

Round 1. Game 5
1 June 2007

Carlsen-Aronian
Queen's Indian Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Yury Yakovich

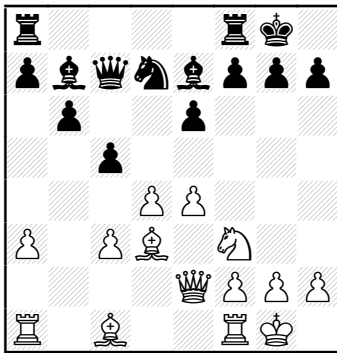
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.a3

Magnus selects the Petrosian Variation of the Queen's Indian. Aronian chooses the plan associated with d7-d5.

4...♙b7 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♖c2 ♙e7 8.e4 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.♙d3 c5 11.0-0 ♖c7

Black wants to counter White's strong center by playing on the queenside. Another idea is to strive for simplifications by playing 11...♖c8 and ...♙a6.

12.♖e2 ♘d7



This position had occurred in both players' games, and they both played Black in 2005. Yakovich-Aronian (Sochi 2005) continued 13.♙d2, and after 13...♖ac8 14.a4 ♖fd8 15.h3 ♘b8 16.♖fe1 cxd4 17.cxd4 ♘c6 White could get an edge by 18.d5.

Gelfand-Carlsen (Biel 2005) went on 13.e5!?, and the Norwegian managed to neutralize the opponent's initiative with accurate play: 13...♖fd8 14.h4 ♘f8 15.♙e3 ♖c6 16.♖fd1 ♖ac8 17.h5 h6 18.♘e1 ♘h7 19.♖g4 ♘g5 20.♙h2 ♙h8 21.a4 ♘e4 22.♖dc1 ♙g5 23.f4 f5 24.♖e2 ♙h4 25.♘f3 ♙e7 26.♙b5 ♖c7 27.♙c4 ♖d7 28.♙b5 ♖c7 29.♙c4 ♖d7, drawn.

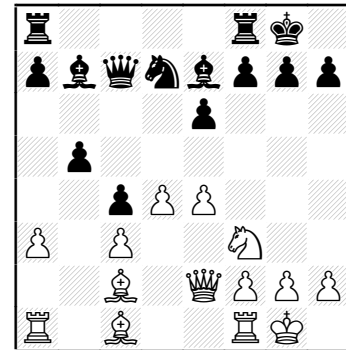
Playing White, Magnus selected the most fashionable 13.♙b2 c4

Limiting the scope of the b2-bishop considerably.

14.♙c2

Of course not 14.♙xc4?! because of 14...♙xe4, and Black has a good game.

14...b5 15.♙c1!?



The bishop accomplished its task and can retreat to the diagonal c1-h6. In Sokolov-Leko (Wijk aan Zee 2004) White arranged his rooks in exotic way by 15.♖fb1, but this is less reasonable as the f1-rook can be used for attacking purposes on the kingside.

15...a5?!

Aronian plays by analogy with the aforementioned Sokolov-Leko. However, here this plan looks dubious. The bishop on b7 controlled the e4-square, while after it moves to a6, the White's queen can be quickly transferred to the kingside after e4-e5. Black demonstrated an interesting plan of countering the White's attack in Eljanov-Sandipan (Turin 2006), playing 15...♘b6!? 16.h4 ♖ae8!? 17.h5 f5!

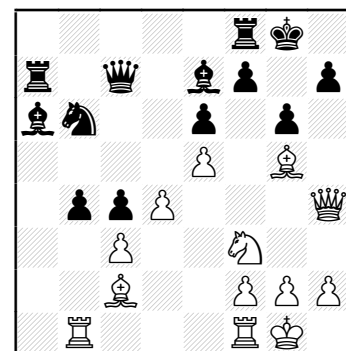
16.♖b1 ♙a6? 17.e5! b4

This seems almost desperate. Leko moved the f-rook to b8 against Sokolov, but in our game after 17...♖fb8 18.♘g5! the f1-rook supports the f1-pawn advance.

