

Introduction

This is a repertoire book for Black against 1 d4, based on the Queen's Gambit Declined (QGD). It deliberately concentrates more on theory than on strategical explanations; there is no shortage of the latter in the QGD, but the literature has been missing detailed theoretical coverage of the Tartakower, for instance, for an extraordinarily long time. Although these systems are some of the oldest in chess, nothing stands still, and the variations at the cutting edge today are not those which concerned the classical masters of the 1930's, nor even those which were in fashion in the 1980's.

I don't cover lines without c4 such as the pseudo-Tromp, Veresov, Colle and Torre for various reasons. First, they aren't so common or significant after 1 d4 d5. Second, I did that before, in *Dealing with d4 Deviations*. Third, they're dealt with well in other books on the market. And, lastly, there's only so much space in a book and I wanted to be sure the main repertoire was presented in sufficient detail. One of the appeals of the QGD is that against flank openings Black can pretty much set up in the same way as he does against 1 d4; the only thing he needs to know something about is the neo-Catalan or Réti line which arises after 1 c4 e6 2 ♖f3 d5 3 g3 ♗f6 4 b3 ♙e7 5 ♙g2 0-0 6 0-0 c5 7 e3 ♗c6 8 ♙b2, or some such sequence. I'm afraid I haven't covered that either, so let me just recommend either 4...dxc4 5 bxc4 e5 or 4...d4 as irritants for White if you don't want to play the main line, and move on. The Catalan, however, I have counted as part of White-main-lines-with c4, and given a repertoire for Black against it.

The repertoire is based around the Tartakower, which forms Chapter One. I give an alternative system in the form of the ancient and modern Lasker Defence, in Chapter Two. Chapter Three deals with White systems which avoid the Tartakower and Lasker proper, but without falling into any of the subsequent three parts. The most significant of these is '♙xf6' systems, but also a couple of early ♖c1 lines, and 5 ♙c2 or 5 e3 are covered. Chapter Four is devoted to the fashionable 5 ♙f4 0-0 6 e3 ♗bd7, popularized by Kramnik among others. Chapter Five covers the Exchange Variation, which I have preferred to deal with by the sidestep

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3 ♖c3 ♜f6 4 cxd5 exd5 5 ♙g5 c6, and now either 6 e3 ♙f5 (Nigel Short's recipe), or 6 ♚c2 ♙e7 7 e3 ♜bd7 8 ♙d3 ♜h5 (a very solid system favoured in his time by Ulf Andersson, and also by Lars Bo Hansen and the English GM Jonathan Parker). Chapter Six covers the Catalan, and the system I have chosen is the fashionable 4...dxc4 5 ♙g2 (or 5 ♚a4+ c6) 5...♙b4+ 6 ♙d2 a5, which was reinvented by Topalov and since then has produced three of the epic contests of modern chess (Kramnik-Topalov, Game 1 of the 2006 Elista match; Anand-Topalov, Game 4 of the 2010 Sofia match; and Carlsen-Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2010).

It's handy to have a hero when studying an opening; someone whose games you look out for in the database and make an effort to grasp. Of course with the QGD there's no shortage of world champions to play this role, but sometimes it's better to aim slightly lower, and I have no hesitation in naming Rafael Vaganian as the man to follow. I don't know how he's played so many brilliant combinational attacks from the opening, but he has. Nigel Short, of course, is *the* modern-day knight of the Tartakower and has contributed hugely to its theory, and I would also mention the solid German GMs Uwe Boensch and Fabien Doettling as people to keep an eye on.

As usual I would like to thank John Emms, Richard Palliser and Byron Jacobs for their courtesy and patience as contractual deadlines, polite-request deadlines, drop-dead deadlines, final deadlines and the rest flew by. I had the misfortune to be paired with John in the 4NCL somewhere around the point where any possible excuse for my tardiness expired, and his accusing stare at my back as I fled the scene after a draw was agreed remains with me still...

John Cox,
Ruislip,
June 2011

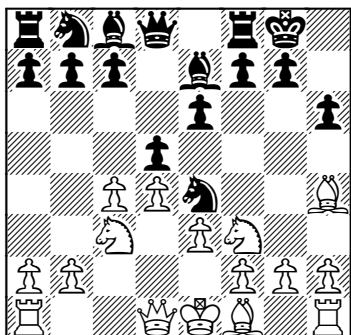
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Chapter Two

The Lasker Defence

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗f6 4 ♗f3 ♕e7 5
 ♙g5 h6 6 ♙h4 0-0 7 e3 ♘e4



This, our alternative repertoire system, is named after the second World Champion ('of course Lasker was the greatest of the World Champions' – Tal), and is Black's main alternative to the Tartakower. As one can guess from the name, it is a very old line, but in very recent times it has seen a revival, so much so that the fifteenth World Champion retained his title with a black win with it in the final game of the last title match. Its idea is simply to break the pin and free Black's game.

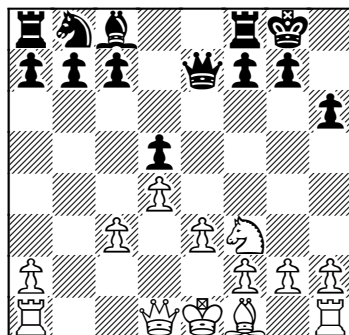
Game 16

B.Jobava-D.Shengelia
 European Championship,
 Batumi 2002

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗f6 4 ♙g5 ♕e7 5
 e3 0-0 6 ♗f3 h6 7 ♙h4 ♘e4 8 ♙xe7
 ♚xe7 9 cxd5

Unfashionable, but equally dangerous, leading to less technical positions than the very much more popular 9 ♖c1, which is covered in the next game. By forcing Black's next White gains a considerable central majority.

9...♗xc3 10 bxc3 exd5



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11 ♖b3

This move has been played by numerous World Champions and just about everyone who has reached this position. White's idea is that by putting sufficient pressure on d5 (and b7), he will force Black into playing ...dxc4 before White has to move his king's bishop, a version of the perennial 'fight for the tempo'. Since Black's main defence to it (see the note to Black's 12th, below) is based on the fork ...♗a5, though, one does get the idea that the immediate 11 c4 might be worth a thought. 11...♙e6 (11...dxc4 12 ♙xc4 c5 is an alternative, more nihilistic, try) often leads to the same position as the game after 12 ♖b3 ♗d8, but White might also contemplate the untried 12 ♗c1. I suspect Black's best answer is the sharp 12...♗d7 13 cxd5 (13 ♖b3 can be met with 13...c6, since 14 ♖xb7 ♖a3 15 ♖b1 ♗b8 gives Black excellent compensation for his pawn) 13...♙xd5 14 ♗xc7 ♗ac8 15 ♗xc8 ♗xc8 16 ♙d3 ♖b4+ 17 ♙e2 ♙c4, when Black will win back the a-pawn with an unbalanced but equal position.

