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(01) Lupulescu,C (2648) - Womacka,M (2455) [E11]  
Gibraltar Open Caleta ENG (8.20), 31.01.2012  
[IM Iljin, T]  
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 0–0 5.a3 Be7 6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 c5 8.d5 I think that after this game we can safely put a sign of doubt to the white's 8th move and to the relative plan. 8...exd5 9.cxd5 Nxd5! This is another example of a particular approach to chess. He gives the blue pawn. Of course, you need to take it away! Let him show the compensation for the pawn! 10.Be4 Bb7 11.Qb3

It is possible that here white rubbed his hands together in anticipation, waiting for the resignation of his opponent, because black knight seems to be under 'dead' pin, however... 11...c4! 12.Nxc4

[probably just then white saw that the planned 12.Qxc4 meets with a blow: 12...Nxe3! 13.fxe3] 12...Na6! Not giving a break! The second knight rushes to attack by the shortest path! 13.Qd1

13...Nc3! New trouble! [13...Nxe3 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Bxe3] 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.bxc3 Nc5 16.Nce5 [In case of 16.0–0 the pin is very annoying: 16...Ba6 17.Qd5 Kg8] 16...Ba6 [16...Bf6! 17.0–0 d6] 17.c4 Rc8 18.Qc2+ Kg8 19.h4 This move is of the series: just to go somewhere/ CASTLING is not delivered from troubles: [Рокировка уже не избавляла от бед: 19.0–0 d6 20.Rd1 Bb7 21.Ne1 Be4 22.N5d3 d5!] 19...d5 [Better was

9...exd4 10.cxd4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 h6 12.Qb3!? 


23...Rg7! [23...Qe7 24.Bh7+ Kh8 25.Bg6+ Rh7 26.Bxh7 Qxh7 27.Qe3 Bc6!] 24.Bh7+ Kf7 25.Bg6+ Ke7!! An unpleasant surprise! Seemed to be the game goes to the perpetual check draw: [25...Kg8 26.Bh7+ Kf7 27.Bg6+ but it's an illusion!] 26.Qa3 Kd7! The black king is on foot to victory! 27.Rd1 Kc8 28.Qxa7 c6 29.Qa8+ Kc7 30.Qa5+ Well, again perpetual check? 30...Kb8! and again the refusal! 31.Ra4! 31...Be5! and again the opponent 'doesn't understand'! 32.h3 [32.Qa8+ Kc7 33.Qa5+ Kc8 34.Qa8+ Bb8+] 32...Kc8 33.Re1
33...Bxg2+! Graceful ending of a great game! 34.Kxg2 Qxf5 35.Rg4 Rxg6 36.Qb4 Rd4 0–1

(03) Matlakov,M (2625) - Grigoryan,Av (2621) [D11]
Moscow Open D 2012 Moscow RUS (5), 01.02.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 Be6 5.Be2 [5.Ng5??

8.e4 [But here this move 8.Ng5 does not lead to disastrous consequences and may even be recommended: 8...Bd5 9.e4 h6 10.exd5 hxg5 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.d5 Qd6 13.h3! Attention! It's not necessary to blunder the mate in one. Rook h8 is not sleeping now! 13...Ne5 14.Bxg5]

Curiously but some GMs with ELO > 2500 come across the plain trap here: 5...Qa5+ 6.Nc3 Qxg5 , but one of games ended in a draw after very long fight! 1/2 Kunte,A (2536)–Varga,Z (2494)/Beijing 2008/CBM 126 Extra (81)] 5...Nf6 6.0-0 g6 7.Nc3 Bg7

Gross error, after which black can not save the game. Although, frankly, his position not like sugar in any case:. [16...0-0
17.exf7+ Rxf7 18.Qc2±] 17.Bh5! Here it was possible to 'lower the curtain': after the loss of g6– pawn the whole black’s position breaks down very quickly: 17...Qb6 18.Bxg6+ Kg7 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Bxf7 Rxf7 21.Qh5+.

Here it was possible to 'lower the curtain': after the loss of g6– pawn the whole black's position breaks down very quickly:


Do not worry - the king is not run away!


(04) Eljanov,P (2690) - Socko,B (2636) [E16]
11th Aeroflot Open A Moscow RUS (3), 09.02.2012
[IM Iljin, T]


13...a6 14.Nc3 Qf6

15.Nxd5 [15.Qc2! with idea 15...0-0 16.Bxd5 Nc6 17.Nxg6++ looks like better.]