18.axb4 axb4 19.♙g5 ♘b6

In case of 19...♙xg5? White has a standard 20.♙xh7+! ♙xh7 21.♘xg5+, and now 21...♙g8 (21...♙g6 22.♖g4 f5 23.♖g3; 21...♙h6 22.♖e3 ♙g6 23.♖g3) 22.♖h5 ♖fe8 23.♖xf7+ ♙h8 24.♖h5+ ♙g8 25.♖h7+ ♙f8 26.♖h8+, with decisive advantage in all variations.

20.♖e4 g6 21.♖h4 ♖a7



22.♙f6!

The most practical decision. Of course, White should

not enter the ending by 22.♙xe7?! ♜xe7 23.♞xe7 ♞xe7 24.♞xb4, as Black has drawing chances after 24...♘d5 25.♞a4 ♙b7 26.♞a3 ♘f4. 22.♞xb4!? suggested by Mikhail Gurevich, looked exceptionally tempting. Now after 22...♙xb4 (bad is 22...f6 in view of 23.exf6 ♙xb4 24.cxb4) 23.♙f6 ♞fa8 24.♘g5 h5 25.♙xg6! fxg6 26.♞e4 Black must part with the queen – 26...♞f7 27.♘xf7 ♙xf7 28.cxb4. However, the position arising after 28...♘d5 is far from being simple to handle – Black obtains counterchances because of his strong c-pawn.

22...♙xf6

22...♘d5 leads to checkmate: 23.♘g5 h5 24.♞xh5! gxh5 25.♙h7#.

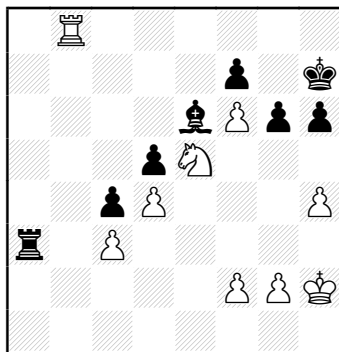
23.exf6 ♘d5 24.♙e4!

This forces an ending with an extra pawn and a knight superior to the opponent's bishop.

24...♞f4 25.♙xd5 ♞xh4 26.♘xh4 exd5 27.♞xb4 ♙c8 28.♞b6!

Protecting the important f6-pawn. The only counterplay for Black is linked with attacking the c3-pawn.

28...♞a3 29.♞c1 ♙e6 30.♘f3 ♞fa8 31.h4 h6 32.♘e5 ♞a1 33.♞xa1 ♞xa1+ 34.♙h2 ♞a3 35.♞b8+ ♙h7



36.f4!!

A brilliant solution! With this series of sacrifices, Carlsen gets to the f7-pawn, keeping the superior knight on board. 36.♞f8? leads to a drawn ending: 36...♞xc3 37.♘xf7 ♙xf7 38.♞xf7+ ♙g8 39.♞d7 ♞d3 40.♞xd5 ♙f7 41.♞d6 c3.

36...♞xc3 37.h5 gxh5 38.♞f8 ♞a3 39.f5 ♙xf5 40.♞xf7+ ♙g8 41.♞g7+

41.♞b7 also wins.

41...♙f8 42.♞b7 ♞a8 43.♙g3!

The bishop must cover both g6 and d7 in order to prevent invasion of the knight, and it can be done only from f5. As soon as the White's king attacks the bishop, the game is decided

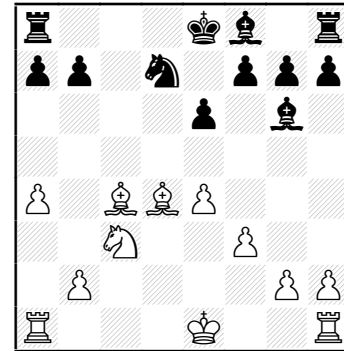
43...♞d8 44.♙f4 ♙e4 45.g3 c3 46.♞f7+ ♙g8 47.♞g7+ ♙f8 48.♘d7+ ♞xd7 49.♞xd7 Black resigns.

