

Yearbook

NEW  IN CHESS 137

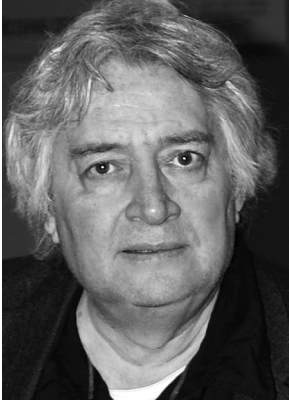
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CHESS OPENING NEWS

Edited by Jan Timman

From the editor



Courage!

Classical games are still seldom these days. I must admit that the flow of online rapid and blitz games depresses me. It is also reflected in the choices of Surveys in this Yearbook. When Magnus Carlsen plays some dreadful nonsense – which he would never have done in a classical game –, it has to be taken into account. My compliments to Ruslan Ponomarev; he had the courage to write about it.

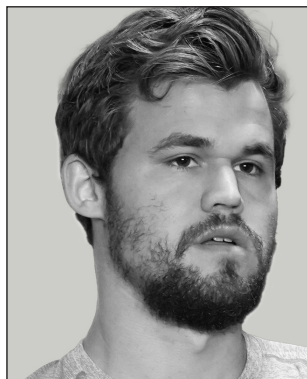
Admittedly, there have also been some fine theoretical battles in the online games. A good example is Nepo's pawn sac in the Grünfeld against Anish Giri. Black's 11th move has been known for quite some time and Giri must have prepared for it in detail. Still, his preparation fell short and Nepo won a marvellous game. Our own editor René Olthof wrote the Survey.

Not all Surveys contain just rapid games. In my second Survey on the Ragozin with 6.♘f4 I have limited myself to one. And Tibor Fogarasi focuses on Wei Yi's win over Sergey Karjakin in the Grand Prix tournament in Jerusalem last year. The young Chinese employed an old weapon from the 19th century in the Centre Game. It was played by ancient greats like Isidor Gunsberg and Jacques Mieses.

As for the reviewed books in this issue: Alexander Ipatov's two-volume book on unconventional opening ideas is quite interesting. Flear writes the reviews, as always.

Jan Timman

Opening Highlights



Magnus Carlsen

Like all the recent top online events, this Yearbook also teems with the World Champion's opening experiments. Magnus unleashed a veritable bombardment of crazy ideas in 2020, enriching the game like no-one ever did before him. In the **Reversed Sicilian**, apart from his experiments with sacrificing the e-pawn, he also showed, in Mickey Adams' words, **'impressive creativity' with several subtle discoveries in the line with 3...d5**. See the Survey by the English super-grandmaster on page 229.

Ding Liren

Sometimes another world top player manages to step out of the shadow of the berserking Viking. At the Carlsen online invitational, the Chinese World No. 3 remained ultra-cool when faced by Magnus' King's Gambit and tried **Schallop's old, not very common but quite healthy move 3...♟f6**, with a resounding success – winning in 23 moves! Bogdan Lalic is a bit of an expert on this venerable variation and explains the intricacies on page 142.

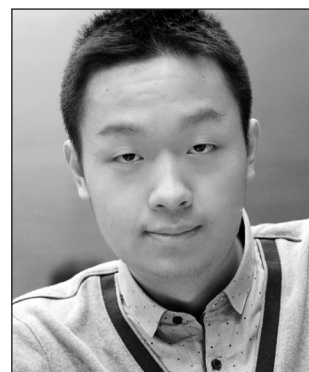


Ian Nepomniachtchi

As a producer of original ideas, Nepo is a good second to Carlsen. See for example 6.♟g1 vs the Najdorf, which the Russian has tried several times (Survey Bosch on page 38) and also **the strong pawn sac 11...b5 in the Exchange Grünfeld with 7.♟f3**, which stems from the late Dutch master Johan van Mil as René Olthof explains in his Survey on page 189. Nepo forged it into a fully-fledged weapon, using it to kick Anish Giri out of the Legends of Chess online Semifinal.

Wei Yi

Chinese top talent Wei Yi is not lacking in original ideas either. Together with his second Xu Xiangyu, who has developed into a strong grandmaster himself, he has **turned the nonsensical-looking queen sidestep 4.♞c4 in the Centre Game into a fierce weapon**. A quite hard line for unprepared black players to combat – seemingly out of nothing White can develop a strong kingside attack, as no less a defender than Sergey Karjakin had to find out. See Tibor Fogarasi's Survey on page 130.





Daniil Dubov

Grischuk's fairly recent idea to retreat the white queen's bishop to f4 after 6...h6 and follow up with g2-g4 shows that **even in the Queen's Gambit Declined White can quickly go for the black king's throat nowadays**. This concept is right up the street of a sharp attacker like Daniil Dubov. As Slava Ikonnikov shows in his Survey on page 167, Dubov has dabbled with a few highly original ideas in this line. Black should be OK, but not automatically!

Manuel Bosboom

Just as in the famous 1999 blitz tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the flamboyant Dutch IM has nestled himself between the absolute world elite on these pages. The reason this time is that **Bosboom's trademark push in the Sicilian, ...h7-h5** (after 6.f3 e6 7.♗e3 in the Najdorf), has been adopted by players like Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura. Just how good is this rook pawn move by the Dutch AlphaZero avant-la-lettre? Erwin l'Ami analyses from page 57.



Mikhail Golubev

The King's Indian will never die – certainly not if specialist Mikhail Golubev can help it. The trick is that Black should never be afraid to sacrifice material, and this is precisely the revolutionary idea the grandmaster from Odessa presents to us on page 203. **The pawn sac 8...b5 may well be the end of White's aspirations in one of the main lines of the Sämisch Variation**. Even Golubev himself had a hard time believing that it worked, but it does!

Armin and Kristof Juhasz

In his correspondence chess column in Yearbook 133, Erwin l'Ami already pointed at **the highly dangerous recapture 9.fxc3 in the Two Knights Caro-Kann**, first adopted by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave against Hikaru Nakamura in St Louis 2019. Two theory-crazy 'chessbrahs' from Hungary, Armin and Kristof Juhasz, were so inspired by this unusual concept that they developed the line further and found dozens of amazing new ideas. The fruits of their research can be seen on page 87.



Your Variations

Trends & Opinions

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HOT! = a trendy line or an important discovery

SOS = an early deviation

GAMBIT = a pawn sacrifice in the opening

Ridiculous or not?

The FORUM is a platform for discussion of developments in chess opening theory in general and particularly in variations discussed in previous Yearbook issues.

Contributions to these pages should be sent to: editors@newinchess.com

The increasing popularity of Garry and Harry

by Han Schut

NI 27.5 (D38)

Magnus Carlsen played another stunning novelty in his game against Anish Giri in the Legends of Chess 2020 tournament. Carlsen lashed out as early as move seven with g2-g4 in a position where Black had castled and White's king was still in the middle. In the post-game interview with Tania Sachdev, Carlsen explained the rationale: 'It's basically about checking g4 in every single line, no? It's not ridiculous, I think.' Tania Sachdev followed up: 'So the prep nowadays involves just checking g4 and h4 the moment your opponent castles.' Carlsen confirmed with a smile: 'I would say so.' It was not just the new move but also the sly move-order. After the direct 5. ♖d2, 5...0-0 is the normal reply. The interjection of 5. ♖g5 h6 created a target for attack that makes the novelty 7.g4 work.

Magnus Carlsen

Anish Giri

Legends of Chess rapid 2020 (1.2)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 ♙b4 5. ♖g5 h6 6. ♖d2

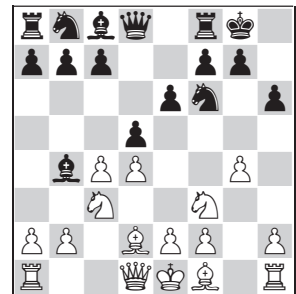
6. ♖xf6 is the standard continuation that Carlsen played multiple times. The latest game was against Ding

Liren. Ding himself plays the position with white and black as demonstrated by his game against Giri in 2019, viz. 6... ♗xf6 7. ♗b3 c5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.e3 0-0 10.dxc5 ♖xc3+ 11. ♗xc3 ♗xc3+ 12.bxc3 ♘d7 13. ♗d1 ♘f6 14. ♘d4 ♖d7 15.f3 ♗fc8 16. ♘b3 ♖a4 (16... ♗f8 17. ♖d3 b6 ½-½ (35) Ding Liren-Giri, Kolkata 2019) 17. ♗d4 ♖xb3 1-0 (43) Carlsen-Ding, Chessable Masters 2020.

6...0-0

6...dxc4 7.e3 c5 was played by Girish (what's in a name!) later that day in Chess.com's Titled Tuesday 2020 against Grischuk (½-½, 54).

