

The Complete Albin Counter-Gambit

A Dangerous Weapon
against the Queen's Gambit

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1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.a3 ♗ge7

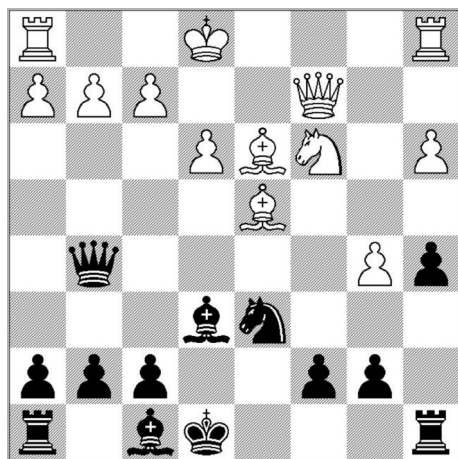
Game 5

Gelfand, Boris (2738)

Morozevich, Alexander (2770)

Astana (blitz), 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3
 ♘c6 5.a3 ♗ge7 6.b4 ♗g6 7.♙b2
 a5! 8.b5 ♗ce5 9.♗e5 ♗e5 10.♙d4
 ♗c4 11.e3 ♙e6 12.♖c2 ♗d6
 13.♙d3 ♖g5!? 14.♗c3?!N (D)



Is this new idea from World Championship Challenger Boris Gelfand the result of some home preparation or a discovery made over the board? If the Israeli Grandmaster decides to play 14.♗c3!?, does it mean that he does not believe in the alternatives 14.f4 and 14.0-0 we have seen before?

The fact is that this innovation does not seem to give White the chance to get any hope of an advantage.

14...♖g2

If he wants Black can already make an easy draw with the somewhat surprising reply 14...c5!? 15.f4 (≤15.bc6?! ♖g2 16.♖f1 ♖c6♣) 15...♖h4 16.g3 ♖h5 17.♙e2 (17.♙e5? ♖f3♣) 17...♖f5. Now obviously White has no other choice than to repeat the moves with 18.♙d3 ♖h5 19.♙e2=, as the alternatives are weaker: 18.e4?! ♗e4!♣ and 18.♖f5?! ♗f5 19.♙e5 ♗e3♣ Henris.

15.0-0-0

In exchange of the sacrificed pawn White has a lead in development. But he must have some very serious worries about the vulnerable situation of his king on the opened queenside. That is the reason why, I think, Black's chances should be preferred.

15...♖h3!?

This is not the only possible reply for Black here. He also has other very interesting and promising continuations. Here are some of them. In all cases, Black has clearly the better prospects:

15...c5!?:

a) 16.♙c5!? ♖g5 17.♙d4 ♗f5 18.♗b2 ♗d4 19.ed4 ♖c8 20.♖a4 ♙d6!?:

- 21.♙e4 ♖h4!? 22.b6 (22.♖he1 0-0 23.♙b7 ♖c4 24.♖a5 ♙d4♣) 22...♗f8 23.♖he1 ♖d8♣;
- 21.♗e4!? ♖d5 22.♗d6 ♖d6 23.♙e4 0-0♣;
- 21.♖hg1 ♖f4 22.♖g7 ♖f2 23.♗e2 b6♣;
- 21.b6 ♗f8! (≤21...♗e7?! 22.♖hg1 ♖f4

Chapter 1

23. ♖ge1∞ (≤23. ♗e4?! ♜hd8♣) 22. ♗e4 ♖d8!
23. ♗d6 ♖d6♣.

b) **16. ♜hg1 ♖h2** 17. ♜h1 (17. ♗g7!? ♗g7 18. ♜g7∞)
17... ♖h1!? (17... ♖g2 18. ♜hg1∞) 18. ♜h1 cd4
19. ed4 ♜c8 20. ♗b2 g6 21. ♖d2 ♗g7 22. ♖f4 0-0!
23. ♗e2 (23. ♖d6!?! ♜fd8♣) 23... ♗c4♣.

15... f6!? 16. ♗h7 0-0-0 17. b6 ♖c6
18. bc7 ♜d7 19. ♗d3 ♗c4♣.

15... a4!?!♣ looks also a bit better for
Black - Henris.

Even **15... 0-0-0!?** looks good enough
for a decent game - Flear,G.

I hasten to add that obviously all this requires
further analyzes.

16. ♗b1 a4 17. ♗e4!?

17. ♗a4!?

17... ♖h5!?

17... ♗b3? 18. ♖c7 ♗d1 19. ♗d6 ♗d6 20. ♖d6 ♗f3
21. ♗g1 ♜d8 22. ♖f4±. Of course, Black cannot
neglect his development like that - Henris.

18. ♖c7?!

18. ♗c5!? ♗d5 would be unclear - Flear,G.

18... ♖d5 19. ♖c2?!

It looks preferable for White to play **19. ♗d6**
♗d6 20. ♖c2 ♗a3 21. ♗g7 ♜g8♣, even if Black
still retained the better chances - Henris.

