

Andrew Martin

play the
Budapest
gambit

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About the Author

Andrew Martin is a FIDE Senior Trainer and International Master. He teaches in twelve schools, is an experienced chess writer and has produced numerous chess DVDs.

Also by the Author:

Starting Out: The Sicilian Dragon

First Steps; The Queen's Gambit

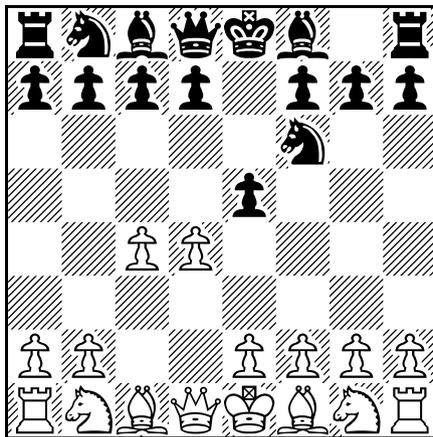
First Steps; The King's Indian Defence

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Preface

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5



This has been a tough book to write and I have agonised over the format for quite some time. In the end I have settled for an approach by which I hope the reader will get to like the Budapest as an ingenious concept and then be willing to take the risks involved in playing the opening.

There can be no doubt in 2021 that the Budapest is a risky proposition, but you are playing for the win with Black and there is always the chance of blinding tactical master-piece just around the corner. Make sure you are on the winning side!

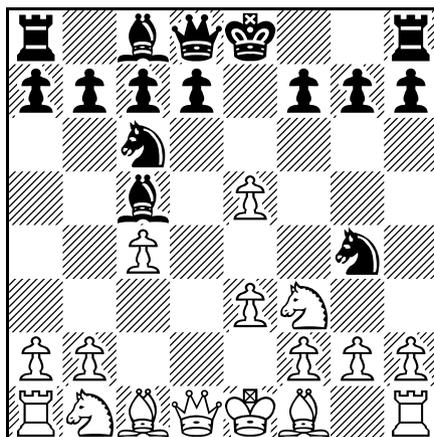
Below master level, I believe that the Budapest can be used on a consistent basis, whereas above, say, 2300 level, discretion is required. The element of surprise must play a role. If you stick to these rules, results will probably be good, although there can never be an absolute guarantee.

Do enjoy this book. Set out with that attitude and the Budapest Gambit will reward you.

Andrew Martin,
Bramley, May 2021

The Maroczy Variation: 4 ♘f3 ♙c5

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxex5 ♘g4 4 ♘f3 ♙c5 5 e3 ♘c6



The Maroczy variation is one of the sharpest options available to Black in the entire Budapest Gambit complex. Having forced e2-e3, Black seems to have rendered White passive, but his minor pieces are rather exposed and subject to imminent attack.

White's plans include:

- 1) Keeping strong control over the central squares, in particular d5.
- 2) Expanding on the queenside, with the pawn break c4-c5 as the ultimate aim.
- 3) The attacking jab f4-f5-f6, which can blow Black away if he is not very careful.
- 4) Strong pressure down the long dark-squared diagonal, with g7 as the focus.

An imposing list! We will be trying to meet 4 ♘f3 with the rook lift wherever possible, because that gives the most active chances. When we cannot, we will just have to make do and try to keep things solid. Black must beware in these other variations that he doesn't end up with a stodgy and prospectless position, where a draw is the best that can be obtained.

Black's first task is how and when to take the pawn back on e5. Some precision is necessary.

White has a number of options at this point and in order, we will look at 6 ♙e2, 6 a3, 6 ♘c3 and then White's remaining sixth moves.

The Rook Lift in Action

Before we tackle the various options available to White, let's see a couple of examples of ideal Black victories in the rook lift variation. It is encouraging to see the rook lift variation working well. Our next encounter demonstrates what can happen to White if he is imprecise.

Game 72
A.Whiteley-D.Agnos
 London 1994

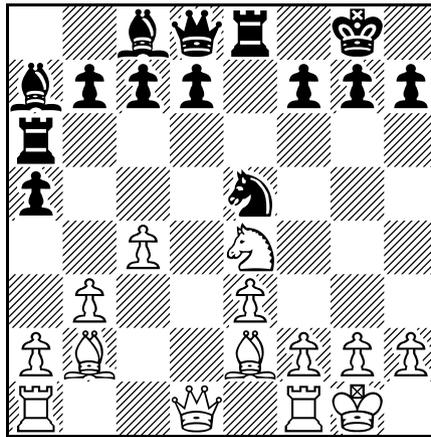
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♘g4 4 ♘f3 ♙c5 5 e3 ♘c6 6 ♙e2 0-0 7 0-0 ♘cxe5!?

An interesting early moment. By capturing with the knight on c6, Black takes the sting out of lines with ♘d4.

8 ♘xe5

Black will meet 8 ♘d4 with 8...♘f6! 9 ♘c3 d6 10 b3 ♙g4, which looks rather level. Importantly, the black knights have not got into a tangle.

8...♘xe5 9 ♘c3 ♖e8 10 b3 a5 11 ♙b2 ♖a6 12 ♘e4 ♙a7



Following our rule that with the bishop on b2, Black should retreat to a7 wherever possible, keeping an eye on e3 and f2 beyond.

