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(01) Mchedlishvili, Mikheil (2640) - Volkov, Sergey (2593) [A06]  
15th Dubai Open (4), 10.04.2013  
[IM Sitnikov, A]  
The Russian grandmaster Sergey Volkov became silver prize–winner of international tournament 15th Dubai Open.  
1.Nf3 d5  2.c4 c6  3.g3 Nf6  4.Bg2 Bf5  5.cxd5 cxd5  6.Qb3 Nc6  7.Qxb7 Rc8  8.0–0 e5  

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11.Qd1 h6 White significantly lagging the development. The only trump card – the passed pawn on queenside – can’t find a use, because the b4 is reliably controlled by black pieces. 12.Nc3 Re8 13.Nh4 Bg4 14.h3 Be6 15.e4 Qd7 16.Kh2 Red8  

Russian grandmaster play is a model for similar situations. Not paying attention to the material deficit, he creates the perfect forces balance on the center, while the opponent's pieces sorry live in the suburbs. The white Queen have nowhere to go – everywhere it expects a cold reception. And in the case of exchange in the center black easily take back a pawn. 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Qxd5  
28.f4? [Right defence: 28.Nd6 Qa8 29.Nxc8 Rxc8 30.Rc1 Nf3+ 31.Qxf3 Qxf3 32.Rxc8 Qe2 33.Kg1 Qxa2 34.Rc7 Kg7 35.Rfc1 and the position is equal] 28...h4 29.Qg4 Qc2+ 30.Kh1 Qe4+ 31.Kh2 hxg3+ 32.Qxg3 Nf5 33.Qf2 exf4 It is unclear, what were the objectives of white. The cover of white king irreparably weakened, and this factor should play a decisive role. 34.Rae1 Qd3 35.Qxf4 Rfe8 36.Qf2 Rcd8

Again, as 20 moves back, black maximum mobilized his army, and white on the verge of zug. 37.Rxe8 Rxe8 38.Re1 Rxe1 39.Qxe1 Qf3 No one stops the rapid emergence of black knight on the h4. Despite the well-known Tarrasch aphorism, the location on the board edge will be very

The standard method, which in this position was not used before. Black build a pawn wedge by a7-a5 and b7-b6, after the planned rival attack on queenside leads to massive exchanges. And on the opposite side of board black dictate their terms. 10.h3 Ne8 The knight on the e8 is bad placed, and it would have to jump back. A little later black makes correct idea h6, Nh7. This idea could be done at once, without loss of time. 11.Be3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Kh2 h6 14.Qe2 Nf6 15.Nd2 b6 16.b3 Nh7 17.Nde4Bg5

15th Dubai Open (4), 10.04.2013

[IM Sitnikov, A]
The Russian grandmaster Aleksandr Rakhmanov became the winner of international tournament 15th Dubai Open. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d5 Ne7 6.e4 Ng6 7.g3 Be7 8.Bg2 0–0 9.0–0 a5N

W

IM Sitnikov, A]
It is quite logical – changing the only chronically passive piece. 18.Nxg5 Nxg5 19.a3 Qf6 Good move, concealing the psychological implication. The Queen as if taking aim at the white knight, and white has quite a pragmatic desire to protect him, also creating a threat of taking on g5. And this will lead to... 20.Qd2

Fantastic coolness of Russian, letting himself with the shortage of material leisurely game at strengthening. However, the opponent here even harder, being deprived of clear benchmarks, to become in the face of growing attacks of black. Like at the sea coast to see the approach of a tsunami. [Also promising position received black after 24...Nh4 25.f4 Nf3+ 26.Rxf3 Qxf3 27.Qf2 Qg4 28.Qg2 Rae8 29.Rf1 exf4 30.Rxf4 Rxf4 31.Bxf4 a4 32.bxa4 g5 33.Bd2 Qxc4 and white pieces have no outposts, and the king revealed] 25.Ne2 It is difficult to suggest anything better. [For example 25.Ne4 Raf8 26.Rfe1 Qg4 27.Qc2 Nh4 28.Kf1 Nf5 29.Kg2 h5 30.c5 h4 31.Qc4 Qh5 and white defenseless] 25...Raf8 26.Kg2 White virtually paralyzed. The only constructive idea is to cover the gaps by further Rh1 and Ng1. But black is just in time before... 26...Qg4 27.Rh1

20...Nhx3! Similar to the style of Mikhail Tal. 21.Bxh3 Bxh3 22.Kxh3 Qf5+ 23.Kh2 Qh5+ 24.Kg1 Rf3!
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. Nf3 g6 7. Bf4 a6 8. Nd2!? There is usually white prefers to freeze the queenside by a2−a4, but should you so take care of this? After all, if black plays b7−b5, there is a neglect of the main debut principles. From the first eight moves there is only one made by the piece...