19... ♗b5 20. ♗b5 ♖b5♣ 21. ♗a1?!

21. ♖b2 had to be played, leaving Black slightly
better after 21... ♖b3!?! (21... ♖b2 22. ♗b2 f6!?)
22. ♗c5!?! ♗c5!?! 23. ♗c5 ♜c8♣ Henris.

21... ♜c8?!

In this sharp position Black misses the
opportunity to gain a clear advantage with
21... ♖b3!?! Henris.

22. ♖b2 ♖b2!?

Again **22... ♖b3** 23. ♖b3 ab3 had to be
considered - Henris.

23. ♗b2 ♜c6

23... f6!? 24. ♗d6 ♗d6 25. ♜d6 ♗f7 does not
seem to offer more than a draw - Henris.

Now Boris Gelfand successfully proceeds in
removing all the rooks from the board in order
to reach a simple drawn endgame with bishops
of opposite color.

24. ♜d4 b5!? **25. ♜hd1 ♗e7** **26. ♗d6**
♗d6 **27. ♜d6 ♜d6** **28. ♜d6 0-0**
29. ♖b6 ♗c4 **30. ♗e5 f6** **31. ♗d6 ♜d8**
32. ♖b8 ♖b8 **33. ♗b8= ♗f7** **34. ♗b2**
♗e6 **35. e4 ♗d3** **36. f3 ♗e2** **37. f4**
♗d3 **38. e5 f5** **39. ♗c3 ♗c4** **40. ♗d4**
h6 **41. h4**

½-½

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.g3 ♗ge7

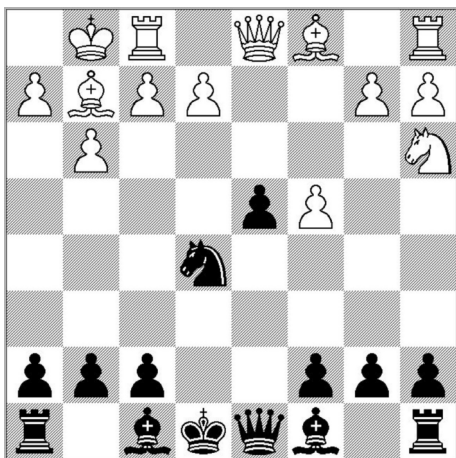
Game 53

Ivanchuk, Vassily (2769)

Morozevich, Alexander (2770)

Astana (blitz), 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3
♘c6 5.g3 ♗ge7 6.♙g2 ♗g6 7.0-0
♗ge5! 8.♗e5 ♗e5 9.♗a3!? (D)



White keeps the option of playing ♗c2 or ♗b5, followed sometimes by ♙f4.

9...♙e7

Once again, Black must be careful not to fall behind in development as the following lines show:

9...a6!? 10.b3 c5!? (10...♙e7 11.♙b2 c5 12.e3± Henris) 11.e3! ♙g4 12.♙e1!? (12.f3 ♙e6 13.f4 ♙g4 14.♙d2 ♗c6 15.♙b2± Henris) 12...d3 13.f3 ♙h5 14.g4 ♙g6 15.f4 ♗g4 16.♙b7:
a) 16...♙b8?! 17.♙c6 ♗e7 18.♙b2± ♙c8 19.♙f3!? (19.♙h4!?) 19...h5 20.e4+- Saul, T-

Necula, I, Internet, 2002.

b) ♠16...♙e7 17.♙c6 ♗f8 18.♙a8!? ♙a8 19.♗b1!? ♙e4 20.♗c3 h5!? (20...♙g2 21.e4 ♙f1 22.♙f1 ♙f6 23.e5 ♙h4 24.♗d5 ♙f2 25.♗g2 ♙d4 26.♙b1±) 21.♗e4 (21.h3? ♙h6! 22.f5 (22.hg4?? hg4+) 22...♙d6!→) 21...♙e4 22.♙g3 f5 23.♙f3 ♗f7 24.♙d2± Henris.

9...a5?! 10.♗b5 ♙c5 11.♙f4 f6 12.e3! ♙g4 (12...de3? 13.♙e5 ef2 14.♗h1+- Henris) 13.♙a4 ♗f3?? (13...c6 14.ed4 ♙d4 15.♗d4 ♙d4 16.♙ae1± Henris) 14.♙f3 ♙f3 15.♗d4?! (♠15.ed4+-) 15...♙c6 16.♗c6 ♙d7 17.♙ad1 ♙c6 18.♙c6 bc6 19.♙c7+- ♗e7 20.g4 ♙a7 21.♙g3 ♙b7 22.♙d2 ♙b4 23.b3 a4 24.♙fd1 a3 25.♙d7 ♗e6 26.♙d6 ♙d6 27.♙1d6 ♗e5 28.f4 ♗e4 29.♗f2 1-0 Savina, A-Lomako, A, Rijeka, 2010.

