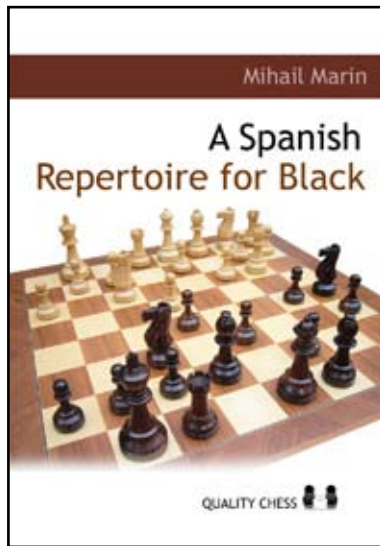


# Update to **A Spanish Repertoire for Black**

by grandmaster Mihail Marin



15th February 2008

Quality Chess  
[www.qualitychessbooks.com](http://www.qualitychessbooks.com)

Theory moves on whether we like it or not. When a book is published on a variation the variation tends to get more popular. This has happened with the closed Spanish over the last 12 months, in some cases with a clear link to this book, including a game between a commending reviewer of the book and the publisher, in other cases by the author's own practice.

For this reason we talked Mihail into doing an online update for his book. We hope that this is received in the correct spirit and will be a pleasant surprise to fans of the book.

*John Shaw and Jacob Aagaard, Quality Chess*

## Update to Chapter 2

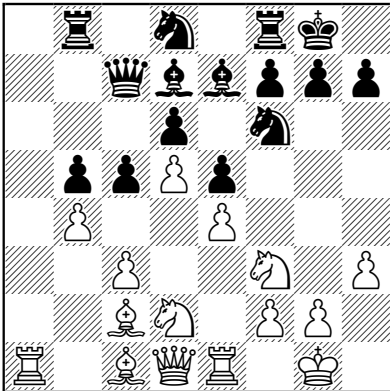
# The Rubinstien System

*The following can be read in connection with the text on page 69 in the book.*

Despite that ...♘e8 is entirely playable, as the previous analysis has proven, abstract reasons make me prefer ...♙d7. This developing move involves a lesser commitment than the knight retreat and allows recapturing with the queen in some cases.

**Op den Kelder-Marin, Banyoles 2007**

**15.axb5 axb5 16.b4 ♙d7**



**17.bxc5**

Again, this is the most concrete way of trying to refute Black's strategy.

The merits of Black's last move become obvious after the risky 17.c4 when Black can rapidly complete his development with 17...cxb4 18.cxb5 ♘b7 19.♖b1 ♗fc8

**17...♗xc5**

With the knights relatively far from the d6-square, it makes little sense for Black to capture with the pawn.

**18.♖e3**

White needs to spend a tempo on defending this pawn. As indicated by Kortschnoj in his notes to the game against Spassky, the straightforward 18.♙a3 ♗xc3 19.♖e3 ♗c7 20.♘xe5 leads nowhere because of 20...♙xh3! It should be said that Kortschnoj did not mention ...♙d7 as a preparation to the continuation of Rubinstein's plan but just as a possible way to delay ...♘b7 with one move.

After 18.♖e3, the threat ♙a3 becomes serious.

**18...♗c7**

This is my recommendation from the previous edition. Black removes the queen from the exposed position, enabling the knight's transfer to c5 at the same time.

Previously

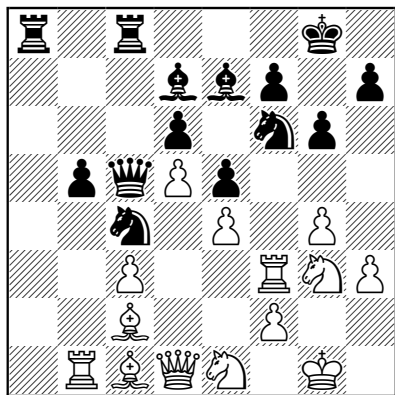
**18...♖e8?!**

had been played. It certainly looks like a logical move. Black parries the threat by developing a piece. However, in doing so he slightly neglects the queen side situation, which could have led to some problems.

**19.c4!?**

This move would have ensured White some initiative.

In the game, White missed his chance to take advantage of the exposure of the black queen and focused on his kingside plan with 19.g4 g6 20.♘f1 ♘b7 21.♘g3 ♖a8 22.♖b1 ♗ec8 23.♘e1 ♘a5 24.♖f3 ♘c4



Black has managed to regroup in optimal way and has a very enjoyable position, Kuzmin-Krogus, Perm 1971.

19...♖b7

19...bxc4 leaves White with an active position after 20.♞c3 ♘b5 21.♞b1±.

20.cxb5 ♘xb5

20...♞ec8 would lose a tempo compared with a similar line from the next comment, allowing 21.♙d3± since ...♗c5 is impossible.

21.♞b3±

Black is not fully coordinated yet.

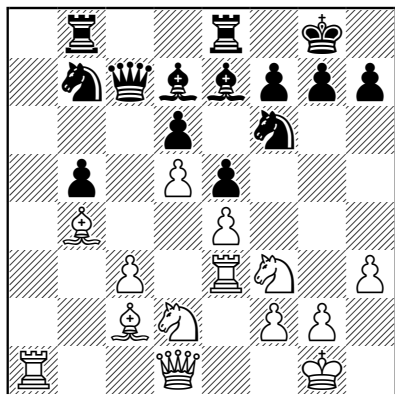
19.♙a3

The opening of the queen side by means of 19.c4 is not dangerous because of 19...♗b7! (Development above all! 19...b4 is bad because of 20.♞b3 when the weakness of the b4-pawn prevents the knight's activation.) 20.cxb5 ♞fc8 for instance 21.♙a4 ♗c5 22.b6 ♞xb6 23.♙xd7 ♗fxd7 24.♞ea3 ♞d8!? Δ...♙g5.

19...♞e8

Now, this move becomes necessary.

20.♙b4 ♗b7



I played all these moves rather confidently, because they were part of my analysis from the first editions' main line. My opponent played even quicker than me, though. I started fearing that he had read the book and found a refutation somewhere, although I trusted my analysis to be correct. I had good reasons to take such a possibility into account, since several opponents from the previous rounds told me they had read at least parts of my recent opening books.

Right after the game, when I asked my opponent why he played so quickly he answered rather vaguely, mentioning an older game he had seen in the database. I was slightly disappointed: no he did not read the book!

Now that I am writing these lines, the frustration becomes even stronger. As can be seen below, among the main actors of the modern phase from the Rubinstein system's evolution we find the author (kindly yours), one of the editors, without whose permanent support the whole project would have been impossible to accomplish (Jacob Aagaard), and a famous reviewer, who had been kind enough to write positively about the first edition (Jonathan Rowson). The only missing part is a reader...

21.♗b3

This is the new move compared to my analysis, but during the game I could not remember the variations very clearly. My initial line goes 21.♞a7 ♞b6 22.♞a1 ♗c5 eventually followed by ...♗a4.

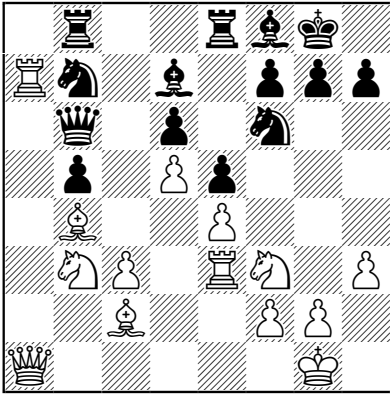
21...♙f8

A necessary move. Black places the bishop on a very stable square, offering to the e8-rook freedom of action. I was worried that after 21...♗c5 22.♙a5 ♞c8 23.♗xc5 ♞xc5 24.♙d3 I would not be able to regroup properly.

22.♞a7 ♞b6

I did not feel prepared to fight for the a-file yet, noticing that after 22...♞a8 23.♞a1 ♞b8 24.♞xa8 ♞xa8 25.♞e1 the occupation of the c5-square is not possible without giving up the control of the a-file. However, 25...♗h5 might offer Black sufficient counterplay.

23.♞a1

**23...♖c5**

Now, everything is ready for this long awaited move.

**24.♞e1**

Avoiding the trap 24.♜xc5? dxc5 25.♞a6 ♖b7 26.♞a7 ♞a8!, winning material for Black.

**24...♜a4**

Black has neutralized White's initiative, achieving stability on the queenside. From the opening's point of view, he can be satisfied, but the whole middlegame lies ahead. While writing the first edition, I might have failed to emphasize how difficult (for both sizes!) this phase of the game can be, maybe because I was not completely aware of it myself. In other words, in the long variations of the Ruy Lopez it is not enough to equalize with Black (or, similarly, get an advantage with White) out of the opening. You also need to deal with the strategic and tactical subtleties of these complex positions properly.

I understood this truth with the occasion of my recent win against Jakovenko, which can be found in the 10.d5 Yates variation. Chess is enormously complicated and the Ruy Lopez offers us a good proof about it.

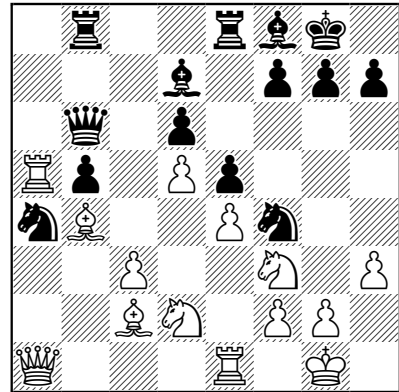
During the next phase of the game, Black had tempting alternatives in several moments and even now I am not sure whether my choices have always been best. Maybe in this type of position there is no such thing as the best move and it largely depends on styles of play and taste. Since there is very little practical material available in this variation, I have taken myself the liberty to insert the whole game, highlighting most of the critical moments and the main alternatives in both sides' play.

**25.♞a5 ♜h5**

Black's other knight goes to the edge of the board, aiming to set up play on both wings. The more cautious 25...♞a8, exchanging White's most active piece, was entirely possible.

**26.♜bd2**

I considered 26.♞d3 ♜f4 27.♞f1 to be safer.

**26...♜f4**

The pressure exerted by this knights is quite annoying, but Black does not threaten anything concrete yet.

**27.c4**

In the meantime, the other wing is under fire.

**27...♜c5!**

The knight had become unstable on a4. After retreating to c5, it threatens to join his actions with his colleague from the other wing for invading the d3-square.

**28.♞a3 ♞ec8**

Black brings another piece into play, refraining from an early release of the tension. I saw that Black could get a good position with the logical and consequent 28...♜cd3 for instance 29.♞xd3 ♜xd3 30.♞xd3 bxc4 31.♞xc4 (31.♜xc4 ♞xb4 is a better version for Black because his queen is more active.) 31...♞xb4 32.♞xb4 ♞xb4= However, I did not see an active plan in the final position and decided not to part with my active knights so easily.

**29.♞b1**

In order to maintain the balance even on the queenside, White has to leave the e2-square undefended.

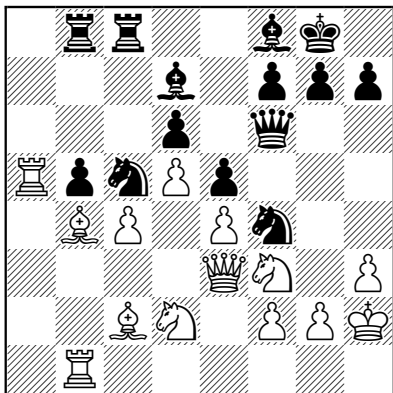
**29...♞d8**

Once again, it was not easy to refrain from the knight jump forward, but things are not entirely clear after 29...♖e2† 30.♔f1 ♖d4 31.♗xd4 exd4. For instance 32.♚a1 (The alternate way to attack the d4-pawn would be 32.♗f3, but this allows Black generate incontrollable complications with 32...bxc4 33.♙xc5 ♚xb1† 34.♙xb1 ♚xb1† 35.♔e2 dxc5+, when Black's pawns look scary.) 32...♙e7 33.♚xd4 ♙f6 34.♚e3 ♗a6!?: and Black's better coordination offers him adequate compensation for the pawn. From my choices in these two critical moments we can define my general approach in this phase: maintain the tension for as long as possible, even though concrete action seemed entirely viable, too.

