

Round 1. Game 4
31 May 2007

Aronian-Carlsen
Bogo-Indian Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Yury Yakovich

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3!?

Aronian rules out the Volga Gambit, which occurred in the 2nd game of this match (2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5!?).

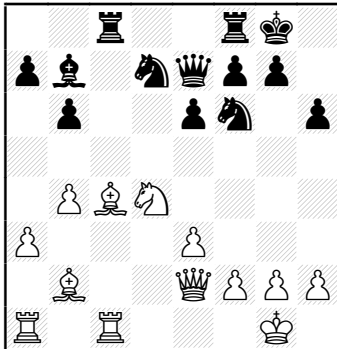
2...e6 3.c4 ♙b4+ 4.♗bd2

More common is 4.♙d2, but I prefer the text. White will soon obtain the bishop pair, and Black has to play very accurately to avoid strategically inferior position.

4...b6 5.a3 ♙xd2+ 6.♖xd2 ♙b7 7.e3 0-0 8.b4 d5?!

A dubious plan. Sooner or later Black will have to open the center by c7-c5, after which White's bishop pair will become a force to reckon with. Safer is 8...d6 9.♙b2 ♗bd7 10.♙e2, and then one can start standard kingside play by 10...♗e4 11.♖c2 f5, or play in the center - 10...♖e7 11.0-0 c5. 8...a5!? also deserves attention, considering the move order selected by White.

9.♙b2 ♗bd7 10.♙d3 dxc4 11.♙xc4 c5 12.0-0 ♖c8 13.♖e2 ♖e7 14.♖fc1 cxd4 15.♗xd4 h6



White has a secure advantage. Aronian could play 16.f3!? followed by e4, playing against the b7-bishop, but he preferred to use weakness of Black's queenside.

16.♙a6!?

The two bishop advantage sometimes allows swapping one of them in order to transpose to a position with the advantage of a different kind.

16...♙xa6 17.♖xa6 ♖xc1+ 18.♖xc1 ♗b8

Covering the c6-square.

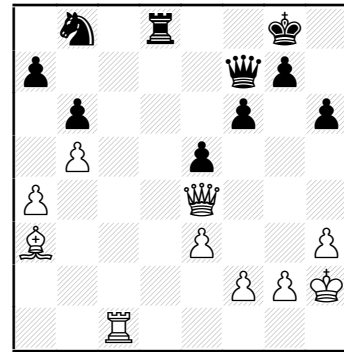
19.♖c4 ♖d8 20.h3 ♗e8 21.b5 ♖d5 22.♖e2 ♖c5 23.♖d1 ♖c8 24.♖f3

White's advantage is so stable that Black can only stand still and try parrying concrete threats.

24...♖d8 25.♖c1 ♗d6 26.a4 e5 27.♗f5 ♗xf5 28.♖xf5 f6 29.♖e4

The Black's knight is doomed on b8, as 29...♗d7 runs into 30.♖c7, and White wins.

29...♖f7 30.♙a3 ♗h8 31.♗h2 ♗g8



32.♙d6!

Gaining control of the c7-square. Now Black is unable to defend his queenside pawns.

32...♖d7 33.♙c7 ♖f8 34.♖c2 ♖e8 35.♖c4 ♖f7 36.♙d6 ♖d8 37.♖c7 ♗d7 38.♖c6 ♖e6 39.♖xa7 ♗f7 40.♖xb6

Black resigns. Unfortunately, after the free day, Carlsen played way below his usual strength. Aronian accurately converted his positional plus.

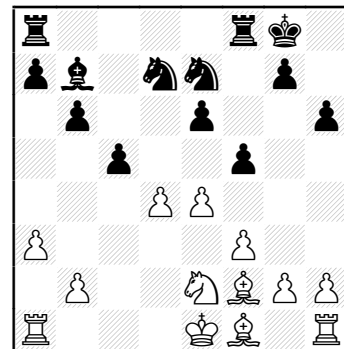
Gurevich-Leko

Nimzo-Indian Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♙b4 4.♖c2 0-0 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.♖xc3 b6 7.♙g5 ♙b7 8.f3 h6 9.♙h4 d5 10.e3 ♗bd7 11.cxd5 ♗xd5 12.♙xd8 ♗xc3 13.♙h4 ♗d5 14.♙f2 c5 15.e4 ♗e7 16.♗e2

In the second game of the match, Gurevich selected an unsuccessful 16.0-0-0?!, and after 16...♖ac8 17.♗b1 c4! 18.♗e2 f5! 19.exf5 ♗xf5 20.♗c3 ♗f6 Black seized the d5-square, and started dictating his will.

16...f5!



Almost a novelty! This move occurred once in a postal game. Unlike the second game, here White is able to keep a pawn on e4. Nevertheless, this undermining weakens the e4-pawn and opens the f-file. Usually Black continued 16...♖ac8 17.♘c3 with a small advantage to White after 17...cxd4 18.♙xd4 ♘c5 19.♖d1 ♗fd8 20.♙e3 ♖xd1+ 21.♙xd1 e5 22.b4! ♘e6 23.♙c2 ♘c6 24.♙b2 (Kramnik-Leko, Dortmund 2006). Black lost that game, but the ending is of course drawn.

17.♘g3

After 17.exf5 ♘xf5 18.dxc5 ♘xc5 Black did not have any problems in Runtig-Asquith (corr., 2002).

17...fxe4 18.fxe4 cxd4 19.♙xd4

White relies on his bishop pair, however, he still has to complete development. Besides, the Black's knights have good outposts, such as e5.

