

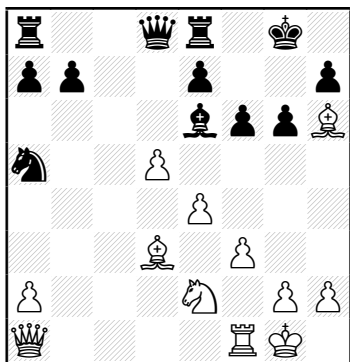
Round 2. Game 5.
11 June 2007

Aronian-Shirov
Gruenfeld Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5

In contrast to the previous encounters between these players, Shirov deviates from the QGA, and goes for a sharp Gruenfeld.

4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♖g7 7.♗c4 c5
8.♗e2 ♗c6 9.♗e3 0-0 10.0-0 ♗g4 11.f3 ♗a5
12.♗d3 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗e6 14.d5 ♗xa1 15.♚xa1
16.♗h6 ♚e8

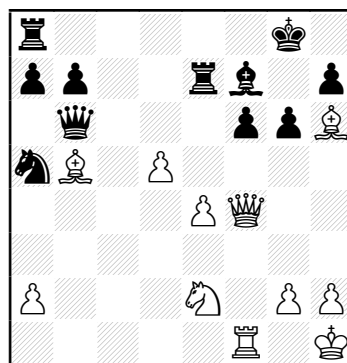


This extra sharp line recently gained a lot of popularity. White sacrifices an exchange and launches the attack on the kingside.

17.♚d4

Recently White's hopes of obtaining an advantage were pinned with 17.♗h1 ♚c8 18.♗f4 ♗d7 19.e5. After suffering several defeats, Black found the way to hold the position. Here is one of the most important games in this variation: 19...♗c4 20.e6 ♗a4 21.♗xg6 hxg6 22.♗xg6 ♗e5 23.♗e4 ♗c2 24.♗xc2 ♚xc2 25.♚d1 ♗h7 26.f4 ♗xh6 27.fxe5. White gets a strong attack for the sacrificed rook, but Black survives with series of precise moves: 27...♚c8!? 28.exf6 ♚g8!? 29.f7 (or 29.♚d3 ♚gxg2 30.♚h3+ ♗g6 31.♚f5+ ♗h6 32.♚h3+ with perpetual) 29...♚gxg2 30.f8♚+ (stronger is 30.♚xc2 ♚xc2 31.f8♚+ ♚xf8 32.♚xf8 ♚xh2+ 32.♗g1 ♚cg2+ 33.♗f1 ♚h1+ 34.♗xg2 ♚xd1 35.♚d8 ♗g6, and a draw was agreed soon in Korotylev-Timofeev, Tomsk 2004.

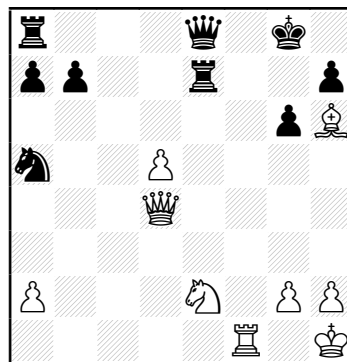
17...♗f7 18.♗b5 e5 19.♚f2 ♚e7 20.f4 exf4
21.♚xf4 ♚b6+ 22.♗h1



22...♗xd5!

Of course, not 22...♚xb5?? 23.♚xf6 with inevitable mate.

23.exd5 ♚xb5 24.♚xf6 ♚e8 25.♚d4



White managed to open up the Black's king, however, Black has enough defensive resources.

25...♚f7!?

A new move. Shirov already tried 25...♚d8 26.h3 ♚f7 27.♚xf7 ♚xf7 28.♚c3! b6 29.♗g3 in Topalov-Shirov (Wijk aan Zee 2007), and then committed a big mistake: 29...♗b7? (29...♚e8! 30.♚d4 with good compensation, Rakhmanov-Danin, Sochi 2007) After 30.♗e4 ♚e7 31.♗f6+ ♗f7 32.♗xh7 White's strong initiative brought him a victory.

26.♚xf7 ♚xf7 27.♗d2

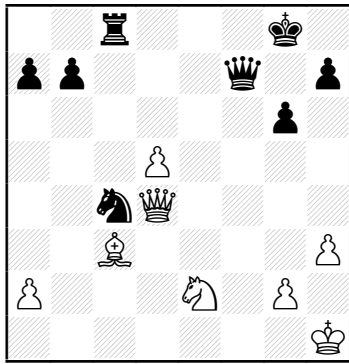
Intending to build a battery on the a1-h8 diagonal.