### 30.♔h2 ♚f6

I briefly considered 30...♗b7 31.♚a7 bxc4 but did not like the idea of playing with a passive knight on b7.

### 31.♚e3



### 31...♙e7!?:

Again a quiet move, bearing in mind to transfer the bishop to b6, which must be a familiar scenario to the reader already. Instead of this somewhat slow manoeuvre, Black had none less than two worthy alternatives. I calculated 31...h5!? 32.h4 ♗b7 33.♚a7 ♚g6 34.g3 ♗xd5 35.cxd5 ♚xc2 36.♚b6 and considered it too risky. Maybe Black has adequate counterplay after 36...♙g4 37.♗e1 ♚xd2 38.♙xd2 ♚xe4 but I was not sure at all.

31...♗b7 32.♚a7 bxc4 was possible, with the possible continuation 33.♙xd6 ♙xd6 34.♚axb7 ♚xb7 35.♚xb7 ♙c5 when Black's dark squared bishop gets into play faster than in the game.

### 32.♚a7

Immediately taking advantage of the temporary vulnerability of the bishops.

### 32...♗b7

A necessary retreat already. However, the passivity of the knight is temporary, because Black has in mind the following plan: ...♙d8, ...♗g6-f8, ...♗c5 and ...♙b6. Quite slow, but the vulnerability of White's queen and queen's rook will eventually cause him some loss of time as well.

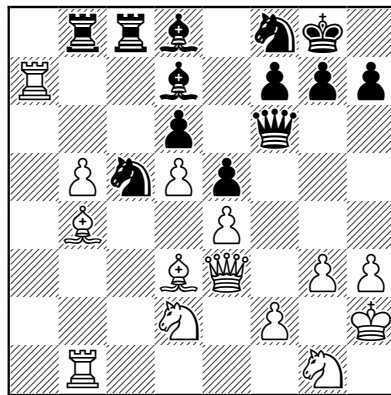
### 33.♗g1

Threatening with g3.

### 33...♙d8!:

This consequent move might not be best. Black had an alternate way of activating his bishop with 33...♚g6 34.g3 ♙g5 (I saw that 34...♗xd5 is dangerous because of 35.cxd5 ♚xc2 36.♚b6, when 36...♙d8? is insufficient in view of 37.♚xb7 ♙xb6 38.♚xb8† ♚c8 39.♚xb6†- with decisive material advantage for White.) 35.h4 ♙h6 36.♚c3. For some reason, I disliked this position, failing to notice that Black can increase his pressure with 36...♗h5! (Threatening ... ♙xd2.) 37.♗gf3 ♙g4† when White would face problems keeping his position together.

### 34.g3 ♗g6 35.♙d3 ♗f8 36.cxb5 ♗c5



White has won a pawn, but Black is just one step away from crowning his previous play with ...♙b6.

### 37.♙xc5 ♚xc5 38.♚a6

By this moment, my young opponent had entered the phase of eternal time-trouble already (with the 30 seconds increment), while I had some spare minutes still.

**38...♖c3**

Increasing the force of the threat ...♗xb5 and avoiding the trap 38...♗b6? creates an unfavourable pin and can be answered with 39.♘c4! ♖xc4 40.♖xb6±

38...♗xb5!? was possible, though.

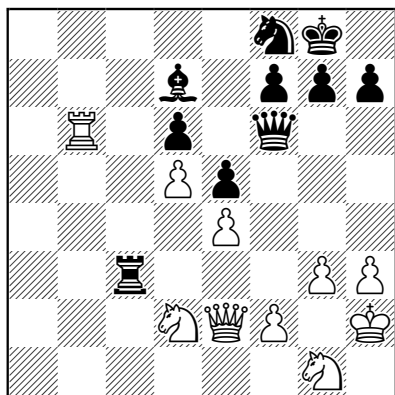
**39.b6!?**

39.♖b3 ♖xb3 40.♘xb3 ♗xb5 41.♗xb5 ♖xb5= looks safe for White because the bishop cannot be activated easily.

**39...♗xb6**

I could not find adequate compensation for the exchange after 39...♖xd3 40.♖xd3 ♖xf2† 41.♗h1 ♗xb6 42.♖f1± and had no time left to notice the simple 39...♗c8!?

40.♖axb6 ♖xd3 41.♖e2 ♗xb6 42.♖xb6 ♖c3



After a long tense phase, play has calmed down somewhat. Black's position is more compact and his king safe. The e4-pawn is more vulnerable than the d6-pawn, because f3 would weaken the king even more.

**43.♗g2**

Preparing ♘c4, which was impossible now because of 43.♘c4 ♖xc4 44.♖xc4 ♖xf2† 45.♗h1 ♖xg3 with two pawns for the exchange and threats against the enemy king.

**43...h6**

Slightly careless. I had practically no time left either and played a generally useful move, failing to notice White's reply. A safer way to reach a similar position as in the game was 43...♖d8! 44.♖a6 (44.♖xd6? loses to 44...♗xh3† while after; 44.♖b4 Black can play 44...h6 already.) 44...♖c2 45.♘gf3 ♖a2!. Releasing the pressure against the

d6-pawn. 46.♖xa2 ♖xb6†

**44.♘c4 ♖d8!**

Fortunately, this still works out well.

**45.♖b4**

45.♖xd6 loses the exchange to 45...♖c7†

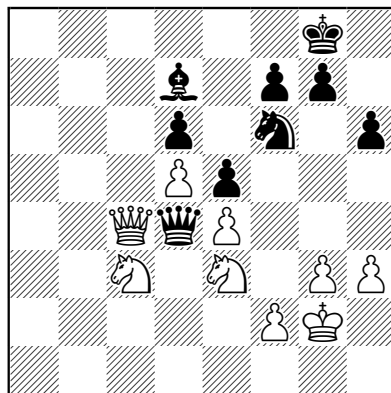
**45...♖c7 46.♘e3 ♘h7**

The wandering knight returns to its previous location, in order to put the e4-pawn under pressure.

**47.♖c4**

Hoping to ease his defence by exchanges.

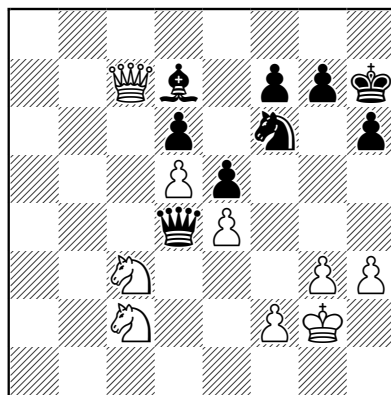
47...♖xc4 48.♖xc4 ♖b6 49.♘e2 ♘f6 50.♘c3 ♖d4†



Black has completed his regrouping, and his pieces dominate the position. Although it is early to speak about a concrete advantage yet, White's defence in time trouble is not easy.

**51.♖c7 ♘h7**

A prophylactic move, passing to the opponent the responsibility of concrete action.

**52.♘c2?**

An understandable blunder. The queen's presence in the centre was irritating...

52...♙xh3†!

A decisive little combination.

53.♙xh3 ♖xf2 54.♘b4?!

Saving the knight, but allowing a forced mate.

54...♖f1† 1-0

We have enough elements to conclude that, against both ...♘e8 and ...♙d7, White gets very little by opening the queenside immediately. Therefore, we should investigate the plan consisting of the standard knight transfer to the kingside.

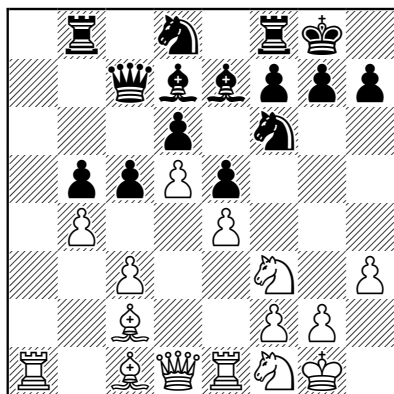
### Berescu-Marin

Romanian Championship, Predeal 2006

15.axb5 axb5 16.b4 ♙d7

This position can be reached via the move order 16...♘e8 17.♘f1 ♙d7, too. In this latter variation, 17...g6 is slightly premature. In order to maintain the re-capture on c5 with the pawn viable, Black should delay the moment of weakening of the f6- and h6-squares for as long as he has other useful moves available. Now, or on the next move, White could switch back to the plan 18.bxc5 dxc5 19.c4. A later comment will reveal the fact that against Black's correct move order this plan is harmless.

17.♘f1



17...♘e8

Black continues regrouping in the spirit of the Rubinstein system.

18.♙e3 f6

Intending ...♘f7 and only later ...g6 and ...♘g7.

19.♘3h2

Now, the opening of the queen side by means of 19.bxc5 dxc5 20.c4 would be less effective because of the simple 20...bxc4 when the time needed by White to win the pawn back could be used by Black to transfer one of his knights to d4. Here is a possible continuation: 21.♙a4. This move carries out a strategically favourable exchange but loses even more time. 21...♙xa4 22.♖xa4 ♘d6. Please notice that this move is enabled by the fact that the e5-pawn is safely defended by his colleague. 23.♖c2 ♖b4= and Black has little to complain about. After the careless 24.♘3d2? Black's activity would become threatening starting with 24...c3!♣

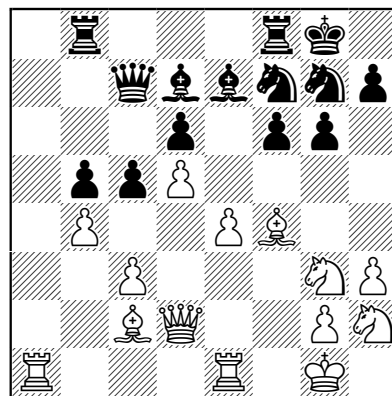
19...♘f7 20.♘g3 g6 21.♖d2 ♘g7

Both sides have completed the first phase of piece mobilization. The exchange on c5 does not offer White anything because after ...dxc5 Black would get the excellent d6-square for his minor pieces.

22.f4

Otherwise, Black could start active kingside operations himself.

22...exf4 23.♙xf4

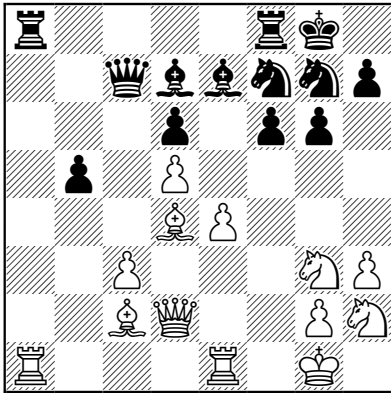


23...♖a8

Black prevents his opponent from taking over the control of the a-file, but makes a slight structural concession. 23...♘e5 would have been more ambitious from strategic point of view, although chances would have remained roughly equal after 24.♖a2 ♖a8 25.♖ea1 ♖xa2

26.♖xa2 ♜b8= The strong centralized knight and the flexibility of Black's queenside structure compensate for White's control of the only (yet!) open file.

24.bxc5 ♜xc5† 25.♗e3 ♜c7 26.♗d4



White has obtained this wonderful square for his minor pieces, but Black will solve all his problems by means of simplifications along the a-file.

26...♗e5 27.♗hf1 ♜b7 28.♗b3 ♖xa1 29.♖xa1 ♖a8 30.♖xa8† and a draw was agreed.

The game was played shortly after I had delivered the final form of the book to my editors, but months before its publishing. My opponent, who had won the Romanian championship twice over the last years and is regarded as a good theoretician, expressed his disappointment regarding the ease with which Black managed to equalize, using an officially doomed variation. When I mentioned the fact that there will be a 70–pages chapter dedicated to the whole system, he relaxed and stopped feeling uncomfortable.