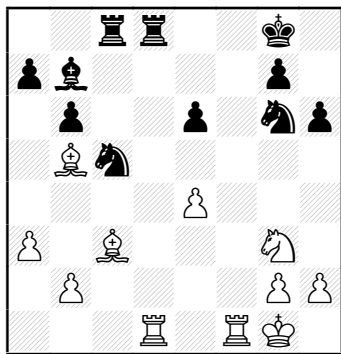
19...♖ac8

And attempt to exert pressure on e4 by 19...♘f6 is met by 20.♙c4! (in case of 20.♙xf6 ♖xf6 21.♙c4 ♖c8 22.b3 ♖c6!? planning ...♘e7-g6 Black is okay) 20...♘xe4 21.♙xe6+ ♙h7 (21...♙h8? 22.♘h5!) 22.♘xe4 ♙xe4 23.0-0-0, and the bishop pair is troublesome for Black in this open position.

20.♖d1 ♗fd8

20...e5!? was worthy of consideration. 21.♙c3 ♘c5, and then 22.♙c4+ ♙h7 23.♙xe5 ♘xe4 24.♖d7 ♖xc4 25.♖xe7 ♖c1+ 26.♙e2 ♘xg3+ 27.hxg3 ♙a6+ 28.♙e3 ♖xh1 29.♖xg7+ ♙h8, and White has nothing more than perpetual. However, the text is also quite good.

21.♙c3 ♘g6 22.♙b5 ♘c5 23.0-0



White has finally completed the mobilization, but now Black trades one of the bishops.

23...♙a6 24.♙xa6 ♘xa6 25.♖xd8+

An attempt to obtain some outposts for the pieces by 25.♘h5 e5 26.♘g3 does not bring much: 26...♘c5 27.♖d5 ♘a4 28.♘e2 ♖xd5 29.exd5 ♘xb2! 30.♙xb2 ♖c2 31.♙xe5 ♘xe5, and White has to demonstrate some accuracy to make a draw.

25...♖xd8 26.b4 ♘c7 27.a4

The match situation forced Gurevich to play actively. One could simplify the game by 27.♙b2!? ♖d2 (27...♘e8 28.a4) 28.♖f2 ♖d1+ 29.♖f1.

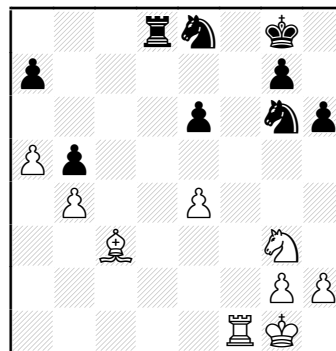
27...b5!

Fixing the opponent's b-pawn on a light square, as White is left with a light-squared bishop.

28.a5

28.♖a1 bxa4 29.♖xa4 ♘b5 is also more pleasant for Black.

28...♘e8



29.♘e2

White still cannot find a place for his knight. In a middlegame one could think about e4-e5 followed by ♘g3-e4, but here it only gives Black more squares for the knights: 29.e5 ♘c7 30.♘e4 ♖d3 31.♙e1 (31.♖c1?! ♘d5) 31...♘d5 with initiative. Probably staying still is a better option: 29.h3 a6 30.♖f2, and the White's position is inferior but defensible.

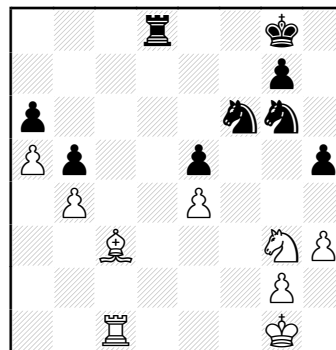
29...e5 30.♖c1 ♘f6 31.♘g3 h5!

Black starts creating some real threats!

32.h3

This move does nothing against Black's activity, but White is already in big trouble! An attempt to prepare invasion by 32.♙e1 is met by 32...♘f4 (but not 32...h4?! 33.♘f5 ♘xe4 34.♖c7 ♖d1 35.♖xg7+ ♙f8 36.♙f1 ♘f4 37.g3 hxg3 38.hxg3 ♘d3 39.♙e2 ♖xe1+ 40.♙xd3 ♘d6! 41.♖g5 with a possible draw) 33.♙f1 ♘g4, and the Black's knights look threatening.

32...a6



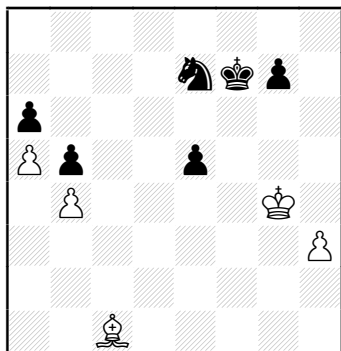
Leko is not in hurry, but 32...♖c8!? is also worthy of consideration.

33.♙h2?

Mistakes in defense usually lead to more serious

consequences. White needed to seek counterchances by 33. ♖e1 ♜f4 34. ♗f1 h4 35. ♜f5 ♜xe4 36. ♜xh4 etc. 33... ♜c8 34. ♜d2 ♜xc1 35. ♜xc1 h4 36. ♜f5 ♜xe4

Now White is just a pawn down. 37. g3 hxg3+ 38. ♜xg3 ♜xg3 39. ♗xg3 ♗f7 40. ♗g4 ♜e7



Black has an easy plan of improving his position, threatening by either promoting the e-pawn or winning the b-pawn. Gurevich decided not to test the opponent's technique, and congratulated Leko with the victory in the game and in the match.