Ponomariov-Rublevsky

Slav Defense

Notes by grandmaster Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♙f5 6.♘e5 e6 7.f3 c5 8.e4 ♙g6 9.♙e3 cxd4 10.♞xd4 ♞xd4 11.♙xd4 ♘fd7 12.♘d7 ♘xd7 13.♙xc4



Ponomariov decided to return to discussing this particular line of the Slav. The game proceeded to an endgame right from the opening. White has a certain advantage.

13...a6

In the first game Rublevsky showed a new and interesting idea 13...♞c8 14.♙a2 a5!? 15.h4 h5 16.♞c1 ♞g8 17.♙e2 ♙c5 18.♘b5 ♙e7, and confidently solved all the problems. It is possible that Sergey found an improvement for White and decided to return to a known path.

14.♙e2

After 14.h4 ♞c8 15.♙a2 Black has to spend time on 15...h6 (15...h5!?) 16.♞c1, but now he does not need to care about the g7-pawn: 16...♙c5 – after 16...♞g8 17.♙e2 ♙c5 18.♙xc5 ♞xc5 19.♘b1 (interesting is 19.b4!? ♞c6 20.♘b1) 19...♙e7 20.♞xc5 ♘xc5 21.h5 ♙h7 22.♞c1 ♘d7 23.♘d2 Black did not manage to bring the bishop into the game without queenside concessions, Aronian-Kramnik, Yerevan (m/2) rapid 2007 – 17.♘e2 0–0 with a good game, Aronian-Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2007.

14...♞g8 15.h4

This ending became popular after Topalov–Kramnik, Elista (m/6) 2006, which continued 15.♞hd1 ♞c8 16.b3 ♙c5 17.a5 ♙e7, and Black diminished the opponent's initiative.

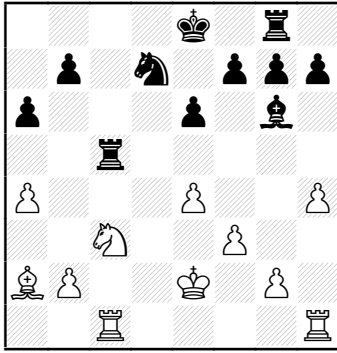
15...♞c8!?

An improvement compared to Ruck–Gustafsson (Graz 2006), which continued 15...h5 16.♞hd1 ♞c8 17.♙b3 with a small advantage to White.

16.♙a2 ♙c5 17.♙xc5 ♞xc5

The h5-square is covered.

18.♞ac1



White threatens b2-b4 and h4-h5, thus Black must take care of the g6-bishop.

18...h5!?

As in the first game, Rublevsky does not allow White advancing the h-pawn any further. This move can be considered new, because 18...h6 transposes to Aronian–Kramnik, where Black failed to equalize after 19.♘b1 (also possible is 19.b4! ♖c6 20.♘b1) 19...♔e7 20.♖xc5 ♘xc5 21.h5 ♕h7 22.♖c1 ♘d7 23.♘d2.

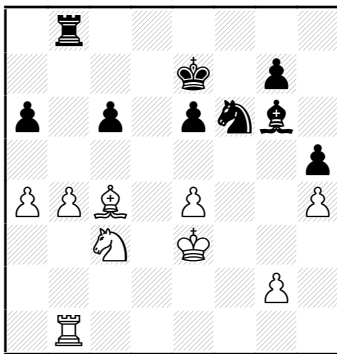
19.b4 ♖c6 20.♘b1 ♔e7!

A very interesting idea – Black does not cede the file, accepting serious damage to his pawn structure.

21.♖xc6 bxc6 22.♘c3 ♖b8 23.♖b1 f5!

