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(01) Jakovenko, Dmitry (2718) - Smirnov, Artem (2425) [E32]  
12th ch-EUR Aix-les-Bains FRA (1), 22.03.2011  
[IM Polivanov, A]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0–0  
5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Ne4!? [Somewhat forgotten variation – Black wants to establish an outpost on e4. 6...d5 7.Bg5 c5!? on the contrary, is quite popular lately.] 7.Qc2 f5  
8.Nf3 [Evidence, that Jakovenko wasn't ready for this system. White should dispel e4 by means of f3: 8.e3 b6 9.Ne2 Bb7 10.f3 Nf6 (10...Qh4+ 11.g3 Qh5 gives nothing: 12.Bg2 Ng5 13.Nf4! Nxf3+? 14.Kf2+) 11.Nc3 c5 8.Nh3!? with the same idea is also interesting.] 8...b6 9.g3  
9.Bg2 10.Nf6 $\checkmark$ gives way for the bishop b7 – from e4 it will reign through a8–h1 diagonal. 11.0–0 [White could prevent this plan after 11.d5! exd5 12.Nd4, as in the following game: 12...Nc6 13.Nxf5 dxc4 14.0–0! (14.Qxc4+ d5 15.Qc2 Ne4 16.g4) 14...d5 15.Bg5 Ne7 16.Rad1, Vijayalakshmi–Sorokin, Hyderabad 2000, and now Black would have obtained advantage, if he chooses 16...Nxf5 17.Qxf5 Qe8 18.Bxf6 c6?!] 11...Be4  
12.Qc3 Qe8 Queen is going to the most active place – h5. 13.b3 [13.b4 seems more principled, but maybe White beware of moves like b6–b5 or d7–d5 with further blockade.] 13...d6 14.Bb2 Nbd7 15.Rfd1  

8.Qh5 16.Qd2 Aimed against g7–g5, but this move is still in Black’s mind. 16...Ra8  
19.a4  

White's plan is becoming clear – c4–c5, exchange on d6, and after that b4–b5, Ba3.19...Ng4!? [Very good idea – Black provokes h3 as future catch. But 19...f4! was even more all–out, for example: 20.gxf4 gxf4 21.Qxf4 Re7! 22.Kh1 Ng4 23.Qg3 Rg7 with huge problems for White.]  
20.h3 Ng6 21.c5 As it was planned, though $\checkmark$f6 will have an excellent square d5 now. 21...Nd5 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.Bf1!? [Not the best time to retreat. Exchange of white–squared bishops (which White is gonna avoid) after 23.b5 N7f6 24.Ba3 g4 25.hxg4 fxg4 is hopeless, but 26.Bxd6 Rf7 27.Re1! allows to complicate the game: 27...gxh3 28.exf3 Bxf3 29.Re5] 23...N7f6 [Of course, Black continues own attack, not being fascinated by 23...Bxf3 24.exf3 Qxf3 25.Be2 Qb3 (25...Qe4 26.Re1) 26.Bb5!, and only 26...f4! saves from defeat.]  
24.Nh2 g4 25.e3 [25.h4 f4 with irresistible threat Ne3!] 25...gxh3 26.b5 Returning to the old plan, but is it good now? 26...Ng4 Intending to exchange on h2, and point g4 will be occupied by another $\checkmark$. 27.Qe2 Bg2?! [27...Qg5! should bring the victory,
because there is no satisfactory defence from sacrifice on e3. Now White stabilizes a situation.


33.d5? Such feeling, that this move is conditioned by ELO-difference in almost 300 points. But in single concrete game 2400 can play like 2700... and vice versa. [33.exf5 Qxf5 34.f3! Nxfh2 35.Kxh2, and any result is possible.] 33...exd5 34.exf5 [34.exd5 Re8 35.Qf3 Qg6+?] 34...Qxf5 35.Bb2 Maybe, 33.d5 was designed exactly for the bishop's sake. But it's in vain. 35...Re8 [35...Nhx2 36.Kxh2 Re8! ends the fight immediately.] 36.Qc2 [36.Nxg4 Rxel 37.Nxh6+ Kh7 38.Nxf5 Rxb2 39.Nxd6 Ng4+?] 36...Qe4! Now Black has two pawns up. The game's outcome is predetermined. 37.Qxe4 dxe4 38.f3 exf3 39.Bxf6 f2+ 40.Kh1 Nxf6 41.Rfx2 Ne4 42.Rf2 [42.Rf3 Nd2+] 42...Nxg3+ 43.Kg1 Ne2+ 0-1