7.g4!N



The exclamation mark is for the concept ♖g5- ♖d2 in combination with the novelty of the move and not for the strength of the move. The question is whether 6...0-0 will continue to be played at the highest level now that the genie 7.g4 is out of the bottle. From a theoretical perspective Black is perfectly OK, but many players will

A more than sensible novelty. 10...c6 11.0-0-0 0-0! with a double-edged position. 11...b5?!, as in Asis Gargatagli-Gonzalez Perez, Barcelona 2013, is slightly premature in view of 12.e5! 0-0 13.♔d3 f5 14.♘h2 ♘xh2 15.♙xh2 dxe5 16.dxe5 ♔e6 17.♖g2 ♗e7 18.♙xb5 ♘d7 19.♙xc6 ♙ad8 20.♘d5 ♗f7 21.♙xd7 ♙xd7 22.♘f6+ ♙xf6 23.♙xd7 ♗xd7 24.exf6 ♙xf6 25.♗a8+ ♙f8 26.♗xa7 and White is a healthy pawn up in the endgame.

11.0-0-0 0-0 12.♘h2 ♘xh2

13.♙xh2 ♔g4 14.♙e1 ♘e7

15.♔g2 ♗d7 16.♔e3

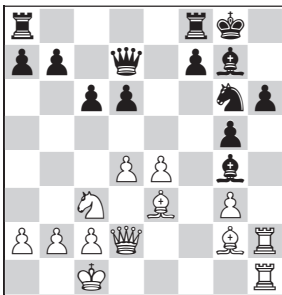
White's ideal pawn centre looks nice, but Leko's set-up is sound and solid.

16...♔g6?

An unfortunate choice. The knight has little business on g6 due to the pawn on g3.

It is obvious that Black has nothing to complain about after moves like 16...♙ae8, 16...♙ad8, 16...♗e6 or even the phlegmatic 16...f5!?

17.♙eh1 c6



18.♙xh6!?

An enterprising sacrifice from Planet Ivanchuk! Lesser mortals would be content with consolidating moves like 18.♖b1 or relocating the king's bishop to d3.

18...♙xh6 19.♙xh6 ♔g7

20.♙xg5 f6 21.♔e3 ♙h8 22.b3

♙xh6 23.♙xh6+ ♖h7 24.♙f1

♔h3

Not entirely to-the-point.

25.♔e2

25.♔d3!?

25...♙e8 26.♖b2 b5 27.♔d3

♗g4

Not necessarily wise but understandably Black is looking for some action.

28.♔e3 b4 29.♘d1 ♗xg3?! 29...♗f3 was the way to go.

30.♗xb4

The pawn exchange allows White to get to the enemy king. Back's position is increasingly difficult to play.

30...♔g4?!

30...♔g7 was to be preferred.

31.e5!

Exactly the right moment to open up the position for the two mighty bishops.

31...f5

31...♙xd1 32.♗b7+ ♖h8

33.♗xc6 with the double

threat of **34.♗xe8+** and

34.♗h1+, netting the loose

bishop.

32.♗xd6?!

Not the most forceful plan.

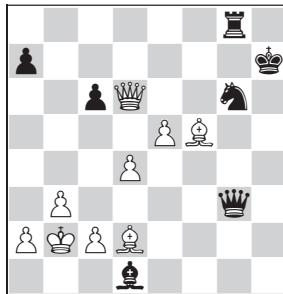
Both **32.♔g5 ♘f4 33.♙xf4**

♗xf4 34.♗xd6 ♙g8 35.♘c3

and **32.exd6 ♙xd1 33.♔d2** are

quite hopeless for Black.

32...♙xd1 33.♙xf5 ♙g8 34.♔d2



Three pawns for a rook only, but White is nevertheless better.

34...♔g4

Losing a piece. **34...♗h2!**

was the only way to put up resistance, although Black's position remains fairly problematic after the game moves **35.♗e7+ ♙g7 36.♗g5** due to the almost eternal pin.



Vasily Ivanchuk

An instructive sample line is **36...♗h5 37.♗f6 ♔g4 38.♔d3 ♗h3 39.d5!** (line clearance for the dark-squared bishop!) **39...cxd5 40.e6!**

35.♗e7+ ♙g7 36.♗g5 ♗h2

37.♙xg4

Now clearly Black is busted.

37...♘e7 38.♗h5+ ... 1-0 (56)

After the game had ended the inevitable tournament winner Magnus Carlsen asked the chess24 TV host 'Did Chuky actually win with the King's Gambit today?' and upon confirmation responded: 'That's awesome!'

Needless pawn moves

by Krishnan Sasikiran

SI 32.16 (B30)

From Krishnan Sasikiran we received an impressive analysis of one of his correspondence games with a topical Sicilian line. For reasons of space, and because this is an opening book, we have cut his comments in the second part of the game short.

Krishnan Sasikiran

Gordon Dunlop

GER/GM07/B ICCF, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5

4.♔c4 ♔e7 5.d3 d6 6.♘d2 ♘f6

7.♘f1 ♔g4 8.f3 ♔e6 9.♔e3 0-0

10.0-0 a6 11.a4

Standard and non-standard paths

by Erwin I'Ami



In this column, Dutch grandmaster and top chess coach Erwin I'Ami scours the thousands of new correspondence games that are played every month for important novelties that may start new waves in OTB chess also. Every three months it's your chance to check out the best discoveries from this rich chess source that tends to be underexposed.

We start this column with the move 1.f4, which is a rare 'bird' at the top level. White aims to play a Dutch Defence Reversed, hoping the extra move will come in handy. In our game Black ventures the From's Gambit with 1...e5, and I had a fun time going over this mostly uncharted part of opening theory.

A rare Bird

VO 7.16 (A02)

Torsten Schmidt
José Javier Beltrán Seguer

U2100 GER - RoE ICCF 2020

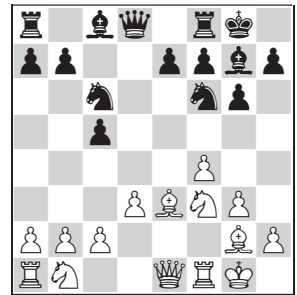
1.f4

The Bird Opening, named after Henry Bird, whose discoveries in opening theory have always been somewhat odd. The other line that carries his name is 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘d4. 1.f4 is a rare guest at the top level, but some people like the idea of playing the Dutch Defence, a tempo up!

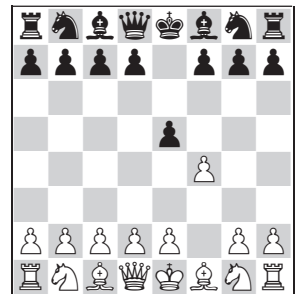
1...e5!?

From's Gambit has the aim to outright refute White's first move, but this is unlikely to succeed. I'd prefer playing a reversed Dutch with 1...d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d3 c5 when 7.♙e1 (7.c3 ♘c6 8.♘a3 ♖b8 9.♘e5 ♙c7 10.♘xc6 ♙xc6 11.♘c4 ♙c7 12.♘e5 b5) 7...d4! is slightly better for Black. It is important to stop the e2-e4 advance, or to be able to capture that pawn en passant if White plays it anyway.

Instead, 7...♘c6 8.e4 dxe4 9.dxe4 b6?! (9...e5! is still fine) 10.e5 ♘d5 11.♖f2 was a dream Dutch in Reinderman-J.van Foreest, Groningen 2014, which Reinderman converted into a win on move 46. Following (after 7...d4) 8.e4 dxe3 9.♙xe3 ♘c6!?



with the idea 10.♙xc5 ♘d7! 11.♙a3 b5! 12.c3 a5! 13.d4 b4 14.cxb4 ♘xd4 15.♘xd4 ♙xd4+ 16.♙h1 ♙a6! 17.b5 ♙xb5 18.♙xe7 ♙b8 we reach an insane position where three rooks are hanging and the fourth on a1 is also in danger of being lost after ...♙xb2. The complications seem to work out well for Black. It should be said that 9...♘g4/d5 is a much simpler solution, after which 10.c3 ♘xe3 is slightly better for Black as well.



Magnus' peculiar anti-Rossolimo weapon

by Milos Pavlovic

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | ♘f3 | ♘c6 |
| 3. | ♙b5 | e5 |
| 4. | 0-0 | ♙d6 |



In this Survey, I will focus on this position as the World Champion once again has been drawing our attention to this rather peculiar line. I have analysed recent games, mostly from 2019 and 2020, in which online chess has been dominating for well-known reasons. However, I have to emphasize that in online chess sometimes interesting and good games can be played, especially



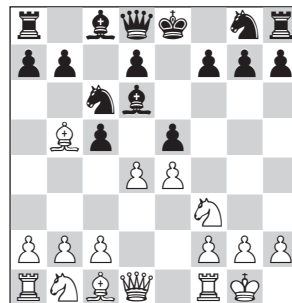
Magnus Carlsen

when grandmasters or other players decide to show their preparations. It is also helpful to point out the great similarity with 1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♗f6 3.g3 ♙b4 4.e4 0-0, a topical line in the English Opening, examined by Ruslan Ponomarev elsewhere in this Yearbook. In the present line Black has 'economized' on the move ...g7-g6 and defends the e-pawn instead.