It is time to liberate the bishop!

24.♕c4 fxe4 25.fxe4 ♘f6 26.♔e3



One might think that Black is in trouble – the a6-pawn is attacked, and the White's king plans marching to the queenside...

26...♘d5+!

An excellent resource that was, without a doubt, planned in advance.

27.♘xd5+

White gains nothing by 27.exd5 ♕xb1 28.dxc6 (after 28.♘xb1? ♖xb4 only White could have problems) 28...♖xb4 29.♕xa6 ♔d6 30.♕b7, and here Black can force a draw by 30...♖b3 31.♔d4 ♖b4+ 32.♔e3 ♖b3, if he wants to.

27...exd5 28.♕xa6 ♕xe4 29.♖b2

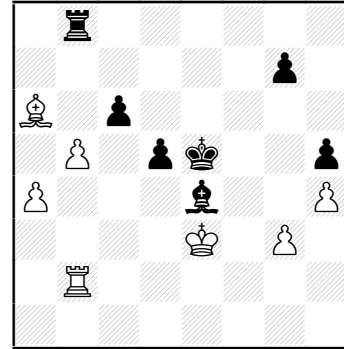
Interesting is 29.♕d3!?, but Black cannot have

problems after 29...♔d6.

29...♔d6 30.g3

White tries to keep winning chances, but Black' strong central position helps him to remain optimistic.

30...♔e5 31.b5



In case of 31.a5? White could be late: 31...c5! 32.b5 d4+ 33.♔e2 ♖a8 with decisive advance of the central pawns.

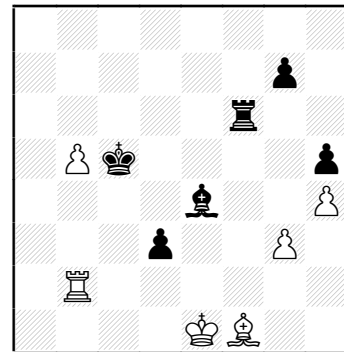
31...cxb5!

A superficial 31...c5?! leads to unnecessary problems 32.b6, and if 32...c4?, then 33.♖b5! c3 34.b7 c2 35.♖c5 c1♖+ 36.♖xc1 d4+ 37.♔d2 ♕xb7 38.♖b1 with decisive advantage.

32.axb5 d4+ 33.♔d2 ♖b6

Black got a better position in the end, but the remaining resources are not sufficient to play for a win.

34.♕c8 ♔d6 35.♕h3 ♔c5 36.♕f1 ♖f6 37.♔e1 d3



38.b6 ♖xb6 39.♖xb6 ♔xb6 40.♔d2 ♔c5
Game drawn.

Gelfand-Kasimdzhanov

Slav Defense

Notes by grandmaster

Ruslan Scherbakov

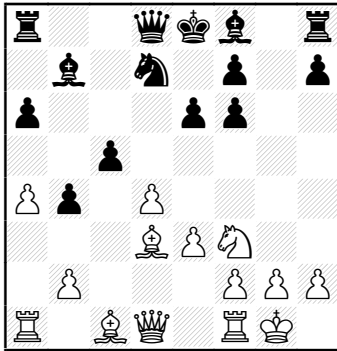
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.e3

Previously Gelfand preferred 5.♕g5.

5...♘bd7 6.♕d3 dxc4 7.♕xc4 b5 8.♕d3 a6 9.a4

This response to the Meran is considered fairly harmless.

9...♖b7 10.0-0 b4 11.♗e4 c5 12.♗xf6+ gxf6!?



The players try to put pressure on the opponent regardless of the color of their pieces. The text voluntarily destroys Black's pawn structure, but in return strengthens control of the center, opens a file for a rook, and allows Black to direct his bishops against White's kingside. 12...♗xf6 is considered to lead to a good game for Black: 13.dxc5 ♖xc5 14.♖e2 ♖d5! 15.♖d1 ♖h5 16.h3 ♖d8, preventing e3-e4. Nevertheless, White can hope on a small advantage after 17.b3 (Kramnik-Kasparov, Zurich (rapid) 2001 continued 17.♗d4, offering harmless exchange of the queens) 17...0-0 18.♖b2.

