

Preface

In this book I will show you some fascinating new ideas that have been developed by modern grandmasters in the Old Indian Defence. Studying them will give you a very practical approach with Black after 1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 d6, but then to navigate away from the classical Old Indian lines with ...♟bd7 and ...e5. The concept of this book is that on the one hand it offers a complete, independent repertoire for Black, and on the other hand King's Indian players may use our flexible move order to avoid some undesirable systems.

I have played a lot of these fresh lines myself. The biggest highlight was a win against Korchnoi in 2009. Among other grandmasters who are experts on this modern handling of the Old Indian, there are Vladimir Georgiev, Andrei Volokitin, Zahar Efimenko, Igor Glek and Anna Muzychuk. I had some interesting conversations and undertook some analysis on the opening with them, mostly during the Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk last year. I want to thank them all for sharing their opinions. I also did some analysis with Anatoly Karpov and Vladislav Tkachiev – not experts in this particular opening, but great players. I thank especially Anatoly Evgenyevich, who opposed me in a thematic blitz match with our opening, giving me the possibility to feel and benefit from his level of positional understanding.

Our repertoire will focus on active piece play, control of the centre, in particular the e4-square, and we have in store some surprises for unsuspecting opponents! Moreover, you won't be required to learn endless theory playing these lines. Why? Well, simply, sometimes there is not yet a lot of existing theory.

There are many unexplored paths in this opening, even within the critical lines. So this book contains a considerable amount of original analysis, with emphasis on the critical positions. Of course these ideas need to be tested further in practice and that's where you come in. I very much hope that these secret weapons will give the club player an excellent opening repertoire against 1 d4, and will also prove useful for aspiring masters or even grandmasters. Moreover, I hope you will learn from my experience with the New Old Indian and enjoy playing creative

The New Old Indian

chess in original positions as much as I do.

Finally, my thanks go to my co-author, Eduard Prokuronov, for all his invaluable help throughout the project.

Alexander Cherniaev,
London,
April 2011

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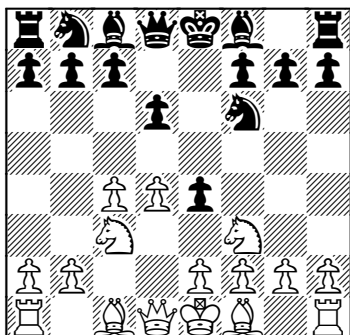
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Chapter One

Gheorghiu's 4...e4

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 d6 3 ♘c3 e5 4 ♘f3 e4!?



This is quite an unusual defence, but one which gives Black immediate activity. Black plays aggressively from the start and tries to obtain a space advantage. His play will be in the centre and on the kingside.

In Belfort in 1988, the English Grandmaster Jonathan Speelman successfully employed 4...e4 against Kasparov who responded with 5 ♘g5. I have an excellent record with this line and have played it against grandmasters Victor Korchnoi, Simon Williams and Danny Gormally. I am now happy

to bring to a wider audience my analysis and ideas in these lines.

In the 2009 Staunton Memorial Tournament in London, Korchnoi replied with 5 ♘d2, a move suggested by Geller who gave it an exclamation mark, but the resulting positions are far from clear and require more analysis. Williams and Gormally played 5 ♘g5, but after 5...♚e7, one of Florin Gheorghiu's ideas from the early 1970s, both were on unfamiliar ground and were unable to prove any advantage.

In general White has three kinds of strategy concerning the advanced pawn on e4:

a) To attack the pawn in every way possible, with both knights, ♚c2 and the undermining g4 – see Games 1, 2, 4 and 6.

b) To exchange the pawn with f2-f3, as we'll see in Game 5.

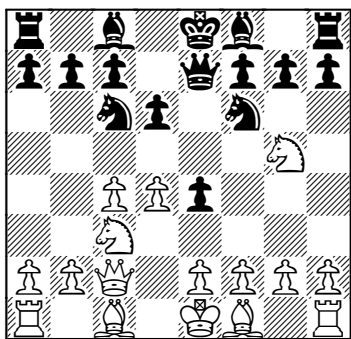
c) To ignore it before finishing development, as White does in Games 3 and 7.

The first method allows a sharp bat-

tle to begin at an early stage in the opening, whereas the exchange of pawns leads to a nonstandard structure. Here the basic resource that Black has in the centre, ...c7-c5, can lead to a structure similar to the Sämisch Benoni, with the difference that White has a c-pawn instead of a g-pawn. Finally, the preservation of the pawn structure in centre usually results in White playing on the queen's flank and Black on the king's.

Game 1
Z.Gyimesi-A.Volokitin
German League 2005

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 d6 3 ♘c3 e5 4 ♘f3 e4 5 ♘g5 ♖e7 6 ♗c2 ♘c6!?



Black immediately attacks the d4-pawn. This interesting continuation leads to a sharp struggle linked with a pawn sacrifice. Black obtains some compensation for the pawn, although it's questionable whether it's quite enough.

7 d5

A critical advance, but in practice White has often preferred:

a) To exchange the central pawns is absolutely not dangerous for Black: 7 ♗gxe4 ♘xe4 8 ♘xe4 ♘xd4 9 ♗d3 ♘c6 10 ♘c3 ♖e6 11 b3 0-0-0 and Black was ahead in development in F.De Andres Gonalons-F.Ribeiro, San Sebastian 1996.

b) After 7 e3 Black is committed to playing 7...♖f5. Here White has a wide choice of moves, but most of them are not dangerous for Black:

b1) The immediate 8 f3? is bad due to 8...♘xd4.

b2) Another way to break through the e4-outpost is 8 g4 ♖xg4 9 ♖g2, which leads to mass exchanges on e4: 9...♖f5 10 ♗gxe4 ♘xe4 11 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 12 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 13 ♘xe4 ♘d7 14 ♘f1 f5 15 ♘c3 ♖e7 16 ♖d2 f4 17 ♖e2 ♗hf8 with an even position, V.Lazarev-M.Tratar, Trieste 2005.

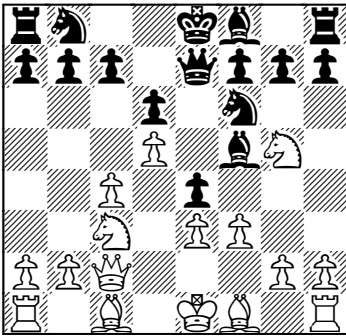
b3) 8 ♘h3 ♗d7 9 a3 ♘e7 10 ♘g5 (a time-wasting return, but White decided to attack the e4-pawn again, as it is not directly protected) 10...c6! 11 d5 ♗c8 12 dxc6 ♘xc6 13 b3 h6 14 ♘h3 g5 15 ♖b2 ♘e5 16 ♗d1 ♖g7 saw Black taking the upper hand in J.Lautier-B.Damljanovic, Spanish Team Championship 2004.

b4) 8 h4 was Lautier's next try, but 8...h6 9 ♘h3 g5 10 ♘d5 ♗d8 11 ♖d2 ♖g7 12 0-0-0 ♗d7 13 ♖e2 ♘xd5 14 cxd5 ♘xd4 15 exd4 e3 16 ♖d3 ♖xd3 17 ♗xd3 exd2+ 18 ♗xd2 0-0-0 gave Black

good play in J.Lautier-I.Glek, Corsica (rapid) 2005.

b5) 8 d5 dxd5 9 cxd5 Wxg5 10 dxc6 b6 11 h4 Wg6 12 d5 e7 13 d2 0-0 14 e3 g4 15 e2 xe2 16 Wxe2 f6 and after exchanging the bishops, the d5-pawn became a target in P.Meister-J.Zwanzger, German League 2007.

b6) 8 d5 b8 9 f3 allows White to gain an extra pawn by replacing Black's e-pawn with his f-pawn.