Four games by Magnus Carlsen

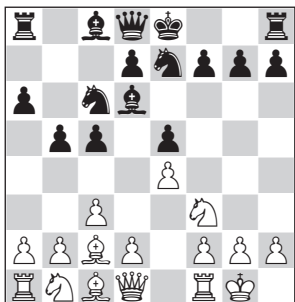
We will start this Survey with four games by Magnus Carlsen behind the black pieces.

5.d4!? is a new idea introduced by Alexander Grischuk. It's a very important idea, I must say (Game 1).



In Round 7 of the Clutch Chess Showdown with Fabiano Caruana the immediate 5.d3 was tried. This time Magnus found good ways to combat White's ideas in this Sicilian/Italian/Ruy Lopez mix mash (Game 2).

Then in Round 9 of the match we encounter the main strategy against this line: 5.c3 a6 6.♙a4 b5 7.♙c2 ♗ge7



and now the novelty 8.d3!?. Caruana was successful with this twice against Carlsen, but it's not only about the result, it's also about the difficulties Black faces (Games 3-4).

Obviously, these four games have had a certain impact on the way people look at this line.

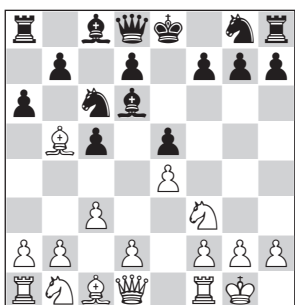
Alternatives at move 8

Therefore I want to attract your attention to a game in which Gawain Jones played 8.d4 versus Vidit Gujrathi. This constitutes a quite direct approach with the English GM sacrificing a pawn in the opening phase. This idea is worth analysing, as we shall see in Game 5.

8.a4 is an interesting attempt from Bologan-Korobov (Game 6). Such ideas are well-known in all those Rossolimo lines where Black plays an early ...b7-b5.

Various lines after 5.c3

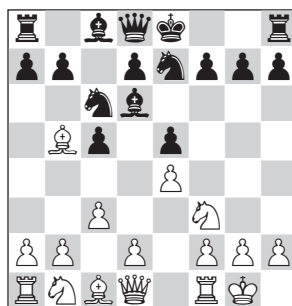
After 5.c3 a6 White can obviously also make a different bishop move.



Game 7 shows logical play. Giri is better developed and is looking for fast play in the centre with 6.♙xc6. In a certain way the position resembles the Exchange Ruy Lopez and that is what White is imitating here – but Rapport shows there are differences. 6...exd4 7.cxd4 ♙g4! not only keeps the pressure on d4 but also develops a piece.

Another idea borrowed from the Sicilian line 1.e4 c5 2.♞f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♞d7 4.0-0 a6 5.♙d3 is the retreat 6.♙d3 (Game 8). In the game Chigaev-Grachev, Black wisely opted for quick development and soon obtained an excellent position.

Instead of 5...a6, Jobava's favourite 5...♞ge7, which I have analysed in Game 9, has a considerably worse record.



The game Kryvoruchko-Bernadskiy is a typical example in which Black failed to achieve equality in view of 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 exd4 8.♞xd4.

Conclusion

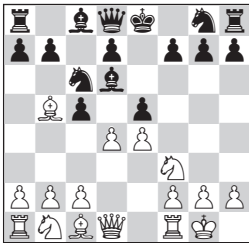
Overall it seems that the line starting with 3...e5 is still under close scrutiny by top players. Things are not so clear yet, but what is clear is that Black has to show precise ways to maintain the balance everywhere.

Four games by Magnus Carlsen

Alexander Grischuk 1 Magnus Carlsen

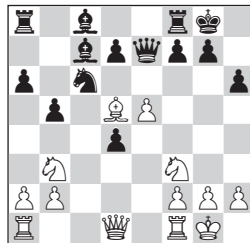
Chessable Masters rapid 2020 (8.3)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 e5 4.0-0 ♗d6 An unusual set-up, but it's not as bad as it may look. **5.d4!**? Grischuk comes up with an interesting idea, in the spirit of many gambits, forcing Black to react in the centre.



5...exd4 The alternative is weaker in my opinion: 5...cxd4 6.c3 ♖b6 7.♙a4 (to keep the c4-square as a possible place for his knight) 7...♗ge7 8.♗bd2 ♖a6 9.cxd4 exd4 10.♙c2 0-0 11.♗b3. This type of position favours White. Obviously Black has problems with his development and also with his control of the centre. The third possibility is taking with the knight: 5...♗xd4 6.♗xd4 cxd4 7.c3 ♙c5. A calm reaction. It is not clear actually if White can pull out anything more than just compensation here: 8.b4 (8.f4 ♗e7 9.fxe5 dxc3+ 10.♖h1 0-0 11.♗xc3 ♗g6 12.♗d5 ♗xe5 13.♙f4 d6 is still not much for White; he's just a pawn down) 8...♙b6 9.♙b2 a6 10.♙c4 dxc3 11.♗xc3 ♗f6 12.♗d5 d6 13.♖h1 0-0 14.♗xf6+ ♖xf6 15.f4 ♖h6 16.f5 ♗d8 17.♖f3. Such play, on the other hand, looks more to the point, but I have to say that any clear-cut play is yet to be determined. Overall, taking with the knight on d4 looks like Black's best option, although it doesn't appear so at first glance. **6.c3 a6 7.♙c4 b5 8.e5!**? The

sharp text move is probably not the best. White plays it simple, not wasting time but attacking at once. The alternative is actually better and safer, and could create positional problems for Black: 8.♙d5 ♗ge7 9.cxd4 0-0 10.dxc5 ♙xc5 11.♗c3 d6 12.♙g5. Black is slightly worse but the game still goes on. I can't really regard this as a good opening choice, however. **8...♙c7 9.♙d5 ♗ge7 10.♙g5 h6 11.♙xe7 ♖xe7 12.cxd4 cxd4 13.♗bd2 0-0 14.♗b3**



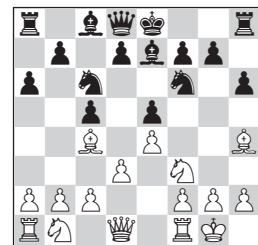
White is active but Black is out of danger here; the exchanges on d4 that will occur will help Black to achieve balanced play.

14...♙b7 After 14...♙b6 15.♖e1 ♖b8 16.♗d2 ♙b7 17.♗bxd4 ♗xd4 18.♙xb7 ♖xb7 19.♗xd4 ♖c7 20.♖ad1 ♖c5 21.♗f3 ♖e6 22.b3 ♖fc8 Black has fine play: the bishop is very strong on b6, also his pressure on the c-file helps a lot. In general it is now White who has to take care to keep the balance. **15.♖e1 ♙b6 16.♗fxd4 ♗xd4 17.♙xb7 ♗xb3 18.♖xb3 ♖a7 19.♙d5 ♖h8 20.a4 d6 21.exd6 ♖xd6 22.axb5 axb5 23.♖xa7 ♙xa7 24.♖xb5 ♖f4 25.♖e2 ♖d8 26.♖d1 ♖f5 27.♙f3 ♖xd1+ 28.♖xd1 ♖c5 29.♖e1 g6** The World Champion got out with a pawn-down but defensible position. **30.g3 ♖g7 31.♖g2 ♖c2 32.♖e5+ ♖g8 33.♖e2 ♖xe2 34.♙xe2 ♙c5 35.g4 g5 36.♙c4 ♖f8 37.♖f3 ♖e7 38.♖e2 f6 39.♖f3 ♖d6 40.h3 ♖e5 41.b3 ♖d4 42.♙g8 ♙b4 43.♙c4 ♙c5 44.♙g8 ♙b4 45.♙c4 ♙c5 ½-½**

Fabiano Caruana 2 Magnus Carlsen

Clutch Chess rapid 2020 (3.7)

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♙b5 e5 4.0-0 ♗d6 5.d3!? Another Italo-Ruy Lopez strategy, this time without c2-c3, keeping the option of putting a knight on c3 under favourable circumstances. 5.b4!?, which has been seen in recent games, is worth noting as well: 5...♗xb4 6.♙b2 a6 7.a3 axb5! (7...♗xc2 8.♖xc2 axb5 9.♗xe5 ♗e7! (Black has to hurry with his development, e.g. 9...f6 10.♗f3 ♗e7 11.d4 cxd4 12.♗xd4 0-0 13.♗c3 b6 14.♖fd1 ♖e8 15.♗dxb5 and White is obviously better, Maryasin-Klar, Israel tt 2020) 10.♗g4 0-0 11.♖c3 f6 12.♖b3+ ♖h8 13.♗c3 ♙b8 14.♗e3 b6 with a very complicated position) 8.axb4 ♖xa1 9.♙xa1 cxb4 10.♗xe5 ♗h6 11.♗f3 0-0 12.d3 ♖e8 13.♗bd2 ♙f8 gives Black a good game. **5...♗f6 6.♙g5 h6 7.♙h4 a6 8.♙c4 ♙e7** Another interesting mix-up: we have here a Sicilian Italian Ruy Lopez on move 8!

