

Round 2. Game 1

6 June 2007

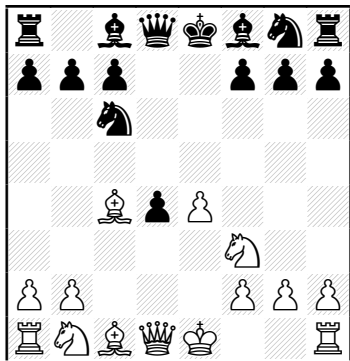
Aronian-Shirov

Queen's Gambit Accepted

Notes by grandmaster

Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.♘f3 exd4 5.♙xc4 ♘c6



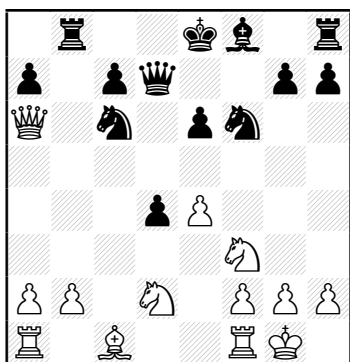
Shirov is not planning to defend passively! In this line Black gets an active position, however, he has to pay for it by getting pawn weaknesses. The resulting positions demand a lot of imagination in order to keep the balance – and Alexei is quite content with it!

Usual continuation 5...♙b4+ wins time for development and simplifies the game, giving Black an acceptable but slightly inferior position without almost any active ideas.

6.0-0 ♙e6 7.♙xe6

White also tried 7.♙b5 ♙c5 8.♘bd2 ♘ge7 9.♘g5 (or 9.♘b3 ♙b6 10.♘bxd4 ♙d7 11.♘xc6 ♙xc6 12.♙e2 0-0 13.♙g5 ♙e8! with an excellent game) 9...♙d6 10.♘xe6 ♙xe6 11.♘b3 ♙d6 12.♙f4! ♙xf4 13.♘xc5 0-0 with good counterchances to Black.

7...fxe6 8.♙b3 ♙d7 9.♙xb7 ♙b8 10.♙a6 ♘f6 11.♘bd2



11...♙d6

11...♙b4?! is riskier: 12.♙d3! (one of the first games on this topic, Scherbakov-Bronstein, Hastings 1994/95, continued 12.e5?! ♘g4! 13.♙e2 ♙d5, and Black seized the initiative) 12...♙xd2 (12...0-0 13.♘c4 favors White) 13.♙xd2! (White must be alert: 13.♘xd2?! 0-0 14.a3? is met by 14...♘e5! 15.♙g3!

♘h5!!, and after 16.♙xe5 ♙b5 the White's queen gets caught in the center of the board – David Bronstein fell into this nice trap in one of early games against the computer!) 13...♙xb2 14.♙ac1 0-0 15.♙c5 ♘g4! 16.♙c1! (logical 16.♙fc1? is refuted by the unexpected 16...♙d6!! 17.♙xc6 (otherwise ♘e5) 17...♙xf3! 18.♙xd6 (18.♙xf3? ♙xh2+ 19.♙f1 ♙xd2 20.♙e1 ♙xf2 21.♙xf2 ♘xf2 22.♙xf2 ♙f4+ 23.♙g1 ♙xe4+) 18...♙xd3 19.♙d8+ ♙f7 20.♙e1 ♘f6! 21.♙xc7+ ♙g6 22.♙c1 ♘xe4 with good winning chances). Now White plans to transfer the bishop to a3, then put the major pieces to the c-file, and start collecting the Black's pawns. Therefore, Beliavsky-Scherbakov (Niksic 1996) continued 16...♘b4!? with wild complications.

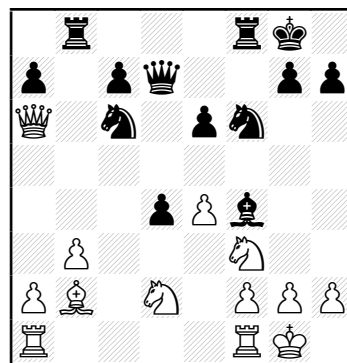
12.b3

An interesting move, which already occurred in the tournament practice. More often White develops the bishop by a2-a3 and b2-b4, but this more aggressive approach demands more time, and in addition Black can undermine the White's pawns by ...a7-a5.