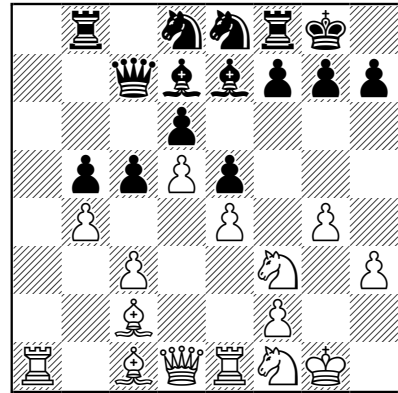
At the same time, I felt quite happy because I managed to defend Black's point of view in a practical game. Analyzing long variations is good, but over-the-board testing should be an important element, too.

White's failure to obtain an advantage was mainly caused by Black's potential threat of taking over the initiative on the kingside with ...f5. This forced him to open the position with f4 at an earlier stage than he might have wished to. Therefore, after Black's 17...♗e8,

the ambitious

18.g4

deserves being investigated.



On the dark side of this move I would mention that it implies a serious kingside commitment from White, which basically excludes the possibility of successfully opening the other wing with bxc5, allowing Black play

18...g6

with all the comfort. For a while, play continues in accordance with the familiar patterns.

19.♗g3 f6 20.♗e3 ♗f7 21.♖d2!

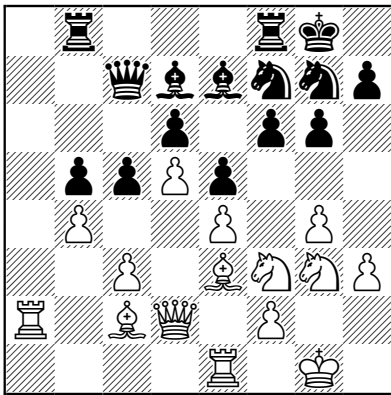
A natural move, connecting rooks and preparing for active operations on both wings. In the only relevant game played prior to the first edition, 21.♖a3 was tried. After 21...♗g7 22.♖a1 ♜c8! A subtle move, preparing active operations on both wings. Black increases the probability of the thematic break ...f5, while enabling the activation of the dark-squared bishop via d8-b6. 23.♖a7 ♗d8! Black had a good position in Tukmakov-Kan, Tashkent 1974. After the transfer of the bishop to the queenside, White has little chances for success on this territory. The game continued 24.♖a6 (The tactical justification of the last move is that 24.bxc5 dxc5 25.♗xc5 ♜xc5 26.♖xd7 leaves the rook trapped to 26...♗b6 27.♖f1 ♜c8. In the first edition I gave 26...b4, which is also good and offers Black excellent compensation for the pawn, in view of his control over the dark squares. Safer would have been 24.♖c1 although after 24...♗b6 25.♖a6 ♜c7 Black has little to fear.) 24...f5!↗ (A well timed pawn break, after which White will not be able to justify his multiple



commitments on different areas (g4, b4, the occupation of the a-file). White probably hoped for 24...cxb4?! 25.cxb4 ♖xc2?! which loses the queen after 26.♖c1 ♖b3 27.♗d2 ♖xb4 28.♞b1) 25.exf5 gxf5 26.gxf5? (This moves weakens the d5-pawn, which will be quite relevant as we shall see. White should have embarked the dangerous complications starting with 26.bxc5 f4) 26...cxb4! 27.♞a7 (The difference is that after 27.cxb4 ♖xc2 28.♖c1 ♖b3 the queen will escape through d5.) 27...bxc3 Black had material and positional advantage and won soon. Curiously, this game escaped the theoreticians' attention even though it was played at a time when the variation was "officially alive".

### 21...♗g7 22.♞a2

White plans to increase his pressure by doubling rooks along the a-file. For the time being, Black cannot initiate a kingside counterplay with ...f5 and his knight has not the e5-square at his disposal. He has to look for a way to consolidate his position, maintaining the hope that the weakness induced by the courageous advance of White's g-pawn will tell at a later stage. We shall investigate two possible continuations.

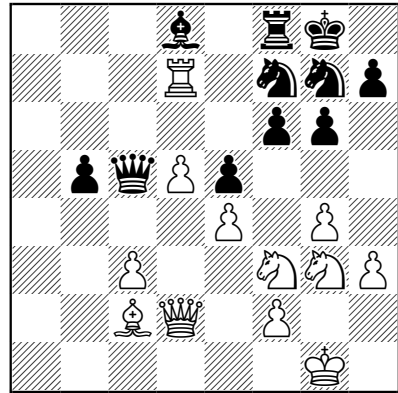


### 22...♖c8

The same plan as in the game Tulmakov-Kan, although the tactical nuances are slightly more complicated here because of the different placement of the white queen.

I believe that it is best to play this move immediately. Alternatively, Black can trade a pair of rooks along the a-file with 22...♞a8 23.♞ea1 ♞xa2 (In the game Aagaard-Rowson, British

Championships 2007, Black continued the fight for the a-file with 23...♖b7?! White answered with the strong move 24.♗b3!, setting up indirect pressure along the a2-g8 diagonal. Blocking the position with 24...c4 would open the diagonal of the e3-bishop, allowing the intermediate 25.♞a7! The prophylactic 24...♗h8 looks safer, although it is not easy to suggest a further plan for Black. The game went 24...♞xa2?! 25.♞xa2 ♖c8? 26.bxc5 dxc5 27.d6! with strong initiative for White.) 24.♞xa2 ♖c8! 25.♞a7 ♗d8 26.bxc5. Otherwise, Black would be very much OK after ...♗b6. 26...dxc5 27.♗xc5 ♖xc5 28.♞xd7



White has won a pawn, but Black has good chances to stabilize the position and setup domination on dark squares. Now, the weaknesses induced by g4 are obvious. 28...♗e8 (This looks to be the most solid continuation, keeping the d6-square under firm control and preparing an optimal regrouping of the knights. 28...♗a5 is possible, but can lead to unnecessary complications after 29.♗e2 ♖e8 30.♖e3!?) It is useful to exchange the active black queen, even at the cost of weakening the own structure. 30...♖xe3 31.fxe3 ♖ed6. Black's position looks very nice in view of the threats ...♗b6 followed by ...♗c4, but White has not exhausted his resources yet. 32.g5!?) Played with the hope for 32...♗g7? 33.♗ed4!! exd4 34.gxf6† ♗xf6 35.e5!†. A nice tactical resources, but Black can do better. 32...fxg5 33.♗xe5 ♖xe5 34.♞xd6 ♗f3† 35.♗h1 ♗e1 29.♖e3 ♖xe3 30.fxe3 ♗ed6. Now, the threat

...♙a5 is real and 31.g5?! fxg5 32.♗xe5? does not work anymore because of 32...♗xe5 33.♞xd6 ♙c7 34.♞e6 ♗f3† winning material.

**23.♞a7**

White tries to prevent Black's plan by tactical means. In case of the more neutral 23.♞e1 Black achieves a safe position with 23...♙d8=

**23...♙d8 24.bxc5**

The logical consequence of the previous move.

**24...dxc5 25.♙xc5 ♞xc5 26.♞xd7**

The b8-rook is useful by over-defending the b5-pawn and depriving the enemy rook of the b7-square. In some cases, it enables the bishop's transfer to b6. These are sufficient reasons to justify refraining from exchanging rooks along the a-file before initiating the thematic regroupment.

Black has several ways to obtain very good play.

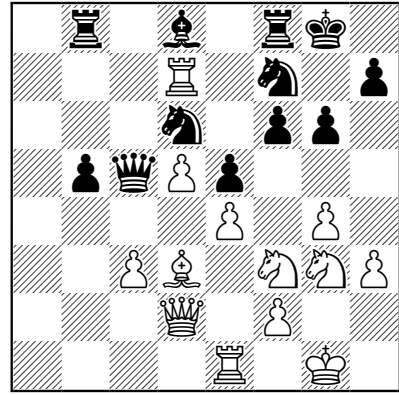
**26...♗e8**

26...♙a5 is also strong, when 27.♗e2? loses material to 27...♙b6 28.♗g3 ♞c8 29.♞e7 ♞d8†

**27.♙d3**

27.♞e3? is impossible now because of 27...♞c8! 28.♞a7 ♙b6 with a deadly fork.

**27...♗ed6**



If anything, I would prefer Black here. The d7-rook is vulnerable, while Black's position is very stable.

We have now reached the end of an incredibly long journey. I hope that I have managed to prove that the system of development designed by Rubinstein one century ago is perfectly playable and that the oblivion into which it has fallen for more than 3 decades is due only to the

## Theory

So footnote 155 is not perfect. More accurate would be: 16.♗f1 ♗e8 17.♗f1 ♙d7 transposes to 15...♙d7. 17...g6?! 18.bxc5?! dxc5 19.c4.

Line 27 in the book could be replaced with the three following lines: A, B and C.

### Line A

**15...♙d7 16.axb5 axb5 17.bxc5**

17.c4 cxb4 18.cxb5 ♗b7 19.♞b1 ♞fc8†

**17...♞xc5 18.♞e3**

Threatening ♙a3. 18.♙a3 ♞xc3 19.♞e3 ♞c7 20.♗xe5 ♙xh3! Kortschnoj.

**18...♞c7**

18...♞e8?! 19.c4!? (19.g4 g6 20.♗f1 ♗b7 21.♗g3 ♞a8 22.♞b1 ♞ec8 23.♗e1 ♗a5 24.♞f3 ♗c4† Kuzmin–Krogius, Perm 1971.) 19...♗b7 (19...bxc4 20.♞c3 ♙b5 21.♞b1±) 20.cxb5 ♙xb5

(20...♞ec8 21.♙d3±) 21.♞b3±

**19.♙a3**

19.c4 ♗b7! (19...b4 20.♞b3.) 20.cxb5 ♞fc8 21.♙a4 ♗c5 22.b6 ♞xb6 23.♙xd7 ♗fxd7 24.♞e3 ♞d8! ♠...♙g5.

**19...♞e8 20.♙b4 ♗b7 21.♗b3**

21.♞a7 ♞b6 22.♞a1 ♗c5 eventually followed by ...♗a4.

**21...♙f8**

21...♗c5 22.♙a5 ♞c8 23.♗xc5 ♞xc5 24.♙d3.

**22.♞a7 ♞b6**

22...♞a8 23.♞a1 ♞b8 24.♞xa8 ♞xa8 25.♞e1 (⇐a)25...♗h5±.

**23.♞a1 ♗c5 24.♞e1**

24.♗xc5? dxc5 25.♞a6 ♞b7 26.♞a7 ♞a8!

**24...♗a4=**

Black has neutralized White's initiative, achieving stability on the queenside, Op den Kelder–Marin, Banyoles 2007.

**Line B****17. ♖f1 ♜e8 18. ♙e3 f6**

Δ... ♜f7, ...g6, ... ♜g7.

**19. ♜3h2**19. bxc5 dxc5 20. c4 bxc4 21. ♙a4 21... ♙xa4  
22. ♙xa4 ♜d6 23. ♛c2 ♙b4= 24. ♜3d2? 24...c3! ♣**19... ♜f7 20. ♜g3 g6 21. ♛d2 ♜g7**

Δ...f5

**22. f4 exf4 23. ♙xf4 ♙a8**23... ♜e5 24. ♙a2 ♙a8 25. ♙ea1 ♙xa2 26. ♙xa2  
♙b8=**24. bxc5 ♛xc5 † 25. ♙e3 ♛c7 26. ♙d4 ♜e5****27. ♜hf1 ♛b7 28. ♙b3 ♙xa1 29. ♙xa1 ♙a8****30. ♙xa8 † draw,**Berescu-Marin, Romanian championship,  
Predeal 2006.**Line C****18. g4**

Controlling f5, but weakening f4.

