

The Taimanov Bible

A Complete Manual for the Sicilian Player

**Ivan Ivanisevic
Milos Perunovic
Robert Markus**

2nd Revisited & Extended Edition

First edition 2023 by Thinkers Publishing

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**A Complete Manual
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Key to Symbols

!	a good move
?	a weak move
!!	an excellent move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
□	only move
N	novelty
⊙	lead in development
⊙	zugzwang
=	equality
∞	unclear position
∞	with compensation for the sacrificed material
±	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White has a serious advantage
∓	Black has a serious advantage
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
↔	with counterplay
Δ	with the idea of
⊃	better is
≤	worse is
+	check
#	mate

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Preface

We have to admit that the idea of writing this book was planned for quite some time, but we hesitated to take the final step. Why? In today's era of computers we receive daily a sea of information. It's difficult to write something that will have important theoretical value and also a lasting impact. However, the wish prevailed within us to display the genesis of the Taimanov, an opening variation that has been a companion in our chess careers for more than twenty years.

With great pride we can state that the majority of the experts in our Sicilian friend come from Serbia, starting with the legendary Milan Matulovic, to Slavoljub Marjanovic, Dusan Rajkovic, Branko Damljanovic, and Igor Miladinovic ... and this factor was surely an additional motivation to write this book.

We have tried to deliver a user-friendly style that suits all levels of players. Nowadays, chess players are overwhelmed with piles of information and endless databases. It is very difficult to choose "your variations" and therefore this book will surely come as a great additional help.

In addition to the basic Taimanov ideas we had to keep, we followed – in an original manner – our two main concepts: 'almost never play an early ...d6' (Scheveningen-style) and 'push ...h5 whenever you can' (Paulsen-style).

We have tried to demonstrate the classic game for the type of positions that occur in the Taimanov, in order to make our readers primarily able to familiarize themselves with the basic motifs and ideas of this Sicilian. When we believed the variations to be sharp and complicated, we have offered two possible continuations.

The latest fashion, which we have to mention, did not even exist when we started to write our book – the 7. ♖f3 line. Readers will have the choice between the peaceful 7... ♘d6, and 7...d6 where we head for a sharp Sicilian, true to its style.

In the famous English attack with ♘e3 – ♙d2 – 0-0-0, in addition to the well-known ... ♘b4 and ... ♗e5, our second proposal – of which we can safely state that we are most proud – is called the "Serbian variation" starting with ... ♘b4 and ...0-0.

About the specific move order in reaching our Paulsen-Taimanov variation, there are two possibilities. The first possibility is to start with 2... e6 and 4... ♘c6, and the second one is revealed by 2... ♘c6 with 4... ♔c7.

We decided on the move order 2... ♘c6 and 4... ♔c7 firstly because we all learned this way in the Paulsen-Taimanov variation, but also for practical reasons.

Firstly, we avoid 5. ♘b5, which results in typical Hedgehog set-ups, and these positions are not to everyone's taste. Another reason is to keep in reserve the option of playing ...e5 at once, or sometimes even ...g6 without touching the e-pawn. This book is the result of twenty years of our work and playing the Taimanov combined.



We have played over 500 games in this variation and we desired to show all the beauty and richness of "our" variation.

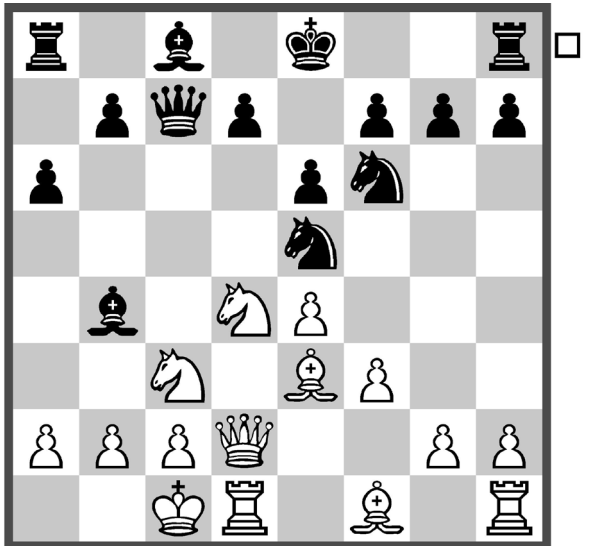
We hope that our book will conjure all this and more, and will help our readers into the labyrinths of our Taimanov Bible.

Ivan Ivanisevic, Milos Perunovic, Robert Markus











































English Attack with 9... e5

1.e4 c5 2.  f3  c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.  xd4  c7 5.Nc3 e6 6.Be3
a6 7.Qd2



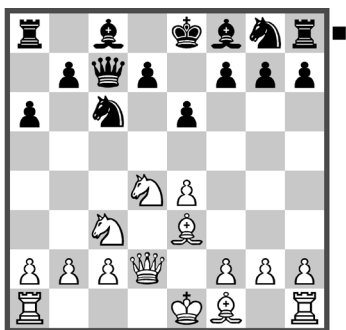
Chapter Guide

Chapter 8 – English Attack with 9...e5

1.e4 c5 2.  f3  c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.  xd4  c7 5.  c3 e6 6.  e3 a6 7.  d2  f6	
a) 8.f4.....	175
b) 8.0-0 b5 & 8...  g4	177
c) 8.0-0  b4 9.f3  e5 10.--	180
d) 8.0-0  b4 9.f3  e5 10.  b3 b5 11.--	182
e) 8.0-0  b4 9.f3  e5 10.  b3 b5 11.  f2	183
f) 8.0-0  b4 9.f3  e5 10.  b3 b5 11.  e1	185
g) 8.0-0  b4 9.f3  e5 10.  b3 b5 11.  b1  b8.....	188
h) 8.0-0  b4 9.f3  e5 10.  b3 b5 11.  b1  e7 12.  f2 --	189
i) 8.0-0  b4 9.f3  e5 10.  b3 b5 11.  b1  e7 12.  f2  b7	192

a) 8.f4

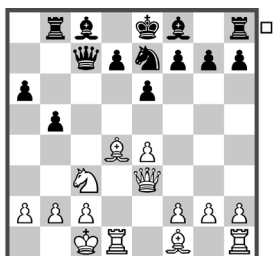
1. e4 c5 2. ♞f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♞xd4
♞c6 5. ♞c3 ♖c7 6. ♙e3 a6 7. ♚d2



Position after: 7. ♚d2

7... ♞f6

7... ♞xd4 is an interesting idea. 8.
♙xd4 [8. ♖xd4 b5 9. 0-0-0 ♙b7 10. f3
♜c8=] 8... b5 9. 0-0-0 ♞e7 10. ♚e3
[10. ♚b1 ♞c6 11. ♙e3 ♜b8 12. f4
d6∞] 10... ♜b8

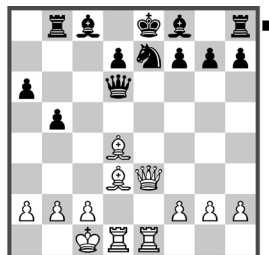


Position after: 10... ♜b8

A) 11. f4 ♞c6 12. ♞d5 At first glance
looks dangerous for Black, but we can
repel the attack. 12... exd5 13. exd5+
♞e7 14. d6 [14. ♙d3 d6 15. ♜he1 f6
with the idea of ...♙f7.] 14... ♖xd6

15. ♙xg7 ♖xd1+ 16. ♙xd1 ♙xg7 17.
♙d3 d6 18. ♜e1 ♜b7! 19. ♙e4 d5
20. ♙xd5 ♜d7 21. ♖c5 ♙d8 '=] 22.
♖b6+ ♙e8 23. c4 [23. ♖c5 ♙d8=]
23... bxc4 24. ♖c5 ♙d8 25. ♖a5+
♙e8 26. ♙c1 ♙f8 27. ♙xc4 ♙f6∞

B) 11. ♙d3 ♞c6 12. ♞d5 exd5 13.
exd5+ ♞e7 14. d6 ♖xd6 15. ♜he1



Position after: 15. ♜he1

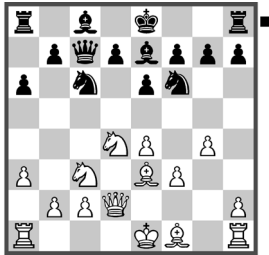
Inarkiev, R – Stojanovic, D Plovdiv
2012. 15... h5!! Activating the rook via
the h6-square. 16. ♙b1 ♜h6 17. ♙f5
♜b6 18. ♜d3 [18. ♙xg7 ♖xd1+ 19.
♜xd1 ♙xg7 20. ♜e1 ♙f8∞] 18...
♜c6 19. ♙xg7 ♖c5 20. ♙xh6 ♖xe3
21. ♙xe3 ♞xf5 22. ♜d5 ♞xe3 23.
♜xe3+ ♙d8∞

8. f4

A new variation. The first who was play
this variant is Russian grandmaster Ivan
Popov against one of the experts in the
Taimanov Sicilian, Vladimir Potkin.