Rublevsky-Ponomarev Sicilian Defense

Notes by grandmaster Ruslan Scherbakov

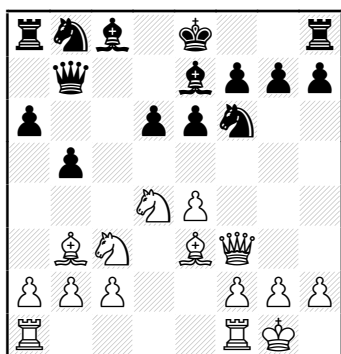
1. e4 c5 2. ♜f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♜xd4 ♜f6 5. ♜c3 a6 6. ♜c4 e6 7. ♜b3 b5

In the second game of the match Ruslan selected a riskier 7... ♜bd7 8. ♜g5 ♗a5 9. ♗d2 ♜e7 10. 0-0-0 ♜c5.

8. 0-0 ♜e7 9. ♗f3 ♗b6

Another direction is 9... ♗c7 10. ♗g3, and here Black chooses between 10... ♜c6 and 10... 0-0.

10. ♜e3 ♗b7



A rather unusual maneuver. Normally this square is occupied by a bishop, but in such positions Black

should often put the bishop on d7, in order to keep an eye on the e6-square in case White goes f2-f4-f5. In addition, the d7-bishop supports Black's queenside play.

11. ♗g3 b4 12. ♜a4 ♜bd7 13. f3 0-0 14. ♜ac1

White has to take care of the a4-knight and the b3-bishop. Developing any kingside play is surely late. 14. ♜h6? is bad due to 14... ♜h5! 15. ♗h3 gxh6! 16. ♗xh5 ♗a7! 17. ♜ad1 e5 (Polgar-Gelfand, Dos Hermanas 1994). Rather submissive play in Short-Kasparov (London rapid (m/2) 1993) 14. ♜ad1 ♜h8 15. ♜fe1 ♜b8 16. ♜h1 ♜e5 17. ♜e2 ♗c7 18. c3 ♜d7 allowed Black to create queenside pressure.

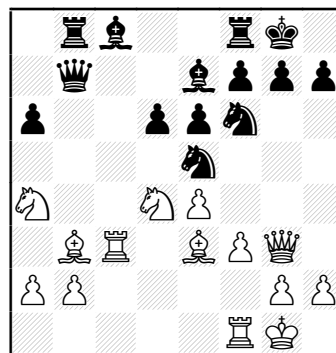
14... ♜b8!?

A novelty. Black frees the d7-knight from guarding the b6-square. On 14... ♜e5 White has 15. ♜b6, trading a bad knight for Black's light-squared bishop, as 15... ♗xb6?? loses instantly to 16. ♜f5.

15. c3 bxc3

15... ♜e5!? is probably more accurate.

16. ♜xc3 ♜e5



17. ♜fc1

Nevertheless, White could think about 17. ♜b6!? ♗xb6 18. ♜xe6!, which leads to a position with non-standard material ratio after 18... ♗xe3+ (18... ♜h5!? also deserves attention) 19. ♜xe3 fxe6. Rublevsky does not want to complicate things.

17... ♜d7 18. ♗e1

Turning to the queenside completely, before it is too late.

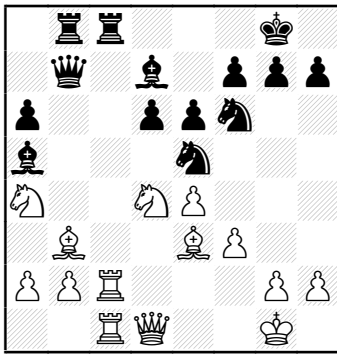
18... ♜d8

A good maneuver.

19. ♗d1 ♜a5

Black could capture a pawn by 19... ♜xa4 20. ♜xa4 ♗xb2, but it is rather dangerous. After 21. a3 ♜a5 22. ♜b3 ♜xb3 23. ♗xb3 ♗xb3 24. ♜xb3 ♜d8 his queenside is left without defenders and passivity of the rook can also lead to dire consequences.

20. ♜3c2 ♜fc8



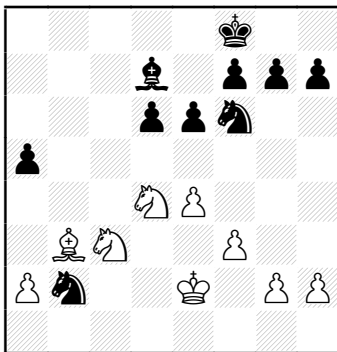
An attempt to trouble White on the a7-g1 diagonal by 20...♙xa4 21.♙xa4 ♘b6 does not bring fruits – after a simple 22.♙h1 the bishop is just gone for nothing. 21.♞xc8+ ♞xc8 22.♞xc8+ ♞xc8 23.♙d2 ♞c7 24.♙xa5 ♞xa5 25.♗c3

White reduced the opponent's activity by exchanges.

25...♞c5 26.♙f1 a5 27.♗de2 ♙f8 28.♞d4

Continuing in the same style.

28...♞xd4 29.♗xd4 ♗d3 30.♙e2 ♗xb2



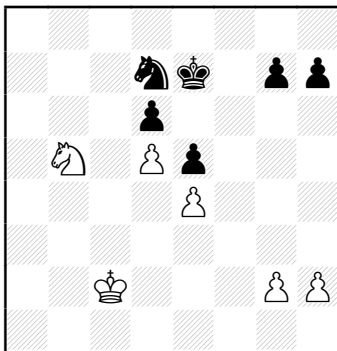
31.♙d2

An attempt to trap the knight by 31.a4 is parried by 31...d5, securing the c4-square for the knight, while in case of a more refined 31.a3!? Black could think about 31...♙c8!? with the idea of ...♙c8-a6.

31...a4 32.♙c2 axb3+ 33.axb3 e5 34.♗de2 ♗c4!

Black does not allow White to create an outside passed pawn.