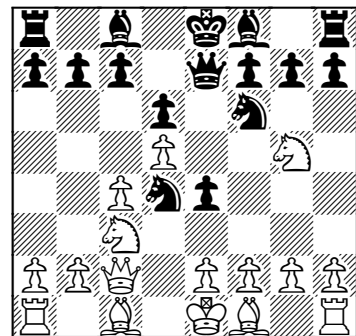
However, the resulting structure is good for Black as both doubled e-pawns become a target: 9... bd7 10 gxe4 (10 b5 c5 11 b4 d3+ 12 xd3 exd3 13 Wa4 d7 14 dxc7+ d8 15 b5 dxd5 16 e4 h6 is unclear) 10... xe4 11 fxe4 (or 11 dxe4 dxe4 12 fxe4 g6 13 d3 g7 14 d2 Wh4+ 15 g3 Wg5 16 0-0-0 0-0 17 df1 a5 which favoured Black in H.Mecking-R.Disconzi da Silva, Guarapuava 2006) 11...g6 12 b5 Wd8 13 d2 (if 13 b4 a6 14 d3 a5! 15 bxa5 xa5 16 e2 g7 17 0-0 0-0 18 b1 a7 19 a4 e8 20 h1 d5 and Black has slightly the better

chances, V.Lazarev-A.Strikovic, Lisbon 2001) 13... $\text{h6!?$ 14 d3 a6 15 c3 g4 with counterplay.

c) 7 d5 leads to a forced continuation, where Black's king loses castling rights, but White's pieces are insufficiently developed: 7... dxd4! 8 Wa4+ d7 9 dxc7+ d8 10 Wd1 xc7 11 Wxd4 h6 12 d3 g5 and Black is better, Z.Mamedjarova-B.Savchenko, Gjovik 2008.

d) With 7 e3 White prepares d5 ideas, while keeping both the d4-pawn and g5-knight protected. Then 7... f5 8 d5 dxd5 (better than 8... dxd4 9 xd4 dxd5 10 cxd5 Wxg5 11 e3 when White is better, D.Rajkovic-S.Saric, Kragujevac 2009) 9 cxd5 d8 10 g4 fxg4 11 Wxe4 (11 dxe4 c6 gives White an edge) 11... d7 12 c1 c8 13 g2 h6 14 Wxe7+ xe7 15 d4 f5 16 c3 f6 17 f4 c5 produced a roughly level game in V.Shishkin-N.Firman, Krakow 2007.

7... d4



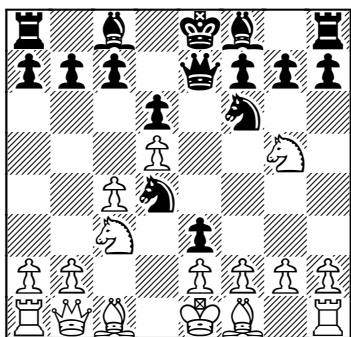
8 Wb1

Somewhat more critical than 8 Wd1! f5 (avoiding the fiendish

8...♖e5? 9 ♖cxe4! ♗xe4 10 f4 which favours White) 9 g4 (or 9 e3 h6 10 ♗h3 g5 11 ♖g1 ♕g7 12 ♗ge2 0-0 13 ♖g3 ♗h4 and Black is better, M.Gavilan Diaz-A.Strikovic, Malaga 2009) 9...♗h4 10 ♗d4 ♖xg4 11 ♗xe4 (11 ♖gxe4 ♗e5! gives Black good play) 11...♕f5 12 ♗xe7+ ♕xe7 with a slight advantage for Black.

8...e3!

Instead 8...h6 9 ♖gxe4 (or 9 e3 hxg5 10 exd4 g4 11 ♕g5! ♕f5 12 g3 g6 13 ♗c1 when White has slightly the better chances) 9...♗xe4 10 ♗xe4 ♕f5 11 f3 doesn't give Black full compensation for the pawn.



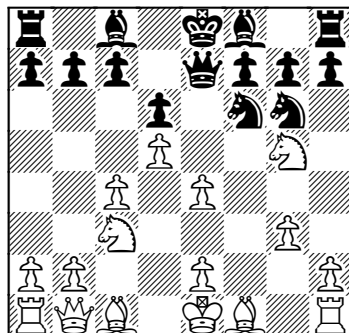
9 fxе3 ♗f5 10 e4 ♗h4 11 ♕f4

In this critical position, White also has:

a) 11 ♗f3 ♖g6 12 g3 ♗d7 gives Black decent compensation thanks to his use of the e5-square.

b) The latest practice shows good results for White after 11 g3!?, but the total number of games is very small and much more testing is required. Moreover, there are several possible

improvements for Black after 11...♗g6 and now:



b1) 12 ♕g2 ♗e5 (another way of setting up the pieces deserves definite attention: 12...♗d8!? followed by ...♕e7, ...c6, with the idea of ...♗b6, and ...♗g4: for example, 13 0-0 ♕e7 14 ♗c2 0-0 15 ♗f3 c6 16 b3 ♖g4, giving Black good play on the dark squares; ...♕f6, ...♗e8 and ...♗b6 may follow) 13 ♗c2 g6 14 ♗f3 ♗fd7? 15 ♗b5! ♗d8 16 ♕g5 ♗xf3+ 17 exf3 ♗xg5 18 ♗xc7+ with a large advantage for White, A.Moiseenko-Z.Jovanovic, European Championship, Rijeka 2010.

b2) 12 ♕h3 ♗e5 (12...♕xh3!? 13 ♗xh3 ♗e5 deserved attention, keeping the possibility of long castling: for example, 14 ♗c2 0-0-0 15 0-0 h5 16 ♕g5 ♗d7 17 ♗f2 ♕e7 18 ♗d2 ♗fg4 would have been quite unclear) 13 ♕xc8 ♗xc8 14 ♗c2 ♗fd7 15 ♗h3 h6 16 b3 g6 17 ♕e3 a6 18 ♗f2 h5 19 h3 ♕h6 20 ♕xh6 ♗xh6 21 ♗d2 ♗h8 22 0-0 h4 23 g4 ♗f6 24 ♗d3 ♗h7 25 ♗f4 gave White the better chances in E.Najer-P.Haba, German League 2009.

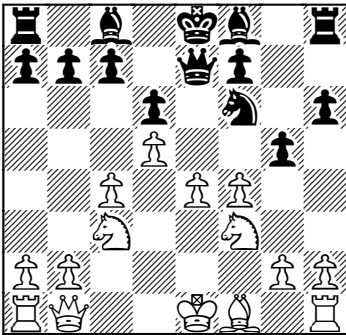
11...♗g6

11...♗h5 12 ♔d2 is a touch better for White.

12 e3 h6 13 ♗f3 ♗xf4!

Better than 13...♗h5?! 14 ♖c1 (14 g3 gives White an edge too) 14...♗h4 15 ♗xh4 ♖xh4+ 16 g3 ♗d8 17 ♔e2 with advantage to White.

14 exf4 g5!



Black must try to exploit White's temporarily-overextended position.

15 c5!

Instead 15 ♔d3 gxf4! 16 ♖c1 ♗g4! (if 16...♗g8 17 ♖xf4 ♗xg2 18 0-0-0 ♗g4 19 ♗d2 ♗d7 20 ♗b5 and White has slightly the better chances) 17 ♖xf4 h5 gives Black decent compensation.

15...a6!

Correct, as 15...gxf4 16 ♔b5+ ♔d7 17 ♔xd7+ ♖xd7 18 cxd6 cxd6 19 ♖c1 ♖g4 20 0-0 would have been excellent for White.

16 ♔d3?

The best approach was 16 ♖c2! gxf4 17 ♖a4+ when 17...♔d7 (17...♗d7 18 ♗b5 gives White the better chances too) 18 c6 bxc6 19 dxc6 ♔e6 20 ♔d3

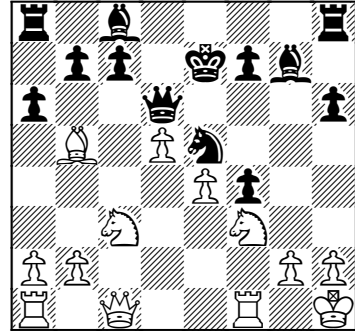
♔g7 21 0-0 0-0 22 ♗ae1 favours White.

16...gxf4 17 ♖c1 ♗d7?

Better is 17...♗g4! 18 ♖xf4 h5 19 cxd6 cxd6 20 h3 ♔h6 21 ♖g3 ♗e3 with compensation.

18 cxd6 ♖xd6 19 0-0 ♔g7 20 ♖h1 ♗e5

21 ♔b5+ ♔e7



22 ♖xf4?