(02) Zhigalko,Sergei (2680) - Nidelko,Vasily (2413) [B90]
12th ch=EUR Aix-les-Bains FRA (1), 22.03.2011

[IM Polivanov, A]

[11.Kb1 a4 12.Nc1 a3 13.b3 Ra5; 11.Qe1 Qc8 (not hurry with 11...a4? 12.Nc5); 11.Bb5, Karjakin-Bu, CZM 05/2008, is considered as the main direction.] 11...Nc6 Now is going to b4 with the same idea d5. 12.g4 Nb4 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.g5 [Perhaps, this is more exact than 14.h4 d5 15.g5 Ne8! 16.exd5 Bf5 17.Rc1 b6±] 14...Nh5 [Now on 14...Ne8 15.f4! will come.] 15.Rg1 f5 [Black prefers this advancement to 15...d5!, which occurs in one of the recent game: 16.exd5 Bf5 17.Na1 Bc5 18.Rg2 Bxe3 19.Qxe3 Nf4 20.Rgd2 Qxg5, Bukavshin-Bernadskij, Kirishi 2010, with good counterchances, though d5 is dangerous.] 16.g6!N [Very good novelty. Earlier met 16.gxf6 Rxf6 (16...Nxf6 17.Nc5! dxc5 18.Qg2+) 17.Bg5, but 17...Rxf3! (17...d5? 18.Bxh6 Nxf6 19.Qh6 Bf8 20.Qg5=, Quesada-Ortiz, Capablanca mem 2010) 18.Qe2 Rfxc3 19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Qxh5 resulted in a draw after 21...Bxb3 22.cxb3 Rxb3+ 23.Ka1 Nc2+ 24.Ka2 Ra3+ 25.Kb2 d5! 26.Rxg7! Kxg7 27.Qg4=] 16...fxe4 [16...h6 17.Bh3± - now there is no g7-g6 move. (17.Bxh6? f4)] 17.gxh7+ Kxh7 18.fxe4 Nf4 19.Be2! d5!?
Realizing, that after Bg4 game will be strategically lost, and 19...Qd7 is impossible due 20.Nc5, Nedilko decided to throw oneself into whirl of complications.

20.exd5!? [Planned 20.Bg4 was at least not weaker – 20...Bxg4 21.Rxg4 dxe4 (21...d4 22.Bxf4 Rxf4 23.Rxf4 Bg5 24.Nxd4++) 22.Bxf4 Rxf4 23.Qg2!, but maybe Zhigalko was fascinated by the following idea.] 20...Bf5 21.Bxf4! [That’s it – White sacrifices the queen for the 3 pieces. 21.Na1?, like in Bukavshin–Bernadskij, meets 21...Rxc3 22.bxc3 Nbxd5++]

21...Bxc2+ 22.Qxc2+ Nxc2 23.Bd3+ Kh8 24.Bxe5 Na3+ To ruin "a haircut" at parting. 25.bxa3 Bf6 26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Rc1! Otherwise d5 may lost – now it’s destined to be a driving force.

27...Rf3 28.Rgd1

31.Ka1 Rxc3 32.Rxc3 Qxc3+ 33.Ka2 Qc5 – although 29.Kb2 Qe5 keeps an edge for White.] 29.Nd4! Rh3 30.Ndb5 ♚ occupies a perfect place here, protecting the king and supporting d5. 30...Rhx2 31.Bxg6 Qf6 32.Bd3 Qf3 33.d6 Pawn just goes forward – Black’s position is lost. 33...Qg4 34.Be4 Qe6 35.Bd5 Qf5+ 36.Be4 Qe6 37.Rd5 Rf8 38.d7 Rd8 39.Rcd1 Qf6 40.Bf5 Qh4 41.R5d2 [41.Nd6! Qf2 42.Rxd2 Qe+ 43.Kc2 wins right now, but Zhigalko chooses to exchange rooks for safety.] 41...Rxd2 42.Rxd2 Qg5 43.Rd5 Kg7 44.Nd4 Qg1+ 45.Kb2 Kf6 46.Rd6+ Ke7 47.Re6+ Kf7 [Victory is achieved mathematically: 47...Kf8 48.Rf6+ Kg7 (48...Ke7 49.Nd5#) 49.Rg6+ Qxg6 50.Bxg6 Kxg6 51.Ne6++]