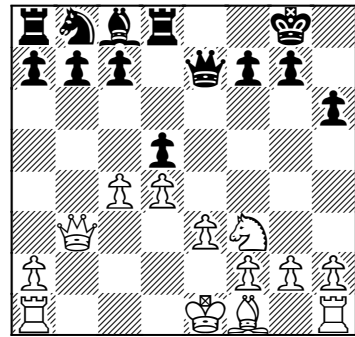
White's other moves have the defect of not preventing ...c5: for example, 11 ♙d3 c5 12 0-0 ♗c6 (if Black wanted to be more combative then 12...c4 is perfectly possible) 13 ♗b1 (Black also held without any real difficulty after 13 ♗e1 ♗d8 14 e4 dxe4 15 ♙xe4 ♖f6 16 d5 ♗e7 17 ♗e5 ♙f5 18 ♙f3 ♗g6 in the latest Topalov-Anand Lasker clash, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2011) 13...♙e6 14

dxc5 ♗ab8 15 ♖a4 ♖xc5 with perhaps a tiny advantage for White in V.Eingorn-Li Wenliang, World Team Championship, Lucerne 1993. Black held the draw easily against his much higher-rated opponent; in these positions the mutual weaknesses on c3 and d5 and the strong posts on d4 and c5 tend to balance each other out.

11...♗d8

This move is usually chosen today rather than the older 11...♗d6. The rook looks a bit prospectless, but Black anticipates White's next and calculates that sooner or later he will be able to achieve ...c5, and that when he does his rooks will belong on d8 and c8.

12 c4

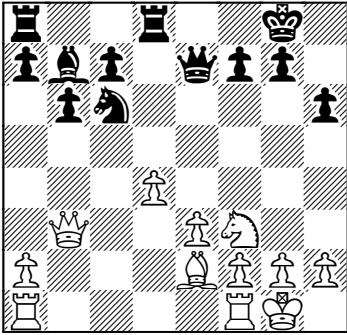


12...♙e6!?

This long-forgotten move was thought to have been refuted forty years before this game and is still little known. So far it has achieved excellent results, but much of what follows is original analysis and for that reason I have included a lengthy note about the older 12...dxc4, whose idea is to gain

time after the obvious 13 ♖xc4 by 13...♗c6 with the threat of ...♗a5. White has dealt with this threat in three ways in practice:

a) 14 ♖e2 b6 15 0-0 ♖b7, with a further divide:

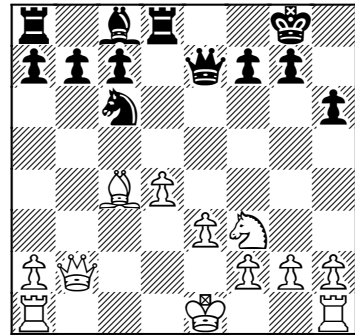


a1) 16 ♖ac1 has been proven equal in several games since the stem game V.Kramnik-C.Lutz, German League 1994, which went 16...♗a5 17 ♖b2 ♖ac8 18 h3 (18 ♖c3 c5 19 ♖a3 ♖f8 was given by Kramnik as equal and has also been proved so in various games) 18...c5 19 dxc5 ♖xc5 20 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 21 ♖c1 ♖e7 22 ♗d4 ♖g5 23 ♖g4 ♖d5 24 ♖f3 ♖d7 25 ♖xb7 ♗xb7 26 ♗c6 ♖a8 27 ♖d4 reaching a position which puzzles me. Kramnik won a splendid ending, which Lutz analyses wonderfully in *Endgame Secrets* and agrees with Kramnik's suggestion that 27...♖e6 28 ♖c4 ♖e8 was the way to defend, 'followed by ...♗c5, when the knight on c6 has to retreat and White isn't better at all'. I don't understand this; it seems to me that White can defend the knight by ♖d5 and follow with ♖d1 with a

nasty bind. It looks to me as though either 28...♖xc4 or 27...♖xd4 28 exd4 ♗d8 29 ♗b4 ♖f8 is preferable, particularly the latter.

a2) 16 ♖fc1 ♖ac8 17 ♖a4 ♗a5 18 ♖c3 c5 19 ♖ac1 cxd4 20 ♗xd4 ♖xc3 21 ♖xc3 ♖c8 22 ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 23 h3 g6 24 ♖f3 ♖d7 25 ♖c2 ♖c5 26 ♖e4 was all but equal in *Deep Fritz-V.Kramnik*, 5th matchgame, Bahrain 2002, but computers play this sort of position very, very well and Kramnik went down in the game; maybe the best at this moment was the uncompromising 26...♖g7.

b) 14 ♖b2 was the favourite move of that cunning old fox and QGD perennial Gideon Stahlberg.

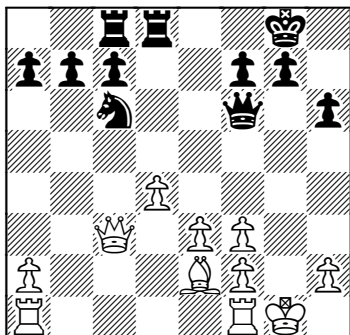


Black can choose between the Lutz plan of 14...♗a5 15 ♖e2 b6 16 0-0 ♖b7 17 ♖ac1 ♖ac8 (Atalik), and the Yusupov plan of 14...♖g4 15 ♖e2 (if 15 ♖xb7? ♖xf3 16 gxf3 ♗xd4) 15...♖xf3 16 gxf3 ♖ab8, with approximate equality in either case.

c) 14 ♖c3 ♖g4 15 0-0 (White can hardly avoid the doubled f-pawns since 15 ♖e2 ♖xf3 16 ♖xf3 allows 16...♗xd4)

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15...♙xf3 16 gxf3 ♖f6! (it's important to hit f3 and cover c6 at the same time) 17 ♙e2 ♜ac8! is 'a world-class move' (Sadler), and was part of Yusupov's preparation for his 1989 Candidates' match against Karpov. Now:



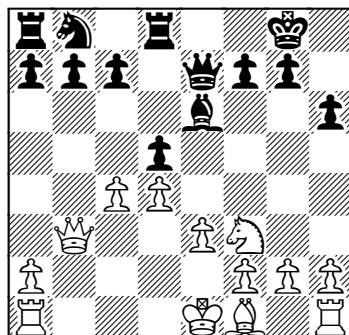
c1) 18 ♜ab1 b6 19 ♜fc1 (alternatively, 19 f4 ♘e7 20 ♙a6 was well met by 20...♖g6+ 21 ♙h1 ♘d5 22 ♖d3 ♖xd3 23 ♙xd3 c5 in M.Kobalija-O.Korneev, Krasnodar 1998, and 19 ♙a6 ♖xf3 20 ♙xc8 ♜xc8 21 ♜fc1 ♘e7 gives Black good compensation) 19...♘e7 20 ♙h1 ♜d5 21 ♖c2 (according to Yusupov White is already worse and his best is 21 ♖e1 c5; White's trouble is that he is not in time for 21 f4 c5 22 ♙f3 in view of 22...cxd4 23 ♖xc8+ ♘xc8) 21...♖h4, and now only the much-praised 22 f4 enabled White to hang on in the stem game A.Karpov-A.Yusupov, 5th matchgame, London 1989, and I'm not sure even that would have done the trick if Black had continued more calmly with 22...c5, rather than the game's 22...♖xf2, which led to an instructive rook ending which Kar-

pov managed to hold.

c2) 18 ♜ac1 ♘e7 19 ♙h1 (Babula's 19 ♖a5 could perfectly well be met with 19...a6 since 20 ♜xc7?? loses to 20...♘c6 21 ♖b6 ♘xd4, but as Dautov points out Black can also make an immediate draw with 19...♜d5 20 ♖xa7 ♙h5 21 ♜c5 ♘d5 22 ♖xb7 ♖g5 23 ♙h1 ♜xh2+, and perpetual), recommended by various people in 1989 and subsequently, can be met by 19...b6 20 ♖b4 (or 20 ♖a3 c5 21 dxc5 ♜d2) 20...c5, since 21 dxc5 bxc5 22 ♜xc5?? loses to 22...♘d5 followed by ...♜xc5 and ...♘c3.

d) Finally, 14 ♙d5 has never been played, although the fact disappoints my computer; a clean response seems to be 14...♘a5 (14...♘xd4 15 ♘xd4 c6 16 ♘xc6 bxc6 17 ♙xc6 ♖f6 18 ♜c1 ♙e6 19 ♖a4 ♜d2 20 0-0 is spectacular but doesn't quite give enough compensation) 15 ♖b5 c5 16 ♙xf7+ ♖xf7 17 ♖xa5 b6 18 ♖b5 ♙b7 19 dxc5 bxc5 20 ♖xc5 ♙xf3 21 gxf3 ♜ac8 22 ♖e5 ♖xf3 23 ♜g1 ♖b7 with good compensation for the pawn.

