Table of contents:
# 01, 2014

Games ........................................................................................................................................4
  (01) Lalith,B (2579) - Gupta,A (2606) [D81] .........................................................................4
  (02) Gelfand,B (2777) - Rapport,R (2691) [A52] ...................................................................5
  (03) Vaibhav,S (2547) - Akshat,K (2396) [E11] .................................................................8
  (04) Kotanjian,T (2500) - Petrosian,T (2654) [D17] ..........................................................9
  (05) Danin,A (2602) - Chatalbashev,B (2533) [B07] ..........................................................10
  (06) Hovhannisyan,R (2592) - Andriasian,Z (2621) [B38] ..............................................13
  (07) Dominguez Perez,L (2754) - So,W (2719) [C42] ........................................................14
  (08) Naiditsch,A (2718) - Harikrishna,P (2706) [D00] ...................................................15
  (09) Aronian,L (2812) - Karjakin,S (2759) [E15] .................................................................16
  (10) Caruana,F (2782) - Naiditsch,A (2718) [A09] .............................................................19
Editorial staff: ..................................................................................................................21
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Games

(01) Lalith, B (2579) - Gupta, A (2606) [D81]
12th Delhi International Grandmasters C
New Delhi (5), 12.01.2014
[IM Sitnikov, A]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qb3 d:c4
5.Q:c4 Bg7 6.e4 0–0 7.Be2 b6 Rare se-
quel, which, however, brings great results.
Black is ready to attack the central white
pawn and provoke its movement, then im-
mediately occupy formed outpost. 8.e5
Be6

9.e:f6N Passing the game to irrational di-
rection. [White achieved nothing after
N:c5 13.0–0 N:c3 14.b:c3 Qc7 15.Ng5 h6
19.Q:f6 e:f6 20.B:g7 K:g7 and soon rivals
signed a draw / Bluvshtein, M (2558) –
Ganguly, S (2637) / Canadian op 2009]
9...B:c4 10.f:g7 K:g7 11.B:c4 Q:d4
12.Bd5 c6 13.Nge2?! [Could easily lead a
knight to the usual lawn: 13.Nf3 Qg4 14.h3!
Q:g2? 15.Nh4 and the queen in a trap]
13...Qf6 14.Be4 Nd7 15.Be3 Nc5

16.B:c5?! Should retreat bishop. The ex-
change here is significant positional mis-
take because makes opponent hands free
for active play in the centre and the inva-
sion on the open files. Now the black king
can breathe a sigh of relief – the remnants
of white army does not disturb him...
16...b:c5 17.Bd3 a5 18.0–0 Rfd8 19.Bc4
a4 20.Rac1 Qh4 21.b3 a3

Backward pawn is fixed, however, defence
resources have not been exhausted. It’s
time to build a fortress... 22.Rc2 Ra7
23.Ng3! f5 24.Re1 Rad7 25.Nf1 White
deftly covered all the approaches to his
place. What is next?.. 25...Kf8 26.Be2 e5
27.Na4 Qb4 28.Rec1

28...Rd2 Interesting practical solution. Now white has even some material advantage, but must keep an eye on a-pawn. If desperate queen efforts will not bear fruit, white can count on a draw by perpetual check. 29.N:d2 R:d2 30.N:c5 R:c2 31.R:c2 Qe1+ 32.Bf1 Qd1 33.Re2 e4 34.b4 Qb1 35Nb3 f4 36.Nd4 Kg8 37.N:c6 f3 38.g:f3 e:f3 39.Re8+ Kg7 40.b5 Q:a2

41.Nb4? And now — hand trembled. [But rooks like shooting at pawns from the rear: 41.Ra8 Qb2 42.Ra6! a2 43.b6 Qc1 44.b7 Qg5+ 45.Kh1 Qc1 with a draw] 41...Qd2?! Once won 41...Qb1 — nothing to protect the knight. 42.Re4 h5 43.b6? Giving more air to the king. 43...Qg5+ 44.Kh1 Qc5 45.Re7+ Peculiar sense of humor under the curtain... 45...Q:e7 46.Nc6 0-1

(02) Gelfand,B (2777) - Rapport,R (2691) [A52] 76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (2), 12.01.2014 [IM Sitnikov, A] There was a small sensation in this game: the "newbie" beat an experienced fighter in Budapest gambit! 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d:e5 Ng4 4.Nf3 As you know, tastes differ. The same argument applies to debut preferences of the players. And yet, playing against chess "rebel", it made sense to go for position with the advantage of two bishops: [4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.e3 Ng:e5 8.N:e5 N:e5 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 and in view of the threat Nd2-b3 with a further a2-a3, black should exchange on d2, which will determine a small, but persistent advantage for white] 4...Bc5 Of course! Now the white bishop will not go to the active place! 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Be2 Ng:e5 8.N:e5 N:e5 9.0-0 a5

10.Kh1?! An important point. After this rather "sluggish" move white can forget of the notorious "advantage to make the first". Commentators have suggested here to arrange a surprise check black bishop: [10.Na4 Ba7 11.c5 — but perhaps black
has enough counterarguments there...


