

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – April 2013

Chairman's Chatter

We have changed the clocks, we've eaten the eggs and maybe even been fooled on the 1st. Although we have yet to see much evidence of spring weather, April is here and is the last month of the county season. We still need to fit in several league matches and this will mean the internal events may have to be re-scheduled. Please look out for announcements.

Paul Hanks

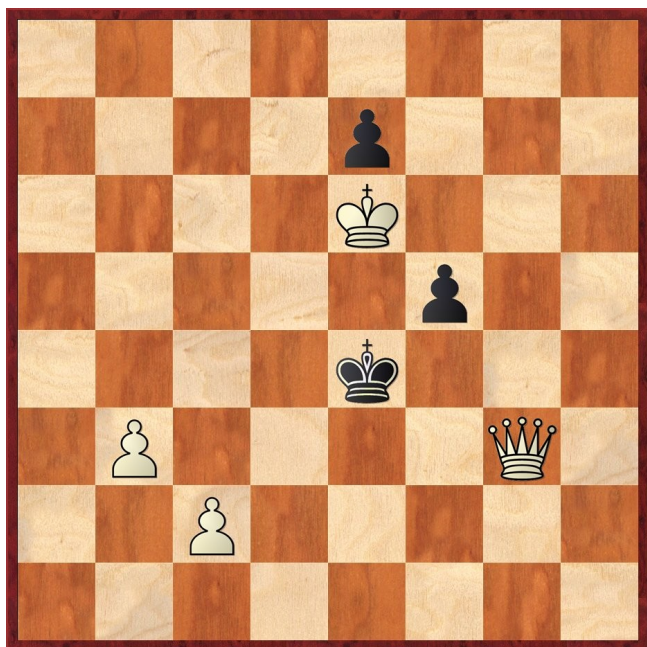
Diary Dates

The Cambridgeshire Rapidplay takes place on 21st April 2013 at Paston and Gunthorpe Community Centre. Entry forms are available via the website www.cambschess.co.uk. Please remember it is cost-effective for ECF members at the Bronze level to upgrade to Silver at a cost of £6 for this tournament. Grab yourself a share of the £730 prize fund!

Due to the re-arrangement of postponed league matches, the club Rapidplay scheduled for 3rd April will be postponed until May. A revised calendar for the remaining internal events will be issued in due course.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution

Position : k1K3b/4N1R1/2p5/8/8/8/6B1 (Laaksonen)

1 Nd5 Bxg7 2 Nc7# [1 ... cxd5 2 Ra7#; 1 ... c5 2 Nb6#]

Website to Watch

Despite switching the venue at short notice from Lisbon to Zug in Switzerland, FIDE still plans to hold the next round of its Grand Prix series from 17th April to 1st May.

Starting on 21st April, the Alekhine Memorial tournament will be split between Paris and St Petersburg. Featuring Anand, Aronian and Kramnik, it should be a good form guide for the world championship front-runners.

It has been difficult to find dedicated websites for the live games so it will probably be worth watching the general-purpose viewer www.chessbomb.com.

Window on the Web

Looking forward to the off-season and Paul's masterclasses? If you like games being explained on a demonstration board then you don't have to wait. The St Louis Chess Club invited GM Yasser Seirawan to present several masterclasses at their club and they are available to watch online. In the first, he used only a demo board but later ones (except the last) include a clearer computer-generated board. There's some good instruction here whatever your standard.

On 25/9/2012, he analysed his Tilburg 1983 French Defence game against Ljubojevic (White). This was a very tactical game with the result depending on whether Black could trap White's queen on h8. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5r62kJlLg>.

On 29/11/2012, Seirawan presented a two-part lecture discussing another French Defence game he played against Jan Timman. There is some very interesting analysis. Part 1 is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqHJ1Be3rwQ> and part 2 can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEUxjGuy3Rk>.

In a presentation on 4/12/2012, he discussed his Caro-Kann game as Black in 1983 against John Nunn at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP8GV5wQMZA>.

The subject of his lecture on 13/12/2012 at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ynJj21O1tA> was his use of the English as White against Karpov in a 1990 game where queens were exchanged very early. In this he suggests "talking to your pieces" to find the best move and form a plan. A good lecture marred by constant annoying comments from a young audience member.

