

the most instructive games of the **young grandmasters**

EVERYMAN CHESS Paul Motwani

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1 Vasily Ivanchuk

'Sound strategy, nice tactics...'

Vasily Ivanchuk (interview in New In Chess magazine, no. 2, 1996)

Date of Birth	Tuesday 18 March 1969
Place of Birth	Berezhani, Ukraine
Grandmaster Title	1988
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2730
World Ranking	4

Vasily Ivanchuk possesses all the artistry of the brilliant Russian musical composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908), who was born exactly 125 years to the day before the 29-year-old top Ukrainian grandmaster. It is also quite appropriate that the first name of this world-class player originally derives from the Greek name Vasilis, meaning 'royal, kingly'. His fantastic achievements include winning a hat-trick of first prizes at the Linares super-tournaments of 1989, 1991, 1995, and one eminently suitable phrase to describe Ivanchuk is 'Playing to Win'. Incidentally, a book carrying that title was written some years ago by GM Jim Plaskett, who also happens to share the same birthday of 18 March!

A beautiful blend of sound strategy and nice tactics is coming up now in the form of a great double-bill featuring two of Ivanchuk's best games played in October 1994 at the Sicilian Polugaevsky Tournament in Buenos Aires. Not many people can keep GM Viswanathan Anand in the sort of vice-like grip which Ivanchuk exerted using the Maroczy Bind in round three.

Game 1

V. Ivanchuk – V. Anand

Buenos Aires (Sicilian theme) 1994

Sicilian Defence, Maroczy Bind

1 e4

Ivanchuk also opens regularly with 1 c4, 1 d4 or 1 ♘f3, so it is normally

very difficult for opponents to prepare against him. However, in this particular eight-player double-all-play-all tournament, every one of the 56 battles began with 1 e4 c5 as a special tribute to GM Lev Polugaevsky (20.11.1934-30.8.1995), who passed away in Paris the following year at the age of 60, but

not before giving us a treasure-trove of wonderful insights into the Sicilian Defence through many of his own games, and via great books such as *The Sicilian Labyrinth* and *Sicilian Love*.

1 ... e5

The basic logical idea behind the Sicilian is simply to control the central d4-square, while also interfering with White's natural wish to build an ideal pawn-centre by 2 d4.

2 f3

White is the first one to develop a piece, whereas 2 d4 cxd4 3 ♖xd4? ♜c6 would already be better for Black. Instead of the unwise early excursion with the white queen, some players like the Morra Gambit, 3 c3, but it was dealt a crushing blow in the line 3...dxc3 4 ♜xc3 e6 5 ♜f3 ♙c5!, as detailed on page 17 of my book *S.T.A.R. Chess*.

Reader's Challenge no. 1

Consider yet another alternative, namely 2 d4 cxd4 3 ♜f3. Black then has a sneaky possibility which saves his d4-pawn and sets a trap.

a) What is the cunning trap?

b) Instead, why is 4 e3! dxc3? 5 ♜xc3 a really favourable version of the Morra Gambit for White?

When ready, you can compare your answer with those given on page 152.

2 ... ♜c6

Nowadays Anand seems to favour 2...d6, perhaps partly as a result of the

invaluable experience which he gained both as White and Black from 11 games involving 2...d6 out of his 18 clashes with Garry Kasparov in the 1995 PCA World Championship.

3 d4

As a logical alternative, the Rosso-limo Variation, 3 ♙b5, is a good way for White to continue developing pieces at lightning speed while also avoiding the immense body of theory associated with the many 'open' systems stemming from 3 d4. However, the moves 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 were a prerequisite for all the games in this particular Sicilian 'theme tournament'.

3 ... cxd4

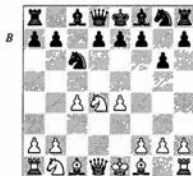
4 ♜xd4 g6

If 4...♜f6, then Black would welcome 5 ♜xc6 bxc6 6 e5?? because of 6...♙a5+, but note that 5 ♜c3 g6?! 6 ♜xc6! bxc6 7 e5 really is good for White.

Black may choose to eliminate any worries concerning e4-e5 by playing 4...e5, and after 5 ♜b5 Black can choose between the Kalashnikov Variation, 5...d6, and the Löwenthal Variation, 5...a6, for example.

5 c4 (D)

The Maroczy Bind, named after Hungary's Geza Maroczy (3.3.1870-29.5.1951), seizes some more space for White, and gives him an iron grip on the d5-square. Personally, nowadays I would never allow an opponent to play this against me, although about 15 years ago I did actually have a few



games involving 4...g6 as Black. While it may be too extreme to label that move with a '?!', I really do not like the cramped positions that often result from it.

5 ... ♖f6

5...♙g7 6 ♙e3 ♖f6 7 ♖c3 ♗g4 8 ♗xg4 ♗xd4 is an alternative line, which is normally answered by 9 ♗d1, attacking the d4-knight and preventing it from delivering a fatal fork at c2.

Reader's Challenge no. 2
(solution given on page 152)

The situation arising after 5...♙g7 6 ♙e3 ♖f6 7 ♖c3 d6 8 ♙e2 0-0 9 0-0 ♗g4?? occurred in games at two international tournaments that I know of during 1997. Why is Black's ninth move a blunder?

6 ♖c3 d6

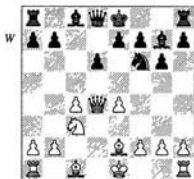
6...♙g7 is possible too, because although after 7 ♗xc6 bxc6 8 e5, 8...♗h5?? 9 g4 is a painful reminder for Black of the saying 'A knight on

the rim is dim', he should of course play 8...♗g8, when White's e5-pawn can quickly become a weakness to be attacked by moves such as ...♗a5, ...d6 or ...f6. Personally, instead of 7 ♗xc6, I would prefer good simple development with 7 ♙e3, but note that 7 ♙e2? ♗e4! wins a precious pawn for Black due to his double attack on the d4-knight.

7 ♙e2 ♗xd4

One idea behind this move is to draw White's queen forward to d4 so that Black may subsequently gain some time by threatening to attack the white queen using a fianchettoed bishop on g7. However, that only inconveniences White for a fleeting moment, and does not in any way affect his spatial advantage, which is the dominant feature of the position.

8 ♗xd4 ♙g7 (D)

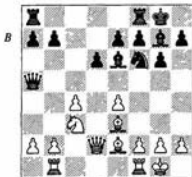


9 ♙e3 0-0

10 ♗d2

White easily nullifies Black's threat of 10...♗g4.

- 10 ... ♖e6
 11 0-0 ♖a5
 12 ♖ab1!? (D)



This move was a novelty at the time of the game (at least in published encounters between top players), yet it is actually very logical for White to shift his queen's rook off the a1-h8 diagonal because potentially it could have experienced problems from the g7-bishop, especially if the white b-pawn advances to b3, for example, to support the exposed c4-pawn on the half-open c-file.

- 12 ... ♞f8

Some chess students of mine suggested 12...♞g4, but then White's promising paths include 13 ♞d5 and 13 ♞d4 ♞xd4 14 ♞xd4 ♞e5 15 ♞xe5, because although after 15...♞xe5, 16 b3 g5! lets Black's knight stay on a central post, a much stronger possibility is 16 f4!. That powerful example of 'f for forward!' is followed directly by another one in the case of 16...♞xc4? 17 f5, while 16...♞c6 17 f5!? ♞d7 18

♞bd1 leaves Black in trouble at d6 due to threats of 19 c5 and 19 f6.

- 13 b3

13 b4 is over-ambitious because after 13...♞d8 White's c-pawn would be in trouble.

- 13 ... ♞d7

Black would no doubt wish that 13...b5 could shake his opponent's control of the position, but instead of 14 cxb5?? ♞xc3 or 14 ♞xb5 ♞xd2 15 ♞xd2 ♞xe4, White can play the now well-timed advance 14 b4!.

- 14 ♞f1

14 ♞d5 is possible too, but after 14...♞xd2 White must *not* make the capture 15 ♞xe7+, because Black has 15...♞f8.

- 14 ... ♞d8

Black wants to play ...♞c5 without allowing a fork by b4.

- 15 ♞d5 ♞c5

- 16 ♞f3!

Some people would automatically defend the e4-pawn with 16 f3, but Ivanchuk's move does not obstruct his light-squared bishop's view towards the kingside, where White plans to commence attacking operations shortly.

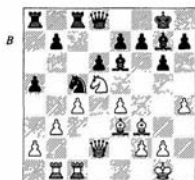
- 16 ... a5

At least Black will not be forced to retreat his knight immediately if he has stopped or dissuaded White from playing b4. However, I still recall a game that I lost as Black to GM Jon Arnason in Chicago on Tuesday 23 August 1983, since, although I did not make any blatant blunders, White won principally because my position was

cramped, and Anand is suffering from the same serious problem.

17 h4! (D)

Ivanchuk further increases his spatial advantage by advancing on the kingside, whereas the careless move 17 a3? on the opposite wing would have spoiled White's excellent position on account of 17...a4!, intending to meet 18 b4? with the fork 18...Qb3.



17 ... ♗xd5

Let us ask 'Why does Black capture on d5, thereby giving up one of his bishops for a knight?'. The question can be answered readily if we start to consider the (lack of) alternatives. 17...♞d7?? walks into the fork 18 Qb6, and if 17...h5 then 18 ♗g5 is very unpleasant to face because 18...f6 would shut in the g7-bishop while also weakening the g6-h5 pawn-chain. 17...f5 18 ♗g5! is terrible for Black too.

18 exd5!

The notes to Black's last move highlighted the weakness of the e7-pawn,

and so now White opens up the e-file to expose the weakling.

18 ... ♞d7

19 ♞e2!

Yet another classy move by Ivanchuk. The black e-pawn suddenly feels pressure from White's queen, and the queen on e2 also indirectly prevents the advance ...b5. Furthermore, 19...♞f5 is ruled out (most of all) because of 20 ♗g4.

19 ... ♜e8

If Black attempts to close the kingside with 19...h5, then at lightning speed White responds by prising open that region of the board by 20 g4!, after which 20...hxg4 21 ♗xg4 f5 22 ♗h3 (threatening to force open more lines with 23 h5) 22...♗f6 23 h5! g5 24 f3! leaves Black facing threats such as 25 ♖h1 followed by ♜g1, and 25 ♞c2! g4 26 fxg4 fxg4 27 ♞g6+.

20 h5

Simple, strong, consistent chess.

20 ... ♞f5

21 ♜d1

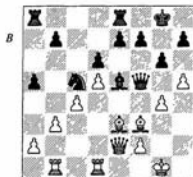
A prophylactic move to deny Black the possibility of ...♞d3.

21 ... ♗e5

At first sight the line 21...gxh5 22 ♗xh5 ♞e4 may look dangerous for White in view of the threatened fork 23...♞c3, but 23 ♞d3! is a complete answer. Black's position remains difficult after 23...♞xh5 (24 ♗f3 could not be allowed) 24 ♞xe4 because of his inferior pawn-structure and poor king safety. Another important point is that if 21...♞e4, then White should win

with 22 g4! ♖e5 23 ♔d4 ♕c3 24 ♖c2! ♖xd4 (what else?) 25 ♔xd4 ♔xd4 26 ♔c1, planning 27 ♖d2.

22 g4 (D)



g for 'go for it' is an attacking motto of mine, and on the receiving end even GM opponents rarely look comfortable!

22 ... ♖c8

22...♖d7?? costs Black a piece to 23 ♔xc5 dxc5 24 ♖xe5, and 22...♖f6 gets squashed by 23 g5, which turns into an even worse nightmare for the harassed queen in the line 23...♖f5?? 24 ♔g4 ♖e4 25 f3.

23 ♖g2

White prepares to slide at least one rook over to the h-file.

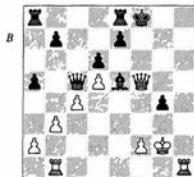
23 ... ♔g7

The black king recalls his bishop for defence, and one can easily understand his avoidance of terrifying lines such as 23...gxf5 24 ♔h1! hxf4 25 ♔xg4 f5 26 ♔xc5 and then, e.g.:

a) After 26...♖xc5 27 ♔xf5 the h-pawn will very soon be history.

b) 26...dxc5 27 ♖xe5 fxf4 28 ♖g5+ ♖h8 29 ♔xh7+ ♖xh7 30 ♔h1#.

c) 26...fxg4 27 ♖e4! (now the unhappy h7-pawn cannot be defended) 27...♖xc5 28 ♖xh7+ (perhaps an even clearer path to victory for White than 28 ♔xh7 ♖d4 29 ♖g6+ ♔g7 30 ♔bh1 ♖f8, although then he still wins with 31 ♔h5 e6 32 dxe6 ♔e7 33 ♔h8+! ♔xh8 34 ♔f5+ ♔f6 35 ♔xf6+ ♖xf6 36 ♖xf6+ ♖e8 37 ♖h8#) 28...♖f8 29 ♖f5+ (D) branches into:

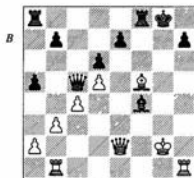


c1) 29...♔f6 30 ♔h8+ ♖f7 31 ♖h5+ ♖g7 32 ♖h7#.

c2) 29...♖g8 30 ♖e6+ ♖f8 (for 30...♖g7 see the next *Reader's Challenge*) 31 ♔h7 ♔g7 32 ♔bh1 ♖d4 33 ♔h5 ♔ec8 34 ♔f5+ ♖e8 35 ♔f7, and as is so often the case, doubled rooks on the seventh rank spell defeat for the opponent.

d) 26...♔f8 27 ♔h3 ♖xc5 28 f4 (in fact, 28 ♔xf5! is even stronger due to 28...♔xf5 29 ♖g4+, but the move 28 f4 also produces some instructive variations) 28...♔xf4 (28...♔g7 29 ♖e6+

xf7 30 xf5 is also terrible for Black)
29 xf5 (D) and now there are two variations:



d1) 29... xf5 30 we6+ xf7 31 fxh7! and then 31... f8 32 wg6+ g7 33 wgg7# or 31... cxh7 32 wxf7+ ch6 33 fh1+ cg5 34 fh5+ cg4 35 wf5# .

d2) 29... we3 30 wg4+ cg5 31 bcl wf4 (31... wd2+ 32 he2) 32 fxh7+ cg7 33 fxe7+ ff7 34 fxf7+ cxf7 (34... wxf7 35 wgg5+) 35 we6+ or 35 ff1 , winning.

Despite their lengthy appearance, those variations actually flowed very naturally without much difficulty, especially because almost all of White's moves belonged to one (or more) of the following four simple yet useful categories:

- 1) Checks.
- 2) Captures.
- 3) Moves that *attack or threaten* something.
- 4) Moves that try to *expose the enemy king*.

Now it's your turn!

Reader's Challenge no. 3 (solution given on page 152)

In the aforementioned variation 'c2', if Black plays 30... cg7 , then what is White's quickest way to win by force?

24 fh1 cd7

Black retreats his knight too, in an effort to defend against White's growing attack on the kingside.

25 hgx6 hxg6

If 25... fxg6 26 fh4 cd8 , then 27 g5 is a perfectly-timed way to threaten 28 cg4 because Black can no longer play ... de5 .

26 fh4 a4

26... de5 27 ce4 leaves Black facing the immediate threat of 28 f4 , and 27... f5 allows White to win beautifully with 28 gxf5 gxf5 29 wh5! fxe4 30 wh7+ cf8 31 ff4+ cf7 (31... cf6 32 fxf6+! exf6 33 ch6#) 32 wg6 cf6 33 fh1 followed by fh7 .

27 bbh1

27 b4 de5 28 g5 also favours White, but his chosen move is the most logical and consistent way to continue attacking on the kingside.

27 ... axb3

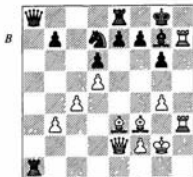
28 axb3 ha1

29 fh3!

White avoids exchanges of major pieces so that his attack will not diminish in strength.

29 ... wa8

30 fh7 (D)



White plans to eliminate the g7-bishop, which is the guardian of the dark squares in the neighbourhood of Black's king.

30 ... ♖a2

30...♟f8 31 ♖xg7+! ♜xg7 32 ♙d4+ f6 33 ♜e3! is almost identical to the continuation in the actual game, so instead Black might try to retain his vital bishop with 30...♙e5. However, his problems would certainly not be over, because 31 ♙f4! persists with White's policy of eliminating Black's bishop, or at least deflecting it away from defending the black king. Then 31...♙xf4 loses to 32 ♜h8+ ♜g7 33 ♜h7+ ♜f6 34 ♜e4!, which leads to pretty lines such as:

a) 34...♙e5 35 g5+ ♜xg5 36 ♜h4+ ♜f5 37 ♙e4#.

b) 34...♜g5 35 ♜h5+! gxh5 36 ♜f5+ ♜h4 37 ♜xh5#.

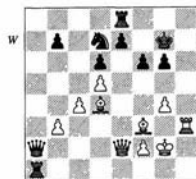
c) 34...♙g5 35 ♜xf7+! ♜xf7 36 ♜h7+ ♜f8 (36...♜f6 37 ♜e6#) 37 ♜xg6 ♜g1+ 38 ♜h3!, and Black can resign because he does not have the defensive resource ...♜a1+ followed

by ...♜f6 which would have been possible if White had captured the g1-rook.

31 ♖xg7+! ♜xg7

32 ♙d4+ f6 (D)

If 32...♟f6, then White could of course play g5 before or after exchanging queens, but a much quicker and easier way to win is 33 ♜e3 ♜h8 34 ♜xe7 ♜xh3 35 ♜xf6+ ♜f8 36 ♜d8#. Another line is 32...♟e5 33 ♙xe5+ dxe5 34 ♜xe5+ f6 35 ♜h2!, with a winning attack for White along the open h-file; the finish could be 35...♜g8 36 ♜h7+ ♜f8 37 ♜b8#.



33 ♜e3

Black is now threatened with checkmate in only four more moves by 34 ♜h6+ ♜f7 35 ♜h7+ ♜f8 36 ♜h8+ ♜f7 37 ♜h7#, and 33...♜h8 does not help because of 34 ♜xe7+.

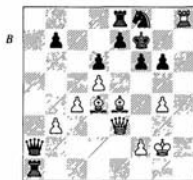
33 ... ♟f8

34 ♙e4!

In this situation, White's awesome bishops pointing towards the frail shelter covering Black's king are each

more powerful than a rook, and so the d4-bishop has no intention of exchanging itself for the a1-rook. Meanwhile, the 'partner' on e4 has created the threat of 35 ♖h6+ ♕f7 36 ♗xg6+! ♕xg6 37 ♖h7+ ♕f8 38 ♖xg6, to be followed shortly by ♖h8#.

34 ... ♕f7
35 ♖h8! (D)



1-0

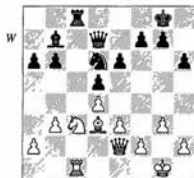
Anand resigned because there was no satisfactory defence to the threat of 36 ♖h6 followed by 37 ♗xg6+ ♕xg6 38 ♖h7# or 37 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 38 ♖xg6#. For instance, although 35...g5 stops 36 ♖h6, White's determined queen still finds an equally deadly way to infiltrate Black's position with the manoeuvre ♖h3-h5+.

Shortly our 'Ivanchuk special double-bill' from the 1994 Sicilian Polugaevsky Tournament will continue with his exciting game as Black in the final round against GM Alexei Shirov, who is also one of the world's most

creative chess-players. To prepare our minds for that forthcoming battle, let's first turn up the power by tackling a puzzle.

A Poisoned Apple?

(solution given on page 152)



Topalov – Ivanchuk

Monaco Amber rpd 1997

White is to play. Should he capture the a6-pawn?

Game 2

A. Shirov – V. Ivanchuk

Buenos Aires (Sicilian theme) 1994

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

1 e4 c5
2 ♕f3 d6

In practice nowadays one occasionally sees the Nimzowitsch Variation, 2...♕f6, named after the great Aron Nimzowitsch (7.11.1886-16.3.1935), but then (unlike after 2...d6) it is very likely that White will play 3 e5. The

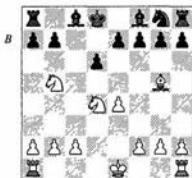
continuation could be 3...♖d5 4 ♖c3 ♖xc3 (4...e6 also has its followers) 5 dxc3.

Reader's Challenge no. 4 (solution given on pages 152-3)

After the plausible-looking move 5...b6?, can you find for White a super-strong response (which actually constitutes one of my favourite opening traps)?

3 d4 cxd4
4 ♖xd4

This move was a prerequisite of all the games in this particular 'theme tournament', and so White could not choose the interesting alternative 4 ♖xd4, intending 4...♖c6 5 ♖b5. Then 5...♗d7 is best, but Motwani-A.Fontaine, Brussels 1995 deviated with 5...♖a5+?! 6 ♖c3 ♖xb5 7 ♖xb5 ♖xd4 8 ♖fxd4! (retaining the threat of ♖c7+) 8...♗d8 9 ♗g5 (D).



Reader's Challenge no. 5 (solution given on page 153)

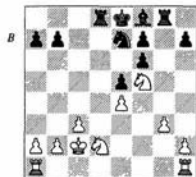
Why is 9...h6? (which Black in fact played) an error?

4 ... ♖f6
5 ♖c3

Eight rounds earlier in the competition, GM Valery Salov tried to play the aforementioned 4 ♖xd4 variation against grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojević, but then he was told that 4 ♖xd4 was required according to the rules of this special tournament. However, there was no rule against 5 f3!?, a very interesting option by which White preserves the possibility of later advancing c2-c4 to gain space and more control of the d5-square before developing the b1-knight to c3. That concept can be compared to the Maroczy Bind, which featured in Game 1.

As it turned out, the Salov-Ljubojević encounter continued somewhat differently with 5...e5 6 ♖b5+ ♗d7 (in the case of 6...♖bd7 7 ♖f5 d5 8 exd5, Ljubojević later discovered that the tempting path 8...♖a5+ 9 ♖c3 ♖b4 has a major flaw: after 10 ♖xg7+!! ♗f8, White calmly plays 11 ♖f5 because 11...♖xb5 loses to 12 ♖h6+ ♗e8 13 ♖d6+! ♖xd6 14 ♖xb5) 7 ♖xd7+ ♖xd7? (this plausible-looking move is actually a serious error, and instead a much better route for Black is 7...♖bxd7 8 ♖f5 d5 9 exd5 ♖a5+ 10 ♖c3 ♖b6 followed by ...0-0-0) 8 ♖f5 d5 9 ♗g5! dxc4 10 ♖xf6 ♖xd1+ (certainly not 10...♖xf5?? 11 ♖d8#) 11 ♖xd1 gxf6 12 fxex4 ♖c6 13 c3 ♗g8 14 g3 (with simple, strong play, White

systematically deprives Black of any active counterchances) 14...♖d8+ 15 ♖d2 ♖e7 16 ♗c2 (D).



White won easily in another 28 moves, but let us ask 'Why can Black's position at move 16 really be described as "hopeless"?'. Well, in effect, White is already a pawn up because he has an extra unit on the queenside, whereas Black's doubled f-pawns are firmly blockaded by the f5-knight. Furthermore, if Black captures that piece with 16...♖xf5, then after 17 exf5 White will soon plant his remaining steed on the outpost at e4, and the winning plan consists, quite simply, of creating a passed pawn on the queenside.

5 ... a6

The Najdorf Variation, named after GM Miguel Najdorf (15.4.1910-4.7.1997), is also Garry Kasparov's favourite weapon as Black within the Sicilian Defence. There are (at least) three immediate logical points to the move 5...a6:

1) Compared with the variation 5...e5 6 ♖b5+!, Black avoids many problems involving ♖b5+, and in most positions White is prevented from moving a knight to b5.

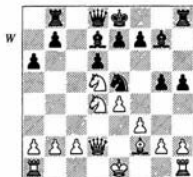
2) Black may later expand on the queenside with ...b5, perhaps followed by ...b4 or ...♖b7 to trouble the white e4-pawn.

3) The move ...e6, which Ivanchuk plays at move six, is of course possible at move five (when it is known as the Scheveningen Variation), but in that case Black must be prepared to face the highly dangerous Keres Attack, 6 g4!, named after the great Estonian grandmaster Paul Keres (7.1.1916-5.6.1975).

6 ♖e3 e6

Recently the move 6...♖g4 has become very popular among top GMs, because in general they consider bishops to be somewhat stronger than (shorter-range) knights, and so the idea is that it is worth spending a tempo on moving the f6-knight forward to try to capture the e3-bishop. My sole personal experience in this line was in Motwani-Timmermans, Sas van Gent Euwe mem 1996, which continued 7 ♖g5 h6 8 ♖h4 g5 9 ♖g3 ♖g7 10 ♖e2 h5 11 ♖xg4 ♖xg4 12 f3 ♖d7 13 ♖f2 ♖c6 14 ♖d5 (White spotted the sensitivity of the b6-square in Black's camp, and is now threatening to win material with 15 ♖xc6 bxc6 16 ♖b6 ♗b8 17 ♖c7+) 14...♗b8 15 ♗d2 ♖e5 (D).

There now followed 16 ♖e3 ♗c7 17 b3, leading to a tense battle which



White actually won after another 17 moves.

Reader's Challenge no. 6

(solution given on page 153)

Why did White not capture the g5-pawn at move 16?

7 ♖e2

More recently Shirov has played 7 g4, and in response to the central reaction 7...d5, he uncorked the powerful novelty 8 g5! in Shirov-Ki.Georgiev, Belgrade 1997. The point is that after 8...Qxe4 9 Qxe4 dxe4 10 ♖g4!, 10...e5 11 ♖xe4 leaves the black e-pawn pinned, and 10...♗d5 11 ♖g2 also favoured White in the game itself.

7 ... ♜c7

The move ...♜c7 is seen very frequently in the Sicilian Defence because Black would like to utilize the half-open c-file.

8 g4

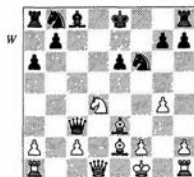
I do not like the advance g4 nearly as much here as in the aforementioned Shirov-Georgiev game, because now

Black is ready to react much more effectively than before.

8 ... d5!

Here Ivanchuk puts into practice the idea that an opponent's action on a wing is often countered effectively by a reaction in the centre, and in this particular case the move ...d5 also liberates the f8-bishop, which is eager to land on b4.