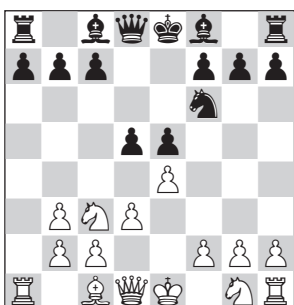


9.c3 9.♙xf6 ♙xf6 10.a4 d6 11.♗c3 0-0 12.♗d5 was much more natural. Of course, the position is unbalanced, but the line is logical. **9...0-0 10.♗bd2 d6** This is the calm way to play, and we can say that the position has now landed in usual waters. **11.a4** The combination of d2-d3, c2-c3 and placing a bishop on g5 is possible. One idea behind this is to manoeuvre the knight from d2 to e3, but in this game Black was simply too fast: **11...♗h5!** A well-known typical Ruy Lopez strategy, forcing favourable exchanges.

A rare Vienna line becomes popular

by Krisztian Szabo

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | e4 | e5 |
| 2. | ♘c3 | ♘f6 |
| 3. | ♙c4 | ♘c6 |
| 4. | d3 | ♘a5 |
| 5. | ♙b3 | ♘xb3 |
| 6. | axb3 | d5 |



The basic idea of the Vienna is to play ♘ge2 instead of ♘f3, thus preserving the option to play f2-f4 when White's set-up on the kingside remains elastic. He wants to put his e2-knight on g3, controlling the f5- and h5-squares. When playing 4... ♘a5 Black shows he is fully aware of the fact that the enemy light-squared bishop may cause a lot of trouble for him, and tries to exchange it, trying to take advantage of White's



Richard Rapport

'mistake' 3. ♖c4. It is also noteworthy that after the exchange on c4, Black does not triple his opponent's pawns with ... ♙b4xc3. Black may put off this exchange for a bit, but he would hardly manage to play on without it.

As White loses a tempo by playing 5. ♙b3, Black doesn't have to delay the exchange on b3. In other lines where White plays a2-a3 or a2-a4 with the aim of putting the bishop on a2, Black can take the bishop on c4 immediately.

In Geus-A.van Foreest, Scheveningen 1913, White continued with 7. ♙g5.

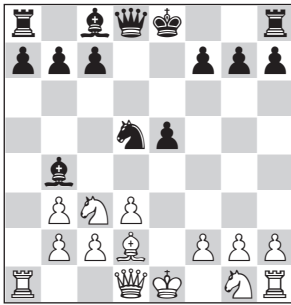
White puts pressure on d5. 7... ♙b4 More ambitious than 7... dxe4. 8. exd5 ♖xd5

9. ♖f3 9. ♘f3 is the natural continuation, but then Black can play 9... ♙g4 and the pin is a bit unpleasant for White. 9... ♙e6 10. ♙xf6 ♖xf3 11. ♘xf3 gxf6 and thanks to the bishop pair Black looks nicely placed.

7. exd5 is the most natural continuation. After 7... ♘xd5, 8. ♖h5 is a strange move at first glance because White does not continue developing his pieces, but it is a clever move at the same time because the queen attacks the e5-pawn which is hard to protect. Black can't play ... ♙d6 because the knight is hanging on d5. 8... ♘b4 is a smart move, sacrificing the e5-pawn and in return putting unpleasant pressure on the c2-pawn. 9. ♖xe5+ ♙e7 was played in Karaoglan-Rzayev, Marmaris 2019. After 10. ♙d1 0-0 Black has obvious compensation for the sacrificed pawn and White can't even castle.

By playing 7... ♙b4 Black doesn't hurry to take back the pawn; first he develops

his bishop. **8.♙d2 ♘xd5** occurred in M.Nemeth-Nikcevic, Croatia tt 2019.



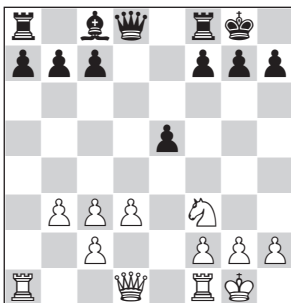
Now, with **9.♘d5** White simplifies the position and forces Black to trade the knights and the dark-squared bishops:

9...♙xd2+ 10.♚xd2 ♚xd5 11.♞f3 0-0

12.0-0 f6 with a balanced position.

However, in my view Black stands better; his bishop is much stronger than White's knight and the f6/e5-pawn structure successfully restricts the scope of the white knight.

9.♞f3 is the most natural developing move. **9...♘xc3** (9...f6 also came into consideration but Black wanted to simplify the position) **10.♙xc3 ♙xc3** occurred in Rapport-Aronian, St Louis rapid 2019: **11.bxc3 0-0 12.0-0**



12...♞e8 (12...♙g4 leads to a major-piece endgame that is slightly unpleasant for Black. The point is that White has targets to attack, while Black doesn't have any) **13.♞e1 f6 14.d4 ♙g4 15.h3 ♙xf3 16.♚xf3** and White's position is slightly better.

In Shirov-Krivososov, Riga 2017, **12... f6** was played. This is the most natural move. Black protects the centre with this pawn. **13.♚e2 ♙g4 14.♞a4** A smart solution to activate his rook. **14...♙d7 15.♞h4 ♙c6** with a comfortable position for Black, because now the bishop is stronger than the knight.

The game Firouzja-Carlsen, chess24.com banter blitz 2020, went **7.♞f3**. This is a natural developing move, keeping the tension in the centre. **7...dxe4 8.♘xe5** White doesn't want to trade the queens, which was possible in case of 8.dxe4. **8...exd3 9.0-0 ♙e7** Black naturally continues developing his pieces because 9...dxc2 is impossible. **10.♘d3 0-0 11.♚f3 c6** Soon both sides will finish their development. Black has the pair of bishops, but White's knights are also active, so this is going to be a game with mutual chances.

Conclusion

With the Vienna set-up White aims for very aggressive play, which often includes sacrifices, but for White it's important to be on the safe side, without burning all his bridges, and to try to justify his actions from the positional point of view as well. This is how it usually goes. At first, he deploys his minor pieces to active positions, then he makes the thematic f2-f4 push, then castles (usually kingside) and starts an attack only after all this. Of course, theoretical knowledge is very important in this line, because the middlegames can be very sharp and complex.

The Vienna is a perfectly acceptable weapon against 1...e5 and you don't have to learn so many lines as in the case of 2.♞f3.

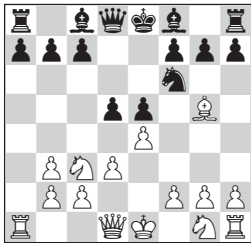
7. ♗g5

Klaas Geus

Arnold van Foreest

Scheveningen 1913 (7)

1.e4 e5 2. ♖c3 ♗c6 3. ♖c4 ♗f6 4.d3
 ♗a5 5. ♗b3 ♗xb3 6.axb3 d5 7. ♗g5



7... ♗b4 7...dxe4 8.dxe4 (8. ♗xe4
 ♗e7∞ Münster-Engelmann,
 Germany tt 2004) 8... ♗xd1+
 9. ♗xd1 ♗b4 (9... ♗e7 10. ♗f3
 (10. ♗b5 ♗d8∞) 10... ♗g4 11. ♗xf6
 ♗xf6 12. ♗e2 c6∞ Bortnyk-
 Iordachescu, chess.com blitz 2020)
 10. ♗f3 (10.f3 ♗xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♗d7
 12.h4 f6 13. ♗e3 h5= Bortnyk-
 Basso, chess.com blitz 2020)
 10... ♗e6 11. ♗xf6 gxf6 12. ♗h4 ♗g8
 (Black has a comfortable position,
 because he has the bishop pair and
 his rook is active on the g-file. The
 d-file is not so important, as Black
 can play ...♗d8 any time) 13.h3
 a5 14. ♗d2 c6 15. ♗c1 b5! Nabaty-
 Melkumyan, Sarajevo 2012. 8.exd5

A) 8. ♗f1?! ♗xc3 9.bxc3 dxe4
 10.dxe4 ♗xd1+ 11. ♗xd1 (½-½
 Miljanic-Lukacs, Budapest
 1990) 11... ♗e6∞;
 B) 8.d4?! h6 9. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 10. ♗f3
 (Rüfenacht-O'Duill, cr 1987) 10...
 exd4 11. ♗xd4 ♗xd4 12. ♗xd4 dxe4∞;
 C) 8. ♗xf6 gxf6 9.exd5 ♗xd5
 10. ♗f3 ♗e6 (an ambitious move!
 Black sacrifices the f6-pawn, but
 gets active counterplay for it;
 10... ♗xf3?! 11. ♗xf3 ♗g8) 11. ♗xf6
 (11. ♗xd5 ♗xd5 12. ♗f1 ♗c6∞;
 11.0-0-0 ♗xf3 12. ♗xf3 (Bortnyk-
 Belyakov, chess.com blitz 2020)
 12...0-0-0∞) 11... ♗g8 12. ♗f3 (Röder-
 Renner, Augsburg 1989) 12...e4!∞.