27...♚g7!?

Black has no intention of protecting the knight!

28.♚e4 Black has good counterplay after 28.♗xa5?! ♚xd4 29.♗xd4 ♚c8 or 28.♚xg7+ ♗xg7 29.♗xa5 ♚c8, as the rook is very strong.

28...♚f7 29.♗c3 ♚c8 30.h3 ♗c4 31.♚d4



31...♔f8

The only defense against the mate in one – but this is enough.

32.♖h8+

In principle, Levon could continue playing against the king by 32.♗f4!? ♕e8 33.♗e6, but favorable match situation, material deficit and possibly tiredness resulted in taking a different decision. Also, the speed of Shirov's play suggested that this position could be analyzed by him at home.

32...♗g8 33.♗d4 ♗f7 34.♗h8+

Game drawn.

Leko-Bareev

Caro Kann Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♗f5 5.♗g3 ♗g6 6.h4 h6 7.♗f3 ♗d7 8.h5 ♗h7 9.♗d3 ♗xd3 10.♗xd3 e6

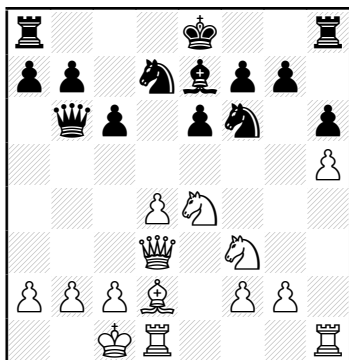
Bareev sticks to his opening principles, however, the Caro Kann Defense is not the best choice in a must-win situation.

11.♗d2

More popular is 11.♗f4, but at the moment Leko is satisfied with this modest bishop move.

11...♗gf6 12.0-0-0 ♗e7 13.♗e4 ♗b6

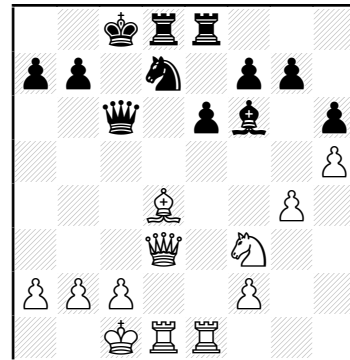
A rare continuation. Black activates the queen, however, such position cannot be made complicated in principle. Usually Evgeny played 13...0-0, for instance, 14.♖b1 c5 15.dxc5 ♗c7 16.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 with a good game, Smirin-Bareev, Moscow 2002. By the way, Black managed to win that game.



14.♗xf6+ ♗xf6

In Huebner-Larsen (Bugojno 1982) White got an advantage after 14...♗xf6 15.♗e5 ♗d8 16.♗g3.

15.g4 c5 16.♗c3 0-0-0 17.dxc5 ♗xc5 18.♗d4 ♗c6 19.♗he1 ♗he8

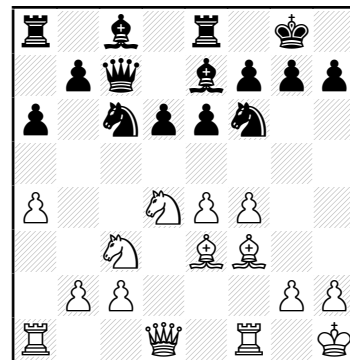


White possibly keeps a minimal advantage, but Peter had nothing against accepting a draw offer, which allowed him to qualify for the World Championship in Mexico.

Grischuk-Rublevsky

Sicilian Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Yury Yakovich

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗c6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗e2 ♗c7 7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♗e3 ♗e7 9.f4 d6 10.a4 0-0 11.♖h1 ♗e8 12.♗f3



Just like the previous odd games of the match, the players continued their Scheveningen discussion. Rublevsky again altered his opening play by opting for 12...♗f8!? instead of 12...♗d7, which occurred in the Game 3.

13.♗d2

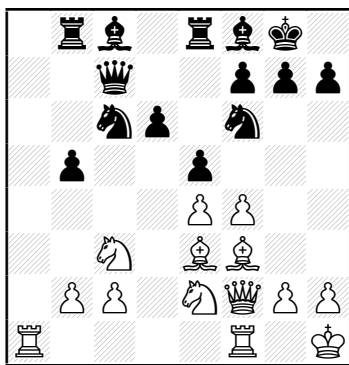
In the game against Khalifman (Wijk aan Zee 2002) Grischuk continued 13.g4, and after 13...♗xd4 14.♗xd4 e5 15.♗g1 exf4 16.g5 ♗d7 17.♗d5 ♗d8 18.♗g2 (18.♗d2!? deserves attention) 18...♗e5?! 19.♗d2! seized the initiative.