Returning the favour. Instead 22 ♔e2! ♗xf3 23 ♔xf3 ♔e5 24 ♗a4 gives White an edge.

22...axb5 23 ♗xe5?

23 ♗xb5 would have been very unclear: for example, 23...♗g6 24 ♖c1 ♖b6! 25 ♗xc7 ♗a5 26 d6+ ♖xd6 27 ♗d1+ ♖e7 28 ♗d5+ ♗xd5 29 ♗xd5 ♔e6 30 ♗d2 ♗c8 with by now a slight advantage for Black.

23...♔xe5 24 ♖xf7+ ♖d8 25 ♗xb5 ♖e7 26 ♖f2 ♗a6!

Obtaining control over b6.

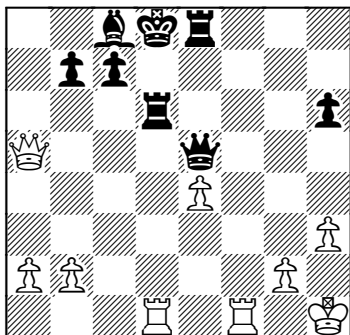
27 d6?

This breakthrough idea doesn't work here, although after 27 ♗ac1!? ♗g8 (White's idea was to meet 27...♗f6? with 28 d6!) 28 d6 ♔xd6 Black was better in any case.

27...♙xd6

Also possible was 27...cxd6!? 28 ♖ac1 ♙d7 29 ♘c7 ♖c6 30 ♘d5 ♗g5 and White's compensation is insufficient.

28 ♖ad1 ♙d7 29 ♘xd6 ♖xd6 30 ♗a7 ♙c8! 31 ♗a5 ♖e8 32 h3 ♗e5



Black has fully consolidated his position and went on to win.

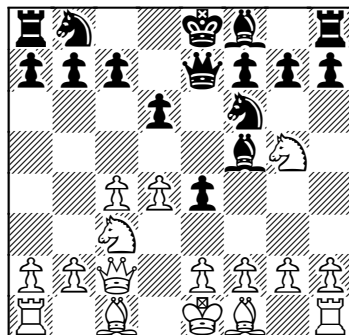
33 ♗a4 ♙d7 34 ♗a8+ ♙c8 35 ♗a4 ♖xd1 36 ♖xd1+ ♙e7 37 ♖d5 ♗f4! 38 ♗d4 ♙f7 39 ♖c5 ♖e7 40 ♖c3 ♗f1+ 41 ♙h2 ♗f4+ 42 ♙g1 ♖d7 43 ♖c4+ ♙e7 44 ♖f3 ♖d1+ 45 ♙f2 ♗d2+ 46 ♙g3 ♗d6+ 47 ♙h4 ♙e6 48 ♖c3 ♖d4! 49 g4 ♗e5 50 ♗a3+ ♙d7 51 ♗e3 h5 52 ♖f4 hxg4 53 hxg4 ♙c4 0-1

Game 2
D.Gormally-A.Cherniaev
London 2009

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 d6 3 ♘c3 e5 4 ♘f3 e4 5 ♘g5 ♗e7 6 ♗c2 ♙f5

A less-risky approach than Volokitin's 6...♘c6!?. It does still entail a pawn sacrifice, but Black no longer has

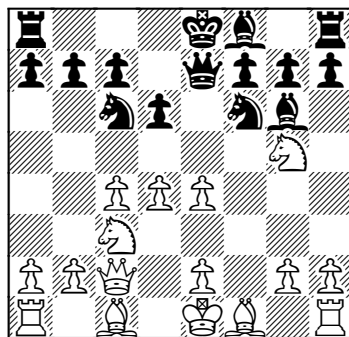
to be worried by ideas of d4-d5.



7 g4

The most principled and also the sharpest continuation. Others:

a) 7 f3 also leads to very complex play, where Black generally has fair compensation after 7...♘c6 8 fxe4 (8 d5 ♘e5 9 ♘gxe4 ♘e4 10 ♘xe4 g6 11 ♗a4+ ♙d7 12 ♗b3 ♙g7 13 ♗xb7 ♖c8 14 e3 0-0 15 ♙e2 ♙f5 16 0-0 ♖b8 17 ♗a6 ♙xe4 18 fxe4 ♘d7 19 ♙f3 ♘c5 20 ♗a5 ♙xb2 21 ♙xb2 ♖xb2 22 ♗xa7 ♖fb8 gave Black a perfectly acceptable position in L.Pytlik-J.Vozda, correspondence 2003) 8...♙g6.



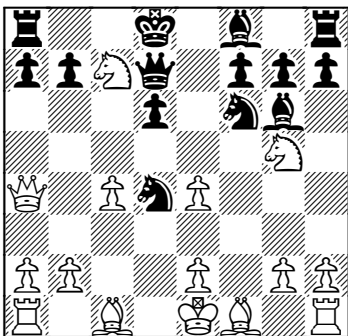
Black has sacrificed a pawn, but

keeps White's centre under strong pressure. Now:

a1) 9 d5 ♖e5 10 g3 c6 11 ♙g2 ♗xc4 12 dxc6 bxc6 13 ♚a4 ♖e5 14 0-0 ♗fd7 15 ♙e3 ♚d8 16 ♗f3 ♙e7 17 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 18 ♙d4 ♚d7 19 ♚ad1 ♚b7 20 ♗d5 ♙d8 21 ♗f4 ♙b6 22 ♙h1 ♙xd4 23 ♚xd4 ♚d8 24 ♚fd1 0-0 25 ♙f3 ♚xb2 26 ♚xd6 ♚xd6 27 ♚xd6 ♚b6 28 ♚d1 ♚e8 led to an approximately equal position in I.Sharpe-A.Cherniaev, British League 2007.

a2) 9 e3 0-0-0 10 a3 d5! 11 cxd5 ♗xd5 12 ♗f3 ♗xc3 13 bxc3 ♙xe4 14 ♙d3 f5 15 0-0 g6 16 ♙xe4 fxe4 17 ♗d2 ♙h6 18 ♚e1 was A.Cherniaev-M.Cornette, Geneva 2006, and here 18...♚he8 deserved attention, followed by ...♚h4 and ...♚d5-h5. That game made me realize that this whole variation had been rather underestimated.

a3) 9 ♗d5? ♗xd4! 10 ♚a4+ ♚d7 11 ♗xc7+ ♙d8 is a little trap which has caught out a few players.



After 12 ♗b5 (12 ♚d1 ♙xc7 13 ♚xd4 h6 14 ♗h3 ♙xe4 15 ♙f4 ♚a4 was also better for Black in B.Annakov-

V.Vorotnikov, Moscow 1996) 12...♗xe4 13 ♚d1 ♗xb5 14 cxb5 ♚xb5 15 ♗xe4 ♙xe4 16 e3 ♚e5 17 ♙d2 ♙e7 18 ♚a4 ♙h4+ Black already had a decisive advantage in I.Glek-V.Zhuravliov, Blagoveschensk 1988.

b) 7 e3 leads to a more established pawn structure, where each opponent mostly plays on the flank where he has a space advantage: for example, 7...h6 8 ♗h3 c6 9 ♙d2 ♚d7 10 ♗f4 g5 11 ♗fe2 d5 12 c5 ♗a6! (12...♙g7 13 b4) 13 a3 ♗c7 14 b4 h5 15 ♚b1 h4 16 h3 ♙h6 17 ♗c1 ♗e6 18 ♚a4 0-0 19 b5 ♙g6 20 bxc6 bxc6 21 ♚b4 ♗h5 22 ♗b3 ♚ae8! 23 ♗a5 ♗d8 with counterplay, N.Giffard-T.Manouck, Puteaux 1980.

7...♙g6!

To take the pawn either way is worse:

a) 7...♙xg4 8 ♗gxe4 ♗bd7 9 ♙g2 c6 10 ♙f4 ♗xe4 11 ♗xe4 ♙f5 12 ♗xd6+ ♚xd6 13 ♚xf5 ♚xd4 14 0-0 g6 15 ♚ad1 with advantage for White, P.Habar-R.Lau, Austrian League 1998.

b) 7...♗xg4 8 ♗gxe4 is also good for White.

