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Games

(01) Bruzon Batista,Lazaro (2701) - Roselli Mailhe,Bernardo (2449) [C16]
9th Panamerican Team Chess Championship (2), 25.01.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7

10...Nf5?! [Black easy equalized the game after 10...0–0 11.Ng3 Bxf1 12.Rxf1 f6
13.Kf2 fxe5 14.fxg5 Ng6 15.Kg1 Qe7
19.Rxf3 Rf8 20.Rxf8+ Qxf8 21.Ne2 Qf5 / Marjanovic, S (2540) – Psakhis, L (2540) / Bor 1985] 11.0–0–0 h5 [Usually in this variation the long castling is unprofitable for white, because black exchanges his bad "French" bishop and close the position, receiving excellent prospects for massive pawn attack on the white king: 11...Bxe2 12.Bxe2 c4 . However, here we see that black hastened with Nf5 move, and this fact gives white a few extra tempo – 13.g4 Nh4 14.Rdf1 Nxf3 15.Rxf3 b5 16.f5 b4
17.fxe6 fxe6 18.Qf4 Qe7 19.Rhf1 Kd7
20.Qf7 Rhf8 21.Bd1 Rxg7 22.Rxf7 bxc3 23.bxc3=] 12.Ng3! And now white captures the black knight, so the Royal fortress suffers damage. 12...Bxf1 [12...Nxg3 13.hxg3 Bxf1 14.Rdxf1 cxd4 15.cxd4 Qc7 16.Kb1 0–0 17.Ng5! Qd7 18.f5 exf5 19.Qc2 Kd8
20.Qxf5 Qxf5+ 21.Rxf5 Nxd4 22.Rf4! Ne2

17...f6 [17...Nxe6 18.Qc2 0–0 19.Qxf5 g6
21.Rg3 Qh7 22.b3 cxb3 23.axb3 0–0–0 although here the white retain the advantage due to the strong passed pawn and dynamic center] 21.Rg3 Nd6

(02) Roselli Mailhe,Bernardo (2449) - Akobian,Varuzhan (2615) [E36] 9th Panamerican Team Chess Championship (3), 26.01.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]

On the Board arose the endgame, where, in spite of a more compact white pawn structure, black’s chances are not worse in view of the development advantage. It is interesting to see how well Varuzhan Akobian uses his advantages... 15...e5 16.e3 Bf5 17.Rh4 a5 18.b5 Na7 19.a4 Rfd8 20.Rc4 Rxd1+ 21.Kxd1

28...Rc8! Black exchanges the rooks, while retaining his pawn asset on queenside. 29.b6 Rxc7 30.bxc7 Bc8 31.Bxh7 Ke7 32.Ne2 Formally there is material equality on the board, but a little wary of the fact that the white bishop entered the game only on the 23th move, and the knight – even later – on the 32th move. Pawn c7 is doomed, and two connected passed pawn decide the fate of the game... 32...Kd6 33.Nc3 Kxc7 34.Nd5+ Kd6 35.Nxf6 b5 36.Kc2 a4 37.g4 Bxg4 38.Bg8 Bf5+ 39.Kc3 Kc5 40.Kd2 b4 0-1

(03) Onischuk,Alexander (2660) - Rodriguez Vila,Andres (2508) [E00] 9th Panamerican Team Chess Championship (3), 26.01.2013 [IM Sitnikov, A]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nc3 Bc7 8.d6 Ba5 9.Nh3! Nc6 10.0-0

14...hxg5 15.Bxg5 Kg7 The game is forced, and it is hard to advise black. Probably, it is time to drop this debut option into the archive. 16.e4 Qe8 17.Bxf6+ Kxf6 18.f4 Rg8 19.Qh5 Kg7 20.e5 Kf8

21.Rae1 [Finished the fight 21.Qh6+ Rg7 22.f5 Kg8 23.Rf4 Qxe5 24.Rh4++] 21...Ba6?! [Even after a relatively better 21...f5 22.Qxf5+ Qf7 23.Qh3 pawn armada sweeps away all obstacles] 22.f5 Qc8 23.e6 1-0

