



Issue 20

Modern Chess Magazine

Caro-Kann on the Olympiad

Opening Review

Tactical Rook
Endings



Understand the Najdorf
Structures - Part 1

**Endgame Series 20:
Active Rook in the
Endgame**

**French Structures -
Closed Center**

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(Q G J D P H S H U L H V
\$ F W L Y H 5 R R N L Q W K H
(Q G J D P H

R Q U K V K C P U C P D W H V J G O V J K
K P F G G F V J G E C U G 1 W T I Q C N
L Q W K H R N Q T G G Z C E V N [U W E
Y J G T G C E V K X C V K Q P Q H V J G
U V T C V G I [G X G P C R C W J G E Q U
U V C T C I T C P F O C U V G T G P E Q W
V J G T G E G P V N [H K P K U J G F 4 W
. G C I W G

□ 5 C T C P C #
■ < X L C I K P U G X 8
U V E J 4 7 5 * .

C D E F G H I J



* G N Q C T E H G P F U + P V J G P G Y
K U U W B F I C O G U Y G K G K N N E Q X G T
C K O R Q T V C P V G P F I C O G R T K P E K R N G T Q Q M
C E V K X K O M C R K G E G Q V J G M Y U
K V T G C V G U V U W T G P F M C O C P
Y J G Q Q W J G R C Y P R K G E S U
F K U C R B P O T C P O X G G E T Q U U
V J G Q C F E E Q T F K R G V Q V K U V K E U
R W D N K U J G F N N G . C C R F G K P J V

C D E F G H I J

V J G Q U V E Q V R C F
G P F I C O G G Z C E V N Q M X U T Q Q M J K V G C U C U T Q P I R T G U U W T G K
G P F I C O G K E N O G U R N C [G P F I C O G Q B B Q G U \$ N C E M J C X
Y J K B F I C O K P X Q M C X K R G C U V K P G N C V G G P R J G R U C O G E Q N Q T
T Q C R R G C T K P C R R T O Z K N C V K U J Q R D W V C J T C N U R K G E G T
I C O G R N C [S E Y J [Q W C V K V G R C U U K X G \$ N C E M U R Q U K V K C
D Q C V B G K T O Q T G I Q P P G K P V J T G P J G U W T H C E G J Q Y G X G T C
E J C P E V G C W K R N C T Q Q M I T C P F O C U V G T < X L C P K E G G X H
G P F I C O G J O P C [G R R W K W K N D W O C P G W X G T V Q C E V K X C A E G J K
Z H Q H H G W R J L Y H I X U W K H U G H D P F K V Z K A V L W G V C M
L P S R U W D Q W W R K D Y H D J R R C Y B U G N N V W D Q G L Q J
R I U R R N I V F D S D E L O L W L H V L Q W K H H O X G U D P H T G V Q Q R C
1 R Z D Z H O O N Q R Z Q U X O H R I W K X P E V O D V C P F J G T G 9 J K
W K D W D F W L Y H U R R N L Q W K H H O T E G U D P H H E V K Z R O W K T Q Q
D S D Z Q 7 K L V G R H V Q R W D S Z E \ W R O Z E O

[Other moves are too passive:
41...Kf8 42.Nb4 Rc5 and here White
forces a favorable rook trade: 43.Rc6!
Rxc6 44.Nxc6



In this endgame, Black is lost because
his pawn structure violates
Capablanca's rule. Bb7 45.Nb4 Ke7
46.Kd3 Kd6 47.Kd4+- and Black will
soon get into zugzwang.]

[or 41...Rd7 42.Nb4 d4 43.c4+-
when White gets a passed pawn.]

42.Ne5 White wins a pawn with this
move, but, as we shall see, this also
allows Black to activate both his rook
and bishop.

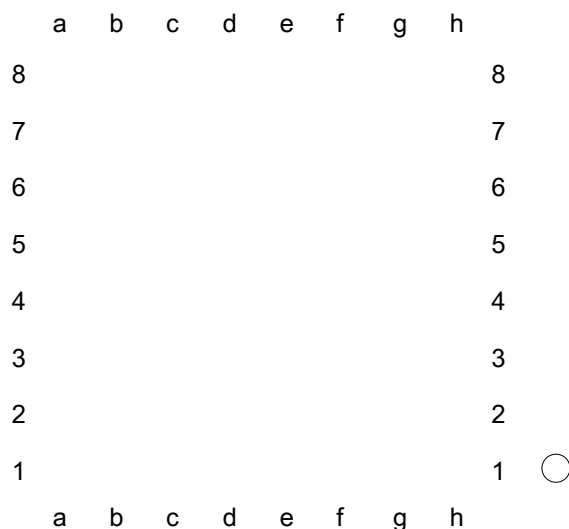
[White had many other possibilities at
this point: 1) 42.Rd6 is another way to
win a pawn, but after Ra4 43.Rxd5 Bb7
44.Rd7 Bc6! (an important intermezzo)
(44...Bxf3? 45.Ne5) 45.Rc7 Bxf3
46.Ne5 Bd5=

Black returns it, with a great position.]

[2) 42.Nb4 stopping Rc4-a4 maneuver,
but here Black has d4

43.cxd4 Rxd4+ 44.Ke3 Rc4 45.Nxa6
Ra4=]

[similar is 3) 42.Rb8 Bf5 43.Nb4 Rc5=]
[Finally, the most stubborn option was
4) 42.Rb4!? Black retreats Rc7

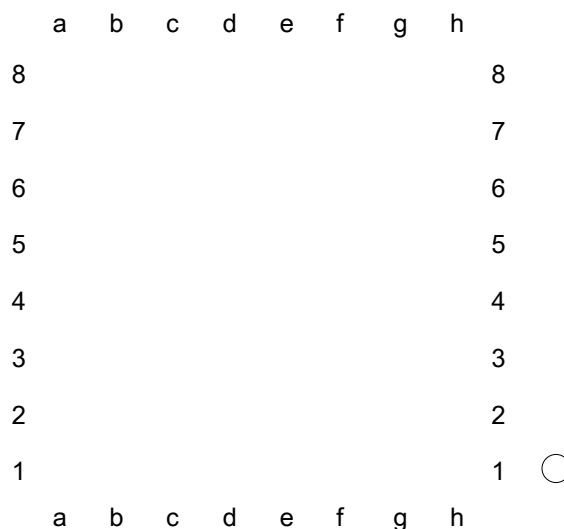


and surprisingly, White does not have a
good way to improve his position. Both his
c3- and a5-pawns are a burden, so it is
difficult to rearrange his pieces in a better
way. For example: 43.Rd4 (43.Rb8
Rc4↔; 43.Nf4 Rc5↔) 43...Be6 44.Nc1
Rc5 45.Nb3 Rc7 and White's positional
advantage may just prove insufficient
to win the game.]

42...Ra4 43.Rc6 Be6

[Of course, not 43...Bb7? 44.Rc7+-]

44.Rxa6 d4! This simplifying move
makes Black's life much easier. **45.cxd4**
Rxd4+ 46.Kc3 Ra4



What a transformation! Just a few moves ago, black pieces were stuck on last two ranks. Now black rook is more active

than the white one, while the bishop can

QRGTCVG QP VJG YJQNG DQCTF \$NCEM JCU C
EQORNGVGN[CFGSWCVG EQORGPUCVKQP HQT
VJG RCYP YJKEJ YCU RTQXGF KP VJG
ICOG -F \$+V KU KORQTVCPV VQ
RWV RTGUUWTG QP 9JKVG U MKPIUKFG RCYPU

4C

= -E !OC[JCXG DGGP OQTG
RTGEKUG PQV CNNQYKPI C DNCEM MKPI VQ
CEVKXCVG ?

= 1P VJG QVJGT JCPF H NGCXGU VJG
I RCYP GZRQUGF CPF CHVGT \$G
-E 4C -D

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

4D (50...Rxc3?! 51.Rc6 Rb3+

52.Kc5 Ra3 53.a6↑) -E 4E

VJG RWTRQUG QH VJGUG

FTKXG YJKVG MKPI VQ C

-F 4ZI 4D 4C

\$NCEM KU KP VKOG VQ U

-H 0F -H 0D 4C
-E \$G C -G

C D E F G H I J

H NGCXGU VJG

C D E F G H I J

0Q\$NCEM MKPI DEVIKXG NNN 4C

-F C-G \$NCEM W P V G T R N C

EQOGWKUWKOG I -ZH IZJ

IZJ -D 4D !

= 4C FQGU PQV CNNQY

RTQOQVKQP DWV YJ[EQOF

OCVVG TU 6JG DKUJQR XU

KU C FGCF FTCY ?

-E 4ZD 4F 4C C 3

4ZC 4ZC -I -F -ZJ

4C -I -G J -H H

4C \$F 4J \$G 4J \$

\$[CEVKXCVKPI JKU TQQM CP

DGJKPF VJG C RCYP <XLCIK

VJG YGNN MPQYP 6CTTCUEJ

UVCVGU rs6JG 4QQM U RNCE

VJG RCUUGF RCYP DGJKPF V

RCYP KP QTFGT VQ JQNF KV

QYF KP QTFGT VQ UWRRQTV

1PG UJQWNF TGO GODGT VJK

KV JQNFU VTWG KP OQUV EC

CPQVJGT KRUVGPEG YJGTG V

GORNQ[GF VJKU GPFICOG UV

9QLVCU\GM 4
 &GOEJGPMQ #
 VJ EJ '74 +PFKX

C D E F G H I J

(45.Nc5 brings no improvement: Ra7
 46.Nb3 Rb7= and Black will slowly
 activate his kingside pieces.)
 However, Black also has his racing
 horse: 45...Nh8!

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

9JKVG JCU C UNKIJV KPKVKCVKXG KP VJKU
 U[OOGVTKECN GPFICOG *KU(KTQOM KW VCMGU QPG UVG
 FQOKPCPV QP F USWCTG HTQQ YJGTG FKV0I (47.93E
 RWVU RTGUUWTG QP VJG D h4) RCYP \$NCEM 4ZD 4ZD
 FKNGOOC V[RKECN HQT OCP[GZD GPFICOGU KU IGVU VQ V
 FGHGPF CEVKXGN[QT RCUUKXGN[LWUV KP VKOG ?
)TCPFOCUVGT &GOEJGPMQ E0H 4DU VJ4ZD
 NCVVGT 4E /QUV OQFGTP
 ITCPFOCUVGTU [QWT CWVJQT C K P D E N W F G F G H I J
 RTGHGT VQ FGHGPF CEVKXGN[YKVJQWV C RCYP
 VJGP RCUUKXGN[YKVJ GSWCN OCVGTKCN +V KU
 LWUV OQTG PCVWTCN CPF GCUKGT VQ RNC[VJCV
 YC[1H EQWTUG YJGPGXGT OCVGTKCN KU
 UCETKHKEGF UQOG NQPI VGTO TKUM KU
 KPXQNXGF DWV YJQ UC[U VJCV VJG TKUM QH
 IQKPI YTQPI YJKNG FGHGPFKPI RCUUKXGN[KU
 PQV ITGCVGT!

= 6JCV DGKPI UCKF VJGTG YCU PQVJKPI
 YTQPI YKVJ VJG RCUUKXG FGHGPUG

either: 44...Rb7 Here, the only
 constructive plan I see for White is
 45.Nf2 targeting the b5-pawn via d1-c3

C D E F G H I J

&GOEJGHPQMNQYTGFCUTEWNG
 CPPQYKU TKQPMGZEGNNGPV
 RQUKVFKQPPFGHGCFUKFUY
 RCUURGFYDPWOC[CNDQWUGF
 CEVKXGQMPJD HKNQCTIGV 9JKVGG U ?
 MKPIU*GFTGGOEJGTPMQJGF
 CEVKXKQWPKIJYGN 0F !
 6JJKUORNKJGV \$NCEWFKXG
 WR JKURCYP

=+V YCU CNUQ RQUUKDNG VQ RTQVGEV VJCV
 RCYP HKTUV -H 4D -G
 0FCPF QPN[VJGP RNC[0F 0QY
 CHVGTFG\$NCEM KU LWUV KP VKOG VQ
 FGP[VJG G USWCTG VQ YJKVG MPKIJV
 0E ≡

C D E F G H I J

0F J H ?
 4D9QLVCU\GM U NQIKECN
 KPUVKICVGU C HQTEGFBEGSV
 4ZH -I 4E 0G -G
 = -I 4D -J 0H -
 0ZI 0F 0H 0ZH
 C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

'XGT[VJKPI YCU HQTEGF WR
 \$NCEMCJPCORQTVCPV FGEKUK
 OCMG ECRVWTG YKVJ VJG G
 CRQVKQP QH I I DTGCMVJT
 MGGR VJG UVTWEVWTG DNQE
 &GOEJGPMQ U EJCZHEG
 KBQV YTQPI DWV KV KU RTO
 EQORNKECVGF

C D E F G H I J

=VJCP IZ9JKVGVYQ RVKQPU
 PQYDWPVQPGM JGKOUWHHKEKGPV
 54b5 Re3+J 55.Kf2 Rb3=
 4ZD
 4ZG4D -G 4D
 4J

\$NCEM U CEVKXKV[KU HWNKP UW4H(KER3b5
 VJG DCNCPEG (QT GZCORNG
 IZJ 4D -G 4J J
 IZJ 4ZD 4ZJ 4D

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

\$NCEM FTCYU VJCPMU VQ we would reach 2 vs 1 took end game
 4ZJ 4ZH ? where the extra pawn is not of much
 4E -I importance. The g-pawn is safely
 =\$NCEM ECP PQV CHHQT F VQ VCMG VJG D
 RCYP 4ZD ! NKMKG KP blocked by the Black king, so this
 XCTKCVKQP #HVG T 4ZI position is drawn. A likely variation
 4D -G 6JG H RCYP KUYJCNFP DG 4H 4D -E
 UQ VJGTG KU PQ VKOG VQ RNE[4E4D D-F 4D -E
 4D -F 4D -E 4J 4E C PGEGUUCT[KPVGTOC
 4ZH 4ZJ -F ? EJGEM VQ HQTEG 9JKVG MK
 D 4D H KOCIKPG VJCV EKVKOG V TQW D NG 4H D
 &GOEJGPMQ YCU CNTGCFI KPVKOG V TQW D NG 4H D
 CV VJKU UVCIG QH VJG ICOG CDF HWUV DCFIVQ -E 4E
 RNC[UQOGVJKPI DGE CWUG VJ KU 4D QXG
 NQUGU SWKVG VTKXKCNNI #POVJGT CNDGKV OQTG E
 =>PUVGCF \$NCEM UJQWNF JCXG
 RTQEGGF YKVJ JKU DTGCMVJ TQW FJ TQW RNC
 ICPF CHVGT C HGY RCY-P VTDFGU
 JZI JZI HZI 4G -F
 (57.Kf2 Rxe4 58.Kf3 Rb4=)
 4ZG

C D E F G H I J

8KVKWIQX 0
8CNUGEEJK #
TF 1N[ORKCF

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

CPF CICKP VJG I I DTGCMVJTQWIJ
UCXGU VJG FC[+ UWIIGUV VJG TGCFTG
HKIWTG QWV JQY GZCEVN[QP JKUEQYFP G? H I J
-F 4D -E 4ZH
4D

C D E F G H I J

In sharp rook vs. pawns endgames,

TCTTCUEJ TWNG JQNFU VTWG C
WUWCNN[VJG OQUV GHHGEVKX
RCYPU #P KPUVTWEVKXG CRR
DG UGGP KP VJG HQNNQYKPI IC
YCU RNC[GF KP VJG NCUV %JG
VJG OCVEJ DGVYGGP +VCN[CP
+VCNKCP RNC[GT FGHGPF GF C
HQT C NQPI VKOG CPF CV VJG
EQWNF JCXG UWEEGGFGF KP J
JCF HQWPF4J+P VJG NKIJV QH
TWNG VJKU KU VJG OQUV RTK
*QYGXGT YQTMKPI QWV VJG G
VJG OQTG FKHHEWNV RCTV G
TQQM OCPGWXGT UGGOU VQ UI
\$NCEM MKPI UQ HCT CYC[

C D E F G H I J

+V KU YJKVG TQQM VJCV KU DGJPF VJG BCUGF
D RCYP PQY YJKEJ KU DCF CEVXUQT 4QRHIDCEY
\$NCEM *KU EQPPGEVGF RCY 45.b6 Rn4+ VJG
MKPIUKFG CTG PQ OC4EJ HQTPK WJG 9JKVG MKPI ECP JKI
-F 4F -E 4F D I 46.Kb5 Rxh2 47.c6+-) E -G
JZI JZI 4H I 4ZH -I-E CPF CV VJKU RQKPV KV
4H QDXKQWU VJCV \$NCEM MKPI
UJQWNFGTGF CYC[HTQO 9JK

4 J (46...Ke6 47.b6 Rh8 48.b7
Rh5+ 49.Kb6+-) E 4 Z J
4 E - F 4 F - G 4 E
D 4 E - F 4 F - G
4 Z D E 3 4 H - G
C D E F G H I J

- G D 4 J
- E = 4 Z J F I Q G P U V Y Q T M D G E
C H V G D 9 J K V G I G V U D Q V J J
- G R C Y P U Q P V J G U K Z V J T C P M
V J C V F C Q P V G G F J G G N R H V J G
M K P I C P [O Q T G 4 E - F
- G ?

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

6 J K U S W G G P X U T Q Q M C P F R C Y P
G P F I C O G K U N Q U V 6 C D N G D C U G
C P P Q W P E G U E J G E M O C V G K P C O Q X G U G H I J
8 K V K W I Q X E Q P X G T V G F U O Q Q V J N [4 H
3 G - H 3 Z I 4 G
4 G 3 F 4 G 3 F - H
- H 4 G 3 F - H
4 G 3 C 4 G 3 D - I
3 F 4 H - I - J - I
4 I - H - J 3 F - I
3 G - J 3 G - J 3 G
6 J G H K P C N V J G Q T G V K E C N R O U K V K O P K P
Y J K E J \$ N C E M T G U K I P G F E C P D G H Q W P F K V
V J K U U W G Q H ' P F I C O G U G T W G U Q N F \$ N C E M U U W E E G
8 K V K W I Q X 0 8 C N U J G F E B U K O P G V C E V K E C N F G V C
\$ C V W O K) ' 1 ? Y K U N G U J Q T V N [V N
E + V K U N Q I K E C N V Q R W U J V J G O Q T G
C F X C P E G F R C Y P H K T U V
= + H 9 J K V G R W U J G U V J G Q V J G T R C Y P
D \$ N C E M F T C Y U Y K V J 4 J - F
- G D 4 D ?

\$GUKFGU V-EKLU CNUQ
RQUUKDNG YJGP 4J

C D E F G H I J

=6JQ VJGT YC[-XUF
E 4E

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

UVQRU YJKVG U RCYPU KP
9JKVG ECP RWUJ VJG MKPI FQYP VJG
DQCTF -D 4J -C

DWV VJGP VJG TQQM HKPCNN[EQOGU DGJKPF
VJG RCUUGF RCYP 4E -D -F
-DCPF JGTG VJG UVC PFCTF FTCYKPI
OGVJQF KU -E D -F E
-F ?

=KMGYKU-D KU OGV D[4J
CPF KH E !! 4ZD 4D -E
?

4J #PQVJGT GUUGPVKCN EJGEM
9JKVG MKPI ECP PQY OQXG GXGP ENQUGT
VQ KVV RCYPU DWV \$NCEM YKNN DG LWUV KP
VKOG VQ UVQRFVJGO

DGECWUG QH VJG RQUKVK
QP G 9JKVG MKPI ECP PQV
VJG RQUKVKQP KE FTCYP
=QT -E 4D ?
4D

\$QDO\VLV

□ 6QOCUJGXUM[
■ &WDQX

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

6JG QVJGT HGCVWTG QH VJG 6CTTCUEJ TWNG KU
RWVVKPI VJG TQQM DGJKPF [QWT QYP RCUUGF
RCYP 9G CNTGCF[UCY VJCV VJKU YCU VJG
YKPPKPI OCPGWXGT KP 9QLVCU\GM
&GOEJGPMQ ICOG .GV WU UGG CPQVJGT
GZCORN 6JKU RQUKVKQP JCU DGGP UNKIJVN[
OQFKHKGF HTQO VJG ICOG 6QOCUJGXUM[
&WDQX 4WUUKC EJ HQT
KPUVTWEVKXG RWTRQUGU 6JG KFGC KU VQH I J
FGOQPUVTCVG VJCV VJG QPNE ENGC RCYVQQP VJG UG
YKP VJKU FQWDNG TQQM XCPFTQRM ECVFX QKTUQNR 9JKVC
GPFICOG KU VQ WVKNK\G DCTCOCUEVUGTWNIGVKOG (QT
6JWU 9JKVG YKPU QPD[YKVJ -J -I H 4C 4C
RTGRCTKPI 4C CPF RTGXG FVSP \$NCEM I -F
HTQO IGVVVKPI DGJKPF VJG JKVRCYDNQEMJJKJG RCYP YK
TQQM UGVU VJG E TQQM HTGG

⇒JKVG YQWNF DG VQQ UNO
-I ! E -H I ±G \$H
YJGP \$NCEM U CEVKXKV[II
IQQF FTCYKPI EJCPEGU ?
⇒YJKN 4D ! -J C 4C
4D \$E ?
⇒CPF 4D C CTG LWUV
KPCFGS WCVG
E
= 4CU CNUQ OGV D[4
4ZC 4ZC ?
4C \$F 4C \$NCEM TQQM
HQTEGF KPVQ RCUUKXKV[

C D E F G H I J

5O[UNQX 8CUUKN[
 -GTGU 2CWN
 .GPKPITCF /QUEQY

C D E F G H I J

F

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

9JKVG UCETKHKEGU JKU RC
 TQQM CEVKXG \$NCEM JCU
 TGCUQPCDNG EQPVKPWCVK
 VJGO NGCF VQ C ENGCTN[
 GPFICOG

(QNNQYKPI VJG 6CTTCUEJ TWNG # KU LWUV QPG YCL 4ZD
 VQ OCMG UWTG VJCV QWT TQQM KU CEVKXG KP VJG
 GPFICOG 6JGTG CTG XCTK QWU QVJGT DYCIUI \$NCEM KU W
 YJKEJ VJG TQQM ECP DG WUGHWN 9G ECP JKU RTQDNGO
 CEVKXCVG VJG TQQM QP VJG UGXGPVJCTCPM CFP
 QRGP HKNG QT IGP GTCNN[YJGTG XGTG VJG TQQM +H
 RCYPU VJCV ECP DG CVCCEMGE GPVTCNKVJG JKU MKPI YK
 YQTUV VJKPIU [QW ECP FQ KU NCKXG KQWTFKQMGN[VCT
 KP C RCUUKXG RQUKVKQP KH RCWPJCXG4C E J4KXG TPCVK
 QH EQWTUG 9KVJ VJKU KP OKPFGN[GVWKGNTUQ M JCV
 QPG GZCORNG YJGTG VJG GZ 9QCTN FGERHC ORKQP
 FKF PQV HQNNQY VJKU CFXKEG TGOCKPGF RCUUKXG
 YKVJ JKU TQQM CPF TKIJVHWNN[NQUV VJG ICOG
 6JG TQQM GPFICOG VJCV YCU TGCEJGF KP VJG
 ICOG QH VYQ EJGUU NGIGPFU KU FKHHKEWNV HQT
 9JKVG *G JCU OCP[YGCM RCYPU CPF KH JG
 YCPVU VQ FGHGPF VJGO CNN JG PGGFU VQ DTKPI
 JKU TQQM VQ VJG UGEQPF TCPM C XGT[RCUUKXG
 RQUKVKQP 5O[UNQX FGEKFGF VQ FGHGPF NKM
 VJCV 4G YJKEJ VWTPGF QWV VQ DG C
 FGEKUKXG UVTCVGIKE OKU VCMG

= *GTG KU CPQVJGT KFGC YJ[FQ YG PGGF
 VQ FGHGPF QWT RCYPU RCUUKXGN[KH YG
 ECP CVCCEM QRRQPGPV U RCYPU CEVKXGN[! , J

9G ECP UGG HTQO VJKU JQCP ROKQTV\$NPEM MKPI HC
 KV YCU VQ MGGR VJG TQQMJGEEVCKVGGQP \$NCEM U RC
 HQWTVJ TCPM +VU SWKEMUNCPE TOC EJCCEBENKV[4F
 KU VJG OCKP TGCUPP YJ[TQ-OM KU UWEJ
 C RQYGTHWN GPFICOG RK\$EG \$NCEM! 4G -I
 ECP PQV EQQTFKPCVG JKU R4ZDEGU YGNN
 UQ EQPXGTUKQP QH VJG % 4ZD -H
 GZVTC RCYP KU PQV IQKPI#WQ DQ 9JKVG U RCYPU C
 RQUUKDNG YKVJ 9JKVG U DEWTKQMC[RQUTKVKQP ;GV
 GZCORR41.a4 Rc5 42.Kf3 ECRVWTG QPN[QPG QH V
 Kf5 43.Rh4 Rc3+ 44.Ke2 Kg6 CPF VJG OQUV KORQTVCPV VJ
 PQY VJG TQQM HKPFU CPQCEVTKXGTCBF CVVCEM QRR
 45.Rb4! Rc2+ 46.Kd3 Rxh2 (+P ECUG QH
 47.Rxb7= YKVJ CP GCU[FTCY 36.Kg5 Rb3+ 37.Kg4 cxd5
 VJG F RCYP KU DNQE)MGF D8.Rxa4Kf4
 4ZJ D

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

CPF PQY YG CRRN[VJG 6C

rule: 41.Rb7! Rb3 42.h4

The h-pawn will be used as a
 distraction for a black king: d4
 43.h5 Kg5 44.Kf2 Kxh5

9JKVG U QYP MKPI YQWNF
 YKVJ JKU TQQM UQ KV YC
 RQUUKDNG VQ UYKPI KV C
 #HV39.Kf4 Ke6 40.Ra8 Kd6
 41.Rh8 Rh3-- \$NCEM FGHGPFU
 JKU RCYPU CPF CEJKGXG
 RQUKJVKQP4D -G

6JG MKPI PGGFU VQ IG V GZGEVNI KGTG WR C RCYP CP
VQ VCMG CYC[VJG F USWCTG HTGO
VJG TQQM UGG XCTKCVKQP CP QVJGT QPG QP J \$WV
EZ7#U WUWCN EQTTGEV KFGCU CTG
DCUGF QP VCEVKECN PWCFEGV TCKV\Q5TMKPI 2QU
KP QPG U HCXQT +H \$NCEM QVCMQW VIKQP(UCBFG
UGEQPF B7C.Rx3
9JKVG TGU38.Rd/PFU

C D E F G H I J

38...Rb2+ 39.Kd3 Rxh2 40.Rb4
Rh3+ 41.Kd2 Rxa3 42.Rxb7+ Kg6
CPF P43.Rb5! HQTEGU C FTC
TQQM GPFICOG YKVd4VJG
44.Rb4 Re3 45.Rxd4 Re6 46.Rd3
h5 47.Re3=) 4I
YG JCXG UGGP KP UGXGT
UQ HCT JQY CP KPVGTOG
ECP DG WUGHWN VQ FKUT
QH VJG QRRQPGPV 4JMKP
0QY VJG J RCYP HCNNU
4ZJ D

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

CPF FWG VQ VJG VJTGC V QH RCYP
RTQOQVKQP \$NCEM JCU VQ JQNF VJG
RGTRGVWPa2+ 39.Kd1 Ra1+
40.Ke2 Ra2+=) 4ZC

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

6JKU KU C UNKIJVNI KORT
QH VJG XCTKCVKQP E
UKPEG JKU MKPI KU OQTC
6JG GPFICOG KU FTCYP

C D E F G H I J

PGXGTVJGNGUU KH \$NCEM -WUGU -VJG J KVG JCU
UCOG FGHGPUKXG UVT RTG V G H Q N Q W J G J D RCYP UC
6CTTCUEJ TWNG CPF R W C P Q V K G T R V C U I G F OCMKPI UV
RCYP 4D 4D J -TQQM TGOCKPU RCUUKXG
-F -F J D J =+V YQWNF DG C DKI OKUV
4D -E 4J J -E VCMKPI VJG YGCM F RCYP
4E -F 4D F DGE CWUG KV YQWNF CNNQ
TGCEVKXCVG XKC VJG HQW
-G 4J ?
4F -E -D J
C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

CPF JGTG 9JKVG ECP LWUV UKV CPF YCKV
\$NCEM ECP PQV FQ CP[VJKPI YKVJ JKU H I J
FKUEQPPGEVGF RCYPU 4C D
4E D -D ? 1PEG JG OCZKOK\GF VJG CEV
4DGTGU JCU PQV PQVKEGF VJG OQXG -GTGU HKPF
F KP JKU CPCN[UKU *G VJQWJ VJCV
9JKVG JCF PQ EJQKEG DWV VQ GPVGF VJKU RQUKVKQP
RCUUKXG RQUKVKQP YJGTG PJG JCU T V C P V O Q X G QF KP U
EQWPVGTRNC[-H -G JGPFICOGU \$NCEM RNCPU VG
9KVJ VJKU SWKGV OQXG -GTGU J RWV 500UNQX RQKPV RV
KP \WI\YCP4I6JG TQQM JCU VQ VJCV USWCTG CPF VJGP DTI
NGCXG VJG G HKNG CPF NGV DNCM MKPI
VJTQWIJ VJG I HKNG VJTGCVGPKPI 4I
=UKPEG -F NQUGU VJG YKP PKPY VJGPJ RCYRJ
VJG XKGY QH 4F 4F 4Z H -ZF 4H D 4H 4
-ZF -G -E -F -F 4F 4F 4H -E 4E
J J D ? -F 4I 4J 4F -E
-G -F
= 4I -F 4ZJ 4ZD ?E -D 4H E

C D E F G H I J

CPF \$NCEM HKPCNN[EQORNO
RTGRCTGF RNCP UQ 5O[UNQ
GZEGNNGPV RKGEG QH GPFIO
D[-GTGU *QYGXGT 5O[UNQ
CXQKFGF VJG VQTVWTG KH J
CEVKXG F

☐ 0CLGT '
☒ 2QRQX475
UV EJ 475 *.