8... ♗xd5 9. ♗f3 9. ♗f3 ♗g4 10. ♗e2
 (L.Kovacs-Lukacs, Hungary tt
 1995/96) 10... ♗d7! 9... ♗e6

A) 9... ♗xf3 10. ♗xf3 ♗d5 (10...e4
 11. ♗d2 (11. ♗xf6? exf3! 12. ♗xg7 ♗g8
 13. ♗e5 fxf6 14. ♗g1 (Vavulin-Huber,
 Porec 2015) 14... ♗h3∞) 11...exd3
 12. ♗xf6 gxf6 13. ♗d5 ♗d6 14. ♗c4
 (here the knights are really active
 and the black pawn structure
 is also bad. Black can't keep his
 bishop pair, White's chances
 are slightly better; 14. ♗e4?! ♗e5
 15.cxd3 ♗e6 16. ♗exf6+ ♗d8∞
 Lubbe-Kopinits, Porto Carras
 2011) 14... ♗d8 15. ♗xd6 cxd6
 16.c4±) 11. ♗d2 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 ♗d6∞
 Brochet-Forgues, Barcelona 2016;
 B) 9... ♗g4 10. ♗xd5 ♗xd5 11. ♗d2
 (Roy Chowdhury-Djuraev, New
 Delhi 2009) 11... ♗xc3 12. ♗xc3 ♗d6
 13.f4 exf4 14. ♗xg7 ♗g8 15. ♗d4
 0-0-0 16. ♗xa7 ♗de8+ 17. ♗f2 c5
 18. ♗f6 ♗g6 19. ♗a8+ ♗d7 20. ♗xe8
 ♗xe8 21. ♗c3 ♗d1!∞.

10. ♗xf6 ♗xf3 11. ♗xf3 gxf6
 12. ♗a4 ♗xc3+ 13.bxc3 ♗g8
 14. ♗g1 a6 15. ♗h4 ♗g7?! 15...b5!∞.
 16. ♗d2 ♗e7 17.g3 ♗d8 18. ♗e3
 ♗d5 19. ♗d2 f5 20.f4 f6 21.c4
 ♗c6 22.c3 ♗e8 23.d4?! 23. ♗e1±.
 23...e4? 23...exd4+ 24.cxd4 ♗f8+∞.
 24.c5 ♗h8 25.c4 h5 26.d5 ♗e8
 27.b4 ♗g4 28. ♗xg4 hxg4 29. ♗g2
 ♗d7 30. ♗b3 ♗f7 31. ♗d4 c6
 32. ♗a2 cxd5 33.cxd5 ♗e7 34. ♗b3
 ♗d8 35. ♗a5 ♗c8 36. ♗c4 ♗c7
 37. ♗d4 1-0

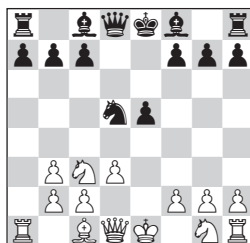
7.exd5

Doruk Karaoglan

Bahruz Iqbal Oglu Rzayev

Marmaris 2019 (3)

1.e4 e5 2. ♖c3 ♗f6 3. ♖c4 ♗c6
 4.d3 ♗a5 5. ♗b3 ♗xb3 6.axb3 d5
 7.exd5 ♗xd5

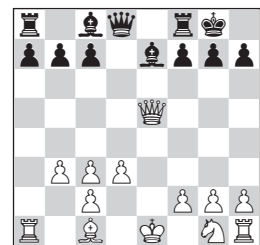


8. ♗h5

A) 8. ♗f3 ♗xc3 9.bxc3 ♗d6 10.0-0
 0-0 11. ♗e1 f6 (11... ♗f6 12. ♗g5 ♗g6
 13. ♗e4 ♗e7 14. ♗g3 f6 15.d4 ♗d6∞
 Hemmes-J.van Foreest, Vlissingen
 2015) 12.d4 (12.h3 ♗e8 13. ♗e3 a5
 14. ♗d2 b6 15. ♗f3 ♗b8 16. ♗e4 ♗f8
 17. ♗g3 ♗d7∞ Bollen-Parvanyan,
 chess.com blitz 2020) 12... ♗f5∞;
 B) 8. ♗e2 f6 9. ♗f3 ♗b4 10. ♗d2
 0-0 11.0-0 ♗xc3 12. ♗xc3 ♗xc3
 13.bxc3 ♗d5 14.c4 ♗d6 ½-½
 Pauwels-Freeman, cr 2010.

8... ♗b4

A) 8... ♗d6! 9. ♗f3 ♗b4 10.0-0!
 (10. ♗d1 ♗e6 11. ♗xe5 ♗xe5
 12. ♗xe5± – White is a pawn up and
 his king will be perfectly placed
 in the centre with queens off the
 board) 10...g6 (10... ♗xc2 11. ♗b5
 ♗c5 12. ♗a5±) 11. ♗h4 ♗e7 12. ♗g5
 ♗xg5 13. ♗xg5 (13. ♗xg5?! ♗e7
 14.f4 ♗xc2 15. ♗ac1 ♗b4 16.fxe5
 ♗f5 17. ♗ce4±) 13...f6 14. ♗h6 ♗f5
 (14... ♗f7 15. ♗e4 ♗e7 16.d4!± Antal-
 Costagliola, Paris 2000) 15. ♗g7
 0-0-0 16. ♗b5!;
 B) 8... ♗xc3 9. ♗xe5+ ♗e7 (9... ♗e7
 10. ♗xe7+ ♗xe7 11.bxc3 0-0. Now
 White has a pleasant choice: 12. ♗f4
 (12. ♗e3 ♗d7 13. ♗e2 ♗c6 14.0-0±;
 12. ♗e2 ♗g4 13. ♗f4 ♗fe8 14.f3±
 and in all the variations he has
 excellent chances of gradually
 realizing his extra pawn) 12... ♗e8
 13. ♗d2±) 10.bxc3 0-0 and now:

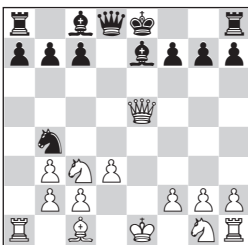


B1) 11. ♗h5 g6 12. ♗f3 (Mestre
 Bellido-Senlle Caride, Mondariz
 2007) 12... ♗e6 13. ♗e2 ♗d5 14. ♗h3
 ♗f6 15.0-0 ♗e8 16. ♗e3 a5∞;

B2) 11. ♗d4 (White is ready to
 exchange the queens; otherwise,
 his queen may come under
 attack, moreover his king will
 be centralized after the trade)
 11... ♗f6 (Black loses a second

pawn following 11...♙d7 12.♞xa7±; 11...♞e8 12.♙e2 ♙f6 13.♞e4 ♙d7 14.♙d2 ♞e8 15.♞f3± and White will unavoidably bring his king to g1; 11...♙d6 12.♙f4 ♞e8+ 13.♙d2 ♞e6 14.♙xd6 ♞xd6 15.♞e5±) 12.♞xd8 ♙xc3+ 13.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 14.♙xd2 ♞xd8 15.♙e2∞; naturally, when play is on both sides of the board, Black will have a bishop against a knight, but his bishop is ineffective. It cannot occupy the f5-, g4- and e6-squares, while following ...b7-b6 and ...♙b7, White will reply f2-f3 and Black's bishop will be restricted by a pawn. White has a clear-cut plan for action in the centre: ♞he1, c2-c4, d3-d4, ♙c3, h2-h4, securing the f4-square for his knight and placing his pawns advantageously on the dark squares;

B3) 11.♙e2 (White makes a useful move and keeps the options to retreat his queen for later) 11...♞e8 12.♙e3 ♙f6 13.♞g3 ♙d7 14.0-0±. Black has no illusions of getting any compensation for the sacrificed pawn. 9.♞xe5+ ♙e7 9...♞e7?! 10.♞xe7+ ♙xe7 11.♙d1± and yes, Black has the two-bishops advantage, but the bishops remain passive and he is a pawn down, Rusnak-Longauer, Slovakia tt 2001/02.