(04) Ladies - Men [A52]
Gibraltar Chess Festival: Ladies vs Men
Gibraltar Gibraltar (3), 26.01.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
A match-up, on a giant chess set, between the ladies team consisting of Jovanka Houska (England), Nana Dzagnidze (Georgia), Zhao Xue (China), Valentina Gunina (Russia), Tania Sachdev (India) and Viktorija Cmilyte (Lithuania) versus the men: Gata Kamsky (USA), Gawain Jones (England), Emil Sutovsky (Israel), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France), Le Quang Liem (Vietnam) and Kiril Georgiev (Bulgaria), was held on January 27th evening, as a fun part of the Gibraltar Chess Festival. It was won 2-1 by the men in a close contest. The first game was played at 15 minutes per team; games two and three at 7 minutes. The clock stayed on the arbiter's table, and had to be pressed by each player in turn. You can watch the video of event: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKy1AGiNPHg

Now we look the 3rd game.

10.g3!N Brilliant! The pace of blitz, spending a few seconds on thinking, white with the last move improved the strong novelty. The inventor is the young Indian chess player Tania Sachdev - there was her turn to move at this moment. [Before played 10.b4 d6 11.e3 however, we recognize that the bishop is successfully located on g2, taking on control the large diagonal and defendind the castling position] 10...0-0 11.Bg2 d6 12.0-0 Qe8 13.Bxf6 Rxf6 14.b4 Bg4 15.b5 Ne7 16.Ng5 Qh5?!


There is non-standard endgame on the board. Objectively white is better, but often it turns out that the side, which has a Queen, lost vigilance, considering that the victory is achieved automatically. In addition, under time pressure, always everybody has much more pleasure to attack than defend. Here a quick black knight and mobile rooks can give the opponent a lot of
trouble. 31.Kh2 Kh7 32.Rg1 Rf6 33.Qd7 Ne6? 34.Qd3? Exchange of pleasantries. Black forgotten to protect pawn by Rf7, and white, as if hypnotized, don't accept the proposed gift... 34...Kh8 35.Qe4 Rf7 36.Qe3 Kh7 37.Rg2 Nd4 38.Qe4 Kh8 39.Qg4 Rf4 40.Qh5+ Kg8 41.Rb2 Rf8 Already black dictate their terms. 42.Kg2 Nf5

11...Nh5 A very logical move, which provides the centre possession. Yes, and the knight on the edge of the board, as we shall see further, is not fool 12.Be3 f6N [Earlier in several games met 12...Bg4 however, the move in this game is stronger. While there is no need to determine the bishop location] 13.h3 e5 14.Ra4 Nc7 15.Rd1 Ne6 16.b4 e4 17.Ne1 f5

Black pieces are very well located to maintain the pawn centre movement. See if white find organize some counterplay... 18.b5 cxb5 19.Nxb5 Bd7 20.Rb4 a5 21.Rb3 g5 22.g4 fxg4 23.hxg4 Nh4 24.Bf1
24...Rab8?! Black achieved obvious progress, but there displays unnecessarily slow. [After energetic 24...b6 25.Rc1 bxc5 26.dxc5 Bc6 black's advantage no doubt]

25.Nc3 Bc6 26.f3?! [It is time to bring into play the sleeping pieces: 26.Nc2 with mutual chances]

26...Nxc5! 27.dxc5 d4

28.Bxf4 dxc3

Black burst on queenside. The pieces on f1 and e1 not decorate white's position.

29.Bd6 Ba4 30.Rxc3 Bxd1 31.Rc1 Bb3 32.fxe4? Excessive generosity. It was necessary to play Bb8, although there black bishops dominated... 32...Bxb2

33.Rb1 Bd4+ 34.e3 Bxe3+ 35.Kh1 a4

36.e5 Rbc8 37.Nd3 b6 38.cxb6 Bxb6

39.Bg2 Rc3 40.Be4 Bc7 0-1

(06) Khusnutdinov,Rustam (2493) - Kovalenko,Igor (2586) [E41]
Moscow Open 2013 Moscow (4), 05.02.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]

10...Na5!?N [Previously met 10...Qe7 11.d5 Na5 12.Ng3 0-0-0 13.e5 Ne8 14.Qe2 exd5 15.Nf5 Qc7 16.exd5 g6 17.exd6 Nxd6 18.Nxd6+ Qxd6 19.c4 and here black could tie a severe bout with mutual chances by 19...b5! / Hjartarson, J (2565) – García, G (2495) / Yerevan ol (Men) 1996]