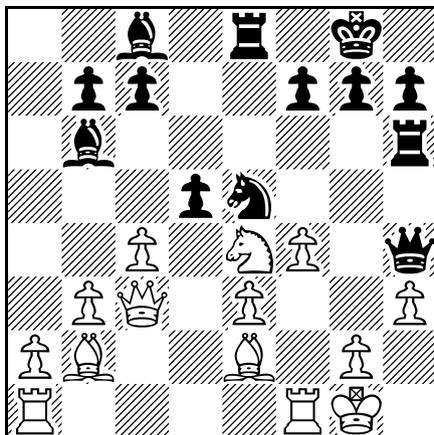
13 ♗d5 ♖ae6!?

We have already seen in Oll-Holmes that 13...♖h6! 14 ♙xe5 c6 15 ♙f6 gxf6 leads to nothing for White.

14 ♗xa5

Whiteley always did like grabbing pawns. The real question is what happens after 14 c5!. I am not sure about Black's chances with the bishop on a7 shut down. 14...♗h4! seems best and we are once again in uncharted waters, somewhat surprisingly. Black still has chances: for example, 15 ♖ac1 ♘g4 16 ♙xg4 ♗xg4 17 ♘g3 d6 18 ♖c4 ♗g6. I slightly prefer White, but it is game on.

14...♙b6 15 ♗c3 ♗h4 16 f4 ♖h6 17 h3 d5



A sacrifice on h3 seems inevitable.

18 ♖g5?

18 c5! is a critical test of Black's resources: 18...dxe4! (or 18...♙xh3 19 ♚e1!! ♗g6 20 ♚xh4 ♗xh4 21 gxh3 with advantage to White) 19 fxe5 ♜g6 (if 19...♙xh3 20 ♚e1!) 20 ♜f2 ♙a7 21 ♚a5 ♙b8 22 ♙c4 and White is OK. These are complicated lines, not easy to see with the clock ticking.

18...♚g3 19 c5

If 19 ♚e1 ♚xe3+.

19...♙xh3!

The timing is right.

20 ♗xh3 ♜xh3 21 ♚e1

There is nothing to be done.

21...♚h2+ 22 ♙f2 ♙xc5 0-1

Game 73
D.Skorchenko-K.Akbaev
Dombai 2014

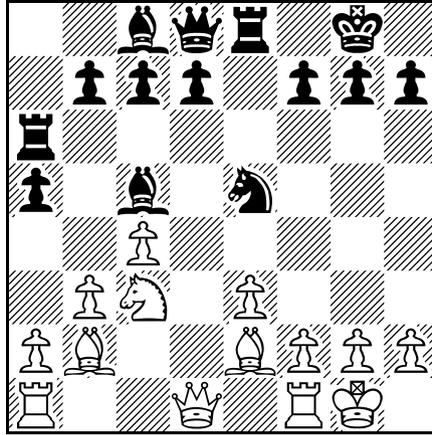
1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♗g4 4 ♗f3 ♙c5 5 e3 ♗c6 6 ♗c3 ♗gxe5?!

Although this is a great example of the demolishing power of the rook lift variation, Black is imprecise in his opening move order. Recapping, it is better to wait for ♙e2 before taking on e5.

7 ♙e2?!

White misses the opportunity to go into a favourable version of the Spassky attack: 7 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 8 f4 ♗g6 9 ♙d3!. He has scored well from this position.

7...♗xf3+ 8 ♙xf3 ♗e5 9 ♙e2 0-0 10 0-0 ♜e8 11 b3 a5 12 ♙b2 ♜a6



Here we go. Black's attack can come very quickly.

13 ♖d5 ♜h6 14 g3

White probably has to try 14 f4! here, but it is already quite late with the rook on h6 menacingly placed. Nevertheless, White should hold in this line: 14...♗c6 15 ♕g4! ♕xe3+ (15...d6!? 16 ♕xc8 ♜xc8 17 ♜d2 ♜he6 18 ♜ae1 ♖b4 is equal) 16 ♖xe3 ♜xe3 17 ♜d2 ♜e8 18 ♜ae1 d6 19 ♕xc8 ♜xc8 20 ♜c3 f6. These variations show how White might take the focus of the game away from a crushing black attack.

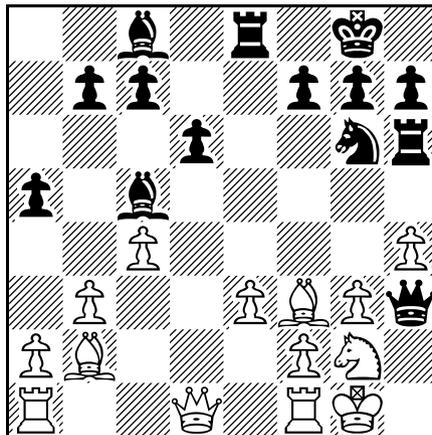
14...d6 15 ♖f4 ♜d7

Making her way, in time, to h3.

16 h4 ♖g6

Sacrifices already loom around the white king.

17 ♖g2 ♜h3 18 ♕f3



18...♖xh4!

Play the Budapest Gambit

Positions and ideas such as this should make the rook lift line tremendously attractive to club players world-wide. At higher levels it is a different story, but we have already seen the earlier game Cori-Firouzja, where even a 2670-rated player struggled with White.

As usual, it is knowing when to launch these opening lines that is the key. Among ordinary players I am sure the Budapest can be used all the time, but among masters the element of surprise is all important.