12...0-0

Black's pawn structure is destroyed, however, in return he obtained two open files for his rooks! The Black's minor pieces are also arranged quite well, particularly the knights are ready to come forward. White must be alert, but if he manages to neutralize Black's activity, he will get reasonable hope to utilize the opponent's pawn weaknesses in the subsequent game.

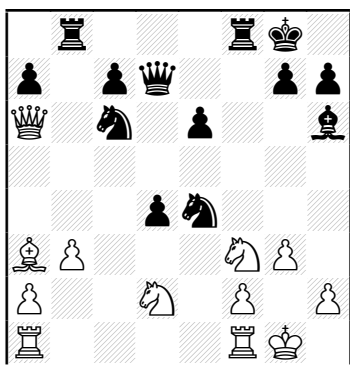
13.♙b2 ♙f4!?



14.g3

A new and probably not the best continuation. After 14.♙d3 White has better chances. For example, Van Wely-Sasikiran (Moscow 2004) went on 14...♙bd8 15.♘c4 ♘b4!? 16.♙xd4 ♙e7 17.♙xa7 ♙a8 18.♙xf6!? gxf6 19.♙d4 ♘c2 20.♙c3 ♘xa1 21.♙xa1 with a small advantage that is very difficult to convert, because it is not easy to play actively with the knights.

14...♙h6 15.♙a3 ♘xe4!



An excellent counterblow! After 15...♖f7 White can return the queen by 16.♗d3, and in comparison to the variations above, he strengthened control of the important b4- and e5-squares.

16.♗xf8 ♜xd2

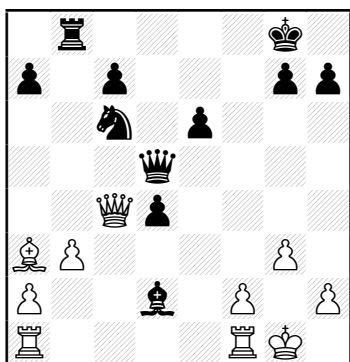
Weaker is 16...♗xd2?! 17.♗xg7! ♗c3 (or 17...♖xg7 18.♗d3 ♗c3 19.♗xe4 ♗xa1 20.♖xa1) 18.♗h6 ♗xa1 19.♖xa1, and in addition to pawn weaknesses, Black has a weak king.

17.♜xd2 ♗xd2 18.♗a3 ♗d5

18...♜e5!? deserved serious consideration, trying to utilize insecure position of the White's king.

19.♗c4

Otherwise Black seizes the initiative.



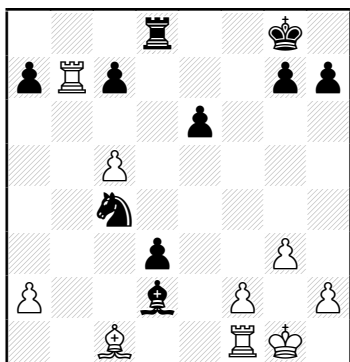
19...♗xc4

19...♗c3!?, keeping the files locked, looked good.

20.bxc4 ♜e5 21.♖ab1 ♖d8 22.c5 ♜c4 23.♗c1 d3

And now 23...♗a5!? deserved attention, and if 24.♖b7, then 24...a6 or 24...♖d5.

24.♖b7



24...c6?

It looks like Alexei tricked himself in search of the most promising continuation. Being in time trouble, he commits a serious mistake. 24...♗c3 25.♖xc7 d2 is unclear – the Black's pieces have good chances to stop the White's passer. Even the simple 24...♗xc1 25.♖xc1 d2 26.♖d1 c6 was at least more accurate than the text. After 27.♖f1 ♖d5 28.♖e2 a5 Black has excellent chances to hold this ending.

25.♗xd2 ♜xd2 26.♖d1

White gains time to improve his pieces.

26...♜e4?!

Nevertheless, it was better to return by 26...♜c4?!

