

Efstratios Grivas:

Pawns on the Same Rank

Concept

In various 'Hedgehog' structures or even sometimes 'Sicilian Defence - Dragon' structures (reversed or 'natural'), Black (or White - depends) forgets about the main breakthrough ...b5 (b4) and goes for a kingside expansion with his f- and g-pawns.

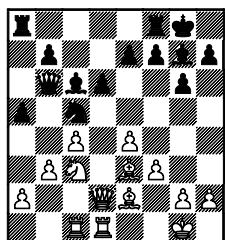
So, suddenly we have to deal with positions where one side has most of his pawns on his 3rd rank (a6, b6, d6, e6 and f6/f5) and his pawn g-pawn on g5! Not an every day concept in these structures by all means!

Of course, this kind of position cannot be found in many games, but still some interesting have been played around. Let's start with an old 'boring' one by the king of safety, Tigran Petrosian:

Keres P. : Petrosian T.

B39 Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 Ne6 10.Qd2 d6 11.Be2 Bd7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rac1 Bc6 14.Rfd1 Nc5 15.f3 a5 16.b3 Qb6



A passive variation where Black is satisfied with a draw. But it suits the style of the Ex-World Champion well!

17.Nb5

Nowadays White prefers 17.Nd5 as in Bezgodova M. : Dibirova U., Dagomys 2009.

17...Rfc8

After 17...Bxb5?! 18.cxb5 Qd8 Black is in trouble: 19.Bc4 b6 20.Bd5 Rb8 21.a3! +/-, Ivkov B. : Kestler H., Buesum 1969.

18.Bf1

The inaccurate 18.Qe1?! allows Black to opt for 18...Bxb5 19.cxb5 Bh6! 20.Bf1 Bxe3+ 21.Qxe3 Na4 22.Qxb6 Nxb6 =, Damljjanovic B. : Velimirovic D., Becici 1994. With this typical manoeuvre (...Qb6, ...Rfc8, ...Qd8) Black was able to bring all his forces to better squares. But still he suffers from lack of space.

18...Qd8 19.Qf2 Qe8 20.Nc3

Also possible is 20.Rc2 Nd7 21.Rdc1 as in Cabrera Moreno D. : Barcena Laguia F., Aragon 2007.

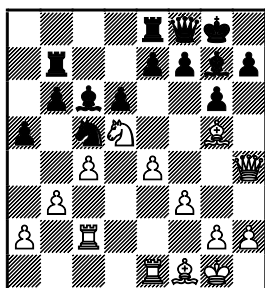
20...b6 21.Rc2 Qf8

Planning to exchange the bishops with ... Bh6; a good idea when there is not much space in your camp!

22.Qd2 Bd7 23.Nd5 Rab8 24.Bg5 Re8 25.Re1 Rb7 26.Qf2?!

White is lacking a good plan which should be to push his pawn on b4 and restrict the black knight. For this purpose 26.Rb1 and a3 was attractive.

26...Bc6 27.Qh4



27...f6!

Black stayed in a passive concept for a long period; it is time to start restricting the white pieces. First is the white bishop which is forced to retreat.

28.Be3 e6!

And it's the knight's turn.

29.Nc3 Rd7 30.Bd4 f5!

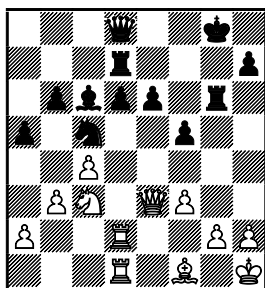
Putting the white centre under fire. Slowly but surely the black pieces come into life.

31.exf5

White cannot live with a weak pawn on e4...

31...gxf5 32.Rd2 Bxd4+ 33.Rxd4 Rg7 34.Kh1 Rg6!

Making room for another heavy piece to come on the g-file while the rook can protect the d6-pawn after a eventual ...e5. **35.Rd2 Rd8 36.Red1 Rd7 37.Qf2 Qd8 38.Qe3**



38...e5!

Look how 'proud' is now the black

centre; the weak d5-square is not of not importance.

39.f4 e4?

There was no need for such a move. 39...Qh4! was good enough to give Black the better prospects: 40.fxe5 Rh6 41.Qg1 dxe5 42.Rxd7 Nxd7 =+.

40.Ne2!

Now that the c6-bishop is blocked, the knight is heading for d4.