**18...g6 19. ♜g3 f6 20. ♙e3 ♜f7 21. ♛d2!**21. ♙a3 ♜g7 22. ♛a1 ♛c8! (Δ...f5, Δ... ♙d8-b6.)  
23. ♙a7 ♙d8!= 24. ♙a6 (24. bxc5 dxc5 25. ♙xc5  
♛xc5 26. ♙xd7 ♙b6 27. ♙f1 ♛c8 or 26...b4.  
24. ♙c1 ♙b6 25. ♙a6 ♛c7=) 24...f5! ♣ (24...cxb4?!25. cxb4 ♛xc2?! 26. ♙c1 ♛b3 27. ♜d2 ♛xb4  
28. ♙b1) 25. exf5 gxf5 26. gxf5? (26. bxc5 f4)  
26...cxb4! 27. ♙a7 (27. cxb4 ♛xc2 28. ♙c1 ♛b3  
Δ... ♛d5) 27...bxc3- † Tukmakov-Kan, Tashkent  
1974.**21... ♜g7 22. ♙a2 ♛c8**22... ♙a8 23. ♙ea1 ♙xa2 (23... ♛b7?! 24. ♙b3!  
♙xa2?! 25. ♙xa2 ♙c8? 26. bxc5 dxc5 27. d6!  
Aagaard-Rowson, British Championships 2007.  
24...c4 25. ♙a7! 24... ♜h8!?) 24. ♙xa2 ♛c8!  
25. ♙a7 ♙d8 (Δ... ♙b6) 26. bxc5 dxc5 27. ♙xc5  
♛xc5 28. ♙xd7 ♜e8 (28... ♙a5 29. ♜e2 ♣e8  
30. ♛e3!? ♛xe3 31. fxe3 ♣ed6. Δ... ♙b6, ... ♜c4.  
32. g5!? ♜g7? 33. ♜ed4!! exd4 34. gxf6 † ♜xf6  
35. e5! †. 32...fxg5! 33. ♜xe5 ♣xe5 34. ♙xd6 ♜f3 †  
35. ♜h1 ♜e1∞) 29. ♛e3 ♛xe3 30. fxe3 ♜ed6.  
Δ... ♙a5. 31. g5?! fxg5 32. ♜xe5? ♜xe5 33. ♙xd6  
♙c7 34. ♙e6 ♜f3 † - †.**23. ♙a7**

23. ♙ea1 ♙d8=

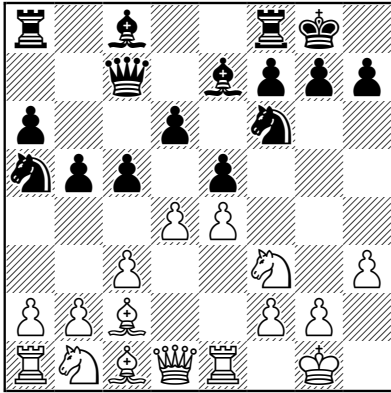
**23... ♙d8 24. bxc5 dxc5 25. ♙xc5 ♛xc5 26. ♙xd7  
♜e8**26... ♙a5!? Δ 27. ♜e2? ♙b6 28. ♜g3 ♛c8 29. ♙e7  
♛d8 †**27. ♙d3**

27. ♛e3? ♛c8! 28. ♙a7 ♙b6.

**27... ♜ed6=**

# 12.d5

In the Chigorin variation, instead of the natural developing move 12.♖bd2, the immediate



## 12.d5

is also possible.

This move has become popular in recent years, especially among players who like to avoid the systems based on an early exchange on d4. From our point of view it does not induce any significant differences from the main lines.

## 12...♗d7

This is the most flexible move. After the hurried 12...c4 White could play 13.b4! ♖b7 (if 13...cxb3 14.axb3 White's undeveloped knight proves useful, because the c3-pawn is defended) 14.a4 when, compared to the Rubinstein system, White's queen's knight could prove useful in attacking the b5-pawn.

## 13.b3

White intends to attack the b5-pawn with a4 and ♖a3.

The immediate 13.a4 would weaken the b3-square, allowing 13...c4! in favourable circumstances.

The most consistent continuation is 13.♖bd2, but this would transpose to the second line from the Petrosian system tables.

## 13...♞ab8!?

Black aims to discourage the planned a4. However, other moves such as 13...♖b7 and 13...♞fe8 are entirely playable, too.

## 14.♗e3

14.a4?! is not recommendable because of 14...bxa4 with pressure against the b3-square.

## 14...g6

A move order that limits White's options more is 14...♖e8 15.♖bd2 g6 16.♗h6 ♖g7.

## 15.♖bd2

White could have tried 15.♗h6!?, although then Black would play in the spirit of the Petrosian system with 15...♞fe8 16.♖bd2 ♗f8=.

## 15...♖h5 16.♗h6 ♖g7 17.♖f1 ♖b7

The picture is very familiar for adherents of the Rubinstein system.

## 18.g4 ♖d8 19.♖g3 f6 20.♖h2 ♖f7 21.♗e3 ♗h8

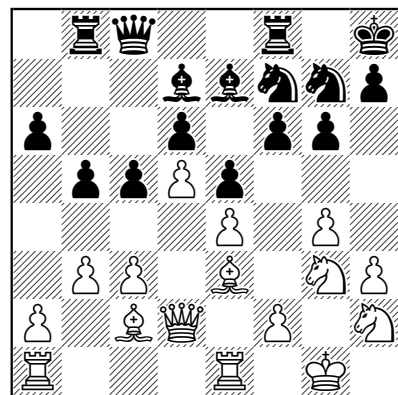
21...a5!?

## 22.♞d2

22.f4 f5!?⇝ ... ♗h4

## 22...♞c8

22...a5!?



## 23.f4! exf4

23...f5 24.exf5 gxf5 25.g5!

## 24.♗xf4 ♖e5=

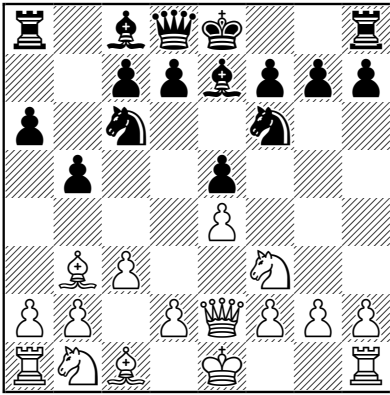
Maze – Marin, Moscow Aeroflot 2005.

## Update to Chapter 8

# The Worrall Attack

Finally, I will mention a slightly tricky move order, advocated by Tiviakov.

After **5.♖e2 b5 6.♘b3 ♗e7**, White can play **7.c3**:

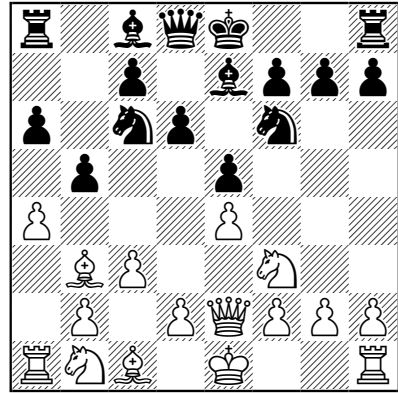


In the first edition, I have failed to notice the significant differences induced by this move and have not mentioned at all, assuming that it would simply transpose elsewhere! Fortunately, I got my punishment just in time to become aware of the necessity to examine this variation for the present edition. I suspect that my opponent (Vladimir Baklan, an extremely efficient player with the white pieces) or one of his team mates had noticed my omission. Otherwise I cannot explain why a strong player with a stable opening repertoire chose precisely the Worrall Attack for the first time in his life!

Be it as it may, during the game I was not aware of the fact that there was no mention of **7.c3** in the book and played **7...d6** thinking that after **8.d4 ♗g4** we would transpose to the line **7.d4 d6 8.c3 ♗g4**.

Only when he answered **8.a4**, did I remember an important detail, which served me as a guideline

when writing the chapter for the first time, but which I had failed to mention explicitly: Black should not weaken the c6-square before castling, in order to be able to meet **a4** with **...b4** without fearing **♗xf7** followed by **♖c4†** or simply **♖c4** with a double attack.

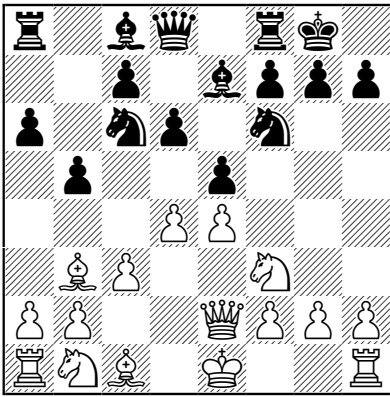


Caught by surprise, I did not want to make concessions such as **8...♗d7** or **8...♖b8**, which would offer White a more favourable form of the normal line after castling followed by **d4**. Indeed, the development of the bishop to **d7** would allow White spare the move **h3**, while abandoning the **a**-file would disable (after the exchange on **b5**) the typical manoeuvre **...♗a5**. Instead, I tried to repair my “mistake” from a position of force with **8...♗g4**, but, not being prepared for such a course of events, went down rather painfully. My highest praise and sincere thanks for Vladimir and his accurate play in the decisive part of this rather short game. Without his “help”, the book you are reading would have been incomplete.

Further analysis proved that Black’s pawn sacrifice is not entirely unsound, but my feeling is that the variation does not fit in our main

repertoire too well (Remember? We are playing the Chigorin Variation, not the Marshall Attack!)

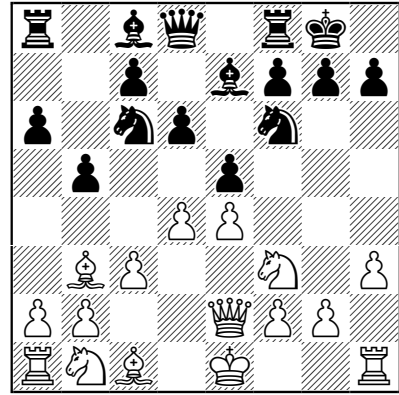
Immediately after resigning, I put all the blame on the careless advance of the d-pawn and decided that **7...0-0** would have avoided troubles. This simplistic attitude certainly served me well for avoiding a sleepless night and being fit for the last and decisive round. Later, however, I understood that things are not that simple and that additional work has to be done. After **8.d4 d6** White is not really forced to transpose to the previously investigated lines by castling, but can consider consolidating his centre with either **9.♖bd2** or **9.h3**.



Personally, I am not too worried by **9.♖bd2**. After **9...exd4** (This slight deviation from the Yates-system plan is better than the immediate **9...♗g4**, which can be answered with **10.h3**) **10.cxd4 ♗g4** the early (premature!?) development of the queen makes itself felt. The threat **11...♗xd4** forces the white Lady move again, on a rather unnatural position with **11.♙e3**

Although there is no immediate danger for White, he will face problems completing his queenside development, allowing Black generate adequate counterplay against the mighty central pawns. In practice, Black has tried **11...d5 12.e5 ♗e4** mainly, but I fear that closing the centre would offer White the possibility to get his forces coordinated. I prefer the plan suggested against the **♗e3** line in the Yates system, namely **11...♗a5 12.♗c2 c5**

White's more consistent continuation is **9.h3**



The main difference compared to the line with an early white castle is that White has occupied the centre and secured his domination in this area before Black carried out the Chigorin manoeuvre **...♗a5** and **...c5**. This will make it more difficult for Black to get active counterplay and certainly poses us concrete problems maintaining the coherence of our entire repertoire against the Ruy Lopez. Later, White will place his rook on d1, creating an unpleasant pin along the d-file and eventually play **a4**, when the queen's presence on **e2** would prove useful.

In practice, Black has been relatively successful with **9...♗b7 10.0-0 ♙e8** eventually followed by **...♗d8** and **...♗b8-d7**. While this hardly has anything in common with the Chigorin system, I am also slightly suspicious about the objective merits of such a way of regrouping. With the rook captive on **f8** and the **d8**-bishop obstructing the communication between Black's major pieces, it certainly looks like a worse version of the Breyer system. Finally, It does not look like a serious reason why not to play the Worrall...