At <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG7zRx-ZpKg> on 18/12/2012 Seirawan discussed the choice of an opening, pawn structures, outposts, pawn islands and finding a middlegame plan based on the pawn structure. He used examples from the French Defence, Sicilian, QGD and other openings.

In all of these very instructional mostly hour-long videos, the style of presentation is jovial, well-paced and easy to follow. The audience is regularly asked for comments, but the camera and microphone are not always in the best position. If you enjoy them, try visiting <http://www.youtube.com/user/STLChessClub?feature=watch> which is St Louis Chess Club's *You Tube* channel where there are 117 videos to choose from.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Royston	3	New England A	2
K Clark	½	F Bowers	½
P Kemp	1	P Turp	0
P Rice	½	P Hanks	½
S Tovey	½	M Dunkley	½
B Judkins	½	R Jones	½

New England B	2	Warboys B	2
M Dunkley	½	M Misson	½
P Spencer	½	C Watkins	½
S Walker	0	M Onyons	1
J Parker	1	K Harbour	0

Buckden A	1½	New England B	2½
P Barkas	½	R Jones	½
C Norton	1	P Hanks	0
S Buttercase	0	P Spencer	1
M Friday	0	D Lane	1

Warboys B	3½	New England B	½
C Watkins	½	R Jones	½
N Greenwood	1	D Lane	0
P Clough	1	J Parker	0
M Onyons	1	I Garrett	0

Fenland Plate

3rd April : **New England B v Peterborough**

Team 550 Competition

3rd April : **Warboys N v New England 2**

Warboys N	1	New England 1	3
R Mann	0	P Hanks	1
C Watkins	1	P Spencer	0
M Onyons	0	C Russell	1
K Harbour	0	J Parker	1

New England 2	3	St Neots	1
S Caraway	½	P Barkas	½
R Jones	1	C Emery	0
D Lane	1	S Buttercase	0
I Garrett	½	M Friday	½

Godmanchester	1½	New England 2	2½
J Wright	0	P Turp	1
A Rankine	½	R Jones	½
J Bygrave	0	D Lane	1
M English	1	M Tarabad	0

New England Club Ladder

White		Black
M Tarabad	0	1 F Bowers

Position	Change		Player	Record 13/03/13
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+13	F Bowers	1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1
2	-	+2	P Spencer	1,1,1,1,1,0
3	+1	+4	N Wedley	0,0,0,0,1,1,0,1,1
4	-1	+6	P Hanks	½,½,1,1,1
5	+2	+8	S Walker	1,0,0,0,1
6	-1	+3	D Lane	0,1
7	-1	+1	S Caraway	1,½,0,0,1,1
8	+1	+	I Garrett	0,1,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,0
9	-1	-8	J Parker	0,1,0,0,0,0
10	+5	-4	M Tarabad	0
11	-1	+4	J Sadler	0,0,0
12	-1	-10	H Currie	0,0
13	-1	+3	P O'Gorman	0,0
14	-1	-9	P Turp	1
15	-1	-12	R Jones	
16	-	-5	S Wozniak	½

Club Championship

Round 3			
F Bowers (2)	½	½	P Turp (2)
R Jones (1½)	½	½	P Hanks (2)
C Russell (1½)	0	1	S Walker (1½)
D Lane (1)	0	1	M Dunkley (1½)
P Spencer (1)	0	1	S Caraway (1)
J Sadler (0)	P	P	N Wedley (1)
I Garrett (0)	0	1	J Parker (0)
H Currie (0)	P	P	P O'Gorman (0)

Round 4			
P Turp (2½)			R Jones (2)
M Dunkley (2½)			F Bowers (2½)
S Walker (2½)			P Hanks (2½)
C Russell (1½)			S Caraway (2)
N Wedley (1+P)			P Spencer (1)
D Lane (1)			J Parker (1)
J Sadler (0+P)			P O'Gorman (0+P)
H Currie (0+P)			I Garrett (0)
Match night : 17th April. Deadline : 30th April. Next draw : 1st May			

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
F Bowers	2½	11	3½	1		18
P Spencer	1	5	6½	0	1½	14
S Caraway	2	3½	4	1½	3	14
D Lane	1	1	6	½	5½	14
P Hanks	2½	4	4½	1	1½	13½
P Turp	2½	1	4	1	3	11½
M Dunkley	2½	-	5	½	2½	10½
J Parker	1	1	4		4	10
S Walker	2½	2	3		2	9½
R Jones	1		4½	0	3½	9
N Wedley	1	4				5
S Wozniak	-	½			2	2½
I Garrett	0	2	0		½	2½
C Russell	1½	-			1½	3
H Currie	0	0				0
J Sadler	0	0			0	0
P O'Gorman	0	0				0
M Tarabad	-	0			0	0

Serious Study

In the first study module of this course on the chess openings (New Englander, March 2013), we looked at the classic form of the Sozin Variation of the Sicilian Defence **1 e5 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4**. In particular, we examined Fischer's plan for a rapid attack by f2-f4-f5 before Black has fully developed and an alternative Qd1-f3-g3 with similar aggressive intentions.