48.Bg6+ 1-0

(03) Mastrovasilis,Athanasios (2547) - Nisipeanu,Liviu-Dieter (2673) [A40] 12th ch–EUR Aix-les-Bains FRA (2), 23.03.2011

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.g3 Nd7 5.Bg2 e5 6.Nc3 Ne7 [In contrast to common 6...Ngf6, Black puts own ♚ at e7, in order to ease f7–f5 advancement and not to shut down bishop g7.] 7.h4!? Using absence of ♚f6, White is threatening by h4–h5. [7.0-0 0-0 8.e4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Nc6 is regarded as main line.] 7...exd4 [Nisipeanu doesn’t afraid of ♚h raid. Another initiator of this system, Azmaiparashvili, applied 7...h6, meaning 8.h5 g5] 8.Nxd4 0-0 9.h5 Nb6 10.hxg6 fxg6

28...g6? [Strange move. 28...Qe7!? , counting on 29.Nd4 Qxa3! 30.Nxf3 Qb3+...

24.Rd1? [Chances to err were 50/50... thus, 24.Re1? also loses – 24...Rf2 25.Qh3 Qc3+; Nd4.Rg1 (24.Rc1 almost the same) 24...Rf2 25.Qh4! (25.Qh3 Qe5) 25...Qe2 26.Bd5 bxc4 27.Bf4 Qe8 28.Rg2 with dynamic equilibrium.] 24...Rf2 Because of mate threat White has to return a bishop. 25.Bd2 [25.Qh4 Qe2 26.Kg1 Rh2+] 25...Rxd2 26.Rxd2 Qxd2 27.Bd5 Qe1+! Queen comes back to defend. 28.Kg2 Qe8 29.cxb5 h5 30.Qe6

Taking into consideration drawish tendencies of opposite-colored bishops endgames, White offers a queen’s exchange. Still, there wasn’t another worthy choice. 30...Qxe6 31.Bxe6 Bc3 32.Kf3 Kg7 33.Bd5 Kf6 34.Bxb7 Ke5 35.Be4 g5 Preparing to create another passed . 36.Bc6 d5 37.Be8 h4 38.gxh4 gxh4 Without
pawns "a" and "b" it would be a dead draw - bishop on c6, king on e2 and White simply "holds a zone". But now Black can easily to exchange two passers for white bishop, and then $b6 decides a game. 39.Bd7 d4 40.Ke2 Ke4 41.Bc6+ Kf4 42.Bd5 Kg3 43.Be4 h3 44.a4 h2 45.Bd5 Ba5 Last preparatory move before implementation of mentioned plan. 46.Bh1 d3+ 47.Kxd3 Kf2 0–1

(04) Gharamian,Tigran (2650) - Esen,Baris (2528) [B90]
12th ch-EUR Aix-les-Bains FRA (2), 23.03.2011
[IM Polivanov, A]

[Perhaps, White was not pleased with game's flow after 14.Bd3 h4 15.Rhe1 Nb6 16.Qf2 Na4 17.Nxa4 bxa4 18.Bb6 Qd7 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.Na5. Forsaa–Aveskulov, Cappelle 2008, and now was worth to choose 20...Rxe4 21.Rxe4 Nxe4 22.Qf3 d5 23.c4 Ng5±] 14...bxc4 15.Nc1 h4 16.Rhe1?! Rb8 Truth to tell, now Black has a dangerous plan of pressure on $b2: Qc7–b7, and so on. 17.Bg5 Qb6 18.b3 Qc6 In view of raid a5–a4, White decided to simplify the game by exchanges. 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.Qxd5 Qc7! Of course, even if swap the queens, then on Black's own conditions. 22.Ka1 0–0 [It was possible to continue an attack by means of 22...cxb3 23.cxb3 0–0, but Esen rightly thought that endgame is favourable for him.] 23.Qxc4 Qxc4 24.bxc4 Rfc8 25.Rd3 Rxc4 26.c3