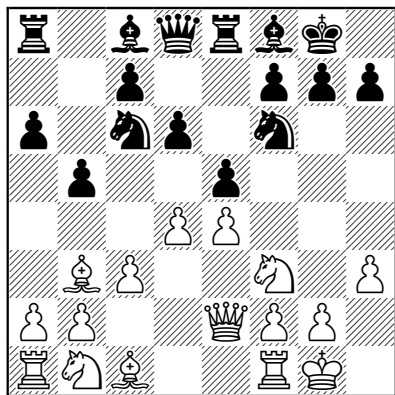
When searching for the optimal plan for Black, I have focused on two main goals: to make the queen feel uncomfortable on **e2** and create some similarity with the Rubinstein or the Petrosian system. In order to enable the knight jump **...♗a5** followed by **...c5**, Black obviously needs to over-protect the **e5**-pawn.

The most natural way to do it is **9...♗e8 10.0-0 10.♗g5** is not dangerous. After the calm **10...♗f8** the early departure of the queen from

d1 makes itself felt, by leaving the d4-pawn insufficiently defended. In order to avoid an unfavourable release of the tension in the centre, White has nothing better than return with the knight to f3, when Black can insist with ...♖e8. 11.♗e3 is dangerous because of 11...d5! when White's minor pieces are slightly hanging.

Besides, Black can try the more adventurous 10...d5, implying material sacrifices for the sake of preventing the enemy king from castling.

10...♗f8



By regrouping in the spirit of the Zaitsev and the Smyslov systems, Black has immediately put the e4-pawn under pressure.

Curiously, this plan has been played very rarely. When confronted with this variation, practically all the top players stuck to systems of development that made part of their main repertoire against 5.0–0 followed by 6.♖e1 and which do not necessarily work out equally well here. It is possible that they were caught by surprise by the move order based on 6.c3 and just looked for an over-the-board emergency exit.

If this is the truth, I can understand them perfectly well. Even in the peace of my working place, I needed quite some time to find a solution. I even tried to imagine the situation in which, preparing for an opponent who frequently plays 5.♖e2 followed by 6.c3, I had spotted my omission in time. Would I have been able to find my way out under the pressure of time? Probably not; I might have simply switched to the Pirc, which would have been a good practical decision as a tournament player, but basically a desertion

as an author. See the similar situation described in the Evans chapter.

Anyway, the lack of practical examples in this line gives this part of the chapter a somewhat vague character. However, I believe that any player mastering the first chapters of the book and my recommendations from the current position will have no problems defending Black's point of view.

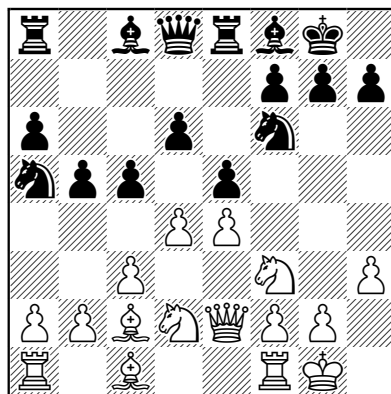
Let us consider White's main continuations.

11.d5 is hardly a solution now. After 11...♗a5 12.♗b3 c6, Black gets a very favourable form of the Yates system with 10.d5. Instead of losing two tempi with the queen's bishop (...♗g4 and ...♗c8) he has played two useful moves (...♗f8 and ...♖e8), which make part of his main plan anyway! The fact that ♖e2 had been played instead of ♖e1 hardly favours White.

11.♘g5 continues to be inoffensive. Black answers 11...♖e7, maintaining the pressure against White's centre and leaving the knight misplaced on g5.

11.♗g5 has been played, but White's initiative has only temporary character after 11...h6 12.♗xf6 ♖xf6 13.♗d5 ♗d7.

The most natural continuation is 11.♘bd2 when nothing can stop Black to play 11...♗a5 12.♗c2 c5:

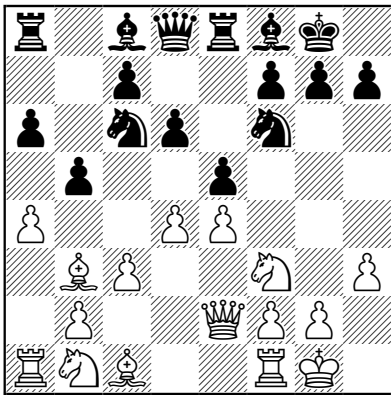


Here it is, an almost typical Chigorin position! Having played ...♖e8 and ...♗f8 prevents Black from employing Rubinstein's regrouping already. However, these moves are useful from the point of view of the Petrosian system. Besides, the presence of the white queen on e2 and Her

Majesty's opposition with the black rook will force White release the tension in the centre earlier than generally desirable. Just take into account that Black has not made any committal move yet (such as ...♖c6) and neither d5 nor dxc5 offer White any concrete advantage.

In the Chigorin variation, the black queen's development on c7 was a concrete necessity at a concrete moment, but not really a great achievement for Black. Therefore, maintaining other options for this mighty piece in the diagrammed position offers Black greater flexibility.

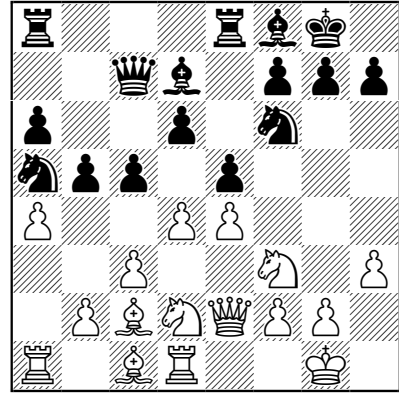
Finally, White has **11.a4**:



This move caused Black some trouble in the few games where it was played. White indirectly defends the e4-pawn, because 11.exd4?! can be strongly answered with the intermediate move 12.axb5!

The most flexible continuation is **11...♗d7**, indirectly defending the b5-pawn and maintaining the same threats and ideas as before.

After **12.♖bd2 ♖a5 13.♗c2 c5 14.♗d1 ♗c7** we can notice that the advance of the a-pawn is anything but one-sided.



15.♖f1 can be met with 15...exd4 16.cxd4 bxa4!, while the opening of the a-file with 15.axb5 axb5 before playing 16.♖f1 allows the simplifications 16...♖b3! 17.♗xa8 ♖xc1 18.♗xc1 ♗xa8. In order to avoid repeating what I have said so many times already, I will just offer you a quiz: which is the drawback in White's position that enabled this favourable for Black tactical operation?

I will preserve the conclusion from the first edition (below), adding only that 6.c3 should not allowed to be an over the board surprise, as I had the occasion to learn on my own...

## Theory

### Line A

#### 7.c3 d6 8.a4 ♗g4 9.axb5

9.h3 ♖a5 10.♗xf7?! (10.♗c2 ♗xf3 11.♗xf3 leaves White a tempo down if compared with the lines from chapter 10 - the a4-system.) 10...♗xf7 11.hxg4 ♖b3 12.axb5 ♖xa1 13.g5 White's attack is less dangerous than it looks at first sight. he is a whole rook down and is rather poorly developed. 13...♖g4!? 14.♗c4† (14.♖h4 ♗xg5 15.♗xg4 ♗xh4 16.♗xh4 ♖b3-†) 14...♖f8! 15.bxa6

(15.g6 ♗e8! 16.♗xh7 ♗g8-†) 15...♖c2† (15...♗xg5 16.♗a4∞) 16.♖e2 (16.♖f1 ♗c8-†) 16...d5 17.exd5 ♗c8†

#### 9...axb5 10.♗xa8 ♗xa8 11.♗xb5 0-0 12.♗e2!

12.0-0 would transpose to a famous game that I had known for more than 30 years. 12...♖a7! (12...♖xe4? 13.♗d5 Keres; 12...♗b8 13.♗a4 Keres; 12...♖a5 13.♗c2 ♖xe4 14.♖xe5!± Book-CHO'D Alexander, Margate 1938.) 13.♗e2 (13.♗a5 ♗xe4 14.♗xa7 ♗xf3 15.gxf3 ♗g6† 16.♖h1 ♗xb1 17.♗xc7 ♗d3∞ Black's initiative



should reach for at least perpetual check.)  
 13...♖xe4 14.♗xe4 ♖xe4 15.d4 (15.♙d1 c5 Keres) 15...♙xf3 16.gxf3 ♖g5 17.♗g2 (17.♙xg5 ♙xg5+ Keres) 17...♗b8 18.♙c4 exd4 19.cxd4 ♖e6 20.d5 (20.♙xe6 fxe6+ Keres; 20.♗e1 ♙f6 21.♙xe6 fxe6 22.♗xe6 ♙xd4+ Keres) 20...♖c5+ Fine-Keres, AVRO 1938.

### 12...♗b8

12...♖h5?! 13.d3 ♗a1?! 14.0-0! (14.♙c2 ♖f4 15.♙xf4 exf4 16.b4 ♖e5) 14...♗b8 15.♙d5 ♖d8 16.♖a3+ Baklan-Marin, Romanian team championship, 2007.

### 13.♙c2 ♖h5 14.0-0

Paradoxically, this brave move seems to be White's best chance for an advantage.

14.d3 ♖f4 15.♙xf4 exf4 16.b4 ♗a2 followed by ...♖e5 or immediately 16...♖e5, with initiative for the pawn.

14.g3 This move prevents the knight jump, but leaves White with problems getting rid of the unpleasant pin and get castled at the same time. 14...♗a2 15.h3 (15.0-0 ♖a5 will more or less force White give up his light-squared bishop for the knight after 16.d3 ♖b3, when the kingside weaknesses would become more relevant. Or 16.d4 ♖c4 and the queenside is in danger.) 15...♙d7 16.♗f1 (16.d4 exd4 17.cxd4 ♖b4∞) 16...♖a5∞

### 14...♖f4

14...♙g5!? 15.g3 ♙h6 is an interesting alternative, leaving White with problems completing his development.

### 15.♗e3 ♖a5 16.d3 f5!? 17.b4

17.♖bd2 ♙g5! Δ18.♖xg5? ♖e2+ 19.♗h1 f4.  
 17...fxe4 18.♗xe4 ♗xe4 19.dxe4 ♖e2+ 20.♗h1 ♖xc1 21.♗xc1 ♙xf3 22.gxf3

22.bxa5 ♙e2 23.♖d2 ♙g5 24.♗b1 ♗a8 25.♖b3 c5∞

### 22...♖c6

White has managed to keep his extra-pawn, but his structure is far from perfect. Besides, the presence of opposite coloured bishops and the fact that Black will occupy the only open file increases the probability of a draw dramatically. For instance

23.♖a3 ♗f8 24.♖c4 ♗a8 25.♙b3 ♙g5 26.♖e3 ♖e7∞

and Black should not lose.

## Line B

### 7...0-0 8.d4 d6 9.♖bd2 exd4 10.cxd4

10.♖xd4 ♖xd4 11.cxd4 c5 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.0-0 c4+

### 10...♙g4 11.♗e3

11.♗d3 ♖b4 12.♗c3 c5 13.0-0 ♙xf3+

### 11...♖a5

11...d5 12.e5 ♖e4 13.0-0 (13.♖xe4 dxe4 14.♗xe4 ♙xf3 15.gxf3 ♖xd4 16.♙d5 ♖c2+ ) 13...♙f5 14.♙c2 (Later, Tiviakov switched to 14.♗d1 ♗d7 15.♖f1 ♖a5 16.♙c2 ♖c4 17.♗e2 f6 18.♖e3. Now, in the game Tiviakov-Ibragimov, Elista 1997, Black should have played 18...♖xe3!? 19.♙xe3 ♙g4 20.♗d3 ♗e6∞ with an entirely acceptable position.) 14...♖xd2 15.♗xd2 ♙e4 16.♗d1 ♗d7 (16...♖b4 17.♙b1 c5!? Beliavsky) 17.♗e2 f5 (17...♗g4! 18.h3 ♗g6+ Beliavsky) 18.♖e1 ½-½ Tiviakov-Beliavsky, Cacak 1996. 18...♙xc2 (18...♖d8? 19.♙b3!+ Δf3 19...f4? 20.♗xe4!+) 19.♗xc2 ♖d8 20.♖d3 ♖e6 21.♖f4 ♗ac8+ Δ...c5, Δ...♖xf4, g5.