19 ♖xh4

19 gxh4 ♖g6! 20 h5 (or 20 ♕d4 ♕g4 21 ♕xg4 ♖xg4) 20...♖g5 21 ♕d4 ♕f5 22 ♕xc5 ♕e4 sees White perishing in slow-motion.

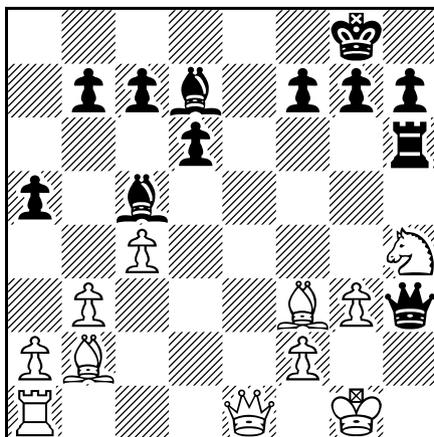
19...♖xe3!

Ripping away the white king's cover.

20 ♖e1

20 fxe3 ♖xg3+ 21 ♕g2 ♖xe3+ leads to mate.

20...♖xe1+ 21 ♖xe1 ♕d7!



It takes great restraint not to play 21...♖xg3+, but curiously after 22 ♕f1 White might be holding on.

22 ♖f1?

22 ♕c1 fights on into a position where White is merely two pawns down for nothing: 22...♖xg3+ 23 ♕f1 ♖h3+ 24 ♕g2 ♖d3+ 25 ♖e2 ♖xe2+ 26 ♕xe2 ♖xh4 27 ♕xb7 ♕g4+.

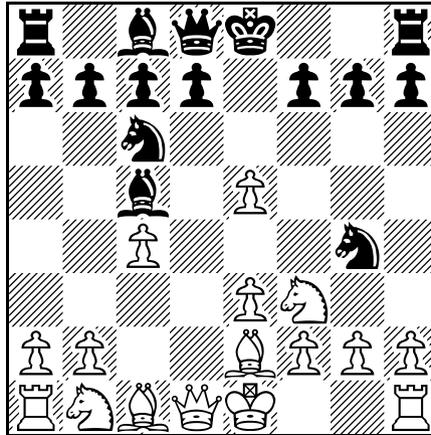
22...♖xg3+ 23 ♖g2 ♕xf2+ 24 ♕f1 ♕h3 0-1

We are looking to get this type of action going whenever we can.

The Straightforward 6 ♙e2

Game 74
 R.Wojtaszek-N.Short
 Poikovsky 2012

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♘g4 4 ♘f3 ♙c5 5 e3 ♘c6 6 ♙e2



This is the most straightforward way to play the position. White develops and prepares to castle. Of course, when White does castle, Black has the rook lift line in his sights, with an attack on the white king as the focus.

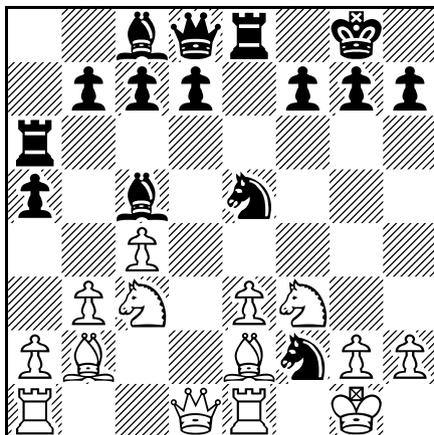
In general, Black should only recapture on e5 after White has played ♙e2, not before, unless forced by h2-h3. The main reason is that White's light-squared bishop is more active on d3, but, of course, it does not want to be attacked by a black knight.

Here, Short delays the capture for as long as possible to avoid systems with f2-f4 or to lessen their impact. There is a subtle move-order battle going on.

6...0-0 7 ♘c3 ♗e8 8 0-0 a5 9 ♘d4!?

This is a dangerous move. White makes way for f2-f4, and deters the rook lift. An examination of other ideas helps us to put the game move into perspective:

a) 9 b3 (the moves b2-b3 and f2-f4 don't mix too well and so Black is happy to take back his pawn) 9...♘ce5 10 ♙b2 ♗a6 11 ♗e1?? (11 ♘e4 ♘xf3+ 12 ♙xf3 ♗h4 13 ♙xg4 ♗xe4 14 h3 ♗g6 15 ♙f5 ♗d6 16 ♗f3 ♗e8 keeps Black active) 11...♘xf2!.



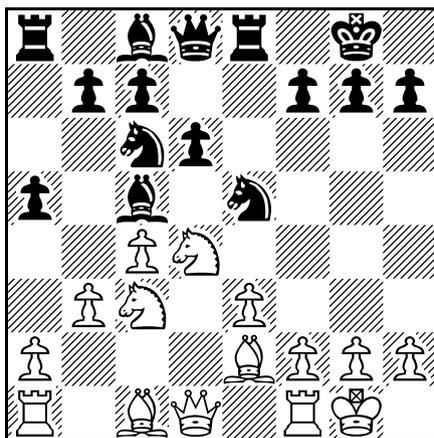
This is another Budapest trap worth noting: 12 ♖d2 (or 12 ♜xf2 ♘g4+ 13 ♜g1 ♙xe3+ 14 ♜f1 ♚h4!) 12...♗fg4 13 ♗d1 ♜d6 14 ♚c3 ♙b4 15 ♗xe5 ♙xc3 16 ♗xf7 ♚h4 0-1, M.Zhai-P.Ponkratov, Internet (blitz) 2020.

b) 9 ♗d5 does not seem especially effective: 9...♗cxe5 10 ♗d4 ♗f6 (this is why Black took with the knight on c6) 11 ♗xf6+ ♚xf6 12 ♗b5 ♚d8 13 b3 ♜a6 14 e4 ♜ae6. Black has managed to effect a rook lift, albeit a short one and has the more active game, V.Tkachiev-M.AI Modiahki, Dubai (blitz) 2014.