Returning to 12...♙e6:



13 ♖xb7

If this move isn't good for White then probably Black's last move was simply good. Moreover, White's other tries have so far looked like bringing him more grief than Black:

a) 13 ♕e2 c5 14 0-0 ♘c6 was obviously fine for Black in V.Malakhatko-T.Sanikidze, Baku 2007.

b) 13 ♖c1 c5 14 ♖a3 ♘d7 15 cxd5 ♕xd5 16 ♕e2 b6 gave White nothing in S.Skembris-A.Mastrovasilis, Salonica 2006.

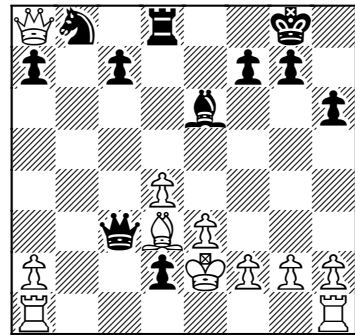
c) 13 c5 b6 14 ♖c1 bxc5 15 ♖a3 (15 ♖xc5 ♘d7 16 ♖xc7 ♖ab8 17 ♖c2 ♖a3 18 ♕d3 ♖b2 saw Black regaining his pawn with equality in P.Nikolic-D.Jojua, European Championship, Plovdiv 2008) 15...♘d7 16 ♕b5 ♕g4 ('the point of Black's play', according to Anand, but 16...♖ab8 17 ♕xd7 ♖xd7 18 ♖xc5 ♖b5 looked fine for Black too in V.Malakhatko-D.Jojua, Arcapita 2009) 17 ♕xd7 ♖xd7 (this 'works tactically', as Anand says) 18 ♖xc5 (both 18 ♖xc5 ♖e4 19 ♕e2 ♖d6 20 h3 ♕c8! and the cute 18 ♘e5 cxd4! 19 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 20 ♘xg4 h5! demonstrate Black's point) 18...♖e4 19 ♖g1 ♖e8! was at least equal for Black in the recent high-profile game V.Topalov-V.Anand, Nanjing 2010; Black's idea is 20 ♘e5 ♖xe5 21 dxe5 d4 22 h3 dxe3 23 hxg4 exf2+ 24 ♕xf2 ♖f4+ 25 ♕e1 ♖d4, and wins.

d) 13 cxd5 ♕xd5 14 ♕c4 ♕xf3 15 gxf3 (1/2-1/2 K.Sasikiran-O. Korneev, Corsica (rapid) 2005), is a clear improvement for Black on Karpov-Yusupov, since not

only is he a tempo or so up, but also he can get in 15...c5 right away.

13...♖a3!

13...dxc4 14 ♖xa8 ♖a3 15 ♖b1 ♕d5 was played quite a lot before White discovered 16 ♖xd5!, which looked as though it had closed this line down, but Shengelia's idea of inverting the moves has breathed new life into it. Having said that, the untried 13...dxc4 14 ♖xa8 ♖b4+ looks quite plausible; after 15 ♘d2 c3 White has the choice between a draw with 16 ♖d1 cxd2+ 17 ♖xd2 ♖b1+ 18 ♖d1 ♖b4+, and so on, or a very unclear position with 16 ♕d3 cxd2+ 17 ♕e2 ♖c3. For example:



a) 18 ♖ab1 ♘c6 19 ♖xd8+ (or 19 ♖b7 ♕c4 20 ♕xc4 ♘xd4+ 21 exd4 ♖e8+) 19...♘xd8 20 ♖b8 g6 21 ♖xd8+ ♕g7 22 ♖d1 ♖a5! is better for Black; ...♖g5 is on the cards.

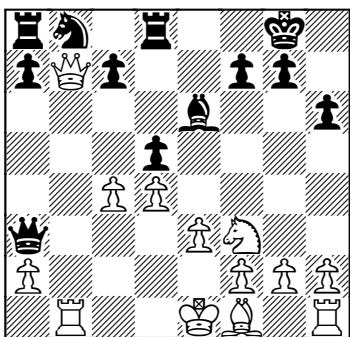
b) 18 ♖xa7 ♘c6 19 ♖a4 (not 19 ♖c5 ♘xd4+! 20 exd4 ♕g4+) leaves Black with a great many interesting tries which are fun to analyse, or an immediate draw with 19...♖xd4 20 exd4 ♘xd4+ 21 ♕e3 ♘f5+ 22 ♕e2 ♘d4+.

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c) 18 ♖e4 g6 19 ♗f4 (if 19 ♖ab1 ♕f5 20 ♖b3 ♗c1!) 19...♗c6 20 f3 ♗b4 21 ♕e4 f5 22 a3 fxe4 23 axb4 exf3+ 24 gxf3 d1 ♗+ 25 ♖axd1 ♗b2+ 26 ♔e1 ♕c4 27 ♖d2 ♗c1+ 28 ♖d1 ♗b2 with a draw.

14 ♖b1

Instead 14 ♗d2 dxc4 15 ♕xc4 (White settled for 15 ♕e2 ♕d5 16 ♗b1 c5 with equality at least for Black in A.Lugovoi-A.Alavkin, Russian Team Championship 2003) 15...♕xc4 16 ♗xc7 ♗c6! 17 ♗xc6 ♖ac8 18 ♗b7 ♗c3! ties White in knots, and 14 ♗b3 ♗a5+ 15 ♕d1 (if 15 ♗d2 c5!) 15...c5 is also at least equal for Black (15...♕d7 16 a4 is not quite so effective).



14...♗xa2

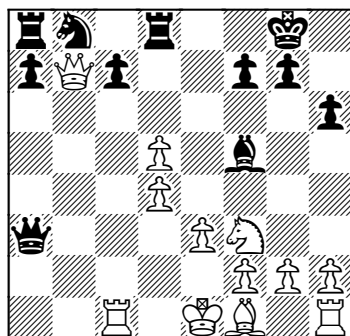
14...♗d7 is also an interesting move, since 15 ♗b2 (not 15 cxd5 ♖ab8 16 dxe6 ♖xb7 17 exf7+ ♔f8 18 ♖xb7 ♗c5!, when Black wins) 15...♗xb2 16 ♖xb2 dxc4 looks a little better for Black and it's hard to see what else White can play. This might be important if White can indeed do better than Jobava does in the text line. It is important that after 17 ♖c2 ♖ab8 18 ♗d2 Black has the

excellent pawn sacrifice 18...c5: for example, 19 ♕xc4 ♕f5 20 ♖c3 ♖b2 21 ♕b3 cxd4 22 exd4 ♗f6, maintaining a definite pull.