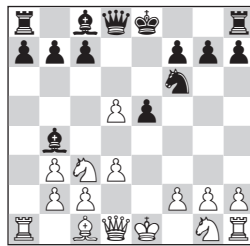


10.♙d1 10.♞e2 0-0 11.♞d1 ♞e8 12.♙e2 b6 (12...a5 13.0-0 b6 14.♙e3 ♙b7 15.♙g3 ♙d7 16.♙d2 f5 17.f3 ♙f6∞ Andersen-Cilloniz Razzeto, cr 2015) 13.0-0 ♙b7 14.♙e3 ♙d7 15.♙d2 a5∞ Ivanchuk-Chadaev, Astana blitz 2012. 10...0-0 11.♙f3 ♙e6 12.♙d4 ♙c8 13.♙g5 c5 14.♞e4 ♙xg5 15.♙xg5 ♞e8 16.♞h4 ♙d7 17.♞g3 ♙f5 18.♙d2 b5 19.♙f4 c4 20.♙d6 a5

21.bxc4 bxc4 22.d4 ♙xc2 23.♙d5 ♙g6 24.♙c7 ♙xd4 25.♙xa8 ♞e2+ 26.♙c1 ♞f5 0-1

**Miklos Nemeth
Nebojsa Nikcevic**

Croatia tt 2019 (6)
1.e4 e5 2.♙c3 ♙c6 3.♙c4 ♙f6 4.d3 ♙a5 5.♙b3 ♙xb3 6.axb3 d5 7.exd5 ♙b4 Bad is 7...♙g4?! 8.f3 ♙h5 9.♞e2 ♙e7 (Spiriliadis-Veleski, Blagoevgrad 2013; Black cannot protect his central pawn, because after 9...♙d6? 10.g4! ♙g6 11.f4! his situation becomes critical) 10.♞xe5 0-0 11.♙ge2 ♞e8 12.♙d4±. White has postponed castling, but has two extra central pawns.



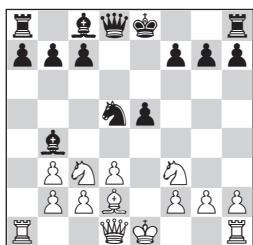
8.♙d2 ♙xd5 8...♙xc3
A) 9.bxc3 (now he has a better pawn structure too) 9...♞xd5 10.♙f3 (10.f3!? 0-0 11.♙e2 ♞e8 12.♙e3 a5 13.0-0 b6 14.c4 ♙d7 15.b4! and White will start action on the queenside, having first restricted his opponent's minor pieces) 10...♙g4 11.c4 ♙xf3 12.cxd5 ♙xd1 13.♙xd1 ♙xd5 14.♞e1 f6 15.f4 0-0 16.fxe5 fxe5 17.♞xe5 ♞f1+ 18.♞e1 ♞xe1+ 19.♙xe1 a6 20.c4 ♞e8+ 21.♙f2±; White's bishop should prove to be the more useful piece than Black's knight, since the fight continues on both sides of the board;
B) 9.♙xc3 ♞xd5 (S.Wagner-Recktenwald, Germany tt-jr 2013; more accurate for Black here is 9...♙xd5 10.♙xe5 ♞e7 (less precise is 10...0-0 11.♙f3 f6 12.♙g3 ♞e8+ 13.♙d2 ♙f5 14.♞e1± when White's king is completely safe and all possible exchanges are in his favour) 11.♞e2 0-0 12.♙g3! ♞f6 13.0-0-0 ♞a6 14.♙f3

♞a1+ 15.♙d2 ♞xb2 16.♞e5±) 10.♞f3 ♙e6 (10...♙d6 11.♞a5 c5 12.b4 cxb4 13.♙xe5 ♙d8 14.♞b5 a5 15.♙xf6 ♞xf6 16.♞xf6 gxf6 17.♙e2± and Black will hardly manage to protect his numerous weaknesses) 11.♙e2 ♞xf3 12.gxf3 ♙d7 (12...♙d5 13.♙xe5 f6 14.♙g3 h5 15.c4 ♙b4 16.♙d2 0-0-0 17.♙c3 ♙xd3 18.♞xa7 ♙e5 19.♙d4±; White not only has an extra pawn but has dangerous threats too) 13.f4 f6 14.fxe5 ♙xe5 (14...fxe5?! 15.f4 0-0 16.fxe5±. Black has not obtained any compensation for the sacrificed central pawn) 15.♙xe5 fxe5 16.♞a5±.
9.♙xd5 9.♙f3 – Rapport-Aronian, St Louis rapid 2019. 9...♙xd2+ 10.♞xd2 ♞xd5 11.♙f3 11.♙e2 0-0 12.0-0 ♙d7 (12...b6!?) 13.♞a5 (Sulskis-Ibragimov, Cappelle-la-Grande 2001) 13...c5∞. 11...0-0 12.0-0 12.♞c3 e4 13.♞a5 b5∞; 12.♞a4 c5! 13.0-0 b6 14.♞fa1 a5∞. 12...f6 13.♞c3 ♙d7 14.♞a5 ♙d6 15.d4 e4 16.♙d2 b6 17.♞aa1 ♞fe8 17...♙c6 18.♞fe1 f5 19.♙c4 ♙d8 20.♙e5= 18.♙c4 ♙c6 19.♞g3 ♙e6 20.♙e3 a5 21.c4 ± 21.♞fd1 ♞ad8 22.c4 ♙c8 23.♙d5±. 21...♙d6 22.♞xd6 cxd6 23.♞a3 f5 24.g3 g5 25.f4 exf3 26.♞xf3 ♞f8 27.♞a1 ♙g7 28.♞e1 ♙g6 29.♙d1 ♞ae8 30.♙c3 ♙d7 31.♞xe8 ♞xe8 32.♙f2 ♙c6 33.♞e3 ♞xe3 34.♙xe3 ♙f6 35.d5 ♙d7 36.♙d4 ♙e8 37.♙d1 f4 38.gxf4 gxf4 39.♙c3 ♙g6 40.♙a4 ♙g5 41.♙xb6 ♙g4 42.♙d7 ♙h3 43.♙f6? 43.♙f8= 43...h5 44.♙e4 ♙g2? 44...♙xh2+ 45.♙d2? 45.♙xd6! f3 46.c5 f2 47.♙c4!+-. 45...h4 46.c5 dxc5+ 47.♙e5 f3 48.♙f4 f2 49.♙g5 ♙e8 50.♙xh4 ♙xh2 51.♙g5 ♙b5 52.♙f4 ♙g2 53.♙e5 f1 ♞ 54.♙xf1 ♙xf1 55.♙d6 ♙e2 56.♙xc5 ♙e8 57.b4 axb4 58.♙xb4 ♙d3 59.♙c5 ♙e4 60.b4 ½-½

**Richard Rapport
Levon Aronian**

St Louis rapid 2019 (8)
1.e4 e5 2.♙c4 ♙f6 3.d3 ♙c6 4.♙c3 ♙a5 5.♙b3 ♙b4 5...♙xb3

6.axb3 d5 7.exd5 ♖b4 8.♟f3 is the move-order in our Survey. **6.♟f3 ♜xb3 7.axb3 d5 8.exd5 ♗xd5 9.♖d2**



9...♟xc3

A) After 9...f6 10.0-0 ♖e7 11.d4 ♜xc3 (Kriksciunas-Lukianskas, cr 2006) it would be reasonable for White to increase his pressure against the enemy central pawn with 12.♟xc3 e4 (if 12...exd4 13.♗xd4 0-0 14.♞e2± Black's e6-square is very weak and White has the possibility to deploy both his rooks in the centre) 13.♖e1! f5 (13...exf3 14.♖b4±) 14.♗e5 0-0 15.f3!

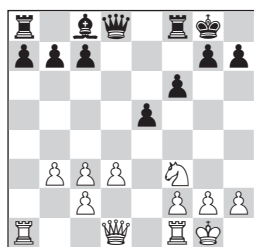
B) 9...0-0 10.0-0 ♜xc3 11.♟xc3 ♟xc3 12.bxc3 transposes to the text.