35.bxc4 ♙e6 36.♗d5 ♗d7 37.♗ec3 f5 38.♗b5 fxe4 39.fxe4 ♙xd5 40.cxd5 ♙e7



Mass exchanges led to an endgame with a symbolic plus to White. His space advantage is not playing any role, because his king cannot march into the enemy camp: the e4-pawn always requires protection. A draw is imminent.

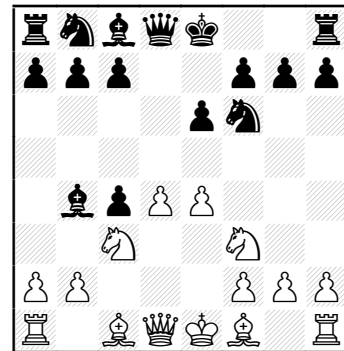
41.♙d3 ♗f6 42.♗a3 ♗g4 43.h3 ♗f6 44.♗c4 ♙d7 45.♙e3 ♙e7 46.♙f3 ♙d7 47.g4 h6 48.♗e3 g6 49.♗g2 ♙e7 50.♗h4 ♙f7 51.♙e3 ♗h7 52.♗f3 ♙f6 53.h4 ♙e7 54.♗d2 ♗f6 55.♙f3 ♙d7 56.g5, and the players shook hands. Game drawn.

Kasimdzhanov-Gelfand

Queen's Gambit

Notes by grandmaster Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 d5 4.♗c3 dxc4 5.e4 ♙b4



6.♙xc4!?

A very rare continuation – White sacrifices a pawn, but seizes the initiative thanks to his development lead. The main lines of the Vienna Variation start with 6.♙g5 c5, and then 7.e5 or 7.♙xc4.

6...♗xe4 7.0-0 ♗xc3

7...♗f6 does not promise complete equality: 8.♞a4+ ♗c6 9.♗e5 ♙e7 10.♗xc6 bxc6 11.♞xc6+ ♙d7 12.♞f3 (Gustafsson-Aronian, playchess.com 2004). Dubious is 7...♙xc3?! 8.bxc3 ♗xc3 9.♞b3 (or 9.♞d3 ♗d5 10.♙a3) 9...♗d5 10.♙a3 ♗c6 11.♞fe1 ♗ce7 12.♙xe7 ♗xe7 13.d5 with strong initiative (S.Pedersen-P.H.Nielsen, Faaborg 2007)

8.bxc3 ♙e7

Greedy 8...♙xc3?! could get Black into trouble: 9.♞b1 c5!? (9...0-0 10.♞d3 and ♗f3-g5) 10.♙g5 f6 11.♞b3!? cxd4 (or 11...fxg5 12.♙xe6) 12.♙xe6, and the Black's king falls under strong attack.

9.♗e5 0-0 10.♞g4

Development lead and control of the center allows White to start kingside operations.

10...♙h8

A new move – Black radically prevents 11.♙h6. Potkin – Kharlov (Sochi 2006) went 10...♗c6 11.♙h6 ♙f6 12.f4 with more than adequate compensation for a pawn.

11.♞h3 ♞e8 12.♙d3 f5 13.♞e1

An unexpected retreat 13.♙e2!? with the idea ♙e2-h5 looks interesting. In this case Black would have to play

13...♔g8 14.♗h5 ♖d8.

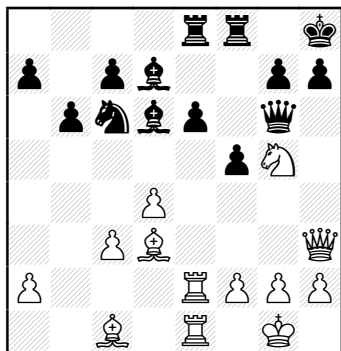
13...♘c6 14.♘f3

White saves the knight from being exchanged, as did Carlsen in the 3rd game against Aronian. However, this position is a bit different. A natural 14...♗f4! has to be considered, too.

14...♖g6 15.♗b1 ♗d6 16.♗b2!?

A tempting maneuver. The bishop doesn't have to move, as it has enough scope from c1, while doubling the rooks on the e-file should increase pressure on Black. Yet, Black's defensive resources are rich enough.

16...b6 17.♗be2 ♗d7 18.♘g5 ♗ae8



19.♗b5

On 19.♗c4?! Black could respond 19...e5!, and 19.f4?! h6 is also not too scary for Black. But maybe White had to play it anyway, in order to stop the e-pawn.

19...h6

Interesting is 19...e5!? 20.♗xc6 (on 20.dxe5?! there is 20...♗xe5!) 20...♗xc6 21.dxe5 ♗e7 with an excellent game. The text-move is also possible.

20.♗xc6 ♗xc6 21.♘xe6 ♗g8 22.c4 ♗d7!?

Black is not interested in 22...♗b4 23.♘f4 ♖f7 24.♗xe8 ♗xe8 25.♗xe8+ ♖xe8 26.♖e3 ♖xe3 27.♗xe3, and White holds the balance.

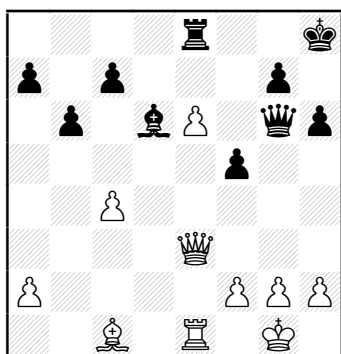
23.d5?!

The knight retreat is safer: 23.♘f4 ♖f7 24.d5 etc.

23...♗xe6 24.♗xe6 ♗xe6 25.dxe6?!

This loses a pawn. Better is 25.♗xe6 ♗e8! 26.♗xh6! ♗xe6 (26...gxf6?? 27.♖c3+) 27.♗d2+ ♔g8 28.dxe6 ♖xe6 29.♖d3 with inferior but defensible position.