9 exd5	♞b4
10 dxe6	♞xc3+
11 bxc3	♜xc3+
12 ♔f1	fxe6 (D)



13 ♖b3?!

A more constructive move for White is 13 ♖g2, intending to connect his rooks and offer an exchange of queens with 14 ♖d3.

13 ... ♞d5

14 ♖d4?!

14 ♖d2 is preferable, because on d2 White's queen would not be attacked later by the move ...♞c6, whereas in the actual game Black gains valuable time when he develops the b8-knight.

14 ... ♖c7!

Of course the c-pawn is 'poisoned' on account of 14...♖xc2?? 15 ♜c1, but instead Ivanchuk happily retreats his queen, knowing that he will soon win back a tempo simply by playing ...♕c6.

15 ♙d3 ♕c6

16 ♖e4 ♕e5?!

This very plausible-looking move is actually an error because it allows White to keep his dark-squared bishop, and to utilize that piece in a highly effective way. Instead, 16...♕xc3+ 17 ♖xc3 0-0 is good for Black, as can be seen from 18 ♖e4 g6 (threatening 19...♜f4) or 18 ♔g2 ♕e5, planning ...b6 and ...♙b7+.

17 ♙c5!

Black cannot now legally castle kingside.

17 ... ♙d7

17...♙f6 18 ♖f4 is uncomfortable for Black's e5-knight, and 17...b6 18 ♜e1! poses problems for the same piece because after 18...♕xd3 19 cxd3 White threatens 20 ♖xd5.

18 ♜e1 ♕xd3

19 cxd3 ♕f4

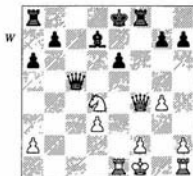
19...0-0-0? 20 ♜c1! puts Black's royal couple in big trouble on the open c-file, and there is no time to run with 20...♙b8 because 21 ♙a7+ wins for White.

20 ♕d4!

The white knight counters the enemy bishop's threat to land on c6 or b5.

20 ... ♖xc5

21 ♖xf4 ♜f8 (D)



22 ♖e4?

White's king will not be safe while several 'heavy' pieces remain on the board, and so a logical path involving exchanges of material is 22 ♕xe6! ♙xe6 23 ♜xe6+ ♔d7 24 ♖e3 ♜ac8 25 ♖xc5 ♜xc5 26 ♜e2 (protecting the isolated a-pawn and the exposed f2-pawn) 26...♜f4 27 h3 ♜c1+ 28 ♔g2 ♜xh1 29 ♔xh1 ♜f3 30 ♜d2!? ♜xh3+ 31 ♔g2, which should result in a draw because White has managed to activate his king.

Reader's Challenge no. 7

(solution given on page 153)

In the variation we have just seen, would 27 ♜g1 have been OK for White?

22 ... 0-0-0

Black now threatens to win with 23...♙b5!, because after 24 ♖xe6+ ♙b8 the knight on d4 is pinned against the mate on f2.

23 ♖e2

With some lateral thinking, the rook defends f2 and also threatens 24 ♖c2.

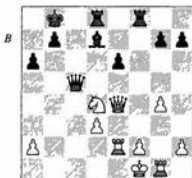
23 ... ♔b8

24 ♖g1 (D)

24 ♖e5+ ♖xe5 25 ♖xe5 ♔c8! leads to:

a) 26 ♖e4 e5!, and Black is cruising to victory.

b) 26 ♔xe6 ♖fe8! 27 ♔xd8 ♖xe5 (planning 28... ♖e7 followed by ... ♔c7, and the black king will have a tasty 'knight-time') 28 ♔f7 ♖d5, when the numerous threats include 29... ♔e6 30 ♔h8 ♖d8 to ensnare the unhappy white knight.



24 ... ♖c7

Black's queen immediately redirects her long-range vision towards the fresh weakness at h2, although 24... ♖d6 would have accomplished the same thing while also keeping an eye on the d4-knight and thereby threatening to win instantly with 25... ♖f4. It is important, too, that 25 ♖b2 could simply be answered by the bold advance

25...b5!, but not 25... ♔c8? because of 26 ♔c6+.

25 ♔xe6

25 ♖e5 produces lines that are almost identical to those given in the note to White's 24th, and once again only Black would be smiling.

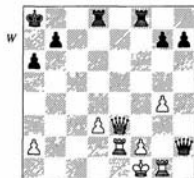
25 ... ♔xe6

26 ♖xe6 ♖xh2

27 ♖e3

27 ♖e5+ ♖xe5 28 ♖xe5 leaves the d3-pawn *en prise*.

27 ... ♔a8! (D)



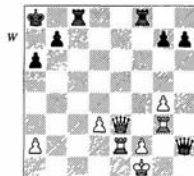
A wise player does not move his king into a corner without good reason, because apart from one precious tempo being spent, the king may well be required later near the middle of the board to play a central role in the struggle, especially if the battle should 'go the distance' into an endgame. However, in the current game an overriding feature of the position is the general looseness and lack of safety in White's camp. Therefore, Ivanchuk simply stopped Shirov's exchanging

queens by 28 ♖g3+, which would have alleviated his problems considerably.

28 ♖g3

If 28 ♖g3 ♖h6 29 g5 ♖c6 (threatening 30...♚f3) 30 ♚e3, then 30...♖c2 wins at least one pawn for Black.

28 ... ♚e8! (D)



Black knows that tactical possibilities can easily arise based on the sensitivity of the first rank (where White's king is located), and 29 ♚h3? ♚c1+! is one illustration (with the further points being 30 ♖xc1 ♖xh3+ and 30 ♚e1 ♚xf2+! 31 ♖xf2 ♖xh3+).

Reader's Challenge no. 8

(solution given on page 153)

Is 29...♚c1+ actually a threat now?

29 ♚g2 ♖h1+

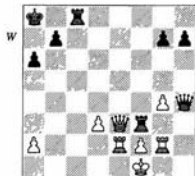
30 ♚g1 ♖h4

31 ♚g2?

This fatal error was played in time-trouble, but the pressure on White's

position was becoming unbearable anyway.

31 ... ♚f3! (D)



At lightning speed, Ivanchuk's razor-sharp mind spotted the neat point that 32 ♖xf3 loses immediately after 32...♖h1+ 33 ♚g1 ♖xf3.

32 ♖d2

32 ♖e6 allows Black to win elegantly with the continuation 32...♚c1+ 33 ♚e1 ♚xf2+! 34 ♚xf2 ♖h1+ 35 ♖e2 ♚xe1+.

32 ... ♖h1+

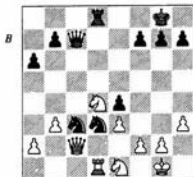
33 ♚g1 ♖h3+

0-1

White resigned in a hopeless position, faced with the loss of at least his d-pawn, but in Chapter 4 we will see Alexei Shirov in dazzling form. Right now, though, it's time for another special treat in which we get to experience some further interesting and instructive situations from games of Vasily Ivanchuk.

Test 1

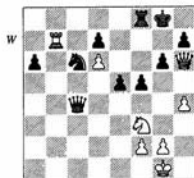
1.1



P. Nikolić – Ivanchuk
Moscow rpd 1995

Black to play and win.

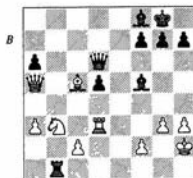
1.3



Ivanchuk – Shirov
Monte Carlo Amber rpd 1996

White to play and win.

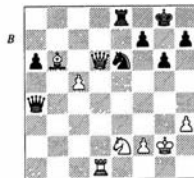
1.2



Kotsur – Ivanchuk
Lucerne Wcht 1997

Should Black now move his queen?

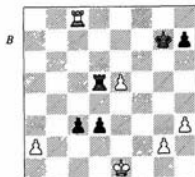
1.4



Hübner – Ivanchuk
Dortmund 1997

Black is to play. Does he have compensation for being a piece down?

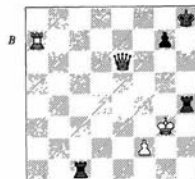
1.5



Timman – Ivanchuk
Wijk aan Zee 1996

After a tough fight, it is now Black to play and win.

Brainteaser no. 1



Ivanchuk – Tiviakov
Linares 1995

Black resigned in this position. Would he have any better option if we altered the position by giving White an extra pawn on f3 and also removing the g7-pawn from the board?

Solutions to this test start on page 153, but now an exciting new chapter is running towards us like a tiger from Madras...

2 Viswanathan Anand

'I definitely want to make some big pushes'

Viswanathan Anand (interview in New In Chess magazine, no. 3, 1998)

Date of Birth	Thursday 11 December 1969
Place of Birth	Madras, India
Grandmaster Title	1988
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2795
World Ranking	2

I happen to know that, in Sanskrit, 'Anand' means 'happiness', because my father, Nand Motwani, has almost the same first name. Viswanathan is actually the family name of our second hero in this book, but he is affectionately known as 'Vishy', which is almost as quick as the player himself! The feared yet popular 'Tiger from Madras' is said to have slowed down slightly since the teenage days, when he sprinted through most games, and *en route* picked up numerous prestigious titles such as World Junior Champion in 1987. Nevertheless, any changes through maturing certainly did not hold him back in recent super-strong events at Belgrade, Groningen, Wijk aan Zee, Linares, Villarrobledo, and Tilburg, where Anand very impressively finished first or first equal each time. The saying 'Thursday's child has far to go' has never been more apt!

One can safely state that this 29-year-old whirlwind has already made many 'big pushes', and his current ranking shows that in a chess sense he is tantalizingly close to the summit of Mount Everest. However, nowadays Anand lives in Spain, and so it is quite appropriate that we are about to see him skilfully employing the Spanish Opening against GM Nigel Short.

Game 3
V. Anand – N. Short
Dortmund 1997
 Ruy Lopez (Spanish)

1 e4 e5

2 ♠f3 ♘c6

3 ♗b5

Anand chooses the Ruy Lopez, which is named after a Spanish priest who analysed it in 1561.

3 ... a6

This is the most common response to the Spanish because it is well-known that 4 ♟xc6 dxc6 5 ♞xe5 ?! can be answered strongly by 5... ♞g5 or 5... ♞d4 !, but for those players who are seeking an alternative system with Black, I can recommend 3... ♞f6 , as in Game 3 of *S.T.A.R. Chess*.

4 ♟a4 ♞f6

4...b5 5 ♟b3 ♞a5 6 0-0 d6 7 d4 ♞xb3 8 axb3 f6 9 ♞c3 (threatening 10 ♞xb5) 9... ♟b7 10 ♞h4 ! (planning 11 ♞h5+ g6 12 ♞xg6) 10... ♞e7 11 dxe5 ! dxe5 (11...fxe5 12 f4 is extremely dangerous for Black) 12 ♞f3 followed by 13 ♞d1 was good for White in Anand-Agdestein, Baguio City jr Wch 1987.

5 0-0 ♞e7

When playing Black, Anand often employs the Open Variation, 5... ♞xe4 , which is best answered by 6 d4 or 6 ♞e1 .

6 ♞e1 d6

6...b5 is the main move, but in blitz games I have often seen even experienced players castling automatically, and forgetting that 6...0-0?? loses a pawn to 7 ♟xc6 dxc6 8 ♞xe5 .

7 c3

White prepares the advance d2-d4, because 7 d4 b5! 8 ♟b3 (8 dxe5 is possible, but innocuous) 8... ♞xd4 (8... ♟g4 is good too) 9 ♞xd4 exd4 10 ♞xd4 ?? loses to 10...c5 followed by ...c4. However, 7 ♟xc6+ bxc6 8 d4 exd4 9 ♞xd4 ♟d7 10 ♞f3 !, with ideas of playing e5 followed by ♞xc6 , is a logical alternative path to the one taken in the actual game.

7 ... ♟g4

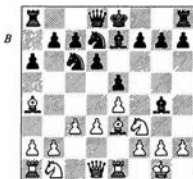
8 d3

Anand now decides to delay pushing his d-pawn to d4, because the f3-knight (which would normally assist a central advance) has been pinned by Black's last move.

8 ... ♞d7

In some lines Black may be able to achieve the manoeuvre ... ♞c5-e6 to fight even harder for control of the d4-square, and ...f5 could become a possibility too.

9 ♟e3! (D)



Now 9... ♞c5 ? 10 ♟xc5 dxc5 11 ♟xc6+ bxc6 12 h3 (12 ♞a4 !?) is terrible for Black, because 12... ♟xf3 13 ♞xf3 leaves him with a seriously crippled structure on the queenside, and 12... ♟h5 simply loses a pawn to 13 g4 ♟g6 14 ♞xe5 .

9 ... ♟xf3

Quite understandably, Black may not like the look of 9...0-0 10 ♞bd2 , because then it is no longer possible to exchange material with 10... ♟g5

(which occurs in the actual game), and so the black pieces would remain rather congested. However, it is also true that giving up a bishop for a (shorter-range) knight constitutes at least a small concession, which again leaves White with an undeniable, enduring edge at the end of the opening phase in this battle.

10 ♖xf3 ♗g5
11 ♘d2 0-0
12 ♗c2

Reader's Challenge no. 9

(solution given on page 154)

White rejected the move 12 d4, but why?

12 ... h6
13 ♖f1!

White shifts a rook back to f1 because he knows that, to be consistent with the move 10...♗g5, Black must soon exchange bishops on e3, and after the reply fxe3 the f1-rook will be ideally placed on an open file.

13 ... ♖b6?!

The black knight on b6 performs no really positive function there, and instead it looks more purposeful to play 13...g6 with the idea of ...f5 soon afterwards.

14 ♖ad1

White is ready to advance d3-d4 now that the d2-knight has been protected again (and that point is emphasized by the solution to the last *Reader's Challenge*).

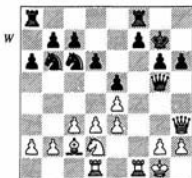
14 ... ♗xe3
15 fxe3!

The logical follow-up to White's 13th move.

15 ... g6
16 ♖g3 ♗g5
17 ♖h3

Anand does not mind moving his queen again, because he knows that its black counterpart, which has been drawn forward to g5, will be troubled by the possibility of White playing ♖f3-g3.

17 ... ♔g7 (D)



18 ♖f3 ♗g8
19 ♖df1 ♖af8
20 ♗b3!

The 'Spanish bishop' re-emerges to turn up the heat against the most sensitive point in Black's camp.

20 ... ♘d8

For the moment Black is just managing to withstand the pressure, but his passive position is practically devoid of any active prospects.

21 ♘c4

The logical idea behind this move is that after eliminating the b6-knight

White will be threatening to penetrate Black's camp at d7 with the lady in waiting on h3, and that explains Nigel Short's retreat at move 22.

21 ... ♖xc4
22 ♖xc4 ♜e7
23 ♖f6!

This powerful move is like rolling a huge boulder in front of the f7-pawn to lock in all of Black's pieces.

23 ... ♜e8

If 23... ♜xf6 24 ♖xf6 ♜xf6, then 25 ♜d7! will cost Black dearly on the queenside, but on the opposite flank White must of course avoid 25 ♜xh6?? ♜h8.

24 ♜h4

Anand gives more support to his f6-rook because Black was threatening 24... ♜xf6, intending 25 ♖xf6 ♜xf6 26 ♜d7 ♜e7. It is also worth noting that 24 ♖xf7+ ♜xf7 25 ♖xf7+ ♜xf7 26 ♖xf7 ♜xf7 27 ♜xh6 is possible for White, but Black's position is solid, and so the white queen, even with two extra pawns, would have a hard time trying to conquer Black's two rooks.

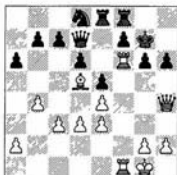
24 ... ♜gf8
25 b4

White already has a vast superiority on the kingside, and now he seizes more space on the other wing too.

25 ... ♜d7
26 ♖d5! (D)

Here White just probes his opponent's uncomfortable cramped position and, in effect, says to Black 'What can you do now?'. The point is that

B



26...c6 (played in the actual game) weakens the d6-pawn, and 26...♜e7? falls into a deadly trap.

Reader's Challenge no. 10

(solution given on page 154)

What is the 'deadly trap' that 26...♜e7? walks into?

26 ... c6
27 ♖b3 ♜e6
28 ♜g3

White's queen eyeing the e5-pawn has stopped 28...d5, while also worrying Black's strained f7-g6 chain.

28 ... ♜d8
29 ♜f3 ♜g5
30 ♜g4! d5

If 30... ♜xf6 31 ♖xf6 ♜xf6, then the invasion 32 ♜d7 is horrible for Black.

Reader's Challenge no. 11

(solution given on pages 154-5)

In response to 30...♜e7, how can White win material by force?

31 exd5 cxd5

32 h4

'h for hunting!' is a memorable attacking motto of Belgium's Gorik Cools.

32 ... ♖h7

33 ♖f5 f6

34 h5 ♙g5

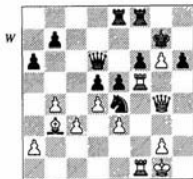
After 34...g5 35 ♖f3 e4 36 ♖g3, the d5-pawn is doomed.

35 hxc6 ♖d6

36 d4

This same move would have been even more unpleasant for Black after 35...♖xc6, as in that case White's threats include 37 ♖c2 to get at the exposed enemy king.

36 ... ♙e4 (D)



37 dxe5 ♖xe5

37...fxe5 loses very quickly to 38 ♖f7+.

38 ♖xe5 ♖xe5

38...fxe5 39 ♖f7+! ♖xf7 40 gxf7+ ♙g5 (40...♖xf7 41 ♖xe4) 41 ♖c8 ♖xf7 42 ♖xb7+ is hopeless for Black.

39 ♖f5 ♖xc3

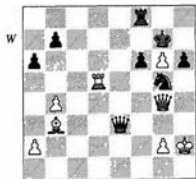
40 ♖xd5 ♖xe3+?

40...♖e1+ 41 ♖h2 ♖h1+ 42 ♖xh1 ♙f2+ 43 ♖g1 ♙xg4 44 ♖d7+ ♖xc6 45 ♖xb7 ♖c8 offered Black better chances of fighting on, and this line illustrates that even when one has been 'against the wall' for a long time, constant alertness and tenacity can still bring possibilities of survival.

41 ♖h2

Now Black has no useful checks left, and his own king is in deadly peril.

41 ... ♙g5 (D)



42 ♖d7+!

42 ♖f5 threatens 43 ♖d7+, but Black can defend with 42...♖e8, and so Anand instead forces his opponent's king to come forward immediately ... and then White's pieces are ready to finish the game with a merciless attack.

42 ... ♖xc6

43 ♖c2+ ♖h5

After 43...f5, 44 ♖d6+ ♖h5 (44...♖f6 45 ♖xf5+) 45 ♖d1+ ♖h4 46 ♖xh6# is a clear path to victory for White.

44 ♖f5

This move stops 44...♖f4+, while also tightening the noose around Black's king and threatening 45 ♖d1+ ♗h4 46 ♖g4#.

44 ... ♗h4

45 ♖d3

White shatters Black's only hope, which was 45...♖g3+.

Reader's Challenge no. 12

(solution given on page 155)

Imagine that the c2-bishop were instead on d3 prior to the last move (and so 45 ♖d3 would not be possible). How could White still force a quick win?

45 ... ♖e5+

46 g3+ ♗h5

47 ♖d1+ ♖e2+

Nigel Short sportingly allows Vishy Anand to say a chess-player's favourite word...

48 ♖xe2# (1-0)

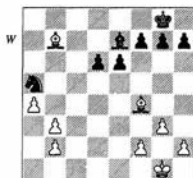
'Checkmate!'.

We will shortly be seeing the star of Chapter 2 in action again, this time at the 1997 Linares super-tournament, where Anand's first win of the competition came as Black against the Ruy Lopez in round 8. You'll be pleased to hear that we're visiting sunny Spain, and sitting opposite us there will be the greatest female chess-player of all time. One game against GM Judit Polgar is already tough, but I'm going to double the pressure now by also plunging you into the situation which

Vishy had with White about to play his 27th move in the blindfold clash Anand-J. Polgar, Monaco 1995.

Think before you move!

(solution given on page 155)



Anand - J. Polgar

Monaco Amber blindfold 1995

White has a choice of 24 legal moves, but can you find the strongest one, just as Vishy did?

Game 4

J. Polgar - V. Anand

Linares 1997

Ruy Lopez (Spanish),
Møller Defence

1 e4	e5
2 ♖f3	♗c6
3 ♖b5	a6
4 ♖a4	♗f6
5 0-0	

This situation, which has occurred in literally millions of games, is as

well-known as the Taj Mahal, but Black's next move disturbs the reflection of Game 3.

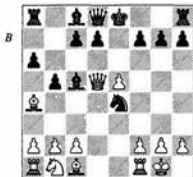
5 ... ♖c5

I have personal experience of this active move, and of the related line 5...b5 6 ♖b3 ♖c5. However, I feel that the latter option can be strongly answered by 7 a4!, and so nowadays I prefer Anand's chosen move-order.

6 c3

Reader's Challenge no. 13
(solution given on page 155)

After 6 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 7 d4 b5!, I have been very successful as Black in the line 8 ♖b3 ♖xd4 9 ♖xd4 d6 (threatening ...c5-c4), while with 8 dxe5 ♖xe5 9 e5 ♖d5 10 ♖xh7+! (once seen, the Greek gift is practically never forgotten) 10...♖xh7 11 ♖g5+ (now Black gets hit by a Trojan horse) and then:



a) Can you spot the trap?

b) Incidentally, can you find a similar trick for Black after the moves 1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♖e4 (the Fajarowicz Variation of the Budapest Gambit) 4 a3 (to prevent 4...♖b4+)

4...b6!? 5 ♖d5?, where White's queen has unwisely come forward too early again?

6 ... b5

7 ♖b3

Almost 25 years ago in Dundee (Scotland; not South Africa or the USA!), a great teacher named Paul Fitzpatrick introduced me to the 'Greek gift' sacrifice by using as an example the moves 7 ♖c2 0-0? (7...d6 is a very important move, so that after 8 d4 ♖b6 Black can maintain a pawn on e5 to give himself a strong foothold in the centre) 8 d4 exd4 (8...♖d6 9 dxe5 ♖xe5? 10 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 11 f4 is also disastrous for Black) 9 e5 ♖d5 10 ♖xh7+! (once seen, the Greek gift is practically never forgotten) 10...♖xh7 11 ♖g5+ (now Black gets hit by a Trojan horse) and then:

a) 11...♖g8 12 ♖h5 ♖e8 (12...♖xg5 would prolong the game a bit, but without changing the final result) 13 ♖xf7+ ♖h8 14 ♖h5+ ♖g8 15 ♖h7+ ♖f8 16 ♖h8+ ♖e7 17 ♖xg7#.

b) 11...♖g6 12 ♖d3+ f5 13 exf6+ ♖xf6 14 ♖f3+ ♖g6 (14...♖e5 loses quickly to 15 ♖e1+ ♖d6 16 ♖e4+) 15 ♖e4+ ♖f5 16 g4 wins for White.

7 ... d6

7...♖xe4? 8 ♖e2 d5 (8...♖xf2?? 9 d4) 9 d3 ♖f6 10 d4! is extremely unpleasant for Black.

8 a4

8 d4 ♖b6 9 dxe5 (this move is harmless to Black, but one should understand why) 9...♖xe5 (threatening the

pin 10...♗g4) 10 ♖xe5 dxe5 11 ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 is very comfortable for Black, whose king is ideally placed near the centre to play an active role in the middlegame without danger from queens. Furthermore, if 12 ♗xf7, then 12...♜f8 13 ♗d5 ♖xd5 14 exd5 ♗b7 shows Black's f8-rook and bishop-pair pointing menacingly in the general direction of White's king.

8 ... ♜b8

Although IM Jonathan Rowson recently branded the alternative 8...♗g4 with a '?!', I find it to be a very natural developing move, and its other practitioners include super-GMs Anatoly Karpov, Michael Adams, and Anand himself in the later game A.Kovačević–Anand, Belgrade 1997.

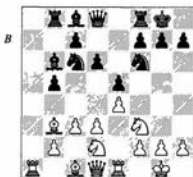
9 d3

9 d4 may seem more obvious, but after 9...♗b6 Black threatens to put a lot of indirect pressure on White's d4-pawn with the pinning move 10...♗g4. Therefore the prophylactic 10 h3 is often played, followed, for example, by 10...♗b7 (10...♖xe4?? 11 ♗d5) 11 ♜e1 0-0 12 axb5 axb5 13 ♖a3 exd4 14 cxd4 ♖a5 15 ♗c2 b4 16 ♖b1 c5 17 ♗g5 h6 18 ♗h4 cxd4!, as in Anand–Shirov, Wijk aan Zee 1998. Then White chose 19 ♖bd2 instead of 19 ♖xd4, which would have allowed 19...b3! 20 ♖xb3 ♖xb3 21 ♗xb3 g5 22 ♗g3 ♖xe4, with an excellent dynamic position for Black.

9 ...	0-0
10 axb5	axb5
11 ♜e1	♗b6

Here, the black bishop simply avoids the possibility of getting hit by any sudden advance d3-d4.

12 ♖bd2 (D)



12 ... ♗g4!

This direct attacking move is really rather effective, and it is well worth noting a very similar idea for Black in the Giuoco Piano (or Italian Game) at the end of the line 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♗c4 ♖f6 4 d3 ♗c5 5 c3 a6 6 0-0 (6 d4? exd4 7 cxd4 ♗b4+ occurred in a blitz game Stanton–Motwani, Dundee 1990, and the abrupt finish was 8 ♗d2 ♗xd2+ {8...♖xe4 9 ♗xb4 ♖xb4 10 ♗xf7+! ♜xf7 11 ♜b3+ is fine for White}) 9 ♖bxd2 d5 10 exd5 ♖xd5 11 ♜b3 ♗e6! 12 ♜xb7?? ♖a5 0-1) 6...♗a7 7 ♗b3 d6 8 ♖bd2 0-0 9 ♜e1! ♖g4!, because 10 ♜e2 is answered by 10...♜h8, planning 11...f5.

13 ♜e2 ♜h8

14 h3 ♖h6

In this special case, the knight retreats to an edge of the board so as to leave the f7-pawn free to leap forward.

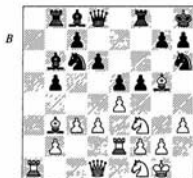
15 ♖f1

15 g4 ♖xg4! 16 hxg4 ♙xg4 gives Black two pawns and a powerful initiative in return for the sacrificed knight.