27.f3!

Maybe Black underestimated this resource.

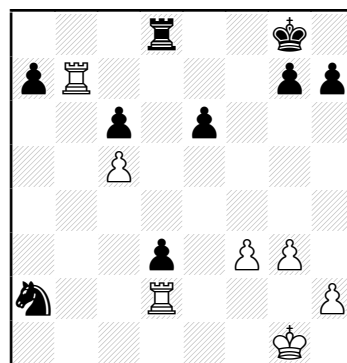
27...♜c3

In the case of 27...♜xc5!?, White could continue 28.♖xa7 (or 28.♖c7 ♖d6 29.♖f2) 28...e5 29.♖c7, gradually neutralizing the Black's passer, e.g., 29...♜e6 30.♖xc6 ♜d4 31.♖c4 ♜xf3+ 32.♖f2 ♖f8 33.♖e3, etc.

28.♖d2

Now the passed pawn is under control, and the rook is much stronger than the knight in such positions.

28...♜xa2



29.♖b3?

Much simpler is 29.♖b1!, threatening to take the knight, and after 29...♜c3 30.♖b3 White destroys Black's last hope.

29...♜c1 30.♖b1 ♜e2+ 31.♖f2 e5 32.♖a1

One could play 32.♖b3 ♜d4 33.♖bx3 ♖d5 34.♖c3, but Aronian does not want allowing his opponent to consolidate his pieces and activate the king.

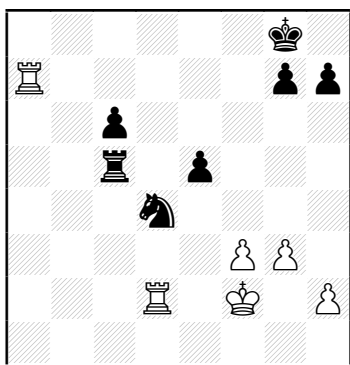
32...♖d5 33.♖xa7 ♖xc5

It is better to delay this recapture by, for instance, 33...h5!?, but Shirov already had under a minute until the control move – I remind you that there is no increment until the move 60.

34.♖xd3

It seems Levon planned 34.♖b2, but at the last moment decided against keeping the Black's passer on board. Now Black could remain in the game by 34...h5 35.♖bb7 ♖h7.

34...♜d4 35.♖d2



35...h6?!

More active and tenacious is 35...h5! 36.f4 ♘f5.

36.f4! ♘b5

Now 36...♘f5? is met by 37.g4.

37.♖a8+?!

37.♖b7 looked safer.

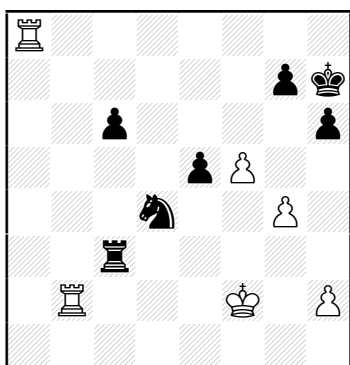
37...♔h7 38.f5?! ♘d4 39.g4?!

Playing on the opponent's time, Levon gives Alexei good drawing chances.

39...♖c3?

39...h5! would probably save Black half a point.

40.♖b2



40...h5??

The last move of the first control turns out to be the last move of the game. Only 40...♘b5 allowed to continue the resistance, albeit in a hopeless position.

41.♖bb8

The escape attempt 41...♔h6 is parried by the simple 42.h4, therefore Black resigns.

Leko-Bareev

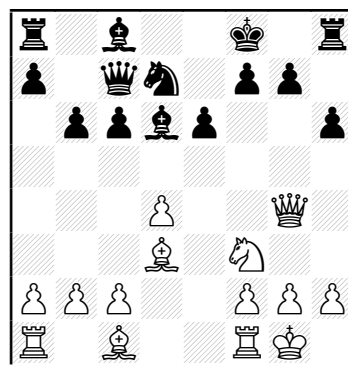
Caro Kann Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dx4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7

Usually Evgeny plays 4...♘f5.