10.♗b5 0-0-N

10...c6?! 11.♙d4 ♙d4 12.♗d4 ♙f6 (12...♗c4? 13.♗c6) 13.♙b1!? (♠13.c5± Henris) 13...♗c4 14.♗c6 0-0?! (14...♙f5 15.e4±) 15.♗b4!? ♙e8 16.b3 ♗d6 17.♙f4 ♗b5 18.♗d5 ♙d8 19.♙bd1 ♙g4 20.a4 ♙e2?! 21.ab5 ♙d1 22.♙d1+- ♙c8 23.♙e3 b6 24.♙a1 1-0 Volodin, Alex-Couso, L, Stockholm, 2009.

10...c5?! 11.♙f4 ♙f6 12.e3⊖ Henris.

11.♗d4

11.♙f4 ♙f6 Δ12.c5?! ♗g6! 13.♙c7 ♙d7 14.c6?! bc6 15.♙c1 (15.♙d6 ♙d8 16.♙c5 ♙a6⌘) 15...♙b7 16.♙a5 ♙ae8⌘ Henris.

11...♖c4 12.b3 ♘f6 13.bc4!?

33.♞d7

13.e3 ♗e5 14.♞c2 c6=.

33.♞h7!? ♞c2 34.♔f3 ♔d4 35.h4 ♞a2 36.h5 a5±.

13...♙d4 14.♞b1 ♞f6!?

33...♔e4 34.♞h7 ♞c2 35.♔h3 ♞a2 36.♞f7 ♞f2!?

14...c6.

36...♔d4 37.♞f6 a5±.

15.e3

≤15.♙b7?! ♞b8.

37.♞a7 ♔d4= 38.♞a1 ♔c5 39.♞c1 ♔d5 40.♞d1 ♔e6 41.♞c1 ♔d7 42.♞d1 ♔c7 43.♞c1 ♞d2 44.♞f1 c5 45.♞f6 c4 46.♞f5 ♔d6 47.♞g5??

15...♙b6 16.♙b2 ♞e7!?

16...♞g6=.

17.♞b3!?

While the draw was very close, Ivanchuk commits a terrible blunder that should have cost him the game. White could have gained the immediate draw thanks to the well-known stalemating possibility 47.♞f6 ♔c5 48.♞c6! =.

17.♞h5 c6=.

17...c6 18.♞c3 f6 19.♙a3 ♙c5!?
20.♙c5 ♞c5 21.♞fd1 ♞b8 22.♞d4 ♞d4 23.ed4 ♞d8 24.♙c6 ♙g4 25.f3 bc6 26.♞b8 ♞b8 27.fg4 ♔f7=

47...c3 48.♞g8 ♔d7

48...♔c7 49.♞g7 ♞d7 50.♞g5 ♔c6 51.♞g6 ♞d6 52.♞g8 ♔c7 53.♞g7 ♔b6-+.

We have reached a rook endgame. The battle should logically end in a draw soon as Black has adequate counterplay for the missing pawn.

49.♞g5 ♔d6 50.♞g8 ♔d7

28.♞d2 ♞b1 29.♔g2 ♞c1 30.c5 ♔e6
31.♞e2 ♔d5 32.♞e7 g5!?

50...♔c7 - 48...♔c7.

Most likely in time trouble, Black decides to repeat the moves and to take the draw.

32...♞c2 33.♔f3 ♞h2 34.♞g7 ♞a2=.

51.♞g5 ♔d6-+

½-½

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.g3 ♗ge7

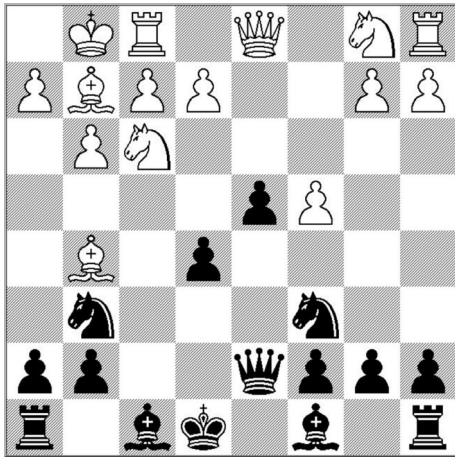
Game 65

Vitiugov, Nikita (2538)

Kasimdzhanov, Rustam (2670)

Tallinn (rapid), 2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3
 ♘c6 5.g3 ♗ge7 6.♙g2 ♗g6 7.♙g5
 ♚d7! 8.e6 fe6 9.0-0 e5!?



As White often meets 9...e5 with 10.♙c1 anyway, it makes sense to refrain from encouraging the bishop's retreat with 9...h6.

10.♗bd2

Logically aiming for the e4-square. But now the bishop on g5 is going to be out of play.

See game 67 for the other options.

10...h6 11.♙h4 ♖f7

Unblocking the c8-bishop is the most natural move. See next game for the alternatives.

12.a3!?