9...♗gxe5 10 b3

10 f4 ♗g6 11 f5 ♗ge5 12 f6 is the stabbing mechanism that Black has to keep in mind throughout the 4 ♗f3 variation. White can get a sudden attack. In this case Black should be able to defend by playing 12...g6, and with ...♙f8 to come, Black is quite safe.

10...d6



Nigel keeps it modest. 10...♜a6?! is not very good here due to 11 ♗db5! and the black

pieces are in a tangle after 11...♖b8 12 ♖e4 ♗f8 13 f4!

11 ♗b2 ♗d7 12 ♖db5

Perhaps intending ♖d5.

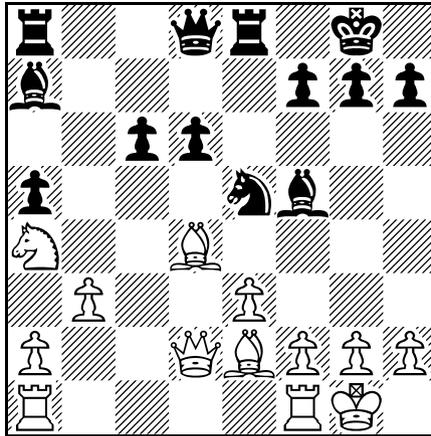
12...♖a7

12...♖c8 seems passive, but it is a solid move: 13 ♖a4 b6 14 ♖xc5 bxc5 and with ...♗h4 to come, Black may yet drum up an attack.

13 ♖a4 ♖xb5 14 cxb5 ♗f5 15 ♗d5

15 ♖xc5 dxc5 16 ♗xd8 ♖axd8 17 ♖fd1 ♖d3 18 ♗c3 b6 maintains equality, despite White's bishops.

15...c6 16 bxc6 bxc6 17 ♗d2 ♗a7 18 ♗d4



Wojtaszek appears happy to steer the game towards a draw.

18...♗xd4 19 ♗xd4 ♗f6 20 ♖fd1 ♖e6 21 ♗f4 ♗g6 22 ♖c3 h5 23 h4 ♗g4 24 f3 ♗h3 25 ♗h2 ♗h6! 26 ♗f4 ♗g6 27 ♗h2 ♗h6 28 ♗f4 ½-½

Game 75

D.Frolyanov-S.Sevian

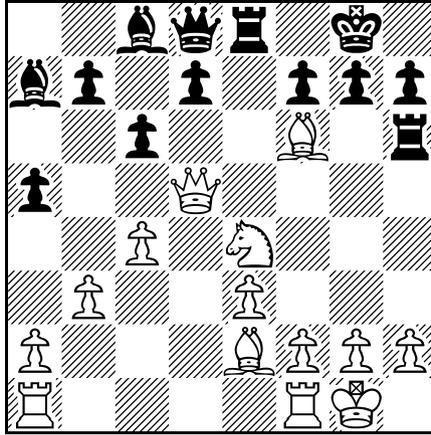
Internet (blitz) 2021

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♖g4 4 ♖f3 ♗c5 5 e3 ♖c6 6 ♗e2 0-0 7 0-0 ♖e8 8 ♖c3 ♖gxe5

Black could certainly wait one more move, by playing 8...a5.

9 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 10 ♖e4

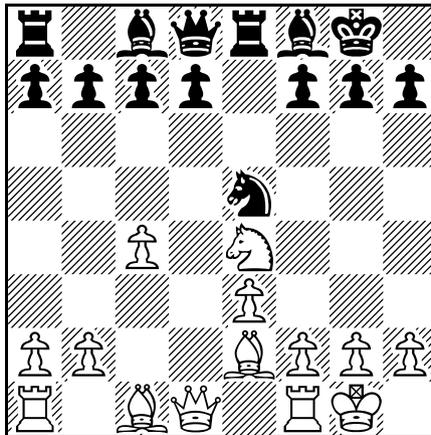
10 b3 a5 sees Black getting ready for the rook lift: 11 ♗b2 ♖a6 (once the white bishop goes to b2, ...♖a6-h6 becomes more attractive) 12 ♖e4 ♗a7 13 ♗d5 ♖h6 14 ♗xe5 c6 15 ♗f6 (of course, 15 ♗d3 ♖xe5 is fine for Black).