Black wants to maintain his cramping e-pawn for as long as possible.

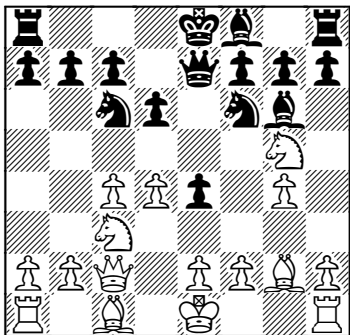
8 ♙g2

After 8 ♗d5 ♗xd5 9 cxd5 ♗d7 10 ♚xc7 ♗f6 11 ♚c4 ♗xg4 12 ♚b5+ ♙d8 13 ♙g2 e3 Black had the better chances in F.Gonzalez Velez-V.Jansa, Benasque 1999.

8...♗c6

8...e3?! is an interesting but likely insufficient idea: 9 ♚a4+! c6 10 ♙xe3

♖xg4 11 ♕f4 ♜f6 12 c5!? (12 d5 ♚d7 13 dxc6 ♜xc6 14 ♚d1 is also better for White), with the idea of 12...dxc5 13 d5 ♚d7 14 ♕xb8 with a decisive advantage for White.



9 e3

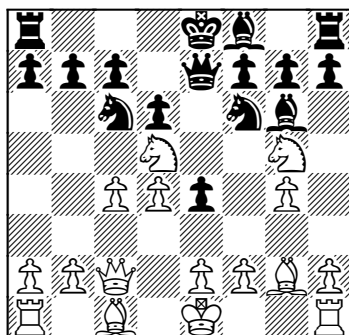
In this critical position, White also has:

a) 9 d5 ♜e5 (not 9...♜d4?! 10 ♚d1!) 10 ♜gxe4 (10 ♚a4+ leads to an approximately equal endgame after 10...♚d7 11 ♚xd7+ ♜xd7 12 ♜gxe4 ♜xe4 13 ♜xe4, as in E.Gasanov-V.Varavin, Alushta 2001, and then 13...♜xg4 14 ♜g3 h5) 10...♜xe4 11 ♕xe4 (11 ♜xe4 ♜xg4 12 h3 was preferred in J.Lautier-B.Gulko, Horgen 1995, and here 12...♜e5!? requires testing: for example, 13 h4 h6 14 h5 ♕h7 15 ♕f4 0-0-0 is about equal) 11...♜xg4 12 h4 (after 12 ♚a4+ ♜d8!? White should take care about his own king and 13 ♚c2 ♚h4 14 e3 ♕e7 15 ♚e2 ♜xf2 16 ♚xf2 ♕xe4 led to a decisive advantage for Black in I.Kutysk-V.Savon, Alushta 1999) 12...0-0-0 13 f3 ♜e5 14 h5 ♕xe4 15 ♚xe4 (A.Vaisser-

S.Belkhodja, Meudon 1990) 15...♚d7 is about equal. Black will expand with ...f5 followed by ...♕e7-f6.

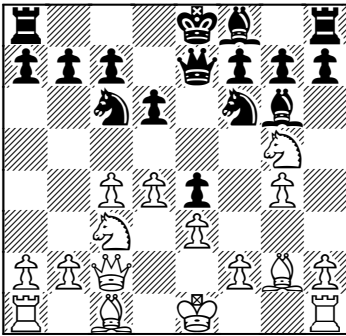
b) 9 ♜gxe4 ♜xe4 10 ♕xe4 ♜xd4 11 ♚d3 (11 ♚a4+ ♚d7 12 ♚xd7+ was unhelpfully agreed drawn in A.Shariyazdanov-E.Dizdarevic, Pula 1999) 11...♜e6 12 ♕e3 ♚h4 13 h3 ♕e7 14 0-0-0 ♕g5 15 ♕xg5 ♚xg5+ 16 ♚d2 ♚xd2+ 17 ♚xd2 ♕xe4 18 ♜xe4 ½-½ I.Farago-F.Gheorghiu, Baile Herculane 1982. Clearly Black has no problems here.

c) 9 ♜d5 deprives Black of castling rights, at the cost of a pawn, and leads to interesting and complex play.



After 9...♜xd4 (worse is 9...♜xd5 10 cxd5 e3 because 11 ♚a4 ♚xg5 12 ♕xe3 ♚xg4 13 ♕f3 gives White the better chances) 10 ♚a4+ ♚d7 11 ♜xc7+ ♜d8 12 ♚d1 (preferable to 12 ♚xd7+ ♜xd7 13 ♜xa8 ♜c2+ 14 ♜d1 ♜xa1 15 ♕e3 ♕e7 16 ♜d2 ♚xa8 17 ♚xa1 h6 18 ♜h3 ♜xg4 with a decisive advantage for Black, W.Schmidt-T.Manouck, Bagneux 1981) 12...♜xc7! (12...♚xc7 13 ♚xd4 ♚c5 14 ♚xc5 dxc5 15 h4 favours

White) 13 ♖xd4 ♗xg4 14 0-0 ♕e7 15 ♕e3 ♜hd8 (preparing to bring the king to safety via d7 and e8) 16 ♜ad1 b6 17 b4 ♔d7 18 ♗xe4 ♕xe4 19 f3 ♗g6 20 fxe4 ♕e8 the situation is dynamically balanced. Black has successfully evacuated his king and wants to establish a blockade on e5, but White's long-range pieces still have some potential.



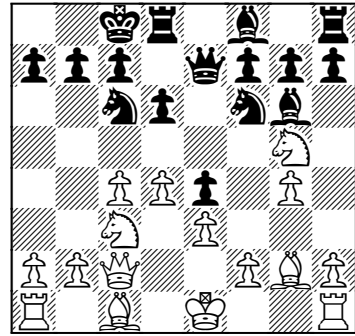
9...0-0-0

Here Black has some virtually-unexplored alternatives:

a) 9...♗xg4 10 ♗gxe4 f5 11 ♗d5 ♗d7 12 ♗ec3 (or 12 h3 ♗xe3 13 ♕xe3 fxe4 14 ♕xe4 0-0-0 15 ♕xg6 hxg6 16 ♗xg6 ♗e7 17 ♗xe7+ ♕xe7 18 ♗xg7 which gave Black kingside pressure and compensation for the pawns in G.Kallai-W.Schmid, Lenk 1989) 12...♕e7 13 ♗xe7 (after 13 ♗b3 ♜b8 14 ♕d2 ♕h4 15 0-0 0-0 16 h3 ♗f6 17 ♗xf6+ ♕xf6 18 ♗d5 ♕g5 19 f4 ♕h4 Black was better in V.Hort-A.Miltner, German League 1997) 13...♗xe7 14 ♗d5 ♗d7 15 h3 ♗h6 16 ♕d2 0-0 was played in J.Ovchinikova-V.Varavin, Perm 1997. In this position White continued with 17

f4?!, but this favoured Black as the e3-pawn was weak after 17...♕h5 18 0-0 ♗h8 19 ♕c3 ♜ae8. Instead, White should have chosen 17 ♗f4 ♕f7 18 0-0-0, which would have given him an edge.

b) 9...d5!? with the idea of ...♗b4 also requires more testing.



10 h4

This leads to interesting complications and there doesn't seem to be anything better for White:

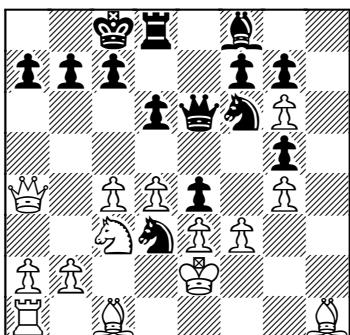
a) 10 ♗gxe4? is bad due to 10...d5! 11 cxd5 (not 11 ♗xd5? ♜xd5 12 cxd5 ♗b4 13 ♗a4 ♕xe4 with a decisive advantage for Black, T.Braun-A.Miltner, Bad Wiessee 2002) 11...♗b4 12 ♗b1 ♗bxd5 13 ♗xd5 (White was also in some trouble after 13 f3 ♗xc3 14 bxc3 ♗xe4 15 fxe4 ♗h4+ in G.Borg-E.Dizdarevic, Internet (blitz) 2003) 13...♜xd5 14 f3 h5 15 g5 ♗xe4 16 fxe4 ♜xg5 was excellent for Black in P.Skalik-V.Varavin, Anapa 1991.

b) 10 a3 ♗xg4 11 ♗gxe4 f5 12 ♗d5 ♗h4 13 ♗g3 ♜e8 sees White fighting for equality.