40...Rdg7 41.Nd4 Bd7 42.a3

42.Nb5 Bxb5 43.cxb5 += was also possible.

42...Qa8!

X-raying g2, allowing to play ...Nd3 when needed.

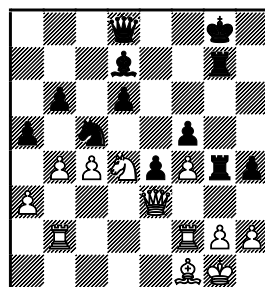
43.Kg1 h5 44.Rb1!?

44.b4 would give Black enough counterplay to keep an even game: 44...axb4 45.axb4 Nd3 46.Bxd3 exd3 47.Nf3 Qe4 48.Re1 Rg4!.

44...h4 45.Rbb2 Rg4 46.Rf2 Qd8!

Black found an excellent attacking idea in order to keep the equilibrium.

47.b4



47...Rg3! 48.hxg3

White could think of 48.Qc1 Nd3 49.Bxd3 Rxd3 50.Rbd2 h3! oo.

48...hxg3 49.Rfd2?

But this is wrong. He had to opt for 49.Be2! Qh4 50.Rf3! exf3 51.Nxf3 Qh8 52.Qd4! (52.bxc5? Rh7) 52...Ne6 53.Qf6 Qh5 54.Nh4 Qf7 55.Qxf7+

Rxf7 56.Rb3 when a draw is the most likely outcome.

49...Qh4 50.Be2

Black would be also on the top after 50.Nf3 exf3 51.gxf3 Re7 52.Qd4 Bc6!.

50...Rh7 51.Kf1?

Leading to mate. White's only chance was to be found on 51.Bh5! Rxh5 52.Kf1 Qh1+ 53.Qg1 Nd3! 54.bxa5 (54.Rb3 Qh4 -+) 54...Qh4! (54...Nxb2 55.Rxb2 bxa5 56.Rb3) 55.Ne2 Nxb2 56.Rxb2 Qf6 57.Rb1 bxa5 58.Nxg3 Rh4 59.Ne2 Be6 -/+.

51...Qxf4+!

52.Qxf4 Rh1 #.

0:1.

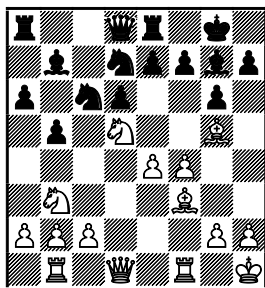
Nice concept by Tigran! Well, our next two games are mostly concentrating in winning central squares and more specific the important e-square in front of the opponent king pawn.

Both games contain exactly the same idea with reversed colours:

Apicella M. : Svidler P.

B70 Yerevan 1996

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Nb3 0-0 9.Bg5 a6 10.f4 b5 11.Bf3 Bb7 12.Kh1 Nd7 13.Rb1 Re8 14.Nd5



A well-known position from a reversed 'English Opening' or a clear 'Sicilian Defence - Dragon' - whatever you chose you are right!

14...f6!

A nice move, proposed by V.Kramnik. Black wants to take control of the e5-square!

15.Bh4 e6!

All central pawns now on the same rank!

16.Ne3 g5!

The first (of the two) white central pawn is exchanged.

17.Bg3

17.fxg5 is the main alternative. Black can continue with 17...fxg5 18.Bg3 Nde5 (18...Be5!? 19.Ng4 Bxg3 20.hxg3 Nde5 21.Nd4 oo) 19.Bh5 Rf8 20.Qe2 (20.Ng4?! Rxf1+ 21.Qxf1 Qe7 =+, Klicnar M : Killar M., Nachod 1999) 20...Qe7 21.c3 oo, Rojas L. : Valenzuela Fuentealba L., Vina del Mar 1998.

17...gxf4 18.Bxf4 Nde5

Black's third rank's pawns look weak but he has been able to take control of the important e5-square. A complicated battle is ahead.

19.Bh5 Rf8 20.c3

Here White has tried:

- a) 20.Ng4 Qe7 21.Qe2 Rad8 22.Rbd1 Kh8 23.c3 f5! oo, Zdebskaja N. : Moranda W., Warsaw 2008,
- b) 20.Qe1 Kh8 21.Rd1 Qe7 22.c3 Rad8 oo, Zigangirova S. : Kosintseva N., Mallorca 2004.