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

6JG PGZV UVGR KP \$NCEM U RNCP KU VQ RWUJ
VJKU RCYP VQ E QRGP WR VJG UGEQPF
TCPM CPF EQORNGVG VJG RNCP YKVJ VJG J
RCYP KP RGTHGEV EKTEWOUVCPEGU -GTGU
EQPXGTVGF JKU CFXCPVCIG YKVJ CWVJQTKV[
4H -C 4H E 4I E
D CZD -ZD E -ZE
4ZC -D 4H 4G J 4F
J 4G -C -D 4H -E
D -F 4F -E 4I

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

0QY VJGWPQY VJG TKIJV UVT
VJG FGHGPFKTRQWKFICOKPU N
WUGJQYQRRKVFJG HQNNQYK
RQUKVKQKQVJWUG CEVWCN R
HTQO VJG ICOG DWV TCVJG
KPVGTGUVKPI CNVGTPCVKXG
KPUVGCF QH VJG ICOG OQXG
RQUKVKQP QH KPVGTGUV CT
4I CVVCEMKPI VJG YGCM
*QY UJQWNF \$NCEM TGCEV V

C D E F G H I J

= 6 J G I C O G U C Y 4 I 4 D C D E F G H I J
4 Z J C 4 J - I 4 E
C Z D C Z D 4 G 4 E 4 Z D
4 E Z H - I

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

CPF \$ N C E M U C E V K X K V [Y C G U W H H K E K G E P F H Q P G Z V T C
C F T C Y 4 H - I 4 H O C M G U C J W I G F K H H G T G P E
4 H - I 4 H - I 4 F U J Q W N F D G Y K P P K P I C H V G T
4 G 4 F - I 4 Z E 4 D E G V E ?
4 H 4 Z H - Z H 4 Z F = # G [Q W O K I J V J C X G I W G U U
4 E 9 G J C X G U G G P C U K O K N F C H G E G P C Y K V Q 4 E !
Y K V J X U R C Y P D G H Q T G \$ M Z E M 3 T R G M ?
I G V U D G J K P F Q P G R C Y P Y J K N G 9 J K 4 E G ! U K U J J G K P H C
Q V J G T R C Y P K U D N Q E M G F D C [V V Q M K P F N G Q V J K U R Q U K
V J G G P F I C O G K U F T C Y P \$ M E E M E ?
E - I - F F I - H - J
- G - I - F 4 F - E = + H V J G M K P I I Q G U V Q Y C T I
4 E - F - H I - H \$ N C E M Q D V C K P U V K
O C L G T ' 2 Q R Q X + E Q W P V G T R N C [Y K V J 4 C
; C T Q U N C X N 4 7 5 ? - I 4 Z D 4 E 4 I 4 H Z
1 H E Q W T U G C E V 4 K X G N [- G C P F F T C Y K U K P G X K V C D
* Q Y G X G T V J K U E J G E M K U C N U 4 Q C 4 Z H G E K U - Z H 4 F 4
K P V G T O G F K C V G O Q X G 4 Z F 4 Z C G X G T [V J K P I E
= V J C V K O R T Q X G U Q P V J G W B O G F K C V G
4 G ! Y J G P 4 Z G F Z G 4 Z 4 0 Q Y V J K U O Q X G I C K P U
(3 2 ... f x g 6 3 3 . R e 6 ±) 4 Z E 4 F U V T G P I V J D G E C W U G V J G G I
4 C 4 Z F O Q T G F C P I G T Q Z G

= 9JKVG ECP CNUQ MGGR DQVJ TQQM U QP H I J
VJG DQCTF YKVJ 4H DWV VJGP VJG
CEVKXG TQQM QP G YQWNF DG C ENGCT
KORTQXGOGPV HQT \$NCEM EQORCTGF VQ
VJG UVCTVKPI RQUKVKQP #HVGT 4E

4J -I 4ZJ 4ZF
\$NCEM YQWNF JCXG PQ TGCUCQP HQT
EQPEGTP ?
FZG 4ZE G

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

CPFCU GFKUEWKUJGF VJKTF K
QH 'PFICOG UGTKGU VJG E
USWCTG QH \$NCEM U EVJGU
VJG UV TCPM UQ QPG QH
RTQOQVGU YKVJQWV MKPI
-G -H C -G D C
CZD -ZF D ?
4ZF

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

6JKU VGORQ OQXG KU VJG MG[9JKVG TQQM
KU EQORNGVGN[QWV QH RQUKVKQP VQ ECVEJ VJG
RCUUGF RCYP UQ VJG 9JKVG MKPI JCU VQ
UVGR KPI

= DWV PQV -I !! 4G
CPF VJG RCYP ECP PQV DG UVQRRGF ?
4F 4C

=V KU CNUQ KORQTVCPV VJCV VJG RCYP
GPFICOG CHVGT 4F 4ZF EZF
HKU FTCYP (38.g3?)
YQWNF DG f4! 39.gxKd4-G

C D E F G H I J

*GTG YG ECP UGG VJG FKHH
CNNQYU \$NCEM VQ YKP VJG
EQORCTGF VQ 4G 9JKVC
JCXG VKOG VQ ECRVWTG VJC
JCU VQ UVQR VJG-8 RCYP

= 4ZC !! 4F -J G □ ?0K *WC
4FJG UGEQPF UGXGP ■J &KCPMKKCP
JGCXGP HQT TQQMU GURGEJGPNNGPK%VNGDEMW[VJ TC
QHH QRRQPGPV U MKPI CV VJG UCOG VKOG
=#NVGTPCVKXG YC[VQ C FTCY YCU F G H I J
4F -G 4F -ZG
4ZC -G 4ZI 4ZC J
CNVJQWIJ + YQWNF RTGHGT VQ EQPVCKP
YJKVG MKPI U CEVKXKV[?
4ZC 4# WUGHWN EJGEM VQ FTKXG
YJKVG MKPI VQ C NGUU HCXQTCDNG USWCTG
-G
=QT -I 4E YJGP VJG MKPI JCU VQ
TGVWTP -H 4H ?
4ZI
C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

4QQMsU CEVKXKV[QHVGP GF
QXGT VJG KPKVKCVKXG KP V
PGZV VYQ GZCORNGU YG YK
QH VJG YQTNFsU NGCFKPI RI
UCETKHKEGF C RCYP VQ CEV
CPF VQQM VJG KPKVKCVKXG
GPFICOG +P VJKU XU TQ
C FTCY UGGOU NKMg VJG OG
9JKVG LWUV CVVCEMgF VJG
\$NCEM ECP QH EQWTUG RT
4E DWV &KPI KTGPHQWPF
JCHG VQ UC[VJCV YG
K5G CQH4# [PCOKE
⇒P ECUG QH VJG RCUUKXG
4D KV YQWNF DG FKHHKI
OCMG RTQITGUUKHQT GKVV
-H6JKU YCU VJG HKTUV KO
FGEKUKQP HQT 9JKVG
=6JG CNVGTPCVKXG YCU
-H H 4ZHH CPF JGTG

C D E F G H I J
\$NCEM JCU TGVTKGXGF UCETKHKEGF OCVGTKCN
CPF + VJKPM VJCV KV KU UCHG VQ UC[VJCV YG
JCXG TGCEJGF VJG RQUKV K5G CQH4# [PCOKE
GSWCNKV[

CICKP 9JKVG JCU VQ OCMG C KPKVKCVKXG KU ENGCT
 TGURQPUKDNG FGEKUKQP +H JG DNQEMU VJG
 G RCYP YKVJ -G JG NQUGU VJG J YQWNF PGGF VQ
 RCYP1P VJG QVJGT JCPF KH XG VQ UCXG VJG ICOG
 YKVJ JKU4M/KgB I VQ (2WUJKPI VJG Q51.b43 T RCYP

C D E F G H I J

NQUGRh3V 52.Kd4 Kg5 53.Rb8
 Kf4 54.b5 Rd3+ 55.Kc4

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

JG CNNQYU \$NCEM VQ OCMG WUG QH VJG
 6CTTCUERf550.Kg4GRe5↑ 9KVJ C D E F G H I J
 VJG TQQM DGJKPF VJG RCYP \$NCEM U
 KPKVKCVKXG KU ENGCTN[WPRNQQUCPV 57.e3 58.Kd3
 4ZJ 6JGP CHVGT 4ZD H e2 59.Rh8 e1N+! +V KU CNYC[U E

C D E F G H I J

RTQOQVG C MPKIJV YKVJ C
 YKPU 60.Qd2 Nf3+ 61.Kd3
 Rxb7--+) 4J -F 4F
 -G 9G JCXG C VGPUG RCY
 PQY 453...e3 54.Kf4 e2
 55.Re5=) E G -F H
 (55...e2 56.Rb6+ Kf7 57.Rb7+ Kf8
 58.Rb8+=)

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

\$NC EM MKPI KU OQTG CEV
EQWPVGTRCTV UQ 9JKVG
RNC[XGT[RTGEKFCN[VQ
-H

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

E QRGPU WR VJG HKHVJ TCPM CV VJG
UCOG VKOG UGEWTKPI C FTCY G
4G 4G 4ZG HZG E
G 3 E 3 ?
H IZH 4ZH -I
OK *WC FGEKFGU VQ MGG R 6VJGRQKCPYPQH &KPI .KTGP U
VJCV EQOGU CV C RTKEG QH 9JKVG MKPI HTQO JKU
JKU MKPI
=6JG CNVGTPCVKXG -G 4ZJ
4ZD -H D 4J -F
-G↑

C D E F G H I J

E
C D E F G H I J
VJGRQKCPYPQH &KPI .KTGP U
QH 9JKVG MKPI HTQO JKU
#V VJG UCOG VKOG YJKVG
UQOGYJCV OKURNCEGF QP D
GPFICOG EQPEGRV XGT[TGC
UKZVJ ICOG QH #PCPF %CTN
4ZD4I 9KVJ VJKU
KPHQTOCVKXG EJGEM &KPI
QRRQPGPV CPQVJGT VTKEM
YJGTG VQ IQ YKVJ -VJG MKPI
*WC EJQQUGU C OWEJ OQTG
EQPVKPWCVKQP JQRKPI VJG
VQ FKUVTCEV \$NC EM YKVJ J
OC[DG RQUUKDNG DWV QPI

precise play.

C D E F G H I J

= +V YCU OQTG RTCEVKECN VQ IKXG WRG VJG J J
 RCYP -H ↑ 4ZV GXGP VJGP
 9JKVG YQWNF JCXG VQ HKPF QPN[OQXGU
 VQ MGGR FTCYKPI EJCPEGU -I
 4J

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

CPF CU HCT CU + ECP VGN
 YKVJ RTGEKUG RNC[H
 -J 4I 4G -F 4F
 -E

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

-I (52.c4? NQUGUK64HVGT

53.c5 f5 54.c6 f4+ 55.Kf2 Rh2+

56.Ke1 Rc2-+) 4 f 52...Rc1

53.Kf3!=) -H 4F -G

YKVJ VJKU OQXG 9JKVG YKPU VJG ETWEKCN

VGORQ 4J E -G E 4J

-F -F D G 4D

CPF JG KU LWUV KP VKOG YKVJ

EQWPVGTRNC[?

4I0QY VJG 9JKVG MKPI KU EWV QHH QP

VJG J HKNG YJKEJ OCMGU JKU RQUKVKQP

ETKVKECN FGURKVG VJG GZVTC RCYPF \$NCEMIU J

RKGEGU LWUV EQQTFKPCVG OWEJ DGVVGT

4F\$TKPIKPI VJG TQQM DCEMFKPGVYG ECP UGG 9JKV

ICOG KU C IQQF K-HGC -J ! FGHGPUKXG KFGC 4I 4

9JKVG YCUVUGU C XCNWCDNG4ZG VGORQ -I 4H D -ZE

=6JG NQIKECN EQPVKPWCVKQP ? QH VJG

RTGXKQWU OQXG YCU

4F 4I #HVGT UWEJ C PKEG F
 GPFICOG VGEJPKSWG &KPI

VJCV JG KU QPN[JWOC P C 65.Rx5+ 66.Rb6)TG 4 ZG
YCU PQ PGGF VQ IQ CHVGT 4 ZIGU RCDYP 4(66...Re8?
= *G UJQWNF JCXG HQEWU 67.E5-Q VJ-E 4G -E 4G
RTQOQVKQP QH VJG G RCYP -EKV4G ?
4I CPF PQVJKPI EQWNF 4I VQR JKO4I -J G
(QT GZCORNG(53.b4 4e7
54.b5 e3--; 53.h5 e4--+) G C D E F G H I J
4H -G 4I 4J -I
H CPF UQ QP ?
-J !9JKVG JCU DGGP EQPUKUVGPVN[
JQNFKPI QP VQ VJKU RCYP VJTQWIJQWV VJG
GPFICOG
= \$WV KH JG JCF HKPCNN[RWUJGF JKU
RCYP HQT YCTF D 4ZJ -I
4I -H VJKU YQWNF DG C JWIG
KORTQXGOGPV HQT 9JKVG DGECWUG JKU
MKPI YQWNF TGVWTP VQ VJG EGPVGT CPF
JKU SWGGPUKFG RCYPU YQWNF DG KP
OQVKQP 5VKNN JG YQWNF PGGF VQ RNC[
XGT[RTGEKUGN[VQ UCXG VJKU D GPFICOG H I J
1PG RQUUKDNG XCTKCVKQP KU 4I E
4D D 4D 4F H
-H -G G
C D E F G H I J
&KPI .KTGP HKPCNN[TGCNKV
VJG G RCYP KU VJG TKIJV YC
J 4I -J 4I 4F
=>V KU VQQ NCVG HQT 4F
-G -I 4ZJ DGECWUG \$NC
JCU UGXGTCN GZVTC VGOR
UKOKNCT FTCYP RQUKVKQP
UGGFC TNPKGT
H 4I 6JKU FQGU PQV TG
YQTM DWV CV NGCUV KV KU
EJCPEG
=6JG QVJGT QRVKQP KU
4J -I DWV VJKU CNUQ EQ
NCVG CU CHVGT 4ZJ 4F
-H \$NCEM JCU 4J -G
YJGP 4F UCXGU VJG FC[4D
(61...f4 62.Rb5=) -F G
-E G 4G (63...Rxb6

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□ #PCPF 8
 ■ %CTNUGP /
 9QTNF \$NKV\

C D E F G H I J



* G YKNN RNC[YKVJQWV C RC
 MPKIJV IGVU C EQOOC PFKPI
 YKVJ C VGO 4F -H
 #PQVJGT WUGHWN VGORQ OC
 KU MKEMGF CYC[HTQO VJG
 CPF VJG MKPI IGVU QPG UVG
 EGPVGT4G 4F

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

(KPCNN[NGV WU UGG JQY /CIPWU %CTNUGP
 CTIWCDN[QPG QH VJG DGUV GPF]COG
 RNC[GTU KP JKUVQT[HQNNQYU VJG W^CPY^DTK^EV^FV^GGP^H
 TWNG VJCV CEVKXG TQQM KU YQTVJ C RCYP
 /KPF [QW VJKU YCU C DNK, WUVC OGHG PF^FFOQXGU CIQ 9JK
 UQOG OKUVCMGU ETGRV K^FW^FPK^FDR^FW^FJ^FG^FK^FFE^FQ^FVTQN QH V
 DWV IGPGTCNN[KV KU GC^FV^FC^FD^FV^FNG^FUG^FJ^FC^FX^FG^FY^FW^FTPGF CPF K
 YCU GCUKGT VQ RNC[YKVJ^FT^FQ^FME^FW^FCV^FV^FKT^FGC^FV^FGPU VQ R
 RKGEGU YGTG OQTG CEVKX^FGF^F5^FCC^FPR^FQU^FK^FY^FK^FU^FQ^FRR^FQ^FPGPV
 DCNCPEGF +P VJKU RCYP #NUT^FOVER^FMT^FGU^FE^FRC^FVT^FQ^FN^FGPVK
 QH VJG F HKNG KU SWKVG K^FOR^FH^FGT^FVC^FPE^FVG^FCP^FFT^FY^FG^FGF^F VJG
 PQY #PCPF KU VJG QPG KPY^FRP^FVT^FQ^FDNCEM RKGEGU
 *QYGXGT VJKU EJCPIGU C^FH^FF^FG^FK^FT^FGF^FTC^FN^FUG^FP U CDKNK
 DQNF KFGOG CTO[JCTOQPKQWUN[6JKU D
 =\$NCEM EQWNF JCXG CN^FQ^FTR^FNE^FW^FFC^FQ^FT^FQ^FDXKQ^FVE^FU^FK^FP
 EQPUGTXCVKXGN[(Q^FT^FGF^FPC^FPF^F\$^FZI^FGCNK\GU VJCV JKU I
 24.Bg3 Nf6 25.Be5=) -ZI KU VJG OKURNCEGF MPKIJV
 4F 4E PGWVTCNK\KPIEM^FGT^F VJG E USWCTG HQT
 TQQM ? #NVTGTPCVKXGU YQWNF CN
 \$ZI -ZI 4F 0E FGXGNQR JKU KPKVKCVKXC
 %CTNUGP CPVKEKRCVGF KPXC^FNK^FQ^FPRO^FQ^FW^FVR^FQ^F29^F6^Fx^FK^FU
 UGXGPVJ TCPM CPF RTGRCT^FGF^F VJJKU4^FQ^F4^FGF^F \$ZF \$F

C D E F G H I J

%CTNUGP QDVCKPGF HWNN E
VJG RCYP *KU RKGEGU GUR
CTG OQTG CEVKXG VJCP YJK
ICOG VJKU ECP DG SWKVG K
DGE CWUG KV KU GCUKGT VQ
VJCP FGHG PUKXG OQXGU *Q
%CTNUGP OCMGU C RTGVV[D
VJKU RQKP4F !

= +PUVGCF 4D YQWNF
MGGR VJG MKPF QH EQWPV
UWDUETKDG F HQT YJGP J
RCYP #HVG T D 0G 0

C D E F G H I J

4ZE C 2TGUWOCDN[%
OKUUGF VJKU WPGZRGEVGI
\$NCEM VJTGC VGPU VQ YKP
\$C 9J KVG U CPUY
+P CFFKVKQP VJG H -F
D CPF PQY JG
C D E F G H I J

CPF MPKIJV U OKURNCE GOGPV \$C 9J KVG U CPUY
RCKPHWNN[QDXKQWU +P CFFKVKQP VJG H -F
DNC EM MKPI KU OWEJ ENQUGT VQ VJG EGPVGT
VJCP YJKVG QPG ?

=QT \$H 4F 0D 4D 4G

Cf ?

DZE

=6CMKPI VJG UGEQPF TCPM YKVJ 4F

KU PQV VJG DGUV UQNW VKQP FWG VQ

EZD 4ZD 0E CZD

\$ZD ?

\$ZE 4F \$H

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

IKXGU \$NCEM C HNWT T[QH
MKPI KU FQOKPCPV KP VJG
VJG TQQM KU KP VJG OQUV
RQUKVKQP IKXKPI JKO C
EQOHQTVCDNG EQORGPUCV
RCYP (QT GZCORN G 4E
-H 4D -I 4D \$G
4D CPF 9JKVG UJQWNF LW
RQUKVKQP ?

C D E F G H I J

4G+P CNN NKMGNKJQQF
OKUUGF VJKU OQXG 0E

C D E F G H I J



%CTNUGP KCFVJG OCKP RQK

VJG RTGXKQWU OQXG 0QY \$

KP VJG ICQG 4E -I \$ZH

0F -I 4ZH ↑4ZD

C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J

9JKVG YQP VYQ VGORK VQ CEVKXCVG JKU

RKGEWVQ %CTNUGPQDQKGVCMG



;GV \$NCEMUQKNN

C D E F G H I J

EQORGPUCVKQP VJCPMU VQ JKU CEVKXG TQQM

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4E CPF \$NCEM UVKNNMGGRU 6GPFQDQKUVCMG

EQORGPUCVKQP VJQWIJUKYQWNFVDGCV KU PQTOC

UGTKQWU HKIJV HQT C FTQYCWVOKUEBOKPVSOWHKEG

C -H !/C[DG #PCPF LWUJY VJCV \$NCEM VPCUKPI YKVJ

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VQ RTGXGPV D D 0G 4G

#ICKP DGVVGTFCPECHVGT= C CIU KP 5O[UNQX -GTC

\$C 4F 4ZF 0ZF \$ZHYCU CPQVJGTQRMKQPDNG

-ZHC ≡\$NCEM YQWNF JCXG

UWHHKEKGPV KQOBGAPUKVYKQP

GPFICOG VJCPMUWVKV[

H !6JKU YGCMGPU VJG MKP^C D E F G H I J
WPPGEGUUCTKN[
= J YCU UVKN^N K^K G HQT
J J !2GTJCRU OKUUKPI VCEVKE
QR/JG PGZV OQXG
C D E F G H I J

C D E F G H I J
%CTNUGP KU GZVTGOGN[
VJCV EQPVCKP MPKIJM IG
= -ZJ 4ZG 04ZG ?
= -J 0H -J 4G
EJGEMO?CVG
%CTNUGP V T G O G T N I P I
RQUKVKE^E P W C K P I G V O G V T
-I
= -ZJ 4ZG 04ZG ?
= -J 0H -J 4G
EJGEMO?CVG
H 1!PN[QPG OKUVCMG
GPQWIJ HQT \$N^J K^K M VQ URO^K N
CFXCPVCIG
= +PUVGCF -J H
0E 4H

C D E F G H I J
YQWNF NGCF VQ C UVTQPI
GZVTC RCYP KP VJG RQEMO
JCTFN[UWTXKXG VJKU ?
-I 5WFFGPN[VJG YGCM M
DGEQOGU CP CVVCEMK^K I RK
C 0Z1 0Z1 4Z1 -ZJ
UVTQPI KP RQ^K V K Q P U
%OPENWUKQP 'PFICOGU KP>
QPG TQQM CTG D[HCT VJG C
V[RG QH GPFICOG UQ KV KU
VQ^K WJ P QY JQY VQ JCPFNG VJ
RKGEG VJCV WUWCNN[UJQY
UVTGPIVJU KP GPFICOGU #P
VJG GPFICOG KU QHVGP YQT
6CTTCUEJ TWNG UC[U VJCV
RNCEG KU DGJKPF VJG RCUU
VJG GPGO[RCYP KP QTFGT V
DGJKPF QPG U QYP KP QTFG
YK^K VJ
CFXCPEG ss 5GXGPVJ UGEG
\$NCEM TCPM KU QPG QH VJ
YK^K P WGU HQT VJG TQQM 7P
YK^K N Q N W V G N [P G E G U U C T [K V
NGCXG VJG TQQM KP C RCUU
VJG GPFICOG 5QOGVKOGU C
UCETKHKEG YKVJ VJG IQCN V
TQQM KU C IQQF YC[VQ QDV
VJG GPFICOG

d7-knight with ...Nc5-e4. Due to his space advantage there, White's main chances lie on the kingside. He can prepare a piece attack by regrouping, for instance with Nf3, Bd3, Nf4 and possibly Qg4, or launch a pawn offensive with f2-f4, g2-g4, f4-f5. Strategically the latter plan looks more consistent, but if Black manages to slow down the pawns' advance with ...h7-h5, Nf5 and possibly ...g7-g6, White's minor pieces will find themselves restricted by the f4-pawn. But that's not all to it. Both players can also display ambitions on the respective other side of the board, especially in positions with white short

c3, when the exchange of the d4- and c5-pawns could lead to a white blockade on d4, but also to the activation of Black's

14...Qc7

☐ Kasparov, Garry 2795
☒ Ivanchuk, Vassily 2740

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6
 5.a3 Bf8 6.Nf3

6...Ne7 7.h4 h6 8.h5 a5 9.Bb5+

10.Ba4 Nd7 11.Ne2 b5 12.Bb3 c5
 13.c3 Nc6 14.0-0

16.g3 Be7
)
 A) _____
 (20.f4 b3 21.Bb1 Qa1
 22.Qc1 Na4
)

B) _____

Re1

(
16.f4 b4 17.axb4 cxd4
)
(17...a4!?
18.Bc2 b4 19.Bxa4 bxa3 20.bxa3
Nb6≡
) (18.Be3 a4 19.Ba2□
Nb6⇒)

15...c4

16.Bc2 Nb6 17.Bf4

17...Be7 18.Bg3

Rb8?!

(19.Nh2 b4 20.axb4 axb4
21.Rxa7 Qxa7; 19.Nh4 Qd8!)

This move arrives later than desired, in a moment when Black's counterplay is very strong already. Qa2 23.Qa1
There is no other way to slow down

20...b4 21.axb4 axb4

19.Nh2

19...Qd8?

22.cxb4?!

(27...Qxb2!?

)

∞

20.Ng4?

21.

(
24.f5 exf5 25.Ne3 Bg5
26.Nxf5 g6 27.Nd6 Bg4
)

22...Nxb4 23.Bb1 Bd7

24.b3?

118

24...Ra8 25.Rxa8 Qxa8 26.bxc4 Nxc4
27.Nc1?

27. ♣
27...Ba4 28.Qe2 Qa7!

29.Ne3 Qxd4
30.Nxc4 dxc4 31.Qf1 0-0

0-1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Manea,Alexandru	2402
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marin,Mihail	2543

6.a3

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6
5.Nf3 Qb6

6...c4**Qc7****10.0-0 Ne7 11.Re1****12.Rb1 Nc8 13.h4****(15...Qxc3****)****7.g3****7...Bd7****8.Nbd2 Na5****9.Bg2 h6**

13...Nb6 14.Qe2 Ba4

15.Nf1

15...0-0-0

stability after the exchange on g5. I would probably have played Qd7 followed by the queen's transfer to h7 with the threat ...Bc2. If White would prevent the latter with Rc1, then ...Nb3 might have forced a draw by repetition, even though Black can keep manoeuvring, too. I had this

16...Be7 17.Ng3

16.g4?!

Nd7

19.Kg2

+

(22.gxh6 g5-+)

+

19...Rdg8 20.Rg1



18.Bh3 g6!?

(20...Nc5!?

21.Bxe7 Qxe7

Qd8?!

22.dxc5

Rxh3 23.Kg2 Rhh8

24.Nd4 Qxc5)

+

21.h5 g5 22.Nh2 f6!
23.f4?!

(24.Qxe6+
25.Qe2 Re8

Bd7

)

44...Bxf4 45.Rxf4 Nd3 46.Rd4 Nxb2
47.Bxd5

47...Rd6!

48.Kg2 b5

23...gxf4 24.Bxf4 fxe5 25.Bxe5 Nxe5
26.Qxe5 Bd7

49.Be4

27.Rbf1 Nc6
28.Qf4 Rf8 29.Qe3 Bg5 30.Rxf8 Rxf8
31.Qe2 Qc7

49...Kc7 50.Bc2 Rxd4 51.cxd4 Kd6
52.Kf3 a5

32.Nf3

Bf4 33.Nf1 Rg8?

34.Ne3 Qd6 35.Kh1 e5 36.dxe5 Nxe5
37.Nd4 Kb8 38.Nef5 Qf6 39.Qg2

39...Rd8 40.Rf1 Qg5?

(

42.Qxf5 Qh4

41.Qxd5 Bxf5
)

53.Be4?

(53...b4 54.axb4 axb4
55.d5 b3? 56.f7 Ke7 57.Bg6+-)
(55...Nd3
56.Kd4 Nc1 57.a4=)

41.Ne2 Bxf5 42.gxf5 Qxg2+ 43.Bxg2
Bg5 44.Nf4!?

53...b4 54.axb4 axb4 55.Ke3 b3
56.d5

56...c3 57.f6 Nc4+

0-1

□ Machulsky,Anatoly D
■ Bronstein,David Ionovich

23.Ne3 Qh7 24.Ng2 Rb7 25.Ra2 Rhb8

● 26.Qc2?

⚖
26...Nh4!

22...Qg8!!

27.Rc1 Nf3+ 28.Kh1 Qxc2 29.Rxc2
a3 30.bxa3 Ba4 31.Rc1 Rb2 32.Rca1
Rxa2 33.Rxa2 Rb1+ 34.Ng1 Nxg1
35.Bxg1 Rc1
0-1

□ Chistiakov,Alexander Nikolaevi
■ Petrosian,Tigran V

16...hxg4!

17.Qxh8 gxf3!

15...g5!?

18.Qh5

16.g4

18...b5 19.Nxb5

19...axb5 20.Bxb5 fxe5

0-1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Minasian, Artashes	2554
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kortschnoj, Viktor Lvovich	2643



18.Bd3

20.

18...Ng6

13...g5!