12.e3!?

is quite interesting and is probably the critical move here:

- a) ≤12...♙d6?! 13.ed4 (13.♗e4?! ♙g4?) 13...0-0 (13...ed4 14.♞e1):
 - 14.de5?! ♗ce5 15.♗e5 ♙e5;
 - 14.d5 ♗d4 15.♗d4 ed4 (15...♗h4 16.♗e6) 16.♗e4 ♗h4 17.♗d6 cd6 18.gh4 ♖f4∞;
 - 14.c5 14...♗h4 15.♗h4 (15.cd6? ♗g2) 15...♙e7 16.d5±.

b) 12...♗h4?! 13.♗h4 g5 (Miedema, D-Kuipers, S, Venlo, 2007):

- 14.♙c6 bc6 15.♗hf3 ♙g7 16.ed4 ♙h3! (16...ed4? 17.♞e1 ♗f8 18.♗e5±) 17.♖e2 (17.♞e1?! 0-0 18.de5 ♞ae8) 17...0-0 18.♗e5!? ♙f1 19.♞f1∞ Henris;
- 14.♙f3!? ♗d8 (14...h5 15.♙c6 bc6 16.♗hf3±) 15.♙h5± Henris.

c) 12...♙g4!? 13.♖a4 (13.♖b3 ♗h4 14.♖b7 (14.♗h4 0-0-0) 14...♗f3 15.♙f3 ♙f3 16.♖a8 ♗d7?) 13...♙d7 14.♖b5 ♙b4 15.♖b7?! ♞b8 16.♖a6 (16.♖c7 0-0 leaves White's queen trapped) 16...0-0♞ with a murky-looking position in which Black is ready for 17...♞b6 - Davies.

d) 12...♙b4!? 13.ed4 0-0 14.d5 (14.de5 ♙g4) 14...♗d4 15.♗d4 ed4 16.♗e4 ♗h4 17.gh4 ♖f4 - Raetsky & Chetverik.

e) 12...d3 13.♖b3 ♙b4 14.a3 (14.♖d3 ♙e6♞) 14...♙d2 15.♗d2 0-0? (♠15...♗h4 16.gh4 0-0 17.♖d3 - 15...0-0) 16.♖d3? (♠16.♙d5! ♙e6 17.♖b7 ♙d5 18.cd5 ♖d5 19.♞ac1 ♗h4 20.♖c6 (20.e4!?) 20...♖c6 21.♞c6 ♗f3 22.♗f3 ♞f3 23.♞c7 (23.♙d1 ♞b8 24.♙d2) 23...♗f8 24.e4±) 16...♗h4 17.gh4

Chapter 5

♙e6= COMP Fritz 10-Henris,L, Brussels, 2007.

12.♖b3!?:

a) **12...a5** 13.♖b5!? ♜a6 14.c5 ♘h4!? (14...♗d5!? 15.♘b3!? (15.♗d3 ♘b4 16.♖b1 ♗f7=) 15...♞b6 16.♗d3 e4 17.♘fd4 ed3 18.♙d5 ♘d4 19.cb6 ♘e2 20.♙h1 ♘h4= Henris) 15.♘h4 g5!? (15...♙e7!? - Henris) 16.♘hf3 ♙g7= Hughes, Ty-Baratosi, D, Gaziantep, 2008.

b) I like **12...♙b4!?** Δ13...♙d2 14.♘d2 ♘h4.

12.♗a4!? ♙d7 13.♖b3 ♘h4!? (13...♙b4!? 14.♘e4!? ♘h4 15.♘h4 0-0-0=/= Henris) 14.♘h4 g5!? (14...0-0-0!? Henris) 15.♙d5 (15.♖b7 ♞b8 16.♗c7 ♞c8 17.♖b7 (17.♗c8!? ♙c8 18.♙c6 ♙d7 19.♙d7 ♙d7=) 17...♞b8= Henris) 15...♗g7= Prohaszka, P-Biro, S, Zalakarosi, 2008.

12...♙f5 13.♗a4

13.♖b3 ♗d7! 14.♖b7 ♞b8 15.♗a6 ♞b2 looks good for Black - Davies.

13...♗d7

The queen breaks the pin, but now that the bishop is developed Black's pieces are more harmoniously placed. Black is threatening 14...e4!?

13...e4? 14.♘d4.

14.♘b3 ♙d6

14...e4? 15.♘fd4! ♘d4 16.♗d7.

15.c5 ♙e7 16.♙e7 ♘ge7 17.♘a5 0-0 18.♘c6

18.♘b7?! ♞ab8 (18...a5!?) 19.♘a5 e4 20.♘c6 ♗c6 21.♗c6 ♘c6 22.♘d2 ♞b2 23.♘e4 ♞e2= Davies.

18...♘c6 19.♘d2 ♙h8 20.b4!? a6
21.♖b3 ♙e6 22.♗d3 ♙f5 23.♙e4

23.♖b3 ♞ad8!? (23...♙e6=).

23...♙e4 24.♗e4 ♞ad8 25.♞ab1

With the options of coming to the third rank or pushing with b4-b5.

25...♗e6 26.♞b3 ♘e7 27.♞f3 ♘d5 28.♞f8 ♞f8 29.♘f3?

White's position now falls apart very quickly.

29.♗d3 a5!, and Black is on top - Davies.