15 ... f5

16 ♙g5 (D)

16 ♙xh6 gxh6 17 d4 ♖f6! also leaves White struggling to contain the energy emanating from Black's active army.



16 ... ♖e8

17 ♙xh6 gxh6

18 ♖g3

After 18 d4 f4 White can no longer play ♖g3, and so Black's queen will soon land on h5, thereby creating threats such as ...♙xh3.

18 ... ♖e7!?

If 18...f4 19 ♖f5 ♙xf5 20 exf5 ♙xf5, then 21 ♖c2! threatens the push d3-d4 without allowing the reply ...e4. White would then have reasonable compensation for her deficit of one pawn.

19 d4 f4

20 ♖f5

20 ♖f1? would be much too passive.

20 ... ♙xf5

21 exf5 e4

22 ♖d2

Reader's Challenge no. 14

(solution given on page 155)

After 22 ♙d5 ♙xf5 23 ♙xe4? ♙xe4 24 ♖d2 d5 25 f3, can you find a very strong continuation involving 'f for forward!' for Black?

22 ... ♙xf5

23 ♖xe4?!

23 ♙d5! is better, with the following lines in mind:

a) 23...f3 24 ♖xf3! c6 25 ♙xe4! ♙xe4 26 ♖d2 d5 27 f3, which looks similar to the last *Reader's Challenge*, but a crucial difference is that Black no longer has his important f-pawn.

b) 23...e3 24 fxe3 fxe3 25 ♖f1, and White's position is not nearly as difficult as in the actual game.

23 ... ♙g6

23...f3 24 gxf3 ♙xh3 might at first sight seem terrible for White, but after 25 ♖g3 the situation is far from clear. Indeed, the black king on h8 cannot ignore the possibility of the opponent soon playing ♖d3 followed by ♙c2 and/or ♙ae1, and then ♙e7.

Another path of temptation for Black is 23...♙xe4 24 f3 (24 ♙d5?? ♙xd5 25 ♙xe8 ♙bxe8 shows White winning the black queen, but ♙+2♙ is much too high a price) 24...d5 25 fxe4 dxe4 (25...f3? 26 gxf3 ♙xf3 27 ♙xd5 ♙xh3

28 ♖g2 is suddenly very serious for Black), but 26 ♖d5 may be just OK for White.

24 f3 ♖xh3
25 ♖d2 ♖be8

If White's queen had stayed on d1, then Black would now be threatening to win by 26...♖xe4! 27 fxe4 (27 ♖xe4 ♖xg2# or 27 ♖c2 ♖xe2 28 ♖xg6 ♖xg2+) 27...f3 28 ♖f2 ♖xg2, with a decisive attack against the king.

26 ♖ae1 ♖e7

Black is preparing to play ...♖g7, and that now prompts White to move her king off the g-file.

27 ♖f1 ♖g7
28 ♖f2

Imagine the horror if White had somehow touched the g-pawn, only to discover that its sole legal move is 28 gxf3, allowing 28...♖g1#.

28 ... ♖d7
29 ♖c2 ♖h5 (D)



30 ♖e2? (D)

30 b4! would have stopped the powerful push which Anand plays next,

but it is also important to realize that 30...d5 (30...♖h1+ 31 ♖e2 ♖xg2?? 32 ♖xg2 ♖xg2+ 33 ♖f2) 31 ♖c5 ♖xc5 32 dxc5 ♖h1+ 33 ♖e2 ♖xg2 34 ♖d4! followed by ♖d2 is OK for White, as it is not easy for Black to utilize the surplus doubled h-pawns effectively.

30 ... b4!

White's king has just begun to shelter nearer the queenside, so Black immediately opens up extra lines there.

31 ♖d1

31 cxb4 ♖b5+ is hopeless for White after 32 ♖d3 ♖d5 or 32 ♖d1 ♖a8.

31 ... bxc3
32 bxc3 ♖e8
33 ♖ff1 ♖a5
34 ♖h1 h5

The h-pawn strides forward confidently, enjoying the extra support which Black's 32nd move intended for it.

35 ♖f6?

White's position was unenviable, but this move accelerates events and lets Black win very quickly.

35 ... ♖a1+
36 ♖c1

36 ♖e2 walks into 36...♖xg2+.

36 ... ♖xc3!

37 ♖xe8

37 ♖xe8 ♖xe8 38 ♖xe8 ♖xg2 39 ♖f1 ♖xd4+ 40 ♖e1 ♖a5+ is another way for White to exit.

37 ... ♖xg2

The pieces huddled around White's king cannot save him from the deadly checks which Black threatens at d4 or f3, so it's time to throw in the towel.

0-1

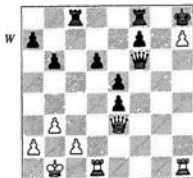
Reader's Challenge no. 15

(solution given on page 155)

Imagine that the h5-pawn was not on the board at the end of the game. In that case, how could *White* force checkmate in seven moves (starting at move 38)?

Soon we will be in a whole new chapter with another chess genius, who is affectionately known as 'Tricky Mickey', but first let's enjoy the following six tricky treats from further instructive games involving Visy Anand, the friendliest yet deadliest 'Tiger from Madras'.

2.2

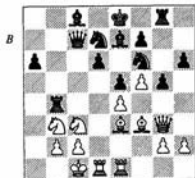


Anand - Khalifman
Moscow rpd 1995

Sticking with the same tournament, White can win quickly now.

Test 2

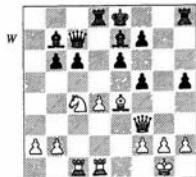
2.1



Morozevich - Anand
Moscow rpd 1995

Black to play and win.

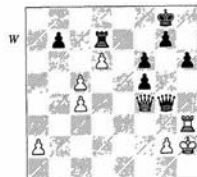
2.3



Anand - Vaganian
Riga Tal mem 1995

White to play and win.

2.4



Anand – Adams
Linares PCA Ct (5) 1994

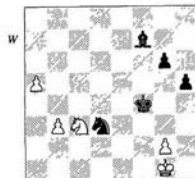
White is about to play his 52nd move. He found a deadly idea that caused Black to resign at move 53.

Brainteaser no. 2



One player has just advanced his most precious piece, and he thinks 'If only it could be my turn to move, then I would win almost instantly, but unfortunately my opponent now has a forced win'.

2.5



Anand – Spassky
Cannes (Youth vs Veterans) 1989

White to play and win.

There are three questions for you to answer:

- Whose turn is it to move, White or Black?
- How can that player win by force?
- How would the other player have won if it had been his turn to move?

Solutions to this test start on page 155, but now a new chapter is radiating energy from just around the corner...

3 Michael Adams

'Put the ball in the back of the net'

'Mickey' Adams (on numerous occasions!)

Date of Birth	Wednesday 17 November 1971
Place of Birth	Truro, England
Grandmaster Title	1989
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2715
World Ranking	8

Miracles appear to happen on the chessboard when the pieces are being guided by the exceptionally gifted hands of Michael Adams, who was born on the official feast day of Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. It's also quite appropriate that November 17 marks the birthday of film celebrities such as Danny de Vito, Rock Hudson, and Martin Scorsese, since Mickey loves movies almost as much as chess. Really good moves seem to get reeled off effortlessly by England's super-talented top-ranked grandmaster, but behind the outwardly relaxed scenes, some work has certainly played an important part in bringing modest Mickey numerous great rewards such as equal first place at Dortmund 1998, undefeated on a score of 6/9 in a ten-player field with a highly impressive average FIDE rating of 2699.

After recently becoming his country's first-ever player to smash through the 2700-rating barrier, the 27-year-old man from Truro is calmly progressing even further while his moves storm opponents along the way. An earlier example of a 'demolition job' is provided by the following 1996 game in New York, where GM Grigory Serper gets pounded by a power-packed Adams ball heading straight for the back of the net. In the Sicilian Richter-Rauzer, Black has rarely been hit by an earthquake registering so strongly on the Richter scale!

Such potent play enabled Mickey to win the 12-player all-play-all event on 8½/11 (1½ points clear of the runner-up!) with a fabulous 2780 tournament rating performance (TPR). He must have been up on 'cloud nine', and Mickey's many fans might like to note that the nine letters in *see our TPR* can be rearranged to make *Serper out!*

Game 5
M. Adams – G. Serper
New York 1996
 Sicilian Defence,
 Richter-Rauzer Attack

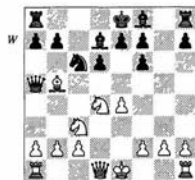
1	e4	c5
2	Qf3	d6
3	d4	cx d4
4	Qxd4	Qf6
5	Qc3	Qc6
6	g5	

The Richter-Rauzer Attack is so direct that it heads the list of White's aggressive options at move six, but perhaps 6 gxc4 can claim a share of the top spot too.

6	...	e6
---	-----	----

Reader's Challenge no. 16
 (solution given on page 156)

Consider the position after 6...Qa5 7 g5 8 Qxc6 bxc6 9 Qf3, planning the push e4-e5 soon. (8 Qb3 is a natural alternative) 8...gxf6 (D).



Can you discover an interesting move involving the white queen so

that 9...Qxd4 and 9...Qb4 would both lose for Black?

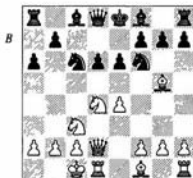
7 Qd2

An interesting sideline is 7 g5! 8 Qxc6 bxc6 9 Qf3, planning the push e4-e5 soon.

7 ... a6

Before challenging the g5-bishop with ...h6, Black prevents most ideas involving Qdb5, because 7...h6 8 Qxf6! Qxf6? 9 Qdb5 Qd8 10 0-0-0 spells disaster for the d6-pawn. The key move 8 gxf6! is vastly superior to 8 g4?, which gets punished by the little tactic 8...Qxe4!.

8 0-0-0 (D)



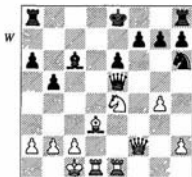
An immediate threat now is 9 Qxc6 bxc6 10 e5, exploiting a pin on the black d-pawn.

8 ... h6

8...Qd7 9 f3 Qxd4 10 Qxd4 b5 was played in J.Nunn-Kopec, British League (4NCL) 1998/9, and Grandmaster John Nunn won in crushing style, starting with a case of 'f for

forward!' as follows: 11 f4! (the threat of 12 e5 fully justifies White's second move with his f-pawn in this game) 11...♙e7 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 ♖d5 14 ♙xe7 ♜xe7 15 ♙d3 ♜c7 (15...0-0 loses a pawn to 16 ♙xh7+ ♜xh7 17 ♜xd7) 16 ♖e4 (White's knight is eager to reach the juicy outpost at d6) 16...♜f5 17 ♜f2! (17 ♖d6+ lets Black get out of trouble by exchanging queens by 17...♜xd6 18 ♜xd6 ♖xd6 19 exd6) 17...♜xe5 (Black decides to grab a 'hot' pawn instead of playing 17...0-0, because then White stays firmly in control of the game with 18 g4 ♖e7 19 ♖d6, which threatens 20 ♙xh7+! ♜xh7 21 ♜h4+ ♜g8 22 ♜xe7) 18 g4 ♖h6 (White wins quickly after 18...♖d6 19 ♖xd6+ ♜xd6 20 ♙xb5 {or 20 ♙e4} and 18...♖d4 19 ♜he1 0-0 20 ♙f1 nets a piece for White on the d-file; finally, 18...♖e7 19 ♜he1 0-0 20 h4, threatening ♖c5 or g5 and then ♖f6+ gives White a very strong attack) 19 ♜he1! ♙c6 (19...♖xg4 loses to 20 ♜f3, threatening 21 ♜xg4 or 21 ♖d6+ to uncover a deadly attack against Black's a8-rook, but in the actual game White still finds a really crisp finish) with this position (D).

20 ♙xb5! ♜c7 (Black could not capture White's bishop because of the killing reply 21 ♖d6+) 21 ♖d6+ 1-0. Black resigned instead of going in for 21...♜f8 22 ♜c5 (one of many winning moves) 22...axb5 23 ♖f5+ ♜g8 (23...♜e8 24 ♖xg7#) 24 ♖e7+ ♜f8 25 ♖d5+, when the black queen is out of luck.



9 ♙e3

After 9 ♙f4, 9...♖xd4? loses to 10 ♜xd4 in view of 10...e5 11 ♙xe5 dxe5 12 ♜xd8#, and the same theme runs through the lines 9...e5? 10 ♖xc6 bxc6 11 ♙xe5 and 9...♖e5? 10 ♖f3! ♜c7 11 ♖xe5 dxe5 12 ♙xe5, but Black should instead play 9...♙d7, because after 10 ♖xc6 ♙xc6 the double attack against e4 balances the threats towards d6.

9 ... ♙e7

The previous note was full of tactics that centred on Black's vulnerability at the d8-square, and two more examples now are 9...d5?! 10 exd5 ♖xd5 11 ♖xd5 ♜xd5 12 ♙c4! (because 12...♜xc4 13 ♖xc6 produces another threat of mate at d8) and 9...♖g4 10 ♖xc6 bxc6 11 ♙c5!, intending 11...♜g5 12 ♜xg5 hxg5 13 ♙e2!.

10 f4

Reader's Challenge no. 17
(solution given on page 156)

In the game Ivanchuk-Salov, Tilburg rpd 1994, White adopted the

major alternative 10 f3, which not only supports the e4-pawn and creates possibilities of pushing forward with g2-g4, but also allows the white queen to get nearer to the kingside by sliding over to f2, from where the sensitive b6-square in Black's queenside can be surveyed too. GM Valery Salov's reaction 10...d5?! was bold but probably premature on that occasion, and following 11 exd5 Qxd5 12 Qxd5 Wxd5 13 Qxc6 Wxc6 14 Qd3 Wa4 15 Qb1 0-0 16 Qh1 Qd8 17 Wf2, Black chose the very plausible-looking move 17...Qd7? (D).



You are invited to discover how White can now win material by force.

10 ... Qxd4

Black wants to play ...b5 without leaving a knight *en prise* on c6.

11 Qxd4 b5

12 We3 (D)

This multi-purpose move protects the e4-pawn (so White does not have to worry about 12...b4), while also

creating possibilities of harassing the black queen using the d1-rook or with Qb6.

It may seem tempting to go for 12 Qxf6?! Qxf6! 13 Wxd6, but after 13...Wxd6 14 Qxd6 Qb7 we have:

a) 15 Qd3? Qe7! 16 Qb6 (16 Qd4 Qc5) 16...0-0-0 threatening 17...Qc5 or 17...Qc7.

b) 15 e5 Qe7 16 Qd1 g5! also leaves White struggling, despite the fact that he (temporarily) possesses one extra pawn.



12 ... Qb7?!

Black should avoid 12...b4?! because it lets the white knight cause havoc with 13 Qa4 Wc7 14 Qb6 Qb8 15 Qc4! (threatening 16 e5), when after 15...Wc6 16 e5 dxe5 (16...Qd5 17 Wg3) 17 Qxe5 Qa8 18 Qd6+ Qf8 19 Wd4 Black's position was very uncomfortable in Svidler-Ma.Tseitlin, St Petersburg 1997. Also, 12...0-0?! 13 Qxf6! Qxf6? (however unappealing 13...gxf6 may look, it is still necessary) 14 e5 Qe7 15 exd6 Qxd6 16

♙e4 illustrates terrible problems for Black stemming from his queen being on d8, and helps to explain why 12...♙c7 is nowadays regarded as the main line here.

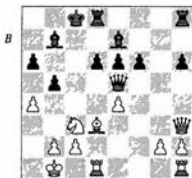
13 ♖xf6! gxf6

As in the previous note, 13...♖xf6? walks into 14 e5 again.

14 ♖d3 ♙a5

Reader's Challenge no. 18
(solution given on page 156)

14...♙c7 15 ♖b1 0-0-0 16 f5 ♙c5 17 ♙h3! ♙e5 (17...e5 gives Black a horrible hole at d5) 18 fxe6 fxe6 19 a4! (D) was great for White in Vydeslaver-Greenfeld, Beersheba 1996.



After 19...b4 or 19...♖c6, can you discover how White would win material by force?

15 ♖b1 b4
16 ♙e2 ♙c5
17 ♙d4!

White will only exchange queens under very favourable circumstances

such as in the line 17...e5?! 18 ♙f5 ♙xe3 19 ♙xe3 exf4 20 ♙d5 ♖xd5 21 exd5, where Black's (temporary) extra unit provides little comfort for his unhappy bishop and terrible pawn-structure.

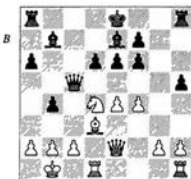
17 ... h5

With 17...0-0-0, Black's royal couple on the c-file would be asking for trouble, and it comes swiftly by 18 c3!, intending 18...bxc3 19 ♖c1 or 18...e5 19 ♙h3+ ♖b8 20 ♙f5.

17...♖c6 left White, in Adams-San Segundo, Madrid 1996, firmly in charge after 18 ♖he1 ♖d7 19 f5! e5 20 ♙b3 ♙xe3 21 ♖xe3 ♖g8 22 g3 a5 23 ♖c4 a4 24 ♙c1 ♖c6 25 ♖d5, occupying the outpost at d5 which the push 19 f5! fought to control by making Black's pawn at e6 move from there.

Alternatively, 17...♖d8 (planning ...♖b6) 18 ♙h3! also brings pressure to bear against the e6-pawn, and of course 18...♙xd4?? loses instantly to 19 ♖b5+ followed shortly by ♖xd4.

18 ♙e2! (D)



This classy move again utilizes the fact that the white knight is untouchable, and the attack towards a6 stops Black castling queenside.

18 ... a5
19 ♖b5+ ♜f8
20 ♙c4!

Having permanently prevented the enemy king from castling, White's bishop now focuses on a fresh point in Black's camp and creates the immediate threat of 21 ♙xe6!.

20 ... ♜b6

Opening up the centre with 20...d5? is absolutely dreadful for Black, as is shown, for example, by 21 exd5 ♙xd5 22 ♙xd5 ♜xd5 23 f5! exf5 (23...e5 loses to 24 ♙e6+) 24 ♚h1 ♙c5 25 ♜b5, when White's multitude of threats include 26 ♙b3, 26 ♙c6, 26 ♙f3 and 26 ♙e6+, all of which would win at least a bishop.

21 g4!

21 is often regarded as a special number, so Mickey picked the perfect moment to produce a novelty! This advance of the g-pawn aims to blast open new lines and let White's queen, in particular, get at the black king, whereas 21 f5 e5 22 ♙f3 a4, as in Adams-Greenfeld, Ljubljana 1995, is not as terrifying for Black.

21 ... ♙hxg4

Another perilous path for Black is 21...h4 22 g5! (threatening 23 g6 to dissolve the frail f7-e6 pawn-chain) and then, for example:

a) 22...fxg5 23 fxg5 ♙xg5 24 ♚hf1 ♙e7 25 ♜g4 ♙f6 26 ♚xf6 ♙xf6 27

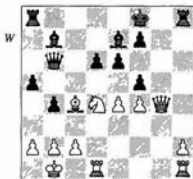
♚f1+ ♙e7 (27...♙e5 28 ♙f3+ ♙f6 29 ♜g5#) 28 ♚xf7+ ♙xf7 29 ♜xe6+ ♙g7 30 ♙f5+ ♙h7 31 ♜f7#.

b) An equally violent line is 22...f5 23 exf5 ♙xh1 24 ♙xe6+ fxe6 25 ♜xe6 ♙e8 (25...d5 leaves the queen on b6 *en prise*) 26 f6, with g6-g7 eager to follow too.

22 ♜xg4 f5 (D)

22...♙xe4 23 ♙xe6+ fxe6 24 ♜xe6 ♙g6 25 ♚hg1 wins for White.

22...♙g8 also leaves Black in dire straits after 23 ♜h3 (planning 24 ♚hg1 ♚xg1 25 ♚xg1 ♜xd4? 26 ♜h8# and intending to meet 23...♙xe4 with 24 ♙xe6+! fxe6 25 ♜xe6 ♙g7 26 ♜xe4), but note that 23 ♙xe6+ fxe6 24 ♜xe6 is unconvincing because of 24...♙g7, when 25 ♚hg1? loses to 25...♜xg1!.



23 ♙xe6+!

As happened in so many earlier variations, the e6-pawn once again suffers the full force of an 'earthquake' on the chessboard.

23 ... fxe6

24 ♖g6

Now 25 ♖xe6 is White's most deadly threat, but Black must also contend with the idea of 25 ♖hg1 and 26 ♖g7+.

24 ... ♖c7

24... ♖g8 25 ♖xe6 ♖g7 26 ♖h6 leaves Black helpless in the face of 27 ♖h8+.

25 ♖xe6

Another efficient course is 25 ♖xe6 ♖d8 26 ♖xf5+ ♖e8 27 ♖xd6!, threatening 28 ♖d7+ ♖e7 29 ♖f6# and intending to meet 27... ♖xd6 with 28 ♖f7#.

25 ... ♖e8

25...d5 26 ♖xf5+ ♖e8 27 ♖b5+ and now 27...♖d8 28 ♖xd5+! ♖xd5 29 ♖xd5+ and 27...♖c6 28 ♖g6+ ♖d7 29 ♖xd5+ are both hopeless for Black.

26 ♖hg1 ♖xe4

A quicker way for Black to exit is 26...♖c8 27 ♖f7+ ♖d8 28 ♖g8+ ♖xg8 29 ♖xg8+ ♖d7 30 ♖b5+.

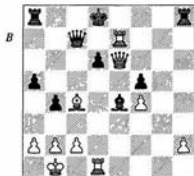
27 ♖g7 ♖d8

Reader's Challenge no. 19
(solution given on page 156)

After 27... ♖c8, one could of course play 28 ♖xe7+, but instead can you find a way for White to *force* checkmate not later than move 32?

28 ♖xe7! (D)

This is vastly superior to 28 ♖g8+ ♖xg8 29 ♖xg8+ ♖d7 30 ♖e6+ (or 30 ♖b5+ ♖c6 31 ♖xa8 ♖xb5) 30...♖c6 31 ♖xa8+ ♖b6 32 ♖c8 ♖xc2+.



28 ... ♖xe7

29 ♖xd6+ ♖xd6

Black is barely alive, and could allow mate in five: 29... ♖e8 30 ♖g6+ ♖f8 31 ♖f6+ ♖xf6 32 ♖xf6+ ♖e8 33 ♖b5+ ♖c6 34 ♖xc6#.

30 ♖xd6+ ♖e8

Another way to bow out is 30... ♖c8 31 ♖a6+ ♖b7 32 ♖c6+.

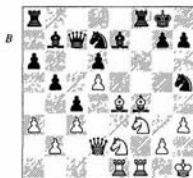
31 ♖e5+ 1-0

Black resigned because of 31... ♖d7 32 ♖b5+ ♖c6 33 ♖d5+, when the white queen's exploitation of a pin echoes the final move in the previous note.

Just before we dive into round five of the 1996 Dortmund super-GM tournament where Michael Adams beat Bulgaria's Veselin Topalov with Black, let us see how Mickey achieved the same feat against the same opponent two years earlier with the help of a neat combination starting at move 19. The bishop-pair in an open position is generally an asset, but, on this occasion, looseness causes White to lose.

The bishops' nightmare

(solution given on page 156)



Topalov – Adams
Cap d'Agde rpd 1994

Can you discover how Mickey won material by force?

Game 6**V. Topalov – M. Adams***Dortmund 1996**Wade Defence***1 ♖f3**

After 1 e4 or 1 c4, for example, Mickey often likes to stride forward two squares with the black e-pawn, but in this game he must prepare the advance ...e5.

1 ... d6
2 d4 ♗g4

The Wade Defence is named after IM Robert Wade, who was born on 10 April 1921 in New Zealand where he thrice won the national championship. Later Bob Wade twice won the British

Championship too after moving to England, where he has trained many young players. Nowadays the dynamic duo of Michael Adams and Julian Hodgson are two of the best GMs who enjoy much success with the Wade Defence.

3 c4

A direct, aggressive approach for White was seen in the recent game Lautier-Speelman, Spanish Cht (Salamanca) 1998, where the continuation was 3 e4 ♖f6 4 ♖c3 e6 5 h3 ♗h5 6 ♖e2! (threatening 7 ♖b5+) 6...c6 7 g4 ♗g6 8 h4 h6 9 h5 ♗h7 10 g5 hxg5 11 ♗xg5 ♖a5 12 ♗d2 ♖bd7 13 ♖g5 ♗g8, and the lack of scope of the bishops on the back rank was a major problem which contributed to Black's eventual defeat at move 46.

3 ... ♖d7**4 e4 ♗xf3!?**

With this interesting original idea Black voluntarily parts with one of his two bishops, because the other member of the pair shall soon develop at g7 to generate pressure towards the d4-pawn, which will be left weakened when the white queen recaptures on f3.

5 ♖xf3

It is quite understandable that White does not want to damage his own pawn-structure with 5 gxf3.

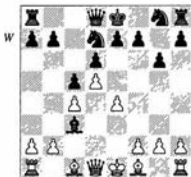
5 ... g6
6 ♖c3 ♗g7
7 ♖d1 c5

Black consistently continues to challenge the white d-pawn.

8 d5

8 ♖c3 ♜b6 9 ♘d5?! ♜a5+ 10 ♙d2 ♜d8 is a funny line, because Black's pieces are exactly where they were after move 7, and yet the changes in White's camp leave the d4-pawn feeling uncomfortable. However, 9 ♙a4 can be considered, although Black was not worried after 9...♜a5+ 10 ♙d2 ♜a6 11 d5 ♙gf6 12 ♙c3 0-0 13 ♙e2 e6 14 0-0 exd5 15 exd5 ♜ae8 followed by ...♜e7 and ...♜fe8 in Khuzman-Benjamin, Erevan OL 1996.

8 ... ♙xc3+ (D)



For the second time Black uses one of his bishops to eliminate an enemy knight, but the main motivation behind Mickey's 8th move is that it damages White's pawn-structure.

9 bxc3 ♙gf6

10 f3

10 ♙d3 encourages Black to play ...♙e5, but 10 ♜c2! merits consideration because it protects the pawns at c3 and e4 simultaneously.

10 ... ♜a5

11 ♜b3

Perhaps 11 ♜c2 is better, since four moves from now the white queen retreats from b3 to c2 anyway.

11 ... 0-0-0

Looking ahead, Black is already planning the advance ...g5-g4 on the kingside, and so he puts his king on the opposite wing, where any attacking gestures by White along the open b-file can be nullified easily with moves such as ...♜c7.