19.Bxg6 fxg6 20.Nxb3 Bxa4 21.Qd3
Bxb3 22.Qxg6+ Kd7 23.Qf7+ Kc8
24.Ba3 Qc6 25.Bb4 Bc2 26.Rb2 Bf5
27.Bxa5 b6 28.Bb4 Rh7 29.Qg8+ Kb7
30.Qg5 Rc8

14.Bf1

14...g4 15.Nh4 Bxh4 16.gxh4 Ne7
17.b4

17...cxb3

1/2

☐ Guliyev,Namig
☒ Marin,Mihail

2577 19...fxe6 20.Qg6 Ba3!↗
 2572



18...c4!

1-0



☐ Bassan,Remo
☒ Marin,Mihail

2272
 2547



19.fxe6

±

±

↔

13...Ng6!

14.Ne2?

(16...fxg4? 17.e6!+-)

(21.Kb1 Kb7=)

(14...Be7? 15.Nxe6! Qxe6 16.f5 Nf4
17.Qf3! Qxf5 18.Nxd5±)

19.Kb1

(

Rc8 20.Rd2?! Be7! 21.Nxf7
0-0 22.Qh5 Nxf7 23.Qxg6 Nh8)

14...h4

+

0-0-0 16.c4?!

17.Qxc4 Nce7 18.Be3 Nd5?!

0-1

15.Kb1

16...dxc4

+

19.Bc1 Nge7 20.g4!? hxg3 21.Nxg3

Tactical Rook Endings

Introduction + example 1

Solving endgame studies is recommended by the world's leading trainers as the best method to improve one's creativity and endgame understanding as well as to polish one's tactical and calculative skills and to sense the full energy of the pieces. Let's take for example a frequent guest in chess practice - rook endings. They are often regarded as rather technical and lacking brilliancy. At the same time they are the most common type of endings thus they require a certain amount of knowledge and not always of the most exciting nature. Nevertheless, Chess composition proves time and again that rook endings might appear, contrary to their image, highly tactical and even most enjoyable! I have prepared for you a selection of 18 light and entertaining

rook miniatures to solve and enjoy. They all have not more than 7 pieces and display a variety of tactical motifs in their purest form. Not less important: they all contain a somewhat paradoxical highlight. Consider sensible moves but at the same time keep an open mind and be alert to unusual ones too. Let us first examine 4 attractive examples with their solutions:

J.Ulrichsen

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

A. White's last pawn is threatened. Any winning prospects left? Surprisingly yes but just by abandoning the pawn!

1.Kg5!!

[The extra pawn proves useless following 1.e6? Re7 2.Kg5 Kg7 3.Kf5 Rb7 is just a draw]

1...Rxe5+ 2.Kg6 Re8 3.Kf7!

The double threat is decisive. **3...Re1**

4.Rh6#

1-0

Example 2

S. Kozlowski

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

B. Any hope for white with a rook behind? No other choice but going for the forcing checks and then see further.
1.Rf8+! Kd7 2.Rf7+ Ke6 No checks anymore yet quiet moves often prove not less powerful **3.Rf5!!** Moving the attacked black rook is met by a skewer thus black has no better than to move his king **3...Ke7 4.Rf7+ Ke8 5.Rf8+ Ke7 6.Rf7+ Ke6 7.Rf5** A stunning positional draw!
1/2

Example 3

A. Wotawa

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

C. With two pawns behind where lie White's drawing chances? Unexpectedly he can build up a stalemate position:
1.Kf3! Kh4 2.Kf4 Kh5 3.Kf5 Kh6 4.Kf6 Kh7 5.Re5! a5 6.Rh5+ Kg8 7.Rg5+ Kf8 8.Rxa5! Rxa5 The composers call it an ideal stalemate: Each square around the white king is attacked just once and all pieces take part in the final picture. A matter of aesthetics.
1/2

Example 4

V. Kalandadze

2000

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

D. Is there a way to restrain the black pawn? Attacking the king is naturally the key to success. **1.Rc3+!**

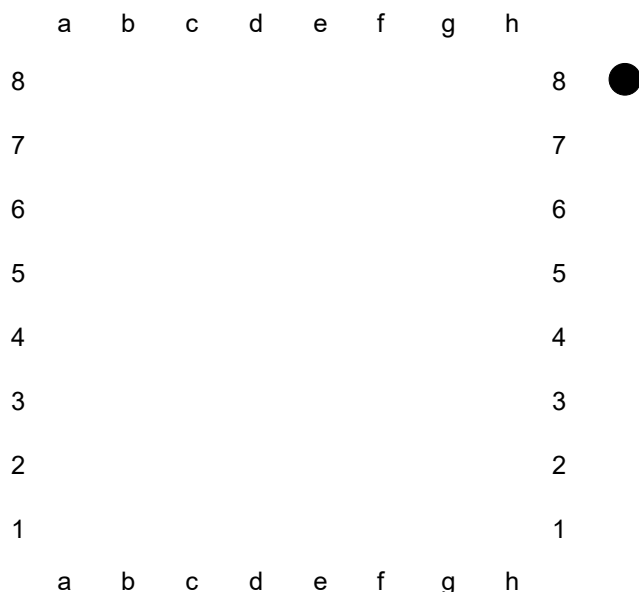
[Following the wrong check **1.Ra3+? Kf4 2.Rc4+ Ke5 3.Ra5+ Kd6!**Black runs out of useful checks.]

1...Kf4 2.Ra4+ Ke5 3.Rc5+ Kd6 Has white blundered? It seems that White's attack has reached a dead end as both his rook and his king are under attack. What went wrong? **4.Rh5!!**This sacrificial deflection turns the tables on as by now both black king and rook are under attack forcing the only response. **4...Rxb5 [4...h1Q 5.Ra6#] 5.Ra6+ Ke5! 6.Ra5+** The decisive

skewer. **6...Kf4 7.Rxh5 Kg3**
 Black is now just a small step from his goal however... **8.Rxh2! Kxh2 9.g4 1-0**

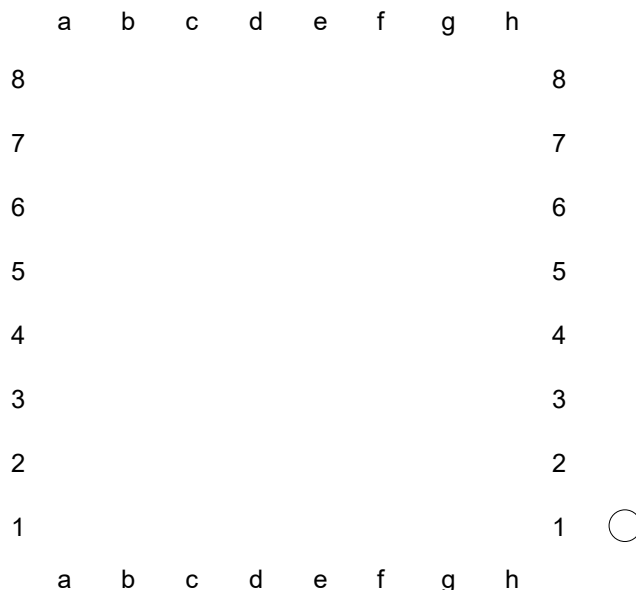
Exercise 1

And now it's your move, dear reader!
 18 exercises to your enjoyment :



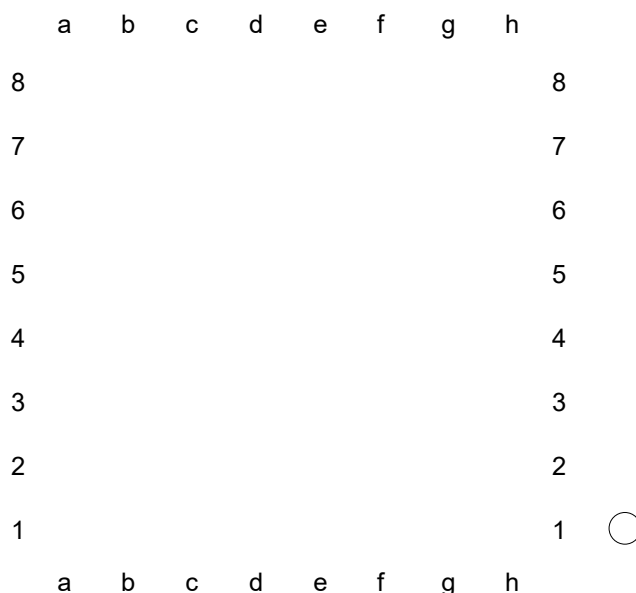
How can White benefit from his clumsy-looking pawn?

Exercise 2



Which piece should capture the black pawn?

Exercise 3



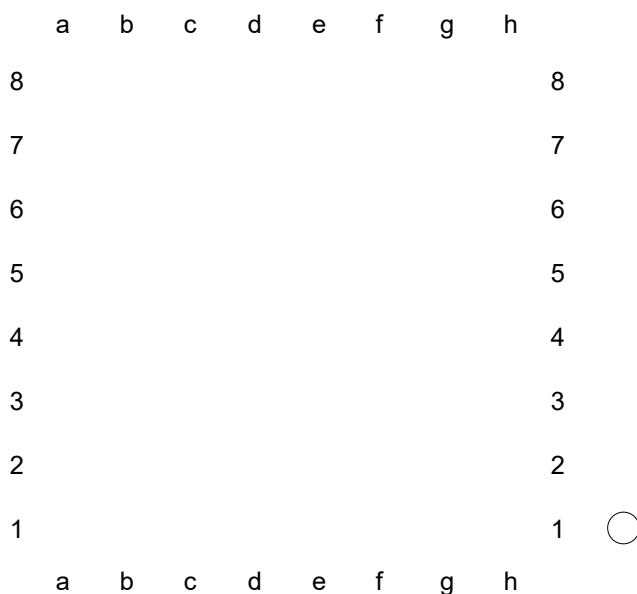
How should White force the promotion of his pawn?

Exercise 4



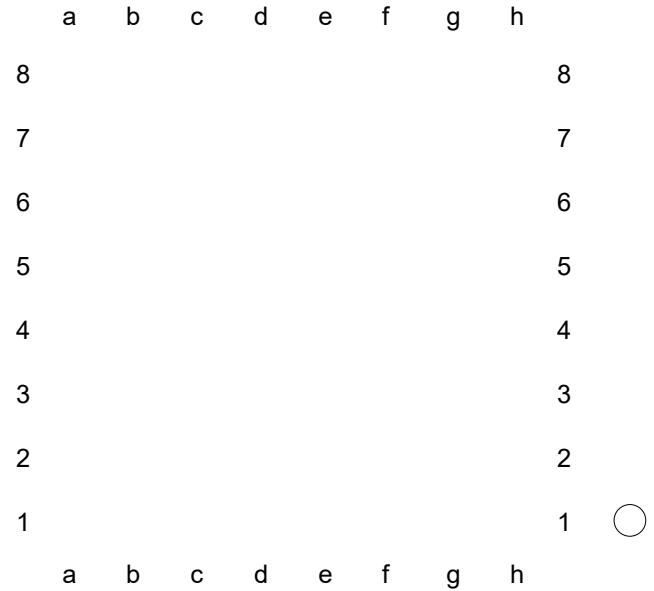
Here, again, a single rook confronts a pair of enemy ones. What are the surviving odds?

Exercise 5



White should first protect his last pawn. And then what?

Exercise 6



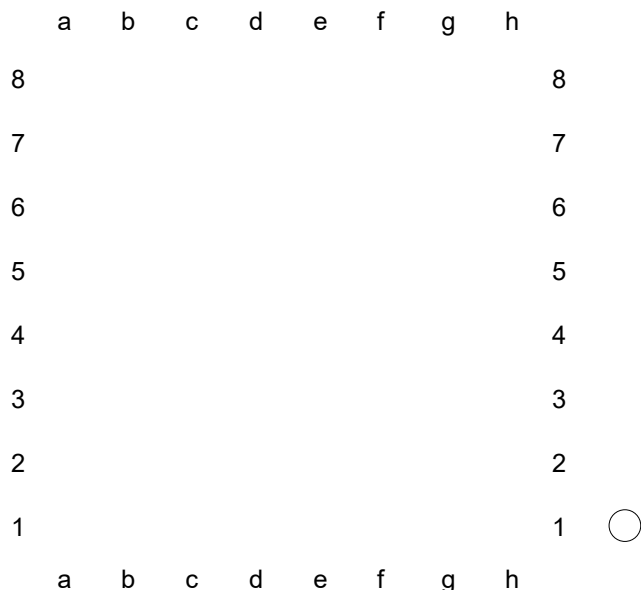
Could the white advanced pawn provide the desired point?

Exercise 7



White should hurry but can he win?

Exercise 8



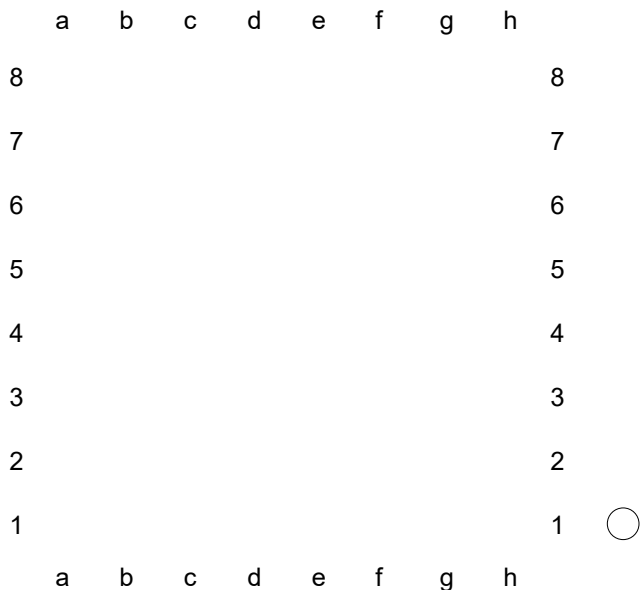
The black pawn seems highly dangerous. How should White handle it?

Exercise 10



White's position looks totally lost but there is still a narrow escape. Can you spot it?

Exercise 9



How can White profit from his pair of passed pawns?

Exercise 11



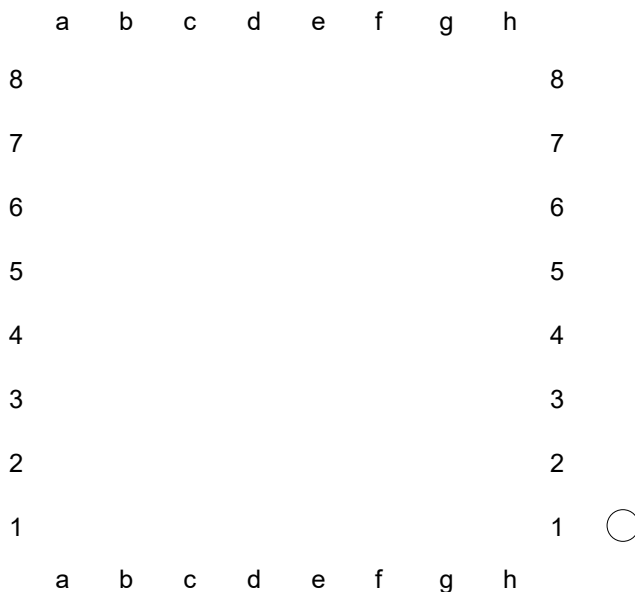
Any winning prospects despite the material equality? White to move.

Exercise 12



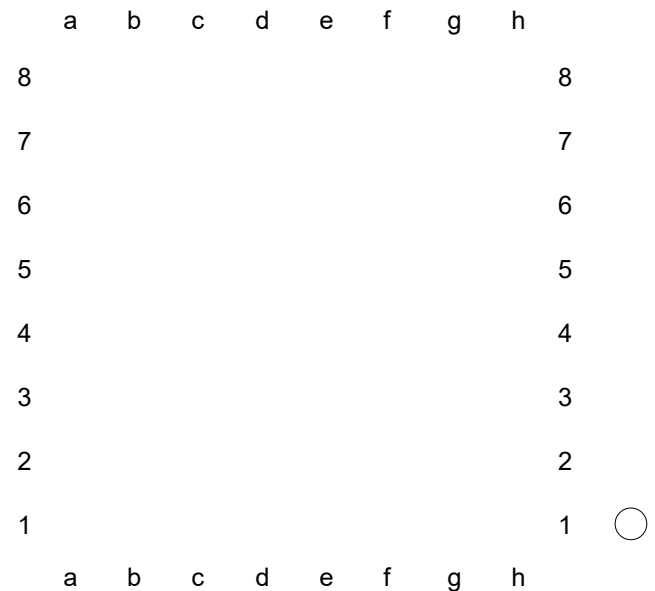
How to make the best out of the rook advantage?

Exercise 13



How to secure the promotion of the vulnerable white pawn?

Exercise 14



Despite his material advantage, White is in a serious trouble. Could you possibly save him?

Exercise 15



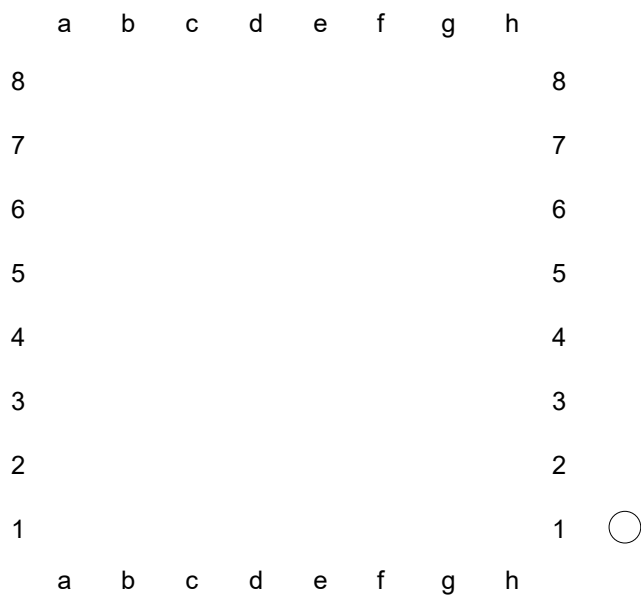
The white rooks are forked. Can you save them both to secure the win?

Exercise 16



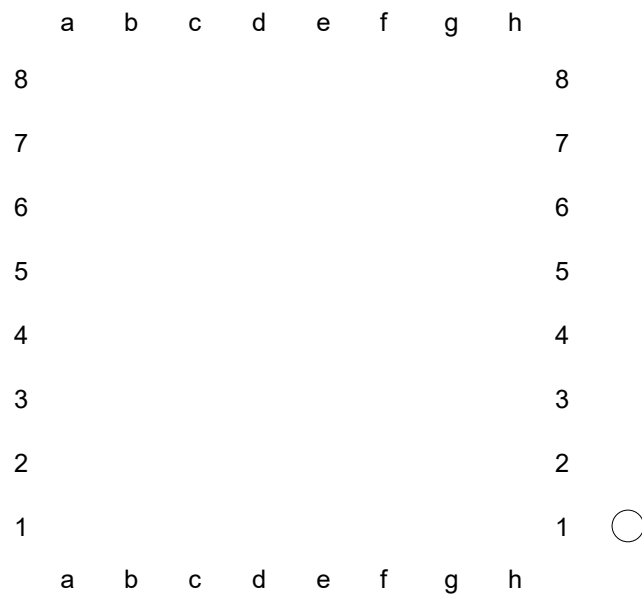
The pawn doesn't seem too menacing. Could you prove otherwise?

Exercise 17



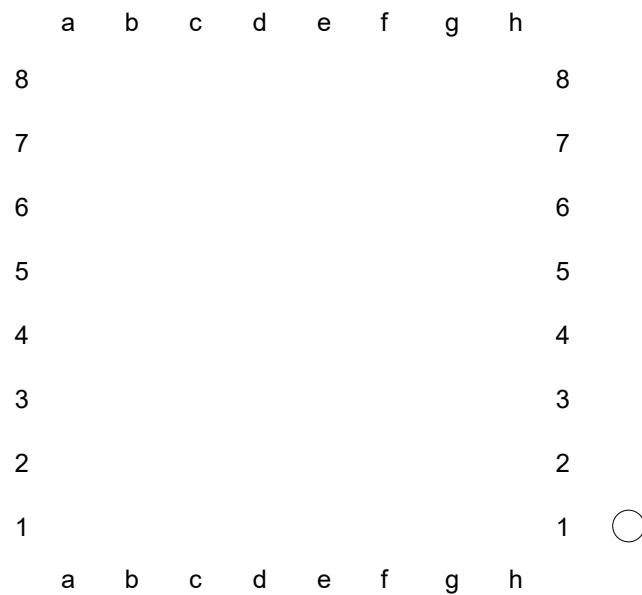
Both sides are about to promote. Who is first?

Exercise 18



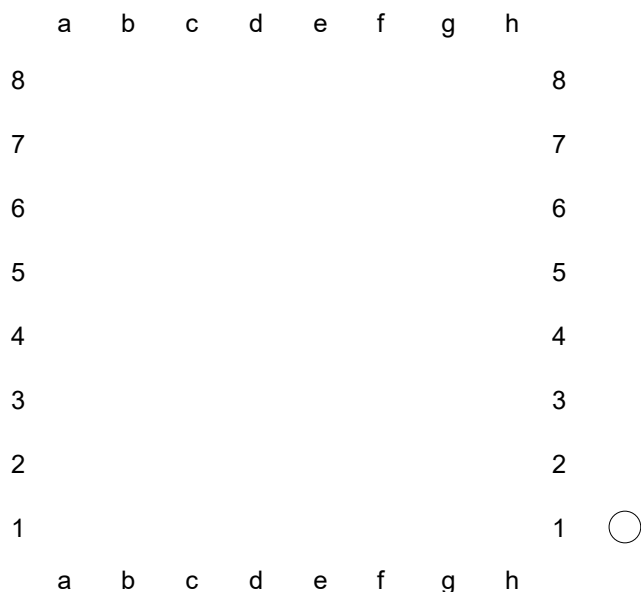
Can white avoid the black promotion?

Author's Study 1



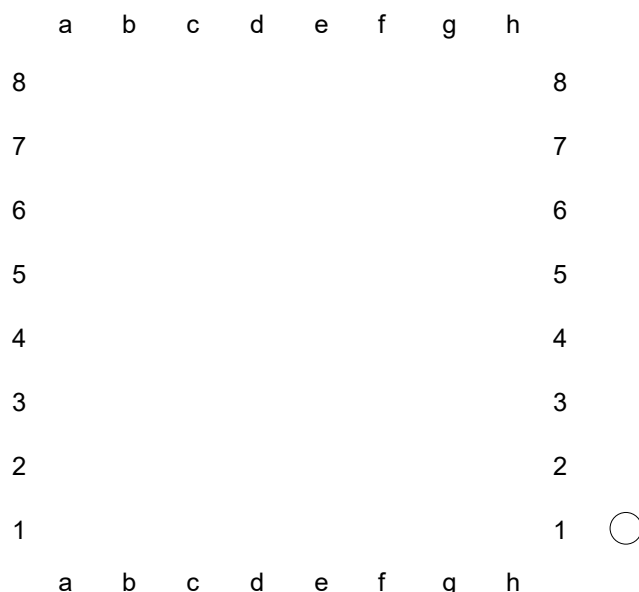
How should white take advantage of his extra pawn?

Author's Study 2



How should White face Black's deadly counter threat? No time for quiet moves. A vigorous action is called for!

Author's Study 4



How should White face the mighty enemy pawn?

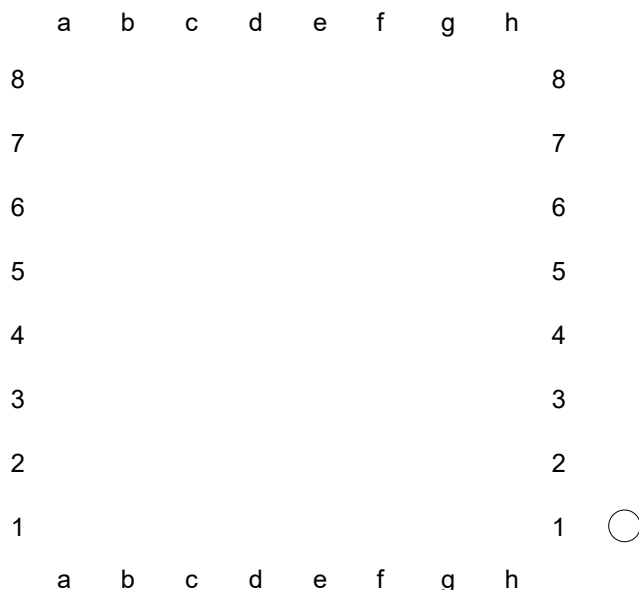
Author's Study 3



What is the right way to get your king to the other side of the board? The rook should first improve its position.

ANSWERS

A. Selezniev



How can white benefit from his clumsy-looking pawn? Solution: That all his pieces stand on the same file should provide the clue! **1.h6! Kf6**

[1...Rf8 2.h7 Rh8 (2...Kf6 3.Rf1+ wins.) 3.Kg5 wins.]

2.h7!

[2.Kg4? Not that fast with the battery!Rg5+ 3.Kf4 Rg8 draws.]

2...Kg7 And now what? **3.h8Q+**

Deflecting the king into the battery

3...Kxh8 4.Kg4+ To win the rook by a discovered check.

1-0

A. Selezniev



Which piece should capture the black pawn? Solution: Neither of them! After

1.Rg1+!

[Neither 1.exf5? Ra7+]

[Nor 1.Rxf5? Ra7+ suggest more than a draw since the white king is exposed to check along the ranks.]

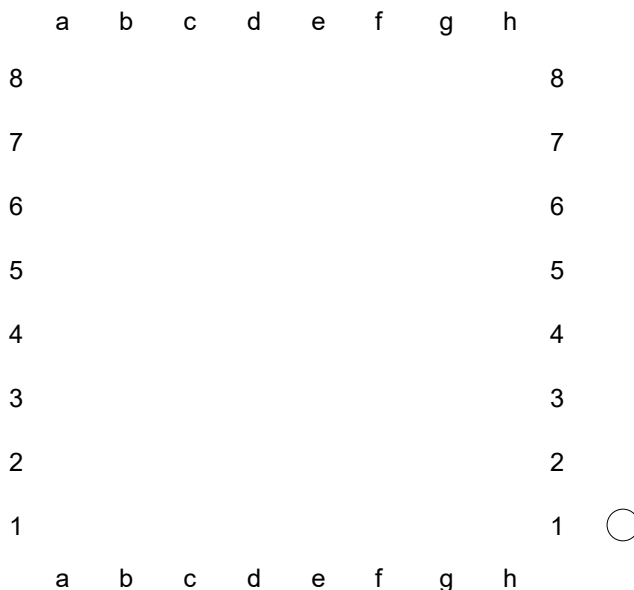
1...Kh7 The black king has been pushed to the edge of the board however the white pawn is gone! **2.e5!!** Gone with dignity! **2...Rxe5+**

[2...f4 fails to 3.Kf6 f3 4.e6 f2 5.Rf1 wins.]

3.Kf7 Threatening mate **3...Kh6! 4.Kf6!** In view of the double threat the rook is lost.

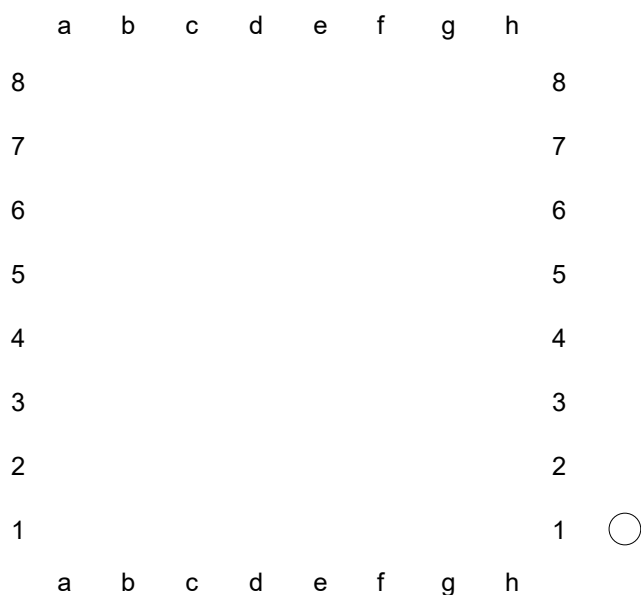
1-0

A. Troitzky



How should white force the promotion of his pawn? Solution: First he should make the journey to the other side of the board. **1.Kg6! Kg4** The black king should hide behind his counterpart against a lethal in-between check

D.Petrov



Could the white advanced pawn provide the desired point? Solution: Let's optimize our position first and hope it would: **1.h6! Rc6+!**

[The attempt to hide on the "h" file and to attack the white pawn from behind fails as follows: 1...Kh1 2.Kxd7 Rh2 with the king hiding from checks on h7, the rook moves to g6 then Kg7 and the pawn promotes. 3.Ke6]

2.Ke5!

[Important to leave the black pawn on the board as would later become apparent. 2.Kxd7? Ra6! 3.h7 Ra7+ (Not 3...Kh3 4.Rc8! wins.) 4.Ke6 Kh3 and the white king is unable to join his units due to endless checks along the ranks.]