The only move was **29.e3!** e.g. 29...de3 (29...♘c3 30.♖b7) 30.fe3 ♞f1 31.♘f1= Flear, G.

29...♘c3 30.♗e5 ♘e2 31.♙g2?

31.♙h1 ♗c4= (31...♗c6 32.♗e2 ♞f3 33.♙g1 ♞a3=).

31...♘f4! 32.♙g1

32.gf4 ♗g4 33.♙h1 ♗f3 34.♙g1 ♞f4 35.h3 ♞f5-+.

32...♗c6

After 33.gf4 ♗f3, White's extra tempo over the previous note does not prevent the coming storm.
0-1

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.♗bd2 other lines

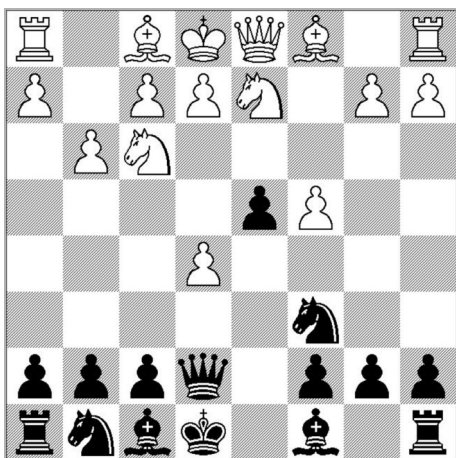
Game 175

Sakaev, Konstantin (2607)

Nabaty, Tamir (2526)

Plovdiv, 2010

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3
♗c6 5.♗bd2 ♖e7 6.g3 (D)



6...f6!?

An interesting continuation for real gambiteers. Black also has the following continuations at his disposal:

6...♗f5 7.♗g2 0-0-0 8.0-0 ♗e5? 9.♗e5 ♖e5 10.♖b3 c6 11.♖a4± Henris.

6...♗e5 7.♗e5 (and not 7.♗d4?? ♗d3# 0-1 NN-Bogoljubov, E, Freiburg, 1946) 7...♖e5 8.♗f3!? ♖a5 9.♗d2 ♖b6 10.♗g2!? ♗f6 11.0-0± Henris.

The more timid alternative 6...♗g4 7.♗g2 0-0-0 8.0-0 transposes to the line 5.g3 ♗g4 6.♗bd2 ♖e7 7.♗g2 0-0-0 8.0-0 analyzed in game 124 - chapter 8.

7.e6 ♗f6 8.♗g2 d3!

Black makes a nuisance of himself.

9.e3 ♗g4 10.0-0 0-0-0

Black's idea is obvious: he postpones the development of the kingside pieces in order to castle queenside quickly. For this purpose, Nabaty makes the case for posting his queen on the same file as White's king, rather than the usual ...♖d7.

11.a3± h5 12.h3 ♗e6

The alternative set-up 12...♗f5 13.b4 ♖d7 14.b5 ♗a5 is given as better for White by Rybka due to 15.♖a4 b6 16.♗b3.

13.b4 ♗d7 14.♗b2 h4 15.g4

The computer gives 15.♗h4, but humans would be frightened at the idea of having to face a strong attack starting with 15...♖h4 16.g4 ♖h4 17.♖f3 ♗d6. The position may be objectively better for White, but it could still give him some very unpleasant moments.

15...♗g4!?

Nabaty can not be blamed for not being brave in this game.

16.hg4 h3 17.♗h1

Chapter 13

White is a piece up, but Black has not said his last word...

**17...h2! 18.♖h2 ♗h4 19.♗df3 ♗h7
20.c5 ♕e7 21.♕g2 ♕f6**

Calmly neutralizing White's strongest piece.

**22.♗b3 ♜df8 23.♜fd1 ♗ce5 24.c6
bc6 25.♜ac1**

Sakaev has fully mobilized his forces and is ready to make inroads on the queenside. However, whatever the material count, life goes on...

25...♗f3 26.♗f3 ♕b2 27.♗b2 ♜f3

More fuel to try and reignite the fire.

**28.♕f3 ♗h2 29.♔f1 ♗e5 30.♕g2
♜f8 31.♜c5?**

An imprecision giving Black a glimmer of hope. The simplest is **31.♜c6!** ♗g3 32.♜dc1 ♗c6 33.♜c6 ♗g4 (33...♗e3? 34.♜c7! ♔c7 35.♗g7, regaining the rook with check) 34.♗d2, and the extra piece should be enough to win - Flear,G.

**31...♗g4 32.♜d3 ♗g3 33.♜c2 ♗h2
34.♔g1 ♗f3 35.♔f1 ♗h2 36.♔e1!**

White refuses to take the draw by threefold repetition.

36...♗g2 37.♔d2!

It's time to take the king for *walkies*.

**37...♗g4 38.♔c3 ♗f2 39.♜d4 ♗g1
40.♗c1**

White could also play **40.♔b3** immediately - Flear,G.

**40...♗g6 41.♔b3 ♗d3 42.♗h1 ♗e6
43.♔a4!**

Of course! Where else?