5.♘g5 ♘gf6 6.♘d3 e6 7.♘1f3 ♘d6 8.♖e2 h6

9.♘e4 ♘xe4 10.♖xe4 ♖c7 11.0-0 b6 12.♖g4 ♘f8



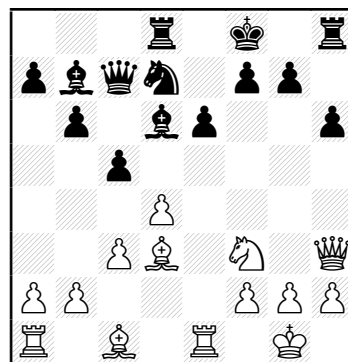
13.♖e1

13.b3 ♘b7 14.♘b2 occurred more often recently. Peter played that line, too.

13...c5 14.c3 ♘b7 15.♖h3

This position often occurred in the tournament practice. Black lost the right to castle, and his king's rook is offside, but apart from that his position is quite acceptable. White did not have any problems with developing his pieces, but now he has difficulties making progress.

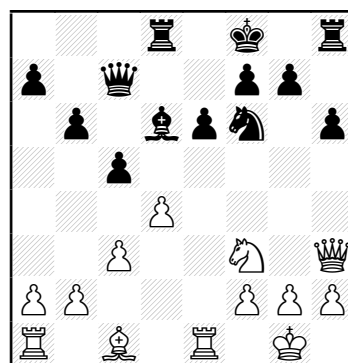
15...♖d8



16.♘e4!?

A novelty. White removes ♘xf3 from the agenda. Previously he played 16.♔h1 ♔g8 (or 16...♘f6 17.♘d2 ♔g8 18.♖ad1 ♘d5 19.b3 ♖b7 20.♘e3 ♘xf3 21.gxf3, T.Petrosian-Galkin, Kusadasi 2006) 17.♘d2 ♘f4 18.♘e3 ♘f6 19.♖ad1 with a slightly better game for White (T.Petrosian-Kidambi, Dubai 2007), but Bareev obviously prepared an improvement in one of these lines.

16...♘xe4 17.♖xe4 ♘f6 18.♖e1



18...g6!?

A very difficult move. Black found no reason to bring his king to h7, where it is prone to a knight's check from c g5, but this pawn advance seems to weaken his king.

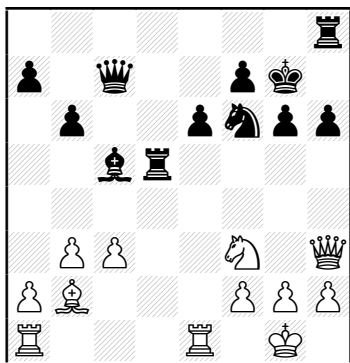
19.b3

In the case of 19.♙xh6+?! ♔g8 White is unlikely to unpin easily.

19...♚g7 20.dxc5 ♜xc5 21.♙b2

On 21.c4?! Black has 21...♙b4! followed by ...♙b4-c3.

21...♞d5!

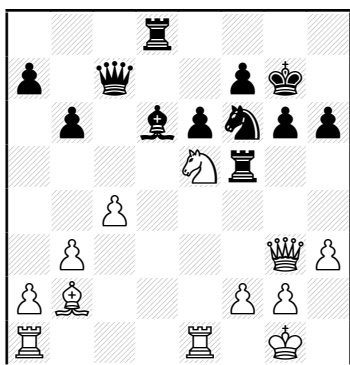


An excellent maneuver! As you can recall, this maneuver solved Evgeny's opening problems in the first game against Judit Polgar, although the position was quite different.

22.c4 ♞h5 23.♞g3

Perhaps returning the queen in the center by 23.♞g4!? ♞d8 24.♞e4 and then ♞e4-e2, ♞a1-d1 was better – White has a solid game.

23...♙d6! 24.♘e5 ♞d8 25.h3 ♞f5



26.♞e2?!