10...h6

10...♖b4!? reaches another complicated position which seems at least okay for Black. The critical line is 11 ♖a4 ♗d3+ 12 ♕e2 ♖b8 13 h5, but after 13...♗xg4 14 ♗gxe4 ♕xe4 15 ♗xe4 f5 16 ♕xd3 fxe4+ 17 ♕e2 ♜f7 the safety of his king is a problem for White.

11 h5 hxg5 12 hxg6 ♖xh1+ 13 ♕xh1 ♗b4 14 ♖a4 ♗d3+ 15 ♕e2 ♜e6 16 f3



The critical moment in the game. I spent much time here.

16...a6?!

Unfortunately not best. Instead 16...c5!? 17 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 18 fxe4 ♗b4 19 ♕d2 ♜xc4+ with complex play or the simple 16...fxg6 should have been preferred.

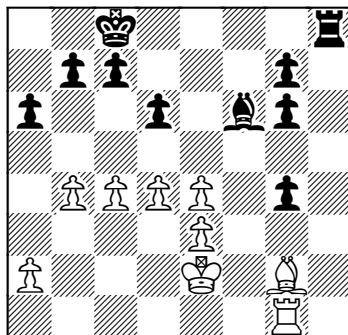
17 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 18 fxe4 ♗xc1+ 19 ♖xc1 ♜xg4+ 20 ♕f3 ♜g3 21 b4

Instead 21 gxh7 g4 22 ♕h1 ♜h2+ 23 ♖d3 ♜xb2 24 ♜c2 gives White a small advantage.

21...g4 22 ♕h1 ♕e7 23 ♜d1 fxg6 24 ♜g1 ♜xg1 25 ♖xg1 ♖h8 26 ♕g2 ♕f6

By now I was short of time, but in any case Black has no real chances to

play for a win.

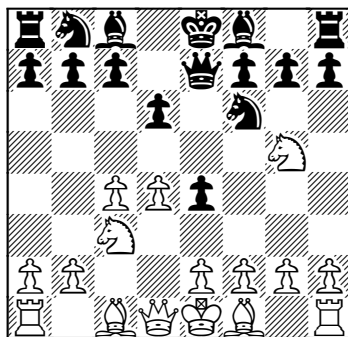


27 a4 ♖h2 28 ♖f1 ♕g5 29 ♖f2 ♕h4+ 30 ♖f1 ♕g5 31 ♖f2 ♕h4+ 32 ♖f1 1/2-1/2

Game 3
T.Roussel Roozmon –
Z.Efimenko
Montreal 2005

1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 d6 3 ♗c3 e5 4 ♗f3 e4 5 ♗g5 ♜e7

Now we will turn our attention to those lines where White does not go after the e4-pawn with 6 ♜c2.



6 h4

White secures some space on the kingside and ensures a comfortable retreat square for his knight, but on the other hand, this approach costs a tempo and is potentially weakening.

Before exploring 6 h4, we should mention too:

a) 6 g3 is another long-term strategic move and was recommended in *NCO*. After 6...h6 7 ♖h3 Black has:

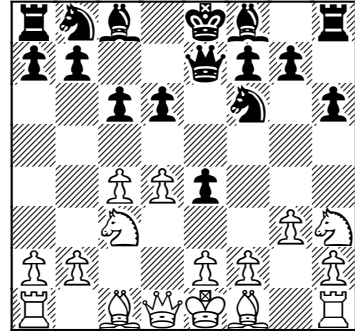
a1) After 7...g5 the knight on h3 is temporarily out of play, but the weakening of the black kingside may begin to tell: for example, 8 ♙g2 ♙f5 9 ♚b3 c6 10 0-0 ♙g7 11 f3 0-0 12 ♗f2 exf3 13 exf3 ♖a6 14 g4 ♙e6 15 d5 ♖c5 16 ♚d1 cxd5 17 cxd5 ♙d7 18 ♜e1 ♚d8 19 ♙e3 ♜e8 20 b4 ♖a6 21 ♚b3 slightly favours White, S.Savchenko-V.Zhuravliov, St Petersburg 1992.

a2) With 7...g6 Black keeps a solid position on the kingside, albeit without limiting the further movement of White's knight. After 8 ♙g2 ♙g7 9 0-0 0-0 10 ♗f4 c6 11 f3 g5 12 fxe4! (sacrificing a piece for just two pawns, but White also obtains a very strong pawn centre – this idea in the spirit of the Cochrane Gambit, 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗f6 3 ♗xe5 d6 4 ♗xf7!?) 12...gxf4 13 gxf4 ♖h8 14 f5 ♜g8 15 ♙f4 ♗h5 16 ♙e3 ♙f6 17 ♙xh6 ♙g5 18 e3 ♙xh6 19 ♚xh5 White had full compensation for the piece in B.Chatalbashev-Z.Jovanovic, Rijeka 2007.

a3) 7...♙f5 allows White an interesting manoeuvre in ♗f4-g2!-e3 (recalling Nimzowitsch!), in order to pressure

the d5-square: 8 ♗f4 c6 9 ♗g2 d5 10 ♗e3 ♙e6 11 ♙g2 ♚d7 12 a3 b5 13 b3 ♗a6 14 0-0 ♗c7 15 cxb5 cxb5 16 f3 was a touch better for White in M.Hrivnak-R.Hasangatin, Frydek Mistek 1997.

a4) The flexible 7...c6 might well be best.



Now:

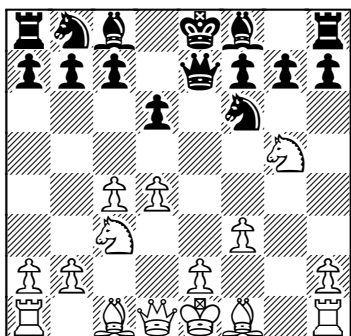
a41) After 8 ♙g2 the bishop takes the g2-square away from White's knight, so now it's sensible to play 8...♙f5 9 e3 g5 10 ♗g1 (White should spend some tempi to return the knight to the action) 10...♙g7 11 ♗ge2 ♖a6 12 a3 (Vadim Milov has successfully played this position as White, but we believe the reason for his good results here is his high class, as objectively White hasn't any advantage here) 12...d5 13 cxd5 cxd5 14 ♙d2 0-0 15 h3 ♙e6 16 g4 ♗e8 17 ♗g3 ♗d6 18 f3 exf3 19 ♙xf3 ♗c7 wasn't at all easy to assess in V.Milov-A.Zapata, Merida 2006.

a42) 8 ♗f4 g6 (again, if 8...g5 9 ♗g2 has the idea of ♗e3) 9 h4 (now 9 ♗g2 ♙h3! is a very unusual way to exchange the light-squared bishops, but

it seems positionally desirable for Black, as he will put his pawns on light squares: 10 ♖e3 ♙xf1 11 ♜xf1 ♙g7 12 b3 0-0 13 ♙a3 a6 14 d5 c5 15 ♜b1 ♖bd7 16 b4 cxb4 17 ♙xb4 ♜fc8 and Black was better in R.Frombach-G.Schebler, Werther 2006) 9...♙g7 10 e3 (this kind of set-up weakens the light squares) 10...♖a6 11 ♙g2 0-0 12 b3 ♙g4 13 ♜d2 ♜fe8 14 ♙a3 ♜d7 15 ♜c1 ♖c7 16 ♜c2 ♜ac8 17 ♖ce2 d5 18 ♖c3 g5 and Black is better, F.Cruz-D.Paunovic, La Roda 2009.

b) 6 ♖h3 c6 7 g3 h6 8 ♖f4 transposes to variation 'a42'.

