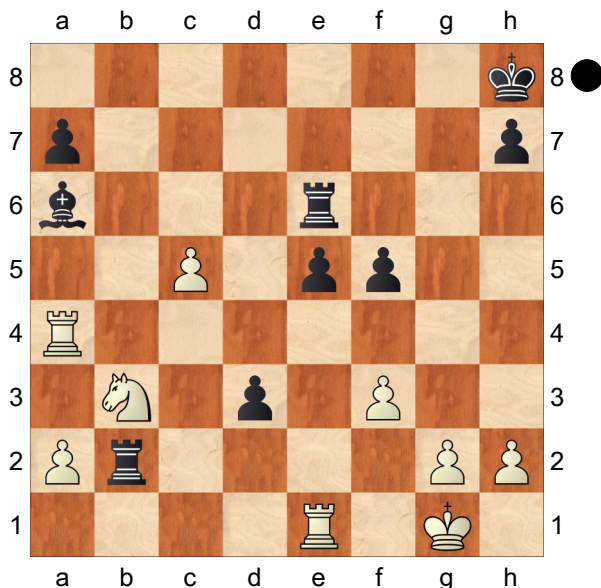


**Rc6 32.Ra3 Rb8↑** White is under pressure. **33.Ra4** -0.90/21

[ 33.Nb3♞ -0.44/22 should be considered. ]

**33...Rb2♞ 34.Nb3 d3 35.c5 f5 36.Rd1 Re6!** Hoping for ...e5-e4. **37.Re1** -2.14/22

[ 37.Nd2♞ -0.85/20 ]



Prevents e5-e4. **37...e4!-+ 38.fxe4 fxe4?** -0.44/23

[ 38...Bb7-+ -2.37/23 39.Rd4 ( 39.Rxa7? Bxe4 40.Ra8+ Kg7-+ ) 39...Bxe4 40.Rd8+ Kg7 ]

**39.Raxe4♞ Rxe4**

[ 39...Rg6 keeps more tension. 40.g3 Bb5 41.Rd4 Rxa2 42.Rd1 Kg7 ]

**40.Rxe4 d2 41.Nxd2 Rxd2♞**

Endgame KRB-KR **42.Re8+ Kg7**

**43.Re7+ Kg6?** 2.13/21

[ 43...Kg8♞ -0.93/22 keeps the pressure on. White must now prevent ...Ba6-b5. 44.Rxa7 Bb5 ]

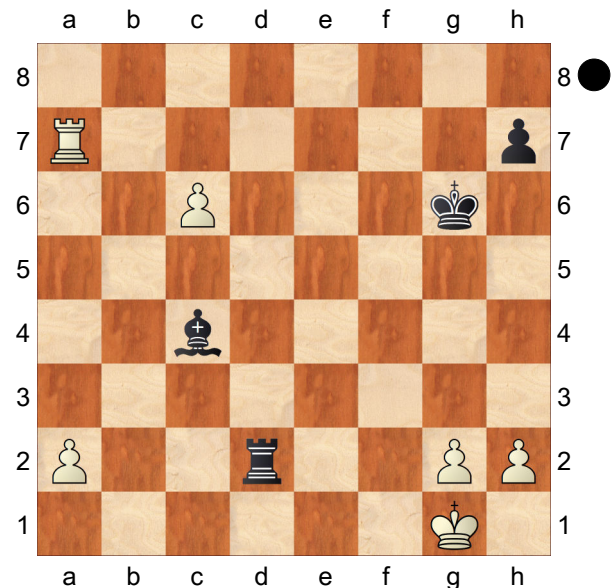
**44.Rxa7?** -1.33/22

[ 44.Re6+- 2.13/21 Kf5 45.Rxa6 ]

**44...Bc4**

[ Inferior is 44...Rxa2 45.c6♞ ]

**45.c6**



**Rc2! 46.c7 Bd5** -1.16/22

[ 46...Bd3 -1.48/23 47.a4 Kf6 ]

**47.g3 Kf6** -0.65/20

[ 47...Be4♞ -1.42/23 48.h4 Kf6 ]

**48.a4** -1.60/22

[ 48.c8B♞ -0.65/20 ]

**48...Ke6** -0.38/23

[ 48...Be4♞ -1.60/22 aiming for ...Kf6-e5. 49.a5 Ke6 ]

**49.c8Q+ Rxc8 50.Rxh7 Rc2** -0.29/21

[ 50...Ke5♞ -0.71/21 51.h4 Ke4 ]

**51.a5= Rg2+** -1.04/5

[ 51...Be4♞ -0.36/22 52.Rh5 Rg2+ 53.Kf1 Ra2 ]

**52.Kf1♞ Ra2 53.a6 Bc4+ 54.Kg1**

**Bxa6 55.Rh4 Bb7 56.Rf4 Ke5 57.Rf2**

**Ra1+ 58.Rf1 Ra2** 0.01/21

[ 58...Ra3♞ -0.48/23 feels stronger. ]

**59.Rf2!= Ra3 60.Re2+ Kf5 61.Rf2+**

**Bf3 62.Rb2 Be4 63.Rf2+ Rf3** 0.00/32

[ 63...Kg6♞ -0.47/19 ]

**64.Rxf3+ Bxf3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.28

(precise) /Black=0.35

1/2-1/2

**Nakamura,Hikaru** **B20**  
 **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **2768**  
 PRO League Prelim rapid (2.2)21.02.2023  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

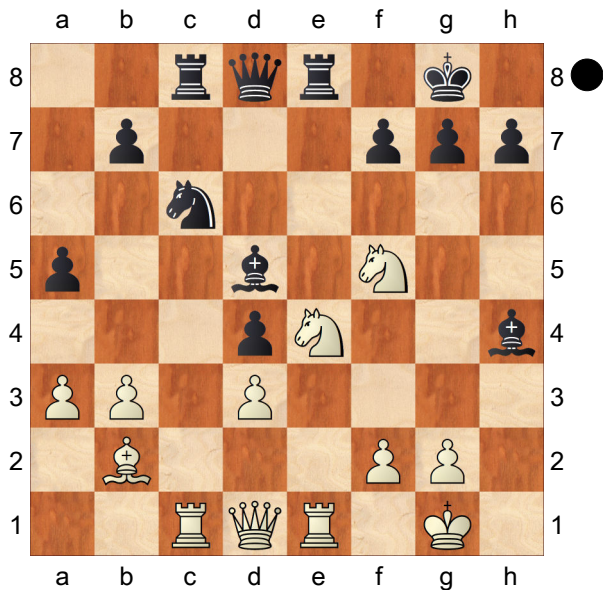
### 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3N

[ 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 ( 5...g6 6.Ng5  
 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5  
 Qxe5 10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4  
 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4  
 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2  
 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Rb8  
 20.Qf3 13.g5 ♘c5 14.♔f3 (2395)-  
 Rinkewitz,F (2450) Espana 83/571  
 1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter]  
 1-0 (51); 5...e6 6.c4 Nde7 7.g3 Nf5  
 8.Bg2 d5 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.0-0 0-0  
 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Ne4 b6 13.Ne5  
 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bb7 15.Qg4 Qd7  
 16.Rfe1 Rad8 17.Rad1 f6 18.Bb2  
 Nd4 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Qh5  
 Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 5 Game 5

(57) ) 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3  
 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 a6 11.Bxc6+  
 bxc6 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Qc1 Nd5  
 14.Nh4 e6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Ne4  
 Qa5+ 17.Qd2 Nb4 18.Kf1 Qd8  
 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 4 Game 4  
 (31) ]  
**4...Nc7 5.Bb2 Nc6 6.Ne4 d6 7.exd6**  
**exd6 8.Nf3** The position is equal. **8...d5**  
**9.Ng3 d4 10.Bd3 Be7** 0.27/21  
 [ ♞10...g6 -0.11/20 ]  
**11.c3= 0-0 12.0-0 Be6** 0.35/19  
 [ 12...Bg4= 0.01/17 ]  
**13.cxd4 cxd4 14.Be4 Bd5 15.Re1**  
**Ne6 16.d3** -0.38/18  
 [ 16.Qe2= 0.01/19  
 is more appropriate. ]  
**16...Rc8 17.a3 a5 18.Rc1 Re8**  
 -0.01/19  
 [ 18...g6♞ -0.38/20 ]  
**19.h4** -0.51/21  
 [ White should play 19.Nf5= -0.01/19 ]  
**19...Nc5** 0.23/22  
 [ 19...Bxe4!♞ -0.51/21 20.Nxe4 Qd5 ]  
**20.Nd2** -0.74/23  
 [ 20.Nxd4= 0.23/22 keeps the  
 balance. Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Nxe4  
 22.Rxc8 Qxc8 23.dxe4 ]  
**20...Nxe4♞ 21.Ndxe4 Bxh4** -0.43/23  
 [ Black should try 21...Qd7♞ -0.88/20  
 22.Qf3 Bf8 ]  
**22.Nf5♞**

(Diagram)

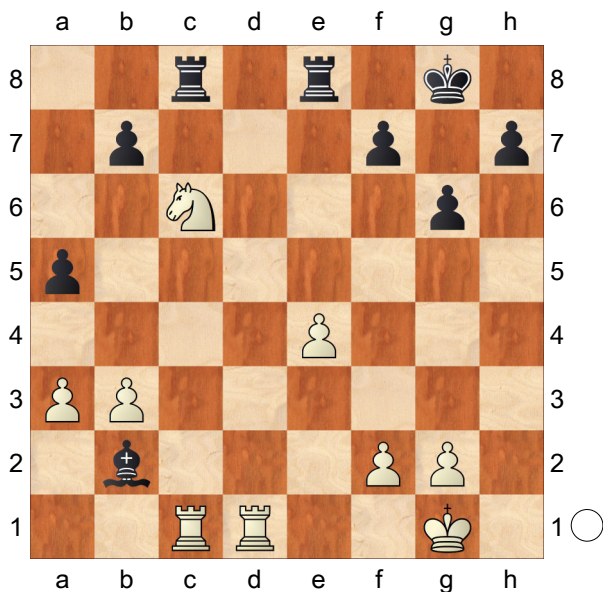
Threatens to win with Qd1-g4. **22...Bxe4**  
 -0.40/22  
 [ Better is 22...g6!♞ -0.81/23 23.Qg4  
 Bxe4 24.Rxe4 Rxe4 25.dxe4 Bg5 ]  
**23.dxe4** -0.77/22  
 [ 23.Rxe4♞ -0.40/22 Rxe4 24.dxe4 ]  
**23...g6** -0.23/22



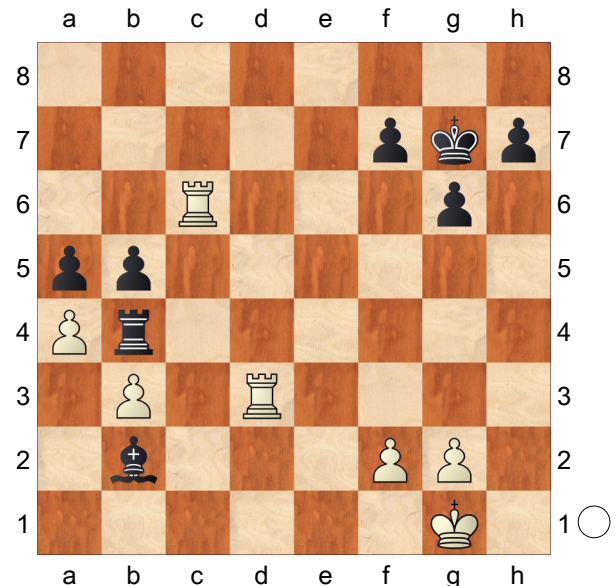
[ 23...Bf6± -0.77/22 ]

**24.Nxd4= Bf6 0.43/21**[ Don't play 24...Qf6 25.g3 Rcd8  
26.Rc4= ]

[ 24...Qb6!± -0.58/22 25.Qd2 Rcd8 ]

**25.Nxc6± Qxd1 1.42/24**[ 25...bxc6± 0.35/23 26.Qe2  
( 26.Qxd8 Bxd8 27.Rc4 Be7= )  
26...Be5 ]**26.Rexd1± Bxb2****27.Ne7+! Rxe7 28.Rxc8+-**Endgame KRR-KRB 28...Kg7 29.a4  
**Rxe4 30.Rc7 b6 31.Rc6 Rb4 32.Rd3  
b5? 3.13/23**

[ 32...Bf6± 1.24/22 33.Kf1 h5 ]

Against Rc6-c4. Black cannot hold the  
game after this. **33.Rb6! Re4 34.Rxb5  
Re1+ 35.Kh2 Be5+ 36.g3 Bc7  
37.Rd7**Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very  
precise) /Black=0.38**1-0****B20**□ **Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar****2760**■ **Van Wely, Loek****2681**

Corus Wijk aan Zee (5)

17.01.2008

[John Shaw, MH]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** It is refreshing to see a world class player try 2.b3, even if the game supports the existing conclusion: Black is fine but there is plenty of play. Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'In Mamedyarov's style. No engine battles! Only less popular sidelines! He don't play Naidorf with Van Wely of course.' **2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Bd7**

[ If 4...Nc6 then it is usual to  
exchange on c6 and play d3 and f4.



However, I reached an interesting position after 5.e5!? dxe5 (5...Nd5!? ) 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.Bxe5 in Shaw–Le Roux, 4ncl 2005. I prefer White's structure to Black's bishops. ]

### 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7

[There is nothing wrong with 5...Nbx7 either. Normal play would be: 6.d3 g6 Nothing is forced here. (It may be easier for Black to find a plan after 6...e6 7.f4 d5 ) 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0–0 9.0–0 b5 10.Qe1 Perhaps it is easier to play the white side (in Grand Prix Attack style with Qh4, Ng5, f5) but I think Black's position is very sound. (Richard Palliser pointed out the blunder 10.Nbd2? Nxe4 11.Bxg7 Nxd2 12.Bxf8 Nxf1 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Kxf1 Qf6 when Black is better. )]

**6.d3 Nc6 7.f4** I think Black is fine, but it's more unclear than simply level. I would have no objection to playing this position with either colour. **7...d5**

[Also sensible is 7...e6 For example: 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0–0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4 Gelashvili–Amanov, Dubai 2006. The 2.b3 expert won, but I think Black is equal. I suggest d4 14.Nd2 0–0 with the idea of f7–f6 or f5. The queenside formation reminds me of a Reversed Benoni where White has put the bishop on exactly the wrong square. ]

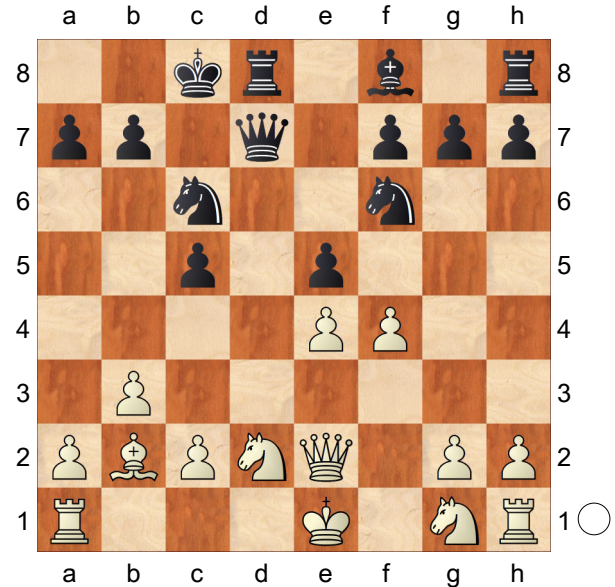
### 8.Nd2

[ 8.e5 Ng4 and White has problems covering e3. ]

**8...0–0–0 9.Qe2 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nd4** One senses that Van Wely didn't think much of 2.b3 and his last series of moves is highly ambitious and risky.

Kryakvin, Dmitry: '?'

[ Mistake.And what about Black developing?I prefer 10...e5! 0.58/23 10...Nc6–d4 0.14 Diagram



11.fxe5 Nd4

**A) 12.Qd3** –0.01/23 12.Bb2xd4 0.36 Ng4 13.Ngf3 –0.49/21 ( 13.Nc4= –0.18/21 should be considered. ) 13...Ne3!;

**B) 12.Bxd4** Qxd4 13.Rd1 Qxe5 Black stays quite good ]

**11.Bxd4 Qxd4 12.Rd1 Qc3**

Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Rook on h8, bishop on f8, king on c8..But Van Wely takes c2–pawn.' **13.Ngf3 Qxc2 14.Ng5**

Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Diagram

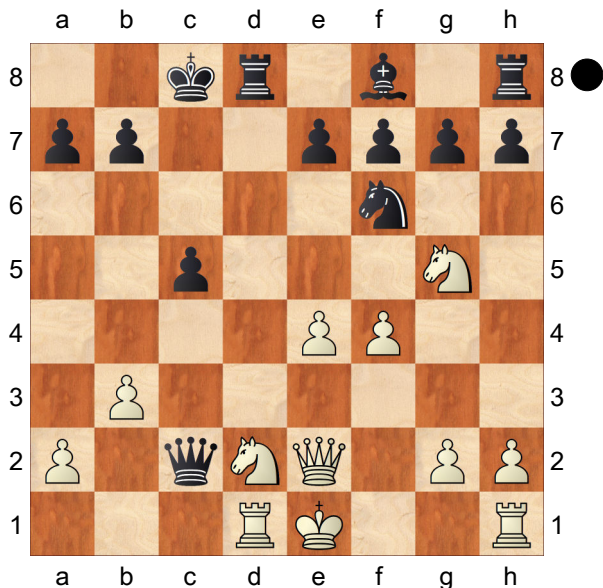
(Diagram)

We can notice that Black is strongly underdeveloped, which leaves him a mere spectator against such a primitive threat like Nxf7' **14...Rd4!** Kryakvin, Dmitry: '!' Kryakvin, Dmitry: ' This strong move saves Black from Nf7–g5–e6.'

**15.0–0** 0.33/23

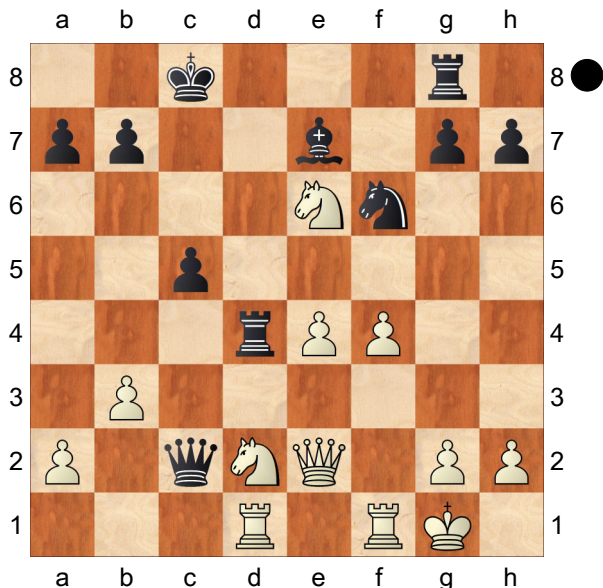
[ 15.Nxf7± 0.79/24 Rg8 16.Ng5 ]

**15...e6!± 16.Nxf7 Rg8 17.Ng5 Be7**



**18.Nxe6?** -1.17/20 Kryakvin, Dmitry: '!' Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Diagram

[ 18.e5± 0.34/23 keeps the upper hand. Nd5 19.Qg4! ( 19.Nxe6 Nc3± )]



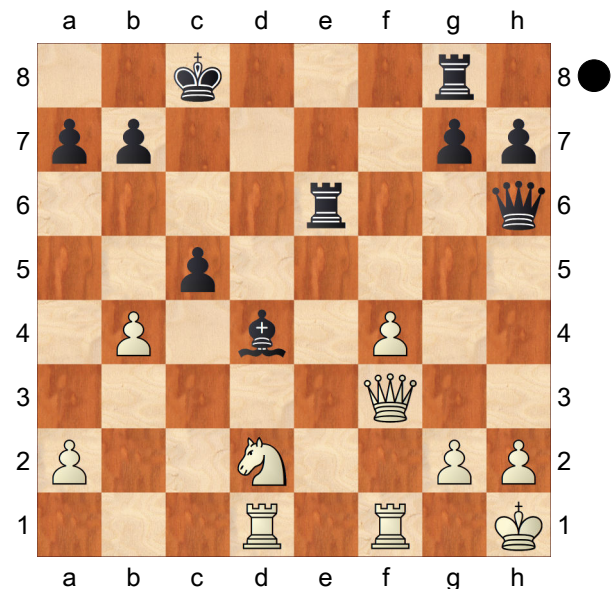
An area of Black king is weakens. Mamedyarov starts attack.' **18...Rxe4!±** A clever sequence which I felt certain would lead to a draw. **19.Qf3 Rxe6 20.Qh3** Kryakvin, Dmitry: '!' Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Fine geometry.Black cant plays on d7 with a king.' **20...Ng4!** [ 20...Kd7? 8.38/24 20...Nf6-g4 0.37

21.Nc4+ ]

**21.Qxg4 Qg6** with a repetition. **22.Qh3** Kryakvin, Dmitry: '!' **22...Qh6** All forced. **23.Qf3!** White has just enough play to cause some problems.

[ I expected 23.Qg4 0.01/25  
23.Qh3xh6 0.38 ]

**23...Bf6** Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Do you think that position is equal? White king is better, queen and knight stonger than queen and bishop and rook g8 is out of the game.' **24.Kh1 Bd4 25.b4!?** Opening up the black king and removing the bishop's support. Kryakvin, Dmitry: '!!' Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Diagram



Black coordination is far from perfect yet, White retain dangerous initiative.'

**25...cxb4 26.Ne4 Bb6?!** Kryakvin, Dmitry: '?' Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Black should have defended the bishop by completing the development of the last piece with 26...Rd8. '

[ Developing the final piece with 26...Rd8 is safer when Black can defend. For example: 27.Ng5 Re7 28.Qb3 Black must now prevent Ng5-f7. Qb6 ]

**27.f5!**



[ 27.Qd3 Kb8 28.Ng5 Re3 $\bar{7}$  ]

**27...Bc7 28.h3 Rc6?** 1.42/23

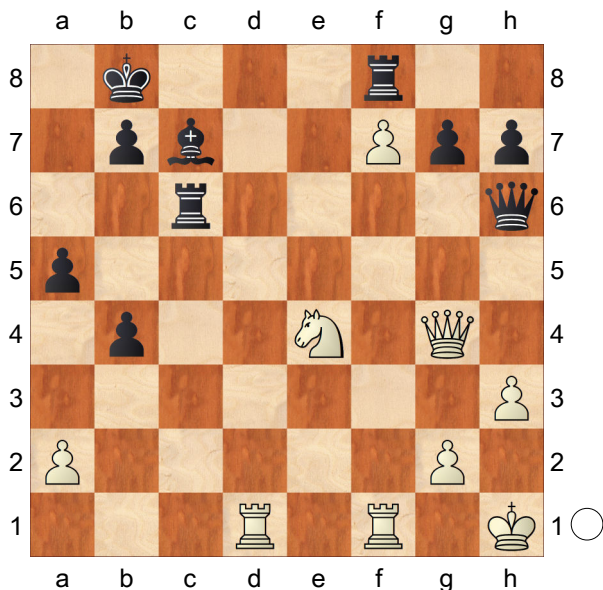
Now the f-pawn is a monster.

[ 28...Re5! gives an added defence if White plays as in the game. 29.Qg4 -0.01/23 ( 29.f6 $\pm$  0.74/21 Qg6 30.Rd4 ) 29...Kb8= 30.f6 aiming for Rd1-c1. Qg6! and Black hangs on. ]  
[  $\Delta$ 28...Re5 0.72/25 ]

**29.Qg4! $\pm$**  Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Stupid rook g8 ruins Black.f-pawn starts of a glorious marching.'

[Weaker is 29.Qd3 Rd8 30.Qb3 Rxd1 31.Rxd1 b6 $\bar{7}$  ]

**29...Kb8 30.f6! a5 31.f7** Kryakvin, Dmitry: ' $\pm$ ' **31...Rf8**



**32.Qf5** 0.70/24

[ Missing a win with 32.Qg5! Qxg5 33.Nxg5 Rf6 34.Nxh7 R8xf7 35.Nxf6 gxf6 36.g4 ]  
[ 32.Qg5! $\pm$  1.41/24 ]

**32...Qh4** 1.12/21

[ Black should try 32...Qe3 $\pm$  0.70/24 ]

**33.Rd7** Kryakvin, Dmitry: '!' **33...g6** 2.27/24

[ 33...Ka7 $\pm$  1.22/23 34.Qd5 Ka8 ]

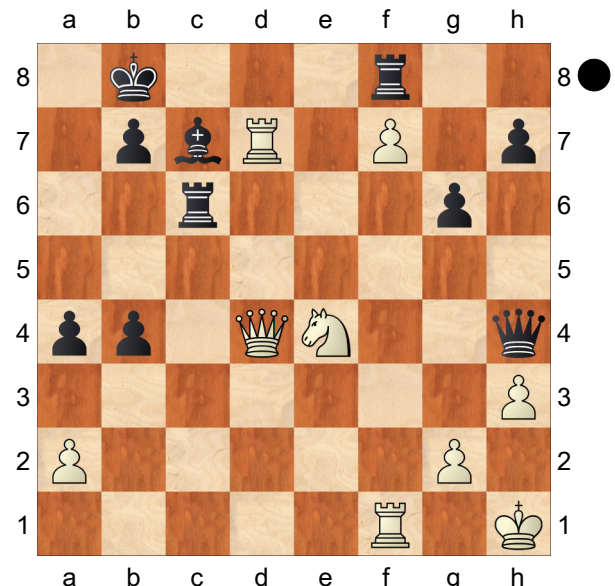
**34.Qd5+ $\bar{+}$**  Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'White controls all over the board but Black has

some counterplay. White king now weakens too.' **34...a4?** 7.83/23

It was already difficult but this allows a quick kill. Kryakvin, Dmitry: '??' Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Last error.'

[  $\Delta$ 34...h6 2.16/24 35.Qd4 Rc2 ]

**35.Qd4! $\bar{+}$**  Breaking the blockade on f8 due to the double threat on b4 and g7. Kryakvin, Dmitry: '+-!' Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Diagram



Simply geometry.' **35...b3 36.axb3**

**axb3 37.Qg7** Kryakvin, Dmitry: 'Poor rook dies.' **37...Rxf7 38.Qg8+ Ka7 39.Qxf7 Qxe4 40.Rxc7 b2 41.Rxb7+**

A successful high-level test, but it's a win for Mamedyarov rather than a triumph for 2. b3.

**1-0**

	<b>B20</b>
	<b>Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar</b> <b>2760</b>
	<b>Anand, Viswanathan</b> <b>2799</b>
	Amber-rapid 17th (2) 16.03.2008
	[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

#### 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 Nf6N

[ 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6  
**A) 7.Qe2** e6 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3  
Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4  
12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4  
14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2  
16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3  
Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5 20.Nf6+ Kh8  
21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4 Be7  
1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g  
(2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C  
(2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/  
Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ) 8...Nf6  
9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0  
12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4  
Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5  
17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4  
Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5  
11.♔e1 h6 12.♖b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)-  
Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
0-1 (59);

**B) 7.d3** Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7  
10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0  
12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5  
Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6  
17.Rh4 d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3  
d4 20.Ne4 Chapter 13 Part 2-  
Game 2 Game 2 ]

#### 6.Qe2 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0

The position is equal. 8...0-0 9.d3 d5

#### 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Ne5 c4

[ Much less strong is 11...dxe4

12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.dxe4± ]  
**12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nd2** -0.04/21  
[ ♞13.Kh1 0.27/20 ]

**13...cxd3!= 14.cxd3 a5 15.f5 exf5!**

**16.Rxf5 a4 17.e5 Ne8 18.e6 f6**

**19.Rff1** -1.10/19 White is on the road to  
losing.

[ 19.Bd4♞ -0.37/17 ]

**19...Nc7 20.Nf3 Re8 21.Kh1** -1.33/20

[ ♞21.Rac1 -0.84/20 ]

**21...axb3♠**

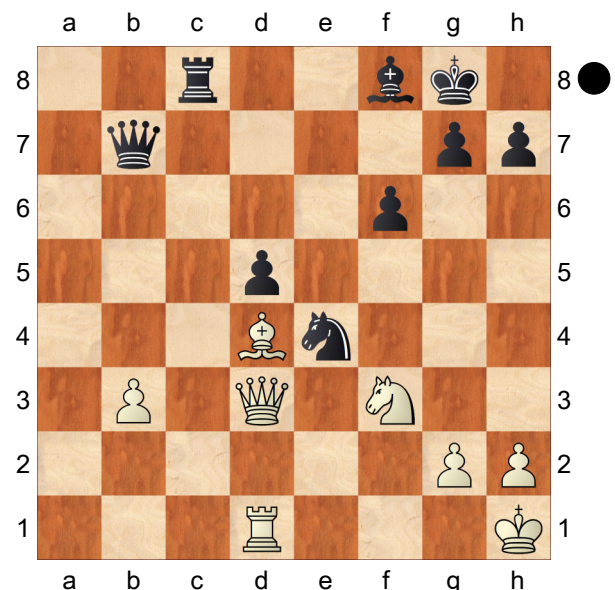
[ Inferior is 21...Bc5 22.Qc2 Nxe6  
23.bxa4♠ ]

**22.axb3 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Bf8 24.Qc2  
c5**

[ But not 24...Rxe6?! 25.Nd4 Re8  
26.Qxc6♠ ]

**25.d4 Nxe6 26.dxc5 Nxc5 27.Rd1  
Ne4 28.Bd4 Qc8 29.Qa2 Qb7 30.Qc2  
Rc8 31.Qd3** -2.18/22

[ 31.Qb1 -1.66/20 was worth a try. ]



**31...Rc3!!-+ 32.Qf1**

[ 32.Qe2 Rxb3 ]

**32...Rxb3 33.Ra1 Qc6 34.Qe1 Rb8**

**35.Rc1 Qb5 36.Qe3 Re8** Strongly

threatening ...Ne4-g3+! **37.Qf4 Qd7**

**38.Rc7** -2.46/21

[ 38.Qc7 -1.93/22 might work better.  
Qf5 39.Qc6 ]

**38...Qd6 39.Qc1 Qe6 40.Ra7 Rc8**  
**41.Qb1 Qc6** ...Qc6-c1+ is the strong  
threat. **42.Ra1 Bc5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very  
precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

**0-1**

**B20**

□ **Aronian,Levon** **2752**  
■ **Van Wely,Loek** **2647**  
Amber-rapid 15th (1) 18.03.2006  
[Illingworth,Max, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4** Moskalenko,Viktor Moskalenko  
Moskalenko,Viktor Moskalenko,Viktor  
**1...c5 2.b3**

[I have also included a recent blitz  
super game as a nice illustration of a  
similar setup: 2.Nf3 Moskalenko,  
Viktor e6 3.b3 a6 ]

**2...e6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4  
Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3  
Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3  
a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2  
Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5  
Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

**3.Bb2 d5** I've made this the main line  
as it is quite natural but at the same  
time falls into some nice ideas by White  
(like after 2.f3 e6 3.b3 d5?!).  
Moskalenko,Viktor: 'Transpositions (the  
original move order of the the R ti  
Gambit is 1.e4 e6 2.b3 d5 3.f3 c5).'

[ 3...b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 was covered in  
Morozevich-Yu. 5.Nf3 a6 6.d4 cxd4  
7.Nxd4 Qc7 8.f3 Nf6 9.Qd2 Bb4  
10.a3 Be7 11.g4 0-0 12.0-0-0 Nc6  
13.Nce2 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 d5 15.g5  
Nh5 16.e5 Qxe5 17.Nc6 Qxg5 18.f4  
Qh4 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7  
C 06/32 (2551)-1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.f3  
g5 5.g (2490) Budapest 2000  
Telechess CBM 89 [Heemsoth; FS 12/  
74] 1-0 (45) ]

[  
3...d6!? is a very logical move to  
prepare ...f6 and I am not sure why  
it isn't more common. Still, after 4.f4  
Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 ( 5...Nc6 transposes  
to 3...f6. ) 6.g4!?N Nc6 ( 6...h6  
7.Qf3 Nc6 8.0-0-0± gives White  
good attacking chances as well. ) 7.g5  
Nd7 8.Qh5 (or 8.h4 h6 9.Rh3∞)  
8...0-0 9.0-0-0→ I would much  
rather be White in an over-the-board  
game because of his kingside  
initiative. ]

[  
3...a6 is more useful than it looks as it  
means ...d5 can be played without  
fearing f5+. I recommend  
transposing to the 2.f3 e6 3.b3  
system with 4.Nf3 ( 4.g3 b5 5.Bg2  
Bb7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nd2 d5=  
is interesting but just equal at the end  
of the day. )

**A) 4...d5** 5.exd5 exd5 6.d4 Nf6  
7.Be2 ( 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0  
9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nbd2 Nc6 11.a3±  
is marginally better for White,  
though Black doesn't experience  
any great problems in this IQP  
position. ) 7...Nc6 8.0-0 cxd4  
9.Nxd4 Bc5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.c4  
0-0 and in 1-0 (47) Carlsen,M

(2801)–Svidler,P (2754) Moscow 2009,

**A1)** 12.cxd5 Moskalenko,Viktor  
 cxd5 13.Bf3 Be6 14.Nc3  
 ( 14.Bd4!?± ) 14...Rc8 15.Rc1  
 ( 15.Qd3± ) 15...d4 16.Ne2  
 ( 16.Ne4!? ) 16...d3 17.Bxf6  
 ( 17.Nf4± ) 17...dxe2?  
 ( 17...gxf6□∞ ) 18.Bxd8 exd1Q  
 19.Rfxd1 Bxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Rxc1  
 21.Rxc1 Rxd8 22.Ke3±  
 Carlsen,M (2801)–Svidler,P  
 (2754)/Moscow world–blitz  
 2009;

**A2)** 12.Nc3± would have offered tepid pressure.;

**B)** 4...d6 Perhaps White's best option is 5.g3!? ( 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Bd3 is an interesting Open Sicilian where White's bishop on b2 is quite mobile and if Black continues in a Scheveningen/Hedgehog style, White can play c4 followed by ♖c3 or, if he's in a more creative mood, ♖d2. The engine suggests a radical path in e5!? 8.Nf3 Nbd7, but 9.c4 Nc5 10.Nc3 Be7 11.0–0 0–0 12.h3 is easier for White to play on account of his space advantage. ) 5...Nc6 6.Bg2 e5 (or 6...Nf6 7.e5 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Bxe5 Bd6 10.Qe2 Bxe5 11.Qxe5 Qd4 12.Qxd4 cxd4 ½–½ (51) Enders,P (2535)–Boensch,U (2540) Germany 1998 13.Na3! Rb8 14.Nc4± ) 7.0–0 and although White can't play f4, he obtains slightly better play with a quick c3 and d4: g6 ( 7...Nf6 8.c3! Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 0–0 11.d5 Nb8 12.Nfd2± is an improved Spanish. ) 8.c3 Bg7

9.h3! Nf6 10.Re1 0–0 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 d5 13.e5 Ne4 14.Nc3 Bf5 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Nd4 Nd3 17.Nxf5 Nxb2 18.Qd2 gxf5 19.Qxb2 Bxe5 20.Qd2± and Black's king is far from safe.;

**C)** 4...Nc6 5.c4 Qc7! ( 5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4± gives White the Bind position he's after.; 5...Nf6 6.e5 Ng4 7.h3 Nh6 8.Bd3 d6 9.exd6 f6! 10.Be4 Bxd6 1–0 (46) Shirazi, K (2350)–Bauer,C (2658) Wasselonne 2014 11.0–0 0–0 12.Re1± gives White a very small edge because of his lead in development. ) 6.Nc3 (or 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Qe2 Be7= ) 6...Nf6 7.g3 White has scored well from this position, but objectively it's just equal. Rb8 ( 7...Nd4!? is probably the simplest way to equalise.; or 7...Be7 8.Bg2 Nd4 9.0–0 d6 1–0 (43) Onischuk,V (2594)–Vitiugov,N (2742) Dubai 2014 10.Ne2!? e5 11.Nh4 g6 12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.d3= with chances for both sides. ) 8.a4 Be7 9.Bg2 Nd4 10.0–0 d6 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Na2 e5 13.Nb4 0–0 14.f4± and White had the better structure in 1–0 (41) Antipov,M (2529)–Matlakov,M (2693) Moscow 2015. ]

[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 transposes to 2...♗f6 earlier. Be7 6.c4 Nc7 7.Nc3 f6 8.Ne4 fxe5 9.Nxe5 0–0 10.d4 cxd4 11.Qxd4 Bb4+ 12.Bc3 Bxc3+ 13.Nxc3 Nc6 14.Nxc6 dxc6 15.Rd1 Sicilian Unusual–2.b3 e6 Survey 1993 Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ]

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5!? is very interesting,



playing in an Accelerated Rossolimo spirit. ( 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb5 Nge7 6.exd5 exd5 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxc6+ Nxc6 9.Re1+ Be6 10.d4 Be7 11.dxc5 0-0 12.b4 Bf6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.c3 Nxb4 15.Nd4 Nc6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Qd4 Rfb8 18.Qe3 d4 Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 14 Game 14 (68) ) 4...Nge7 ( 4...d5?! 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nd2 Be7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0± gives White a very pleasant position against the doubled pawns. The engines call it equal but I think anyone would rather be White.; 4...Nd4 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nc3 1-0 (61) Tzermiadianos,A (2439)-Sorokina,A (2196) Panormo 2001 Nc6! (a weird-looking move, but otherwise White develops very harmoniously with e5/f4 or just ♖ge2/♗f3) 7.f4 d4 8.Nce2 Nf6 9.Nf3 Nb4 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.d3 and maybe the engine's right that the position is equal, but I feel that White has a good version of a King's Indian with the light-squared bishop exchanged and f4 already in. ) 5.Ne2!? ( 5.Nf3 transposes to a rare line of the Rossolimo (with 3...e6 4.b3 ♖ge7 5.♙b2) but I quite like the originality of putting the knight on e2. ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0-0 Now White has the option of playing f4 as well as d4. b5 ( 7...f6 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4± ) 8.a4 Bb7 9.d4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Qxd4± and Black has a few problems completing his development. ]

**4.exd5** Moskalenko,Viktor: '!' '!' '!' Moskalenko: '!'

[Of course, closing the centre with 4.e5 Moskalenko,Viktor here is not a

logical idea: Nc6 5.f4 g5!? ( 5...Nh6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 f6 9.0-0 fxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Nf7 12.Bb2= ½-½ Sax,G (2590)-Farago,I (2510)/Amsterdam 1979 ) 6.Qh5 gxf4 7.Na3? ( ♘7.Nh3∞ ) 7...a6 ( 7...Nge7 ) 8.0-0-0 Nge7 9.Nf3 Ng6 0-1 Genova,L (2232)-Velcheva,M (2266)/Plovdiv 2008 (49) ]

**4...exd5** Moskalenko,Viktor: '±' '±' '±' Moskalenko: '±' Moskalenko,Viktor: 'In these structures, White is traditionally a little better.' **5.Bb5+** Moskalenko,Viktor: 'This is a typical tricky and dynamic check.'

[ 5.Nf3!? Moskalenko,Viktor is a slower alternative: Nf6 ( 5...Nc6 6.Bb5 ) 6.Bb5+ Nc6

**A)** 7.Qe2+ can be an interesting option for extremely positional players Be7♖ ( 7...Qe7? 8.Ne5↑ ) 8.Bxf6 gxf6=;

**B)** 7.0-0 Be7 8.Ne5 Qc7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.d3 Bd6 12.Nd2 Re8 13.Ndf3 h6 14.h3 Bf5 15.Qd2 Re6 16.Re2 Rae8 17.Rae1 Bh7 18.Kf1 R8e7 19.Ng4 Nxg4 20.hxg4 Qd7 21.Be5± ½-½ Cicak,S (2530)-Van Wely,L (2685)/Kuppenheim 2005 ]

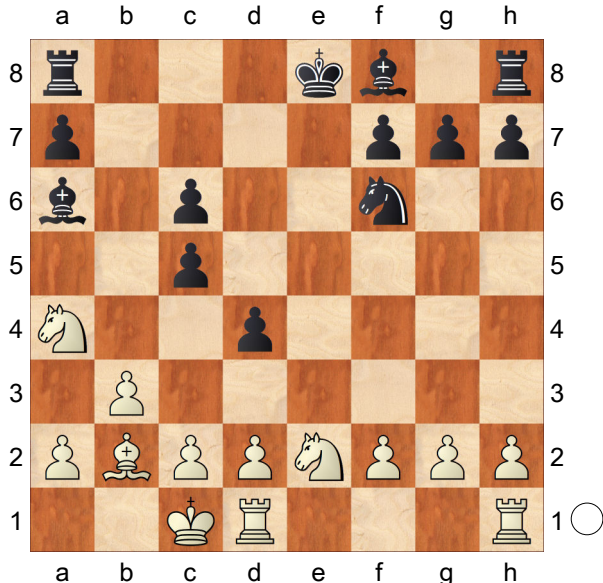
**5...Bd7** Moskalenko,Viktor: '□' '□' '□' Moskalenko: '□'

[Moskalenko,Viktor: 'The main idea is' 5...Nc6 Moskalenko,Viktor: '?!' '?!' '?!' Moskalenko: '?!' 6.Qe2+ Moskalenko,Viktor: '!' '!' '!' Moskalenko: '!'

**A)** 6...Qe7 7.Nc3 Moskalenko,Viktor: '!' '!' '!' Moskalenko: '!' Nf6 8.0-0-0

**A1)** 8...d4 0.65/22 8...Qe7xe2 0.16 Moskalenko,Viktor 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Na4! Qxe2 11.Nxe2

Ba6 0.78/22 and here ( 11...Rb8±  
0.33/20 is superior. )



12.Ba3! 0.25/21 ( 12.Rde1  
0.39/22 12.c2-c4 0.75 0-0-0  
13.Ba3! Nd7 14.Ng3±  
Pueschel,W (2177)-Hannebauer,  
T (2154)/Germany 2004;  
White should play 12.c4!±  
0.78/22 ) 12...Nd7 0.95/20  
( 12...0-0-0= 0.25/21  
keeps the balance. 13.Rde1  
Nd7 ) 13.c4!± and White is  
winning strategically;

**A2) 8...Qxe2 9.Ngxe2±**  
is a little better for White, who is  
ready to force an IQP position  
with d4 and an exchange of  
pawns. d4 Moskalenko,Viktor  
is the same;

**B) 6...Be6 7.Nf3** Moskalenko,  
Viktor: '±' '±' '±' Moskalenko: '±' Nf6  
8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Ng5 Qd7 10.0-0  
Be7 11.Nxe6 Qxe6 1-0 (54)  
Kabanov,N (2513)-Csonka,A  
(2380) Rogaska Slatina 2011  
12.Qxe6 fxe6 13.d3± leaves White  
with the clearly superior pawn  
structure, and he will subsequently

train his forces on e5. ]

### 6.Qe2+

[ 6.Bxd7+ Nxd7 7.Nf3 Ngf6 8.0-0  
Be7 9.d4 0-0 is not worse for  
Black. ]

### 6...Qe7 7.Nc3

[ 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.d4! may be more  
precise, as after Ngf6 9.dxc5 Qxe2+!  
10.Nxe2 Bxc5 11.Nbc3±

White procures pressure against the  
IQP. ]

[ 7.Bxd7+ is more complex. Kxd7  
8.d4 cxd4 9.Nd2 ]

**7...Qxe2+** Moskalenko,Viktor: '?!' '?!' '?!'  
Moskalenko: '?!' Moskalenko,Viktor: 'The  
simplification will be in White's favour.'

[ 7...d4! Moskalenko,Viktor: '≤' '≤' '≤'  
Moskalenko: '≤' must be critical, and  
after 8.Bxd7+ Kxd7 ( 8...Nxd7  
0.12/22 8...Ke8xd7 -0.19  
Moskalenko,Viktor 9.Nb5↑ Kd8  
Prevents Nb5-c7. 10.c3 a6 11.Na3  
dxc3 12.dxc3 Kc7 13.0-0-0 Qxe2  
14.Nxe2± 1-0 Schmidt Schaeffer,S  
(2270)-Vatter,H (2325)/Germany  
1990/ (52) ) 9.Nd5 Qxe2+ 10.Nxe2  
Nc6 11.c3 Nge7!= Black is  
absolutely fine. ]

[ ♞7...Nf6! 0.11/22 7...d5-d4 -0.24  
Moskalenko,Viktor This is probably  
the best defence. 8.0-0-0 -0.26/22  
( 8.Nf3!? -0.26/22 8.Bb5xd7+ 0.06 d4  
9.Bxd7+! Nbxd7 10.Nb5 Strongly  
threatening Nb5-c7+. Qxe2+  
11.Kxe2 aiming for Nb5-c7+. Nd5=  
Inhibits Nb5-c7+.; 8.Bxd7+! 0.11/22  
is more appropriate. Nbxd7 9.0-0-0 )  
8...Qxe2 ( 8...d4!? 9.Bxd7+ Kxd7= )  
9.Bxe2 Nc6 10.Bf3 Be6 11.Nge2  
0-0-0 12.d4! Bg4!±  
Fuchs,G (2160)-Riedl,M (2040)/  
Bayern 1998 ]

[ 7...d4 keeps more tension. 8.Bxd7+ Kxd7 9.Nd5 Qxe2+ 10.Nxe2 Ne7 ]

**8.Bxe2!?** Moskalenko,Viktor: '±!' '±!' '±!' Moskalenko: '±!'. The position is equal. Moskalenko,Viktor: 'Black's weaknesses are the pawns and the king.'

[ 8.Ngxe2 d4 9.Bxd7+ Kxd7 10.Nd1 Nc6 Black wants to play ...Nc6-b4. 11.c3 Prevents Nc6-b4. dxc3 0.43/21 ( 11...Re8= 0.07/22 12.Kf1 dxc3 13.dxc3 Bd6 ) 12.dxc3 is a little better for White, but Black is very solid. ]

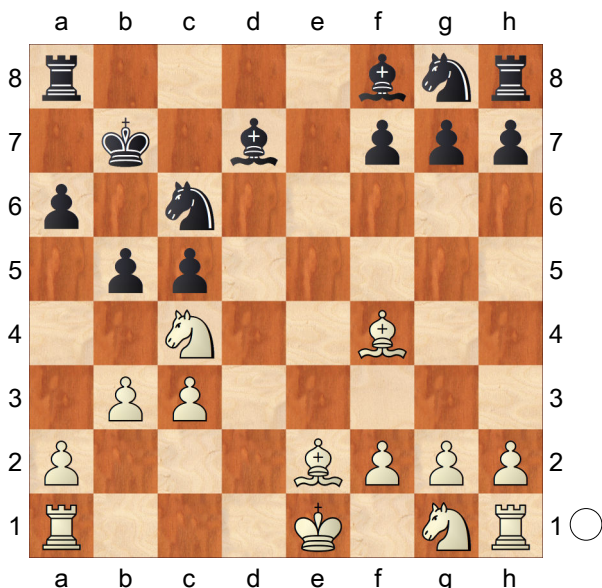
**8...d4** 0.67/21

[ 8...Nf6 9.Nb5 Hoping for Nb5-c7+. Kd8 Against Nb5-c7 looks quite ugly, especially if White plays 10.Bxf6+ gxf6 11.Nc3 d4 12.Nd5±, but this was probably best. ]

[ 8...Nf6= -0.01/21 ]

**9.Nb5!±** Black must now prevent Nb5-c7+. **9...Kd8** Inhibits Nb5-c7. **10.c3!** Now the Black king will be quite weak in the centre, and White went on to win.

**10...a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1** Bc1-f4+ is the strong threat. **14...b5! 15.Bf4+ Kb7**



**16.0-0-0! Nf6**

[ 16...Rd8 17.Ne3 ]

**17.Ne3 Be7 18.Bf3 Rhd8 19.Ne2 Be6**

**20.g4 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Rd8 22.Rxd8**

**Bxd8 23.g5 Nd7 24.h4 f6 25.Be4 g6**

**26.Kd2 fxg5 27.hxg5 Bc7 28.Nd5**

**Bxf4+ 1.01/25** Moskalenko,Viktor: '?' '?'

'?' Moskalenko: '?'

[ Better is 28...Bxd5± 0.39/22 29.Bxd5 Bxf4+ 30.Nxf4 Kc7 ]

**29.Nexf4±**

[ But not 29.Ndxf4 Bf7= ]

**29...Bf7 2.05/23** Moskalenko,Viktor: '??'

'??' '??' Moskalenko: '??'

[ 29...Bxd5± 0.89/22 30.Nxd5

( 30.Bxd5 Kc7= ) 30...Kc8 ]

**30.Ne7!+- Nde5 3.55/25**

[ 30...Ndb8 2.35/28 was necessary.

31.Nxc6 Nxc6 ]

**31.Nd3 Kb6 32.Nxc6 Nxc6 33.Bxc6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.01

(flawless) /Black=0.21 (precise)

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

**2743**

■ **Baklan,Vladimir**

**2595**

Mainz Ordix op rapid (9)

08.08.2004

[Jonathan Rowson, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.f4N**

[ 3.Bb2

**A) 3...Nc6** 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6

6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4

( 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5

11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1

Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4

16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8

18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6

Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6

11.♞e1 h6 12.♞b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)-

Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023

Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8  
15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7  
17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/  
4.♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)-Virviescas  
Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr  
62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0-1  
(45);

**B) 3...Nf6 4.Bxf6 ( 4.Bb5+ Bd7  
5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3 Nc6 7.f4 e6  
8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7  
11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4  
dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5  
16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8  
18.Rae1** Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/  
d pawns [Gotham] ) 4...gxf6 5.Qh5  
Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3  
e6 9.f5 exf5 10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2  
Nxe2 12.Nxe2 d5 13.0-0 b5  
14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8 16.Nd4  
Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 14.h4 b4 15.♘e2  
e5 16.♙a7 (2183)-Kuebler,J  
(2500) Chessfriend.com 2014 200  
Traps In The Opening [Evening  
Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/1888]  
0-1 (45) ]

**3...Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bb2**  
[ 6.Bb5!? ]

**6...Bg7 7.Qe2 -0.59/20**  
[ 7.Bb5?! is certainly more natural-  
looking here, but it is important not to  
forget about Nxe4! ]  
[ 7.Bb5= -0.20/20 is superior. ]

**7...Nd4 0.25/21** This attempt to 'punish'  
Qe2 is by no means forced.

[ 7...Bg4 looks plausible(when Nh5 is  
some sort of threat), as does ]  
[ 7...Nh5 8.g3 Bg4 ...Nc6-d4 is the  
strong threat. 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0∞ ]  
[ 7...Bg4≠ -0.59/20 ]

**8.Qd3 -0.48/21**  
[ 8.Nxd4= 0.25/21 cxd4 9.Nb5 ]

**8...e5!≠**  
[ 8...Nxe4 0.42/22 8...e7-e5 -0.54  
9.Qxe4  
**A) 9...d5 1.36/23 9...Bc8-f5 0.77**  
10.Qxd5 Nxc2+ 1.92/24  
( 10...Qxd5± 1.20/22 11.Nxd5  
Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Bxb2 ) 11.Kf2  
Hoping for Ra1-c1. Nxa1 12.Bb5+  
Bd7 White must now prevent ...  
Bd7xb5. 13.Qxb7!;  
**B) 9...Bf5 10.Qxb7 Rb8 11.Qxa7**  
( 11.Qa6!? Nxc2+ 12.Kf2± )  
11...Nxc2+ 12.Kd1 -0.01/22  
(White should play 12.Kf2± 0.92/21 )  
12...Nxa1= 13.Bxa1 0-0∞ ]

**9.Nb5**  
[ 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.Be2 is also possible,  
but less threatening to Black. ]

**9...0-0 10.Nxd6 exf4**  
[ Don't play 10...Qxd6 11.fxe5 Qe7  
( 11...Nxf3+? 12.Qxf3 Qc7  
13.exf6+- ) 12.exf6 ( 12.Bxd4 cxd4  
13.exf6 Bxf6= ) 12...Bxf6 13.Nxd4± ]

**11.Nxd4 cxd4**  
[ 11...Qxd6!? 12.Nf3∞ -0.92/21  
( 12.Nf5≠ -0.60/24 Qxd3 13.Ne7+  
Kh8 14.Bxd3 ) ]

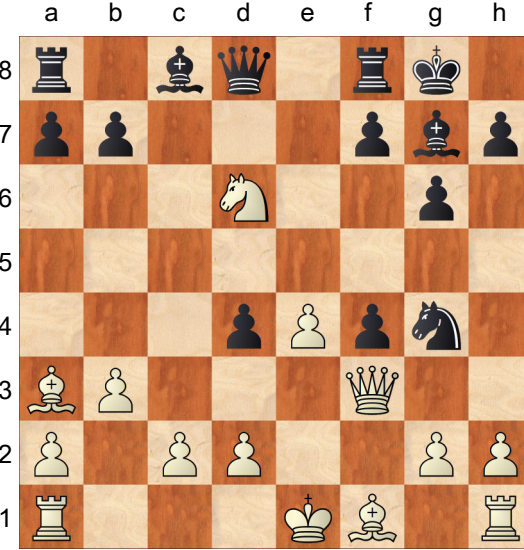
**12.Ba3**  
[ Avoid the trap 12.Qxd4? Ne8 13.e5  
Nxd6 14.Qxf4 Bf5-+ ]

**12...Ng4 13.Qf3? -1.45/23**  
[ 13.Nxc8= 0.17/20 Rxc8 14.Bxf8  
Bxf8 15.Qh3 ]


(Diagram)

**13...Qh4+ -0.28/23**  
[ 13...Ne3!  
**A) 14.dxe3 -2.97/22 14.Ra1-c1**





a b c d e f g h  
 8  
 7  
 6  
 5  
 4  
 3  
 2  
 1  
 a b c d e f g h  
 -1.73 dxe3 aiming for ...Qd8-a5+.  
 15.Rd1? -7.04/22 ( 15.Be2  
 -2.68/21 Qa5+ 16.Kf1 Qxa3  
 17.Rd1 ) 15...Qa5+;  
**B) 14.Bd3**



a b c d e f g h  
 8  
 7  
 6  
 5  
 4  
 3  
 2  
 1  
 a b c d e f g h  
 Qa5! 15.Bb2 Bg4 16.Qf2 Be6+ ]  
 [ 13...Ne3!+ -1.45/23 14.Bd3  
 ( 14.Rc1 Qa5 ) 14...Qa5 ]  
**14.g3= Nxh2 15.Qxf4 Qxf4 16.gxf4**  
**Nxf1 17.Kxf1 Rd8 18.Ke2 Bg4+**  
 [ 18...d3+ 19.Kxd3 Threatening c2-  
 c3. Bxa1 20.Rxa1± ]  
**19.Kd3 Rd7 20.Rag1 h5 21.Rxg4**  
 -0.32/22 This is my favourite part of the

game. I really like the simplicity of this sacrifice. The bishop on g4 and pawn on h5 were dominating both rooks, but now all of white's pieces can play freely.

**21...hxg4+ 22.Rg1** -1.36/25

[ 22.e5 -0.86/23 ]

**22...a5?** 0.25/22

[ That said, I might have felt differently after 22...Rad8! 23.e5 f5!

which is very hard to assess without detailed analysis. ]

[ Better is 22...Bf8+ -1.36/25 23.e5 f5 24.Kxd4 Rh7 ]

**23.Rxg4= a4 24.Bb4** White won here, which means that the game score was probably incomplete, or else Baklan took too much time trying to solve his opening problems and now lost on time. In any case, White now appears to be very comfortable.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/  
Black=0.34. Loss on time!?

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Sethuraman,Sethuraman** **2743**

■ **Ionescu Ilie,V** **2595**

Magyarország (ch) 28/641 (9) 08.08.2004

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.f4N**

[ 3.Bb2

**A) 3...Nc6** 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6

6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4

( 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5

11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1

Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4

16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8

18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6

Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6

11.♖e1 h6 12.♖b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)–  
Game 2 (2170) SFN–3284 2023  
Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
0–1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8  
15.0–0–0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7  
17.Ne4 0–0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/  
4.♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)–Virviescas  
Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr  
62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0–1  
(45);

**B) 3...Nf6 4.Bxf6 ( 4.Bb5+ Bd7  
5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3 Nc6 7.f4 e6  
8.Nf3 Be7 9.0–0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7  
11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4  
dxc4 14.dxc4 0–0–0 15.Qe2 f5  
16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8  
18.Rae1 Chapter 7–1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/  
d pawns [Gotham] ) 4...gxf6 5.Qh5  
Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3  
e6 9.f5 exf5 10.exf5 0–0 11.Nge2  
Nxe2 12.Nxe2 d5 13.0–0 b5  
14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8 16.Nd4  
Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 14.h4 b4 15.♘e2  
e5 16.♔a7 (2183)–Kuebler,J  
(2500) Chessfriend.com 2014 200  
Traps In The Opening [Evening  
Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/1888]  
0–1 (45) ]**

**3...Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bb2**  
–0.37/20

[ 6.Bb5= –0.04/19 ]

**6...Bg7 7.Qe2 Nd4** 0.17/21

[ 7...Bg4 7 –0.42/19 ]

**8.Qd3** –0.56/21

[ 8.Nxd4= 0.17/21 cxd4 9.Nb5 ]

**8...e5! 9.Nb5** –0.86/21

[ 9.g3 7 –0.33/17 ]

**9...0–0 10.Nxd6! exf4**

[ Don't play 10...Qxd6 11.fxe5 Qe7  
12.exf6 ( 12.Bxd4 cxd4 13.exf6

Bxf6= ) 12...Bxf6 13.Nxd4± ]

**11.Nxd4** Black must now prevent Nd4–  
f3. **11...cxd4** –0.01/22

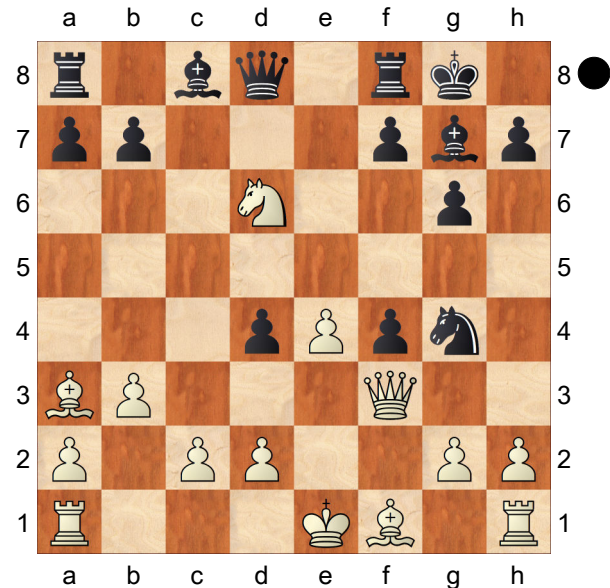
[ 11...Qxd6 7 –0.52/24 12.Nf3 Qe7 ]

**12.Ba3!=**

[ But not 12.Qxd4? Ne8 13.e5  
Nxd6–+ ]

**12...Ng4** Threatens to win with ...Ng4–  
e5. **13.Qf3?** –1.42/21

[ 13.Nxc8= 0.15/20 Rxc8 14.Bxf8  
Bxf8 15.Qh3 ]



**13...Qh4+** –0.01/22

[ 13...Ne3! 7 –1.42/21 14.Bd3

( 14.Rc1 Qa5 ) 14...Qa5 ]

**14.g3 Nxh2 15.Qxf4 Qxf4 16.gxf4**

**Nxf1 17.Kxf1 Rd8 18.Ke2 Bg4+**

**19.Kd3 Rd7 20.Rag1 h5 21.Rxg4**

–0.82/23 **hxg4 22.Rg1** –1.29/21

[ White should try 22.e5! 7 –0.51/23 ]

**22...a5** 0.06/23

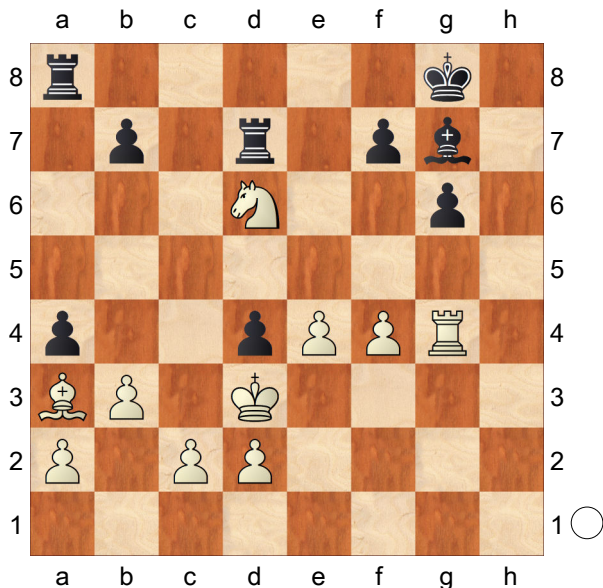
[ 22...Bf8 7 –1.29/21 23.e5 f5

24.Kxd4 Rh7 ]

**23.Rxg4= a4**

(Diagram)

aiming for ...a4xb3. **24.Bb4**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/  
Black=0.32. Loss on time!?

**1-0**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

■ **Grischuk,Alexander**

Moscow-ch blitz

[MH]

**B42**

**2743**

**2705**

05.09.2004

B42: Sicilian: Kan Variation: 5 Bd3

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 3.Bb2 a6 4.Nf3 d6**

**5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Bd3 Bd7N**

[ 7...Nbd7 8.c4 Nc5 9.Nc3 Nxd3+

10.Qxd3 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.f4 Qc7

13.Kh1 Bd7 14.Rae1 Rad8 15.Qg3

Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3 e6 4.Bb2  
Survey 1994 Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ]

[ 7...e5 8.Nf3 b5 9.Qe2 Be7 10.c4

bx c4 11.Bxc4 0-0 12.0-0 Bb7

13.Nc3 Nbd7 14.Rfd1 Qb6 15.Nd2

Nc5 16.Rac1 Rfd8 17.Ba3 Qa5

18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.Nf3 Rxd1+

20.Qxd1 Qc7 21.Qe2 h6 22.Rd1

Gamilova,R (2453)-12.♘gf3 ♔c7 13.

♙f4\_1225 (2249) Biel SUI 2017 200

Traps In The Opening [Stock,T; Yoos,

J] ½-½ (70) ]

**8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nd2 Be7 10.Qe2 0-0**

**11.Rad1 Qc7 12.c4 Rfe8 13.Kh1**

0.10/20

[ 13.Rfe1± 0.41/17 feels stronger. ]

**13...Nxd4= 14.Bxd4 Bc6 15.f4 b5**

1.25/18

[ 15...e5= 0.10/18 keeps the balance.

16.Bc3 Nd7 ]

**16.e5±**

[ 16.cxb5?! axb5 17.Nf3 ( 17.Bxb5

Rxa2 18.Bxc6 Qxc6= ) 17...b4= ]

**16...Nd7 17.exd6 0.27/20** &Bianco is

more active.

[ 17.cxb5 axb5 18.f5 ( 18.Qh5 g6̄ )

18...Bd8± ]

[ 17.Qh5?! g6 18.Qh6 Qb7= ]

[White should play 17.f5!± 1.34/19

Hoping for f5xe6. Nxe5 18.fxe6 fxe6

19.Bxe5 ( 19.Qh5 g6= ) 19...dxe5

20.Qh5 ]

**17...Bxd6= 18.Ne4 0.01/22**

[ 18.cxb5 axb5 19.Ne4 Bxf4= ]

[ 18.Be4± 0.35/19 ]

**18...Bxf4 19.Qg4 -0.83/22**

[ 19.cxb5= 0.10/20 axb5 20.Bxb5

Rxa2 21.Qxa2 Bxb5 22.Rf3 ]

**19...Be5 -0.28/22**

[ 19...Bh6!̄ -0.83/22 20.Nf6+ Nxf6

21.Bxf6 e5 ]

**20.Ng5 -0.71/20**

[ 20.Rxf7= -0.28/22 is superior. Kxf7

21.Ng5+ Kf8 22.Rf1+ Ke7 23.Qxe6+

( 23.Nxe6? Qd6̄ ) 23...Kd8 24.Nf7+

Kc8 25.Qxe8+ Kb7 26.Bxe5 Bxg2+

27.Kxg2 Qc6+ 28.Kg3 Rxe8 29.Be4!

Qxe4 30.Nd6+ Kb6 31.Nxe4 Rxe5

32.Rf7 ]

**20...f5̄ 21.Qh3 -1.60/17**

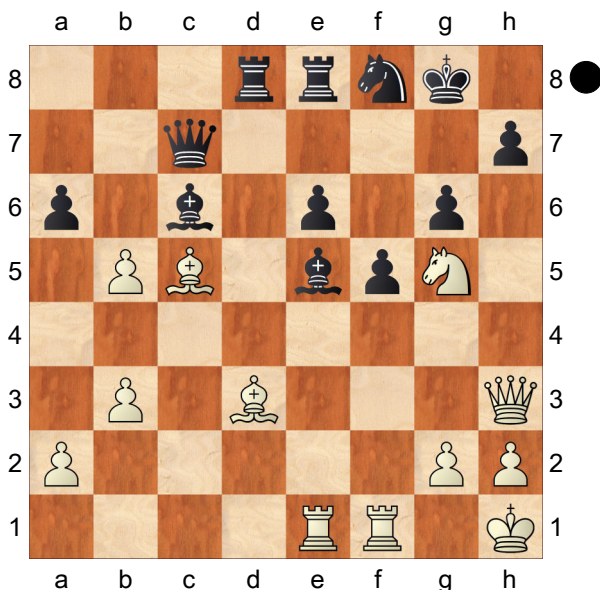
[ ♞21.Qh5 -0.80/21 Nf6 22.Bxe5

Qxe5 23.Rde1 ]

**21...Nf8 -0.94/19**



[ 21...Bxd4? 22.Qxh7+ Kf8  
23.Bxf5!+- ]  
[  $\triangleleft$ 21...h6 -1.60/17 22.Bxe5  
( 22.Nxe6? Rxe6 23.Qxf5 Nf8-+ )  
22...Nxe5 ]  
**22.Bc5** -2.28/20  
[ 22.Bxe5 $\mp$  -0.94/19 Qxe5 23.Qh5 ]  
**22...g6?** -0.07/18  
[ 22...h6!+- -2.28/20 23.Bxf8 hxg5 ]  
**23.Rde1?** -1.63/21  
[ 23.Bxf8= -0.07/18 Kxf8 24.cxb5  
axb5 25.Rc1 ]  
**23...Rad8?** -0.01/23  
[ 23...Bf6-+ -1.63/21 24.Bxf8  
( 24.cxb5? axb5 25.Bxf8 Bxg5-+ )  
24...Bxg5 ]  
**24.cxb5** -1.26/22  
[ 24.Bxf8= -0.01/23 Kxf8 25.Be4  
Bxe4 26.Rxe4 ]



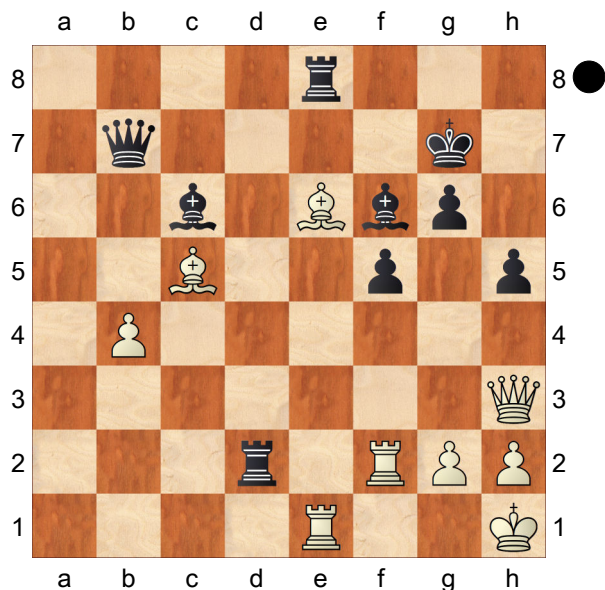
**24...axb5** -0.63/20  
[ 24...Rxd3! $\mp$  -1.26/22 25.Qxd3  
Bxb5 ]  
**25.a4** -1.93/23  
[ 25.Bxf8 $\mp$  -0.63/20 Kxf8 26.Nxh7+  
Kg7 27.Ng5 ( 27.Rxe5? Qxe5  
28.Rc1 Rh8-+ )]  
**25...bxa4** -1.28/21

[ 25...h6-+ -1.93/23 26.Qxh6 Bxg2+!  
27.Kxg2 Qxc5 ]  
**26.Bc4** -2.50/17  
[ 26.Bxf8 $\mp$  -1.28/21 was the only  
chance. Kxf8 27.bxa4 ]  
**26...Bf6?** -0.01/25  
[ Weaker is 26...Bxg2+ 27.Qxg2 Qxc5  
28.Rxf5 axb3 29.Bxb3 $\mp$  ]  
[ Better is 26...Rd2-+ -2.50/17  
27.Re2 Rxe2 28.Bxe2 h6 29.Qxh6  
Bxg2+! 30.Kxg2 Qxc5 31.bxa4 Qc2 ]  
**27.Nxe6?** -3.86/22  
[ 27.Rxe6= -0.01/25 and White has  
nothing to worry. Rxe6 28.Bxe6+  
Kg7 29.Bxf8+ Kxf8 30.Qh6+  
( 30.Nxh7+ Kg7 $\mp$  ) 30...Qg7  
31.Nxh7+ Ke7 32.Qe3 ]  
**27...Nxe6-+ 28.Bxe6+ Kg7**  
[ Wrong is 28...Kh8? 29.bxa4 Rd2  
30.Bf2 ]  
**29.b4** -5.50/22  
[ 29.bxa4 -3.68/22 was worth a try.  
Rd2 30.Bf2 ]  
**29...a3 30.Qxa3 h5** -2.23/20  
[  $\triangleleft$ 30...Rd2 -3.81/23 31.Rg1 Qb7 ]  
**31.Qb3?** -4.75/23  
[ 31.Qa6 -2.23/20 ]  
**31...Qb7?** -1.70/22  
[ 31...Rd2 -4.75/23 32.Bf2 Qb7 ]  
**32.Qh3** -6.67/23  
[ 32.Qa2 -1.70/22 ]  
**32...Rd2 33.Rf2**

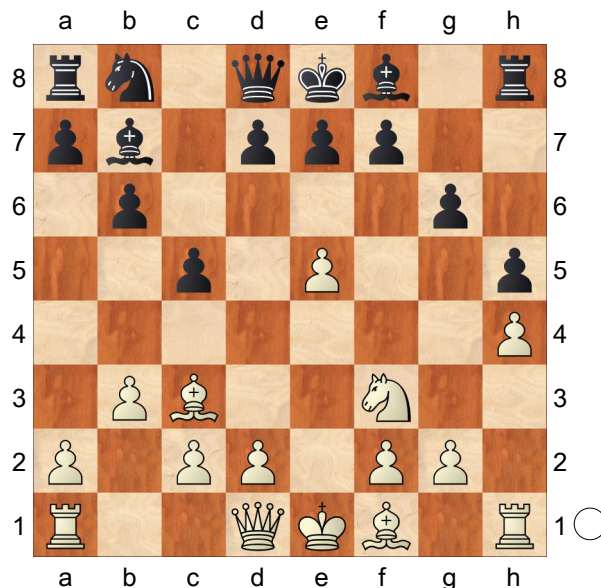
(Diagram)

**Rxf2?** -2.14/19  
[ 33...Rxe6! -9.36/23 34.Rc1 Rxf2  
35.Bxf2 Re2 ]  
**34.Bxf2**  
Weighted Error Value: White=1.28/  
Black=1.11  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$





[ 8...e6± 0.46/17 ]



□ Erigaisi, Arjun

■ Panesso Rivera, H

Titled Tue 16th Jan Early blitz (2)  
[MH]A01  
2738  
2356

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.b3 c5 2.e4 b6 3.Bb2 Bb7N**[ 3...Nc6 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.Nc3 e6 6.d4  
cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nf6 8.Nxc6 Bxc6  
9.Bd3 Qc7 10.Qd2 b5 11.0-0-0 b4  
( 11...a6 12.Rhe1 b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5  
14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Qg5 The Brave and  
The Copycat: 1.-1.b3 c5 #3 ) 12.Nb5  
Qb7 13.e5 Ne4 14.Qf4 The Brave  
and The Copycat: 1.-1.b3 c5 #4 ]**4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 0.95/20**

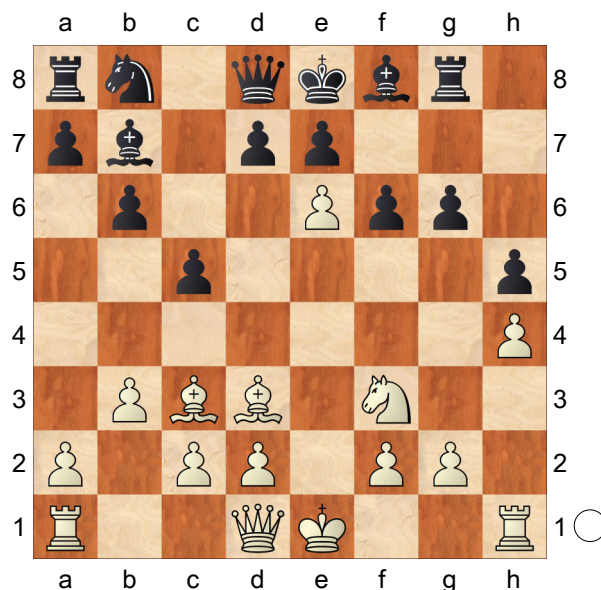
[ 5...Ng8!± 0.44/20 ]

**6.Nf3 0.09/20**

[ Better is 6.Qf3!± 0.95/20 e6 7.Bc4 ]

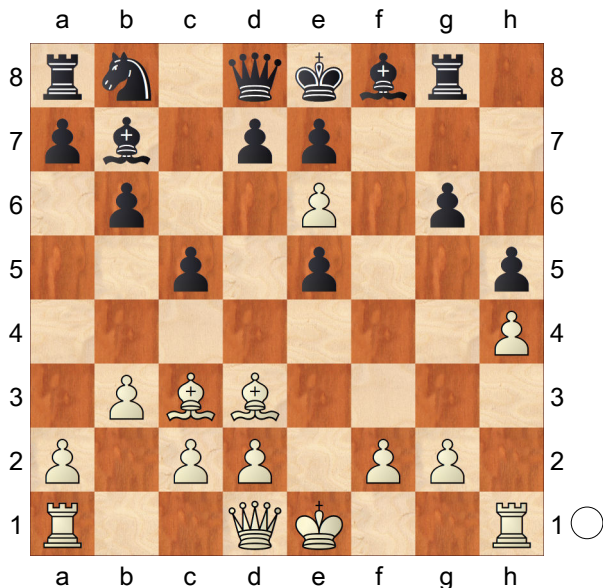
**6...Nxc3= 7.Bxc3 g6 0.66/20**

[ 7...e6= 0.02/20 ]

**8.h4** White is slightly better.[ 8.e6 is interesting. f6 9.Ng5 dxe6  
10.Qg4 ]**8...h5 1.95/21****9.e6!+- f6 10.Bd3 Rg8****11.Ne5! fxe5**

(Diagram)

**12.Bxg6+!** Remove Defender **12...Rxb6****13.Qxh5→** White goes for the king.**13...Be4 5.45/23**[ 13...dxe6 2.02/22 is a better chance.  
14.Qxg6+ Kd7 ]**14.d3 dxe6 ...Qd8-d5!** is the strong  
threat. **15.dxe4 Kf7 16.Rh3 Qe8**



**17.Bxe5?** -0.61/22

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=1.58. Loss on time!?

[ 17.Rg3 #7/16 mates Kg8 18.Rxg6+ Qxg6 19.Qxg6+ Bg7 20.Bxe5 Kf8 21.Bxg7+ Kg8 22.Bh6+ Kh8 23.Qg7# ]

**1-0**

□ **Navara,David**

**B20**

**2734**

■ **Wojtaszek,Radoslaw**

**2727**

China Elite Mind blitz (17) 29.02.2016

[David Smerdon, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.h4!? ( 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ) 4...Nc6 5.h5 d6 6.Bb5 was what I analysed last year in Motylev, A (2686)-Potkin, V (2610)

Yaroslavl 2014 1-0 (46) ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Pink,J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6 5.h4N** Rare, but it has the same logic as the Motylev idea I analysed a while ago. Basically, one can say that the chief advantage of 2.b3 is that it leads to unexplored positions extremely quickly. This may suit some players, while others – like, I suspect, Navara – might enjoy it for blitz.

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Bg7 6.h5**

[ 6.Qf3!?N was my suggested novelty from two years ago. Like most of my novelties on here, it's still hiding, waiting to be unleashed (though I'm sure Topalov will steal it soon enough!). I mentioned e6 -0.09/19 ( 6...Nb4? -0.48/21 7.Na3 N8c6 ) 7.h5! "with Qg3, Nf3, Bb5 to follow." This still seems reasonable to me. ]

**6...Nc6 7.Nf3 d6** This is why I suggest mixing things up with 6.Qf3!?, because otherwise Black gets a great game with very natural moves. **8.Bb5?** -0.91/20

[ 8.Nc3! keeps the position playable. Nxc3 ( 8...dxe5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Bc4! Qe4+ 11.Kf1♙ ) 9.Bxc3 dxe5 ( 9...Nxe5?! 0.32/22 9...d6xe5 -0.38 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Qf3!↑ Inhibits Qd8-d5. ) 10.Bb5!♙ with quite respectable

compensation, and an interesting game. For example, Qd5 11.Bc4!? Qe4+ 12.Kf1! [

[ 8.Nc3 -0.59/22 Nxc3 9.Bxc3 ]

**8...Bg4!** The opening has been a disaster. White's cheeky pawns are just weak, and Black's duel pins are extremely annoying. ...Nf4 is also a threat.

[ But not 8...dxe5?! 9.Bxe5 Bxe5 10.Nxe5= ]

**9.hxg6**

[ 9.Nc3



Nf4! ]

**9...hxg6**

[ 9...fxg6! White must now prevent ... 0-0. 10.Nc3 Nf4 ]

**10.Rxh8+ Bxh8 11.Qe2 dxe5**

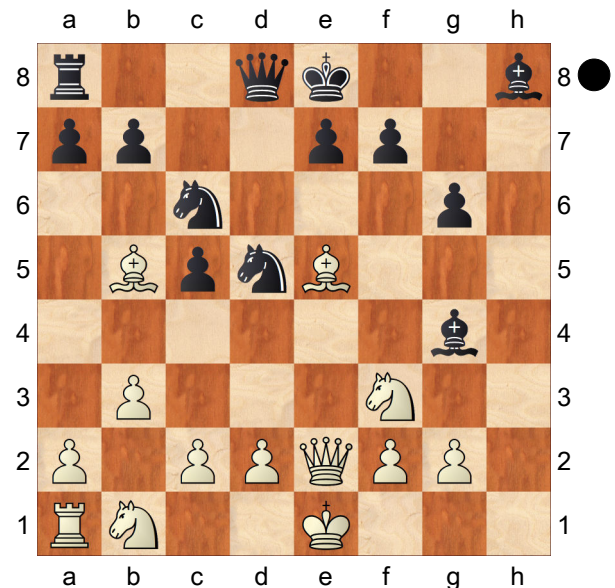
Hoping for ...Nd5-f4. **12.Bxe5** -1.49/24 [ 12.Qc4! -0.68/23 Bxf3 13.gxf3 ]

(Diagram)

**12...Bxe5** -0.50/26

[ 12...Nf4! was crushing. 13.Bxf4 Bxa1 14.c3 Qd5-+ ]

[ 12...Nf4! -1.49/24 13.Bxf4 Bxa1 ]



**13.Qxe5** Threatens to win with Qe5-h8+. **13...f6?!** -0.16/25 From here on, the game enters its 'blitz' quality.

[ 13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 Ndb4! ]

[ 13...Bxf3 -0.57/25 was preferable.

14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.gxf3 Qd6

16.Qxd6 ( 16.Qh8+ Kd7 ) 16...exd6 ]

**14.Qg3?!** -0.51/22

[ 14.Qe4! ]

[ 14.Qe4= -0.16/25 Bf5 15.Qc4 ]

**14...Qd7 15.Na3 Kf7** 0.15/23

[ 15...0-0-0 ]

[ Black should play 15...0-0-0

-0.60/23 16.Bxc6 bxc6 ]

**16.0-0-0=** Bb5xc6 is the strong threat.

**16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qf5 18.Qg3** 0.01/22

[ 18.Qxf5 0.40/23 gxf5 19.Bxc6

bxc6 20.Rh1 ]

**18...Nd4** 0.59/18

[ 18...Rh8= 0.01/22 ]

**19.Bd3** 0.18/22

[ 19.Bc4! 0.59/18 ]

**19...Nf4!? 20.Bxf5 Nfe2+**

Pair of Knights! **21.Kb2 Nxg3 22.Bd3**

**Ngf5 23.Rh1** White has the initiative.

**23...Kg7 24.Nc4** 0.13/22

[ 24.c3 0.50/23 Nc6 25.Nc4 ]

**24...Nd6?** 1.12/23



[ 24...Rd8= ]  
 [ 24...b5= 0.13/22 25.Na5 Nd6 ]  
**25.Nxd6± exd6** Endgame KRB-KRN  
**26.Be4**  
 [ 26.Re1± ]  
**26...Rb8 27.Bd5 f5** 1.24/22  
 [ ⊠27...Re8 0.72/24 ]  
**28.Re1 Nc6** 1.96/23  
 [ 28...f4± 1.39/22 29.Re7+ Kf6  
 30.Rf7+ ( 30.Rxb7 Rxb7 31.Bxb7  
 Ke5± ) 30...Ke5 ]  
**29.Bxc6 bxc6+-** KR-KR **30.Re7+ Kf6**  
**31.Rxa7 Re8** 2.71/24  
 [ ⊠31...c4 1.84/24 32.a4 cxb3 ]  
**32.a4 Re2 33.a5 Rxf2** 4.57/24  
 [ 33...Re8 3.19/23 was called for.  
 34.a6 Rh8 ]  
**34.a6 Rxc6** 12.99/21  
 [ ⊠34...Re2 4.50/21 35.Rd7 Re8  
 36.Rxd6+ Kf7 37.Rxc6 Ra8 ]  
**35.Rb7**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very  
 precise) /Black=0.38  
**1-0**

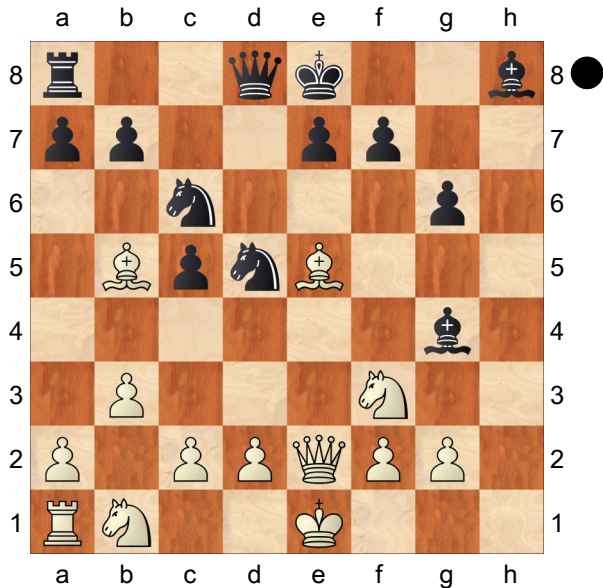
□ **Ciocaltea,Victor** **B20**  
**2734**  
 ■ **Pires,A** **2727**  
 POL-ch Warsaw (17) 29.02.2016  
 [Samraoui, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.h4 ( 4.Qf3 d6  
 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ) 4...Nc6 5.h5 d6 6.Bb5 ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6 5.h4N**  
 [ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella] ]  
**5...Bg7 6.h5**  
 [ 6.Qf3 e6 ( 6...Nb4!? 7.Na3 N8c6±  
 7.h5 ]  
**6...Nc6 7.Nf3 d6 8.Bb5** -0.85/21  
 [ 8.Nc3 Nxc3 ( 8...dxe5 9.Nxd5  
 Qxd5 10.Bc4! Qe4+ 11.Kf1 ) 9.Bxc3  
 dxe5 ( 9...Nxe5 0.35/20 9...d6xe5 -0.  
 39 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Qf3 Prevents  
 Qd8-d5. ) 10.Bb5 Qd5 -0.08/21  
 ( 10...Qb6± -0.43/22 11.Qe2 Bg4 )  
 11.Bc4 -0.44/21 ( 11.Qe2= -0.08/21 )  
 11...Qe4+± 12.Kf1! ]  
 [ 8.Nc3± -0.51/21 Nxc3 9.Bxc3 ]  
**8...Bg4±**  
 [Don't play 8...dxe5?! 9.Bxe5 f6  
 10.Bg3= ( 10.h6 Bxh6 11.Rxh6  
 fxe5= ) ]  
**9.hxg6**  
 [ 9.Nc3 Nf4 ]  
**9...hxg6**  
 [ 9...fxg6 aiming for ...0-0. 10.Nc3  
 Nf4 ]  
**10.Rxh8+ Bxh8 11.Qe2 dxe5**  
 Threatens to win with ...Nd5-f4. **12.Bxe5**  
 -1.36/24  
 [ 12.Qc4!± -0.67/22 Qd7 13.Nc3 ]

(Diagram)





**12...Bxe5** -0.44/25

[ 12...Nf4 13.Bxf4 Bxa1 14.c3 Qd5 ]  
[ 12...Nf4!± -1.36/24 13.Bxf4 Bxa1 ]

**13.Qxe5** And now Qe5-h8+ would win.

**13...f6** -0.01/23

[ 13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 Ndb4 ]  
[ 13...Bxf3± -0.59/24 14.Bxc6+ bxc6  
15.gxf3 Qd6 16.Qxd6 ( 16.Qh8+  
Kd7± ) 16...exd6 ]

**14.Qg3** -0.52/20

[ 14.Qe4 ]  
[ White should play 14.Qe4= -0.01/23  
Bf5 15.Qc4 ]

**14...Qd7± 15.Na3 Kf7** 0.28/23

[ 15...0-0-0 ]  
[ 15...0-0-0± -0.50/22 16.Bxc6  
bxc6 ]

**16.0-0-0** Black must now prevent  
Bb5xc6.

[ 16.Bxc6!? bxc6 17.0-0-0= ]

**16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qf5** 0.30/22

[ 17...Rh8 -0.01/22 ]

**18.Qg3** -0.01/19

[ 18.Qxf5 0.30/22 gxf5 19.Bxc6  
bxc6 20.Rh1 ]

**18...Nd4** 0.92/22

[ 18...Rh8= -0.01/19 keeps the  
balance. ]

**19.Bd3** 0.31/21

[ 19.Bc4± 0.92/22 ]

**19...Nf4** Hoping for ...Nd4-e2+. **20.Bxf5**

**Nfe2+** Pair of Knights! **21.Kb2 Nxc3**

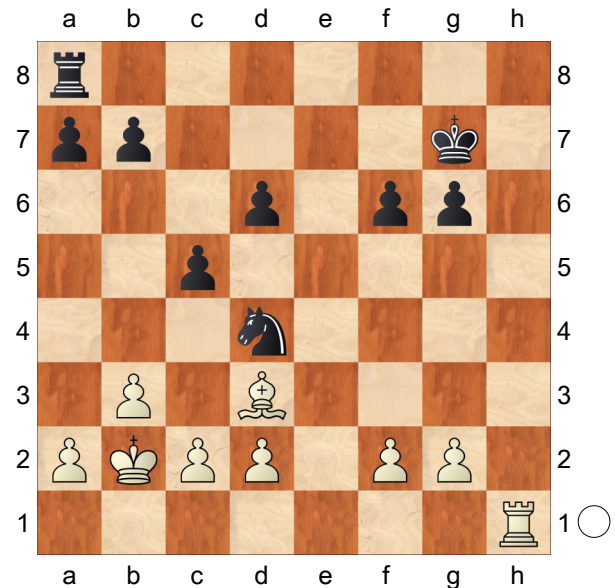
**22.Bd3 Ngf5 23.Rh1 Kg7 24.Nc4↑**

White has the initiative. **24...Nd6** 1.09/24

[ 24...Rd8 ]

[ 24...b5= 0.15/22 25.Na5 Nd6 ]

**25.Nxd6± exd6** Endgame



KRB-KRN **26.Be4** 0.48/22

[ 26.Re1! ]

[ White should try 26.Re1!± 1.02/25 ]

**26...Rb8 27.Bd5 f5** 1.21/22

[ 27...Re8!± 0.58/23 ]

(Diagram)

**28.Re1! Nc6** 1.90/23

[ 28...g5± 1.28/21 29.Re7+ Kf6

30.Rf7+ ( 30.Rxb7 Rxb7 31.Bxb7  
Ne2± ) 30...Ke5 ]

**29.Bxc6+- bxc6 KR-KR 30.Re7+ Kf6**

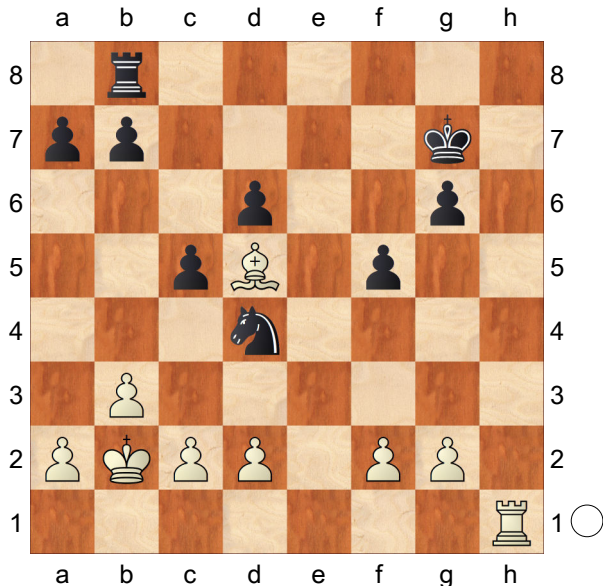
**31.Rxa7 Re8** 2.95/23

[ 31...c4 1.72/23 32.Ra6 cxb3 ]

**32.a4 Re2** 4.09/23

[ 32...Re7 2.74/22 ]

**33.a5 Rxf2 34.a6 Rxc2** 12.32/22



[ ♞34...Re2 4.01/19 35.Rd7 Re6 ]

**35.Rb7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.45

**1-0**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

■ **Popov,Ivan1**

Moscow-ch blitz 68th (7)

06.09.2014

[Illingworth,Max, MH]

**B20**

**2731**

**2627**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5**

[ 4.f4 has also been tried by Morozevich, but then Nf6! is an irritating response. 5.Bd3!? might be the best move but it's hardly scary after g6 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.f5 ( 8.Nge2 f5! 9.exf5 0-0! ) 8...d5! 9.exd5 Nd4↑ ]

**4...Bd7**

[ 4...a6?! is hard to understand as White wants to take on c6 anyway: 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.f4 Nf6 7.d3 e6?! 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 1-0 (29) Bregadze,L (2435)-Thomas,K (2047) Greensboro 2014; and now 10.e5!±

is thematic to isolate Black's doubled pawns. ]

[ 4...Nf6 transposes to Morozevich-Moiseenko. ]

[ 4...e5!? might be the most annoying response as we've been transposed into 3...e5 4.♟b5 d6. 5.Ne2 Nf6 6.d3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 transposes to a variation we already considered, but rather than 9.♞d2, White could try 9.Ng3!? to prevent ... ♞h5: ( 9.h3 Nh5! ) 9...Ne8

(I'd prefer first 9...g6= ) 10.Nd2 g6 11.Ne2!? ( 11.f4 0-1 (35) Garcia Palermo,C (2443)-Granda Zuniga,J (2641) Buenos Aires 2003 exf4 12.Rxf4 Bg5 13.Rf1 Nc7= and ...♞e6 should be equal. ) 11...f5 12.f4 exf4 13.Nxf4 fxe4 14.dxe4 Bg5 15.g3± and White's lead in development could give him a little something. ]

**5.f4** We're very familiar with this approach by now! **5...a6**

This is consistent, but there are alternatives:

[ 5...e5!? 6.Nf3 exf4 7.Qe2!N Nf6 ( 7...Nge7!? 8.Nc3 Ng6 is ambitious, but I like White's compensation after 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.Rxd4 ) 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.e5 Bxf3 10.gxf3 dxe5 11.Bxe5 Qe7 12.Nc3 0-0-0 13.0-0-0 Nd7 14.Bxf4 Qxe2 15.Nxe2± gives White a very small endgame edge because of his more active pieces. ]

[ 5...e6 is slightly passive and gives White fairly easy play: 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.d3 I prefer this to ( 7.Nc3 ) 7...Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 a6 10.Bxc6 Bxc6

is indeed a transposition. 11.Qe1  
The position is objectively equal, but White's play is somewhat easier because of his space and Gelashvili has won many games against lower-rated players from here. One such example went b5 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Bb7 14.Qg3 Rc8= 15.f5 exf5 16.Rxf5 Ne8 17.Ng4?! (  $\triangleleft$ 17.Rh5= ) 17...Qd6? ( 17...Rc6! $\bar{f}$  ) 18.Qh3 ( 18.Re5! ) 18...c4! 19.Rh5? c3 20.Rxh7 Qc5+?? ( 20...Qd4+ 21.Kh1 f5-- ) 21.Nf2 g6 22.Rh8+ Kg7 23.Bxc3+ 1-0 (23) Gelashvili,T (2560)-Griffith,K (2220) Las Vegas 2013 ]

[ 5...Nf6 6.Qe2 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 has been seen in a couple of high-level games: 8.0-0 ( 8.e5 Nd5  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  (43) Morozevich,A (2722)-Eliseev,U (2549) Moscow 2014 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.g3 0-0 11.0-0 Ndb4! is hardly appealing for White. ) 8...0-0 9.d3 d5 (I'd prefer 9...a6 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nbd2 b5= with similar play to after 5...e6. ) 10.Bxc6 ( 10.Nbd2! Nb4!? 11.Bxd7 Nxd7 12.c3 Nc6 13.c4 $\pm$  gives White good chances for a small edge. ) 10...Bxc6 11.Ne5 c4! 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nd2 (  $\triangleleft$ 13.e5 cxd3 14.cxd3 Nd7 15.Nc3= is better, when Black's queenside play has been held off and White can play for attacking chances with f5 (though the position is still equal). ) 13...cxd3 14.cxd3 a5!= 0-1 (42) Mamedyarov,S (2760)-Anand,V (2799) Nice 2008 ]

**6.Bxc6 Bxc6** Usually White plays d3 fairly soon and that will be our focus in this game, though in the next game I'll

show Carlsen's approach of playing for d4.

### 7.Qe2

[ 7.d3 is the most common continuation and can transpose to the lines we examined after 5...e6. d5?! This inaccuracy has been played by some strong players. ( 7...e6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 is indeed a transposition. ) 8.Nd2

**A) 8...dxe4** 9.dxe4 Nf6 10.Qe2 Qa5 11.Ngf3! Nxe4?! 12.0-0 Nxd2 13.Nxd2 Bb5 14.c4 Bc6 15.Ne4 $\pm$  1-0 (64) Paichadze,L (2160)-Bindrich,F (2277) Urgup 2004 gave Black big problems with his development.;

**B) 8...e6** 9.Ngf3 Nf6 10.Ne5 Rc8 11.Qe2 ( 11.Qf3!? Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nxc6 Rxc6 14.e5 Ne8 15.c4 $\pm$  ) 11...Be7 12.c4 d4 13.0-0 0-0 14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.e5 Nd7 16.Rae1 $\pm$  1-0 (66) Rapport,R (2687)-Tregubov,P (2625) Warsaw 2013;

**C) 8...c4** 9.Ngf3 cxd3 10.cxd3 dxe4 11.dxe4 Nf6 12.Qe2 ( 12.Nd4!? ) 12...e6 13.0-0 Bc5+ 14.Kh1 0-0 15.Ne5 Rc8 16.Rac1 Qe7 0-1 (18) Paichadze,L (2489)-Markos,J (2585) Shenzhen 2011 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.Nc4 $\pm$  gives White a nibble because of his extra space. ]

[ 7.Nc3 will be considered in Carlsen-Leitao. ]

### 7...Nf6 8.d3 e6

[ Perhaps the clearest route to equality is 8...g6!? 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nbd2 b5= when with the bishop on g7 it's much harder for White to make a kingside attack work. 12.c4 Qd7

13.Rae1 Rad8 14.f5 might be a typical follow-up. ]

**9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.c4!?**

You can count on Morozevich to find a new interpretation of the position.

[ 11.Nbd2 would be normal. ]

**11...b5 12.Nc3**

[ 12.Nbd2 has also been seen:

**A) 12...bxc4** 13.dxc4 d5?! 0.40/23  
1-0 (61) Shengelia,D (2486)-  
Khurtsidze,N (2440) Batumi 2003  
( 13...a5= -0.01/20 ) 14.exd5± exd5  
15.Rae1 Re8! 16.cxd5 Nxd5  
White must now prevent ...Be7-h4.  
17.Ne5 Bb7 18.Ne4± shows what  
can happen if Black is too  
impatient.;

**B) 12...Qc7** 13.e5 Nd7 14.Ne4  
d5 0-1 (27) Fogarasi,T (2382)-  
Havasi,G (2336) Budapest 2014  
15.cxd5 Bxd5= and the position is  
equal. ]

**12...bxc4**

[ 12...Nd7!= with equality would be my  
choice; in many cases ...♗f6 is useful  
to challenge White's b2-bishop. ]

**13.dxc4 Qc7 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5**

[ 15.Nxe5!? ]

**15...Nd7 16.Ne4 Qb7?** 0.64/21

Black had no problems whatsoever prior  
to this mishap.

[ 16...a5! ]

[ 16...a5= -0.27/21 ]

**17.Nfd2± Kh8 18.Rf4 Qc7 19.Qh5! f5**

**20.exf6! Nxf6 21.Nxf6?** -0.94/24

[ 21.Qg5± 0.92/24 and life is bright. ]

**21...Bxf6± 22.Raf1 Bd4+!**

[ Don't play 22...Qd6 23.Rxf6 Rxf6  
24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Qh4!± ]

**23.Bxd4 Rxf4 24.Qxc5 Rxf1+ 25.Nxf1**  
**Qb7** -0.72/23

[ ♟25...Rd8 -1.23/22 26.Be5 Qb7 ]

**26.Ne3** -1.07/22

[ ♞26.Qg5 -0.72/23 ]

**26...Rd8± 27.h3 Qd7** -0.84/23

[ Better is 27...h6 -1.21/24 28.b4  
Kh7 ]

**28.Bc3± Ba8** 0.01/23

[ Black should try 28...h6± -1.04/23 ]

**29.Qe5** -0.85/23

[ 29.Qg5= 0.01/23 remains equal. Rf8  
30.Kh2 ]

**29...Rf8** -0.01/20

[ 29...h6± -0.85/23 ]

**30.a4** -0.42/23

[ 30.c5= -0.01/20 ]

**30...h6 31.b4 Kh7 32.b5 axb5**

**33.axb5 Rf7**

[ Don't do 33...Qf7 34.c5± ]

**34.Kh2 Qc7**

[ 34...Qd3 seems wilder. 35.h4 Be4  
36.Bd4 Bb7 ]

**35.Qxc7** -0.45/18

[ 35.c5!= 0.01/25 ]

**35...Rxc7± 36.Be5 Rc8** 0.01/23

[ 36...Ra7± -0.65/22 ]

**37.Bd6 Kg6**

[ 37...Be4!? ]

**38.c5 Be4 39.g4** 0.01/23

[ White should play 39.Nc4± 0.53/22 ]

**39...Bd3** 0.70/23

[ 39...Kf6= 0.01/23 ]

**40.b6± Be4** 2.24/24

[ 40...Ba6± 0.83/25 ]

(Diagram)

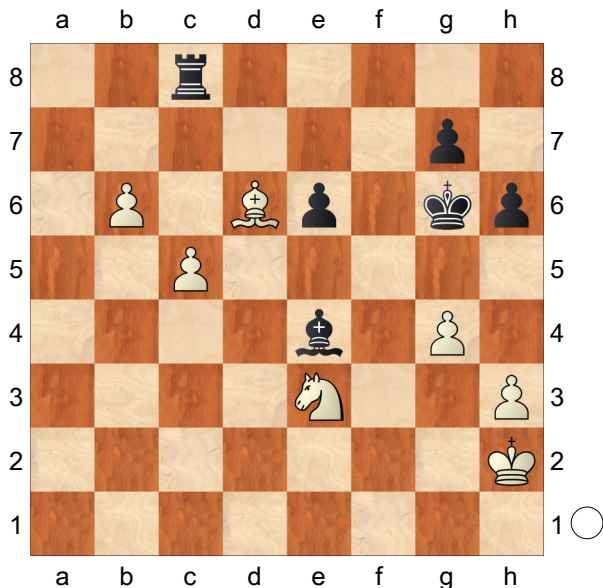
**41.Nc4!+- Kf6 42.Kg3** 0.85/24

[ 42.Ne5+- 1.86/22 has better winning  
chances. ]

**42...Bd5?** 2.39/25

[ 42...e5± 0.85/24 ]





[ 50...Rc2+ 3.18/25 51.Kg3 Rc3+ 52.Kf2 Ra3 ]

**51.h4 Kd5** 5.33/27

[ 51...Kd7 3.34/26 52.Be5 Rc2+ 53.Kf3 Ke6 ]

**52.h5 Kc6** 12.52/30

[ 52...Ke6 4.42/25 53.Kf2 Rc4 54.Nf4+ Kf6 ]

**53.Be5+- Rc4 54.Kg3 Rxc5 55.Bxg7 1-0**

**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

**2731**

■ **Yu,Yangyi**

**2675**

Wch Rapid Dubai (14)

18.06.2014

[Illingworth,Max, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4**

[ This game again will be of interest to Nimzo-Larsen players as 1.b3 b6 2.e4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 ( 3...c5 4.Bb2 ) 4.Bb2 c5 5.f4 d6 transposes. ]

**1...c5 2.b3 b6** It's true that by playing 2. b3, White gives Black a much wider array of options, but this isn't the best of them.

**3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3** It may seem strange to block the bishop, but this is quite a normal development for the knight in this variation, and White furthers the queenside castling plan. Morozevich played several games from this position in last year's World Rapid/Blitz Championship, so we will use his games as our model. **4...d6** A natural enough move, but I find it a bit passive.

[ 4...Nc6 5.f4 ( 5.Nf3 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nf6 8.Nxc6 Bxc6 9.Bd3 0-1 (36) Ikeda,J (2418)-Papin,V (2502) Melbourne 2014 , also offers

**43.Na5** 1.21/24

[ 43.Ne5!+- 2.39/25 ]

**43...Ra8 44.b7 Bxb7 45.Nxb7 Ra3+?** 3.32/26

[ 45...e5± 1.14/25 is a better defense. ]

**46.Kg2 Rc3?** 5.04/27

[ 46...Ra6 2.96/25 47.Kf3 e5 ]

**47.Nd8+- e5 48.Nc6?** 2.22/27

[ 48.c6 5.73/25 ]

**48...Ke6+- 49.Nxe5 Kd5** 3.59/27

[ 49...g5 2.31/25 keeps fighting. 50.Nc6 Rc2+ 51.Kf3 Rc4 ]

**50.Ng6 Kc6?** 5.87/26

chances for an advantage, e.g. *Bd6 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.0-0-0 a6 12.g3! 0-0 13.f4±* and White is drumming up some initiative. ) *5...e6 6.Nf3 Nge7 7.Qe2 ( 7.Bd3!? was another creative development. ) 7...a6 8.0-0-0 Nd4 1-0 (43) Morozevich,A (2731)-Cheparinov,I (2682) Dubai 2014,* and here I'd have opted for *9.Qe3 Nec6 10.Ne2* (the key difference – e4 is now protected) *Nxf3 11.Qxf3±* and White's extra space and better development gives him the advantage. ]

[ *4...e6* is the most common move, and after *5.f4 Nf6* (I would opt for *5...a6 6.Qe2* (I'd go for a *♭f3/♗d3/0-0* setup) *Nc6 7.0-0-0 b5 ½-½ (63) Motylev,A (2686)-Moiseenko,A (2707) Yaroslavl 2014 8.Qe3 Qc7 9.Kb1 Rc8 10.Nf3=* with a very interesting and unforcing position containing many possibilities on almost every move. ) *6.e5 Nd5* Morozevich was armed with an improvement: *7.Qf3! Bc6 (or 7...a6 8.Ne4 Nc6 9.0-0-0± ) 8.Qg3 Nb4 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Nf3 Nd7 12.d4 Rc8 13.d5!+-* in 1-0 (26) Morozevich,A (2731)-Polgar,J (2685) Dubai 2014. and White simply crashed through ]

**5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7?! I find this a little bit passive.**

[ *6...Nf6 7.Qe2* Morozevich sticks to his prepared setup, but ( *7.d4!? cxd4! 8.Qxd4 Nc6! 9.Qd2 a6 10.0-0-0* gives White a very active position with *g4-g5* a likely idea in the near future. ) *7...Nc6 8.0-0-0 Nd4? 0.56/21* (but otherwise d4 follows with nice

play) ( *8...Rc8= 0.24/19 ) 9.Qd3 Nxf3 10.Qxf3 Be7 11.g4!± 1-0 (28)* Morozevich,A (2731)-Ipatov,A (2613) Dubai 2014, and White's attack ran like clockwork.. ]

### 7.Qe2

[ *7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Ngf6 9.0-0-0* may be even better as it's hard to evict the queen from d4 and e5 is tough to counter. ]

**7...Ngf6 8.0-0-0** White is slightly better.

**8...Be7 9.g4!** It is not easy to deal with White's kingside aggression – sure, he hasn't castled kingside yet, but where will his king go otherwise?

[ *9.Kb1!? ]*

### 9...d5

[ *9...0-0* is the engine's suggestion but this is really asking for it. ]

**10.e5 Nxg4 1.29/23** This is suicide, but that's rapid for you.

[ *10...Ne4! 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Ne1±* and *♗g2* would also have favoured White. ]

[ *10...Ne4± 0.68/20 ]*

### 11.Rg1 0.04/22

[ *11.Qg2! d4 1.28/22 ( ♭11...f5 0.90/22 ) 12.Qxg4± dxc3 13.dxc3+-* is crushing. ]

[ *11.Qg2!± 1.29/23 ]*

### 11...h5= 12.f5 Nf8 0.19/19

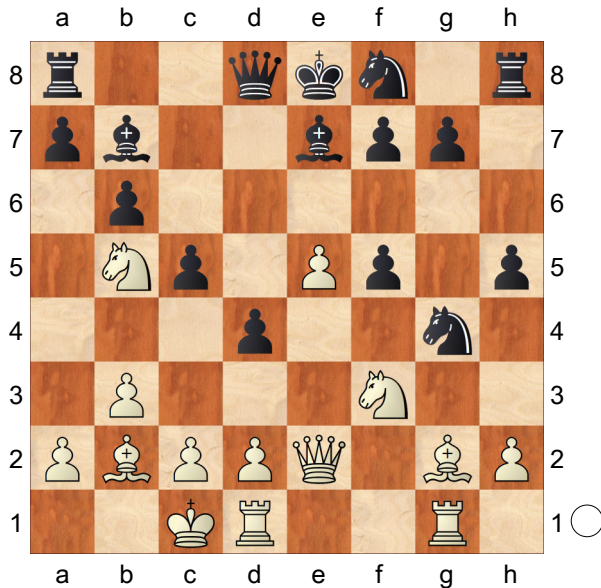
[ *12...exf5 13.e6± ]*

[Black should play *12...d4̄ -0.39/20 13.Nb5 a6 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.exd6 Qf6 ]*

### 13.Nb5! d4 14.Bg2 exf5? 3.20/21

[ *14...a6= 0.22/21 15.Nfxd4 Bxg2 16.Qxg2 axb5 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.Qc6+ Kf7 19.Rdf1+ Kg8 20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.Qxe6+ Kh7 ]*

(Diagram)



**15.Nfxd4!+- Bxg2**

[ 15...cxd4 16.Bxb7 ]

**16.Nxf5 Bc6 17.Nxg7+ 0.52/5**

[ 17.Nbd6++- 2.77/23 Bxd6

18.Nxd6+ Ke7 19.Rdf1 ( 19.h3 Nh6± )]

**17...Kd7± 18.d4** White has strong compensation.

[ 18.h3?! a6± ]

**18...c4 19.Nc3 1.03/19** Dancing on a razor blade. & Bianco is more active.

[ 19.Qxc4?! Ne3 20.Qxf7 ( 20.d5? Nxc4 21.dxc6+ Kxc6-- ) 20...Bd5 21.e6+ Nxe6 22.Nxe6 ( 22.Rde1 Qf8= ) 22...Bxe6= ]

[ Δ19.bxc4 1.38/21 Hoping for Ng7xh5! Kc8 20.Nf5 Bxb5 21.cxb5 ]

**19...Bh4? 4.72/19**

[ 19...Kc8± 1.03/19 is tougher. ]

**20.d5+- Bb7 10.69/18**

[ Δ20...Bg5+ 5.06/19 21.Kb1 Bb7 22.Rxg4 hxg4 23.Qxc4 Qc7 ]

**21.e6+ Kc8 22.d6? 0.44/19**

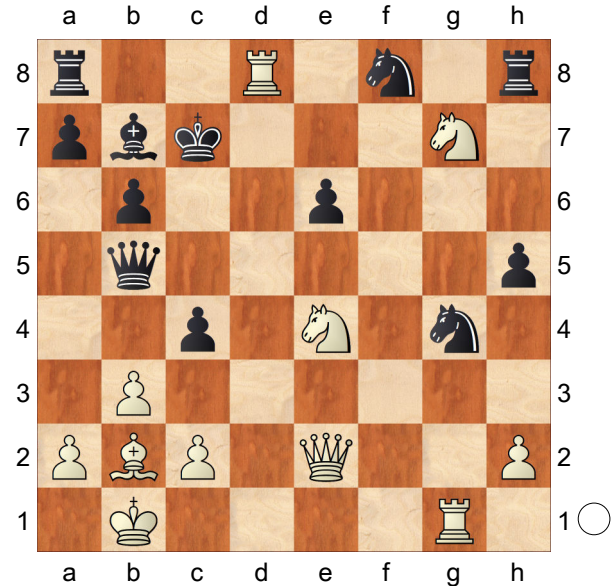
[ 22.exf7+- 3.59/20 Ba6 23.Ne4 ]

**22...Qg5+? 5.11/20**

[ Better is 22...fxe6!± 0.44/19 23.Qxc4+ Kb8 ]

**23.Kb1 Nxe6? 5.87/22**

[ 23...fxe6? 24.Ne4 Qb5 25.d7+ Kb8 26.d8Q+ Bxd8 27.Rxd8+ Kc7



**28.Nd6!+- ]**

[ 23...cxb3 3.54/19 keeps fighting. 24.Ne4 Bxe4 25.Qxe4 Kb8 ]

**24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.h3 Bf2? 6.92/21**

[ 25...Bc6 3.72/20 26.hxg4 Rh7 27.d7+ Rxd7 28.Qxe6 Qf6 29.Qxc4 Kb7 30.Rxd7+ Bxd7 31.gxh5 Re8 ]

**26.Rgf1**

[ Less strong is 26.hxg4 Bxg1 27.Ne4 ( 27.Rxg1 Kd7± ) 27...Qxg4 28.d7+ Kd8 29.Bf6+ Kc7 30.Be5+ Kd8 31.Bf6+ Kc7 32.Be5+ Kd8 33.Qxg4 hxg4+- ]

**26...Ne3 27.Rxf2 Nxd1 28.Qxc4+**

[ Not 28.Qxd1 Rh7= ]

**28...Qc5 29.Qxe6+**

[ Don't go for 29.Nxd1? Qxc4 30.bxc4 Rh7+- ]

**29...Kb8 30.Nxd1** Discovered Attack

**30...Rd8 31.Qe7 Rc8 32.Be5 a5**

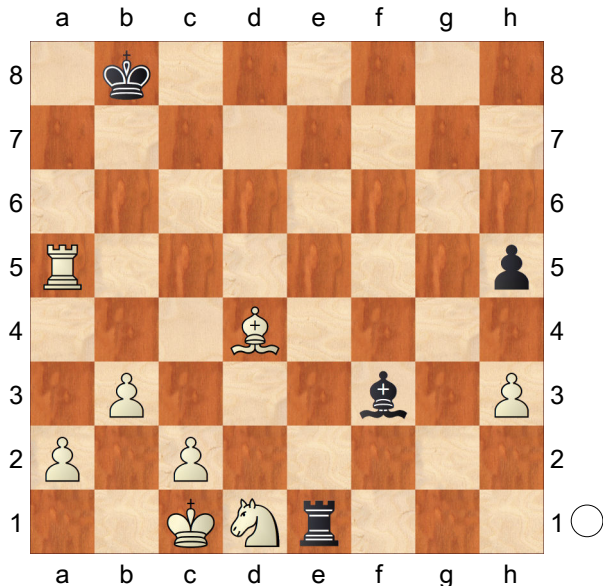
**33.d7+ Ka7 34.dxc8N+ Qxc8N**

**35.Bd4 Qc6 36.Rf6 Re8 37.Rxc6**

**Rxe7 38.Rxb6 Ka8 39.Rb5 Re1**

**40.Rxa5+ Kb8 41.Kc1 Bf3**

(Diagram)



**42.Kd2 Rxd1+** Endgame KRB-KRB

**43.Ke3 Bg2 44.Rxh5 Rh1 45.a4 Bxh3?** 12.82/28

[ 45...Kc8 3.91/19 46.h4 Rh3+ 47.Kf4 Rf3+ 48.Ke5 Rf7 49.Rh8+ Kd7 ]

**46.Kd2 Kb7 47.Rh6 Rh2+ 48.Kc3 Rh1 49.Kb4 Bg2 50.Rxh1**

White wants to mate with Rh1-h6.

**50...Bxh1 KB-KB 51.c4** And now Kb4-c5 would win. **51...Kc6 52.Kc3 Bf3**

**53.b4** Intending a4-a5 and mate.

**53...Be2 54.b5+ Kc7 55.Kb4** 33.08/19

[ Δ55.a5 #20/20 Bf3 56.a6 Ba8 57.b6+ Kd6 58.b7 Bxb7 59.axb7 Kc7 60.c5 ]

**55...Kb7 56.a5 Ka8 57.c5 Kb8 58.c6 Ka8 59.Kc5 Bg4 60.a6 Bc8 61.Kd6**

White threatens Kd6-c7 and mate.

**61...Kb8 62.a7+** 12.92/5

[ Δ62.Be3 #6/14 Bf5 63.a7+ Ka8 64.b6 Bc8 65.Kc7 Ba6 66.b7+ Bxb7 67.cxb7# ]

**62...Ka8 63.Kc7** 4.44/5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.64/  
Black=0.94

[ Δ63.Be5 #8/18 Ba6 64.bxa6 Kxa7 65.c7 Kxa6 66.c8Q+ Kb5 67.Bc3 Ka4 68.Qc4+ Ka3 69.Qb4+ Ka2

70.Qb2# ]

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

**2731**

■ **Moiseenko,Alexander**

**2707**

Wch Rapid Dubai (13)

18.06.2014

[Illingworth,Max, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6

Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6

10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4

dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ng3 Rd8

15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7

17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.

Qf3 g5 5.g (2515)-Virviescas

Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr

62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

**4.Bb5+**

[ 4.Bxf6 exf6! 5.Nc3 g6= is fine for

Black, as we noted in similar

positions arising from 2...g6. If White

tries to be creative with 6.Bd3 Bg7

7.f4!?, Black has the very interesting

pawn sacrifice f5 8.exf5 0-0!

at his disposal. ]

[ 4.Nc3 g6 5.Nd5 Bg7 6.Nxf6+ exf6

is an obvious try, but Black obtains

good play with a quick ...f5 and

7.Bb5+ Kf8!N is a nice touch to

prepare that break. ]

**4...Nc6N** This gives White what he wants in a more flexible structure, although it's by no means bad.

[ 4...Nbd7 is a very unpleasant move to face in my opinion.

**A) 5.Qe2** may be the best choice:

a6 ( 5...g6 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qd3!

transposes to Paichadze-



Yakovich.; 5...e6 6.f4 Be7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 a6 9.Bd3! 1-0 (51) Buchenau,F (2211)-Balster,S (2305) Baden 1999, shows the disadvantage of delaying ...a6. ) 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 e6 ( 7...Bc6 is a curious transposition to Morozevich-Popov. ) 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.d3 b5 11.Nbd2 Bc6 12.Kh1 ( 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 23.Raf1 Qd2 24.Bc1 Qd4+ 25.R3f2 Bxc1 26.Rxc1 b4 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023 Steinitz/ Blackburne [John Watson] 0-1 (59) ) 12...Qc7 13.Rae1 a5 ( 13...Nd7!= ) 14.e5 Nd5?! 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Ne5 Ne7 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.dxe4 1-0 (32) Gelashvili,T (2616)-Zhao,P (2382) New York 2011, saw White build up an attacking position.;

**B)** 5.d3 g6 (If 5...a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 (preventing ...e5) e6 8.Nf3 d5 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.Ne5 0-0 11.0-0± 1-0 (42) Seitaj,I (2390)-Kuderinov,K (2481) Khanty-Mansiysk 2010, and Black's passive play gave White a harmonious position. ) 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Gelashvili has played this way on several occasions, but it's clear that Black is at least not worse, e.g. b5 10.c4 ( 10.Qe2 a5 11.c4 a4♞ is also pleasant for Black. ) 10...bxc4 11.bxc4 Rb8 12.Bc3 Bc6 ( 12...Bh6!♞ ) 13.Qe1 Qd7

14.Nbd2 Rb6= ½-½ (35) Gelashvili, T (2605)-Zinchenko,Y (2513) Baku 2007, and Black had absolutely no problems. ]

[

4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+

**A)** 5...Nbxd7 6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 is an approach I feel much more comfortable about recommending when we didn't have to relinquish the bishop pair. White's attacking plan on the kingside is quite simple and his position is easier to play for sure. d5 ( 9...b5 10.Nbd2? Nxe4! is a trick White should avoid. ) 10.Qe1 ( 10.e5!? Ne8 11.c4± ) 10...d4 11.Qh4 e5 12.fxe5 Nh5 13.Qxd8 Rfxd8 14.Nbd2 Nxe5 15.a4 1-0 (63) Short,N (2684)-Moiseenko,A (2703) Jakarta 2013, and White had a niggling edge.;

**B)** 5...Qxd7

**B1)** An inspiring game in this line went 6.d3 Nc6 7.f4 d5 ( 7...e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns [Gotham] ) 8.Nd2 0-0-0?! 9.Qe2 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nd4 11.Bxd4 Qxd4 12.Rd1 Qc3 13.Ngf3 Qxc2? 14.Ng5! Rd4 15.0-0 e6 16.Nxf7 Rg8 17.Ng5↑ 1-0 (41) Mamedyarov,S (2760)-Van Wely,L (2681) Wijk aan Zee 2008, and Black was in trouble. Be7 18.Nxe6 Rxe4 19.Qf3 Rxe6 20.Qh3 Ng4 21.Qxg4 Qg6 22.Qh3 Qh6 23.Qf3 Bf6

24.Kh1 Bd4 25.b4 cxb4 26.Ne4 Bb6 27.f5 Bc7 28.h3 Rc6 29.Qg4 Kb8 30.f6 a5 31.f7 Rf8 32.Qf5 Mendonca,M-13.♙e3 ♖c6 14.d5 ♖a5 corr Portugal 2008 200 Traps In The Opening [O.H.Hardy; T.D.Harding] 1-0 (41);

**B2) 6.Nc3** (discouraging ...g6 in light of ♖d5) Nc6 7.f4 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Qe2 0-0 1-0 (22)

Gelashvili,T (2622)-Batsiashvili, N (2304) Baku 2008 10.0-0-0! also leads to quite exciting play.;

**B3) 6.Bxf6!? gxf6 7.Qh5 Nc6** ( 7...Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4 9.Qxg4 Rxg4 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0 Bh6 12.Nd5 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3 Rag8 15.g3 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4 18.a5 Rh6 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7 21.a6 exd5 22.b6 10.♖e5 ♙e6 11. b3\_7650-Rogic,D Belgrad 1990 Lexikon04 [Dragan Solak] 1-0 (33) ) 8.Ne2 although Black is not worse after Nb4 9.Na3 d5! 10.exd5 Qxd5 11.Qxd5 Nxd5 12.0-0-0= with an interesting endgame. ]

**5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 g6?! 0.33/22**

This move is a bit slack.

[ ♖6...e5 7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 ( 8...Bh6!? 9.f4 0-0 0-1 (36) Zude,A (2400)-Wei,Y (2607) Caleta 2014, was fine for Black. ) 9.Nd2 0-0 Gelashvili has reached this position in several games and as you've probably figured out by now, his games in this system are well worth studying independently. 10.Qe1! White wants to avoid ...♖g4 ideas for when he does play f4, while still preparing to

reroute the queen to g3 or h4 for a kingside attack. ( 10.f4?! exf4! 11.Nxf4 Nxe4! ) 10...Re8! ( 10...Nh5 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7?! 13.Nxf4 Nxf4 14.Rxf4 Be6 15.Qg3± ½-½ (93) Gelashvili,T (2611)-Lapshun,Y (2442) Philadelphia 2011, gave White a nice attacking position. ) 11.f3 Be6 0.31/18 ( 11...Ba6= -0.01/18 ) 12.Qf2 Nh5 13.Rad1 Bh6 Against f3-f4 14.Bc1 Rf8 15.Nc4 Bxc1 16.Rxc1 1-0 (39) Gelashvili,T (2519)-Delchev,A (2557) Istanbul 2000. Admittedly White wasn't able to get in f4 quickly and now Black is completely fine. ] [ 6...e5= 0.01/22 ]

## 7.Ne2

[ 7.e5! dxe5 8.Bxe5 Qd5 9.Nf3 Bg4 Strongly threatening ...Bg4xf3. 10.Nc3 0.21/24 ( 10.Nbd2± 0.55/21 is more appropriate. ) 10...Qxe5+= 11.Nxe5 Bxd1 12.Rxd1 Nd5 13.Na4 Bg7 14.Nc4 Nc3 15.Nxc3 Bxc3+ 16.Ke2± 1-0 (51) Gelashvili,T (2621)-Padmini,R (2319) Dubai 2010, gave White a small edge on account of Black's isolated queenside pawns and the stable c4-knight. ]

**7...Bg7 8.0-0** The position is equal.

**8...0-0 9.h3 e5 10.Ng3 h5 11.Nd2 h4 12.Ne2 g5!?**= Now that f4 has been prevented, Black is doing quite well.

**13.Nc4 Be6 14.Ne3 Qd7 15.Qd2 Nh5 16.g4 Nf4 0.21/22**

[ 16...hxg3 -0.27/24 is superior.

17.fxg3 Bxh3 ]

**17.Kh2 Kh7 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.gxf5 Bh6 1.25/21**

[ 19...Nxe2= 0.18/20 keeps the balance. 20.Qxe2 Kg8 ]

**20.Nxf4± gxf4 21.Qe2 Rg8 22.Rg1**

**Qe7 23.Qh5 Qf6 1.31/26**

[ Black should play 23...Raf8 0.72/26 ]

**24.Bc3 Rxcg1 25.Rxcg1 Rg8 26.Rg4**

&Bianco is more active. **26...Rxcg4**

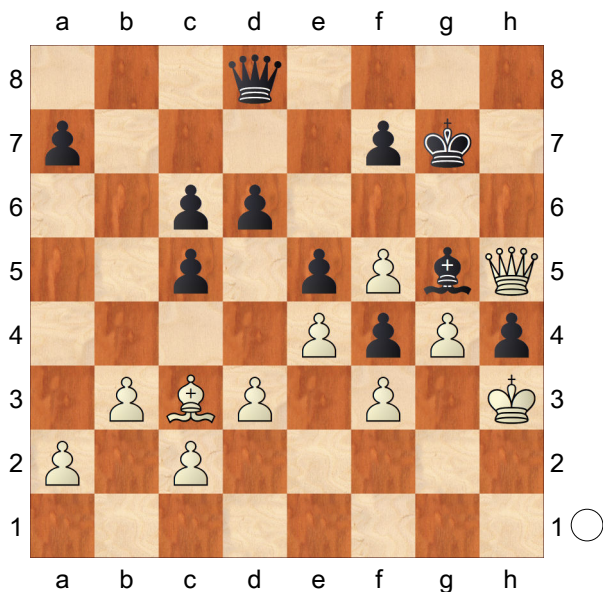
**27.hxcg4**

[ But not 27.Qxcg4?! Bg5± ]

**27...Kg7 28.f3 Bg5 29.Kh3 Qd8?**

3.23/27

[ 29...Qh6 1.62/27 ]



**30.Be1 d5? 4.84/22**

[ 30...Be7 2.76/25 31.Bxh4 Bxh4 ]

**31.Bxh4+-** White is clearly winning.

**31...Bxh4 32.Qxh4** Endgame KQ-KQ

**32...f6 33.Qh5 dxe4 6.39/27**

[ Δ33...Qh8 4.44/21 34.Qxh8+ Kxh8 ]

**34.dxe4 c4 35.g5 fxg5 36.Kg4**

5.19/22

[ Δ36.Qg6+ 11.56/26 Kf8 37.bxc4 ]

**36...Qd1 15.98/25**

[ Δ36...Qd6 5.19/22 37.bxc4 Qd7

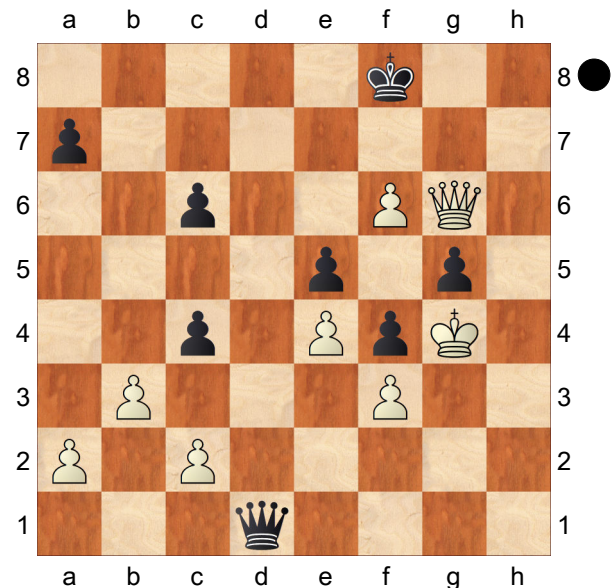
38.Qxcg5+ Kf8 39.Qf6+ Qf7 40.Qxe5

Qxc4 41.Qb8+ Kg7 42.Qxa7+ Kh6 ]

**37.Qg6+ Kf8 38.f6**

(Diagram)

White threatens Qg6-g7+ and mate.



**38...Qd7+ 39.Kxcg5 cxb3 40.cxb3 a5**

**41.Qg7+?** 2.51/5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.22

(precise) /Black=0.39

[ 41.Qf5 21.54/28 Qe8 42.Qh3 ]

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

**2731**

■ **Ipatov,Alexander**

**2613**

Wch Rapid Dubai (4)

16.06.2014

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3**

**d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nf6N**

[ 6...Nd7 7.Qe2 Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7

9.g4 d5 10.e5 Nxg4 11.Rg1 h5

12.f5 Nf8 13.Nb5 d4 14.Bg2 exf5

15.Nfxd4 Bxg2 16.Nxf5 Bc6

17.Nxcg7+ Kd7 18.d4 c4 19.Nc3

Bh4 20.d5 Bb7 21.e6+ Chapter 15

Part 2-Game 4 Game 4 (34) ]

**7.Qe2 Nc6 8.0-0-0** White has an

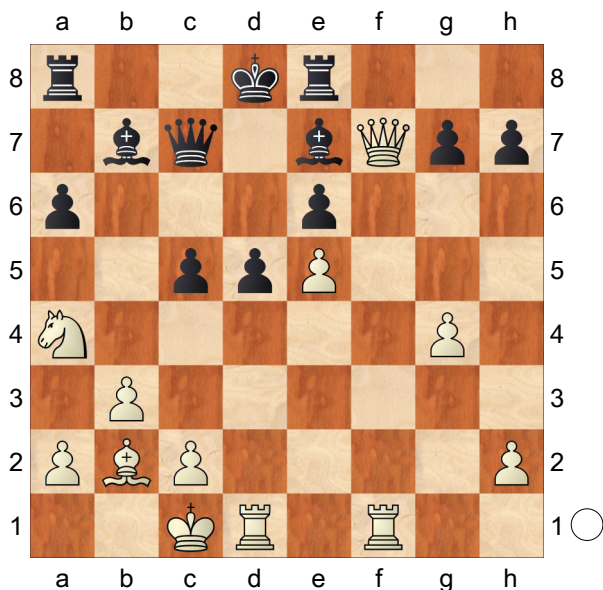
edge. **8...Nd4 0.62/18**

[ 8...Be7= 0.28/21 was preferable. ]

**9.Qd3 0.24/21**

[ 9.Qf2± 0.62/18 might be stronger. ]  
**9...Nxf3 10.Qxf3 Be7 11.g4 d5**  
**12.Bb5+ Kf8! 13.e5 Nd7 14.d4 a6**  
 Threatens to win with ...c5xd4. **15.Bxd7**  
 &Bianco is more active. **15...Qxd7 16.f5**  
**Ke8 0.93/20**

[ 16...Rc8± 0.58/19 ]  
**17.Rhf1± Kd8 1.75/22**  
 [ 17...Rc8± 0.72/20 is a better  
 defense. ]  
**18.Na4+- Qc7 19.dxc5 bxc5 2.52/22**  
 [ Δ19...Bxc5 1.85/22 20.Kb1 Rc8 ]  
**20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Qf7 Re8**

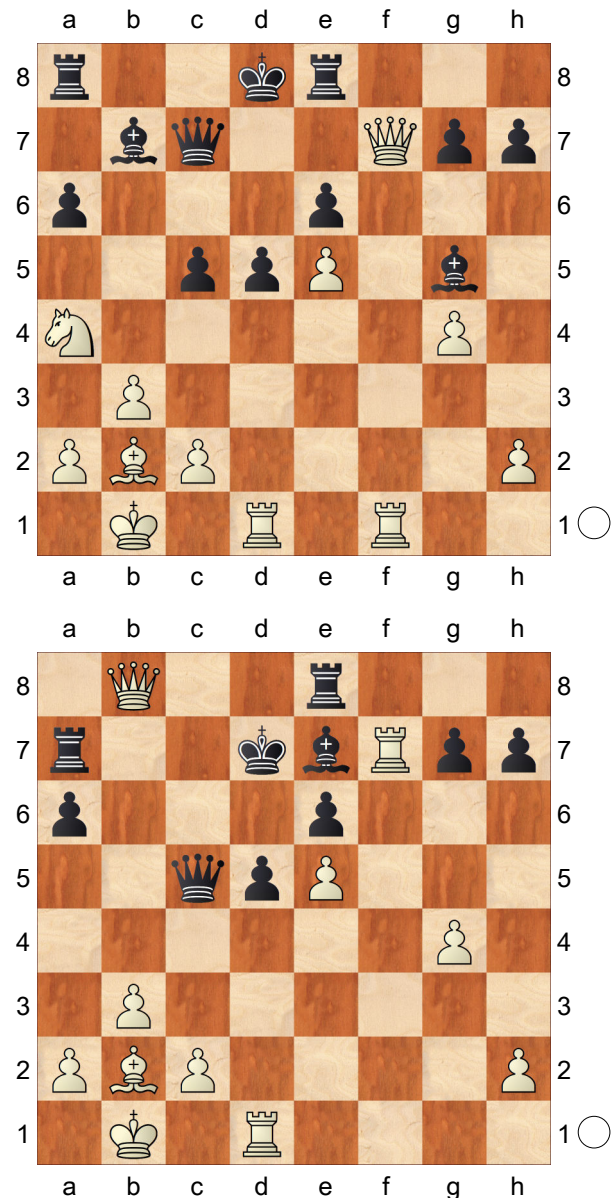


**22.Kb1!**  
 [ 22.Qxg7 Bc6± ]  
**22...Bg5**

(Diagram)

**23.Nxc5! Qxc5**  
 [ 23...Qxf7 24.Rxf7 ]  
**24.Qxb7 Really sharp! 24...Ra7 6.04/24**  
 [ Δ24...Rc8 4.03/23 25.c4 ( 25.Qxa6  
 Qxc2+ 26.Ka1 Qc6± ) 25...Rc7  
 26.Qa8+ Ke7 27.Qxa6 Ra7 ]  
**25.Qb8+ Kd7 26.Rf7+ Be7**

(Diagram)



**27.Bd4! Qxd4**  
 [ 27...Rxb8 28.Bxc5 ]

**28.Qd6+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very  
 precise) /Black=0.63

**1-0**



**Morozevich,Alexander** **B20**  
 **Polgar,Judit** **2731**  
 Wch Blitz 8th (5) **2685**  
 19.06.2014  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.f4**

[ 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6  
 7.Qe2 e6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7  
 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5  
 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4  
 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8  
 18.Nc2 Bg5 11.♙e1 h6 12.♙b1  
 ♙d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-  
 3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John  
 Watson] 0-1 (59) ]

**4...a6N**

[ 4...e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3  
 0-0 8.Qe2 a6 9.0-0-0 b5 10.Rdg1  
 Bd7 11.g4 Nb4 12.g5 Nxd3+  
 13.Qxd3 Nh5 14.Ne2 c4 15.Qd4 f6  
 16.h4 cxb3 17.axb3 a5 18.Rg2 g6  
 19.Rhg1 7.♘1f3 ♙d6 8.♙e2 h6 9.  
 î-Cabrera,J corr 2000 200 Traps In  
 The Opening [Elburg, CCYB] 1-0 ]

**5.Nf3 e6 6.Qe2 Nf6 7.Nc3 Be7**

**8.0-0-0 0-0 9.g4 d5** Black wants to play ...d5-d4. **10.g5** -0.79/21

[ 10.Ne5= -0.01/19 remains equal. ]

**10...Nh5** And now ...d5-d4 would win.

**11.Qf2 Nxf4 12.Qg3** -1.57/20

[ ♞12.exd5 -1.14/19 exd5 13.Kb1 ]

**12...Bd6 13.Qe1** Inhibits Nf4-e2+.

[ But not 13.e5 Nxe5! 14.Nxe5

( 14.Qxf4? Nd3+ 15.Bxd3 Bxf4-+ )  
 14...Bxe5 ]

**13...d4 14.e5** -2.03/21

[ 14.Ne2 -1.66/22 was called for. ]

**14...Bc7 15.Ne4 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5**

**17.Nxc5 Qd5** -0.96/22

[ ♞17...Qxg5 -1.44/21 18.Qe4 Qf5 ]

**18.Ne4** -1.72/19 Against Be5-f6

[ 18.Nd3 -0.96/22 keeps fighting. ]

**18...d3 19.c4 Bxb2+ 20.Kxb2 Qd4+**

**21.Nc3 e5** White must now prevent ...

Bc8-g4. **22.Qe3 Bf5 23.h4 Rad8**

**24.Rh2** -1.31/20

[ ♞24.h5 -0.94/22 ]

**24...Rfe8 25.a4** -1.93/20

[ 25.Rc1 -1.16/21 ]

**25...Qxe3?** -0.08/22

[ 25...b5-+ -1.93/20 26.axb5 axb5

27.Qxd4 exd4 28.Nxb5 Re2!

29.Rxe2 ( 29.Bxe2? dxe2 30.Rxe2

Nxe2-+ ) 29...dxe2 30.Bxe2 Nxe2 ]

**26.dxe3= Nh5 27.e4! Bg4 28.Rxd3**

**Nf4 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Nd5 Bf3**

0.86/25

[ 30...Ne6± 0.52/22 ]

**31.Rf2± Bxe4 32.Nxf4 exf4 33.Rxf4**

Endgame KRB-KRB **33...Bc6 34.Kc3**

**Kf8 35.Bd3 Ke7 36.a5**

[ Much weaker is 36.Bxh7 g6= ]

**36...h6 37.gxh6 gxh6 38.b4 Rc8**

**39.Rf5 Kf8 40.b5** -0.49/25

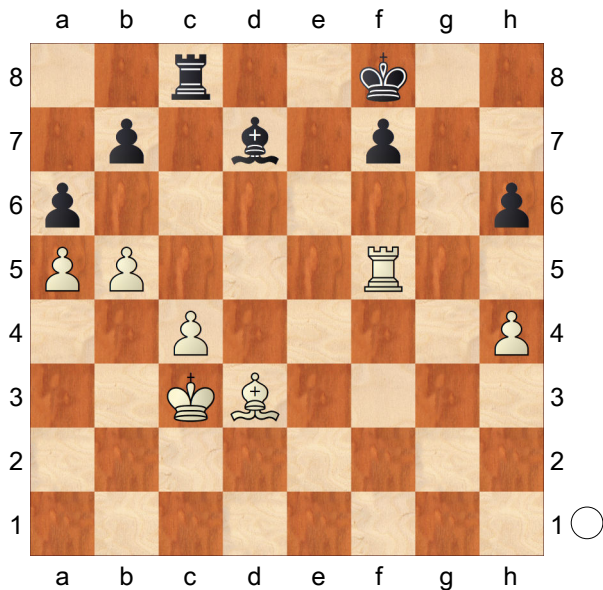
[ White should play 40.Rf6± 1.00/23 ]

**40...Bd7?** 1.48/24

[ 40...Bxb5! -0.49/25 keeps the

upper hand. 41.Rf6 Kg7 ]

(Diagram)



**41.Rd5** 0.01/24

[White has to play 41.bxa6!± 1.48/24  
bxa6 42.Rf6 ]

**41...Bxb5!= 42.Rd6 Kg7 43.Kd4 Bc6**

**44.c5** -0.48/28

[ 44.Kc5!= -0.01/26 ]

**44...Re8 45.Bc4?** -2.22/27

[ 45.h5 -0.56/24 ]

**45...Re4+-+ 46.Kc3 Rxh4 47.Bd5**

**Ra4?** -0.01/27

[Better is 47...Bxd5+-+ -2.72/25  
48.Rxd5 Ra4 ]

**48.Bxc6=** The position is equal.

**48...bxc6 49.Rxc6 Rxa5 KR-KR**

**50.Kc4 h5 51.Rd6 h4 52.c6**

Threatens to win with c6-c7. **52...Ra1**

**53.Rd3** Hoping for c6-c7. **53...Rc1+**

**54.Kd5 Kg6 55.Kd6 Kg5 56.c7 Kg4**

**57.Rd5** aiming for Rd5-c5. **57...Rxc7**

**58.Kxc7 KR-K3P 58...h3 59.Rd4+ Kg3**

**60.Rd3+ Kg4 61.Rd4+ Kg5 62.Rd3**

**Kg4 63.Rd4+ Kg3 64.Rd3+ Kg2**

**65.Rd2+ Kg3 66.Rd3+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.26

(precise) /Black=0.27 (precise)

½-½

**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

**2731**

■ **Al Modiahki,Mohamad**

**2549**

Wch Blitz 8th (9)

19.06.2014

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink,J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4

13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;

ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.f4**

[ 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6

7.Qe2 e6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7

10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5

13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4

Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8

18.Nc2 Bg5 11.♙e1 h6 12.♙b1

♙d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-

3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John

Watson] 0-1 (59) ]

**4...Nf6N**

[ 4...e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3

0-0 8.Qe2 a6 9.0-0-0 b5 10.Rdg1

Bd7 11.g4 Nb4 12.g5 Nxd3+

13.Qxd3 Nh5 14.Ne2 c4 15.Qd4 f6

16.h4 cxb3 17.axb3 a5 18.Rg2 g6

19.Rhg1 7.♘1f3 ♙d6 8.♙e2 h6 9.

♙-Cabrera,J corr 2000 200 Traps In

The Opening [Elburg, CCYB] 1-0 ]

**5.e5 dxe5** -0.01/21

[ 5...Nd5! 7 -0.59/22 ]

**6.fxe5= Nd5 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Bb5 Qb6**

**9.Na3 a6 10.Bxc6+ Qxc6 11.h3**

-0.43/20

[ 11.0-0= -0.11/22 ]

**11...Bh5! 12.0-0 0-0-0 0.01/20**

[ 12...e6 0.40/21 is superior. ]

**13.Qe1= Nf4 14.e6 -0.67/21**

[ White should try 14.Qf2= 0.16/20 ]

**14...f6! 15.Nc4±**

[ Much less strong is 14...Qxe6

15.Ng5 Qxe1 16.Raxe1= ]

**15.Qe3 g5 Threatens to win with ...Bf8-**

**h6. 16.Rae1 -1.69/22**

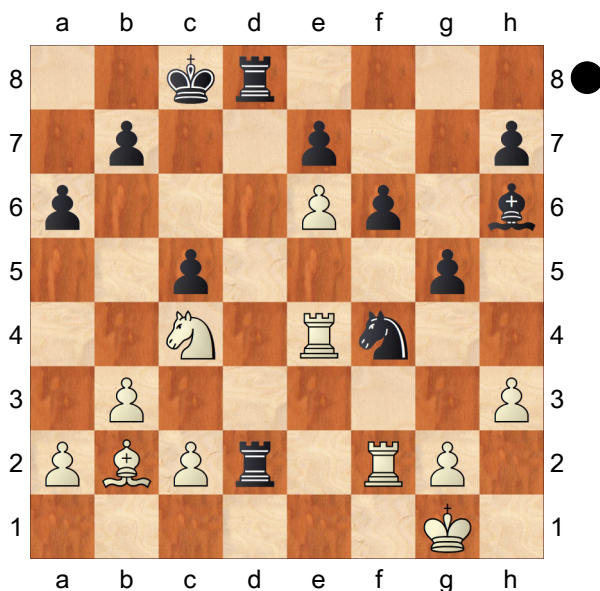
[ 16.Nc4 0.88/20 is a better

defense. ]

**16...Bh6-+ Strongly threatening ...g5-**

**g4. 17.Qe4 Qxe4 18.Rxe4 Bxf3**

**19.Rxf3 Rxd2 20.Rf2 Rhd8 21.Nc4**



**Rxf2 22.Kxf2 b5 -0.92/23**

[ 22...Bg7 -1.30/20 23.g3 Nd5 ]

**23.Nb6+ -1.48/24**

[ Better is 23.Ne3 -0.92/23 ]

**23...Kb7 -0.93/23**

[ 23...Kc7 -1.48/24 24.Nd7 Kd6 ]

**24.Nd7 25.Bg7 -0.39/23**

[ 24...Kc6 25.Bxf6 exf6

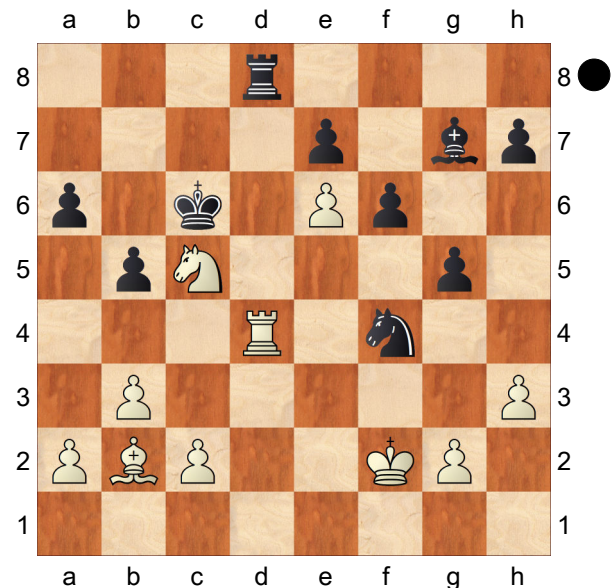
26.Nxf6 Bg7 ]

**25.Nxc5+ 26.Kc6 -0.01/23**

[ 25...Kb6 26.Rd4 Rc8 ]

**26.Rd4 -1.16/25**

(Diagram)



**Rxd4 -0.62/22**

[ 26...Rg8 27.Ba3 a5 ]

**27.Bxd4 Endgame KBN-KBN**

**27...Kd5 28.Be3 Nxe6 29.Nxa6 Nd8**

**0.89/26**

[ 29...f5 30.Nb4+ Kd6 31.g4 Nc6 32.Nd3

**0.08/24**

[ 32.Nxc6± 0.78/25 Kxc6 33.a4 ]

**32...e6 33.Kf3 h6 0.48/25**

[ 33...Kd5= 0.05/24 ]

**34.Ke4 Ne7 35.Bc5+ Kd7 36.Bxe7**

**Kxe7 KB-KN 37.a4 bxa4 38.bxa4**

**Kd6 39.a5 0.24/30**

[ 39.Nc1± 1.21/29 ]

**39...Kc6 40.a6 0.06/28**

[ 40.Nc1± 0.38/29 ]

**40...Bf8= 41.c4 c4-c5! is the strong**

threat. **41...Kb6 Prevents c4-c5+.**

**42.Ne1 -1.29/28**

[ 42.Nc1= -0.01/30 keeps the

balance. ]

**42...Kxa6 43.Nf3 Bc5 44.Nd2 Kb6**

**45.Kd3 Kc6 46.Ne4 Be7 47.Kd4 f5**

**-0.01/29**

[ 47...Ba3 48.Kd3 Be7 ]

**48.gxf5! The position is equal.**

**48...exf5 49.Ng3 Bf6+ 50.Kd3 f4**  
**51.Nf5 h5** White must now prevent ...  
 g5-g4. **52.Ke4 Kc5 53.h4! g4**  
**54.Kxf4 Kxc4 55.Ng3 Bxh4 56.Nxh5**  
**g3** And White is the lucky defender.  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.24  
 (precise) /Black=0.21 (precise) . Loss  
 on time!?  
**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander** **2731**  
 ■ **Gundavaa,Bayarsaihan** **2501**  
 Wch Blitz 8th (3) 19.06.2014  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6**  
 [ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6  
 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6  
 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0  
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7  
 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5  
 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6  
 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)-  
 Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
 0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0  
 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0  
 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♔f3 g5 5.g  
 (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)  
 Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada  
 [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

**4.Nc3N**

[ 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.Qh5 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6  
 7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3 e6 9.f5 exf5  
 10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2  
 d5 13.0-0 b5 14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8

16.Nd4 Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Kf1 Bd7  
 14.h4 b4 15.♕e2 e5 16.♙a7 (2183)-  
 Kuebler,J (2500) Chessfriend.com  
 2014 200 Traps In The Opening  
 [Evening Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/  
 1888] 0-1 (45) ]  
 [ 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3  
 ( 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5 Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4  
 9.Qxg4 Rxg4 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0  
 Bh6 12.Nd5 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3  
 Rag8 15.g3 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4  
 18.a5 Rh6 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7  
 10.♕e5 ♕e6 11.b3\_7650-Rogic,D  
 Belgrad 1990 Lexikon04 [Dragan  
 Solak] 1-0 (33) ) 6...Nc6 7.f4 e6  
 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7  
 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4  
 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5  
 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1  
 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns  
 [Gotham] ]

**4...a6 5.f4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3**  
**8.Qxf3** White has an edge.

[Much worse is 8.gxf3 Nh5 9.h4  
 e6♣ ]

**8...Nd4 9.Qd3 e6 10.0-0-0 Qc7**  
 0.69/20

[ ♞10...Be7 0.36/19 ]

**11.g4± Be7 12.g5 Nd7** 0.81/20

[ 12...Nh5± 0.47/21 ]

**13.h4± 0-0-0 14.Ne2 e5 15.Nc3**

(Diagram)

Nc3-d5 is the strong threat. **15...Nb6**

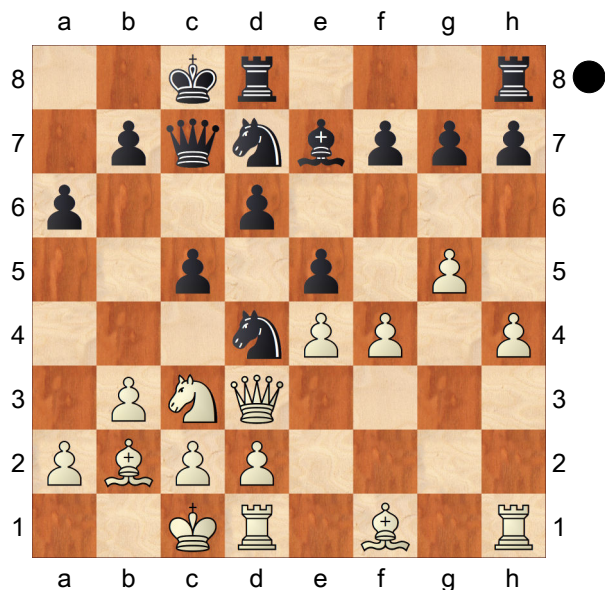
[ 15...exf4? 16.Nd5 Qa5  
 17.Nxe7+- ]

**16.a4** Strongly threatening a4-a5.

**16...Kb8**

[ 16...exf4? 17.a5 Nd7 18.Nd5 Qxa5  
 19.Qc3 Qxc3 20.Nxe7+ ( 20.dxc3  
 Nc6=) 20...Kc7 21.dxc3+- ]





**17.Qg3** 0.49/19

[ 17.a5± 0.82/21 Nc8 18.Nd5 Qxa5  
19.Kb1 ( 19.Bh3 Rhe8± ) ]

**17...Rhe8** 0.81/17

[ 17...f6± 0.49/19 is superior. ]

**18.Rh2** 0.42/20

[ 18.f5± 0.81/17 ]

**18...Bf8** 0.95/18

[ 18...d5± 0.42/20 ]

**19.Rf2** White stays focused until the  
end. **19...g6 20.fxe5 Rxe5** 2.02/21

[ 20...dxe5± 1.18/21 21.Re1 Bd6 ]

**21.a5 Nc8 22.Bc4 Rd7 23.Rdf1 Qxa5**  
3.51/22

[ 23...f5 2.49/21 was worth a try.

24.gxf6 Qxa5 ]

**24.Rxf7+- Rxf7 25.Rxf7 Be7 26.Qf2**  
**b5 27.Bd5 b4?** 6.44/22

[ 27...Nb6 3.95/21 28.b4 Qxb4

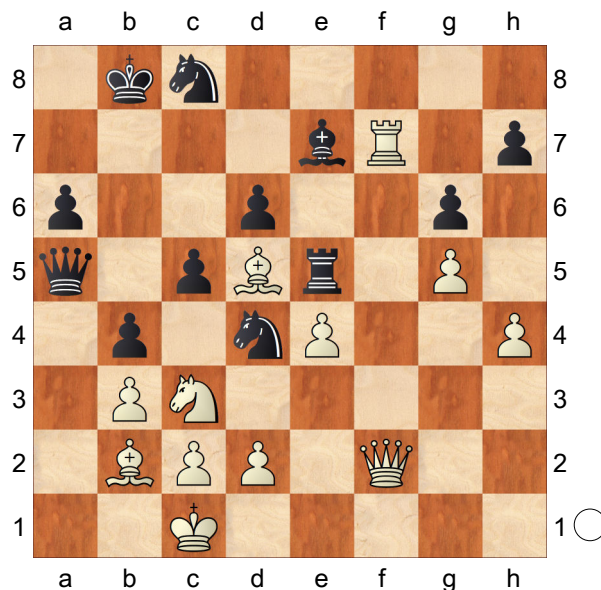
29.Rxh7 Qa5 30.Rh8+ Nc8 ]

(Diagram)

**28.Na4** White is clearly winning.

**28...Qb5 29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.Qxd4 a5**

**31.Rxh7 Qa6 32.Qc4 Qxc4 33.bxc4**  
**Kc7 34.d4**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07  
(flawless) /Black=0.36  
**1-0**

**B20**  
 □ **Sethuraman,Sethuraman** **2731**  
 ■ **Roehrich,S** **2675**  
 137/31 France (14) 18.06.2014  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3**

**d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Qe2 Ngf6**

**8.0-0-0** 0.18/20

[ 8.g3± 0.53/20 ]

**8...Be7 9.g4 d5 10.e5 Nxg4** 1.39/23

[ Better is 10...Ne4± 0.55/19 ]

**11.Rg1** -0.01/22

[ White has to play 11.Qg2!± 1.39/23 ]

**11...h5= 12.f5 Nf8**

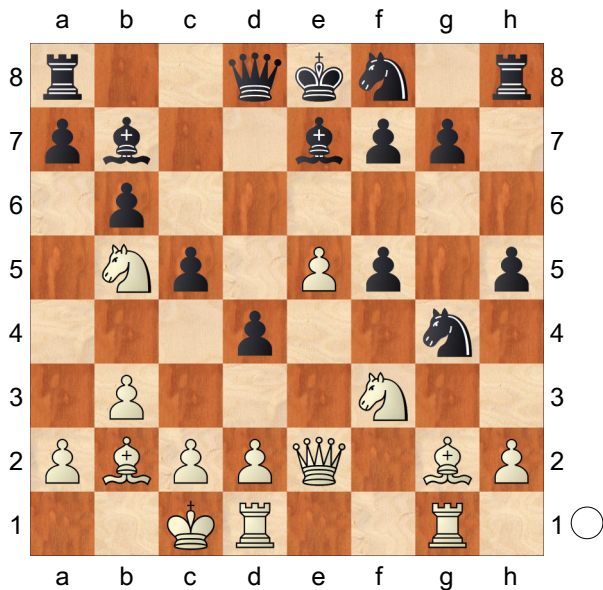
[ 12...exf5 13.e6± ]

**13.Nb5!** White wants to play Nb5-d6+!

**13...d4 14.Bg2** Black must now prevent

h2-h3. **14...exf5?** 3.03/22

[ 14...Rb8= 0.01/22 and Black has  
nothing to worry. ]



**15.Nfxd4!+- Bxg2 16.Nxf5 Bc6**

**17.Nxg7+ 0.64/5**

[White should try 17.Nbd6+- 2.61/24  
Bxd6 18.Nxd6+ Ke7 19.Rdf1 ( 19.h3  
Nh6± )]

**17...Kd7± 18.d4** White has strong  
compensation. &Bianco is more active.  
[ 18.h3 a6± ]

**18...c4 19.Nc3 0.78/19**

[ 19.Qxc4?! Ne3 20.Qxf7 ( 20.d5?  
Nxc4 21.dxc6+ Kxc6-- ) 20...Bd5  
21.e6+ Nxe6= ]  
[ 19.bxc4+- 1.78/20 Strongly  
threatening Ng7xh5! Kc8 20.Nf5  
Bxb5 21.cxb5 ]

**19...Bh4? 3.89/19**

[ 19...Kc8± 0.78/19 ]

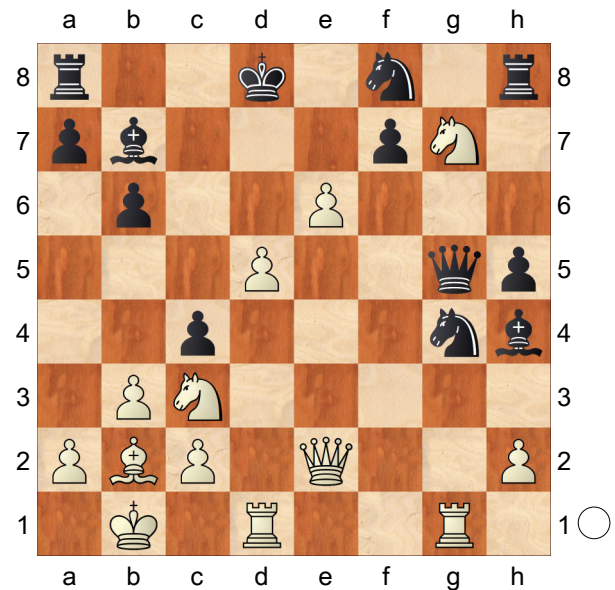
**20.d5+-** The board is on fire. **20...Bb7**  
[ 20...Qg5+? 21.Kb1 Bb7 22.e6+  
Kd8

(Diagram)

23.exf7!+- ]

**21.e6+ Kc8 22.d6? 1.46/21**

[ 22.Qxc4++- 3.74/20 has better  
winning chances. Qc7 23.Qxc7+  
Kxc7 24.Nb5+ ( 24.d6+ Kc6± )



**24...Kd8 25.h3 ]**

**22...Qg5+? 5.15/19**

[ 22...fxe6± 1.46/21 is more resistant.  
23.Qxc4+ Kb8 ]

**23.Kb1 Nxe6 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.h3**  
**Bf2? 7.02/20**

[ 25...Bc6 3.68/20 26.hxg4 Rh7  
27.d7+ ( 27.Qxc4 Kb7+- ) 27...Rxd7  
28.Qxe6 Qf6 29.Qxc4 Rxd1+  
30.Nxd1 b5 31.Bxf6 bxc4 32.Bxh4  
hxg4 33.Rxg4 cxb3 34.axb3 Rb8 ]

**26.Rgf1**

[ 26.hxg4 Bxg1 27.Ne4 ( 27.Rxg1  
Kd7± ) 27...Qxg4 28.d7+ Kd8  
29.Bf6+ Kc7 30.Be5+ Kd8 31.Qxg4  
hxg4+- ]

**26...Ne3 27.Rxf2 Nxd1 28.Qxc4+**  
[Not 28.Qxd1 Rd8± ]

**28...Qc5 29.Qxe6+**

[Don't blunder 29.Nxd1? Qxc4  
30.bxc4 Rh7-- ]

**29...Kb8 30.Nxd1** Discovered Attack

**30...Rd8 31.Qe7 Rc8 32.Be5 a5**

**33.d7+ Ka7 34.dxc8N+ Qxc8N**

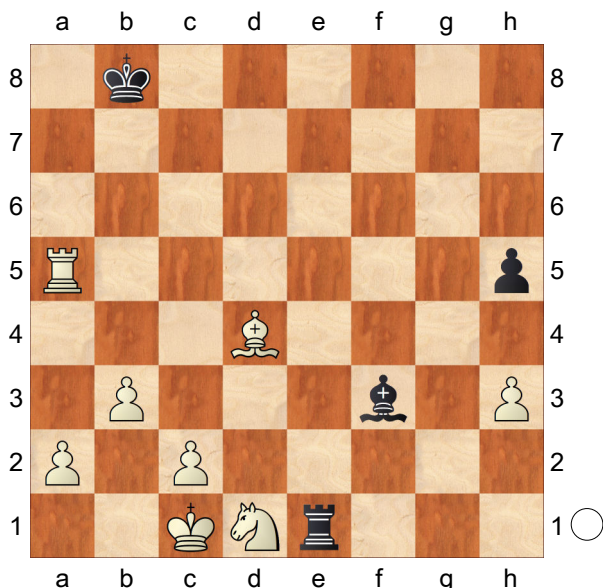
**35.Bd4 Qc6 36.Rf6 Re8 37.Rxc6**

Qe7-c7 would kill now. **37...Rxe7**

**38.Rxb6** Rb6-e6+ is the strong threat.

**38...Ka8 39.Rb5 Re1 40.Rxa5+ Kb8**

## 41.Kc1 Bf3



42.Kd2 Rxd1+ Endgame KRB-KRB

43.Ke3 Bg2 44.Rxh5 Rh1 45.a4

Bxh3 12.53/28

[ 45...Rf1 4.16/19 46.h4 Rf3+  
47.Kd2 Rf7 ]

46.Kd2 Kb7 47.Rh6 Rh2+? 9.53/25

[ 47...Bg2 3.88/22 ]

48.Kc3 Rh1 49.Kb4 Threatens to win  
with Kb4-c5. 49...Bg2 50.Rxh1 Bxh1  
KB-KB 51.c4 Kc6 52.Kc3 Bf3 53.b4  
White wants to mate with a4-a5.

53...Be2 54.b5+ Kc7 55.Kb4 Kb7

56.a5 Ka8 57.c5 Kb8 58.c6 Ka8

59.Kc5 Bg4 60.a6 Bc8 61.Kd6 Kb8

62.a7+ 6.23/5

[ 62.Bc5 #6/14 Bf5 63.a7+ Ka8  
64.b6 Bc8 65.Kc7 Ba6 66.b7+ Bxb7  
67.cxb7# ]

62...Ka8 63.Kc7 4.75/5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.71/  
Black=0.73

[ 63.Be5 #8/19 Ba6 64.bxa6 Kxa7  
65.c7 Kxa6 66.c8Q+ Kb5 67.Bc3  
Ka4 68.Qc4+ Ka3 69.Qb4+ Ka2  
70.Qb2# ]

1-0

## B20

□ Sethuraman,Sethuraman 2731

■ Ritzen,Anton 2627

Aus.vs New Zealand (7) 06.09.2014

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5  
Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 Nf6  
8.d3 The position is equal. 8...e6 9.Nf3  
Be7 10.0-0N

[ 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5  
( 12.Rae1 a5 13.e5 Nd5 14.exd6  
Nxf4 15.Qe5 Bf6 16.Qxf4 Bxb2  
17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.dxe4 e5 19.Nxe5  
Qxd6 20.Nd3 Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Qxf4  
22.Nxf4 Rae8 23.Nd5 b4  
6...dxc4 madness: 7...Be6 27 (2341)-  
7.♘1f3 ♕d6 8.♙e2 h6 (2489) Torquay  
ENG 2000 Telechess CBM 89 [FS-66/  
105] ) 12...Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4  
Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5  
17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4  
Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3  
Bh6 23.Raf1 Qd2 24.Bc1 Qd4+  
11.♞e1 h6 12.♞b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)-  
Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
0-1 (59) ]

10...0-0 11.c4 b5 12.Nc3 bxc4

13.dxc4 Qc7 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 Nd7

16.Ne4 Qb7 0.40/20

[ 16...a5= -0.08/21 might be  
stronger. ]

17.Nfd2± Kh8 0.86/22

[ 17...a5!= 0.08/20 ]

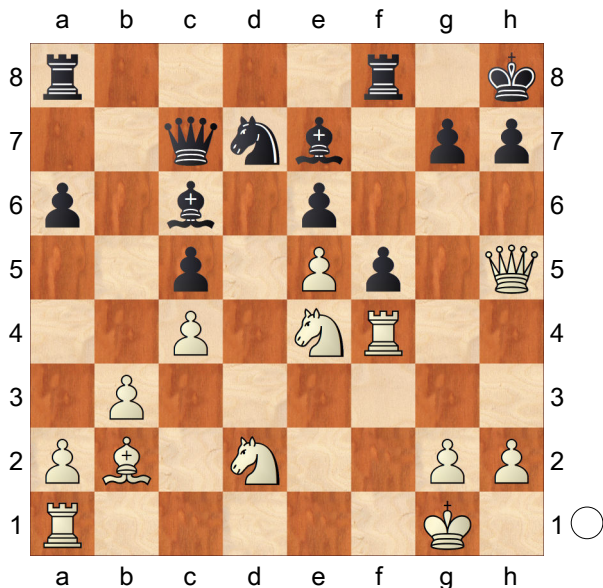
18.Rf4 &amp;Bianco is more active. 18...Qc7

19.Qh5 f5

(Diagram)

20.exf6! Nxf6 21.Nxf6 -0.79/22 Bxf6±





A strong pair of Bishops. **22.Raf1 Bd4+**

[Don't take 22...Qd6 23.Rxf6 Rxf6

24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Qh4!±]

**23.Bxd4 Rxf4 24.Qxc5 Rxf1+ 25.Nxf1**

**Qb7 26.Ne3 Rd8** Inhibits Qc5-d6.

**27.h3 Qd7** -0.93/22

[ 27...h6 -1.31/24 28.b4 Kh7 ]

**28.Bc3 Ba8** -0.01/23

[ 28...h6± -0.82/21 ]

**29.Qe5** -0.74/22

[ 29.Qg5= -0.01/23 Rf8 30.Kh2 ]

**29...Rf8** -0.19/22

[ 29...h6± -0.74/22 ]

**30.a4 h6 31.b4! Kh7 32.b5! axb5**

**33.axb5**

[Of course not 33.Bb4 Rf7 34.axb5 Qd3±]

**33...Rf7**

[Resist 33...Qf7 34.c5±]

**34.Kh2 Qc7**

[ 34...Qd3 is interesting. 35.h4 Qe2 36.Kh3 Bb7 ]

**35.Qxc7** -0.38/19

[ 35.c5!= 0.12/24 ]

**35...Rxc7=** Endgame KRB-KBN **36.Be5**

**Rc8** -0.01/22

[ 36...Ra7± -0.62/23 ]

**37.Bd6 Kg6** 0.59/22

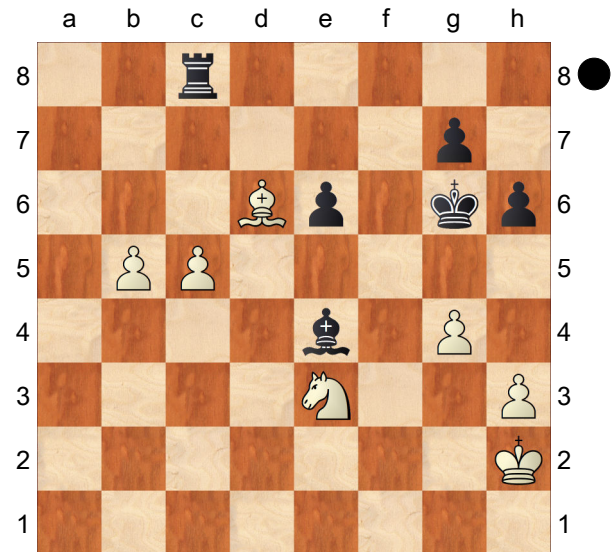
[Black should play 37...Be4= -0.10/22]

**38.c5±** aiming for Ne3-c4. White has

compensation. **38...Be4 39.g4?**

-1.51/22

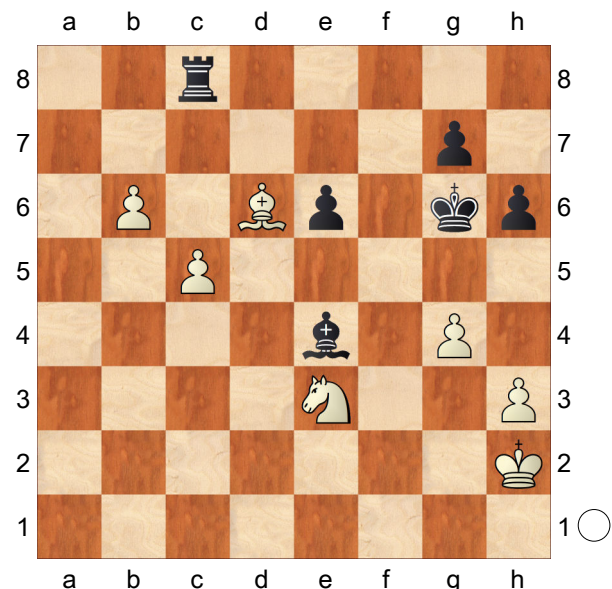
[ 39.Nc4!± 0.64/23 ]



**39...Bd3!± 40.b6** Hoping for b6-b7.

**40...Be4** 2.23/24

[ 40...Ba6!± 0.66/25 ]



**41.Nc4!+- Kf6 42.Kg3** 0.90/23

[ 42.Ne5+- 2.28/23 ]

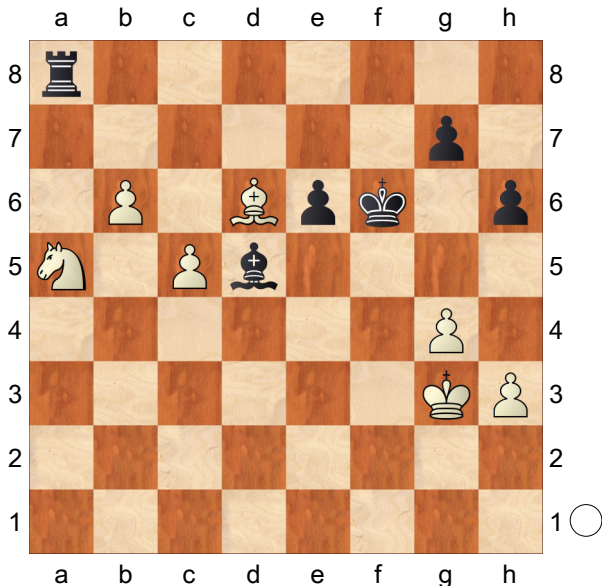
**42...Bd5** 2.27/26

[ 42...e5± 0.90/23 was worth a try. ]



**43.Na5** 1.22/24

[ 43.Ne5+- 2.27/26 ]

**43...Ra8****44.b7! Bxb7 45.Nxb7** Threatens to win with c5-c6. **45...Ra3+?** 3.24/28

[ 45...e5± 1.14/25 ]

**46.Kg2 Rc3?** 5.15/24

[ 46...Ra6 3.12/25 47.Kf3 e5 ]

**47.Nd8 e5 48.Nc6** 2.48/26

[ ♞48.c6 5.59/25 ]

**48...Ke6 49.Nxe5 Kd5** 3.89/25

[ ♞49...Rc2+ 2.60/25 50.Kf3 Rc3+ 51.Ke4 Rxh3 ]

**50.Ng6 Kc6?** 5.33/29

[ 50...Rc2+ 3.14/24 was necessary. 51.Kg3 Rc3+ 52.Kf2 Ra3 ]

**51.h4 Kd5 52.h5** White is clearly winning. **52...Kc6** 12.26/25

[ ♞52...Ke6 4.32/26 53.Kf2 Rc4 54.Nf4+ Kf7 ]

**53.Be5 Rc4 54.Kg3 Rxc5 55.Bxg7**Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/  
Black=0.46**1-0****B20**□ **Sethuraman,Sethuraman****2731**■ **Chigogidze,K****2707**

137/31 France (13)

18.06.2014

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

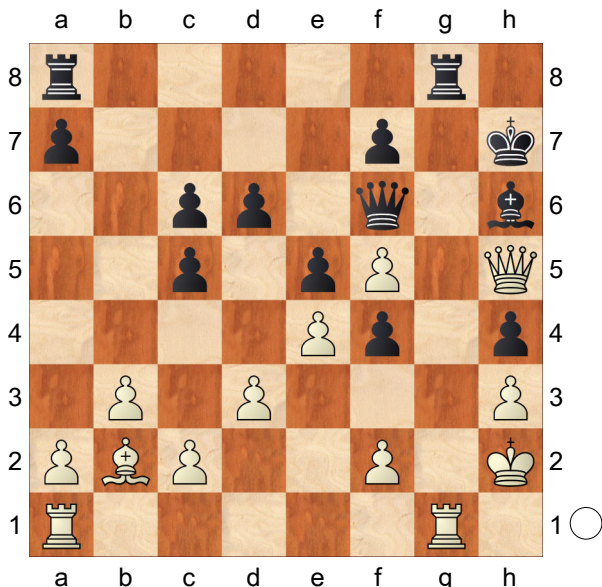
[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

**4.Bb5+ Nc6N**

[ 4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3 ( 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5 Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4 9.Qxg4 Rxg4 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0 Bh6 12.Nd5 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3 Rag8 15.g3 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4 18.a5 Rh6 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7 10.♘e5 ♔e6 11.b3\_7650-Rogic,D Belgrad 1990 Lexikon04 [Dragan Solak] 1-0 (33) ) 6...Nc6 7.f4 e6 ( 7...d5 8.Nd2 0-0-0 9.Qe2 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nd4 11.Bxd4 Qxd4 12.Rd1 Qc3 13.Ngf3 Qxc2 14.Ng5 Rd4 15.0-0 e6 16.Nxf7 Rg8 17.Ng5 Be7 18.Nxe6 Rxe4 19.Qf3 Rxe6 20.Qh3 Ng4 21.Qxg4 Qg6 22.Qh3

Mendonca,M-13.♔e3 ♘c6 14.d5 ♘a5  
 corr Portugal 2008 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [O.H.Hardy; T.D.Harding]  
 1-0 (41) ) 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5  
 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5  
 Nd7 13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0  
 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3  
 Rhg8 18.Rae1 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2.  
 b3 e/d pawns [Gotham] ]  
**5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 g6 7.Ne2 Bg7**  
**8.0-0** The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.h3**  
**e5 10.Ng3 h5 11.Nd2 h4 12.Ne2 g5**  
**13.Nc4 Be6 14.Ne3 Qd7 15.Qd2 Nh5**  
**16.g4** aiming for Ne3-f5. **16...Nf4**  
**17.Kh2 Kh7 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.gxf5 Bh6**  
 0.75/21

[ 19...Nxe2= 0.21/21 20.Qxe2 Kg8 ]  
**20.Nxf4±** White now steadily converts  
 the win. **20...gxf4 21.Qe2 Rg8 22.Rg1**  
**Qe7 23.Qh5 Qf6** 1.23/27  
 [ ♠23...Raf8 0.76/28 ]



**24.Bc3!** &Bianco is more active.  
**24...Rxcg1** 1.53/25  
 [ ♠24...Raf8 1.14/24 ]  
**25.Rxcg1 Rg8 26.Rg4 Rxcg4 27.hxcg4**  
 [ Resist 27.Qxcg4?! Bg5± ]  
**27...Kg7 28.f3 Bg5 29.Kh3 Qd8?**

3.39/27

[ 29...Qh6 1.65/26 might work better. ]

**30.Be1 d5?** 4.62/23

[ 30...Be7 2.65/24 31.Bxh4 Bxh4 ]

**31.Bxh4+-** White is clearly winning.

**31...Bxh4 32.Qxh4** Endgame KQ-KQ

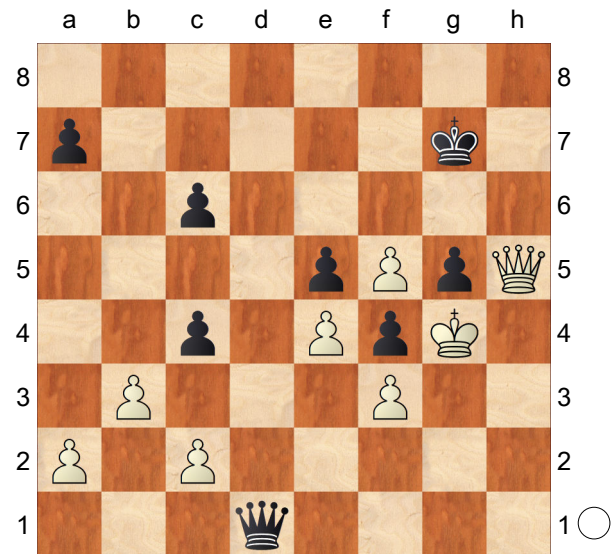
**32...f6 33.Qh5 dxe4 34.dxe4 c4**

8.37/25

[ ♠34...Qe7 4.92/21 35.g5 Kg8

36.Qg6+ Kf8 37.gxf6 Qf7 38.Qxf7+  
 Kxf7 ]

**35.g5 fxg5 36.Kg4 Qd1**



( -> ...Qd1-g1+ ) **37.Qg6+ Kf8 38.f6**

Threatening mate with Qg6-g7+.

**38...Qd7+ 39.Kxcg5 cxb3 40.cxb3**

Strongly threatening Qg6-f5. **40...a5**

**41.Qg7+?** 2.51/5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20

(precise) /Black=0.30

[ 41.Qf5 14.92/26 Qe8 42.Qh3 ]

**1-0**

**B40**  
 □ **Morozevich,Alexander** **2731**  
 ■ **Kretov,Evgenij** **2263**  
 Moscow-ch blitz 68th (17) 06.09.2014  
 [MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 e6**

[ 5...d6 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2 6.0-0 ♖e8 7.♗e1\_47236-Atanasov,A USSR 48/777 2017 CBM 063 [Moreno, Ale] ]

**6.Bb5**

[ 6.g3 f5 7.Bg2 b6 8.c4 Nc7 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Nc3 Be7 11.d4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 cxd4 14.Qxd4 5.h4 g4 6.Ng5 (2536)-Hubener,J (2479) Budapest 2004 Telechess CBM 89 [Cricket and Football Field 19/6/1909] ]

**6...Qb6N**

[ 6...Qc7 7.0-0 a6 8.Bc4 Nf4 9.Re1 d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.g3 Nh5 12.Nh4 Nf6 13.Nf5 Bf8 14.Qf3 Bd7 15.Nxg7+ Bxg7 16.Bxf6 Nd4 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.c3 0-0 19.cxd4 Bc6 20.Qh5 Rad8 21.Nc3 Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 3 Game 3 (35) ]  
 [ 6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 a6 9.Bf1 d6 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Na3 f6 12.d4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 e5 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.Na5 Qc5 17.Bc4 Rd8 18.b4 Qd6 19.Qf3 Kh8 20.a3 Rb8 21.Bb3 004a 422 Rosanes,J-Kopylov Chiasso 2002 TH-CC [Bauer] 1-0 (38) Nb6 22.c4 Qd3 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 24.c5 Rxb3 25.Nxb3 Nc4 26.Bc3 Be6 27.f4 Re8 28.fxe5 fxe5 29.Bxe5 Nxe5 30.Rxe5 Bf6 31.Rae1

Bxe5 32.Rxe5 Kg8 33.Na5 Re7 34.Nxb7 Rxb7 35.Rxe6 Ra7 36.Kf2 004a 422 Rosanes,J-Hamilton USSR (ch) 16/494 2002 ZUS C73 [Bauer] 1-0 (38) ]

**7.Bxc6 Qxc6 8.0-0 a6 0.52/21**  
 [ 8...b6= 0.06/22 ]

**9.c4 Nf4 10.d4 cxd4 11.Bc1 Ng6**

**12.Re1 Bc5 13.Ba3 -0.14/23**

[ ♠13.Bb2 0.21/21 ]

**13...b6= 14.Nxd4 Qc7 15.Bb2**

**-0.57/21**

[ 15.Bxc5= 0.01/21 bxc5 16.Nf3 ]

**15...Bb7**

[ 15...Nxe5 16.Nxe6! fxe6 17.Bxe5± ]

**16.Qg4 -1.35/23**

[ 16.Nc3♗ -0.48/20 ]

**16...h5 -1.00/21**

[ ♠16...0-0-0 -1.35/23 White must now prevent ...d7-d6. 17.Ne2 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Qxe5 ]

**17.Qg5♗ Be7** This bishop pair is nice.

**18.Qe3 h4 -0.39/21**

[ 18...Nh4♗ -0.84/21 19.f3 0-0-0 ]

**19.h3 -0.90/22**

[ 19.Nc3♗ -0.39/21 ]

**19...Rh5 -0.29/21**

[ 19...f6♗ -0.90/22 20.Nf3 Bc5 ]

**20.Nd2 -1.40/21**

[ 20.Nf3!= -0.29/21 remains equal. ]

**20...Kf8 -0.05/20**

[ Not 20...Qxe5 21.Qxe5 Nxe5 22.Nxe6 dxe6 23.Rxe5 Rxe5 24.Bxe5♗ ]

[ Black should try 20...Rxe5♗ -1.40/21 21.Qc3 Nf4 ]

**21.N2f3 -0.44/21**

[ 21.N4f3!= -0.05/20 deserves consideration. ]

**21...Bc5 22.Rad1 Re8 23.Bc3 Bxf3**

**0.01/22**

[ 23...Kg8♗ -0.36/18 ]

**24.Qxf3= Rxe5 25.Rxe5 Qxe5 26.b4**  
-1.35/21

[ 26.Nc6= -0.01/21 keeps the  
balance. Qc7 27.Nb4 ]

**26...Bxd4 0.09/23**

[ 26...Bd6 $\mp$  -1.35/21 And now ...Qe5-  
h2+ would win. 27.b5 Qh2+ 28.Kf1  
a5 ]

**27.Rxd4 Qc7 28.Rg4 -0.65/21**

[ 28.Qd3!= -0.01/23 ]

**28...Kg8 29.Qd3 Rf8 -0.01/23**

[ 29...d6 $\mp$  -0.85/20 ]

**30.Qd4 -0.59/25**

[ 30.f4!= -0.01/23 d6 31.f5 exf5  
32.Qxf5 ]

**30...e5 $\mp$  31.Qd5 Qc6 32.Qd2 -1.13/24**

[ 32.Qxc6! $\mp$  -0.66/24 dxc6 33.Rg5 ]

**32...Qe6 33.c5 -1.71/23**

[ 33.Qe2 $\mp$  -1.01/23 was necessary. ]

**33...bxc5 34.bxc5 Rb8 35.Kh2**

-1.75/25

[ 35.Qc2 $\mp$  -1.42/22 is a better  
defense. ]

**35...Rb5--+ 36.Qe3 -1.02/22**

[ White should play 36.Rb4--+ -1.83/25 ]

**36...Qd5 $\mp$  37.Qg5 Rb8 Prevents Qg5-**  
d8+.

[ But not 37...Qxc5?! 38.Qd8+ Qf8  
39.Qxd7 $\mp$  ]

**38.f4** aiming for f4-f5. **38...Qxc5**

[ 38...Qxa2? 39.f5 f6 40.Qxg6+- ]

**39.f5**

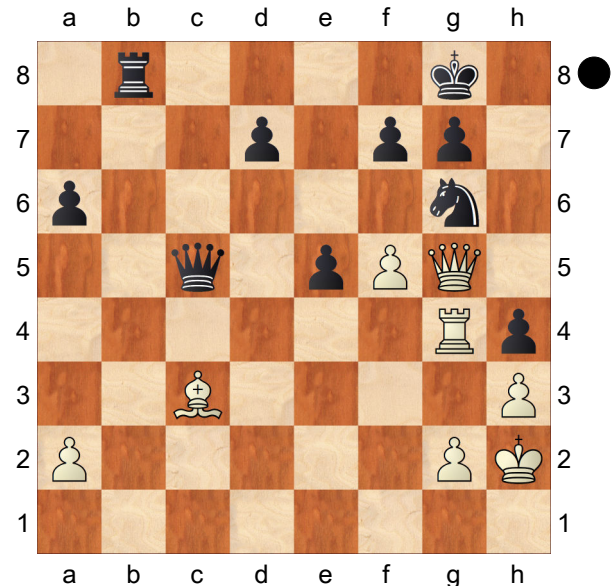
(Diagram)

**Qxc3 0.01/24**

[ 39...Rb1! $\mp$  -1.29/27 40.Qd8+ Nf8  
41.Qxh4 Rd1 ]

**40.fxg6= f6 8.10/24**

[ 40...fxg6= 0.01/28 41.Qxg6 e4  
42.Qxe4 ( 42.Rxh4? Qe5+ 43.Qg3  
Re8+- ) 42...Qc7+ 43.Kh1 Qc1+



44.Kh2 Qc7+ 45.Kh1 Qc1+ 46.Kh2  
Qc7+ ]

**41.Qxh4+- Rb1 42.Qh7+ 7.30/5**

[  $\triangleleft$ 42.Rc4 #19/20 Qc1 43.Qh7+ Kf8  
44.Qh8+ Ke7 45.Qxg7+ Ke6  
46.Qf7+ Kd6 47.Qf8+ Ke6 48.Rxc1 ]

**42...Kf8**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/  
Black=0.53

**1-0**

**B20**

$\square$  **Fedoseev,Vladimir1111**

**2731**

$\blacksquare$  **Cherniaev,Alexander**

**2436**

RUS-ch rapid (6)

01.10.2017

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,



T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.d4N**

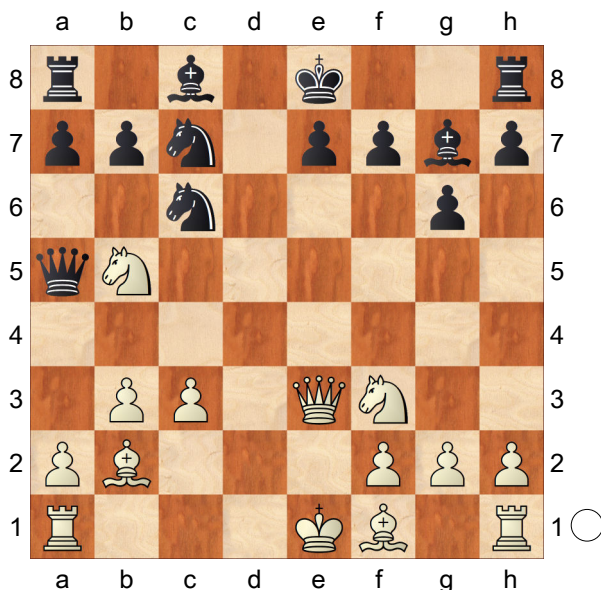
[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
[Tony Rotella] ]

**5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc7 7.Nf3 Bg7****8.Nc3** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6****9.Qe3 d6 1.04/20**

[ 9...0-0± 0.58/19 ]

**10.exd6±** &Bianco is more active.**10...Qxd6 11.Nb5 Qb4+ 2.33/24**

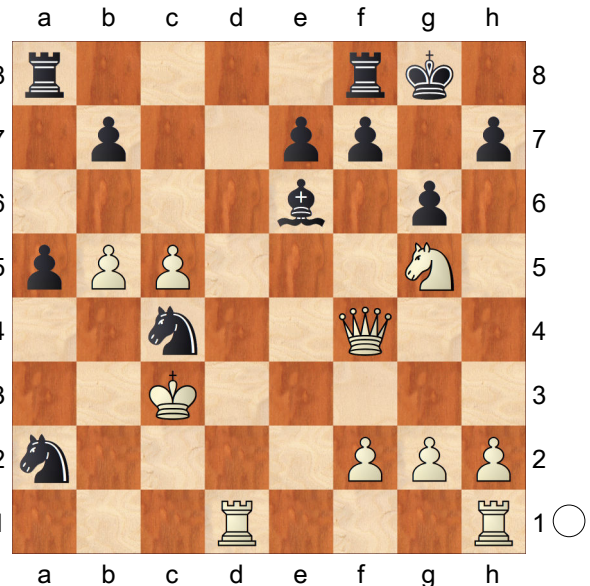
[ 11...Nxb5± 1.06/23 keeps fighting.  
12.Bxg7 Rg8 ]

**12.c3+- Qa5****13.b4! Qxb5**

[ 13...Nxb4 14.cxb4 ]

**14.Bxb5 Nxb5 15.0-0-0** Hoping for c3-c4. **15...0-0 16.c4 Bxb2+ 17.Kxb2****Nd6 18.Qf4 Be6 19.c5 Nc4+ 20.Kc3****a5 21.b5 Nb4 22.Ng5 Nxa2+? 7.91/24**

[ 22...Nd5+ 3.94/23 23.Rxd5 Bxd5 ]



**23.Kb3 Nd2+ 24.Kb2** White took control after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.31

**1-0**

**B20**  
 2731  
**Morozevich,Alexander**  
 2682  
**Cheparinov,Ivan**  
 Wch Blitz 8th (15)  
 20.06.2014  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline

5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.f4N**  
 [ 5.Nf3 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5  
 8.Ndb5 Qb8 9.Nd5 Kf8 10.Ndc7 a6  
 11.Qxd7 Nf6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxe6+  
 fxe6 14.Nc7 Nd4 15.0-0-0 Bc6  
 16.Nxe6+ Nxe6 17.Qxc6 Qf4+  
 18.Kb1 Re8 19.Bc4 Qc7 9.♔d3 ♘c6  
 10.♘bd2\_194 (2320)-Shchebeniuk,M  
 (2610) USSR 1995 CBM 078 [FS-70/  
 204] 0-1 (67) ]

**5...e6 6.Nf3 Nge7 0.41/20**  
 [ 6...Be7= 0.05/20 ]

**7.Qe2± a6 8.0-0-0** White has an edge.

**8...Nd4 9.Qf2 Nec6 10.Nxd4 -0.33/21**  
 [ 10.Kb1= 0.24/20 ]

**10...Nxd4 0.37/18**  
 [ Better is 10...cxd4♞ -0.33/21 11.Ne2  
 Bc5 ]

**11.Bd3 Qc7 12.Rde1 0.20/15**  
 [ 12.Kb1± 0.55/15 ]

**12...0-0-0 13.Kb1 Kb8 14.Ne2 Nc6**  
**15.f5 -0.22/20**  
 [ ♠15.Ng3 0.15/18 ]

**15...Ne5= 16.Nf4 Bd6 17.Rhf1 Ka8**  
 0.24/18  
 [ ♠17...exf5 -0.20/18 18.Nd5 Nxd3!  
 19.cxd3 Bxd5 20.exd5 f6 ]

**18.h3 -0.30/21**  
 [ ♠18.Be2 0.24/18 ]

**18...b5 19.Be2 Rc8 20.Bd1 c4 21.d4!**  
**cxd3! 22.Nxd3 -1.50/22**  
 [ 22.cxd3= -0.01/22 Nc6 23.a3  
 ( 23.fxe6 dxe6 24.Bg4 Qa5= ) ]

**22...f6? 0.07/22**  
 [ 22...Nxd3♞ -1.50/22 23.cxd3 Bg3 ]

**23.Qd2 Rhd8 24.g4 -0.20/21**  
 [ 24.Nxe5 0.15/21 was preferable.  
 Bxe5 25.Bxe5 Qxe5 26.Bf3 ]

**24...Nxd3 25.cxd3 Qb6 0.07/20**

[ 25...Bg3♞ -0.40/22 might be  
 stronger. 26.Re2 e5 ]

**26.Bf3**

[ 26.g5 is more complex. fxg5  
 27.Qxg5 Bb4 28.Qe3 ]

**26...e5 0.65/23**

[ 26...Bg3= -0.09/21 ]

**27.d4!± exd4 28.Bxd4 Bc5 0.89/21**

[ 28...Qc7!± 0.50/22 is superior. ]

**29.Bb2±** & Bianco is more active. **29...b4**  
 1.45/21

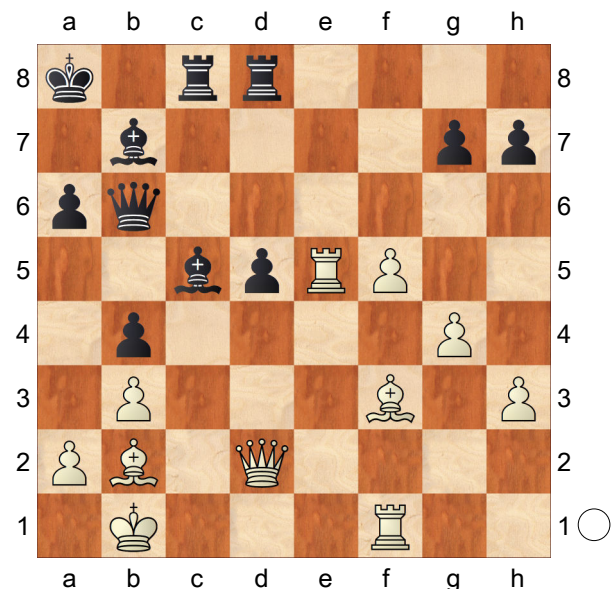
[ ♠29...Rc7 0.98/19 ]

**30.e5 fxe5 31.Rxe5**

[ 31.Bxe5 d6 32.Bf4 ( 32.Bxg7 Bxf3  
 33.Rxf3 Qb7= ) 32...Re8± ]

**31...d5 2.27/22**

[ 31...Bxf3± 1.30/19 32.Rxf3 Rc7 ]



**32.Rd1 1.27/22**

[ 32.Bxd5?! Ka7± ]

[ 32.Rxd5 Bxd5 33.Bxd5+ Ka7♞ ]

[ 32.Re6!+- 2.27/22 Qb5 33.Be2 ]

**32...Rd7 1.83/20**

[ 32...d4± 1.27/22 is a better defense.

33.Re6 Rd6 34.Rxd6 Qxd6

35.Bxb7+ Kxb7 ]

**33.Re6+-**

[ 33.Bxd5? Rcd8 34.Qg2 Ka7+- ]  
**33...Qb5** 2.10/22  
 [ 33...Rc6 1.69/19 was worth a try. ]  
**34.Be2 Qa5 35.Rc1 d4 36.Qd3**  
 1.33/21  
 [ 36.Bd3+- 1.80/21 ]  
**36...Rdc7** 2.41/23  
 [ 36...Ka7± 1.33/21 keeps fighting.  
 37.Re5 Qb6 ]  
**37.Bf3** Threatens to win with Re6xa6+.  
**37...Ka7 38.Bxb7**  
 [ 38.Bxd4 Bxd4 39.Qxd4+ ( 39.Rxc7  
 Qxc7 40.Qxd4+ Kb8= ) 39...Kb8= ]  
**38...Rxb7?** 11.77/27  
 [ 38...Kxb7 3.09/25 39.Rc4 ( 39.f6  
 gxf6 40.Rxf6 Rd8+- ) 39...Qb5 ]  
**39.Bxd4 Rbc7 40.Re5?** 2.71/24  
 [ 40.Bxc5+ 12.77/29 Rxc5 41.Rxc5  
 Rxc5 42.Re7+ Rc7 43.Qd8 Rxe7  
 44.Qxa5 ]  
**40...Qb6?** 8.85/25  
 [ 40...Bxd4 2.71/24 41.Rxc7+  
 ( 41.Rxa5? Rxc1#; 41.Qxd4+ Qb6± )  
 41...Qxc7 42.Qxd4+ Ka8 43.Qe4+  
 Qb7 ]  
**41.Rcxc5** White is clearly winning.  
**41...Rxc5 42.Rxc5** Discovered Attack  
**42...Rxc5 43.Qe3**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/  
 Black=0.37  
**1-0**

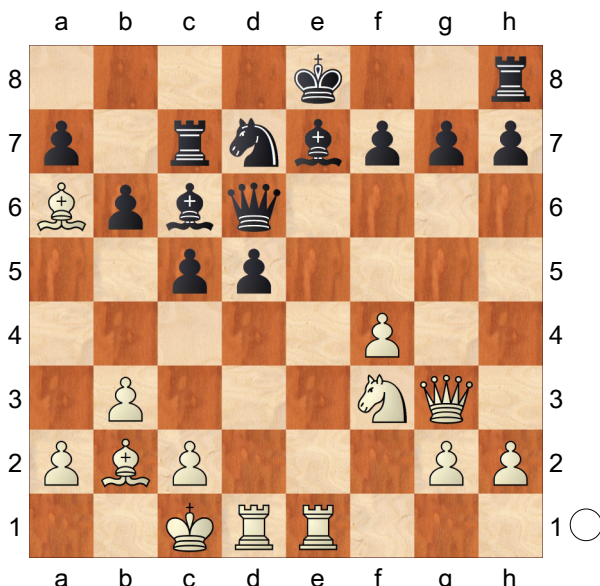
**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander** **2731**  
 ■ **Polgar,Judit** **2685**  
 Wch Rapid Dubai (6) 17.06.2014  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6**  
 [ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3

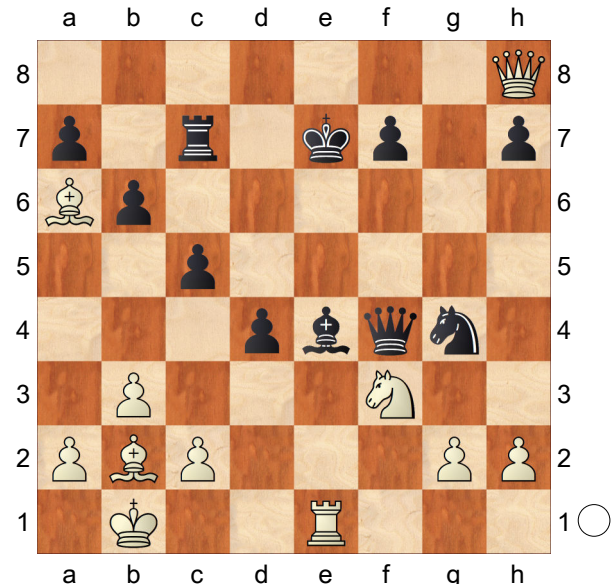
Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♟bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]  
**3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 5.f4N**  
 [ 5.Nf3 a6 ( 5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4  
 a6 8.Bd3 Nf6 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.f4  
 Qc7 11.0-0-0 b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.g5  
 b4 14.gxf6 bxc3 15.Bxc3 gxf6  
 16.Kb2 Rc8 17.Qe1 Nxe4 18.Bxe4  
 Bxe4 19.Ba5 Qb7 20.Rg1  
 5,B-Brunner,J Kazan 1998 200 Traps  
 In The Opening [Elburg, CCYB] 0-1 )  
 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qc7 8.f3 Nf6  
 9.Qd2 Bb4 10.a3 Be7 11.g4 0-0  
 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Nce2 Nxd4  
 14.Nxd4 d5 15.g5 Nh5 16.e5 Qxe5  
 17.Nc6 Qxg5 18.f4 Qh4 19.Nxe7+  
 Qxe7 C 06/32 (2551)-1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.  
 ♟f3 g5 5.g (2490) Budapest 2000  
 Telechess CBM 89 [Heemsoth; FS 12/  
 74] 1-0 (45) ]  
 [ 5.Qf3 Nf6 6.0-0-0 a6 7.Re1 d6  
 8.Qg3 b5 9.f3 Nbd7 10.Nh3 Qc7  
 11.Nf2 c4 12.Kb1 Rc8 13.Ka1 g6  
 14.bxc4 bxc4 15.Nfd1 Bg7 16.Ne3  
 Nb6 17.h4 h5 18.Qg5 0-0 19.Ncd5  
 Nfxd5 8.♟f3 c5 9.♙g5 0-0\_64798  
 (2491)-Simpson,J (2476) Leon 2001  
 Telechess CBM 89 [Mueller, Gerhard]

0-1 (39) ]  
**5...Nf6 6.e5! Nd5 7.Qf3 Bc6** 0.67/19  
 [ 7...a6= 0.17/19 ]  
**8.Qg3±** White is slightly better. **8...Nb4**  
 1.17/22  
 [ 8...a5± 0.59/19 ]  
**9.0-0-0± d5 10.exd6**  
 [ Don't play 10.a3 N4a6± ]  
**10...Qxd6 11.Nf3 Nd7 12.d4**  
 [ Much less strong is 12.a3 Nd5± ]  
**12...Rc8?** 3.49/22  
 [ 12...Qc7± 1.47/18 was worth a try.  
 13.Kb1 0-0-0 ]  
**13.d5+- Nxd5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Ba6**  
 2.30/25  
 [ Δ15.Re1+ 4.49/24 Be7 16.Bxg7 ]  
**15...Rc7 16.Rhe1+**  
 [ 16.Bxg7 Bxg7 17.Qxg7 Qf6  
 18.Rhe1+ Kd8 19.Qxf6+ Nxf6± ]  
**16...Be7?** 6.70/25  
 [ 16...Kd8 2.65/26 17.Ng5 ( 17.Bxg7  
 Bxg7 18.Qxg7 Qf6± ) 17...Nf6 ]



**17.Rxe7+!** White is clearly winning.  
**17...Kxe7 18.Qg5+**  
 [ Less strong is 18.Bxg7 Re8± ]  
**18...Nf6** And now ...d5-d4 would win.  
**19.Qxg7** Intending Bb2xf6+ and mate.

**19...Qxf4+ 20.Kb1** White wants to mate  
 with Bb2xf6+. **20...d4 21.Qxh8 Be4**  
**22.Re1 Ng4**



**23.Ng5! Ne3 24.Nxe4 Qxe4 25.Bd3**  
**Qf4 26.Bc1** White took control after the  
 opening.  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/  
 Black=0.84  
**1-0**

**B30**  
 □ **Morozevich,Alexander** **2731**  
 ■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2775**  
 Wch Rapid Dubai (8) 17.06.2014  
 [MH]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines  
 without ...g6

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**  
 [ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;



ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3  
 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4  
 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4  
 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4  
 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5  
 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
 alternatives Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 g6 6.Bc4N**

[ 6.Ng5 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7  
 9.Bxd5 Qxe5 10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5  
 12.f4 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4  
 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2  
 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Rb8  
 20.Qf3 Kc7 13.g5 ♖c5 14.♙f3 (2395)-  
 Rinkewitz,F (2450) Espana 83/571  
 1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter]  
 1-0 (51) ]

**6...Nb6 7.Bb5 Bg7 8.Bxc6**

The position is equal. **8...bxc6 9.0-0 c4**  
**10.Re1 0-0 11.d3 cxd3 12.Qxd3 d6**  
**13.c4 -0.25/21**

[ ♞13.Nbd2 0.22/20 ]

**13...dxe5!= 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.Nxe5**  
**-0.54/23**

[ 15.Bxe5= -0.19/23 f6 16.Bb2 ]

**15...Bf5 0.01/21**

[ 15...Nd7♞ -0.54/23 16.Na3 Nc5 ]

**16.f4 -0.53/23**

[ 16.Bc3= 0.01/21 Rac8 17.Nf3 ]

**16...Nd7♞ 17.Na3 -0.92/24**

[ 17.Nc3♞ -0.45/23 Nxe5 18.fxe5 ]

**17...Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Bf8 19.h3 h5**

Prevents g2-g4. **20.Nb1 -1.42/23**

[ ♞20.Re2 -0.92/23 ]

**20...f6 -0.71/23**

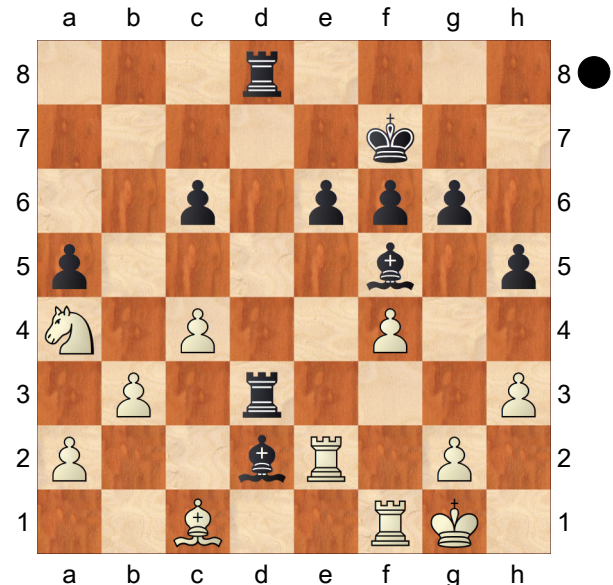
[ Better is 20...Rd7 -1.42/23 21.c5  
 f6 ]

**21.Bb2♞ Kf7 22.Nc3 e6 23.Ne4**

Against Bf8-c5+ **23...Be7 24.Re2 a5**  
**25.Nc3 -1.39/23**

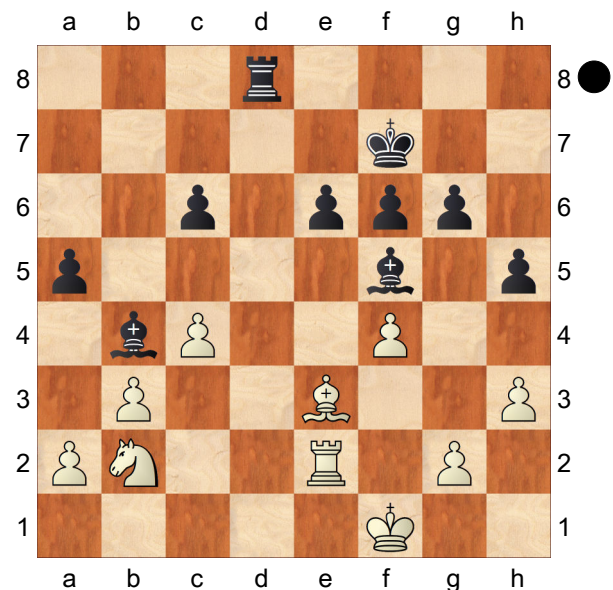
[ White should play 25.Nf2 -1.04/23 ]

**25...Rd3 26.Na4 Bb4** Against Bb2-c3  
**27.Rc1 Bd2 28.Rf1 Rad8 29.Bc1**



**Bb4!** Against Na4-c5. & Nero is more  
 active. **30.Be3 Rd1 31.Nb2 -1.53/26**  
 [ ♞31.Rb2 -1.00/26 ]

**31...Rxf1+ 32.Kxf1**



**Bb1! 33.Na4 -2.05/26**

[ 33.Bb6♞ -1.58/25 Rd7 34.a3 Bxa3  
 35.Kf2 ]

**33...Bd3-+ 34.Nb2 Bxe2+ 35.Kxe2**  
 Endgame KRB-KBN **35...e5 36.fxe5**

**fxe5 37.Nd3 Ke6 38.Bc1** -2.83/25  
 [  $\Delta$ 38.Bb6 -2.02/23 Rf8 39.Bc5 Bxc5  
 40.Nxc5+ Kf5 41.Ke3 ]  
**38...Bc3 39.Nc5+ Kf5 40.Kf3** -3.57/27  
 [ 40.Nb7 -2.45/25 keeps fighting. Rd7  
 41.Nc5 ]  
**40...e4+ 41.Ke2 Bd4 42.Nb7 Ra8**  
**43.Bd2 Bb6 44.Be3 Bxe3 45.Kxe3**  
 KR-KN **45...Ke5** Inhibits Nb7-d6.  
**46.Nc5 Rd8 47.Nxe4 Rd1 48.Nd2 c5**  
**49.Nf3+ Kf5 50.Nh4+ Kf6 51.Nf3 Ra1**  
**52.a4 Rb1 53.Nd2 Re1+ 54.Kf2 Re8**  
**55.Kf3 Ke5** And now ...Ke5-d4 would  
 win. **56.Ke3 Kf5+ 57.Kf3 Rd8 58.Ke3**  
**g5** Black is clearly winning. **59.Nf1 Rd1**  
**60.Ke2 Rb1 61.Nd2 Rg1 62.Kf3 g4+**  
**63.hxg4+ hxg4+ 64.Kf2 Rc1 65.Ke2**  
**Rc3 66.Kd1 Ke5** Strongly threatening ...  
 Rc3-g3. **67.Ke2 Kd4**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.22  
 (precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)  
**0-1**

**B20**

☐ **Morozevich,Alexander** **2731**  
☒ **Milov,Vadim** **2622**  
 Wch Blitz 8th (13) 20.06.2014  
 [MH]

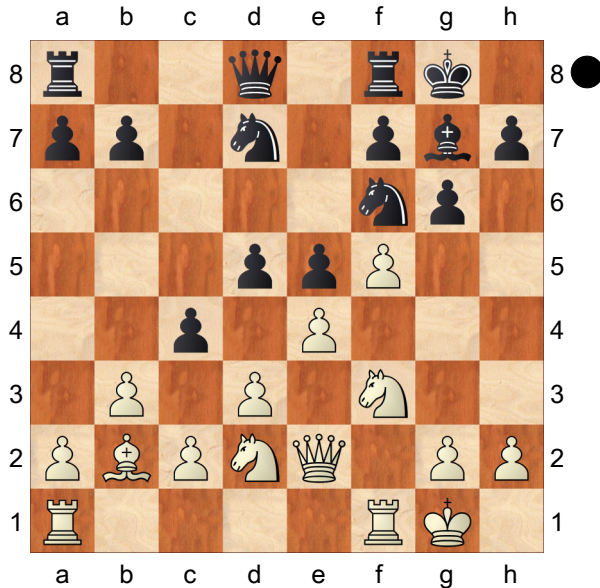
B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6**  
 [ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6  
 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6  
 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0  
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7  
 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5  
 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6  
 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
 11.☞e1 h6 12.☞b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)-  
 Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]

0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0  
 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0  
 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g  
 (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)  
 Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada  
 [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]  
**4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Nbx d7N**  
 [ 5...Kxd7 6.e5 dxe5 7.Nf3± ]  
 [ 5...Qxd7 6.d3 ( 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5  
 Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4 9.Qxg4 Rxg4  
 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0 Bh6 12.Nd5  
 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3 Rag8 15.g3  
 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4 18.a5 Rh6  
 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7 10.♘e5 ♕e6  
 11.b3\_7650-Rogic,D Belgrad 1990  
 Lexikon04 [Dragan Solak] 1-0 (33) )  
 6...Nc6 7.f4 e6 ( 7...d5 8.Nd2  
 0-0-0 9.Qe2 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nd4  
 11.Bxd4 Qxd4 12.Rd1 Qc3 13.Ngf3  
 Qxc2 14.Ng5 Rd4 15.0-0 e6  
 16.Nxf7 Rg8 17.Ng5 Be7 18.Nxe6  
 Rxe4 19.Qf3 Rxe6 20.Qh3 Ng4  
 21.Qxg4 Qg6 22.Qh3 Mendonca,  
 M-13.♕e3 ♘c6 14.d5 ♘a5 corr  
 Portugal 2008 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [O.H.Hardy; T.D.Harding]  
 1-0 (41) ) 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5  
 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5  
 Nd7 13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0  
 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3  
 Rhg8 18.Rae1 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2.  
 b3 e/d pawns [Gotham] ]  
**6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3** The position is  
 equal. **8...0-0 9.Qe2 e5 10.f5** -0.30/19  
 [ 10.fxe5 0.07/21 might be stronger.  
 Ng4 11.0-0 ]  
**10...d5** 0.01/21  
 [  $\Delta$ 10...gxf5 -0.30/19 11.Nbd2 fxe4  
 12.dxe4 Bh6 ]  
**11.0-0 c4** 0.36/21

[Black should try 11...gxf5= -0.25/19  
12.Nbd2 Re8]

**12.Nbd2** -1.03/21

[ 12.dxc4± 0.36/21 dxe4 13.Ng5  
( 13.Nxe5 Nh5± )]



**12...cxd3** -0.25/22

[ 12...c3!± -1.03/21 13.Bxc3 Rc8 ]

**13.cxd3= Rc8** 0.10/19

[ 13...Re8 -0.29/22 feels stronger. ]

**14.Rac1** -0.71/21

[Much weaker is 14.Nxe5 Rc2  
15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Bxf6 Bxf6±]  
[ 14.fxg6= 0.10/19 fxg6 15.Rac1  
( 15.Nxe5 Rc2= )]

(Diagram)

**14...Qa5** -0.17/22

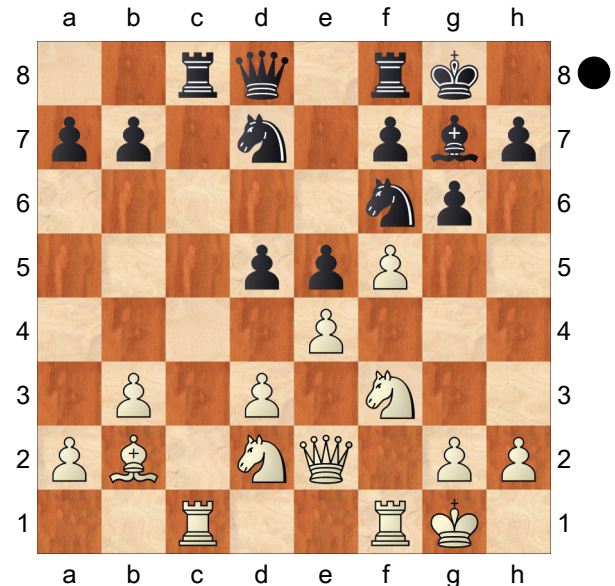
[Better is 14...Rxc1!± -0.71/21  
15.Rxc1 gxf5]

**15.a4 Qa6** 0.24/22

[ 15...gxf5± -0.36/21 16.Nxe5 Rxc1  
17.Rxc1 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Qb6+  
19.Kh1 fxe4 ]

**16.Ba3** -0.70/23

[ 16.fxg6= 0.24/22 hxg6 17.Rxc8



( 17.Nxe5 Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Nxe5= )  
17...Rxc8 18.Nxe5 ]

**16...Rfe8 17.Rxc8 Rxc8 18.exd5!**

**Nxd5** 0.23/21

[ 18...Qb6+± -0.36/22 19.Kh1 Nxd5 ]

**19.Nc4 Nc5?** 2.01/22

[ 19...Qc6= 0.22/21 and Black stays  
safe. ]

**20.Bxc5 Rxc5 21.fxg6** 0.65/23

[White should play 21.d4± 1.23/21  
Nc3 22.Qe1 Rxc4 23.bxc4 Qxc4  
24.dxe5 ]

**21...hxg6± 22.Ng5** 0.09/23

[ 22.Qf2± 0.68/21 Rc7 23.Nfxe5 ]

**22...Nf4?** 3.63/23

[ 22...f6= 0.09/23 and Black is okay.  
23.d4 Rc7 ]

(Diagram)

**23.Rxf4!+- Bh6**

[ 23...f6 24.Ne4 ]

**24.Rg4** Strongly threatening Ng5xf7!

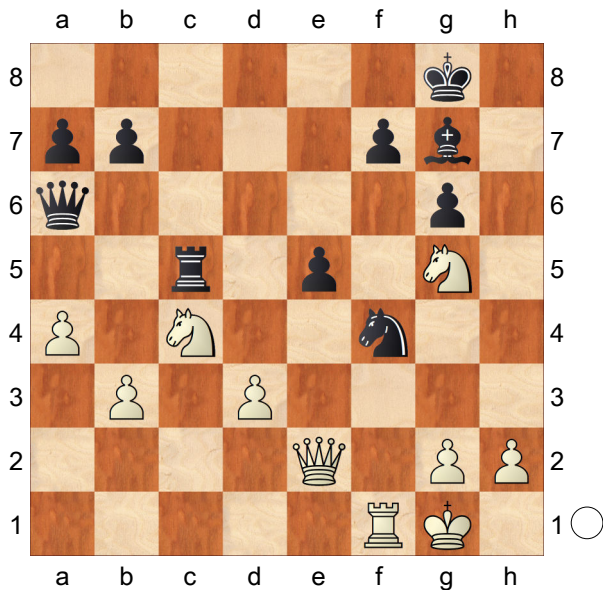
**24...b5 25.axb5 Qa1+ 26.Qf1**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/

Black=0.75

**1-0**





**Andreikin, Dmitry**  
 **Rakhmanov, Alexander**  
 Titled Tuesday intern op 13th Dec Early blitz (11)  
 [MH]

**B30**  
**2729**  
**2630**

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6

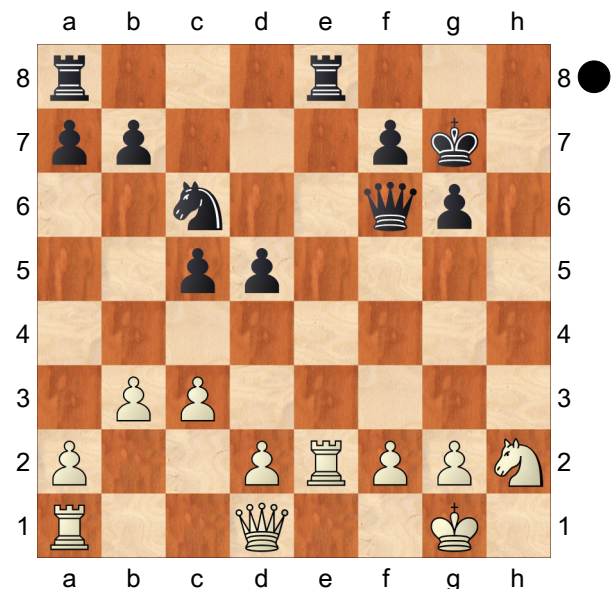
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6 6.h4** -0.27/22

[ 6.Nc3 0.17/20 deserves consideration. Nxc3 7.Bxc3 ]  
 [ 6.Ng5 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5 Qxe5 10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Rb8 20.Qf3 Kc7 13.g5 ♖c5 14.♙f3 (2395)-Rinkewitz, F (2450) Espana 83/571 1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu, Liviu Dieter] 1-0 (51) ]

**6...Bg7= 7.h5 0-0 8.hxg6** -0.83/22  
 [ White should try 8.Bc4♞ -0.32/20 Nb6 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.Bb5 ]

**8...hxg6** -0.18/21  
 [ Better is 8...fxg6♞ -0.83/22 9.Nc3

Nxe5! 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 ]  
**9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 d6** 0.01/20  
 [ Black should play 10...d5♞ -0.53/22 ]  
**11.exd6** -0.86/22  
 [ 11.Qe2= 0.01/20 ]  
**11...exd6♞ 12.Be2 Re8 13.0-0**  
 -1.12/21  
 [ ♠13.Bxg7 -0.77/24 Kxg7 14.d4 ]  
**13...Bg4 14.Re1 d5** aiming for ...d5-d4.  
**15.Bxg7** -1.81/24  
 [ 15.Rb1♞ -1.15/22 ]  
**15...Kxg7-- 16.Nh2** -2.00/21  
 [ 16.d4♞ -1.17/22 was called for. ]  
**16...Bxe2 17.Rxe2 Qf6** -1.29/22  
 [ 17...Rh8-- -1.95/23 Hoping for ... Qd8-h4. 18.Re3 Rh5 ]  
**18.c3** -2.07/22  
 [ 18.Rxe8♞ -1.29/22 Rxe8 19.c3 ]



**18...d4** -0.91/20  
 [ 18...Rh8!-- -2.07/22 has better winning chances. And now ...Qf6-h4 would win. 19.Re3 d4 ]  
**19.Rxe8♞ Rxe8 20.Qf3 dxc3** -0.59/24  
 [ 20...Qg5♞ -1.01/20 21.Nf1 a6 ]  
**21.dxc3♞ Qxf3 22.Nxf3♞** Endgame  
 KRN-KRN **22...Re2 23.Rd1 Rxa2 24.Rd7 Kf6** -0.03/25



[ 24...b6  $\mp$  -0.79/23 ]

**25.Rxb7=** The position is equal.

**25...Rb2 26.Rc7 Nd8 27.Rxc5 Rxb3**

**28.Nd4 Rb1+ 29.Kh2 Ne6 30.Ra5**

**Nxd4 31.cxd4 Rd1 32.Rxa7 Rxd4**

**33.Kg3** Black had all chances to win.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.26

(precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)

1/2-1/2

**B20**  
 **Duda, Jan Krzysztof** **2724**

**Zamorano, Jorge Adrian** **2339**

Titled Tuesday intern op 21st Mar Late blitz (7)

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink, J (2683)-11... $\text{\textcircled{K}}$ c7 12. $\text{\textcircled{K}}$ bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt, K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3N**

[ 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 ( 5...g6 6.Ng5  
 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5  
 Qxe5 10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4  
 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4  
 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2

**Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Rb8**  
**20.Qf3 13.g5  $\text{\textcircled{K}}$ c5 14. $\text{\textcircled{K}}$ f3 (2395)-**  
 Rinkewitz, F (2450) Espana 83/571  
 1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu, Liviu Dieter]  
 1-0 (51); 5...e6 6.c4 Nde7 7.g3 Nf5  
 8.Bg2 d5 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.0-0 0-0  
 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Ne4 b6 13.Ne5  
 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bb7 15.Qg4 Qd7  
 16.Rfe1 Rad8 17.Rad1 f6 18.Bb2  
 Nd4 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Qh5

Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 5 Game 5  
 (57) ) 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3  
 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 a6 11.Bxc6+  
 bxc6 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Qc1 Nd5  
 14.Nh4 e6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Ne4  
 Qa5+ 17.Qd2 Nb4 18.Kf1 Qd8  
 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 4 Game 4  
 (31) ]

**4...Nxc3 5.dxc3 d5 6.exd6 Qxd6**

0.54/19

[ 6...Nc6= 0.13/20 ]

**7.Qxd6  $\pm$  exd6 8.c4** 0.07/21

[ 8.Bf4  $\pm$  0.50/21 feels stronger. ]

**8...Be7** 0.41/20

[ 8...Bf5= 0.07/21 ]

**9.Bb2 0-0 10.0-0-0 Nc6 11.g3 Bg4**

**12.Rd2 Rfe8** And now ...Be7-g5 would  
 win.

[ 12...Rae8!? 13.Bh3 Bh5= ]

**13.Be2 Bf5 14.h4 a5** 0.48/21

[ 14...Nd4= 0.10/19 should be  
 considered. ]

**15.a4 Ne5 16.f3 Rad8 17.Nh3 Bxh3**

**18.Rxh3 Bf6 19.Rh2 Nc6 20.Bxf6**

**gxf6 21.Bd3 Nd4 22.Be4 b6 23.g4**

Inhibits f6-f5. **23...Rxe4 24.fxe4  $\pm$**

Endgame Strongly threatening Rh2-f2.

KRR-KRN **24...Nf3 25.Rhf2 Nxd2**

**26.Kxd2 KR-KR 26...Kg7 27.Ke3 Re8**

1.51/29

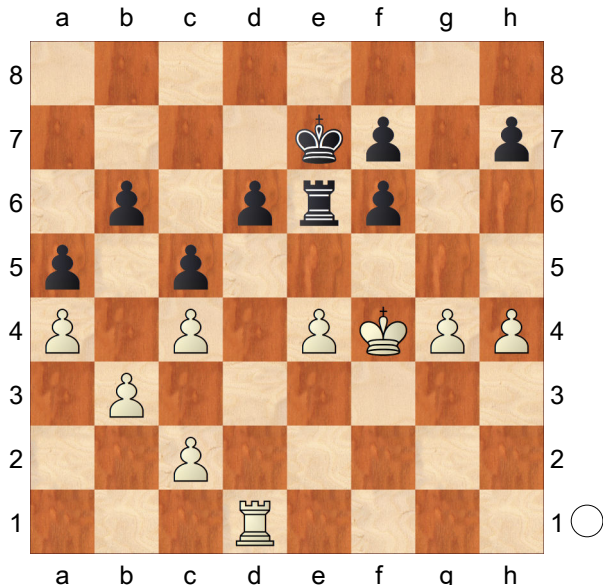
[Black should play 27...h6 1.18/29

28.Rf5 Re8 ]

**28.Rd2 Re6 1.77/31**

[ 28...Rd8± 1.23/29 29.Kf4 Kg6  
30.h5+ Kg7 ]

**29.Kf4+- Kf8 30.Rd1 Ke7**



**31.Rd5! Kf8 32.c3 Kg7 33.b4 cxb4**

**34.cxb4 axb4 35.Rb5 1.11/28**

[ ⚡35.Ke3 1.46/26 ]

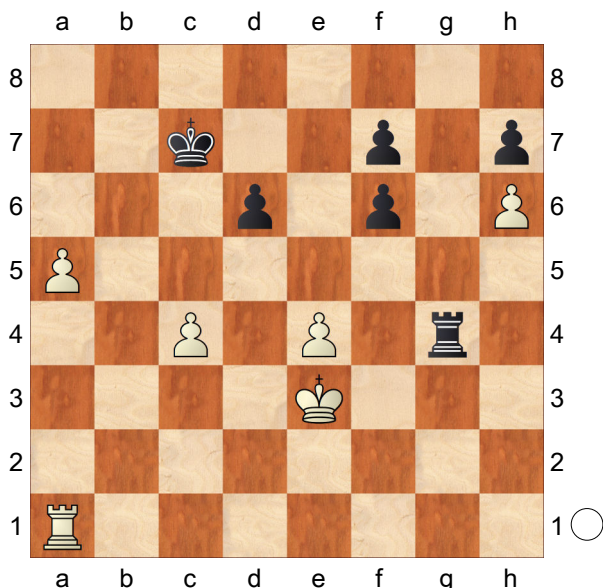
**35...Re5±** White must now prevent ...

Re5xb5. **36.Rxb6 Ra5 37.Rxb4 Kf8**

**38.h5 Ke7 39.h6 Ke6 40.Ke3 Rg5**

**41.Rb1 Rxc4 42.Ra1** aiming for a4-a5.

**42...Kd7 43.a5 Kc7**



**44.a6! Kb8 45.Rb1+ Ka7? 5.98/25**

[ 45...Ka8 2.30/28 46.Rb7 Rh4 ]

**46.Rb7+- Kxa6 47.Rxf7 Kb6**

**48.Kd4? 1.62/28**

[ 48.Rxh7 7.93/27 Rg8 49.Kf4 ]

**48...Kc6? 4.28/28**

[ 48...f5 1.62/28 might work better.

49.Rxh7 Kc6 ]

**49.Rxf6** Hoping for c4-c5.

[ 49.Rxh7 f5+- ]

**49...Rh4 8.42/27**

[ ⚡49...Rg1 5.15/26 50.e5 Rd1+

51.Kc3 Kc5 52.exd6 Kc6 ]

**50.c5!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.22

(precise) /Black=0.31

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

**2722**

■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian**

**2732**

Moscow-ch Superfinal rapid (6) 31.1.14

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5

5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3

Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3

a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6

13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7

16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♞ad1 ♞b6 14.b3

(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,

T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3N**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6

7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7

10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4

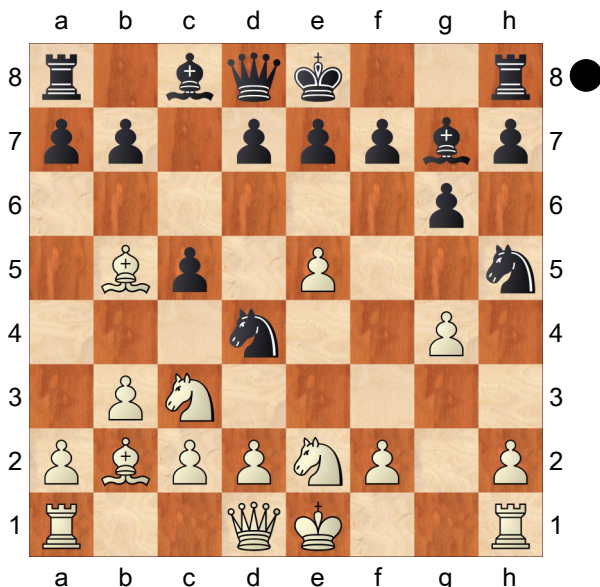
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

[ 4.e5 Nd5 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7

7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6

10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second

Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]  
**4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.e5 Nh5 7.Nge2**  
**Bg7! 8.g4**



Black must now prevent Ne2xd4. Black is slightly better. **8...Bxe5 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.gxh5** Hoping for Qd1-e2. **10...dxc3 11.Bxc3 Qc7 12.Bxe5** -0.74/20  
 [ 12.Qf3= -0.30/23 should be considered. ]

**12...Qxe5+ 13.Be2 d5 14.d4 Qe4 15.Rg1 Bf5 16.c3** -1.10/22  
 [ 16.Qd3 -0.78/23 ]  
**16...0-0-0 ...g6xh5** is the strong threat.  
**17.Qd2 Qh4 18.Qe3 Qxh2 19.0-0-0 Qd6 20.Kb2** Prevents Qd6-a3+. **20...e6 21.f4 Kb8 22.h6** -1.30/20

[ White should play 22.Qe5 -0.79/19 ]  
**22...Rd7** -0.89/21

[ 22...Be4 -1.30/20 23.Rc1 Qf8 ]  
**23.Bf3** -1.41/22

[ 23.Qe5 -0.89/21 Rc8 24.Rg3 ]

**23...Rc8 24.Rc1 Rdc7 25.a4 Rc6** -0.97/24

[ 25...a6 -1.46/22 26.Rgd1 Qd8 ]

**26.Qe5 Qxe5 27.fxe5 R6c7**

Inhibits c3-c4. **28.Be2 Rf8 29.c4 dxc4** -0.44/24

[ 29...f6 0.89/21 ]

**30.Bxc4** -0.99/20

[ 30.bxc4 0.44/24 f6 31.exf6 ]

**30...f6 31.Rce1 Rd7 32.Kc3 Kc7**

**33.Rg3 fxe5 34.Rxe5 Rf6 35.a5 Rd6**

**36.Rc5+ Kd8 37.Rb5 Rf7 38.Re5 Ke7**

**39.Rc5 Rd8 40.d5 Kf6** -0.05/24

[ Black should try 40...exd5 0.80/23 41.Rxd5 Rff8 ]

**41.dxe6= Re7**

[ 41...Bxe6? 42.Rf3+ Bf5 43.Bxf7 Kxf7 44.Rc7+ Ke6 45.Rxh7+- ]

**42.Rf3 Kg5 43.Bd3 Rf8**

[ Reject 43...Rxe6 44.Bxf5 gxf5 45.Rcxf5+ Kxh6 46.Rf7= ]

**44.Re5 Kxh6** -0.01/25

[ 44...Rf6! 0.54/25 45.Bxf5 gxf5 ]

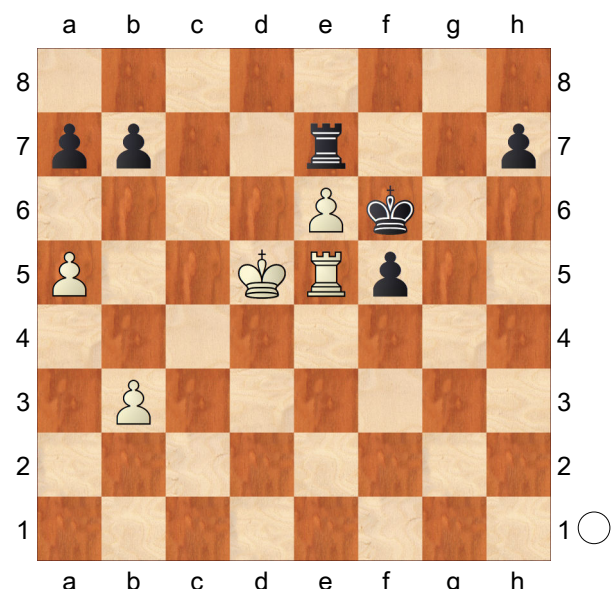
**45.Bxf5 Rxf5** 2.95/27

[ 45...gxf5= 0.00/24 and Black stays safe. 46.Kd4 Kg5 ]

**46.Rfxf5+- gxf5** Endgame KR-KR

**47.Kd4 Kg6** And now ...Kg6-f6 would win.

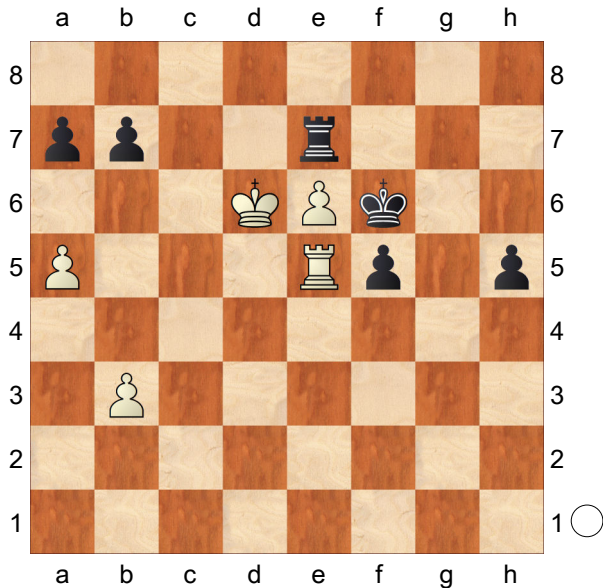
**48.Kd5** Threatens to win with Kd5-d6. **48...Kf6**



Strongly threatening ...Re7-e8. **49.Kd6! h5**

[ 49...f4? 50.Re4 Re8 51.Rxf4+ Kg5 52.Rf7 Rd8+ 53.Rd7+- ]





**50.Rxf5+! Kxf5 51.Kxe7+-**

Ke7-f7 would kill now. K3P-K3P **51...h4**

**52.Kd6** White threatens e6-e7 and

mate. **52...h3 53.e7 h2 54.e8Q**

Intending Qe8-b5+ and mate. **54...h1Q**

KQ-KQ **55.Qe6+ Kf4 56.Qe5+ 1.79/23**

[ 56.Kc7 3.16/24 ]

**56...Kg4 57.Qd4+ Kg3 58.Qd5 0.24/24**

Inhibits Qh1-c6+.