15 cxd5 ♕f5 16 ♖c1

16 ♖d1 was perhaps a sterner test: 16...♗d7 17 ♗a6 ♗b3!? (17...♗xd5 18 ♕c4 ♗d6 19 ♗a2 ♗b4+ 20 ♗d2 enables White to castle and perhaps claim a slight advantage) 18 ♗c4 seems to enable White to consolidate and claim a slight edge (by contrast 18 ♕d3 ♕xd3 19 ♖xd3 ♗xd5 20 ♖c3 c5 21 ♗a5 ♗e5!? produces some wonderful complications, probably about equal): for instance, 18...♗a3 19 ♖c1 ♖ab8 20 ♕e2 ♗b6 21 ♗c5 ♗b2 22 ♗e5 ♗d7 23 ♗xd7 ♖xd7 24 ♕f3.

16...♗a3

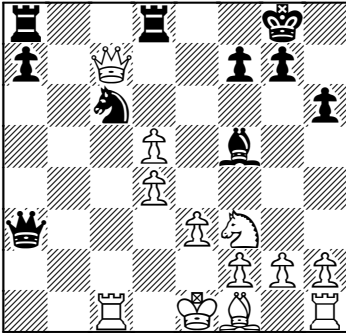


17 ♗xc7?

It's easy to say once you've seen Black's reply, but this move is a mistake. It's no surprise that White didn't fancy 17 ♖xc7, but this was the critical move: for example, 17...♗a1+ 18 ♔e2 (18 ♔d2 ♗a2+ 19 ♔d1 ♗a4+ 20 ♔e1 ♗a1+ repeats) 18...♗d7 19 ♗d2 ♗b6 20

h3 (20 ♖xf7 ♕d7 21 ♜e7 ♜ab8 22 ♖xd7 ♜xd7 23 ♜c6 ♜b2 is terrible for White) 20...♕c8 21 ♜c6 ♜xd5 22 ♜c1, although here too Black has much the easier play.

17...♜c6!!



18 ♜d1

White is busted. 18 ♜xc6 ♜ac8 19 ♜c5 ♜xc6 20 dxc6 ♜b8 21 ♜d2 ♕g4 is hopeless, and 18 ♜xc6 ♜ac8 19 ♜b7 ♜b8 20 ♜a6 ♜b1+ 21 ♕e2 ♜b2+ 22 ♜d2 ♜b4 23 ♕f3 ♜xd2 24 ♜e2 ♜b4! is also extremely unpleasant.

18...♜ac8 19 ♜f4 ♕c2 20 dxc6 ♕xd1 21 ♕xd1 ♜xc6 22 ♜d2 ♜c1+ 23 ♕e2 ♜c2 24 ♕f3 ♜xd2 25 ♕g3 ♜c3 26 ♕g4 ♜d1+ 27 f3 ♜d2 28 e4 ♜xd4 29 ♜e5 ♜d6 30 ♜e8+ ♕h7 31 ♜xf7 ♜g5+ 32 ♕h3 ♜f6 33 ♜d5 ♜xf3+ 34 g3 ♜xg3+ 0-1

Conclusion

12...♕e6 is a powerful idea which for the moment has driven White away from this line. Black needs to be confident in the critical 13 ♜xb7 lines, but otherwise White has had little that's challenging to offer so far. I was rather

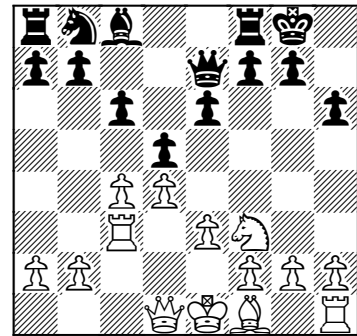
hoping to be recommending a promising and slightly unknown line, but Topalov's miserable failure in Topalov-Anand has rather brought it into the spotlight.

Game 17 V.Ikonnikov-A.Gasthofer Hockenheim 2006

1 d4 d5 2 ♜f3 ♜f6 3 c4 e6 4 ♜c3 ♕e7 5 ♕g5 h6 6 ♕h4 0-0 7 e3 ♜e4 8 ♕xe7 ♜xe7 9 ♜c1

In modern play this is very much White's main try against the Lasker Defence.

9...♜xc3 10 ♜xc3 c6



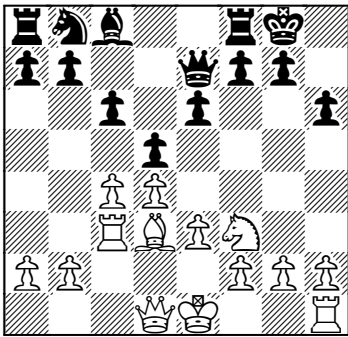
11 ♕d3

A natural developing move. Of course White would like to find some more waiting moves to play before ...dxc4 happens, but after, say, 11 ♜c2 ♜d7 he doesn't really have another one.

White can also play the restrained 11 ♕e2, whose idea is to avoid the in-

Declining the Queen's Gambit

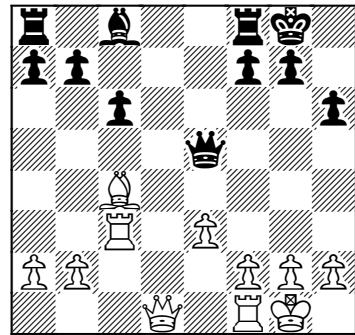
termezzo 11...♔d3 ♖d7 12 0-0 e5 13 cxd5 e4, discussed in the next note. Black can try 11...♖d7 12 0-0 ♕e8, as in V.Ivanchuk-A.Onischuk, World Team Championship, Beersheba 2005, which went 13 ♖c2 dxc4 14 ♔xc4 e5 15 d5 ♖b6 16 dxc6 bxc6 17 ♖c1 ♖d5 18 ♖b3 a5 19 ♖e4 a4 20 ♖a3, when 20...♗b7 is said to give Black good chances to equalize, although I think Black would do better to stick with the line in the main game. Indeed, 12...dxc4 13 ♖xc4 (13 ♔xc4 would be the main line, of course) 13...e5 14 ♖c2 exd4 15 ♖xd4 ♖b6 16 ♖c5 ♖d8 17 ♔f3 ♔e6 18 ♖c1 ♔d5 was nothing for White in T.Radjabov-V.Kramnik, 1st matchgame, Kazan 2011.



11...dxc4

Obviously before he can play ...e5 Black needs to play this move in order to prevent himself from being left after ...e5; cxd5 with a weak and isolated d-pawn, but he does have a clever alternative in 11...♖d7. The idea of this move is well seen after 12 0-0 e5! (by contrast to Ivanchuk-Onischuk,

12...♕e8 now has less point, since 13 ♖c2 e5 14 dxe5 dxc4? loses material to 15 ♖xc4 ♖xe5 16 ♖xe5 ♗xe5 17 ♖e4) 13 dxe5 (one of Black's points is that 13 cxd5?! loses a piece to 13...e4, although White is not actually lost after 14 dxc6 bxc6 15 ♔e2 exf3 16 ♔xf3 ♔b7 17 ♔xc6 ♔xc6 18 ♖xc6) 13...dxc4! (this intermezzo is the other main point) 14 ♔xc4 (14 ♖xc4 ♖xe5 15 ♖e4 ♖xf3+ 16 ♖xf3 ♔e6 17 ♔c4 ♖ad8 18 ♔xe6 fxe6 gives White nothing despite the visually weak e-pawn, and was quickly drawn in M.Sadler-V.Kramnik, Tilburg 1998, among other games) 14...♖xe5 15 ♖xe5 ♗xe5.