I have some experience in these lines but now I am keen to expand my knowledge. So how and why should White vary?

The drawbacks for White to such a direct approach were outlined in the previous article and included weakening the e4 pawn and eventually, compromising king safety. Above all, the positions swiftly become very tactical when computer analysis is trustworthy and the short variations are easily memorised. Games at grandmaster level still occur but these considerations suggest you need at least a second string to your bow.

An obvious candidate for an alternative strategy is to attack with the g pawn. The thrust g2-g4-g5 will drive away the defending knight on f6 and eventually open the file for a queen and rook battery. The justification for this possibility is :-

- although the pace of the attack is slower, the crisis has only been postponed by a few moves. Note that with the extra tempi, Black will be better prepared either by exchanging attackers or developing his pieces defensively. Generally, these actions will be directed against the central minor pieces e.g. swapping the knight on d4 by Nb8-c6 or the light-squared bishop on b3 by Nb8-d7-c5 or Nc6-a5 and/or closing the d4-g7 diagonal with e6-e5. However, little can be done to block the g and h files so the vertical component of the attack is especially dangerous.
- owing to the loose kingside pawn structure, the white king will have to seek shelter by queenside castling. This helpfully brings the queen's rook into play; on the half-open file, it deters the thrust d6-d5 and can rush over to the kingside to support the attack.
- if the pawn on e4 comes under pressure, by keeping the f2 pawn on its original square, White has f2-f3 in reserve to bolster the centre. This possibility may inconvenience the white queen by taking away her natural development on the d1-h5 diagonal.
- the game will often be decided by the race between White's kingside pawn storm and Black's counterplay on the queenside. By adopting a few flexible moves, White can disguise his intentions for a short while and maybe take an early lead.

Both players need to be familiar with the attacking patterns that may arise. Opening knowledge will always only take you so far and the rest you will have to work out over the board!

In order to connect with the Sicilian Sozin discussed in the previous article, we must make the moves **1 e5 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 e6** and follow with **7 Be3 Be7 8 Qe2 Nc6 9 0-0-0**. We have arrived at the trademark position of the Velimirovic Attack but we must digress slightly into the topic of move order.

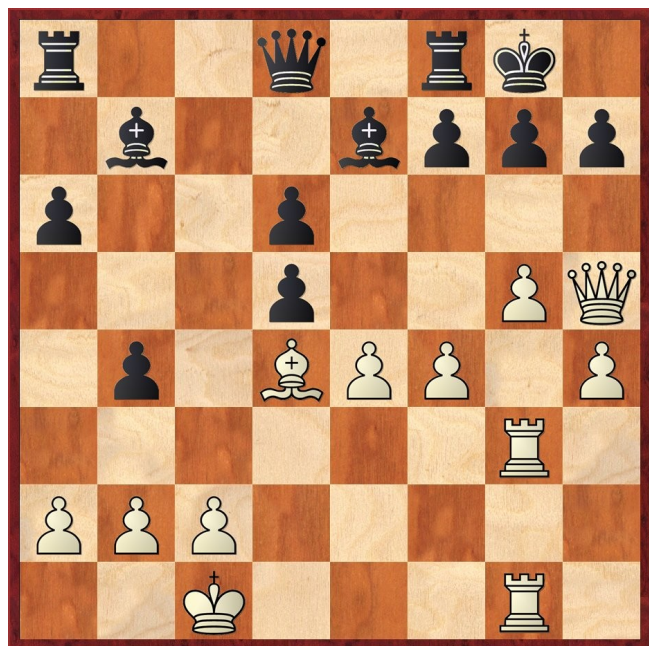
Firstly, 1 ... c5, 3 ... cxd4 and 4 ... Nf6 are almost invariably played whereas almost any permutation of a6, d6, Nc6 and e6 occur on moves 2, 5 and 6. Note that 2 ... d6 means that by move 4, two black pieces

are covering g4 but 2 ... e6 (the Scheveningen variation) reduces this protection. As a result, the move g2-g4 becomes possible much earlier - even as soon as move 6. Known as the Keres Attack after a game the Estonian played against Bogoljubow in 1943, it has a respectable reputation e.g.