[Worse is 58.Qxa7 Qh6+ 59.Ke5

Qf4+ 60.Kd5 Qf7+ 61.Kd6 Qf4+

62.Ke7 Qb4+ 63.Kd7 Qg4+ 64.Kd8

Qg8+ 65.Kc7 Qf7+ 66.Kd6 Qf6+

67.Kd5 Qf7+ 68.Ke5 Qf4+ 69.Ke6

Qg4+ 70.Ke7 Qb4+ 71.Kf6 Qf4+

72.Kg7 Qe5+ 73.Kg6 Qe6+ 74.Kh5

Qe5+ 75.Kh6 Qe6+ 76.Kh5 Qe5+

77.Kh6 Qe6+ 78.Kh5= ]

[Better is 58.Qc3+- 2.61/22 Kf2

59.Kc7 ]

**58...Qh7= 59.b4 a6? 2.61/29**

This move loses the game for Black.

[ 59...Kf2= 0.15/20 ]

**60.Qe5+- Kg2 3.05/27**

[ 60...Kf3 1.84/27 61.Kc5 Qh4

62.Qd5+ Ke2 ]

**61.Qe7 Qh2+ 62.Kd7** Threatening

mate with Qe7-e2+. **62...Qb8 63.Qd6**

**Qa7 64.Kc8 Kh3? 6.58/28**

[ 64...Kf1 3.44/26 65.Qf6+ Ke2

66.Qe7+ Kd1 67.Qxb7 Qe3 ]

**65.Qd7+** White is clearly winning.

**65...Kh2 66.Qxb7 Qd4 67.Qb6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.24

(precise) /Black=0.33

**1-0**

□ **Morozevich,Alexander**

**B20**

**2722**

■ **Eliseev,Urii**

**2549**

Moscow-ch Superfinal rapid (5) 30.1.14

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink,J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4

13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;

ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 Nf6N**

[ 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6

**A) 7.Qe2** e6 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3

Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4

12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4

14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2

16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3

Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5 20.Nf6+ Kh8

21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4 Be7

1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g

(2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C

(2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/

Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ) 8...Nf6

9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0

12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4



Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5  
17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4  
Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5  
11.♖e1 h6 12.♖b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)–  
Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
0–1 (59);

**B) 7.d3** Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0–0 Be7  
10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0–0  
12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5  
Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6  
17.Rh4 d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3  
d4 20.Ne4 Chapter 13 Part 2–  
Game 2 Game 2 ]

**6.Qe2 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.e5** The position  
is equal. **8...Nd5 9.Qe4** –0.75/20  
[ 9.exd6= –0.11/19 keeps the balance.  
Bxd6 10.g3 ( 10.Bxg7? Nxf4 11.Qf1  
Rg8–+ )]

**9...f5 10.exf6! Bxf6 11.Nc3 0–0**  
[ 11...Nc7!? 12.Bd3 Nb4♣ ]

**12.0–0–0**  
[ 12.Nxd5 Bxb2 13.Ng5 g6♣ ]

**12...Kh8 0.29/21**  
[Black should play 12...Nc7♣ –0.32/18  
13.Bd3 g6 ]

**13.Bd3=**  
[ 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Qe3 ( 14.Qxd5?  
Nb4–+ ) 14...Bxb2+ 15.Kxb2 d4♣ ]

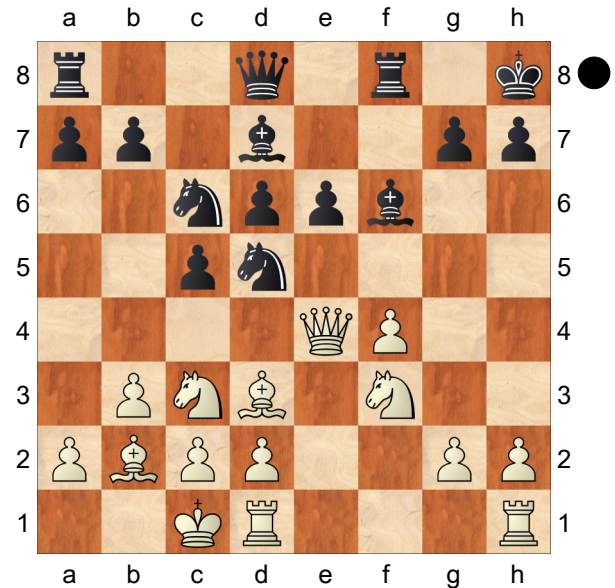
(Diagram)

**13...g6 14.h4!** And now h4–h5 would  
win.

[But not 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Qxd5  
Bxb2+ 16.Kxb2 Qf6+ 17.Kb1 Nb4= ]

**14...Bg7! 15.Nxd5 Bxb2+ 16.Kxb2**  
Hoping for Nd5–c3. **16...exd5 17.Qxd5**  
**Qf6+ 18.Kb1! Nb4! 19.Qc4 Qxf4**  
0.75/23

[ 19...Bg4= 0.15/20 remains equal. ]



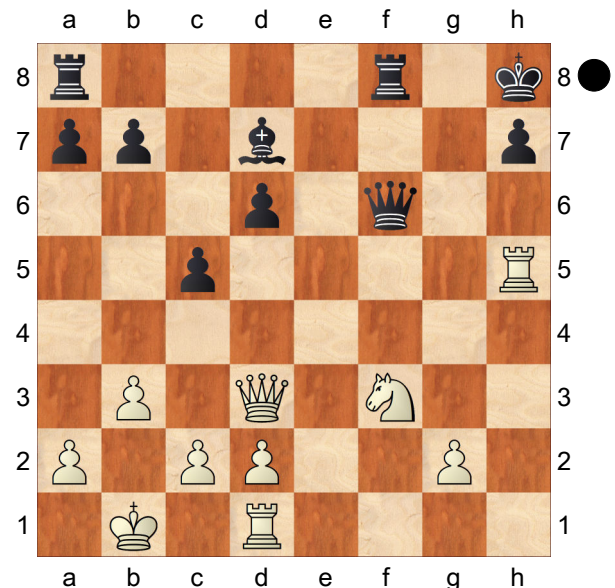
**20.Qc3+** 0.44/22

[ 20.Be4± 0.75/23 ]

**20...Qf6 21.h5 gxh5**

[Less strong is 21...Nxd3 22.hxg6  
Qxc3 23.dxc3± ]

**22.Rxh5 Nxd3 23.Qxd3**



**Bf5 24.Qc3** –0.03/22

[ 24.Qd5!± 0.32/23 ]

**24...Bg6 25.Rd5 Kg8 26.Re1**

[ 26.Qc4!? Kh8 27.Ng5= ]

**26...Rae8 27.Rxe8 Bxe8 28.Qc4**

Strongly threatening Rd5–f5+. **28...Kh8**

Threatens to win with ...Be8–f7. **29.Qg4**

**Rg8 30.Qh3 Bc6 31.Rf5 Qe7**

...Bc6-d7 is the strong threat. **32.g4 Bd7 33.Rf4 Qg7**↑ Black fights for an advantage. **34.Nh2 Rf8 35.Qf3 Rxf4 36.Qxf4 Qe7 37.Nf3 Kg7 38.g5 Bc6** With the idea ...Qe7-f7. **39.Nh4 Bd7** 0.21/21

[  $\triangleleft$ 39...Qe1+ -0.30/23 40.Kb2 Qe5+ 41.Qxe5+ dxe5 ]

**40.d4 b6 41.Kb2 Qe6 42.Ng2** -0.25/24

[  $\triangleleft$ 42.a4 0.26/21 ]

**42...cxd4 43.Qxd4+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

$\square$  **Morozevich,Alexander**

$\blacksquare$  **Potkin,Vladimir**

Moscow-ch Superfinal rapid (1) 30.1.14 [MH]

**B20**

**2722**

**2625**

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move alternatives Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**3.Bb2 a6**

[ 3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3 Be7 18.Bf3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1-0 (33) ]

**4.g3N**

[ 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qe3 Nf6 7.Be2 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Qg3 Qa5 10.Bd3 Nh5 11.Qg4 Ne5 12.Qd1 Nxd3+ 13.cxd3 Nf4 14.Kf1 Nxd3 15.Bxd4 Nc5 16.Ne2 Bd7 17.a3 Qd8 18.b4 Ba4 13...♘bd7 (2099)-Hauser,J (2391) Amsterdam 2008 Lexikon14 [Westminster Papers xi Feb 1879 p221] 1-0 ]

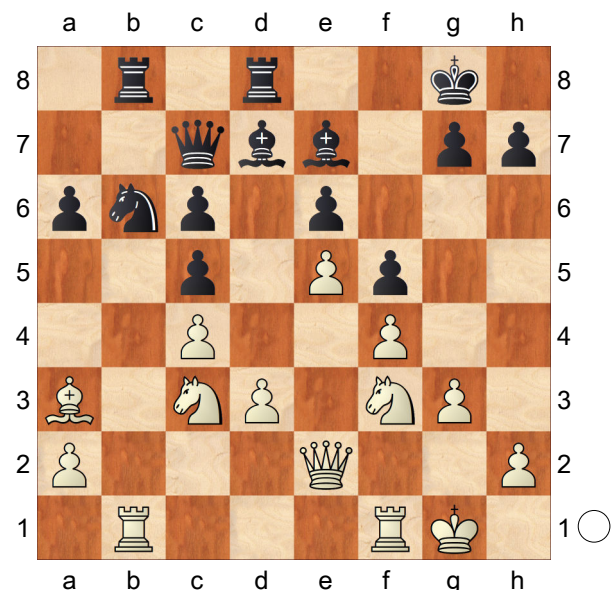
**4...d5 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.e5 Nfd7 7.c4 dxc4 8.bxc4** The position is equal.

**8...Be7 9.f4 0-0 10.Nc3 Nc6** 0.64/20 [ 10...Qc7= 0.28/19 ]

**11.Bxc6± bxc6 12.Nf3 Rb8 13.Rb1 f5 14.0-0 Qc7 15.d3 Nb6 16.Ba3 Bd7** 1.43/23

[  $\triangleleft$ 16...Rd8 1.00/21 ]

**17.Qe2± Rfd8**

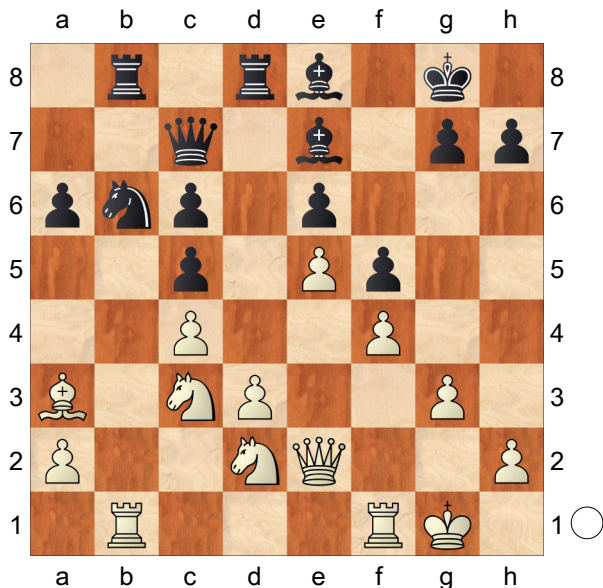


**18.Nd2!** & Bianco is more active.

**18...Be8**

(Diagram)

**19.Nb3! Nd7 20.Qe3** 1.11/22



[White should try 20.Na4+- 1.77/21 ]  
**20...Rb4 21.g4 Bg6 22.gxf5 Bxf5**  
**23.Bxb4 cxb4 24.Ne4 c5 25.Rbd1 a5**  
**26.d4 0.72/21**  
 [  $\triangleleft$ 26.Nd6 1.23/20 ]  
**26...cxd4 1.91/21**  
 [ 26...a4± 0.72/21 is a better defense. ]  
**27.Nxd4+-** Pair of Knights!  
 [Inferior is 27.Rxd4 Bxe4 28.Rxe4 ( 28.Qxe4 a4± ) 28...a4± ]  
**27...Qxc4 ...Bf5xe4** is the strong threat.  
**28.Nxf5 exf5 29.Nd6 Qe6 30.Qb3 Nc5 31.Qxe6+ 1.27/5**  
 [ 31.Qd5+- 1.86/24 Qxd5 32.Rxd5 ]  
**31...Nxe6± 32.Nxf5 Bc5+ 33.Kg2 Rf8 34.Nd6** And now f4-f5 would win.  
**34...Nxf4+ 35.Kh1 g5 1.97/23**  
 [ 35...a4± 1.40/23 36.Ne4 Be7 ]  
**36.Ne4+- Be7 37.Rd7 Ng6 38.Nf6+ Kh8 39.Ra7 a4 40.Rb1** Against b4-b3  
**40...b3 41.axb3 a3 3.92/21**  
 [ 41...Bxf6 1.79/24 42.exf6 axb3 ]  
**42.b4 Bxf6? 7.06/23**  
 [ 42...Rd8 3.41/20 43.Ra1 Kg7 44.R1xa3 Nxe5 ]  
**43.exf6** White is clearly winning.  
**43...Rxf6 44.b5** Strongly threatening b5-

b6. **44...Rb6 45.Rxa3 Ne5 46.Ra6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08  
 (flawless) /Black=0.21 (precise)

**1-0**

☐ **Buese,Ralf** **B20**  
**2712**  
☒ **4.d4  $\triangleleft$ f6 5. $\triangleleft$ c4\_43147** **2791**  
 corr ASIGC (7) 23.07.2017  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
 C 06/32 (2752)-13. $\triangleleft$ ad1  $\triangleleft$ b6 14.b3  
 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
 T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Nc3N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.h4 d5 0.17/20**

[  $\triangleleft$ 7...0-0 -0.20/21 ]

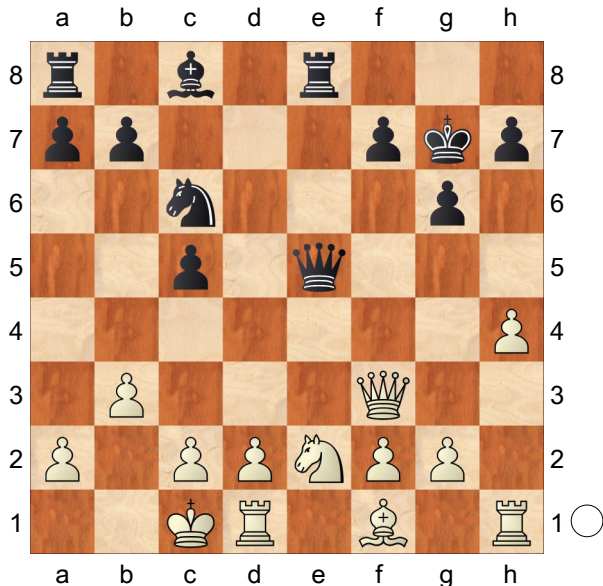
**8.exd6!=** The position is equal. **8...0-0**

**9.dxe7 Re8 10.Qf3 Qxe7+ 11.Ne2 Nc6 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.0-0-0 Qe5**

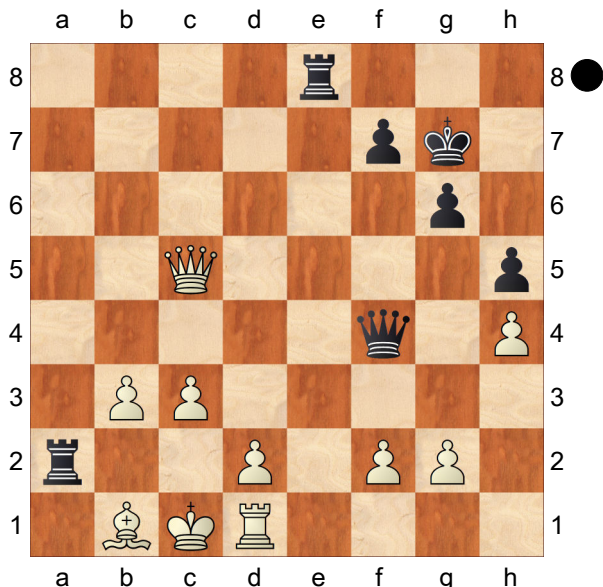
(Diagram)

**14.Qc3** Against Qe5-a1+ **14...Nd4**





**15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qf3** Black should prevent h4-h5. **16...d3! 17.c3 h5!** Hoping for ...Bc8-g4. **18.Bxd3 Bg4 19.Qxb7 Rab8 20.Qa6** Black must now prevent f2-f3. **20...Bxd1 21.Rxd1 Qf4 22.Qxa7 -0.34/24**  
 [ 22.Qa4= -0.01/22 Qxf2 23.Rf1 Re1+ 24.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 25.Kc2 ]  
**22...Ra8** 23.Qc5 Rxa2 aiming for ... Re8-e1! **24.Bb1**



**Raa8** Black has strong compensation. & Nero is more active. **25.g3 Qf3 26.Qd4+ Kg8! 27.Qf4 Qb7 -0.42/22**  
 [ 27...Qe2 -0.84/23 ]

**28.b4 -0.92/24**

[ 28.Kb2 -0.42/22 ]

**28...Qa6 -0.46/24**

[ Better is 28...Ra1 -0.92/24 ]

**29.Qf3! Qa3+ 30.Kc2 Rac8 31.g4?**

-2.25/25 Now White is beyond hope.

[ 31.Qd5! -0.70/22 ]

**31...Rc4-+** Threatens to win with ...

Rc4xb4! **32.Qd5 Rxb4** Chess con chili.

**33.Qa2** Inhibits Rb4-b2+. **33...Qxa2+**

**34.Bxa2 Rxc4** Endgame KRR-KRB

**35.Bd5 Rxc4 36.c4 Rf4 37.d4 Rxf2+**

**38.Kc3 h4 39.c5? -4.92/20**

[ 39.Bc6 -2.86/19 was necessary.

Rc8 40.d5 ]

**39...Re3+** Black is clearly winning.

**40.Kc4 Rc2+ 41.Kb5 h3 42.c6 h2**

**43.Kb6 Rg3 44.Be4 Rc4** And now ...

Rg3-b3+ would win. **45.Rd2 Rh3**

**46.Bh1 Rc1** Inhibits Rd2-d1. **47.Bg2**

**h1Q 48.Bxh1 Rhxh1 49.d5 Rc3**

**50.Rb2 Rd1 51.Rb5 Kf8 52.Kc7 Ke7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.24

(precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

**0-1**

**B20**

□ Andreikin,Dmitry

**2712**

■ Vachier Lagrave,Maxime

**2791**

Dortmund 45th (7)

23.07.2017

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5

5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3

Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3

a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6

13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7

16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3



(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1-0 (33) ]

### 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

### 4...Nd5 5.Nc3N

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
[Tony Rotella] ]

### 5...Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.h4 d5 8.exd6

The position is equal. 8...0-0 9.dxe7

### Re8 10.Qf3 Qxe7+ 11.Ne2 Nc6

### 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.0-0-0! Qe5 14.Qc3

Against Qe5-a1+ 14...Nd4 15.Nxd4

### cxd4 16.Qf3 d3 17.c3 h5! 18.Bxd3

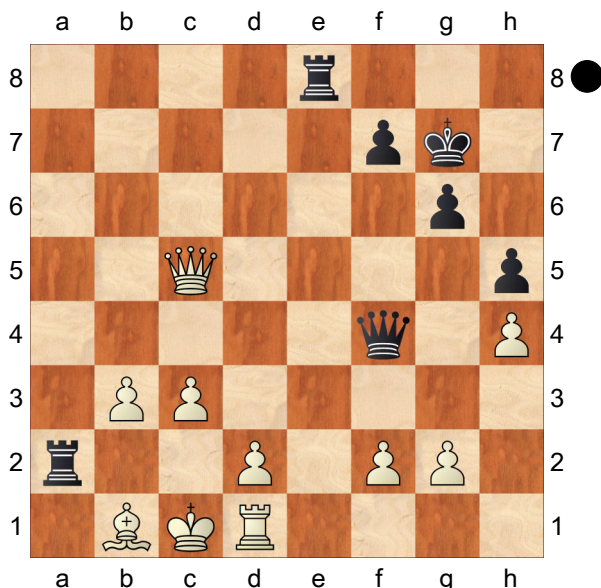
Bg4↑ Black is pushing. 19.Qxb7 Rab8

### 20.Qa6 aiming for f2-f3. 20...Bxd1

### 21.Rxd1 Qf4 22.Qxa7 -0.36/24

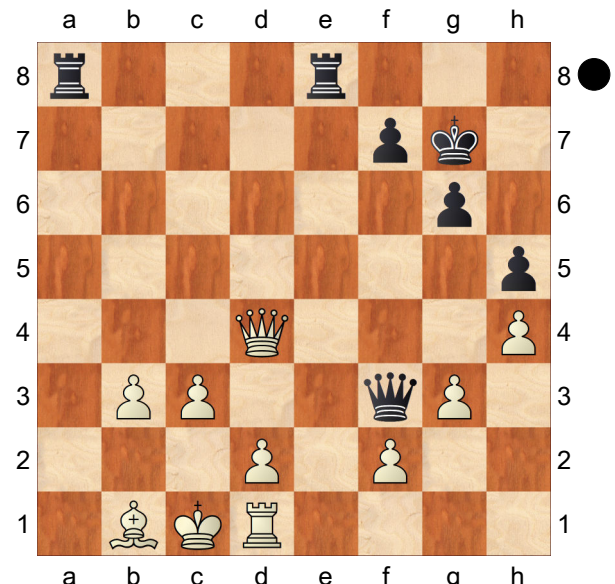
[ 22.Qa4= 0.01/22 might be stronger.  
Qxf2 23.Rf1 Re1+ 24.Rxe1 Qxe1+  
25.Kc2 ]

22...Ra8f 23.Qc5 Rxa2 White must  
now prevent ...Re8-e1! 24.Bb1



Raa8 Black has strong compensation.  
& Nero is more active. 25.g3 Qf3

## 26.Qd4+



### Kg8! 27.Qf4 Qb7 28.b4 -0.80/23

[ 28.Qb4f -0.48/21 was preferable.  
Qxb4 29.cxb4 ]

### 28...Qa6 29.Qf3! Qa3+ 30.Kc2 Rac8

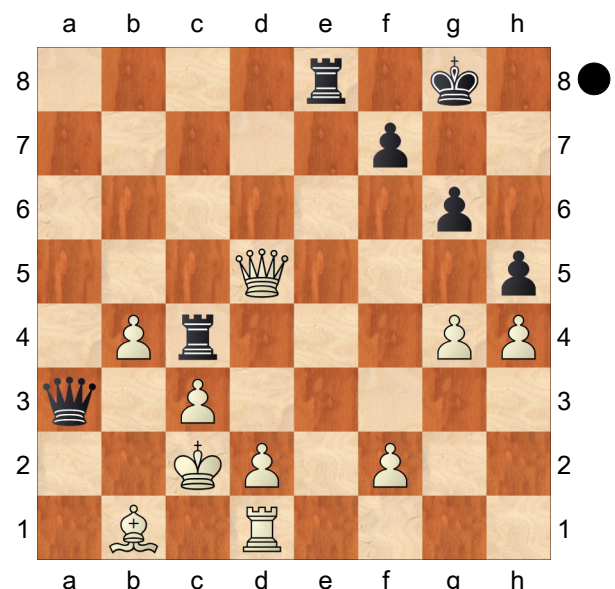
And now ...Rc8-c4 would win. 31.g4?

-2.59/26 White does not recover from  
this.

[White should try 31.Qd5f -0.68/22 ]

### 31...Rc4-+ Hoping for ...Rc4xb4!

### 32.Qd5



### Rxb4 Chess con chili. 33.Qa2

Prevents Rb4-b2+. 33...Qxa2+ 34.Bxa2

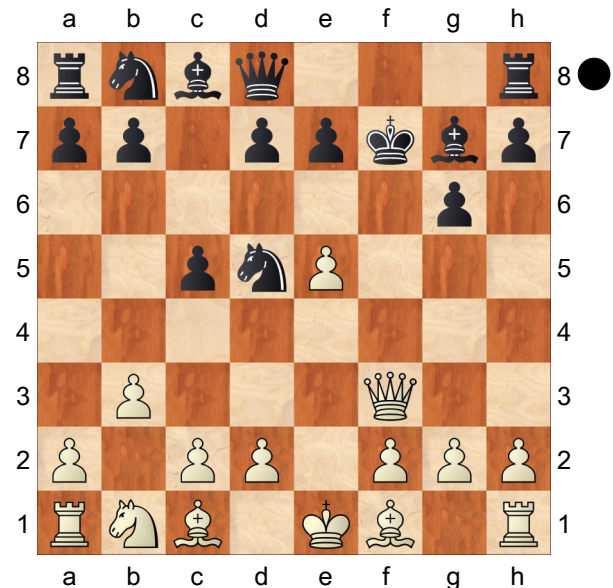
### Rxg4 Endgame KRR-KRB 35.Bd5

**Rxh4 36.c4 Rf4 37.d4 Rxf2+ 38.Kc3 h4 39.c5 -4.70/20**  
 [  $\triangle$ 39.Bc6 -2.98/20 Rc8 40.d5 ]  
**39...Re3+** Black is clearly winning.  
**40.Kc4 Rc2+ 41.Kb5 h3 42.c6 h2 43.Kb6 Rg3 44.Be4 Rc4 45.Rd2 Rh3 46.Bh1 Rc1** Inhibits Rd2-d1. **47.Bg2 h1Q 48.Bxh1 Rhxh1 49.d5 Rc3 50.Rb2 Rd1 51.Rb5 Kf8 52.Kc7 Ke7**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless)  
**0-1**

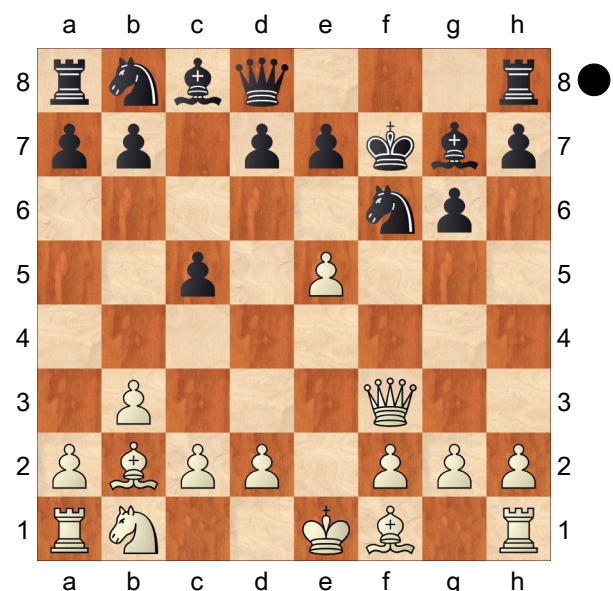
**B20**  
 2711  
 2702  
 Wch Blitz 9th (15) 14.10.2015  
 [MH]

**B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves**  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**  
 [ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Pink,J (2683)-11... $\text{\textcircled{W}}$ c7 12. $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]  
**3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 g6N**  
 [ 4...Nc6 5.Bb2 g6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5 Qxe5

10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 13.g5  $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ c5 14. $\text{\textcircled{W}}$ f3 (2395)-Rinkewitz,F (2450) Espana 83/571 1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter] 1-0 (51) ]  
**5.Ng5 Bg7 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+**



**Nf6! 8.Bb2**



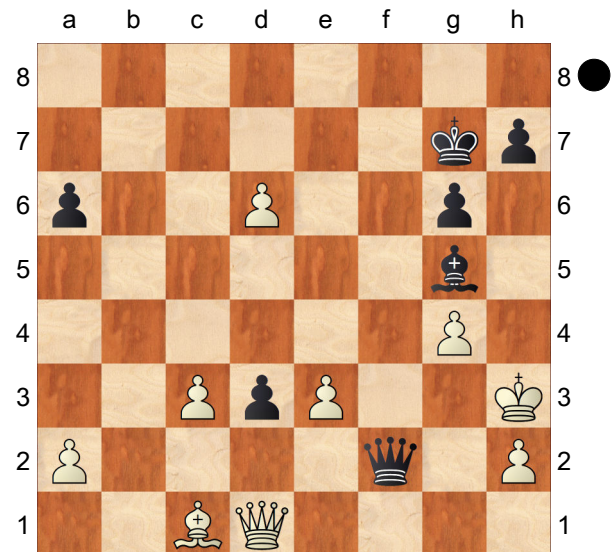
The position is equal. **8...Nc6! 9.Bc4+ e6**

[ But not 9...d5 10.exf6 Bxf6 11.Bxf6 ( 11.Bxd5+ Kg7 $\pm$  ) 11...exf6 12.Bxd5+ Kg7 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.0-0 $\pm$  ]

**10.exf6 Bxf6 11.Nc3** -0.73/21  
 [ 11.Qxf6+ ♣ -0.37/21 Qxf6 12.Bxf6 Kxf6 13.f4 ]  
**11...Nd4 ♣ 12.Qd1 d5** Inhibits Nc3-e4.  
**13.Bd3 Kg7 14.0-0 e5 15.f3 Re8**  
**16.Rb1 Be6 17.Kh1 Rc8 18.Nb5 Nc6**  
**19.c3** -1.31/20 Prevents Nc6-b4.  
 [ White should play 19.c4 ♣ -0.60/21 ]  
**19...a6 20.Na3** Prevents c5-c4. **20...b5**  
**21.Nc2 c4 22.bxc4 bxc4 23.Be2 Bf5**  
 -0.88/19  
 [ ♢23...d4 -1.44/20 Hoping for ...d4-d3. 24.d3 Bf5 ]  
**24.g4 Bd3 25.Bxd3 cxd3 26.Ne3**  
 -1.18/21  
 [ ♢26.Ne1 -0.79/21 ]  
**26...Na5 27.Bc1 Nc4** -0.81/20  
 [ Better is 27...Bg5 -1.28/20 28.Ng2 Nc4 ]  
**28.Rb7+** -1.38/22  
 [ ♢28.Qa4 -0.81/20 ]  
**28...Re7 29.Rxe7+ Bxe7 30.Re1 Bf6**  
 & Nero is much more active. **31.Qa4**  
 -1.90/24  
 [ 31.Nxc4 ♣ -1.18/22 was necessary. dxc4 32.Re4 ]  
**31...Qd6** -0.99/23  
 [ 31...Bh4-+ -1.90/24 32.Rd1 Qd6 33.Nxc4 dxc4 ]  
**32.Kg2?** -3.00/23  
 [ 32.Qb3 ♣ -0.99/23 is a better defense. ]  
**32...Bh4-+ 33.Rd1 e4 34.fxe4**  
 -7.84/24  
 [ 34.Rf1 -3.13/21 ]  
**34...Rf8 ( -> ...Rf8-f2+) 35.Rf1**  
 -22.43/22 Against Rf8-f2+  
 [ ♢35.Kh1 -4.74/22 Qf4 36.Rg1 ]  
**35...Nxe3+ Remove Defender 36.dxe3**  
**Rxf1 37.Kxf1 Qf6+ 38.Kg2 Qf2+**  
**39.Kh3 Kh6** -5.47/26  
 [ ♢39...Qf3+ -#5/12 40.Kxh4 g5+

**41.Kh5 Qf7+ 42.Kxg5 Qf6+ 43.Kh5**  
**Qh6# ]**

**40.Qd1 Bg5 41.exd5 Kg7?** -1.08/24  
 [ 41...Bf6-+ -4.56/23 and Black stays clearly on top. And now ...g6-g5 would win. 42.g5+ ( 42.e4+? Kg7-+ ) 42...Bxg5 ]  
**42.d6?** -4.37/23  
 [ 42.Bd2 ♣ -1.08/24 ]



**42...Bf6! 43.d7 g5 44.d8R** -12.15/26  
 [ ♢44.c4 -4.53/24 Be5 45.Qh1 Qh4+ 46.Kg2 Qxg4+ 47.Kf2 Qe2+ 48.Kg1 ]  
**44...Bxd8 45.Qxd3 Qf3#**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.84/  
 Black=0.49  
**0-1**

**B20**  
 ☐ Vallejo Pons, Francisco **2710**  
 ■ Gukesh, Dommaraju **2730**  
 Chessable Masters Play In rapid (3)  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**



[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

#### 4.Bc4 Nf6

[ 4...d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5  
dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6  
11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0  
14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5  
17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

#### 5.Nc3 g6N

[ 5...d6 6.d3 a6 7.a4 g6 8.Nge2  
Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 Rb8 11.f4  
exf4 12.Nxf4 Nd7 13.Qc1 Nde5  
14.Bd5 Bd7 15.Qd2 Qg5 16.Bc1  
Nb4 17.Nce2 Qh4 18.Rb1 g5 19.c3  
gxf4 20.cxb4 10.♙e3 13.a4 h5 14.  
a5\_7543-10.Rg1!? 95: Internet (blitz)  
2006 200 Traps In The Opening  
[Kotov,A] 0-1 (62) ]

#### 6.Nge2 Bg7 7.0-0 d6 8.d3

The position is equal. 8...0-0 9.a4 Kh8  
10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 Ne7 12.Bc4  
g5 0.54/18

[ 12...Nc6= 0.22/19 ]

#### 13.Ng3 f5 14.Nh5 Bh6 1.00/21

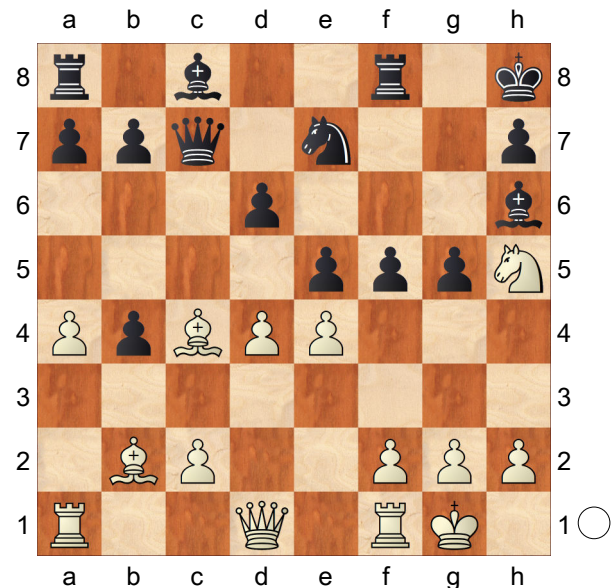
[ Better is 14...Ng6± 0.44/18 ]

#### 15.b4 -0.01/21

[ 15.d4!± 1.00/21 cxd4 16.Qxd4! ]

#### 15...cxb4= 16.d4 Qc7

(Diagram)



**17.dxe5! dxe5 18.Bb3 f4** With the  
idea ...f4-f3! **19.f3** -0.32/21

[ 19.c3= -0.01/21 feels stronger. ]

#### 19...Nc6 0.10/21

[ 19...Ng6± -0.32/21 ]

#### 20.c3 -0.61/22

[ 20.Qd5= 0.10/21 ]

#### 20...bxc3± 21.Bxc3 Rd8 -0.41/23

[ Of course not 21...Na5?! 22.Rc1± ]

[ Black should play 21...Bd7± -0.76/21 ]

#### 22.Qc2 Qe7 0.41/20

[ 22...Bf8± -0.45/21 ]

#### 23.Rad1 -0.62/21

[ 23.Qb2± 0.41/20 ]

#### 23...Bd7 24.Bd5

(Diagram)

#### Be8! 25.g4 Bxh5 26.gxh5 Bg7

#### 27.Bxc6 Qc5+ 28.Kg2 Qxc6 29.Qb2 Re8

[ 29...Qxa4? 30.Rxd8+ Rxd8

31.Bxe5+- ]

#### 30.Rd5 Rac8

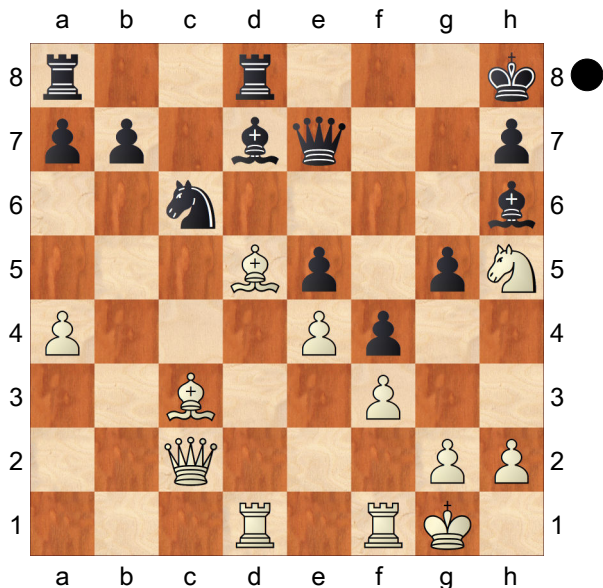
[ 30...Qxa4? 31.h6 Bxh6 32.Bxe5+

( 32.Rxe5 Rxe5 33.Bxe5+ Kg8± )

32...Rxe5 33.Rxe5+- ]

#### 31.Rc1 g4 -0.01/23





[ 31...Qxa4? 32.Bxe5 Rxc1 33.Bxg7+ Kg8 34.Qxc1+- ]

[ 31...h6  $\bar{f}$  -0.56/22 32.h3 b6 ]

**32.fxg4= f3+** 0.40/22

[ 32...Qxa4= -0.01/18 33.Kf3

( 33.Re1? h6  $\bar{f}$  ) 33...Qc6 ]

**33.Kxf3?** -1.20/21

[ 33.Kg3!  $\pm$  0.40/22 keeps the upper hand. ]

**33...Qf6+ $\bar{f}$  34.Kg2** Strongly threatening Rd5xe5! **34...Qf4** Black has strong compensation. **35.Re1** -4.48/22

[ 35.Rd2  $\bar{f}$  -1.36/22 was the crucial defense. ]

**35...Qxg4+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/  
Black=0.16 (very precise)

[ Weaker is 35...Rf8 36.Bxe5 Qxg4+ 37.Kh1  $\pm$  ]

**0-1**

**B20**

□ Vallejo Pons, Francisco

**2710**

■ Turzo, Attila

**2288**

Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Mar Early blitz (1)  
[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4**

**Nf6 5.d3 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Nge2 d6**

**8.0-0** White has an edge. **8...a6 9.a4**

Prevents b7-b5. **9...Nd4 10.f4 Be6N**

[ 10...b6 11.Nd5 Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5

13.Ng3 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5

Bf6 16.c4 g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 18.Ra2

Qe7 19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5

21.axb5 axb5 22.Kh1 h5 23.Bxd4

exd4 24.Nf5 gxf5 25.exf5

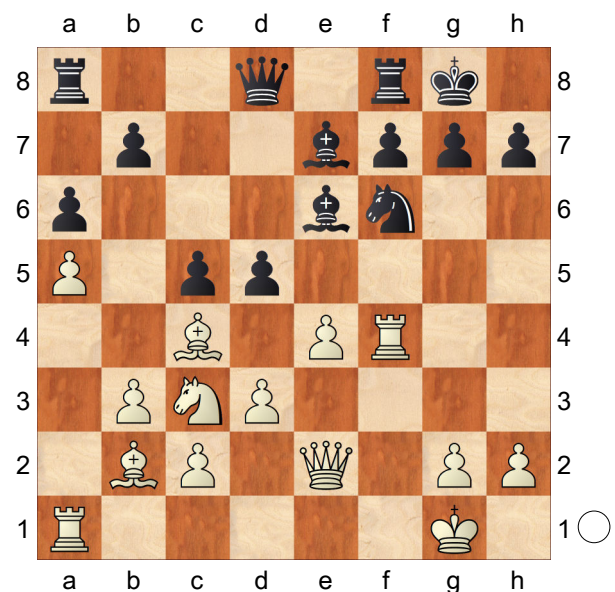
Chapter 15 Part 1-Game 4 Game 4  
(43) ]

**11.a5 Nxe2+** 0.72/23

[ 11...h6= 0.22/18 keeps the balance. ]

**12.Qxe2  $\pm$  exf4 13.Rxf4 d5?** 2.71/21

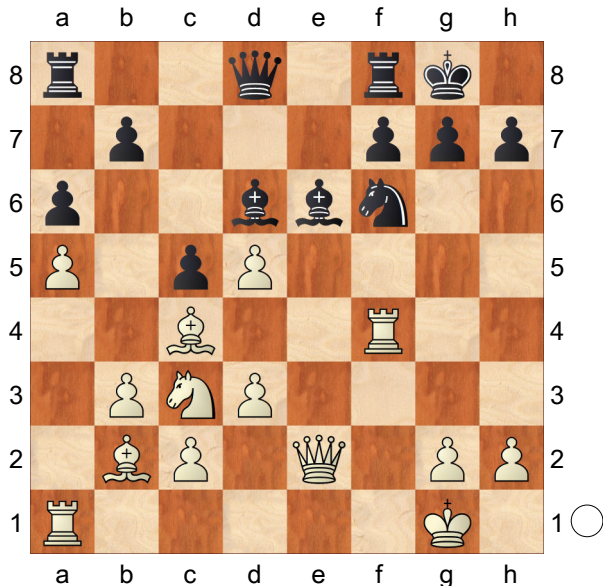
[ 13...Kh8  $\pm$  0.74/21 is a better defense. ]



A mistake that costs the game.

**14.exd5!+- Bd6**

(Diagram)



**15.Rxf6 Qxf6 16.dxe6 Qd4+ 17.Kh1 fxe6 18.Na4**

[Resist 18.Bxe6+ Kh8+-]

**18...Qf4 19.g3 Qf3+ 20.Qxf3 Rxf3 21.Bxe6+ Kh8 22.Bd5 Rf2 23.Re1**  
Inhibits Ra8-e8. **23...Rb8 24.c4 Rd2 25.Be5 Bxe5 26.Rxe5 Rxd3 27.Nxc5 Rd1+ 2.58/23**

[ 27...Rd2 4.66/22 keeps fighting.  
28.Bxb7 g5 29.Rxg5 Ra2 ]

**28.Kg2 b6 29.axb6 Rxb6 30.Re8#**  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02  
(flawless) /Black=0.60  
**1-0**

□ **Vallejo Pons,Francisco**

■ **Sjugirov,Sanan**

Krasnogorsk Blitz (18)

[MH]

**B20**

**2710**

**2712**

30.01.2023

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4

15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

**3.d4N**

[ 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 ( 4...Nc6  
5.Nf3 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5  
8.Ndb5 Qb8 9.Nd5 Kf8 10.Ndc7 a6  
11.Qxd7 Nf6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxe6+  
fxe6 14.Nc7 Nd4 15.0-0-0 Bc6  
16.Nxe6+ Nxe6 17.Qxc6 Qf4+  
18.Kb1 Re8 19.Bc4 9.♙d3 ♘c6 10.  
♘bd2\_194 (2320)-Shchebeniuk,M  
(2610) USSR 1995 CBM 078 [FS-70/  
204] 0-1 (67); 4...d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3  
Nd7 7.Qe2 Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.g4  
d5 10.e5 Nxg4 11.Rg1 h5 12.f5  
Nf8 13.Nb5 d4 14.Bg2 exf5  
15.Nfxd4 Bxg2 16.Nxf5 Bc6  
17.Nxg7+ Kd7 18.d4 c4 19.Nc3  
Chapter 15 Part 2-Game 4 Game 4  
(34) ) 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 a6  
8.Bd3 Nf6 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.f4 Qc7  
11.0-0-0 b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.g5 b4  
14.gxf6 bxc3 15.Bxc3 gxf6 16.Kb2  
Rc8 17.Qe1 Nxe4 5,B-Brunner,J  
Kazan 1998 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Elburg, CCYB] 0-1 ]

**3...cxd4 4.Qxd4 Bb7 5.Bb2 d6**

0.43/19

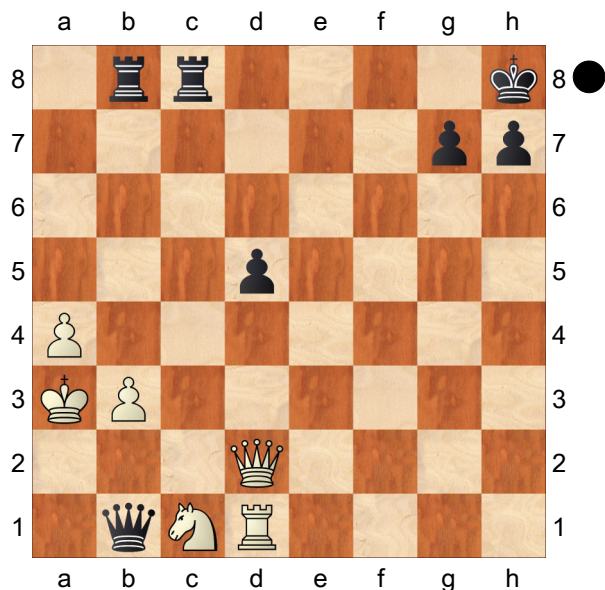
[ 5...Nc6= 0.01/20

is more appropriate. 6.Qd3 e6 ]

**6.Nc3 Nf6 7.f3 0.11/18**

[ 7.Nf3± 0.43/19 ]  
**7...e5** 0.53/21  
 [ 7...Nc6= 0.11/18 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxc6+ Bxc6 ]  
**8.Qd2±** White is slightly better. **8...a6**  
**9.0-0-0 Be7 10.Kb1 b5 11.g4 0-0**  
**12.g5 Nh5 13.Nh3 Nd7 14.Rg1 Rc8**  
**15.Nf2** 0.08/21  
 [ 15.f4± 0.80/21 ]  
**15...Nb6** 0.94/21  
 [ 15...Nc5= 0.08/21 remains equal. ]  
**16.h4 b4** 1.32/21  
 [ ♠16...Nf4 0.83/19 ]  
**17.Nd5** -0.01/22  
 [ 17.Ne2± 1.32/21 ]  
**17...Nxd5= 18.exd5 Nf4! 19.Qxb4**  
 -0.14/22  
 [ ♠19.Bc4! 0.20/21 ]  
**19...Bxd5 20.Bxa6** -0.60/21  
 [ 20.Ne4= -0.03/21 ]  
**20...Rb8**  
 [ 20...Ra8!? 21.Bd3 ( 21.Bb7 Qb8♣ )  
 21...Bxf3♣ ]  
**21.Qc3 Qb6↑** Black has good play.  
**22.Rxd5? -3.15/21 Nxd5-- 23.Qd2**  
**Nb4**  
 [ And not 23...Qxa6 24.Qxd5 Qb6  
 25.Rf1♣ ]  
**24.Bd3 Nxd3** -1.82/21  
 [ ♠24...Qa7 -3.13/21 25.Bf5 Qxa2+  
 26.Kc1 d5 ]  
**25.cxd3 Ra8** And now ...Ra8-a7 would  
 win. **26.f4** -2.44/22  
 [ 26.d4♣ -1.41/22 ]  
**26...Rfb8 27.Re1** -2.23/22  
 [ 27.fxe5♣ -1.48/21 dxe5 28.Bxe5 ]  
**27...Qa6 28.Bc3 Bf8** -0.96/20  
 [ ♠28...Rc8 -1.38/19 29.Nd1 f6  
 30.fxe5 dxe5 31.gxf6 Bxf6 ]  
**29.fxe5♣ d5** Strongly threatening ...d5-  
 d4! **30.d4 Rc8** Black has strong  
 compensation. **31.Rc1** -1.02/24

[ Reject 31.Nd3 Rxc3! 32.Qxc3  
 Qxa2+ 33.Kc1 Qh2♣ ]  
 [ 31.Re3♣ -0.70/23 ]  
**31...Ba3 32.Rc2 Qf1+** -0.01/25  
 [ 32...Rc7♣ -1.19/23 White must now  
 prevent ...Qa6-g6. 33.Nd3 Rac8 ]  
**33.Qd1=** Dancing on a razor blade.  
**33...Qg2 34.Nd3?** -1.53/26  
 [ 34.Qg4!= 0.01/25 Qf1+ 35.Qd1 ]  
**34...Qe4♣ 35.Bb2** -3.02/25  
 [ 35.h5 -1.69/23 was called for. ]  
**35...Bxb2 36.Rxb2 Qxd4 37.Rd2**  
**Qxh4 38.Qe2 Qxg5 39.e6 fxe6**  
**40.Qxe6+ Kh8 41.Qe1 Qg6 42.Kb2**  
**Qf6+ 43.Kb1 Rf8 44.a4 Rab8 45.Ka2**  
 -5.60/22  
 [ ♠45.Qd1 -3.50/21 ]  
**45...Qc3-- 46.Nc1 Rfc8 47.Rd1?**  
 -#11/23  
 [ 47.Re2-- -3.62/22 Qf3 48.Qd1 ]  
**47...Qc2+ 48.Ka3 Qc5+** -5.13/25  
 [ ♠48...Rc3 -#10/22 49.Qxc3 Qxc3  
 50.Rg1 Qa1+ 51.Na2 Qxg1 52.Kb2  
 Qf2+ 53.Ka3 Qe3 54.Nc1 Qxc1+  
 55.Ka2 Qc2+ 56.Ka1 Rxb3 57.a5  
 Qb2# ]  
**49.Ka2** -7.87/22  
 [ ♠49.Kb2 -5.13/25 Qc2+ 50.Ka3  
 Rc3 51.Qxc3 Qxc3 52.Rh1 Qa1+  
 53.Na2 Qxh1 54.Kb2 Qd1 55.b4  
 Rc8 56.a5 Qd3 57.Nc1 Rc2+  
 58.Kb1 Qd1 59.b5 Qxc1# ]  
**49...Qc2+?** -0.01/24  
 [ 49...Qb6-- -7.87/22 50.Qg3 Rc2+  
 51.Kb1 Rbc8 ]  
**50.Ka3!= Qb1** -6.30/21  
 [ ♠50...Rc3 -#10/22 51.Qxc3 Qxc3  
 52.Rg1 Qa1+ 53.Na2 Qxg1 54.Kb2  
 Qf2+ 55.Ka3 Qe3 56.Nc1 Qxc1+  
 57.Ka2 Qc2+ 58.Ka1 Rxb3 59.a5  
 Qb2# ]  
**51.Qd2**



**Qa1+ -4.74/25**

[ Δ51...Rxc1! -#7/16 52.Qb2 Rxd1  
53.Qxb1 Rxb1 54.b4 R1xb4 55.a5  
Rb3+ 56.Ka2 R3b5 57.a6 Ra5# ]

**52.Na2+-+ Qf6 53.Qd4 -4.72/24**

[ Δ53.b4 -2.97/21 ]

**53...Qe7+ 54.Kb2 Rf8 55.Nc3 Qb7**

**56.Nb5 Qf7 57.Qxd5 Qxd5 58.Rxd5**

Endgame KRR-KRN 58...g6 59.Ka3

**h5 60.a5? -5.91/21**

[ 60.Nd4 -2.93/18 ]

**60...Rf5 61.Rxf5 gxf5 KR-KN 62.Nd4**

**h4 ...Rb8-e8 is the strong threat. 63.b4**

**h3 64.Nf3 Kg7 Threatens to win with ...**

**Kg7-h6. 65.Ka4 Kf6 66.a6 aiming for**

**b4-b5. 66...Ke6? -3.37/26**

[ 66...Ke7 -9.62/26 67.b5 Kd6 ]

**67.Ka5? -10.11/28**

[ 67.Ng5+ -3.37/26 Kd5 68.Nxh3 ]

(Diagram)

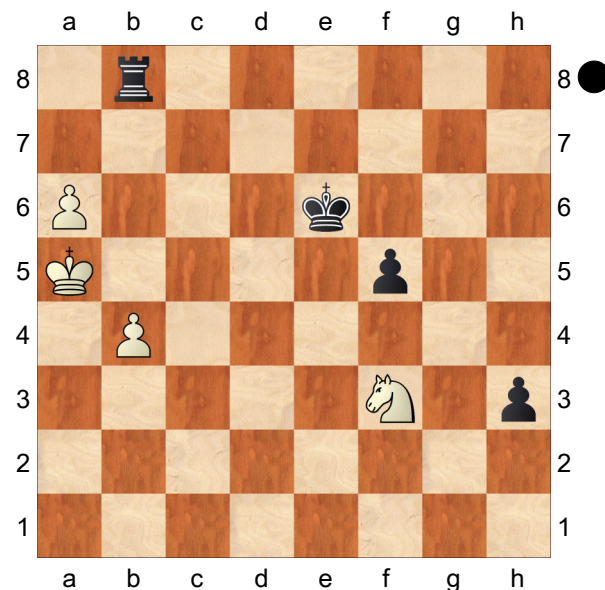
**67...Kd6? 0.00/31**

[ Better is 67...Rh8!-+ -10.11/28

( -> ...h3-h2) 68.Nh2 Kd6 ]

**68.a7= Rc8 69.Kb6 Kd5 70.Kb7 Rf8**

**71.b5 Kc5 72.b6 Rf7+? 10.32/24**



[ 72...Rg8= 0.00/22 ]

**73.Ka6+- Rf8 74.b7 Rf6+ 75.Ka5**

**Kd5** White used his chance.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/

Black=0.61

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Vallejo Pons,Francisco**

**2710**

■ **Goryachkina,Aleksandra**

**2576**

Krasnogorsk Blitz (3)

28.01.2023

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5

5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3

Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3

a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6

13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7

16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♟ad1 ♔b6 14.b3

(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,

T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6

7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7



10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Nc3N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
[Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Nc6 7.f4 d6 8.exd6**

The position is equal. **8...Qxd6** 0.53/20  
[ 8...Bh6= -0.25/21 ]

**9.Qxd6± exd6 10.c4! Rg8 11.0-0-0**

**Be6 12.Nf3 h6** Inhibits Nf3-g5. **13.g3**

**0-0-0 14.Bg2 Bg7 15.Nd2 Bxb2+**

**16.Kxb2 f5** Inhibits Nd2-e4. **17.Rhe1**

**Rge8 18.Nb1 Nd4 19.Nc3 Bf7 20.Nd5**

**Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Re8 22.Rxe8+ Bxe8**

Endgame KBN-KBN **23.Ne7+** 0.14/26

[ 23.c3± 0.53/23 Nc6 24.h3 ]

**23...Kc7** 0.48/24

[ 23...Kd8= 0.14/26

is more appropriate. 24.Nd5 Bc6 ]

**24.Ng8 h5 25.Nf6** 0.20/26

[ 25.c3± 0.52/25 was preferable. Nc6  
26.Bd5 ]

**25...Bf7 26.c3 Nc6 27.Kc2 Ne7**

**28.Kd3 b6 29.Bf3 a5 30.h3 Kd8**

**31.a3 Kc7 32.b4 axb4 33.cxb4 Ng8**

1.69/28

[ 33...Kc8± 0.56/27 ]

**34.Nd5+ Bxd5 35.Bxd5± KB-KN**

**35...Ne7 36.Bf7** And now b4-b5 would  
win. **36...Kc6** 2.85/27

[ 36...cxb4 2.01/29 was necessary.

37.axb4 Kd7 ]

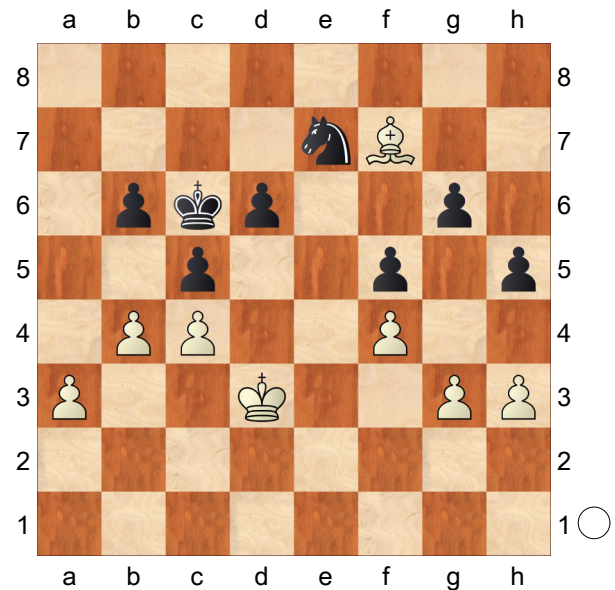
(Diagram)

**37.b5+!+- Kc7 38.a4 Kb7 39.Ke3**

**Kc7 40.Kf3 Kd7 41.g4?** 0.43/30

[ 41.Ke2+- 2.39/32 ]

**41...h4?** 2.65/26 This costs Black the



game.

[Black should play 41...hxg4+±  
0.43/30 42.hxg4 Kc7 ]

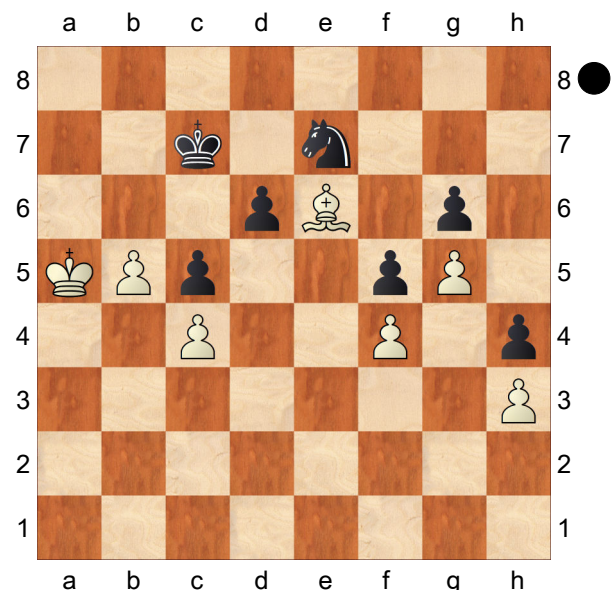
**42.g5 Kc7?** 6.97/33

[ 42...Kc8 3.79/30 43.Be6+ Kc7 ]

**43.Ke3 Kd7 44.Kd3 Kc7 45.Kc3 Kb7**

**46.Kb3 Kc7 47.a5 Kb7 48.Ka4 Ka7**

**49.axb6+ Kxb6 50.Be6 Kc7 51.Ka5**



Threatens to win with Ka5-a6. **51...Kb7**

**52.Bf7 Kc7 53.Ka6 Kb8 54.b6?**

3.39/27

[ 54.Kb6 14.60/27 ]

**54...d5?** #16/23

[ 54...Ka8+- 3.39/27 55.b7+ Kb8 ]

**55.cxd5** White mates. **55...Nc8**  
**56.Bxg6 Nd6 57.Bh5 c4 58.g6 Ne8**  
**59.d6 Kc8 60.b7+**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/  
 Black=0.40  
**1-0**

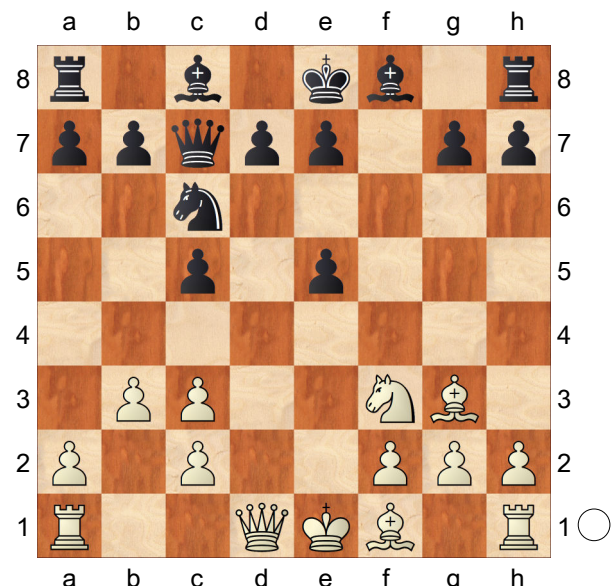
**B20**  
 2710  
 2668  
 Chessable Masters Play In rapid (6)  
 [MH]

**B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves**  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**  
 [ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3N**  
 [ 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 ( 5...g6 6.Ng5  
 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5  
 Qxe5 10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4  
 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4  
 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2  
 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Rb8  
 20.Qf3 13.g5 ♘c5 14.♙f3 (2395)-  
 Rinkewitz,F (2450) Espana 83/571

1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter]  
 1-0 (51); 5...e6 6.c4 Nde7 7.g3 Nf5  
 8.Bg2 d5 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.0-0 0-0  
 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Ne4 b6 13.Ne5  
 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bb7 15.Qg4 Qd7  
 16.Rfe1 Rad8 17.Rad1 f6 18.Bb2  
 Nd4 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Qh5  
 Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 5 Game 5  
 (57) ) 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3  
 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 a6 11.Bxc6+  
 bxc6 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Qc1 Nd5  
 14.Nh4 e6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Ne4  
 Qa5+ 17.Qd2 Nb4 18.Kf1 Qd8  
 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 4 Game 4  
 (31) ]

**4...Nxc3 5.dxc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Qc7 7.Bf4**  
**f6 0.65/22**  
 [ ♞7...d6 0.33/21 ]  
**8.Bg3 0.13/22**  
 [ 8.Bc4± 0.65/22 ]  
**8...fxe5**  
 [ 8...Qa5!? ]



**9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Qh5+ g6 11.Qxe5**  
**Qxe5+ 12.Bxe5 Rg8 13.Bc4 e6**  
**14.0-0-0 d5 0.75/21**  
 [ 14...Bg7± 0.44/21 15.Bxg7 Rxg7 ]  
**15.Be2± Bd7 16.Rhe1 Kf7 17.Rd3**

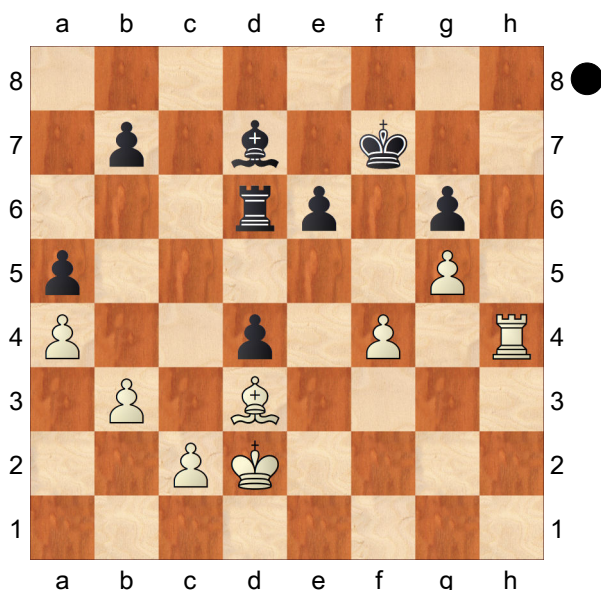
**Bg7 18.Bg4** 0.36/23[ White should try 18.Bxg7± 0.83/21  
Kxg7 19.c4 ]**18...Rge8** 0.73/21

[ 18...Bxe5± 0.36/23

is more appropriate. 19.Rxe5 Kf6 ]

**19.Rf3+ Kg8 20.Rfe3 Bxe5 21.Rxe5****Kf7 22.f4 Rad8 23.g3 Bc8 24.h4 h5****25.Bh3 Rd6 26.a4 Red8 27.Kd2 a5****28.Bf1 Kg7 29.Rg5** Hoping for Bf1-d3.**29...Rf8 30.Bd3 Rf6 31.Rg1**0x0.0017e4aaf174dp-1022s more active  
pieces. **31...Kf7 32.Ke3 d4+ 1.71/24**

[ 32...Rd8± 1.07/20 was worth a try. ]

**33.cxd4+- cxd4+ 34.Kd2 Rf5 35.g4****Rxg5 36.hxg5** 1.16/23[ 36.fxg5+- 1.78/25 Rg1-f1+ is the  
strong threat. Kg7 37.gxh5 gxh5  
38.Re1 ]**36...hxg4 37.Rxg4** Endgame KRB-  
KRB **37...Bd7 38.Rh4**

Black must now prevent Rh4-h6.

**38...Kg7 39.Rh1 Bc6 40.Re1 b6****41.Re2 Kf7 42.Rh2** aiming for Rh2-h7+. **42...Kg7** Inhibits Rh2-h7+. **43.Rh6****Be8 44.Rh2** -0.01/25

[ 44.Rh4± 1.19/27 ]

**44...Bc6= 45.Rh6** 0.01/21

[ 45.Rh3± 1.20/27 ]

**45...Be8 46.Rh2** -0.01/24

[ 46.Be4± 1.26/26 ]

**46...Bc6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25

(precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

½-½

**B20**  
 □ **Vallejo Pons, Francisco** **2710**  
 ■ **Assaubayeva, Bibissara** **2440**  
 Krasnogorsk Rapid (8) 26.01.2023  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink, J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt, K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3N**

[ 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 ( 5...g6 6.Ng5  
 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5  
 Qxe5 10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4  
 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4  
 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2  
 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Rb8  
 20.Qf3 13.g5 ♘c5 14.♔f3 (2395)-



Rinkewitz,F (2450) Espana 83/571  
 1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter]  
 1-0 (51); 5...e6 6.c4 Nde7 7.g3 Nf5  
 8.Bg2 d5 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.0-0 0-0  
 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Ne4 b6 13.Ne5  
 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bb7 15.Qg4 Qd7  
 16.Rfe1 Rad8 17.Rad1 f6 18.Bb2  
 Nd4 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Qh5

Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 5 Game 5  
 (57) ) 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3  
 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 a6 11.Bxc6+  
 bxc6 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Qc1 Nd5  
 14.Nh4 e6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Ne4  
 Qa5+ 17.Qd2 Nb4 18.Kf1 Qd8  
 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 4 Game 4  
 (31) ]

**4...Nxc3 5.dxc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 d5 7.exd6  
 Qxd6**

[ 7...exd6 keeps more tension. 8.Bc4  
 Be7 9.Qd3 0-0 ]

**8.Qxd6** White is slightly better. **8...exd6**  
**9.Bf4 Be6 10.0-0-0 0-0-0 11.Ng5**  
**h6 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.h4 d5 14.g3**  
 Hoping for Bf1-h3. **14...e5! 15.Be3 Be7**  
**16.Bg2 d4 17.Bd2 Rhf8 18.Rdf1 c4**  
**19.Kb2 cxb3 20.axb3 Bc5 21.f4 exf4**  
**22.Bh3+ Kc7 23.Bxf4+ Bd6 24.Rhg1**  
 0.07/22

[ 24.Bxd6+± 0.43/25 should be  
 considered. Kxd6 25.cxd4 ]

**24...dxc3+= 25.Kxc3 Be5+ 26.Bxe5+**  
**Nxe5 27.Rf4 g5 28.Re4 Rf3+ 29.Kb2**  
**Nc6 30.Rg2 Rd4 31.Rxd4 Nxd4**  
 Endgame KRB-KRN **32.Bg4 Re3**  
**33.h5 -0.31/22**

[ 33.Rd2= 0.01/23  
 is more appropriate. Nc6 34.Rd7+  
 Kb8 35.Rh7 ]

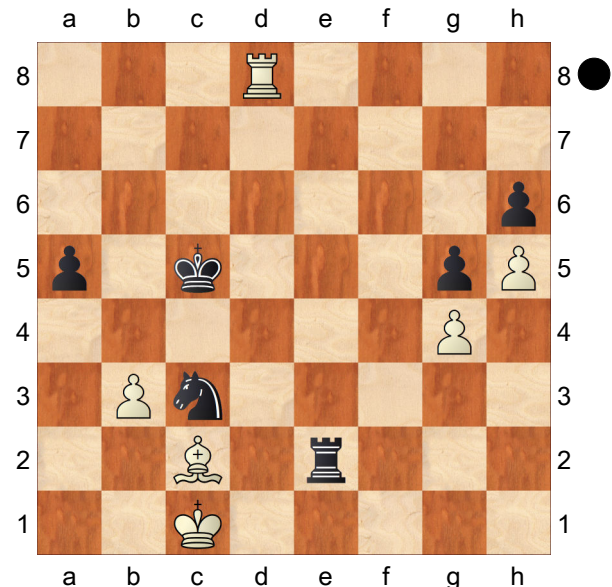
**33...a5 0.02/20**

[ 33...Kd6± -0.31/22 ]

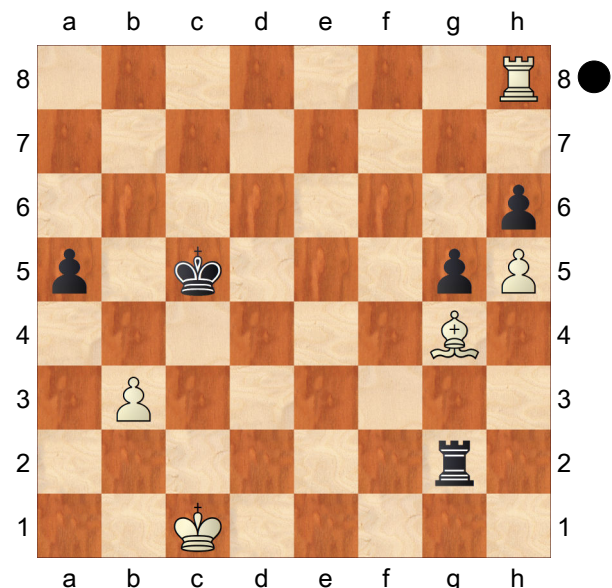
**34.Rd2 Re4 35.Bd1 b5**

[ 35...Nf5!? ]

**36.c3** The position is equal. **36...Nc6**  
**37.Rf2 Kd6 38.Bc2 Re3 39.Rf6+ Re6**  
**40.Rf5 Re5 41.Rf6+ Re6 42.Rf8 Re2**  
**43.Kc1 b4 44.cxb4 Nxb4 45.Bb1 Kd5**  
**46.Rd8+ Kc5 47.g4 Nd5 48.Bh7 Nc3**  
**49.Bc2**



aiming for Rd8-c8+. **49...Nd5 50.Bh7**  
**Nf6 51.Bf5 Rg2 52.Rh8 Nxg4**  
**53.Bxg4**



Remove Defender **53...Rxg4 54.Rxh6**  
**Kd5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04  
 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)  
 ½-½



 **Vallejo Pons, Francisco** **B20**  
**Wei, Yi** **2710**  
**2722**

Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Mar Early blitz (4)  
[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Nc3N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
[Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Bg7 7.Qd5 Nc6**

[ 7...Qa5 feels hotter. 8.0-0-0 Nc6  
9.Nf3 e6 ]

**8.Qxc5** -0.28/21

[ ♞8.0-0-0 0.10/21 ]

**8...0-0** 0.06/22

[ ♞8...Nxe5 -0.28/21 9.Be2 d6 ]

**9.0-0-0= Nxe5 10.c4 d6 11.Qd4**

aiming for f2-f4. **11...Qa5** 0.20/19

[ 11...Bf6 ♞ -0.39/20 ]

**12.Kb1** Black must now prevent f2-f4.

[ Not 12.f4? Qxa2! 13.Nf3 ( 13.fxe5?  
Bxe5 14.Qe3 Qxb2+ 15.Kd2  
Bd4-+ ) 13...Nd3+! 14.Bxd3 Bxd4-+ ]

**12...Bf6 13.Qd2 Qxd2 14.Rxd2 Bf5**

**15.Ne2 Bg7**

[ 15...Bg5!? 16.f4 Bh6= ]

**16.Nc3 Rfe8 17.Be2 Rac8 18.Re1**

**Nc6 19.f4 Nd4 20.Bd1 h5 21.g3 Bg4**

**22.Nd5 Nf5 23.Be2 Kf8 24.Bf1 Bxb2**

**25.Kxb2 Bf3 26.Nc3 Bc6 27.Rf2**

0.24/22

[ 27.Bh3± 0.56/23 ]

**27...Kg7 28.Bd3 Nh6 29.h3 Bd7**

**30.Rh2** 0.01/22

[ 30.Rfe2± 0.45/21 deserves  
consideration. ]

**30...Be6** 0.58/21

[ Black should try 30...e5= 0.01/22 ]

**31.a4 a5** 0.79/22

[ 31...Bd7± 0.41/20 is superior. ]

**32.Be4± b6 33.Bd5 Bd7 34.Bf3**

0.33/22 & Bianco is more active.

[ ♞34.Nb5 0.69/21 ]

**34...Nf5** 0.86/22

[ 34...e5!± 0.33/22 ]

**35.g4 Nd4 36.Bd1 hxg4 37.hxg4 Bc6**

Inhibits Re1-h1. **38.Rd2** 0.73/24

[ ♞38.Rf2 1.06/23 ]

**38...Ne6 39.f5** 0.30/23

[ 39.Rf2± 0.95/23 ]

**39...gxf5 40.gxf5 Ng5 41.Rde2 Kf6!**

**42.Re3↑** Inhibits Ng5-f3. Black is under  
pressure. **42...Rb8** 1.22/25

[ 42...Rc7= 0.26/24 ]

**43.Be2** 0.01/22

[ 43.Bg4± 1.22/25 ]

**43...Rbc8** 1.09/22

[ 43...Rb7= 0.01/22 ]

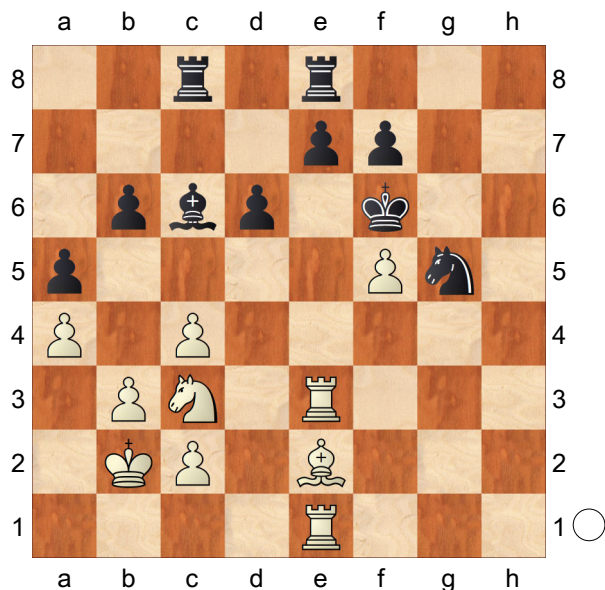
(Diagram)

**44.Bd3** 0.29/25

[ Better is 44.Bg4!± 1.09/22 ]

**44...e5** 0.77/22

[ 44...Nf3= 0.29/25 ]



is more appropriate. ]

**45.fxe6! Rxe6 46.Rf1+ Ke7 47.Rg3**

**Re5 48.Bf5 Rg8 49.Bd3** -0.01/20

[ 49.Rg4± 0.70/22 ]

**49...f6** 1.16/24

[ 49...Rc8!= -0.01/20 ]

**50.Rg4** 0.75/24

[ ⚡50.Ne2 1.16/24 ]

**50...Rh8 51.Rgf4 Rh6 52.Bf5 Re3**

1.51/24

[ 52...Rh2± 0.52/24 ]

**53.Bd3?** -0.01/22

[ White should play 53.Nd5+± 1.51/24  
Bxd5 54.cxd5 ]

**53...Re5!= 54.Bf5** 0.01/20

[ 54.R4f2± 0.58/22 ]

**54...Re3!**

(Diagram)

**55.Bd3** -0.01/22

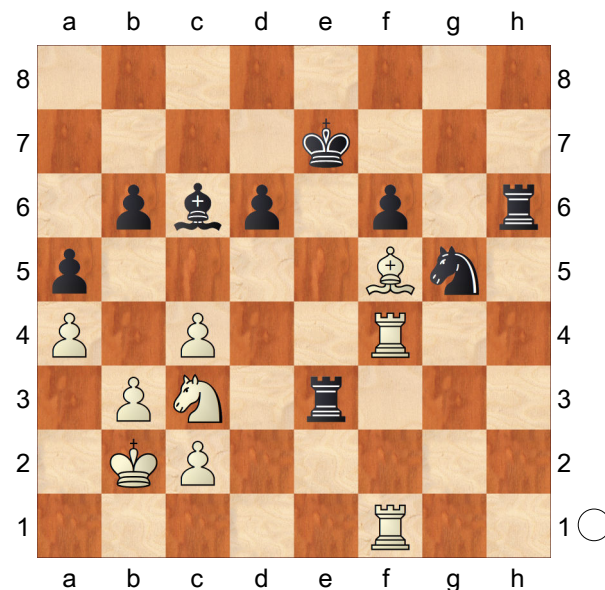
[ 55.Nd5+!± 1.40/23 Bxd5 56.cxd5 ]

**55...Re5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/

Black=0.23 (precise)

½-½



**B20**

□ **Vallejo Pons, Francisco** **2710**

■ **Grischuk, Alexander** **2745**

Krasnogorsk Rapid (5) 25.01.2023

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

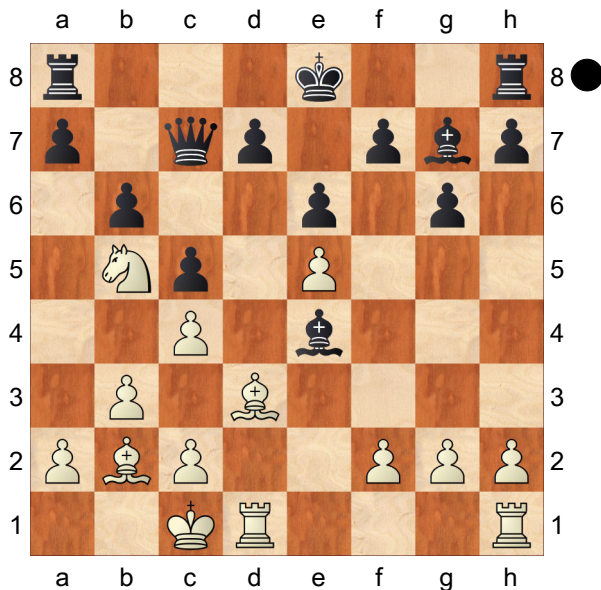
**4...Nd5 5.Nc3N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3

[Tony Rotella]

**5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Bg7 7.Qd5 Nc6****8.Nf3** The position is equal. **8...b6****9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.Bd3** -0.60/23

[ 10.c4= -0.16/17 ]

**10...e6 11.Qe4** -1.02/22[ 11.Qd6 $\bar{f}$  -0.65/23 Bxe5 12.Qxc7  
Bxc7 13.c4 ]**11...Bb7! $\bar{f}$  12.c4 Nd4! 13.Nxd4 Bxe4  
14.Nb5****Qb8** -0.78/25[  $\triangleleft$ 14...Qd8! -1.23/25 15.Bxe4 Rb8  
16.Nd6+ Ke7 ]**15.Bxe4 0-0 16.Nd6 a6 17.Bxa8****Qxa8 18.f3 b5 19.Rd3 f6 20.Ne4 f5****21.Nxc5 bxc4 22.Rd6**[ 22.Rxd7 Qc8 23.Bd4 ( 23.b4  
Rd8 $\bar{f}$  ) 23...Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 $\bar{f}$  ]**22...Rc8** -0.01/24[ 22...c3 $\bar{f}$  -0.40/22 23.Bxc3 Rc8 ]**23.Nxd7=** Black must now prevent Nd7-  
b6. **23...Qa7 24.Bd4** Prevents Qa7-f2.**24...Qb7** 0.56/23[ Black should try 24...Qc7= -0.01/23  
25.Bb6 Qb7 ]**25.Nb6 $\pm$  cxb3?** 1.89/23[ 25...Rc7! $\pm$  0.32/22 ]**26.axb3?** -0.01/25[ 26.Nxc8+- 1.89/23 bxc2 27.Rd8+  
( 27.Kxc2 Qxc8+ 28.Kb1 Qb7+  
29.Ka1 Bf8= ) 27...Bf8 28.Nb6  
( 28.Bb6 Kg7= ) ]**26...Re8=** Inhibits Rd6-d8. **27.Rd1 Bf8****28.Nc4 a5 29.Nxa5 Qb5** 0.97/23

[ 29...Qg7= -0.01/23 ]

**30.Nc4 $\pm$  Qb7 31.Bb2** 0.64/23[ Better is 31.Bc3 $\pm$  0.96/20 ]**31...Qa7 32.g3** -0.01/22[ 32.R6d4 $\pm$  0.83/23 ]**32...Qf2!= 33.f4 Qxh2**

[ 33...Bxd6 34.exd6 Rd8 35.Bd4+- ]

**34.R6d3 h5** Threatens to win with ...h5-  
h4. **35.Nd6** -0.34/23

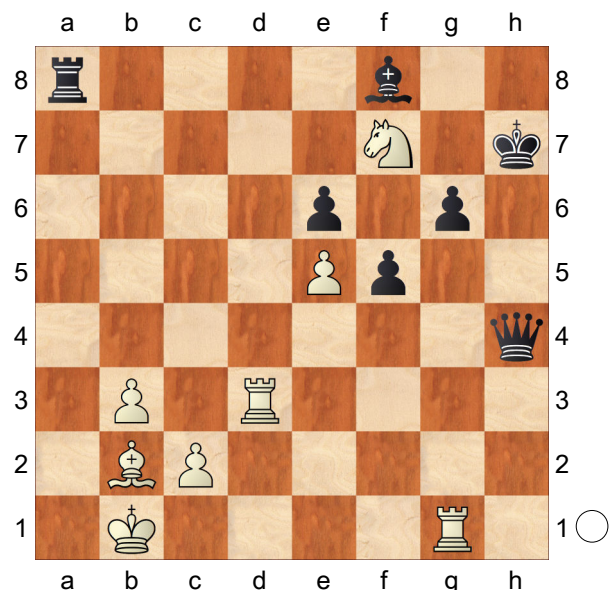
[ 35.Kb1= -0.01/22 ]

**35...Ra8** Hoping for ...h5-h4.

[ 35...Rb8!? 36.Bd4 Be7= ]

**36.Kb1 h4 37.gxh4 Qxf4 38.Rg1 Kh7****39.Nf7!** And now Nf7-g5+ would win.**39...Qf2**

[ 39...Qxh4? ]

**40.Rh3!! Qxh3 41.Ng5+ Kh6****42.Nxh3+-** ]**40.Ng5+ Kh8!** The board is on fire.**41.Rgd1 Re8** 3.63/24

[ 41...Rc8= 0.01/25 42.R1d2 Qb6 ]

**42.Rd7?** -0.04/23

[ 42.Rd8+- 3.63/24 Rxd8 43.Rxd8 Qe1+ 44.Bc1 ]  
**42...Qxh4 43.Bc1** Strongly threatening Rd1-d4. **43...Kg8**↑ Black has good play. **44.Rg1 Bg7 45.Nf7?** -2.62/24 [ 45.Nf3= -0.01/25 and White has nothing to worry. Qh5 46.Rg5 ]  
**45...Re7-+ 46.Bg5?** -4.18/25 [ 46.Rxe7 -2.55/22 Qxe7 47.Nd6 ]  
**46...Qf2** [ Inferior is 46...Rxd7 47.Bxh4 Kxf7 48.c4+ ]  
**47.Rgd1** -8.72/23 [ 47.Bxe7 -3.56/24 Qxg1+ 48.Kb2 ]  
**47...Rxf7** Black is clearly winning.  
**48.Rd8+ Rf8 49.R8d7 Bxe5 50.Bh6 Ra8**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/ Black=0.27 (precise)  
**0-1**

**B20**  
**2702**  
**2395**  
 Commonwealth-ch (5) 14.01.2004  
*[Jonathan Rowson, MH]*

Gonzalez, Julio A: 'Nigel Short: 'The Sunday chess column  
 By Nigel Short  
 (Filed: 18/01/2004)  
 Mikhail Botvinnik was absolutely right: one should never play in open tournaments. Never mind the fact that the standard of play is lower, one also has to deal with people who don't have a clue what playing chess entails. The Commonwealth Open Championship taking place in Mumbai, India, at the moment is a case in point. Originally and cruelly scheduled as an

11-round tournament held over nine days, two rounds were axed after complaints from me. Dozens of people have subsequently thanked me for my intervention, but not too many were prepared to protest themselves. Anyway, so far, so good.

I had greater difficulty pinning down the organisers as to the precise timing of the rounds. But on spotting Mr Ummer Koya, President of the All India Chess Federation, in the hotel lobby on the evening prior to the start of battle, I gently broached the subject. Mr Koya (who incidentally named his 16-year-old son Nigel after me) indicated that the first round would begin at 3pm and that subsequent rounds would start at 10 in the morning. I then produced from the FIDE Handbook Recommendations for Organization of Top-Level Tournaments article 3.2 in which it states "There must be no main playing session before 13.00 hours, local time."

He dismissed this with an irritated wave of the hand saying these were "English rules". As FIDE has been run autocratically by Philipinos and Kalmyks for the last 22 years, I found this remark more than a little absurd. However, eventually he decided "as a favour to you" that we would begin at 13.30. I told him he was not doing it as a favour to me but because he was FIDE vice-president, and that it was in his interest to uphold the regulations. Thus ended the discussion satisfactorily, but a little tetchily. The next day at the opening ceremony Mr Ummer Koya, during the course of his speech, said that in 2002 Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand and (pointedly, looking in my direction)



Short had played three games a day in Moscow.

In front of hundreds of people and various dignitaries, I stood up to interrupt him, saying that this event had been rapid chess and not classical chess. Actually, I had already corrected Mr Koya on this point the previous day, as others can testify. The fact that the number two man in the FIDE hierarchy seems totally unable to distinguish between the two forms of the game - as different as Test matches and One-Day Internationals are in cricket - will give you an idea of what sort of a cowboy organisation it is. No wonder it is in such a mess at the moment. Having to argue about basics is enervating and thoroughly depressing.

Anyway, that is my excuse for having begun the tournament like an imbecile. At least I won one nice game by way of consolation.

White: Short

Black: Prasad

Commonwealth Championship, Mumbai, India January 14

"

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4** Gonzalez, Julio A **1...c5 2.b3**

Gonzalez, Julio A: 'Nigel Short: '

This is the sort of junk that I try when I have not prepared properly. Actually, although not critical, it cannot be that bad.

" **2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5** This is the first reaction of many players on seeing 2 b3 for the first time- an attempt to blunt the bishop on b2. However, it seems to give White a pleasant position, and the bishop on b2 still has a future due to the prospect of f2-f4. Gonzalez, Julio A:

'Nigel Short: '

One of the most common responses against the fianchetto; Black aims to nullify the pressure of the bishop on the diagonal. The drawback is clear: d5 becomes very weak.

" **4.Bc4!?** I like the simplicity of this move. There is no rush to play f4, but rather an steady plan of Nge2, 0-0 and then f4.

[ 4.f4 exf4 5.Nf3 is playable, and Black should know what to do here, but from White's point of view, it seems unnecessarily messy. Nf6 now looks best. 6.Nc3 Be7 and now Black intends to castle so white has to do something, and I don't think there is anything convincing to be done. 7.e5 ( 7.Bb5!? 0-0 8.0-0 d5?) 7...Ng4!? ( 7...Nh5 8.Bc4 does not look so clear. Bh4+ 9.Kf1 ) 8.Nd5 Bh4+ ( 8...0-0 is perfectly playable, intending Re8 and Bf8 and waiting for h3 before playing Bh4(or if you are too scared, Nh6 is not a complete disaster). ) 9.Ke2 Nf2 10.Qe1 And Fritz thinks Black is winning easily, but analysis engines rarely understand positions with knights trapped in corners (e.g. after Nh1 Qh4), so I am not 100% sure about this position, though my gut feeling is that Black is doing well. d6 ]

**4...Nf6 5.d3**

[ 5.Nc3 If 5.d3 d5!? turns out to be playable, this move order might be important. Nxe4 6.Nxe4 d5

**A) 7.Bb5** dxe4 8.Bxc6+ bxc6

My first impression was that White should be able to regain the pawn somehow, with advantage, but now

I am not so sure. 9.Qh5 ( 9.Qe2 Qd5 10.c4 Qd3 11.Bxe5 Bf5 $\bar{f}$ ; 9.Bxe5 Qg5 10.Bg3 Be7; 9.Ne2!? Qg5 10.Ng3 Bg4 11.Qc1 Be6 12.0-0 f5 13.d3 $\infty$  ) 9...Bd6 10.Bxe5? g6;

**B) 7.Bd3 dxe4 8.Bxe4** looks better for White, because of the keen bishops, but it may not be, due to Black's sturdy centre. Bd6 9.Nf3 ( 9.Qf3 Nd4! 10.Bxd4 exd4 11.Bxb7 Qe7+ ) 9...0-0 10.0-0 Re8= ]

### 5...d6

[ 5...d5!? is worth considering. 6.exd5 Nxd5

**A) 7.Nf3!? Gonzalez, Julio A:** 'Nigel Short: 'embarrasses the e-pawn.

"

**A1) 7...Nf4 8.g3 Ng6 ( 8...Ng2+ 0.95/22 8...Nf4-g6 0.11 9.Kf1 Bh3** Threatens to win with ...Ng2-e3+. 10.Kg1 looks like it should be good for White sooner or later. );

**A2) 7...f6 8.Nfd2!? looks like it might give some initiative, because sooner or later white can play f4, but even here Black looks ok. Be6 9.0-0 Qd7 10.Nc3 Nf4!? ( 10...Be7 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.f4 $\uparrow$  ) 11.Ne2** With the idea Ne2xf4. Nd5 12.Bxd5 Bxd5 13.f4 0-0-0! $\infty$  0.49/21 ( 13...exf4= 0.13/20 14.Nxf4 0-0-0 );

**B) 7.Qf3 Be6** seems ok for Black. ]

**6.Nc3 Be7 7.Nge2 Gonzalez, Julio A:** 'Nigel Short: 'An important finesse. White leaves the f-pawn free to advance.

" **7...0-0N 8.0-0** The position is equal. **8...a6 9.a4 Nd4 Gonzalez, Julio A:** 'Nigel Short: '

After the game Devaki Prasad, a highly experienced Indian International Master, expressed his dissatisfaction with this move. However, I don't see a particular reason to fault it.

"

[ 9...Bd7 Gonzalez, Julio A 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.a5 Bc6 12.f4 Nd7 0.72/22 ( 12...Rc8 $\pm$  0.36/18 feels stronger. ) 13.Nd5 ]

[ 9...Rb8 Gonzalez, Julio A 10.h3 ( 10.Qd2 ) 10...Nh5 11.Bc1 Bf6 12.Rb1 g6 ( 12...Nf4!? ) 13.Nd5 -0.44/21 ( 13.Bh6= 0.10/18 ) 13...b5 ]

### 10.h3

[ 10.f4 Gonzalez, Julio A Rb8 ( 10...b6 11.Nd5 Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5 Bf6 16.c4 g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 18.Ra2 Qe7 19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Kh1 h5 23.Bxd4 exd4 24.Nf5 gxf5 25.exf5

Chapter 15 Part 1-Game 4 Game 4 (43) ) 11.Nd5 -0.11/22 ( 11.a5 0.24/18 should be considered. ) 11...Bg4= 12.Bxd4 cxd4 13.h3 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Be6 15.Bc4 Qc7 16.Qd2 b5 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ra6 Qc8 -0.08/22 ( 19...Bf6 $\bar{f}$  -0.41/21 ) 20.Ra7 Rb7 21.Rxb7! ]

### 10...Be6

[ 10...Bd7 (Gonzalez, Julio A) '!? ' Nigel Short. Nigel Short: 'intending b5, could perhaps be contemplated. ' ]

### 11.f4 $\pm$ Nd7 0.56/21

[ 11...d5 0.69/24 11...Qd8-d7 0.21 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.fxe5 Bg5 15.Nxd4 Be3+ 16.Kh1

aiming for Nd4–f5. cxd4 1.50/22  
 doesn't give Black enough  
 compensation. (  $\Delta$ 16...Bxd4 1.13/23  
 17.Bxd4 cxd4 )]

[ 11...Qd7= 0.17/19 ]

**12.f5** Gonzalez, Julio A: "!" Nigel Short.  
 Nigel Short: 'An obvious space–gaining  
 move after which White's advantage  
 becomes pronounced.  
 "

[ 12.Bd5!? 0.04/20 12.Nc3–d5 0.58 ]

**12...Bxc4 13.dxc4** The position has  
 clarified in white's favour due to the  
 kingside space and usefulness of the d5  
 square, but there is still a lot of work to  
 do. **13...Bg5 14.Nd5** Prevents Bg5–  
 e3+. **14...Nf6** 0.92/21

[ 14...b5± 0.53/22 ]

**15.Nec3±**

[But not 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.Nef4  
 Nxe4= ]

[Reject 15.Nxd4 Nxd5 16.Nc6  
 bxc6= ]

**15...Kh8 16.Nxf6 Qxf6 17.Nd5**

Gonzalez, Julio A: 'Nigel Short: '  
 The white knight occupies a powerful  
 and unassailable central outpost but his  
 counterpart will soon be evicted.

" **17...Qh6 18.Kh2** Gonzalez, Julio A:  
 'Nigel Short: 'Preparing g3 and h4  
 eventually.

" **18...g6** 1.25/20 Gonzalez, Julio A:  
 'Nigel Short: 'An understandable attempt  
 at counterplay.  
 "

[  $\Delta$ 18...Nc6 0.89/20 ]

**19.c3 Nc6 20.f6** Gonzalez, Julio A: "!"  
 Nigel Short. Nigel Short: '

My main concern when making this  
 thrust was to avoid a draw. But Black  
 cannot keep the position closed forever.

" **20...Qh5** 1.86/23

[ 20...Na5± 1.23/22 ]

**21.Rf3** 1.25/21

[ 21.Qxh5 Gonzalez, Julio A gxf5  
 22.Rf5 Rg8 Nigel Short: 'intending h4,  
 was not 100 per cent clear.  
 ']

[Better is 21.Qxh5+– 1.86/23 gxf5  
 22.Bc1 ]

**21...Rae8 22.g3** 1.15/24 &Bianco is  
 more active.

[  $\Delta$ 22.a5 1.50/23 ]

**22...Re6** 1.58/24

[  $\Delta$ 22...Na5 1.15/24 23.Kg2 Kg8 ]

**23.Kg2 Rc8 24.a5 Nb8** 1.98/25

[ 24...Bh6± 1.57/24 was called for.  
 25.Qe1 Bg5 ]

**25.Qd3 Nd7 26.Raf1** Gonzalez, Julio  
 A: 'Nigel Short: 'Protecting f6 and  
 leaving Black devoid of counterplay.

" **26...Bh6** 2.33/23

[  $\Delta$ 26...Nb8 1.68/23 27.b4 Nc6 ]

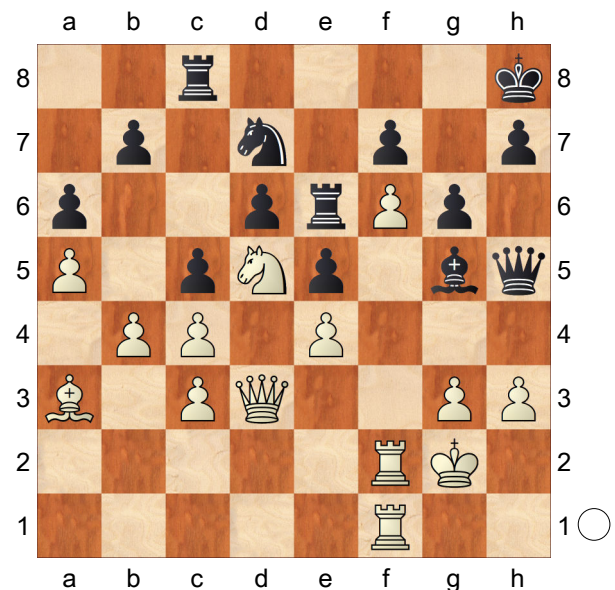
**27.b4 Bg5 28.Ba3 Bh6** 3.40/23

[ 28...Ree8 2.33/22 might work better.  
 29.R3f2 cxb4 30.cxb4 Bh6 ]

**29.R3f2** And now b4xc5 would win.

**29...Bg5?** 3.88/21

[ 29...cxb4 2.21/23 30.cxb4 Ree8 ]



Gonzalez, Julio A: 'Nigel Short: 'Four lost tempi but there was nothing better to do.

" **30.bxc5+- Nxc5 31.Bxc5 dxc5**  
[ 31...Rxc5 Gonzalez, Julio A 32.h4 Bh6 33.Rb1 Rxa5? 7.61/24 ( 33...Rc8 3.82/22 34.Rxb7 Ree8 35.Rxf7 g5 ) 34.Rxb7 3.48/21 Nigel Short: 'is catastrophic. ' (  $\Delta$ 34.Nc7 7.61/24 Rxf6 35.Rxf6 Ra2+ 36.Rf2 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 ) ]

**32.h4 Bh6 33.Qe2**  
[ 33.Rb1 (Gonzalez, Julio A) Nigel Short: 'is also killing and' ]  
[ 33.Qf3 (Gonzalez, Julio A) Nigel Short: 'was perhaps a more accurate version of the text. It doesn't matter - everything wins. ' ]

**33...Qxe2 34.Rxe2 g5**  
[ 34...Rd6 Gonzalez, Julio A 35.Rb1 Rd7 7.64/23 (  $\Delta$ 35...g5 4.15/24 36.Rxb7 gxh4 37.gxh4 Bf4 ) 36.Reb2 Rb8 37.Rb6 Nigel Short: 'as in the game, wins. ' ]

**35.Kh3 gxh4 36.Kxh4 Rg8 37.Rf5**  
Against Bh6-g5+. White is clearly winning. **37...Rd8 38.Rb2 Rd7 39.Rf1**  
Gonzalez, Julio A: 'Nigel Short: ' Having deprived Black of any hope White switches on to the offensive.  
" **39...Re8 40.Rfb1 Rb8 41.Rb6**  
Gonzalez, Julio A: 'Nigel Short: 'The threat of Rxa6 decides the game. Black resigned.

The difference between the gigantic white knight and miserable black bishop was very pronounced.

".

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very

precise) /Black=0.31  
**1-0**

**B20**  
☐ **Motylev,Alexander** **2686**  
☒ **Potkin,Vladimir** **2610**  
Yaroslav the Wise rapid 5th (4) 26.08.14  
[Smerdon, David, MH]

Imagine that before some game, White has three primary goals from the opening: To get a completely unexplored position, where White is not objectively worse, and in which he has attacking opportunities straight from the word go. Keep in mind these three objectives as you go through this game, and suddenly you'll realise that White's play is all entirely logical!

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3 C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.h4N** I wonder what Alexander had for lunch.

[ 4.e5 is the move that usually scares Black off this line, although it should be perfectly acceptable for Black if he knows what he's doing. Nd5 and here White has tried many different moves, scoring very uninspiringly, but I believe best is ( 4...Ne4? 5.f4± ) 5.d4 ( 5.e6 f6̄ 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3



*Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6*  
 White's Odd Second Moves–F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella]; 5.*Bc4 Nb6 6.e6 f6*;  
 5.*h4!? Bg7* could transpose to the  
 main game. )

**A) 5...Bg7** 6.dxc5! is strong.  
 Qa5+?! 7.Qd2 Qxc5 8.c4!±  
 1–0 (58) Stojanovic, M (2100) –  
 Muhren, B (2314) Tromso 2014;

**B) 5...cxd4** 6.Qxd4 Nb6?!  
 ( 6...Nc7 7.Nf3± ) 7.c4! Nc6  
 8.Qd2± 1–0 (30) Gelashvili, T  
 (2614)–Jalabadze, N (2019) Tbilisi  
 2010;

**C) 5...Qa5+** 6.c3 cxd4 7.Qxd4  
 Nc6 8.Qe4 f5 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Qc2  
 Bg7 11.Nf3 d5 12.Nbd2 e5 13.b4  
 Qc7 14.b5 Nd4 15.Nxd4 exd4  
 16.Be2 Bf5 17.Qb3 d3 18.Bf3  
 Qe5+ 19.Kf1 Ne4 20.Bxe4 dxe4  
 21.Nc4 Qf6 22.Ba3 0–0–0  
 23.Qa4 Be6 24.Ne3 Rhf8 25.Bxf8  
 Rxf8 26.Nd1 e3 27.f3 Bh6  
 28.Qxa7 e2+ 29.Kf2 Qh4+ 30.g3  
 Rxf3+ 31.Kxf3 Bd5+ 32.Kf2 Qf6+  
 0–1 (32) Paichadze, L (2293) –  
 Miroshnichenko, E (2608) Baku  
 2006 ]

[ 4.Qf3!? is, well, not as bad as it  
 looks. d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
 and the pair of bishops should  
 compensate Black for his mangled  
 pawn structure. 1–0 (41) Gelashvili, T  
 (2616) –Shahade, G (2446) New  
 York 2011 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7  
 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0  
 Chapter 8–1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6  
 [Gotham] ]

#### 4...Nc6

[After 4...Bg7! White can transpose  
 to a position that could have been  
 reached after 4.e5, but I suspect

Motylev might have had a crazy pawn  
 sacrifice in mind. The immediate

**A) 5.e5** Nd5 6.Nf3 ( 6.Qf3!?N e6  
 7.h5± with Qg3, Nf3, Bb5 to follow.  
 This is perhaps objectively the best  
 way for White to play this line. )  
 6...Nc6 7.h5!?N gives White some  
 interesting attacking opportunities.

**A1) 7...d6** 8.Nc3 dxe5 9.Nxd5  
 ( 9.Ng5!? ) 9...Qxd5 10.Bc4  
 Qe4+ ( 10...Qd8 11.Ng5!→ )  
 11.Kf1± and Black certainly will  
 have some worrying moments for  
 his queen in the future.;

**A2) 7...0–0** 8.Nc3

**A2a) 8...Nxc3!?** 9.dxc3 d5  
 and I can't see a good way to  
 continue White's threats, in  
 which case Black must be  
 slightly better. ( 9...Nxe5?  
 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.hxg6 hxg6  
 12.Qd2 with dangerous threats  
 down the h–file. );

**A2b) 8...Nxe5** 9.Nxd5 Nxf3+  
 10.Qxf3 Bxb2 11.Rb1 Be5  
 12.Bd3± and White's threats  
 cannot be discounted.;

**B) 5.h5!?** is a typical rapid–game  
 move, and certainly fulfils two of  
 the opening's objectives as  
 outlined above the only question is  
 whether or not White is worse with  
 best play. 5...Nxe5 6.Bxg7 Nxg7  
 7.d4!? Qa5+! ( 7...cxd4?! 8.Qxd4  
 0–0 9.Qd2! h5 10.g4!  
 with an attack. ) 8.c3 d6  
 and I feel White doesn't quite have  
 enough for the pawn. ]

[ 4...h5?! 5.e5 is an inferior version  
 for Black of 4.e5. ]

#### 5.h5

[ 5.e5!? should seriously have been

considered here. The resulting positions are completely crazy, but not unfavourable to White. Ticks all the boxes! Nd5 ( 5...Nh5 6.g4 Ng7 7.h5 Only one word is appropriate here: "Unclear"! ) 6.e6!? ( 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 Bg7 8.h5!? Bxe5 9.Bxe5 Nxe5 10.f4! ) 6...f6 7.h5 g5 8.h6! dxe6 9.Qh5+ Kd7 10.Nc3 Nf4 11.Qh2 with a totally ludicrous position. ]

**5...d6!**

[ 5...Bg7 6.h6! Bf8 7.Nf3↑ ]

**6.Bb5 e5!** The dark-square blockade is a very sensible antidote to White's eccentricities. **7.hxg6 fxg6 8.Nc3** The position is equal. **8...Bg7**

[ Black also could have considered the immediate 8...a6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6= ]

**9.Qe2**

[ 9.a4!? a6 10.Bc4∞ ]

**9...a6!** In order to gain some control over the light squares. **10.Bxc6+ bxc6**

**11.0-0-0 0-0= 12.f3!** Castling on opposite signs is usually an indication that both players should waste no time in attacking. **12...a5 13.g4 -0.37/21** [ 13.Qe3= 0.01/20 ]

**13...a4?! 0.25/21** Very practical for a rapid game, but objectively the sacrifice is unnecessary.

[ 13...Nd7! 14.Qh2 h6 with ... Nb6 and ...a4 to come. It's not clear to me how White plans to continue his attack. ]

[ 13...Rf7 -0.37/21 ]

**14.Nxa4 Rxa4?! 1.07/20 15.bxa4± Be6** Inhibits Qe2-c4. **16.c4?! 0.33/22** Black's risky idea pays off.

[ 16.Qd3 Qe7 17.Nh3± seems to favour White, because Bxa2 1.43/20 ( 17...Rb8 1.01/19 ) 18.a5! Ra8

19.Qa3! is very strong, with Ng5 in the air. ]

[ White should try 16.Qd3± 1.19/21 ]

**16...Qa5! 17.d3 Qxa4 18.a3! Nd7 19.Qc2 Qa6**

[ 19...Qxc2+ 20.Kxc2 d5 21.a4± ]

**20.g5 Rf7**

[ 20...d5!! would have been very dangerous. White would have had a hard time keeping both of Black's bishops at bay suddenly, the sleeping guy on g7 is starting to wake up.

21.Qh2 ( 21.cxd5? -0.79/21

21.Qc2-h2 0.26 cxd5 22.exd5

Bxd5 followed by ...Rb8 ) 21...Rb8!

22.Qxh7+ Kf7! 23.Qh2 dxc4!→

and I would prefer to be Black. ]

**21.Qh2 -0.01/22**

[ 21.Rh4± 0.46/19 deserves consideration. ]

**21...Nf8= 22.Rd2? -0.70/21**

[ It was probably time to begin the exodus to the kingside with 22.Kd2 ]

[ 22.Qf2= 0.01/22 ]

**22...d5!±** Once again, this move is powerful. **23.Qf2 dxc4 -0.56/17**

[ 23...dxe4 -0.94/23 24.dxe4 Rb7 ]

**24.dxc4 Qxc4+ -0.40/21**

[ 24...Rb7! ]

[ 24...Rb7!± -1.06/23 ]

**25.Rc2 -0.78/22**

[ 25.Kb1!± -0.40/21 ]

**25...Qa6!± 26.Rxc5 -1.20/23**

[ 26.Qe2!± -0.52/20 c4 27.Qh2 ]

**26...Rb7** And now ...Be6-a2 would win.

[ Black had several promising moves here, such as 26...Ba2!? ]

[ 26...Nd7!? -0.96/20 26...Be6-a2 -1.31 ]

**27.Qe2 Qb6** Black has strong compensation. **28.Qc2 Bd7 -0.68/23**

[ 28...Ba2!! 29.Rxc6 ( 29.Ne2

-1.88/24 29.Rc5xc6 -1.26 Ne6--+) 29...Qe3+ 30.Qd2 Qxd2+ 31.Kxd2 Black must now prevent Bb2-c3. Rxb2+ 32.Rc2 Rxc2+ 33.Kxc2 Bc4+ ] [ 28...Ba2!+ -1.37/24 aiming for ...Nf8-e6. 29.a4 ( 29.Bxe5? Ne6--; 29.Rxc6 Qe3+ 30.Qd2 Qxd2+ 31.Kxd2 Rxb2+ 32.Rc2 Rxc2+ 33.Kxc2 Bc4+ ) 29...Ne6 30.Rxc6 Qe3+ 31.Qd2 Qxd2+ 32.Kxd2 Rxb2+ 33.Rc2 Rxc2+ 34.Kxc2 Bc4 ]

**29.Rc4**

[ 29.Bxe5? Bxe5 30.Kd2 Ne6! 31.Rxe5 Qd4+ 32.Ke1 Qxe5-- ]

**29...c5** -0.31/21 Prevents Rc4-b4.

[ 29...Qe3+!+ -0.94/24 30.Kb1 ( 30.Kd1? Be6-- ) 30...Qxa3 ]

**30.Ne2+**

[ Much weaker is 30.Rxc5 Ne6 31.Rc4 Bf8 ]

**30...Ne6 31.a4** -1.43/24 Prevents Bd7-b5.

[ White should play 31.Nc3!+ -0.45/21 ]

**31...Nd4?** -0.87/22

[ 31...Nxc5 32.Rxc5 -1.46/23 ( 32.f4 -0.94/21 Nf7 33.Rd1 )

32...Bf8!+ 33.Rc3 h5!+ ]

[ 31...Nxc5 -1.43/24 32.Rxc5 Bf8 ]

**32.Nxd4+ exd4 33.Rxc5??** -3.55/23

[ 33.a5!+ ]

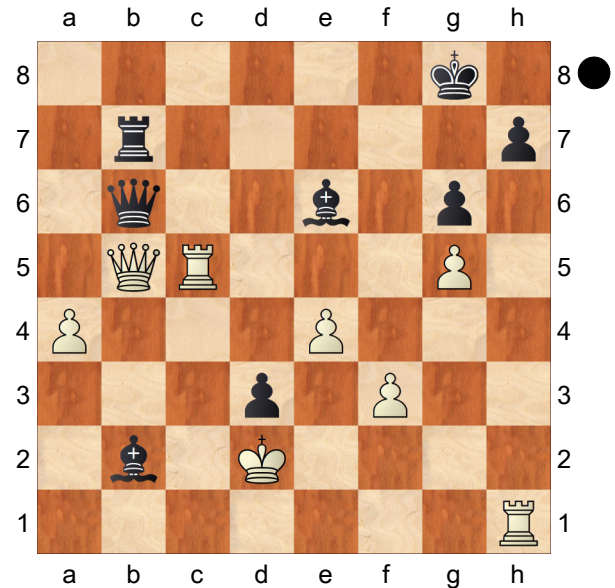
[ 33.a5+ -0.83/23 was forced. Qe6 34.Rxc5 ]

**33...d3!+- 34.Qc4+ Be6 35.Qb5****Bxb2+** A strong pair of Bishops.

[ 35...Qd6-- ]

**36.Kd2**

[ 36.Kxb2 is a self mate. Qxc5 37.Rb1 Rxb5+ 38.axb5 Qb4+ 39.Kc1 Qc3+ 40.Kd1 Qc2+ 41.Ke1 Qe2# ]

**36...Qxb5** 2.30/26

[ 36...Qa7!+- 37.Qe8+ Kg7 38.Qxe6 Qxc5 etc ]

[ 36...Qa7!+- -2.89/24 and life is good for Black. 37.Qc6 ( 37.Qe8+?

Kg7-- ) 37...Re7 38.Kxd3 Qb8 ]

**37.Rxb5+-** Really sharp! **37...Rxb5****38.axb5 Bc4 39.b6** Hoping for f3-f4.**39...Ba6 40.f4** Prevents Bb2-e5.**Threatens to win with Rh1-b1. 40...Bd4****41.Rb1** Strongly threatening b6-b7.**41...Bb7 42.Kxd3 Bf2 43.Ke2 Bc5****44.Kf3 Kf8 45.Rc1 Bd6** 9.10/27

[ 45...Bxb6 3.95/30 46.Rb1 Bxe4+ 47.Kxe4 Ba5 ]

**46.Rh1 Kg8**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.37

**1-0**

**Short, Nigel D** **B20**  

**Nielsen, Peter Heine** **2684**  
**2652**  
 EU-ch Internet final blitz (2.2) 07.11.2004  
*[Jonathan Rowson, MH]*

Warning!! This is a blitz game.  
 LesEchecs.com: 'B20: Défense sicilienne

' **1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6!?** A principled and gutsy reply, attempting to neutralize the bishop on b2.

[ 2...e5 3.Bb2 d6 4.f4 exf4 5.Qf3 Qh4+ 6.g3 fxg3 7.hxg3 Qg4 8.Qe3 Nc6 9.Bh3 Qg6 10.Bf5 Nd4 11.Na3 Qf6 12.Bxc8 Rxc8 13.0-0-0 g6 14.Ne2 Bg7 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qd3 Ne7 17.Rdf1 Blatny,P-Sandor,C/ Austria 1995/LesEchecs.com/1/2-1/2 (58) ]

### 3.Bb2 Nf6

[ 3...f6 intending Nh6-f7, Bg7 and 0-0 is not out of the question, but I suspect it would not discourage anybody from playing 2.b3 ]

### 4.e5

[ 4.Bxf6!? exf6 5.Nc3 gains control of d5 and the light squares more generally, but I suspect Black will be able to play ...Bg7, 0-0, d6 and f5 when he shouldn't have any problems. That said, there might be some mileage in trying to discourage f5 with Nge2-g3: Bg7 6.Bc4 0-0 ( 6...d6!? 7.Nge2 f5 8.d3 0-0 9.0-0-0 ) 7.Nge2 d6 8.Ng3 f5 ( 8...Nc6!? 9.0-0 Nd4- ) 9.exf5 Re8+ 10.Kf1 gxf5 11.Qh5 and White is better. ]

[ 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nc6 10.Qd1 e6 11.Bf1 d5 12.exd5 exd5

13.d3 Qd6 14.c3 Nd7 15.Nd2 b5 16.Rb1 Nb6 17.Nf3 a5 18.a4 b4 Petrik,K-Manik,M/SVK 1998/ LesEchecs.com/1/2-1/2 ]

### 4...Nd5 5.Bc4 LesEchecs.com: 'N'

[ 5.e6 f6 is similar to the game. It seems that Black is close to the edge, but it is not at all clear that White is even better. ]

[ 5.Qf3!? looks like it might be critical. Nc7 ( 5...Nb6!? 6.a4!↑ )

### A) 6.Bc4 Ne6

**A1) 7.Bxe6!?** dxe6 ( 7...fxe6 8.h4 looks quite dangerous. ) 8.Qe3 intending Nf3, c4 and d4 and trying to make use of the queenside majority before the bishop on f8 wakes up.;

### A2) 7.Qe4

**A2a) 7...Bg7** 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nc3 d6 11.Nd5 and White appears to be somewhat better, but then you see ( 11.exd6 exd6 doesn't look bad for Black- there are too many ideas- Nc7, intending Bf5, Ned4, Nb4, Re8 etc. ) 11...Ned4 and things are far from clear.;

### A2b) 7...Nc6;

**B) 6.e6** Though tempting, this may not be best. 6...f6 7.exd7+ Qxd7 the difference with the game continuation is that White can make it awkward for Black to castle. However, I still think Black's position has potential and I am not sure how to assess the position. 8.Na3 ( 8.a4!? ) 8...Bg7 9.Bc4 Nc6 ( 9...a6!?!; 9...b5 10.Nxb5 ) 10.Ne2 Rb8 ]

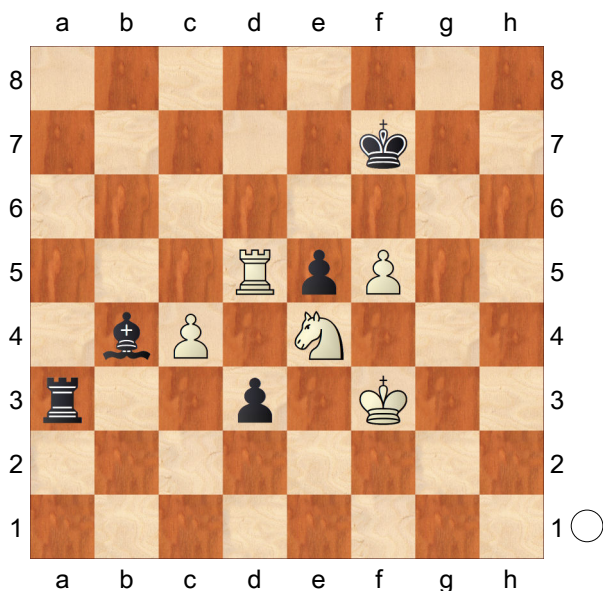
[ 5.c4 Nc7 6.d4 cxd4 7.Qxd4 Bg7



8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Ne6 10.g3 Qc7  
 11.Qe3 b5 12.cxb5 Nb4 13.Na3  
 Qa5 14.0-0-0 Bb7 15.Be2 h5  
 16.Kb1 Bh6 17.Qc3 Rc8 18.Qe1  
 Be4+ 19.Ka1 0-0 Pokorny-Beran/  
 CSFR-GER 1990/LesEchecs.com/  
 0-1 ]  
 [ 5.d4 Qa5+ 6.c3 cxd4 7.Qxd4  
 Nc6= ]  
**5...Nb6** LesEchecs.com: '=' **6.e6**  
 [ 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.e6+ Kg8  
 is not encouraging for White. ]  
**6...f6 7.Bb5**  
 [ 7.exd7+ Qxd7!? ( 7...Bxd7  
 should also be ok. ) 8.Qe2 Bg7 9.Nf3  
 Nxc4 10.bxc4 Qe6= ]  
**7...Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.exd7 Bxd7**  
**10.Bxd7 Qxd7 11.0-0 e5** After that  
 vaguely irregular turn of events, it  
 seems that Black has emerged with the  
 slightly better position due to his extra  
 space, and the fact that White might  
 soon be struggling to find constructive  
 moves. **12.d3 Nc6 13.Re1 Nd5**  
**14.Nc3 Rac8**  
 [ 14...Nf4 looks better, to keep an  
 extra set of minor pieces, but let's  
 not forget that this is a blitz game. In  
 fact, for that reason, I won't give  
 any further annotations. Suffice to say  
 that 2...g6 is probably a lot better  
 than it looks. ]  
**15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.c4**  
 [ 16.Nd2 Rcd8= ]  
**16...Qd7 17.Qe2 Rfd8** LesEchecs.com:  
 'Attaque le pion arriéré en d3' **18.Rad1**  
**b6**  
 [ 18...Nb4 19.Rf1= ]  
**19.Bc3 a5 20.h3**  
 [ 20.Qe4 Qf5= ]  
**20...Qd6 21.Qe4 Rd7 22.Qh4 Ne7**  
**23.Qe4 Rcd8** LesEchecs.com:

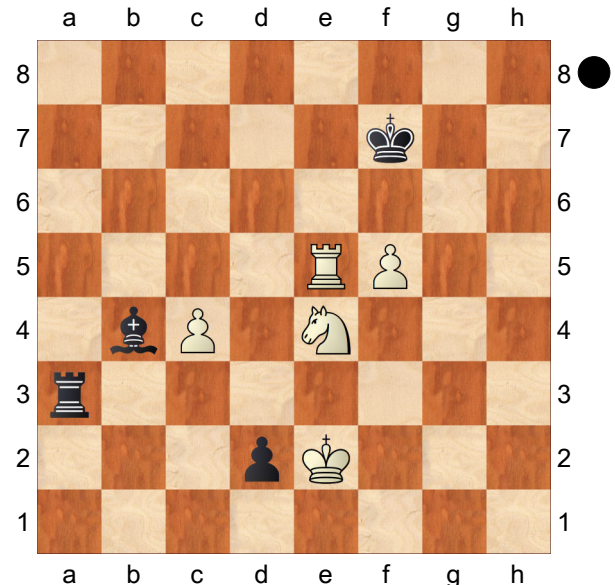
'Augmente la pression sur le pion arriéré'  
**24.a3 Qc6 25.Qe2 g5**  
 [ 25...Rd6 26.Rd2= ]  
**26.b4**  
 [ 26.Rd2 a4= ]  
**26...Ng6 27.g3** LesEchecs.com:  
 'Sécurise f4+h4'  
 [ 27.bxa5 bxa5 28.Bxa5 Nf4= ]  
**27...axb4 28.axb4 h5**  
 [ 28...Qe6 29.d4= ]  
**29.bxc5 bxc5 30.Rd2**  
 [ 30.Nd2! Rxd3 31.Qxh5 Kf7= ]  
**30...h4** -0.19/21  
 [ 30...g4!? 31.hxg4 hxg4= ]  
 [ 30...g4= -0.85/22 31.hxg4 hxg4 ]  
**31.Qe4** -0.52/24  
 [ 31.Rb1= -0.19/21 deserves  
 consideration. ]  
**31...Qxe4** -0.12/24  
 [ 31...Ne7= -0.52/24 ]  
**32.dxe4= hxg3 33.fxg3 Rxd2**  
**34.Bxd2**  
 [ Pire est 34.Nxd2? -1.83/24  
 34.Bc3xd2 -0.01 Rd3 35.Ba5  
 Rxd3+ 36.Kh2 Ra3=+ ]  
**34...Rd3 35.Re3 Rd7 36.Rb3 Nf8!**  
**37.Be3 Ne6 38.Kg2**  
 [ 38.Rb8+ Kf7= ]  
**38...Nd4**  
 [ 38...Ra7 39.Rb5= ]  
**39.Ra3 Rb7 40.Bxd4** -0.45/22  
 [ 40.Kf2= -0.13/22 ]  
**40...cxd4= 41.Ne1** -1.27/22  
 [ 41.Ra2 Bf8= ]  
 [ 41.Ra2! -0.38/23 ]  
**41...Bf8 42.Ra6** -1.85/22  
 [ 42.Rf3= -1.01/22 ]  
**42...Kf7** -0.42/22  
 [ Better is 42...f5! -+ -1.85/22 43.exf5  
 e4 ]  
**43.Nd3= Rb3 44.Nf2 Rc3 45.Rc6**  
 -0.43/21

[ 45.Ng4!= 0.01/22 feels stronger. ]  
**45...Be7** -0.05/23  
 [ 45...d3? -0.43/21 ]  
**46.h4 gxh4 47.gxh4 d3**  
 [ 47...f5 48.exf5 Strongly threatening Rc6-c7. Bxh4 ...Rc3-c2 is the strong threat. 49.Ne4= ]  
**48.Kf3 f5**  
 [ Δ48...Bb4= est une option viable ]  
**49.exf5** LesEchecs.com: '+-' **49...Bxh4** 0.76/24  
 [ 49...d2+± 0.31/24 50.Ke2 Bxh4 51.Kxd2 Rf3 ]  
**50.Ne4±** LesEchecs.com: 'les blancs planifient c5' **50...Ra3** 1.54/21  
 [ 50...Rc1!± 0.45/22 ]  
**51.Rd6** 0.48/24  
 [ White should play 51.Rc7+± 1.54/21 Ke8 52.Rc8+ Kf7 53.Ke3 ]  
**51...Be7!± 52.Rd5** 0.18/23  
 [ Δ52.Rd7!? Ke8 53.Rd5!+- ]  
 [ 52.Rd7± 0.50/25 should be considered. d2+ 53.Ke2 ]  
**52...Bb4** 0.74/24  
 [ 52...d2+!= 0.18/23 53.Kg4 Re3 54.Nxd2 Re1 ]



**53.c5** 0.06/20

[ 53.Rxe5? -4.67/24 53.Kf3-g4 0.77 est vain à cause de d2+ 54.Ke2 Re3+! 55.Kxe3 Threatening mate with Ke3-e2. d1Q-- ]  
 [ Don't blunder 53.Rxe5? d2+ 54.Ke2



Re3+!! 55.Kxe3 d1Q-- ]  
 [ 53.Kg4!± 0.74/24 ]  
**53...d2+!= 54.Ke2 Ra1! 55.Nxd2**  
 [ 55.Rd7+ seems wilder. Ke8 56.Nf6+ Kf8 57.Nh7+ ]  
**55...Bxd2 56.Kxd2 Kf6 57.c6 Ra8 58.c7 Rc8 59.Rd7 Kxf5 60.Ke3 Ke6 61.Rh7 Kd6 62.Ke4 Rxc7**  
 ½-½

**B20**  
 2683  
**Topalov, Veselin** 2702  
 Sarajevo Bosnia 30th (1) 17.05.2000  
 [Jonathan Rowson]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6**  
 [ 5...d5!? 6.Qe2 dxe4 ( 6...Nf6 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.g3± ) 7.Qxe4 Nf6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.g3 ]  
**6.d3**

[ 6.e5 Nd5 7.g3 would probably be my choice as White. ]  
**6...d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5**  
 [ 9.Qe2 I think White should consider keeping the tension for as long as possible. ]  
**9...Nd7 10.Bg2**  
 [ 10.c4!? ]  
**10...b5** My general impression is that when white plays b3, Bb2, and g3, Bg2 and then follows up by meeting ... d5 with e5, he rarely emerges with the better position. The bishop on b2 is sometimes vulnerable, and you often feel its absence on the g1-a7 diagonal. The bishop on g2 is not so bad, but it does not threaten Black's king, so in general I think this sort of position, though playable, is not particularly promising for White. **11.0-0 c4!** I suspect Short either missed this powerful move, or more likely, underestimated it. **12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4**  
 [ 18.Rxa4 Nxb4 19.Ne1 Nc5 20.Bd4 Qb5 21.Bxc5 Bxc5 and Black retains good compensation. ]  
**18...Nxb4 19.Bd4 Bc5 20.Qe3**  
 [ 20.a5 might be better because after a similar set of moves to the game Qa7 ( 20...Qb5 21.Rc3 ) 21.Qe3 Nxd3 22.Rc3 Bxd4 23.Nxd4 N3c5 white has 24.Nc6 This means that Black has to do something less reliable on move 23, and White is probably not worse ]  
**20...Nxd3 21.Rcb1 Qc7 22.Bf1 Bxd4 23.Nxd4 N3c5 24.Bb5** The position looks roughly equal now, but I prefer Black, due to the long-term advantages of having the sounder structure and

safer king. **24...g6 25.a5 Rfb8 26.Bxd7 Rxb1+ 27.Rxb1 Qxd7**  
 If Queens and Rooks were exchanged White might have a big advantage, but as things stand the position is just very tense. **28.Kg1**  
 [ 28.Rc1!? ]  
**28...Rc8 29.Rc1 Nd3 30.Rxc8+ Qxc8 31.N2f3?!** It is not clear why Nigel felt that he had to abandon his a-pawn, but he might have over-rated his attacking chances on the kingside dark squares.  
 [ 31.N2b3 Qc3 32.Qd2 ]  
**31...Qc3 32.h4 Qa1+ 33.Kh2 Qxa5 34.h5 Qa2+ 35.Kh3 Qb1 36.Qg1 Qb2 37.Kh4 Nc5 38.hxg6 hxg6 39.Qh2 Qa1 40.Kg4 Ne4 41.Qg1 Qb2 42.Qh2 Qc1 43.Qg1 Bf1 44.Kh4 Qd1 45.g4 Kh8 46.Qh2 Qc1 47.g5 Kg8 48.Kg4 Bd3 49.Qg1 Qb2 50.Qh2 Qa3 51.Kh4 Nc5 52.Qg1 Be4 53.Nh2 Bf5 54.Nxf5 exf5 55.Qg2 Ne4 56.Qf3 Qc1 57.Nf1 d4 58.Kh3 d3 59.e6 fxe6 60.Ng3 Qe1 61.Nxe4 fxe4 62.Qg2 Qe2 0-1**

	<b>B30</b>
 <b>Short, Nigel D</b>	<b>2683</b>
 <b>Thorfinnsson, Bragi</b>	<b>2260</b>
Reykjavik op 19th (1)	05.04.2000
<i>[Lane, MH]</i>	

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3** In recent years Nigel Short has turned his attention to the anti-Sicilians for a number of games. This relative side line is an indication that the former world title challenger likes to keep his opponents guessing.  
 Lane, Gary: 'In recent years Nigel Short

has turned his attention to the anti-Sicilians for a number of games. This relative side line is an indication that the former world title challenger likes to keep his opponents guessing.' **2...Nc6**

### 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 d6

[ 5...g6 6.c4 Lane,Gary: 'perhaps' (perhaps 6.Bb5!?) 6...Nf4 7.e6?! f6 8.exd7+ Qxd7 9.Qc2 ( 9.d4 Qe6+ is just good for Black. ) 9...Nb4 10.Qc3 Nfd3+ 11.Bxd3 Qxd3 12.Qxd3 Nxd3+ 13.Ke2 Nxb2 14.Nc3 Bf5 0-1 A.Dragojlovic-Z. Vukovic, Becici 1994. ]

### 6.Bb5 Bg4

[ 6...Bd7 7.exd6

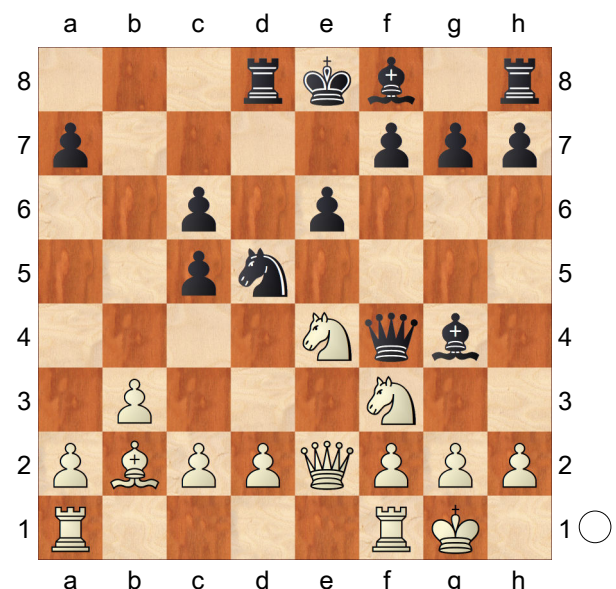
**A) 7...exd6** 8.0-0 Nf4 0.58/21 ( 8...Be7= 0.24/23 might be stronger. ) 9.Re1+ Ne7 1.51/22 ( 9...Be7± 0.52/23 ) 10.a4 Bxb5 2.12/21 White is better because Black will have problems developing the kingside. Lane, Gary: 'White is better because Black will have problems developing the kingside.' ( 10...a6± 1.54/20 );

**B) 7...e6** 8.0-0 Bxd6 9.d4 0-0 10.Nbd2 -0.22/22 ( 10.c4 0.18/20 Nf6 11.d5 exd5 12.cxd5 ) 10...Nxd4= 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.Bxd4 Rfd8 14.Ne4 Bf8 15.Qf3 Qc7 0.28/19 ( 15...f5 -0.18/20 16.Nc3 Nb4 ) 16.c4= Nf4 17.Rad1 Ng6 18.Nc3 -0.01/21 ( 18.g3± 0.35/18 is more appropriate. ) 18...Qa5= Hoping for ...e6-e5. 19.Na4 b6 20.g3 Rab8 21.Qe2 Qf5 22.Rd2 Bb4 23.Bc3 1/2-1/2 R.Dos Santos-S.Pedersen,Matinhos 1994. ]

**7.h3** When a world-class player plays a

line that has been relatively less analysed it is always interesting to see what new approach he has in mind. In this case, Short chooses to immediately question Black on where he wants to move the light-squared bishop. Lane, Gary: 'When a world-class player plays a line that has been relatively less analysed it is always interesting to see what new approach he has in mind. In this case, Short chooses to immediately question Black on where he wants to move the light-squared bishop.'

[ 7.0-0 is the standard alternative Qd7 0.50/20 ( 7...dxe5= 0.01/21 is superior. 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 f6 ) 8.exd6± Qxd6 9.Qe2 -0.14/23 ( 9.Na3!/? is playable; 9.h3± 0.43/21 Bd7 10.Nc3 ) 9...Qf4 ( 9...a6!/? 10.Bxc6+ Qxc6= ) 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Nc3 Rd8 0.44/23 ( 11...Bxf3= 0.01/21 12.Qxf3 Qxf3 13.gxf3 e6 ) 12.Ne4 -0.01/20 ( 12.Nxd5± 0.44/23 Rxd5 13.Qc4 Qxc4 14.bxc4 ) 12...e6 0.46/21 ( 12...e5= -0.01/20 )



13.d3 0.02/22 ( 13.Qa6!± 0.46/21 f6 14.Ne1 ) 13...Be7 0.38/22 ( 13...Bxf3= 0.02/22 14.Qxf3 Qxf3 15.gxf3 Be7 )



14.Ned2!± Bf6 15.Be5 Nc3 0.98/23  
 ( 15...Bxe5± 0.40/22 16.Qxe5 f6  
 17.Qxf4 Nxf4 ) 16.Qe1 Qf5! 17.Qe3  
 Bxe5 1.60/24 (Black should play  
 17...Nd5± 0.34/25 18.Qe4 Qxe4  
 19.dxe4 Nc3 ) 18.Nxe5± Ne2+  
 2.45/25 ( 18...f6 1.93/23 ) 19.Kh1+-  
 Nd4 20.Rac1 Rd5 2.03/23 ( 20...Bh5  
 1.66/23 might work better. 21.Rfe1  
 0-0 ) 21.f4 0-0 2.92/23 ( 21...f6  
 1.80/22 ) 22.h3+- Be2 23.Rfe1 h5?  
 4.46/24 ( 23...g5 2.69/23 ) 24.c3+- f6  
 25.cxd4 cxd4 26.Qxe2 fxe5 27.fxe5  
 and White had a winning position in D.  
 Tebb-A.Minnican, Scotland 1995.  
 Lane,Gary: 'and White had a winning  
 position in D.Tebb-A.Minnican,  
 Scotland 1995.' ]

**7...Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4** The position is  
 equal. **9.g4 Bg6 10.d4** Strongly  
 threatening Bb2-c1. **10...e6 11.Qd2↑**  
 How come people like Short make  
 chess look so easy? He has emerged  
 from the opening with a simple play of  
 rapid development and the opportunity  
 to tuck away the king safely on the  
 queenside. Lane,Gary: 'How come  
 people like Short make chess look so  
 easy? He has emerged from the opening  
 with a simple play of rapid development  
 and the opportunity to tuck away the  
 king safely on the queenside.'. White is  
 pushing. **11...Nd5**

[ 11...Ng2+?! 2.30/23 11...c5xd4 0.59  
 is a check for the sake of it after  
 Lane,Gary: 'is a check for the sake of  
 it after' 12.Kf1 aiming for d4-d5. Nh4  
 2.93/23 ( 12...cxd4 1.82/24 13.Qxd4  
 Nh4 ) 13.Nxh4+- Qxh4 14.d5! exd5  
 15.Qxd5 Rc8? 7.43/22 ( 15...0-0-0  
 2.64/21 ) 16.exd6 and Black can  
 resign with a clear conscience. ]

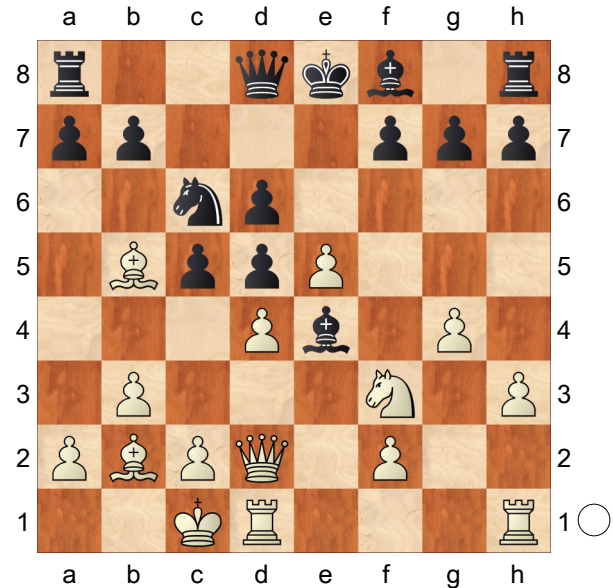
**12.Nxd5 exd5 13.0-0-0** 0.80/21

&Bianco is more active.

[ White should try 13.0-0 1.29/20 ]

**13...Be4** 2.16/23

[ 13...Qb6± 0.80/21 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 ]



Lane,Gary: '#'. This costs Black the  
 game. **14.Rhe1!+-** Short just ignores  
 the pin and offers Thorfinnsson the  
 chance to grab a piece. A sign of sheer  
 class. Lane,Gary: 'Short just ignores the  
 pin and offers Thorfinnsson the chance  
 to grab a piece. A sign of sheer class.'

**14...Qb6**

[ 14...Bxf3? 4.47/25 14...Bf8-e7 2.12

**A) 15.exd6+ Kd7 16.Qf4?**

-1.20/25 (White must play  
 16.dxc5+- 3.21/20 Kc8 17.Be2 )  
 16...Qf6 and Black snuffs out the  
 attack.;

**B) 15.exd6+- 4.47/25 Kd7**  
 16.dxc5;

**C) 15.Qf4? -0.01/24 15...Bxd1??**  
 3.76/26 ( 15...Be4= -0.01/24  
 and Black is okay. 16.Rxe4 dxe4 )  
 16.exd6+- Kd7 ...Qd8-f6 is the  
 strong threat. 17.Qxf7+ Kc8  
 18.Re8 Bxd6 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8

20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.Kxd1  
and the dominating queen will  
ensure White success. Lane,Gary:  
'and the dominating queen will  
ensure White success.' ]

[ 14...Be7 15.exd6 ]

### 15.Bxc6+ Qxc6

[ 15...bxc6 16.Ng5 is also good for  
White. Lane,Gary: 'is also good for  
White.' ]

### 16.Ng5 h6? 3.93/21

[ 16...Bg6 3.48/22 16...c5xd4 2.21  
17.exd6+ Kd7 18.f4 is winning. ]

[ 16...cxd4 2.21/23 17.Nxe4  
( 17.Bxd4 dxe5 18.Nxe4 Ba3+  
19.Kb1 dxe4± ) 17...dxe4 ]

### 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.d5 Qa6 19.Rxe4

One can imagine how Black must be  
feeling at this stage. He has been  
bamboozled by an odd opening choice  
and is now a pawn down against one of  
the world's strongest players. Lane,  
Gary: 'One can imagine how Black must  
be feeling at this stage. He has been  
bamboozled by an odd opening choice  
and is now a pawn down against one of  
the world's strongest players.' **19...0-0-0**  
**20.f4 dxe5 21.fxe5 Be7 22.Kb1 Kb8?**  
4.03/22

[ 22...Rxd5 2.05/22 23.Qxd5 Rd8  
24.Qxd8+ ( 24.Qxf7 Rxd1+ 25.Bc1  
Bg5= ) 24...Bxd8 ]

**23.Qf2** The threats of 24 Qxf7 and 24 d6  
followed by Qxc5 is just too much for  
Black. Lane,Gary: 'The threats of 24  
Qxf7 and 24 d6 followed by Qxc5 is just  
too much for Black.'

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very  
precise) /Black=0.53

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Short,Nigel D**

**2682**

■ **Svidler,Peter**

**2690**

RUS–The World rapid (1)

08.09.2002

[Jonathan Rowson, MH]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** Gary Lane: '!? '!? '!?'

Gary Lane: 'This simple reply is a  
copycat idea by Black which looks  
reliable. However, the queenside  
fianchetto is hardly a refutation of the  
line and I suspect Svidler played it to  
avoid any preparation by Short.' **3.Bb2**

**Bb7 4.Nc3** Gary Lane: 'White gets on  
with developing.' **4...e6**

[ 4...Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.Qf3!

a good way to put Black under instant  
pressure e6 7.Bc4 Nb4 to avoid  
using a pawn Black indulges in a  
long combination which ultimately  
favours White 8.Qxb7 N8c6 9.Nb5  
Rb8 ( 9...Nxc2+ 10.Kd1 Nxa1  
11.Nc7+ Ke7 12.Nxa8 wins ) 10.Qc7  
Nxc2+ 11.Kd1 Nxa1 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8  
13.Bxa1 g5?! Black feels he has to  
act quickly because a rook for two  
pieces is not enough compensation.  
However, the lunge with the pawn is  
faulty because it seriously weakens  
the kingside pawns ( 13...a6 14.Nd6  
Bxd6 15.exd6 f6 seems to be the  
best chance for Black ) 14.Nf3 h6  
15.Nd6 Ke7 ( 15...Bxd6 16.exd6  
Rg8 17.Bb5 g4 18.Bf6+ Ke8  
19.Bxc6 dxc6 20.Ne5 is a killer line  
for White ) 16.Bb5 f5 17.Bxc6 dxc6  
18.Ke2 Kd7 19.Nxf5! gave White a  
winning advantage, T.Gelashvili–N.  
Managadze, Athens 2001. ]

**5.f4**

[ 5.g3!? ]

[ 5.Nf3

**A)** 5...Nc6 6.Bb5 Nge7 7.e5  
 ( 7.d4 is a decent alternative but  
 White wants to make room for his  
 knight on e4 ) 7...Ng6 8.Ne4 a6  
 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 Be7 11.Qd2  
 f5! Black takes steps to oust the  
 knight from it's good outpost on e4  
 12.exf6 gxf6 13.Ng3 h5  
 Black has a good position and is  
 now eager to knock the knight on  
 g3 off it's perch 14.h4 Qc7  
 15.0-0-0 Qf4 16.Qe3 d6 17.Kb1  
 Qxe3 18.fxe3 Kd7 19.d4 cxd4  
 20.Rxd4 Rag8 21.Rd2 Nxh4!  
 0-1 Reefat bin Sattar-Sashikiran,K/  
 Sri Lanka 2001 (21);

**B)** 5...a6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qc7  
 8.f3 Nf6 9.Qd2 Bb4 10.a3 Be7  
 11.g4 an adventurous idea to  
 accelerate the kingside attack 0-0  
 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Nce2!?  
 ( 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.h4 is a positive  
 approach for White ) 13...Nxd4  
 14.Nxd4 d5! Rather than try to start  
 a rather slow attack on the  
 queenside, the superior,  
 alternative strategy of striking in  
 the centre is preferred 15.g5 (if  
 15.exd5 then Nxd5 dramatically  
 slows White's progress because the  
 knight on d5 is influential ) 15...Nh5  
 16.e5 Qxe5 17.Nc6 Qxg5!?  
 (it might be a better idea to avoid  
 to avoid opening the g-file for the  
 benefit of White's rook by playing  
 17...Qc7 ) 18.f4 Qh4 19.Nxe7+  
 Qxe7 20.Rg1 f5 21.Qd4  
 for the price of a pawn White has  
 been able to increase the strength  
 of his dark-squared bishop b5  
 22.Re1 Rf7 23.Rg5 Nf6  
 ( 23...g6?? 24.Qh8# ) 24.Rxf5 exf5

25.Rxe7 Rxe7 26.Bd3  
 with a double-edged game, L.  
 Aronian-D.Solak, Yerevan 2000. ]  
 [ 5.Qf3 a6 ( 5...Nc6!? is worth  
 considering ) 6.0-0-0 Qc7 7.Re1  
 Ne7 8.h4 Nbc6 9.Nge2 h5 10.Qf4  
 d6 11.Kb1 with equal chances, I.  
 Papaioannou-M.Quinn, Leon 2001. ]

**5...a6** Although useful, it is not clear that  
 this move is necessary. Gary Lane:  
 'Black wants to advance his d-pawn  
 but first of all wishes to cancel out the  
 possibility of a check on b5 with the  
 white squared bishop.'  
 [ 5...d5 6.Bb5+  
**A)** 6...Bc6 looks too strange to be  
 good, and probably is. 7.exd5  
 Bxb5 8.Nxb5 a6 ( 8...exd5 9.Be5  
 Na6 10.Qe2+- ) 9.dxe6 ( 9.Nc3  
 exd5 10.Qe2+ is also some  
 advantage because after Ne7  
 11.Nf3 Qd7 12.0-0 Nbc6  
 13.Rae1 Black has severe  
 difficulties finishing development. )  
 9...axb5 10.exf7+ Kxf7 11.Qh5+  
 Ke7 12.Qe2+ and White will have  
 three pawns and an attack for the  
 piece.;

**B)** 6...Nc6 is the move Black would  
 like to play, but there seem to be  
 some annoying tactical issues.  
 7.exd5 exd5 8.Qe2+  
**B1)** 8...Be7!? 9.Nxd5! Qxd5  
 10.Bxg7 0-0-0 11.Bxh8  
 and Black will have a hard time  
 proving adequate compensation  
 for the exchange and two pawns,  
 although Nb4!?, for example,  
 does keep the game alive.  
 ( 11...Bf6 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Bc4  
 Qf5 14.Bd3 Qd5 15.0-0-0 )  
 12.Kf1 Bf6 ( 12...Nxc2 13.Rc1 )

13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.c3 I suspect that this variation is good for White, but it wouldn't astonish me if somebody were to discover that Black has a way to make this line, with 8... Be7 work, because White does lose a lot of time in the process of winning material, so White shouldn't assume that 9.Nxd5 wins by force, because Black has various ways to try to conjure compensation before the material advantage makes itself felt.;

**B2)** 8...Nge7 9.Nf3 d4 ( 9...Qc7 10.Nxd5; 9...Qd7 10.Ne5 ) 10.Ne4 Qc7 11.b4!↑;

**C)** 6...Nd7 looks a bit risky for Black, but it might be viable. 7.exd5 This is not forced, but otherwise Black has probably achieved something by getting away with not playing ...a6. ( 7.Qe2 d4 ) 7...Qh4+!? The key point. 8.g3 Qe7 9.Nf3 exd5+ 10.Ne5 ( 10.Kf2 0-0-0∞ ) 10...0-0-0 ]

### 6.Nf3 d5 7.d3

[ 7.exd5 exd5 8.Qe2+!? Ne7 9.d4 with roughly equal chances. ]  
[ 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.exd5 exd5 9.Qe2+ Nge7 10.0-0 Nb4 11.Rae1 ( 11.Bf5!? g6 12.a3! gives White the better chances ) 11...Nxd3 12.Qxd3 d4 13.Na4 ( 13.Ne4 has the merit of keeping the knight centralised ) 13...Qc7 14.Qf5 a neat idea to stop Black castling queenside Qc6 15.Rf2 Bc8 16.Ne5 ( 16.Qh5!? is a decent alternative ) 16...Qd5 ( 16...Bxf5 17.Nxc6 Bxc2 18.Nxb6 wins ) 17.Qe4 Qxe4 18.Rxe4 Rb8 19.Nc6 Rb7

20.Rfe2 Be6 21.Nxe7 Bxe7 22.Nxb6 Rxb6 23.f5 wins the piece back but only results in equality, L. Langner-S.Berezjuk, Prague 2001. ]

**7...Nf6 8.e5** Gary Lane: 'Short relieves the pressure on the e4 pawn by advancing it. The pawn structure now resembles a sort of French Defence.'

**8...Nfd7 9.g3 Nc6 10.Bg2 b5**

Just as with the Short-Topalov game, I feel in these lines where White is committed to e5, the positions are just unclear and the bishop is not particularly well-placed on b2. **11.0-0 Nb6** Gary Lane: 'Black rightly prepares the advance c4 to engineer active play on the queenside. This is because White will seek to advance on the kingside in an effort to take advantage of the black pieces being on the queenside.'

[ 11...c4!? ]

**12.d4 c4** Gary Lane: 'Svidler is keen to start a queenside pawn avalanche.'

**13.Ne2 g6**

[ 13...Be7 14.c3 0-0 15.Nd2 leaves the bishop on b2 looking like a big pawn. ]

**14.g4 h5 15.h3**

[ 15.g5 Be7 16.a3= ]

**15...Qc7**

[ 15...hxg4 16.hxg4 b4 17.Bc1 leaves White pinning his hopes on a kingside breakthrough. ]

**16.c3**

[ If 16.g5 then b4 gives Black attacking options but White's kingside ambitions are somewhat restricted due to the blocked kingside pawns. ]

**16...a5**

[ 16...hxg4 17.hxg4 a5 18.Bc1≠ ]



**17.f5** Gary Lane: 'Risky but Short strives to succeed.' **17...hgx4 18.hgx4 gxf5 19.gxf5 exf5 20.Qc2 Bc8 21.Kf2**  
[ 21.Nf4 Be6? ]

**21...b4**

[ 21...cxb3!? 22.axb3 a4 is good for Svidler because he has a passed pawn and secures the c4 square for his knight. ]

**22.Rh1 Rxb1 23.Rxb1 bxc3**

[ 23...a4!?? also looks good. ]

**24.Bxc3 Nb4 25.Bxb4**

[ 25.Qd2!? should be examined more closely ]

**25...axb4**

[ Inferior is 25...Bxb4?! 26.Rh8+ Bf8 ( 26...Kd7 27.bxc4 Nxc4 28.Nf4 wins ) 27.Ng5 is good news for White. ]

**26.Rh7 Be6**

[ 26...Qa7 offers another encouraging option for Svidler 27.bxc4 dxc4 28.Ne1? ]

**27.Bh3** Gary Lane: 'Attacks the isolated pawn on f5.'

[ 27.Ng5 Be7 28.Nxf7! Bxf7 29.Qxf5 Bf8 30.e6 ]

**27...Qa7** 0.71/23

[ 27...c3? 28.Ng5 Qc6 29.Nf4± ( 29.Bxf5 Bxf5 30.Qxf5 Qg6± ) ]  
[ 27...Qc6= 0.01/20 keeps the balance. ]

**28.Nc1** -0.01/21

[ Better is 28.Ng5!± 0.71/23 Qxa2 29.Qc1 ]

**28...Rc8 29.Qd2?** -1.82/20 Gary Lane: 'White is going down hill rapidly which suggests'

[ 29.Ne2!? is worth a try. ]

[ 29.Qb1= 0.01/22 ]

**29...cxb3!-+ 30.Nxb3** -2.85/21

[ 30.axb3 Nc1-e2 is the strong threat.

Qa3 31.Ne2 And now Nf3-g5 would win. Qxb3 and Black can look forward to White giving up. ]

[ 30.axb3? -1.54/24 Qa3 31.Ne2 Qxb3 32.Qg5 ]

**30...Nc4!-+ 31.Qd3**

[ 31.Qe2 Ra8 32.Nc1 Qa3-+ ]

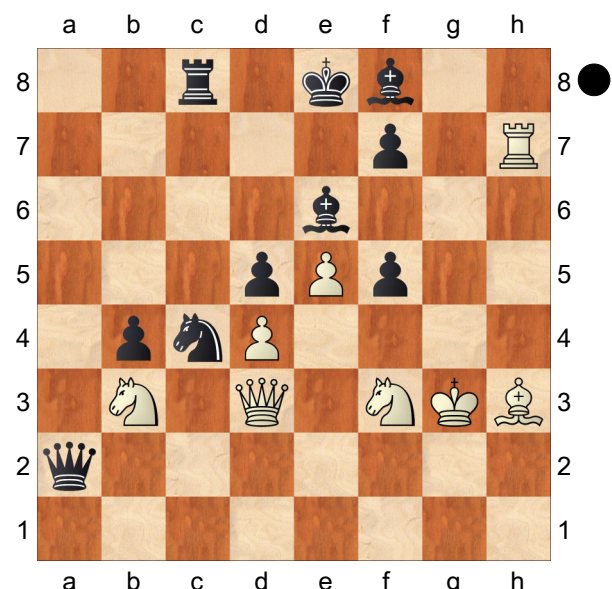
**31...Qxa2+ 32.Kg3?** -7.38/23

[ 32.Kg1 Na3 Threatens to win with ... Rc8-c3.

**A) 33.Bxf5??** -7.07/25 33.Rh7-h8 -2.34 leads to disaster upon Rc3 34.Qd2 Qxb3 ( 34...Bxf5?! -0.01/21 34...Qa2xb3 -15.52 is a weaker possibility 35.Qxa2 Bxh7 36.Nbd2? ) 35.Bxe6 Qb1+ 36.Ne1 Qxh7 37.Bxd5 Nc2 and Black wins.;

**B) 33.Nfd2** Qc2 34.Qa6 Qc6 is simply good for Black. ]

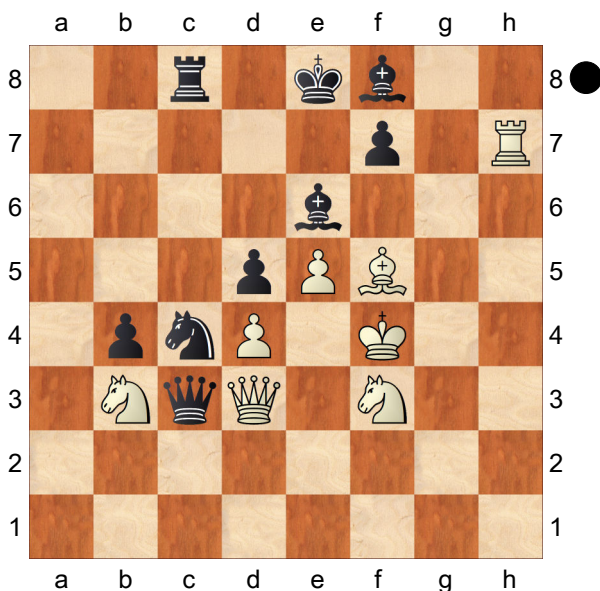
[ 32.Kg1 -3.85/24 Na5 33.Nc5 Bxc5 34.dxc5 ]



**32...Qb2?** -1.72/22 Gary Lane: '?' '?' '?' Gary Lane: 'Svidler is straying off the winning line allowing Short a chance to be Houdini in such a lost position.'

[ 32...Nd6! is the way to finish the job

off when the game might continue  
 33.Nc5 ( 33.exd6 Bxd6+ 34.Kh4  
 Qf2+ 35.Kh5 Rc3 and Black storms  
 to victory. Prevents Nb3-c5. )  
 33...Ne4+ 34.Kf4 Intending Qd3-b5+  
 and mate. Nxc5 35.dxc5 Rxc5  
 36.Bxf5 Qg2 ( -> ...Be6xf5) 37.Bxe6  
 fxe6 and Black is winning. ]  
 [ 32...Nd6! -7.38/23 33.Nc5 Ne4+  
 34.Kf4 Bxc5 35.Rh8+ Ke7 36.Rxc8  
 Bxc8 37.dxc5 b3 38.Qxd5 Qc2  
 39.Bxf5 Bxf5 40.Qb7+ Kf8 ]  
**33.Bxf5-+ Qc3 34.Kf4?** -3.56/24  
 [ 34.Rh8- -1.20/23 ]



Gary Lane: 'The position looks a  
 complete mess but it is difficult for Black  
 to create a mating net.' **34...Qxd3?**  
 -0.57/18

[ 34...Bxf5! is one way to make White  
 suffer upon 35.Qxf5 Rc7 and Black  
 has winning chances. ]  
 [Black should play 34...Bxf5!-+  
 -3.56/24 35.Qxc3 bxc3 36.Kxf5 c2 ]

**35.Bxd3- Ra8** 0.01/25

[ 35...Be7- -0.56/24 ]

**36.Ng5 Ra3** Gary Lane: '- - - - -' **37.Bc2**  
**Be7**

[ 37...Ra2! is met by 38.Bg6! Rf2+  
 39.Kg3 Rb2 with Black still trying to  
 win but White should be fine. ]

**38.Nxe6 fxe6 39.Bd1 Ra2**

[ 39...Bf8 -0.01/23 39...Nc4-a5 -0.33  
 40.Rb7 -0.33/23 ( 40.Bh5+= -0.01/23  
 Kd8 41.Bd1 ) 40...Be7 -0.01/22  
 is a bit better for Black. ( 40...Bh6+-  
 -0.33/23 41.Kg3 Kd8 42.Rxb4 Kc7 ) ]

**40.Bg4** Gary Lane: '?!' '?!' '?!'

[ 40.Bh5+!? looks like a good  
 alternative Kd8 aiming for ...Ra2-f2+.  
 41.Rh8+! Kd7 42.Rh7! with equal  
 chances. ]

**40...Rf2+ 41.Kg3 Rb2 42.Nc5** -0.26/19

[ 42.Rh8+- -0.67/24 was preferable.  
 Kd7 43.Bd1 ]

**42...Bxc5= 43.dxc5 Nxe5 44.Bxe6**  
**Rc2 45.Rb7**

[Or 45.Kf4 Nd3+ 46.Ke3 Nxc5  
 47.Bxd5 b3 48.Bxb3 with a draw. ]

**45...Rc3+**

[ 45...Rxc5 46.Rxb4 ( 46.Kf4!?)  
 46...Ke7 47.Bxd5 and once again the  
 game is a technical draw. ]

**46.Kg2 Nd3 47.Bd7+ Kd8 48.Bf5**  
**Nxc5**

[ 48...b3 feels hotter. 49.c6 Ne5  
 50.c7+ Rxc7 51.Rxb3 Ke7 ]

**49.Rxb4** Gary Lane: 'This ending should  
 be a draw. White intends to sacrifice his  
 bishop for the sole, remaining pawn  
 when with correct play there is no  
 forcing win for Black. Of course, at club  
 level it might be another matter but  
 between two world class grandmasters  
 the result is not in doubt.' **49...Ke7**

**50.Kf2 Kf6 51.Bb1 Ke5 52.Ke2 Rh3**  
**53.Bc2 Rh2+ 54.Kd1 d4 55.Rb5 Kd5**  
**56.Bb3+ Kc6 57.Rb4 d3** -0.01/25

[ 57...Rh1+- -0.75/21 58.Ke2 Rh4 ]

**58.Bc4= Rf2 59.Rb8** -0.46/23

[ 59.Bg8= -0.02/23 ]

**59...Rf4 60.Bb5+ Kc7 61.Rh8 Rb4  
62.Bxd3 Nxd3 63.Kd2 Nc5 64.Rh6  
Kd7 65.Ke3 Ne6 66.Kd3 Kd6 67.Kc3  
Rg4 68.Rh5 Nf4 69.Ra5 Nd5+  
70.Kd3 Ke5 71.Ra8 Rg3+ 72.Ke2  
Rb3 73.Re8+ Kd4 74.Kf2**

½-½

**B20**

**2677**

□ **Short,Nigel D**

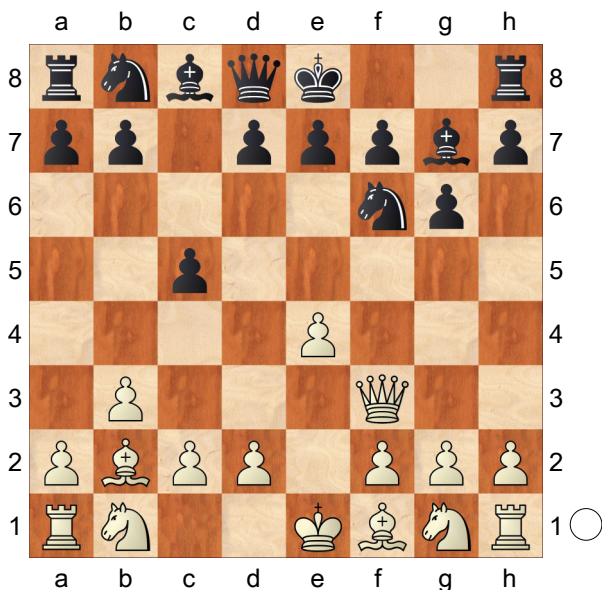
■ **Jones,Gawain C B**

**2653**

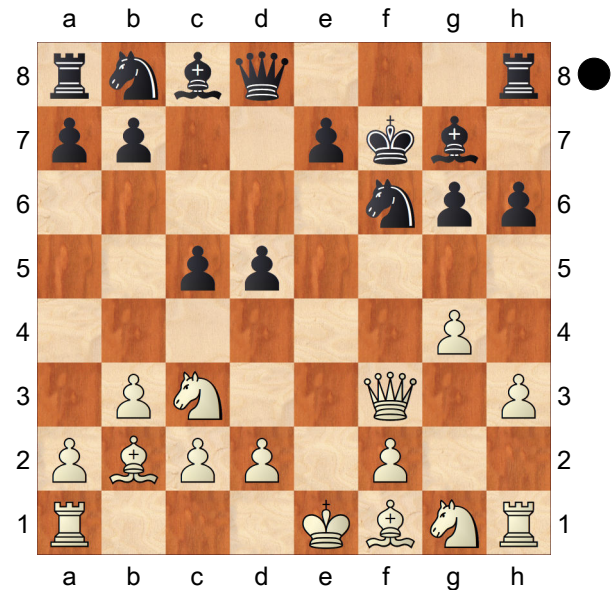
Bunratty Masters op 19th (6) 19.02.2012  
[Alex Baburin, MH]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** Gawain Jones likes playing offbeat systems against the Sicilian Defence, but here he found his match! **2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 Bg7** **N** Diagram

[I found a few games in which Black played 4...d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Nc3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nge2 Bg7 10.Qg3 Be6 11.Nf4∞ Gelashvili – G. Shahade, New York 2011. ]



It's not often that you see a new position after just 4 moves! The next few moves are more or less forced as otherwise White could not justify 4.Qf3. **5.e5 Ng8 6.e6 Nf6 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.g4! h6 9.Nc3 d5 10.h3** Diagram



**10...e6**

[For a while computer likes 10...Nc6 11.0-0-0 e5? but then it realises that 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Bc4 Be6 14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Qe2 Bxh1 16.f3 e4 17.Qc4+ Black is doomed. ]

**11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Re1 Nd4**

[ 12...Re8!? ]

**13.Qg2** Diagram

(Diagram)

This looks like a position from Fischerandom chess. One can admire Short's creative handling of the queen!

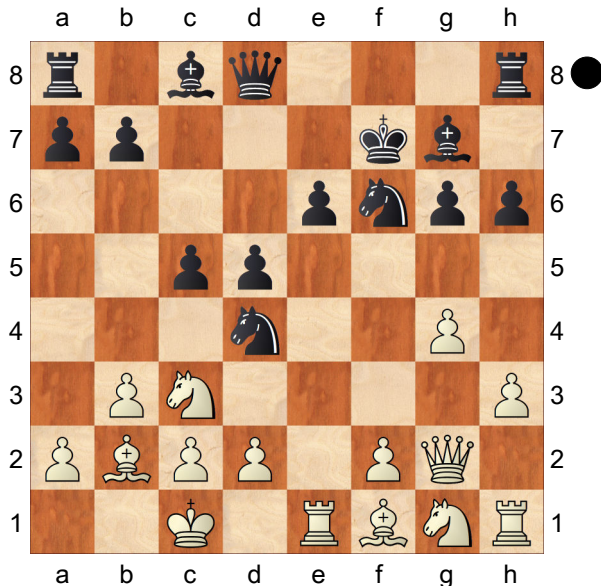
**13...Bd7 14.Nf3 Nxf3 15.Qxf3 Bc6 16.Bd3! Qd6 17.h4 g5**

[ 17...d4 18.Ne4 Ke7 19.Qe2 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Raf8 ]

**18.Qe2 a6 19.f4! gxf4 20.g5** Diagram

(Diagram)



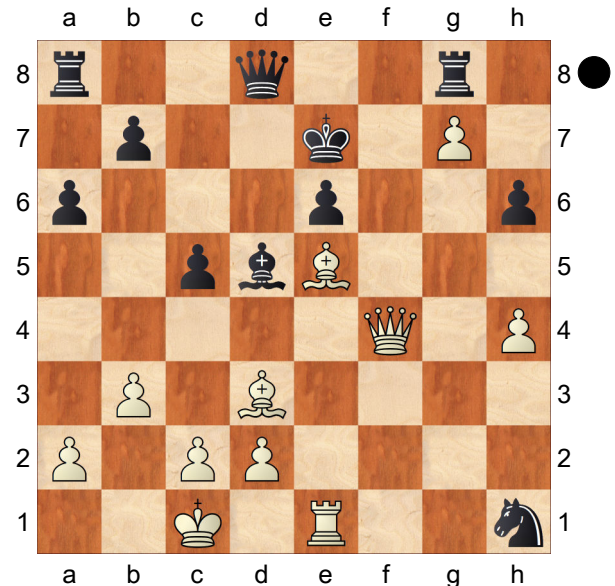
**20...Ne4??**

[It was better to play 20...Nd7 ]  
 [If Black wanted his knight on e4, then  
 he should have taken on g5 first –  
 20...hxg5 21.hxg5 Ne4 ]

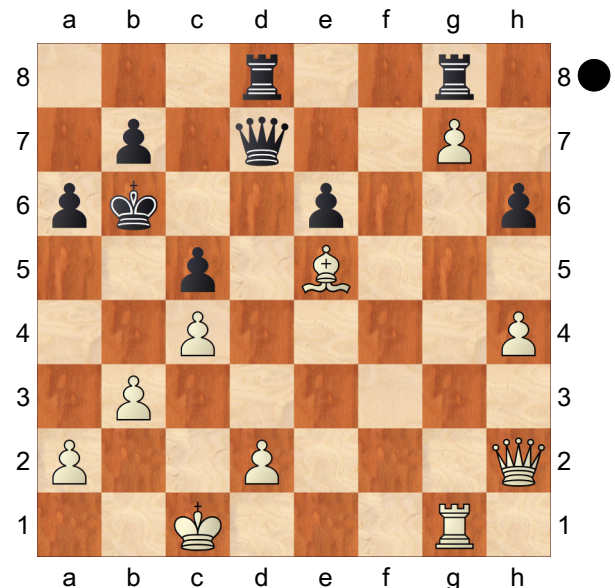
**21.g6+**

[Here Short missed a better option –  
 after 21.Qh5+! Kf8 ( 21...Ke7  
 22.Nxd5+ Bxd5 23.Bxg7+- ) 22.gxh6!  
 Bxc3 ( 22...Rxb6 23.Nxe4 Qe7  
 24.Qg5 dxe4 25.Qxf4+ Ke8  
 26.Bxe4+- ) 23.Bxc3 Nxc3 24.dxc3  
 Black is doomed because of his  
 exposed king. ]

**21...Ke7 22.Nxd5+ Bxd5 23.Bxg7  
 Ng3 24.Qg4 Nxh1 25.Be5 Qd8 26.g7  
 Rg8 27.Qxf4 Diagram**



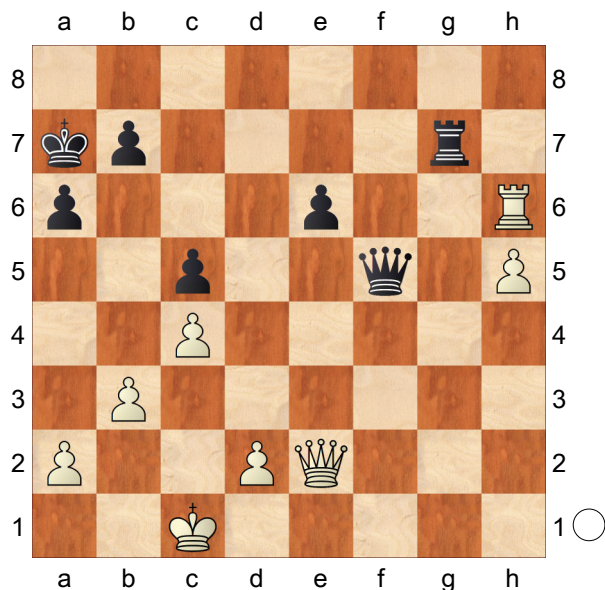
**27...Kd7 28.c4 Bc6 29.Be4 Qe7  
 30.Bxc6+ Kxc6 31.Rg1 Qd7 32.Qf3+  
 Kb6 33.Qxh1 Rad8 34.Qh2 Diagram**



The e5-bishop and the g7-pawn weigh  
 more than the g8-rook, so White should  
 be winning. **34...Qf7 35.Qe2 Qf5 36.h5  
 Rd7 37.Rg6 Ka7 38.Rxb6 Rdxg7  
 39.Bxg7 Rxg7 Diagram**

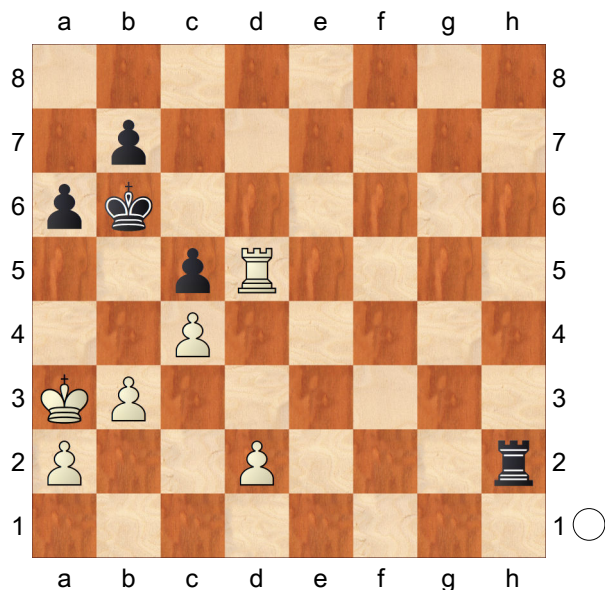
(Diagram)



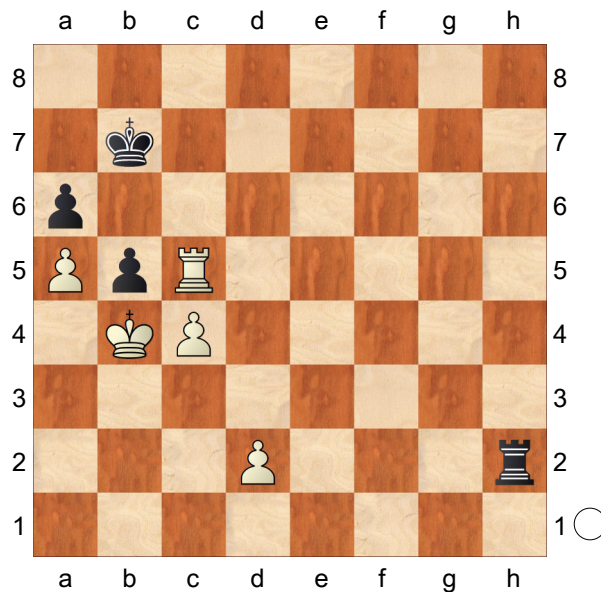
**40.Qe3?**

[Here Short let his opponent off the hook – after 40.Qxe6! White should win, though it's easy to see why he did not fancy the line Rg1+ 41.Kb2 Qb1+ 42.Ka3 Qc1+ 43.Ka4 Qb2 44.a3 Ra1 45.Qb6+ Ka8 46.Qxc5 b5+ 47.cxb5 axb5+ 48.Kxb5 Qxb3+ Still, after 49.Kc6 Qb7+ 50.Kd6 it's White who has a safer king – and three extra pawns! ]

**40...Rg5 41.Rxe6 Rxh5 42.Kb2 Rh1 43.Ka3 Rh3 44.Qe5 Qxe5 45.Rxe5 Rh2 46.Rd5 Kb6** Diagram



Now it's Short who has the better side of the ♖+ 4♙s vs. ♜ + 3♙s endgame (in round 5 he had to defend a similar endgame against Adams), but Black is fine. **47.b4 cxb4+ 48.Kxb4 Kc6 49.a4 b6 50.a5 b5 51.Rc5+ Kb7** Diagram

**52.Kc3**

[Or 52.cxb5 Rxd2 53.b6 Rd4+ 54.Kb3 Rd7= ]

**52...bxc4 53.Rxc4 Rh5 54.Kb4 Rd5 55.d4 Kb8 56.Ka4 Kb7 57.Rb4+ Kc7 58.Rc4+ Kd7**  
1/2-1/2

**B20**

□ **Short, Nigel D**

**2673**

■ **Kosten, Anthony C**

**2536**

BCF-chT 0102 (4NCL) (11.3) 06.05.2002  
[Gary Lane, MH]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.f4**

White's set-up is a calm, straight-forward line that should not really trouble Black. However, this encounter should be known as 'The Champagne Game'. Not because of the bubbly, exciting and elegant display on the

chessboard but because both player's were among a group who enjoyed a magnum of champagne the night before. Ironically, it was the generous Tony Kosten who supplied the drink thanks to winning the Best Game Prize in the French Team Championship. It will soon become clear why former world championship contender Nigel Short joked at the end of the game "you should have given me more champagne last night!". Lane,Gary: 'White's set-up is a calm, straight-forward line that should not really trouble Black. However, this encounter should be known as 'The Champagne Game'. Not because of the bubbly, exciting and elegant display on the chessboard but because both player's were among a group who enjoyed a magnum of champagne the night before. Ironically, it was the generous Tony Kosten who supplied the drink thanks to winning the Best Game Prize in the French Team Championship. It will soon become clear why former world championship contender Nigel Short joked at the end of the game "you should have given me more champagne last night!".' **4...e6 5.Nf3**

[ 5.Bb5 is also possible Lane,Gary: 'is also possible' Bd7 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.0-0 with roughly equal chances, Boog, A-Kuczynski,R/ Geneve 1988. Lane,Gary: 'with roughly equal chances, Boog,A-Kuczynski,R/Geneve 1988.' ]

**5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7** Lane,Gary: 'Or' [ 6...a6 is a careful move but developing another piece seems the right idea Lane,Gary: 'is a careful move but developing another piece seems the right idea' 7.Be2 Be7 8.d4

cx d4 9.Nxd4 Qc7 10.Qd2  
White declares his aggressive intentions by preparing to castle long  
Lane,Gary: 'White declares his aggressive intentions by preparing to castle long' 0-0 11.0-0-0 Bd7 12.Bf3 Rac8 13.Kb1 b5 14.g4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Bc6 16.g5 Nd7??  
( 16...Ne8 keeps an eye on the g7 pawn, which will soon be shown to be a good idea. Lane,Gary: 'keeps an eye on the g7 pawn, which will soon be shown to be a good idea.' ) 17.Nd5! 1-0 Abend,P-Claassen,J/Porz 1990/ ] [Or 6...Qc7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Be7 9.f5 e5 10.Ndb5 Qb8 11.Ba3 0-0

**A) 12.Bxd6** Bxd6 13.Qxd6 a6 14.Qxb8 Rxb8 15.Nd6 Rd8 ( 15...Nd4!? 16.Bd3 b5 at least gives Black good piece play compared to the game ) 16.0-0-0 b5 17.Nxc8 Rbxc8 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.a3 gives White an edge;

**B) 12.Nd5** A good way of maintaining the pressure without giving Black much counterplay 12...Nxe4 13.Bd3 Nc5 14.Nbc7 White has won the exchange so Black complicates matters e4 15.Bxc5 exd3 16.0-0 dxc5 17.Qxd3 b5 18.f6! a lovely move to batter down black's defences and expose the king to a direct attack Lane,Gary: 'a lovely move to batter down black's defences and expose the king to a direct attack' Bd6 19.fxg7 Kxg7 20.Nf6 Bxh2+ 21.Kh1 Rh8 ( 21...Qxc7 22.Qxh7# ) 22.Nxa8 Be5 23.Nh5+ Kf8 24.Qd5 Qb7 25.Rae1 Qxa8 1-0 Hauwert,N-Van Eeten,D/ Haarlem 1991/ ]

**7.g3** Short is well known to be fond of the Closed Sicilian so it is no surprise that he favours a kingside fianchetto

Lane, Gary: 'Also possible:'

[Also possible: 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Qe2 a6 11.a4 b6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Bb7 15.b4 Rac8 16.b5 a5 17.g4?! d5! Black sensibly greets a wing attack by trying to open the centre as a way of exposing the white king Lane, Gary: 'Black sensibly greets a wing attack by trying to open the centre as a way of exposing the white king' 18.e5 Ne4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.f5 ( 20.Qe3!? is an obvious improvement ) 20...Qxe5 21.Nc6 Bc5+ 22.Bd4? Bxc6 0-1 Navone, N-Vujovic, M/Mendrisio 1989/ ]

**7...e5 8.fxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bb5+ Bd7**

[ 10...Kf8!? is interesting intending to play ...g7-g6 and ...Kg7. ]

**11.Qe2 a6 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.a4 h5 14.h3** A standard idea so that if Black advances the h-pawn then White can push his g-pawn forward thus stopping the black king's rook from becoming active. Lane, Gary: 'A standard idea so that if Black advances the h-pawn then White can push his g-pawn forward thus stopping the black king's rook from becoming active.' **14...Rh6**

[ 14...b6 is a suggestion by Kosten to lessen the effect of 15 a5 which can now be met by 15...b5. Lane, Gary: 'is a suggestion by Kosten to lessen the effect of 15 a5 which can now be met by 15...b5.' ]

[ 14...h4 15.g4 is fine for White. ]

**15.a5 Rg6 16.Qf3 Bd8 17.Nd1 h4 18.g4 Nh7 19.Qf5 Bg5** The bishop is

not easily driven from g5

[ 19...Ng5!? is worth a try. Lane, Gary: 'is worth a try.' ]

[ 19...Qxf5 20.exf5 Rc6 21.Bxe5 when White is a pawn up for nothing. Lane, Gary: 'when White is a pawn up for nothing.' ]

**20.d3** There is no rush so White wisely protects his e-pawn and at the same time avoid the threats on d2. Lane, Gary: 'A rash move such as'

[ A rash move such as 20.Qxe5+? -1.97/22 20.d2-d3 1.02 allows Black back into the game after Re6 21.Qh2 -3.41/24 ( 21.Qc3 -2.19/26 keeps fighting. Rxe4+ 22.Ne3 ) 21...Rxe4+-+ 22.Kf1 Bxd2 with better chances for Black due to white's exposed king. ]

**20...Nf8 21.Bxe5** Short takes the e-pawn as a reward for his controlled but forceful style. Although admittedly, Black still has some play on the dark-squares. Lane, Gary: 'Short takes the e-pawn as a reward for his controlled but forceful style. Although admittedly, Black still has some play on the dark-squares.' **21...Ne6 22.Nc3** 0.20/26 Lane, Gary: 'Or'

[ Or 22.Nb2 Bf6 23.Bxf6 Rxf6 24.Qh7 Qd4 ( -> ...Qd4-c3+ ) ( 24...0-0-0?! 25.Qxh4 ) 25.0-0-0! Qc3 gives Black decent attacking chances which he doesn't really deserve. Lane, Gary: 'gives Black decent attacking chances which he doesn't really deserve.' ]

[ 22.Ra4± 0.99/24 ]

**22...Be3?** 1.85/23 Lane, Gary: 'Kosten told me he had been preparing'

[ 22...Bd8!?

**A) 23.Qh5 Rh6 ( 23...Rh6!?**

24.Qf5 Rg6± ) 24.Qf5 Rg6!;

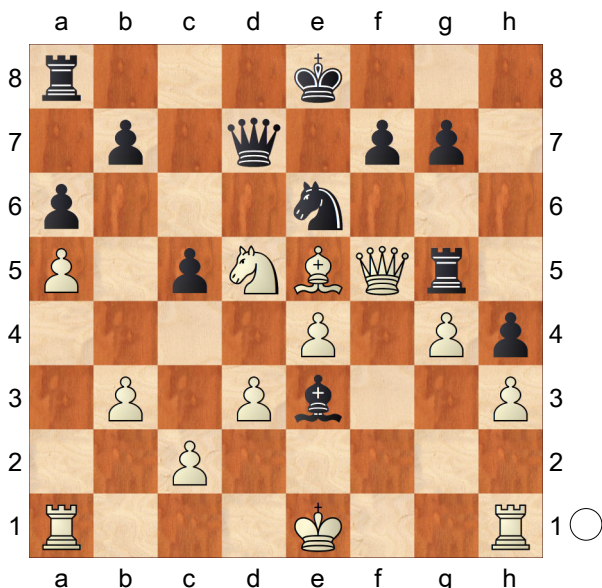
**B) 23.Qf2! Rg5 24.Bh2**

aiming for Nc3-d5! Bf6 at least keeps the bishop active. ]

[Kosten told me he had been preparing 22...Rf6! 23.Bxf6 0.01/23 ( 23.Qh7! In fact, Black having tried to calculate all the tactics then noticed that this simple move wins. Lane, Gary: 'In fact, Black having tried to calculate all the tactics then noticed that this simple move wins.'; 23.Qh7± 0.37/28 Nf8 24.Qh5 ) 23...Bxf6= 24.e5 Qd4 with complications although I prefer White. Lane, Gary: 'with complications although I prefer White.' ]

[ 22...Rf6!= 0.20/26 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 ]

**23.Nd5+-** Short has a very comfortable position with his pieces dominating the centre of the board. In contrast, Black's pieces lack harmony. Lane, Gary: 'Short has a very comfortable position with his pieces dominating the centre of the board. In contrast, Black's pieces lack harmony.' **23...Rg5**



**24.Qf3 1.37/23**

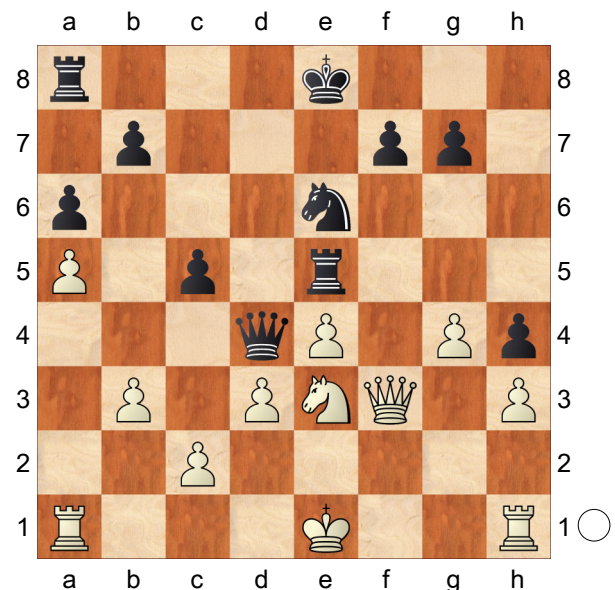
[Much less strong is 24.Nxe3?! Rxf5

25.gxf5 ( 25.exf5 Ng5= ) 25...Nd4± ]  
[ 24.Qh7!+- 1.85/24 Rxe5 25.Qh8+ Nf8 26.Nxe3 ]

**24...Rxe5± 25.Nxe3** Lane, Gary: 'Less impressive is'

[Less impressive is 25.Qxe3 0.10/28 25.Nd5xe3 1.60 Nd4 0.55/27 ( 25...Qxd5!= 0.10/28 feels stronger. 26.exd5 Rxe3+ 27.Kd2 Nd4 28.Kxe3 Nxc2+ 29.Kd2 Nxa1 30.Rxa1 Rd8 ) 26.Kd2 0.01/26 (Better is 26.Nb6± 0.55/27 Nxc2+ 27.Kd2 Nxe3 28.Nxd7 Kxd7 29.Kxe3 ) 26...Qxd5!= 27.exd5 Rxe3 28.Kxe3 Strongly threatening Ra1-a2. Nxc2+ 29.Ke4 Ra1-c1 is the strong threat. Nxa1 30.Rxa1 Kd7± ]

**25...Qd4**



**26.Ra4! Qc3+ 27.Kf2**

[Don't play 27.Kd1 Nd4 28.Qf2 Qb2± ]

**27...Nd4**

[ 27...Rd8!? 1.44/23 27...0-0-0 0.96 28.Kg2 Black must now prevent Qf3-f2. g5± 2.20/23 ( 28...Qd2+± 1.39/22 29.Qf2 Nf4+ 30.Kf3 Qxf2+ 31.Kxf2 g5 ) ]

**28.Qd1 0-0-0 29.Qe1 Qb2 30.Qa1**



**Qxa1 31.Rhxa1 Rd6 1.98/23**

[ 31...g6± 1.40/22 32.Rg1 Kb8 ]

**32.Kg2+- Nxc2 2.32/25**

[ 32...Rd8 33.Rc4+- ]

[ Δ32...Rc6 1.83/24 33.Rf1 f6 ]

**33.Nxc2**

[ 33.Nc4 Ne3+ 34.Nxe3 Rxd3+- ]

**33...Rxd3± 34.Rf1 Rxb3 2.67/24**

[ 34...Rg3+!? 35.Kh2 f6± ]

[ 34...Rg3+ 1.99/25 is a better defense. 35.Kh2 f6 ]

**35.Rxf7+- Rc3**

[ 35...g5 3.84/24 35...Rb3-c3 2.57  
36.Rc4 is winning ]

**36.Rf2**

[ Weaker is 36.Rxg7 Rxc2+ 37.Kf3  
c4± ]

**36...Kc7 37.Ne1 c4**

[ 37...Rg3+ is not much help after  
38.Kh2 Re3 39.Ng2 R5xe4 40.Rxe4  
Rxe4 41.Rf7+ Kc6 42.Nxh4 wins ]

**38.Rc2 Rg3+ 39.Kf2 Rxh3 40.Rcxc4+  
Kb8 41.Nf3 Rb5 42.Rcb4 Rc5 43.Rb3  
Rc2+ 44.Ke3 Rg2? 6.40/22**

[ 44...Rh1 45.Rab4 looks very strong  
for White Lane,Gary: 'looks very  
strong for White' ]

[ 44...Rg3 3.57/22 45.Kf4 Rc8 ]

**45.Rab4+- Rxg4**

[ 45...b5 46.axb6 Rgg3 47.Kf2  
and Black can resign with honour.  
Lane,Gary: 'and Black can resign with  
honour.' ]

**46.Rxb7+ Kc8 47.Rf7 g5**

[ 47...Rg6 is no relief upon 48.Rc3+  
Kd8 49.e5 and the passed e-pawn  
and extra piece are too much. ]

**48.Rb6 Rg2**

**1-0**

□ **Lea,Per**

■ **Sagi,Franko**

BL2-West 9394 (6)

[MH]

**B20**

**2665**

**2239**

02.10.2008

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

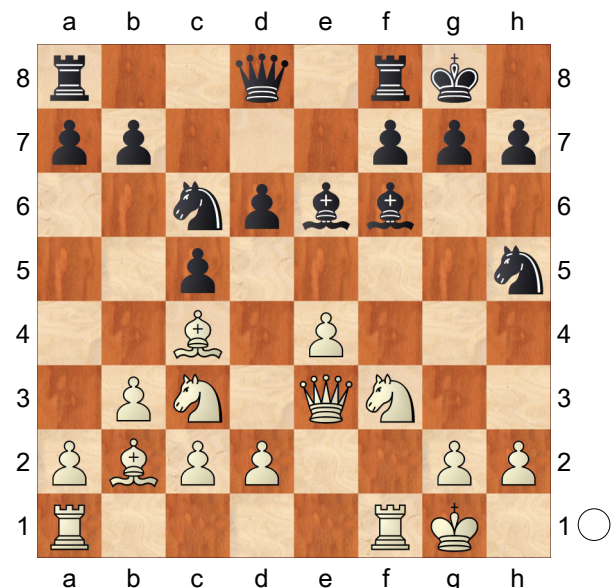
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4 d6**

**5.f4 exf4 6.Qf3 Nf6 7.Qxf4 Be7**

**8.Nc3** Prevents d6-d5. The position is  
equal. **8...Be6 9.Nf3 0-0**

[ 9...Nh5!? 10.Qe3 0-0= ]

**10.0-0 Nh5! 11.Qe3 Bf6**



Strongly threatening ...Bf6-d4. **12.Kh1**

**Re8 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 0.32/22**

[ 13...fxe6= -0.01/21 14.g3 Rf8 ]

**14.d3 b5 15.Qc1 Nd4 0.75/22**

[ 15...b4= 0.23/21 16.Nd5 Bxb2  
17.Qxb2 Rh6 ]

**16.Nd5± Nxf3 17.Nxf6+ 0.21/23**

[ 17.gxf3?! Bxb2 18.Qxb2 Qh4=  
[ Better is 17.Rxf3± 0.91/24 Bxb2  
18.Qxb2 ]

**17...Nxf6= 18.gxf3 Nh5 19.Rg1 Rg6**

Against Rg1-g5

[ 19...Qh4 feels hotter. 20.Rg4 Qf2  
21.Qf1 Qxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Rf8 ]

**20.Rg4 Qe7 0.33/21**

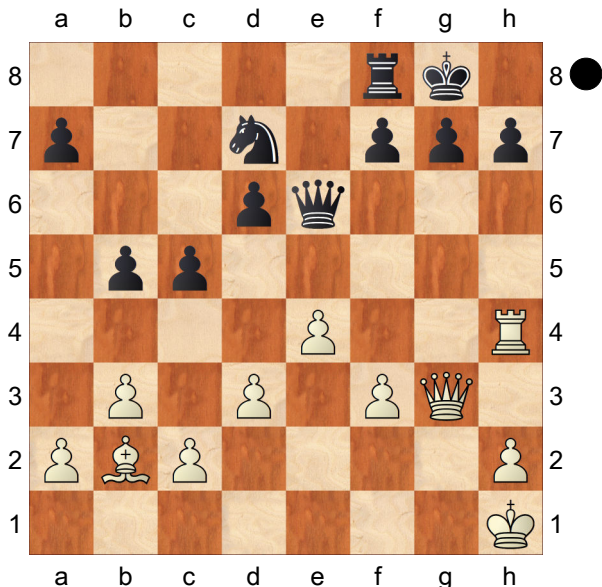
[ 20...d5= 0.01/20 should be considered. ]

**21.Qd2 Rf8 22.Rag1 Qe6 23.Rh4 Nf6**

**24.Rg3** -0.10/18

[  $\Delta$ 24.f4 0.29/19 Qe7 25.Rf1 ]

**24...Nd7 25.Qg2 Rxc3 26.Qxc3**



**f6! 27.Rh5 Rd8 28.f4→** White mounts an attack. **28...Nf8 29.Rd5 Rd7** 0.84/22

[ 29...Qf7! $\pm$  0.37/23

is more appropriate. ]

**30.f5 $\pm$  Qe7** 1.19/22

[  $\Delta$ 30...Qe8 0.77/21 ]

**31.h4 Kh8** 1.66/21

[ 31...Qf7 $\pm$  1.14/20 ]

**32.Bc1+- c4 33.Bf4**

[ 33.bxc4 bxc4 34.Bf4 Rd8 $\pm$  ]

**33...cxd3** 2.13/22

[  $\Delta$ 33...Rd8 1.72/20 34.Bxd6 Qf7

35.dxc4 ( 35.Rxb5 Qh5 $\pm$  ) 35...bxc4

36.bxc4 Qh5 ]

**34.cxd3 Rc7** 2.78/22

[ 34...Qe8 $\pm$  1.40/23 35.Bxd6 Kg8 ]

**35.Bxd6** White has a decisive advantage.

[ Don't play 35.Rxb5?! Qe8 36.Rb4

( 36.Bxd6 Rc1+ 37.Kh2 Rc2+

38.Kh1 Qxb5 $\mp$ ; 36.Ra5 Qh5= )

36...Nd7+- ]

**35...Rc1+ 36.Kg2 Qf7 37.Bxf8**

Active counter play! **37...Qxf8 38.Rxb5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

**1-0**

□ **Short,Nigel D**

■ **Ramanth,B**

ch-Commonwealth (6)

[Vigorito, D, MH]

**B20**

**2665**

**2239**

02.10.2008

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** This has been one of

Short's favourite weapons in recent

years. It shouldn't really give White

anything, but it certainly isn't bad and

often leads to original play. David

Vigorito: 'This has been one of Short's

favourite weapons in recent years. It

shouldn't really give White anything, but

it certainly isn't bad and often leads to

original play.' **2...Nc6**

[ 2...d6 is a solid reply. 3.Bb2 Nf6

4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.Nc3

( 6.d3 is Mamedyarov-Van Wely/Wijk

aan Zee 2008 from the archives.

David Vigorito: 'is Mamedyarov-Van

Wely/Wijk aan Zee 2008 from the

archives.' ) 6...g6!? not fearing

doubled pawns. 7.Nd5 Bg7 8.Nxf6+

exf6 9.Qf3 0-0 10.Ne2 Re8 11.0-0

Nc6 12.d3 f5 13.Bxc7 Kxc7 14.exf5

Qxf5 15.Qxf5 gxf5 16.Nf4 Nd4

gave Black sufficient play in the

ending in Gelashvili, T-Mamedov, N /

Bucharest ROU 2008. David Vigorito:

'gave Black sufficient play in the

ending in Gelashvili, T-Mamedov, N /

Bucharest ROU 2008.' ]

**3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4!?**

[Very coffeehouse! 5.Ne2 is a calmer approach. g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 is Rowson, J-Savage, B/Training LCC 2006, annotated by Rowson in the database. ]

### 5...exf4 6.Qf3

[White simply plays to recapture the pawn. Continuing in gambit style with David Vigorito: 'White simply plays to recapture the pawn. Continuing in gambit style with' 6.Nf3 is another idea, but this is more speculative. ]

### 6...Nf6

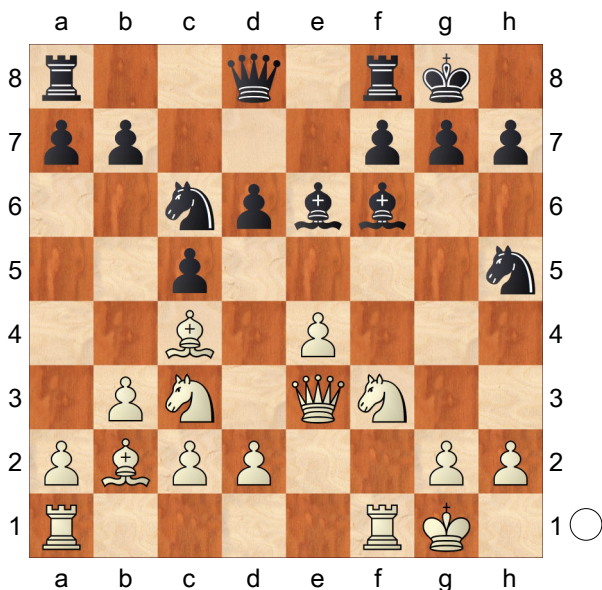
[ 6...Qh4+ 7.g3! is the point, because f7 is weak. ]

**7.Qxf4 Be7 8.Nc3** Against d6-d5. The position is equal. **8...Be6 9.Nf3 0-0**

[ 9...Nh5!? 10.Qe3 0-0= ]

**10.0-0** The position resembles an Anti-Sveshnikov 1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 e5 4. Bc4 to some degree. Black's pieces are able to sufficiently contest the d5-square. David Vigorito: 'The position resembles an Anti-Sveshnikov 1.e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 e5 4. Bc4 to some degree. Black's pieces are able to sufficiently contest the d5-square.'

**10...Nh5! 11.Qe3 Bf6**



This regrouping gives Black sufficient chances. David Vigorito: 'This regrouping gives Black sufficient chances.'. Strongly threatening ...Bf6-d4. **12.Kh1 Re8 13.Bxe6 Rxe6**

[ 13...fxe6 is also possible. Note that David Vigorito: 'is also possible. Note that' 14.g4 can be met by Bd4 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qf2! Nf6! ]

**14.d3 b5** This isn't so necessary. i would prefer something simple like 14... Qd7 to develop the a8-rook. David Vigorito: 'This isn't so necessary. i would prefer something simple like 14...Qd7 to develop the a8-rook.' **15.Qc1 Nd4?! 0.90/23**

[ This allows White's next. Better is 15...Bxc3 although White is a little better after 16.Bxc3 ]

[ 15...b4= 0.20/23 remains equal. 16.Nd5 Bxb2 17.Qxb2 Rh6 ]

### 16.Nd5

[ 16.g4 seems wilder. b4 17.Nd5 Ne2 18.Nxf6+ Nxf6 19.Qd2 ]

### 16...Nxf3 17.Nxf6+ 0.26/24

[ This looks inaccurate. After the simple 17.Rxf3 Bxb2 18.Qxb2 the knight on h5 is on a limb, the d5-knight dominates, and White can build up easily on the kingside. David Vigorito: 'the knight on h5 is on a limb, the d5-knight dominates, and White can build up easily on the kingside.' ]

[ 17.gxf3 Bxb2 18.Qxb2 Qh4= ]

[ 17.Rxf3± 0.61/25

is more appropriate. Bxb2 18.Qxb2 ]

### 17...Nxf6= 18.gxf3

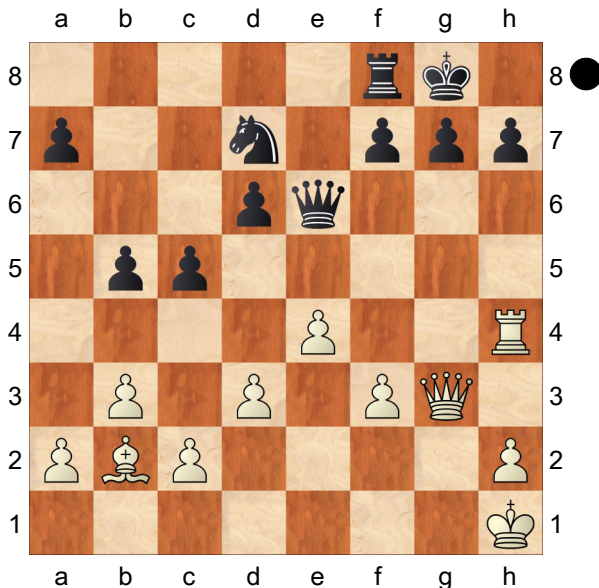
[ Choosing the g-file over the f-file. David Vigorito: 'Choosing the g-file over the f-file.' 18.Rxf3 was also good. ]

**18...Nh5 19.Rg1 Rg6** Now Black is



pretty much ok, but his famous opponent gradually overwhelms him. David Vigorito: 'Now Black is pretty much ok, but his famous opponent gradually overwhelms him.'. Against Rg1-g5

**20.Rg4 Qe7 21.Qd2 Rf8 22.Rag1 Qe6 23.Rh4 Nf6 24.Rg3 Nd7 25.Qg2 Rxg3 26.Qxg3**



**f6! 27.Rh5 Rd8 28.f4→** White is up to no good. **28...Nf8** 0.53/22

[ 28...a5= -0.01/18 ]

**29.Rd5± Rd7** 0.90/20

[ 29...Qf7!± 0.53/23 ]

**30.f5± Qe7 31.h4 Kh8** 1.60/23

[ Black should play 31...Qf7 1.13/22 ]

**32.Bc1!** Heading to f4 when the d6-pawn will be indefensible. David Vigorito: 'Heading to f4 when the d6-pawn will be indefensible.' **32...c4**

**33.Bf4**

[ Don't take 33.bxc4 bxc4 34.Bf4 Rd8± ]

**33...cxd3 34.cxd3** 1.31/23

[ 34.Qxd3+- 1.90/23 Qe8 35.Bxd6 ]

**34...Rc7** 2.77/23 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[ 34...Qe8± 1.31/23 35.Bxd6 Kg8 ]

**35.Bxd6+-** White has a decisive

advantage.

[ Much less strong is 35.Rxb5?! Qe8 36.Rb4 ( 36.Bxd6 Rc1+ 37.Kg2 Rc2+ 38.Kh3 Qxb5±; 36.Ra5 Qh5= ) 36...Nd7+- ]

**35...Rc1+ 36.Kg2 Qf7 37.Bxf8**

Active counter play! **37...Qxf8 38.Rxb5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04

(flawless) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Navara,David**

**2658**

■ **Bu,Xiangzhi**

**2640**

Olympiad-37 Turin (12)

03.06.2006

[Jonathan Rowson, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Bb5**

[ 5.f4 might be more accurate here, waiting to see Black's next move before committing the bishop on f1. ]

**5...Bd7 6.f4 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2**

**d5!** 0.33/23 Black has played the

opening in a very principled manner.

[ 8...b5= -0.06/18 ]

**9.exd5±**

[ 9.e5 0.03/22 9.e4xd5 0.35 d4!

10.exf6 Hoping for Nc3-e4. dxc3

**A) 11.fxe7?** -4.13/23 11.Bb2xc3 0.24 Qxe7-+;

**B) 11.fxg7** Bxg7 -0.01/25

( 11...cxd2+± -0.37/25 should be considered. 12.Qxd2 Bxg7

13.Bxg7 Rg8 ) 12.Bxc3 Bxc3

13.dxc3 Qa5±;

**C) 11.Bxc3** gxf6 12.Bxf6 Rg8

13.Nf3 Qd6

**C1) 14.Bc3!?** Qxf4 15.0-0-0± 0.02/18 ( 15.0-0± 0.33/20 );



**C2)** White should play 14.Bc3= 0.18/23;

**C3)** 14.Be5 -0.51/24 14...Qg6≠ -0.14/22 ( 14...Qe6≠ -0.51/24 is more appropriate. 15.Bc3 Qxe2+ 16.Kxe2 Rxe2+ 17.Ke3 f6 )]

**9...Nxd5 10.Nh3** White's play looks a bit strange, but he is ahead in development and his bishop on b2 remains powerful.

**10...Nxc3** Not forced, but I doubt if the alternatives are better. **11.Bxc3 Qd5**

**12.0-0 0-0-0**

[ 12...Qe4 0.67/22 12...0-0-0 0.31 13.Qxe4 0.24/21 ( 13.Rae1± 0.67/22 Qf5 14.Ng5 ) 13...Bxe4= 14.d3

**A)** 14...Bc6 0.71/20 14...Be4-f5 0.25 15.a4 0.22/23 (Better is 15.Ng5± 0.71/20 ) 15...b6 0.89/21 ( 15...f6= 0.22/23 remains equal. ) 16.f5↑;

**B)** 14...Bf5!? 15.Nf2 h5 16.a4 b6 17.Ne4 e6 18.Ng3± ]

**13.Ng5 Qf5 14.d3 e6 15.Rae1 Bd6** 0.70/20

[ 15...h5!?

[ ♠15...Re8 0.33/21 ]

**16.Ne4**

[Much weaker is 16.Bxg7 Rhg8 17.Bb2 ( 17.Be5 Bxe5 18.Qxe5 Qxe5≠ ) 17...Rg6 ]

**16...Bc7 17.Be5** A good practical move, all the more so given the blunder-begging Fide time control.

[ 17.Bxg7!? Rhg8 18.Be5 Ba5∞ ]

[ 17.Bxg7 keeps more tension. Rhg8 18.Be5 Ba5 19.Rb1 ]

**17...Bxe5 18.fxe5 Qxe5 19.Rxf7 Rhf8 20.Rxf8** 0.01/21

[ 20.Qf2± 0.37/23 Rxf7 21.Qxf7 ]

**20...Rxf8= 21.Nf2 Qxe2 22.Rxe2** Endgame KRB-KRN **22...Kd7 23.Ne4**

Instructive. The knight could have gone to e5, but it is not well-supported there and nor does it do much. **23...Rf5 24.g4 Re5 25.c4** Navara is trying to trap the rook on e5- if he is given time to play h4, Black would be in trouble. **25...h5!**

[ 25...Bxe4 26.Kf2! ]

**26.h3 hxg4 27.hxg4 Bxe4** KRB-KR

**28.Kf2! Rg5! 29.Rxe4** White has emerged with a very slight pull, which almost became a full point, probably because from this point on the players were playing with more or less 30 seconds a move. KR-KR **29...e5**

**30.Kg3 Ke6 31.a3 a5 32.b4 axb4**

**33.axb4 cxb4** Threatens to win with ... Ke6-d6.

[ 33...b6 0.43/25 33...c5xb4 0.01 ]

**34.c5 b3 35.Kh4 Rg6 36.Rb4 Kd5**

**37.Rxb3 Rc6 38.Rxb7 g6 39.Kg5**

**Kxc5 40.Rd7 Re6 41.Kh6 Kb4?**

5.15/32

[ 41...Ra6= 0.01/30 ]

**42.g5?** 0.01/27

[White must play 42.Rc7+- 5.15/32 Ra6 43.g5 ]

**42...Kc3?** 5.77/36

[ 42...Kc5!= 0.01/27 ]

(Diagram)

**43.Kg7!+- Kd2 44.Kf7 Ra6 45.Rd5**

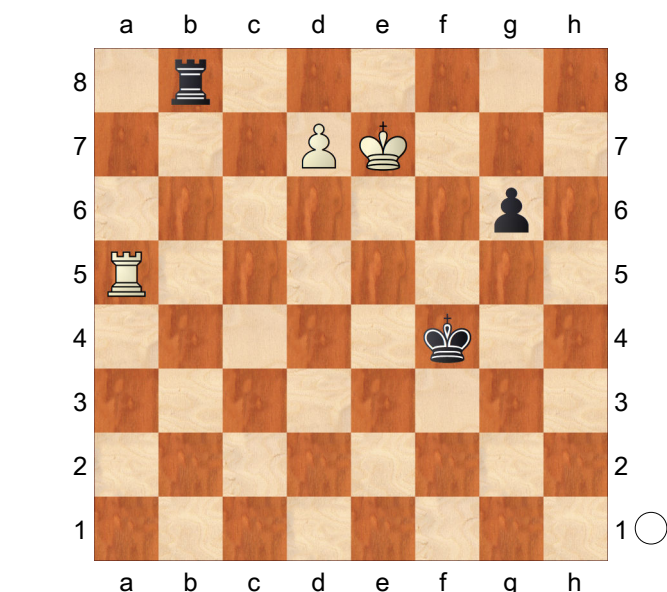
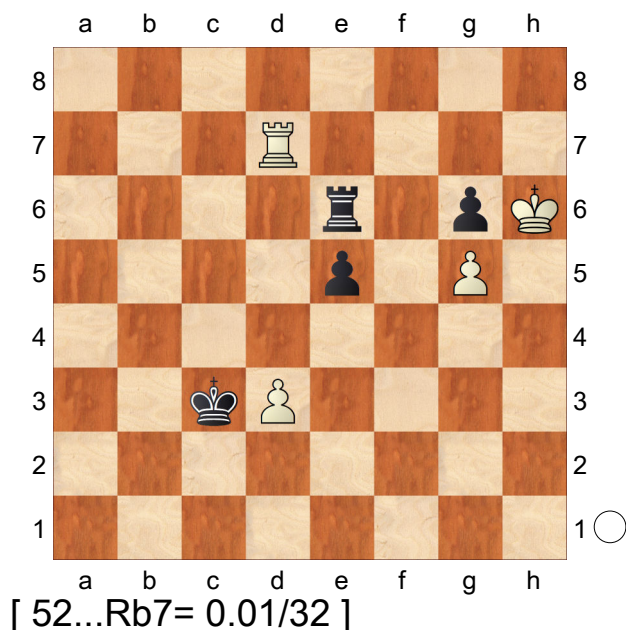
**Ke3 46.Rxe5+ Kf4 47.d4 Rd6 48.Ra5** 2.45/28

[ ♠48.Kg7 5.27/32 Rxd4 49.Rb5 ]

**48...Kg4 49.d5** Strongly threatening Kf7-e7. **49...Kxg5 50.Ke7 Rb6 51.d6+ Kf4 52.d7**

[Resist 52.Ra4+?! Kf5± ]

**52...Rb8** 0.64/29



**53.Rb5!± Ra8 54.Ra5 Rb8 55.Rc5 g5**  
**56.Ke6** White threatens Rc5-c8 and  
 mate. **56...Rd8 57.Rf5+ Kg4 58.Rf7**  
**Kh3 59.Ke7?** 5.77/31

[ 59.Ke5= 0.00/30 ]

**59...Rxd7++- 60.Kxd7** Intending Kd7-  
 e6 and mate. The position is equal.

**60...g4 61.Rh7+ Kg2 62.Ke6**

White wants to mate with Rh7-f7.

**62...g3 63.Rf7** Threatening mate with  
 Ke6-e5. **63...Kh2 64.Kf5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/

Black=0.28 (precise)

1/2-1/2

**B40**  
 2650  
 2485  
 1981

□ **Kortschnoj,Viktor Lvovich**  
 ■ **Makropoulos,Georgios**  
 Rome  
 [MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**  
**Nd5 5.Nf3 e6**

[ 5...d6 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3  
 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2

6.0-0 ♖e8 7.♗e1\_47236-Atanasov,A  
 USSR 48/777 2017 CBM 063 [Moreno,  
 Ale] ]

**6.Nc3N**

[ 6.g3 Be7 ( 6...f5 7.Bg2 b6 8.c4  
 Nc7 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Nc3 Be7 11.d4  
 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 cxd4

14.Qxd4 5.h4 g4 6.Ng5 (2536)-  
 Hubener,J (2479) Budapest 2004  
 Telechess CBM 89 [Cricket and  
 Football Field 19/6/1909] ) 7.Bg2 0-0  
 8.0-0 d6 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Na3 Bf6  
 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.a4 b6  
 Chess Informant ECO Survey 2002 ]

[ 6.Bb5 Qc7 7.0-0 a6 8.Bc4 Nf4  
 9.Re1 d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.g3 Nh5  
 12.Nh4 Nf6 13.Nf5 Bf8 14.Qf3 Bd7  
 15.Nxg7+ Bxg7 16.Bxf6 Nd4  
 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.c3 0-0 19.cxd4  
 Bc6 20.Qh5 Rad8 Chapter 14 Part  
 1-Game 3 Game 3 (35) ]

[ 6.c4 Nde7 7.Nc3 d6 8.exd6 Nf5  
 9.Bd3 e5 10.d7+ Bxd7 11.0-0 Be7  
 12.Nd5 f6 13.Nh4 Nxh4 14.Qh5+  
 g6 15.Qxh4 f5 16.Qh6 Kf7 17.f4  
 Bf8 18.Qh3 Bg7 19.fxe5 Bxe5  
 20.Bxf5 Bxf5 Chapter 14 Part

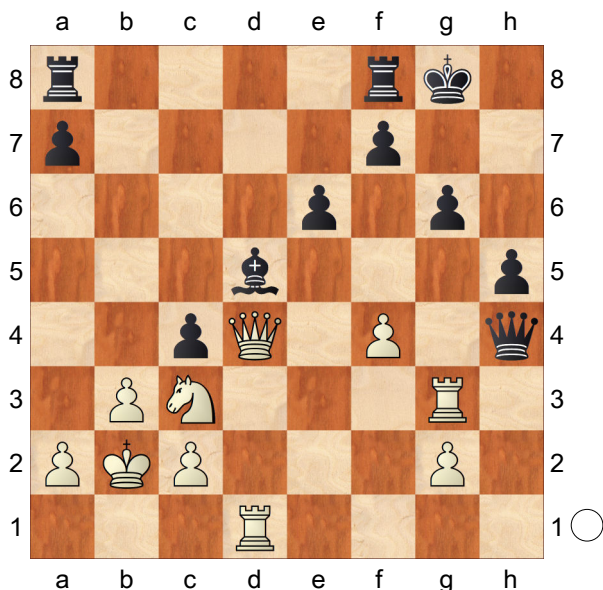
1-Game 7 Game 7 ]

**6...Nxc3 7.Bxc3 Qc7 8.Bd3 g6 9.Qe2 Bg7** White is slightly better. **10.h4 h6 11.Rh3 b6 12.Rg3 Bb7 13.Rg4 Ne7 14.Be4 Nd5 15.Bb2 h5 16.Rg3 Nf4**  
 [ 16...0-0 is interesting. 17.d3 d6 18.exd6 Qxd6 19.0-0-0 Qf4+ ]  
**17.Qe3 Nd5 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 19.Ng5 0-0 20.d3 d6 21.f4 b5 22.0-0-0 c4** 0.90/22

[ 22...b4= -0.01/19 ]

**23.dxc4± bxc4 24.exd6 Bxb2+ 25.Kxb2 Qxd6 26.Ne4 Qe7 27.Nc3↑** Keeping Black busy. **27...Qf6** 1.20/24  
 [ 27...Bc6 0.84/22 ]

**28.Qd4 Qxh4** 1.67/24  
 [ 28...Qxd4± 1.03/25 29.Rxd4 Rfd8 ]



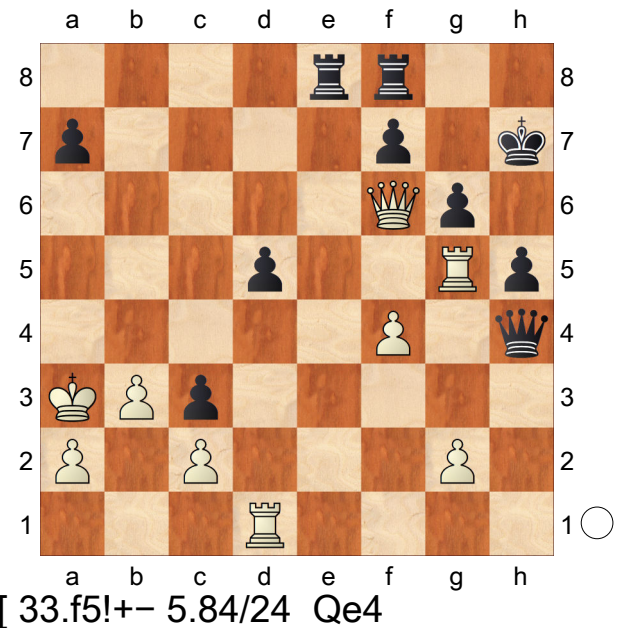
**29.Nxd5!** 0.73/23 **exd5 30.Rg5** aiming for Qd4-f6. & Bianco is more active. **30...Rae8?** 5.62/23

[ 30...Rad8± 1.04/23 is more resistant. ]

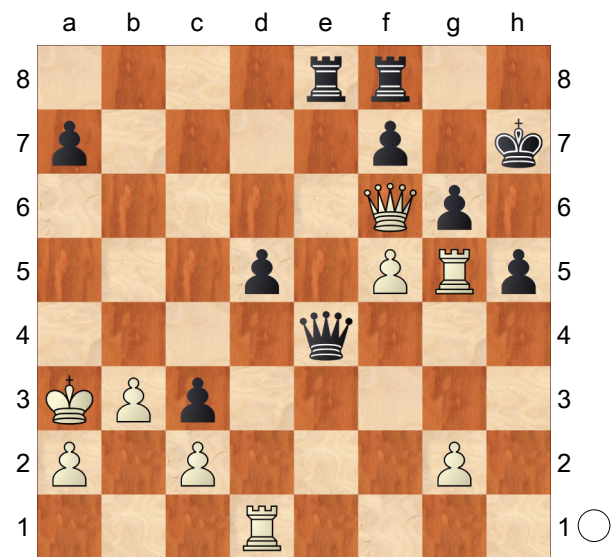
**31.Qf6+- c3+ 32.Ka3 Kh7**

(Diagram)

**33.Rdxd5?** 0.55/26



[ 33.f5!+- 5.84/24 Qe4



**34.Re1!! Qxc2 35.Rxe8 Qc1+ 36.Kb4 Qxg5 37.Qxg5 Rxe8 38.Kxc3 ]**

**33...Qh1!±** ...Qh1-c1+ is the strong threat. **34.Ka4!** White wants to mate with Rg5xg6! **34...Re6! 35.Qxc3 Re4+ 36.Rd4 Rc8! 37.Qxc8 Rxd4+ 38.c4 Qb1 39.a3** Strongly threatening Qc8-c7. **39...Rxf4 40.Rd5** -0.01/22

[ 40.Qc6± 0.39/23 should be considered. ]

**40...Qb2** 0.30/22

Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/

Black=0.37

[ ♠40...Qe4 -0.01/22 41.Qc7 Kg7 ]  
1-0

**B20**

□ **Aravindh,Chithambaram V R 2641**

■ **Quintiliano Pinto,Renato Rodrigues**

Titled Tuesday intern op 29th Dec blitz (8)

[Braun, Christian, MH]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...b6 ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 Bg7 ]

[ 4.h4 Nc6 5.h5 d6 6.Bb5 e5 ]

[ 4.Qf3 d6 ( 4...Bg7 5.e5 Ng8 6.e6

Nf6 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.g4 h6 9.h4 d5

10.g5 hxg5 11.hxg5 Rxh1 12.Qxh1

Nh5 13.Bxg7 Nxg7 14.Nc3 ) 5.Bb5+

Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qd3 a6

8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be6 10.Nge2

Bg7 ]

**4...Nd5 5.e6**

[ 5.d4 Qa5+ 6.Qd2 Qxd2+ 7.Nxd2

cx d4 8.Ngf3 Bg7 ]

[ 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.e6 f6 7.exd7+ Bxd7

8.Qe2 e5 9.f4 Nxc4 10.Qxc4 b5

11.Qe2 Bg7 ]

**5...f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7**

[ 6...Bxd7 7.Nc3 Bc6 8.Nf3 e5

9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.c4 ]

**7.Nc3 Nc6**

[ 7...Qe6+ 8.Qe2 Nxc3 9.Bxc3 Nc6 ]

**8.Bb5**

[ 8.Bc4 Nb6 9.Bd3 ( 9.Be2 ) ]

**8...Nc7** Black's second most played move here. **9.Bxc6** Usually a nice move for White to play Ba3 – Rc1. After Re8 the f7 sometimes might become weak.

[ 9.Bc4 Bg7 10.Nf3 b6 ]

**9...Qxc6 10.Qf3! Bd7 11.0-0-0 e5**

**12.Qxc6** Winning the exchange.

**12...Bxc6 13.f3 Ne6 14.Nge2N Be7**

[ 14...Bg7 15.Ne4 Rd8 ]

**15.Rhf1+-** Idea: Bc5-a4 with a clear

advantage for White. **15...b5?!**

[ 15...Kf7 ]

**16.Rde1+-** Opening the diagonale of the Bg2 and winning back c4 anyway. A big threat is also Qe1! **16...Kf7 17.Nd1 a5**

Preparing b6-Bb7.

[ 17...Bd6 18.Ng3 h5 ]

**18.Ne3 Bd6**

[ 18...g5 19.Ng3 a4 20.Ngf5 h5 ]

[ 18...a4 19.f4 exf4 20.Nxf4 Nxf4

21.Rxf4 ]

[ 18...Rhe8 ]

**19.Nc3 h5** 1-0 (49) Trichkov,V

(2302)-Buker, M (1996) Chess.com INT 2020.

[ 19...a4 20.bxa4 b4 21.Ne4

( 21.Nc4 bxc3 22.Nxd6+ Ke7 )

21...Be7 22.Ng4 Nd4 23.f4 ]

**20.a4!N** Tries to make use of the weak squares in Black's camp! **20...b4**

[ 20...bxa4 21.Nxa4 ( 21.Nc4 Be7 )

21...Be7 22.Nc4 Ra6 23.Bc3 ]

**21.Ne4** Threatening to take on a5 and play Nc6. **21...Bc7! 22.Nc4 h4 23.g4**

[ 23.Nxf6 Kxf6 24.Nxe5± Bd5?!]

25.Ng4+± Followed by Rc1 and Nxc3.

Kf7 26.Bxh8 Rxh8 ]

[ 23.f4 Bxe4 24.Rxe4 exf4 ]

**23...hxg3 24.hxg3 Rh3 25.g4±**

[ Also possible is 25.f4 Bxe4

( 25...exf4 26.gxf4 Bxe4 ) 26.Rxe4

exf4 27.gxf4 Rah8 28.Rfe1 Re8

29.Kd1 ]

Maybe even better for White is **25...Rd8**

[ 25...Ke7 26.g5 f5 27.Nf2 ]

[ 25...Bxe4 26.fxe4 ( 26.Rxe4 Rah8

Preparing to play Bd7. ) 26...Kg7 ]



[ 25...g5 26.Ne3 Rah8= White is a pawn down but has the initiative due to Black's passivity! White should strengthen the centre by playing f2-f4. Black cannot really develop his Bc8 without losing b6. ]

### 26.g5 Bxe4

[ 26...Nxd5 27.Bxe5 ]

[ 26...f5 27.Bxe5 ]

### 27.fxe4 Nf4

[ 27...Nxd5?! 28.Bxe5± Also a novelty could be 28...Bxe5N 29.Nxe5+ covers d4 and prepares Qc2 – winning back c4. Kg7 30.Nc4 Idea Ba1. ]

### 28.gxf6 Ke6

[ 28...Kxf6 29.Rxf4+- Winning a piece. ]

### 29.Ne3

[ 29.d3 g5 30.f7 Rf8± Black is really passive! Black's weaknesses are b7 and f7. Not been played yet but Stockfish likes 31.Rg1N Kf6 32.Kd1 Rxf7 33.Bc1! Rg7 34.Rg4 Rh4 35.Ne3 ]

[ 29.Rh1 Rdh8 30.Rxh3! White wants to make use of his pawn-majority on the kingside with f4-e5. Rxh3 31.f7 Rh8 32.d3± White wants to login his rook on d6 and then open the diagonale for Bg2 with e4-e5. Also the a-pawn could be a lever by moving to a6 weakening Black's queenside. Rf8?? 33.Kd2 Rxf7 34.Rh1 ]

### 29...g5 30.Nd5

[ 30.d3 ]

### 30...Bd6 31.Rg1 Rg8±

[ 31...Nxd5 0.99/25 31...Rd8-g8 0.32 32.exd5+ 1-0 (63) Domogaev,S – (2365)–Stepanov,A (2381) Tula 2010. Kxf6!+- Now Nb5 is not any longer

an answer after Ba3. White will simply go Ba3 and afterwards regroup his knight via e1 to d3-c5 or e5..

33.Rgf1+ Kg6 34.Bxe5 ]

[ 31...Nxd5 32.exd5+ Kxf6 33.Rgf1+ Kg6 34.Bxe5 Bxe5 35.Rxe5± ]

### 32.Rg4 0.01/22

[ 32.Kd1 ]

[ 32.Kd1± 0.40/25 ]

### 32...Rh4= 33.Rgg1 -0.93/23

Black threatens to play c7-c5.

[ 33.Rxh4 -0.99/22 33.Nd5-e3 0.09 gxh4 34.Nxf4+ exf4 ]

[ 33.Ne3 Kxf6 34.Kd1 Ke6 35.Reg1 Creating problems on the c-file. ]

[ 33.Ne3= 0.01/26 keeps the balance. ]

**33...g4!±** White can simply improve his position. f2-f4 and Rxc4. Black has to give the exchange. **34.Ne3!**

[ 34.Nxf4+ -2.38/22 34.Nd5-e3 -1.15 exf4 35.e5 Black does not have a centre but White can maybe make use of his centre. Also The half-opened b- and c-file are part of Black's weaknesses. Bc7 ]

### 34...g3

[ 34...Kxf6 35.Nf5 Rh5 36.Nxd6± ]

### 35.Nf5 -1.92/22

[ 35.f7 Rg5 36.Bxe5 Rxe5 37.Nc4± Black is very passive and has weak pawns on the c-file. g2! 38.Nxd6 Rh8! 39.Nf5+- Just winning back c4. Black has a very weak king due to his black-squared weaknesses and White can for example make use of it by playing Ne4. Kxf7 40.d3 Threatens Ne5. Re6 ]

[ 35.f7± -0.93/22 was worth a try. Rg5 36.Bxe5! Rxe5 37.Nc4 ]

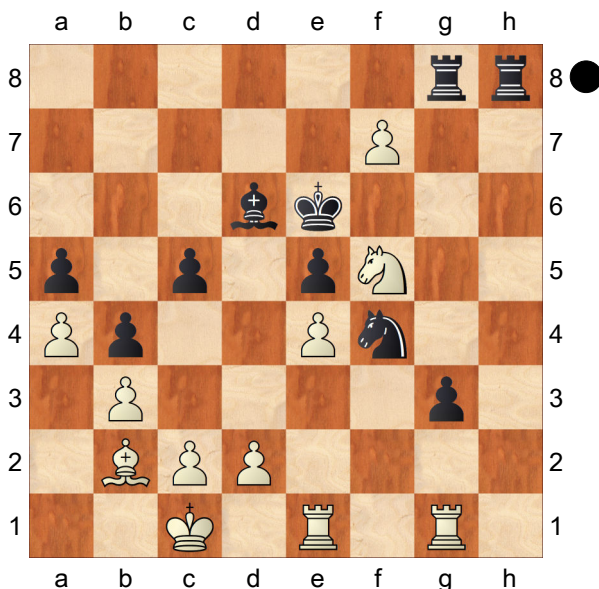
### 35...Rhh8!+-

[ 35...Rh3!N -0.07/22 35...Rh4-h8 -1.

25 The idea of this move is to force Black to weaken his king. 36.f7 Kxf7?  
1.55/25 ( 36...Rgh8= -0.15/24 )  
37.Nxd6+ ]

**36.f7**

[ 36.Nxg3 -2.76/26 36.d2-d3 -1.78  
Rxc3 ( 36...Rh3 ) 37.Rxc3 Ne2+! ]  
[ 36.Rxc3± -4.64/25 36.Kc1-d1 -1.  
65 Winning a pawn. Black cannot play  
c7-c6 due to Bd6. Ne2+! 37.Rxe2  
-#3/8 ( 37.Kd1-+ -4.72/23 Nxg3  
38.f7 ) 37...Rh1+ 1/2 (49)-1/2 (49)  
Dzagnidze,N (2525)-Harika,D  
(2539) Teheran 2017. White could  
have had a big edge after ]  
[ Don't play 36.Nxg3 Rxc3! 37.Rh1  
( 37.Rxc3 Ne2+ 38.Kb1 Nxg3-+ )  
37...Rgh3 38.Rxh3 Rxh3-+ ]

**36...Rg6 -1.20/22**

[ 36...Rg4!+- ]  
[ 36...Rg4!+- -1.87/25 37.f8B  
( 37.Rxc3? Ne2+ 38.Kb1 Nxg3-+ )  
37...Bxf8 ]

**37.Kd1 -2.17/23**

[ 37.Rxc3± -1.20/22 Ne2+ 38.Kb1  
Nxg3 39.Rg1 ]

**37...g2**

[ 37...g2

**A) 38.Re3** Bc7 ( 38...Nh3??

1.98/26 38...Bd6-c7 -2.66

39.Rxh3! Rxh3 40.Nxd6

1-0 (47) Kushko,D (2285)-Serrero,  
C (2283) Chess. com INT 2021. );

**B) 38.d3±** Nh3?! ]

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Bauer,Christian**

**2636**

■ **Wirig,Anthony**

**2396**

Nancy (6)

17.02.2005

[Rowson]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** I have to confess that I am a little afraid of this move and find it surprising that it has only become popular recently. 2 Nf3 e6 3 b3!? has been quite a serious attempt for a while but the immediate b3 has the advantage of keeping the f-pawn free and in many lines the combination of the bishop on b2 and the pawn on f4 is quite formidable. I should also say that I have lost several blitz games on ICC against this move! I have no doubt that Black can deal with it, but it requires some thought and some care. Rowson, Jonathan: 'I have to confess that I am a little afraid of this move and find it surprising that it has only become popular recently. 2 Nf3 e6 3 b3!? has been quite a serious attempt for a while but the immediate b3 has the advantage of keeping the f-pawn free and in many lines the combination of the bishop on b2 and the pawn on f4 is quite formidable. I should also say that I have lost several blitz games on ICC against this move! I have no doubt that Black



can deal with it, but it requires some thought and some care.' **2...d5?!**  
Probably wrong, simply because it loses too much time.