14.Bxe5 White relies on the rapid onslaught in the center. Only this way we can justify the exchange of important bishop...


(04) Zelcic, Robert (2555) - Cvitan, Ognjen (2561) [B53]
Open Golden Island Krk Malinska (9), 12.04.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
So, already in the initial stage of the game black exchanged one of bishops, which in this pawn structure often only get in the way of other pieces. The further course of action is obvious – the play on queenside, supported by a powerful shot on the big diagonal. In contrast to this, the white have some space advantage, and in the case of opening the centre, a couple of bishops say their weighty word.


21...Rbc8?! The Queen on the edge of the Board can easily from the hunter become the prey, so the position required specific measures. [Square b3 weakened, and it would be logical to send mount: 21...Na5 22.Rab1 Nb3 23.Qd1 b5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Rc7 Qxe4! 26.Bf3 Qf5 27.Bg4 Qe4 28.Bf3=] 22.Rab1 Qb3?! Extremely risky. However, in the normal course of events the black was a long defense. 23.Bd1 Qa2 24.f4 d5 25.e5! dxc4 26.Qc3 The trap sprung. Now black must pay the material...

26...Rfd8 27.Ra1 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Qb3 29.Qxb3 cxb3 30.Rac1

18...Na4 Also good is simple Rfd8 with good pieces play. 19.Nxa4 Qxa4 20.Rdc1 Nc6 21.a3

When perfectly located rooks, position of white winning. This was understood by both opponents, understood and the audi–
ence. But then, move after move, on the Board miracles begin to happen... 30...f6
31...fxe5 32.Bxe5 Bxe5 33.fxe5 And soon the central pawn may be attacked by black king. 33...Rc7 34.Rd3 Re7 35.Rc5 Kg7 36.h3 g5 37.Rxb3 Rd7 38.Rb6 Kg6

43.Kg1? Unjustified loss of valuable time. [To be stripped of enemy’s army mobility: 43.Rb4 Kf4 44.Rc4 Kxe5 45.Ke1 Rd3 46.Ra4 and white passed pawns must decide the fate of game] 43...Ne2+ 44.Kf1 Ng3+ 45.Ke1 Rxg2 46.Rf7+ Ke4 47.Rc4+ After Re7 white still had chances to win... 47...Kxe5 48.Rc5+ Kd4 49.Rxg5 Rg1+ 50.Kf2 Rf1+ 51.Kxg3 Rxf7

39.Kf2? Rough strategic mistake. More black could not dream of! It was necessary to keep the enemy monarch in prison by g2–g4, and white could control the situation... 39...Kf5 40.Rb3 Rd2+ 41.Kf1 Nd4!? Feeling of opponent uncertainty and true catching the moment, black goes VA–Bank. 42.Rxb7 h5

In the arsenal for black appeared the passed pawn, and white king is cut off. There has not been kidding. 52.Ra5 e5 53.Rxa6 e4 54.Rd6+ Kc4 55.Re6 Kd3 56.a4 e3 57.a5 e2
58.a6? Leads to a fiasco. [It's time to escape: 58.Rd6+ Ke3 59.Re6+ Kd2 60.Rd6+ Ke1 61.Kg2 Rg7+ 62.Kh2 Rb7 63.a6 Rxbl 64.Kg2 Ra2 65.Rf6 Ra1 66.Rd6 h4 67.Kg1 Ra3 68.Kg2 Rg3+ 69.Kh2 Rg7 70.Rd8=] 58...Rf6! 59.Rxf6 e1Q+ 60.Kf4 Qe3+ 61.Kf5 Qxh3+ 62.Kg6 h4 63.Kh5 Qh1 64.a7 h3 65.Kh4 h2 66.Kh3 Qg1 0–1