13.♖e2 ♖d6

A new move. In Walther-Pelletier (Switzerland 1993) Black played 13...♖g8, and White did not shy away from taking the h7-pawn, although he lost the game in the end.

14.♖d2 ♖g8 15.a5

Here 15.♖xh7? is impossible in view of 15...♖h8 followed by ...♖b7xf3 and ...♖d6xh2.

15...♖b8

Threatening to take on h2!

16.h3 f5 17.e4

On 17.♖ac1 White probably disliked 17...♖e4.

17...c4! 18.♖c2 fxe4 19.♖xe4 ♗f6 20.♖xb7 ♖xb7 21.♖ac1

In case of 21.♖fe1 Black could protect the c4-pawn by 21...♖c8 22.♖ac1 ♖d5.

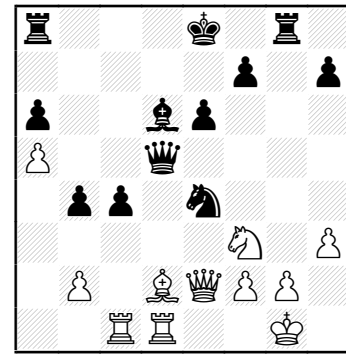
21...♗e4!

Attacking the d2-bishop.

22.d5!

Gelfand fights for the initiative. A passive 22.♖e1 is harmless for Black: 22...♖c8 23.♖xc4 ♖xc4 24.♖xc4 ♗g5! 25.♗xg5, attacking two pawns, although White has sufficient compensation after 25...♖xg5 26.g3 ♖xa5 27.♖d2.

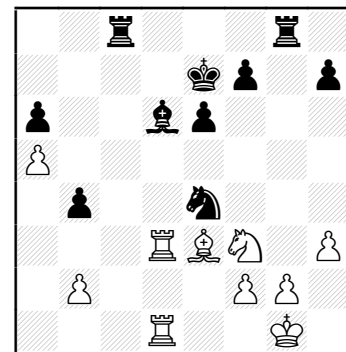
22...♖xd5 23.♖fd1



23...♖d3

Black transposes to an endgame. After 23...♖f5 24.♗f1 the position remains unclear, although White's centralized pieces can trouble the enemy king.

24.♖xd3 cxd3 25.♖e3 ♗e7 26.♖xd3 ♖ac8 27.♖cd1!

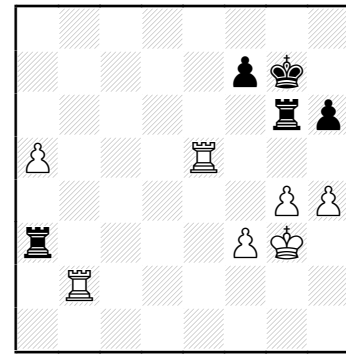
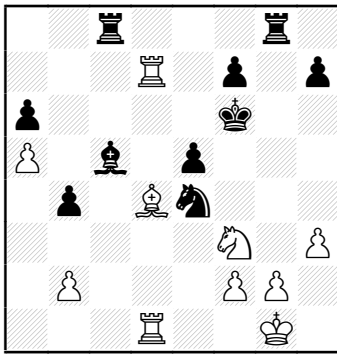


Correct decision. Trading the rooks is in Black's favor, as he has an extra king in the action. The rooks doubled on the d-file will keep the opponent alert. For example, he has to keep an eye on ♗f3-g5.

27...♖c5?