25...♗e8 26.♖e3



26...f4?

The time deficit begins to tell. One could take the pawn by 26...♗b4, and 27.♗e2? is bad in view of 27...f4! 28.♖xf4 ♖d3. Also good is 26...♗c5!? 27.♖e2 ♗b4!

27.♖e4 ♖xe4 28.♗xe4

Now White is okay, although the e6-pawn still requires some care.

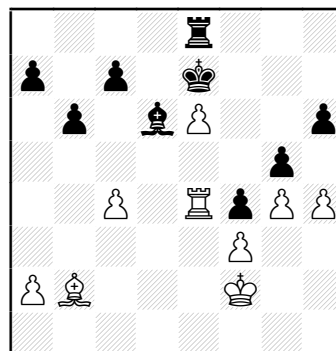
28...♔h7 29.f3

Building a pawn chain by 29.g4?! fxg3 30.hxg3 is impossible due to 30...h5!, and after 31.♗e2 ♔g6 32.♗b2 Black improves his position by 32...♗e7 etc. Rustam didn't want to play an inferior rook ending after 29.♗xf4 ♗xf4 30.♗xf4 ♗xe6 31.♔f1, where White has weak pawns and no forced draw.

29...g5 30.♔f2 ♔g6 31.g4

31.♗b2 ♔f5 32.g4+ fxg3+ 33.hxg3 h5 (33...♗e6?? 34.g4+) 34.♗e1 is possible. Black cannot win the e6-pawn so easily, e.g., 34...a6 35.a4 g4 36.♗h1 ♗xe6 37.♗xh5+ ♔g6 38.fxg4 ♗e4 39.♔f3 ♗xc4 40.a5 b5 41.♗f5 ♗c2?! 42.♗f6+ ♔h7 43.♗d4, and White's piece activity together with a strong passed pawn secures him from losing. However, it is possible that Black's play can be improved.

31...♔f6 32.♗b2+ ♔e7 33.h4!



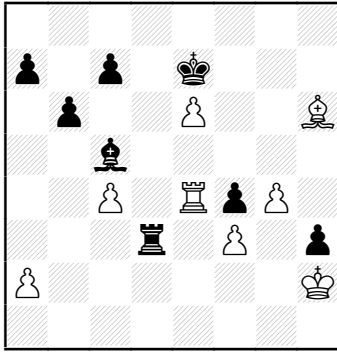
33...gxh4?

This is a serious mistake – Black disconnects his pawns, thus creating many weaknesses. One could simply maintain the tension by 33...♗c5+ 34.♔g2 ♗g8, although after 35.h5 Black is unable to make progress due to weakness of the h6-pawn.

34.♗g7 h3 35.♔g1 ♗c5+?!

Also in case of 35...♗g8 36.♗xh6 ♗g6 37.♗xf4 ♗xf4 38.♗xf4 ♔xe6 39.♔h2 Black is a pawn down. However, the text-move is even worse.

36.♔h2 ♗d8 37.♗xh6 ♗d3



38. ♖xh3?

White returns the favor! After 38. ♖g5+ ♖e8 39. ♖xf4 ♜xf3 40. ♖xc7 he has real winning chances, for example, 40... ♗e7 41. g5 ♜e3 42. ♜xe3 ♖xe3 43. g6 ♖d4 (43... ♗xe6 44. ♖e5!) 44. ♗xh3 ♗xe6 45. ♗g4 etc.

38... ♜xf3+ 39. ♗h4 ♜e3

Now the position becomes equal.

40. ♖g5+ ♖e8 41. ♜xe3

After 41. ♜xf4 ♜xe6 Black cannot be worse.

41... ♜xe3 42. ♗g3 e2 43. ♖d2 ♗e7 44. ♗f3 ♗xe6

45. ♗xe2 c6 46. ♖f4 ♖e7 47. ♗d3 b5 48. cxb5

Game drawn.

Bacrot-Kamsky

Catalan Opening

Notes by grandmaster

Ruslan Scherbakov

1. d4 ♖f6

In the second game Kamsky immediately went for the Dutch Defense: 1... f5 2. g3 ♖f6 3. ♖g2 g6 4. ♖f3 ♖g7 etc.

2. c4 e6 3. g3 ♖b4+ 4. ♖d2 ♖e7 5. ♖g2 d5 6. ♖f3 0-0 7. 0-0 c6 8. ♖f4

The game transposes to a Catalan.

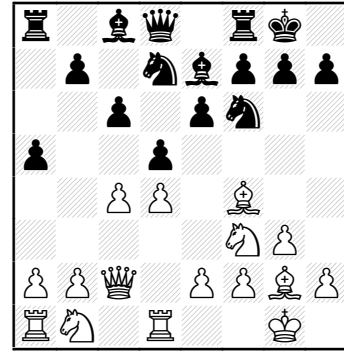
8... ♖bd7

8... b6 is played more frequently.

9. ♗c2 a5

Veselin Topalov drew attention of the chess world to this pawn advance.