20...Qe7

20...Ne7?! is out of the question: 21.Nd4 Qd7 22.Bg4 f5 23.exf5 Nxg4 24.Qxg4 exf5 25.Qg3 +/-, Schuster M. : Zesch L., Leipzig 2004. With the text

Black wants to finish his development by bringing the a8-rook into the game and he plans to exchange his d-pawn with White's e-pawn and activate his remaining central e- and f-pawns. A clear plan which is hard for White to meet.

21.Qe2

A bit passive. 'Better' looks 21.Bg3 Rad8 22.Nd4 Kh8 23.Qb3 Nc4 24.Nxc4 bxc4 25.Nxc6 (25.Qxc4 Nxd4 26.cxd4 Bxe4 27.Rbd1 Qb7 oo) 25...Bxc6 26.Qc2 oo, Cabezas Ayala I. : De la Riva Aguado O., La Massana 2008.

21...Ng6!

More accurate than 21...Kh8 22.Rbd1 Rad8 23.Rfe1 Ng6 24.Bg3 +=, Bromann T : Bobras P., Tingkaerskolen 1997.

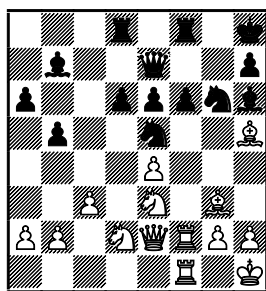
22.Bg3 Nce5 23.Nd2

Only move again, as 23.Ng4?! f5 24.exf5 exf5 += is not advisable.

23...Kh8

Also possible is 23...Rad8!? 24.Rf2 Bh6 25.Rbf1 Qg7 oo.

24.Rf2 Rad8 25.Rbf1 Bh6



26.Ng4?

It is not easy to propose a good alternative for White, although 26.Kg1 is accurate. Now Black grabs his chances.

26...Nxc4 27.Bxc4 d5!

Now the second white central pawn is exchanged, leaving White with no centre at all!

28.Bh5

28.e5 loses to 28...f5 29.Bh5 d4! 30.cxd4 Rxd4 31.Nf3 Re4 -+ and 28.exd5 is no better: 28...Bxd5 (28...Rxd5 29.Nb3 f5 30.Bh5! [30.Bf3 f4 31.Bxd5 Bxd5 -/+] 30...Rd7! [30...f4 31.Bxc6 fxc3 {31...hxc6 32.Bxf4 Bxf4 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 34.Rxf4 Qg5 35.Rf1 +/-} 32.Rxf8+ Bxf8 33.Rf7 + -] 31.Nd4 Bd5 =+) 29.c4 Ba8! (29...Bxc2+? 30.Kxc2 Rxd2 31.Qxe6 +/-) 30.Nb3! (30.Nf3? f5 31.Bh5 f4 -+) 30...f5 31.Bh5 Be4! (31...f4?! 32.Bxc6 hxc6 33.Bxf4 Bxf4 34.Rxf4 Rxf4 35.Rxf4 [35.Qe5+ Qf6] 35...Qg5 36.Rg4 Qf5 37.h3 +/-) 32.Bxc6 hxc6 33.Re1 Rd3 (33...Bd3 34.Qe5+ [34.Qxe6 Qxe6 35.Rxe6 Bxc4 -+] 34...Bg7 35.Qxe6 Qxe6 36.Rxe6 Bxc4 -/+) 34.Be5+ Kg8 35.cxb5 axb5 -/+.

28...dxe4 29.Nxe4 f5

The central phalanx is marching...

30.Bxc6

30.Nd6 is interesting, but Black can just play calmly 30...Ba8! (30...Rxd6 31.Bxc6 Rd7 32.Bh5 Bd5 =+).

30...hxc6 31.Nd6 Ba8!

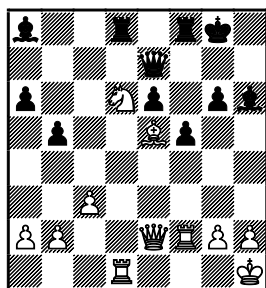
31...Bd5?! 32.c4! oo.

32.Be5+

Or 32.Qe5+ Kg8 33.Rd1 f4! (33...Bg7 34.Qc5 e5 35.Rfd2 f4 36.Bf2 Qg5 -+) 34.Bxf4 Rf5 -+.