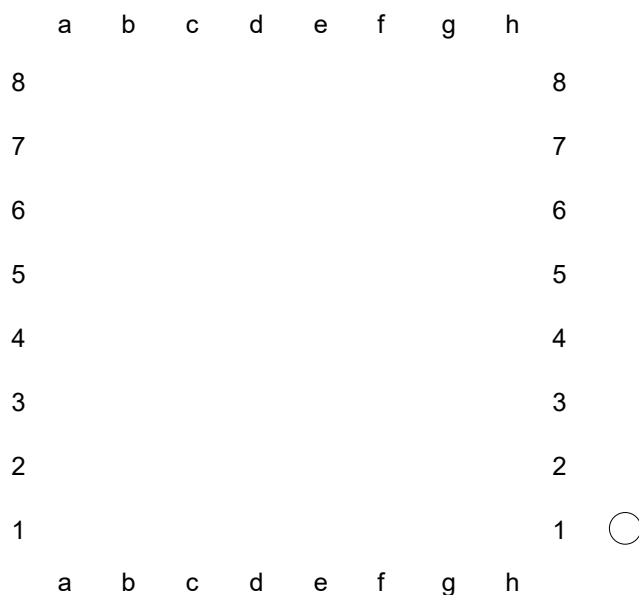
2...Kh3 3.Kf5 Kh4! 4.h7 Rh6

How can white make here any progress? The black pawn should give you a hint!

5.Re8!! Rxh7 6.Kg6! Rh5 The black rook is dominated! **7.Re4+** winning.

1-0

M.Matous



White should hurry but can he win?

Solution: Depends on creating a reciprocal zugzwang position with the right side being on move! **1.Ra8! Rg1+!**

[As after 1...Ra1 2.a7 Kf7 the king is just a square away from safety and White wins by 3.Rh8! Rxa7 and the skewer 4.Rh7+]

2.Kf3!!

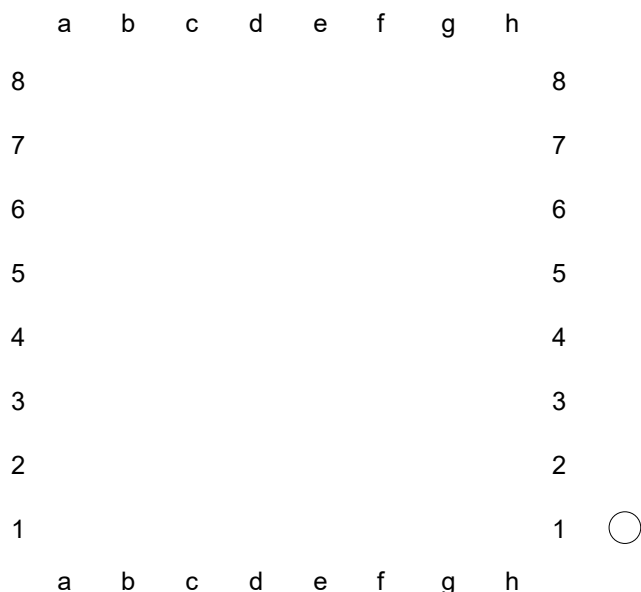
[This is comparable to the thematic attempt 2.Kf4? Rg7! 3.a7 Re7!]

This is the critical mutual zugzwang position with white to play! 4.Kf3 Ke5 5.Ke3 Kf6+ (5...Kd5+) 6.Kf4 Ke6! And we have reached the key position again with white on move. Draw!]

2...Rg7 3.a7 Re7 4.Kf4! That's it! The very same key position, however, this time with black to play...and lose since any move is met by a check by the white rook and the pawn promotes.

1-0

A. Ornstein



The black pawn seems highly dangerous. How should White handle it? Solution: Curiously by a variety of stalemates! The first move is pretty much forced to restrain black's immediate threat. **1.Rb4! Rc3**

[A waiting move by the rook
1...Rg3 allows 2.Rxb6 Rc3 3.Rb4!
Rc8 4.Rc4+! Rxc4 Stalemate!]

2.Rb5!

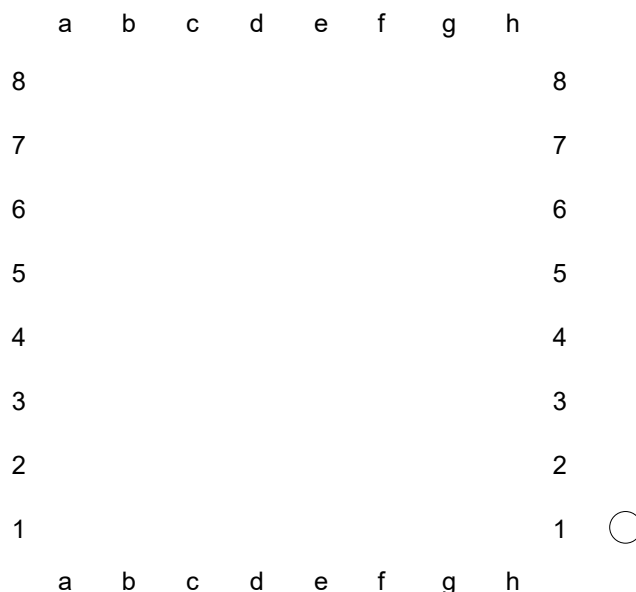
[keep the "b" file closed!: 2.Rxb6??
loses to Rc8 3.Rxb3 Ra8+
4.Kb4 Rb8+ wins.]

2...Rc5!

[Or 2...b2+ 3.Ka2 Kc1 4.Rxb2
Rc2 5.Ka1! Rxb2 A second
stalemate!]

3.Rxb3 Rc3 4.Ka4! Rxb3 The third
and final stalemate!
1/2

V. Bron



How can White profit from his pair of passed pawns? Solution: Pushing the pawns forward is a good start. **1.d6!** That means that black should seek counter chances somewhere else

1...Rf1+ 2.Kh2 Rf2+ 3.Kg1 h2+ 4.Kh1 Rf1+! Rushing to get rid of his own pawn...
5.Kxh2 Rf6! ...In order to leave the "h" file open for checks along it.
6.Rc4+! An important intermediate check
6...Kg5

[closes the file again 6...Kh5 7.h7
Rf8 8.d7 Rd8 9.Rd4 Kg5 10.Rd3
Kg6 11.Rh3 winning]

[6...Kf5 loses to 7.Rh4]
[while 6...Kf3 is met by 7.Rc3+ Kg4
8.Rg3+ Kf4 9.h7 Rh6+ 10.Rh3
winning.]

7.d7 Rxh6+ 8.Kg3 Rd6 9.Rc5+
forcing the king to the sixth rank **9...Kf6**
10.Rc6! Pinning and winning! **10...Rxc6**
11.d8Q+
1-0

Y. Hoch



White's position looks totally lost but there is still a narrow escape. Can you spot it? Solution: If worse come to worst we can give up or still seek a healthy stalemate! **1.Rb8!**

[Following 1.Re8? Rd3+ 2.Kc2 Rxd7 3.Kb3!? just Rad4 defeats the double threat.]

1...Rd4+

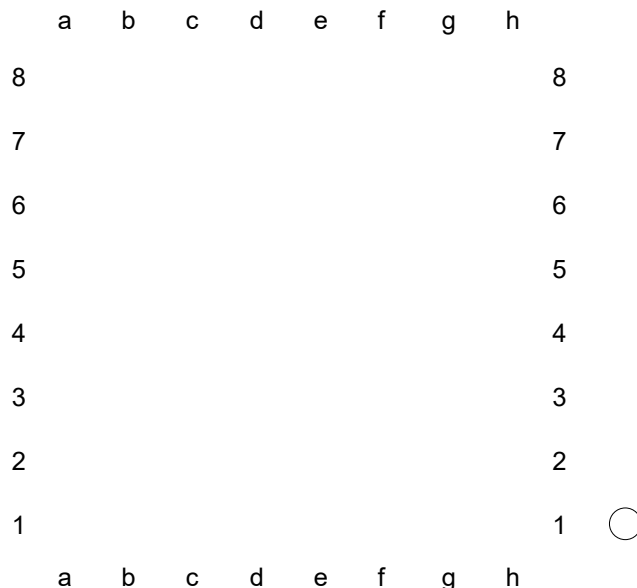
[The alternative is 1...Rd3+ 2.Kc2 Rxd7 3.Rb1+ Ka2 4.Rb2+ Ka3 5.Rb3+ is perpetual check.]

2.Kc2 Re2+

[Obviously not 2...Rxd7?? 3.Ra8+ mating.]

3.Kc1 Re1+ 4.Kc2 Re2+ 5.Kc1 Rxd7 6.Rb1+ Ka2 7.Rb2+! Rxb2 Stalemate!1/2

E. Pogosyants



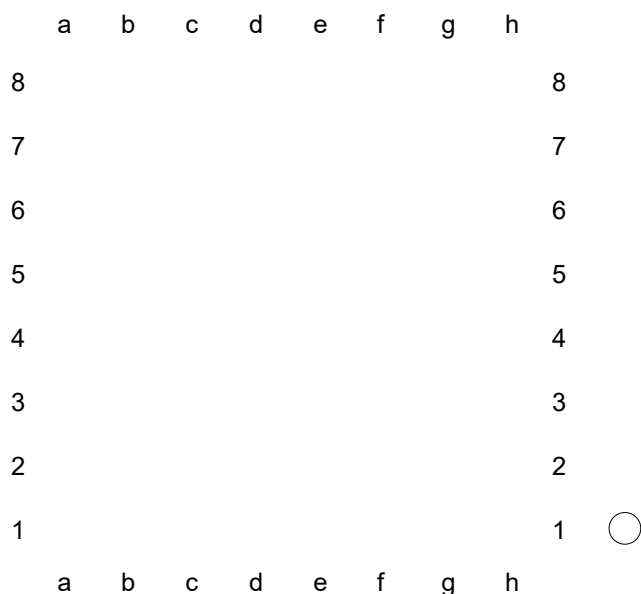
Any winning prospects despite the material equality? White to move. Solution: The black monarch is stuck in the upper corner makes the difference. By a well-coordinated attack of all his units White would achieve his goal.

1.Kc7! Both rook and pawn create deadly threats against which black should give away his rook. **1...Rd7+! 2.Kxd7 d1Q+ 3.Kc7!** Resuming the threats. Attention!

[3.Kc8? may be surprised by Qg4 +!4.Rxg4 stalemate!]

3...Qb3 against both resumed threats however the overloaded queen should give a clue for the rest **4.Ra4+!** Naturally! the queen is deflected thus she is forced to abandon her other duty. **4...Qxa4 5.b7+ Ka7 6.b8Q+ Ka6 7.Qb6# 1-0**

V. Khortov



How to make the best out of the rook advantage? Solution: White should act cautiously and accurately **1.Rf2!**

[The intuitive attempt 1.Rf1?

Rf4!2.R8xf4 h1Q 3.Rxh1 results in a stalemate!]

1...h1Q 2.Kc3+ Kb1 3.Rf1+ Qxf1 4.Rxf1+ Ka2 5.Rf2+ Kb1 6.Kb3

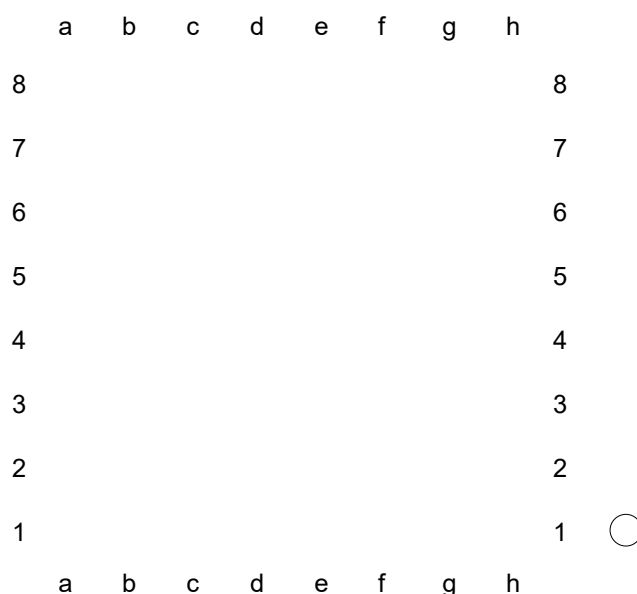
In view of the double threat black loses his rook. **6...Rc4!?** the last defending effort **7.Kxc4 a2 8.Kb3**

The mate threat forces an underpromotion

8...a1N+ 9.Kc3 Black, in zugzwang , loses his knight.

1-0

J.Hasek



How to secure the promotion of the vulnerable white pawn? Solution: Naturally by supporting it from behind!

1.Rh5! Rc2+

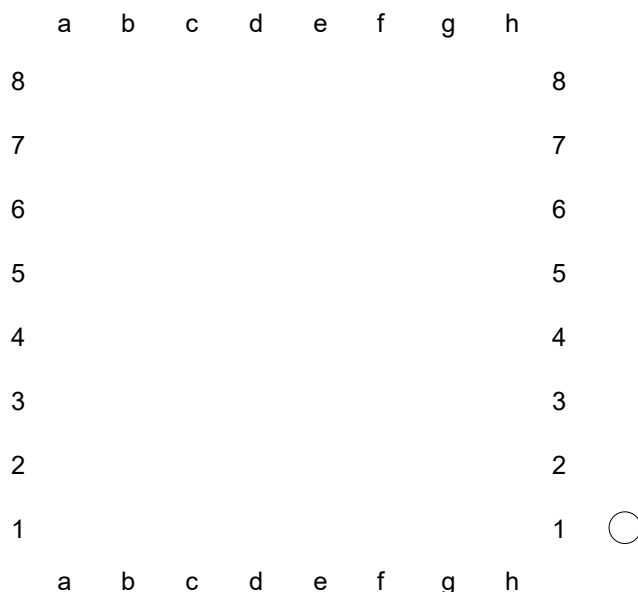
[Obviously 1...Kxh5 blocks the file and following 2.h7 Rc2+ 3.Kb8 Rb2+ 4.Ka8 even the king finds a shelter.]

[1...Rf2 allows 2.Rh1! Rf8+ 3.Kd7 Kg5 4.h7 Rh8 5.Ke6! Kg6 6.Rg1+ Kxh7 7.Kf7 Kh6 8.Rh1+ winning.]

2.Kd7! Rd2+ 3.Ke7 Re2+ 4.Kf7 Kxh5 5.h7 Rf2+ 6.Ke7 All the way back **6...Re2+ 7.Kd7 Rd2+ 8.Kc7 Rc2+ 9.Kb7 Rb2+ 10.Ka8!** wins.

1-0

L. Prokes



surprise the newborn queen: **1.Kb2! Rb1+ 2.Kxb1 h1Q+ 3.Kb2 Kb4! 4.Rc2! Qh8+ 5.d4!**

[5.Ka2? Qa8+ 6.Kb2 Qa3+ 7.Kb1 Kxb3 winning]

5...Qxd4+ 6.Ka2 Qa7+ 7.Kb2 Qa3+ 8.Kb1 Qa6

[8...Qxb3+ 9.Rb2 is draw by material or]

[8...Kxb3 9.Rc3+! Kxc3 is stalemate]

9.Kb2 Qf6+ 10.Ka2 Qa6+

[After 10...Qe5 or any other non-check move allows 11.Rc4+ and the resulting position after Kb5 is a fortress position: despite Black's considerable advantage, he is unable to make any further progress. White just moves his rook between the protected squares c4 and a4 or his king between a2 and b2.]

11.Kb2 Qa3+ 12.Kb1 and it's either a positional draw by repetition or any of the other 3 above mentioned sorts of draw

1/2

☐ **H. van der Heijden & Y. Afek**
☒ **Author's Study 1**

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

How should White take advantage of his extra pawn? **1.Rxa4+!!**

[Not 1.Rc1? Rd8 2.c7 Rc8 3.e4 Kb5 4.e5 Kb6 5.e6 Rxc7 is draw, just in time.]

1...Kxa4 2.c7 Rb3+ 3.Kc2 Rb5

4.c8R!! The Phoenix theme: the captured white rook is reborn! Now it's a rook ending again!

[While 4.c8Q? Rc5+ 5.Qxc5 is stalemate!]

4...Kb4 5.Kd3! Rb7 6.e4 Rd7+ 7.Ke3

The Black king is cut off and the remaining white pawn proceeds to promotion. It starts and ends as a rook ending however not with the same rook!

1-0

☐ **Y. Afek**
☒ **Author's Study 2**

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

How should White face Black's deadly counter threat? No time for quiet moves. A vigorous action is called for! **1.c8N+!**

[1.c8Q? is defeated by Ra1+ 2.Kb5 b1Q+ 3.Kc5 Ra5+ 4.Kd6 Qg6+ 5.Qe6 Qxe6+ 6.Kxe6 Rxa6 pinning and winning.]

followed by promotion. **2.Kf6 Kf4 3.Ke6 Ke4 4.Kd6 Kd4 5.Kc6 Kc4**

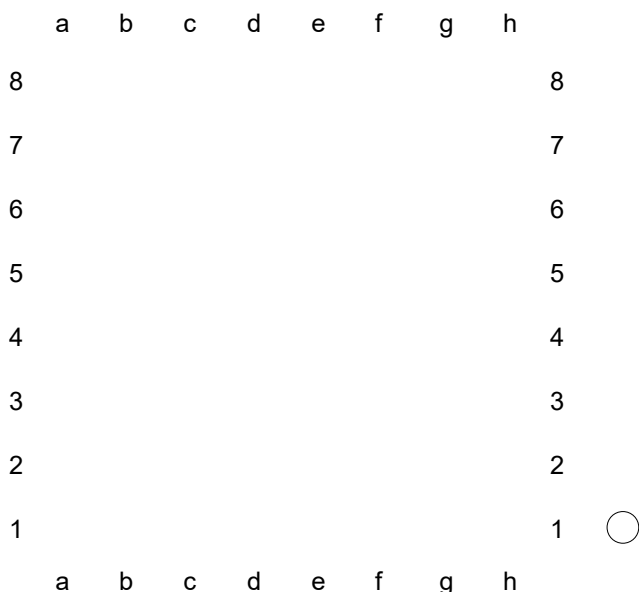
[Checking the white king would leave the black king exposed. 5...Rc1+ 6.Kb5 Rb1+ 7.Ka4 Ra1+ 8.Kb3]

6.Rc8! Now! Here is where the deadly battery should be created! **6...Rxa7**

7.Kb6+ The deadly discovered check finally traps the black rook.

1-0

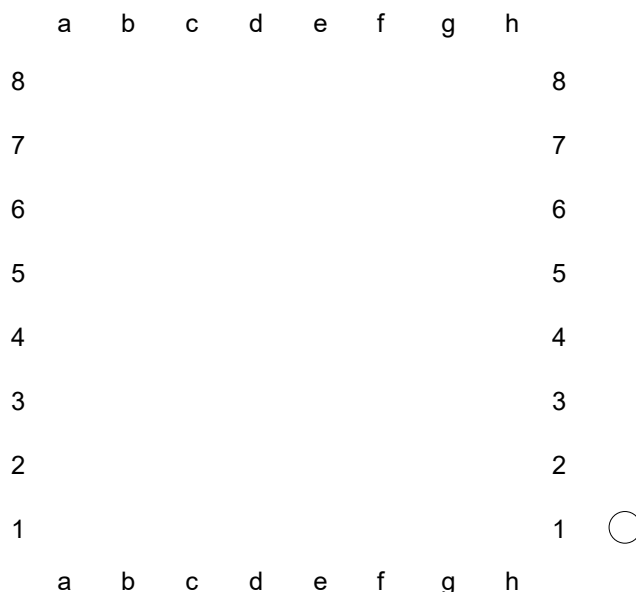
G. Zakhodyakin



Here again a single rook confronts a pair of enemy ones. What are the surviving odds? Solution: Depends on the ability to profit from the king's distress on the eighth rank. 1.Rh6! Rd3! Against the second threat 2. Rh8+ Ke7 3.d6+ winning the other rook. 2.Ke4! Rd2 3.Rh8+ Ke7 4.d6+! Rxd6 5.Rh7+ Ke8 6.Rh8+ Ke7 7.Rh7+ Ke6 8.Rh6+ Ke7 9.Rh7+ Draw by perpetual check!

1/2

G. Nadareishvili



White should first protect his last pawn. And then what? Solution: Then try to profit from the enemy king's position!

1.Rc2+! Ka1!

[1...Ka3 loses with no fight to 2.Rb2! Ka4 3.Kc4 etc.]

2.Rb2 Game over? not as yet! **2...Rc8+! 3.Kd2!**

[3.Kb3? sees the mad rook in action by Rc3+! 4.Ka4 Ra3+! 5.Kb4 Kxb2 draw.]

3...Rd8+ 4.Kc1! Rc8+ 5.Rc2 Rb8

6.Rc8!

[But not 6.Rc7? Ka2 7.Kc2 Ka3 8.Kc3 Ka4 9.Kc4 Ka5 10.Kc5 Ka6 11.Kc6 Ka7 12.Rh7 Rg8 and there is nothing much to play for anymore.]

6...Rxb7 7.Ra8+ and mate next move. **1-0**



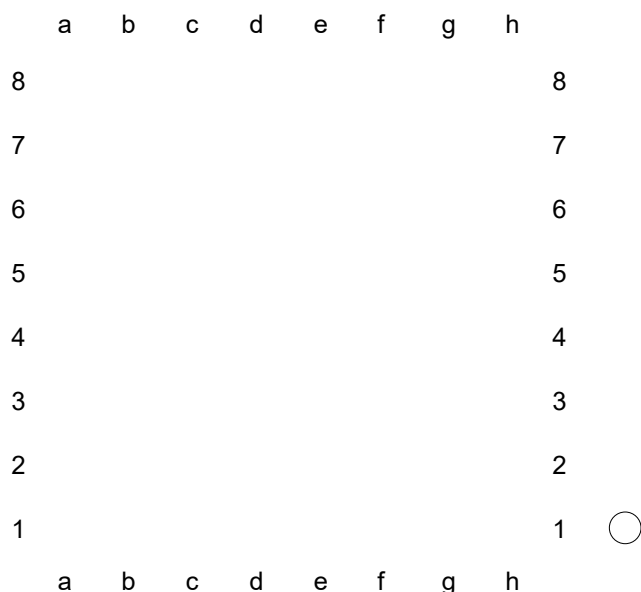
1...Kb8

[1...Ka8 is suicidal owing to 2.Nb6+ Ka7 3.Rc7+ Kb8 4.Rb7#]

2.a7+ Ka8 3.Nb6+ Kxa7 4.Rc7+ Kb8 5.Rc8+! Ka7 6.Rc7+ Kb8 7.Rc8+ Kb7
Luring the Black king to the "b" file allows the final saving combination.
8.Rxc3! Ra1+ 9.Na4 b1Q 10.Rb3+!With a stalemate to follow.
1/2

Y. Afek

Author's Study 3



What is the right way to get your king to the other side of the board? The rook should first improve its position. **1.Ra7+!**

[But not 1.Ra6? g4! 2.Kxg4 Kg6 3.Kf4 Kf6 4.Ke4 Ke6 5.Kd4 Kd6 6.b7+ Kc7 draws]

1...Kh6

[1...Kg8 is rather passive allowing White a comfortable win by 2.Ra6 Kf7 3.Ke5 Ke7 4.Kd5 when the white king is ready to support his pawn.]

2.b7 g4!

[Active defence as after 2...Kg7 3.Ke6 g4 4.Kd7 g3 5.Kc7 g2 6.Ra1+- White is just in time.]

3.Kxg4 Kg6 4.Kf4 Kf6 5.Ke4 Ke6 6.Kd4 Kd6 7.Kc4 Kc6 8.Kb4 Rh8
[8...Kb6 loses to 9.Ra5!+-]

9.Ka3!!

[but not 9.Ka5? Rh5+ 10.Ka6 Rb5 (10...Rh1 11.b8N+!) 11.Ra8 Rb6+ draws.]

9...Rb8 10.Ka4 Rh8

[10...Kb6 is strongly met again by 11.Ra5!]

11.b4

[11.Ra8? fails, as earlier, to Rh4+!=]

11...Rb8 12.Ka5 Rxb7 13.Rxb7 Kxb7 14.Kb5 Finally seizing the opposition and wins.

1-0

Y. Afek

Author's Study 4



How should White face the mighty enemy pawn? **1.Kf2! Kb3 2.Rb1+!**

The only way is to get behind the pawn the fastest possible. **2...Kc2 3.Rb7!!**

[A paradoxical decision. let us find out what's wrong with the natural **3.Rb8? Rc6! 4.Rd8 d2 5.Ke2 Re6+ 6.Kf3 Re8!!** the black rook gains a vital tempo to stay away of the white king in the upcoming K+P vs. K+R ending as follows: **7.Rd7 d1Q+ 8.Rxd1 Kxd1-+** where Black is winning owing to this extra tempo won earlier compared to the chosen line as will become apparent soon.]

3...Rc6 4.Rd7 d2 5.Ke2 Re6+ 6.Kf3 Re7! 7.Rd6! /d5!

[But again not **7.Rd8? Re8!!-+**]

7...d1Q+ 8.Rxd1 Kxd1 9.g4!

The white king will get to f6 in time to win a single tempo that saves the day!

[Precision to the very end! Not **9.Kf4? Rf7+! 10.Ke5 Rg7!** Forces the white king to retreat and Black takes over.]

1/2

Understand the Najdorf Structures - Part 1

The Sicilian Najdorf is by far one of the most popular opening variations. This line combines complex positional ideas and endless tactical resources. That is why studying the Najdorf contributes to one's general chess understanding. In this article I cover 8 of the most important Najdorf structures. It is important to point out that this survey deals with middlegame positions which arise out of White's positional lines against the Najdorf.

The material is structured in the following way

- Explanation of the structure
- Model game
- Test

Structure 1



This structure arises in the variation 6. a4 g6!? as White usually plays a4-a5 at some point, cramping Black's queenside. Since White enjoys a small space advantage, Black needs to exchange some pieces in order to free his position. One common idea for White is to play Nd5. In this case, after Bxd5 exd5, he can put pressure along the e-file. Black should keep the knights on the board, as the squares c5 and e5 are very stable posts. In order to drive the knights back from these squares, White should go for some concessions. The best scenario for Black is leaving White with the light-squared bishop, as this bishop is his worse minor piece.

☐ **Geller, Jakov** 2472
☒ **Sjugirov, Sanan** 2678
 Moscow op-A (6) 05.02.2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 g6!? The practical advantage of this version of Dragon is that White is deprived of the aggressive lines with 0-0-0. **7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Qd2 Nxd4**
 [10...Bd7 11.f3 Rc8 12.Nxc6 Bxc6

13.a5! Pichot, A (2556)-Asis
 Gargatagli, H (2526) Barcelona Rapid
 CAT-ARG 2018 (1.3) 1-0]

11.Bxd4 Be6 12.a5! The inclusion of a4/a6 gives White the opportunity of seizing space on the queenside.
12...Rc8



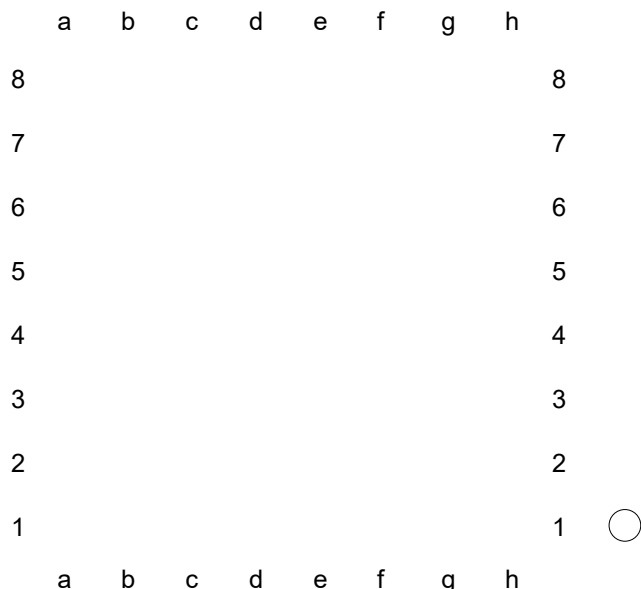
13.Rfd1

[13.Bb6 doesn't really disturb Black. Qe8! 14.Rfd1 Nd7 15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 Qd8=]

13...Qc7 14.Qe3 This kind of position is often chosen by technical players who like to keep a small edge in a risk-free position. He can keep improving his pieces step by step, waiting for his opponent to make a mistake.

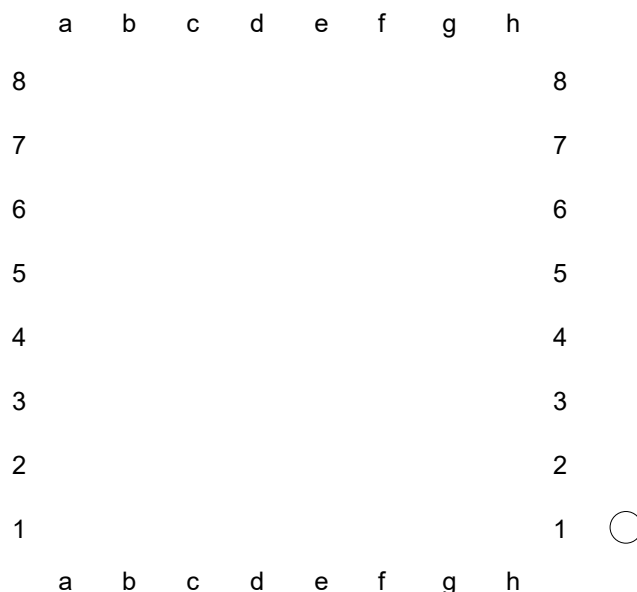
[Another game went 14.h3 but Black followed with a plan which is similar to the text. Rfe8 15.Ra3 Nd7! 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qd4+ Kg8 18.Rd2 Qc5! 19.Qxc5 Rxc5= Adams,M (2715)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2729) 9th London Classic 2017 (6.4) 0-1]

14...Nd7!



Exchanges are welcome for Black as he has some lack of space. In such kind of positions, even the exchange of the dark-squared bishops is okay for Black.