A serious mistake - Black probably underestimated White's strong 29th move. One had to choose between 27...♖g8 28.♗g5! (28.♖b6?! ♖d7 29.♗e5 ♖b7) 28...♗c5, and Black holds after 29.♖xc5 (29.♖3d2 is probably more promising) 29...♖xc5 30.♗xf7 ♗xf7 31.♖xd6 ♖xd6 32.♖xd6 ♖xa5, or 27...f5!?, and after 28.♗g5 ♗xg5 29.♖xg5+ ♖xg5 30.♖xd6 ♖cg8 31.g3 f4 Black should also be okay.

28.♖d7+ ♗f6 29.♖d4+! e5!

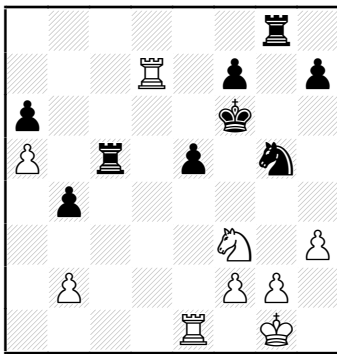


The only move that keeps Black in the game! After 29...♙xd4? 30.♖1xd4 White develops a devastating attack: 30...♗g5 31.♖f4+ ♔g6 32.♗e5+ etc.

30.♙xc5

More promising is 30.♙xe5+ ♔e6 31.♗f1!, retaining an extra pawn.

30...♖xc5 31.♖e1 ♗g5!



Rook endings are notorious for their drawing tendencies.

32.♗xg5

One could force the Black's king staying in the center by 32.♖d6+?! ♔e7 33.♗xg5, but after 33...♔xd6 (33...♖xg5? 34.♖xa6) 34.♗e4+ ♔c6 35.♗xc5 ♔xc5 36.♖xe5+ ♔c4 the king could proceed further to White's queenside pawns.

32...♖xg5 33.♖d6+ ♔g7 34.♖xa6

White won a pawn, but he is unable to reduce activity of Black's rooks.

34...♖c2 35.b3 ♖f5 36.f3 ♖b2 37.♖e4

On 37.♖e3 Black can play 37...♖g5 38.g4 e4! with the idea ...♖g5-c5.

37...♖g5

Preventing ♖e4-g4 check.

38.g4 ♖xb3 39.♗f2 ♖g6 40.♖b6 ♖a3 41.♖xe5 b3

White cannot keep the queenside pawn, and after **42.♗g3 h6 43.h4 b2 44.♖xb2**

44...♖f6! (44...♖a6? 45.♖bb5) **45.♖f2 ♖a6** a draw was agreed – the rook ending with 3 pawns vs. 2 pawns on the same wing is of course drawn.

Grischuk-Malakhov

Sicilian Defense

Notes by grandmaster

Yury Yakovich

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6
Being in desperate need to win, Malakhov returns to the Rauzer System of the Sicilian.

6.♙g5 ♙d7 7.♗d2 h6!?

An improvement. In the first game Malakhov played 7...♗xd4 8.♗xd4 h6, but after 9.♙xf6 gxf6 10.♙b5! Grischuk traded one of the opponent's bishops, and Black was left with no compensation for his damaged pawn structure.

8.♙xf6 gxf6 9.0-0-0

9.♗f5!? deserves attention, making it difficult for Black to develop the f8-knight.

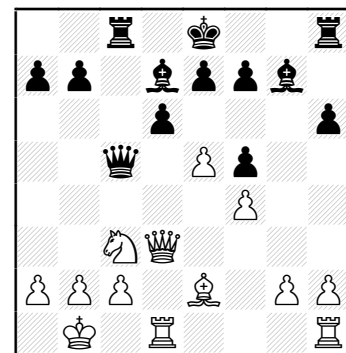
9...♗xd4 10.♗xd4 ♗a5

Now White has no time for ♙b5.

11.f4 ♖c8 12.♗b1 ♗c5 13.♗d3 f5!

A typical advance. Black clears the way for his bishops without respect to the material.