This position is the same as that reached in the old main line of the Orthodox QGD (after 6...♖bd7 7 ♖c1 c6 8 ♔d3 dxc4 9 ♔xc4 ♖d5 – Capablanca's legendary 'freeing manoeuvre', extensively tested in the 1927 Alekhine-Capablanca match – 10 ♔e7 ♗xe7 11 0-0 ♖xc3 12 ♖xc3 e5 13 dxe5 ♖xe5 14 ♖xe5 ♗xe5), save that Black's h-pawn is on h6, which is a small improvement for him:

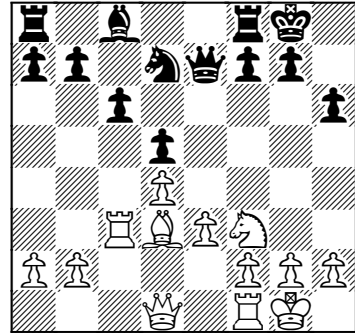
a) 16 ♖b3 b6 (I like this move of Oleg Korneev's – a great Lasker expert – better than 16...b5, though the latter has Kramnik's authority behind it; 17 ♙e2 ♙e6 18 ♚c2 ♙d5 was all very well in J.Lautier-V.Kramnik, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999, but I don't see how Black was going to meet 17 ♙d3, since obviously 17...♙e6 18 ♚c2 ♙d5? 19 e4 won't do, and otherwise Black gets a bit penned in) 17 ♜d1 ♙f5 reveals the point of 16...b6; White has to waste time with his rook on c3 and this should enable Black to equalize: for example, 18 h3 (18 f3 b5 is now fine) 18...♚e7 (a good move, stopping ♙xf7+ tricks) 19 ♙d3 ♙e6 20 ♚a4 c5 21 ♜c2 ♜ad8 22 ♜cd2 g6.

b) 16 f4 is Rubinstein's idea in the analogous Orthodox line; there was a great deal of theory on this line 60 years ago, none of which gave White anything much, but according to Sadler the 'standard line' is 16...♚e4 17 ♚e2 when, rather than Sadler's 17...♙f5, far commoner and more efficient is in fact 17...♜d8, meeting 18 ♙d3 with the ruthless equalizer 18...♙g4.

c) Recently 16 ♚c2 ♙f5 17 ♙d3 ♙xd3 18 ♜xd3 ♜ad8 19 ♜fd1 ♜xd3 20 ♜xd3 ♚a5 21 h3 ♚xa2 22 ♜a3 ♚d5 23 ♜xa7 c5, reaching a pretty level endgame, was seen twice in the Lublin GM event, where both E.Alekseev-B.Grachev and, a round later, R.Wojtaszek-E.Alekseev were shortly drawn.

The problem with 11...♙d7 is sometimes said to be 12 cxd5 exd5 13 0-0

when the tragic position of Black's h-pawn on h6 is meant to mean that he can't sensibly evict a knight from e5 with f6 because of the weakness of g6, and thus has a bad version of the typical Carlsbad structure.

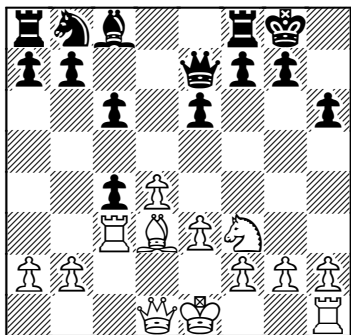


This is, however, pretty much nonsense, as Khalifman points out, and White hasn't been able to make much of his position in high-level games. The main reference is still P.Nikolic-A.Yusupov, Horgen 1994: 13...♙f6 (Yusupov actually played 13...♜e8 first in the belief that after 13...♙f6 14 ♙e5 was good for White but in fact this is not true; see the next note) 14 ♚b1 (the reason for Yusupov's belief was the line 14 ♙e5 ♙d7 15 f4 f6 16 ♙g6 ♚xe3+ 17 ♙h1, when Black loses the exchange in view of 17...♜e8 18 ♙e5!, winning the queen, but after the simple 15...♙xe5 followed after either recapture by ...f6 Black is fine, as Khalifman pointed out) 14...♜e8 (Black can also play 14...a5, which may be more reliable, when 15 ♜fc1 ♜e8 would transpose to L.Ftacnik-R.Vaganian, German League 2004, which

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soon levelled out after 16 ♖e5 ♗g4; instead 15 ♖a3 b6 seems fine for Black to me, although this is Khalifman's recommended line: for example, 16 ♖b3 ♖c7 17 ♖c3 c5 18 ♖e5 ♗d6 19 f3 c4 20 ♗c2 b5) 15 b4 (15 ♖e5 ♖e4! is similar) 15...♖e4 16 ♗xe4 dxe4 17 ♖d2 ♗e6 18 ♖fc1 (if 18 b5 ♗d5, or 18 ♖xe4 ♗f5 19 f3 ♗xe4 20 fxe4 ♖xe4 21 ♖xe4 ♖xe4) 18...♗d5 19 b5 ♖ad8. Now 20 a4 h5 was unclear in the game, but Yusupov, followed by Khalifman, gave 20 bxc6 (20 ♖c5 ♖d6 21 bxc6 ♗xc6 22 ♖c4 ♖g6 is okay for Black) 20...bxc6 21 ♖c5 with the idea of ♖c4-e5 (playing ♖c4 before ♖c5 allows ...c5) as a little better for White, but I don't really see it after 21...♖b8 22 ♖c2 ♖b7: for example, 23 ♖c4 ♖eb8 24 ♖e5 ♖b2 25 ♗d1 ♖xa2 26 ♖xc6 ♗xc6 27 ♖xc6 ♖bb2, when Black can hardly lose. It seems to me that 20 ♖c5 would be more to the point; I don't see why White needed to open the b-file.

Returning to the immediate exchange on c4:



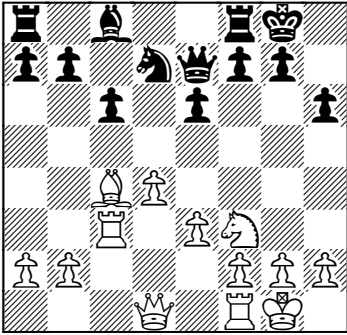
12 ♗xc4

12 ♖xc4 can be met as in the game

with 12...♖d7 13 0-0 e5, when the rook on c4 is simply stupid and the bishop on d3 also less than ideal for an IQP position (it is better on b3 as in the game).

12...♖d7 13 0-0

Radjabov preferred 13 ♖c2 second time around in T.Radjabov-V.Kramnik, 3rd matchgame, Kazan 2011, when there was nothing wrong with 13...e5 with a likely transposition after 14 0-0 to the notes to White's 14th, below (instead 14 d5 cxd5 15 ♗xd5 ♖f6 looks like an easy equalizer, although the bolder 14...♖b6!? 15 dxc6 ♖xc4 16 ♖xc4 bxc6 17 ♖xc6 ♗b7 was preferred in M.Hoffman-O.Korneev, Vila Nova de Gaia 2010, while 14 ♖e4 ♖e8 15 0-0 exd4 16 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 17 ♖xd4 wasn't all that impressive for White in M.Carlsen-A.Volokitin, Foros 2008; I couldn't tell you why Black now avoided 17...♖e5 and, earlier, 14...♖b4 15 0-0 exd4 16 ♖xd4 ♖f6 deserved definite attention too, but not 16...♖xb2? 17 ♖b3 ♗d2 18 ♖f5 with a virulent attack), but Kramnik preferred 13...b6 14 ♗d3 (not forced, but 14 0-0 ♗b7 followed by ...c5 has long been known to be completely equal) 14...♖f6! (an idea of Kasimdzhanov's; 14...♗b7 15 ♗e4 would have fallen in with White's plans) 15 ♖xc6 ♖d5 16 ♖b3 ♖b4 (this manoeuvre is Black's main point) 17 ♖c1 ♖xd3+ 18 ♖xd3 ♗b7 19 0-0 ♗xf3 20 gxf3 ♖g5+ 21 ♖h1 ♗d5, regaining his pawn and simplifying towards the resulting draw.