15...Bxd5 16.cxd5 d6 17.e4 Qxb2 18.Rb1 Qd4+ Of course, white maintains an advantage in the endgame too because of powerful central pawns and obvious difference in the activity of all pieces. 19.Qxd4 cxd4 20.Rfc1 Ra7 21.Nf3 Nd7 22.Nxd4 0-0

26.Kf1 [Stronger is 26.Kg2! and after 26...Rxd7 27.a4 g5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Rxb5 black has a pawn-down in a worse position.] 26...Rxd7 27.a4 g5 28.axb5 axb5

29.f5 [and there could be 29.Rxb5 without fear of 29...Be3 30.Rcb1! gx4 31.Ke2 f5 32.e5! dxe5 33.Nxe5 Rc7 34.Kf3] Thereafter, white gradually spilled the advantage and the game eventually ended in a draw on 107th move. Moreover, white had to suffer more in the endgame 'rook against rook and bishop' from 93th to 107th moves. 29...Ra8 30.Rxb5 Be3 31.Rcb1 Ra4 32.Rb4 Ra2 33.Rc4 Ra4 34.Rb4 Ra2 35.Rb2 Ra1+ 36.Ke2 Bc5 37.Rb1
Situation was changed. Despite the lack of a pawn, black is close to a draw as ever. And white's perseverance and ingenuity in finding winning ways nearly led to white's defeat. 59.Nh5 Bd4 60.Ra2 Ke7 61.Nf4Bg1 62.h3 gxh3 63.Nxh3 Bc5 64.Nf4 Rxe4 65.Rh2 Re3 66.Rxh6 Rxg3 67.Rh7+


83.f6 Bd2 84.Rh8 Re1 85.Re8 Rf1 86.Rc8 Ke5 87.Ke7 Rxf6 88.Nd8 Rg6 89.Nf7+ Kd5 90.Rc2 Bf4 91.Rf2 Bg3 92.Rf1 Ke4 93.Nxd6+ Bxd6+

18.h3! Improvement. Prophylactic move. [18.Bf1? Bc8 19.f4 Ng4 20.e3 0-1 Abramovic,B (2492)–Pavlovic,M (2560)/Bari 2003/EXT 2004 (35) and now after 20...Bf5! 21.e4 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 Bc8 Black has an initiative more than compensates for the lack of material.] 18...Bc8 19.b3 c4 20.f4 now white can drive this knight from the center. 20...Nd7 21.Qe3 , 'looking' at e7–pawn 21...cxb3 22.axb3 Qd8
23.Na4! Stopping the a8-rook which seeks to a3, white proceeds to the siege of the queenside. White plans to seize the c-line by establishing an outpost on c6. 23...Nf6 24.Bf2 Bf5 25.Rbc1 Rb4 26.g4 Bd7

[26...Be4 27.g5] 27.Rc6! Rab8 [27...Bxc6! 28.dxc6 Ne8] 28.Rd3 Bxc6 29.dxc6 Qc7

30.Be1 [Much better was 30.Nc3! because bishop's location on f2 is obviously better than on e1: 30...Rxb3 31.g5! Ne8 32.Nd5 Rxd3 33.exd3 Qd8 34.Nxe7+ Kf8 35.Nd5 Nc7 36.Qa7 Nxd5 37.Bxd5 Qe8 38.Kg2±, and white is a complete master of the situation.] 30...R4b5 31.Nc3 Ra5? Black is too afraid of the appearance of the white knight on d5-square, but in vain! But after the simple and strong [31...Rxb3! 32.g5 Ne8 33.Nd5 Rxd3 34.exd3 Qd8 35.Nxe7+ Kf8 36.Nd5 Nc7 37.Qa7 Rb1 , and black holds.] 32.g5 Nh5 33.Nd5 Rxd5! 34.Bxd5 e6 35.Bf3 Rb5 36.Bc3 e5?

[37.fxe5 Bxe5 38.Bxe5 Rxe5 39.Qd2 Qa7+ 40.Kg2 Qe7 41.h4 d5 42.b4 Qd6 43.b5!]

This impulsive attack brings only defeat.
White pawns are unstoppable! 43...Re6 44.Bxh5 gxh5 45.Rxd5 Rxe2+ 46.Qxe2 Qxd5+ 47.Kg3 Qd6+ 48.Kf3 Qd5+ 49.Kf4 Qd6+ 50.Ke4 Qe6+ 51.Kd3


1-0

(06) Le Quang Liem (2714) - Khalifman,A (2632) [D10]
11th Aeroflot Open A Moscow RUS (5), 11.02.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
14

24...Bxd5= 25.Bxd5 cxd5 26.Qc3 Bf6 27.Re1 Kg8 28.Qb3 Bxd4+ 29.Rxd4 e6 30.a4 Rc8 31.a5 Qg7 32.Re5 Rce8 33.Qe3

27.Bxe5 Rxf1 28.Rxf1 Qxe5 29.Rf3 Qb2+ 30.Rf2 Qe5 31.Rf3 Qb2+ 32.Rf2 Qc3! Sure he rejects the repetition of moves, as he has a comfortable advantage. 33.Qxc3 Bxc3 34.Kf3?