### 12.♙c2

12.0-0 should also be answered with 12...c5, when the bishop would have to retreat later anyway.

### 12...c5 13.0-0

13.d5 ♗e8 14.0-0 ♙f8 (Δ...♖xd5.) 15.♗f4 g6 16.h3 ♙xf3 17.♗xf3 This queen has moved quite a lot. It would be illogical to claim an advantage for White. 17...♙g7 18.♗b1 ♗c8= 19.b3 c4!, 20.b4? c3+

13.dxc5 dxc5 14.0-0 (14.e5? ♖d5 15.♗e4 f5 16.exf6 ♖xf6+ or 15.♙xh7!+ ♗h8!+ leave White's pieces hanging.) 14...♙h5 (Anticipating e5 by enabling ...♙g6 as an answer to a later ♗e4.) 15.b3 ♖c6 16.♙b2 ♖b4 17.♙b1 ♗e8= White has an advantage of space in the centre, but his development is far from harmonious.

### 13...♗c8

If given a choice, I would prefer maintaining the tension for as long as possible.

However, 13...cxd4 is playable, too. 14.♖xd4 ♗c8 15.h3 ♙d7 16.♗d1 ♗e8 17.♖2f3 ♙f8 18.b3 g6 (18...h6 as played in Calzetta-Kachiani, Crete 2007, is pointless, because, contrary to what both ladies seem to have thought, it does not prevent 19.♙b2. Indeed, after 19...♖xe4 20.♙xe4 d5 the

intermediate capture on h7 is not possible any more, but 21.♖e5! leaves Black with problems retrieving the sacrificed material in favourable way.) 19.♙b2 ♘g7 20.♗f4 ♗e7 21.♞e1 ♖c6=. Black's excellent development, the passive and vulnerable placement of the c2-bishop as well as the pressure against the e4-pawn should compensate for the weakness of the d6-pawn.

### 14.h3

14.dxc5 ♞xc5! 15.♖d4 ♗c7 with active play for Black.

14.d5 ♞e8 is likely to transpose to 13.d5.

14.♞e1 does not cross Black's intentions after 14...♞e8.

**14...♙xf3 15.♖xf3 cxd4 16.♖xd4 ♞e8 17.♞e1 ♖d7 18.♗d3 ♙f6=**

This picture is familiar to us from the chapter dedicated to the d3-system. Black's better development compensates for the small structural defect.

### 19.e5!?

is not dangerous because of

**19...♖f8!**

### Line C

#### 9.h3 ♞e8 10.0–0

10.♖g5 ♞f8 (10...d5!? 11.exd5 ♖xd4 12.cxd4 ♙b4† 13.♖d1 exd4 Δ...h6, ...♖xd5.) 11.a4 (11.♙e3 d5 12.exd5 ♖xd5†; 11.♖f3=) 11...♙d7=

#### 10...♙f8 11.♙g5!?

11.♖g5 ♞e7 12.a4 (12.d5 ♖a5 13.♙c2 c6,,) 12...♙d7 13.d5 (13.axb5 axb5 14.♞xa8 ♗xa8 15.d5 ♖a5 16.♙a2 c6 17.♖a3 cxd5 18.exd5 e4 19.♖xb5 ♗a6 20.c4 h6†) 13...♖a5 14.♙c2 c6‡ 11.d5?! ♖a5 12.♙c2 c6‡

11.dxe5?! ♖xe5! 12.♖xe5 ♞xe5 13.f3 d5‡ White's delay in development leaves him struggling, Varavin-Kuzmin, Sudak 2002.

**11...h6 12.♙xf6 ♗xf6 13.♙d5 ♙d7 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.a4 ♞ad8!**

The point behind this centralizing move will be revealed later.

The mechanical (and unnecessary) defence of the b5-pawn leaves White with some initiative. 15...♞ab8 16.axb5 axb5 17.♞a6 ♙c5 (17...♖d4?! does not work now because of 18.♙xf7†! ♗xf7

19.cxd4 exd4 20.♖xd4, for instance 20...c5 21.♖c2 b4 22.♞a5‡ and Black does not seem to have sufficient compensation.) 18.♖a3 ♙xa3 19.bxa3‡ Davies-Pavlovic, Vrnjacka Banja 1988.

### 16.axb5 axb5 17.♖a3

17.♞a6?! ♖d4! 18.♙xf7† ♗xf7 19.cxd4 exd4‡ Here is the difference! The d4-pawn is taboo now. 20.♖xd4? ♙c8!–†

17.♗xb5 ♖e7 18.♞e2 (White needs to prevent ...♙xh3 by defending the knight.) 18...♖xd5 19.exd5 e4 20.♖d4 ♗g5‡

### 17...♖e7 18.♙b3 ♖g6‡

Black has the pair of bishops and a very harmonious placement of pieces.

### Line D

#### 11.♖bd2 ♖a5 12.♙c2 c5 13.♞d1

13.♞e1 puts less pressure on Black and allows him develop in the spirit of the Petrosian system without moving the queen at all. 13...♙d7 14.♖f1 ♖c4 15.♖g3 g6=

13.b4?! leaves White's centre hanging after 13...cxb4 14.cxb4 ♖c6‡

#### 13...♞e7

The most direct way to force White take a decision in the centre.

13...♗c7 is also playable, but White can sacrifice a pawn in order to maintain the tension. 14.♖f1!? exd4 (14...g6?! 15.♙g5! ♙g7 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.♙xf6 ♙xf6 18.♖e3 ♙b7 19.a4‡) 15.cxd4 ♙b7 16.♖g3 ♖xe4 17.♙xe4 (17.♖xe4 d5 18.♖f6† gxf6 19.♗d3 ♞e4 20.dxc5 ♙xc5 21.♗f1‡) 17...♙xe4 18.♖xe4 d5 19.♖f6† gxf6 20.♗d3 c4 21.♗f5‡

13...♙d7 14.♖f1 ♖c4 looks entirely playable as well.

#### 14.d5

14.dxc5 dxc5 15.♖f1 ♖c4 16.♖g3 g6 17.b3 ♖d6 18.♙e3 c4 19.♙c5 ♗c7 20.b4 a5=; 14.a4 ♙d7= transposes to 11.a4.

#### 14...♖h5! 15.♖f1 g6 16.♙g5

16.a4 leaves the b3-square after 16Δc4.

#### 16...♗c7=

Black intends to regroup with ...♙g7, ...♙d7, eventually ...♖c4. At the right moment, the h5-knight would jump to f4, even if this would mean sacrificing a pawn for activating his g7-bishop.

**Line E****11.a4 ♖d7**

11...♖b8?! 12.axb5 axb5 13.♗g5 d5 (Black is forced to open the centre because 13...♖e7? 14.d5! leaves the knight trapped. We can see here the drawbacks of leaving White with the control of the a-file.) 14.♗xf7! In the style of Morphy! 14...♗xf7 15.exd5 exd4 16.dxc6† ♕e6 17.♕xe6† ♖xe6 18.♖f3 ♖d5 19.♖xd5 ♗xd5 20.cxd4 ♖xc6 21.♗d2 ♖c2 22.♗f3± Vitiugov-Pokazanjev, Nojabrsk 2005.

11...exd4?! 12.axb5! ♖xe4 13.♕xf7†!± Vitiugov-Yamilov, St Petersburg 1999.

**12.♗bd2**

12.d5 ♗e7 (12...♗a5 13.♕c2 c6,,) 13.c4 c6 (13...♗g6 14.axb5 axb5 15.♖xa8 ♖xa8 16.cxb5 ♗h5 17.♗c3 ♗gf4 18.♕xf4?! White should have refrained from this exchange, in order to leave Black with the chronic problem of finding a job for the superfluous knight. 18...♗xf4 19.♖e3 g6 20.♗h2 ♕h6 21.♗g1 ♗g7 22.♖f3 f5☞ Smirnov-Tarlev, Alushta 2004.) 14.♕g5 (14.axb5 axb5 15.♖xa8 ♖xa8 16.♕g5 bxc4 17.♕xc4 cxd5 18.exd5 ♗exd5†) 14...bxc4 15.♕xc4 cxd5 16.exd5 ♗g6 17.♗c3 (17.♕xa6?! h6 18.♕xf6

♖xf6†) 17...h6 18.♕xf6 ♖xf6= 19.♕xa6? ♗f4 20.♖c4 ♕xh3-†

**12...♗a5 13.♕c2 c5 14.♖d1**

Here, too 14.b4 is premature because of 14...cxb4 15.cxb4 ♗c6†

**14...♖e7**

This line is important for the move order starting with 11.♗bd2.

However, in this concrete position, 14...♖c7 is an important alternative. 15.d5 (15.axb5 axb5 16.♗f1 ♗b3 17.♖xa8 ♗xc1 18.♖xc1 ♖xa8†; 15.♗f1 exd4 16.cxd4 bxa4†) 15...♗h5 16.♗f1 g6=

**15.♗f1**

15.dxc5 dxc5 16.♗f1 ♕c6 17.♗g3 g6=

**15...exd4 16.cxd4 ♗xe4**

It appears that Black can embark this line without fearing the pressure along the a-file.

**17.axb5 axb5 18.♖xe4 ♖xe4 19.♕xe4 ♖xe4 20.♗g3**

20.♕d2 b4!

20.dxc5 ♖a4 21.♖xa4 bxa4 22.cxd6 ♗c4=

**20...♖ee8 21.dxc5 ♗b3 22.♖xa8 ♖xa8 23.♕e3 ♖a1! =**

The tension will be released completely and, having the pair of bishops, Black is not worse.

## Update to Chapter 5

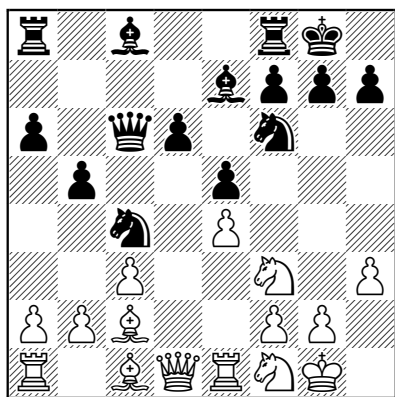
# The Yates Variation 10.d5

Just a couple of weeks after the first edition of the book was published, I had the occasion to convince myself about the truth contained by the final part of my conclusion.

### Jakovenko – Marin

Torrelavega 2007

Recently, I analyzed in depth for the Spanish magazine Jaque a couple of Jakovenko's games from the Poikovsky tournament and I must say that I remained quite impressed. Among others, his treatment of the Classical Najdorf (with white) is very effective. Given the aforementioned structural similarity between the Yates Spanish and the Classical Najdorf, one could not dream about a better suited opponent to test his Spanish repertoire against.

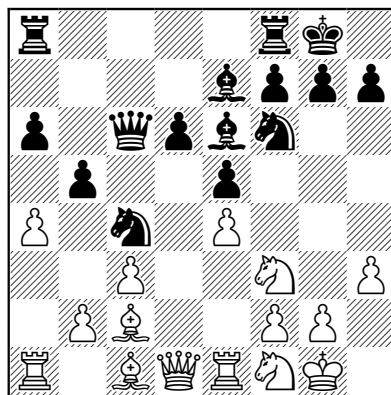


In the diagrammed position, Jakovenko played **16.a4**

Lately, I experience problems with my memory, but during the game I remembered quite clearly

that my main line went **16.♘g3 ♜e8 17.a4 ♙e6** and hoped that his move would just lead to transposition.

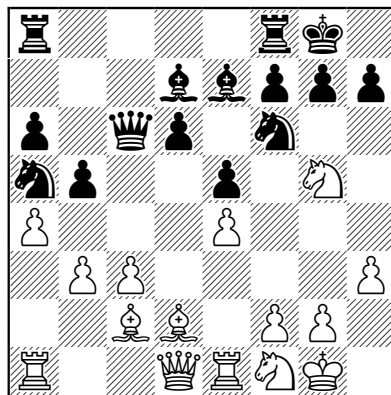
**16...♙e6**



**17.♘g5!? ♙d7 18.b3 ♘a5**

Retreating with the knight to the more natural b6-square with **18...♘b6** would actually leave it slightly misplaced after **19.a5 ♘c8**.