26...d5! Now bishop e7 is revived. 27.Rxd5 [27.exd5 e4 28.Rde3 Bf6! 29.Ne2 Bg5+] 27...Rxc3 28.Nd3 f6 29.Rc1?! [Rc2 was threatening, and 29.Re2 is not a solution – 29...Ba3!; but 29.Rb1 Rxb1+ 30.Kxb1 was a little more correct.] 29...Rxc1+ 30.Nxc1 Rb4+ 31.Rd7 Bf8 32.Ne2 Rxe4 33.Nc3 Rf4 34.Ra7 Rxf5 35.Rxa6 Rf2 36.a4

Passed pawn "a" – the only thing, which retains White from immediate capitula-
36...Bc5 [There was no reason to refuse from elimination of kingside: 36...Rxg2 37.Ra8 Rg3 38.Kb2 Rxh3 39.a5 Rd3 40.a6 Rd6+; and Δa6 is neutralized.] 37.Rc6 Bd4 38.Kb1 f5? [And this is a mistake – 38...Rxg2 was the best again, and bishop can be "exchanged" for the Δa, because 4 pawns will prevail the knight.] 39.Nb5! Rb2+ [Now some problems emerge: 39...Rxg2 40.Nxd4 exd4 41.a5 Rg3 42.Kb2!; 39...Be3 40.Rc2!]

40.Kc1 Rb4 [The lion's share of advantage is dissipated; 40...Rxg2, for the third time, should be preferred.] 41.Nxd4 Rxd4 42.Rc5?! [Black's task would be much harder in case of 42.a5] 42...Rxh3 [43.Re5 g6 [44...Ra2 45.Rxf5 Rxg2 45.Rf1□ Rg3 (only not 45...g5 46.Kd1 g4 47.Ke1 gxh3 48.Rf2!!; and this is draw!) 46.Rh1 Kf7, and king just goes forward.] 44.Re2 Kf7 Any-\v way, endgame is incredibly difficult – white king stuck on the queenside. 45.Rb2 [45.Kd2 Ra2+] 45...Rd4 46.Re2 Kf6 47.Kc2 Kg5 48.Kc3 Rd1 49.Rf2 Being an obstacle to the black king, but now Esen switches to a plan g6–g5–g4. 49...Kf6 50.Re2 Rd6 51.Kc2 g5 52.Kc3 g4 53.Rd2

53...Ra6? [Unbelievable! 53...Rxd2 54.Kxd2 gxh3 (54...g3 wins also) 55 gxh3 leads to theoretical ending – 55...Ke5 56.Ke3 f4+ 57.Ke2 Ke4 58.Kf2 f3 59.Kf1, and Black wins with help of "triangle": 59...Kf5! 60.Ke1 Ke5 61.Ke1 Ke4+] 54.Kd3 Ra3+? 55.Ke2 gxh3 56.gxh3 Rxh3 Another cult endgame appears –

65.Kf2 [65.Kh2, keeping king close to the most advanced Δ, is more correct (according to Dvoretsky endgame's book).] 65...f4 66.Rf8? [66.Rg8+ seems plainer: 66...Kf5 67.Rf8+ Ke5 68.Re8+...] 66...Re3? [66...Rd6! 67.Ra8 (in order to have 67.Rg8+ Rg6) 67...Rh6! 68.Kg1 f3! 69.Rf8 Kg4 70.Rg8+ Kf5 71.Rf8+ Rf6 72.Rh8 Rg6+ and Kg4+] 67.Rg8+ Kh4 68.Rh8+ Kg4 69.Rg8+ Kf5 70.Rg7 Ke4 71.Ra7 Rd3 72.Ra8? [72.Re7+!] 72...Rb3? [72...Rd2+ 73.Kg1 Rd1+ 74.Kh2 f3!+] 73.Ra7? f3? 74.Re7+ Kf4 In this dead-draw position, our game suddenly stops; maybe, time–forfeit? Anyway, this duel is an excellent appeal to abstain from zeit–not... and to study endings! 0–1

(05) Paichadze,Luka (2487) - Savchenko,Boris (2616) [B20]
12th ch–EUR Aix–les–Bains FRA (2.54), 23.03.2011
[IM Polivanov, A]
1.e4 c5 2.b3 h5?!N Such thing is the ordinary event, let's say, in the yard chess, but in European championship... Even Morozevich didn't permit oneself something like this! 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Nf3 d5 But besides eccentricity of Savchenko's style, there may be a psychological approach. 2...h5 – is the challenge for White, he take an obligation to disprove it at any cost. 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Nc3 Qd8 7.Bb5