32...Kg8 33.Rd1 (D)

The knight is lost after 33.Qd3?! Bg7 34.Bxc7 Qxc7 35.Rd2 Bd5 -+.



33...Rd7!

Another calm but very strong idea. Black plans to double rooks on the d-file and just collect the white knight!

34.Qd3?!

34.c4 was a must: 34...bxc4 35.Rff1 Rfd8 36.Nxc4 Rxd1 37.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 38.Qxd1 Bd5 -/+.

34...Rfd8 35.Qg3

35.Qh3 Bg7 -+ ; 35.Rfd2 Bd5 36.Qh3 Bg7 -+.

35...Qg5 36.Qxg5 Bxg5 37.Rd3

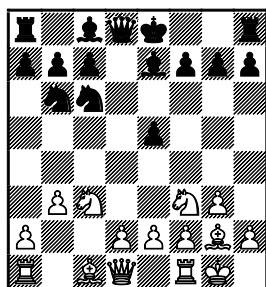
Or 37.b3 Bd5 38.c4 bxc4 39.bxc4 Bxc4 -+. White is plain lost.

37...Be4 38.Rh3 Rxd6 39.Rh8+ Kf7 40.Rh7+ Ke8 41.Rh8+ Kd7 0:1.

Grivas E. : Goldberg A.

A29 Dresden 2002

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.0-0 Be7 8.b3!?



An interesting continuation, in place of the common and worn-out 8.d3.

8...0-0 9.Bb2 Bg4 10.Rc1 f5 11.d3 Bf6

11...a5 is an alternative, preventing the following move by White.

12.b4!? Nd4

Naturally, 12...Nxb4?? 13.Qb3+ N4d5 14.e4 was not on but Black should have perhaps preferred 12...a6 13.e3! with chances for both sides in a complicated position.

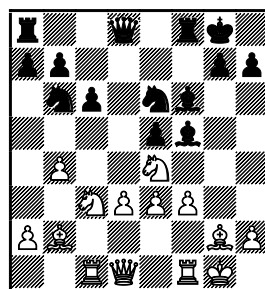
13.Nd2!?

The standard continuation is 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Na4 Nxa4 15.Qxa4 c6 16.Qb3+ Kh8 17.Rfe1 with approximately even chances. With the text move White initiates a 'positional combination' aiming to create an outpost on e4 and occupy it. The idea behind this operation is well known and arises in several positions of this type, from various openings.

13...c6 14.f3 Bh5 15.e3 Ne6 16.g4 Bg6

Black could also try 16...Qxd3 17.gxh5 Qxe3+ 18.Kh1 Nf4 with a complicated position

17.gxf5 Bxf5 18.Nde4



White has completed his plan with success. The e4-square has been turned into a strong outpost, but Black is not without chances either, particularly in view of White's somewhat weakened pawn structure.

18...Be7! 19.b5!?

White could also try 19.a3 a5 20.bxa5 Rxa5 21.Qb3 with unclear play.

19...cxb5

The critical move. 19...c5 leads to unclear play and is also possible. Black's move in the game is the beginning of a tactical plan.

20.Nxb5 Nd5

With the double threat 21...Nxe3 and 21...Qb6.

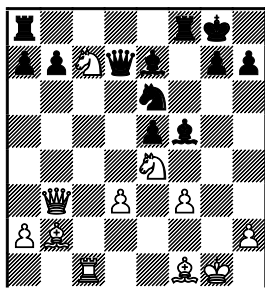
21.Qb3!

White had foreseen this before he played his 19th move. Black is now caught in a nasty pin.

21...Nxe3 22.Nc7 Nxf1 23.Bxf1

Not of course 23.Nxe6? Qb6+ 24.Qxb6 axb6 25.Nxf8 Ne3 26.Ng3 Kxf8 27.Nxf5 Nxf5, when Black is doing well.

23...Qd7



24.Ng3?

White overestimates his position. He should

have chosen 24.Nxa8 Rxa8 25.Bxe5 with an unclear game.

24...Kh8

Both 24...Bg6?? 25.Bh3! and 24...Rac8?? 25.Nxf5 Rxc7 (25...Rxf5 26.Nxe6!) 26.Rxc7 Qxc7 27.Qxe6+ lose quickly. However, Black could play 24...Bg5! 25.Rc2 Qf7 with the initiative.