11.e5 Ng4 12.Qc2 f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.f5 e5 15.dxe5 dx e5 16.Ng3
16...h6! Not allowing the action freedom to the white bishop. 17.Re1 0–0 18.Rxe5 A series of forced moves led to extra white pawn. However, now the black pieces develop the remarkable activity... 18...Ng4 19.Re6 Qh4 20.Nf1 Rad8 21.Be3 Bc8 22.Rg6

Black suffered minimal damage, instead of having several significant advantages: compact pawn structure and fast knights. The chances can be estimated as approximately equal. 31.Ng3 Kh7 32.Rf1 Rf7 33.Be3 Rd7 34.Rf8 a5 35.Bf4 Bf7 36.Be3 White can never find a use for that bishop...

22...Kh8?! [Much stronger was a sacrifice: 22...Rxd3! 23.Qxd3 Bxf5 24.Qd5+ Kh8 25.g3 (25.Rd6 Be4 26.Qxe4 Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1 Nhx2+) 25...Qe7 26.Rxg4 Bxg4 27.Bf4 Qe2 28.Qd2 Nxc4 29.Qxe2 Bxe2 and by next move black exchanges his bishop for the knight, receiving the winning endgame] 23.h3 Ne5 24.Bf2 Qe7 25.Re1 White consolidated their forces, and in order to avoid the worst black has to pass into the non-

standard endgame... 25...Rxd3 26.Qxd3 Bxf5 27.Qd6 Qxd6 28.Rxd6 Nxc4 29.Rdd1 Nd3 30.Re2 Bg6

37...a3?! [Black could win another pawn and obtain the perspective position by several knight zigzags: 37...Ncb2 38.a3 Nd1 39.Be1 Nxe1 40.Rxe1 Nxc3 41.Ne4 Nxe4 42.Rxe4 b5 43.Rc8 b4 44.Rxc5 b3]
14...h5 [Seems to be good idea – 14...a4 with a view for opening line "a" when the neighbouring white pawn moves. This continuation seen in a number of games, for example: 15.b4 axb3 16.axb3 h5 17.Bb2 Re7 18.b4 Na4 19.Nxa4 Bxa4 20.Qd3 Qe8 with mutual chances / Schwartzman, G (2495) – Tkachiev, V (2575) / Hoogovens op 1995] 15.b3 Qc8 16.e5 Nh7 [After 16...dxe5 17.fxe5 Nh7 18.Nd5 Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Rxe5 20.Qd3 Qe8 with mutual chances / Schwartzman, G (2495) – Tkachiev, V (2575) / Hoogovens op 1995] 17.Ba3 17...h4?! [After correct 17...Na6 with the
further Nb4, precocious white’s outing have not reached the goal, and there would be a long struggle] 18.g4 Ne6 19.Nxe6 Bxe6 20.Qf3 A few simple moves black put themselves into a critical situation, and even the top-level grandmaster Ivan Cheparinov is unable to avoid the collapse... 20...dxe5 21.fxe5 Qd8


What to do now? Both of possible knight retreats doesn’t promise anything good, and black rush-to-hand... 23...g3 24.hxg3 fxg3 25.Be3 Qh4!? 26.cxb7 Bh6
27.bxc8Q+ Rxc8 28.Qb3 Qh2+ 29.Kf1 Qh1+ 30.Bg1 Ng5 31.bxa6 Nh3! 32.gxh3 Bxd2

33.Bd1? This move is wrong, however, note that to find the right path in passing options kaleidoscope – not always a virtue even for top-level grandmasters. [It should pave the king backbone for the flight, and then go on attack by 33.Bb5 Rf6 34.Ke2 Qg2+ 35.Kd1 Bh6 36.Qd3 Rxf3 37.Ke2 Qxg1+ 38.Kc2 Qe3 39.Qxe3 Bxe3 40.Be2 Rf2 41.Rb3! Bf4 42.Kd3 Ra8 43.Rab1 Rxa6 44.Rb8+ Kf7 45.Rb7 g2 46.Rxc7+ Kf6 47.h4!! Bh2 48.Rf8+ Kg6 49.Rg8+ Kf6 50.Rgg7 with the inevitable mate] 33...Rf8? Black were very close to reap the benefits of his brave onslaught, but makes the reciprocal judgement. [After the natural 33...g2+ 34.Ke2 Qxg1 35.Bc2 Qa7 36.Rf2 Rgf6 black are better] 34.Ke2 Bh6 35.Ba7 Rgf6