28.Kg1 f5 29.Kf1 Ra6 30.Bc7 Kf7 31.g4 Rc6 32.B:a5 Ra6
33.Bc3 White has unhealthy attention to his bishop, forgetting about the rest of the fighters. [Good practical chance could become a sacrifice 33.b4 b6 34.g:f5 b:a5 35.b5 with a further enhancement of the king] 33...R:a2 34.g:f5 e3 Active black figures reached the peak. White case deplorable. 35.g3 Rc2 36.Be1 Kf6 37.g4 h5 38.Bh4+ Kf7 39.g5+ Kf6 40.Kg1 Kg6 41.Kh2 Re5 42.Ra8 Kh5 43.Kg1 Ne3 44.Kh1 Rh3+ 45.Kg1 Kg6 46.Kf1 Rh2?! [Easier 46...Nf4 weaving checkmate patterns: 47.h6 Re2 48.h7 Rf2+ 49.Kg1 Ng2+ 50.Kf1 Nh3+ 51.Kf1 Kf3] 47.Ra1 Rf3+ [And here quickly resolve 47...Re5 48.Ra8 Kg3 49.Rg8+ Kh3 and white gets checkmated] 48.Kg1 Rg3+ 49.Kf1 Rf3+ [49...Rf4 50.Rb7 Kf3 51.Kg1 Ne2 52.Kg2 Rh4+ 53.Kg1 Kg3 54.Ra8 Rg3+ 55.g4! Rg6 56.R:h7 R:h7 57.Ra8 Rg6+ 58.Kh2 Rg8+ 59.Kg1 Rh8+ 60.Kf2 Rh2+ 61.Kg1 R:h7+] 51.h6 Nf4

39...Rh2? Black has not played enough! [After 39...e2+ 40.Kg1 Rd2 could sign pact of white troops resign] 40.Be1 Kf6 41.Kg1 Re2 42.Bc3+ Kf5 43.B:g7 Kf4 44.Bh6+ Kg3 45.B:e3 R:e3 46.Kf1

52.h7? This impulsive pawn step into the abyss was supposed to promote the mileage of white king on queenside, but... not happened! [A great chance to rescue ap-


Obviously, black have been generous for the sake of maximum activation heavy pieces, such Rb4–e4. So white urgently needs to strengthen the position in the centre, even returning part of the loot. 19.Qd4! Qa3 20.Kf2 Q:a2 21.Re3! Suddenly the rivals exchanged roles. Black remains only to try the latest best chance... 21...R:b3 22.Ra1 Rb1

It would seem very unpleasant tactical shot. Untouchable queen, and rooks exchange will lead to eternal pursuit of bare king. But heavy rock stashed in the bottom... 23.Qe4! Paradoxically, leaving his rook under attack, white attacks the enemy’s one, while also creating a threat to checkmate. No protection. 1–0

(04) Kotanjian, T (2500) - Petrosian, T (2654) [D17]
74th Armenian Championship Yerevan (2), 13.01.2014

[IM Sitnikov, A]

The fate of the game is practically solved. Without strong points, being "on a short leash" near the passed pawn, black will not last long...


27...Bd6 28.Bd4?!

Careful 28. Ra3, controlling all approaches to own camp...

28...Be5?!

[Could extend the resistance by 28...Bb3 29.Rd2 Bf4 30.Rf2 Nc6 31.Bc5 Kd7 and king rushes to eliminate enemy infantry]


29...Nd3 30.Ra6+ Kf7 31.Be3

10...Ne7N [After 10...Na5 11.a4 Bd7]