**19.♙d2**



I was convinced that I had never seen this position before. Therefore, I was surprised to find out that I had analyzed it in the book, although it is given as a sideline.

### 19...♞fc8

Actually, only this is the new move and it seems more logical than 19...♞c7, as given by me on the basis of a game Nijboer-Adams, Wijk aan Zee 1992. It is true that the queen retreat creates the threat ...bxa4, practically forcing White to release the tension with 20.axb5, but after 20...axb5 21.♘e3 ♞fc8 22.♞a2 Black had to adjust the position of the queen with 22...♞b7, which causes a loss of time. The conclusion of my analysis was that after 23.♘d5 ♘d8 the position is balanced anyway.

### 20.♘e3

I was not familiar with the plan involving the knight jump to e3, but I intuitively felt which structure my opponent was aiming for. In the Najdorf game from my aforementioned article for Jaque, Jakovenko played a relatively early ♘d5 and soon obtained an overwhelming advantage on the queenside.

### 20...h6

But probably this move is not the best. I wanted to return with my bishop to f5 in order to question the viability of the knight's placement on e3 in view of the vulnerability of the e4-pawn.

It would have probably been better to refrain from weakening the kingside and play 20...♞b7, for instance 21.axb5 axb5 22.♘d5 ♘d8 with an extra-tempo compared to the book-variation.

### 21.♘f3

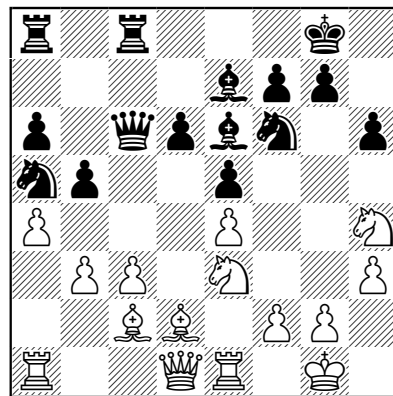
In case of 21.♘d5 ♘xd5 22.exd5 Black can avoid needless complications with 22...♞c7.

### 21...♞e6

Starting with this moment I gradually understood that White's plan has consistence both strategically and tactically.

For the time being, this feeling had rather vague contours. It is easy to see that 21...♘xe4? does not work because of 22.axb5 axb5 23.♘d5! ♞xd5 24.♘xe4 followed by ♘xa8 and b4 winning lots of material.

### 22.♘h4!



But now the feeling became more distinct. I expected that the other knight would occupy the f5-square, but after 22.♘f5 ♘f8 the f3-knight would remain passive. The attempt to activate it with 23.♘h2 (planning ♘g4) would release the pressure against the centre for just a moment, allowing Black obtain strong counterplay with 23...b4 24.c4 ♘xf5 25.exf5 d5!

Jakovenko's plan is more consistent: he intends to occupy both critical squares (d5 and f5) with his knights.

### 22...♘f8

Once again, he had worked out the tactical nuances rather well. After a long thought I decided that 22...♘xe4 was not advisable because of 23.axb5! (The point behind this exchange will become clear at the end of the variation.) 23...axb5 24.♘xe4 (24.♘ef5 is not dangerous because of 24...♘xh4! for instance 25.♘xe4 d5 26.♞g4 ♘f6 27.♞c2 e4, when the possibility of capturing on h6 with check does not compensate White for Black's advantage of space.) 24...♞xe4 25.♘ef5 Here, I mainly checked the queen sacrifice 25...♘xf5 (Objectively, 25...♞b7 is better, but after 26.♞g4 White's pressure is unpleasant. Here is a sample line: 26...♘g5 27.♘g5 hxg5 28.♞xg5 f6 29.♞g6 Strategically, Black seems to have a good position, but he cannot free his kingside easily. One of the main problems is that ...♞f7? is impossible because of ♘h6†. 29...♞d7 30.♞e3 ♘xb3 31.♞d1 and Black's position will collapse soon.) 26.♞xe4 ♘xe4 27.♞g4 and Black's pieces are hanging.; I was not too attracted by 22...g6 because of 23.♘hf5! gxf5 (23...♘f8 transposes to a position from the

next note.) 24.exf5 ♖d7 25.♟g4 with dangerous attack.

### 23.♟h5 ♜b6!

The idea of this slightly mysterious move is to consolidate the king side with ...♜d8 in case of emergency. It took less time than on the previous move to establish that 23...♟xe4? was out of question. After 24.♜g4 ♟xd2? (24...♟f6 is better, but after 25.♟xh6† ♟h8 26.♟h4 White has a promising attacking position without the necessity of making major material investments.) 25.♟xh6† ♟h8 26.♟xf7† ♟g8 (26...♟xf7 27.♜h4† leads to mate, too.) 27.♜h5! and Black is lost. The immediate threat is ♟h7# and the knight is taboo because of ♜h7#. After 27...e4 28.♟g5 there is no defence either, partly because the reserve knight is useful on e3 by preventing 28...♟f5.

By this time I started experiencing some problems with the time. Therefore, I discarded 23...g6 on general ground: the kingside position is weakened too much. I believe that my evaluation was correct. Here is a sample line 24.♟d5! (Actually, the threat ...gxf5 is not real, which means that White could make a strengthening move still. For instance, 24.♜f3 and if 24...gxf5 then 25.♟xf5 or 25.♜g3† followed by 26.exf5.) 24...♟xd5 25.exd5 ♟xd5 26.♟xh6† ♟xh6 27.♟xh6 ♟xg2 Both sides have managed to considerably weaken the square placed right in front of the enemy king, but whose attack will be faster and more efficient? 28.♜g4! I believe that it is easy to guess the answer already. 28...♟f3 29.♜h4 With the brutal threat ♜f6. 29...e4 (29...♜xc3?, with the intention of meeting 30.♜f6 with 30...e4 is refuted by 30.♟e4! ♟xe4 31.♜f6 with mate to follow.) 30.♟g5 f5 31.♟f6 ♟h5 32.♟d1. White was a winning attack on dark squares.

### 24.♟d5

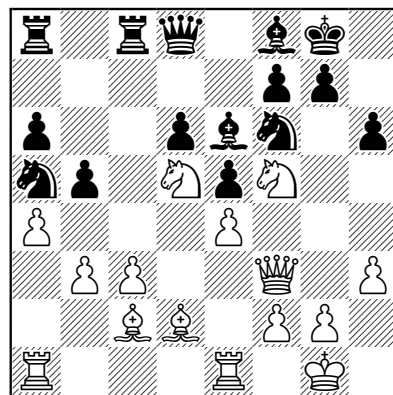
A new surprise. I expected 24.♜f3, against which I had designed 24...♜d8 anyway.

### 24...♜d8

I was about to play 24...♟xd5, when, just as if prompted from above, I noticed the deadly intermediate move 25.♟xh6†!! (I would not have mind the position arising after 25.exd5 ♟xf5 26.♟xf5 ♜e8, but certainly would have

refrained from 25...♟xd5 because of 26.♟xh6! gxh6 27.♜g4† followed by ♜f5.) After 25...gxh6 26.exd5 Black's position is not defensible, for instance 26...♟d7 (26...♟xd5 would transpose above.) 27.♜h5. I still tried to find a defence here with 27...♜d8 28.♟xh6 ♜f6 but when I saw 29.♟h7†! I dropped the whole thing.

### 25.♜f3



Another unexpected move. I was aware that I had not guessed too many of my opponent's moves after the opening and started feeling that we were playing different games in fact.

While he was thinking, I mainly investigated the consequences of 25.c4 and drew the conclusion that 25...♟b7 would be OK for Black.

In fact, Jakovenko's move is very logical. By creating the threat ♟xh6†, he forces Black release the tension, when his favourite Najdorf structure would suddenly arise on board. It is remarkable that, even knowing his positional tastes, I failed to predict concrete moves. Sometimes, it is not easy to put up together all the information one knows under the pressure of time.

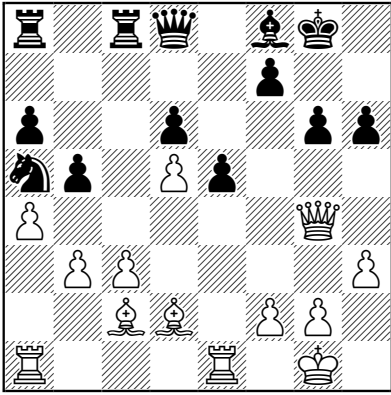
### 25...♟xd5 26.exd5

Now, 26.♟xh6† gxh6 27.exd5 ♟d7 28.♜h5 would be less dangerous because of 28...f5 and the queen is close enough to prevent the disaster.

### 26...♟xf5 27.♜xf5

In case of 27.♟xf5 I would have played 27...♟xb3! instantly, without checking whether Black "loses" an exchange or not. The strategic gain on the queenside would have obviously offered good compensation.

### 27...g6 28.♜g4



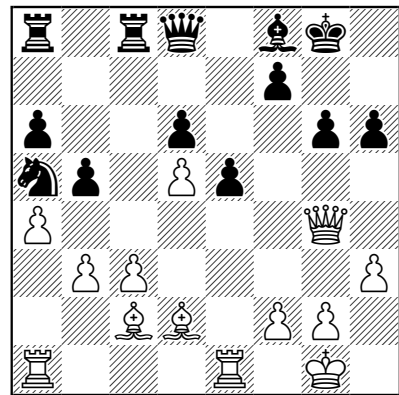
Up to this moment, I considered that I had managed to keep things under control in satisfactory way. Black has a strong kingside majority and should count on a long term advantage on this wing, although for the moment it is not easy to advance the pawns. I was hesitating between such neutral moves as 28...h5 and 28...g7, when, suddenly, I understood my opponent's idea: axb5 followed by ♖b4, when the black queenside would be in big danger. It did not take too much time to understand that such an evolution would offer few hopes for successful defence and I became very impressed about my opponent's anterior play.

Now that the over-the-board emotions have long calmed down, I can express the psychological situation more clearly. It is my firm belief that 9.d4 is slightly premature objectively speaking. The same applies to 10.d5. This does not mean that Black is better after any of these moves, but he should be entitled to count on reaching a viable position with more ease than in the main lines based on 9.h3 followed by 10.d4 or 11.d4. At the same time, the strategic and tactical complexity of the position in the range between the 20th and 25th moves clearly reminded me of Karpov's brilliant games in the classical variations of the Ruy Lopez. Obviously, there was a point of discontinuity in my whole thinking process.

When, later that same day, I complained about this to my team mates, Jacob Aagaard gave me a very wise consolation: "The Ruy Lopez Opening is enormously complicated, and so is chess." Indeed, sometimes it is not easy to find the absolute truth during the game. The comments

you are reading are fruit of additional analytical work, but they only justify White's strategy and fail to spot Black's "mistake" yet. Where did he allow White *undeserved* chances to complicate the fight from what should be relatively easy to handle position? Even if some improvement will be found in the range from the 19th to the 20th moves, Black should still be unsatisfied: this is way too complex. I felt that I will either have to find a relatively early deviation for Black or convince myself of the truth that 9.d4 followed by 10.d5 can be equally complex as 9.h3. After all, it is never too late to learn something new...

While preparing the updates for the second edition, I finally found what seems to be an adequate answer (see below). For the moment, I will only add that, with less than 10 minutes left to reach the 40th move, I decided to leave the abstract questions for later and looked for a concrete solution to my immediate problems.



### 28...b4!?!

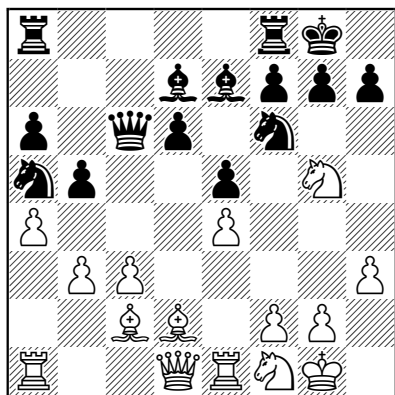
The best practical decision and the only way to ensure the knight stability.