[ 2...b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 5.f4 d5 looks like quite a steady answer. ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6 As a rule, I suspect Black shouldn't play e5 when White has the option of playing f4 directly. Rowson,Jonathan: 'As a rule, I suspect Black shouldn't play e5 when White has the option of playing f4 directly.' 4.Bb5 Nge7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.Nf3 d5 8.Qe2 This is the type of trouble I ran into in my blitz games. Black may not actually be worse, but he does have to inconvenience himself to complete development. Rowson,Jonathan: 'This is the type of trouble I ran into in my blitz games. Black may not actually be worse, but he does have to inconvenience himself to complete development.' d4 looks safest. 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.0-0 and Black should be fine- but the pawns on f4 and e4 give White plenty to look forward to. Rowson,Jonathan: 'and Black should be fine- but the pawns on f4 and e4 give White plenty to look forward to.' ]

**3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2!** Bauer executes his advantage with considerable panache. Rowson,Jonathan: 'Bauer executes his advantage with considerable panache.' **7...Be7 8.0-0-0 Nc6 9.g4! h6 10.Rg1 a6 11.h4 Nd7 12.g5 hxg5 13.hxg5 Nf8 14.Ne4 Rh7 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Rxd4 Qc7 18.Bg2 Ng6 19.Qd2 e5 20.Nd6+ Kf8 21.Rd3 Bxd6 22.Rxd6 Bf5 23.Bxb7! Rb8 24.Bxa6**

**Rh2 25.Rd1 Kg8 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27.Rxb8 Qxb8 28.Bd3!?** The sign of a strong practical player—returning a pawn to take full control. **28...Bxd3 29.Qxd3 Rxf2 30.a4 Qc7 31.Rh1+ Kg8 32.Ba3 Rf4 33.Qd6 Qc8 34.Bc5 e4 35.a5 Rf5 36.b4 e3 37.a6 e2 38.Re1 Rf1 39.Kd2 Nf4 40.Qf8+ 1-0**

		<b>B40</b>
	<b>Spassky,Boris Vasilievich</b>	<b>2635</b>
	<b>Wockenfuss,Klaus</b>	<b>2380</b>
	Bundesliga 1980/81 (13.1)	05.04.1981
	[MH]	

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 3.Bb2 a6**

[ 3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3 Be7 18.Bf3 C 06/32 (2752)–13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1-0 (33) ]

**4.Nf3 d5N**

[ 4...Nc6 5.c4 ( 5.g3 d5 6.e5 g6 7.c3 Bg7 8.d4 Nge7 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 b5 11.Re1 Qb6 12.Nbd2 f6 13.c4 fxe5 14.cxd5 exd5 15.dxe5 Bf5 16.Nh4 Rad8 17.Nxf5 Nxf5 18.Nf3 d4 19.e6 c4 Nespor,I (2445)–10.♔e2 ♔a5 11.♙b2 ♙f5 (2390) Moscow 1998 Telechess CBM 89 [Trincardi] ) 5...Nf6 6.e5 Ng4 7.h3 Nh6 8.g4 d5 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Nc3 Bd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0 12.0-0-0 e5 13.Bg2 f6 3.e4 e6 4.f4 ♘g6 5.dxe6 fxe Survey 2001 The Bozo-Indian

Defense [Pickard, S.] ]

[ 4...d6 5.d4 ( 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nf6  
7.e5 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Bxe5 Bd6  
10.Qe2 Qc7 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Na3  
Rb8 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.a4 b6 15.0-0  
0-0 16.Qe5 ½-½ (16) 1...♘f6 (2410)-  
Richter,K (2460) Royan 1992  
Telechess CBM 89 [FS 97] ) 5...cxd4  
6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Bd3 e5 8.Nf3 b5  
9.Qe2 Be7 10.c4 bxc4 11.Bxc4 0-0  
12.0-0 Bb7 13.Nc3 Nbd7 14.Rfd1  
Qb6 15.Nd2 Nc5 16.Rac1 Rfd8  
17.Ba3 Qa5 18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.Nf3  
Gamilova,R (2453)-12.♘gf3 ♔c7 13.  
♙f4\_1225 (2249) Biel SUI 2017 200  
Traps In The Opening [Stock,T; Yoos,  
J] ½-½ (70) ]

**5.exd5 exd5 6.d4 Nf6 7.Bd3 cxd4**

**8.0-0** White is slightly better.

[Of course not 8.Bxd4 Nc6= ]

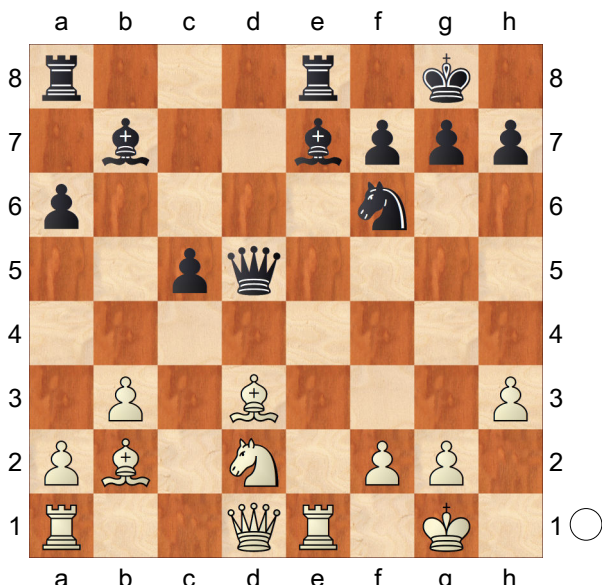
**8...Be7 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Nd2 Nc6**

**11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.c4 Re8 13.h3**

Prevents Bc8-g4. **13...Bb7 14.Re1 c5**  
0.83/23

[ 14...d4!= 0.26/23 ]

**15.cxd5 Qxd5**



**16.Bf1** Active counter play! **16...Rad8**  
**17.Nc4 Qf5 18.Re5 Rxd1 19.Rxf5**

**Red8 0.65/22**

[ 19...Rxa1 0.31/24 is superior.

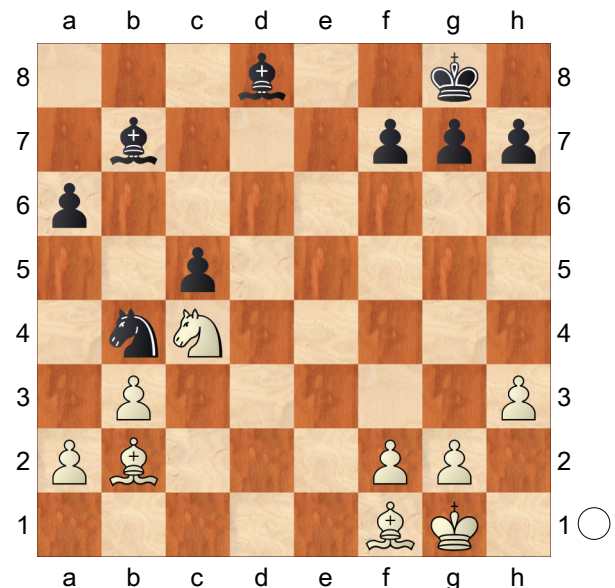
20.Bxa1 Nd7 ]

**20.Re5± Bf8 21.Re1↑** White has good  
play. **21...Rxa1 22.Bxa1 Nd5 23.Rd1**

**Be7 24.Bb2 Nb4** 0.85/24

[ 24...Bc8± 0.54/22 might be  
stronger. ]

**25.Rxd8+± Bxd8**



**26.a3 Nc2 27.Nd6 Bd5 28.Bxa6 Bxb3**

**29.Bc4 Bxc4 30.Nxc4** Endgame KBN-

KBN **30...f6! 31.a4 Nb4 32.Kf1 Kf7**

**33.Ke2 Ke6 34.Kd2 g6 35.a5** -0.26/24

[ White should try 35.Kc3± 0.40/24 ]

**35...Kd5= 36.Kc3 Kc6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very  
precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)  
½-½

**B40**

□ **Spassky,Boris Vasilievich** **2635**

■ **Wockenfuss,Klaus** **2380**

Bundesliga 1981/82 (4.1) 05.12.1981

**1.e4 c5 2.b3**

[ 2.Ne2 ...1/2-1/2, Spassky Boris V

2560 - Fischer Robert J 2785 , Sveti-



Stefan/Belgrade 1992 Match ]  
**2...e6 3.Bb2 a6 4.Nf3 d5**  
 [ 4...Nc6 ]  
 [ 4...d6 ]  
**5.exd5 exd5 6.d4 Nf6 7.Bd3 cxd4**  
 [ 7...Be7 8.h3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6  
 10.Re1 h6 11.Ba3 b6 12.dxc5 Bxc5  
 13.Bxc5 bxc5 14.Nc3 Be6 15.Na4  
 Qd6 ... 0-1, Oral Tomas 2546 –  
 Smirin Ilia 2698 , Leon 2001 Ch  
 Europe (team) ]  
**8.0-0 Be7 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Nd2 Nc6**  
**11.Re1**  
 [ 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.c4 ...1/2-1/2,  
 Spassky Boris V 2630 – Wockenfuss  
 Klaus 2350 , Germany 1981  
 Bundesliga 1980/81 ]  
**11...Re8 12.Qf3 Bd7 13.h3 Bb4**  
**14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qf4 Qa5 16.Bxf6**  
**Bxd2 17.Qh4 h6 18.Rxe8+ Rxe8**  
**19.Qg3 g5 20.Qf3 Re6 21.g3 Qc5±**  
**?! [ 21...Kf8 !? 22.Bh7 Qc5 23.Rd1**  
**Qd6± ]**  
**22.Rd1 Be1+- ?**  
 [ 22...Qd6 23.Bb2 Bb4 24.Bxa6  
 Ba3± ]  
**23.Bd4 Qe7 24.Bf5 Rd6 25.Bc5 Bxf5**  
**26.Qxf5 Qe2 27.Rd3 Re6 28.Rf3+-**  
**1-0**

**B30**

☐ **Spassky,Boris Vasilievich** **2630**  
☒ **Sosonko,Gennadi** **2575**  
 Interpolis-02 (10) 13.09.1978  
*[Ftacnik,Lubomir, MH]*

Jonathan Rowson: 'Liberzon,V: 'Inf 26/  
 318" **1.e4** Liberzon,Vladimir M **1...c5**  
**2.b3!? Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6** Jonathan  
 Rowson: 'A very reasonable option for

Black.'  
 [ 3...e6 4.Nf3 d5 e.g. 5.Bb5 dxe4  
 6.Ne5 ]  
 [ 3...e5 ]  
**4.e5**  
 [ 4.Nc3!? e6! The exclam is just to  
 signify that neither of White's  
 standard approaches seem to cut the  
 mustard. 5.Bb5 ( 5.f4 d5  
 looks relatively straightforward for  
 Black. 6.Bb5 d4! ) 5...Nd4 6.a4  
 is some sort of 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 line,  
 but not a particularly promising one  
 for White. ]  
**4...Nd5 5.Nf3** Jonathan Rowson: 'This  
 seems to transpose into a respectable  
 line(for Black) of 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 Nf6 so I  
 wonder if White can look for alternatives.  
 '

[ 5.Qf3!? looks like it might be worth a  
 try here, although given the difficulty  
 in defending c2 I doubt if it is a big  
 problem for Black.

**A) 5...Ndb4** 6.Na3 ( 6.Qe4 g6!  
 7.a3 d5 8.exd6 Bf5; 6.Kd1  
 might be fun to try, if it weren't for  
 the annoying Nd4 ) 6...d6  
 and Black is fine.;

**B) 5...e6** 6.Qg3 d6 7.Nf3  
 Nde7!? ]

[ 5.Bc4!? Nb6 6.Bb5 looks quite  
 promising. ( 6.Nf3!? )]

**5...d6**  
 [ 5...Nf4?! 6.g3 Ne6 7.Bg2 g6 8.c3±  
 Czerniak-Janosevic, Beograd 1954 ]  
 [ 5...e6 6.g3 ]

**6.Bc4 dxe5**  
 [ 6...Nb6 7.Be2± Jonathan Rowson:  
 'looks a bit better for White.' ( 7.e6!?  
 Jonathan Rowson: 'Ftacnik- is also  
 worth considering.' )]  
 [ 6...Nf4!? Jonathan Rowson: 'is the

most dynamic response.' 7.0-0  
( 7.g3 Ng6 8.exd6 Jonathan Rowson:  
'∞' ) 7...d5 8.Bb5 Bg4 Jonathan  
Rowson: 'Ftacnik.' ]

[ ∆6...e6 7.0-0 Nb6 8.Bb5 d5 ]

### 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxe5 e6

[ 8...f6 9.Bb2 ( 9.Qf3? Nb4 ) 9...e5  
10.Qh5+ g6 11.Qf3± Jonathan  
Rowson: 'looks better for White, but' ]  
[ 8...Nb4!? ( ∆ 9...∅c6 ) Jonathan  
Rowson: ', intending ...Nc6, should be  
considered.' ( ∆ 9...∅c6 ) 9.Nc3! Nc6  
( 9...Bf5 10.Qf3!; 9...f6 10.Bg3 Bf5  
11.Qf3 Nxc2+ 12.Kd1 Nd4  
13.Qxb7± ) 10.Qh5!

**A)** 10...g6 11.Qe2 Nd4  
( 11...Nxe5 12.Qxe5 Qd4 13.Qxd4  
cxd4 14.Nb5 Kd7 15.Nxd4 Bg7  
16.c3 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Kd6  
18.Ke2± ) 12.Qe4 Bf5 13.Qxb7  
Nxc2+ 14.Ke2 f6 15.Bxf6!;

**B)** 10...Nxe5 11.Qxe5 Qd6  
12.Qxd6 exd6 13.Nb5±;

**C)** 10...e6 11.Nb5! ]

**9.Nc3** Liberzon,Vladimir M: '±' '±'  
Jonathan Rowson: 'Liberzon,V: '±'

**9...Nxc3** Liberzon,Vladimir M: '?' '?'  
Jonathan Rowson: 'Sosonko's play in  
this game is a little meek. Black might  
have been fully ok had he played more  
combatively here. Liberzon,V: '?'

[ 9...f6 10.Bg3 Nxc3 11.dxc3 Qxd1+  
12.Rxd1 Be7 13.0-0 Kf7 14.Bc7  
∆ 15.∅fe1, 16.a4. ∆ 15.∅fe1, 16.a4.  
[ 9...Bd6! Jonathan Rowson: 'Ftacnik.'

**A)** 10.Bb5+ Kf8 Jonathan  
Rowson: 'is no great trauma,  
because after the bishops are  
exchanged the king will be happy  
on g7' ( 10...Ke7 11.Bxg7 Rg8  
12.Bh6± );

**B)** 10.Bxg7 Rg8

**B1)** 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Bb5+  
( 12.Qe2+ Kd7! ) 12...Bd7  
13.Qe2+ Qe7 Jonathan

Rowson: 'is fine for Black.';

**B2)** 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Qe2+  
Jonathan Rowson: 'is critical and  
now Black has options but  
simplest is'

**B2a)** 12...Be6 13.Be5±  
e.g. Jonathan Rowson: 'is not  
so good.' Rxc2 ( 13...Bxe5  
14.Qxe5 Rxc2 15.Nb5 )  
14.Bg3;

**B2b)** 12...Kd7!? Jonathan  
Rowson: 'might be playable,  
but you would have to be  
brave to venture' 13.Qb5+  
Ke6 ( 13...Kc7 14.Nxd5+ Kb8  
15.Bf6 ) 14.0-0-0+;

**B2c)** 12...Qe7 13.Bf6 Qxe2+  
14.Kxe2 Be6± Jonathan  
Rowson: 'and Black has good  
compensation for the pawn  
due to the bishops, the central  
space and the g-file.';

**B3)** 11.Bh6 Qh4± Jonathan  
Rowson: 'with a very complicated  
game in prospect.' ]

[ 9...Nb6 10.Bd3 Bd7 11.0-0 Bc6± ]

**10.Bxc3±** Liberzon,Vladimir M: '±' '±'  
Jonathan Rowson: 'Liberzon,V: '±'

**10...Bd7 11.0-0** Jonathan Rowson:  
'Both players miss the chance to  
activate their queens on the kingside.'

[ 11.Qh5! b5 12.Bd3 Bc6 13.0-0  
Qd5 14.Qh3 Be7 15.Rfe1 Bf6  
16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Be4 Qd6 18.Qf3  
Bxe4 19.Qxf6 Qd4 ( 19...Bxg2!? ) ]

### 11...Bd6?

[ 11...Qc7 ]

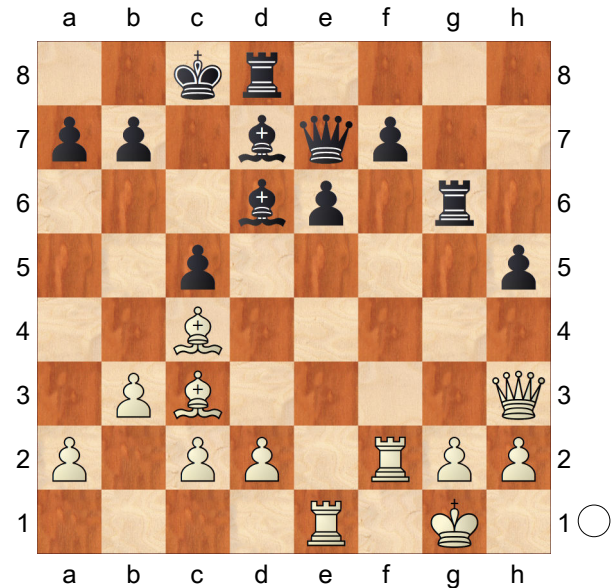
[ 11...Bc6 12.Qh5 ]

[ 11...Qh4! 12.g3 Qh3 ( 12...Qh6

13.d4!) 13.Qf3 Bc6 14.Bb5 Rc8  
 15.Bxc6+ Rxc6 16.Qf4 Bd6 17.Qg5  
 Rg8 18.Rfe1 Kd7± ]  
**12.Qg4± Rg8 13.Rae1 g6**  
 [ Δ13...Qe7 Δ 0-0-0 Jonathan  
 Rowson: 'Δ 0-0-0' ]  
**14.f4 Δ f4-f5 Jonathan Rowson: 'Δ f4-f5'**  
**14...h5**  
 [ 14...Qc7 15.Qh4 h5 16.f5! ]  
**15.Qh3 Qe7**  
 [ 15...Kf8 16.f5 exf5 ( 16...gxf5  
 17.Rxf5 exf5 18.Qxh5+- ) 17.Qe3 g5  
 ( 17...f4 18.Rxf4! ) 18.Qh3 h4  
 19.Rxf5+- ]  
**16.f5! gxf5 17.Rxf5 Rg6**  
 [ 17...exf5? 3.44/21 17...Bd7-c6 1.14  
 18.Rxe7+ Bxe7 19.Qxh5+-  
 ( 19.Qe3+- 1.78/22 19.Qh3xh5 3.19 ) ]  
 [ 17...Bc6 18.Rf2 0-0-0 19.Rxf7  
 Bxg2 20.Qxe6+ Qxe6 21.Bxe6+ Kb8  
 22.Rg7+- 0.60/22 (White should play  
 22.Rh7± 1.47/23 ) ]  
**18.Rf2**  
 [ 18.Rxh5 1.35/23 18.Bc4-d3 1.99  
 Bc6 1.91/22 ( 18...0-0-0± 1.35/23  
 19.Bd3 Rg5 ) 19.Re2 1.17/22  
 ( 19.Bb5!+- 1.91/22 0-0-0 20.Bxc6  
 bxc6 21.g3 ) 19...0-0-0± 20.Bd3 ]  
 [Don't do 18.Rxh5 0-0-0± ]  
**18...Qg5 2.36/24**  
 [ 18...0-0-0

(Diagram)

19.Bd3!+- ]  
 [ 18...Qf8 1.95/24 was worth a try.  
 19.Bd3 ( 19.Qxh5 Rh6± ) 19...Rh6 ]  
**19.Bd3+- 0-0-0**  
 [ 19...Rg8 20.Bh7 Hoping for Bc3-f6.  
 ( 20.Qf3! ) 20...Rf8 21.Bf6 Qh6  
 22.Be4+- ]  
 [ 19...Rh6 20.Qf3 ( 20.Be4! )



20...0-0-0 21.Bf6+- ]  
**20.Rxf7** Liberzon, Vladimir M: '+-' '+-'  
 Jonathan Rowson: 'Liberzon,V: '+-'  
**20...Rdg8 3.23/23**  
 [ 20...Rgg8 2.23/23 is a better  
 defense. 21.Be4 ( 21.Qf3 Qh4± )  
 21...Rgf8 ]  
**21.Bxg6+- Qxg6 22.Rf6**  
 [ Stronger than 22.Qf3 Bc6 23.Qf2  
 Bxg2± ]  
**22...Qxc2 23.Qxh5 Bc6 24.Rf2 Qd3**  
**25.Qe2**  
**1-0**

**B30**  
 ♖ **Spassky, Boris Vasilievich** **2630**  
 ♜ **Giardelli Sergio, C** **2315**  
 Olympiad Buenos Aires (Argentina) (2)  
 [MH]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines  
 without ...g6

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6 4.Nf3 d5**  
 [ 4...d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7  
 7.Nb5 Qb8 8.Ba3 d5 9.exd5 Qe5+  
 10.Be2 Bxa3 11.N1xa3 exd5 12.f4  
 Qxf4 13.Qxd5 Nf6 14.Qd6 Qxd6

15.Nxd6+ Ke7 16.0-0-0 Rab8  
 17.Rhe1 Kf8 18.Bc4 Nd8 19.Nab5  
 12.♙f2 g5 13.♖c1 (2564)-Pina,J  
 (2573) USSR 36/(516) 2004 OR:  
 Modern Benoni [FS-70/204] 1-0  
 (42) ]  
 [ 4...a6 5.c4 Qc7 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5  
 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5  
 10.0-0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2  
 Qd6 Filip,L-10.d5 ♙f3 11.gf3 Villa  
 Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/  
 Meyer,CD] ]

### 5.Bb5 Nf6 6.e5N

[ 6.exd5 exd5 7.Qe2+ Qe7 8.Ne5  
 Bd7 9.0-0 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Bxb5  
 11.Qxb5+ Qd7 12.Nc3 0-0-0  
 13.Qa5 b6 14.Qa6+ Qb7 15.Qd3  
 Bd6 16.f4 Bxe5 17.fxe5 Ne4  
 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Qc4 Rhf8 20.Rf2  
 Rd4 Chapter 14 Part 2-Game 1  
 Game 1 (47) ]

6...Nd7 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.d3 Be7 9.0-0  
 0-0 10.Re1 f6 11.exf6 Bxf6 12.Nc3  
 Qe7 The position is equal. 13.Qe2 e5  
 14.Na4 Qf7 15.c4 Ba6 16.Nxe5 Nxe5  
 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Qxe5 Qxf2+ 19.Kh1  
 Rf6 20.Qe3

[ 20.h3 feels hotter. Raf8 21.cxd5  
 Rg6 22.Re2 ]

20...Qxe3 21.Rxe3 Raf8

(Diagram)

(-> ...Rf6-f1+) 22.Kg1 Against Rf6-f1+  
 22...Rf2 23.Nxc5 Bc8 24.a4 R2f5  
 25.cxd5 Rxd5 26.Rc1 a5 27.h3 h5  
 1.33/23

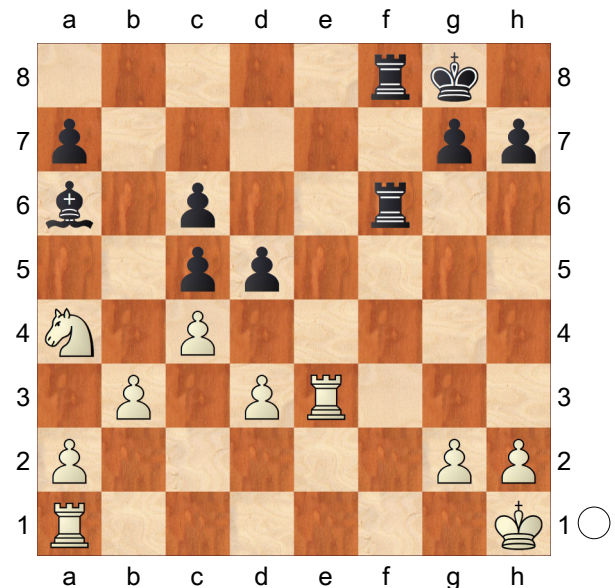
[ ♟27...Bf5 1.01/22 28.Ne4 Rc8 ]

28.Ne4 Ba6 29.Nc5 0.01/22

[ 29.Nf2± 1.21/22 ]

29...Bc8= 30.Re7 Bf5 31.Rc3

&Bianco is more active. 31...Rf6 1.24/22



[ ♟31...Bxh3 0.88/24 32.Ra7  
 ( 32.gxh3 Rg5+ 33.Kh2 Rf2+ 34.Kh1  
 Rf1+ 35.Kh2 Rf2+ 36.Kh1 Rf1+  
 37.Kh2 Rf2+= ) 32...Rg5 ]

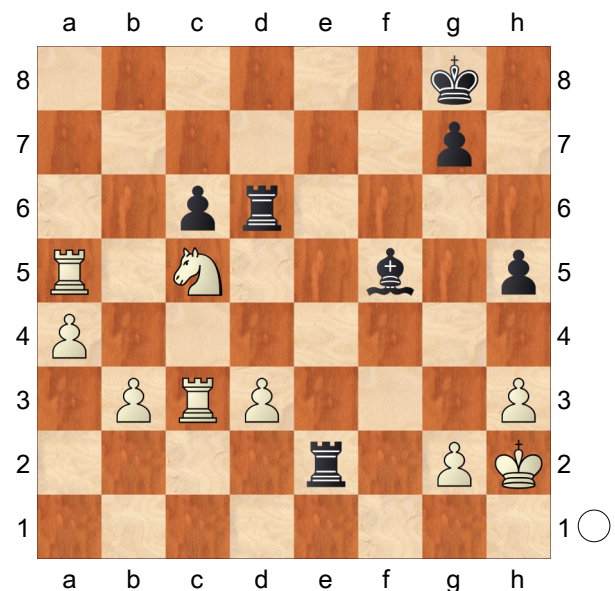
32.Kh2± Rfd6 1.59/24

[ Better is 32...Rf7 1.20/22 33.Re8+  
 Rf8 ]

33.Ra7 Re5 2.26/24

[ 33...Bxd3± 1.48/24 was worth a try.  
 34.Rxa5 ( 34.Rxd3 Rxd3 35.Nxd3  
 Rxd3± ) 34...Bf5 35.Ra8+ Rd8  
 36.Rxd8+ Rxd8 ]

34.Rxa5+- Re2



...Rd6-g6 is the strong threat. 35.Ne4



**Bxe4 36.dxe4 Rxe4 37.Rxh5**

White has a decisive advantage.

**37...Rg6 38.Rf5 Re2 39.Rg3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)

**1-0**

**B40**  
 **Spassky, Boris Vasilievich** **2630**  
 **Hernandez Roman** **2465**  
 Olympiad Buenos Aires (Argentina)  
*[MH]*

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.Bb5**

[ 6.g3 f5 7.Bg2 b6 8.c4 Nc7 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Nc3 Be7 11.d4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 cxd4 14.Qxd4 5.h4 g4 6.Ng5 (2536)-Hubener,J (2479) Budapest 2004 Telechess CBM 89 [Cricket and Football Field 19/6/1909] ]

**6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxc6N**

[ 8.Re1 a6 9.Bf1 d6 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Na3 f6 12.d4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 e5 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.Na5 Qc5 17.Bc4 Rd8 18.b4 Qd6 19.Qf3 Kh8 20.a3 Rb8 21.Bb3 Nb6 22.c4 Qd3 004a 422 Rosanes,J-Kopylov Chiasso 2002 TH-CC [Bauer] 1-0 (38) 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 24.c5 Rxb3 25.Nxb3 Nc4 26.Bc3 Be6 27.f4 Re8 28.fxe5 fxe5 29.Bxe5 Nxe5 30.Rxe5 Bf6 31.Rae1 Bxe5 32.Rxe5 Kg8 33.Na5 Re7 34.Nxb7 Rxb7 35.Rxe6 Ra7 36.Kf2 Kf7 37.Rd6 Ke7 004a 422 Rosanes,J-Hamilton USSR (ch) 16/494 2002 ZUS C73 [Bauer] 1-0 (38) ]

**8...bxc6 9.d3 f6** The position is equal.

**10.Nc3 fxe5 11.Nxe5 Qe8 12.Ne4 d6 13.Nc4** Pair of Knights! **13...Qd8 14.a3** [ 14.Qg4 e5 15.Qd1 Nf4 $\bar{f}$  ] **14...e5 15.Qe1 Nf4 16.Ng3 h5 17.Ne2 Nd5 18.b4 cxb4 19.axb4 Qe8 20.f3 Qg6 21.Kh1 h4 22.h3! Bd7 23.Bc1 Nb6 24.Nd2 d5 25.Nb3! Qh5 26.Nc5 Bxc5** 1.46/23

[ Black should try 26...Rf7 $\pm$  0.38/18 ]

**27.bxc5 $\pm$**  Black must now prevent Qe1-b4. **27...Nc8 28.Ra4 d4 29.c3 Bxh3** 2.37/23

[ 29...Rf7 $\pm$  1.39/21 30.cxd4 exd4 31.Rxd4 ( 31.Nxd4 Qxc5 32.Ne6 Bxe6 $\pm$  ) 31...Qxc5 32.Rxh4 ( 32.Qxh4 Nd6 $\pm$  ) 32...Ne7 ]

**30.gxh3+-** Threatens to win with

Qe1-f2. **30...Rxf3 31.Ng1**

[ 31.cxd4? Rxh3+ 32.Kg2 Qg4+ 33.Ng3 Rxg3+ 34.Qxg3 Qxg3+-+ ] [ 31.Kh2?! Ne7 ]

**31...Rxf1 32.Qxf1 Ne7 33.Qe2 Qg6** 2.20/24

[  $\Delta$ 33...Qxe2 1.72/24 34.Nxe2 dxc3 35.Nxc3 Rd8 36.Rxa7 Rxd3 ]

**34.cxd4 Nf5** ( -> ...Nf5-g3+ ) **35.Qa2+** [ Don't blunder 35.Qxe5? Re8 36.Qc7 Ng3+ 37.Kh2 Ne2-- ]

**35...Kh8**

(Diagram)

**36.Qf2**

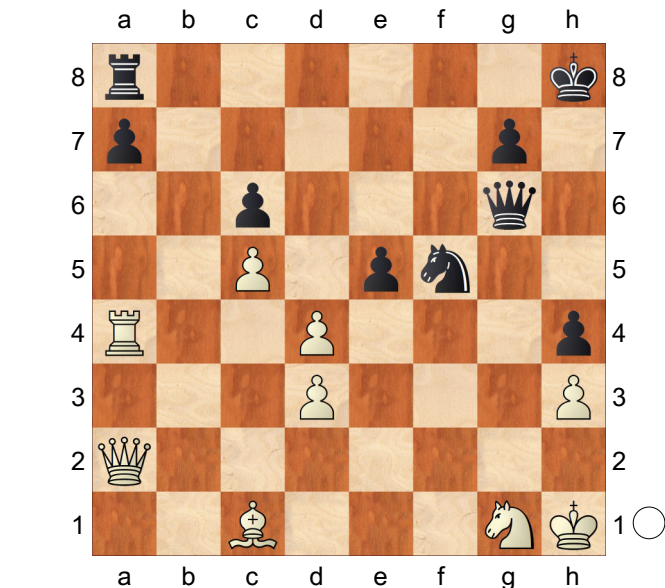
[ Weaker is 36.dxe5 Ng3+ 37.Kh2 Nf1+ 38.Kh1 Ng3+ 39.Kh2 Nf1+ 40.Kh1 Ng3+= ]

**36...Ng3+ 37.Kh2 Qxd3** 4.50/22

[  $\Delta$ 37...e4 2.89/23 38.dxe4 ( 38.Qf4 Kg8 $\pm$  ) 38...Qxe4 ]

**38.dxe5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08



(flawless) /Black=0.21 (precise)

1-0

□ Romanov,Evgeny

■ Kanep,Meelis

Cappelle op 28th (5)

[MH]

**B20**

**2625**

**2516**

06.03.2012

We are going to examine an idea against the Sicilian which is uncommon, but which may well be pretty good. In recent times a few Grandmasters have recognised that 2 b3!? is a good way to get to an unthordox position, which contains plenty of attacking potential. B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves **1.e4 c5 2.b3!?** Here it is. It doesn't look like much, but the Bishop on b2 often breathes fire. **2...b6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♞bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6

8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline

5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team

Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 5.Qe2N**

[ 5.Nf3 a6 ( 5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 a6 8.Bd3 Nf6 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.f4

Qc7 11.0-0-0 b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.g5 b4 14.gxf6 bxc3 15.Bxc3 gxf6

16.Kb2 Rc8 17.Qe1 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxe4 19.Ba5 Qb7 20.Rg1

5,B-Brunner,J Kazan 1998 200 Traps In The Opening [Elburg, CCYB] 0-1 )

6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qc7 8.f3 Nf6

9.Qd2 Bb4 10.a3 Be7 11.g4 0-0

12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Nce2 Nxd4

14.Nxd4 d5 15.g5 Nh5 16.e5 Qxe5 17.Nc6 Qxg5 18.f4 Qh4 19.Nxe7+

Qxe7 C 06/32 (2551)-1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4. ♞f3 g5 5.g (2490) Budapest 2000

Telechess CBM 89 [Heemsoth; FS 12/ 74] 1-0 (45) ]

[ 5.Qf3 Nf6 6.0-0-0 a6 7.Re1 d6

8.Qg3 b5 9.f3 Nbd7 10.Nh3 Qc7

11.Nf2 c4 12.Kb1 Rc8 13.Ka1 g6

14.bxc4 bxc4 15.Nfd1 Bg7 16.Ne3

Nb6 17.h4 h5 18.Qg5 0-0 19.Ncd5 Nfxd5 8.♞f3 c5 9.♙g5 0-0\_64798

(2491)-Simpson,J (2476) Leon 2001

Telechess CBM 89 [Mueller, Gerhard] 0-1 (39) ]

**5...Nc6 6.0-0-0** After six moves, we are in uncharted territory. Black has more difficulties than White. There is an obvious attacking plan available commencing with f2-f4 and a kingside

pawn storm; meanwhile the Bishop on f1 can be deployed to g2 or h3 as necessary. Finally, if Black plays ...Nc6-d4, White comfortably puts his Queen on e1 or even g4. **6...Nge7 7.f4!** 0.03/21

[ 7.Nf3± 0.35/19 ]

**7...d5= 8.exd5!** When you have castled and the enemy has not, open the centre! The position is equal. **8...exd5**

[ 8...Nxd5 9.Nxd5 ( 9.f5? Nd4 [%draw full,e2,green] [%draw full,f5,green] ) 9...Qxd5 10.Nf3 0-0-0 11.Qe3 [%draw arrow,f1,c4,green] [%draw arrow,f3,g5,green] leaves White a little better with Bc4 coming up. One glance at this position shows the power of the Bishop on b2, power that cannot be easily blocked: Nd4 0.61/22 ( 11...Qd6= 0.09/19 ) 12.Ne5!± Hoping for Bf1-c4. Nf5 13.Qh3 Nd6 14.Rg1 Threatens to win with c2-c4. f6 15.Bc4! Nxc4 1.85/22 ( 15...Qe4± 0.97/25 ) 16.bxc4!± ]

**9.g3 Qd7** 0.93/21

[ 9...d4 10.Ne4 Nb4 is tricky, but adequately met by 11.Qf3! Bc6 And now ...f7-f5 would win. 12.f5 Qc7 13.a3 ( 13.c3!? Nbd5 14.Bg2= ) 13...Nbd5! 14.Re1∞ ] [ 9...d4± 0.33/20 ]

**10.Bh3± f5 11.Nb5 0-0-0! 12.d4** -0.78/21

[ 12.Nf3± 0.43/20 keeps the upper hand. ]

**12...a6 13.dxc5!** -0.97/23

The complications begin. Black has been taken out of his theoretical comfort zone and faces a difficult defence. **13...axb5 14.cxb6** [%draw full,f8,green] [%draw full,h8,green] [%draw arrow,e2,b5,green] **14...b4** 0.32/22

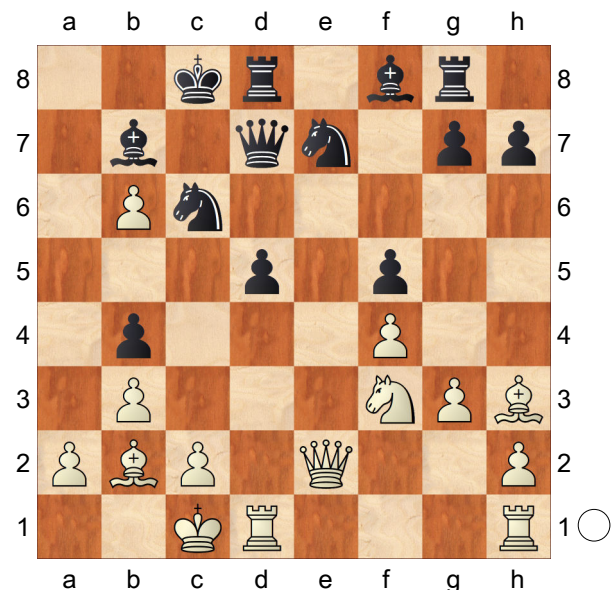
[Black should try 14...d4! 15.Nf3 Black must now prevent Nf3xd4. Nd5! 16.Qxb5 -1.12/24 ( 16.Nxd4 17.Rxd4 ) 16...Kb8 -0.33/23 when best may simply be ( 16...g6! 17.Rhg1 Ne3 ) 17.a3 -0.74/23 ( 17.Nxd4 18.Qxd7 Ne2+ 19.Kd2 Rxd7 20.Kxe2 ) 17...Ne3 aiming for ...Ne3xc2! 18.Rd2∞ ]

[Black should play 14...d4! 15.Nf3 Nd5 ]

**15.Nf3±** White has compensation.

**15...Rg8** 1.43/22

[ 15...h6± 0.50/22 ]

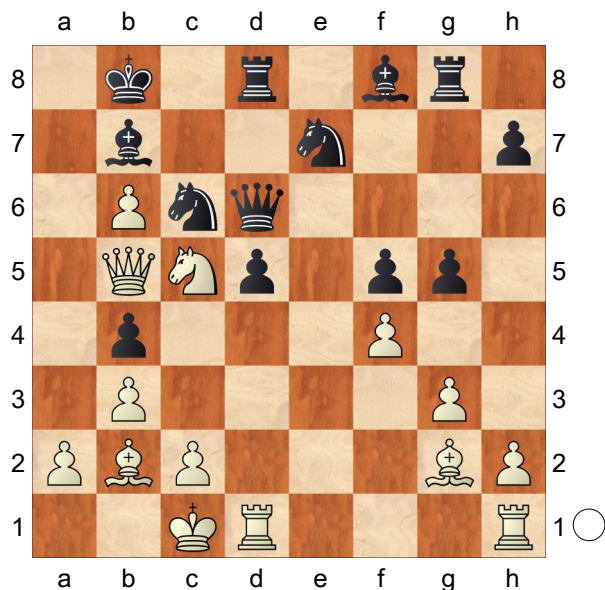


**16.Ng5!± Kb8 17.Ne6** The arrival of the Knight spells serious trouble for Black. 0x0.0017e4aaf174dp-1022s more active pieces. **17...Re8** 2.20/23

[ 17...Nc8± 1.58/23 is a better defense. ]

**18.Nc5+- Qd6 19.Qb5 Rd8 20.Bg2 g5**

(Diagram)



**21.Rhe1!±** [%draw full,e6,green] White is now right on top. It seems as though he is a piece up rather than a piece down **21...Rg6** Prevents Re1–e6. **22.a4** [%draw arrow,a4,a5,green] [%draw arrow,a5,a6,green] **22...bxa3** **23.Bxa3→** White attacks with force. **23...Qf6** **24.Bb2** Against Qf6–a1+. The board is on fire. **24...Qd6** 6.25/22 [ 24...d4 2.58/22 25.Nxb7 Kxb7 26.fxg5 Qxg5+ 27.Kb1 Qf6 ] **25.c4+–** White is clearly winning. **25...gxf4** **26.cxd5 fxf3** **27.Nxb7 Qf4+** **28.Kb1** In the end, a slaughter. The game plan for 2 b3 may be mapped out: 1) To aim for an original position, bypassing known theory. 2) To create pressure down the long diagonal. 3) To perhaps start a kingside attack starting with f2–f4.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.48

**1–0**

**B20**

□ **Romanov,Evgeny**

**2624**

■ **Alsina Leal,Daniel**

**2538**

EU–ch 12th Aix les Bains (10) 01.04.11  
[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.d3 d6 7.Nge2 0–0N**

[ 7...Nd4 8.0–0 0–0 9.f4 a6 10.a4 b6 11.Nd5 Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5 Bf6 16.c4 g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 18.Ra2 Qe7 19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Kh1 Chapter 15

Part 1–Game 4 Game 4 (43) ]

**8.0–0** White has an edge. **8...Be6**

**9.Qd2 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5**

**Bxd5 12.f4 Bf6 13.Nxd5 Qxd5**

**14.Kh1 Qd8 15.f5 Bg5 16.Qd1 f6**

**17.Ng3 b6 18.Ne4 Bh6 19.Qf3 Nd4**

**20.Qf2 Be3** 0.75/22 **21.Qxe3±**

Threatens to win with Rf1–f2. **21...Nxc2**

**22.Qe2 Nxa1 23.Bxa1 Qd5 24.Rf3**

&Bianco is more active. **24...Rad8**

**25.Bb2 Rf7 26.Rh3 b5** 1.97/21

[ 26...Rfd7± 0.66/20 ]

**27.Qh5!+– h6 28.Rg3** 0.97/20

[ 28.Bc1+– 2.04/23 has better winning chances. ]

**28...c4?** 3.21/25

[ 28...Qc6± 0.97/20 was necessary. ]

(Diagram)

**29.Rxg7+!! Kxg7 30.Qg6+** Deflection

**30...Kh8 31.Nxf6 Rxf6 32.Qxf6+**

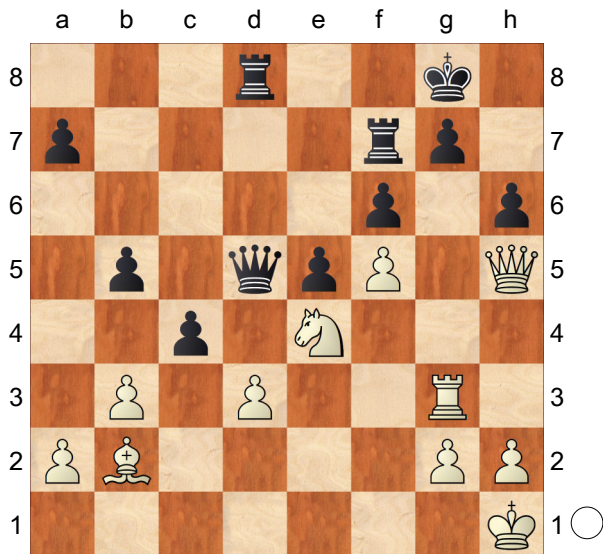
Endgame KQR–KQB **32...Kg8**

And now ...Qd5–d6 would win. **33.Qg6+**

[ Weaker is 33.Bxe5 Rd7± ]

**33...Kh8 34.Qxh6+?** 3.48/5





[ 34.bxc4 11.10/27 bxc4 35.Qxh6+ Kg8 36.Qg6+ Kh8 37.Qh5+ Kg8 38.Qg6+ Kh8 39.Qh5+ Kg7 40.Qg6+ Kh8 ]

**34...Kxg8 35.Qg6+ Kh8 36.bxc4 bxc4 37.Qh6+ 2.32/5**

[ Δ37.Qh5+ 4.07/27 Kg8 38.Qg6+ Kh8 39.Qh6+ Kg8 40.Qg5+ Kf7 41.Ba3 ]

**37...Kxg8 38.Qg6+? 0.01/24**

[ 38.Qg5+- 3.56/22 Kf7 39.Ba3 ]

**38...Kh8= 39.Qg3 2.09/25**

[ Δ39.Qf6+ 4.14/26 Kg8 40.Qg5+ ( 40.Bxe5 Rd7± ) 40...Kf7 41.Ba3 ]

**39...Re8+- 40.Qh4+ Kg7 41.Qg5+ [Wrong is 41.Qxc4? Qxc4 42.dxc4 Kf6-+ ]**

**41...Kf7** aiming for ...Re8-g8. **42.Ba3**

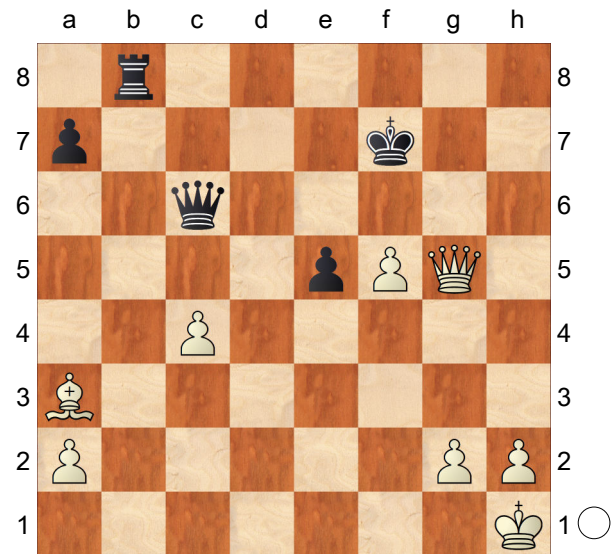
**Qc6** Inhibits Qg5-g6+. **43.dxc4**

Chess con chili. **43...Rb8**

(Diagram)

**44.h3! Qf6** Against Qg5-e7+ **45.Qh5+ Kg7**

(Diagram)



**46.Qg4+! Kh7 47.Qe4** Against Rb8-b7. Hoping for Ba3-e7! **47...Kxg8 48.c5 Kh7 4.34/19**

[ 48...Rc8 2.91/20 was called for. 49.Bb2 Rf8 ]

**49.c6 Rc8 50.Bb2 Rxc6 #18/22**

[ 50...Qxc6+- 4.09/22 51.Qxe5 Qh6 ]

**51.Bxe5 Rc1+ 52.Kh2 Qc6 53.Qg4 23.04/24**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.39

[ Δ53.Qh4+ #7/16 Kg8 54.Qe7 Rh1+ 55.Kxh1 Qd7 56.Qxd7 Kf8 57.f6 a6

58.Qg7+ Ke8 59.Qe7# ]  
1-0

**B20**  
 **Mastrovasilis,Dimitrios** **2608**  
 **Wisniowska,Klaudia** **2187**  
 EU-ch rapid Wroclaw (2) 20.12.2014  
*[Illingworth,Max, MH]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This is Black's main alternative to 2...dxc6 and quite a logical means of preparing ...dxf6.

**3.Bb2 e5N** As a junior I used to think this made White's system look quite silly, but a painful loss in 2008 quickly brought me out of my illusion – White will play f4 at some point and it's not easy to totally neutralise White's pressure, something the computer doesn't entirely grasp.

[ 3...Nf6 will be seen in the next game.  
 4.Bxf6 ( 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3 Nc6 7.f4 e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns [Gotham] )  
 4...gxf6 5.Qh5 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3 e6 9.f5 exf5 10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2 d5 13.0-0 b5 14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8 16.Nd4 Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Kf1 Bd7 14.h4 b4 15.dxe2 e5 16.dxa7 (2183)–Kuebler,J (2500) Chessfriend.com 2014 200 Traps In The Opening [Evening Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/1888] 0-1 (45) ]  
 [ 3...Nc6 will also be addressed later.  
 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6

7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)–Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 Qc7 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♗f3 g5 5. g (2515)–Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/ Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

#### 4.Bb5+

[ 4.f4 is decent but maybe a bit early given that it can be prepared. exf4 5.Qf3!? ( 5.Nf3 Nf6! is a bit annoying for White. ) 5...Nf6 ( 5...Qh4+?! 6.g3 fxf3 7.hxf3 Qe7 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Qf4 Nc6 10.0-0-0± gives White a superb lead in development for the pawn. ) 6.Qxf4 (or 6.Ne2 Be7 7.Nxf4 0-0 8.Bc4 Nc6 9.0-0 Ng4!= ) 6...Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.0-0-0∞ with a very original position. I'd prefer White's extra space in practice but Black should be fine. ]  
 [ 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 transposes to 2...dxc6 3. ♗b2 e5, examined in Kramnik–Kobalia. ]

**4...Nd7?!** I'm not a big fan of this move as the knight looks misplaced here.

[ 4...Nc6 reaches a position that can occur via several move orders and will be discussed elsewhere. ]

[With Black's pawns on light squares, it feels wrong to play 4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+

Qxd7 and here I don't see anything wrong with the direct 6.f4! Nc6 7.Nf3 exf4 8.0-0 0-0-0 9.Ne1 and White will regain his pawn, with a slight advantage after f6 10.Rxf4 d5 11.exd5 Qxd5 12.Nd3± ]

### 5.Ne2

[ 5.a4 a6 (or 5...Ngf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 Nb8 9.d3 Nc6 10.f4± ) 6.Bc4 would be the natural continuation, stopping ...b5 and leaving the knight offside on d7. Then Ngf6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Nge2 0-0 9.0-0 Nb6 ( 9...Nb8 is probably best, but then Black's play was a complete failure. ) 10.d3 Nxc4?! (not great, but otherwise a5 and f4 comes with a great structural advantage) 11.dxc4 would be in White's favour. ]

**5...Ngf6 6.Nbc3 a6 7.Bxd7+ Bxd7=** I think White mishandled the position and now Black shouldn't be worse.

**8.0-0** The position is equal. **8...Bc6**

**9.d3 Qc7** 0.48/19

[ 9...g6= -0.06/19 ]

**10.f4± 0-0-0 11.Qe1 h5 12.Nd1 Re8**

**13.c4 Ng4** 0.98/19

[ 13...h4± 0.59/19 ]

**14.h3± Nh6 15.f5** 0.31/20

[ 15.Ne3± 1.14/18 ]

**15...Be7 16.Ne3 Bg5** 0.91/22

[ Better is 16...Ng8± 0.33/20 ]

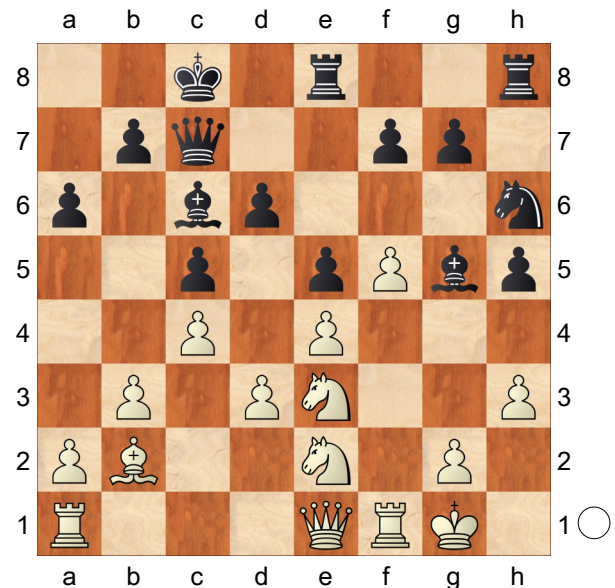
(Diagram)

**17.Bc1!** Black is now going downhill.

**17...Qd8 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.cxd5 g6** 1.82/21

[ 19...Bh4± 0.87/20 keeps fighting. 20.Qc3 Qb6 ]

**20.fxg6+- fxg6 21.b4 Bh4 22.Qc3**



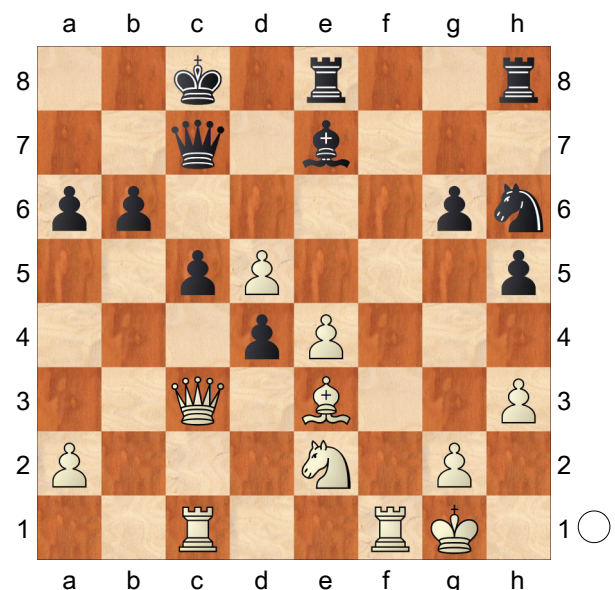
**Qc7** 2.81/21

[ Δ22...Qb6 1.96/22 23.bxc5 Qxc5+ 24.Qxc5+ dxc5 ]

**23.Be3 Be7 24.bxc5 dxc5 25.Rac1 b6** 4.66/21

[ Δ25...Bd6 3.31/22 26.Rf6 Kb8 ]

**26.d4 exd4**



**27.Nxd4 Pin 27...Qe5?** 6.85/21

[ 27...g5 3.78/19 28.Ne6 Qa7 ]

[ 27...Rh7 28.Bxh6 ]

**28.Qd3** White is clearly winning.

**28...Kb7 29.Nc6 Qg3 30.Rf3 Qd6**

**31.e5 Qd7 32.e6 Qc8 33.Bxh6 Rxh6 34.Rf7**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.49

1-0

**Gelashvili, Tamaz** **B20**  
 **Gassanov, Assif** **2605**  
**2353**  
 2nd President's Cup (8.13) 10.05.2007  
*[John Shaw, MH]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Other sound lines include

[ 2...b6 and ]

[ 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 ]

**3.Bb2 e5** This is just about the only standard set-up that I think Black should avoid. The plan Bc4, Ne2, 0-0 and f2-f4 is easy and fun for White.

[ 3...Nf6 is just one of many decent alternatives. ]

**4.Bc4 Nf6**

[ 4...d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade, E-12 9th move alternatives Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**5.d3 d6 6.Ne2 Be7 7.0-0N**

[ 7.Nbc3 Nd4 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 a6 10.a4 b6 11.Nd5 Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5 Bf6 16.c4 g6 17.Qd1 Bg7 18.Ra2 Qe7 19.Bc3 Be6 20.Raf2 b5 21.axb5 axb5 Chapter 15 Part 1-Game 4 Game 4 (43) ]

**7...0-0 8.Nbc3** White has an edge.

**8...Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.a5**

[Also possible was the direct 11.f4 with the point b5 0.70/21 ( 11...Be6= 0.20/18 ) 12.axb5± axb5 13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.Nxb5 ]

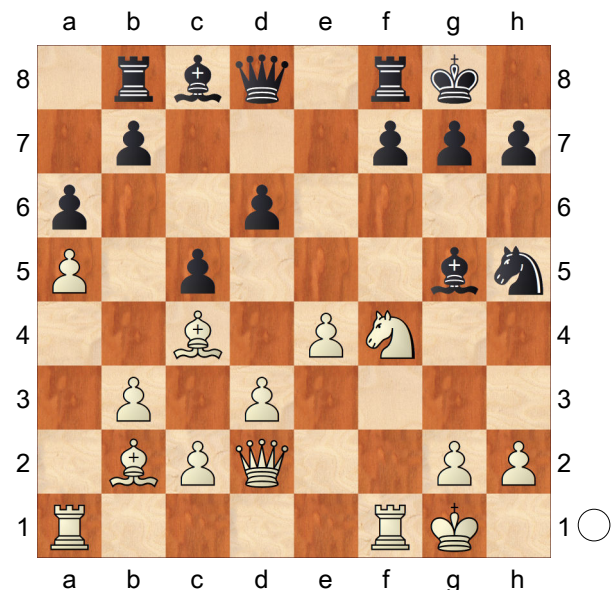
**11...Nh5 12.f4 Nxe2+ 0.67/23**

[ Better is 12...Be6= 0.06/22 ]

**13.Nxe2±**

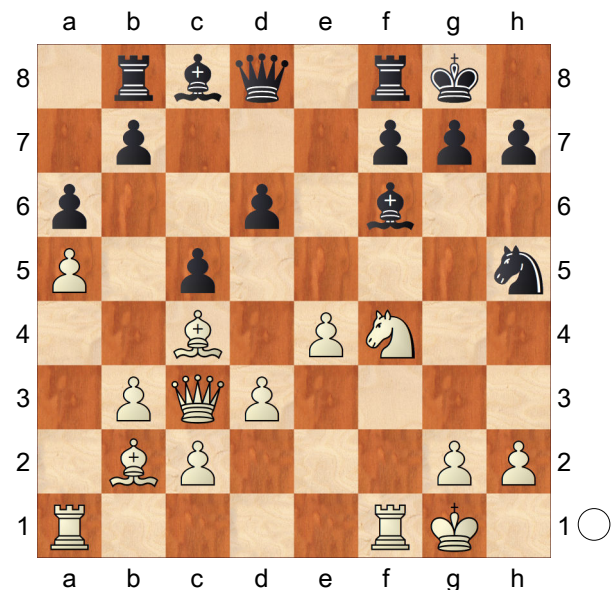
[ Reject 13.Qxe2?! Nxf4 14.Qe1 Bg4± ]

**13...exf4 14.Nxf4 Bg5**



**15.Qc3!** Much better than the obvious  
**15...Bf6**

[ 15...Bg4 16.Nd5 ]





**16.Nxh5!** Giving up the queen to gain two wonderful minor pieces and a pawn.

**16...Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Be6 18.Nxg7**

&Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed. **18...Bxc4**

**19.bxc4 Re8** 1.94/23 Black had little

choice but to return material. **20.Nxe8+-**

**Qxe8 21.Rf3** This allows Black a sliver of counterplay.

[ 21.Rf6! 1.30/25 21.Rf1-f3 1.85

would maintain the bind. For

example, Qd7 22.Raf1 Hoping for

Rf1-f5. b5? 2.81/23 ( 22...Re8±

0.92/22 ) 23.axb6!+- Rxb6 24.e5 ]

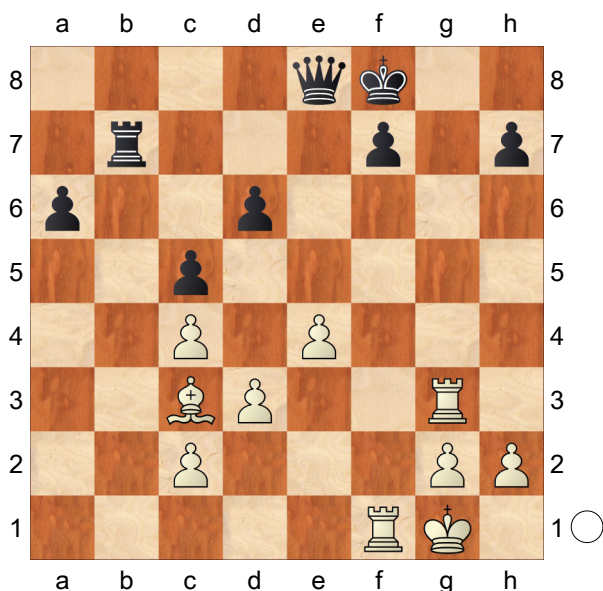
**21...b5 22.axb6! Rxb6 23.Raf1** 1.39/24

[ 23.Rg3+- 1.78/24 Kf8 24.Rg7 ]

**23...Rb7± 24.Rg3+ 0.95/5**

[White should try 24.h3 1.32/23 ]

**24...Kf8**



**25.h4** 0.75/24

[ Δ25.h3! 1.26/23 ]

**25...Qa4 26.Rf2 Qa3 27.Bg7+ Ke7**

1.42/22

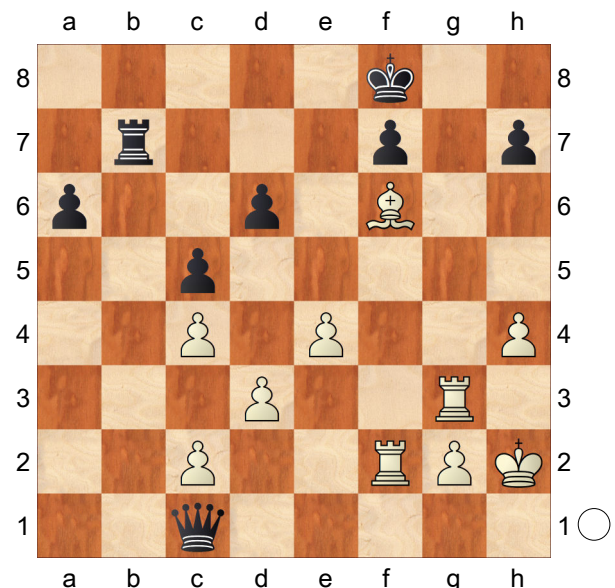
[ Δ27...Ke8 0.80/24 ]

**28.Kh2 Qc1 29.Bf6+ 0.58/21**

[ 29.e5± 1.18/22 ]

**29...Kf8** 1.99/23

[Black should play 29...Kd7± 0.58/21 ]



Black cannot hold the game after this.

**30.Bg5!+- Qe1 31.Rf6 Rd7 32.Rh6**

White's pieces finally catch up with the

black king. **32...f5?** 4.78/25

[ 32...f6 2.85/23 ]

**33.exf5** And now Rh6-f6+ would win.

White is clearly winning. **33...a5** 7.66/26

[ Δ33...Qe5 4.36/24 34.Rf6+ Kg7 ]

**34.Re6 Qc3 35.f6 Qxc2 36.Re7 Rxe7**

**37.fxe7+ Ke8 38.Rf3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.34

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **Khenkin,Igor**

**2602**

■ **Atalik,Suat**

**2632**

Sigeman & Co 14th\_58191 (6) 03.05.06

[Atalik,Suat, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 ( 4.Qf3 d6

5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6

8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3

0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline

5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] )]  
 [ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♚bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**3.e5 Nd5** I usually have a good score  
 with Gruenfeldt,I think I should give  
 more tries in the future to it. **4.Bb2**

[ 4.Nc3 Nxc3 ( 4...e6 5.Bb2 Nc6  
 6.Ne4 Qh4 7.d3 Ne3 8.Qe2 Nxf1  
 9.Nf3 Qh5 10.Kxf1; 4...Nc7 5.d4  
 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qe3 d5 8.exd6  
 Qxd6 9.Bd3 Nb4 10.Be4 Ncd5  
 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Qd4 e6 13.Bb2  
 Qb4+ 14.Kf1 Qxd4 15.Bxd4 ) 5.dxc3  
 Nc6 6.Nf3 d5 ( 6...g6 7.Bc4 Bg7  
 8.0-0 d6 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Qxd6  
 exd6 11.Bf4 ) 7.exd6 exd6 8.Bc4  
 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bf4 ]

#### 4...g6

[ 4...e6 5.Nf3 ( 5.Qg4= Nc6 6.Nf3  
 d6 7.Na3 Nxe5 8.Nxe5 dxe5=  
 Δ9.Bxe5? f6 10.Bb2 ) 5...Nc6 6.g3  
 ( 6.c4= Nc7 7.Nc3 d6 8.exd6 Bxd6  
 9.d4 0-0 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Bd3 e5 )  
 6...Be7± ( 6...g6 7.Na3 Bg7±  
 Of course there is nothing wrong  
 about 8.Nc4 0-0 9.Bg2 b6 10.Nd6 )  
 7.Bg2? 0-0 8.0-0 d6↑ ( 8...f6 9.c4  
 Nc7 10.d4 cxd4 11.exf6 Bxf6  
 12.Nxd4 d5 13.Na3 Qe7± is safer.  
 ♚a5 is not in real trouble. 14.Nac2  
 Nxd4 15.Bxd4? ) 9.Na3?! dxe5  
 10.Nxe5 Nxe5± 11.Bxe5 f6 12.Bb2

e5 13.Qe2 ]

[ 4...Nc6± 5.Nf3

**A) 5...d6** 6.Bb5 Bd7 ( 6...Qb6  
 7.c4 Nc7 8.Ba4; 6...Bg4 7.h3 Bh5  
 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6  
 11.Qd2 cxd4 12.Qxd4 dxe5  
 13.Qxe5 Qd6 14.Rd1 Qxe5+  
 15.Nxe5 ) 7.exd6 e6 8.Nc3 Nf6  
 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Ne5 Rc8 11.d7+  
 Nxd7 12.Nxc6 Rxc6 13.Ne4;  
**B) 5...g6** 6.Ng5 ( 6.Bc4 Nb6  
 7.Bb5 Bg7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0  
 0-0 10.Re1 d6 11.exd6 exd6  
 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.d4 Qf6 )  
 6...Bg7± ( 6...e6 7.Ne4 Bg7  
 8.Nd6+ Kf8 9.Qe2 Qe7 10.a3 f6  
 11.b4 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 fxe5  
 13.bxc5 ) 7.Qf3 ( 7.Nxf7 Kxf7  
 8.Qf3+ Nf6 ) 7...0-0 8.Qxd5 e6  
 9.Qxc5 Qxg5 10.h4 Qf5 11.Bd3  
 Qf4 12.Nc3 b6 13.Qe3 Qxe5  
 14.0-0-0 Bb7 ]

#### 5.Bc4N

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+-- Qxd7? 7.Nc3  
 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4  
 Be6 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2  
 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]  
 [ 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3  
 0-0= I have found 8.Bc4± slow. Nc6!  
 9.0-0! d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Bxg7  
 Kxg7 12.h3 b6± casts doubt on  
 black's ambitious opening play. ]  
 [ 5.Qf3 Nb4 6.Na3 ( 6.Bc4 e6  
 7.Qd1± Bg7 8.c3 Nd5 9.d4 d6 )  
 6...Bg7 7.e6 0-0 8.Bxg7 Kxg7±  
 9.exf7 Rxf7 10.Qg3 d5 11.c3 N4c6 ]

#### 5...Nb6 6.Bd3

[ 6.e6 f6 7.exd7+ Bxd7= ]  
 [ 6.e6 seems wilder. f6 7.Bb5 Bh6  
 8.Nc3 ]

**6...Bg7 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3** Black is slightly  
 better. **8...d6 9.Bb5 Nd5 10.g3 0-0**

**11.Nc3 Nxc3**

[ 11...dxe5?! 12.Bxc6 bxc6  
13.Nxe5= ]

**12.Bxc3 Nd4 13.Bxd4** The first critical position in the game since white is probing the c line.

[Wrong is 13.Nxd4? cxd4 14.Bb2  
( 14.Bxd4? dxe5 15.Bxe5 Qd5--+ )  
14...dxe5--+ ]

**13...cxd4** All of a sudden I came up with a more or less new idea to exchange light square bishops and even losing pawns on the 7th rank but bringing ♖c4 in and thus getting to a2 or creating some additional threats like ♜x♙e3 and ♜h6. However like always everything depends on time.

**14.0-0 dxe5 15.Nxe5 a6 16.Bd3 f6! 17.Nf3 e5 18.fxe5?** A surprising move. **18...fxe5 19.Qe2 Bh3!?** Now black's bishop comes into the game with a very strong effect. **20.Rf2 Re8** And now ... e5-e4! would win. **21.Re1 b5**

Now white's king is in danger. **22.a4 bxa4--+** Igor simply overlooked this somewhere down the line he was calculating. **23.bxa4 a5 0.72/23**

[ 23...Kh8! 0.37/20 ]

**24.Bb5 Bd7** This is the fastest way!

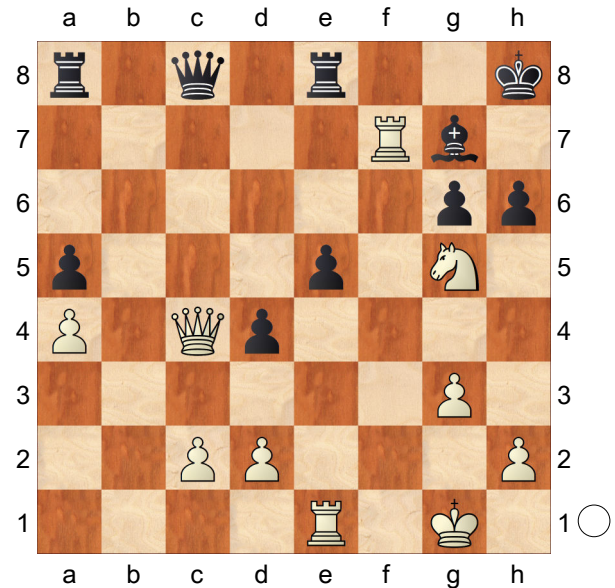
**25.Bxd7 Qxd7 26.Qc4+ Kh8 27.Ng5 h6 0.74/23** I did not want to play the rook ending since still the attack is irresistible.

[ 27...Rac8± 0.43/24 28.Nf7+ Kg8  
29.Nh6+ Kh8 30.Nf7+ Kg8 31.Nh6+ Kh8 32.Nf7+ ]

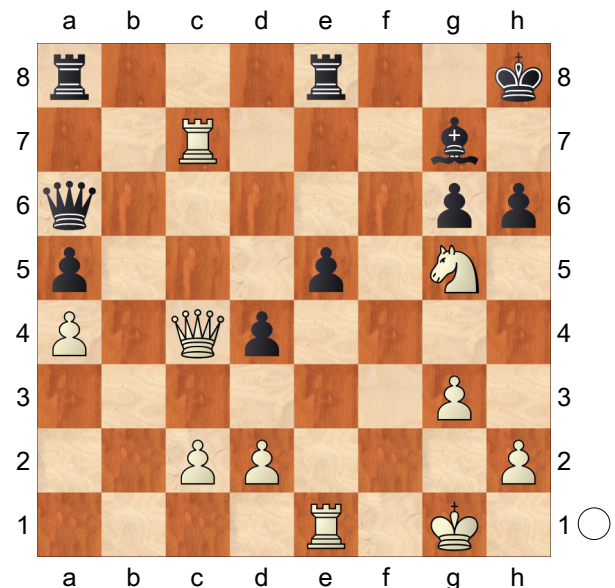
**28.Rf7± Qc8 3.51/26**

[ 28...Re7± 0.56/25 29.Rxe7 Qxe7 ]

(Diagram)

**29.Rc7!+- Qa6**

[ 29...hxg5 30.Rxc8 ]



Threatens to win with ...Qa6xc4. **30.Qf7**  
Igor has resigned here. **30...Qf6**

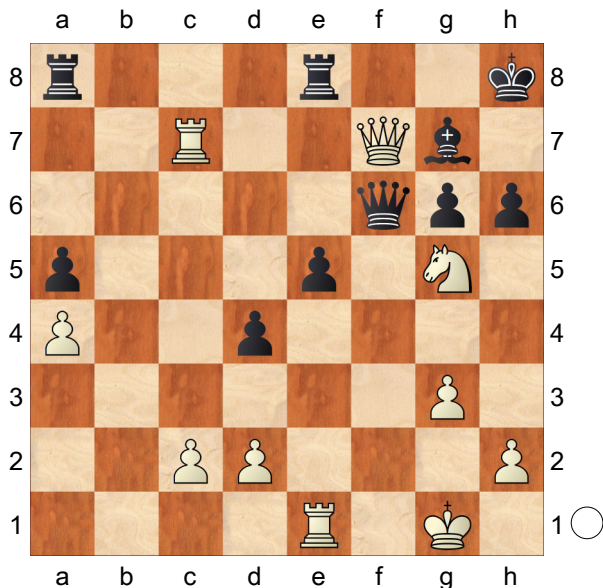
(Diagram)

**31.Qxf6 1.23/23**

[ 31.Qd7!+- 3.99/25 and the rest is easy. hxg5 ( 31...Re7 32.Qxe7 )  
32.Rf1 ]

**31...Bxf6± 32.Nf7+ Kg7 33.Nxe5+-- Re7 1.34/23**





[Better is 33...Kg8 0.88/25]

**34.Rxe7+± Bxe7** Endgame KRB–KRN  
**35.Nc4 Bb4 36.Re6 Rc8 37.d3 Bc3–+ 38.h4 Rb8** 1.84/24

[ 38...Rf8± 1.35/22 39.Kg2 Rf6 40.Re7+ Rf7 ]

**39.Kg2 Rb4** 2.06/26

[ 39...Rf8 1.61/22 was worth a try. 40.Nd6 Bd2 41.Re7+ Kg8 ]

**40.Nxa5 Rxa4 41.Nc4 Ra2!?**

also wins. **42.Ne5 g5** 2.89/21

[ 42...Rxc2+ 1.84/23 43.Kf3 g5 ]

**43.h5 Rxc2+ 44.Kf3 Rh2? 45.g4** Hoping for Re6–g6+. **45...Bb4 46.Rb6 Bf8 47.Ke4± Kh7 48.Kxd4 Bg7**

**49.Kd5 Bxe5–+ 2.81/25**

[ 49...Rf2 1.91/23 50.d4 Rf4 ]

**50.Kxe5+– KR–KR 50...Re2+ 51.Kd5 Rg2 52.Rb4 Rg3 53.Rd4**

[Not 53.Rb7+ Kg8±]

**53...Kg7–+ 54.Kc4** Strongly threatening Rd4–e4. **54...Kf6** 5.07/27

[ 54...Kf7 2.08/28 was necessary. 55.Re4 Rg1 ]

**55.Re4+– Rg1 56.d4** d4–d5 is the strong threat. **56...Rc1+–+ 57.Kb5 Rf1 58.d5!? Rf4 59.Rxf4+ gxf4 60.Kc4 Ke5 61.g5**

[And not 61.Kc5 f3 62.d6 f2=]

**61...Ke4 62.Kc3 Kxd5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.52. Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?

**0–1**

**B20**

□ **Chigaev,Maksim**

**2598**

■ **David,Alexandru Vasile**

**2428**

Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Oct blitz (3) [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5

5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3

Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3

a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6

13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7

16.0–0–0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)–13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3

(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1–0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.f4N**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6

7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7

10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0 Chapter 8–1. e4

c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

[ 4.e5 Nd5 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7

7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6

10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second

Moves–F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**4...Bg7 5.Qf3 0–0 6.e5 Ne8 7.h4! d6** –0.40/19

[ 7...Nc6= 0.04/20 ]

**8.h5±** Black is slightly better. **8...Nc6!**

**9.Qf2** –1.17/19

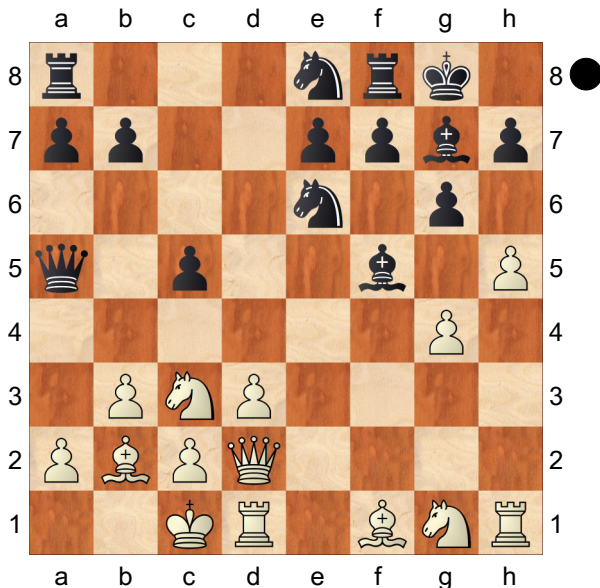
[ 9.hxg6!= 0.07/20 remains equal. fxg6

10.Bc4+ e6 11.Qh3 ]

**9...dxe5± 10.Nc3** –1.47/19



[  $\Delta$ 10.Qxc5 -0.99/20 exf4 11.Bxg7  
Nxc7 12.hxg6 ]  
**10...exf4 11.0-0-0 -1.57/20**  
 [ Better is 11.hxg6 -1.25/20 fxg6  
12.Nf3 ]  
**11...Bf5 12.Qxf4 Nd4 -1.25/20**  
 [ 12...Nb4-+ -1.61/19 And now ...e7-  
e5 would win. 13.a3 Bxc3 14.Bxc3  
Na2+ 15.Kb2 Nxc3 16.Kxc3 Rc8 ]  
**13.d3 Qa5 14.g4 Ne6 0.11/22**  
 &Nero is more active. **15.Qd2? -1.42/21**  
 [ 15.Qg3= 0.11/22 Bxc3 16.Bxc3  
Qxc3 17.Ne2 Qa1+ 18.Kd2 ]



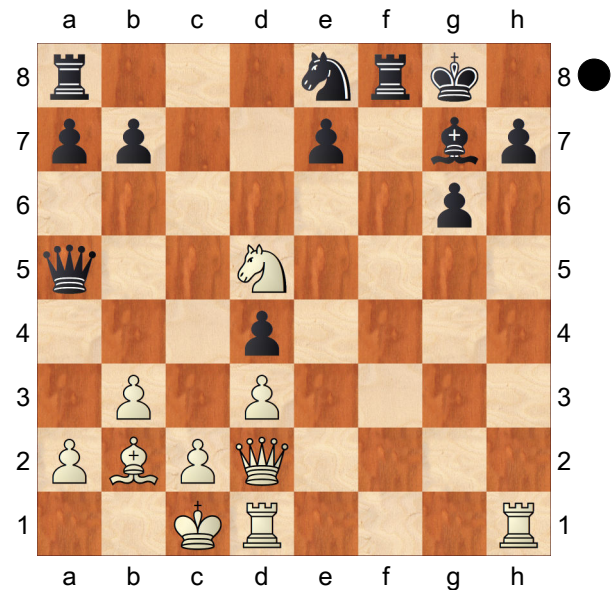
**15...Bxg4 16.Be2 Bxe2 17.Ngxe2 Nd4**  
**18.hxg6 fxg6**

[ Don't play 18...hxg6 19.Kb1= ]  
**19.Nxd4 -1.55/23**  
 [ White should play 19.Qg5 -0.95/20  
Rf5 20.Qxe7 ]  
**19...cxd4 20.Nd5 -5.86/23**  
 [ 20.Ne4 -1.52/22 Qxd2+ 21.Rxd2 ]

(Diagram)

**20...Qxd5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.76/



Black=0.22 (precise)

**0-1**

**Chigaev, Maksim** **B20**  
 **Jakubowski, Krzysztof** **2598**  
**2497**

Speed Chess Super Swiss blitz (12)  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
Pink, J (2683)-11...Qc7 12.Qd2 cd4  
13.c4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3  
Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4  
Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4  
Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4  
h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5  
Polihroniade, E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team

Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

#### 4.f4 b6N

[ 4...d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5 Qe7+ 7.Qe2 Bd7 8.Nf3 a6 9.Bxc6 Qxe2+ 10.Kxe2 Bxc6 11.d4 Nf6 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Nd2 Nd7 14.Rae1 f6 15.Nxc6 Rxc6 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Kf3+ Kf7 18.c3 Rhc8 19.Re2 6.h4 ♗g5 7.hg5 ♕g5 8.♘h-Jovic,L Turkiye 112/222 1989 Lexikon04 [Dragan Solak] ½-½ (52) b5 20.Rd1 Nb6 21.Nf1 Rd8 22.g4 g6 23.h4 Bf8 24.Ng3 Na8 25.Red2 Nc7 26.Rd3 Re8 27.Nf1 Bc5 28.Bc1 Rce6 29.f5 gxf5 30.gxf5 Rc6 31.Bf4 Bd6 32.Bxd6 Rxd6 33.Ne3 Rc6 34.Rg1 6.h4 ♗g5 7.hg5 ♕g5 8.♘h (2390)-Jovic,L (2460) Groningen 1989 ZUS C73 [John Watson] ½-½ (52) ]

**5.Nc3 Bb7 6.Nf3 Qc7 7.Qe2 -0.50/21**  
[ 7.g3± 0.39/20 ]

**7...Qxf4** **8.0-0-0** Black is slightly better. **8...a6 9.g3 Qc7 10.Bg2 Nge7 11.Rhe1 f6 12.Kb1 Ng6 13.h4 -1.27/20**

[ White should play 13.d3 -0.85/19 ]

**13...Nge5 -0.75/20**

[ ♖13...Qxg3 -1.27/20 White must now prevent ...Ng6-f4. 14.Bh1 Qc7 ]

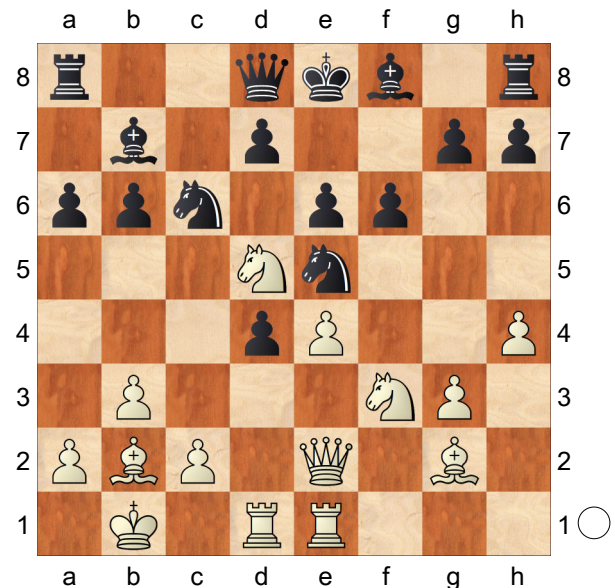
**14.Nd5 -1.69/23 Qd8? 0.87/24**

[ 14...exd5-+ -1.69/23 15.exd5 Nd4 16.Bxd4 cxd4 17.Nxe5 fxe5 18.Qh5+ Kd8 19.Rxe5 Qd6 ]

**15.d4? -0.89/22 cxd4 0.60/24**

[ Black should try 15...Nxf3! -0.89/22 16.Bxf3 cxd4 ]

(Diagram)



**16.Nf4 -0.68/21**

[ Better is 16.Nxd4!± 0.60/24 Ne7 ( 16...Nxd4 17.Bxd4 ) 17.Nxe6! dxe6 18.Nxf6+! gxf6 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rf1 ]

**16...Bb4 0.31/23**

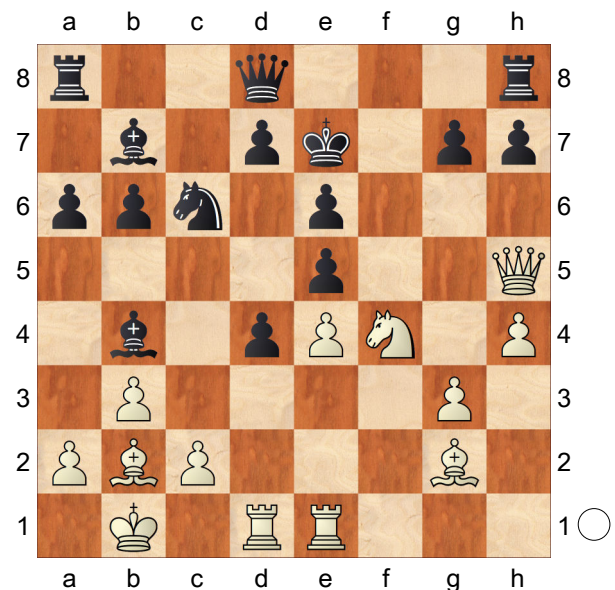
[ 16...Bc5 -0.68/21 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Bxd4 19.Rxd4 Qc7 ]

**17.Nxe5!± fxe5? 1.64/22**

[ 17...Nxe5= 0.01/24 and Black has nothing to worry. 18.Bxd4 Bd6 ]

**18.Qh5+- Ke7 2.42/22**

[ 18...Kf8 1.76/25 was necessary. ]



**19.Nd3?** -0.53/24

[ 19.Nd5+!+- 2.42/22 Kd6 20.Nxb4  
Nxb4 21.Ba3 ( 21.Bxd4 exd4  
22.Rxd4+ Kc7± )]

**19...Bxe1** 20.Rxe1 -2.19/22

[ 20.Ba3+± -0.78/25 d6 21.Nxe5  
Nxe5 22.Qxe5 ]

**20...Kd6?** -0.47/22

[ 20...d6!+- -2.19/22 And now ...Qd8-  
e8 would win. 21.c3 ( 21.Rf1?  
Rf8+- ) 21...g6 ]

**21.Nxe5!** Threatens to win with Ne5-f7+.

Remove Defender **21...Nxe5** 0.65/21

[ 21...Kc7!± -0.39/17 ]

**22.Ba3+± Kc7 23.Qxe5+ d6** 0.85/22

[ 23...Kc8± 0.46/24 ]

**24.Qxg7+** 0.41/23

[ 24.Qxe6± 0.85/22 aiming for Re1-f1.  
Rf8 25.Qc4+ Kb8 26.Qxd4 ]

**24...Qd7 25.Qxd4 Rhg8** 0.97/23

[ 25...Rad8± 0.65/24 should be  
considered. ]

**26.Rd1** White has strong compensation.

&Bianco is much more active. **26...Rad8**

**27.Rd3** 0.50/22

[ 27.Bh3± 0.98/21 ]

**27...b5?** 4.94/26

[ 27...Bc6± 0.50/22 ]

**28.Rc3+?** 1.34/24

[ 28.Qa7+- 4.94/26 has better winning  
chances. Qc6 29.Bb4 ]

**28...Kb8± 29.Qb6 e5** 2.10/25

[ 29...a5± 1.35/18 is a better  
defense. ]

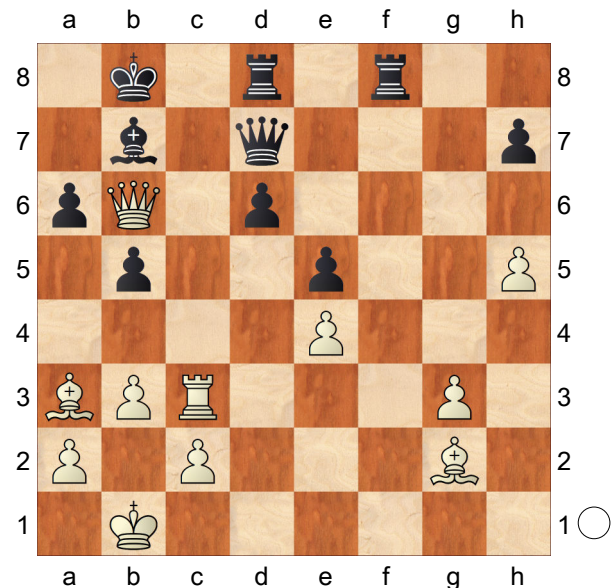
**30.h5 Rgf8?** 5.61/25

[ 30...b4± 1.31/26 31.Bxb4 Ka8 ]

(Diagram)

**31.Bb4?** 2.14/24

[ 31.Bh3! 5.61/25 Qf7 32.Bf5 ]



**31...Rf6?** 5.66/24

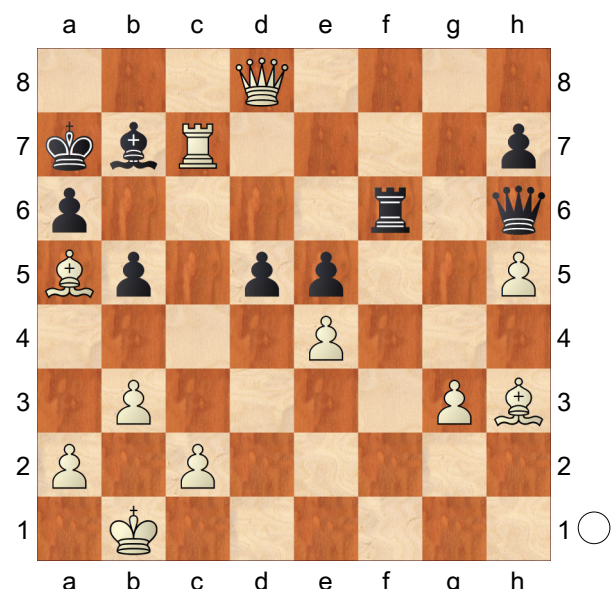
[ 31...Rg8 2.14/24 is tougher. 32.Kb2  
( 32.Rd3 Qc6± ) 32...Rc8 ]

**32.Bh3!+-** Deflection **32...Qg7** #11/20

[ 32...Qe7+- 5.15/23 33.Ba5 Rf7  
34.Qxd8+ Qxd8 35.Bxd8 Bxe4 ]

**33.Ba5** 9.71/22

[ 33.Qxd8+ #11/20 Ka7 34.Ba5 d5  
35.Rc7 Qh6



**36.Rxb7+!** Kxb7 **37.Bc8+** Ka8

**38.Be6+** Kb7 **39.Qc7+** Ka8 **40.Qc6+**  
Kb8 **41.Bc7+** Ka7 **42.Bb6+** Kb8  
**43.Qc8#** ]

**33...Rdf8 34.Rc7 Qxc7 35.Qxc7+ Ka8**



**36.Bf5 h6 37.Bb4 Rc8 38.Qe7**

13.20/24

[ 38.Bxc8 #9/20 Bxe4 39.Bxd6  
Rxd6 40.Qxd6 Bh1 41.Qxh6 Kb8  
42.Bxa6 Kc7 43.Bxb5 ]

**38...Rcf8 39.Bxd6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.77/

Black=1.29

**1-0**

□ **Chigaev,Maksim**

■ **Svane,Frederik**

Speed Chess Super Swiss blitz (2)

[MH]

**B40**

**2598**

**2421**

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6 4.Nf3 d5**

[ 4...d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7  
7.Nb5 Qb8 8.Ba3 d5 9.exd5 Qe5+  
10.Be2 Bxa3 11.N1xa3 exd5 12.f4  
Qxf4 13.Qxd5 Nf6 14.Qd6 Qxd6  
15.Nxd6+ Ke7 16.0-0-0 Rab8  
17.Rhe1 Kf8 18.Bc4 Nd8 19.Nab5  
12.♙f2 g5 13.♚c1 (2564)-Pina,J  
(2573) USSR 36/(516) 2004 OR:  
Modern Benoni [FS-70/204] 1-0  
(42) ]

[ 4...a6 5.c4 Qc7 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5  
Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5  
10.0-0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2  
Qd6 Filip,L-10.d5 ♙f3 11.gf3 Villa  
Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/  
Meyer,CD] ]

**5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5 Nf6 7.0-0N**

[ 7.Qe2+ Qe7 8.Ne5 Bd7 9.0-0  
Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Bxb5 11.Qxb5+ Qd7  
12.Nc3 0-0-0 13.Qa5 b6 14.Qa6+  
Qb7 15.Qd3 Bd6 16.f4 Bxe5  
17.fxe5 Ne4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Qc4  
Rh8 20.Rf2 Rd4 21.Qc3 Qd7

Chapter 14 Part 2-Game 1 Game 1  
(47) ]

**7...Be7 8.Ne5** The position is equal.

**8...Bd7 9.Nxd7 Qxd7 10.d4 0-0**

**11.dxc5 a6 12.Bxc6 bxc6** 0.68/20

[ 12...Qxc6= 0.28/22 might be  
stronger. 13.b4 b6 ]

**13.b4** 0.33/23

[ 13.Nd2 0.68/20 is superior. ]

**13...a5 14.a3 Rfb8 15.Be5 Rb7 16.c3**

**Ne4 17.Nd2 Qf5 18.Bd4 Ng5 19.Re1**

**Ne6 20.Nf3 f6?** 4.65/23 Loses the

game.

[ 20...Rc8± 1.22/20 is a better chance.  
21.Be5 ( 21.bxa5 Ra7± ) 21...Bf6 ]

**21.Be3?** 1.83/21

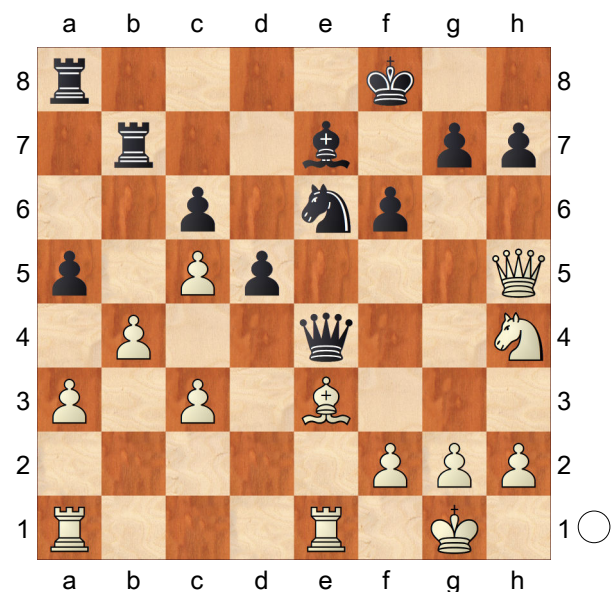
[ 21.Nh4 4.65/23 Qg5 22.Rxe6 Qxh4  
23.Qa4 ]

**21...Kf7?** 4.43/20

[ 21...g5 1.83/21 22.Nd4 Nxd4  
23.Bxd4 axb4 ]

**22.Nd4?** 1.59/23

[ 22.Nh4+- 4.43/20 is the precise  
move to win. Qe4 23.Qh5+ ( 23.Bg5  
Qc4+- ) 23...Kf8



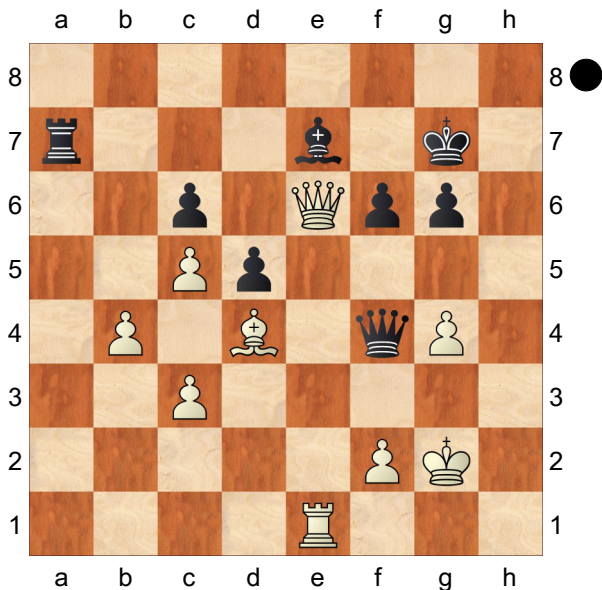
**24.Bh6!** ]

**22...Nxd4± 23.Bxd4 axb4 24.axb4**

**Rba7** 2.88/21



[ 24...Rxa1± 1.58/22 25.Qxa1 Bd8 ]  
**25.Rxa7+- Rxa7 26.h3 h5** 2.36/25  
 [ 26...Rc7 1.92/23 27.Qe2 Qd7 ]  
**27.Qe2** aiming for b4-b5. **27...g6?**  
 3.67/23  
 [ 27...Rc7 1.95/22 28.Qe3 h4 ]  
**28.g4 hxg4 29.hxg4 Qf4** 5.30/21  
 [ 29...Qe4 2.49/25 keeps fighting.  
 30.Qxe4 dxe4 31.Rxe4 g5 ]  
**30.Qe6+ Kg7 31.Kg2**



Threatens to win with b4-b5! **31...Qd2?**  
 15.09/21

[ 31...Bd8 3.10/23 32.Be3 ( 32.Qxc6  
 Qxg4+ 33.Kf1 Qh3+ 34.Kg1 Qg4+  
 35.Kh1 Qh4+ 36.Kg1 Qg4+ 37.Kf1  
 Qh3+ 38.Kg1 Qg4+= ) 32...Qe4+  
 33.Qxe4 dxe4 ]

**32.Re3** And now g4-g5 would win.

**32...g5 33.Rf3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/  
 Black=0.76

**1-0**

**B20**  
**2598**

Chigaev,Maksim

Barrientos Chavarriaga,Sergio E

Speed Chess Super Swiss blitz (11)

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5N**

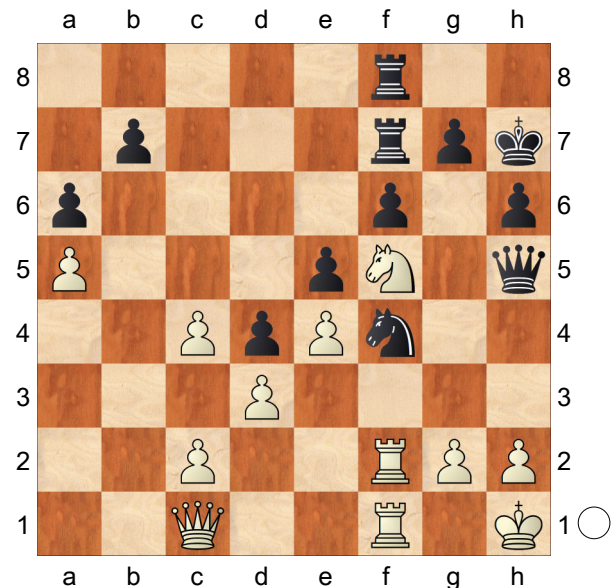
[ 3...Nf6 4.Bxf6 ( 4.Bb5+ Bd7  
 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3 Nc6 7.f4 e6  
 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7  
 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4  
 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5  
 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1  
 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns  
 [Gotham] ) 4...gxf6 5.Qh5 Bg7 6.Nc3  
 Nc6 7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3 e6 9.f5 exf5  
 10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2  
 d5 13.0-0 b5 14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8  
 16.Nd4 Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Kf1  
 14.h4 b4 15.2e2 e5 16.2a7 (2183)-  
 Kuebler,J (2500) Chessfriend.com  
 2014 200 Traps In The Opening  
 [Evening Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/  
 1888] 0-1 (45) ]  
 [ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6  
 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6  
 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0  
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7  
 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5  
 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6  
 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
 11.2e1 h6 12.2b1 2d7\_99 (1874)-  
 Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
 0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0  
 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0  
 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.2f3 g5 5.g  
 (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)  
 Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada

[Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

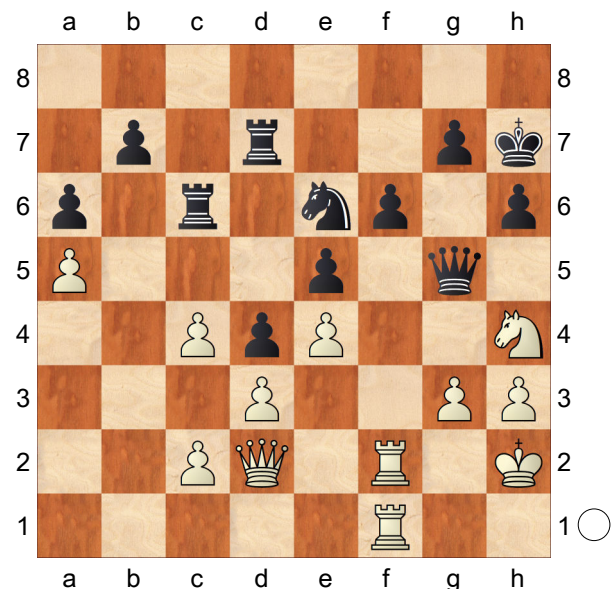
**4.Bc4 Be7 5.d3 Nc6 6.Ne2 Be6**  
**7.Nbc3 Nf6 8.0-0** White has an edge.  
**8...0-0 9.a4 a6 10.f4 Bxc4 0.71/20**  
 [ 10...Nd4= 0.17/19 ]  
**11.bxc4± Nd4 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Kh1**  
**Rb8 14.a5 Ne8 15.Nd5 Nc7 16.Nec3**  
**Nc6 17.Nxe7+ Nxe7 1.32/23**  
 [ 17...Qxe7 0.78/23 18.Nd5 Qd6 ]  
**18.Ne2 0.39/23**  
 [ Better is 18.Na4± 1.32/23 ]  
**18...Nc6± 19.Ng3 Ne6 20.Nf5 f6**  
**21.Bc3 Qe8 22.Ne3 Qg6 23.Nd5**  
**Rfd8 24.Rb1 Rd7 25.Qf3 h6 1.13/23**  
 [ 25...Ned4± 0.68/20 26.Qh3 Rbd8 ]  
**26.Qh3± Re8 27.Rf2 Kh7 28.Rbf1**  
 Hoping for Rf2xf6!  
 [ 28.Bd2 seems wilder. Rf7 29.Rb6  
 Ng5 30.Qf5 ]  
**28...Rf7 29.Qe3 0.21/20**  
 [ 29.Bd2± 0.69/19 ]  
**29...Ncd4 0.62/20**  
 [ 29...Ref8!= 0.21/20 ]  
**30.Qc1 Ref8 31.Ne3 Nf4 32.Bxd4**  
**cxd4 33.Nf5 -0.01/24**  
 [ White should play 33.Nd5± 0.58/23 ]  
**33...Qh5 0.56/22**  
 [ 33...Rd7= -0.01/24 ]

(Diagram)

**34.Qd2 0.05/23**  
 [ 34.Nxd4!± 0.56/22 exd4 35.Qxf4 ]  
**34...Ne6 35.Qb4 Rd7 36.Qb6 -0.01/22**  
 [ 36.Ne7± 0.42/23 ]  
**36...Qf7 37.h3 Rfd8 38.Kh2 Rc7**  
**39.Ng3 Rc6 40.Qb4 Rd7 41.Nf5 Qf8**  
**42.Qd2 Qf7 43.Rf3 Nf4 44.g3**  
 [ 44.Rb1 keeps more tension. Qh5  
 45.Rf2 Rcc7 46.Rbf1 ]  
**44...Ne6 45.R3f2 -0.34/20**



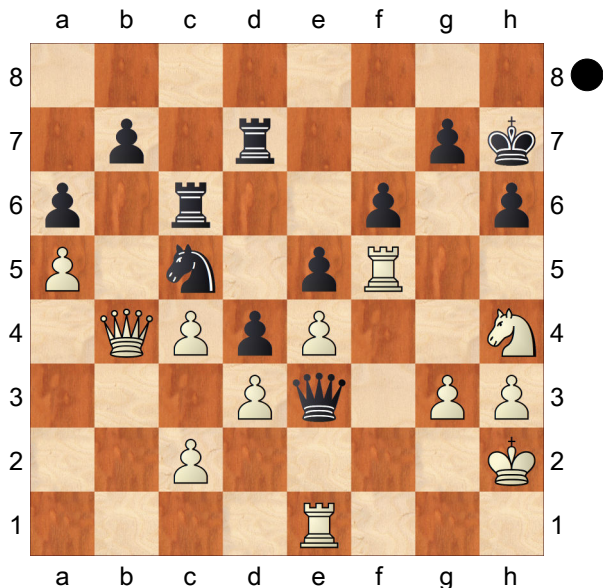
[ 45.Nxh6= -0.01/21 deserves  
 consideration. gxh6 46.Rxf6 ]  
**45...Qg6 46.Nh4 Qg5 2.87/23**  
 [ 46...Qe8= -0.30/22 ]



**47.Qb4? -0.18/23**  
 [ 47.Qd1!+- 2.87/23 Rf2-f5 is the  
 strong threat. f5 48.Rxf5 ]  
**47...Nc5 48.Rf5 Qe3 49.Ng2**  
 [ Much weaker is 49.Re1

(Diagram)

Nxd3! 50.cxd3 Qxd3± ]



**49...Qe2 50.R5f2 Qh5 51.Qd2 Qg5**

**52.Qe1 Qh5 53.Nh4** -0.39/17

[ 53.Qd2!= 0.01/18 might be stronger. ]

**53...Ne6** -0.04/14

[ 53...b6 $\bar{f}$  -0.39/17 should be considered. ]

**54.Ng2** -0.44/21

[ 54.Qd2= -0.04/14 is more appropriate. ]

**54...Ng5 55.h4** Strongly threatening g3-g4! **55...Ne6 56.Rf5 Qg6 57.Kh3 b6** & Nero is more active. **58.g4** -1.74/22

[ 58.axb6 $\bar{f}$  -0.63/19 Rb7 59.Qa5 ]

**58...b5-- 59.h5 Qe8 60.cxb5 axb5**

**61.R5f2 Ng5+ 62.Kh2 Qc8** White must now prevent ...Rd7-c7. **63.Qb1** -2.94/24  
[  $\triangleleft$ 63.Qd1 -1.80/17 ]

**63...Rdc7 64.Rc1?** -7.42/22

[ 64.Kg3 -3.36/23 ]

**64...Qxg4 65.Qxb5 Qxh5+**

Black mates. **66.Kg1 Nh3+ 67.Kf1**

**Nxf2 68.Kxf2 Rxc2+ 69.Rxc2 Rxc2+**

**70.Kg1 Qg4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)

**0-1**

□ **Chigaev,Maksim**

■ **Jobava,Baadur**

**B20**

**2598**

**2603**

Speed Chess Invitational blitz (1.10)

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink,J (2683)-11... $\text{Qc7}$  12. $\text{Qd2}$  cd4

13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 Nf6N**

[ 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6

**A) 7.Qe2** e6 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3  
Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4

12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4

14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2

16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3

Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5 20.Nf6+ Kh8

21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4 Be7

1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4. $\text{Qf3}$  g5 5.g

(2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C

(2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/

Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ) 8...Nf6

9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0

12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4

Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5

17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4

Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5

11. $\text{Qe1}$  h6 12. $\text{Qb1}$   $\text{Qd7}$  99 (1874)-

Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023

Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]

0-1 (59);

**B) 7.d3** Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7

10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0

12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5



Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6  
17.Rh4 d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3  
d4 20.Ne4 Chapter 13 Part 2–  
Game 2 Game 2 ]

6.d3 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bxc6  
Bxc6 10.Qe2 Nd7 0.18/18

[  $\triangleleft$ 10...b5 -0.13/19 ]

11.c4 b5 12.Nc3 bxc4 13.dxc4 a5  
14.a4 Qb8 15.Nb5 Qb7 16.Rfe1 Rfd8  
17.Rad1 Nf6 18.e5 Bxf3 19.Qxf3  
Qxf3 20.gxf3 Ne8 21.f5 d5 22.fxe6  
0.01/23

[ 22.cxd5± 0.48/22 exd5 23.f4 ]

22...fxe6= 23.cxd5 exd5 24.f4 g6!  
25.Kg2 Rab8 26.Bc3↑ White has the  
initiative. 26...Ra8 27.Kf3 d4 28.Bd2  
Ng7 29.Na3 Rdb8 30.Rb1 Ne6  
0.44/21

[ 30...Rf8= -0.01/16 feels stronger. ]

31.Nc4± Bd8 32.Ke4 Kf7 1.38/21

[ 32...Ng7!± 0.60/21 ]

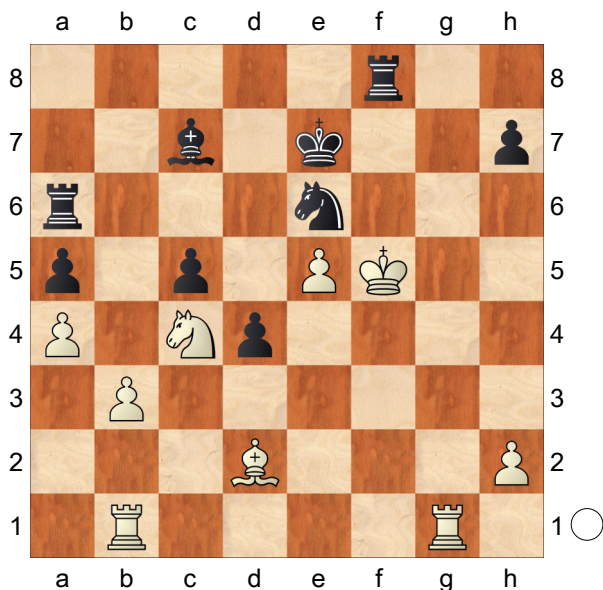
33.f5± gxf5+ 34.Kxf5 Ra6 35.Nd6+  
1.30/23

[ White should try 35.Ke4+- 1.65/20 ]

35...Ke7 36.Rg1 &Bianco is much more  
active. 36...Bc7 1.53/23

[ Better is 36...Kd7 0.90/20 ]

37.Nc4 Rf8+



38.Ke4! Rf2 39.Rbf1 Rxh2 40.Rg8

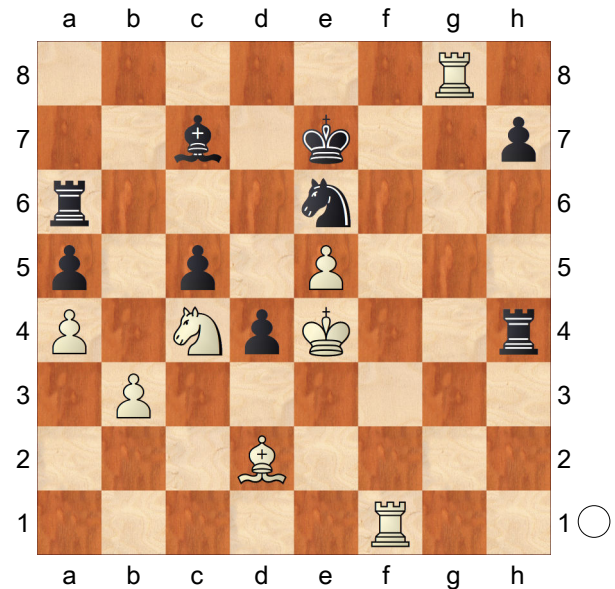
1.14/23

[ 40.Rh1+- 1.89/19 Re2+ 41.Kd3 ]

40...Rh4+ 1.61/21

[ 40...Re2+± 1.14/23 was worth a try.

41.Kd3 Rh2 ]



41.Kd5!+- Black must now prevent  
Rf1-f6. The board is on fire. 41...Bb8?

4.17/22 42.Rxb8? 0.01/17

[ 42.Bg5+- 4.17/22 Nxg5 43.Rxg5 ]

42...Nc7+= The position is equal.

43.Kxc5 Threatening mate with Bd2-  
g5+. 43...Ne6+ 44.Kb5 Intending Rb8-

b7+ and mate. 44...Nc7+ 45.Kc5 Ne6+  
46.Kd5 White threatens Bd2-g5+! and  
mate. 46...Nc7+ 47.Kc5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.27

(precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)

1/2-1/2



**B20**  
 **Chigaev,Maksim** **2598**  
 **Klekowski,Maciej** **2512**

Titled Tuesday intern op 27th Oct blitz (6)  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3  
 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4  
 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4  
 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4  
 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5  
 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
 alternatives Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**4.f4 d5 5.e5N**

[ 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5 Qe7+ 7.Qe2  
 Bd7 8.Nf3 a6 9.Bxc6 Qxe2+  
 10.Kxe2 Bxc6 11.d4 Nf6 12.Ne5  
 Rc8 13.Nd2 Nd7 14.Rae1 f6  
 15.Nxc6 Rxc6 16.dxc5 Bxc5  
 17.Kf3+ Kf7 18.c3 Rhc8 19.Re2 b5  
 6.h4 ♕g5 7.hg5 ♔g5 8.♘h-Jovic,L  
 Turkiye 112/222 1989 Lexikon04  
 [Dragan Solak] ½-½ (52) 20.Rd1  
 Nb6 21.Nf1 Rd8 22.g4 g6 23.h4  
 Bf8 24.Ng3 Na8 25.Red2 Nc7  
 26.Rd3 Re8 27.Nf1 Bc5 28.Bc1  
 Rce6 29.f5 gxf5 30.gxf5 Rc6 31.Bf4  
 Bd6 32.Bxd6 Rxd6 33.Ne3 Rc6

34.Rg1 h5 6.h4 ♕g5 7.hg5 ♔g5 8.♘h  
 (2390)-Jovic,L (2460) Groningen  
 1989 ZUS C73 [John Watson] ½-½  
 (52) ]

**5...g5 6.Qh5 gxf4 7.Nh3 Nge7** 0.19/20  
 [ 7...a6♞ -0.34/20 ]

**8.Nxf4** -0.59/20

[Reject 8.Ng5 Ng6 9.Be2 Ncxe5  
 10.Nxe6 Bxe6♞ ]  
 [ 8.Bb5!= 0.19/20 ]

**8...Ng6♞ 9.g3 Bg7 10.Bb5 Bd7**

**11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Rf1** -0.99/22

[ 12.d4♞ -0.68/20 might be stronger. ]

**12...Qc7♞ 13.d4 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Bxe5**  
 -0.48/22

[ 14...0-0-0♞ -1.11/22 15.a4 Nxe5 ]

**15.Bxe5** -1.60/22

[White has to play 15.Nxg6♞ -0.48/22  
 Bxd4 16.Nxh8 Bxh8 17.c3 ]

**15...Qxe5+ 16.Qxe5 Nxe5 17.Nd2 h5**  
 -1.14/22

[ 17...Ng4-+ -1.63/21 ...Ng4-e3 is the  
 strong threat. 18.Nf3 e5 ]

**18.0-0-0** -1.93/21

[ 18.Nd3♞ -1.14/22 Ng4 19.Nf3 ]

**18...Ke7** -0.88/21

[ 18...h4!-+ -1.93/21 is more deadly.  
 19.Rde1 hxg3! 20.hxg3 Nd7 ]

**19.Rde1 Kd6 20.Rd1 Ke7** -0.01/19

[Better is 20...Ng4♞ -1.13/20 21.h3  
 Nf6 ]

**21.Rfe1** -1.23/22

[ 21.Rde1!= -0.01/19 Kd6 22.Rd1 ]

**21...f6 22.Re3 Rag8 23.Rde1** -1.96/21

[ 23.Rf1♞ -1.37/22 was worth a try. ]

**23...d4** -1.27/24

[ 23...Kf7-+ -1.96/21 24.Nd3 Nxd3+  
 25.cxd3 e5 ]

**24.Rxe5** -2.38/21

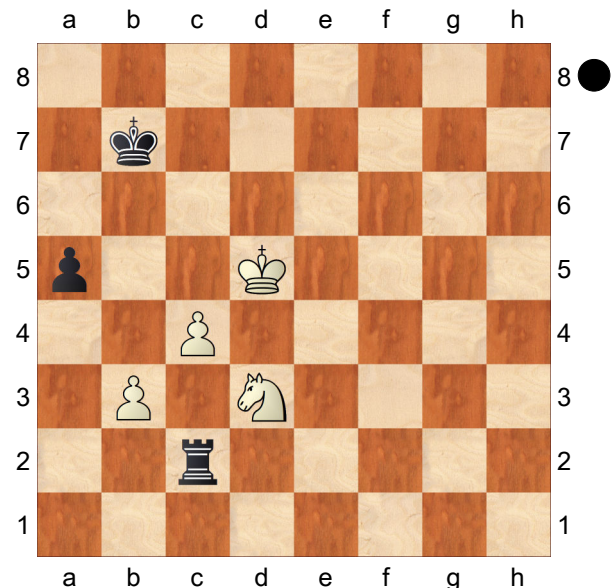
[ 24.R3e2♞ -1.27/24 only move. ]

**24...fxe5-+ 25.Rxe5 h4** -1.37/24

[ 25...Rh6-+ -1.86/19 26.Nxh5 b5 ]

**26.Rxe6+ ♣ Kd7 27.Nc4 hxc3 28.Ne5+ Kc7 29.hxc3 Re8** Against Re6-e7+  
**30.Nxc6** And now Re6xe8 would win.  
**30...Rxe6** Remove Defender **31.Nxe6+ Kxc6 32.Nxd4+** Endgame KR-KN  
**32...Kd5 33.Nb5 a6** Black has strong compensation. **34.Nc3+ Kd4 35.Ne2+ Ke3 36.Nf4 Rg8 37.Nd5+ Kd4 38.Nf4 Ke4 39.Ne6 Kd5** Inhibits Ne6-c5.  
**40.Nf4+ Ke5 41.Ne2 Ke4 42.Kd2 Rd8+ 43.Kc1 Kf3 44.Nf4 Kxc3 45.Ne6 Rd5 46.c4 Re5 47.Nd4 Kf4 48.Kd2 Ke4 49.Nc2 -2.66/30**  
 [ 49.Kc3 ♣ -1.43/27 was necessary. ]  
**49...Rh5-+ 50.Kc3 Rh2 51.Nb4 Ke5 -1.16/32**  
 [ 51...a5-+ -2.61/29 and Black stays clearly on top. 52.Nc2 b6 ]  
**52.Nd3+ ♣ Ke4 0.00/29**  
 [ 52...Kd6 ♣ -1.26/28 53.a3 Rg2 ]  
**53.Nc5+= Ke5 54.Nxb7 Rxa2 55.Kb4 Ke6 56.Nc5+ Kd6 57.Na4! Kc7 58.Ka5 Kb7 59.Kb4 Rh2 60.Nc3 -0.55/30**  
 [ 60.Kc5= -0.21/29 ]  
**60...Kb6 61.Nd5+ Kc6 62.Nc3 Rh8 63.Ne2 Rb8+ 64.Kc3 -0.66/29**  
 [ 64.Ka4= -0.22/26 ]  
**64...a5! ♣ 65.Nd4+ Kc5 66.Ne6+ Kd6 67.Nd4 Rh8 68.Nc2 Kc5 -0.14/32**  
 [ 68...Rh3+ ♣ -0.85/29 69.Kb2 Kc5 ]  
**69.Ne1 -0.72/26**  
 [ 69.b4+= -0.14/32 axb4+ 70.Nxb4 ]  
**69...Rh3+ ♣ 70.Nd3+ Kc6 71.Kd4 Rh4+ 72.Kc3 Kb6 -0.17/29**  
 [ 72...Rh2! ♣ -0.72/29 ]  
**73.Kc2 -0.64/29**  
 [ 73.b4!= -0.17/29 should be considered. ]  
**73...Rh3 74.Kc3 Rh2 75.Kd4 Kc6 -0.27/30**  
 [ 75...Kc7 ♣ -0.63/29 ]

**76.Kc3 -0.64/28**  
 [ 76.Ne5+= -0.27/30 Kb6 77.c5+ Kb5 78.c6 ]  
**76...Rh3 0.01/28**  
 [ 76...Re2 ♣ -0.64/28 ]  
**77.Kd4= Kd6 78.Kc3 Rh2 79.Kd4 Rc2 -0.47/31**  
 [ Black should play 79...Rh5 ♣ -0.85/28 ]  
**80.Nf4 -0.80/30**  
 [ 80.c5+ ♣ -0.47/31 was preferable. Kc6 81.Ne5+ Kb5 82.Nc4 ]  
**80...Kc6 81.Nd5 Rh2** White must now prevent ...Rh2-h3. **82.Nf4** Inhibits Rh2-h3. **82...Rf2 83.Nd3 Rc2 -0.47/30**  
 [ 83...Rd2 ♣ -0.88/30 ]  
**84.Ne5+ ♣ Kb6 85.Nd3 Kb7 -0.17/31**  
 [ 85...Rg2 ♣ -0.76/28 ]  
**86.Kd5 -0.91/30**  
 [ 86.b4= -0.17/31 remains equal. ]



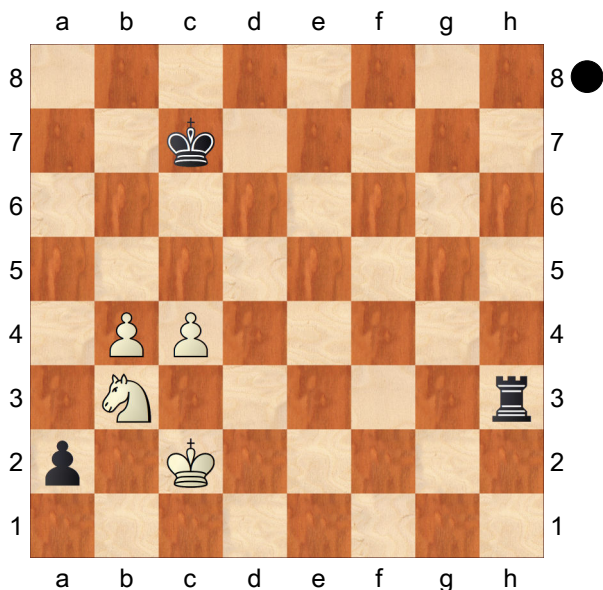
**86...Kb6 0.01/26**  
 [ 86...Rd2! ♣ -0.91/30 87.Kd4 Kb6 ]  
**87.Kd4= Ka7 88.Nf4 -0.86/29**  
 [ 88.c5 ♣ -0.47/29 ]  
**88...Ka6 -0.35/28**  
 [ Black should try 88...Rb2 ♣ -0.86/29 89.Kc3 Rh2 ]  
**89.Nd3 -0.84/29**

[ 89.Ne6 $\bar{f}$  -0.35/28 ]  
**89...Kb6 $\bar{f}$  90.Nf4 Rf2 91.Nd3 Rd2**  
**92.Kc3 Rh2** -0.01/25

[ 92...Rg2 $\bar{f}$  -0.75/27 ]  
**93.b4?** -5.57/33 This move loses the game for White.

[ 93.Kd4= -0.01/25 ]  
**93...a4-+ 94.Nc5 a3 95.Na4+?**  
 -15.65/17

[ 95.Nb3 -2.96/21 ]  
**95...Ka6?** -2.96/22  
 [ 95...Kc7 -15.65/17 ( -> ...a3-a2)  
 96.Nc5 a2 97.Nb3 Rh3+ 98.Kc2



Rxb3! 99.Kxb3 a1Q 100.c5 Qd4  
 101.b5 Qxc5 102.b6+ Kxb6 103.Kb2  
 Kc6 104.Ka2 Qb4 105.Ka1 Kb5  
 106.Ka2 Kc4 107.Ka1 Kc3 108.Ka2  
 Qb2# ]

**96.b5+?** -#12/22  
 [ 96.Nc5+-+ -2.96/22 Kb6 97.Nb3 ]

**96...Ka5 97.Nc5 a2 98.Nb3+ Ka4**  
**99.Na1 Ka3 100.b6 Rb2** Strongly  
 threatening ...Rb2-b1. **101.c5 Rb1**  
 -5.67/23

[  $\Delta$ 101...Rb5 -14.67/23 102.Nc2+  
 Ka4 ]  
**102.Nc2+ Ka4 103.Kd3 Rb3+** -7.45/23  
 [  $\Delta$ 103...Kb5 -#18/21 104.Kd4 Kc6

105.Ke5 Kxc5 106.Kf4 Kxb6  
 107.Kf3 Kc5 108.Ke3 Rc1 109.Nd4  
 Rc3+ 110.Ke4 Rc4 111.Kf5 Rxd4  
 112.Kf6 a1Q 113.Kg6 Rf4 114.Kh6  
 Qg1 115.Kh5 Rf8 116.Kh6 Rh8# ]

**104.Kd4 Rb2 105.b7 Rxb7 106.c6**  
**Rb2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.23  
 (precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)  
**0-1**

**B40**  
 ◻ **Shimanov,Aleksandr** **2597**  
 ◼ **Korchmar,Vasiliy** **2450**

Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Apr blitz (8)  
 [MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.Bb2 Nc6**  
**5.d4**

[ 5.c4 d5 ( 5...Qc7 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5  
 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5  
 10.0-0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2  
 Qd6 Filip,L-10.d5  $\mathfrak{Q}$ f3 11.gf3 Villa  
 Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/  
 Meyer,CD] ) 6.cxd5 exd5 7.exd5 Nb4  
 8.Be2 Nf6 9.0-0 Be7 10.d4 cxd4  
 11.Nxd4 0-0 12.Nc3 Nbx d5  
 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bf3 Bf6 15.Qd2  
 Ne7 16.Rad1 Qb6 17.Rfe1 Rd8  
 18.Bc3 a5 19.Qb2 Bd7 7.a4  $\mathfrak{Q}$ bd7 8.  
 $\mathfrak{Q}$ e3 (2584)-Hookham,H (2536)

United States 2013 FS: The Queen's  
 Gambit [Walker,George]  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  (77) ]

**5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qf6N**

[ 6...Nf6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 exd5  
 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nf5 Bxf5 11.Bxf5 0-0  
 12.Nd2 Bc5 13.Nf3 Ne4 14.c4 Ne7  
 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Ne5 Nc6 17.Nxc6  
 bxc6 18.Qg4 Bd4 19.Rad1 f5  
 20.Qf4 c5 21.Bxd4 Dumankyzy,A-11.

Ne5 and 12.Nxd7 7...♙b4 1971  
Informant 61 [Keilhack/Schlenker] 1-0  
(42) ]

**7.c3 Bc5 8.Be2 Nge7** The position is  
equal. **9.0-0 Ng6** 0.30/19

[ ♖9...0-0 -0.11/20 ]

**10.Na3** -0.11/20

[ ♗10.Ba3 0.30/19 Bxd4 11.cxd4 ]

**10...0-0= 11.Nac2 e5 12.Nf5**

[ 12.Nf3 feels hotter. Nf4 13.Bc1 d6  
14.Bc4 ]

**12...Nce7** 0.65/21

[ 12...d5= -0.17/20 ]

**13.Nfe3** -0.07/20 & Bianco is more  
active.

[ 13.b4± 0.65/21 Bb6 14.Nd6 ]

**13...d6** 0.24/14

[ 13...Nf4 -0.07/20 should be  
considered. ]

**14.c4 Nf4 15.Bf3 b5 16.Kh1 Be6**  
0.26/22

[ ♗16...Rd8 -0.19/20 ]

**17.cxb5 axb5 18.b4 Ba7 19.Qxd6**  
[ 19.a4!? ]

**19...Neg6 20.Qd1 Rfd8** -0.04/23

[ 20...Nh4♞ -0.44/19 21.Nd5 Bxd5  
22.exd5 Nxf3 23.Qxf3 Rfc8 ]

**21.Nd5 Qg5 22.Nce3 Rac8** 0.24/24

[ 22...Nh4♞ -0.37/23 ]

**23.a4 bxa4 24.Rxa4 Bxe3**

Remove Defender **25.fxe3 Nxd5**

Remove Defender **26.exd5**

Black should prevent e3-e4. **26...Bd7**  
0.58/20

[ Better is 26...Qxe3= 0.01/22 27.Ra6  
Bf5 ]

**27.Ra5** 0.01/20

[ 27.Ra3± 0.58/20 ]

**27...Nh4** 1.21/18

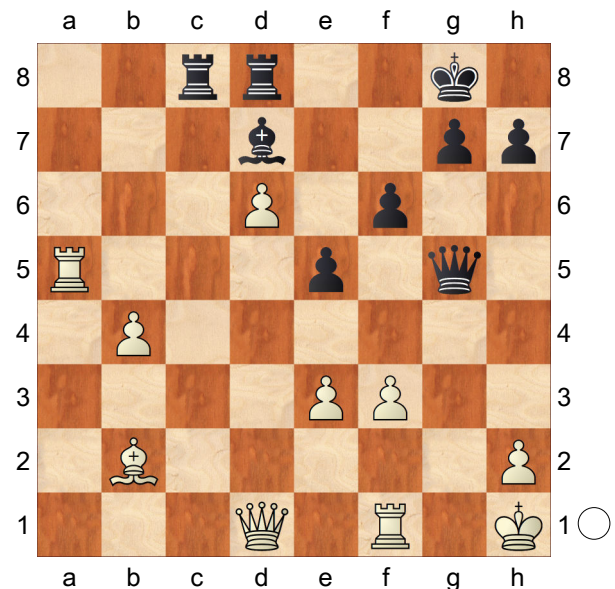
[ 27...Qxe3= 0.01/20 remains equal.  
28.Re1 Qb6 ]

**28.d6** 0.56/22

[ 28.e4± 1.21/18 ]

**28...Nxf3 29.Qxf3** 0.48/22

[ 29.gxf3± 0.82/23 f6



30.Bd4! ]

**29...Be6?** 2.11/24

[ 29...f6± 0.48/22 ]

**30.Bxe5+-**

[ But not 30.Rxe5 Qf6 31.Qxf6 gxf6 ]

**30...Qg6** 2.23/20

[ ♗30...Qf5 1.79/22 31.Qxf5 Bxf5 ]

**31.Bg3 Rc2** 2.64/19

[ 31...h6 1.63/20 keeps fighting. 32.h3  
Rc4 ]

**32.Rc5** 1.44/21

[ 32.d7+- 2.64/19 Black must now  
prevent Ra5-a8. Rd2 33.Bc7 Bxd7  
34.Bxd8 ]

**32...Rd2** 1.78/21

[ 32...h6± 1.44/21 33.Qd1 Rb2 ]

**33.b5** Threatens to win with b5-b6.

**33...h5** 2.75/22

[ ♗33...h6 1.73/21 34.b6 Kh7 ]

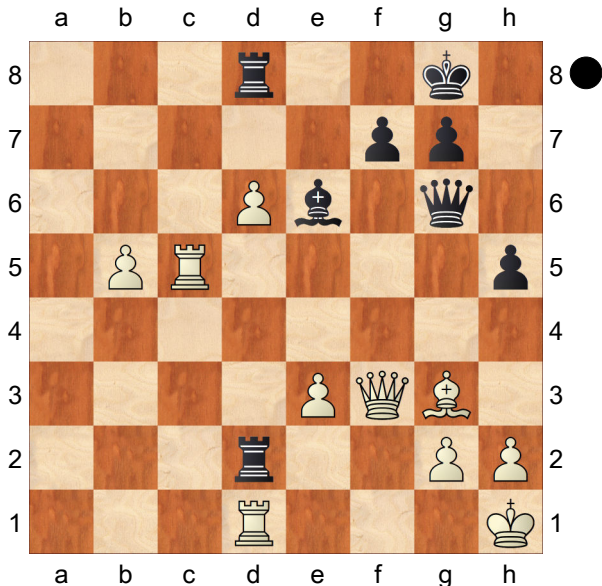
**34.Rd1?** -0.01/24

[ Don't go for 34.Rxh5? Bg4 35.Rd5  
Bxf3+- ]

[ 34.h3+- 2.75/22 ]

(Diagram)





**34...Bg4!= 35.Rxd2 Bxf3 36.gxf3**  
**Qb1+ 1.25/22**

[ 36...h4!= 0.01/25 37.Bxh4 Rxd6 ]

**37.Kg2±** Strongly threatening d6-d7.

**37...Qb4 2.28/23**

[ 37...h4± 1.25/23 ]

**38.Rcd5+- h4 39.Bf4** aiming for d6-d7. **39...g6?** 6.70/23

[ 39...Rd7 1.83/23 40.e4 f6 ]

40.d7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/  
Black=0.61

**1-0**

		<b>B20</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Gelashvili,Tamaz</b>	<b>2596</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Shen,Arthur</b>	<b>2132</b>
Philadelphia op (3)		21.04.2011
[MH]		

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5**  
**Bd7 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.Qe2 Be7**  
**8.0-0** The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.d3**  
**a6 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nbd2 b5 12.c4N**  
 [ 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7  
 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5

Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6  
20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
23.Raf1 Qd2 24.Bc1 Qd4+ 25.R3f2  
Bxc1 26.Rxc1 b4 11.♖e1 h6 12.♜b1  
♙d7\_99 (1874)–Game 2 (2170) SFN–  
3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John  
Watson] 0–1 (59) ]  
[ 12.Rae1 a5 13.e5 Nd5 14.exd6  
Nxf4 15.Qe5 Bf6 16.Qxf4 Bxb2  
17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.dxe4 e5 19.Nxe5  
Qxd6 20.Nd3 Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Qxf4  
22.Nxf4 Rae8 23.Nd5 b4  
6...dxc4 madness: 7...Be6 27 (2341)–  
7.♘1f3 ♙d6 8.♚e2 h6 (2489) Torquay  
ENG 2000 Telechess CBM 89 [FS–66/  
105] ]

12...Rb8 13.Rae1 Nd7 14.Qf2 Bf6  
15.e5 dxe5 16.fxe5 Be7 17.Ne4 Bxe4  
18.Rxe4 Nb6 19.Qe2 Qd7 20.Bc1  
Rbd8 21.Ne1 f5 22.exf6! Bxf6  
23.Be3 Qd6 24.Bf4 -0.01/23

[ 24.Nf3± 0.57/20 ]  
**24...Bd4+= 25.Kh1 e5! 26.Bg3 Rxf1+**  
 -0.12/5

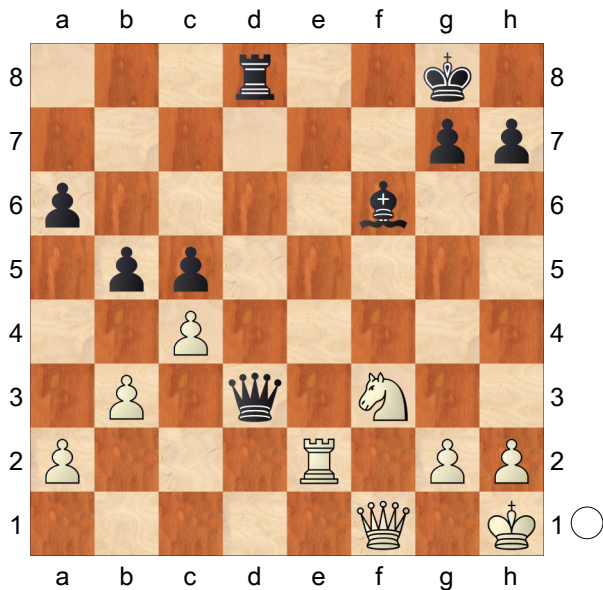
[ 26...bxc4! -0.47/25 27.dxc4 Rxf1+  
28.Qxf1 Qg6 ]

27.Qxf1 Nd7 28.Nf3 Nf6 29.Re2 Bc3  
30.Bxe5 Qxd3 31.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.80/23  
[ 31...gxf6= -0.10/24 32.Kg1  
( 32.Re8+ Kf7 $\bar{f}$  ) 32...bxc4 ]

(Diagram)

**32.Re8+!+-** White is clearly winning.  
**32...Kf7 33.Ne5+ Kxe8 34.Nxd3**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.08  
 (flawless) /Black=0.36  
**1-0**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08  
(flawless) /Black=0.36



□ (2.b3) Papaioannou, Ioannis **B20** **2578**  
 ■ Gelfand, Boris **2681**  
 Istanbul (2.1) 29.10.2000  
 [GM Ioannis Papaioannou, MH]

This is how we play with black! Look how the great Boris Gelfand got the upper hand against me in the 2000 Olympiad in Istanbul!

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...a6 is also playable ]

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4. ♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez, C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

**4.Bb5+ Nbd7!**

[ 4...Nc6? 5.Bxc6+! thank you! ]

**5.Qe2 g6N**

[ 5...a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 e6 8.Nf3

Bc6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.0-0 b5 12.Rae1 ( 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 23.Raf1 Qd2 24.Bc1 Qd4+ 25.R3f2 Bxc1 26.Rxc1 b4 11. ♖e1 h6 12. ♖b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 0-1 (59) ) 12...a5 13.e5 Nd5 14.exd6 Nxf4 15.Qe5 Bf6 16.Qxf4 Bxb2 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.dxe4 e5 19.Nxe5 Qxd6 20.Nd3 6...dxc4 madness: 7...Be6 27 (2341)-7. ♘1f3 ♕d6 8. ♖e2 h6 (2489) Torquay ENG 2000 Telechess CBM 89 [FS-66/105] ]

**6.f4**

[ 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Nc3 Bg7 ♜ ]

**6...Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0** The position is equal.

[ 8.d3? -1.07/20 8.0-0 -0.13 Qa5+ 9.Nc3 Nxe4 ♜ ]

**8...a6 9.Bxd7 Qxd7 ♜** The Bc8 will go to b7! ...and this queen may at any moment appear on g4! **10.Nc3**

[ 10.d3

**A) 10...Qg4!!** 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 ( 11...exf6 ♜ ) 12.e5 Bg7 ♜;

**B) 10...b5 ♜ ]**

**10...b5 11.f5 Bb7**

[ 11...gxf5 12.Nh4 fxe4 0.09/25 ( 12...e6 ♜ -0.48/22 13.exf5 e5 ) 13.Nf5 ]

**12.d3 e6! 13.fxg6 fxg6 14.Rae1 Rae8 15.a3 Nh5**

[ 15...e5! ♜ ]

**16.g3 Qd8 17.Rf2 Nf6 18.Rff1 Qb6 19.Nd1** Black is slightly better. **19...e5 20.c4 Bc8** Hoping for ...b5xc4. **21.Kg2 Bh6** -0.32/18

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05  
(flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)  
[  $\Delta$ 21...bxc4 -0.63/18 22.bxc4 Qd8 ]  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

 **Dvirnyy,Danyyil**  
 **Annaberdiev,Meilis**  
128/190 Skopje  
[MH]

**B20**  
**2572**  
**2460**  
2016

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1-0 (33) ]  
[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

**3.exd5 Nf6N**

[ 3...Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.Bb2 Nf6  
6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.0-0-0 Nc6  
9.g4 h6 10.Rg1 a6 11.h4 Nd7  
12.g5 hxg5 13.hxg5 Nf8 14.Ne4  
Rh7 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4  
17.Rxd4 Qc7 18.Bg2 6.♙c4 ♙f5 7.  
♞e2 ♞d7\_5 (2636)-Minic Dragoljub  
(CRO) (2396) Saint Petersburg 65/  
505 2005 200 Traps In The Opening  
[Pons Ribot] 1-0 (40) ]

**4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.c4 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7**  
**7.Bb2 e6 8.dxe6** White is slightly  
better. **8...Bxe6 9.Nf3 Qd7** 0.77/20  
[ 9...Qd3± 0.43/21 should be  
considered. ]

**10.0-0** White now steadily converts the  
win. **10...0-0-0 11.d4 cxd4 12.Qxd4**  
**Qc7 13.Qc3 Bd6 14.Nbd2 Ng4**  
1.25/22  
[ 14...Bf5± 0.67/19 ]

**15.h3±**  
[ 15.Qxg7? Bxh2+ 16.Kh1 Rhg8  
17.Qxh7 Bf4-- ]

**15...h5** 1.63/21 **16.Ne4+-**  
[ 16.hxg4 hxg4 17.Rfd1 ( 17.Qxg7?  
Bh2+ 18.Kh1 Be5+ 19.Kg1 Bxg7-- )  
17...Bh2+ 18.Kf1 ( 18.Nxh2? Qxh2+  
19.Kf1 Bf5-- ) 18...Bf5± ]  
[ 16.Qxg7?! Rhg8 17.Qc3 Nh2= ]

**16...Be7** 2.49/22  
[ 16...Bh2+ 1.67/21 keeps fighting.  
17.Kh1 Bf5 ]

**17.Rae1**  
[ 17.hxg4?! hxg4 18.Ne5 ( 18.Qxg7  
gxf3 19.g3 Rhg8± ) 18...f6± ]  
[ 17.Qxg7 Rhg8 18.Qh7 f6 ]

**17...Bf5** 3.51/22  
[ 17...Nf6 2.43/22 might work better.  
18.Neg5 ( 18.Nxf6 Bxf6 19.Qc1  
Kb8± ) 18...Bc5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 ]

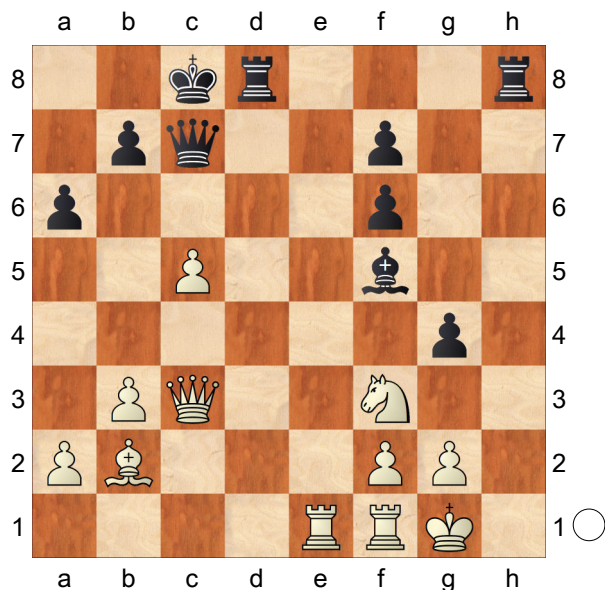
**18.c5**  
[ Don't do 18.Qxg7 Rh7+- ]

**18...Bf6 19.Nxf6 gxf6** 5.68/24  
[ 19...Nxf6 2.00/24 is a better chance.  
20.c6 bxc6 ]

**20.hxg4** White is clearly winning.  
**20...hxg4**

(Diagram)

**21.Qxf6! Rh5**  
[ 21...Bd3 22.Re7 ]



**22.Re7! Bd7**  
[ 22...Qc6 23.Ng5 ]

(Diagram)

**23.Be5! Qxc5**

[ 23...Qc6 24.Ng5 ]

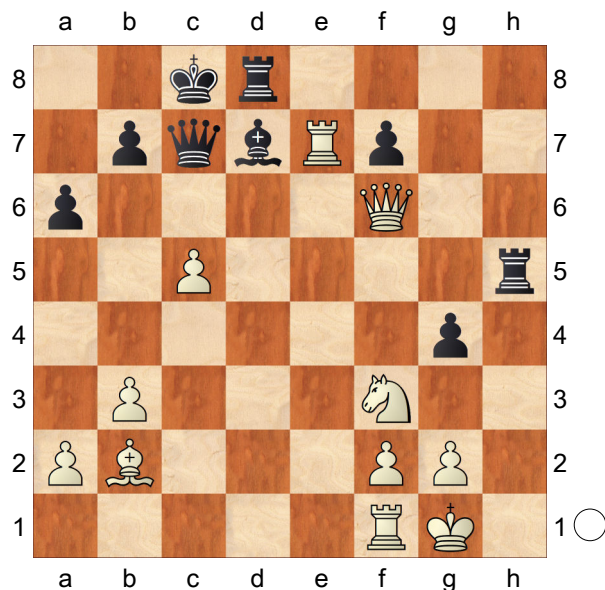
**24.Nh4** And now Be5–g3 would win.

**24...Rdh8 25.Bg3 R5h6 26.Qxf7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08

(flawless) /Black=0.67

**1–0**



□ **Kogan,Artur**  
■ **Tiviakov,Sergei**

Ronne 103/95

[MH]

**B40**

**2569**

**2645**

**2008**

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6 4.Nf3 Nf6**

[ 4...a6 5.c4 Qc7 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.0–0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2 Qd6 Filip,L–10.d5 ♗f3 11.gf3 Villa Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ]

**5.e5 Nd5 6.Bc4N**

[ 6.g3 Be7 ( 6...f5 7.Bg2 b6 8.c4 Nc7 9.0–0 Bb7 10.Nc3 Be7 11.d4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 cxd4 14.Qxd4 5.h4 g4 6.Ng5 (2536)–

Hubener,J (2479) Budapest 2004

Telechess CBM 89 [Cricket and Football Field 19/6/1909] ) 7.Bg2 0–0

8.0–0 d6 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Na3 Bf6

11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.a4 b6

Chess Informant ECO Survey 2002 ]



[ 6.c4 Nde7 7.Nc3 Ng6 8.Nb5 a6  
9.Nd6+ Bxd6 10.exd6 e5 11.h4 Qf6  
Chess Informant ECO Survey 2002 ]  
[ 6.Bb5 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 a6  
9.Bf1 d6 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Na3 f6  
12.d4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 e5 14.Nc4 Qc7  
15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.Na5 Qc5 17.Bc4  
Rd8 18.b4 Qd6 19.Qf3 Kh8 20.a3  
Rb8 004a 422 Rosanes,J-Kopylov  
Chiasso 2002 TH-CC [Bauer] 1-0  
(38) ]

**6...Nde7** 0.47/18

[ 6...Be7= 0.07/21 ]

**7.Nc3** 0.10/20

[ 7.0-0± 0.47/18 ]

**7...a6 8.h4** -0.12/20

[ ♠8.0-0 0.28/19 ]

**8...d5= 9.exd6! Nf5 10.Ne4 Bxd6**

**11.Nxd6+ Qxd6 12.Bd3 Nfd4** 0.31/20

[ 12...e5= -0.08/19 ]

**13.Nxd4± cxd4** 0.47/19

[ 13...Nxd4= 0.15/22 feels stronger.  
14.Qh5 g6 ]

**14.Qh5 Bd7 15.Rh3** -0.50/22

[ 15.0-0± 0.37/21 ]

**15...g6± 16.Qh6 e5 17.Rf3 Be6**

[ 17...Nb4 is interesting. 18.Qg7  
0-0-0 19.Rxf7 e4 ]

**18.a4 f5 19.Ba3 Qd7 20.Qg5 Qf7**

**21.Be4 Rd8** -0.08/22

[ 21...h6± -0.48/22 22.Qg3 0-0-0 ]

**22.h5 Bd5** 0.19/24

[ ♠22...Rg8 -0.16/22 ]

**23.Bxd5= Rxd5 24.0-0-0 Nd8 25.Rh1**

**Rg8 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Rfh3 Ne6**

**28.Qg3** -0.19/21

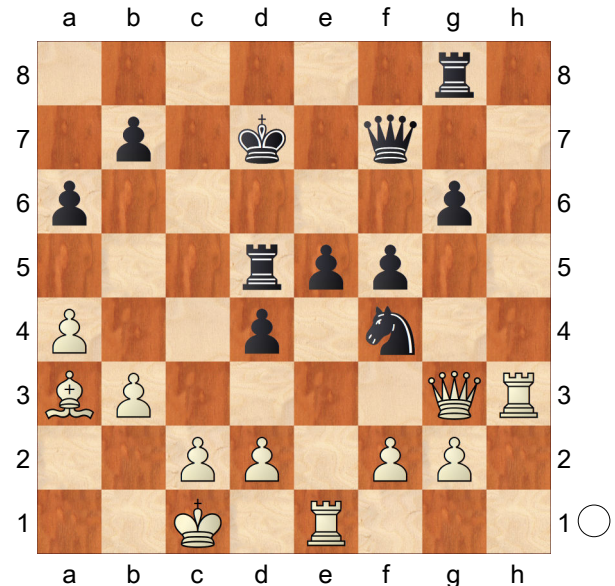
[ 28.Qh4± 0.43/19 ]

**28...Nf4 29.Re1±** Inhibits Nf4-e2+. And

now Qg3xf4 would win. White has

counterplay **29...Kd7**

(Diagram)



**30.Rxe5! Rxe5 31.Qxf4 Qd5 32.Rd3**  
-0.33/24

[ 32.Kb2= -0.01/22 should be  
considered. ]

**32...Re4± 33.Qh6 Kc8 34.f3** -0.72/22

[ 34.Qh7± -0.33/23 might be  
stronger. ]

**34...Re1+** -0.27/5

[ 34...Re6!± -0.72/22 ]

**35.Kb2= Re6 36.Kb1** -1.27/24

[ 36.Qh4!± -0.51/24 ]

**36...Rd8 37.Bb2 Qe5 38.Ka2** -1.97/24

[ 38.Qh7± -1.13/23 ]

**38...Rc6** -1.25/25

[ 38...Rh8-+ -1.97/24 39.f4 Qf6 ]

**39.c3 dxc3** -0.94/25 & Nero is more  
active.

[ ♠39...Rh8 -1.50/24 40.cxd4 Rxh6  
41.dxe5 Rh2 ]

**40.Rxd8+± Kxd8 41.Bxc3** Endgame

KQR-KQB **41...Qd5 42.Qh8+ Kd7**

**43.Kb2 Re6 44.Qg7+ Kc6 45.b4**

-1.04/22

[ 45.Qf8± -0.69/22 ]

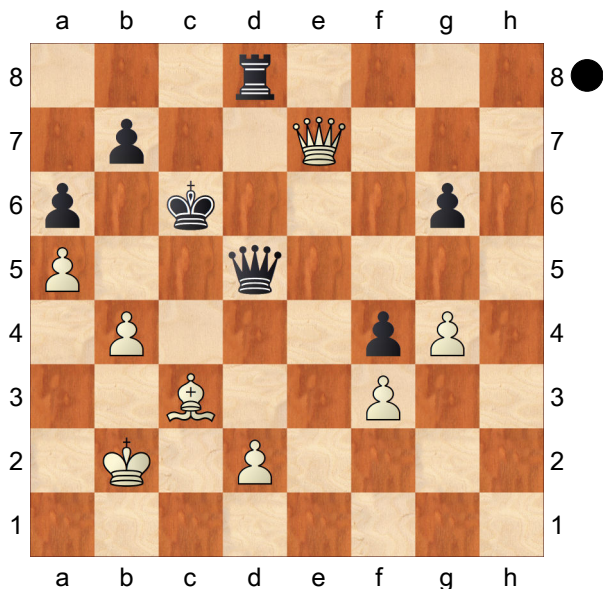
**45...Rd6 46.Qe7 Rd8 47.g4 f4**

-0.71/26

[ ♠47...fxg4 -1.10/25 48.fxg4 Kb6  
49.Qf6+ Qd6 50.Qf2+ Kc7 ]

**48.a5** -1.16/25

[ Better is 48.g5 -0.71/26 ]



**48...Rd7** -0.60/25

[ 48...g5! -1.16/25 49.Qg7 Rd7 50.Qf6+ Rd6 ]

**49.Qe8** -0.99/27

[ 49.Qf6+! -0.60/25 Qd6 50.Qh8 ]

**49...Qf7** -0.01/24

[ 49...g5 -0.99/27 ]

**50.Qe4+** -0.70/24

[ White should try 50.Qc8+= -0.01/24 Kb5 51.Ka3 ( 51.Qc5+? Ka4-+ ) ]

**50...Rd5! 51.Be5 g5 52.Qc4+ Kd7**

**53.d4 Ke8 54.Qe2 Qe6 ...Rd5xd4!** is the strong threat. **55.Qh2 Qe7 56.Qh8+** -0.39/26

[ 56.Ka1!= -0.01/26 was preferable. ]

**56...Kd7 57.Kc2** -1.19/27

[ 57.Kc3! -0.51/28 ]

**57...Qxb4** Chess con chili.

[ Much weaker is 57...Rb5?! ]

58.Qb8= ]

**58.Qh7+ Qe7 59.Qf5+ Qe6** -0.97/26

[ 59...Ke8 -1.57/26 White must now prevent ...Qe7-f7. 60.Qc8+ ( 60.Qg6+? Qf7-+ ) 60...Rd8 ]

**60.Qh7+** -1.49/28

[ 60.Qxg5 -0.97/26 Rxa5 61.Qg7+ Qe7 62.Qg8 ]

**60...Kd8 61.Qxb7?** -3.82/25

Loses the game.

[ 61.Qg7 -1.28/24 ]

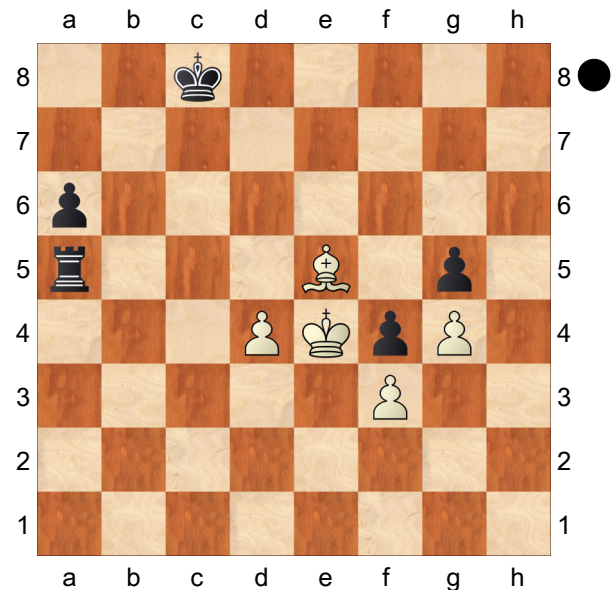
**61...Qc8+--+**

[ Wrong is 61...Rb5? 62.Qc7+ Ke8 63.Kc1-+ ]

**62.Qxc8+ Kxc8 KR-KB 63.Kd3 Rxa5**

**64.Ke4** -21.80/29

[ 64.Bg7 -5.09/26 Ra3+ 65.Ke2 ]



**64...Ra3?** -3.51/27

[ 64...Rxe5+! -21.80/29 65.dxe5 ( 65.Kxe5 Kd7 ) 65...Kd7 ]

**65.Kf5?** -8.34/29

[ 65.Bf6 -3.51/27 Re3+ 66.Kf5 ]

**65...Rxf3 66.Kxg5 a5** Hoping for ...a5-a4. **67.Kf6 a4 68.g5 a3 69.g6 a2**

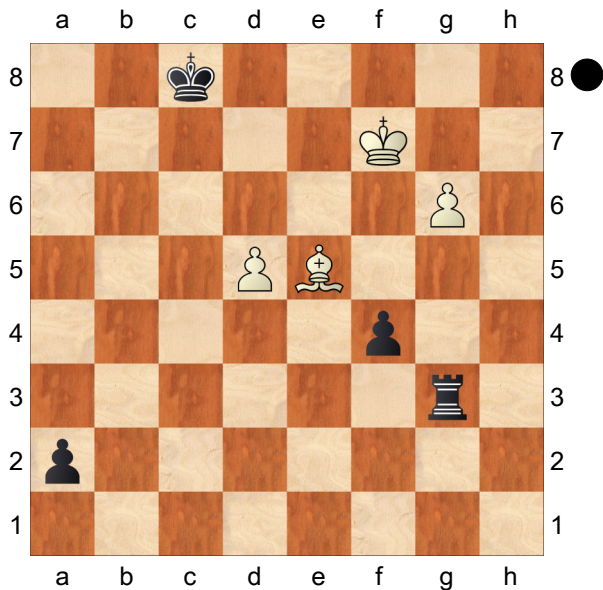
**70.d5 Rg3 71.Kf7**

(Diagram)

**Rxg6!!** -#18/21 **72.Kxg6 f3** ( -> ...f3-f2 ) **73.Kf5 f2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

**0-1**



□ **Hrebenshchykova, Yelyzaveta** 2565  
 ■ **Pedersen, N Eric** 2538  
 Gibtelecom Masters (2.1) 28.09.2014  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink, J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt, K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletín 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6 5.Bc4N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nb6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3**

Black is slightly better. **8...d6 9.Bb5**

**Nd5 10.g3 0-0 11.Nc3 Nxc3**

[ 11...dxe5?! 12.Bxc6 bxc6  
 13.Nxe5= ]

**12.Bxc3 Nd4 13.Bxd4**

[ 13.Nxd4? cxd4 14.Bb2 ( 14.Bxd4?  
 dxe5 15.Bxe5 Qd5-+ ) 14...dxe5-+ ]

**13...cxd4 14.0-0 dxe5 -0.51/22**

[ 14...Bg4± -0.86/20 15.Qe2 dxe5  
 16.fxe5 Qc7 ]

**15.Nxe5± a6 16.Bd3 f6 17.Nf3 e5**

**18.fxe5 fxe5 19.Qe2**

[ But not 19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.Nh4 e4± ]

**19...Bh3 20.Rf2! Re8** White must now  
 prevent ...e5-e4! **21.Re1 b5**

Against Bd3-c4+ **22.a4 bxa4 23.bxa4**  
**a5 0.79/24**

[ 23...Kh8= -0.23/21 keeps the  
 balance. ]

**24.Bb5 Bd7 25.Bxd7 Qxd7 26.Qc4+**  
**Kh8 27.Ng5 h6 0.66/24**

[ 27...Rac8 0.31/25 deserves  
 consideration. 28.Qa2 h6 29.Nf7+  
 Kh7 30.Nxe5 Qe6 31.Qxe6 Rxe6 ]

**28.Rf7±** & Bianco is more active.

**28...Qc8 3.39/25**

[ 28...Re7± 0.76/25 29.Rxe7 Qxe7 ]

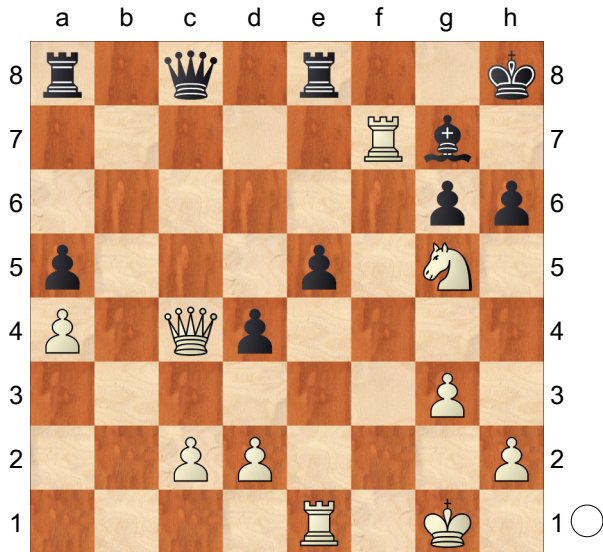
(Diagram)

**29.Rc7!+- Qa6**

[ 29...hgx5 30.Qf7 ]

(Diagram)





30.Qf7 Qf6

(Diagram)

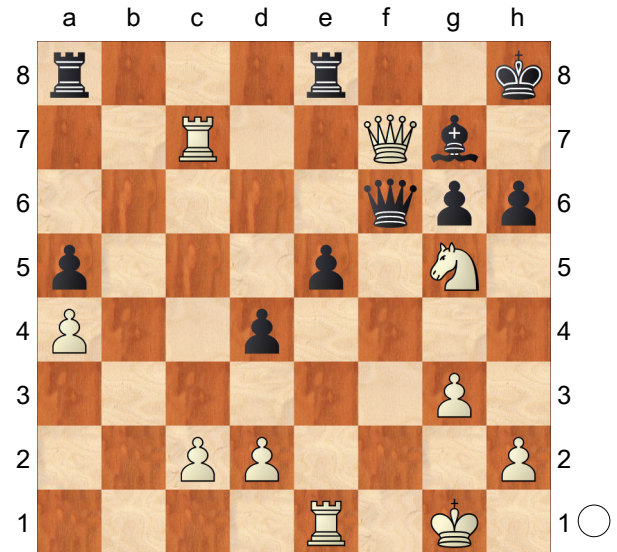
31.Qxf6 1.30/25

[ 31.Qd7!+- 3.70/25 and the rest is easy. hxcg5 32.Rf1 ]

31...Bxf6± 32.Nf7+ Kg7 33.Nxe5+ Re7 34.Rxe7+ Bxe7 Endgame KRB-KRN 35.Nc4 Bb4 36.Re6 Rc8 37.d3 Bc3 38.h4 Rb8 1.74/23

[ 38...Rf8± 1.31/22 39.Kg2 Rf6 40.Re7+ Rf7 ]

39.Kg2 Rb4 2.12/26



[ Δ39...Rf8 1.62/21 40.Nd6 Bd2 41.Re7+ Kg8 ]

40.Nxa5 Rxa4 41.Nc4 Ra2 42.Ne5 g5 3.10/26

[ 42...Rxc2+ 1.96/24 keeps fighting. 43.Kf3 g5 ]

43.h5 Rxc2+ 44.Kf3 Rh2 45.g4 Strongly threatening Re6-g6+. 45...Bb4 46.Rb6 Bf8 47.Ke4 Kh7 48.Kxd4 Bg7 49.Kd5 Bxe5 2.85/23

[ Δ49...Rf2 1.97/23 50.d4 Rf4 ]

50.Kxe5+- Rb6-b7+ is the strong threat. KR-KR 50...Re2+ 51.Kd5 Rg2 52.Rb4 Rg3 53.Rd4

[Weaker is 53.Rb7+ Kg8± ]

53...Kg7 54.Kc4 Kf6 55.Re4 Rg1 56.d4 Rc1+ 57.Kb5 Rf1? 10.12/24

[ 57...Rb1+ 3.35/30 58.Kc5 Rc1+ 59.Kd6 Rc4 ]

58.d5 Rf4 59.Rxf4+ gxf4 60.Kc4 Threatening mate with Kc4-d4. 60...Ke5 61.g5

[Not 61.Kc5 f3 62.d6 f2= ]

61...Ke4 62.Kc3 Kxd5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.29 (precise)

1-0



**B20**  
**2565**  
**2538**  
 GEO-chT Club (2.1) 28.09.2014  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3  
 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0  
 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4  
 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4  
 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6 5.Bc4N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nb6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3**

Black is slightly better. **8...d6 9.Bb5**

**Nd5 10.g3 0-0 11.Nc3 -0.86/22**

[ 11.Na3 ♗ -0.54/20  
 is more appropriate. ]

**11...Nxc3 ♗**

[ 11...dxe5?! 12.Bxc6 bxc6  
 13.Nxe5= ]

**12.Bxc3 Nd4 13.Bxd4**

[ 13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.Bb2 ( 14.Bxd4?  
 dxe5 15.Bxe5 Qd5-- ) 14...dxe5-- ]

**13...cxd4 14.0-0 dxe5 -0.41/22**

[ 14...Bg4 ♗ -0.73/21 ]

**15.Nxe5 ♗ a6 16.Bd3 f6 17.Nf3 e5**

**18.fxe5 fxe5 19.Qe2**

[ 19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.Bd3 Bh3 ♗ ]

**19...Bh3 20.Rf2 Re8 21.Re1 b5**

Against Bd3-c4+ **22.a4 bxa4 23.bxa4**  
**a5 0.43/24**

[ 23...Kh8! ♗ -0.31/20 ]

**24.Bb5 Bd7 25.Bxd7 Qxd7 26.Qc4+**

**Kh8 27.Ng5** Strongly threatening Rf2-  
 f7. **27...h6 0.93/25**

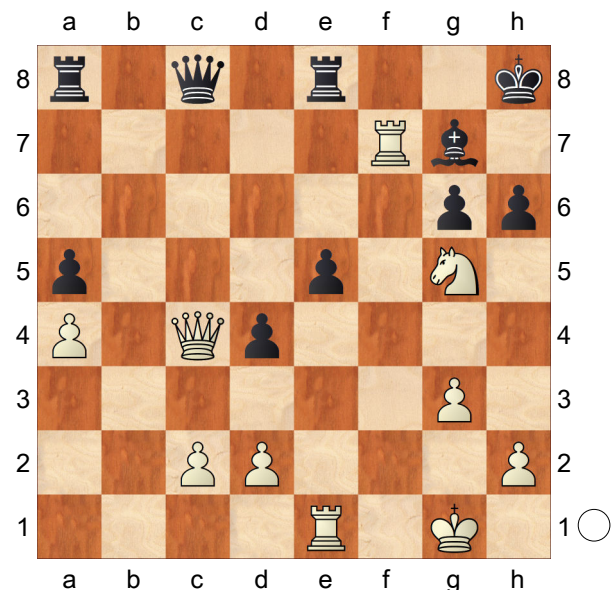
[ 27...Rac8= 0.19/25 28.Qa2 h6

29.Nf7+ Kh7 30.Nxe5 Qe6 31.Qxe6  
 Rxe6 ]

**28.Rf7±** & Bianco is more active.

**28...Qc8 3.01/23**

[ 28...Re7± 0.80/25 29.Rxe7 Qxe7 ]



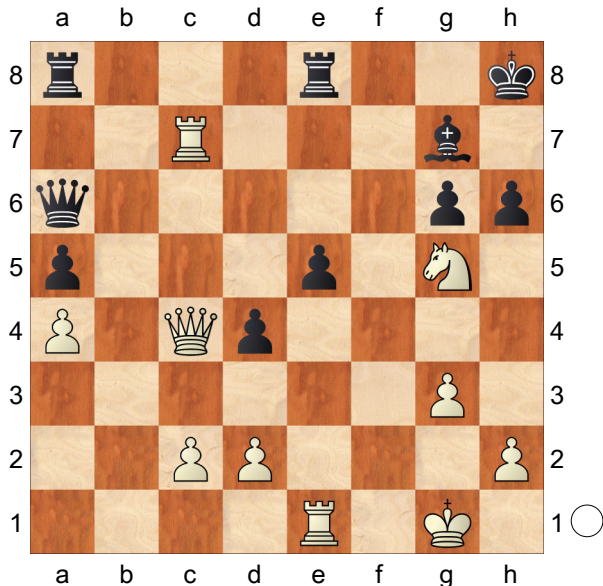
**29.Rc7!+- Qa6**

[ 29...hxg5 30.Rxc8 ]

(Diagram)

**30.Qf7 Qf6**

(Diagram)



**31.Qxf6** 1.24/24

[ 31.Qd7!+- 4.08/26 hxc5 32.Rf1 ]

**31...Bxf6± 32.Nf7+ Kg7 33.Nxe5+ Re7 34.Rxe7+ Bxe7** Endgame KRB-KRN **35.Nc4 Bb4 36.Re6 Rc8 37.d3 Bc3 38.h4 Rb8** 1.82/23

[ 38...Rf8± 1.26/22 is a better defense. 39.Kg2 Rf6 ]

**39.Kg2 Rb4** 2.11/25

[ 39...Rf8 1.75/23 was called for. 40.Nd6 Bd2 41.Re7+ Kg8 ]

**40.Nxa5 Rxa4 41.Nc4 Ra2 42.Ne5 g5** 3.14/26

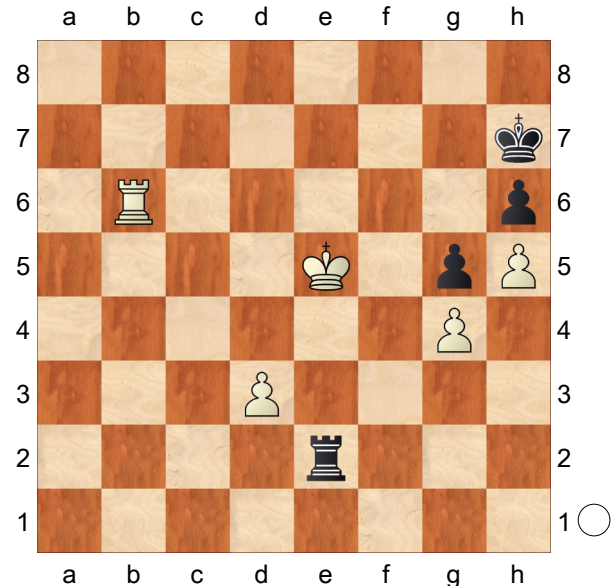
[ Not 42...Rxc2+ 43.Kf3 ]

[ 42...Kh7 1.91/23 43.Rxg6 Rxc2+ 44.Kf3 Bb2 ]

**43.h5 Rxc2+ 44.Kf3 Re6-g6+** is the strong threat. **44...Rh2 45.g4 Bb4 46.Rb6 Bf8 47.Ke4 Kh7 48.Kxd4 Bg7 49.Kd5 Bxe5** 2.68/25

[ 49...Rf2 1.77/23 50.d4 Rf4 ]

**50.Kxe5+- KR-KR 50...Re2+**



**51.Kd5! Rg2 52.Rb4 Rg3 53.Rd4**

[ Weaker is 53.Rb7+ Kg8± ]

**53...Kg7 54.Kc4 Kf6 55.Re4 Rg1 56.d4** And now d4-d5 would win.

**56...Rc1+ 57.Kb5** Black must now prevent d4-d5. **57...Rf1 58.d5 Rf4 59.Rxf4+** White mates. **59...gxf4**

**60.Kc4 Ke5 61.g5**

[ Worse is 61.Kc5 f3 62.d6 f2= ]

**61...Ke4 62.Kc3 Kxd5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.32

**1-0**

☐ **Sedlak,Nikola** **B20**  
☒ **Palac,Mladen** **2564**  
 Olympiad-37 Turin (8) **2561**  
 [Jonathan Rowson] 29.05.2006

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** This move cannot be bad, but in the resulting positions there is every reason to think that White has chances to be better because all he is doing really is developing his pieces quite actively and gaining space. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 d6 5.f4 a6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2**

[ 7.Bd3!? ]

[ 7.d4!? ]

**7...Nc6 8.0-0-0 Qc7 9.f5**

[ 9.Qf2!? ]

[ 9.g4!? ]

[ 9.g3!? ]

[ 9.Qe3!? ]

**9...Nf6 10.Qf2 0-0-0 11.fxe6 fxe6**

**12.g3 Ng4 13.Qe2**

[ 13.Qg1 d5! 14.exd5 exd5 15.Bh3 h5 ]

**13...Nge5 14.Bh3?** This fails tactically.

[ 14.Nxe5

**A) 14...dxe5!** Black has hidden resources in this structure and white's pieces are not well placed to exploit the weakened e-pawns. 15.Qg4 ( 15.Bh3 Nd4 16.Qe3 c4! ) 15...Nd4 16.Bc4 ( 16.Ne2 h5 ) 16...Qe7 17.Rhf1 h5!;

**B) 14...Nxe5 15.Bh3**

**14...Nd4! 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Bxe6+ Kb8 17.Kb1**

[ 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.Bxd5 d3 ]

**17...dxc3 18.Bxc3 Re8-+ 19.Bh3 g6**

**20.Qe3 Bg7 21.a4 h5 22.Qe2 Ng4**

**23.Bxg7 Rxe4 24.Qd3 Qxg7**

**25.Qxd6+ Qc7 26.Qxg6 Re7 27.Rhe1**

**Rg7 28.Qf5 Rf7 29.Qg6 Rg7 30.Qf5 Rf7 31.Qg6 Nf2 32.Be6 Rg7 33.Qf6 Nxd1 34.Rxd1 Qe7 35.Qe5+ Ka7 36.a5 b5 37.d4 Qc7 38.Qe3 Qxa5 39.d5+ Qb6 40.Qe5 Rgh7 41.d6 Rh6 42.Bf5 Rd8 43.d7 Bf3 44.Rd3 Bg4 45.Be4 Re6 46.Qd5 Re7 47.Rc3 Rxd7 48.Qe5 Rc8 0-1**

☐ **Pospisil,Ludvik** **B50**  
☒ **Grigoryev,Valery Borisovich** **2559**  
 corr CR15th Jub.Rochade **2398**  
 [MH] 09.11.2006

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Nf3 Nc6**

[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 dxe5 5.Nxe5 Nbd7

6.f4 g6 7.Bb2 Bg7 8.Bb5 0-0

9.Bxd7 Nxd7 10.0-0 Nxe5 11.fxe5

c4 12.Na3 Be6 13.Kh1 Qb6 14.Qe2

Rac8 15.Rab1 cxb3 16.cxb3 Rfd8

17.d4 f6 18.Rbc1 5.f3 e6 6.d4

cd4\_44148 (2236)-Wastfelt,T (2688)

corr 2011 CBM 104 theory [Dragan

Solak] 0-1 ]

**4.d4N**

[ 4.Bb2 e5 ( 4...e6 5.d4 cxd4

6.Nxd4 e5 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.c4 Nf6

9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7

12.Na4 Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3

4.b2 e6 5.d4\_25 Survey 1994

Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ) 5.Bc4 Be7

6.Nc3 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne1 a6

9.a4 Bg4 10.f3 Be6 11.g3 Rb8

12.Ng2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5

Bxd5 15.Ne3 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 f6

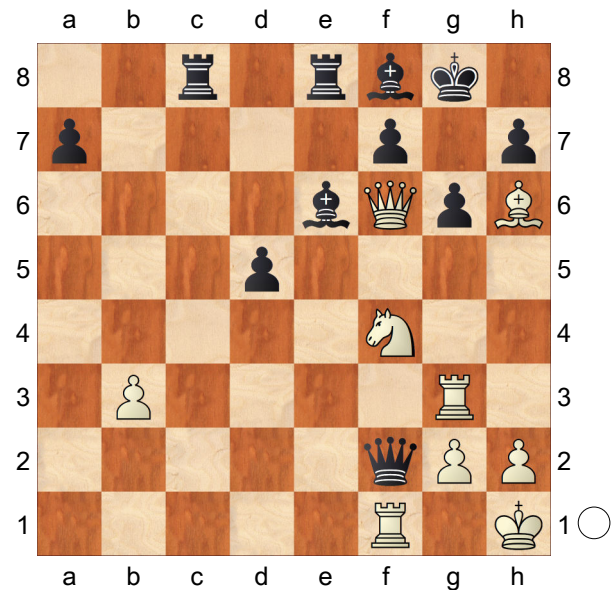
Chess Informant ECO Survey 2001 ]

[ 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7

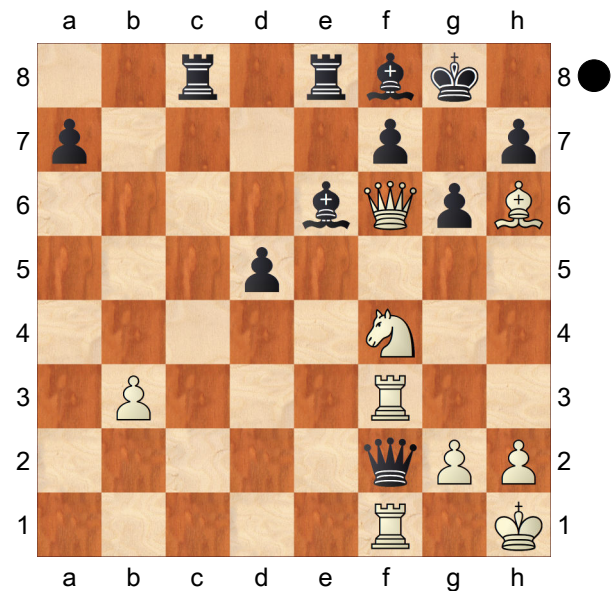
7.Rb1 0-0 8.h3 a6 9.a4 e6 10.Be2



Re8 11.Ba3 Nh5 12.Bb2 d5 13.d3  
f5 14.Qd2 Nf6 15.exf5 exf5 16.Nd1  
d4 17.Ba3 Qd6 18.Nh2 Nd5  
9.♗g5 ♗e6 10.♕h1 ♖c8 –Sierra  
Vallina,L Schweiz 1893 CBM 055 ext  
[Blum,A FS 92:85] 0–1 (54) ]  
**4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nxc6 bxc6**  
**7.Bd3 e5 8.0–0 Be7 9.c4 0–0 10.Nc3**  
**Be6 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.Be3 Nc5**  
**13.Rad1 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Qa5 15.f4**  
**Bg4 16.Rc1 exf4 17.Rxf4 Be6 18.Rf2**  
**Rfe8 19.Rcf1 Bh4 20.Rf3 Rab8**  
**21.Bf4 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 Rbd8 23.Be3**  
**Qa5 24.Ne2 0.01/22**  
[ 24.h3± 0.35/18 ]  
**24...d5 1.19/23**  
[ 24...Qxa2= 0.01/22 remains equal.  
25.Nd4 Rd7 ]  
**25.exd5!± cxd5 26.Qd4 Be7 27.Rg3**  
**g6 ...d5xc4 is the strong threat. 28.Bh6!**  
**Bf8** Against Qd4–g7+ **29.c5?** –4.88/21  
**Rc8?** 1.29/24  
[ Better is 29...Bxh6–+ –4.88/21  
30.Nf4 Bxf4 31.Rxf4 Rc8 ]  
**30.Rc1?** –5.89/23 & Bianco is much  
more active. **30...Qxa2?** 1.50/23  
[ 30...Bxh6–+ –5.89/23 31.b4 Qxa2 ]  
**31.Nf4?** –4.59/25  
[ 31.Bxf8± 1.50/23 is forced if you  
want to stay better. Rxf8 32.Nf4 ]  
**31...Qa3?** –0.42/24  
[ 31...Bxh6–+ –4.59/25 32.Ra1  
Qxa1+!! 33.Qxa1 Bxf4 ]  
**32.Rf1?** –2.22/23  
[ 32.Nh5!± –0.42/24 Bxh6 33.Nf6+  
Kf8 34.Nxh7+ Ke7 35.Rf1 Qxc5  
36.Qh4+ Kd6 37.Qxh6 ]  
**32...Qxc5 33.Qf6** –2.93/24  
[ 33.Qxc5 –2.05/24 is a better  
defense. Bxc5 34.Nh5 ]  
**33...Qf2?** 0.46/25  
(Diagram)



**34.Rf3** –0.83/28



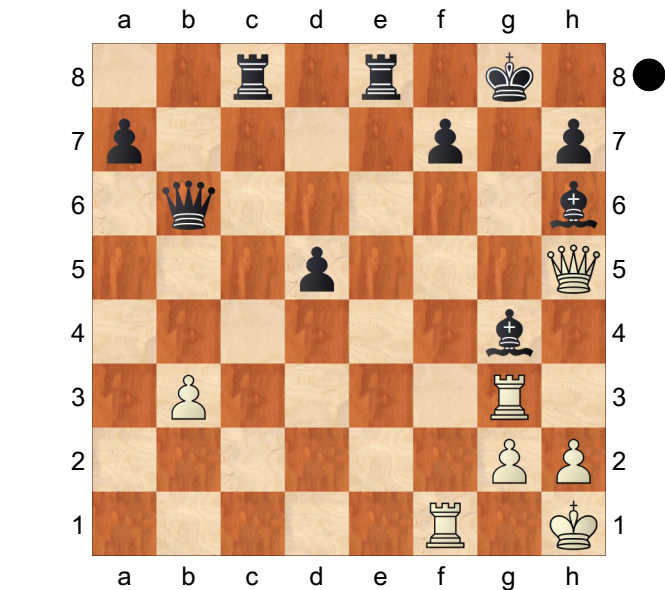
**Qb6** –0.01/23

[ 34...Qxf3!± –0.83/28 35.gxf3 Bxh6 ]  
**35.Nh5?** –5.35/27 **gxh5?** –0.01/27  
[ 35...Bxh6–+ –5.35/27 36.Qe5 gxh5  
37.Rg3+ Bg4 38.Qxh5

(Diagram)

Qe6! ]  
**36.Qg5+** The position is equal. **36...Kh8**  
**37.Qf6+ Kg8 38.Qg5+**  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.93/





Black=0.96

1/2-1/2

**Pospisil,Ludvik** **B50**  
 **De Oliveira,Marcio Barbosa** **2559**  
 corr CR15th Jub.Rochade 18.10.2006  
 [MH]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Nf3**

[ 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 d6  
 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4  
 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2  
 6.0-0 ♖e8 7.♗e1\_47236-Atanasov,A  
 USSR 48/777 2017 CBM 063 [Moreno,  
 Ale] ]

**3...d6**

[ 3...e6 4.Bb2 d6 5.d4 ( 5.Bb5 Bd7  
 6.0-0 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Re1 Rc8  
 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nf6 11.Nxc6  
 Rxc6 12.c4 Be7 13.Nc3 0-0  
 14.Qd3 Nd7 15.Rad1 Bf6  
 Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3 ♘c6 4.  
 ♙b2 e6\_25879 Survey 1994  
 Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ) 5...cxd4  
 6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.Nb5 Qb8 8.Ba3 d5

9.exd5 Qe5+ 10.Be2 Bxa3  
 11.N1xa3 exd5 12.f4 Qxf4 13.Qxd5  
 Nf6 14.Qd6 Qxd6 15.Nxd6+ Ke7  
 16.0-0-0 Rab8 17.Rhe1 Kf8 18.Bc4  
 12.♙f2 g5 13.♗c1 (2564)-Pina,J  
 (2573) USSR 36/(516) 2004 OR:  
 Modern Benoni [FS-70/204] 1-0  
 (42) ]

**4.d4N**

[ 4.Bb2 Nf6 ( 4...e5 5.Bc4 Be7  
 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne1 a6  
 9.a4 Bg4 10.f3 Be6 11.g3 Rb8  
 12.Ng2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5  
 Bxd5 15.Ne3 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 f6  
 Chess Informant ECO Survey 2001 )  
 5.Nc3 g6 6.Nd5 e5 7.Bb5 Bg7  
 8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.d3  
 Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nd2 Bh6  
 13.Nc4 f5 14.exf5 Rxf5 15.Qe2 Be6  
 Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3 Nc6  
 Survey 1994 Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ]

**4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nxc6 bxc6**  
**7.Bd3 e5 8.0-0** The position is equal.  
**8...Be7 9.c4 0-0 10.Nc3 Be6 11.Qe2**  
**Qa5 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Be3 Qb4**  
**14.Rac1 Rfd8 15.Rfd1 Qb8 16.h3**  
**Nd7 17.Nd5 Bf8**

[ Resist 17...cxd5 18.cxd5 Bxh3  
 19.gxh3± ]

**18.f4 f6** 0.54/22

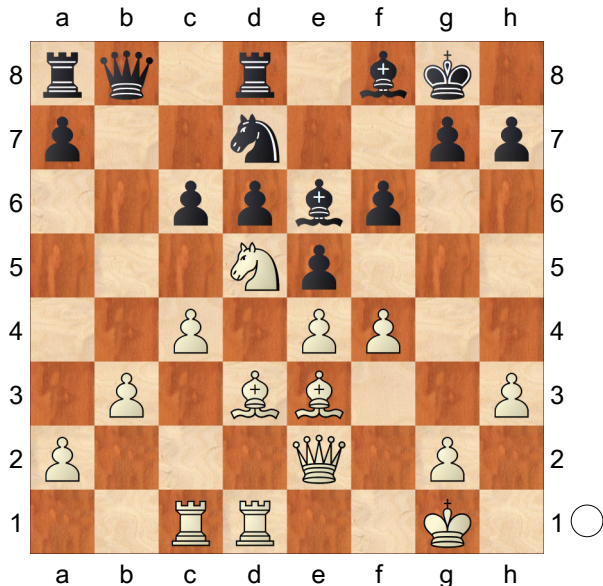
[ 18...Nc5= 0.21/20 ]

(Diagram)

**19.f5!↑** White is pushing. **19...Bf7**  
**20.Nc3 Kh8 21.Na4 Qb4 22.c5 d5**  
 0.97/22

[ 22...Nxc5± 0.48/24 23.Nxc5 dxc5 ]

**23.exd5± Bxd5 24.Ba6 Bg8** 1.09/20  
 [ 24...e4!± 0.64/22 deserves  
 consideration. ]



**25.Kh2 e4 26.Rd4 Qa5 27.Rxe4**

0x0.0017e4aaf174dp-1022s more active pieces. **27...Ne5 28.Kh1 Re8 29.Bd2**

**Qd8 30.Re1 Qd7 31.Qf2 Bd5**

**32.R4e3 Bg8 33.Bc3 Rab8 1.48/19**

[  $\Delta$ 33...Rad8 1.16/21 34.Qf4

( 34.Bxe5 Rxe5 35.Rxe5 fxe5± )

34...Bf7 ]

**34.Bxe5 fxe5 35.Rxe5 Rxe5 36.Rxe5**

**Rd8 37.Qe3 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qb1**

**39.Nc3 Qb2 40.h4 Bf7 41.Be2**

[ Don't play 41.Bb7 Qc2± ]

**41...Qc2 42.b4 Bxa2 3.15/24**

[  $\Delta$ 42...Kg8 2.07/20 43.a3 Qb2 ]

**43.Nxa2+- Qxa2 44.Qe4 Qd2 45.g3**

**Qd7 46.Re6 Rc8 47.Ba6 Rb8 48.Kh3**

**Qd1 49.Rxc6 h5 50.Be2 Qd7 51.Re6**

(Diagram)

And now Qe4-e5 would win. **51...Qf7**

**52.Qe5** White wants to mate with Be2-

c4. **52...Rxb4 53.c6 Kh7 54.Qd5**

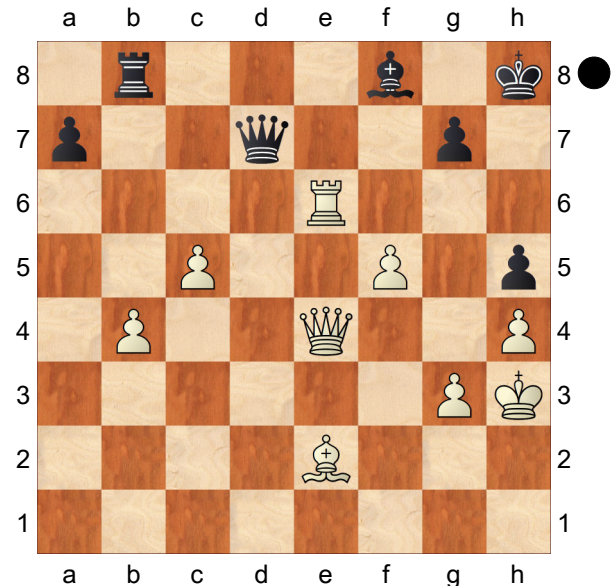
White threatens Re6-h6+! and mate.

**54...Kg8 55.c7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03

(flawless) /Black=0.29 (precise)

**1-0**



**B50**

**2559**

**De Oliveira,Marcio Barbosa 2569**

Rochade 5171-Jub15 bd02 18.10.2005

[MH]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Nf3**

[ 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 d6

6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4

9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2

6.0-0  $\Re$ e8 7. $\Re$ e1\_47236-Atanasov,A

USSR 48/777 2017 CBM 063 [Moreno,

Ale] ]

**3...d6**

[ 3...e6 4.Bb2 d6 5.d4 ( 5.Bb5 Bd7

6.0-0 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Re1 Rc8

9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nf6 11.Nxc6

Rxc6 12.c4 Be7 13.Nc3 0-0

14.Qd3 Nd7 15.Rad1 Bf6

Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3  $\Re$ c6 4.

$\Re$ b2 e6\_25879 Survey 1994

Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ) 5...cxd4

6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.Nb5 Qb8 8.Ba3 d5

9.exd5 Qe5+ 10.Be2 Bxa3

11.N1xa3 exd5 12.f4 Qxf4 13.Qxd5

Nf6 14.Qd6 Qxd6 15.Nxd6+ Ke7  
16.0-0-0 Rab8 17.Rhe1 Kf8 18.Bc4  
12.♙f2 g5 13.♖c1 (2564)-Pina,J  
(2573) USSR 36/(516) 2004 OR:  
Modern Benoni [FS-70/204] 1-0  
(42) ]

**4.d4N**

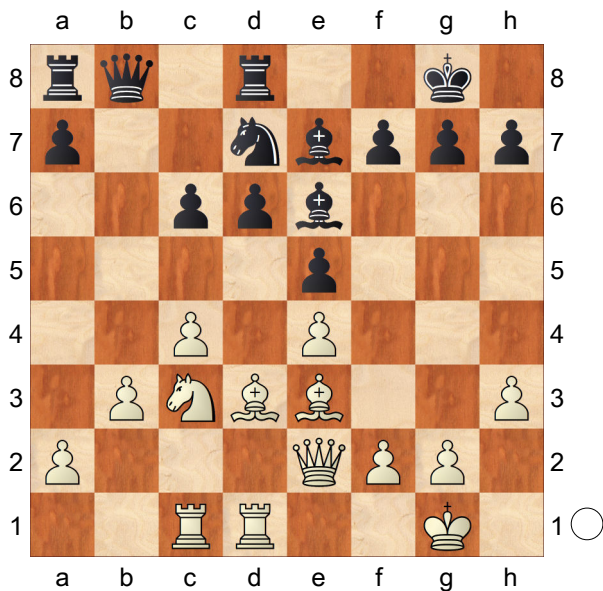
[ 4.Bb2 Nf6 ( 4...e5 5.Bc4 Be7  
6.Nc3 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne1 a6  
9.a4 Bg4 10.f3 Be6 11.g3 Rb8  
12.Ng2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5  
Bxd5 15.Ne3 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 f6  
Chess Informant ECO Survey 2001 )  
5.Nc3 g6 6.Nd5 e5 7.Bb5 Bg7  
8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.d3  
Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nd2 Bh6  
13.Nc4 f5 14.exf5 Rxf5 15.Qe2 Be6  
Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3 Nc6  
Survey 1994 Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ]

**4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6**

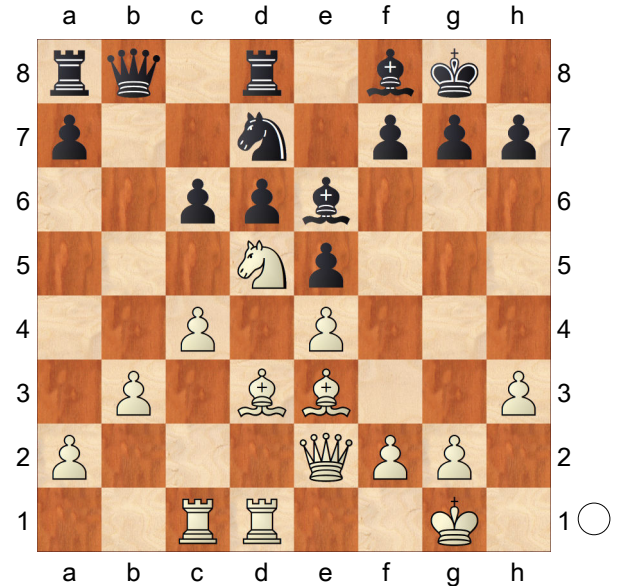
[ 5...Qa5+ keeps more tension. 6.Bd2  
Qe5 7.Be3 f5 ]

**6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 e5 8.0-0**

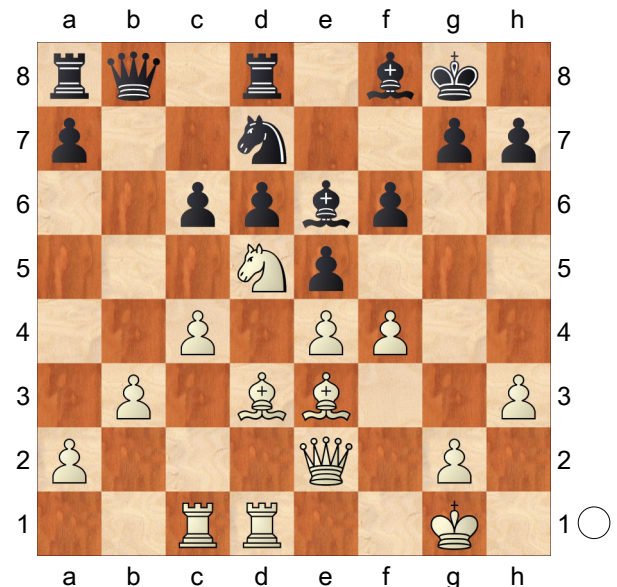
The position is equal. 8...Be7 9.c4 0-0  
10.Nc3 Be6 11.Qe2 Qa5 12.Bd2 Qb6  
13.Be3 Qb4 14.Rac1 Rfd8 15.Rfd1  
Qb8 16.h3 Nd7

**17.Nd5! Bf8**

[ 17...cxd5 18.cxd5 Bxh3 19.gxh3± ]

**18.f4! f6**

[ 18...a5 19.Bc2 ]

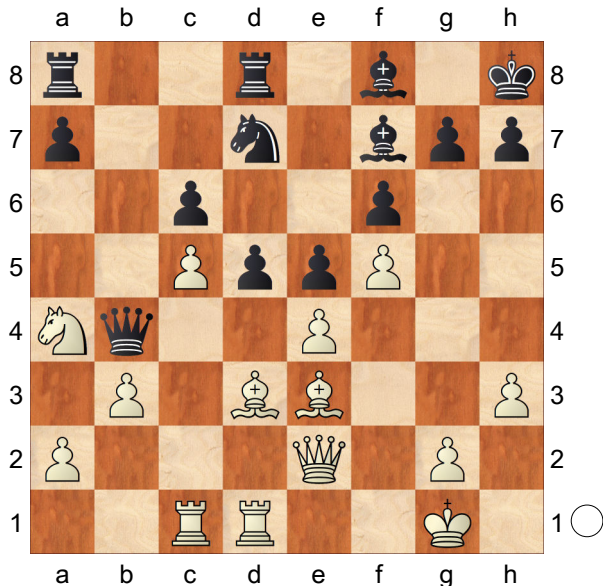


**19.f5!↑** White has good play. **19...Bf7**  
**20.Nc3** 0x0.0017e4aaf174dp-1022s  
more active pieces. **20...Kh8 21.Na4**  
**Qb4 22.c5 d5** 0.74/21

[ 22...Nxc5± 0.43/23 should be  
considered. 23.Nxc5 dxc5 ]

(Diagram)





**23.exd5!± Bxd5 24.Ba6 Bg8 25.Kh2 e4 26.Rd4 Qa5 27.Rxe4 Ne5 28.Kh1 Re8 29.Bd2 Qd8 30.Re1 Qd7 31.Qf2 Bd5 32.R4e3 Bg8 33.Bc3 Rab8 34.Bxe5 fxe5 35.Rxe5 Rxe5 36.Rxe5 Rd8 1.71/22**

[ 36...Be7± 1.28/22 was called for.  
37.Re2 Bf6 ]

**37.Qe3+- Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qb1 39.Nc3 Qb2 40.h4 Bf7 41.Be2**

[ Much less strong is 41.Bb7 Qc2± ]

**41...Qc2 42.b4 Bxa2? 3.37/25**

[ 42...Qb2 1.74/21 keeps fighting.  
43.Re4 Ra8 ]

**43.Nxa2 Qxa2 44.Qe4 Qd2 45.g3 Qd7 46.Re6 Rc8 5.27/24**

[ 46...Qd5 3.50/22 47.Qxd5 Rxd5 ]

**47.Ba6 Rb8 48.Kh3 Qd1 49.Rxc6 h5**

**50.Be2 Qd7 51.Re6 Qf7 52.Qe5**

**Rxb4 53.c6** White wants to mate with

**c6-c7. 53...Kh7 54.Qd5 Kg8 55.c7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.01

(flawless) /Black=0.53

**1-0**

**B50**  
**2559**  
**Grigoryev, Valery Borisovich 2482**  
Rochade tt bd02 email 09.11.2004  
[MH]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Nf3 Nc6**

[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 dxe5 5.Nxe5 Nbd7  
6.f4 g6 7.Bb2 Bg7 8.Bb5 0-0  
9.Bxd7 Nxd7 10.0-0 Nxe5 11.fxe5  
c4 12.Na3 Be6 13.Kh1 Qb6 14.Qe2  
Rac8 15.Rab1 cxb3 16.cxb3 Rfd8  
17.d4 f6 18.Rbc1 5.2f3 e6 6.d4  
cd4\_44148 (2236)-Wastfelt, T (2688)  
corr 2011 CBM 104 theory [Dragan  
Solak] 0-1 ]

**4.d4N**

[ 4.Bb2 e5 ( 4...e6 5.d4 cxd4  
6.Nxd4 e5 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.c4 Nf6  
9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7  
12.Na4 Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3  
4.c6 4.2b2 e6 5.d4\_25 Survey 1994  
Lexikon04 [Horvath, Ta] ) 5.Bc4 Be7  
6.Nc3 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne1 a6  
9.a4 Bg4 10.f3 Be6 11.g3 Rb8  
12.Ng2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5  
Bxd5 15.Ne3 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 f6  
Chess Informant ECO Survey 2001 ]  
[ 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7  
7.Rb1 0-0 8.h3 a6 9.a4 e6 10.Be2  
Re8 11.Ba3 Nh5 12.Bb2 d5 13.d3  
f5 14.Qd2 Nf6 15.exf5 exf5 16.Nd1  
d4 17.Ba3 Qd6 18.Nh2 Nd5  
9.2g5 2e6 10.2h1 2c8 -Sierra  
Vallina, L Schweiz 1893 CBM 055 ext  
[Blum, A FS 92:85] 0-1 (54) ]

**4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nxc6 bxc6  
7.Bd3 e5 8.0-0 Be7 9.c4 0-0 10.Nc3  
Be6 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.Be3 Nc5  
13.Rad1 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Qa5 15.f4**  
Black should prevent f4-f5. **15...Bg4**



16.Rc1 exf4 17.Rxf4 Be6 18.Rf2  
Rfe8 19.Rcf1 Bh4 20.Rf3 Rab8  
21.Bf4 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 Rbd8 23.Be3  
Qa5 24.Ne2 d5 0.84/23  
[ 24...Rd7= 0.25/22 remains equal. ]  
25.exd5!± cxd5 26.Qd4 Be7 27.Rg3  
g6 aiming for ...d5xc4. 28.Bh6! Bf8  
Against Qd4-g7+ 29.c5? -5.16/24  
Rc8? 1.27/22

[ 29...Bxh6-- -5.16/24 30.Nf4 Bxf4  
31.Rxf4 Rc8 ]

30.Rc1? -5.61/23 & Bianco is much  
more active. 30...Qxa2?? 1.87/24

[ 30...Bxh6-- -5.61/23 31.b4 Qxa2 ]  
31.Nf4?? -4.25/24

[ 31.Bxf8+- 1.87/24 was the only  
winning move. Rxf8 32.Nf4 ]

31...Qa3? -0.18/25

[ 31...Bxh6-- -4.25/24 32.Ra1  
Qxa1+!! 33.Qxa1 Bxf4 ]

32.Rf1? -2.22/23

[ 32.Nh5!= -0.18/25 and White has  
nothing to worry. Bxh6 33.Nf6+ Kf8  
34.Nxh7+ Ke7 35.Rf1 Qxc5  
36.Qh4+ Kd6 37.Qxh6 ]

32...Qxc5 33.Qf6 -3.12/23

[ 33.Qxc5 -2.12/25 is a better  
defense. Bxc5 34.Nh5 ]

33...Qf2? 0.45/25

(Diagram)

34.Rf3 -0.87/26 Qb6? 35.Nh5?

-5.28/28 gxf5? 0.01/27

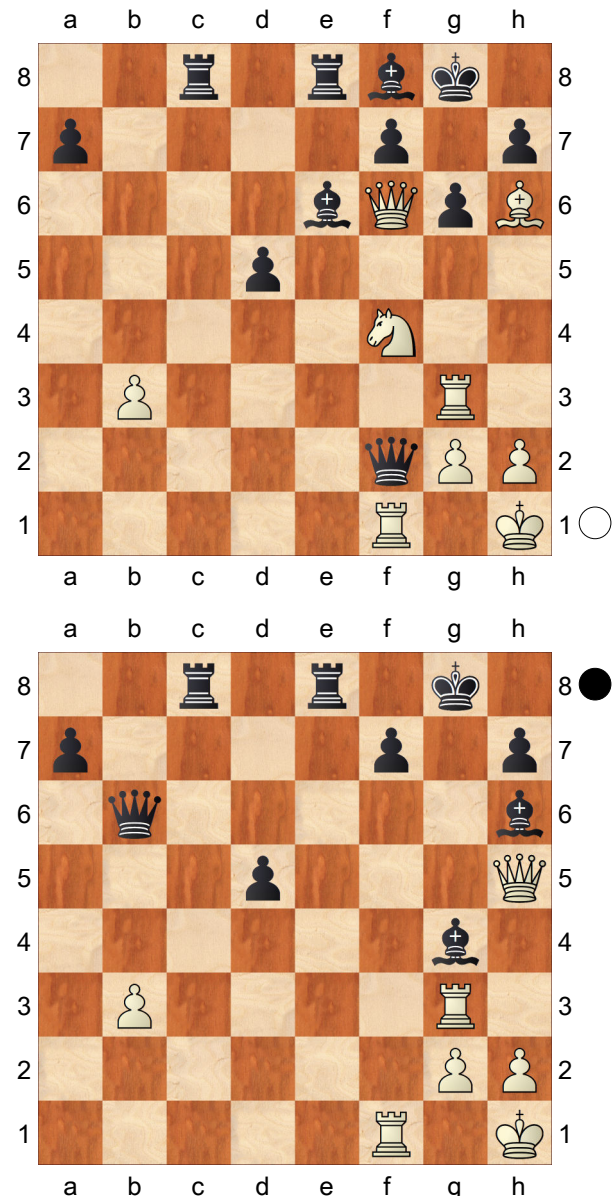
[ 35...Bxh6-- -5.28/28 36.Qe5 gxf5  
37.Rg3+ Bg4 38.Qxh5

(Diagram)

Qe6! ]

36.Qg5+ The position is equal. 36...Kh8

37.Qf6+ Kg8 38.Qg5+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.89/  
Black=0.93

1/2-1/2

B20

□ Pospisil, Ludvik

2559

■ Rizzo, Robert

2473

Rochade tt bd02 email

04.01.2005

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

#### 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nc3N

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5  
 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6  
 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0  
 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5  
 17.Ng5 Chapter 6-1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nc6  
 all lines [Gotham] ]  
 [ 5.Ne2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7  
 8.d3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5  
 11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1  
 Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7  
 16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3  
 Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 6.♔d4 e5 7.  
 ♔d3\_52284-6.♙g5 ♘bd7 7.  
 cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In  
 The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ  
 March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

#### 5...b6 0.64/18

[ 5...Be7 0.31/20 deserves  
 consideration. ]

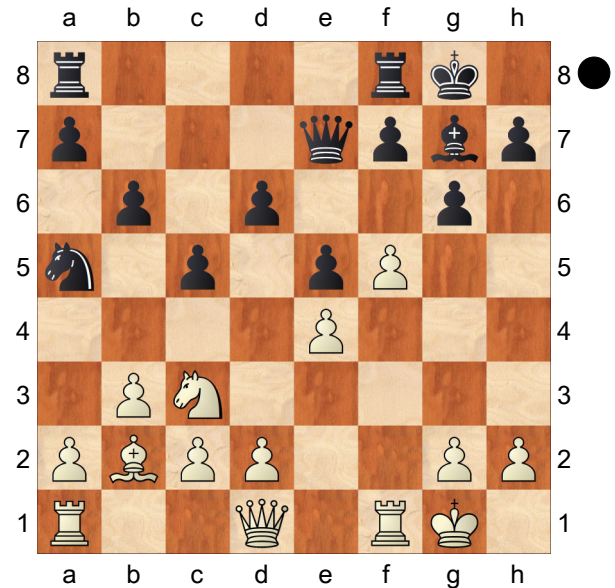
#### 6.Nge2 0.29/20

[ 6.f4± 0.64/18 feels stronger. ]

6...g6= 7.Nd5 Bg7 8.0-0 White is  
 slightly better. 8...Nge7 9.f4 Threatens  
 to win with f4-f5! 9...Na5 10.Bb5+  
 White now steadily converts the win.  
 10...Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Nxe7  
 &Bianco is more active. 12...Qxe7  
 13.Nc3 0-0 14.f5

(Diagram)

aiming for f5-f6! 14...Qh4 15.d3 Nc6  
 16.Nd5 f6 17.c3 g5 1.44/21



[ ♞17...Rae8 1.08/21 ]

18.b4± Black must now prevent Qd1-a4.

18...Kh8 2.14/23

[ 18...Rf7± 1.42/21 19.Qa4 Rc8 ]

19.b5+- Na5 20.c4 g4 21.Bc3 Rf7

22.Bxa5 bxa5 23.Qa4 Bh6 24.Qxa5  
 Bg5 25.b6 Ra1-b1 is the strong threat.

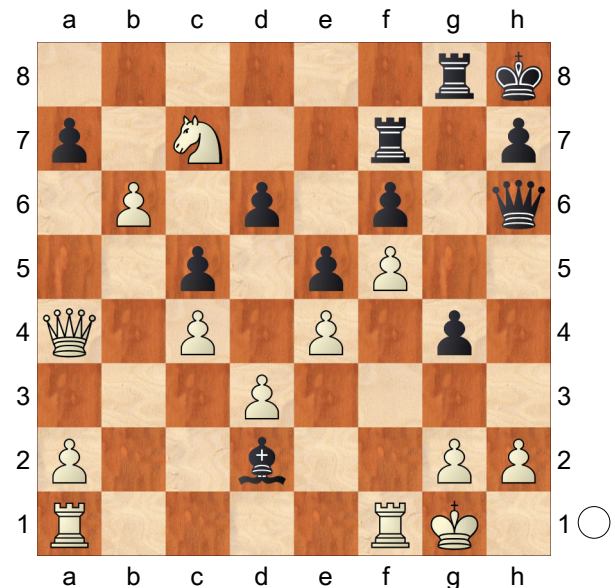
25...Qh6 26.Nc7 1.27/25

[ 26.Rab1+- 2.82/24 and White stays  
 clearly on top. Rb7 27.Qa6 ]

26...Bd2 2.70/26 27.Qa4

[Worse is 27.b7 Rg8 28.Qxa7  
 Rxc7= ]

27...Rg8



**28.bxa7!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)

**1-0**

□ **Pospisil,Ludvik**

**B20**

**2559**

■ **Kruse,Hartwig**

**2538**

corr CR15th Jub.Rochade 15.03.2006

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6N**

[ 4...Nc6 5.Bb2 g6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5 Qxe5 10.0-0 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3 Bd7 17.Nd2 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 13.g5 ♘c5 14.♚f3 (2395)-Rinkewitz,F (2450) Espana 83/571 1991 EXT 97 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter] 1-0 (51) ]

**5.Bb2 Nf4 6.d4 dxe5 7.Nxe5 Qd5****8.Qf3** White is slightly better. **8...Qxf3****9.Nxf3**

[ 9.gxf3 cxd4 10.Bb5+ Nd7= ]

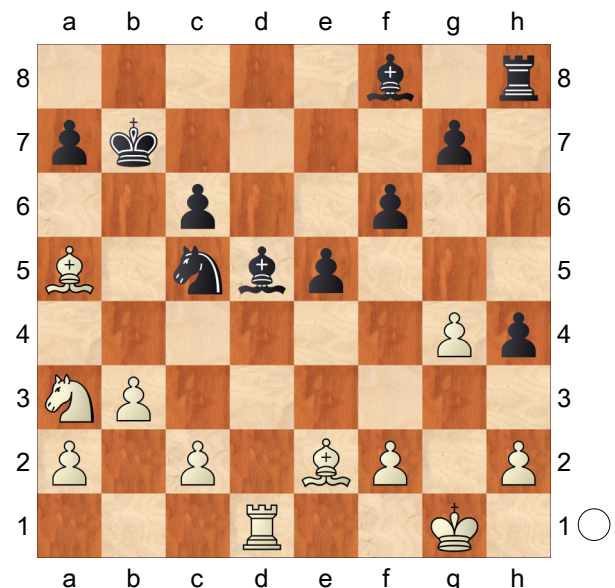
**9...Nc6 10.dxc5 Bf5 11.g3 Ne6****12.Na3 Be4 13.Be2 0-0-0 14.0-0****Nxc5 15.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1 f6****17.Nd4 e5 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Bg4+!****Kc7! 20.Bc3 h5 0.74/24**

[ 20...Be7!± 0.38/25 ]

**21.Ba5+± Kb7 22.Be2 h4 23.g4**

0.06/23

[ 23.Nc4± 0.39/23 ]

**23...Bd5!=****24.Nb5! Ne6** Against Nb5-c7 **25.c4****Be4 0.32/23**

[ 25...Nf4= 0.01/26 26.Bf3 Nh3+ 27.Kf1 Bxf3 28.Rd7+ Kc8 29.Rd8+ Kb7 30.Rd7+ Kc8 31.Rd8+ Kb7 32.Rd7+ ]

**26.Nd6+± Bxd6 27.Rxd6 Nd4 28.Bd1**

A strong pair of Bishops. **28...Bb1 29.a4**

**Ba2! 30.Rd7+ Ka6 31.b4 Bxc4****32.Rxg7 Rc8 33.Rd7! Be6 34.Rd6**

Strongly threatening Ba5-d8. **34...Rg8**

**35.h3 f5 36.f3! Bd5 37.Rd7 Be6**

0.61/24

[ Resist 37...Nxf3+ 38.Kf2 Nd4

39.Bc7± ]



[ 37...Bxf3= 0.01/25 38.Rxd4 exd4  
39.Bxf3 fxc4 40.Bxc6 gxh3+ 41.Kh2  
Rc8 ]

**38.Rd8!** And now Rd8xg8 would win.

**38...Rg7 39.Rd6! Bd5 40.Bd8!**

Threatens to win with Bd8-f6. **40...Nxf3+  
41.Bxf3**

[ 41.Kf2 is more complex. fxc4  
42.hxc4 e4 43.Rh6 ]

**41...Bxf3** Endgame KRB-KRB **42.g5  
Rg8 43.Be7** White has strong  
compensation.

[ Much worse is 43.g6?! Bh5= ]

**43...f4 44.Rh6 Kb6 45.Re6! e4 46.Kf2**  
0.38/24

[ 46.g6± 0.80/22 ]

**46...a5 47.Bc5+ Kb7 48.g6**  
aiming for Re6-e7+. **48...Rg7 49.Bf8  
Rg8 50.Bd6** 0.22/24

[ 50.Re7+± 0.69/24 was preferable.  
Ka6 51.Rf7 ]

**50...axb4 51.Bxf4** 0.11/22

[ 51.Bxb4± 0.51/22 Bh5 52.Rxe4  
Rxc6 53.Rxf4 ]

**51...c5 52.Bg5** -0.01/18

[ 52.Be5± 0.34/20 ]

**52...b3** 0.89/24

[ 52...c4= -0.01/18 keeps the  
balance. ]

(Diagram)

**53.Bc1!± Bh5 54.Re7+ Kc6 55.g7  
Kd6 56.Ra7 Be8 57.Bb2** & Bianco is  
more active. **57...Bd7 58.Ra6+ Ke7  
59.a5 Be6** 1.36/22

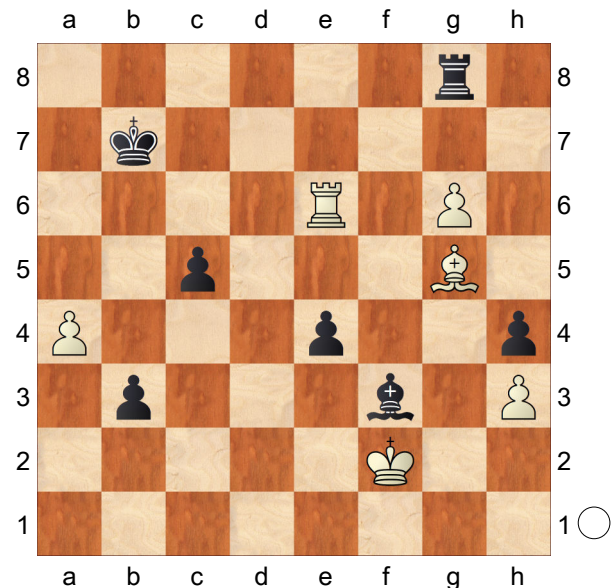
[ 59...Bxh3 0.85/22 60.Rh6 Be6 ]

**60.Rb6 Bxh3 61.Rh6** 0.88/23

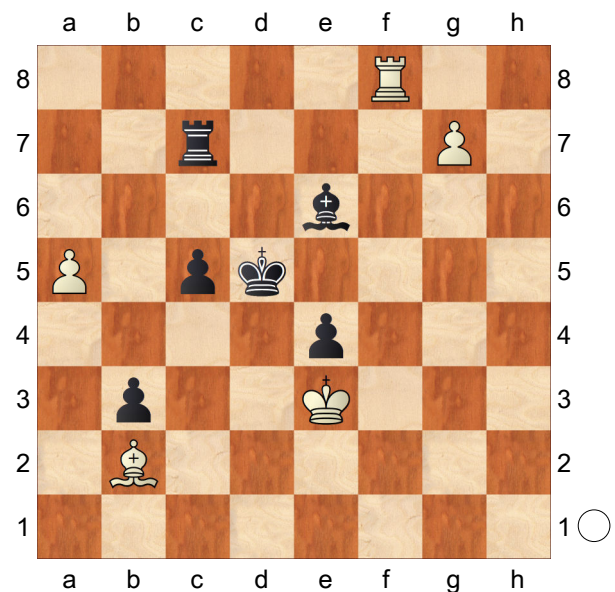
[ 61.Be5 1.19/18 ]

**61...Be6 62.Rxh4 Ra8** 1.12/22

[ Black should play 62...Rd8 0.79/21 ]



**63.Rh6 Kd6** Inhibits Bb2-e5+. **64.Ke3  
Kd5 65.Rf6 Rc8 66.Rf8** Threatening  
mate with Rf8xc8. **66...Rc7**



**67.Re8** 0.35/25

[ 67.a6!± 0.81/22 ]

**67...Bf7± 68.Rf8** 0.01/17

[ 68.Rb8± 0.43/22 is superior. ]

**68...Be6= 69.Re8** 0.01/28

Weighted Error Value: White=0.07  
(flawless) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

[ 69.a6± 0.86/22 ]

½-½



**Gelashvili,T** **B20**  
 **Vladimirov,E** **2547**  
**2605**  
 Arad United Emirates (3) 17.04.2002  
*[Gary Lane, MH]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4** Lane,Gary **1...c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2**  
**Nf6**

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6  
 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6  
 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4  
 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8  
 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7  
 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.  
 ♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)-Virviescas  
 Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr  
 62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

#### 4.Bb5+

[ 4.d3 g6 5.f4 White takes steps to  
 stop ...e7-e5 and prepare a potential  
 kingside expansion with f4-f5. Lane,  
 Gary: 'White takes steps to stop ...e7-  
 e5 and prepare a potential kingside  
 expansion with f4-f5.' Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0  
 7.c4 An idea to control the centre,  
 which is borrowed from the English  
 Defence. Lane,Gary: 'An idea to  
 control the centre, which is borrowed  
 from the English Defence.' ( 7.g3!/?  
 is worth investigating intending to  
 castle kingside with similar play to a  
 Closed Sicilian. Lane,Gary: 'is worth  
 investigating intending to castle  
 kingside with similar play to a  
 Closed Sicilian.' ) 7...Nc6 8.Nc3 e5  
 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.cxd5  
 Nd4 12.Be2 Qa5+ 13.Kf2 ( 13.Qd2?  
 Nc2+ 14.Kd1 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Nxa1  
 16.Rxa1 f6 when Black has a material  
 advantage. ) 13...f5 Black is right to  
 try and take advantage of the

temporary misplaced white king. Lane,  
 Gary: 'Black is right to try and take  
 advantage of the temporary misplaced  
 white king.' 14.Rf1 Nxf3 15.Bxf3 c4  
 16.Kg1 Lane,Gary: 'Or' (Or 16.dxc4  
 fxe4; 16.bxc4 Qb6+ ) 16...c3  
 the passed c-pawn will be a long-  
 term menace. 17.Bc1 Qc5+ 18.Kh1  
 b5 with advantage for Black, A.  
 Pridorozhni-A.Motylev, Tomsk 2001. ]

#### 4...Nbd7

[ 4...Bd7 is the main alternative  
 5.Bxd7+ Nbx7 6.d3 e5  
 Black makes sure that the a1-h8  
 diagonal is closed to ward off the  
 threat of white's queen's bishop.  
 Lane,Gary: 'Black makes sure that the  
 a1-h8 diagonal is closed to ward off  
 the threat of white's queen's bishop.'  
 7.Ne2 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Be7  
 10.Nbc3 Nxc3 11.Nxc3 0-0 12.Nd5  
 Bd6 13.Qf3 gave White a slight  
 initiative, T.Gelashvili-M.Gagunashvili,  
 Batumi 2001. Lane,Gary: 'gave White  
 a slight initiative, T.Gelashvili-M.  
 Gagunashvili,Batumi 2001.' ]

#### 5.d3N

[ 5.Qe2

**A) 5...a6** 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 e6  
 8.Nf3 Bc6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0  
 11.0-0 b5 12.Rae1 ( 12.e5 Nd5  
 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4  
 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8  
 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6  
 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
 23.Raf1 Qd2 24.Bc1 Qd4+  
 25.R3f2 Bxc1 26.Rxc1 b4  
 11.♞e1 h6 12.♞b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)-  
 Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
 0-1 (59) ) 12...a5 13.e5 Nd5  
 14.exd6 Nxf4 15.Qe5 Bf6 16.Qxf4

Bxb2 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.dxe4 e5  
19.Nxe5 Qxd6 20.Nd3 6...dxc4  
madness: 7...Be6 27 (2341)–7.  
♘f3 ♕d6 8.♖e2 h6 (2489) Torquay  
ENG 2000 Telechess CBM 89 [FS–  
66/105];

**B) 5...g6 6.f4 Bg7 7.Nf3 0–0**  
8.0–0 White could exchange on d7  
but he can save time by waiting  
until he is forced. Lane,Gary: 'White  
could exchange on d7 but he can  
save time by waiting until he is  
forced.' a6 9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.Nc3  
b5 11.f5 Bb7 ( 11...gxf5 12.exf5  
Qxf5 13.Qxe7 Qxc2 14.Nd1  
with equal chances. ) 12.d3 e6  
13.fxc6 fxc6 14.Rae1 when the  
game soon drifted to a draw, I.  
Papaioannou–B.Gelfand, Istanbul  
2000. Lane,Gary: 'when the game  
soon drifted to a draw, I.  
Papaioannou–B.Gelfand, Istanbul  
2000.' ]

### 5...g6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7

[Don't do 6...Kxd7 7.e5 dxe5  
8.Nf3± ]

**7.f4** The advance of the f–pawn is a  
standard idea in lines with 2 b3 because  
it helps to prevent ...e7–e5. Lane,Gary:  
'The advance of the f–pawn is a  
standard idea in lines with 2 b3 because  
it helps to prevent ...e7–e5.' **7...Bg7**  
**8.Nf3 0–0 9.0–0 d5!** The timing has to  
be right before Black challenges the  
centre. In this case, Vladimirov has  
spotted that the opportunity has arisen.  
Lane,Gary: 'The timing has to be right  
before Black challenges the centre. In  
this case, Vladimirov has spotted that  
the opportunity has arisen.'. The  
position is equal. **10.exd5** Lane,Gary:  
'Or'

[Or 10.e5 Ng4 Strongly threatening ...  
Ng4–e3. 11.Qd2! Against Ng4–e3  
( 11.Qe1 d4 12.Bc1 is hardly what  
White wants because it is rather  
passive. Inhibits Ng4–e3. ) 11...d4  
with the black knight ready to hop on  
to the e3 square. ]

### 10...Nxd5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7

[ 11...Ne3? 3.28/23 11...Kg8xg7 0.06  
is simply awful because it loses a  
piece after 12.Qe2 Nxf1 13.Bxf8  
Qxf8 14.Qxf1 ]

[ 11...Re8 feels hotter. 12.Bc3 Ne3  
13.Qe2 Nxf1 14.Kxf1 Qc7 ]

### 12.Qd2 Against Nd5–e3 12...Qc7

### 13.Ne5 Rad8 14.Rf2 Bc8 15.Nc3

Gelashvili finally activates the queen's  
knight although prospects are still fairly  
level. Lane,Gary: 'Gelashvili finally  
activates the queen's knight although  
prospects are still fairly level.' **15...Qa5**

[ 15...Nxc3 16.Qxc3 Black must now  
prevent Ne5–d7+. f6 17.Nf3 Bg4  
0.24/20 ( 17...Rfe8 –0.09/21  
is more appropriate. ) 18.Re1  
with some play against the e–pawn.  
Lane,Gary: 'with some play against  
the e–pawn.' ]

### 16.Nxd5 Pair of Knights! 16...Qxd2

### 17.Rxd2 Rxd5 18.Re1 f6 19.Nc4 Kf7

**20.Rde2** White has good chances  
against someone weak but a 2600  
player is hardly going to go wrong.  
Lane,Gary: 'White has good chances  
against someone weak but a 2600  
player is hardly going to go wrong.'

### 20...Re8 21.a4 h6

[ 21...Rh5? 5.23/24 21...Rd5–d4 0.01  
22.Nd6+! brings the game to a quick  
finish. Lane,Gary: 'brings the game to  
a quick finish.' ]

### 22.h4 h5 23.a5 Bd7 24.g3 Bc6

Vladimirov starts a manoeuvre to increase the value of the bishop by finding a superior square. Lane, Gary: 'Vladimirov starts a manoeuvre to increase the value of the bishop by finding a superior square.' **25.Kf2 Rd7 26.Re3 Red8 27.Ke2** White cannot make any obvious progress so decides to walk the king over to the queenside. Lane, Gary: 'White cannot make any obvious progress so decides to walk the king over to the queenside.' **27...Rc7 28.Kd2 Bd5**

[ 28...Rcd7 with more complications. 29.Kc3 Bg2 30.R3e2 Bh3 ]

**29.Na3**

[ 29.Kc3 is also equal. ]

**29...Bc6 30.c4** White closes the game in an effort to lessen the chances of Black making a breakthrough. Lane, Gary: 'White closes the game in an effort to lessen the chances of Black making a breakthrough.' **30...Rd6 31.Kc3 Be8**

[ 31...b6 looks sharper. 32.axb6 axb6 33.b4 Ra7 ]

**32.Nc2**

[ 32.b4 keeps more tension. cxb4+ 33.Kxb4 b6 34.axb6 Rxb6+ 35.Kc3 ]

**32...b5 33.axb6 axb6 34.d4 cxd4+ 35.Nxd4 b5**

(Diagram)

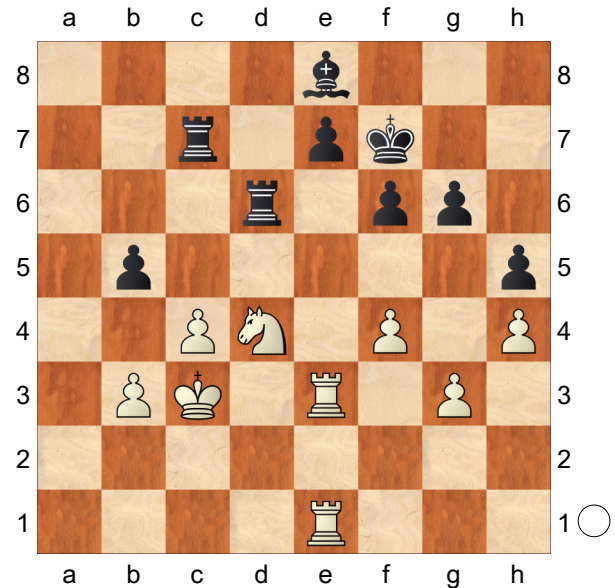
aiming for ...b5–b4+! **36.Ne6 Rb7**

[ 36...Rc8 37.c5 intending b3–b4 cementing the passed pawn is in White's favour. ]

**37.Nc5**

[ 37.c5 b4+ 38.Kc2 Rd5 when the passed c–pawn is on the verge of being rounded up. ]

**37...Rc7 38.Ne6** A balanced but



interesting game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)  
1/2–1/2



**Gelashvili, Tamaz**

**B20**

**2547**



**Vladimirov, Yevgeniy**

**2605**

Dubai op (3)

17.04.2002

[Gary Lane, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0–0–0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0–0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4. 2.f3 g5 5.g (2515)–Virviescas Sanchez, C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0–1 (45) ]

**4.Bb5+**

[ 4.d3 g6 5.f4 White takes steps to stop ...e7–e5 and prepare a potential kingside expansion with f4–f5. Bg7 6.Nf3 0–0 7.c4 An idea to control the

centre, which is borrowed from the English Defence. ( 7.g3!? is worth investigating intending to castle kingside with similar play to a Closed Sicilian. ) 7...Nc6 8.Nc3 e5 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.cxd5 Nd4 12.Be2 Qa5+ 13.Kf2 ( 13.Qd2? Nc2+ 14.Kd1 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Nxa1 16.Rxa1 f6 when Black has a material advantage. ) 13...f5 Black is right to try and take advantage of the temporary misplaced white king. 14.Rf1 Nxf3 15.Bxf3 c4 16.Kg1 (Or 16.dxc4 fxe4; 16.bxc4 Qb6+ ) 16...c3 the passed c-pawn will be a long-term menace. 17.Bc1 Qc5+ 18.Kh1 b5 with advantage for Black, A. Pridorozhni-A.Motylev, Tomsk 2001. ]

#### 4...Nbd7

[ 4...Bd7 is the main alternative 5.Bxd7+ Nbx7 6.d3 e5 Black makes sure that the a1-h8 diagonal is closed to ward off the threat of white's queen's bishop. 7.Ne2 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbc3 Nxc3 11.Nxc3 0-0 12.Nd5 Bd6 13.Qf3 gave White a slight initiative, T.Gelashvili-M.Gagunashvili, Batumi 2001. ]

#### 5.d3N

[ 5.Qe2  
**A)** 5...a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 e6 8.Nf3 Bc6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.0-0 b5 12.Rae1 ( 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 23.Raf1 Qd2 24.Bc1 Qd4+ 25.R3f2 Bxc1 26.Rxc1 b4 11.♖e1 h6 12.♜b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023

Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 0-1 (59) ) 12...a5 13.e5 Nd5 14.exd6 Nxf4 15.Qe5 Bf6 16.Qxf4 Bxb2 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.dxe4 e5 19.Nxe5 Qxd6 20.Nd3 6...dxc4 madness: 7...Be6 27 (2341)-7. ♖1f3 ♔d6 8.♜e2 h6 (2489) Torquay ENG 2000 Telechess CBM 89 [FS-66/105];

**B)** 5...g6 6.f4 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 White could exchange on d7 but he can save time by waiting until he is forced. a6 9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.Nc3 b5 11.f5 Bb7 ( 11...gxf5 12.exf5 Qxf5 13.Qxe7 Qxc2 14.Nd1 with equal chances. ) 12.d3 e6 13.fxg6 fxg6 14.Rae1 when the game soon drifted to a draw, I.Papaioannou-B.Gelfand, Istanbul 2000. ]

#### 5...g6 6.Bxd7+ -0.11/22

[ 6.a4 0.20/21 might be stronger. ]

#### 6...Bxd7=

[ But not 6...Kxd7 7.e5 dxe5 8.Nf3± ]

**7.f4** The advance of the f-pawn is a standard idea in lines with 2 b3 because it helps to prevent ...e7-e5. **7...Bg7**  
**8.Nf3** Black has an edge. **8...0-0 9.0-0 d5!** 0.10/19 The timing has to be right before Black challenges the centre. In this case, Vladimirov has spotted that the opportunity has arisen.

[ ♞9...b5 -0.27/17 ]

#### 10.exd5 The position is equal.

[ Or 10.e5 Ng4 ...Ng4-e3 is the strong threat. 11.Qd2 Prevents Ng4-e3. ( 11.Qe1 d4 12.Bc1 is hardly what White wants because it is rather passive. Inhibits Ng4-e3. ) 11...d4 with the black knight ready to hop on to the e3 square. ]

#### 10...Nxd5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7



[ 11...Ne3? 3.26/22 11...Kg8xg7 0.08  
is simply awful because it loses a  
piece after 12.Qe2 Nxf1 13.Bxf8  
Qxf8 14.Qxf1 ]

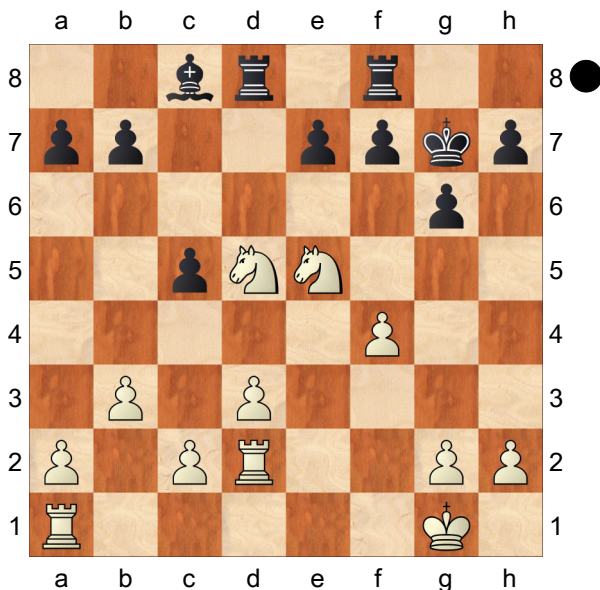
**12.Qd2** Prevents Nd5-e3. **12...Qc7**

**13.Ne5 Rad8 14.Rf2 Bc8 15.Nc3**

Gelashvili finally activates the queen's  
knight although prospects are still fairly  
level. **15...Qa5**

[ 15...Nxc3 16.Qxc3 Black must now  
prevent Ne5-d7+. f6 17.Nf3 Bg4  
0.23/20 ( 17...Rfe8 -0.08/15 )  
18.Re1 with some play against the e-  
pawn. ]

**16.Nxd5** Pair of Knights! **16...Qxd2**  
**17.Rxd2**



aiming for Nd5-c3. **17...Rxd5 18.Re1**  
**f6 19.Nc4 Kf7 20.Rde2** White has  
good chances against someone weak  
but a 2600 player is hardly going to go  
wrong. **20...Re8 21.a4 h6**

[ 21...Rh5? 5.24/24 21...Rd5-d4 0.01  
22.Nd6+! brings the game to a quick  
finish. ]

**22.h4 h5 23.a5 Bd7 24.g3 Bc6**

Vladimirov starts a manoeuvre to  
increase the value of the bishop by  
finding a superior square. **25.Kf2 Rd7**

**26.Re3 Red8 27.Ke2** White cannot  
make any obvious progress so decides  
to walk the king over to the queenside.

**27...Rc7 28.Kd2 Bd5**

[ 28...Bg2 is more complex. 29.R3e2  
Bh3 30.Kc3 Rcd7 ]

**29.Na3**

[ 29.Kc3 is also equal. ]

**29...Bc6 30.c4** White closes the game  
in an effort to lessen the chances of  
Black making a breakthrough. **30...Rd6**

**31.Kc3 Be8 32.Nc2**

[ 32.b4 keeps more tension. cxb4+  
33.Kxb4 b6 34.axb6 Rxb6+ 35.Kc3 ]

**32...b5 33.axb6! axb6 34.d4 cxd4+**

**35.Nxd4 b5 36.Ne6 Rb7**

[ 36...Rc8 37.c5 intending b3-b4  
cementing the passed pawn is in  
White's favour. ]

**37.Nc5**

[ 37.c5 b4+ 38.Kc2 Rd5 when the  
passed c-pawn is on the verge of  
being rounded up. ]

**37...Rc7 38.Ne6 Rb7 39.Nc5**

A balanced but interesting game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03  
(flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

1/2-1/2

□ **Gelashvili,Tamaz**

■ **Shengelia,Davit**

EU-ch 3rd Batumi (6)

[Shengelia,Davit]

**B20**

**2547**

**2415**

17.06.2002

Shengelia,D: 'Inf 85/101' **1.e4 c5 2.b3**  
**d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.d3**

[ 5.Qe2 Ü 79/107 Shengelia,D: '— 79/  
107' Shengelia,D: '— 79/107

Shengelia,Davit: 'Ü 79/107" ]

**5...g6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3**

0-0 9.0-0 b5!?N ≠

[ 9...d5 ]

10.Qe2 a5 11.c4?

[ 11.Nbd2 ]

11...a4? 12.Nbd2 Qb6 13.Bc3 Qb7

14.h3?! Rfe8! [Δ h5] 15.Qe1

[ 15.g4 Nh5! ]

15...b4 16.Bxf6?!

[ 16.Bb2 a3 17.Bxf6 exf6? ]

16...exf6? 17.Qh4 f5 18.Rae1 axb3

19.axb3 Qc8 20.Re2 Qd8 21.Qf2 Ra2

22.Rfe1 Bc3 23.Kh2

[ 23.exf5 Rxe2 24.Rxe2 Bxf5  
( 24...gxf5!? ) 25.Ne4 Ra1+ 26.Kh2  
Rb1? ]

23...fxe4! 24.dxe4 Bc6 25.g4⊕ Rb2

26.g5 Qa8 27.Kg3 Qa3 28.Re3

Rxb3-+ 29.Nxb3 Qxb3 30.Nd2 Qc2

31.R3e2 Ra8⊕

[ 31...b3 ]

32.f5 Ra2 33.fxg6 hxg6 34.Rf1 Be8

35.e5 dxe5?