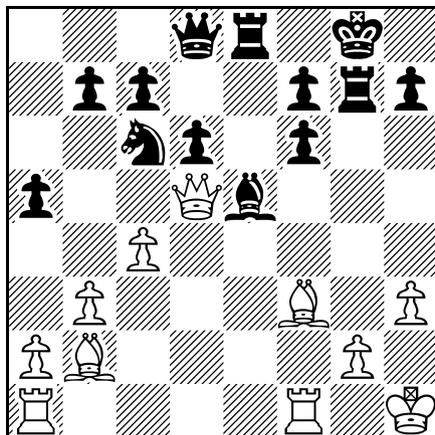


We have mentioned this tactical idea before. It looks more frightening than it actually is: 15...gxf6 16 ♖f5 ♗b8 17 ♘g3 d5 (Black breaks free; now it is White that has to be very careful) 18 ♜f3 ♞e4!? 19 ♞ad1 ♞eh4 (shall we call this the double rook lift?) 20 h3 ♗g4! 21 ♜xg4+ ♞xg4 22 ♗xg4 ♗xg3 23 fxg3 ♞g6 24 cxd5 cxd5 25 ♙h2 ♜d6 26 e4 d4 27 ♞f5 ♞g5! (it is a question now of whether Black can break down the white blockade; it is going to take some doing) 28 e5 ♜c7 (28...♜c5! looks better, keeping an eye on d4) 29 ♞xg5+ fxg5 30 ♞xd4 ♜xe5 was A.Hakobyan-S.Sevian, Internet (blitz) 2020, finally won by Black in 164(!) moves.

Instead, 10 f4 always has to be respected and watched carefully. In this case, Black should respond with 10...♗g6 11 f5 ♗e5, not fearing 12 f6 (12 ♜e1 f6 13 ♗e4 b6 14 ♗xc5 bxc5 15 ♗d2 d6 leads to a strange position where Black is not worse) 12...g6 when the bishop can drop back to f8 when necessary.

10...♗f8





Black has managed to get his act together with the help of a mistake from the opponent.

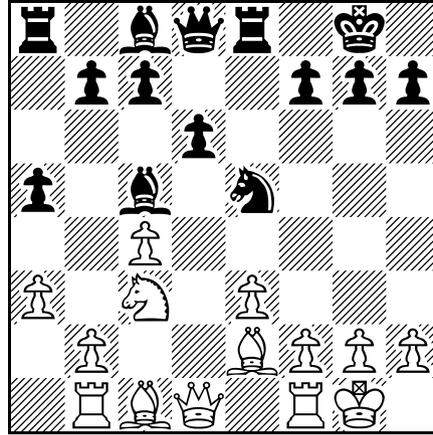
26 ♖d2 ♗xb2 27 ♖xb2 ♖e5 28 ♖f2 ♖e7 29 ♖ad1 ♖gg5 30 ♖d2 ♖g7 31 ♖d5 ♗b4 32 ♖d2 c6 33 a3 ♗a6 34 ♖dd1 ♗c5 35 b4 axb4 36 axb4 ♗e4 37 ♗xe4 ♖xe4 38 ♖d4 ♖e2 39 ♖f3 ♖e3 40 ♖f2 ♖eg3 41 ♖f4 ♖g6 42 ♖h2 ♖e3 43 ♖h4 ♖e5 44 ♖h1 ♖eg3 45 ♖f2 d5 46 cxd5 cxd5 47 b5 ♖e4 48 ♖xe4 dxe4 49 ♖e2 ♖g6 50 ♖f4 f5 51 ♖ef2 ♖g6 52 ♖d2 ♖b3 53 ♖d6+ ♖g7 54 ♖d5 ♖b1+ 55 ♖h2 ♖b2 56 ♖dxf5 ♖bxg2+ 0-1

Yet another blitz game you might say, but the early opening skirmishes were most interesting. In the early days of the rook lift line, Black won many crushing games, usually with the help of a sacrifice on h3, but Frolyanov to an extent showed how Black's threats might be parried and answered with threats of White's own.

Game 76
G.Grigore-V.Moskalenko
 Sitges 2007

1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♗g4 4 ♗f3 ♗c5 5 e3 ♗c6 6 ♗c3 0-0 7 ♗e2 ♗gxe5 8 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 9 0-0 ♖e8 10 a3!?

This is an important variation, where White tries to interrupt the idea of a rook lift.
 10...a5 11 ♖b1 d6



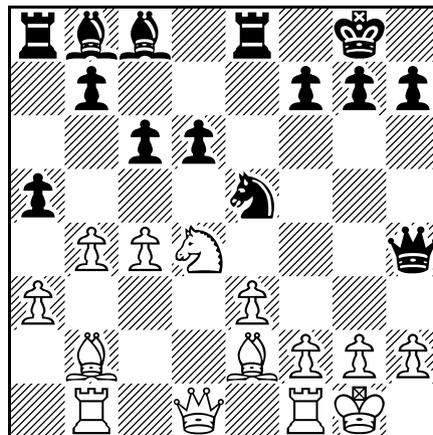
The Budapest specialist knows what he has to do. As stated earlier in this chapter, when the rook lift can't be played, Black must beware falling into a passive position.

After 11...Rxa6 the rook is exposed and White can take advantage. Thus 12 b4! axb4 13 axb4 ♕f8 (13...♕a7 14 c5 ♖h6 15 e4 intercepts Black's plan) 14 f4 ♗g6 15 c5 ♖a8 16 ♗d3 leaves White with at least slightly the better game. Nobody has come this way as Black, which is revealing, but I am not sure the position is so bad.

12 b4 ♕a7

Moskalenko sees no reason to open the file just yet, but 12...axb4 13 axb4 ♕a7 is also playable, as Mamedyarov has shown: 14 ♗c2 (if 14 ♕b2 ♕e6 and 14 ♖a1 can be met by 14...c6 15 ♕b2 ♗h4) 14...♕e6 15 ♗b5 ♕b8 16 ♖d1 ♗f6 17 ♕b2 ♕f5 18 e4 ♕g6 19 f3 c6 20 ♗c3 h5 21 ♖a1 ♕a7+ 22 ♖h1 h4 23 ♖f1 ♗f4 24 ♕c1 ♕e3, V.Ivanchuk-S.Mamedyarov, Moscow (blitz) 2008, which was drawn in 36 moves.