(07) Caruana,F (2736) - Melkumyan,H (2620) [D31]
11th Aeroflot Open A Moscow RUS (6), 12.02.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Be7 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.g4 Be6 8.h4
The most ambitious plan. White wants to take up the space on the kingside. 8...Nd7
Dautov: 'Wahrscheinlich die beste Reaktion auf den 8. Zug von Weiβ nach der Springerentwicklung droht Schwarz 9...xh4. Weder nach 8...e5, noch nach 8...Nd7 hat er dagegen ein leichtes Leben.'
[I was convinced that black is OK after 9.h5 Nh6! on my own experience: 10.Be2 Nbd7]
11...g5! 12.Bg3
(Continuation 12.hxg6 hxg6 Dautov: 'Schwarz plant g6--g5, d7 und 0-0-0.' 13.f3

42.Kxd5 Bc7+ [39...cxd5 40.Ke3 Kf7 41.Kd4 Ke6 42.Nb6 Be1 [42...Ba3 43.Nxd5 Kd7 44.Kc4 h6 45.Nc3 Kg6 46.Ne4 a5 47.Kd4 Bc1] 43.Nxd5 Bf2+ 44.Kc4 Ke5 45.Ne7 [45.Nc7 also doesn't 'cure': 45...Be3 46.Ne8 (46.Nd5 Ke4) 46...Kf4 47.Nd6 Kg3 48.Nf5+ Kf3+[45...b5+! 46.cxb6 Bxb6 The game comes to an end. Extra passed pawn is a huge advantage. 47.Nd5 Ba5 48.Ne7 Kf4 49.Nd5+ Kg3 50.Nf6 Kxh3 51.Nxh7 Kxg4] 0-1

Unfortunate decision, which forcefully led to irreversible consequences for black. 15.Bxe4! Bxe4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qb3! Qa5+


grabbing the c-file 20...Bxh4 21.Bh2

, and I think black is close to rescue.] 22.Rg4 Nd7 [Some better was 22...Nh7 23.Rxe4 Nf6 24.Nxg6+ Nxe4 25.Nxh8 g5] 23.Rxg6
23...Bf6? Highly inconsistent play!
[23...Nxe5 24.Bxe5 Rg8 25.Rxg7 Rxg7 26.Bxg7 h5 with good draw chances.]
24.Rc7+ Nf8 25.Rg4 Ne6 26.Rxb7 0–0

1–0

(08) Iordachescu,V (2651) - Korobov,A (2660) [B51]
11th Aeroflot Open A Moscow RUS (8), 14.02.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.c3 Ngf6 5.Qe2 a6 6.Ba4 b5 [In a recent duel Carlsen –
Topalov (Wijk aan Zee 2012) the ex–champion prematurely determined the posi-
tion of his queen: 6...Qc7 7.0–0 e5 8.d4 b5 9.Bc2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Be7 11.Nc3 0–0
12.Bg5 h6 , and after 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Bb3 Bg4 15.Rac1! he could face some prob-
lems] 7.Bc2 Bb7 8.0–0 e6 9.d4 Be7 10.Rd1 Qc7

Black is two pawns down but doesn’t hur-
ny to give up... 30...Rc8 31.d5 Ng5
32.Ree7 Rc1+ 33.Kg2 Rg6 34.Bg3 h5
35.d6 Rd1 36.d7 Kh7 37.Ra8 h4 38.d8Q
Rxd8 39.Rxd8 hxg3 40.f4

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11.Bd3?! A strange decision. White actually give the opponent two tempo, because the bishop has to go back very soon. [White can extract nothing from 11.a4 0-0 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8 Rxa8 14.Na3 b4 15.Nb5 Qb8; White might not like 11.Nbd2 because of 11...cxd4 and he is forced to take on d4 by knight and losing a strong pawn center.] 11...0-0 12.Nbd2 e5 13.d5?! [White should not lock the center. Worth to think about: 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Nb5 Qb8; White might not like 11.Nbd2 because of 11...cxd4 and he is forced to take on d4 by knight and losing a strong pawn center.] 11...0-0 12.Nbd2 e5 13.d5?! [White should not lock the center. Worth to think about: 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.b3] 13...c4 14.Bc2 Rfb8! 15.Nf1 a5 16.Ng3 Too straight. It was better to direct his knight to e3-square, where he would have looked for both kingside and queenside (c4-pawn). 16...g6 17.h4 b4 18.h5 Nc5! 19.Ng5 [Black pawn, of course, inedible: 19.Qxc4?? Ba6] 19...Ba6 20.Qf3 Nd3! Black has made clear progress in the development of an initiative. At the same time it's unclear how white can develop an 'attack'. 21.Bxd3 Necessary. White can't endure such a knight for a long time. 21...cxd3 22.Bd2 bxc3 23.Bxc3 Bd8!