[ 35...Bxe5+ 36.Kh4 Qd3 Δ ♖d2 ]

36.Qxc5 Bxd2 37.Rxe5 Ra3+

[ 37...Bf4+ 38.Rxf4 ( 38.Kxf4 Qh2+  
39.Ke4 Re2+ 40.Kd4 Rd2+ )  
38...Qh2+ 39.Kf3 Bc6+ ]

38.Rf3

[ 38.Kh4 Bd7 ]

38...Rxf3+ 39.Kxf3 Qd3+ 40.Kf2 Bc6

41.Qxc6 Qd4+ 42.Ke2 Qxe5+

43.Kxd2 Qc3+ 44.Kd1 b3 45.Qe8+

Kg7 46.Qe4 Qa1+ 47.Kd2 b2

48.Qd4+ Kh7 49.Qf6 b1Q

0-1

B20

□ Hidalgo, Juan Carlos

2537

■ Moudallal, Tarek

2512

USSR (ch) 39/99 (2.2)

23.03.2003

[Mikhalchishin/Ali Marandi, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink, J (2683)-11...♙c7 12.♘bd2 cd4

13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;

ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

4.Bb5

[ 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4

7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6

10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8

13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5

16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade,

E-12 9th move alternatives Greek

Team Championship 2019 200 Traps

In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/

APA Dec 96] ]

4...d6

[ 4...Nge7 5.Ne2 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6

7.0-0 d6 8.Nbc3 ( 8.f4 g6 9.Nbc3

Bg7 10.Nd5 ) 8...Be6 9.f4 f6

10.Nd5 ]

[ 4...Nd4 5.Bc4 Nf6 ( 5...Qg5 6.Bxd4

Qxg2 7.Qh5 Nh6 8.Qxe5+ Kd8

9.Be3 Qxh1 10.f3 ) 6.Nc3 Be7

7.Nge2 0-0 8.d3 Rb8 9.a4 a6

10.a5 d6 11.Qd2 ]

5.Bxc6+N

[ 5.Ne2 Nf6 6.Nbc3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0

8.a4 Nd4 9.Bc4 b6 10.Bd5 Rb8

11.f4 a6 12.f5 ]

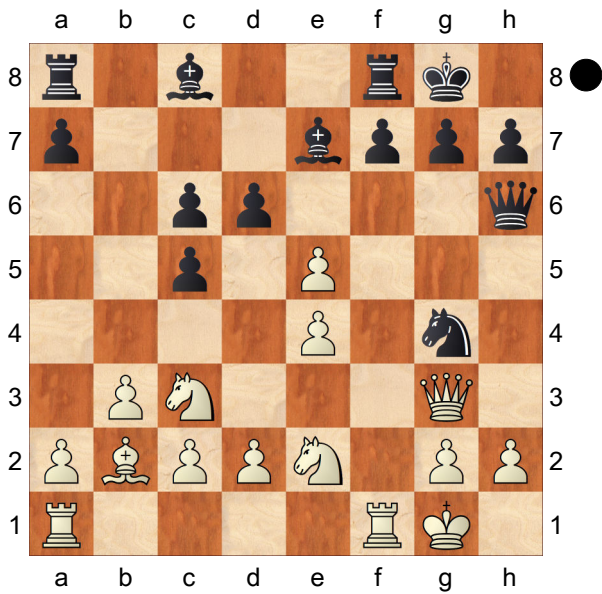
[ 5.f4 g5 6.fxe5 Bg7 7.Na3 Nge7

8.Nc4 0-0 9.exd6 Nd4 10.Bxd4  
 cxd4 11.dxe7 Qxe7 12.Nb2 Qxe4+  
 13.Kf1 Qf5+ 0-1 (13) 11.♗h4 c5 12.  
 ♖e1 (2475)-Solic,K (2328) corr 2000  
 200 Traps In The Opening [Ragger,  
 Markus] ]

### 5...bxc6 6.Ne2 Qg5

[ 6...Qh4 7.0-0 Nf6 0.16/21  
 ( 6...Qxe4 -0.17/20 8.f4 f6 ) 8.f4  
 Be7 9.Nbc3 0-0 10.Qe1 Qh6

**A) 11.fxe5 Ng4! 12.Qg3 -1.34/23**  
 ( 12.h3= -0.07/22 Nxe5 13.Ng3 )



12...Bh4!;

**B) 11.d3 -0.31/22 11.Bb2-c1 0.01**  
 Ng4 12.Qg3 f5!;

**C) 11.f5 d5 0.36/22 ( 11...Nd7=**  
 -0.01/20 ) 12.Bc1± Hoping for d2-  
 d4! dxe4 0.91/23 ( 12...g5± 0.38/21 )  
 13.Ng3 e3 14.Nce4 Qh4 15.d3 ]

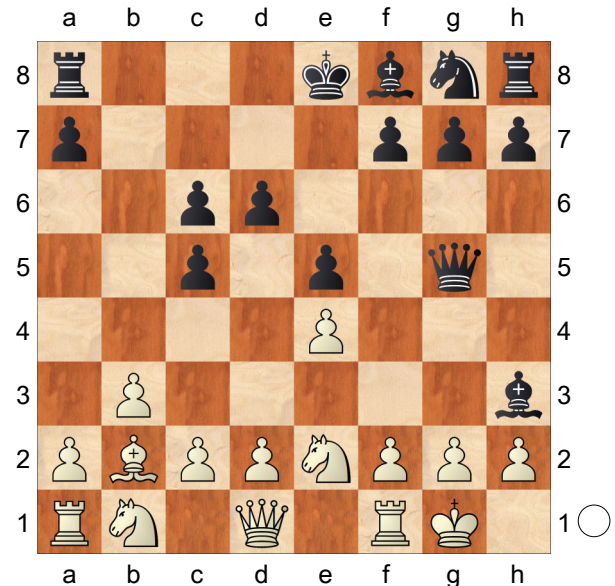
### 7.0-0 Bh3

[ 7...d5 1.34/20 7...Ng8-f6 0.27 8.d3  
 0.18/20 ( 8.exd5± 1.34/20 cxd5 9.f4 ) ]  
 [ 7...Nf6

**A) 8.f4 exf4 9.Nxf4 Nxe4 1.18/24**  
 ( 9...Be7= 0.24/21 ) 10.Qe1 Qe7;

**B) 8.d3 Be7 9.f4 ]**

(Diagram)



**8.Ng3 White is slightly better. 8...Be6**

### 9.d3 h5

[ 9...Ne7 ]

[ 9...Nf6 10.f4 0.13/23 ( 10.Bc1±  
 0.55/22 is superior. Qh4 11.Nd2 )  
 10...exf4= 11.Qd2 d5 ]

### 10.f4 exf4 11.Ne2 Be7

[ 11...Bg4 12.Qd2 ( 12.Nbc3 -0.52/22  
 12.Qd1-d2 0.51 f3 ) 12...Bxe2  
 13.Qxe2 Ne7 14.Qf2 Ng6 15.Nc3  
 Be7 16.Ne2 Bf6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6  
 18.Nxf4 Nxf4 19.Qxf4 Qxf4  
 20.Rxf4 ]

### 12.Nxf4 Bf6

[ 12...Nf6 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Qe2  
 0.52/21 ( 14.h3± 0.98/21 ) 14...Bg4  
 15.Qe3 ]

### 13.Qc1

[ 13.Nxe6 0.34/21 13.Bb2xf6 0.67 ]

### 13...Bxb2 14.Qxb2 Nf6 15.Nd2 Ng4

**16.Rae1 Ne5 1.36/21 Black is now**  
 going downhill.

[ 16...0-0! 17.c3 ( 17.d4 ) 17...Ne5  
 18.d4 Nd7 19.Qa3 ( 19.Qc1 Rfe8  
 20.Nf3 Qh6 ) 19...Rfe8 20.Qa5 ]

[ 16...Qh4? 17.h3 Ne5 18.Nxe6 fxe6  
 19.Nc4+- ]

[Black should play 16...0-0!± 0.55/23 ]

**17.Nxe6± fxe6 18.Nc4 Rd8**

[ 18...Nxc4 19.bxc4 Qe7

Against Qb2-b7 20.Rb1 ]

**19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Qxe5 dxe5**

Endgame KRR-KRR **21.Re3 h4**

**22.Ref3 Rd7 23.R1f2 a5 24.Kf1 Re7**

**25.Ke2 g5** 2.14/27

[ 25...a4± 1.55/25 26.bxa4 Ra7 ]

**26.Rf6+- Rg8 27.Rh6 Kd7 28.Rff6**

**Kd6 29.Rhg6 Rxc6 30.Rxc6 KR-KR**

**30...c4 31.dxc4 Rf7 32.Rxc6 Rf4**

**33.Ke3 Rf1 34.h3 Re1+ 35.Kd3 a4**

**36.bxa4 Rd1+ 37.Kc3 Re1 38.Rg4**

White is clearly winning. **38...Kc5**

**39.Rxh4 Re3+ 40.Kd2 Kd4**

Prevents c2-c3+. **41.Rg4 Ra3 42.h4**

**Rxa2 43.h5** Threatens to win with h5-

h6. **43...Ra1 44.Rh4 Rg1 45.c3+**

**Kxc4 46.Rh2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03

(flawless) /Black=0.20 (precise)

**1-0**

□ **Kabanov,Nikolai**

■ **Navara,David**

FIDE World Cup (1.2)

[Cyrus Lakdawala, MH]

**B20**

**2520**

**2722**

29.08.2011

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4**

[ 1.b3 g6 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e4

was H.Nakamura-V.Kramnik, London

(blitz) 2014. Nakamura has several

games from this position in the

database. Now his opponents all play

Bg7 . (However, if Black plays 3...c5

, we transpose to the position in our

game. )]

**1...c5 2.b3 g6!?** Politicians tend to

promise us a utopian society, at the high

cost of restricting freedoms. One of the ideas behind the b3-Sicilian is that White's fianchettoed bishop discourages black kingside fianchettos. Apparently nobody told Navara, who isn't discouraged in the least, and decides to swim upstream and counter-fianchetto. QUESTION: Is this a joke?

ANSWER: No joke. I added this line to emphasize that your writer is hip, trendy, and follows all the latest theoretical fashions - even the ridiculous-looking ones! Actually this move isn't as bad as it appears, and is the current darling of top GMs. In fact, 'New in Chess', the world's premier opening theory magazine, committed an entire article on it by IM Jeroen Bosch.

Politicians tend to promise us a utopian society, at the high cost of restricting freedoms. One of the ideas behind the b3-Sicilian is that White's fianchettoed bishop discourages black kingside fianchettos. Apparently nobody told Navara, who isn't discouraged in the least, and decides to swim upstream and counter-fianchetto.

QUESTION: Is this a joke?

ANSWER: No joke. I added this line to emphasize that your writer is hip, trendy, and follows all the latest theoretical fashions - even the ridiculous-looking ones! Actually this move isn't as bad as it appears, and is the current darling of top GMs. In fact, 'New in Chess', the world's premier opening theory magazine, committed an entire article on it by IM Jeroen Bosch.

Richard Palliser: 'This provocative-looking continuation was recently advocated by Peter Heine Nielsen in 'Experts on the Anti-Sicilian'. Cyrus



Lakdawala: 'Politicians tend to promise us a utopian society, at the high cost of restricting freedoms. One of the ideas behind the b3–Sicilian is that White's fianchettoed bishop discourages black kingside fianchettos. Apparently nobody told Navara, who isn't discouraged in the least, and decides to swim upstream and counter–fianchetto.

QUESTION: Is this a joke?

ANSWER: No joke. I added this line to emphasize that your writer is hip, trendy, and follows all the latest theoretical fashions - even the ridiculous–looking ones! Actually this move isn't as bad as it appears, and is the current darling of top GMs. In fact, 'New in Chess', the world's premier opening theory magazine, committed an entire article on it by IM Jeroen Bosch.

" <xmlX:>Politicians tend to promise us a utopian society, at the high cost of restricting freedoms. One of the ideas behind the b3–Sicilian is that White's fianchettoed bishop discourages black kingside fianchettos. Apparently nobody told Navara, who isn't discouraged in the least, and decides to swim upstream and counter–fianchetto. QUESTION: Is this a joke? ANSWER: No joke. I added this line to emphasize that your writer is hip, trendy, and follows all the latest theoretical fashions <sup>Soft Plus</sup> <nag>174</nag> even the ridiculous–looking ones! Actually this move isn't as bad as it appears, and is the current darling of top GMs. In fact, 'New in Chess', the world's premier opening theory magazine, committed an entire article on it by IM Jeroen Bosch.</:X/xml>  
<xmlX:>Politicians tend to promise us a utopian society, at the high cost of

restricting freedoms. One of the ideas behind the b3–Sicilian is that White's fianchettoed bishop discourages black kingside fianchettos. Apparently nobody told Navara, who isn't discouraged in the least, and decides to swim upstream and counter–fianchetto. QUESTION: Is this a joke? ANSWER: No joke. I added this line to emphasize that your writer is hip, trendy, and follows all the latest theoretical fashions <sup>Soft Plus</sup> <nag>174</nag> even the ridiculous–looking ones!

Actually this move isn't as bad as it appears, and is the current darling of top GMs. In fact, 'New in Chess', the world's premier opening theory magazine, committed an entire article on it by IM Jeroen Bosch.</:X/xml>

Politicians tend to promise us a utopian society, at the high cost of restricting freedoms. One of the ideas behind the b3–Sicilian is that White's fianchettoed bishop discourages black kingside fianchettos. Apparently nobody told Navara, who isn't discouraged in the least, and decides to swim upstream and counter–fianchetto. ---

QUESTION: Is this a joke? ---

ANSWER: No joke. I added this line to emphasize that your writer is hip, trendy, and follows all the latest theoretical fashions – even the ridiculous–looking ones! Actually this move isn't as bad as it appears, and is the current darling of top GMs. In fact, 'New in Chess', the world's premier opening theory magazine, committed an entire article on it by IM Jeroen Bosch.

[Before we examine this fun line, I should mention that the leading 2 b3 expert, the Georgian Grandmaster Tamaz Gelashvili, has also faced

2...e6 3.Bb2 d6 of late. This is new for the site and far from bad, although it is a little too committal for my taste. Black remains quite flexible in the centre, but has lost the useful option of a kingside fianchetto. Gelashvili-Zhao, New York 2011, continued ( 3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3 Be7 18.Bf3 C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1-0 (33) ) 4.Bb5+ Nd7 (Black is after the bishop-pair 4...Nc6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.f4 Nf6 7.Qe2 must be a little better for White,; but it's not clear there was anything wrong with 4...Bd7 ) 5.f4! (a fairly standard but still pretty useful expansion) Ngf6 (it's worth comparing what follows with the earlier Shengelia-Khurtsidze, Batumi 2003, where 5...a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.d3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nbd2 b5 11.c4!? restricted Black's bishops and was perhaps a touch more pleasant for White, although many would be happy as Black here ) 6.Qe2 a6 7.Bxd7+ Bxd7 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.d3 b5 11.Nbd2 Bc6 12.Kh1 Qc7 13.Rae1 when White was fully developed and slightly for choice after a5 14.e5! Nd5 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Ne5 in view of his potential attacking chances on the kingside. ]

**3.Bb2** "That which awaits you, will not be to your liking," boasts the bishop, who overestimates his own power. "That

which awaits you, will not be to your liking," boasts the bishop, who overestimates his own power. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: "'That which awaits you, will not be to your liking," boasts the bishop, who overestimates his own power.'" Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'However, if Black plays" **3...Nf6** Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: ', we transpose to the position in our game." **4.e5** The position resembles a rather pleasant Alekhine's Defence for Black after this move, since White's fianchettoed bishop is probably on the wrong diagonal, and also, he can't seize the centre with d4 without allowing ...cxd4. The position resembles a rather pleasant Alekhine's Defence for Black after this move, since White's fianchettoed bishop is probably on the wrong diagonal, and also, he can't seize the centre with d4 without allowing ...cxd4. Richard Palliser: 'White's main move, but he doesn't have to take up the challenge and might prefer: Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The position resembles a rather pleasant Alekhine's Defence for Black after this move, since White's fianchettoed bishop is probably on the wrong diagonal, and also, he can't seize the centre with d4 without allowing ...cxd4."

[Alternatively:

a) After Alternatively: a) After Alternatively: a) After Alternatively: -- a) After 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Bb5 Nd4 (now we get Tiviakov's line, with the addition of b3 and ...g6) 6.e5 ( 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.Nge2 d6 8.Nxd4 cxd4 9.Ne2 e5 10.c3 d5! 11.cxd4 dxe4 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Bxd7+ Nxd7 looks quite pleasant for Black, who sits on the

better end of equality ) 6...Nh5  
 , Bosch points out in his article that Black isn't bothered with such e5 Nh5 ideas.

QUESTION: Why is Black okay with this decentralization?

ANSWER: First, any time White plays e5, he or she gives some degree of control over d5. Secondly, White has no way to effectively exploit the h5-knight's presence, since g4!? ideas tend to loosen White's kingside: , Bosch points out in his article that Black isn't bothered with such e5 Nh5 ideas. QUESTION: Why is Black okay with this decentralization? ANSWER: First, any time White plays e5, he or she gives some degree of control over d5. Secondly, White has no way to effectively exploit the h5-knight's presence, since g4!? ideas tend to loosen White's kingside: , Bosch points out in his article that Black isn't bothered with such e5 Nh5 ideas.

QUESTION: Why is Black okay with this decentralization? ANSWER: First, any time White plays e5, he or she gives some degree of control over d5.

Secondly, White has no way to effectively exploit the h5-knight's presence, since g4!? ideas tend to loosen White's kingside: , Bosch points out in his article that Black isn't bothered with such e5 Nh5 ideas. ---

QUESTION: Why is Black okay with this decentralization? --- ANSWER: First, any time White plays e5, he or she gives some degree of control over d5. Secondly, White has no way to effectively exploit the h5-knight's presence, since g4!? ideas tend to loosen White's kingside: 7.Nge2 Bg7!

8.g4 Bxe5 (or 8...Nf3+!? 9.Kf1 a6 10.Bd3 d5! , when the h5-knight is immune, due to the mate threat on h3 , and , when the h5-knight is immune, due to the mate threat on h3 , and , when the h5-knight is immune, due to the mate threat on h3, and 11.h3 d4 12.Na4 Qd5! threatens ...Nxd2+, exposing the h1-rook to attack; following 13.gxh5 Nxd2+ 14.Kg1 Nf3+ 15.Kf1 Nh4 16.Ng3 Bxe5 , I like Black's chances ) 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.gxh5 dxc3 11.Bxc3 Qc7 12.Bxe5?! ( 12.Qf3 looks better ) 12...Qxe5+ 13.Be2 d5 14.d4 Qe4 15.Rg1 Bf5 , White is tangled up and in trouble, A.Morozevich-I.

Nepomniachtchi, Moscow (rapid) 2014. ]

[b) 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e5 ]

[c) c) Richard Palliser: 'a) Cyrus Lakdawala: 'c)' 4.Qf3!? was tried in N. Short-G.Jones, Bunratty 2012. This move, although artificial, has some bite to it.

QUESTION: What is the point of White's early queen move?

ANSWER: The idea is to play e5, while preventing ...Nd5, but after was tried in N.Short-G.Jones, Bunratty 2012. This move, although artificial, has some bite to it.

QUESTION: What is the point of White's early queen move?

ANSWER: The idea is to play e5, while preventing ...Nd5, but after Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'was tried in N. Short-G.Jones, Bunratty 2012. This move, although artificial, has some bite to it.

QUESTION: What is the point of

White's early queen move?

ANSWER: The idea is to play e5, while preventing ...Nd5, but after" was tried in N.Short–G.Jones, Bunratty 2012. This move, although artificial, has some bite to it.

QUESTION: What is the point of White's early queen move? ANSWER:

The idea is to play e5, while preventing ...Nd5, but after was tried in N.Short–G.Jones, Bunratty 2012.

This move, although artificial, has some bite to it. QUESTION: What is the point of White's early queen move? ANSWER: The idea is to play e5, while preventing ...Nd5, but after was tried in N.Short–G.Jones, Bunratty 2012. This move, although artificial, has some bite to it. ---

QUESTION: What is the point of White's early queen move? ---

ANSWER: The idea is to play e5, while preventing ...Nd5, but after d6! (taking the punch out of e5) (taking the punch out of e5) Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: '(taking the punch out of e5)' (Heine Nielsen analyses and prefers both 4...Bg7; and 4...Nc6 , moves which will surely soon receive some testing ) 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Nc3 (Paichadze's 7.Qd3!? can lead to similar play after a6 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Nc3 Bg7 10.Nge2; 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0 Chapter 8–1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] )

**A) 7...a6** 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nge2 Bg7 10.Qg3 Be6 11.Nf4 0–0 12.0–0 f5 13.Rae1 gave White an edge in Gelashvili–G.Shahade, New York 2011. Yes, Black has two

unopposed bishops and can undouble his pawns, but it's not so easy to shake off White's pressure in the centre and on the kingside. It may help to see a few more moves: Qd7 ( 13...Be5!? 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.f4 Bd4+ 16.Kh1 Qd7

may be the critical line ) 14.Ncd5 Rae8 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Nh5!

and White was able to remove the important defensive bishop on g7.;

**B) 7...Bg7** 8.h4! 0–0 9.h5 Ne5 10.Qg3 f5 , having achieved his freeing break, Black equalized. ]

[d) d) Richard Palliser: 'b)' 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 Richard Palliser: 'has been suggested by Rowson, but after' Bg7 and now: and now: QUESTION: How do we play Black here after

**A) 6.Bc4** d6 ( 6...0–0 7.Nge2 ) 7.Nge2 0–0 (the immediate 7...f5 isn't such a bad plan either ) 8.Ng3 (White attempts to hinder ...f5 once again) Nc6 9.0–0 Richard Palliser: 'Black can do even better than' Richard Palliser: 'Indeed, Heine Nielsen draws attention to' 9...h5! (this thrust pretty much ejects the g3 annoyance) (this thrust pretty much ejects the g3 annoyance) Richard Palliser: ', which certainly looks like it gives Black promising counterplay, since' ( 9...Nd4 which he considered to be unclear. ) 10.h3 h4 11.Nge2 f5 , when Black's bishops come alive and her position is preferable, Ju Wenjun–Hou Yifan, Beijing (blitz) 2014. , when Black's bishops come alive and her position is preferable, Ju Wenjun–Hou Yifan, Beijing (blitz) 2014. Richard Palliser:



'undoubles the pawns while unfurling the unopposed dark-squared bishop.');

**B)** QUESTION: How do we play Black here after 6.Bd3 , with the idea of suppressing ...f5, at the cost of placing the bishop on a rather poor square?

ANSWER: I think we can get away with an ...f5! pawn sacrifice to enhance our bishop pair: , with the idea of suppressing ...f5, at the cost of placing the bishop on a rather poor square? ANSWER: I think we can get away with an ...f5! pawn sacrifice to enhance our bishop pair: , with the idea of suppressing ...f5, at the cost of placing the bishop on a rather poor square?

ANSWER: I think we can get away with an ...f5! pawn sacrifice to enhance our bishop pair: ---

QUESTION: How do we play Black here after this move, with the idea of suppressing ...f5, at the cost of placing the bishop on a rather poor square? --- ANSWER: I think we can get away with an ...f5! pawn sacrifice to enhance our bishop pair: 6...0-0 7.f4 f5! 8.exf5 d5 . Now ...Re8+ is in the air and Black gets loads of compensation for the pawn, with:

1. A development lead.
2. White's king is insecure.
3. Black controls the centre. . Now ...Re8+ is in the air and Black gets loads of compensation for the pawn, with: 1. A development lead. 2. White's king is insecure. 3. Black controls the centre. ]

**4...Nd5 5.Qf3N** I'm also a Scandinavian

player (1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5), and therefore extremely sympathetic to amateurish-looking early queen moves! I'm also a Scandinavian player (1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5), and therefore extremely sympathetic to amateurish-looking early queen moves! Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'I'm also a Scandinavian player (1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5), and therefore extremely sympathetic to amateurish-looking early queen moves!'

[White also has:

a) 5.Nf3 Bg7 reaches the Smyslov-Adorjan note above. 6.Nc3 (V.Smyslov-A.Adorjan, Amsterdam 1971) Black successfully navigates the opening with Nxc3 7.Bxc3 0-0 8.Bc4 d5 9.exd6 Qxd6 . I prefer Black, who can play for central space with a future ...Nc6 and ...e5. ]

[b) b) Richard Palliser: 'This was suggested by Jonathan in his notes to Short-Nielsen, Internet (blitz) 2004, but in this precise position seems to go unmentioned by Nielsen. Short-Nielsen had gone Cyrus Lakdawala: 'b)" 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.e6 (White comes up short after 6.Bxf7+? Kxf7 7.e6+ Kg8 8.Qf3 dxe6 ) 6...f6 7.exd7+ ( 7.Bb5 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 with an easy game for Black – see the Archive. ) 7...Bxd7 and White scores a rather sorry 8% from here. I think Black already stands better, since he can expand easily in the centre. ]

[c) c) Richard Palliser: 'Instead Cyrus Lakdawala: 'c)" 5.e6 doesn't hurt Black at all, since White ended up wasting time pushing his e-pawn to nowhere: doesn't hurt Black at all, since White ended up wasting time pushing his e-pawn to nowhere:

Richard Palliser: '!?' '!' Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'doesn't hurt Black at all, since White ended up wasting time pushing his e-pawn to nowhere:' f6 6.exd7+ Bxd7 ( 6...Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ) 7.Bc4 Richard Palliser: 'is rather murky and receives some attention from Anand's second,' Nf4 8.g3 Bc6 9.Nf3 b5 10.Bf1 Nd5 11.d4 Nb6 12.c3 e5! 13.Bg2 , M.Narciso Dublan-P.H.Nielsen, Spanish Team Championship 2004. Black stands well after cxd4 14.cxd4 Bb4+ 15.Bc3 Bxc3+ 16.Nxc3 e4 17.Ng1 b4 18.Nce2 0-0 . I like Black's development, his coverage of the d5- and c3-squares, and also the fact that d4 could become weak later on. ] [while 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.f4 d6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe1 Bg4 was fine for Black in Conquest-McShane, London League 2011. ]

**5...Nb4** The chased knight makes a nuisance of itself, menacing c2. The chased knight makes a nuisance of itself, menacing c2. Richard Palliser: '! '!' Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The chased knight makes a nuisance of itself, menacing c2. "

[A bold novelty in this rather unexplored position. Previously 5...Nb6 0.77/23 5...Nd5-b4 -0.05 6.Nh3 -0.21/21 (Jonathan preferred the immediate 6.a4! against which Black seems to rather lack a good response; 6.a4± 0.77/23 a5 7.h4 ) 6...Bg7= 7.e6!? -0.68/21 ( 7.a4=

-0.20/20 a5 8.Bb5 ) 7...f6 -0.30/19 ( 7...0-0± -0.68/21 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 ) 8.a4= dxe6 9.Bb5+ N6d7? 0.29/21 ( 9...Nc6 had to be tried; 9...Nc6± -0.65/21 ) 10.Nf4!= Qb6 1.44/22 (Black should try 10...Kf7!± 0.38/21 ) 11.Na3! saw White rewarded for his highly-creative play with the initiative in Musin-Makartseva, Khanty Mansiysk 2009. ] [Instead 5...Nc7 6.Bc4 Ne6 7.Qe4 isn't at all clear - see the Archive for Jonathan's thoughts. ]

**6.Bc4** When I first learned chess I always went for the trap 1 e4 e5 (at that time neither my chess friends nor I were aware that any response other than 1... e5 was legal) 2 Bc4 Bc5 3 Qf3 (or sometimes I would play the even more cunning 3 Qh5), and from this point, about half of my opponents fell for 4 Qxf7 mate! It's refreshing to see a GM play for my old favourite trap. When I first learned chess I always went for the trap 1 e4 e5 (at that time neither my chess friends nor I were aware that any response other than 1...e5 was legal) 2 Bc4 Bc5 3 Qf3 (or sometimes I would play the even more cunning 3 Qh5), and from this point, about half of my opponents fell for 4 Qxf7 mate! It's refreshing to see a GM play for my old favourite trap. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When I first learned chess I always went for the trap 1 e4 e5 (at that time neither my chess friends nor I were aware that any response other than 1... e5 was legal) 2 Bc4 Bc5 3 Qf3 (or sometimes I would play the even more cunning 3 Qh5), and from this point, about half of my opponents fell for 4 Qxf7 mate! It's refreshing to see a GM

play for my old favourite trap."

[Instead, 6.Na3 Bg7 7.e6 (this trick almost never seems to bother Black) 0-0 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.exf7 N8c6 10.c3 (cutting off the intended ...Nd4). Prevents Nc6-d4. Rxf7 11.Qg3 Nd5! 12.Bc4 Rf5 13.Bxd5 Rxd5 14.h4 -0.43/19 (Better is 14.Nc4= 0.19/21 ) 14...Re5+ 15.Kf1 Rh5! 16.Nf3 was E.Romanov-E.Shaposhnikov, St Petersburg 2006. I prefer Black's position after d5 , intending ...e5 next, since Black controls the centre and White's h1-rook may be out of play for a while. ]

**6...e6** The 2722-rated GM Navara sees the mate in one threat. The 2722-rated GM Navara sees the mate in one threat. Richard Palliser: 'An ugly move to have to make, but Navara has realised that White is a long way from exploiting the weakened dark squares, especially if his queen's knight is about to journey away from the route to e4. Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The 2722-rated GM Navara sees the mate in one threat.' **7.Na3** Covering c2. Covering c2. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Covering c2. "

[This doesn't turn out well, but might not be so bad. Instead after 7.Qd1 Bg7 8.c3 Nd5 9.d4 d6 we reach a rather unusual version of the c3 Sicilian where it's hard to believe Black doesn't have decent counterplay against the white centre. ]

**7...Bg7 8.Nb5?** -0.92/24

When we speculate, we hope to meet luck half way, but as we all know from personal experience, logic alone isn't enough to vanquish our irrational desires.

This new move suggests attempted mischief with the knight's uncalled for presence. There is negligence and then there is wilful negligence. White doesn't have the luxury for this time-wasting move. When we speculate, we hope to meet luck half way, but as we all know from personal experience, logic alone isn't enough to vanquish our irrational desires. This new move suggests attempted mischief with the knight's uncalled for presence. There is negligence and then there is wilful negligence. White doesn't have the luxury for this time-wasting move. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When we speculate, we hope to meet luck half way, but as we all know from personal experience, logic alone isn't enough to vanquish our irrational desires. This new move suggests attempted mischief with the knight's uncalled for presence. There is negligence and then there is wilful negligence. White doesn't have the luxury for this time-wasting move."

[White has superior alternatives in:  
a) White has superior alternatives in:  
a) White has superior alternatives in:  
a) White has superior alternatives in: -  
- a) 8.Qe2 a6 9.c3 N4c6 10.f4 , S.Gvetadze-G.Nikolashvili, Tbilisi 2009. I like Black's position after d5 11.Bd3 f6 12.exf6 Qxf6 13.Nh3 Qh4+ 14.Qf2 Qxf2+ 15.Nxf2 0-0 , and if 16.g3 -1.02/21 ( 16.Be2 -0.63/21 might be stronger. ) 16...e5 , Black seizes a central initiative. ]  
[b) 8.0-0-0 N8c6 9.Qe3 -0.53/21 ( 9.Nb5= -0.09/21 Nxe5 10.Qf4 ) 9...Qa5 10.c3 Nd5 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.f4 , M.Mattsson-C.Cederstam

Barsk, Stockholm 2012. I like Black's chances after 0-0 13.Nf3 d6! 14.exd6 d4! 15.Qe2 Qd8, when he regains the sacrificed pawn with the superior position. ]

[This gets the knight into the game, but asks far too much of White's position and might already be considered the decisive mistake. No doubt future games will pinpoint improvements, although I'd be surprised if White had any path to the advantage here. After, for instance, 8.Qe3 N8c6 9.Nf3 d5 10.Bb5 d4 11.Qe4 0-0 Black can always offer a queen exchange via d5 and should be fine. ]

[ 8.Qg3= -0.22/21 remains equal. ]

### 8...0-0

[It's not so difficult to see that c2 is taboo: 8...Nxc2+?? 0.87/21

8...0-0 -0.87 9.Kd1 Nxa1?? #2/6 ( 9...0-0± 1.11/22 10.Kxc2 f6 ) 10.Nd6+ Ke7 11.Qxf7# . ]

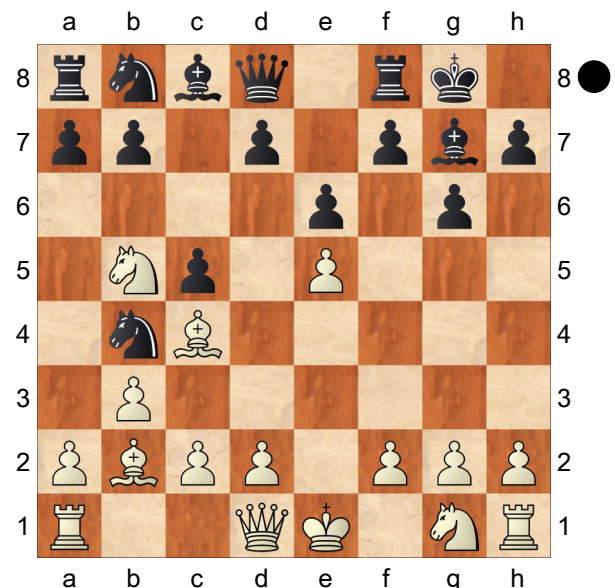
[ 8...Nxc2+ 9.Kd1 0-0 10.Kxc2+- ]

**9.0-0-0** White chooses defiance over deference, as the Cold War turns into a real one. This is White's idea. He gives away his a-pawn, hoping that he gains compensation in the time gained. He doesn't! White chooses defiance over deference, as the Cold War turns into a real one. This is White's idea. He gives away his a-pawn, hoping that he gains compensation in the time gained. He doesn't! Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White chooses defiance over deference, as the Cold War turns into a real one. This is White's idea. He gives away his a-pawn, hoping that he gains compensation in the time gained. He doesn't!'

[However, 9.Na3? -1.52/22

9.0-0-0 -0.72 is suicidal. It saves a pawn, while admitting that he wasted two full moves in an opposite wings attack position: N8c6 10.Qg3 d5! 11.Be2 -1.74/21 ( 11.Bf1 -1.41/22 is a better defense. ) 11...Nd4+- 12.Bd1 f6! 13.c3 Nf5 14.Qh3 Nc6 . White's position is hopelessly out of alignment and his centre is about to crumble. ]

[The consistent follow-up to White's ambitious play. Note that 9.Qd1?!



was no longer really an option on account of d5! 10.Be2 d4

with an excellent game for Black. ]

**9...Nxa2+** -0.33/5 This not only wins a pawn, it also seriously compromises White's king. Furthermore, now White lacks a3 to eject Black's b4-knight, meaning that White will have to live with the knight's presence or play the ugly c3. This not only wins a pawn, it also seriously compromises White's king. Furthermore, now White lacks a3 to eject Black's b4-knight, meaning that White will have to live with the knight's presence or play the ugly c3.



Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This not only wins a pawn, it also seriously compromises White's king. Furthermore, now White lacks a3 to eject Black's b4-knight, meaning that White will have to live with the knight's presence or play the ugly c3.

"

[ 9...N8c6 $\mp$  -0.93/21 10.Qe3 Nxa2+ 11.Kb1 Nab4 ]

### 10.Kb1 $\mp$ Nb4 11.Qe3

[An attempt to pressure c5 while overprotecting e5. White might like to do something gung-ho such as 11.h4 -1.54/22 11.Nb5-d6 -0.83 , but after Qa5 the e5-pawn is pretty vulnerable, with 12.Nd6? -3.90/24 failing to ( 12.Na3 $\mp$  -1.44/21 ) 12...N8c6-+ 13.Qg3 -7.49/23 (  $\triangle$ 13.Ne2 -4.00/22 Bxe5 14.c3 Qa2+ 15.Kc1 ) 13...Qa2+ 14.Kc1 Bxe5! . ]

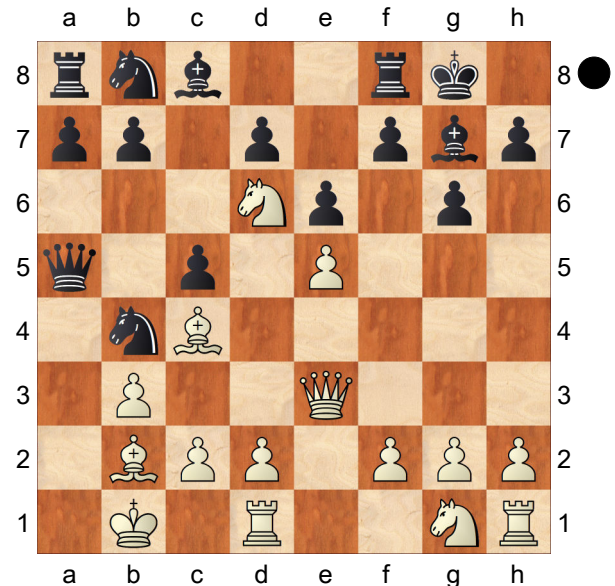
**11...Qa5** Richard Palliser: '!' '!' Richard Palliser: 'Reminding White that his king position is not totally secure. Kabanov does have a grip on the central dark squares, but surely Black must be somewhat for choice here?' **12.Nd6**

[Richard Palliser: 'Of course,' 12.Qxc5?? -5.15/24 12.Nb5-d6 -1.26 hangs a piece to hangs a piece to Richard Palliser: '?' '?' Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '??' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'hangs a piece to' a6 . . Richard Palliser: 'was hardly an option.' ]

(Diagram)

### 12...N8c6!

[ 12...b5 13.Bxb5 Bb7 14.Nf3= ( 14.Nxb7 Qxb5 15.Nxc5 Nd5 $\mp$  ) ]



**13.f4?! -2.22/26** Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!'

[White had to try the unappetizing 13.Nf3 Rb8 Strongly threatening ... b7-b5. 14.Bb5 . ]

[ 13.Nf3 $\mp$  -1.53/25 ]

**EXERCISE (combination alert):** White's last move is too slow in an already deteriorating position. How did Black take advantage of it?

**ANSWER:** Hidden tactics allow for this powerful central counter, which utterly disorganizes the white king's defences.

**EXERCISE (combination alert):** White's last move is too slow in an already deteriorating position. How did Black take advantage of it?

**ANSWER:** Hidden tactics allow for this powerful central counter, which utterly disorganizes the white king's defences.

Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (combination alert): White's last move is too slow in an already deteriorating position. How did Black take advantage of it?

**ANSWER:** Hidden tactics allow for this powerful central counter, which utterly disorganizes the white king's defences.

" EXERCISE (combination alert): White's last move is too slow in an already deteriorating position. How did Black take advantage of it? ANSWER: Hidden tactics allow for this powerful central counter, which utterly disorganizes the white king's defences. EXERCISE (combination alert): White's last move is too slow in an already deteriorating position. How did Black take advantage of it? ANSWER: Hidden tactics allow for this powerful central counter, which utterly disorganizes the white king's defences. EXERCISE (combination alert): White's last move is too slow in an already deteriorating position. How did Black take advantage of it? --- ANSWER: Hidden tactics allow for this powerful central counter, which utterly disorganizes the white king's defences. **13...Nd4!-+** In this game, White's position is riddled with multiple liabilities and few assets. His intention to attack Black's king is the unattended tea kettle, left on the hot stove to boil, until the water evaporates and cracks the dry kettle. In this game, White's position is riddled with multiple liabilities and few assets. His intention to attack Black's king is the unattended tea kettle, left on the hot stove to boil, until the water evaporates and cracks the dry kettle. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'In this game, White's position is riddled with multiple liabilities and few assets. His intention to attack Black's king is the unattended tea kettle, left on the hot stove to boil, until the water evaporates and cracks the dry kettle."

[ Simple and highly effective, although 13...b5!? , with the idea of 14.Nxb5? -4.29/21 ( 14.Bd3? -1.46/20 ) 14...d5 , was also pretty tempting. ]

**14.c3** White braces for the coming wave. White braces for the coming wave. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White braces for the coming wave."

[ Not 14.Bxd4?? -#2/6 14.c2-c3 -2.44 due to Qa2+ 15.Kc1 Qxc2# . The queen gently touches her brother's complaining lips, as a silencing gesture. ]

[ A rather desperate but pretty essential try. Clearly 14.Bd3 cannot be right and after f6! White isn't able to prevent the long diagonal from opening up with some effect: for instance, 15.Nf3 fxe5 16.Nxe5? -3.70/23 ( 16.fxe5 -2.07/23 Qa2+ 17.Kc1 Rxf3 18.gxf3 Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Nxb3+ 20.cxb3 Nxd3+ 21.Kc2 Nxe5 22.Ra1 Qxa1 23.Rxa1 ) 16...Qa2+ -1.94/5 ( 16...b6 -3.70/23 17.Rhe1 Qa2+ 18.Kc1 Nd5 ) 17.Kc1-+ Rxf4! when 18.Qxf4? -8.41/24 drops the queen to ( 18.Rdf1 -2.33/23 Nd5 19.Qe1 ) 18...Nxd3+-- 19.cxd3 White wants to mate with Qf4-f7+. Ne2+ . ]

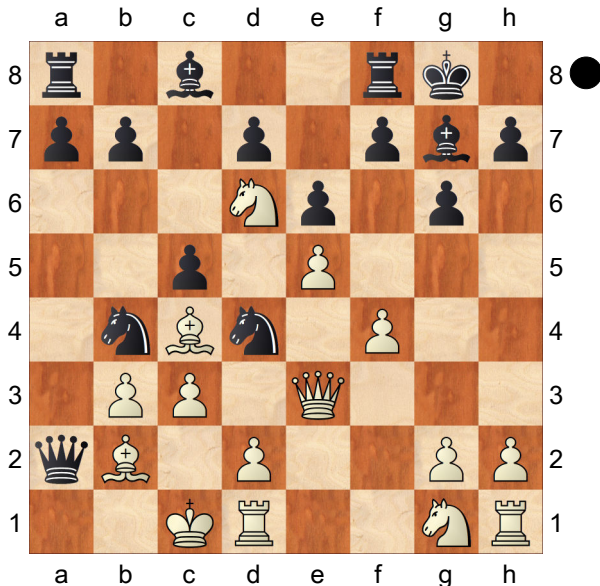
**14...Qa2+**

[ 14...Ndc2 15.Qe4 Qa2+ 16.Kc1 ]

**15.Kc1**

(Diagram)

White's poor king rattles around like a car-sick Chihuahua in the back of a pick-up truck. White's poor king rattles around like a car-sick Chihuahua in the back of a pick-up truck. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's



poor king rattles around like a car-sick Chihuahua in the back of a pick-up truck. ". Loses the game. **15...b5!** The b-pawn performs feats of strength, involving the bending of iron bars and the breaking of his enemies' bones. This is the move you needed to see if you found 13...Nd4!.

The b-pawn performs feats of strength, involving the bending of iron bars and the breaking of his enemies' bones. This is the move you needed to see if you found 13...Nd4!.

Richard Palliser: 'A key deflection and one which leaves White in real trouble. Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The b-pawn performs feats of strength, involving the bending of iron bars and the breaking of his enemies' bones. This is the move you needed to see if you found 13...Nd4!.

" **16.cxb4** White's best chance. Survival is an ugly business, since most of us are willing to take extreme measures, and suffer extreme privations for its continuity. White's best chance. Survival is an ugly business, since most of us are willing to take extreme measures,

and suffer extreme privations for its continuity. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's best chance. Survival is an ugly business, since most of us are willing to take extreme measures, and suffer extreme privations for its continuity.'

[ 16.Bf1?? -#1/6 16.c3xb4 -2.14 doesn't work out all that well after Nxb3# ; ]

[while 16.Nxb5? is met by the killing shot d5! 17.cxb4 ( 17.exd6 -13.60/21 17.c3xb4 -4.44 Nxb3+ 18.Bxb3 Qxb3 19.Qe4 Inhibits Qb3-c2+. Bb7 20.Qb1 Na2+ wins the queen ) 17...dxc4 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.Qxd4 cxb3 Hoping for ...Bc8-a6. 20.Ne2 Bb7 21.Nc3 Rfc8 22.Rhe1 a5 23.bxa5 (or 23.b5 a4 and there is no stopping ...a3 ) 23...Bf8! , when White's exposed king has no chance to survive. ]

**16...bxc4** Dancing on a razor blade.

**17.bxc4 Rb8!**→ Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Black is out for blood.

[Also strong was the deflection 17...Nf5! 18.Nxf5 exf5 19.d3 cxb4 20.Rd2 d5! 21.c5 a5 22.Nf3 Be6 . White can't withstand the surging queenside passers. ]

**18.b5**

[White can try and cut his losses with 18.Qa3 Qxa3 19.Bxa3 cxb4 20.Bb2 Nf5 21.Nxf5 exf5 , but is unlikely to survive a pawn down in the ending. ]

EXERCISE (planning): How did Black increase his mounting advantage?

ANSWER: Deflection/removal of a key defender.

EXERCISE (planning): How did Black increase his mounting advantage?

ANSWER: Deflection/removal of a key

defender.

Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:

'EXERCISE (planning): How did Black increase his mounting advantage?

ANSWER: Deflection/removal of a key defender.

" EXERCISE (planning): How did Black increase his mounting advantage?

ANSWER: Deflection/removal of a key

defender. EXERCISE (planning): How did Black increase his mounting

advantage? ANSWER: Deflection/

removal of a key defender. EXERCISE

(planning): How did Black increase his mounting advantage? --- ANSWER:

Deflection/removal of a key defender.

**18...Nf5!** White's position collapses after

the removal of his best piece, his d6-

knight. White's position collapses after

the removal of his best piece, his d6-

knight. Richard Palliser: 'White is being

crushed. Already the only way to hold

on to his queenside pawns is by forcing

the queens off. Cyrus Lakdawala: '!

Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's position

collapses after the removal of his best

piece, his d6-knight." **19.Qa3**

When a normally aggressive opponent

offers a peace treaty, we tend to

suspect either weakness in his camp, or

insincerity in an attempt to lure us into a

trap. This is the case of the former.

White's desperate king needs queens off

the board. When a normally aggressive

opponent offers a peace treaty, we tend

to suspect either weakness in his camp,

or insincerity in an attempt to lure us

into a trap. This is the case of the former.

White's desperate king needs queens off

the board. Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus

Lakdawala: 'When a normally

aggressive opponent offers a peace

treaty, we tend to suspect either

weakness in his camp, or insincerity in

an attempt to lure us into a trap. This is

the case of the former. White's

desperate king needs queens off the

board."

[After 19.Nxf5 Qxc4+ 20.Qc3 Qxc3+

21.dxc3 Nf5-e7+ is the strong threat.

exf5 22.c4 a6 , Black won a second

pawn. ]

**19...Qxa3 20.Bxa3 Nxd6 21.exd6 Bb7**

[Black can also first toss in 21...a6

22.bxa6 Bxa6 23.d3 Bb7

with a winning position. ]

**22.Bxc5** -3.25/28 Richard Palliser: '!?'

'!?'

[Alternatively, Alternatively, Richard

Palliser: 'Desperation. After' 22.Nf3

a6! ( 22...Bxf3 23.gxf3 a6! ) 23.bxa6

( 23.Ne5 Bxe5 24.fxe5 axb5

25.Rhg1 bxc4 Threatens to win with ...

f7-f5. 26.Rde1 Rfc8 27.Kc2 Bc6

aiming for ...Bc6-a4+. 28.Re3 Rb5

29.g4 Ra8 and White won't save

himself, despite the presence of

opposite-coloured bishops ) 23...Bxf3

24.gxf3 Bd4 and White eventually

loses both a- and d-pawns. and

White eventually loses both a- and d-

pawns. Richard Palliser: 'Black would

have dominated the whole board,

ahead of exploiting both his safer

king position and superior structure.' ]

[ ♠22.Nf3 -1.97/24 ]

**22...Rfc8!** Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus

Lakdawala: '!"

[This is much stronger than the greedy

22...Bxg2? -1.59/22 22...Rf8-c8 -3.

26 23.Ne2 Bxh1 24.Rxh1 Rfc8

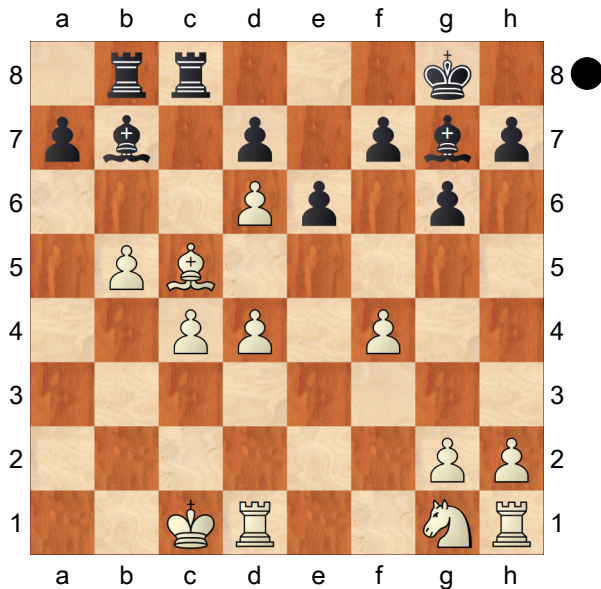
25.d4 , when White's impressive pawn

chain offers some compensation for

the exchange. , when White's



impressive pawn chain offers some compensation for the exchange.  
 Richard Palliser: 'wouldn't have been so clear, in view of White's strong clump of queenside pawns.' ]  
 [ 22...Bxg2 23.Ne2+ ]

**23.d4**

EXERCISE (combination alert): We can play 23...Bxg2, but there is a much stronger move, after which White's game collapses. What is it?  
 ANSWER: Deflection/overloaded defender.

EXERCISE (combination alert): We can play 23...Bxg2, but there is a much stronger move, after which White's game collapses. What is it?  
 ANSWER: Deflection/overloaded defender.

Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (combination alert): We can play 23...Bxg2, but there is a much stronger move, after which White's game collapses. What is it?  
 ANSWER: Deflection/overloaded defender.

" EXERCISE (combination alert): We can play 23...Bxg2, but there is a much

stronger move, after which White's game collapses. What is it? ANSWER: Deflection/overloaded defender.  
 EXERCISE (combination alert): We can play 23...Bxg2, but there is a much stronger move, after which White's game collapses. What is it? ANSWER: Deflection/overloaded defender.  
 EXERCISE (combination alert): We can play 23...Bxg2, but there is a much stronger move, after which White's game collapses. What is it? ---  
 ANSWER: Deflection/overloaded defender. **23...Bxd4!** White's once impressive centre is barred from all achievement by Black's disruptive bishop. You needed to see this crushing shot beforehand, if you picked the correct 22...Rfc8!.

White's once impressive centre is barred from all achievement by Black's disruptive bishop. You needed to see this crushing shot beforehand, if you picked the correct 22...Rfc8!.

Richard Palliser: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's once impressive centre is barred from all achievement by Black's disruptive bishop. You needed to see this crushing shot beforehand, if you picked the correct 22...Rfc8!.

**". Remove Defender 24.Rxd4**

[ Following Following Richard Palliser: 'After Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Following"  
 24.Bxd4 Rxc4+ 25.Kb2 Bxg2  
 26.Ne2 Bxh1 ( 26...Rxb5+  
 White can avoid mate with 27.Ka3  
 , but Bxh1 ) 27.Rxh1 Rxb5+  
 (this move sends White's king into a dangerous place) 28.Ka3 Rc6  
 (threatening mate on a6) 29.Ka4 Rb8  
 (threatening it again) 30.Ka5  
 (the king is now very glad he installed

a secret passageway in his chamber). Inhibits Rc6–a6+. Rc2 (with the dual threats of ...Ra2 mate and ...Rxe2) (with the dual threats of ...Ra2 mate and ...Rxe2) Richard Palliser: 'can hardly offer him any chances to survive.' 31.Nc3 Prevents Rc2–a2+. Rb3 32.Na4 Rc4 (threatening the bishop, and also ...Ra3) (threatening the bishop, and also ...Ra3) (threatening the bishop, and also ...Ra3) 33.Bc5 Rxf4 White is tied up and Black wins with the simple plan of pushing forward his kingside super majority. ]

**24...Bxg2** Black is clearly winning. [Don't blunder 24...Rxc5? 25.Nf3 Bxf3 26.gxf3–+ ]

**25.Ne2**

[Much worse is 25.Bxa7 Rxb5 26.Ne2 Bxh1 ]

**25...Bxh1 26.Ba3**

[ 26.Bxa7 is also met by Rxb5 . ]

**26...Rxb5 .**

SUMMARY: Despite its ugly outer appearance, the provocative 2...g6!? looks fully playable. .

SUMMARY: Despite its ugly outer appearance, the provocative 2...g6!? looks fully playable. Richard Palliser: 'Completing the rout. Black is now an exchange and two pawns to the good. Unsurprisingly Kabanov had seen enough. Cyrus Lakdawala: '.

SUMMARY: Despite its ugly outer appearance, the provocative 2...g6!? looks fully playable." . SUMMARY: Despite its ugly outer appearance, the provocative 2...g6!? looks fully playable. . --- SUMMARY:

Despite its ugly outer appearance, the provocative 2...g6!? looks fully playable. Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.04 (flawless)

**0–1**

**B20**

□ **Kosten,Anthony C**

**2517**

■ **Marchal,Chantal**

**1897**

Metz op 25th (1)

14.04.2007

[Andrew Martin, MH]

The overall editor of this site rarely gets a mention in the games department, but we all know that he can play chess really well. Here we see him pushing the boat out in a recent French Open tournament.

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves **1.e4 c5 2.b3** Throwing a lower-rated opponent on to her own resources as early as possible. **2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0–0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0–0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4 Pink,J (2683)–11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0–1 (62) ]  
[ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0–0 0–0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E–12 9th move alternatives Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**4.Nc3N**

[ 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5 Bg4  
7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6  
10.d4 e6 11.Qd2 Queenside  
Fianchetto–2 b3 ChessPub Guide  
2017 Anti–Sicilians [ChessPublishing.  
com] ]

**4...d5** Energetic, although I am doubtful that giving White such strong control over the long diagonal is a very good idea.

[ 4...g6 is routinely played, but there is scope for some unconventional thinking here. 5.Bb5 (I quite like 5.Nd5!? Bg7 6.Nxf6+ Bxf6 7.Bxf6 exf6 with a structural edge to White. ) 5...Bg7 6.d3 ( 6.Nd5!? ) 6...0–0 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.f4 ( 8.Nf3 d5 9.0–0 Bg4 10.h3± is more sensible from where I'm sitting. ) 8...d6 9.Nf3 Qa5 10.Qd2 Rb8 11.0–0=

Wege, J–McShane, L/Kuppenheim 2003 ]

[ 4...e6 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.e5 is an original position once more: Nd5 7.Nxd5 Nxb5 8.Ne3 Be7 9.Nf3 0–0 10.Qe2 Nc7 11.h4 b6 12.Ng5! h6 13.Qd3 Bxg5 ( 13...hxcg5 14.hxcg5 g6 is critical. According to Deep Fritz 10 White has a forced mate: 15.Nf5!! Bxg5 16.Qh3 Bh4 17.Nxh4 f5 18.Nxf5 etc ) 14.hxcg5 Ba6 15.c4 Qxcg5 16.a4 d5 17.exd6 Nd5 18.Qe4 Nf6 19.Qf3± Goumas, G–Mastrokoukos, G/ Athens 2006 ]

**5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nf3N** Just a common–sense move. There is no need to elaborate when the opponent is 700 points lower than you. Others:

[ 6.Bb5 Bf5 7.Qf3!? ( 7.Nf3± ) 7...e6 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Qxd5 exd5 10.0–0–0 0–0–0 11.Bxc6 bxc6∞

Fievet, P–Salaun, P/Montpellier 1991 ]

[ 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.Qf3 Qxf3 8.Nxf3 Bg4= Bjerring, K–Fluvia Poyatos, J/ Mataro 1997 ]

**6...Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Bb5** One sees Bb5 cropping up all the time in the 2 b3 variation. White relies on his dark–squared pressure for advantage and so by removing the Knight on c6 White accentuates his control over d4 and e5, enabling the diagonal to remain open down to g7. White has an edge. **8...Qd6** 0.64/20

[ 8...f6= 0.19/22 ]

**9.0–0** –0.08/22

[ 9.Ne4!± 0.64/20 Qg6 10.Ng3 ( 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Ng3 Bxf3= ) ]

**9...e6** 1.41/23

[ 9...Nf4!= –0.08/22 ]

**10.Nxd5± Qxd5**

[ 10...exd5 1.55/24 10...Qd6xd5 1.15 11.Re1+ Be7 2.39/25 ( 11...Kd8± 1.46/22 12.d4 f6 ) 12.Bxc6++– Qxc6 13.Qe2± leaves the Black position very clumsy and difficult to handle. ]

**11.g4! Bg6 12.Ne5! 0–0–0**

[ 12...a6 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.d3 f6 15.Nc4 is somewhat better for White. ]

**13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qe2?! Sloppy**, but the sort of thing that happens in first rounds, the GM has just driven to the tournament and is tired, the local player fresh. aiming for Qe2–a6+.

[ 14.c4! first, should win: Qd6 ( 14...Qxd2? 2.57/25 14...Qd5–d6 0.82 15.Qf3 Qxb2 16.Qxc6+ winning, as below. ) 15.Qf3 with a whole extra tempo over the game. ]

**14...Kb7** The machines show equal, but I don't like Black's game at all. Her King

is open and her structure is poor. Optimistic Black players will argue that the pawn on g4 gives them something to latch on to and that the Queen on d5 is well posted, counterbalancing features. From this argument, take your pick! Against Qe2-a6+ **15.c4!**? 0.20/25 Based on some interesting tactics, but I believe that White had a stronger move. &Bianco is more active.

[Instead 15.Rad1! maintains the advantage, thanks to Bxc2 16.Nxf7 Bxd1 17.Rxd1 Be7 18.Nxh8 Rxh8 19.Bxg7 ]  
[ 15.Rad1!± 1.02/24 ]

**15...Qd6!**= Against d2-d4

[Tony's intention is clever: 15...Qxd2? 2.72/25 15...Qd5-d6 0.20 16.Qf3! Qxb2 17.Qxc6+ Kb8 18.Rad1 Bd6 19.Qb5+! Ka8 20.Nd7!! .Black has one piece extra for an instant, but she cannot defend herself:

**A) 20...Rxd7** 2.61/23 20...Bd6-h2+ 1.67 21.Qxd7 White threatens Qd7-c6+ and mate. Be5? 16.01/26 ( 21...Be4 3.31/24 ) 22.Qc6+- Kb8 23.Rd7 Inhibits Be5-c7.;

**B) 20...Be4** Inhibits Qb5-c6+. 21.Rxd6 Intending Nd7-b6+! and mate. Qxa2 22.Rfd1± ]

[ 15...Qxd2? 16.Qf3 Rc8 17.Bc3+- ( 17.Nxf7 Bxf7 18.Rad1 Qxb2± ) ]

**16.b4?** -0.58/25 White overlooks two defences!

[ 16.f4!± 0.40/23 ]

**16...f6±**

[After 16...Qxd2? 6.72/23 16...f7-f6 -1.06 17.Qf3! Qxb2 18.Qxc6+ Kb8 it's more straightforward this time: 19.Nxg6! hxc6 20.Rab1+- ]  
[ 16...Qxd2 17.Qf3 Rc8 18.Nxc6! Rxc6 19.b5+- ]

**17.bxc5 Qxd2 18.Qf3** -2.15/24

[ Objectively speaking 18.Qxd2 Rxd2 19.Bc3 -1.60/25 ( 19.Nxg6 -1.28/25 hxc6 20.Rab1 ) 19...Rc2± 20.Rab1+ followed by Nxg6 was the best chance, but how could White expect to win this? ]

[ 18.Qxd2± -1.31/27 Rxd2 19.Nxg6 hxc6 20.Rab1 ]

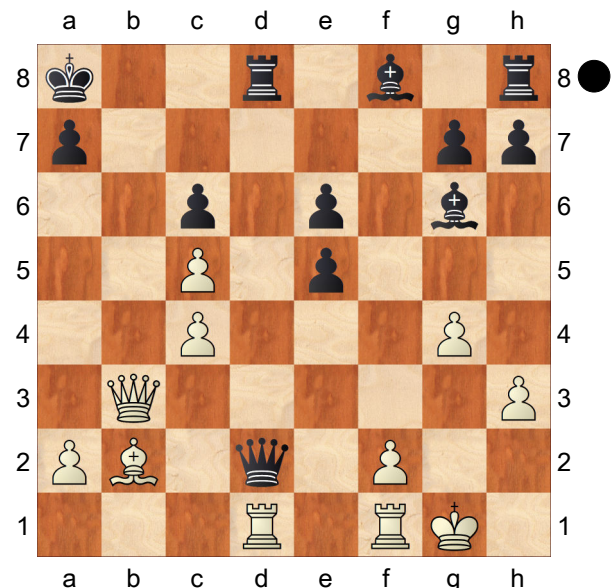
**18...fxe5--+**

[ 18...Qxb2? 19.Qxc6+ Kb8 20.Nxg6 Bxc5 21.Rab1! Bxf2+ 22.Kg2+- ]

**19.Qb3+**

[And not 19.Rad1? -3.50/26 19.Bb2-c3 -2.42 Rd3! ]

**19...Ka8 20.Rad1**



Trying to overload Black's Queen, or at least, making her believe that the Queen is overloaded.

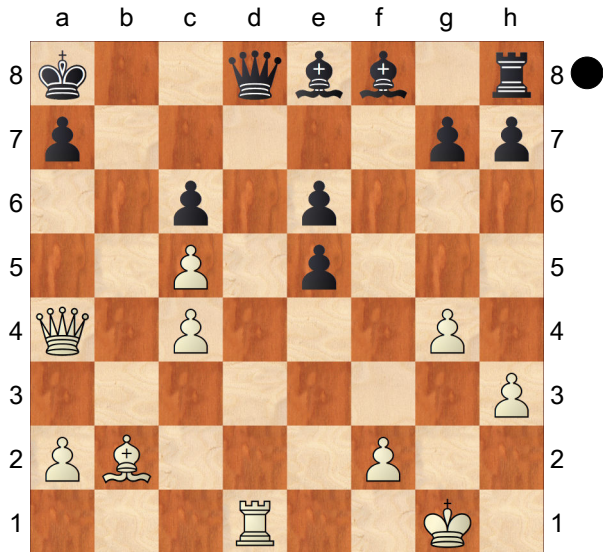
**20...Qa5** -0.93/27

[ 20...Qg5 21.Qa4 Be8? -0.74/27 was a decent defence too.

( 21...Be4+- -2.36/27 has better winning chances. 22.Rfe1 Bf3 23.Rxd8+ Qxd8 ) 22.Rxd8+ -1.80/5 ( 22.Bxe5± -0.74/27 Bxc5 23.Qa6 ) 22...Qxd8+- 23.Rd1

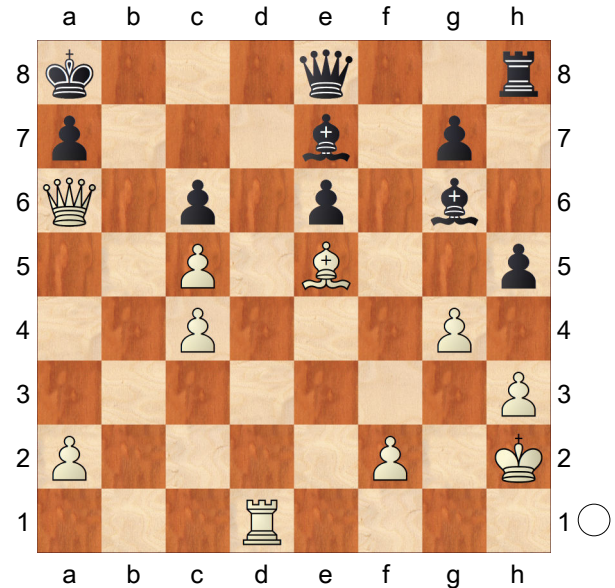
(Diagram)





[ 26...Be4 was the only move, although White regains the piece by 27.f3! ]

[ 26...Be4= 0.01/27 27.f3 Bxc5 28.fxe4 Bb6 ]



Prevents Rd1-d8+. **27.Rd8+!**

It is mate next move! Skewer, Back Rank.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.77

**1-0**

**B20**  
 Sveshnikov, Evgeny **2502**  
 Shirov, Alexei **2701**  
 Riga rapid m (1) 26.09.2014  
*[Cyrus Lakdawala, MH]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves **1.e4 c5 2.b3** The b3-Sicilian's greatest advantage is that it removes most Sicilian players from their theoretical niches, into a grove of White's making. Sveshnikov played the Alapin Sicilian (2. c3) in all his life. He also turned back to it in the next games of this match, but

Qc8! 24.Qa5 -2.45/26 ( 24.Bxe5 -1.54/26 was necessary. Bxc5 25.Rb1 ) 24...Be7-+ 25.Bxe5 Bg6 Inhibits Rd1-b1. ]  
 [ 20...Qg5!-+ -2.33/28 is more deadly. 21.Qa4 Be4 ]  
**21.Qa3** -2.05/25  
 [ 21.Bc3! Qc7 22.Bxe5 Qc8 23.Rxd8 Qxd8 24.Rd1 Qc8 is the only defence, but sufficient. ]  
 [ 21.Bc3 -0.93/27 Qc7 22.Bxe5 ]  
**21...Qc7** ...Bf8-e7 is the strong threat.  
**22.Bxe5 Qc8**  
 [Tal Abergel, who was sitting at the next board, suggested 22...Qb6!? after the game. ]  
**23.Rxd8 Qxd8** So far, so good for Black. She is within an ace of beating the GM.  
**24.Kh2** For want of something to do? The king moves off the back rank so that a later Rd1 might become possible.  
**24...h5?** -0.01/24 Casual.  
 [ 24...Be7 25.Qa6 Qc8 seems to win for Black. ]  
 [ 24...Be7-+ -2.72/23 Strongly threatening ...Qd8-d3. 25.Bxg7 Rg8 ]  
**25.Qa6= Qe8 26.Rd1!** White wants to mate with Rd1-d8+! **26...Be7** #2/6

first he tried another sideline. This is an interesting option to play without much theory, Morozevich often employs it in blitz games or sometimes even Kramnik plays like this, when he starts with 1.e4. Balogh Csaba: 'Sveshnikov played the Alapin Sicilian (2.c3) in all his life. He also turned back to it in the next games of this match, but first he tried another sideline. This is an interesting option to play without much theory, Morozevich often employs it in blitz games or sometimes even Kramnik plays like this, when he starts with 1.e4.'

## 2...Nc6

[We look at an ...e6 version later on, as well as the bizarre and theoretically trendy provocation, 2...g6!? .]

**3.Bb2 e5** In this chapter we concentrate on this move, which I believe is one of Black's best responses, and is also given the seal of approval by GM Evgeny Sveshnikov, in his book 'Sveshnikov vs. the Anti-Sicilians'. We plant a pawn on e5 to limit the b2-bishop's scope and also grab more than our fair share of the centre.

QUESTION: Don't we lose control over d5?

ANSWER: That is the concession we agree to, for the advantages we gain, as listed above. I think it's a good deal for our side. White can't make important use

of d5, since we can usually either swap it away, or play around the d5 occupier. Black has various setups here. Shirov chooses a logical answer to close the diagonal of the fianchettoed bishop. The drawback of it is the hole on d5, White focuses his minor pieces on this square. Balogh Csaba: 'Black has various setups here. Shirov chooses a logical answer to close the diagonal of the fianchettoed bishop. The drawback of it is the hole on d5, White focuses his minor pieces on this square. Black has various setups here. Shirov chooses a logical answer to close the diagonal of the fianchettoed bishop. The drawback of it is the hole on d5, White focuses his minor pieces on this square.'

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bc4** This move is in favour since Kramnik took up the line as White.

QUESTION: What is White's intended set-up?

ANSWER: White intends to follow with Nge2, 0-0 and f4, with kingside attacking chances. Of course Black gets use of the d4-square and owns a good chunk of the centre, so we are assured of adequate counter-chances.

[Alternatively:

a) 4.Nf3 is rather lame, and fails to pressure Black's centre: d6 5.Bb5 Bd7 (there is no reason to allow White Bxc6+) 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Re1 a6 8.Bf1

[ 5.d3 , intending Nge2, 0-0 and f4,  
will transpose to Kramnik-Kobalia

above; e.g. after d6 . 6.Ne2 Be7  
7.Nbc3 Nd4 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4  
is Kramnik's idea; White gains play  
down the f-file and may be able to  
build an attack later on with Ng3, and  
either Nh5 or Nf5: a6 10.a4 b6  
11.Nd5 Rb8 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Ng3  
Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4 (perhaps slightly  
more accurate is the immediate  
14...g6 , followed by ...Bg5 ) 15.Qh5  
(with a dual attack on f7) Bf6 16.c4  
g6 17.Qd1 was V.Kramnik-M.Kobalia,  
Tromso 2013. After Bg5 , ...Kg7 may  
follow and I don't see how White  
builds his attack. It feels to me like  
Black stands slightly better since he is  
the only one with the ...f5 and ...b5  
breaks for the future. ]

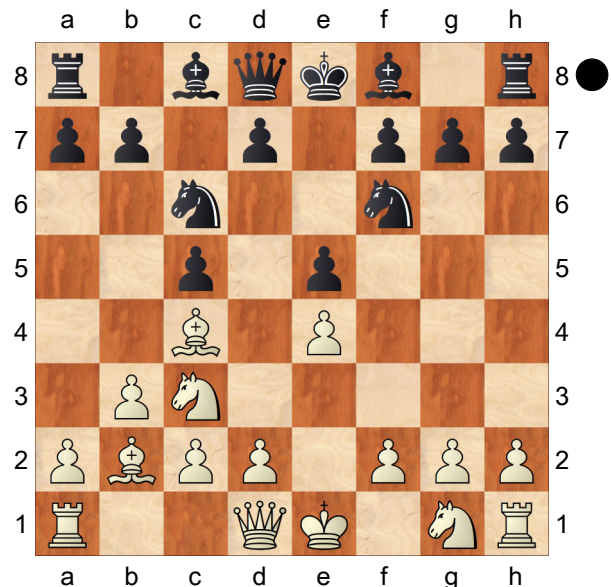


Diagram 5...Nxe4 This kind of disruptive temporary piece sacrifice is well known in the Four Knights' Opening. !? Typical Shir ov. He is searching for a way right in the opening to complicate the matters. Balogh Csaba: '!? Typical Shir ov. He is searching for a way right in the opening to complicate the matters. Typical Shir ov. He is searching for a

way right in the opening to complicate the matters.'

[ 5...d6 6.d3 a6 7.a4 g6 8.Nge2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 Rb8 11.f4 exf4 12.Nxf4 Nd7 13.Qc1 Nde5 14.Bd5 Bd7 15.Qd2 Qg5 16.Bc1 Nb4 17.Nce2 Qh4 18.Rb1 g5 19.c3 gxf4 20.cxb4 10.♙e3 13.a4 h5 14. a5\_7543-10.Rg1!? 95: Internet (blitz) 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [Kotov,A] 0-1 (62) ]

**6.Nxe4** Strongly threatening Qd1-f3.

[QUESTION: Why would White avoid 6.Bxf7+ -0.66/22 6.Nc3xe4 0.04 which disrupts Black's castling? ANSWER: I don't see a single game with this in the database. The move is a strategic error for the following reasons:

1. It hands Black the centre.
  2. Black gains the bishop pair.
  3. Black gains time with ...d5.
  4. The move may even allow Black future use of the open f-file or a rook.
- Following Kxf7 7.Nxe4 d5 8.Ng3 Be7 9.Nf3 (or 9.N1e2 h5! 10.0-0 h4 11.Nh1 Bf5 with an initiative and also strategic advantage for Black ) 9...Bf6 10.d3 Against e5-e4 h5! 11.h4 Bg4 12.Qd2 Bxf3 13.gxf3 , the h4-pawn is weak and liable to fall, and Black's structure is superior as well. ]

**6...d5** Black immediately regains the piece, while seizing the centre. Black wins back the piece and he manages to solve the problem of the d5 square with this tactical idea. The question is, if he will have enough time to consolidate his position, especially to solve the pressure of the e5 pawn... Balogh Csaba: 'Black wins back the piece and

he manages to solve the problem of the d5 square with this tactical idea. The question is, if he will have enough time to consolidate his position, especially to solve the pressure of the e5 pawn... Black wins back the piece and he manages to solve the problem of the d5 square with this tactical idea. The question is, if he will have enough time to consolidate his position, especially to solve the pressure of the e5 pawn...'

**7.Bd3 dxe4 8.Bxe4** The position is equal. **8...Bd6** Shirov eggs his opponent on, allowing Bxc6+.

[He can also play it safer with 8...Bd7 9.Nf3 Bd6 10.Qe2 f6 11.Nh4 g6 Against Qe2-h5 12.f4 Qc7!? ( 12...Qe7! is more accurate, since in this version Black doesn't lose castling rights; 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 looks fine for Black ) 13.f5 g5 (now 13...0-0-0!? looks overly risky: 14.fxg6 Nd4 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.gxh7 Rde8 17.0-0-0! Rxh7 18.Nf5! Bxh2 19.Qf3 Threatens to win with Nf5-d6+! Rhh8 20.g3 Kb8 21.Rdf1 Bxf5 22.Qxf5 Bxg3 23.Rxh8 Rxh8 24.Qxf6 and White stands a shade better, since the presence of opposite-coloured bishops favours him ) 14.Qh5+ Ke7 15.Nf3 h6 . Black's control of the centre allows his king to remain relatively safe, although I would still be nervous about a future plan of c4 and d4, E. Romanov-V.Laznicka, Istanbul 2005. ]

**9.Qh5** -0.11/22 Preventing castling, as well as threatening Bxc6+, followed by Bxe5. ! Very well played, the only way to fight for the advantage! Sveshnikov knows, if Black manages to castle and



plays f6 or f5, he achieves a very comfortable position. Therefore he puts pressure on the e5 pawn and prevents his opponent from the direct castling. Balogh Csaba: '!' Balogh Csaba: '!' Very well played, the only way to fight for the advantage! Sveshnikov knows, if Black manages to castle and plays f6 or f5, he achieves a very comfortable position. Therefore he puts pressure on the e5 pawn and prevents his opponent from the direct castling. Very well played, the only way to fight for the advantage! Sveshnikov knows, if Black manages to castle and plays f6 or f5, he achieves a very comfortable position. Therefore he puts pressure on the e5 pawn and prevents his opponent from the direct castling.'

[QUESTION: Why wouldn't White inflict structural damage with 9.Bxc6+ – ?

ANSWER: The light-squared bishop is a valuable piece and Black gets clear compensation. In the four GM games from this position, not a single player chose to make this exchange. Let's examine it: bxc6 10.Ne2 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.d3 Qh4 and I slightly prefer Black, who threatens to build on the kingside. His c-pawns are not weak at this point. ]

[Balogh Csaba: 'After' 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 f6 Black is fine. ]

[ 9.Nf3 0.25/21 feels stronger. ]

**9...h6?! 0.81/21** Shirov is one of those players who refuses to stand on the middle rung of the human ladder. His actions either push him to the top, or toss him to the bottom. When a higher-rated player gambits unsoundly against me, I tend to paranoidly interpret it as a

sign of his contempt for my chess ability. Black's last move is a Shirovian decision, if ever there was one. He severs his constraining mooring line and launches off to who-knows-where?

This radical, very likely dubious move is unsound according to the comp, who isn't so convinced of the validity of Black's supposition. Shirov wastes a full move with ...h6 and allows his e-pawn to fall, since at the end he hopes to seize an initiative and development lead. Stylistic underpinnings don't justify a weak move. One warning though: even an unsound idea may contain a key mitigating quality, in the form of practical chances, which is exactly what happened in the game. This is the novelty! Black prepares to castle short and he invites his opponent to grab the e5 pawn, which opens the e-file for a potential attack. Diagram Balogh Csaba: 'This is the novelty! Black prepares to castle short and he invites his opponent to grab the e5 pawn, which opens the e-file for a potential attack. Diagram This is the novelty! Black prepares to castle short and he invites his opponent to grab the e5 pawn, which opens the e-file for a potential attack. Diagram'

[Black's best move is 9...Nd4! , which removes Bxc6+ from the table, while safeguarding e5. After 10.Nf3 (E.Romanov-A.Frolov, Kazan 2003), Black has a good position following g6 11.Qh6 Bf8 Inhibits Qh6-g7. 12.Qe3 Bg7 13.c3 Ne6 . Black's central space is meaningful, while White's pieces look oddly placed, with nothing constructive to do. ]

[ 9...Qe7 0.40/21 9...Nc6-d4 0.05

10.Nf3 happened in some previous games. ]

[ 9...Nd4= -0.11/22 ]

**10.Bxc6+** Sveshnikov accepts the offer. White goes for the material, which turns out to be a wrong decision.

[He can also first toss in Balogh Csaba: 'However after the very strong 10.f4! ! on the other hand it is also very logical to press even more the main target, White seems to get an advantage Balogh Csaba: '!' on the other hand it is also very logical to press even more the main target, White seems to get an advantage on the other hand it is also very logical to press even more the main target, White seems to get an advantage' 0-0 ( 10...g6 1.15/22 10...0-0 0.48 11.Qe2 White wins the e5 pawn anyway.; 10...exf4 11.Bxg7 Rg8 aiming for ...Qd8-e7. 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxh6 I am not sure if Black has enough compensation for the pawn. ) 11.Bxc6 ]

[ 10.Nf3 0.30/22 10.f2-f4 0.61 is met by g6 when White has no good square for his queen. ]

**10...bxc6 11.Bxe5?! 0.14/23**

Shirov's gamble hinged on this key premise. White finally acquires the coveted object, but in the wrong way. This allows Shirov his intent.

[Correct was 11.f4! 0-0 0.73/21 ( 11...c4± 0.40/20 might be stronger. ) 12.fxe5± , transposing to the favourable line above. Re8 0.96/21 ( 12...Be7± 0.65/19 ) 13.0-0-0 and I just don't believe in Black's compensation. ]

[ 11.f4± 0.49/21 was preferable. ]

**11...0-0= !** As simple as that. Black

soon forces the king to move with Re8.

Excellent intuitions by Shirov, the analysis show, that Black has enough compensation for the pawn in all the lines. Balogh Csaba: '!' Balogh Csaba: '!' As simple as that. Black soon forces the king to move with Re8. Excellent intuitions by Shirov, the analysis show, that Black has enough compensation for the pawn in all the lines. As simple as that. Black soon forces the king to move with Re8. Excellent intuitions by Shirov, the analysis show, that Black has enough compensation for the pawn in all the lines.'

**12.Bxd6**

[ 12.Nf3? -2.01/24 12.0-0-0 0.01 loses to Bxe5 13.Nxe5 Qd5

! and White cannot parry the doublethreat of f6 or Re8. Balogh Csaba: '!' ]

[ 12.Bc3 is met by Re8+ 13.Kf1 We reach a Marshall Gambit kind of compensation. Black does not hurry to do anything quickly, he plays for longterm counterplay, using the fact that the h1 rook cannot participate in this game. Black has different good ways to continue, a logical one is Balogh Csaba: 'We reach a Marshall Gambit kind of compensation. Black does not hurry to do anything quickly, he plays for longterm counterplay, using the fact that the h1 rook cannot participate in this game. Black has different good ways to continue, a logical one is We reach a Marshall Gambit kind of compensation. Black does not hurry to do anything quickly, he plays for longterm counterplay, using the fact that the h1 rook cannot participate in this game. Black has different good ways to continue, a

logical one is' Be6 14.Nf3 -0.33/23 ( 14.d3= 0.00/21 is superior. ) 14...Qd7 0.03/22 Developing and threatening with Bg4 ( 14...a5! -0.33/23 should be considered. ) 15.h3!= Diagram a5 trying to open a new front on the queenside. White cannot connect his rooks. Balogh Csaba: 'trying to open a new front on the queenside. White cannot connect his rooks. trying to open a new front on the queenside. White cannot connect his rooks.' 16.a4 c4 ! destroying the healthy pawn structure and getting rid of the doubled pawns. Black has a very strong initiative. Balogh Csaba: '! Balogh Csaba: '! destroying the healthy pawn structure and getting rid of the doubled pawns. Black has a very strong initiative. destroying the healthy pawn structure and getting rid of the doubled pawns. Black has a very strong initiative.' ]

### 12...Re8+ 13.Ne2

[ 13.Be5 -1.06/23 13.Ng1-e2 0.01 loses to Qd4! ! Black wins material in view of Balogh Csaba: '! 14.Nf3? -12.44/24 ( 14.0-0-0 -0.60/24 Rxe5 15.c3 ) 14...Qxa1+ ! [%t Shrt] â^â + using the pin. Balogh Csaba: '-+!' ]

### 13...Qxd6 EXERCISE (critical decision):

Tempting possibilities hover before White's eyes. Should he castle long or short?

**14.0-0-0?** -1.24/22 This step, once taken, is impossible to reverse. Castling long retains his extra pawn, at the steep cost of placing his king in great peril, as Black's attack comes quickly. ? An ambitious move, which causes all the forthcoming problems. Sveshnikov would

like to preserve his extra pawn and he does not believe, that Black's attack could be dangerous here. However Shirov was on different opinion! Balogh Csaba: '? An ambitious move, which causes all the forthcoming problems. Sveshnikov would like to preserve his extra pawn and he does not believe, that Black's attack could be dangerous here. However Shirov was on different opinion! An ambitious move, which causes all the forthcoming problems. Sveshnikov would like to preserve his extra pawn and he does not believe, that Black's attack could be dangerous here. However Shirov was on different opinion!'

[ANSWER: White still remains roughly even after Balogh Csaba: 'After the solid' 14.0-0! (White should judge defence of d2 a superficial consideration, when compared to his king's safety, and disavow his original intent) Qxd2 15.Ng3! White gives back the pawn and gives up also the fight for the advantage, but the game should have finished in a draw in this case. Balogh Csaba: '=' Balogh Csaba: 'White gives back the pawn and gives up also the fight for the advantage, but the game should have finished in a draw in this case. White gives back the pawn and gives up also the fight for the advantage, but the game should have finished in a draw in this case.' Qc3 16.Rfd1 Be6 17.Ne4 Qxc2 18.f3! Hoping for Rd1-d2. Rad8 Inhibits Rd1-d2. 19.Rdc1 Qe2 Threatening ...Qe2-e3+. 20.Qxc5 Bd5 with approximate equality. ] [ 14.0-0!= -0.01/22 ]

**14...c4!?** We arrive at an inescapable truth, that White is already busted. Shirov, who from this point, plays with great energy, sustained by his goal of an attack, quickly loosens the pawn front around White's king. White has absolutely no time to organize his own attack on the other side, or even to defend his own king.

! Of course! I guess, this came without too much hesitation. This is the first kamikaze pawn, which has the task of opening the lines in front of the king. Black also opens the diagonal for his queen to a3. Balogh Csaba: '! Of course! I guess, this came without too much hesitation. This is the first kamikaze pawn, which has the task of opening the lines in front of the king. Black also opens the diagonal for his queen to a3. Of course! I guess, this came without too much hesitation. This is the first kamikaze pawn, which has the task of opening the lines in front of the king. Black also opens the diagonal for his queen to a3.'. Black has strong compensation. &Nero is more active.

**15.Nc3** -1.75/23

[Balogh Csaba: 'I was trying to defend with' 15.Kb2 -1.39/24 15.Qh5-f3 -1.03 but Black leads a successful attack after Balogh Csaba: 'but Black leads a successful attack after' a5 ! Balogh Csaba: '!'. ...a5-a4 is the strong threat. 16.Nc3 cxb3! 17.axb3 -2.45/24 ( 17.Rhe1 -1.54/22 might work better. Rxe1 18.Rxe1 bxc2 19.Re8+ Kh7 20.Kc1 ) 17...a4-+ ! Very consequent attacking plan. Black intends to bring more attackers with Be6 and Reb8. Balogh

Csaba: '! Balogh Csaba: '! Very consequent attacking plan. Black intends to bring more attackers with Be6 and Reb8. Very consequent attacking plan. Black intends to bring more attackers with Be6 and Reb8.'

18.Nxa4? -10.25/21 Black wins after ( 18.Ra1 -2.27/24 a3+ 19.Kc1 )

18...Rxa4-+ ! Balogh Csaba: '!'

19.bxa4 Qb4+ 20.Kc1 Qa3+ 21.Kb1 Be6 [%t Shrt] â^â + and mate is coming soon. Balogh Csaba: '-+']

[ 15.Kb1 -1.24/24 was necessary. ]

**15...Qa3+!-+ 16.Kb1** The king acutely senses the discomfort of his dangerous surroundings. This costs White the game. **16...Be6!** ! Black prepares for a sacrifice on b3! Perhaps White did not sense the danger at the moment when he castled long, but only 3 moves later everything is obvious. Balogh Csaba: '! Balogh Csaba: '! Black prepares for a sacrifice on b3! Perhaps White did not sense the danger at the moment when he castled long, but only 3 moves later everything is obvious. Black prepares for a sacrifice on b3! Perhaps White did not sense the danger at the moment when he castled long, but only 3 moves later everything is obvious.' **17.Rhe1**

Diagram **17...Rab8!** ! The most natural is the strongest move again! Of course, the move suggests itself, the difficulty lays in that Black had other seemingly promising alternatives as well, but those were less accurate... Balogh Csaba: '! The most natural is the strongest move again! Of course, the move suggests itself, the difficulty lays in that Black had other seemingly promising alternatives as well, but those were less accurate... The most



natural is the strongest move again! Of course, the move suggests itself, the difficulty lays in that Black had other seemingly promising alternatives as well, but those were less accurate...'

[ 17...Reb8?! -1.24/21 17...Ra8-b8 -1.93 would be met by 18.Rxe6 cxb3 19.cxb3 fxe6 20.Qg6 -1.38/22 , when White gets a touch of compensation for the exchange, mainly since his king got a lot safer. ( 20.Kc2 -1.00/24 )]  
[ 17...cxb3 18.axb3 Bxb3? 0.91/28 (Balogh Csaba: 'Now on' 18...Rab8 -0.86/25 18...Re8-b8 -1.43 19.Re4 ! is a good defensive idea with Ra4. That is why, it is better to wait with taking on cxb3. Balogh Csaba: '! Balogh Csaba: '! is a good defensive idea with Ra4. That is why, it is better to wait with taking on cxb3. is a good defensive idea with Ra4. That is why, it is better to wait with taking on cxb3.'; 18...a5- -1.21/27 keeps the pressure on. 19.d4 a4 ) 19.Rxe8+± Rxe8 20.cxb3 Qxb3+ Seems to win as Rb8 is coming next, but Shirov had calculated perfectly, that White is able to defend himself with Balogh Csaba: 'Seems to win as Rb8 is coming next, but Shirov had calculated perfectly, that White is able to defend himself with Seems to win as Rb8 is coming next, but Shirov had calculated perfectly, that White is able to defend himself with' 21.Ka1! ! Balogh Csaba: '! Rb8 22.Rb1 Prevents Qb3-b2+. Qa3+ 23.Na2 just keeping everything together. Balogh Csaba: 'just keeping everything together. just keeping everything together.' ]

**18.Ka1?! -4.81/26 Complete** desperation. White's position collapses after this move.

[He puts up greater resistance with Balogh Csaba: 'Now on' 18.Re4 c5 ! [%t Shrt] ââ + and only next move Black takes on b3 and then he pushes c4 again. Balogh Csaba: '-+!' Balogh Csaba: '! [%t Shrt] ââ + and only next move Black takes on b3 and then he pushes c4 again. and only next move Black takes on b3 and then he pushes c4 again.' 19.Qe2 cxb3 20.cxb3 Re7! -1.38/24 (threatening mate, with ...Bxb3 next) ( 20...Rb7-+ -1.82/24 White must now prevent ...Re8-b8. 21.Nb5 Qa6 ) 21.Nb5- Qa6 22.Nc3 c4! 23.Kb2 Qd6 24.Rxc4 Bxc4 25.Qxc4 Re1! 26.Kc2 Rxd1 27.Kxd1 Qxh2 , though Black is still winning. ]  
[ 218.Re4 -1.88/25 ]

**18...cxb3 19.cxb3 Bxb3 !** The most precise again! Balogh Csaba: '!'

[Even more crushing is 19...Rxb3! 20.Rb1 Against Qa3-b2+ Reb8 ( 20...Rxc3? -1.32/27 20...Re8-b8 -4.85 looks winning, but White has a nice resource again to stay in the game Balogh Csaba: 'looks winning, but White has a nice resource again to stay in the game looks winning, but White has a nice resource again to stay in the game' 21.Rxe6 ! Balogh Csaba: '! Rxe6 22.Rb8+ Kh7 ( -> ...Re6-e1+ ) 23.Qf5+ forces the black rook to g6, but then, there is no mate on the back rank Balogh Csaba: 'forces the black rook to g6, but then, there is no mate on the back rank forces the black rook to g6, but then, there is no mate on the back rank'

Rg6 24.dxc3 Qc1+ 25.Rb1 Qxc3+ 26.Rb2 Black has an extra pawn, but he must work hard for the win. It is not so easy to use the g6 rook. Balogh Csaba: 'Black has an extra pawn, but he must work hard for the win. It is not so easy to use the g6 rook. Black has an extra pawn, but he must work hard for the win. It is not so easy to use the g6 rook.' ) 21.Qe5 R8b6! 22.Rxb3 Rxb3 , and now there is no defence to the coming ...Rxc3 and ...Qxa2 mate. ]

**20.Rxe8+ Rxe8 21.Rh1** This is sad, but it was already too late to do something. Balogh Csaba: 'This is sad, but it was already too late to do something. This is sad, but it was already too late to do something.'

[ 21.Rb1 just loses time to is met by Bc2! . and the rook cannot cover the e1 square and the b-file as well. Rb8 is coming enxt with mate. Balogh Csaba: 'and the rook cannot cover the e1 square and the b-file as well. Rb8 is coming enxt with mate. and the rook cannot cover the e1 square and the b-file as well. Rb8 is coming enxt with mate.' 22.Rh1 -#9/20 ( 22.Qf3-+ -4.24/26 Bxb1 23.Kxb1 ) 22...Rb8 [%t Shrt] âˆˆ + Balogh Csaba: '-+' ]

**21...Bc2** Threat: ...Rb8 and ...Qb2 mate. ! The bishop very well on c2. It controls the important b1 square to avoid the Rb1 defense after Rb8. White has no adequate resource against it, he can only delay the defeat. Balogh Csaba: '! Balogh Csaba: '! The bishop very well on c2. It controls the important b1 square to avoid the Rb1 defense after Rb8. White has no adequate resource against it, he can only delay the defeat.

The bishop very well on c2. It controls the important b1 square to avoid the Rb1 defense after Rb8. White has no adequate resource against it, he can only delay the defeat.'. Inhibits Qh5-f5.

**22.Nb1 Qb4 23.a3 Qb6** Black still wants to play Rb8 in each move. **24.Qh4** Diagram

[ 24.Qh3 Rb8 25.Qc3 covers the mate threat on b2, only to hang a piece to. Prevents Qb6-b2+. Bxb1 . ]

EXERCISE (planning/combination alert): White plans to meet 24...Rb8 with 25 Qb4. How did Shirov brush aside Sveshnikov's intent?

ANSWER: Interference. Black prevents Qb4, while threatening ...Rb8.

**24...Be4!** Black's pieces come and go as they please, uncloaked and without anonymity. ! The most precise again! Shirov closes the 4th rank and Rb8 is really coming next with a decisive effect. Balogh Csaba: '! The most precise again! Shirov closes the 4th rank and Rb8 is really coming next with a decisive effect. The most precise again! Shirov closes the 4th rank and Rb8 is really coming next with a decisive effect.'

[ Balogh Csaba: 'On' 24...Rb8 25.Qb4 White could still suffer. Inhibits Qb6-b2+. ]

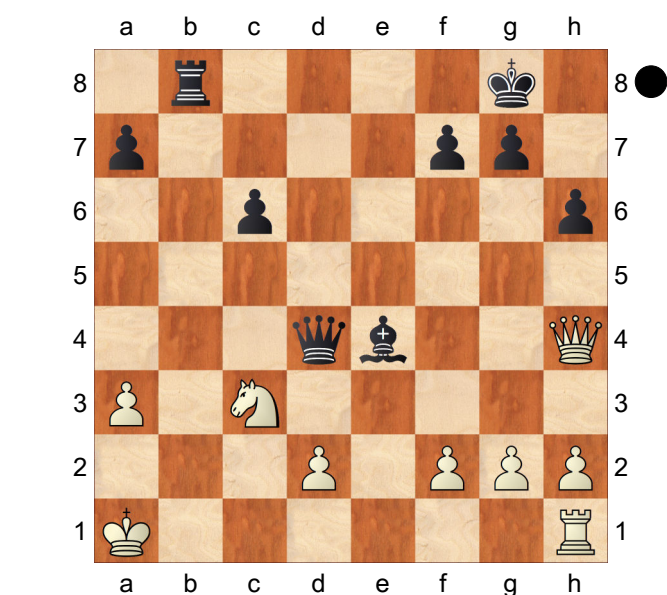
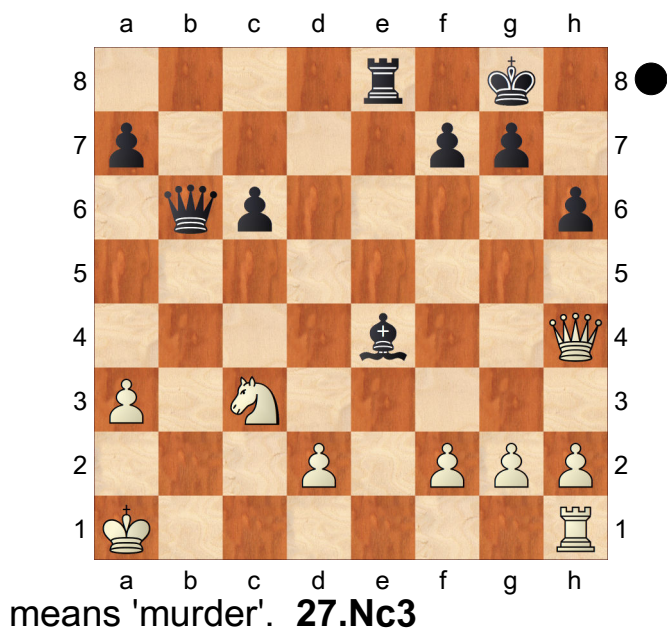
**25.Nc3**

(Diagram)

**Rb8! 26.Na4** Our helplessness sometimes mocks us into ineffectively wrathful action. Inhibits Qb6-b2+.

[ 26.Rb1 Bxb1 ]

Balogh Csaba: 'White resigned in view of **26...Qd4+** The queen likes to substitute the word 'sanction', when in reality she



**SUMMARY:** I think the ...Nc6 and ...e5 plan is one of Black's most effective against the b3–Sicilian, since it blunts the scope of White's prized b2–bishop. It also seizes a fair chunk of the centre, while it isn't so easy for White to make good use of the d5 hole. [%t Shrt] âˆˆâˆˆ + Very nice attacking game by Shirov, but from the theoretical point of view, White could have get an advantage by playing 10.f4, therefore I consider 5...Nxe4 to be an inaccuracy.

Balogh Csaba: '-+' Balogh Csaba: '[%t Shrt] âˆˆâˆˆ + Very nice attacking game by Shirov, but from the theoretical point of view, White could have get an advantage by playing 10.f4, therefore I consider 5...Nxe4 to be an inaccuracy.

Weighted Error Value: White=1.07/  
Black=0.08 (flawless)

**0-1**

**B20**  
**2494**  
**2222**  
Chalkidiki op (7) 03.05.2007  
[Andrew Martin, MH]

**B20:** Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3** My general impression of 2 b3 is favourable, although whether this move can be used regularly with hope of an advantage is doubtful. It is however, a very good surprise weapon and particularly against lower-rated opposition. With that in mind then, I will demonstrate the following patchy effort to show how a slow game-plan can often have a very surprising effect. **2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 11.♖e1 h6 12.♙b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)–

Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0  
Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0  
18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♗f3 g5 5.g  
(2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)  
Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada  
[Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

#### 4.Nc3N

[ 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.Qh5 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6  
7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3 e6 9.f5 exf5  
10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2  
d5 13.0-0 b5 14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8  
16.Nd4 Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Kf1 Bd7  
14.h4 b4 15.♗e2 e5 16.♙a7 (2183)-  
Kuebler,J (2500) Chessfriend.com  
2014 200 Traps In The Opening  
[Evening Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/  
1888] 0-1 (45) ]  
[ 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3  
( 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5 Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4  
9.Qxg4 Rxg4 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0  
Bh6 12.Nd5 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3  
Rag8 15.g3 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4  
18.a5 Rh6 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7  
10.♗e5 ♙e6 11.b3\_7650-Rogic,D  
Belgrad 1990 Lexikon04 [Dragan  
Solak] 1-0 (33) ) 6...Nc6 7.f4 e6  
8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7  
11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4  
dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5  
16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1  
Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns  
[Gotham] ]

#### 4...g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nge2

The White set-up is solid and  
unpretentious. No weakness is shown to  
the opponent. The weight is transferred  
to the middlegame. 7...e5 It's a good to  
block the diagonal like this, preparing ...

Nh5 and ...f7-f5, a good, active plan.

[ 7...Nc6 8.0-0 Rb8 9.f4 Ne8 10.h3  
f5 11.d3 Nc7 12.Rb1 e6 13.Qd2  
Nd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4+ 15.Kh2 b6  
Kosten, A-Senff, M/Marseille 2006  
leads to balanced play. ]

#### 8.0-0 The position is equal. 8...Nc6

[ 8...Nh5 0.30/19 8...Nb8-c6 -0.04  
9.Nd5 f5 should be played here I  
think: 10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Ne3 Bc8  
12.c3 Nc6 13.d4 Heimrath, R-Blum,  
G/Wildflecken 1993 when exd4  
1.08/21 ( 13...Nf4± 0.64/20  
is superior. ) 14.cxd4± Qf6 15.Nd5  
0.46/22 ( 15.Rb1± 1.31/20 ) 15...Qf7  
leads to an advantage for Black. ]

9.Kh1!? Gochev has plenty of rope to  
hang himself with. I suppose White  
intends f2-f4 at some moment and then  
the King is better on h1. But a vague  
move nevertheless. 9...Bd7 10.d3 Nd4  
11.Nb1 d5? 0.69/19

[ Just 11...Bc6 12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.c3  
dxc3! 14.Nxc3 d5 is a better way to  
do it. The strategy of doing very little  
works! ]

[ 11...b5= -0.27/19 ]

#### 12.exd5± White leaves nothing to

chance now. 12...Bg4 13.f3 Bc8

14.c4± I cannot for the life of me see

what Black's idea was when he went 11..  
d5. 14...h5 Perhaps that was it.

15.Nbc3 h4

(Diagram)

Hoping for ...h4-h3. 16.g4!

[ 16.gxh4 Nh5± ]

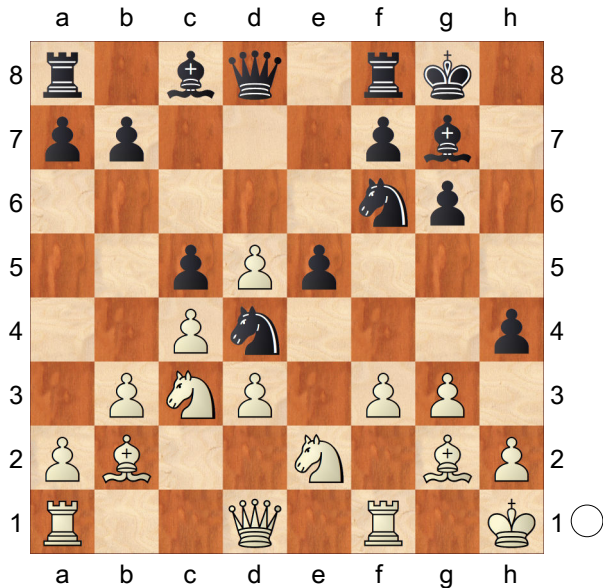
16...Nh7 17.Ne4 b6 18.Nxd4 exd4

19.f4 & Bianco is more active. 19...f5

20.gxf5 gxf5 1.96/21

[ 20...Bxf5± 1.42/22 was worth a try.





21.b4 Rc8 ]

**21.Nf2** It will take some time to realise the extra pawn, but White has the natural plan of taking the e file. **21...Bd7**

**22.Qf3 Qf6 23.Rae1! Qh6**

[ 23...Rae8 24.Bc1 intending Nh3-g5 simply leaves Black a pawn down for nothing. Black may exchange: Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Re8 but has the same problems after 26.Rxe8+ Bxe8 27.Nh3 Qe7 28.Bd2± ]

**24.Bc1**

[ Resist 24.Re7 Rf7 25.Re6 Nf6± ]

**24...Be8 25.Re6! Nf6 26.Bh3 Bd7?**

4.34/23

[ 26...Bh5 1.93/21 27.Qg2 Qg6

28.Qxg6 Bxg6 ]

**27.Bxf5!** He found a nice way to increase his advantage. The Bishop on e6 will be impossible to shift and whilst covering g8, enables White to penetrate on the g file. **27...Bxe6 28.Bxe6+**

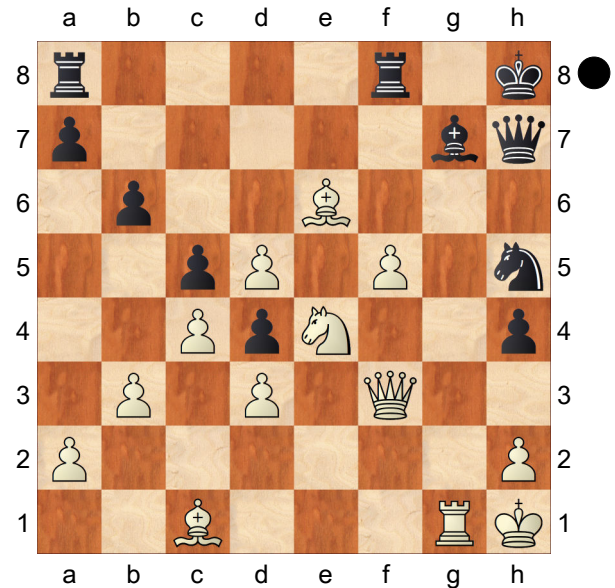
[ But not 28.dxe6 Qh5 29.Qxh5 Nxh5+- ]

**28...Kh8 29.Rg1 Nh5? 10.56/25**

[ 29...Qh5 3.12/23 30.Qxh5+ Nxh5 ]

**30.f5+- Qh7 31.Ne4**

(Diagram)



Strongly threatening Ne4-g5. **31...Bf6**

**32.Rg6** Have you ever seen more dominating pieces? White threatens Rg6-h6 and mate. **32...Bg7**

Against Rg6-h6 **33.Qe2 Nf6 34.Bg5**

**Ng8 35.Bf4 10.14/25**

[ 35.Bxg8 also crushes Black convincingly:

**A) 35...Rxg8 36.Nf6 Rae8 37.Nxe8;**

**B) 35...Qxg8 36.Qh5+ 10.70/5 ( Δ36.f6 #12/20 Rf7 37.fxg7+ Qxg7 38.Qh5+ Qh7 39.Rh6 Rf1+ 40.Kg2 Qxh6 41.Qxh6+ Kg8 42.Kxf1 ) 36...Qh7+- 37.Bh6 Rg8 38.Ng5;**

**C) 35...Kxg8 36.Nf6+ Rxf6 37.Bxf6 Qxg6 38.fxg6 Bxf6 39.Qe6+ 7.34/5 ( Δ39.Qh5 #13/25 Kf8 40.d6 Rd8 41.Qh6+ Ke8 42.Qf4 Rxd6 43.Qxd6 Bg7 44.Qe6+ Kd8 45.Qg8+ Kd7 46.Qxg7+ Kd6 47.Qf7 ) 39...Kg7+- 40.Qf7+ ]**

[ Δ35.Bxg8 20.76/22 Kxg8 36.Nf6+ Rxf6 37.Bxf6 Qxg6 38.fxg6 Bxf6

39.Qe6+ Kg7 40.Qf7+ Kh6 41.Qxf6 ]

**35...Qxg6 36.fxg6** Threatening mate

with Qe2–h5+. **36...Rxf4 37.Ng5 Ne7 38.Qh5+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/

Black=0.56

**1–0**

**B20**

□ **Paichadze,Luka**

**2487**

■ **Savchenko,Boris**

**2616**

EU–ch 12th Aix les Bains (2) 23.03.2011

[Marin,Mihail, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4** Marin,M Marin,M Marin,M Marin,M: 'IM Polivanov, A' **1...c5 2.b3 h5N**

In the absence of a target on g3, this is an absurd move. Black's play in the first part of the game has some abstract coherence, but with one important exception: it will place the developing process on a very low priority.

Marin,M: 'In the absence of a target on g3, this is an absurd move. Black's play in the first part of the game has some abstract coherence, but with one important exception: it will place the developing process on a very low priority.

IM Polivanov, A: 'Such thing is the ordinary event, let's say, in the yard chess, but in European championship... Even Morozevich didn't permit oneself something like this!'

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 ( 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2 Queenside Fianchetto–2 b3 ChessPub Guide 2017 Anti–Sicilians [ChessPublishing.com] ) 4.a4 e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Be2 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qb6

11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.a5 Qc7 13.f4 Ne8 14.Bd3 f5 15.exf5 exf5 16.Qh5 Nf6 17.Qh3 Ripatti,R–2.c4 e5 NLD 1851 CBM 084 Extra [Dorner, Cranbourne] 0–1 ]

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7 16.0–0–0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)–13.♠ad1 ♔b6 14.b3 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1–0 (33) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0 Dehmelt,K–12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Nf3 d5** Marin,M: 'IM Polivanov, A: 'But besides eccentricity of Savchenko's style, there may be a psychological approach. 2...h5 – is the challenge for White, he take an obligation to disprove it at any cost.'

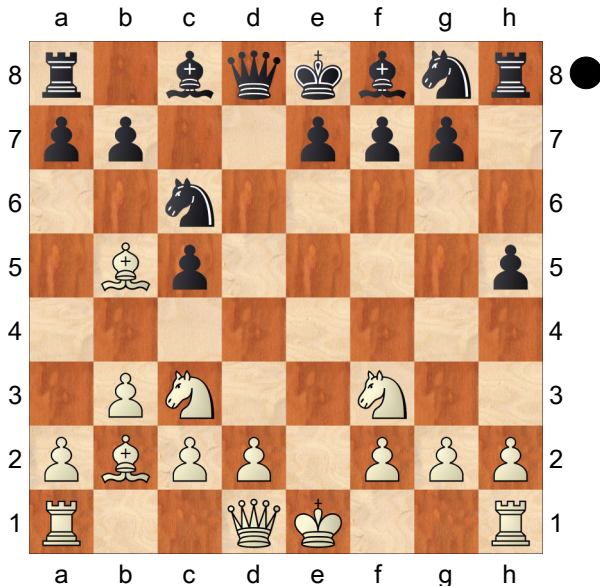
**5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Nc3 Qd8 7.Bb5**

Marin,M: 'IM Polivanov, A: 'Diagram

(Diagram)

" It is quite common in the b3–system that White develops his other bishop to b5. Apart from the threat of spoiling the enemy structure, Black's control over the e5– and d4–squares is weakened, thus adding strength to the b2–bishop.

**7...Rh6** 1.10/20 Marin,M: '!'? IM Polivanov, A. ' One abstract justification of the opening experiment.



Marin,M: 'One abstract justification of the opening experiment.

IM Polivanov, A: 'As it turned out, 2...h5 has some sense – ♖h6 prevents to pawn structure's impairment.'

[ Δ7...Bd7 0.72/21 ]

**8.0-0** White is better. **8...a6 9.Bxc6+ Rxc6 10.Ne5** Against Bc8-g4 **10...Rh6**

Black loses lots of time with his rook moves, while all the other pieces are on their initial squares. His play would have some meaning of the rook could remain active along the 6th rank, but this will not be the case, unfortunately.

**11.Ne4↑** White is in control.

[ Good move, but perhaps it was stronger after 11.Qf3 (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A Nf6 1.95/21 – now ( 11...f6± 1.25/22 is a better defense. ) 12.Ne4 , in addition to Δc5, attacks the f7 one (Ng5). ]

**11...f6** Marin,M: '□' IM Polivanov, A. ' Against Ne4-g5 **12.Nc4** Pair of Knights! [ 12.Nxc5 fxe5 13.Re1 Nf6 14.Bxe5 b6± ]

**12...h4?!** Marin,M: '!' IM Polivanov, A. ' Black keeps playing an original game. After cutting off the 6th rank, he opens

some new horizons for the rook. Still, all his other pieces are on their initial squares. Marin,M: 'Black keeps playing an original game. After cutting off the 6th rank, he opens some new horizons for the rook. Still, all his other pieces are on their initial squares. IM Polivanov, A: 'Yet another profit from multi-purpose move 2...h5.'

[ 12...e6± would have been more cautious, trying to catch up in development. ]

**13.Re1** Hoping for Ne4-d6+.

[ 13.Nxc5 0.29/23 13.Rf1-e1 1.48 (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A h3!

Strongly threatening ...h3xg2. 14.g3? -1.26/22 ( 14.Re1!± 0.85/20

Threatens to win with Qd1-f3. Qd5 15.Ne4 ) 14...Qd5-- Against Qd1-f3 ]

[ 13.Nxc5 h3 14.Re1 ( 14.Qf3 hxg2 15.Qxg2 Bh3± ) 14...Qd5± ( 14...Qc7 15.Ne4± ) ]

**13...e5** 2.34/21 This looks like overdoing things already, but maybe it is too late for a good piece of advice?

[ For the truth's sake, it should be mentioned that 13...e6 would be worse than if played one move earlier because of

**A) 14.d4** (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A cxd4 15.Bxd4 0.94/20 (Better is 15.Qxd4 1.54/21 Qxd4 16.Bxd4 );

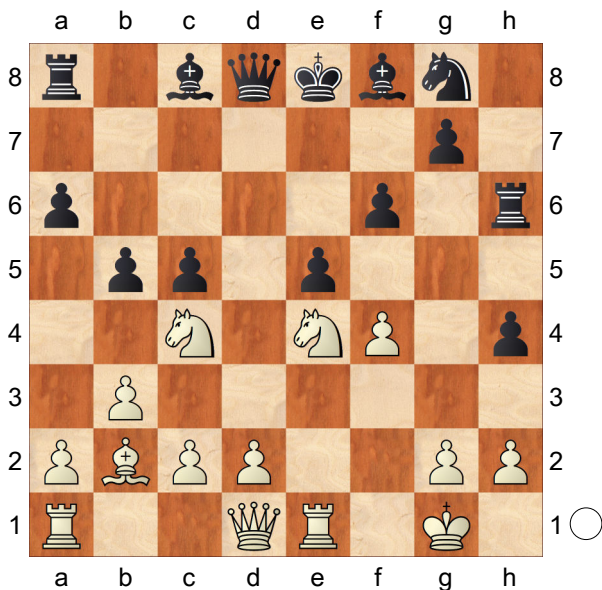
**B) 14.Re3** followed by ♖d3 and ♔d6+, with a probably decisive attack at no cost. ]

[ 13...e6 1.83/22 keeps fighting. 14.Qf3 Ra7 ]

**14.f4+-** Marin,M: '!' IM Polivanov, A. ' The position falls apart now. Twelve moves have passed since the novelty and only one piece (the king's rook) is on another square than the initial one.



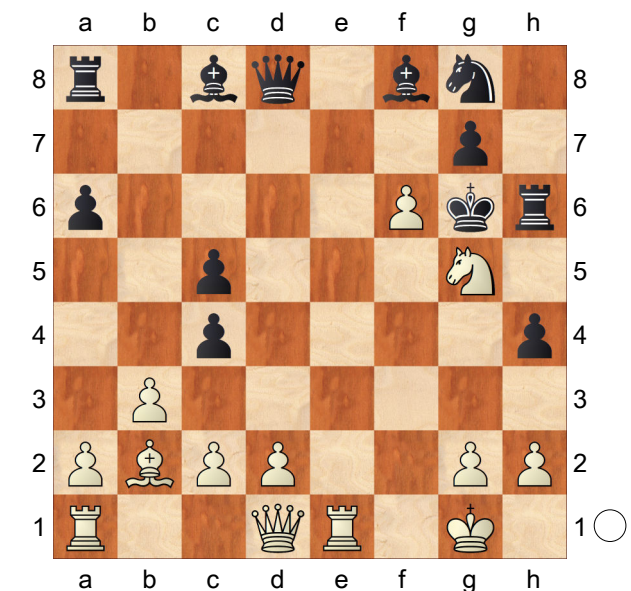
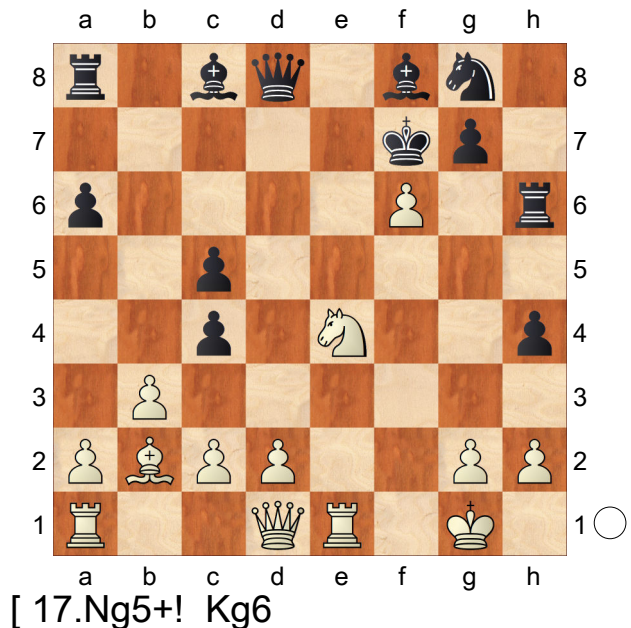
But maybe this cannot even be considered a developing move. I would prefer having it back on h8 in order to remain three tempi away from castling (although this may remain purely utopic).  
 Marin,M: 'The position falls apart now. Twelve moves have passed since the novelty and only one piece (the king's rook) is on another square than the initial one. But maybe this cannot even be considered a developing move. I would prefer having it back on h8 in order to remain three tempi away from castling (although this may remain purely utopic). IM Polivanov, A: 'The most natural and strong move – king e8 feels uncomfortable.' **14...b5**



Marin,M: "□" IM Polivanov, A. ' **15.fxe5! bxc4 16.exf6 Kf7** Marin,M: "□" IM Polivanov, A. IM Polivanov, A: 'Diagram [ 16...gxf6 4.61/22 16...Ke8–f7 3.05 (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A 17.Nd6+ Kd7 18.Nf7+– ]

(Diagram)

" **17.fxg7** 0.04/21 Missing a forced win.



18.Re8! Marin,M: 'IM Polivanov, A: 'seems lethal, but" Qd6? 7.42/22 ( 18...Qxe8? 5.46/21 18...Qd8–d5 2. 41 19.f7+–; 18...Qd5! (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A 19.Rxf8 Nxf6 aiming for ...Bc8–b7. 20.Nf3 b3xc4 is the strong threat. Bb7 21.Rxa8 Bxa8 22.bxc4 Qe4 keeps some questions, though White is much better. But immediate victory is not visible.; 18...Qd5 3.09/23 ) 19.fxg7+– Bxg7 20.Rxg8+– ] [ 17.Qf3 1.19/21 17.Ne4–g5+ 2.97

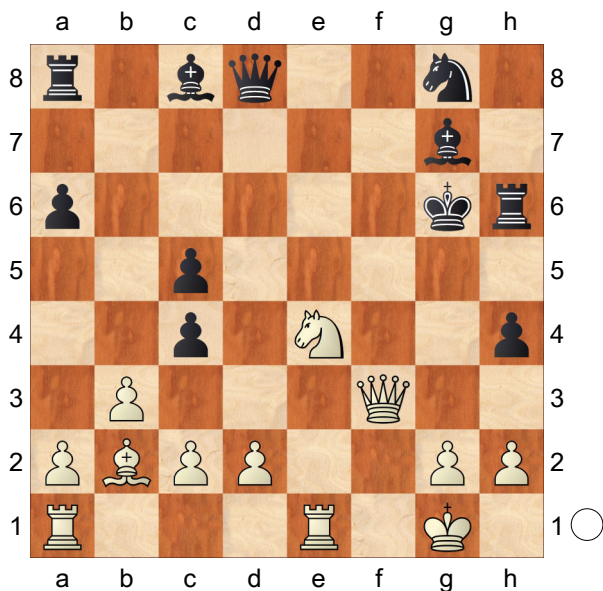


(Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A is not so clear – gxf6 18.Ng5+! Kg6 19.Qxa8 Kxg5!∞ ( 19...fxg5? 3.42/22

19...Kg6xg5 1.20 20.Re6+ ) ]  
[ 17.Ng5+!+- 2.75/23 Kg6 18.Re8!! ]

**17...Bxg7= 18.Qf3+ Kg6**

[ Apparently, White relies on 18...Nf6? 4.21/23 18...Kf7–g6 –0.01 (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A 19.Nxf6 Bxf6 20.Bxf6 ]



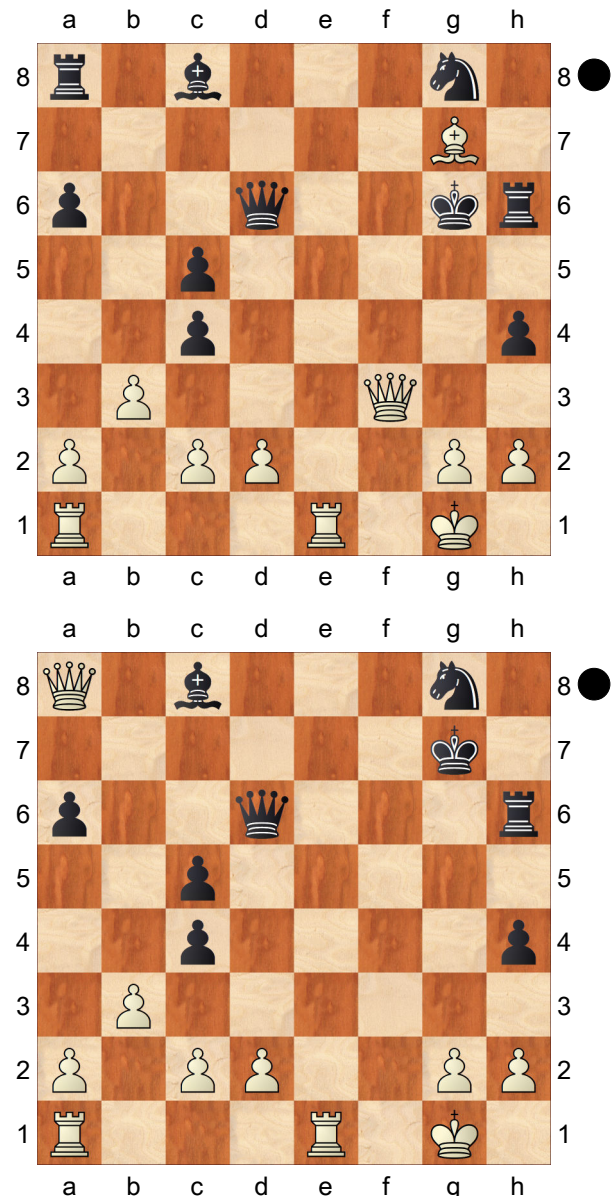
Marin,M: "!" IM Polivanov, A. ' **19.Nd6!**  
**Qxd6 20.Bxg7** –0.69/21  
[ 20.Qxa8± 0.32/22 Bxb2 21.Qxc8 ]

(Diagram)

**20...Kxg7! 21.Qxa8**

(Diagram)

**h3! 22.Qe4** Marin,M: "!!" IM Polivanov, A. '.  
Dancing on a razor blade. Finally, the advance of the h–pawn has got some meaning. The position has become rather unclear and Black will remain unpunished for violating most of the



common sense rules. Marin,M: 'Finally, the advance of the h–pawn has got some meaning. The position has become rather unclear and Black will remain unpunished for violating most of the common sense rules. IM Polivanov, A: 'Now Savchenko launches a counter–offensive.' **22.Qe4**

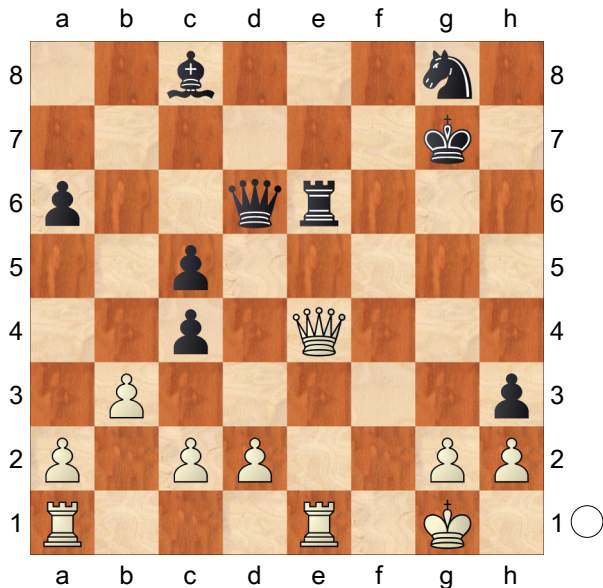
[ 22.Qxc8?? –7.04/22 22.Qa8–e4 –0.52 (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A Qd4+ 23.Kh1 hxc2+ 24.Kxg2 Qxd2+ with mate. ]

[ 22.Qxc8? Qd4+ 23.Re3 Qxa1+ 24.Kf2 Rf6+ 25.Rf3 Qd4+ 26.Ke2

Qe4+ 27.Kf2 Qh4+ 28.Kf1 hxc2+  
29.Kxc2 Qe4-- ]  
[ 22.Qf3 hxc2 ]

**22...Re6** Marin,M: '!' IM Polivanov, A.  
IM Polivanov, A: 'Diagram

[ Much worse is 22...Qxd2 23.Rad1  
Qxc2+ 24.Qxc2+ hxc2 25.Rd5= ]  
[ 22...cxb3 23.axb3 Rg6 24.g3= ]



" . Against Qe4-e5+ **23.Qxc4** -6.40/25  
[ Final mistake. Only 23.Qf3  
(Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A Rg6 24.g3  
enables to resist. ]  
[ 23.Qf3 -0.72/24 ]

(Diagram)

Marin,M: '?' IM Polivanov, A. '

**23...Qxd2!-+ 24.Qf1**

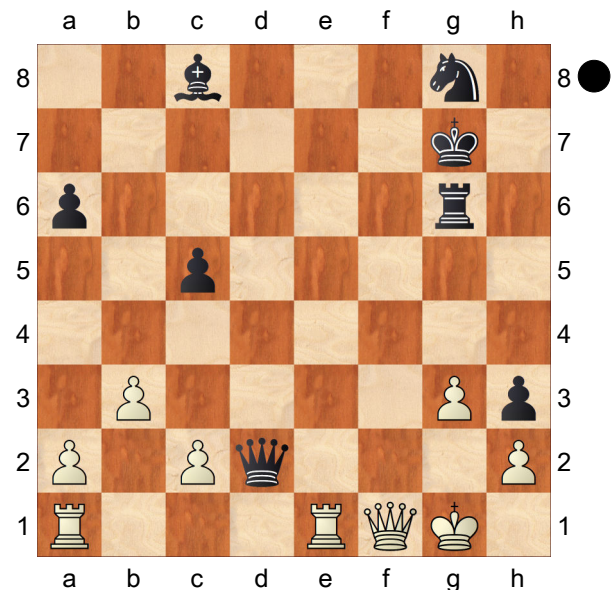
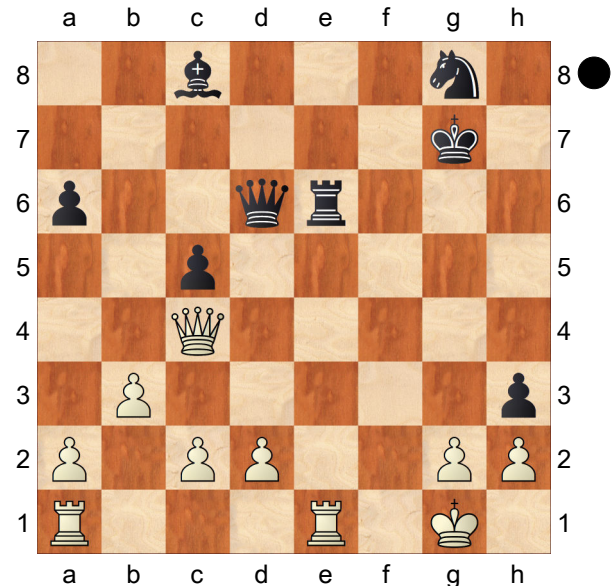
[ 24.Qg4+ Rg6 ]

**24...Rg6 25.Qf3**

[ 25.g3

(Diagram)

(Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A Rxc3+!  
26.hxc3 h2+ 27.Kh1 Bb7+ ]



**25...Rxc3+ -#20/21**

[ 25...Qd4+-+ -18.12/27 26.Kh1  
hxc2+ 27.Qxc2 Rxc2 28.Kxc2 Bb7+  
29.Kf1 Qf4+ 30.Ke2 Bf3+ 31.Kf1  
Bb7+ 32.Ke2 Bf3+ 33.Kf2 Nf6 34.h3  
Bg4+ 35.Kg1 Qg3+ 36.Kf1 Qf3+  
37.Kg1 Bxh3 38.Re7+ Kg8 39.Re8+  
Nxe8 40.Kh2 Qg2# ]

**26.Kf1**

[ 26.Kh1 (Marin,M) IM Polivanov, A  
Qd6 -13.85/20 ( 26...Bg4 -#10/20  
27.Qb7+ Kh8 28.Rf1 Rxc2+ 29.Kg1  
Qd6 30.Rf3 Rg2+ 31.Kf1 Qh2  
32.Qh7+ Kxh7 33.Rf7+ Kh8

34.Rh7+ Kxh7 35.Ke1 Qh1# )]  
**26...Rg4** ( -> ...Rg4-f4) **27.Re4**  
 Prevents Rg4-f4. **27...Qg2+ 28.Qxg2**  
**hxg2+**

[Worse is 28...Rxg2 29.Re2= ]  
**29.Kf2 Rxe4** Marin,M: 'IM Polivanov, A:  
 'Two extra pieces – quite enough for the  
 surrender, isn't it? But how it's can be  
 thinkable after 2...h5?!" **30.Rg1 Nf6**  
**31.Rxg2+ Rg4 32.Rxg4+ Bxg4**  
**33.Ke3 Bf5 34.c3 Nd5+ 35.Kd2 Kf6**  
**36.a3 Ke5** And now ...Nd5-b6 would  
 win. **37.c4 Nf4 38.b4 Kd4** -19.82/24  
 [ 38...cxb4 -#20/24 39.axb4 Kd4  
 40.b5 a5 41.b6 Be4 42.c5 Kxc5  
 43.h4 Nh5 44.Ke2 a4 45.Kd2 Kc4  
 46.Ke3 Bb7 47.Kd2 a3 48.Kc2 Kb4  
 49.Kd3 a2 50.Ke2 a1Q 51.Kd2  
 Qd4+ 52.Ke1 Bf3 53.Kf1 Ng3+  
 54.Ke1 Qe3# ]  
**39.b5 axb5 40.cxb5 c4** Never resign  
 too early!  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.96/  
 Black=0.40 Marin,M: 'IM Polivanov, A: 'In  
 fact, Savchenko won this game against  
 strong opponent only by own ♖h8 and  
 pawns... Such things are not often to be  
 seen!"  
**0-1**

□ **Paichadze,Luka** **B20**  
**2467**  
 ■ **Yakovich,Yuri** **2570**  
 Kavala op 19th (7) 05.08.2010  
 [Illingworth,Max]

**1.e4**

[Nimzo-Larsen advocates may prefer  
 the move order 1.b3 c5 2.e4 ]  
**1...c5 2.b3 g6!?** I'll also address a few  
 rare options:

[ ≤2...e5 could transpose to other lines  
 after 3.♗b2, but I would be tempted to  
 take advantage of the bishop's  
 placement on c1 by preparing f4:  
 3.Bc4!? Nc6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d3 d6  
 and now with the bishop on c1 we can  
 spurn ♘ge2 in favour of 6.f4 Be7  
 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 exf4 9.Bxf4  
 when I definitely prefer White's  
 position. ]

[  
 2...a6 has been played by some  
 strong players to avoid a ♗b5+, but I  
 question its usefulness after 3.Bb2 d6  
 (3...♘c6 and 3...e6 transpose to more  
 standard lines) 4.f4! ( 4.Nf3?! e5!  
 is what we want to avoid as with the  
 knight on f3 we can't break with f4 to  
 activate our dark-squared bishop. )  
 4...Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 This is admittedly a  
 pretty solid continuation. (It's hard to  
 rationalise 5...Bg4?! 6.h3 Bxf3  
 7.Qxf3 Nd4 8.Bxd4 cxd4 9.Bc4±  
 1-0 (44) Stepp,R (1938)–  
 Baumgartner,C (1878) Stillwater  
 2010; 5...Nf6 6.Nc3 transposes to a  
 line covered later. ) 6.Qe2!?  
 A very enterprising approach offering  
 good attacking chances, but  
 objectively I'd have to prefer  
 Spassky's ( 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5 dxe5  
 8.fxe5 Ng4 9.Bg2 h5 10.Qe2 Nb4  
 11.Na3± 1-0 (37) Spassky,B (2630)–  
 Hebert,J (2255) Buenos Aires 1978;  
 when White's e5-pawn splits  
 Black's coordination. ) 6...Nf6 7.Nc3  
 Be7 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.g4 d5  
 ½-½ (66) Morozevich,A (2731)–  
 Polgar,J (2685) Dubai 2014.  
 Here White should opt for 10.Ne5!  
 Nd4 11.Qg2 with interesting, sharp  
 play. ]

[  
 2...d5?! loses too much time after  
 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8 ( 4...Qd6  
 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Nbd7 7.Qe2 e6  
 8.Bb2 a6 9.Bd3↑ ½–½ (52) Delgado  
 Ramirez,N (2604)–Molina,R (2408)  
 Florianopolis 2015; gave White a  
 promising attacking setup. ) 5.Bb2 Nf6  
 6.Nf3 Nc6 ( 6...e6 7.Ne5!?N Bd6  
 8.f4↑ followed by queenside castling is  
 brilliant for White. ) 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0–0  
 e6 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.f4  
 1–0 (58) Gelashvili,T (2604)–  
 Abhishek,D (2321) Sort 2007;  
 and now Bd6 is better, but after  
 12.Qe2 0–0 13.Rae1± White still has  
 the more active position. ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6** Black hopes to lure White's  
 pawn to e5 so our bishop's long diagonal  
 is blocked, but if we play normally he  
 will play ...g7 and ...0–0, when our b2–  
 bishop looks a bit out of place.

**4.Qf3!?** This is quite a creative way to  
 threaten e5, and would be my  
 recommendation as Black at least has  
 to navigate some tricks before he can  
 claim equality. I'll cover White's major  
 alternatives for the benefit of Sicilian  
 exponents:

[ 4.e5 Nd5 transposes to Gelashvili–  
 Nigalidze. This is the most common  
 continuation but I'd prefer to keep the  
 long diagonal open if possible.  
 ( 4...Nh5 5.Qf3 Nc6 transposes to 4.  
 ♖f3. ) ]

[  
 The other variation I could  
 recommend for blitz is 4.h4!?  
 I'm pretty sure this objectively isn't  
 best, but at a quick time control your  
 opponent is unlikely to defend in the  
 best fashion.

**A) 4...h5?! 5.e5 Ng4 6.e6 f6**  
 7.Bd3 (Bosch) is one nice trick.;

**B) 4...d6 5.h5 Bh6!?** is an equally  
 creative response, but after 6.Bxf6  
 exf6 7.Nc3 Kf8 8.Qf3 Nc6  
 9.0–0–0 Kg7 10.Kb1± I'd again  
 find White's game marginally  
 preferable.;

**C) 4...Nc6 5.h5** Now White gets  
 some actual pressure. d6 ( 5...Bg7  
 6.h6 Bf8 7.Bxf6 exf6 8.Nc3  
 is somewhat better for White. )

**C1)** I would go for 6.Bxf6 exf6  
 7.hxg6 fxg6 8.Nc3 when White's  
 d5–square and h–file play gives  
 him the easier position to play, e.  
 g. Bg7 9.Bc4 f5 10.Qe2 Nd4  
 ( 10...Kd7!? is suggested by the  
 machine. ) 11.Qd3 Qg5  
 12.0–0–0 Qxg2 13.Nge2 Qf3  
 14.Nxd4 Qxd3 15.Bxd3 Bxd4  
 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Bxf5 gxf5  
 18.Nd5± and White has ample  
 compensation for the pawn in  
 this original position.;

**C2) 6.Bb5 e5 7.hxg6 fxg6**  
 8.Nc3 Bg7 ( 8...a6! ) 9.Qe2 a6  
 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.0–0–0 0–0±  
 1–0 (46) Motylev,A (2686)–  
 Potkin,V (2610) Yaroslavl 2014  
 CBM 162 Extra. Black's pawn  
 structure is very nice now that  
 the d5–hole is covered and I  
 would prefer his chances.;

**D) 4...Bg7!** has already been  
 analysed in some depth by  
 Smerdon and I agree with him that  
 5.e5 Nd5 6.Qf3! is probably the  
 best response. Play could continue

**D1) 6...e6 7.h5 Nc6 8.Qg3 d6**  
 9.Nf3 ( 9.f4!? dxe5 10.fxe5  
 keeping all the space also looks



promising for White. ) A typical response in blitz might be 9...0-0 ( 9...dxe5 10.Na3! f6 11.hxg6 hxg6 12.Qxg6+ Kf8 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8 14.Qh7 Bg7 15.Nb5± and White is better because of his safer king. ) 10.Na3 dxe5?! ( 10...Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bxe5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 g5 is only a fraction better for White. 14.0-0-0± ) 11.Nc4! Ncb4 12.hxg6! fxg6 (check with your engine to see why Black can't take on c2) 13.0-0-0 b5 14.Ne3→ with a very strong attack.;

**D2) 6...Nb4!** This is the best defence, fighting hard for the initiative. 7.Na3 ( 7.e6 f6 8.Qc3 dxe6 9.a3 Nd5 10.Qxc5= ) 7...N8c6! ( 7...0-0 8.h5 d5 9.Qg3 N8c6 10.f4∞ gives White serious attacking chances against Black's king. ) 8.0-0-0 ( 8.e6 0-0 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.c3 fxe6 11.Qh3 Nd5 12.h5 g5 13.h6+ Kh8̄ ) 8...0-0 9.c3 (Better is 9.Qe3 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Nc4 Bxb2+ 12.Kxb2 Qf6+ 13.c3 b5 14.Na3= although this isn't all that inspiring. ) 9...Nxe5 10.Qg3 Na6 11.f4 Nc6 12.h5 gives White attacking chances for the pawn, but objectively speaking it's not enough after the precise d5 13.Nf3 Nc7 14.Bd3 Qd6!̄ stopping e5, which is a bit of a shame. ]

[ 4.Bc4 angles for e5 without allowing ... d5, but after d6 5.Bxf6 (otherwise

the bishop looks funny on c4) exf6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nge2 f5!? ( 7...0-0 8.Ng3?! Nc6 9.0-0 h5! 10.h3 h4 11.Nge2 f5̄ 0-1 (43) Ju,W (2568)–Hou,Y (2673) Beijing 2014, likewise didn't impress. ) 8.exf5 Bxf5̄ I'd consider Black's bishops more important than the d5 hole. ] [After the peculiar 4.Nc3?! Bg7 5.e5 ( 5.Nd5 0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6 only plays into Black's hands. ) 5...Nh5 Black has won every game from this position so it is hard to recommend such an approach for White – his e5-pawn is very weak and even 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qe4 Nb4!? 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 d6̄ proves more comfortable for Black. ]

#### 4...d6

[ 4...Bg7?! 5.e5 Ng8 6.e6 Nf6 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.g4! h6 9.Nc3 d5 ( 9...Nc6 10.0-0-0 d5 11.h3→ e5? 12.Nxd5! Qxd5 13.Bc4 Be6 14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Qe2 Bxh1 16.f3+– is quite a clever trap on White's part. ) 10.h3 e6 ( 10...Bd7! is probably OK for Black, but obviously isn't likely to be found over-the-board. ) 11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Re1± ½–½ (58) Short,N (2677)–Jones,G (2653) Bunratty 2012; and White is better as he will use the e5-square as a base for his pieces and can renew the kingside attack with h4. ]

[ 4...Nc6 5.e5 Nh5 transposes to 4. ♖f3. ( 5...Ng8 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb5! is annoying for Black. ) 6.Qe3!N ( 6.Bc4 e6 7.g4 Ng7 has been seen before, but Black is ready to hit back with ...h5 or ...d5 and I already prefer his position. ) 6...b6 7.Nc3 ( ∇7.Nf3

Bb7 8.Nc3 Ng7 9.Bd3 Ne6  
 10.0-0-0!?↑ with slightly easier play  
 due to the strong e5-pawn is also  
 possible. ) 7...Bg7!? This is interesting  
 but objectively not quite sound.  
 ( 7...Ng7 8.Bd3 Nb4 9.Be4 Nf5  
 10.Bxf5 gxf5 11.0-0-0 Bb7  
 12.Qg3± ) 8.Nf3 ( 8.g4 Bb7 9.f3 d5  
 10.exd6 Bd4 11.dxe7 Qb8 12.Qh6  
 Bg7= is a humorous repetition.  
 13.Qg5 Bf6 14.Qe3 Bd4 15.Qh6  
 Bg7= is a humorous repetition. )  
 8...0-0 9.g4 d5! 10.gxh5 Nb4  
 11.Rc1 d4 12.Qg5 dxc3 13.dxc3  
 Nc6 14.h6 Bh8 15.Bg2 and White is  
 obviously better. ]

#### 5.Bb5+ Nbd7

[If 5...Nc6 6.e5! dxe5 7.Bxc6+ bxc6  
 8.Qxc6+ Bd7 9.Qxc5 Rc8 10.Qxe5  
 Rxc2 11.Ne2± ]

**6.Bxf6 exf6** This should be equal, but I  
 think White's better structure makes his  
 position easier to play.

#### 7.Qd3! Played to avoid

[ 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Nge2 0-0 9.Bxd7  
 Bxd7 ]

#### 7...a6 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7

[ 8...Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be6 ( 9...f5!  
 maintains the balance. ) 10.Nge2 Bg7  
 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nf4 f5 13.Rae1=  
 ½-½ (13) Paichadze,L (2452)-  
 Pantsulaia,L (2587) Tbilisi 2010,  
 and a draw was agreed, but I'd take  
 White given the choice. ]

**9.Nc3 Bg7 10.Nge2 0-0 11.0-0 f5!**  
 Black has no problems, although White  
 went on to win.

#### 12.Ng3

[ 12.exf5?! Qxf5 13.Qxd6 Qxc2 ]

#### 12...f4 13.Nge2 Be5 14.Rad1!

Probably best, but even

[ 14.Nd5!? Bxa1 15.Rxa1 Qe6

16.Nexf4 Qe5 17.Re1 would give  
 White quite interesting  
 compensation. ]

#### 14...f5 15.Qd5+ Kh8

[ 15...Qf7!? ]

#### 16.d4! cxd4 17.Nxd4 f3 18.exf5 fxg2 19.Rfe1 Qg7?

[Black should prefer 19...Qc7!  
 with the idea 20.fxg6 Qg7!!∞  
 to meet ♖e4 with ♕xg6, but this is far  
 from easy to find over the board. ]

#### 20.Ne4!± Qh6

[ 20...Bxf5 21.Nxd6 Bxd6 22.Qxd6± ]

#### 21.Nf3 Qf4 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.f6 Rb8

#### 24.Qf7 Qh6 25.Ng5 Bg4 26.f3 1-0

**B20**

□ **Georgiev,Krum**

**2461**

■ **Van Elst,Andreas**

**2282**

FRA-chT2C 0506 (1.1)

16.10.2005

[GM Nikolay Ninov, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3** Krum's pet line, which  
 served him well throughout many years.

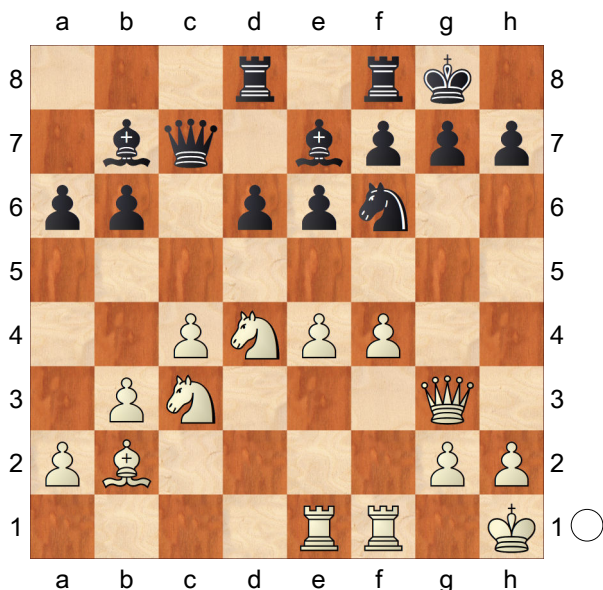
[Just like him, in 2005 I was able to  
 implement the thematic sacrifice.  
 Curiously enough, only one month  
 later and against the same opponent!  
 Since this game is wrongly presented  
 in the databases, here is a realistic  
 review: 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4  
 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 Bd7  
 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nc2 Qc7 10.f4 Be7  
 11.Qd3 0-0 12.b3 Rac8 13.Bb2  
 Rfd8 14.Rad1 Nb8 15.Qg3 b5  
 16.Ne3 Qb6?! 17.Ncd5! exd5  
 18.Bd4! Qb7 19.Nxd5 Here is the  
 moment, when in every available  
 source the text is interrupted and the

game Ninov – Van Elst is given as finished in a draw. Actually, after 19.... Kf8 20.Nxe7 Kxe7 21.Qxg7 Black found himself in a desperate situation against the marching f-pawn and resigned in few moves. ]

**2...d6 3.Bb2 e6 4.Nf3 Nd7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Ngf6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.c4**  
**White has an edge. 8...Nc5 9.Nc3 Nxd3+ 10.Qxd3 0-0 11.0-0 a6 12.f4 Qc7 13.Kh1 b6N**

[ 13...Bd7 14.Rae1 Rad8 15.Qg3 Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3 e6 4. ♖b2\_25846 Survey 1994 Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ]

**14.Rae1 Bb7 15.Qg3 Rad8? 1.69/21**  
 [ 15...Rfd8= 0.15/17 ]



A familiar mistake. Compared with the previous game here it is almost decisive. A mistake that costs the game.

**16.Nd5!+- exd5**

[ 16...Nh5 17.Nxc7 ]

**17.Nf5! Nh5**

[It is notable that after 17...g6? 9.35/25 17...Nf6-h5 1.98 18.exd5 the attacked bishop cannot retreat to d8! ]

**18.Qg4 Bc8** Hoping for ...Bc8xf5.

**19.Nh6+**

[ Good is also 19.Qxh5 Bxf5 20.exf5 dxc4 21.Rf3 , but why should not White continue his assault with material up? ]

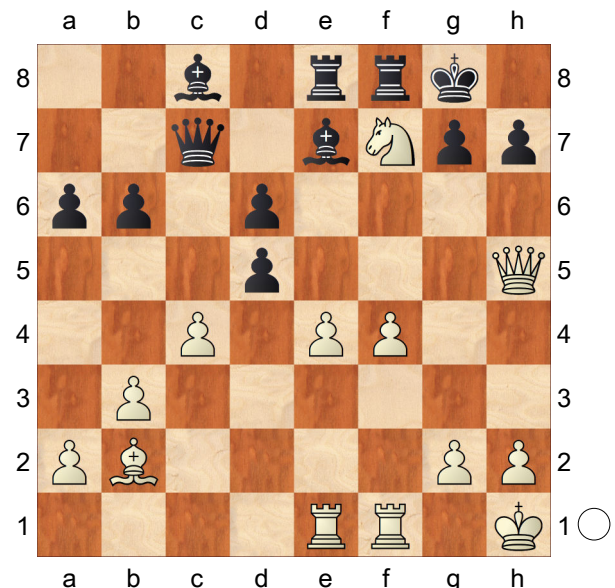
**19...Kh8 20.Qxh5 Rde8? 4.25/29**

[ 20...f6 1.81/22 ]

**21.Nxf7+**

[ An attractive alternative lay in 21.exd5 Qd7 22.Nxf7+ Kg8 23.Nh6+ gxh6 24.Re6 and, in order to avoid the mate, Black must give the piece back by 24... Threatening mate with Re6-g6+! Bf6 ]

**21...Kg8**



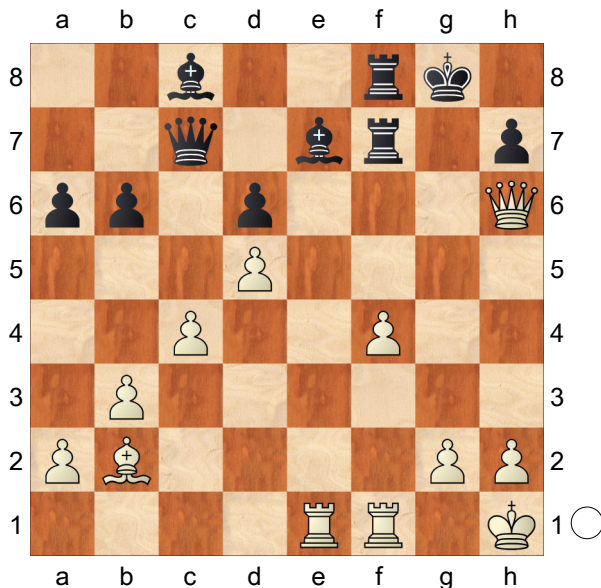
**22.Nh6+ gxh6 23.Qxh6?! 2.34/24**

[ Correct was 23.Rf3! Rf3-g3+ would kill now. Bg5 24.fxg5 Rxf3 25.Qxf3 with even a better version of the line in the previous note. The attack in both of them only gains in power due to the opposite-coloured bishops. ]

[ ♠23.Rf3 4.73/26 Bg5 24.fxg5 Rxf3 25.Qxf3 ( 25.Qxe8+ Rf8+- ) ]

**23...Rf7 24.exd5→** White attacks with force. **24...Ref8**

(Diagram)



**25.Rf3! Bf6 26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Rg3+ Rg6**

[ 27...Kh8? #3/8 27...Rf6-g6 2.50  
28.Qxf6+! Rxf6 29.Re8+ Rf8  
30.Rxf8# ]

**28.Rxg6+ hxg6 29.Qxg6+ Qg7  
30.Qxd6 Bf5 3.56/20**

[ 30...Qf6 2.49/22 is a better defense.  
31.Qxf6 Rxf6 ]

**31.Qxb6** With plenty of pawns for the piece White should win. I will give the text till the end because of some tricky moments in the ensuing ending. 31...

**31...Qc3 32.Qf2 Bg6 33.Qg3 Qc2  
34.h3 Rf6 35.Kh2 Qf5 36.Re5 Qxf4  
37.Qxf4 Rxf4 Endgame KRB-KR  
38.Re6?!]**

[Black regained one of the pawns, but at the cost of exchanging the queens. 38.c5, just advancing the connected passed pawns, would have been the simplest way to win.]

**38...Bb1 39.Kg3 Rd4 40.Rxa6 Rd2  
41.a4 Ba2 42.a5! Bxb3 43.Rc6**  
Threatens to win with a5-a6. **43...Rc2**  
10.14/23

[ 43...Kf8 4.66/21 44.h4 Ra2 ]

**44.a6** And now a6-a7 would win.

**44...Bxc4 45.a7 Rxg2+ 46.Kh4 6.74/25**

[Inferior is 46.Kxg2 Bxd5+ 47.Kh2 Bxc6=]

[ 46.Kf4 14.39/29 Rf2+ 47.Ke5 ]

**46...Ra2 47.Rc8+ 4.14/27**

[ 47.Rxc4 White threatens Rc4-c8+ and mate. Rxa7 48.d6!

, demonstrating that this pawn is unstoppable, would have significantly shortened the game. ]

[ 47.Rxc4 10.22/29 White wants to mate with Rc4-c8+. Kf7 48.Rc7+ Kf6 49.d6 ]

**47...Kh7 48.a8Q**

[But not 48.Rxc4 Rxa7 49.Kg5 Kg7+- ]

**48...Rxa8 49.Rxa8 Bxd5** Here is the intriguing endgame. White must win, though precision is required. KR-KB

**50.Ra7+ Kh8 51.Kg5** Strongly threatening Kg5-h6. **51...Bb3 #23/32**

[ 51...Be4+- 4.10/32 52.Re7 Bd3 ]

**52.Kh6** Intending Ra7-g7 and mate.

**52...Bc4 53.Re7 6.48/31**

[ 53.h4 #21/31 Kg8 54.Rg7+ Kh8 55.Rh7+ Kg8 56.Rd7 Kf8 57.Kg6 Bb3 58.Rc7 ]

**53...Bb3 54.Rh7+ Kg8 55.Ra7 6.72/32**

[ 55.Rg7+ #23/31 Kh8 56.h4 Bd1 57.Rd7 Bb3 58.h5 Kg8 59.Rg7+ Kh8 60.Rb7 ]

**55...Bc2 56.Ra8+ Kf7 57.Ra2 Bd3  
58.Rg2 Bc4 16.53/30**

[ 58...Kf8 4.10/32 59.Rd2 Be4 ]

**59.Rg5 4.12/34** Going for the winning (this is why for the last pawn is important to remain in its half) king maneuver.

[White could reach his purpose at once by means of 59.Rg7+! Kf8 ( 59...Kf6 60.Rg4 Bd3 61.Rf4+ cuts forever the king from the corner )



60.Kg6 Bd3+ 61.Kf6 and nothing  
can block the march of the pawn. ]  
[ Δ59.Rg7+ 16.53/30 Kf6 60.h4 ]  
**59...Bd3 60.Kh5 Be2+ 61.Kh4 Kf6**  
**62.Rg1 Kf7 63.Kg3! Bd3 64.Kf4 Bg6**  
**65.h4 Kf6 66.Rg5 Bd3 67.h5**  
White mates. **67...Bc2 68.h6 Bg6**  
**69.Rg1 Kf7 70.Ke5 Bc2 71.Rg7+ Kf8**  
**72.Kf6**  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/  
Black=0.85  
**1-0**

□ **Toufighi,H** **B20**  
■ **Negi,Parimarjan** **2454**  
Tata Steel TCh-Asia (5) **2620**  
[Vigorito, D] 26.12.2009

Here we see an outing of the 2.b3 Sicilian where White gives up his bishop as early as move 4. This is strategically risky but may not be so bad. In the game the higher rated player manages to outplay his opponent in both the middlegame complications and the endgame that soon follows.  
David Vigorito: 'Here we see an outing of the 2.b3 Sicilian where White gives up his bishop as early as move 4. This is strategically risky but may not be so bad. In the game the higher rated player manages to outplay his opponent in both the middlegame complications and the endgame that soon follows.' **1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bxf6** This is very unusual. White gives up his fianchettoed bishop to damage Black's structure. This is not necessarily bad, but it looks risky to me. David Vigorito: 'This is very unusual. White gives up his fianchettoed

bishop to damage Black's structure. This is not necessarily bad, but it looks risky to me.'

[ 4.Nc3 (4.Bb5+ is also in the archives) e6 (we have also looked at David Vigorito: 'we have also looked at' 4...g6; and 4...Nc6 ) 5.f4 Be7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Be2 Nc6 8.0-0 d5 9.e5 Ng4 gave Black a decent French position in Repkova, E (2434)-Kempinski, R (2617)/Warsaw 2009. David Vigorito: 'gave Black a decent French position in Repkova, E (2434)-Kempinski, R (2617)/Warsaw 2009.' ]

**4...gxf6 5.Qh5** This is consistent. White prevents ... h5 and eyes the f7 and h7-pawns. David Vigorito: 'This is consistent. White prevents ... h5 and eyes the f7 and h7-pawns.' **5...Nc6 6.Nc3 a6 7.a4?!** I do not like this move. White wants to secure c4 for his bishop, but this move weakens his queenside further. Was ...b5 really that much of a threat? David Vigorito: 'I do not like this move. White wants to secure c4 for his bishop, but this move weakens his queenside further. Was ...b5 really that much of a threat?'

[ 7.Bc4 (this comes with tempo but the square is not that stable) David Vigorito: '(this comes with tempo but the square is not that stable)' e6 8.Nf3 b5 was presumably what White did not like David Vigorito: 'was presumably what White did not like' ]  
[ 7.Nf3!? keeps White's options open. ]

**7...Nd4!** Why not? Black is already fighting for the initiative. **8.Bd3 Rg8 9.Nge2 Nxe2**

[Of course Black avoids 9...Rxc2?

10.Ng3 entombing the rook. David Vigorito: 'entombing the rook.' ]  
 [Black could consider throwing in 9...Rg5 for example 10.Qxh7 Rxc2 11.Ng3 Bg4 when the rook is still stuck but White's king does not look so comfortable. After David Vigorito: 'when the rook is still stuck but White's king does not look so comfortable. After' 12.Nd5 the position is very unclear. ]

**10.Nxe2 h6!?** I imagine Black would have rather not spent a tempo playing this, but it is rather a decent move. David Vigorito: 'I imagine Black would have rather not spent a tempo playing this, but it is rather a decent move.'

**11.Bc4 e6 12.h4?**

[White should just castle kingside here, as there will be no better place for the king anyway. After David Vigorito: 'White should just castle kingside here, as there will be no better place for the king anyway. After' 12.0-0 Rg5?! ( 12...Bd7 intending ... Qe7 and 0-0-0 is better, and unclear ) 13.Qh3 White intends f4 and stands well. ]

**12...f5! 13.exf5 Qf6**

[ 13...d5! was also good. If 14.fxe6?! ( 14.Bd3 Rxc2 15.Ng3 Qd6 threatens both ... Qe5+ and a promising exchange sac on g3 David Vigorito: 'threatens both ... Qe5+ and a promising exchange sac on g3' ) 14...Bxe6 15.Bd3 Rxc2 16.Ng3? Qf6 hits the a1-rook and f2. ]

**14.0-0 d5 15.Bd3 Bd6 16.Rae1**

**Kd8!?** Black's bishop pair and big centre give him compensation for the pawn. His king will prove to be pretty safe wandering around like this. David

Vigorito: 'Black's bishop pair and big centre give him compensation for the pawn. His king will prove to be pretty safe wandering around like this.' **17.c4**

[White should probably throw in 17.fxe6 fxe6 ( 17...Bxe6 18.Ng3 heads for f5 ) 18.c4 and then play ]

**17...exf5!** This looks ugly, but it is a pawn and it controls some important square. Also Black will develop his bishop to e6 now. David Vigorito: 'This looks ugly, but it is a pawn and it controls some important square. Also Black will develop his bishop to e6 now.'

**18.Nc3**

[ 18.Ng3 dxc4 19.bxc4 Rg4! ]

**18...Be6 19.Nxd5**

[ 19.cxd5!? is better, but White was probably expecting Black to take the knight. ]

**19...Qd4!**

[ 19...Bxd5 20.cxd5 Rg4 also gives Black decent play, but the text is stronger. David Vigorito: 'also gives Black decent play, but the text is stronger.' ]

**20.Re3**

[This is forced. The point of Black's play is that on a move like David Vigorito: 'This is forced. The point of Black's play is that on a move like' 20.Bc2 Black has Bxd5 21.cxd5 Qf4! 22.g3 Rxc3+ mating ]

**20...f4** Otherwise Black would be worse.

**21.Rxe6**

[Again White's play is forced. David Vigorito: 'Again White's play is forced.' 21.Rf3 Qg7 leaves White without a sensible defence to the attack on g2. David Vigorito: 'leaves White without a sensible defence to the attack on g2.' ]

**21...fxe6 22.Qf7**

[ White has two pieces attack and 22.Nb6 runs into f3! 23.Qxf3 Qxh4 when Black has a strong attack. ]

**22...Qg7** The only move, but good enough to give Black an exchange up ending. David Vigorito: 'The only move, but good enough to give Black an exchange up ending.' **23.Qf6+**

[ 23.Qxg7 Rxc7 is similar. ]

**23...Qxf6 24.Nxf6 Rg7 25.Re1 Ke7**

**26.Nh5** White has a pawn for the exchange, so all is not lost, but he gradually gets outplayed. David Vigorito: 'White has a pawn for the exchange, so all is not lost, but he gradually gets outplayed.' **26...Rf7 27.Bg6 Rff8**

**28.Be4 Kf7 29.Kh2**

[ 29.Bxb7 Rab8 30.Bxa6 Rxb3 gets a second pawn, but Black's rooks will become active and White's pawns are a bit of a wreck. David Vigorito: 'gets a second pawn, but Black's rooks will become active and White's pawns are a bit of a wreck.' ]

**29...Rad8 30.Kh3 Bc7 31.d3 Rg8**

**32.Rf1 Ke7 33.Re1 Kf7 34.Rf1 Rd4**

**35.Re1 Rgd8 36.Kg4 Rxd3!?**

An interesting practical decision. Black gives back material to get an endgame where his pieces are more active. David Vigorito: 'An interesting practical decision. Black gives back material to get an endgame where his pieces are more active.' **37.Bxd3 Rxd3 38.f3 Rxb3 39.Nxf4 Bxf4 40.Kxf4 Rb4 41.Rd1?! Kf6 42.a5 Rxc4+ 43.Ke3 Ke5 44.Rb1 Rxh4**

[ 44...Rb4 ]

**45.Rxb7**

[ 45.g4 was a better try. ]

**45...Ra4 46.Rh7 Ra3+ 47.Kf2 Rxa5**

**48.Rxh6 Ra2+ 49.Kg3 c4 50.f4+ Kd5 51.Kf3 c3 52.g4 c2 53.Rh1 Rb2 54.Rc1 Kd4 55.Ke2 Kc3 56.g5 Rb1 0-1**

**B20**

□ **Georgiev,Krum**

**2445**

■ **Ermenkov,Evgenij**

**2515**

Albena-17 (5)

06.09.1985

[Georgiev,Krum]

**1.e4 Gary Lane Lane,Gary 1...c5 2.b3 b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 d6 5.Nf3**

[ 5.f4 is another favourite of players with the White pieces but developing the king's knight is perfectly sensible. Lane,Gary: 'is another favourite of players with the White pieces but developing the king's knight is perfectly sensible.' ]

**5...Nf6 6.d4!** Gary Lane: '!?' '!' Gary Lane: 'An imaginative sacrifice.' Lane, Gary: '!?' **6...Nxe4?** Lane,Gary: 'Taking the pawn with the bishop walks into a nice trap upon'

[ 6...cxd4 7.Qxd4± ]

[ Taking the pawn with the bishop walks into a nice trap upon 6...Bxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.Bb5+ Nd7 9.Bc6 winning material. ]

**7.Bb5+ Nd7 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Ng5!**

**Bg6** Lane,Gary: 'Or'

[ Gary Lane: 'Or' 9...Bxg2 10.Rg1 Bb7 11.Ne6 ( 11.d5 a6 12.Qf3!

when a typical direct attack is revealed to be crushing after Lane, Gary: 'when a typical direct attack is revealed to be crushing after' f6 13.Ne6 Qc8 14.Qh5+ g6 15.Rxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6# ) 11...fxe6 12.Qh5+ g6 13.Rxg6 ]

[ 9...Bb7 10.Qh5 ( 10.d5! white cuts of Black's bishop and prepares to focus on the weak f7 pawn when a sample line is Lane,Gary: 'white cuts of Black's bishop and prepares to focus on the weak f7 pawn when a sample line is' h6? 11.Ne6! and White is on top. ) 10...g6 11.Qh3 Bg7 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.Bxd7± ]

**10.Qf3** [Δ ♗d7±] **10...Rc8**  
 [ Δ10...d5!? Lane,Gary: '!' 11.dxc5 Qc7± ]  
 [ 10...h6 11.Bxd7+ Kxd7 12.Qb7+ Qc7 ( 12...Ke8? 13.Qc6+ wins ) 13.Qxa8 hxc5 14.c4 and White is on top. Lane,Gary: 'and White is on top.' ]

**11.d5!±** [Δ ♗e6] **11...Qc7** Lane,Gary: 'If [If 11...h6 then 12.Ne6 fxe6 13.dxe6 Rc7 14.Qg4 Bxc2 15.Bxd7+ and Black can give up! ]

**12.0-0 Qb7 13.Rfe1** Gary Lane: 'White has a marvellous position against an experienced grandmaster and all this by playing 2 b3.' Lane,Gary: 'White has a marvellous position against an experienced grandmaster and all this by playing 2 b3.' **13...a6 14.Bc6 Qa7 15.Qe3** [Δ ♗g7] **15...f6** Gary Lane: '?' '?' Lane,Gary: '?' Lane,Gary: 'After [After 15...Kd8 White has a forcing combination Lane,Gary: 'White has a forcing combination' 16.Bxc7! a beautiful, forced end to the game Bxc7 ( 16...Rg8 17.Bxf8 Nxf8 18.Qh3 with a big edge ) 17.Qxe7+ Kc7 18.Qxd7+ Kb8 19.Qxa7+ Kxa7 20.Re7+ Kb8 21.Rb7+ Ka8 22.Re1 with a winning position ]

**16.Ne6** [Δ ♗f8] **16...Kf7 17.Qh3 f5**  
 [ 17...Rb8 is desperate but hardly helps after 18.Nf4 Rd8 19.Qe6+ Ke8 20.Nxc6 hxc6 21.Qxd6 winning. ]

**18.Ng5+ Kg8** Gary Lane: 'The black king is trying to hide but the defence is prone to disaster because his queen is far away doing nothing.' Lane,Gary: 'The black king is trying to hide but the defence is prone to disaster because his queen is far away doing nothing.'  
 [ 18...Ke8 19.Re6± ]

**19.Qe3+- e5 20.dxe6 Rxc6 21.e7**  
 [ 21.exd7?! is not so accurate because Lane,Gary: 'is not so accurate because' Qxd7 22.c4 d5 23.cxd5 Rd6 24.Qd3 gives Black chances of survival that he doesn't deserve. Lane,Gary: 'gives Black chances of survival that he doesn't deserve.' ]

**21...d5 22.e8Q** Lane,Gary: 'Or [Or 22.exf8Q+ Nxf8 23.Qd3 leaves White a little better but after such a fantastic opening it is not enough. Lane,Gary: 'leaves White a little better but after such a fantastic opening it is not enough.' ]

**22...Bxe8 23.Qxe8 Nb8** □ Gary Lane: 'The knight moves to' **24.Re6 Rc7** □

**25.Rae1** [Δ ♗f8] **25...Rf7 26.Nxf7 Qxf7 27.Qxb8** Gary Lane: 'It is time for Black to start counting the pieces!' Lane, Gary: 'It is time for Black to start counting the pieces!' **27...d4 28.Re8 g6 29.Rxf8+** The easiest way to finish off the game. **29...Qxf8 30.Re8 Kg7 31.Rxf8 Rxf8 32.Qxb6 Re8 33.Kf1**  
 1-0 (33) Georgiev,K (2440)-Ermenkov, E (2500) Albena 1985 [Gary Lane]  
**1-0**



**B50**  
 □ Georgiev,Krum **2445**  
 ■ Gaprindashvili,Nona **2325**  
 Albena-17 (9) 11.09.1985  
*[Georgiev,Krum]*

Georgiev,Kr: 'Inf 40/212' **1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Nf3 e5 5.Bc4**  
*[ 5.Bb5 Ü 23/416 Georgiev,Kr: '— 23/416' Georgiev,Kr: '— 23/416 Georgiev, Krum: 'Ü 23/416" ]*

**5...Be7 6.0-0**  
*[ 6.Nc3 Nf6 1-0 (25) Georgiev,K-Gaprindashvili,N Albena 1985 Cl1-130 [Georgiev,Krum] ]*

**6...Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Re1 a6**  
*[ 8...Bd7 9.h3 a6 1-0 (25) Georgiev, K-Gaprindashvili,N Albena 1985 Cl1-130 [Georgiev,Krum] ]*  
*[ 8...Be6!/? ]*

**9.a4 Bd7 10.h3 Rb8 11.Nh2 Nd4 12.Ng4 Nxg4 13.hxg4 Bh4 14.g3 h5**  
*[ 14...Qg5 15.gxh4 Qxh4 16.Be2± ]*  
**15.gxh5 Qg5 16.Re3 Bg4 17.gxh4**  
*[ 17.Qf1 Nf3+ ( 17...Nxc2 18.gxh4 Qxh4 19.Rg3; 17...Bxh5 18.Qh3± ) 18.Rxf3 Bxf3 19.Qh3± ]*

**17...Qxh4 18.Be2 f5 19.Rg3 Nxe2+ 20.Nxe2 f4 21.Rg2 Bxe2**  
*[ 21...f3 22.Rxg4 Qxg4+ 23.Ng3∞ ]*  
*[ 21...Bf3! 22.Rh2 Qg4+ 23.Kf1 Kf7! 24.Qe1 Rh8 25.Ng1 Rxh5 26.Nxf3 Qxf3 27.Rxh5 Qxh5 28.f3 Qxf3+ 29.Qf2 Qh1+ 30.Ke2 Qxe4+ 31.Kd1 Rh8 32.d3± ]*

**22.Qxe2 f3 23.Qc4+ Kh7**  
*[ 23...Kh8 24.Rh2 Qf4 25.Qd3 1-0 (25) Georgiev,K-Gaprindashvili,N Albena 1985 Cl1-130 [Georgiev, Krum] ]*

**24.Rh2 Qf4 25.Qd3 Qh6 26.Kh1 1-0**

**B20**  
 □ Shaw,John **2432**  
 ■ Shneider,Aleksandr **2529**  
 Cappelle op 22nd (2) 19.02.2006  
*[Rowson, MH]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

*[ 3...e5!/? ]*  
*[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]*

**4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 e5N**

*[ 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2*  
 This looks comfortable for White, and early attempts to rock the boat don't seem to work: Jonathan Rowson: 'This looks comfortable for White, and early attempts to rock the boat don't seem to work:' ( 7.d3 Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4 d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3 d4 20.Ne4 f5 21.exf6 Qf7 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 2 Game 2 )

**A) 7...Nf6** -0.02/20

is more appropriate.;

**B) 7...e6** 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5 20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4 Be7 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g

(2515)–Virviescas Sanchez,C  
 (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/  
 Canada [Siaperas] 0–1 (45) ) 8...Nf6  
 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0–0 0–0  
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4  
 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5  
 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4  
 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5  
 22.Rf3 11.♖e1 h6 12.♞b1 ♔d7\_99  
 (1874)–Game 2 (2170) SFN–3284  
 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John  
 Watson] 0–1 (59);

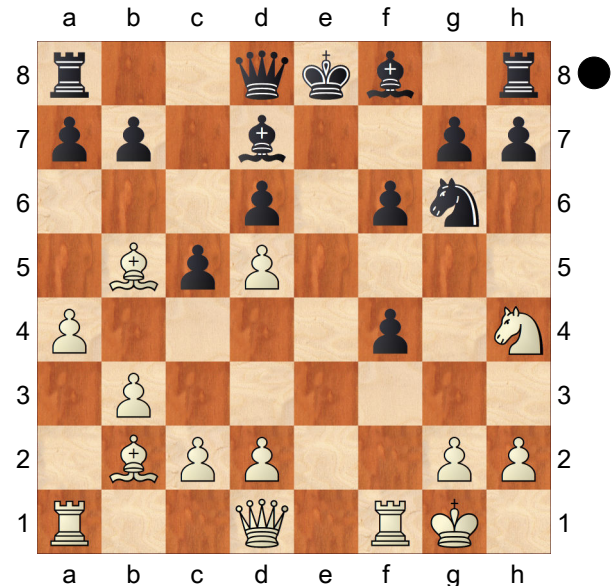
**C) 7...d5!?** 0.30/22 8.d3= Qa5+!?  
 9.Nd2 ( 9.Bc3!? Qc7 10.exd5  
 Bxd5 11.Nf3± ) 9...dxe4 10.dxe4  
 0–0–0 1.33/22 ( 10...c4= 0.26/20  
 remains equal. 11.c3 Qc7 )  
 11.Ngf3± Nf6 1.77/23 ( 11...Nh6±  
 1.43/20 12.0–0 f6 ) 12.0–0±  
 1.13/22 (Better is 12.0–0–0+–  
 1.77/23 )]

**6.Nf3 exf4 7.0–0 Nge7** 0.46/19  
 [ 7...Nf6! 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Nd5 0–0 ]  
 [ 7...Nf6= –0.04/23 ]

**8.Nc3±** White is slightly better. **8...Ng6**  
**9.Nd5 Nce7 10.a4** An important move.  
 Black should be made to weaken the  
 b6 square before White agrees to the  
 exchange of bishops. Jonathan Rowson:  
 'An important move. Black should be  
 made to weaken the b6 square before  
 White agrees to the exchange of bishops.'  
 0x0.0022ee2db6eedp–1022s more  
 active pieces. The black rooks are badly  
 placed. **10...Nxd5 11.exd5 f6 12.Nh4!**

(Diagram)

An elegant way to win the pawn back  
 and retain the initiative. Jonathan  
 Rowson: 'An elegant way to win the  
 pawn back and retain the initiative.'



**Decoy 12...Nxh4 13.Qe1+**  
 [ 13.Rxf4? Ng6 14.Qh5 Qe7–+ ]  
**13...Be7 14.Qxh4 0–0 15.Rxf4** 0.19/23  
 [ 15.Qxf4!? f5 16.Rae1 ]  
 [ 15.Qxf4± 0.67/23 Bxb5 16.axb5 ]

**15...f5= 16.Qf2** I find it a little surprising  
 that White is better here, because  
 Black has a clear edge on the kingside  
 in terms of structure and king safety.  
 However, the most important factors in  
 the position are White's lead in  
 development and more active major  
 pieces. Jonathan Rowson: 'I find it a  
 little surprising that White is better here,  
 because Black has a clear edge on the  
 kingside in terms of structure and king  
 safety. However, the most important  
 factors in the position are White's lead  
 in development and more active major  
 pieces.' **16...Bf6 17.Bxf6 Rxf6**

[ 17...Qxf6 18.Re1 ( 18.Rf1!? Bxb5  
 19.axb5= ) 18...Bxb5 19.axb5 Rae8  
 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Rxf5 Qa1+ 22.Qf1  
 Re1? #1/6 ( 22...Qd4+= –0.01/21  
 23.Rf2 Qxd5 ) 23.Rf8# is by no  
 means a forced variation, but in my  
 experience such lines are a kind of  
 litmus test for the assessment of a

position. The fact that White wins after the most natural moves suggests that White is probably better.

Jonathan Rowson: 'is by no means a forced variation, but in my experience such lines are a kind of litmus test for the assessment of a position. The fact that White wins after the most natural moves suggests that White is probably better.' ]

**18.Re1 a6 19.Bxd7 Qxd7 20.Qe2!**

Prevents Ra8-e8. **20...b5**

[ 20...Raf8 21.Qe7 R6f7 0.63/24  
( 21...Qxe7 0.32/22 22.Rxe7 R8f7  
23.Re8+ Rf8 ) 22.Qxd7± Rxd7 23.a5  
g5 24.Rc4 keeps some initiative. ]

**21.Qe7 Qxe7 22.Rxe7±** Endgame

KRR-KRR **22...g5 23.Rf1** 0.43/23

[ 23.Rf3± 0.87/22 ]

**23...bxa4±** Probably a mistake.

[ 23...f4 0.80/22 23...b5xa4 0.27  
24.Ra1 Threatens to win with a4xb5.  
Raf8 looks like it might give better  
counterplay. Jonathan Rowson: 'looks  
like it might give better counterplay.' ]

**24.bxa4 Rb8** Against Rf1-b1 **25.Ra7  
Rb2 26.Rc1!** Keeping control. I am not  
sure why this is so, but my impression is  
that John Shaw is at least 2600 in Rook  
endings. Jonathan Rowson: 'Keeping  
control. I am not sure why this is so, but  
my impression is that John Shaw is at  
least 2600 in Rook endings.' **26...Rb4**  
1.87/25 A mistake that costs the game.

[ Black should try 26...f4!± 0.58/20 ]

**27.Rxa6+- Rd4 28.d3** 1.38/21

[ 28.Ra1+- 1.75/22 ]

**28...Rxd5** 1.94/24

[ 28...f4± 1.38/21 29.Re1 Kg7 ]

**29.a5** And now Ra6-a8+ would win.

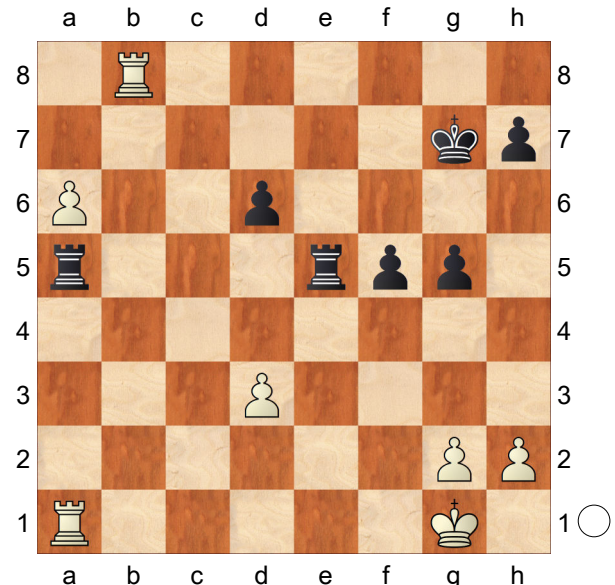
**29...c4 30.Ra8+**

[ But not 30.dxc4 Rc5 31.Rb1 Rf7

**32.Ra8+ ( 32.Rxd6 Rxa5 33.Rb5  
Ra2± ) 32...Kg7 ]**

**30...Kg7 31.Ra1! cxd3 32.cxd3 Re6**

**33.a6 Ree5 34.Rb8 Ra5**



**35.Rbb1** a6-a7 is the strong threat.

**35...Reb5 36.Rd1 Rxa1 37.Rxa1**

Threatening mate with a6-a7. KR-KR

**37...Rb8 38.a7 Ra8 39.Kf2** Now White  
is winning. Impressive technique!

**39...Kf6 40.Ke3 Ke5 41.Ra5+ d5**

**42.g3 Kf6?** 5.41/25

[ 42...h6 2.64/27 43.d4+ Kd6

44.Ra6+ Kc7 45.Rxh6 Re8+ 46.Kf3  
Kb7 ]

**43.Ra6+** White is clearly winning.

**43...Kg7 44.Kd4 f4 45.gxf4 gxf4**

**46.Kc5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08  
(flawless) /Black=0.20 (precise)

**1-0**

**B20**  
 □ **Bonatti,Walter** **2414**  
 ■ **Tsenkov,Lyubomir** **2396**  
 corr WC-2012-T-00005 19.12.2010  
*[Morgado, Juan Sebastian\_17364]*

**1.e4** Morgado,Juan Sebastian: '[%mdl  
 2192]' **1...c5 2.b3 d6**  
 [ 2...a6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4  
 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qf6 7.c3 Bc5 ]  
**3.Bb2 a6**  
 [ 3...Nf6 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+↗  
 Nbx d7 6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0  
 9.0-0 d5 10.Qe1 d4 11.Qh4 e5  
 12.fxe5 Nh5 13.Qxd8 Rfxd8  
 14.Nbd2↗ Nxe5 15.a4 Nf4 16.Nc4  
 Nxf3+ 17.Rxf3→ Ne6?! 18.Bc1→ b6  
 19.Bd2 Rab8 20.Be1± a6 21.Bg3  
 Rb7 22.h3 f6 23.Bh4± Rf8 24.a5  
 b5 25.Nb6 g5 26.Bg3 Kf7 27.Rf5∞  
 Chamaev,A (2126)-Genchev,M  
 (2238) email 2011 Rd8 28.Raf1 Kg6  
 29.Nd5 Rf8 30.Bd6 Rff7 31.e5 fxe5  
 32.Rxf7 Rxf7∞ Sibeldin,D-Fajs,B  
 (2479) email 2009 33.Ne7+ ]

**4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7**  
 [ 6...e6 7.c4 ]

**7.g3**  
 [ 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Bd3 e6 9.0-0 Be7  
 10.c4 0-0 11.Nc3 Ng4 12.Rc1↗  
 Qa5 13.Ne1 Nge5 14.Bb1 Rfd8  
 15.Kh1 Ng6 16.f4 b5 17.f5 Nge5  
 18.cxb5↗ axb5 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.Nd5  
 exd5 21.exd5↗ Rf8 22.Nf3 Rxf3  
 23.gxf3 Nd8 24.Bxe5↑ dxe5 25.d6  
 Bf6 26.Rc7 Be8 27.Rg1 b4↗ 28.Qc2  
 Bg6 29.Rxg6 hxd6 30.Qxg6 Kf8  
 31.Be4 Qa6 32.Bxa8 Qxa8 33.Qd3↗  
 Ne6 34.Rc2 Nd4 35.Rf2 Qc6  
 36.Kg2↗ Qxd6 ]

**7...Nf6 8.Bg2 g6**  
 [ 8...Nxd4-+ 9.Qxd4 Bc6 10.c4 g6

11.0-0 Bg7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qd2 ]  
**9.Ne2 Bg7 10.0-0 h5 11.Nbc3**  
 [ 11.h4? ]  
**11...Ne5 12.h3 h4 13.f4 Qb6+ 14.Qd4**  
**Qxd4+ 15.Nxd4 Nc6 16.Nxc6 Bxc6**  
**17.e5 dxe5 18.fxe5 Nd7 19.Bxc6**  
 [ 19.e6 Bd4+ 20.Kh2 hxd3+ 21.Kxd3  
 Be5+ 22.Kf2 ]  
**19...bxc6 20.e6 fxe6 21.g4 Rf8**  
**22.Kg2 0-0-0 23.Na4 Rxf1 24.Rxf1**  
**Bxb2 25.Nxb2 Ne5 26.Na4 a5 27.Nc5**  
 [ 27.Rf2 ]  
**27...Rd6 28.Rf2 Nd7 29.Nd3 g5**  
**30.Rf7? Kd8 31.Rg7 Rd5 32.Rg8+**  
**Kc7 33.Kf3 Nf6 34.Rg7 Kd8↗**  
 [ 34...e5 35.Ke3 ( 35.Rxe7+ Kd6 )  
 35...e4 36.Nb2 Kd6 37.Nc4+ ]  
**35.Ke3 a4 36.c4 axb3 37.axb3 Ra5**  
**38.b4 Ra2 39.Rxg5 Rh2**  
 [ 39...Rg2 ]  
**40.Nf4 Kd7 41.Re5 Rh1 42.g5 Ne8**  
**43.Kf3 Rg1 44.Ng2 Nd6 45.g6 Nf5**  
**46.Kf2 Ra1 47.Ra5**  
**0-1**

**B20**  
 □ **Repkova,Eva** **2400**  
 ■ **Hou,Yifan** **2578**  
 Olympiad Women-38 (2) 14.11.2008  
*[David Vigorito, MH]*

The Chinese prodigy uses a neat tactical trick in the opening and gradually outplays her opponent in the endgame.

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 a6!?**

A slow but sensible approach. Black simply prevents and Bb5 ideas.

[ Both 3...Nf6 and ]

[ 3...Nc6 can be found in the archives.

4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6



7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)–Game 2 (2170) SFN–3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 0–1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 Qc7 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)–Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0–1 (45) ]

#### 4.f4N

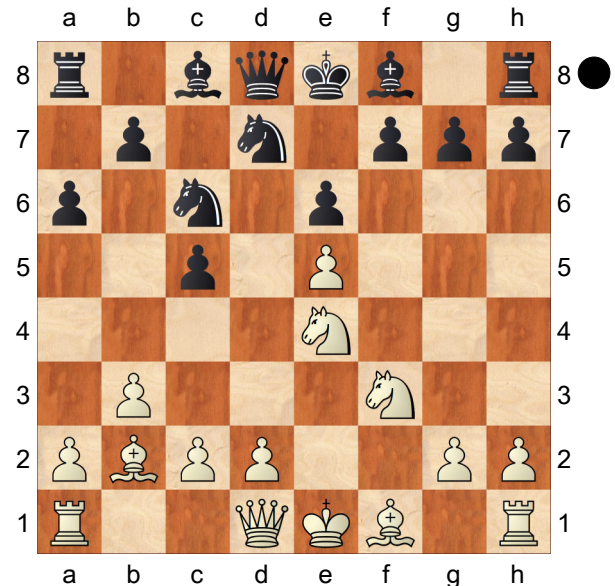
[White plays this while she can. If 4.Nf3 then Black can play a quick ...e5 and it will be difficult for White to develop any initiative. Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.g3 Nf6 8.Bg2 g6 9.Ne2 Bg7 10.0-0 h5 11.Nbc3 Ne5 12.h3 h4 13.f4 Qb6+ 14.Qd4 Qxd4+ 15.Nxd4 Nc6 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.e5 dxe5 18.fxe5 Nd7 19.Bxc6 Chmiel,K (2328)–12.♔b1 ♕e7 13.h3 (2449) Belfort 2013 The Benko Gambit: MBM [Dragan Solak] 1–0 (47) ]

#### 4...Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3

[There is no reason for Black to fear 6.Bxf6 gxf6 She will play ...f5 quickly and enjoy the bishop pair and greater central control. ]

6...e6 7.e5 This looks a bit hasty. White could consider 7.g3, 7.Bd3, or even 7.d4. 7...dxe5 8.fxe5 The position is equal. 8...Nd7 9.Ne4

(Diagram)



**Ndxe5!** This simplifying combination had to be assessed properly. **10.Nxe5** [Reject 10.Bxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qd4♠ ]

**10...Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Qd5!** This is the point. White's next move is forced, else White will stay a pawn down. **12.Nf6+ gxf6 13.Bxf6 Rg8** material is even but it is difficult for White to develop because of the pressure on g2. Black can play ...Bd7 and ...0-0-0. **14.Qf3** There is nothing better but the ending is pleasant for Black. **14...Qxf3! 15.gxf3 Be7 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Kf2 Bd7 18.Bd3 f5 19.Rhg1 Rg6** Suddenly White has to be wary of her h-pawn. If White exchanges on g6, then the h-file will open for Black's other rook. **20.f4** This looks reasonable, placing the pawn on a dark-square and fixing Black's pawns on light-squares. However White's pawns will be vulnerable to Black's active pieces. **20...Kf6 21.Rg3 -0.78/24**

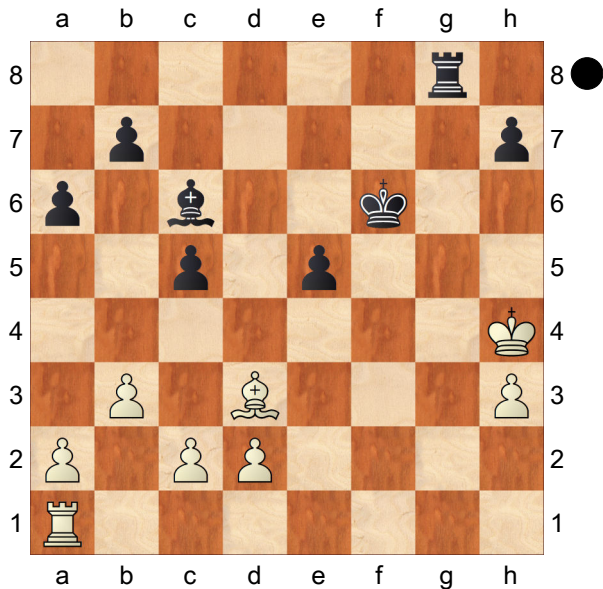
[ 21.Be2!♠ -0.34/24 ]

**21...Rh6!♠ 22.h3 Rh4 23.Kf3**

Why invite Black's next move with tempo?

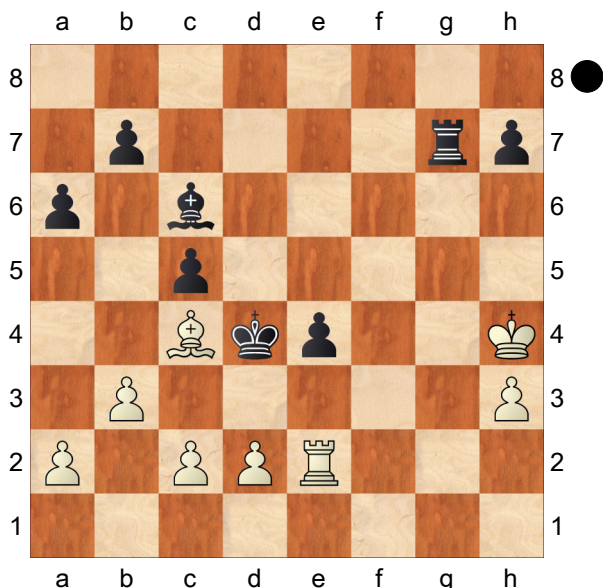
[ 23.Ke3 ]

**23...Bc6+ 24.Ke3 Rxf4! 25.Kxf4 e5+**  
**26.Ke3 f4+ 27.Kf2** Strongly threatening  
 Rg3-g4. **27...fxg3+ 28.Kxg3**  
 Endgame KRB-KRB **28...Rg8+**  
 If White goes back the rook comes to g2  
 with strong effect. **29.Kh4**



**e4! 30.Rf1+ Ke5 31.Re1 Kd4 32.Bc4 Rg7**

[ 32...Rg2 -0.62/25 32...Rg8-g6 -1.  
 04 33.Re2 allows White to defend. ]

**33.Re2****b5! 34.Be6 Rg1**

[ Also good was 34...c4 35.bxc4 bxc4

with the idea ...c3. ]

**35.Bf5 Rc1 36.Bxh7 -2.63/22**

[ White cannot hold things together. If  
 36.c3+ Kd3! 37.Rf2 -2.03/26  
 ( 37.Rg2 -1.14/25 might work  
 better. ) 37...Rc2-+ 38.Bxh7 Rxd2+ ]  
 [ 36.c3+ -1.53/25 Kd3 37.Rg2 ]

**36...Rxc2-+ 37.Kg3 Kd3**

[ Or 37...Rxa2 ]

[ Avoid the trap 37...Rxa2? 38.h4-+ ]

**38.Re3+ Kxd2 39.Bxe4? -5.86/23**

[ 39.Kf2 -3.54/24 ]

**39...Bxe4 40.Rxe4 Rxa2 KR-KR 41.h4**  
 -6.36/25

[ 41.Rf4 -4.09/21 Ra3 42.Rf2+ Kc1  
 43.Kg4 ]

**41...Rb2** Black is clearly winning. **42.h5**

**Rxb3+ 43.Kg2 Rd3** Black's rook easily  
 gets back in time. Threatens to win with

**...c5-c4. 44.h6 Rd8 45.h7 Rh8****46.Re7 c4** And now ...c4-c3 would win.

**47.Rd7+ Kc2** White must now prevent ...  
 c4-c3. **48.Kf2 c3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/

Black=0.02 (flawless)

**0-1****B20**

□ **Di Nicolantonio, Lucas**

**2389**

■ **Edouard, Romain**

**2644**

Sitges Sunway op-A 5th (2) 15.12.2018

[Edouard, Romain]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** One of the best lines  
 against 2...g6. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

Other moves are not dangerous.

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6

7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Qf4 0-0! 9.Qxd6 f5

10.Nge2 fxe4 11.Bxd7 Bxd7

12.Qxc5 e3!? Interesting, but after

any move Black would have sufficient

compensation. 13.fxe3 Bc6 14.Rf1 Rc8 15.Qb4 a5 16.Qf4 b5 17.Nd4 Bxg2 18.Rf2 b4= 0-1 (73) Short,N (2678)–Dobrov,V (2515) Riyadh 2017 ]  
 [ 4.Nc3 d6 ( 4...Bg7!? 5.e5 Nh5= ) 5.Nd5 Bg7 6.Bb5+ Nbd7 7.Nxf6+ exf6 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 a6= 0-1 (36) Antipov,M (2588)–Dubov,D (2677) Moscow 2017 ]  
 [ 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 Bg7= ½-½ (19) Petenyi,T (2444)–Khalifman,A (2617) Porto Carras 2018 ]  
 [ 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.Ne2 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bg4!? 10.Qd2 Qb6= ½-½ (54) Gorbatov,A (2400)–Zakharov,V (2481) Moscow 2018 ]

**4...Nd5** Again, White has many moves here. But all are good for Black. **5.h4?!**  
 [ 5.Qf3 Nb4 6.Na3 Bg7 7.e6 f6 8.c3 N4c6= ½-½ (41) Morozovich,A (2665)–Andreikin,D (2712) Moscow 2018 ]  
 [ 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.h4 d5!? 8.exd6 0-0! 9.dxe7 Re8= 0-1 (52) Andreikin,D (2712)–Vachier Lagrave,M (2791) Dortmund 2017 ]  
 [ 5.d4 Qa5+! is more than fine for Black – as I've played in a game in Martinique that doesn't appear in the database. ( 5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc7 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.Qe3↑ 1-0 (24) Fedoseev,V (2731)–Cherniaev,A (2436) Sochi 2017 ) ]  
 [ 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc7 ( 6...Nb4!? 7.f4 d6 8.Nf3 N4c6 9.Na3 0-0 10.0-0 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.fxe5 Qc7 13.Qe2 Nc6 14.Rae1 Be6 15.Qb5 Qb6= ½-½ (27) Antoniewski,R (2521)–Michalik,P (2564) Slovakia 2018 ) 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Qc1 0-0=

Δ...d6/...d5: 1-0 (53) Iskandarov,M (2464)–Grinev,V (2433) Konya 2017 ]  
 [ 5.Nf3 Bg7 ( 5...Nc6!? 6.Ng5! Bh6!? is fun, and is probably acceptable for Black: 7.e6 Bxg5 8.Bxh8 f6 9.Bg7 dxe6 10.h4 Bf4 11.g3 Be5 12.c3 Ndb4 13.Be2 Nd3+ 14.Kf1 b6= 0-1 (48) Gelashvili,T (2563)–Liang,A (2488) Saint Louis 2017 ) 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 0-0 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 d5 10.exd6 exd6= 0-1 (24) Stoeber,M (2261)–Korobov,A (2652) Tegernsee 2017 ]  
 [ 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.e6 f6 7.Qe2 Nxc4 8.exd7+ Nxd7 9.Qxc4 Nb6!N ( 9...e5 10.f4 was tricky in: 1-0 (45) Ider,B (2510)–Georgakopoulos,N (2346) Irakleio 2018 ) 10.Qxc5 e5 with excellent compensation. ]  
 [ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.g3 Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.Ne2 e5 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Nbc3 Nc7= ½-½ (44) Dvalishvili,P (2433)–Golubov,S (2501) Moscow 2017 ]  
 [ 5.c4 Nf4 ( 5...Nc7!? ) 6.d4 cxd4 7.Qxd4 Ne6 8.Qe3 Bg7 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.f4 0-0= 0-1 (34) Repkova,E (2332)–Kraemer,M (2574) Austria 2018 ]

### 5...Bg7 6.h5

[ 6.Qf3 Nb4 7.Na3 N8c6! 8.e6 ( 8.0-0-0!? might be better, but Black should have several good moves here, like h5!? ) 8...0-0! 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.Qc3+ f6 11.exd7 Bxd7 12.Qxc5 Qb6= 1-0 (31) Fernandez,E (2458)–Codonotti,M (2169) Spain 2010 ]  
 [ 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Na3 d6 8.Bb5 Bd7 ( 8...Bg4!? ) 9.Bc4 Be6= 0-1 (38) Conquest,S (2532)–Codonotti,M (2284) Otranto 2011 ]

### 6...Nc6

[ 6...d6!? 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Qe2 ( 8.Nf3 Bg4 – see 8.Nf3 in the game ) 8...0–0 9.hxg6 fxg6 10.Qc4 and here Black could have played Nxe5!?N ( 10...dxe5 11.Bxc6 bxc6 0–1 (50) Morozovich,A (2683)–Shaposhnikov,E (2557) Sochi 2016 ) 11.Qxd5+ e6 12.Qe4 Nf3+ 13.Nxf3 Bxb2 which seems to work for Black, despite the a1–bishop being in trouble zone for a while when White plays c3. ]

**7.Nf3**

[ 7.Bc4 Nb6 7 ]

**7...d6 8.h6N** Not a great move, but the alternative isn't so much better.

[ 8.Bb5 Bg4 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.Rxh8+ Bxh8 11.Qe2 dxe5 12.Bxe5 Bxe5?! ( 12...Nf4!?; 12...Bxf3!? ) 13.Qxe5 f6 14.Qg3 Qd7 15.Na3 Kf7?! ( 15...0–0–0 16.0–0–0 Bxf3 17.Qxf3= 1–0 (35) Navara,D (2734)–Wojtaszek,R (2727) Chine 2016 ]

**8...Bxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bb5 f6**

Just keeping a solid extra pawn.

[ 10...Qc7!? 11.Bxc6+ Qxc6 12.Bxe5 f6 7 ]

[ 10...Bd7!? 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Bxe5 0–0 7 ]

**11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.d3 Nf4 13.Rh2 Bf5 14.Qd2?!**

[ 14.g3 Nd5 15.Nd2 7 ]

**14...c4! A killer break! 15.g3**

[ 15.dxc4 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 0–0–0+–+ ]

[ 15.bxc4 Rb8 is just awful for White. ]

**15...Ne6 16.dxc4 Qb6!**

[ Now 16...Qxd2+ 17.Kxd2 0–0–0+ would allow 18.Kc1 7 ]

**17.Nc3!?**

[ 17.Na3 Ng5 18.Qe2 0–0–0+–+ ]

**17...Rd8**

[ 17...Nd4 18.Na4! resists. ]

**18.Qe3 Bxc2**

[ 18...Ng5!? ]

**19.Qxb6 axb6 20.f3 Bf5 21.Rd2****Rxd2 22.Kxd2 Nd4**

[ 22...Kf7 may have been stronger, not committing the knight to d4, yet. ]

**23.Rf1 Kf7 24.g4 Be6 25.Na4 b5****26.cxb5 cxb5 27.Nc5 Rc8**

A good move, although some aspects of the arising rook endgame came up to my mind after playing it.

[ 27...Nc6 7 ]

**28.Bxd4 exd4 29.Nxe6 Kxe6 30.a4****bxa4 31.bxa4 Ra8 32.Ra1 Kd5**

[ 32...Ra5! was my initial idea, but suddenly I realized White can play 33.f4 Kd5 34.f5! and couldn't find a concrete win; in fact, Black can just play gxf5 35.gxf5 Ke4 36.Re1+ Kxf5 37.Rxe7 Kg6 and win.

Sometimes the simplest things just slip from your mind! ]

**33.a5 Ra6** Clearly a worse version of the endgame than 32...Ra5. Here, a passive defence by White would have led to a fascinating endgame. **34.Kc2**

[ 34.Kd3 e5 35.Ra4 f5 36.gxf5 gxf5 37.Ra3 e4+ ]

**A) 38.Kd2!?** makes sense, due to the line you will discover after the exchange on e4. Kc4! ( 38...d3? 39.Ra4 Rxh6 40.a6 Rh2+ 41.Ke3 Re2+ 42.Kf4= ) 39.Ra4+ Kc5 40.Ke2 ( 40.fxe4 fxe4 41.Ke2 Kd5 42.Kd2 Ke5! 43.Ra1 d3 44.Ra4 Rxh6 45.a6 Rh2+ 46.Kc3 Rc2+ 47.Kb3 Rc8–+ ) 40...e3! 41.Kd3 Re6 42.Ra1 Rxh6 43.a6 ( 43.Rc1+ Kb5 44.Kxd4 Re6 45.Kd3 f4 46.Ke2 Rd6–+ ) 43...Rh2–+;



**B)** 38.fxe4+ fxe4+ 39.Kd2 d3  
( 39...Kc4 also wins (see 38.Kd2  
above), in easier but less beautiful  
fashion! ) 40.Ra4 Rxh6! 41.a6  
Rh2+ 42.Ke3 ( 42.Kc3 Rc2+  
43.Kb3 Rc8-- ) 42...Re2+ 43.Kf4  
d2! 44.a7 Rf2+ 45.Ke3 ( 45.Kg3  
Rf8 46.a8Q+ Rxa8 47.Rxa8  
e3!-- ) 45...d1N# Wow! ]

34...e5 35.Kb3? f5 36.gxf5 gxf5  
37.Kb4 e4 White is just far behind.  
38.fxe4+ fxe4 39.Kb5 Ra8 40.a6 e3  
41.a7 e2 42.Kb4 Rxa7  
0-1

□ **Dvirnyy,Danyyil**

■ **Miatello,Alberto**

Verona op 13th (5)

[Andrew Martin, MH]

**B20**

**2351**

**2057**

06.01.2007

Idiosyncratic variations such as 2 b3 will  
always be dangerous in the right hands.  
One must not give a flying fig for theory,  
possess an iconoclastic temperament  
and be useful in attack. Only then will 2  
b3 work for you!

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3!? d5**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)-13.♠ad1 ♔b6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1-0 (33) ]  
[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3

0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline  
5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

**3.exd5 Nf6N** If this move works, then 2  
b3 can be considered redundant. In the  
style of the Tal Gambit vs the Grand  
Prix attack, Black is willing to sacrifice  
a pawn for activity. My own view is that  
b2-b3 is much more useful to White  
than f2-f4 can ever be in a position of  
this type.

[ 3...Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.Bb2 Nf6  
6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.0-0-0 Nc6  
9.g4 h6 10.Rg1 a6 11.h4 Nd7  
12.g5 hxg5 13.hxg5 Nf8 14.Ne4  
Rh7 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4  
17.Rxd4 Qc7 18.Bg2 6.♙c4 ♕f5 7.  
♘e2 ♘d7\_5 (2636)-Minic Dragoljub  
(CRO) (2396) Saint Petersburg 65/  
505 2005 200 Traps In The Opening  
[Pons Ribot] 1-0 (40) ]

**4.Bb5+!** Why not. White wants to keep  
the pawn and gets closer to castling.

[ 4.Bb2 Nxd5 is just very easy for  
Black: 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 ( 6.d4 cxd4  
7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 e6 9.Nc3  
Nxc3 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Bxc3 f6  
12.0-0-0+ Kc7 leads nowhere at all  
from White's point of view: 13.Bb5 a6  
14.Bd3 Bc5 15.f3 Bd7 16.Rhe1 h5  
17.Be4 Rad8 18.Bd4 Ba3+ 19.Bb2  
Bb4 20.c3 Bd6= Paljusaj, E-Brkic, A/  
Pula 2000 ) 6...Bd7 7.0-0 e6 8.Re1  
Nf6 9.Na3 Be7 10.Nc4 0-0 11.Bxc6  
Bxc6 12.Nfe5 Bd5 13.Qe2 b6  
14.Rad1 Qc7 15.Ne3 Rad8 16.d3  
Bb7 17.N3g4 Nxg4 18.Qxg4 Bf6=  
Ruck, T-Kiss, A/Koszeg 1997 ]

[ 4.c4 e6 5.dxe6 Bxe6  
is an Icelandic Gambit where White is

stuck with the light-squared Bishop. I believe in Black's compensation here:  
 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 Qd7  
 9.Bb2 Rd8 Restraining the White  
 pawn on d2. 10.Na3 0-0 11.Nc2 Bf5  
 12.d3 Bxd3 13.Bxd3 Qxd3 14.Qxd3  
 Rxd3 15.Rad1 Rfd8 1/2-1/2 Garcia,  
 A-Feller, J/Novi Sad 1990 ]

**4...Nbd7 5.c4 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7**

**7.Bb2 e6 8.dxe6!** White is slightly  
 better. **8...Bxe6 9.Nf3**

[ 9.Nc3 keeps more tension. Qd3  
 10.Qf3 0-0-0 11.Qxd3 Rxd3  
 12.Nce2 ]

**9...Qd7** 0.83/21

[ 9...Qd3! might offer more chance of  
 compensation:

**A) 10.Nc3** Bd6 0.56/23

( 10...0-0-0!= 0.13/22

is more appropriate. ) 11.Qe2± Qg6

12.d4 -0.46/23 ( 12.0-0± 0.40/20 )

12...0-0 -0.07/23 ( 12...0-0-0!≠

-0.46/23 might be stronger.

13.dxc5 Bg4 14.cxd6 Rhe8 )

13.dxc5 -0.39/24 ( 13.0-0!=  
 -0.07/23 )

**A1) 13...Rfe8!≠** -0.39/24

should be considered. 14.0-0

( 14.cxd6 Bxc4 ) 14...Bg4;

**A2) 13...Bxc5** -0.01/23 14.0-0=  
 Bg4±;

**B) 10.Qe2** Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 Nh5! ]

[ 9...Qd3!± 0.35/23 ]

**10.0-0± 0-0-0 11.d4!** The difference.

White's King is safe and he gets to offer

some exchanges. **11...cxd4 12.Qxd4**

**Qc7 13.Qc3 Bd6 14.Nbd2 Ng4**

1.08/22

[ 14...Bf5± 0.59/20 ]

**15.h3**

[ 15.Qxg7? Bxh2+ 16.Kh1 Rhg8

17.Qxh7 Bf4-+ ]

**15...h5** 1.50/21 **16.Ne4!**

[ 16.hxg4 hxg4 17.Rfd1 ( 17.Qxg7?  
 Bh2+ 18.Kh1 Be5+ 19.Kg1 Bxg7-+ )  
 17...gxf3 18.Nxf3 f6≠ ]

[ 16.Qxg7?! Rhg8 17.Qc3 Nh2= ]

**16...Be7** 2.48/22

[ 16...Bh2+ 17.Kh1 Bf4

can be answered by the cold-blooded

18.Qxg7! Rhg8 2.06/18 ( 18...Bf5±

1.57/23 19.Neg5 Rdf8 ) 19.Qc3 ]

[ 16...Bh2+± 1.55/22 17.Kh1 Bf5 ]

**17.Rae1+-**

[ Resist 17.hxg4?! hxg4 18.Ne5

( 18.Qxg7 gxf3 19.g3 Rhg8± )

18...f6± ]

[ 17.Qxg7 Rhg8 ]

**17...Bf5** 3.58/24

[ 17...Nf6 2.46/22 was called for.

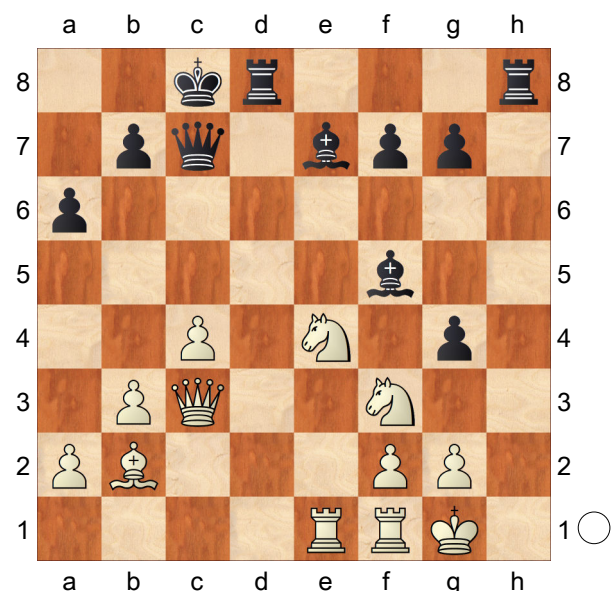
18.Neg5 ( 18.Nxf6 Bxf6 19.Qc1

Kb8± ) 18...Rde8 19.Nxe6 fxe6 ]

**18.c5** 1.60/25

[ Don't take 18.Qxg7 Rh7+- ]

[ 18.hxg4+- 3.58/24 hxg4



19.Qe5! Qxe5 20.Nxe5 ]

**18...Bf6?! 2.55/24** Black does not  
 believe in his position anymore.

[ The sole chance lay in 18...Nf6

2.26/24 18...Bf5xe4 1.66 but even

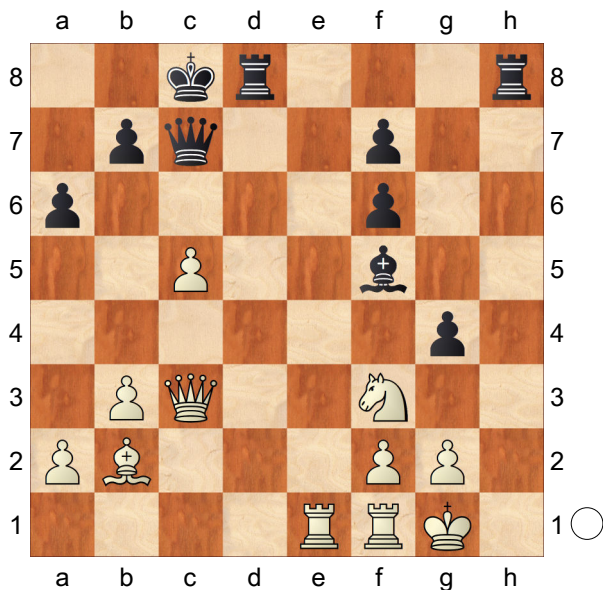
there 19.Neg5! Bg6 20.Ne5  
is very strong indeed. ]  
[ 18...Bxe4± 1.60/25 was necessary.  
19.Rxe4 Bf6 ]

**19.Nxf6 gxf6** 5.40/24

[ 19...Nxf6 2.33/24 is more resistant.  
20.c6 bxc6 ]

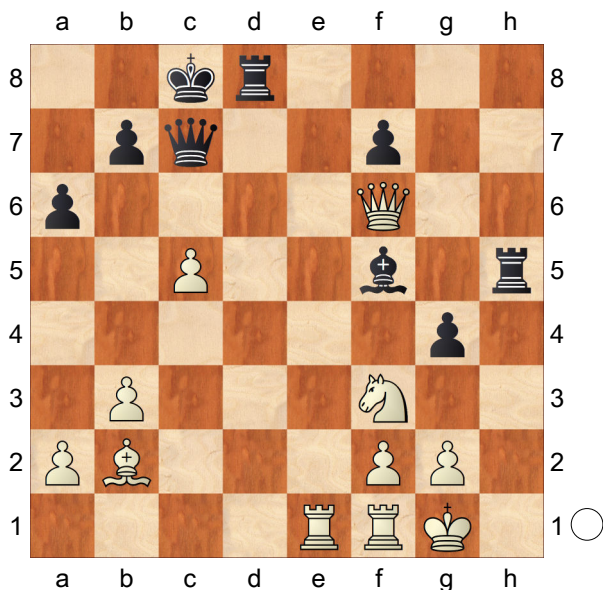
**20.hxg4!** White is clearly winning.

**20...hxg4**



**21.Qxf6! Rh5**

[ 21...Bd3 22.Re7 ]



**22.Re7! Bd7**

[ 22...Qc6 23.Ng5 ]

**23.Be5 Qxc5 24.Nh4** Hoping for Be5–g3. **24...Rdh8 25.Bg3** White threatens Qf6–f4! and mate. **25...R5h6 26.Qxf7** Very convincing by White after Black's lapse on move nine. Thus 9 ..Qd3 is the only chance for rescue.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.21  
(precise) /Black=0.64

**1–0**

**B50**

□ **Fleischanderl,Fritz**

**2325**

■ **Petzold,Gunter**

**2358**

AR–2003–F–00003 (1)

07.05.2004

[Chessfriend.com Ltd.]

Tournament sponsor: Goldenpalace.com  
(<http://banner.goldenpalace.com/cgi-bin/redir.cgi?id=N&member=chessfriend&profile=chesslinks>)

1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 3.Bb2 d6  
4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6

7.Nxc6

[ 7.Bd3 Bd7 8.0–0 Ne5 9.c4 Nxd3  
10.Qxd3 Be7 ]

**7...bxc6 8.e5 dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8**

**10.Bxe5 Ng4 11.Bg3N Bb4+ 12.c3**

**Ba5 13.Be2 Nh6 14.Bf3 Bd7 15.b4**

**Bb6**

[ 15...Bc7 16.b5 (RR 16.Bxc7+ Kxc7  
17.c4 ) 16...Bxg3 17.bxc6 Bxc6

18.Bxc6 Rc8 Chin,D–Tan Chin Hoe/  
Kuala Lumpur 1992/CBM 031 ext/1/  
2–1/2 (45) ]

**16.a4 Rc8 17.Nd2 Nf5 18.Ne4 Nxg3**

**19.hxg3 Ke7 20.a5 Bc7 21.0–0–0**

**Be5 22.Rd3**

[ 22.Kb2 Rb8 23.Kb3 ]

**22...Rc7 23.g4 c5 24.Nxc5**

[ 24.bxc5 Bc6 ]

**24...Bb5 25.Rhd1**

[ 25.Re3 Bf4 ]  
 [ 25.Rdd1 Bxc3 ]  
**25...Bxd3** Enddate: 11.6.2004 RR  
**26.Rxd3 Rhc8 27.Kc2 Rxc5 28.bxc5**  
**Rxc5 29.a6 Ra5 30.Re3 Bd6 31.Be2**  
**Bc5 32.Re5 Bb6**  
**0-1**

☐ **Senders,Mischa** **B20**  
☒ **Reinderman,Dimitri** **2319**  
**2571**  
 NED-chT 1617 (3.2) 05.11.2016  
*[Sam Collins]*

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6!** This (coupled with Black's next move) is the reason Magnus Carlsen lost interest in this line for White, as he explained in an interview after his win over the Indian prodigy Chithambaram Aravindh in the Qatar Masters 2015. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bxf6** A rare move, and one which scores poorly for White. It wasn't intuitively obvious (at least to me) why White is worse off here than in the line 1.c4 c5 2. b3 g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bxf6, which Karpov used to beat Walter Browne in 1972. Perhaps the pawn on e4 is poorly placed since it makes it easier for Black to liquidate his doubled f-pawns with ...f5.  
**4...exf6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Bc4**

[ 6.Bd3 0-0 7.f4 f5! 8.exf5 d5! ♗ gave Black more than enough compensation in J.Aubel – F.Kroeze, Netherlands 2010 (0-1 in 43). ]  
 [ 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Bc4 d6 8.0-0 f5 ♗ is the typical reaction we see in most of lines, and gave Black an excellent game in J.Petr – O.Svanda, Kouty nad Desnou 2014 (1/2-1/2 in 23). ]  
**6...0-0**

[ 6...d6 was Hou Yifan's choice on facing this line in blitz. 7.Nge2 ( 7.Bd5 Nc6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 f5 ♗ was excellent for Black in V.Grozdanic – M.Bosiocic, Sibenik 2011 (0-1 in 40). ) 7...0-0 8.Ng3 Nc6 9.0-0 h5 10.h3 ( 10.f4 h4 11.f5 is an enterprising attempt but seems to fall short after hxg3 12.fxg6 gxh2+ 13.Kh1 Bh6 14.Bxf7+ Kg7 ♗; 10.Re1 frees the g3-knight for a better circuit (f1-e3-d5), but I'd still take Black all day in this position. ) 10...h4 11.Nge2 f5 was good for Black, and after 12.d3 f4! 13.Nd5? f3!-+ she was already winning in Ju Wenjun – Hou Yifan, Beijing 2014 (0-1 in 43). ]

#### 7.h4

[ 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0-0 d6 9.d3 f5 ♗ and Black was doing well in K.Nuber – V.Meier, Bayern 2014 (1/2-1/2 in 19). ]

**7...d6** Reinderman is a strong GM who is quite comfortable in unusual and unexplored positions, and I can't help thinking that this line was a terrible choice against him. His reaction is undoubtedly the most logical and natural in the position.

[ 7...h5 is a sound alternative ]

[ 7...f5!? 8.exf5 d5! followed by 9... Bxf5 is an interesting pawn sacrifice, after which I prefer Black's position. ]

**8.h5 f5 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.Qf3 fxe4 11.Qf4 Nc6 ♗** It's hard to give White good advice to avoid this position, but Black is doing extremely well. The g7-bishop covers the king and has had no opponent since move 4. **12.Nh3 Nb4 13.Ng5 d5-+ 14.Rh8+** An inspired shot, but it's not hard to see that Black gets



too much material for the queen.  
**14...Bxh8 15.Qh4 Qxg5 16.Qxg5 dxc4!** Even better than going after the rook. White's best piece has been eliminated and her chances of generating an attack are slim. **17.0-0-0 cxb3 18.axb3 Re8 19.Qxc5 Nc6 20.Re1 Bf5** White didn't have to resign here, but the rook and two bishops will comfortably overpower the queen. 4. Bxf6 looks like a poor choice in a line which was already unimpressive for White.  
**0-1**

☐ **Kivisto,Mikko** **B20**  
☒ **Patocka,Franz** **2296**  
 corr EM/TT/F Board 2 15.12.1999  
*[Morgado,Juan Sebastian(ARG)GM\_17374]*

**1.e4** Morgado,Juan Sebastian(ARG)GM  
**1...c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3**  
 [ 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 ( 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Nd5 10.Ne4 Qa5 11.c4 Ne3 12.Bc3 Qxc3 13.Nxc3 Nxd1 14.Rxd1 a6 15.Ba4 0-0 16.0-0 Rfd8 17.Kh1 Rab8 18.d3 Nb4 19.Bxd7 Rxd7 20.d4 cxd4 21.Rxd4 Rxd4 22.Nxd4 Rd8 Kivisto,M-Sorri,K/ Espoo 1991/EXT 2000/½-½ (107) ) 8...Bxc6 9.d3 0-0 10.0-0 c4 11.dxc4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Qe2 Bg6 14.Rad1 Qb6+ 15.Qf2 Qa5 16.a4 Rfd8 17.Qe2 Bf8 18.h3 d5 19.Ne5 dxc4 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Nxc4 Qf5 Moreno,J-Alvarez,J/Isla Margarita 1998/EXT 2000/0-1 (49) ]  
**7...0-0N**  
 [ 7...a6 8.0-0 d5 9.Kh1 Nb4 10.e5

Nh5 11.Ne1 Nxd3 12.Nxd3 g6 13.Nf2 b6 14.Ng4 Bb7 15.Qe2 Ng7 16.Nf6+ Bxf6 17.exf6 Nf5 18.Qe5 h5 19.d3 Qd7 20.Kg1 Qc6 21.g3 d4 22.Ne4 0-0-0 23.c4 dxc3 24.Qxc3 h4 25.g4 Ne3 26.Rfe1 Nxg4 27.b4 c4 28.Rac1 Rxd3 29.Qxd3 cxd3 0-1 Vukovic,Z-Cabrilo, G/Kladovo 1990/CBM 17 (29) ]  
**8.0-0 b6 9.a3 Bb7 10.Qe2 a6 11.e5 Nh5 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Ng5?**  
 [ 13.g3 c4 14.Bxc4 Bc5+ 15.Kg2 Nd4+ ]  
 [ 13.Qe4 g6 14.g3 Nf6→ ]  
**13...Nxf4 14.Bxh7+ Kh8 15.Rxf4?**  
 [ 15.Qg4 Ne5 16.Qxf4 ( 16.Qh4 Nxg2 17.Qh5 Bf3 18.Nxf3 Nf4-+ ) 16...Nf3+ 17.Qxf3 Bxf3 18.Rxf3+ ]  
**15...Qxg5**  
 [ 15...Qxg5 16.Rg4 Qh5-+ ]  
**0-1**

☐ **Dede,Erno** **B40**  
☒ **Herman,Tamas** **2280**  
 Cseppko op-A 08th (2) 06.07.1999  
*[Gary Lane]*

**1.e4** Lane,Gary **1...c5 2.b3 b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6** Controls d5  
**6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5** An aggressive system which is only occasionally employed.  
 [ 7...Qb8!? 8.Nxc6 Bxc6 9.Bb5!? Bxb5 10.Nxb5 a6 11.Nc3 Nf6 12.Qe2 Bd6 13.0-0-0 Be5∞ 14.g3 g5 15.Kb1 Rg8 16.f4 gxf4 17.gxf4 Bxc3 18.Bxc3 Qxf4 19.Qd3 Nxe4 20.Qxd7+ Kf8 21.Rhf1 Nxc3+ 22.Ka1 Rg1 23.Qb7 Rb8 Asmundsson, I-Arnason,J/Grindavik/

1984/0:1/ Lane,Gary: 'Asmundsson,I-  
Arnason,J/Grindavik/1984/0:1/' ]

### 8.Ndb5!

[ 8.Nxc6 Bxc6 ( 8...Qf6 9.Qd2 Bxc6  
10.Na4! is good for White ) 9.Nb5 Nf6  
10.e5 Ne4 gives Black the superior  
chances. Lane,Gary: 'gives Black  
the superior chances.' ]

### 8...Qb8 Lane,Gary: 'Or'

[ 8...Nge7 ignores White's plan which  
is a poor response as revealed after  
Lane,Gary: 'ignores White's plan  
which is a poor response as revealed  
after' 9.Nd6+ Bxd6 10.Qxd6 Nc8  
( 10...0-0 11.0-0-0 a6 12.Qxd7  
Qb8 13.Qd6 and White remains a  
pawn up for nothing ) 11.Qd2 0-0  
12.0-0-0 leaves White in the better  
position. ]

[Or 8...Nf6 9.Nd6+ Bxd6 10.Qxd6  
Qe7 11.Nb5 0-0 12.Qxe7 Nxe7  
13.Ba3 Rfe8 14.e5 Nfd5 15.Nd6  
and Black can resign. Lane,Gary:  
'and Black can resign.' ]

**9.Nd5!?** A great sacrifice which has  
been played before. Lane,Gary: 'Instead'  
[Instead 9.Qg4 Bf8!

**A) 10.Nd5?! exd5 11.Bxg7**  
( 11.exd5! Nb4 12.Qe2+ Kd8  
13.c4 with decent play for White )  
11...h5 12.Qg5 Rh7 ( 12...Bb4+  
13.c3 Be7 14.Qf5! ) 13.Bxf8 Kxf8  
14.Qxd5 Nf6 15.Qd6+ Qxd6  
16.Nxd6 Nb4 and Black is on top.;

**B) 10.0-0-0 a6 11.Nd4 Nxd4**  
( 11...Nf6!? is also reasonable )  
12.Rxd4 Nf6 ]

[ 9.Na4 Bb4+ 10.Bc3 Qe5 11.Bxb4  
Nxb4

**A) 12.Nd6+?! Ke7 13.Nxb7**  
( 13.c3 Qxd6 14.Qxd6+ Kxd6  
15.cxb4 Bxe4-+ ) 13...Qxa1

14.Qxa1 Nxc2+ 15.Kd2 Nxa1  
16.Ba6 Nf6 17.Nc3 d5 18.exd5  
Nxb3+ 19.axb3 Nxd5∞ 20.Nxd5+  
exd5 21.Ke3 Rac8 is unclear  
because White will have problems  
organising his pieces. Lane,Gary:  
'is unclear because White will have  
problems organising his pieces.';  
**B) 12.c3 Qxe4+ 13.Be2**  
looks fine for White. ]

### 9...exd5

[ 9...Kf8!

**A) 10.Qg4!? f6 ( 10...Ne5**  
11.Qg3 ) 11.Ndc7 a6 12.Nxa8  
axb5 13.0-0-0↑ ( 13.Nxb6 Bxb6  
14.Bxb5 );

**B) 10.Ndc7 a6**

**B1) 11.Nxa8 axb5 12.Nxb6**  
( 12.Qg4 Nf6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 )  
12...Bxb6 13.Bxb5 Ba5+ 14.c3  
Nf6;

**B2) 11.Qxd7 Nf6 ( 11...axb5??**  
12.Nxe6+ fxe6 13.Bxg7# )  
12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxe6+! fxe6  
14.Nc7! ( 14.Qxe6? Qf4-+ )  
14...Nd4 15.0-0-0 ( 15.Nxe6+?  
Nxe6 16.Qxe6 Bb4+ 17.Ke2  
Qf4 looks horrible for White;  
15.Rd1? Bb4+ 16.Rd2 Bxd2+  
17.Kxd2 Qd8-+ )

**B2a) 15...Bc8?! 16.Qd8+**  
( 16.Qe8+ Kg7 ) 16...Kg7  
17.Ne8+ Rxe8 18.Qxe8 Qf4+

**B2a1) 19.Rd2**

**B2a11) 19...Bb4 20.c3**  
Ba3+ ( 20...Bxc3  
21.Qe7+ ) 21.Kd1;

**B2a12) 19...Ba3+**  
20.Kd1 e5 21.f3

Nxf3!-+;

**B2a2) 19.Kb2 Qxf2 20.Bd3**  
( 20.Rc1 Qd2- ) 20...a5

21.Rhg1;  
**B2b)** 15...Bc6 16.Nxe6+  
 Nxe6 17.Qxc6 ( 17.Qxe6  
 Qf4+ 18.Kb1 Bxe4+ )  
 17...Qf4+ 18.Kb1 Re8 19.Bc4  
 ( 19.Bxa6!? Nd4∞ ) 19...Qc7!  
 20.Qd5?! ( 20.Qxc7!?  
 is an improvement when Nxc7  
 21.Rd7 Re7 22.Rhd1  
 gives White some hopes in the  
 ending to justify his piece  
 deficit ) 20...b5 21.Be2 Nf4  
 22.Qf5 Qe5 23.Qxe5 fxe5  
 24.Bf3 when White is  
 struggling in the ending, C.  
 Perdomo–L.Psakhis,  
 Groningen 1995. Lane,Gary:  
 'when White is struggling in  
 the ending, C.Perdomo–L.  
 Psakhis, Groningen 1995.' ]

**10.exd5?!** Lane,Gary: 'I think White  
 should play'

[I think White should play 10.Bxg7!  
 when Black has a lot of problems to  
 solve after only ten moves: Lane,  
 Gary: 'when Black has a lot of  
 problems to solve after only ten  
 moves:' a6 ( 10...Qf4 11.Qf3 )  
 11.exd5

**A)** 11...axb5? doesn't work  
 because of 12.dxc6 ( 12.Bxh8  
 is revealed to be not so accurate  
 upon Lane,Gary: 'is revealed to be  
 not so accurate upon' Qf4 13.Qd2  
 Qe4+ 14.Qe2 Qxe2+ 15.Kxe2  
 Nb4 16.Kd2 Nxd5 with an edge for  
 Black ) 12...dxc6 13.Bxh8  
 and White is winning. Lane,Gary:  
 'and White is winning.';

**B)** 11...Nce7 is probably the best  
 move although Lane,Gary: 'is  
 probably the best move although'

12.Nc3 Qf4 13.Qd2 Qxd2+  
 14.Kxd2 Ng6 15.Bd3 leaves White  
 with the better position. Lane,  
 Gary: 'leaves White with the better  
 position.' ]

**10...Ne5 11.d6?!** The desire to win the  
 rook in the corner is not sufficient after  
 such a stylish opening. Lane,Gary: 'The  
 desire to win the rook in the corner is  
 not sufficient after such a stylish opening.  
 '

[ 11.Qe2!? is worth investigating  
 when Lane,Gary: 'is worth  
 investigating when' d6 12.f4  
 wins back the piece having probably  
 gained 30 minutes on the clock! Lane,  
 Gary: 'wins back the piece having  
 probably gained 30 minutes on the  
 clock!' ]

**11...f6** Black supports the knight in the  
 centre. **12.Bxe5 fxe5 13.Qh5+**

[ 13.c3!? is a nice idea to try to corner  
 the bishop on c5 when Lane,Gary: 'is  
 a nice idea to try to corner the bishop  
 on c5 when' a5 14.Nc7+ Kf8 15.a3  
 Qc8 when Black is still better. ]

**13...Kf8 14.Bc4** Spot the threat! **14...g6**  
**15.Qh3 Bc6**

[ 15...Qd8 16.c3 a5 17.0–0  
 and White's attack is still in the  
 distance. ]

**16.0–0–0**

[ 16.Nc7 Kg7 17.Nxa8 Qxa8 18.0–0  
 Nf6 is good for Black because his  
 pieces are well placed. ]

**16...a6**

[ 16...Qd8!? is a good choice. ]

**17.Nc7 Bxd6**

[ 17...Bxf2?? allows an obvious pin  
 with Lane,Gary: 'allows an obvious pin  
 with' 18.Rdf1 ]

**18.Rxd6 Qxc7 19.Rhd1** Dede wants to

increase his attacking chances by taking on d7. Lane,Gary: 'Dede wants to increase his attacking chances by taking on d7.' **19...Ra7?** A logical move to defend d7 but it allows White back into the game with a vengeance. Lane,Gary: 'A logical move to defend d7 but it allows White back into the game with a vengeance.'

[ 19...Qd8! 20.Rxc6 Qg5+ ( 20...dxc6?? 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Qe6 wins ) 21.f4 Qxf4+ 22.Kb2 dxc6 23.Rf1 Qxf1 24.Bxf1 Ne7 25.Qe6 with an unclear game although a draw is the probable outcome. Lane,Gary: 'with an unclear game although a draw is the probable outcome.' ]

**20.Qe3! b5**

[ 20...Qd8 is not much help after 21.Qxe5 Qe7 22.Qxh8+- ]

**21.Qxe5**

[ Δ21.Qc5 and White is much better Ke8 ( 21...bxc4?? allows a nice finish 22.Rf6+ Kg7 23.Qf8# ) 22.Qxe5+ Kd8 23.Qxh8 and White wins. ]

**21...bxc4 22.R1d4 Qxd6 23.Rxd6**

**cxb3 24.axb3**

**1-0**

□ Reprintsev,Alexandr

**B40**

**2275**

■ Levit,L Z

**0**

corr

1989

[Levit,L]

**1.e4 \* 1...c5 2.b3 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5**

**Nd5 5.Bb2 Nc6 6.g3 Be7 7.c4!?N**

[ 7.Bg2 Ü 23/336 ]

**7...Nc7**

[ 7...Ndb4? 8.a3± ]

**8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 d5!**

[ 9...d6?! 10.Re1 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Bf6 13.Nc3± Xb7, c5, Nc7 ]

**10.d4!? dxc4 11.bxc4 cxd4 12.Nxd4**

**Nxe5 13.Qe2!?**

[ 13.Nxe6 Nxe6 14.Bxe5 Nc5!≠ Xc4 ]

**13...f6 14.Rd1 Qe8 15.Nc3 Rb8**

**16.a4!?**

[ 16.Ncb5∞ ]

[ 16.Ndb5!/? ]

**16...a6 17.Ne4 Bd7 18.a5 Nf7!**

[Δ e5, Δ f5, Bf6] **19.Nc2! Bc6**

[ 19...e5 20.Ne3± Xd5 ]

**20.Bd4!?!=**

**B20**

□ Raahul,V S

**2252**

■ Tukhaev,Adam

**2552**

Mumbai Wealth op 5th (1)

30.12.2019

[Ris,Robert]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3**

[ 2.Nf3 González Barcina–Broadway, ICCF 2015, and thanks to the blockade on the dark–squares, Black is in good shape. e6 3.b3 and next ... h7–h5. a6 4.Bb2 d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.d4 Nf6 7.Be2 Ryder–Struzka, ICCF 2018. and with both pawns on a4 and e4 hanging, White has got into some trouble. Nc6 8.0-0! Provoking White to push both the e– and f–pawns is the point of Black's pawn sacrifice, as White can't castle kingside at the moment. cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bc5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.c4 0-0 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Bf3 Be6 14.Nc3 ( 14.Bd4! ) 14...Rc8= is just a draw. 15.Rc1? ( 15.Qd3?! is met by ) 15...d4



is just really bad. 16.Ne2 ( 16.Ne4 Smith–Roberts, ICCF 2018. and Black regained the pawn and soon a draw was agreed ) 16...d3 17.Bxf6 ( 17.Nf4 ) 17...dxe2 ( 17...gxf6 ) 18.Bxd8 exd1Q 19.Rfxd1 Bxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rxd8 22.Ke3 ]

## 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5

[ 4.e5 1/2–1/2 Monov–Nikolov, ICCF 2016. Nc6 5.f4 g5 ( 5...Nh6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.g3 0–0 8.Bg2 f6 9.0–0 fxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Nf7 12.Bb2 ) 6.Qh5 (threatening ...♙e2) gxf4 7.Na3 ( 7.Nh3 ) 7...a6 ( 7...Nge7 ) 8.0–0–0 Nge7 9.Nf3 Ng6 ]

## 4...exd5 5.Bb5+

[ 5.Nf3 Nf6 ( 5...Nc6 6.Bb5 ) 6.Bb5+ Nc6

**A) 7.Qe2+** Be7 ( 7...Qe7 8.Ne5 ) 8.Bxf6 gxf6;

**B) 7.0–0** White isn't really able to exploit his extra pawn. There are some development problems and Black is just too active, e.g. 7...Be7 8.Ne5 Qc7 9.Re1 0–0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.d3 Bd6 12.Nd2 Re8 13.Ndf3 h6 14.h3 Bf5 15.Qd2 Re6 16.Re2 LCZero v19. 1–RC2–11248–Xiphos 0.4.14, TCEC 2018, with about equality. Also possible, and perhaps simpler, is 16...Rae8 17.Rae1 Bh7 18.Kf1 R8e7 and a draw was agreed in Mantu–Laliga, ICCF 2014. 19.Ng4? Nxe4 20.hxg4? fails to Qd7 21.Be5 ]

## 5...Bd7

[ 5...Nc6 6.Qe2+ Qe7 ( 6...Be6 7.Nf3 ) 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.0–0–0= and Black regains the pawn. d4!? preventing Be3 also makes sense.