Movsesian (2555) v Cvitan (2570)

Bundesliga 1997

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 g4 Nc6 7 g5 Nd7 8 Be3 Be7 9 h4 0-0 10 Qh5 a6 11 0-0-0 Nxd4 12 Bxd4 b5 13 Bd3 Ne5 14 f4 Nxd3+ 15 Rxd3 Bb7 16 Rg1 b4 17 Nd5 exd5 18 Rdg3



when Black has no satisfactory defence to the threat of Qh6.

For such an aggressive opening, chess databases have surprisingly few short games. Its heyday was probably in the 1980's and elite grandmasters now seem to use it mainly in rapid games. Kasparov usually tried the safe 6 ... h6 and during his career, even played two identical drawn games in a variant of this line.

Secondly, Najdorf's 5 ... a6 is among the most vigorous variations of the Sicilian Defence but Black's tepid moves 7 and 8 are out of character. By eschewing early counterplay on the queenside by b7-b5, Black gives up some early warning of his opponent's intentions and it all revolves around the position of the white knight on c3. Once the advance reaches b4, where can the knight go?

- on the a4 square, the knight is trapped and likely to be lost to Qd8-a5 and Bc8-d7. With a rook still on a1, White can rescue it by opening the a file with a2-a3 but this is hardly a move you will want to follow with 0-0-0 and it is ineffective afterwards! So Nc3-a4 is a signal that White will castle on the kingside.
- as it stands, the e2 square is reserved for development of the queen. Can the queen go to d2 instead? This is less desirable because

- the queen may be needed to defend the e pawn (or later, the pawn on f3)
- it also more likely that the queen will join the kingside attack via h5. On d2, she aims at h6 and this will only become free if White can exchange the knight on f6 and enforce the g pawn to recapture. This is only realistic with a white bishop on g5 and of course, such a piece would block the advance of White's g pawn
- a pin down the d file will be stronger if the rook on d1 has no queen ahead of it.
- retreating to the first rank will interfere with castling.

The discomfort suffered by White's knight is so acute that the early advance of Black's b pawn can disrupt the Velimirovic set-up. The basic position will therefore normally be reached by a transposition that precludes this plan e.g.

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cx d4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nc6
6	Bc4	e6
7	Be3	

White does not need to rush the removal of the bishop from its exposed position by Bc4-b3. He may even consider retreating to d3 particularly if Black plays Nc6-a5 when he will be left with "a knight on the rim". Note that Nb8-c6 takes away the other routing Nb8-d7-c5 to exchange the bishop when it reaches b3.

7	...	Be7
8	Qe2	0-0

Black can delay castling to split the focus of White's attack between the kingside and the centre. This is double-edged because the e file can be opened by sacrifices and Rhe1 is readily available.

9	0-0-0	a6
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Black has wisely left a bolthole for knight with Nf6-d7 available unless the light-squared bishop is developed there and Nf6-e8 becomes possible after 0-0.

Let us see how a new opening system announces itself to the world.

D Velimirovic v J Sofrevski

Yugoslavian Championship Rd 7, 1965

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Bc4 Be7 8 Qe2 a6 9 0-0-0 Qc7 10 Bb3 Na5

10 ... 0-0 appeared in a famous game Fischer v Larsen, Palma de Mallorca 1970 in which the Dane inflicted one of the few defeats during Fischer's rise to the world title.

11	g4	b5
12	g5	Nxb3+
13	axb3	Nd7



14 Nf5

A thematic sacrifice. Fritz doubts its soundness but it is certainly typical of what Black has to face even if he has castled.

14 ... exf5
15 Nd5 Qd8

15 ... Qa5 16 exf5 Bb7 17 Bb6 Qa1+ 18 Kd2 when mate and the black queen are threatened.