12 ♙e2

With forward thinking again, a logical question to ask is 'How can White fight to stop ...g5 after Black plays ...♜dg8 on his next turn?'. Well, the idea of h2-h4 comes to mind, but it leaves a hole at g3 which Black can exploit by means of ...♙h5, also threatening ...f5. However, 12 ♙f2! is an interesting solution because it covers the hole on g3 before it even exists.

12 ... ♜dg8

13 ♜b1

As was indicated in the previous note, the problem for White with 13 h4 is that after 13...♙h5 Black's threats of 14...♙g3 and 14...f5 cannot both be stopped.

13 ... ♜c7

14 ♙e3 ♜b8

Perhaps this move is not strictly necessary, but Mickey has decided that his king will feel cosier if it goes to the snug a8-corner.

15 ♜c2

White gives extra protection to the e4-pawn in the hope of activating his

central pawns by playing 16 f4, but Black has other plans...

15 ... g5

'Operation g-pawn' is now rolling ahead.

16 0-0 ♖g6

17 ♖b2 ♘a8

18 ♖fb1 ♖b8

This security measure to protect b7 is possible now because Black's moves 14 and 16-18 cleared a path for the h8-rook to glide over to b8.

Reader's Challenge no. 20

(solution given on page 156)

Can you find logical reasons which explain why 18...♖b6 and 18...b6 were rejected by Black?

19 ♖h1 h5

20 ♖d2?

It is understandable that White wants to make an active-looking move instead of adopting a 'sit and wait' policy, but he should have kept his queen on c2 since then in general the advance ...g4 could be answered well by f4, because the e4-pawn would still be protected.

20 ... g4

A g-pawn advance strikes yet again!

21 ♖c2 gxf3

Black opens the g-file before White gets time to play f4.

22 gxf3 ♖e5

23 f4 (D)

23 ... ♖c8!

If White was expecting 23...♖eg4 24 ♖g1, then he must have received a

B



nasty shock from the actual move by Mickey's queen, which is loaded with the following points:

a) After 24 f5 (which is relatively best) 24...♖g7, Black's e5-knight can enjoy its central outpost, where no white pawn will challenge it.

b) 24 fxe5 ♖h3 25 ♖g1 (if 25 ♖f1, then 25...♖xe3 threatens mate on g1) 25...♖bg8 26 ♖bb1 leads us to the next *Reader's Challenge*.

Reader's Challenge no. 21

(solution given on page 157)

At the end of variation 'b', Black might play 26...♖g2 or 26...♖xe3, but which one is correct?

24 ♖f1? ♖xc4!

The simple yet very powerful idea behind this move is to deflect the f1-bishop away from guarding h3 so that Black's queen can land there.

25 ♖xc4 ♖h3

26 ♖f1

The alternative 26 ♖e2 loses rapidly to 26...♖xe4 27 ♖g1 ♖xg1+ 28

♖xg1 (28 ♖xg1 ♜g3#) 28...♜g8+ 29 ♖h1 ♜g3+.

26 ... ♜xe3

27 ♜d3

27 ♜d3 gives Black a big choice of ways to win, but one of the clearest paths is 27...♜bg8 28 ♜bb1 ♜h3 (threatening 29...♜g2) 29 ♜f2 (29 ♜g1 ♜f3+ and 29 ♜b2 ♜xf1+! 30 ♜xf1 ♜g1# reveal some further ideas behind Black's last move) 29...♜g4 30 ♜g2 ♜e3 (even 30...♜xh2 wins too) 31 ♜xg6 ♜xg6 and now 32 ♜b2 ♜f3+ or 32 ♜f2 ♜g2.

27 ... ♜xe4+

28 ♜xe4 ♜xe4

29 ♜d3 f5

If the rooks on b2 and b8 could somehow be beamed onto b1 and g8 respectively, then a short and sweet line would be 29...♜g1+! 30 ♜xg1 ♜f2#.

30 ♜xe4 fxe4

31 ♜e2 a6

Black wisely gives his king some *luft* at a7, because in a case such as 31...e6 32 dxe6 ♜xe6 33 f5 ♜e5? 34 f6 White's f-pawn flying down the board is suddenly fatal for the black king on the back rank, as is shown, for example, by 34...♜f8 35 f7 and then 35...♜e7 36 ♜g2! ♜d7 37 ♜g8 ♜dd8 38 ♜xf8 ♜xf8 39 ♜g1 followed by 40 ♜g8, or 35...e3 36 ♜g2! e2 37 ♜e1 ♜e7 38 ♜gxe2 ♜exf7 39 ♜e8+ ♜xe8 40 ♜xe8#.

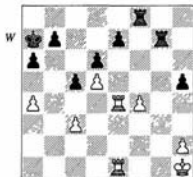
32 ♜xe4 ♜g7

33 a4 ♜a7

Black's king can move, whereas White's is imprisoned.

34 ♜fe1 ♜f8! (D)

Even when one is ahead on material, it is important to continue to play actively instead of becoming lazy or slack and drifting into a defensive position with passive moves such as 34...♜e8.



35 a5 ♜ff7

...b6 is an option for Black on his next move, but here it would have allowed White to capture on e7 *with check*.

36 ♜le3 ♜g4

Black picks a path leading to mass exchanges, and when the position simplifies after a few moves, it becomes very clear that the resulting endgame is hopeless for White.

37 ♜xe7 ♜xe7

38 ♜xe7 ♜xf4

39 ♜e6 ♜c4

40 ♜xd6 ♜xc3

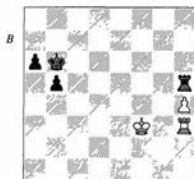
41 ♜b6 ♜d3

42 ♜xh5

The situation of material equality will only last for a fleeting moment,

because White is about to lose two of his three isolated pawns.

42 ... c4
 43 ♖h4 c3
 44 ♖c4 ♗xd5
 45 ♗xc3 ♗xa5
 46 h4 ♗h5
 47 ♗h3 b5
 48 ♕g2 ♕b6
 49 ♕f3 (D)



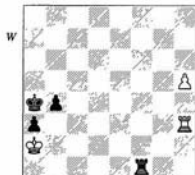
49 ... a5

White has no realistic hopes of survival against Black's deadly duo of connected passed pawns on the queen-side.

50 ♕e2 b4
 51 ♕d2 ♕b5
 52 ♕c2 a4
 53 ♕b2 ♗f5
 54 h5 a3+
 55 ♕b1

55 ♕b3 ♗f2 leaves White unable to stall the inevitable ... ♗b2# beyond move 57.

55 ... ♗f1+
 56 ♕a2 ♕a4 (D)



Reader's Challenge no. 22
 (solution given on page 157)

Why would White be happy here *without* any h-pawn?

57 ♗h4

57 h6 loses instantly to 57...b3+ 58 ♗xb3 ♗f2+ 59 ♕b1 a2+ 60 ♕a1 ♕xb3 61 h7 ♗f1#.

57 ... ♗f2+
 58 ♕a1 a2
 59 h6

Without any h-pawn, White could draw instantly by 59 ♗xb4+!, viz. 59...♕xb4 or 59...♕a3 60 ♗b3+ ♕xb3, and the important recurring idea of stalemate echoes the theme of the previous Reader's Challenge.

59 ... ♕a3
 0-1

White resigned in view of 60 h7 ♗f1# or 60 ♗h1 b3 61 h7 b2#.

There has been action in abundance throughout Mickey's chapter, so shall we now finish it quietly like a mouse? No chance! Get your teeth into the

juicy puzzles in the following instructive test, because we'll need lots of energy to cope with the pace on 'planet Shirov', which is hurtling towards us in the next fast-approaching phase of our chess journey together.

3.2

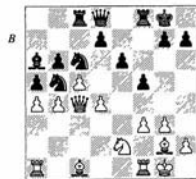


Adams – Shirov
Belgrade 1995

White, to play, can now win quickly.

Test 3

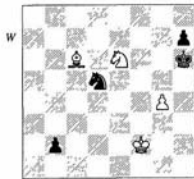
3.1



Shirov – Adams
Bundesliga 1997/8

Black to play and obtain a decisive advantage.

3.3



This puzzle is based on Adams-Shirov, Dos Hermanas 1995.

You are invited to discover White's best move now.

3.4

Brainteaser no. 3



Adams – Piket
Dos Hermanas 1995

White is to play; should he capture the c7-pawn?

3.5



Bellavsky – Adams
Belgrade 1995

White is thinking about moving his king forward. Does it matter which square he chooses?



L.B. Hansen – Adams
Wijk aan Zee 1995

Black to play and win in forceful fashion.

Solutions to this test start on page 157, but now we are needed at the next page because of a fire on board...

4 Alexei Shirov

'The most amazing move of all time'

British Chess Magazine, September 1998 (regarding Shirov's stunning sacrifice 47...♗h3!! against Topalov at Linares earlier in 1998)

Date of Birth	Tuesday 4 July 1972
Place of Birth	Riga, Latvia
Grandmaster Title	1990
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2720
World Ranking	6

Most games involving Alexei Shirov are electrifying, charged with such intensity that I am reminded of action-packed scenes from the movie *Independence Day*, and Independence Day is the perfect birthday for a man with a supremely individual, daring style of play. It is no wonder that the 26-year-old Shirov is practically a national hero in Spain, where he lives nowadays. Alexei is also an appropriate name, because its original meaning (from Greek) is 'man's defender'. Shirov's brilliance is often compared to that of Mikhail Tal (1936-92), the late former World Champion who was known as the 'Magician from Riga', and the mouth waters when one dreams about the incredible ideas which would almost set the board on fire in a Shirov versus Kasparov match for the world chess crown. In the meantime, let's enjoy a very controlled, instructive and mature performance on Spanish soil by the country's top player against the no. 1 Armenian grandmaster, Vladimir Akopian.

Game 7
A. Shirov – V. Akopian
Linares 1995
 Petroff Defence

1 e4 e5
 2 ♖f3 ♗f6
 3 ♗c3

This way of meeting Black's Petroff Defence carries a small dose of surprise because 3 ♖xe5 and 3 d4 are seen much more often in practice.

3 ... ♗b4
 3...♗c6 would have produced the Four Knights' Game, but Shirov is an expert on the white side of the 4 ♗b5

variation, and so perhaps Akopian wanted to avoid it. I played it myself in Motwani-Adams, Hastings 1996/7, and afterwards Mickey said to me 'Mark Hebden was getting tired of people using this line against him, so he also played it against me!'. Consider the continuation 4...Qd4 (the Rubinstein variation) 5 Qxd4 (Shirov would possibly prefer 5 a4 or 5 c4) 5...exd4 6 e5 dxc3 (not 6...We7? 7 0-0) 7 exf6 Wxf6 (7...cxd2+? 8 a2xd2 Wxf6 9 0-0 gives White a huge lead in development) 8 dxc3 We5+, as in Yuldashev-G.Georgadze, Elista OL 1998 (where Black deviated from the move 8...a5 of the aforementioned Moewani-Adams and Hebden-Adams games). Since Yuldashev defeated his 2610-rated GM opponent in only 25 moves, let's see some more of the game: 9 a2 a5 10 0-0 0-0 11 a3 (planning 12 e1 Wf6 13 a4xh7+! Wxh7 14 Wh5+ Wg8 15 Wxc5) 11...d5 12 Wf3 c6 (12...a6 13 g3 a3? 14 a4 illustrates the potential danger which can erupt onto Black from a seemingly quiet position after either 14...Wf6 15 Wh5! or 14...We6 15 e1fe1) 13 a4 We7 (after 13...Wf6 14 Wg3, 14...a6?? 15 a5 a6 16 Wh4! and 14...a5?? 15 a5! Wg6 16 a4xf5 Wxf5 17 Wxg7# are other nightmares that Black does not want to have) 14 e1a1 a6 15 Wg3 (threatening 16 b4 a6 17 a6d6) 15...e8 16 b4 a6 17 e2 g6 18 e1fe1 (the pressure is increasing...) 18...a8? (D) (...and Black cracks).



Reader's Challenge no. 23

(solution given on pages 157-8)

Can you discover how White now won?

4 Qxe5 0-0

4...a3 5 dxc3 Qxe4? is very bad for Black due to 6 Wg4, for example.

5 a2

White wisely does not waste precious time trying to keep his e4-pawn with 5 d3? because that neglect of piece-development would be punished by 5...d5, planning to put the white knights in double trouble by 6...d4 7 a3 a6d6.

5 ... e8

6 Qd3

In effect, White is one tempo ahead compared with what Black gets in the following move-order in the Berlin Defence to the Ruy Lopez: 1 e4 e5 2 Qf3 Qc6 3 a3 b5 Qf6 4 0-0 Qxc4 5 e1 Qd6.

6 ... a3c3

In the previous note, White could continue with 6 Qxe5 threatening 7

Qxc6+, but a significant difference in the current game is that 6...Qxe4?? cannot be played because it leaves the b4-bishop *en prise*. So before capturing the e4-pawn, Black must first give up his dark-squared bishop for the c3-knight, but thereafter White possesses the advantage of having a bishop-pair in an open position.

7 dxc3

White must simply accept doubled c-pawns, but by capturing on c3 with the d-pawn he keeps a compact queenside structure, and the c1-bishop suddenly receives lots of scope.

7 ... Qxe4

8 Qf4

Before castling, Shirov first stops his opponent playing 8...d5.

8 ... d6

8...c6 merits some attention because after 9 c4 (continuing to restrain the advance ...d7-d5) 9...d6 10 0-0 Qd7, the idea of f2-f3 (which White employs at move 10 in the actual game) is no longer available since Black has the reply ...Bb6+.

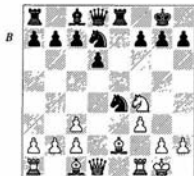
9 0-0 Qd7

10 f3 (D)

10 c4 was played in the game Shirov-Yusupov, Bundesliga 1994/5, but then 10...c6!? (to meet 11 f3?? with 11...Bb6+) would have transposed to the note to Black's 8th move.

10 ... Qef6

10...Dec5 looks preferable since it keeps the f6-square free for Black's queen in some possible future lines, and 11 b4 is certainly not to be feared



because it leaves White's c3-pawn very vulnerable, as 11...Qa4 shows immediately.

11 c4 Qf8

12 b3

Black has been retreating while White has been calmly pushing forward, and this latest move prepares to develop the dark-squared bishop at b2 on its longest possible diagonal, a1-h8.

12 ... We7

13 f2!

The rook not only blocks Black's idea of checking at e3 after White plays Bb2, but also guards the e2-bishop in case the protecting f4-knight gets attacked by ...g5.

13 ... We5

Black is trying hard to generate threats, but White deals easily with each one and at the same time continues to make his own position even stronger.

14 Bb1 Bd7

15 Qd3

White cannot yet play Bb2 because that would leave the f4-knight *en prise*,

but as an alternative solution instead of Shirov's actual move, I particularly like the look of 15 Qd5 , intending to meet 15... Qxd5 with 16 cxd5 followed very soon by Ab2 . Then Black's position would still be rather cramped and without any real active prospects.

15 ... We7

The black queen retreats away from White's forces to avoid further immediate harassment.

Reader's Challenge no. 24

(solution given on page 158)

Imagine that the respective positions of Black's a-, b- and h-pawns are a5, b6 and h4. In that hypothetical situation, why would 15... Wd4 be a losing blunder?

16 Ab2 We3

17 Qb4

White now threatens to win material by 18 Axf6 gxf6 19 Qd5 , whereas the immediate capture 17 Axf6 would have clarified and simplified the situation for Black, allowing him to react more easily.

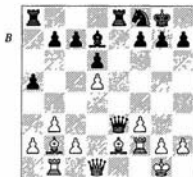
17 ... a5

18 Qd5 Qxd5

19 cxd5 (D)

Basically, White is enjoying the advantages of having more space and a bishop-pair in an open position, and the current situation is practically the same as that which could have happened earlier by following the path given in the note to White's 15th move.

19 ... Qg6



20 Afl Qh4

The knight is striving to find some activity.

21 c4 Qf5

22 Wd2!

Shirov offers a trade of queens because he knows that without those heavy pieces on the board, Black will find it even more difficult to create any threats or counterplay, whereas White could calmly continue to nurture his positional advantages almost unimpeded.

22 ... b6

23 Acl

One might ask 'Following his previous move, why does Shirov not now exchange the queens?'. Well, timing is important. Here, after 23 Wxe3 Qxe3 White would like to preserve his light-squared bishop, but the problem is that 24 Ae2 leaves the f2-rook awkwardly placed, while 24 Ad3 Afl lets Black force an exchange of bishops.

23 ... h5

Black is fighting to minimize his spatial disadvantage, and at the same

time his king acquires some extra breathing room at h7.

24 ♖d3 ♜e7
25 ♜xe3 ♜xe3

It is quite understandable that Black disliked the variation 25...♜xe3 26 ♜e1 ♖f5, when instead of 27 ♜xe3?? ♜xe3 28 ♖xf5 ♜xc3 White has 27 ♖e4!, with the point 27...♖xe4?? 28 ♜xe3.

26 ♜d2 ♜ae8
27 ♜f2

White now threatens to ensnare Black's e3-rook with ♜c1 (to protect the loose c3-bishop) followed by ♖e4.

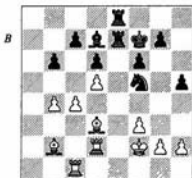
27 ... ♜3e7
28 ♜c1 f6
29 a3 ♜f7
30 b4 axb4
31 axb4 ♜e3

31...♜a8 looks better.

32 ♖d4 ♜f5

Of course 32...♖f5?? loses instantly to 33 ♖xe3 because of 33...♜xe3 34 ♖xf5 or 33...♖xd3 34 ♜xd3.

33 ♖b2 (D)



The position is almost identical to what it was two moves ago, except that, because White's dark-squared bishop is now on b2 instead of c3, he is better placed to make the push c4-c5.

33 ... ♜e3
34 c5!

White utilizes the tactical point 34...♜xd5? 35 cxd6 cxd6 36 ♖c4.

Reader's Challenge no. 25
(solution given on page 158)

At the end of the last note, if Black then tried 36...♖e6, what would you play as White?

34 ... bxc5
35 bxc5 ♖f5
36 ♖a6 ♜a8
37 ♖e2

Reader's Challenge no. 26
(solution given on page 158)

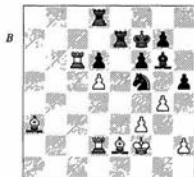
White rejected the line 37 cxd6 cxd6 38 ♜c6; why?

37 ... ♖g6?

The reason for the '?' will become very clear in the note to move 41.

38 cxd6 cxd6
39 ♜c6 ♜d8
40 ♖a3 ♜f5
41 g4 (D)

A g-pawn advance wins yet again! However, if Black had retreated his bishop to h7 instead of g6 at move 37, then 41...♜a7 would now be possible because the reply 42 gxf5 would not attack the black bishop.



41 ... hxc4
 42 fxc4 Qh6
 43 Qxd6

Black's hopes of survival have vanished with the disappearance of his d-pawn.

43 ... Qed7
 44 Qc7 Qe8

A painful point for Black is that 44...Qxd5 walks into the pin 45 Qc4.

45 h3

White simply defends his g-pawn so as to free the e2-bishop from the chore of protecting g4.

45 ... Qg8
 46 Qc5 Qc8
 47 d6 Qf7
 48 Qb5

White's bishops have become so powerful that Black cannot avoid further loss of material.

48 ... Qxd6
 49 Qxd6

49 Qxd7 wins too, but White's elimination of the enemy knight avoids even a single check on e4.

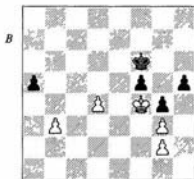
1-0

Here Black resigned in anticipation of 49...Qxc5 50 Qxd7 or 49...Qxd6 50 Qxc8+.

Some people were surprised when Alexei Shirov defeated Russia's Vladimir Kramnik $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ in their 'Candidates Final' match at Cazorla, Spain, from 24 May to 5 June 1998, but shortly in Game 8 we will see that the same super Russian opponent has previously struggled with the ever-changing, unpredictable atmosphere on 'planet Shirov', where just about any move is possible! First, though, let's add extra sharpness to our minds by tackling an instructive endgame.

What result?

(solution given on page 158)



Ehlvest – Shirov
Vienna 1996

White has a passed d-pawn, but Black has the next move. What should be the result?

Game 8
V. Kramnik – A. Shirov
Vienna 1996
 Slav Defence, 4...a6

1 ♖f3 d5
 2 d4 c6
 3 c4

The opening has transposed to a Queen's Gambit, which Black is answering with the Slav Defence, which is characterized by the move ...c6, by which Black bolsters his d5-pawn without obstructing the c8-bishop (as happens in the case of 2...e6).

3 ... ♙f6

After 3...dxc4 4 e3, an interesting option is 4...♙e6!?. Then:

a) 5 ♖g5 ♙d5 6 e4 h6 is for Black a speciality of GM Igor Rausis, another very creative Latvian-born player.

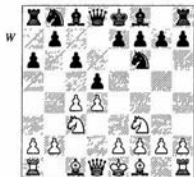
b) 5 a4 ♙f6 6 ♙a3 c5 7 ♖xc4 (7 dxc5 ♙xd1+ 8 ♙xd1 ♙e4 is excellent for Black) 7...♙c6 8 ♙ce5! splits into the lines:

b1) 8...♙xe5 9 ♙xe5 (threatening 10 ♙b5+) 9...a6 10 a5! left Black feeling uncomfortable at b6 and along the a4-e8 diagonal in Wells-Av. Bykhovsky, Herzliya 1998.

b2) 8...cxd4 9 ♙b5 dxe3 10 ♙xd8+! (10 ♙xc6 ♙xd1+ 11 ♙xd1 a6! is fine for Black) 10...♙xd8 11 ♙xe3, when the threats towards a7 and c6 gave White some initiative in G. Flear-Rausis, France 1998, and guaranteed that he could at least win back his sacrificed pawn.

4 ♙c3 a6 (D)

Nowadays this fashionable move rivals even the 'main lines' 4...e6 and 4...dxc4 in popularity. Still, Garry Kasparov opted for the latter path as Black in Timman-Kasparov, Prague (2) 1998, which continued 5 e3 (instead of the usual move 5 a4, which stops ...b5) 5...b5 6 a4 b4 7 ♙b1 ♙a6 8 ♙c2 b3 9 ♙d1 (9 ♙c3?? ♙e4 10 ♙b4 e6 is embarrassing for White's queen) 9...e6 10 ♙e2 c5 11 0-0 ♙c6, when White was already struggling. Black won in a mere 30 moves.



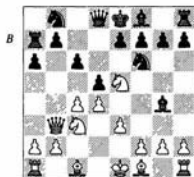
5 c5

5 ♙g5 is more aggressive. After 5...♙e4 6 ♙f4 ♙xc3 7 bxc3 dxc4 8 g3 followed by 9 ♙g2 and 10 ♙e5 White had a lead in development and pressure towards the queenside as good compensation for his sacrificed pawn in Anand-Shirov, Dos Hermanas 1997.

Reader's Challenge no. 27
 (solution given on pages 158-9)

As another alternative, consider the line 5 e3 ♙g4 (5...b5 is also possible,

and very consistent with Black's fourth move) 6 ♖b3 ♙a7 7 ♕c5 (D), which lands us in Krasenkow-Oll, Polanica Zdroj 1998.



Can you discover why GM Lembit Oll's plausible-looking move 7...e6 is virtually a losing blunder?

5 ... ♗f5

6 ♖b3 ♙a7

6...♗c7? walks into 7 ♗f4!, intending to meet 7...♗xf4 with 8 ♖xb7 followed by e3 and ♗xa8. However, 6...♗c8 is playable, as in I.Sokolov-Shirov, Erevan OL 1996.

7 ♗f4 ♕bd7

8 h3

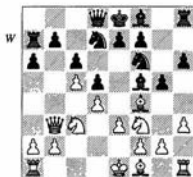
Now White's dark-squared bishop can retreat to h2 if desired, whereas that is not possible in the case of 8 e3 ♕h5.

8 ... h6

This may look like a quiet way to mirror White's last move, but Black has an aggressive idea in mind for his next turn...

9 e3

g5 (D)



A typically bold and adventurous action by Shirov.

10 ♗h2 ♗g7

11 ♕e5 0-0

12 f3 ♕xe5

13 ♗xe5

13 dxe5? ♕d7 leaves White in double trouble at c5 and e5.

13 ... ♕d7!

Black is planning an imminent strike in the centre with ...e5.

14 ♗xg7 ♗xg7

15 e4

There is no point in trying to stop ...e5 by playing 15 f4 because Black can respond with 15...♗c7, with the points 16 g4 ♗h7 and 16 g3 f6 (or 16...♗b8!?, planning 17...b6) followed shortly by ...e5.

Reader's Challenge no. 28

(solution given on page 159)

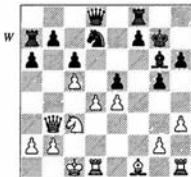
As we have just seen, 15...♗c7 is pleasant for Black, but can you find an even stronger and more energetic

course, starting with a capture at move 15?

15 ... dxe4
16 fxe4 g6
17 0-0-0?

Black's plan of ...e5 will break up the d4-c5 pawn-chain, and so it was imperative for White to counter that idea by pushing his own e-pawn to e5.

17 ... e5! (D)



18 ♖c4

After 18 dxe5 ♖e7 White's exposed pawns at c5 and e5 would not live for long.

18 ... ♖f6
19 dxe5

If 19 d5, then Black's queen can get at the c5-pawn with the neat idea 19...♖f4+ followed by ...♖e3.

19 ... ♖xe5
20 ♖d4 ♖aa8!

Having finished its work on a7, the black rook returns momentarily to its original starting square *en route* to the real destination at d8, and its imminent

arrival there causes White's queen to flee immediately.

21 ♖e3 ♖ad8
22 ♖e2 ♖e7

From e7, Black's powerful queen can exert pressure on White's frail pawns at c5 and e4.

23 ♖he1 ♖d7
24 ♖d4+

24 ♖a4 would leave the e4-pawn *en prise*, and if 24 b4 then Black easily breaks up White's queenside pawns by 24...a5 25 a3 axb4 26 axb4 b6.

24 ... ♖f6
25 ♖e3 ♖e5

The big black queen firmly fixes White's e-pawn like a giant towering over it and saying 'You are not going anywhere, and I intend to eat you when I feel the time is right'!