( 8...Qxe2 9.Ngxe2!? followed by ... 0–0 with sufficient compensation for the pawn. The main move here is 9...d4 though after ) 9.Bxc6+? is met by bxc6! 10.Na4 Qxe2 11.Nxe2 Ba6 12.Ba3? ( 12.Rde1! 0–0–0 13.Ba3 with comfortable play for Black. Preparing ...♗c8 and preventing White from completing development is more precise than 13...Nd7?! 14.Ng3 transposes to the game. ) 12...Nd7 and Black wins. 13.c4 ]

## 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+

[ 7...Nf6 8.0–0–0 ( 8.Nf3 d4 9.Bxd7+ Nbx7 10.Nb5? Qxe2+–+

Less precise than both 11.Kxe2 and Nd5 when Black is close, but doesn't obtain full equality yet. ) 8...Qxe2 9.Bxe2 Nc6 10.Bf3 Be6 11.Nge2 0–0–0 12.d4 Bg4 ]

[ More accurate than 7...d4 as Black should keep an eye on White's d–pawn. The most precise way to equalise is 8.Bxd7+! Nxd7 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Kc7 13.0–0–0 Qxe2 14.Nxe2 ]

**8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6! 11.Na3 dxc3! 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+** transposes to the game. **15...Kb7 16.0–0–0 Nf6 17.Ne3 Be7 18.Bf3?! Rhd8 19.Ne2 Be6 20.g4 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Rd8 22.Rxd8 Bxd8 23.g5 Nd7 24.h4 f6 25.Be4 g6 26.Kd2 fxg5 27.hxg5 Bc7 28.Nd5 Bxf4+ 29.Nexf4 Bf7 30.Ne7 Nde5 31.Nd3 Kb6 32.Nxc6 Nxc6 33.Bxc6**

1/2–1/2

**Berlinger, Gerson**  
 **Voigtlaender, Uwe**  
 corr 32.DFM/V1 23.03.2002  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nf6

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6  
 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6  
 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0  
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7  
 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5  
 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6  
 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)–  
 Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
 0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0  
 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0  
 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g  
 (2515)–Virviescas Sanchez, C (2579)  
 Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada  
 [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

### 4.Nc3N

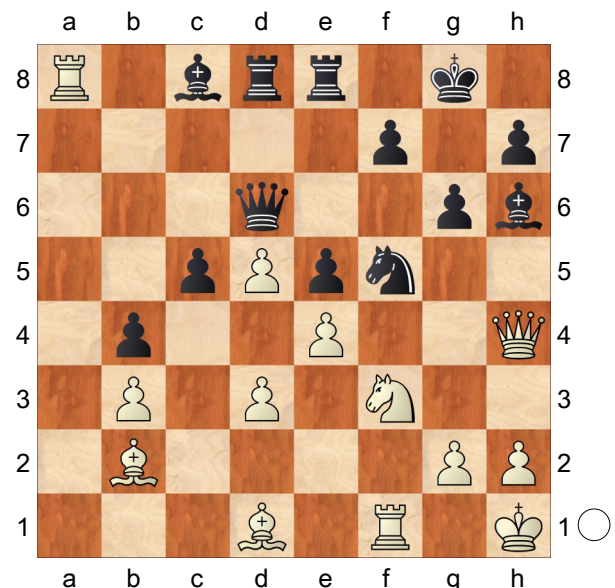
[ 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.Qh5 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6  
 7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3 e6 9.f5 exf5  
 10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2  
 d5 13.0-0 b5 14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8  
 16.Nd4 Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Kf1 Bd7  
 14.h4 b4 15.♘e2 e5 16.♙a7 (2183)–  
 Kuebler, J (2500) Chessfriend.com  
 2014 200 Traps In The Opening  
 [Evening Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/  
 1888] 0-1 (45) ]  
 [ 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3  
 ( 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5 Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4  
 9.Qxg4 Rxg4 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0  
 Bh6 12.Nd5 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3  
 Rag8 15.g3 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4

18.a5 Rh6 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7  
 10.♘e5 ♕e6 11.b3\_7650–Rogic, D  
 Belgrad 1990 Lexikon04 [Dragan  
 Solak] 1-0 (33) ) 6...Nc6 7.f4 e6  
 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7  
 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4  
 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5  
 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1  
 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns  
 [Gotham] ]

4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.f4 a6 7.Be2 e5  
 8.fxe5 The position is equal. 8...dxe5  
 9.Nf3 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0 11.d3 Nd4  
 12.Qd2 Re8 -0.03/19

[ 12...b5 ♜ -0.40/20 ]

13.Nd1!= b5 14.Ne3 Qb6 15.Kh1 Qc6  
 16.Nh4 Bf8 17.Bd1 Rad8 18.Qf2 Bc8  
 19.a4 Qe6 20.axb5 axb5 21.c4 b4  
 22.Nd5 Nxd5 23.cxd5 Qd7 24.Qg3  
 Qd6! 25.Ra7 Re7 26.Ra2 g6 27.Nf3  
 Bh6 28.Ra8 Ree8 29.Qh4 Nf5 4.47/23



### 30.exf5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06  
 (flawless) /Black=0.37

1-0

**B20**

□ **Averbukh,Alex** **2183**  
 ■ **Kotanjian,Tigran** **2500**  
 Olympiad-41 Tromsø (1.4) 02.08.2014  
*[Dave Smerdon, MH]*

This game came from the lopsided first-round Olympiad clash Japan-Armenia – which, for a long time, looked like it was going to end 2-2! **1.e4 c5 2.b3**

This continues to be a popular surprise weapon amongst GMs today. **2...d6**

[I've done a lot of analysis on 2...Nc6 in the archives. 3.Bb2 d6 ( 3...Nf6!? 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 g6<sup>∞</sup> was the recent game Morozevich, A (2731)– Nakamura, H (2775) Dubai 2014; 3...d5!? 1-0 (52) Kramnik, V (2796)– Inarkiev, E (2695) Nizhny Novgorod 2013; 3...e5?! 1-0 (43) Kramnik, V (2784)–Kobalia, M (2651) Tromsø 2013 ) 4.Bb5 Bd7 1-0 (34) Carlsen, M (2881)–Leitao, R (2645) Caxias do Sul 2014 ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bxf6!?** A little unusual, more common is to attempt to double the c-pawns! These are really great positions for players who want to drag their opponent into 'the unknown', and just play some chess.

[ 4.Bb5+ is the logical choice of Morozevich. Two recent examples: Nc6 ( 4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Qe2 e5 10.f5!? 1-0 (26) Morozevich, A (2731)–Milov, V (2622) Dubai 2014 ) 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 g6 7.Ne2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 e5 10.Ng3<sup>∞</sup> 1-0 (41) Morozevich, A (2731)– Moiseenko, A (2707) Dubai 2014 ]

**4...gxf6**

[ 4...exf6 smells fishy. 5.Nc3 Be7

6.Bc4!?<sup>∞</sup> ]

**5.Qh5!** An excellent positional move.

**5...Bg7**

[ 5...Nc6 6.Nc3 a6 and now, although the position should be level, White has been doing rather well: ( 6...Rg8!? 7.Qxh7 Rg7 8.Qh8 f5<sup>±</sup> 0-1 (50) Skorna, U (2369) –Trebizan, D (2126) ICCF 2008 )

**A) 7.f4!?** Nd4 ( 7...Bg7<sup>∞</sup> ) 8.Bd3 e6? ( 8...Rg8! 9.f5! Rxcg2 10.0-0-0→ ) 9.Nf3 Nxf3+ 10.gxf3<sup>±</sup> 1/2-1/2 (30) Brochet, P (2373)– Deepan Chakkravarthy, J (2506) Paris 2009;

**B) 7.a4** Nd4 8.Bd3 Rg8 9.Nge2! Nxe2 10.Nxe2<sup>±</sup> 0-1 (56) Toufighi, H (2454)–Negi, P (2620) Kolkata 2009 ]

**6.Nc3 Nc6 7.f4**

[ 7.Bb5!? It feels so unnatural to voluntarily cede both bishops – and yet, in the resulting structure, Black's permanent lack of a safe haven for the king seems to be at least as important a factor. a6 ( 7...Qd7!? ΔQg4 ) 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Nge2 ( 9.f4!? f5! 10.Nf3!? fxe4 11.Ng5 Rf8<sup>∞</sup> ) 9...Qd7 10.Ng3 Qg4 11.Qxg4 Bxg4 1/2-1/2 (35) Skorna, U (2420) – Carrettoni, A (2281) ICCF Email 2002 12.h3<sup>±</sup> ]

**7...Nd4?** A common mistake in these positions, as we saw above. White's bishop wants to go to d3 most of the time anyway, and now Nge2/f3 will come with tempo (of sorts).

[ 7...0-0!?<sup>∞</sup> ]

**8.Bd3<sup>±</sup> e6**

[ 8...a6!<sup>±</sup> ]

**9.f5**

[ 9.Nf3! was also very good, and

probably stronger. Bd7 ( 9...Nxf3+ 10.gxf3!± ) 10.0-0 Nxf3+ 11.Rxf3 Qe7 12.Rg3 Qf8 13.Nb5! 0-0-0 14.Qxf7± ]

**9...exf5 10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2**  
[ 12.Bxe2± ]

**12...d5 13.0-0 b5?!** Objectively weak, but Black had to try something.  
[ 13...c4 14.bxc4 dxc4 15.Bxc4 Qxd2 16.Rad1! Qxc2 17.Rd4! is also crushing. ]

**14.c3** 1.02/21  
[ The pawn could safely be taken: 14.Bxb5 Rb8 ( 14...c4 1.93/22 14...Ra8-b8 1.44 15.Nd4+- ) 15.Ba4 Ba6 16.d3 c4 17.Rf3+- ]  
[ ♠14.Bxb5 1.36/21 Rb8 15.Ba4 ]

**14...c4±**  
[ 14...Qb6! Threatens to win with ...c5-c4+. 15.Kh1 Bb7 was better, but White is still well on top after say 16.Rf4± 0.55/19 ( 16.Rf3± 0.99/20 ) ]

**15.Bc2 Re8 16.Nd4** Black's position just stinks. **16...Re5 17.Rf4**  
[ 17.Nxb5 Ba6 18.bxc4 dxc4 19.Nd4± ]

**17...Qe7 18.Kf1?!** White starts to show his rating.  
[ 18.Nf3 Re2 19.Rg4 Kh8 20.Rf1± ]

**18...Bd7 19.Rh4 h6 20.Rg4 Kh8 21.Rg3 Qf8**  
[ 21...Re8!± ]

**22.Ne2** -0.01/24  
[ 22.Nf3! Re7 23.Kg1! admits the previous mistake. White will play Rf1, Qg4, b4 and Nd4, and then have a nice long think! ]  
[ 22.Qg4± 0.76/23 ]

**22...b4** 0.59/23  
[ 22...Rae8! was more accurate. ]  
[ Black should play 22...Rae8=

-0.01/24 23.Nd4 a5 ]

**23.Qg4**  
[ 23.bxc4! dxc4 24.cxb4 Rae8 ( 24...Qxb4 1.16/23 24...a7-a5 0.56 25.Qxf7 ) 25.Nf4 Qe7 26.Qg4!± and everything is under control. ]

**23...bxc3 24.dxc3 cxb3 25.axb3 Bb5! 26.c4** 0.21/22  
[ 26.Bd3± 0.60/24 is superior. Bxd3 27.Rxd3 ]

**26...dxc4= 27.bxc4 Rae8! 28.Bd3**  
[ 28.cxb5! Rxe2 29.Bd3 R2e5 30.h4± 0.01/23 is clearly more favourable for White, although the weakness of the white king will make conversion tricky. ( 30.Qd4± 0.32/21 was preferable. ) ]

**28...Bc6 29.Nc3?** -0.40/22  
[ 29.Nf4!± ]  
[ Don't go for 29.Rxa7? Be4 30.Bxe4 Rxe4 31.Qxg7+ ( 31.Nf4? Re1+ 32.Kf2 Qc5+ 33.Kf3 Rf1# ) 31...Qxg7 32.Rxg7 Kxg7-+ ]  
[ 29.Nf4= 0.14/23 Kh7 30.c5 ]

**29...a5!♣** White has not stuck the boot in when required, and Black finally takes his chance. **30.h3** -1.03/22  
[ 30.Bc2= -0.08/23 remains equal. ]

**30...Re3** -0.35/21  
[ 30...a4♣ -1.03/22 31.Ne2 Re3 ]

**31.Rxe3!♣ Rxe3 32.Qd4**

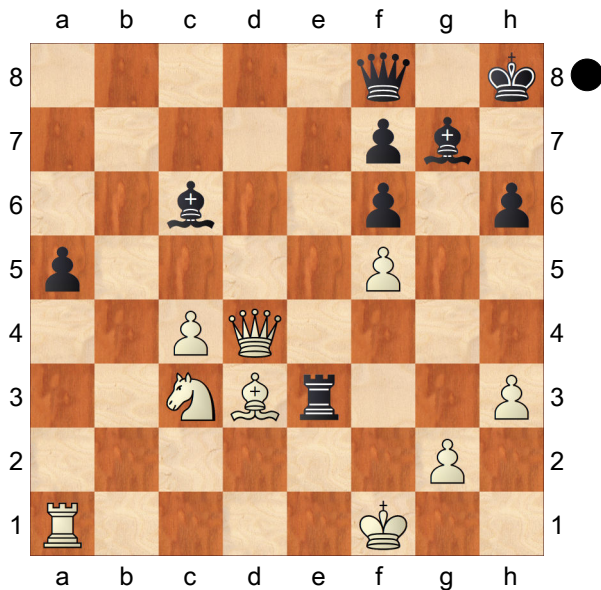
(Diagram)

**Re5!♣ 33.Nd5** -1.31/21  
[ 33.Be4♣ -0.70/20 Bxe4 34.Nxe4 ]

**33...a4!♣ 34.Be4** -1.36/22  
[ White should try 34.Nf4 -0.97/21 ]

**34...a3! 35.Bf3? Qb8??** 0.01/26  
[ 35...Qd6!♣ ΔBf8 ]  
[ Much worse is 35...Rxf5?! 36.Qd3 Bxd5 37.cxd5= ( 37.Qxf5 Bxc4+





38.Kg1 Kg8= )]

[ 35...Qd6 $\mp$  -1.60/22 Strongly threatening ...Bg7-f8. 36.g4 Bf8 ]

**36.Qd3??** -2.75/22 Ghosts!

[ 36.Rxa3! Qb1+ 37.Qd1 Qxf5 38.Ra7 and White is suddenly slightly better again, although the position remains double-edged. ]

[ 36.Rxa3= 0.01/26 Bf8 37.Ra1 ]

**36...Bf8-- 37.Rb1 Qd6 38.Qc2?**

-4.01/22

[ 38.Nf4 -2.37/21 keeps fighting. Bxf3 39.gxf3 ]

**38...Kg7 39.Rd1 Qc5 40.Qd3?**

-6.01/25

[ 40.g3 -3.29/21 ]

**40...Bxd5 41.cxd5** -6.74/26

[  $\triangle$ 41.Bxd5 -4.65/24 a2 42.Qf3 ]

**41...Bd6 42.Qb1 Qe3 43.Qd3 a2**

**44.Be2 Qxd3 45.Bxd3 Rxd5**

**0-1**

□ **Guerra Rivera, Salvador**

■ **Santos Latasa, Jaime**

Lorca op 4th (2)

[Dave Smerdon, MH]

**B20**

**2179**

**2522**

27.12.2015

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5!**

There are certainly several acceptable ways to meet 2.b3. But, as we've seen both from the games of Kramnik and notable from Morozevich with the white pieces, it's not that easy to face this sideline unprepared. Kotronias, typically suggests a very principled approach.

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink,J (2683)-11... $\text{\textcircled{W}}$ c7 12. $\text{\textcircled{B}}$ bd2 cd4

13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;

ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bc4**

[ 4.f4! is White's most dangerous move.

**A)** Black really needs to take up the challenge, although Nakamura played 4...g6!? - which led to some seriously troubling moments.

5.Nf3 d6 6.fxe5 Bg7 7.Bc4 dxe5

8.0-0 $\pm$  h6?? 9.Bxf7+!! Kxf7

10.Nxe5+- Ke8 11.Nxc6?!

( 11.Nxg6+- ) 11...Qc7 12.Ne5?

( 12.Qf3! bxc6 13.Qf2! $\pm$  ) 12...Bxe5

13.Nc3 Bd4+ 14.Kh1 Be6 15.Nb5

Qd7 16.Nxd4 cxd4 17.c3 d3

18.Qf3 0-1 (18) Stokke, K (2382) -

Nakamura, H (2715) Oslo 2009;

**B)** 4...exf4 5.Nf3! White essentially has a suped-up King's Gambit, as

b3 and Bb2 are more useful moves than ...c5. Note also the potential to use the outpost on d5. The game now gets sharp really quickly and what follows is a critical line well worth remembering. Nf6! 6.e5!! ( 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bc4 offers White a degree of compensation, but it's probably not enough. ) 6...Nh5!? ( 6...Ng4 7.Bb5!∞ ) 7.Qe2 ( 7.Bc4 d5! 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.Qe2+ Qe7 10.Qxe7+ Bxe7 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0-0 Bg4! 13.Rhf1

is an improvement over Kotronias' 13.Nd5, but admittedly Black is still a bit better. ) 7...d5 8.exd6+ Be6 9.Nc3 Bxd6 10.0-0-0! Nf6!! 11.d4! cxd4 12.Nb5!N

(Please note that this is Kotronias' novelty, not mine! This is a superb bit of analysis by him) Qe7!

(The only equaliser) ( 12...0-0 13.Nfxd4 Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Bd5 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Qd2± ) 13.Nfxd4 Bb4! 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Nd4 Bd7 16.Qxe7+ Kxe7 and now (the only, very small, improvement I could find) perhaps White's best practical chance is 17.a3!? because Black still is a tiny bit uncomfortable after say Bc5 18.Re1+ Kd8 19.Bc4 ]

**4...Nf6** After all the excitement of the last note, this all seems a bit of a letdown now!

[ 4...d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move alternatives Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec

96] ]

**5.d3N** "...merits serious consideration", writes Kotronias.

[ 5.Nc3 d6 6.d3 a6 7.a4 g6 8.Nge2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 Rb8 11.f4 exf4 12.Nxf4 Nd7 13.Qc1 Nde5 14.Bd5 Bd7 15.Qd2 Qg5 16.Bc1 Nb4 17.Nce2 Qh4 18.Rb1 g5 19.c3 gxf4 10.♙e3 13.a4 h5 14.a5\_7543-10. Rg1!? 95: Internet (blitz) 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [Kotov,A] 0-1 (62) ]

**5...d5! 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3**

[ 7.Nc3N is another good novelty from Kotronias. Nb6! 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Qe2?! -0.32/20 (It's strange that Kotronias doesn't consider any other moves other than one that he marks as dubious. On the other hand, White can't really claim an advantage after 9.Nf3 f6 10.Nd2; 9.Nf3= 0.08/21 deserves consideration. ) 9...Nd4!⌘ ]

**7...f6!N** Another novelty of Kotronias!

**8.h3** The position is equal.

[ 8.0-0! Bg4! ( 8...Be7 9.Nc3 Nb6 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Nd2∞ ) 9.Nc3 Nb6 10.Bb5 Rc8 11.h3 Bh5∞ I think this is a fair assessment. On the other hand, it seems to me that this is a good advertisement for 2.b3, seeing as White has a choice between 4.f4 (which leads to a forced draw in Kotronias' main line) and this variation, in which White can safely play for more. Regular readers will know that I'm a big fan of having variations in one's repertoire in which one has the choice of taking a draw or playing on, depending on the game situation. E.g. here, 12.a4!? next a4-a5 is good for White. a6 13.Bxc6+ Rxc6 14.Ne4 with plenty of life in the position.

White might consider Ng3 and Nh4 followed by one of the knights to f5 and perhaps Qg4 in the future. ]

**8...Be6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Re1 Qd7=**

**11.c3?! -0.96/21** Not very logical with a Bb2 setup.

[ 11.Nc3= ]

[ 11.Nc3= -0.17/21 ]

**11...0-0-0 12.d4 cxd4 13.cxd4 Bb4** -0.56/22

[ 13...Nf4! ]

[ 13...Nf4 -0.92/22 14.Nbd2 Bxc4 15.Nxc4 Qf5 ]

**14.Nbd2 Nf4 -0.38/22**

[ 14...Nc7! -0.70/21 ]

**15.a3 Ba5** White must now prevent ...Be6xc4.

[ 15...Bxh3! 16.axb4 Bxg2→ ]

**16.b4 Bb6**

[ 16...Bxh3!→ -0.01/21 16...Ba5-b6 -0.59 with a huge attack. ]

**17.Qb3 Rhe8**

[ 17...Bxh3!! -0.01/21 17...Rh8-e8 -0.75 ]

**18.a4 -1.29/23**

[ 18.Bxe6! -0.59/19 Qxe6 19.dxe5 ]

**18...Kb8 -0.90/16**

0x0.0022ee2db6a6dp-1022s more active pieces.

[ 18...Bxh3!! -0.72/21 18...Nc6xd4 -1.21 Okay, you get the idea, right? ]

[ Inferior is 18...exd4 19.Bxe6 Rxe6 20.Rxe6 Qxe6 21.Qxe6+ Nxe6 22.b5 ]

[ Black should try 18...Bxd4 -1.29/23 19.b5 Na5 20.Bxe6 Nxb3 21.Bxd7+ Rxd7 22.Nxb3 Bxb2 ]

**19.Ne4 -1.43/24**

[ 19...Bxe6 -0.90/16 Qxe6 20.dxe5 ]

**19...Bxc4**

[ 19...Bxh3! -0.74/22 19...Be6xc4 -1.47 Fifth time lucky? Oh well the text

also wins now. ]

[ And not 19...exd4 20.a5 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 ]

**20.Qxc4 Nxd4+ 21.Bxd4 Bxd4→**

Black wants a kill.

[ 21...exd4 22.a5 Bc7 23.Nc5 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 ]

**22.Rad1 -1.77/23**

[ 22.Nxd4 -1.40/24 Qxd4 23.Rac1 ]

**22...Ne6 -1.07/22**

[ Better is 22...Qxa4+ -1.77/23

aiming for ...Rd8-c8. 23.Nxd4 exd4 ]

**23.Nxd4 Nxd4 24.Nc5 Qd5 25.Qxd5**

**Rxd5 26.f3 -1.82/27**

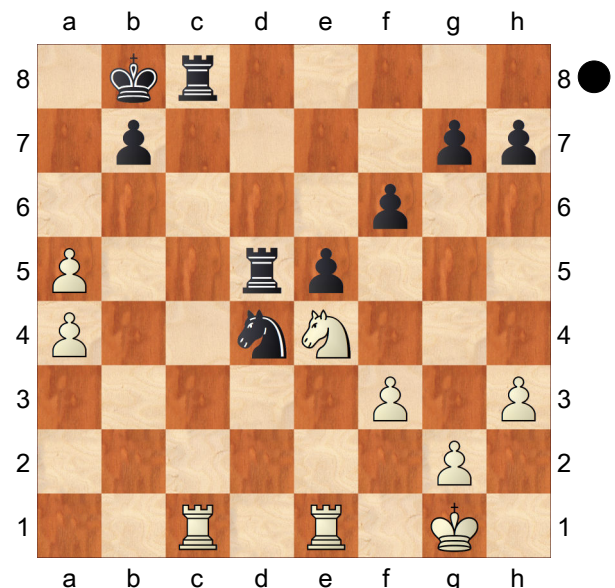
[ 26.Kh2 -1.38/22 was necessary. ]

**26...a5 27.bxa5 Red8**

[ Stronger than 27...Rxc5 28.Rxd4 Rec8 29.Rb4 ]

**28.Rc1 Rc8 29.Ne4 -7.69/24**

[ 29.Nd3 -2.10/23 ]



**29...Rxc1 30.Rxc1 Ne2+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/  
Black=0.09 (flawless)

**0-1**

**B30**

☐ **Souza Neves,Andrey Marcelo** **2166**  
☒ **Guimaraes,Wagner Peixoto** **2320**  
 BRA-ch Brasilia (8) 25.01.2000  
*[Lane]*

**1.e4** Lane,Gary **1...c5** **2.b3** **Nf6** **3.e5**  
**Nd5** **4.Bb2** **Nc6** **5.Nf3** **Nc7** **6.Ng5**  
 [ 6.g3 d5 7.Bg2 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4  
 0-0 10.dxc5 Lane,Gary: 'perhaps'  
 (perhaps 10.c3!?) 10...Bxc5  
 11.Nbd2 b5 12.c4 bxc4 13.bxc4  
 Ba6 14.Qa4 Qd7 15.cxd5 Nxe5  
 16.Qc2 Nxf3+ 17.Nxf3 Bxf1 18.Ng5  
 Bd3 19.Qxd3 f5 20.Qc3 Qe7  
 21.Nxe6 Nxe6 22.dxe6 Rac8  
 and Black was winning in K.Honfi-M.  
 Ivakhin,Budapest 1995. Lane,Gary:  
 'and Black was winning in K.Honfi-M.  
 Ivakhin,Budapest 1995.' ]

**6...Ne6**  
 [ 6...h6 is the obvious reply but Lane,  
 Gary: 'is the obvious reply but' 7.Qh5  
 is dangerous for Black g6 8.e6!  
 A star move. dxe6 9.Qf3 hxg5  
 10.Bxh8 f6 11.Bd3 Ne5 12.Bxg6+  
 Kd7 13.Qh5 Nxg6 14.Qxg6 Nd5  
 15.h4 Qc7 16.Nc3 Qe5+ 17.Kf1 b6  
 18.hxg5 Bb7 19.gxf6 exf6 20.Rh5  
 Qd4 21.Re1 Be7 22.Nxd5 Bxd5  
 23.c4 Bc6 24.Rh7 Rf8 25.Re3  
 1-0 A. Maier-B. Ivakhin, Budapest  
 1995. Lane,Gary: '1-0 A. Maier-B.  
 Ivakhin, Budapest 1995.' ]

**7.h4** An intriguing position has reached  
 after just seven moves. Black has a  
 solid position but White is willing to take  
 a few risks to seek aggressive play.  
 Lane,Gary: 'An intriguing position has  
 reached after just seven moves. Black  
 has a solid position but White is willing  
 to take a few risks to seek aggressive

play.' **7...Qc7**  
 [ 7...Nxg5 8.hxg5 Qc7 9.f4  
 gives White the slightly better  
 prospects thanks to the semi-open h-  
 file. Lane,Gary: 'gives White the  
 slightly better prospects thanks to the  
 semi-open h-file.' ]

**8.Qf3** There are no prizes for spotting  
 the threat 9 Qxf7+. **8...Nxe5** **9.Qf5**  
**Nxg5**

[ 9...f6 10.Nxh7 g6 11.Bxe5 Qxe5+  
 12.Qxe5 fxe5 13.Nxf8 Kxf8 14.Nc3  
 leads to a level position. Lane,Gary:  
 'leads to a level position.' ]

**10.hxg5 d6** **11.Bb5+** **Bd7** **12.Rxh7**  
 A curious position has arisen. White  
 has made a big effort to use the h-file  
 for his rook and been rewarded with the  
 h7 pawn. However, part of the process  
 included giving up the e5 pawn so  
 Black should still be fine. Lane,Gary: 'A  
 curious position has arisen. White has  
 made a big effort to use the h-file for his  
 rook and been rewarded with the h7  
 pawn.However, part of the process  
 included giving up the e5 pawn so Black  
 should still be fine.' **12...Rxh7** **13.Bxd7+**  
**Qxd7** **14.Qxh7** **Ng6** Guimaraes has  
 managed to cope with the attacking  
 ambitions of White fairly well because  
 he is now poised to castle queenside to  
 secure the king. Lane,Gary: 'Guimaraes  
 has managed to cope with the attacking  
 ambitions of White fairly well because he  
 is now poised to castle queenside to  
 secure the king.' **15.Na3** Lane,Gary:  
 'White tries to catch up with  
 development instead of pawn grabbing  
 with'

[White tries to catch up with  
 development instead of pawn  
 grabbing with 15.Bxg7 Qg4 16.Bxf8



Qe4+ 17.Kf1 Qxc2 18.Nc3 ( 18.Bg7 Qd1# ) 18...Kxf8 and Black is better.  
Lane,Gary: 'and Black is better.' ]

### 15...Qg4 16.f3?

[ 16.Qh3 is better. For instance: Qxg5 17.Nb5 Nf4 18.Qf3 Rb8 19.g3 Ne6 20.Nxa7 with a doubled-edged game. ]

**16...Qg3+ 17.Kf1** I think a god guess would be that White assumed he could struggle on after 17...Nf4 with 18 Qh1 but missed the actual move in the game.  
Lane,Gary: 'I think a god guess would be that White assumed he could struggle on after 17...Nf4 with 18 Qh1 but missed the actual move in the game.' **17...Nh4 0-1**

**B30**

### □ Queenside Fianchetto

### ■ B3

Sicilians ChessPub Guide 18.08.2017  
[ChessPublishing.com]

### 1.e4 c5 2.b3

[ 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 This move often transposes, many of the games will be found in [B40] Nc6 ( 3...d6! By no means the only move, but probably the most reliable answer. 4.Bb2 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7! Rendle, T-Rowson,J/Blackpool 2005.; 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bb2 Be7 6.c4 Nc7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Ne4 Ne8 9.Bd3 As usual in the opening White has the choice of developing the white squared bishop in pursuit of the attack. Nc6 10.Qe2 This a good way of keeping Black guessing because now White can quickly castle on either side. b6 11.h4 the advance of

the h-pawn can be a way of softening up Black's kingside pawn barrier. It can allow White to play a knight to g5 and if taken it can be replaced with the h-pawn, Fogarasi, T-Medvegy,N/Budapest 2003. ) 4.Bb2 d5 ( 4...d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 e5!/? Black wishes to block the a1-h8 diagonal and get rid of the knight from it's central outpost on d4, Vozovic,O-Novak,K/Balatonlelle 2002 ) 5.Bb5 dxe4 ( 5...Nge7 Plaskett,J-Navara,D/Birmingham ENG 2006, when 6.Ne5!/? is interesting ) 6.Ne5 Qg5?! tempting but wrong 7.0-0 Bd7 8.Nxd7 Kxd7 the king looks pretty silly and Black is already worse having given up the right to castle, Ivanov,A-Khmelnitsky,I/Parsippany 1996. ]

**2...Nc6** Black has a large choice of setups, and it is not yet clear which is best. Others:

[ 2...d6 3.Bb2 ( 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 is Morozevich,A-Baklan,V/Mainz 2004 ) 3...Nf6 ( 3...a6!/? prevents Bb5 ideas, 4.f4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 Repkova, E-Hou Yifan/Dresden GER 2008 )

### **A) 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 ( 4...Bd7**

Mamedyarov, S-Van Wely,L/Wijk aan Zee 2008 ) 5.d3 g6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 The advance of the f-pawn is a standard idea in lines with 2 b3 because it helps to prevent ..e7-e5. Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 d5! the timing has to be right before Black challenges the centre. In this case, White has spotted that the opportunity has arisen. Gelashvili,T-Vladimirov,E/United Arab Emirates 2002.;

**B)** 4.Bxf6!? gxf6 5.Qh5!

an excellent positional move, Nc6 ( 5...Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 Averbukh,A-Kotanjian,T/Tromso NOR 2014. ) 6.Nc3 a6 Toufighi,H-Negi,P/ Kolkata IND 2009.;

**C)** 4.Nc3

**C1)** 4...g6 this seems needlessly provocative, 5.Nd5 ( 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nge2

is an unambitious approach: e5 8.0-0 Nc6 when Black can now consider the plan of ...Nh5 and ... f7-f5, Georgiev,K-Gochev,M/ Halkidiki GRE 2007 ) 5...Nbd7 6.Bb5 Rowson,J-Shaw,J/ Exhibition 2003;

**C2)** 4...Nc6 5.Bb5 ( 5.f4 might be more accurate here, waiting to see Black's next move before committing the bishop on f1. ) 5...Bd7 ( 5...g6!? 6.Nd5 Bg7 7.Nxf6+ exf6 Hague,B-Palliser,R/Bradford 2009 ) 6.f4 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2 e6 ( 8...d5! Black has played the opening in a very principled manner, Navara, D-Bu Xiangzhi/Turin ITA 2006. ) 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0!? Carlsen,M-Leitao,R/ Caxias do Sul 2014. ]

[ 2...b6!? This move cannot be bad, but in the resulting positions there is every reason to think that White has chances to be better because all he is doing really is developing his pieces quite actively and gaining space.

**A)** 3.f4 White wishes to control the e5 squares so that his bishop on b2 will not be blocked in by a black pawn. Of course, it also helps to

develop the kingside in an aggressive manner. Bb7 4.Nc3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bb2? (Interesting is 6.Bc4 when Bxe4 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Kf8 9.Ngxe4 Nc6 offers equal chances. ) 6...Bxe4 Black takes advantage of the pin on a1-h8 diagonal to win a pawn, Bondarev,B-Beshukov,S/ Krasnodar 1997.;

**B)** 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 White adopts a slow development strategy. It is a safe choice but hardly expected to become the latest fashion.

**B1)** 4...d6 5.Nf3 ( 5.f4 a6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.0-0-0 is Sedlak,N-Palac,M/Turin ITA 2006 ) 5...Nf6 6.d4!?

An imaginative sacrifice. Nxe4 (Taking the pawn with the bishop walks into a nice trap upon 6...Bxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.Bb5+ Nd7 9.Bc6 winning material. ) 7.Bb5+ Nd7 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Ng5 gave White a strong initiative in Georgiev,K-Ermenkov,E/Albena 1985.;

**B2)** 4...Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 preparing ...d7-d5 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5 an aggressive system which is only occasionally employed, Dede,E-Herman,T/Aggtelek 1999.;

**B3)** 4...e6

**B3a)** 5.f4 a6 Black wants to advance his d-pawn but first of all wishes to cancel out the possibility of a check on b5 with the white squared bishop. ( 5...Nc6 6.Nf3 Nd4 7.Bd3 Rapport,R-Mista,A/ Palic 2014. ) 6.Nf3 d5 7.d3

( 7.exd5 exd5 8.Qe2+ Ne7 9.d4 with roughly equal chances. ) 7...Nf6 8.e5 Short relieves the pressure on the e4 pawn by advancing it. The pawn structure now resembles a sort of French Defence. Nfd7 9.g3 Nc6 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 Nb6 Black rightly prepares the advance c4 to engineer active play on the queenside. This is because White will seek to advance on the kingside in an effort to take advantage of the black pieces being on the queenside, Short,N-Svidler,P/ Moscow RUS 2002.;

**B3b)** 5.Nf3 This position can also occur after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 b3 and might also be found under the ECO code of B40, or A01 after 1 b3! 5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 a6 ( 7...Nd7 8.Bc4! The basic idea is to sacrifice the bishop on e6 at some point. Ngf6 9.Qe2 a6 10.0-0-0 White has smoothly developed his pieces and is ready to start attacking. In contrast, Black still needs time to activate his forces, Kavalek,L-Hracek,Z/Ceska Trebova 1998. ) 8.Bd3 ( 8.Bc4 b5 9.Bxe6! White is much better. For example: fxe6 10.Nxe6 Qa5 11.Nxf8 Kxf8 12.Qxd6+ Ne7 13.b4 wins.; 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.g4 the advance of the g-pawn is designed to upset routine

development by Black, Negulescu, A-Waitzkin,J/New York 1999. ) 8...Nd7 9.Qe2 Ngf6 10.f4 Qc7 11.0-0-0 White declares he is ready to attack by getting his king to safety. The idea would be to advance the central pawns as a way to provoke concessions. ( 11.0-0 b5 12.Nf3 Be7 offers equal chances. )

**B3b1)** 11...b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.g5 b4 14.gxf6 bxc3 15.Bxc3 gxf6 16.Kb2 Rc8 17.Qe1 when Black has the better chances, Kristof,P-Magossy,I/HUN 1998.

( 17.Kb1 is a safer alternative. );

**B3b2)** 11...Nc5 12.Rhe1 Be7 13.g4 with double-edged play, Klasmeier, J-Wegener,O/Ruhrgebiet 1998. ]

[ 2...d5?! is probably wrong, simply because it loses too much time, 3.exd5 Qxd5 ( 3...Nf6 is a doubtful gambit: 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.c4! a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.Bb2 e6 8.dxe6 Bxe6 9.Nf3 Qd7 10.0-0 0-0-0 11.d4 cxd4 12.Qxd4± Dvirnyy,D-Miatello,A/Verona ITA 2007 ) 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2! intending long castles, Bauer,C-Wirig, A/Nancy FRA 2005. ]

[ 2...g6! a principled and gutsy reply, attempting to neutralize the bishop on b2, and the reason Magnus Carlsen lost interest in this line for White. 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 ( 4.h4!? Nc6 5.h5 d6 6.Bb5 e5! Motylev,A-Potkin, V/ Yaroslavl 2014.; 4.Bxf6!? exf6 5.Nc3

Bg7 6.Bc4 0-0 see Senders, M-Reinderman,D/Netherlands 2016. ) 4...Nd5 5.e6 ( 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.e6 f6 7.Bb5 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.exd7 Bxd7 10.Bxd7 Qxd7 11.0-0 e5

Black has emerged with the slightly better position due to his extra space, Short,N-Nielsen,P/ playchess.com INT 2004.; 5.Qf3!? Nb4! Kabanov,N-Navara,D/FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk 2011.; 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.h4 d5!? Andreikin, D-Vachier Lagrave,M/Dortmund 2017.; 5.h4!? Navara,D-Wojtaszek,R/Huaiian 2016. ) 5...f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nc6 Aravindh,C-Carlsen,M/Doha 2015. ]

### 3.Bb2 Nf6

[ 3...d6

**A)** 4.Bb5 Bd7 ( 4...e5 5.f4 g5!? Vukovic, Z-Aldrovandi,C/Saint Vincent 2000 ) 5.f4 e5 6.Nf3 exf4 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Nc3 Ng6 9.Nd5 Nce7 10.a4! an important move. Black should be made to weaken the b6 square before White agrees to the exchange of bishops, see Shaw, J-Shneider, A/Cappelle la Grande FRA 2006;

**B)** 4.f4 White's set-up is a calm, straight-forward line that should not really trouble Black. 4...e6 5.Nf3 ( 5.g3 White wants to fianchetto on the kingside which is an echo of the set-up employed in the Closed Sicilian. Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.e5 Nd5 9.a3 b5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Ne5 Bb7 12.c4 bxc4 13.bxc4 Nf6 14.0-0 White catches up with development but his queenside pieces are also undervalued,

Bochkarev,A-Nogin,N/ Kiev 1998 ) 5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.g3

Short is well known to be fond of the Closed Sicilian so it is no surprise that he favours a kingside fianchetto. (Also possible: 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Qe2 a6 11.a4 b6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Bb7 15.b4 Rac8 16.b5 a5 17.g4?! d5!

Black sensibly greets a wing attack by trying to open the centre as a way of exposing the white king Navone,N-Vujovic,M, Mendrisio 1989; 7.Bd3!? A fairly unusual move that is designed for a kingside attack. The idea is that the e-pawn will be advance unleashing the king's bishop. 0-0 8.Qe2 a6 Black wants to advance the queenside pawns. 9.0-0-0 with double-edged play, Barnes,S-Freel,L/England 2000 ) 7...e5 8.fxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bb5+ gave White an edge in Short,N-Kosten,A/Birmingham 2002. ]

[ 3...e5 This is the first reaction of many players on seeing 2 b3 for the first time, and the recommendation of Kotronias – an attempt to blunt the bishop on b2. However, it seems to give White a pleasant position, and the bishop on b2 still has a future due to the prospect of f2-f4. 4.Bc4

**A)** 4...d6 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4!? exf4 6.Qf3 is very coffeehouse! Short,N-Ramanth,B/ch-Commonwealth Nagpur IND 2008 ) 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4!? Nge7! is a cunning answer to White's early aggression, Rowson,J-Savage,B/Training LCC



2006;

**B) 4...Nf6 5.d3 d6 ( 5...d5! 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3 f6! A novelty from Kotronias, Guerra Rivera,S-Santos Latasa,J/ Lorca 2015. ) 6.Nc3 Be7 ( 6...a6 7.a4 g6! Tony Kosten-Rajilich/Freestyle 2006, when 8.Nd5 is interesting ) 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 a6 9.a4 Nd4 ( 9...Rb8 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.a5 led to a brilliant White win in Gelashvili,T-Gassanov,A/ Baku AZE 2007 ) 10.f4 ( 10.h3 Be6 11.f4 with a pleasant edge, Short, N-Prasad,D/Mumbai 2004. ) 10...b6!? Kramnik,V-Kobalia,M/ WorldCup 2013. ]**

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0

Short,N-Topalov,V/ Sarajevo 2000, when I think White should consider keeping the tension for as long as possible by 9.Qe2 ]

[ 3...d5 is rare, 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qe5+ 6.Qe2 White's lead in development and fewer pawn weaknesses guarantee a small but stable endgame advantage, Kramnik, V-Inarkiev,E/Nizhny Novgorod RUS 2013. ]

**4.e5** Obviously critical, White gains space and kicks the knight, but it blocks the a1-h8 diagonal.

[Meanwhile 4.Nc3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Bb5 is a more standard way of developing the White pieces and he may be able to claim a small edge, Kosten,A-Marchal,C/Metz FRA 2007. ]

**4...Nd5 5.Nf3 d6**

[ 5...Nc7 6.Ng5 Ne6 7.h4  
An intriguing position has reached

after just seven moves. Black has a solid position but White is willing to take a few risks to seek aggressive play. Qc7 8.Qf3 There are no prizes for spotting the threat 9.Qxf7+. Nxe5 9.Qf5 Nxc5 10.hxc5 d6 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Rxh7 a curious position, Souza Neves,A-Guimaraes,W/ Brasilia 2000. ]

[ 5...e6 6.g3 g6!? A very instructive way to develop- targeting e5, and simply planning to play ...Bg7 and ...d6, without allowing the bishop on b2 to become a monster. ( 6...b6 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 Georgiev,K-Velikov,P/ Aubervilliers, France 2000 ) 7.Na3 Bg7 8.Nc4 0-0 9.Bg2 b6 10.0-0 Ba6 and Black won by instructive play, De la Riva Aguado, O-Ponomarev,R/Pamplona ESP 2005. ]

**6.Bb5**

[ 6.Bc4 dxe5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxe5 e6 9.Nc3 Spassky, B-Sosonko,G/ Tilburg 1978, when Ftacnik suggests Bd6! ]

**6...Bg4 7.h3** When a world-class player plays a line that has been relatively less analysed it is always interesting to see what new approach he has in mind. In this case, Short chooses to immediately question Black on where he wants to move the light-squared bishop. **7...Bh5**

**8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6**

**11.Qd2** White has emerged from the opening with a simple plan of rapid development and the opportunity to tuck away the king safely on the queenside, Short, N-Thorfinnsson,B/ Open Reykjavik 2000.

**B30**

□ **Queenside Fianchetto**

■ **2 b3**

Sicilians ChessPub Guide 18.08.2017  
[ChessPublishing.com]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3**

[ 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 This move often transposes, many of the games will be found in [B40] Nc6 ( 3...d6! By no means the only move, but probably the most reliable answer. 4.Bb2 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7! Rendle, T-Rowson,J/Blackpool 2005.; 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bb2 Be7 6.c4 Nc7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Ne4 Ne8 9.Bd3 As usual in the opening White has the choice of developing the white squared bishop in pursuit of the attack. Nc6 10.Qe2 This a good way of keeping Black guessing because now White can quickly castle on either side. b6 11.h4 the advance of the h-pawn can be a way of softening up Black's kingside pawn barrier. It can allow White to play a knight to g5 and if taken it can be replaced with the h-pawn, Fogarasi, T-Medvegy,N/Budapest 2003. ) 4.Bb2 d5 ( 4...d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 e5!? Black wishes to block the a1-h8 diagonal and get rid of the knight from it's central outpost on d4, Vozovic,O-Novak,K/Balatonlelle 2002 ) 5.Bb5 dxe4 ( 5...Nge7 Plaskett,J-Navara,D/ Birmingham ENG 2006, when 6.Ne5!? is interesting ) 6.Ne5 Qg5?! tempting but wrong 7.0-0 Bd7 8.Nxd7 Kxd7 the king looks pretty silly and Black is already worse having given up the right to castle, Ivanov,A-Khmelnitsky,I/Parsippany

1996. ]

**2...Nc6** Black has a large choice of setups, and it is not yet clear which is best. Others:

[ 2...d6 3.Bb2 ( 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 is Morozevich,A-Baklan,V/ Mainz 2004 ) 3...Nf6 ( 3...a6!? prevents Bb5 ideas, 4.f4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 Repkova, E-Hou Yifan/Dresden GER 2008 )

**A) 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 ( 4...Bd7**

Mamedyarov, S-Van Wely,L/Wijk aan Zee 2008 ) 5.d3 g6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 The advance of the f-pawn is a standard idea in lines with 2 b3 because it helps to prevent .. e7-e5. Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 d5! the timing has to be right before Black challenges the centre. In this case, White has spotted that the opportunity has arisen.

Gelashvili,T-Vladimirov,E/United Arab Emirates 2002.;

**B) 4.Bxf6!? gxf6 5.Qh5!**

an excellent positional move, Nc6 ( 5...Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 Averbukh,A-Kotanjian,T/Tromso NOR 2014. ) 6.Nc3 a6 Toufighi,H-Negi,P/ Kolkata IND 2009.;

**C) 4.Nc3**

**C1) 4...g6** this seems needlessly provocative, 5.Nd5 ( 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nge2

is an unambitious approach: e5 8.0-0 Nc6 when Black can now consider the plan of ...Nh5 and ... f7-f5, Georgiev,K-Gochev,M/ Halkidiki GRE 2007 ) 5...Nbd7 6.Bb5 Rowson,J-Shaw,J/ Exhibition 2003;

**C2) 4...Nc6 5.Bb5 ( 5.f4**

might be more accurate here,

waiting to see Black's next move before committing the bishop on f1. ) 5...Bd7 ( 5...g6!? 6.Nd5 Bg7 7.Nxf6+ exf6

Hague,B-Palliser,R/Bradford 2009 ) 6.f4 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2 e6 ( 8...d5! Black has played the opening in a very principled manner, Navara, D-Bu Xiangzhi/Turin ITA 2006. ) 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0!? Carlsen,M-Leitao,R/ Caxias do Sul 2014. ]

[ 2...b6!? This move cannot be bad, but in the resulting positions there is every reason to think that White has chances to be better because all he is doing really is developing his pieces quite actively and gaining space.

**A) 3.f4** White wishes to control the e5 squares so that his bishop on b2 will not be blocked in by a black pawn. Of course, it also helps to develop the kingside in an aggressive manner. Bb7 4.Nc3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bb2? (Interesting is 6.Bc4 when Bxe4 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Kf8 9.Ngxe4 Nc6 offers equal chances. ) 6...Bxe4 Black takes advantage of the pin on a1-h8 diagonal to win a pawn, Bondarev,B-Beshukov,S/Krasnodar 1997.;

**B) 3.Bb2** Bb7 4.Nc3 White adopts a slow development strategy. It is a safe choice but hardly expected to become the latest fashion.

**B1) 4...d6** 5.Nf3 ( 5.f4 a6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.0-0-0 is Sedlak,N-Palac,M/Turin ITA 2006 ) 5...Nf6 6.d4!? An imaginative sacrifice. Nxe4

(Taking the pawn with the bishop walks into a nice trap upon 6...Bxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.Bb5+ Nd7 9.Bc6 winning material. ) 7.Bb5+ Nd7 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Ng5 gave White a strong initiative in Georgiev,K-Ermenkov,E/Albena 1985.;

**B2) 4...Nc6** 5.Nf3 e6 preparing ...d7-d5 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5 an aggressive system which is only occasionally employed, Dede,E-Herman,T/Aggtelek 1999.;

**B3) 4...e6**

**B3a) 5.f4** a6 Black wants to advance his d-pawn but first of all wishes to cancel out the possibility of a check on b5 with the white squared bishop. ( 5...Nc6 6.Nf3 Nd4 7.Bd3 Rapport,R-Mista,A/Palic 2014. ) 6.Nf3 d5 7.d3 ( 7.exd5 exd5 8.Qe2+ Ne7 9.d4 with roughly equal chances. ) 7...Nf6 8.e5 Short relieves the pressure on the e4 pawn by advancing it. The pawn structure now resembles a sort of French Defence. Nfd7 9.g3 Nc6 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 Nb6 Black rightly prepares the advance c4 to engineer active play on the queenside. This is because White will seek to advance on the kingside in an effort to take advantage of the black pieces being on the queenside, Short,N-Svidler,P/Moscow RUS 2002.;

**B3b) 5.Nf3** This position can

also occur after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 b3 and might also be found under the ECO code of B40, or A01 after 1 b3! 5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 a6 ( 7...Nd7 8.Bc4! The basic idea is to sacrifice the bishop on e6 at some point. Ngf6 9.Qe2 a6 10.0-0-0 White has smoothly developed his pieces and is ready to start attacking. In contrast, Black still needs time to activate his forces, Kavalek, L-Hracek, Z/Ceska Trebova 1998. ) 8.Bd3 ( 8.Bc4 b5 9.Bxe6! White is much better. For example: fxe6 10.Nxe6 Qa5 11.Nxf8 Kxf8 12.Qxd6+ Ne7 13.b4 wins.; 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.g4 the advance of the g-pawn is designed to upset routine development by Black, Negulescu, A-Waitzkin, J/New York 1999. ) 8...Nd7 9.Qe2 Ngf6 10.f4 Qc7 11.0-0-0 White declares he is ready to attack by getting his king to safety. The idea would be to advance the central pawns as a way to provoke concessions. ( 11.0-0 b5 12.Nf3 Be7 offers equal chances. )

**B3b1)** 11...b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.g5 b4 14.gxf6 bxc3 15.Bxc3 gxf6 16.Kb2 Rc8 17.Qe1 when Black has the better chances, Kristof, P-Magossy, I/HUN 1998. ( 17.Kb1 is a safer alternative. );

**B3b2)** 11...Nc5 12.Rhe1 Be7 13.g4 with double-edged play, Klasmeier, J-Wegener, O/Ruhrgebiet 1998. ]

[ 2...d5?! is probably wrong, simply because it loses too much time, 3.exd5 Qxd5 ( 3...Nf6 is a doubtful gambit: 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.c4! a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.Bb2 e6 8.dxe6 Bxe6 9.Nf3 Qd7 10.0-0 0-0-0 11.d4 cxd4 12.Qxd4± Dvirnyy, D-Miatello, A/Verona ITA 2007 ) 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2! intending long castles, Bauer, C-Wirig, A/Nancy FRA 2005. ]

[ 2...g6! a principled and gutsy reply, attempting to neutralize the bishop on b2, and the reason Magnus Carlsen lost interest in this line for White. 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 ( 4.h4!? Nc6 5.h5 d6 6.Bb5 e5! Motylev, A-Potkin, V/Yaroslavl 2014.; 4.Bxf6!? exf6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Bc4 0-0 see Senders, M-Reinderman, D/Netherlands 2016. ) 4...Nd5 5.e6 ( 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.e6 f6 7.Bb5 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.exd7 Bxd7 10.Bxd7 Qxd7 11.0-0 e5

Black has emerged with the slightly better position due to his extra space, Short, N-Nielsen, P/ playchess.com INT 2004.; 5.Qf3!? Nb4! Kabanov, N-Navara, D/FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk 2011.; 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.h4 d5!? Andreikin, D-Vachier Lagrave, M/Dortmund 2017.; 5.h4!? Navara, D-Wojtaszek, R/Huaian 2016. ) 5...f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nc6 Aravindh, C-Carlsen, M/Doha 2015. ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...d6



**A) 4.Bb5** Bd7 ( 4...e5 5.f4 g5!? Vukovic, Z–Aldrovandi,C/Saint Vincent 2000 ) 5.f4 e5 6.Nf3 exf4 7.0–0 Nge7 8.Nc3 Ng6 9.Nd5 Nce7 10.a4! an important move. Black should be made to weaken the b6 square before White agrees to the exchange of bishops, see Shaw, J–Shneider, A/Cappelle la Grande FRA 2006;

**B) 4.f4** White's set-up is a calm, straight-forward line that should not really trouble Black. 4...e6 5.Nf3 ( 5.g3 White wants to fianchetto on the kingside which is an echo of the set-up employed in the Closed Sicilian. Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.Nf3 0–0 8.e5 Nd5 9.a3 b5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Ne5 Bb7 12.c4 bxc4 13.bxc4 Nf6 14.0–0 White catches up with development but his queenside pieces are also undervalued, Bochkarev,A–Nogin,N/ Kiev 1998 ) 5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.g3 Short is well known to be fond of the Closed Sicilian so it is no surprise that he favours a kingside fianchetto. (Also possible: 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Qe2 a6 11.a4 b6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Bb7 15.b4 Rac8 16.b5 a5 17.g4?! d5! Black sensibly greets a wing attack by trying to open the centre as a way of exposing the white king Navone,N–Vujovic,M, Mendrisio 1989; 7.Bd3!? A fairly unusual move that is designed for a kingside attack. The idea is that the e-pawn will be advance unleashing the king's bishop. 0–0

8.Qe2 a6 Black wants to advance the queenside pawns. 9.0–0–0 with double-edged play, Barnes,S–Freel,L/England 2000 ) 7...e5 8.fxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bb5+ gave White an edge in Short,N–Kosten,A/Birmingham 2002. ]

[ 3...e5 This is the first reaction of many players on seeing 2 b3 for the first time, and the recommendation of Kotronias – an attempt to blunt the bishop on b2. However, it seems to give White a pleasant position, and the bishop on b2 still has a future due to the prospect of f2–f4. 4.Bc4

**A) 4...d6** 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4!? exf4 6.Qf3 is very coffeehouse! Short,N–Ramanth,B/ch–Commonwealth Nagpur IND 2008 ) 5...g6 6.0–0 Bg7 7.f4!? Nge7! is a cunning answer to White's early aggression, Rowson,J–Savage,B/Training LCC 2006;

**B) 4...Nf6** 5.d3 d6 ( 5...d5! 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3 f6! A novelty from Kotronias, Guerra Rivera,S–Santos Latasa,J/ Lorca 2015. ) 6.Nc3 Be7 ( 6...a6 7.a4 g6! Tony Kosten–Rajilich/Freestyle 2006, when 8.Nd5 is interesting ) 7.Nge2 0–0 8.0–0 a6 9.a4 Nd4 ( 9...Rb8 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.a5 led to a brilliant White win in Gelashvili,T–Gassanov,A/ Baku AZE 2007 ) 10.f4 ( 10.h3 Be6 11.f4 with a pleasant edge, Short, N–Prasad,D/Mumbai 2004. ) 10...b6!? Kramnik,V–Kobalia,M/ WorldCup 2013. ]

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0–0

Short,N–Topalov,V/ Sarajevo 2000, when I think White should consider keeping the tension for as long as possible by 9.Qe2 ]  
 [ 3...d5 is rare, 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qe5+ 6.Qe2 White's lead in development and fewer pawn weaknesses guarantee a small but stable endgame advantage, Kramnik, V–Inarkiev,E/Nizhny Novgorod RUS 2013. ]

**4.e5** Obviously critical, White gains space and kicks the knight, but it blocks the a1–h8 diagonal.

[Meanwhile 4.Nc3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Bb5 is a more standard way of developing the White pieces and he may be able to claim a small edge, Kosten,A–Marchal,C/Metz FRA 2007. ]

**4...Nd5 5.Nf3 d6**

[ 5...Nc7 6.Ng5 Ne6 7.h4 An intriguing position has reached after just seven moves. Black has a solid position but White is willing to take a few risks to seek aggressive play. Qc7 8.Qf3 There are no prizes for spotting the threat 9 Qxf7+. Nxe5 9.Qf5 Nxc5 10.hxc5 d6 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Rxh7 a curious position, Souza Neves,A–Guimaraes,W/ Brasilia 2000. ]

[ 5...e6 6.g3 g6!? A very instructive way to develop–targeting e5, and simply planning to play ...Bg7 and ...d6, without allowing the bishop on b2 to become a monster. ( 6...b6 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0–0 Be7 9.d4 Georgiev,K–Velikov,P/ Aubervilliers, France 2000 ) 7.Na3 Bg7 8.Nc4 0–0 9.Bg2 b6 10.0–0 Ba6 and Black won by instructive play, De la Riva Aguado,

O–Ponomarev,R/Pamplona ESP 2005. ]

**6.Bb5**

[ 6.Bc4 dxe5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxe5 e6 9.Nc3 Spassky, B–Sosonko,G/ Tilburg 1978, when Ftacnik suggests Bd6! ]

**6...Bg4 7.h3** When a world-class player plays a line that has been relatively less analysed it is always interesting to see what new approach he has in mind. In this case, Short chooses to immediately question Black on where he wants to move the light-squared bishop. **7...Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2** White has emerged from the opening with a simple plan of rapid development and the opportunity to tuck away the king safely on the queenside, Short, N–Thorfinnsson,B/ Open Reykjavik 2000.

**B30**

□ **Strobl,O**

■ **Breyer,Gyula**

189007 Vienna

1921

[Cyrus Lakdawala, MH]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6

**1.e4** ChessBase: 'Bachmann:

Schachjahrbuch 1921, S.152' **1...c5**

**2.b3!?** When it comes to opening theory, there is no such thing as an unalterable truth. That which is old and discarded is in the present, new again. The b3–Sicilian is gaining ground in popularity, mainly through the advocacy of super-GMs like Kramnik, Morozevich and Carlsen. The inherent problem with blindly following the dictates of complex

theoretical lines is that we abandon our own research, and rely upon others to form our convictions. So players today seek less booked up alternatives (to the Open Sicilian), like the b3-Sicilian. As you can see, Anti-Sicilians have been around for quite a while. A fianchetto was a strange sight in 1921, unless you were a card-carrying member of the Hypermodern movement, as Breyer was. In this instance his opponent beats him to it. The b3-Sicilian is an odd mix of Classical and Hypermodern theories, where White both seeks to occupy the centre with e4, and also control it from the wings with 2 b3.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!?'

Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When it comes to opening theory, there is no such thing as an unalterable truth. That which is old and discarded is in the present, new again. The b3-Sicilian is gaining ground in popularity, mainly through the advocacy of super-GMs like Kramnik, Morozevich and Carlsen. The inherent problem with blindly following the dictates of complex theoretical lines is that we abandon our own research, and rely upon others to form our convictions. So players today seek less booked up alternatives (to the Open Sicilian), like the b3-Sicilian.

As you can see, Anti-Sicilians have been around for quite a while. A fianchetto was a strange sight in 1921, unless you were a card-carrying member of the Hypermodern movement, as Breyer was. In this instance his opponent beats him to it. The b3-Sicilian is an odd mix of Classical and Hypermodern theories, where White

both seeks to occupy the centre with e4, and also control it from the wings with 2 b3.

" When it comes to opening theory, there is no such thing as an unalterable truth. That which is old and discarded is in the present, new again. The b3-Sicilian is gaining ground in popularity, mainly through the advocacy of super-GMs like Kramnik, Morozevich and Carlsen. The inherent problem with blindly following the dictates of complex theoretical lines is that we abandon our own research, and rely upon others to form our convictions. So players today seek less booked up alternatives (to the Open Sicilian), like the b3-Sicilian. As you can see, Anti-Sicilians have been around for quite a while. A fianchetto was a strange sight in 1921, unless you were a card-carrying member of the Hypermodern movement, as Breyer was. In this instance his opponent beats him to it. The b3-Sicilian is an odd mix of Classical and Hypermodern theories, where White both seeks to occupy the centre with e4, and also control it from the wings with 2 b3. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!?' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When it comes to opening theory, there is no such thing as an unalterable truth. That which is old and discarded is in the present, new again. The b3-Sicilian is gaining ground in popularity, mainly through the advocacy of super-GMs like Kramnik, Morozevich and Carlsen. The inherent problem with blindly following the dictates of complex theoretical lines is that we abandon our own research, and rely upon others to form our convictions. So players today seek less booked up alternatives (to the

Open Sicilian), like the b3–Sicilian. ---  
 As you can see, Anti–Sicilians have been around for quite a while. A fianchetto was a strange sight in 1921, unless you were a card–carrying member of the Hypermodern movement, as Breyer was. In this instance his opponent beats him to it. The b3–Sicilian is an odd mix of Classical and Hypermodern theories, where White both seeks to occupy the centre with e4, and also control it from the wings with 2 b3." **2...Nf6**

[How unfortunate that Breyer didn't have access to this excellent book, otherwise he might have followed its suggestions: 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0–0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0–0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 Pink,J (2683)–11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0–1 (62) ] [or 2...g6!? . 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0 Dehmelt,K–12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5** The game resembles an Alekhine's Defence, with the inclusion of b3 and ...c5, which may help Black. QUESTION: How does this inclusion favour Black?

ANSWER: To me b3 is an odd posting for White's bishop, in conjunction with e4, while our c5–pawn hinders White's d4–break.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The game resembles an Alekhine's Defence, with the inclusion of b3 and ...c5, which may help Black.

QUESTION: How does this inclusion favour Black?

ANSWER: To me b3 is an odd posting for White's bishop, in conjunction with e4, while our c5–pawn hinders White's d4–break.

" The game resembles an Alekhine's Defence, with the inclusion of b3 and ...c5, which may help Black. QUESTION:

How does this inclusion favour Black?

ANSWER: To me b3 is an odd posting for White's bishop, in conjunction with e4, while our c5–pawn hinders White's d4–break.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The game resembles an Alekhine's Defence, with the inclusion of b3 and ...c5, which may help Black. ---

QUESTION: How does this inclusion favour Black? --- ANSWER: To me b3 is an odd posting for White's bishop, in conjunction with e4, while our c5–pawn hinders White's d4–break." **4.c4N**

This is probably premature, since in some cases White posts a piece on c4.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!'

Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This is probably premature, since in some cases White posts a piece on c4.'

[The modern interpretation runs 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6 ( 5...d6 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 a6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Qc1 Nd5 14.Nh4 e6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Ne4 Qa5+ 17.Qd2 Nb4 18.Kf1 Qd8 19.Nd6+ Bxd6 20.exd6 Chapter 13 Part 2–Game 4 Game 4 (31); 5...e6 6.c4 Nde7 7.g3 Nf5 8.Bg2 d5 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.0–0



0-0 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Ne4 b6 13.Ne5  
 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bb7 15.Qg4 Qd7  
 16.Rfe1 Rad8 17.Rad1 f6 18.Bb2  
 Nd4 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Qh5  
 Chapter 14 Part 1-Game 5 Game 5  
 (57) ) 6.Bc4 ( 6.Ng5 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4  
 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bxd5 Qxe5 10.0-0  
 Kd8 11.c3 Nf5 12.f4 Qg7 13.Bc4  
 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3  
 Bd7 17.Nd2 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4  
 19.dxc4 Rb8 20.Qf3 Kc7 13.g5 ♖c5  
 14.♙f3 (2395)-Rinkewitz,F (2450)  
 Espana 83/571 1991 EXT 97  
 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter] 1-0 (51) )  
 6...Nb6 7.Bb5 . This move turns the  
 position into a kind of funky  
 Rossolimo: Bg7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0  
 0-0 10.Re1 d6 11.h3 a5 12.c4  
 (I would avoid this move, which  
 weakens b3, and play 12.d3 )  
 12...Re8 13.a4!? (this also weakens  
 b3, but if White allowed Black ...a4,  
 then after ...axb3; axb3, b3 is  
 weakened all the same) Bf5  
 and Black achieved a decent-  
 looking Rossolimo-style position, H.  
 Nakamura-A.Grischuk, Moscow (blitz)  
 2012. ]

**4...Nc7 5.Nc3?** QUESTION: Why would  
 you fault a developing move?

ANSWER: A plan should be worked out  
 in advance, rather than a wing-it, work  
 in progress. White's move is inaccurate,  
 since it blocks the path of White's  
 bishop to protect e5.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?' Cyrus  
 Lakdawala: 'QUESTION: Why would you  
 fault a developing move?

ANSWER: A plan should be worked out  
 in advance, rather than a wing-it, work  
 in progress. White's move is inaccurate,  
 since it blocks the path of White's

bishop to protect e5.

" QUESTION: Why would you fault a  
 developing move? ANSWER: A plan  
 should be worked out in advance, rather  
 than a wing-it, work in progress. White's  
 move is inaccurate, since it blocks the  
 path of White's bishop to protect e5.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?' Cyrus  
 Lakdawala: 'QUESTION: Why would you  
 fault a developing move? --- ANSWER:  
 A plan should be worked out in advance,  
 rather than a wing-it, work in progress.  
 White's move is inaccurate, since it  
 blocks the path of White's bishop to  
 protect e5." **5...Nc6 6.Nf3**

[QUESTION: If White experiences  
 difficulty defending e5, with pieces,  
 then why not play 6.f4 - ?

ANSWER: The move fails to develop.

White looks somewhat overextended  
 after - ? ANSWER: The move fails to  
 develop. White looks somewhat  
 overextended after ChessBase: '- ? --

- ANSWER: The move fails to  
 develop. White looks somewhat  
 overextended after' d6 7.exd6 (or  
 7.Nf3 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.fxe5 g6  
 10.Bb2 Bg7 11.Qe2 b6 and White is  
 already in trouble with a hole on d4  
 and backward d-pawn ) 7...Qxd6  
 , when White worries about a  
 backward d-pawn, as well as weak  
 d3- and d4-squares. ]

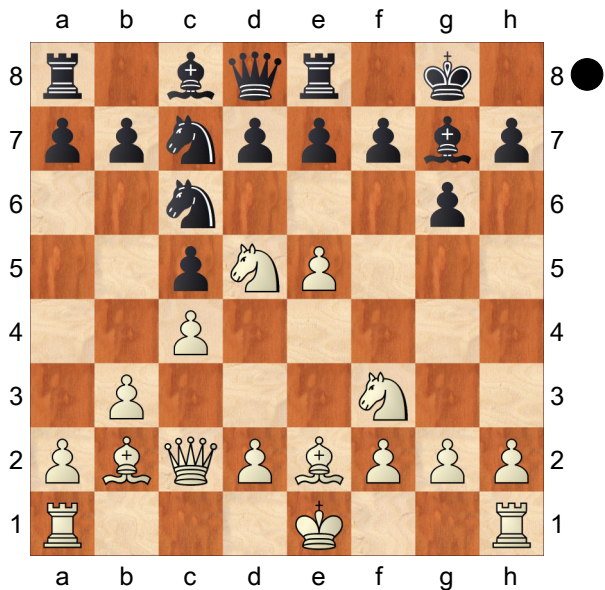
**6...g6!** Breyer, a Hypermodern,  
 establishes his own fianchetto. Now  
 defence of e5 becomes an unsolvable  
 issue for White.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus  
 Lakdawala: 'Breyer, a Hypermodern,  
 establishes his own fianchetto. Now  
 defence of e5 becomes an unsolvable  
 issue for White.

" ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!  
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Breyer, a  
Hypermodern, establishes his own  
fianchetto. Now defence of e5 becomes  
an unsolvable issue for White." **7.Bb2**  
**Bg7 8.Nd5**  
[After 8.Qe2 -0.96/20 8.d2-d4 -0.48  
0-0 9.g3 d6 , White must hand over  
a pawn, since 10.exd6?? -5.11/24  
( 10.Bg2-1.26/18 is a better  
chance. ) 10...exd6-+ 11.0-0-0 Re8  
is completely busted for White, who  
finds his queen caught in the middle. ]  
**8...0-0 9.h4?!** An ambitious opponent is  
easy to bait. The nature of an unwise  
decision is the current joy we experience  
in chasing a folly, is met with our future  
pain, when the effects of our decision  
ripen. Saleable goods are worthless if  
they are unable to reach the market.  
White's 'attack' never emerges, despite  
his open h-file. To change one's mind if  
the data calls for it is not such a great  
transgression; to change one's mind  
based on an arbitrary whim, is. White's  
counterplay, already late, just got later.  
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!'  
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'An ambitious  
opponent is easy to bait. The nature of  
an unwise decision is the current joy we  
experience in chasing a folly, is met with  
our future pain, when the effects of our  
decision ripen. Saleable goods are  
worthless if they are unable to reach the  
market. White's 'attack' never emerges,  
despite his open h-file. To change one's  
mind if the data calls for it is not such a  
great transgression; to change one's  
mind based on an arbitrary whim, is.  
White's counterplay, already late, just  
got later."

[I just read a Washington Post article

where new research suggests that  
optimism is an overrated commodity,  
since optimists tend to push their luck  
too far, while pessimists, on the other  
hand, proceed with a kind of wise,  
self-preservatory caution:  
a) I just read a Washington Post  
article where new research suggests  
that optimism is an overrated  
commodity, since optimists tend to  
push their luck too far, while  
pessimists, on the other hand,  
proceed with a kind of wise, self-  
preservatory caution: a) ChessBase: 'I  
just read a Washington Post article  
where new research suggests that  
optimism is an overrated commodity,  
since optimists tend to push their luck  
too far, while pessimists, on the other  
hand, proceed with a kind of wise,  
self-preservatory caution: -- a')  
9.Be2 d6 10.exd6 Bxb2 11.dxc7  
Qd6 12.Rb1 Bg7 13.0-0 e6 14.Nc3  
Qxc7 is strategically awful for White,  
since Black owns the bishop pair, the  
dark squares, a d4 hole and may pick  
on White's backward d-pawn. ]  
[b) 9.Qc2 Re8! 10.Be2



d6! 11.Nxc7 (White's best is to maybe just hand over a pawn with 11.0-0) 11...Bf5 12.d3 Qxc7 13.exd6 Qa5+ 14.Kf1 Nb4 15.Qd2 Bxb2 16.Qxb2 Rad8 with enormous pressure. ]

**9...d6 10.h5** Black is better.

```
[If ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'If'
10.Nxc7 Qxc7 11.exd6 Qxd6
12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.h5 Bg4 14.h6+
Kg8 15.Be2 Rad8 and White is
busted. ]
```

## 10...dxe5

[Stronger than 10...Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Nc3]

**11.hxg6 hxg6** And now ...e5-e4 would win. **12.Qc2** -2.17/23

[ 12.Ne3 $\bar{7}$  -1.44/20 might work better. ]

# 12...Nxd5

[ 12...Bf5 13.Qc3 Nxd5 14.cxd5 Nb4  
also looks grim for White. ]

**13.cxd5 Qxd5 14.Bc4 Qd6**

Covering against White's crude Qxg6 threat. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Covering against White's crude Qxg6 threat.'

[And not 14...Nb4 15.Qc3 Qe4+  
16.Kf1 ♠ ]

**15.Nh4** –2.81/21 Renewing the threat to g6, while preventing ...Bf5.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:

'Renewing the threat to g6, while preventing ...Bf5.

" ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:

'Renewing the threat to g6, while preventing ...Bf5.'

[ Δ15.Qe4 -1.70/20 ]

**15...Be6++** Eliminating White's most dangerous piece. Now the would-be white initiative drains away, as quickly as it arose.

ChessBase: '! '!' '! '!' '! '!' '! '!

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:

'Eliminating White's most dangerous piece. Now the would-be white initiative drains away, as quickly as it arose.

" ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:

'Eliminating White's most dangerous piece. Now the would-be white initiative drains away, as quickly as it arose.'.

Hoping for ...Nc6-b4. **16.Bxe6**

[ 16.Nxg6 -3.98/23 16.Bb2-c3 -2.80

is just a shallow cheapo. Black simply responds with fxg6! (most certainly not 16...Bxc4?? #2/6 16...f7xg6 -3. 86 17.Nxe7+! Nxe7 18.Qh7#)

17.Qxg6 Bxc4 18.Qh7+ Kf7 19.bxc4 Rh8 20.Qf5+ Qf6 . White's checks run out and he must trade queens, down a piece. ]

**16...Qxe6 17.Qxc5 Nd4**

[Also strong were 17...e4 ]

[or 17...Rfc8 .]

**18.Bxd4** Black must now prevent Bd4-c3. **18...exd4+ 19.Kf1 Rfc8**

ChessBase: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' 20.Qg5 d3!

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!'

**21.Re1 -#2/6**

[When your goal is long-term survival, the fact that you are alive in the present isn't good enough, although

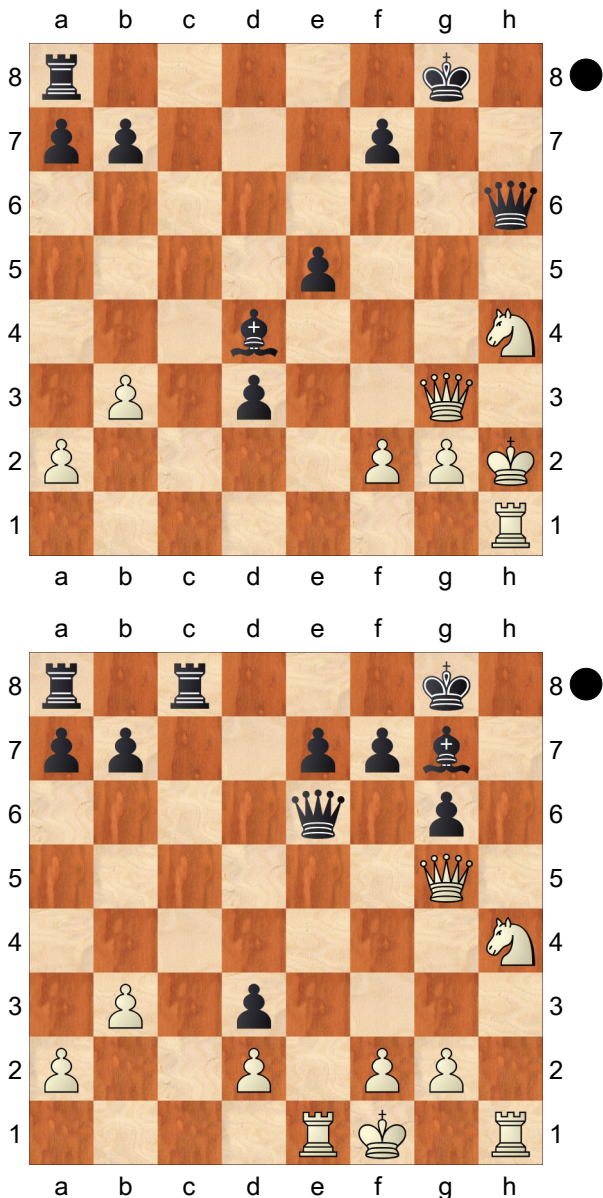
21.Rb1 Qe2+ 22.Kg1 Bd4 23.Qf4 e5 24.Qg3 Qxd2 25.Nxg6 Rc1+ 26.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 27.Kh2 Qh6+ 28.Nh4+

(Diagram)

Kf8! 29.Qg4 Inhibits Ra8-c8. d2 is also hopeless for White. ]

[ 21.Rb1-+ -2.35/25 ]

(Diagram)



ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '??'  
EXERCISE (combination alert): White just blundered in a completely lost position. When an opponent issues a mating threat, it threatens to cast aside all other considerations. How did Breyer finish the game?  
ANSWER: Queen sacrifice/weak back rank.  
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (combination alert): White just blundered in a completely lost position. When an opponent issues a mating threat, it threatens to cast aside

all other considerations. How did Breyer finish the game?  
ANSWER: Queen sacrifice/weak back rank.  
" EXERCISE (combination alert): White just blundered in a completely lost position. When an opponent issues a mating threat, it threatens to cast aside all other considerations. How did Breyer finish the game? ANSWER: Queen sacrifice/weak back rank. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (combination alert): White just blundered in a completely lost position. When an opponent issues a mating threat, it threatens to cast aside all other considerations. How did Breyer finish the game? --- ANSWER: Queen sacrifice/weak back rank." **21...Qxe1+!**  
The black queen and rook's interests align. White's king was safe for a while in his secret hiding chamber, until he was unsuccessful in muffling a sneeze, which attracted his sister's attention.  
"We all learn life's lessons according to our mental propensities. Yours, as you may have guessed, is at a 'remedial' level," rudely lectures the queen, as she makes air quotes, stressing the word 'remedial'. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The black queen and rook's interests align. White's king was safe for a while in his secret hiding chamber, until he was unsuccessful in muffling a sneeze, which attracted his sister's attention.  
"We all learn life's lessons according to our mental propensities. Yours, as you may have guessed, is at a 'remedial' level," rudely lectures the queen, as she makes air quotes, stressing the word 'remedial'." **22.Kxe1** Of course for White,



this is wealth accumulated in a dream, which evaporates to nothing the moment he awakens. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Of course for White, this is wealth accumulated in a dream, which evaporates to nothing the moment he awakens.' **22...Rc1#** .

SUMMARY: Today, the Anti-Sicilians rival Open Sicilians as the main line, so let's be prepared for all of them.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: ' .

SUMMARY: Today, the Anti-Sicilians rival Open Sicilians as the main line, so let's be prepared for all of them." .

SUMMARY: Today, the Anti-Sicilians rival Open Sicilians as the main line, so let's be prepared for all of them.

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: ' . ---

SUMMARY: Today, the Anti-Sicilians rival Open Sicilians as the main line, so let's be prepared for all of them." . White did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.65/  
Black=0.09 (flawless)

**0-1**

□ **Walfort,Ralf**

■ **Wells,Peter K**

Regensburg op (3)

[Cyrus Lakdawala, MH]

**B20**

1996

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.f4!?**

Obviously, this move, which instigates immediate unrest in the centre, ignores the opening's normal social protocol.

This is the King's Gambit version for White, who decides that he has had enough of bylaws, resolutions and minutes. The meeting is over and it's

time to take action.

QUESTION: Isn't White up a move on the King's gambit, since we tossed in ...c5 - ?

ANSWER: No. It's essentially a King's Gambit with the extra moves b3 and Bb2 for White, and ...c5 and ...Nc6 for Black. Now I think this isn't such a bad deal for our side, for the following reasons:

1. White has trouble playing an easy d4, unlike most King's Gambits.

2. I actually think White's fianchettoed dark-squared bishop is misplaced in a King's Gambit formation, since in a normal KGA, White plays on our f4-pawn with d3 and later h4. On b2, White's bishop puts no pressure on f4, allowing us a better chance to hang on to it permanently.

3. Now on the downside, we can't play typical KGA move ...g5 either, since this hangs our h8-rook.

Obviously, this move, which instigates immediate unrest in the centre, ignores the opening's normal social protocol.

This is the King's Gambit version for White, who decides that he has had enough of bylaws, resolutions and

minutes. The meeting is over and it's time to take action.

QUESTION: Isn't White up a move on the King's gambit, since we tossed in ...c5 - ?

ANSWER: No. It's essentially a King's Gambit with the extra moves b3 and Bb2 for White, and ...c5 and ...Nc6 for Black. Now I think this isn't such a bad deal for our side, for the following reasons: 1. White has trouble playing an easy d4, unlike most King's Gambits. 2. I actually think White's fianchettoed dark-squared bishop is misplaced in a King's Gambit formation, since in a normal KGA, White

plays on our f4–pawn with d3 and later h4. On b2, White's bishop puts no pressure on f4, allowing us a better chance to hang on to it permanently. 3. Now on the downside, we can't play typical KGA move ...g5 either, since this hangs our h8–rook. **4...exf4** Let's accept and make White sweat to win it back.

[QUESTION: Can we decline with 4...d6 – ?

ANSWER: We can play it this way. However, after White's next move we need to accept the gambit, since we have no good way to continue to protect e5. For example, – ?

ANSWER: We can play it this way. However, after White's next move we need to accept the gambit, since we have no good way to continue to protect e5. For example, 5.Nf3 and now what? We certainly don't want to play either ...f6 or ...Qc7, so we must accept the gambit after all with ]

### 5.Nf3

[ 5.Qf3 is IM Reprintsev's rather shady-looking specialty. I recollect several blitz games we played on the internet back in the 1990s from this position. After Nd4! 6.Bxd4 cxd4 7.Qxf4 Qf6! , I think that White is the one struggling for equality: , I think that White is the one struggling for equality: White should try

**A) 8.g3?! Bd6 9.Qxf6 Nxf6 10.Bg2 0–0 11.Ne2 Re8 12.d3** , A.Reprintsev–Y.Yuan, Ottawa 2007. Black can play Bc5 , intending to exploit his development lead and bishop pair with ...d5 next, with advantage. ( 12...-- );

**B) White should try 8.Qxf6 Nxf6 9.e5 Ng4 10.Nf3 d6 11.Na3 dxe5 12.Nb5 e4! (Black ignores the c7 fork for several moves) 13.Nfxd4 Bc5! 14.h3 Nf6 , although Black stands better, since White is still unable to play 15.Nc7+? Kd7 16.Nxa8 Bxd4 17.0–0–0 Kd6 18.Bc4 Be6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.c3 Be5 and the stranded a8–knight is doomed, leaving Black with two pieces for the rook. ]**

**5...Nf6** Wells eggs the e–pawn forward, which in turn slightly weakens White's central light squares.

[ 5...d6 reaches the position from the note with 4...d6 above. 6.Bb5 Nf6 7.0–0 Bd7 8.Nc3 Be7 9.d3 Ne5 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 11.Qd2 Ng6 12.Ne2 Nh5 . For now Black grimly hangs on to his extra pawn, and it looks to me like White struggles for full compensation, S.Sulskis–S.Dvoirys, Koszalin 1999. ]

### 6.e5

[Alternatively, 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bc4 0–0 8.d3 ( 8.Qe2 d6 9.0–0–0 a6 10.a4 Bg4 , intending ...Ne5, also looks better for Black ) 8...Ng4! and Black eyes the e3 hole, while opening the possibility of ...Bh4+. Then 9.Qe2 was tried in D.Wallhof–V.Chuchelov, Hamburg 1997, and at this point Black gave a check on h4. It was probably better to skip it and just play the immediate Bf6! 10.0–0–0 Ne3 11.Rdg1 d6 12.g3 Nxc4 13.dxc4 Bg4 (threat: ...Nd4) 14.Qg2 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nd4 16.Qg4 ( 16.Qxf4?? hangs the queen to Bg5 ) 16...f3 , when ...a6 and ...b5 is coming and Black has a nagging strategic edge,

due to the weak dark squares in White's centre. The fact that he owns d5 doesn't fully compensate. ]

**6...Ng4!** The beginning of a clever idea, which for now, draws a curtain across its actual intent.

**7.h3?!** The largest stake you can ever gamble with is your life. A new move, and not such a good one, since it allows Black a ferocious attack.

[Instead:

a) Instead: a) 7.Bb5 , which is Houdini's top choice, just feels too milquetoast. After a6 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.0-0 Be7 , Black hangs on to the extra pawn for now and owns the bishop pair as well. Note that 10.Nc3 can be met by the trick Nxe5!

, and if White takes it, 11.Nxe5 Qd4+ regains the piece, with interest. ]

[b) 7.Bc4 Be7 8.Qe2?! (castling looks wiser: 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 d5 10.exd6 Bf6 11.Nc3 Nh6 , although even here, I still prefer Black, who continues with ...Nf5, hitting weak squares like g3 and d4 ) 8...0-0 9.h3?! was A.Sasu Ducsoara-V. Karasev, Kamena Vourla 2012 (or 9.0-0 d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 when I don't see White's compensation for the missing pawn ). Black can now seize a clear advantage if he continues 9...Bh4+ 10.Nxh4 Qxh4+ 11.Kf1 d6 12.exd6 Bf5 13.Kg1 Nf6 14.Qf2 Qxf2+ 15.Kxf2 Ne4+ 16.Kf3 Nxd6 with a wretched ending for White. ]

**7...Ngxe5!** Wells is the first to draw blood from his opponent's lips, since his peace treaty tends to only last a few minutes until he violates it. I like this bold sacrifice, which disrupts the white king's castling.

[Black's sacrifice looks more promising than 7...Nh6 8.Bd3 Nb4 9.Qe2 , intending Nc3 and 0-0-0, with some measure of compensation for the pawn. ]

**8.Bxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Qh4+ 10.g3!**

The conversation touches dangerous ground. The only move.

[ 10.Ke2?? hangs the piece back to Qe7 11.d4 cxd4 12.Qxd4 f6 , when White is busted. ]

**10...Qxg3+** Everyone knows the black queen and white king indulge in unnatural 'appetites', much like Cersei and Jaime, the twisted Lannister twins, in 'Game of Thrones'.

[ 10...fxg3? is well met by 11.Bg2 . ]

**11.Ke2** Black got three pawns for the piece and a terribly insecure white king in the bargain. **11...Bd6?!** This move defeats his previous efforts and allows White to reach an unclear position.

[Black missed a strong opportunity in 11...b5! 12.Qe1 Bd6 13.Qxg3 fxg3 14.Nf3 0-0 15.Bg2 Re8+ 16.Kd1 Bb7 17.Nc3 Bc6 18.Nh4 g6 19.Bxc6 dxc6 , when ...f5 which is coming and White's clunky king blocks the a1-rook's communication to the centre and kingside. ]

**12.Nf3 0-0 13.Rg1 Re8+ 14.Kd3 c4+!**

Well, nobody said that this game represents the Age of Reason. GM Sveshnikov gave this move a dubious, while I like it.

[Sveshnikov suggests 14...Qf2 . I think White is okay after 15.c4 Be5 16.Rg2 d5! 17.Kc2! (not 17.Rxf2?? Bf5+ 18.Ke2 Bxa1+ 19.Ne5 Rxe5+ 20.Kf3 Be4+ and White's king gets fried ) 17...Qxg2 18.Bxg2 Bxa1 19.cxd5 . I don't think White stands

worse and actually prefer his chances. ]

EXERCISE (critical decision): White has a choice of three moves: a) 15 Kc3; b) 15 Kxc4; c) 15 bxc4. Two of the moves lose, while the other reaches a messy position. Which one should White play?

**15.bxc4?** One of two misguided options.

[ 15.Kc3?? loses instantly to Be5+ 16.d4 cxd3+ 17.Nxe5 dxc2+ 18.Kxc2 Qxg1 . ]

[ANSWER: Correct is the completely counter-intuitive 15.Kxc4!

, which looks like it would be the first choice of most of Morphy's hopelessly incompetent NN opponents. Is it just me, or does White's king remind you of the groom who gets a hernia on his honeymoon, when he attempts to lift his obese bride over the threshold? Then b5+ 16.Kc3 Qf2 17.Rg2 Qc5+ 18.Kb2 Bb7 19.d4 Qd5 20.Nbd2 Re3 21.a4 is a messy position, although I would still take Black's side in a heartbeat, if given a choice; (and not 21.Rf2? Bb4 22.Bd3 Rc8 , when White is busted. )]

**15...Qf2** The queen heads for c5, to be nearer to White's king.

**16.c3** I hate that uneasy feeling when you realize that something of great importance transpired, and yet you are unable to put your finger on just what it is.

[White's 15th move blunder places his king in great jeopardy, and 16.Kc3? b5! 17.a3 (or 17.cxb5 Bb7 18.Bg2 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Qc5+ 20.Kb2 Qxb5+ 21.Kc1 Rab8 22.d3 Qb2+ 23.Kd2 Bb4+ 24.Nc3 Bxc3#) 17...Bb7 18.Bg2 bxc4 leaves White's king

hopelessly caught in the middle of the board. ]

**16...b5!** The b-pawn is led in tow as a client state to Black's vast ambition. The void of an empty throne tends to attract those who would be king. Lines open with terrible force. Morphy and the Great Romantics would be impressed with Wells's energetic attack, coupled with an almost spiritual disdain for all things material.

[Even the stodgy 16...b6 will win the game after 17.Kc2 Bb7 18.Bg2 Bc5 19.Qf1 Be4+ 20.Kb3 Bxf3 which wins material back, with a winning position: 21.Qxf2 Bxf2 22.Bxf3 Bxg1 23.Bxa8 Rxa8 leaves Black two pawns up. ]

**17.Rg2 bxc4+ 18.Kc2**

[Not 18.Kxc4?? Qb6 (threat: ...Ba6+) 19.Kd3 Qb2 and it's time for White to resign. ]

**18...Qc5** The c4-pawn clogs White's queenside development. **19.Rg5 f5?!** -0.37/22 This move is more decorative than useful. This attempt to reupholster the structure fails to make it an iota prettier, since f5 comes under attack.

[Much stronger is 19...Qc7! 20.Nd4 Be5! . ]

[ 19...Qc7!-+ -1.69/22 20.Nd4 Be5 ]

**20.Nd4** -1.35/20

[White must play 20.d4! 20...Qb5 21.a4 Qb3+ 22.Kc1 ]

**20...Bb7** Played since ...Be4+ covers f5 for now. **21.Qh5?** -3.43/23

[ 21.d3 looks a little better, but is still busted for White. ]

[ 21.d3 21...Qb5 -1.35/24 ]

**21...Be4+-- 22.Kd1 Be7?!** -1.62/23

Now Black's once powerful attack looks like a large bird with undersized wings,



which is never destined to take flight. This inaccuracy allows White to fight back. Wells must have been in time trouble, because he made multiple inaccuracies from this stage, but not so many that he failed to take the point.

[The comp offers 22...Be5! 23.Nxf5 Nf5-h6+ is the strong threat. (or 23.Rxf5 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 Rab8 and White is crushed, with no way to proceed with his development ) 23...g6 24.Nh6+ -5.40/22 (  $\Delta$ 24.Rxg6+ -3.60/23 hxc6 25.Qxc6+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Kf7 27.Qh5+ Kf6 28.Nh6 ) 24...Kg7-- 25.Qh4 Prevents Qc5-f2. Qb5 26.Nf7 Bf3+ 27.Kc1 Rab8 (threatening mate on the move) 28.Qh6+ Kg8! 29.Rxg6+ hxc6 30.Qxc6+ Kf8 , when White is out of checks and getting mated. ]

[  $\Delta$ 22...Be5 -3.36/25 23.Rxf5 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 d5 ]

**23.Rxf5!-+** This exchange sacrifice is a terrific bargain for White, who eliminates Black's most dangerous attacker.

**23...Bxf5 24.Qxf5 Qxf5?!**

Surely White's king is in more danger than Black's?

[He should retain queens with 24...d5 .]

**25.Nxf5 d5 26.Nxe7+ Rxe7 27.Na3**

At long last, the queenside gets developed. **27...Rb8** -0.78/22

[If 27...Rae8! 28.Nc2 covers access to the e-file. Prevents Re7-e1+. ]

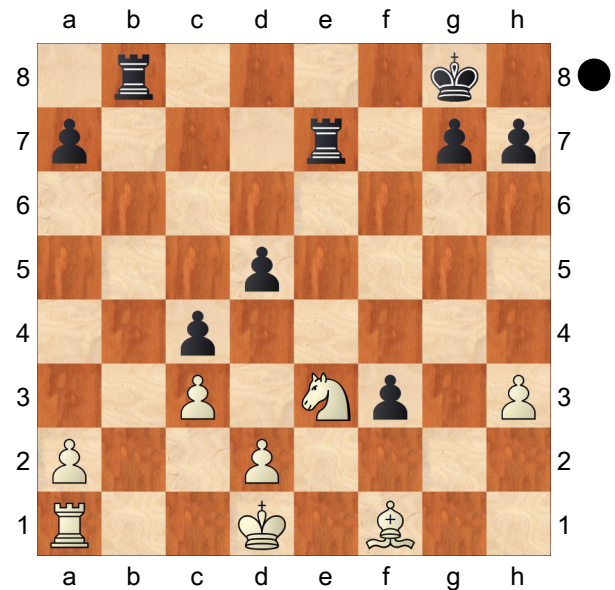
[Black should play 27...Rae8! -1.31/21 aiming for ...Re7-e1+. 28.Nc2 Re5 ]

**28.Nc2 f3** -0.21/23

[ 28...Rbe8 $\mp$  -0.79/23 ]

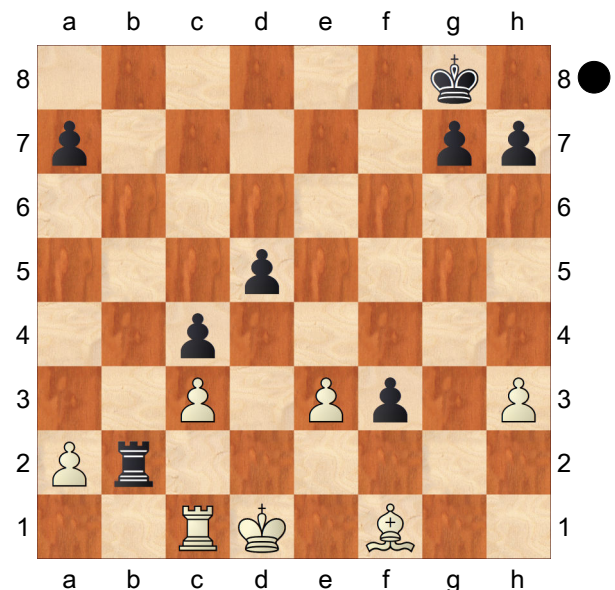
**29.Ne3=**

(Diagram)



**Re5** 0.25/24

[Instead, 29...Rxe3! 30.dxe3 Black must now prevent e3-e4! Rb2 31.Rc1 -0.80/23 (  $\Delta$ 31.Ke1 -1.17/24 )



31...Rf2 -0.01/25 ( 31...g5! $\mp$  -0.80/23 )

32.Ke1= Rxa2 33.Rb1 Strongly threatening Rb1-b5. (and not 33.Rd1?? -#1/6 33.e3-e4 -0.01 f2# ) 33...Kf7 34.Rb7+ Kf6 35.Rd7 Ke5 36.Rxg7 f2+ 37.Kd1 Ke4 38.Rg3 Ra1+ 39.Ke2 Ra2+ is drawn. ]

[ 29...Rxe3! $\mp$  -1.16/24 30.dxe3 Rb2 ]

EXERCISE (combination alert): White equalizes if you find his combination.

ANSWER: Attraction/pin.

EXERCISE (combination alert): White equalizes if you find his combination.

ANSWER: Attraction/pin. **30.Nxd5!= Rxd5 31.Bxc4 Rbd8 32.Rb1** 0.01/23

[ 32.Kc2! $\pm$  0.41/25

is more appropriate. ]

**32...Kf8!= 33.Bxd5 Rxd5 34.Rb8+** -0.44/25

[ Missing 34.Rb4! g5 And now ...Rd5-e5 would win. 35.Ke1 h5 36.Kf2 Rxd2+ 37.Kxf3 Rxa2 38.Rb5 with a likely draw. ]

[ 34.h4= -0.01/23 ]

**34...Kf7 $\bar{f}$  35.Rb7+ Kg6** -0.05/23

[ 35...Kf6 $\bar{f}$  -0.47/24 deserves consideration. 36.Rb8 ( 36.Ke1 Ra5= ) 36...Kf5 ]

**36.Rxa7??** -7.64/25

[ 36.Ke1! should still hold the draw. ]

[ 36.Ke1= -0.05/23 ]

EXERCISE (combination alert): Black to play and win.

ANSWER: Pawn promotion.

EXERCISE (combination alert): Black to play and win. ANSWER: Pawn promotion. **36...Re5!-+** Black cuts off White's king.

[ Stronger than 36...f2 37.Ke2= ]

**37.Ra4 f2 38.Rf4 Re1+ 39.Kc2 f1Q**

**40.Rxf1 Rxf1** White's three passers aren't good enough. **41.a4 Ra1 42.Kb3 Kf5 43.d3 g5 44.Kb4 h5** Black is way too fast in the queening race. **45.a5 g4**

SUMMARY: I feel like 4 f4?! is borderline dubious, and a not-so-scary King's Gambit, since we probably get the better of the deal with the insertion of b3 and ...c5. . SUMMARY: I feel like 4 f4?! is borderline dubious, and a not-so-scary King's Gambit, since we probably

get the better of the deal with the insertion of b3 and ...c5.

**0-1**

**B40**

☐ **Bern,I**

☒ **Mohr,S**

Gausdal

1989

[Cyrus Lakdawala, MH]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 3.Bb2** Meek stuff. Black should equalize without much sweat in this line.

**3...Nc6 4.Nf3 a6 5.Be2**

[ 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qf6 7.c3 Bc5 8.Be2 e5 9.Nf3 Qg6 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Nbd2 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Qxe4 13.Re1 ]

**5...Nf6 6.e5** QUESTION: Is this a kind of King's Indian Attack versus French, but in reverse?

ANSWER: Correct, but with one subtle difference: our g8-knight is yet to commit itself, which allows us to get weird!

**6...Nd5!?** This byway takes on a life of its own.

QUESTION: Isn't his move weak? Why play the knight to the rim?

ANSWER: We Modern players must avoid wallowing in mind-created Tarraschian orthodoxy phobias.

Sometimes one should embrace the uncomfortable or the weird if the idea behind the move is sound. Black's move is dual purpose:

1. We keep ...f5 clear.

2. We leave open possibilities of ...Nf5 later on. **7.0-0 Be7 8.d4 d6 9.dxc5**

Based on the principle: counter in the centre when attacked on the wing.

QUESTION: But White hasn't been attacked yet on the kingside has he?

ANSWER: No, but he will be soon, and so takes pre-emptive measures.

**9...dxc5 10.Qc1** After the text, we reach a KID, but with three favourable items in Black's ledger:

1. White took two moves to achieve e4.
  2. The b2-square may not be the best post for White's dark-squared bishop.
  3. White's only source of counterplay resides on the queenside; he will need b4 sooner or later. This in turn means his b3-b4 constitutes a tempo loss.
- Conclusion: Black achieved a favourable KID.

**10...Qc7 11.c4 Nb6** Compare this position to one where a black knight would be on e7: f7 is a better square since it covers the sensitive d6-square.

**12.Qe3** There is White's second tempo loss. Still, the move is necessary.

**12...Nd7 13.Nbd2 b6 14.Rad1 0-0!** Now d4 and f4 beckon.

**15.Bd3!? Rd8** Black is willing to hand over b6 to freeze White's queenside pawns.

**16.Ne4 Ra7 17.Nd6**

[ 17.Nf6+ Nxf6 18.exf6 Bxf6  
( 18...gxf6 19.Qh6 Rxd3 20.Ng5 Bd8  
21.Qxh7+ Kf8 22.Qh8+ Ke7  
23.Bxf6+ Kd7 24.Rxd3+ Nd4  
25.Bxd4 cxd4 26.Qxd4+ ) 19.Bxf6  
gxf6 20.Qh6 f5 21.Rfe1 f6 22.Qxf6  
Qe7 23.Qh6 ]

[ 17.Ng3

**A) 17...Nf8** 18.h4 h6 19.Nh5 Nd7  
20.Qe4 g6 ( 20...Nf8 21.Nf6+  
Kh8 ) 21.Qg4 Nf8 22.Be4;

**B) 17...Bb7** 18.a3 Nd4 19.Nxd4  
cxd4 20.Bxd4 Bxa3 21.Ne4 Bxe4  
22.Qxe4 g6 23.Qh4 a5 ( 23...Nc5

24.Bxc5 Bxc5 25.Bxg6 ) 24.Bc2  
Raa8 25.Rd3 b5 26.Rh3 Nf8 ]  
[ 17.Neg5 h6 18.Nh7 Nb4 19.Bb1  
Bb7 20.Nf6+ ]

**17...Nf8!** He puts his finger on the fundamental dynamic of the position: superior piece play for Black. Compare this move to Seirawan's similar idea last chapter in his game against Karpov. Black opens f5 and d5 as potential occupation sites.

QUESTION: Doesn't the e5-isolani matter?

ANSWER: Not if the pawn remains amply defended.

[ 17...Ndxe5 18.Nxe5 Rxd6  
( 18...Bxd6 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Bxg7 )  
19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Be5 Rxd3  
( 20...Rd8 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Rxd8  
Bxd8 23.Qd3+ f5 24.Qxd8 Qe4  
25.Bc3 ) 21.Rxd3 f6 22.Bb2 ]

**18.Be4 Bxd6** Black seeks to keep the discourse open and vibrant on the kingside.

**19.exd6 Rxd6 20.Bxc6 Rxd1** Challenging White's best piece.

**21.Rxd1 Qxc6 22.Qg5 f6 23.Bxf6**

Note how useless b6 turns out to be for White. Also, the a4-knight's strange behaviour soon manifests as the subject of gossip and innuendo.

**23...Rd7!** A manoeuvre designed to take control over the d-file.

**24.Re1 Ng6 25.Be5 Rf7** White, in deep strategic trouble, does his best to enforce order to an opposing army which quickly grows uncontrollable. His next move is a blunder.

**26.Bc3? Qd6 27.Qe3** EXERCISE

(combination alert): The air is fraught with expectancy, as we all sense Black's coming combination. But where

is it?

**27...Bb7? 28.Ne5?** A re-blunder! He should just take the g2-knight.

**28...Nxe5 29.Bxe5 Qd8!** The flick of the knife nicks f3 and g2, which no physician is capable of un-nicking to stop the bleeding.

**30.f3 Bc8** Black's queen and knight, business partners in soothing, reassuring, loathsome tones of undertakers, arm in arm, escort White's king to a selection of reasonably priced coffins. It is now an open secret that Black harbours ambitions to deliver checkmate as dark forces engulf White's king.

**31.Bg3 Qd7 32.Re2 Qc6 33.Be1**

EXERCISE (combination alert): Black to play and force the win of material.

ANSWER: **33...h6!** Interference. **34.Bc3 Rd7 35.Kf2! Rd8 36.Qe5** wins the exchange.

SUMMARY:

In the e3 lines White hopes to lure you into a French versus KIA, but a move up for him. Instead, I suggest Modernizing your opponent with the strange ...Nh6!? manoeuvre. Good enough, but **36...Qb7!**

**37.h3** (the harried king seeks respite from the glares of the enemy all around him, as he lurches erratically to dodge the incoming projectiles) **37...Qe7**

**38.Re4 Rf8!** is crushing. Neither will White survive for long after **39.Rg4 Rf7 40.Rg6 Kh7**.

[ 40...b5 41.Kg1 bxc4 42.bxc4 a5 43.h4 Kh7 ( 43...a4 44.Rxh6 ) 44.h5 a4 45.a3 Kg8 46.Qe3 Kh7 47.Be5

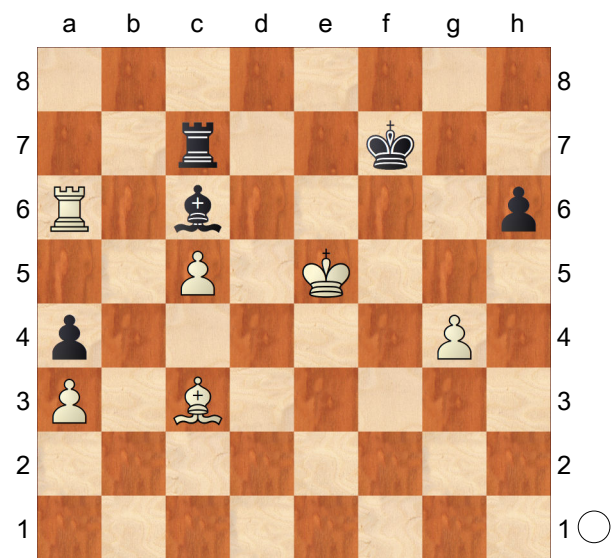
**A) 47...Qd7 48.Qxc5**

**A1) 48...Ba6 49.Qe3 Bb7**  
( 49...Bxc4 50.Qe4 ) 50.c5 Bd5  
51.Kh1 Bb7 52.c6 Bxc6

53.Bxg7 Rxg7 54.Qxh6+ Kg8  
55.Rxg7+ Qxg7 56.Qxe6+ Qf7  
57.Qxc6 Qxh5+ 58.Kg1 Qa5  
59.Qe8+ Kg7 60.Qe7+ Kg6  
61.Kh2;

**A2) 48...Qd3 49.Bd4 Qb1+**  
50.Kh2 Qf5 51.Qxf5 exf5 52.f4  
Bd7 53.Be5 Be8 54.c5 Ra7  
55.Rb6 Kg8 56.Rb8 Kf7  
57.Bxg7 Kxg7 58.Rxe8 Rc7  
( 58...Rb7? 7.72/27 58...Kg7-f7  
3.95 59.c6 Rc7 60.Re6 )  
59.Re5 Kf6 60.Rd5;

**B) 47...Bb7 48.Qd2 Bc6 49.Qe1**  
Qb7 50.Qg3 Kg8 51.Kh2 Be8  
52.Qg4 Qd7 53.f4 Kf8 54.Qxe6  
Qxe6 55.Rxe6 Rd7 56.Bd6+  
1.30/26 ( 56.g4+- 1.67/24 )  
56...Kf7± 57.f5 Rd8 58.Bxc5 Rc8  
2.01/27 ( Δ58...Kg8 1.61/27  
59.Bb6 Rc8 ) 59.Bb4+- Kg8 60.c5  
Bxh5 61.Kg3 Bf7 62.Rd6 Be8  
63.Kf4 Kf7 64.Ra6 Rc7 65.g4  
Bc6 66.Bc3 g5+ 67.fxg6+ Kxg6  
68.Ke5 Kf7



69.Kd6! Bb5 70.Rb6 Rd7+  
71.Ke5 Be2 72.Rf6+ Ke8 3.59/25  
( Δ72...Kg7 2.31/22 73.Ke4 Kh7 )



73.Rxh6 Bxg4 74.Rh8+ Kf7 75.c6  
Rd3 5.83/23 (  $\Delta$ 75...Re7+ 3.67/26  
76.Kf4 Be6 ) 76.Bb4+- Rh3  
77.Rf8+ Kg7 78.c7 Rh8 79.Rd8  
Rg8 8.35/30 (  $\Delta$ 79...Rh5+ 4.90/22  
80.Kf4 Be6 ) 80.Kd5+- Kf7 81.Kc6  
Bf5 82.Kb5 Bg4 83.Kxa4 ]

ANSWER: Black misses a trick which  
wins a piece, starting with **41.Qe4! Kg8**  
**42.Be5!** , disconnecting the queen from  
the e5-bishop, and if **42...Qd7** 2.10/24  
[  $\Delta$ 42...b5 1.74/24 43.Kg1 Qd7 ]

**43.Kg1 a5** 2.58/24

[ 43...Qd2 2.18/26 43...Bc8-b7 1.66  
44.Kh2 Bb7 45.Qg4 Qd7 46.Qxe6  
Qxe6 47.Rxe6 b5 48.cxb5 axb5  
49.Rb6 ]

[ 43...Bb7 1.74/25 keeps fighting.  
44.Qg4 b5 ]

**44.Qh4!** . Black can also go for a direct  
kingside pawn storm plan with **44...Kh7**  
**45.Qg4 Re7 46.h4 Bb7 47.h5 Kg8 .**  
**48.a4 Bc6 49.Kh2 Bb7** hands Black  
e5, a springboard for the coming  
kingside attack.

[ 49...Rf7 50.Qxe6 Qxe6 51.Rxe6  
Bd7 ( 51...Rf5 5.09/24 51...Bc6-d7 3.  
30 52.g4 ) 52.Rxb6 ]

QUESTION: Can White trick us into  
some kind of King's Indian with **50.Qf4** ?

ANSWER: He then tricks himself into a  
god awful KID:

1. Since he hasn't even achieved e4.
2. White's fianchettoed b2-bishop looks misplaced as it stares at the pawn wall on e5.
3. Closing the centre allows Black to immediately attack without fear of a central counter, with ...g5 and a kingside pawn storm.

[Less strong is 50.Rxh6 Bxf3 51.Qg6  
( 51.Qxf3 gxh6 52.Qg4+ Kf8= )

51...Be4 52.Qxe4 gxh6± ]

QUESTION: Is there anything wrong with  
going into a KIA reversed with **50...Kh7**  
?

ANSWER: No problems with that line if  
you are happy in KIA positions. **51.Kg3**  
**Kg8**

[ 51...Rf7 is a book KIA versus French,  
a move down. 52.Qg4 is similar to 6...  
Nh6. After. Black must now prevent  
Rg6xh6+! Kg8 53.Rxh6 Threatens to  
win with Rh6-g6. Qd2 7.02/25  
(  $\Delta$ 53...Qd1 4.69/24 ) 54.Rxe6+-  
Intending Re6-e8+ and mate. Bc6  
Against Re6-e8+ ( 54...Qd8 6.77/23  
54...Qd2-d7 4.78 55.Rd6 ) 55.Rxc6  
Black readies himself for a kingside  
pawn storm with ...g5 soon, R.Alonso-  
G.Vescovi, Sao Paulo 1999.

Threatening mate with Rc6-c8+.

Another route to the game position  
would be 55...Qe1+ 56.Kh3

Rc6-c8+ would kill now. Qxe5

57.Re6 Qb8 58.h6 Hoping for Re6-  
f6! Kh8 59.hxg7+ Rxg7 . 60.Rh6+  
Kg8 61.Qe6+ Rf7 62.Rf6 ]

**52.Qxh6**

**0-1**

**B20**

□ **Guest1541668**

■ **Guest1541854**

Friendly Game, 3 min

24.02.2013

[GM Ioannis Papaioannou]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** A different variation of the  
Sicilian that leads to the same pawn  
structure **2...e6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Bb5 d6**

[ 4...Nd4 5.Bd3 Ne7 6.Nf3 ]

**5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.f4**

[ 6.c4 e5 ]

[ 6.d3 allows Black to consolidate with e5 7.Ne2 White still intends to play f4 ( 7.Nf3 Ne7 8.0-0 Ng6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.c3 f5 )]

### 6...Nf6

[ 6...d5 7.d3 stabilizing the center dxe4 8.dxe4 Qxd1+ 9.Kxd1 c4 Black's best hope; However, White is still slightly better due to the superior coordination of his minor pieces ( 9...Bd7 any waste of tempo will be answered with 10.c4 ) 10.Nd2 cxb3 ( 10...Ba6 11.Nxc4 Bxc4 12.bxc4 ) 11.axb3 ]

**7.d3 Be7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 d5**

**10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Ne5 Ba6 12.c4**

White achieved his strategic goal: now the light-squared bishop is never becoming active **12...d4**

[ 12...dxc4

**A) 13.bxc4** Rab8 14.Bc3 ( 14.Ba3 is a move more suitable for the endgame. Currently, it is better to keep the bishop on the long diagonal from where it is more active );

**B) 13.dxc4 ]**

**13.Bc1 Ne8 14.Ndf3**

[ 14.g3 f6 15.Nef3 ]

**14...f6**

[ 14...Qd8 15.Ng4 Nf6 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.g4 g6 18.e5 Be7 19.g5 Qc7 20.h4 ]

**15.Ng4 g6 16.e5 f5 17.Nf2 Kg7**

[ 17...Qd7 18.g4 Nc7 19.g5 Ne8 20.Nh1 Ng7 21.Ng3 Rf7 22.Bd2 Bc8 23.Ba5 ]

**18.g4 Rh8 19.h4 fxe4 20.Nxe4 Rf8**

**21.Ng5 Qd7 22.Qe1 Kg8 23.Nh6+ Kh8 24.Qg3 Ng7 25.Qg4 Nf5 26.Nxf5 gxf5 27.Qh5 Bxe5 28.hxe5 Rg8 29.Kf2 Rg6 30.Rh1 Rg8 31.Ba3 Qe7**

**32.Rh2 R8g7 33.Rah1 Kg8 34.Qd1 Kf8**

[ 34...Rxe5 35.fxe5 Qxe5 36.Bc1 Qg3+ 37.Kf1 ]

**35.Qd2 Qc7 36.Bxc5+ Ke8 37.Rh6 Rxh6 38.Rxh6 Bc8 39.Qb4 Qd7**

**40.Qb8** Guest1541854 abandonne (Lag: Av=0.53s, max=1.5s)

**1-0**

**B20**

☐ **B3 Sicilian**

☒ **How NOT to play with black 2**

Friendly Game, 3 min

24.02.2013

[GM Ioannis Papaioannou]

Another disaster for Black ( and another good blitz game by myself as White) .

**1.e4 c5 2.b3**

[ 2.h3 Such moves are possible for White, but we don't need to prepare for them – we have a good game by just developing the pieces. ]

**2...e6**

[ 2...d6! 3.Bb5+ ( 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 ) 3...Nd7 ]

**3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Bb5 d6? 5.Bxc6+± bxc6**

**6.f4 Nf6 7.d3 Be7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0**

**d5 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Ne5 Ba6 12.c4**

**d4 13.Bc1 Ne8 14.Ndf3 f6 15.Ng4**

**g6 16.e5 f5 17.Nf2 Kg7 18.g4 Rh8**

**19.h4 fxe4 20.Nxe4 Rf8 21.Ng5 Qd7**

**22.Qe1 Kg8 23.Nh6+ Kh8 24.Qg3**

**Ng7 25.Qg4 Nf5 26.Nxf5 gxf5**

**27.Qh5 Bxe5 28.hxe5 Rg8 29.Kf2**

**Rg6 30.Rh1 Rg8 31.Ba3 Qe7**

**32.Rh2 R8g7 33.Rah1 Kg8 34.Qd1**

**Kf8 35.Qd2 Qc7 36.Bxc5+ Ke8**

**37.Rh6 Rxh6 38.Rxh6 Bc8 39.Qb4**

**Qd7 40.Qb8**

**1-0**

**Sicilian 2.b3***[GM Petar G. Arnaudov]*

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** The best strategy against b3 is always to try to put our pawns on d6 and e5 to restrict the bishop **2...Nc6** I prefer to start with this move followed by e5 **3.Bb2 e5 4.f4**

[ 4.Bc4 This move deserves serious attention after 3...e5, but with such passive b2-bishop White can't be better. Black can develop his dark-squared bishop on g7 and start actions on the kingside Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Nge2 Bg7 7.0-0 d6 8.d3 0-0 9.a4 ( 9.h3 a6 10.a4 Nh5 11.Qd2 Rb8 12.f3 Bd7  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  (47) Eckhardt, T (2450)-Pirs, M (2559) ICCF email 2010 ) 9...Kh8 ( 9...Be6!? ) 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 Ne7 ( 11...Nb4! 12.Bc4 f5 is the correct move order ) 12.Bc4 g5 13.Ng3 f5  $\neq$  0-1 (35) Vallejo Pons, F (2710)-Gukesh, D (2730) chess.com INT 2023 ]

[ 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bc4 ( 5.Bb5 Is not dangerous for Black, because Bxc6 is not actually a threat d6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6  $\neq$  Black has massive centre and will continue with g6-Bg7 or with immediate d6-d5 followed by Bd6 ) 5...d6 6.Nge2 g6 transposes to 4.Bc4 ]

**4...exf4 5.Bc4**

[ 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.e5 Nh5! 7.Be2 d5 8.0-0 Bg4 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Bc5! 12.Qxh5 Nxd4 13.Kh1 Ne6!  $\neq$  Blatny - Serper, New York 1996 ]

**5...Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nf6 7.Nf3 Qh6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.e5**

[ 9.d3 0-0 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 d6

**B20**

12.Kf2 Nb4-+ 0-1 (62) Saulin, D (2438)-Babayev, T (2370) Suvorov 2012 ]

**9...Ng4 10.Qe2 0-0 11.h3 d6  $\neq$** **B20**☐ **Barnes, Stephen P**☒ **Freel, Lawrence**

Hawick op (3)

01.07.2000

*[Gary Lane]*

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** A favourite of Nigel Short. **2...d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.f4** White wishes to impose his authority of the e5 square because ...e7-e5 is often played to lessen the strength of white's queen's bishop. Lane, Gary: 'White wishes to impose his authority of the e5 square because ...e7-e5 is often played to lessen the strength of white's queen's bishop.' **4...e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3!?** A fairly unusual move that is designed for a kingside attack. The idea is that the e-pawn will be advance unleashing the king's bishop. Lane, Gary: 'A fairly unusual move that is designed for a kingside attack. The idea is that the e-pawn will be advance unleashing the king's bishop.'

[ 7.Be2 is considered a reasonable approach giving White the option of advancing the d-pawn. Lane, Gary: 'is considered a reasonable approach giving White the option of advancing the d-pawn.' 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 d5 12.Qd3 ( 12.exd5?? Bc5 wins ) 12...dxe4 13.Nxe4 Qxd3 14.Bxd3 Nd5 15.Rf3 ( 15.Rae1!? ) 15...Bb7 ( 15...Nb4 seems a good idea intending to exchange the bishop on

d3. ) 16.Re1 f6 17.a3 with equal chances, Haas,T–Rittmeier,B/Baden–Baden 1990. ]

**7...0–0** Lane,Gary: 'Or'

[Or 7...a6 8.0–0

**A) 8...0–0** 9.Kh1 e5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Nb4 ( 12...Qxd5 13.Qe1 Re8 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qxe5 Qxe5 16.Bxe5 Be6 with level play ) 13.Nxe5 Nxd3 14.Nxd3 Qxd5 15.Qf3 Qxf3 16.Rxf3 Rd8 17.Bc3 Bd6 18.Re1 b5 19.Ba5 Rf8 20.Bb6 Bb7 21.Rfe3 when the silicon monster playing White had an edge in Comp Rebel 10–Comp Nimzo 7.32/ Debrecen 1999/ Lane,Gary: 'when the silicon monster playing White had an edge in Comp Rebel 10–Comp Nimzo 7.32/Debrecen 1999/';

**B) 8...d5** 9.Kh1 ( 9.e5!?

should be considered ) 9...Nb4

**B1) 10.Be2?! Nxe4** ( 10...dxe4 11.Ng5 e3 12.dxe3 Qxd1 13.Bxd1= ) 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Ne5 f6 is fine for Black;

**B2) 10.e5** Nh5 11.Ne1 Nxd3 12.Nxd3 g6 13.Nf2 b6 14.Ng4 Bb7 15.Qe2 Ng7 16.Nf6+?! After the exchanges on f6 the pawn will be weak Bxf6 17.exf6 Nf5 18.Qe5 h5 19.d3 Qd7 20.Kg1 Qc6 21.g3 d4 22.Ne4 0–0–0 gave Black the advantage in Vukovic,Z–Cabrillo,G/Kladovo 1990/ ]

**8.Qe2 a6** Black wants to advance the queenside pawns. **9.0–0–0 b5**

[ 9...Nb4 is a sensible choice to exchange the bishop on d3 Lane, Gary: 'is a sensible choice to

exchange the bishop on d3' 10.a3 Nxd3+ 11.Qxd3 b5 intending Bb7 when I prefer Black. ]

**10.Rdg1**

[ 10.e5 to increase the role of the light–squared bishop is quite good when Lane,Gary: 'to increase the role of the light–squared bishop is quite good when' dxe5 11.fxe5 Nd5± 12.h4 Nf4? 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Qe4+ Ng6 15.h5 with a wining advantage. ]

**10...Bd7**

[ 10...d5! intending to advance the c–pawn is the right plan when 11.Ne5 ( 11.e5 Nd7 12.Qe1 Nb4 is good for Black ) 11...Nb4 12.exd5 exd5 13.a3 Nxd3+ 14.Qxd3 Bb7 gives Black good prospects on the queenside thanks to the avalanche of pawns. Lane,Gary: 'gives Black good prospects on the queenside thanks to the avalanche of pawns.' ]

**11.g4** Barnes rightly wants to accelerate his chances on the kingside to deflect Black from attacking on the queenside. Lane,Gary: 'Barnes rightly wants to accelerate his chances on the kingside to deflect Black from attacking on the queenside.' **11...Nb4 12.g5** White continues to advance on the kingside in pursuit of the attack.

**12...Nxd3+**

[ 12...Nh5!? immediately is probably better because taking on d3 allows White the extra option of Nc3–e2–g3. For instance: 13.Rg4 e5 14.f5 Nf4 15.Rxf4 exf4 16.Rg1 Kh8 ( 16...Nxd3+ 17.Qxd3 Bc6? 18.f6 is good for White ) 17.a3 Nxd3+ 18.Qxd3 Bc6 19.Ne2 with doubled–edged play giving White enough compensation for the exchange. Lane,



Gary: 'with doubled-edged play giving White enough compensation for the exchange.' ]

**13.Qxd3 Nh5 14.Ne2 c4?! It cannot be right to encourage the white queen to dominate the a1–h8 diagonal. Lane, Gary: 'It cannot be right to encourage the white queen to dominate the a1–h8 diagonal.'** **15.Qd4 f6** Black has to block the a1–h8 diagonal to avoid a calamity on g7.

[ 15...Re8? 16.Ng3 e5 17.fxe5 Nf4 18.exd6 Bf8 leaves White a couple of pawns up with an attack. Lane, Gary: 'leaves White a couple of pawns up with an attack.' ]

**16.h4**

[ 16.gxf6!? Nxf6 17.e5 dxe5 18.Nxe5 Bc8!? 19.Nc6 Qd6 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Rg5 intending to double rooks with good chances. ]

**16...cxb3 17.axb3 a5**

[ 17...Rc8 18.gxf6 Nxf6 19.e5 ( 19.Qd3!? is also worth trying Lane, Gary: 'is also worth trying' ) 19...dxe5 20.fxe5 Qc7 21.Ne1 Nd5 22.Qg4 Rf7 23.Rh3 with roughly equal chances. ]

**18.Rg2**

[ 18.gxf6 Nxf6 19.Rg2 the idea of doubling the rooks is fairly obvious but still effective Lane, Gary: 'the idea of doubling the rooks is fairly obvious but still effective' ]

**18...g6**

[ 18...a4! is necessary to get the counterplay on the queenside working before White can crash through on the kingside: Lane, Gary: 'is necessary to get the counterplay on the queenside working before White can crash through on the kingside:'

19.gxf6

**A) 19...Nxf6 20.Rhg1 g6** ( 20...Rf7 21.Ng5 Rf8 22.Nxh7 Kxh7 23.Rxg7+ Kh8 24.R7g6 Kh7 25.Rg7+ with at least a draw. Lane, Gary: 'with at least a draw.' ) 21.h5! is good for White;

**B) 19...Bxf6 20.Qxd6 Bxb2+** ( 20...a3 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.e5 Qf7 23.Rhg1 when White has an edge ) 21.Kxb2 axb3 22.Nfd4 ( 22.Kxb3? b4! 23.Qc5 Nxf4 24.Nxf4 Rxf4-- ) 22...Ra2+ 23.Kxb3 Qa5 seems to be winning for Black due to the exposed white king. ]

**19.Rhg1** Lane, Gary: 'Or'

[ Or 19.gxf6!? Rxf6 20.f5± ]

**19...Bc6 20.Qe3 f5??** Black loses patience and tries to go on the offensive but the problem of the weakness of the a1–h8 diagonal has not gone away.

Lane, Gary: 'Black loses patience and tries to go on the offensive but the problem of the weakness of the a1–h8 diagonal has not gone away.'

[ 20...a4̄ is the consistent approach. Lane, Gary: 'is the consistent approach.' ]

**21.Qc3 fxe4**

[ 21...Kf7 22.Qxc6 Rc8 23.Qxb5 fxe4 24.Nh2 d5 25.Ng4 is completely winning for White. ]

**22.Qh8+ Kf7 23.Qxh7+ Ke8**

**24.Qxg6+ Kd7 25.Nfd4**

[ 25.Qxh5 exf3 26.Nd4 fxe2 27.Nxe6 Qe8 28.Qg4! wins ]

**25...Bd5 26.Qxh5 e3**

[ 26...a4 is now too late: 27.Qg4 axb3 28.Nc3+- ]

**27.dxe3 Bxg2 28.Rxg2 Qb6 29.Qg4 1-0**

**B20**□ **Bochkarev,Alexander**■ **Nogin,Nikolai**

Kiev Independence Cup op (2) 1998

*[Gary Lane]*

**1.e4** Lane,Gary **1...c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.f4** The advance of the f-pawn is designed to stop Black from playing ...e7-e5. Lane,Gary: 'The advance of the f-pawn is designed to stop Black from playing ...e7-e5.' **4...e6 5.g3**

Bochkarev wants to fianchetto on the kingside which is an echo of the set-up employed in the Closed Sicilian. Lane, Gary: 'Bochkarev wants to fianchetto on the kingside which is an echo of the set-up employed in the Closed Sicilian.'

[ 5.Nf3 Nf6

**A) 6.e5** Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7 8.0-0 Nb6 9.a4 Bd7 10.Ng5 Nd8 11.Na3 d5 12.f5 exf5 13.Rxf5 Be7 14.Nxf7 Nxf7 ( 14...0-0 15.e6 Bxe6 16.Nh6+ Kh8± ) 15.e6!± 0-0 16.Rxf7 Rxf7 17.exf7+

**A1) Or 17...Kh8** 18.a5 c4 19.axb6 ( 19.d4 is a good alternative ) 19...Qxb6+ 20.Kh1 Bxb5 21.Nxb5 Qxb5 22.Rxa7 Rxa7 23.Qg4 Bf8 24.Qxg7+! Bxg7 25.f8Q#;

**A2) 17...Kxf7** Lane,Gary: 'Or' 18.a5 ( 18.Qh5+ is also strong when Kg8 19.Bd3 h6 20.Qg6 Bf8 21.Rf1 leads to mate ) 18...Bxb5? Black miscalculates and loses a piece ( 18...c4 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.bxc4 leaves White on top ) 19.Nxb5 Qc6 20.Qf1+ the point is that the knight is now protected by the

queen Lane,Gary: 'the point is that the knight is now protected by the queen' Kg8 21.axb6 Qxb6 22.Nc3 c4+ 23.Kh1 Qd4 24.Qe2 1-0 Krupa,M-Toma,K/Brzeg Dolny 2001/;

**B) 6.Nc3** Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.d4 d5 10.e5 The pawn structure now is similar to a French Defence. Ng4 11.Qc1 cxd4 12.Nb5 Ne3 13.Re1 Nf5

**B1) 14.Bxd4?** a6 ( 14...Nfxd4?! 15.Nfxd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4= )

15.g4 Nh4! winning.;

**B2) 14.Nbxd4?!** Nfxd4 15.Nxd4 Bc5=;

**B3) 14.g4** A nice in-between move that gives White a slight initiative: Lane,Gary: 'A nice in-between move that gives White a slight initiative:' 14...Nh6 15.Nbxd4 Bc5 16.Kh1 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 The knight likes it on d4 Qh4 18.Rg1 f5 ( 18...a5= is the best chance for Black. Lane,Gary: '=') 19.exf6± Qxf6 20.g5 Qxf4 21.Qxf4 Rxf4 22.gxh6 Bxd4 ( 22...g6 23.Rg4 Rf7 24.Rg3+- ) 23.Bxd4 Rxd4?? a blunder but Black is lost anyway. ( 23...g6 24.Rg4 Rxd4 25.Bxg4 ) 24.Rxd4+ Kh8 25.Rf1 1-0 Heiduczek,J-Mittermeier,J/Berlin 1992/ ]

**5...Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.Nf3 0-0**

[ 7...Nxe4 8.Bxg7 Rg8 9.Bb2 Bf6 Black needs to respond actively otherwise his king might come under attack now that he can't castle kingside Lane,Gary: 'Black needs to respond actively otherwise his king might come under attack now that he

can't castle kingside' 10.Nc3  
with equal chances. ]

**8.e5**

[ 8.Nc3 seems perfectly acceptable to  
get another piece into play. Lane,  
Gary: 'seems perfectly acceptable to  
get another piece into play.' ]

**8...Nd5 9.a3 b5 10.exd6 Qxd6**

**11.Ne5 Bb7 12.c4 bxc4 13.bxc4 Nf6**

**14.0-0** White catches up with  
development but his queenside pieces  
are also undervalued. Lane, Gary: 'White  
catches up with development but his  
queenside pieces are also undervalued.'

**14...Nd4!** A clever attacking move that  
installs a strong knight on d4. Lane,  
Gary: 'A clever attacking move that  
installs a strong knight on d4.' **15.Bh3**

[ 15.Nc3!? Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Rab8  
17.Rb1 Rb6 with the idea of doubling  
rooks gives Black an edge. ]

[ 15.Bxb7 is a temporary sacrifice due  
to Rab8 16.Bg2 Rxb2

with advantage. Lane, Gary: 'with  
advantage.' ]

**15...Nd7** The knight on e5 is White's  
dominant piece so Ngin intends to  
exchange it. Another reason is that after  
the exchange of pieces then options  
such as ... Qd6-c6 will be possible.  
Lane, Gary: 'The knight on e5 is White's  
dominant piece so Ngin intends to  
exchange it. Another reason is that after  
the exchange of pieces then options  
such as ...Qd6-c6 will be possible.'

**16.Ng4 f5**

[ 16...Rab8 17.Bc3 Qc6 18.Kf2  
allows White to avoid mate but his  
position is poor. ]

**17.Ne3 Bf6**

[ 17...Qc6 18.Bg2 Qb6 19.Bxb7  
Qxb7 20.Bc3 Bf6 gives Black the

superior prospects due to white's  
exposed king. Lane, Gary: 'gives Black  
the superior prospects due to  
white's exposed king.' ]

**18.Nc3 Rfb8 19.Rb1 Bc6 20.Bg2**

**Bxg2 21.Nxg2 Qc6 22.Kh1**

[ 22.Ne3 Rb7 23.Ba1 Rxb1 24.Nxb1  
Rb8 and White is struggling to make  
an impact. Lane, Gary: 'and White is  
struggling to make an impact.' ]

**22...Rb7 23.Ba1 Rab8 24.Rxb7 Rxb7**

**25.Re1**

[ 25.d3 Qd6 26.Ne3 Nb3 and Black  
maintains the pressure. ]

**25...g6 26.a4 a6 27.a5**

[ 27.Re3 Nb3 $\bar{f}$  ]

**27...Kf7 28.g4**

[ 28.Rf1 Nb3 $\bar{f}$  ]

**28...Qf3**

[ 28...Nf3!? 29.Re3 fxf4-- ]

**29.gxf5 gxf5 30.Qa4??** causes even  
greater problems Lane, Gary: 'In the  
circumstances,'

[ In the circumstances, 30.Ne2!  
is the best chance Nxe2 31.Rxe2  
( 31.Bxf6 Nxf6 32.Qxe2 Qxe2  
33.Rxe2 Rb4 34.Ne3 Ra4  
and Black should win ) 31...Bxa1  
wins ]

[ 30.Qxf3 Nxf3 31.Rd1 Bd8  
wins the a-pawn giving Black a  
winning ending. Lane, Gary: 'wins the  
a-pawn giving Black a winning ending.  
' ]

**30...Qh3!** The simple threat of ...Nf3  
followed by ... Qxh2 mate is a killer.

Lane, Gary: 'The simple threat of ...Nf3  
followed by ...Qxh2 mate is a killer.'

**31.Ne3**

[ 31.Re3 is not much help after Nf3  
32.Rxf3 Qxf3 33.h4 Bd4 and it is  
time for White to go home. ]

**31...Nf3 32.Re2 Bxc3 33.Bb2**

Lane,Gary: 'Or'

[Or 33.Qd1 Nxd2! 34.Bxc3 Rb1 wins. ]

**33...Bxb2 34.Qc6 Ra7 35.Rg2**

[ 35.Rf2 just prolongs the torture Nd4 36.Qc8 Bc1 37.Rg2 Qf3 38.Qg8+ Ke7 and eventually White will run out of checks and have to face reality. ]

**35...Bd4 36.Ng4 Ne1**

[ 36...fxg4 37.f5 Nf8 is also an easy victory for Nogin. Lane,Gary: 'is also an easy victory for Nogin.' ]

**37.Nh6+ Qxh6 38.Re2**

**0-1**

**B40**

□ **Kristof,Peter**

■ **Magossy,Imre**

HUN-chT2 9798

1998

[Gary Lane]

**1.e4 Lane,Gary 1...c5 2.b3 b6**

If you can't beat them then join them.

Black copies White's opening strategy.

Lane,Gary: 'If you can't beat them then join them. Black copies White's opening strategy.'

**3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3**

This position can also occur after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 b3 and might also be found under the ECO code of B40. Lane, Gary: 'This position can also occur after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 b3 and might also be found under the ECO code of B40.'

**5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 a6**

[ 7...Nf6

**A) 8.Bd3 Be7 9.f4 0-0 10.Qe2**

( 10.Qf3 Nc6 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.0-0 with a slight edge. )

10...Nbd7 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5

Nd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.0-0-0 Bc5

15.Kb1 Qg5 The isolated pawn on e5 is weak. Lane,Gary: 'The isolated pawn on e5 is weak.' 16.c4 Bb7 ( 16...Bxg2?? 17.Rhg1+- ) 17.Nf3 Bxf3 ( 17...Qh5 18.Be4 Bxe4+ 19.Qxe4 is a little better for White ) 18.gxf3 ( 18.Qxf3 Nxe5 19.h4 Nxf3 20.hxg5 Nxg5= ) 18...Rfd8 19.Qe4 Nf8 20.f4 Qh5 21.a3 gave White an edge in R. Djurhuus-L.Van Wely, Gausdal 1992.;

**B) 8.Bb5+** Also possible: 8...Nbd7 9.0-0 a6 ( 9...Nxe4 is tempting but Black's lack of development is a problem after Lane,Gary: 'is tempting but Black's lack of development is a problem after' 10.Nxe4 Bxe4 11.Qg4 when White has good attacking chances.; 9...Bxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Qf3 Nef6 12.Rfe1! intending to play Nxe6 is very powerful for White. Lane,Gary: 'intending to play Nxe6 is very powerful for White.' Be7 13.Bxd7+ Nxd7 14.Nc6 Qc8 15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Rxe6!! fxe6 17.Qh5# ) 10.Bc6 Bxc6 11.Nxc6 Qc7 12.Nd4 Be7 13.Kh1 0-0 14.f4 Rfe8 15.Qf3 White is getting ready to play f4-f5 b5 16.a3 Rac8 17.Rad1 Bf8 18.Rd2 Nc5 19.f5 ( 19.Nde2 Qc6 20.Ng3 Red8= ) 19...d5 Lane,Gary: 'or' (or 19...exf5!? 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.exd5 Ne4= ) 20.fxe6 dxe4 21.exf7+ Qxf7 22.Qh3 Rcd8 ( 22...Qd7 is worth investigating when 23.Qh4 e3 is slightly better for Black ) 23.b4?! ( 23.Rdd1 is roughly equal. ) 23...Qc4 gave Black the superior chances, I.Kulich-N.



Bojkovic, Kishinev 1995. Lane, Gary: 'gave Black the superior chances, I.Kulish-N.Bojkovic, Kishinev 1995.' ]

**8.Bd3 Nf6 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.f4 Qc7 11.0-0-0** White declares he is ready to attack by getting his king to safety. The idea would be to advance the central pawns as a way to provoke concessions. Lane,Gary: 'Instead'

[ Instead 11.0-0 is the quiet alternative when b5 12.Nf3 Be7 is about equal. Lane,Gary: 'is about equal.' ]

**11...b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.g5 b4 14.gxf6 bxc3 15.Bxc3 gxf6 16.Kb2 Rc8 17.Qe1**

[ 17.Kb1 is a safer alternative. ]

**17...Nxe4?**

[ 17...Bxe4! is the right reply when 18.Rg1 Be7 19.Ba5 is fine for Black upon Qb7 ]

**18.Bxe4??** Kristof assume s all is lost and meekly plays out the last few moves of the game. Lane,Gary: 'Kristof assumes all is lost and meekly plays out the last few moves of the game.'

[ 18.Ba5! would certainly have got Black thinking and it would not be positive! For instance: Qc5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bxe4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 is good for White and the Black king stuck in the middle of a board is in difficulties. Lane,Gary: 'is good for White and the Black king stuck in the middle of a board is in difficulties.' ]

**18...Bxe4 19.Ba5 Qb7** After a brief flurry of activity Black can maintain a grip on the position. Lane,Gary: 'After a brief flurry of activity Black can maintain a grip on the position.' **20.Rg1 e5 21.fxe5**

[ 21.Bc3 a5-+ ]

**21...dxe5**

[ 21...fxe5 22.Bc3-+ ]

**22.Bc3**

[ 22.Rg4!? Bg6 23.Rf4- ]

**22...Bg6**

[ 22...Bc5 is one way of stepping up the pressure when 23.Rg4 Bg6 leaves Black with a solid position and plenty of opportunities to attack. ]

**23.Rg3?**

[ 23.Rf1!? would allow White to keep on struggling but the text allows Black to create a strong attack after 23...Be7 24 Ne2 Qe4 so White gave up the dull task of defending. Lane,Gary: 'would allow White to keep on struggling but the text allows Black to create a strong attack after 23...Be7 24 Ne2 Qe4 so White gave up the dull task of defending.' ]

**0-1**

**B40**

☐ **Klasmeier,Jens**

☒ **Wegener,Olaf**

Ruhrgebiet VK2 9899 (7)

07.03.1999

[Gary Lane]

**1.e4 Lane,Gary 1...c5 2.b3 b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 a6**

[ 7...Nf6

**A) 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.0-0 Be7**

10.Qe2 a6 11.Kh1 g5 ( 11...0-0!? is less confrontational and safer )

12.a4 Ne5 Black has stopped f2-f4 being played and can play g4 to try to start more serious operations on the kingside Lane,Gary: 'Black has stopped f2-f4 being played and can

play g4 to try to start more serious operations on the kingside' 13.Nf3 Rg8 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Nb1 Qc7 16.Nd2 g4 17.Nc4 Nd7 18.Bc1 Nc5 19.Bb2 ( 19.Be3 h5 is double-edged ) 19...f6 ( 19...Nd7 20.a5 b5 21.Nb6 Nxb6 22.axb6 is a little better for Black )

**A1) 20.a5** b5 Lane,Gary: 'or' (or 20...Nxd3 21.cxd3 b5 22.Nb6 when the knight on b6 is dominant. ) 21.Nb6 Rd8=;

**A2) 20.b4** Nd7 ( 20...Nxd3 21.cxd3 Bxb4 22.Rac1= ) 21.c3 h5 22.Bc1 Rg6 23.Bd2 Kf7 ( 23...h4 24.Be3= ) 24.Bc2 h4 25.Ne3 Rag8 26.Kg1 Nf8 27.Qc4 ( 27.a5 is also good ) 27...Qb8? ( 27...Qxc4!? 28.Nxc4 Nd7= ) 28.Rfd1 ( 28.Nf5 Ke8 29.Nxe7 Kxe7 30.Be3 winning ) 28...Kg7 29.Nf5+! a great move to play because the spectators would be laughing because it looks so odd! Lane,Gary: 'a great move to play because the spectators would be laughing because it looks so odd!' exf5 30.exf5 with a clear advantage, I. Asmundsson-F.Olafsson,Iceland 1980.;

**B) 8.Bc4** Nxe4 ( 8...Bxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Qh5 gives White strong attacking chances ) 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.Qg4 Bg6 11.0-0 a6? a slow move in difficult circumstances ( 11...e5!? is the best chance in the circumstances ) 12.Bxe6! fxe6? Black wants to test the sacrifice. ( 12...Ra7 might well allow Black to stay in the game but not for long.

Lane,Gary: 'might well allow Black to stay in the game but not for long.' ) 13.Nxe6 Qd7 14.Rfe1 Be7 15.Nxg7+ Kd8 16.Ne6+ Kc8 17.Bxh8 Nc6 18.h3 Kb8 19.Nd4 1-0 A.Collinson-S.Barrett,British team Championship 1999. Lane, Gary: 'Black resigned in view of' (Black resigned in view of 19.Nd4 Kc7 20.Nxc6 Qxg4 21.hxg4 Kxc6 22.Rxe7 Rxh8 23.f4+- )]

**8.Bd3 Nd7 9.Qe2 Ngf6 10.f4 Qc7 11.0-0-0**

[ 11.0-0 b5 12.Nf3 Be7 offers equal chances. ]

**11...Nc5 12.Rhe1 Be7 13.g4 h6**

**14.Kb1 b5 15.g5** Lane,Gary: 'Perhaps' [Perhaps 15.a3!? should be employed to steady the queenside. Lane,Gary: 'should be employed to steady the queenside.' ]

**15...hxg5 16.fxg5 Nfd7 17.g6 b4**

Lane,Gary: 'After'

[After 17...fxg6 White can use his better placed pieces to cause damage to Black's position. 18.b4! Bf6 19.e5 dxe5 20.Bxg6+ Kd8 21.Nf3 with the better attacking chances. Lane,Gary: 'with the better attacking chances.' ]

**18.gxf7+ Kxf7 19.Nxe6 Nxe6**

[ 19...Kxe6 allows a forced mate upon 20.Bc4+ d5 21.exd5+ Kf5 22.Bd3+ Nxd3 23.Qe4+ Kf6 24.Qe6+ Kg5 25.Rg1+ Qg3 26.Rxg3+ Kh5 27.Qf5+ Kh6 28.Qg6# ]

**20.Nd5 Qc5 21.Bc4 Bf6?!**

[ 21...Rh4 keeps White at bay for a while. ]

**22.Nf4 Ndf8**

[ 22...Bxb2!? 23.Bxe6+ Ke8 24.Nd3 is good for White. ]

**23.e5 dxe5 24.Nxe6 Nxe6 25.Rd7+ Ke8 26.Rxb7 Qc6**

[ 26...Nd8 allows 27.Bxe5 Bxe5 28.Qxe5+ Qxe5 29.Rxe5+ Kf8 30.Rf5+ Ke8 31.Rxg7+- ]

**27.Bxe6**

[ 27.Bxe5! shorten the length of the game after Kf8 28.Bxe6 Qxe6 29.Bxf6 Qxe2 30.Bxg7+ Kg8 31.Rxe2 winning. ]

**27...Qxb7**

[ 27...Qxe6 28.Rxb4 leaves White the clear favourite to win. ]

**28.Bxe5 Kf8**

[ 28...Ra7 29.Bxf6 gxf6+- ]

**29.Qc4**

[ 29.Bd6+ is more forcing. For instance: Ke8 30.Bf5+ Kd8 31.Qd2 Qd7 32.Be7+ Kc7 33.Qxd7+ Kb6 34.Re6+ Ka5 35.Qa4# ]

**29...Bxe5?**

[ 29...Rd8 keeps Black in the game although after 30.Bc7 Qb5 31.Qf4 White is on top. ]

**30.Rxe5 Qe7 31.Rf5+ Qf6** allows mate after Lane,Gary: 'allows mate after'

**32.Qc5+ Ke8 33.Qc6+ Kf8 34.Qd6+ Ke8 35.Qd7+ Kf8 36.Rxf6+ gxf6**

**37.Qf7#**

**1-0**

□ **Bondarev,Boris**

■ **Beshukov,Sergei**

Krasnodar op

[Gary Lane, MH]

**B20**

1997

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0

9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4

Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♞bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6

8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline

5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team

Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**3.f4N** White wishes to control the e5 squares so that his bishop on b2 will not be blocked by a black pawn. Of course, it also helps to develop the kingside in an aggressive manner. Lane, Gary: 'Or'

[Or 3.c4 Nc6 4.g3 h5!?

an aggressive continuation 5.h3 e5 ( 5...h4 is met by 6.g4 ) 6.Nc3 Nge7

7.d3 d6 8.Nf3 Bd7 9.Nd5 Nxd5

Black is happy to encourage a series of exchanges 10.exd5 Nd4 11.Nxd4

exd4 12.Qe2+ Qe7 13.Bf4 Bf5

14.0-0-0 0-0-0 15.Qxe7

1/2-1/2 I.Nei-P.Leko, European

Team Championship Debrecen

1992. ]

[ 3.d4 e6 ( 3...cxd4 is met by 4.Nf3 )

4.Nf3 Ba6 5.Bxa6 Nxa6 6.0-0 Nc7

7.d5 d6 8.c4 e5 9.Nc3 White has a space advantage but black's knight on

c7 looks misplaced. Lane,Gary:

'White has a space advantage but

black's knight on c7 looks misplaced.'

Be7 10.Be3 g6 11.Qd2 f5 12.exf5

gxf5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxe7 Qxe7

15.Rfe1 0-0-0 16.b4 White starts

attacking at the first opportunity cxb4  
 17.Nb5 Nxb5 18.cxb5 Qb7 19.Qxb4  
 Ne7 ( 19...Qxd5 20.Rad1 Qe6  
 21.Nxe5 dxe5 22.Qc3+ Kb7  
 23.Rxd8 and Black can give up )  
 20.Qc3+ Kd7 21.Nxe5+!  
 a great sacrifice to gain direct access  
 to the black king dxe5 22.Qxe5 Nxd5  
 23.Rac1 Rhe8 24.Qxf5+ Kd6  
 25.Rc6+ Qxc6 26.Qg6+  
 1-0 J.Dovzik-I.Kincs, Eger 1993.  
 Lane,Gary: '1-0 J.Dovzik-I.Kincs,  
 Eger 1993.' ]  
 [ 3.Bb2 Bb7

**A) 4.Nc3** e6 ( 4...Nc6 5.Nf3 e6  
 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5 8.Ndb5  
 Qb8 9.Nd5 Kf8 10.Ndc7 a6  
 11.Qxd7 Nf6 12.Bxf6 gxf6  
 13.Nxe6+ fxe6 14.Nc7 Nd4  
 15.0-0-0 Bc6 16.Nxe6+ Nxe6  
 17.Qxc6 Qf4+ 18.Kb1 Re8  
 19.Bc4 9.♔d3 ♘c6 10.♘bd2\_194  
 (2320)-Shchebeniuk,M (2610)  
 USSR 1995 CBM 078 [FS-70/204]  
 0-1 (67); 4...d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7  
 7.Qe2 Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.g4 d5  
 10.e5 Nxc4 11.Rg1 h5 12.f5 Nf8  
 13.Nb5 d4 14.Bg2 exf5 15.Nfxd4  
 Bxg2 16.Nxf5 Bc6 17.Nxc7+ Kd7  
 18.d4 c4 19.Nc3 Chapter 15 Part  
 2-Game 4 Game 4 (34) ) 5.Nf3 d6  
 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 a6 8.Bd3 Nf6  
 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.f4 Qc7 11.0-0-0  
 b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.g5 b4 14.gxf6  
 bxc3 15.Bxc3 gxf6 16.Kb2 Rc8  
 17.Qe1 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxe4  
 5,B-Brunner,J Kazan 1998 200  
 Traps In The Opening [Elburg,  
 CCYB] 0-1;

**B) 4.Qe2** White adopts a slow  
 development strategy. It is a safe  
 choice but hardly expected to

become the latest fashion Lane,  
 Gary: 'White adopts a slow  
 development strategy. It is a safe  
 choice but hardly expected to  
 become the latest fashion' 4...e6  
 5.f4 Nf6 6.d3 Be7 7.g3 d6 8.Bg2  
 Nc6 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0  
 the chances are even Qc7  
 11.Nbd2 Rae8 12.Nc4 b5  
 13.Nxd6!? White wants to trade off  
 some pieces but it does nothing to  
 improve his position. Lane,Gary:  
 'White wants to trade off some  
 pieces but it does nothing to  
 improve his position.' Qxd6 14.e5  
 Qd8 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6  
 17.Ne5 Nd4 18.Qf2 Qe7 19.c3  
 Nf5 20.Be4 1/2-1/2 J.Weidemann-  
 H.Wegner, German Team  
 Championship 1987. Lane,Gary: '1/  
 2-1/2 J.Weidemann-H.Wegner,  
 German Team Championship 1987.  
 ' ]

**3...Bb7 4.Nc3 g6** Lane,Gary: 'A few  
 years later Black experimented with'  
 [A few years later Black experimented  
 with 4...a6 to keep out a bishop from  
 b5 when the game continued Lane,  
 Gary: 'to keep out a bishop from b5  
 when the game continued' 5.Nf3 e6  
 6.Bb2 d5 7.Bd3 ( 7.e5 d4 8.Ne2?  
 Bxf3 9.gxf3 Qh4+ 10.Ng3 Qxf4  
 and Black is a pawn up for nothing )  
 7...Nc6 8.exd5 exd5 9.Qe2+ Nge7  
 ( 9...Qe7? fails to 10.Nxd5 ) 10.0-0  
 Nb4 11.Rae1 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 d4  
 13.Na4 Qc7 14.Qf5 Qc6 15.Rf2  
 Bc8 16.Ne5 gave White an edge in L.  
 Langner-S. Berezjuk, Prague 2001.  
 Lane,Gary: 'gave White an edge in L.  
 Langner-S.Berezjuk, Prague 2001.' ]  
**5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bb2?** -0.52/21 Lane,Gary:



'Interesting is'

[ Interesting is 6.Bc4 when Bxe4  
7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Kf8 9.Ngxe4  
Nc6 offers equal chances. ]  
[ 6.Be2= -0.06/19 ]

**6...Bxe4** Black takes advantage of the pin on a1-h8 diagonal to win a pawn. I have included this game as a warning to White of a typical tactic. It also has merit because so often players of the Black pieces are baffled how to take advantage of an extra pawn to win the game. In this example White goes all out for glory and it backfires. Lane, Gary: 'Black takes advantage of the pin on a1-h8 diagonal to win a pawn. I have included this game as a warning to White of a typical tactic. It also has merit because so often players of the Black pieces are baffled how to take advantage of an extra pawn to win the game. In this example White goes all out for glory and it backfires.' **7.Nxe4** -0.90/23

[ 7.d4 -0.57/17 Bb7 8.dxc5 ]

**7...Bxb2** **8.Bc4** -1.93/22

[ 8.Rb1!? -0.70/20 8.Nf3-e5 -1.14 is the best move in the circumstances but White abandons caution. Lane, Gary: 'is the best move in the circumstances but White abandons caution.' Bg7 9.Bc4 -1.09/22 ( 9.Bd3 -0.72/18 ) ]

[ 8.Rb1 -0.86/22 Bg7 9.g3 ]

**8...Bxa1** **9.Qxa1** **Nf6** **10.f5** **0-0**

[ 10...gxf5?! -0.46/22 10...0-0 -2.31 gains a pawn but wrecks his kingside upon 11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.0-0 0-0 -0.01/25 ( 12...Nc6 -0.47/22 13.Nh4 d5 ) 13.Bd5= Nc6 Strongly threatening ...Qd8-e7. 14.Nh4 with a strong attack. ]

[ 10...gxf5 11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.0-0 -0.01/25 ]

**11.fxg6** **hxc6**

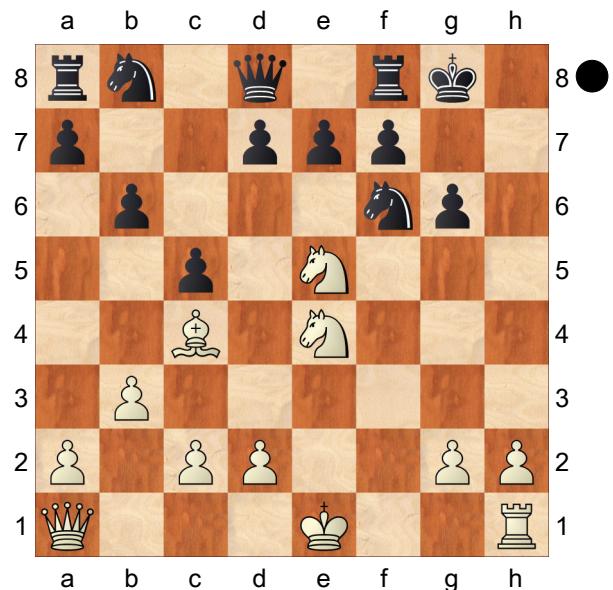
[ 11...Nxe4?! -0.50/23 11...h7xg6 -2.06 12.gxh7+ Kxh7 13.Bd5= Nc6 14.Bxe4+ Kg8 15.Qc3 when the queen is eager to switch to the kingside. ]

[ Inferior is 11...Nxe4 12.gxh7+ Kxh7 13.Bd5 -0.01/25 ]

**12.Ne5?** -3.67/24

[ 12.Nxf6+ exf6 13.Bd5 Re8+ 14.Kf2 -+ ]

[ 12.Qe5 -2.12/24 keeps fighting. ]



**12...d5**

[ Don't go for 12...Nxe4? 13.Nxc6 Nf6 14.Qc3 -+ ]

**13.Nxf6+ exf6** **14.Ng4** **Re8+** **15.Kd1**

**Re6** Beshukov sensibly guards the f6 pawn.

[ 15...dxc4? 0.01/26 15...Re8-e6 -3.60 is what White wants when the game will end peacefully with Lane, Gary: 'is what White wants when the game will end peacefully with' 16.Nxf6+ Kf8 17.Nh7+ Kg8 18.Nf6+ Kf8 19.Nh7+ Kg8! 20.Nf6+ and a draw by repetition. ]

[Worse is 15...dxc4 16.Nxf6+ Kf8  
17.Nh7+ Kg8 18.Nf6+ Kf8 19.Nh7+  
Kg8 20.Nf6+= ]

**16.Rf1**

[ 16.Bxd5 is not much help after Lane,  
Gary: 'is not much help after' Qxd5  
17.Nxf6+ Rxf6 18.Qxf6 Nd7  
and White can give up. ]

**16...dxc4 17.Rxf6 -5.32/23**

[ 17.Nxf6+ does nothing when Rxf6  
18.Qxf6 Qxf6 19.Rxf6 Nd7  
gives Black victory. ]

[ Δ17.Nxf6+ -3.69/24 Rxf6 18.Qxf6  
Qxf6 19.Rxf6 ]

**17...Qd4** White got outplayed after the  
opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/  
Black=0.09 (flawless)

**0-1**☐ **Chapter**☒ **1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns***[Gotham]*

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** Often times 2. ...d6  
transposes back to other structures  
because Black doesn't really have any  
other options.

[ 2...d5 I've gotten this before, but it's  
just a weird Scandinavian. 3.exd5  
Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qe5+ ( 4...Qd8 5.Bb2  
Nf6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2 Nc6 ) 5.Be2  
Bg4 6.f4 Qe6 7.Bb2 Nc6 8.d3  
0-0-0 9.Ne4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 ]

[ 2...e5 This again will transpose back  
to many of the Nc6/e5 positions in  
the earlier chapter. 3.Bb2 d6 ]

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3  
Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbx7  
8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 0-0 10.Re1 Re8

11.Nc3 ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...e5 Transposes ]

**4.Bb5+** We're going for a positional  
game with attacking possibilities. The  
key is trading off the bishop before we  
play d2-d3. **4...Bd7**

[ 4...Nbd7 5.d3 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7  
7.f4 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0  
10.Qe2 ]

[ 4...Nc6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 e5  
7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nd2 0-0  
10.Qe1 Be6 11.f4 exf4 ]

**5.Bxd7+ Qxd7**

[ 5...Nbx7 6.d3 e5 7.Ne2 ]

**6.d3**

[ 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5 Nc6 8.Nc3 e6  
9.Nge2 0-0-0 10.0-0-0 Rg8 11.g3  
d5 ]

**6...Nc6 7.f4 e6**

[ 7...d5 8.Nd2 0-0-0 9.Qe2 dxe4  
10.dxe4 Nd4 11.Bxd4 Qxd4 12.Rd1  
Qc3 13.Ngf3 Ng4 14.Ng5 Ne3  
15.Nxf7 Nxd1 16.Nxd8 ]  
[ 7...g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.c4  
a6 11.Nc3 Rab8 12.Qd2 b5  
13.Rae1 Ng4 14.h3 Nh6 15.Nd5 f6  
16.g4 Nf7 17.f5 Gelashvili-Pambalos  
2006 ]

**8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7**

**11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4 dxc4  
14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6  
gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1**  
Gelashvili-Amanov, 2006

**B20**

□ Chapter

■ 1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6

[Gotham, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** This might not look normal considering we are first to the diagonal, but it actually scores the best for Black -- so let's not underestimate it.

[ 2...Nf6 An expedited move-order.

3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 g6 ( 4...Nc6

Transposes to last chapter. ) 5.Nc3

Nxc3 6.dxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 Nc6 ]

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5

5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3

Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3

a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6

13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7

16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3

(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,

T] 1-0 (33) ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4

Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3

Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3

a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2

Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5

Polihroniade,E-12 9th move

alternatives Greek Team

Championship 2019 200 Traps In The

Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec

96] ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3N**

[ 4.e5 Nd5 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7

7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6

10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second

Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**4...d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7!**

[ 5...Bd7 0.24/21 5...Nb8-d7 -0.11

6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Bxd7+! Nxd7 8.Nc3

Bg7 9.h4 ]

**B20**

[ 5...Nc6 6.e5 dxe5 7.Bxc6+ bxc6

8.Bxe5 Bd7 0.40/18 ( 8...Qd5=

0.03/19 9.Bxf6 exf6 ) 9.Nc3 Bg7

10.Nge2 ]

**6.Bxf6**

[ 6.g4 ]

**6...exf6 7.Qg3**

[ 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.h4 0-0 next ...f6-f5!

is good for Black. 9.h5 Ne5 10.Qg3!

Be6 1.34/24 ( 10...a6= -0.01/20

11.Be2 f5 ) 11.f4 ]

**7...a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7**

**10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0** This position

requires practical tests. Black has a

fight of bishops vs. knights, but is held

back by a passive position, closed by

the pawns. White operates with the d4/

d5/d6 squares as a focus, with outposts

and potential pawn break (d2-d4) in the

future. A rather calm draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04

(flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

**B20**

□ Chapter

■ 1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nc6 all lines

[Gotham, MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** My alternative repertoire

in the Sicilian – a bit more positional

and slightly less crazy. **2...Nc6 3.Bb2**

**e5** Against Nc6/e5, we'll take a light-square complex.

[ 3...e6 Nc6+e6 is flexible. I personally

am a fan of 4.Bb5 A sneaky idea with

the same intentions as before: trade

the bishop, play d3-f4 etc. Nd4

( 4...Nge7 5.Nf3 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6

7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 exd5 9.Re1+ Be6

10.d4 Be7 11.dxc5 0-0 12.Qd3

*Bxc5 13.Qc3 ) 5.Bd3* I know, it's weird -- but Black can't take advantage of it. *d5 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Nf3 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Be7 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Qf3 ]*  
*[ 3...d6* We'll go *Bb5* and set up a *d3/f4* pawn structure. *4.Bb5 Nf6 ( 4...Bd7 5.f4 Nc3+Qe2+0-0-0.; 4...e5 5.Ne2 Nf6 6.d3 Be7 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.0-0 0-0 ) 5.Nc3 Bd7 6.f4 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.d4 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Qc7 13.g4 Rfe8 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 b5 16.g6 hxg6 17.h5* Carlsen-Ehlvest 2018 ]  
*[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 ( 4.Nc3 ) 4...Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 ( 5...e6 6.g3 ) 6.Bb5 Bd7 ( 6...Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2 6.0-0 ♖e8 7. ♗e1\_47236-Atanasov,A USSR 48/777 2017 CBM 063 [Moreno,Ale] ) 7.exd6 exd6 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 11.c4 Nc7 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Nc3 ]*  
*[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4* Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

#### 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4N

*[ 5.Ne2 Nf6 ( 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7 8.d3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5 11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1 Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7 16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3 Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 20.Rae1 6.♔d4 e5 7.♔d3\_52284-6.♙g5 ♘bd7 7.cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In*

The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 1-0 (37) ) 6.Nbc3 a6 7.a4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ]

#### 5...Nf6

*[ 5...exf4 6.Qf3 Nf6 7.Qxf4 Be7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Nc3 Be6 ( 9...Nh5!? 10.Qe3 Bf6= ) 10.0-0-0 ]*

#### 6.Nf3 Bg4

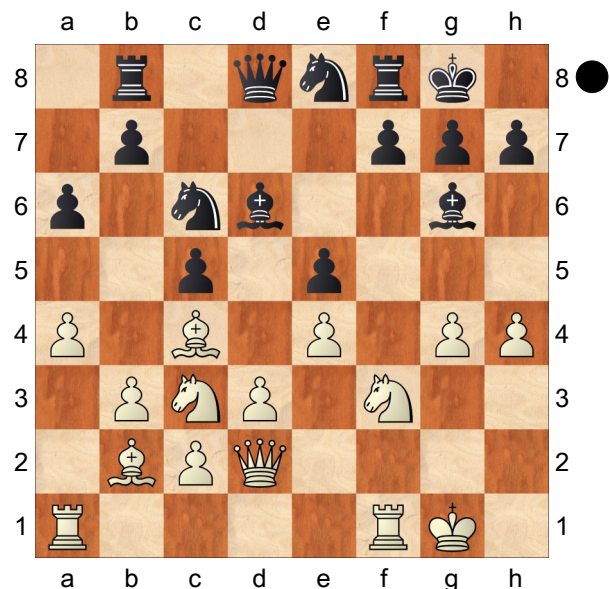
*[ 6...Be7 7.fxe5 ]*  
*[ 6...Nxe4 7.0-0 d5 8.Bb5 exf4 9.Qe2 aiming for c2-c4. Be6 10.c4! Be7 ( 10...Nf6!/? ) 11.Bxg7 Rg8 12.Bb2 ( 12.Be5!/? ) ]*

**7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3** White is slightly better. **8...Bh5**

*[ 8...Bxf3!/? 9.Qxf3 a6± ]*

**9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6**

**12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4**



Hoping for h4-h5. **15...h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)



**B20**□ **Rowson,Jonathan**■ **Savage,B**

Training LCC

05.08.2006

*[Jonathan Rowson]***1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.Bc4**

Following Nigel Short's approach against Prasad from the May update. Observant subscribers may notice the similarities between this position and my round seven game against Martin Taylor at the British Championship: 1.c4 b6 2.Nc3 Bb7 3.e4 e5!? 4.d3 Bc5 followed by Nge7 and f5. I have to say that I am not particularly impressed by the idea with either colour! **4...d6 5.Ne2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4** It might be too early for this move, but without it White cannot hope for a significant advantage.

[ 7.Nbc3 Nge7 8.Nd5 looks like a safer way to play. ]

**7...Nge7!** A cunning answer to white's early aggression. **8.d3**

[ 8.fxe5 0-0 leaves White struggling to hold equality. ]

**8...d5!** Bold, but justified by the weakening of the e3 square. **9.exd5**

**Nxd5 10.fxe5!?** This was a good work out for my calculation so I decided to give it a go, even though I didn't fully believe it at the time.

[ 10.Bxd5 Qxd5 11.Nbc3 was my first thought, gaining time on the queen, but there is no way to convincingly increase the pressure after Qd8 12.Ne4 0-0! When White is in danger of being worse. ]

[ 10.Qc1!? is probably soundest. ]

**10...Nxe5** Going for the relatively safe option after considerable thought.

[ 10...Ne3 11.Bxf7+ Junior doesn't

buy this for White at all. Ke7 ( 11...Kf8 12.Bxg6+; 11...Kd7 12.e6+ Kc7 13.Bxg7 Nxd1 14.Rxd1 Bxe6! missed this move at the time. 15.Bxe6 Qe7 16.Bxh8 Qxe6 double attack. ) 12.Nbc3 ( 12.Bc1 Nxd1 13.Bg5+ Kd7 14.Bxd8 Nxd8! The key detail– hitting the bishop and thus overloading the rook on d1. Playing e6 doesn't help because the bishop on g7 then attacks the rook on a1. )

**A) 12...Nxd1 13.Nd5+ Qxd5** simplest. ( 13...Kf8 14.Bxg6+ Kg8 15.Bf7+ Kf8 16.Raxd1 Keeps the fires burning, and would be enough to put most players off this line. ) 14.Bxd5 Be6! This is a typical annoying computer move that I hadn't seen– the simple fact is that Black attacks the bishop and thus gains a tempo to prevent or at least disempower Rf7+ which (after Bxe6) is now met with Kxe6 with tempo rather than a meek retreat to the back rank. 15.Bxe6 Nxb2 16.Rf7+ Kxe6 17.Rxg7 Black is at least not worse.;

**B) 12...Rf8?** A cooperative move that encouraged me to go down this line 13.Bc1! I was pleased to see this idea, and impressed that Ben had also seen it, and decided it was too dangerous for Black, albeit one move previously when it didn't work quite as well. Nxd1 14.Bg5+-- ]

[ 10...0-0!? is also possible. ]

**11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3**

[ 12.Bxd5 ]

**12...Be6 13.Kh1 Nxc3?** There is no need to give me what I want like this–

now I improve my coordination and my structure. It was essential to hold fast in the centre.

[ 13...Rc8!? ]

**14.Bxc3 Bxc4**

[ 14...Qh4!? 15.Rf4!± ]

**15.bxc4 Qc7?** This makes things worse, because my knight will land on d5 with tempo.

[ 15...Qd6± ]

**16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3 Ne5**

**19.Qb2 Rae8 20.Rae1?** A sloppy move, failing to smell the blood before the prey slips away.

[ 20.Nd5! is decisive– simply because I take control of f6 and prevent Black from playing f6. Moreover, I force the queen to a bad square. ]

**20...f6 21.Nd5 Qc6!** Now I sensed that I had missed a chance, and it was my turn to lose the plot. **22.Re4?**

A natural enough move, aiming to double on the e–file and keeping the rook protected.

[ 22.Qa3!? ]

**22...Nd7?** Played with the relief of being able to exchange some pieces, but missing a much better move.

[ 22...Nxc4! is all but decisive. I saw this almost as soon as I played Re4, but Ben replied with Nd7 before I had time to consider a way to try to stay in the game. 23.Qc3 Rxe4 24.dxe4 b5 25.a4 a6 26.axb5 axb5 is technically winning for Black, but there is still a lot of work to do before the point is reeled in. ]

**23.Rfe1 Rxe4 24.Rxe4 Nb6 25.Nc3**

Now I realised I had lost most of my advantage, and was basically playing to confuse my opponent in his time trouble. **25...Re8 26.Rxe8 Qxe8**

**27.Ne4 Qc6 28.Qb5 Qxb5 29.cxb5 Na4! 30.Kg1 b6 31.Kf2 f5 32.Nd6 Nc3**

[ 32...Kf6 ]

[ 32...Kf6 ]

**33.Ke3 Kf6** And now I saw a dastardly trick and felt it was well enough hidden that Ben might fall for it, while also not committing myself to anything that put me in danger of losing. **34.Kd2 Ke5 35.Nf7+ Kd4?!**

[ 35...Kf6! Now I should probably take a draw, because the alternative looks risky. 36.Nd6 Ke5 37.Nc8 Nxb5 38.a4 Nd6 39.Nxa7 Kf4 ]

**36.Ng5! Nxb5??**

[ 36...Nxa2 37.c3+ looks good for White. ]

[ 36...Nb1+! was still fine for Black. ]

**37.c4** A surprising mating net. At first I saw Nf3 followed by c4 winning the knight, but this is obviously better.

**1–0**

**B50**

□ **Luther,Thomas**

■ **Hintzsche,Ingolf**

DDR–JFSM 12th corr

1982

[Luther]

Myers: Thomas Luther won the 12th DDR Jugend Fernschachmeisterschaft with a perfect score: 13 games, 13 wins, and three full points ahead of his nearest rivals. **1.e4 Myers Luther 1...c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Bxe5 Nd5!?N**

[ 10...Ng4 11.Bg3 ( 11.Bb2 Bc5 12.Be2 Nf6 13.0–0 Ke7 14.Nc3 Rd8 15.Na4 Bd6 16.Rad1 Bb7

17.Bf3 Rac8 18.Bd4 Ba6 19.c4 c5  
 20.Bc3 Rd7 21.Rfe1 Bb7 22.Rxd6  
 Kxd6 23.Rd1+ Nd5 24.cxd5 Bxd5  
 25.Bxd5 exd5 26.Bxg7 Re7 27.Bb2  
 d4 28.Ba3 Kd5 29.Kf1 Re6 30.Rc1  
 c4 31.Nb2 c3 32.Nd3 Re4 33.f3  
 Re3 34.Nb4+ Ke6 35.Re1 Rxe1+  
 36.Kxe1 Rc5 37.Ke2 Ra5 38.Nc2  
 Kd5 39.Kd3 f5 40.Bf8 a6 41.a4  
 Ke6 42.Bb4 Rd5 43.Nxd4+ Kf6  
 44.Bxc3 Rd8 45.b4 Ke5 46.b5 axb5  
 47.axb5 f4 48.Kc4 Rg8 49.g4  
 1-0 Salas Romo,J-Zamora,H/  
 Santiago CHI 1951/ ) 11...f6  
 ( 11...Bb4+ 12.c3 Ba5 13.Be2 Nh6  
 14.Bf3 Bd7 15.b4 Bb6 16.a4 Rc8  
 17.Nd2 Nf5 18.Ne4 Nxg3 19.hxg3  
 Ke7 20.a5 Bc7 21.0-0-0 Be5  
 22.Rd3 Rc7 23.g4 c5 24.Nxc5 Bb5  
 25.Rhd1 Bxd3 26.Rxd3 Rhc8  
 27.Kc2 Rxc5 28.bxc5 Rxc5 29.a6  
 Ra5 30.Re3 Bd6 31.Be2 Bc5  
 32.Re5 Bb6 ½-½ Fleischanderl,F-  
 Telbis,G/corr GER 1990/ ) 12.Nc3 e5  
 13.0-0-0+ Kc7 14.h3 Nh6 15.Bh2  
 Bc5 16.Ne4 Ba3+ 17.Kb1 Nf7 18.f4  
 f5 19.Bc4 Nd8 20.Ng3 e4 21.Bg1  
 g6 22.Bd4 Re8 23.Be5+ Kb6 24.h4  
 Be6 25.Bxe6 Nxe6 26.Nf1 Rad8  
 27.Ne3 Bc5 28.Nc4+ Ka6 29.c3 Bf2  
 30.Nd6 Rf8 31.Kc2 Rd7 32.Kd2  
 Bg3 33.Ke3 h6 34.Rh3 g5 35.Rxg3  
 gxf4+ 36.Bxf4 Nxf4 37.Kxf4 Rfd8  
 38.Rg6 Re7 39.Nxf5 Rf8 40.Rxc6+  
 1-0 Emunds,H-Puth,D/BL2 GER  
 2002/ ]  
 [ 10...Nd7 11.Bb2 e5 12.Nd2 f6  
 13.0-0-0 Kc7 14.g3 Nb6 15.Bg2  
 Bf5 16.Ne4 Be7 17.c4 Rad8 18.h3  
 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rxd8 Kxd8  
 21.g4 Bg6 22.Kd2 Nd7 23.h4 Nf8  
 24.h5 Be8 25.Bf1 Bd7 26.f3 Ne6

27.Bd3 Nf4 28.Bc2 g6 29.hxg6  
 hxg6 30.g5 f5 31.Bxe5 Nh3 32.Nf6  
 Nxg5 33.Nxd7 Kxd7 34.Ke2 Ke6  
 35.Bd4 c5 36.Be3 Nf7 37.b4 cxb4  
 38.Bxa7 Ne5 39.f4 Nd7 40.Ba4 Nc5  
 41.Bxc5 Bxc5 42.Be8 Kf6 43.Kf3  
 ½-½ Stankovic,D-Kolesnikov,R/corr  
 YUG 1996/ ]  
 [ 10...Bb4+ 11.c3 Bc5 12.Be2 Ke7  
 13.Bf3 Bd7 ( 13...Bb7 14.Nd2 Rhd8  
 15.Nc4 Rac8 16.b4 Bb6 17.b5 Ba8  
 18.Nxb6 axb6 19.Bd4 c5 20.Bxf6+  
 Kxf6 21.Bxa8 Rxa8 22.Ke2 Ra3  
 23.Rhc1 c4 24.Rc2 Rd3 25.Rac1  
 Ke5 26.f3 Kd5 27.Kf2 Kc5 28.Kg3  
 Ra5 29.Re1 Rxb5 30.Re5+ Kc6  
 31.Re4 Kd5 32.Rh4 h6 33.Kf2 Ra5  
 34.Rh5+ Kc6 35.Rh4 b5 36.Rh5  
 Ra3 37.Rb2 Rd5 38.Rh4 Rxc3  
 39.Rg4 g6 40.Re4 Rcd3 41.Kg3  
 Rd2 42.Re2 Rxe2 43.Rxe2 b4  
 44.Rc2 Kc5 0-1 Konarkowska  
 Sokolov,H-Keller Hermann,E/Split  
 YUG 1963/ ) 14.Nd2 Rhc8  
 ( 14...Rhd8 15.Nc4 Kf8 16.Na5  
 Rdc8 17.Nb7 Be7 18.0-0-0 Be8  
 19.Nd6 Bxd6 20.Bxd6+ Kg8 21.Kb2  
 Nd5 22.c4 Nb6 23.Rhe1 Nd7  
 24.Re2 h6 25.Ka3 Kh7 26.Kb4 a5+  
 27.Kc3 Ra6 28.Red2 Ra7 29.Bf4 g6  
 30.Rd6 Rac7 31.Kb2 Nb6 32.Rd8  
 Rb7 33.Rxc8 Nxc8 34.Rd8 Bd7  
 35.Be5 g5 36.Bh5 1-0 Leow Leslie  
 M-Taylor,G/Philadelphia USA 1988/ )  
 15.Rd1 a5 16.Bxf6+ gxf6 17.Ne4  
 Ba3 18.Nxf6 Kxf6 19.Rxd7 Rd8  
 20.Rc7 Rac8 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Be4  
 h6 23.Kd2 Rd8+ 24.Kc2 Rd6  
 25.Re1 Bc5 26.f4 Ke7 27.Bd3 f6  
 28.f5 e5 29.Re4 Bg1 30.h3 Kd7  
 31.b4 axb4 32.Rxb4 Kc7 33.a4 Bb6  
 34.Rg4 Be3 35.a5 Rd5 36.Rg7+

Kd6 37.a6 Ra5 38.Rf7 Bg5 39.g3  
 1-0 Varga,Z-Pogorelov,R/Balaguer  
 ESP 2003/ ]  
 [ 10...Bc5 11.Be2 ( 11.Nd2 Bxf2+  
 12.Ke2 Bc5 13.Rd1 Ke7 14.h3 Rd8  
 15.g4 Bd4 16.Bc7 Rd7 17.Ba5 Bb6  
 18.Bc3 Ba6+ 19.Kf3 Bxf1 20.Bxf6+  
 gxf6 21.Rhxf1 Rad8 22.Ke2 Kf8  
 23.Nc4 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Rxd1  
 25.Kxd1 Bc7 26.Ke2 Kg7 27.Kf3  
 Kg6 28.Ne3 h5 29.a4 hxg4+  
 30.hxg4 Ba5 31.Nc4 Bc3 32.Ne3  
 Kg5 33.Ke4 Bd2 34.Nc4 Bb4  
 35.Ne3 Bc5 36.c3 Bxe3 37.Kxe3  
 Kxg4 38.b4 Kg3 39.c4 f5 40.b5  
 cxb5 41.c5 f4+ 0-1 Kreutzkamp,H-  
 Joecks,C/Hamburg GER 1993/;  
 11.Nc3 Bxf2+ 12.Ke2 Bc5 13.Rd1+  
 Ke8 14.Kf3 Bb7 15.Bd3 Be7 16.Ke2  
 Kf8 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 f6  
 19.Bg3 Ke8 20.Rd3 Rd8 21.Rhd1  
 Rxd3 22.Rxd3 e5 23.Bf2 a6 24.Bb6  
 g6 25.Rd1 f5 26.Bd3 c5 27.Bc7 e4  
 28.Bc4 Bc8 29.Be5 Rf8 30.Bg7 f4  
 31.Bxf8 Bg4+ 32.Kd2 Bxf8 33.Be2  
 f3 34.gxf3 exf3 35.Bxa6 Bh6+  
 36.Kc3 f2 37.Bb5+ Ke7 38.Rf1  
 Bg7+ 39.Kd2 Bh6+ 40.Kd3 Bf5+  
 41.Ke2 Bxc2 42.Bd3 Bxd3+ 43.Kxd3  
 Bf4 44.Rxf2 g5 45.Ke4 Kd6 46.Rxf4  
 1-0 Blauhut,H-Herzel,A/Mecklenburg  
 GER 2002/ ) 11...Ke7 ( 11...Nd7  
 12.Bb2 f6 13.Nd2 Kc7 14.Ne4 Bb4+  
 15.c3 Be7 16.0-0-0 Nc5 17.Ng3 e5  
 18.Rhe1 g6 19.f4 exf4 20.Bf3 Re8  
 21.Ne2 Ne6 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.Rxd4  
 f5 24.Kc2 Bd7 25.Bc1 g5 26.Bh5  
 Bc5 27.Bxe8 Rxe8 28.Rxe8 Bxe8  
 29.Rd1 Bf7 30.c4 Bd6 31.h4 g4  
 32.c5 Bxc5 33.Bxf4+ Kc8 34.Re1  
 Kd7 35.Be3 Bxe3 36.Rxe3 f4  
 37.Re5 Bd5 38.Re2 f3 39.gxf3 gxf3

40.Re1 Kd6 41.Kd3 Kc5 42.Re7 h5  
 43.Rxa7 Kb4 44.Ra4+ 1-0 Shirazi,K-  
 Minnebo,A/Avoine FRA 2004/ ) 12.Bf3  
 ( 12.c4 Ne4 13.0-0 f6 14.Bb2 e5  
 15.Nc3 Ng5 16.Na4 Bd6 17.c5 Bc7  
 18.h4 Ne6 19.Bf3 Bb7 20.Rfd1  
 Rhd8 21.b4 Rab8 22.Bc3 Bc8  
 23.Nb2 Nd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Rxd4  
 exd4 26.a3 a5 27.Re1+ Kf8 28.Nd3  
 axb4 29.axb4 Bd7 30.g3 g6 31.Kf1  
 h6 32.Be4 f5 33.Bg2 g5 34.hxg5  
 hxg5 35.f4 gxf4 36.gxf4 Bc8  
 37.Bxc6 Ba6 38.b5 Bxb5 39.Bxb5  
 Rxb5 40.Re6 Bxf4 41.Nxf4 Rxc5  
 42.Ke2 Rc3 43.Rd6 Ra3 44.Rxd4  
 Ke7 45.Rb4 Kf7 46.Rb6 Ke7  
 47.Nd3 Kf7 48.Ke3 f4+ 49.Ke4 f3  
 50.Ne5+ Ke7 51.Nxf3 Ra1 52.Kf5  
 Rf1 53.Ke4 ½-½ Sabol,M-Bernasek,  
 J/Litomysl CZE 2003/ ) 12...Bb7  
 ( 12...Bd7 13.Nc3 Bd6 14.Bxd6+  
 Kxd6 15.0-0-0+ Kc7 16.Na4 Rad8  
 17.Rhe1 Bc8 18.c4 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1  
 Nd7 20.Kc2 e5 21.Bg4 Re8 22.f4  
 Nf6 23.Bxc8 Kxc8 24.Rxe5 Rxe5  
 25.fxe5 Ng4 26.Kd3 Nxe5+ 27.Kd4  
 Nd7 28.Nc5 Nf6 29.b4 Kc7 30.Ne4  
 Nxe4 31.Kxe4 Kd6 32.a4 g6 33.g4  
 f6 34.c5+ Kc7 35.b5 Kb7 36.h4 a5  
 ½-½ Csom,I-Pogats,J/Hungary HUN  
 1966/ ) 13.Nd2 Rac8 14.0-0 Rhd8  
 15.Rfd1 Ba6 16.c3 Bd3 17.b4 Bd6  
 18.Bxd6+ Rxd6 19.Nb3 Be4  
 20.Rxd6 Kxd6 21.Be2 Kc7 22.f3  
 Bg6 23.Kf2 Rd8 24.Rc1 Bd3 25.c4  
 Bxe2 26.Kxe2 e5 27.Rc3 Nd7  
 28.Nd2 Nf8 29.Ra3 Ra8 30.c5 Ne6  
 31.Nc4 f6 32.Nb6 Nf4+ 33.Kf1 Rd8  
 34.Rxa7+ Kb8 35.Ra8+ Kc7  
 36.Rxd8 Kxd8 37.g3 Ne6 38.Kf2  
 Nd4 39.Nc4 Nc2 40.a3 Ke7 41.f4  
 e4 42.f5 g6 43.g4 gxf5 44.gxf5 Nd4



45.Ke3 Nxf5+ 46.Kxe4 Ke6 47.a4  
Ne7 48.b5 cxb5 49.axb5 f5+  
50.Kd4 f4 51.c6 f3 52.Kc5 f2  
53.Nd2 1-0 Paulsen,D-Groenegress,  
W/Niederdreisbach GER 1981/ ]

**11.c4**

[ 11.a4 f6 12.Bb2 Kc7 13.Nd2 e5  
14.0-0-0 Bf5 15.Nc4 Rd8 16.Bd3  
Be6 17.Be4 Bc5 18.Rhf1 Rhe8  
19.Kb1 g6 20.Bf3 Bf5 21.g4 Bc8  
22.Nd2 f5 23.gxf5 gxf5 24.Nc4 e4  
25.Bh5 Re7 26.Rd2 f4 27.Kc1 Ba6  
28.Bd4 Bb4 29.Rdd1 Rb8 30.Bxa7  
Rb7 31.Bd4 Bxc4 32.bxc4 Nc3  
0-1 Haanpaeae,H-Van der Kemp,M/  
corr IECG 2003/ ]  
[ 11.a3 f6 12.Bb2 c5 13.Nd2 Bb7  
14.0-0-0 Ke8 15.Nc4 Rc8 16.Rg1  
Be7 17.g3 Kf7 18.Bh3 Rhd8  
19.Rge1 Nc7 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Bc3  
Bd5 22.Ba5 Rd7 23.Nb2 f5 24.Nd3  
Bd6 25.Ne5+ Bxe5 26.Rxe5 Ke7  
27.Re1 Kd6 28.Rd1 Kc6 29.c4 Be4  
30.Rxd7 Kxd7 31.Bf1 e5 32.Bc3  
Kd6 33.b4 Ne6 34.h3 Nd4 35.Kd2  
Bb7 36.Ke3 Nc2+ 37.Kd2 Nd4  
38.bxc5+ Kxc5 39.Bb4+ Kc6  
40.Bg2+ Kc7 41.Bf1 Kc6 42.Bd3 e4  
43.Bb1 g5 44.Ke3 Ne6 45.g4 Nf4  
46.gxf5 Nd3 47.f6 Ne5 48.Kxe4 Nf7  
49.Kd4 Bc8 50.Be4+ Kc7 51.Bd5  
1-0 Makka,I-Shtereva,S/Patras U20  
GRE 2001/ ]

**11...Nb4 12.Kd2 f6 13.Bg3 a5 14.Nc3 Bc5**

[ 14...Ra7!?= ]

**15.a3 Na6 16.Bd3 Ke7**

[ 16...h5!?= ]

**17.Be4 Bb7 18.Kc2 g5?**

[ 18...Rad8!? Luther ]

**19.f4! f5 20.Bf3 h6 21.Rhe1 g4****22.Bh4+ Kf7 23.Be2 Rae8**

[ 23...Kg6!? ]

**24.Bf1 Nb8?!**

[ 24...Kg6!? ]

**25.b4! Bd6 26.g3**

[ 26.c5 Be7 27.Bxe7 Rxe7 28.bxa5  
Ba6 29.Rad1 Bxf1 30.Rxf1 Ra7±  
Myers ]

**26...axb4 27.axb4 Na6 28.Rad1 Be7****29.Rd7 Bc8 30.Ra7 Nxb4+**

[ 30...Nb8? 31.Rd1 Rhg8 32.c5+--  
Luther ]

**31.Kb3 c5?**

[ 31...Na6!? ]

**32.Nb5**

[ 32.Bg2!? ]

**32...Kf8 33.Nc7?! Bxh4?**

[ 33...Nc6□ 34.Ra4 ( 34.Nxe8 Nxa7  
35.Bxe7+ Kxe7 36.Nc7 Nc6± )  
34...Rd8 35.Bxe7+ Kxe7 36.Bg2  
Nd4+± Myers ]

**34.Nxe8 Kxe8 35.gxh4 Rg8 36.Rc7****Kd8 37.Rxc5****1-0****B50**

□ **Luther,Thomas**

■ **Hintzsche,Ingolf**

corr DDR-JFSM 12th

1982

[Luther]

Myers: Thomas Luther won the 12th  
DDR Jugend Fernschachmeisterschaft  
with a perfect score: 13 games, 13 wins,  
and three full points ahead of his  
nearest rivals. **1.e4** Myers Luther **1...c5**  
**2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4**  
**cx d4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5**  
**dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Bxe5 Nd5! ?N**

[ 10...Ng4 11.Bg3 ( 11.Bb2 Bc5  
12.Be2 Nf6 13.0-0 Ke7 14.Nc3  
Rd8 15.Na4 Bd6 16.Rad1 Bb7

17.Bf3 Rac8 18.Bd4 Ba6 19.c4 c5  
 20.Bc3 Rd7 21.Rfe1 Bb7 22.Rxd6  
 Kxd6 23.Rd1+ Nd5 24.cxd5 Bxd5  
 25.Bxd5 exd5 26.Bxg7 Re7 27.Bb2  
 d4 28.Ba3 Kd5 29.Kf1 Re6 30.Rc1  
 c4 31.Nb2 c3 32.Nd3 Re4 33.f3  
 Re3 34.Nb4+ Ke6 35.Re1 Rxe1+  
 36.Kxe1 Rc5 37.Ke2 Ra5 38.Nc2  
 Kd5 39.Kd3 f5 40.Bf8 a6 41.a4  
 Ke6 42.Bb4 Rd5 43.Nxd4+ Kf6  
 44.Bxc3 Rd8 45.b4 Ke5 46.b5 axb5  
 47.axb5 f4 48.Kc4 Rg8 49.g4  
 1-0 Salas Romo,J-Zamora,H/  
 Santiago CHI 1951/ ) 11...f6  
 ( 11...Bb4+ 12.c3 Ba5 13.Be2 Nh6  
 14.Bf3 Bd7 15.b4 Bb6 16.a4 Rc8  
 17.Nd2 Nf5 18.Ne4 Nxg3 19.hxg3  
 Ke7 20.a5 Bc7 21.0-0-0 Be5  
 22.Rd3 Rc7 23.g4 c5 24.Nxc5 Bb5  
 25.Rhd1 Bxd3 26.Rxd3 Rhc8  
 27.Kc2 Rxc5 28.bxc5 Rxc5 29.a6  
 Ra5 30.Re3 Bd6 31.Be2 Bc5  
 32.Re5 Bb6 ½-½ Fleischanderl,F-  
 Telbis,G/corr GER 1990/ ) 12.Nc3 e5  
 13.0-0-0+ Kc7 14.h3 Nh6 15.Bh2  
 Bc5 16.Ne4 Ba3+ 17.Kb1 Nf7 18.f4  
 f5 19.Bc4 Nd8 20.Ng3 e4 21.Bg1  
 g6 22.Bd4 Re8 23.Be5+ Kb6 24.h4  
 Be6 25.Bxe6 Nxe6 26.Nf1 Rad8  
 27.Ne3 Bc5 28.Nc4+ Ka6 29.c3 Bf2  
 30.Nd6 Rf8 31.Kc2 Rd7 32.Kd2  
 Bg3 33.Ke3 h6 34.Rh3 g5 35.Rxg3  
 gxf4+ 36.Bxf4 Nxf4 37.Kxf4 Rfd8  
 38.Rg6 Re7 39.Nxf5 Rf8 40.Rxc6+  
 1-0 Emunds,H-Puth,D/BL2 GER  
 2002/ ]  
 [ 10...Nd7 11.Bb2 e5 12.Nd2 f6  
 13.0-0-0 Kc7 14.g3 Nb6 15.Bg2  
 Bf5 16.Ne4 Be7 17.c4 Rad8 18.h3  
 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rxd8 Kxd8  
 21.g4 Bg6 22.Kd2 Nd7 23.h4 Nf8  
 24.h5 Be8 25.Bf1 Bd7 26.f3 Ne6

27.Bd3 Nf4 28.Bc2 g6 29.hxg6  
 hxg6 30.g5 f5 31.Bxe5 Nh3 32.Nf6  
 Nxg5 33.Nxd7 Kxd7 34.Ke2 Ke6  
 35.Bd4 c5 36.Be3 Nf7 37.b4 cxb4  
 38.Bxa7 Ne5 39.f4 Nd7 40.Ba4 Nc5  
 41.Bxc5 Bxc5 42.Be8 Kf6 43.Kf3  
 ½-½ Stankovic,D-Kolesnikov,R/corr  
 YUG 1996/ ]  
 [ 10...Bb4+ 11.c3 Bc5 12.Be2 Ke7  
 13.Bf3 Bd7 ( 13...Bb7 14.Nd2 Rhd8  
 15.Nc4 Rac8 16.b4 Bb6 17.b5 Ba8  
 18.Nxb6 axb6 19.Bd4 c5 20.Bxf6+  
 Kxf6 21.Bxa8 Rxa8 22.Ke2 Ra3  
 23.Rhc1 c4 24.Rc2 Rd3 25.Rac1  
 Ke5 26.f3 Kd5 27.Kf2 Kc5 28.Kg3  
 Ra5 29.Re1 Rxb5 30.Re5+ Kc6  
 31.Re4 Kd5 32.Rh4 h6 33.Kf2 Ra5  
 34.Rh5+ Kc6 35.Rh4 b5 36.Rh5  
 Ra3 37.Rb2 Rd5 38.Rh4 Rxc3  
 39.Rg4 g6 40.Re4 Rcd3 41.Kg3  
 Rd2 42.Re2 Rxe2 43.Rxe2 b4  
 44.Rc2 Kc5 0-1 Konarkowska  
 Sokolov,H-Keller Hermann,E/Split  
 YUG 1963/ ) 14.Nd2 Rhc8  
 ( 14...Rhd8 15.Nc4 Kf8 16.Na5  
 Rdc8 17.Nb7 Be7 18.0-0-0 Be8  
 19.Nd6 Bxd6 20.Bxd6+ Kg8 21.Kb2  
 Nd5 22.c4 Nb6 23.Rhe1 Nd7  
 24.Re2 h6 25.Ka3 Kh7 26.Kb4 a5+  
 27.Kc3 Ra6 28.Red2 Ra7 29.Bf4 g6  
 30.Rd6 Rac7 31.Kb2 Nb6 32.Rd8  
 Rb7 33.Rxc8 Nxc8 34.Rd8 Bd7  
 35.Be5 g5 36.Bh5 1-0 Leow Leslie  
 M-Taylor,G/Philadelphia USA 1988/ )  
 15.Rd1 a5 16.Bxf6+ gxf6 17.Ne4  
 Ba3 18.Nxf6 Kxf6 19.Rxd7 Rd8  
 20.Rc7 Rac8 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Be4  
 h6 23.Kd2 Rd8+ 24.Kc2 Rd6  
 25.Re1 Bc5 26.f4 Ke7 27.Bd3 f6  
 28.f5 e5 29.Re4 Bg1 30.h3 Kd7  
 31.b4 axb4 32.Rxb4 Kc7 33.a4 Bb6  
 34.Rg4 Be3 35.a5 Rd5 36.Rg7+

Kd6 37.a6 Ra5 38.Rf7 Bg5 39.g3  
 1-0 Varga,Z-Pogorelov,R/Balaguer  
 ESP 2003/ ]  
 [ 10...Bc5 11.Be2 ( 11.Nd2 Bxf2+  
 12.Ke2 Bc5 13.Rd1 Ke7 14.h3 Rd8  
 15.g4 Bd4 16.Bc7 Rd7 17.Ba5 Bb6  
 18.Bc3 Ba6+ 19.Kf3 Bxf1 20.Bxf6+  
 gxf6 21.Rhxf1 Rad8 22.Ke2 Kf8  
 23.Nc4 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Rxd1  
 25.Kxd1 Bc7 26.Ke2 Kg7 27.Kf3  
 Kg6 28.Ne3 h5 29.a4 hxg4+  
 30.hxg4 Ba5 31.Nc4 Bc3 32.Ne3  
 Kg5 33.Ke4 Bd2 34.Nc4 Bb4  
 35.Ne3 Bc5 36.c3 Bxe3 37.Kxe3  
 Kxg4 38.b4 Kg3 39.c4 f5 40.b5  
 cxb5 41.c5 f4+ 0-1 Kreutzkamp,H-  
 Joecks,C/Hamburg GER 1993/;  
 11.Nc3 Bxf2+ 12.Ke2 Bc5 13.Rd1+  
 Ke8 14.Kf3 Bb7 15.Bd3 Be7 16.Ke2  
 Kf8 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 f6  
 19.Bg3 Ke8 20.Rd3 Rd8 21.Rhd1  
 Rxd3 22.Rxd3 e5 23.Bf2 a6 24.Bb6  
 g6 25.Rd1 f5 26.Bd3 c5 27.Bc7 e4  
 28.Bc4 Bc8 29.Be5 Rf8 30.Bg7 f4  
 31.Bxf8 Bg4+ 32.Kd2 Bxf8 33.Be2  
 f3 34.gxf3 exf3 35.Bxa6 Bh6+  
 36.Kc3 f2 37.Bb5+ Ke7 38.Rf1  
 Bg7+ 39.Kd2 Bh6+ 40.Kd3 Bf5+  
 41.Ke2 Bxc2 42.Bd3 Bxd3+ 43.Kxd3  
 Bf4 44.Rxf2 g5 45.Ke4 Kd6 46.Rxf4  
 1-0 Blauhut,H-Herzel,A/Mecklenburg  
 GER 2002/ ) 11...Ke7 ( 11...Nd7  
 12.Bb2 f6 13.Nd2 Kc7 14.Ne4 Bb4+  
 15.c3 Be7 16.0-0-0 Nc5 17.Ng3 e5  
 18.Rhe1 g6 19.f4 exf4 20.Bf3 Re8  
 21.Ne2 Ne6 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.Rxd4  
 f5 24.Kc2 Bd7 25.Bc1 g5 26.Bh5  
 Bc5 27.Bxe8 Rxe8 28.Rxe8 Bxe8  
 29.Rd1 Bf7 30.c4 Bd6 31.h4 g4  
 32.c5 Bxc5 33.Bxf4+ Kc8 34.Re1  
 Kd7 35.Be3 Bxe3 36.Rxe3 f4  
 37.Re5 Bd5 38.Re2 f3 39.gxf3 gxf3

40.Re1 Kd6 41.Kd3 Kc5 42.Re7 h5  
 43.Rxa7 Kb4 44.Ra4+ 1-0 Shirazi,K-  
 Minnebo,A/Avoine FRA 2004/ ) 12.Bf3  
 ( 12.c4 Ne4 13.0-0 f6 14.Bb2 e5  
 15.Nc3 Ng5 16.Na4 Bd6 17.c5 Bc7  
 18.h4 Ne6 19.Bf3 Bb7 20.Rfd1  
 Rhd8 21.b4 Rab8 22.Bc3 Bc8  
 23.Nb2 Nd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Rxd4  
 exd4 26.a3 a5 27.Re1+ Kf8 28.Nd3  
 axb4 29.axb4 Bd7 30.g3 g6 31.Kf1  
 h6 32.Be4 f5 33.Bg2 g5 34.hxg5  
 hxg5 35.f4 gxf4 36.gxf4 Bc8  
 37.Bxc6 Ba6 38.b5 Bxb5 39.Bxb5  
 Rxb5 40.Re6 Bxf4 41.Nxf4 Rxc5  
 42.Ke2 Rc3 43.Rd6 Ra3 44.Rxd4  
 Ke7 45.Rb4 Kf7 46.Rb6 Ke7  
 47.Nd3 Kf7 48.Ke3 f4+ 49.Ke4 f3  
 50.Ne5+ Ke7 51.Nxf3 Ra1 52.Kf5  
 Rf1 53.Ke4 ½-½ Sabol,M-Bernasek,  
 J/Litomysl CZE 2003/ ) 12...Bb7  
 ( 12...Bd7 13.Nc3 Bd6 14.Bxd6+  
 Kxd6 15.0-0-0+ Kc7 16.Na4 Rad8  
 17.Rhe1 Bc8 18.c4 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1  
 Nd7 20.Kc2 e5 21.Bg4 Re8 22.f4  
 Nf6 23.Bxc8 Kxc8 24.Rxe5 Rxe5  
 25.fxe5 Ng4 26.Kd3 Nxe5+ 27.Kd4  
 Nd7 28.Nc5 Nf6 29.b4 Kc7 30.Ne4  
 Nxe4 31.Kxe4 Kd6 32.a4 g6 33.g4  
 f6 34.c5+ Kc7 35.b5 Kb7 36.h4 a5  
 ½-½ Csom,I-Pogats,J/Hungary HUN  
 1966/ ) 13.Nd2 Rac8 14.0-0 Rhd8  
 15.Rfd1 Ba6 16.c3 Bd3 17.b4 Bd6  
 18.Bxd6+ Rxd6 19.Nb3 Be4  
 20.Rxd6 Kxd6 21.Be2 Kc7 22.f3  
 Bg6 23.Kf2 Rd8 24.Rc1 Bd3 25.c4  
 Bxe2 26.Kxe2 e5 27.Rc3 Nd7  
 28.Nd2 Nf8 29.Ra3 Ra8 30.c5 Ne6  
 31.Nc4 f6 32.Nb6 Nf4+ 33.Kf1 Rd8  
 34.Rxa7+ Kb8 35.Ra8+ Kc7  
 36.Rxd8 Kxd8 37.g3 Ne6 38.Kf2  
 Nd4 39.Nc4 Nc2 40.a3 Ke7 41.f4  
 e4 42.f5 g6 43.g4 gxf5 44.gxf5 Nd4

45.Ke3 Nxf5+ 46.Kxe4 Ke6 47.a4  
 Ne7 48.b5 cxb5 49.axb5 f5+  
 50.Kd4 f4 51.c6 f3 52.Kc5 f2  
 53.Nd2 1-0 Paulsen,D-Groenegress,  
 W/Niederdreisbach GER 1981/ ]

**11.c4**  
 [ 11.a4 f6 12.Bb2 Kc7 13.Nd2 e5  
 14.0-0-0 Bf5 15.Nc4 Rd8 16.Bd3  
 Be6 17.Be4 Bc5 18.Rhf1 Rhe8  
 19.Kb1 g6 20.Bf3 Bf5 21.g4 Bc8  
 22.Nd2 f5 23.gxf5 gxf5 24.Nc4 e4  
 25.Bh5 Re7 26.Rd2 f4 27.Kc1 Ba6  
 28.Bd4 Bb4 29.Rdd1 Rb8 30.Bxa7  
 Rb7 31.Bd4 Bxc4 32.bxc4 Nc3  
 0-1 Haanpaeae,H-Van der Kemp,M/  
 corr IECG 2003/ ]  
 [ 11.a3 f6 12.Bb2 c5 13.Nd2 Bb7  
 14.0-0-0 Ke8 15.Nc4 Rc8 16.Rg1  
 Be7 17.g3 Kf7 18.Bh3 Rhd8  
 19.Rge1 Nc7 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Bc3  
 Bd5 22.Ba5 Rd7 23.Nb2 f5 24.Nd3  
 Bd6 25.Ne5+ Bxe5 26.Rxe5 Ke7  
 27.Re1 Kd6 28.Rd1 Kc6 29.c4 Be4  
 30.Rxd7 Kxd7 31.Bf1 e5 32.Bc3  
 Kd6 33.b4 Ne6 34.h3 Nd4 35.Kd2  
 Bb7 36.Ke3 Nc2+ 37.Kd2 Nd4  
 38.bxc5+ Kxc5 39.Bb4+ Kc6  
 40.Bg2+ Kc7 41.Bf1 Kc6 42.Bd3 e4  
 43.Bb1 g5 44.Ke3 Ne6 45.g4 Nf4  
 46.gxf5 Nd3 47.f6 Ne5 48.Kxe4 Nf7  
 49.Kd4 Bc8 50.Be4+ Kc7 51.Bd5  
 1-0 Makka,I-Shtereva,S/Patras U20  
 GRE 2001/ ]

**11...Nb4 12.Kd2 f6 13.Bg3 a5 14.Nc3  
 Bc5**  
 [ 14...Ra7!? = ]  
**15.a3 Na6 16.Bd3 Ke7**  
 [ 16...h5!? = ]  
**17.Be4 Bb7 18.Kc2 g5?**  
 [ 18...Rad8!? Luther ]  
**19.f4! f5 20.Bf3 h6 21.Rhe1 g4  
 22.Bh4+ Kf7 23.Be2 Rae8**

[ 23...Kg6!? ]  
**24.Bf1 Nb8?!**  
 [ 24...Kg6!? ]  
**25.b4! Bd6 26.g3**  
 [ 26.c5 Be7 27.Bxe7 Rxe7 28.bxa5  
 Ba6 29.Rad1 Bxf1 30.Rxf1 Ra7±  
 Myers ]  
**26...axb4 27.axb4 Na6 28.Rad1 Be7  
 29.Rd7 Bc8 30.Ra7 Nxb4+**  
 [ 30...Nb8? 31.Rd1 Rhg8 32.c5+-  
 Luther ]  
**31.Kb3 c5?**  
 [ 31...Na6!? ]  
**32.Nb5**  
 [ 32.Bg2!? ]  
**32...Kf8 33.Nc7?! Bxh4?**  
 [ 33...Nc6□ 34.Ra4 ( 34.Nxe8 Nxa7  
 35.Bxe7+ Kxe7 36.Nc7 Nc6± )  
 34...Rd8 35.Bxe7+ Kxe7 36.Bg2  
 Nd4+± Myers ]  
**34.Nxe8 Kxe8 35.gxh4 Rg8 36.Rc7  
 Kd8 37.Rxc5  
 1-0**

**B20**

□ **5) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 and 3...d**  
 ■ **3...e5 #5**  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**  
 Black has supported this pawn push with  
 2... Nc6 and now executes it. More often  
 than not, we will find ourselves in a  
 struggle where Black tries to shut down  
 the b2 -bishop in this fashion. Right at  
 this moment, White should plan for the  
 future and play for f2 - f4 ideas to free  
 the main guy.  
 [ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7



10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bc4 d6 5.Ne2** Developing the knight  
to e2 is consistent with our main plan:  
Pushing f4 at the right moment!

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5  
8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6  
11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0  
14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5  
17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

#### 5...Nf6N

[ 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7 8.d3  
d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5  
11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1  
Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7  
16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3  
Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 20.Rae1  
6.♔d4 e5 7.♔d3\_52284-6.♙g5 ♘bd7  
7.cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In  
The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ  
March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

#### 6.Nbc3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4 exf4

Analysis show that succumbing to  
pressure so easily is a mistake. Not only  
is the f-file opened for White's rook, but  
White also increases his control over the  
d5 -square. **9.Nxf4** White is slightly  
better. **9...Ne5 10.d3 Nfg4** Black's idea  
is to create counterplay on the dark  
squares. **11.Ncd5** Prevents Ng4-e3.  
**11...Bg5 12.Qe1 Bd7 13.a4**  
Prevents b7-b5. **13...Re8 14.Bb5**  
Disturbing Black's coordination. **14...Bc6**

[ 14...Bxb5 1.09/23 14...Bd7-c6 0.66  
15.axb5 Nf6 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Nd5  
Nf3+ 18.Rxf3 Bxb2 19.Rd1  
And now c2-c3 would win. Bd4+  
20.Kh1 With such a powerful knight on  
d5 , playing this position won't be  
much of an issue for White. ]

**15.h3 Nf6 16.Ne3** Intending Nf5 , Qg3 ,  
Rae1 . White has a strong attack.  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03  
(flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

#### B20

□ **1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

■ **4...Bd7 #9**

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking  
this is Black's most common reply.

Black develops the knight to its natural  
square and prepares the move ... e5 to  
challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal,  
which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6**  
**4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 -square  
begins. White prefers the long diagonal  
to be open. After all, he made a  
challenging commitment on the second  
move! **4...Bd7**

[ A much better move than 4...Qc7  
, since after the exchange on c6 Black  
will end up with a useful bishop. ]

**5.f4** Further controlling the center,  
fighting for the e5 -square and also  
gaining an opportunity to play attacking  
chess thanks to the semi-open f-file in  
some variations. **5...a6** Black's main  
reply, which forces White to decide the  
fate of the b5 -bishop. Since time  
matters in chess, especially in such a  
position where the game is bound to

stay 'open', we will take on c6 . **6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3N**

[ 7.Qe2 will transpose into the main line after

**A) 7...e6** 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5 20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4 Be7 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/ Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ) 8...Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 0-1 (59);

**B) 7...Nf6** 8.Nc3 . ]

[ 7.d3 Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4 d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3 d4 20.Ne4 f5 21.exf6 Qf7 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 2 Game 2 ]

**7...Nf6 8.Qe2** Defending the e4 -pawn with the queen opens up the possibility of long castling. Actually, this is what Carlsen played twice in his rapid games - he won both games. **8...e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0** Carlsen's way. The aim of long castling is obvious: White wants to play d4 on the next move and get a typical 'Open Sicilian' game. The fact that White has fianchettoed his bishop

means he will have a safer king plus possibilities on the long diagonal. I must warn you: Long castling is not the first choice of modern engines!

[ 10.e5 By pushing the central pawn White more or less guarantees the exchange of the c6 -bishop. This option can be recommended for players who want to simplify the game further. dxe5 ( 10...Bxf3?! 11.Qxf3 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nd5 13.0-0 0-0 14.Ne4 ) 11.Nxe5 Rc8 12.0-0-0 b5 13.Nxc6 It's time to get rid of the strongest piece of the opponent. If we had delayed the capture, Black would have had the option to retreat to b7 or a8 . Rxc6 14.g4 White's attack is faster. 0-0 15.g5 Nd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.d3! White has very good practical chances on the kingside, whereas Black will find it difficult to reach White's king. This is mostly due to the 'hero' of the line: The b2 - bishop! ]

**10...0-0 11.d4 b5** Postponing the exchange and starting a direct assault is Black's best option. Taking immediately on d4 would benefit only White.

Strangely enough this move has not yet been played in master practice, but this is a matter of time, since 99% of the playerbase nowadays has easy access to engines. With the idea ...b5-b4.

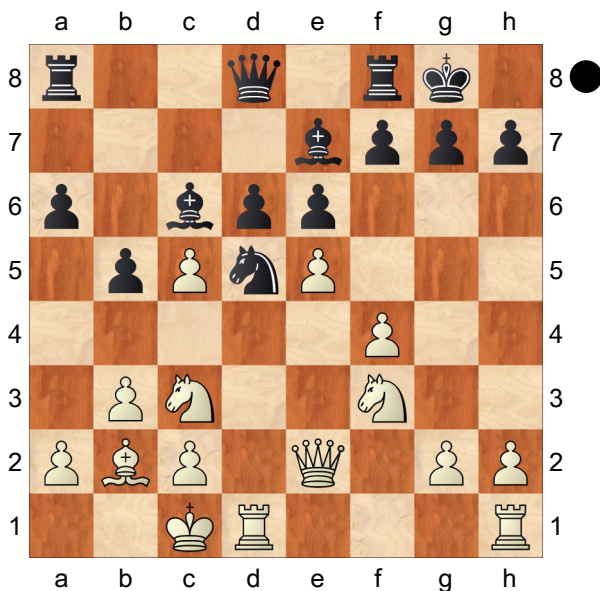
[ 11...cxd4? 0.28/19 11...b7-b5 -0.08 is analyzed in the model game Carlsen-Ehlvest . ]

**12.e5**

[ 12.dxc5! This move contains certain degree of risk, but just take a look at the narrow road that Black has to walk! b4 The only move for Black. 13.Na4 Now a series of forced moves

appear on the board. Nxe4 14.Ne5 Bd5 15.Rxd5!? exd5 16.Nc6 Qd7 17.Nxb4 dxc5 18.Nb6 Qe6 19.N4xd5 And now Rh1–e1 would win. Bd8 20.Re1 f5! 21.Qc4! Bxb6 22.Nxb6 Qxc4 23.Nxc4 Being an exchange down, White can count on some compensation (the better pawn structure and more active pieces) but no more. ]

**12...Nd5 13.dxc5**

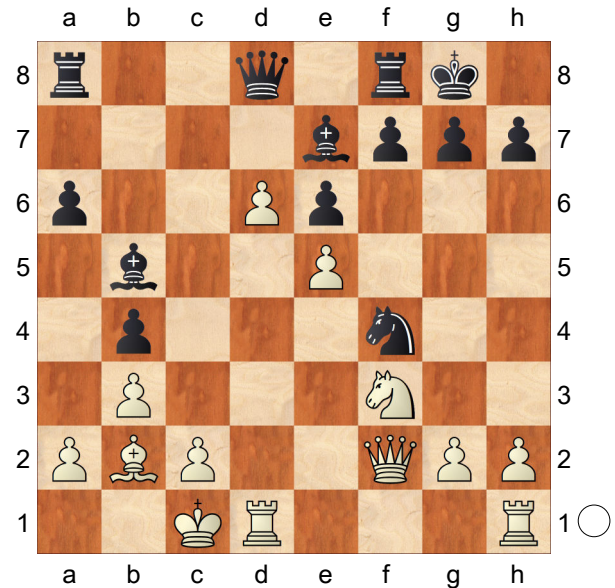


Nc3xd5 is the strong threat. **13...Nxf4 14.Qf2 b4 15.Na4** The position is equal. **15...Bxa4** A strong pair of Bishops. **16.cxd6** A nice intermezzo. **16...Bb5**

(Diagram)

Threatens to win with ...Be7–g5. **17.dxe7 Qxe7 18.Nd2!** With a very complicated position. White's main idea is to place the knight on e4, from where it can jump to d6 or f6 !

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)



**B20**

□ **6) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6**

■ **5. Qf3 Nc7 #2**

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[Black attacks the e4 –pawn immediately. This particular line has some similarities with the Alapin Sicilian ( e4 c5 c3 2...Nf6 ), but with few key differences. First of all, White has the (most natural) c3 –square still available for his b1 –knight. The bishop quickly comes into play via b2 . Playing c4 in one move could be an option in the future. The only downside (compared to the Alapin) is that White might find it difficult to support the e5 –pawn in some situations. ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0–0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0–0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4

Pink,J (2683)–11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
 13.c4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
 ACJ March 1879] 0–1 (62) ]  
 [ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+  
 Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6  
 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3  
 0–0 11.0–0 Dehmelt,K–12 Mainline  
 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6** This is Black's  
 main reply and is the topic of this chapter.  
 Black immediately creates tension along  
 the long diagonal and aims to eliminate  
 the e5 –pawn. White must take drastic  
 measures, since defending this pawn  
 won't be easy. **5.Qf3N** Among master  
 games the queen move and the bishop  
 sortie (5. Bc4 ) are the most popular  
 moves. We must add that this line is  
 fairly new and our sample size is limited.

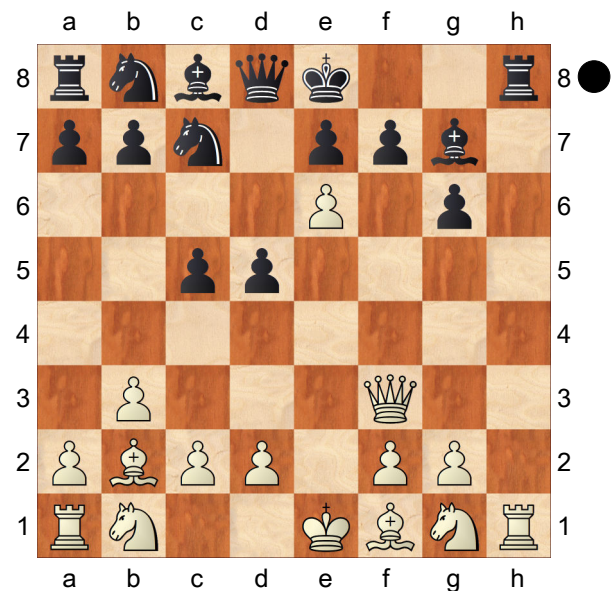
[ 5.h4 is another idea, which was tried  
 without success by Morozevich: Bg7  
 6.h5 d6 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Qe2 0–0  
 9.hxg6 fxg6 10.Qc4 dxe5 11.Bxc6  
 bxc6 12.Ne2 Be6 13.Qh4 h6  
 14.Qg3 Bf5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Qxe5  
 Qd6 17.Qxd6 exd6 18.d3 Rae8  
 19.Kd2 Bxd3 20.cxd3 Rxf2 21.Re1  
 Rxd2 22.a3 h5 23.Ra2 h4 24.Nbc3  
 Nxc3 25.Kxc3 h3 26.Nf4 Rxe1  
 27.Nxg2 h2 28.Nxe1 h1Q 29.Re2  
 Kf7 30.Nc2 Qh8+ 31.Kd2 Qb2  
 32.b4 cxb4 33.axb4 g5 34.Re4 d5  
 35.Re3 d4 36.Rg3 Kg6 37.Kd1 Kh5  
 38.Rf3 g4 39.Rf4 g3 40.Nxd4 g2  
 41.Ne2 Qxe2+ 42.Kxe2 g1Q 43.Rc4  
 Qg2+ 44.Ke3 Kg6 45.Kd4 Kf6  
 46.Kc3 Ke6 47.Rc5 Kd6 48.Ra5  
 Qf2 49.d4 Qe3+ 50.Kc4 a6

0–1 Morozevich,A (2683) –  
 Shaposhnikov,E (2557) Sochi 2016 ]  
 [ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
 White's Odd Second Moves–F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella] ]

### 5...Nc7

[ 5...Nb4 looks sharper. 6.Na3 Bg7  
 7.e6 0–0 ]

**6.h4 Bg7 7.h5 d5 8.hxg6** The position  
 is equal. **8...hxg6 9.e6**



There is an important nuance in this  
 position. White needs to start the  
 operation with this move in order not to  
 give Black an extra option. **9...f6**  
**10.Rxh8+ Bxh8 11.Qh3±** White is not  
 holding back **11...Bg7 12.Bd3 Bxe6**  
**13.Qh7** Better than grabbing the g6 –  
 pawn right away! **13...Kf8 14.Bxg6 Nc6**  
 [ 14...Bg8?! 15.Qh5! Nc6 This plan is  
 not so effect now, as White will have  
 two pieces controlling the e5 –square.  
 16.Nf3! Qd6 17.Nc3 Qf4 18.0–0–0  
 ± The difference in king safety  
 between White & Black is obvious. ]

### 15.Ne2

[ 15.Nf3 prevents the opponent's next  
 move (... Ne5 ). However, Black is just



in time to come up with a solution:

Qd6! 0.01/22 ( 15...d4 $\bar{f}$  -0.34/22 )

16.Nc3= Qf4 17.0-0-0 Qh6!

After this amazing maneuver – three queen moves in a row! – Black forces the exchange of queens and gets an at least equal position. Let's add a few more moves to prove this argument: 18.Rh1 Qxh7 19.Rxh7 Bf7 20.Nh4 Bxg6 21.Nxg6+ Kf7 and Black has nothing to worry about. Once the knight is chased away he may consider playing ... Rh8 . ]

**15...Ne5 16.Nf4 Bg8 17.Qh4 Ne6**



Now we are forced to exchange a few attacking pieces. Thus, Black must be credited for correct defense. The fight is still in its early stage. aiming for ... Ne6xf4. **18.Nxe6+ Bxe6 19.Bxe5 fxe5 20.Nc3** White (once again) banks his hopes on the attack. If the rook can effectively enter the game it will be 'game over' for Black. However, gaining a significant advantage by force is not possible for White against correct play. It's also important to note that Black made a series of high quality defensive moves to reach this position. An even

fight not without its subtleties.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

**B20**

□ **5) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 and 3...d**

■ **3...e5 #6**

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

Black has supported this pawn push with 2... Nc6 and now executes it. More often than not, we will find ourselves in a struggle where Black tries to shut down the b2 –bishop in this fashion. Right at this moment, White should plan for the future and play for f2 – f4 ideas to free the main guy.

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7

10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3

13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6

16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4

Pink,J (2683)–11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4

13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0–1 (62) ]

**4.Bc4 d6 5.Ne2** Developing the knight

to e2 is consistent with our main plan:

Pushing f4 at the right moment!

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5

8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6

11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0

14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5

17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E–12 9th move

alternatives Greek Team

Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**5...Nf6N**

[ 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7 8.d3  
d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5  
11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1  
Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7  
16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3  
Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 20.Rae1  
6.♔d4 e5 7.♔d3\_52284-6.♔g5 ♘bd7  
7.cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In  
The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ  
March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

**6.Nbc3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4**

White has an edge. **8...Nd4**

[ 8...a6 9.Ng3!? -0.01/19 Actually,  
White can ignore Black's last move  
and play very creatively. Please note  
that 9. a4 is completely sound, after  
which the game should develop  
similar to the mainline with 8... Nd4 .  
( 9.a4 0.30/19 deserves  
consideration. ) 9...b5= 10.Bd5 Bg4  
11.Qe1 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Bh4 13.a4  
with an unclear game. White has  
managed to plant a knight on d5 by  
giving up the bishop pair. ]

**9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Nd5 Nxd5**

[ 10...Nxe4?? 3.12/24 10...Bc8-e6 0.  
16 11.Qe2 Bf5 12.Bd3 is a small  
opening trap. ]

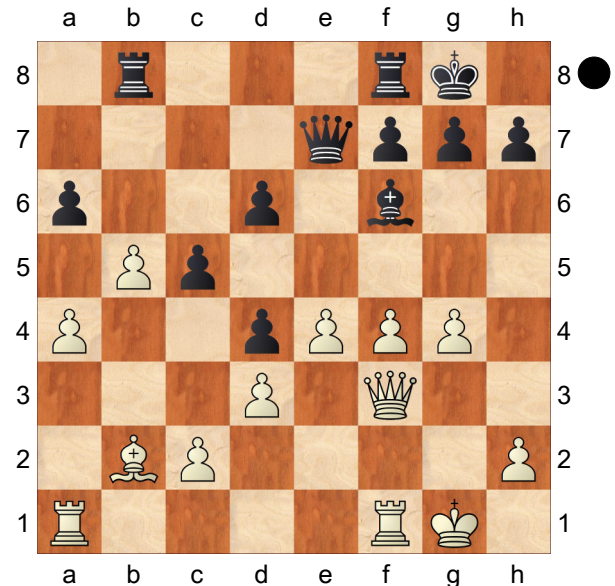
**11.Bxd5 Bf6 12.Qf3 Qe7** Prevents e4-  
e5. **13.d3 Be6 14.Bc4** 'Exchanging on  
our own terms'. **14...Bxc4**

[ 14...a6 15.a4 Bxc4 16.bxc4 Rab8  
17.a5 ]

**15.bxc4 b5 16.cxb5 Rab8 17.a4 a6!  
18.g4**

(Diagram)

Play becomes sharper each move! Black  
must now prevent g4-g5. **18...h6**  
Inhibits g4-g5. **19.Bc1 axb5 20.a5**  
Once again, White should use both sides



of the board to push for an advantage.  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05  
(flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

**B20**

□ **5) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 and 3...d**

■ **3...e5 #7**

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

Black has supported this pawn push with  
2... Nc6 and now executes it. More often  
than not, we will find ourselves in a  
struggle where Black tries to shut down  
the b2 -bishop in this fashion. Right at  
this moment, White should plan for the  
future and play for f2 - f4 ideas to free  
the main guy.

[ 3...a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5  
7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7  
10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3  
13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6  
16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200  
Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;

ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4.Bc4 d6 5.Ne2** Developing the knight to e2 is consistent with our main plan:

Pushing f4 at the right moment!

[ 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5  
8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6  
11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0  
14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5  
17.Ng5 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

**5...Nf6N**

[ 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7 8.d3  
d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5  
11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1  
Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7  
16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3  
Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 20.Rae1  
6.♔d4 e5 7.♔d3\_52284-6.♔g5 ♘bd7  
7.cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In  
The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ  
March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

**6.Nbc3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4 Nd4**

[ 8...a6 9.Ng3!? Actually, White can  
ignore Black's last move and play  
very creatively. Please note that 9. a4  
is completely sound, after which the  
game should develop similar to the  
mainline with 8... Nd4 . b5 10.Bd5  
Bg4 11.Qe1 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Bh4  
13.a4 with an unclear game. White  
has managed to plant a knight on d5  
by giving up the bishop pair. ]

**9.Nxd4 cxd4** Black should capture with  
the c-pawn and maintain the center.

**10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 Qb6**

Covering b7 in order to be able to  
develop the c8 -bishop. **12.fxe5 dxe5**

**13.Qh5** It seems like White is already  
bringing the point home, but Black has

one narrow path to equality. These types  
of situations in which precise play is  
required from the opponent in order to  
achieve equality are considered very  
favorable in today's chess! **13...Be6**

**14.Qxe5 Bd6 15.Qg5** 0.16/20

[ Don't go for 15.Qxd4? Bc5 16.Qf2  
Bxf2+--+ ]

[ 15.Qh5± 0.48/25 ]

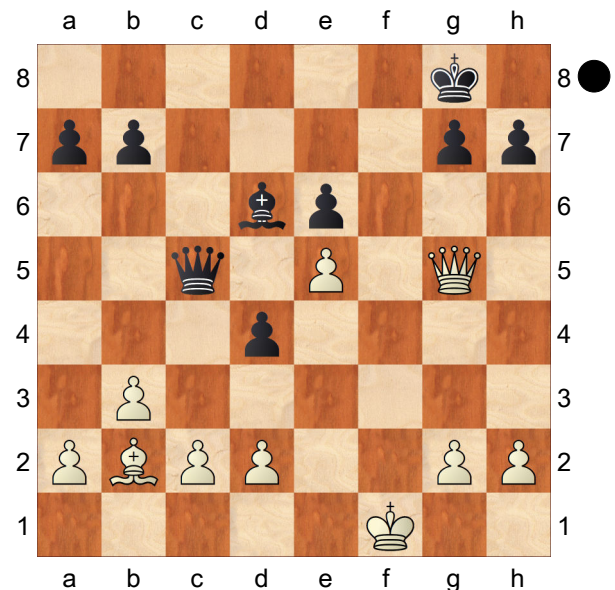
**15...Rac8= 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.e5 Qc5**

The position is equal. **18.Rxf8+ Rxf8**

**19.Rf1 Rxf1+**

[ Don't play 19...Qxe5 20.Rxf8+ Kxf8  
21.Qxe5 ( 21.Qh4 Bc5= ) 21...Bxe5  
22.Kf2± ]

**20.Kxf1**



And now Bb2xd4! would win. **20...Bxe5**

**21.Ba3 Qb5+ 22.d3** White is

microscopically better, as some  
important light squares are under his  
control and the queen on g5 is nicely  
placed.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.07  
(flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

□ **Model Games**

■ **Carlsen,Magnus vs. Ehlvest**

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5**

**Bd7 5.f4** Securing the diagonal of the bishop as well as gaining space in the center. **5...a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3N**

[ 7.d3 Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7

10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4 d5

18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3 d4 20.Ne4 f5 21.exf6 Qf7 Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 2 Game 2 ]

[ 7.Qe2 e6 8.Nf3 ( 8.c4 b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4

dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8

15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7

17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 Qc7 19.Rhf1 a5

20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Ne4

Be7 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g

(2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)

Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada

[Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ) 8...Nf6 9.d3 Be7

10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5

13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4

Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8

18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6

Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 11.♙e1 h6 12.♙b1

♙d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-

3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John

Watson] 0-1 (59) ]

**7...e6 8.Nf3** The position is equal.

**8...Nf6 9.Qe2** There are two main approaches for White in this position.

They are obviously short and long castling. Going for queenside castling looks very enjoyable, since White's king has an extra guard and White has the

**B20**

better attacking chances. However, the analysis show that this choice is quite risky and Black may get the upper hand with correct play.

[ 9.d3 intends to castle short, as the e4 -pawn has to be protected first.

Be7 10.0-0 b5 11.Qe1 0-0 12.f5

-0.48/20 This is a completely different story. ( 12.a4= -0.14/16 )]

**9...Be7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.d4**

Carlsen gets the setup which he made

popular. **11...cxd4** 0.14/20 This is a

gross mistake, giving White what he desires from the get-go. Sicilian players

often make this capture automatically, which makes this variation even more

venomous. As we already know, Black

should have continued with an

expansion on the queenside.

[ 11...b5! And now 12.e5 and dxc5 are the main options.

**A) 12.dxc5!** b4 13.Na4! Nxe4

next ...d6-d5 is good for Black.

14.Ne5 Bd5 -0.03/21 ( 14...Qc7

-0.55/23 15.Nxc6 Qxc6 )

15.Rxd5!= exd5 16.Nc6 Qd7

17.Nxb4 dxc5 18.Nb6 Qe6

19.N4xd5 Bd8! White must now

prevent ...Rf8-e8! 20.Re1;

**B) 12.e5** Nd5 13.dxc5 aiming for

Nc3xd5. dxc5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5

15.c4 bxc4 16.bxc4 Threatens to

win with Qe2-c2. Bxf3 17.Qxf3

Qe8 18.Qe4! and the danger is

minimal for White. ]

[ 11...b5 -0.32/23 ]

**12.Nxd4= Qc7! 13.g4** Of course!

Otherwise, what would've been the point

of White's entire set-up? Now the World

Champion gets a very good version of

the 'opposite side castling Sicilian' with

a safe king and a faster attack. What



more would one ask for from an opening line? **13...Rfe8** 0.57/21

[ 13...d5 The only way to continue fighting. Chess principles apply: 'Answer a wing attack with a counter in the center'. 14.e5 Ne4 0.55/22 ( 14...Nd7= -0.01/19 ) 15.Nxe4± dxe4 16.f5 -0.11/21 (White should play 16.Kb1± 0.71/23 ) 16...Bc5 0.77/21 and now White has two choices: Either to take the pawn and accept reversed colored bishops or keep the tension and continue attacking. ( 16...Bd5= -0.11/21 keeps the balance. ) 17.Rhe1 0.28/19 ( 17.fxe6 Bxd4 18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.Bxd4; 17.Kb1± 0.77/21 ) 17...Bd5!= 18.Kb1 b5! 19.h4 -0.08/17 ( 19.f6 0.25/22 is more appropriate. )]

[ Better is  $13...d5! = -0.01/21$  ]

**14.g5± Nd7 15.h4 b5 0.99/21**

[ 15...d5± 0.61/19 should be considered. ]

**16.g6!±** The difference between how far White and Black have developed their respective attacks is enormous. Carlsen goes for the thematic 'opening of the lines' sacrifice. Going into detail for the rest of the game is not needed as White's opening strategy was a huge success. Also, both sides were already getting short of time and some mistakes were committed. But let's not forget: the theory of this line is not yet well known, and Black's 11th move is critical. We are confident that, as times passes by, the players behind the black pieces will improve their play in this line. Therefore, one has to think twice to castle long in this specific variation. **16...hxd6 17.h5 Bf6 18.hxd6 fxd6 19.e5?** –1.44/22  
In rapid play these types of up and

downs are very normal. We were interested in the opening and middle game phase where we got to see the attacking ideas. After. &Bianco is more active.