### 29. ♖xb4 ♜ab8 30. ♖a3

This is the position I had aimed for when sacrificing the pawn. White's queen has been forced to temporarily occupy a passive position and the queenside majority is anything but easy to advance. In the meanwhile, Black can freely strengthen his position on the other wing. Objectively speaking, his compensation should not be 100% sufficient, but White is confronted with unexpected practical problems. The position remains equally complicated as before, but the

typical ideas were probably not within the range of Jakovenko's best knowledge, which eventually led him to a (somewhat undeserved) defeat.

Let us return to the position after White's 19th move.



Both 19...♖c7 (Adams) and 19...♜fc8 (Marin) reveal Black's desire (or impatience) to put pressure on White's position or to undertake concrete action. The game against Jakovenko made me look at the position with different eyes. White's plan to install his knights on d5 and f5 is most disturbing and, if possible, should be prevented by any means. This is how the prophylactic move

**19...♜fe8!**

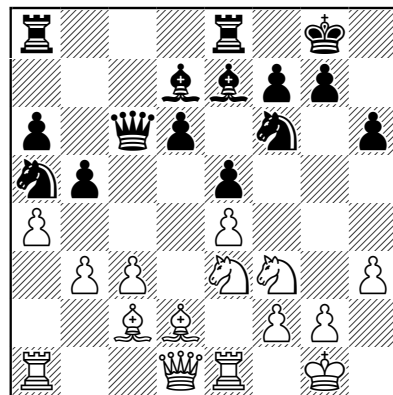
came to my mind. With the bishop well defended, **20.♞e3** loses a pawn, possibly with some compensation for White, but not more than that.

20.♞g3 h6 21.♞f3 ♙e6 transposes to the main line.

After 20.c4 ♞b7 21.cxb5 axb5 22.a5 Black should cut the a5-pawn off his colleague with 22...b4! for instance 23.♙xb4 h6 24.♞f3 ♙d8 25.♖d2. Not really defending the a5-pawn, because the c2-bishop is hanging. 25...♙xa5! 26.♙xa5 ♜xa5 27.♜xa5 ♞xa5. The position is dynamically balanced and could eventually simplify to a draw. Here is a possible continuation: 28.♞e3 ♖b6 29.b4 ♞c6 30.♖xd6 ♖xb4=

**20...h6 21.♞f3**

This is a first moment when the rook proves useful on e8. The intermediate 21.♞d5 is not dangerous at all.



**21...♞xe4!**

As we shall see, this move is entirely possible now.

**22.axb5**

The tempting 22.♙xe4 ♖xe4 23.♞c4 fails to 23...♖g6! 24.♞xa5 ♙xh3 25.g3 ♙g4+ followed by ...e4. 22.c4 ♞xd2 23.♞xd2 offers White nice control on light squares, but Black's compact structure ensures him against troubles after, say 23...♖b6 24.♞d5 ♖d8.

The same applies after 22.b4 ♞xd2 23.♞xd2 ♞c4 24.♞dxc4 bxc4 25.♞d5 f5.

**22...axb5 23.♞d5**

We can see the difference now: Black has time for the intermediate

**23...♞xd2** when after 24.♞xe7 ♜xe7 25.♖xd2 ♜a6 26.♜a3 ♞b7

Black's temporary lack of coordination should enable White to maintain equality, but not more than that. For instance,

**27.♙e4 ♖b6 28.♜xa6 ♖xa6 29.♙xb7 ♖xb7 30.♖xd6 ♜e6** followed by ...♙c6, ...f6 or the more daring ...♙g6, according to White's answer.

I believe that we have enough elements to stick to the conclusion from the previous edition...



# Theory

## Line A

### 19... $\mathbb{R}f8$ 20. $\mathcal{D}e3$ h6

20... $\mathbb{W}b7!$ ? 21.axb5 axb5 22. $\mathcal{D}d5$   $\mathcal{D}d8$  with an extra-tempo compared to the line 19... $\mathbb{W}c7$ .

### 21. $\mathcal{D}f3$

21. $\mathcal{D}d5$   $\mathcal{D}xd5$  22.exd5  $\mathbb{W}c7!?$ =

### 21... $\mathcal{D}e6$

21... $\mathcal{D}xe4?$  22.axb5 axb5 23. $\mathcal{D}d5!$   $\mathbb{W}xd5$  24. $\mathcal{D}xe4$  followed by  $\mathcal{D}xa8$  and b4 winning lots of material.

### 22. $\mathcal{D}h4!$

22. $\mathcal{D}f5$   $\mathcal{D}f8$  23. $\mathcal{D}h2$  ( $\Delta$   $\mathcal{D}g4$ ) 23...b4 24.c4  $\mathcal{D}xf5$  25.exf5 d5! $\mp$

### 22... $\mathcal{D}f8$

22... $\mathcal{D}xe4$  23.axb5! axb5 24. $\mathcal{D}xe4$  (24. $\mathcal{D}ef5$   $\mathcal{D}xh4!$  25. $\mathcal{D}xe4$  d5 26. $\mathbb{W}g4$   $\mathcal{D}f6$  27. $\mathcal{D}c2$  e4 $\mp$ ) 24... $\mathbb{W}xe4$  25. $\mathcal{D}ef5$   $\mathcal{D}xf5?! (25... \mathbb{W}b7$  26. $\mathbb{W}g4+$   $\mathcal{D}g5$  27. $\mathcal{D}xg5$  hxg5 28. $\mathbb{W}xg5$  f6 29. $\mathbb{W}g6$  One of the main problems is that ... $\mathbb{W}f7?$  is impossible because of  $\mathcal{D}h6+$ . 29... $\mathbb{W}d7$  30. $\mathbb{R}e3$   $\mathcal{D}xb3$  31. $\mathbb{R}d1+$ -) 26. $\mathbb{R}xe4$   $\mathcal{D}xe4$  27. $\mathbb{W}g4+$ -

22...g6 23. $\mathcal{D}hf5!$  gxf5 (23... $\mathcal{D}f8$  transposes to a position from the next note.) 24.exf5  $\mathcal{D}d7$  25. $\mathcal{D}g4$ →

### 23. $\mathcal{D}hf5$ $\mathbb{W}b6!?$

$\Delta$ ... $\mathbb{W}d8$ .

23... $\mathcal{D}xe4?$  24. $\mathbb{W}g4$   $\mathcal{D}xd2?$  (24... $\mathcal{D}f6$  25. $\mathcal{D}xh6+$   $\mathcal{D}h8$  26. $\mathbb{W}h4+$ ) 25. $\mathcal{D}xh6+$   $\mathcal{D}h8$  26. $\mathcal{D}xf7+$   $\mathcal{D}g8$  (26... $\mathcal{D}xf7$  27. $\mathbb{W}h4+$  leads to mate, too.) 27. $\mathbb{W}h5!$ +

23...g6 24. $\mathcal{D}d5!?$  (24. $\mathbb{W}f3$  gxf5 25. $\mathcal{D}xf5$  or 25. $\mathbb{W}g3+$  followed by 26.exf5.) 24... $\mathcal{D}xd5$  25.exd5  $\mathcal{D}xd5$  26. $\mathcal{D}xh6+$   $\mathcal{D}xh6$  27. $\mathcal{D}xh6$   $\mathcal{D}xg2$  28. $\mathbb{W}g4!$   $\mathcal{D}f3$  29. $\mathbb{W}h4$   $\Delta$   $\mathbb{W}f6$ . 29...e4 (29... $\mathbb{W}xc3?$ , with the intention of meeting 30. $\mathbb{W}f6$  with 30...e4 is refuted by 30. $\mathcal{D}e4!$   $\mathcal{D}xe4$  31. $\mathbb{W}f6$  with mate to follow.) 30. $\mathcal{D}g5$  f5 31. $\mathcal{D}f6$   $\mathcal{D}h5$  32. $\mathcal{D}d1+$ -

### 24. $\mathcal{D}d5$

24. $\mathbb{W}f3$   $\mathbb{W}d8$

### 24... $\mathbb{W}d8$

24... $\mathcal{D}xd5?$  25. $\mathcal{D}xh6+$ !! (25.exd5  $\mathcal{D}xf5$  26. $\mathcal{D}xf5$   $\mathbb{R}e8$ , but not 25... $\mathcal{D}xd5$  26. $\mathcal{D}xh6!$  gxh6 27. $\mathbb{W}g4+$  followed by  $\mathbb{W}f5$ .) 25...gxh6 26.exd5  $\mathcal{D}d7$  (26... $\mathcal{D}xd5$  would transpose above.) 27. $\mathbb{W}h5$ →  $\mathbb{W}d8$  28. $\mathcal{D}xh6$   $\mathbb{W}f6$  29. $\mathcal{D}h7+$ !

### 25. $\mathbb{W}f3$

25.c4  $\mathcal{D}b7$ ∞

### 25... $\mathcal{D}xd5$ 26.exd5

26. $\mathcal{D}xh6+$  gxh6 27.exd5  $\mathcal{D}d7$  28. $\mathbb{W}h5$  f5.

### 26... $\mathcal{D}xf5$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xf5$

27. $\mathcal{D}xf5$   $\mathcal{D}xb3!$ ∞

### 27...g6 28. $\mathbb{W}g4+$

Jakovenko-Marin, Spanish team championship 2007.

## Line B

### 19... $\mathbb{R}fe8!$ 20. $\mathcal{D}e3$

20. $\mathcal{D}g3$  h6 21. $\mathcal{D}f3$   $\mathcal{D}e6$  transposes to the main line (16.  $\mathcal{D}g3$   $\mathbb{R}e8$  17.a4  $\mathcal{D}e6$ ).

20.c4  $\mathcal{D}b7$  21.cxb5 axb5 22.a5 b4! 23. $\mathcal{D}xb4$  h6 24. $\mathcal{D}f3$   $\mathcal{D}d8$  25. $\mathbb{W}d2$   $\mathcal{D}xa5!$  26. $\mathcal{D}xa5$   $\mathbb{R}xa5$  27. $\mathbb{R}xa5$   $\mathcal{D}xa5$  28. $\mathcal{D}e3$   $\mathbb{W}b6$  29.b4  $\mathcal{D}c6$  30. $\mathbb{W}xd6$   $\mathbb{W}xb4$ =

### 20...h6 21. $\mathcal{D}f3$ $\mathcal{D}xe4!$ 22.axb5

22. $\mathcal{D}xe4$   $\mathbb{W}xe4$  23. $\mathcal{D}c4$   $\mathbb{W}g6!$  24. $\mathcal{D}xa5$   $\mathcal{D}xh3$  25.g3  $\mathcal{D}g4$  followed by ...e4.

22.c4  $\mathcal{D}xd2$  23. $\mathcal{D}xd2$   $\mathbb{W}b6$  24. $\mathcal{D}d5$   $\mathbb{W}d8$ ∞

22.b4  $\mathcal{D}xd2$  23. $\mathcal{D}xd2$   $\mathcal{D}c4$  24. $\mathcal{D}dxc4$  bxc4 25. $\mathcal{D}d5$  f5∞

22...axb5 23. $\mathcal{D}d5$   $\mathcal{D}xd2$  24. $\mathcal{D}xe7+$   $\mathbb{R}xe7$  25. $\mathbb{W}xd2$   $\mathbb{R}a6$  26. $\mathbb{R}a3$   $\mathcal{D}b7$  27. $\mathcal{D}e4$   $\mathbb{W}b6$  28. $\mathbb{R}xa6$   $\mathbb{W}xa6$  29. $\mathcal{D}xb7$   $\mathbb{W}xb7$  30. $\mathbb{W}xd6$   $\mathbb{R}e6$

followed by ... $\mathcal{D}c6$ , ...f6 or the more daring ... $\mathbb{R}g6$ , according to White's answer.