14.e5 ♙g7 15.♙e2



15...♙e6!

Surprisingly, this natural move is a novelty. The same note "16.exd6 exd6 17.♗b5 d5 18.c3 with advantage

to White” is found in the commentary to many various game. But what if Black, instead of capturing the pawn, plays 16...0-0!? In my opinion, his piece activity clearly compensates the sacrificed pawn.

Therefore Grischuk, who can be satisfied with a draw as it gives him the match victory, proceeds to an equal ending.

16. ♖b5+ ♜xb5 17. ♙xb5+ ♚f8 18. exd6 ♗xc3 19. bxc3

19. d7 ♜d8 20. bxc3 a6 21. ♙a4 b5 22. ♙b3 ♗xd7 23. ♜d4 e6 leads to an equal game.

19...exd6 20. ♜xd6 ♚e7 21. ♜d3 a6 22. ♙a4 ♜c4 23. ♜d4 ♜xc3

Black successfully resolved opening problems, but in this particular game this achievement does not make him happy. The resulting endgame is a dead draw, and Malakhov's attempts to complicate struggle do not lead him anywhere. The draw gives Grischuk a ticket to the new round.

24. ♜e1 b5 25. ♙b3 ♜hc8 26. ♜e5 h5 27. ♜d2 ♜3c6 28. h4 ♚f6 29. ♚b2 ♜g8 30. ♜e3 a5 31. g3 ♜gc8 32. a3 a4 33. ♙xe6 fxe6 34. ♜e5 ♜c3 35. ♜de2 ♚f7 36. ♜xb5 ♜xg3 37. ♜b7+ ♚f6 38. ♜h7 ♜c6 39. ♜h6+ ♚f7 40. ♜d2 ♚g7 41. ♜xh5 ♜f3 42. ♜d7+ ♚g8 43. ♜g5+ ♚h8 44. ♜h5+

Drawn.

Polgar-Bareev

Caro Kann Defense

Notes by grandmasters

Ruslan Scherbakov

and Yury Yakovich

1. e4 c6 2. ♘c3 d5 3. ♘f3!

In our opinion, this is the right approach to a situation when you desperately need a win. Polgar turns down sharp variations, which did not bring her anything good in the 1st and 3rd games, and shows her inclination to play a complex middlegame.

3... ♙g4 4. h3 ♙xf3

In a different match situation Bareev could prefer 4... ♙h5 5. exd5 cxd5 6. ♙b5+ ♘c6 7. g4 with a sharp game.

5. ♜xf3 e6 6. ♙e2 ♘d7 7. d3 g6

It is important for Black to keep the game closed, otherwise White's bishop pair may become very strong.

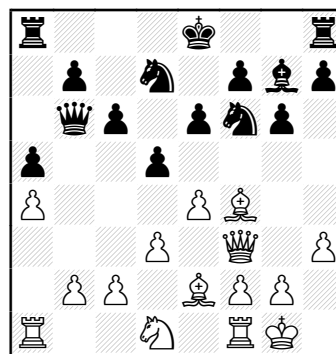
8. 0-0 ♙g7 9. ♙f4

Playing against Seirawan in Monte Carlo, 1994, Judit continued 9. ♜g3 ♘e7 (Karpov preferred 9... ♜b6 10. ♚h1 ♘e7 11. f4 f5 12. e5 with an equal game, Karpov-Anand, Brussels, 1991) 10. ♙g5 0-0 11. h4 h6 12. ♙d2 h5, but did not manage to open the position and eventually lost.

9... ♜b6

Following Karpov.

10. ♘d1 ♘gf6 11. a4 a5



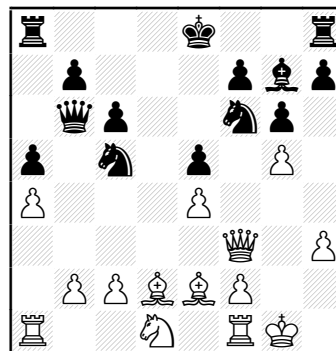
12. g4!