13 ♗b5 ♕b8 14 ♕b2 c6 15 ♗d4 ♗h4!



Play the Budapest Gambit

Black has definite chances on the kingside.

16 f4 ♖g4 17 ♗xg4 ♗xg4 18 ♚d3 axb4 19 axb4 ♚e7 20 h3 ♗d7 21 ♜be1 ♚e4!

Black has negotiated any early middlegame problems that have arisen and is a bit better due to his light-squared control and bishop-pair.

22 ♚c3 f6 23 ♖b3 ♗f5 24 g4 ♗g6 25 f5 ♗f7 26 ♖d2 ♚e5 27 ♚xe5 dxe5 28 ♜a1 ♗c7 29 ♗f2 ♜ad8 30 ♗e2 ♜d7 31 ♜fc1 ♜ed8 32 ♗c3 ♗f8 33 c5 ♜b8 ½-½

I think 10 a3 can be satisfactorily countered.

Game 77

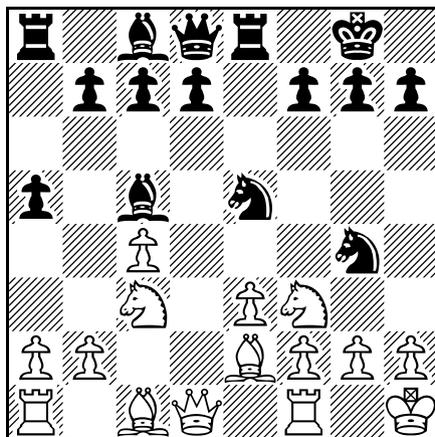
F.Braga-F.Garcia Trobat

Ponferrada 1991

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♖g4 4 ♖f3 ♗c5 5 e3 ♖c6 6 ♗e2 0-0 7 0-0 ♜e8 8 ♖c3 a5 9 ♗h1!?

White is imploring Black to capture on e5, after which he intends to set the Spassky f4-f5-f6 attacking plan in motion. This game will show that Black's position cannot be taken by storm.

9...♖cx5!



Avoiding 9...♖gx5 10 ♖d4. Any small gain must be taken in modern chess.

10 ♖xe5

Now 10 ♖d4 ♚h4! is more than useful for Black.

10...♖xe5 11 f4 ♖g6

11...♖c6 12 ♗d3 d6 13 ♚h5 g6 also gives Black a fully defensible position.

12 ♗d3

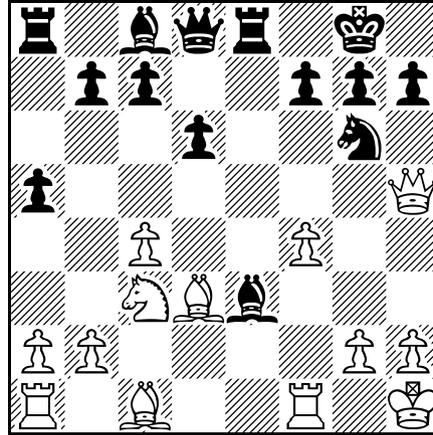
White has wasted a tempo by playing ♗e2 first and then ♗d3. Nevertheless, the attack starting with the imminent ♚h5 cannot be underestimated.

12 e4 might be met by 12...b6 13 ♗f3 ♗b7 with interesting play.

12...d6 13 ♖h5

13 f5 ♘e5 14 f6 g6 finds the white queen a long way from the g7-square. To get her there is impossible if Black plays correctly. I give a possible sequence: 15 ♙e2 c6 16 ♖e1 h5 17 ♗h4 ♙g4 18 ♗g5 ♙e6 and White's attack is no more.

13...♙xe3!



14 ♘e4

After 14 f5 Black should be able to defend: 14...♙xc1 15 ♙axc1 (and not 15 fxg6? Fxg6) 15...♙e5! 16 ♖d1 (or 16 ♙ce1 ♘f4!) 16...♘f8 17 f6 gxf6 18 ♙c2 ♙e6 19 ♙cf2 ♘d7. Black is solidly placed.

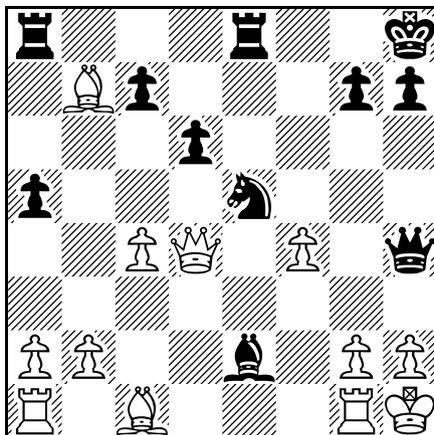
14...♗h4?!

14...♙xc1! was the correct way, leading to complications which burn out to a draw: 15 ♘g5! h6 16 ♘xf7 ♘xf4! 17 ♘xh6+ (or 17 ♙xf4 ♙e1+ 18 ♙f1 ♙e7 19 ♙xc1 ♙xc1 20 ♗g6 ♗h4!! 21 g3 ♗xf4 22 gxf4 ♙h3 23 ♘xh6+ ♙h8 24 ♘f7+ with a draw) 17...gxf6 18 ♗h6 ♗xh6 ♘xd3 19 ♗g6+ ♙h8 20 ♗h5+ ♙g8 and it's perpetual check.