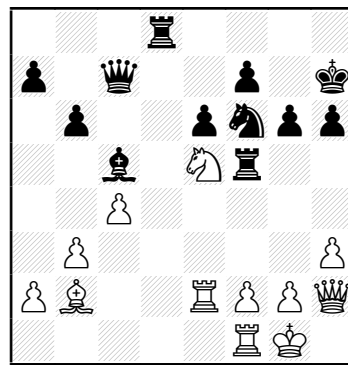
Overestimating the chances. 26.♞c3!? retains a minimal advantage.

26...♙c5 27.♞f1?

Too passive. Surprisingly, after this mistake White ends up in a difficult position. 27.♞ae1 ♔h7 28.♞c3 was mandatory.

27...♚h7! 28.♞h2?

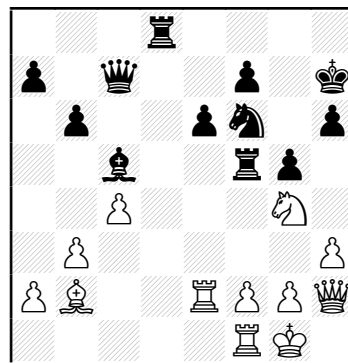
This move loses, however, the position was already quite unpleasant! 28.♞c3? is impossible, because after 28...♙d4 the e5-knight lacks sufficient protection, and in addition White has no adequate defense against ...♘f6-h5-f4.



28...g5??

28...♘e4!! would finish the game in Bareev's favor. 29.♞xe4 (or 29.♘f3 ♘g3! 30.♞c2, and now 30...♙d6! 31.fxg3 ♙xg3 32.♞h1 ♞c5+) 29...♞xf2! gives Black decisive advantage. For example, 30.♙d4 (30.♞xf2 ♞d1+ mating, or 30.♞e1 ♞xb2+ 31.♚h1 ♙f2) 30...♞xd4 31.♞xd4 ♞xf1+ 32.♚xf1 ♙xd4 etc.

29.♘g4



29...♙d6?

Black overestimates his chances, being under severe time pressure. This move indeed locks the White's queen, but only temporarily. Evgeny should have traded the queens with a good game.

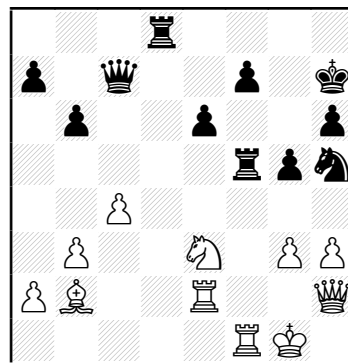
30.g3 ♘h5

Sticking to the losing plan.

31.♘e3

Nothing will prevent the White's queen from going out to the h1-a8 diagonal, while Black has made some serious damage to his position.

31...♙xg3?! 32.fxg3



32...♞xf1+?

One should have taken the pawn: 32...♖xg3+ 33.♗xg3 ♜xg3 34.♞ef2 ♞xf2 35.♞xf2 f5 with some chances to survive.

33.♜xf1 ♞d1 34.♞e3

Black has absolutely no compensation for a piece. Bareev resigned.

Grischuk-Rublevsky
 Sicilian Defense
Notes by grandmaster
 Yury Yakovich

1.e4 c5 2.♞f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 ♞c6 5.♜c3 a6
 So far Rublevsky's opening tastes remain stable. He used the same move order in the 3rd game against Ponomarev.

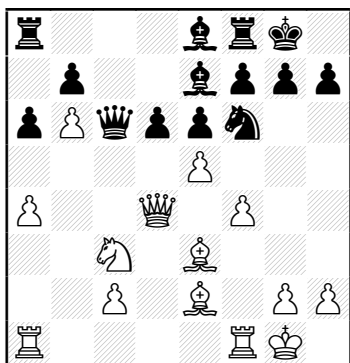
6.♗e2

Ponomarev continued 6.♜xc6, but did not obtain any advantage in the opening.

6...d6 7.0-0 ♞f6 8.♗e3 ♗d7!?