25.Nxa8 Bg6??

A horrible mistake. Black can retain slightly better chances with 25...Nc5! 26.Qc3 Bd6! as then 27.Ba3 Na4! 28.Qb3 Bxa3 29.Qxa3 Rxa8 30.Nxf5 Qxf5 31.Qxa4 Qg5+ is not an option for White.

26.Bh3!

Now White is winning.

26...Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Be3 28.Bxe6 Qe7 29.Rf1 Rxa8

White has emerged with an extra piece. The end was in line with the rule of exchanging pieces to exploit a material superiority:

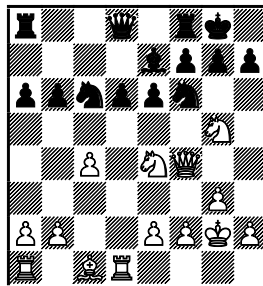
30.Bf5 Bf4 31.Bxg6 hxd6 32.Bc1 Rc8 33.Bxf4 exf4 34.Ne4 Qd7 35.Kg2 b6 36.Rf2 Qf5 37.Rc2 Rd8 38.Qc4 g5 39.h3 Kh7 40.Rc3 a5 41.a4 1:0.

Our last game is a masterpiece by Magnus Carlsen and it was his first win over Vladimir Kramnik. Notes are based on those of M.Carlsen:

Kramnik V. : Carlsen M.

A30 Wijk aan Zee 2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6 9.Rd1 a6 10.Ng5 Bxg2 11.Kxg2 Nc6 12.Qf4 0-0 13.Nce4



13...Ne8

Retreating is considered to be the normal reaction to any Ne4. The black position is now slightly awkward, but the white knights are not perfectly placed either.

14.b3 Ra7 15.Bb2 Rd7

There was no better square for the rook anyway, and overprotecting the d6-pawn might turn out to be useful at some point.

16.Rac1

16.h4 or 16.Nf3 could also be considered, but the text is quite reasonable as well.

16...Nc7

With the purpose of protecting e6, preparing ...f5. There were of course alternatives, the most natural being the more hedgehog-like 16...Qa8 17.Nf3 b5 which Black rejected it because he wasn't sure whether ...bxc4 (when White replies with bxc4) would really improve his position. This is why he decided that going for ...f5 and ...g5 was just according to the demands of the position!

17.Nf3 f5 18.Nc3 g5

A normal continuation of the plan starting with 16...Nc7.

19.Qd2

19.Qe3 g4 20.Nd2 (not 20.Nd4? Bg5 21.Nxc6 Bxe3 22.Nxd8 Bxc1 winning an exchange) 20...Bg5 21.Qxb6 was another, computer-like option. Black would have very good counterplay after 21...Qa8 22.f3 and now just 22...Ne5 or even 22...Rb8 23.Qf2 Ne5 gives Black active piece play and good compensation for a pawn.

19...g4 20.Ne1

20.Nd4?! would be worse, since now

20...Bg5 21.e3 Ne5 leaves the knight practically untouchable on e5. Note that it also makes it more difficult to create active play for White, since b4 and c5 would be almost impossible to carry out, as ...Rxd4 and a knight move to f3 would probably be strong then.

20...Bg5

An important element in Black's plan. The weak f3-square will now be a constant worry for White.

21.e3 Rff7

A good prophylactic move, preventing Na4 and c5 and preparing to redeploy the knight with ...Ne8-f6-e4 without having to worry about Nd5.

22.Kg1 Ne8 23.Ne2

A natural manoeuvre. The diagonal is opened for his bishop and the knight is transferred to a better square.

23...Nf6 24.Nf4 Qe8

Black would have liked to play 24...Ne4 immediately, but he rejected it because he misevaluated the queen sac: 25.Nxe6? Qe8 26.Nxg5 Nxd2 27.Nxf7 Ne4 28.Nh6+ Kf8 29.Nxf5 Qf7 -+.

25.Qc3

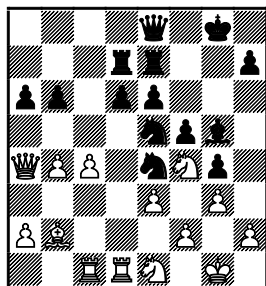
25.Bxf6 was an option, but at the same time it's hard to see how White can play for an advantage after giving up this bishop.