[ 19.Nxc6! Bxc3 20.Bxc3 Qxc6  
21.Rd3 Qe2–h2 is the strong threat.  
Rac8 2.07/22 ( 21...b4± 1.07/20  
22.Bxb4 Nf6 ) 22.Rg3!+– Nf8 23.Qh2  
0.95/20 Black can no longer defend  
himself. ( 23.f5+– 2.21/25 has better  
winning chances. exf5 24.Qh2 Qxc3  
25.Rxc3 Rxc3 26.exf5 gxf5 27.Qh8+  
Kf7 28.Rg1 )]

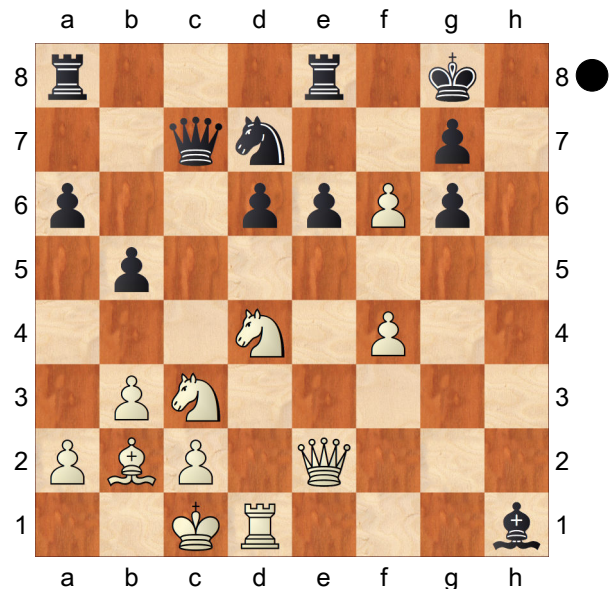
[Of course not 19.Qh2?! Kf7 20.Nxc6 Qxc6=]

[ 19.Nxc6± 1.31/22 Bxc3 20.Bxc3  
Qxc6 21.Bb2 ]

**19...Bxh1** ♚

[ 19...dxe5? 20.Nxc6 Qxc6  
21.Ne4+- ( 21.Qh2 Red8 $\bar{7}$  ) ]

## 20.exf6

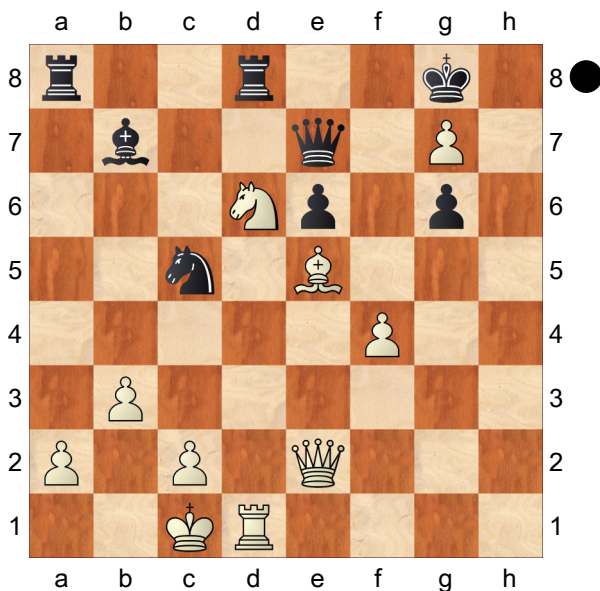


**Bb7?** 0.50/23

[ 20...b4! 21.Nxe6 bxc3 22.Rxh1  
cxb2+ 23.Kxb2 Qa5! 24.fxg7 Kf7  
This inhuman computer line is just  
for informational purposes. ]

[ 20...b4! ♣ -1.45/23 21.Na4 Bd5

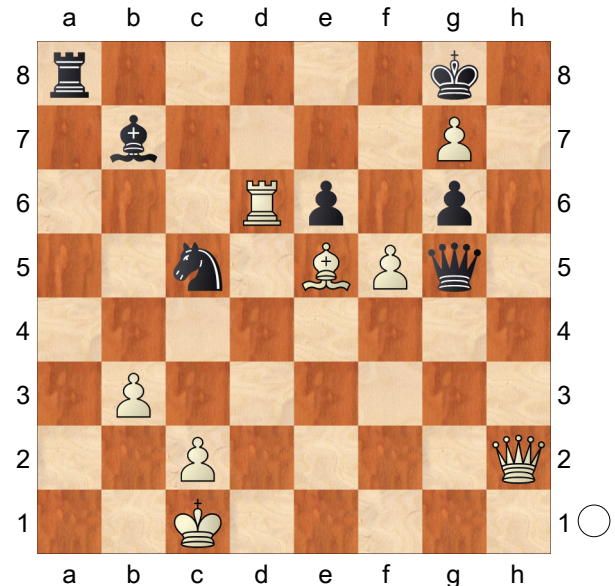
22.fxg7 e5 23.fxe5 dxe5 ]  
**21.fxg7** -0.01/23  
 [ 21.Nxe6± 0.50/23 Qb6 22.f7+  
 ( 22.fxg7 Re7= ) 22...Kxf7 23.Ne4  
 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Rxe6 25.Qxa8 ]  
**21...Nc5** 0.57/24  
 [ 21...Rac8= -0.01/23 ]  
**22.Ndxb5** -0.51/21 **axb5** **23.Nxb5**  
**Qe7** **24.Nxd6** -1.11/24  
 [ 24.Qh2= 0.01/23 Rad8 25.Nc7! ]  
**24...Red8** **25.Be5**



**Rxd6?** 0.46/24 After **26.Rxd6→**  
 White has strong attack. The board is on  
 fire. **26...Rxa2?** 7.36/24  
 [ 26...Nd7± 0.74/23 ]  
**27.Qh2+-** This time Carlsen does not let  
 it slip. Intending Qh2-h8+ and mate.  
**27...Ra8** **28.f5** **Qg5+**

(Diagram)

**29.Kb2!** **Qxf5** #12/22  
 [ 29...Qh5+- 4.23/23 30.Qd2 Re8 ]  
**30.Qh8+**  
 [ Weaker is 30.b4 Na4+ 31.Kc1  
 Qg5+ 32.Kb1 Qh5 33.Qxh5 gxh5= ]  
**30...Kf7** **31.g8Q+** **Rxg8** **32.Qh7+**  
 Mate will follow in a few moves.



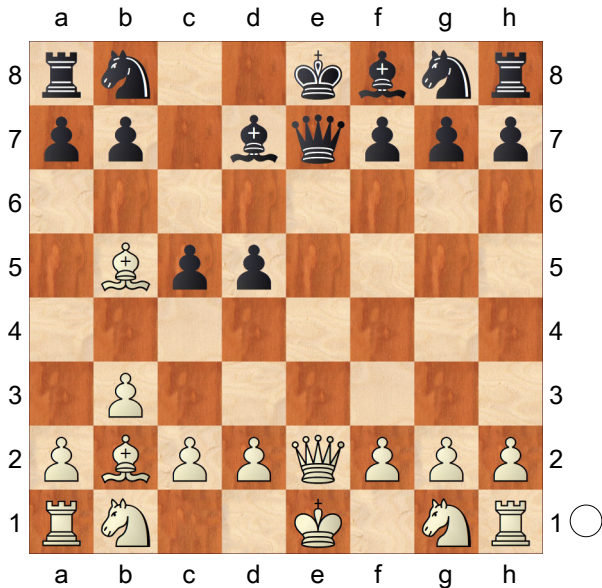
Deflection. White used his chance.  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/  
 Black=0.70

**1-0**

**B20**

□ **16) 2...e6**  
 ■ **5...Bd7 #3**  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6** This is a flexible move,  
 like many other second moves.  
 Therefore Black hasn't yet committed  
 himself. Which line will appear on the  
 board is still a question mark, and by  
 now we have delved into most of them.  
 By side stepping all the possible  
 transpositions we can get some  
 independent positions here! **3.Bb2 d5**  
**4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+** Players who are  
 familiar with the Tarrasch Variation of  
 the French Defense will recognize the  
 importance of this check. White is  
 rushing to occupy the e-file with the rook,  
 thus clearing the way with tempo.  
**5...Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7**



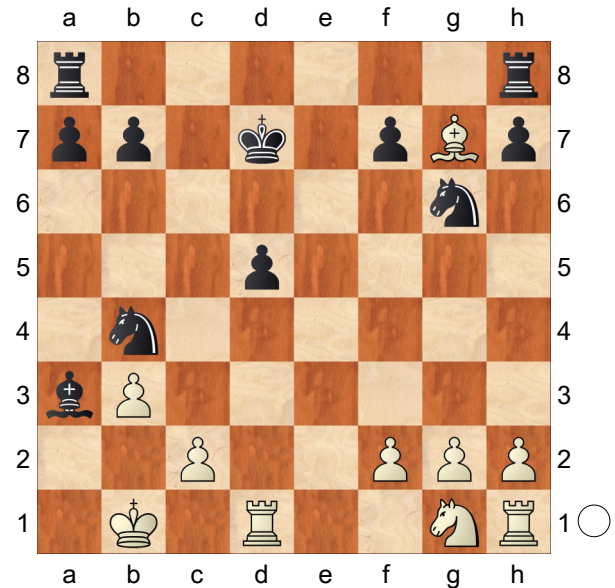
...Bd7xb5 is the strong threat. **7.Bxd7+N**  
 [ 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5  
 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3  
 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+  
 Kb7 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3 Be7  
 18.Bf3 Rhd8 19.Ne2 Be6 20.g4  
 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Rd8  
 C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3  
 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
 T] 1-0 (33) ]

**7...Kxd7** Since there is no way to avoid the trade of the queens, Black keeps the possibility to develop the knight to the c6 -square. **8.Qxe7+**

[But not 8.Be5 Nc6 9.Bg3 Re8♣]  
**8...Nxe7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Bxd4 Nbc6**  
**11.Bb2 Nb4** Very concrete play. **12.Na3 Ng6 13.0-0-0** A dynamic solution based on some tactics. Black has no option but to take the pawn on a2 , as otherwise he likely loses the d5 -pawn without compensation. Threatening Kc1-b1. **13...Nxa2+ 14.Kb1 Bxa3 15.Bxg7 Nb4**

(Diagram)

Strongly threatening ...Rh8-g8. **16.Bxh8**



**Rxh8 17.c3 Nc6 18.Rxd5+ Ke6**

**19.Rb5 Rb8 20.Nf3** Rook and pawn is generally regarded as stronger than knight and bishop in the endgame. Still, the position is balanced and the game should end peacefully. White has a better version thanks to the weak pawns on f7 and h7 . An even fight not without its subtleties.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)

**B20**

□ **17) 2...d5**  
 ■ **3...Qxd5 #6**  
 [MH]

**B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves**  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5**

[All the other second move alternatives such as 2...a6 or e6 have to transpose to one of the main lines due to their slow nature. The d5 push, however, is quite different. We can make an argument that the d-pawn moving two squares ahead is premature, since Black's

queen will have to step in the game at a very early stage. ]

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3 C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1-0 (33) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

### 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd6N

[ 4...Qd8 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.0-0-0 Nc6 9.g4 h6 10.Rg1 a6 11.h4 Nd7 12.g5 hxg5 13.hxg5 Nf8 14.Ne4 Rh7 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Rxd4 Qc7 18.Bg2 Ng6 19.Qd2 6.♙c4 ♕f5 7.♘e2 ♘d7\_5 (2636)-Minic Dragoljub (CRO) (2396) Saint Petersburg 65/505 2005 200 Traps In The Opening [Pons Ribot] 1-0 (40) ]

### 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bb2 a6

8.Bxd7+ Nbx7 9.Qe2 Once again, we head for long castling because it promises more lively play and better position compared to other setups. 9...e6 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.d4 0-0 12.g4

The situation on the board demands this pawn sacrifice. In positions where the players have castled on opposite sides, it is quite typical to sacrifice a pawn in order to open up diagonals or lines. The one who reaches the enemy king first

gets the initiative. 12...Rfd8 13.Kb1 Rac8 14.Rhe1 A central strategy! All the lines that include taking the g4 -pawn for Black are highly dangerous, as we saw in the previous variation. 14...Bf8

[ Don't do 14...Nxg4 15.d5± ]

### 15.dxc5 Qxc5 16.g5 Nh5 17.Rd4

A change of plans at the right moment. Once the f6 -knight is kicked away from the center, White shifts gears and turns his attention to the middle of the board. Red1 is a deadly threat and Black is facing several issues.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

## B20

☐ Rare 2nd moves ----- for ALL

☒ Rare 2nd moves ----- for ALL [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 So here we are. I guess that if you purchased this course, you – like me– are a Sicilian player. I don't claim here that you are from Palermo or Catania, but that you like to play unbalanced chess by replying 1. e4 with 1... c5. In the first chapter, we will take a look at all of White's rare 2nd moves. Some of them are more playable and some are just dubious, but I wanted to cover all of the options that at least from time to time appear in tournament practice. Of course, don't expect me to cover 2. h3 or 2. a4 because you can get a decent position vs those moves without doing anything extraordinary. But any reasonable move from White that isn't a main-line has been covered. 2.b3 Not a very popular option but it is



used from time to time by people who want to avoid theory. It was also recommended by Evgeny Sveshnikov and his son Vladimir in their book 'A Chess Opening Repertoire for Blitz and Rapid'. **2...g6** An exclamation mark is from me. Not only is this a move that leads to some interesting positions but it is also theoretically sound.

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3 C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich, T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6** Just don't premove 3...Bg7

**4.e5** By far the most popular continuation but in my opinion, it hands over the initiative to Black. Playing Alekhine-style is a noble thing but not with the Bishop on b2.

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

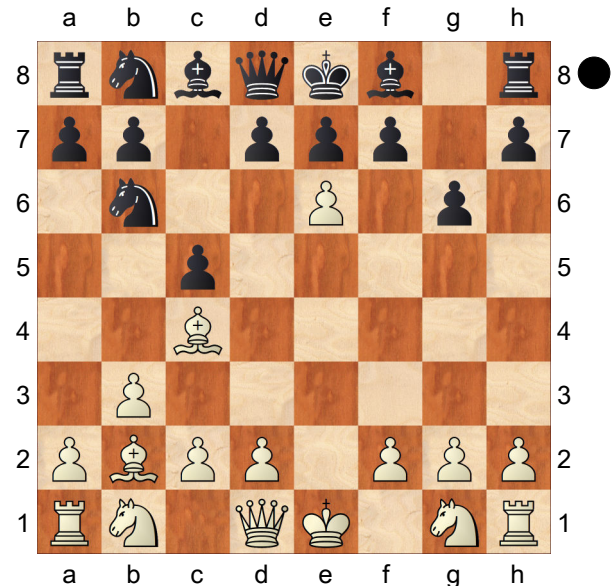
**4...Nd5 5.Bc4** One of the most direct ideas but Black will gain an upper hand.

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nb6 6.e6**

(Diagram)

There is nothing else. Losing time to move the light-squared Bishop results in ... Bg7 ... Nc6 and ... d6 being played in time. **6...f6 7.exd7+ 7.Bb5 Nc6**



doesn't solve White's problems. **7...Bxd7**

**8.Qe2** The position is equal. **8...e5**

The most ambitious continuation. It looks risky to play like that but when we consolidate, the reward will be high.

[ 8...Nxc4 9.Bxf6 Rg8 10.bxc4± ( 10.Qxc4 exf6 11.Qxg8 Qe7+ 12.Kd1 Be6-+ ) ]

**9.f4** Otherwise just ... Nc6 with a big advantage for Black. **9...Nxc4 10.Qxc4**

**b5** Grabbing space on the queenside and gaining a tempo on the White Queen. **11.Qe2 Nc6 12.fxe5 fxe5**

[ Don't do 12...Nxe5 13.Nf3 Bg7 14.Nxe5 fxe5 15.0-0± ]

**13.Nc3 Nd4 14.Qxe5+ Qe7 15.Qxe7+**

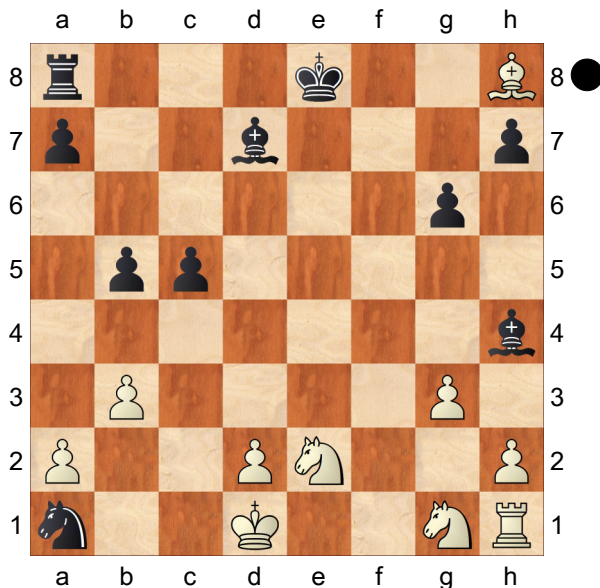
**Bxe7** Once again Black sacrificed a pawn for the initiative. ... Bc6 is coming.

**16.Nce2** Black is slightly better.

**16...Bh4+** A very important move to provoke g3. **17.g3 Nxc2+ 18.Kd1 Nxa1 19.Bxh8**

(Diagram)

**Bc6!** Now we see the point behind provoking g3. Strongly threatening ... Bh4-e7. **20.Bxa1**



[ 20.gxh4 Nxb3 ]

**20...Be7** Black is much better with so powerful Bishops.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

□ **#48 1.e4 c5 rare 2nd moves fo**  
 ■ **#48 1.e4 c5 rare 2nd moves fo**  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves **1.e4 c5 2.b3** Not a very popular option but it is used from time to time by people who want to avoid theory. It was also recommended by Evgeny Sveshnikov and his son Vladimir in their book 'A Chess Opening Repertoire for Blitz and Rapid'. **2...g6** An exclamation mark is from me. Not only is this a move that leads to some interesting positions but it is also theoretically sound.

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
 a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
 13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7

16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3  
 (2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
 T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6** Just don't premove 3...Bg7 .

**4.e5** By far the most popular continuation but in my opinion, it hands over the initiative to Black. Playing Alekhine-style is a noble thing, but not with the Bishop on b2.

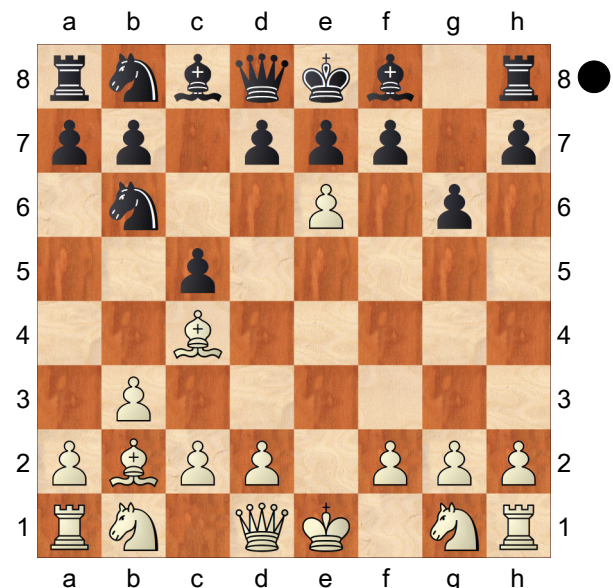
[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Bc4N** One of the most direct ideas but Black will gain an upper hand.

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nb6 6.e6**

**B20**



There is nothing else. Losing time to move the light-squared Bishop results in ... Bg7 ... Nc6 and ... d6 being played in time. **6...f6 7.exd7+ 7.Bb5 Nc6** doesn't solve White's problems. **7...Bxd7 8.Qe2** aiming for Bb2xf6. The position is equal. **8...e5** The most ambitious

continuation. It looks risky to play like that but when we consolidate, the reward will be high.

[But not 8...Nxc4 9.Bxf6 Rg8  
10.bxc4± ( 10.Qxc4 exf6 11.Qxg8  
Qe7+ 12.Kd1 Be6-+ )]

**9.f4** Otherwise just ... Nc6 with a big advantage for Black. **9...Nxc4 10.Qxc4**

**b5** Grabbing space on the queenside and gaining a tempo on the White Queen. **11.Qe2 Nc6 12.fxe5**

[ 12.Nf3 is more complex. Bg7 13.0-0  
0-0 14.Qxb5 e4 15.Qc4+ ]

**12...fxe5** White must now prevent ...Bf8-g7.

[Don't play 12...Nxe5 13.Nf3 Bg7  
14.Nxe5 fxe5 15.0-0± ]

**13.Bxe5** Accepting the gift leads to huge problems for White. **13...Nxe5**

**14.Qxe5+** Black is better. **14...Qe7**

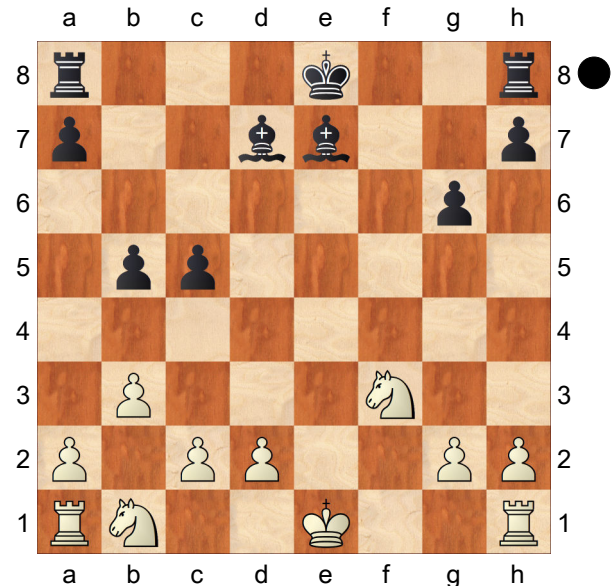
**15.Qxe7+ Bxe7** Despite the fact that Black is a pawn down, after 15 moves White has only one unit developed – the pawn on b3! On the other hand, Black can castle short and the Bishop on f6 with the combination of the pawn on b4 will create havoc on the dark squares. Black is SIGNIFICANTLY better. Note that one fine idea is to play ... Bh4+ and only then ... Bf6 to provoke g3 from White. **16.Nf3**

(Diagram)

Inhibits Be7-h4+. **16...Bf6!** Black has strong compensation. **17.c3**

[Not 17.Nc3? b4 18.0-0-0 bxc3-+ ]

**17...0-0 18.0-0 b4** White can't develop the queenside and Black is much better – positionally winning if you ask me. Against Nb1-a3.



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

**B20**

□ **#48 1.e4 c5 rare 2nd moves fo**  
 ■ **#48 1.e4 c5 rare 2nd moves fo**  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves **1.e4 c5 2.b3** Not a very popular option but it is used from time to time by people who want to avoid theory. It was also recommended by Evgeny Sveshnikov and his son Vladimir in their book 'A Chess Opening Repertoire for Blitz and Rapid'. **2...g6** An exclamation mark is from me. Not only is this a move that leads to some interesting positions but it is also theoretically sound.

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)-13.♠ad1 ♔b6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,



T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6** Just don't premove 3...Bg7 .

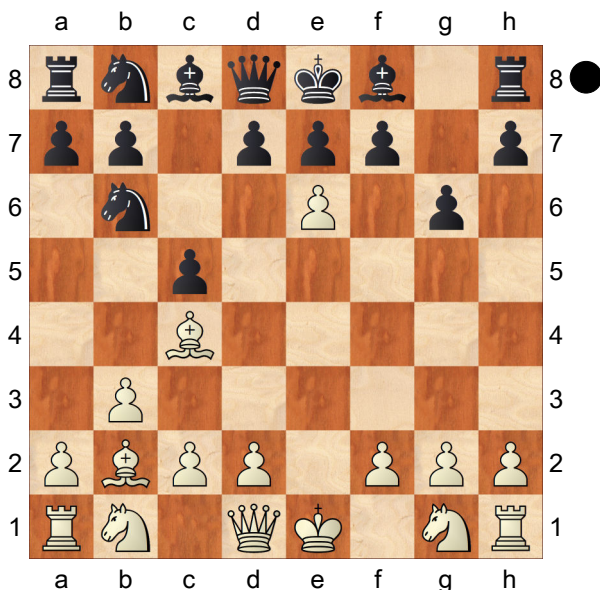
**4.e5** By far the most popular continuation but in my opinion, it hands over the initiative to Black. Playing Alekhine-style is a noble thing, but not with the Bishop on b2.

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Bc4N** One of the most direct ideas but Black will gain an upper hand.

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nb6 6.e6**



There is nothing else. Losing time to move the light-squared Bishop results in ... Bg7 ... Nc6 and ... d6 being played in time. **6...f6 7.exd7+ 7.Bb5 Nc6** doesn't solve White's problems. **7...Bxd7 8.Qe2 -0.53/22**

[ 8.Be2= -0.13/20 ]

**8...e5!?** The most ambitious continuation. It looks risky to play like that but when we consolidate, the reward will be high.

[ Don't play 8...Nxc4 9.Bxf6 Rg8 10.bxc4± ( 10.Qxc4 exf6 11.Qxg8 Qe7+ 12.Ne2 Be6-+ ) ]

**9.f4** Otherwise just ... Nc6 with a big advantage for Black. **9...Nxc4 10.Qxc4**

**b5** Grabbing space on the queenside and gaining a tempo on the White Queen. **11.Qe2 Nc6 12.fxe5 fxe5** Hoping for ...Bf8-g7.

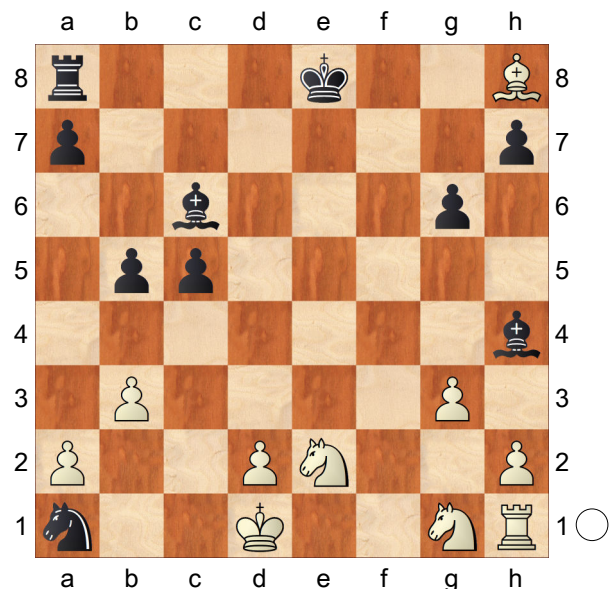
[ Don't do 12...Nxe5 13.Nf3 Bg7 14.Nxe5 fxe5 15.0-0± ]

**13.Nc3 Nd4 14.Qxe5+ Qe7 15.Qxe7+ Bxe7** Once again Black sacrificed a pawn for the initiative. ... Bc6 is coming.

**16.Nce2 Bh4+** A very important move to provoke g3. **17.g3 -0.67/24**

[ 17.Ng3 -0.35/24 deserves consideration. ]

**17...Nxc2+ 18.Kd1 Nxa1 19.Bxh8 Bc6**



Now we see the point behind provoking g3. White must now prevent ...Bh4-e7. **20.Bxa1 -0.74/21 Be7** Black is much better with so powerful Bishops. Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)



□ **11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5**  
 ■ **7...g6 #1 (Alternative 13.h3)**  
 [MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straight-  
 forward approach! Black shows his  
 intentions from the get-go and closes  
 out our bishop.

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6  
 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6  
 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0  
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7  
 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5  
 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6  
 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)-  
 Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023  
 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
 0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5  
 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0  
 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0  
 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g  
 (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)  
 Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada  
 [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

**4.Bc4 Nc6 5.Ne2** The knight comes to  
 e2 so that the f2 – f4 push remains  
 possible. **5...a6N**

[ 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.f4 Nge7 8.d3  
 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.fxe5 Nxe5  
 11.Qc1 0-0 12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Kh1  
 Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qc7  
 16.Nf4 Ng4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3  
 Ne5 19.Qb2 Rae8 20.Rae1  
 6.♔d4 e5 7.♔d3\_52284-6.♔g5 ♘bd7  
 7.cd5\_52595 Dubai 2006 200 Traps In  
 The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ  
 March 1879] 1-0 (37) ]

**6.a4 Nf6 7.d3 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.f4**

**B20**

**Nh5** This move makes lot of sense,  
 since it makes use of the pin on the long  
 diagonal. **10.fxe5 0-0 11.Qd2**

A useful semi-waiting move. The queen  
 on d2 supports the positional threat of a5  
 , so now Black has to act with regard to  
 the e5 –pawn. **11...Nxe5** Threatening ...  
 Nf3 +. **12.Nbc3 Be6 13.h3**

[ This move allows a forced draw. Of  
 course, Black needs to play several  
 accurate moves in a row, so we see  
 no harm in recommending 13.h3  
 as an alternative try. ]

**13...Qd7 14.Rf2**

[ Of course not 14.Bd5 Bxh3! 15.Qg5  
 ( 15.gxh3 Qxh3 16.Nd1 Qg4+  
 17.Kh2 Nf3+ 18.Rxf3 Bxb2 )  
 15...Bg4 ]

**14...Bxh3 15.gxh3 Qxh3** aiming for ...  
 Ne5-g4. The position is equal. **16.Raf1**  
**Ng4** Black is on the attack with four  
 pieces, and the immediate threat is ...  
 Bd4 . Therefore White's reply is a must:  
 the bishop on g7 must be defused.

**17.Nd1** Black must now prevent Bb2xg7.  
**17...Bxb2 18.Nxb2** The board is on fire.  
**18...Ne3 19.Re1** Rf2-h2 is the strong  
 threat. **19...Ng3 20.Nxg3**

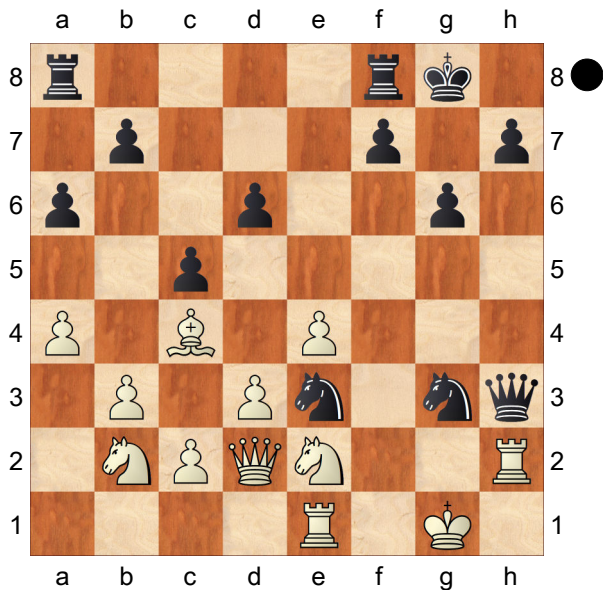
[ Not 20.Rh2?

(Diagram)

Qxh2+!! 21.Kxh2 Ngf1+ 22.Kg1  
 Nxd2-+ ]

**20...Qxg3+ 21.Kh1** An interesting draw.  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.01  
 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

[ And now Black draws with a  
 perpetual: Qh3+ Kg1 Qg3+ 21.Kh1  
 Qh3+ etc. ]



□ 7) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6

■ 5...Nc7 #2

[MH]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6** Developing the knight first is not only more principled, but also much more flexible. Depending on White's answer Black can later choose to go into a g6 –system anyway, or go into a completely different direction. Let's see how it goes. **5.Nf3 Nc7** A smart move which should not be underestimated. Black simply frees the d7 –pawn by moving away the piece in front, and wants to play ... d5 on the next move. Placing another pawn to the center can't be bad, could it?

[ 5...d6 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4 a6 ( 10...e6 11.Qd2 Queenside Fianchetto–2 b3 ChessPub Guide 2017 Anti–Sicilians [ChessPublishing.com] )

**B30**

11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.dxc5 dxc5  
13.Qc1 Nd5 14.Nh4 e6 15.Nxg6  
hxg6 16.Ne4 Qa5+ 17.Qd2 Nb4  
18.Kf1 Qd8 19.Nd6+ Bxd6 20.exd6  
Chapter 13 Part 2–Game 4 Game 4  
(31) ]  
[ 5...g6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Ne4 Nd4 8.Bc4  
Qc7 9.Bxd5 Qxe5 10.0–0 Kd8  
11.c3 Nf5 12.f4 Qg7 13.Bc4 d5  
14.Bd3 dxe4 15.Bxe4 Nd6 16.d3  
Bd7 17.Nd2 Be7 18.Nc4 Nxc4  
19.dxc4 Rb8 20.Qf3 13.g5 ♘c5 14.  
♙f3 (2395)–Rinkewitz,F (2450)  
Espana 83/571 1991 EXT 97  
[Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter] 1–0 (51) ]

**6.Bd3** 0.01/20 This move is no less clever than Black's previous one. White rapidly prepares Re1 and the bishop eyes the sensitive h7 –pawn.

[ 6.Bc4± 0.38/20 ]

**6...d5 7.exd6 exd6 8.0–0** The position is equal. **8...Ne6!** In order to defend g7 .  
**9.c4 Be7! 10.Nc3 Bf6 11.Qb1**

A kind of 'double attack'. Well actually, it must be said that this move has a 'double purpose': Defending the bishop on b2 in order to jump Nd5 and not allowing Black to castle due to the attack on h7 . **11...h6 12.Nd5 Bxb2 13.Qxb2 0–0 14.Rae1 Ncd4 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.f4 Be6 17.Nc3** It is true that the black knight on d4 feels stronger than its counterpart. However, White has the luxury of the 'rook lift'. White can always offer to exchange the knights as an emergency exit, in case the attack attempt does not look promising. An interesting draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

**B40**  
 □ **8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**  
 ■ **4...e6 #2**  
 [MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**

[The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6, and White players are highly likely to face one of these two, but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead.]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be.

**5...Be7 6.Bg2 0–0 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.0–0**

Now Black has two main approaches: 1. Developing the light-squared bishop immediately on the a8 – h1 diagonal; 2. Attacking the e5 –pawn immediately.

**8...b5N**

[ 8...d6 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Na3 Bf6 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.a4 b6 Chess Informant ECO Survey 2002 ]

**9.Qe2 Qb6 10.Nc3 Nxc3** White is slightly better. **11.dxc3** One of the most difficult moves in this course, without a doubt! White intentionally shuts down (temporarily) his own bishop. This piece will breathe again in a few moves. Also note that the c1 – h6 diagonal is another possibility.

[ 11.Bxc3?! –0.10/19 11.d2xc3 0.28 Ba6! , when ... b4 is looming, is what we are trying to avoid! ]

**11...Bb7**

[ 11...c4?! 12.Bc1! Bb7 0.78/20

( 12...Ba6± 0.43/19 ) 13.Bf4 Rac8 14.b4 0.07/22 ( 14.bxc4± 0.55/19 bxc4 15.Rab1 ) 14...a5= 15.a3 White has more than a small advantage as Nd2 – Qh5 – Be4 ideas hang in the air. ]

**12.a4 a6 13.Rfd1 Rad8 14.axb5 axb5 15.Nd2 d5 16.exd6! Bxd6 17.c4**

Once again Black's kingside seems a bit deserted, while White's army can easily place themselves on threatening squares.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

**B20**

□ **Model Games**

■ **Kramnik,Vladimir vs. Inarki**

[MH]

The b3 Sicilian is not a regular visitor on the highest level when it comes to slower controls, but we are lucky enough to see how it was handled by the 14th World Champion.

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d5N**

[ 3...a6 4.a4 ( 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0–0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0–0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4 Nxb4 Pink,J (2683)–11...♔c7 12.♚bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0–1 (62) ) 4...e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Be2 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qb6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.a5 Qc7 13.f4 Ne8 14.Bd3 f5 15.exf5 exf5 16.Qh5 Nf6 17.Qh3 Ng4

18.Rf3 Ripatti,R-2.c4 e5 NLD 1851  
 CBM 084 Extra [Dorner, Cranbourne]  
 0-1 ]  
 [ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3  
 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4  
 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4  
 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4  
 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5  
 Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
 alternatives Greek Team  
 Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
 Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
 96] ]  
 [ 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5  
 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Nf4 9.g4 Bg6  
 10.d4 e6 11.Qd2 Queenside  
 Fianchetto-2 b3 ChessPub Guide  
 2017 Anti-Sicilians [ChessPublishing.  
 com] ]

#### 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qe5+ 6.Qe2

This move can be labeled as a 'personal choice' mainly connected with style, tournament situation, daily mood etc. In the course we have looked at blocking with the bishop (6.Be2) in order to gain another tempo by attacking the queen. Trading her majesty at the earliest stage also has its merits: White has more soldiers in play (by move six!) and less risk. **6...Qxe2+ 7.Ngxe2 Bf5 8.0-0-0** White is slightly better.

[ 8.Nd5!? 0-0-0 9.Ne3± ]

**8...0-0-0 9.g3** This is the best way to finish development. **9...e5** This early expansion presents White with an extra option, namely f4 .

[ 9...e6 10.Bg2 Nge7 11.Ne4 Nd5  
 12.a3 This looks a bit safer for Black.  
 At least there is no immediate clash  
 here and the course of the game is  
 slow-paced. ]

**10.f4 exf4 11.Nxf4 Nf6 12.Bc4 Nd4**

#### 13.d3

[ 13.Nb5! Going pawn grabbing would have favored White: Nxc2 14.Nxa7+ Kb8 15.Nb5 Nd4 ( 15...Ng4 16.Rhf1 Nd4 17.Ne2! Nxb5 18.Bxb5 ) 16.Rde1! The bishop on f8 has issues getting into the game properly. This might cost Black the whole game. Nxb5 17.Bxb5 Bd6 18.Rhf1 h5 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.Rxf5 Nc7 21.Bc4 And the bishop pair gives White a clear advantage. ]

**13...Bd6 14.Rdf1** 0.00/21 Kramnik had valid reasons for not accepting the pawn sacrifice:

[ 14.Bxf7 Bxf4+ 15.gxf4 a6  
 Intending ... Rhf8 . White must now prevent ...Rh8-f8. 16.a4 b5 17.Ne4 Rhf8 18.Bxd4 Rxd4 19.Ng5!  
 Threatening Bf7-e6+. Bd7  
 and Black is threatening both ... Rxf4 and .. .h6. ]  
 [ 14.Rde1 Bd7 15.Ne4 ( 15.Bxf7 Rhf8 16.Bd5 Nxd5 17.Nfxd5 Bc6 Black has decent compensation for the pawn. ) 15...Nxe4 16.dxe4 f6 17.Nh5! Bf8 18.Bd5 Black has problems developing the f8 -bishop. ]  
 [ 14.Rde1± 0.40/22 ]

**14...Bd7** And now ...b7-b5 would win.

**15.Nce2 Bxf4+** Inarkiev was just about to equalize completely. Giving up the bishop pair seems like an odd decision.

[ 15...Rhf8 16.Nxd4 cxd4

#### A) 17.Bxd4?!

A1) 17...Bc6!? 18.Rhg1  
 ( 18.Bxa7? b5?) 18...b5  
 19.Be6+ ( 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Be6+ Kb8= ) 19...Kc7=;

A2) 17...Ba3+ 18.Kb1 ( 18.Bb2? -1.10/21 18.Kc1-d2 0.02 Bxb2+ 19.Kxb2 b5! Prevents a2-a4.



20.Bd5 g5 and White loses one of the minor pieces. ) 18...Bc6 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Rhg1 b5 21.Be6+ fxe6 22.Nxe6 Rf7 23.Nxd8 Kxd8;

**B) 17.a4** Prevents b7–b5. 17...Bc6 18.Rhg1 Ng4 Black has enough play to keep the game in balance. ]

**16.Nxf4 Bc6 17.Rhg1 Rd7 18.Bxd4** [ 18.b4 is interesting. cxb4 19.Bxf7 Nf3 20.Be6 ]

**18...cxd4 19.b4!** Kramnik comes up with the most effective plan: White not only saves his own bishop but also threatens to disturb Black's counterpart. **19...b5 20.Bb3 Ng4 21.Nh5! Nxh2** The losing mistake. this game is a good example of the fact that endgames in the b3 Sicilian are not as innocent as they look. Black is now going downhill.

[ 21...Ne3 22.Rf4 0.27/22 ( 22.Rf2± 0.61/21 ) 22...g5!= 23.Rf2 Re7 24.Nf6 Kb8 25.Re1

White's positional superiority is obvious. ]

**22.Rf2**

[ 22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.Bxf7 g6= ]

**22...Ng4 23.Rf4** White has strong compensation. **23...f5** 1.75/23 Inarkiev did not want to suffer in the following endgame:

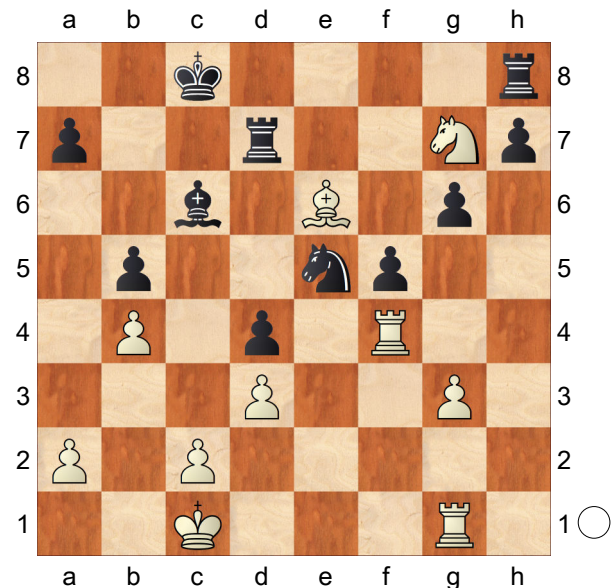
[ 23...Ne3 24.Nxg7 Rg8 25.Nf5 Nxf5 26.Rxf5 Rg7 27.g4 Black has way too many pawn weaknesses. ]

[ 23...Ne3± 1.01/24 ]

**24.Be6+–** Converting an extra exchange wasn't really an issue for a champion like Kramnik who has tremendous technique. Threatens to win with Nh5xg7. **24...g6 25.Ng7**

[ 25.Bxd7+ Bxd7 26.Rh1 ( 26.Ng7 Rg8± ) 26...h6= ]

**25...Ne5**



**26.Re1!**

[ 26.Bxd7+?! Bxd7 27.Re1 ( 27.Rxd4 Nf3± ) 27...Nc6± ]

**26...Nf3 27.Re2 Rhd8 28.Bxd7+ Rxd7 29.Ne6 Rd6 30.Nf8 h5 31.Re6 Rxe6 32.Nxe6** Endgame KRN–KBN **32...Bd7 33.Nf8**

[ Don't do 33.Rxf3 Bxe6 34.Rf4 g5 35.Rxd4 Kc7+– ]

**33...Ng1 34.Kd1** Against Ng1–e2

**34...Be8 35.Rxd4 Nf3 36.Rd6 g5**

**37.Ne6** Against f5–f4 **37...Bd7 38.Nc5**

**Be8 39.Re6 Kd8 40.Nb7+ Kd7**

**41.Re3 g4 42.Nc5+ Kd8 43.Ne6+**

**Kd7 44.Nf4 Bf7 45.d4 h4?** 4.53/24

[ 45...Kc6 2.73/21 46.Re7 Bc4

47.Rxa7 Nxd4 48.Ra6+ Kd7

49.Nxh5 Nc6 ]

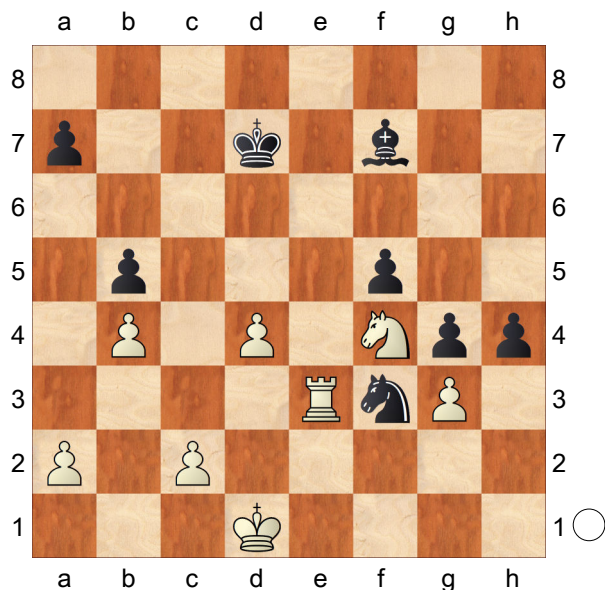
(Diagram)

**46.Rxf3! gxf3 47.gxh4 Bxa2**

KB–KN. White is clearly winning. **48.Ke1**

**Ke7 49.d5 Kd6 50.h5 Ke5**

(Diagram)



**51.h6! Kxf4**

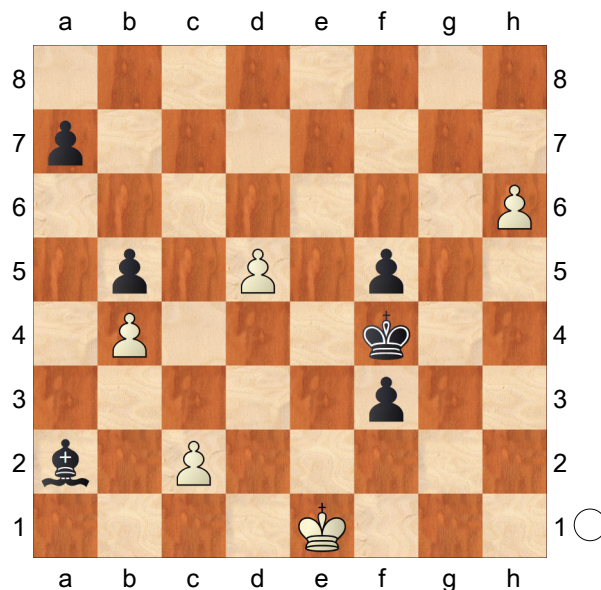
(Diagram)

**52.Kf2!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05  
(flawless) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

[ 52.h7 is a self mate. Ke3 53.Kd1 f2  
54.Kc1 f1Q+ 55.Kb2 Qb1+ 56.Ka3  
Qxc2 57.h8Q Qb3# ]

**1-0**



**B50**

□ **Kieseritzky,Lionel Adalbert BF**

■ **Anderssen,Adolf**

London knockout (1.1)

27.05.1851

[MH]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 a6**

[ 3...e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3  
Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4  
Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4  
Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4  
h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5  
Polihroniade,E-12 9th move  
alternatives Greek Team  
Championship 2019 200 Traps In The  
Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec  
96] ]

**4.a4N**

[ 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2  
Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5  
11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5  
14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4  
17.axb4 Ba6 18.bxa4 Nxb4  
Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4  
13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

## B20

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37;  
ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

**4...e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Be2 Be7  
8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 cxd4 The position is  
equal. 10.Nxd4 Qb6 11.Nxc6 bxc6  
12.a5**

[ 12.Qd3 looks sharper. d5 13.Qg3  
a5 14.Rad1 ]

**12...Qc7 13.f4 Ne8 0.58/18**

[ 13...Bb7= 0.12/20 ]

**14.Bd3 f5 15.exf5 exf5 16.Qh5**

**-0.17/17**

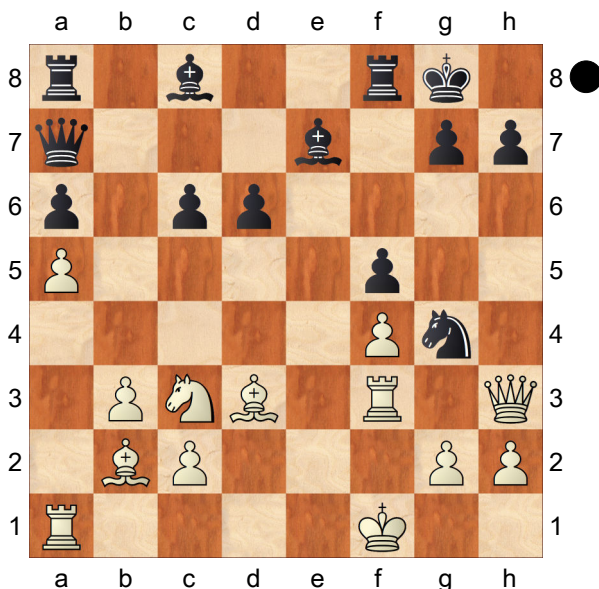
[ 16.Na4± 0.62/16 ]

**16...Nf6 17.Qh3 Ng4 18.Rf3? -1.97/24**

[ 18.Qf3= 0.24/21 and White is okay. ]

**18...Qa7+-+ 19.Kf1 -3.21/22**

[ 19.Kh1 -2.02/25 keeps fighting. Rf6  
20.Qh5 ]



**19...Rf6! ...Rf6-h6 is the strong threat.**

**20.Rg3? -#1/6**

[ 20.Qh5+-+ -2.35/22 ]

**20...Qf2#**

Weighted Error Value: White=1.01/

Black=0.12 (very precise)

**0-1**

□ **14) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6: the Alt**

■ **5...d6 #3**

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting  
time, gets ready for the struggle on the  
long diagonal. This move seems a little  
odd at first sight because White has the  
first go along this diagonal, but Black  
has logical ways to parry the threats and  
get a normal game. Things get  
complicated quite quickly here.

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5

5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3

Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3

a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6

13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7

16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)-13.♖ad1 ♔b6 14.b3

(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,

T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.f4N** White includes this  
move before getting queen to f3 . The  
benefit of stepping forward with the f  
pawn is strengthening the scope of the  
b2 bishop as we already know.

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6

7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7

10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4

c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

[ 4.e5 Nd5 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7

7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6

10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second

Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**4...Bg7 5.Qf3 d6 6.Bb5+ Bd7**

**7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.c4**

We are building our standard pawn  
formation where the central pawns  
remain on the light squares.

[ 9.0-0 is seen in the model game

Nepomniachtchi–Carlsen . ]

**9...Nc6 10.Nbc3** And now Black can choose between two main approaches:

To play on the wing or in the center.

**10...e5 11.0–0** The position is equal.

**11...Nd4 12.Qd3** There is nothing wrong with exchanging on d4 . In that case the game would be around equal as well, but each simplification gets us closer to a drier game. **12...Qg4 13.Rae1 Rae8**

**14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Nd5 Nd7**

[ 15...Nxe4? 16.Nxd4 exd4  
17.Rf4+– ]

**16.Ng3** Both sides have managed to place their knights at their strongholds. The game is balanced, yet very interesting with chances for both parties. White should make some improvements first, such as Bc3 and Rf2 . An even fight not without its subtleties.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

### □ Early B3 Plans

■ **Snyder Variation 2.b3 ♖ 4.e**  
[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5** This chapter will be devoted to the setups with White playing an early b3. The idea behind this move is mainly to improvise with fianchettoing the dark-squared bishop on b2 and thus avoid mainstream theory. **2.b3** If White does this as early as the second move, Black does not have to play the ...e6 setups anymore and has more flexibility. **2...g6** This is our suggestion: position the dark-squared bishop on the same diagonal as the white bishop to negate

its activity.

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0–0–0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)–13.♟ad1 ♚b6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1–0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6** Of course, the knight has to be developed first. This is the simplest approach – Black continues development on the kingside and starts to pressure the white pawn on e4. Now White has some choices, but none of them promise an advantage. **4.e5** Probably the most principled move – White is hoping to gain some tempi by attacking the wandering Black knight but at the expense of the vulnerable pawn on e5.

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0 Chapter 8–1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5** There's no need to put the knight on the edge of the board if a central square is available. White has tried several continuations here, but none of them look particularly convincing.

**5.Nc3N** Before starting active operations in the center, White removes the black knight from the center.

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves–F: 2 b3  
[Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nxc3** Black shouldn't mind the trade, as long as he is able to start pressuring the White pawn on e5. **6.Bxc3 Bg7**

**7.h4** This idea we already remember

B20



without including the knight trade.

Black's response is very similar – don't wait for White to play h5–h6. **7...d5**

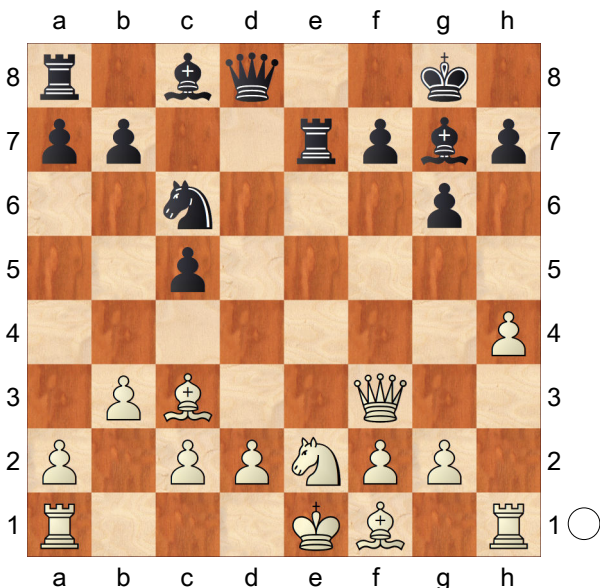
This is possible as well. **8.exd6! 0–0**

You should recognize this maneuver by now already – Black is willing to play a gambit and exploit his little lead in development. **9.dxe7 Re8** Black wants to recapture with the rook while giving the queen another role. **10.Qf3**

Andreikin, D.

CCStartBracketCC2712CCEndBracket  
CC – Vachier Lagrave, M.

CCStartBracketCC2791CCEndBracket  
CC Dortmund 2017. Black could have improved his game here with more natural moves. **10...Rxe7+ 11.Ne2 Nc6**



...Bg7xc3 is the strong threat. **12.Bxg7**

**Kxg7** While White's incoming h5 threat looks menacing, his king is not out of the woods yet. **13.0–0–0 Bf5! 14.h5 Nb4 15.hxg6** –0.01/22

[ 15.d3± 0.40/21 ]

**15...hxg6** The game is very sharp but Black's chances are not worse. Think of ideas like ...c4 or even ...Rxe2 and ...Qd4 next.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

**B20**

□ Szabo,Laszlo

■ Sax,Gyula

Magyarország 33/198

1982

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3 d5N**

[ 7...0–0 8.Qe2 a6 9.0–0–0 b5

10.Rdg1 Bd7 11.g4 Nb4 12.g5

Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 Nh5 14.Ne2 c4

15.Qd4 f6 16.h4 cxb3 17.axb3 a5

18.Rg2 g6 19.Rhg1 Bc6 20.Qe3 f5

21.Qc3 fxe4 22.Qh8+ 7.♘1f3 ♔d6 8.

♙e2 h6 9.♙–Cabrera,J corr 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [Elburg, CCYB] 1–0 ]

**8.Ne5 0–0 9.Nxc6** White is slightly

better. **9...bxc6 10.e5 Nd7 11.Qf3**

**Rb8 12.Nd1 f5 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Qh3**

**g6** –0.01/22

[ 14...h6± –0.34/23 deserves consideration. ]

**15.0–0=**

[ 15.Qxe6+ Kh8 16.0–0 c4 17.bxc4

( 17.Be2? Re8–+ ) 17...Rxb2 18.Nxb2

Ne5! 19.Qxc8 Qxc8 20.fxe5

Bxe5–+ ]

**15...c4 16.Be2**

[ 16.Qxe6+? Kg7 17.Qxc6 ( 17.Be2?

Re8–+ ) 17...cxd3 18.cxd3 Qa5–+ ]

**16...Nc5** 0.40/21

[ 16...Qb6+= 0.00/21 is superior.

17.Kh1 Bxb2 18.Nxb2 ( 18.Qxe6+

Kh8= ) 18...Nc5 ]

**17.Bxf6!± Qxf6 18.Ne3?** –1.26/19

[ 18.Rc1± 0.34/21 ]

**18...e5** **19.Bg4** Threatens to win with f4xe5. **19...exf4** ...Bc8-a6 is the strong threat. **20.Bxc8 Rbxc8**

[ 20...Rfxc8 21.Qf3

**21.bxc4** -1.85/22

[ 21.Ng4 -1.45/21 Qd4+ 22.Kh1 ]

**21...Qd4+** **22.c3 Qxd2 23.Ng4**

Hoping for Ra1-d1. **23...Qd3** 1.68/24

[ 23...dxc4 24.Rad1 Qc2 25.Nf6+!

Rxf6 26.Qxc8+ Kg7 27.Qc7+ Kh6

28.Qe7+- ( 28.Qxa7 Nd3= )]

[ 23...Ne4+- -1.74/23 24.Rab1 Rc7

25.cxd5 cxd5 ]

**24.Nf6+- Kg7?** 4.20/23

[ 24...Rxf6 1.79/26 was worth a try.

25.Qxc8+ Kg7 ]

**25.Qxh7+ Kxf6 26.Rxf4+ Ke6**

**27.Re1+ Ne4 28.Qxg6+ Ke5 29.Qg5+**

**Kd6 30.Qh6+ Kc5** 6.02/23

[ 30...Ke7 4.18/24 ]

**31.Rxf8 Qxc3 32.Ref1**

[Less strong is 32.Rxe4 dxe4 33.Rf1

( 33.Qg5+ Kb6± ) 33...Qd4+ 34.Kh1

Rd8+- ]

**32...Qd4+ 33.Kh1** aiming for c4xd5.

**33...dxc4** 6.52/23

[ 33...Rxf8 2.94/21 34.Qxf8+ Kxc4

35.Rc1+ ( 35.Qa3 gets mated. Nf2+

36.Kg1 Nh3+ 37.Kh1 Qg1+ 38.Rxg1

Nf2# ) 35...Kb5 ]

**34.Qf4** 2.78/20

[ 34.Rxc8 is a self mate. Nf2+ 35.Kg1

Nh3+ 36.Kh1

(Diagram)

Qg1+!! 37.Rxg1 Nf2# ]

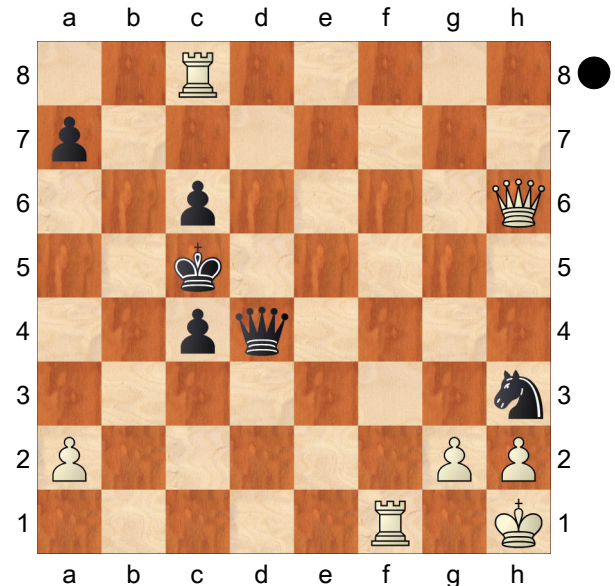
[ 34.R8f4 6.52/23 ]

**34...Rxf8 35.Qxf8+ Qd6 36.Qf7**

2.39/23

[ 36.Qf5+ 4.24/22 Qd5 37.Qh7 ]

**36...c3?** 5.19/23



[ 36...a5 2.39/23 was necessary.

37.Rb1 Qd2 38.Qa7+ Kd6 ]

**37.Qxa7+ Kc4 38.Qa4+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/

Black=0.86

**1-0**

**B40**

4) **2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

5...e6 #5

[MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

Black does not mind having his knight

chased. Instead, followers of this

particular line encourage their opponent

to do so, as the e5 -pawn will be

targeted later. Similar ideas can be seen

in the Alekhine Defence or the Sicilian

Alapin. **4.e5** The most principled!

[ 4.Nc3 is the 'unambitious' alternative and was not played as frequently as 4.

e5 . Play could continue e6 5.Nf3 d5

6.Bb5 ( 6.e5?! Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7

is not advisable as Black can easily

target the e5 -pawn. ) 6...Bd7 7.exd5

The best option is to steer the game into 'isolated pawn' territories. exd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Nexd4 It's a matter of taste, but we are guessing that many players would prefer White here. The position is balanced and most of the 'book knowledge' of isolani is still valid: White should try to exchange as many pieces as he can in order to exploit the 'weak' d5 -pawn. Black, on the contrary, must rely on active piece play. ]

#### 4...Nd5

[ 4...Ne4? An unfortunate square for the knight. This move unnecessarily puts the knight in a very unstable place. 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 d5 7.0-0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Re1

The backward e-pawn will be a huge problem for Black for many moves to come! ]

#### 5.Nf3 e6

[ 5...g6 is analyzed in the model game Morozevich-Nakamura . ]

**6.g3** Once again, this multi-purpose move is the way to go. White gets a safer king, the best possible square for the light squared bishop, and eliminates the possibility of ... Nf4 . **6...Be7**

[ 6...f5 7.Bg2 b6 8.c4 Nc7 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Nc3 Be7 11.d4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 cxd4 14.Qxd4 5.h4 g4 6.Ng5 (2536)-Hubener,J (2479) Budapest 2004 Telechess CBM 89 [Cricket and Football Field 19/6/1909] ]

#### 7.Bg2 0-0

[ 7...b5 Black is expanding on the queenside since this is a standard idea in many Sicilians. 8.Qe2 Rb8 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.dxc3! We have seen

the idea of this way of recapturing before: White controls the critical d4 -square in this way, and then relocates the bishop with Bc1 - Bf4 . Qc7 11.a4 a6 12.axb5 axb5 13.0-0 0-0 14.Bc1 ]

**8.0-0 d6 9.Na3N** One of our standard moves as a b3 Sicilian player. The knight aims for the c4 -square from where it can support the fight while not disturbing the b2 -bishop's diagonal.

[ 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Na3 Bf6 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.a4 b6 Chess Informant ECO Survey 2002 ]

#### 9...dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5

[ Of course Black is not forced to exchange on e5 , but after 10...Bd7 11.Nac4 Qc7 12.Qe2 0.17/21 ( 12.Re1± 0.57/18 ) 12...Bf6 13.Rae1 intending f2 - f4 , White still keeps a certain edge. ]

#### 11.Bxe5 White is slightly better. 11...f6

[ 11...Bd7? loses a pawn. This small variation underlines the difficulty of Black's position. 12.c4 Bf6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Bxb7 ]

#### 12.Bb2 e5 0.78/21

[ 12...Rb8± 0.46/19 ]

#### 13.Qe2± and now f4 is a big threat.

Black controls the center and seemingly enjoys a nice position, but this is very far from reality. In fact, precise play is required from Black in order not to get a losing position immediately. **13...Rf7**

#### 14.Nc4 Bf5 15.Ne3 Nxe3 16.dxe3

**Qc8 17.Rfd1** The weakness of the light squares is what White banks his hopes on! Setting up a battery along a2 - g8 diagonal together with doubling rooks on the d-file is the main plan.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

□ **2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

■ **4...a6 #5**

[MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four – seemingly logical– moves.

[ 4.Bb5 , developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 Playing with the f–pawn is double–edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!

∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever–famous' bishop pair. ]

[ 4.f4 is seen in the model game Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

**4...a6 5.c4** Since White is robbed of Bb5 ideas, placing another pawn in the center and changing the course of the game to a 'Maroczy Bind' seems like the best option. **5...Nf6** This move is designed to prevent White from getting his Maroczy set–up, as it attacks the e4

**B40**

–pawn directly and supports the ... d5 break.

[ 5...Qc7 6.g3 ( 6.h3 Nge7 7.Be2 Ng6 8.0–0 Bd6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0–0 11.Nc3 b6 12.Nc2 Bb7 13.Qd2 Bh2+ 14.Kh1 Bf4 15.Ne3 f5 16.Rad1 Nce5 17.Qd4 Qc6 18.Bh5 fxe4 19.Ne2 Bh6 20.Bxg6 Nxc6 Fischer,F (2597)–2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 (2665) Saint Louis 119/30 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] 1–0 (45) ) 6...Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.0–0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2 Qd6 Filip,L–10.d5 ♙f3 11.gf3 Villa Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ) 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.Bg2 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be7 11.0–0 0–0 12.e5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bd4 Rb8 16.Nc3 b6 17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Bc6 f6 19.Rfe1 0.42/23 (Better is 19.Be3± 0.74/23 ) 19...Kf7± 20.Na4 Nc5 21.Bxc5 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 bxc5 23.f4 Bb7 24.Bg2 Ke8 Prevents Rd1–d7. 25.g4 Bxg2! 26.Kxg2 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8 28.f5 –0.01/29 ( 28.Nb2!± 0.32/25 was preferable. ) 28...Kd7= 29.Kf3 Kc6 30.Nb2 exf5 31.gxf5 Bd6 32.h3 g6 33.Kg4 Be5 34.Nd3 Kd6 35.fxg6 hxg6 36.h4 a5 37.h5 gxh5+ 38.Kxh5 Bd4 39.Kg4 Ke6 40.Kf4 f5 41.Kf3 Kf6 42.Kf4 1/2–1/2 Romanov, E (2654)–Can,E (2513) St Petersburg 2013. ]

**6.e5**

[ 6.Nc3 leads to a dry position, since Black has e5! 7.Be2 g6 8.0–0 Bg7 9.a3 0–0 10.b4 b6 . In such a symmetrical position it is not easy to look for an edge. ]

**6...Ng4 7.h3 Nh6 8.Nc3N** The position



is equal.

[ 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be4 Kh8  
11.Nc3 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qb1 Nd4  
14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Bxh7 d5 16.Nd1  
e5 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.cxd5 Bxh3  
19.Be4 Qg5 20.Qd3 Rf4 21.Qxh3  
Rxe4 22.f4 Rxf4 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 de  
5.♘e5 (2490)-Ignatiev,B (2445)  
Moscow 1997 Magnus Force [BCM  
May 1989] 0-1 (50) ]

[ 8.g4 d6 ( 8...d5 9.exd6 Qxd6  
10.Nc3 Bd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0  
12.0-0-0 e5 13.Bg2 f6 3.b3-for 2...  
e6 ) 9.Bg2 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nd4  
11.0-0 Bd6 12.f4 0-0 13.Nc3 Qc7  
14.Ne2 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Nxd4  
cxd4 17.Qf3 Qc5 18.Rae1 f5  
19.Qg3 Rd8 20.Re5 Qd6 21.gxf5  
Nf7 22.Re3 Qxg3 Chapter 14 Part 2-  
Game 8 Game 8 (38) ]

### 8...d6

[ 8...Nf5 tries to fight against White's  
d4 push. Now a different approach is  
called for: 9.Bd3 Nfd4 10.Ne4 d5!  
Now the game gets a little sharper.  
Some wild tactics will occur and White  
needs to be prepared for them.  
11.exd6 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 f5 13.Nxc5  
Threatens to win with Nc5-a4. Qxd6  
14.b4! The only move, but it is enough  
to save the day. Nxb4 15.a3! Nc6!  
( 15...Nxd3+? 1.06/21 15...Nb4-c6 0.  
28 16.Nxd3 with important control  
over the e5 -square. ) 16.Nb3!  
next 0-0 is good for White. Ne5  
17.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 18.Be2! Bd6 19.d4  
Qf4 20.c5 Bc7 21.Qxf4 Bxf4 22.Bf3  
White has annoying pressure on b7 ,  
but Black should be able to hold  
without much difficulty thanks to the  
bishop pair. ]

**9.d4** The first player avoids a little trap

by sacrificing a pawn. Analysis indicates  
that Black should proceed with caution.

[ 9.exd6?! would be a slight mistake  
due to the intermediate e5!

Against d2-d4 ]

**9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Nf5**

**12.Qe4** White is not obliged to sac a  
pawn and go for the endgame. True, by  
defending the e5 -pawn we will lose at  
least one tempo with the queen, but that  
is perfectly affordable. **12...dxe5**

**13.Qxe5 b6!**

[ The hasty 13...Bd6?! is not ideal for  
Black, since White now has 14.Qe4!  
and Black faces issues with the c8 -  
bishop. Most likely the b7 -pawn has  
to be sacrificed, after which White  
gets an advantage. For example: Bd7  
...Bd7-c6 is the strong threat.

15.Qxb7 Rc8 And now ...Bd7-c6  
would win. 16.Ne4! Hoping for  
Ra1-d1. 0-0! Strongly threatening ...  
Bd7-c6. 17.Nxd6 Qa5+ 18.b4! Nxd6  
19.bxa5 Nxb7 20.Bc3 0.33/21  
( ♠20.Ba3 0.69/24 )]

[ Don't play 13...Bb4 14.Rd1 Bd7  
15.Bd3± ]

**14.Rd1 Bd6! 15.Qe4 Ra7** Warning:  
From this point on a long forced line  
appears. **16.Bd3 Bb7 17.Qe2 Bxg2**  
**18.Rg1 Nd4**

[ 18...Bxh3?? 2.49/22 18...Nf5-d4 -0.  
01 19.Qf3 and the bishop gets  
trapped in the corner. ]

[ 18...Bxh3? 19.Qf3+- ]

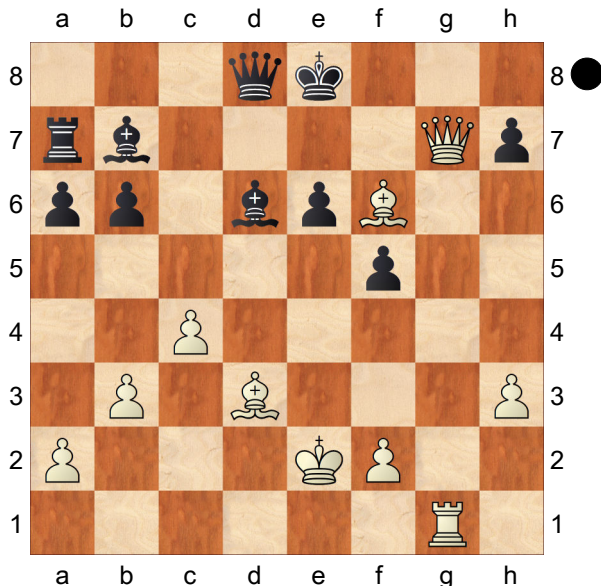
**19.Qg4 Nf3+** At first sight it seems that  
White has made an oopsie. The reality is  
a little different though. **20.Ke2±**

White has counterplay **20...Nxcg1+**  
**21.Rxcg1 Bb7** 0.31/22

[ 21...Bc6= -0.18/23 22.Qxg7 Rf8 ]

**22.Qxg7± Rf8 23.Ne4 f5 24.Nf6+**

**Rxf6 25.Qxf6** Dancing on a razor blade.  
[ 25.Bxf6?



perishes. Bf3+! 26.Kxf3 Qa8+  
27.Ke2 Rxg7 28.Bxg7 ( 28.Rxg7?  
too greedy. Qh1-+ ) 28...Bh2-+ ]

**25...Qxf6 26.Bxf6** White has the better chances in this endgame due to the activity of his rook, whereas its counterpart on a7 needs some time to get into the game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

□ 2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6

■ 4...a6 #4

[MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four –

seemingly logical– moves.

[ 4.Bb5 , developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 Playing with the f–pawn is double–edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!

∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever–famous' bishop pair. ]

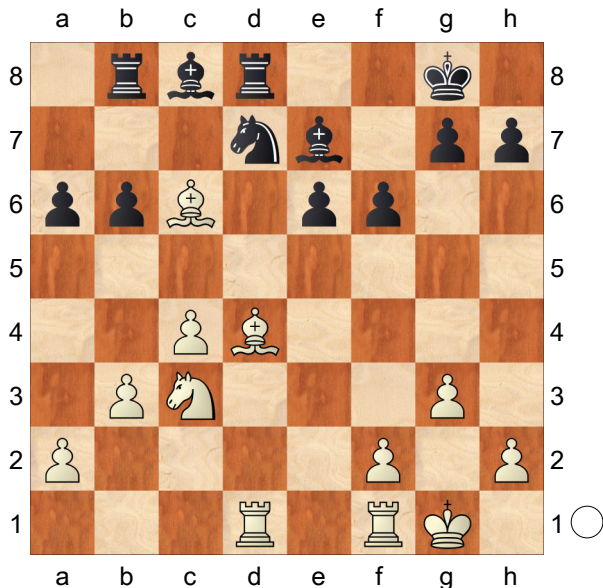
[ 4.f4 is seen in the model game Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

**4...a6 5.c4** Since White is robbed of Bb5 ideas, placing another pawn in the center and changing the course of the game to a 'Maroczy Bind' seems like the best option. **5...Nf6** This move is designed to prevent White from getting his Maroczy set–up, as it attacks the e4 –pawn directly and supports the ... d5 break.

[ 5...Qc7 6.g3 ( 6.h3 Nge7 7.Be2 Ng6 8.0–0 Bd6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0–0 11.Nc3 b6 12.Nc2 Bb7 13.Qd2 Bh2+ 14.Kh1 Bf4 15.Ne3 f5 16.Rad1 Nce5 17.Qd4 Qc6 18.Bh5 fxe4 19.Ne2 Bh6 20.Bxg6 Nxc6 Fischer,F (2597)–2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 (2665) Saint Louis 119/30 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/ Meyer,CD] 1–0 (45) ) 6...d6 ( 6...Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.0–0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8

**B40**

12.Qe2 Qd6 Filip,L-10.d5 ♔f3 11.gf3  
Villa Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext  
[Nyback/Meyer,CD] ) 7.d4 cxd4  
8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.Bg2 Nxd4 10.Qxd4  
Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 dxe5  
13.Qxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bd4  
Rb8 16.Nc3 b6 17.Rad1 Rd8  
18.Bc6 f6 0.84/21 ( 18...h6± 0.50/21 )



19.Rfe1 0.40/24 ( 19.Be3!± 0.84/21 )  
19...Kf7± 20.Na4 Nc5 21.Bxc5  
0.22/24 ( 21.Nxc5± 0.53/23 bxc5  
22.Be3 ) 21...Rxd1= 22.Rxd1 bxc5  
23.f4 Bb7 24.Bg2 Ke8  
Against Rd1-d7 25.g4 Bxg2 26.Kxg2  
Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8 28.f5 Kd7  
Black wants to play ...e6xf5. 29.Kf3  
Kc6 30.Nb2 exf5 31.gxf5 Bd6  
With the idea ...Bd6-e5. 32.h3 g6  
33.Kg4 Be5 34.Nd3 Kd6 35.fxg6  
hxg6 36.h4 a5 37.h5 gxh5+  
38.Kxh5 Bd4 39.Kg4 Ke6 40.Kf4 f5  
41.Kf3 Kf6 42.Kf4 1/2-1/2 Romanov,  
E (2654)-Can,E (2513) St Petersburg  
2013. ]

### 6.e5

[ 6.Nc3 leads to a dry position, since  
Black has e5! 7.Be2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7  
9.a3 0-0 10.b4 b6 . In such a

symmetrical position it is not easy to  
look for an edge. ]

### 6...Ng4 7.h3 Nh6 8.Nc3N

[ 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be4 Kh8  
11.Nc3 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qb1 Nd4  
14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Bxh7 d5 16.Nd1  
e5 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.cxd5 Bxh3  
19.Be4 Qg5 20.Qd3 Rf4 21.Qxh3  
Rxe4 22.f4 Rxf4 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 de  
5.♘e5 (2490)-Ignatiev,B (2445)  
Moscow 1997 Magnus Force [BCM  
May 1989] 0-1 (50) ]  
[ 8.g4 d6 ( 8...d5 9.exd6 Qxd6  
10.Nc3 Bd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0  
12.0-0-0 e5 13.Bg2 f6 3.b3-for 2...  
e6 ) 9.Bg2 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nd4  
11.0-0 Bd6 12.f4 0-0 13.Nc3 Qc7  
14.Ne2 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Nxd4  
cxd4 17.Qf3 Qc5 18.Rae1 f5  
19.Qg3 Rd8 20.Re5 Qd6 21.gxf5  
Nf7 22.Re3 Qxg3 Chapter 14 Part 2-  
Game 8 Game 8 (38) ]

### 8...d6

[ 8...Nf5 tries to fight against White's  
d4 push. Now a different approach is  
called for: 9.Bd3 Nfd4 10.Ne4 d5!  
Now the game gets a little sharper.  
Some wild tactics will occur and White  
needs to be prepared for them.  
11.exd6 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Black must  
now prevent 0-0. f5 13.Nxc5  
Threatens to win with Nc5-a4. Qxd6  
14.b4! The only move, but it is enough  
to save the day. Nxb4 15.a3! Nc6!  
( 15...Nxd3+? 0.84/22 15...Nb4-c6 0.  
23 16.Nxd3 with important control  
over the e5 -square. ) 16.Nb3! Ne5  
17.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 18.Be2 Bd6 19.d4  
Qf4! 20.c5 Bc7 21.Qxf4 Bxf4 22.Bf3  
White has annoying pressure on b7 ,  
but Black should be able to hold  
without much difficulty thanks to the

bishop pair. ]

**9.d4** The first player avoids a little trap by sacrificing a pawn. Analysis indicates that Black should proceed with caution.

[ 9.exd6?! would be a slight mistake due to the intermediate e5!  
Inhibits d2-d4. ]

**9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Nf5**

[The only move for Black. 11...dxe5? 0.62/23 11...Nh6-f5 -0.01 12.Qxe5 would be a disaster since Black cannot properly develop due to the pressure on g7 . ]

**12.Qd2 dxe5 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8**

**14.0-0-0+ Ke8 15.Ne4 f6** The position is equal. **16.g4** After chasing away the knight, White will enjoy the superior pawn structure and development.

**16...Nd4 17.f4 Bd7 18.fxe5 fxe5**

**19.Bd3** Black does not face any problems. The double e-pawns may seem like a weakness, but they do control central squares. Not much happened in this game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

□ **Lanz Calavia,Jose Maria**

■ **Luft,Josef**

ICCF World Cup3 sf01

[MH]

**B50**

1980

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

[ 3...e6 4.f4 d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5 Qe7+ 7.Qe2 Bd7 8.Nf3 a6 9.Bxc6 Qxe2+ 10.Kxe2 Bxc6 11.d4 Nf6 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Nd2 Nd7 14.Rae1 f6 15.Nxc6 Rxc6 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Kf3+ Kf7 18.c3 6.h4 ♔g5 7.hg5

♔g5 8.♘h (2390)-Jovic,L (2460)

Groningen 1989 ZUS C73 [John Watson] ½-½ (52) ]

**4.Nf3**

[ 4.Bc4 d6 5.f4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5 Polihroniade, E-12 9th move alternatives Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/ APA Dec 96] ]

**4...d6 5.Bb5 Nge7N**

[ 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.a3 Rb8 9.Bc3 Nf6 10.Re1 0-0 11.b4 cxb4 12.axb4 Qc7 13.d4 Nh5 14.Ra5 Rb5 15.dxe5 Sicilian 2...d6 various-3.b3 Survey 1994 Lexikon04 [Horvath,Ta] ]

**6.h3** -0.15/20

[ 6.Bc4 0.26/20 is more appropriate. ]

**6...g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.d3** The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6** 0.01/21

[ 9...Nxc6♞ -0.37/22 feels stronger. 10.Nc3 f5 ]

**10.Nbd2 f5 11.Nc4 h6 12.c3 Be6**

**13.Qe2 Qc7 14.Rad1 Kh7 15.Rfe1**

**Rab8 16.exf5** -0.52/20

[ 16.Ncd2= -0.19/18 ]

**16...gxf5♞**

[ But not 16...Rxf5 17.d4 Nd5 18.g3 ( 18.dxe5 Nf4= ) 18...cxd4 19.cxd4= ]

**17.d4** -0.98/21

[ 17.Ncxe5♞ -0.52/20 was preferable. dxe5 18.c4 ]

**17...cxd4 18.cxd4 e4 19.Ba3 Rbd8**

**20.Bb4 Rd7 21.Nh2 Ng6 22.Qd2**

-1.20/21

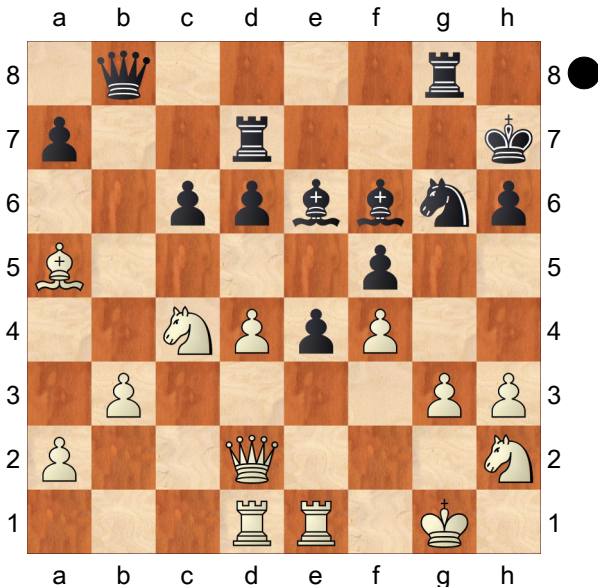
[ White should try 22.Qh5 -0.88/20 ]

**22...Bf6 23.f4** -2.32/22

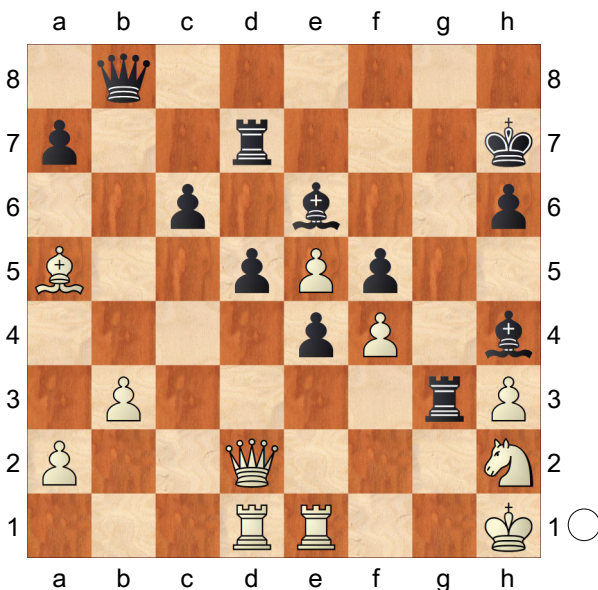
[ 23.f3♞ -1.14/19 is a better defense. ]



**23...Rg8 24.Ba5 Qb8** White must now prevent ...Rd7–g7. **25.g3?** –5.22/23  
[ 25.Kh1 –1.96/20 is more resistant. ]



**25...d5--** Black is clearly winning.  
**26.Ne5 Nxe5 27.dxe5 Rxg3+ 28.Kh1 Bh4**



aiming for ...d5–d4. **29.Rg1 d4**  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/  
Black=0.13 (very precise)  
**0–1**

**B40**

□ **2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

■ **4...a6 #6**

[MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four – seemingly logical– moves.

[ 4.Bb5 , developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 Playing with the f–pawn is double–edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!

∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever–famous' bishop pair. ]

[ 4.f4 is seen in the model game Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

**4...a6 5.c4** Since White is robbed of Bb5 ideas, placing another pawn in the center and changing the course of the game to a 'Maroczy Bind' seems like the best option. **5...Nf6** This move is designed to prevent White from getting his Maroczy set–up, as it attacks the e4

–pawn directly and supports the ... d5 break.

[ 5...Qc7 6.g3 ( 6.h3 Nge7 7.Be2 Ng6 8.0–0 Bd6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0–0 11.Nc3 b6 12.Nc2 Bb7 13.Qd2 Bh2+ 14.Kh1 Bf4 15.Ne3 f5 16.Rad1 Nce5 17.Qd4 Qc6 18.Bh5 fxe4 19.Ne2 Bh6 20.Bxg6 Nxc6 Fischer,F (2597)–2.♖c3 ♗c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 (2665) Saint Louis 119/30 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] 1–0 (45) ) 6...d6 ( 6...Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.0–0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2 Qd6 Filip,L–10.d5 ♙f3 11.gf3 Villa Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ) 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.Bg2 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be7 11.0–0 0–0 12.e5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bd4 Rb8 16.Nc3 b6 17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Bc6 f6 19.Rfe1 Kf7 20.Na4 Nc5 21.Bxc5 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 bxc5 23.f4 Bb7 24.Bg2 Ke8 Inhibits Rd1–d7. 25.g4 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8 28.f5 0.01/27 ( 28.h4± 0.38/27 ) 28...Kd7= 29.Kf3 Kc6 30.Nb2 exf5 31.gxf5 Bd6 32.h3 g6 33.Kg4 Be5 34.Nd3 Kd6 35.fxg6 hxg6 36.h4 a5 37.h5 gxh5+ 38.Kxh5 Bd4 39.Kg4 Ke6 40.Kf4 f5 41.Kf3 Kf6 42.Kf4 1/2–1/2 Romanov, E (2654)–Can,E (2513) St Petersburg 2013. ]

### 6.e5

[ 6.Nc3 leads to a dry position, since Black has e5! 7.Be2 g6 8.0–0 Bg7 9.a3 0–0 10.b4 b6 . In such a symmetrical position it is not easy to look for an edge. ]

**6...Ng4 7.h3 Nh6 8.Nc3N** White has an edge.

[ 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0–0 0–0 10.Be4 Kh8

11.Nc3 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qb1 Nd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Bxh7 d5 16.Nd1 e5 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.cxd5 Bxh3 19.Be4 Qg5 20.Qd3 Rf4 21.Qxh3 Rxe4 22.f4 Rxf4 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.e5 de 5.♗e5 (2490)–Ignatiev,B (2445) Moscow 1997 Magnus Force [BCM May 1989] 0–1 (50) ]  
[ 8.g4 d6 ( 8...d5 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Nc3 Bd7 11.Qe2 0–0–0 12.0–0–0 e5 13.Bg2 f6 3.b3–for 2... e6 ) 9.Bg2 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nd4 11.0–0 Bd6 12.f4 0–0 13.Nc3 Qc7 14.Ne2 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Nxd4 cxd4 17.Qf3 Qc5 18.Rae1 f5 19.Qg3 Rd8 20.Re5 Qd6 21.gxf5 Nf7 22.Re3 Qxg3 Chapter 14 Part 2–Game 8 Game 8 (38) ]

### 8...d6

[ 8...Nf5 tries to fight against White's d4 push. Now a different approach is called for: 9.Bd3 Nfd4 10.Ne4 d5! Now the game gets a little sharper. Some wild tactics will occur and White needs to be prepared for them. 11.exd6 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 f5 13.Nxc5 Nc5–a4 is the strong threat. Qxd6 14.b4! The only move, but it is enough to save the day. Nxb4 15.a3! Nc6! ( 15...Nxd3+? 16.Nxd3 with important control over the e5 –square. ) 16.Nb3 Ne5 17.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 18.Be2 Bd6 19.d4 Qf4 20.c5 Bc7 21.Qxf4 Bxf4 22.Bf3 White has annoying pressure on b7 , but Black should be able to hold without much difficulty thanks to the bishop pair. ]

**9.d4** The first player avoids a little trap by sacrificing a pawn. Analysis indicates that Black should proceed with caution.

[ 9.exd6?! would be a slight mistake due to the intermediate e5! ]

**9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Nf5**

**12.Qe4** White is not obliged to sac a pawn and go for the endgame. True, by defending the e5 –pawn we will lose at least one tempo with the queen, but that is perfectly affordable. **12...Bd7** 0.32/22 Trying to make use of the positioning of the white queen.

[ 12...dxe5= -0.11/23 13.Qxe5 b6 ]

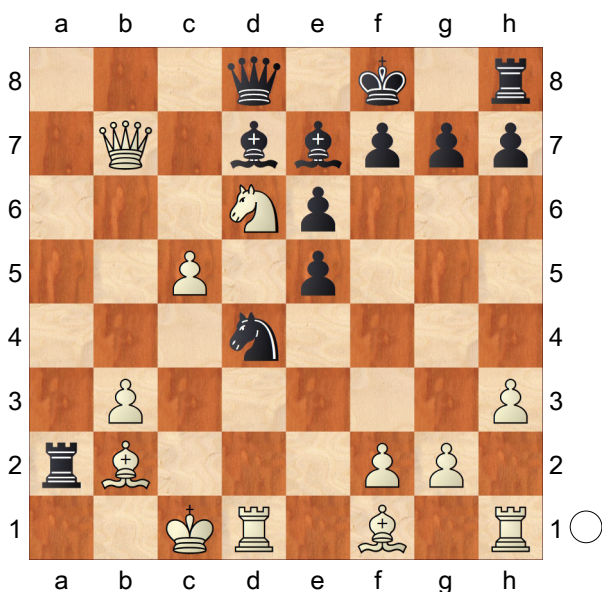
**13.Qxb7±** Taking up the gauntlet. Other tries would not produce promising results.

Threatens to win with 0–0–0. **13...dxe5**

**14.0–0–0! Rb8 15.Qxa6 Nd4**

Black has sacrificed all the queenside pawns and has all the files and diagonals at his disposal for an attack, but White's a2 – b3 – c4 chain looks very solid at the moment. **16.Nb5**

[ 16.Ne4 leaves the a2 –pawn undefended, and this has its consequences:.. Strongly threatening Ne4–d6+. Be7 17.Nd6+ Kf8! 18.c5 Threatening f2–f4! Ra8 19.Qb7 Rxa2 0.73/22 ( 19...Qa5= 0.03/23 keeps the balance. 20.Rxd4 exd4 )



20.Bc4? -0.97/21 with an unclear game. ( 20.f4!± 0.73/22 keeps the pressure on. )]

**16...Bxb5** Only move. **17.cxb5 Bc5**

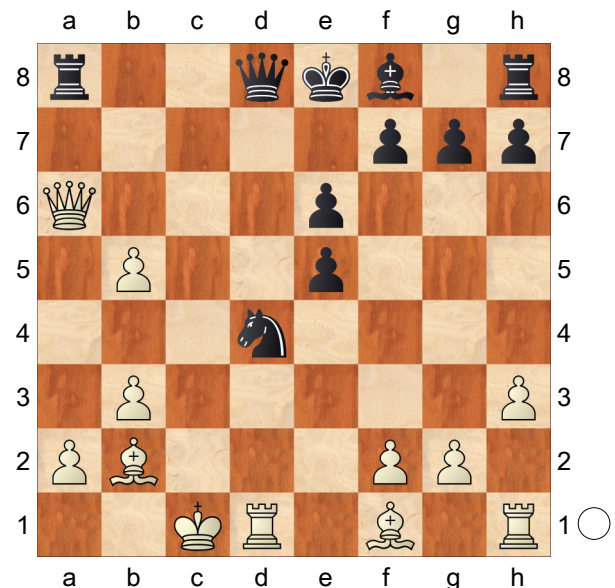
[ Again the only move. After

17...Ra8?? 1.14/23 17...Qd8–c7+ 0.

25 18.Rxd4! exd4 19.Qc6+ Ke7

20.Kb1 White has way too many pluses in this position: Three passers, opponent's weak king and undeveloped kingside. ]

[ But not 17...Ra8



18.Rxd4! exd4 19.Qc6+ Ke7  
20.Kb1± ]

**18.Kb1**

[ Creating a situation with opposite colored bishops with 18.Bxd4

only helps Black in this position: Bxd4 19.Qc6+ Ke7! Hoping for ...Rb8–c8.

20.Kb1 Qa5! 21.Rxd4!?

Rd4–d7+ would kill now. ( 21.Qc1

Rhc8 22.Bc4! Qb4 ) 21...Qe1+

22.Kc2 White threatens Rd4–d7+ and

mate. exd4 23.Qc5+ Ke8 24.b6

Threatening mate with Bf1–b5+.

Qc3+! 25.Qxc3 dxc3 26.Kxc3 Rxb6

27.b4 The game should end in a draw

with correct play, but I guess White's chances are preferable thanks to those two guys on the queenside. ]

**18...0–0! 19.Rc1** -0.54/20 A clear-cut

solution! White must be ready to give up the queen.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03

(flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

[Play might continue Ra8 Rxc5 Rxa6 bxa6 19.Qb6? -11.58/20 19.Bf1-d3 0.14 Rxe5 Nc6?? 4.79/23 Rg5 f6 Rb5 ( 19...Qxb6-- -11.58/20 and life is good for Black. 20.Bxd4 Bxd4 ) 20.Qa6?? -#6/14 Bc4 . We have reached a very original position after an almost forced series of moves. White does not risk much here, as the two passers and the bishop pair guarantee at least an equal game. ( 20.Rxd8+- 4.79/23 Rxb6 21.Rxf8+ Kxf8 22.bxc6 )]  
[Better is 19.Bd3= 0.14/24 ]

**B40**

□ **Establishing As A Gm**

■ **Levon Aronian vs. Dragan Sola,Y**  
[MH]

This game was played in the year 2000 during the World Junior Chess Championship in Yerevan, my hometown. I played against the Serbian IM Dragan Solak ~~CC~~StartBracket~~CC~~who would become a GM the following year~~CC~~EndBracket~~CC~~, who was rated about 2490.I was already rated 2550 and my coach, Arshak Petrosian, had just relocated to Germany. So I didn't have a lot of contact with him, but he was giving me advice whenever he could, and I think that in 2001 I visited him for some training sessions.After losing a game with the Réti in 2000 against an experienced player, GM Alexander Zakharov, I began flirting with the idea

that I'm a 1.e4 player. After losing the game I was so angry at myself. Thinking 'what is this, I'm a young fellow and I don't play 1.e4? I should take a risk and play like a man instead of this 1.Nf3 and 2.g3.'I don't think like that anymore and believe the opening doesn't really matter. You can play anything, as long as you're studying it and are ready to face the challenges that the opening is offering. But back in the day, I was angry and played 1.e4 in this game. B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines **1.e4 c5 2.b3** And that's the funny thing. I felt like I'm playing 1.e4, but until I finally learned it, I was always playing some offbeat lines. This 2.b3 move is not of great quality to be honest, because it gives Black many nice options. Once the bishop is on b2, Black can always play with ...e5. One of the good options is 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 and Black plays ...e5 on the next move, which is super solid. Another good option is 2...g6 which is a newer trend, and I have seen some games with 3. Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nd5 Because the bishop is on b2, 5.e5 is never an option. 5...Nh5 and unlike the positions where the bishop is still on c1, there is always this threat of g4 after which the knight is uncomfortable on f4. But here the bishop is already committed. 5...O-O 6.Nxf6 Bxf6 7.Bxf6 exf6 8.Bc4 , which leads to some draws. 8...Na6 and Black puts the knight on c7 or b4, exchanges the bishop, and then has a very solid position. Let's continue with the game after this quick Lifetime Repertoire on 2.b3. **2...b6** A normal move, but not the best. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3** 4.Nc3 looks weird with the bishop



on b2, and it looked much weirder back then. Right now, people know that in the Sicilians, as the computer showed it, the b2-bishop is fantastic. It's covering the king, you can castle long, and then just start pushing your g-pawn. Back in the day, the position with a knight on c3 and bishop on b2 didn't look very healthy, as the knight is blocking the bishop. **4...e6** I feel that **4...Nc6** makes more sense, trying to go for ...e5 because I've already seen these d4-ideas. But he went **4...e6** . **5.Nf3** **5.d4** is a stronger move. **5...cxd4** **6.Qxd4**  
**CCStartFEN** **CG** rnbqkbnr/pp1ppppp/8/2p5/4P3/8/PPPP1PPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq c6 0 **2CC** **EndFEN** **CG** There is nowadays a popular line **2.Nc3** **d6** **3.d4** **cx d4** **4.Qxd4** **Nc6** **5.Qd2** **g6** with the pawn on g6. After **6.b3** , Black has **6...Bh6** and a variety of annoying things. When we bring our bishop to b2, we always face opposition from the g7-bishop, which kind of neutralizes our bishop. **6...Nc6** **7.Qd2** . Let's now take a look at this position and compare it to the **6.b3** line. This is clearly much better for White because Black's dark-squared bishop neutralizes ours here. **7...Nf6** when we can castle **8.O-O-O** and then start playing for f3 and g4. It's a difficult position for Black, and back in the day, it would have been extremely surprising if you told someone that this is bad for Black. But nowadays our knowledge tells us that something has horrendously gone wrong for Black here. But since I had not yet invented the time machine **CCStartBracket** **CG** I'm still working on it! **CCEndBracket** **CG** , I played **5.Nf3** . **5...a6** is kind of typical for the Sicilians. Black plays moves like ...a6 and ...d6 to

prevent any b5-square problems from the knight. **6.d4** **cx d4** **7.Nxd4** **N**  
**7.Qxd4** is actually stronger. Even after committing with the knight to f3, **Qxd4** is a much better option.

[ **7.Qxd4** **Nf6** **8.e5** **Nd5** **9.Ne4** **Nb4** **10.O-O-O** **Qc7** **11.c4** **N8c6** **12.Qe3** **Nxa2+** **13.Kb1** **Ncb4** **14.Nd6+** **Bxd6** **15.exd6** **Qc5** **16.Qxc5** **bxc5** **17.Bxg7** **Rg8** **18.Be5** **a5** **19.Nd2** **Rg5** **20.Re1** **a4** **21.h4** **Rf5** Preuschat (2607)-11. ♔g5 h6 12. ♚f4\_10120 (2474) Linares 2020 200 Traps In The Opening [Chess Archives 1964] 0-1 (37) ]

**7...Qc7** **8.f3** **Nf6** **9.Qd2** I finally understood what I'm trying to do here. I want to castle long, play g4, and get this strange looking position. **9...Bb4**  
 An inaccurate move. My opponent thought that by provoking **10.a3** **Be7** **11.O-O-O** **O-O** and if, for example, I then play **12.g4** **Rc8** **13.g5** **Ne8** , he now threatens to take on a3 and win the pawn. It's a bit of a stretch, and even if Black takes on a3 it is not a big deal. It's only one pawn, and I get a lot of domination on the dark squares in return. **14.h4** **Bxa3** **15.Bxa3** **Qxc3** **16.Qxc3** **Rxc3** and after you take, I can trap your rook. **17.Bc4** , I'm now threatening both **Kd2** and **Bf4** to trap the rook on c3. In other words, **9...Bb4** was not a good move. He should have played **9...Be7** **10.O-O-O** **O-O** and aim for ...d5 or ... **Nc6**. **11.g4** **Nc6** . This is probably a normal line for Black, where I would probably have taken on c6. **12.Nxc6** and I don't know if **12.g5** **Nh5** **13.Nf5** is any good here, but this is a typical move in these kinds of structures. Once the knight is on c6, White can sacrifice the knight in exchange for a dominating

attack if it is in time. 13...exf5 14.Nd5 Qd8 but, unfortunately, it doesn't work here because g5 is hanging. 15.exf5 Bxg5 . Had I had a rook on g1, this might have been a good option. 12... Bxc6 maybe that 12...dxc6 is also an option. I would probably play something like 13.Kb1 , to threaten Nd5 and then get the two bishops. 13.g5 Nh5 14. Nd5 does not yet work because of 14... exd5 15.exd5

[[StartBracket]]threatening 16.d6 if Black moves the c6-bishop.

[[EndBracket]] 15...Bd6 . I'm always trying to play this Nd5, but it's not working. The position is equal. 10.a3 Be7 11.g4 -0.37/21 11.g4 O-O 12.O-O is basically the same.

[ 11.0-0-0= 0.03/19 might be stronger. ]

11...0-0 0.02/20 Sometimes it happens

[[StartBracket]]if Black hasn't castled[[EndBracket]] that Black gets some chances to stop this h4 and g5 business with 11...h6 , but the king is not too safe on e8 here. 12.O-O-O Nc6 13.h4 and I will eventually play Rg1, and if you're threatening to take and do something 13...Rc8 , I can always retreat 14.Nde2 unlike in normal Sicilians, where 14...Ne5 is actually very strong because of Nc4 threats. But here I have a pawn on b3, so the e5-knight is not doing any damage. 15.Bg2 ♖ that's why this b3 and Bb2 setup is so strong.

[[StartFEN]]Grnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/PPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1[[EndFEN]] 1.e4 c5 Maybe two years ago I kept on playing this line, which I called having a big b3-pawn, that I wanted to show. 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4

cx d4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Bd7 8.Be3 and then go for Qe2, f3. Most of the time, if you're developing the bishop to b3, you should try to play f4 and f5 because the bishop is already looking at the d6-pawn and it's extremely stupid there. But, since we already know that the pawn on b3 is very good, I was basically replacing my pawn on b3 with the bishop and giving it the same function: protect against any ... Nc4 business.

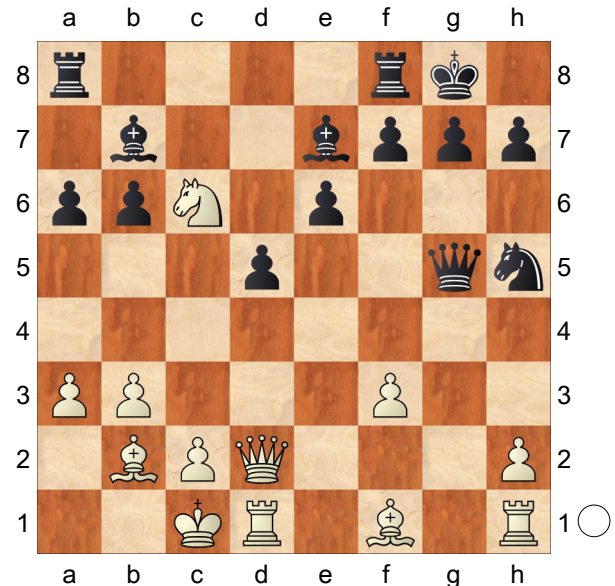
[ 11...d5 -0.37/21 feels stronger. ]

12.0-0-0 Nc6 And now I played a typical move. 13.Nce2 Quite often this is the way to go. You're trying to replace your d4-knight with another knight on d4 because it is very dominant on d4 and controls lots of squares while also protecting everything around [[StartBracket]]the c2 and f3-pawns[[EndBracket]]. 13...Nxd4

14.Nxd4 d5 Quite logical. At this moment I was thinking, well 15.e5 is a good alternative. After he takes 15... Qxe5 , I could go for something like 16.Nc6 Can anyone tell me why Nc6, and not 16.Nf5? Exactly, 16.Nf5 allows 16...Bxa3 and after 17.Bxa3 Qa1# whoops. That's why Nc6 is necessary. And at that moment I was not sure what was going to happen. What if he sacrifices his queen? 16...Qxb2 17. Kxb2 Bxc6 and if I play 18.g5 Nd7 he has these two bishops and a knight. Of course, Black is in trouble. This is just me being me because at that moment I was kind of romanticizing all these ideas where you can sacrifice the queen in exchange for lots of compensation. This might be typical for an eighteen-year-old, but once I started training more with

stronger players I began appreciating the material a lot more. I rejected 15. e5 because of that. This shows that I was not such a good player back then, because e5 would have been the best move. After 15...Qxe5 16.Nc6 and if, for example, the queen goes to d6, 16...Qd6 17.Nxe7 Qxe7, the compensation is very good here. I can play 18.Qd4 and White is clearly better here. I can just push g5. But I felt that I could improve and get this position without risking a queen sacrifice. **15.g5 Nh5** The best move would have been 15...Bd6 because it prevents my plan. Now I cannot take, and have to play 16. Kb1 Nh5 and this position is unclear. I cannot execute my idea now. 17.Bd3 Rfd8 and it's kind of balanced. There is tension in the center, and I will probably have to play Rg1–Rg4, trying to bring the rook into the game and limit the h5–knight's possibilities. 15...Nd7 is not a good move here because I can take 16. exd5 Bxd5 and 17.Nf5 looks pretty good. Now he has to take 17...exf5 18. Qxd5 Bxg5 19.Kb1 I'll probably take on f5, when my bishops are pretty good and should give me an advantage. 15...Nd7 There might be another strong option here, maybe 16.Bh3 or 16.exd5 Bxd5 17.c4. He continued with 15...Nh5 and I played a good idea that we already know. **16.e5 Qxe5 17.Nc6!** I felt that if he gives his queen, 17...Qxb2 and I just take 18.Kxb2 Bxc6, then the knight on h5 is very bad. 19. Rg1 followed by Rg4 and the knight cannot go to d7. But of course, anything I do is not good for Black, and giving the queen is a bit too much. **17...Qxg5**

(Diagram)



**18.f4!** I'm quite proud of this, to understand at my age that this position is so good for White. That was a good thing. **18...Qh4 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Rg1** Let's take a look to understand this position. White is two pawns down, but my opponent's knight is on the side, and the b2–bishop is a monster. It just cuts the position in half. g7 is a weakness, and Black can never play 20...g6 because of 21.Be2 and what are you going to play here? 21...Ng7 22. h4 looks like you won't last for too long, because I will open up the files, and the b2–bishop is always looking at the kingside. Black will have to retreat with the knight, but how can he retreat with such a weak g7–pawn? aiming for Qd2–e2. **20...f5** We can logically conclude that Black has to play 20...f5 and then retreat. But ...f5 creates a huge hole on e5, so White's compensation is clear. Another reason why White's position is so good is that the b7–bishop is far too passive. It takes a long time before it can come into play. Therefore, despite being two pawns down, White is much better in the position, which I

successfully proved. **21.Qd4 b5**  
 What else? Black is not going to give up another pawn. He's suffering with two extra pawns, he doesn't want to suffer with just one. At least he will keep the pawn. **22.Re1** Black must now prevent **Re1xe6!** **22...Rf7** -0.01/23 The problem with immediately retreating with the knight **22...Nf6** was that after **23.Bd3** , it was not easy to find a move. As you can see, f5 is hanging, and the queen has to move somewhere. But where? It's all very problematic. If you go to **23...Qd6** , then **24.Re2** followed by **Reg2** will be extremely unpleasant. Or even **24.Rg3** and then **Reg1**. There might be even more problems with Black's position, but **22...Nf6** is not a very good move. Instead, he played **22...Rf7** , which allowed me to do something which I want you guys to find before we discuss it.

[ **22...Nf6** -0.40/23 ]

**23.Rg5!= Nf6 24.Rxf5** He has to take, as otherwise he is just a pawn down. I will just bring the bishop to d3. **24...exf5 25.Rxe7 Rxe7 26.Bd3** Despite the fact that materialistically Black is doing very well, the quality of the pieces makes the difference. My queen has many squares to enter through. The queen can enter through b6, it can also  
 CCStartBracketCCthrough  
 g1CCEndBracketCC come to g5. This means the game is very very difficult for Black. I think only computers can hold this position for long because they can protect the weaknesses quite well, while humans will collapse. **26...Ne4**  
 My opponent tried to put up resistance, but I managed to activate my pieces in time. **27.Qb6 Rc8 28.h4** I don't have to

hurry. I can just play h4 and threaten to play h5. And if you play ...h6, then f5 becomes even weaker. From a practical point, the position is completely lost for Black. **28...Kf7 29.Qg1** Chess con chili. **29...Kg8 30.Be5** I'm just bringing my king to b2, and then the knight can never move because the f5-pawn is too weak. So he tried to activate his bishop. **30...Rc6 31.Kb2 Bc8** 0.68/24

[ Black should try **31...Rd7**= -0.01/21 ]

**32.h5** -0.01/23

[ **32.Qd4**± 0.68/24 ]

**32...h6** Once you activate certain pieces, you might lose control over some squares, which I find interesting. Sometimes activation is leading to more trouble. **33.Qd4 Be6** And what do you think is the winning move that I played here? **34.a4** It's just **34.a4** . The bishop on b7 was protecting the a6-pawn, and now Black cannot protect the b5 and a6-pawns. If he tries to play **34...Nc5 35.axb5 Nxd3 36.Qxd3** , this is not a real relief because my bishop is so much stronger than the e6-bishop. And there is always a threat on the g7-pawn. I will just slowly push the b-pawn. Because of this weakness on g7 and my bishop being extremely strong, the position is hopeless for Black. **34...bxa4** 1.42/25

[ **34...Rb7**!= 0.15/25 keeps the balance. ]

**35.Qxa4± Rc8 36.Bxa6 Ra8**

I think that this was some sort of a time trouble situation, so I repeated the moves. **37.Qc6↑** White has strong compensation. White is really pushing. **37...Rd8 38.Qb6 Ra8 39.Qc6?** 0.01/22  
 It's quite useful to repeat.

[ **39.Bb7**+ - 1.78/26 **Rf8 40.Qb4** ]



**39...Rd8= 40.b4** I'm trying to promote my pawn. The position is completely hopeless for Black because my pieces are way too dominant, and his rooks don't really have the lines to operate on because everything is blocked by this e5-bishop. **40...Nd2** 2.12/24 Maybe he should have tried 40...d4 . I mean, the position is lost, but at least you opened some files because 40...Nd2 didn't really achieve anything.

[ 40...Bf7± 1.43/22 might work better. ]

**41.Qc5 Kf7** 4.26/25

[ 41...Rf7 1.98/25 is a better defense.

42.Be2 Nc4+ 43.Bxc4 dxc4 ]

**42.Qg1+-** Attacking the weakness on g7. Now 42...Kg8 isn't possible because of 43.Bf6 and because of the pin I'm winning the exchange. Although I don't have to do that of course, I can just play any move. But if I want to win the exchange, it is possible. **42...Kf8**

**43.Qd4** Of course, it would have been great for Black to play 43...Nf3 , but unfortunately for him there is 44.Bxg7 Rxg7 45.Qf6 and Black loses at least a couple of pieces. **43...Ne4 44.Bd3**

I'm just pushing the pawn all the way. And here he committed the last blunder. Strongly threatening Bd3xe4. A strong pair of Bishops. **44...Nd6** 4.17/23

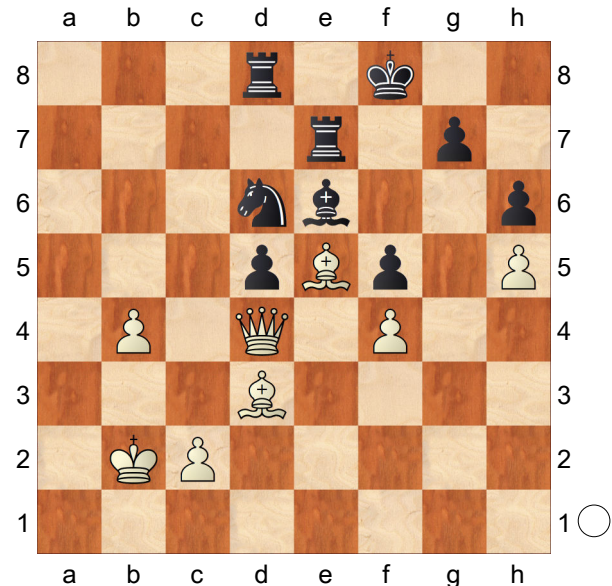
[ 44...Rc8 2.56/21 was worth a try.

45.Bxe4 Rc4 46.Bxg7+ Rxg7

47.Qf6+ Rf7 48.Qxh6+ ( 48.Qxe6 Rxb4+ 49.Kc1 Rxe4+- ) 48...Ke7 ]

(Diagram)

**45.Bxg7+!** And here he resigned. The game went very smoothly for me because my opponent didn't really see



what was wrong with his position after I gave him two pawns.

**CCStartFEN** CGr4rk1/1bq1bppp/pp2pn2/3p2P1/3NP3/PP3P2/1BPQ3P/2KR1B1R b -- 0 15 **CCEndFEN** CHe didn't really see this e5 idea, so he didn't really try to stop it with 15...Bd6 . He probably thought that I would take on d5 and that he will get good play then. 16.exd5 Bxd5 . Black has active pieces here, and the knight would be quite good on h5.

**CCStartFEN** CGr4rk1/1bq1bppp/pp2p3/3p2Pn/3NP3/PP3P2/1BPQ3P/2KR1B1R w -- 1 16 **CCEndFEN** CBut after 16. e5 Qxe5 17.Nc6 and especially after he took the second pawn, it's just worse. 17...Qxg5 Even if he didn't take the second pawn 17...Qc7 , it's still a very difficult position 18.Nxe7 Qxe7 19.f4 because of this knight on h5. At least once he took the pawn, the knight is able to come back to f6. 18.f4 Qh4 19.Nxe7 Qxe7 , but it's not a big relief because 20.Rg1 and the bishop on b2 is worth much more than just two pawns. I won this game because I understood that the long compensation for these two pawns

is going to lead to disaster for him whenever he tries to bring his pieces back.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)

**1-0**

## □ Example Games

## ■ Games

[MH]

**B20:** Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves **1.e4 c5** In this chapter I'm going to show a smattering of different games. Most of them are my own games, which demonstrate how to play against weird and subpar play, but there are also a couple of grandmaster games that show some ideas in complex positions that I was hard pressed to explain in the other chapters. To make the most of this chapter don't quickly scroll through the moves. Try to come up with the move that you would play in the position, then look at what was actually played to compare to your own thoughts. **2.b3 Nf6** In this variation we are going to aim to oppose the queenside fianchetto with our own ...g6 and Bg7. The whole complex is a bit odd, because normally weakening the same diagonal your opponent is occupying, is tactically impossible, but if our opponent tries to clear the diagonal with the e-pawn, we're able to clog up the diagonal and argue that White has give up a key central pawn. The move 2...g6 is also possible, and likely to transpose to our repertoire, but playing Nf6 first, encourages White to avoid some trickier

independent options that are allowed in that move order.

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 0-0 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bg2 b5 11.0-0 c4 12.Kh1 cxd3 13.cxd3 a5 14.Qe2 a4 15.Rfc1 Qb6 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Pink,J (2683)-11...♔c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2702) Yerevan 2000 200

Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 0-1 (62) ]

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5 Greek Team Championship 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin 50/APA Dec 96] ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6** An odd move, but if White doesn't act fast, then Black will have a pleasant position on the dark-squares. **5.g3N** A really strange move, but not one particularly threatening or terrible, which allows me to demonstrate what Black's play can sometimes look like.

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc7** A move that is commonly played in these structures. Now if Black gets some free moves we'll castle, and play Nc6/Ne6 with an easy position. **7.Nf3** The computer believes d7-d6 or d7-d5 to be best here, which was my first instinct. Because I was playing a short time control, I was a little nervous about being forced to accept an exchange sacrifice after 7...d5 8.exd6 Bxb2 9.dxc7 Qxc7 10.Nc3 Bxa1 . In

a classical time control game, I no doubt would have concluded that white wasn't getting enough for the sacrifice, but White's pieces are active in that position, and there is only one semi-open file for my extra rook, which won't be in the game for a while. All of that, and I have to solve the problem of my bishop, which would be tied to the b7 pawn. With the thought in the back of my mind that I may want to include some example games in this book, I decided instead to play a common and simple idea for this variation. **7...Nc6 8.0-0 -0.39/19**

[ 8.d4= -0.08/20 ]

**8...Ne6 0.02/20** This move may look a little clunky, getting in the way of the light-squared bishop, but that guy on c8 usually stays at home for a while in these sorts of positions, and you'll find that however much this move may disrupt Black's own development, it's even more annoying for White. d2-d4 is now no longer desirable as white doesn't want to trade that bishop on b2 for anyone other than it's counterpart on g7, and Nc3 may allow Black to either win the e5 pawn or plop a knight on d4

[[StartBracket]]or both[[EndBracket]].

[ 8...d5= -0.39/19 ]

**9.c3 9.Re1 d6 10.Na3 O-O** This looks just fine to my eyes. White probably needs to take a time out to protect the bishop on b2, and the knight on a3 is going to be constantly worried about the prospect of b7-b5 after Nc4, which also answers some questions about where the bishop on c8 belongs. **9...Nxe5** I know that you can't rely on your opponent dropping a pawn in an opening repertoire, but the alternatives

are covered, and this is the sort of thing that can happen in this variation.

Objectively 2.b3 is equal, but it's the sort of equality where White's center is under fire, so Black is leading the dance and White needs to defend his or her assets. I prefer Black in most practical situations. **10.d4 Nxf3+ 11.Bxf3 cxd4 12.cxd4 0-0 13.Na3 d5** This one move cuts off all three of White's minor pieces. **14.Rc1 Nc7 -0.62/19**

Now is the time to fix this traffic jam that has developed, take control over b5, and allow for the possibility of sealing off White's bishop more permanently with ... e6.

[ 14...Ng5= -1.01/20 15.Bg2 Bh3 16.Bxh3 Nxh3+ 17.Kg2 Ng5 ]

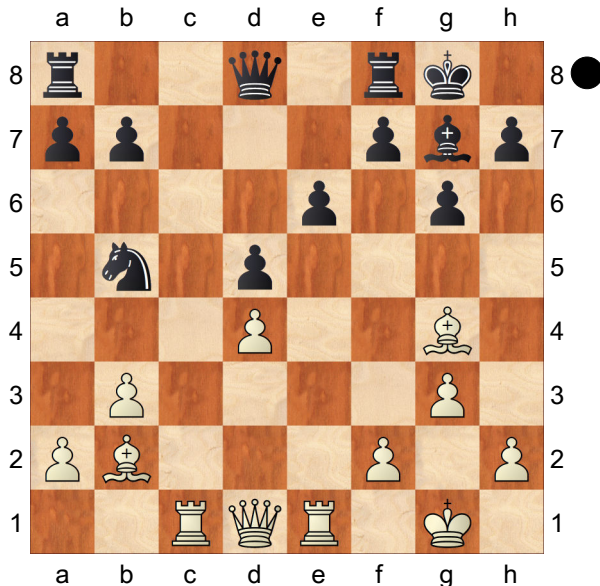
**15.Nc2** This is as good a square as any I supposed. White played Na3, because c3 wasn't available at the time, but it's almost worth looking for Nb1 instead in order to find an outpost on c5 one day.

**15...Bh3 16.Re1 e6** We developed our bishop outside the pawn chain with tempo, and now White's light-squared bishop has lost it's diagonal, and frankly, it's hard to see how to re-route it. If there is any way I can trade off all of the other pieces, I'd be open to it! **17.Ne3 Nb5 18.Ng4 -2.03/23**

[ 18.a4= -0.86/19 might work better. Nd6 19.Ba3 ]

**18...Bxg4-+** Even if this weren't winning a pawn, I'd love to trade off that knight. Both of White's bishops are passive, and I want to keep that light-squared bishop on the board and staring at my pawn chain for as long as possible. **19.Bxg4**

(Diagram)



**Qb6!** Very simple, going after d4, and making sense of the awkward placement of our knight. **20.Qd2 Nxd4 21.Qe3** -2.45/21 I was considering forcing piece trades with Nf3+ in this position, but I didn't want to find myself in an opposite-colored bishop ending, where White has drawing chances if he can trade rooks **CCStartBracketCC** which seems easy enough given White already has the c-file **CCEndBracketCC**.

[ **Δ21.Red1** -1.87/22 **f5 22.Bxd4 Bxd4 23.Qxd4 fxg4 24.Qxb6 axb6 25.Rc2** ]

**21...Nc6 22.Qxb6 axb6 23.Bxg7 Kxg7**

We end up with our mass trades anyways in this variation except here we have an attack on the a-pawn. **24.a4**

**Rac8** At first I was somewhat concerned that the pin on the e6-pawn would potentially allow White to try to capture the pawn on d5 or create other tactical problems, but later decided that ...Nb4 ought to solve those problems. **25.f4 Nb4 26.Rxc8 Rxc8** Endgame KRB-KRN **27.Bf3 Rc3 28.Bd1 Nc2**

**29.Bxc2 Rxc2** We've now arrived at a two-pawn-up rook ending where we

have the c-file. KR-KR **30.Re3 Kf6**

There are two quick heuristics for playing endgames. The number one rule is that rook activity is worth a pawn, and should be prioritized. Once the rooks are active or traded, the number two rule of endings is king activity comes before pushing the pawns. **31.Kf1 Ke7**

I saw that the h-pawn was hanging, but didn't want to allow any counterplay by giving up the c-file. Now I'm threatening to grab that pawn, when Rc3 can be met with Kd7. **32.Re2** -5.11/23

White shouldn't be eager to trade rooks, but what else is there to do?

[ **Δ32.g4** -3.44/22 ]

**32...Rxe2 33.Kxe2 Kd6** Black is clearly winning. **34.Kd3 Kc5** King activity first!

White's king isn't getting into our kingside, so we can take away the d4-square and even start attacking. **35.h4 Kb4 36.Kc2 h5 37.Kb2 d4** 0-1 White resigned. White did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/ Black=0.08 (flawless)

**0-1**

**B20**

□ **Various Nd Moves**

■ **2.b3 #2**

[MH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** This is one of those systems that has a very loyal fan base, so it is good to know what to do against it. **2...d6** I always thought that the fancy **2...g6!?** **3.Bb2 Nf6** is the way to go and gives Black the better chances, but I had discovered that **4.Nc3!?** followed



by Nd5 is actually leaving White with a pretty decent position. I would like to recommend 2...d6 instead, preparing Nf6, but not determining the f8-bishop yet. **3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♔d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 0-1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0-0-0 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g (2515)-Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579) Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada [Siaperas] 0-1 (45) ]

#### 4.Nc3N

[ 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.Qh5 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.f4 Nd4 8.Bd3 e6 9.f5 exf5 10.exf5 0-0 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2 d5 13.0-0 b5 14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8 16.Nd4 Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Kf1 Bd7 14.h4 b4 15.♘e2 e5 16.♙a7 (2183)-Kuebler,J (2500) Chessfriend.com 2014 200 Traps In The Opening [Evening Mail 8 Mar 1888; GWH 24/3/1888] 0-1 (45) ]  
[ 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.d3 ( 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5 Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4 9.Qxg4 Rxg4 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0 Bh6 12.Nd5 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3 Rag8 15.g3 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4 18.a5 Rh6 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7 10.♘e5 ♕e6 11.b3\_7650-Rogic,D Belgrad 1990 Lexikon04 [Dragan

Solak] 1-0 (33) ) 6...Nc6 7.f4 e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns [Gotham] ]

**4...Nc6 5.Bb5** Starting with 5.f4 will lead to the same thing after 5...g6 6. Bb5 Bd7 **5...Bd7** The position is equal. **6.f4** Not clear, what else is more challenging. After 6.Nge2 we will play 6...a6! and after 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 the e4 pawn is hanging and if White defends it, we will develop the f8-bishop with e6. **6...g6** We can also go for the e6 and Be7 development, but I like this one here. **7.Nd5 Bg7 8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 9.Bxf6 exf6** Now we can continue the line for a couple more moves. **10.Nf3 a6** Asking the bishop to decide. **11.Bc4** After 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 we will also eventually prepare the f5 push with Qd7. **11...0-0 12.0-0 f5** Black is fine here, as the f4-pawn is a target. **13.d3 Qf6 14.Qd2 Nd4** Trading knights, with a comfortable position. A rather calm draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

**B50**

□ **2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

■ **4...d6 #7**

[MH]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our

recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four – seemingly logical– moves.

[ 4.Bb5 , developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 Playing with the f–pawn is double–edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!

∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever–famous' bishop pair. ]

[ 4.f4 is seen in the model game Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

#### 4...d6

[ 4...a6 5.c4 Qc7 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.0–0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2 Qd6 Filip,L–10.d5 ♔f3 11.gf3 Villa Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ]

**5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4** This position is very similar to the newly named 'Carlsen Sicilian'. If allowed, White can go Nc3 – Qd2 and O–O–O . **6...Nf6N**

[ 6...Bd7 7.Bd3 ( 7.Nb5 Qb8 8.Ba3 d5 9.exd5 Qe5+ 10.Be2 Bxa3 11.N1xa3 exd5 12.f4 Qxf4 13.Qxd5 Nf6 14.Qd6 Qxd6 15.Nxd6+ Ke7 16.0–0–0 Rab8 17.Rhe1 Kf8 18.Bc4 Nd8 19.Nab5 a6 20.Nc7 h5 21.Rd2 Rh6 12.♔f2 g5 13.♖c1 (2564)–Pina,J

(2573) USSR 36/(516) 2004 OR: Modern Benoni [FS–70/204] 1–0 (42) ) 7...Nf6 8.0–0 Be7 9.Nd2 0–0 10.c4 Ne5 11.Qe2 Ng6 12.f4 e5 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Nc2 Bc5+ 15.Kh1 Bg4 16.Nf3 Nf4 17.Qd2 Nxd3 0–1 (17) Ripatti,R–2.c4 e5 NLD 1851 CBM 084 Extra [Dorner, Cranbourne] ] [ 6...d5 7.exd5 Qxd5 8.Nxc6 Qxc6 9.Be2 Qxg2 10.Bb5+ Ke7 11.Rf1 Qe4+ 12.Be2 f6 13.Nc3 Qb4 14.Qd3 Kf7 15.0–0–0 Ne7 16.f4 g6 17.Ne4 Bg7 18.Nd6+ Kf8 19.Ne4 Qc5 20.Qd8+ 1–0 (20) Jemec,V–12.00 ♔g4 Warsaw 1932 Lessons with a GM [Tseitlin,Mikhail S] ]

#### 7.Nc3

[ 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5 Hoping for ...Qd8xd1+. 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Bxe5 is a solid way of playing. ]

**7...d5** This looks risky, since Black is spending another tempo on a pawn move, but these days many 'dubious looking' ideas may end up being very playable thanks to the help of the computer. With 7... d5 Black wants to clarify the situation in the center and opens up the diagonal of the f8 –bishop. The downside of this move is that Black is likely to end up with an isolated d–pawn. **8.Qd2** An ambitious move, which prepares long astling with quick development.

[ The safer option would be 8.exd5 exd5 9.Bb5 Bd7! 10.0–0 Threatens to win with Rf1–e1+. Be7 11.Be2 0–0 12.Bf3 when White has easier play than his opponent, as he can target the d5 –pawn for the rest of the game. ]

**8...Nxe4** Black accepts the pawn sacrifice. In all other scenarios White

castles long and gets a nice lead in development. **9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.0-0-0** White wants to play Bf1-b5. **10...Nxd4 11.Qe3 Bd7** Inhibits Bf1-b5. **12.Bxd4 Bc6** aiming for ...Bf8-a3+. **13.Bc4**

[ Not the immediate 13.Bxg7?? -5.81/22 13.Bf1-c4 0.06 Ba3+ , but after 13. Bc4 taking on g7 becomes a real threat, so Black must now move the queen away. ]

**13...Qa5 14.Kb1 Be7** A hard decision to make, but objectively giving back the pawn might be the best for Black.

**15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Bd4 Qg5** 0.40/21

Now it is White who is at a crossroads: Should he exchange queens and go for a slightly better endgame, or keep the game going in the same fashion by giving up the pawn on g2 ?

[ 16...Rxd4= 0.02/21 17.Qh3 Qg5 ]

**17.Qc3** -0.01/20 Of course, the second option. The position demands such sacrifice.

[ 17.Rhg1± 0.40/21 ]

**17...Qxg2= 18.Be2** Inhibits Qg2-f3.

[ 18.Rhg1 -0.80/23 18.Bc4-e2 -0.01 wins the queen for two rooks, but doesn't promise too much: Qxg1 19.Rxg1 Rxd4+ 20.Kb2

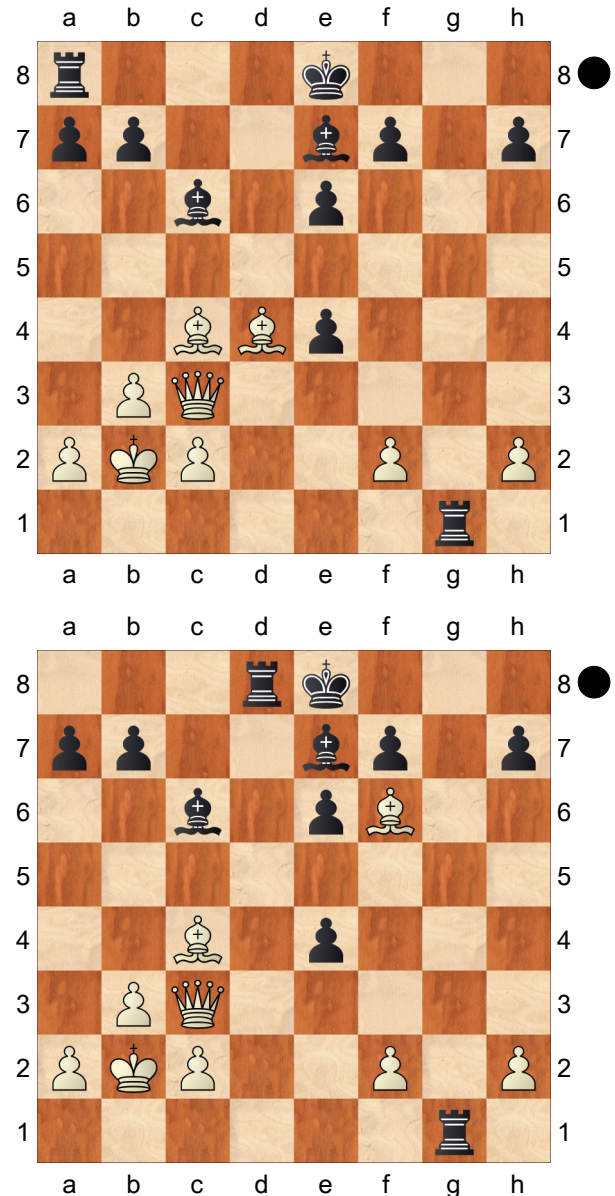
(Diagram)

Rd8 -0.01/23 ( 20...Rg6!± -0.82/21 With the idea ...Ra8-d8. 21.Be3 0-0-0 ) 21.Bf6 -0.92/21 ( 21.Bxa7= -0.01/23 remains equal. Bf8 22.Qh8 )

(Diagram)

21...Rg2! ]

**18...Qg6 19.Rhf1** If you switch on your engines it will say that this position is



balanced, but take a look at Black's position with a human eye! An interesting draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

**B50**

□ 2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6

■ 4...d6 #6

[MH]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four – seemingly logical– moves.

[ 4.Bb5 , developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 Playing with the f–pawn is double–edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!

∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever–famous' bishop pair. ]

[ 4.f4 is seen in the model game Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

#### 4...d6

[ 4...a6 5.c4 Qc7 6.g3 Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.0–0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2 Qd6 Filip,L–10.d5 ♟f3 11.gf3 Villa Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ]

**5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4** This position is very similar to the newly named 'Carlsen Sicilian'. If allowed, White can go Nc3 – Qd2 and O–O–O . **6...Nf6N**

[ 6...Bd7 7.Bd3 ( 7.Nb5 Qb8 8.Ba3 d5 9.exd5 Qe5+ 10.Be2 Bxa3 11.N1xa3 exd5 12.f4 Qxf4 13.Qxd5

Nf6 14.Qd6 Qxd6 15.Nxd6+ Ke7 16.0–0–0 Rab8 17.Rhe1 Kf8 18.Bc4 Nd8 19.Nab5 a6 20.Nc7 h5 21.Rd2 Rh6 12.♟f2 g5 13.♟c1 (2564)–Pina,J (2573) USSR 36/(516) 2004 OR: Modern Benoni [FS–70/204] 1–0 (42) ) 7...Nf6 8.0–0 Be7 9.Nd2 0–0 10.c4 Ne5 11.Qe2 Ng6 12.f4 e5 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Nc2 Bc5+ 15.Kh1 Bg4 16.Nf3 Nf4 17.Qd2 Nxd3 0–1 (17) Ripatti,R–2.c4 e5 NLD 1851 CBM 084 Extra [Dorner, Cranbourne] ] [ 6...d5 7.exd5 Qxd5 8.Nxc6 Qxc6 9.Be2 Qxg2 10.Bb5+ Ke7 11.Rf1 Qe4+ 12.Be2 f6 13.Nc3 Qb4 14.Qd3 Kf7 15.0–0–0 Ne7 16.f4 g6 17.Ne4 Bg7 18.Nd6+ Kf8 19.Ne4 Qc5 20.Qd8+ 1–0 (20) Jemec,V–12. 00 ♟g4 Warsaw 1932 Lessons with a GM [Tseitlin,Mikhail S] ]

#### 7.Nc3

[ 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5 aiming for ...Qd8xd1+. 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Bxe5 is a solid way of playing. ]

**7...d5** This looks risky, since Black is spending another tempo on a pawn move, but these days many 'dubious looking' ideas may end up being very playable thanks to the help of the computer. With 7... d5 Black wants to clarify the situation in the center and opens up the diagonal of the f8 –bishop. The downside of this move is that Black is likely to end up with an isolated d–pawn. **8.Qd2** –0.14/19 An ambitious move, which prepares long astling with quick development.

[ The safer option would be 8.exd5 exd5 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0–0 And now Rf1–e1+ would win. Be7 11.Be2 0–0 12.Bf3 when White has easier play than his opponent, as he



can target the d5 –pawn for the rest of the game. ]

[ 8.exd5± 0.42/23 exd5 9.Bb5 ]

**8...Nxe4** 0.26/22 Black accepts the pawn sacrifice. In all other scenarios White castles long and gets a nice lead in development.

[ 8...dxe4 –0.14/19 was preferable.

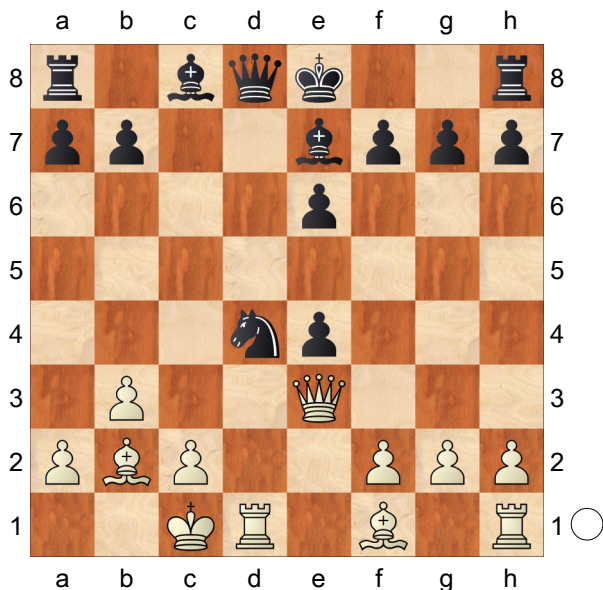
9.0–0–0 Qxd4 10.Qxd4 Nxd4

11.Rxd4 Bc5 12.Bb5+ Bd7 ]

**9.Nxe4=** White has an edge. **9...dxe4**

**10.0–0–0 Nxd4 11.Qe3** The key idea.

From now on, Black needs to play very accurately in order not to get a losing position out of the opening. Black must now prevent Bf1–b5+! **11...Be7**



This logical looking move allows us to illustrate the power of the 8.Qd2! idea. Strongly threatening ...Be7–g5. **12.Qxe4** White does not hurry to pick up the pinned knight yet. **12...Qd5** 0.90/22 Inhibits Bf1–b5+. **13.Qxd5±**

[ But not 13.Rxd4 Qxe4 14.Rxe4 0–0= ]

**13...exd5 14.Bxd4 Ba3+** 0.88/25

[ 14...0–0± 0.50/19 deserves consideration. ]

**15.Kb1** 0.56/23 A deep idea. White waits

until Black has castled short (castling is practically forced for Black due to the pressure on g7 and Bb5 +) only then exchanges the dark–squared bishops. A fine trick to remember!

[ Better is 15.Bb2± 0.88/25 Bxb2+ 16.Kxb2 ]

**15...0–0± 16.Bb2 Bxb2 17.Kxb2 Be6 18.Rd4** This is a very good version of an isolani endgame. Black will need to work very hard here to save the draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)

**B40**

□ **2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

■ **4...a6 #3**

[MH]

B40: Sicilian: 2...e6, Unusual lines

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four – seemingly logical– moves.

[ 4.Bb5 , developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 Playing with the f–pawn is double– edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of

question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!

∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever-famous' bishop pair. ]

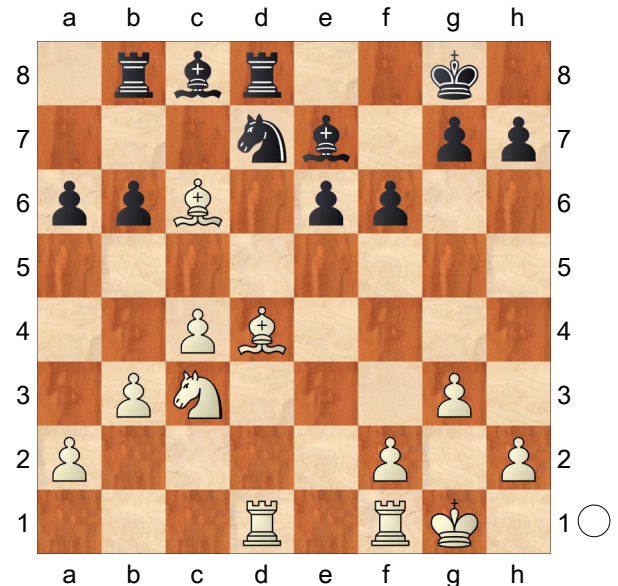
[ 4.f4 is seen in the model game  
Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

**4...a6** **5.c4** Since White is robbed of Bb5 ideas, placing another pawn in the center and changing the course of the game to a 'Maroczy Bind' seems like the best option. **5...Nf6** This move is designed to prevent White from getting his Maroczy set-up, as it attacks the e4-pawn directly and supports the ... d5 break.

[ 5...Qc7 6.g3 ( 6.h3 Nge7 7.Be2 Ng6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 11.Nc3 b6 12.Nc2 Bb7 13.Qd2 Bh2+ 14.Kh1 Bf4 15.Ne3 f5 16.Rad1 Nce5 17.Qd4 Qc6 18.Bh5 fxe4 19.Ne2 Bh6 20.Bxg6 Nxg6 Fischer,F (2597)-2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 (2665) Saint Louis 119/30 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] 1-0 (45) ) 6...d6 ( 6...Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bg2 Ngxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.0-0 Nd3 11.Bc3 Rb8 12.Qe2 Qd6 Filip,L-10.d5 ♙f3 11.gf3 Villa Martelli 2021 CBM 51 ext [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ) 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.Bg2 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bd4 Rb8 16.Nc3 b6 17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Bc6 f6

(Diagram)

19.Rfe1 0.42/23 ( 19.Be3! $\pm$  0.91/23 )  
19...Kf7 $\pm$  20.Na4 Nc5 21.Bxc5 Rxd1



22.Rxd1 bxc5 23.f4 Bb7 24.Bg2  
Ke8 Against Rd1–d7 25.g4 Bxg2  
26.Kxg2 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8 28.f5  
Kd7 29.Kf3 Kc6 30.Nb2 exf5  
31.gxf5 Bd6 32.h3 g6 33.Kg4 Be5  
34.Nd3 Kd6 35.fxg6 hxg6 36.h4 a5  
37.h5 gxh5+ 38.Kxh5 Bd4 39.Kg4  
Ke6 40.Kf4 f5 41.Kf3 Kf6 42.Kf4  
1/2–1/2 Romanov, E (2654)–Can, E  
(2513) St Petersburg 2013. ]

**6.e5**

[ 6.Nc3 leads to a dry position, since Black has e5! 7.Be2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.a3 0-0 10.b4 b6 . In such a symmetrical position it is not easy to look for an edge. ]

6...Ng4 7.h3 Nh6 8.Nc3N The position is equal.

[ 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be4 Kh8  
11.Nc3 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qb1 Nd4  
14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Bxh7 d5 16.Nd1  
e5 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.cxd5 Bxh3  
19.Be4 Qg5 20.Qd3 Rf4 21.Qxh3  
Rxe4 22.f4 Rxf4 3.♖c3 ♕f6 4.e5 de  
5.♗e5 (2490)-Ignatiev,B (2445)  
Moscow 1997 Magnus Force [BCM  
May 1989] 0-1 (50) ]  
[ 8.g4 d6 ( 8...d5 9.exd6 Qxd6

10.Nc3 Bd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0  
 12.0-0-0 e5 13.Bg2 f6 3.b3-for 2...  
 e6 ) 9.Bg2 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nd4  
 11.0-0 Bd6 12.f4 0-0 13.Nc3 Qc7  
 14.Ne2 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Nxd4  
 cxd4 17.Qf3 Qc5 18.Rae1 f5  
 19.Qg3 Rd8 20.Re5 Qd6 21.gxf5  
 Nf7 22.Re3 Qxg3 Chapter 14 Part 2-  
 Game 8 Game 8 (38) ]

**8...d6**

[ 8...Nf5 tries to fight against White's  
 d4 push. Now a different approach is  
 called for: 9.Bd3 Nfd4 10.Ne4 d5!  
 Now the game gets a little sharper.  
 Some wild tactics will occur and White  
 needs to be prepared for them.  
 11.exd6 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Bb2-f6! is  
 the strong threat. f5 13.Nxc5  
 And now Nc5-a4 would win. Qxd6  
 14.b4! The only move, but it is enough  
 to save the day. Nxb4 15.a3 Nc6!  
 ( 15...Nxd3+? 1.08/22 15...Nb4-c6 0.  
 27 16.Nxd3 with important control  
 over the e5 -square. ) 16.Nb3! Ne5  
 17.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 18.Be2! Bd6 19.d4  
 Qf4 20.c5 Bc7 21.Qxf4 Bxf4 22.Bf3  
 White has annoying pressure on b7 ,  
 but Black should be able to hold  
 without much difficulty thanks to the  
 bishop pair. ]

**9.d4** The first player avoids a little trap  
 by sacrificing a pawn. Analysis indicates  
 that Black should proceed with caution.  
 [ 9.exd6?! would be a slight mistake  
 due to the intermediate e5!  
 Against d2-d4 ]

**9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Nf5**  
 [The only move for Black. 11...dxe5?  
 0.65/22 11...Nh6-f5 0.10 12.Qxe5  
 would be a disaster since Black  
 cannot properly develop due to the  
 pressure on g7 . ]

**12.Qd2** 0.01/22

[ 12.Qe4!± 0.38/22 ]

**12...dxe5= 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8 14.0-0-0+  
 Kc7** By moving forward, Black's king  
 covers the critical d6 -square. However,  
 the king is a bit more vulnerable here.

**15.g4! Ne7**

[ 15...Nh4?! 16.Ne4 f6 17.g5!  
 ± In general this is what White wants  
 to achieve in this line: Pushing g5  
 without any complications! ]

**16.Bg2 Ng6 17.h4** White has  
 compensation. **17...Nf4 18.Bf3 Be7  
 19.Kc2** White's compensation for the  
 pawn is evident, as Black find it difficult  
 to complete his development. **19...Bd7**  
 0.46/24

[If 19...f6 White can attack Black's  
 pawn chain with 20.g5! Rg8 21.Rhg1  
 and Black is lacking a good move to  
 relieve the pressure. ]

[ 19...f6= 0.01/23 is superior. ]

After 19... Bd7 White can choose **20.Ne2**  
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.03  
 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

[which is even stronger than gaining  
 the material back with the simple  
 20.Bxb7 0.01/22 20.Nc3-e2 0.54 . ]

**B20**☐ **Reference Games**

☒ **Kumala,Aleksander Vs Bern**  
*[Mickey Mouse]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6  
 5.Bb5+ Nbd7! 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qd3N**  
 [ 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3  
 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0  
 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline 5...c5 6.d5  
 Greek Team Championship 2019 200

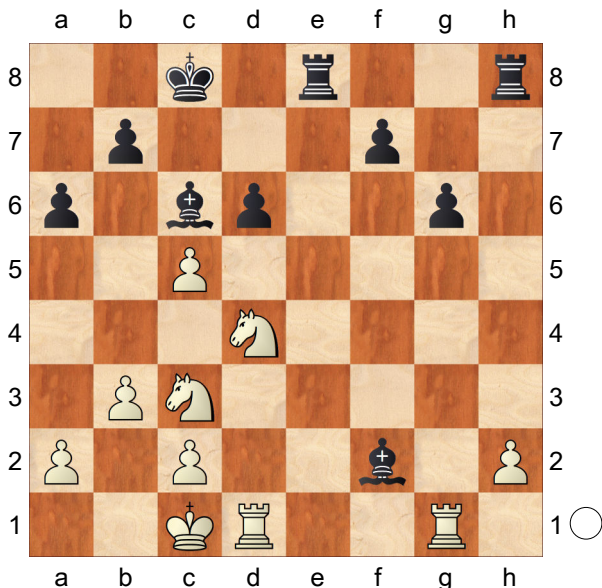
Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin  
50/APA Dec 96] ]

**7...a6 8.Bxd7+** Black has an edge.

**8...Bxd7** Our trainable ends here. Our trainable ends here. **9.Nc3 f5 10.0-0-0**

**Qf6 11.exf5 0-0-0!** This is actually quite good play by Black. They have sacrificed a pawn, but have taken their King to safety and opened up the position for their pair of Bishops. **12.fxg6 hxg6 13.Qf3 Qg7** Black has compensation. **14.Nge2 Bc6 15.Qg3 Be7 16.d4 Bh4 17.Qe3** -1.37/21  
[ 17.Qf4= -0.08/21 ]

**17...Bxg2** Black has won back the pawn and retains the pair of Bishops advantage as well. **18.Rhg1 Bc6** A strong pair of Bishops. **19.dxc5 Rde8** White is under strong pressure. **20.Qd4 Qxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxf2**



Discovered Attack **22.Nxc6?** -2.83/24  
Loses the game.

[ 22.Rgf1 -1.26/25 was necessary.  
Bxd4 23.Rxd4 ]

**22...Bxg1+**

[And not 22...bxc6 23.cxd6 Kd7  
24.Rg2 Be3+ 25.Kb1 - ]

**23.cxd6** Hoping for d6-d7+. **23...Be3+**

**24.Kb2** d6-d7+ is the strong threat.

**24...Kd7** With this move, Black secures their extra exchange.

[Inferior is 24...bxc6 25.d7+ Kc7  
26.dxe8B Rxe8 27.Rf1 - ]

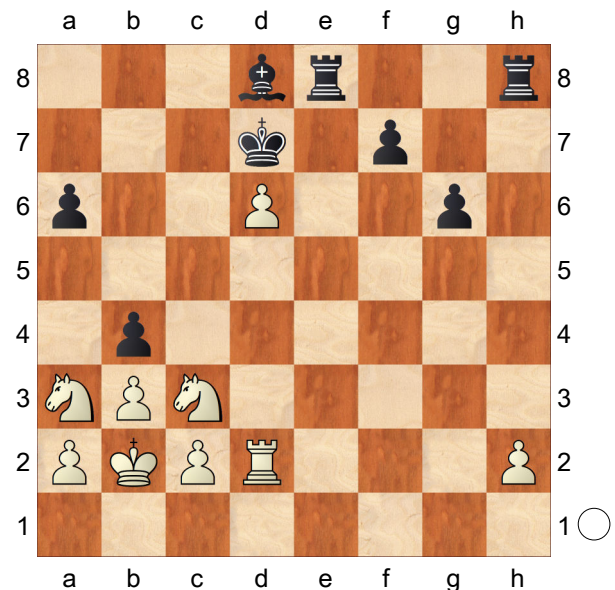
**25.Na5 Bb6**

[Worse is 25...Rxb2 26.Nxb7 Rh4  
27.Nd5 Bd4+ 28.Rxd4 Rxd4  
29.Nf6+ Kc8 30.Nxe8 - ]

**26.Nc4 Bd8 27.Rd2?** -5.58/22

[ 27.Nd5 -2.90/21 ]

**27...b5** Black is clearly winning. **28.Na3 b4** Black is just winning now, and White might as well resign.



Black is just winning now, and White might as well resign. White must now prevent ...Bd8-f6. **29.Nd5** Prevents Bd8-f6+. **29...bxa3+ 30.Kxa3 Re5 31.c4 Kxd6 32.Nb4+ Kc7 33.Nxa6+ Kb7 34.Nb4 Be7 35.Rd7+ Kc8 36.Ra7 Rxb2** Threatens to win with ...Kc8-b8. **37.Ka4 f5 38.a3 Bxb4 39.Kxb4 f4** Black managed to get an advantage out of the opening and went on to play powerfully and precisely. Black sacrificed a pawn but managed to develop rapidly and brought the pieces out. Black's pieces were superior to



White's, and we saw a good practical illustration of that. Black managed to get an advantage out of the opening and went on to play powerfully and precisely. Black sacrificed a pawn but managed to develop rapidly and brought the pieces out. Black's pieces were superior to White's, and we saw a good practical illustration of that. Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/Black=0.02 (flawless)

B20

□ Reference Games  
 ■ Winterholler,Christina Vs Kumic  
*[Mickey Mouse]*

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7! 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Nc3**  
 [ 7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0  
 Dehmelt,K-12 Mainline 5... c5 6.d5  
 Greek Team Championship 2019 200  
 Traps In The Opening [Lipeap Boletin  
 50/APA Dec 96] ]  
**7...Bg7 8.Qg3** The position is equal.  
**8...0-0 9.Qxd6 f5** Our trainable ends here. Our trainable ends here. White must now prevent ...Bg7xc3. **10.Nge2 fxe4 11.Bxd7 Qxd7 12.Qxc5 b6 13.Qe3 Bb7** Black has compensation.  
**14.0-0 f5** Look at Black's pair of Bishops and the impressive center.  
**15.g3 h6 16.h4** Prevents g6-g5.  
**16...Qc6** -0.33/20  
 [ 16...Ba6 0-0 17.f4 ]  
**17.Kh2** -0.90/20  
 [White should try 17.a4 0-0 18.Ra4 ]  
**17...Kh7** -0.45/21  
 [ 17...Rad8 0-0 18.Ra4 Hoping for ... g6-g5! 18.Rad1 Rd6 ]

**18.Rg1** -0.94/22

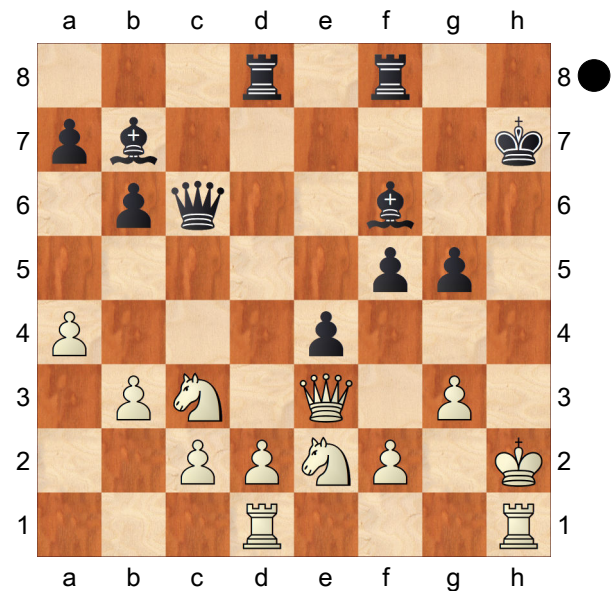
[ 18.a4 0-0 19.Ra4 ]

**18...Rad8 19.Rad1 Bf6 20.a4**

-1.98/22

[ 20.Rh1 0-0 21.Rh1 was necessary. ]

**20...g5+ 21.hxg5 hxg5** aiming for ... Bf6xc3. **22.Rh1**



**Kg6! 23.Kg1 Rh8 24.Rxh8 Rxh8**

[Not 24...Bxh8 25.b4 0-0 ]

**25.Nb5?** -4.73/24

[ 25.Kg2 -2.42/23 keeps fighting. ]

**25...a6**

[Weaker is 25...Qxc2 26.Rc1 Qd3 27.Rc7 0-0 ]

**26.Nbd4 Qd7 27.g4** -9.50/23

[ 27.f4 -4.11/23 exf3 28.Nxf3 ]

**27...f4 28.Qc3 Qxg4+** This was a short & sweet game that showed the perils of early pawn-grabbing in the opening. It was visible and apparent how much White struggled to get a single one of their pieces into the game. This was a short & sweet game that showed the perils of early pawn-grabbing in the opening. It was visible and apparent how much White struggled to get a single one of their pieces into the game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.68/  
Black=0.04 (flawless)

**B20**

□ **Reference Games**

■ **Vila Gazquez,Xavier Vs Ivanchuk**  
[Mickey Mouse]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3N**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]  
[ 4.e5 Nd5 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7  
7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6  
10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second  
Moves-F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**4...Bg7 5.e5 Nh5** Our trainable ends  
here. Our trainable ends here. **6.Nf3**  
**Nc6 7.Ne4** -0.78/21

[ 7.Qe2f -0.41/19 ]

**7...d6f** White's e5 -pawn is weak. This  
is a result of White's overextension.

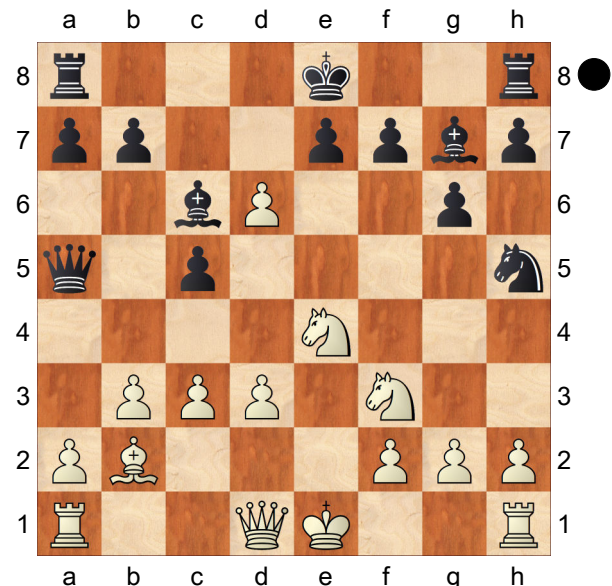
White's e5 -pawn is weak. This is a  
result of White's overextension. **8.Bb5**

**Bd7 9.Bxc6** -0.99/22

[ 9.0-0f -0.59/21 ]

**9...Bxc6 10.d3 Qc7** The theme of the  
opening - pressure on the e5 -pawn.  
The theme of the opening - pressure on

the e5 -pawn. **11.exd6 Qa5+ 12.c3**



**Bxe4** -0.51/25 Now the attention has  
shifted to White's c3 -pawn. Now the  
attention has shifted to White's c3 -  
pawn.

[ 12...f5!f -1.00/24 13.Ned2 exd6 ]

**13.d7+ Kf8!**

[ 13...Kxd7 14.dxe4+ Kc7 15.0-0= ]

**14.dxe4** Hoping for Qd1-d2. **14...Bxc3+**  
**15.Bxc3 Qxc3+ 16.Kf1 Rd8!**

The material is so far equal, but White's  
d7 -pawn will fall in just a matter of time.

The material is so far equal, but White's  
d7 -pawn will fall in just a matter of time.

**17.g3** Against Nh5-f4 **17...Nf6 18.Kg2**  
**Rxd7 19.Qe2 Qd3! 20.Qxd3 Rxd3**  
**21.Rhd1 Rxd1 22.Rxd1**

Endgame KRN-KRN **22...Ke8** -0.67/24

[ 22...Nxe4f -1.11/24 23.Rd8+ Kg7 ]

**23.e5f Nd7 24.e6 fxe6 25.Ng5 Nf8**  
**26.Rc1 b6 27.b4 Nd7**

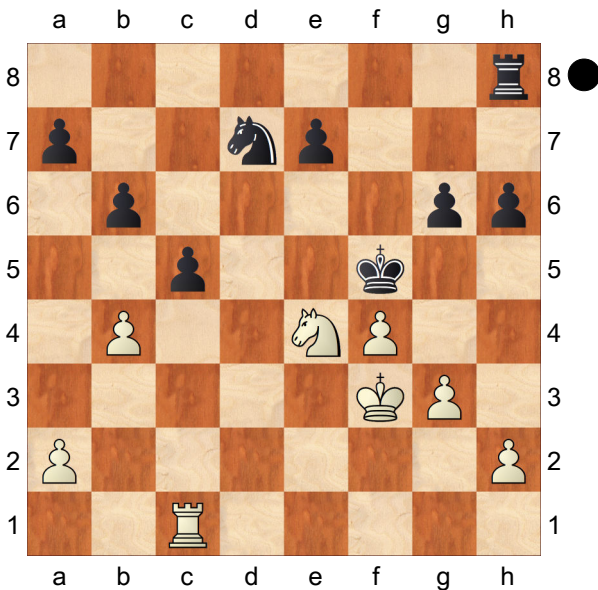
[ Of course not 27...cxb4 28.Rc8+  
Kd7 29.Ra8= ]

**28.Nxe6 Kf7 29.Ng5+ Kf6 30.f4 h6**

[ Reject 30...cxb4 31.Rc6+ Kf5  
32.Rc7= ]

**31.Ne4+ Kf5 32.Kf3**

(Diagram)

**Rc8**

[Don't play 32...cxb4 33.Rc6 h5  
34.h3 Ne5+ 35.fxe5±]

**33.Rd1 Ke6** Black is better. **34.bxc5 Nxc5 35.Nc3 Nd7** Black got a better position out of the opening due to White's e5 –pawn weakness. Ivanchuk showed a good illustration of exploiting that and kept that pressure throughout the opening. White perhaps resigned a bit prematurely and could have fought on. However, Black kept the pawn up advantage throughout the game and coasted comfortably thanks to that. Black got a better position out of the opening due to White's e5 –pawn weakness. Ivanchuk showed a good illustration of exploiting that and kept that pressure throughout the opening. White perhaps resigned a bit prematurely and could have fought on. However, Black kept the pawn up advantage throughout the game and coasted comfortably thanks to that. Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

**B20**

□ **Reference Games**

■ **Gelashvili,Tamaz Vs Yilmaz**

[Mickey Mouse]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0–0–0 Nf6 17.Ne3

C 06/32 (2752)–13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1–0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0 Chapter 8–1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Nc3N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves–F: 2 b3  
[Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.h4 0–0**

[ 7...d5 feels hotter. 8.exd6 0–0  
9.dxe7 Re8 ]

**8.h5** The position is equal. **8...d5**

Against Bf1–c4 **9.f4 Nc6** Our trainable ends here. Our trainable ends here.

**10.Nf3** –0.81/19

[ 10.hxg6= –0.27/18 fxg6 11.g3 ]

**10...Bg4** **11.h6** After this move, it will be tough for White to do a pawn break and open lines towards Black's King.

**11...Bh8 12.Rh4** –1.19/22

[ 12.Bb5 –0.70/19 ]

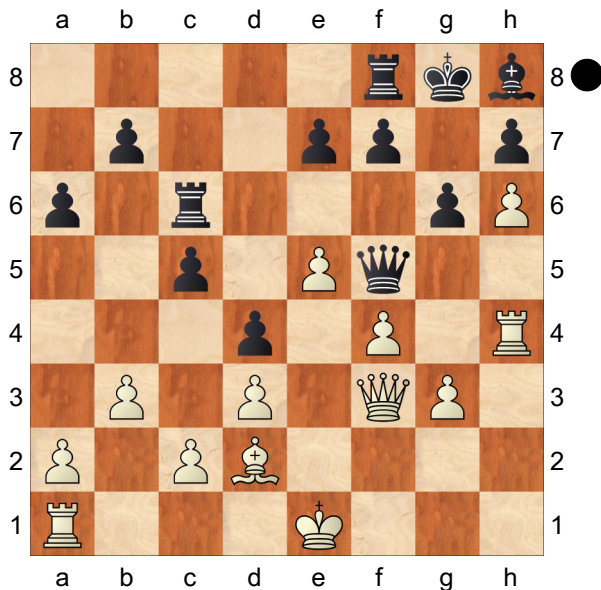
**12...Qd7 13.Bb5 Rac8** –1.06/20

[ 13...Qf5 –1.39/22 14.Bxc6 bxc6 ]

**14.Qe2 a6** –0.54/23



[ 14...Qf5! ♣ -1.22/23 15.0-0-0 Qxf4 ]  
**15.Bxc6 ♣ Rxc6 16.d3** -1.42/23  
 [ 16.0-0-0! ♣ -0.49/21 ]  
**16...Qf5 ♣ 17.g3** -1.94/22  
 [ 17.Kf2 ♣ -1.57/22 ]  
**17...d4** -0.93/23  
 [ 17...f6-+ -1.94/22 has better  
 winning chances. Hoping for ...f6xe5.  
 18.0-0-0 fxe5 ]  
**18.Bd2 Bxf3 19.Qxf3**



**Bxe5! 20.g4 Qf6 21.Rh3** And now g4-  
 g5 would win. **21...Bd6 22.0-0-0 Rfc8**  
**23.Kb1 b5!** With smart tactical play,  
 Black managed to win a pawn. Now  
 Black prepares to open lines against  
 White's King. **24.f5 c4 25.fxc6 hxc6**  
 [ 25...Qxg6 26.Rh5 cxb3 27.cxb3 ]  
**26.h7+ Kh8** The King is safe behind  
 White's pawn. **27.Qd5?** -2.61/23  
 [ 27.Qxf6+ ♣ -1.10/21 exf6 28.Rdh1 ]  
**27...Rc5** -1.44/22  
 [ 27...cxb3-+ -2.61/23 28.cxb3 Rc2 ]  
**28.Qh1** -2.40/25  
 [ 28.Qe4 ♣ -1.44/22 ]  
**28...cxb3 29.cxb3 Rc2 30.Rc1 Rxc1+**  
**31.Bxc1 Qf2 32.Bb2 Qc2+ 33.Ka1**  
**Be5 34.Qf3** -2.37/23  
 [ ♠34.Qf1 -1.80/24 ]

**34...f6-+ 35.Rh1 Qc6 36.Qh3 Qd5**  
**37.g5** -2.08/21  
 [ 37.Rc1 -1.66/21 was called for.  
 Rxc1+ 38.Bxc1 ]  
**37...Rc7** -0.61/24  
 [ 37...f5-+ -2.08/21 aiming for ...Be5-  
 d6. 38.Re1 Re8 ]  
**38.Re1** -1.08/22  
 [ 38.Rg1 ♣ -0.61/24 deserves  
 consideration. ]  
**38...a5** -0.64/22  
 [ 38...fxg5 ♣ -1.08/22 Threatens to win  
 with ...Rc7-c6. 39.Qh6 Bf6 40.Qxg6  
 Rc8 ]  
**39.Qh6 ♣ Qf7 40.Qh1** Intending  
 Qh1-a8+ and mate. **40...Qe8** -0.38/22  
 Black played almost seamlessly till the  
 first 36 moves but loses a bit of control  
 in the time trouble. Black played almost  
 seamlessly till the first 36 moves but  
 loses a bit of control in the time trouble.  
 Inhibits Qh1-a8.  
 [ 40...Qxh7 41.Qd5 e6 42.Qxb5± ]  
 [ Black should play 40...Rc8! ♣  
 -0.75/23 ]  
**41.Qd5 Kxh7** -0.01/20  
 [ 41...Rc8! ♣ -0.37/23 ]  
**42.a3** -0.72/21  
 [ 42.Rh1+= -0.01/20 keeps the  
 balance. Kg7 43.Bc1 ]  
**42...Rc6** 0.01/22  
 [ 42...a4! ♣ -0.72/21 43.b4 Rc2  
 44.Rh1+ Kg7 ]  
**43.Rxe5** -1.14/22  
 [ 43.Rh1+= 0.01/22 remains equal.  
 Kg7 44.Bc1 ]  
**43...fxe5 ♣ 44.Qxe5=** Endgame KQR-  
 KQB **44...Qf8 45.Qxd4**  
 [ Avoid the trap 45.Qh2+? Kg8  
 46.Qe5 Rd6 47.Qxb5 Qf1+ 48.Ka2  
 Kf8-+ ]  
**45...Rd6** Prevents Qd4-d5. **46.Qe5 a4!**



[ 46...Rxd3 47.Qh2+ Kg8 48.Qh8+ Kf7 49.Qh7+ Ke8 50.Qxg6+ Qf7 51.Qxd3+- ]

**47.b4** -2.16/27

[ 47.Bd4 -1.22/24 was necessary. ]

**47...Kg8+-**

[ 47...Rxd3 48.Qh2+ Kg8 49.Qh8+ Kf7 50.Qh7+ Ke8 51.Qxg6+ Qf7 52.Qxd3+- ]

**48.Qxb5 Qa8** Strongly threatening ... Qa8-h1+. **49.Qc4+** -2.46/25

[ Not 49.Qe5? Qh1+ 50.Ka2 Qd5+ 51.Qxd5+ Rxd5+- ]

[ 49.Be5 -1.91/25 Qh1+ 50.Ka2 Qd5+ 51.Qxd5+ Rxd5 52.d4 ]

**49...Qd5 50.b5** -3.78/24

[ 50.Qc2 -2.32/25 ]

**50...Qxc4 51.dxc4 KR-KB 51...Kf7**

**52.Bc3 Ke6 53.Kb2 Rd3 54.Kc2 Rf3**

**55.c5 Rf8** -1.68/28

[ 55...Kd5 -2.93/26 56.c6 Kd6

57.Bb4+ ( 57.Ba5? Rb3+- ) 57...Kc7 58.Ba5+ Kc8 ]

**56.c6 Rb8! 57.c7 Rf8** -1.10/29

[ 57...Re8 -1.55/29 58.b6 Kd7 ]

**58.Bg7 Re8 59.Kc3 Kd6 60.b6 Kc6**

**61.Bd4 Kb7! 62.Bc5** -1.01/31

[ 62.Kb4! -0.42/29 ]

(Diagram)

White is now going downhill. **62...e5!?**

**63.Kb4?** -3.95/33

[ 63.Kc4 -1.53/32 ]

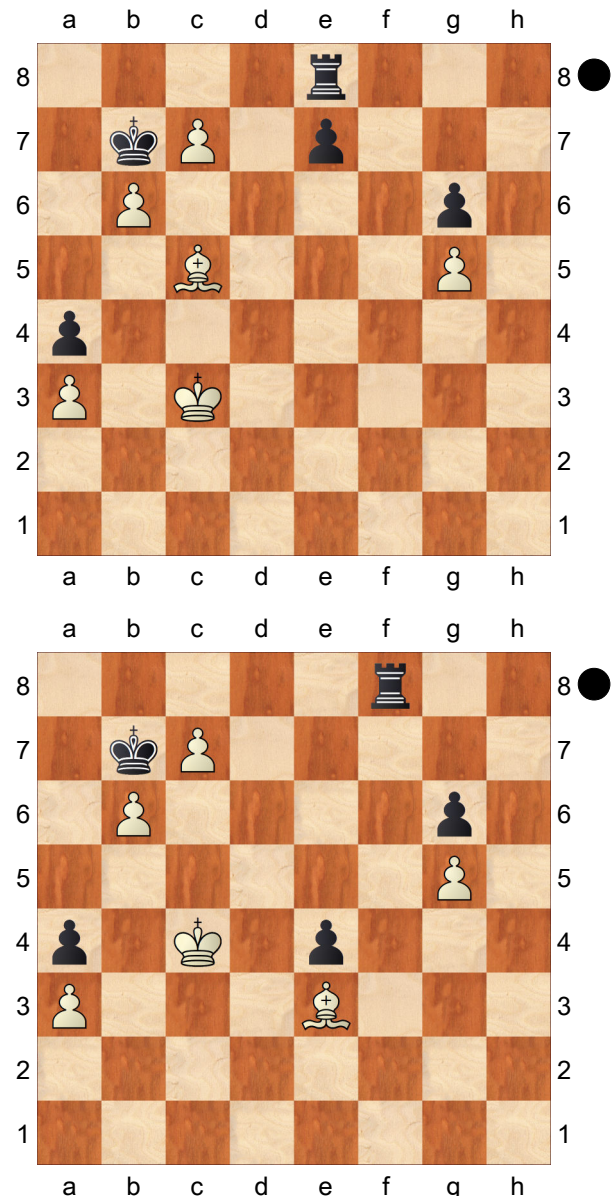
**63...e4+- 64.Be3 Rf8 65.Kc4**

(Diagram)

**Rf1! 66.Bc5 Rd1 67.Kb5 Rd5 68.Kc4**

**Rxg5 69.Be3 Rg2 70.Kd5 Ra2**

**71.Bc5 e3 72.Bxe3 Rxa3 73.Bc5 Rb3**



**74.Ke6 Kc8 75.Kd6 a3 76.Kc6 a2**

**77.Bd4 g5** Black got a better position

out of the opening and was coasting along towards a win until around move

36. They lost a bit of control towards the time control, but managed to recover

and went on to win a very complex endgame. In general, Black's attack

came slower than White's, but it flowed better. Black got a better position out of

the opening and was coasting along towards a win until around move 36.

They lost a bit of control towards the time control, but managed to recover

and went on to win a very complex endgame. In general, Black's attack came slower than White's, but it flowed better. Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)

**B20**

□ **Reference Games**

■ **Reprintsev,Alexander Vs Neved**  
[Mickey Mouse]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1-0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Chapter 8-1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]

**4...Nd5 5.Nc3N**

[ 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nxc3  
8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6 10.Bc4 Be6  
White's Odd Second Moves-F: 2 b3  
[Tony Rotella] ]

**5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Nc6 7.Qd5 e6 8.Qe4**

The position is equal. **8...Qc7**

Our trainable ends here. Our trainable

ends here. **9.f4 d6 10.exd6 Bxd6**

**11.g3 0-0 12.0-0-0 e5** Black is better

developed and opens up the position.

**13.fxe5 Nxe5 14.Bg2 Rb8** -0.01/20

[ 14...Ng4! -0.35/20 15.Qe2 Bf5 ]

**15.c4!= Bf5 16.Qd5** -0.62/22

[ 16.Qe1= -0.14/21 might be  
stronger. ]

**16...Rfd8** Threatens to win with ...Bd6-  
f8! **17.Ne2 Nc6! 18.a3** Inhibits Nc6-b4.

**18...Qe7 19.Qf3 Be5 20.Rd5?** -2.26/23

[ 20.Kb1 -0.65/21 ]

**20...Rxd5-- 21.cxd5 Bxb2+** -1.23/23

[ Black should try 21...Qg5+! --

-2.07/24 22.Nf4 Nd4 23.Bxd4 cxd4 ]

**22.Kxb2** Ne5 **23.Qf2** -2.38/20

[ 23.Qc3 -1.32/21 is a better  
defense. ]

**23...Ng4-- 24.Qf3 Ne3** White must

now prevent ...Qe7-e5+. **25.Nc3 b5**

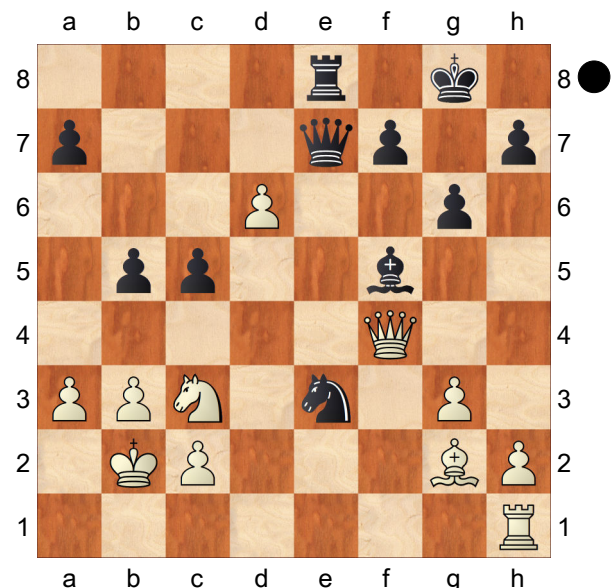
[ Don't play 25...Bxc2 26.Re1 Nc4+  
27.bxc4± ( 27.Kxc2 Qxe1 28.bxc4  
Re8± ) ]

[ 25...Nxc2 26.g4 c4 27.gxf5= ]

**26.Qf4** -1.89/23

[ 26.g4 -1.47/24 Nxg4 27.Bh3 ]

**26...Re8 27.d6**



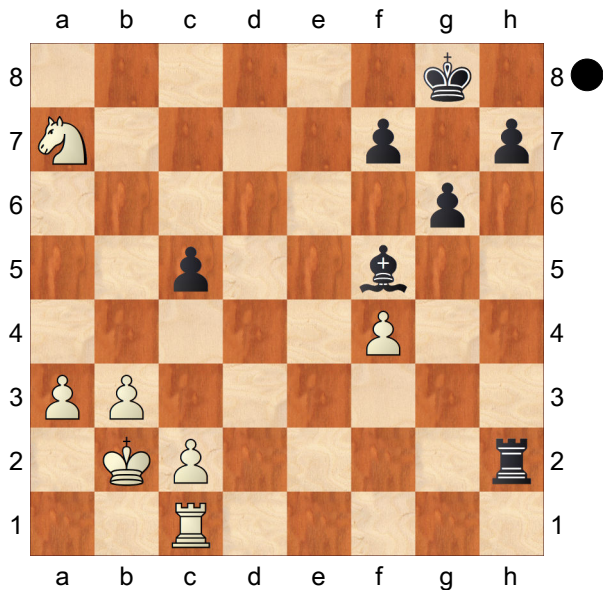
**Nxg2!** -0.39/24 **28.dxe7** -1.40/24

[ White must play 28.Qxf5! -0.39/24  
Qxd6 29.Nxb5 ]

**28...Nxf4** **29.gxf4** Nc3-d5 is the strong  
threat. **29...Rxe7 30.Nxb5--**

Endgame KRB-KRN **30...Re2 31.Rc1**

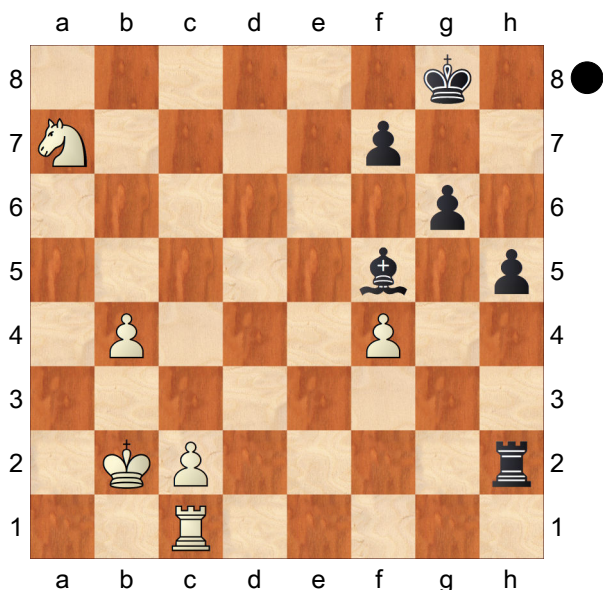
**Rxh2 32.Nxa7**



**h5! 33.b4** -3.06/23

[ Δ33.Nc6 -1.86/23 Re2 34.b4 ]

**33...cxb4 34.axb4**



**h4! Strongly threatening ...Rh2xc2+!**

**35.b5 h3 36.b6 Be4 37.Kc3?**

-10.84/27

[ 37.Nb5 -3.93/23 Rd2 38.Kc3 ]

**37...Rg2 38.Kd4 Bb7** Black got a comfortable position out of the opening and showed a fine example of how to continue from that position. Black simply had to break in the center and bring the pieces out. Once the stage was set, the position got a bit concrete at around

moves 18–20. However, Black managed that part effectively with precise calculation and powerful concrete play. Black got a comfortable position out of the opening and showed a fine example of how to continue from that position. Black simply had to break in the center and bring the pieces out. Once the stage was set, the position got a bit concrete at around moves 18–20. However, Black managed that part effectively with precise calculation and powerful concrete play. Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/Black=0.26 (precise)

**B20**



**Reference Games**



**Chigaev,Maksim Vs Vachier**

[Mickey Mouse]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6**

[ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Nc3  
Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 d4 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.c3  
a6 11.Na3 dxc3 12.dxc3 Nc6  
13.Nc4 Kc7 14.Bc1 b5 15.Bf4+ Kb7  
16.0–0–0 Nf6 17.Ne3  
C 06/32 (2752)–13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3  
(2647) Bled 2006 MAINB [Haimovich,  
T] 1–0 (33) ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.h4N**

[ 4.Qf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6  
7.Qg3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be7  
10.Nf3 0–0 11.0–0 Chapter 8–1. e4  
c5 2. b3 Nf6/g6 [Gotham] ]  
[ 4.e5 Nd5 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7  
7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6  
10.Bc4 Be6 White's Odd Second  
Moves–F: 2 b3 [Tony Rotella] ]

**4...Bg7 5.e5 Nd5 6.h5 Nc6 7.Nf3! d6**



Our trainable ends here. Our trainable ends here. **8.Bb5** Black is slightly better.

### 8...Bg4

[ 8...dxe5 9.Bxe5 f6 10.Bg3= ( 10.h6 Bxh6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6= ) ]

**9.h6 Bxe5** Black has simply won a pawn. **10.Nxe5** -2.76/23 Being a pawn down, White tries to complicate the position. **10...Bxd1-- 11.Nxc6 Qb6**

[ 11...bxc6 12.Bxc6+ Kf8 13.Bxh8± ]  
[ 11...Qd7 12.Nxa7! Bxc2 13.Bxh8+- ]

### 12.Nxa7+ Kd8 13.Bxh8 Bxc2

[ 13...Rxa7 14.Bc4= ]

### 14.Bc4 Bxb1

[ 14...Qxa7 15.Bxd5 Bxb1 ]

### 15.Rxb1 Nf4

[ 15...Qxa7 16.Bxd5 Qxa2 17.Ke2= ]  
[ 15...Nc7? 16.Bxf7 Qxa7 17.a4± ]

### 16.Nb5 d5

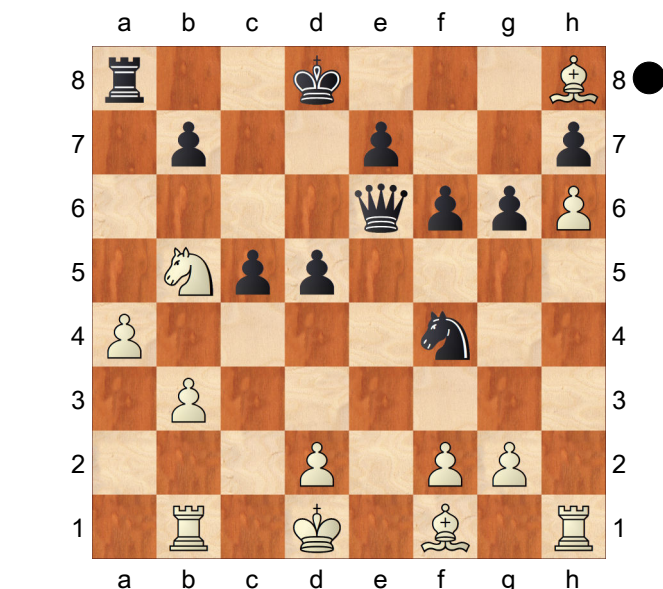
[ Weaker is 16...Rxa2 17.Nc3 Qc6 18.f3 Nxg2+ 19.Ke2± ]

### 17.Bf1 Qe6+ 18.Kd1 f6 -1.53/21

[ Don't blunder 18...Rxa2? 19.Nc3 Qf5 20.Rc1-- ]

[ 18...Qf5-- -2.81/24 19.Rc1 Rxa2 ]

### 19.a4±



**Qf5↑** -0.99/22 Black is in control.

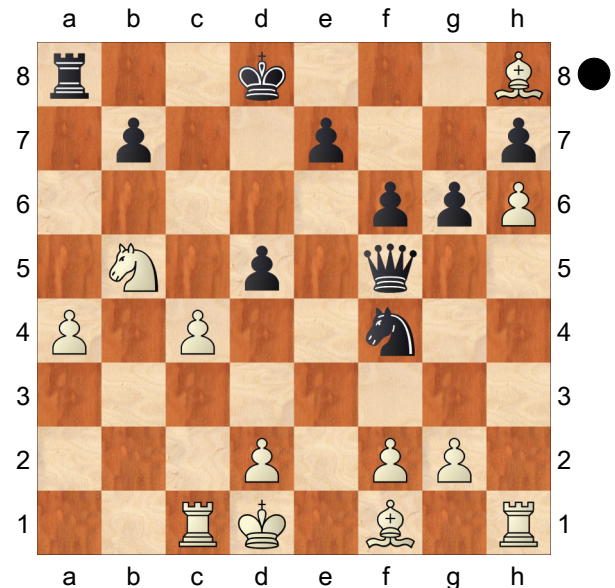
[ 19...Nxg2!-+ -1.64/22 Strongly threatening ...Qe6-e4. 20.Bg7 ( 20.Bxg2? Qg4+ 21.Kc1 Qxg2-- ) 20...Qf5! ]

### 20.Rc1 -1.80/23

[ 20.Kc1± -0.99/22 ]

### 20...Nd3 -0.93/24

[ 20...c4-- -1.80/23 21.bxc4



Nxg2! 22.Bxg2 Qg4+ 23.Kc2 Qxg2 ]

### 21.Bxd3 Qxd3 22.Rh3 Qf1+ 23.Kc2

### Qxg2 24.Rc3 -1.95/22

[ 24.Rd3± -1.02/23 ]

### 24...b6 -0.82/23

[ 24...Qxf2-- -1.95/22 25.Bg7 Kd7 ]

### 25.d4? -3.87/26

[ 25.Rd3± -0.82/23 ]

**25...Qxf2-- 26.Kb1 c4** aiming for ...c4xb3. **27.Bg7?** -4.56/22

[ 27.R1c2 -2.27/23 Qf4 28.Kb2 ]

### 27...cxb3 28.Rxb3 Rxa4 29.Nc3

Prevents Qf2-a2+. **29...Rc4 30.Rb5**

### Rxd4 31.Rxb6 Kd7 32.Rb7+ Ke6

### 33.Bf8 Kf5 34.Bxe7 Kg5 -1.63/20

[ Δ34...Rc4 -3.06/20 And now ...Qf2-f3 would win. 35.Ba3 Qe3 ]

### 35.Rb6 Kg4 36.Bxf6? -3.33/23

[ 36.Bc5± -1.47/22 ]

### 36...Rd3? -0.94/21



[ 36...Rc4-+ -3.33/23 is more deadly.  
37.Bd8 d4 ]

**37.Rb4+ ♣ d4 38.Nd5** -5.91/20

[ 38.Bg7 ♣ -0.67/22 ]

**38...Qf5-+ 39.Rb5 Rb3+** Discovered Attack (Double Check), Double Attack. Black mates. **40.Ka1 Rxb5 41.Rg1+ Kh3** Black managed to get a good position out of the opening and was simply winning a pawn with no compensation. White managed to complicate things and even won some material, but White's pieces never gained coordination. The game lasted longer than it should have, but it was an online blitz game. Despite the online blitz game, MVL's play was quite instructive and at a high level. Black managed to get a good position out of the opening and was simply winning a pawn with no compensation. White managed to complicate things and even won some material, but White's pieces never gained coordination. The game lasted longer than it should have, but it was an online blitz game. Despite the online blitz game, MVL's play was quite instructive and at a high level.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.92/  
Black=0.48

□ **Bondarevsky,Igor**

■ **Kevitz,Alexander**

URS-USA Moscow (2)

[Mihail Marin, MH]

**B20**

1946

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6 3.f4**

[ 3.c4 ♣ Nc6 4.g3+- He was probably afraid that after Er befürchtete sicher, dass nach

4...h5 5.h3 e5 ( 5...h4 6.g4 ) 6.Nc3  
White's pieces would become too active and his own queen would be exposed, but things are far from clear: die weißen Figuren zu aktiv werden und seine Dame zu exponiert steht, aber die Lage ist weit davon entfernt, klar zu sein: Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.Nf3 Bd7 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.exd5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qe2+ Qe7± 13.Bf4 Bf5 14.0-0-0 0-0-0 15.Qxe7 ]  
[ 3.d4-+ e6!? ( 3...cxd4 4.Nf3 ) Δ4.Nf3 Ba6 5.Bxa6 Nxa6 6.0-0 Nc7 7.d5 d6 8.c4 e5 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be3 g6 11.Qd2 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Rfe1 0-0-0 16.b4 cxb4 17.Nb5 Nxb5 18.cxb5 Qb7 19.Qxb4 Ne7 ( 19...Qxd5 20.Rad1 Qe6 21.Nxe5 dxe5 22.Qc3+ Kb7 23.Rxd8 ) 20.Qc3+ Kd7 21.Nxe5+ dxe5 22.Qxe5 Nxd5 23.Rac1 Rhe8 24.Qxf5+ Kd6 25.Rc6+ Qxc6 26.Qg6+ ]  
[ 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Qe2 e6 5.f4 Nf6 6.d3 Be7 7.g3 d6 8.Bg2 Nc6 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Nbd2 Rae8 12.Nc4 b5 13.Nxd6 Qxd6 14.e5 Qd8 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Ne5 Nd4 18.Qf2 Qe7 19.c3 Nf5 20.Be4 ]

**3...Bb7 4.Nc3 g6**

[ 4...a6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bb2 d5 7.Bd3 ( 7.e5 d4 ♣ ♠a5 ♠a5 8.Ne2!? Bxf3 9.gxf3 Qh4+ 10.Ng3 Qxf4 ) 7...Nc6 8.exd5 exd5 9.Qe2+ Nge7 ( 9...Qe7 10.Nxd5 ) 10.0-0 Nb4 11.Rae1 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 d4 13.Na4 Qc7 14.Qf5 Qc6 15.Rf2 Bc8!? 16.Ne5 ]

**5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bb2**

[ 6.Bc4 Bxe4 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Kf8 9.Ngxe4 Nc6 ]

**6...Bxe4 7.Nxe4 Bxb2 8.Bc4**

[ 8.Rb1 Bg7 9.Bc4 ]

**8...Bxa1 9.Qxa1 Nf6 10.f5** -2.81/23

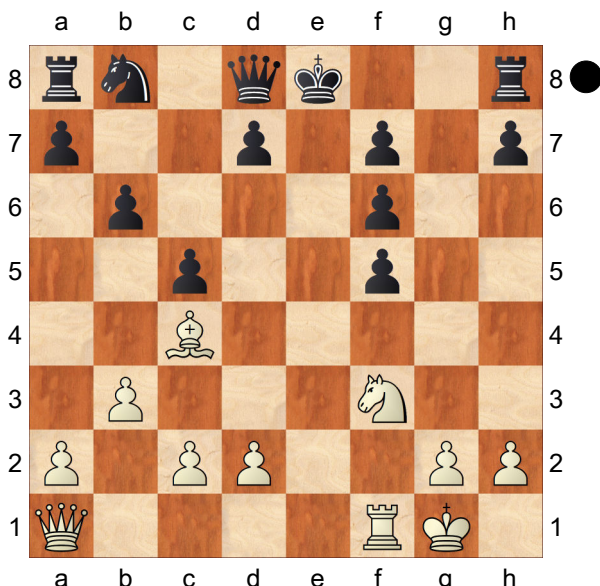
Once the queen has moved to e7, this is a natural reaction. The unpleasant pin can be solved only with a further ...h6, but this would mean some additional loss of time.

Hat die Dame einmal nach e7 gezogen, ist dies eine natürliche Reaktion. Diese unangenehme Fesselung kann nur mit einem späteren ...h6 gelöst werden, aber das würde einen weiteren Zeitverlust bedeuten.

[ 10.Nfg5 -1.95/22 might work better. ]

**10...0-0** Black chooses this way of defending the c4 pawn, sacrificing in exchange the integrity of the king side structure. Schwarz entscheidet sich dafür, den c4-Bauern zu decken, opfert damit die unversehrte Bauernstruktur am Königsflügel.

[ 10...gxf5? -0.34/22 10...d7-d5 -2.44 11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.0-0



0-0 -0.27/25 ( 12...Nc6! 13.Nh4 d5 ) 13.Bd5= Nc6

With the idea ...Qd8-e7. 14.Nh4 ]

[ 10...gxf5 11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.0-0

**11.fxg6 hxg6**

[ 11...Nxe4? -0.11/23 11...h7xg6 -2.

13 12.gxh7+! Kxh7 13.Bd5 Nc6

14.Bxe4+ Kg8 15.Qc3 ]

[Worse is 11...Nxe4 12.gxh7+ Kxh7

13.Bd5

**12.Ne5** -3.78/24

[ 12.Nxf6+ exf6 13.Bd5 Re8+

14.Kf2 ]

[ 12.Qe5 -2.28/23 ]

**12...d5+**

[Don't blunder 12...Nxe4? 13.Nxg6

Nf6 14.Qc3+

**13.Nxf6+ exf6 14.Ng4 Re8+ 15.Kd1**

**Re6**

[ 15...dxc4? -0.01/23 15...Re8-e6 -3.

54 16.Nxf6+ Kf8 17.Nh7+ Kg8

18.Nf6+ Kf8 19.Nh7+ Kg8 20.Nf6+ ]

[Weaker is 15...dxc4 16.Nxf6+ Kf8

17.Nh7+ Kg8 18.Nf6+ Kf8 19.Nh7+

Kg8 20.Nf6+= ]

**16.Rf1**

[ 16.Bxd5 Qxd5 17.Nxf6+ Rxf6

18.Qxf6 Nd7 ]

**16...dxc4 17.Rxf6**

[ 17.Nxf6+ Rxf6 18.Qxf6 Qxf6

19.Rxf6 Nd7 ]

**17...Qd4**

**0-1**

**B20**

□ **Kivistoe,Mikko**

■ **Patocka,Franz**

EM/TT/F/02 email

1997

[Morgado,Juan Sebastian\_17373]

**1.e4** Morgado,Juan Sebastian **1...c5**

**2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3**

**Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3**

[ 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 ( 8.e5 dxe5

9.fxe5 Nd5 10.Ne4 Qa5 11.c4 Ne3

12.Bc3 Qxc3 13.Nxc3 Nxd1

**B20**

14.Rxd1 a6 15.Ba4 0-0 16.0-0  
 Rfd8 17.Kh1 Rab8 18.d3 Nb4  
 19.Bxd7 Rxd7 20.d4 cxd4 21.Rxd4  
 Rxd4 22.Nxd4 Rd8 Kivisto,M-Sorri,K/  
 Espoo 1991/EXT 2000/½-½ (107)  
 Juan S. Morgado: 'Kivisto,M-Sorri,K/  
 Espoo 1991/EXT 2000/ - (107)' Juan  
 S. Morgado: 'Kivisto,M-Sorri,K/Espoo  
 1991/EXT 2000/ - (107) Morgado,  
 Juan Sebastian: 'Kivisto,M-Sorri,K/  
 Espoo 1991/EXT 2000/½-½ (107)" )  
 8...Bxc6 9.d3 0-0 10.0-0 c4  
 11.dxc4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Qe2  
 Bg6 14.Rad1 Qb6+ 15.Qf2 Qa5  
 16.a4 Rfd8 17.Qe2 Bf8 18.h3 d5  
 19.Ne5 dxc4 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Nxc4  
 Qf5 Moreno,J-Alvarez,J/Isla  
 Margarita 1998/EXT 2000/0-1 (49) ]  
**7...0-0N**  
 [ 7...a6 8.0-0 d5 9.Kh1 Nb4 10.e5  
 Nh5 11.Ne1 Nxd3 12.Nxd3 g6  
 13.Nf2 b6 14.Ng4 Bb7 15.Qe2 Ng7  
 16.Nf6+ Bxf6 17.exf6 Nf5 18.Qe5  
 h5 19.d3 Qd7 20.Kg1 Qc6 21.g3  
 d4 22.Ne4 0-0-0 23.c4 dxc3  
 24.Qxc3 h4 25.g4 Ne3 26.Rfe1  
 Nxg4 27.b4 c4 28.Rac1 Rxd3  
 29.Qxd3 cxd3 0-1 Vukovic,Z-Cabrilo,  
 G/Kladovo 1990/CBM 17 (29) ]  
**8.0-0 b6 9.a3 Bb7 10.Qe2 a6 11.e5**  
**Nh5 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Ng5?**  
 [ 13.g3 c4 14.Bxc4 Bc5+ 15.Kg2  
 Nd4♣ ]  
 [ 13.Qe4 g6 14.g3 Nf6→ ]  
**13...Nxf4 14.Bxh7+ Kh8 15.Rxf4?**  
 [ 15.Qg4 Ne5 16.Qxf4 ( 16.Qh4  
 Nxg2 17.Qh5 Bf3 18.Nxf3 Nf4-+ )  
 16...Nf3+ 17.Qxf3 Bxf3 18.Rxf3♣ ]  
**15...Qxg5**  
 [ 15...Qxg5 16.Rg4 Qh5-+ ]  
**0-1**

□ **1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**  
 ■ **4...Bd7 #3 (Alternative 7.d3)**  
 [NH]

B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves  
**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking  
 this is Black's most common reply.  
 Black develops the knight to its natural  
 square and prepares the move ... e5 to  
 challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal,  
 which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6**  
**4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 -square  
 begins. White prefers the long diagonal  
 to be open. After all, he made a  
 challenging commitment on the second  
 move! **4...Bd7**

[ A much better move than 4...Qc7  
 , since after the exchange on c6 Black  
 will end up with a useful bishop. ]

**5.f4** Further controlling the center,  
 fighting for the e5 -square and also  
 gaining an opportunity to play attacking  
 chess thanks to the semi-open f-file in  
 some variations. **5...a6** Black's main  
 reply, which forces White to decide the  
 fate of the b5 -bishop. Since time  
 matters in chess, especially in such a  
 position where the game is bound to  
 stay 'open', we will take on c6 . **6.Bxc6**  
**Bxc6 7.d3** This is another way to treat  
 the position. In the mainline we prefer to  
 keep the possibility to play d2 - d4 in  
 one go, though.

[ 7.Qe2 e6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 Be7  
 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.e5 Nd5  
 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Ne4  
 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Rad8  
 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6 20.Rf6  
 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 11.♞e1 h6 12.♞b1  
 ♜d7\_99 (1874)-Game 2 (2170) SFN-  
 3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John

Watson] 0-1 (59) ]

**7...d5N** 0.36/21 Black decides to challenge White's center immediately. As we will see in a move, the second player will throw more wood into the fire!

[ 7...Nf6= 0.00/21 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ng5 Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6 17.Rh4 d5 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3 d4 20.Ne4 f5 21.exf6 Qf7 22.Qg4+ Kh8

Chapter 13 Part 2-Game 2 Game 2 ]

**8.Qe2** Moving the queen from the d-file to defend the e4 -pawn is typical. However, as tactics will show, this is not ideal. The early sortie of the queen creates extra possibilities for Black and helps him to equalize. White is slightly better. **8...c4** Black must keep pushing forward, as otherwise White will gain a clean advantage.

[Let's check one line where Black chooses not to include the ... c4 push: 8...Nf6 9.Nd2 e6 10.Ngf3 Be7 11.Ne5! As in other variations, it is time to eliminate opponent's biggest trump: The bishop pair! Rc8 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nxc6 Rxc6 14.c4 Not only does White have more pawns in play, but he has also managed to place most of them on the color opposite of his bishop. White can either choose Rae1 next or Rf3 with the idea of launching a kingside attack. ]

**9.Nf3**

[ 9.bxc4?! Grabbing the pawn will result in a damaged pawn structure: dxe4 10.dxe4 Nf6 11.Nd2 e4-e5 is the strong threat. Qa5 12.e5 -0.03/22 ( 12.0-0-0! 0.28/20 ) 12...Ne4!= 13.Ngf3 ( 13.0-0-0!? Nc3 14.Bxc3 Qxc3 15.Nb1? ) 13...e6

14.0-0! Nxd2! 15.Qxd2 Qxd2 16.Nxd2 Bc5+ ]

**9...cxd3 10.cxd3 e6** Underlining the difference in White's position. Since White has played queen to e2 , ideas connected with Nbd2 - Rc1 are not so effective. **11.Nbd2**

[ 11.Ne5 This move may lead to a forced draw. Bb4+ 12.Bc3 Qb6 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.Bxb4 Strongly threatening Nb1-d2. Qc1+ 15.Qd1 Qe3+ ends with a perpetual check. ]

**11...dxe4 12.dxe4 Bb5** Black makes use of his 'extra' option and reaches equality after this. **13.Nc4 Bb4+ 14.Kf2 Bc5+ 15.Kg3** Although it looks a bit scary, White's king is not in danger here. **15...Nf6 16.Nfe5** Active counter play! **16...Qe7 17.Rhd1 0-0 18.h3**

As a result we get a position where all three results are possible. After hiding the king on h2 White may try a4 (to further limit the bishop) or the simple Rac1 .

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

**B30**

 **Queenside Fianchetto**

 **Nc6,B**

[Richard Palliser]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2** Consistent.

[Instead Consistent. Instead 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bb2 e5 5.Bb5 was examined in note 'b' to White's 3rd move in Line A. ]

[Another rare possibility is 3.Bb5 after which Black might just play the solid 3...d6, but I prefer Nd4! 4.Bc4 (White's usual choice, hampered as



he is by the inclusion of b3; he might like to play 4.Bd3 with the idea of c3, Bc2 and d4, but that is fairly well met by d5)

**A)** although Ehlvest's choice and a good one, although 4...e6 is also reasonable: 5.c3 ( 5.Ne2 Nc6 6.Bb2 Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.f4 d5! 9.exd6 Bxd6 gave Black good counterplay in I.Johannesson–K.Lie, Reykjavik 2002 ) 5...Nc6 6.d4 d5 7.exd5 exd5 8.Bb5 cxd4 9.Bxc6+?! bxc6 10.Qxd4 Nf6 11.Nf3 Ba6 did likewise in M. Naigelblat–M.Lagarde, Aix les Bains 2006; note the problems caused by b3 here, especially in conjunction with making the b5–bishop unstable did likewise in M. Naigelblat–M.Lagarde, Aix les Bains 2006; note the problems caused by b3 here, especially in conjunction with making the b5–bishop unstable;

**B)** 4...Nf6!/? (Ehlvest's choice and a good one) 5.Ne2?! (White is seduced by the check on f7 which is actually not so good for him, although he's curiously a little short of a good move here: 5.e5 d5! gives Black a reasonable game, such as after 6.Be2 Nd7 7.c3 Nxe2 8.Qxe2 g6; and 5.Nc3 b5 6.Nxb5 Nxb5 7.Bxb5 Nxe4 can be compared with the game; Black's extra central pawn is a useful long-term asset ) 5...Nxe4 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qd5+ e6 10.Qxe4 Bg7 11.Bb2 d5 12.Qf4+ Qf6 was promising for Black in I. Johannesson–J.Ehlvest, Reykjavik

2002. A trade of e4 for f7 is known in a number of openings, but is rarely good for White unless he maintains a lead in development in the process. Here Black has all the trumps: control of the centre, the two bishops and potential pressure against c2. ]

**3...Nf6!/?** A provocative choice, but by no means a bad one. Black lures White's e–pawn forwards, hoping to gain good Alekhine–type play with his knight on d5 and the ...d6–break. **4.e5** White usually takes up the challenge thus.

[Just as in Line A, Black shouldn't mind seeing White usually takes up the challenge thus. Just as in Line A, Black shouldn't mind seeing 4.Bxf6 gxf6 when 5.Qh5 has been tried in practice, but this simply gives Black a number of active approaches:

**A)** 5...d5 6.exd5 Nb4 7.Bb5+ Bd7 worked out fairly well in T.Effmert–M.Rehak, Bayern 2005.;

**B)** . I also quite like 5...Nd4!/? with the idea of 6.Qxc5?! ( 6.Na3 b6 7.c3 Ne6 is quite original and rather unclear; the knight isn't so badly placed at all on e6 ) 6...e5 7.Qc3 d5 with some initiative;

**C)** 5...-- ]

[White might prefer to defend his e–pawn with 4.Nc3 , but then Black can reveal another important point behind his set–up, namely with e6!

, preparing to take over the centre with ...d5. Partly due to his lack of kingside development, White seems to lack an especially good reply:

**A)** 5.Bb5 Nd4 again leaves White's pieces not ideally placed: 6.e5!/? (trying to change the

structure is a reasonable try; 6.*Bd3 d5 7.Nf3 Nxf3+ 8.Qxf3 d4 9.Ne2 Bd6* is fine for Black and he might also consider simple development after 6...*d6* ) 6...*Nd5 7.Nxd5 Nxb5 8.Ne3 d5!?* (a little ambitious; Black might just play 8...*Be7* , ...*0-0* and possibly even ...*b6* and ...*Bb7* before touching his d-pawn ) 9.*exd6 Nxd6 10.f4 f6 11.Nf3 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qe2 Bd7 14.d4! cxd4 15.Nxd4 Re8* was rather unclear in S.Lohou-S.Bromberger, Bad Wiessee 1999.;

**B) 5.f4** *d5* looks like a good version of our Grand Prix lines for Black: the fianchettoed bishop isn't really helping White at all. After 6.*e5* (not ideal, but 6.*Bb5? d4* wins the e4-pawn; and 6.*exd5 exd5 7.Nf3 Bd6* is also a little awkward for White ) 6...*Ng8!* (refusing to obstruct the c8-bishop and also trying to bring the knight to the ideal f5-square) 7.*Nf3 Nge7 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxc6+ Nxc6 10.0-0 b5 11.Ne2 Be7 12.Ng3 h5!* Black had a promising position in E.Quinteros-S.Baumegger, Paranana 1993.;

**C) 5.Nf3**

**C1)** I also can't see anything wrong with 5...*d6!?* since 6.*d4* (what else can White do as 6.*Bb5 Bd7* isn't anything? ) 6...*cxd4 7.Nxd4 Be7* looks like quite a reasonable version of the Open Sicilian for Black;

**C2)** 5...*d5 6.exd5 exd5 7.d4* (at least this way White gets to make some use of his fianchettoed bishop) *Bg4 8.dxc5*

(this may appear a little misguided, but quite understandably White probably didn't like the look of 8.*Bb5 Qe7+!* 9.*Ne2 Bxf3 10.gxf3 0-0-0* ) 8...*Bxc5 9.Be2* ( 9.*Qe2+!? Be6 10.0-0-0 0-0* still gives Black plenty of activity, but might have been a better try ) 9...*d4 10.Na4 Bb4+* was slightly better for Black in S.Horvath-P. Kiss, Zalaegerszeg 1992, since 11.*c3 dxc3 12.Bxc3 Qa5* maintains the initiative.;

**D) 5.-- ]**

**4...Nd5 5.Nf3** This is standard, and the alternatives aren't too impressive:

[a] 5.*c4 Nf4!?* 6.*g3?! (probably not best, but 6.Nf3 d6 7.g3 Ne6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Bg2 Ned4* sees Black's clamp on d4 offset White's small lead in development ) 6...*Ne6 7.Nf3 g6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.0-0 d6* didn't give White enough for the pawn he was set to lose on e5 in R.Van Doorn-A.Van den Berg, Dutch League 1994. ]

[b] 5.*Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Nf3 Bg4* ( 8...*e5!?* 9.*Bb5 f6* is a more ambitious and also quite tempting option; observe White's lack of pawn breaks ) 9.*Be2 e6 10.0-0 Be7!* was very comfortable for Black in P. Darini-M.Ghorbani, Teheran 2005, and White should always be careful about drifting into such a situation: Black's clamp on d4 gives him the more active possibilities which are going. was very comfortable for Black in P.Darini-M.Ghorbani, Teheran 2005, and White should always be careful about drifting into such a situation: Black's clamp on d4 gives

him the more active possibilities which are going. ]

[c) 5.Qf3 e6 (Rowson's 5...Ndb4!? is also quite possible ) 6.Bc4?! (or 6.Qg3 d6 7.Nf3 Nde7! – Rowson – and the knight's arrival on the kingside neutralizes White's pressure - Rowson - and the knight's arrival on the kingside neutralizes White's pressure ) 6...Ndb4! 7.Na3 Nd4 8.Qd1 Qg5 seizes the initiative. ]

[d) Rowson has also wondered whether White might try 5.Bc4!? , although after Nb6 I feel that Black will gain sufficient counterplay from this position: for example, 6.Be2 d5 7.exd6 (E.Repkova–T.Henrichs, Triesen 2007) e5! 8.Nc3

(perhaps a little meek; as 8.f4 exf4 doesn't convince,; White might try 8.Nf3 , but then Black has several ways to gain plenty of activity, including Bxd6 9.Bb5 e4!? 10.Ne5 Qg5 11.Nxc6 Bd7 ) 8...Bxd6 9.Nf3 0–0 gives Black a potentially useful grip on the centre. ]

**5...d6 6.Bb5** The most active deployment of the bishop and White's main choice. He has again tried a number of alternatives, but Black is generally fine against them with his central counterplay and the possibility of ...Bg4:

[a) 6.Bc4

**A) 6...dxe5** 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxe5 e6 9.Nc3 was B.Spassky–G. Sosonko, Tilburg 1978, and now Bd6! (Ftacnik) would have been fine for Black: 10.Bxg7 (or 10.Bb5+ Kf8 11.Bxd6+ Qxd6 and Black's king will emerge quite happily on g7 ) 10...Rg8 11.Bxd5!?

(the most critical try; Black hasn't any problems after either 11.Bh6 Qh4!; or 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Qe2+ Qe7 – Rowson – Rowson ) 11...exd5 12.Qe2+ Qe7! (correctly making the pawn sacrifice permanent, rather than allow White the advantage after 12...Be6 13.Be5 Bxe5 14.Qxe5 Rxg2 15.0–0–0 ) 13.Bf6 Qxe2+ 14.Kxe2 Be6 15.g3 Kd7 and Black's bishop–pair, central control and general activity supply reasonable compensation for the pawn.;

**B) .** Another option is another option is 6...Nf4!?, after which 7.0–0 (White might play more critically with 7.g3!?, but then d5 8.Bb5 Ng6 leaves him loath to exchange on c6 with his kingside light squares a little tender ) 7...d5 8.Be2 Bf5 was fine for Black in N. Hauwert–E.Knoppert, Haarlem 1991.;

**C) 6...-- ]**

[b) 6.Be2 Bg4 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Ne5 Bxe2 (simple and quite good, although Black might also consider 9...Nf4!? 10.Bxh5 Nxe5 with nasty ideas of ...Nd3+ and 11.0–0 Qd5 ) 10.Qxe2 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Qc6 12.0–0 f6 13.Bg3 0–0–0 14.Nc3 e5 again saw Black satisfactorily construct a Maróczy Bind in E.Kahn–Bui Vinh, Budapest 2007. ]

**6...Bd7** A solid and sensible choice.

[I'm not a fan of A solid and sensible choice. I'm not a fan of 6...Bg4 7.h3! Bh5 , ]

[but Black might consider 6...Qb6!? , simply trying to win the bishop–pair.

This has been quite rare, but seems reasonable: 7.Na3 (unsurprisingly, the meek 7.Bxc6+ Qxc6 8.0-0 was pretty comfortable for Black after Bg4 9.exd6 Qxd6 in T.Fatianova–M. Swicarz, Wroclaw 2006; and 7.Bc4 Nf4 8.g3 d5 9.Bf1 Ng6 was also quite acceptable as e5 was a little weak in L.Steiner–A.Becker, Vienna 1931 ) 7...Nc7 8.Bxc6+ ( 8.Be2!? d5 9.0-0 must be more critical, although after g6 Black should have sufficient time to unravel since 10.e6?! f6 doesn't give White enough for his pawn ) 8...Qxc6 9.exd6 Qe4+! 10.Qe2 Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 exd6 12.Rhe1 f6 13.Kf1+ Kf7 was unclear in G.Neubert–K. Trautmann, correspondence 1982; Black is currently a little passive, but after ... d5 has good chances to activate both his bishops. was unclear in G. Neubert–K.Trautmann, correspondence 1982; Black is currently a little passive, but after ... d5 has good chances to activate both his bishops. ]

**7.exd6 e6** Preparing to recapture with the bishop on d6,

[although Preparing to recapture with the bishop on d6, although 7...exd6!? may well not be so bad: 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 ( 9.Bxg7?! Rg8 10.Bb2 Bh3 wins the exchange for not quite enough compensation ) 9...Nc7 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.Bd3 left both White bishops pointing at the black kingside in the game I. Rogers–P.Ostermeyer, Biel 1984, but after left both White bishops pointing at the black kingside in the game I.Rogers–P.Ostermeyer, Biel 1984, but after 0-0 12.Nbd2

Nd5 Black remained pretty solid and doesn't appear to have any problems here. ]

**8.0-0 Bxd6 9.d4 0-0** This position has arisen twice in practice and Black appears to be fine; his strong d5–knight helping to offset the influence of White's fianchettoed bishop: **10.--**

[ 10.Nbd2 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.Bxd4 Rfd8 14.Ne4 Bf8! remained pretty level in R.Dos Santos–S.Pedersen, Matinhos 1994, ] [and 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nbd2 Be7 12.Ne4 Nc7 ( 12...f5!? 13.Nc3 Bf6 is another option ) 13.Be2 f6!? 14.Nd6 Ne8 15.Nxe8 Bxe8 16.Bc4 Bf7 17.Qe2 Qc8 18.Rfe1 e5 saw Black patiently unravel in A. Minasian–L.Aronian, Omsk 1996. As witnessed by Black's alternatives at moves 6 and 7 in our main line, theory is still somewhat in a state of flux after 3...Nf6. What does seem to be clear, though, is that luring the white e–pawn forwards is a reasonable option, with Black currently holding his own in the resulting complex positions. ]

**B20**

□ **Queenside fianchetto**

■ **A: 2...d6**

[Richard Palliser]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** A useful and quite flexible move.

[Black has a number of possible follow-ups, but one reason why he is happy to commit his pawn to d6 is that A useful and quite flexible move. Black has a number of possible follow–



ups, but one reason why he is happy to commit his pawn to d6 is that 2...e6 and 3...d5 doesn't convince: White's fianchettoed bishop is well placed for the IQP position arising after an exchange on d5 and d4. ]

**3.Bb2** Unsurprisingly this is White's main move by far, although there are alternatives:

[a] 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ ( 4.c4!? failed to trouble Black after Bxb5 5.cxb5 a6! 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Nf3 g6 8.Bb2 axb5 9.Nxb5 Bg7 in A.Lein–L. Polugaevsky, Buenos Aires Olympiad 1978 ) 4...Qxd7 5.Bb2 Nf6 transposes to the notes to White's 4th move in our main line. ]

[b] 3.Nf3 Nc6 is a position of more importance for both a 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 b3 and a 2 Nf3 d6 3 b3 move order. With White's king's knight obstructing his f-pawn, Black gains good play by closing the long diagonal: 4.Bb5 (or 4.Bb2 e5 5.c3 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.d3 Nge7 when ...f5 will supply good counterplay ) 4...e5! 5.c3 ( 5.Bb2 is likely to transpose after g6 6.0–0 Bg7 7.c3 Nge7 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 0–0; White doesn't have to play for d4, but otherwise he can easily find himself short of a plan while Black expands on the kingside: 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.c4 g6 7.d3 Bg7 8.Bb2 Nf6 9.Nc3 Nh5! was, for example, already promising for Black in H.Lwambula–P. Wells, Portsmouth 2006 was, for example, already promising for Black in H.Lwambula–P. Wells, Portsmouth 2006 ) 5...g6 6.0–0 Bg7 7.d4 (this seems natural, but Black is rather well placed to cause trouble down the long diagonal) exd4! 8.cxd4

Nge7 9.Bb2 0–0 10.h3 (trying to prevent ...Bg4; 10.Qd2?! Bg4 11.dxc5 Bxb2 12.Qxb2 Bxf3 13.cxd6 Qxd6 14.Bxc6 Nxc6 15.gxf3 Nd4 gave Black superb play for the pawn in A.Mordue–A.Martin, British Championship, Nottingham 1996 ) 10...a6 11.Bxc6 Nxc6 12.Na3 saw White trying to shore up d4 with Nc2 in P.De la Riva Aguado–P. Cramling, Barcelona 1991, but now Gallagher's suggestion of f5!? is strong: 13.exf5 (or 13.e5 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 dxe5 16.Qc5 Be6! 17.Bxe5 Rc8 18.Qe3 f4! and Black either picks up the exchange or the h3–pawn ) 13...Bxf5 14.Re1 Qf6 with strong pressure against d4 and f3. ]

**3...Nf6!?** Attacking e4 and thereby limiting White's options.

[Some readers might have expected Attacking e4 and thereby limiting White's options. Some readers might have expected 3...e5 to have been recommended, but I've never especially enjoyed playing Black after 4.Bb5+ , followed by trading the bishop if needs be, Ne2, 0–0 and f4; White's position is at least the easier to handle here. ]

#### 4.Nc3

[Black's last was clearly quite provocative because it gave White the option of 4.Bxf6 , but few grandmasters have been happy to make this exchange. White gives up the bishop–pair to damage Black's kingside, but one can also view the exchange as giving Black some useful dynamic opportunities: exf6! (the safer recapture and one in

keeping with our approach in the main line; creative souls may also wish to investigate 4...gxf6!? 5.Qh5 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Bb5 a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Nge2 Qd7, which has actually occurred in a few games and which leaves Black with the two bishops and some dynamic potential in return for his broken structure ) 5.Nc3 (or 5.Bc4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 f5 10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Ng3 Nd4 with good play for Black in M. Macko-R.Briestensky, Slovakia 2003; White really needs to try and act before Black unfurls his dark-squared bishop on the long diagonal with good play for Black in M.Macko-R. Briestensky, Slovakia 2003; White really needs to try and act before Black unfurls his dark-squared bishop on the long diagonal ) 5...g6 6.Bb5+ (trying to disrupt Black; 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.f4 has also been seen, but after f5! 10.exf5 Nb4 11.fxg6 fxg6 12.Nc1 Qh4 Black had promising activity for the pawn in U.Skorna-H.Bellmann, correspondence 2000 ) 6...Nc6 7.d4 (perhaps this should be prepared by 7.Nge2!? when Bg7 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nde2 might be OK for White, although I still quite like Black's dynamism ) 7...cxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Nge2 (or 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.Qxd6 Qa5 11.Nge2 f5 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Qxc6 Be6 with good attacking chances for the two pawns ) 9...0-0 10.Qd2 f5 was promising in A.Martinenko-V. Moiseev, Kemerovo 1991; Black's activity and powerful dark-squared bishop outweigh the weakness of d6. ]

[Another approach for White is 4.Bb5+, although this often works better when there's a knight on c6. Here Bd7 5.Bxd7+

**A)** the safer recapture; 5...Qxd7!?

being more provocative, when being more provocative when or 6.Bxf6 ( 6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qe1 Rac8

11.Nbd2 Nb4! 12.Qc1 b5 gave Black good counterplay in L.

Aronian-A.Morozevich, Monaco (blindfold) 2006 ) 6...gxf6

(this is one position in which 6...exf6 is less advisable; for example, 7.Nc3 g6 8.Nd5 Bg7 9.Qf3 f5 10.0-0-0! and White is better ) 7.Qh5 Nc6 8.Nc3

(but subsequent games revealed 8.Ne2 to be more testing, giving rise to a complex but probably slightly better for White position after Rg8 9.0-0 Qg4 10.Qxg4 Rxg4 ) 8...f5! 9.Qxf5 Qxf5 10.exf5 Nd4, which was fine for Black in B. Spassky-R.Hübner, Buenos Aires 1978.;

**B)** 5...Nbxd7 (the safer recapture) 6.Qe2 (or 6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 b5 with counterplay; note too the trick 10.Nbd2 Nxe4!

11.Bxg7 Nxd2 12.Bxf8 Nxf1 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Kxf1 Qf6 which left Black very comfortable in K.Szczepkowska-E.Partac, Chisinau 2005 ) 6...g6 7.f4

(the most aggressive set-up and otherwise Black has quite easy play, as he did after 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.a4 0-0 9.0-0 e6 in J.Le Roux-C. Ionescu, French League 2000 ) 7...Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 e6!

(the most flexible; Black takes any sting out of f5 and remains very solid) 10.c4 a6 11.Nc3 Re8 12.d3 Qc7 13.Rae1 Rab8 14.Nh4 Qd8! 15.g3 Nh5 was fine for Black, despite White's extra space, in P. Buchniecek–J.Plachetka, Czech League 2005; it's not so easy for White to find a good plan, while Black can arrange ...b5 and/or ...f5. ]

**4...g6** Neutralizing White's fianchettoed bishop, albeit at the cost of receiving doubled f-pawns. However, that isn't a problem for Black since he is usually able to exchange the front one with ...f5. This system currently looks like quite a good equalizer,

[although those who prefer not to have their pawns doubled may wish to consider the solid Neutralizing White's fianchettoed bishop, albeit at the cost of receiving doubled f-pawns. However, that isn't a problem for Black since he is usually able to exchange the front one with ...f5. This system currently looks like quite a good equalizer, although those who prefer not to have their pawns doubled may wish to consider the solid 4...Nc6 . Here's a quick round-up of the key ideas and variations:

**A) 5.Bb5** Bd7 6.f4 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2 d5! (Black often prefers 8...e6 , but there is no reason not to fight for the centre ) 9.exd5 ( 9.e5 can be met by d4! ) 9...Nxd5 10.Nh3 ( 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Nf3 Qh5 looks fine for Black too ) 10...Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Qd5 12.0-0 0-0-0 13.Ng5 Qf5 14.d3 e6 was about equal in D.Navara–

Bu Xiangzhi, Turin Olympiad 2006.;

**B) 5.f4** e6 6.Nf3 Be7

**B1)** or **7.g3!?** e5! 8.fxe5 Nxe5 (Black might also consider simply 8...dxe5 when his grip on d4 should compensate for the slight weakness of d5 ) 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Qe2 a6 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.a4 h5 with roughly level play in N.Short–A.Kosten, British League 2002;

**B2) 7.Bb5** Bd7 8.Qe2

(a more accurate move order than Navara's, although Black is fairly happy to expand on the queenside as well as in the centre) a6 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 b5 11.a4 0-0 12.0-0 Qb6 gave Black reasonable counterplay in M.Schulz–S. Kalinitschew, Berlin 1994.;

**C) 5.-- ]**

**5.Nd5** White doesn't have to double Black's f-pawns and indeed he's tried a number of alternatives:

[a) 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 is a position which might also arise from a 4 Bb5+ move order. After the 7.f4 another good approach is 7...Bg7 with very similar play for Black as we've already seen in other Bb5 and f4 lines 8.Qf3 of P.Fievet–K.Roser, Chambéry 1994, there is nothing wrong with 0-0 9.Nge2 e6 followed by ...Rb8 and ...b5. ]

[b) 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 is a set-up with which White has scored fairly well, but against a player who some experience of our ...Nf6 systems in the Closed it shouldn't be too challenging: 0-0 7.Nge2 Nc6

(another reasonable approach is 7...e5!?, blunting White's bishops and after 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Kh1 Bd7 10.d3 Nd4 11.Nb1!?, Black would have been fine in Kr.Georgiev-M.Gochev, Halkidiki 2007, had he continued Bc6 12.c4 Nxe2 13.Qxe2 Nd7 ) 8.0-0 Rb8 9.f4 Ne8! (prudent; Black both prepares ...f5 and avoids any Nd5 ideas) 10.h3 f5 11.d3 Nc7 12.Rb1 e6 13.Qd2 Nd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4+!? 15.Kh2 b6 16.Nd1 Bb7 led to a balanced manoeuvring struggle in A.Kosten-M.Senff, Marseilles 2006. ]

[c) 5.f4!? Bg7 6.Bb5+ (and not 6.Nf3? Nxe4! which saw Black net a clear pawn in A.Skripchenko-T.Kosintseva, Istanbul 2003; always watch out for tactics down the long diagonal! ) 6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 (another good approach is 7...Nbxd7 with very similar play for Black as we've already seen in other Bb5 and f4 lines ) 8.Qf3 Nc6 9.Nge2 0-0 10.0-0 Qg4! was very comfortable for Black due to White's slight weakness on d4 in K.Shanava-P.Smirnov, Izmir 2004. ]

[d) 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bb5+ (or 6.Nd5 0-0 7.Nxf6+ exf6 8.Be2 Nc6 9.0-0 Re8 10.d3 f5 - Ki.Georgiev - with easy play for Black - Ki.Georgiev - with easy play for Black ) 6...Nfd7!? (avoiding the doubled pawns and preparing ...a6 and ...b5, although there's also nothing wrong with 6...Nc6 7.Nd5 0-0 ) 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 gave Black a reasonable version of the Dragon in Z.Zugaj-A.Wojtkiewicz, Graz 1997. ]

**5...Bg7 6.Nxf6+**

[White also has 6.Bb5+ when Nc6! looks like a consistently combative approach: 7.Ne2 0-0 8.Nxf6+ exf6 . 9.0-0 Re8 10.Ng3 (or 10.d3 f5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 with equality ) 10...h5!? 11.Re1 h4 12.Nf1 h3 13.Qf3 hxg2 14.Ne3 Bd7 led to a pretty complex and roughly balanced struggle in M.Mrva-B.Gelfand, Arnhem 1988. ]

**6...exf6** Black doesn't mind an exchange of bishops in general, but there's no need to trade immediately. The text both keeps options other than ...f5 open and allows Black to recapture after any exchange on g7 with his king. **7.Bc4**

[White has also tried 7.Bb5+ Nc6 White has also tried 8.Bxc6+ (play might transpose back to Mrva-Gelfand after 8.Ne2 0-0 ) 8...bxc6 9.Qf3 0-0 10.Ne2 f5 ( 10...Re8!? 11.0-0 d5 is a decent alternative ) 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.Qc3+ Qf6 which was about equal in Kr.Georgiev-N.Stavrev, Dupnica 1998. ]

**7...0-0 8.Ne2 Nd7!?**

[Another good, and actually more common, approach is to attack e4: 8...Re8 9.f3 (also equal is 9.d3 f5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 ) 9...Nc6 10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bd5 f5 and Black had reasonable counterplay in K.Khanov-G.Rastenis, Moscow 1979. ]

**9.0-0 Nb6 10.Nf4 Bd7 11.Bd3**

White doesn't have to keep this bishop, but Black should be fine in any case:

[for example, White doesn't have to keep this bishop, but Black should be fine in any case: for example, 11.d3 Bc6 12.Re1 Nxc4 13.bxc4 Qd7 sees Black both prepare ...f5 and arrange to exchange the white knight as soon as it lands on d5. sees Black



both prepare ...f5 and arrange to exchange the white knight as soon as it lands on d5. ]

**11...Re8 12.c4 Bc6 13.Re1 Nd7!**

Having facilitated ...Bc8-d7-c6 to cover d5, the knight heads back towards e5. Black is pretty comfortable here and after **14.Nd5 a6 15.a4** a draw was actually agreed in Ye Jiangchuan-Xu Jun, Shenzhen 1992. Black might have continued, though, and **15...Bxd5 16.cxd5**

[Or or 16.exd5 f5 and again I'd slightly prefer to be Black with potential good knight against bad bishop. ]

**16...f5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7!? 18.exf5 Qg5** provides good play on the dark squares for the pawn. Whether or not White decides to inflict doubled f-pawns, the concept of 3...Nf6 4 Nc3 g6 is a healthy and fairly dynamic option for Black to choose in order to counter the often tricky move 2 b3.

**B30**

☐ **Queenside fianchetto**

☒ **B: 2...Nc6**

[Richard Palliser]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2** Consistent.

[Instead Consistent. Instead 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bb2 e5 5.Bb5 was examined in note 'b' to White's 3rd move in Line A. ]

[Another rare possibility is 3.Bb5 after which Black might just play the solid 3...d6, but I prefer Nd4! 4.Bc4 (White's usual choice, hampered as he is by the inclusion of b3; he might like to play 4.Bd3 with the idea of c3,

Bc2 and d4, but that is fairly well met by d5 )

**A)** although Ehlvest's choice and a good one, although 4...e6 is also reasonable: 5.c3 ( 5.Ne2 Nc6 6.Bb2 Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.f4 d5! 9.exd6 Bxd6 gave Black good counterplay in I.Johannesson-K.Lie, Reykjavik 2002 ) 5...Nc6 6.d4 d5 7.exd5 exd5 8.Bb5 cxd4 9.Bxc6+?! bxc6 10.Qxd4 Nf6 11.Nf3 Ba6 did likewise in M. Naigelblat-M.Lagarde, Aix les Bains 2006; note the problems caused by b3 here, especially in conjunction with making the b5-bishop unstable did likewise in M. Naigelblat-M.Lagarde, Aix les Bains 2006; note the problems caused by b3 here, especially in conjunction with making the b5-bishop unstable;

**B)** 4...Nf6!? (Ehlvest's choice and a good one) 5.Ne2?! (White is seduced by the check on f7 which is actually not so good for him, although he's curiously a little short of a good move here: 5.e5 d5! gives Black a reasonable game, such as after 6.Be2 Nd7 7.c3 Nxe2 8.Qxe2 g6; and 5.Nc3 b5 6.Nxb5 Nxb5 7.Bxb5 Nxe4 can be compared with the game; Black's extra central pawn is a useful long-term asset ) 5...Nxe4 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qd5+ e6 10.Qxe4 Bg7 11.Bb2 d5 12.Qf4+ Qf6 was promising for Black in I. Johannesson-J.Ehlvest, Reykjavik 2002. A trade of e4 for f7 is known in a number of openings, but is

rarely good for White unless he maintains a lead in development in the process. Here Black has all the trumps: control of the centre, the two bishops and potential pressure against c2. ]

**3...Nf6!?** A provocative choice, but by no means a bad one. Black lures White's e-pawn forwards, hoping to gain good Alekhine-type play with his knight on d5 and the ...d6-break. **4.e5** White usually takes up the challenge thus.

[Just as in Line A, Black shouldn't mind seeing White usually takes up the challenge thus. Just as in Line A, Black shouldn't mind seeing 4.Bxf6 gxf6 when 5.Qh5 has been tried in practice, but this simply gives Black a number of active approaches:

**A) 5...d5** 6.exd5 Nb4 7.Bb5+ Bd7 worked out fairly well in T.Effmert-M.Rehak, Bayern 2005.;

**B) .** I also quite like **5...Nd4!?** with the idea of 6.Qxc5?! ( 6.Na3 b6 7.c3 Ne6 is quite original and rather unclear; the knight isn't so badly placed at all on e6 ) 6...e5 7.Qc3 d5 with some initiative;

**C) 5...-- ]**

[White might prefer to defend his e-pawn with 4.Nc3 , but then Black can reveal another important point behind his set-up, namely with e6!

, preparing to take over the centre with ...d5. Partly due to his lack of kingside development, White seems to lack an especially good reply:

**A) 5.Bb5** Nd4 again leaves White's pieces not ideally placed: 6.e5!? (trying to change the structure is a reasonable try; 6.Bd3 d5 7.Nf3 Nxf3+ 8.Qxf3 d4 9.Ne2

Bd6 is fine for Black and he might also consider simple development after 6...d6 ) 6...Nd5 7.Nxd5 Nxb5 8.Ne3 d5!? (a little ambitious; Black might just play 8...Be7 , ...0-0 and possibly even ...b6 and ...Bb7 before touching his d-pawn ) 9.exd6 Nxd6 10.f4 f6 11.Nf3 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qe2 Bd7 14.d4! cxd4 15.Nxd4 Re8 was rather unclear in S.Lohou-S.Bromberger, Bad Wiessee 1999.;

**B) 5.f4** d5 looks like a good version of our Grand Prix lines for Black: the fianchettoed bishop isn't really helping White at all. After 6.e5 (not ideal, but 6.Bb5? d4 wins the e4-pawn; and 6.exd5 exd5 7.Nf3 Bd6 is also a little awkward for White ) 6...Ng8! (refusing to obstruct the c8-bishop and also trying to bring the knight to the ideal f5-square) 7.Nf3 Nge7 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxc6+ Nxc6 10.0-0 b5 11.Ne2 Be7 12.Ng3 h5! Black had a promising position in E.Quinteros-S.Baumegger, Paranana 1993.;

**C) 5.Nf3**

**C1)** I also can't see anything wrong with **5...d6!?** since 6.d4 (what else can White do as 6.Bb5 Bd7 isn't anything? ) 6...cxd4 7.Nxd4 Be7 looks like quite a reasonable version of the Open Sicilian for Black;

**C2) 5...d5** 6.exd5 exd5 7.d4 (at least this way White gets to make some use of his fianchettoed bishop) Bg4 8.dxc5 (this may appear a little misguided, but quite

understandably White probably didn't like the look of 8.Bb5 Qe7+! 9.Ne2 Bxf3 10.gxf3 0-0-0 ) 8...Bxc5 9.Be2 ( 9.Qe2+!? Be6 10.0-0-0 0-0 still gives Black plenty of activity, but might have been a better try ) 9...d4 10.Na4 Bb4+ was slightly better for Black in S.Horvath-P. Kiss, Zalaegerszeg 1992, since 11.c3 dxc3 12.Bxc3 Qa5 maintains the initiative.;

#### **D) 5.-- ]**

**4...Nd5 5.Nf3** This is standard, and the alternatives aren't too impressive:

[a] 5.c4 Nf4!? 6.g3?! (probably not best, but 6.Nf3 d6 7.g3 Ne6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Bg2 Ned4 sees Black's clamp on d4 offset White's small lead in development ) 6...Ne6 7.Nf3 g6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.0-0 d6 didn't give White enough for the pawn he was set to lose on e5 in R.Van Doorn-A.Van den Berg, Dutch League 1994. ]

[b] 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Nf3 Bg4 ( 8...e5!? 9.Bb5 f6 is a more ambitious and also quite tempting option; observe White's lack of pawn breaks ) 9.Be2 e6 10.0-0 Be7! was very comfortable for Black in P. Darini-M.Ghorbani, Teheran 2005, and White should always be careful about drifting into such a situation: Black's clamp on d4 gives him the more active possibilities which are going. was very comfortable for Black in P.Darini-M.Ghorbani, Teheran 2005, and White should always be careful about drifting into such a situation: Black's clamp on d4 gives him the more active possibilities which are going. ]

[c] 5.Qf3 e6 (Rowson's 5...Ndb4!? is also quite possible ) 6.Bc4?! (or 6.Qg3 d6 7.Nf3 Nde7! – Rowson – and the knight's arrival on the kingside neutralizes White's pressure - Rowson - and the knight's arrival on the kingside neutralizes White's pressure ) 6...Ndb4! 7.Na3 Nd4 8.Qd1 Qg5 seizes the initiative. ]

[d] Rowson has also wondered whether White might try 5.Bc4!? , although after Nb6 I feel that Black will gain sufficient counterplay from this position: for example, 6.Be2 d5 7.exd6 (E.Repkova-T.Henrichs, Triesen 2007) e5! 8.Nc3 (perhaps a little meek; as 8.f4 exf4 doesn't convince,; White might try 8.Nf3 , but then Black has several ways to gain plenty of activity, including Bxd6 9.Bb5 e4!? 10.Ne5 Qg5 11.Nxc6 Bd7 ) 8...Bxd6 9.Nf3 0-0 gives Black a potentially useful grip on the centre. ]

**5...d6 6.Bb5** The most active deployment of the bishop and White's main choice. He has again tried a number of alternatives, but Black is generally fine against them with his central counterplay and the possibility of ...Bg4:

[a] 6.Bc4

**A) 6...dxe5** 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxe5 e6 9.Nc3 was B.Spasky-G.

Sosonko, Tilburg 1978, and now Bd6! (Ftacnik) would have been fine for Black: 10.Bxg7 (or 10.Bb5+ Kf8 11.Bxd6+ Qxd6 and Black's king will emerge quite happily on g7 ) 10...Rg8 11.Bxd5!?