16 exf5 0-0

Fritz prefers 16 ...Bb7 when White does not quite have sufficient force to play 17 f6 gxf6 18 gxf6 Bxd5 (18 ... Nxf6 19 Bb6) 19 fxe7 Qa5 (19 ... Qxe7 20 Rxd5 and White has the safer king) 20 Rhe1 (20 Rxd5 Qa1+) 20 ... Qa1+ (or 20 ... Be6) 21 Kd2 Qxb2

17 f6 gxf6
18 Bd4

18 gxf6 is simple and strong. 18 ... Bxf6 (18 ... Nxf6 19 Rhg1+ Ng4 20 Rxc4+ Bxc4 21 Qxc4+ Kh8 22 Rg1 Bf6 23 Nxf6 Qxf6 24 Bd4) 19 Nxf6+ Qxf6 (19 ... Nxf6 20 Rhg1+ Kh8 21 Bd4 Be6 22 Qf3) 20 Rhg1+ Kh8 21 f4 Re8 22 Qg2 threatening Qxa8 and Bd4

18 ... Ne5 19 gxf6 Bxf6 20 Rhg1+ Bg7 21 Bxe5 dxe5 22 Qxe5 f6 23 Ne7+ Kf7 24 Qh5+ 1-0

It is mate in 8 at the latest. 24 ... Kxe7 [24 ... Ke6 25 Rge1#] 25 Rxc7+ Ke6 [25 ... Rf7 26 Qxf7#] 26 Qe2+ Kf5 27 Qg4+ Ke5 28 f4+ Ke4 29 f5+ Ke5 [29 ... Ke3 30 Re1+ Kf2 31 Qg3#] 30 Qe2+ Kxf5 31 Rf1#

Many published games in this variation are dazzling short wins by White so what trumps does Black hold?

- Normally in the Sicilian Defence, if Black can enforce the advance d6-d5, equality is on the cards. It often compels White to shift his attention to the centre and the exchange e4xd5 may allow Black's bishop to f5 from where it can menace the weak point c2.
- A black knight can jump to the strong point e5. From here, it reinforces g6 in case the

pawn storm advances that far and may secure the bishop pair when it reaches c4.

- Ultimately, there is no substitute for sound defensive technique and knowledge. Here is a snippet which showed me a trick had not seen before. It comes from the time when Kasparov still played under his late father's surname.

E Kengis v G Weinstein
Vilnius 1973

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bb3 Be7 8 Be3 a6 9 Qe2 Qc7 10 0-0-0 0-0 11 g4 Nd7 12 g5

12 Nf5 would take us down the paths of the previous game.

12	...	Nc5
13	Rhg1	Bd7
14	Rg3	Rfc8
15	Qh5	g6
16	Qh6	Bf8
17	Qh4	Nxb3+
18	axb3	Be7



The warriors amongst us will disdain the tame draw by repetition 19 Qh6 Bf8. Gary claims to have studied this position (he had just passed his tenth birthday) and knew how to exploit the pin on g5 in the event of an en passant capture. He notes in *Kasparov on Kasparov* "19 Rh3 h5 - an important defensive device! Shkarov taught us that Black's fortress was impregnable."

Once the pawns become interlocked, lines of attack cannot be opened by pawn exchanges and much of the sting has been drawn from the pawn storm. In the above game fragment, Black has neutralised the advancing g pawn. Its main purpose - to reach g6 and open a file against g7 - is thwarted and there is insufficient room for pieces ahead of the h pawn to use this file as the sole avenue for attack. White had to develop the additional lever h2-h4-h5 which gives Black time for b7-b5-b4.

We can only dream of being allocated a trainer of master strength at such a young age... The game continued :-

19 f4 b5 20 Qh6 Bf8 21 Qh4 b4 22 Nxc6

22 Nf5 is recommended because after the text move, 22 ... bxc3 would have won due to the mate threat on c2 e.g. 23 Nd4 e5.

When preparing this article, I was surprised to find that I had once tried the Velimirovic Attack - my first foray into correspondence chess (remember that?).

P Hanks v G Knapton

Postal Chess League Division 4

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bb3 Be7 8 Be3 0-0 9 Qe2 Bd7

9 ... a6 is generally favoured as the main line in preparation for 10 0-0-0 Qc7 11 g4

10 0-0-0 a6
11 g4?! Nxd4

11 f4 is the move recommended by opening books instead of this dubious sacrifice.