25...Rg7 26.b4 Ne4 27.Qb3 Rge7 28.Qa4?!

28.f3 gxf3 29.Nxf3 Bf6 is not to be afraid of but 28.h4 as suggested by Nigel Short was probably an improvement of the white position, and certainly better than the text. Then it would be equal or slightly better for White. The knight on e4 is certainly pretty, but the f4-knight is a good piece as well. It's not easy to take advantage

of Black's weakened king, and not easy to make any clear progress for either side.

28...Ne5



29.Qxa6?

As 29.c5 is well met by 29...Nc4!, White should rather admit failure with 29.Qb3 and after gaining two tempi Black is obviously slightly better, but the white position is certainly playable.

29...Ra7 30.Qb5

Having seen that 30.Qxb6 Reb7 31.Qd4 Bf6 would leave his queen trapped in the centre, Kramnik was forced to make this move, which he actually accompanied with a draw offer. Carlsen commented: 'I was slightly tempted of course, since I would have been happy with a draw before the game, but I realised that my position was so much better that I simply had to decline'.

30...Qxb5 31.cxb5 Rxa2 32.Rc8+ Kf7 33.Nfd3 Bf6 34.Nxe5+

34.Bxe5 dxe5 35.Rc6 Ng5 is winning for Black.

34...dxe5

34...Bxe5 was probably better, but in time-trouble Black was reluctant to allow 35.Bxe5 dxe5 36.Nd3 which however is well met by 36...Kf6 37.Rf8+ Kg7 38.Rd8 (38.Rb8 Rd7 -+) 38...Nc3 39.Rf1 (39.Nxe5 Nxd1

40.Rxd1 is better but should lose as well) 39...Rd2! and wins.

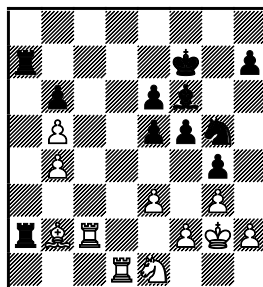
35.Rc2

35.Nd3 leaves Black with a pleasant choice between 35...Nxf2 and 35...Ng5 so White should rather retreat.

35...Rea7 36.Kg2

36.Kf1 was better; the king later headed in this direction anyway. White somehow has lost his way...

36...Ng5



37.Rd6?

This pseudo-active move makes matters much worse for White, but Black had a practically winning positional advantage anyway.

37...e4 38.Bxf6 Kxf6 39.Kf1

39.Rxb6 Ra1 40.Re2 Nf3 loses at once.

39...Ra1 40.Ke2

40.Rcd2 Rb1 41.Rd1 Rxb4 42.Rxb6 Rb2 leaves White defenceless against the threats of ...Raa2 and ...Nh3.

40...Rb1 41.Rd1

41.Rxb6 leads to mate after 41...Raa1 42.Kd2 (42.Ng2 Nf3 -+) 42...Rxe1 or loses a piece after 41...Rd7.

41...Rxb4 42.Ng2 Rxb5

Black is obviously winning now, and White might as well have resigned here.

43.Nf4 Rc5 44.Rb2 b5 45.Kf1 Rac7 46.Rbb1

46.Kg2 allows the exchange of one

rook, which is desirable for Black:
46...Rc1 47.Rxc1 Rxc1 48.Rxb5 Nf3
49.Ne2 Re1 50.Rb2 Kg5 and White is
completely tied up, he cannot even play
51.h4+ gxh3+ 52.Kxh3 due to
52...Rxe2. Black will win by ...e5 and
...h5-h4.

**46...Rb7 47.Rb4 Rc4 48.Rb2 b4
49.Rdb1 Nf3 50.Kg2 Rd7!**

The last good move, forcing the
exchange of one rook. The rest doesn't
require any comments.

**51.h3 e5 52.Ne2 Rd2 53.hxg4 fxg4
54.Rxd2 Nxd2 55.Rb2 Nf3 56.Kf1 b3
57.Kg2 Rc2 0:1.**

Conclusion

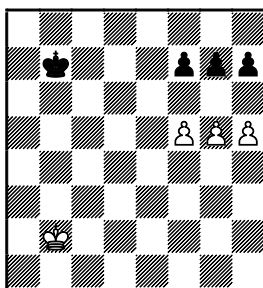
No comments - only pleasure by these
games!