15.Rd2 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 Qc5! 17.Qxc5 Rxc5 18.Nd5 Bxd5!



The last important exchange. The endgame is equal. **19.exd5 Ne5 20.b3?!** This move is unnecessary and positionally bad. There's absolutely no reason for White to place his pawns on the same square as his bishop, leaving a lot of weak dark-squares on the queenside. This is the beginning of the problems.

[20.c3 was the right move Nc4 21.Bxc4 Rxc4 22.Re2 Re8 23.Re3 Rc5 24.Rd3 Rec8 25.Kf1=]

20...Rc3! Blocking the queenside.

[White was probably hoping for 20...Rfc8 21.f4 Nd7 22.c4 with nice prospects on the queenside.]

21.f4 Nd7 22.Re1

[22.Bc4 "traps" the rook, but White is not able to take advantage of it Rc8 23.Re1 Kf8 24.Kf2 Rc5 25.Ra1 b5! 26.axb6 Nxb6=]

22...Rc5 23.Ra1 Rc3 24.Re1 Re8!

25.Bc4 Kf8! After defending e7, Black is ready to make progress in queenside.

26.Kf2

[26.Rde2 b5! 27.axb6 Nxb6 28.Bxa6 Nxd5 29.g3 Nb4=]

26...Rc8 27.Re3

[The move 27.Rde2 doesn't work due to b5! 28.axb6 Nxb6 29.Bxa6 (29.Rxe7 Nxc4 30.bxc4 R8xc4 \bar{r}) 29...R8c7 \bar{r} and Black regains the pawn keeping an annoying pressure on the queenside.]

27...Rxe3 28.Kxe3 Rc5 The pawn that once was the cause of White's easier play is lost. **29.Rd1 Rxa5 \bar{r}** Sjugirov converts his advantage with an excellent play. **30.Kd4 b5 31.Be2 b4! 32.Kc4**

[32.Bc4 Nb6 33.g3 Rc5]

32...Rc5+! 33.Kxb4 a5+ 34.Ka4

[34.Ka3 Rxc2 35.Bf3 Nc5-+]

34...Nb6+ 35.Ka3 Nxd5-+ 36.g3 Ne3

37.Rc1 g5!? Black creates a passed pawn in the centre.

[37...Rxc2 38.Rxc2 Nxc2+ 39.Ka4 Nd4 40.Bc4 e6-+]

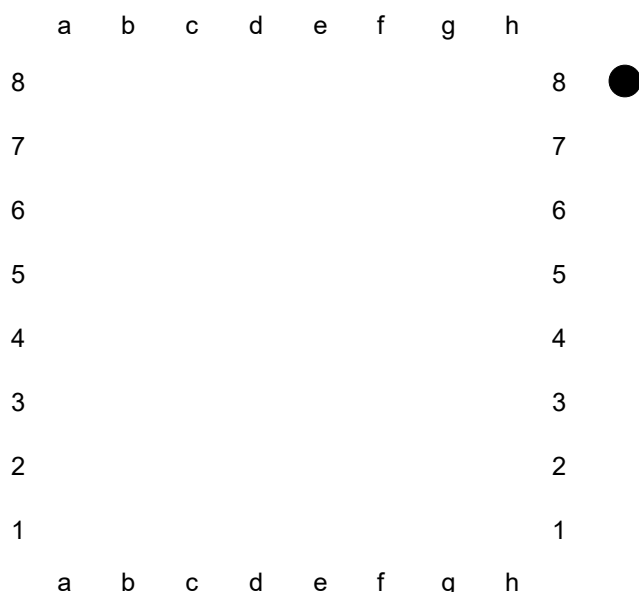
38.fxg5 Rxg5 39.c3 Rc5 40.Bf3 Ke8

41.Ka4 Kd8 42.Rb1? Rxc3 43.Kxa5

d5 44.Kb5 d4 45.b4 Nc4

0-1

Exercise



It seems that White has good prospects advancing the passed pawn. How should

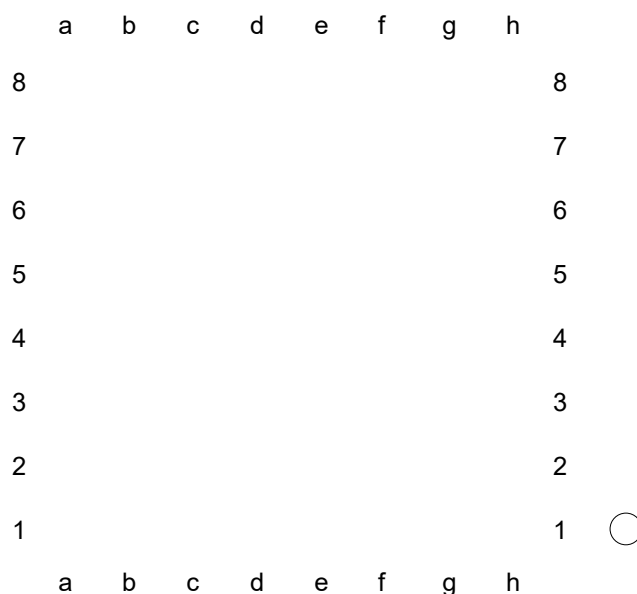
Black play? **33...Nc7! 34.b5**

[34.Rc8 Rb7 35.Kf2 Kf6 36.Ke3 e5 seems holdable for Black]

34...Ra8! 35.Rb7

[35.Rxa8 Nxa8 and the knight blocks both pawns 36.c4 dxc4 37.Bxc4 Kf6 38.Kf2 Nb6 39.Bb3 Ke7 40.Ke3 Kd6 41.Kd4 f6=]

35...Ne8!



Black manages to nicely coordinate his pieces in this endgame. **36.c4?**

[36.b6 was better Ra1+ 37.Kf2 Rb1 38.Ke3 (38.Rb8 Nf6) 38...Rb3 39.Kd4 Nd6 40.Rb8 Nf5+ 41.Kc5 Rxc3+ 42.Kb4 Rc2 ∞ although things are very unclear now]

36...Nd6! 37.Rc7 dxc4 38.Bxc4 Ra1+

39.Kf2 Rc1 and the only way to avoid big material losses for White is giving up the passed pawn: **40.b6 Nxc4 41.b7**

Rb1 42.Rxc4 Rxb7 \bar{r} Adams,M (2715)-Nepomniachtchi, I (2729) 9th London Classic 2017 (6.4) 0-1 Black managed to win the rook endgame -

Structure 2



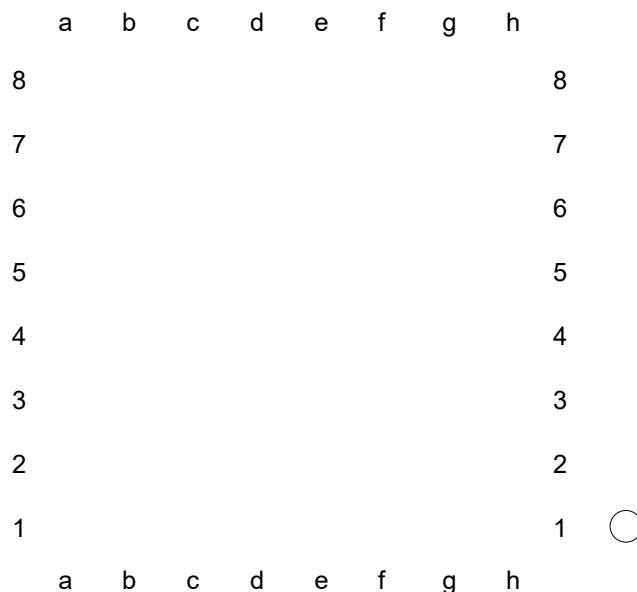
Now we have a typical Najdorf structure in which Black plays e7-e5 in order to get more space in the center and easier development. The main drawback of the advance e7-e5 could be explained by the weakness of the d5-square. In this particular case, White tried to exploit Black's b7-b5 by means of a2-a4 which provoked b5-b4. The position of White's g-pawn does not make a big difference from a structural point of view.

Nevertheless, White's light-squared bishop is not optimally placed on g2. Besides the usual pressure on d6 and playing for the d5-square, White can try f2-f4 to create some tension in the center or to provoke weaknesses in Black's camp. Black has counter chances as he can exert pressure along the c-file. Usually, f7-f6 is a good response to f2-f4, keeping the center solid and preparing to play a timely d6-d5, which would free his position. The a5-square is also important and both

sides know it: If White plays a4-a5, both Black pawns on queenside will be weak. On the other hand, if Black manages to play a6-a5, his queenside will be safe.

☐ **Hou,Yifan** **2652**
☒ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2750**
 Moscow FIDE GP (5) 16.05.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.g3 e5 7.Nb3
 [7.Nde2 and]
 [7.Nf3!? are other options]
7...Be7



8.Bg2

[8.a4 prevents b7-b5 but gives Black another nice option of development Nc6! 9.Bg2 Nb4! This is a very important idea to remember. If White plays a2-a4 with the knight still on b8, Black can go for Nc6-b4, increasing the control over the d5-square. 10.Bg5 Be6! 11.0-0 Rc8! ;Guo,A (2219)-Quintiliano Pinto,R (2451) SPICE Cup

Open 2017 (4.18) 0-1 The quick development of Black's queenside gives him a nice position. The d5-square is well protected and Black retains his queenside pressure.]

8...0-0 9.0-0 b5!?

[9...Be6 is the most played]

10.a4! This is a typical way to exploit Black's overextended queenside. The advance a2-a4 works very well when Black is underdeveloped. **10...b4**

11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Qxd5 Ra7 13.Be3 Be6!

[13...Rd7? 14.Na5!± leaves Black in an unpleasant position]

14.Qd3

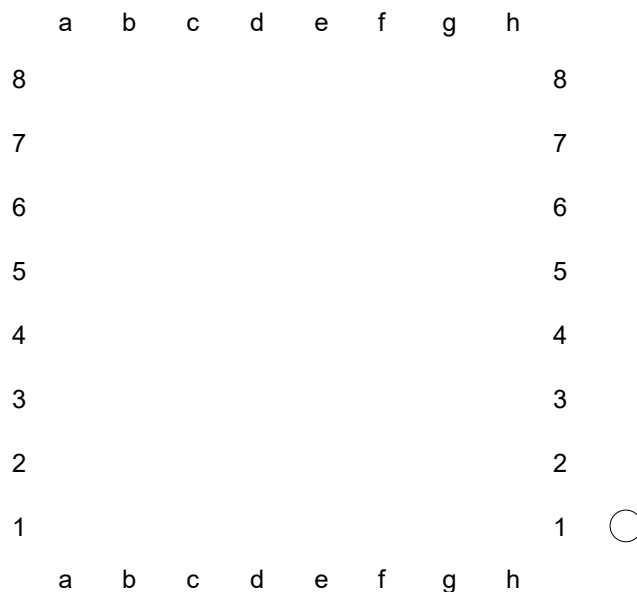
[14.Qd2 is not dangerous for Black Rb7 15.f4 Nd7=]

14...Ra8!? Maybe this is the simplest way to solve all the problems.

[14...Rb7 seems slightly inferior as Black has some problems to develop the b8-knight now. 15.Rfc1! Qc7 16.c3! a very strong move Bc4 (16...Bxb3 17.cxb4) 17.Qc2 Be6 18.Qd1 Qd8 19.Bf1! bxc3 20.Rxc3 Bg5? This usually favorable exchange does not work in the concrete position. 21.Bxg5 Qxg5 22.Bc4! Bxc4 23.Rxc4 Nd7 24.Rac1± ;Ponomarev, R (2734)-Safarli,E (2620) Istanbul ol (Men) 40th 2012 (10.2) 1-0 White has a pleasant edge due to Black's weaknesses.]

15.f4 The threat is f4-f5, disturbing the well placed bishop on e6.

[15.a5 seems natural and good, but since a6 is defended now, Black simply continues with Nd7 16.Nd2!?avoiding the forced exchanges after Nc5 Qc7 17.Rfc1 Rfc8 18.c3 Nc5!19.Qe2 Qb7= Atabayev,M (2493) -Keliros,A (2384) Budapest FS03 GM 2015



1-0]

15...Qc7 16.Nd2

[16.Rfc1 Rc8! prevents the idea c2-c3.]

16...a5! Now the queenside pawns are safe. **17.Rf2!?** White keeps some pressure along the f-file and vacates the f1-square to execute the maneuver Nf1-e3.

[17.f5 Bc8!]

17...f6 This is the most solid way to keep the center intact.

[17...exf4!? also gave Black a nice position 18.gxf4 Nd7 19.Bd4 (19.f5? Ne5±) 19...Bh4! 20.Re2 Rac8 21.Nf3 Bf6 22.Rd2 Bc4 23.Qe3 Rfe8± Smirin,I (2637)-Belov,V (2561) Biel MTO op 41st 2008



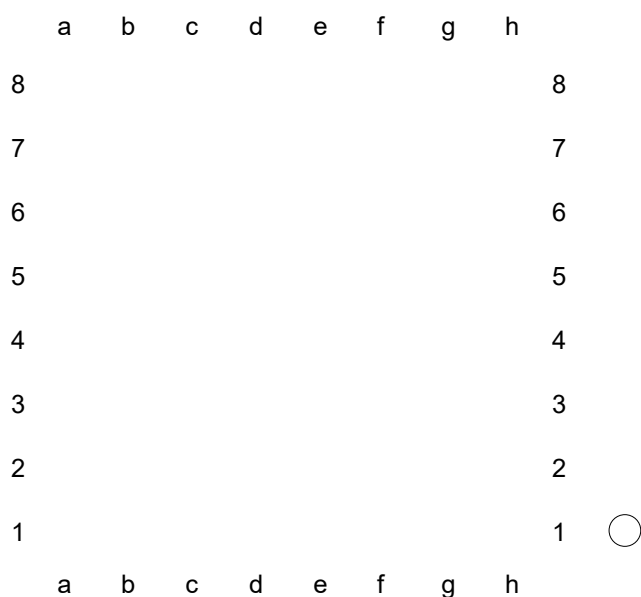
0-1]

18.f5?! I don't like this decision. Now, Black enjoys a stability in the center. Later on, he can proceed with his queenside play.

[18.Bh3!? was an interesting idea Bf7 (18...Bxh3? 19.Qd5+) 19.Rd1 Na6 20.Nb3 with chances for both sides.

The tension in the center makes difficult for Black to find a constructive plan]

18...Bf7 19.Rc1 Na6!



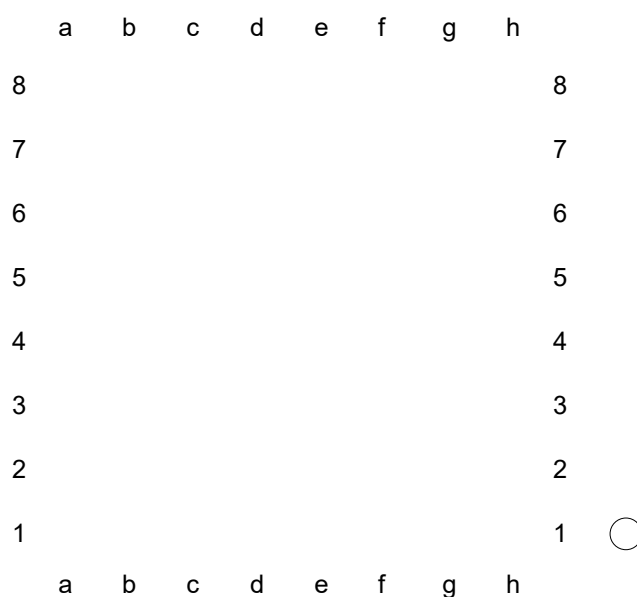
Black has a nice position and starts thinking about his own plans: Nc5 or a well prepared d6-d5 break. **20.c4 bxc3!?** The most ambitious.

[20...Nc5 is nice, but probably just equal]

21.Qxc3 Qb8 22.Rff1?!]

[Δ22.Nc4 Nb4 23.b3 Rd8]

22...Nb4! Suddenly, Black has the threats of Na2 and d6-d5. **23.Qc7 Qe8!**



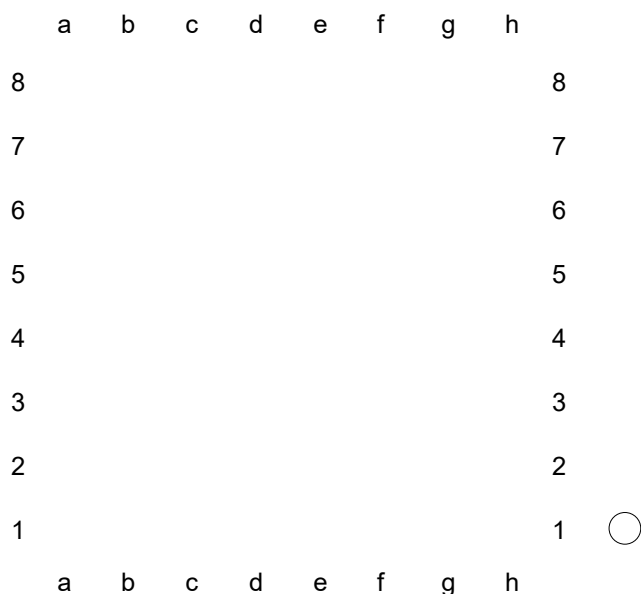
Grischuk keeps more pieces on the board in order to make White's decisions harder. **24.Qb7**

[24.Nc4? Rc8]

24...Rb8 25.Qa7 Ra8 26.Qb7 Rb8 27.Qa7 d5! Finally, Black opens the centre and takes the initiative. **28.exd5**

[28.Qxa5 d4 29.Bf2 Nd3 30.Rc2 Bd8! surprisingly, the queen has not squares 31.Qa6 Nb4-+]

28...Nxd5



29.Bc5? Hou blunders in a position that was already difficult.

[29.Bxd5 was the best chance for White Bxd5 30.Qxa5 Ba8!

White will suffer trying to defend the light squares, but he has chances]

29...Ra8 30.Qb7 Rb8 31.Qa7 Ra8 32.Qb7 Bxc5+! 33.Rxc5 Rb8



34.Qxf7+ Desperate, but other options were not that impressive.

[For example 34.Qa7 Ne3! 35.Rf2 Rxb2 and Black is simply winning 36.Qxa5 (36.Rxa5 Nd1! 37.Re2 Qd8-+) 36...Nxb2 37.Kxb2 Ra2 38.Rb5 Qc6+ 39.Kh3 e4-+]

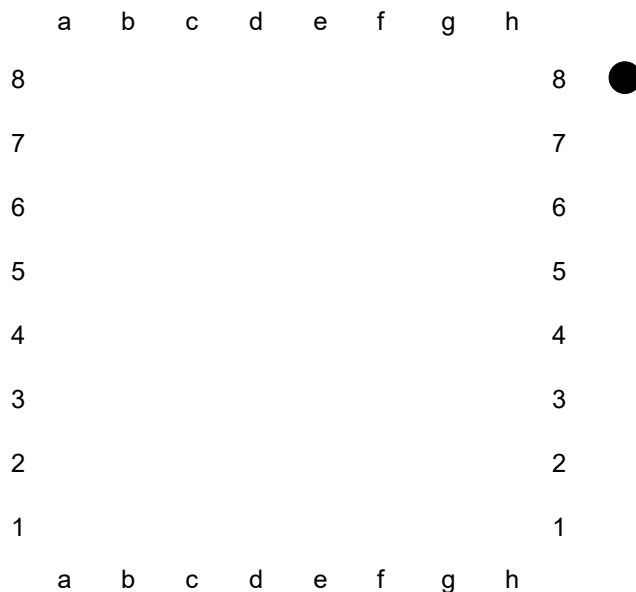
34...Rxf7 35.Bxd5 Kh8 36.Rfc1 [36.Bxf7 Qxf7 37.Rxa5 Qc7 38.Rb5 Rxb5 39.axb5 Qc2-+]

36...Rd7 37.Bc6 Qd8 38.Bxd7 Qxd7 39.Ne4 h5 An impressive win by Grischuk, showing that even in such apparently closed positions Black is able to take the initiative if White is not careful.

0-1

Exercise

White is planning to transfer his knight to the d5-square. How should Black react to this idea? **22...Rd8 23.Nf1**

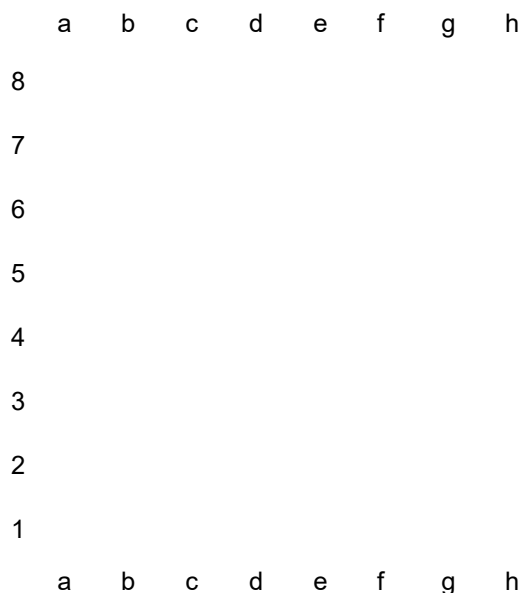


Rbd7! White has some problems with the second rank now. **24.b3**

[24.Rc2 Bf8! 25.Ne3 b3! and Black manages to invade via d2.]

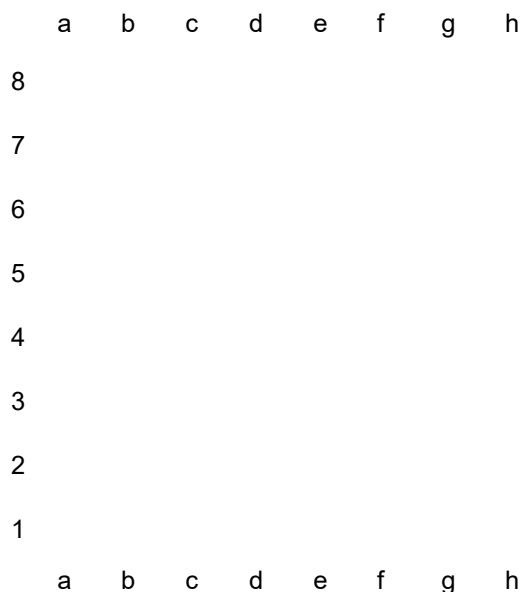
24...Rd3! and Black has an advantage. For example: **25.Rd1!?** [25.Rcb1 Qd6-+]

25...Rxd1!



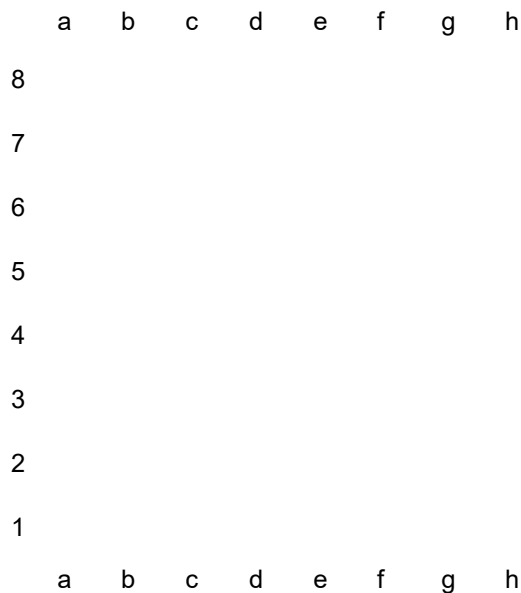
[25...Rxb3?? 26.Rxd8+ Bxd8
27.Qd1!+-]

26.Rxd1 Rxd1 27.Qxd1 Qd6!



The exchange of the queens is practically forced since the black queen is ready to invade White's camp.
28.Qxd6 Bxd6 and Black wins a pawn.

Structure 3



Compared to the previous structure, Blacks' queenside is safer now, but White has the option of playing a2-a4 with a transposition. Another possibility is to avoid the pressure along the c-file with c2-c3. The tournament practice has shown that Black should keep at least one minor piece on the board because positions with only major pieces tend to be more pleasant for White. In this specific structure, White will likely have a bishop on g2. That is why it is good for Black to keep his light-squared bishop on e6. The next game features an interesting resource for Black: sacrifice the d6-pawn in order to get a nice initiative.

□ Navara,D... 2745

■ Wojtaszek,R... 2744

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2018 (3.1) 21.04.18

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.g3 e5 7.Nde2 Be7 8.Bg2 b5 9.Nd5 A very simple way to occupy the d5-square and improve the e2-knight. This line promises a tiny advantage for White. As Wojtaszek shows, however, Black has sufficient counterplay.

[9.a4 is harmless here because after b4 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Qxd5 Ra7 12.Be3 Be6! 13.Qd2 Rb7

White does not have a good way to improve his e2-knight.]

[9.h3 used to be the main idea Nbd7! Black has a good reason to keep the c8-bishop on his initial square. 10.g4 b4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 (12.Qxd5 Qc7! and the rook is taboo) 12...a5

Now the bishop will occupy the diagonal a6-f1. After 13.0-0 h5!

Alekseev, E (2708)-Dominguez Perez, L (2708) Biel GM 41st 2008

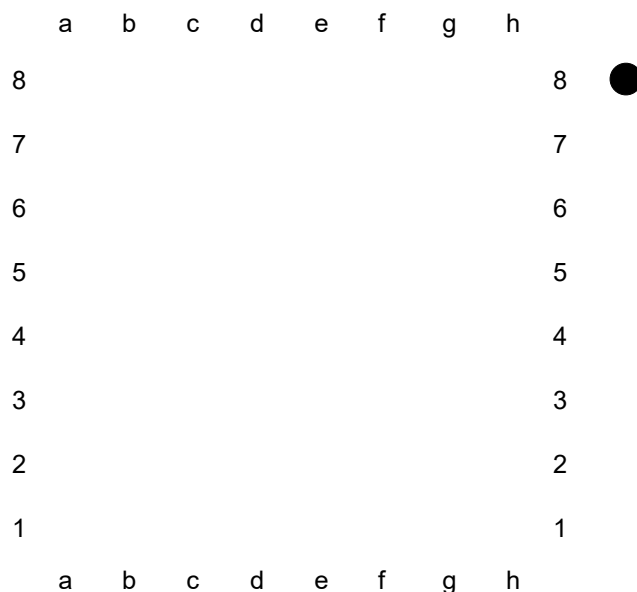


0-1 is an unexpected way to take the initiative for Black. I think this is a good reason to prefer the text instead of the old-fashioned h3-g4 plan. Black won a nice game in]

9...Nbd7!

[With a pawn on b5, the idea 9...Nxd5 10.Qxd5 Ra7 does not work very well since after 11.Be3 Rb7 12.Qd3! White can improve the knight]

10.Nec3



Nb6! Black is planning to exchange all the knights, thus making it harder for White to occupy the d5-square.

[10...Bb7 11.a4! gave White a pleasant edge in many games]

11.Nxe7

[11.Nxf6+ was played by Giri Bxf6 12.0-0 0-0 13.b3 Giri, A (2782)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2789) GCT Blitz YourNextMove 2018 (2.5) 0-1 Qc7 14.Qd2 Be6 15.Ba3 Rfc8!

with a nice counterplay for Black.]
11...Qxe7 12.Bg5



0-0 Again, the most precise move.
Wojtaszek improves on his previous
game against Giri.

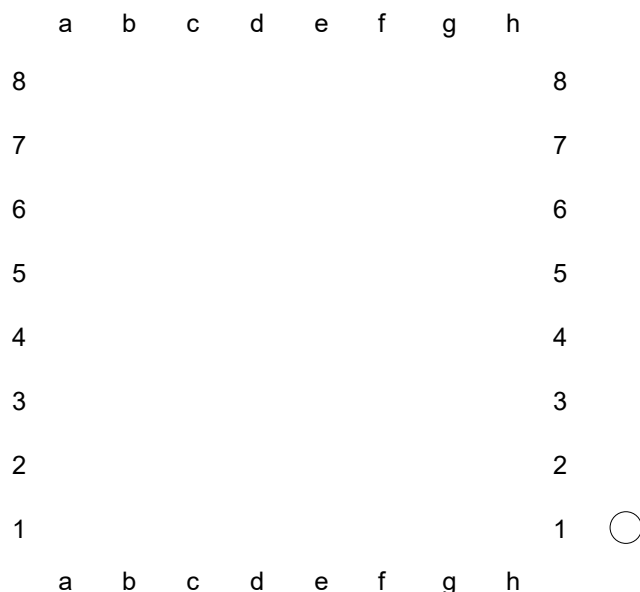
[12...h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.a4! bxa4
(14...b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Ra7
17.Qc6+ Bd7 18.Qb6±) 15.Nxa4
Nxa4 16.Rxa4 ; Giri,A (2784)-
Wojtaszek,R (2723) Qatar Masters op
2015



1-0 White's better pawn structure
provides a small but long-lasting
advantage -]

13.0-0

[13.a4 gives nothing for White now b4
14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5
Bg4! and Black is fine]
[13.Qf3 Be6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Qxf6
gxf6 was also harmless 16.0-0-0 b4!
17.Nd5?! (17.Ne2 Rfd8 18.b3 a5
19.Rd2 Kf8=) 17...Nxd5! 18.exd5
Bf5 ;Karjakin,S (2781) -Vachier
Lagrave,M (2796) Norway Chess 5th
2017



1/2 and Black had even an easier
game due the pressure on c2 -]
13...h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 Black has no
problems here, as his remaning minor
pieces are ready to fight for the d5-
square. **15.a4** It is difficult to imagine
how can White create some unbalance
without this move. Nevertheless, even
this move does not give an advantage.