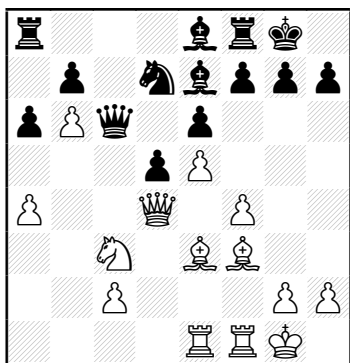
The favorite system of Rublevsky. Black tries to save a tempo on the natural Scheveningen move ♗c7.

9.a4 ♗e7 10.f4 ♜xd4 11.♗xd4 ♗c6 12.b4 0-0 13.b5 ♗e8 14.e5 ♗c7!?



The diagrammed position occurred in Rublevsky's games twice. Jakovenko (Moscow, 2003) and Svidler (Moscow 2005) continued 16.exd6 ♗xd6 17.♗f3, but Black made draws in both cases. However, Grischuk prepared an interesting novelty for this match.

16.♗f3!?



18.♜xd5!?

The point! The 14-year-old international master Sanan

Sjugirov, who comments the computer match for the public, said here: 'Humans play much more interesting chess!'

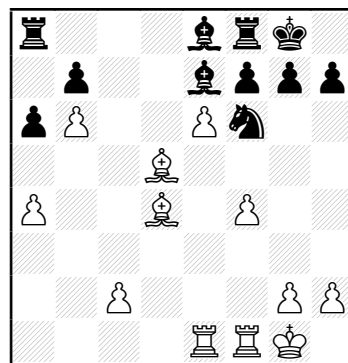
18...exd5 19.♗xd5

White's initiative is obviously very dangerous. 19...♗c5? loses to 20.♗xc6! ♗xd4 21.♗xd4 bxc6 22.b7 ♞b8 (or 22...♞d8 23.♗a7, and Black has no defense against ♞d1 followed by b8♗, for example, 23...♜b8 24.♞d1) 23.♞b1 c5 24.♗e3! and despite having an extra piece, Black has no reasonable moves.

The queen retreats to c8 and h6 may be tested in the future games of the match, therefore we will abstain from analyzing these positions.

After lengthy consideration, Rublevsky played 19...♗c5, and Grischuk instantly responded by 20.e6! ♗xd4

20...fxe6 21.♗xe6+ ♞f7 (21...♜h8? loses on the spot to 22.♗xd7 ♗xd4? 23.♗xd4 ♗xd7 24.♞xe7) 22.♗e4 or 22.♗xf7+ leads to White's advantage. 21.♗xd4 ♜f6



22.♗b3!

The key move! Grischuk keeps playing instantly, demonstrating the depth of his home analysis. Black cannot avoid material losses.

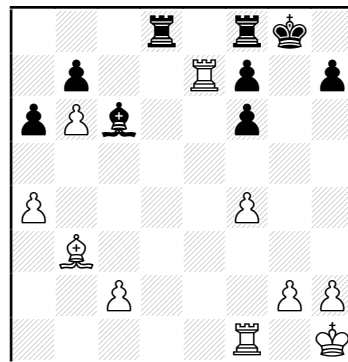
22...♞d8!

The only defense! Being under the time pressure, Rublevsky finds the only way to continue the fight.

23.♗xf6 ♗c5+

23...♗xf6 is hopeless in view of 24.e7.

24.♜h1 gxf6 25.e7 ♗xe7 26.♞xe7 ♗c6



In the diagrammed position Alexander spent about 40 minutes, and played 27.♞c7!

Now White can sacrifice an exchange on c6 when

appropriate, and the b-pawn will head towards the queening square. The natural 27.♖fe1 ♖d2 28.♗7e2?! ♗fd8 29.♔g1 ♔f8 30.♔f2 ♗8d4 leads to a position in which White has problems with converting his advantage due to the opponent's piece activity.

27...♗d2 28.♗e1!

Here comes another excellent move! White's top priority is activity, so he pays no attention to the g2-pawn.

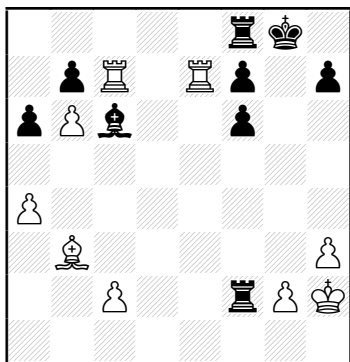
28...♗f2?