(the most critical try; Black hasn't any problems after either 11.Bh6

*Qh4!*; or *11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Qe2+ Qe7* – Rowson - Rowson ) *11...exd5 12.Qe2+ Qe7!* (correctly making the pawn sacrifice permanent, rather than allow White the advantage after *12...Be6 13.Be5 Bxe5 14.Qxe5 Rxg2 15.0-0-0* ) *13.Bf6 Qxe2+ 14.Kxe2 Be6 15.g3 Kd7* and Black's bishop-pair, central control and general activity supply reasonable compensation for the pawn.;

**B)** . Another option is another option is *6...Nf4!?* , after which *7.0-0* (White might play more critically with *7.g3!?* , but then *d5 8.Bb5 Ng6* leaves him loath to exchange on c6 with his kingside light squares a little tender ) *7...d5 8.Be2 Bf5* was fine for Black in N. Hauwert–E.Knoppert, Haarlem 1991.;

**C)** *6...--* ]

[b) *6.Be2 Bg4 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Ne5 Bxe2* (simple and quite good, although Black might also consider *9...Nf4!?* *10.Bxh5 Nxe5* with nasty ideas of *...Nd3+* and *11.0-0 Qd5* ) *10.Qxe2 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Qc6 12.0-0 f6 13.Bg3 0-0-0 14.Nc3 e5* again saw Black satisfactorily construct a Maróczy Bind in E.Kahn–Bui Vinh, Budapest 2007. ]

**6...Bd7** A solid and sensible choice.

[I'm not a fan of A solid and sensible choice. I'm not a fan of *6...Bg4 7.h3 Bh5* , ]

[but Black might consider *6...Qb6!?* , simply trying to win the bishop-pair. This has been quite rare, but seems reasonable: *7.Na3* (unsurprisingly,

the meek *7.Bxc6+ Qxc6 8.0-0* was pretty comfortable for Black after *Bg4 9.exd6 Qxd6* in T.Fatianova–M. Swicarz, Wroclaw 2006; and *7.Bc4 Nf4 8.g3 d5 9.Bf1 Ng6* was also quite acceptable as e5 was a little weak in L.Steiner–A.Becker, Vienna 1931 ) *7...Nc7 8.Bxc6+ ( 8.Be2!?* *d5 9.0-0* must be more critical, although after *g6* Black should have sufficient time to unravel since *10.e6?! f6* doesn't give White enough for his pawn ) *8...Qxc6 9.exd6 Qe4+! 10.Qe2 Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 exd6 12.Rhe1 f6 13.Kf1+ Kf7* was unclear in G.Neubert–K. Trautmann, correspondence 1982; Black is currently a little passive, but after ... d5 has good chances to activate both his bishops. was unclear in G. Neubert–K.Trautmann, correspondence 1982; Black is currently a little passive, but after ... d5 has good chances to activate both his bishops. ]

**7.exd6 e6** Preparing to recapture with the bishop on d6,

[although Preparing to recapture with the bishop on d6, although *7...exd6!?* may well not be so bad: *8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 ( 9.Bxg7?! Rg8 10.Bb2 Bh3* wins the exchange for not quite enough compensation ) *9...Nc7 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.Bd3* left both White bishops pointing at the black kingside in the game I. Rogers–P.Ostermeyer, Biel 1984, but after left both White bishops pointing at the black kingside in the game I.Rogers–P.Ostermeyer, Biel 1984, but after *0-0 12.Nbd2 Nd5* Black remained pretty solid and doesn't appear to have any problems



here. ]

**8.0-0 Bxd6 9.d4 0-0** This position has arisen twice in practice and Black appears to be fine; his strong d5-knight helping to offset the influence of White's fianchettoed bishop: **10.--**

[ 10.Nbd2 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.Bxd4 Rfd8 14.Ne4 Bf8! remained pretty level in R.Dos Santos-S.Pedersen, Matinhos 1994, ] [and 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nbd2 Be7 12.Ne4 Nc7 ( 12...f5!? 13.Nc3 Bf6 is another option ) 13.Be2 f6!? 14.Nd6 Ne8 15.Nxe8 Bxe8 16.Bc4 Bf7 17.Qe2 Qc8 18.Rfe1 e5 saw Black patiently unravel in A. Minasian-L.Aronian, Omsk 1996. As witnessed by Black's alternatives at moves 6 and 7 in our main line, theory is still somewhat in a state of flux after 3...Nf6. What does seem to be clear, though, is that luring the white e-pawn forwards is a reasonable option, with Black currently holding his own in the resulting complex positions. ]

**B20**

□ **Queenside Fianchetto**

■ **D6,A**

[Richard Palliser, MH]

**B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves 1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** A useful and quite flexible move.

[Black has a number of possible follow-ups, but one reason why he is happy to commit his pawn to d6 is that A useful and quite flexible move. Black has a number of possible follow-ups, but one reason why he is happy

to commit his pawn to d6 is that 2...e6 and 3...d5 doesn't convince: White's fianchettoed bishop is well placed for the IQP position arising after an exchange on d5 and d4. ]

**3.Bb2** Unsurprisingly this is White's main move by far, although there are alternatives:

[a) 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ ( 4.c4!? failed to trouble Black after Bxb5 5.cxb5 a6! 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Nf3 g6 8.Bb2 axb5 9.Nxb5 Bg7 in A.Lein-L. Polugaevsky, Buenos Aires Olympiad 1978 ) 4...Qxd7 5.Bb2 Nf6 transposes to the notes to White's 4th move in our main line. ]

[b) 3.Nf3 Nc6 is a position of more importance for both a 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 b3 and a 2 Nf3 d6 3 b3 move order. With White's king's knight obstructing his f-pawn, Black gains good play by closing the long diagonal: 4.Bb5 (or 4.Bb2 e5 5.c3 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.d3 Nge7 when ...f5 will supply good counterplay ) 4...e5! 5.c3 ( 5.Bb2 is likely to transpose after g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.c3 Nge7 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 0-0; White doesn't have to play for d4, but otherwise he can easily find himself short of a plan while Black expands on the kingside: 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.c4 g6 7.d3 Bg7 8.Bb2 Nf6 9.Nc3 Nh5! was, for example, already promising for Black in H.Lwambula-P. Wells, Portsmouth 2006 was, for example, already promising for Black in H.Lwambula-P.Wells, Portsmouth 2006 ) 5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.d4 (this seems natural, but Black is rather well placed to cause trouble down the long diagonal) exd4! 8.cxd4 Nge7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.h3 (trying to

prevent ...Bg4; 10.Qd2?! Bg4  
 11.dxc5 Bxb2 12.Qxb2 Bxf3 13.cxd6  
 Qxd6 14.Bxc6 Nxc6 15.gxf3 Nd4  
 gave Black superb play for the pawn  
 in A.Mordue–A.Martin, British  
 Championship, Nottingham 1996 )  
 10...a6 11.Bxc6 Nxc6 12.Na3  
 saw White trying to shore up d4 with  
 Nc2 in P.De la Riva Aguado–P.  
 Cramling, Barcelona 1991, but now  
 Gallagher's suggestion of f5!?  
 is strong: 13.exf5 (or 13.e5 cxd4  
 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 dxe5  
 16.Qc5 Be6! 17.Bxe5 Rc8 18.Qe3  
 f4! and Black either picks up the  
 exchange or the h3–pawn ) 13...Bxf5  
 14.Re1 Qf6 with strong pressure  
 against d4 and f3. ]

**3...Nf6!?** Attacking e4 and thereby  
 limiting White's options.

[Some readers might have expected  
 Attacking e4 and thereby limiting  
 White's options. Some readers might  
 have expected 3...e5 to have been  
 recommended, but I've never  
 especially enjoyed playing Black after  
 4.Bb5+ , followed by trading the  
 bishop if needs be, Ne2, 0–0 and f4;  
 White's position is at least the easier  
 to handle here. ]

[ 3...Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6  
 Bxc6 7.Qe2 e6 8.c4 ( 8.Nf3 Nf6  
 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 b5 11.0–0 0–0  
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne1 Qb6 14.c4 Nc7  
 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.dxe4 dxe5 17.fxe5  
 Rad8 18.Nc2 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bh6  
 20.Rf6 Bd2 21.Na3 Qa5 22.Rf3 Bh6  
 11.♖e1 h6 12.♗b1 ♕d7\_99 (1874)–  
 Game 2 (2170) SFN–3284 2023  
 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson]  
 0–1 (59) ) 8...b5 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nd2  
 Qa5 11.e5 bxc4 12.dxc4 dxe5

13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Ngf3 Rd8 15.0–0–0  
 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Be7 17.Ne4 0–0  
 18.Bc3 1.f4 e5 2.fe5/ 4.♘f3 g5 5.g  
 (2515)–Virviescas Sanchez,C (2579)  
 Zürich 2002 Corr 62 USA/Canada  
 [Siaperas] 0–1 (45) ]

#### 4.Nc3N

[Black's last was clearly quite  
 provocative because it gave White the  
 option of 4.Bxf6 , but few  
 grandmasters have been happy to  
 make this exchange. White gives up  
 the bishop–pair to damage Black's  
 kingside, but one can also view the  
 exchange as giving Black some useful  
 dynamic opportunities:

**A)** the safer recapture and one in  
 keeping with our approach in the  
 main line; creative souls may also  
 wish to investigate 4...gxf6!? 5.Qh5  
 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Bb5 ( 7.f4 Nd4  
 8.Bd3 e6 9.f5 exf5 10.exf5 0–0  
 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Nxe2 d5  
 13.0–0 b5 14.c3 c4 15.Bc2 Re8  
 16.Nd4 Re5 17.Rf4 Qe7 18.Kf1  
 Bd7 19.Rh4 h6 20.Rg4 Kh8  
 21.Rg3 Qf8 14.h4 b4 15.♘e2 e5  
 16.♙a7 (2183)–Kuebler,J (2500)  
 Chessfriend.com 2014 200 Traps In  
 The Opening [Evening Mail 8 Mar  
 1888; GWH 24/3/1888] 0–1 (45) )  
 7...a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Nge2 Qd7  
 , which has actually occurred in a  
 few games and which leaves Black  
 with the two bishops and some  
 dynamic potential in return for his  
 broken structure;

**B)** 4...exf6! 5.Nc3 (or 5.Bc4 g6  
 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0–0  
 0–0 9.f4 f5 10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Ng3  
 Nd4 with good play for Black in M.  
 Macko–R.Briestensky, Slovakia

2003; White really needs to try and act before Black unfurls his dark-squared bishop on the long diagonal with good play for Black in M.Macko-R.Briestensky, Slovakia 2003; White really needs to try and act before Black unfurls his dark-squared bishop on the long diagonal ) 5...g6 6.Bb5+ (trying to disrupt Black; 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.f4 has also been seen, but after f5! 10.exf5 Nb4 11.fxc6 fxc6 12.Nc1 Qh4 Black had promising activity for the pawn in U.Skorna-H. Bellmann, correspondence 2000 ) 6...Nc6 7.d4 (perhaps this should be prepared by 7.Nge2!? when Bg7 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nde2 might be OK for White, although I still quite like Black's dynamism ) 7...cxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Nge2 (or 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.Qxd6 Qa5 11.Nge2 f5 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Qxc6 Be6 with good attacking chances for the two pawns ) 9...0-0 10.Qd2 f5 was promising in A.Martinenko-V. Moiseev, Kemerovo 1991; Black's activity and powerful dark-squared bishop outweigh the weakness of d6. ]

[Another approach for White is 4.Bb5+ , although this often works better when there's a knight on c6. Here Bd7 5.Bxd7+

**A)** the safer recapture; 5...Qxd7!? being more provocative, when being more provocative when

**A1)** 6.d3 g6 ( 6...Nc6 7.f4 e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5 Nd7

13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3 Rhg8 18.Rae1 Chapter 7-1. e4 c5 2. b3 e/d pawns [Gotham] ) 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qe1 Rac8 11.Nbd2 Nb4! 12.Qc1 b5 gave Black good counterplay in L.Aronian-A. Morozevich, Monaco (blindfold) 2006;

**A2)** or 6.Bxf6 gxf6 (this is one position in which 6...exf6 is less advisable; for example, 7.Nc3 g6 8.Nd5 Bg7 9.Qf3 f5 10.0-0-0! and White is better ) 7.Qh5 Nc6 ( 7...Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4 9.Qxg4 Rxg4 10.Nbc3 Nc6 11.0-0 Bh6 12.Nd5 Kd7 13.f4 Rg6 14.c3 Rag8 15.g3 Bf8 16.b4 h5 17.a4 h4 18.a5 Rh6 19.Rfb1 e6 20.b5 Ne7 21.a6 exd5 22.b6 10.♗e5 ♕e6 11.b3\_7650-Rogic,D Belgrad 1990 Lexikon04 [Dragan Solak] 1-0 (33) ) 8.Nc3

(but subsequent games revealed 8.Ne2 to be more testing, giving rise to a complex but probably slightly better for White position after Rg8 9.0-0 Qg4 10.Qxg4 Rxg4 ) 8...f5! 9.Qxf5 Qxf5 10.exf5 Nd4 , which was fine for Black in B. Spassky-R.Hübner, Buenos Aires 1978.;

**B)** 5...Nbxd7 (the safer recapture) 6.Qe2 (or 6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 b5 with counterplay; note too the trick 10.Nbd2 Nxe4! 11.Bxg7 Nxd2 12.Bxf8 Nxf1 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Kxf1 Qf6 which left Black very comfortable in

K.Szczepkowska–E.Partac, Chisinau 2005 ) 6...g6 7.f4 (the most aggressive set-up and otherwise Black has quite easy play, as he did after 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.a4 0-0 9.0-0 e6 in J.Le Roux–C. Ionescu, French League 2000 ) 7...Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 e6! (the most flexible; Black takes any sting out of f5 and remains very solid) 10.c4 a6 11.Nc3 Re8 12.d3 Qc7 13.Rae1 Rab8 14.Nh4 Qd8! 15.g3 Nh5 was fine for Black, despite White's extra space, in P. Buchniecek–J.Plachetka, Czech League 2005; it's not so easy for White to find a good plan, while Black can arrange ...b5 and/or ...f5. ]

**4...g6** Neutralizing White's fianchettoed bishop, albeit at the cost of receiving doubled f-pawns. However, that isn't a problem for Black since he is usually able to exchange the front one with ...f5. This system currently looks like quite a good equalizer,

[although those who prefer not to have their pawns doubled may wish to consider the solid Neutralizing White's fianchettoed bishop, albeit at the cost of receiving doubled f-pawns. However, that isn't a problem for Black since he is usually able to exchange the front one with ...f5. This system currently looks like quite a good equalizer, although those who prefer not to have their pawns doubled may wish to consider the solid 4...Nc6 . Here's a quick round-up of the key ideas and variations:

**A) 5.Bb5** Bd7 6.f4 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2 d5! (Black often

prefers 8...e6 , but there is no reason not to fight for the centre ) 9.exd5 ( 9.e5 can be met by d4! ) 9...Nxd5 10.Nh3 ( 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Nf3 Qh5 looks fine for Black too ) 10...Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Qd5 12.0-0 0-0-0 13.Ng5 Qf5 14.d3 e6 was about equal in D.Navara–Bu Xiangzhi, Turin Olympiad 2006.;

**B) 5.f4** e6 6.Nf3 Be7

**B1) or 7.g3!?** e5! 8.fxe5 Nxe5 (Black might also consider simply 8...dxe5 when his grip on d4 should compensate for the slight weakness of d5 ) 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Qe2 a6 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.a4 h5 with roughly level play in N.Short–A.Kosten, British League 2002;

**B2) 7.Bb5** Bd7 8.Qe2 (a more accurate move order than Navara's, although Black is fairly happy to expand on the queenside as well as in the centre) a6 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 b5 11.a4 0-0 12.0-0 Qb6 gave Black reasonable counterplay in M.Schulz–S. Kalinitschew, Berlin 1994.;

**C) 5.-- ]**

**5.Nd5** White doesn't have to double Black's f-pawns and indeed he's tried a number of alternatives:

[a) 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 is a position which might also arise from a 4 Bb5+ move order. After the 7.f4 another good approach is 7...Bg7 with very similar play for Black as we've already seen in other Bb5 and f4 lines 8.Qf3 of P.Fievet–K.Roser, Chambéry 1994, there is nothing

wrong with 0-0 9.Nge2 e6 followed by ...Rb8 and ...b5. ]

[b] 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 is a set-up with which White has scored fairly well, but against a player who some experience of our ...Nf6 systems in the Closed it shouldn't be too challenging: 0-0 7.Nge2 Nc6 (another reasonable approach is 7...e5!?, blunting White's bishops and after 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Kh1 Bd7 10.d3 Nd4 11.Nb1!?, Black would have been fine in Kr.Georgiev-M.Gochev, Halkidiki 2007, had he continued Bc6 12.c4 Nxe2 13.Qxe2 Nd7) 8.0-0 Rb8 9.f4 Ne8! (prudent; Black both prepares ...f5 and avoids any Nd5 ideas) 10.h3 f5 11.d3 Nc7 12.Rb1 e6 13.Qd2 Nd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4+!? 15.Kh2 b6 16.Nd1 Bb7 led to a balanced manoeuvring struggle in A.Kosten-M.Senff, Marseilles 2006. ]

[c] 5.f4!? Bg7 6.Bb5+ (and not 6.Nf3? Nxe4! which saw Black net a clear pawn in A.Skripchenko-T.Kosintseva, Istanbul 2003; always watch out for tactics down the long diagonal! ) 6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 (another good approach is 7...Nbx d7 with very similar play for Black as we've already seen in other Bb5 and f4 lines ) 8.Qf3 Nc6 9.Nge2 0-0 10.0-0 Qg4! was very comfortable for Black due to White's slight weakness on d4 in K.Shanava-P.Smirnov, Izmir 2004. ]

[d] 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bb5+ (or 6.Nd5 0-0 7.Nxf6+ exf6 8.Be2 Nc6 9.0-0 Re8 10.d3 f5 - Ki.Georgiev - with easy play for Black - Ki.Georgiev - with easy play for Black ) 6...Nfd7!? (avoiding the doubled pawns and

preparing ...a6 and ...b5, although there's also nothing wrong with 6...Nc6 7.Nd5 0-0 ) 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 gave Black a reasonable version of the Dragon in Z.Zugaj-A.Wojtkiewicz, Graz 1997. ]

### 5...Bg7 6.Nxf6+

[White also has 6.Bb5+ when Nc6! looks like a consistently combative approach: 7.Ne2 0-0 8.Nxf6+ exf6 . 9.0-0 Re8 10.Ng3 (or 10.d3 f5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 with equality ) 10...h5!? 11.Re1 h4 12.Nf1 h3 13.Qf3 hxg2 14.Ne3 -0.65/22 ( 14.Qxg2= 0.01/22 f5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.exf5 ) 14...Bd7 -0.01/22 led to a pretty complex and roughly balanced struggle in M.Mrva-B.Gelfand, Arnhem 1988. ( 14...Nd4! -0.65/22 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.Nxg2 Re5 )]

**6...exf6** Black doesn't mind an exchange of bishops in general, but there's no need to trade immediately. The text both keeps options other than ...f5 open and allows Black to recapture after any exchange on g7 with his king. **7.Bc4**

[White has also tried 7.Bb5+ Nc6 White has also tried 8.Bxc6+ (play might transpose back to Mrva-Gelfand after 8.Ne2 0-0 ) 8...bxc6 9.Qf3 0-0 10.Ne2 f5 0.34/21 ( 10...Re8!? 11.0-0 d5 is a decent alternative; 10...d5= -0.03/19 was preferable. ) 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.Qc3+ Qf6 which was about equal in Kr.Georgiev-N.Stavrev, Dupnica 1998. ]

### 7...0-0 8.Ne2 Nd7!?

[Another good, and actually more common, approach is to attack e4: 8...Re8 9.f3 (also equal is 9.d3 f5



10.Bxg7 Kxg7 ) 9...Nc6 10.0-0 Ne5  
11.Bd5 f5 and Black had reasonable  
counterplay in K.Khanov–G.Rastenis,  
Moscow 1979. ]

### 9.0-0 Nb6 10.Nf4 Bd7 11.Bd3

White doesn't have to keep this bishop,  
but Black should be fine in any case:

[for example, White doesn't have to  
keep this bishop, but Black should be  
fine in any case: for example, 11.d3  
Bc6 12.Re1 Nxc4 0.51/23  
( 12...Re8= 0.10/21 ) 13.bxc4 0.18/21  
( 13.dxc4± 0.51/23 might be stronger.  
Qd7 14.f3 ) 13...Qd7 sees Black both  
prepare ...f5 and arrange to exchange  
the white knight as soon as it lands on  
d5. sees Black both prepare ...f5  
and arrange to exchange the white  
knight as soon as it lands on d5. ]

[ 11.d3 seems wilder. Bc6 12.Qd2 f5  
13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Rae1 ]

### 11...Re8 12.c4 Bc6 0.35/22

[ 12...f5= 0.01/23 13.Bxg7 fxe4 ]

**13.Re1 Nd7!** Having facilitated ...Bc8–  
d7–c6 to cover d5, the knight heads  
back towards e5. Black is pretty  
comfortable here and after **14.Nd5**  
–0.35/22

[ Better is 14.Bc3= 0.28/20 ]

### 14...a6 0.26/21

[ Black should play 14...Bxd5±  
–0.35/22 15.exd5 ( 15.cxd5 f5= )  
15...Rxe1+ 16.Qxe1 f5 17.Bxg7  
Kxg7 ]

**15.a4** –0.17/22 a draw was actually  
agreed in Ye Jiangchuan–Xu Jun,  
Shenzhen 1992. Black might have  
continued, though, and

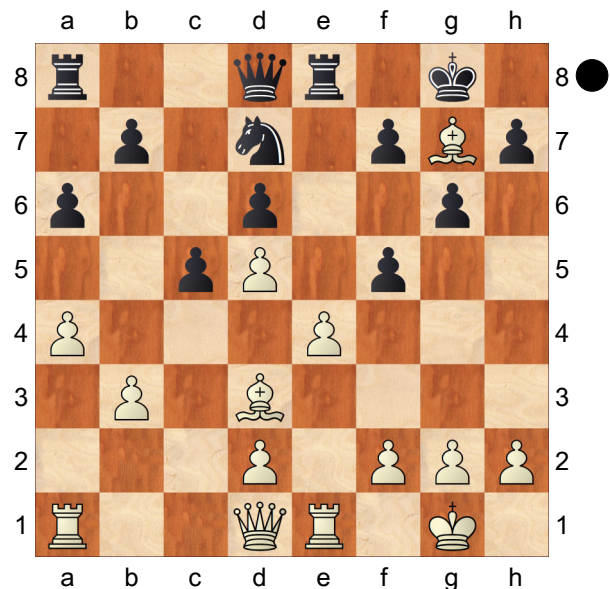
[ ♞15.Bc3 0.26/21 ]

### 15...Bxd5= 16.cxd5

[ Or or 16.exd5 f5 and again I'd  
slightly prefer to be Black with

potential good knight against bad  
bishop. ]

### 16...f5 17.Bxg7



Black must now prevent Bg7–c3.

### 17...Kxg7 18.exf5 Qg5 0.43/19

provides good play on the dark squares  
for the pawn. Whether or not White  
decides to inflict doubled f–pawns, the  
concept of 3...Nf6 4 Nc3 g6 is a healthy  
and fairly dynamic option for Black to  
choose in order to counter the often  
tricky move 2 b3. A rather calm draw.  
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very  
precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)

[ 18...Rxe1+= 0.03/21 19.Qxe1 Qh4 ]

**B20**

□ **Rowson,Jonathan**

■ **Shaw,J**

Exhibition (2)

29.07.2003

[Rowson]

This is not a recent game, but it's my  
only experience with 2.b3 and does  
have some theoretical value. It was  
played as a the second of a 2 game  
rapid match in Scotland to bring

attention to an art exhibition about chess. Rowson,Jonathan: 'This is not a recent game, but it's my only experience with 2.b3 and does have some theoretical value. It was played as a the second of a 2 game rapid match in Scotland to bring attention to an art exhibition about chess.' **1.e4**

Rowson,Jonathan **1...c5 2.b3 d6**

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6** This seems needlessly provocative, especially in a 30 minute game, but it might be ok and if it is, it's a pain for White, because it neutralizes his pride and joy on b2.

Rowson,Jonathan: 'This seems needlessly provocative, especially in a 30 minute game, but it might be ok and if it is, it's a pain for White, because it neutralizes his pride and joy on b2.'

**5.Nd5 Nbd7 6.Bb5 Bg7 7.Nxf6+ Bxf6 8.Bxf6 exf6 9.Ne2 0-0**

[ 9...a6!? ]

**10.0-0**

[ 10.Nc3!? ]

**10...Nb6**

[ 10...a6!? looks more accurate.

11.Bxd7 ( 11.Bd3 Ne5; 11.Bc4 b5

12.Bd5 Rb8 and Nb6. ) 11...Bxd7

12.Nc3 Bc6 and I suspect that

White's advantage is mainly visual.

Rowson,Jonathan: 'and I suspect that

White's advantage is mainly visual.'

13.d4 Qa5 14.Qd3 Rad8 ]

**11.Nc3 f5 12.Qf3! a6 13.Bd3 fxe4**

**14.Bxe4** Now there is a clear advantage for White due to the d5 square and the misplaced knight on b6. Rowson, Jonathan: 'Now there is a clear advantage for White due to the d5 square and the misplaced knight on b6.'

**14...Qc7 15.a4! f5 16.Bd5+ Nxd5**

**17.Nxd5 Qf7 18.Rae1 Be6 19.Nf4**

**Bc8?!**

[ 19...Rae8 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Rxe6

Qxe6 22.Qxb7 d5 I was more

concerned about this line at the time,

because it's hard to see how to get

my rook on f1 involved- but after

Rowson,Jonathan: 'I was more

concerned about this line at the time,

because it's hard to see how to get my

rook on f1 involved- but after' 23.b4!

White is still better. Rowson,

Jonathan: 'White is still better.' ]

**20.h4! Rb8 21.Qg3 Bd7 22.h5 Kg7**

**23.hxg6 hxg6 24.Nh5+ Kh6 25.Qxd6**

**Rbe8**

[ 25...Kxh5 26.Re7 Qf6 27.Qh2+

Kg5 28.f4+ Kg4 29.Qh3# ]

**26.Nf4 c4 27.bxc4 Bxa4 28.Ne6**

**1-0**

**B20**

☐ **Najdorf B3**

☒ **Buck**

[Shen, Arthur]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** This is the best way to meet b3 – black gets good play

immediately. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 Nc6 ( 4...Bg7 This is also fine,

but Nc6 is also fine and looks more

fun. 5.e5 Ng8 6.e6 Nf6 7.exf7+

Kxf7 8.g4 h6 9.Nc3; 4...d6

is also fine 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6

7.Bxd7+ Bxd7 ) 5.e5 Nh5 6.Bc4

( 6.e6 This looks scary, but white

doesn't have enough pieces

developed to actually achieve

anything, and is in reality simply

helping black develop f6 7.exd7+

Bxd7+; 6.Qe3 b6 ) 6...e6

**A) 7.Ne2 Bg7 8.Qe3 ( 8.g4**

Nxe5 ) 8...d5 9.Bb5 d4 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qe4 Qd5 Terrible for white 12.Qxd5 exd5;

**B)** 7.g4 Interesting, but also terribly weakening. 7...Ng7 Black will play h5 and take advantage of white's weaknesses

**B1)** 8.Qf6 h5

**B1a)** 9.g5 Qxf6 10.exf6 ( 10.gxf6 Nf5 ) 10...Nf5;

**B1b)** 9.f3 Rh7! 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8;

**B2)** 8.Qf4?! h5 9.Nc3 d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Qe4 hxg4;

**B3)** 8.Qg2 h5 9.h3 Qc7 ( 9...Nd4 ) 10.Nf3 b5!

A very strong pawn sacrifice 11.Bxb5 Bb7 Black has more than enough compensation ]

[ 4.h4 This is very crude, and doesn't seem too effective Bg7 5.e5 Nh5!? ( 5...Nd5 Of course this is fine as well )]

[ 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 White will try to occupy d5 Bg7

**A)** 6.Bd3 0-0 7.f4?! ( 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0-0 d6 ) 7...f5! 8.exf5 d5 9.fxg6 hxg6 10.Nge2 Nc6;

**B)** 6.Bc4 d6 7.Nge2 0-0 8.Ng3 Nc6 9.0-0 h5! White's pieces are getting pushed around

**B1)** 10.h4 Nd4 ( 10...Ne5! ) 11.Nce2 Nxe2+ ( 11...Bg4 12.f3 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 Be6 14.c3 d5 ) 12.Qxe2 f5!;

**B2)** 10.h3 h4 11.Nge2 f5 12.d3 f4! 13.f3 ( 13.Nd5? f3-+ ) 13...g5

[ 4.c4 d6 5.g3 ( 5.Bxf6 exf6 ) 5...Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.Ne2 h5 ( 7...Bg4 8.h3 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 0-0 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.f4 Nd4 13.Qd3

Nb8 ) 8.h3 Bd7 ]

[ 4.f4 This setup is ineffective with the bishop on g7 Bg7 5.e5 ( 5.Nf3 0-0 6.d3 d5 7.e5 Ng4 ) 5...Nd5 6.Qf3 Nb4 7.Na3 0-0 8.c3 N4c6 ] [ 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 Nc6 8.Nc3 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Nd7 ]

[ 4.Nc3 Bg7

**A)** 5.Nd5 White is too underdeveloped to wreck black's pawn structure 0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6 ( 6...Bxf6 also fine 7.Bxf6 exf6 8.Bc4 f5 9.exf5 d5 10.Bd3 Qg5 )

**A1)** 7.Bc4 Re8 ( 7...f5 also ok ) 8.Bd5 Nc6;

**A2)** 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Ne2 Ne5 9.Bc4 f5;

**A3)** 7.d3 Re8 8.Be2 Nc6 ( 8...d5 ) 9.Nf3 f5 10.Bxg7 fxe4 11.dxe4 Kxg7 12.0-0 ( 12.Qd3 d5 ) 12...Rxe4;

**B)** 5.e5 Nh5

**B1)** 6.Nd5?! d6 7.g4 dxe5 8.Nxe7 ( 8.Bg2 e6 9.Ne3 Nf4 ) 8...Qxe7 9.gxh5 0-0;

**B2)** 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne4 d6 ( 7...b6 also better for black 8.g3 0-0 9.Bg2 d5 ) 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 Black is much better, every move gives an advantage Qc7 ( 10...Qb8; 10...0-0; 10...Nf4 ) 11.exd6 Qa5+ 12.c3 Bxe4 13.d7+ Kf8 14.dxe4 Bxc3+ 15.Bxc3 Qxc3+ 16.Kf1 Rd8 ]

**4...Nd5** In every line, white is going to have to waste time dealing with his weak e5 pawn, giving black enough time to complete his development with a good game. **5.Bc4**

[ 5.e6 This looks scary, but in reality

black is very solid and this move just helps black develop f6 6.exd7+ ( 6.h4 dxe6 7.h5 Bg7 8.Nf3 e5 9.Bc4 Be6 10.Qe2 Nc6 ) 6...Qxd7 Carlsen's move 7.Nc3 Qe6+ 8.Qe2 Nxc3 9.Bxc3 Nc6 10.0-0-0 Bh6 ] [ 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.f4 d6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 ] [ 5.Qf3 Nb4

**A) 6.Na3** Bg7 7.e6 0-0 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.Qc3+ f6 10.Qxc5 N8a6 ( 10...N8c6 ) 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Qe3 dxe6 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B) 6.Bc4** e6 7.Qd1 ( 7.Na3?! Bg7 8.Nb5? 0-0 $\bar{f}$  9.0-0-0 Nxa2+ 10.Kb1 Nb4 ) 7...Bg7 8.c3 Nd5 9.d4 Nc6 ]

[ 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.e6 0-0 8.exf7+ Rxf7 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.h4 d5 11.h5 Qd6 ]

[ 5.d4 Qa5+

**A) 6.Qd2** Qxd2+ 7.Nxd2 cxd4 8.Ngf3 ( 8.Bxd4 Nc6 ) 8...Bg7 9.Nxd4 Bxe5 10.N2f3 Bg7;

**B) 6.c3** cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 8.Qe4 ( 8.Qd2 Nc7 9.f4 Bh6 ) 8...f5 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Qc2 Bg7 11.Nf3 d5 12.Nbd2 e5 ]

[ 5.c4 Nc7 ]

[ 5.h4 Bg7 6.Nf3 ( 6.h5 Nc6 ) 6...Nc6 7.Na3 d6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bc4 Be6 10.Ng5 Bxe5 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Bxe5 Nxe5 13.Bb5+ Nc6 14.h5 Kd7 $\bar{f}$  ]

**5...Nb6 6.e6**

[ 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.f4 0-0 8.Nf3 d6 9.0-0 Nd5 10.g3 Nb4 ]

[ 6.h4 Bg7 7.h5 Nxc4 8.bxc4 d6 ]

[ 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.e6+ Kg8 8.Qf3 dxe6 9.Qc3 Qd4 ]

**6...f6 7.Bb5**

[ 7.exd7+ Qxd7 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.Nc3 e5 10.Nge2 0-0 ]

**7...Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.exd7 Bxd7 10.Bxd7 Qxd7**

**B20**

□ **Najdorf B3**

■ **Black**

[Shen, Arthur]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** This is the best way to meet b3 – black gets good play immediately. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Qf3 Nc6 ( 4...Bg7 This is also fine, but Nc6 is also fine and looks more fun. 5.e5 Ng8 6.e6 Nf6 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.g4 h6 9.Nc3; 4...d6 is also fine 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Bxd7+ Bxd7 ) 5.e5 Nh5 6.Bc4 ( 6.e6 This looks scary, but white doesn't have enough pieces developed to actually achieve anything, and is in reality simply helping black develop f6 7.exd7+ Bxd7 $\bar{f}$ ; 6.Qe3 b6 ) 6...e6

**A) 7.Ne2** Bg7 8.Qe3 ( 8.g4 Nxe5 ) 8...d5 9.Bb5 d4 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qe4 Qd5 Terrible for white 12.Qxd5 exd5;

**B) 7.g4** Interesting, but also terribly weakening. 7...Ng7 Black will play h5 and take advantage of white's weaknesses

**B1) 8.Qf6** h5

**B1a) 9.g5** Qxf6 10.exf6 ( 10.gxf6 Nf5 ) 10...Nf5;

**B1b) 9.f3** Rh7! 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B2) 8.Qf4?! h5** 9.Nc3 d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Qe4 hxg4;

**B3) 8.Qg2** h5 9.h3 Qc7 ( 9...Nd4 ) 10.Nf3 b5!

A very strong pawn sacrifice

11.Bxb5 Bb7 Black has more than enough compensation ]

[ 4.h4 This is very crude, and doesn't seem too effective Bg7 5.e5 Nh5!? ( 5...Nd5 Of course this is fine as well )]

[ 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 White will try to occupy d5 Bg7

**A)** 6.Bd3 0-0 7.f4?! ( 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0-0 d6 ) 7...f5! 8.exf5 d5 9.fxg6 hxg6 10.Nge2 Nc6;

**B)** 6.Bc4 d6 7.Nge2 0-0 8.Ng3 Nc6 9.0-0 h5! White's pieces are getting pushed around

**B1)** 10.h4 Nd4 ( 10...Ne5!?) 11.Nce2 Nxe2+ ( 11...Bg4 12.f3 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 Be6 14.c3 d5 ) 12.Qxe2 f5!±;

**B2)** 10.h3 h4 11.Nge2 f5 12.d3 f4! 13.f3□ ( 13.Nd5? f3-+ ) 13...g5± ]

[ 4.c4 d6 5.g3 ( 5.Bxf6 exf6 ) 5...Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.Ne2 h5 ( 7...Bg4 8.h3 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 0-0 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.f4 Nd4 13.Qd3 Nb8± ) 8.h3 Bd7 ]

[ 4.f4 This setup is ineffective with the bishop on g7 Bg7 5.e5 ( 5.Nf3 0-0 6.d3 d5 7.e5 Ng4 ) 5...Nd5 6.Qf3 Nb4 7.Na3 0-0 8.c3 N4c6± ]

[ 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 Nc6 8.Nc3 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Nd7± ]

[ 4.Nc3 Bg7

**A)** 5.Nd5 White is too underdeveloped to wreck black's pawn structure 0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6 ( 6...Bxf6 also fine 7.Bxf6 exf6 8.Bc4 f5 9.exf5 d5 10.Bd3 Qg5 )

**A1)** 7.Bc4 Re8 ( 7...f5 also ok ) 8.Bd5 Nc6±;

**A2)** 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Ne2 Ne5

9.Bc4 f5;

**A3)** 7.d3 Re8 8.Be2 Nc6 ( 8...d5 ) 9.Nf3 f5 10.Bxg7 fxe4 11.dxe4 Kxg7 12.0-0 ( 12.Qd3 d5± ) 12...Rxe4±;

**B)** 5.e5 Nh5

**B1)** 6.Nd5?! d6 7.g4 dxe5 8.Nxe7 ( 8.Bg2 e6 9.Ne3 Nf4 ) 8...Qxe7 9.gxh5 0-0±;

**B2)** 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne4 d6 ( 7...b6 also better for black 8.g3 0-0 9.Bg2 d5 ) 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 Black is much better, every move gives an advantage Qc7 ( 10...Qb8; 10...0-0; 10...Nf4 ) 11.exd6 Qa5+ 12.c3 Bxe4 13.d7+ Kf8 14.dxe4 Bxc3+ 15.Bxc3 Qxc3+ 16.Kf1 Rd8 ]

**4...Nd5** In every line, white is going to have to waste time dealing with his weak e5 pawn, giving black enough time to complete his development with a good game. **5.Bc4**

[ 5.e6 This looks scary, but in reality black is very solid and this move just helps black develop f6 6.exd7+ ( 6.h4 dxe6 7.h5 Bg7 8.Nf3 e5 9.Bc4 Be6 10.Qe2 Nc6 ) 6...Qxd7 Carlsen's move 7.Nc3 Qe6+ 8.Qe2 Nxc3 9.Bxc3 Nc6 10.0-0-0 Bh6 ] [ 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.f4 d6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 ]

[ 5.Qf3 Nb4

**A)** 6.Na3 Bg7 7.e6 0-0 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.Qc3+ f6 10.Qxc5 N8a6 ( 10...N8c6 ) 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Qe3 dxe6±;

**B)** 6.Bc4 e6 7.Qd1 ( 7.Na3?! Bg7 8.Nb5? 0-0± 9.0-0-0 Nxa2+ 10.Kb1 Nb4 ) 7...Bg7 8.c3 Nd5 9.d4 Nc6 ]



[ 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.e6 0-0  
8.exf7+ Rxf7 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.h4 d5  
11.h5 Qd6 ]

[ 5.d4 Qa5+

**A) 6.Qd2** Qxd2+ 7.Nxd2 cxd4  
8.Ngf3 ( 8.Bxd4 Nc6 ) 8...Bg7  
9.Nxd4 Bxe5 10.N2f3 Bg7;

**B) 6.c3** cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 8.Qe4  
( 8.Qd2 Nc7 9.f4 Bh6 ) 8...f5  
9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Qc2 Bg7 11.Nf3  
d5 12.Nbd2 e5 ]

[ 5.c4 Nc7 ]

[ 5.h4 Bg7 6.Nf3 ( 6.h5 Nc6 ) 6...Nc6  
7.Na3 d6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bc4 Be6  
10.Ng5 Bxe5 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Bxe5  
Nxe5 13.Bb5+ Nc6 14.h5 Kd7 ]

### 5...Nb6 6.e6

[ 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.f4 0-0 8.Nf3 d6  
9.0-0 Nd5 10.g3 Nb4 ]

[ 6.h4 Bg7 7.h5 Nxc4 8.bxc4 d6 ]

[ 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.e6+ Kg8 8.Qf3  
dxe6 9.Qc3 Qd4 ]

### 6...f6 7.Bb5

[ 7.exd7+ Qxd7 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.Nc3  
e5 10.Nge2 0-0 ]

**7...Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.exd7 Bxd7  
10.Bxd7 Qxd7**

## B20

### □ White's Odd Second Moves

#### ■ F: 2 b3

[Tony Rotella]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** This continuation has never been popular, but has popped up as a surprise weapon for Short, Carlsen, Aronian, and a few other strong GMs a few times. I'm not sure White has some kind of overarching plan, he just wants to develop his pieces and look forward to an original game. **2...g6!?** I like this line

a lot, which was also recommended by Peter Heine Nielsen in Experts vs. the Anti-Sicilians. Black plays in a direct, provocative manner that gives him great chances to complicate the game. The irony is not lost on me that I called 2 b3 an odd continuation and relegated it to the last chapter in the book, and then promptly recommended the black equivalent to 2 b3 as the proper retort.

### 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5

[There are a few alternatives worth looking at as well: 4.Qf3!? has only been essayed in a few games according to my database, although it's interesting. --- I'm going to go out on a limb here and recommend against the 'Great Dane' Peter Heine Nielsen with d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 ( 6.Ne2 is a bit weak, as after Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 , 8...Ne5 is annoying if White doesn't deal with it ) 6...exf6 7.Qd3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Nc3 Bg7 10.Nge2 0-0 11.0-0 , which was L. Paichadze-Y.Yakovich, Kavala 2010. Now I like the active Qc6 12.Nd5 Re8 13.c4 ( 13.Nec3 f5 with 14...b5 up next gives Black good play ) 13...f5 14.Nec3 b5! when Black's position looks very active, and the position is opening up nicely for his bishops. ]  
[ 4.Nc3 is similar to 4 Qf3 in that White is grabbing the d5-square from the black knight in the event of 5 e5. White tried this approach in J.Vila Gazquez-V.Ivanchuk, Benidorm (rapid) 2008, which continued intriguingly with Bg7 5.e5 Nh5!? 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne4 d6!? 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 Qc7!? 11.exd6 Qa5+ 12.c3 Bxe4 13.d7+ Kf8 14.dxe4 Bxc3+ 15.Bxc3 Qxc3+

16.Kf1 Rd8 , when Black looked much better in this complicated position, as the d–pawn looks doomed. Ivanchuk closed before move 40. ]  
[ 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 looks tempting, but is probably uninspiring for White. Black's dark–squared bishop is probably worth a rook after ...Bg7 and ...f5, and his piece activity and two bishops will compensate for the terrible weakness of the d5–square. ]

#### 4...Nd5 5.e6

[ 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0–0 8.Bc4 Nc6 9.0–0 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 was comfortable for Black in A.Maier–M.Jirovsky, Pardubice 1996. Black's pieces will develop quickly and to good squares, and the open d–file and d4–square are both very useful. ]

[There's also the 5.Qf3!?

of D.Kabanov–D.Navara, Khanty–Mansiysk 2011, though Nb4! 6.Bc4 e6 7.Na3 Bg7 8.Nb5? (Palliser notes that after the better 8.Qe3 N8c6 9.Nf3 d5 10.Bb5 0–0 Black should be fine ) 8...0–0 9.0–0–0 Nxa2+ 10.Kb1 Nb4 11.Qe3 Qa5! 12.Nd6 N8c6 13.f4 Nd4! 14.c3 Qa2+ 15.Kc1 b5! was a beating. ]

#### 5...f6 6.exd7+

[ 6.Bb5 Nc6 7.exd7+ Bxd7 8.Nf3 was V.Nerlich–Z.Ksieski, Leipzig 2008, and now I like the simple a6 9.Be2 Nf4 as an equalizer, and perhaps more based on Black's soon–to–be large central space advantage and two bishops. ]

**6...Qxd7!?** This capture looks unusual, but future notes will show that creating ...Qe6+ resources is relevant. **7.Nc3**

[Other options for White include:

7.Nf3?! allows the odd Nf4! when 8.g3 Qe6+! 9.Be2 Nxe2 10.Qxe2 Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 is obviously not what White wants. Black's light–squared bishop will find a fantastic home on b7. ]

[Given what happens after 7 Nf3, White can try placing his bishop on g2 here. Black should continue naturally by grabbing the centre, and consequently avoiding piece exchanges. One plausible continuation is 7.g3 Nc6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.Ne2 0–0 10.0–0 e5 11.Nbc3 Nc7! , which is very reminiscent of Akiba Rubinstein. White's already very uncomfortable, as his central influence is dwarfed by Black's and it's hard to find a plan. Now if 12.d3 b6! with a much better position for Black after 13...Bb7 and 14...Rad8. ]

#### 7...Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6!

Taking the time to unravel Black's pieces and develop a bit more harmoniously.

[Instead, 9...Bg7 10.Bc4! is less comfortable. ]

**10.Bc4 Be6** . Black has achieved full equality, but must find a safe spot for his king, with either ...0–0–0 or ...e5 and ...Kf7.

**B20**

□ **White'S Odd Second Moves**

■ **B3,F**

[Tony Rotella]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** This continuation has never been popular, but has popped up as a surprise weapon for Short, Carlsen, Aronian, and a few other strong GMs a

few times. I'm not sure White has some kind of overarching plan, he just wants to develop his pieces and look forward to an original game. **2...g6!?** I like this line a lot, which was also recommended by Peter Heine Nielsen in Experts vs. the Anti-Sicilians. Black plays in a direct, provocative manner that gives him great chances to complicate the game. The irony is not lost on me that I called 2 b3 an odd continuation and relegated it to the last chapter in the book, and then promptly recommended the black equivalent to 2 b3 as the proper retort.

### 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5

[There are a few alternatives worth looking at as well: 4.Qf3!? has only been essayed in a few games according to my database, although it's interesting. --- I'm going to go out on a limb here and recommend against the 'Great Dane' Peter Heine Nielsen with d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 ( 6.Ne2 is a bit weak, as after Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 , 8...Ne5 is annoying if White doesn't deal with it ) 6...exf6 7.Qd3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Nc3 Bg7 10.Nge2 0-0 11.0-0 , which was L. Paichadze-Y.Yakovich, Kavala 2010. Now I like the active Qc6 12.Nd5 Re8 13.c4 ( 13.Nec3 f5 with 14...b5 up next gives Black good play ) 13...f5 14.Nec3 b5! when Black's position looks very active, and the position is opening up nicely for his bishops. ]  
[ 4.Nc3 is similar to 4 Qf3 in that White is grabbing the d5-square from the black knight in the event of 5 e5. White tried this approach in J.Vila Gazquez-V.Ivanchuk, Benidorm (rapid) 2008, which continued intriguingly with Bg7 5.e5 Nh5!?

6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne4 d6!? 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 Qc7!? 11.exd6 Qa5+ 12.c3 Bxe4 13.d7+ Kf8 14.dxe4 Bxc3+ 15.Bxc3 Qxc3+ 16.Kf1 Rd8 , when Black looked much better in this complicated position, as the d-pawn looks doomed. Ivanchuk closed before move 40. ]  
[ 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 looks tempting, but is probably uninspiring for White. Black's dark-squared bishop is probably worth a rook after ...Bg7 and ...f5, and his piece activity and two bishops will compensate for the terrible weakness of the d5-square. ]

### 4...Nd5 5.e6

[ 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bc4 Nc6 9.0-0 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 was comfortable for Black in A.Maier-M.Jirovsky, Pardubice 1996. Black's pieces will develop quickly and to good squares, and the open d-file and d4-square are both very useful. ]

[There's also the 5.Qf3!? of D.Kabanov-D.Navara, Khanty-Mansiysk 2011, though Nb4! 6.Bc4 e6 7.Na3 Bg7 8.Nb5? (Palliser notes that after the better 8.Qe3 N8c6 9.Nf3 d5 10.Bb5 0-0 Black should be fine ) 8...0-0 9.0-0-0 Nxa2+ 10.Kb1 Nb4 11.Qe3 Qa5! 12.Nd6 N8c6 13.f4 Nd4! 14.c3 Qa2+ 15.Kc1 b5! was a beating. ]

### 5...f6 6.exd7+

[ 6.Bb5 Nc6 7.exd7+ Bxd7 8.Nf3 was V.Nerlich-Z.Ksieski, Leipzig 2008, and now I like the simple a6 9.Be2 Nf4 as an equalizer, and perhaps more based on Black's soon-to-be large central space advantage and two bishops. ]

**6...Qxd7!?** This capture looks unusual, but future notes will show that creating ... Qe6+ resources is relevant. **7.Nc3**

[Other options for White include: 7.Nf3?! allows the odd Nf4! when 8.g3 Qe6+! 9.Be2 Nxe2 10.Qxe2 Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 is obviously not what White wants. Black's light-squared bishop will find a fantastic home on b7. ]

[Given what happens after 7 Nf3, White can try placing his bishop on g2 here. Black should continue naturally by grabbing the centre, and consequently avoiding piece exchanges. One plausible continuation is 7.g3 Nc6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.Ne2 0-0 10.0-0 e5 11.Nbc3 Nc7! , which is very reminiscent of Akiba Rubinstein. White's already very uncomfortable, as his central influence is dwarfed by Black's and it's hard to find a plan. Now if 12.d3 b6! with a much better position for Black after 13...Bb7 and 14...Rad8. ]

**7...Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qd6!**

Taking the time to unravel Black's pieces and develop a bit more harmoniously.

[Instead, 9...Bg7 10.Bc4! is less comfortable. ]

**10.Bc4 Be6** . Black has achieved full equality, but must find a safe spot for his king, with either ...0-0-0 or ...e5 and ...Kf7.

**B20**

□ **Bonatti,Walter**

■ **Brzozka,Stefan**

Kosenkov Memorial

2000

[W.Bonatti/J.S.Morgado]

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2**

[ 3.Bb5 ]

**3...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bb5**

[ 5.Nf3 g6! 6.Bc4 Nb6! 7.Bb5+- Bg7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0! 0-0 10.Re1 d6 11.h3 a5 12.c4 Re8 13.a4!+- Bf5 14.d4 dxe5 15.Nxe5 cxd4 16.Qxd4+- Nd7± 17.Qe3 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 the position is critical. Black has one piece for 2△, but its ♖ is in the center, and can not castle. It is difficult to imagine a good defence. A possible variation may be: 19.Qxe5 Rb8 20.Ra3 Qd6! 21.Qb2 Qb4 22.Nd2 Red8 23.Nf3 Rd3 24.Qa1 Rbd8 25.Ne5 R3d6 26.Kh2 Re6 27.Re3 Rd2+- 28.Ra2 Qd6 29.f4 f6± ]

**5...Qb6**

[ 5...Nd4 6.Bc4 Nb6! ]



**6.a4**

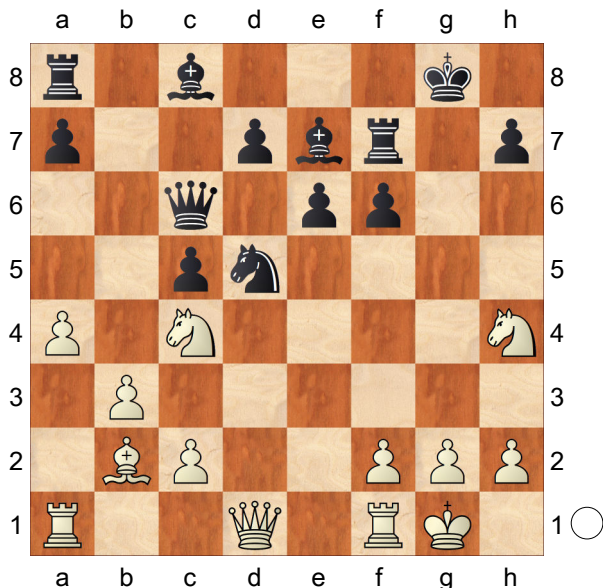
[ 6.Bxc6!? Qxc6 7.Qf3 Nb4 8.Na3 b6 9.Qxc6 and despite white has material advantage, the position is too unstable. dxc6 10.Bc3 Bf5 11.d3 Nd5 12.Bd2 g6 13.Nc4 Bg7 14.f4∞ 0-0 15.Ne2± Rac8 16.a4 Rfd8 17.Ng3 Be6 18.0-0 Nb4 19.Bxb4± cxb4!? 20.Rad1? f6 21.exf6 Bxf6+- 22.f5? Bxc4 23.dxc4 Kg7+- 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Ne4 Bd4+ 26.Kh1 Be3+- 27.Rfe1!? Rxd1!? 28.Rxd1 Rf8 29.Re1 Rf4 30.Ng5 Kf6+- 31.Nf3 Bc5 32.Ne5 Bf2 33.Re2 Rd4 34.g3 Rd1+!? 35.Kg2 Bc5 ]

**6...e6 7.Na3 Be7 8.Nf3**

[ 8.Nc4! ]



**8...0-0 9.0-0 f6 10.Nc4 Qc7?!**

A premature manoeuvre, considering the development of the game. **11.Bxc6 Qxc6 12.d4!** A typical  sacrifice, which gives to the white an interesting attack, taking advantage of the situation of the black  negro in the center of the board. **12...b6 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.exf6!?N gxf6** Black do not accept to keep the piece of advantage. If **15.Nh4 Rf7**



**16.Re1!** A very strong move, which strengthen strongly the attack. .

**16...Rg7!** Another possibilities loss quickly: **17.Qf3**


[ 17.Na5 Qb6+- 18.Nf5 Qxa5 19.Nxg7 Kxg7+- 20.c4 avoids the advance of the  f, but the  remains bad placed. ]

**17...Qc7!**

[ 17...Nb4 ]

**18.Nf5 Bb7 19.Nxg7 Kxg7 20.Re4 Rg8 21.Rg4+ Kh8 22.Re1 Rxc4**

**23.Qxg4** White won the exchange, but black has still counterplay **23...Qf4!?**

To create passed . **24.Qh5 Kg7**

**25.Ne5 Qd2 26.Qg4+! Kf8 27.Nxd7+!**

**Ke8 28.Qxe6! Kd8! 29.Nxf6 1-0**

**B20**

 **Rogers,Ian**

 **Wemyss,Andrew M**

CCLA Candidates

1976

[Wemyss]

CCLA Second Prize "Best Save", Classes 1-4, 1977. 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.d3 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nf3 e5 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Nfd2 Qc7 10.f4 h5 11.c4 Ng4 12.Qe2 exf4 13.Rxf4 0-0-0 14.Nf1 d5 15.Rxg4 After an unusual opening, of closed-sicilian character, White wrests the initiative with this fine exchange sacrifice. In conjunction with his following move, he forces the QB to the back rank where it is useless, he threatens action down the c-file against the K and Q, and he makes a passed pawn. 15...hxg4 16.cxd5 Be8 17.Nbd2 f6 18.Rc1 Bd6 19.g3 b6 20.Nc4 Kb7 21.Qxg4 Accurate if unspectacular moves have kept Black alive in an uncomfortable position, but here he most feared Nxd6+ followed by the development of the other knight. This gives his QB a chance. 21...Bh5 22.Nxd6+ Rxd6 23.Qf4 Be2 24.d4 g5 25.Qf2 Bxf1 To prevent the N from ever getting to f5. 26.dxc5 bxc5 27.Bxf6 Rf8 28.Qxf1 Qa5 29.e5 Rxd5 30.Rd1 Rd4 31.Qf3+ Kb6 32.Rf1 g4 33.Qf5 Qc3 34.Kg2 Qe3 35.Rf2 Rd2 Happy to threaten perpetual check after the exchange of rooks. White's passed pawn still looks threatening.

1/2-1/2



□ 15) 2...b6  
 ■ 4...Nc6 #2

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** Black follows in White's footsteps. However, the fianchetto does not have the same effect for Black, as the a8 – h1 diagonal is already occupied by the e4 – pawn. This is a rare line, but very playable nonetheless. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.f4 g6** Black basically had two ways to develop the bishop. This one looks a bit dubious due to the White's 'already-deployed' queenside. **6.Qe2 Nd4 7.Qd3** True, the queen is misplaced a bit here, but this situation is temporary. **7...Bg7 8.0-0-0 Qc7 9.g3**

[ 9.Nge2 After several exchanges Black is presented the opportunity to equalize immediately. Nxe2+ 10.Nxe2 c4! 11.bxc4 Bxb2+ 12.Kxb2 Rc8 13.Qd4 Qxc4 14.Qxh8 Qxc2+ 15.Ka3 Qc5+ 16.Kb2 Qc2+ Draw by perpetual. ]

**9...Nf6 10.Bg2 Rc8 11.Nge2** White just needs to eliminate the strong piece on d4 , but unfortunately Black has ways to balance the game. **11...Ng4 12.Rdf1**

[ Here 12.Nb5!? is an interesting exchange sacrifice which might interest some players. Nxb5 13.Bxg7 Rg8 14.Bb2 c4 15.Qxc4 Nf2 16.Qxc7 Nxc7 17.d3 Nxh1 18.Rxh1 The power of the bishop pair surely compensates White for the exchange, but not more than that. ]

**12...c4** The start of a long forcing line. **13.Qxc4 Qxc4 14.bxc4 Rxc4 15.h3 Nxe2+ 16.Nxe2 Bxb2+ 17.Kxb2 Nf6 18.d3 Rb4+ 19.Ka1** In this endgame,

**B20**

the players have equal chances. White should try to advance on the kingside and capture more space.

**B20**

□ 3) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6  
 ■ 4...d5 #2

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 a6**

By playing this move Black eliminates all variations connected with Bb5 . There are really not so much downsides to this wing move, as the move ... a6 is necessary and useful on many occasions in the Sicilian. **4.f4** Supporting the b2 bishop as expected. 4. f4 is the most common move in master's practice. **4...d5** The most principled reply. Black understandably wants to even the score in the center. **5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Nc3 Qf5** This strange move needs attention. Black plans to continue with direct threats. **7.g3** White is up to the challenge! Luckily the tactics work in our favor, but you need to memorize the series of forced moves that follow now.

[ 7.Nge2 Nf6 8.g3 Nd4! 9.Nxd4 ( 9.Rc1 h5! ) 9...cxd4 10.Ne2 e5 11.fxe5 Qxe5 12.Bxd4 Qd5 13.Rg1 Be7 is unclear as White loses the right to castle kingside. ]

**7...Nd4 8.d3 Qe6+ 9.Ne4 f5 10.Bh3 Nf6 11.Kf2 Nxe4+ 12.dxe4 Qxe4 13.Bg2**

[ 13.Nf3 is also possible: Qxf3+ 14.Qxf3 Nxf3 15.Kxf3 Bd7 16.Rhe1 and White does not stand worse thanks to his active pieces. ]

**13...Qxc2+ 14.Qxc2 Nxc2 15.Rd1**

[ White has tremendous compensation for his missing two pawns. Black can

reach equality only by accurate play.  
The line could continue e6 Rd2 Nd4  
15.Nf3 Nxf3 Bxf3 Rg8 Rc1 g6 16.Be5  
Bg7= . ]

**B20**

☐ 3) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6  
☒ 4...d6 #2

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 a6**

By playing this move Black eliminates all variations connected with Bb5 .

There are really not so much downsides to this wing move, as the move ... a6 is necessary and useful on many occasions in the Sicilian. **4.f4**

Supporting the b2 bishop as expected. 4.f4 is the most common move in master's practice. **4...d6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d3 g6**

[ 6...e5!? is a tricky idea, trying to take advantage of the fact that White can no longer play Bb5 . 7.Qd2

(The pawn is taboo: 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.Nxe5? Nxe5 9.Bxe5 Ng4 ) 7...exf4 8.Nc3 g6 9.0-0-0 Bg7 10.d4

This way White gets the queen on the a1 – h8 diagonal as well. cxd4

11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 0-0 13.Be2 White surely has compensation for the pawn (and most likely will regain it with Qd2xf4 ) but not more than that. ]

**7.g3** Now the opening resembles one of the most popular Closed Sicilian lines, but with a few nuances. White's dark-squared bishop is on b2 and is not blocked by the queenside knight. **7...Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 b5 10.Nbd2 Bb7**

[ 10...Qb6 is a tricky move, setting up a ... c4 + with ... Ng4 idea. For instance 11.f5? c4+ 12.Kh1 Ng4 and White is in trouble. I believe

White should instead play c4 Nxe4 This capture is possible now because the c6 –knight is protected by Black's queen. 13.Bxg7 Nxd2 Bxf8 Nxf1 Bxe7 Nxg3 hxg3 Nxe7 Qd2 The dark squares around the enemy king are weakened and the e–file is up for grabs. White has decent compensation for the missing pawn. ]

**11.f5** This is the main idea. White will concentrate all his forces on the enemy king. I should warn you that the position is double-edged. If you want a safer game, you can postpone the push f4 – f5 .

**B20**

☐ 9) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+  
☒ 4. Nc3 Alternative #5

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This move order makes a significant difference for the arising positions: Since Black did not place the knight on c6 , the bishop check on b5 can be met by ... Bd7 . This way Black can protect his pawn formation. Pushing e5 and kicking the knight away is also not an option now. This is completely a new ocean! **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3** Pre warning: Time is running out for the f1 bishop. Few more moves and it will have to be placed (most likely) on d3 . This –of course– is a matter of style since the final positions do not differ much in engine evaluation. **4...Nc6 5.f4 g6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nf3**

We have analyzed similar positions, but not with both of White's knights already developed to their natural squares. Disturbing the opponent with the e5 push, jumping Nd5 in order to damage Black's

pawn structure and preparing long castle with Qe2 are White's main options. **7...Bg7 8.Nd5** This idea looks like the best. Other choices also deserve attention, although they are not recommendable:

[ **8.Qe2?! Nd4 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7!**

Since taking on d4 is not desirable, White's queen must pull back. **10.Qd1 0-0 11.0-0 b5 12.d3 e6** Black has managed to get a very good version of the Closed Sicilian. ]

[ **8.e5? Nh5!** Both e5 and f4 –pawns are under attack. **9.g3 dxe5 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.fxe5 Qc7 12.0-0 0-0 ( 12...Bxe5?? 13.Nb5** is a double attack on c7 and e5 . ) **13.Qe2 Rad8** This looks great for Black with two bishops and a clear target on e5 . ]

**8...0-0 9.Nxf6+ exf6 10.0-0 Re8**

**11.d3 a6 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.c4 f5**

The only move for Black, since White was threatening the 'killer' f5 move.

**14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.exf5 Qf6 16.fxg6**

**hxc6** Black's compensation for the missing pawn is obvious. Correct play from both sides up to this point has led to a roughly equal position.

**B20**

□ **9) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+**

■ **4. Nc3 Alternative #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This move order makes a significant difference for the arising positions: Since Black did not place the knight on c6 , the bishop check on b5 can be met by ... Bd7 . This way Black can protect his pawn formation. Pushing e5 and kicking the knight away is also not an option now. This is

completely a new ocean! **3.Bb2 Nf6**

**4.Nc3** Pre warning: Time is running out for the f1 bishop. Few more moves and it will have to be placed (most likely) on d3 . This –of course– is a matter of style since the final positions do not differ much in engine evaluation. **4...g6 5.Nd5** This is our suggestion, as it gives White a very straightforward game. Black either has to accept the doubled pawn due to the disturbing pin along the long diagonal, or weaken the d5 –square even further by playing 5... e5 .

[ **5.Bb5+ Nbd7 ( 5...Bd7 6.Bxd7+ Nbx7?! is another way for Black to keep the pawns intact. However, the knight on d7 is a bit misplaced. 7.f4 Bg7 8.Qf3 0-0 9.Nge2 ) 6.Nd5 e5 7.Nxf6+ Qxf6 8.Ne2 a6 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bd5 Ra7 11.a4 b4 12.d4!**

One of those moves that makes a chess player smile. **Bg7 ( 12...exd4 13.Nxd4 Bg7 14.Nc6 Qxb2 15.Nxa7 Qxa1 16.Qxa1 Bxa1 17.Nxc8 Be5 18.a5! ±** The endgame promises White chances for victory. Fixing the a–pawn is the first step. ) **13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.c3 a5 15.cxb4 axb4 16.0-0 ±** We have the a–pawn as an insurance, as well as the d5 –square to build the game up on. ]

**5...e5 6.Nxf6+ Qxf6 7.Bb5+ Nc6**

[A new move. 7...Nd7 would have transposed to the line examined in the comment to 5. Nd5 . ]

**8.Ne2 Bd7 9.0-0 Qh4 10.f4 Bh6**

**11.d3** We've reached the critical position of this line. Black is at a crossroads: Will he play the 'ugly move' f6 , or choose a 'normal looking' line? **11...0-0 12.f5** The point of this move is that now the rook lift **Rf3 – Rh3** is a serious threat.

The scope of the d7 –bishop is cut and White is ready for operations on the kingside. **12...Kh8 13.Rf3 gxf5 14.Bxc6** That is what I call good timing! **14...bxc6 15.exf5 Rg8 16.Qe1 Bg5 17.Qxh4 Bxh4 18.c4** The bishop pair is not enough for Black to keep the balance. White's knight is heading to e4 with maximum effect.

B20

□ **9) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+**  
 ■ **4...Nbd7 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This move order makes a significant difference for the arising positions: Since Black did not place the knight on c6 , the bishop check on b5 can be met by ... Bd7 . This way Black can protect his pawn formation. Pushing e5 and kicking the knight away is also not an option now. This is completely a new ocean! **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+** The most popular move. White proceeds accordingly with a bishop check. Finding a proper square for our light-squared bishop has been an issue in many of these 2. b3 Sicilian variations, and we already know that this piece usually exits the stage earlier than others. **4...Nbd7 5.d3 g6 6.Nc3 e6** Played against White's Nd5 idea. **7.f4 Bg7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0** We need to create some kind of imbalance, since the bishop pair will be lost. Castling short and continuing in 'normal' fashion might result in White having a slightly worse position. Now the game is on! **9...a6**

[ 9...Nb6!? 10.d4! cxd4 11.Qxd4 Nfd5 12.Qd2 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Bxc3

**14.Qxc3 Bd7 15.Bxd7 Qxd7 16.Nf3 Rac8 17.Qd2** With a weird equality! I always found it hard to believe that such a position with reverse side castling can be evaluated as purely equal... White's attack starting with h4 looks much more frightening. ] **10.Bxd7 Bxd7 11.Nf3 b5 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Be8 14.h4** Black's king faces the danger of the h–file opening with decisive effect, whereas White's king sits a little safer.

B20

□ **9) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+**  
 ■ **4...Nbd7 #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This move order makes a significant difference for the arising positions: Since Black did not place the knight on c6 , the bishop check on b5 can be met by ... Bd7 . This way Black can protect his pawn formation. Pushing e5 and kicking the knight away is also not an option now. This is completely a new ocean! **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+** The most popular move. White proceeds accordingly with a bishop check. Finding a proper square for our light-squared bishop has been an issue in many of these 2. b3 Sicilian variations, and we already know that this piece usually exits the stage earlier than others. **4...Nbd7 5.Qe2 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 g6 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Bg4** Only move.

[ 9...Nd5?? 10.e6 Bxe6 11.Bxh8 Yet another opening trap. ]

**10.Nf3 Nd5** Now that Black has avoided our trap, play continues in normal fashion. **11.Nc3 Bg7 12.Nxd5 Qxd5**

**13.0-0 Rd8 14.d3 0-0 15.h3 Be6 16.Rae1** White's mobilized forces are balanced by Black's bishop pair. The position is balanced. White needs to dismantle the bishop on e6 in ideal conditions.

□ **3) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 a6**  
 ■ **4...d6 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 a6**

By playing this move Black eliminates all variations connected with Bb5 .

There are really not so much downsides to this wing move, as the move ... a6 is necessary and useful on many occasions in the Sicilian. **4.f4**

Supporting the b2 bishop as expected. 4.f4 is the most common move in master's practice. **4...d6 5.Nf3 Bg4**

The following interesting idea was applied in one of the games. Black aims to shut the b2 -bishop down by making ... e5 possible. As we shall see, this plan does not fully achieve its aim. **6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 e5 8.Bc4 Nf6 9.0-0 Nd4 10.Bxd4 cxd4**

[ 10...exd4?? 11.e5 is game over. ]

**11.c3** Trying to get the knight into the game by attacking Black's center.

**11...Be7 12.cxd4 Qb6 13.Kh1 Qxd4 14.Nc3** White is slightly better due to his better development and better bishop. Opening up the f-file and placing the knight on d5 to pressurize the f7 -pawn might be the best plan.

**B20**

□ **4) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**  
 ■ **5.g3 Alternative #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

Black does not mind having his knight chased. Instead, followers of this particular line encourage their opponent to do so, as the e5 -pawn will be targeted later. Similar ideas can be seen in the Alekhine Defence or the Sicilian Alapin. **4.e5** The most principled!

[ 4.Nc3 is the 'unambitious' alternative and was not played as frequently as 4.e5 . Play could continue e6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb5 ( 6.e5?! Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7 is not advisable as Black can easily target the e5 -pawn. ) 6...Bd7 7.exd5 The best option is to steer the game into 'isolated pawn' territories. exd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Nexd4 It's a matter of taste, but we are guessing that many players would prefer White here. The position is balanced and most of the 'book knowledge' of isolani is still valid: White should try to exchange as many pieces as he can in order to exploit the 'weak' d5 -pawn. Black, on the contrary, must rely on active piece play. ]

**4...Nd5**

[ 4...Ne4? An unfortunate square for the knight. This move unnecessarily puts the knight in a very unstable place. 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 d5 7.0-0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Re1

The backward e-pawn will be a huge problem for Black for many moves to come! ]

**5.g3** A double fianchetto at the right moment! White decides to disturb the

**B20**



knight once more by developing the bishop to g2 . Moreover, this move is played rarely (yet is very logical) and might be a serious alternative to the mainline of 5. Nf3 . **5...d6 6.exd6 Qxd6 7.Bg2 Bf5** Not an easy move to make. The main point being that Black has problems developing his kingside due to the pressure on g7 . Therefore going for long castle is one of the best solutions. White gets the upper hand in all variations except for this one.

[ 7...e6?! 8.Na3! f6 9.Ne2 Be7 10.Nc4 Qd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Ne3! ± ]

### 8.Nc3

[ 8.Na3?! Ndb4! Black prevents Nc4 and Nb5 ideas by putting pressure on c2 . The following variation is forced: 9.d3 Nd4 10.Ne2 Ndx2+ 11.Nxc2 Nxd3+ 12.Kf1 Nxb2 13.Qxd6 exd6 14.Bxb7 Rb8 15.Bc6+ Kd8 16.Ne3 Bd3 ]

**8...Nxc3 9.Bxc3 0-0-0 10.Nf3 Qe6+ 11.Kf1** This position is hard to assess, even with the help of engines. It is highly tactical and contains dangers for both sides. White must accomplish 'artificial castling' first.

□ **4) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

■ **5.g3 Alternative #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

Black does not mind having his knight chased. Instead, followers of this particular line encourage their opponent to do so, as the e5 -pawn will be targeted later. Similar ideas can be seen in the Alekhine Defence or the Sicilian Alapin. **4.e5** The most principled!

[ 4.Nc3 is the 'unambitious' alternative and was not played as frequently as 4. e5 . Play could continue e6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb5 ( 6.e5?! Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7 is not advisable as Black can easily target the e5 -pawn. ) 6...Bd7 7.exd5 The best option is to steer the game into 'isolated pawn' territories. exd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Nexd4 It's a matter of taste, but we are guessing that many players would prefer White here. The position is balanced and most of the 'book knowledge' of isolani is still valid: White should try to exchange as many pieces as he can in order to exploit the 'weak' d5 -pawn. Black, on the contrary, must rely on active piece play. ]

### 4...Nd5

[ 4...Ne4? An unfortunate square for the knight. This move unnecessarily puts the knight in a very unstable place. 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 d5 7.0-0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Re1

The backward e-pawn will be a huge problem for Black for many moves to come! ]

**5.g3** A double fianchetto at the right moment! White decides to disturb the knight once more by developing the bishop to g2 . Moreover, this move is played rarely (yet is very logical) and might be a serious alternative to the mainline of 5. Nf3 . **5...g6 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.d4** This isn't really a pawn sacrifice. White does not lose the e5 - pawn thanks to a tactic. Let's see how it works! **8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 0-0**

[ 9...Bxe5?? 10.Nxc6 Bxb2 11.Nxd8 ]

[ 9...Nxe5?? 10.f4! It turns out that the knight has no squares to retreat

**B20**

to. Nc6 11.Nxc6 Now both queen and g7 –bishop are hanging. bxc6 12.Bxg7 ]

**10.Nxc6 bxc6** This capture is second rate as it makes life a bit more difficult for the bishop on c8 . **11.0–0 d5 12.f4 f6**

[It is more or less obligatory for Black to attack White's center. In case Black plays quietly like 12...Bf5 13.Qe2 Qc8 14.Nc3 , White gets a very easy game with a direct plan: Qf2 – Na4 – Rc1 and c4 . ]

**13.Re1 fxe5 14.Bxe5 Bxe5 15.Rxe5 Rf5** Black is trying to simplify the position in order to cover up the weakness of the e7 –pawn. **16.Qe1 Rxe5 17.Qxe5 Qd6 18.Qe3** The better pawn structure plus the potential weakness of the e–pawn gives White a slight edge in this position.

**B20**

□ **4) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

■ **5.g3 Alternative #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

Black does not mind having his knight chased. Instead, followers of this particular line encourage their opponent to do so, as the e5 –pawn will be targeted later. Similar ideas can be seen in the Alekhine Defence or the Sicilian Alapin. **4.e5** The most principled!

[ 4.Nc3 is the 'unambitious' alternative and was not played as frequently as 4. e5 . Play could continue e6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb5 ( 6.e5?! Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7 is not advisable as Black can easily target the e5 –pawn. ) 6...Bd7 7.exd5 The best option is to steer the game into 'isolated pawn' territories. exd5

8.0–0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Ne2 0–0 11.Nexd4 It's a matter of taste, but we are guessing that many players would prefer White here. The position is balanced and most of the 'book knowledge' of isolani is still valid: White should try to exchange as many pieces as he can in order to exploit the 'weak' d5 –pawn. Black, on the contrary, must rely on active piece play. ]

**4...Nd5**

[ 4...Ne4? An unfortunate square for the knight. This move unnecessarily puts the knight in a very unstable place. 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 d5 7.0–0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Re1

The backward e–pawn will be a huge problem for Black for many moves to come! ]

**5.g3** A double fianchetto at the right moment! White decides to disturb the knight once more by developing the bishop to g2 . Moreover, this move is played rarely (yet is very logical) and might be a serious alternative to the mainline of 5. Nf3 . **5...g6 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.d4** This isn't really a pawn sacrifice. White does not lose the e5 – pawn thanks to a tactic. Let's see how it works! **8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 0–0**

[ 9...Bxe5?? 10.Nxc6 Bxb2 11.Nxd8 ]

[ 9...Nxe5?? 10.f4! It turns out that the knight has no squares to retreat to. Nc6 11.Nxc6 Now both queen and g7 –bishop are hanging. bxc6 12.Bxg7 ]

**10.Nxc6 dxc6 11.Qe2** Exchanging queens would get Black's rook into the game and is not in White's favor.

**11...Bf5 12.0–0 h5** Black sooner or later has to insert this move in order to

keep the f5 –bishop safe. **13.Rd1 Qc8 14.c4 Ne6 15.Nd2** Black's pieces lack space and coordination at the moment. White is intending Nf3 – Nh4 . Therefore Black might be forced to surrender the bishop pair.

**B40**

□ **4) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**  
 ■ **5...e6 #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

Black does not mind having his knight chased. Instead, followers of this particular line encourage their opponent to do so, as the e5 –pawn will be targeted later. Similar ideas can be seen in the Alekhine Defence or the Sicilian Alapin. **4.e5** The most principled!

[ 4.Nc3 is the 'unambitious' alternative and was not played as frequently as 4. e5 . Play could continue e6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb5 ( 6.e5?! Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7 is not advisable as Black can easily target the e5 –pawn. ) 6...Bd7 7.exd5 The best option is to steer the game into 'isolated pawn' territories. exd5 8.0–0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Ne2 0–0 11.Nexd4 It's a matter of taste, but we are guessing that many players would prefer White here. The position is balanced and most of the 'book knowledge' of isolani is still valid: White should try to exchange as many pieces as he can in order to exploit the 'weak' d5 –pawn. Black, on the contrary, must rely on active piece play. ]

**4...Nd5**

[ 4...Ne4? An unfortunate square for the knight. This move unnecessarily

puts the knight in a very unstable place. 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 d5 7.0–0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Re1

The backward e–pawn will be a huge problem for Black for many moves to come! ]

**5.Nf3 e6**

[ 5...g6 is analyzed in the model game Morozevich–Nakamura . ]

**6.g3** Once again, this multi–purpose move is the way to go. White gets a safer king, the best possible square for the light squared bishop, and eliminates the possibility of ... Nf4 . **6...Be7 7.Bg2 0–0**

[ 7...b5 Black is expanding on the queenside since this is a standard idea in many Sicilians. 8.Qe2 Rb8 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.dxc3! We have seen the idea of this way of recapturing before: White controls the critical d4 –square in this way, and then relocates the bishop with Bc1 – Bf4 . Qc7 11.a4 a6 12.axb5 axb5 13.0–0 0–0 14.Bc1 ]

**8.0–0 f6** Examining more pawn formations helps us understand the variation better. Here Black tries something different and searches for play along the f–file. Thanks to White's smart choice on move six ( 6.g3! ) Black's exertion is not too scary. **9.c4** Kicking the knight away from the center adds more pluses to White's position. **9...Nb6 10.a4** Further limiting the knight. **10...d5 11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Nc3** Now a combination of a5 and d4 is threatened.

[ However, 12.a5 also does the job and is just as strong as (if not stronger!) our suggested move: Nd7 13.d4 cxd4 14.Ba3 Qc7 15.Bxe7

Nxe7 16.Nxd4 ]  
**12...e5 13.a5 Nd7 14.Nd5 Bd8 15.d4**  
 [It's a pleasure to make such a move.  
 Both captures cause damage to  
 Black's position: cxd4 costs an  
 exchange: 15.Ba3 Qe6 Bxf8 Nxf8  
 Nd2± , whereas exd4 Ba3 Bxa5  
 16.Nd4 Nxd4 Qxd4 17.Bb4 Bxb4  
 cxb4 Rxa7± is also clearly better for  
 White. ]

□ **2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**  
 ■ **4...d6 #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**  
 Black stays flexible with this move. It is  
 not certain whether at some point he will  
 play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most  
 common move and also our  
 recommendation. White can change the  
 course of the opening by playing d2 –  
 d4 anytime. Black now has four –  
 seemingly logical– moves.  
 [ 4.Bb5 , developing the second  
 bishop, resembles the Rossolimo  
 Systems, but it is not so effective here  
 as Black has time to guard the knight  
 immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4  
 Playing with the f–pawn is double–  
 edged here as White will need to  
 concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6  
 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3  
 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5  
 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5  
 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of  
 question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!  
 ∞ This position is hard to assess due  
 to its unorthodox dynamics. White has  
 a lead in development and some  
 direct threats, whereas Black has the

'ever–famous' bishop pair. ]  
 [ 4.f4 is seen in the model game  
 Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

**4...d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4** This position  
 is very similar to the newly named  
 'Carlsen Sicilian'. If allowed, White can  
 go Nc3 – Qd2 and O–O–O . **6...e5**  
 Although this move weakens the d5 –  
 square, in many Sicilians the e5 push is  
 considered a standard way of dealing  
 with White's central knight. Here it  
 makes more sense as it limits the b2 –  
 bishop as well. **7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.c4**  
 This central approach is not the only way,  
 of course!

[ Alternatively, 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Bc4 Be7  
 10.Qe2 0–0 11.0–0–0 ± White has  
 lead in development, some pressure  
 along the d–file and he may (and  
 probably must) start an attack on the  
 kingside! ]

**8...Nf6 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0–0**  
 With a positional threat of pushing c5 .  
 Let's see what happens in case Black  
 delays castling: **10...Be6 11.c5 d5**  
**12.exd5 Qxd5 13.Nc3 Qxc5 14.Ne4**  
**Qa5**

[ 14...Nxe4 15.Bxe4 0–0  
 (Stronger is 15...Bd5 , returning the  
 pawn for the sake of simplifications.  
 However, the arising endgame can  
 produce only two results: a win for  
 White or a draw. For instance 16.Bxd5  
 Qxd5 17.Qxd5 cxd5 18.Bxe5 f6  
 19.Bf4 Kf7 20.Rfd1 . ) 16.Rc1 Qa5  
 17.Rxc6 . To further illustrate: Qxa2??  
 18.Qh5 h6 19.Rxe6 fxe6 20.Qxe5  
 Bf6 21.Qxe6+ Kh8 22.Qf5 Kg8  
 23.Qh7+ Kf7 24.Re1 ]

**15.Qc2 Nd7** Black must walk on this  
 very narrow path to survive. Now both  
**16.Nd2**

[and 16.Qxc6 should promise White a small edge. ]

**B40**

□ **2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**  
 ■ **4...a6 #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6**

Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four – seemingly logical– moves.

[ 4.Bb5 , developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 Playing with the f–pawn is double–edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0–0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1 is out of question. ) 11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!

∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever–famous' bishop pair. ]

[ 4.f4 is seen in the model game Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

**4...a6 5.c4** Since White is robbed of Bb5 ideas, placing another pawn in the center and changing the course of the game to a 'Maroczy Bind' seems like the best option. **5...Nf6** This move is

designed to prevent White from getting his Maroczy set–up, as it attacks the e4 –pawn directly and supports the ... d5 break.

[ 5...Qc7 6.g3 d6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.Bg2 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be7 11.0–0 0–0 12.e5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bd4 Rb8 16.Nc3 b6 17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Bc6 f6 19.Rfe1 Kf7 20.Na4 Nc5 21.Bxc5 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 bxc5 23.f4 Bb7 24.Bg2 Ke8 25.g4 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8 28.f5 Kd7 29.Kf3 Kc6 30.Nb2 exf5 31.gxf5 Bd6 32.h3 g6 33.Kg4 Be5 34.Nd3 Kd6 35.fxg6 hxg6 36.h4 a5 37.h5 gxh5+ 38.Kxh5 Bd4 39.Kg4 Ke6 40.Kf4 f5 41.Kf3 Kf6 42.Kf4 1/2–1/2 Romanov, E (2654)–Can,E (2513) St Petersburg 2013. ]

**6.e5**

[ 6.Nc3 leads to a dry position, since Black has e5! 7.Be2 g6 8.0–0 Bg7 9.a3 0–0 10.b4 b6 . In such a symmetrical position it is not easy to look for an edge. ]

**6...Ng4 7.h3 Nh6 8.Nc3 d6**

[ 8...Nf5 tries to fight against White's d4 push. Now a different approach is called for: 9.Bd3 Nfd4 10.Ne4 d5! Now the game gets a little sharper. Some wild tactics will occur and White needs to be prepared for them. 11.exd6 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 f5 13.Nxc5 Qxd6 14.b4 The only move, but it is enough to save the day. Nxb4 15.a3 Nc6 ( 15...Nxd3+? 16.Nxd3 with important control over the e5 –square. ) 16.Nb3 Ne5 17.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 18.Be2 Bd6 19.d4 Qf4 20.c5 Bc7 21.Qxf4 Bxf4 22.Bf3 White has annoying pressure on b7 , but Black



should be able to hold without much difficulty thanks to the bishop pair. ]

**9.d4** The first player avoids a little trap by sacrificing a pawn. Analysis indicates that Black should proceed with caution.

[ 9.exd6?! would be a slight mistake due to the intermediate e5! ]

**9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxe5 11.Qd2**

White is intending to castle long and then march with kingside pawns.

**11...Be7 12.0-0-0 0-0 13.Kb1 Ng6**

**14.g3 Bd7 15.h4** White definitely has compensation for the pawn, and has a relatively easier task playing this position.

☐ **4) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

☒ **5.g3 Alternative #4**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

Black does not mind having his knight chased. Instead, followers of this particular line encourage their opponent to do so, as the e5 –pawn will be targeted later. Similar ideas can be seen in the Alekhine Defence or the Sicilian Alapin. **4.e5** The most principled!

[ 4.Nc3 is the 'unambitious' alternative and was not played as frequently as 4.e5 . Play could continue e6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb5 ( 6.e5?! Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7 is not advisable as Black can easily target the e5 –pawn. ) 6...Bd7 7.exd5 The best option is to steer the game into 'isolated pawn' territories. exd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Nexd4 It's a matter of taste, but we are guessing that many players would prefer White here. The position is balanced and most of the 'book

knowledge' of isolani is still valid:

White should try to exchange as many pieces as he can in order to exploit the 'weak' d5 –pawn. Black, on the contrary, must rely on active piece play. ]

**4...Nd5**

[ 4...Ne4? An unfortunate square for the knight. This move unnecessarily puts the knight in a very unstable place. 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 d5 7.0-0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Re1

The backward e–pawn will be a huge problem for Black for many moves to come! ]

**5.g3** A double fianchetto at the right moment! White decides to disturb the

knight once more by developing the bishop to g2 . Moreover, this move is played rarely (yet is very logical) and might be a serious alternative to the

mainline of 5. Nf3 . **5...d6 6.exd6 e5**

The most ambitious move! Black takes full control of the center. **7.Bg2 Be6**

**8.Nc3 Qxd6 9.Nxd5** Strategically the most correct approach: the side which lacks space goes for exchanges.

**9...Bxd5 10.Bxd5 Qxd5 11.Qf3 Qd7**

**12.0-0-0 Bd6 13.Ne2 0-0-0 14.Rhe1**

White should try to establish play on the light squares. The position is balanced. Black's space advantage is countered by White's superior bishop.

**B20**

**B30**

☐ **7) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6**

☒ **5...Nc7 #1**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6 Developing the knight first is not only more principled, but also much

more flexible. Depending on White's answer Black can later choose to go into a g6 –system anyway, or go into a completely different direction. Let's see how it goes. 5.Nf3 Nc7 A smart move which should not be underestimated. Black simply frees the d7 –pawn by moving away the piece in front, and wants to play ... d5 on the next move. Placing another pawn to the center can't be bad, could it? 6.Bd3 This move is no less clever than Black's previous one. White rapidly prepares Re1 and the bishop eyes the sensitive h7 –pawn. 6...d5 7.exd6 exd6 8.0–0 Ne6 In order to defend g7 . 9.c4 Be7 10.Nc3 0–0 This natural move can be considered a positional trap since White has the following: 11.Nd5 Getting the beautiful d5 –outpost for the knight. 11...Nb4 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Bb1 Nf4 14.Re1 Qd7 15.d4 With the powerful bishops and healthy center White is clearly better.

□ 7) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6  
 ■ 5...g6 #1

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6** Developing the knight first is not only more principled, but also much more flexible. Depending on White's answer Black can later choose to go into a g6 –system anyway, or go into a completely different direction. Let's see how it goes. **5.Nf3 g6** With this move order White's queen did not manage to land on f3 , so a totally new position is ahead of us. **6.Bb5**

[ 6.Bc4 has been tried before, but that

move is met by Nf4 with some complications which might favor Black. Therefore the straightforward 6. Bb5 is our recommendation. ]

**6...Bg7 7.0–0 Qb6** Asking a simple question to our b5 –bishop deserves attention. Black loses a tempo in the process and pauses the fight against the e5 –pawn, which keeps him from developing the queenside. **8.a4 0–0 9.Re1 a6 10.Bxc6** Gaining a tempo in the struggle for the initiative. **10...Qxc6 11.d4 d6 12.c4 Nb4 13.d5 Qc7 14.exd6 exd6 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Nc3** Play has transposed into a Symmetrical Benoni pawn structure. White has a slight but stable advantage in most endgames, unless the knights disappear from the board.

**B30**

□ 7) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6  
 ■ 5...d6 #1

**B30**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6 Developing the knight first is not only more principled, but also much more flexible. Depending on White's answer Black can later choose to go into a g6 –system anyway, or go into a completely different direction. Let's see how it goes. 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5 Nc7 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.0–0 f6 We understand the subtitles of the variations considered in this chapter much better if we take a look at this position: Black can not proceed (in most cases) while keeping the e5 –pawn alive. This is another example of this concept. 9.exd6 exd6 10.d4 d5 11.Re1+ Kf7 12.c4 Since Black gave up on the right to

castle, the position should be opened. This dynamic solution allows White to play for an advantage. 12...dxc4 13.Nbd2 cxb3 14.axb3 Qd5 15.Ra4 White's advantage could be more than the engines indicate. For humans, defending such a position as Black is a serious challenge. White has gathered all pieces in play and now is ready to attack Black's weaknesses.

□ 7) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6  
 ■ 5...d6 #2

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6** Developing the knight first is not only more principled, but also much more flexible. Depending on White's answer Black can later choose to go into a g6 –system anyway, or go into a completely different direction. Let's see how it goes. **5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5 Bg4** [ 6...Bd7 7.exd6 e6 This position is examined deeply in the chapter 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6 : see the variation . ]

**7.Nc3 Nf4**

[ 7...dxe5 8.h3 Bxf3 ( 8...Bh5? 9.g4! Bg6 10.Nxe5 Qd6 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.0-0 ± The idea of c4 and Qf3 cannot be properly met by Black. The pin on the a4 – e8 diagonal is way too effective. ) 9.Bxc6+ White was waiting for the ... Bxf3 capture to let go of his own light-squared bishop. Now White's superior pawn structure will be a long-term asset. bxc6 10.Qxf3 g6 11.0-0-0 Bg7 12.h4 h6 13.Rhe1 White's small material deficit (just one pawn) is more than

compensated by the ruined pawn formation of Black. Properly grouping the pieces will grant White the advantage. 7) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 Nc6–5...d6 #3 ]

**8.h3 Bh5**

[ 8...Nxg2+?? 9.Kf1 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Nh4 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Qxc6+ Qd7 13.Qxa8+ ]

**9.g4 Bg6 10.d4** Play gets more complicated with each move due to the unnatural piece and pawn placement. Thanks to the extra piece in play, White has the upper hand.

[ Play could continue h5 10.Nh4 e6 11.Nxg6 fxg6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qf3 cxd4 Qxf4 dxc3 Bxc3± . White has successfully managed to sidestep all the traps, and can now breathe easier once long castling takes place. ]

**B20**

□ 8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6  
 ■ 4...e6 #5

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**

[ The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6 , and White players are highly likely to face one of these two, but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead. ]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be. **5...Nc6 6.Bg2 Nde7** We have seen this maneuver before. Black's knight is

heading to f5 to defend the g7 –pawn in order to facilitate Black's kingside development. We will examine two new moves in this position: Na3 and f4 . **7.f4 b6 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Nh4** Denying the ... Nf5 jump. **9...d6 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Na3 Rd8** Eyeing the d2 –pawn, and in a way inviting White to play Nc4 . However, there is a surprise: **12.0–0**

[ 12.Nc4 Qc7 13.0–0 Nd4 14.Bxb7 Qxb7 15.Ne5 Ng6! = This was Black's initial intention when he chose 11... Rd8 . ]

**12...Qxd2 13.Nc4 Qxd1**

[ 13...Qd7? 14.Qh5! ± ]

**14.Raxd1** White has managed to get the maximum number of soldiers on the battlefield, whereas Black is still struggling. **14...Ng6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Rfe1** White has compensation for the missing pawn thanks to his piece activity. The fact that Black can not touch the f8 –bishop (at the moment!) is another issue.

[ Play could continue Rc8 16.Rd2 Ba8 Red1 Nd4 Bxa8 Rxa8 Kg2 Getting out of the potential pin on the a7 – g1 diagonal to be able to capture on d4 safely. (Bxd4? cxd4 16...Rd4?? Bc5–+ ) Be7 17.Bd4 cxd4 18.Rxd4 Rc8 and Black should be able to hold this endgame with precise play. ]

**B20**

□ **8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**  
 ■ **4...e6 #7**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**

[ The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6 , and White players are highly likely to face one of these two,

but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead. ]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be.

**5...Nc6 6.Bg2 Nde7** We have seen this maneuver before. Black's knight is heading to f5 to defend the g7 –pawn in order to facilitate Black's kingside development. We will examine two new moves in this position: Na3 and f4 .

**7.Na3**

[ 7.Nf3 is also possible and leads to lines we've examined in an earlier chapter . ]

**7...Nf5 8.Nc4 Be7 9.Ne3 Nfd4**

Blocking the long diagonal. This choice may solve Black's issue with g7 once the e5 –pawn is exchanged.

[ 9...Nxe3 10.dxe3 0–0 11.Nf3 Qc7 12.h4! ]

**10.Ne2 Qc7 11.f4 d5 12.exd6 Qxd6**

**13.c3 Nxe2** This helps White's development.

[ 13...Nf5 14.Nxf5 exf5 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Qxd4 18.cxd4 0–0 19.0–0–0 ± The b7 – pawn is under siege and White is practically playing with an extra pawn. This endgame has only two results possible: a win for White or a draw. ]

**14.Qxe2 0–0 15.0–0–0 a5 16.Nc4**

**Qc7 17.a4 Rb8 18.Na3** We suggest the maneuver Be4 – Bc2 . This accomplishes two things: 1. Defending the king. 2. Getting ready for a kingside attack.

**B20**

□ **8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**  
 ■ **4...e6 #6**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**

[The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6 , and White players are highly likely to face one of these two, but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead. ]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be. **5...Nc6 6.Bg2 Nde7** We have seen this maneuver before. Black's knight is heading to f5 to defend the g7 –pawn in order to facilitate Black's kingside development. We will examine two new moves in this position: Na3 and f4 .

**7.Na3**

[ 7.Nf3 is also possible and leads to lines we've examined in an earlier chapter . ]

**7...Nf5 8.Nc4 d5 9.exd6 Bxd6**

[ 9...Nxd6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qh5! Nf5 12.0–0–0 Be7 13.Nf3  
 White has pluses everywhere:  
 Development, king safety, piece efficiency etc. ]

**10.Bxc6+** White does not need to worry about parting with this bishop, since long castling is on the menu. **10...bxc6 11.Qf3 Be7 12.0–0–0 Qd5**

[ 12...0–0 13.Ne2 a5 14.a4 Ba6 15.d3 Bf6 16.Rhe1! ± A central approach is called for. White has successfully managed to neutralize

the opponent's attack and now can play against the weaknesses of Black's pawn structure. ]

**13.Ne3 Qxf3 14.Nxf3 Nxe3 15.fxe3 f6**

**16.d3** White does not risk anything in this endgame. Black's pair of bishops can only be enough for a draw (at best!) and even that will require lot of effort. At first sight, improving the knight to c4 via d2 looks promising.

**B40**

□ **8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**  
 ■ **4...e6 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**

[The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6 , and White players are highly likely to face one of these two, but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead. ]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be.

**5...Be7 6.Bg2 0–0 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.0–0**

Now Black has two main approaches: 1. Developing the light–squared bishop immediately on the a8 – h1 diagonal; 2. Attacking the e5 –pawn immediately.

**8...d6 9.Re1 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5**

**11.Bxe5 Bd7 12.Nc3 Bc6 13.Qg4 g6**

[ 13...Nf6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Bxc6 bxc6 White has long term edge thanks to the ruined pawns of the c–file. ]

**14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Qxd5 16.d3**

Black did not manage to counter the



bishop on its own diagonal, so a small battle has been won by White. Play may continue quietly or White can try rook lift to create mating threads with Bb2 – Re5 – h5 etc.

□ **11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5**

■ **4.f4 Alternative #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straight-forward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. **4.f4** We know the f4 lines with Bb5 check included. Now it is a bit different as White has the option of developing the light-squared bishop to c4 . **4...Nc6 5.Nc3** We want to keep the f3 –square available for the queen in case Black changes his mind and captures on f4 . **5...Nf6 6.fxe5** Now it is time to release the tension. In order to develop the knight safely to f3 White needed to trade on e5 . Also, opening the f–file could be beneficial in the future. **6...dxe5 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Nf3 Bd6 9.0–0 0–0 10.d3** After this move, the fate of the b5 –bishop is decided. White has placed most of his pawns on the light squares, thus tagging the 'unwanted' soldier. **10...a6 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Qe2** Not only connecting the rooks ,but also vacating the d1 –square for the knight. Nd1 – Ne3 – Nf5 is one of White's dream scenarios. **12...Re8 13.Nh4 c4** Black surely needs to play (find!) this move, or else White will claim a huge edge. This dynamic shows how difficult it can be to play this line as Black in practice.

[ 13...Bf8?! 14.Nf5 b5 15.Qf3 Re6

16.Kh1! ± Removing any ideas connected with Black's ... c4 thrust by moving out of the a7 – g1 diagonal. ]

**14.dxc4 Bc5+** Now we enter a 'forced' line: **15.Kh1 Bd4 16.Rad1 Nxe4 17.Nf5 Nd6 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.Qg4 Ne4**

[ 19...dxc3? 20.Bxc3 f6 21.Rxf6 Threatening Rxd6 . Re4 22.Rfxd6 Qf8 23.Qg5 Intending Rd8 . ]

**20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd4 g6 22.cxd5 Qxd5** The dust has cleared, and we have a roughly equal position. In such battles 'knowing your stuff' surely helps, as it is very hard to play all these correct moves over the board.

**B20**

□ **11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5**

■ **4.f4 Alternative #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straight-forward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. **4.f4** We know the f4 lines with Bb5 check included. Now it is a bit different as White has the option of developing the light-squared bishop to c4 . **4...Nc6 5.Nc3** We want to keep the f3 –square available for the queen in case Black changes his mind and captures on f4 . **5...Nf6 6.fxe5** Now it is time to release the tension. In order to develop the knight safely to f3 White needed to trade on e5 . Also, opening the f–file could be beneficial in the future. **6...dxe5 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Nf3 Bd6 9.0–0 0–0 10.d3** After this move, the fate of the b5 –bishop is decided. White has placed most of his pawns on

the light squares, thus tagging the 'unwanted' soldier. **10...Nd4**

[ This seemingly logical move is actually an inaccuracy, and you might see it in your games. The reason is clear: in order for Black to fight in this position, obtaining the bishop pair with 10...a6 is called for. The strong knight on d4 does not provide enough for its camp as we shall see in the analysis. ]

**11.Bxd7 Qxd7 12.Nd2 b5 13.Rxf6**

Well-cooked home preparation?!

**13...gxf6 14.Nd5 Qe6**

[ 14...Be7? 15.Qh5 Kh8 16.c3 Ne6 17.Rf1 Ng7 18.Qh6 Ne8 19.c4!

± Despite being an exchange down, White has an 'almost won' position.

The weakness of the light squares and the menacing white army are the reasons behind this. ]

**15.c3 Nc6 16.c4 bxc4 17.Nxc4 Kh8**

**18.Qf3 Rad8** Only move. **19.Rf1 Be7**

Yet another only move. **20.Nxf6 Nd4**

**21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.Ng4** White has a positional advantage thanks to the weaknesses of the light squares and the pressure along the f-file.

**B20**

□ **9) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+**

■ **4. Nc3 Alternative #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This move order makes a significant difference for the arising positions: Since Black did not place the knight on c6, the bishop check on b5 can be met by ... Bd7. This way Black can protect his pawn formation. Pushing e5 and kicking the knight away is also not an option now. This is completely a new ocean! **3.Bb2 Nf6**

**4.Nc3** Pre warning: Time is running out for the f1 bishop. Few more moves and it will have to be placed (most likely) on d3. This –of course– is a matter of style since the final positions do not differ much in engine evaluation. **4...g6 5.Nd5** This is our suggestion, as it gives White a very straightforward game. Black either has to accept the doubled pawn due to the disturbing pin along the long diagonal, or weaken the d5 –square even further by playing 5... e5.

[ 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 ( 5...Bd7 6.Bxd7+ Nbx d7?! is another way for Black to keep the pawns intact. However, the knight on d7 is a bit misplaced. 7.f4 Bg7 8.Qf3 0-0 9.Nge2 ) 6.Nd5 e5 7.Nxf6+ Qxf6 8.Ne2 a6 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bd5 Ra7 11.a4 b4 12.d4!

One of those moves that makes a chess player smile. Bg7 ( 12...exd4 13.Nxd4 Bg7 14.Nc6 Qxb2 15.Nxa7 Qxa1 16.Qxa1 Bxa1 17.Nxc8 Be5 18.a5! ± The endgame promises White chances for victory. Fixing the a-pawn is the first step. ) 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.c3 a5 15.cxb4 axb4 16.0-0 ± We have the a-pawn as an insurance, as well as the d5 –square to build the game up on. ]

**5...e5 6.Nxf6+ Qxf6 7.Bb5+ Nc6**

[ A new move. 7...Nd7 would have transposed to the line examined in the comment to 5. Nd5. ]

**8.Ne2 Bd7 9.0-0 Qh4 10.f4 Bh6**

**11.d3** We've reached the critical position of this line. Black is at a crossroads: Will he play the 'ugly move' f6, or choose a 'normal looking' line? **11...f6 12.Bc1 0-0-0 13.fxe5 fxe5 14.Bxh6 Qxh6 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Qc1** Controlling the f-file is a good asset, but Black soon will

meet the opponent there and equalize completely. A draw is very probable.

**B20**

□ **10) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nc6**  
 ■ **7...Nd5 #2**

Black's best bet might be playing Nf5 and giving back the pawn on c5 . **1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 Nc6** 'Move order' does matter in chess! Already by now you must have realized some positions from earlier chapters look alike or are identical to the current position. True, there are more than several transpositions and similar pawn structures. However, with each new chapter we will delve into something new. **4.f4 e6**

[ 4...Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bb5 is a transposition to the line 1. e4 c5 2. b3 d6 3. Bb2 Nf6 4. Nc3 Nc6 5. f4 g6 6. Bb5 which was examined in detail in the previous chapter. ]

**5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3**

[ It's too early for an 'immediate action': 6.e5 Nd5 7.g3 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Bd7!?

**A)** After 9.Nxd7 It will be too much of a challenge for White to hold on to his bishop pair advantage since Black has the ... Be7 – Bf6 maneuver. And yes the tactics do work for Black! Qxd7 10.Bg2 Be7 11.Bxg7 Nxf4! 12.0–0 ( 12.gxf4?? Rg8 is a nasty skewer. ) 12...Rg8 13.Rxf4 Rxg7 14.Na3 0–0–0 = With chances for both sides. Entering these lines is ill advised, since White has better choices at the start.;

**B)** 9.Bg2 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Bc6

11.0–0 h5! This is another reason why we should keep away from this variation as White. 12.Na3 h4 13.Nc4 Qd7 14.Bb2 hxc3 15.hxc3 Bd6 ]

**6...Be7 7.e5** Waiting one move makes a huge difference! White controls more space in the middle of the board, so now this push makes more sense.

**7...Nd5 8.Ne4 0–0 9.Bb5**

Another strong move: Black's knight is forced to move, as captures on c6 and d6 are threatened. Black cannot afford his pawn chain to be damaged in such a manner. **9...Na5**

[ 9...Nxf4? once again does not work due to 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd6 Qxd6 13.Be5 Nxc2+ 14.Kf2 and White wins a piece. ]

**10.0–0 a6 11.Be2 Nxf4 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Ne5** White's attack is building up rapidly. Black needs to show ultimate precision in order not to collapse.

**13...Nd5 14.c4 Bxe5 15.Bxe5 Ne7**

**16.Qe1** Not only is White's compensation crystal clear, but also he is a bit better thanks to the enormous potential towards Black's king. After Qg3 all sorts of sacrifices and mating motifs will be on the table.

**B20**

□ **8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**  
 ■ **4...e6 #8**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**

[ The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6 , and White players are highly likely to face one of these two, but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not

consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead. ]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be. **5...Nc6 6.Bg2 Nde7** We have seen this maneuver before. Black's knight is heading to f5 to defend the g7 –pawn in order to facilitate Black's kingside development. We will examine two new moves in this position: Na3 and f4 .

### 7.Na3

[ 7.Nf3 is also possible and leads to lines we've examined in an earlier chapter . ]

### 7...Nf5 8.Nc4 Be7 9.Ne3 Nfd4

Blocking the long diagonal. This choice may solve Black's issue with g7 once the e5 –pawn is exchanged.

[ 9...Nxe3 10.dxe3 0–0 11.Nf3 Qc7 12.h4! ]

### 10.Ne2 Qc7 11.f4 d5 12.exd6 Bxd6

### 13.0–0 0–0 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Bxc6

### Qxc6 16.Bxd4

Black gets sufficient compensation for the pawn in this variation. **16...b5 17.Qf3** Trying to exchange queens. However, Black still has resources. **17...Qd7 18.Qxa8 Bb7 19.Qxa7 Ra8 20.Qxa8+ Bxa8 21.a4**

White should be ready for this unbalanced position. Two rooks and a pawn against a queen is a good bargain.

## B20

□ **9) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+**

■ **4...Nbd7 #6**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This move order makes a significant difference for the arising positions: Since Black did not place the knight on c6 , the bishop check on b5 can be met by ... Bd7 . This way Black can protect his pawn formation. Pushing e5 and kicking the knight away is also not an option now. This is completely a new ocean! **3.Bb2 Nf6**

**4.Bb5+** The most popular move. White proceeds accordingly with a bishop check. Finding a proper square for our light–squared bishop has been an issue in many of these 2. b3 Sicilian variations, and we already know that this piece usually exits the stage earlier than others. **4...Nbd7 5.Qe2 g6 6.f4 Bg7 7.Nf3 0–0 8.0–0 a6 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 10.c4** Once again reaching our beloved setup, where all the pawns remain on the light squares, the color opposite of the b2 –bishop. **10...b5 11.d3 Bc6 12.Nc3**

[ 12.Na3 and Nbd2 both also come into consideration, but developing the knight to c3 has one big plus compared to others: the jump to d5 ! Due to this unpleasant positional threat Black must act immediately. ]

### 12...bxc4 13.bxc4 Nh5 14.g3 Rb8

**15.Rab1** White renews the threat of Nd5 . Our main goal is to trade off the bishops and end up with a more favorable position with a space advantage. On the other hand, Black's position is not worse: the open b–file and the two bishops definitely give him some chances.

## B20

□ 9) 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+  
 ■ 4...Nbd7 #4

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6** This move order makes a significant difference for the arising positions: Since Black did not place the knight on c6, the bishop check on b5 can be met by ... Bd7. This way Black can protect his pawn formation. Pushing e5 and kicking the knight away is also not an option now. This is completely a new ocean! **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Bb5+** The most popular move. White proceeds accordingly with a bishop check. Finding a proper square for our light-squared bishop has been an issue in many of these 2. b3 Sicilian variations, and we already know that this piece usually exits the stage earlier than others. **4...Nbd7 5.Qe2 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 e6** Things have changed and now Black usually prefers this move, although the alternative 7... g6 is not bad either. **8.Nc3 Be7 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0** Long castling would be way too ambitious. The classical approach suits White's army better. **10...b5 11.e5 Nd5** [ 11...Ne8 12.Ne4 d5 13.Ng3 g6 14.d4 b4 15.Qf2 In this unbalanced position White's chances lie on the kingside attack. Ng3 has to be removed for g4 advance. ] **12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Ne5 b4 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Qh5 d4 17.d3** White's dark-squared bishop is blinded on b2. Therefore, it should seek a future on other diagonals.

## B50

□ 2) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e6  
 ■ 4...d6 #1

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e6** Black stays flexible with this move. It is not certain whether at some point he will play ... d5 or not. **4.Nf3** This is the most common move and also our recommendation. White can change the course of the opening by playing d2 – d4 anytime. Black now has four – seemingly logical – moves.

[ 4.Bb5, developing the second bishop, resembles the Rossolimo Systems, but it is not so effective here as Black has time to guard the knight immediately: Nge7! **5.Ne2 ( 5.f4** Playing with the f-pawn is double-edged here as White will need to concede the bishop pair. **a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d3 d5 8.Nd2 d4 9.Ngf3 Be7 ) 5...a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0-0 b5 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 ( 10...exd5? 11.Re1** is out of question. ) **11.Nf4 Qf5 12.Nh5!** ∞ This position is hard to assess due to its unorthodox dynamics. White has a lead in development and some direct threats, whereas Black has the 'ever-famous' bishop pair. ]  
 [ 4.f4 is seen in the model game Morozevich–Gordievsky . ]

**4...d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4** This position is very similar to the newly named 'Carlsen Sicilian'. If allowed, White can go Nc3 – Qd2 and O–O–O. **6...e5** Although this move weakens the d5 – square, in many Sicilians the e5 push is considered a standard way of dealing with White's central knight. Here it makes more sense as it limits the b2 –



bishop as well. **7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.c4**

This central approach is not the only way, of course!

[Alternatively, 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Bc4 Be7 10.Qe2 0-0 11.0-0-0 ± White has lead in development, some pressure along the d-file and he may (and probably must) start an attack on the kingside! ]

**8...Nf6 9.Bd3** Black needs to stop White from pushing c5 in the future, and the best way to do this is by playing ... Nd7 as we will see in the mainline. Now let's take a quick look at a 'wrong method' of preventing c4 – c5 : **9...c5 10.Nc3 Be6 11.0-0 Be7 12.Be2** Flexibility! Pawn movements change the dynamic of the position drastically, so we must act according to the new structure. Philidor was right! **12...0-0 13.Qd3 Rb8 14.Rad1 Ne8 15.g3** Very tough times await Black.

□ **15) 2...b6**

■ **4...e6 #4**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** Black follows in White's footsteps. However, the fianchetto does not have the same effect for Black, as the a8 – h1 diagonal is already occupied by the e4 – pawn. This is a rare line, but very playable nonetheless. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6** We believe that this move is already a slight inaccuracy, which lets White grab the initiative at a very early stage.

[ 4...d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Qe2 Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.g4 d5 10.e5 Nxg4 11.Rg1 h5 12.f5 Nf8 13.Nb5 d4 14.Bg2 exf5 15.Nfxd4 Bxg2

16.Nxf5 Bc6 17.Nxg7+ Kd7 18.d4 c4 19.Nc3 Bh4 20.d5 Bb7 21.e6+ Kc8 22.d6 Qg5+ 23.Kb1 Nxe6 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.h3 Bf2 26.Rgf1 Ne3 27.Rxf2 Nxd1 28.Qxc4+ Qc5 29.Qxe6+ Kb8 30.Nxd1 Rd8 31.Qe7 Rc8 32.Be5 a5 33.d7+ Ka7 34.dxc8N+ Qxc8 35.Bd4 Qc6 36.Rf6 Re8 37.Rxc6 Rxe7 38.Rxb6 Ka8 39.Rb5 Re1 40.Rxa5+ Kb8 41.Kc1 Bf3 42.Kd2 Rxd1+ 43.Ke3 Bg2 44.Rxh5 Rh1 45.a4 Bxh3 46.Kd2 Kb7 47.Rh6 Rh2+ 48.Kc3 Rh1 49.Kb4 Bg2 50.Rxh1 Bxh1 51.c4 Kc6 52.Kc3 Bf3 53.b4 Be2 54.b5+ Kc7 55.Kb4 Kb7 56.a5 Ka8 57.c5 Kb8 58.c6 Ka8 59.Kc5 Bg4 60.a6 Bc8 61.Kd6 Kb8 62.a7+ Ka8 63.Kc7 1-0 Morozevich,A (2731) –Yu, Y (2675) Dubai 2014 ]

**5.d4** A familiar guest to our practice!

The unwritten rule of the b3 variation applies here as well: Whenever the opportunity is presented (we mean Black is not controlling the center well enough), getting into the Carlsen Variation type of position is the most effective solution.

**5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qe3 Nf6**

**8.0-0-0 Rc8 9.e5** This pawn sacrifice has a huge impact on the whole line. Let us remind you that White already had a pleasant position, and was by no means forced to jettison a pawn in order to stay on top. **9...Ng4 10.Qg3 Ngxe5 11.f4 Ng6 12.f5 Nh4** Black is content to be one pawn up, and tries to avoid opening up the position. **13.fxe6 fxe6 14.Be2** White simply wants to develop and create new threats. Black needs to protect g7 to be able to continue in a normal fashion. **14...g6 15.Bg4** The e6 – pawn is threatened. Now we

**B20**

enter a forced line. **15...Qg5+ 16.Kb1 Nf5 17.Bxf5 Qxg3 18.hxg3 gxf5 19.Nd5 e5 20.Nf6+** A smart choice, taking away Black's right to castle. **20...Ke7 21.Nd5+ Ke8 22.Nf3** White has too much pressure and will eventually take back the sacrificed pawn. After that he will have what looks a like a very pleasant endgame.

B20

□ **16) 2...e6**  
 ■ **5...Bd7 #4**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6** This is a flexible move, like many other second moves. Therefore Black hasn't yet committed himself. Which line will appear on the board is still a question mark, and by now we have delved into most of them. By side stepping all the possible transpositions we can get some independent positions here! **3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+** Players who are familiar with the Tarrasch Variation of the French Defense will recognize the importance of this check. White is rushing to occupy the e-file with the rook, thus clearing the way with tempo. **5...Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Bxd7+ Kxd7** Since there is no way to avoid the trade of the queens, Black keeps the possibility to develop the knight to the c6-square. **8.Qxe7+ Nxe7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Bxd4 Nbc6 11.Bb2 Re8** Another logical option of Black's. Although the discovered check is not threatening at all, White needs to find the move **13. Kf1** in order to fight for an advantage. **12.Nc3 Nf5+ 13.Kf1** Now both kings remain uncastled.

**13...d4 14.Rd1 Kc8 15.Nce2 Bc5 16.Nf3 Re4**

[It is getting harder and harder for Black to defend the d4 -pawn. The engines suggest a move like **16...h5** in order to jettison the d4 -pawn in exchange for activity, but White doesn't have to worry in that case. Black would be able to achieve a draw at the most. ]

**17.Ng3** After the exchange on g3 Black will have to defend a slightly worse endgame for a while.

B20

□ **5) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 and 3...d**  
 ■ **3...e5 #4 (Alternative 6.d3)**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

Black has supported this pawn push with **2... Nc6** and now executes it. More often than not, we will find ourselves in a struggle where Black tries to shut down the b2 -bishop in this fashion. Right at this moment, White should plan for the future and play for f2 – f4 ideas to free the main guy. **4.Bc4 d6 5.Ne2** Developing the knight to e2 is consistent with our main plan: Pushing f4 at the right moment! **5...Nf6 6.d3** A committal move, considering our light-squared bishop gets semi-trapped on c4 . **6...a6 7.a4 Rb8 8.0-0**

[ **8.Nbc3** To prevent Black's expansion on the queenside with **b5 . g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.f4 0-0 11.Qd2** By playing **6. d3** this move became possible. **Bh6 12.Qe1 Ng4 13.Qg3** White's threat is to push **f5** , so Black's reply is more or less forced. **exf4 14.Nxf4** One of our typical positions where we

rely on the potential of the b2 –bishop and concentrate most of our forces on the opponent's king. ]

**8...b5 9.axb5 axb5 10.Bd5 Nb4 11.c4 Be7 12.Na3** This square is a bit better than c3 for the knight. The idea is play the knight to c2 to get rid of its counterpart on b4 . **12...0–0 13.Nc2 Nxc2 14.Qxc2 Qb6 15.f4** White should show flexibility in this particular position, as an assault on Black's king will no longer be possible. Controlling the a–file is a small trump, but playing on both wings is on the agenda.

**B20**

□ **16) 2...e6**

■ **5...Nc6 #1 (Alternative 14.Bx**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6** This is a flexible move, like many other second moves. Therefore Black hasn't yet committed himself. Which line will appear on the board is still a question mark, and by now we have delved into most of them. By side stepping all the possible transpositions we can get some independent positions here! **3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+** Players who are familiar with the Tarrasch Variation of the French Defense will recognize the importance of this check. White is rushing to occupy the e–file with the rook, thus clearing the way with tempo.

**5...Nc6 6.Nf3** We are not afraid of the check on the e–file. **6...Qe7+ 7.Be2** Correct, we lost a tempo with the bishop, but the opponent will have to suffer a similar tempo loss as the f8 –bishop is blocked now. **7...Qc7 8.d4 Nf6 9.0–0 Be6** Keeping the tension and making all

the remaining logical moves. **10.Nc3** Setting a little trap. **10...a6**

[ **10...Be7? 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nb5 Qe7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.c3**

The opening of the g–file does not present any particular danger for White, as the knight will be very powerful on d4 . ]

**11.Re1 Bd6** Black can't wait with developing this bishop any longer.

**12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Na4 Bb4** Inviting White to play c3 to gain some time. Now there are two ways for absolutely two different styles! **14.Bxf6** This is not for the faint hearted! **14...Bxe1 15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Bh6 Ba5 17.c3** Aiming for b4 with decisive effect. **17...Qe7 18.b4 Bc7 19.g3 0–0–0 20.Nc5** In principle, we do not recommend sacrificing material for long–term gains in this course (unless the compensation is very clear), so this line is given as an alternative. White's king is safer, and creating targets on the queenside is very much possible.

**B20**

□ **15) 2...b6**

■ **4...e6 #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** Black follows in White's footsteps. However, the fianchetto does not have the same effect for Black, as the a8 – h1 diagonal is already occupied by the e4 –pawn. This is a rare line, but very playable nonetheless. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6** We believe that this move is already a slight inaccuracy, which lets White grab the initiative at a very early stage.

[ **4...d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Qe2**

Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.g4 d5 10.e5  
 Nxc4 11.Rg1 h5 12.f5 Nf8 13.Nb5  
 d4 14.Bg2 exf5 15.Nfxd4 Bxc2  
 16.Nxf5 Bc6 17.Nxc7+ Kd7 18.d4  
 c4 19.Nc3 Bh4 20.d5 Bb7 21.e6+  
 Kc8 22.d6 Qg5+ 23.Kb1 Nxe6  
 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.h3 Bf2 26.Rgf1  
 Ne3 27.Rxf2 Nxd1 28.Qxc4+ Qc5  
 29.Qxe6+ Kb8 30.Nxd1 Rd8 31.Qe7  
 Rc8 32.Be5 a5 33.d7+ Ka7  
 34.dxc8N+ Qxc8 35.Bd4 Qc6 36.Rf6  
 Re8 37.Rxc6 Rxe7 38.Rxb6 Ka8  
 39.Rb5 Re1 40.Rxa5+ Kb8 41.Kc1  
 Bf3 42.Kd2 Rxd1+ 43.Ke3 Bg2  
 44.Rxh5 Rh1 45.a4 Bxh3 46.Kd2  
 Kb7 47.Rh6 Rh2+ 48.Kc3 Rh1  
 49.Kb4 Bg2 50.Rxh1 Bxh1 51.c4  
 Kc6 52.Kc3 Bf3 53.b4 Be2 54.b5+  
 Kc7 55.Kb4 Kb7 56.a5 Ka8 57.c5  
 Kb8 58.c6 Ka8 59.Kc5 Bg4 60.a6  
 Bc8 61.Kd6 Kb8 62.a7+ Ka8  
 63.Kc7 1-0 Morozevich,A (2731) -Yu,  
 Y (2675) Dubai 2014 ]

**5.d4** A familiar guest to our practice!  
 The unwritten rule of the b3 variation  
 applies here as well: Whenever the  
 opportunity is presented (we mean Black  
 is not controlling the center well enough),  
 getting into the Carlsen Variation type of  
 position is the most effective solution.  
**5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qe3 Nf6**  
**8.0-0-0 Rc8 9.e5** This pawn sacrifice  
 has a huge impact on the whole line. Let  
 us remind you that White already had a  
 pleasant position, and was by no means  
 forced to jettison a pawn in order to stay  
 on top. **9...Ng4 10.Qg3 Ngxe5 11.f4**  
**Ng6 12.f5 exf5** This is too greedy, but  
 grabbing the second pawn also has its  
 merits: Now White has to prove the  
 correctness of his idea even more. **13.h4**  
**h5 14.Nf3 Be7 15.Bc4**

[Not allowing Black to castle: O-O ??  
 15.Qxg6 ]

[Instead, after Nb4 15.a3 Rxc4 bxc4  
 Na6 Kb1 Nc5 Qh3 f4 16.Nd5  
 White should be able to convert this  
 with correct play, being an exchange  
 up. ]

**B20**

□ **15) 2...b6**  
 ■ **4...e6 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** Black follows in  
 White's footsteps. However, the  
 fianchetto does not have the same effect  
 for Black, as the a8 – h1 diagonal is  
 already occupied by the e4 – pawn. This  
 is a rare line, but very playable  
 nonetheless. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6**  
 We believe that this move is already a  
 slight inaccuracy, which lets White grab  
 the initiative at a very early stage.

[ 4...d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Qe2  
 Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.g4 d5 10.e5  
 Nxc4 11.Rg1 h5 12.f5 Nf8 13.Nb5  
 d4 14.Bg2 exf5 15.Nfxd4 Bxc2  
 16.Nxf5 Bc6 17.Nxc7+ Kd7 18.d4  
 c4 19.Nc3 Bh4 20.d5 Bb7 21.e6+  
 Kc8 22.d6 Qg5+ 23.Kb1 Nxe6  
 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.h3 Bf2 26.Rgf1  
 Ne3 27.Rxf2 Nxd1 28.Qxc4+ Qc5  
 29.Qxe6+ Kb8 30.Nxd1 Rd8 31.Qe7  
 Rc8 32.Be5 a5 33.d7+ Ka7  
 34.dxc8N+ Qxc8 35.Bd4 Qc6 36.Rf6  
 Re8 37.Rxc6 Rxe7 38.Rxb6 Ka8  
 39.Rb5 Re1 40.Rxa5+ Kb8 41.Kc1  
 Bf3 42.Kd2 Rxd1+ 43.Ke3 Bg2  
 44.Rxh5 Rh1 45.a4 Bxh3 46.Kd2  
 Kb7 47.Rh6 Rh2+ 48.Kc3 Rh1  
 49.Kb4 Bg2 50.Rxh1 Bxh1 51.c4  
 Kc6 52.Kc3 Bf3 53.b4 Be2 54.b5+

Kc7 55.Kb4 Kb7 56.a5 Ka8 57.c5  
Kb8 58.c6 Ka8 59.Kc5 Bg4 60.a6  
Bc8 61.Kd6 Kb8 62.a7+ Ka8  
63.Kc7 1-0 Morozevich,A (2731) -Yu,  
Y (2675) Dubai 2014 ]

**5.d4** A familiar guest to our practice!  
The unwritten rule of the b3 variation  
applies here as well: Whenever the  
opportunity is presented (we mean Black  
is not controlling the center well enough),  
getting into the Carlsen Variation type of  
position is the most effective solution.

**5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qe3 Nf6**

**8.0-0-0 d6** Black does not have  
enough time to establish this setup. The  
main reason being that too much time  
has been spent on developing the  
queenside. **9.f4 Qc8 10.Nf3 Be7**  
**11.g4** Energetic play! The opponent  
must not be left with time to breathe in  
such positions. **11...Nxcg4 12.Qe2 0-0**

[Black also cannot save himself in  
variations where he doesn't castle:  
12...h5 13.h3 Nf6 14.Rg1 g6  
15.Nb5 Qb8 16.f5 gxf5 17.Bxf6  
Bxf6 18.Nxd6+ Kf8 19.e5 Bg7  
20.Nxf7 Kxf7 21.Rd7+ and game  
over soon. ]

**13.Rg1 Nf6 14.Bh3 g6 15.f5 exf5**  
**16.Nh4** It's just a matter of time before  
White crashes through.

□ **15) 2...b6**

■ **4...e6 #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** Black follows in  
White's footsteps. However, the  
fianchetto does not have the same effect  
for Black, as the a8 – h1 diagonal is  
already occupied by the e4 – pawn. This

is a rare line, but very playable  
nonetheless. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6**  
We believe that this move is already a  
slight inaccuracy, which lets White grab  
the initiative at a very early stage.

[ 4...d6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Qe2  
Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.g4 d5 10.e5  
Nxcg4 11.Rg1 h5 12.f5 Nf8 13.Nb5  
d4 14.Bg2 exf5 15.Nfxd4 Bxcg2  
16.Nxf5 Bc6 17.Nxcg7+ Kd7 18.d4  
c4 19.Nc3 Bh4 20.d5 Bb7 21.e6+  
Kc8 22.d6 Qg5+ 23.Kb1 Nxe6  
24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.h3 Bf2 26.Rgf1  
Ne3 27.Rxf2 Nxd1 28.Qxc4+ Qc5  
29.Qxe6+ Kb8 30.Nxd1 Rd8 31.Qe7  
Rc8 32.Be5 a5 33.d7+ Ka7  
34.dxc8N+ Qxc8 35.Bd4 Qc6 36.Rf6  
Re8 37.Rxc6 Rxe7 38.Rxb6 Ka8  
39.Rb5 Re1 40.Rxa5+ Kb8 41.Kc1  
Bf3 42.Kd2 Rxd1+ 43.Ke3 Bg2  
44.Rxh5 Rh1 45.a4 Bxh3 46.Kd2  
Kb7 47.Rh6 Rh2+ 48.Kc3 Rh1  
49.Kb4 Bg2 50.Rxh1 Bxh1 51.c4  
Kc6 52.Kc3 Bf3 53.b4 Be2 54.b5+  
Kc7 55.Kb4 Kb7 56.a5 Ka8 57.c5  
Kb8 58.c6 Ka8 59.Kc5 Bg4 60.a6  
Bc8 61.Kd6 Kb8 62.a7+ Ka8  
63.Kc7 1-0 Morozevich,A (2731) -Yu,  
Y (2675) Dubai 2014 ]

**5.d4** A familiar guest to our practice!  
The unwritten rule of the b3 variation  
applies here as well: Whenever the  
opportunity is presented (we mean Black  
is not controlling the center well enough),  
getting into the Carlsen Variation type of  
position is the most effective solution.

**5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qe3 Nf6**

**8.0-0-0 Rc8 9.e5** This pawn sacrifice  
has a huge impact on the whole line. Let  
us remind you that White already had a  
pleasant position, and was by no means  
forced to jettison a pawn in order to stay

**B20**



on top. **9...Ng4 10.Qg3 Ngxe5 11.f4 Ng6 12.f5 exf5** This is too greedy, but grabbing the second pawn also has its merits: Now White has to prove the correctness of his idea even more. **13.h4 Qc7 14.Qxc7** Exchanging queens while having such nice attacking potential is unfortunate, but it is objectively the best move. **14...Rxc7 15.Nb5 Rc8 16.Re1+ Kd8 17.h5 Nf4 18.h6 Rg8 19.hxg7 Bxg7 20.Bxg7 Rxc7 21.Nd6** With his last move, White made sure that he will pick up at least an exchange, and all the other trumps more or less stay the same for White.

B20

□ 17) 2...d5  
 ■ 3...Qxd5 #5

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5**

[All the other second move alternatives such as 2...a6 or e6 have to transpose to one of the main lines due to their slow nature. The d5 push, however, is quite different. We can make an argument that the d-pawn moving two squares ahead is premature, since Black's queen will have to step in the game at a very early stage. ]

**3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bb2 a6 8.Bxd7+ Nbxg7 9.Qe2** Once again, we head for long castling because it promises more lively play and better position compared to other setups. **9...e6 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.d4 0-0 12.g4** The situation on the board demands this pawn sacrifice. In positions where the players have castled on opposite sides, it is quite typical to

sacrifice a pawn in order to open up diagonals or lines. The one who reaches the enemy king first gets the initiative.

**12...Nxc5** Grabbing the pawn immediately is not the best as we shall see. **13.dxc5 Qf4+ 14.Kb1 Ngf6** [ 14...Nxc5?? 15.Rd4! Qf5 16.b4 e5 17.Nh4 Bxh4 18.Rxc5 White wins as Black loses a piece. ]

**15.Rhg1 g6 16.Rd4** [ 16.c6!? is also good enough for advantage. ]

**16...Qc7 17.Rc4 Rac8 18.h4**

The difference between the two attacks is clear as day. White is about to open one more line on the kingside, whereas Black is still struggling to create something tangible.

B20

□ 17) 2...d5  
 ■ 3...Nf6 #3

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5**

[All the other second move alternatives such as 2...a6 or e6 have to transpose to one of the main lines due to their slow nature. The d5 push, however, is quite different. We can make an argument that the d-pawn moving two squares ahead is premature, since Black's queen will have to step in the game at a very early stage. ]

**3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+ A** very important check, securing the advantage for White. Once the light-squared bishops are traded, it will be very difficult for Black to create any counterplay, being a pawn down. **4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.c4 e6** The pawn on d5 is a real asset for White,

so Black needs to get rid of it as soon as possible. **7.dxe6** Going into the endgame with an extra pawn looks like the best choice. This capture also gives the opponent to go astray, as taking back with the f-pawn ruins Black's pawn structure. **7...Qxe6+ 8.Qe2 Qxe2+ 9.Nxe2 Nc6 10.Bb2 Be7 11.0-0**

[ 11.d4? It isn't too late to make a mistake! After Nb4 both ... Nc2 + and ... Nd3 + are threatened. ]

**11...Nb4 12.Nbc3 Nd3 13.Rab1 0-0-0 14.Nc1** Once the d3 -knight is dismantled, the future will be bright.

**14...Nxb2**

[ 14...Rhe8 15.Nxd3 Rxd3 16.Rbd1 Bd8 17.Nb1! An exceptional retreat, but one of the best moves here. White defends d2 and is ready for Rfe1 . Re6 18.Rfe1 Ne4 19.Re2 g6 20.Kf1 White has managed to consolidate the position and is ready to chase away the enemy forces. ]

**15.Rxb2 Rhe8 16.d3 Bd6 17.Re2**

A few minor issues await White, but the good news is that Black can't do much harm and the extra pawn will start to make itself felt very soon.

**B20**

□ **17) 2...d5**

■ **3...Qxd5 #4**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5**

[All the other second move alternatives such as 2...a6 or e6 have to transpose to one of the main lines due to their slow nature. The d5 push, however, is quite different. We can make an argument that the d-pawn moving two squares

ahead is premature, since Black's queen will have to step in the game at a very early stage. ]

**3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bb2 a6 8.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 9.Qe2** Once again, we head for long castling because it promises more lively play and better position compared to other setups. **9...g6 10.Ne4**

This move combined with short castling leads to a more quiet and safe play.

**10...Qc6 11.Nxf6+ Nxf6 12.0-0 Bg7 13.d4 cxd4 14.Bxd4 0-0 15.c4**

White has a solid position. We should concentrate our forces to the queenside where we have the pawn majority. These type of endgames -3vs2- are typical and arise in many openings such as the Alapin Sicilian or the Alekhine Defense.

**B20**

□ **17) 2...d5**

■ **3...Qxd5 #3 (Alternative 10.0**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5**

[All the other second move alternatives such as 2...a6 or e6 have to transpose to one of the main lines due to their slow nature.

The d5 push, however, is quite different. We can make an argument that the d-pawn moving two squares ahead is premature, since Black's queen will have to step in the game at a very early stage. ]

**3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bb2 a6 8.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 9.Qe2** Once again, we head for long castling because it promises more lively play and better position compared to other setups. **9...g6 10.0-0-0**

In this particular case, long castling hosts some risks. **10...Bg7 11.Rhe1** Targeting the e7 –pawn in such a manner forces Black to make a concession on the dark squares. **11...e6 12.Ne4 Qc7**

[ 12...Qe7 13.g4!? An interesting idea that works best when the black queen is on the defensive. 0–0 14.g5 Nxe4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qxe4 b5 17.Kb2! = Our next move is h4 , when it is debatable whose attack is stronger. White's position is flexible and we can change the course of the play at any point by playing d4 . ]

**13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.d4 cxd4 16.Rxd4 Rc8 17.Rc4 Qb8 18.Rxc8+ Qxc8 19.Rd1** In this innocent looking endgame White has the initiative, as he controls the only open file. Managing to play c4 to deprive Black's knight of the d5 –square is part of the plan.

□ 17) 2...d5  
 ■ 3...Nf6 #1

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5**

[All the other second move alternatives such as 2...a6 or e6 have to transpose to one of the main lines due to their slow nature. The d5 push, however, is quite different. We can make an argument that the d–pawn moving two squares ahead is premature, since Black's queen will have to step in the game at a very early stage. ]

**3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+** A very important check, securing the advantage for White.

**B20**

Once the light–squared bishops are traded, it will be very difficult for Black to create any counterplay, being a pawn down. **4...Nbd7** Keeping the light–squared bishop might be the best try for the second player, but this will not bring happiness either. **5.c4 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.Nc3 e6 8.dxe6 Bxe6 9.Nf3** As we can see more clearly now, Black cannot prevent d4 , which is a huge relief for us. Without our backward d–pawn, all Black can hope for is to find compensation with the bishop pair. **9...Bd6 10.0–0 Qc7 11.h3 0–0–0** Black needs to unbalance the game even further, so it makes sense to analyze the sharpest continuation. **12.d4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Bh2+ 14.Kh1 Be5 15.Be3 Rd7 16.Rc1 Qd8** [ 16...Rhd8? 17.Nd5 ] **17.Nxe6 Rxd1 18.Nxd8 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Rxd8 20.Ne2** White is a healthy pawn up and converting is just a matter of technique.

□ 5) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 and 3...d  
 ■ 3...e5 #3 (Alternative 4.f4)

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

Black has supported this pawn push with 2... Nc6 and now executes it. More often than not, we will find ourselves in a struggle where Black tries to shut down the b2 –bishop in this fashion. Right at this moment, White should plan for the future and play for f2 – f4 ideas to free the main guy. **4.f4** Applying our main plan immediately is a bit in the style of the King's Gambit. It is not certain whether White will be able to regain this

**B20**

pawn, but on a positive note, Black's army is caught unprepared and Black has to enter the complications. **4...exf4**

[ 4...d6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.fxe5 Nxe4 7.Bb5 d5 is a transposition to the following line : 1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nc6 3. Bb2 d6 4. Bb5 e5 5. f4 Nf6 !? 6. fxe5 Nxe4 7. Nf3 d5 . ]

**5.Qf3** Attacking the pawn right away is for those who do not like 'long-term sacrifices'. **5...d5** The most challenging move. Black does not lose time trying to defend the pawn, and instead evens the odds. **6.exd5 Nd4 7.Bxd4**

[ There is another option, though: 7.Qxf4!? Nxc2+ 8.Kd1 Nxa1 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Na3 An amazing sequence! White is a rook down, yet has tremendous piece activity. The game is balanced with correct play. There are so many wild variations with massive complications that it is not realistic to fully annotate this line. A sample continuation should give you an idea: a6 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Nc4! Rd8 13.Nf3 Nxb3! 14.Re1+ Be7 15.Bxg7 Nd4 16.Nxd4 cxd4 17.Nb6 Qb5 18.Qc7 Qb1+ 19.Ke2 Qf5 20.Bxh8 Kf8 21.Bxd4 Nf6

The engine evaluates this as equal, so the player with the better tactical ability shall prevail. ]

**7...cxd4 8.Bb5+** Giving this check is vital in order to eliminate the opponent's bishop pair. **8...Bd7 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Ne2 Bc5 11.c4 dxc3 12.Nbxc3 Nf6 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4+ Qe7 15.Qxe7+ Kxe7 16.Nxf4** This endgame is balanced. White's extra pawn does not mean much. Overall we came to the conclusion that the immediate 4.f4

contains lot of risks and thus leads to lively play.

**B40**

□ **4) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**  
 ■ **5...e6 #6**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 Nf6**

Black does not mind having his knight chased. Instead, followers of this particular line encourage their opponent to do so, as the e5 –pawn will be targeted later. Similar ideas can be seen in the Alekhine Defence or the Sicilian Alapin. **4.e5** The most principled!

[ 4.Nc3 is the 'unambitious' alternative and was not played as frequently as 4. e5 . Play could continue e6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb5 ( 6.e5?! Nd7 7.Bb5 Qc7 is not advisable as Black can easily target the e5 –pawn. ) 6...Bd7 7.exd5 The best option is to steer the game into 'isolated pawn' territories. exd5 8.0–0 Be7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Ne2 0–0 11.Nexd4 It's a matter of taste, but we are guessing that many players would prefer White here. The position is balanced and most of the 'book knowledge' of isolani is still valid: White should try to exchange as many pieces as he can in order to exploit the 'weak' d5 –pawn. Black, on the contrary, must rely on active piece play. ]

**4...Nd5**

[ 4...Ne4? An unfortunate square for the knight. This move unnecessarily puts the knight in a very unstable place. 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 d5 7.0–0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Re1

The backward e–pawn will be a huge

problem for Black for many moves to come! ]

### 5.Nf3 e6

[ 5...g6 is analyzed in the model game Morozevich–Nakamura . ]

**6.g3** Once again, this multi-purpose move is the way to go. White gets a safer king, the best possible square for the light squared bishop, and eliminates the possibility of ... Nf4 . **6...Be7 7.Bg2 0-0**

[ 7...b5 Black is expanding on the queenside since this is a standard idea in many Sicilians. 8.Qe2 Rb8 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.dxc3! We have seen the idea of this way of recapturing before: White controls the critical d4 – square in this way, and then relocates the bishop with Bc1 – Bf4 . Qc7 11.a4 a6 12.axb5 axb5 13.0-0 0-0 14.Bc1 ]

**8.0-0 d6 9.Na3** One of our standard moves as a b3 Sicilian player. The knight aims for the c4 –square from where it can support the fight while not disturbing the b2 –bishop's diagonal.

### 9...dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5

[ Of course Black is not forced to exchange on e5 , but after 10...Bd7 11.Nac4 Qc7 12.Qe2 Bf6 13.Rae1 intending f2 – f4 , White still keeps a certain edge. ]

**11.Bxe5 Bf6** The most logical reaction by Black: Simplifying the position. Other moves leave White with a comfortable edge. **12.Qe2 Bxe5 13.Qxe5 Qc7** The same logic applies. The forthcoming endgame promises White a small plus. **14.Qxc7 Nxc7 15.Rfe1 Rd8 16.Re5** As we can see, Black hasn't fully solved his problems yet.

White can apply pressure on the b7 and c5 –pawns without any real risk.

**B20**

☐ **17) 2...d5**

☒ **3...Nf6 #2**

### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5

[ All the other second move alternatives such as 2...a6 or e6 have to transpose to one of the main lines due to their slow nature. The d5 push, however, is quite different. We can make an argument that the d–pawn moving two squares ahead is premature, since Black's queen will have to step in the game at a very early stage. ]

**3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+** A very important check, securing the advantage for White. Once the light–squared bishops are traded, it will be very difficult for Black to create any counterplay, being a pawn down. **4...Nbd7** Keeping the light–squared bishop might be the best try for the second player, but this will not bring happiness either. **5.c4 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.Nc3 e6 8.dxe6 Bxe6 9.Nf3** As we can see more clearly now, Black cannot prevent d4 , which is a huge relief for us. Without our backward d–pawn, all Black can hope for is to find compensation with the bishop pair. **9...Bd6 10.0-0 Qc7 11.h3 0-0-0** Black needs to unbalance the game even further, so it makes sense to analyze the sharpest continuation. **12.d4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Bh2+ 14.Kh1 Be5 15.Be3 Bxh3** The battle is heating up, but we can safely say that 'everything is under control' for White! **16.Nd5**



[Black was hoping for 16.gxh3? Bxd4 17.Bxd4 Qd7!]

**16...Qd6 17.gxh3 Nxd5 18.Qg4+**

A strong 'in-between move' that secures the king and most likely the whole game!

**18...Kb8 19.cxd5 Qxd5+ 20.Nf3 h5**

**21.Qg2 Bxa1 22.Rxa1** White has very

good prospects to win this position, as the two minor pieces are superior to rook and pawn in this situation. The presence of heavy pieces makes the difference, and White would aim to keep at least one heavy piece in play.

However, first getting out of the pin via Qg3 – Kh2 or Kg1 is called for.

**B20**

□ **Various 2nd Moves**

■ **B3 Variation**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 The fianchetto of the dark-squared bishop does not pretend to seek advantage, but White gets a playable position with a lot of pieces on the board. If White wants to play b3 it makes sense to do it immediately, as opposed to 2.Nf3 d6 3.b3 as with the knight on f3 there are no ideas based on f2–f4. 2...Nc6 Black will develop in Scheveningen style, with his pieces in the centre and ready to react to whatever White tries. 3.Bb2 d6

A multi-purpose move: if allowed Black would want to close the long diagonal by ...e5 and then develop by ...g6, ...Bg7, ...Nge7, ...O–O and then to push either ...f5 with kingside attack or ...d5 with central play; on the other hand, the move allows for ...Bd7 after White's next move, thus avoiding the doubling of the c-pawns if White takes on c6. 4.Bb5

Bd7 Of course, Black wants to take on c6 with a bishop. 5.f4 Preventing ...e5.

5...Nf6 Since ...e5 has been prevented, Black continues in Scheveningen style, with ... e6 and ... Be7 to come next.

6.Qe2 Taking on f6 would be great for Black, who would take with the e-pawn and remain with an unopposed dark-squared bishop that will be developed on g7 after ...g6 and later opened up by ...f5. 6...e6 7.Nf3 Be7 The push 8.e5 isn't dangerous in view of 8...Nd5 attacking the f4-pawn, and after 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.g3 Black can now safely castle 10...0–0 with the threat of ...Ndb4 while ...a6 is always on the cards.

**B20**

□ **1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

■ **4...Bd7 #8**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply.

Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6**

**4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 –square begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second move! **4...Bd7**

[A much better move than 4...Qc7 , since after the exchange on c6 Black will end up with a useful bishop. ]

**5.f4** Further controlling the center, fighting for the e5 –square and also gaining an opportunity to play attacking chess thanks to the semi-open f-file in some variations. **5...a6** Black's main reply, which forces White to decide the

fate of the b5 –bishop. Since time matters in chess, especially in such a position where the game is bound to stay 'open', we will take on c6 . **6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3**

[ 7.Qe2 will transpose into the main line after Nf6 8.Nc3 . ]

**7...Nf6 8.Qe2** Defending the e4 –pawn with the queen opens up the possibility of long castling. Actually, this is what Carlsen played twice in his rapid games – he won both games. **8...e6 9.Nf3 Qc7** Moving the queen is a smart way to prevent White's e5 push and certainly deserves some attention. **10.d4**

Entering the 'Open Sicilian' structure seems best, as the World Champion proceeded the same way in a roughly similar position. **10...Be7** Black is trying to keep their castling options open.

**11.0-0-0 0-0**

[ 11...0-0-0 ? Mimicking the opponent would be a gross mistake due to 12.d5! exd5 13.exd5 Be8 14.Rhe1 Bf8 15.h3 White has a space advantage as well as play on the kingside. There is no need to comment on the state of Black's bishops. ]

**12.d5** Opening up the b2 –bishop.

**12...exd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.exd5**

**Rae8 15.Rhe1** Although the computer evaluates this position as equal (as it does in most cases) for the human eye White's position is preferable thanks to his powerful bishop and good prospects on the kingside related to the g4 pawn push.

**B20**

□ **1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

■ **4...Bd7 #10**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply.

Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6**

**4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 –square begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second move! **4...Bd7**

[ A much better move than 4...Qc7 , since after the exchange on c6 Black will end up with a useful bishop. ]

**5.f4** Further controlling the center, fighting for the e5 –square and also gaining an opportunity to play attacking chess thanks to the semi-open f–file in some variations. **5...a6** Black's main reply, which forces White to decide the fate of the b5 –bishop. Since time matters in chess, especially in such a position where the game is bound to stay 'open', we will take on c6 . **6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3**

[ 7.Qe2 will transpose into the main line after Nf6 8.Nc3 . ]

**7...Nf6 8.Qe2** Defending the e4 –pawn with the queen opens up the possibility of long castling. Actually, this is what Carlsen played twice in his rapid games – he won both games. **8...e6 9.Nf3 Be7** **10.0-0-0** Carlsen's way. The aim of long castling is obvious: White wants to play d4 on the next move and get a typical 'Open Sicilian' game. The fact that White has fianchettoed his bishop means he will have a safer king plus

possibilities on the long diagonal. I must warn you: Long castling is not the first choice of modern engines!

[ 10.e5 By pushing the central pawn White more or less guarantees the exchange of the c6 –bishop. This option can be recommended for players who want to simplify the game further. dxe5 ( 10...Bxf3?! 11.Qxf3 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nd5 13.0–0 0–0 14.Ne4 ) 11.Nxe5 Rc8 12.0–0–0 b5 13.Nxc6 It's time to get rid of the strongest piece of the opponent. If we had delayed the capture, Black would have had the option to retreat to b7 or a8 . Rxc6 14.g4 White's attack is faster. 0–0 15.g5 Nd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.d3 White has very good practical chances on the kingside, whereas Black will find it difficult to reach White's king. This is mostly due to the 'hero' of the line: The b2 – bishop! ]

**10...0–0 11.d4 b5** Postponing the exchange and starting a direct assault is Black's best option. Taking immediately on d4 would benefit only White. Strangely enough this move has not yet been played in master practice, but this is a matter of time, since 99% of the playerbase nowadays has easy access to engines.

[ 11...cxd4? is analyzed in the model game Carlsen–Ehlvest . ]

## 12.e5

[ 12.dxc5?! This move contains certain degree of risk, but just take a look at the narrow road that Black has to walk! b4 The only move for Black. 13.Na4 Now a series of forced moves appear on the board. Nxe4 14.Ne5 Bd5 15.Rxd5!? exd5 16.Nc6 Qd7

17.Nxb4 dxc5 18.Nb6 Qe6 19.N4xd5 Bd8 20.Re1 f5 21.Qc4 Bxb6 22.Nxb6 Qxc4 23.Nxc4 Being an exchange down, White can count on some compensation (the better pawn structure and more active pieces) but no more. ]

## 12...Nd5 13.dxc5 dxc5 14.Nxd5

[ 14.f5!? would further complicate matters. Again, Black has a way out by means of precise defense: exf5 15.e6 Qd6! 16.Qe5 Qxe5 17.Nxe5 Nxc3 18.Bxc3 Be8 19.Nd7 fxe6 20.Nxf8 Kxf8 21.Rhf1 Two pawns for an exchange is a pretty good deal, and Black does not stand worse thanks to his center and bishop pair. ]

## 14...Bxd5 15.c4 bxc4 16.bxc4 Bxf3

**17.Qxf3 Qe8 18.Qe4** It is important to centralize the queen. White's sharp play received correct replies by Black, and now it is time to secure our position.

**18...Qa4 19.Rd3** White has a weaker king but a better bishop. A good defensive setup can be achieved by means of Ra3 and Qc2 if necessary.

**B20**

☐ Analysis

☒ N,N

## 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5

[%draw full,b2,green] <xmlX:en>this as well as d6 is the most popular continuation</:enX/xml> **4.Bc4**

[%draw full,d5] [%draw arrow,f2,f4] <xmlX:en>The move I have played and willing to recommend. Other moves such as Bb5 or f4 simply don't cut the mustard. </:enX/xml>

[ 4.g3 d5! 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000. 1001. 1002. 1003. 1004. 1005. 1006. 1007. 1008. 1009. 1010. 1011. 1012. 1013. 1014. 1015. 1016. 1017. 1018. 1019. 1020. 1021. 1022. 1023. 1024. 1025. 1026. 1027. 1028. 1029. 1030. 1031. 1032. 1033. 1034. 1035. 1036. 1037. 1038. 1039. 1040. 1041. 1042. 1043. 1044. 1045. 1046. 1047. 1048. 1049. 1050. 1051. 1052. 1053. 1054. 1055. 1056. 1057. 1058. 1059. 1060. 1061. 1062. 1063. 1064. 1065. 1066. 1067. 1068. 1069. 1070. 1071. 1072. 1073. 1074. 1075. 1076. 1077. 1078. 1079. 1080. 1081. 1082. 1083. 1084. 1085. 1086. 1087. 1088. 1089. 1090. 1091. 1092. 1093. 1094. 1095. 1096. 1097. 1098. 1099. 1100. 1101. 1102. 1103. 1104. 1105. 1106. 1107. 1108. 1109. 1110. 1111. 1112. 1113. 1114. 1115. 1116. 1117. 1118. 1119. 1120. 1121. 1122. 1123. 1124. 1125. 1126. 1127. 1128. 1129. 1130. 1131. 1132. 1133. 1134. 1135. 1136. 1137. 1138. 1139. 1140. 1141. 1142. 1143. 1144. 1145. 1146. 1147. 1148. 1149. 1150. 1151. 1152. 1153. 1154. 1155. 1156. 1157. 1158. 1159. 1160. 1161. 1162. 1163. 1164. 1165. 1166. 1167. 1168. 1169. 1170. 1171. 1172. 1173. 1174. 1175. 1176. 1177. 1178. 1179. 1180. 1181. 1182. 1183. 1184. 1185. 1186. 1187. 1188. 1189. 1190. 1191. 1192. 1193. 1194. 1195. 1196. 1197. 1198. 1199. 1200. 1201. 1202. 1203. 1204. 1205. 1206. 1207. 1208. 1209. 1210. 1211. 1212. 1213. 1214. 1215. 1216. 1217. 1218. 1219. 1220. 1221. 1222. 1223. 1224. 1225. 1226. 1227. 1228. 1229. 1230. 1231. 1232. 1233. 1234. 1235. 1236. 1237. 1238. 1239. 1240. 1241. 1242. 1243. 1244. 1245. 1246. 1247. 1248. 1249. 1250. 1251. 1252. 1253. 1254. 1255. 1256. 1257. 1258. 1259. 1260. 1261. 1262. 1263. 1264. 1265. 1266. 1267. 1268. 1269. 1270. 1271. 1272. 1273. 1274. 1275. 1276. 1277. 1278. 1279. 1280. 1281. 1282. 1283. 1284. 1285. 1286. 1287. 1288. 1289. 1290. 1291. 1292. 1293. 1294. 1295. 1296. 1297. 1298. 1299. 1300. 1301. 1302. 1303. 1304. 1305. 1306. 1307. 1308. 1309. 1310. 1311. 1312. 1313. 1314. 1315. 1316. 1317. 1318. 1319. 1320. 1321. 1322. 1323. 1324. 1325. 1326. 1327. 1328. 1329. 1330. 1331. 1332. 1333. 1334. 1335. 1336. 1337. 1338. 1339. 1340. 1341. 1342. 1343. 1344. 1345. 1346. 1347. 1348. 1349. 1350. 1351. 1352. 1353. 1354. 1355. 1356. 1357. 1358. 1359. 1360. 1361. 1362. 1363. 1364. 1365. 1366. 1367. 1368. 1369. 1370. 1371. 1372. 1373. 1374. 1375. 1376. 1377. 1378. 1379. 1380. 1381. 1382. 1383. 1384. 1385. 1386. 1387. 1388. 1389. 1390. 1391. 1392. 1393. 1394. 1395. 1396. 1397. 1398. 1399. 1400. 1401. 1402. 1403. 1404. 1405. 1406. 1407. 1408. 1409. 1410. 1411. 1412. 1413. 1414. 1415. 1416. 1417. 1418. 1419. 1420. 1421. 1422. 1423. 1424. 1425. 1426. 1427. 1428. 1429. 1430. 1431. 1432. 1433. 1434. 1435. 1436. 1437. 1438. 1439. 1440. 1441. 1442. 1443. 1444. 1445. 1446. 1447. 1448. 1449. 1450. 1451. 1452. 1453. 1454. 1455. 1456. 1457. 1458. 1459. 1460. 1461. 1462. 1463. 1464. 1465. 1466. 1467. 1468. 1469. 1470. 1471. 1472. 1473. 1474. 1475. 1476. 1477. 1478. 1479. 1480. 1481. 1482. 1483. 1484. 1485. 1486. 1487. 1488. 1489. 1490. 1491. 1492. 1493. 1494. 1495. 1496. 1497. 1498. 1499. 1500. 1501. 1502. 1503. 1504. 1505. 1506. 1507. 1508. 1509. 1510. 1511. 1512. 1513. 1514. 1515. 1516. 1517. 1518. 1519. 1520. 1521. 1522. 1523. 1524. 1525. 1526. 1527. 1528. 1529. 1530. 1531. 1532. 1533. 1534. 1535. 1536. 1537. 1538. 1539. 1540. 1541. 1542. 1543. 1544. 1545. 1546. 1547. 1548. 1549. 1550. 1551. 1552. 1553. 1554. 1555. 1556. 1557. 1558. 1559. 1560. 1561. 1562. 1563. 1564. 1565. 1566. 1567. 1568. 1569. 1570. 1571. 1572. 1573. 1574. 1575. 1576. 1577. 1578. 1579. 1580. 1581. 1582. 1583. 1584. 1585. 1586. 1587. 1588. 1589. 1590. 1591. 1592. 1593. 1594. 1595. 1596. 1597. 1598. 1599. 1600. 1601. 1602. 1603. 1604. 1605. 1606. 1607. 1608. 1609. 1610. 1611. 1612. 1613. 1614. 1615. 1616. 1617. 1618. 1619. 1620. 1621. 1622. 1623. 1624. 1625. 1626. 1627. 1628. 1629. 1630. 1631. 1632. 1633. 1634. 1635. 1636. 1637. 1638. 1639. 1640. 1641. 1642. 1643. 1644. 1645. 1646. 1647. 1648. 1649. 1650. 1651. 1652. 1653. 1654. 1655. 1656. 1657. 1658. 1659. 1660. 1661. 1662. 1663. 1664. 1665. 1666. 1667. 1668. 1669. 1670. 1671. 1672. 1673. 1674. 1675. 1676. 1677. 1678. 1679. 1680. 1681. 1682. 1683. 1684. 1685. 1686. 1687. 1688. 1689. 1690. 1691. 1692. 1693. 1694. 1695. 1696. 1697. 1698. 1699. 1700. 1701. 1702. 1703. 1704. 1705. 1706. 1707. 1708. 1709. 1710. 1711. 1712. 1713. 1714. 1715. 1716. 1717. 1718. 1719. 1720. 1721. 1722. 1723. 1724. 1725. 1726. 1727. 1728. 1729. 1730. 1731. 1732. 1733. 1734. 1735. 1736. 1737. 1738. 1739. 1740. 1741. 1742. 1743. 1744. 1745. 1746. 1747. 1748. 1749. 1750. 1751. 1752. 1753. 1754. 1755. 1756. 1757. 1758. 1759. 1760. 1761. 1762. 1763. 1764. 1765. 1766. 1767. 1768. 1769. 1770. 1771. 1772. 1773. 1774. 1775. 1776. 1777. 1778. 1779. 1780. 1781. 1782. 1783. 1784. 1785. 1786. 1787. 1788. 1789. 1790. 1791. 1792. 1793. 1794. 1795. 1796. 1797. 1798. 1799. 1800. 1801. 1802. 1803. 1804. 1805. 1806. 1807. 1808. 1809. 1810. 1811. 1812. 1813. 1814. 1815. 1816. 1817. 1818. 1819. 1820. 1821. 1822. 1823. 1824. 1825. 1826. 1827. 1828. 1829. 1830. 1831. 1832. 1833. 1834. 1835. 1836. 1837. 1838. 1839. 1840. 1841. 1842. 1843. 1844. 1845. 1846. 1847. 1848. 1849. 1850. 1851. 1852. 1853. 1854. 1855. 1856. 1857. 1858. 1859. 1860. 1861. 1862. 1863. 1864. 1865. 1866. 1867. 1868. 1869. 1870. 1871. 1872. 1873. 1874. 1875. 1876. 1877. 1878. 1879. 1880. 1881. 1882. 1883. 1884. 1885. 1886. 1887. 1888. 1889. 1890. 1891. 1892. 1893. 1894. 1895. 1896. 1897. 1898. 1899. 1900. 1901. 1902. 1903. 1904. 1905. 1906. 1907. 1908. 1909. 1910. 1911. 1912. 1913. 1914. 1915. 1916. 1917. 1918. 1919. 1920. 1921. 1922. 1923. 1924. 1925. 1926. 1927. 1928. 1929. 1930. 1931. 1932. 1933. 1934. 1935. 1936. 1937. 1938. 1939. 1940. 1941. 1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962. 1963. 1964. 1965.

issue since 5.exd5 Qxd5  
6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 Nd4 8.Bxd4  
cxd4

[ 4.f4 exf4 5.Nf3 Nf6! ( 5...d5  
<xmlX:en>is not as good as played in  
Inarkiev-Donchenko, 2015</:enX/xml>  
6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Bc4 Qe4+  
8.Kf2 ) 6.e5 Ng4 7.Bc4 Be7  
[%draw full,f4,green] <xmlX:en>and I  
don't believe White can equalise</  
:enX/xml> 8.h3 Nh6 [%draw arrow,  
h6,f5,green] [%draw arrow,f5,g3,  
green] [%draw arrow,f5,d4,green] ]

#### 4...d6

[ 4...Nf6!? an underrated reply and  
one that might actually be more  
precise as it pretty much forces White  
to play Nc3 immediately, giving Black  
additional options.

**A) 5.d3?! d5!? ( 5...d6 <xmlX:en>  
will mostly transpose to lines  
involving an earlier d6</:enX/xml> )  
6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3 f6! 8.0-0 Be7  
9.Nbd2 Nb6 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Ne4  
0-0 and if anyone was for  
preference it was Black 0-1 (34)  
Vavulin,M (2441)-Oparin,G (2569)  
Moscow 2015 [%draw arrow,a7,a6,  
green] [%draw arrow,b5,c6,green]  
[%draw arrow,d7,c6,green] [%draw  
arrow,c6,g2,green] and if anyone  
was for preference it was Black 0-1  
(34) Vavulin,M (2441)-Oparin,G  
(2569) Moscow 2015 [%draw arrow,  
a7,a6,green] [%draw arrow,b5,c6,  
green] [%draw arrow,d7,c6,green]  
[%draw arrow,c6,g2,green] and if  
anyone was for preference it was  
Black 0-1 (34) Vavulin,M (2441)-  
Oparin,G (2569) Moscow 2015 and  
if anyone was for preference it was  
Black 0-1 (34) Vavulin,M (2441)-**

Oparin,G (2569) Moscow 2015  
[%draw arrow,a7,a6,green] [%draw  
arrow,b5,c6,green] [%draw arrow,  
d7,c6,green] [%draw arrow,c6,g2,  
green] and if anyone was for  
preference it was Black 0-1 (34)  
Vavulin,M (2441)-Oparin,G (2569)  
Moscow 2015;

**B) 5.Nc3 Nxe4!? is playable  
( 5...d6; 5...Be7 ) 6.Nxe4 d5 7.Bd3  
dxe4 8.Bxe4 [%draw arrow,e4,c6,  
green] [%draw arrow,b2,e5,green]  
[%draw full,e5,green] Bd6  
and here the specialist in this line  
GM E.Romanov has played Qh5  
consistently**

**B1) 9.Bxc6+!?N bxc6 10.d3  
is an interesting approach for the  
more strategically minded player  
[%draw full,a7,green] [%draw full,  
c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green]  
[%draw full,e5,green] is an  
interesting approach for the  
more strategically minded player  
[%draw full,a7,green] [%draw full,  
c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green]  
[%draw full,e5,green] is an  
interesting approach for the  
more strategically minded player  
is an interesting approach for the  
more strategically minded player  
[%draw full,a7,green] [%draw full,  
c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green]  
[%draw full,e5,green] is an  
interesting approach for the  
more strategically minded player  
0-0 ( 10...c4!? a typical pawn  
sacrifice in these structures  
11.dxc4 Bb4+ 12.c3 Qxd1+  
13.Rxd1 Be7 White is a pawn  
to the good but Black's bishops  
provide excellent compensation**

[%draw full,b2,green] White is a pawn to the good but Black's bishops provide excellent compensation [%draw full,b2,green] White is a pawn to the good but Black's bishops provide excellent compensation White is a pawn to the good but Black's bishops provide excellent compensation [%draw full,b2,green] White is a pawn to the good but Black's bishops provide excellent compensation ) 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.0-0 Re8 13.h3 Bh5 14.g4 Bg6 15.Re1 f6 16.Nd2= White will play on the light squares but Black is active enough to hold the balance [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,d2,green] White will play on the light squares but Black is active enough to hold the balance [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,d2,green] White will play on the light squares but Black is active enough to hold the balance White will play on the light squares but Black is active enough to hold the balance [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,d2,green] White will play on the light squares but Black is active enough to hold the balance; **B2)** 9.Qh5 Nd4! seems to equalise ( 9...Qe7 10.Nf3 g6 11.Qh6 Bd7 12.0-0 0-0-0 13.Rfe1 f6 ) 10.Nf3 ( 10.Bxd4 cxd4 [%draw arrow,g7,g6,green] [%draw arrow,f7,f5,green] [%draw full,f7,green] ) 10...g6 11.Qh6 Bf8 12.Qe3 Bg7= <xmlX:en>the comp gives as

equal</:enX/xml> ]  
**5.d3** Kramnik's choice, but maybe less accurate than 5.Nc3 since  
 [ 5.Nc3! may very well be a more accurate move order since g6 6.f4 [%draw full,c4,green] [%draw full,f7,green] [%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw arrow,g1,f3,green] [%draw arrow,e1,g1,green] Bg7 7.fxe5 ( 7.Nf3?! exf4 <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior version of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior version of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,g7,b2,green] <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior version of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,g7,b2,green] <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior version of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior version of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior version of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,g7,b2,green] <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior version of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> ) 7...dxe5 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 0-0 10.0-0 <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,a7,a6,green] [%draw arrow,a2,a4,green] <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,a7,



a6,green] [%draw arrow,a2,a4,green] <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,a7,a6,green] [%draw arrow,a2,a4,green] <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> Be6 11.Ng5 ( 11.Bxe6 fxe6 [%draw full,e5,green] [%draw full,e6,green] ) 11...Bxc4 12.bxc4± <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> [%draw full,d5,green] <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> [%draw full,d5,green] <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> [%draw full,d5,green] <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> ]

**5...Nf6** <xmlX:en>will mostly transpose to lines involving an earlier d6</:enX/xml>

[ 5...g6! 6.Ne2 ( 6.f4 Bg7 7.Ne2 Nge7 [%draw arrow,e8,g8,green] [%draw arrow,e5,f4,green] ) 6...Bg7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nbc3 0-0

**A)** 9.f4?! exf4 10.Rxf4 ( 10.Nxf4 Ng4 [%draw arrow,g4,e3,green] [%draw arrow,g7,d4,green] [%draw arrow,d8,h4,green] ) 10...Be6!± [%draw full,d6] [%draw arrow,d6,d5] <xmlX:en>as per Teske-Troyke, 1996</:enX/xml>;

**B)** 9.h3 Nh5!= <xmlX:en>is a theme we are aware of as per Venkatesh-Vishnu, 2008, halting White's plans with f4</:enX/xml> ]

**6.Ne2**

[ 6.Nc3 [%draw arrow,d6,d5,green] [%draw arrow,f6,e4,green] Be7

7.Nge2 <xmlX:en>will transpose</:enX/xml> ]

**6...Be7 7.Nbc3** <xmlX:en>will transpose</:enX/xml>

[ 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbc3 <xmlX:en>just transposes to normal lines.</:enX/xml> ]

**7...0-0** <xmlX:en>is the most played move</:enX/xml>

[ 7...Nd4!? <xmlX:en>Kobalia's try, though this move has 0/2 to date</:enX/xml> 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ( 9.Qd2 <xmlX:en>was my try vs Longson in 2013, but isn't that great</:enX/xml> Rb8 10.a4 Nh5!? 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Nd5 Bg5= ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 [%draw full,g5,green] [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 [%draw full,g5,green] [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 [%draw full,g5,green] [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 ) 9...a6 ( 9...Bg4 <xmlX:en>doesn't impress as shown by Romanov</:enX/xml> 10.h3! Bxe2 11.Nxe2± 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, [%draw arrow,f4,e5,green] 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, [%draw arrow,f4,e5,green] 1-0 (34)

Romanov,E (2392)–Kostin,K (2300)  
 Dagomys 2004, 1–0 (34) Romanov,E  
 (2392)–Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys  
 2004, 1–0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)–  
 Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004,  
 [%draw arrow,f4,e5,green] 1–0 (34)  
 Romanov,E (2392)–Kostin,K (2300)  
 Dagomys 2004, d5 12.fxe5 Nxe4  
 13.dxe4 dxc4 14.Nxd4 cxd4  
 15.Bxd4 cxb3 16.axb3± [%draw full,  
 e4,green] [%draw full,e5,green] ) 10.a4

**A) 10...Rb8** 11.a5! Be6

1–0 (54) Shaw,J (2432)–Duncan,C  
 (2332) Birmingham 2006 12.f5!  
 Bd7 ( 12...Bxc4 13.bxc4  
 [%draw full,d5] <xmlX:en>is exactly  
 what White is hoping for</:enX/  
 xml> [%draw full,d5] <xmlX:en>is  
 exactly what White is hoping for</  
 :enX/xml> [%draw full,d5] [%draw  
 full,e7,green] <xmlX:en>is exactly  
 what White is hoping for</:enX/  
 xml> [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,e7,  
 green] <xmlX:en>is exactly what  
 White is hoping for</:enX/xml>  
 [%draw full,d5] <xmlX:en>is exactly  
 what White is hoping for</:enX/  
 xml> [%draw full,d5] <xmlX:en>is  
 exactly what White is hoping for</  
 :enX/xml> [%draw full,d5]  
 <xmlX:en>is exactly what White is  
 hoping for</:enX/xml> [%draw full,  
 d5] [%draw full,e7,green]

<xmlX:en>is exactly what White is  
 hoping for</:enX/xml> ) 13.Ng3±  
 [%draw arrow,g3,h5,green] [%draw  
 arrow,c3,d5,green] [%draw arrow,  
 c2,c3,green] [%draw full,f6,green];  
**B) 10...b6** [%draw arrow,c8,b7,  
 green] [%draw arrow,d6,d5,green]  
 11.Nd5 Rb8 ( 11...Nxd5 12.Bxd5  
 Rb8 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.c3 dxc3

15.Bxc3± ) 12.fxe5 dxe5

<xmlX:en>and here</:enX/xml>

△13.Nxd4! ( 13.Ng3?! Nxd5

14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5 Bf6=

<xmlX:en>was nothing special for  
 White despite the result of the  
 game</:enX/xml> ) 13...exd4

14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bc1↑

<xmlX:en>as pointed out by GM  
 David Smerdon (amongst others),  
 was a better try giving White a  
 plus</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as  
 pointed out by GM David Smerdon  
 (amongst others), was a better try  
 giving White a plus</:enX/xml>

[%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw

arrow,b6,b5,green] <xmlX:en>as

pointed out by GM David Smerdon  
 (amongst others), was a better try  
 giving White a plus</:enX/xml>

[%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw

arrow,b6,b5,green] <xmlX:en>as

pointed out by GM David Smerdon  
 (amongst others), was a better try  
 giving White a plus</:enX/xml>

<xmlX:en>as pointed out by GM  
 David Smerdon (amongst others),  
 was a better try giving White a  
 plus</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as

pointed out by GM David Smerdon  
 (amongst others), was a better try  
 giving White a plus</:enX/xml>

[%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw

arrow,b6,b5,green] <xmlX:en>as

pointed out by GM David Smerdon  
 (amongst others), was a better try  
 giving White a plus</:enX/xml>

b5

16.axb5 axb5 17.Bd5

[%draw arrow,a1,a7,green] [%draw  
 arrow,a7,f7,green] [%draw arrow,c1,  
 f4,green] [%draw arrow,d1,f3,  
 green] ]

**8.0-0** <xmlX:en>Probably the most common position in the entire b3 Sicilian</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>just transposes to normal lines.</:enX/xml>

**8...Be6** <xmlX:en>a critical position</:enX/xml>

[ 8...a6 <xmlX:en>is always met by</:enX/xml> 9.a4 ]

**9.f4**

[ 9.Qd2 Nh5 [%draw arrow,e7,g5, green] 10.Nd5 Bg5= <xmlX:en>is a similar story</:enX/xml> ]

**9...Ng4** [%draw arrow,g4,e3,green]

[ 9...Bxc4?! <xmlX:en>was seen in Reefat-Roy Chowdhury, 2017 but I can't help but feel this always helps White</:enX/xml> 10.bxc4 Nd4 11.Rb1 [%draw arrow,b1,b7,green] [%draw arrow,b2,a1,green] Rb8 12.Ng3!± [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw arrow,c2,c3, green] [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw arrow,c2,c3,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw arrow,c2,c3, green] ]

**10.Qd2** <xmlX:en>has been universally played, however</:enX/xml>

[ 10.Bc1!? [%draw full,f4] [%draw arrow,f4,f5] <xmlX:en>is a Fritz suggestion and certainly a playable alternative to 10.Qd2</:enX/xml> exf4 ( 10...Nd4 11.f5! Bxc4 12.bxc4± [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,g4,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d5,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,g4,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d5,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw

full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,g4,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d5,green] ) 11.Nxf4 [%draw full,e6,green]

**A) 11...Bd7** 12.Nfd5 Bh4

( 12...Bg5 ) 13.a4± [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw full,f7, green] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw arrow,c4,f7, green] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw full,f7,green] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw arrow,c4,f7,green];

**B) 11...Bf6!?** 12.Nxe6 fxe6

13.Bxe6+ Kh8 14.Bxg4 Bxc3 15.Rb1 Rxf1+ 16.Qxf1 <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,c6,d4,green] [%draw arrow,c6,b4,green] [%draw arrow,a8,f8,green] <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one

that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,c6,d4,green] [%draw arrow,c6,b4,green] [%draw arrow,a8,f8,green] <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,c6,d4,green] [%draw arrow,c6,b4,green] [%draw arrow,a8,f8,green] <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> ]

**10...exf4 11.Nxf4 Bxc4 12.bxc4 Bf6** [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,e5,green] [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,e5,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,e5,green]  
**13.Rab1 Bd4+ 14.Kh1**± as per the correspondence game ½–½ (44)  
 Nightingale,D (2511)–Abramov,S (2410)  
 ICCF email 2013

**B20**

□ **1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**  
 ■ **4...e5 #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply. Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 –square begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second move! **4...e5** Black has achieved his aim: to close down the b2 –bishop. **5.f4 exf4**

[After 5...Nf6?! 6.fxe5 Nxe4 7.Nf3 d5 8.0–0 ± White has the semi–open f–file at his disposal. Therefore he should be able to claim a small advantage. Black can also play Bg4!? , intending ... Ng5 , which leads to double–edged play: O–O ! 9.Ng5 exd6 Nxf3+ gxf3 Bh3 10.Re1 Kd7 11.Qe2 Bd6 12.Qf2 with an unclear position. ]

**6.Nf3 Nge7** This has the idea to hang on the newly grabbed pawn, but it is insufficient for equality. **7.0–0 Ng6**

[ 7...a6 8.Bxc6+ Time is critical as in most cases. Nxc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nd5 0–0 11.d3 White has a nice pawn structure and can recover the pawn with Nxf4 at the right moment. ]

**8.d4 Be7** An interesting try: Black wants to make use of the fact that, for the moment, the b2 –bishop does not attack the g7 –pawn. If the tactics do work in Black's favour (fortunately they don't!) castling with an extra pawn would be great. **9.d5 a6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6**

**11.Bxg7** Now Black's king will not be able to castle. Play along the g-file is Black's best hope. **11...Rg8 12.Bc3 cxd5 13.exd5 Bf5** An important developing move ,not letting us play Qd3

[ 13...Kf8 14.Qd3! Bh3 15.Ne1 Bg4 16.Nd2 ]

**14.Qe2 Kf8 15.Nbd2** Since Black's king has some safety issues, White must act quickly. Therefore sacrificing the c2 – pawn is called for. I will give two possible continuations:

[A) Bxc2 Rae1 Bf5 Ne4 Now Nfd2 is a huge threat, which means Black must let go of the bishop pair. Bxe4 15.Qe4 Bf6 16.Bd2! Be5 17.g3! ± Defending this position with Black is extremely difficult in practice. ]

[B) 15.Bf6 Qc4 Kg7 Black's king has reached safety, solving some of Black's problems. The best White can now hope for is to get a better endgame. The following moves illustrate this aim: Rae1 Bxc3 Qxc3+ Qf6 Qxf6+ Kxf6 Ne4+ Be4 Rxe4± . ]

**B20**

□ **1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

■ **4...e5 #5**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply. Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 –square begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second

move! **4...e5** Black has achieved his aim: to close down the b2 –bishop. **5.f4 exf4**

[After 5...Nf6?! 6.fxe5 Nxe4 7.Nf3 d5 8.0–0 ± White has the semi-open f-file at his disposal. Therefore he should be able to claim a small advantage. Black can also play Bg4!? , intending ... Ng5 , which leads to double-edged play: O–O ! 9.Ng5 exd6 Nxf3+ gxf3 Bh3 10.Re1 Kd7 11.Qe2 Bd6 12.Qf2 with an unclear position. ]

**6.Nf3 Nge7** has the idea to hang on the newly grabbed pawn, but it is insufficient for equality. **7.0–0 Ng6**

[ 7...a6 8.Bxc6+ Time is critical as in most cases. Nxc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nd5 0–0 11.d3 White has a nice pawn structure and can recover the pawn with Nxf4 at the right moment. ]

**8.d4** A different approach is necessary since regaining the pawn will not be easy after ... Ng6 . **8...Bd7**

[ 8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7 10.Nc3 a6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nf5 ]

**9.Nbd2 Be7** Black should also focus on development. **10.d5 Nce5 11.Nxe5**

[ 11.Bxd7+?! Qxd7 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Nc4 looks promising positionally, but White is a full pawn down. ]

**11...dxe5 12.a4** Now White gets the beautiful c4 –square for his knight.

**12...Bd6 13.Nc4 Qe7 14.Qh5**

White does not stand worse at all. In fact, the pawn is likely to be regained since holding on e5 is not easy for Black.



**B20**

□ 1) **2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

■ 4...e5 #2

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply. Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 –square begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second move! **4...e5** Black has achieved his aim: to close down the b2 –bishop. **5.f4 exf4**

[After 5...Nf6?! 6.fxe5 Nxe4 7.Nf3 d5 8.0–0 ± White has the semi–open f–file at his disposal. Therefore he should be able to claim a small advantage. Black can also play Bg4!? , intending ... Ng5 , which leads to double–edged play: O–O ! 9.Ng5 exd6 Nxf3+ gxf3 Bh3 10.Re1 Kd7 11.Qe2 Bd6 12.Qf2 with an unclear position. ]

**6.Nf3 Nge7** This has the idea to hang on the newly grabbed pawn, but it is insufficient for equality. **7.0–0 Ng6**

[ 7...a6 8.Bxc6+ Time is critical as in most cases. Nxc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nd5 0–0 11.d3 White has a nice pawn structure and can recover the pawn with Nxf4 at the right moment. ]

**8.d4** A different approach is necessary since regaining the pawn will not be easy after ... Ng6 . **8...Bd7**

[ 8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7 10.Nc3 a6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nf5 ]

**9.Nbd2 a6** is too slow: **10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.d5 Bd7 12.e5** White opens up the

position while Black's king is still in the middle. **12...dxe5 13.Nxe5 f6**

[ 13...Bd6? 14.Nxg6 hxg6 ( 14...fxg6 15.Nc4 ) 15.Bxg7 Rh7 16.Re1+ and it's over. ]

**14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Nc4** With Re1 + coming next, Black is busted. White can expect to get a quick victory in this position.

**B20**

□ 1) **2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**

■ 4...Bd7 #4 (Alternative 7.d3)

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply.

Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 –square begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second move! **4...Bd7**

[A much better move than 4...Qc7 , since after the exchange on c6 Black will end up with a useful bishop. ]

**5.f4** Further controlling the center, fighting for the e5 –square and also gaining an opportunity to play attacking chess thanks to the semi–open f–file in some variations. **5...a6** Black's main reply, which forces White to decide the fate of the b5 –bishop. Since time matters in chess, especially in such a position where the game is bound to stay 'open', we will take on c6 . **6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.d3** This is another way to treat the position. In the mainline we prefer to keep the possibility to play d2 – d4 in

one go, though. **7...d5** Black decides to challenge White's center immediately. As we will see in a move, the second player will throw more wood into the fire! **8.Nd2** This is our recommendation.

[ 8.exd5?! is not recommended as it loses some key squares and activates Black's bishop: Qxd5 9.Nf3 Qe6+! 10.Qe2 Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 e6 Black is not worse thanks to the bishop pair. ]

[ 8.e5? is a pawn push that we should refrain from, as it hinders the bishop on b2 . e6 9.Nf3 Ne7 10.O-O Nf5 11.Qe2 h5 Black could effortlessly get the better position with simple moves. ]

**8...c4** Black is fighting for his own bishop's future. **9.Ngf3 cxd3 10.cxd3 dxe4 11.dxe4 Nf6**

[ 11...e6? 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Rc1! ± This can be labelled as White's positional trap! This mini trick shows the importance of developing the knight first on move 8! ]

**12.Qe2 e6 13.Nd4 Rc8 14.Rd1**

White will finish development with O-O and Nc4 , when he is ready for central action.

**B20**

☐ **16) 2...e6**  
☒ **5...Bd7 #1**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 This is a flexible move, like many other second moves. Therefore Black hasn't yet committed himself. Which line will appear on the board is still a question mark, and by now we have delved into most of them. By side stepping all the possible

transpositions we can get some independent positions here! 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Players who are familiar with the Tarrasch Variation of the French Defense will recognize the importance of this check. White is rushing to occupy the e-file with the rook, thus clearing the way with tempo. 5...Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.d4 We are in search for an advantageous endgame in which Black will be left with a weak d5 -pawn. 8...Ngf6 9.dxc5 Qxe2+ 10.Nxe2 Bxc5 11.Nbc3 0-0-0 12.Rd1 Long castling would have left the f2 -pawn undefended, so Rd1 is the way. 12...Ne5 13.Nb5 Rhe8 14.Bd4 Bxd4 15.Nbxd4 One of the dream scenarios of this very line. White is playing against the isolani without any real weaknesses in his own camp.

**B20**

☐ **6) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6**  
☒ **5. Bc4 Alternative #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[Black attacks the e4 -pawn immediately. This particular line has some similarities with the Alapin Sicilian ( e4 c5 c3 2...Nf6 ), but with few key differences. First of all, White has the (most natural) c3 -square still available for his b1 -knight. The bishop quickly comes into play via b2 . Playing c4 in one move could be an option in the future. The only downside (compared to the Alapin) is that White might find it difficult to support the e5 -pawn in some situations. ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6** This is Black's main reply and is the topic of this chapter. Black immediately creates tension along the long diagonal and aims to eliminate the e5 –pawn. White must take drastic measures, since defending this pawn won't be easy. **5.Bc4** This move seriously supports the e6 –pawn thrust, as it also eyes the weak f7 –pawn.

### **5...Nc7 6.Qf3**

[Forcing Black to make one more move with the knight. Since 6.e6 would weaken the dark squares considerably (see the line 5... e6 ) there is only one way left to deny mate on f7 . ]

**6...Ne6 7.Qe3 Bg7** This is not really a pawn sacrifice, since Black can regain the pawn rapidly.

[After 7...b6? 8.h4! Bg7 9.Bxe6 dxe6 10.h5 the initiative is on White's side. ]

### **8.Bxe6 dxe6 9.Qxc5 Nd7 10.Qb5**

[ 10.Qe3!? Qc7 11.f4 Qxc2 12.Ba3 g5! 13.Nf3 gxf4 14.Qxf4 Qf5 15.Qh4 , threatening mate on e7 and intending to castle short next, leads to wilder play. This is for players who do not wish to exchange queens too early. ]

### **10...Qc7 11.Na3 a6 12.Qc4 Qxc4 13.Nxc4 b5 14.Na5 Nxe5 15.Ke2**

Funnily enough, this is the best square for the king! White is intending f4 on the next move. This endgame is very unusual due to Black's weird pawn structure. It should lead to a balanced position with correct play.

**B20**

□ **16) 2...e6**

■ **5...Bd7 #2**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 This is a flexible move, like many other second moves.

Therefore Black hasn't yet committed himself. Which line will appear on the board is still a question mark, and by now we have delved into most of them. By side stepping all the possible transpositions we can get some independent positions here! 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Players who are familiar with the Tarrasch Variation of the French Defense will recognize the importance of this check. White is rushing to occupy the e–file with the rook, thus clearing the way with tempo.

5...Bd7 6.Qe2+ Qe7 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.d4 We are in search for an advantageous endgame in which Black will be left with a weak d5 –pawn.

8...Ngf6 9.dxc5 Qe6 10.Nc3 Bxc5 11.0–0–0 Both parties refrain from the queen capture, as it would benefit the other player: In case Black captures, White gets a free developing move, whereas on the opposite side Black recapturing on e6 would repair his pawn structure a bit. 11...0–0 12.Nf3 Qxe2 13.Nxe2 Bxf2 14.Kb1 It turns out that the d5 –pawn can not be defended. Now White regains it with small edge.

14...Rfd8 15.Nf4 Bb6 16.Rhe1 Bc7 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Rxd5 It's not much, but White can play with the theme of 3 vs 2 pawns on the queenside.

**B20**

□ **16) 2...e6**  
 ■ **5...Nc6 #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6** This is a flexible move, like many other second moves.

Therefore Black hasn't yet committed himself. Which line will appear on the board is still a question mark, and by now we have delved into most of them. By side stepping all the possible transpositions we can get some independent positions here! **3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+** Players who are

familiar with the Tarrasch Variation of the French Defense will recognize the importance of this check. White is rushing to occupy the e-file with the rook, thus clearing the way with tempo.

**5...Nc6 6.Nf3** We are not afraid of the check on the e-file. **6...Qe7+ 7.Be2** Correct, we lost a tempo with the bishop, but the opponent will have to suffer a similar tempo loss as the f8 -bishop is blocked now. **7...Qc7 8.d4 Nf6 9.0-0 Be6** Keeping the tension and making all the remaining logical moves. **10.Nc3** Setting a little trap. **10...a6**

[ **10...Be7? 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nb5 Qe7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.c3**

The opening of the g-file does not present any particular danger for White, as the knight will be very powerful on d4 . ]

**11.Re1 Bd6** Black can't wait with developing this bishop any longer.

**12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Na4 Bb4** Inviting White to play c3 to gain some time. Now there are two ways for absolutely two different styles! **14.c3 Be7 15.c4 0-0**

[After **15...dxc4? 16.Bxc4** the pressure along the e-file

combined with the strong bishop on the long diagonal promises White an edge: **Rd8 17.Qc1 Bxc4 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.bxc4 ]**

**16.c5 Ne4 17.b4 Rad8**

[ **17...Nxb4?? 18.Qd4 ]**

**18.a3** Black's isolani will start actively participating in the battle soon. That's why it makes sense for White's queen to get out of its way with **Qc2** . Later White can bring the rook to d1 .

**B20**

□ **1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6**  
 ■ **4...Nf6 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply.

Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 -square

begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second move! **4...Nf6** After this move White can create a position that is typical in Closed Sicilian lines. **5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 e5 7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bh6** This is a rare and interesting option for Black. We don't often get to see the bishop activated via the h6 -square once the g-pawn is pushed. **9.f4 0-0 10.h3** Preventing both ... **Ng4** and ... **Bg4** ideas. It is especially vital to deny the black knight jumping to g4 . **10...exf4 11.Nxf4 Ne8** Preparing ... f5 seems like the most challenging idea for Black. We need to see how such tries should be met. **12.Nd2 f5 13.e5** Not allowing Black to

open the f-file. 13...d5 14.Qe2  
White has the better pawn structure.  
One idea can be to focus on the weak c5 – pawn, combined with pushing the e5 – pawn further.

B20

□ 1) 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6  
■ 4...Bd7 #1

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6** Statistically speaking this is Black's most common reply. Black develops the knight to its natural square and prepares the move ... e5 to challenge the 'hero' on the long diagonal, which is very understandable. **3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5** The fight for the e5 – square begins. White prefers the long diagonal to be open. After all, he made a challenging commitment on the second move! **4...Bd7**

[A much better move than 4...Qc7 , since after the exchange on c6 Black will end up with a useful bishop. ]

**5.f4** Further controlling the center, fighting for the e5 – square and also gaining an opportunity to play attacking chess thanks to the semi-open f-file in some variations. **5...Nf6 6.Qe2**

In some variations White can consider castling long. **6...a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6**

**8.Nc3 g6**

[ 8...e6 9.Nf3 Be7 leads to the main line. ]

**9.Nf3 Bg7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.d4 Qa5**  
[ 11...cxd4?! 12.Nxd4 Bd7 ( 12...Qa5 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Kb1 is very solid for White. ) 13.e5 Bg4 14.Nf3 Nh5 15.Qe3 ]

**12.d5 Bd7 13.e5 Nh5 14.Qe3**

White has achieved a strong pawn

center and can consider moves like Kb1 , Rhe1 and Ne4 next.

B20

□ 16) 2...e6  
■ 5...Nc6 #3

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6** This is a flexible move, like many other second moves.

Therefore Black hasn't yet committed himself. Which line will appear on the board is still a question mark, and by now we have delved into most of them.

By side stepping all the possible transpositions we can get some independent positions here! **3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+** Players who are familiar with the Tarrasch Variation of the French Defense will recognize the importance of this check. White is

rushing to occupy the e-file with the rook, thus clearing the way with tempo. **5...Nc6 6.Nf3** We are not afraid of the check on the e-file. **6...Qe7+ 7.Be2** Correct, we lost a tempo with the bishop, but the opponent will have to suffer a similar tempo loss as the f8 – bishop is blocked now. **7...Qc7 8.d4 Nf6 9.0-0 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Be7 11.Nd2 0-0 12.N2f3 Re8 13.h3** It is useful to include h3 here, because in some cases Black may use the g4 – square for his bishop or knight. This possibility is illustrated in a sample line starting with the immediate 13. Nxc6 , where Black employs an effective pin on g4 to equalize the game:

[ 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.c4 Bf5 15.cxd5 Nxd5 ( 15...cxd5?! 16.Bb5! Bd7 17.Rc1 Qb7 18.Bxd7 Nxd7 19.Re1

White's army is close to ideally



positioned. ) 16.Bd3 Bg4 17.Rc1 Rad8 18.Rc4! Nf4 19.Be5 Qxe5 20.Nxe5 Bxd1 21.Rxf4 Ba3 22.Rxd1 Rxe5 23.Kf1 the opposite-colored bishops do make it harder for White to make use of his slightly better pawn structure. ]

### 13...Bd7 14.Nxc6 Bxc6

[Black also has the option to switch to 'hanging pawns' and strengthen his center: 14...bxc6 15.c4! Striking immediately. Rad8 16.Qc2 Qf4 17.cxd5 Both here and after 14... Bxc6 Black will end up a little unhappy, so it is his choice whether to play with an isolated pawn on d5 or with a weakness on c6. ]

### 15.Qd4 Bf8 16.Rfe1 Ne4 17.Bd3

White's annoying battery along the long diagonal and Black's isolani are the two main factors which caught our attention. White can play a safe game without much risk.

## 7) Nebenvarianten im zweiten 7E | Nebenvariante 2.b3 | Wei

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Weiß wählt einen seltenen Aufbau mit einem Fianchetto am Damenflügel. In unserem Repertoire sehen wir diese Idee nach den Zügen 2. b3 oder 2.Nf3 a6 3.b3 . Es ist möglich, beide Varianten unterschiedlich zu beantworten, da wir uns nach 2.b3 noch nicht auf ...a6 festgelegt haben, womit Schwarz mehr Optionen hat. Allerdings ist dieser Ansatz lerntechnisch eher wenig effizient, wenn man bedenkt, wie selten b3-Stellungen sind. Daher schlagen wir ein Gegenmittel vor, das

für beide Varianten funktioniert. Es beinhaltet die Züge ...a6  
 CCStartBracketCCnach  
 CCStartFENCCrnbqkbnr/pp1ppppp/8/2p5/4P3/8/PPPP1PPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq c6 0 2CCEndFENCC 2.Nf3 a6 3.b3 haben wir das natürlich schon gespieltCCEndBracketCC, ...e6 und ...Sc6. Der Zug ...a6 ist nützlich, da er eine mögliche Entwicklung mit Lb5 verhindert. 2...a6 Wir spielen direkt unseren typischen O'Kelly-Zug. Wie bereits erwähnt, möchten wir die drei Züge ...a6, ...e6 und ...Sc6 spielen. Es gibt keine optimale Zugreihenfolge, aber wir schlagen vor, mit ...a6 zu beginnen. Damit wird sichergestellt, dass wir uns zunächst keine Gedanken über Lb5 machen müssen. 3.Bb2 Nc6 Nach diesem natürlichen Zug müssen wir zwei verschiedene Aufbauten prüfen, die Weiß wählen kann:  
 AGCEndBracketCC Weiß kann den Königsflügel mit 4.Nf3 entwickeln, was der Hauptzug ist. Die daraus resultierende Stellung kann auch durch die Zugfolge CCStartFENCCrnbqkbnr/pppppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1CCEndFENCC 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3. b3 Nc6 4.Bb2 entstehen.  
 BCCEndBracketCC Weiß kann das aggressiver aussehende 4.f4 spielen. Gegen die frühen f-Bauernvorstößen bietet sich oft die Antwort ...e6 und ...d5 an ♖ dies ist einer dieser Fälle. 4.Nf3 Weiß zieht eine gesunde Entwicklung dem langsameren Zug 4.f4 vor ♖ eine gute Entscheidung. 4...e6 Wir vollenden den bereits beschriebenen Aufbau mit ...a6, ...Sc6 und ...e6. 5.c4 Das sieht nach der besten Wahl aus. Weiß stoppt

B40

unsere ...d5-Idee, die wir gerne nach einem langsamen Zug wie 5.Be2 oder 5.g3 eingesetzt hätten. Wie wäre es stattdessen mit 5.d4? Wir haben eine starke Antwort, die auf einer typischen Idee in den b3-Varianten basiert. Nach 5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qf6! sind wir in guter Form und planen als Nächstes ...Lc5. Der ungeschützte b2-Läufer ist ein schwerwiegendes Problem, das Weiß mehr oder weniger dazu zwingt, die Diagonale bald mit dem unschönen Zug c2-c3 zu schließen. Der weiße Hauptzug 5.c4 ist stärker. Weiß beabsichtigt, zuerst den Springer nach c3 zu entwickeln und später d2-d4 zu spielen, um einen Maróczy-Aufbau zu erreichen. Das ist ein ähnlicher Ansatz wie in `CGStartFENCGRnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/PPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1CGEndFENCG 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c4`, was wir in einem eigenen Kapitel untersuchen. 5...Qc7 Ein kniffliger Zug! Wir hoffen auf 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qe5!, was unglaublich stark für uns ist. Wir drohen ...Lb4+ und greifen den e-Bauern mit Schach an. 6.Nc3 Weiß vermeidet das mögliche Desaster, das nach 6.d4? cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qe5! eintreten würde, wo wir sofort gewinnen. Das ist wohl schon in hunderten von Online-Partien passiert ♖ eine ziemlich fiese Falle, in die man leicht tappen kann! 6...Nf6 7.d4 Weiß öffnet endlich das Zentrum. Der Zug könnte natürlich noch weiter hinausgezögert werden. Etwas Langsames wie 7.Be2 ist möglich, wonach sowohl 7...Bd6!? als auch 7...Nd4 kreative Antworten sind. 7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Weiß hat es geschafft, den Maróczy-Aufbau wie vorgesehen

nach 5.c4 aufs Brett zu bringen. Der Maróczy-Aufbau hat einen guten Ruf, aber er bereitet uns in diesem speziellen Fall keinerlei Probleme. 8...Bc5 Sehr wichtig! Wir können diesen Läufer aktiv entwickeln und den zentralisierten Springer von Weiß angreifen. Weiß kann jetzt nichts Besseres tun, als auf c6 zu schlagen. 9.Nxc6 Das ist die beste Möglichkeit. Der Zug 9.Nc2 ist viel zu passiv, wie in der Beispielvariante 9...O-O 10.Be2 Qf4! klar wird. Der b2-Läufer von Weiß ist hier nicht gut platziert. 9...dxc6 Die sauberste Lösung. Als Nächstes werden wir ...e5 spielen, um die Reichweite unseres weißfeldrigen Läufers zu verbessern. 10.Be2 e5 Schwarz steht bereits etwas besser, da Weiß auf das schwache Feld d4 aufpassen muss. Wir haben einfache Züge wie ...O-O, ...Td8 und ...Le6. Den Läufer nach d4 zu ziehen, ist ebenfalls eine naheliegende Idee.

**B20**

## 24 Analysis

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**  
 [%draw full,b2,green] <xmlX:en>this as well as d6 is the most popular continuation</:enX/xml> **4.Bc4**  
 [%draw full,d5] [%draw arrow,f2,f4]  
 <xmlX:en>The move I have played and willing to recommend. Other moves such as Bb5 or f4 simply don't cut the mustard.</:enX/xml>  
 [ 4.g3 d5! ♗ <xmlX:en>is already an issue since</:enX/xml> 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 Nd4 8.Bxd4 cxd4 ♗ ]

[ 4.f4 exf4 5.Nf3 Nf6! ( 5...d5  
 <xmlX:en>is not as good as played in  
 Inarkiev–Donchenko, 2015</:enX/  
 xml> 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Bc4 Qe4+  
 8.Kf2∞ ) 6.e5 Ng4 7.Bc4 Be7  
 [%draw full,f4,green] <xmlX:en>and I  
 don't believe White can equalise</  
 :enX/xml> 8.h3 Nh6 [%draw arrow,  
 h6,f5,green] [%draw arrow,f5,g3,  
 green] [%draw arrow,f5,d4,green] ]

#### 4...d6

[ 4...Nf6!? an underrated reply and  
 one that might actually be more  
 precise as it pretty much forces White  
 to play Nc3 immediately, giving Black  
 additional options.

**A) 5.d3?! d5!? ( 5...d6 <xmlX:en>  
 will mostly transpose to lines  
 involving an earlier d6</:enX/xml> )  
 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3 f6! 8.0–0 Be7  
 9.Nbd2 Nb6 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Ne4  
 0–0∞ [%draw arrow,a7,a6,green]  
 [%draw arrow,b5,c6,green] [%draw  
 arrow,d7,c6,green] [%draw arrow,  
 c6,g2,green] and if anyone was  
 for preference it was Black 0–1 (34)  
 Vavulin,M (2441)–Oparin,G (2569)  
 Moscow 2015 and if anyone was for  
 preference it was Black 0–1 (34)  
 Vavulin,M (2441)–Oparin,G (2569)  
 Moscow 2015 [%draw arrow,a7,a6,  
 green] [%draw arrow,b5,c6,green]  
 [%draw arrow,d7,c6,green] [%draw  
 arrow,c6,g2,green] and if anyone  
 was for preference it was Black 0–1  
 (34) Vavulin,M (2441)–Oparin,G  
 (2569) Moscow 2015;**

**B) 5.Nc3 Nxe4!? is playable  
 ( 5...d6; 5...Be7 ) 6.Nxe4 d5 7.Bd3  
 dxe4 8.Bxe4 [%draw arrow,e4,c6,  
 green] [%draw arrow,b2,e5,green]  
 [%draw full,e5,green] Bd6**

and here the specialist in this line  
 GM E.Romanov has played Qh5  
 consistently

**B1) 9.Bxc6+!?N bxc6 10.d3**  
 [%draw full,a7,green] [%draw full,  
 c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green]  
 [%draw full,e5,green] is an  
 interesting approach for the  
 more strategically minded player  
 is an interesting approach for the  
 more strategically minded player  
 [%draw full,a7,green] [%draw full,  
 c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green]  
 [%draw full,e5,green] is an  
 interesting approach for the  
 more strategically minded player  
 0–0 ( 10...c4!? a typical pawn  
 sacrifice in these structures  
 11.dxc4 Bb4+ 12.c3 Qxd1+  
 13.Rxd1 Be7∞ [%draw full,b2,  
 green] White is a pawn to the  
 good but Black's bishops provide  
 excellent compensation White is  
 a pawn to the good but Black's  
 bishops provide excellent  
 compensation [%draw full,b2,  
 green] White is a pawn to the  
 good but Black's bishops provide  
 excellent compensation ) 11.Nf3  
 Bg4 12.0–0 Re8 13.h3 Bh5  
 14.g4 Bg6 15.Re1 f6 16.Nd2∞  
 [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,  
 d2,green] White will play on the  
 light squares but Black is active  
 enough to hold the balance  
 White will play on the light  
 squares but Black is active  
 enough to hold the balance  
 [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,  
 d2,green] White will play on the  
 light squares but Black is active  
 enough to hold the balance;

**B2) 9.Qh5** Nd4! seems to equalise ( 9...Qe7 10.Nf3 g6 11.Qh6 Bd7 12.0-0 0-0-0 13.Rfe1 f6 ) 10.Nf3 ( 10.Bxd4 cxd4 [%draw arrow,g7,g6,green] [%draw arrow,f7,f5,green] [%draw full,f7,green] ) 10...g6 11.Qh6 Bf8 12.Qe3 Bg7= <xmlX:en>the comp gives as equal</:enX/xml> ]

**5.d3** Kramnik's choice, but maybe less accurate than 5.Nc3 since

[ 5.Nc3! may very well be a more accurate move order since g6 ( 5...Nf6 6.d3 [%draw arrow,d6,d5,green] [%draw arrow,f6,e4,green] ) 6.f4 [%draw full,c4,green] [%draw full,f7,green] [%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw arrow,g1,f3,green] [%draw arrow,e1,g1,green] Bg7 7.fxe5 ( 7.Nf3?! exf4 [%draw arrow,g7,b2,green] <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior verion of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior verion of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior verion of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,g7,b2,green] <xmlX:en>and now White doesn't have Nd5 and is in an inferior verion of a King's Gambit</:enX/xml> ) 7...dxe5 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.d3 0-0 10.0-0 [%draw arrow,a7,a6,green] [%draw arrow,a2,a4,green] <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for

White</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,a7,a6,green] [%draw arrow,a2,a4,green] <xmlX:en>as per Elez-Jotic, feels a bit better for White</:enX/xml> Be6 11.Ng5 ( 11.Bxe6 fxe6 [%draw full,e5,green] [%draw full,e6,green] ) 11...Bxc4 12.bxc4± [%draw full,d5,green] <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> [%draw full,d5,green] <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> ]

**5...Nf6** <xmlX:en>will mostly transpose to lines involving an earlier d6</:enX/xml>

[ 5...g6! 6.Ne2 ( 6.f4 Bg7 7.Ne2 Nge7 [%draw arrow,e8,g8,green] [%draw arrow,e5,f4,green] ) 6...Bg7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nbc3 0-0

**A) 9.f4?! exf4 10.Rxf4 ( 10.Nxf4 Ng4 [%draw arrow,g4,e3,green] [%draw arrow,g7,d4,green] [%draw arrow,d8,h4,green] ) 10...Be6!± [%draw full,d6] [%draw arrow,d6,d5] <xmlX:en>as per Teske-Troyke, 1996</:enX/xml>;**

**B) 9.h3** Nh5!= <xmlX:en>is a theme we are aware of as per Venkatesh-Vishnu, 2008, halting White's plans with f4</:enX/xml> ]

**6.Ne2**

[ 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Nge2 <xmlX:en>will transpose</:enX/xml> ]

**6...Be7 7.Nbc3** <xmlX:en>will transpose</:enX/xml>

[ 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbc3 <xmlX:en>just transposes to normal lines.</:enX/xml> ]

**7...0-0** <xmlX:en>is the most played move</:enX/xml>

[ 7...Nd4!? <xmlX:en>Kobalia's try, though this move has 0/2 to date</:enX/xml> 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ( 9.Qd2

<xmlX:en>was my try vs Longson in 2013, but isn't that great</:enX/xml>  
*Rb8 10.a4 Nh5!? 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Nd5 Bg5=* [%draw full,g5,green] [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 [%draw full,g5,green] [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] ½-½ (63) Trent,L (2420)-Longson,A (2279) Purley 2013 ) 9...a6 ( 9...Bg4 <xmlX:en>doesn't impress as shown by Romanov</:enX/xml> 10.h3! Bxe2 11.Nxe2± [%draw arrow,f4,e5,green] 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, [%draw arrow,f4,e5,green] 1-0 (34) Romanov,E (2392)-Kostin,K (2300) Dagomys 2004, d5 12.fxe5 Nxe4 13.dxe4 dxc4 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Bxd4 cxb3 16.axb3± [%draw full,e4,green] [%draw full,e5,green] ) 10.a4 **A) 10...Rb8** 11.a5! Be6 1-0 (54) Shaw,J (2432)-Duncan,C (2332) Birmingham 2006 12.f5! Bd7 ( 12...Bxc4 13.bxc4 [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,e7,green] <xmlX:en>is exactly what White is hoping for</:enX/xml> [%draw full,d5] <xmlX:en>is exactly what White is hoping for</:enX/xml> [%draw full,d5] <xmlX:en>is exactly what White is hoping for</:enX/xml> [%draw full,d5] <xmlX:en>is exactly what White is hoping for</:enX/xml> [%draw full,

d5] [%draw full,e7,green] <xmlX:en>is exactly what White is hoping for</:enX/xml> ) 13.Ng3± [%draw arrow,g3,h5,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d5,green] [%draw arrow,c2,c3,green] [%draw full,f6,green]; **B) 10...b6** [%draw arrow,c8,b7,green] [%draw arrow,d6,d5,green] 11.Nd5 Rb8 ( 11...Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Rb8 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.c3 dxc3 15.Bxc3± ) 12.fxe5 dxe5 <xmlX:en>and here</:enX/xml> ♠13.Nxd4! ( 13.Ng3?! Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bh4 15.Qh5 Bf6= <xmlX:en>was nothing special for White despite the result of the game</:enX/xml> ) 13...exd4 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bc1↑ [%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw arrow,b6,b5,green] <xmlX:en>as pointed out by GM David Smerdon (amongst others), was a better try giving White a plus</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as pointed out by GM David Smerdon (amongst others), was a better try giving White a plus</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>as pointed out by GM David Smerdon (amongst others), was a better try giving White a plus</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,c4,f7,green] [%draw arrow,b6,b5,green] <xmlX:en>as pointed out by GM David Smerdon (amongst others), was a better try giving White a plus</:enX/xml> b5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bd5 [%draw arrow,a1,a7,green] [%draw arrow,a7,f7,green] [%draw arrow,c1,f4,green] [%draw arrow,d1,f3,green] ]  
**8.0-0** <xmlX:en>Probably the most common position in the entire b3



Sicilian</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>just transposes to normal lines.</:enX/xml>

**8...Be6** <xmlX:en>a critical position</:enX/xml>

[ 8...a6 <xmlX:en>is always met by</:enX/xml> 9.a4 ]

**9.f4**

[ 9.Qd2 Nh5 [%draw arrow,e7,g5, green] 10.Nd5 Bg5= <xmlX:en>is a similar story</:enX/xml> ]

**9...Ng4** [%draw arrow,g4,e3,green]

[ 9...Bxc4?! <xmlX:en>was seen in Reefat-Roy Chowdhury, 2017 but I can't help but feel this always helps White</:enX/xml> 10.bxc4 Nd4 11.Rb1 [%draw arrow,b1,b7,green] [%draw arrow,b2,a1,green] Rb8 12.Ng3!± [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw arrow,c2,c3,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,f5] [%draw arrow,c2,c3,green] ]

**10.Qd2** <xmlX:en>has been universally played, however</:enX/xml>

[ 10.Bc1!? [%draw full,f4] [%draw arrow,f4,f5] <xmlX:en>is a Fritz suggestion and certainly a playable alternative to 10.Qd2</:enX/xml> exf4 ( 10...Nd4 11.f5! Bxc4 12.bxc4± [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,g4,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d5,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,g4,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d5,green] ) 11.Nxf4 [%draw full,e6,green]

**A) 11...Bd7** 12.Nfd5 Bh4

( 12...Bg5 ) 13.a4± [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw full,f7, green] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw arrow,c4,f7,

green] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,d1] [%draw full,f7,green]

[%draw arrow,c1,f4] [%draw arrow,d1,d2] [%draw arrow,c4,f7,green];

**B) 11...Bf6!?** 12.Nxe6 fxe6

13.Bxe6+ Kh8 14.Bxg4 Bxc3

15.Rb1 Rxf1+ 16.Qxf1

[%draw arrow,c6,d4,green] [%draw arrow,c6,b4,green] [%draw arrow,a8,f8,green] <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,c6,d4,green] [%draw arrow,c6,b4,green] [%draw arrow,a8,f8,green] <xmlX:en>is an enterprising sacrifice but one that I believe will be difficult for humans to play as winning back the pawn is no immediately on the cards</:enX/xml> ]

**10...exf4 11.Nxf4 Bxc4 12.bxc4 Bf6**

[%draw full,d4,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,e5,green] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d5] [%draw full,d4,green]

[%draw full,d5] [%draw full,e5,green]  
**13.Rab1 Bd4+ 14.Kh1±** as per the  
 correspondence game ½–½ (44)  
 Nightingale,D (2511)–Abramov,S (2410)  
 ICCF email 2013

**B20**

☐ **Various Nd Moves**

☒ **2.b3 d6 #2**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Is one of those systems that has a very loyal fan base, so it is good to know what to do against it. 2...d6 I always thought that the fancy 2...g6!? 3.Bb2 Nf6 is the way to go and gives Black the better chances, but I had discovered that 4.Nc3!? followed by Nd5 is actually leaving White with a pretty decent position. I would like to recommend 2...d6 instead, preparing Nf6, but not determining the f8 bishop yet. 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Bb5 Starting with 5.f4 will lead to the same thing after 5...g6 6.Bb5 Bd7 5...Bd7 6.f4 Not clear, what else is more challenging. After 6.Nge2 we will play 6...a6! and after 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 the e4 pawn is hanging and if White defends it, we will develop the f8 bishop with e6. 6...g6 We can also go for the e6 Be7 development, but I like this one here. 7.Nd5 Bg7 8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 9.Bxf6 exf6 Now we can continue the line for a couple more moves. 10.Nf3 a6 Asking the bishop to decide. 11.Bc4 After Bxc6 we will also eventually prepare the f5 push with Qd7. 11...0–0 12.0–0 f5 Black is fine here, as the f4 pawn is a target. 13.d3 Qf6 14.Qd2 Nd4 Trading knights, with a comfortable position.

## 09 Analysis

**1.e4 c5**

[ 1...Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.b3 ]

**2.b3 Nf6!?** <xmlX:en>Immediately putting the question to the e4 pawn</:enX/xml>

[ 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5!

<xmlX:en>is the relevant transposition. </:enX/xml> <xmlX:en>and Black gets one of his best versions of the 2...g6 line</:enX/xml> ]

**3.e5** <xmlX:en>the only serious move</:enX/xml> **3...Nd5** [%draw full,b3,green] [%draw full,c5,green] **4.Nc3!?**

<xmlX:en>I am willing to recommend this slightly offbeat idea here. It leads to very unbalanced positions which are more or less give chances to both sides. </:enX/xml>

[ 4.Bb2 <xmlX:en>This move you normally play "al toque", but actually the problem with it is</:enX/xml> g6! <xmlX:en>and Black gets one of his best versions of the 2...g6 line</:enX/xml> ]

**4...Nxc3** must be critical

[ 4...e6 5.Bb2!?

**A) 5...Nxc3** 6.Bxc3 [%draw arrow, c3,g7,green] [%draw arrow,d7,d6,green] [%draw arrow,e5,d6,green] [%draw full,e6,green] [%draw full,g7,green] Nc6 7.Nf3 Be7 ( 7...d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 [%draw full,g7] 9.Bd3 [%draw arrow,d3,e4,green] [%draw arrow,e4,c6,green] [%draw arrow,e4,h7,green] [%draw full,e4,green] Bd7 10.0–0 0–0–0 11.a3 [%draw full,c3,green] f6 12.b4!/?∞ is complicated ) 8.Bd3!? [%draw full,d1] [%draw full,e1] [%draw full,h7]

**B20**

[%draw arrow,d1,e2] [%draw arrow,  
e1,c1] <xmlX:en>as per  
Mastrovasilis–Fier, 2004</:enX/  
xml>

**A1)** 8...f5;

**A2)** 8...0–0? <xmlX:en>really  
asking for it!</:enX/xml> 9.h4!?  
[%draw full,d3] [%draw arrow,d3,  
h7] <xmlX:en>route one  
football!</:enX/xml>

**A2a)** 9...Nb4? 10.Bxh7+!  
Kxh7 11.Ng5+

**A2a1)** 11...Kh6 12.d4!!  
cxd4 13.Bd2+– [%draw full,  
h6] Kg6 14.h5+  
[%draw arrow,g6,f5,green];

**A2a2)** 11...Kg6 12.Qg4  
[%draw arrow,g5,e6,green]  
[%draw arrow,g4,e4,green]  
Kh6 13.Qe4 g6 ( 13...Rh8  
14.Nxf7+ Kh5 15.g4# )  
14.h5 Kg7 ( 14...Bxg5  
15.hxg6+ Kg7 16.Rh7+  
Kg8 17.gxf7+ Rxf7  
18.Qg6+ Kf8 19.Qxf7# )  
15.Nxf7! Rxf7 ( 15...Kxf7  
16.Qxg6# ) 16.hxg6 Rf8  
17.Rh7+ Kg8 18.Ke2!!  
[%draw arrow,a1,h1]

<xmlX:en>and Black is  
helpless</:enX/xml>;

**A2a3)** 11...Bxg5 12.hxg5+  
Kg8 13.Qh5 f6 14.g6  
[%draw arrow,h5,h8,green];

**A2a4)** 11...Kg8 12.Qh5  
Re8 13.Qh7+ Kf8  
14.Qh8#;

**A2b)** 9...f5 10.exf6 Bxf6  
11.Ng5 h6 ( 11...g6??  
12.Nxh7! Kxh7 13.Qh5+ Kg7  
14.Qxg6+ Kh8 15.Qh7# )  
12.Qh5!→ [%draw arrow,h5,

g6] <xmlX:en>looks like a  
monstrous attack</:enX/xml>  
Bxc3 13.dxc3 [%draw full,e1]  
[%draw arrow,e1,c1] [%draw  
arrow,h5,g6] Qf6 14.Ne4 Qf4  
15.Qxc5± [%draw full,c5]  
[%draw arrow,c5,f2] b6  
16.Qe3 <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/  
xml>;

**A3)** 8...d5 9.exd6 Bf6! 10.0–0  
Qxd6 11.Qe2 ( 11.Bxf6 gxf6  
[%draw arrow,h8,g8,green]  
[%draw arrow,g8,g2,green] )  
11...Bd7 12.a4 [%draw arrow,e8,  
c8,green] [%draw arrow,a4,a5,  
green] Nd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4  
14.Bxd4 cxd4 15.f4±  
was a smidgen better for White  
in 1–0 (51) Mastrovasilis,D  
(2574)–Fier,A (2365) Mallorca  
2004 [%draw arrow,d3,c2,green]  
[%draw full,d3,green] was a  
smidgen better for White in 1–0  
(51) Mastrovasilis,D (2574)–Fier,  
A (2365) Mallorca 2004;

**B)** 5...Nc6 6.Ne4! [%draw full,d6,  
green] Qc7 ( 6...Qh4 7.d3 Ne3  
8.Qe2 Nxf1 9.Kxf1± [%draw arrow,  
g1,f3] b6 10.Nf3 Qh5 11.Ng3  
Qg6 12.h4 [%draw full,h4,green]  
[%draw arrow,h4,h5,green] [%draw  
arrow,h1,h4,green] h5 13.Ne4  
[%draw arrow,h1,h3] [%draw arrow,  
h3,g3] <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml>  
[%draw arrow,h1,h3] [%draw arrow,  
h3,g3] [%draw full,g6,green]  
<xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml> ) 7.c4  
Nf4 8.g3 Ng6 9.f4± [%draw full,g6,  
green] [%draw arrow,h2,h4,green]  
[%draw arrow,h4,h5,green] [%draw  
arrow,g1,f3,green] [%draw arrow,f1,  
g2,green] [%draw arrow,b7,b6,

green] ]  
 [ 4...Nc7!? <xmlX:en>has never been played but is quite typical in these systems</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,b8,c6,green] [%draw arrow,g7,g6,green] [%draw arrow,f8,g7,green] [%draw full,e5,green] <xmlX:en>has never been played but is quite typical in these systems</:enX/xml> 5.d4!? cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qe3 d5 [%draw arrow,d5,d4,green] ( 7...g6 8.Bb2 Bg7 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0-0± <xmlX:en>looks very pleasant for White</:enX/xml> ) 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Bd3 Nb4 10.Be4 Nbd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Qd4 Nb4 ( 12...Qb4+ 13.Qxb4 Nxb4 14.a3 Nc6 15.f4!± [%draw arrow,g1,f3] [%draw arrow,c1,b2] [%draw arrow,e1,g1] [%draw full,b2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,e1] <xmlX:en>is very pleasant for White</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,g1,f3] [%draw arrow,c1,b2] [%draw arrow,e1,g1] [%draw arrow,b2,g7,green] [%draw arrow,e4,b7,green] [%draw full,b2] [%draw full,c1] [%draw full,e1] <xmlX:en>is very pleasant for White</:enX/xml> ) 13.Ne2  
**A) 13...e5** 14.Qxd6 Bxd6 15.Bb2 f5 16.0-0-0! Bc7 17.Bf3 [%draw full,f3] [%draw arrow,f3,h5] [%draw full,f3] [%draw arrow,f3,h5] [%draw arrow,b2,h8,green] Be6 [%draw arrow,e2,c3,green] [%draw arrow,c3,b5,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d5,green] ( 17...Nxa2+?! 18.Kb1 Nb4 19.Nc3 [%draw full,c3] [%draw arrow,c3,b5] 0-0 20.Nb5 Bb8 21.Ba3 a5 22.c3+- <xmlX:en>etc</:enX/xml>; 17...e4 18.Bh5+ ) 18.Kb1;  
**B) 13...f5** 14.a3 Qxd4 15.Nxd4 fxe4 16.axb4 g6 17.Be3 Bg7

18.0-0 [%draw arrow,a1,a7] <xmlX:en>and I think White is for preference, just</:enX/xml> [%draw arrow,a1,a7] [%draw arrow,a1,a5,green] [%draw arrow,f1,a1,green] [%draw arrow,b4,b5,green] [%draw full,e4,green] [%draw full,e7,green] <xmlX:en>and I think White is for preference, just</:enX/xml> ]  
**5.dxc3** [%draw arrow,c1,f4,green] [%draw arrow,d1,d2,green] [%draw arrow,e1,c1,green] [%draw full,e5,green]  
**5...Nc6 6.Nf3 d5** [%draw full,c8] [%draw arrow,c8,f5] [%draw arrow,f5,g4] [%draw full,e5,green]  
 [ 6...g6 a very likely reply 7.Bc4 ( 7.Bf4 Bg7 8.Qd2 ) 7...Bg7 8.0-0  
**A) 8...Nxe5??** 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Qd5 [%draw arrow,d5,f7] [%draw arrow,d5,f7] [%draw arrow,d5,e5,green];  
**B) 8...0-0** 9.Bf4 [%draw full,c4,green] e6 [%draw arrow,f7,f6,green] 10.Qe2 Qa5 [%draw full,c3,green] ( 10...f6 11.exf6 Qxf6 12.Bd6 ) 11.Qe3± [%draw full,c8,green] [%draw full,e3,green] [%draw full,f4,green] [%draw arrow,f4,h6,green] [%draw arrow,a1,d1,green] [%draw arrow,d1,d7,green];  
**C) 8...d6** 9.exd6 Bxc3 10.Bf4!  
**C1) 10...0-0** 11.dxe7  
**C1a) 11...Nxe7** 12.Bh6 Bg7 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Rae1!  
**C1a1) 14...Nf5** 15.Bg5! Rf8 16.h3 Bd7 ( 16...h6 17.Be7 Nxe7 18.Rxe7 Bf6 19.Rc7 Kg7 20.Re1± [%draw arrow,c7,c6] [%draw arrow,c6,c5] ) 17.Ne5 Bxe5 18.Rxe5± [%draw full,c5,green];

**C1a2)** 14...Bxh6?

15.Rxe7± [%draw full,f7]

[%draw full,f7,green]

[%draw full,f7,green]

[%draw full,f7];

**C1a3)** 14...Nc6 15.Bg5 Rf8

16.Be7 Nxe7 17.Rxe7 Bf6

18.Rc7 Kg7 19.Re1 Bd8

20.Rxc5± Black clearly has compensation but a pawn is a pawn!;

**C1b)** 11...Qxe7 12.Bd6 Qf6

13.Bxf8 Kxf8 14.Rb1±;

**C2)** 10...Bxa1?? 11.Qxa1

[%draw arrow,a1,h8,green] 0-0

12.dxe7 Qxe7 13.Bh6 Nd4

14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Qxd4+- ]

[ 6...Qa5!? [%draw full,c3] [%draw arrow,a5,c3] [%draw arrow,a5,a2] is funky but not bad 7.Bd2 g6 ( 7...e6 8.Bd3 [%draw full,d2] [%draw full,d3] Qc7 9.Qe2 with a similarly very pleasant position h6 10.0-0-0 etc [%draw arrow,d3,e4,green] [%draw arrow,c3,d4,green] [%draw arrow,c3,b4,green] [%draw full,c3,green] etc ) 8.Bc4 Bg7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Rfe1 d6 12.e6 f5 ( 12...Bxe6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Qxe6+ Kh8 ) 13.Rad1± [%draw arrow,c4,d5] ] [ 6...e6?! gives White easy play 7.Bf4 [%draw arrow,d7,d5,green] [%draw full,d6,green] Be7 8.Qd2 [%draw arrow,e1,c1] 0-0 9.Bd3 [%draw arrow,d3,e4,green] [%draw arrow,e4,a8,green] [%draw arrow,e1,c1,green] [%draw arrow,d1,d8,green] [%draw full,e4,green] f6 ( 9...d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Bxh7+ [%draw arrow,d2,d6,green] ) 10.exf6

**A)** 10...gxf6 11.Bh6 Rf7

[%draw arrow,d7,d5,green] 12.c4

Bf8 13.Be4 Bxh6 14.Qxh6±

and I think White has a much more pleasant position [%draw full,d6,green] [%draw full,d7,green]

[%draw full,h6,green] and I think White has a much more pleasant position;

**B)** 10...Rxf6 11.Rd1!? d6 12.0-0 e5 13.Bg3 h6 ( 13...Bg4 14.Ng5! [%draw full,f7,green] [%draw full,h7,green] [%draw arrow,d3,c4,green]

Bxd1 15.Bxh7+ Kh8 16.Qxd1±

[%draw arrow,d1,h5,green] Qe8

17.Be4± [%draw full,e4] ) 14.Be4±

White controls the light squares, is fully coordinated and can the d6 pawn is a long term liability. I like White here!;

**C)** 10...Bxf6 11.Bd6 Be7 12.Be4 is very pleasant for White Bxd6 13.Qxd6 Qe7 14.0-0-0± ]

## 7.exd6 Qxd6

[ 7...exd6 8.Bc4 [%draw full,d5]

[%draw arrow,c4,f7] Be6 ( 8...Be7

9.0-0 0-0 10.Bf4 Be6 11.Bd5 Qd7

12.Qd2 Rad8 13.Rad1 [%draw full,

d6] ) 9.Bd5 ( 9.Bxe6 fxe6 [%draw full,

d6] [%draw full,e6] 10.0-0 Qd7

11.Re1 Be7 12.Bg5 0-0 13.c4

[%draw full,d6] [%draw full,e6] ) ]

## 8.Qxd6 exd6 9.Bf4 [%draw full,d6]

## 9...Bg4 [%draw arrow,g4,f3]

[ 9...Be7 10.0-0-0 [%draw full,d6]

Bf6 11.Kb2 [%draw full,c3] ]

## 10.0-0-0!? 0-0-0

[ 10...Bxf3 is of course possible but the light squared bishop does count

here 11.gxf3 0-0-0 12.Kb2 Kc7

( 12...d5 13.Bh3+ [%draw arrow,h3,

c8] [%draw arrow,f4,b8] ) 13.Bc4 Be7

14.Rd5 White has the initiative but



Black should hold ( 14.h4!?  
[%draw full,c4] [%draw full,d5] [%draw  
arrow,a2,a4]; 14.Bxf7 Rhf8  
[%draw arrow,f8,f4] )]

**11.Bc4 Be7 12.Rhe1 Kc7 13.Rd3=**  
is a balanced game

**B20**

□ **17) 1.e4 c5 2.b3**  
■ **2.b3 with 4.Bc4 #3**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 This isn't a particularly common move and compared to other continuations `[[[StartBracket]]` for example, straightforward development of the knights to either f3 or c3`[[[EndBracket]]` is a little odd. Once again, the age-old opening advice of 'knights before bishops' is worth considering. Is it really a good idea to commit the bishop at such an early stage? Can't Black just block it? While all this is true, a quick note of caution. I think there is a tendency when facing such left-field continuations that in turn one feels it is okay to play something a bit strange. Black has a considerable choice of options, and that in itself can be somewhat confusing, particularly in a situation where there aren't many `[[[StartBracket]]` or any`[[[EndBracket]]` forcing moves. In other words, don't underestimate this move, it's not that bad, and I think it's important to realise that the move cannot be refuted. Our opening aims have not changed: to gain some control in the centre, to develop our pieces, to castle, and if possible to emerge from the opening with a healthy pawn structure. For many of us, that is ambitious

enough! 2...Nc6 Black sticks to tried and trusted development into the middle.

3.Bb2 e5 Blocking out the bishop on b2, as well as staking a claim in the centre. It is worth comparing this variation with the positions that arise after  
`[[[StartFEN]]Grnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1]]``[[[EndFEN]]` 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 , etc.

`[[[StartBracket]]`see chapter elsewhere`[[[EndBracket]]`. This is basically the same position but with White's bishop on b2 – and that is surely misplaced. There are essentially two ways in which White can attempt to put things right: occupy the d5-square, and/or get in the pawn break f2–f4 to get the bishop on b2 working. 4.Bc4

This is the most popular move. As Black has committed the e-pawn forward, the light-squared bishop finds a good home on the diagonal towards f7. 4...Nf6 Sound development. Just because your opponent is doing something a little odd, there is no need to stray into strange territory. 5.Nc3 Protecting the pawn and covering the d5-square. 5...d6

I recommend sticking to orthodox development, but if you want to shake things up, then this isn't bad: 5...Nxe4 6.Nxe4 d5 7.Bd3 dxe4 8.Bxe4 Bd6 Sveshnikov–Shirov, Riga 2014. 6.d3 Instead 6.Nf3 isn't a very good move. The threat is Ng5, but Black just plays 6...Be7 `[[[StartBracket]]`ready to meet 7.Ng5 with 7...O–O

`[[[EndBracket]]` and the knight is misplaced on f3, blocking the f-pawn. After `[[[StartFEN]]Gr1bqk2r/pp2bPPP/2np1n2/2p1p3/2B1P3/1PN2N2/PBPP1PPP/R2QK2R w KQkq - 2`

7.CCEndFENCC 7.O-O O-O 8.Re1 Be6 9.h3 Nd4  
 CCStartBracketCCCoenen-Cvek, Kallithea 2008CCEndBracketCC Black already had the more active position. It is hard for White to formulate a good plan. 6...g6 Black has time to fianchetto the bishop – it is more actively placed than on e7. 7.Nge2 Bg7 8.O-O 0-0 Both sides have castled and the middlegame begins. White can plonk something on d5, or go for 9.f4 . 9.Nd5 Nxd5 Black exchanges off the strong knight. 10.Bxd5 White would like to exchange off the knight and play f4. 10...Ne7 Removing the knight and threatening the bishop. 11.Bc4 The bishop should retreat. If 11.c4 Nxd5 12.exd5 g5! 13.Ng3 f5 , with the makings of a strong kingside attack CCStartBracketCCMollema-Salem, Chess.com 2020CCEndBracketCC. 11...Rb8 Threatening ...b5. 12.a4 Preventing ...b5. 12...b6 Instead, 12...a6 13.a5 stops the b-pawn advancing, CCStartBracketCCalthough it's not that bad for BlackCCEndBracketCC. 13.Qd2 a6 Still looking to get in ...b5. 14.Nc3 Nc6 The knight would like to hop into d4. This position is all about pawn breaks. White would like to use the pawn break f2-f4, but that would unleash the bishop on g7. Black has more chance of getting in the pawn break ...b6-b5, or even ...Kh8 and ...f7-f5. A rich middlegame is in prospect, but I believe Black's position has more promise.

**B20**

□ 17) 1.e4 c5 2.b3  
 ■ 2.b3 with 4.Bc4 #1

1.e4 c5 2.b3 This isn't a particularly common move and compared to other continuations CCStartBracketCCfor example, straightforward development of the knights to either f3 or c3CCEndBracketCC is a little odd. Once again, the age-old opening advice of 'knights before bishops' is worth considering. Is it really a good idea to commit the bishop at such an early stage? Can't Black just block it? While all this is true, a quick note of caution. I think there is a tendency when facing such left-field continuations that in turn one feels it is okay to play something a bit strange. Black has a considerable choice of options, and that in itself can be somewhat confusing, particularly in a situation where there aren't many CCStartBracketCCor anyCCEndBracketCC forcing moves. In other words, don't underestimate this move, it's not that bad, and I think it's important to realise that the move cannot be refuted. Our opening aims have not changed: to gain some control in the centre, to develop our pieces, to castle, and if possible to emerge from the opening with a healthy pawn structure. For many of us, that is ambitious enough! 2...Nc6 Black sticks to tried and trusted development into the middle. 3.Bb2 e5 Blocking out the bishop on b2, as well as staking a claim in the centre. It is worth comparing this variation with the positions that arise after CCStartFENCCrnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/PPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq -

0 1CCEndFENCC 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 , etc.

CCStartBracketCCsee chapter elsewhereCCEndBracketCC. This is basically the same position but with White's bishop on b2 – and that is surely misplaced. There are essentially two ways in which White can attempt to put things right: occupy the d5–square, and/or get in the pawn break f2–f4 to get the bishop on b2 working. 4.Bc4

This is the most popular move. As Black has committed the e–pawn forward, the light–squared bishop finds a good home on the diagonal towards f7. 4...Nf6

Sound development. Just because your opponent is doing something a little odd, there is no need to stray into strange territory. 5.Nf3 Pay attention! Defending the e–pawn with 5...d6 would allow 6.Ng5 . One could play

CCStartFENCCr1bqkb1r/pp1p1ppp/2n2n2/2p1p3/2B1P3/1P3N2/PBPP1PPP/RN1QK2R b KQkq – 3 5CCEndFENCC 5...Nxe4 , but I didn't like giving my opponent a lead in development.

Besides, after 6.Qe2 , Black has to find some decent moves in order to equalise. 5...Bd6 Protecting the e–pawn. Blocking the d–pawn looks a bit strange, but Black will unravel with ease. The important thing is that 6.Ng5 can be met by 6...O–O . 6.O–O 0–0

A safe king is something to treasure. Don't be tempted by 6...Nxe4 7.Re1 – it's more trouble than it is worth. 7.Nc3 Bc7 A step back to free the d–pawn.

White's problem is that with the knight on f3 there is no pawn break to start an attack. 8.Nd5 Throwing the knight on the outpost is the best that White can achieve. 8...d6 Supporting the e–pawn

and preparing to bring out the queen's bishop. 9.Nxc7 White probably does best to grab the bishop. Instead, 9.d3 Nxd5 10.Bxd5 Ne7 11.Bc4 Bd7 12.a4 a6 , preparing ...b5, is difficult for White. 9...Qxc7 10.Re1 Be6 Black's position is easier to play than White's. If Black is allowed, settling the rooks into the middle and pushing ...d6–d5 is a decent strategy. White's problem in the whole variation is that bishop on b2: look how it is blocked out of play by the solid pawn on e5. It committed too early in the game!