43...♗e5 44.♜e4 ♗d6 45.♗h2 ♜f5

Slightly more resistant is **45...♜e8!** 46.♜c5 ♔b7, but then White seizes the initiative with 47.♗e2! a6 48.♔a5! - Flear,G.

**46.♜c5 ♗d1 47.♗c2 ♗d6 48.♗c3
♗d1 49.♔a5**

Hardly a surprise anymore. White is winning easily now.

**49...♗f7 50.♜f5 ♗d6 51.♗c6 ♗b7
52.♔a6 ♗d3 53.♜c4**

Or **53.♔a7**.

53...♗a3 54.♜a5

1-0

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.♗bd2 other lines

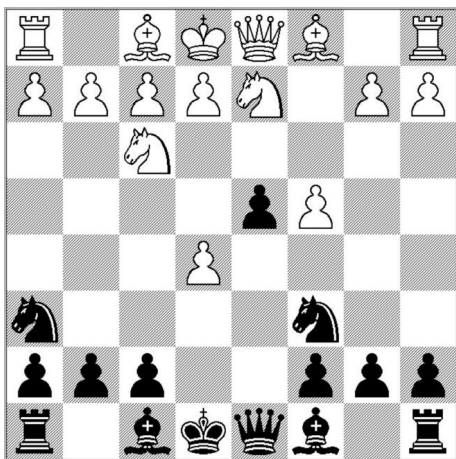
Game 176

Bergez,Luc (2416)

Bontempi,Piero (2325)

Split, 2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.♘f3
♗c6 5.♗bd2 ♗h6!? (D)



With this odd-looking move Black intends to continue with 6...♗g4, threatening to regain the e5-pawn and at the same time eyeing the f2-square.

6.♗b3!?

6.h3 looks interesting, not allowing the knight to come on g4.

6...♗g4

Better than 6...♗b4?! 7.♗d2 ♗f5 8.♗b4 ♗b4 (Hrabusa,M-Bontempi,P, Stare Mesto, 2010) 9.♗d2!?!± Henris.

7.♗bd4?!

7.a3 seems more sensible: 7...♗ge5 8.♗e5 (8.♗bd4!?) 8...♗e5 9.♗d4 (9.♗d4!?) 9...♗d4 10.♗d4 ♗c4 11.e4 ♗e5 12.♗b5 ♗d8 13.♗f4 f6 14.♗c1 c6 15.♗d1 ♗d7 16.♗e2!?!± Henris.

7...♗d4 8.♗d4

The difference with the line 5...♗ge7 6.♗b3 ♗g6 7.♗bd4 ♗d4 is clear: after 8.♗d4? ♗b4 9.♗d2 ♗d4, the queen attacks not only the b-pawn but also f2 - Henris.

8...♗d4 9.♗d4 ♗b4 10.♗d2 ♗d2
11.♗d2 ♗f2 12.♗g1 ♗g4

There is no reason to play 12...♗e6?! 13.h3!?! (13.♗e6 fe6 14.h3± Henris) 13...♗e4!?! (13...0-0-0 14.♗e3 ♗c4∞ Henris) 14.♗e3± Lund,Si-Hjorth,T, Denmark, 2009.

13.♗b5!?

13.e3!?! ♗e5 - Henris.

13.♗f3!?! ♗e6 14.e4 0-0-0 15.♗c3 ♗f2!?!∞ Henris.

13...♗d8 14.♗c3!?! ♗d7

14...♗e8!?! - Henris.

15.e4 ♗b5 16.cb5 ♗e5 17.♗d1 ♗e7
18.♗d5 f6

Chapter 13

Black has a tiny edge in this position thanks to his strong knight and his better pawn structure.

19.♙c4 ♖ad8 20.♞gd1 ♘g4
21.♞1d3 ♗e5 22.♞3d4 ♞d7 23.♞d7
♗d7 24.♙d5 ♞b8 25.♞a4 ♗b6!?
26.♞a7 ♗d5 27.ed5 ♙d6 28.♙d4

The game should have ended in a draw.

28...b6 29.♞a3 ♞e8 30.♞c3!?

30.♞g3 ♞e2 31.♞g7 ♞b2 32.a4 h5!? is unclear -
Henris.

30...♞e2 31.♞c6 ♙d7 32.♙c3 ♞e3!? 0-1

32...♞g2 33.d6 ♞h2 34.dc7 ♙c8= Henris.

33.♙d2 ♞e5 34.d6 ♞d5 35.♙c3
♞d6 36.♞d6 cd6!? 37.a4 f5!? 38.b4

38.h4 g6 39.b4 h6 40.♙d4 g5 41.hg5 hg5
42.♙e3 ♙c7= Henris.

38...g5 39.a5 h5 40.a6 ♙c7 41.h4??

White blunders and loses the game.

The immediate draw was obtained with
41.♙d4 h4 42.♙e3 ♙b8= Henris.