8. f3 White wants to take the initiative

on the kingside immediately. 8... ♖b4
9. a3 ♗e7 10. g4



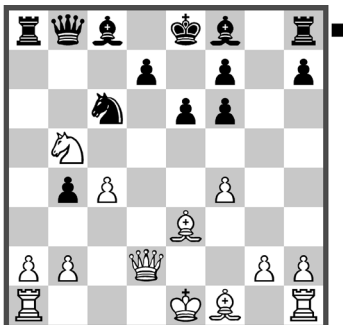
Position after: 10. g4

10... h6 11. h4 b5 12. ♖g1 ♗b7 13. 0-0-0 and White's attack looks faster than Black's counterplay on the queenside.

8... b5

Black has two classical reactions: 8... ♗b4 or 8... b5. Probably after 8... ♗b4 and 9... ♖a5 White has nothing and the position is about equal. But we will show also another possibility.

9. e5 b4 10. ♖cb5 axb5 11. ♖xb5 ♖b8
12. exf6 gxf6 13. c4!



Position after: 13. c4!

13... bxc3

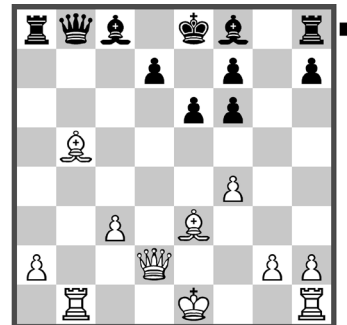
A) 13... ♖a7 14. ♗e2! [14. ♖xa7 ♖xa7 15. ♗xa7 ♖xa7= Black has good compensation with the two bishops] 14... ♖xb5 15. cxb5 ♗b7 16. ♖d1 ♖d8 17. 0-0±

B) 13... b3 14. a3 ♖b4 15. 0-0-0 ♖c2 16. ♗g1±

14. bxc3 ♖a7 15. ♖b1

15. ♖xa7 ♖xa7 16. ♗xa7 ♖xa7=

15... ♖xb5 16. ♗xb5

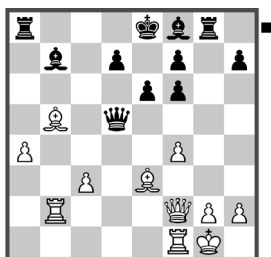


Position after: 16. ♗xb5

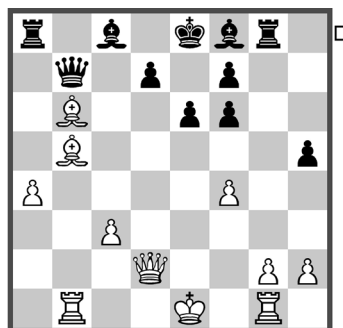
16... ♖c7

16... ♖d6 17. ♖f2 [17. a4 ♖xd2+ 18. ♖xd2 ♗d6 19. ♖e2 ♖e7 20. ♖hd1 ♗c7= Miranda, M – Macieja, B Villahermosa 2014] 17... ♖d5 18. a4 [18. 0-0 ♖xa2 19. ♖bd1 ♖xd1 20. ♖xd1 ♖xf2 21. ♖xf2 f5± White is slightly better but Black can hold.] 18... ♖g8 19. 0-0 ♗b7 20. ♖b2

(see analysis diagram next page)



Position after: 20. ♖b2



Position after: 19... h5

20... ♙a3 [20... ♚d6 21. ♜d2 ♙xg2 22. ♚xg2 ♜xg2+ 23. ♜xg2 ♚c7 24. ♜xd7 ♚xd7 25. ♜d1±] 21. ♜d2 ♚f5 22. ♜xd7 ♜xg2+ 23. ♚xg2 ♙xg2 24. ♜d5+ ♜e7 25. ♜xf5 ♙xf1 26. ♙c5+ ♙xc5+ 27. ♜xc5 ♙xb5 [27... ♙h3 28. ♜c7+ ♜f8 29. ♜f2±] 28. axb5± The rook ending is difficult for Black.

17. ♙b6

17. 0-0 ♙c5 18. a4 ♜e7 19. c4 d6 20. ♜fd1 ♙b7=

17... ♚b7 18. a4 ♜g8 19. ♜g1 h5

20. ♜b2!

A) 20. a5? ♜xa5!±

B) 20. g3 h4 21. ♚g2 ♚xg2 22. ♜xg2 hxg3 23. hxg3 ♜h8∞

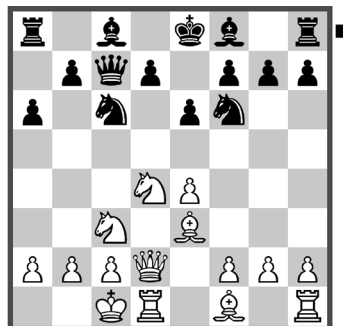
20... ♙a3 21. ♜b3 ♙e7 22. c4 ♜f8 23. a5 ♚e4+ 24. ♜d1±

The position is very complicated, but definitely easier to play with White. The a-pawn can be very dangerous and Black still hasn't finished development.

b) 8.0-0 b5 & 8...♞g4

1. e4 c5 2. ♞f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♞xd4 ♞c6 5. ♞c3 ♚c7 6. ♙e3 a6 7. ♚d2 ♞f6 8. 0-0-0

(see diagram opposite column)

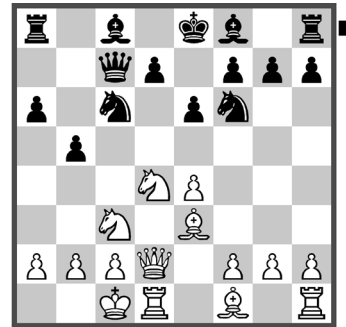


Position after: 8. 0-0-0

8... b5?!

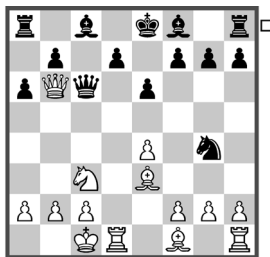
Not a good line in our opinion.

A) 8... ♖g4?! 9. ♔f4 ♗ge5 10. ♔g3 ♗xd4 11. ♖xd4 f6 12. f4 ♔c5 13. ♖d2 ♗f7 14. e5 f5 15. ♔f2 ♔xf2 16. ♖xf2 b5 17. g4! → Grischuk, A – Needleman, G, Khanty Mansyisk.



Position after: 8... b5?!

B) 8... ♗xd4!? A decent line in our opinion, although not the kind of positions we want. 9. ♖xd4 [9. ♔xd4 e5 10. ♔e3 ♔b4 11. f3 d6 12. a3 ♔xc3 13. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 14. bxc3 ♔e7 White has the bishop pair but his pawn structure is ruined. Chances are equal.] 9... ♗g4 10. ♖b6 ♖c6

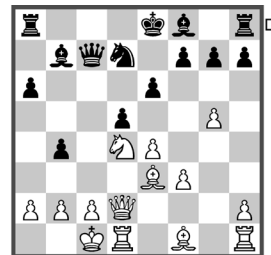


Position after: 10... ♖c6

11. ♔d4 [11. ♖xc6 bxc6 12. ♔b6 d5=] 11... e5 12. ♔e3 ♔e7 13. ♗d5 ♔d8 14. ♖b3 ♗xe3 [14... d6 15. ♔e2 ♗xe3 16. ♖xe3 0-0 17. ♔b1 ♔e6 18. c3 b5∞ Inarkiev, E – Jaracz, P Warsaw] 15. ♖xe3 0-0 16. g3 d6 17. h4 ♔e6 18. ♔h3 ♔c8 19. ♖e2 ♖d7 20. ♔g2 ♔c5 and Black's position is quite acceptable. Nepomniachtchi, I – Macieja, B, Aix les Bains.

9. ♔f4!