7...Rh6!? As it turned out, 2...h5 has some sense – h6 prevents to pawn structure's impairment. 8.0-0 a6 9.Bxc6+ Rxc6 10.Ne5 Rh6 11.Ne4 [Good move, but perhaps it was stronger after 11.Qf3 Nf6 – now 12.Ne4, in addition to Ac5, attacks the f7 one (Ng5).] 11...f6 12.Nc4 h4! Yet another profit from multi-purpose move 2...h5. 13.Re1 [13.Nxc5 h3 14.g3? Qd5+] 13...e5 [13...e6 14.d4 cxd4 15.Bxd4 14.f4! The most natural and strong move – king e8 feels uncomfortable. 14...b5 15.fxe5? [This is spectacular, but humble 15.Ne3 f5 (15...exf4 16.Ng4++) 16.Nf2 e4 17.d3 Nf6 18.Bxf6, grabbing Ae4, at least not weaker and leaves much less chances for Black.] 15...bxc4 16.exf6 Kf7


23.Qxc4? [Final mistake. Only 23.Qf3 Rg6 24.g3 enables to resist.] 23...Qxd2 24.Qf1

Nh4 24.Be2 Nxd2+ 25.Kf1 Nf4 26.Qe3? [26.Rxg8 Rxg8 27.Qc5 (this move is impossible under bishop d5) 27...Qxc5 28.Rxc5 f6, and victory will require a lot of efforts.] 26...Rxg1+ 27.Kxg1 Qd5 28.Bg4 Qg2# This is the only Carlsen's defeat in "rapid" part of Amber... 0-1

(07) Miroshnichenko,E (2670) - Nyzhnyk,I (2563) [B94]
MP Reykjavik Open Reykjavik ISL (8.6), 15.03.2011
[IM Polivanov, A]
7.Qe2 Qa5 8.f4 e5!?N Kuzmin explains, that Qe2 is a claim for quick attack like e4–e5 or g2–g4, so 8...e5 cools White's ardor. 9Nb3 Qc7 10.g4 As e4–e5 is impossible, White made this move. 10...b5 11.Bg2 [Square d5 can't be occupied by white♕: 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 b4! 13.Nb5 axb5 14.gxf6 gxf6 15.Qxb5+ Bd7, and Black hasn't even a shadow of problems.] 11...Be7 [11...Bb7? 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Bxb4 14.gxf6 bxc3 15.fxe7++] 12.a4 Trying to justify queen e2, Miroshnichenko opens "e"-file. 12...b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 [13...Bxd5 14.exd5 Be7 15.0-0 0-0 16.Bh4!] 14.exd5 Now Black faces the trouble – how does he castle? 14...h6


[Seems to be a slow move – and maybe that's right, because it was good to choose immediate 21.Rd4! a5 22.fxe5 Nxe5 23.Qb5 Ra8 24.Re1+, counting on 24...Kh7? 25.Rxe5! dxe5 26.d6 Qb8 27.Bxb7 exd4 28.Qf5+ Kg8 29.Bxa8 Qxa8 30.d7++; preventive 21.g5 also interesting.] 21...Nf6 22.f5!? [Another way – 22.g5 exf4 23.Qd2 hxg5 24.hxg5 Nh5 25.fxe5, and it's hard for Black to get pieces' coordination straight.] 22...e4 Rounding ♘d5 up. 23.g5 White's intention is becoming clear – to construct "a prison" for king g8 and ♕h8. 23...Nxg5 [23...hxg5 24.hxg5 Nxg5 25.Rh1++] 24.g6 Nf6 [24...h5?] 25.h5 d5 26.Rd4 Qe7 27.Rfd1 fxg6? [27...Bg8 was better – now diagonal a2–g8 can be used in White's interests.] 28.fxg6 [Sure, no need to give an opportunity for Black to free oneself: 28.hxg6 hx5] 28...Qe5? Letting
\(\text{b3}\) to enter the game is fraught with insolvable difficulties. 29.Nc5 Bc8


\(\text{b3}\) to enter the game is fraught with insolvable difficulties. 29.Nc5 Bc8