10. ♜d1



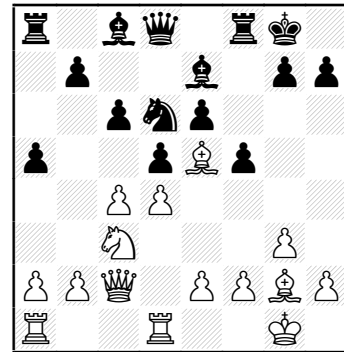
10... ♖e4

Kamsky wants to play the Dutch again! Topalov selected 10... ♖h5 11. ♖c1 b5, and after 12. cxd5 cxd5 13. e4 dxe4 14. ♗xe4 ♜b8 15. ♗e2 ♖hf6 16. ♖f4 ♜b6 White's chances looked higher. Nevertheless, Veselin defended successfully in a very important game against Teimour Radjabov: 17. ♖e5 ♖d5 18. ♖xd5! exd5 19. ♖c3 ♖xe5! (in Kramnik-Topalov, (m/9) Elista 2006 White obtained an advantage after 19... ♖f6 20. ♖xb5 ♖a6 21. a4 ♖e4 22. ♜dc1) 20. dxe5 d4 21. ♖e3 dxe3! 22. ♗xe3 ♖g5 23. ♗c5 ♖e7 24. ♗e3 ♖g5 25. ♗c5 ♖e7 26. ♗e3, and the game ended in a move repetition (Radjabov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 2007).

11. ♖c3 f5

In Bareev-Renet (France 1995) Black played more provocatively: 11... g5 12. ♖e3 f5. Having a two-point lead, Gata does not dare moving pawns from his king.

12. ♖e5 ♖xe5 13. ♖xe5 ♖d6



14. ♖xd6?!

Although this exchange leads to a closed position in which the Black's bishops are fairly passive, it minimizes White's winning chances. 14. c5 ♖f7 15. ♖f4 g5 is unclear, but 14. b3!? looks promising. Black could reject taking a pawn: 14... dxc4 15. ♖a4!? or 15. ♜ab1!? would give White a very good game.

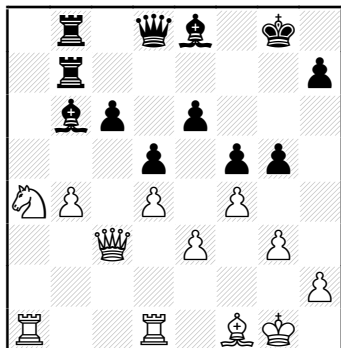
14... ♖xd6 15. e3 ♜b8 16. c5 ♖c7 17. f4 ♖d7 18. a3

White wants to lock the opponent completely, but Kamsky finds an excellent plan.

18... ♖e8 19. b4 b5 20. cxb6 ♖xb6 21. ♖a4 axb4 22. axb4 ♜f7

The only Black's weakness – the c6-pawn – is safely protected by the bishop. The Black's position has another disadvantage – lack of space, but Gata skillfully finds the squares for his pieces.

23. ♖c3 ♜fb7 24. ♗f1 g5!

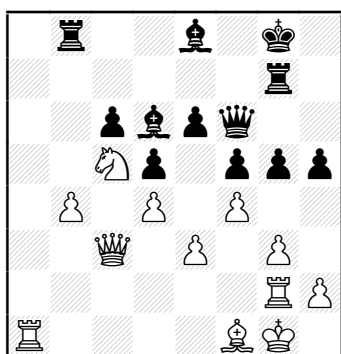


Reminding the opponent that Black is not the only side that can face problems.

25. ♗a6 ♜g7 26. ♜d2

I think White would not lose this game if he took the bishop: 26. ♗xb6!? ♜xb6 27. ♜db1. Bacrot wants to put the knight on c5, but Black's dark-squared bishop plays an important role in the kingside play.

26...h5 27. ♜g2 ♗c7 28. ♗c5 ♜f6 29. ♗f1 ♗d6



30. fxc5?

Probably Etienne recalled that he is in a must-win situation. Bad timing... One had to maintain the tension by 30. ♜aa2 or 30. ♗d3, - it is very difficult for Black to break through.

30... ♜xg5 31. ♜a7 e5

The mistake on the move 30 opened the game, and the bishop pair gained a lot of power.

32. dxe5 ♗xe5 33. ♜b3?

Moving the queen away from the kingside is clearly wrong. More tenacious is 33. ♜d2 ♗c3 (33...h4 34.gxh4) 34. ♜c1.

33...h4!

Now Black's attack develops smoothly.

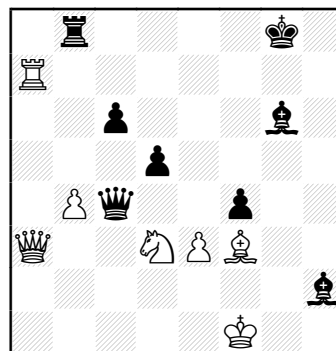
34. gxh4 ♜xg2+ 35. ♗xg2 ♜xh4 36. ♗d3 ♗xh2+

36... ♗d4!? is also interesting

37. ♗f1 ♜c4!

The simplest.

38. ♜a3 ♗g6 39. ♗f3?! f4



White resigns. Gata Kamsky advances to the next stage!

Malakhov-Grischuk

Queen's Gambit

Notes by grandmaster

Yury Yakovich

1. c4 ♗f6 2. ♗f3 e6 3. ♗c3 d5 4. d4 dxc4

Grischuk offers the opponent to play the Vienna Variation, as in Kasimdzhanov-Gelfand. Kasimdzhanov accepted the challenge, and his game continued 5.e4 ♗b4 6. ♗xc4!? ♗xe4 7. 0-0! with very sharp play, but Malakhov prefers quieter waters.

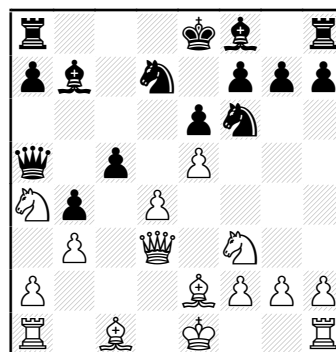
5. ♜a4+ c6 6. ♜xc4 b5

This position usually occurs after 4...c6 5. ♜b3 dxc4 6. ♜xc4 b5.