13...e5

Of course 13...b6 is the main alternative, which Anand unkindly gave his seal of approval to in his World Championship match with Topalov just after I had finished this chapter, but I am recommending the less common text.

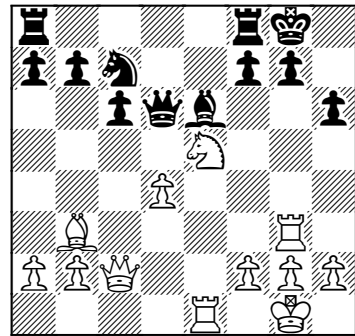
14 ♖b3

Karpov's widely praised move, although White has a reasonable alternative in 14 ♖c2, which was warmly recommended by Efstratios Grivas in *New in Chess Yearbook 90*, after which 14...exd4 (14...♗e8 15 d5 would be Ivanchuk-Onischuk above, and is perhaps slightly better for White; since ♖c2 isn't massively useful in an IQP position, it makes sense to make the exchange at once, but 14...♗d8 is also a sensible move, when Grivas gave 15 ♖b3 exd4 16 exd4 ♘f6?!, missing the point of Black's set-up, which is to play 16...♗f8 and transpose to the note to Black's 14th, below) gives White a choice:

a) The feeble 15 ♗xd4 ♗f6 16 ♗d1 (16 f3 ♗d8 17 ♖f2 ♗d5 18 ♖xd5 ♗xd5

19 e4 got nowhere in V.Kunin-M.Prusikin, Griesheim 2004) 16...♗d8 17 ♗cd3 is '+=' according to Grivas, but after 17...♗d7 I think Black has only to play a few accurate moves to equalize: for example, 18 a4 ♗ac8 with the idea of ...c5, or 18 ♗d2 ♗e8 (to prevent ♗f5).

b) 15 exd4 leads to similar positions as those in the notes to Black's 14th, below: 15...♗d6 16 ♗e1 ♗b6 (one point of not having the bishop on b3 is that Black can't manage a ...♗d8 and ...♗e6 regrouping, because if he moves the rook ♗b3 follows) 17 ♖b3 ♗d5 18 ♗e5 ♖e6 19 ♗g3 ♗c7 is the same critical regrouping; Black's key idea in these lines is to get the knight somewhere where it supports ...♖e6.



After 20 ♗e4 (the less logical 20 ♖e4 was played in E.Zude-M.Becker, German League 2006, which went on 20...♖xb3 21 ♗xb3 ♗ab8 22 h3 ♗fe8 23 ♗ee3 ♗b5 24 ♖f5 ♗e7 25 ♗f3 ♗d7 26 ♗e4, and now 26...g6 would have kicked the white queen away from the kingside and left Black at least equal) 20...♗ad8 (an excellent move; Black

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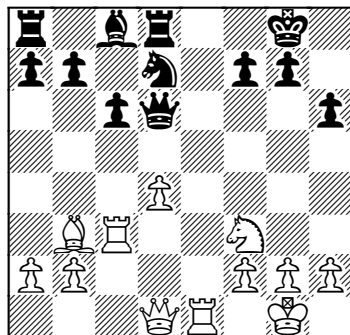
should keep the bishop preventing ♖g4 for the moment, and the rook on d8 is more valuable than after Grivas' 20...♗ae8) 21 h3 (21 ♖h4 would be more in line with Grivas' ideas; after 21...♙xb3 22 axb3 ♗fe8 or 22 ♗xb3 ♘e6 Black will need to play a few accurate moves, but equally White can easily get his rooks stuck offside: for example, 23 h3 ♗f6 24 ♖h5 ♗e6 25 ♘g4 ♙h8, and the position is still tense) 21...♙xb3 22 ♗xb3 ♘e6 23 ♗xb7 ♘xd4 was equal in A.Grischuk-D.Jakovenko, Khanty-Mansiysk 2009.

Instead 14 dxe5 ♘xe5 15 ♘xe5 ♗xe5 would be Lautier-Kramnik above; the point of Black's move order finesse in that game, with 12...e5 before the exchange on c4, is to force White into this position by the threat of ...e4.

Finally, the enigmatic 14 ♗b1 is also played, and best met by 14...exd4 15 exd4 ♘b6 16 ♙b3 ♗d6 17 ♗e1 ♘d5.

14...♗e8

I am recommending this move, another clever idea of Yusupov's, although Black has an excellent alternative too, namely 14...exd4 (this was how Yusupov was slaughtered in the famous eighth and decisive game of his Candidates' final with Karpov in London 1989, but he too went for a ...♘f6 plan, and Black can do much better) 15 exd4 (others are feeble really, but if Black is bothered about them he can play first 14...♗d8 and only after seeing White's 15th, 15...exd4) 15...♗d8 16 ♗e1 ♗d6.



Now:

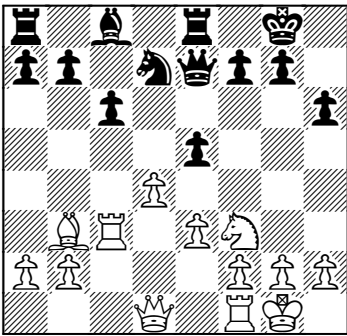
a) 17 ♗e2 ♘f8 18 ♗e7 ♘e6 19 ♗h4 ♘f8 (this is equal according to Dautov; 19...♘c7 deserves consideration too, though not 19...♗f4 20 ♗xd8+ ♘xd8 21 ♗e8+ ♙h7 22 ♗xd8) 20 ♗ce3 (20 ♘e5 ♙e6 is fine for Black) 20...♙e6 is Khalifman's repertoire suggestion. He gives White the better of it 'according to I.Donev', but I think Black can be happy enough; computers tend to overrate these positions for White, and Black can play to win them as well.

b) 17 d5 cxd5 18 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 19 ♙xd5 ♘f8 20 ♙e4 ♙e6 doesn't give Black too much trouble, as Khalifman says.

c) 17 ♗ce3 ♘f8 18 ♘e5 ♙e6 19 ♗h5 (after a semi-waiting move, such as 19 ♗e4, Black's best next move is usually 19...♗e8, and certainly not 19...♙xb3? 20 ♗xb3 ♗c7 21 ♗f4; instead Sadler claimed that 19 ♙xe6 'was powerful' with the idea of 19...♘xe6? 20 ♗h5, presumably overlooking 20 ♘xf7! and in any event missing Black's point, which is 19...♗xe6 followed by taking

the queen to d5, when Black is fine) 19...♙xb3 20 ♖xb3 ♗c7 21 ♔g4, and now 21...♗d6 22 ♜f3 ♜e8 is even a little better for Black according to Dautov, while 21...♞e6 22 ♞xf7 ♗xf7 23 ♜xe6 ♗xd4 was also good enough for equality in R.Leitao-I.Morovic Fernandez, Mario Covas 2003.