24.Ne4! This way is forced transition to the endgame, where a pair of bishops will show a solo concert... 24...Qb7 25.Nc5 B:d3 26.N:b7 R:b7 27.R:d3 e4 28.Rdd1 Rbd7 29.d6 Bf8 30.Bb6 Re8 31.Rc6 Re6 32.Bc5 a5 [Not helped 32...Ne8 33.R:a6 B:d6 34.B:d6 Rd:d6 35.R:d6 R:d6 36.R:d6 N:d6 37.a5 f5 38.a6 Nc8 39.g4 Kf7 40.g:f5 g:f5 41.Kg3 Kf6 42.Kf4 Nb6 43.a7 N:d5+ 44.Kg3 Nc7 45.f4 e:f3 46.B:f3 Ke5 47.Bb7 Kf6 48.Kh4 Kg6 49.Bc6 Kh6 50.Be8 Na8 51.Bd7 Kg6 52.Kg3 Kg5 53.h4+ Kg6 54.Kf4 – white gradually eats both pawns and then sends the king to the opposite flank] 33.Bf1 e3

34.B:e3 [Victory was achieved easier: 34.Bc4 e2 35.Re1 Re5 36.f4 Re4 37.Bb5]
Rd8 38.R:e2 R:e2+ 39.B:e2 Ne4 40.Bb6 R:d6 41.R:d6 B:d6 42.B:a5 g5 43.f:g5 N:g5 44.Bc4 Ne4+ 45.Kg2 N:g5 46.Bd5! cutting off the knight, and in case of his exchange black soon have to lose the bishop]

34...Rd:d6 35.Rd:d6 B:d6 36.Bb5 The game enters the stage of slow maneuvering...

36...Be5 37.Rc8+ Kg7 38.Kg2 Ne4 39.Ra8 Bc3 40.Bc4 Re7 41.Ra6 h5

42...f5?! Nervous pawn movement only simplifies the task for white. 43.Rc6 Bf6 44.Bb6 h4 45.g:h4 B:h4 46.Bd8 Bf6 47.B:e7 B:e7 48.Ra6 A further problem for white – to create in the opponent's camp additional weakness to alternately attacking pawns on both flanks... 48...Bb4 49.Bc6 Nf6 50.h4 Kh6 51.Bf3 Kg7 52.Rb6 Bc3 53.Rb5 Bd2 54.Kf1 Kh6 55.Ke2 Bc3 56.Rb6 Kg7 57.Rb7+ Kh6 58.Rf7 Ne8 59.Rd7 Nf6 60.Rc7 Bb4 61.Rf7 Ne8 62.h5

62...Ng7 63.h:g6 K:g6 64.Rb7 It is obvious that infantryman f5 soon falls under the scope. Defence here is a thankless task...


It would seem that black gets desired – one after another exchanged the pawns, and pieces support each other. But look closely, you will notice that the knight is completely immobilized and cut off from the main place of events. Now the superior

(06) Hovhannisyan,R (2592) - Andriasian,Z (2621) [B38]
74th Armenian Championship Yerevan (3), 14.01.2014
[IM Sitnikov, A]

12.Qd3 As we said in notes to the game Brkic – Stanojosci (see CZM 11/2013 issue), white increasingly abandoning the template 12. f3 in favor of queen move. Thus precluding the possibility of check Qb6 (after the exchange of dark-squared bishops), and pawn "b" fast marching forward... 12...Nd7 13.B:g7 K:g7 14.b4 b6 15.a3N a5 16.Bg4 White successfully activates the bishop, leaving a black pawn "b" without support... 16...Ne5 17.Qd4 a:b4 18.a:b4 Kg8 19.Bh3 Bb7 20.Nd5


24...g:f5 Black could not endure this bone in the throat, however, now warrior dies on the queenside. 25.Q:b6 Qa7 [The matter is that after 25...Rfb8 26.Qe3 R:b4 27.Qg3+
27.R:f5 Rb8 28.b5 Rc7 29.Rc3 e6
30.Rg3+ Kh8 31.d:e6 f:e6 32.Rf4 d5
33.c:d5 e:d5 34.Rb3 Rcb7 35.Rf4

It's time for a decisive break-through...
54...R:b6 55.R:h7 Kc3 56.Rd1

So kings found their haven on opposite flanks. What should I do in this case? Of course, first of all, to drive infantry assault!

10.h4 Nd7 However, black placed his forces very harmoniously, and his position has no hint of weakness. 11.Bd3 Nf6 All black moves seemingly logical, right – but the trouble! – when versatile castling, "normal" position moves from general considerations often don't work! 12.Bd4! [Interesting to test in practice 12.Bg5!? – the fact is that black can not so easy attack bishop by pawn: 12...h6? (12...Ne4 13.B:e4 B:e4 14.Rd1 B:g5 15.h:g5 Re8 16.Qf4 Bg6 17.Nh4l) 13.B:h6+–] 12...c5 13.B:f6 B:f6

56...d2 [Even with more persistent defence 56...Kc2 57.Rh1 Rbc6 58.Ra7 d2 59.Ra2+---

Pulling alternately pawns on both flanks, white puts the opponent in a stalemate...