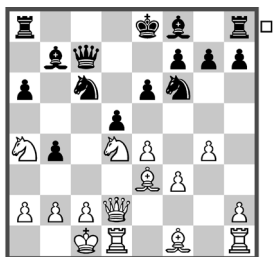
A) 9. ♗xc6 ♖xc6 [9... dxc6 10. ♔f4 ♖b6 11. ♔d6 ♔xd6 12. ♖xd6 ♔a7 13. ♖g3 0-0 14. e5 ♗d5 15. ♗e4 and because of the weakened d6-square, White stands better.] 10. f3 ♔e7 [10... ♔b7?! 11. g4 b4 12. ♗e2 d5 13. g5 ♗d7 14. ♗d4 ♖c7



Position after: 14... ♖c7

15. f4! With this move White crushes all Black's hopes. 15... dxe4 16. f5 e5 17. ♗b3 ♔d8 18. ♔g1 ♔e7 19. ♖f2 a5 20. ♔b5 ♔c6 21. ♔xc6 ♖xc6 22. ♗xa5 ♖a6 23. ♔d5± Pletnev, E – Ionov, S Moscow] 11. g4 d6 with complicated play.

B) 9. f3 ♘b7 10. g4 Now Black has a very interesting idea. [10. ♞b3 ♞e5 11. ♚f2 ♚c8∞ 12. ♙b6 ♚b8 13. ♙a7 ♚c7=] 10... b4 [10... h6 is possible too.] 11. ♞a4 d5

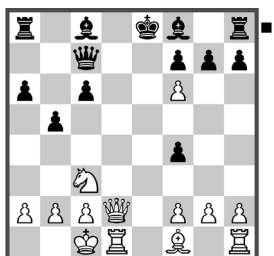


Position after: 11... d5

12. ♞xc6 [12. g5 ♞d7 13. exd5 ♞xd4 14. ♚xd4 ♙xd5 15. ♙e2 ♚c8 16. ♚d2 ♞c5! 17. ♞xc5 ♚xc5 18. ♚xc5 ♙xc5 19. ♙xc5 ♚xc5 with better chances for Black.] 12... ♙xc6 13. ♞b6 ♚d8 14. ♙xa6 ♙e7 with compensation for the material.

9... ♚b6

A) 9... e5?! 10. ♞xc6 exf4 11. e5 dxc6 12. exf6



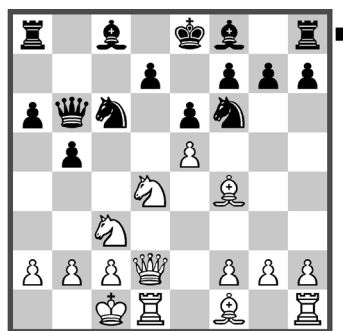
Position after: 12. exf6

Blacks position looks horrible. Still, White needs to find some accurate

moves to prove an advantage. 12... ♙e6 13. ♞e4! ♙d5 14. c4 0-0-0! 15. ♙e2 ♙xc4 [15... bxc4 !? 16. ♚d4 gxf6 17. ♙xc4±] 16. ♙g4+ ♙e6 17. ♚c3 ♙xg4 18. ♚xd8+ ♚xd8 19. fxg7 ♙xg7 20. ♚xg7± 1-0 (28), Nisipeanu, L-D – Cosma, I Bucharest 2008.

B) 9... ♞e5 10. ♞f3 ♞fg4 11. h3! Forcing the exchange on f3, after which White will have the open g-file. 11... ♞xf3 12. gxf3 ♞e5 13. ♚g1 f6 14. ♙b1±

10. e5!?



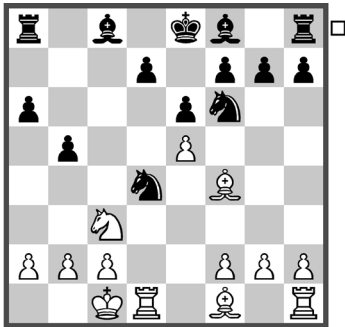
Position after: 10. e5!?

A) 10. ♞xc6 ♚xc6 11. f3 ♙b7∞

B) 10. ♞b3 is also a good move as 10... ♞g4 is met by 11. ♙e2! ♞ge5 12. ♞d5 ♚b8 13. ♙g3 The most precise. [13. ♞e3?! as played in Drenchev, P – Nikolov, S Pernik 2007, allows Black the shot 13... ♞d3+!∞] 13... d6 14. ♞e3±

10... ♚xd4 11. ♚xd4 ♞xd4

(see diagram next page)



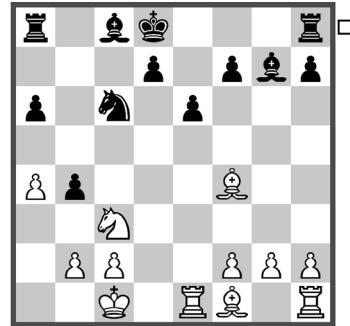
Position after: 11... Nxd4

12. exf6 Nc6 13. Re1!

White is threatening Nd5.

13. fxe7 Qxe7 14. Qd6 [14. Nd4 d5
15. Nd6+ Qe7 16. Nxc8+ Rxc8=]
14... Qb7 15. Ne4 Ne7=

13... Qd8 14. fxe7 Qxe7 15. a4 b4



Position after: 15... b4

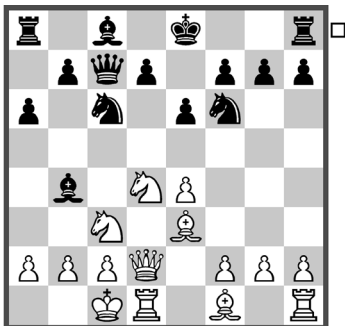
16. Ne4 d5 17. Nd6 Qd7 18. g3

With a slight edge for White.

c) 8.0-0 Qb4 9.f3 Ne5 10.--

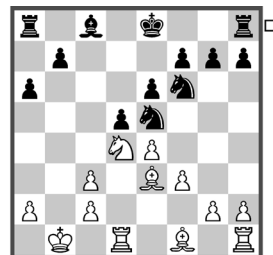
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4
Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Qe3 a6 7. Qd2
Nf6 8. 0-0 Qb4

A) 10. Qb1?! Qxc3 11. Qxc3 Qxc3 12.
bxc3 d5



Position after: 8... Qb4

9. f3 Ne5 10. g4!?



Position after: 12... d5

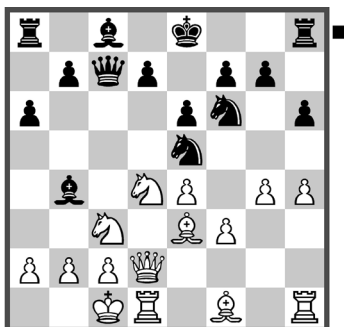
13. Qf4 [13. exd5 Nxd5 14. Qd2 b5]
13... Ng6 14. Qd6 dxe4

B) 10. ♖e1 ♙xc3 11. ♗xc3 [11. bxc3? d6 12. ♙e2 0-0 13. ♙g5 ♗ed7 14. ♗g3 b5] 11... ♗xc3 12. bxc3 d5=

10... h6

10... 0-0 11. g5 ♗h5 12. ♖g1 [12. ♖b1 transposes to 9... 0-0: 12... ♙xc3 13. ♗xc3 ♗xc3 14. bxc3 b5=; 12. f4 ♗g4 13. e5 ♙xc3 14. bxc3 d6 15. ♙e2 dxe5 16. ♙xg4 exd4 17. cxd4 g6 18. ♙xh5 gxh5∞] 12... b5 13. f4 ♗c4 14. ♙xc4 ♗xc4 [14... bxc4!? with the opening of the b-file is possible too.] 15. ♗e2 ♗xe2 16. ♗dxe2 f5 17. e5 ♖f7∞

11. h4



Position after: 11. h4

A) 11. g5 Too early. 11... hxg5 12. ♙xg5 b5 13. ♖b1 ♙xc3 14. ♗xc3 ♗xc3 15. bxc3 ♙b7 16. ♙f4 d6 17. ♖g1 g6=

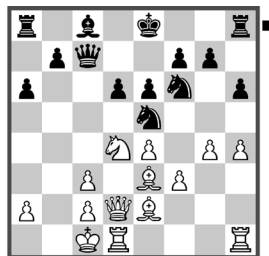
B) 11. ♙f4 d6 12. ♖b1 ♙xc3 13. ♗xc3 ♗xc3 14. bxc3 ♙d7=

C) 11. ♖b1 ♙xc3 12. bxc3 d5↑

11... b5

A) 11... d5?! 12. ♙f4 ♙d7 13. ♗h2 ♙d6 14. ♖b1 0-0-0 [14... dxe4 15. ♗b3! ♗xf3 16. ♙xd6 ♗xc3 17. bxc3±] 15. exd5 ♗xd5 16. ♗xd5 exd5 17. h5±

B) 11... ♙xc3 12. bxc3 [12. ♗xc3 ♗xc3 13. bxc3 d5∞ Sychev, K – Kunin, V Moscow, 2001] 12... d6 13. ♙e2



Position after: 13. ♙e2

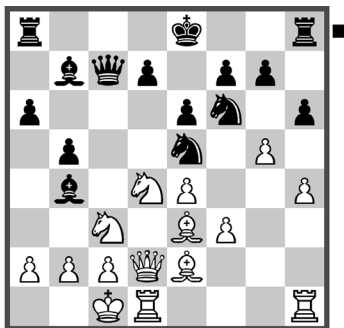
Now White is fully prepared for g5. 13... ♗exg4 [13... ♙d7 14. g5 ♗h5 15. gxh6 gxh6 16. ♖hg1 0-0-0 17. ♙xh6±; 13... ♗fd7 14. ♗b3±] 14. fxg4 ♗xe4 15. ♗e1 e5 16. c4! exd4 17. ♖xd4 ♗c5 18. ♙f4 ♙e6 19. ♙xd6 ♗b6 20. ♗d2± and White is clearly better as the bishop on d6 is quite strong.