Reader's Challenge no. 29

(solution given on page 159)

Consider the line 25...♖xe4 26 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 27 ♖f3.

a) How could Black then win quickly if we imagine the a2-pawn to be on a3 instead?

b) In the real 'a2 situation', what reasonable capture can Black play at move 27? Also, how should White respond in that case? If we are still on the same wavelength, you will agree that White's rook can land on the seventh rank at move 29. Black could then passively defend his b7-pawn with 29...♖b8, but is there a better move?

26 ♖f3 h5!

Now that Shirov has his opponent on the defensive, he keeps pushing forward to increase the pressure.

27 a3 ♖fe8

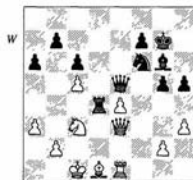
Black does not hurry unnecessarily to play ...g4 because after 27...g4 28 hxg4 hxg4 29 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 30 ♕d1 ♖d4, White could generate some counterplay with 31 ♖h1, threatening 32 ♖h6+.

28 ♖xd8 ♖xd8

29 ♕d1

If 29 ♖d1, Black can choose from a myriad of very strong possibilities that includes 29...♖e8, with the point 30 ♖e1 ♕d5!? and then 31 ♖d2 ♕xc3 32 ♖xc3 ♖xc3+ 33 bxc3 ♖e5 or 31 ♕xd5 cxd5; in both cases White will lose at least one pawn.

29 ... ♖d4! (D)



The harmony in Black's army is now overwhelming, and White has insoluble problems at c5 and e4.

30 ♕c2 ♖c4!

Black is proceeding along a very clear, controlled course towards victory, and White is being given no chance at all to create complications.

31 ♖b1 ♖xc5

32 ♖d2 ♖c4

The black rook revisits c4, where it caused havoc before. This time the e4-pawn is on the dinner menu.

33 ♖d8

White makes a desperate lunge forward into Black's camp, but a lone queen will not trouble Shirov.

33 ... ♕xe4

34 ♕xe4 ♕xe4+

35 ♕xe4

Of course 35 ♖a1 ♖xc3! 36 bxc3 (or 36 ♖xe4 ♖xa3+ 37 ♖b1 ♖xe4+) 36...♖xc3+ 37 ♖a2 ♕d5+ 38 ♖b1 ♖xe1+ is also utterly hopeless for White.

35 ... ♖xe4

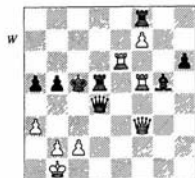
0-1

White lost on time, two pawns down without compensation.

All that's standing now between us and the next chapter is a set of six sizzling puzzles starring Alexei Shirov!

Test 4

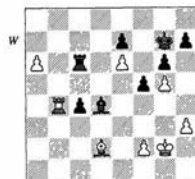
4.1



Shirov – Norwood
Bundesliga 1994/5

White to play and force checkmate as quickly as possible.

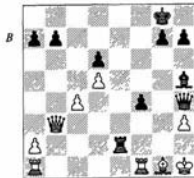
4.2



Shirov – Topalov
Linares 1995

White can now win quickly.

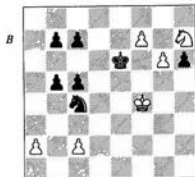
4.3



Korchnoi – Shirov
Madrid 1996

Black is about to play his 29th move. He is a rook down, so it may be tempting to go for a draw by 29...♖e3 30 ♗xe3 ♜xh3+ 31 ♔g1 ♜g3+ 32 ♔h1 ♜h3+ and so on, but you are invited to discover something stronger, starting at move 29.

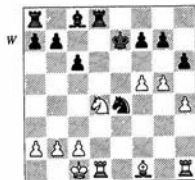
4.4



Shirov – Z. Almasi
Tilburg 1996

Black (to play) has one sneaky trick, but White can still win. Find both the trick and White's winning line.

4.5

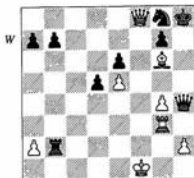


Shirov – Ftačnik
Senek ECC 1998

However surprising this may seem, it really is White to play and win, even

though the game is only 18 moves old so far.

Brainteaser no. 4



Shirov – Adams
Wijk aan Zee 1996

Black is ahead on material and his threats include 33...♙xh2, but how can White (to play) strike first?

Solutions to this test start on page 159, but don't look now because Loek is beckoning us...

5 Loek van Wely

'Van Wely doesn't smoke, doesn't drink, and goes to a fitness centre every day'
GM Hans Ree

Date of Birth	Saturday 7 October 1972
Place of Birth	Heesch, The Netherlands
Grandmaster Title	1993
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2635
World Ranking	38

For coping with tough games against the world's top players, one needs to be fit, and Loek van Wely certainly is that. Also, even when Loek was still a 19-year-old competing at the 1991 Vienna Open tournament, it was already very apparent to me that he possessed a great feel for the Royal Game, and this was especially evident when I witnessed him at blitz chess despatching various GMs with such ease that it reminded me of how Mickey Adams almost always wins in similar situations.

The best young Dutch grandmaster has the nickname 'lucky Loek', but talent played a much bigger part in Van Wely's winning of first prizes at huge events like the 1994 World Open and the 1996 New York Open. So let's look and learn now as we watch Holland's hero in action at the 1995 Najdorf tournament in Argentina, where Loek tied for first place on a score of 7½/11 which included the following crushing victory over IM Sergio Giardelli. White uses his attacking flair to enliven an opening with a relatively calm reputation.

Game 9
L. van Wely – S. Giardelli
Buenos Aires 1995
 English Opening

1 c4 c5
 2 ♖c3 ♗f6
 3 g3

Even before 1995, I started to become interested in the possibility 3 e4!? ♖c6 4 ♗f3 or 4 f4 for White, and I can thoroughly recommend it as a way of steering the opening into fresh waters.

3 ... g6
 3...d5 4 cxd5 ♗xd5 5 ♗g2 ♖c7 6 ♖a4+! worked out very well for White

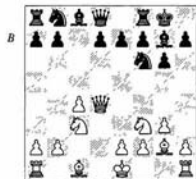
in Banikas-Macieja, Zagan jr Wch 1997.

4 ♖g2 ♖g7
5 ♜f3 0-0
6 d4 cxd4

After 6...d6 7 0-0 ♜c6 8 d5 ♖a5 the opening would transpose into the Panno/Yugoslav Variation of the King's Indian Defence, and then although Black has a knight on a rim of the board, the plan of continuing to attack White's c4-pawn by means of ...a6, ...♞b8 and ...b5 does create some counterplay.

7 ♞xd4! (D)

7 ♜xd4 ♜c6 8 0-0 would have produced a position commonly seen in practice, but instead Loek treats us to something with quite a different flavour.



7 ... ♜c6
8 ♞h4

Here is White's real idea: the threat of ♖h6 followed by ♜g5 is worrying for the black king. So now Black immediately sends out his queen to a5,

from where a subsequent swing over to h5 is possible.

8 ... ♞a5

8...d5?? is disastrous for Black: 9 cxd5 ♜xd5 10 ♜xd5 ♞xd5 11 ♜g5! and now either 11...♞a5+ 12 ♖d2 or 11...♞xg2 12 ♞xh7#.

9 0-0

9 ♖g5 prevents 9...♞h5, but Black has 9...d5 (threatening 10...d4 11 ♜xd4 ♜xd4 12 ♞xd4 ♞xg5) or 9...♜e4!?, intending 10 ♞xe4 ♖xc3+.

9 ... ♜e5?!

Black should prefer the much safer move 9...♞h5.

10 ♜d5!

As the knight lands on d5, it not only threatens a check at e7, but also interrupts the line of communication between Black's queen and the e5-knight.

10 ... ♜xd5

11 cxd5 ♜xf3+

If 11...♞xd5?!, then the reply 12 ♜g5 puts Black in double trouble at d5 and h7.

12 ♖xf3 ♞e8

After 12...♖f6 13 ♖g5 ♖xg5 14 ♞xg5 the e7-pawn is still exposed, while Black's king suffers from a serious shortage of defenders in his neighbourhood, and so the plan of h4-h5 followed by ♜g2 and ♞h1 comes quickly to mind for White.

13 d6!

This very powerful pawn sacrifice is designed to prevent Black from playing ...d6 to free his c8-bishop. In contrast, its white counterpart suddenly

acquires increased scope on the h1-a8 diagonal.

13 ... exd6
 14 ♖d1 d5
 15 ♙h6!

White continues to activate his forces at lightning speed instead of getting distracted with 15 ♖xd5?, which would allow 15... ♖e1+.

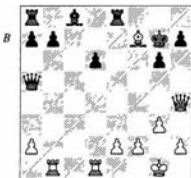
15 ... ♙xb2
 16 ♖ab1 ♙g7

16... ♖xa2 is even worse for Black because of 17 ♙xd5 ♖a3 18 ♖d3 ♙c3 19 ♖c4.

17 ♙xd5 d6

17... ♖xe2 18 ♖f4 ♖e7 19 ♙g5 is also bleak for Black, as is 17... ♙xh6 18 ♖xh6 ♖xe2 19 ♖f4 ♖e7 20 ♖f6 ♖c5 (20... ♖d8 21 ♙xf7+! ♙f8 22 ♙d5+ ♙e8 23 ♖h8#) 21 ♖bc1 ♖b4 22 ♖c4 ♖e1+ (22... ♖a3 23 ♖f4) 23 ♖xe1 (simpler for White than 23 ♙g2 ♖e7) 23... ♖xe1+ 24 ♙g2 ♖e8 25 ♖f4, when the imminent fall of the f7-pawn is fatal for Black.

18 ♙xg7 ♙xg7
 19 ♙xf7!! (D)



The lines in the last note emphasized the importance of the f7-pawn, and so White's bishop boldly sacrifices itself to eliminate one of the few defenders near Black's king.

19 ... ♖xe2

19... ♙xf7 20 ♖xh7+ leads to:

a) 20... ♙e6 21 ♖xg6+.

b) 20... ♙f8 21 ♖xd6 ♙e6 (21... ♖f5 22 ♖b3 ♖xe2 23 ♖d8+ ♖e8 24 ♖h8+ wins quickly for White) 22 ♖xe6 ♖xe6 23 ♖xb7 ♖e1+ 24 ♙g2 leaves Black helpless against the threats of mate at f7 and h8.

c) 20... ♙f6 21 ♖xd6+ and then:

c1) 21... ♙e6 22 ♖xb7 with threats like 23 ♖f7+ ♙g5 24 ♖f4+ ♙h5 25 ♖h4#.

c2) 21... ♖e6 22 ♖h8+ ♙e7 23 ♖xe6+ ♙xe6 24 ♖b3 leaves the fatally exposed black king without any satisfactory defence against White's numerous threats, such as 25 ♖e3+.

20 ♙d5

White's bishop returns to d5 to cut off Black's queen's view of the king-side.

20 ... ♖c5

21 ♖f4 ♖e7

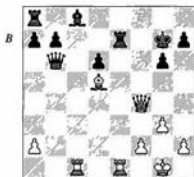
21... ♙e6 loses immediately to 22 ♖xb7+.

22 ♖bc1 ♖b6

23 ♖e1 (D)

Reader's Challenge no. 30
 (solution given on page 160)

Imagine that the e1-rook could somehow be beamed onto one of the six unoccupied squares on the h-file,



and that it would then still be White's turn to move.

a) Which square would enable White to win most quickly?

b) Which square would enable White to force mate in three moves?

c) On which other square (not occurring in 'a' or 'b') would White's rook actually be attacked by Black?

d) Which square would enable White to force mate in four?

e) Which square should White *not* choose for the transported rook?

f) Only one square remains (which was not used in parts 'a' to 'e'), and in that case can you discover how White forces mate in eight, with the first move being a check?

g) Imagine that White's c1-rook suddenly disappears from the board. Would this affect parts 'a' to 'f' at all?

23 ... ♖d8

24 ♖d4+! 1-0

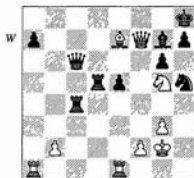
Black resigned because of 24...♖f8 25 ♖h8# or 24...♖h6 25 ♖h4+ ♖g7 26 ♔xe7+. It is worth noting that

Black's queenside units never got activated, and Black was, in effect, playing two pieces down.

Some lovely tactics are coming up soon in Loek van Wely's game against WGM Almira Skripchenko at the 1998 Lost Boys tournament in Antwerp, but first let's warm up again by looking at the following position.

Where to look?

(solution given on page 160)



Van Wely – Kamsky
Amsterdam 1996

White to play and win quickly.

Game 10

A. Skripchenko – L. van Wely

Antwerp 1998

Sicilian Defence,
Rossolimo Variation

1 e4 c5
2 ♖f3 ♖c6

Loek very often plays 2...d6, with a recent case being Ahmad-Van Wely, Elista OL 1998, which continued 3 c3 dxf6 4 e2 (4 e4? dxe4 5 Wa4+ dxc6 6 exf7+ dxf7 7 We4 is a fascinating favourite line as White of Vladimir Baklan, a young Ukrainian IM) 4...g6 (4...dxe4?? 5 Wa4+) 5 0-0 e7 6 e5+ d7 7 exd7+ Wxd7 8 e1 0-0 9 d4 a6!? (this is an interesting way to keep the tension in the centre for a little longer by not yet exchanging pawns on d4) 10 e5 cxd4! 11 cxd4 d5! (this is perfectly timed because if 12 e5, 12...dxe4 hits the g5-bishop) 12 exf6 exf6 13 exd5 b4! followed by 14...dxd5, with an excellent position for Black.

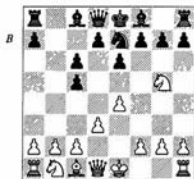
3 e5 e6

Among top players, this move and 3...g6 represent Black's most popular responses to White's 3 e5, the Rossolimo Variation, named after GM Nicolas Rossolimo (1910-75) who scored numerous beautiful wins with it.

4 0-0 g7

White may soon play exxc6, and Black wants to be able to recapture on c6 with a knight, thereby keeping his pawn-structure intact. Of course, White could have played the earlier capture 4 exxc6, as Holland's newest young GM, Erik van den Doel, did in Van den Doel-Motylev, Erevan jr Ech 1998. The continuation was 4...bxc6 5 d3 e7 6 d5!? (this original idea of Australia's GM Ian Rogers gives White's f-pawn the freedom to go forward, and sometimes the queen may

consider zooming out to h5) with this position (D).



6...f6 (6...h6 7 d3 d5 8 f4 g6 9 0-0 e7 10 f2 a6 11 a3 0-0 12 b1 b8 13 c4 favoured White in Rogers-V.Milov, Baden 1998, because Black's bishops were not active enough to compensate for his crippled queenside pawn-structure) 7 d3 g6 8 0-0 e7 9 c3 0-0 10 f4 d6 11 e3 b8 12 b1 f5 13 d2 a6 14 fe1 d7 15 e5! (this energetic thrust is designed to destroy the base of Black's d6-c5 pawn-chain) 15...dxe5 16 fxe5 exxe5 17 exxc5 e7 18 g5! e6 (18...e5 19 f3) 19 f4 fe8 20 Wh4 xg5 21 Wxg5. Black's position is now riddled with weaknesses on the dark squares in particular, and White won 20 moves later.

5 b3

5 c3 d5 6 exd5 Wxd5 7 e1 d7 8 a3! d6 9 e4 (made possible by White's 8th move) 9...Wh5 10 d4 cxd4 11 b5! c8 12 e2! (threatening to embarrass Black's queen with 13 d5)

12... ♖d5 13 ♖fxd4 a6 (if 13... ♖xd4 14 ♖xd4 then Black must meet the serious threat of 15 ♖f3) 14 ♖f3 ♖c5 15 ♖e3! gave White a dangerous initiative in Rublevsky-Shabalov, Elista OL 1998.

Reader's Challenge no. 31
(solution given on pages 160-1)

5 ♖e1 ♖g6 6 c3 d5?! occurred in Benjamin-Shaked, US Ch (Denver) 1998. Can you discover the same really strong seventh move which GM Joel Benjamin played as White?

5 ...	a6
6 ♖xc6	♖xc6
7 ♖b2	b5 (D)



The attack by White's bishop towards g7 currently makes it difficult for Black to develop his f8-bishop, so instead he decides to gain some space on the opposite wing.

8 d4

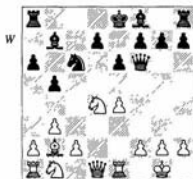
H.Meyer-Cherniaev, Martigny 1998 deviated with 8 ♖e1 ♖b7 9 d3 (9 d4

cx d4 10 ♖xd4 ♖f6! transposes back into the main game) 9...d6 10 ♖bd2 e5 (shutting out the b2-bishop) 11 ♖f1 g6. Russia's IM Alexander Cherniaev was then probably very satisfied after emerging from the opening phase with such a pleasant position as Black, and he went on to win in another 20 moves.

8 ...	cx d4
9 ♖xd4	♖b7
10 ♖e1?	

This may look quite plausible but it is actually an error, as Black's powerful next move demonstrates, and so White should have preferred 10 ♖xc6 for example.

10 ... ♖f6! (D)



Suddenly it is White who is in trouble on the a1-h8 diagonal.

11 c3 ♖c5

Now both of Black's bishops are pointing menacingly in the general direction of White's king.

12 ♖d2	0-0
13 a4	♖e5!

The increasing intensity of the storm of black pieces gathering near the kingside is worrying for White.

14 axb5

14 f4 ♖g6 15 g3 (15 ♖f1 ♕xe4) 15...e5 16 fxe5 ♖xe5 leaves White facing the threat of the terrible fork 17...♖f3+.

14 ... ♖g6!

The e4-pawn is certainly feeling the heat now, but White must be even more concerned about Black eliminating the d4-knight and then landing a fatal fork at f3 with his own knight.

15 ♖e2

Of course 15 f4?? loses instantly to 15...♖f3+.

15 ... f5!

Loek's f-pawn leaps forward into the fray.

16 f4

If 16 ♖d2 fxe4 (Black is threatening 17...♖f3+ among other things) 17 ♖xe4, then Black can win material with 17...♕xd4 18 cxd4 ♖f3+.

16 ... fxe4!! (D)

17 bxa6

After 17 fxe5 e3 (threatening the deadly 18...♖f2) 18 ♖f1 ♖xf1+, 19 ♖xf1 ♖f8 20 ♖e2 ♖f2 is hopeless for White, as is 19 ♖xf1 ♕xd4 20 cxd4 ♖f8+ 21 ♖e1 ♖f2 22 ♖xe3 ♖xb2 23 ♖d2 ♖xg2 24 bxa6 ♖h1+ 25 ♖f1



♕g2 26 ♖f4 (26 0-0-0 is desirable but sadly illegal!) 26...♕xf1 27 ♖xf1 ♖e4+ 28 ♖d1 ♖c2+ 29 ♖e1 ♖d2#.

17 ... ♖f3+

18 ♖h1 ♖xe1

19 axb7 ♖xa1

20 ♕xa1 ♖d3

Black has a decisive material advantage, and the game ends rapidly.

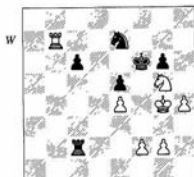
21 ♖d2 ♕xd4

22 cxd4 d5

0-1

White resigned because even her b7-pawn could not cause an iota of bother for Black without the support of other white units.

I'm sure that many people will be looking forward to seeing England's hero of Chapter 6 in action, but first Loek has a few more treats for us.

Test 5**5.1**

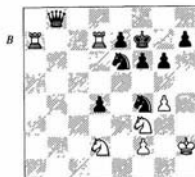
Van Wely – Topalov
Monaco Amber blindfold 1997

White to play and win more material by force.

5.2

Sadler – Van Wely
Buenos Aires 1995

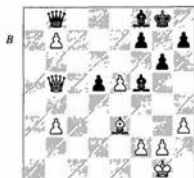
What is Black's strongest move?

5.3

Van Wely – Leko
Groningen 1995

Black is to play. In spite of having rooks doubled on the seventh rank, Leko is going down here because after his opponent's next two moves White must give up an exchange.

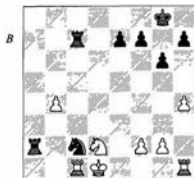
5.4



Galego – Van Wely
Breda ECC 1998

Black is to play. The threat of 31 ♖a7 looks fatal for him, but he finds a saving resource.

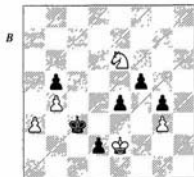
Brainteaser no. 5



Van Wely – Kamsky
Groningen 1995

Must Black keep his c7-rook on the c-file (to protect the c2-knight), or can he afford to move it away?

5.5



Svidler – Van Wely
Groningen 1995

It is Black to play and win.

Solutions to this test start on page 161, but now get ready to saddle up for lots more action starting on the next page...

6 Matthew Sadler

'Matthew Sadler set a record that may never be beaten'

British Chess Magazine, July 1997 (regarding 10 consecutive wins with Black that Sadler scored for England in the 1996 Erevan Olympiad followed by the 1997 European Team Championship in Pula)

Date of Birth	Wednesday 15 May 1974
Place of Birth	Gillingham, Kent, England
Grandmaster Title	1993
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2660
World Ranking	19

Matthew Sadler is well-named, because besides being exceptionally hardworking at chess, he also has tremendous talent for it, and (in Hebrew) 'Matthew' means 'gift of the Lord'. At the board, Matthew is always concentrated and seems to radiate immense power, which turns into great victories such as his winning of the 1997/8 Hastings Premier tournament with 7/9 (1½ points clear of the runners-up!). I find myself picturing some inexhaustible source of radioactivity, and curiously one of the discoverers of radium 100 years ago was Pierre Curie (1859-1906), who had the same 15 May birthday as 24-year-old Matthew! Another celebrity sharing the same link is Norway's top GM, Simen Agdestein, who is a famous footballer too, but now it's time to see Matthew 'putting the boot in' against a strong Swedish IM at the 1997 European Team Championship.

Game 11

M. Sadler – J. Hellsten

Pula Echt 1997

Slav Defence, 4...a6

1 d4 d5
2 c4 c6

As it happens, the Slav Defence is also one of Matthew Sadler's favourite

weapons as Black, even though probably the Queen's Gambit Accepted (2...dxc4) tops his list.

3 ♟f3

In the case of 3 cxd5 cxd5 4 ♟c3, I would choose 4...♟f6 as Black because 4...♟c6 allows the energetic thrust 5 e4!, intending 5...dxe4?! (5...e6 is better) 6 d5 ♟e5 7 ♖a4+ ♗d7 8 ♗xe4

♟g6 9 ♖f3 ♟f6 10 ♖d4, with a powerful position for White.

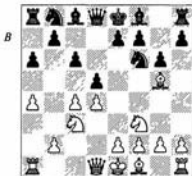
3 ... ♟f6
4 ♖c3 a6
5 a4

In Game 8 White played 5 c5, but Matthew decides to maintain the tension between the pawns at c4 and d5. The course of the current game will show that 5 a4 actually represents a very tough test for Black regarding the viability of the 4...a6 system.

5 ... g6

One can almost prove that 5...dxc4 is not good by noting that the same situation could be reached via the move-order 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♖f3 ♟f6 4 ♖c3 dxc4 5 a4 a6?, but of course in practice Black most often plays 5...♟f5 to prevent 6 e4.

6 ♟g5 (D)



It is quite possible that Black's very plausible-looking last move was actually an error in a subtle sort of way, because now White has an improved version of a certain line against the

Grünfeld Defence. I have in mind 1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 d5 4 ♖f3 ♟g7 5 ♟g5, which is already pretty good anyway, and Matthew's opponent has not yet developed his king's bishop. This begs the question 'What was Black's best option out of his 30 legal possibilities at move five?'. Well, personally, I would favour 5...♟f5, after which 6 ♖b3 ♖a7 is reminiscent of Game 8 again.

Reader's Challenge no. 32 (solution given on page 162)

At the end of the preceding note, if White continues with 7 a5, why would 7...e6 be a serious error by Black?

6 ... ♟g7
7 e3 0-0
8 ♖b3! e6

Now the c8-bishop's scope is severely restricted because absolutely all of Black's pawns are on light squares, but White was threatening to eliminate the f6-knight followed by the d5-pawn.

9 a5!

This move exerts a clamp over the b6-square, and thereby prevents Black from advancing his b-pawn to make room for ...♟b7.

9 ... ♟bd7
10 ♟e2 ♖e7

10...b5 11 axb6 ♖xb6 12 ♖xb6 ♟xb6 13 c5 ♟bd7 14 ♟f4 leaves Black in a horrible mess, in which the isolated a6-pawn has been added to the long list of weaknesses in his position.

11 h3

This useful little move frees the h2-square so that in general the g5-bishop can rest there if it gets chased by a sequence such as 11...h6 12 ♖f4 ♕h5, but it is also possible that White's king may later wish to go to h2 after castling kingside, and indeed that happens at move 24.

11 ... ♙e8

12 0-0 ♜f8

Black is having to resort to awkward, convoluted manoeuvres, because in such a cramped position his pieces are really struggling to find reasonable squares.

13 ♖f4

Who can blame White's dark-squared bishop if it is dreaming a little about landing on d6?

13 ... ♜e4

It is not easy to suggest anything else for Black, since 13...♜h5 14 ♖h2 dxc4 (14...e5? 15 cxd5) 15 ♖xc4 e5? loses by force to 16 g4:

a) 16...♜hf6 17 dxe5.

b) 16...e4 17 ♜g5.

c) 16...exd4 17 exd4 ♜hf6 18 ♜g5 ♙e7 19 ♖d6.

14 ♜xe4 dxe4

15 ♜e5!

15 ♜d2 lets Black break out of his cramped position with 15...e5! 16 dxe5 ♖xe5, with the points 17 ♜xe4?? ♖xf4 18 exf4 ♙xe4 and 17 ♖xe5 ♙xe5.

15 ... ♜e7

White was threatening 16 ♜xd7 ♖xd7 17 ♜xb7.

16 ♙fd1

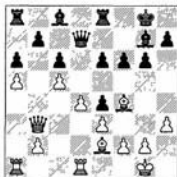
f6

17 ♜xd7

♜xd7

18 e5 (D)

B



Now White's powerful queen has one eye on Black's king at g8 while the other remains fixed on the b7-pawn.

18 ... ♜f7

Black may be hoping to play 19...e5, but White spots and stops that idea in a flash. 18...♜d5? 19 ♖c4 ♜f5?? 20 g4 would have ended Black's suffering instantly.