35...Kg7 36.b6 Kf6 37.Kf2 Ke5 38.g4 Kd6
39.h4 Kc5 40.Rb5+ Kc6 41.Rf8+ 42.Kg3 d4 43.g5 Rd8 44.Rb5 Rd5
45.Kg4 Rd6 46.h5 Kd5 47.Rd8 Kb4 48.Rd2 Kc2 49.Nc1 Kb3 50.h6 Rd8
51.Rc6 Rd5 52.Rc1 Rd8 53.Kh5 Rd6

35...Kg7 36.b6 Kf6 37.Kf2 Ke5 38.g4 Kd6
39.h4 Kc5 40.Rb5+ Kc6 41.Rf8+ 42.Kg3 d4 43.g5 Rd8 44.Rb5 Rd5
45.Kg4 Rd6 46.h5 Kd5 47.Rd8 Kb4 48.Rd2 Kc2 49.Nc1 Kb3 50.h6 Rd8
51.Rc6 Rd5 52.Rc1 Rd8 53.Kh5 Rd6

54.Rc7 It's time for a decisive breakthrough...
54...R:b6 55.R:h7 Kc3 56.Rd1

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14.Qf4 d5 15.h5 Re8 16.g4?!
Very beautifully! Although this combinational motive not just once met in practice... 19...d4 20.Bc4! Qe7 21.Qh4 White puts heavy pieces through "h" and checkmates the opponent – the dream of any attacker! 1-0

(08) Naiditsch,A (2718) - Harikrishna,P (2706) [D00]
76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 23.01.2014
[IM Sitnikov, A]
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.f3!? It is quite possible continuation. Already on the fourth move, a new interesting position! Well, it's nice that the scope for independent creativity in chess is still so wide! 4...e6 5.Qd2!? White is quite logical. He prepares the castle long and waits for the opponent to the short side castling. [Although it was possible immediate 5.g4 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.e3 Be7 8.Bd3 B:d3 9.Q:d3 c5 10.Nge2 Nc6 11.0-0-0? and white's chances are not worse in the upcoming complex middlegame... 11...c4?! 12.Qd2 Qa5 13.e4! d:e4 14.f:e4 N:g4 15.Qe1 0-0-0 16.Qg3±] 5...Be7 6.0-0-0 Nb6 [Possible also 6...c5!? 7.d:c5 Nc6! 8.e4 d:e4 9.Qe2 Qa5 10.f:e4 Bg4 11.Nf3 Q:c5 with approximately equal chances] 7.Qe1!

Slow and mysterious- looking maneuver white queen doesn't deserve critical arrows. Actually, this move is strong and multi-faceted. White creates confrontation

White's position is hopeless. After a few moves he resigned: his headquarters fell under the fire of the enemy artillery. 16.d:c5 B:c3 17.c:b6 a:b6 18.b:c3 N:a2+ 19.Kb2 Qd6 0-1

(09) Aronian,L (2812) - Karjakin,S (2759) [E15]
76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 23.01.2014 [IM Sitnikov, A]
In the ninth round held a duel which actually called the name of the winner of the tournament. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Rivals for the third time in the last two years lead discussions in this variation of Queen's Indian, which had a reputation as "modest" and usually led to a draw seared items. However, in recent years, have found many new and interesting here. [The most actively debated acute option with the pawn sacrifice: 5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.d5!?] 5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bg2 c6 9.e4 d5 Дрэма