This is a very interesting alternative and might even be my choice next time if I can't persuade myself that Hebden and Grischuk's 15 ♜e1 in the next note is really as equal as it looks when Anand is Black. Computers tend to overrate White's position in this line – in the fullness of time Black tends to equalize and if White is inaccurate Black can even gradually obtain chances against the IQP.



15 ♞xe5

This was recommended strongly by both Sadler and Palliser as the refutation of Black's system, but as we shall see it isn't as strong as they believed. Others:

a) 15 d5 is less effective than in the same position with ♗c2 instead of ♙b3

(see Ivanchuk-Onischuk, above), and 15...cxd5 gives Black no particular trouble in equalizing: for example, 16 ♗xd5 ♞f6 17 ♗c5 ♞e4 18 ♗xe7 ♜xe7 19 ♜c4 ♞g5 20 ♞xg5 hxg5 has led to a number of draws, starting with the stem game P.Nikolic-A.Yusupov, Belgrade 1989.

b) 15 ♗c2 exd4 and then:

b1) Vyzmanavin claimed that White was better after 16 ♞xd4 ♞f6 17 f3, but I don't believe it: Black should just develop quietly, put his rooks on the c- and d-files, and wait for a good moment for ...c5: for example, 17...♙d7 18 e4 ♜ac8 19 ♜c1 ♜ed8 20 ♞e2 b6 21 ♞f4 ♗d6, and Black is fine thanks to the tactical turn 22 ♞d3 c5 23 e5 ♗d4+ 24 ♗f2 ♙f5!.

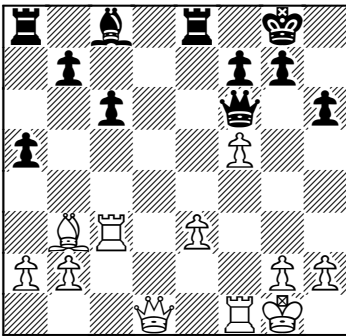
b2) 16 exd4 ♞f8 17 ♜e3 (17 d5 is not particularly alarming but has to be met calmly: 17...♙d7!, and now a sample continuation might be 18 ♗d2 ♜ad8!, not fearing 19 d6 ♗f6: for example, 20 ♜e3 ♜xe3 21 fxe3 ♞e6 22 ♞d4 ♗e5 23 ♞f5 ♞h8; playing such a position against computers reminds me of Karpov's bon mot, 'Black is worse now, but soon he will be better') 17...♙e6 18 ♜fe1 ♗d6 is much the same as Mageramov-Korneev, below.

c) 15 ♗b1 exd4 16 exd4 (16 ♞xd4 ♞f6 17 f3 c5 18 ♞f5 ♙xf5 19 ♗xf5 is equal, as Khalifman points out) 16...♞f8 17 ♜e1 ♙e6 18 ♜ce3 (E.Magerramov-O.Korneev, Podolsk 1992) shows Black's basic idea well: to enter IQP positions with his ...♜e8 wait-

bishop on f5 after all, or (my favourite) 18...a5!? looks entirely possible. For example:

a) 18...♖e5 is possible but fairly tenuous: 19 ♖d3 ♗xf5 20 ♖d7 ♖f8 (a difficult decision; Black might have better chances to hold after 20...♞g5, for instance 21 ♖xf7 ♗e6 22 ♗xe6 ♖xe6 23 ♞d7 ♖ae8 24 ♗xb7 ♞xe3+ 25 ♔h1 ♞d3, but it isn't much fun) 21 ♖xb7 ♖xe3 22 ♞d2 favours White (22 g4 ♖xb3 23 ♖xb3 ♖d8 followed by ...♞d4+ was Black's point).

b) 18...a5 maintains that the bishop is developed just fine where it is so long as the queen's rook can get out round the side, and also has some nice tactical points:



b1) Black's point is that 19 ♖f4 is well met by 19...a4 when 20 ♗xa4 (20 ♗c2 a3!) 20...♗xf5 is possible, since 21 g4? runs into 21...♞g6! 22 ♖xf5 ♖ed8!, and 21 ♞f3 is coolly met by 21...♞e7.

b2) 19 a3 a4 20 ♗c2 ♖a5 also gives Black's push with the a-pawn point.

b3) 19 ♞d4 ♞xd4 20 exd4 ♗d7 21 f6 a4 22 ♗c4 ♗e6 can't trouble Black.

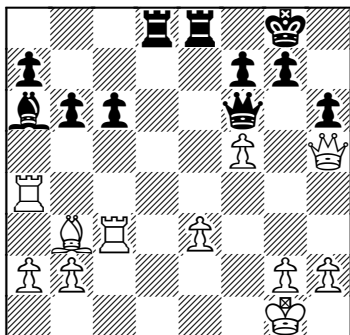
b4) 19 a4 is probably best; Black's idea is that now 19...♖e5 is an improved version: 20 ♗c2 (White meekly defends the pawn; 20 ♖d3 is now less effective since there is no a-pawn en prise at the end: 20...♗xf5 21 ♖d7 ♖f8 – 21...♞g5 is also equal – 22 ♖xb7 ♖xe3 23 ♞d2 ♖e5 24 ♞d4 ♖e1) 20...c5 21 ♖d3 ♖e8 22 b3 b6 23 ♖d6 ♞c3 24 e4 ♗b7 25 ♖e1 c4!, and Black holds thanks to some tactics, basically the fact that 26 ♖xb6 ♖ad8 is very good for him.

19 ♖f4?!

This is natural somehow, but I don't think it's the best move. White's most surgical solution is to exchange the piece which is preventing him from realizing his idea of f6: 19 ♞d4 ♞xd4 (if 19...♖e5 20 ♖xc6, of course, but 19...c5!? 20 ♞xf6 gxf6 might well be the best try) 20 exd4 ♗b7 (20...♗a6 is no better: 21 ♖ff3 ♖ac8 22 f6 gxf6 23 h3; this idea of doubling on the third to enable White to challenge the e-file in some lines and continue his attack on the kingside in others – 23...♔g7 24 ♖f5! – is very hard for humans to see) 21 f6 g6 22 ♖ff3 ♖ad8 23 ♖ce3 c5 24 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25 ♖g3 ♔f8 26 dxc5 ♖e2 27 cxb6 axb6 28 ♗c4 ♖xb2 29 ♖d3, and White is much better.

19...♗a6 20 ♞h5 ♖ad8 21 ♖a4

White had been relying on this move, presumably, but the sight of the black rooks and the empty spaces around his king and back rank must have given him a somewhat queasy feeling.



21...Ke5!

An excellent move which wins the game; presumably White was expecting only 21...Qb7 22 Rxa7 Ke7 with reasonable compensation for the pawn.

22 g4?

Ikonnikov must have lost his balance completely to play such a move; you suspect he hadn't seen Black's last at all. Obviously 22 Rxa6?? Rxf5 23 Qe2 Rd2 24 Qe1 Rff2 wasn't on, but against a fellow GM you suspect Ikonnikov would have gone for 22 Qxf7+ Qxf7 23 Qxf7+ Qxf7 24 Rxa6 Rd1+ 25 Qf2 Rxf5+ 26 Qe2 Rg1 with an equal rook endgame.

22...Qb7 23 Rxa7 Ke7

Black has more than sufficient compensation now, and White doesn't manage to find any sort of defence at all; probably there isn't one. It's difficult to imagine what White was thinking in going in for this.