10.♟xc3 After 10.bxc3 Black preserves his two-bishops advantage and this even gives him chances of seizing the initiative: 10...♖d6 11.0-0 0-0 12.♖e1 (12.♗g5?! f5! 13.♖e1 ♞f6 (13...h6!?) 14.c4 h6 (14...♖d7!?) 15.♗f3 e4! 16.dxe4 fxe4 17.♞xe4 ♖f5± Larsen-Portisch, Porec 1968) 12...♞f6 (12...♖e8 13.♗g5 f6 14.♗e4 ♖f8 15.c4 ♖e6 16.b4 b6 17.♟c3 a6 18.♞f3 ♞d7 19.h3 ♞f7∞ Evans-Gullotto, cr 2017) 13.♗g5 ♞g6 14.♗e4 ♖d7 15.c4 ♟c6 16.f3 ♖e7 17.♗g3 b6 18.b4 f6 19.♞e2 ♞fe8 20.♞f2 ♖f8 21.♞h1 ♖b7∞ Faulks-Lefevre, cr 2017. **10...♟xc3+ 11.bxc3 0-0** 11...♟g4?! 12.h3 ♟xf3 13.♞xf3± Moohan-Pyrich, cr 1991. **12.0-0 ♖e8** 12...♟g4 (12...f6 – Shirov-Krivososov, Riga 2017) leads to a major-piece endgame that is very unpleasant for Black. The point is that White has targets to attack, while Black does not have any: 13.h3 ♟xf3 (after 13...♟h5? 14.g4

e4 15.dxe4 ♟g6 16.♖e1± Black would remain a pawn down and proving compensation for it would be very hard) 14.♞xf3 c6 15.♞e3± Law-Hanson, cr 2009. **13.♖e1 f6** 13...♞d6 14.d4 e4 15.♗e5 f6 16.♗c4 ♞f4 17.d5 ♟g4 18.♞d4± Pirrot-Lampert, Bad Wörishofen 2015. **14.d4 ♟g4** 14...e4 15.♗d2 f5 16.♗c4±. **15.h3 ♟xf3** 15...♟h5! 16.dxe5 ♞xd1 17.♞exd1 ♟xf3 18.gxf3 fxe5 19.♖d7 ♞f8 20.♞xc7 ♞xf3 and probably Black can hold. **16.♞xf3± c6 17.dxe5 fxe5 18.♞e3 a5 19.♖a4 b5 20.♖a3 e4 21.♖ea1 h6 22.c4 bxc4 23.b4 a4 24.♞c3 ♗d5 25.♞xa4 ♞xa4 26.♞xa4 ♗d1+ 27.♞h2 ♗d6+ 28.♞g1 ♗d1+ 29.♞h2 ♗d6+ 30.g3 ♞f6? 30...e3!±. 31.♞xc4+ ♞h8 32.♞e2 e3 33.♖a3 ♞xf2+ 34.♞xf2 exf2 35.♞g2 ♞f8 36.♞f1 h5 37.♖a5 g6 38.♖a6 c5 39.b5+– ... 1-0 (89)**

**Alexei Shirov
Oleg Krivososov**

Riga 2017 (2)
1.e4 e5 2.♟c4 ♗f6 3.d3 ♗c6 4.♗c3 ♖a5 5.♖b3 ♗xb3 6.axb3 d5 7.exd5 ♖b4 8.♗f3 ♗xd5 9.♖d2 ♗xc3 10.♟xc3 ♟xc3+ 11.bxc3 0-0 12.0-0 f6



13.♞e2 13.♖e1 (13.d4 (Kett-Haslinger, Trefforst 2008) 13...exd4 14.cxd4 a5=):
A) 13...♖e8 14.d4:
A1) 14...♟f5 15.♞e2 e4 16.♞b5 ♞d7 17.♞xd7 ♖xd7 18.♗d2 ♖f5 19.♗f1± and the bishop is not so active; the knight seems to be more powerful;
A2) 14...♟g4 15.h3 (15.dxe5 ♞xd1 16.♖axd1 ♟xf3 17.gxf3 ♞xe5 18.♞xe5 fxe5 19.♖d7 a5! 20.♞xc7 b5±) 15...♟h5 16.dxe5 ♞xd1

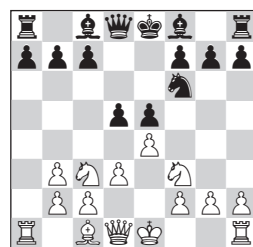
17.♖axd1 ♟xf3 18.gxf3 fxe5 19.♖d5 ♞f7 20.♖dxe5 ♞xe5 21.♞xe5 a5 22.c4 ½-½ Gorsek-Kozarski, cr 2005;
A3) 14...exd4 15.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 16.♞xd4 ♞d7 17.♞c5 ♞d6 (White's pieces are much more active than their counterparts, so Black should try to simplify) 18.♞xd6 cxd6 19.♖d1 a5 20.♖xd6 b5 21.♖d2 a4± Villeneuve-Dziedzic, cr 2019.

B) 13...♟g4 14.h3 ♟h5 (14...♟xf3 15.♞xf3 c6 16.♖e4±) 15.d4 exd4 16.g4 ♖f7 17.♗xd4 ♖e8 18.♞f3 c6 19.♞f4 ♞xe1+ 20.♞e1 ♞d7 21.♗f5 ♖e8= Moskalkenko-Schreiner, Lienz 2017.
13...♟g4 13...♞d5. 14.♖a4 ♖d7 15.♖h4 ♟c6 16.♗d2 ♞e8 17.♗c4 a5± 18.♗e3 a4 18... f5±. 19.bxa4 ♖xa4 20.c4 ♖a5 21.♗f5 b6 22.d4 ♖d7 23.♗e3 exd4 24.♖xd4 ♟c6 25.♖fd1 ♖e5 26.h3 h6 27.♗d2 ♞g6 28.♖g4 ♖g5 29.♞d4 ♖e8 30.♞f4 ♖e7 31.♖d8+ ♞h7 32.♖c8 h5 33.♖xg5 ½-½

7.♗f3

**Alireza Firouzja
Magnus Carlsen**

Chess24 Banter Blitz Final 2020 (14)
1.e4 e5 2.♗c3 ♗f6 3.♟c4 ♗c6 4.d3 ♖a5 5.♖b3 ♗xb3 6.axb3 d5 7.♗f3



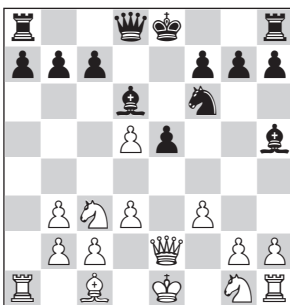
7...dxe4 7...d4 8.♗b1 (8.♗e2 ♖d6∞) 8...♖d6 9.♗a3 0-0 10.h3 h6 11.♗c4 ♖e8 12.♖d2 b5 13.♗xd6 cxd6 14.0-0 d5∞ Laine-Kürten, cr 2013. **8.♗xe5 8.dxe4 ♞xd1+** (8...♖d6!?) 9.♗xd1 ♖d6 10.♟g5 ♗d7 (10...♗g4! 11.♟h4 ♖e6=)

11. ♖e2 a6 12. ♜hd1 ♜b8 13. ♜d2 b5
 14. ♜f1 ♜c5 15. ♜g3 ♜e6 16. ♜e3 g6
 17. ♜d5 ♜f4+ 18. ♜f1 ♜xd5 19. ♜xd5
 ♜b7 20. ♜d3 h5 with complicated
 play. Black's pawn structure is
 flexible and he has the pair of
 bishops, which might come in
 handy in the long term, Rapport-
 Laznicka, Prague 2019. **8...exd3**
9.0-0 9. ♜xd3 ♜xd3 10. ♜xd3 ♜f5
 11. ♜b5 0-0-0! (11... ♜d6 12. ♜xd6+
 cxd6 13. ♜e3 ♜xd3 14. cxd3 ♜d5=)
 Casper-Khalifman, Moscow
 1987) 12. ♜xa7 ♜b8 13. ♜a1 ♜xd3
 14. cxd3 ♜xd3 and Black stands

slightly better because White's
 queenside pawn structure is very
 weak – doubled pawns on b2 and
 b3 – and he hasn't even castled.
9... ♜e7 9...dxc2?? 10. ♜xd8+ ♜xd8
 11. ♜xf7++-; 9... ♜d6 10. ♜xd3 0-0
 11. ♜f4 (11. ♜f3!?) 11... ♜g4 12. ♜d2
 ♜e8 13. ♜fe1 (D.Cornette-Michelle,
 chess.com blitz 2020) 13... ♜xe1+
 14. ♜xe1 ♜f8∞ and Black keeps
 the bishop pair. I prefer Black's
 position. **10. ♜xd3** 10. ♜xd3 ♜xd3
 11. ♜xd3 ♜f5 12. ♜f4 (12. ♜b5 ♜xd3
 13. cxd3 ♜d5?) 12...c6 13. ♜fe1 ♜xd3
 14. cxd3 ♜d7= **10...0-0** 10... ♜g4!?