[15.b3 Bb7 16.Qd2 Rac8
seems totally fine for Black]
15...b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Qxd5
Black's idea now is very nice to
remember: **17...Be6! 18.Qxd6 a5!±**

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8								
7								
6								
5								
4								
3								
2								
1								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

I think that sacrificing the d6-pawn is a very interesting idea from a practical point of view: Instead of continuously caring about its defense, Black gives the pawn away in order to obtain open files and some tempos to attack the misplaced white queen. **19.Qb6**

Other options give Black good counterplay as well.

[19.Qd2 Rac8 20.Rac1 Rfd8 21.Qe3 Qe7! 22.f4!? (22.Qb6 Qc5! 23.Qxc5 Rxc5 regains the pawn at least) 22...Bd7! 23.b3 Bg4! and White even has problems already 24.c3 bxc3 25.Rxc3 Qb4! 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.fxe5 Rc3 28.Qf4 Be6+]
[19.c3 bxc3 20.bxc3 Rac8 21.Rfc1 Rfd8 22.Qb6 Rd2!+]

19...Rfc8 20.Rfc1 Qe7! 21.Qe3

[21.h3 Qc5! and Black regains the pawn 22.Qxc5 Rxc5 23.Bf1 Rac8]

21...Rc5 The pressure on c2 will prevent White from making any progress. **22.Bf1 Rac8**

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8								
7								
6								
5								
4								
3								
2								
1								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

23.Ba6

[23.Bd3 Bc4! 24.Rd1 (24.Bxc4 Rxc4 25.c3 Qc7 wins the pawn back.) 24...Bxd3 25.cxd3 Rc2 26.d4!? (26.Rab1 Qe6; 26.Rac1 Qd7 27.Rxc2 Rxc2 28.b3 Qd4!+) 26...exd4 27.Qxd4 R8c4! 28.Qd8+ Qxd8 29.Rxd8+ Kh7]

[23.c3 Qc7 24.Ba6 bxc3! 25.bxc3 (25.Bxc8? cxb2+) 25...Ra8 26.Bb5 Rc8 27.Ra3 Bc4! 28.Bxc4 Rxc4 and Black has nice pressure.]

23...R8c6!

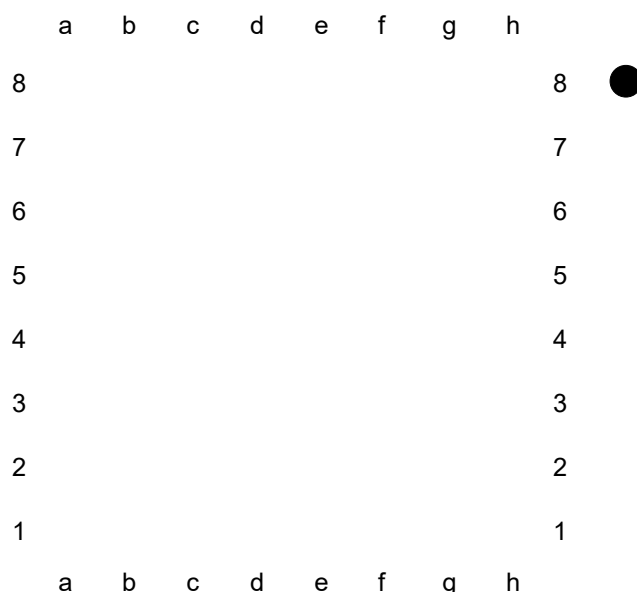
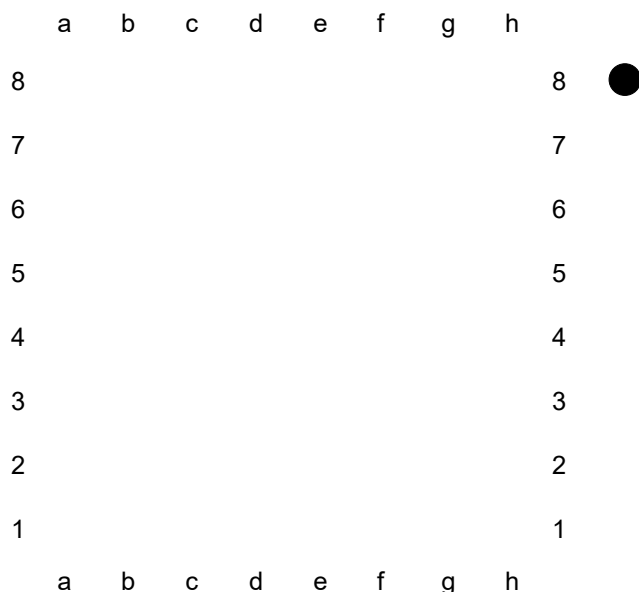
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8								
7								
6								
5								
4								
3								
2								
1								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

14.Nf3 Nb6 15.0-0 N8d7 16.Rad1

Rc8 White pieces are not well placed and Black has a more promising position.

Structure 4 - With 0-0-0

Exercise



How should Black arrange his pieces in this position? **13...Nfd7!** Avoiding the threat of Nf5.

[13...Nbd7? allowed 14.Nf5! Nc5 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Bg5 Qe6 17.Qe3

and White had a small advantage

Nh5?! 18.Rd1 f6 19.Bh6 Rac8

20.0-0 Rc7 21.Rd2± ;Safarli,E

(2676)-Mansner,H (2278) 34th ECC

Open 2018 (1.3) 1-0]

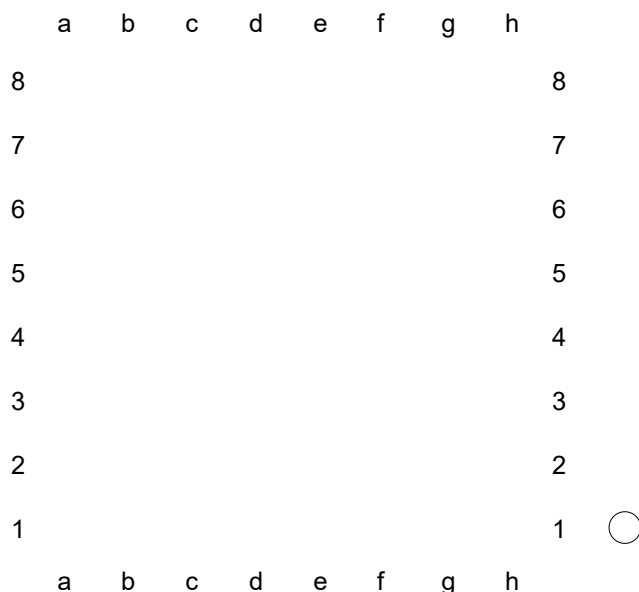
This is a regular structure that arises in the 6.Be2 line. The d5-square is, of course, a recurrent motif, but the main detail here is the king's placement. In the lines in which White plays 0-0-0, he has some additional ideas, as a pawn storm on in

.pla

☐ **Chirivi Castiblanco,Angie** 2037
Lizeth
☒ **Rodriguez Rueda,Paula** 2183
Andrea
 COL-ch U20 Girls (3) 05.04.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Bg5 The main idea of this solid line consists of fighting for the d5-square.

8...Be6 9.Bxf6! White should play this before ...Nbd7, in order to make Black waste some time to organize his pieces again. **9...Bxf6**



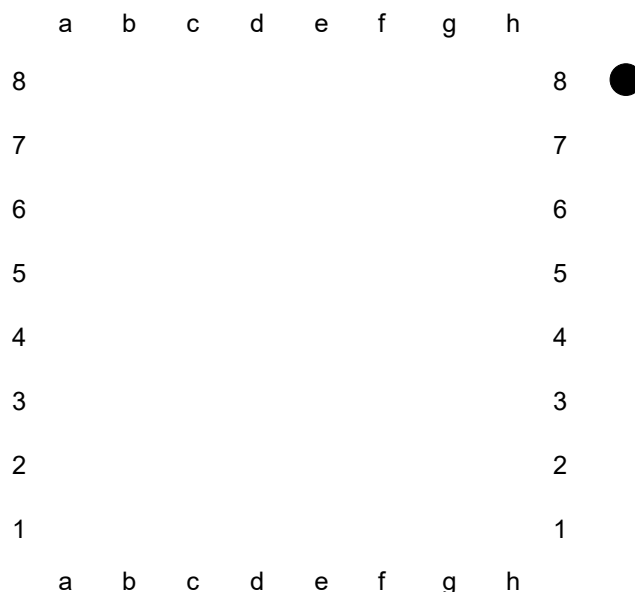
10.Qd3

[10.Nd5 This move removes the pressure from d6 and Black can continue with the development. Nd7 11.Qd3 Bg5! preventing 0-0-0 12.Rd1 0-0 13.c3 Kh8 14.0-0 Rc8 15.Bf3 g6 ;Kotsur,P (2548)-Gelfand,B (2738) Wch Blitz 6th 2012 (24) 0-1 and Black had good prospects on the kingside -]

10...Be7! 11.0-0-0 Nd7 12.g3

By means of f2-f4-f5 White wants to increase the control of d5. This idea is the main justification of White's 0-0-0.

Black should now organize counterplay on the queenside. **12...b5! 13.f4**
 [13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.Qxd5 Taghizadeh, R (2259)-Liang,A (2383) North American op 25th 2015



1/2 Ra7!? 15.Kb1 0-0 16.f4 Qb6 and Black is fine]

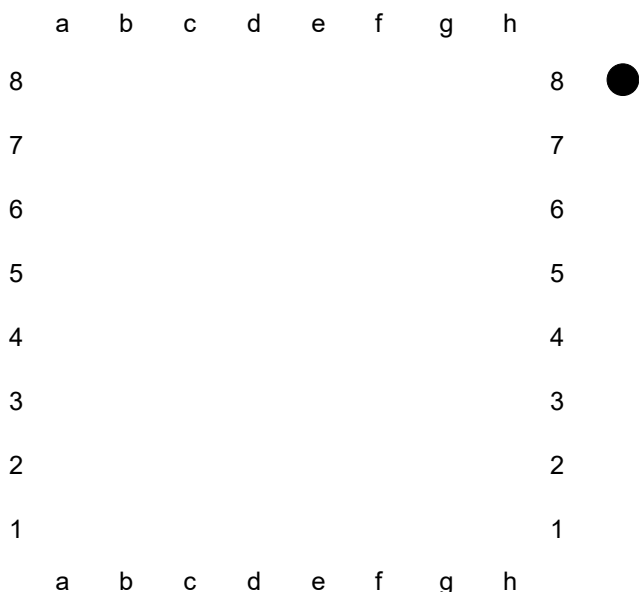
13...0-0

[Black could leave the king in the center and continue to concentrate forces on the queenside: 13...Rc8! 14.f5 Bc4 15.Qf3 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 (16.Nxe2 b4!) and here the thematic 16...Rxc3!? offers a typical compensation for Black 17.bxc3 Qc7 18.Rd3 Nb6 Black's play is very simple in such positions. He should follow with simple moves such as ... 0-0, ...Rc8, and ...Nc4 or ...Na4. There are no open files for the white rooks while the c1-king will be vulnerable in a long-term.]

14.f5 Bc4 15.Qf3 Bxe2

[15...Nb6 or]
 [15...Rc8 were more natural]

16.Qxe2 Nb6 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Rxd5



Strategically speaking, White reached the ideal piece configuration - good knight versus bad bishop. The only remaining task is maneuvering the knight from b3 to d5 after which White would be able to claim a clear advantage. But in practice, things are not so simple since the white king is vulnerable on the queenside. That is why Black's counterplay is very dangerous. **18...Qc7 19.Kb1**

[19.Nd2 Rfc8 20.Nf1 Bg5+! 21.Kb1 Qc4! is a nice example of White's practical difficulties]

19...Rfc8 20.h4 Rab8

[20...Qc4!? 21.Qxc4 Rxc4 22.Re1 g6≠]

21.Qd2 Qc4

[Δ21...Qb6]

22.Re1 Ra8 Black has also some difficulties to advance the pawns.

23.Rd3 Qc7 24.Rc3 Qb6 25.Rxc8+ Rxc8 26.Nc1 White starts the knight's journey. **26...a5! 27.Nd3** White clearly underestimated the counterplay.

[27.a3 b4 28.axb4 axb4 29.Qd3 Ra8 30.Qb3 Ra5!]

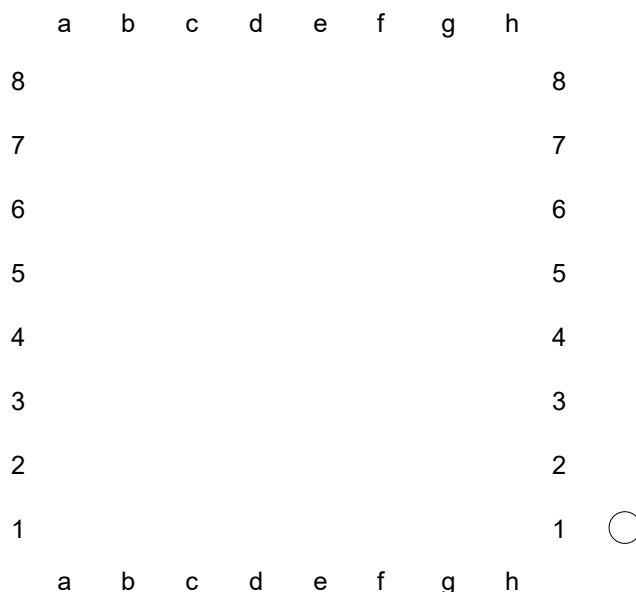
27...b4! While White wastes time maneuvering the knight, Black should take active actions on the queenside.

28.Nf2

[28.b3!? was a nice try to stop Black's queenside play. Rc3 29.Rd1 Qd4 30.Qg2 Qe3∞]

28...a4 29.Ng4 b3! The White's plan was too slow, and Black's counterplay made the position very unclear. **30.axb3** [Δ30.Ne3 bxc2+ 31.Nxc2 d5! 32.exd5 Rb8 33.Qc3 Qb5↑ 34.Rd1 e4!]

30...axb3 31.cxb3 Qxb3 32.Ne3 Ra8↑



Black's initiative is actually very dangerous. **33.Nd5?!** Apparently White still doesn't understand the dangers of his position.

[33.Qd5! was the right move Qa4 34.Rc1! Qa1+ 35.Kc2 Rc8+ 36.Nc4 Qa6 37.Kb1 and White holds, despite the fact that his position is still risky.]

33...Bd8 34.Re3

[34.Nc3 Ba5! seems unpleasant for White]

34...Qa2+ 35.Kc1 Qa1+ 36.Kc2 Rc8+ 37.Rc3 Rb8 The defence seems

extremely unpleasant for White, and it forces him to expose his position even more. **38.b4**

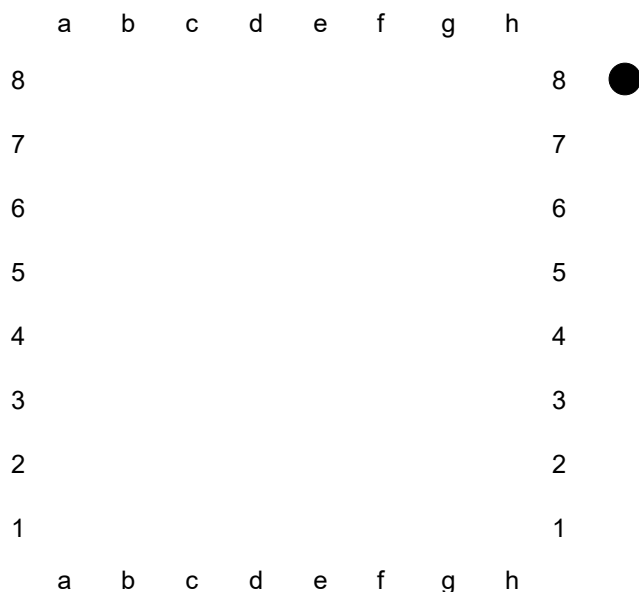
[38.Rb3 loses a pawn after Qa4 39.Qd3 Rxb3 40.Qxb3 Qxe4+]

38...Ra8! 39.Kd3 Qg1! The invasion of opponent's position is precisely conducted by Black. **40.Qe3 Qb1+ 41.Rc2?**

[41.Kc4 would have been the only chance, although it doesn't give many hopes.]

41...Ra3+ 42.Nc3 Qxb4+ 43.Ke2 Ba5 44.Qa7 Qc4+ 45.Kf2 h6 46.Rb2 Qxc3 0-1

Exercise



Black intends to play Qc7 in order to continue his development, with Rc8 and a possible initiative in queenside. Having this in mind White played White's queen disturbs the coordination of Black's forces. How should Black

solve this problem? **16...Re8!**

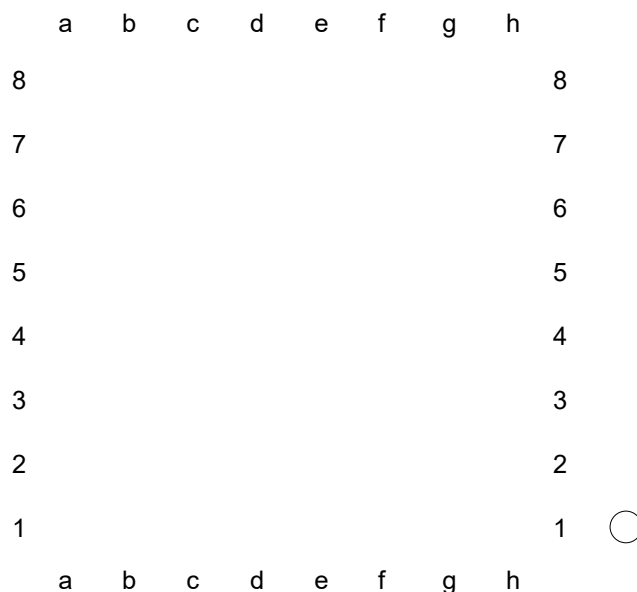
Suddenly the queen is in trouble. **17.c4?** Overlooking the idea.

[17.a3 Bf8 18.Qc6 (18.Rd2 Re6! very subtle and yet a strong move)

18...Qb8 19.Qc3 Rd8]

[17.Qc6 Qb8 18.Qc3 Rc8 19.Qd3 Rd8]

17...Bf8!



18.Qc6?

[18.cxb5 Re7 19.Qc6 Rc7 20.Qb6 Rc1+!-+]

[18.c5 Re7 19.Qc6 (19.Qb6 Qxb6 20.cxb6 Rb7+) 19...Rc7 20.Qb6 Nd7+]

18...Qb8! 19.Na5 Qa7! The weak dark squares in White's camp start telling.

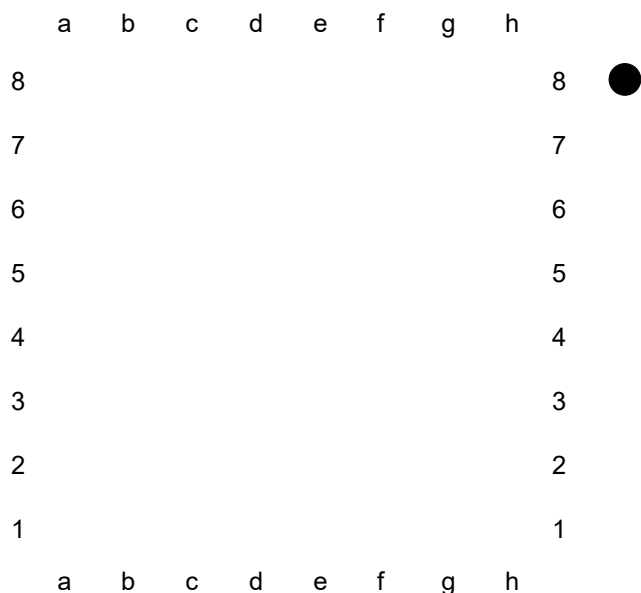
20.c5

[20.cxb5 axb5 21.b4 d5-+]

[20.Qb7 Qf2 21.Rd2 Rab8 22.Qxa6 Ra8 23.Qxb5 Reb8 24.Qa4 Qc5-+]

20...dxc5 Duda,J (2579) -Yu,Y (2668) Tromsø ol (Men) 41st 2014 (11.3) 0-1

Structure 5 - With 0-0



We have the same structure with only one important difference - the white king is on the kingside. Nevertheless, playing on the queenside remains Black's main plan. As mentioned in structure 3, Black should keep at least one minor piece on the board.

Nisipeanu,LD... **2672**

Giri,A... **2782**
 46th GM 2018 (4.1) 18.07.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Bxf6! Bxf6 10.Qd3 Be7! 11.Rd1 White intends to play more solid with 0-0. **11...Nd7 12.Nd5!** This should be played now or Black would continue with ...Nf6 or ...Nb6 and the Nd5 jump would not be a serious worry anymore. **12...Bxd5 13.Qxd5 b5!?** N Giri's novelty,

aiming at a quick expansion on the queenside.

[13...Qc7 is the most played, also with good results for Black]

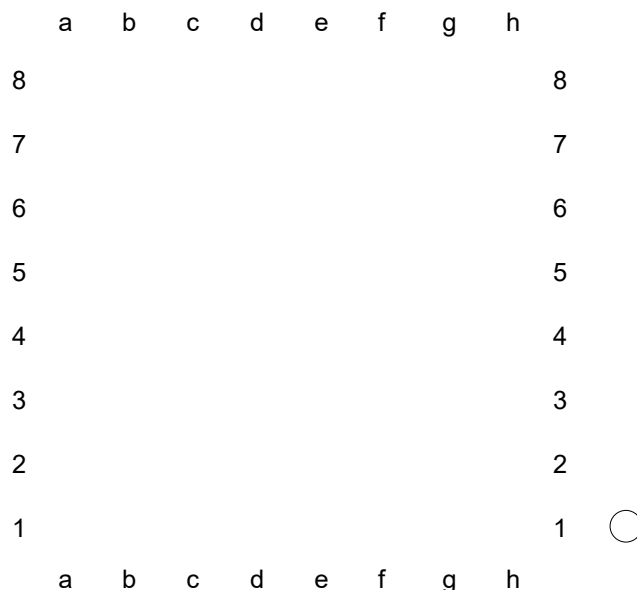
14.Bg4?! Trying to disturb Black's development, but as we'll see, White is the one who will end with badly placed pieces.

[14.0-0 0-0 15.Qb7 (15.c3 Qc7 16.Qd3 Rad8 seems equal) 15...Nf6! 16.f3 Re8! Played with the idea ...Bf8 followed by ... Re7 when the b7-queen would be in trouble.]

14...Nf6! As we know, it is advisable for Black to keep his knight on the board.

[14...0-0 15.Bxd7 Qxd7 16.0-0 it is simply unpleasant for Black]

15.Qc6+ Kf8 16.Bh3 g6 17.0-0 Kg7



Black managed to establish a perfect coordination in his camp while White has a queen and a bishop which are misplaced. **18.Rfe1 Ra7!**

The c8-square is not available, but still Giri finds a nice way to put a rook on the c-file. **19.Qc3**

[19.Re2 Qb8 is also good for Black]

19...Qb6



20.Qe3 This is practically a confession that the opening didn't go well for White.

[Even after 20.Re2 White struggles to find a constructive plan. For example, Rd8 21.a3 a5 22.g3 b4 23.axb4 axb4 24.Qe1 h5 25.Bg2 Rc8 \bar{f}]

20...Qxe3 21.Rxe3 a5 Black is already playing for an advantage. **22.a3**

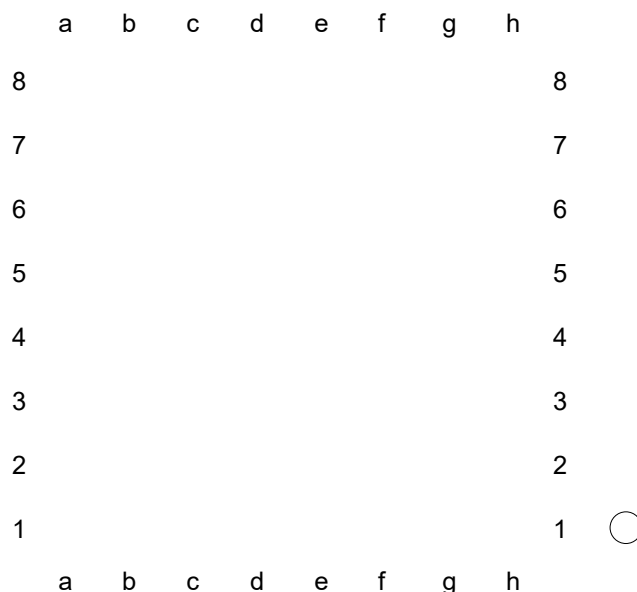
[22.g3 a4 23.Nc1 Rc7 24.c3 Rd8 25.Bg2 a3! 26.b3 Rdc8 27.Ne2 g5! 28.Red3 g4 \bar{f}]

22...Rb8 \uparrow It is quite impressive how easily Giri managed to neutralize White's play in the opening and get a nice initiative on the queenside. **23.c3**

[23.g3 a4 24.Nd2 b4 25.Nc4 bxa3 26.bxa3 Ra6 27.Bf1 Rc6 \bar{f}]

23...b4! 24.axb4 axb4 25.c4 Rc7

26.Nd2 This move is designed to stabilize the queenside by means of b2-b3. **26...Ne8!**



A very nice idea by Giri. With his last move, he is planning to improve the bishop. **27.Ree1**

[27.b3 Ra8 leaves Black with a great advantage. 28.Rd3 Nf6 29.f3 Rc6 30.g3 Bd8! \bar{f}]

27...Bg5 28.Nf3

[28.b3 Ra8 29.Nf1 Ra3 30.Rb1 Rca7 \bar{f}]

28...Bh6 Black has made the same maneuver with the bishop, but in this case, it was more successful as it forced new concessions by White. **29.b3 Ra8 \bar{f} 30.Rd5**

[30.Ra1 Rxa1 31.Rxa1 Nf6 32.Ra4 (32.Re1 Ra7) 32...Nxe4 33.Rxb4 Ra7 34.Ra4 Rb7 35.Ra3 Nc5-+]

30...Ra3 31.Rb1 Nf6! Precisely calculated by Giri. Black wins material now. **32.Rxd6 Nxe4 33.Rd8**

[33.Rb6 Nc3 34.Re1 e4 35.Nd4 Bd2! 36.Rf1 e3! 37.Bg4 exf2+ 38.Kxf2 Re7 39.Kg3 Be3-+]

33...Rca7

[33...Nc3 34.Re1 Rxb3-+ would be already winning]

34.Nxe5 Nd2 35.Rxd2

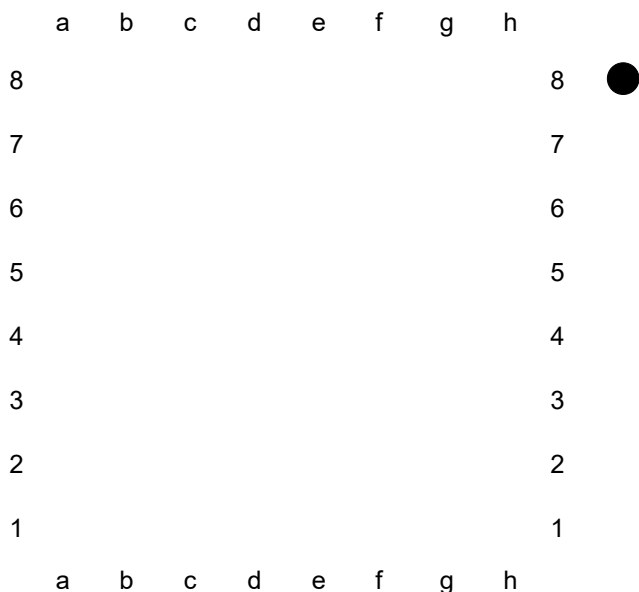
[35.Rd1 Ra1! 36.Bg4 Rxd1+ 37.Bxd1 Ra1-+]

35...Bxd2-+



The conversion of the advantage was not a problem for Giri. **36.Kf1 Ra1 37.Rxa1 Rxa1+ 38.Ke2 Re1+!** The most practical. **39.Kxd2 Rxe5 40.Bd7 Kf6 41.Bc6 Ke7 42.f4 Ra5 43.Kd3 Kd6 44.Bd5 Kc5!** Avoiding the activation of opponent's king. **45.Bxf7 Ra3 46.Bg8** [46.Kc2 Ra2+ 47.Kb1 Rxc2+] **46...Rxb3+ 47.Kc2 Re3 48.Bxh7 Re2+ 49.Kb3 Rxc2 50.h4 Rg3+ 51.Kb2 b3 52.Ka3 Kxc4 53.Bg8+ Kc3 54.Bxb3 Kd4 55.Kb4 Rxb3+!** The pawn ending is a trivial win for Black. **56.Kxb3** 0-1

Exercise



What is the best idea for Black in this position? 37...Rbxc6!