It seems to be gathering clouds over the white king. However, there is a brilliant solution to the problem. 36.f4!! Psychologically, such a move is very difficult to foresee – two pawns remain under attack, and one of them can be captured with check. The decisive factor is the timely inclusion of the white Queen into protection on the 3rd horizontal. 36...Qxe4+ 37.Qe3 Qg2+ [The fantastic finale comes after 37...Qc4+ 38.Qd3 Qxf4 39.Qe3 Qh4 40.Bxh6!! g2 41.Kd2! g1Q 42.Be2 Qg4 43.Rg1+ Kf7 44.Rg7+ Ke8 45.Be3! Qxd3+ 46.Bxd3 Rf2+ 47.Kc3 – black attack stumped, and two threats Bb5 and a7 irresistible] 38.Kd3 Qxd5+ 39.Kc2 Qg2+ 40.Qe2 Qc6+ 41.Nc3 Rxf4 42.Qb5 Qg2+ 43.Be2 Resi- dence of the white monarch unapproachable, and the battle coming to the end soon... 43...c6 44.Qd3 Rf3 45.Rg1 Qh2 46.Qxd6 Bg7 47.Qd2 1-0

(09) Fier,Alexandr (2577) - Jianu,Vlad-Cristian (2500) [B43]
35th Bulgarian International Open Chess Plovdiv, Bulgaria (7), 08.02.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
Brazilian grandmaster Alexandr Fier became the winner of this tournament. Now we see his fight against the 4th prize-winner, the Romanian grandmaster Jianu 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 b5?! [More reliable 6...Nc6 or Nf6] 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0-0 d6 9.Re1 Nd7 10.a4! bxa4 [After 10...b4 11.Na2 a5
12.c3 bxc3 13.Nxc3 the position is opened to white's benefit. The knight invasion to b5, capture the line "c" and pressure on the weak pawn d6 – make the black position defenseless. 11.Rxa4 Ngf6

15.Nf5!? Now white woke up and happy to use any opportunity not giving the opponent to finish the pieces development... 15...exf5 16.exf5 Bxg2 17.Bxb6 Nxb6 18.Kxg2 Qc6+ 19.f3

White risked losing all the fruits of the previous efforts – after 25...Ne5 26.Qd2 Rc8 white c2 pawn is captured] 26.Kh3! Cool king move puts everything in its place. The black pieces hung in the air, and there is no escape... 26...Re3 27.Rxc4 Qf3 28.Qd2 Qxf5+ 29.Kg1 Re5 30.Rf4 Qc6 32.Rd4 h5 33.Rxd6 Qc5+ 34.Qd4 Qa3 35.Rd8+ Kh7 36.Qd3+ g6 37.Rd7+ 1-0

(10) Rombaldoni, Axel (2472) - Parligras, Mircea-Emilian (2633) [E12] 35th Bulgarian International Open Chess Plovdiv, Bulgaria (9), 10.02.2013

[IM Sitnikov, A]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Bb7 5.Nc3 d5 6.Qc2 c5

7.dxc5 [The main line: 7.cxd5 cxd4 8.Qa4+ Nbd7 9.Nxd4 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.e4 Bb7 12.Be3 a6 13.f3 with the minimal advantage for white] 7...bxc5?! More careful was capturing by bishop. 8.cxd5 exd5 9.e4!

9...d4 [The sacrifice accepting is not suitable in view of 9...dxe4 10.Ne5 with strong threats Bb5, Bc4, Qb3] 10.e5 dxc3? [Saving semi-closed nature of position by 10...Nfd7 11.Ne4 Be7 12.Bf4 but here the possession of central outposts also gives white an advantage] 11.exf6 Qxf6 12.Bb5+ Bc6
13.0-0! Uncastled king is quickly becoming the victim of a devastating onslaught...
13...Bxb5 14.Bg5 Qg6 [14...Qb6 15.Rfe1+ Kd7 16.a4 Bc6 17.Qf5+ Kc7 18.Bf4+ Kb7 19.bxc3--] 15.Rfe1+ Be7 16.Rxe7+ Kf8

17.Qxc3 Nd7 18.Qb3 Bc6


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