12. ♙e2

12. ♖g1 ♙b7 13. g5 hxg5 14. hxg5 In the game Ziatdinov, R – Arakhamia, K, Cork 2005, Black missed the excellent possibility of 14... ♗xf3! 15. ♗xf3 ♗xe4 16. ♗d4 ♗xc3 17. bxc3 ♙a3+ 18. ♖b1 ♙xf3 19. ♗xg7 0-0-0+

12... ♙b7 13. g5

(see diagram next page)

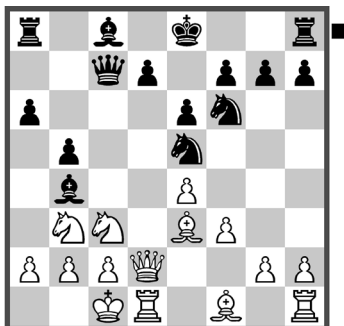


Position after: 13. g5

13... hxg5

d) 8.0-0 ♖b4 9.f3 ♘e5 10.♘b3 b5 11.--

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4
 ♘c6 5. ♘c3 ♖c7 6. ♙e3 a6 7. ♖d2
 ♘f6 8. 0-0-0 ♙b4 9. f3 ♘e5 10. ♘b3
 b5



Position after: 10... b5

11. ♖d4

11. ♙d4?! ♙e7 12. ♖g5 ♘g6 13. ♖g3
 e5 14. ♙e3 d6 15. ♖f2 ♗b8 16. ♙b1
 0-0 17. g4 b4 18. ♘e2 a5 In the game
 Korneev,O – Lazarev,V Pontevedraa

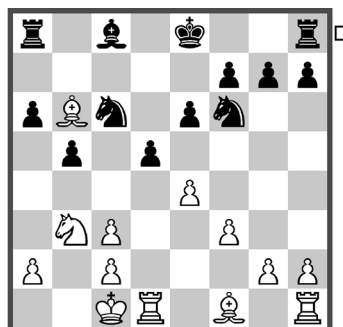
13... ♘h5?! 14. gxh6 gxh6 [14... g6 15.
 ♗hg1→] 15. ♗hg1 ♘g6 16. ♙b1!
 (Δ♘cb5) 16... 0-0-0 17. ♖c1 Again
 threatening ♘b5. 17... ♙xc3 18. bxc3
 ♘hf4 19. ♙f1±

14. hxg5 ♘h5=

Black will castle long next and prepare
 ...d5 with an acceptable position.

2003 Black achieved a comfortable po-
 sition.

11... ♘c6 12. ♖b6 ♖xb6 13. ♙xb6
 ♙xc3 14. bxc3 d5



Position after: 14... d5

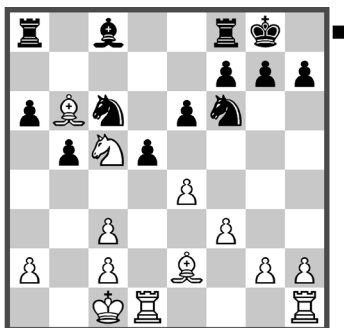
Previously, I thought the position was
 already equal, but then I realized Khalif-
 man had analyzed this position further
 in his book.

15. ♙e2

15. ♘a5 ♘xa5 16. ♙xa5 ♙b7 17. e5
 [17. exd5 ♙xd5 18. a4 0-0= with a com-
 fortable position.] 17... ♘d7 18. f4 0-0=

This is Khalifman's recommendation.

15... 0-0 16. ♘c5



Position after: 16. ♘c5

16... dxe4N

16... ♖e8 17. ♙c7 ♖a7 18. ♙g3 ♘h5
 19. ♙f2± Khalifman

17. fxe4

17. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 18. fxe4 ♘e5=

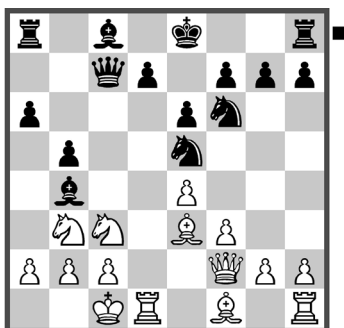
17... ♘e5

Black will play ...♘ed7 to exchange the
 annoying white knight on c5 and
 achieve an equal position.

e) 8.0-0 ♙b4 9.f3 ♘e5 10.♘b3 b5 11.♙f2

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4
 ♘c6 5. ♘c3 ♙c7 6. ♙e3 a6 7. ♙d2
 ♘f6 8. 0-0-0 ♙b4 9. f3 ♘e5 10. ♘b3
 b5 11. ♙f2

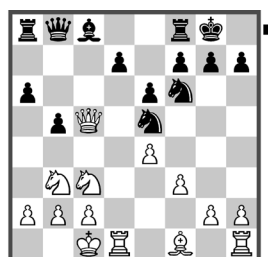
A) 13. ♙c5 Not the best move, as
 Black can now equalise easily. 13...
 ♙xc5 14. ♙xc5



Position after: 11. ♙f2

11...0-0 12. ♙c5

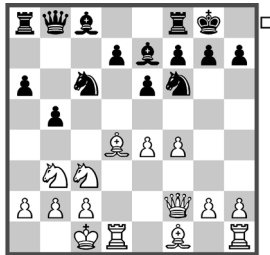
12. ♙b6 ♙b8



Position after: 14. ♙xc5

14... d5 15. exd5 b4 16. ♘e4
 [Obviously the knight sacrifice is not
 correct: 16. dxe6 bxc3 17. ♖e1 cxb2+
 18. ♙xb2 ♘g6 19. exf7+ ♙h8+] 16...
 ♘xd5= with at least equal
 chances for Black.

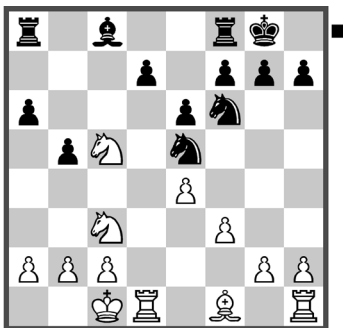
B) 13. ♖d4 ♖e7 14. f4 ♘c6!?N



Position after: 14... ♘c6!?N

15. ♙xf6 [15. e5 ♘g4 16. ♚g3 ♘xd4
17. ♘xd4 ♘h6∞] 15... ♙xf6 16. e5
♙e7 17. g3 [17. ♘e4 f6 18. exf6
gxf6∞] 17... f6 18. exf6 ♚xf6∞

12... ♙xc5 13. ♚xc5 ♚xc5 14. ♘xc5



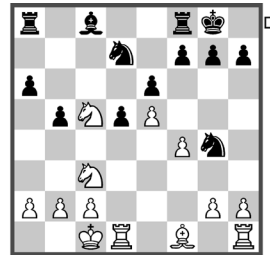
Position after: 14. ♘xc5

14... d5

14... b4 15. ♘3a4 d5 16. ♘b6?!
[16. exd5 transposes to the main line.]
16... ♚b8 17. ♘xc8 ♚fxc8 18. ♘xa6
♚b6∞