41...g4 42.♙d4 f4 43.♙d3 d5
44.♙d2 d4

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.a3, 4.e4, other lines

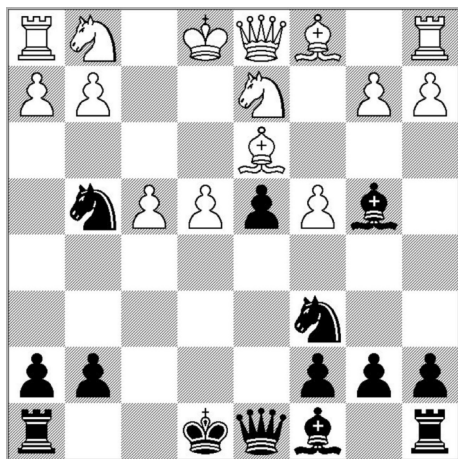
Game 196

Markos, Jan (2596)

Hrabusa, Matej (2344)

Czech Republic, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.e4 ♖c6
5.f4 f6 6.ef6 ♜f6 7.♙d3 ♙b4 8.♜d2
♜g4! (D)



This move, already mentioned in the 1983 Batsford book *Albin Counter-Gambit* by Paul Lamford, is critical.

9.a3 ♜e3 10.♞e2 0-0!?

10...♙g4 is more usual and gives Black interesting play. See game 197.

11.ab4!?

White could seriously consider not taking the bishop immediately and instead develop with 11.♜gf3!?, transposing to the game 197.

11...♜b4 12.♜df3!?

12.♜f2!? is a possible alternative: e.g. 12...♜bc2!? 13.♞a5 (13.♙c2 ♜c2 14.♞a5 d3 15.♞f3 c5∞) 13...♞h4 14.g3 ♜g4:

a) 15.♜g2? ♜ce3 16.♜f3 ♞f4! 17.♜f4 (17.gf4 ♜h2! 18.♞h2 ♙g4#) 17...♞f6 18.♞f5 ♜g5 19.♜f3 ♜f5! 20.ef5 ♙f5+ Henris.

b) 15.♜f3 ♞f4! 16.♜f4 ♜ (16.gf4? ♜ge3! 17.h3 ♙g4! 18.hg4 ♞g4 19.♜f2 ♞g2#) 16...♞h6 17.♜f3 (17.♞g5?? ♜e5 18.h4 (18.♙c2 ♞f6 19.♞f5 g5#) 18...♙g4!?-) 17...♜ge3 18.♞f5 (18.♜f2 ♜g4=) 18...♙f5 19.ef5 ♞h5 20.♜f2 ♜d1 (≤20...♜g4?! 21.♞g4 ♞g4 22.♙c2±) 21.♜f1 (21.♜g2?? ♜ce3+) 21...♜de3= Henris.

c) White can take the draw immediately with 15.♜f1 ♜ge3= Henris.

12...♜g2! 13.♞g2 ♜d3 14.♜d1!?
♞e7 15.♜e5!?

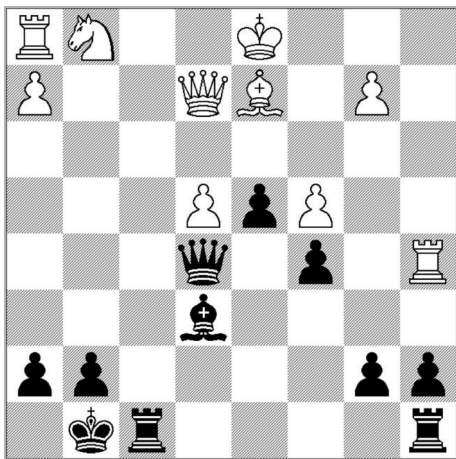
15.e5?! ♞b4 16.♞a3 ♙f5→ Henris.

It looks very dangerous to take the pawn on d4 but things are not clear at all: 15.♜d4!? ♞d8 (15...c5!?) 16.♜ge2 ♙h3!? (or 16...c5!?) 17.♞g3 ♞d4! 18.♜d4 ♞e4∞. With the white king in the centre, I would prefer to play Black - Henris.

15...♜e5 16.fe5 ♞e5

Black only has two pawns for the piece. But the position is wide open and White has no safe shelter for his king.

17.♔d2!? ♕e6 18.♖a5 c5 19.♗e2!? (D)



19...d3!

Black opens the lines advantageously on the naked king.

20.♗d3 ♖ad8 21.♗c2

Allowing mate in four moves.

21...♖f1 22.♕e2 ♖d2!?

After 22...♗f6, checkmate is unstoppable - Henris.

23.♕d2 ♗d4 24.♗d3 ♗b2 25.♕e3

25.♗c2 ♖f2-+.