15 ♗e2

The calm 15 ♗h4 ♘xh4 16 ♙e1! calls Black's defensive idea into question.

15...♙g4 16 ♗xe3 f5 17 ♗d4 fxe4 18 ♙xe4 ♙e2 19 ♙g1 ♙h8 20 ♙xb7 ♘e5



21 ♖xa8??

White is befuddled by the complications that he initiated. 21 g3 ♕f3+ 22 ♕xf3 ♘xf3 23 gxh4 ♘xd4 24 ♕d2 ♖f3 25 ♗g2 ♘xh4 26 ♗f2 leaves Black a bit better, but White might hold.

21...♘g4 22 h3 ♗g3 0-1

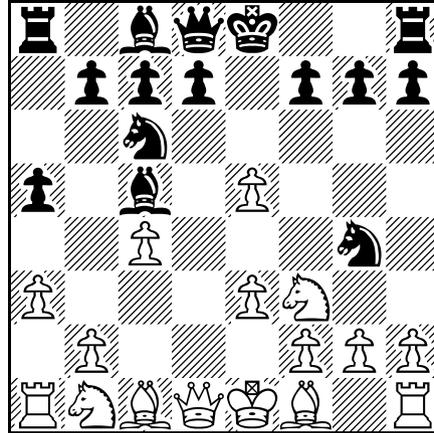
Delaying ♕e2 with 6 a3

Game 78
H.Karl-A.Belezky
 Lugano 2009

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♘g4 4 ♘f3 ♕c5 5 e3 ♘c6 6 a3

Many of the lines in this chapter overlap into one another and so we are looking for the differences. With 6 a3, I would say White is trying to delay ♕e2 for as long as possible, hoping to trick Black into an inferior position.

6...a5



Black must certainly stop or slow down the intended queenside expansion and he wants to play 6...a5 anyway, preparing ...♖a6.

7 ♕d5!?

It is hard to believe that 7 ♕d5 can be effective, but it has been played quite frequently.

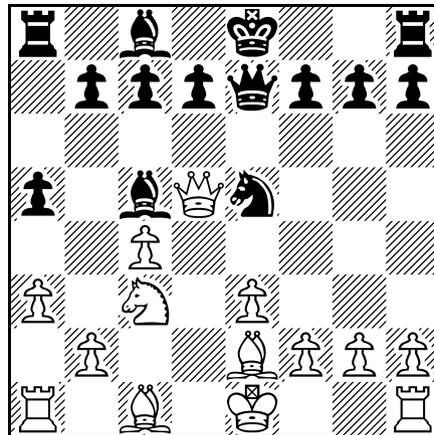
7...♗e7!

We are going to take our pawn back.

8 ♘c3 ♖xe5!

8...0-0 9 ♘b5! ♙b6 10 c5 is awkward for Black to meet and so we must break our rule and take on e5 before ♙e2. Of course, the white queen is on an exposed square.

9 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 10 ♙e2



Instead, 10 f4 ♘g4 11 ♗f3 ♖f6 12 e4 d6 13 h3 0-0 14 ♙d3 ♖e8 leaves Black with a comfortable game.

10...♖a6

Play the Budapest Gambit

Black can certainly switch plans here with something like 10...c6! 11 ♖d2 d6 12 0-0 0-0 13 b3 ♟f5!. With the rooks coming to the centre, Black has a nice position.

11 ♘e4 ♟a7 12 0-0 ♖h6!?

Castling first was less committal, but he cannot resist lifting the rook.

13 ♘g3

13 ♖xa5 grabs a pawn, but accelerates Black's development. There are some unusual tactics in this line: 13...♟b6 14 ♖b5 0-0 15 f4 ♘g4 16 ♟xg4 ♖xe4 17 c5 ♟xc5! 18 ♖xc5 d6 19 ♖g5 f6 20 ♟f3 ♖xf3 21 ♖xg7+ ♙xg7 22 ♖xf3 ♟f5 fizzles out to a rough balance.

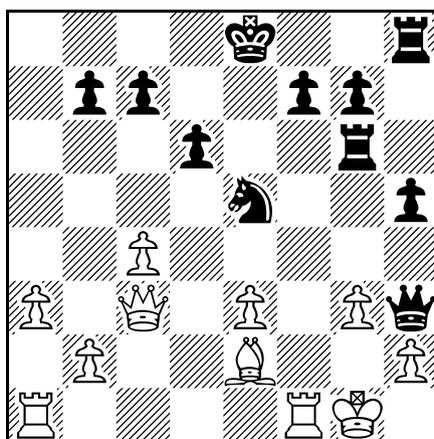
13...d6 14 e4 ♖g6 15 ♘f5 ♖f6 16 ♖xa5 ♟b6?

16...♟xf5 17 exf5 ♖xf5 18 ♖xa7 ♖e4! 19 ♖a4+ ♙d8 was the right way to go.

17 ♖c3?

A mistake from both players. For some reason, White avoids 17 ♖a4+ ♘c6 18 ♟h5!.

17...♟xf5 18 exf5 ♖xf5 19 ♟e3 ♖h3 20 g3 ♟xe3 21 fxe3 h5



Black now has a more or less winning attack.

22 ♟f3?

22 ♟d3 ♖g5! maintains the attack.