(05) Jakovljevic, Vlado (2433) - Nevednichy, Vladislav (2553) [E69]
Open Golden Island Krk Malinska (9), 12.04.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
The Romanian grandmaster Vladislav Nevednichy became the winner of international tournament Open Golden Island Krk.
1.Nf3 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.d4 Nf6 4.g3 0–0 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nc3 c6 7.0–0 Qa5 8.e4 e5 9.h3 Nbd7 10.Re1 exd4 11.Nxd4 Ne5 12.Bf1 Pawn attacked, and white is forced to do so clumsy move by bishop. It casts doubt on the chosen debut option. Laying the hope on a lasting pawn centre, nobody could assume, that already after few moves on the board unfolded storm... 12...Re8 13.Be3

13...c5! 14.Nb3 Qb4 15.Qxd6 [It was previously tested 15.Nd2 a6 16.a3 Qa5 17.f4 Nc6 18.Bg2 Qd8 19.g4 h5 20.g5 Nh7 21.Nf3 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Rxe4 23.Nd2 Re7 24.Ne4 Bxh3 but white didn't take the compensation for material / Paragua, M (2508) – Nevednichy, V (2554) / Istanbul ol (Men) 40th 2012] 15...Nf3+ 16.Kh1 Nxe1 17.Bxc5

It seems that the black caught in the trap by the Queen. But the fun just begins...

19...Qf6? Often we see how such moves are made without much thinking. And in vain. Selecting a location for a Queen - responsible task, which requires comprehensive approach. In this case there are alternatives - squares a5, b6. In addition, even on the initial position Queen performs the important function - protects the only weak pawn. Therefore, it should first activate the pieces, for which course of action is obvious. [The above objectives consistent with 19...Rc8 20.Qd2 Re8 and the chances are approximately equal] 20.Qd2 Rac8 21.Nd4 Bd7 22.Ne4 Qe5 23.Re1

That is the result of a hasty act of black Queen - it falls under the blows and is not able to protect the pawn... 23...Rce8
20...h5?! A serious strategic error. Black struggle for a draw and should at least on one part of the Board to maintain their ranks impregnable. For the white victory hardly enough queenside resources. What do we see? Instead, in order to strengthen the defences of the 7-th horizontal, black own hands, create in his camp new weakness, and the task of white much easier. Targets for attack plenty of weak pawns a7, e6, h5 will make themselves known.


26...f5 [Or 26...Rh8 27.Raa6 Rhb8 28.Rxe6 Rxb3 29.d5 Rxb2 30.Rxa7+]

27.d5 exd5 28.Rxd5 Pawn barriers are broken in pieces... 28...Bxh4 29.Rxf5+

Ke7 30.Rxh5 Kd7 31.Ra6 Be7 32.Rxa7 Rgb8 33.Rxb7+ Rxb7 34.Rd5+ Ke6 35.Rd3 Bf6

36.Bd4 In the rook endgame white remains only to show a bit of technique. 36...Bxd4 37.Rxd4 Rxb3 38.Rd2 Ke5 39.Ke2 Ke4 40.Rc2 Kd4 41.Kd1 Rb8 42.Kc1 Rb3 43.Kb1 Rb8 44.Rc3 Rf8 45.f3 Re8 46.Kc2 Re2+ 47.Kb3 Rf2 48.Ka3 Rd2 49.Rc8 Rd3+ 50.Ka4 Rxf3 51.b4 Kd5 52.b5 Rf1 53.b6 Kd6 54.b7 1-0


[IM Sitnikov, A]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Ne7 6.e4 0-0 7.Nbd2 Nbc6 8.Re1 Re8 9.c3 a5 10.a4 h6 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nc4 Bf5 13.Qb3!?N
Most likely, the Georgian grandmaster Levan Pantsulaia conducted a thorough preparation for the game, and this position was seen at home analysis. White knocked out enemy bishop and easily take back a pawn, while maintaining a big advantage...