25...♗f2#

0-1

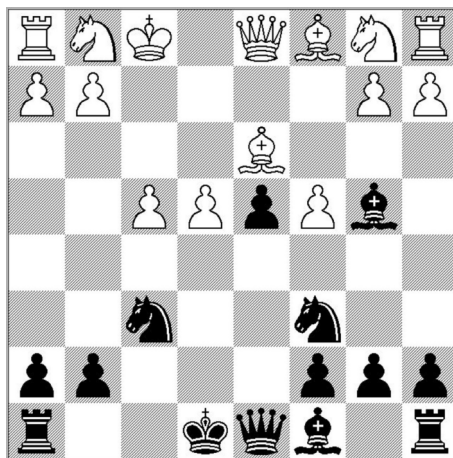
Game 202

Ulibin, Mikhail (2521)

Furhoff, Johan (2405)

Stockholm, 2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.e4 ♘c6
5.f4 f6 6.ef6 ♗f6 7.♔d3 ♖b4
8.♕f1?! (D)



The only way to prevent ...♗g4 is to escape the check with 8.♕f1. But White's king now is unsafe.

8...0-0 9.h3?

This is too much already.

Even after the more appropriate 9.♗f3 White suffered a painful defeat in the following instructive miniature: 9...♔g4 (interesting also is 9...♗g4!?, with the idea 10.g3?! ♗e3 11.♔e3 ♕h3!≠ Raetsky & Chetverik):

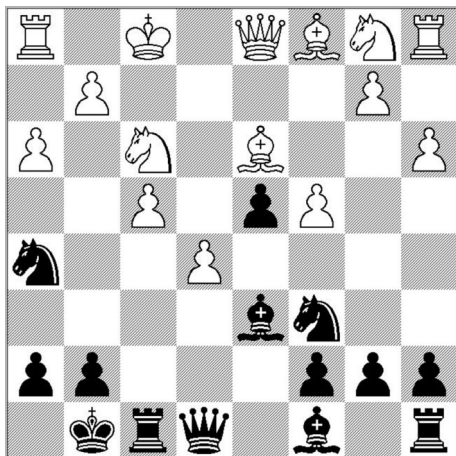
a) 10.h3? ♔f3 11.♗f3 ♗e5! 12.♗d1 ♗h5! 13.♕g1? (13.♗h5 ♗d3 14.♕e2 ♗f4 15.♔f4

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.de5 d4 4.a3, 4.e4, other lines

♖f4♯) 13...♗f4 14.♘f4 ♖f4 15.a3 ♕h4+ 16.♙e2
 (16.ab4 ♕f2 17.♔h2 ♗f3 18.♗f3 ♖f3+) 16...♙e1
 17.♗d2 ♙f2 18.♔f1 ♙e3 19.♗f3 ♕f2# 0-1
 Bouton,C-Raetsky,A, Capelle-la-Grande, 1995.

b) 10.a3 ♙d6! 11.e5 ♙e5 12.fe5 ♗e5
 13.♙g5 (13.♙f4 ♗f3 14.gf3 ♗h5 15.fg4 ♖f4
 16.♔e1 (16.♔g2 ♕h4+) 16...♕e8→ Henris)
 13...♕e8♯ Raetsky & Chetverik.

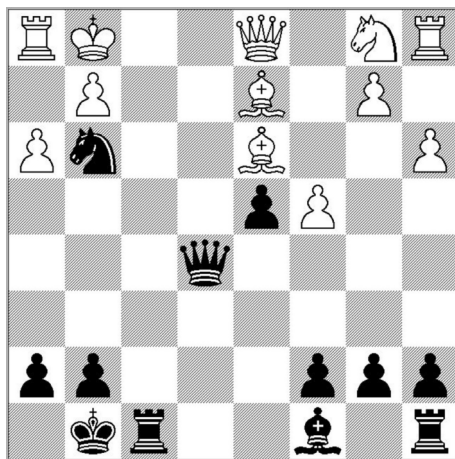
9...♕e8 10.a3 ♙d6! 11.e5!? ♗h5
 12.♗f3 (D)



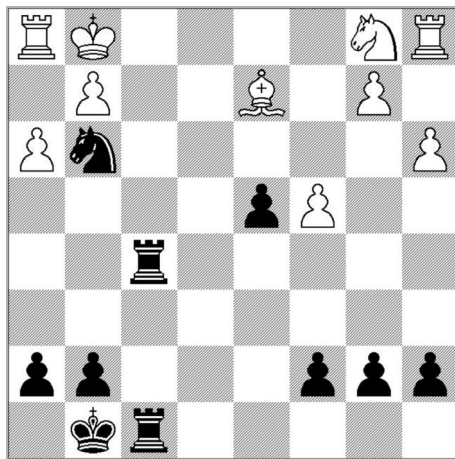
Black is already in the middlegame while White is still in the opening. In such situations one should follow the time-tested recipe: open up the centre, even if you have to sacrifice a piece or two!

12...♙e5! 13.fe5 ♗g3 14.♔g1 ♗e5
 15.♗e5 ♕e5 16.♙d2? (D)

White is completely paralyzed.



16...♙f5! 17.♕e1 ♖ae8! 18.♕e5 ♖e5
 19.♙f5 ♖ef5 (D)



This is a picturesque position! Despite an extra piece, White is absolutely helpless.

20.♗c3 dc3 21.♙c3 ♗h1 22.♔h1
 ♖f1 23.♖f1 ♖f1 24.♔h2 ♔f7 25.♔g3
 g5 26.♔g4 ♔g6

0-1