0-1

(09) Gajewski,G (2616) - Andreikin,D (2688) [A56]
11th Aeroflot Open A Moscow RUS (8), 14.02.2012

14.exf5! Now black faces a difficult choice because each of recapture has its draw-
backs. [The American chess veteran, a former contender for the world championship plays here insinuatingly 14.Bd2!? exf4
15.Bxf4 Bd4+ 16.Kh1 N6f 17.exf5?! (Stronger was 17.e5! not letting the freedom to black pieces 17...dxe5 18.Bxe5
27.Bd5 and black is under big pressure) 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Ne2 Ne3 21.Qb3 Nxf1 22.Rxf1 Despite the lack of material, white
has a clear edge. I want to show you the bright continuation of the game: 22...f4 23.gxf4 Nf5 24.c5 Qc7 25.Qd2 Qd7
15...dxe5 16.Be3±]
16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Bf4 Re8 18.Qd2 Qf6 19.Bxe5 Rxe5 20.Ra3 [Correct was 20.a5! because it's necessary to fix black's queenside, then
breakthrough b2–b4 at the flood. 20...Bd7 21.Ne2! Be8 22.Nf4 Nh5 23.b4 Nxf4 24.gxf4 Re7 25.bxc5 dxc5 26.Rab1 with
big edge] 20...b6! preventing the above-mentioned plan. 21.Rb3 [21.a5 bxa5 22.Rxa5 Rb8±] 21...Qd8 22.Qh6 Ra7!

Another plus of black's 20th move: his rook now quickly turn into a struggle. 23.Rf4 This move is connected with wrong plan. White urgently needed to pull together his resources: [23.Nd1! Ne8 24.Re3! (or 24.Nf2 Nf6 25.Nd3 Re8 26.Nf4) ] 23...Ne8
24.Rh4 Rg7 25.Bf3 Nf6i With the sufficient help of an opponent, black successfully launched his forces 26.Qf4 Ng4 27.a5
bxa5 28.Bxg4 fxg4
29.Ne4?? [After 29.Rb8! Qc7 30.Ra8 Re1+ 31.Kg2 Qb7 32.Ne4 Qxb2+ 33.Qf2 Qxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Rxe4 35.Rxc8+ Kf7 36.Rh6 white was close to draw.] 29...Rf7 30.Rxg4+ Bxg4 31.Qxg4+ Kh8 32.h4

In addition, white knight is under dead pin and will be inevitably lost. 35.Qf3 Qg7 36.Kg2 Re8 37.h5 h6 [37...Qe7!] 38.Qf4 Rf8 39.Qh4 Qe7 40.Qg4 Qg7 41.Qe2 Rfe8 42.g4 Rxh5 0-1

(10) Iturrizaga,E (2649) - Tukhavev,A (2537) [A13]
11th Aeroflot Open A Moscow RUS (9), 15.02.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 d4 5.b4 c5 [5...Bxb4 almost did not occur. Frankly, I do not know, why players don't take the 'donated' pawn. Formidable 6.Qa4+ Nc6 7.Ne5 does not lead to victory, as it is the only one, but quite sufficient protection: 7...Rb8!]

32...a4 [32...Qe8! 33.Ng5 (33.Re3 h5+-) 33...Re1+ 34.Kg2 Rg1+! 35.Kh3 Rh1+ 36.Kg2 Rf2+! 37.Kxf2 Qe1+ 38.Kf3 Rf1+ and mate in two!] 33.Re3 [33.Rf3 h5!] 33...Qg8! 34.Qe2 Rfe7!

13...d3!? Good idea: black 'revives' his bishop and interrupts communication in white's camp. [The 'calm' move 13...Qb6 is enough for equalize: 14.d3 Rf8] 14.Ne5 Nb4


It's the turning point of the whole game. After all exchanges very soon on the board would be very unusual material balance: three so-called 'light' pieces against two rooks. And it is obvious to black's advantage (who have three pieces), since the white rooks do not have any open line and all black bishops and knights are very active. [The right way to solve the problem

XABCDEFGHY

[18/16+]

, 'pulling out the sting' and getting an extra pawn in the endgame.] 19...Rxc6! 20.Bxc6 Rxb5 21.Bxb5 Bxd4 22.Rac1 Kf8 23.a3 Nc2 24.Rxe6 fxe6 And here is the first harvest! But not the last ... 25.c5 Nxa3 26.Bxd3 Nd5 27.c6 Nc7 28.Bxh7 Ke7+

A great learning game! 0-1
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