**B20**

## 06 Analysis

### 1.e4

[ 1.b3 b6 2.e4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 ( 3...c5 4.Bb2 ) 4.Bb2 c5 5.f4 d6 ]  
**1...c5 2.b3 b6!?** [%draw arrow,c8,b7, green] <xmlX:en>This move is not so bad at all</:enX/xml> **3.Bb2 Bb7** [%draw full,e4,green] **4.Nc3** [%draw arrow,d1,e2,green] [%draw arrow,e1,c1,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4, green] [%draw arrow,g1,f3,green] [%draw arrow,d2,d4,green]  
 <xmlX:en>This move is necessary, however strange it may look. However, it can be very potent as demonstrated by Morozevich, Rapport amongst others. Now Black has three main moves</:enX/xml>

[ 4.d3 ]  
**4...e6** [%draw arrow,d7,d5,green]  
 <xmlX:en>most played move in this position</:enX/xml>  
 [ 4...Nc6!/? 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 <xmlX:en>transposes to lines with 4...Nc6</:enX/

xml>

**A) 6...Nd4 7.Bd3!** ( 7.Nxd4 cxd4 [%draw full,e4,green] )

**A1) 7...Nf6 8.0-0 Be7**  
<xmlX:en>as per Jezov-  
Neiksans, 2015</:enX/xml>  
9.e5!?N Nxf3+ 10.Rxf3!  
<xmlX:en>looks very strong for  
White</:enX/xml>

**A1a) 10...Nd5 11.Ne4 Nb4**  
12.Rg3 Nxd3 13.cxd3 g6  
14.f5! exf5? ( 14...gxf5  
15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.exd6  
[%draw full,b2,green] Rf8  
17.Qh5+- <xmlX:en>Black is  
paralyzed</:enX/xml> )  
15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.exd6 0-0  
17.Qh5+- <xmlX:en>mate is  
unavoidable</:enX/xml>;

**A1b) 10...Bxf3?** 11.Qxf3  
[%draw full,f6,yellow] Ng8  
12.f5 Nh6 13.f6! gxf6  
14.Qh5+- [%draw arrow,c3,  
e4] [%draw arrow,b2,h8,green]  
[%draw full,e4] [%draw arrow,  
c3,e4] [%draw arrow,b2,h8,  
green] [%draw full,e4] [%draw  
arrow,c3,e4] [%draw full,e4];

**A2) 7...f5 8.0-0 Nf6 9.exf5**  
Nxf3+ 10.Rxf3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3  
Be7 12.g4 0-0 13.g5 Ne8  
14.fxe6 dxe6 15.Qh3 Qd4+  
16.Kh1 g6 17.Qxe6+ Rf7  
18.Bc4 Nd6 19.Bd5 Re8  
20.Nb5 Qxb2 21.Nxd6 Qxa1+  
22.Kg2 Ref8 23.Qxe7  
1-0 (23) Rapport,R (2704)-Mista,  
A (2613) Palic 2014;

**B) 6...d6 7.d4!** cxd4 8.Nxd4  
[%draw arrow,f1,b5,green] a6  
9.Nxc6 Bxc6 10.Bd3 Nf6 11.Qe2  
b5 12.a4! bxa4 13.Nxa4

[%draw full,a6,green] [%draw arrow,  
e1,g1,green] <xmlX:en>with a very  
healthy looking setup</:enX/xml>  
<xmlX:>1-0 (63) Alonso Gonzalez,  
C (2512)-Mrkvicka,J (2457) ICCF  
email 2010</:X/xml>;

**C) 6...a6 7.g3!?** <xmlX:en>I like  
this here</:enX/xml> ( 7.d4 ) 7...d6  
8.Bg2 Nf6 9.0-0 Qc7 1-0 (38)  
Philippe,C (2424)-Sebag,M (2524)  
Guingamp 2010 and here 10.f5!?  
Be7 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Ng5 Nd8  
13.Qe2! [%draw full,e4] [%draw  
arrow,e4,e5] h6 14.Nh3 0-0  
15.Nf4± [%draw full,d5,green]  
[%draw full,e4,green] [%draw full,g6,  
green] [%draw arrow,e6,e5,green];

**D) 6...Nge7 7.Qe2 ( 7.Bd3**  
is also viable ) 7...a6 8.0-0-0 Nd4  
9.Qe3 Nec6 10.Ne2 Nxf3  
11.Qxf3± [%draw arrow,c1,b1]  
[%draw arrow,d2,d4] [%draw full,  
b1] ( 11.gxf3!? [%draw arrow,g1,  
g7] <xmlX:en>is also very  
interesting</:enX/xml> )]  
[ 4...d6 [%draw arrow,b8,d7,green]  
<xmlX:en>looks a bit odd but isn't  
bad</:enX/xml> 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3

**A) 6...Nd7?! <xmlX:en>definitely**  
isn't critical as Black no longer has  
ideas of Nd4</:enX/xml>

**A1) 7.d4!?** <xmlX:en>also  
perfectly playable</:enX/xml>  
cxd4 8.Qxd4 [%draw full,d7,  
green] [%draw arrow,e1,c1,  
green] Ngf6 9.0-0-0  
[%draw arrow,g2,g4] [%draw  
arrow,e4,e5] Be7 10.g4!↑  
<xmlX:en>a la Morozevich</:enX/  
xml> Nxg4 11.Rg1  
[%draw arrow,g1,g7,green]  
( 11.Qxg7 [%draw full,g4,green]

[%draw full,h8,green] );  
**A2) 7.Qe2** Ngf6 8.0-0-0 Be7  
 9.g4! [%draw arrow,g4,g5,green]  
 [%draw arrow,h2,h4,green] d5  
 ( 9...0-0 <xmlX:en>Black is  
 really provoking White here</  
 :enX/xml> 10.g5 ) 10.e5 Nxg4?  
 ( 10...Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4  
 12.Ne1± [%draw full,f1,yellow]  
 [%draw arrow,f1,g2,yellow] )  
 11.Rg1 ( 11.Qg2 d4 12.Qxg4  
 dxc3 13.dxc3+- [%draw arrow,  
 f1,b5,yellow] [%draw arrow,g4,g7,  
 yellow] <xmlX:en>is crushing.</  
 :enX/xml> ) 11...h5 12.f5→  
 <xmlX:en>Morozevich-Yu,  
 2014</:enX/xml>;

**B) 6...Nf6** <xmlX:en>feels correct</  
 :enX/xml> 7.Qe2 <xmlX:en>The  
 Moro patented idea</:enX/xml>  
 ( 7.d4!?N <xmlX:en>is a fantastic  
 novelty</:enX/xml> cxd4 8.Qxd4  
 Nc6 9.Qd2 a6 10.0-0-0  
 [%draw arrow,g2,g4,yellow] [%draw  
 arrow,g4,g5,yellow] ) 7...Nc6  
 8.0-0-0 [%draw arrow,d2,d4,green]  
 Nd4? <xmlX:en>(but otherwise d4  
 follows with nice play)</:enX/xml>  
 9.Qd3 Nxf3 10.Qxf3 Be7 11.g4!±  
 1-0 (28) Morozevich,A (2731)-  
 Ipatov,A (2613) Dubai 2014, ]

[ 4...Nf6?! 5.e5 Nd5 6.Qf3  
 [%draw arrow,f3,b7,green] e6  
 ( 6...Nxc3 7.Qxb7 [%draw full,c3,  
 green] ) 7.Bc4± [%draw full,b7]  
 [%draw full,d5,green] ]

### 5.f4 Nf6

[ 5...a6!? <xmlX:en>a very underrated  
 setup</:enX/xml> 6.Qe2 ( 6.Nf3 Nc6  
 [%draw arrow,d1,e2,green] [%draw  
 arrow,d2,d4,green] ) 6...Nc6 7.0-0-0  
 b5 ½-½ (63) Motylev,A (2686)-

Moiseenko,A (2707) Yaroslavl 2014  
 8.Nf3 Qa5 ( 8...Qc7!? [%draw full,f4,  
 green] 9.Qe3 [%draw arrow,c1,b1,  
 green]; 8...Nd4 9.Qe3 Nxf3 10.gxf3!  
 [%draw full,f4] [%draw full,h1] [%draw  
 arrow,h1,g1] [%draw arrow,g1,g7] I  
 really like this idea ) 9.Kb1 c4 10.d3  
 cxb3 11.cxb3 [%draw arrow,e2,b2,  
 green] Ba3 <xmlX:en>and here the  
 simple</:enX/xml> 12.Bxa3 Qxa3  
 13.Qb2 Qxb2+ 14.Kxb2 was around  
 level in ½-½ (63) Motylev,A (2686)-  
 Moiseenko,A (2707) Yaroslavl 2014 ]  
 [ 5...Nc6 6.Nf3 <xmlX:en>transposes  
 to lines with 4...Nc6</:enX/xml> ]

### 6.e5 Nd5 7.Qf3! Bc6

[ 7...a6 8.Ne4 Nc6 9.0-0-0±  
 [%draw arrow,f3,g3,green] [%draw  
 arrow,g3,g7,green] ]

**8.Qg3 Nb4 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6**  
**11.Nf3 Nd7 12.d4 Rc8 13.d5!+-**  
 <xmlX:en>With a devastating attack,  
 Morozevich-Polgar, 2014</:enX/xml>

**B20**

### ☐ 1. 2nd Move Options #1

### ☒ 2nd Move Options (2. b3,4. e5): #9

1.e4 c5 After 2.b3 we employ the ...g6  
 set-up again, challenging White on the  
 a1-h8 diagonal. 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5  
 This is, of course, the critical move,  
 trying to punish the weakening of the  
 long diagonal. Analysis as well as  
 practical results are clearly unfavourable  
 for the first player, though. 4...Nd5 5.Qf3  
 The only line where Black needs to  
 toughen up and show some skin. 5...Nb4  
 The passive 5...Nc7 ?! 6.Bc4 Ne6 7.  
 h4 can prove to be quite dangerous for  
 Black. 5...e6 ?! 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.dxc3 !



+ = intending Qe3, c4 and f4, gives White a strong grip in the centre. 6.Na3 Bg7 7.e6 f6 I was investigating 7...O-O 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.exf7 d5! too and Black seems to be doing reasonably well in the ensuing mess, I feel my recommendation is the simplest, though. It is also nice to know you can respond to e6 with ...f6 as, almost, a rule. 8.c3 N4c6 9.Qe3 This was played in Morozevich – Andreikin, Moscow blitz 2018 and, objectively speaking, White's variation is indeed good for blitz at most. Andreikin was doing very well after capturing on e6, the simplest move seems to be 9...d5 though. White is unable to start attack on the Kingside due to 10.h4 d4 11.Qh3 Qd6 12.Nb5 Qe5+ when he is stuck with defending the e6-pawn and 13.Ne2 Na6 14.cxd4 cxd4 15.Nbxd4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Qxe6 17.Qxe6 Bxe6 sees him being lucky to eliminate into a roughly balanced endgame. Nevertheless, with White's pawn structure being damaged I'd say Black is already on the 'better side' of the equality.

**B20**

☐ Chapter  
☒ Games

## Chapter 3 Game 1

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2**

[ 3.f4 e5 4.Nf3 exf4 5.Bc4 Nf6  
 6.Nc3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1?! Ne5  
 9.Bf1 Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Be5 11.Bb2  
 d6 12.Rad1? Bd4+ 13.Kh1 Ng4 ]

**3...e5! 4.Nc3**

[ 4.g3 g6! 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.Ne2 d6  
 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Nbc3 ( 8.c3?! 0-0

9.d4 exd4! 10.cxd4 b6! ) 8...0-0  
 9.Nd5 f5!? ( 9...Nxd5 10.exd5 Nd4 )  
 10.exf5 gxf5 11.d3 Be6 12.Nxe7+  
 Qxe7 13.f4 Rae8 14.Qd2 Qd7!  
 15.Rae1 Ne7! 16.a4 b6 ]

[ 4.Bc4 Nf6

**A)** 5.d3!? d5! ( 5...d6!? 6.Ne2 g6  
 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Nbc3 0-0 ) 6.exd5  
 Nxd5

**A1) 7.Nf3 f6**

**A1a)** 8.Nc3 Nb6!? ( 8...Be6  
 9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.0-0 Qd7∞ )  
 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0-0 a6!  
 ( 10...Be7 11.Nd2 0-0  
 12.Nc4 Kh8 13.f4 exf4  
 14.Rxf4 a6 15.Nxb6 Qxb6  
 16.Bc4 Ne5 17.Nd5± )  
 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Nd2 Nd5!  
 13.Nxd5 Qxd5;

**A1b) 8.0-0!**

**A1b1)** 8...Nb6?! 9.Bb5  
 Bd7 10.Nh4! Qe7 11.f4!  
 0-0-0 12.Bxc6! ( 12.fxe5  
 Nxe5! 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7!=  
 14.Bxe5? fxe5 12...Bxc6  
 13.fxe5 fxe5 14.Qg4+  
 ( 14.Nf5? Qg5 12...Bxc6

**A1b2)** 8...Bg4! 9.Nc3 Nb6  
 10.Bb5 Rc8 11.h3 Bh5∞;

**A2)** 7.Nc3 Nb6! 8.Bb5!? Bd7  
 9.Qe2?! Nd4! ( 9...Qe7!?  
 10.0-0-0 0-0-0 11.Nf3 f6  
 12.Nd2 Nd4 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7  
 14.Qe3 Qc6; 9...f6?! 10.Bxc6!  
 Bxc6 11.f4! )

**A2a)** 10.Qxe5+?! Be7

11.Qxg7 ( 11.0-0-0 Nxb5  
 12.Nxb5 Bxb5 13.Qxg7  
 Rf8 11.Bxd7+ Nxd7  
 12.Qxg7 Bf6 11...Bf6  
 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11...Bf6

**A2b)** 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Qd2

Be7 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B)** 5.Nc3 Nxe4! 6.Nxe4 ( 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Nxe4 d5 8.Ng3 Be6 )

6...d5

**B1)** 7.Bd3 dxe4 8.Bxe4 Nd4!

**B1a)** 9.Bxd4?! Qxd4 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B1b)** 9.Qh5 Bd6 10.Nf3 g6!

11.Qh6 Bf8 12.Qe3 Bg7

13.c3 Ne6 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B1c)** 9.c3!? Ne6 10.Nf3 f5!?

( 10...Bd6 11.d4 ) 11.Bxf5!

Nf4 12.Bxc8 Qd3! 13.Bh3

Qe4+ 14.Kf1 Qd3+ 15.Ke1

( 15.Kg1!? Ne2+ 16.Qxe2

Qxe2 17.Re1 Qa6

18.Nxe5 $\infty$  );

**B1d)** 9.Nf3!? f5! 10.Nxd4

cxd4 11.Bd3 g6! 12.Bc4

( 12.0-0 Be6 ) 12...Qd6!

**B1d1)** 13.c3 d3! 14.Qf3

e4 15.Qe3 Bg7 16.0-0-0

( 16.f3 Be6 ) 16...Be6

17.Bxe6 Qxe6 18.Rhe1

Kf7 19.f3 Rhe8 20.Qf4

Kg8 21.fxe4 fxe4 22.Re3

Qc6 23.Rde1 Re6 24.Rxe4

Rxe4 25.Qxe4 Qxe4

26.Rxe4 Rf8;

**B1d2)** 13.Qe2 Bd7! 14.c3

0-0-0 15.cxd4 exd4

16.0-0 Bg7 17.Qd3 Kb8

18.a4 Bc6 19.Ba3 Qc7

20.Rac1 Be5 $\neq$ ;

**B1d3)** 13.0-0 Bd7! 14.a4

0-0-0 15.c3 d3!?

( 15...dxc3 16.Bxc3 Bg7

17.Ba5!?) 16.Ba3 Qf6

17.Bxf8 Rhxf8 18.Bxd3

e4 $\infty$ ;

**B2)** 7.Bb5!? dxe4 8.Bxc6+

( 8.Qe2 Bf5 ) 8...bxc6 9.Qe2!?

( 9.Bxe5 Qg5! 10.Bg3 Be7 $\bar{f}$  )

**B2a)** 9...f6?! 10.Qxe4 Qd5

11.f3! $\pm$  ( 11.d3?! c4! $\bar{f}$  );

**B2b)** 9...Bf5!

**B2b1)** 10.Bxe5 Be7!

( 10...Qd5 11.Bc3 Bd6

12.Qe3 0-0 13.Ne2 f6!?)

**B2b11)** 11.Bxg7?! Rg8

12.Be5 Bf6! 13.f4

( 13.Bxf6? Qxf6 $\bar{f}$  )

13...Bxe5 14.fxe5 Qd5 $\uparrow$ ;

**B2b12)** 11.Qe3!? 0-0

12.Ne2 Bg5! 13.Bf4 Bf6

14.Rd1 Bd4! 15.Qg3

Re8 16.0-0 Re6!

17.Qg5! Qxg5 18.Bxg5

h6 19.Be3 Bg4;

**B2b2)** 10.f3!? Bd6!

11.0-0-0! ( 11.fxe4?

Qh4+ $\bar{f}$  ) 11...a5!?

12.fxe4

( 12.a4?! exf3! 13.Nxf3

0-0 14.Nxe5 Re8 15.Qf3

Bxe5 16.Qxf5 Bxb2+

17.Kxb2 c4! $\bar{f}$  ) 12...Be6

13.Nf3 f6

**B2b21)** 14.a4 c4! 15.d4!

( 15.bxc4? Qb6 $\bar{f}$  )

15...cxd3 16.Rxd3 Qe7;

**B2b22)** 14.d3 a4 $\neq$  ]

[ 4.Bb5 Nd4!

**A)** 5.Bxd4!? cxd4 6.Nf3 Nf6

7.0-0! ( 7.Nxe5? Qa5; 7.Qe2?! a6

8.Bc4 Bd6! 9.c3 0-0! 10.cxd4

exd4 11.0-0 b5 12.Bd3 Bb7 $\bar{f}$  )

7...a6 8.Bc4! ( 8.Bd3 Bd6! 9.c3

dxc3 10.Nxc3 0-0 $\neq$  11.Bc4?! b5

12.Bd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Bb7 $\bar{f}$  )

8...d6 ( 8...b5 9.Bd3 d6 ) 9.c3!

( 9.Ng5 d5! 10.exd5 h6 11.Nf3

e4!?

12.Nxd4 Bc5 13.c3 b5

14.Be2 Bxd4 15.cxd4 Qxd5 $\bar{f}$  )

9...b5 10.Bd3 dxc3 11.Nxc3 Be7

12.b4! 0-0 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4

Bb7 15.Qe2 ( 15.Qa1 d5 ) 15...d5!  
 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5;  
**B)** 5.Bc4 Nf6! 6.Nc3 ( 6.Bxd4?!  
 cxd4 7.Nf3 Bd6! 8.0-0 0-0  
 9.Re1 Bc7 10.c3 d5! 11.exd5 e4!  
 12.Nxd4 Bxh2+! 13.Kxh2 Ng4+  
 14.Kg1 Qh4 ) 6...Be7 7.Nge2  
 ( 7.d3 0-0 8.a4!? d6 9.Nge2  
 Be6 ) 7...0-0 8.d3! ( 8.0-0?!  
 Nxe4! 9.Nxe4 d5 $\bar{f}$  )

**B1)** 8...Rb8!? 9.a4 a6

**B1a)** 10.0-0 b5 11.axb5  
 axb5 12.Nxd4 bxc4 13.Nf3  
 ( 13.Nf5?! cxb3 14.cxb3 d6  
 15.Ne3 Be6 16.Nc4 Qc7 $\bar{f}$  )  
 13...cxb3 14.Nxe5 bxc2  
 15.Qxc2 Bb7 16.Nc4 d5  
 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5  
 Bxd5;

**B1b)** 10.a5! d6 11.0-0 Nc6  
 12.Nd5! Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Nxa5  
 14.f4!;

**B2)** 8...d6! 9.0-0 Bd7!

**B2a)** 10.Nxd4?! cxd4 11.Nd5  
 b5! 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Bd5  
 Rc8 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B2b)** 10.h3 Rb8! 11.a4 a6  
 12.a5 Nc6! 13.Nd5 Nxd5  
 14.Bxd5 Nxa5 15.f4 Bf6 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B2c)** 10.a4 a6 11.Nxd4!  
 ( 11.a5 Nc6 12.Nd5 Nxd5  
 13.Bxd5 Nxa5 14.f4 Bf6! $\bar{f}$  )  
 11...cxd4 12.Nd5 Nxd5!  
 13.Bxd5 Be6! 14.Bxe6  
 ( 14.Bxb7?! Ra7 15.Bd5  
 Bxd5 16.exd5 Qa5 17.Qf3  
 Rc8 18.Rac1 Rac7 $\bar{f}$ ; 14.Bc4  
 d5 15.exd5 Bxd5 16.f4 Bc6!?  
 17.a5 exf4 18.Qg4 Bg5  
 19.Bc1 Bd7 20.Qf3 Bc6  
 21.Qg4 Bd7 ) 14...fxe6  
 15.Qg4 Rf6! $\bar{f}$ ;

**B2d)** 10.f4

**B2d1)** 10...b5?! 11.Nxd4!  
 ( 11.fxe5? dxe5 12.Nxd4  
 cxd4 13.Nxb5 Ng4 14.Bc1  
 a6 15.Na3 Bc5 $\uparrow$  )

**B2d11)** 11...exd4!?

12.Nxb5 d5 13.exd5  
 Bxb5 ( 13...a6 14.Na3  
 Ng4 15.Qd2! $\pm$  ) 14.Bxb5  
 Nxd5 $\pm$ ;

**B2d12)** 11...cxd4

12.Nxb5 Ng4

**B2d121)** 13.Qf3?!

Ne3 14.Rfc1 Qa5  
 15.a4 Nxc4 16.dxc4  
 ( 16.bxc4 a6 17.Na3  
 Rab8 $\bar{f}$  ) 16...a6  
 17.Na3 f5 $\uparrow$ ;

**B2d122)** 13.Qd2 Ne3

**B2d1221)** 14.Rf3?!

Nxc4 15.bxc4  
 ( 15.dxc4 a6  
 16.Na3 Bc6 17.Re1  
 f5 $\bar{f}$  ) 15...a6 16.Na3  
 Rb8 17.Bc1 f5 $\bar{f}$ ;  
**B2d1222)** 14.Rf2  
 Qb6 15.Na3 exf4  
 ( 15...h6!? 16.g3!? )  
 16.Rxf4 Bg5 $\bar{f}$ ;

**B2d123)** 13.Bc1! $\pm$ ;

**B2d2)** 10...a6! 11.a4  
 ( 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Nd5 b5  
 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bd5  
 Rc8 $\bar{f}$  ) 11...b5! 12.axb5  
 axb5 13.Rxa8 ( 13.Nxd4  
 Rxa1! 14.Qxa1 bxc4 $\bar{f}$  )  
 13...Qxa8 14.Nxd4 cxd4  
 15.Nxb5 Qb8 16.Na3 Ng4  
 17.Bc1 Ne3!? 18.Bxe3  
 dxe3 19.Nb1 exf4 20.Nc3  
 ( 20.Rxf4?? d5! )  
 20...Be6 $\infty$  ]

[ 4.f4!? exf4

**A) 5.Nf3** Nf6!

**A1) 6.Nc3** Be7! 7.Qe2 0-0

**A1a) 8.e5?! Ng4** 9.Nd5

( 9.0-0-0 d6 10.exd6

Bxd6 ) 9...d6 10.0-0-0 Re8

11.h3 Ngxe5 12.Nxf4 Bf8;

**A1b) 8.0-0-0** d5 9.exd5

Nxd5;

**A2) 6.Bc4** Be7!? 7.e5 d5

8.exf6 Bxf6;

**A3) 6.e5!**

**A3a) 6...Ng4** 7.Bb5! ( 7.h3?

Ngxe5! );

**A3b) 6...Nh5!?**

**A3b1) 7.Be2?! d5** 8.0-0

Bg4

**A3b11) 9.h3?** Be6

10.Nh2 Ng3 11.Rxf4

Qg5 12.Rf2 Ne4 13.Rf3

c4!;

**A3b12) 9.d4?! cxd4**

10.Nxd4 Bxe2 11.Qxe2

Bc5! 12.Qxh5 ( 12.c3 g6

13.e6 0-0 ) 12...Nxd4

13.Kh1 Ne6! 14.Nc3

0-0 15.Ne2 ( 15.Rad1

Bd4 ) 15...Be3 16.Ba3

Re8 17.Bd6 d4;

**A3b13) 9.Ne1!?** Bxe2

10.Qxe2 Qg5! 11.Nf3!

( 11.e6?! Be7! );

11...Qh6 12.Nc3

0-0-0;

**A3b2) 7.Bc4** d5! 8.exd6

Bxd6 9.Nc3 ( 9.Qe2+ Qe7

10.Qxe7+ Bxe7 11.Nc3

0-0 12.0-0-0 Bg4!

13.Nd5 Bd6 14.Rde1 Rae8

15.a4 h6! ) 9...0-0 10.0-0

Bg4 11.h3?! ( 11.Ne4!?

Be5! 12.c3 Nf6 13.Nf2

Bxf3 14.gxf3 ) 11...Bf5

12.d3 Ng3;

**A3b3) 7.Bb5** d5 8.exd6

Bxd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Na3

Bg4 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nc4!

( 12.Qe1?! Re8 13.Qf2

Ng3!! ) 12...Bc7

**A3b31) 13.h3?! Bf5!;**

( 13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qd5

15.Qg4 Rae8 16.Rf3!

Re2 17.Rd3 Qe4

18.Ne3 Rxd2! 19.Rxd2

Qxe3+ 20.Rf2 g6

21.Rd1 Ng3 22.Bc1! );

**A3b32) 13.Qe1!** Re8

14.Qf2 Qd5 15.Ba3

Nf6! 16.Qxc5? Ne4!

17.Qd4 Bxf3 18.Qxd5

cxd5 19.gxf3 dxc4

20.fxe4 Rxe4;

**A3b4) 7.Qe2!** d5! 8.exd6+

Be6 9.Nc3 Bxd6

**A3b41) 10.Ne4** Be7

11.0-0-0 Qd5 12.d4

( 12.Nc3?! Qf5 )

12...cxd4 13.Nxd4

0-0-0;

**A3b42) 10.0-0-0!**

**A3b421) 10...0-0?!**

11.d4! cxd4 12.Nxd4

**A3b4211)**

**12...Nxd4?! 13.Rxd4**

f3 14.Qxf3 Qg5+

15.Kb1 Be5

16.Ra4! Nf6

( 16...Qf6 17.Qe3! )

17.Bd3±;

**A3b4212) 12...f3!**

13.Nxf3

**A3b42121)**

**13...Re8 14.Kb1!**

( 14.Qf2 Qe7!

15.Ne4 Ba3;  
 14.Nb5 Bf4+  
 15.Kb1 Qa5 $\neq$ )  
 14...Qe7 ( 14...Bf5  
 15.Qb5 $\uparrow$ ) 15.Nb5 $\pm$ ;  
**A3b42122)**  
13...Nf4!? 14.Qf2!  
 Qe7 15.Bb5! $\pm$ ;  
**A3b422)** 10...Nf6!  
 11.d4! cxd4  
**A3b4221)**  
12.Nxd4?! Nxd4  
 13.Rxd4 Qb6!  
 14.Na4!? ( 14.Rxd6  
 Qxd6 15.Nb5 Qc5!  
 16.Ba3! Qe3+  
 17.Qxe3 fxe3  
 18.Nc7+ Kd7  
 19.Nxa8 Rxa8  
 20.Bc5 Nd5 $\bar{f}$ )  
 14...Qc7 15.Qb5+  
 Kf8! ( 15...Nd7?!  
 16.Bc4! $\pm$ ; 15...Bd7  
 16.Qe2+; 15...Ke7  
 16.Bd3 a6 17.Qg5  
 h6 18.Qh4 $\uparrow$ )  
 16.Bd3 ( 16.Bc4??  
 Bd7 17.Qg5 h6  
 18.Qh4 Bxa4  
 19.bxa4 Be5)  
 16...Bd7!? 17.Qg5  
 h6 18.Qh4 Bc6  
 19.Rd1 Be5 $\bar{f}$ ;  
**A3b4222)** 12.Nb5!  
**A3b42221)**  
12...a6?! 13.Nfxd4!  
 Nxd4 14.Nxd6+  
 Qxd6 15.Rxd4  
 Qc7 16.Qd2 $\pm$ ;  
**A3b42222)**  
12...0-0?! 13.Nfxd4! Nxd4

14.Rxd4 Bd5  
 15.Nxd6! ( 15.c4  
 Re8 $\infty$ ) 15...Qxd6  
 16.Qd2 Qc6  
 17.Qxf4 Rfe8  
 18.Bd3 $\pm$ ;  
**A3b42223)**  
12...Bc5 13.Nfxd4  
 Nxd4 14.Qe5!  
 ( 14.Nxd4 Qb6!  
 15.Nxe6 Qxe6  
 16.Qb5+! Qc6  
 17.Bxf6! gxf6  
 18.Qxc6+ bxc6  
 19.Ba6 Rd8  
 20.Bb7 Be3+  
 21.Kb2 c5 )  
 14...Qe7 15.Nc7+  
 Kf8 16.Bxd4 Bd6  
 17.Nxe6+ fxe6  
 18.Qa5 Kf7  
 19.Bc4 Rhc8  
 20.Kb1 Rxc4  
 21.bxc4 e5;  
**A3b42224)**  
12...Qe7! 13.Nfxd4!  
 ( 13.Nxd6+ Qxd6  
 14.Nxd4 0-0-0 )  
 13...Bb4! ( 13...Bc5  
 14.Nxe6 fxe6  
 15.Bxf6 gxf6  
 16.Qh5+ ) 14.Nxe6!  
 ( 14.a3 Nxd4  
 15.Bxd4 Bc5!  
 16.Qe5 Rc8  
 17.Bxc5 Qxc5  
 18.Nd6+ Kf8  
 19.Qxc5 Rxc5  
 20.Nxb7 Rd5  
 21.Be2 g5;  
 14.Nxc6 bxc6  
 15.Nd4 Bd7



16.Qxe7+ Kxe7  
 17.Ba6 Rhb8~~±~~)  
 14...fxe6 15.a3!  
 ( 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 )  
**A3b422241)**  
15...a6?! 16.axb4!  
 ( 16.Bxf6 gxf6  
 17.Qh5+ Kf8  
 18.Qh6+ Kg8  
 19.axb4 axb5  
 20.Bxb5 Nxb4  
 21.Rd7 Na2+  
 22.Kb1 Nc3+  
 23.Kb2 Qa3+  
 24.Kxc3 Qa5+ )  
 16...axb5 17.Qxb5  
 Nd5 18.Bc4 Ne3  
 19.Rd4!~~±~~;  
**A3b422242)**  
15...Bc5 16.Bxf6  
gxf6 17.Qh5+ Kf8  
 18.Qh6+ Kf7  
 19.Be2 a6 20.Nc3  
 Bd4 21.Rd3!  
 ( 21.Bh5+ Kg8  
 22.Rd3 Be5 )  
 21...Rhd8  
 22.Qxh7+ Ke8  
 23.Qh6 Be3+  
 24.Kb2 Rxd3  
 25.Bxd3 Kd7=;

**B) 5.Bc4 Qh4+ 6.Kf1 d6!?**  
 ( 6...Nf6 7.Nf3 Qh6 8.Nc3 d6  
 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.e5 Ne4 11.d4!  
 cxd4 12.Nbxd4 Bd7 13.Bxf7  
 Nxe5 ) 7.Nf3 Qh6 8.Nc3 ( 8.d4?!  
 Nf6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.dxc5 dxc5  
 11.Nd5 0-0 12.Nxe7+ Nxe7  
 13.Qd6 Nc6 14.Bxf6 Rd8  
 15.Qxc6 bxc6 16.Bxd8 Be6  
 17.Ba5~~±~~) 8...Be6!/? 9.d4!/? ( 9.Nd5  
 0-0-0 10.d3 Nge7 ) 9...Bxc4+

10.bxc4 Nf6 11.Nd5 0-0-0  
 12.Qd3 Ng4~~∞~~ ]

#### 4...Nf6 5.f4!/?

[ 5.g3 d5! 6.exd5 Nxd5 ( 6...Nd4!/?  
 7.Bg2 Bg4~~∞~~ ) 7.Bg2 Be6 8.Nge2  
 Qd7 9.0-0 Nxc3!/? 10.Bxc3 Bd5!~~±~~ ]

#### 5...exf4!

[ 5...d5?! 6.exd5! ( 6.fxe5?! Nxe4  
 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Qe2 Bf5~~±~~ ) 6...Nxd5  
 7.Nxd5 Qxd5 8.Nf3!~~±~~ ]

#### 6.Bc4!/? d6!/?

[ 6...Ne5?! 7.Nf3 Nxc4?! 8.bxc4 d6  
 9.0-0 Be7 10.d3 0-0 11.Qd2 ]

#### 7.Nf3!/?

[ 7.Nge2?! g5!/? 8.h4!/? ( 8.Nd5 Bg7  
 9.0-0 0-0 10.g3 Bh3~~±~~ ) 8...Bg7!

**A) 9.hxg5?! Ng4! 10.Rh5**

( 10.Nxf4 Qxg5~~±~~ ) 10...Nge5~~±~~;

**B) 9.Nd5 Ne5 10.Bxe5 ( 10.Bb5+  
 Kf8!/?~~±~~ ) 10...dxe5 11.Nec3 g4  
 12.h5! ( 12.Qe2 Nh5!~~±~~ ) 12...h6  
 13.Qe2 0-0 14.0-0-0 a6~~±~~ ]**

#### 7...Bg4 8.0-0

[ 8.Qe2!/? Be7! ( 8...Nd4?! 9.Qd3  
 Bxf3 10.gxf3~~±~~ ) 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.Qf2  
 ( 10.Rdg1 a6! ) 10...Nxe4! 11.Nxe4  
 d5 12.Bd3 c4! 13.bxc4 dxe4  
 14.Bxe4 Qa5 ]

#### 8...Be7= 9.d3 Nd4! 10.Qd2 Bxf3

#### 11.gxf3 a6! 12.Rf2?! b5 13.Bd5 b4

#### 14.Ne2 Nxe2+ 15.Rxe2 Nxd5 16.exd5

#### 0-0 17.Qxf4 Bg5! 18.Qg4 Bf6

#### 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Rae1 a5 21.Kg2 g6~~±~~

**B20**

☐ Chapter

☒ Catalan Benoni

B2) 6...d6

#### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6

[ 2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qe5+

( 4...Qd8 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Qe2 Nc6 ) 5.Be2 Bg4 6.f4 Qe6 7.Bb2 Nc6 8.d3 0-0-0 9.Ne4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 ]  
 [ 2...e5 3.Bb2 d6 ]  
 [ 2...e6 3.Bb2 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbx7 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 0-0 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nc3 ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...e5 ]

**4.Bb5+ Bd7**

[ 4...Nbd7 5.d3 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 ]  
 [ 4...Nc6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 e5 7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nd2 0-0 10.Qe1 Be6 11.f4 exf4 ]

**5.Bxd7+ Qxd7**

[ 5...Nbx7 6.d3 e5 7.Ne2 ]

**6.d3!?**

[ 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qh5 Nc6 8.Nc3 e6 9.Nge2 0-0-0 10.0-0-0 Rg8 11.g3 d5 ]

**6...Nc6 7.f4**

This is White's idea, which is not so different from what Kramnik played against Alekseev, but perhaps it is a better version.

Here Black has two different ways of looking after the b-pawn, both worthy of independent investigation,

B21) 7...a6 and

B22) 7...b4.

I should mention that

**7...e6?!**

is simply bad:

[ 7...d5 8.Nd2 0-0-0 9.Qe2!  
 and Black cannot avoid losing material  
 and after 9...dxe4 10.dxe4  
 Black is losing at least a pawn.  
 This is much stronger than 10...Nd4

11.Bxd4 Qxd4 12.Rd1 Qc3 13.Ngf3 Ng4 as recommended by Golubev, when Black can still fight after 14.Ng5 Ne3 15.Nxf7! Nxd1 16.Nxd8 ]  
 [ 7...g6 8.Nf3 looks horrible for Black.  
 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.c4 a6 11.Nc3 Rab8 12.Qd2 b5 13.Rae1 Ng4 14.h3 Nh6 15.Nd5 f6 16.g4 Nf7 17.f5 ]

**8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 d5**

And now:

**10.Ne5 Qc7**

Other options are even worse: **11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.e5! Nd7 13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc3**  
 White's advantage is indisputable.  
 Black is losing after **17...Rhg8 18.Rae1**

**B40**

☐ **Survey/uebersicht**

☒ **N,N**

2.b3 e6

1993

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6**

[ 2...b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 d6 5.Nf3 Nf6 ( 5...e6 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nd7 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Ngf6 10.0-0 Qc7= Miljanic-Rogers/Aosta/1989 B80 ) 6.d4!

**A) 6...cxd4**

**A1) 7.Qxd4** Nbd7 8.0-0-0 g6?  
 ( 8...a6!? 9.e5 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Qc7 11.f4 e6<sup>∞</sup> ) 9.Bb5 Bg7 10.e5 Bxf3 11.exf6 Bxf6 12.Qxf6 exf6 13.gxf3 0-0 ( 13...a6 14.Rhe1+ Kf8 15.Bc6 Rc8 16.Rxd6± ) 14.Rxd6+-;

**A2) 7.Nxd4** Nxe4 8.Bb5+ Nd7 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.Qg4±;

**B) 6...Nxe4?** 7.Bb5+ Nd7 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Ng5! Bg6 ( 9...Bxg2

10.Rg1 Bb7 11.Ne6 fxe6 12.Qh5+  
g6 13.Rxg6+-; 9...Bb7 10.Qh5 g6  
11.Qh3 Bg7 12.Nxf7 Kxf7  
13.Bxd7±) 10.Qf3 Rc8 11.d5!±  
Kr.Georgiev-Ermenkov/Albena/  
1985 ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2

**A) 3...Nf6** 4.e5 ( 4.Nc3 e5 5.f4  
d5!? 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nxd5 Qxd5  
8.Nf3 Bg4 9.fxe5 Nxe5 10.Bb5+  
Kd8 11.0-0 Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Bh3∞  
Gaprindasvili-Ljogkij/UdSSR/1979 )  
4...Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5 ( 6.Bc4  
dxe5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxe5 e6  
9.Nc3± Spasskij-Sosonko/Tilburg/  
1978 ) 6...Nc7 7.Bxc6+ bxc6  
8.exd6 exd6 9.0-0 Ne6 10.d4  
Be7 11.Nc3 0-0 12.d5±  
Simagin-Boleslavskij/UdSSR/  
1956;

**B) 3...e5** 4.f4

**B1) 4...d6** 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bc4  
Nf6 ( 6...exf4 7.Nc3 Nd4?  
8.Nxd4 Bxd1 9.Bb5+ Qd7  
10.Kxd1 cxd4 11.Bxd7+ Kxd7  
12.Nd5±) 7.Nc3 Qd7 8.0-0  
0-0-0∞ Honfi-Ackermann/  
Baden-Baden/1985;

**B2) 4...exf4!**

**B2a) 5.Bc4** Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nf6  
7.Nf3 Qh6 8.Nc3 d6 9.Nb5  
Kd8 10.e5 Ne4 ( 10...dxe5  
11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5  
Bg4∞ ) 11.d4!∞ Lukin-Shirov/  
Klajpeda/1988;

**B2b) 5.Nf3** Nf6 6.e5?!  
( 6.Nc3 Δ♙c4;0-0;♙ ) 6...Nh5  
7.Be2?! ( ♞7.Bb5 Be7 8.Nc3  
0-0 9.Qe2∞ ) 7...d5 8.0-0  
Bg4! 9.h3 Be6 10.Nh2 Ng3  
11.Rxf4 Qg5 12.Rf2 Ne4♠  
Grosar-Kupreichik/Ljubjana/

1989 ]

### 3.Bb2 Nf6

[ 3...Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 ( 4...d6 5.d4  
cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Bd3 Bd7 8.0-0  
Ne5 9.c4 Nxd3 10.Qxd3 Be7  
11.Nc3 a6± Nei-Knaak/Tallin/1979 )  
5.e5 Nd5 6.Bb5 ( 6.Nc3 Nxc3  
7.Bxc3 Be7 8.Bd3 b6 9.Qe2 Bb7  
10.h4 Qc7 11.Rh3 g6∞ Schweber-  
Kasic/Buenos Aires/1970 ) 6...Be7  
7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.d3 f6  
10.Nc3± Spasskij-Hernandez/Buenos  
Aires/1978 ]

### 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.c4 Nc7

[ 6...Nf4?! 7.g3! ( 7.h4 d6 8.g3 Ng6  
9.exd6 Bf6 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Ng5  
Bd4! 12.Qh5 Qxd6♠ ) 7...Ng6 8.Bg2  
d6 9.exd6 Bf6 10.Nc3 Nc6  
11.0-0± ]

[ 6...Nb4?! 7.a3 N4c6 8.Bd3 d6  
9.exd6 Bf6 10.Nc3 Nd7 11.0-0  
Nde5 12.Be4± ]

### 7.Nc3 f6 8.Ne4 fxe5 9.Nxe5 0-0

### 10.d4 cxd4 11.Qxd4 Bb4+ 12.Bc3!

[ 12.Kd1? d6 13.Nd3 e5 14.Qe3  
Ba5♠ Westerinen-Tal/Tallin/1973 ]

### 12...Bxc3+ 13.Nxc3 Nc6 14.Nxc6

**dxcc6 15.Rd1±** Kanzler-Ionov/  
Daugavpils/1979

**B20**

☐ Chapter Part

☒ Games

Chapter 13 Part 2

### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5 Bd7

[ 4...Nf6!? 5.Bxf6 gxf6 6.Nc3 Rg8 ]  
[ 4...e5

**A) 5.Nf3** Nf6 ( 5...f5 6.d3 Nf6  
7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.0-0

Be7 );

**B)** 5.f4!?

### 5.f4

[ 5.Nf3 Nf6!? 6.Bxf6?! ( 6.Qe2 a6  
7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d3 g6!±; 6.d3 Qa5+  
7.Nc3 e6 8.0-0± ) 6...exf6  
( 6...gxf6!? ) 7.0-0 g6 8.d4 ( 8.Bxc6  
Bxc6 9.Nc3 Bg7 10.Qe2 0-0  
11.Qd3 b5± ) 8...Bg7 9.Nc3 0-0±  
10.dxc5 f5! 11.Qd3 Qa5 12.e5  
Rad8!± ]

### 5...a6

[ 5...Nf6  
**A)** 6.Qe2 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.e5 Nd5  
9.Qe4 f5 ( 9...a6 10.Bc4 dxe5  
11.fxe5 Ndb4 12.a3 b5 13.Be2  
Nd5± ) 10.exf6 Bxf6 11.Nc3 0-0  
12.0-0-0 Kh8 13.Bd3 g6 14.h4  
Bg7 15.Nxd5 Bxb2+ 16.Kxb2  
exd5 17.Qxd5 Qf6+ 18.Kb1 Nb4  
19.Qc4 Qxf4 20.Be4 Bc6 21.Ng5  
Rae8 22.Rdf1 Qxd2 23.Rf7 Nd5  
24.Rxh7+ Kg8 25.Kb2±;  
**B)** 6.d3 Qa5+ ( 6...g6 7.Nf3 Bg7  
8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bxc6  
Bxc6 11.Nbd2 b5 12.e5 Nh5?!  
13.Ng5! h6 14.Nge4 ) 7.Nc3 d5!?  
8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Qd2 Nxc3 10.Bxc6  
Bxc6 11.Bxc3 Qc7 12.Nh3 ]

### 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.d3

[ 7.Qe2 Nf6 8.d3 e6 9.Nf3 Be7  
10.0-0 0-0 11.c4 b5 12.Nc3 bxc4  
13.dxc4 Qc7 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5  
Ng4! 16.Ne4 Rad8± ]  
[ 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Qe2 e6 9.Nf3 Be7  
10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.d4 cxd4 12.Nxd4  
Rc8 13.g4 0-0 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 b5  
16.a3± ]

### 7...Nf6

[ 7...d5!?  
**A)** 8.Nd2 e6 9.Ngf3 Nf6 10.Ne5  
Rc8 11.Qe2 Be7 12.c4 d4

13.0-0± 0-0 14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.e5  
Nd7 16.a4± ( 16.Rf3 Qc7  
17.Raf1 );

**B)** 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.Nf3 Qe6+  
10.Kf2!?

### 8.Nf3

[ 8.Qe2!? e6 ( 8...d5 9.e5 Ng8  
10.e6! ) 9.Nf3 Qc7 ( 9...Be7!? )  
10.Nbd2 0-0-0 11.0-0 h6 12.a4  
Rg8 13.Nc4 ]

### 8...e6

[ 8...d5 9.e5 Ng4 10.e6!? f5!?

### 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qe2 0-0

### 12.Rae1 b5 13.e5 Nd5

[ 13...dxe5 14.Nxe5 Bb7 15.Ndf3 ]

### 14.Ng5!?

[ 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Ne5 Bb7  
16.Qg4 ]

### 14...Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Bxg5 16.Rg4 Bh6

### 17.Rh4 d5

[ 17...Bg5 18.Rg4 Bh6 19.Rh4 ]

### 18.Rxh6 gxh6 19.Qf3!? d4?!

[ 19...Qe7 20.Nf1 Kh8 21.Ne3 Rg8 ]

### 20.Ne4 f5?

[ 20...Bxe4 21.Rxe4 Qd8! 22.Bc1 f5  
23.exf6 Rxf6 24.Rg4+ Rg6 ]

### 21.exf6 Qf7 22.Qg4+ Kh8 23.Nxc5

[ 23.Qg7+ Qxg7 24.fxg7+ Kxg7  
25.Nxc5 Kg6 26.Bxd4 ]

### 23...Rg8 24.Qxe6 Rxg2+ 25.Kf1

### Rg1+!

[ 25...Rag8 26.Qxf7 ( 26.Bxd4! )  
26...Rg1+ 27.Ke2 R8g2+ 28.Kd1  
Bf3+ 29.Kc1 Rxe1# ]

### 26.Kf2

[ 26.Kxg1 Qg6+ 27.Kf2 Qg2# ]  
[ 26.Ke2 Qh5+ 27.Kd2 Qg5+ ]

### 26...Rg2+ 27.Kf1 Rg1+

**B20**

□ **Chapter**

■ **Classical Variation**

C) 4...♗c5

### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5

[ 3...e6 4.Bb5 Nd4 ( 4...Nge7 5.Nf3 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 might be dangerous for Black, as he would face serious problems developing his light-squared bishop. 7.0-0 runs into d5! (15.♖f3!?) 8.exd5 exd5 and Black loses the exchange. 9.Re1+ Be6 is given by Moskalenko, but instead with 14...b5! followed by ...♗b7, Black takes over the initiative and gains a clear edge. 10.d4 Now Be7 leads to two interesting possibilities one rather optimistic and unnatural, the other to a game where White has a clear improvement: 11.dxc5 Moskalenko recommended: 11...0-0 Here I recommend a prophylactic move:

12.Qd3!?

Preventing Black's idea of ...♗b4 followed by ...♖d6, activating the rook. Bxc5

Maybe not what Black wants to play, but what else can he do?

13.Qc3 ) 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nc3 White wins the c6-pawn So now we can understand the difference with: 6...Nf6!?N 7.Nf3

dx e4

8.Nxe4 Be7 9.Nxd4 cxd4!

And Black definitely has play.

Note that 10.Qf3 ]

[ 3...d6 4.Bb5 Nf6

(Now White can simply play:

4...Bd7 5.f4; 4...e5±

With an obvious advantage for White;

Black is very passive and White's plan includes ♖c3-d5 and e3-e4. Instead 5.Ne2?! makes no sense, as it only helps White to seize the initiative: Nf6 6.d3 Be7 and next we have ♖g3 and ♖d5 coming. rather than 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.0-0 0-0 ) 5.Nc3 Bd7 6.f4

White is better due to his extra space, while the ...♖a6 move appears to be useless. Certainly White could also continue: 6...a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0? would be a serious mistake, as Black has 0-0 11.d4 cxd4! 12.Nxd4 Qc7! 13.g4 Rfe8 winning or 14.g5 Nd7

is clearly better for White 15.h4 b5 Simple play, wanting to play ♗b2.

16.g6 This was tried in Agdestein – Haik, Marseille 1987

Now White should have continued with his plan:

16...hxg6!N

If Black tries the same ...♗b8-a7 manoeuvre that was played in the Agdestein – Haik game, then White is ready for him.

17.h5

]

[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 when White controls all the important squares in the centre. ( 4.Nc3 and Black seems to hold ) After 4...Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 ( 5...e6 6.g3 ) 6.Bb5 Bd7 White has definite compensation, but it is rather complicated. 7.exd6 exd6 8.0-0 Be7 This is playable for Black. 9.d4 In Tukmakov – Forintos, Metz 1991, Black played 15...c6, but even the primitive cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 was possible, with good play for Black. or 11.c4 Nc7 12.Bxc6 bxc6



13.Nc3 ]

#### 4.Bc4 d6

This is Black's most popular continuation.

#### 5.f4

[ 5.Ne2 is clearly better for White. Nf6 6.Nbc3 a6 7.a4 Be7 8.0-0 White was better in Cu. Hansen – Miezis, Copenhagen 2004. after 8...0-0 9.f4 ]

#### 5...Nf6

[ 5...exf4 (with the idea of playing 19. ♖d5) and if 6.Qf3 Nf6 7.Qxf4 Be7 and Black is helpless against ♗e7 followed by ♕h4. if 8.Nf3 then 0-0 wins material 9.Nc3 Be6 10.0-0-0 was Blazek – Ptacnik, Czech Republic 2004, and now ]

#### 6.Nf3 Bg4

The following move order is dubious, according to some theorists, Since it allows White an additional option:

[ 6...Be7 7.fxe5 ]  
[ 6...Nxe4 7.0-0 d5 8.Bb5!? exf4 9.Qe2! ]

A nice tactical blow that allows White to develop a strong initiative.

Be6 10.c4 Be7 11.Bxg7

This is Vallejo Pons – Romero Holmes, Spain 2002. An interesting decision, but also reasonable is 11...Rg8 12.Bb2 ]

#### 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4

This is the initial position of our variation. In my opinion the whole line promises White slightly better chances, due to his control of the centre.

Black has a choice between

C1) 9...d6,

C2) 9...a5 and

C3) 9...♗e8. **9...Bg6**

This is definitely the main continuation.

Now White has a wild array of possibilities: 10.f4, 10.a3, 10.♘e4 and even the mysterious 10.♘h1 has been tried, but I strongly recommend a natural move:

#### 10.d3

I think this is the most logical move.

White's play is quite simple – he logically mobilizes his pieces with ♗b2, ♖c2, ♗ad1, fighting for the central squares. On every move Black must be ready for the white knight to jump to d5, e4 or even a4.

#### 10...Bd6

Black's most popular reply; the main idea is to play ...♗a6 and transfer the rook to the kingside (g6 or h6) creating threats against White's king. Sometimes the rook might also be useful on e6. In general I have noticed that Budapest aficionados do not like long positional struggles; usually they try to generate some kind of activity as soon as possible. **11.Nc3!**

This is a very important moment. At this point we actually deviate from the main theory line and make a very concrete move – now Black has no time for ...♗a6. Instead there is a lot of theory after 11. ♗b2 ♗a6 12.♘e4 (or 12.♘a4). **11...a6**

The most logical reply. Other moves are: **12.a4!**

The point of White's previous move; the black knight is ejected from the centre White gains a lot of space for his pieces, especially for the bishops. One is coming to b2, while the other has a nice square on f3.

White's other options do not look so clear, but it may be useful to see why they do not work: **12...Rb8**

The other knight retreat is also possible:

**13.0-0!N**

In my opinion this move is a serious improvement; White manages to reach his optimal set-up.

The main move according to theory is 13.

♖d2 but I find it slightly inaccurate, since it allows Black to obtain some counterplay with 13...♗h4!N. The main idea is to play ...♗f5 at an appropriate moment. **13...0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4** White has a very pleasant edge, thanks to his space advantage.

Conclusion:

The Budapest Gambit is almost a respectable opening; I doubt there is a refutation. Even in the lines where White manages to keep an extra pawn, Black always has a lot of play for it. I recommend 4.♗f3, which may be an unpleasant choice for Budapest lovers, as White is aiming for positional play and not heading into complications by trying to keep the extra pawn.

At move 4 there is an important crossroads – 4...♗c6 or 4...♗c5 (4...♗b4+ is hardly playable for Black, though there are some important moments to look out for).

After 4...♗c6 White has to be familiar with the rarely-played 6...f6, which does not have a clear refutation according to theory. I believe White has a clear edge in this line and the reader should remember White's key idea – the c4–c5 temporary pawn sacrifice gives plenty of scope for seizing the initiative. In the main line White often gains an advantage by forcing Black to give up his dark-squared bishop. The most important line appears after 9...a5, which seems Black's best bet, yet after the smooth 11.♗b1 White gets exactly

the kind of pleasant space–advantage position we are looking for.

4...♗c5 has been the most popular reply in recent years. In the main line I recommend the positional 10.b3, which promises White easy play with every chance of an advantage. The key moment is 11.♗a4!, which avoids Black's typical transfer of his queen's rook to the kingside, and allows White to reach his optimal set-up.

As things stand, White enjoys a plus in both lines, but there may still be room for improvements. Chapter 6–Classical Variation C3) 9...♖e8 Previously against **15...h5** Black has not managed to solve his opening problems: **16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5**

**B20**

☐ **Rare 2nd moves ----- for ALL**  
☒ **Rare 2nd moves ----- for ALL**

1.e4 c5 So here we are. I guess that if you purchased this course, you – like me – are a Sicilian player. I don't claim here that you are from Palermo or Catania, but that you like to play unbalanced chess by replying 1. e4 with 1... c5. In the first chapter, we will take a look at all of White's rare 2nd moves. Some of them are more playable and some are just dubious, but I wanted to cover all of the options that at least from time to time appear in tournament practice. Of course, don't expect me to cover 2. h3 or 2. a4 because you can get a decent position vs those moves without doing anything extraordinary. But any reasonable move from White that isn't a main-line has been covered.

2.b3 Not a very popular option but it is used from time to time by people who want to avoid theory. It was also recommended by Evgeny Sveshnikov and his son Vladimir in their book 'A Chess Opening Repertoire for Blitz and Rapid'. 2...g6 An exclamation mark is from me. Not only is this a move that leads to some interesting positions but it is also theoretically sound. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Just don't premove 3...Bg7 4.e5 By far the most popular continuation but in my opinion, it hands over the initiative to Black. Playing Alekhine-style is a noble thing but not with the Bishop on b2. 4...Nd5 5.Bc4 One of the most direct ideas but Black will gain an upper hand. 5...Nb6 6.e6 There is nothing else. Losing time to move the light-squared Bishop results in ... Bg7 ... Nc6 and ... d6 being played in time. 6...f6 7.exd7+ 7.Bb5 Nc6 doesn't solve White's problems. 7...Bxd7 8.Qe2 e5 The most ambitious continuation. It looks risky to play like that but when we consolidate, the reward will be high. 9.f4 Otherwise just ... Nc6 with a big advantage for Black. 9...Nxc4 10.Qxc4 b5 Grabbing space on the queenside and gaining a tempo on the White Queen. 11.Qe2 Nc6 12.fxe5 fxe5 13.Bxe5 Accepting the gift leads to huge problems for White. 13...Nxe5 14.Qxe5+ Qe7 15.Qxe7+ Bxe7 Despite the fact that Black is a pawn down, after 15 moves White has only one unit developed – the pawn on b3 ! On the other hand, Black can castle short and the Bishop on f6 with the combination of the pawn on b4 will create havoc on the dark squares. Black is SIGNIFICANTLY better. Note that one fine idea is to play

... Bh4+ and only then ... Bf6 to provoke g3 from White. 16.Nf3 Bf6 17.c3 0–0 18.0–0 b4 White can't develop the queenside and Black is much better – positionally winning if you ask me.

**B20**

☐ **Early B3 Plans**

☒ **Snyder Variation 2.b3 ♖4.e**

1.e4 c5 This chapter will be devoted to the setups with White playing an early b3. The idea behind this move is mainly to improvise with fianchettoing the dark-squared bishop on b2 and thus avoid mainstream theory. 2.b3 If White does this as early as the second move, Black does not have to play the ...e6 setups anymore and has more flexibility. 2...g6 This is our suggestion: position the dark-squared bishop on the same diagonal as the white bishop to negate its activity. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Of course, the knight has to be developed first. This is the simplest approach – Black continues development on the kingside and starts to pressure the white pawn on e4. Now White has some choices, but none of them promise an advantage. 4.e5 Probably the most principled move – White is hoping to gain some tempi by attacking the wandering Black knight but at the expense of the vulnerable pawn on e5. 4...Nd5 There's no need to put the knight on the edge of the board if a central square is available. White has tried several continuations here, but none of them look particularly convincing. 5.Nc3 Before starting active operations in the center, White removes the black knight from the center.

5...Nxc3 Black shouldn't mind the trade, as long as he is able to start pressuring the White pawn on e5. 6.dxc3 This is an interesting alternative idea for White – White wants to play c4 next and after Black's eventual ...d6, trade the pawns on d6, creating an eternal weakness and a great outpost on d5. Black must act energetically. 6...Nc6 So far, nothing changes for Black. 7.f4 Probably the critical response for White, otherwise, the pawn on e5 is in peril. 7...d6 8.exd6 Bh6 Very typical for the pawn structure, Black aims for a gambit to accelerate his development. 8...exd6? 9.c4 and White achieves exactly what he wanted; a long diagonal for his dark-squared bishop and control of the d5 square. 9.g3 0-0 Black offers to take the pawn on e7 to accelerate his lead in development even further. 10.Qd2 Qxd6 Now that the white queen has already moved, it's a great moment to recapture the pawn with the queen and force the white queen to move again. Don't underestimate White's attacking chances after the long castle and h4–h5. 11.Qxd6 exd6 12.0-0-0 Bg4 Black is incredibly active but White should keep the balance. 13.Be2 13.Rxd6 is not possible due to 13...Rfe8 . 13...Bxe2 14.Nxe2 Rfe8 15.Rd2 d5 16.Rhd1 Re3 17.Ng1 Ne7 The position is balanced.

**B20**

□ **Second Move Sidelines**

■ **2.b3: #1**

1.e4 c5 At this juncture, White's most challenging move by far is 2.Nf3 ,

leading to the Open Sicilian. I've always believed that playing anti-Sicilians with White is one of the best possible ways to limit yourself as a chess player because it not only gives up the fight for the opening advantage early on, but also deprives one of the opportunity to play the most beautifully dynamic and complicated middlegames in all of chess. As such, people who avoid 2.Nf3 and 3. d4 on a consistent basis tend to not reach their full potential as chess players. That said, it is our duty to play well with the black pieces regardless of what move comes from our opponents, and there are a lot of Anti-Sicilians to be ready for. In general, I think 2.c3 and 2. Nc3 deserve their own files, and this one will start off with all of the total nonsense. 2.b3 Among all of White's alternatives to the mainline with 2.Nf3 and the 2 main anti-Sicilians in 2.c3 and 2.Nc3, this move is probably the most dangerous option. I still find it less than frightening. 2...g6 Black has other good moves, but this strikes me as the simplest. Basically, all throughout the course, whenever g7–g6 is a decent option, I always choose it, even in positions where plenty of other moves are fine as well, such as this one. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Black need not fear the doubled pawns or the e4–e5 push. 4.Qf3 This has been played a bunch as well, but it is unimpressive. 4...d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 Black will be clearly better if he can play Bf8–g7 and O–O. In practice, White has taken on f6 just about every time, doubling the pawns and weakening the d5-square, but this does not solve his problems either. 6.Bxf6 exf6 Now, the only thing Black really needs

to know is not to waste any time on the tempting move a7–a6. Just go Bg7 and castle. 7.Qd3 This has been tried too, strictly as prophylaxis against Bf8–g7. I suppose it makes some sense, but the bishop will not be bad on e7 either. 7...Be7 Again, not wasting time on a7–a6. 8.Nc3 0–0 Once more, the strategic threat of Nd7–e5 forces White to take on d7 voluntarily. 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 10.Nf3 f5 This is similar to the mainline. Black has easy play.

**B20**

□ **Analysis**

■ **N,N**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** [%draw arrow,f8,g7] "The move I feared most here" – Carlsen **3.Bb2 Nf6** and now we reach an important moment. White has many ideas. **4.h4!?** [%draw arrow,h4,h5] [%draw arrow,b2,h8] may be seriously underrated [%draw arrow,h4,h5] [%draw arrow,b2,h8] may be seriously underrated [%draw arrow,h4,h5] [%draw arrow,b2,h8,green] [%draw arrow,h5,g6,green] may be seriously underrated [ 4.e5!/? [%draw arrow,e5,e6] [%draw arrow,b2,h8]

**A) 4...Nh5!?** [%draw arrow,h5,f4] [%draw arrow,h5,g7] [%draw arrow,b2,h8] [%draw full,b2] [%draw full,f4] the knight isn't actually offside here and is a good alternative to Nd5

**A1) 5.e6?! f6 6.exd7+ Bxd7** White is struggling here 0–1 (49) Vavulin,M (2441)–Zvjaginsev,V (2660) Moscow 2015;

**A2) 5.g3** [%draw full,h5] is

logical Nc6 6.e6 f6 7.exd7+ Qxd7 8.Bg2 1–0 (35) Dvalishvili, P (2422)–Savchenko,B (2607) Moscow 2016 and here Bh6!/? ( 8...b6!/? also good 9.Nf3 Bb7 10.d3 Bh6 11.0–0 e5 [%draw arrow,e8,c8,yellow] is also superb ) 9.Nf3 Qe6+ 10.Qe2 Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 e5 is a dream position for Black; **A3) 5.Qf3** Nc6 6.Qe4 too much messing around by White ( 6.Qe3 is apparently an improvement but even here Black can play Nd4! 7.Bxd4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 [%draw full,d6] [%draw full,d7] [%draw arrow,d7,d6] [%draw arrow,g7,a1] is a very dangerous pawn sacrifice for the initiative. ) 6...Bg7 [%draw full,e5] 7.Bb5 f5 gives Black a small advantage, as per: 0–1 (41) Gullaksen,E (2366)–Bosicic,M (2595) Norway 2017 ( 7...d5! [%draw arrow,g7,b2] [%draw full,b2] is even stronger );

**B) 4...Nd5 5.e6?! [%draw arrow,b2,h8] [%draw arrow,e6,f7]** I believe this isn't sound ( 5.h4!/? transposes to the 4.h4 lines ) 5...f6 6.exd7+ Bxd7 ( 6...Qxd7 is also good 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Bb5 Nc7 9.Bxc6 Qxc6 [%draw arrow,e7,e5] 0–1 (37) Aravindh,C (2486)–Carlsen,M (2834) Doha 2015 ) 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Bc4 Qc7 [%draw arrow,e8,c8] [%draw arrow,e7,e5] [%draw full,c5] [%draw full,e5] ] [ 4.Qf3!/? [%draw arrow,e4,e5] [%draw arrow,f6,d5] [%draw full,d5]



**A) 4...Bg7** super provocative! 5.e5 Ng8 ( 5...Nh5 6.g4 [%draw full,f4] ) 6.e6! [%draw arrow,b2,h8] [%draw arrow,b2,g7] Nf6 ( 6...Bxb2 7.Qxf7# ) 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.g4!? [%draw arrow,g4,g5] h6 9.Nc3 d5 ( 9...Nc6 10.0-0-0 d5 11.h3 e5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Bc4 Be6 14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Qe2 Bxh1 16.f3 ) 10.h3 e6 ( 10...Bd7 11.0-0-0 Bc6 12.Bb5 [%draw arrow,d5,d4] ) 11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Re1 Nd4 13.Qg2 Bd7 14.Nf3 Nxf3 15.Qxf3 Bc6 16.Bd3! [%draw full,e6] [%draw full,g6] and White was much better in Short-Jones 2012: ½-½ (58) Short,N (2677)-Jones,G (2653) Bunratty 2012 d4 17.Ne4 [%draw arrow,f3,f7];

**B) 4...Nc6!** may be the most critical 5.e5 Nh5 ( 5...Ng8!? 6.Qe3 Bg7 7.Nf3 Nh6 [%draw arrow,f6,g8] [%draw arrow,g8,h6] 8.Bb5 Qb6 9.Bxc6 Qxc6 [%draw full,c8] ½-½ (77) Paichadze,L (2544)-Salgado Lopez,I (2651) Izmir 2016 ) 6.Qe3 is apparently an improvement but even here Black can play Nd4! 7.Bxd4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 [%draw full,h5] [%draw arrow,d7,d6] [%draw full,d6] [%draw full,d7] [%draw arrow,d7,d6] [%draw arrow,g7,a1] is a very dangerous pawn sacrifice for the initiative. 9.g4 d6 10.gxh5 Bxe5 [%draw full,e5] [%draw arrow,e5,a1];

**C) 4...d6** 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 ( 5...Nc6 6.e5 dxe5 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Qxc6+ Bd7 9.Qxc5 Rc8 10.Qxe5 Rxc2 11.Ne2 ) 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qd3 [%draw arrow,f8,g7] [%draw arrow,

d3,d6] [%draw full,d7] ( 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Nge2 0-0 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 ) 7...a6 8.Bxd7+

**C1) 8...Bxd7** 9.Nc3 Be6 ( 9...f5 ) 10.Nge2 Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nf4 f5 13.Rae1;

**C2) 8...Qxd7** 9.Nc3 Bg7 10.Nge2 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.Ng3 ( 12.exf5 Qxf5 13.Qxd6 Qxc2 ) 12...f4 13.Nge2 Be5 14.Rad1 ( 14.Nd5 Bxa1 15.Rxa1 Qe6 16.Nexf4 Qe5 17.Re1 ) 14...f5 15.Qd5+ Kh8 ( 15...Qf7 ) 16.d4 cxd4 17.Nxd4 f3 18.exf5 fxc2 19.Rfe1 Qg7 ( 19...Qc7 20.fxcg6 Qg7 ) 20.Ne4 Qh6 ( 20...Bxf5 21.Nxd6 Bxd6 22.Qxd6 ) 21.Nf3 Qf4 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.f6 Rb8 24.Qf7 Qh6 25.Ng5 Bg4 26.f3 ]

[ 4.Bc4?! [%draw full,e5] [%draw full,e7] I also don't think this is the best way for White d6! 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.Ng3 Nc6 9.0-0 h5! [%draw full,g3] [%draw arrow,h5,h4] [%draw arrow,f6,f5] [%draw arrow,g7,a1] and Black was already in the driving seat 10.h3 h4 11.Nge2 f5 12.d3 f4 13.Nd5 f3 14.Nef4 fxc2 15.Kxg2 Ne5 16.Rg1 Qd7 17.Kh1 b5 18.d4 bxc4 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.Rg4 exf4 21.bxc4 Qe8 22.Rxf4 g5 23.Qh5 f6 24.Qxe8 Rxe8 25.Nxf6+ Bxf6 26.Rxf6 Kg7 27.Rc6 Re5 28.Rd1 Bxh3 29.Rdd6 Rf8 30.Rg6+ Kf7 31.Rh6 Ke8 32.Kg1 Rxe4 33.Rxc5 Re1+ 34.Kh2 Bd7 35.Kg2 h3+ 36.Kg3 Rg1+ 37.Kh2 Rg2+ 38.Kh1 Rfxf2 39.Rh8+ Ke7 40.Re5+ Kd6 41.Rd5+ Kc6 42.Rh6+ Kc7 43.Rc5+ Kb7 0-1 (43) Ju,W (2568)-Hou,Y (2673) Beijing 2014 ] [ 4.Nc3?! [%draw arrow,c3,d5] I don't

like Bg7 5.e5 ( 5.Nd5 0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6! 7.Bc4 Re8 [%draw arrow,f6,f5] [%draw arrow,d7,d5] is not what White wants whatsoever ) 5...Nh5 [%draw full,c3] [%draw full,e5] [%draw arrow,b2,e5] [%draw arrow,h5,f4] I simply don't like this for White 6.Qe2 ( 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne4 d6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 and Black was already much better: 0-1 (35) Vila Gazquez,X (2422)-Ivanchuk,V (2786) Benidorm 2008 ) 6...Nc6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qe4 Nb4 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 d6 ] [ 4.g4?! a wacky idea! Bg7 5.g5 Nh5 6.Bxg7 Nxg7 can only be better for Black ]

#### 4...Bg7 critical

[ 4...d6 [%draw arrow,e7,e5,green] [%draw full,b2,green] 5.h5 ( 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.h5 f5 7.hxg6 fxg6 ) 5...g5 ( 5...Bg7 asking for it! 6.h6! Bf8 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.Bb5 Qc7 as per 1-0 (70) Sorensen,J (2431)-Poulsen,I (2095) Denmark 2015 and here 10.Bxf6! exf6 11.Nc3± [%draw full,d5] would have given White a promising position ) 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Nc3 [%draw full,d5,green] [%draw full,f5,green] f5 ( 8...Bg7 [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow,h5,h6,green] 9.h6; 8...h6 ) 9.exf5 Bxf5 10.Qf3 Qd7 11.Nge2 0-0-0 12.d4 Bg4 13.Qg3 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Bg7 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Ba6+ Kb8 17.0-0 Be5 18.Qd3 Bxh5 19.Rae1 f5 20.b4 f4 21.b5 Bg6 22.Qc4 c5 23.b6 axb6 24.Rb1 Ka7 25.Bb5 Qb7 26.Qa4+ Kb8 27.Bc6 Bxc2 28.Rxb6 Bxa4 29.Rxb7+ Kc8 30.Nxa4 1-0 (30) Venkatesh,M (2451)-Bartel,M (2271) Doha 2015 ] [ 4...h5 [%draw full,g6] is a serious

idea but it does severely weaken the g6 pawn 5.e5

**A) 5...Nd5** 6.Bc4 e6 [%draw full,d6,green] [%draw full,f6,green] ( 6...Nc7?! 7.e6 f6 8.Bd3± );

**B) 5...Ng4** 6.e6 and compared to other lines involving e5, whenever Black plays f6 g6 will remain chronically weak f6 7.Bd3 etc Rh6 ( 7...Rg8 )]

[ 4...h6?! 5.e5 ( 5.h5 g5 ) 5...Nd5 6.c4 Nb4 7.e6 f6 [%draw full,g6,yellow] [%draw full,g6,green] 8.a3 N4c6 9.Bd3± [%draw arrow,h4,h5,green] ]

#### 5.e5

[ 5.h5 Nxh5 6.Bxg7 Nxg7 7.d4 ]

**5...Nd5** this is the most popular move [ 5...Nh5!? 6.Nh3 looks like White is trapping with knight with g4 next but looks like White is trapping with knight with g4 next but [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow,g2,g4,green] looks like White is trapping with knight with g4 next but Qc7! ( 6...Nc6 7.g4 Nxe5 8.gxh5 Nf3+ 9.Qxf3 Bxb2 10.Ng5 0-0 11.Qg2! Bxa1 12.hxg6 fxg6 13.h5 with a very dangerous attack d5! 14.hxg6 Bf5 15.Nf7 Rxf7 16.gxf7+ Kxf7 17.Bd3± and I prefer White; 6...d6? 7.g4+- ) 7.g4 is critical Bxe5 8.d4! ( 8.Bxe5 Qxe5+ [%draw arrow,e5,a1,green] ) 8...Bxd4 ( 8...cxd4 9.gxh5 Nc6 10.c3! Qa5 11.Qd2± ) 9.Bxd4 ( 9.c3 Bxf2+ 10.Nxf2 Ng3 11.Rg1 Qe5+ 12.Be2± and you have to take White here with the extra piece ) 9...cxd4 10.gxh5 is a huge mess that the comp evaluates as around equal ]

#### 6.Qf3 I believe this is best

[ 6.h5? I don't believe this works Nc6

7.Nf3 d6 [%draw full,e5,green] 8.Bb5 Bg4 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.Rxh8+ Bxh8 11.Qe2 dxe5 12.Bxe5 1-0 (35) Navara,D (2734)-Wojtaszek,R (2727) Huaian 2016 but here in this super GM clash Black missed the very strong Nf4!!-+ ]

### 6...Nb4

[ 6...e6 is ok for Black too is ok for Black too [%draw full,d6,green] is ok for Black too 7.h5 Nc6 8.Qg3 d6 9.Nf3

**A)** 9...dxe5!? 10.Na3!? [%draw full,e1] [%draw arrow,e1,c1] [%draw arrow,a3,c4] ( 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.Rxh8+ Bxh8 12.Na3 Bd7 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Ncxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Nxe5 Nb4 17.0-0-0 Nc6 18.f4 is maybe a smidgen better for White Nxe5 19.fxe5 [%draw full,f7,green] [%draw arrow,d1,h1,green] [%draw arrow,h1,h7,green] ) 10...f6 11.hxg6 hxg6? ( 11...h5!?

a brave suggestion by the machine a brave suggestion by the machine [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,e5,green] [%draw full,e6,green] [%draw full,f6,green] a brave suggestion by the machine 12.Nc4 a6 13.a4∞ ) 12.Qxg6+ Kf8 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8 14.Qh7 Bg7 15.Nh4±;

**B)** 9...0-0 10.Na3 Nxe5 ( 10...dxe5 11.Nc4 Ncb4 12.hxg6 fxg6 13.0-0-0 b5 14.Ne3 ) 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bxe5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 g5!? 14.0-0-0∞ with a very unclear position with a very unclear position [%draw full,h7,green] [%draw arrow,h7,h6,green] [%draw arrow,c1,b2,green] [%draw

arrow,d8,a5,green] [%draw arrow,d2,d4,green] [%draw arrow,f1,d3,green] with a very unclear position ]

### 7.Na3

[ 7.e6 f6 8.Qc3 dxe6 9.a3 Nd5 10.Qxc5 ]

### 7...d6!?

[ 7...0-0 I wasn't clear how to proceed versus this move 8.h5

**A)** 8...d6 9.Qg3 N8c6 10.Nf3 Bf5

**A1)** 11.hxg6 is also possible since fxg6 ( 11...Bxg6 12.Nh4 Bxe5 13.Bxe5 dxe5 14.Nxg6 fxg6 15.Qh4 looks dangerous for Black actually h5 16.Qg3 Kh7 17.c3 Nd5 18.Bd3 Nf4 19.Be4∞ ) 12.0-0-0 Nd4 13.Rxh7!? Kxh7 14.Ng5+ Kg8 15.Qh4 can be dangerous Rf6 16.g4 Bd7 17.Qh7+ Kf8 18.exf6 exf6 19.Nh3± with a mess but one that the computer loves for White!;

**A2)** 11.0-0-0! [%draw arrow,h5,g6] [%draw arrow,g3,h4] [%draw arrow,f3,h4] [%draw full,f3] [%draw full,h4] and if 11...Nxa2+ 12.Kb1 Nab4 13.hxg6 Bxg6 14.Nh4 looks dangerous for Black since looks dangerous for Black since [%draw arrow,h4,g6,green] [%draw arrow,f7,g6,green] [%draw arrow,f1,c4,green] [%draw arrow,c4,g8,green] [%draw arrow,h7,g6,green] [%draw arrow,g3,h2,green] [%draw arrow,h2,h7,green] looks dangerous for Black since Bxe5? 15.Bxe5 dxe5 ( 15...Nxe5? 16.f4 Qa5 17.Kb2 Nec6 18.f5+- ) 16.Bc4 [%draw full,g6,green] Qd6 17.Rh3!!

[%draw arrow,d1,h1,green] Nd4  
18.Nxg6 Qxg6 19.Qc3+-  
[%draw arrow,h3,g3] [%draw  
arrow,d1,h1] [%draw full,h1];

**B)** 8...d5 9.Qg3 N8c6 10.f4 ]  
[ 7...N8c6! would have really tested  
White

**A)** 8.e6?! was a line I was trying to  
work out over the board 0-0  
9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.c3 ( 10.Qc3+ f6  
11.h5 dxe6 the comp wasn't  
impressed by White's attempt  
12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Qxc5 e5 $\bar{7}$  )  
10...fxe6 11.Qh3 Nd5 12.h5 g5  
13.h6+ Kh8;

**B)** 8.0-0-0!?

**B1)** 8...Nxe5 could get a bit  
awkward for Black 9.Qg3  
[%draw arrow,c1,b2,green]  
[%draw arrow,e5,d3,green]  
[%draw arrow,e5,f3,green] Qa5  
10.Nf3 d6 11.Nxe5 Bxe5  
12.Bxe5 Qxa3+ ( 12...dxe5  
13.Kb2 $\infty$  and White consolidates  
f6 14.c3 Nd5 15.Bc4 Be6  
16.Rhe1 0-0-0 17.d4 $\infty$  etc )  
13.Bb2 Qxa2 14.Bb5+ Bd7  
15.Bxd7+ Kxd7 16.Qf3  
[%draw arrow,b2,h8,green]  
[%draw arrow,f3,b7,green]  
[%draw arrow,f3,f7,green]  
[%draw full,f3,green] is just a  
mess;

**B2)** 8...Bxe5 9.h5 d6 10.hxg6  
fxg6 11.c3 h5!? both lead to  
carnage ( 11...a5!?; 11...Na6  
[%draw full,a6,green] 12.Bd3  
[%draw arrow,h1,h7,green]  
[%draw arrow,d3,g6,green] );

**B3)** 8...0-0 9.h5! in the spirit of  
the position Nxe5 10.Qg3 d6  
11.hxg6 [%draw arrow,f5,g6,

green] [%draw arrow,h1,h7,  
green] ]

**8.e6 f6 9.Bb5+** [%draw full,e6,green]

**9...N4c6 10.0-0-0 a6 11.Bd3**

[ 11.Bc4 [%draw arrow,c4,d5,green]  
[%draw full,a8,green] [%draw full,b8,  
green] [%draw full,c8,green] ]

**11...Bxe6 12.h5 Nd7 13.Qg3 Nde5**

**14.Bf1 Qc7 15.f4 Nf7 16.Re1 Bf5**

**17.Nf3 0-0-0 18.Nh4 Rhg8 19.hxg6**

**hxg6 20.Nxf5 gxf5 21.Rh7 Bh8**

**22.Qh3 e5 23.Qxf5+ Kb8 24.fxe5**

**dxe5 25.Nc4 Rg7 26.Rxg7 Bxg7**

**27.Qg6 Bh8 28.Ne3 Ng5 29.Ng4 Qd7**

0-1 (29) Trent,L (2445)-Lubbe,N (2509)

Lueneburg 2017

**B20**

☐ **Chapter P3**

☒ **Games**

Chapter 3 P3

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6!?**

[ 2...b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 Nc6  
( 4...e6 ) 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Be2  
( 7.d4 Nxd4 8.Nxd4 cxd4 9.Qxd4  
Nf6! ) 7...Nh6! 8.0-0 ( 8.d4?! cxd4  
9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Nxc6 Bxc6 11.0-0  
f5! 12.e5 Bc5+ 13.Kh1 Qe7 ) 8...0-0  
9.d3 d5 10.Qc1 ( 10.Qd2 dxe4  
11.Nxe4 Nf5 ) 10...Nd4 11.Bd1 dxe4  
12.dxe4 f5! ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 d6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4  
Nf6 6.Qe2 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0  
0-0= ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5**

[ 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Bc4 0-0  
7.Nge2 d6 8.Ng3 Nc6 9.0-0 h5!  
10.h3 h4 11.Nge2 f5! 12.d3 f4! ]

**4...Nd5 5.Qf3**

[ 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.e6 f6 7.Bb5 Bg7

8.Nf3 0-0 ]  
 [ 5.e6?! f6 6.exd7+ Bxd7 7.Bc4 Bc6 ]  
 [ 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.f4 d6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 ]  
**5...Nb4! 6.Bc4 e6 7.Na3**  
 [ 7.Qd1 Bg7 8.c3 N4c6 9.d4 d6! 10.exd6 Qxd6 ]  
**7...Bg7 8.Nb5**  
 [ 8.Qe3 N8c6 9.Nf3 d6! ]  
**8...0-0 9.0-0-0**  
 [ 9.Qd1 d5! 10.Be2 d4 ]  
**9...Nxa2+ 10.Kb1 Nb4 11.Qe3**  
 [ 11.Nd6 N8c6 12.Qe2 Nd4! ]  
**11...Qa5**  
 [ 11...d5 12.exd6 Qa5 13.Na3 N8c6 ]  
**12.Nd6**  
 [ 12.Qxc5? a6 ]  
**12...N8c6 13.f4 Nd4! 14.c3**  
 [ 14.Bd3 f6! 15.Nf3 fxe5 16.Nxe5 Qa2+ 17.Kc1 Rxf4! 18.Qxf4? Nxd3+ 19.cxd3 Ne2+ ]  
**14...Qa2+ 15.Kc1 b5! 16.cxb4 bxc4**  
**17.bxc4 Rb8 18.b5 Nf5 19.Qa3**  
 [ 19.Nxf5 Qxc4+ 20.Qc3 Qxc3+ 21.dxc3 exf5 22.c4 a6! ]  
**19...Qxa3 20.Bxa3 Nxd6 21.exd6 Bb7**  
**22.Bxc5?!**   
 [ 22.Nf3 a6 23.bxa6 Bxf3! 24.gxf3 Bd4 25.Kc2 Ra8 ]  
**22...Rfc8 23.d4 Bxd4! 24.Rxd4**  
 [ 24.Bxd4 Rxc4+ 25.Kb2 Bxg2 26.Ne2 Rxb5+ ]  
**24...Bxg2 25.Ne2 Bxh1 26.Ba3 Rxb5**

**B20****16 Analysis**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** [%draw arrow,f8,g7]  
 "The move I feared most here" – Carlsen

"The move I feared most here" – Carlsen [%draw arrow,f8,g7] "The move I feared most here" – Carlsen **3.Bb2 Nf6** and now we reach an important moment. White has many ideas. **4.h4!?** [%draw arrow,h4,h5] [%draw arrow,b2,h8] may be seriously underrated [%draw arrow,h4,h5] [%draw arrow,b2,h8,green] [%draw arrow,h5,g6,green] may be seriously underrated [%draw arrow,h4,h5] [%draw arrow,b2,h8] may be seriously underrated

[ 4.e5!? [%draw arrow,e5,e6] [%draw arrow,b2,h8]

**A) 4...Nh5!?** [%draw arrow,h5,f4] [%draw arrow,h5,g7] [%draw arrow,b2,h8] [%draw full,b2] [%draw full,f4] the knight isn't actually offside here and is a good alternative to Nd5

**A1) 5.e6?! f6 6.exd7+ Bxd7** White is struggling here 0-1 (49) Vavulin,M (2441)–Zvjaginsev,V (2660) Moscow 2015;

**A2) 5.g3** [%draw full,h5] is logical Nc6 6.e6 f6 7.exd7+ Qxd7 8.Bg2 1-0 (35) Dvalishvili, P (2422)–Savchenko,B (2607) Moscow 2016 and here Bh6!? ( 8...b6!? also good 9.Nf3 Bb7 10.d3 Bh6 11.0-0 e5

[%draw arrow,e8,c8,yellow] is also superb ) 9.Nf3 Qe6+

10.Qe2 Qxe2+ 11.Kxe2 e5 is a dream position for Black;

**A3) 5.Qf3** Nc6 6.Qe4 too much messing around by White ( 6.Qe3 is apparently an improvement but even here Black can play Nd4! 7.Bxd4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 [%draw full,d6] [%draw full,d7] [%draw arrow,



d7,d6] [%draw arrow,g7,a1] is a very dangerous pawn sacrifice for the initiative. ) 6...Bg7 [%draw full,e5] 7.Bb5 f5 gives Black a small advantage, as per: 0–1 (41) Gullaksen,E (2366)–Bosiocic,M (2595) Norway 2017 ( 7...d5!⚡ [%draw arrow,g7,b2] [%draw full,b2] is even stronger );

**B)** 4...Nd5 5.e6?! [%draw arrow,b2,h8] [%draw arrow,e6,f7] I believe this isn't sound ( 5.h4!/? transposes to the 4.h4 lines ) 5...f6 6.exd7+ Bxd7 ( 6...Qxd7 is also good 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Bb5 Nc7 9.Bxc6 Qxc6⚡ [%draw arrow,e7,e5] 0–1 (37) Aravindh,C (2486)–Carlsen,M (2834) Doha 2015 ) 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.Bxc3 Nc6 9.Bc4 Qc7⚡ [%draw arrow,e8,c8] [%draw arrow,e7,e5] [%draw full,c5] [%draw full,e5] ]

[ 4.Qf3!/? [%draw arrow,e4,e5] [%draw arrow,f6,d5] [%draw full,d5]

**A)** 4...Bg7 super provocative! 5.e5 Ng8 ( 5...Nh5 6.g4 [%draw full,f4] ) 6.e6! [%draw arrow,b2,h8] [%draw arrow,b2,g7] Nf6 ( 6...Bxb2 7.Qxf7# ) 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.g4!/? [%draw arrow,g4,g5] h6 9.Nc3 d5 ( 9...Nc6 10.0–0–0 d5 11.h3 e5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Bc4 Be6 14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Qe2 Bxh1 16.f3 ) 10.h3 e6 ( 10...Bd7 11.0–0–0 Bc6 12.Bb5 [%draw arrow,d5,d4] ) 11.0–0–0 Nc6 12.Re1 Nd4 13.Qg2 Bd7 14.Nf3 Nxf3 15.Qxf3 Bc6 16.Bd3! [%draw full,e6] [%draw full,g6] and White was much better in Short–Jones 2012: ½–½ (58) Short,N

(2677)–Jones,G (2653) Bunratty 2012 d4 17.Ne4 [%draw arrow,f3,f7];

**B)** 4...Nc6! may be the most critical 5.e5 Nh5 ( 5...Ng8!/? 6.Qe3 Bg7 7.Nf3 Nh6 [%draw arrow,f6,g8] [%draw arrow,g8,h6] 8.Bb5 Qb6 9.Bxc6 Qxc6⚡ [%draw full,c8] ½–½ (77) Paichadze,L (2544)–Salgado Lopez,I (2651) Izmir 2016 ) 6.Qe3 is apparently an improvement but even here Black can play Nd4! 7.Bxd4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 [%draw full,h5] [%draw arrow,d7,d6] [%draw full,d6] [%draw full,d7] [%draw arrow,d7,d6] [%draw arrow,g7,a1] is a very dangerous pawn sacrifice for the initiative. 9.g4 d6 10.gxh5 Bxe5 [%draw full,e5] [%draw arrow,e5,a1];

**C)** 4...d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 ( 5...Nc6 6.e5 dxe5 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Qxc6+ Bd7 9.Qxc5 Rc8 10.Qxe5 Rxc2 11.Ne2 ) 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qd3 [%draw arrow,f8,g7] [%draw arrow,d3,d6] [%draw full,d7] ( 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Nge2 0–0 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 ) 7...a6 8.Bxd7+

**C1)** 8...Bxd7 9.Nc3 Be6 ( 9...f5 ) 10.Nge2 Bg7 11.0–0 0–0 12.Nf4 f5 13.Rae1;

**C2)** 8...Qxd7 9.Nc3 Bg7 10.Nge2 0–0 11.0–0 f5 12.Ng3 ( 12.exf5 Qxf5 13.Qxd6 Qxc2 ) 12...f4 13.Nge2 Be5 14.Rad1 ( 14.Nd5 Bxa1 15.Rxa1 Qe6 16.Nexf4 Qe5 17.Re1 ) 14...f5 15.Qd5+ Kh8 ( 15...Qf7 ) 16.d4 cxd4 17.Nxd4 f3 18.exf5 fvg2 19.Rfe1 Qg7 ( 19...Qc7 20.fvg6 Qg7 ) 20.Ne4 Qh6 ( 20...Bxf5 21.Nxd6 Bxd6 22.Qxd6 ) 21.Nf3

Qf4 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.f6 Rb8  
 24.Qf7 Qh6 25.Ng5 Bg4 26.f3 ]  
 [ 4.Bc4?! [%draw full,e5] [%draw full,  
 e7] I also don't think this is the best  
 way for White d6! 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.Nc3  
 Bg7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.Ng3 Nc6 9.0-0  
 h5! ♣ [%draw full,g3] [%draw arrow,h5,  
 h4] [%draw arrow,f6,f5] [%draw arrow,  
 g7,a1] and Black was already in the  
 driving seat 10.h3 h4 11.Nge2 f5  
 12.d3 f4 13.Nd5 f3 14.Nef4 fxe2  
 15.Kxg2 Ne5 16.Rg1 Qd7 17.Kh1  
 b5 18.d4 bxc4 19.dxe5 dxe5  
 20.Rg4 exf4 21.bxc4 Qe8 22.Rxf4  
 g5 23.Qh5 f6 24.Qxe8 Rxe8  
 25.Nxf6+ Bxf6 26.Rxf6 Kg7 27.Rc6  
 Re5 28.Rd1 Bxh3 29.Rdd6 Rf8  
 30.Rg6+ Kf7 31.Rh6 Ke8 32.Kg1  
 Rxe4 33.Rxc5 Re1+ 34.Kh2 Bd7  
 35.Kg2 h3+ 36.Kg3 Rg1+ 37.Kh2  
 Rg2+ 38.Kh1 Rfxf2 39.Rh8+ Ke7  
 40.Re5+ Kd6 41.Rd5+ Kc6 42.Rh6+  
 Kc7 43.Rc5+ Kb7 0-1 (43) Ju,W  
 (2568)–Hou,Y (2673) Beijing 2014 ]  
 [ 4.Nc3?! [%draw arrow,c3,d5] I don't  
 like Bg7 5.e5 ( 5.Nd5 0-0 6.Nxf6+  
 exf6! 7.Bc4 Re8 [%draw arrow,f6,f5]  
 [%draw arrow,d7,d5] is not what White  
 wants whatsoever ) 5...Nh5  
 [%draw full,c3] [%draw full,e5] [%draw  
 arrow,b2,e5] [%draw arrow,h5,f4] I  
 simply don't like this for White 6.Qe2  
 ( 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne4 d6 8.Bb5 Bd7  
 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 and Black was already  
 much better: 0-1 (35) Vila Gazquez,X  
 (2422)–Ivanchuk,V (2786) Benidorm  
 2008 ) 6...Nc6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qe4 Nb4  
 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 d6 ]  
 [ 4.g4?! a wacky idea! Bg7 5.g5 Nh5  
 6.Bxg7 Nxg7 ♣ can only be better for  
 Black ]  
**4...Bg7 critical**

[ 4...d6 [%draw arrow,e7,e5,green]  
 [%draw full,b2,green] 5.h5 ( 5.Bxf6  
 exf6 6.h5 f5 7.hxg6 fxg6 ) 5...g5  
 ( 5...Bg7 asking for it! 6.h6! Bf8 7.f4  
 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.Bb5 Qc7  
 as per 1-0 (70) Sorensen,J (2431)–  
 Poulsen,I (2095) Denmark 2015 and  
 here 10.Bxf6! exf6 11.Nc3±  
 [%draw full,d5] would have given  
 White a promising position ) 6.Bxf6  
 exf6 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Nc3 [%draw full,  
 d5,green] [%draw full,f5,green] f5  
 ( 8...Bg7 [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw  
 arrow,h5,h6,green] 9.h6; 8...h6 )  
 9.exf5 Bxf5 10.Qf3 Qd7 11.Nge2  
 0-0-0 12.d4 Bg4 13.Qg3 cxd4  
 14.Nxd4 Bg7 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Ba6+  
 Kb8 17.0-0 Be5 18.Qd3 Bxh5  
 19.Rae1 f5 20.b4 f4 21.b5 Bg6  
 22.Qc4 c5 23.b6 axb6 24.Rb1 Ka7  
 25.Bb5 Qb7 26.Qa4+ Kb8 27.Bc6  
 Bxc2 28.Rxb6 Bxa4 29.Rxb7+ Kc8  
 30.Nxa4 1-0 (30) Venkatesh,M  
 (2451)–Bartel,M (2271) Doha 2015 ]  
 [ 4...h5 [%draw full,g6] is a serious  
 idea but it does severely weaken the  
 g6 pawn 5.e5

**A) 5...Nd5** 6.Bc4 e6 [%draw full,  
 d6,green] [%draw full,f6,green]  
 ( 6...Nc7?! 7.e6 f6 8.Bd3± );

**B) 5...Ng4** 6.e6♞ and compared to  
 other lines involving e5, whenever  
 Black plays f6 g6 will remain  
 chronically weak f6 7.Bd3 etc  
 Rh6 ( 7...Rg8 )]

[ 4...h6?! 5.e5 ( 5.h5 g5 ) 5...Nd5  
 6.c4 Nb4 7.e6 f6 [%draw full,g6,  
 yellow] [%draw full,g6,green] [%draw  
 full,g6,yellow] 8.a3 N4c6 9.Bd3±  
 [%draw arrow,h4,h5,green] ]

**5.e5**

[ 5.h5 Nxh5 ♣ 6.Bxg7 Nxg7 7.d4 ]

**5...Nd5** this is the most popular move  
 [ 5...Nh5!? 6.Nh3 looks like White is trapping with knight with g4 next but [%draw full,h5,green] [%draw arrow, g2,g4,green] looks like White is trapping with knight with g4 next but Qc7! ( 6...Nc6 7.g4 Nxe5 8.gxh5 Nf3+ 9.Qxf3 Bxb2 10.Ng5 0-0 11.Qg2! Bxa1 12.hxg6 fxg6 13.h5 with a very dangerous attack d5! 14.hxg6 Bf5 15.Nf7 Rxf7 16.gxf7+ Kxf7 17.Bd3± and I prefer White; 6...d6? 7.g4+- ) 7.g4 is critical Bxe5 8.d4! ( 8.Bxe5 Qxe5+ [%draw arrow, e5,a1,green] ) 8...Bxd4 ( 8...cxd4 9.gxh5 Nc6 10.c3! Qa5 11.Qd2± ) 9.Bxd4 ( 9.c3 Bxf2+ 10.Nxf2 Ng3 11.Rg1 Qe5+ 12.Be2± and you have to take White here with the extra piece ) 9...cxd4 10.gxh5∞ is a huge mess that the comp evaluates as around equal ]

**6.Qf3** I believe this is best  
 [ 6.h5? I don't believe this works Nc6 7.Nf3 d6 [%draw full,e5,green] 8.Bb5 Bg4 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.Rxh8+ Bxh8 11.Qe2 dxe5 12.Bxe5 1-0 (35) Navara,D (2734)-Wojtaszek,R (2727) Huaian 2016 but here in this super GM clash Black missed the very strong Nf4!!-+ ]

**6...Nb4**  
 [ 6...e6 is ok for Black too [%draw full, d6,green] is ok for Black too 7.h5 Nc6 8.Qg3 d6 9.Nf3

**A)** 9...dxe5!? 10.Na3!? [%draw full, e1] [%draw arrow,e1,c1] [%draw arrow,a3,c4] ( 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.Rxh8+ Bxh8 12.Na3 Bd7 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Ncxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Nxe5 Nb4 17.0-0-0 Nc6 18.f4 is maybe a

smidgen better for White Nxe5 19.fxe5 [%draw full,f7,green] [%draw arrow,d1,h1,green] [%draw arrow,h1,h7,green] ) 10...f6 11.hxg6 hxg6? ( 11...h5!?

a brave suggestion by the machine [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,e5, green] [%draw full,e6,green] [%draw full,f6,green] a brave suggestion by the machine 12.Nc4 a6 13.a4∞ ) 12.Qxg6+ Kf8 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8 14.Qh7 Bg7 15.Nh4±;

**B)** 9...0-0 10.Na3 Nxe5 ( 10...dxe5 11.Nc4 Ncb4 12.hxg6 fxg6 13.0-0-0 b5 14.Ne3 ) 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bxe5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 g5!? 14.0-0-0∞ with a very unclear position [%draw full,h7,green] [%draw arrow,h7,h6, green] [%draw arrow,c1,b2,green] [%draw arrow,d8,a5,green] [%draw arrow,d2,d4,green] [%draw arrow,f1, d3,green] with a very unclear position ]

### 7.Na3

[ 7.e6 f6 8.Qc3 dxe6 9.a3 Nd5 10.Qxc5 ]

### 7...d6!?

[ 7...0-0 I wasn't clear how to proceed versus this move 8.h5

**A)** 8...d6 9.Qg3 N8c6 10.Nf3 Bf5

**A1)** 11.hxg6 is also possible since fxg6 ( 11...Bxg6 12.Nh4 Bxe5 13.Bxe5 dxe5 14.Nxg6 fxg6 15.Qh4 looks dangerous for Black actually h5 16.Qg3 Kh7 17.c3 Nd5 18.Bd3 Nf4 19.Be4∞ ) 12.0-0-0 Nd4 13.Rxh7!? Kxh7 14.Ng5+ Kg8 15.Qh4 can be dangerous Rf6 16.g4 Bd7 17.Qh7+ Kf8

18.exf6 exf6 19.Nh3±  
with a mess but one that the  
computer loves for White!;  
**A2)** 11.0-0-0! [%draw arrow,h5,  
g6] [%draw arrow,g3,h4] [%draw  
arrow,f3,h4] [%draw full,f3]  
[%draw full,h4] and if 11...Nxa2+  
12.Kb1 Nab4 13.hxg6 Bxg6  
14.Nh4 looks dangerous for  
Black since [%draw arrow,h4,g6,  
green] [%draw arrow,f7,g6,  
green] [%draw arrow,f1,c4,green]  
[%draw arrow,c4,g8,green]  
[%draw arrow,h7,g6,green]  
[%draw arrow,g3,h2,green]  
[%draw arrow,h2,h7,green] looks  
dangerous for Black since Bxe5?  
15.Bxe5 dxe5 ( 15...Nxe5?  
16.f4 Qa5 17.Kb2 Nec6  
18.f5+- ) 16.Bc4 [%draw full,g6,  
green] Qd6 17.Rh3!!  
[%draw arrow,d1,h1,green] Nd4  
18.Nxg6 Qxg6 19.Qc3+-  
[%draw arrow,h3,g3] [%draw  
arrow,d1,h1] [%draw full,h1];

**B)** 8...d5 9.Qg3 N8c6 10.f4 ]  
[ 7...N8c6! would have really tested  
White

**A)** 8.e6?! was a line I was trying to  
work out over the board 0-0  
9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.c3 ( 10.Qc3+ f6  
11.h5 dxe6 the comp wasn't  
impressed by White's attempt  
12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Qxc5 e5± )  
10...fxe6 11.Qh3 Nd5 12.h5 g5  
13.h6+ Kh8;

**B)** 8.0-0-0!?

**B1)** 8...Nxe5 could get a bit  
awkward for Black 9.Qg3  
[%draw arrow,c1,b2,green]  
[%draw arrow,e5,d3,green]  
[%draw arrow,e5,f3,green] Qa5

10.Nf3 d6 11.Nxe5 Bxe5  
12.Bxe5 Qxa3+ ( 12...dxe5  
13.Kb2∞ and White consolidates  
f6 14.c3 Nd5 15.Bc4 Be6  
16.Rhe1 0-0-0 17.d4∞ etc )  
13.Bb2 Qxa2 14.Bb5+ Bd7  
15.Bxd7+ Kxd7 16.Qf3  
[%draw arrow,b2,h8,green]  
[%draw arrow,f3,b7,green]  
[%draw arrow,f3,f7,green]  
[%draw full,f3,green] is just a  
mess;

**B2)** 8...Bxe5 9.h5 d6 10.hxg6  
fxg6 11.c3 h5!? both lead to  
carnage ( 11...a5!?; 11...Na6  
[%draw full,a6,green] 12.Bd3  
[%draw arrow,h1,h7,green]  
[%draw arrow,d3,g6,green] );

**B3)** 8...0-0 9.h5! in the spirit of  
the position Nxe5 10.Qg3 d6  
11.hxg6 [%draw arrow,f5,g6,  
green] [%draw arrow,h1,h7,  
green] ]

**8.e6 f6 9.Bb5+** [%draw full,e6,green]  
**9...N4c6 10.0-0-0 a6 11.Bd3**

[ 11.Bc4 [%draw arrow,c4,d5,green]  
[%draw full,a8,green] [%draw full,b8,  
green] [%draw full,c8,green] ]

**11...Bxe6 12.h5 Nd7 13.Qg3 Nde5**  
**14.Bf1 Qc7 15.f4 Nf7 16.Re1 Bf5**  
**17.Nf3 0-0-0 18.Nh4 Rhg8 19.hxg6**  
**hxg6 20.Nxf5 gxf5 21.Rh7 Bh8**  
**22.Qh3 e5 23.Qxf5+ Kb8 24.fxe5**  
**dxe5 25.Nc4 Rg7 26.Rxg7 Bxg7**  
**27.Qg6 Bh8 28.Ne3 Ng5 29.Ng4 Qd7**  
0-1 (29) Trent,L (2445)-Lubbe,N (2509)  
Lueneburg 2017

**B20**□ **Chapter**■ **2.b3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3** White avoids the main Sicilian lines and delays the central advances for a while, when they will supposedly be supported along the big diagonal from the bishop. **2...d6!?** Black has many opportunities after 2.b3. To many of these early deviations the suggested repertoire is based on "d7–d6" on second move and here I am not going to make an exception. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3** The most logical. White finishes the development of his knight and at the same time defends the pawn on e4.

[ 4.Bxf6 does not look logical. The bishop is very powerful on the long diagonal, so there is no need to change it. exf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.f4 f5 8.exf5 0–0 9.Nf3 Re8+ 10.Kf2 gxf5 11.Re1 Be6 12.Rb1 d5 13.Ng5 Nd7 14.Bb5 Re7 15.Bxd7 Qxd7 16.Qh5 h6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Ne2 Rf8 ]

[ 4.Bb5+ A developing move in the spirit of the Bogo–Indian.

**A) 4...Bd7** (a modest continuation, aimed at equalizing) 5.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 6.d3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0–0 9.0–0 e5 10.fxe5 ( 10.f5!/? d5 ) 10...Ng4 11.Qe2 Ngxe5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.c4 Qh4 14.Nc3 f5 15.Nd5 Rae8 16.Nc7 Re7 17.Nd5 Ree8=;

**B) 4...Nbd7!?** An ambitious reaction! Black would like to obtain the pair of the bishops and rely on them in the long run – 5.Qe2 Usually this move, which will keep the option of castling to the long, is

a part of White's set-up, but the practice has also seen ( 5.d3 g6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0–0 Black calmly develops and is ready to expand on the queenside, for example 9.Nc3 b5. 9.0–0 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.Qd2 Qc7 13.Ne5 Rad8 14.Rf2 Bc8 15.Nc3 Qa5 16.Nxd5 Qxd2 17.Rxd2 Rxd5 with a balanced ending, Gelashvili – Vladimirov, Dubai, 2002. ) 5...g6 6.f4 Bg7 7.Nf3 0–0 8.0–0 a6 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 10.d3 Bc6 11.Nbd2 b5 12.Rae1 e5 13.fxe5 Nd7! 14.Nb1 dxe5 ]

**4...Nc6 5.Bb5** An essential part of White's developing strategy – he is ready to exchange this bishop for a knight, put the queen on "e2" with long castling coming next.

[ 5.f4 An interesting continuation – White does not determine his bishop yet, striving for some preponderance in the center by developing his knight at first. g6 Black reacts accordingly, opposing along the big diagonal. ( 5...a6 is a serious alternative, depriving the opponent of the textmove, a sample line goes on with 6.Nf3 g6 7.Nd5 Bg7 8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 9.Bxf6 exf6 10.Bc4 0–0 11.0–0 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.d3 e5 14.Qd2 Qd7= ) 6.Bb5 Bd7!/? A good and solid choice. ( 6...Bg7 looks less precise, for, as in the similar early deviation with 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5, Black should better avoid 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 His piece, which has been controlling the central d4–square, is no longer on the board, thus limiting his opportunities. I would therefore not recommend such a committing



strategical decision as early as on move 6. )

**A)** if 7.Nf3 , then Bg7 is already asking questions, e. g. 8.e5?! ( 8.0-0? Nxe4? ) 8...Nh5!;

**B)** 7.Nd5 Bg7 As we already know, Black should not worry about the doubling of his pawns, for this small drawback is just of temporary character 8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 ( 8...exf6!? 9.Ne2 0-0 10.0-0 a6 11.Bc4 f5 Gusain – Gopal, Dunai, 2016 ) 9.Bxf6 exf6 10.Ne2 a6 11.Bc4 ( 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.0-0 d5 13.e5 d4 demonstrates the supremacy of Black's minor piece, e. g. 14.exf6 Qxf6 15.Ng3 h5 16.Re1+ Kf8 17.Qe2 Kg7?/7 ) 11...f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Ng3 Qe7+ 14.Kf2 Be6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Rf1 0-0-0 17.Kg1 Rhf8? Black has an advantage because his pawn structure is more flexible. ]

[ 5.Nf3 e5!? A good strategic move, taking advantage of opponent's decision to leave his f-pawn on its initial position. Black takes control over the central squares and at the same time closes the important diagonal! ( 5...e6 is less pretending and will most probably result in a position, which is more typical for open Sicilian type, true, with a bishop on "b2" than its usual location on "e3". ) 6.Bc4 ( 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.a4 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.a5 Nd7 12.Nd2 f5 13.Nc4 Qe8 and Black's attacking intentions on the kingside are cristally clear 14.Ba3 f4 15.f3 Rf6 16.b4 cxb4 17.Bxb4 Rh6= ) 6...Be7 7.h3 0-0 ( 7...a6 8.a4 h6 9.d3 Be6 10.0-0 0-0

11.Nh2 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.Rxf4 Ne5 14.Rf2 Nfd7? Krstevski – Nedev, Struga, 2012 ) 8.0-0 a6 and Black does not experience any problems – 9.a4 Bd7 10.Re1 Rb8 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Nd4 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Bd3 Bf6 15.Qf3 Re8 ]

[ 5.g3 This continuation is rare in practice. In this version of a closed Sicilian Bb2 bishop is not very effective – g6 6.Bg2 ( 6.Nd5 Bg7 7.Nxf6+ Bxf6 8.Bxf6 exf6 9.Bg2 f5 10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Ne2 0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.Nf4 Be4 14.f3 Bf5 15.Nd5 Kg7 16.f4 Qd7 17.Ne3 Be4 18.f5 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Re4 20.Qf3 Rae8 21.fxg6 hxg6= ) 6...Bg7 7.Nge2 e5 8.0-0 0-0 9.d3 Nd4 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Ne2 d5 12.c3 dxc3 13.Nxc3 Be6 14.exd5 Nxd5? ]

**5...Bd7** A natural move – Black must not allow any damage to his pawn structure.

**6.f4** The planned move from the scheme in the spirit of Philidor's pawn theory!

[ 6.Nge2 is possible, but usually White has different plans for this square. Also, it is not clear how placing this knight on "g3" instead of its natural development to "f3" does improve the whole set-up – a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.f4 0-0 11.Ng3 d5 12.e5 Nd7 13.Qg4 g6 14.Nce2 Kh8? ]

**6...a6** It is logical to force the bishop to exchange itself.

[ 6...g6!? deserves attention. ]

**7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2** A typical move in this structure – White defends the e4-pawn and at the same time prepares a long castling. **8...e6** My preference is for this Scheweningen type rather than fianchettoing the bishop, for then Black

may not have time to complete the development and consolidate his pieces.

[ 8...b5!? 9.e5 dxe5 10.fxe5 Nd5 11.e6 f6 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Nf3 g6 14.d4 c4 15.0-0 Bg7 16.Ba3 0-0 17.Rae1 Rfe8 ]

[ 8...g6 looks dangerous, but it is difficult to prove this, for example 9.Nf3 Bh6!? ( 9...Bg7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.d4 Qa5!? 12.Kb1 Rac8 13.d5 Bd7 14.e5 Nh5 15.Qe3  $\Delta$ c4 16.Ne4 Bf5 17.Bc3 Qa3 18.Bb2 Qa5= ) 10.e5 Nh5 11.exd6 Nxf4 12.Qxe7+ Qxe7+ 13.dxe7 and now:

**A) 13...Nxxg2+!?** 14.Kf2 Nf4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Bxh8 f6 17.c4 Nb4 18.Bxf6 Nd3+ 19.Ke2 Nf4+ 20.Kf2 Nd3+=;

**B) 13...Bxf3!?** 14.gxf3 Bg7 15.0-0-0 Kxe7 16.Nd5+ Nxd5 17.Bxg7 Rhg8 18.Bb2 Kd7 19.c4 ( 19.d4?! c4! ) 19...Nf4 20.d4 Ne2+ 21.Kc2 Nxd4+ 22.Bxd4 cxd4 23.Rxd4+ Kc7=;

**C) 13...Kxe7** 14.0-0 Rhd8 15.Rae1+ Kf8 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 f5 18.Ree1 Re8= ]

**9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0** The sharpest plan.

[White should not prefer the immediate 10.d4 because of b5! ( 10...d5!? 11.e5 Ne4; even after 10...0-0 it is hard to find anything better than 11.0-0-0 , transposing to the main text ) 11.dxc5 ( 11.e5?! Nh5! ) 11...dxc5 12.Rd1 Qc7 ]  
[ 10.e5 Nd7!? The most flexible answer, waiting for a proper moment to exchange on e5 and not allowing the enemy knight there. ( 10...dxe5 11.Nxe5 Rc8 12.0-0-0 0-0 with mutual chances ) 11.exd6 ( 11.0-0 dxe5 12.fxe5 0-0 13.d3 b5

14.Ne4 a5 15.a4 bxa4 16.bxa4 Qb6 17.Bc3 c4+ 18.d4 Bd5 ) 11...Bxd6 12.Ne4 ( 12.g3 0-0 13.0-0-0 c4 14.Rhe1 cxb3 15.axb3 Rc8 16.Nd4 Nf6 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.Ne4 Be7 19.Nxf6+ Bxf6 20.Qe4 Qa5 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Kb2 Rd8 ) 12...Bxf4 13.g3 Bc7! 14.Bxg7 Rg8 15.Bb2 Qe7 16.0-0-0 0-0-0 With a solid position for Black. ]

**10...0-0!?** Black accepts the challenge!

[ 10...Qc7 11.e5 Nd7 12.exd6 Qxd6 ( 12...Bxd6?! 13.f5 ) 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.fxe5 Qd7?! (  $\Delta$ 14...Qc7 ) 15.Rhf1 0-0 16.Ne4 (creating a nasty threat) Bxe4 17.Qxe4 Rad8 18.Rf3 Bg5 19.Kb1 Qe7 20.d3 b5 and draw was agreed in Vukovic – Yakovich, Saint Vincent, 2000, although White could continue with 21.h4 ]

[Black can also try 10...b5!? , when he must count with the same 11.e5 and the jump of the knight on d5 will lose the pawn on g7, so it is necessary to check b4 (  $\leq$ 11...Nh5 12.Qe3!  $\Delta$ d5 13.d4 )]

**11.d4 b5!** This typical Sicilian march of the b-pawn is essential here. Black needs to initiate counterplay as soon as possible. It is coming in time thanks to several unexpected tactical nuances.

**12.e5** A principled reply, but at the cost of freeing the big diagonal for Bc6.

[ 12.dxc5 b4! An important intermediate move, after which Black has good chances to seize the initiative. Here is an entertaining variation, in which White twice (!) sacrifices a piece and Black wisely declines these gifts –

**A) 13.Na4** Nxe4 14.cxd6 ( 14.Nb6 can be answered with a cool retreat

to a7 or b8, as well as by the promising exchange sacrifice *Nxc5!? 15.Nxa8 Qxa8 16.Kb1 Rc8 17.Rhe1 a5*; *14.Ne5 Qc7 15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.cxd6 Bxd6 17.Be5 Rfc8 18.Bxd6 Nxd6 19.Rd4* ) *14...Bxd6 15.Be5 ( ≤15.g3 Qc7 16.Be5 Bxe5 17.Nxe5 Nc3 18.Nxc3 Bxh1 ) 15...Bd5! ( 15...Qc7?! allows 16.Rxd6! Nxd6 17.Qd3!* and Black must return the extra material, for *Bd5?! is running into 18.Ng5! Δf5 19.Nxe6; 15...Qe7 16.Rd4* ) *16.Kb1 Qa5 17.Rd4 ( 17.Qe3 Bxe5 18.Nxe5 Rfc8↑ )*  
**A1)** *17...Qxa4 18.Rxe4 Qc6 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 ( 19...Bxe4 20.Bxf8 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Qxf3 22.gxf3 Kxf8 23.a3 a5 ) 20.Rd1 a5 Δa4↑;*  
**A2)** *17...f6 18.Bxd6 Nxd6* ♭/♭;  
**B)** *13.cxd6?* *bxc3 14.Bxc3 Bxd6 15.e5 Nd5* –+;  
**C)** *13.Ne5!?* *Qc7! ( 13...bxc3 14.Nxc6 cxb2+ 15.Kxb2 Qc7 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.cxd6 Qa7* ♭ ) *14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Nd5!?* *( 15.Na4?! Nxe4 16.cxd6 Bxd6* ♭ ) *15...exd5 16.cxd6 Bxd6! 17.e5 Bxe5 ( 17...Ne4!?* *18.exd6 Rfd8 19.Qg4 g6 20.f5 Rac8 21.Kb1 Rxd6! 22.Rc1 Qd7 ) 18.Qxe5 Rfe8 19.Qf5 Rac8 20.Bxf6 g6 21.Qd3 Qxf6* ♭ ]

**12...Nd5!** Yet another key move in the fight for the initiative! **13.dxc5**

[ *13.exd6?* is simply bad – Black has the pair of bishops and an extra pawn after *Qxd6 14.dxc5 Qxf4+ 15.Kb1 Nxc3+ 16.Bxc3 Bxc5 17.Ne5 Qe4! 18.Rhe1 Qxe2 19.Rxe2 Rac8* ♭ ]

**13...dxc5** Black is not afraid of the X-ray along the central line. **14.Nxd5**

[ *14.f5 exf5 15.e6 Qd6!* A necessary precaution – according to Stockfish, Black is fine here.

**A)** *16.exf7+* *Rxf7 17.Kb1*

(White is simply a pawn down after *17.Ne5 Rff8 18.Nxc6 Bg5+ 19.Kb1 Nxc3+ 20.Bxc3 Qxc6;* similar is *17.Rhe1 Rd8 18.Ne5 Rff8 19.Nxc6 Bg5+ 20.Kb1 Nxc3+ 21.Bxc3 Qxc6 22.Rxd8 Rxd8* ♭ )

**A1)** even after *17...Bf6 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bxf6 Rxf6 20.Rhe1 ( 20.Rd2 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Qxd2 22.Qxa8+ Rf8 23.Qxa6 Qxg2 ) 20...Rd8* it is not easy for White to exploit the pin;

**A2)** *17...Rd8!* *18.Ne5 Qe6! 19.Qe1! Nxc3+ 20.Qxc3 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Rf6 22.Nxc6 Qxc6 23.Qe5 Rf7* ♭/♭;

**B)** *16.Qe5 Qxe5 17.Nxe5 Nxc3 18.Bxc3 Be8 19.Nd7 fxe6!* (with two pawns for the exchange his chances are to be preferred) *20.Nxf8 Kxf8 21.Be5 Bc6* ♭ ]

**14...Bxd5 15.c4** White has to play in front of his king as it is more important to force an exchange of the strong bishop from d5. **15...bxc4 16.bxc4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qe8!?** A subtle move – the queen heads for a4. **18.Rd3 Qa4 19.Qe4 Rfd8 20.Ra3 Qd7 ♭ Black is staying slightly better due to his safer king.**

□ 2. b3

■ N,N

Short & Sweet: Sicilians

1.e4 c5 2.b3 The fianchetto of the dark-squared bishop does not pretend to seek advantage, but White gets a playable position with a lot of pieces on the board. If White wants to play b3 it makes sense to do it immediately, as opposed to 2. Nf3 d6 3. b3 as with the knight on f3 there are no ideas based on f2-f4. 2...Nc6 Black will develop in Scheveningen style, with his pieces in the centre and ready to react to whatever White tries. 3.Bb2 d6 A multi-purpose move: if allowed Black would want to close the long diagonal by ...e5 and then develop by ...g6, ...Bg7, ...Nge7, ...O-O. 4.Bb5 Bd7 Of course, Black wants to take on c6 with a bishop. 5.f4 Preventing ...e5. 5...Nf6 Since ...e5 has been prevented, Black continues in Scheveningen style, with ...e6 and ...Be7 to come next. 6.Qe2 Taking on f6 would be great for Black, who would take with the e-pawn and remain with an unopposed dark-squared bishop that will be developed on g7 after ...g6 and later opened up by ...f5. 6...e6 7.Nf3 Be7 Black finished his development and the only thing that remains is the position of the king. But Black needn't hurry with this decision, as he has useful moves at his disposal, like ...a6 and possibly a queenside expansion by ...b5. 8.0-0 0-0 With both kings on the kingside Black is perfectly safe. 9.d3 a6 Black wins the bishop pair and even though the position is rather closed this is good for his long-term prospects.

**B20**

10.Bxc6 Bxc6 Black has a very pleasant position. He expands on the queenside in typical Sicilian fashion.

**B20**

□ Analysis

■ N,N

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6**

[ 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 ]

**3.Bb2 d6** This can obviously transpose via 2...d6 move orders too. **4.Bb5**

[ 4.f4 Nf6! 5.Nc3 g6 transposes to lines with 2...g6 which we know are already favourable for Black 6.Nd5 Bg7 ]

**4...Bd7** a sensible reply and the most played move by some distance

[ 4...e5!? played by the young German talent Vincent Keymer 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 is also possible, but the resulting lines look very unclear exf4 6.Qf3 Qh4+ 7.g3 fxg3 8.hxg3 Qg4 etc ) 5...Nge7! ( 5...Nf6 6.d3 Qa5+ 7.Nbc3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Qe1! [%draw full,c3] [%draw arrow, c3,d5] Qc7 11.f4 exf4 12.Nxf4± 1-0 (37) Saric,I (2644)-Deur,Z (2137) Chalkidiki 2015 ) 6.0-0 g6 7.c3 Bg7 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 a6 10.Bxc6+ Nxc6 11.Qd2 Qf6 12.Na3 Be6 13.Rab1 cxd4 14.Nc2 0-0 15.Ncxd4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Qe7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nf4 Rac8 19.Rfe1 Rfd8 20.Re3 Rc5 21.Rd3 Re5 22.Rd4 Rc8 23.h3 Rd8 24.Rc1 Rd7 25.Rc3 f6 26.Rcd3 Bf7 27.f3 g5 28.Ne2 f5 29.Ng3 fxe4 30.fxe4 Be6 31.Rxd6 Rc7 32.Qb2 Bc8 33.R3d5 1-0 (33) Ovsejevitsch,S (2602)-Keymer,V (2411) Dresden 2017 ]

[ 4...Nf6!? this move order compared to 2...d6 and 3...Nf6 gives White more choices as he is not obliged to play Nc3 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 [%draw arrow,a2,b3,green] [%draw arrow,b3,c2,green] [%draw arrow,c2,e4,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] [%draw arrow,g1,f3,green] [%draw arrow,e1,g1,green]

**A)** 6...e5!? is a very decent option for Black 7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 is the most likely response ( 8...Bh6!? is a decent move 9.f4 0-0 10.Qe1!? as per Zude-Wei Yi, 2014 Ng4 11.Qg3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nd2 was around equal though I prefer White ever so slightly due to the tension on e5 ) 9.Nd2 0-0 [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] [%draw arrow,f6,g4,green] [%draw arrow,g4,e3,green] [%draw full,e3,green] Gelashvili has had this over 5 times in serious competition. Here his idea of 10.Qe1!? [%draw arrow,f2,f4] [%draw arrow,e1,g3] [%draw arrow,e1,h4] [%draw full,e1] is the computer's first choice and a Gelshvili Speciality

**A1)** 10...Re8!? [%draw arrow,e8,e1,green] 11.f3 ( 11.f4?! exf4 12.Nxf4 Nxe4! 13.Bxg7 Nxd2 is a tactic that works for Black 14.Qxd2 Kxg7 ) 11...Be6 12.Qf2 Nh5 13.Rad1 Bh6 14.Bc1 Rf8 15.Nc4 Bxc1 16.Rxc1 f5 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.Ng3 Nxg3 19.hxg3 and White was on the right side of equality, Gelashvili-Delchev, 2000. Naturally Black should be fine however;

**A2)** 10...Nh5!? 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Nxf4 Nxf4 14.Rxf4 Be6 is a bit better for White ½-½ (93) Gelashvili,T (2611)-Lapshun,Y (2442) Philadelphia 2011;

**B)** 6...g6 7.e5 dxe5 8.Bxe5 Qd5 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.Nbd2 Bh6 11.Nc4 0-0 12.0-0 Nh5 13.h3 Bc8 [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green] 14.Ne3 Qd8 15.Ng4 Bg7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qd2 [%draw arrow,d2,c3,green] [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green] f6 18.Rae1 e5 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.Ngxe5 fxe5 21.Ng5 Qc7 22.Rxe5 Qg7 23.Qxg7+ Nxg7 24.Rxc5 Rf5 25.Ne4 Rxc5 26.Nxc5 Ne6 27.Nxe6 Bxe6 28.Re1 Kf7 29.Re5 a5 30.Rc5 Ra6 31.a4 Ke7 32.f3 Kd6 33.d4 Bf5 34.Kf2 Ra8 35.Ke3 h5 36.g4 hxg4 37.hxg4 Be6 38.Rg5 Bf7 39.f4 Rh8 40.Rxa5 Rh3+ 41.Kd2 Rh2+ 42.Kc1 Bd5 43.c4 Be4 44.Re5 Bc2 45.Re3 Kc7 46.a5 Rf2 47.d5 Bxb3 48.Rxb3 Rxf4 49.Kb2 Rxg4 50.a6 cxd5 51.cxd5 Rg2+ 52.Ka3 Rg1 53.Ka4 Ra1+ 54.Ra3 Rd1 55.Kb4 Kb8 56.Kc5 g5 57.Ra4 Rc1+ 58.Kd6 Ka7 59.Ke5 Re1+ 60.Kf5 Rd1 61.Ke6 Re1+ 62.Kd7 Rg1 63.d6 g4 64.Ra5 g3 65.Ra3 Rg2 66.Rc3 Kb6 67.Kc8 Rd2 68.d7 g2 69.Rc1 1-0 (69) Gelashvili,T (2563)-Belous,V (2587) Saint Louis 2017 ]

[ 4...a6?! 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.f4 Black allows White to get the setup he wants

**A)** 6...Nf6 7.d3 e6 8.Nf3 Be7



9.0-0 0-0 10.c4± [%draw full,c5, green] [%draw full,c6,green] 1-0 (29) Bregadze,L (2435)-Thomas,K (2047) Greensboro 2014 ( 10.e5! [%draw full,c5] [%draw full,c6] [%draw full,d6,green] );

**B) 6...e5!?** 7.Nf3 was played by Mr. b3 Sicilian Gelshvili, however ( 7.Qf3!? looks like a good try exf4 8.Qxf4 [%draw arrow,g1,f3,green] [%draw arrow,e1,g1,green] Nf6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nc3± looks a bit more pleasant for White; 7.fxe5 Qh4+ [%draw arrow, h4,e4,green] ) 7...exf4 8.0-0 Bg4 9.Qe1 Nh6 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Rxf3 Qg5 12.Qf2 Be7 13.Rxf4 0-0 14.Rf3 Qh5 15.g4 Qg6 16.d3 d5 17.Nd2 Bg5 18.Rf1 Rad8 19.e5 Rfe8 20.Kh1 Qe6 21.Rg1 Bxd2 22.Qxd2 d4 23.Qf4 Kh8 24.g5 Ng8 25.Qxf7 Qxe5 26.Qf5 Qe2 27.Rf2 Qe3 28.Bc1 Qe7 29.Rgf1 Rd5 30.Qg4 Re5 31.Bf4 Re1 32.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 33.Kg2 Re6 34.Rf1 Qe2+ 35.Qxe2 Rxe2+ 36.Rf2 Re6 37.Kf3 Ne7 38.Re2 Rxe2 39.Kxe2 Nc8 40.Kf3 Kg8 41.Ke4 Kf7 42.b4 cxb4 43.Kxd4 Ke6 44.Kc5 Ne7 45.Bd2 a5 46.c3 1-0 (46) Gelashvili,T (2575)-Sie,T (2148) Baku 2016 ]

**5.f4!** the move I want to recommend and played by Carlsen no less **5...a6**

[ 5...Nf6!? 6.Qe2

**A) 6...Nd4!?** isn't so bad 7.Bxd4 cxd4 8.Nf3 Qb6 9.a4 g6 10.Na3 [%draw arrow,a3,c4,green] Bg7? ( 10...a6! 11.Nc4 Qc5 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0 [%draw arrow,d2,d3, green] [%draw arrow,a4,a5,green] [%draw full,c4,green] d3+ 14.Qe3

Qxe3+ 15.Nxe3 dxc2 16.Ra2∞ [%draw arrow,a2,c2,green] ) 11.e5! dxe5 12.Nc4 Qc5 13.fxe5 [%draw full,d7,green] Bxb5 14.exf6± and Black gets in trouble; **B) 6...a6** 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Nc3 transposes to Carlsen-Leitao; **C) 6...e6** 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d3 a6 ( 9...d5!? was tried by Anand vs Morozevich in 2008 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Ne5 c4 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nd2 cxd3 14.cxd3 a5= [%draw arrow,a5,a4,green] [%draw full,c6,green] was roughly level ) 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.c4!? [%draw arrow,b1,c3,green] [%draw arrow,d3,d4,green] b5 12.Nc3 bxc4 13.dxc4 [%draw full,d6,green] Qc7 14.e5 [%draw arrow,b2,g7, green] dxe5 15.fxe5 Nd7 16.Ne4 Qb7?! ( 16...a5!/? ) 17.Nfd2↑ [%draw arrow,e2,h5] [%draw arrow, e4,f6] [%draw arrow,g7,f6,green] [%draw arrow,e5,f6,green] [%draw arrow,h5,g5,green] [%draw arrow, g5,g7,green] [%draw arrow,b2,h8, green] [%draw full,f6] and White was starting to build serious initiative: 1-0 (55) Morozevich,A (2731)-Popov,I (2627) Moscow 2014 ]

**6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Qe2 e6**

**9.Nf3 Be7 10.e5** is the move that is OBJECTIVELY best, though the resulting position is very equal

[ 10.0-0 is a modest approach leading to balanced positions 0-0 11.Rae1 b5 12.d3 [%draw full,c3,green] [%draw full,d2,green] is similar to the lines we saw before except that the White knight would almost certainly prefer to be on d2 than c3 ]

[ 10.0-0-0!? a double-edged approach that I will give a disclaimer on: Black is OBJECTIVELY better in some lines but has to know exactly what he's doing

**A) 10...0-0!** [%draw arrow,b7,b5, green] [%draw arrow,c5,c4,green] [%draw arrow,g2,g4,green] is the comp's first choice though very double-edged 11.g4!? [%draw full, c6,green] ( 11.d4 b5! 12.dxc5 b4 13.Na4 Nxe4 ) 11...d5! classic reaction to a flank attack with a central break ( 11...Nxg4 asking for trouble 12.Rhg1 Nf6 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4→ [%draw arrow,b2,g7,green] [%draw arrow,g1,g7,green] looks very dangerous for Black; 11...b5!? 12.g5 Nh5 13.Qe3∞ [%draw full, c3] [%draw arrow,c3,e2] [%draw arrow,e2,g3] with chances for both sides )

**A1) 12.g5 Nxe4?!** ( 12...Nh5! [%draw arrow,h5,f4,green] is an unexpected strong reply and I didn't find a good way to proceed with White 13.exd5 Nxf4 [%draw arrow,f4,d5,green] ) 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Ne5 Rc8 15.Rhg1 [%draw arrow,e2,h5, green] [%draw arrow,g1,g3, green] [%draw arrow,g3,h3, green] [%draw arrow,h5,h7, green] and Black has to be very careful not to get mated! b5? 16.Qh5!+- [%draw full,g1] [%draw full,g2] [%draw full,g3] [%draw full,h3] [%draw arrow,g2, g3] [%draw arrow,g3,h3] [%draw arrow,b2,g7,green];

**A2) 12.exd5** Nxd5 13.Nxd5

Bxd5 [%draw arrow,b7,b5] [%draw arrow,a6,a5,green] [%draw arrow,a5,a4,green] [%draw full,d5,green];

**B) 10...Qc7?!** 11.d4 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Rc8 13.g4 0-0 ( 13...b5 14.a3 0-0 15.g5 Nd7 16.Kb1± [%draw arrow,h2,h5] [%draw arrow, g5,g6,green] [%draw arrow,h5,h6, green] [%draw full,a3,green] [%draw full,b3,green] and White is much quicker in the attack ) 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 b5 1-0 (34) Carlsen,M (2881)-Leitao,R (2645) Caxias do Sul 2014 16.a3 ]

### 10...dxe5

[ 10...Nd7 11.exd6 Bxd6 12.Ne4 [%draw full,g7] Bxf4 13.g3 Bc7 14.Bxg7 Rg8 15.Bb2 Qe7 16.0-0-0∞ [%draw arrow,d2,d4, green] ]

**11.Nxe5 Rc8 12.0-0 0-0 13.d3 b5** [%draw arrow,c6,a8,green] **14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Qd5 17.Qxd5 exd5 18.Rfe1=**

**B20**

□ **Chess Informant Eco**

■ **N,N**

Chess Informant ECO B4

2001

### 1.e4 c5 \* 2.b3

[ 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 ( 5...d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.Rd1 e5 10.h3 0-0 11.Be3 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Rac1 Rc8 14.b4 a6 15.b5 axb5 16.Qxb5 Qd7 17.Na4 Nd4!= Pokojowczyk – Gligoric, Jugoslavija 1971 Ü 11/270 Pokojowczyk – Gligoric, Jugoslavija 1971 Ü 11/270

Pokojowczyk – Gligoric, Jugoslavija  
 1971 Ü 11/270 ) 6.Bc4 a6 7.0–0  
 Nge7 8.Bg5 f6 9.Be3 b5 10.Bb3  
 Ng6 11.Nd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bd6  
 13.Qg4 0–0 14.f4  $\otimes$   $\langle$ xmlX:Xnag>  
 178</nagXnag>184</nag> Messa –  
 Kuligowski, Graz 1981  $\langle$ :/X/xml>  $\rightarrow$ «  
 Messa – Kuligowski, Graz 1981  
 $\langle$ xmlX:Xnag>178</nagXnag>184</  
 nag> Messa – Kuligowski, Graz  
 1981  $\langle$ :/X/xml>  $\rightarrow$ « Messa –  
 Kuligowski, Graz 1981 ]  
 [ 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 d5 4.Nd2 Nf6  
 5.Bg2 e5 6.Ne2 ( 6.Ngf3 Be7 7.0–0  
 8 A A 08 Ü A ) 6...Be7 7.0–0 0–0  
 8.exd5 Nxd5 (Conquest – Nunn,  
 London 1993 Ü 58/177) (Conquest –  
 Nunn, London 1993 Ü 58/177)  
 (Conquest – Nunn, London 1993 Ü 58/  
 177) 9.Nc4 Be6 10.f4 exf4 11.Nxf4  
 Nxf4 12.Bxf4 Bd5= Nunn ]  
 [ 2.Ne2 Nf6 ( 2...e6 3.Nbc3 23  
 B 23 Ü; 2...d6 3.Nbc3 23  
 B 23 Ü; 2...Nc6 3.Nbc3 23  
 B 23 Ü ) 3.Nbc3 Nc6 23  
 B 23 Ü ( 3...d5 4.exd5 Nxd5  
 5.Nxd5 Qxd5 6.d4 e5 7.Nc3 Qxd4  
 8.Be3 Qb4 9.Qd5 Be6 10.Bb5+  
 Qxb5 11.Qxe6+ fxe6 12.Nxb5  $\otimes$   
 M. Kuijf – Franco, Wijk aan Zee 1984;  
 3...d6 23 B 23 Ü ) ]

**2...d6**

[ 2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8  
 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb2 e6 7.Bb5+ Nbd7  
 8.Qe2 Qc7! M. Jovicic ( 8...Be7?!  
 9.0–0–0 0–0 10.g4! a6 11.Bd3 Nd5  
 12.h4! $\pm$  T. Todorov – N. Sedlak,  
 Valjevo 2000 – 79/(107) ) ]  
 [ 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 ( 4.Nc3!?  
 e6 5.Ne4 f5 6.exf6 Nxf6 7.Bd3  
 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 Qf6  $\otimes$  Gurgenedze – A.  
 Lukin, USSR 1979 ) 4...d6 5.Nf3 Nc6

6.Bb5 Bd7 7.exd6 exd6 8.0–0 Be7  
 9.d4  $\otimes$  Rogers – Ostermeyer, Biel  
 1984 – 38/(199) ]  
 [ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.f4 ( 4.Bb5 Nd4  
 5.Bxd4! cxd4 6.Nf3 Qa5 7.Qe2 a6  
 8.Bc4 Be7 9.c3! $\pm$  Repkova –  
 Prudnikova, Varna 2002 Ü 85/(101)  
 Repkova – Prudnikova, Varna 2002 Ü  
 85/(101) Repkova – Prudnikova,  
 Varna 2002 Ü 85/(101) ) 4...exf4  
 ( 4...d6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Nc3  
 Qd7 8.0–0 0–0–0 9.fxe5 Nxe5  
 10.Qe1 Bxf3 11.gxf3 g5 12.d4 Nxc4  
 13.bxc4 g4 14.dxc5 Rg8 15.Kh1 g3  
 16.Rg1 Nh5 17.Ne2 $\pm$  K. Honfi – H.  
 Ackermann, Baden–Baden 1985 – 40/  
 (166) )

**A) 5.Nf3** Nf6 6.e5 Nh5! 7.Be2  
 ( 7.Qe2 d5 8.exd6+ Be6 $\bar{f}$

Shirazi – Nataf, Auberville 2001 )

7...d5 8.0–0 Bg4 9.d4 cxd4  
 10.Nxd4 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Bc5!  
 12.Qxh5 Nxd4 13.Kh1 Ne6! $\bar{f}$   
 Blatny – Serper, New York 1996 –  
 67/(184);

**B) 5.Bc4** Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nf6 7.Nf3  
 Qh6 8.Nc3 d6 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.e5  
 Ne4 11.d4! cxd4 12.Nbxd4 Bd7  
 13.Bxf7 Nxe5  $\otimes$  A. Lukin – Shirov,  
 Klaipeda 1988 – 46/189 A. Lukin –  
 Shirov, Klaipeda 1988 Ü 46/189 A.  
 Lukin – Shirov, Klaipeda 1988 Ü 46/  
 189 A. Lukin – Shirov, Klaipeda  
 1988 – 46/189 A. Lukin – Shirov,  
 Klaipeda 1988 – 46/189 A. Lukin –  
 Shirov, Klaipeda 1988 Ü 46/189 A.  
 Lukin – Shirov, Klaipeda 1988 – 46/  
 189 A. Lukin – Shirov, Klaipeda  
 1988 Ü 46/189 ]

[ 2...b6

**A) 3.g3** Bb7 4.Bg2 Nf6 ( 4...f5!?)  
 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bb2 Bg7 7.d3

( 7.Nge2?! Nxe4! 8.Nxe4 Bxb2  
 9.Nd6+ exd6 10.Bxb7 Nc6  
 11.Rb1 Bg7 12.Bxa8 Qxa8=

Lopatskaya – Vic. Ivanov, Moscow  
 1997 – 70/(124) ) 7...0-0 8.Nge2  
 Nc6 9.0-0 e6 <xmlX:Xnag>140</  
 nag> d5= Vic. Ivanov</:X/xml> Δ  
 d5= Vic. Ivanov Δ d5= Vic. Ivanov  
 <xmlX:Xnag>140</nag> d5= Vic.  
 Ivanov</:X/xml> Δ d5= Vic. Ivanov;

**B) 3.Bb2** Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 ( 4...Nc6  
 5.Nf3 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5  
 8.Ndb5 Qb8 9.Nd5! Kf8□  
 10.Ndc7 a6 11.Qxd7 Nf6□  
 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxe6+ fxe6  
 14.Nc7! Nd4 15.0-0-0 Bc6  
 16.Nxe6+ Nxe6 17.Qxc6=

C. Perdomo – Psakhis, Groningen  
 1995 – 65/178 ) 5.Qf3!? ( 5.Nf3 40  
 – – B 40 ) 5...Nf6 6.0-0-0 a6  
 7.Re1!? d6 ( 7...Be7 8.Qg3 0-0  
 9.e5 Ne8 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.Ne4 f5  
 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Nd6 Bxd6  
 14.Qxd6 Qb8 15.Qxb8 Raxb8  
 16.Ne5± Papaioannou – David,  
 Istanbul (ol) 2000 – 82/(113) ) 8.Qg3  
 b5 9.e5 ( 9.f3 Nbd7 10.Nh3 Qc7  
 11.Nf2 c4 12.Kb1 Rc8=

Godena – Cebalo, Milano 2001 –  
 82/113 ) 9...dxe5 10.Nf3 e4  
 11.Ng5 Bd6 12.Nxe6 Bxg3  
 13.Nxd8 Bxf2 14.Nxb7 Bxe1  
 15.Nd6+ Kf8 16.Ncxe4 Nxe4  
 17.Nxe4 Bh4 18.Nxc5=

Gelashvili – Marjanovic, Patras  
 2001 – 82/(113) ]

### 3.Bb2

[ 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.c4 Bxb5 5.cxb5 a6  
 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Nf3 g6 8.Bb2 axb5  
 9.Nxb5 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qe2  
 e5= Lein – Polugaevsky, Buenos  
 Aires (ol) 1978 – 26/317 ]

### 3...Nf6

[ 3...a6 4.f4 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.g3 Nf6  
 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Ng4 9.Bg2 h5  
 10.Qe2± Spassky – Hebert, Buenos  
 Aires (ol) 1978 ]

[ 3...Nc6 2...d6 2...d6 Ü 2...d6 4.Bb5  
 ( 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7  
 7.Bb5 Qc7 8.0-0 Bd7 9.e5!? dxe5  
 10.fxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5  
 12.Bxd7+ Kxd7 13.Qf3 Qc7 14.d4  
 cxd4 15.Rad1 Ke8 16.Nb5 Qb6  
 17.Nxd4= D. Root – D. Gurevich,  
 Lone Pine 1981; 4.g3 e5 5.Bg2 g6  
 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nd5 Nge7 8.h4 h5=  
 R. Bellin – Spasov, Skara 1980 )  
 4...Bd7 ( 4...Nf6 5.Bxf6!? gxf6 6.Qh5  
 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Nge2  
 e6 10.0-0 d5 11.d3± Zaichik – Ma.  
 Tseitlin, USSR 1979 ) 5.Ne2 e6 6.0-0  
 Nf6 7.d3 Be7 8.Nd2 0-0 9.Ng3 d5  
 10.f4 a6 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Qe2±  
 Gurgienidze – Zaichik, USSR 1979 ]

### 4.Bb5+

[ 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.f4 Nd4 ( 5...g6 6.g3  
 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.Nge2 e5=  
 Spassky – Najdorf, Bugojno 1982 Ü  
 33/(198) Spassky – Najdorf, Bugojno  
 1982 Ü 33/(198) Spassky – Najdorf,  
 Bugojno 1982 Ü 33/(198) ) 6.Nf3 g6  
 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Nd7 9.Nb5 Ne6!=  
 K. Honfi – Jansa, Baden-Baden 1985  
 Ü 40/(166) K. Honfi – Jansa, Baden-  
 Baden 1985 Ü 40/(166) K. Honfi –  
 Jansa, Baden-Baden 1985 Ü 40/(166)  
 10.a4 Bg7 11.g3 0-0 12.Bg2 Nb8=  
 K. Honfi – Jansa, Baden-Baden 1985  
 – 40/(166) ]

### 4...Nbd7

[ 4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.Bxf6 gxf6  
 7.Qh5 Nc6 ( 7...Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4=  
 Chikovani – Lapienis, Beltsy 1979 )  
 8.Nc3 f5= Spassky – Huebner,

Buenos Aires (ol) 1978 ]

### 5.Qe2

[ 5.d3 g6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 Bg7  
8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 b5!? 10.Qe2 a5  
Gelashvili – Shengelia, Batumi 2002 Ü  
85/101 Gelashvili – Shengelia, Batumi  
2002 Ü 85/101 Gelashvili – Shengelia,  
Batumi 2002 Ü 85/101 ]

### 5...a6

[ 5...e5 6.f4 exf4 7.Nh3 Be7 8.Nxf4  
0-0 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 10.0-0 Bc6  
11.Nc3 Qd7 Gr. Hjorth –  
Polugaevsky, Amsterdam 1984 Ü 38/  
183 Gr. Hjorth – Polugaevsky,  
Amsterdam 1984 Ü 38/183 Gr. Hjorth  
– Polugaevsky, Amsterdam 1984 Ü  
38/183 12.h3 Rae8 13.Rae1  
Gr. Hjorth – Polugaevsky, Amsterdam  
1984 – 38/183 ]

### 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 e6

[ 7...Bc6 8.Nc3 ( 8.d3 e6= ) 8...e5  
Tsesarsky ]

### 8.Nf3 Bc6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0

**11.0-0 b5** Uriel Zak – Tsesarsky,  
Givatayim 2000 Ü 79/107 Uriel Zak –  
Tsesarsky, Givatayim 2000 Ü 79/107  
Uriel Zak – Tsesarsky, Givatayim 2000 Ü  
79/107 **12.Rae1 a5 13.e5 Nd5**

### 14.exd6 Nxf4! 15.Qe5 Bf6 16.Qxc5!

[ 16.Qxf4?! Bxb2 U. Zak –  
Tsesarsky, Givatayim 2000 – 79/107 ]

### 16...Bxb2 17.Qxc6 Rc8 18.Qxb5

**Rxc2 19.g3 Nd5** <xmlX:Xnag>180</nag> Tsesarsky </:X/xml> Tsesarsky  
Tsesarsky Chess Informant ECO Survey  
2001 <xmlX:Xnag>180</nag>  
Tsesarsky </:X/xml> Tsesarsky

## B40

### Survey/uebersicht

2.b3 e6

1993

### 1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6

[ 2...b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 d6 5.Nf3  
Nf6 ( 5...e6 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nd7  
8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Ngf6 10.0-0  
Qc7= Miljanic–Rogers/Aosta/1989  
B80 ) 6.d4!

#### A) 6...cxd4

**A1) 7.Qxd4** Nbd7 8.0-0-0 g6?  
( 8...a6!? 9.e5 dxe5 10.Nxe5  
Qc7 11.f4 e6 ) 9.Bb5 Bg7  
10.e5 Bxf3 11.exf6 Bxf6  
12.Qxf6 exf6 13.gxf3 0-0  
( 13...a6 14.Rhe1+ Kf8 15.Bc6  
Rc8 16.Rxd6± ) 14.Rxd6+;

**A2) 7.Nxd4** Nxe4 8.Bb5+ Nd7  
9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.Qg4±;

**B) 6...Nxe4?** 7.Bb5+ Nd7 8.Nxe4  
Bxe4 9.Ng5! Bg6 ( 9...Bxg2  
10.Rg1 Bb7 11.Ne6 fxe6 12.Qh5+  
g6 13.Rxg6+; 9...Bb7 10.Qh5 g6  
11.Qh3 Bg7 12.Nxf7 Kxf7  
13.Bxd7± ) 10.Qf3 Rc8 11.d5!±  
Kr.Georgiev–Ermenkov/Albena/  
1985 ]

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2

**A) 3...Nf6** 4.e5 ( 4.Nc3 e5 5.f4  
d5!? 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nxd5 Qxd5  
8.Nf3 Bg4 9.fxe5 Nxe5 10.Bb5+  
Kd8 11.0-0 Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Bh3  
Gaprindasvili–Ljogkij/UdSSR/1979 )  
4...Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5 ( 6.Bc4  
dxe5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxe5 e6  
9.Nc3± Spasskij–Sosonko/Tilburg/  
1978 ) 6...Nc7 7.Bxc6+ bxc6  
8.exd6 exd6 9.0-0 Ne6 10.d4  
Be7 11.Nc3 0-0 12.d5±  
Simagin–Boleslavskij/UdSSR/  
1956;



**B)** 3...e5 4.f4

**B1)** 4...d6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bc4 Nf6 ( 6...exf4 7.Nc3 Nd4? 8.Nxd4 Bxd1 9.Bb5+ Qd7 10.Kxd1 cxd4 11.Bxd7+ Kxd7 12.Nd5± ) 7.Nc3 Qd7 8.0-0 0-0-0∞ Honfi-Ackermann/ Baden-Baden/1985;

**B2)** 4...exf4!

**B2a)** 5.Bc4 Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nf6 7.Nf3 Qh6 8.Nc3 d6 9.Nb5 Kd8 10.e5 Ne4 ( 10...dxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Bg4∞ ) 11.d4!∞ Lukin-Shirov/ Klajpeda/1988;

**B2b)** 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.e5?! ( 6.Nc3 Δc4;0-0;∞ ) 6...Nh5 7.Be2?! ( Δ7.Bb5 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Qe2∞ ) 7...d5 8.0-0 Bg4! 9.h3 Be6 10.Nh2 Ng3 11.Rxf4 Qg5 12.Rf2 Ne4∓ Grosar-Kupreichik/Ljubjana/ 1989 ]

**3.Bb2 Nf6**

[ 3...Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 ( 4...d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Bd3 Bd7 8.0-0 Ne5 9.c4 Nxd3 10.Qxd3 Be7 11.Nc3 a6± Nei-Knaak/Tallin/1979 ) 5.e5 Nd5 6.Bb5 ( 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 Be7 8.Bd3 b6 9.Qe2 Bb7 10.h4 Qc7 11.Rh3 g6∞ Schweber-Kasic/Buenos Aires/1970 ) 6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.d3 f6 10.Nc3± Spasskij-Hernandez/Buenos Aires/1978 ]

**4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.c4 Nc7**

[ 6...Nf4?! 7.g3! ( 7.h4 d6 8.g3 Ng6 9.exd6 Bf6 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Ng5 Bd4! 12.Qh5 Qxd6∓ ) 7...Ng6 8.Bg2 d6 9.exd6 Bf6 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.0-0± ]  
[ 6...Nb4?! 7.a3 N4c6 8.Bd3 d6

9.exd6 Bf6 10.Nc3 Nd7 11.0-0 Nde5 12.Be4± ]

**7.Nc3 f6 8.Ne4 fxe5 9.Nxe5 0-0**

**10.d4 cxd4 11.Qxd4 Bb4+ 12.Bc3!**

[ 12.Kd1? d6 13.Nd3 e5 14.Qe3 Ba5∓ Westerinen-Tal/Tallin/1973 ]

**12...Bxc3+ 13.Nxc3 Nc6 14.Nxc6**

**dx6 15.Rd1±** Kanzler-Ionov/ Daugavpils/1979

**B20**

**Chess Informant ECO**

Chess Informant ECO SMALL

2003

**1.e4 c5 \* 2.b3**

[ 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 ( 5...d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.Rd1 e5 10.h3 0-0 11.Be3 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Rac1 Rc8 14.b4 a6 15.b5 axb5 16.Qxb5 Qd7 17.Na4 Nd4!=

Pokojowczyk – Gligoric, Jugoslavija 1971 Ü 11/270 ) 6.Bc4 a6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Bg5 f6 9.Be3 b5 10.Bb3 Ng6 11.Nd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bd6 13.Qg4 0-0 14.f4∞ →« Messa – Kuligowski, Graz 1981

<xmlX:Xnag>178</nagXnag>184</nag> Messa – Kuligowski, Graz 1981</:X/xml> ]

[ 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 d5 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.Bg2 e5 6.Ne2 ( 6.Ngf3 Be7 7.0-0 8 Ü A 08 ) 6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.exd5 Nxd5 (Conquest – Nunn, London 1993 Ü 58/177) 9.Nc4 Be6 10.f4 exf4 11.Nxf4 Nxf4 12.Bxf4 Bd5= Nunn ]

[ 2.Ne2 Nf6 ( 2...e6 3.Nbc3 23 Ü B 23; 2...d6 3.Nbc3 23 Ü B 23; 2...Nc6 3.Nbc3 23 Ü B 23 ) 3.Nbc3 Nc6 23 Ü B 23 ( 3...d5 4.exd5 Nxd5

5.Nxd5 Qxd5 6.d4 e5 7.Nc3 Qxd4  
8.Be3 Qb4 9.Qd5 Be6 10.Bb5+  
Qxb5 11.Qxe6+ fxe6 12.Nxb5±  
M. Kuijf – Franco, Wijk aan Zee 1984;  
3...d6 23 Ü B 23 ]]

**2...d6**

[ 2...Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 ( 3...d6 Ü 2...d6 )

**A)** 4.f4 exf4 ( 4...d6 5.Nf3 Bg4  
6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Nc3 Qd7 8.0-0  
0-0-0 9.fxe5 Nxe5 10.Qe1 Bxf3  
11.gxf3 g5 12.d4 Nxc4 13.bxc4  
g4 14.dxc5 Rg8 15.Kh1 g3  
16.Rg1 Nh5 17.Ne2± K. Honfi – H.  
Ackermann, Baden-Baden 1985 –  
40/(166) )

**A1)** 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.e5 Nh5!  
7.Qe2 ( 7.Be2 d5 8.0-0 Bg4  
9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxe2  
11.Qxe2 Bc5! 12.Qxh5 Nxd4  
13.Kh1 Ne6!± Blatny – Serper,  
New York 1996 – 67/(184) ) 7...d5  
8.exd6+ Be6± Shirazi – Nataf,  
Auberville 2001;

**A2)** 5.Bc4 Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nf6  
7.Nf3 Qh6 8.Nc3 d6 9.Nb5  
Kd8 10.e5 Ne4 11.d4! cxd4  
12.Nbxd4 Bd7 13.Bxf7 Nxe5±  
A. Lukin – Shirov, Klaipeda 1988  
Ü 46/189 A. Lukin – Shirov,  
Klaipeda 1988 – 46/189 A. Lukin  
– Shirov, Klaipeda 1988 – 46/  
189 A. Lukin – Shirov, Klaipeda  
1988 Ü 46/189;

**B)** 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Bxd4! cxd4 6.Nf3  
Qa5 7.Qe2 a6 8.Bc4 Be7 9.c3!±  
Repkova – Prudnikova, Varna 2002  
Ü 85/(101) ]

[ 2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8  
5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb2 e6 7.Bb5+ Nbd7  
8.Qe2 Qc7! M. Jovicic ( 8...Be7?!  
9.0-0-0 0-0 10.g4! a6 11.Bd3 Nd5  
12.h4!± T. Todorov – N. Sedlak,

Valjevo 2000 – 79/(107) )]  
[ 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 ( 4.Nc3!?  
e6 5.Ne4 f5 6.exf6 Nxf6 7.Bd3  
Nxe4 8.Bxe4 Qf6± Gurgeneidze – A.  
Lukin, USSR 1979 ) 4...d6 5.Nf3 Nc6  
6.Bb5 Bd7 7.exd6 exd6 8.0-0 Be7  
9.d4± Rogers – Ostermeyer, Biel  
1984 – 38/(199) ]

[ 2...b6

**A)** 3.g3 Bb7 4.Bg2 Nf6 ( 4...f5!?)  
5.Nc3 g6 6.Bb2 Bg7 7.d3  
( 7.Nge2?! Nxe4! 8.Nxe4 Bxb2  
9.Nd6+ exd6 10.Bxb7 Nc6  
11.Rb1 Bg7 12.Bxa8 Qxa8±  
Lopatskaya – Vic. Ivanov, Moscow  
1997 – 70/(124) ) 7...0-0 8.Nge2  
Nc6 9.0-0 e6 Δ d5= Vic. Ivanov  
<xmlX:Xnag>140</nag> d5= Vic.  
Ivanov</X/xml>;

**B)** 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 ( 4...Nc6  
5.Nf3 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5  
8.Ndb5 Qb8 9.Nd5! Kf8□  
10.Ndc7 a6 11.Qxd7 Nf6□  
12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxe6+ fxe6  
14.Nc7! Nd4 15.0-0-0 Bc6  
16.Nxe6+ Nxe6 17.Qxc6±  
C. Perdomo – Psakhis, Groningen  
1995 – 65/178 ) 5.Qf3! ( 5.Nf3 40  
– B 40 ) 5...Nf6 6.0-0-0 a6  
7.Re1!? d6 ( 7...Be7 8.Qg3 0-0  
9.e5 Ne8 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.Ne4 f5  
12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Nd6 Bxd6  
14.Qxd6 Qb8 15.Qxb8 Raxb8  
16.Ne5± Papaioannou – David,  
Istanbul (ol) 2000 – 82/(113) ) 8.Qg3  
b5 9.e5 ( 9.f3 Nbd7 10.Nh3 Qc7  
11.Nf2 c4 12.Kb1 Rc8±  
Godena – Cebalo, Milano 2001 –  
82/113 ) 9...dxe5 10.Nf3 e4  
11.Ng5 Bd6 12.Nxe6 Bxg3  
13.Nxd8 Bxf2 14.Nxb7 Bxe1  
15.Nd6+ Kf8 16.Ncxe4 Nxe4

17.Nxe4 Bh4 18.Nxc5  
Gelashvili – Marjanovic, Patras  
2001 – 82/(113) ]

**3.Bb2**

[ 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.c4 Bxb5 5.cxb5 a6  
6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Nf3 g6 8.Bb2 axb5  
9.Nxb5 Bg7 10.0–0 0–0 11.Qe2  
e5= Lein – Polugaevsky, Buenos  
Aires (ol) 1978 – 26/317 ]

**3...Nf6**

[ 3...Nc6 Ü 2...d6 4.Bb5 ( 4.f4 e6  
5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bb5 Qc7  
8.0–0 Bd7 9.e5!? dxe5 10.fxe5  
Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.Bxd7+ Kxd7  
13.Qf3 Qc7 14.d4 cxd4 15.Rad1  
Ke8 16.Nb5 Qb6 17.Nxd4  
D. Root – D. Gurevich, Lone Pine  
1981; 4.g3 e5 5.Bg2 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7  
7.Nd5 Nge7 8.h4 h5= R. Bellin –  
Spasov, Skara 1980 ) 4...Bd7 ( 4...Nf6  
5.Bxf6!? gxf6 6.Qh5 Bg7 7.Nc3 0–0  
8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Nge2 e6 10.0–0 d5  
11.d3± Zaichik – Ma. Tseitlin, USSR  
1979 ) 5.Ne2 e6 6.0–0 Nf6 7.d3  
Be7 8.Nd2 0–0 9.Ng3 d5 10.f4 a6  
11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Qe2± Gurgenidze –  
Zaichik, USSR 1979 ]  
[ 3...a6 4.f4 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.g3 Nf6  
7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Ng4 9.Bg2 h5  
10.Qe2± Spassky – Hebert, Buenos  
Aires (ol) 1978 ]

**4.Bb5+**

[ 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.f4 g6 ( 5...Nd4 6.Nf3  
g6 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Nd7 9.Nb5  
Ne6!= K. Honfi – Jansa, Baden–  
Baden 1985 Ü 40/(166) 10.a4 Bg7  
11.g3 0–0 12.Bg2 Nb8= K. Honfi –  
Jansa, Baden–Baden 1985 – 40/  
(166) ) 6.g3 Bg7 7.Bg2 0–0 8.Nge2  
e5= Spassky – Najdorf, Bugojno 1982  
Ü 33/(198) ]

**4...Nbd7**

[ 4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.Bxf6 gxf6  
7.Qh5 Nc6 ( 7...Rg8 8.Ne2 Qg4=  
Chikovani – Lapienis, Beltsy 1979 )  
8.Nc3 f5= Spassky – Huebner,  
Buenos Aires (ol) 1978 ]

**5.Qe2**

[ 5.d3 g6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 Bg7  
8.Nf3 0–0 9.0–0 b5!? 10.Qe2 a5  
Gelashvili – Shengelia, Batumi 2002 Ü  
85/101 ]

**5...a6**

[ 5...e5 6.f4 exf4 7.Nh3 Be7 8.Nxf4  
0–0 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 10.0–0 Bc6  
11.Nc3 Qd7 Gr. Hjorth –  
Polugaevsky, Amsterdam 1984 Ü 38/  
183 12.h3 Rae8 13.Rae1  
Gr. Hjorth – Polugaevsky, Amsterdam  
1984 – 38/183 ]

**6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.f4 e6**

[ 7...Bc6 8.Nc3 ( 8.d3 e6= ) 8...e5  
Tsesarsky ]

**8.Nf3 Bc6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0–0**

**11.0–0 b5** Uriel Zak – Tsesarsky,  
Givatayim 2000 Ü 79/107 **12.Rae1 a5**  
**13.e5 Nd5 14.exd6 Nxf4! 15.Qe5 Bf6**  
**16.Qxc5!**

[ 16.Qxf4?! Bxb2 U. Zak –  
Tsesarsky, Givatayim 2000 – 79/107 ]

**16...Bxb2 17.Qxc6 Rc8 18.Qxb5**

**Rxc2 19.g3 Nd5** Tsesarsky Chess  
Informant ECO Survey 2001

<xmlX:Xnag>180</nag> Tsesarsky</X/  
xml>

**B20**
☐ **Chapter**
☒ **Classical Variation**

C) 4...c5

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5**

[ 3...e6 4.Bb5 Nd4 ( 4...Nge7 5.Nf3

a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 might be dangerous for Black, as he would face serious problems developing his light-squared bishop. 7.0-0 runs into d5! (15.♖f3!?) 8.exd5 exd5 and Black loses the exchange. 9.Re1+ Be6 is given by Moskalenko, but instead with 14...b5! followed by ...♗b7, Black takes over the initiative and gains a clear edge. 10.d4 Now Be7 leads to two interesting possibilities one rather optimistic and unnatural, the other to a game where White has a clear improvement: 11.dxc5 Moskalenko recommended: 11...0-0 Here I recommend a prophylactic move:

12.Qd3!?

Preventing Black's idea of ...♗b4 followed by ...♖d6, activating the rook. Bxc5

Maybe not what Black wants to play, but what else can he do?

13.Qc3 ) 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nc3 White wins the c6-pawn So now we can understand the difference with: 6...Nf6!?N 7.Nf3 dxe4

8.Nxe4 Be7 9.Nxd4 cxd4! And Black definitely has play. Note that 10.Qf3 ]

[ 3...d6 4.Bb5 Nf6

(Now White can simply play: 4...Bd7 5.f4; 4...e5±

With an obvious advantage for White; Black is very passive and White's plan includes ♗c3-d5 and e3-e4. Instead 5.Ne2?! makes no sense, as it only helps White to seize the initiative: Nf6 6.d3 Be7 and next we have ♖g3 and ♗d5 coming. rather than 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.0-0

0-0 ) 5.Nc3 Bd7 6.f4

White is better due to his extra space, while the ...♖a6 move appears to be useless. Certainly White could also continue: 6...a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qe2 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0-0? would be a serious mistake, as Black has 0-0 11.d4 cxd4! 12.Nxd4 Qc7! 13.g4 Rfe8 winning or 14.g5 Nd7 is clearly better for White 15.h4 b5 Simple play, wanting to play ♗b2. 16.g6 This was tried in Agdestein – Haik, Marseille 1987 Now White should have continued with his plan:

16...hxg6!N

If Black tries the same ...♗b8-a7 manoeuvre that was played in the Agdestein – Haik game, then White is ready for him.

17.h5

]

[ 3...Nf6 4.e5 when White controls all the important squares in the centre. ( 4.Nc3 and Black seems to hold ) After 4...Nd5 5.Nf3 d6 ( 5...e6 6.g3 ) 6.Bb5 Bd7 White has definite compensation, but it is rather complicated. 7.exd6 exd6 8.0-0 Be7 This is playable for Black. 9.d4 In Tukmakov – Forintos, Metz 1991, Black played 15...c6, but even the primitive cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 was possible, with good play for Black. or 11.c4 Nc7 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Nc3 ]

#### 4.Bc4 d6

This is Black's most popular continuation.

#### 5.f4

[ 5.Ne2 is clearly better for White. Nf6 6.Nbc3 a6 7.a4 Be7 8.0-0

White was better in Cu. Hansen – Miezis, Copenhagen 2004. after 8...0-0 9.f4 ]

### 5...Nf6

[ 5...exf4 (with the idea of playing 19. ♖d5) and if 6.Qf3 Nf6 7.Qxf4 Be7 and Black is helpless against ♖e7 followed by ♖h4. if 8.Nf3 then 0-0 wins material 9.Nc3 Be6 10.0-0-0 was Blazek – Ptacnik, Czech Republic 2004, and now ]

### 6.Nf3 Bg4

The following move order is dubious, according to some theorists, Since it allows White an additional option:

[ 6...Be7 7.fxe5 ]  
[ 6...Nxe4 7.0-0 d5 8.Bb5!? exf4 9.Qe2!]

A nice tactical blow that allows White to develop a strong initiative.

Be6 10.c4 Be7 11.Bxg7

This is Vallejo Pons – Romero Holmes, Spain 2002. An interesting decision, but also reasonable is 11...Rg8 12.Bb2 ]

### 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4

This is the initial position of our variation. In my opinion the whole line promises White slightly better chances, due to his control of the centre.

Black has a choice between

C1) 9...d6,

C2) 9...a5 and

C3) 9...♖e8. **9...Bg6**

This is definitely the main continuation. Now White has a wild array of possibilities: 10.f4, 10.a3, 10.♘e4 and even the mysterious 10.♙h1 has been tried, but I strongly recommend a natural move:

### 10.d3

I think this is the most logical move.

White's play is quite simple – he logically mobilizes his pieces with ♗b2, ♕c2, ♖ad1, fighting for the central squares. On every move Black must be ready for the white knight to jump to d5, e4 or even a4.

### 10...Bd6

Black's most popular reply; the main idea is to play ...♖a6 and transfer the rook to the kingside (g6 or h6) creating threats against White's king. Sometimes the rook might also be useful on e6. In general I have noticed that Budapest aficionados do not like long positional struggles; usually they try to generate some kind of activity as soon as possible. **11.Nc3!**

This is a very important moment. At this point we actually deviate from the main theory line and make a very concrete move – now Black has no time for ...♖a6. Instead there is a lot of theory after 11. ♗b2 ♖a6 12.♘e4 (or 12.♘a4). **11...a6**

The most logical reply. Other moves are: **12.a4!**

The point of White's previous move; the black knight is ejected from the centre White gains a lot of space for his pieces, especially for the bishops. One is coming to b2, while the other has a nice square on f3.

White's other options do not look so clear, but it may be useful to see why they do not work: **12...Rb8**

The other knight retreat is also possible: **13.0-0!N**

In my opinion this move is a serious improvement; White manages to reach his optimal set-up.

The main move according to theory is 13. ♕d2 but I find it slightly inaccurate, since it allows Black to obtain some



counterplay with 13...♖h4!N. The main idea is to play ...♗f5 at an appropriate moment. **13...0-0 14.Qd2 Ne8 15.h4** White has a very pleasant edge, thanks to his space advantage.

Conclusion:

The Budapest Gambit is almost a respectable opening; I doubt there is a refutation. Even in the lines where White manages to keep an extra pawn, Black always has a lot of play for it. I recommend 4.♗f3, which may be an unpleasant choice for Budapest lovers, as White is aiming for positional play and not heading into complications by trying to keep the extra pawn.

At move 4 there is an important crossroads – 4...♗c6 or 4...♗c5 (4...♗b4+ is hardly playable for Black, though there are some important moments to look out for).

After 4...♗c6 White has to be familiar with the rarely-played 6...f6, which does not have a clear refutation according to theory. I believe White has a clear edge in this line and the reader should remember White's key idea – the c4–c5 temporary pawn sacrifice gives plenty of scope for seizing the initiative. In the main line White often gains an advantage by forcing Black to give up his dark-squared bishop. The most important line appears after 9...a5, which seems Black's best bet, yet after the smooth 11.♗b1 White gets exactly the kind of pleasant space-advantage position we are looking for.

4...♗c5 has been the most popular reply in recent years. In the main line I recommend the positional 10.b3, which promises White easy play with every chance of an advantage. The key

moment is 11.♗a4!, which avoids Black's typical transfer of his queen's rook to the kingside, and allows White to reach his optimal set-up.

As things stand, White enjoys a plus in both lines, but there may still be room for improvements. Chapter 6–Classical Variation C3) 9...♞e8 Previously against **15...h5** Black has not managed to solve his opening problems: **16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.Ng5**

**B20**

□ **17) 1.e4 c5 2.b3**  
 ■ **2.b3 with 4.f4**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 This isn't a particularly common move and compared to other continuations `CCStartBracketCC` for example, straightforward development of the knights to either f3 or c3`CCEndBracketCC` is a little odd. Once again, the age-old opening advice of 'knights before bishops' is worth considering. Is it really a good idea to commit the bishop at such an early stage? Can't Black just block it? While all this is true, a quick note of caution. I think there is a tendency when facing such left-field continuations that in turn one feels it is okay to play something a bit strange. Black has a considerable choice of options, and that in itself can be somewhat confusing, particularly in a situation where there aren't many `CCStartBracketCC` or any`CCEndBracketCC` forcing moves. In other words, don't underestimate this move, it's not that bad, and I think it's important to realise that the move cannot be refuted. Our opening aims have not

changed: to gain some control in the centre, to develop our pieces, to castle, and if possible to emerge from the opening with a healthy pawn structure. For many of us, that is ambitious enough! 2...Nc6 Black sticks to tried and trusted development into the middle. 3.Bb2 e5 Blocking out the bishop on b2, as well as staking a claim in the centre. It is worth comparing this variation with the positions that arise after

```

CCStartFENCCrnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/PPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1
CCEndFENCC 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 , etc.

```

CCStartBracketCCsee chapter elsewhereCCEndBracketCC. This is basically the same position but with White's bishop on b2 – and that is surely misplaced. There are essentially two ways in which White can attempt to put things right: occupy the d5-square, and/or get in the pawn break f2–f4 to get the bishop on b2 working. 4.f4 The most direct attempt to liven up proceedings: White turns the game into a kind of King's Gambit. Even by the somewhat uncertain standards of that venerable overture, this is decidedly dodgy as it is difficult to recapture the f4 pawn when the bishop is on b2. 4...exf4 Threatening a big check. 5.Nf3 Nf6 Sticking to sound opening principles is the best: develop a piece into the middle. 6.e5 Attacking the knight looks like it might cause some disruption, but Black is fine. Instead 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bc4 O–O 8.O–O Nxe4! is a little reminder that Black can also hit out. 6...Ng4 The knight is not in danger. If pushed it can bounce back to h6 and then into f5. 7.Bc4 Be7 Black sticks with basic

opening principles and continues to develop. White has to contend with a check on h4, so castling is necessary. 8.O–O d5 The bishop on c8 needs to come into play and the central push resolves the situation in the centre. 9.exd6 Qxd6 Black is very much hoping that the bishop will take on g7: 10.Bxg7 Rg8 11.Bb2 Qg6 12.Qe2 Bd7 13.Nc3 O–O–O with a ready-made kingside attack. 10.Nc3 O–O The king has reached safety and Black is a pawn up with the better position.

**B20**

- ☐ Rare 2nd moves ----- for ALL  
☒ Rare 2nd moves ----- for ALL

1.e4 c5 So here we are. I guess that if you purchased this course, you – like me – are a Sicilian player. I don't claim here that you are from Palermo or Catania, but that you like to play unbalanced chess by replying 1. e4 with 1... c5. In the first chapter, we will take a look at all of White's rare 2nd moves. Some of them are more playable and some are just dubious, but I wanted to cover all of the options that at least from time to time appear in tournament practice. Of course, don't expect me to cover 2. h3 or 2. a4 because you can get a decent position vs those moves without doing anything extraordinary. But any reasonable move from White that isn't a main-line has been covered. 2.b3 Not a very popular option but it is used from time to time by people who want to avoid theory. It was also recommended by Evgeny Sveshnikov and his son Vladimir in their book 'A

Chess Opening Repertoire for Blitz and Rapid'. 2...g6 An exclamation mark is from me. Not only is this a move that leads to some interesting positions but it is also theoretically sound. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Just don't premove 3...Bg7 4.e5 By far the most popular continuation but in my opinion, it hands over the initiative to Black. Playing Alekhine-style is a noble thing but not with the Bishop on b2. 4...Nd5 5.Qf3 The only disadvantage of this move is that it fails to take care of the c2-square. 5...Nb4 We say thanks ! 6.Bc4 Going for the Scholar Mate. 6...e6 Fortunately, we are not forced to allow that... Phew! 7.Na3 N8c6 ... Bg7 and ... Nd4 are coming. 8.Qe3 Nd4 The most direct option at Black's disposal. As I've promised in the introduction, my job is to make those Anti-Sicilian 'positional' lines exciting! 9.Bxd4 This is the only line that needs to be checked and the good thing is that Black wins! 9...cxd4 10.Qxd4 Qa5 There is no way to protect both a3 and c2. 11.Qb2 Qxa3 11.c3 Nc6

**B20****2. b3**

Short &amp; Sweet: Anti-Sicilians

1.e4 c5 2.b3 The fianchetto of the dark-squared bishop does not pretend to seek advantage, but White gets a playable position with a lot of pieces on the board. If White wants to play b3 it makes sense to do it immediately, as opposed to 2. Nf3 d6 3. b3 as with the knight on f3 there are no ideas based on f2-f4. 2...Nc6 Black will develop in Scheveningen style, with his pieces in

the centre and ready to react to whatever White tries. 3.Bb2 d6 A multi-purpose move: if allowed Black would want to close the long diagonal by ...e5 and then develop by ...g6, ...Bg7, ...Nge7, ...O-O. 4.Bb5 Bd7 Of course, Black wants to take on c6 with a bishop. 5.f4 Preventing ...e5. 5...Nf6 Since ...e5 has been prevented, Black continues in Scheveningen style, with ...e6 and ...Be7 to come next. 6.Qe2 Taking on f6 would be great for Black, who would take with the e-pawn and remain with an unopposed dark-squared bishop that will be developed on g7 after ...g6 and later opened up by ...f5. 6...e6 7.Nf3 Be7 Black finished his development and the only thing that remains is the position of the king. But Black needn't hurry with this decision, as he has useful moves at his disposal, like ...a6 and possibly a queenside expansion by ...b5. 8.O-O With both kings on the kingside Black is perfectly safe. 9.d3 a6 Black wins the bishop pair and even though the position is rather closed this is good for his long-term prospects. 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 Black has a very pleasant position. He expands on the queenside in typical Sicilian fashion.

**B20****21 Analysis****1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nc6**

[ 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 ]

**3.Bb2 d6** This can obviously transpose via 2...d6 move orders too. **4.Bb5**

[ 4.f4 Nf6! 5.Nc3 g6 transposes to lines with 2...g6 which we know are already favourable for Black 6.Nd5

Bg7 ]

**4...Bd7** a sensible reply and the most played move by some distance

[ 4...e5!? played by the young German talent Vincent Keymer 5.Ne2 ( 5.f4 is also possible, but the resulting lines look very unclear exf4 6.Qf3 Qh4+ 7.g3 fxg3 8.hxg3 Qg4 etc ) 5...Nge7! ( 5...Nf6 6.d3 Qa5+ 7.Nbc3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Qe1! [%draw full,c3] [%draw arrow, c3,d5] Qc7 11.f4 exf4 12.Nxf4± 1-0 (37) Saric,I (2644)-Deur,Z (2137) Chalkidiki 2015 ) 6.0-0 g6 7.c3 Bg7 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 a6 10.Bxc6+ Nxc6 11.Qd2 Qf6 12.Na3 Be6 13.Rab1 cxd4 14.Nc2 0-0 15.Ncxd4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Qe7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nf4 Rac8 19.Rfe1 Rfd8 20.Re3 Rc5 21.Rd3 Re5 22.Rd4 Rc8 23.h3 Rd8 24.Rc1 Rd7 25.Rc3 f6 26.Rcd3 Bf7 27.f3 g5 28.Ne2 f5 29.Ng3 fxe4 30.fxe4 Be6 31.Rxd6 Rc7 32.Qb2 Bc8 33.R3d5 1-0 (33) Ovsejevitsch,S (2602)-Keymer,V (2411) Dresden 2017 ] [ 4...Nf6!? this move order compared to 2...d6 and 3...Nf6 gives White more choices as he is not obliged to play Nc3 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 [%draw arrow,a2,b3,green] [%draw arrow,b3,c2,green] [%draw arrow,c2,e4,green] [%draw arrow,f2,f4,green] [%draw arrow,g1,f3,green] [%draw arrow,e1,g1,green]

**A) 6...e5!?** is a very decent option for Black 7.Ne2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 is the most likely response ( 8...Bh6!? is a decent move 9.f4 0-0 10.Qe1!? as per Zude-Wei Yi, 2014 Ng4 11.Qg3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nd2 was around equal

though I prefer White ever so slightly due to the tension on e5 ) 9.Nd2 0-0 [%draw arrow,f2,f4, green] [%draw arrow,f6,g4,green] [%draw arrow,g4,e3,green] [%draw full,e3,green] Gelashvili has had this over 5 times in serious competition. Here his idea of 10.Qe1!? [%draw arrow,f2,f4] [%draw arrow,e1,g3] [%draw arrow,e1,h4] [%draw full,e1] is the computer's first choice and a Gelshvili Speciality

**A1) 10...Re8!?** [%draw arrow,e8,e1,green] 11.f3 ( 11.f4?! exf4 12.Nxf4 Nxe4! 13.Bxg7 Nxd2 is a tactic that works for Black 14.Qxd2 Kxg7± ) 11...Be6 12.Qf2 Nh5 13.Rad1 Bh6 14.Bc1 Rf8 15.Nc4 Bxc1 16.Rxc1 f5 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.Ng3 Nxc3 19.hxg3 and White was on the right side of equality, Gelashvili-Delchev, 2000. Naturally Black should be fine however;

**A2) 10...Nh5!?** 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Nxf4 Nxf4 14.Rxf4 Be6 is a bit better for White ½-½ (93) Gelashvili,T (2611)-Lapshun,Y (2442) Philadelphia 2011;

**B) 6...g6** 7.e5 dxe5 8.Bxe5 Qd5 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.Nbd2 Bh6 11.Nc4 0-0 12.0-0 Nh5 13.h3 Bc8 [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green] 14.Ne3 Qd8 15.Ng4 Bg7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qd2 [%draw arrow,d2,c3,green] [%draw full,c5,green] [%draw full,c6,green] f6 18.Rae1 e5 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.Ngxe5 fxe5 21.Ng5 Qc7

22.Rxe5 Qg7 23.Qxg7+ Nxc7  
 24.Rxc5 Rf5 25.Ne4 Rxc5  
 26.Nxc5 Ne6 27.Nxe6 Bxe6  
 28.Re1 Kf7 29.Re5 a5 30.Rc5  
 Ra6 31.a4 Ke7 32.f3 Kd6 33.d4  
 Bf5 34.Kf2 Ra8 35.Ke3 h5 36.g4  
 hxg4 37.hxg4 Be6 38.Rg5 Bf7  
 39.f4 Rh8 40.Rxa5 Rh3+ 41.Kd2  
 Rh2+ 42.Kc1 Bd5 43.c4 Be4  
 44.Re5 Bc2 45.Re3 Kc7 46.a5  
 Rf2 47.d5 Bxb3 48.Rxb3 Rxf4  
 49.Kb2 Rxc4 50.a6 cxd5 51.cxd5  
 Rg2+ 52.Ka3 Rg1 53.Ka4 Ra1+  
 54.Ra3 Rd1 55.Kb4 Kb8 56.Kc5  
 g5 57.Ra4 Rc1+ 58.Kd6 Ka7  
 59.Ke5 Re1+ 60.Kf5 Rd1 61.Ke6  
 Re1+ 62.Kd7 Rg1 63.d6 g4  
 64.Ra5 g3 65.Ra3 Rg2 66.Rc3  
 Kb6 67.Kc8 Rd2 68.d7 g2  
 69.Rc1 1-0 (69) Gelashvili,T  
 (2563)-Belous,V (2587) Saint Louis  
 2017 ]

[ 4...a6?! 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.f4  
 Black allows White to get the setup he  
 wants

**A) 6...Nf6** 7.d3 e6 8.Nf3 Be7  
 9.0-0 0-0 10.c4± [%draw full,c5,  
 green] [%draw full,c6,green] 1-0  
 (29) Bregadze,L (2435)-Thomas,K  
 (2047) Greensboro 2014 ( 10.e5!  
 [%draw full,c5] [%draw full,c6]  
 [%draw full,d6,green] );

**B) 6...e5!?** 7.Nf3 was played by  
 Mr. b3 Sicilian Gelshvili, however  
 ( 7.Qf3!? looks like a good try exf4  
 8.Qxf4 [%draw arrow,g1,f3,green]  
 [%draw arrow,e1,g1,green] Nf6  
 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nc3±  
 looks a bit more pleasant for  
 White; 7.fxe5 Qh4+ [%draw arrow,  
 h4,e4,green] ) 7...exf4 8.0-0 Bg4  
 9.Qe1 Nh6 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Rxf3

Qg5 12.Qf2 Be7 13.Rxf4 0-0  
 14.Rf3 Qh5 15.g4 Qg6 16.d3 d5  
 17.Nd2 Bg5 18.Rf1 Rad8 19.e5  
 Rfe8 20.Kh1 Qe6 21.Rg1 Bxd2  
 22.Qxd2 d4 23.Qf4 Kh8 24.g5  
 Ng8 25.Qxf7 Qxe5 26.Qf5 Qe2  
 27.Rf2 Qe3 28.Bc1 Qe7 29.Rgf1  
 Rd5 30.Qg4 Re5 31.Bf4 Re1  
 32.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 33.Kg2 Re6  
 34.Rf1 Qe2+ 35.Qxe2 Rxe2+  
 36.Rf2 Re6 37.Kf3 Ne7 38.Re2  
 Rxe2 39.Kxe2 Nc8 40.Kf3 Kg8  
 41.Ke4 Kf7 42.b4 cxb4 43.Kxd4  
 Ke6 44.Kc5 Ne7 45.Bd2 a5  
 46.c3 1-0 (46) Gelashvili,T (2575)-  
 Sie,T (2148) Baku 2016 ]

**5.f4!** the move I want to recommend and  
 played by Carlsen no less **5...a6**

[ 5...Nf6!? 6.Qe2

**A) 6...Nd4!?** isn't so bad 7.Bxd4  
 cxd4 8.Nf3 Qb6 9.a4 g6 10.Na3  
 [%draw arrow,a3,c4,green] Bg7?  
 ( 10...a6! 11.Nc4 Qc5 12.Bxd7+  
 Nxd7 13.0-0 [%draw arrow,d2,d3,  
 green] [%draw arrow,a4,a5,green]  
 [%draw full,c4,green] d3+ 14.Qe3  
 Qxe3+ 15.Nxe3 dxc2 16.Ra2∞  
 [%draw arrow,a2,c2,green] ) 11.e5!  
 dxe5 12.Nc4 Qc5 13.fxe5  
 [%draw full,d7,green] Bxb5  
 14.exf6± and Black gets in trouble;

**B) 6...a6** 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Nc3  
 transposes to Carlsen-Leitao;

**C) 6...e6** 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0  
 9.d3 a6 ( 9...d5!? was tried by  
 Anand vs Morozevich in 2008  
 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Ne5 c4 12.Nxc6  
 bxc6 13.Nd2 cxd3 14.cxd3 a5=  
 [%draw arrow,a5,a4,green] [%draw  
 full,c6,green] was roughly level )  
 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.c4!?  
 [%draw arrow,b1,c3,green] [%draw



arrow,d3,d4,green] b5 12.Nc3  
 bxc4 13.dxc4 [%draw full,d6,green]  
 Qc7 14.e5 [%draw arrow,b2,g7,  
 green] dxe5 15.fxe5 Nd7 16.Ne4  
 Qb7?! ( 16...a5!? ) 17.Nfd2↑  
 [%draw arrow,e2,h5] [%draw arrow,  
 e4,f6] [%draw arrow,g7,f6,green]  
 [%draw arrow,e5,f6,green] [%draw  
 arrow,h5,g5,green] [%draw arrow,  
 g5,g7,green] [%draw arrow,b2,h8,  
 green] [%draw full,f6] and White  
 was starting to build serious  
 initiative: 1-0 (55) Morozevich,A  
 (2731)-Popov,I (2627) Moscow  
 2014 ]

**6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Qe2 e6  
 9.Nf3 Be7 10.e5** is the move that is  
 OBJECTIVELY best, though the  
 resulting position is very equal

[ 10.0-0 is a modest approach leading  
 to balanced positions 0-0 11.Rae1  
 b5 12.d3 [%draw full,c3,green]  
 [%draw full,d2,green] is similar to  
 the lines we saw before except that  
 the White knight would almost  
 certainly prefer to be on d2 than c3 ]  
 [ 10.0-0-0!? a double-edged  
 approach that I will give a disclaimer  
 on: Black is OBJECTIVELY better in  
 some lines but has to know exactly  
 what he's doing

**A) 10...0-0!** [%draw arrow,b7,b5,  
 green] [%draw arrow,c5,c4,green]  
 [%draw arrow,g2,g4,green] is the  
 comp's first choice though very  
 double-edged 11.g4!? [%draw full,  
 c6,green] ( 11.d4 b5! 12.dxc5 b4  
 13.Na4 Nxe4 ) 11...d5!  
 classic reaction to a flank attack  
 with a central break ( 11...Nxg4  
 asking for trouble 12.Rhg1 Nf6  
 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4→

[%draw arrow,b2,g7,green] [%draw  
 arrow,g1,g7,green] looks very  
 dangerous for Black; 11...b5!?  
 12.g5 Nh5 13.Qe3∞ [%draw full,  
 c3] [%draw arrow,c3,e2] [%draw  
 arrow,e2,g3] with chances for both  
 sides )

**A1) 12.g5 Nxe4?! ( 12...Nh5!**  
 [%draw arrow,h5,f4,green] is an  
 unexpected strong reply and I  
 didn't find a good way to proceed  
 with White 13.exd5 Nxf4  
 [%draw arrow,f4,d5,green] )  
 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Ne5 Rc8  
 15.Rhg1 [%draw arrow,e2,h5,  
 green] [%draw arrow,g1,g3,  
 green] [%draw arrow,g3,h3,  
 green] [%draw arrow,h5,h7,  
 green] and Black has to be very  
 careful not to get mated! b5?  
 16.Qh5!+- [%draw full,g1]  
 [%draw full,g2] [%draw full,g3]  
 [%draw full,h3] [%draw arrow,g2,  
 g3] [%draw arrow,g3,h3] [%draw  
 arrow,b2,g7,green];

**A2) 12.exd5** Nxd5 13.Nxd5  
 Bxd5 [ [%draw arrow,b7,b5]  
 [%draw arrow,a6,a5,green]  
 [%draw arrow,a5,a4,green]  
 [%draw full,d5,green];

**B) 10...Qc7?! 11.d4 cxd4**  
 12.Nxd4 Rc8 13.g4 0-0 ( 13...b5  
 14.a3 0-0 15.g5 Nd7 16.Kb1±  
 [%draw arrow,h2,h5] [%draw arrow,  
 g5,g6,green] [%draw arrow,h5,h6,  
 green] [%draw full,a3,green]  
 [%draw full,b3,green] and White is  
 much quicker in the attack ) 14.g5  
 Nd7 15.h4 b5 1-0 (34) Carlsen,M  
 (2881)-Leitao,R (2645) Caxias do  
 Sul 2014 16.a3 ]

**10...dxe5**

[ 10...Nd7 11.exd6 Bxd6 12.Ne4 [%draw full,g7] Bxf4 13.g3 Bc7 14.Bxg7 Rg8 15.Bb2 Qe7 16.0-0-0∞ [%draw arrow,d2,d4, green] ]  
**11.Nxe5 Rc8 12.0-0 0-0 13.d3 b5** [%draw arrow,c6,a8,green] **14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Qd5 17.Qxd5 exd5 18.Rfe1=**

☐ **Various Nd Moves**

☒ **Snyder Variation 2.b3 #11**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6 This is a known antidote to this b3 line. The bishop on g7 usually ends up being a stronger piece than its counterpart on b2 because it is protected by the king on g8 and the one on b2 is not. 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nd5 0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6 We capture with the pawn to open the e-file. In this way, we will put pressure on the e4-pawn using the fact that the king is still in the center. 7.Bc4 Re8 8.Bd5 The only decent way to defend the e4-pawn. 8...Nc6 9.Ne2 Nb4 10.0-0 d6 We do not need to take on d5 yet. Black looks fine to me, as ...f5 is always a possible liberating move.

B20

☐ **14) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6: the Alt**

☒ **4. Nc3 Alternative #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting time, gets ready for the struggle on the long diagonal. This move seems a little odd at first sight because White has the first go along this diagonal, but Black

has logical ways to parry the threats and get a normal game. Things get complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3**

[Developing the knight has the strategic idea of ruining Black's pawn structure with Nd5 . This motif has been seen more than once in this course. Black has no real way to stop this operation as e6 would be a terrible mistake in view of 4.e5! ]

**4...Bg7 5.Nd5 0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6**

**7.Bc4** An important move which we should not forget. Allowing Black to play ... d5 means giving up all previous positional gains. **7...Re8 8.Bd5 Nc6 9.Ne2**

[Getting out of the pin on the e-file. 9.Nf3 would be met by the very strong f5! , which would give Black the advantage. ]

**9...d6 10.0-0 Be6**

[ 10...Nb4 and capturing on d5 would lead to a position similar to the line with 7... Na6 . ]

**11.c4 f5 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.d3 Bxd5 14.cxd5 Nd4 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.exf5 Rc8 17.fxg6 hxg6 18.Qd2**

Black's active rooks fully compensate the missing pawn. As it happens very frequently in chess, correct play by both sides leads to a balanced position at the end.

B20

☐ **14) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6: the Alt**

☒ **5...d6 #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting time, gets ready for the struggle on the long diagonal. This move seems a little

B20

odd at first sight because White has the first go along this diagonal, but Black has logical ways to parry the threats and get a normal game. Things get complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.f4** White includes this move before getting queen to f3 . The benefit of stepping forward with the f pawn is strengthening the scope of the b2 bishop as we already know. **4...Bg7 5.Qf3 d6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.c4** We are building our standard pawn formation where the central pawns remain on the light squares.

[ 9.0-0 is seen in the model game Nepomniachtchi-Carlsen . ]

**9...Nc6 10.Nbc3** And now Black can choose between two main approaches: To play on the wing or in the center.

**10...a6 11.d3 b5 12.0-0**

[ 12.cxb5? The pawn can not be captured since axb5 13.Nxb5 Nb4 14.Na3 Rxa3 15.Bxa3 Nc2+ wins for Black. ]

**12...Rab8 13.h3 e6 14.Rad1 Qc7**

**15.Rd2** A prophylactic move that protects the b2 -bishop in advance.

**15...Nd4 16.Qf2 Nd7 17.Kh1**

White's chances lie on the kingside. The knight maneuver Nd1 - Ne3 is called for.

□ **15) 2...b6**

■ **4...Nc6 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6** Black follows in White's footsteps. However, the fianchetto does not have the same effect for Black, as the a8 - h1 diagonal is already occupied by the e4 -pawn. This is a rare line, but very playable

nonetheless. **3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.f4 g6** Black basically had two ways to develop the bishop. This one looks a bit dubious due to the White's 'already-deployed' queenside. **6.Qe2 Nd4 7.Qd3** True, the queen is misplaced a bit here, but this situation is temporary. **7...Bg7 8.0-0-0 Qc7 9.g3**

[ 9.Nge2 After several exchanges Black is presented the opportunity to equalize immediately. Nxe2+ 10.Nxe2 c4! 11.bxc4 Bxb2+ 12.Kxb2 Rc8 13.Qd4 Qxc4 14.Qxh8 Qxc2+ 15.Ka3 Qc5+ 16.Kb2 Qc2+ Draw by perpetual. ]

**9...Nf6 10.Bg2 Rc8 11.Nge2**

White just needs to eliminate the strong piece on d4 , but unfortunately Black has ways to balance the game. **11...Ng4 12.Rdf1**

[ Here 12.Nb5!? is an interesting exchange sacrifice which might interest some players. Nxb5 13.Bxg7 Rg8 14.Bb2 c4 15.Qxc4 Nf2 16.Qxc7 Nxc7 17.d3 Nxh1 18.Rxh1 The power of the bishop pair surely compensates White for the exchange, but not more than that. ]

**12...0-0 13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.Nb5 Ba6 15.Nxc7**

[ 15.a4 is also good enough for an advantage, but let's examine the more human continuation. ]

**15...Bxd3 16.cxd3 Rxc7+ 17.Kb1**

Black will find hard to defend the d4 - pawn once White chases the knight away from g4 . Having the bishop pair also helps.

**B20**

□ **14) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6: the Alt**  
 ■ **5...O-O**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting time, gets ready for the struggle on the long diagonal. This move seems a little odd at first sight because White has the first go along this diagonal, but Black has logical ways to parry the threats and get a normal game. Things get complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.f4** White includes this move before getting queen to f3. The benefit of stepping forward with the f pawn is strengthening the scope of the b2 bishop as we already know. **4...Bg7 5.Qf3 O-O 6.e5** Of course, we have to make use of this extra option. By pushing the knight back White gains more space and time. **6...Ne8 7.h4** Played according to the spirit of the opening! **7...d6**

[ 7...h5?? Black's kingside simply can not fight against the attack by itself. This will be a good demonstration of White's intentions. **8.g4! hxc4 9.Qxc4 d6 10.Qg2 dxe5 11.h5 Nc6 12.Nf3! Bf5 13.h6 Bf6 14.fxe5** As it turns out, White did not even need to give mate. Out of the many possible ways, this is the cleanest. ]

**8.h5 Nc6 9.hxc6 fxc6 10.Bc4+ e6 11.Qh3** Continuing the threats and attack. **11...h6 12.Qg3 dxe5 13.fxe5 Qg5** Note that Black has to find quite a few 'only moves'. This last move is no exception. **14.Qxc5 hxc5 15.Na3 Nxe5 16.O-O-O** Black has survived White's assault, and what we have now in front of us is an interesting 'queenless middlegame'. Our hopes of doubling rooks along the h-file are still alive.

B20

White's main threat is taking on e5 and playing Nf3 with tempo.

B20

□ **11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5**  
 ■ **7...g6 #2**

This move sets a little trap, as Ng4 runs into Qh3! with an advantage to White. The position after 18. Qe3 is completely equal, but there is still some fight left in it. We should try to improve the position of the pieces slowly, first starting out with Nf2. **1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straight-forward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. **4.Bc4 Nc6 5.Ne2** The knight comes to e2 so that the f2 – f4 push remains possible. **5...a6 6.a4 Nf6 7.d3 g6 8.O-O Bg7 9.f4 Nh5** This move makes lot of sense, since it makes use of the pin on the long diagonal. **10.fxe5 O-O 11.Qd2** A useful semi-waiting move. The queen on d2 supports the positional threat of a5, so now Black has to act with regard to the e5 – pawn. **11...Nxe5** Threatening ... Nf3 +. **12.Nbc3 Be6 13.Bxe6** This is the way to keep the game going. The other two 'correct' moves lead to quick draws.

[ 13.h3 we have already seen in the previous variation, while a5 leads to a different draw after Ng4 Na4 Bh6 Qc3 Bg7 Qd2, this time by a repetition of moves. ]  
**13...fxe6 14.Rxf8+ Qxf8 15.Rf1 Qe7 16.Nd1 Rf8 17.Rxf8+ Qxf8 18.Qe3**

## B20

□ 11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5  
 ■ 7...Rb8 #3

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straight-forward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. **4.Bc4 Nc6 5.Ne2** The knight comes to e2 so that the f2 – f4 push remains possible. **5...a6 6.a4 Nf6 7.d3 Rb8** Black aims to trap the bishop on c4 which cannot escape anywhere. However, the reality is that once White plays the knight to c3 , Black does not have enough capacity to make ... b5 possible, so there's no need to panic. **8.Nbc3 Be7 9.0–0 0–0 10.Kh1 Ne8** A smart reply, getting ready for White's f4 . Black vacates the f6 – square for the bishop. **11.f4 exf4 12.Nxf4 Bf6** Black occupies the important diagonal before White gets in Ncd5 . **13.Qc1 Be5 14.Nce2 b5**

[ 14...Nf6 is another way of playing this position for Black: improving the placement of his pieces. 15.Nd5 Bxb2 16.Qxb2 Ng4 17.h3 b5!

A nice counterattack. 18.axb5 axb5 19.Bxb5 Rxb5 20.hxg4 Bxg4 21.Nef4 A sample line that shows one way in which the position can be simplified. ]

**15.axb5 axb5 16.Bd5 Ne7 17.c4**

We made sure that the opponent cannot keep their bishop pair. Although the position is around equal, White has the possibility to penetrate along the a–file with his rook, and Ng1 – Nf3 ideas to improve the placement of the pieces.

## B20

□ 13) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3  
 ■ 4.e5 Alternative #1

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting time, gets ready for the struggle on the long diagonal. This move seems a little odd at first sight because White has the first go along this diagonal, but Black has logical ways to parry the threats and get a normal game. Things get complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5** The most common move in this variation. White kicks the knight immediately and wants to profit from his control over the long diagonal. **4...Nh5** This rare move does not make much sense. Why retreat to the edge of the board instead of move to the center? Black players who choose this move probably thought that knight on d5 might be harassed even more. Well, this is not the case actually, and now White gets a comfortable edge.

[ Instead, 4...Nd5 5.Qf3 is a transposition to the line 1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6 . ]

**5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qe3**

Now we see that Black has trouble bringing pieces into play. The advanced e5 –pawn, supported by the b2 –bishop is very powerful in this situation.

**7...Qa5+** Only move.

[ 7...Bg7?? 8.g4 ]

**8.Nd2 Bg7** A sad necessity. Black had no other way to develop. **9.g4**

[ 9.Bc3 Qc7 10.Ngf3 d6 11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Bxg7 Nxg7 13.Ne4 Qc7 14.Bb5 is a solid alternative to the main variation. ]

**9...Nxe5 10.b4 Nxg4**

[ 10...Qxb4? 11.Bxe5 Qxg4 12.Bxg7



Nxg7 13.Bd3 when the piece is stronger than 3 pawns. ]  
**11.bxa5 Nxe3 12.Bxg7 Nxc2+ 13.Kd1 Nxg7 14.Kxc2** Knight against three pawns is usually balanced, but here White can target the b7 –pawn and bring his pieces into play rapidly.

**B20**

□ **6) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6**  
 ■ **5. Bc4 Alternative #4**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6**

[Black attacks the e4 –pawn immediately. This particular line has some similarities with the Alapin Sicilian ( e4 c5 c3 2...Nf6 ), but with few key differences. First of all, White has the (most natural) c3 –square still available for his b1 –knight. The bishop quickly comes into play via b2 . Playing c4 in one move could be an option in the future. The only downside (compared to the Alapin) is that White might find it difficult to support the e5 –pawn in some situations. ]

**3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 g6** This is Black's main reply and is the topic of this chapter. Black immediately creates tension along the long diagonal and aims to eliminate the e5 –pawn. White must take drastic measures, since defending this pawn won't be easy. **5.Bc4** This move seriously supports the e6 –pawn thrust, as it also eyes the weak f7 –pawn.

**5...Nb6 6.e6 f6 7.exd7+**

[ 7.Bb5?! is not a good alternative, as keeping the weakened a2 – g8 diagonal under control is White's best shot. a6 8.exd7+ N6xd7! 9.Bd3 Bg7

10.Nf3 e5 11.0–0 Nc6 ]  
**7...Bxd7 8.Qe2 e5 9.f4** We should constantly try to disturb our opponent's ideal setup ( c5–e5 some kind or reversed Maroczy) with such moves.  
**9...Nxc4 10.Qxc4 b5** After gaining the bishop pair Black needs to disturb White's queen in order to be able to castle short.

[ 10...Nc6 11.fxe5 fxe5 12.Nf3 Qe7 13.0–0 0–0–0 14.Nc3 Be6 15.Qa4 White can pressurize the e5 –pawn easily and count on his chances. The position remains open for three results. In such situations where the opponent has the two bishops but a worse pawn structure (or weaker king or some sort of issue with development), play becomes sharper. So during the process of choosing variations, what type of middlegame is reached should be the main factor. ]

**11.Qe2 Nc6 12.fxe5 fxe5 13.Nc3**

[ 13.Bxe5? Grabbing the pawn and going into the endgame (although a pawn up!) is not advisable. The reasons are clearly visible at the end of the variation: Nxe5 14.Qxe5+ Qe7 15.Qxe7+ Bxe7 16.Nf3 Bf6 17.c3 0–0 ≠ Black has an excellent game with two bishops and active rooks. White will find it difficult to ever complete the development of the queenside. ]

**13...Bg7 14.Nxb5 0–0 15.0–0–0**

Again (as in many other lines after 5. Bc4!? ), the position is unbalanced and must only be chosen by players who enjoy tactical play.

□ 13) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3  
 ■ 4...d6 #2

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting time, gets ready for the struggle on the long diagonal. This move seems a little odd at first sight because White has the first go along this diagonal, but Black has logical ways to parry the threats and get a normal game. Things get complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3** The queen does a good job here; controlling main escape square ( d5 ) of the knight and getting ready for a capture on f6 in some lines. **4...d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qd3** Not only controlling d5 but also disturbing Black's development by eyeing the d6 –pawn.

[ 7.Nc3 is analyzed in the model game Gelashvili–Shahade . ]

**7...a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Bc6 10.Nd5**

[ 10.Nge2 , trying to increase control over d5 with Nge2 – Nf4 , is a dashing idea, but Black can free himself with ... f5 at the end of the line: Bg7 11.Nf4 0–0 12.0–0 b5 13.Ncd5 f5! ♣ ]

**10...Bg7 11.Nf3 0–0 12.0–0 f5**

It's a bit early for this option.

[ 12...Re8 13.Rfe1 b5 14.c4 f5 15.Rad1 fxe4 16.Rxe4 Rxe4 17.Qxe4 Kf8 18.Re1 The knight on d5 and the heavy artillery on the open e–file balance out Black's bishop pair. The fight contains imbalances, but sides have roughly equal chances. Gaining some space on the kingside with h4 and g3 is our recommendation. Ra7 13) 2...g6 3. Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3–4...d6 #4 ]

**B20**

**13.Rae1 fxe4 14.Rxe4 Kh8 15.Rfe1 b5 16.h4** A rare instance where two knights are stronger than the bishop pair.

**B20**

□ 8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6  
 ■ 4...e6 #4

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**

[ The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6 , and White players are highly likely to face one of these two, but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead. ]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be.

**5...Nc6 6.Bg2 Nde7** We have seen this maneuver before. Black's knight is heading to f5 to defend the g7 –pawn in order to facilitate Black's kingside development. We will examine two new moves in this position: Na3 and f4 . **7.f4 b6 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Nh4** Denying the ...

Nf5 jump. **9...Ng6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Nc3** With the h–file opened we are leaning towards long castling. **11...d6 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Qf3 0–0–0 14.0–0–0 Qd7 15.Qf2** The difference in activity between bishops of both sides is obvious. White's knight wants to make the jump to e4 from where it can increase the pressure.

□ 8) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6  
 ■ 4...e6 #3 (Alternative 9.Ng5)

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bb2 e6**  
 [The main moves in this position are 4...Nc6 and g6 , and White players are highly likely to face one of these two, but there are seemingly two other moves that make sense. We will not consider the transpositions (there are several of them!) and search for new possibilities instead. ]

**5.g3** One of the best approaches. Taking the important f4 –square away from the black knight is a good start. We have seen this double fianchetto setup earlier in the course and how effective it can be. **5...Nc6 6.Bg2 Nde7** We have seen this maneuver before. Black's knight is heading to f5 to defend the g7 –pawn in order to facilitate Black's kingside development. We will examine two new moves in this position: Na3 and f4 . **7.f4 b6 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Ng5** An interesting move, threatening Qh5 with a further weakening of the dark squares. Black's reply is more or less forced and also very compatible. **9...Nf5**

[Another line is 9...h5 10.Na3 Nf5 11.Nc4 Be7 12.Ne4 Rb8!

Defending the bishop on b7 solves Black's difficulties. 13.Ned6+ Bxd6 14.Nxd6+ Nxd6 15.exd6 Nd4 16.Bxb7 Rxb7 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.Qf3 Qc8! = Black's queen is heading for c6 . Once the queens are traded, both sides will win the opponent's d–pawn that is near them. Let's illustrate this scenario: 19.f5 Qc6 20.0–0 Qxf3 21.Rxf3 0–0 22.Rd3 Rc8 23.fxe6 dxe6 24.Rxd4 Rd7 25.c4 Rc6 ]

B20

**10.Qh5 g6 11.Qh3** The holes on d6 and f6 are visible. **11...h5 12.Nc3 Bg7 13.0–0–0 d5 14.exd6 Qxd6 15.Be4** White's queen is getting back into the game via g2 . Black will have to lose some time to guard the king since short castle is suicidal. Long castling requires defense of the f7 –pawn first.

[In some occasions even that is not enough, as shown in this sample trap: Qd7 Qg2 O–O–O ?? 15.Nxf7 Qxf7 Bxc6+– ]

B20

□ 13) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3  
 ■ 4...d6 #3

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting time, gets ready for the struggle on the long diagonal. This move seems a little odd at first sight because White has the first go along this diagonal, but Black has logical ways to parry the threats and get a normal game. Things get complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3** The queen does a good job here; controlling main escape square ( d5 ) of the knight and getting ready for a capture on f6 in some lines. **4...d6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Qd3** Not only controlling d5 but also disturbing Black's development by eyeing the d6 –pawn.

[ 7.Nc3 is analyzed in the model game Gelashvili–Shahade . ]

**7...a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.Nc3 Bc6 10.Nd5**

[ 10.Nge2 , trying to increase control over d5 with Nge2 – Nf4 , is a dashing idea, but Black can free himself with ... f5 at the end of the line: Bg7 11.Nf4

0-0 12.0-0 b5 13.Ncd5 f5! ♞ ]  
**10...Bg7 11.Nf3 0-0 12.0-0 f5**  
 It's a bit early for this option. **13.Rae1**  
**Bd7 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Ne7+ Qxe7**  
**16.Rxe7 Bxd3 17.cxd3** Although this  
 endgame should be approximately equal,  
 the rook on the seventh promises White  
 some chances.

□ **13) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3**  
 ■ **4...Bg7**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting  
 time, gets ready for the struggle on the  
 long diagonal. This move seems a little  
 odd at first sight because White has the  
 first go along this diagonal, but Black  
 has logical ways to parry the threats and  
 get a normal game. Things get  
 complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2**  
**Nf6 4.Qf3** The queen does a good job  
 here; controlling main escape square (d5)  
 of the knight and getting ready for a  
 capture on f6 in some lines. **4...Bg7**  
**5.e5 Ng8**

[ 5...Nh5?? This square is taboo since  
 g7 is now occupied by the bishop.  
 6.g4 ]

**6.e6 Nf6 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.g4**  
 Knowing when to break with opening  
 principles is a big weapon in chess, and  
 doing it by relying on analysis makes  
 things much easier. Black is forced to  
 reply with h6 and further weaken his  
 king. **8...h6** This makes future Bd3 ideas  
 more effective since the g6 –pawn is  
 weakened. **9.Nc3 Nc6 10.0-0-0 d5**  
 Now or never! Black attacks g4 with  
 tempo, so this move is possible. **11.h3**  
**Kg8**

[ 11...Rf8?? There is no time for  
 artificial castling: 12.Nxd5 Qxd5  
 13.Bc4 ]

**12.Re1 e5 13.Qg2 d4 14.Ne4 Be6**  
**15.h4**

[ Tiny tactics do work in favor of White:  
 Bxg4? 15.Nxf6+ and Nxg4? Nxc5  
 Bc8 Bc4+ Kh7 h5! should both win for  
 White. ]

**15...Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Bd5 17.Bc4**

White's control over the light squares  
 plus attacking potential looks extremely  
 tempting.

□ **13) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3**  
 ■ **4...Nc6**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6** Black, without wasting  
 time, gets ready for the struggle on the  
 long diagonal. This move seems a little  
 odd at first sight because White has the  
 first go along this diagonal, but Black  
 has logical ways to parry the threats and  
 get a normal game. Things get  
 complicated quite quickly here. **3.Bb2**  
**Nf6 4.Qf3** The queen does a good job  
 here; controlling main escape square (d5)  
 of the knight and getting ready for a  
 capture on f6 in some lines. **4...Nc6**  
 This move does not prevent e5 and  
 leads to very interesting play. **5.e5 Nh5**  
**6.Bc4** Now Black has to accept the  
 weakening of the dark squares, since  
 there is only one logical way to prevent  
 mate.

[ 6.Qe3 Simply attacking the c5 –  
 pawn! Nd4!? 7.Na3 Giving up the  
 dark-squared bishop and grabbing  
 the pawn is another option, but you  
 know what they say: 'The threat is

B20

B20

stronger than its execution'. d6 8.0-0-0 dxe5 9.Qxe5 Bg7 10.Qxc5 0-0 11.Ne2 e5 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Nb5 b6 14.Qb4 Re8 15.Nxd4 Re4 16.Nc6 Qe8 17.Nd4 Qd8 18.Nc6 A repetition of moves decides the result. ]

**6...e6 7.g4 Ng7 8.Qg2** Making f4 possible by moving out of the way.

**8...Qc7 9.f4 b5 10.Bd3** Capturing on b5 is way too risky. Instead, the bishop should head for the h1 – a8 diagonal as soon as possible. **10...Bb7 11.Be4**

**0-0-0 12.Nc3 a6 13.Nge2 h5 14.h3** A very awkward and unorthodox position has appeared on the board. White's biggest trump is his space advantage, and long castling is next. Backing to f3 with the bishop and trying to play Ne4 – Nd6 (or Nf6 ) is a plan that deserves attention.

**B20**

□ **13) 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3**  
 ■ **4...d6 #1**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6 Black, without wasting time, gets ready for the struggle on the long diagonal. This move seems a little odd at first sight because White has the first go along this diagonal, but Black has logical ways to parry the threats and get a normal game. Things get complicated quite quickly here. 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Qf3 The queen does a good job here; controlling main escape square ( d5 ) of the knight and getting ready for a capture on f6 in some lines. 4...d6 5.Bb5+ Bd7 We are categorizing this move as a 'positional blunder'. It illustrates what we are trying to achieve

in the 4.Qf3 variation. Black voluntarily exchanges one of the bishops and this makes life very comfortable for White. 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Nge2 0-0 10.Nf4 f5 Rightfully searching for counterplay. 11.exf5 Re8+ 12.Kf1 Ne5 13.Qg3 Qd7 14.fxg6 fxg6 15.h4 The fact that White has lost right to castle should not scare us, since the rook on h1 will be activated along the h–file soon enough.

**B20**

□ **11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5**  
 ■ **7...Rb8 #2**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5 A straightforward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.Ne2 The knight comes to e2 so that the f2 – f4 push remains possible. 5...a6 6.a4 Nf6 7.d3 Rb8 Black aims to trap the bishop on c4 which cannot escape anywhere. However, the reality is that once White plays the knight to c3 , Black does not have enough capacity to make ... b5 possible, so there's no need to panic. 8.Nbc3 Nd4 A desperate attempt to complicate matters and gain space on the queenside. Let's see why it does not succeed. 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Nd5 Now if necessary we are ready to exchange on f6 and put the bishop on d5 . 10...Be7 11.Nxe7 Qxe7 12.a5 Keeping Black's b–pawn in check. 12...0-0 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.c3 dxc3 15.Bxc3 Surely Black can counter one of the bishops with ... Be6 , but that won't solve all the problems since the bishop on c3 is very powerful.



**B20**☐ **1. 2nd Move Options #1**☒ **2nd Move Options (2. b3,4. Nc3): #4**

1.e4 c5 After 2.b3 we employ the ...g6 set-up again, challenging White on the a1-h8 diagonal. 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nd5 manages to damage Black's pawn structure after 5...0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6 7.Bc4 but White lost way too much time on this Knight adventure. Black can grab the Bishop pair with 7...Re8 8.Bd5 Nc6 9.Ne2 Nb4 for example 10.0-0 Nxd5 11.exd5 b5 12.c4 d6 intending to gain counterplay on the Queenside with ...Bd7 and ...a5-a4. Black does not mind sacrificing the b5-pawn in the style of Volga gambit as it would only open diagonals for his light-squared Bishop. 13.d3 Bg4 It is possible to put the Bishop to d7 immediately but why not to provoke a little weakening move first? 14.f3 Bd7 15.Qd2 a5 With the simple plan of ...a5-a4. It is very easy to play Black's position, meanwhile I find it quite difficult to suggest anything constructive for White.

**B20**☐ **1. 2nd Move Options #1**☒ **2nd Move Options (2. b3,4. Nc3): #3**

1.e4 c5 After 2.b3 we employ the ...g6 set-up again, challenging White on the a1-h8 diagonal. 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nd5 manages to damage Black's pawn structure after 5...0-0 6.Nxf6+ exf6 7.Bc4 but White lost way too much time on this Knight adventure. Black can grab the Bishop pair with

7...Re8 8.Bd5 Nc6 9.Ne2 Nb4 for example 10.0-0 Nxd5 11.exd5 b5 12.c4 d6 intending to gain counterplay on the Queenside with ...Bd7 and ...a5-a4. Black does not mind sacrificing the b5-pawn in the style of Volga gambit as it would only open diagonals for his light-squared Bishop. 13.cxb5 a6 is the typical Volga move and after 14.bxa6 Bxa6 15.d3 Bb7 16.Nc3 f5 Black has a lot of activity and a brilliant compensation for the pawn.

**B20**☐ **Early B3 Plans**☒ **Snyder Variation 2.b3 ♞ 4.N**

1.e4 c5 This chapter will be devoted to the setups with White playing an early b3. The idea behind this move is mainly to improvise with fianchettoing the dark-squared bishop on b2 and thus avoid mainstream theory. 2.b3 If White does this as early as the second move, Black does not have to play the ...e6 setups anymore and has more flexibility. 2...g6 This is our suggestion: position the dark-squared bishop on the same diagonal as the white bishop to negate its activity. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Of course, the knight has to be developed first. This is the simplest approach – Black continues development on the kingside and starts to pressure the white pawn on e4. Now White has some choices, but none of them promise an advantage. 4.Nc3 If White develops the queenside knight first, the question about the well-being of the e4 pawn remains. 4...Bg7 Black is threatening to take the pawn. 5.e5 Anything else is just too slow for

this particular setup. Still, having the knight on c3 has its perks – now Black can't move the knight to the central squares. 5...Nh5 The knight on h5 stands pretty well, as long as White is not threatening to win it with g4 or Be2 – keep your eyes open. At the moment, the white pawn on e5 is under attack. 6.d4 This is a novelty but it has to come together with pushing forward the e-pawn. Otherwise Black will just play ...Nc6 and ...d6, eliminating the e5 pawn and getting an excellent position after the opening. 6...cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 Although Black wins a pawn, White starts a gambit and tries to use his lead in development by castling long and starting a swift attack on the kingside. 8.Qd2 Qa5 Even though White came up with a pawn sacrifice novelty, this move should surprise him. Black does not take the pawn right away but offers White the chance to keep it, starting his own gambit. 8...Bxe5 Just to illustrate what happens after the most natural move – this is still perfectly fine for Black. 9.Nge2 otherwise castling long runs into ...Bf4. 9...Bg7 10.O-O-O Nf6 11.h3 O-O 12.g4 White has an easy initiative on the kingside. Of course, Black could have waited with castling short, but White has good compensation for the pawn and an open center. 9.f4 Protecting the pawn on e5 is not in the spirit of the position – now Black can start a strong gambit himself. 9...d6 With this move Black also parries the g4 threat, which would win the black knight on h5. 10.exd6 Bg4 11.dxe7 11.h3 Be6 White will have to constantly look back at the weakened g3 square. 11...Nxe7 Black is ahead in

development and the White king is temporarily stuck in the center. 12.h3 This is how the game could proceed from here. 12...Rd8 12...Ng3 is less clear. 13.Bd3 Bf5 14.Nge2 Bxd3 15.cxd3 0-0 Black's pieces are much more active and the absence of the pawn is scarcely felt.

**B20**

□ **Early B3 Plans**

■ **Snyder Variation 2.b3 ♣ 4.e**

1.e4 c5 This chapter will be devoted to the setups with White playing an early b3. The idea behind this move is mainly to improvise with fianchettoing the dark-squared bishop on b2 and thus avoid mainstream theory. 2.b3 If White does this as early as the second move, Black does not have to play the ...e6 setups anymore and has more flexibility. 2...g6 This is our suggestion: position the dark-squared bishop on the same diagonal as the white bishop to negate its activity. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Of course, the knight has to be developed first. This is the simplest approach – Black continues development on the kingside and starts to pressure the white pawn on e4. Now White has some choices, but none of them promise an advantage. 4.e5 Probably the most principled move – White is hoping to gain some tempi by attacking the wandering Black knight but at the expense of the vulnerable pawn on e5. 4...Nd5 There's no need to put the knight on the edge of the board if a central square is available. White has tried several continuations here, but none of them look particularly

convincing. 5.h4 This straightforward idea is interesting but the problem for White is that also Black's response is just as straightforward. 5.Bc4 Nb6 is quite a typical way to remove the knight from d5 – Black would love to trade the knight and focus on bothering the e5 pawn 6.Bxf7+?? tactically, this doesn't work 6...Kxf7 7.e6+ Kg8 Amangeldiev, G.

CCStartBracketCC2064CCEndBracket  
CC – Blomqvist, E.

CCStartBracketCC2535CCEndBracket  
CC Chess.com Titled Tuesday 2021.

Black gets two minor pieces for the rook. 5...Bg7 6.h5 Nc6 Black starts attacking the e5 pawn in earnest, not giving White time to play h6 and push the bishop to f8. 7.Nf3 d6 8.Bb5 Bg4 The battle for the e5–pawn continues. 9.hxg6 hxg6 9...fxg6 deserves attention, opening the f–file for the Black rook. 10.Rxh8+ Bxh8 11.Qe2 White barely held the position together in Navara, D.

CCStartBracketCC2734CCEndBracket  
CC – Wojtaszek, R.

CCStartBracketCC2727CCEndBracket  
CC China Elite Mind blitz 2016. There's more than one great way to continue for Black, but this one deserves some extra recognition! 11...Ndb4 12.Na3 dxe5 13.Bxe5 Not mandatory but we'll just illustrate the idea. 13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 Bxe5 15.Qxe5 Qxd2+ A very beautiful and unusual shot! 16.Kxd2 0–0–0+ Black runs away from the pin with a check and wins back the queen with some material interest.

B20

## □ Early B3 Plans

### ■ Snyder Variation 2.b3 ♠ 4.Q

1.e4 c5 This chapter will be devoted to the setups with White playing an early b3. The idea behind this move is mainly to improvise with fianchettoing the dark–squared bishop on b2 and thus avoid mainstream theory. 2.b3 If White does this as early as the second move, Black does not have to play the ...e6 setups anymore and has more flexibility. 2...g6 This is our suggestion: position the dark–squared bishop on the same diagonal as the white bishop to negate its activity. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Of course, the knight has to be developed first. This is the simplest approach – Black continues development on the kingside and starts to pressure the white pawn on e4. Now White has some choices, but none of them promise an advantage. 4.Qf3 This is not a very serious move and mainly linked with an immediate e5 threat a move or two later so that Black can't respond with ...Nh5 or ...Nd5. It's easy to parry. 4...d6 The simplest of all responses – Black stops the incoming e5 threat for good and is going for a Sicilian Dragon setup. It's not clear what exactly White is building. 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 Black values the light–squared bishop and would like to keep it. 6.Bxf6 Otherwise Black will just play ...Bg7 next and have a harmonious development. 6...exf6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Qf4 White has this idea to go after the d–pawn which is not so simple defend. However, Black can afford to play a gambit! 8...0–0 9.Qxd6 f5 Something has gone wrong with White's development. 10.Nge2

10.exf5 the greedy approach is not a good strategy. 10...Bxc3! 11.dxc3 Qa5 White eventually loses a piece 12.Qd3 Ne5 . 10...fxe4 11.Bxd7 Bxd7 12.Qxc5 Short, N.

CCStartBracketCC2678CCEndBracket  
CC – Dobrov, V.

CCStartBracketCC2515CCEndBracket  
CC World Rapid championship 2017.

Here Black could have cemented his advantage with simple and developing moves. 12...Re8 13.0-0 b6 14.Qe3 Bc6 Black is down a pawn but the powerful bishops and the far advanced pawn on e4 create major headaches for White.

### □ Early B3 Plans

#### ■ Snyder Variation 2.b3 ♖ 4.N

1.e4 c5 This chapter will be devoted to the setups with White playing an early b3. The idea behind this move is mainly to improvise with fianchettoing the dark-squared bishop on b2 and thus avoid mainstream theory. 2.b3 If White does this as early as the second move, Black does not have to play the ...e6 setups anymore and has more flexibility. 2...g6 This is our suggestion: position the dark-squared bishop on the same diagonal as the white bishop to negate its activity. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Of course, the knight has to be developed first. This is the simplest approach – Black continues development on the kingside and starts to pressure the white pawn on e4. Now White has some choices, but none of them promise an advantage. 4.Nc3 If White develops the queenside

knight first, the question about the well-being of the e4 pawn remains. 4...Bg7 Black is threatening to take the pawn. 5.e5 Anything else is just too slow for this particular setup. Still, having the knight on c3 has its perks – now Black can't move the knight to the central squares. 5...Nh5 The knight on h5 stands pretty well, as long as White is not threatening to win it with g4 or Be2 – keep your eyes open. At the moment, the white pawn on e5 is under attack. 6.d4 This is a novelty but it has to come together with pushing forward the e-pawn. Otherwise Black will just play ... Nc6 and ...d6, eliminating the e5 pawn and getting an excellent position after the opening. 6...cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 Although Black wins a pawn, White starts a gambit and tries to use his lead in development by castling long and starting a swift attack on the kingside. 8.Qd2 Qa5 Even though White came up with a pawn sacrifice novelty, this move should surprise him. Black does not take the pawn right away but offers White the chance to keep it, starting his own gambit. 8...Bxe5 Just to illustrate what happens after the most natural move – this is still perfectly fine for Black. 9. Nge2 otherwise castling long runs into ...Bf4. 9...Bg7 10.O-O-O Nf6 11.h3 O-O 12.g4 White has an easy initiative on the kingside. Of course, Black could have waited with castling short, but White has good compensation for the pawn and an open center. 9.g4 This move starts a forced sequence – the knight is not lost as Black takes the pawn on e5 with a check. 9...Qxe5+ 10.Nge2 Nf6 11.Bg2 White is about to castle long and start something on the

**B20**

kingside. 11...0-0 Now the g4-pawn is under attack as the bishop on g7 is protected. 11...Nxg4?? 12.Nd1 nothing is free in this world. 12.g5 Nh5 13.0-0-0 From here the game is less forced, but Black should look towards the queenside counterplay as quickly as possible. 13...d6 14.f4 Qa5 15.Bf3 Bf5 The last thing Black wants to do here is go into a passive defense and watch how White develops his kingside initiative. The chances are about equal, but as they say – the best player wins.

**B20**

☐ **Early B3 Plans**

☒ **Snyder Variation 2.b3 ♖ 4.e**

1.e4 c5 This chapter will be devoted to the setups with White playing an early b3. The idea behind this move is mainly to improvise with fianchettoing the dark-squared bishop on b2 and thus avoid mainstream theory. 2.b3 If White does this as early as the second move, Black does not have to play the ...e6 setups anymore and has more flexibility. 2...g6 This is our suggestion: position the dark-squared bishop on the same diagonal as the white bishop to negate its activity. 3.Bb2 Nf6 Of course, the knight has to be developed first. This is the simplest approach – Black continues development on the kingside and starts to pressure the white pawn on e4. Now White has some choices, but none of them promise an advantage. 4.e5 Probably the most principled move – White is hoping to gain some tempi by attacking the wandering Black knight but at the expense of the vulnerable pawn

on e5. 4...Nd5 There's no need to put the knight on the edge of the board if a central square is available. White has tried several continuations here, but none of them look particularly convincing. 5.Nc3 Before starting active operations in the center, White removes the black knight from the center. 5...Nxc3 Black shouldn't mind the trade, as long as he is able to start pressuring the White pawn on e5. 6.Bxc3 Bg7 7.h4 This idea we already remember without including the knight trade. Black's response is very similar – don't wait for White to play h5-h6. 7...Nc6 8.h5 Bxe5 It's alright to take the pawn, as long as you are not starting to play passively to keep it. 8...d5 also looks interesting with ideas of gambiting in a similar fashion, shown in the previous alternative. 9.Bxe5 Nxe5 10.f4 Nc6 11.hxg6 fxg6 End of the forced sequence – be ready to evacuate the king! 12.Bd3 d6 No pawn is worth the king's safety. 13.Bxg6+ Kd7 The black king escapes to c7, giving Black a rich game.

**B20**

☐ **1. 2nd Move Options #1**

☒ **2nd Move Options (2. b3, 4. e5): #5**

1.e4 c5 After 2.b3 we employ the ...g6 set-up again, challenging White on the a1-h8 diagonal. 2...g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 This is, of course, the critical move, trying to punish the weakening of the long diagonal. Analysis as well as practical results are clearly unfavourable for the first player, though. 4...Nd5 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 looks quite



artificial to me. Black is scoring very well in practice with the natural 7...0-0 8.Bd3 d5 one nice point to remember is 9.exd6 e5 when Black will establish central dominance with a subsequent ... Qxd6, ... Nc6 and ...Re8. The e5-pawn is taboo due to 10.Nxe5 Re8 11.f4 f6

□ **12) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e6 and 3...a**  
 ■ **3...e6 #2**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2** Moves like **3...e6** and a6 are played very rarely at the highest level, but that does not mean that they are poor choices. Both moves do have logic behind them, and can be applied by any Sicilian player. The move 3... e6 obviously creates a 'small center' for Black, and his standard development should be like Nf6 – Be7 and short castle.

[Moves like 3...e6 and a6 are played very rarely at the highest level, but that does not mean that they are poor choices. Both moves do have logic behind them, and can be applied by any Sicilian player. The move 3... e6 obviously creates a 'small center' for Black, and his standard development should be like Nf6 – Be7 and short castle. ]

**4.d4** Again, this is our best shot to pull ahead. We can easily create a formula for such position: If Black ignores the development of the knights, the move d4 ! is very pleasant and effective. **4...cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qe3 Nf6 7.Nc3 d5** Kind of an only move for Black. This might seem like an exaggeration, but the second player should not wish to

play these set-ups by allowing White to build his position slowly but surely.

### **8.exd5**

[ 8.0-0-0 ? We should avoid this 'attractive looking' trap. d4! 9.Qe2 Nd7 10.Nb1 ( 10.Nd5 Bd6 White loses a piece here. ) 10...Qc7 11.Nf3 e5 12.c3 Nc5 ]

**8...Nxd5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Nf3 Bc5 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Nxd2 0-0 13.Ne4**

The only way to fight for an advantage: Going after the weakness on d6 .

**13...Bb4+ 14.c3 Be7 15.0-0-0 b6**

[ 15...Rd8 16.Rxd8+ Nxd8 17.Be2 White has a very simple plan: Rd1 and placing the knight on d6 . White's position looks so easy to play and without any risk. 12) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e6 and 3...a-3...e6 #3 ]

**16.Bb5 Nb8**

[ 16...Bb7?? 17.Rd7 wins a piece. ]

**17.Nd6 Bd7 18.a4** Inviting Black to play ... a6 and create a weakness on b6 .

**18...a6 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Nc8**

[Note that 20.Nxf7?? is a blunder due to Rxf7 21.Rxd7 Bg5+ with a discovered attack on the rook. ]

**20...Rfxc8 21.Rxd7 Bc5 22.f3**

This is an endgame where only White can press for the full point thanks to the active rook on d7 .

**B20**

□ **11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5**  
 ■ **4.f4 Alternative #5**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straight-forward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. **4.f4** We know the f4 lines with Bb5 check included. Now it is

a bit different as White has the option of developing the light-squared bishop to c4 . 4...Nc6 5.Nc3 We want to keep the f3 -square available for the queen in case Black changes his mind and captures on f4 . 5...exf4 6.Qf3 Nd4 Black should not stay passive after grabbing on f4 . 7.Bb5+ Nxb5 8.Nxb5 a6 9.Nc3 Qh4+ Black needs some simplifications and time. This move helps with that, as White loses the right to castle. 10.Qf2 Qxf2+ 11.Kxf2 Nf6 12.Nge2 Be7 13.Nxf4 0-0 14.Rhf1 b5 15.Kg1 Bb7 16.d3 Maneuvering the knight to f5 is one of the ways to improve our position. Apart from that, White is solid and should not face any danger even with modest play.

B20

□ 11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5  
 ■ 4.f4 Alternative #4

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straight-forward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. **4.f4** We know the f4 lines with Bb5 check included. Now it is a bit different as White has the option of developing the light-squared bishop to c4 . **4...Nc6 5.Nc3** We want to keep the f3 -square available for the queen in case Black changes his mind and captures on f4 . **5...exf4 6.Qf3 Nd4** Black should not stay passive after grabbing on f4 . **7.Bb5+ Bd7** With the idea of keeping the central knight on d4 , which also means that Black is indirectly protecting the pawn on f4 . **8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Qd3 Ne7** A flexible move, intending to go to c6 or

g6 depending on the situation.

[ 9...Nf6?! , developing the knight to its natural square, is not challenging for White at all: 10.0-0-0 Ng4 11.Qf1! g6 12.Nge2 Bg7 13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.Nd5 ]

**10.0-0-0 0-0-0 11.Nge2**

Black's knight can no longer keep its central post after this move. **11...Nxe2+** [ 11...Nec6? 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Nd5 with the strong positional threat of Bxd4 . ]

**12.Qxe2 Rg8**

[ 12...d5? 13.d4! ± ]

**13.Qf2 g5 14.g3** This line show the positional drawbacks of capturing on f4 . White will eventually regain the pawn with a healthier formation.

B20

□ 12) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e6 and 3...a  
 ■ 3...e6 #4

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e6**

[ Moves like 3...e6 and a6 are played very rarely at the highest level, but that does not mean that they are poor choices. Both moves do have logic behind them, and can be applied by any Sicilian player. The move 3...e6 obviously creates a 'small center' for Black, and his standard development should be like Nf6 – Be7 and short castle. ]

**4.d4** Again, this is our best shot to pull ahead. We can easily create a formula for such position: If Black ignores the development of the knights, the move d4 ! is very pleasant and effective. **4...cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qe3 Nf6 7.Nc3 d5** Kind of an only move for Black. This

might seem like an exaggeration, but the second player should not wish to play these set-ups by allowing White to build his position slowly but surely.

### 8.exd5

[ 8.0-0-0 ? We should avoid this 'attractive looking' trap. d4! 9.Qe2 Nd7 10.Nb1 ( 10.Nd5 Bd6 White loses a piece here. ) 10...Qc7 11.Nf3 e5 12.c3 Nc5 ]

**8...Nxd5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Nf3 Bc5**

**11.Qd2 f6 12.Rd1 Qxd2+ 13.Nxd2**

**Bd7 14.Ne4 Be7** Black should not give a check on b4 this time, as c3 would be quite useful for White, taking away the b4 and d4 –squares from the knight.

**15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.Rxd6 0-0-0 17.Be2**

The two bishops guarantee a stable advantage to White. This is one of those games where we play only for 'two results'.

**B20**

□ **12) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e6 and 3...a**

■ **3...a6 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 a6 4.d4**

The moment Black does not keep an eye on d4 , we have this beautiful option.

**4...Nf6 5.dxc5 Nxe4 6.cxd6 Nxd6**

[ 6...Nc6 This pawn sacrifice looks interesting. White is not forced to accept it and may continue in a normal manner to gain small plus:

7.Nd2 Nxd6 8.Bd3 transposes to the main line. ]

**7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bf5 9.0-0 e6**

**10.Re1** The following motif is one of our strongest weapons, and the b2 –bishop shines fully: Black is experiencing difficulties completing development due

to the disturbance on g7 . **10...Nb4**

**11.Bxf5 Nxf5** Although it has cost him some valuable time, Black is about to solve the issue by forcing White to take on f5 . **12.Qe2 Be7 13.a3 Nc6**

**14.Nbd2 0-0 15.Rad1** White has a lead in development (just take a look at the rooks!) and is ready to advance on the queenside with b4 and c4 .

**B20**

□ **11) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e5**

■ **7...g6 #3**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e5** A straightforward approach! Black shows his intentions from the get-go and closes out our bishop. **4.Bc4 Nc6 5.Ne2**

The knight comes to e2 so that the f2 –f4 push remains possible. **5...a6 6.a4**

**Nf6 7.d3 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.f4 0-0**

**10.h3** Let's not forget that we have our

bishop on the a1 – h8 diagonal, and after moving our f–pawn forward, the e3 –square has been weakened. One of

Black's main tricks in such positions is taking full advantage of this by playing ...

Ng4 at the right moment. Therefore h3 is a useful move. **10...Nh5 11.fxe5 Nxe5**

**12.Nbc3 Nxc4 13.dxc4** In order to

continue the fight this capture is mandatory.

[ 13.bxc4 Bxh3! Similarly to the variation 9...Nh5 , here Black can end the game (we are talking about equality!) immediately. **14.gxh3 Qg5+ 15.Kh1 Qe3 16.Kg2 ( 16.Ng1?!**

is playable, but not without some

risks. **Ng3+ 17.Kg2 Nxf1 18.Kxf1**

**Bd4 19.Kg2 f5 ) 16...Qg5+ 17.Kh1**

**Qe3 ]**

**13...Be5 14.Qc1** The bishop on b2 needs protection so that the c3 –knight can move freely. **14...Be6 15.Nd1** White needs to offer the swap of the dark-squared bishops, as Black's bishop is much more powerful in this particular position. **15...Bxb2**

[The immediate 15...Qh4 is slightly different to 15... Bxb2 16. Qxb2 Qh4 : Black's d6 –pawn will get to e5 , but White's queen is closer to the main action area. 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Qe3 Rae8 18.Rf3 Preparing for Black's obvious next move. f5 19.Ndc3 with an unclear position. ]

**16.Qxb2 Qh4 17.Ndc3 f5 18.exf5 Rxf5 19.Qc1** White is in time to defend against Black's threats. **19...Rxf1+ 20.Qxf1 Rf8 21.Qe1** White would love to play the endgame without queens, but that seems like a long shot. After the retreat of the black queen White can try Rd1 – Nd5 idea to search for a slight edge.

[In case of Qg5 we have 21.Ng3! , making use of the hanging bishop on e6 , but even there the position is balanced. ]

**B20**

□ **12) 2...d6 3.Bb2 e6 and 3...a**  
 ■ **3...e6 #1**

**1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.Bb2 e6**

[Moves like 3...e6 and a6 are played very rarely at the highest level, but that does not mean that they are poor choices. Both moves do have logic behind them, and can be applied by any Sicilian player. The move 3... e6 obviously creates a 'small center'

for Black, and his standard development should be like Nf6 – Be7 and short castle. ]

**4.d4** Again, this is our best shot to pull ahead. We can easily create a formula for such position: If Black ignores the development of the knights, the move d4 ! is very pleasant and effective. **4...cxd4**

**5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qe3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Be7**

It pays to invest White's 'dream scenario'. **8.0–0–0 0–0 9.Kb1 Qa5**

**10.f4 d5 11.Nge2 Rd8**

[ 11...dxe4?! 12.Nxe4 Rd8 13.Rxd8+ Qxd8 14.N2c3 Nd5 15.Qf2 Nxc3+ 16.Nxc3 Bd7 17.Bc4 This leads to a one-sided game in which White can choose to play for an attack or simply in the center with Rd1 . ]

**12.e5 Ne8 13.g4 Nc7 14.Bg2**

Not rushing and finishing the development. Now White is ready for operations on the kingside. **14...Ba3 15.Bxa3 Qxa3 16.Rhf1 a5 17.f5 a4 18.f6 axb3 19.cxb3** The difference in timing is so obvious. White has already managed to gain a significant advantage by weakening the dark squares around the enemy king, whereas for Black still several moves are necessary before he can create a threat.