11 ... Nxd4
12 Bxd4

12 Rxd4 is supposed to be slightly better in the texts but they do not consider 12 ... Nxg4 13 Qxg4 e5. Note that if the black queen were on c7, 14 Rc4 and Nd5 are saving resources.

12 ... e5
13 Be3 Nxg4
14 h4 Nxe3

White's move prevents Be7-g5 and if 14 ... Bxh4, Black's pieces are loose after 15 Rxd6 (or 15 Rdg1 h5 16 Nd5 Rc8 17 Bb6 Qg5+ 18 Kb1 with f3 to come) 15 ... Bg5 16 Qd2

15 fxe3 h6
16 Qh5 Be6

16 ... Qe8 is the computer move to maintain an edge due to the possibility of dislodging the queen by Kh8 and f7-f5. It is not without some danger e.g. 17 Rdg1 Kh8 18 Nd5 Bd8 19 Rg2 f5? (19 ... Kh7 20 Rhg1 g6 21 Qf3 is roughly level.) 20 Rg6

17 Rdg1 Bf6

17 ... Kh8 18 Rxd6 Kxd6 19 Rg1+ Bg5 (19 ... Kh7 20 Bxe6) 20 hxd6 hxd6 21 Rxd6+ (21 Nd5 is strongest but don't quibble about winning a queen!)

18 Qxh6 Bxb3

This will save me some stamps.

19 Rxd6 Bxd6
20 Rg1 1-0

Paul Hanks

Eye Opener

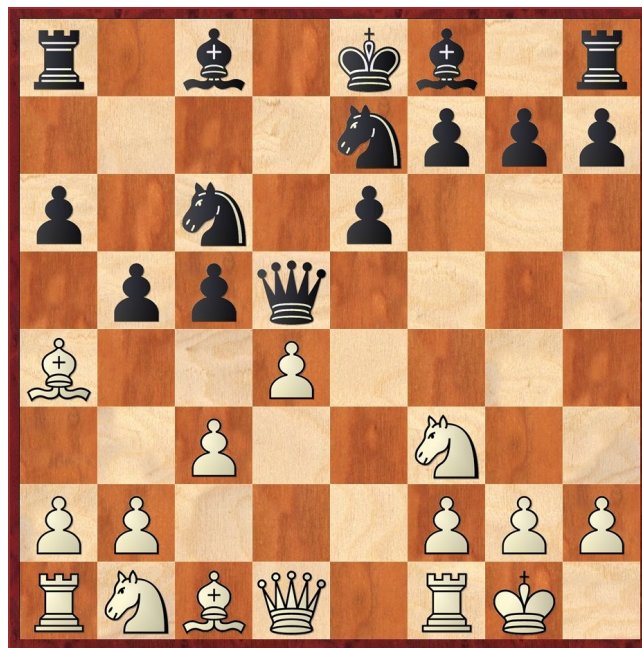
M Wahls (2570) v D Rajkovic (2470)

Germany, 1992

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 e6

The drawn world championship match between Anand and Gelfand was not the most sparkling contest. This variation appeared in at least four games and with the classical time limit, draws were agreed before move 30. In the tie-break, Vishy used it with 4 Bxc6 to make the decisive breakthrough.

4 0-0 Nge7
5 c3 a6
6 Ba4 d5
7 exd5 Qxd5
8 d4 b5?



All this looks natural and harmless but there are some nasty traps.

9 c4!! Qd6

If 9 ... Qxc4, the black queen becomes trapped by 10 Bb3 Qb4 11 Bd2. Otherwise, the knight on c6 cannot be adequately defended e.g. 9 ... bxc4 10 Nc3 Qd6 (10 ... Qd7 11 Ne5 Qc7 12 Qf3; 10 ... Qd8 11 Ne5 Bd7 12 Ne4 Qc7 13 Qf3 favours White) 11 dxc5 Qxc5 12 Ne4.

10 cxb5 Nxd4
11 bxa6+

White has several promising options and could have considered 11 b6+ or Na3.

11 ... Nec6?

Second best but distinctly worse than 11 ... Bd7

12 Bf4! Qd5

Black cannot submit to 12 ... Qxf4 13 Nxd4.

13 Nxd4 cxd4
14 Nc3 1-0

The c6 weakness defeats 14 ... dxc3 15 Qxd5 exd5 16 Bxc6 while other retreats e.g. 14 ... Qd7 run into 15 Nb5 Ke7 16 Nc7 Ra7 17 Rc1.