27...Nh4? Black elephant long sad rests against the wall b2–c3, and now black has an opportunity for similarly offend the white vis–a–vis. After the correct c7–c6 all the fight was ahead. In the game white pieces make the decisive shot. 28.Nd5 Rxe1 29.Rxe1 Qf8 30.Qxc7 b5 31.axb5 Nxg2 32.Kxg2 Rxb5 33.Ne7+ Kh8 34.Re2 a4 35.Nc6 More precisely was Qc6 controlling all major highways... 35...Bf6? 36.Qd7 Kh7 1–0

14...h3N Black reasonably take the opportunity to ensure the long–term knight parking in the centre. Now the movement f3–f4 unlikely, in connection with powerful replica Neg4. Itself the pawn h3 in the middlegame has a force, because it does not give the peaceful life for the white king. And before the endgame here not everyone will survive... 15.g3 [15.g4 Bxg4!? 16.fxg4 Nfxg4 17.Bf4 Bh6 18.Bxe5 Nxe5 19.Nf3 Ng4 with mutual chances] 15...Bd7 16.0–0

35.Nc6 More precisely was Qc6 controlling all major highways... 35...Bf6? 36.Qd7 Kh7 1–0

(09) Gupta,Abhijeet (2591) - Kurnosov,Igor (2649) [A65] Nakhchivan Open Nakhchivan (5), 26.04.2013 [IM Sitnikov, A]
16...b5! A typical pawn sacrifice similar to the Volga gambit. Here it's even more justified because all black forces are ready for hand-to-hand. 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 Qxa8 19.Bxb5 Bxb5 20.Nxb5 Qa6 21.Nc3 Rb8 22.Qc2 Nfd7

29Nb5 [Thanks to the precise 27th move, white king driven into a corner, and Queens exchange is unprofitable: 29.Qxa6 Rxa6 30Nb5 Nd3 31.Nxd4 cxd4 32.Kg1 Ra2 33.Rd1 Rg2+ 34.Kf1 Ne5! 35.Bxe5 dxe5 36.f4 f6+] 29...Qa2 30.g4 [After 30.Bxd6 Nc4 31.Bf4 Be3 32.Re1 Qb2 33.Rb1 Qc2 white pieces completely confused, there is no protection from threats Ra2 and Nd2] 30...Nd3 31.Bg3 Rb8 32.g5 Qc2!


Just great – zug with the lion's share of pieces on the board. Note that the bold marine h3 remained unharmed, playing a significant role in the triumph of his army. 0-1
(10) Shimanov,Aleksandr (2639) - Mchedlishvili,Mikheil (2640) [A16]
Nakhchivan Open Nakhchivan (7), 29.04.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
The Russian grandmaster Aleksandr Shimanov became silver prize–winner of international tournament Nakhchivan Open.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.h4 Bg7 6.h5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.g3 Nc6 9.Bg2 Be6!?N

[It was previously tested 9...Bf5 10.Qb3 Qb6 11.Ng5 Qxb3 12.axb3 0-0 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.Ne4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 Rfc8 16.e3 Rc7 17.Ke2 a6 18.g4 and black will be bleak protection in hard endgame / Nepomniachtchi, I (2711) – Kamsky, G (2741) / FIDE World Cup 2011] 10.Qa4 Qa5 11.Qf4 Bf5?! No involuntary loss of time. [After the principal 11...Bxc3! 12.Rb1 Bxa2 13.Rxb7 0-0-0 14.Rxa7 Nxa7 15.dxc3 white has some compensation in form of active pieces play against the enemy king, but fighting in such situation requires a fair amount of courage, and few would want to go with a debut into this option] 12.g4 Bxc3 13.dxc3 Qxc3+

18...Rxg2?! At moment when the storm had passed, it is time to look around, to make conclusions, to map out the plan for further action. Instead, black continue to force events, although the position was safe and strong. The opened white king doesn't give pieces to act freely, and the chances of opponents could be estimated as approximately equal. [For example, the game came to peaceful harbor after 18...e6 19.Qxc5 Qxa2 20.Ng5 Qxe2 21.Bxc6+ bxc6 22.Qxc6+ Rd7 23.Qa8+ Rd8 24.Qc6+ Rd7=] 19.Kxg2 Qg7+ 20.Kh1 Qg4 21.Rg1 Qhx5+ 22.Nh2
And now white king feels superb, and the long-range pieces show their power.
22...Rd4 23.Rg5 Qh3 24.Qxc5 Rd1+ 25.Rg1 Rxg1+ 26.Kxg1 Qh5?!
[More persistent 26...e6 allowed stay afloat longer] 27.Qb5!

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