19 ♖c4 f5

20 ♙d2

White is systematically making the positions of his pieces even better, and this last rook move allows the other rook on a1 to swing over to f1, where it will be facing Black's queen.

20 ... ♖f6

21 ♙f1 ♖d8

22 ♜b4

The momentary alarm bell at a5 has been dealt with calmly.

22 ... ♖c7

23 ♖e5

Concerning the dark-squared bishops, White would like Black to be the one to do the capturing, because the recapture dxe5 would open the d-file and increase White's advantage.

23 ... We7

24 Ch2

In effect, this move declares to Black 'OK, it's your turn again, and even though there is nothing constructive that you can do, you must move'.

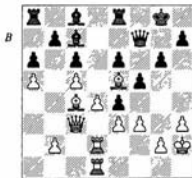
24 ... Wf7

25 We3 Id8

25... We7 would *not* threaten to win a pawn by 26... dxe5 + 27 dxe5 Wxc5 ? because 28 dxe6 + costs Black his queen to 29 Wxc5 .

26 Ifd1 Ie8

27 f3! (D)



White's pieces are optimally placed, and so this is the perfect moment to prise open the position.

27 ... exf3

28 gxf3 We7

29 Ig1

White utilizes the freshly opened g-file, but the fact that he immediately switches back to the d-file on the next move suggests to me that either time-trouble was becoming a factor in the game or White was just toying with his opponent to emphasize how poor Black's position is.

29 ... Id8

30 Igd1 cf8

31 e4!

Now Black cannot prevent White from opening up more lines because 31... f4 loses to 32 d5 dxe5 (32... exd5 33 dxc7 Wxc7 34 Wh8 + costs Black his queen to the skewer 35 Wxh7 +) 33 Wxe5 . Then, for example:

a) 33... Wxc5 34 Wf6 + de8 35 dxe6 Ixd2 + 36 Ixd2 We7 37 Wh8 + Wf8 38 Id8 +.

b) 33... exd5 34 Wh8 + cf7 35 Wxh7 + cf6 36 Wh4 + g5 37 Wh6 + cf7 38 exd5 , with a crushing attack against Black's fatally exposed king.

31 ... dxe5 +

32 dxe5 Ixd2 +

32... Id7 33 exf5 is also hopeless for Black, e.g. 33... gxf5 34 We3 or 33... exf5 34 e6 dxe6 35 Wh8 +.

33 Wxd2 Wxc5

Black grabs a pawn for his pain, but now White infiltrates the enemy camp decisively.

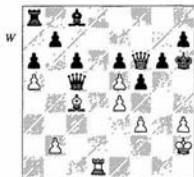
34 Wd8 + cg7

34... cf7 35 Wf6 + de8 36 Id8 #.

35 Wf6 + ch6 (D)

36 cg3!

White's king stops the threat of 36... Wf2 +, and even plays an active



role in the final attack against Black's king.

36 ... ♖xc4
37 ♖f8+

Another way to win is 37 ♖h4+ ♕g7 38 ♖e7+ ♕h6 39 ♕h4!, with the terrible threat of 40 ♖f8#.

37 ... ♕h5
38 ♖e7

White threatens 39 ♖h4# or 39 ♖xh7+ ♕g5 40 f4#, so Black now flings forward his f-pawn in desperation.

38 ... f4+

38...♕h6 39 ♕h4! transposes to the line given in the note to move 37.

39 ♕xf4 ♕h6

Reader's Challenge no. 33
(solution given on page 162)

If 39...h6, can you find a way for White to force mate in just three more moves?

40 ♕g4

Now Black is facing mate on f8.

40 ... ♔d7

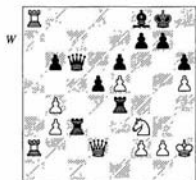
41 ♔xd7 1-0

41...♔h8 would have given White a choice of three immediate mates, so Black decided to throw in the towel instead.

We are about to see Matthew Sadler causing double trouble over the board for two top GMs who reside in Israel. In Game 12, Ilia Smirin quickly finds himself in hot water as White facing the Sicilian Najdorf, which is also Garry Kasparov's favourite weapon against 1 e4. First, though, we have a puzzle based on another game from the same tournament.

Matthew's mate

(solution given on page 162)



Gofshtein – Sadler
Ischia 1996

While it did not put anything *en prise*, White's next move allowed Black to force mate in just three moves. Can you discover that continuation?

Game 12
I. Smirin – M. Sadler
Ischia 1996

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 1 e4 | c5 |
| 2 ♘f3 | d6 |
| 3 d4 | cx d4 |
| 4 ♘xd4 | ♙f6 |
| 5 ♙c3 | a6 |
| 6 ♖e3 | e5 |

The energetic black e-pawn jumps further than it did in Game 2, where 6...e6 was played.

- 7 ♙f3

This move is often seen in practice, but an even more common choice is 7 ♙b3, and then White may follow up with the attacking sequence f3, g4, ♖d2, 0-0-0 in some order.

- 7 ... ♗e7

7...b5?! 8 a4! b4 9 ♙d5 is bad for Black, whose troubles at b4 and b6 cannot be solved by 9...♙xd5?? because after 10 ♖xd5 the a8-rook is doomed.

- 8 ♗c4 0-0

8...b5?? 9 ♗d5 ♙xd5 10 ♖xd5 reiterates a tactical point from the previous note.

- 9 0-0 (D)

- 9 ... ♗e6!

Black fights for control of the central d5-square, whereas after 9...♖c7 10 ♗b3 ♙bd7 11 ♗g5 h6 12 ♗h4 ♙c5?! 13 ♗xf6! ♗xf6 14 ♙d5 ♖d8 15 ♗e1 ♗g4 16 c3! (planning ♗c2 and b4) White was the master of the outpost at d5 in Motwani-Evans, London



1988. GM Larry Evans later commented that it was actually extremely difficult to counter such simple, purposeful play.

- 10 ♗b3

In the case of 10 ♗xe6?! fxe6, the opening of the f-file favours Black, and his doubled e-pawns control important squares both in and near the centre of the board. Instead, White played 10 ♖d3 in Rowson-Sadler, British Ch (Torquay) 1998, but after 10...♙c6 (threatening 11...♙b4) 11 a3 ♙a5! 12 ♗xe6 fxe6 Black was again enjoying the advantages described in the previous sentence.

- 10 ... b5

This advance is well-timed because the e6-bishop nullifies any idea that White may have of playing ♗d5.

- 11 ♖e2 h6

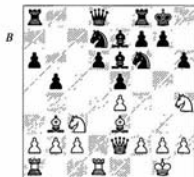
Reader's Challenge no. 34
(solution given on page 162)

Black rejected 11...♙bd7; why?

- 12 ♗fd1 ♙bd7

Black develops a piece and simultaneously stops the threat of 13 Qxe5 .

13 Qh4?! (D)



From a positional point of view the idea of soon playing Qf5 (or perhaps Qg6) looks really rosy, but here there is a disruptive tactical detail which costs White his only central pawn.

13 ... b4!

13... Qxe4? 14 Qxe4 Qxh4 15 Qxe6 fxe6 16 Qxd6 is disastrous for Black, whose troubles at d7 and e6 do not end there since White also threatens 17 Qg4 .

14 Qa4 Qxe4

This time the knight can safely eat White's e-pawn.

15 Qxe6 fxe6

16 Qg6 Qf6

After 16... Qf5? 17 Qc4! d5 18 Qxd5! (18 Qc6 Qf7) Black is suddenly in a critical condition, facing dark lines such as 18... exd5 19 Qxd5+ Qf7 20 Qxe7+ Qxe7 21 Qxa8+ and 22 Qxc4 .

17 Qg4

17 Qxe7+ Qxe7 18 Qc4 d5 19 Qxd5 Qaf8!! takes us into a tactical mine-field, where 20 Qxd7? Qxd7 21 Qxc4 (21 Qb6 Qb7) loses to 21... Qxa4 , and White also turns pale after 20 Qdd1 Qxf2 21 Qxf2? Qxf2 22 Qc7 Qg5 or 21 Qf1 Qf7 22 Qxb4?? Qh3+! .

17 ... d5

17... Qec5?? 18 Qxc5 dxc5 is disastrous for Black on account of 19 Qxe5 or 19 Qb6 Qa7 (19... Qxb6 allows 20 Qxe7+ followed by 21 Qxd7) 20 Qxe7+ Qxe7 21 Qc8 .

18 f3 Qg5

19 Qxg5 hxc5

19... Qxg6?? loses to 20 Qxe7 owing to 20... Qxg4 21 Qxd8 , 20... Qxe7 21 Qxg6 or 20... Qe8 21 Qxb4 .

20 Qxg5?!

It was relatively best for White to play 20 Qxe7+ , because in the actual game Black gets to retain his bishop, whereas the g6-knight soon finds itself having to retreat.

20 ... Qd6

21 c4

White tries desperately to break up his opponent's phalanx of pawns near the centre, but Black responds in typically energetic fashion.

Reader's Challenge no. 35

(solution given on page 162)

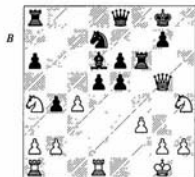
After 21 Qh5 , can you find a way for Black to win by force?

21 ... Qe8

This move would also have been the response to 21 h4 because Black

wins after 22 h5 ♖f5 23 ♖h4 ♖f6, threatening 24... ♖xa4 and 24... ♖xh5.

22 ♖h4 (D)



22 ... e4!!

There were other very strong possibilities such as 22... ♖f4 and 22... ♖e7, but Black's actual move is extremely energetic, and threatens 23... ♖f4 24 ♖g4 ♖e5. After 25 ♖h3 Black can choose between 25...g5 and 25... ♖xa4, in either case winning a white knight. In the actual game, White speedily loses the steed on a4, and at move 29 Black gives back a piece in order to create a decisive final attack.

23 fxe4 ♖f4
24 ♖g4 ♖e5
25 ♖e2 ♖xa4
26 g3 ♖g5
27 exd5 ♖xh4
28 ♖xe5 ♖c2!
29 ♖h1

A quicker way to exit is 29 gxh4 ♖f2+ 30 ♖h1 ♖f3+ 31 ♖g1 ♖g6+.

29 ... ♖xg3!!

30 ♖xg3

30 hxg3 ♖h6+ 31 ♖g1 ♖h2+ 32 ♖f1 ♖f8+ 33 ♖e1 ♖f2#.

30 ... ♖g6

31 ♖f3

White's overworked queen tries to prevent its black counterpart from landing at e4 or g2.

31 ... ♖f8

32 ♖ac1

White's only hope is that Black will play 32... ♖xc1?, allowing 33 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 34 ♖xc1, but Matthew Sadler is much too strong to fall for something like that.

32 ... ♖xb2

33 ♖h3 ♖h6

34 ♖g3 ♖f2

Black's heavy artillery moves in for the kill towards White's trembling king.

35 h3 ♖g6!

Now if White's queen takes her eyes off the h2-square by playing 36 ♖xg6, then Black swiftly ends the game with 36... ♖h2+ 37 ♖g1 ♖f2#.

36 ♖b8+ ♖h7

The biggest threat now is 37... ♖f1+! 38 ♖xf1 ♖g2#.

37 ♖g1 e5!

0-1

White resigned in view of 38 ♖xg6 ♖h2+ 39 ♖g1 ♖f2#.

We are ready to enjoy six sizzling Sadler situations!

Test 6

6.1



Sadler – Miles

British Ch rpd play-off (Hove) 1997

White to play and win.

6.2

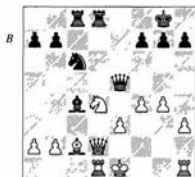


Dydyshko – Sadler

Pula Echt 1997

White is to play. What is Black threatening, and if White chooses 26 h3, how should he reply?

6.3



Kosten – Sadler

Port Erin 1997

Black is to play and win.

6.4

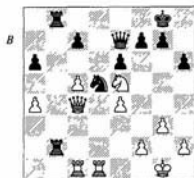


Sadler – Sorin

Buenos Aires 1995

White now found a really beautiful move.

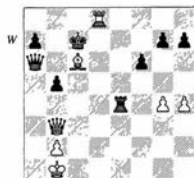
6.5



Dizdar – Sadler
Pula Echt 1997

Black now found a truly stunning idea which assured him of a big advantage.

Brainteaser no. 6



Sadler – Ferguson
British Ch (Nottingham) 1996

The neat finish was 35 ♖d7+! 1-0.

a) Why did Black resign?

b) Remove *all the pawns* from the board. Now imagine that White has one new invisible pawn (not necessarily one of the removed pawns).

b1) Where is the invisible pawn if White can deliver immediate mate in one move?

b2) Alternatively, where is the invisible pawn if the move 35 ♖xe4 allows Black to force a draw?

Solutions to this test start on page 162, but now get ready for Gata's great games starting on the next page...

7 Gata Kamsky

'A genius! For thirty-seven years I've practised fourteen hours a day, and now they call me a genius!'

Spanish violinist and composer Pablo de Sarasate y Navascues (1844-1908), on being hailed as a genius by a critic.

Date of Birth	Sunday 2 June 1974
Place of Birth	Novokuznetsk, Siberia
Grandmaster Title	1990
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2720
World Ranking	7

In 1996 Gata Kamsky retired from professional chess to become a medical doctor. He had just lost a match to Anatoly Karpov in the final of the FIDE World Championship, but in the first 22 years of his life many tremendous games were produced by Kamsky with the help of his genius for chess, and lots of very hard work at it. His results seemed to improve at a meteoric rate after moving to the USA in 1989, and I am reminded of a US five-times Olympic swimming gold medal winner, Johnny Weissmuller (1904-84), who also had a 2 June birthday but was better known for his acting role as Tarzan! Among the hordes of grandmasters in the world today, Kamsky did not quite become absolute 'Lord of the jungle', but still his moves have made a lasting impression on many aspiring champions such as IM Jonathan Rowson, who dreamt about Kamsky on 28 May 1998! In fact, as White J.R. now likes to tackle the Nimzo-Indian Defence in the same attacking style that Kamsky demonstrated in the following game.

Game 13
G. Kamsky – N. Short
Linares PCA Ct (5) 1994
 Nimzo-Indian Defence,
 Rubinstein Variation

1 d4 ♘f6

2 c4 e6
 3 ♖c3 ♙b4
 4 e3

The Rubinstein Variation is named after the great Polish player Akiba Rubinstein (12.10.1882-14.3.1961), and personally I have faced it as Black

more often than any of White's other options at move four against the Nimzo-Indian Defence.

4 ... c5

5 ♖d3

In 1998 I have seen several games where Black scored well in the line 5 ♖e2 cxd4 6 exd4 0-0 7 a3 ♖e7 8 d5 exd5 9 cxd5 ♖c5.

5 ... ♖c6

6 ♖e2 cxd4

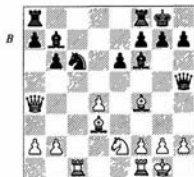
7 exd4 d5

8 cxd5 ♖xd5

Reader's Challenge no. 36

(solution given on page 163)

8...♖xd5!? 9 0-0 ♖h5 10 ♖f4 (stopping ideas of ...♖d6) 10...0-0 11 ♖b3 ♖e7 12 ♖ac1 b6 13 ♖e4 ♖b7 14 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 15 ♖a4? (D) occurred in Dumitrache-Karolyi, Paks 1998.



Can you discover the winning 15th move that IM Tibor Karolyi found?

9 0-0 ♖d6

10 ♖e4 ♖e7

What is the point of Black's last two moves, which were both with the same piece? Well, the idea is that by tempting White's c3-knight to move, Black now has an unchallenged knight on the central outpost at d5. However, precious time was consumed in re-treating the black bishop, and White is already starting to gather potentially dangerous forces near the kingside.

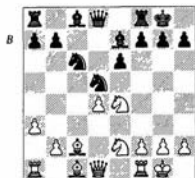
One might say that the moves are all well-known to theory, but even though that is true, I can honestly say that I now believe White's attacking set-up is easier to play than Black's position. Nevertheless, solidity and structural soundness should not be underrated.

11 a3

White wants to follow up with ♖c2 and ♖d3 without being harassed by Black moving a knight to b4.

11 ... 0-0

12 ♖c2 (D)



12 ... ♖e8

13 ♖d3 g6

13...f5 would create weaknesses at e5 and e6, so instead Black chooses another way to block out any immediate danger towards h7. However, White's c1-bishop is not slow to spot a new home for itself at h6.

14 ♖h6 b6
15 ♖ad1 ♗b7
16 ♖fe1 ♖c8
17 ♗b3!

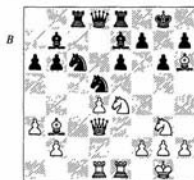
Having already mobilized all of his pieces, White now starts to apply pressure in a new direction, and Black's units (including the king itself) on the a2-g8 diagonal can feel the power of the b3-bishop.

17 ... a6

After 17...♗a5 18 ♗a2 the black knight on the rim is facing the unpleasant prospect of being kicked back immediately by 19 b4, but instead 17...♖c7!? (planning ...♖d7) merits consideration.

18 ♗2g3 (D)

White's pieces share a common purpose: head towards the kingside and attack the black king.



18 ... ♗b8?!

Black's last two moves have been rather passive, and as a result White's attacking operations quickly attain frightening proportions.

19 ♖f3

White is planning 20 ♗h5! because 20...gxf5? loses to 21 ♖g3+, and so 19...♗h4 is a logical counter-measure for Black now.

19 ... ♖c7?

Reader's Challenge no. 37

(solution given on page 163)

If 19...f5, then can you find a winning continuation for White?

20 ♗h5!

With three white pieces focusing on the f6-square, there is now the threat of 21 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 22 ♗ef6+ ♗h8 23 ♗g7#, and a similar finish arises from 20...f5 21 ♗c3 in the case of 21...♗xc3 22 ♗xe6+ ♗h8 23 ♗g7#.

20 ... ♗d7

21 h4!

Kamsky finds a clever way to increase the pressure on Black, and one plausible and pretty line is 21...♗h4 22 ♗d6 ♗e7 23 g3 ♗f6 24 ♗xb7 ♖xb7 25 ♗xd5 exd5 26 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 27 ♖xf6! ♖xe1+ 28 ♖xe1 ♖xf6 29 ♖e8#.

21 ... ♗7f6

22 ♗hxf6+ ♗xf6

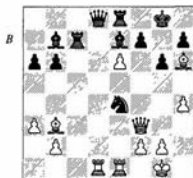
23 d5!!

The d-pawn makes a decisive breakthrough, not fearing the four black units that are currently covering the d5-square.

23 ... ♖xe4

23...♖xd5 24 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 25 ♖xd5!! exd5 26 ♖f6+ ♖h8 (26...♖xf6 27 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 28 ♖xf6 ♖e1+ 29 ♖h2 leaves Black helpless at g7) 27 ♖xe8 ♖xe8 28 ♖f6+! ♖xf6 29 ♖xe8# echoes the note to move 21.

24 dxe6! (D)



Now Black has no satisfactory way to meet White's threats to d8 and f7.

24 ... f5

25 ♖xd8 ♖xd8

26 ♖d1 1-0

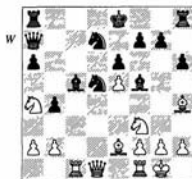
Reader's Challenge no. 38
(solution given on page 163)

Black resigned, hopelessly behind on material, but if the game had continued 26...♖xd1+ 27 ♖xd1, then what would White be threatening?

Just before we see a smooth game of instructive manoeuvring by Gata Kamsky against France's no. 1 player, GM Joël Lautier, let's try the following puzzle.

Bye bye Black

(solution given on pages 163-4)



Kamsky – Adianto
Amsterdam Donner mem 1996

White is to play and win.

Game 14

J. Lautier – G. Kamsky

Groningen 1995

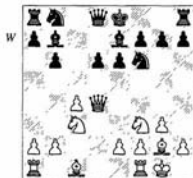
English Opening, Hedgehog

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 1 | c4 | ♖f6 |
| 2 | ♖c3 | c5 |
| 3 | ♖f3 | e6 |
| 4 | g3 | b6 |
| 5 | ♖g2 | ♖b7 |
| 6 | 0-0 | ♖e7 |
| 7 | d4 | |

More recently, a line which has become extremely popular is 7 ♖e1, planning 8 e4. It may seem way over the top to say that 7 d4 is an error (especially because it has been played by many top GMs), but in my opinion 7 ♖e1 is a better move.

7 ... **cx**d48 **W**xd4

8 **Q**xd4 **Q**xg2 9 **Q**xg2 is not difficult for Black, since the exchange of light-squared bishops produces a simplified position in which the remaining black pieces do not feel at all congested because the manoeuvring space per piece is greater when there are fewer units left on the board.

8 ... **d**6 (D)

White is denied the possibility of 9 **Q**f4 because of the fork 9...e5.

9 **Q**d1 **a**6

Given the chance, White's c3-knight might have leapt onto b5 to increase the pressure against d6, but instead the steed is kept away by the newest prickly black pawn to appear along the sixth rank, thereby giving this opening the character and name of a hedgehog.

10 **b**3 **Q**bd7

It may seem surprising at first that Black chooses not to gain a tempo with ...**Q**c6, but he does not want to obstruct the excellent view which his

fianchettoed bishop is enjoying on the a8-h1 long diagonal.

11 **e**4 **W**b8

On e7 the queen would not be protected, and so later Black could not play the same important 14th move as occurs in the game.

12 **Q**a3 **Q**c513 **e**5 **d**x5

13...**Q**xf3 14 **Q**xf3 (not 14 **Q**xf6? **Q**xf6) 14...**d**x5 15 **Q**c6+ leaves Black one (doubled) pawn up, but his king is not happy.

14 **W**x5

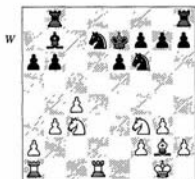
14 **Q**x5 **Q**xg2 15 **Q**xg2 **W**b7+ is very comfortable for Black.

14 ... **Q**d7!

This forces exchanges which help Black in basically the same way as was described above in the note to White's 8th move.

15 **W**xb8+

Of course, the queen cannot move away because that would leave the loose a3-bishop *en prise*.

15 ... **Q**xb816 **Q**x5 **Q**x5 (D)

Quite honestly, I already prefer Black here because his king is ideally placed near the centre to play an active role in the game without danger from any enemy queen. Furthermore, there is potential on both wings of the board for Black to achieve pawn-breaks by advancing his g- and h-pawns and/or his b-pawn.

I am reminded of the following words by Denmark's GM Bent Larsen, who stated: "If Black equalizes, then he is already better". The second part of this statement might seem like a contradiction of the first part, but I believe Larsen meant that since it is commonly felt that White possesses some advantage in the normal starting position for a game of chess, then he must have lost something if Black later equalizes. At that stage, Black should have a psychological edge, whereas White might feel that the game is gradually slipping away from his grasp.

17 Qd4 Nhc8
18 Nac1 g5!

Having already fully activated his pieces, Black now proceeds to gain space by advancing pawns.

19 Ax b7 Nxb7
20 f3 Nbc7

Black threatens to win a pawn by 21...b5!.

21 Qce2 h5

It's like a horse race in which Black's dynamic duo of g- and h-pawns are galloping towards the white king standing further down the path of the charging pair!

22 Qf2 Qc5
23 Qe3 Qb7!

This is a classy case of '*reculer pour mieux sauter*' as the French would say, because the knight retreats in order to make a better jump forward to d6, from where it may get to f5 or support a ...b5 advance.

24 h3 Qd6

One big threat now is 25...e5 26 Qc2 b5.

25 f4 Nc5!

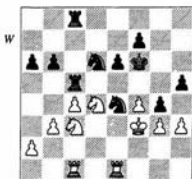
Tracing back into the past, one can see that the active rook now standing confidently on c5 got there in several steps by a kind of zigzag manoeuvre: ... Na8-b8-b7-c7-c5 .

26 Qf3 Qfe4
27 Ne1

It is not easy here to find a truly constructive plan for White.

27 ... Qf6
28 Qc3 g4+! (D)

Black is tactically alert, and he also realizes that 28... Qxc3 29 Nxc3 b5 can be answered by 30 Nce3 , planning 31 Qxe6! .



29 **h**xg4 **h**xg4+

30 **♔**g2

If 30 **♔**xg4? **♚**g8+ 31 **♔**h4, then one of many paths to victory for Black is 31...**♕**f2!, threatening 32...**♚**g4# or 32...**♚**h8#.

30 ... **♕**xc3

31 **♚**xc3 **b**5

32 **♚**ce3

White finds the best move, but it still proves insufficient to save the game.

32 ... **b**xc4

33 **♕**xe6 **♚**d5

I also like 33...**♚**h5, threatening 34...**♕**f5 and 34...**♚**ch8.

34 **♕**g5 **c**xb3

35 **a**xb3 **♚**c2+

36 **♚**1e2

36 **♔**g1 **♔**dd2 is terrible for White, and if 36 **♔**f1, then Black wins material by force with 36...**♕**f5 37 **♕**e4+ **♔**g7 38 **♚**3e2 **♚**xe2 39 **♚**xe2 **♚**d3.

Reader's Challenge no. 39

(solution given on page 164)

In the variation starting with 36 **♔**f1 **♕**f5, imagine that Black is given one extra pawn somewhere on the board. Where is the pawn if White can then win?

36 ... **♚**dd2

A nice alternative is 36...**♕**f5! 37 **♚**e8 **♚**xe2+ 38 **♚**xe2 **♚**d3 39 **♕**e4+ **♔**g7 40 **♚**b2 **♚**e3, and Black will win the g3-pawn which he fixed so firmly by his earlier excellent 28th move.

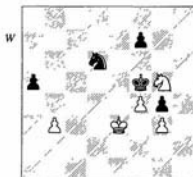
37 **♔**f2 **♚**xe2+

In only a moment, 37...**♕**f5?? 38 **♕**e4+ would spoil the fruits that Black has reaped from hours of hard work.

38 **♚**xe2 **♚**xe2+

39 **♔**xe2 **♔**f5

40 **♔**e3 **a**5 (D)



The time-control at move 40 has been reached with the players still level on material, but the position is far from equal because White is in zugzwang with his knight stranded inside Black's camp, and hardly able to move.

41 **♕**h7

If 41 **♔**f2, then one of Black's simplest ways to win is 41...**♕**e4+ 42 **♕**xe4 **♔**xe4 43 **♔**e2 **f**5 (or 43...**f**6), intending 44 **♔**d2 **♔**f3 or 44 **♔**f2 **♔**d3, after which White quickly loses at least one pawn, and the game too.