The time trouble! Taking the f4-pawn was totally unnecessary. Black should have tried to bring the king away from the danger zone by 28...♔g7! with the idea to meet 29.h3 (not 29.♖xc6? due to 29...♗e8!) by 29...♗xg2+ 30.♔g1 ♔h6!, retaining some saving chances.

29.h3

Now White wins.

29...♖xf4 30.♗ee7 ♗f1+ 31.♔h2 ♗f2



White ends the game with series of tactical blows.

32.♖xc6! bxc6 33.♖xf7! ♗f4 34.c3! ♗e4 35.♗e7+ Black resigns.

Kamsky-Gelfand Sicilian Defense

Notes by grandmaster
Yury Yakovich

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6
Few people doubted that Gelfand will play the Najdorf Variation.

6.a4

Recently Kamsky preferred 6.♗g5, however, playing against such a renowned theoretician as Gelfand, Gata decided to return to the text-move, which he used regularly in the 90s.

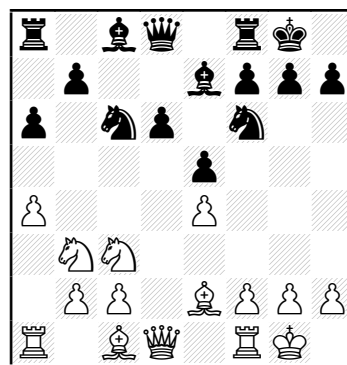
6...♗c6

One of the best replies to the system employed by White.

7.♗e2 e5! 8.♗b3

Against Kengis (Bern 1990), Kamsky retreated the knight to f3, and Black did not experience any problems.

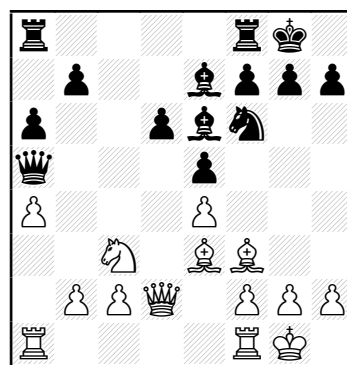
8...♗e7 9.0-0 0-0



10.♗e3

Playing against Short in Linares, 1994, Kamsky obtained an advantage by 10.♗g5 ♗e6 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6 12.♗d5 ♗g5 13.a5 ♖c8 14.♗g4, and after 14...♔h8 15.c3 ♗h6?! confidently won the game. Short was impressed by Kamsky's approach, and later followed Gata's play until the move 14 in Short-Gelfand, Groningen 1996. However, Boris prepared an improvement: 14...♗d4! (instead of 14...♔h8), and after 15.♗xd4 exd4 16.f4 ♗h6 17.♗xe6 fxe6 18.♗b6 ♖c5 19.g3 e5 20.f5 ♗c7 21.c3 ♖b5 22.♗d5 ♗c4 23.♖a4 ♗b3 24.♗xb3 ♖xb3 25.cxd4 the players agreed to a draw. The text-move also fails to create any problems for Black.

10...♗e6 11.♗f3 ♗a5 12.♗xa5 ♗xa5 13.♗d2



13...♖fc8

Rashkovsky-Timoschenko (Kishinev 1975) continued 13...♔h8, but since ♗d5 is not a threat, touching the king is not necessary.

14.♗fd1

14.♗d5?! ♗xd2 15.♗xe7+ ♔f8 16.♗xd2 ♖xc2 with advantage to Black.

14...♔f8

Gelfand prefers to see his king on f8 rather than on h8. 15.♗c1 ♖c4 16.♗d3 ♖ac8 17.♗d1 ♗4c6 18.♗d2 ♖c4 19.♗d3 ♖4c6 20.h3 h6 21.♗d2 ♖c4 22.♗d3 ♖4c6 23.♗d2

Neither player has an active plan in this position, so a draw was agreed.