However, Grischuk himself showed in the post-game notes that after 18...♗e5! 19.♗xf4 (19.♗b6?! ♗xg5 20.♗c7 ♗d7 gives Black more than adequate

compensation for an exchange) 19...♙e6 20.♙e3 ♖c8 Black equalizes.

13...♜b8 14.♞f2 e5 15.♞de2 b5!?

A minor surprise! It seems Grischuk was prepared to show an improvement to Adams-Anand (Linares 2005), which was draw after 15...exf4 16.♙b6 ♞e7 17.♞xf4 ♙e6 18.♞ad1 g6 19.♞d2 ♞e5 20.♙e2 ♜bc8 21.♙f2 h6 22.h3 ♜c6 23.♙h4 g5 24.♞xe6 ♞xe6 25.♙g3 ♞c4 26.♞d4 ♙g7 27.♙xc4 ♜xc4 28.♞xd6 ♞xd6.
16.axb5 axb5



17.f5!?

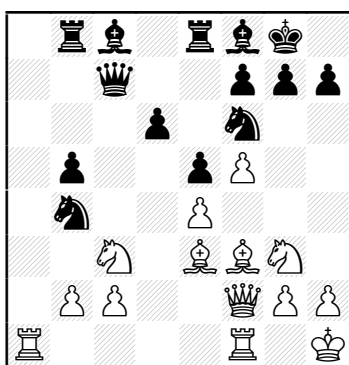
A new move. In McShane–Pelletier (Biel 2004) White continued 17.♞d5, which led to a double-edged game after 17...♞xd5 18.exd5 ♞b4 (18...exf4!?) 19.fxe5 ♜xe5.

17...♞b4

A multi-purpose move. Black controls the d5-square and attacks the c2-pawn.

18.♞g3

Of course, White could like to start the pawn storm by g2-g4-g5, however, apart from capturing on c2, Black has a typical central break d6-d5, and the White's position is cracking: 18.g4 d5!



The players agreed to a draw in this complex position. They understood that in anticipation of the ♞g3-h5 maneuver with kingside initiative (after, for instance, 18...h6?! 19.♞h5) Black is practically forced to play 18...♞xc2!?

A) 19.♞xc2 b4;

B) 19.♙g5!?! ♞xa1 20.♙xf6 ♞c5 21.♞d2 ♞b3 22.♞g5;

C) 19.♞a7 ♜b7 20.♞xb7 ♙xb7 21.♙g5.

In any case the course of the game is extremely double-edged. Early in the match the players would probably go test their luck in the arising complications, but here they decided to postpone it until better times.

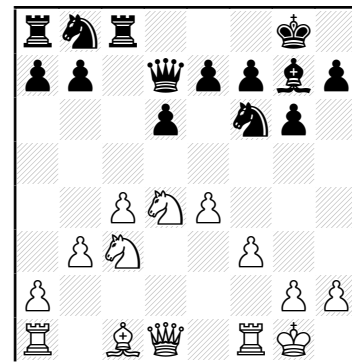
Kamsky-Gelfand Sicilian Defense

Notes by grandmaster
Yury Yakovich

1.e4 c5 2.♞f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♙d7 4.♙xd7+ ♞xd7 5.c4 ♞f6 6.♞c3 g6 7.0-0

Normally White tries to save a tempo on the castling by playing 7.d4 cxd4 8.♞xd4 ♙g7 9.f3 0-0 10.♙e3, although in this case Black also solves his opening problems easily. However, the line occurred in the game shows that 7.0-0 is even more harmless.

7...♙g7 8.d4 cxd4 9.♞xd4 0-0 10.f3 ♜c8 11.b3



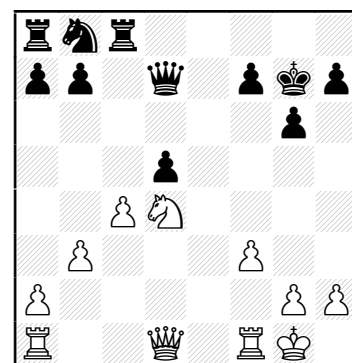
11...d5!