15. exd5

15. f4 ♘eg4 16. e5 ♘d7



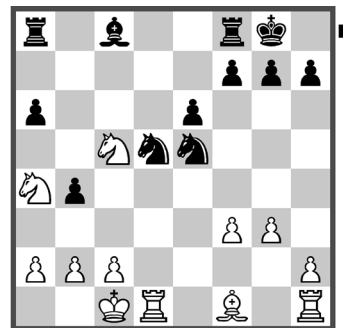
Position after: 16... ♘d7

17. ♘xd7 [17. ♘d3 ♙b7 18. ♚e1
♚ac8 19. ♘d1 d4∞ Socko, B – Ribli, Z
Bundesliga Austria 2010/11] 17... ♙xd7
18. ♚d2 b4 [18... f6 19. exf6 ♚xf6 20.
g3 ♙c6 21. ♘e2±] 19. ♘e2 [19. ♘e4
♙b5 20. ♘d6 ♙xf1 21. ♚xf1 ♘xh2]
19... ♙b5=

15... b4 16. ♘3a4

16. ♘3e4 ♘xd5 17. ♘d6 ♚d8=

16... ♘xd5 17. g3



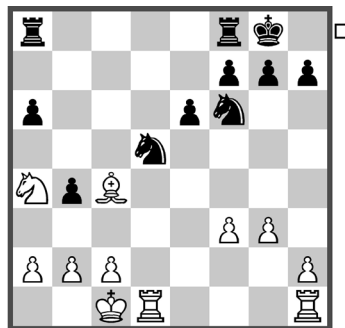
Position after: 17. g3

17. ♙e2 ♙d7 18. ♘xd7 ♘d7 19. g3 a5
20. f4 ♚ac8 21. ♙f3 ♘7f6 0-1,
Tseshkovsky, V – Bryzgalin, K Belo-
rechensk 2005.

17... ♔d7!

A very important move! Black must exchange his bad bishop.

17... ♖a7?! 18. f4 ♘g4 19. ♗d4 g6 20. ♘g2 ♘ge3 21. ♔e4 ♘f5 22. ♗d3 ♘fe7 23. ♗hd1 h5 24. b3 was Volokitin, A – Bosiocic, M Budva 2009.



Position after: 19... ♘7f6

18. ♘xd7

18. ♗xd5? exd5 19. ♘b6 ♗a7 20. f4 ♗b8

18... ♘xd7 19. ♔c4

19. f4 ♘7f6 [19... ♗fc8? 20. ♘g2 ♘7f6 21. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 22. ♗xd5 exd5 23. ♘b6±] 20. ♗d4 ♗fc8 21. ♔d3 g6 22. ♗e1 a5 23. b3 ♗c7 24. ♔b2 ♗b8=

19... ♘7f6

20. ♗d4

20. ♗he1 ♗a7 21. b3 ♗c8 22. ♔b2 ♗ac7=

20... a5 21. f4 g6=

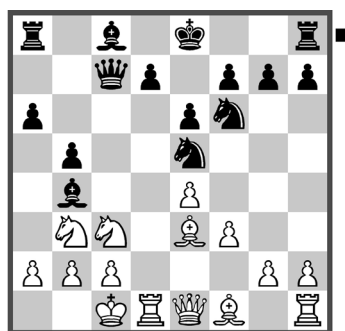
A) 21... ♗a7 22. f5! ♗c8 23. ♗e1 ♗ac7 24. b3↑

B) 21... ♗fc8?! 22. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 23. ♗xd5 exd5 24. ♘b6 ♗ab8 25. ♘xc8 ♗xc8 26. ♗e1 ♔f8 27. ♔d2±

f) 8.0-0 ♘b4 9.f3 ♘e5 10.♘b3 b5 11.♗e1

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘c6 5. ♘c3 ♗c7 6. ♔e3 a6 7. ♗d2 ♘f6 8. 0-0-0 ♘b4 9. f3 ♘e5 10. ♘b3 b5 11. ♗e1

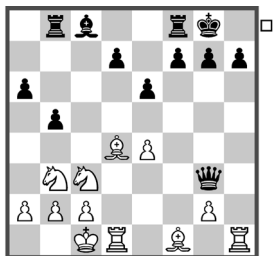
(see diagram opposite column)



Position after: 11. ♗e1

11... ♖e7

11... ♖b8?! 12. ♔g3 0-0 [12... ♗e7 13. f4! ♘c4 14. e5 ♘h5 15. ♕f2 ♘xe3 16. ♕xe3± Almasi, Z – Ye Yiangchuan FIDE Wch 2004] 13. ♗d4 ♗d6 14. f4 ♘h5 15. fxe5 ♘xg3 16. exd6 ♕xd6 17. hxg3 ♕xg3



Position after: 17... ♕xg3

18. ♖h3 ♕g5+ 19. ♗e3 ♕d8 20. e5 and the three pieces are stronger than the queen. White has easier play.

12. f4

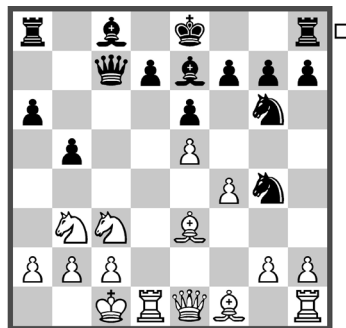
12. ♕g3 0-0 13. f4 ♘c4 14. e5 ♘g4 15. ♗d4 ♘h6 16. ♗d3 ♗b7∞

12... ♘g6

12... ♘c4?! 13. e5 ♘g4 14. ♗d4 ♗b7 15. ♗xc4 bxc4 16. ♘d2 ♘h6 17. ♕e2 ♖c8 18. ♘de4 ♘f5 19. g4 ♘xd4 20. ♖xd4 0-0 Sutovsky, E – Polgar, J Netanya 2009 21. ♖hd1±

13. e5 ♘g4

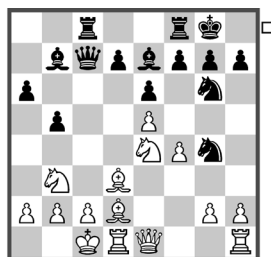
(see diagram next column)



Position after: 13... ♘g4

14. ♘e4

A) 14. ♗d2?! ♗b7 15. ♗d3 ♖c8 16. ♘e4 [16. ♕e2 f5 17. exf6?! ♘xf6 18. ♖hf1 0-0 19. g3 b4 20. ♘e4 ♘xe4 21. ♗xe4 a5↑ Svidler, P (2750) – Vitiugov, N (2596) Moscow 2006] 16... 0-0



Position after: 16... 0-0

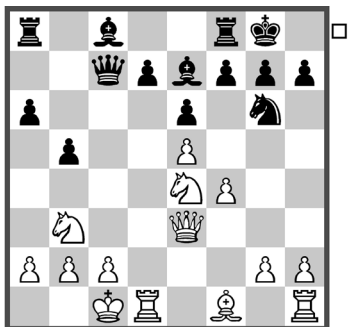
17. h3?! [⊔ 17. ♖b1 f5 18. exf6 ♘xf6 19. ♖f1 ♗d5 20. ♗a5 ♕c6 21. ♘xf6+ ♗xf6 22. g3∞ Zufic, M – Lazarev, V Trieste 2006] 17... ♘4xe5! 18. fxe5 ♘xe5 19. ♖b1 f5⊔

B) 14. ♗d4 ♗b7 15. h3 ♘h6 16. ♕f2 ♘f5 17. ♗c5 d6 [17... 0-0 18. ♗d3 ♖ac8 19. ♗b6 ♗h4! 20. ♕g1 ♕b8 ½-½, Zawadzka, J – Milliet, S 2395, Crete 2007] 18. exd6 ♘xd6=

14... ♘xe3

Otherwise White will play ♕c5 to exchange the bishops. Black must prevent this, otherwise the d6-square became too vulnerable.

15. ♖xe3 0-0



Position after: 15... 0-0

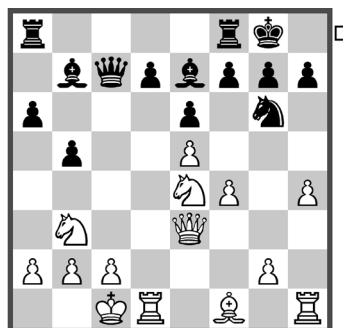
16. h4

A) 16. ♕d3?! ♕b7 17. h4 f5 18. ♘g5 [18. exf6 ♕xf6 19. g3 ♖ac8↗] 18... h6 19. ♘f3 ♖ac8 20. h5? ♕xf3 21. ♖xf3 ♘xf4 0-1, Nezar, M – lotov,V, Differdange 2007.