11. ♜f3 c6 12. h3 ♜e8 13. ♜d1
♜e6 14. ♜e3 ♜c7 15. ♜f4 ♜c8
 15... ♜d6=. **16. ♜e5 ♜d7 17. ♜d4**
b6?! 17...f6!∞. 18. ♜e4 c5 19. ♜c3
f6 20. ♜f4 ♜f7 21. ♜d2 ♜f8
22. ♜ad1 ♜c7 23. ♜g3 ♜c6?
 23... ♜e6. **24. ♜xf6+! ♜xf6 25. ♜d6**
♜e4 26. ♜xf6 ♜g6 27. ♜h5
♜xc2 28. ♜xg7 28. ♜xg7+-.
28... ♜xb3 29. ♜c3 ♜e7 30. ♜f6+
♜f7 31. ♜xh7 ♜ae8 32. ♜g5+
♜g8 33. ♜e4 ♜xe4 34. ♜xg6+
♜f8 35. ♜dd6 ♜f7 36. ♜g6 ♜e7
37. ♜xf7+ 1-0

Exercise 1

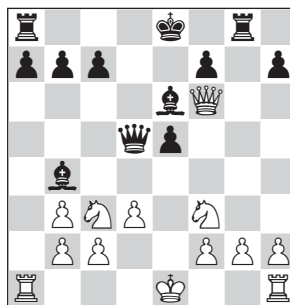


position after 9... ♜f8-d6

Black seems to be fine, as he
 has good development in
 return for the minus pawn,
 but... how can White continue?

(solutions on page 251)

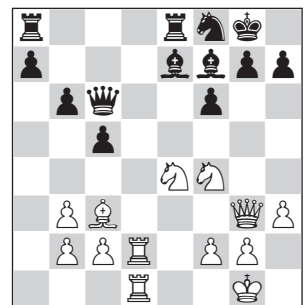
Exercise 2



position after 12. ♜g1-f3

White is a pawn up, but still
 hasn't castled. The black king
 is also in the middle, but is
 clearly safer. What is the best
 continuation for Black?

Exercise 3



position after 23... ♜c7-c6

What is the strongest
 continuation for White?

No arrogance, please!

by Mikhail Golubev

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | d4 | ♘f6 |
| 2. | c4 | g6 |
| 3. | ♞c3 | ♙g7 |
| 4. | e4 | d6 |
| 5. | f3 | 0-0 |
| 6. | ♙e3 | a6 |
| 7. | ♚d2 | ♞bd7 |
| 8. | ♞ge2 | b5 |



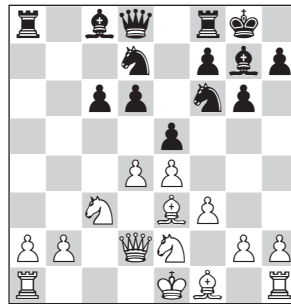
The Sämisch System in the King's Indian is less fashionable these days than it was in the past, but it still remains one of White's important weapons. (And we should add that it also has some independent significance because of the 'Anti-Grünfeld' move-order with 3.f3.) In this system, possibly the most fundamental King's Indian discovery



Ludvig Sandström

of the 21st century has been made. It is the pawn sacrifice 8...b5! after 6.♙e3 a6 7.♚d2 ♞bd7 8.♞ge2.

Black's main idea is 9.cxb5 axb5 10.♞xb5 c6! 11.♞bc3 e5!.



I'm not sure when this position occurred for the first time. Maybe it was the 2011 Swedish email championship game Rosen-Sandström. The concept attracted the attention of international over-the-board players only in 2017. I've been playing the King's Indian for some 40 years, and have written a book about it, and nevertheless I was amazed when I understood that this sacrifice is a really serious concept. It's so atypical that it works!

At first, it can be difficult to get even the slightest idea of what Black is doing and for what his pawn is given. But it turns out that in the changed situation, in the absence of the white c4-pawn, Black is ready to attack in centre, White's king being the main target! And the freedom for his pieces that Black gains on the queenside definitely helps. In fact, White is most likely unable to prepare kingside castling without making

concessions, and Black's compensation is sufficient.

Even worse for White

Even less promising for White are the consequences of the retreat 11. ♖a3?!, which can be called overly sophisticated. There, Black is even objectively better.

Other moves after 8...b5!

While the capture on b5 is what surely must be considered first, there is less certainty after White's 9th move alternatives: some of these moves are not only playable but are also quite ambitious. In recent years I played really many blitz games with this variation, in tournaments and casual, and will refer to some of them. Is this forgivable? Well, I don't have any other games of mine to show you – yet.

Subtleties and move-orders

Finally, a few words about what is not examined in the games part, being outside the scope of this Survey. There are plenty of nuances with move-orders and particularly the move 8. ♖ge2 is in no way mandatory after 6. ♖e3 a6 7. ♖d2 ♖bd7. Surely important is the second-most popular move 8. ♖h3; other options include 8.0-0-0 and, for example, the rare 8. ♖d1!?

Another detail is that in case of 6. ♖e3 a6 7. ♖ge2, Black can try the immediate 7... b5, which has often been used in blitz by grandmasters Grischuk and Chigaev. In some cases (when the further moves ♖d2 for White and ... ♖bd7 for Black are played) these games transposed to lines which belong to the subject of this Survey. But otherwise I am not examining this early version of the pawn sacrifice. A complete discussion of the possible move-orders should involve even 5. ♖ge2 ♖bd7!? (a move which has some separate value, preparing to meet ♖g3 with an early ...h7-h5), and now 6.f3 0-0, etc. But I'm generally concentrating on variations after 8...b5! and that's it.

Conclusion

While simple logic suggests that in the Sämisch System many variations exist where Black prepares the advance of the b-pawn by both ...a7-a6 and ...c7-c6 (in the past I also played some games in this way, though I usually preferred set-ups with ... ♖c6), and only then plays ...b7-b5, and therefore pushing the b-pawn without wasting time on ...c7-c6 should surely be OK, I still hesitate to draw any ultimate conclusions with full confidence. There always has been too much human arrogance in chess, as there is in other fields of knowledge...

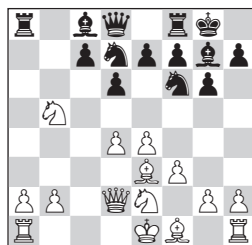
Main line 11. ♖bc3

Tania Sachdev
Matthias Dann

Sitges 2017 (4)

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♖c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6. ♖ge2 a6 7. ♖e3 ♖bd7 8. ♖d2 b5! 9.cxb5 axb5

10. ♖xb5 After the capture we now see Black's main idea behind this pawn sacrifice:



10...c6! 10... ♖a6 does not equalize fully: 11. ♖ec3 (unconvincing is

11. ♖bc3 c5! 12. ♖d1∞: instead of 12... ♖c8?! 13. ♖c1 (A.Mirzoev-Vokac, Stare Mesto 2019): Black should place the queen on c7, b8 or a5; after 11. ♖a3!? rather than 11...c5?! 12. ♖c3! ♖xf1 13. ♖xf1 Black plays 11...c6! and 12. ♖c3 transposes to 11. ♖ec3) 11...c6 12. ♖a3 ♖xf1 13. ♖xf1 e5 (probably, a serious alternative is 13... ♖e8!?) and if 14. ♖f2 e5 15. ♖g1 exd4 16. ♖xd4 ♖f8!) 14. ♖c4!± (rather

Orthodox or offbeat?

by Glenn Flear



Englishman Glenn Flear lives in the south of France. For every Yearbook he reviews a selection of new chess opening books. A grandmaster and a prolific chess author himself, Flear's judgment is severe but sincere, and always constructive.

This time around, the most traditional of all beginnings (i.e. 1.e4 e5) is given a makeover by a number of authors. Some want to squeeze it, whereas others invite the reader to play it with renewed vigour. The experts concerned propose a selection of ideas that range from mainstream, through offbeat, to borderline outrageous. Alexander Ipatov emphasizes the unconventional in all sorts of openings, and demonstrates that going one's own way can be a recipe for success. It's almost a question of mindset rather than the objective value of an opening sequence. So what inspires you: sticking with the orthodox or venturing off the beaten track? In either case, it's going to be in your interest to keeping on reading...!

Yuriy Krykun
A Complete Opening Repertoire for Black after 1.e4 e5!
Thinkers Publishing 2020

My first thought when seeing the title was 'Not another one! I've already plenty of 1...e5 repertoires on the bookshelf, what can this unknown fellow offer up that's different?'. Of course, our initial reaction in any situation often isn't fair or objective, which is why one needs to turn a few pages before settling on an informed 'final assessment'.

As a rule, Thinkers Publishing publications often seek an innovative angle on any given subject, so it didn't come as a surprise when, time and again, throughout this work, Krykun has come up with different responses from his peers. So much so that I'd describe it as a SSS manual, i.e. 'Solid Strategic Sidelines'. Tactical play is not excluded, but on the whole he emphasizes the plans and set-ups rather than anything that requires a great deal of calculation. Offbeat ideas can be effective, not just for surprise value, but even for building a repertoire around them if they: 1. are basically sound; 2. are not too tough to learn; 3. create more problems for the opponent than for oneself. Krykun seems to have hunted around for those cases where leading players have repeatedly tried a less well known approach with a reasonable success rate. So if something works for super-