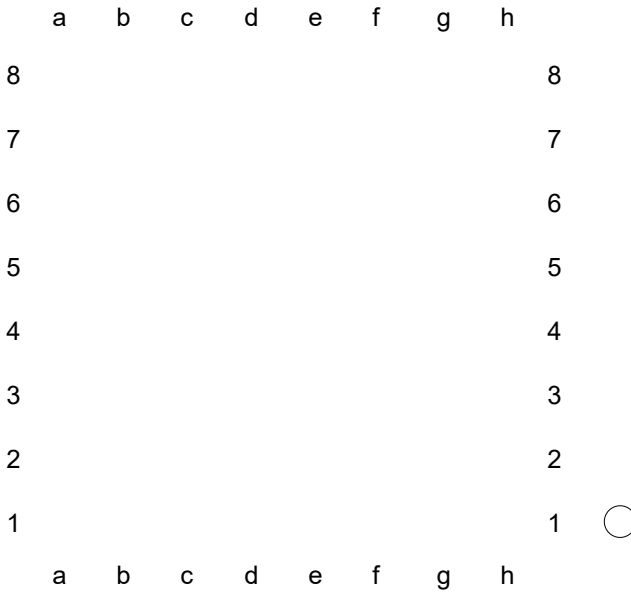
[37...Kg7?! 38.cxb5 axb5 39.f3↑ seems to offer some chances for White.]

38.dxc6 Rxc6 Black seems to have a nice compensation for the exchange, mainly due to the strong coordination of his pieces and to the possibility of advancing the central pawns. **39.Rbb1! Bg5!**

[39...Bb2? 40.Rc2 Bxa3 41.Rb3+-] **40.Rc2 d5 41.c5 d4** Black pawns seem very scary. **42.Rd1 Bf6!** And for this reason, Black should keep them.

[42...d3? would be a mistake 43.Bxd3! exd3 44.Rxd3± and White has the advantage now.]

43.Rcd2 White understands the danger of these pawns, and plays solid. **43...Nc3**



44.Rxd4!

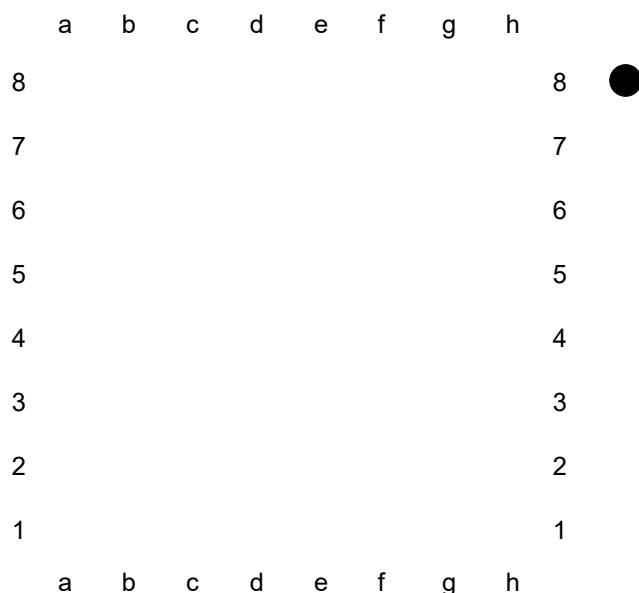
[44.Re1 Kf7 ♣ is simply much better for Black as he can keep improving his position by bringing the king towards the center. Later on, the central pawns will start rolling.]

44...Nxd1 45.Rxd1 The game followed a more or less forced path to the draw now. **45...Bb2 46.Rd8+**

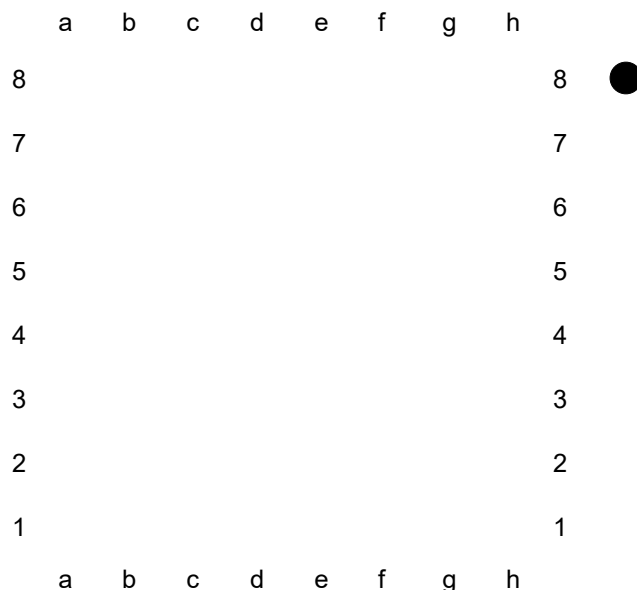
[46.Rb1 Bxa3 47.Be2 the bishop seems trapped but White cannot win it. Kf7 48.Kf1 Ke6 49.Ke1 Rc7 50.Kd2 a5! 51.bxa5 b4 ♣]

46...Kf7 47.Ra8 Bxa3 48.Bxb5! Rc7
[48...axb5 49.Rxa3 ±]

49.Rxa6 Bxb4 50.c6 Ke7 51.Rb6 Bd6 52.Rb7 Carlsen,M (2834)-Giri,A (2784) Qatar Masters op 2015



Structure 6



This structure arises when White tries to attack the center with f2-f4 and Black answers with exf4, thus changing the structure and the nature of the position. In this structure, besides the standard Nc3-d5, White can go for the maneuver Nd4-f5. In general, White is playing for a kingside initiative. Black's advantages are purely positional. He often uses the e5-square which is an excellent outpost for the knight (and sometimes for the bishop). Also, it is important to mention that the move f2-f4 exposes White's king and Black can take advantage of it. The d6-d5 advance is also an idea. Nevertheless, we should remember that even with pawns on d6 and e4, many endgames are fine for Black due to the vulnerability of the e4-pawn.

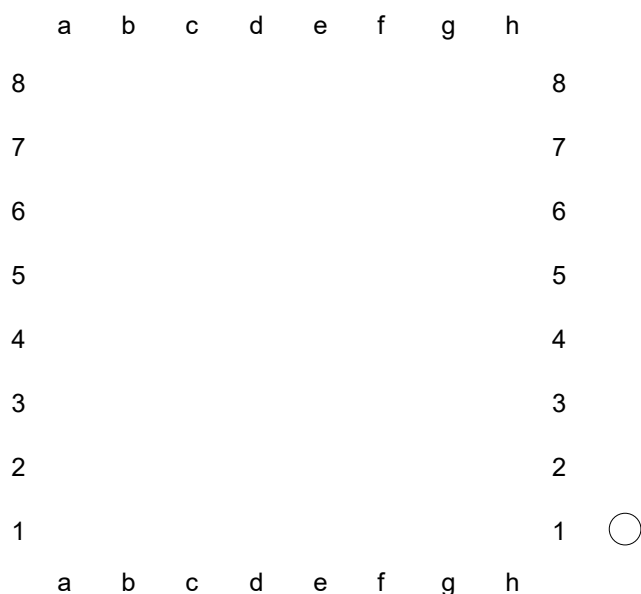
Mainka, Romuald **2476**

Pigusov, Evgeny **2609**
 MK Cafe Cup-A (6) 08.08.1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Be6 10.f4!?

This shows White's intentions of going for a dynamic battle, with attacking chances and fight for the initiative.

10...exf4



11.Bxf4

[11.Rxf4 is the other option Nc6 12.Nd5!? the only way of justifying White's last move Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne5 14.Rb4!? White aims to cramp Black's queenside, but this is not enough to achieve the advantage Qc7 15.a4 Nfd7 16.a5 Bf6= and Black is fine as all the important squares on the queenside are protected and there are no problems to finish the development.]

11...Nc6 White has some open lines on the kingside, but the capture exf4 also gives Black some trumps, like an easier development and the excellent e5-square. **12.Qe1** White plans to follow with Qg3 and Rd1, putting pressure on d6 and some threats on the kingside. I like Black's next move because although it is not the main move, it is directed against both plans.

[12.Kh1 is also played, then d5! gives Black good chances of equalize]

12...Ne8! This apparently modest move has many purposes: It overprotects d6, and at the same time, Qg3 does not seem so attractive anymore. Besides, Black can improve his dark-squared bishop via f6 and eventually e5.

[12...Ne5 is the most played, and it is, of course, ok for Black.]

13.Rd1

[13.Nd5 Bg5! this exchange would leave White with a lot of weaknesses on the dark-squares. 14.Bg3 Nf6! It is instructive how the Black pieces first seemed cramped, and now they become active again. 15.Nc3 Qe7 16.Rd1 Rad8 Black achieves the d5-advance, and is fine 17.Nd2 (17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 Nb4!) 17...d5 18.exd5 1/2-1/2 Arnason, J-Szekely, P/ Tallinn/ 1983/ (18)]

13...Bh4! First diverting the queen from g3. **14.Qd2 Bf6!**



The bishop aims for the nice square on e5. The pressure along the a1-h8 diagonal is also not without importance.

15.Nd5!? Looking for complications and to take over the initiative.

[15.Bxd6 Nxd6 16.Qxd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 Rfe8 offers nice compensation for Black in form of activity, for example 18.Bf3 (18.Nd5? Be5-+) 18...Be5 19.Rd2 Rac8 20.Rfd1 Bxc3! 21.bxc3 Ne5 \bar{f}]

15...Bxb2 16.c3

[16.Bg5 f6 17.Be3 Be5 18.c3 ∞ would offer White some compensation]

16...Ba3 White will play searching for compensations, but objectively Black is fine and keeps the extra pawn. **17.Bg5 f6**

[17...Qb8?! 18.Ne7+ Kh8 19.Nd4 \uparrow]
18.Be3 Bxd5!? A concrete approach.
 [18...b5 19.c4! bxc4 20.Bxc4 ∞]

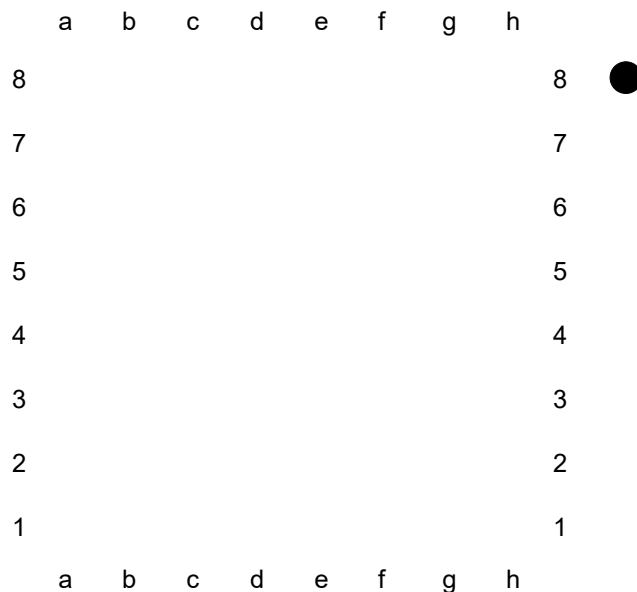
19.exd5

[19.Qxd5+ Kh8 20.Nd4 Bc5! 21.Rf2 Nc7 22.Qh5 Ne5 \bar{f} and Black consolidates the advantage]

19...Ne5 20.Kh1

[20.Nd4!/? Qa5! (20...Nc7? 21.Nc2! Bc5 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.d6 Ne6 24.Qd5 Qd7 25.Ne3 \pm) 21.Ne6 Rf7 \bar{f}]

20...Rc8 21.Nd4



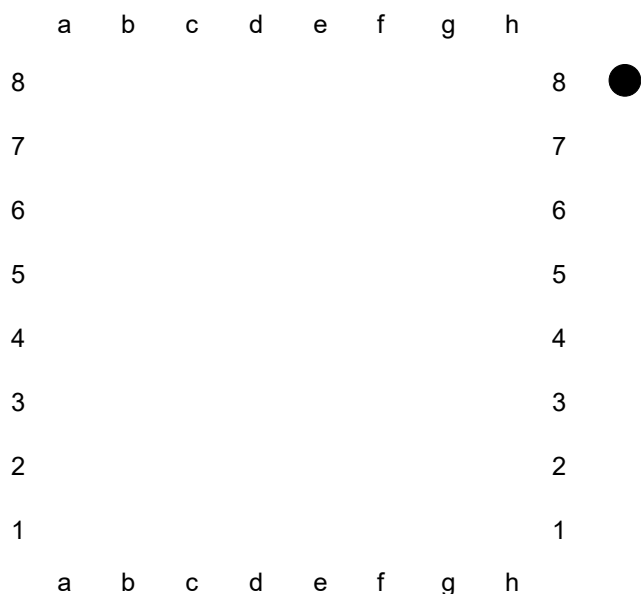
Qa5! White has some compensation for the pawn due to the weakness of the e6 square, but his pawns on the queenside also provide targets for Black.

[21...Nc7? 22.Nc2 Bc5 23.Bxc5 dxc5 24.d6 Ne6 25.Ne3 Qd7 26.Nc4 Nxc4 27.Bxc4 \pm with strong initiative for White]

22.Nf5

[22.Ne6 Rf7]

22...Rc7 23.Rb1



Bc5?!

[23...b5! 24.Rb3 Bc5 25.Bf4 g6!
and Black has a great advantage, for
example 26.Bxe5 dxe5! 27.d6 Rd7
28.Qd5+ Kh8 29.Qxc5 gxf5 30.Ra3
Qd8 31.Rxa6 Nxd6 32.Bxb5 Nxb5
33.Qxb5 f4 White regained the pawn
but his pieces are badly placed now]

24.Bf4!

[24.Bxc5 Qxc5 25.a4 g6]

24...Rd7

[The threat was Bxe5 followed by d6
and Qd5, hence much a better
prophylaxis was 24...Kh8! 25.Nd4
Bxd4 26.cxd4 Qxd2 27.Bxd2 Rc2!
28.Rfd1 Nc4]

25.Nd4!

[25.Bg3 b5]

25...Ba7

[25...Bxd4 was not possible now
26.cxd4! Qxd2 27.Bxd2 Nf7 28.Bg4
Rc7 29.Ba5]

26.Ne6 Rff7 27.Rb4 The position
seems complicated now. **27...g6**

[27...Nc7? 28.Bxe5 dxe5 29.Nxc7
Qxc7 30.Bg4]

28.Rfb1 f5 29.h3? Too slow. White

probably missed or underestimated the
activation of Black's most passive piece,
the Ne8.

[29.Bg5!]

29...Nf6! 30.Bxe5

[30.c4 Rfe7]

30...dxe5 31.c4 Ne4! Now White has
big problems. **32.Qh6**

[32.Qb2 Bd4! 33.Nxd4 exd4 34.Bd3
Qc5]

[32.Qe1 Bf2! 33.Qd1 Nc3+]

32...Ng3+ 33.Kh2 Nxe2 34.Rxb7?

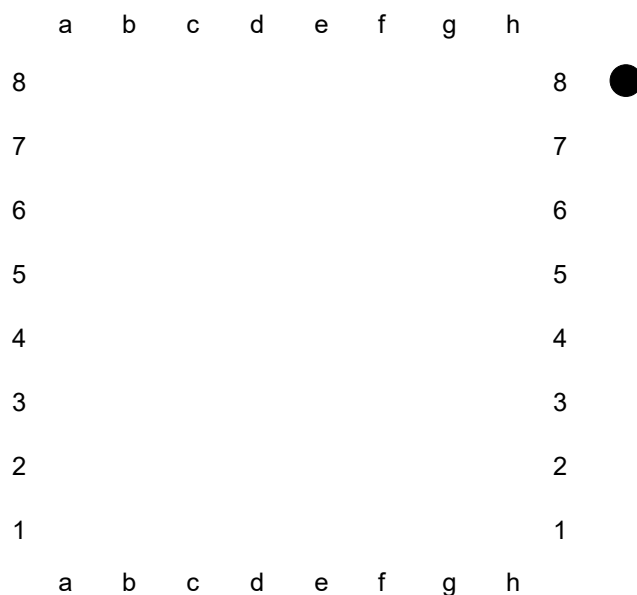
[34.R4b2 Nd4! (34...Nc3 35.Rxb7
Nxb1 36.Rxd7 Be3 37.Qxe3 Rxd7
38.Qb3! →) 35.Ng5 Rfe7 36.Nxh7
Rxh7 37.Qxg6+ Kf8+]

34...Rxb7 35.Rxb7 Qe1! The last
touch.

[35...Rxb7?? 36.Qf8#]

0-1

Exercise

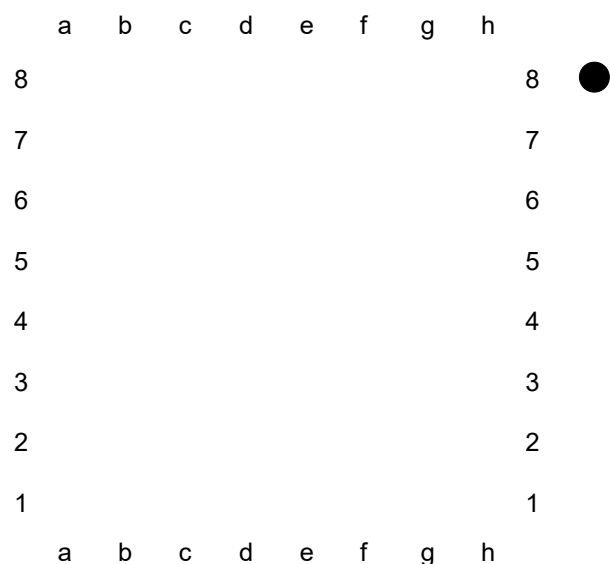


How should Black play? **12...d5!**

better placed on d2 than on e3 for a couple of reasons: Bxd5 12.exd5 Nc5 (12...a5!? Hou,Y (2676)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2720) Dortmund SuperGM 43rd 2015



1/2) 13.Nxc5 dxc5 14.c4 Qc7 15.Rae1 Bd6 16.Qh3! the first point about 11.Bd2 is the queen has more mobility along the third rank Rfe8 17.Bc3! and the second is that the bishop can be improved via c3 to a more promising position on the diagonal. g6 18.Bd3 White is well developed and had a promising position in Nepomniachtchi, I (2751)-Gelfand, B (2724) Zuerich Chess Challenge 6th 2017



8...Be6 9.Nd5!? Nbd7! 10.Qd3 Bxd5!

Black takes before White is able to reinforce the knight by means of c2-c4.

11.exd5 Rc8 Black's chances are on the kingside after the transformation in the structure, but it is important to take some measures to face White's advances on the queenside, too. **12.c4 0-0 13.0-0 Ne8!** Black follows his plan to clear the path in order to advance the f-pawn, but at the same time, he aims for a typical positional operation in this structure: exchanging the dark-squared bishop in order to leave his opponent with the bad bishop, and looking to explore the long-term weaknesses on the dark-squares with the knights.

14.Qd2 Preventing Bg5 whilst simultaneously preparing the queenside expansion with Na5 and b4.

[14.Bg4 was played aga bu

move. It restricts the Nb3 but the drawback is that the c6-square becomes vulnerable.

[14...f5 was played by another Najdorf expert. 15.f4 g6 16.Na5 exf4 17.Bxf4 Nef6! with good counterplay for Black - Hovhannisyan,R (2592)-Areshchenko,A (2701) Lake Sevan Martuni 2014 (7.2) 0-1]

15.Rac1! a5 16.Na1! White found a nice way to improve the knight. **16...f5** [Grishuk tried an original plan with 16...g6 17.b4! (17.Nc2 Ng7 18.Bh6 Re8 19.g4 f5!∞) 17...Ng7 (17...axb4? would give Black problems after 18.Nc2! f5 19.Bh6 Rf7 20.Nxb4 Ndf6 21.Nc6±) 18.bxa5 bxa5 19.Bd3 Nc5 20.Bc2 (20.Bxc5 Rxc5 21.Nb3 Bg5!≠) 20...a4!? with a complex position, both sides have practical problems here, but Black managed to win after a complicated fight - Carlsen,M (2853)-Grishuk,A (2771) Sinquefeld Cup 3rd 2015

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

[17.f4 seems inferior in view of Nef6 18.Bf3 Nc5! and e4 is a nice outpost for the knights]

17...f4! 18.Bf2 Bh4! Mamedyarov shows in an instructive manner how to achieve a nice position with Black in this line: by exchanging the dark-squared bishops he obtained a lot of nice squares for the knights. **19.Bd3**

[19.g3? prevents the exchange but at a high price Bg5 20.g4 e4! and Black's initiative is very strong]

19...Bxf2+ 20.Qxf2 Nc5

Black managed to achieve his strategic a] M 2 sa 7

0-1]
17.f3

$g5\uparrow$; 30.Bxf5? $gxf5-+$) 30...Ne3! \bar{f}
and White is in trouble with many
weak pawns]

30.Nc3? Georgiadis misses a great
chance.

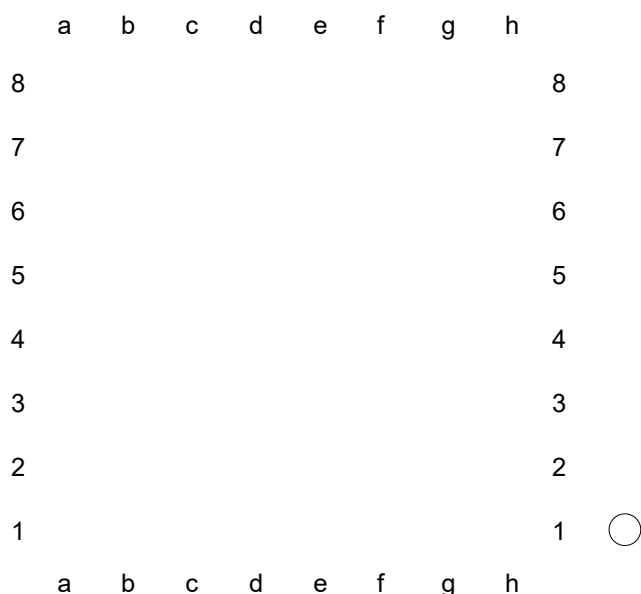
[30.Bxf5! Qxf5 31.b4! would give nice
chances for White, for example Nd3?
(\triangleleft 31...Nd7 32.Qe2 ∞) 32.Qc2! Nxe1
33.Qxf5 Rxf5 34.Nxd6 \pm
and White regains the material with
advantage]

30...Nd4! The knight is very strong on
d4 and White's position becomes
unpleasant. **31.b4**

[31.Bc2 g4 Black has a crushing
attack, for example 32.b4 gxf3!
33.bxc5 Rg8-+ is very \square [...Nd 5

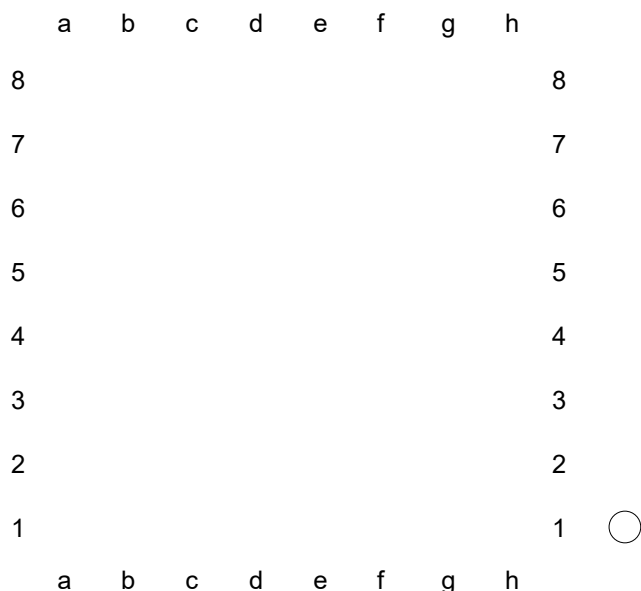
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19...Bxg7 20.Ne6 Qh4! 21.Nxf8 Rxf8



Black has strong compensations for the exchange, and we can see it because he has easy moves to improve his position: Nc5, Ne5, and even g5-g4 is a dangerous threat as the Bh3 is a source of trouble. For example: **22.f3 exf3 23.Rxf3 Ne5** and Black is fine

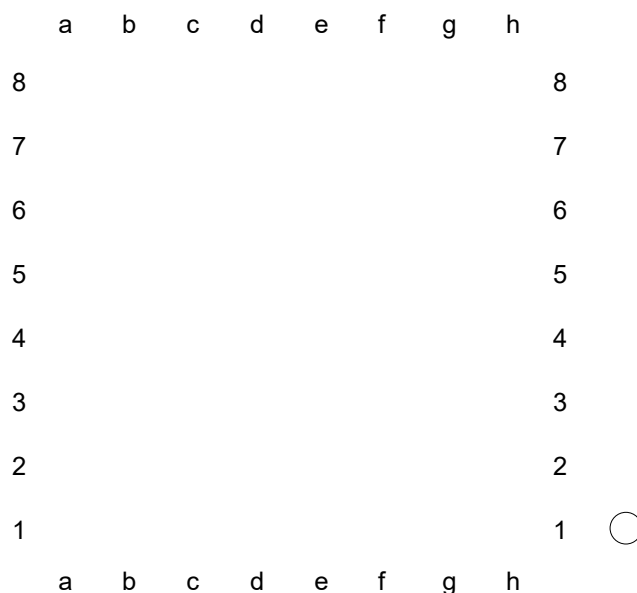
Structure 8



This sort of structure arises when Black meets the queenside restricting advance a4-a5 with the active idea b7-b5 which allows axb6. Normally, White plays such positions hoping that he can stop Black's activity on the open files and reach a favorable endgame in which he can combine the attack against the weak pawns on d6 and a6. Black should be cautious about the endgames, especially those with a few pieces, like 3 or less for each side. It means that Black should look for active play here in order to keep White busy with concrete threats, using the open files on the queenside and eventually prepare the advance d6-d5 which would give a nice initiative.

☐ **Nevostrujev, Vladimir** **2495**
☒ **Efimenko, Zahar** **2594**
 Chigorin Memorial 12th (8) 23.10.2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Be6



10.Qd2 There are some lines in which White plays in a slow way looking for a small advantage based on easier play and trying to slowly restrict Black.

[10.a4 allows Nc6 which can be a better development for the knight, seen in many similar positions 11.Bf3 Na5! 12.Nxa5 Qxa5 13.Qd2 Rfc8! and Black is fine 14.Rfd1 (14.Nd5?! Qxd2 15.Nxe7+ Kf8 16.Bxd2 Rxc2! 17.Bc3 Kxe7 18.Bd1 Rxc3! 19.bxc3 Nxe4) 14...Kf8! preventing Nd5 15.Qc1 Rc4! 16.Rd3 Rac8 and Black is at least ok - Kamsky, G (2705)-Gelfand, B (2733) Wch Candidates final 2007 (2.1) 1/2]

10...Nbd7 11.a4 When Black is deprived of the Nc6-b4 idea, White advances his a-pawn. **11...Rc8 12.a5** Black should be careful in such positions, as White plays with an easier game and a bit more space. It is important to not try to do anything drastically but instead to keep improving the pieces. **12...Re8 13.Rfd1**

[In a recent game White played 13.Bf3 and the continuation was very instructive: h6 14.Nc1 Nh7! a very nice idea 15.g3 Bg5! 16.Nd3 (16.Qxd6 Bxe3 17.fxe3 Ng5 18.Bg2 Nf6! gives Black a lot of activity for the pawn. 19.Qxd8 Rxd8 20.h4 Nh3+ 21.Kh2 Rd2!↑) 16...Nb8! now the knight is also improved 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.Qxg5 hxd5! 19.Rfd1 Nc6 20.Ne2 g4! 21.Bg2 Ng5 and Black obtained a clear advantage - Zharebikh, Y (2633)-Xiong, J (2640) St Louis Spring A 2018 (1.4) 0-1]

13...h6 14.Nc1 A typical plan for White is to play Nd3-b4 trying to increase the control over d5.

[14.f3 is the most solid, but leads to positions in which both sides have difficulties to make progress. Qc7 15.Nc1 Bf8 16.Bf1 (16.Nd3 d5!↑)

16...Red8 17.Qe1 Qc6 18.Qd2 Qc7= Nakamura, H (2772) -Korobov, A (2720) FIDE World Cup 2013 (4.1) 1/2]

14...Qc7 15.Bf3 It is necessary to follow the plan.

[15.Nd3 d5! is a bit complicated, but Black manages to equalize. 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Nxe5 Nf6! 19.Ng4!? Qxc2 20.Nxf6+ Bxf6 21.Qxd5 Qxe2 22.Rd2 Qc4 23.Qxb7 Rb8=]

15...b5! 16.axb6

[16.Nd3 again is bad due to d5! although this time it is a true pawn sacrifice 17.exd5 Bf5 18.Ne1 Bd6 19.g3 Qb7 and the fact that Black has many different ideas in this position says everything about his compensation.]

16...Nxb6

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

Black's active idea was very strong, but it is important to understand why: White has lost the coordination between his pieces in the last moves: first the knight went back, cutting the communication between the rooks, and then the bishop

left the e2-square, leaving c4 unprotected. Black players should understand that after b5-axb6 it is necessary to play for the initiative, as otherwise, White would achieve a favorable endgame. **17.Be2?! [17.Bxb6 Qxb6 18.N1e2 Rc6=]**

17...Nc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 Black position seems already easier to play. **19.Qe1 [19.f3 see the exercise]**

19...Qb7! A consistent way to improve the position. **20.b3 Be6 21.f3 d5!** This advance activates the bishop pair as well as all Black's pieces, putting White under unpleasant pressure.

22.exd5 Bxd5

[22...Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Qe2 seems less dangerous for White]

23.Nd3

[23.Nxd5 Nxd5-+ with undefendable threats]

23...e4! Naturally, opening new lines is a good idea for Black. **24.fxe4 Bxe4**

25.Nxe4 Nxe4 It seems already difficult for White to avoid material losses.