41 ... **♕**e4

42 **♕**f8 **♕**c5!

This is Black's easiest way to win, because the opponent's knight is not even allowed to escape via d7. White has had enough, so...

0-1

Reader's Challenge no. 40

(solution given on page 164)

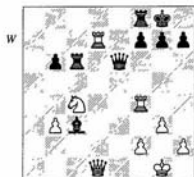
In the final position, imagine that all the *pawns* are removed from the board, but White has a queen on square X.

a) Where is square X if Black's king is checkmated?

b) Now transfer the white queen to square Y and put a black queen on square X. Where is square Y if White's king is checkmated?

The next chapter is bulging full with exciting moves from Bulgaria's top grandmaster, but the current episode of our chess adventure still has an extra dose of treats in store for us...

7.2

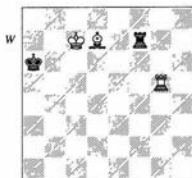


Kamsky – Karpov
Elista FIDE Wch (16) 1996

How should White continue now?

Test 7

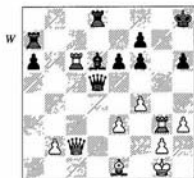
7.1



Kamsky – Ljubojević
Monte Carlo Amber rpd 1996

What is White's strongest move?

7.3

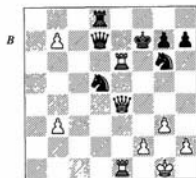


Kamsky – Salov
Sanghi Nagar FIDE Ct (3) 1995

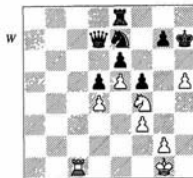
White to play and win.

7.4

Brainteaser no. 7

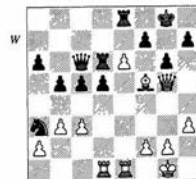
**Kamsky – Salov***Amsterdam Donner mem 1996*

Black to play. Your challenge is to find a win for White after either 36...Wxb7 or 36...Qf8.

**Kamsky – P. Nikolić****(minus the white queen)***Monte Carlo Amber rpd 1996*

White's invisible queen is actually somewhere on the g- or h-file, and White can now win by force. Where exactly is the white queen?

7.5

**Kamsky – Piket***Dos Hermanas 1995*

White (to play) can win material by force.

Solutions to this test start on page 164, but right now we must be in tip-top shape to meet the hero on the next page...

8 Veselin Topalov

'I only count victories'

Veselin Topalov (New In Chess magazine, no. 3, 1998)

Date of Birth	Saturday 15 March 1975
Place of Birth	Ruse, Bulgaria
Grandmaster Title	1992
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2700
World Ranking	10

The above words of Veselin Topalov are reminiscent of Julius Caesar's '*Veni, vidi, vici*' (Latin for 'I came, I saw, I conquered'), but 15 March was not so great for Caesar because that was the date on which he died violently in the year 44 BC! Bulgaria's 23-year-old top grandmaster actually has a rather violent attacking style, which has proved very effective in helping him to win big events such as the 1996 VSB tournament in Amsterdam, where he shared first place with Garry Kasparov and also won their particular game. Topalov can produce highly controlled chess too, as we are about to see...

Game 15
V. Topalov – A. Yusupov
Novgorod 1995
 Ruy Lopez (Spanish),
 Deferred Steinitz

1 e4 e5
 2 ♖f3 ♘c6
 3 ♗b5

Of all the openings in chess, the Ruy Lopez is one of the most important ones, and so it is quite fitting for it to feature frequently in this book; only the Sicilian Defence occurs more often.

3 ... a6
 4 ♗a4 d6
 5 c3 ♗d7

The adventurous 5...f5 has for many years brought good results as Black to Scotland's FM Tim Upton. A solid alternative is 5...♖f6, but of course after 6 d4 one must avoid the pitfall 6...♖xe4?? because of 7 d5 b5 8 ♗c2.

6 d4 ♖ge7
 7 ♗e3 ♖g6
 8 h4! (D)

This aggressive advance is possible now since White cleverly did *not* castle



kingside earlier on because he anticipated the arrival of a black knight on g6.

8 ... h5

9 g3

White secures his h-pawn so that the f3-knight will be free to move, as happens very soon in the game.

9 ... e7

10 d5

White already stands well on the kingside, so now he starts to gain space and make progress on the opposite wing too.

10 ... b8

11 e7+ e7

12 f2!

If White can follow up with a sequence like c4, e3, b4, b3 and c5, then he will have an ideal set-up on the queenside.

12 ... f6

12...0-0? allows the white queen to get a free tasty snack at h5.

13 f3

White easily prevents 13...e4.

13 ... 0-0

14 c4 c5

15 e3

This developing move is completely natural, but White can also consider 15 a3, intending 16 b4. In the actual game, he instead decides to stop Black's b-pawn from jumping far.

15 ... d7

16 a4 a5?

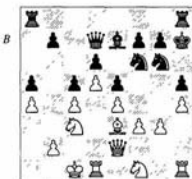
It is quite understandable that Black wanted to prevent his opponent from clamping down on the queenside with 17 a5, but 16...b6 would at least have kept some fluidity in Black's queenside pawn structure. Now, however, the queenside is locked, and so White can happily concentrate on the other flank, where his potentially mobile f- and g-pawns may later advance to generate an attack.

17 e2 e7

18 0-0-0 h8

Because his position is so cramped, Black can do little more than shuffle pieces around near the back rank.

19 f1! (D)



This knight moves for the third time already, and it is not stopping yet because the e3-square is a great place from which to support a later advance g3-g4. Of course, White's bishop can cooperate in this plan simply by vacating the e3-square as quickly as possible.

19 ... ♖g8
20 ♔d2 ♕e8
21 ♕e3 ♕f8
22 b3

This move is not strictly necessary because White's position on the queen-side was already secure, and so it was possible to proceed immediately on the other wing with 22 f4, for example.

22 ... g6

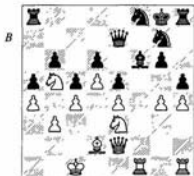
Some people might criticize this move by saying that it creates an extra target for White to attack, but Black's congested, passive position is so unpleasant that it would hardly be tenable after any other moves either.

23 f4 ♔f6
24 ♚df1 ♗e7
25 f5!

White confidently seizes some more space, knowing that he can still prise open lines for attack when he chooses to do so.

25 ... ♕g7
26 ♕b5 b6
27 fxg6 fxg6
28 g4! (D)

With White's pieces in optimal positions, this is the time for a decisive breakthrough.



28 ... ♔xh4

28...hxg4 29 ♕xg4 ♔xh4 30 ♕h6+ ♕h7 31 ♕f7 ♚g8 32 ♔g5 is nightmarish for Black, as is 28...♗d8 29 ♗f3 ♕e8 (or 29...♕h7 30 g5 ♔e7 31 ♗f7#) 30 ♚hg1 (threatening 31 gxh5) 30...hxg4 31 ♕xg4 ♕g7 32 ♕c7!? ♕xc7 33 ♕xf6, with overwhelming threats such as 34 ♔g5, 34 h5 and 34 ♕h5+!

29 ♕xd6 ♗xd6

Reader's Challenge no. 41
(solution given on pages 164-5)

After 29...♔f6, can you discover how White's g-pawn can be used most effectively?

30 ♚xh4 ♕d7
31 gxh5 ♚xh5
32 ♚xh5 ♕xh5

If 32...gxh5, then after 33 ♚g1 White threatens captures on g7 or h5, as well as 34 ♕f5.

33 ♕f5! 1-0

Black resigned because of lines such as:

a) 33...gxf5 34 ♖xh5 f4 35 ♜gl+
 ♜f8 36 ♖h8+ ♜e7 37 ♜g7+ ♜f6 38
 ♖h6#.

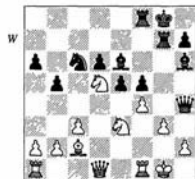
b) After 33...♖f8 34 ♜h6+ the f1-
 rook would be flying down to f8!

c) 33...♖c7 34 ♜e7+ and then
 34...♜g7 35 ♖g4 or 34...♜h7 35 ♜f7+
 ♜g7 36 ♖h2#.

Veselin Topalov has scored many brilliant victories as Black with the King's Indian Defence, and very soon we will see how he used that weapon to defeat GM Boris Gelfand at Linares in 1997. First, though, let's time-warp two years further back to the same Spanish town.

Look before you leap

(solution given on page 165)



Topalov – Illescas

Linares 1995

White is about to produce a stunning 20th move. The title of the puzzle contains a clue.

Game 16

B. Gelfand – V. Topalov

Linares 1997

King's Indian Defence,
 Gligorić System

1 d4	♜f6
2 ♜f3	g6

Topalov often likes to charge forward with his c-pawn early in the opening as Black, but the extravagant 2...c5 3 d5 c4 got severely punished by White in the brief encounter Dautov-Telljohann, German Ch (Bremen) 1998.

Reader's Challenge no. 42

(solution given on page 165)

In that game featuring a rare form of the Benoni Defence, the continuation was 4 e4! ♜xe4 5 ♜xc4 g6 6 ♜c3! ♜f6 (question 1: if 6...♜xc3, then what would you play as White?) 7 d6! e6? (7...exd6? would expose the black king and give the c4-bishop a clear view towards the frail f7-pawn, but 7...♜g7 is relatively best) 8 ♜b5 ♜a6 9 ♜f4 b6 (question 2: if 9...♜g7, then how can White win by force?) 10 ♜e5 (White constantly and skilfully increases the pressure on his opponent) 10...♜b7 11 ♖d4 ♜g7 12 ♜c7+ ♜xc7 13 dxc7 ♖e7 14 ♜d6 ♜h5 15 ♖d3 ♖f6 (D).

16 ♜a6! ♖xb2 (after 16...♜xa6 17 ♖xa6 Black cannot prevent White's c7-pawn from promoting) 17 ♜xb7! 1-0. Black resigned because after 17...♖xa1+ 18 ♜e2 ♖xh1 19 ♜xa8



White would very soon have a second queen on c8.

3	c4	g7
4	Qc3	0-0
5	c4	d6
6	g2	e5

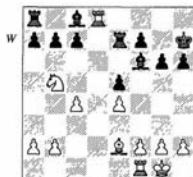
It is a well-established fact that 7 dxe5 dxe5 8 Wxd8 Nxd8 9 Qxe5 does not trouble Black at all because he has 9...Qxe4, intending 10 Qxe4 gxe5, after which the King's Indian bishop enjoys lots of freedom on the long a1-h8 diagonal.

7 gxe3

Reader's Challenge no. 43
(solution given on pages 165-6)

The related line 7 0-0 Qc6 8 gxe3 featured in Portisch-Xie Jun, Roquebrune (Women vs Veterans) 1998. Instead of 8...Qg4 Black played 8...Ne8, and it is instructive to see how White won quickly after one error by Black on move 12: 9 dxe5! (question 1: if 9 d5, then what should Black play?) 9...dxe5 10 Wxd8 Qxd8 11 Qb5 Qe6

12 Qg5 (aiming to eliminate the defender of the c7-pawn) 12...Qxg5? (12...Ne7 is necessary) 13 gxf6 Ne7 14 Nxd1 h6 (question 2: if 14...e6, can you discover a winning move for White?) 15 Nd8+ Kh7 (15...Ne8? loses instantly to 16 gxf6) 16 gxf6 gxf6 (D).



Now question 3 is: can you find White's crushing 17th move?

7 ... exd4

In this line, Black trades off his pawn in the centre in return for opening the e-file, and so he can try to generate some pressure against the white e4-pawn.

8	Qxd4	Ne8
9	f3	c6

With this point, Black prepares to blow open the centre with ...d5.

10 gxf2 (D)

White shifts his loose bishop off the e-file so that Black's forthcoming ...d5 advance can be answered by exd5.

10 ... d5



11 exd5 cxd5
12 0-0 c6
13 c5

Now the d5-pawn remains isolated and White may be planning to manoeuvre a knight to d6 via b5. So Black must react vigorously, and Topalov is not slow to do so.

13 ... h5

Suddenly Black's queen and g7-bishop are enjoying increased scope, and the h5-knight threatens to land at f4 in White's camp.

14 g3?!

14 d2 is more prudent, and Black could not then play the dangerous attacking move ...g5 which happens soon in the actual game.

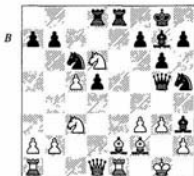
14 ... h3
15 e1 g5

Reader's Challenge no. 44

(solution given on page 166)

What is Black's main threat now?

16 db5 ad8
17 d6 (D)



17 ... d4!!

Black wants to lure the f2-bishop to d4 so that the all-important g-pawn sheltering White's king can be destroyed by a ...xg3 sacrifice, and (besides 18...xg3 19 hxg3 xg3+) the threat of 18...xf2+ 19 xf2 e3# adds to the opponent's growing headaches.

18 e1

In view of all the aforementioned worries, it is not surprising that White wishes to swap queens. However, we should analyse the important alternative 18 f4 xf2+ 19 xf2 xf4:

a) 20 gxf4?? g2#.

b) 20 xe8 g2! (not only attacking the e1-rook, but also threatening 21...e3+ 22 f1 f4#) 21 f3 xe1 22 xe1 e5!, when the threatened fork at d3 gives White no time to save his e8-knight.

c) 20 d2 e6!!, with the following branches:

c1) 21 gxf4?? g2#.

c2) 21 xf4?? f6 is also disastrous for White.

c3) 21 ♔f3 ♕b4!! is a beautiful and logical move to threaten a knight check at d3. 22 gxf4? is answered by 22...♕d3+! 23 ♖xd3 ♗h4+ 24 ♖g1 ♖xe1+ 25 ♖xe1 ♗xe1+ 26 ♗f1 ♗xf1#.

18 ... ♔e3

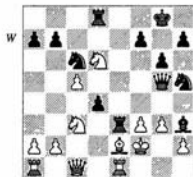
19 ♔xe3 ♖xe3

Now 20 f4? is met by the deadly piece of lateral thinking 20...♖xg3+!, while 20 ♕xd5? allows another sacrifice: 20...♕xg3!, with the point 21 ♗xe3 ♕xe2++ 22 ♖f2 ♗g2# or the same finish via the move-order 21 ♖f2 ♕xe2 22 ♗xe3 ♗g2#.

20 ♖f2

The e3-rook can also be challenged by 20 ♔f1, but after 20...♖xe1 21 ♗xe1 (if 21 ♗xg5?? ♖xe1, then the white bishop is doomed) 21...♔xf1 22 ♖xf1 Black has 22...b6! in order to undermine White's protection of the d6-knight.

20 ... d4 (D)



21 ♕d1?

21 ♕e4 is necessary, but of course Black would still stand very well after

21...♗e7, intending 22 ♔c4 ♖xe1 23 ♗xe1 ♕e5.

Reader's Challenge no. 45

(solution given on page 166)

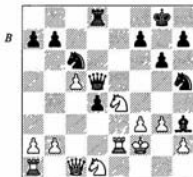
In the case of 21 ♕cb5 ♕f4!! 22 ♕e4, how should Black continue?

21 ... ♖xe2+!

22 ♖xe2 ♗d5

Suddenly it becomes clear that the f3-pawn is critically weak without any light-squared bishop to protect it, and 23 ♗c4 loses to 23...♖xd6! (intending to answer 24 cxd6 with 24...♗xc4), while after 23 ♗d2 ♕e5 24 ♖xe5 ♗xe5 25 ♕xb7 ♖b8 26 c6 ♗b5! the threat of mate at f1 gives White no time to rescue his attacked c-pawn.

23 ♕e4 (D)



23 ... ♕e5

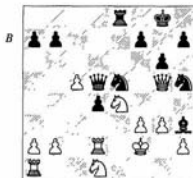
Black now threatens both the check 24...♕d3+ and the capture 24...♕xf3, intending to answer 25 ♖xf3? with 25...♗f5+.

24 ♖g5 ♜e8!

The main threat now is 25...♙d3+ 26 ♖g1 ♖xg5 27 ♙xg5 ♜xe2 28 ♙xh3 ♜e1+ 29 ♖g2 ♙xb2.

25 ♜d2 (D)

White could try other moves, such as 25 ♖h4, but his position is lost anyway, especially with the a1-rook and d1-knight being virtually out of play.



25 ... ♜c4?

Reader's Challenge no. 46
(solution given on page 166)

Of course Black is still winning, but can you discover a much quicker route to victory for him?

26 ♙dc3

26 ♜e2 is not a better way to stop Black's threat of mate at f1, because after 26...♜d3 27 ♙d2 ♙g4+! White loses his e2-rook.

26 ... h6!

A neat decoy which bears fruit for Black in the line 27 ♖xh6 dxc3 28 bxc3 (or 28 ♙xc3 ♖xc5+) 28...♜xc4 29 fxex4 ♙g4+ 30 ♖f3 ♙xh6.

27 ♖h4 dxc3

28 ♜d8 cxb2

After a long journey that started at c7, the pawn now standing on b2 is nearly a queen, and so Black can afford to give up a rook, even with check!

29 ♜xe8+ ♙g7

30 ♜d1

White could try 30 ♜d8, hoping for 30...bxa1 ♖?? 31 ♜g8+ ♙h7 32 ♜h8+ ♙g7 33 ♖f8#, but 30...♜c2+ wins for Black because of 31 ♙e3 (other moves are equally hopeless) 31...♙c4+ 32 ♙d4 bxa1 ♖+ 33 ♙d5 ♜d3#.

30 ... ♜c2+

31 ♜d2 b1♖

32 ♖xh3 ♜cc1

White now realized that 33 ♜xe5 allows 33...♜e1+ 34 ♙g2 ♖f1#, therefore...

0-1

Chess-players often talk about the three 'super-Ks' when referring to Kasparov, Karpov and Kramnik, and the youngest star of the trio will be lighting up the next chapter, but not before we have a final dose of terrific twists and turns in the current galaxy...

Test 8

8.1



Topalov – Timman
Amsterdam VSB 1996

White to play and win.

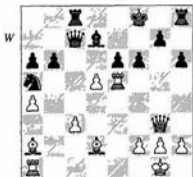
8.3



Topalov – Ljubojević
Monaco Amber rpd 1997

White (to play) can obtain a decisive positional and material advantage.

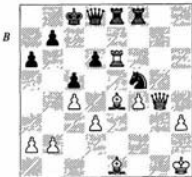
8.2



Topalov – Speelman
Moscow rpd 1995

White to play and win.

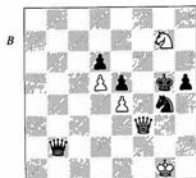
8.4



Korchnoi – Topalov
Vienna 1996

How did Black win quickly?

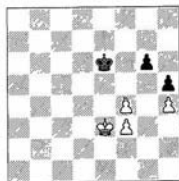
8.5



Gelfand – Topalov
Amsterdam VSB 1996

There is a neat way for Black to win quickly.

Brainteaser no. 8



Here we are at move 64 of a certain marathon 1997 game in Madrid. One player thinks to himself 'I could draw if given the next move, but unfortunately it is my opponent's turn to move, and he can win by force'.

a) Whose turn is it to move, White or Black?

b) How can the player to move win by force?

Solutions to this test start on page 166, but right now it's time for number 9...

9 Vladimir Kramnik

'The only way to play tournaments is to play for first place'

Vladimir Kramnik (New In Chess magazine, no. 3, 1996)

Date of Birth	Wednesday 25 June 1975
Place of Birth	Tuapse, Russia
Grandmaster Title	1992
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2780
World Ranking	3

Even as a teenager, Kramnik was already being tipped by Kasparov as a very possible future holder of the world chess crown, and so it is quite appropriate that the original Slavic meaning of the name 'Vladimir' is 'renowned prince'. Kramnik is renowned for powerful positional ideas combined with energetic attacking play, which has brought him first place in many top events such as the 1995 Credit Masters tournament in Horgen, Switzerland, where the then 20-year-old Russian grandmaster was particularly impressive in the following game against GM Boris Gulko.

Game 17

V. Kramnik – B. Gulko

Horgen 1995

English Opening

1 Qf3

Kramnik very often starts quietly, preparing to inject a big attacking sting into the game later on.

1 ... Qf6

2 c4 e6

3 Qc3 Bb4

Now 4 d4 would transpose to a line of the Nimzo-Indian Defence.

4 g3

A relatively recent idea is to let the g-pawn go further with 4 g4!?, planning 5 g5 and intending to meet 4... Qxg4 with 5 Bg1 .

4 ... b6

5 Bg2 Bb7

6 0-0 0-0

7 d3!

This little pawn move may look quite innocuous, but the idea of 8 e4 really threatens the scope of Black's b7-bishop.

7 ... d5

8 cxd5 exd5

9 ♖f4!

White pinpoints the sensitive c7-spot in his opponent's camp.

9 ... ♗e8

At first sight this move seems plausible enough, but perhaps Black underestimated the strength of White's reply. Instead, 9... ♖a6 looks safer.

10 ♖b5! (D)



The idea of a fork at c7 is not subtle, but very effective nevertheless!

10 ... ♖a6

11 ♗c1 c6

12 ♖bd4 ♖c5

12... ♗c8? and 12... ♗d7? lose material to 13 ♖h3 and 13 ♖e5 respectively, while 12...c5 leaves the b4-bishop out on a limb.

13 a3

With simple, strong play, White threatens 14 b4.

13 ... ♖h5

After 13... ♖xd4 14 ♖xd4 c5 15 ♖f5, the threat of 16 ♖d6 is highly unpleasant for Black.

14 ♖d2

A temporary retreat by White, but his dark-squared bishop will soon re-emerge and stamp its power on the game in a fresh direction.

14 ... ♗d7

After 14... ♖xd4 15 ♖xd4 c5 16 ♖f5 ♗d7, White has the energetic move 17 e4!, uncovering an attack from d1 towards the loose h5-knight.

15 e3!

Here again the white queen has an eye on Black's king's knight.

15 ... ♖f6

16 ♖c3

White's pieces are beautifully placed and working together with great harmony.

16 ... ♖c7?!

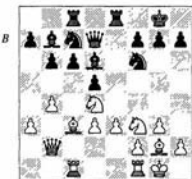
16... ♖f8 (planning 17...c5) looks more constructive.

17 b4 ♖d6

18 ♗c2 ♗ac8

After 18...c5 19 bxc5 bxc5 20 ♖b3, the threat of 21 ♖xf6 gxf6 22 ♖xc5 is very awkward for Black.

19 ♗b2! (D)



The pressure being generated along the a1-h8 diagonal is extremely unpleasant for Black, and another point is that after 19...c5 20 bxc5 bxc5 the b7-bishop would be *en prise*.

19 ... ♖e7?

This may not look like a losing error, but White's position has become so strong that there now exists a virtually winning move, and Kramnik finds it.

20 ♖h4!

White wanted to play ♖df5 anyway to unleash the full force of his pieces on b2 and c3 pointing towards Black's king, and the fact that 21 ♖df5 is about to score a 'triple hit' (by attacking d6, e7, and g7 simultaneously) adds extra weight to the move.

20 ... c5

Black lashes out in desperation, but 20...♙e5 would not have helped, since White wins material by 21 ♖df5 ♙xc3 22 ♖xe7+ ♗xe7 23 ♗xc3.

Reader's Challenge no. 47
(solution given on page 167)

If instead 20...♙ce8 21 ♖df5 ♗d8, can you find a clear way for White to win by force?

21 ♖df5 ♙c6
22 ♖xd6 ♙xd6

Black also loses material in the case of 22...♗xd6 23 bxc5 (or 23 ♙h3), with the ideas 23...bxc5 24 ♗xb7 and 23...♗xc5 24 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 25 ♙xc5.

23 bxc5 ♙c6

23...bxc5 24 ♗xb7 ♙b6 25 ♗xa7 is also hopeless for Black.

24 ♖f3!

Knights are always interested in forks, and here the e5-square looks particularly juicy!

24 ... ♙xc5

25 ♙xf6 ♗xf6

25...♙xc1 26 ♙xc1 ♗xf6 27 ♗xf6 is only slightly less terrible for Black, but in the actual game his suffering ends immediately.

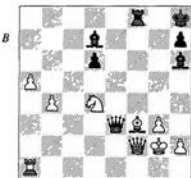
26 ♙xc5 1-0

If 26...bxc5, then 27 ♗xb7.

In a few moments we will be in Belgrade to see Vladimir Kramnik's instructive 1995 win there with Black against Michael Adams, but first let's warm up with the following puzzle.

Brilliant bishops

(solution given on page 167)



Lutz – Kramnik
Bundesliga 1994/5

Black is to play. Can you work out a forced win for him?

Game 18

M. Adams – V. Kramnik*Belgrade 1995*Sicilian Defence,
Classical Variation

1 e4	c5
2 ♖c3	♟c6
3 ♜f3	

I have had some success using the rare line 3 ♟b5!?, with the ideas 3...♞d4 4 ♜f3 (with a lead in development for White) and 3...g6 4 ♟xc6 dxc6 5 d3 ♟g7 6 ♟e3 b6 7 ♞d2, when White's development is again excellent, and he is ready to play ♟h6 if Black's knight moves from g8.

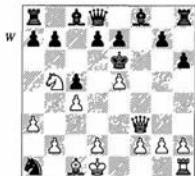
3 ...	d6
-------	----

3...♞f6 is playable because 4 e5 can be answered by 4...♞g4, but instead 4 ♟b5 ♞d4 5 e5! ♞xb5 6 ♞xb5 ♞d5 7 ♞g5! is full of pitfalls for Black.

Reader's Challenge no. 48
(solution given on page 167)

a) White threatens 8 ♞f3 with a double attack against d5 and f7, but why is 7...e6 not OK for Black?

b) Romero-Soto Perez, Malaga 1998 deviated with 7...h6? (many people seem not to know that 7...f5! is best, since other, inferior, moves are generally played) 8 ♞xf7! ♜xf7 9 ♞f3+ ♜e6? (9...♞f6 is relatively best, but of course 10 exf6 exf6 11 ♞d5+ is still no fun for Black) 10 c4. Consider the possible continuation 10...♞b4 11 a3! ♞c2+ 12 ♞d1 ♞xa1 (D).

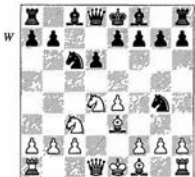


Can you discover White's quickest way to win by force?

4 d4	cx d4
5 ♞xd4	♞f6
6 ♟e3	

Michael Adams was more successful with 6 ♟g5 in Game 5.