B) 16. g3?! ♕b7 17. h4 d5 18. exd6 ♕xd6=

C) 16. ♘d6!?! ♕b7 17. ♘xb7 ♖xb7 18. ♕d3 ♖a7 The easiest way to equalize. [18... ♖ac8 19. h4 f5 20. h5 ♘h8 21. ♖hg1N ♕d8 22. g4! A nice sacrifice! 22... ♕b6 23. ♖g3 ♕xg1 24. ♖xg1 fxg4 25. ♖xg4 ♖f7 26. ♘d2→] 19. ♖f3 f6↗

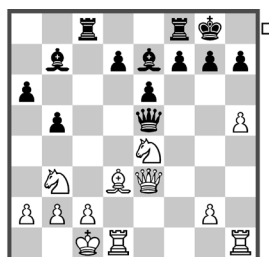
16... ♕b7



Position after: 16... ♕b7

17. ♘d6

17. h5 ♖ac8 18. ♕d3 [18. c3 ♘h4! 19. ♘d4 b4→] 18... ♘xe5 19. fxg5 ♖xe5



Position after: 19... ♖xe5

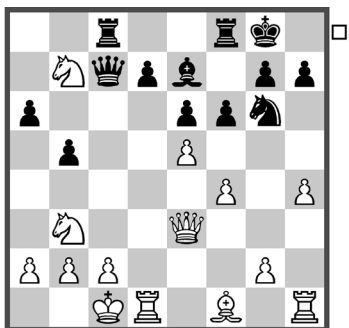
20. ♘bd2 [20. ♖e2 f5 21. ♘ed2 ♖xe2 22. ♕xe2 ♕xg2 23. ♖hg1 ♕d5=] 20... f5 21. ♘f3 ♖c7 22. ♘eg5 [22. ♘ed2 ♕d6!↗ Δ...♕f4, ...e5] 22... ♕d5 Played in the game Ter Sahakyan, Samvel – Potkin, Vladimir, Aix les Bains 2011, where Black played like a champion*! :) *Vladimir Potkin became European Champion that year (Editor's note: Romain Edouard)

17... f6 18. ♘xb7

18. h5? ♘xf4! 19. ♖xf4 fxe5 20. ♖xe5

♖f5 21. ♔g3 ♕g5+ 22. ♔b1 ♕f4 23. ♖c3 ♕xd6 24. ♖xc7 ♕xc7 25. ♖xd7 ♖f7

18... ♖ac8



Position after: 18... ♖ac8

19. c3

19. ♕d3 fxe5 20. fxe5 ♖xe5 21. ♖7a5 ♕b4= Black takes the sacrificed material and chances are equal.

19... fxe5

19... ♖xb7?! 20. h5 ♖h8 21. h6 g6 22. ♔b1 fxe5 [22... ♖f7 23. exf6 ♕xf6 24. ♕e2 with better chances for White.] 23. ♖xe5 ♖f6 24. ♖d4 ♖c7 25. ♕d3±

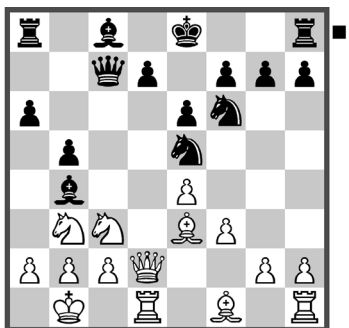
20. f5

20. ♖7a5 ♕b4 21. f5 exf5 22. h5 ♖f4

20... ♖xf5 21. ♕d3 ♖f6 22. ♖7a5 ♖f4 23. ♔b1 d5

g) 8.0-0 ♕b4 9.f3 ♖e5 10.♖b3 b5 11.♔b1 ♖b8

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖c6 5. ♖c3 ♖c7 6. ♕e3 a6 7. ♖d2 ♖f6 8. 0-0-0 ♕b4 9. f3 ♖e5 10. ♖b3 b5 11. ♔b1



Position after: 11. ♔b1

11... ♖b8

Rarely played and suspicious-looking!

12. ♕d4 ♕e7

A) 12... ♖c6? 13. ♖g5! ♕e7 14. e5± Sjugirov, S – Wang Cheng, Kemer 2007.

B) 12... 0-0 13. ♖g5 ♖g6 14. e5! ♕xc3 15. ♕xc3 [15. exf6 ♕xd4 16. ♖xd4 ♖e5 Black stands well.] 15... ♖d5 16. ♕d4± White has an advantage because of the pair of bishops.

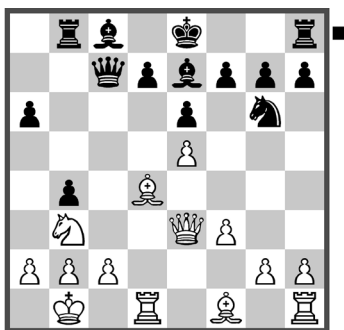
13. ♖g5 ♖g6 14. e5

14. ♖g3 e5 15. ♕e3 d6

14... ♞e4 15. ♚e3

15. ♚xe7+ ♞xe7 16. ♞xe4 ♞f5 17. ♞f2 ♞b7 White does not have enough compensation.

15... ♞xc3+ 16. ♞xc3 b4 17. ♞d4



Position after: 17. ♞d4

17... 0-0

17... a5 18. g3 ♞b7 19. ♞d3 [19. h4 h5 20. ♞d3 ♞d5 Taking the knight on g6 is not dangerous for Black.] 19... ♜c8 20. ♜he1 a4 21. ♞d2 ♞d5 22. h4 ♞c5 23. ♞xc5 ♚xc5 24. ♚xc5 ♜xc5 25. f4 0-0 26. ♞e4 ♜a5 27. ♞d6 ♜b8 28. ♞e4 ♞e7 29. ♞xd5 ♜xd5 30. ♜xd5 ♞xd5 1-0, Kritiz, L – Ivanisevic, I Biel 2008.

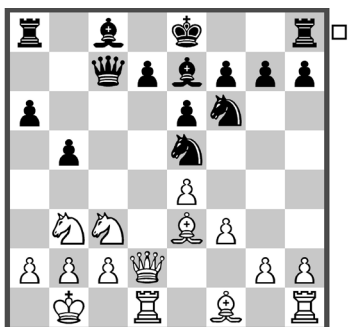
18. ♞d3 d6

18... f6? 19. exf6 ♞xf6 20. ♞xg6 hxg6 21. ♞c5+-

19. exd6 ♞xd6 20. ♞a7 ♜b7 21. ♞c5±

h) 8.0-0 ♞b4 9.f3 ♞e5 10. ♞b3 b5 11. ♚b1 ♞e7 12. ♚f2 --

1. e4 c5 2. ♞f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♞xd4 ♞c6 5. ♞c3 ♚c7 6. ♞e3 a6 7. ♚d2 ♞f6 8. 0-0-0 ♞b4 9. f3 ♞e5 10. ♞b3 b5 11. ♚b1 ♞e7

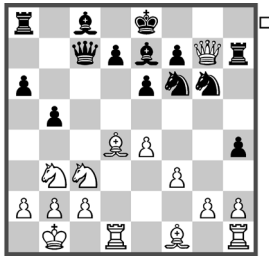


Position after: 11... ♞e7

12. ♚f2 d6

Still nobody has tried 12... h5!? When Black wants to prevent White's initiative on the kingside. Of course, after this move the black king must stay in the centre. 13. ♞b6 [13. ♚g3?! h4! 14. ♚xg7 ♞g6 15. ♞d4 ♜h7

(see analysis diagram next page)

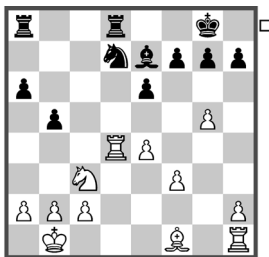


Position after: 15... ♖h7

16. ♙xf6 ♜xg7 17. ♙xg7 b4 18. ♘e2 ♙b7干] 13... ♚b8 14. ♙d4 d6∞

13. g4

13. ♙b6 ♚b8 14. ♙d4 0-0 [14... h5!? is also possible.] 15. g4 ♙b7 16. g5 [16. ♘a5 ♘c6! Smirin,I – Markus,R Sibenik 2005] 16... ♘fd7 17. ♘a5 ♘c6!? 18. ♘xb7 ♘xd4! 19. ♘xd6 ♚xd6 20. ♚xd4 [20. ♜xd4 ♚b6=] 20... ♚xd4 21. ♜xd4 ♜fd8

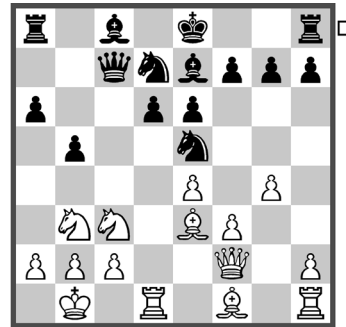


Position after: 21... ♜fd8

22. h4 ♘e5 [22... b4 23. ♘e2 ♘e5 24. ♙g2 ♙c5! 25. ♜dd1 ♘c4∞] 23. ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 24. f4 ♘g6 25. f5 ♘f4↔