26.Qa5

[For example 26.Rac1 Nc3 27.Rd2 Bg5-+]

26...Bf6! 27.Qxa6 Qxa6 28.Rxa6 Nc3

29.Re1 Rxe3! 30.Rxe3 Bd4 31.Kf2

Re8-+ 32.b4 Rxe3 33.Kf1 Ne4 34.g3

Nd2+ 35.Kg2 Re2+ 36.Kh3 Nf1

37.Kg4 Rxc2 38.Rd6 Nxh2+ 39.Kf4

Rc4 40.Rd8+ Kh7 41.Rd7 Bc3+

0-1

Exercise



Black now played **15...b5!? 16.axb6**

[16.Nd3 d5! another thematic sacrifice 17.exd5 Bf5 18.Ne1 Bd6 19.g3 Nc5↑]

16...Nxb6 The threat Nc4 is very annoying. **17.Be2 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4** But after **19.f3** White thought he had good chances to reach some stability and play for the positional advantage in the endgame. How should Black play?

19...d5! This timely central break gives a strong initiative for Black.

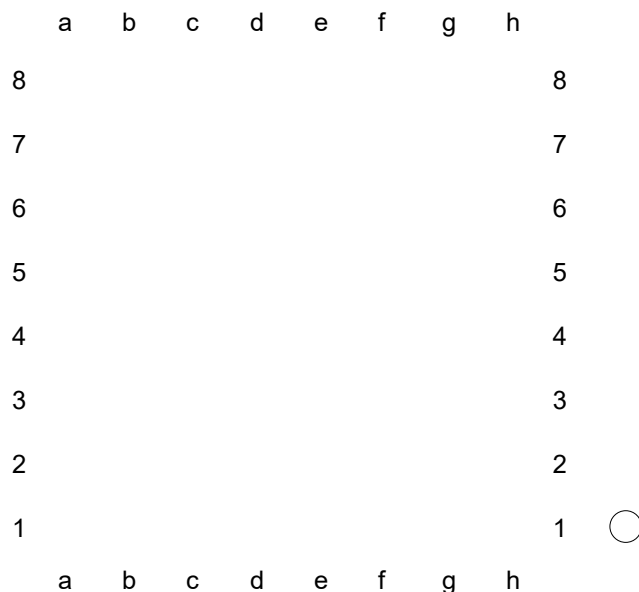
20.Nxd5 [20.exd5 Red8 21.Qf2 Qb7!↑]

20...Bxd5! 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Bf2

[22.Qxd5? Rcd8-+]

[22.Rxa6? Nxe3 23.Qxe3 Bc5-+]

22...Red8 23.Qe1 Nb4!-+ Loskutov, O (2435)-Zakhartsov, V (2529) Alushta Autumn 4th 2005



0-1

Dbasp.Lboo!po!uif!
Pmznqjbe!.!Pqfojoh!
Sfwjfx

Efbs!Reader, In this article, I will present the latest developments in the currently topical aro-Kann efence. This survey is mainly based on the games played at the chess lympiad in Batumi this year. f course, this article is not limited to the pure presentation of the games from Batumi. In a number of positions, I managed to come up with new ideas which may be useful for you.

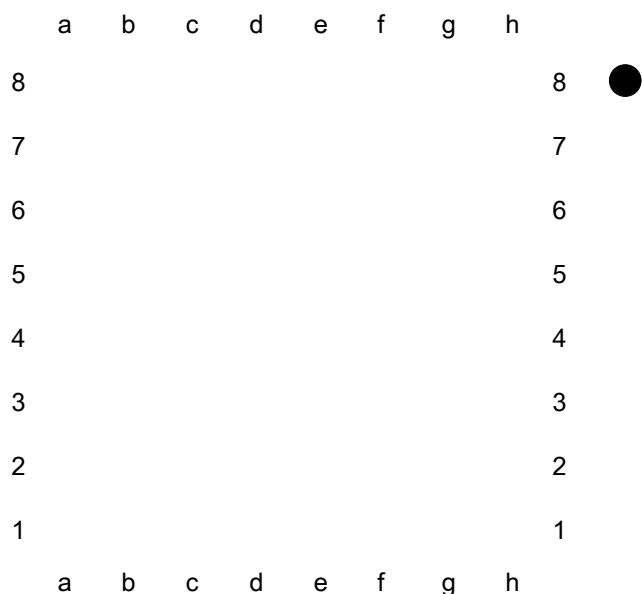
) , . + - + - - , ,
a b c d e f g h
8 8 ●
7 7
6 6
5 5
4 4
3 3
2 2
1 1
a b c d e f g h

It's hard to believe, but this line appears to be not without venom. Moreover, it's been played a lot by top GM's including Carlsen, Kramnik, Anand, Caruana, and Grischuk. , . - -

[The main alternative is 5.Bb5

a b c d e f g h
8 8 ●
7 7
6 6
5 5
4 4
3 3
2 2
1 1
a b c d e f g h

This move was played in top match USA–Poland. Black's reaction was pretty unfortunate Qa5+ 6.Nc3 Bg4 6-Bd2 Qd8? This is a bad novelty. (It would be interesting to see what Shankland prepared against 7...Rc8 which has been scoring very well for Black so far. The key game here went 7-a4 Qd8 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 e6 and Black easily solved his opening problems in Hovhannisyan, R (2625)



–Petrosyan, M (2551) Yerevan 2018)
8.Ne5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Qf3
(10.Qh5!



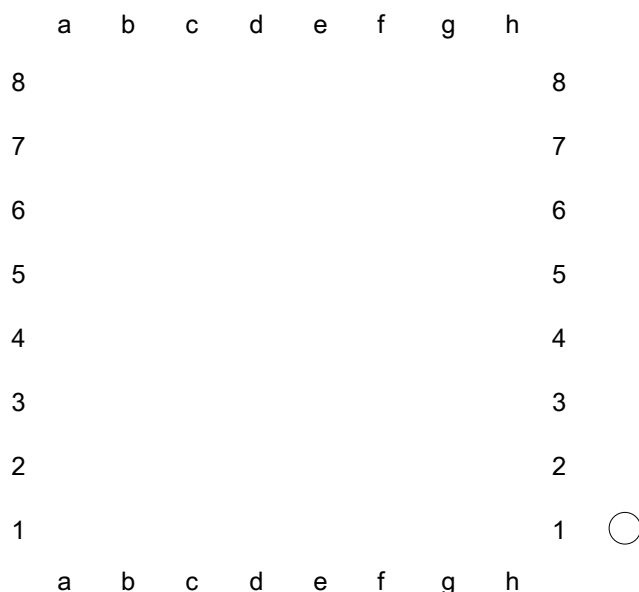
would have been even stronger g6
11.Qf3 Nf6 12.g4 h6 13.h4
with an improved version to compare
with the game, due to the move g7–
g6.) 10...Nf6 11.g4! h6 12.h4 e6
13.0–0–0 Bd6 ½–½ (51) Shankland,
S (2722)–Tomczak, J (2614) Batumi

2018 and now White should have
played 14.Nxc6N bxc6 15.g5 Nd7
16.Rde1 with a better game.]

– . . – 0 +

Interesting strategical position. White is
trying to prove that his bishop pair is
meaningful while Black enjoys a good
pawn structure and an easy
development. 0 . A solid approach.

[The more aggressive set-up would
have been 8...Bd6 9.Nd2 Nge7
10.0–0 Before this olympiad, this
position has been played only once
(10.Nf3 0–0–0 11.0–0 Kb8 12.a4
Qc7 13.b4 e5 14.Bxc6! Nxc6 15.b5
e4 16.bxc6 exf3 17.Qxf3 bxc6
18.c4→ and White has a promising
position in Schneider, I (2368)–Gomez
Esteban, J (2486) Fuegen 2006)
10...Qc7 11.Nf3 h6!



This is a more flexible approach.
12.Re1 0–0–0 This double-edged
position is easier to handle with Black.
In the following game, White's play
was very unfortunate 13.Qe2 g5
14.Ne5? Bxe5 15.dxe5 d4! 16.cxd4?

Nxd4 17.Qf1 Nc2-+ and White was already lost in Godena,M (2501) – Tikkanen,H (2520) Batumi GEO 2018]

1 .)) +) + 0 The minority attack is the only reasonable plan for Black in this position. Before Black tried a different move

[12...a6 and equalized after 13.a4 Na5 14.f4 Rab8 15.Qe2 g6 16.Ra2 Be7 17.Nf3 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.Qxc4 dxc4= 1-0 (53) Alekseev,E (2622)–Esipenko,A (2587) Sochi 2018]

) + + -

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1								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Black's play in the opening is quite instructive), -) -

).) 0)) -) 0 + .) 1) , , +) + , , + , , -

05 Black comfortably equalized in Bauer,C (2629)–Berkes,F (2678) Batumi GEO 2018

) , . , - + - - , , [4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
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To my great surprise there were no significant developments in this topical tabya. I would rather mention one game by the Caro–Cann expert Pantsulaia: Nd7 6.0-0 Bb4

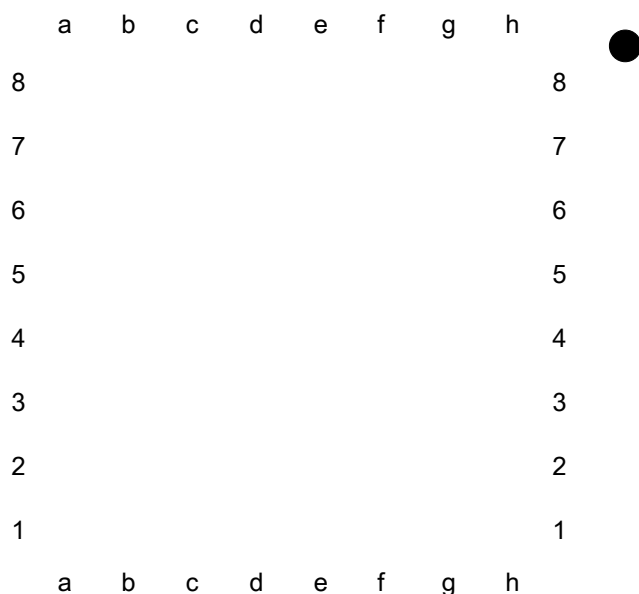
This move has been quite fashionable recently. 7.Nbd2 Ba5

A very ambitious idea. Black is planning to play ...Bc7 followed by f7–f6, thus undermining the e5–pawn. 8.Nb3 Bc7 9.Bg5!

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	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

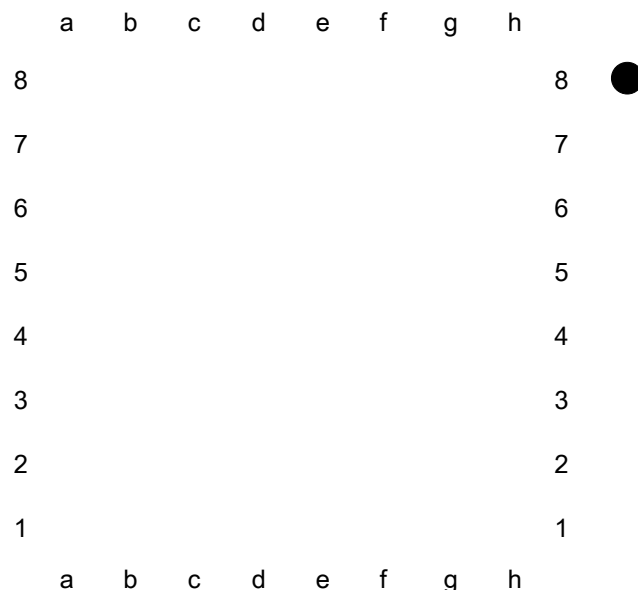
This line looks very problematic for Black. Ne7 it seems too early for (After 9...f6 , the following game looks very convincing 10.Bh4 Ne7 11.exf6! gxf6 12.Re1 0-0 13.Bd3

Bxd3 14.cxd3! and Black position collapsed quickly after e5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Rxe5 fxe5 19.Qe6+-



1-0 (19) Movsesian,S (2723)-Willemze,T (2398) Kallithea 2008) 10.Nh4 Be4 11.f3 Bg6 12.f4 f6N Levon is trying to improve on the previous game, but this novelty backfired badly (12...Be4 13.f5! exf5

14.Nxf5 Bxf5 15.Rxf5 h6 0-1 (30) Volokitin,A (2649)-Dubov,D (2660) Doha 2016 White could have played 16.Bh5!N hxg5 17.Bxf7+ Kf8 18.Rf2 Ng8 19.Be6+ Ngf6 20.Qe2! with a promising position for White.) 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Bh6 Qb8 15.Bd3 Kf7 16.Qe2+-



and Black ended up in a lost position in Svetushkin,D (2580) -Pantsulaia,L (2589) Batumi GEO 2018]

, - - + It goes without saying that recently this line has been quite popular. The following game was exciting and important for the development of this variation - + . + . + - 0 . 1 ,) .)) + -) + 7)+ , 7

[Very slow is 13.g3 0-0 (13...c5 looks even better for Black.) 14.c5 b6 15.b4 ½-½ (42) Shyam,N (2394) - Thejkumar,M (2500) Bhubaneswar 2018 In this position, the simplest solution would have been Qa4 followed by ...a7-a5 and ...Rfb8

undermining White's pawn structure on the queenside.]

) + . 6A good practical approach.

White would have a long-term compensation after both

[13...Bxh4 14.Nxh4 Nxh4 15.Ba3 Nf5 16.Nf3 and]

[13...Nxh4 14.Nxh4 Bxh4 15.Ba3]

), - 76A tricky idea, which appeared to be successful in the game. In the case of

[14.Ba3 Bxa3 15.Rxa3 a5

Black looks solid.]

), 076This leads to a passive position. Black should have accepted the sacrifice

[14...Bb4 15.Qd3 in case of (15.axb6?! Bxc3 16.Rxa7 Rb8 Black is better since White is losing d4-pawn.) 15...Bxa5 16.Ba3 Bb4! Important move. After (16...Qd8 17.g3 White has compensation.) 17.c5 Qa5 18.Bxb4 Qxb4 19.Ra4 Qb5 20.Qc3 b6 21.cxb6 Qxb6 22.Rc1 0-0 23.Qxc6 Qxc6 24.Rxc6 a5= with equality.]

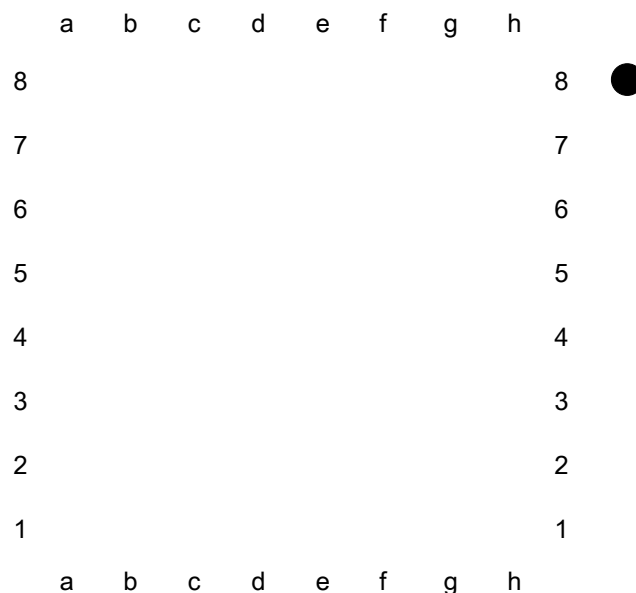
) - +).) . 7

Quite understandably, Black is looking for a counterplay. This approach, however, backfires.) - -

) 0 . .

[White is also better after 18...Bxf6 19.Qd3! Nc5 20.dxc5 Bxa1 21.a6 bxa6 22.Rxe6]

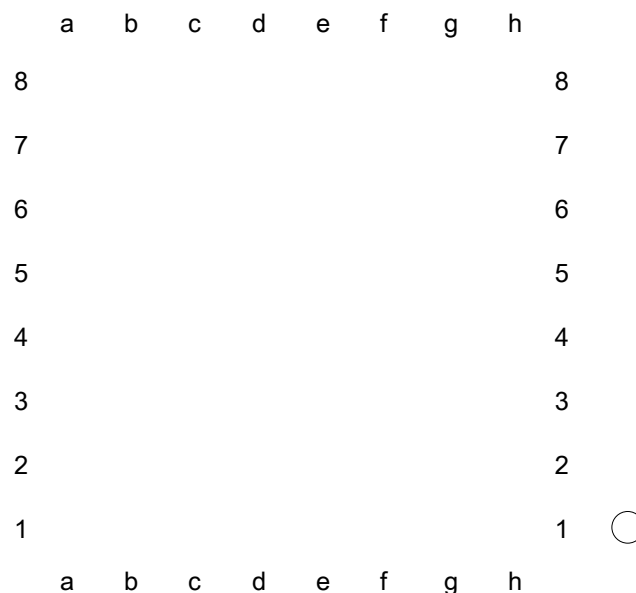
) 1 -±



White achieved a clear edge in McShane, L (2672)–Fier,A (2558) Batumi GEO 2018

) , . + - + + Nowadays, this is a very fashionable variation.

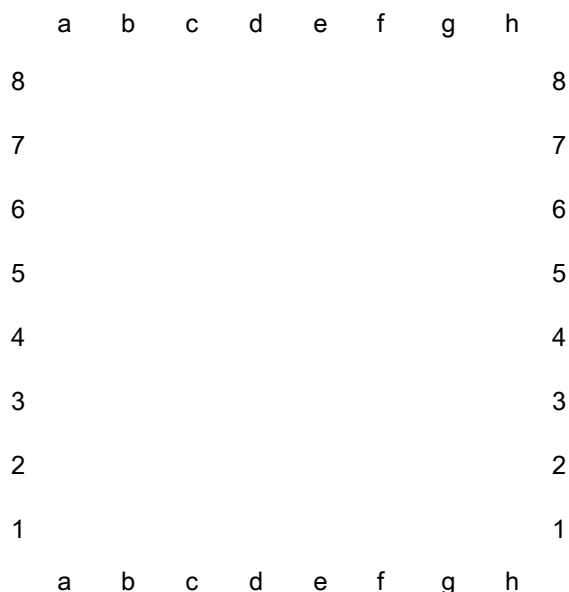
+ , [3...dxe4



Equally playable and leads to more complex fight. At the olympiad, this line was played in the game Adams, M – Tari, A. The game followed 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Bc4 Bd6 7.Qe2+ Qe7 8.d4 White doesn't pretend for something significant in this line, but rather for a small, but long-lasting edge thanks to better pawn structure. Na6!?N This move failed to fully equalize after 9.0-0 Qxe2 10.Bxe2 Bf5 11.c3 Nc7 12.Nd2 Nd5 13.Nc4 Bc7 14.Ne3 Nxe3 15.Bxe3 0-0-0 16.b4 Rhe8 17.Rfe1± 1/2-1/2 (68) Adams,M (2712)–Tari,A (2618) Batumi 2018]

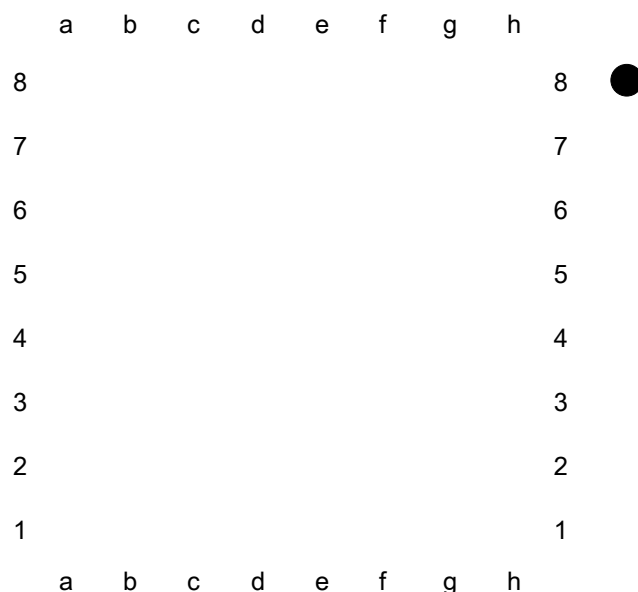
, + + - + .

[The main alternative is 5...e6



9 Luke Mc Shane tried his pet move 6.Qg3 Black reacted very well in the following game Ne7 7.d3 Nd7!N (Black doesn't solve

his opening problems by means of 7...Ng6 8.h4! h5 Bartel,M (2653)–Ruck,R (2563) Katowice 2016 and now I would suggest the following improvement 9.d4!?N with the idea dxe4 10.Bg5! Bd6 11.Qe3 Be7 12.g3 with a promising position.) 8.Be2 g6! A nice and flexible set-up 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Kh1 0-0 Black is very comfortable. The play continued 11.f4 Kh8 (11...b5!?) 12.Bf3 b5 13.a3 a5 with a complicated middlegame McShane,L (2672)–Rodshtein,M (2674) Batumi GEO 2018; 6.Be2!? This is the latest attempt in this variation. 6...g6 7.d4



Otherwise, Black is doing pretty well. Bg7 8.Be3 Nf6 (Black has struggled with 8...Ne7 here the key game 9.h4 h5 10.0-0-0 Nd7 11.Bg5 Qb6 12.exd5 cxd5 13.Rhe1 Bh6 14.Bxh6 Rxh6 ½-½ (23) Ragger,M (2644)–Jobava,B (2712) Austria 2017 and now White missed the

very powerful 15.Bb5!N Rh7
16.Nxd5 exd5 17.Qxd5 Rd8
18.Qg5 with an advantage.) 9.e5
Nfd7 10.h4

) Black also tried
10...a6 White scored a
convincing victory in the
following beautiful game 11.Bg5
Qb6 12.0-0-0 c5 13.h5 cxd4
14.hxg6 hxg6 15.Rxh8+ Bxh8
16.Rh1 Bxe5 (It seems that
Black holds after 16...Bg7!
17.Rh7 Nxe5 18.Qg3 dxc3
19.Rxg7 Qxb2+ 20.Kd1 Nec6!)
17.Rh7 f6 18.Nxd5 exd5
19.Qxd5 with a strong initiative in
Karthikeyan, M (2578)-Lalith,B
(2525) Patna 2017;

___ 10...h5 11.g4 hxg4
12.Qxg4 c5 13.f4!N

Very important novelty which
clearly improves on the previous
game (13.Bg5 Qa5 14.Bd2
cxd4 15.Nb5 Qb6 16.f4 Nc6
17.0-0-0 Bf8 1/2-1/2 (41)
Vuckovic,B (2600)-Solak,D
(2583) Kragujevac 2009)
13...cxd4 (13...Nc6 seems like a
better try for Black.) 14.Bxd4
Nc6 15.Bf2! Qa5 16.0-0-0
0-0-0 1-0 (40) Ragger,M
(2686)-Kojima,S (2408) Batumi
GEO 2018 now the immediate
17.h5 would give White an
edge.]

. + . This move has
been quite popular recently. 0
1 - 7 Rare but interesting
approach.

[More common is 9...c5]

) , . The key move. Black's
initiative on the queenside looks quite

interesting.

[Before, Black tried only 10...Bd6
11.g5 Nfd7 Bencheikh,I (2134)-
Fournier,D (1977) Issy les Moulineaux
2013 After the natural 12.h4
White has better chances.]

) -7 This looks like a serious error. I
examined a possible development after
natural

[11.g5 Nd7 12.h4 Nac5!? 13.Nxd4
Na4 14.Nb3 Nxb2 15.Kxb2 a4
16.Be3 Qb4 17.Qe2 axb3 18.cxb3
Rxa2+ 19.Kxa2 Qa3+ 20.Kb1
Qxb3+ 21.Ka1 Qa4+=]

) -) , Black's initiative on the
queenside looks decisive. It is not a
surprise that in the following game Black
got a decisive advantage fairly quickly

) -)+ ,) , -
[14...a4]
) -) +

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	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

). + +) C)) 0)
+)1 + C))
) C + Lei,T (2468) -Girya,O
(2462) Batumi GEO 2018

) , . , - + , , ,
. This move became quite popular recently. The arising positions are far from being standard. That is the reason why this line is a perfect weapon when Black is playing for a win. The theory is still developing here and there is a room for improvements practically at every moment.

[The traditional line is 4...Bf5

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4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6!?
it appears that Black is not obliged to play 7...Nd7. Indeed, the text has been very popular on grandmaster level, maybe even more popular than 7...Nd7.
8.Ne5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3
21/Qxd3 Nd7 Here we have two highly important games played at Batumi Olympiad

B Another game went

11.f4 Be7 Black's latest word in this variation which has been very successful so far. 12.Nh5 Ngf6!

Probably the best continuation. It's quite dangerous to accept White's pawn sacrifice. Here is one model game, which ended badly for Black (12...Bxh4+ 13.g3 Bf6 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.O-O-O Nb6 16.Qa3 Be7 17.Nxg7 + Kf8 18.Nxe6+ fxe6 19.Qd3 White's initiative was crushing in Savchenko,B (2550) -Evdokimov,A (2502) Moscow 2018) 13.Nxg7+ Kf8 14.Nxe6+ fxe6 15.Bd2 Rh7! this has been played before in two games, and Black was able to hold his own. 16.O-O-ON

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
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1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

A new attempt to challenge Black's position, which requires a very precise play from Black. Kg8

17.Qh3 Nf8 18.f5 exf5 19.Qxf5 Qd5 (19...Qc8 deserves serious attention.) 20.Rde1

(Another possible line was 20.Rh3 Qxa2 21.Rg3+ Kh8 22.c3 Qa1 + 23.Kc2 Qa4+ 24.Kc1 with repetition.) 20...Qxa2 21.c4 a5 22.Rh3 Rg7 23.Ree3 Qa1+ 24.Kc2 Qa4+ 25.Kc1 Qa1+ and it's ended with a repetition in Ivic,V (2472) -Svane,R (2595) Batumi GEO 2018;
B) 11.Bf4 Nxe5 (Another direction here is

11...Qa5+) 12.Bxe5 Qa5+ 13.c3 Nf6
14.0-0 Ng4 The critical variation
15.Rad1 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Rd8 17.Qxd8
+ Qxd8 18.Rxd8+ Kxd8 19.Rd1+ Kc7
20.Rd3N

A new try to squeeze something from
this seemingly harmless endgame.
(Previously, White tried 20.Nh5 but
Black comfortably equalized after Kc8!
21.Kf1 g6 22.Ng3 Bg7 23.f4 f5!
24.Rd3 Rd8 25.Ke2 Bf8 Oleksak,A
(2159)-De Homont,R (2216) ICCF email
2015) 20...Be7 21.Rf3 Rf8
22.Nh5 g6 23.Nf6 (23.Nf4 h5

24.g3 could be another try, although
it's hard to believe that Black can have
problems in this endgame.) 23...Bxf6
24.Rxf6 Kd7 14-g4h5 26.Rxh6
Ke7 27.Rxh5 Rd8!

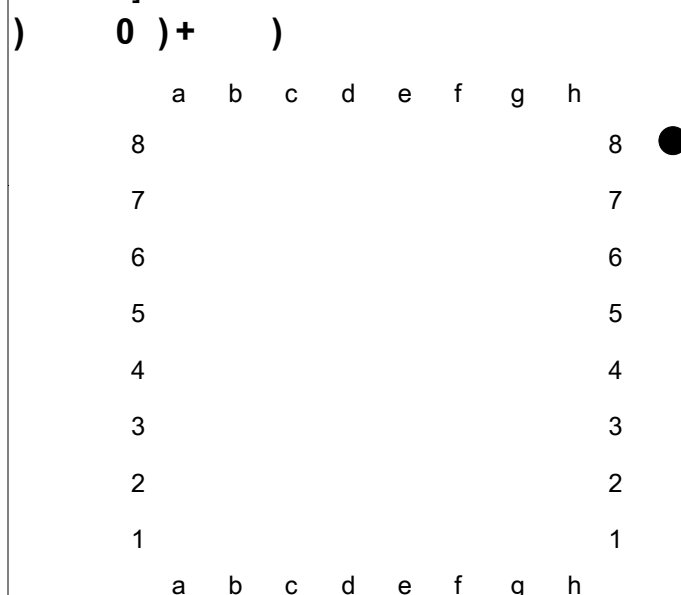


and Black's counterplay is sufficient
for equality – Sutovsky, E (2633)-
Shankland,S (2722) Batumi GEO
2018]

- . . . + . . . +
This line has become very fashionable
nowadays. I found three important games
for this variation played in Batumi

0 0 1 -) ,
\$) +) +

[White also tried 12.Bd2 Nf8 13.Rae1
Bc7! The most precise. (Black should
have faced serious problems after 13...Bd7
14.Kh1 Qc7 15.c4! Rad8 16.c5 Be7
Christiansen,J (2525)-Dragnev,V (2508)
Batumi GEO 2018 White missed the strong
17.Nf4N with the following point Ne6
18.Rxe6!Bxe6 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bg6±
with clear advantage.) 14.Kh1 Qd6 15.Bf4
Qd8 16.Bd2 Qd6 17.Bf4 Qd8 and draw
agreed in Hracek,Z
(2557)-Adhiban,B (2668) Batumi GEO
2018]



Strangely enough, this move hasn't been
played before)+), , .

15. ,
[In my opinion, stronger would have
been
04Nf4! Ne6 16.Rfe1! White enjoys
pleasant advantage.]

) -). .) +
-7 An obvious mistake.

[Meanwhile Black had the strong
17...Be6! 18.Bxc2 Bxc4 19.Rfe1
Ne6± with a sufficient compensation.]

) 0 -± White was clearly better in
Abdumalik, Z (2482)-Garcia Martin,M
(2329) Batumi GEO 2018