24 Qh3 c5 25 Qg3 Qc6 26 Rxb7 Rxb7 27 Qc1 Qd2 28 Qf1 Ke7 29 Rf2 Rxf2 30 Qxf2 Qd7 0-1

Conclusion

Black is as solid in this system as ever, if not more than ever.

Game 18

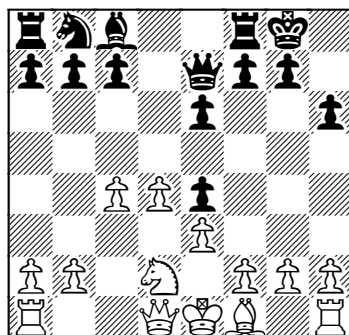
M.Gurevich-D.Jakovenko
Odessa (rapid) 2010

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Qf3 Qf6 4 Qc3 Qe7 5 Qg5 h6 6 Qh4 0-0 7 e3 Qe4 8 Qxe7

8 Qg3 is best met with the unnatural 8...Qb4, which reaches a kind of position Black would rather like to get from the Manhattan Variation, but can't manage without throwing in the rather undesirable ...g5. Black has good, free play with ...c5: for example, 9 Rc1 c5 10 cxd5 exd5 11 Qd3 Qc6 12 0-0 Qxc3 13 bxc3 Qg4 14 dxc5 Qa5 15 c4 Qxg3 16 hxg3 d4, G.Kamsky-Wang Yue, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2009.

8...Qxe7 9 Qc2

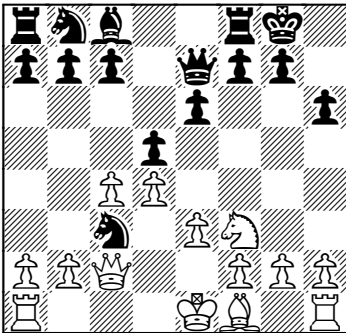
9 Qxe4 dxe4 10 Qd2 is a rare bird at high level.



10...f5 is a perfectly good reply, but also good is Boensch's 10...e5 when

White's only reasonable move is 11 d5 (11 $\text{Nxe4?!$ exd4 12 Wxd4?? Td8 loses a piece, while Black was quickly better after 11 dxe5 Wxe5 12 Wc2 Lf5 13 c5?! Nd7 in L.Ftacnik-U.Boensch, German League 1996), with an unexplored position where Black can choose between 11...f5 and 11... Lf5 . After the latter a couple of possibilities are 12 Le2 Nd7 13 0-0 c6 and 12 g4 Lh7 13 Lg2 Nd7 14 Lxe4 Lxe4 15 Nxe4 Wb4+ , both with interesting play.

9... Nxc3

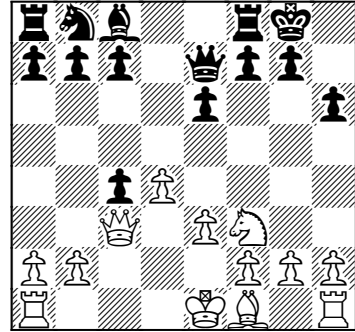


10 Wxc3

After 10 bxc3 the only high-level example is K.Sasikiran-Z.Azmaiparashvili, Pune 2004, which went 10... Nc6 11 cxd5 exd5 12 Ld3 b6 13 0-0 Lg4 14 Nd2 Na5 15 e4 dxe4 16 Nxe4 Lf5 17 Tfe1 Tae8 18 Tee3 Wd8 with rough equality; I feel a little more comfortable with White, though. It might be me, but I would prefer the play of a player rated 400 points lower in P.Ostermeyer-R.Marian, German League 1985, which went 10 bxc3 c5 11 Ld3 Nc6 12 0-0 dxc4 13 Lxc4 Na5 14 Ld3 b6 15

Lh7+ Kh8 16 Le4 Lb7 with a very comfortable Semi-Tarrasch-like position for Black.

10...dxc4



Black might as well do this at once, since he doesn't have a convenient waiting move – 10...c6 isn't useful if he's going to play the way he does in the game, and after 10...b6 White wouldn't play 11 $\text{Ld3?!$, allowing Black to gain a tempo on the text, but 11 cxd5.

11 Wxc4

11 Lxc4 doesn't change the play much; Black is too comfortable with ...b6, ... Lb7 , ... Nd7 , ... Tfc8 , and thereafter either ...a5 or ...c5: for example, D.Navara-V.Korchnoi, Karlsbad 2007, saw 11...b6 12 0-0 Lb7 13 Le2 Tc8 14 b4 Nd7 15 Tfc1 c6 (not an obvious choice; presumably Korchnoi didn't want to allow 15...a5 16 b5, but after 16...c5 I don't really understand why not) 16 Nd2 a5 17 bxa5 Txa5 18 Nc4 Ta7 19 Wb2 , and at this point 19...b5 20 Nd2 e5 would have been a convenient equalizer. This example could be

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multiplied by many other master games stretching back a century or so, almost all of them drawn.

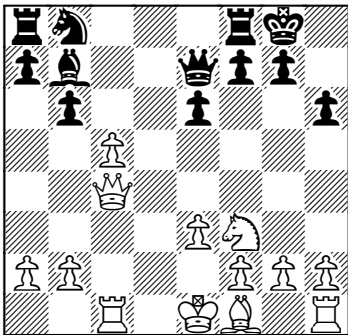
11...b6 12 ♖c1

This is the only significant try; otherwise Black equalizes easily along the lines of Navara-Korchnoi.

12...c5!

Without this move Black would find himself a little annoyed, needing to start with 12...c6, although that might well be fine. At the moment, however, this seems to be an extremely clean equalizer.

13 dxc5 ♗b7



14 ♗e2

It seems that, as Anand would put it, Black's last move works tactically; certainly White demonstrated nothing

at all with either 14 ♖h4 ♖xh4 15 ♗xh4 ♖c8 16 ♗b5 ♗a6 17 c6 ♗b4 18 ♗e2 in E.Alekseev-D.Jakovenko, Moscow 2007, or 14 ♖a4 ♖c8 15 ♗e2 ♖xc5 16 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 17 0-0 ♗c6 18 ♖d1 ♗e5 in L.Aronian-D.Jakovenko, Sochi 2008.

14...♖c8 15 0-0

15 b4 bxc5 16 b5 is asking to end up worse; for example, after 16...a6 17 a4 axb5 18 axb5 ♗d5.

15...♖xc5 16 ♖a4 ♗c6 17 a3 ♗e5 18 ♗xe5 ♖xe5 19 ♖fd1 ♖d5 20 ♖xd5 ♗xd5 21 ♖f4 e5 22 ♖f5 ♖g5 23 ♗g4 ♖xf5 24 ♗xf5 g6 25 ♗g4 f5 26 ♗e2 ♗e6 27 ♖c6 ♗f7 28 ♖c7+ ♗f6 29 f4 ♖d8 30 ♗f1 exf4 31 exf4 ♖d7 32 ♖xd7 ♗xd7

White can point at the f-pawn and claim some sort of moral victory, but that's all.

33 ♗c4 g5 34 g3 gxf4 35 gxf4 a5 36 ♗f2 ♗e7 37 ♗e3 ♗d6 38 ♗d4 ♗c8 39 ♗f7 ♗d7 40 ♗c4 ♗c8 41 ♗d4 ♗d7 42 ♗h5 ♗e6 43 ♗g6 ♗d7 44 ♗f7 ♗c8 45 ♗g6 1/2-1/2

Conclusion

These irregular variations really don't have anything to offer White, though Jakovenko's 12...c5 is handy to remember.