7. ♜d3 ♗bd7 8. e4

White seizes the center, and Black drives the White's knight to a4 and starts playing on the queenside.

8...b4 9. ♗a4 ♜a5 10. b3 c5 11. ♗e2 ♗b7 12. e5



12... ♗e4!?

The idea of Ivanchuk. Alexey Dreev, Malakhov's second in Elista, preferred 12... ♗d5 13. 0-0 ♜c8 (probably stronger is 13... ♗e7!? 14. ♗d2 0-0 15. ♜fc1 ♜fc8 16. ♜b5 ♜xb5 17. ♗xb5 ♗5b6 18. dxc5 ♗xc5 with mutual chances, Piket-Van Wely, Monte Carlo 1999)

14. ♖d2 ♗e7, and here 15.a3!? (instead of 15.♖ac1!?, Umansky-Dreev, 1989) gives White some chances to get an advantage.

13. ♗e3 ♖d8 14. 0-0

14. ♗b5 ♗xb5 15. ♗xb5 cxd4 16. ♗xd4 a6 led to a roughly even endgame in Nikolic-Ivanchuk, Monte Carlo 1999). Under different circumstances Malakhov would probably gladly accept such ending, relying on his excellent technique, but here he needed to play more ambitiously to level the match score.

14...a6 15. ♖ac1 ♗e7 16. ♗c2!?

White attempts to use awkward position of the Black's knight, but Grischuk parries all the threats with great accuracy.

16...0-0!

Dubious is 16...cxd4?! due to 17. ♗xd4 0-0 18. ♗c7! with a big endgame advantage.

17. ♗d3 cxd4 18. ♗xe4

The following entertaining although by no means forced line occurs after 18. ♗xd4: 18...♖c8 19. ♗b1 ♗c3!? 20. ♗xc3 bxc3 21. ♗xh7+ ♖h8 22. ♗e4 c2 23. ♗xc2 ♗xf3 24. gxf3 ♗d5 with a sharp game.

18...♖c8!?

In case of 18...♗xe4 19. ♗xe4 dxe3 20. ♗xe3 White has only a minimal advantage, but Grischuk prefers a larger scale game.

19. ♗xh7+ ♖h8 20. ♗d3 ♖xc1 21. ♗xc1

21. ♖xc1!? ♗xf3 22. ♗xd4 ♗xe5 23. ♗e3 ♖xh7

24. ♗xe5 ♗b7 led to a position in which Black's bishop pair compensates activity of White's pieces.

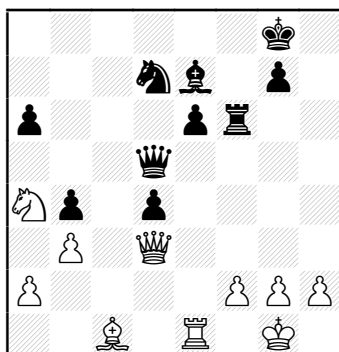
21...♗xf3 22. ♗xf3

Not good is 22.gxf3?! in view of 22...♗xe5 23. ♗e4 f5 with advantage to Black.

22...♗xh7 23. ♖e1 ♗g8 24. ♗g3 f6

An interesting decision. Grischuk creates pawn weaknesses in his position, but once and for all stops all White's attempts to make up a kingside attack. A natural 24...♖c8 also looks okay.

25. exf6 ♖xf6 26. ♗d3 ♗d5



27. ♗e4??

Malakhov selects the worst possible moment to transit to an endgame. Apparently, he overlooked Black's 28th move, after which the Black's rook can invade into the

White's camp. 27. ♗d2 gives roughly equal chances.

27...♗xe4 28. ♖xe4 e5! 29. ♗b2 ♖c6 30. ♗c4 ♗b6!

31. ♖xe5 ♗f6 32. ♖a5 ♗xc4 33. bxc4 ♖xc4 34. ♗f4 d3

The pawns are unstoppable.

35. g3 ♖c2 36. ♖d5 ♖xa2 37. ♖xd3 ♖a3

White resigns.

Shirov-Adams

Queen's Indian Defense

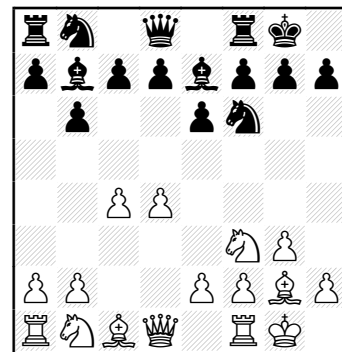
Notes by grandmaster

Yury Yakovich

1.d4

Shirov changes the opening easily. He does not want to test Adams' preparation after 1.e4, and turns to closed openings. However, closed games by Shirov often develop like open ones.

1...♗f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♗f3 b6 4.g3 ♗b7 5. ♗g2 ♗e7 6. 0-0 0-0



7.d5!?

This sacrifice became popular after Polugaevsky-Korchnoi match (Buenos Aires 1980).

7...exd5 8. ♗h4! c6 9. cxd5 ♗xd5 10. ♗f5 ♗c7

Korchnoi played 10...♗c5? in the aforementioned game, and lost after 11.e4 ♗e7 12. ♗xg7! ♖xg7 13.b4! ♗xb4 14. ♗d4+ f6 15. ♗xb4 (Polugaevsky-Korchnoi, Buenos Aires (m/12) 1980).