6 ...	♞g4 (D)
-------	---------



7 ♟g5

7 ♟b5 is worth considering, because although White's actual choice is also a recognized 'normal' move, I believe that in the game Black now

gets a favourable version of the well-known line 1 e4 c5 2 d3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Qxd4 Qf6 5 Qc3 a6 6 Qe3 Qg4, since he has the developing move ...Qc6 in place of ...a6.

7 ... h6

7...Qb6 8 Qb5 can lead to fascinating lines such as:

a) 8...Qd7 9 0-0!, intending to meet 9...Qxd4? with 10 Qxd7+ Qxd7 11 Qxg4+ with a big advantage for White, while after 9...Qxd4 10 Qxc6 Qxd1 11 Qxd7+ Qxd7 12 Qaxd1, Black again suffers from a lack of development and his poor king position.

b) 8...e5 9 Qd5 Qxd4 10 Qc7+ Qd7 11 Qxd4 (not 11 Qxa8?? Qxf2#) 11...exd4 12 Qxa8 b6 13 a4! intending to meet 13...Qb7 by 14 a5, with a messy position in which I prefer White's prospects.

8 Qh4 g5

9 Qg3 Qg7

10 Qb3 Qe6

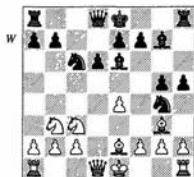
10...Qxc3+ 11 bxc3 is also possible, but instead Kramnik prefers to have both of Black's bishops pointing towards the opponent's queenside.

11 Qe2 h5!? (D)

A very bold attacking choice.

12 h4

12 h3?! would be strongly answered by 12...h4!. After 13 hxg4? hxg3 14 Qxh8+ Qxh8 15 fxg3 I would not want to be the owner of White's ruined structure (even with one extra pawn for the moment), and in the variation 13 Qxg4 hxg3 14 fxg3 Qb6 Black's threats such as 15...Qc3+



provide fabulous compensation in return for one sacrificed pawn.

12 ... gxf4

13 Qxh4 Qc8

Black continues consistently to activate his army of pieces rapidly and in a highly harmonious fashion.

14 0-0 Qf6!

Black aims to eliminate the h4-bishop, which is one of the few defenders in the neighbourhood of White's king, and the g-file is also being cleared so that when the h8-rook soon moves to g8 it will be able to get at the white king more easily.

15 Qg3

15 Qxf6 Qxf6 is also very pleasant for Black.

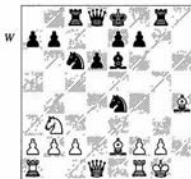
15 ... Qg8

A natural follow-up to Black's last move, but an even better possibility is 15...h4!, e.g. 16 Qf4 Qg8 or 16 Qxg4 hxg3 17 fxg3 Qb6+ 18 Qf2, after which Black's enormous choice of strong, attractive options includes 18...Qh1+ 19 Qxh1 Qxf2, threatening ...Qd7 and ...Qh8+ afterwards.

16 ♖d5

White knows that he cannot afford to react timidly against his opponent's kingside attack, and so he offers his b2-pawn because Black has some problems in the line 16...♙xb2 17 ♖b1 ♗e5 18 ♙h4, since the f2-pawn is free to go forward and ♙b5 may be coming too.

- 16 ... h4!
 17 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6
 18 ♙xh4 ♖xe4 (D)

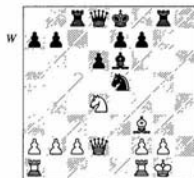


The result of the short sequence which started with Black's 16th move is that White no longer has any central pawns and his king is feeling very vulnerable because of the g- and h-files being open.

- 19 ♙f3 ♖g5
 20 ♙xg5 ♗xg5
 21 ♗d2 ♗g8
 22 ♖d4 ♖e5?! (D)

Instead of making a speculative offer of the b7-pawn, Black could maintain his excellent position in an uncomplicated way with 22...♗b6,

because after 23 ♙xc6+ bxc6 24 ♖xe6 fxe6, the black king can safely move to d7, after which ...♗g6 followed by ...♗cg8 is extremely unpleasant for White.



23 ♙e4?

Reader's Challenge no. 49

(solution given on page 167)

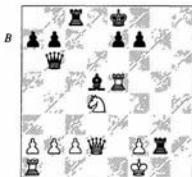
White should have accepted the challenge by boldly playing 23 ♙xb7!, planning to meet 23...♗b8 with 24 ♙c6+. However, can you see why after 23...♗b6 24 ♙xc8, 24...♗xd4? does not work for Black?

24...♙xc8 is better, but after 25 ♖h1 (to answer 25...♙b7 with 26 f3) Black cannot realistically hope for more than the half-point which would come from repeating the position by 25...♗h8+ 26 ♖g1 ♗g8 27 ♖h1 ♗h8+ and so on.

- 23 ... ♗b6
 24 ♗fe1 d5!
 25 ♙xd5

Black also wins after 25 ♖h7 ♜xd4!
 26 ♜xd4 ♘f3+ 27 ♘f1 ♘xd4 28
 ♖xg8 ♘xc2.

25 ... ♖xd5
 26 ♜xe5 ♜xg2+
 27 ♘f1 (D)



27 ... ♜g6!

Now an even bigger threat than
 28... ♜g1+ is 28... ♖c4+ 29 ♘e2 ♜g1#.

28 ♜b4 ♖c4+
 29 ♘e1 ♜f6!

0-1

Reader's Challenge no. 50
 (solution given on page 167)

White resigned facing a deadly
 double attack at e5 and f2, but after 30
 ♘f3 how would you win the game for
 Black?

Before we rush in to Chapter 10 to
 meet another top young Russian grand-
 master, let's conclude the current epi-
 sode with a test full of treats.

Test 9

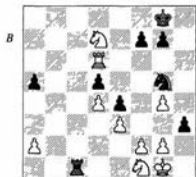
9.1



Kramnik – Ehlvest
Riga Tal mem 1995

It is now White to play and force
 checkmate in only five moves.

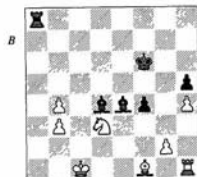
9.2



Chernin – Kramnik
New York rpd 1995

It is Black to play and win.

9.3

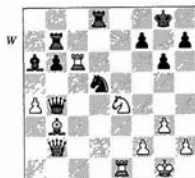


Kamsky – Kramnik

Monte Carlo Amber blindfold 1996

It is Black to play and win.

9.5

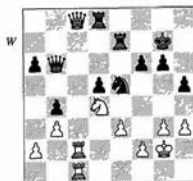


Kramnik – Timman

Belgrade 1995

It is White to play and win.

9.4



Kramnik – Kengis

Riga Tal mem 1995

You are invited to discover the strongest continuation for White.



Kramnik – J. Polgar

Vienna 1996

Because White has such an overwhelming position now (before White's 42nd move), we shall concentrate only on discovering White's final three

moves (nos. 42-4), starting with a certain pawn.

a) What do you think White played next, and what was the main purpose of the move?

b) What was White's logical and deadly 43rd move?

c) What was White's pretty final move which caused Judit Polgar to resign?

Solutions to this test start on page 167, but now I dare you to enter the den at number 10...

10 Peter Svidler

'If you develop yourself, everything else is going to come sooner or later'
Peter Svidler (New In Chess magazine, no. 5, 1997)

Date of Birth	Thursday 17 June 1976
Place of Birth	St Petersburg, Russia
Grandmaster Title	1994
FIDE Rating on 1 July 1998	2710
World Ranking	9

Russia must be proud of Peter Svidler, who had already won the national chess championship three times by the age of 21, and very soon we will see a power-packed game in which Svidler drove through GM Alexei Dreev at the 1997 championship in Elista. The young hero already has one victory against Kasparov (at normal time-limits; at Tilburg 1997) under his belt, and maybe one day he will become World Champion and emulate Tigran Petrosian (17.6.1929-14.8.1984), who shared the same June birthday as Svidler, but is better-known for holding the supreme chess crown from 1963-9! Whatever the future holds, it certainly should be really interesting to follow the progress of the bright star illuminating this chapter as he continues to develop his skills even further in the Royal Game.

Although the action starts early in the next game, don't expect it to peter out!

Game 19
P. Svidler – A. Dreev
Russian Ch (Elista) 1997
 Scandinavian Defence

1 e4 d5
 2 exd5 Qf6
 3 Qf3!

After 3 d4, Black has been pretty successful with 3...Qg4!?, but for years

I have been playing and recommending 3 Qf3 because if now 3...Qg4, then the reply 4 Qb5+ is simply good for White.

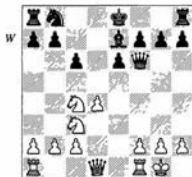
Of course 3 c4 is possible too, but 3...c6 or 3...e6 promises Black excellent piece-development if White's d5-pawn decides to capture at c6 or eat at e6.

3 ... Qxd5

Reader's Challenge no. 51

(solution given on page 168)

A.Sokolov-Rüfenacht, Swiss League 1998 deviated with 3...♖xd5 4 ♖c3 ♜a5 5 d4 (personally, I also like lightning-quick piece-development with 5 ♖c4) 5...c6 (Black gives his queen the possibility to retreat to c7 or d8 in case White plays ♖d2 soon) 6 ♖e5 ♖e6 (6...♖f5 7 ♖f4!? transposes to Adams-Ryan, Dublin Z 1993; one idea of White's interesting seventh move is that after 7...♖bd7 8 ♖c4! ♜d8 9 ♜e2! it is possible to play 10 0-0-0 and to hope for 10 ♖d6#!) 7 ♖c4 ♖xc4 8 ♖xc4 ♜d8 (if 8...♜c7, then 9 ♜f3 threatens 10 ♖f4) 9 ♖g5 e6 10 ♖xf6!? ♜xf6 11 0-0 ♖e7? (D).



Can you now discover a winning continuation for White, just as GM Andrei Sokolov did?

4 d4

In effect, White is a tempo up on the line 1 e4 ♖f6 2 e5 ♖d5 3 d4 d6 4 ♖f3 dxe5 5 ♖xe5 ♖d7 6 ♖f3 (6 ♖xf7 is

very complicated) in Alekhine's Defence, and, quite honestly, I have to question the viability of Black's opening with his chosen move-order.

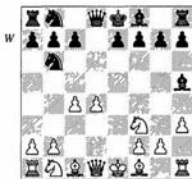
4 ... ♖g4

5 h3

There is also merit in the move-order 5 c4 ♖b6 6 c5, because after 6...♖d6 7 ♖c4 White's triplet of threats is 8 ♖xf7+, 8 ♖g5 and 8 ♜b3, and I have seen more than one game which took a different path but still ended drastically for Black with 6...♖d5? 7 ♜b3! b6? 8 ♖e5! (threatening 9 ♖b5+ or 9 ♖xg4) 1-0.

5 ... ♖h5

6 c4 ♖b6 (D)



7 ♖c3

7 c5 ♖d6 7 ♜b3 b6 9 ♜d5 ♖xf3 10 ♜xf3 c6 (as in W.Watson-Adams, London 1990) should be OK for Black: if the capture cxb6 occurs soon, then ...axb6 will give him an open a-file, and the d5-outpost in front of White's isolated queen's pawn to compensate for his opponent's bishop-pair.

7 ... e5
8 g4!

After 8 dxe5? ♖xd1+, a plausible continuation such as 9 ♖xd1 ♕c6 10 g4 0-0-+ shows White struggling far behind in development, and if he does not like that situation, then 11 ♖c2? ♗g6+ 12 ♖b3 ♕a5# is a quick way out!

8 ... exd4
9 ♕xd4 ♗g6
10 ♗g2 c6
11 0-0

White is enjoying lots of space and development, and his c-pawn is untouchable because 11...♕xc4?? loses instantly to 12 ♖e2+.

11 ... ♗e7
12 f4

This f-pawn push is particularly unpleasant for Black's g6-bishop, and if 12...♗c5 13 ♖e1+ ♖f8, then 14 ♗e3 creates the threat of winning the black queen by 15 ♕e6+.

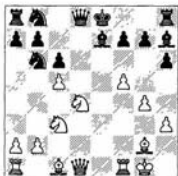
12 ... h6
13 f5 ♗h7

In a sense, Black is practically a piece down because his light-squared bishop is locked out of play.

14 c5!? (D)

With this bold thrust, White is probably thinking of lines like 14...♗xc5 15 ♖e1+ ♗e7 (15...♖f8 16 ♗e3 almost mirrors the earlier note to move 12) 16 ♗xh6 0-0 (16...gxf6 17 f6 is horrible for Black) 17 ♗e3 ♕c4 18 ♗f2, threatening 19 ♖e2 and planning that same move in response to 18...♕xb2.

B



14 ... ♕d6d7
15 g5!!

White's g-pawn is destined to go even further in this game, but for the moment it has already accomplished a lot by clearing a path for the white queen to zoom out to h5 in some key lines.

Reader's Challenge no. 52 (solution given on page 168)

Can you find the crushing 16th move which White would play in the event of Black now capturing the g5-pawn (in either of the two possible ways)?

15 ... 0-0
16 g6! fxg6
17 ♕e6 ♖c8

17...♗xc5+ is answered calmly by 18 ♖h1, when Black is still in a mess.

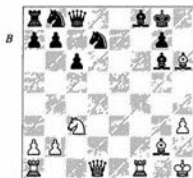
18 ♕xf8 ♗xc5+
19 ♖h1 ♗xf8

19...♕xf8 20 ♕e4 is no less unpleasant for Black than the actual course of the game.

20 fxg6 ♖xg6

If we imagine the c3-knight to be on g3, then a lovely line is 21 ♖g4 ♖h7? (21... ♖e8 would be much more tenacious) 22 ♖xg6+! ♖xg6 23 ♖e4#.

21 ♖xh6!! (D)



The destructive bishop hits Black's position like a bombshell, planning to answer 21...gxh6 with 22 ♖g4 and then:

a) 22... ♖e5?? 23 ♖xc8.

b) 22... ♖e8 23 ♖ae1 ♖e5 24 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 25 ♖xg6+ ♖g7 (if 25... ♖g7, then 26 ♖e4 threatens 27 ♖h7#) 26 ♖e6+ ♖h8 27 ♖e8 (one of many ways to win) 27... ♖g8 28 ♖e4, when White's myriad of deadly threats includes 29 ♖g1.

c) 22... ♖h7 23 ♖f6! ♖c2 (23... ♖e8 loses to 24 ♖xg6!, planning to answer 24... ♖xg6 with 25 ♖e4) 24 ♖f7+ ♖h8 25 ♖e4 ♖xe4+ 26 ♖xe4, which leaves Black helplessly facing 27 ♖f6 and 27 ♖g6.

21 ... ♖e5
22 ♖f4 ♖bd7

23 ♖e4 ♖e8

24 ♖b3+ ♖f7

25 ♖g3

White has a decisive material advantage, but he avoids exchanging his queen because that powerful piece can still be used to attack Black's unsafe king.

25 ... ♖xe4

26 ♖xe4 ♖f6

27 ♖g2

27 ♖xe5 ♖xe4 28 ♖xf7?? ♖xg3+ 29 ♖xg3 ♖xf7 is too much for Black to hope for.

27 ... ♖h5

28 ♖g5 ♖d3

If 28... ♖xf4?, then after 29 ♖xe5 the remaining black knight finds itself in a fatal pin.

29 ♖e5 ♖e7

30 ♖xh5 ♖xe5

The game would also end swiftly after 30... ♖xe5 31 ♖ae1 (or 31 ♖e4).

31 ♖f7+ ♖h8

32 ♖f5 ♖f2+

32... ♖g3 33 ♖h5# is short and sweet.

33 ♖g1

33 ♖xf2 ♖d6 lets Black play on a little longer.

33 ... ♖xh3+

34 ♖f1 1-0

With no more useful checks left, Black has had enough.

Reader's Challenge no. 53

(solution given on page 168)

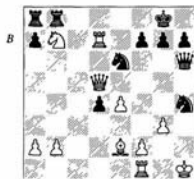
To console Black a little, let us imagine that we can change the final

locations of his queen and knight without moving any of the other pieces. How many different ways can you place the black queen and knight so that White's king is actually checkmated?

Make it a double

(solution given on page 168)

Svidler also produced a beautiful finish in the following position:



Dreev - Svidler

Russian Ch rpd (Elista) 1997

You are invited to find the best continuation for Black (to play).

Our visit to Elista is over, and from there our minds shall now take us 5.16 degrees north and 39.09 degrees west across the globe so that we land in the Dutch town of Tilburg on Friday 3 October 1997 in time to see the following great game, which brought Svidler his first-ever win against GM Alexei Shirov.

Game 20

A. Shirov - P. Svidler

Tilburg 1997

Sicilian Defence,
Paulsen/Kan Variation

1 e4 c5
2 Qf3 e6
3 d4

Personally, I have enjoyed experimenting with some interesting rarer options, including 3 b3, 3 c4 and 3 We2; the last of those moves is designed to discourage Black's d-pawn from occupying the centre, because 3...d5?! 4 exd5 Wxd5 5 Qc3 gives White a big lead in development.

3 ... cxd4
4 Qxd4 a6

The Paulsen Variation (also known as the Kan Variation) is named after Germany's Louis Paulsen (15.1.1833-18.8.1891), and is one of the most flexible Sicilian systems because Black has not yet declared where any of his pieces will later develop, but in the meantime the move 4...a6 provides the possibility to expand on the queenside with ...b5 while also keeping White's pieces away from the b5-square.

5 Qc3

Many players prefer 5 Qd3 because then White's queen's knight does not become a target for Black to attack by means of ...b5-b4.

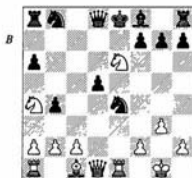
5 ... b5
6 Qd3

If 6 Qc2, then after 6...Qb7 White must worry about 7...b4.

Reader's Challenge no. 54

(solution given on pages 168-9)

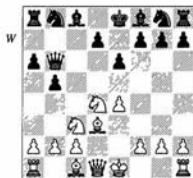
6 g3 ♖b7 7 ♜g2 transposes to the fascinating game Plaskett-Volzhin, Hastings 1997/8, where the continuation was 7...b4 8 ♖a4 ♜f6 9 0-0 (a typically bold offer of a pawn by GM Jim Plaskett) 9...♜xe4 10 ♜xe4 ♜xe4 11 ♜e1 d5 12 ♜xe6!? (D).



12...fxe6 13 ♜h5+ ♜d7? (in the line 13...g6 14 ♜e5 ♜f6! Black sensibly lets White win back a piece by 15 ♜xe4 in order to reach a safe position via 15...♜xe5 16 ♜xe5 ♜f7) 14 ♜xe4! dxe4 15 ♜f4 (in effect, White is not even down on material, as Black's dormant pieces lined along the back rank can do little to protect his exposed king, which is about to be slaughtered by White's attacking forces) 15...♜c8 16 ♜d1 ♜d7 17 ♜e2 ♜a5 (question 1: after 17...♜a7 18 ♜c4+, one line is 18...♜b7 19 ♜xe4+ ♜c8 20 ♜c6+ ♜c7 21 ♜a8+ ♜b8 22 ♜b6#, but if 18...♜c7 19 ♜xa6+ ♜b8, then can you also checkmate Black by force not

later than move 22?) 18 ♜c4+ ♜d8 (18...♜e5 19 ♜xc5 ♜xc5 20 ♜xe6+ ♜b7 21 ♜d7+ ♜c8 22 ♜e8# is another way for Black to exit) 19 ♜c6 ♜a7 20 ♜b6 1-0 (question 2: if 20...♜b5, then can you find a way to checkmate Black by force not later than move 24?).

6 ... ♜b6!? (D)



Although it is often not good to bring one's queen out into the open early in the game, the special idea behind the current move is to make White's centralized knight retreat to a less active post.

7 ♜b3

7 ♜e3 is answered by 7...♜c5.

7 ... ♜c7

The black queen has accomplished the point that was described in the note to Black's 6th move, and so now it retreats to avoid harassment because White was threatening 8 a4!, with the idea 8...b4 9 a5 ♜c7 10 ♜a4 followed perhaps by ♜b6.

8 f4

8 a4 b4 9 ♖e2 ♙b7 was comfortable for Black in an earlier game Svidler-Ehlvest, Pula Echt 1997, and so it is logical that Svidler wanted to play the position with colours reversed.

8 ... d6

Black continues to stay flexible regarding his pieces, and in any case he should not play 8...♖f6 because of 9 e5.

9 ♖f3 ♘d7

10 0-0 ♘gf6

11 ♙d2

11 e5? uncovers an attack from f3 towards a8, but 11...♙b7 is a simple, strong response for Black.

11 ... b4!?

Reader's Challenge no. 55

(solution given on page 169)

Can you discover why 11...♙e7 12 ♖a1 0-0? is very bad for Black?

12 ♘d1

After 12 ♘a4? ♖c6 the wise saying 'A knight on the rim is dim' comes to mind once again.

12 ... ♙b7!

Black does not need to protect his b-pawn yet because 13 ♙xb4?? loses to 13...♖b6+.

13 ♘f2

White gives extra support to his e-pawn since he anticipates that Black may be planning ...a5-a4 followed by ...♖c5.

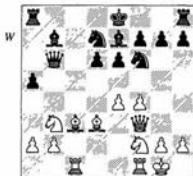
13 ... a5

14 c3 bxc3

15 ♙xc3 ♙e7

16 ♖a1

♖b6! (D)



Black actively encourages his opponent to play ♙d4 soon, because later there could then be possibilities for Black to gain time by means of ...e5.

17 g4?!

This move is too ambitious, and in fact it is more dangerous for White's king than for his opposite number, especially as Black's b7-bishop is pointing menacingly in the general direction of the white royal couple.

17 ... a4

18 ♙d4

18 ♘d4 ♖c5 is great for Black.

18 ... ♖d8

19 ♘d2 0-0

20 g5 ♖e8

Black retreats calmly because he sees that White's over-extended f4-g5 pawn-chain is about to be broken up by an energetic ...e5 reaction in the centre.

21 h4 e5

22 ♙c3

After 22 fxe5 dxe5 23 ♖e3 f5! White faces the terrible threat of 24...f4 (whereas 24...fxe4 could at least be answered by 25 ♖c4+).

22 ... exf4
23 ♖xf4 ♖e5!

Black does not hesitate to offer his opponent the possibility to win a pawn by capturing twice at e5, because in between those captures by White the move ...dxe5 will liberate the e7-bishop and open the d-file to Black's advantage.

24 ♖xe5?

It would have been prudent to decline Black's gambit.

24 ... dxe5
25 ♖xe5 ♖d6
26 ♖f5

Not 26 ♖d4?? losing instantly to 26...♗h2+ followed by 27...♖xd4.

26 ... g6
27 ♖f3 ♖e5
28 ♖c4

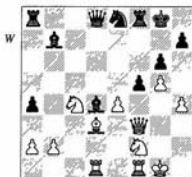
Reader's Challenge no. 56
(solution given on page 169)

28 ♖g4 is well met by 28...♖d4+, intending 29 ♖h1 f5!, but if Black plays instead the vastly inferior move 28...♖xb2??, then can you find a lovely winning continuation for White?

28 ... ♖d4
29 ♖cd1 f5! (D)

The f8-rook is keen to join Black's fabulous bishop-pair in exerting pressure towards White's king.

30 ♖e2



White would probably have preferred to put a pawn back on e2 and restart the game, because the reality is that 30 ♖e2 is no better than the actual move since Black has 30...♖c7, threatening a deadly check at g3 and planning to answer 31 ♖g2 with 31...♖g7! followed by ...♖h5. However, it is worth noting that 31...♖f4? is vastly inferior (to 31...♖g7) due to 32 ♖h3!, with the point 32...♖xb4 33 ♖f4.

30 ... fxe4
31 ♖g3 ♖g7!

Black can allow 32 ♖d6 because 32...♖f5 33 ♖xf5 ♖xf5 keeps his winning position intact.

32 ♖d6 ♖f5
33 ♖e6+

After 33 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 White would be helpless against the impending invasion at g3 or h4 by Black's knight.

33 ... ♖h8
34 ♖d6 ♖c7!

Black has noted that 35 ♖xb7 loses quickly to 35...♖g3+.

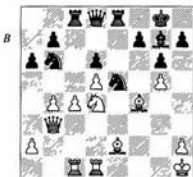
35 ♖xf5 ♖xf5

0-1

White resigned in view of 36 ♖xd4 ♗g3+ 37 ♕h1 e3+ 38 ♜e4 ♗xh4+ (38... ♗h3+ 39 ♕g1 ♖xf1+ 40 ♙xf1 ♗xe6 also does the job for Black) 39 ♕g1 ♖xg5+! 40 ♜xg5 ♗g3#.

Even if 11 was not my new house number, I would still feel at home in the forthcoming Chapter 11 because of the fabulous attacking moves that we will be seeing there by the highest-rated lady player of all time. Just before Judit Polgar takes the stage and dazzles us with her brilliant games, let's enjoy the final act of Peter Svidler's performance...

10.2



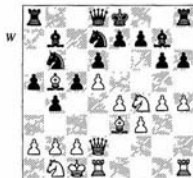
Onishchuk – Svidler

Tilburg 1997

It is Black to play and win material.

Test 10

10.1

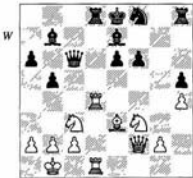


Ioseliani – Svidler

Lucerne Wch 1997

Black has just played 14...c7-c5. Was that a blunder?

10.3



Svidler – Zapata

New York Open 1995

It is White to play and win.

10.4

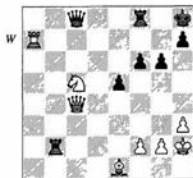
Brainteaser no. 10



Svidler – Burmakin
Russian Ch (Elista) 1994

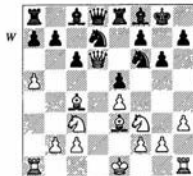
You are invited to discover a way for White to win a pawn.

10.5



Svidler – Dmitriev
Novgorod 1995

Can you find the very best move for White?



Svidler – Minasian
Erevan 1997

Black has just retreated his dark-squared bishop from g7 to f8, and White realizes that his opponent may be planning 12...♘b4 next move.

a) To which square can White's queen retreat so as to set a trap for Black?

b) After White plays the correct move in part 'a', he is actually threatening to win by force. Can you explain why?

Solutions to this test start on page 169, but now it's time to meet a very special lady...

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