13... ♘fd7

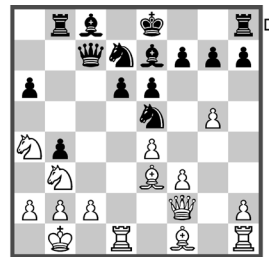
(see diagram next column)



Position after: 13... ♘fd7

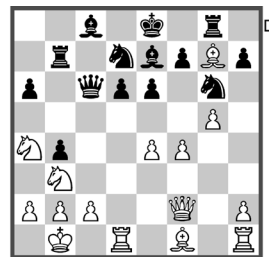
14. ♜g1

14. g5 b4! 15. ♘a4 [15. ♘e2 ♘c4 16. ♙c1 a5↔] 15... ♜b8



Position after: 15... ♜b8

16. ♙a7 [16. ♘d4 ♘c5 17. ♘xc5 dxc5 18. ♘b3 c4 19. ♘c5 0-0∞] 16... ♜b7 17. ♙d4 ♚c6 18. f4 ♘g6 19. ♙xg7 ♜g8



Position after: 19... ♜g8

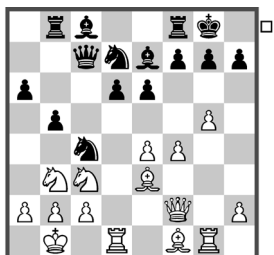
20. ♖h6 [20. ♖f6 ♘xf6 21. gxf6 ♖xf6 22. e5 ♖h4 23. ♖g2 ♖xg2 24. ♖xg2 d5 with better chances for Black.] 20... ♖xa4 21. f5 ♘ge5 22. ♖h3 ♖c7! Black is not afraid of fxe6. 23. fxe6 ♘c5 24. exf7+ ♘xf7 25. ♖xc8 ♖xc8

14... 0-0 15. g5 ♖b7!?

A) 15... ♘c4 16. ♖xc4 [16. ♖c1 ♘db6∞ with the idea of ...b4 and ...a5, ...a4.] 16... bxc4 17. ♘d4 ♖b8 18. ♖a1±

B) 15... b4 16. ♘a4 ♘c4 17. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 18. h4↑ ♖b5 19. ♘d4! ♖b7 20. h5→ Pruijssers,R – Sulypa,O Wijk Cultural Village 2010.

C) 15... ♖b8 16. f4 ♘c4



Position after: 16... ♘c4

C1) 17. f5!?! ♘xe3 18. ♖xe3 ♖e8∞

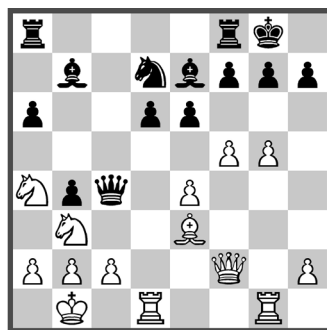
C2) 17. ♖a7 ♖b7 18. ♖d4 b4 19. ♘a4 [19. ♖xc4 bxc3] 19... e5∞

C3) 17. ♖c1 b4 18. ♘a4 ♖b7 19. f5 ♖fc8∞ Erdogdu, M – Markus, R Sibenik, 2006.

16. f4 b4

16... ♘c4 17. ♖xc4 bxc4 [17... ♖xc4 18. f5→ with a dangerous attack.] 18. ♘d2± Δf5

17. ♘a4 ♘c4 18. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 19. f5

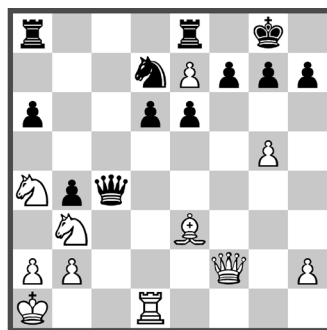


Position after: 19. f5

19... ♖xe4

19... ♖b5 20. f6 ♖xa4 21. fxe7 ♖fe8 22. ♖xd6 ♖xe7 23. ♖h4±

20. f6 ♖fc8 21. fxe7 ♖xc2+ 22. ♖a1 ♖xd1 23. ♖xd1 ♖e8



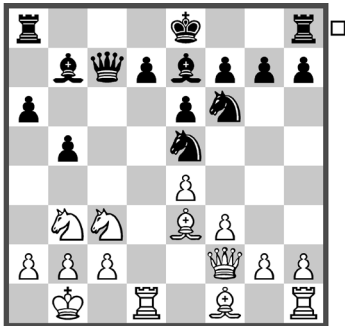
Position after: 23... ♖e8

24. ♖xd6

24. ♖d2 ♗d5 25. ♖xd5 exd5 26. ♙f4 ♘xe7
 ♚xe7 27. ♙xd6 ♚e2

**i) 8.0-0 ♙b4 9.f3 ♘e5 10.♘b3 b5 11.♚b1 ♙e7
 12.♚f2 ♙b7**

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4
 ♘c6 5. ♘c3 ♗c7 6. ♙e3 a6 7. ♗d2
 ♘f6 8. 0-0-0 ♙b4 9. f3 ♘e5 10. ♘b3
 b5 11. ♚b1 ♙e7 12. ♚f2 ♙b7

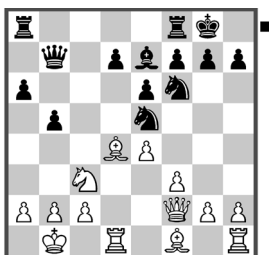


Position after: 12... ♙b7

The newest idea in this position.

13. ♙b6 ♗b8 14. ♙d4

14. ♘a5!? 0-0 [14... b4 15. ♘a4 d5 16.
 ♙d4!±; 14... d5 15. ♙d4±] 15. ♘xb7
 ♗xb7 16. ♙d4



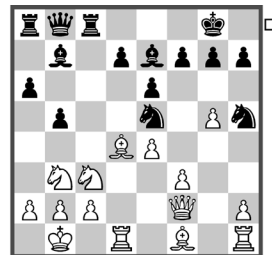
Position after: 16. ♙d4

16... ♘c6! [16... d6 17. g4↑] 17. ♙e3
 [17. e5 ♘e8 18. ♘e4 ♘xd4 19. ♗xd4
 ♚d8=] 17... b4 18. ♘a4 d5

14... d6

A) 14... d5? 15. ♘a5!±

B) 14... 0-0 15. g4 [15. ♘a5 ♘c6 16. e5
 ♘e8 17. ♘xc6 ♙xc6 18. ♙d3 f5∞]
 15... ♚c8!? [15... b4?! 16. ♘a4 ♘xf3?!
 17. ♙xf6+–] 16. g5 ♘h5



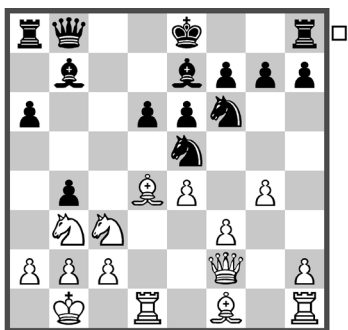
Position after: 16... ♘h5

17. f4 [17. ♙xe5 ♗xe5 18. ♚xd7 ♚c7
 19. ♚xc7 ♗xc7 20. h4 ♚d8=] 17... ♘c4
 18. ♙xc4 bxc4 19. ♘a5 [19. ♘c5 ♙xc5
 20. ♙xc5 ♗xf4 21. ♚xd7 ♙c6
 22. ♗xf4 ♘xf4 23. ♚d2=] 19... ♙b4
 20. ♘xb7 ♗xb7 21. ♗f3 g6∞

15. g4

15. ♘a5!? ♘c6 16. ♘xb7 ♖xb7
 [16... ♘xd4!? 17. ♘xd6+ ♖xd6 18.
 ♖xd4 ♖c7 19. e5 ♜d8 20. ♖e3
 ♜xd1+ 21. ♘xd1 ♘d5 22. ♖e4 0-0] 17. ♙e3 h5!?