The exclamation mark is given for aspiration to create a psychologically right situation on board.

12...e5 13. ♙d2 ♘c5 14. g5!?

All or nothing!

14...dxe4 15. dxe4



15... ♘fd7?!

In our opinion, Bareev chooses the worst possible moment to reject the strategy that gave him success in the previous games, i.e., going after the most principled continuations, if no direct refutation can be seen. Why Evgeny did not take the pawn: 15... ♘fxe4? Maybe he was worried about the pin 16. ♙e3, although after 16...f5! 17. gxf6 ♘xf6 followed by castling makes it very difficult for White to develop the initiative.

16. ♙c4 0-0 17. h4

Attack!

17... ♘e6 18. ♙xe6 fxe6 19. ♜h3

Or 19. ♜g4 with similar ideas.

19... ♜d4?!

Black should have started with 19... ♜f7!?, planning to meet 20. ♜xe6 by 20... ♜d4, and now 21. ♘c3? loses to 21... ♘f8.

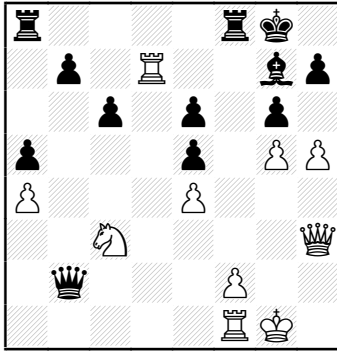
20. ♘c3!

Judit is in her element! She launches the attack without respect to the material.

20... ♜xd2 21. ♜ad1 ♜xc2 22. ♜xd7 ♜xb2

Perhaps 22... ♜b3!? is safer.

23. h5



23...gxh5??

Decisive mistake! It is scary even to look at the Black's position, however, he possibly could survive by 23...♖f7! with the following sample lines:

A) 24.♖xf7 ♕xf7 25.♖b1 ♖d2 26.♖xb7+ ♕f8 27.♖xe6 (or 27.h6 ♖xg5+ 28.♕f1 ♖c1+ 29.♗d1!? ♖xd1+ 30.♕g2 ♖e8! 31.♖a3+ ♕g8 32.♖xg7+ ♕h8 33.♖g3 ♖h5, and Black holds the balance) 27...♖xg5+ 28.♕f1 ♖f6 29.♖c4 ♖d8 with the idea 30...♖f3);

B) 24.♖xe6 24...♖af8 25.♗d1 (25.hxg6 hxg6 26.♖xf7 ♖xf7 27.♖xg6 ♖xc3 28.♖e6 ♖d2! (but not 28...♕f8?? due to 29.♖c8+ ♕e7 30.♖d1, winning) 29.g6 ♖g5+ with perpetual) 25...♖e2 26.h6 ♖h5! 27.hxg7 ♖xg5+ 28.♕h2 ♖h4+, and Black makes a draw.

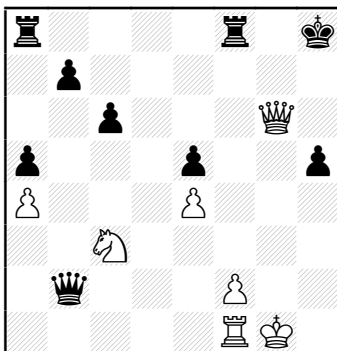
24.♖xe6+

Polgar delivers a spectacular finishing blow.

24...♕h8 25.♖xg7! ♕xg7 26.♖h6+ ♕g8

On 26...♕f7 White wins by 27.♖b1.

27.g6 hxg6 28.♖xg6+ ♕h8



29.♕h1!

There is no defense against mate.

29...♖f4 30.♖xh5+ ♕g8 31.♖g1+ ♕f8 32.♖h8+ ♕f7 33.♖g7+

Black resigns.