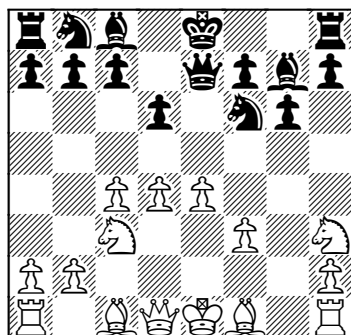
c) 6 f3 is another principled way to play. After 6...exf3 7 gxf3 White gets a strong pawn centre, but the kingside is somewhat weakened.



c1) 7...h6 8 ♖h3 g5 leaves Black in danger of over-extending. 9 ♖f2 c5 10 h4! gxh4 11 ♜xh4 ♖c6 12 ♖d5 ♖xd5? 13 ♜e4! saw him crashing to defeat in Y.Yakovich-S.Novikov, Sochi 2006.

c2) 7...g6 is a more solid set-up: 8 e4 (or 8 ♙g2 ♙g7 9 0-0 ♖c6 10 e4 0-0 11 ♙e3 ♙d7 12 ♜d2 ♜ae8 13 ♖h3 ♜d8 14

♖f2 ♖h5 – Black brings all his pieces into the action and is now ready to promote ...f5 – 15 f4 f5 16 e5 g5! with advantage for Black in the model game G.Andruet-M.Apicella, Rouen 1987) 8...♙g7 9 ♖h3!? (after 9 ♙e3 0-0 10 ♜d2 c5 11 d5 h6 12 ♖h3 ♙xh3 13 ♙xh3 ♖xd5 14 ♜xd5 ♜h4+ Black has the better chances, M.Ivanov-B.Heberla, Marianske Lazne 2009), and now:



c21) The immediate 9...♙xh3?! is incorrect, in view of 10 ♙xh3 ♖xe4? 11 ♖xe4 ♜h4+ 12 ♖f2 ♙xd4 13 0-0! with a serious initiative for White.

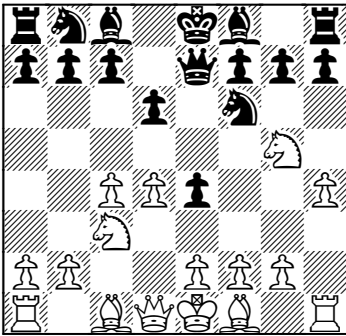
c22) 9...0-0 10 ♙g5 c6 11 ♜d2 gives White a small advantage.

c23) 9...♖c6 10 ♙e3 ♙xh3! (now this seems correct) 11 ♙xh3 ♖xe4 12 ♖xe4 ♜h4+ 13 ♖f2 0-0 14 0-0 ♜ae8 and Black will regain his material with the upper hand.

d) 6 e3 h6 7 ♖h3 g6 (7...c6 8 f3 g6 9 ♖f2 exf3 10 ♜xf3 ♙g7 11 ♙d3 0-0 12 0-0 ♖a6 13 ♙d2 ♖c7 14 ♜ae1 ♖e6 was about equal in C.Matamoros Franco-F.Ribeiro, Cienfuegos 1996) 8 ♖f4 c6 9 ♙e2 h5 (another thematic plan is

9...♖a6 10 ♖b1 ♗c7 11 h4 ♕g7 12 b4 a6
 13 a4 ♗e6 14 ♗xe6 ♕xe6 15 ♖b2 d5
 with mutual chances, D.Del Rey-
 R.Damaso, Santiago 1995) 10 h4 ♕h6
 11 ♖c2 0-0 12 g3 ♗a6 13 a3 ♗c7 14 b3
 ♖e8 15 ♖b2 d5 16 a4 ♕xf4 17 gxf4 ♕g4
 gives Black a promising game, R.Biolek-
 V.Jansa, Czech League 2006.

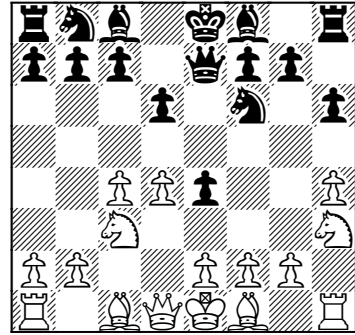
Returning to 6 h4:



6...h6

Black doesn't have to push the knight and 6...♕f5!? 7 g3 c6 (7...h6 8 ♗h3 c6 9 ♗f4 ♗a6 10 ♖a4 ♖d7 11 a3 ♗c7 12 ♕g2 ♕e7 13 ♕e3 a6 14 ♖c2 d5 15 ♗a4 gave White a pull in S.Conquest-J.Mercier, French League 1993) 8 ♕g2 (or 8 ♖b3 h6 9 ♗h3 ♖d7 10 ♗f4 ♕e7 11 ♗g2 d5 12 cxd5 cxd5 13 ♗f4 ♗c6 14 e3 ♖d8 which was drawn in B.Soos-H.Degenhardt, Hessen 1998) 8...h6 9 ♗h3 ♗bd7 10 ♗f4 g6 11 e3 ♕g7 12 a3 ♗b6 13 b3 0-0 14 0-0 ♖fe8 15 ♖b2 d5 16 c5 ♗bd7 17 b4 g5 18 hxg5 hxg5 19 ♗h3 ♕h6 20 ♗h1 ♕g7 gave Black good play in A.Galiano Martinez-P.Garre Murcia, Totana 2003.

7 ♗h3



7...c6

This followed by ...♗a6-c7 is the most solid way to develop the queenside.

Black may also continue his development on kingside: 7...g6 8 g3 (8 e3 c6 9 ♕e2 ♗a6 10 b3 ♗c7 was fine too for Black in C.Horvath-E.Dizdarevic, Pula 1998) 8...♕g7 9 ♕g2 c6 10 ♕f4 ♕f5 11 ♖b3 0-0 12 0-0-0 ♗a6 13 f3 exf3 14 exf3 ♗h5 15 ♖he1 ♖c7 16 g4 ♗xf4 17 ♗xf4 ♕c8 18 d5 ♗c5 19 ♖c2 a5 with an even position, A.Gupta-B.Damljanovic, Kavala 2009.

8 ♕f4 ♗a6

Or 8...♗h5!? as played by Gheorghiu himself: 9 e3 g6 10 ♕e2 ♗xf4 11 ♗xf4 ♗d7 12 ♕g4 ♖g8 13 ♕xd7+ ♕xd7 14 ♖b3 0-0-0 15 a4 g5 16 hxg5 hxg5 17 ♗fe2 ♕g7 18 a5 ♖h8 19 ♖g1 f5 with some advantage to Black in R.Douven-F.Gheorghiu, Amsterdam 1986.

9 e3 ♕f5 10 ♖a4 ♖d7 11 0-0-0 ♕g4?!

This helps White to develop his play. Black should simply continue his development with 11...♕e7 followed by ...♗c7 and ...0-0. Moreover, in the case

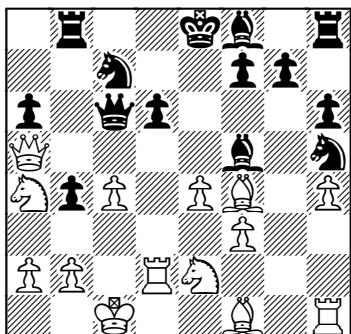
of 12 f3 he has an interesting reply in 12...g5!? 13 ♖g3 (13 hxg5?! hxg5 14 ♗xg5 exf3 exploits the knight's position on h3) 13...g4!? with complex play. **12 ♜d2 ♗c7 13 ♗g1!**

With the idea of f2-f3 – a simple and effective approach.

13...a6?

Black should have acknowledged his error and returned with 13...♗f5.

14 f3 exf3 15 gxf3 ♗e6 16 ♖a5 b5 17 d5 ♗f5 18 e4 ♗h5 19 ♗ge2 b4 20 ♗a4 ♜b8 21 dxc6 ♜xc6



22 exf5?

Black's position is very loose and 22 ♗d4 would have led to a decisive advantage for White.

22...♗xf4 23 ♗d4 ♖b7 24 ♗d3 ♗xd3+ 25 ♜xd3 ♗e7 26 ♜e1 ♗f8 27 f6?

Missing 27 ♗c5 dxc5 28 ♜xe7, again with a decisive advantage for White.

27...♗xf6 28 ♗f5 ♖c6 29 ♗b1?

And here 29 ♗xd6 have been quite unclear.