21...B:e5?! Nobody marked inaccuracy. After this move white will have a lot of pressure in the center and diagonal h1-a8. And even if black contrived to exchange light-squared bishops, it may not bring the desired relief to him... [Stronger 21...Rad8 22.N:c6 B:c6 23.B:c6 Q:c6 24.d5 Qb7 Now keep the white pawn not easy. This can only be weakened his king's pawn cover: 25.Qh5 g6 26.Qf3 Be5 27.Rbd1 B:f4 28.g:f4 Rd6 29.Rd4 Rfd8 30.Rfd1 Qd7 There will be difficult for white to make any progress, because his pieces chained to the protection of the central pawn. In addition, dual infantries "f" don't paint his position] 22.d:e5 Q:e5 23.Re1± Qf6 24.Nh5 [Looked tempting both 24.Qe2!? Rad8 25.Qe4; and 24.Qf3!? Rad8 25.Qg2 Rd7 26.b4] 24...Qh6 25.Qg4 Qg6 26.Qh3 [Exchange of queens greatly facilitates black game: 26.Q:g6?! h:g6 27.Nf4 Rad8] 26...Rad8 27.Nf4 Qf6 28.Be4 [Need to increase pressure on the long diagonal: 28.Qg2! Ba8 (28...Rd7 29.b4 Kh8 30.Rbd1 Rfd8? 31.Re1! Rd6 32.b5) 29.Rbd1 Ne5 30.B:a8 R:a8 31.Qe4 Rae8 32.Re3 Qc6 33.Q:c6 N:c6 34.Qc3 Rc8 35.Nd5 Rfd8, and white wins a pawn with good chances for victory: 36.Kg2 Kf8 37.N:b6 a:b6 38.R:d8+ R:d8 39.R:c6] 28...g6 29.Nd5?! Active attack doesn't cause any damage to black. On the contrary, this move helps opponent release knight from the tangle. [29.Qg2 Rd2 30.Rbc1 Re8 31.h4] 29...Qg7 30.Rbc1 Дярана

30...Kh8? Black, not seeing the danger, made a careless move by king, which was blunder. But just how large "margin of safety" in chess! Black more than once or twice in the future could make this game a draw! [Was right to bring in a battle the second rook: 30...Rfe8! with full equalization] 31.N:b6! a:b6 32.B:c6 B:c6 33.R:c6 Rd2 Despite losing a pawn, black pieces activity and limited remaining material on the board gives him a good chance to save the game. 34.Qh4 [Looked interesting 34.Qc8!? R:a2 35.Re8 Kg8 36.R:b6 but black has the opportunity to convert the game into a rook endgame and put his rook behind the enemy passed pawn: 36...R:e8 37.Q:e8+ Qf8 38.Qe5 Ra8 39.b4 Qe8 40.Q:e8+ R:e8 41.b5 Re1+ 42.Kg2 Rb1! Detailed analysis of this and similar rook endings you can find in the wonderful "Endgame tutorial" by Mark Dvoretzky. With accurate play black can achieve a draw] 34...R:a2 35.Qb4 h5 36.Q:b6 Ra1 37.Rcc1 Rc1 38.R:c1 Qb2 39.Rd1 Kh7 40.Qb5 Kg7 41.Qd3 Rb8 42.Rb1 Qe5 43.Qd2 Дярана

(10) Caruana,F (2782) - Naiditsch,A (2718) [A09]
76th Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (10), 25.01.2014
[IM Sitnikov, A]
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 g6 4.c4 d:c4
5.Na3 Bg7 6.N:c4 c5 It took just six moves, and the position is almost never met in practice! Already in the beginning of the game you can find an interesting one less traveled path. It would wish! 7.Nf5 0-0 8.d3 Nd5 9.Qb3 e6 10.0-0 Qc7 11.f4!


An exemplary embodiment, the best scenario for black, he still falls into the bleak ending] 21...Ne7 22.e5? White realized that "poke" at the most inopportune moment when the black pieces are perfectly coordinated! Line "f", which white so kindly opened for opponent play, backfire him in this game... 22...Qb6! 23.e:f6+ R:f6 24.Kh1

[It was time for safety reasons to think about queens exchange 24.Qa5!? ] Further part of the game Naiditsch holds very clearly. As if sensing opponent uncertainty, black started playing with a vengeance! 24...Nd5! 25.Qd2 c4! 26.d:c4 b:c4 27.Nbd4 Nc5! 28.Rc2 Nd3 29.b3 Nb2 30.Ne5 White suddenly decided to show activity. [If throw to fight against "subversive" c4 another heavy gun: 30.Rfc1 variants lead us to the complicated endgame where the parties are roughly equal chances: 30...c3 31.R:c3 N:c3 32.R:c3 Rd8]


[It seems, should play only 32.Qg1! leading the queen of confrontation with the enemy rook through "f" : 32...N:f4 33.g:f4 R:d4 34.R:c3 Here the white balances on the edge, but like holds] 32...N:f4! Furious blow! At first it seems like just an exchange pawns, leading to the complete chances equation... But it is not so! 33.g:f4 R:d4 34.R:c3 Nd1! Unusual "fork" decides the fate of the game. 35.Rc7+ Witty, but black "humor is not understood"... 35...Kg8! 36.Qc2 Rd:f4 37.R:b7 Nf2+ 38.Kg1 Nh3+ 39.Kh1 Rf1+! Worthy end! In two moves to the checkmate white resigned. 0-1

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