A brilliant idea of Vassily Ivanchuk. Black equalizes easily, therefore if White intends to play a full-fledged game, he should avoid the diagrammed position. Here Kamsky started thinking, seemingly surprised by the text-move.

12.exd5 ♞xd5 13.♞xd5 e6 14.♙h6

The original game Delchev – Ivanchuk (Silvri 2003) ended in a draw after 14.♙e3 exd5 15.cxd5 ♞a6 16.♜c1 ♜xc1 17.♞xc1 ♞b4 18.♞d2 ♞xd5 19.♞e2 ♞e7.

14...exd5 15.♙xg7 ♞xg7



16.c5?!

Apparently, White overlooked Black's next move. 16.cxd5 leads to a completely equal position.

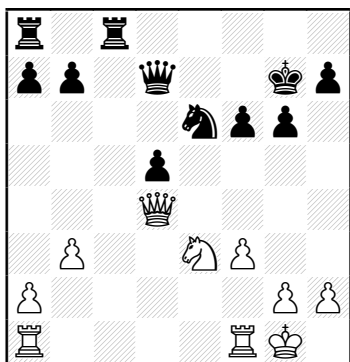
16...♖a6

White loses a pawn. Certain lack of harmony of Black's pieces in addition to having control of the d4-square gives him reasonable drawing chances. Of course, 16...♖xc5?? is a blunder in view of 17.♗f5+ ♕xf5 18.♖d4+.

17.♗c2 ♗xc5

One is reluctant to play 17...♖xc5, as after 18.♖d4+ ♕f6 19.♗e3 the Black's pieces are arranged badly.

18.♖d4+ ♕f6 19.♗e3 ♗e6



20.♖h4?!

Kamsky's wish to fight back in his last White game is understandable, but objectively he has no winning chances in this position. Therefore it was correct to postpone the attempts until the last game by playing 20.♖xd5 ♕xd5 21.♗xd5 ♖c2 22.♖f2 ♖ac8 23.♖e1 with an equal ending.

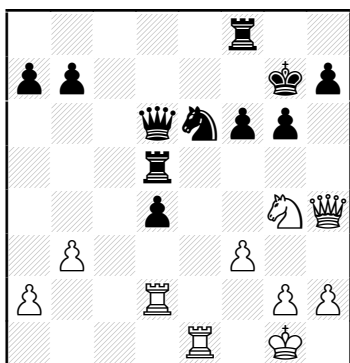
20...♖c5! 21.♖ad1 ♗d4 22.♗g4 ♖f8 23.♖fe1 ♖h5

Also possible is 23...h5.

24.♖g3 ♖d5

Black has an extra central passed pawn, and his pieces are placed perfectly.

25.♖d2 ♖d6 26.♖h4



26...h5! 27.♗f2 ♗g5!

Gelfand drives the opponent's piece back with energetic pawn advances.

28.♖e4 ♖e5 29.♖b1 ♖xe1+ 30.♖xe1 ♖d8 31.g3 ♗c5 32.♖e2 a5 33.♖b5

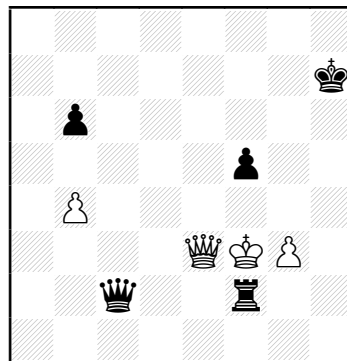
The Black's position is won. The last chance to fight for a draw was transposing to a major piece ending by 33.♗e4, but this should also be winning for Black. Kamsky's reluctance to trade the knights makes the

d-pawn unstoppable.

33...b6 34.a3 ♖e6 35.♖b2 ♗d3 36.b4 axb4 37.axb4 ♗b3 38.♖a4 ♗d4 39.♗g2 ♗c2

There was an easy win by 39...♗f5!, however, converting an extra exchange in this situation is easy enough.

40.♖xc2 dxc2 41.♖xc2 g4 42.fxg4 hxg4 43.♗g1 ♖d4 44.♖c7+ ♗g6 45.♖c2+ ♕f5 46.♖c3 ♖c4 47.♖d2 ♗h7 48.h3 gxh3 49.♗xh3 ♖c6 50.♖e3 ♖c1+ 51.♗f2 ♖c2+ 52.♗f3 ♖f1+ 53.♗f2 ♖xf2+



White resigns, as he is unable to prevent checkmate.