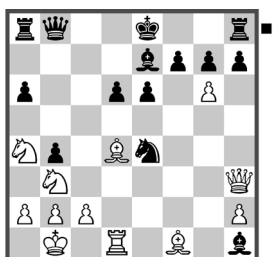
15... b4



Position after: 15... b4

16. ♘e2!?N

16. ♘a4 ♘xf3! 17. ♖xf3 [17. ♙xf6
 ♙xf6 18. ♖xf3 ♙c6] 17... ♙xe4
 18. ♖h3 ♙xh1 19. g5 ♘e4 20. g6



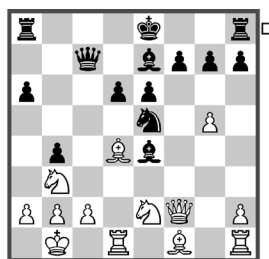
Position after: 20. g6

20... ♘g5!N [20... f6? 21. ♙e3!±]
 21. gxf7+ ♙xf7 22. ♖g3 ♙c6 23. ♘b6
 ♙f6 [23... ♜a7? 24. h4 e5 25. ♙e3
 ♘e6 26. ♘a5 ♙a8 27. ♙c4+]
 24. ♙xf6 gxf6 25. ♘xa8 ♙xa8∞

16... 0-0

A) If Black plays 16... a5?! then after the forcing line 17. g5 ♘fd7 18. f4 ♙xe4 19. ♙g2 ♙xg2 20. ♖xg2 a4 21. ♘d2 ♘g6 22. h4!→ White has better chances.

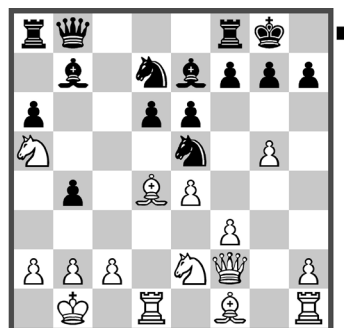
B) 16... ♖c7 17. g5?! ♘xe4! 18. fxe4 ♙xe4



Position after: 18... ♙xe4

19. ♘g3 [19. ♙g2 ♙xc2+ 20. ♙a1
 ♙xd1 21. ♙xa8 ♙xb3 22. axb3 0-0 23.
 ♙e4 ♙xg5] 19... ♙xh1 20. ♘h1 0-0
 21. h4 a5∞

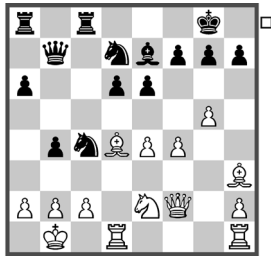
17. g5 ♘fd7 18. ♘a5



Position after: 18. ♘a5

18... ♘c6

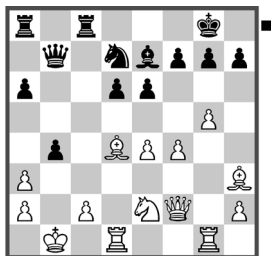
18... ♖c7!? 19. ♜xb7 ♜fc8 20. ♙h3
[20. ♜g3? ♜xf3!⚡] 20... ♖xb7 21. f4
♜c4



Position after: 21... ♜c4

Now it is very important White cannot play 22.f5.

- A) 22. f5? e5 23. f6 [23. ♙e3? ♜a3+–+] 23... ♙d8⚡
- B) 22. ♜hf1 ♜c5 23. ♙xc5 ♜xc5 24. ♜d4 e5 25. fxe5 ♜xe5 26. ♜f5 ♖c7∞
- C) 22. ♜g3 a5 23. f5 e5 24. f6 ♙d8
- D) 22. ♜hg1 ♜c5 [22... ♜a3+ is interesting too: 23. bxa3



Position after: 23. bxa3

23... ♜c3! 24. ♜g3 bxa3+ 25. ♙c1

♖b2+ 26. ♙d2 ♜xc2+ 27. ♙e1
♖xa2 28. ♖f3 ♜b8∞; 22... g6∞] 23.
♙xc5 ♜xc5 24. ♜g3∞

19. ♜xc6

19. ♜xb7 ♖xb7 20. ♙e3 a5↑ It looks like Black's attack on the queenside is faster than White's on the kingside.

19... ♙xc6 20. ♙e3

20. h4 d5 21. h5 dxe4 22. h6 g6 23. ♙g7 exf3



Position after: 23... exf3

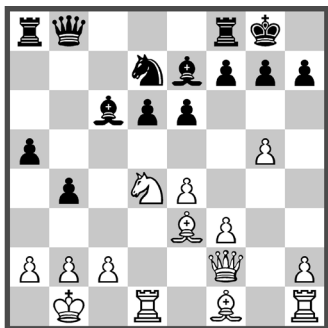
24. ♜d4 ♙d5 25. ♙xf8 ♙xf8 26. ♜xf3 ♜c5 27. ♙d3 ♜a4∞

20... a5

- A) 20... d5?! 21. ♜d4 ♙b7 22. exd5 ♙xd5 23. ♜f5!
- B) 20... ♜c8 21. ♜d4 ♙b7 22. h4 d5 23. h5→

21. ♜d4

(see diagram next page)



Position after: 21. ♞d4

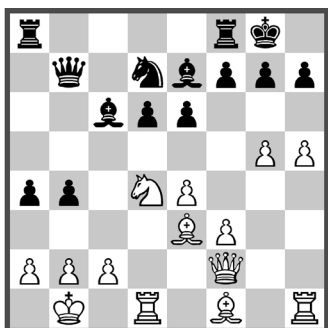
21... ♔b7!?

21... ♖c8!? is also possible.

22. h4

22. ♞xc6 There is no need to hurry with this exchange. The knight stands excellently on d4, attacking the e6-pawn and defending the b3- and c2-squares. 22... ♔xc6 23. h4 [23. f4 a4 24. f5 b3↑] 23... a4 24. h5 ♖fc8↑ with the idea of ...b3.

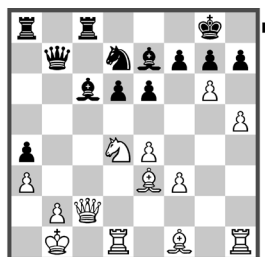
22... a4 23. h5



Position after: 23. h5

23... ♞e5

23... b3 24. a3 bxc2+ 25. ♔xc2 ♖fc8 26. g6



Position after: 26. g6

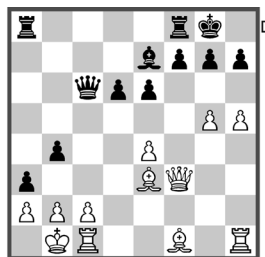
26... ♙f6 [26... ♙b5 27. ♔g2 ♙xf1 28. ♖hx1 ♖ab8] 27. gxf7+ ♔xf7∞

24. ♖c1

24. g6? b3⚡ 25. a3 fxg6 26. hxg6 ♙xe4

24... b3

24... ♞xf3!? 25. ♞xc6 [25. ♞xf3?! ♙xe4 26. ♙g2 b3→] 25... ♔xc6 26. ♔xf3 a3

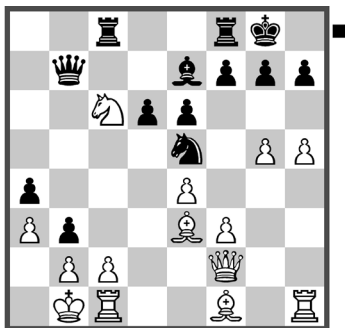


Position after: 26... a3

27. ♙d4 e5 28. h6 [28. g6 exd4 29. gxf7+ ♖xf7 30. ♔b3 axb2 31. ♖d1 d5 32. ♔xd5 ♔xd5 33. exd5 with slightly better chances for White.] 28... g6

29. ♔e3 ♖a5! Black simply wants to play ...♖e5 after taking on d4. 30. ♘b6 ♖aa8 31. b3 ♖fb8 32. ♙c4 ♗xb6 33. ♗xb6 ♖xb6 34. ♖hg1

25. a3 ♖ac8 26. ♘xc6



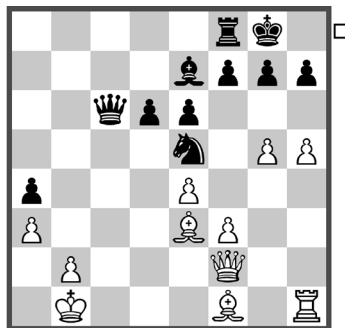
Position after: 26. ♘xc6

26... bxc2+

26... ♖xc6 27. c3 stopping Black's counterplay on the queenside.

27. ♖xc2 ♖xc6 28. ♖xc6 ♗xc6

(see diagram next column)



Position after: 28... ♗xc6

Black has excellent chances. One possible continuation is:

29. h6 ♘g4

29... g6

30. ♗h4

30. ♗d2 ♘xe3 31. ♗xe3 ♖c8 32. ♙d3 g6

30... ♘xe3 31. hxg7 ♗c2+ 32. ♔a1 ♗d1+ 33. ♔a2 ♗b3+=

And it all ends in perpetual check.