11.e4 d5 12. ♗c3 ♗f6 13.exd5

More frequently White plays 13. ♗f4!? ♗c8! 14.g4. Navara tried it twice this year, but succeeded neither against Gelfand nor against Fedorchuk: 14...♗xf5 (14...♗ba6 15.e5 ♗e7 16. ♗g3 f6 17. ♗d4 ♗d7 18. ♖c1 fxe5 19. ♗xe5 ♗f6 20. ♗g3 with a sharp game, Navara-Gelfand, Prague 2006) 15.gxf5 ♗d7 16. ♖c1 ♖c8 17.exd5 ♗xd5 18. ♗xd5 cxd5 19. ♗xd5 ♖xc1 20. ♖xc1 ♗e5 21. ♖d1 ♗xd5 22. ♖xd5 ♖e8 23.h3 g5 24. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 25. ♖xe5, draws (Navara-Fedorchuk, Ustron 2006).

13...♗xd5

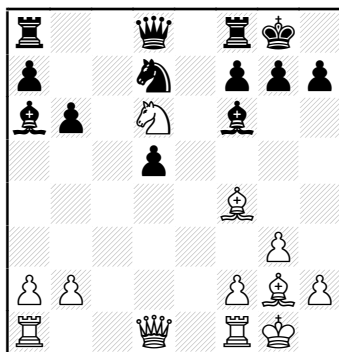
White developed strong attack in Kasparov-Marjanovic (La Valetta 1980): 13...cxd5 14. ♗f4 ♗ba6 15. ♖e1 ♗d7?! 16. ♗h3! ♖h8? 17. ♗e4 ♗xb2 18. ♗g5 ♗c6 19. ♗e7 ♗f6 20. ♗xh7! ♗d4 21. ♗h5 g6 22. ♗h4 ♗xa1

23. ♖f6+, and Black resigned in anticipation of a checkmate: 23. ♖f6+ ♔g7 24. ♗h6+ ♔xf6 25. ♕g5# or 24. ♖f5+gxf5 25. ♗h6#. However, soon Black discovered a more tenacious defense: 15... ♕c8!? (instead of 15... ♗d7?). The resulting positions are more fitting to Shirov's aggressive style, therefore Adams attempts to simplify the situation by exchanging a couple of knights.

14. ♖xd5 cxd5 15. ♕f4

A novelty. White played 15. ♖e3 before, regaining the d5-pawn and maintaining certain pressure after 15... ♖c6 16. ♖xd5.

15... ♖d7 16. ♖d6 ♕a6



17. ♗xd5?!

As usual, Shirov does not count material. However, 17. ♗e1!? looks more promising in my opinion. Black must play very accurately in order to avoid losing. Let us consider the variations:

A) On 17... ♕xb2 there is 18. ♕xd5! Now 18... ♕xa1? loses to 19. ♖xf7! ♗xf7 20. ♕xf7+ ♔xf7 21. ♗d5+ ♔g6 22. ♗e4+ with checkmate. Necessary is 18... ♖f6! 19. ♕xf7+ ♗xf7 20. ♗b3 ♕xa1 21. ♗xf7+ ♔h8 22. ♗b3 ♗d7 23. ♗xa1 ♗f8 with some chances to defend.

B) Bad is 17...d4 in view of 18.b4.

C) In response to 17... ♖c5 18. ♕xd5 ♖d3, White can play 19. ♗a4!? ♖xe1 20. ♗xe1 with strong initiative, for example, 20... ♕d3 21. ♕xf7+!? ♗xf7 (21... ♔h8 22. ♕d5) 22. ♖xf7 ♔xf7 (bad is 22... ♗d5 due to 23. ♗e8+ ♔xf7 24. ♗xa8 ♗xa8 25. ♗d7+) 23. ♗b3+ ♔g6 24. ♗d1 with a clear advantage.

17... ♕xf1 18. ♔xf1

More natural is 18. ♗xf1, but it gives the Black's queen a square – 18... ♗e7, and there is nothing real for White. Nothing but a funny perpetual: 19. ♖xf7!? ♗xf7 20. ♗xf7+ ♔xf7 21. ♕d5+ ♔g6 (21... ♔e8?? should be avoided) 22. ♕e4+ ♔f7 23. ♕d5+.

18... ♗b8

Now 18... ♗e7? is bad because of 19. ♗e1.

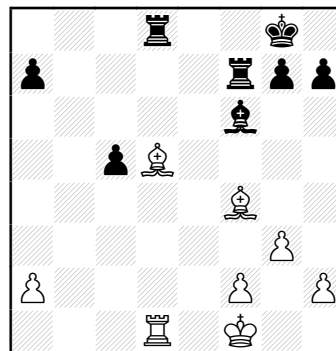
19. ♗d1

Perhaps White had 19. ♖b7!? with approximately even game.

19... ♖c5 20. ♖xf7 ♗xf7 21. b4 ♗xd5!

The most accurate. White has dangerous initiative after

21... ♖d7 22. ♗b3 or 21... ♖a4 22. ♕xb8 ♗xb8 23. ♗e6, threatening 24. ♗d7 and 24. ♕d5. 22. ♕xd5 ♗d8 23. bxc5 bxc5



24. ♕e3??

A huge blunder. After 24. ♕xf7+ ♔xf7 25. ♗b1 the game is probably a draw.

24... ♔h8!

Now White does not get a single pawn for an exchange, because 25. ♕xc5? is followed by 25... ♗fd7.

25. ♕xf7 ♗xd1+ 26. ♔e2 ♗d7

The rest is a matter of technique.

27. ♕b3 ♕d4 28. ♕f4 ♗e7+ 29. ♔f1 g6 30. ♕h6 ♗c7

31. ♕f4 ♗c6 32. ♕d5 ♗b6 33. ♕b3 ♗c6 34. ♕d5 ♗b6

35. ♕b3 c4 36. ♕xc4 ♗b2 37. h4 ♗xf2+ 38. ♔e1 ♗c2

39. ♕b3 ♗h2 40. a4 ♔g7

White resigns.