17.Rhf1N [Recommended by GM Mihail Marin in annotations to the game from previous line. Frankly speaking, used 17.Qg4 Ra8 18.Rhf1 not worse: 18...Qb6 (18...Nxe5 19.Rxf7+ Nxf7 20.Qxe6+ Kf8 21.Re1 g6 22.Qf6=+) 19.Qf3! (19.Qf4?!, Alsina–Domínguez, ESP–TCh 2010) 19...Nxe5 20.Qe3 Nd7 21.Nf5+ Ke8 22.Nd6++. 17...g6 Qh5 was threatened. 18.Qg4 Now we can see, why 10.g3 was played instead of 10.g4. By the way, another threat is on the agenda – sacrifice on f7. 18...Nc5 19.Nf3! h6 20.Rd4?! [Already by this time White was able to obtain a decisive advantage: 20.Qh4+ g5 21.Qh5 Ne4 22.Nxg5 Nxg5 23.h4++] 20...Rac8?! [Chirila wrongly neglects the excellent opportunity to escape by king: 20...Kf8!, for example 21.Rf4 Kg7 22.Nh4 Rfh8 23.Rf6 Qe4! 21.Qf4 And here check on h4 was powerful. 21...Ke8 22.Rfd1 Qc7 23.Qf6 Rg8?! [23...Rh7 is more correct, as h6 will be protected now in some lines.] 24.h4 Grabbing some space and as if asking Black, “What are you going to do?”. 24...b4? [This activity simply doesn't have starting conditions. It was necessary to continue 24...Qe7 25.c4! (25.Qf4?! Na4) 25...b4 26.Qf4 g5, although Black's position is not the pleasant one.] 25.Nd2! Robson finds the weak spot – f2's route d2–c4–d6 decides the game. 25...Nd7 [25...bxc3 26.Nc4 Nb7 27.Rd7] 26.Rxd7! [This is the case, when the most beautiful continuation also the strongest. Quiet 26.Qf2 Nxe5 27.Qe4 bxc3 28.Qf4! is weaker: 28...g5 (28...Qa5 29.Ra4!) 29.hxg5 hxg5 30.Nf6+ Ke7 (30...Kf8 31.Qxe5) 31.Nxg8+ Rxd8 32.Qd7+ Qxd7 33.Rxd7+ Nxd7 with some drawn chances.] 26...Kxd7 [26...Qxd7 27.Ne4 Qc7 28.Nd6+ Kf8 29.Nxc8] 27.Nc4+ Kc6 28.Qf3+ Kd5 [28...Kc5 29.Rd6++] 29.Nd6+ Kc4 30.Qd3! The final point – c2 is defended now, so there is no obstacles on the way 31.cx b4. 30...Qc6 [30...bxc3 31.Qxa6+ Qa5 32.Rd4+] 31.cxb4 Kxb4 32.Qb3+ 1-0]

(09) Chuchelov,V (2565) - Shirov,A (2749) [D45]
Schachbundesliga 2010-11 Mulheim GER (13), 20.03.2011
[IM Polivanov, A]


[It's hard to estimate from afar consequences of 21...Rc5!? 22.Be2 Rg5, but it seems that in the end of line Black has good chances for the victory – 23.Rd8 Rgx2+ 24.Kxg2 f3+ 25.Bxf3 exf3+ 26.Kg1
Qg4+ 27.Kf1 Qg2+ 28.Ke1 Qg1+ 29.Kd2 Rxd8+ 30.Bd4 Qxf2+ 31.Kc3 e5! 32.Bxb6 Rxd1 33.Qxd1 axb6 34.Qd8+ Kf7 – thanks to \[f3.\] 22.e4? [22.Qxd3? bad in view 22...Bxg2; but after 22.exf4! Black has nothing better, than 22...Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Qg4+ 24.Kf1 Qh3+ 25.Kf1 Qg4+=] 22...f3 23.Be5 [Apparently, Chuchelov was hoping on 23.Qxd3 fxg2 24.f3 Qh3+ 25.Kg1 Qg4+=] 22...Bxe4! [Not so promising was 23...Rc5 24.Bg3 Qh6 at once: 25.e5! (25.gxf3 Qh3!) 25...fxg2 26.Bh2 Rxe5 27.Qxd3, and White is held.] 24.Bg3 [Elimination of bishop e4 also hopeless: 24.Re1 Rc5 25.Rxe4 Qxe4 26.Bg3 Rh5 27.Qc2 Rf8 28.Qa4 Qa5 29.Qa3±, Black still wants to catch \[c4.\] 12.Bxc7 [12.Nb5 is parried by 12...Ne8\[c4.\] 12...Ba6 13.Rfd1 Bxc4 14.Qc2 d5 15.Be5 Surely, Seirawan occupying the diagonal a1-h8. 15...Rfe8 16.Bd4 a4 Aimed against b2-b3, and also can be used to fix \[b2\] in case of Reb8. 17.e3 Reb8 9...Qe7 [In this system White often attacks \[c7\], as in the next example: 9...Rb8 10.Qa4 a6 11.Qa5 Bb7 12.Bf4 d6 13.c5!, Psakhis–Bartel, Moscow 2002. Now \[c7\] is threatened immediately.] 10.Bf4 Qb4 For one's turn, Werle wants to grab at c4 or b2. 11.Qb3! a5! [Clever retort. Instead of passive 11...Qa5 12.Qa4 Qb6 13.Qa3±, Black could choose solid 13.Rc4±; but after 13...Ng4! 14.f4, and only now 14...Ne5 15.Qb2 Ng6, and chances for the draw are excellent.] 11...Rfe8 12.Qh6! 25.Nd4 Rc5 26.gxf3 Rxf3! Final sacrifice, after which White's resignation is imminent. 27.Qxc5 Rxd3 [It is to be regretted that not 27...Qh1+! 28.Kxh1 Rxg3+ 29.Kh2 Rg2+ 30.Kh1 Rh5+] 28.f3 Qe3+ 29.Bf2 Rg5+ 30.Kf1 Rxd1+ Yet another masterpiece from Shirov. 0-1