29...♖xc4 30 ♜xd6 ♜b5 31 ♗b6 ♜xa5 32 ♗xc4 ♜xf5 33 ♜c6 ♗d8 34 ♜d6 ♗e7 35 ♜d7 ♗e6 36 ♗e3 ♜e5 37 ♜c1 ♜xe3

38 ♜c8+ ♗d8 39 ♜cx8+ ♗xd8 40 ♜xd8+ ♜e8 0-1

Game 4
G.Kasparov-J.Speelman
Belfort 1988

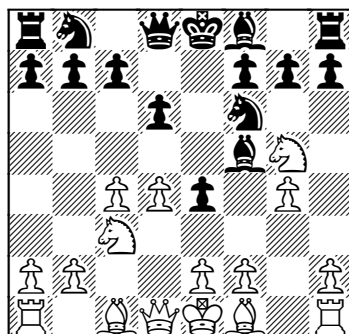
1 d4 d6 2 c4 e5 3 ♗f3 e4 4 ♗g5 ♗f6

With this move order Black can also consider 4...f5!?. The text brings play back into our repertoire.

5 ♗c3 ♗f5

At first this seems more logical than the clumsy 5...♖e7, but now Black might encounter the immediate 6 g4 and his queenside is weakened in the event of an early ♖b3.

6 g4



A critical test. See Game 5 for White's other possibilities.

6...♗xg4

The main continuation. Other moves haven't given Black a fully satisfactory game:

a) 6...♗xg4 7 ♗gxe4 and then:

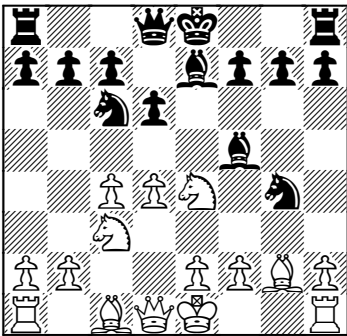
a1) 7...♗e7 8 ♗g2 ♗h4?! activates

the bishop, but after 9 h3 ♖f6 10 ♗xf6+ ♜xf6 11 ♜d5 ♜d8 12 ♜b3 ♙c8 Black was in full retreat and 13 ♜e3+ ♙f8 14 ♙d2 ♗c6 15 0-0-0 gave White the better chances in A.Moiseenko-O.Romanishin, Alushta 2005.

a2) 7...♙xe4?! 8 ♗xe4 d5 9 cxd5 ♜xd5 10 ♙g2 ♜a5+ 11 ♙d2 ♜a6 12 h3 followed by 13 0-0 and 14 ♖c1 or perhaps 14 a4 and 15 b4 is good for White.

a3) 7...c6 is probably a bit stronger, albeit not enough to equalize: 8 h3 ♖f6 9 ♗xf6+ ♜xf6 10 e4 ♙g6 11 h4 h6 12 ♙e3 ♜d8 13 h5 ♙h7 14 ♜f3 ♗d7 15 0-0-0 was a touch better for White in D.Komarov-O.Romanishin, Saint Vincent 2000.

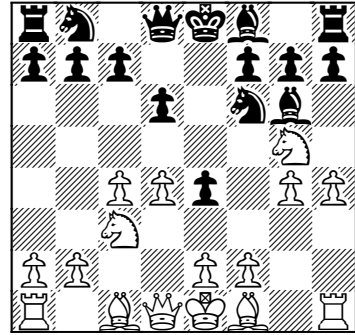
a4) 7...♗c6 8 ♙g2 ♙e7



9 ♗g3! (the critical approach, whereas after 9 b4 ♙h4 10 e3 0-0 11 a3 ♖e8 12 0-0 ♙xe4 13 ♗xe4 ♖xe4 14 ♙xe4 ♙xf2+ 15 ♖xf2 ♗xf2 16 ♙xh7+ ♙xh7 17 ♜h5+ ♙g8 18 ♙xf2 ♜f6+ 19 ♙g2 ♜e6 20 c5 dxc5 Black was better in A.Nozdryn-G.Glidzhain, Ufa 2007) 9...♙g6 10 h3 ♖f6 11 e4 ♜d7 12 ♙e3 a6 13 ♜e2 0-0 14 0-0 h6 15 f4 left White

clearly better in G.Kasparov-Allen & Overy, London (simul) 1993.

b) Perhaps taking with the knight isn't so bad if followed up precisely, but 6...♙g6?! 7 ♙g2 is definitely good for White:



b1) 7...♗xg4 8 ♗gx4 f5 9 ♗g5 c6 10 ♙f4 ♜d7 11 d5 c5 12 ♗b5 ♗a6 13 ♜a4 with the initiative for White in C.Van Tilbury-D.Johansen, Bled Olympiad 2002.

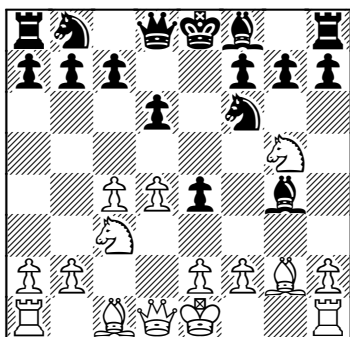
b2) 7...c6 8 ♗gx4 ♗xg4 9 ♜b3 ♜c7 10 ♙f4 f5 11 ♗c5 already with some advantage for White in P.Morais Pinto-H.Freitas, Brazil 1998.

b3) 7...♜e7 8 h4!? (instead 8 ♜c2 would take play back into Game 2) 8...h5 9 gxh5 ♖xh5 10 ♙f4 (or 10 ♗h3 ♖xh4 11 ♙g5 ♖g4 12 ♗d5 ♜d7 13 ♙xf6 ♖xg2 14 ♗e3!, as in J.Bellon Lopez-J.Hodgson, Dos Hermanas 1992, and now 14...♖xf2 15 ♗xf2 gxf6 with a slight advantage for White) 10...c6 11 ♜b3 ♗a6 (again, if 11...d5 12 c5 ♙f5 13 f3 ♗a6 14 fxe4 dxe4 15 ♖f1 0-0-0 16 ♙d6 ♜d7 17 ♙xf8 ♖xf8 18 ♖xf5 ♜xf5 19 ♙h3 and White is better,

M.Lomineishvili-V.Vorotnikov, Moscow 1996) 12 0-0-0 and if 12...0-0-0 then 13 c5! dxc5? 14 ♔h3+ shows that both kings are not equally safe on the queenside.

7 ♖g2

This move prepares to bring the bishop to e4, but 7 ♖gxe4 is the main line. We'll see this in Game 6 where the position arises from a 5 ♖d2 move order.



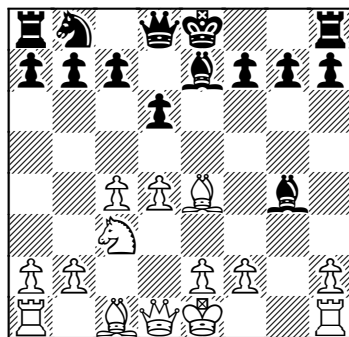
7...♗e7

7...♖c6!? is a good alternative: 8 ♖gxe4 ♖xe4 (8...♗e7 gives White the option of 9 ♖g3!?) 9 ♗xe4 (for 9 ♖xe4 see note 'a' to Black's 8th move in Game 6, below) 9...g6!? (this move was recommended by Kasparov in *BCO*; instead 9...♗d7 10 ♗b3 ♖b8 11 ♗e3 ♖e7 12 d5 b6 13 ♖g1 g6 14 ♗d4 ♖g8 15 ♗d3 f5 16 ♖xg4! fxg4 17 ♖e4 gave White an attack in Y.Yakovich-A.Kharlov, Vladivostok 1994) 10 ♗d3 (if 10 h3 ♗d7) 10...f5 11 h3 ♗h5 12 ♗g2 ♗g7 13 ♖d5?! ♗xd4 14 ♖f4 ♗f6 15 ♖xh5 gxh5 16 ♗xc6+ bxc6 17 ♗f3 ♖d7 18 ♗xh5 ♖ae8 with advantage for

Black, J.Rudd-A.Cherniaev, Brighton 2011.