22...♘xf3+ 23 ♖xf3 h4 0-1

To me, the rook lift or even the threat of the rook lift is so strong, that White has to have nerves of steel and precise knowledge to beat it back. It is all very well to show high-rated games, but they don't really bear much resemblance to what 99% of chess players experience. This mistake-filled, nervy game is more like the type of encounter you will have on your board if you venture the Budapest Gambit.

Objectively, using all the latest analysis tools at our disposal, the Budapest may be on the margins of playability. Practically, it can still be a killer opening.

Game 79
J.Yrjola-Liew Chee Meng
 Dubai Olympiad 1986

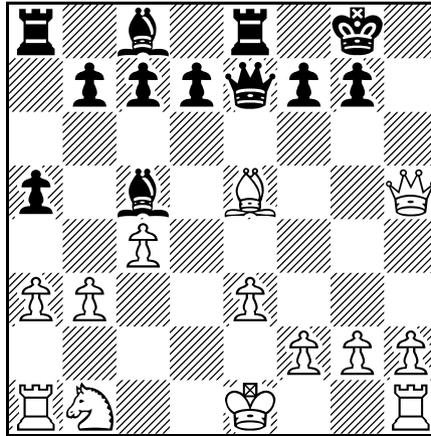
1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♟g4 4 ♟f3 ♟c5 5 e3 ♟c6 6 a3 a5 7 b3 0-0 8 ♟b2 ♜e8 9 ♟d3!?

With this aggressive-looking move White sets a trap, which Black may even invite, as the end result does not impress.

9...d6!?

Black chooses to play in a tricky style of his own, quite in keeping with Budapest routines.

The so-called trap runs 9...♟gxe5 10 ♟xe5 ♟xe5 11 ♟xh7+!? ♟xh7 12 ♜h5+ ♟g8 13 ♟xe5 ♜e7!.



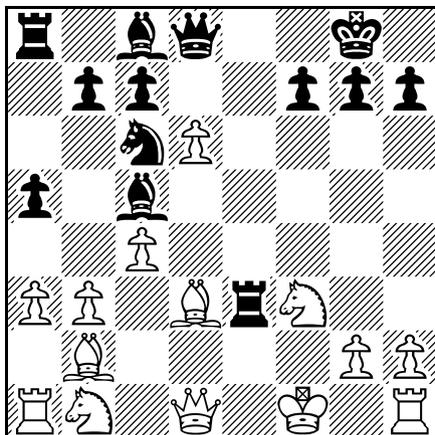
White has won a pawn, but has done nothing for his development. This is not much of a trap and 14 ♟c3 (14 ♟b2 ♟xe3 15 0-0 ♟c5 16 ♟c3 ♜a6 17 ♟d5 ♜e2! 18 ♜xe2 ♜xe2 19 ♟c3 ♜c2 is also level) 14...♟xe3 (14...♜a6!? 15 0-0 ♜g6 16 g3 b6 could be dangerous to White) 15 fxe3 (Black is OK too after 15 0-0 ♟h6) 15...♜xe3+ 16 ♟d1 ♜d3+ 17 ♟c1 ♜e2 18 ♟d2 ♜xd2 19 ♟xd2 ♜c3+ 20 ♟b1 ♜d3+ forces a repetition.

10 exd6 ♟xf2!

10...♜xd6 is also reasonable, with excellent compensation for a pawn: 11 ♟e2 ♜h6. Is this a 'queen lift'? White is now struggling to even hold the position, as shown by 12 ♟c3 ♟xf2, 12 0-0 ♟xf2! and even 12 ♟c1 ♜f6 13 ♜a2 ♟f5 14 ♟d2 ♜ad8.

11 ♟xf2 ♜xe3 12 ♟f1

Play the Budapest Gambit



The only reasonable move.

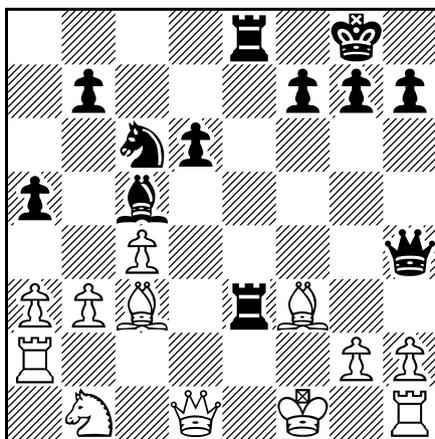
12...♗g4

Black plays a piece down after 12...♖xd6!? 13 ♗e2 ♖xd1+ 14 ♗xd1 ♗f5 15 ♘c3 ♖ae8, but he has much the better of things, as White has no good way to unravel his position. If 16 g4 ♗xg4 17 ♖g2 ♗d3 18 ♗f1 ♗d4! 19 ♘xd4 ♗h3+ or 16 ♗e2 ♘d4 17 ♘xd4 ♗xd4 18 ♘d5 ♗xb2 19 ♘xe3 ♗xe3! 20 ♗e1 ♗xa3.

13 ♗e2 ♗xf3 14 ♗xf3 ♖h4 15 ♖a2 ♖ae8

The rapidity of Black's development and attack is striking.

16 ♗c3 cxd6



There is no great rush, as White is in such a terrible mess.

17 g3 ♖h3+ 18 ♗g2 ♖f5+ 19 ♗f2 ♖xf2+! 20 ♖xf2 ♗d3+ 0-1

There was quite a lot of analysis here for such a short game, but by playing through it you should have gained a strong feeling for the dynamics of a Budapest attack.