(10) Seirawan,Y (2638) - Werle,J (2574) [A29] TCh~NED Netherlands NED (7.3), 12.03.2011

[IM Polivanov, A] 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 g6 Less popular, than 4...Bb4, 4...d5, 4...Nd4 and 4...Bc5, but also possible. 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4Bg7 [6...Ne5 7.Bf4! Nxc4? 8.e4±] 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0

[It would be good for Black to exchange bishop d4, but 17...Nd7 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.e4, and \[d5\] will be lost; maybe, this line is able to be improved – 17...Ng4! 18.h3 Ne5 19.f4, and only now 19...Nd7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.e4 Nf6 – Black is OK owing to check from c5.] 18.Nxa4!! [Of course, White could choose solid 18.Rd2, but instead of this Seirawan finds a fantastic idea.] 18...Rxa4 [18...Qxa4 19.b3 Bxb3 20.axb3 Qb5 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.Rc1 Rc8 23.Bh3+] 19.b3 Rxa2 [There was a last moment "to jump off": 19...Bxb3 20.axb3 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Ng4! 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Qxc6 d4 24.h3 Nf6, and chances for the draw are excellent.] 20.Qxa2 Bxb3 21.Qd2! Bxd1 22.Qxb4 Rxb4 23.Ra8+ Bf8 24.Bxf6
Now we can see, what Seirawan was having in mind - despite an extra pawn, Black’s kingside is sealed. 24...Rb1 25.h3 Bf3+?! Quite dubious intention - Black swapping almost the only active piece of oneself. Maybe, Werle thought, that it would be easier to defend this way. 26.Kh2 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Rb7 28.Rd8 c5 29.g4 Strengthening the bishop f6. 29... Rc7 30.h4 h6 31.g5 hxg5 32.hxg5 Rb7 33.Kf3

33...c4? This move is equal to surrender. [First path – to wait like 33...Rc7 - sooner or later White will should take on d5. Bishop f8 will be free then, and all comes to rook endgame 3 vs 2 - perhaps, draw. The truth, king can try to reach a square b6 (through a4)…; so, Black should take recourse to the second path – 33...d4!? : 34.e4! (34.exd4 cxd4 35.Bxd4 f6! 36.gxf6 Kf7 looks like draw) 34...Rc7 35.Ke2, and now king goes to c4, and ∆f2 to f5 with zugzwang somewhere. But it’s necessary to stress again, that breakup d4 much stronger under king at a4, because e4 doesn’t work anymore. So, combined way of defence probably allows Black to be saved.] 34.Ke2 Rc7 35.Kd2 Rb7 36.Kc2 [It was possible to perform 36.Rc8! with king raid to d4 right now – but White’s position is so good, that Seirawan decides to be admired by it for a while.] 36...Ra7 37.Kc1 Rb7 38.Rc8 Ra7 39.Kb2 Rb7+ 40.Kc3 Ra7 41.Kd4 Rd7 42.f4! Excellent picture from American maestro. 1-0

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