However, 7...c6 8 ♖gxe4 (or 8 ♗b3 ♗b6 9 ♖gxe4 ♖xe4 10 ♖xe4 ♗xb3 11 axb3 ♖d7 12 ♗d2 ♖a6 13 ♖a5! f6 14 ♖g1 ♖c7 15 ♖c3 b6 16 ♖a1 ♗e6 17 d5 cxd5 18 cxd5 ♗f7 19 ♗h3+ ♖d8 20 ♖g4 with a dangerous initiative in L.Yurtaev-V.Zhuravliov, Leningrad 1989) 8...♗e7 (8...♖bd7?! 9 ♗d3 is excellent for White) 9 ♗b3 ♖xe4 (9...♗d7 10 ♖g3 0-0 11 h3 ♗e6 12 e4 ♗c7 13 a4 ♖a6 14 0-0 ♗b6 15 ♗xb6 axb6 16 b3 slightly favours White too, J.Brenninkmeijer-H.Ree, Amsterdam 1988) 10 ♖xe4 ♗d7 11 ♖g3 (with the idea of 12 h3 ♗e6 13 d5; instead 11 ♗g3 0-0 12 ♖g1 ♗f5 13 ♗h3 g6 14 ♗xf5 ♗xf5 15 ♖xd6 ♗e6 16 c5 b6 17 ♗g5 f6 18 ♗e3 ♗xe3 19 ♗e3 ♗xd6 20 cxd6 ♖d7 was okay for Black in V.Eingorn-A.Suetin, Tallinn 1980) 11...♗c7 12 0-0 0-0 13 ♗f4 was a touch better for White in J.Pinter-C.McNab, Malta Olympiad 1980.

8 ♖gxe4 ♖xe4 9 ♗xe4

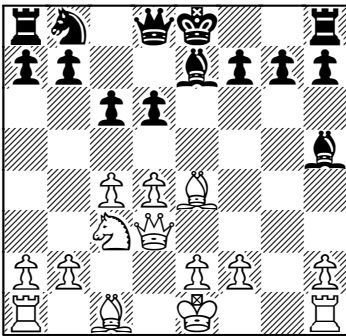


9...c6

Here 9...♘c6 doesn't give an equal game: 10 ♖g1 (or the immediate 10 ♙e3!?) 10...♗d7 11 ♙e3 left White clearly better in A.Lastin-N.Kurenkov, Moscow 2007.

10 ♗d3! ♙h5

Not 10...♘d7? 11 ♙xh7!, netting an extra pawn.



11 ♗h3

White opts to double his opponent's pawns and create a hole on e6. This is by no means forced, however:

a) 11 ♖g1 is well met by 11...♙g6 12 f4 d5!

b) 11 ♙f4! ♙g6 12 0-0-0 is simple and strong, giving White an edge after 12...♘a6 (12...♘d7!? may improve; then 13 ♗g3! ♘f6 14 ♙f3 has the idea of h2-h4 with a slight advantage for White) 13 h4! (or 13 ♙xg6 hxg6 14 d5 ♖h4 15 e3 ♗a5 16 ♙b1 ♖c8 17 ♙g3 ♖h5 18 e4 and White has slightly the better chances, J.Brenninkmeijer-A.Blees, Hilversum 1989), and now:

b1) 13...♙xh4 14 ♙xg6 fxg6 15 ♗e4+! ♙f7 16 ♙xd6 gives White a small advantage.

b2) 13...♗d7!? 14 h5 ♙xe4 15 ♗xe4 slightly favours White too.

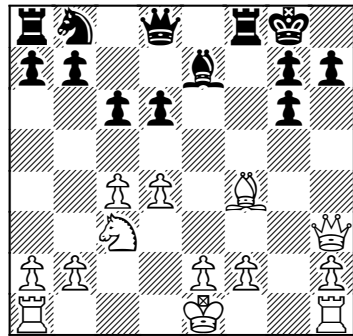
b3) 13...d5 14 cxd5 ♘b4 15 ♗e3 cxd5? (not 15...♘xd5? 16 ♙xd5 cxd5 17 h5 ♙f5 18 ♗e5 with a decisive advantage for White) 16 ♙xg6 hxg6 17 a3 ♘c6 18 ♗f3 ♖h5 19 e4! favours White, L.Polugaevsky-J.Hickl, European Team Championship, Haifa 1989.

11...♙g6

Black should avoid 11...♙h4? because of 12 ♖g1. Then 12...0-0? runs into 13 ♙g5! when White wins material.

12 ♙xg6 fxg6 13 ♙f4 0-0!?

Speelman wants to use the half-open f-file, but there was nothing wrong with the solid 13...♗d7.



14 e3

Probably a bit more precise was 14 ♙g3 which doesn't give Black the possibility of ...g6-g5, while retaining the option to advance with e2-e4.

Instead 14 ♗e6+ ♙h8 15 ♙g3 ♘a6 16 h4 ♖f5 17 0-0-0 was about equal when L.Psakhis-J.Hickl, Dortmund 1989, was agreed drawn.

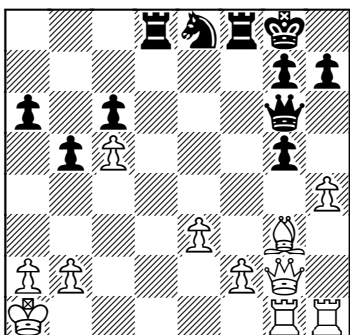
14...♖a6

14...♙f5!? 15 0-0-0 ♗d7 16 ♙g3 ♜a5
17 e4 ♙f7 isn't at all easy to assess.

15 0-0-0 ♗c7 16 ♙b1 a6 17 ♗e4?

Better is 17 ♙a1! with slight advantage for White, due to the idea of 17...b5 18 c5.

17...g5! 18 ♙g3 ♜e8! 19 ♙a1 ♜g6 20
♜g2 ♗e8 21 ♙d8 1 b5 22 c5 dxc5 23
♗xc5 ♙xc5 24 dxc5 ♙d8 25 h4!?



25...gxh4

Black can also play 25...g4 and if 26 h5 ♜e6 27 ♙h4 then 27...♙d5 28 ♜xg4 ♜xg4 29 ♙xg4 ♙xh5 when his chances in the endgame are not worse.

26 ♙xh4 ♙d2 27 ♙d4 ♙e2

Instead 27...♙xd4? 28 exd4 leaves c6 rather weak.

28 ♜h1!? ♜c2 29 ♙b1 ♜xc5 30 ♜e4
♗f6 31 ♜e6+ ♙h8 32 ♙e5

32 ♙d6? ♜xd4! 33 ♙xf8 ♜d7 was excellent for Black, with the idea of 34 ♙g7 ♜g7 with a decisive advantage.

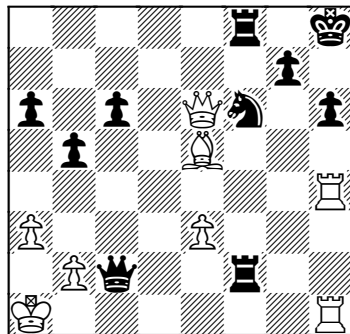
32...h6!

Speelman remains alert and avoids 32...♙xf2? 33 ♙d6.

33 ♙h1 ♙xf2 34 a3

Preparing ♙d6, since 34 ♙d6 would have been met by 34...♜h5! 35 ♙dd1 ♜f7!.

34...♜c2! 35 ♙dh4



35...♜g6?

Black was frightened of nonexistent threats, but that's quite understandable when one is low on time and up against Kasparov!

Instead after 35...♜f5 36 ♜e7 ♙g8 37 e4 ♜g6 38 ♜e6+ ♜f7 39 ♜xc6 ♙d7 Black is consolidating and has good chances to realize his extra pawn, since if 40 ♜xa6? then 40...♗g4.

36 ♜xc6 ♜f5 37 ♙f4! ♙xf4 38 exf4 ♙h7
39 ♙g1 ♙f7 40 ♜xa6 b4! 41 ♜c4 ♗d7!
1/2-1/2

Here 42 ♜xb4 ♗xe5 43 fxe5 ♜xe5 leads to an absolutely equal position.

Game 5
B.Gulko-J.Benjamin
US Championship,
Long Beach 1993

1 c4 e5 2 ♗c3 ♗f6 3 ♗f3 d6 4 d4 e4 5