1

Here we have preparation for the break - it is necessary to control square f6 longer.

1...c4! 2.dxc4

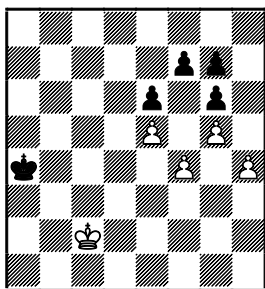
Simple are things after 2.bxc4 a4.
2...a4 3.bxa4 b3! 4.cxb3 d3 0:1.



We can call it long break or delayed break.

and White pawns block his Kings way .

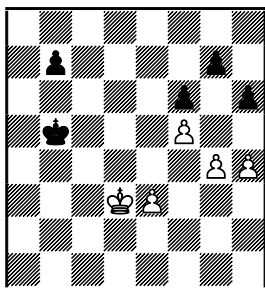
0:1.



The doubled pawns allow White to conduct multiply break:

1.f5!! exf5 2.h5! gxh5 3.g6! fxg6 4.e6
Finally - everything was sacrificed, but the last pawn is on its way to the top. **1:0.**

Awerbah Y. : Bebhuk E.
Moscow 1961



1.e4 Kc6 2.e5!

Black has dangerous passed pawn ,so White has to try to create passed pawn immediately.

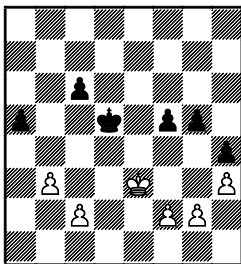
2...fxe5 3.g5 hxc5

Does not help 3...Kd7 4.f6 Ke6 5.fxg7 Kf7 6.gxh6 b5 7.Ke4 b4 8.Kd3 and White King successfully wins both opponents pawns.

4.f6 gxf6 5.h5

White gave all pawns, but last one is unstoppable. **1:0.**

Cako E. : Arhangelsky B.
Esent 2002



1.g3?

1.f4 g4 2.Kd3 was correct. Now follows typical, but unexpected for White break.

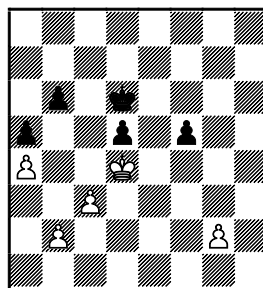
1...g4! 2.gxh4 gxh3 3.Kf3 f4!

Creating typical box for opponents King.

4.h5 Ke5

Now King stops Whites pawn and it is time to resign. **0:1.**

Listengarten : Chepukaitis
USSR 1959



1.b4?

Correct way was to force Blacks King out of reach of White possible passed pawn:

1.b3 Ke6 2.b4 f4 3.bxa5 bxa5 4.Kc5 Ke5 5.Kb5 Ke4 6.Kxa5 Ke3 7.Kb6 Kf2 8.a5 Kxg2 9.a6 f3 10.a7 f2 11.a8D f1D

12.Dxd5+. Queens endgame promises White good winning chances.

1...b5!

This break is typical and we can call it counterbrake,as it is used just when opponents pawns start to move forward.

2.ab5

2.ba5 ba4 3.c4 a3 4.c5 Kc6—+.

2...a4 3.Kd3 Kc7 4.Kc2 Kb6 5.Kb2 Kb5 6.Ka2!

6.Ka3 f4 7.Ka2 d4 8.Kb2 d3.

6...d4

6...f4 7.Ka3 Kc4 8.Ka4 Kc3 9.b5 d4 10.b6 d3 11.b7 d2 12.b8D d1D 13.Ka5 Da1

14.Kb6 Db2 15.Ka7 Db8 16.Kb8 Kd2

17.Kc7 Ke2 18.Kd6 Kf2 19.Ke5 and White King is just in time!

7.cd4 Kb4 8.d5 Kc5 9.Ka3 Kd5 10.Ka4 Kc5!!

Wrong is direct Kings attack, as White King will counterattack Blacks only pawn!

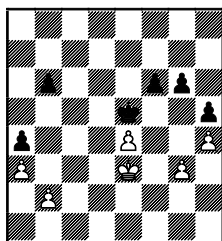
10...Ke4? 11.Kb5 Ke3 12.Kc5 Kf2

13.Kd5!=.

11.Ka5

11.Kb3 Kd4 12.Kb4 f4.
11...f4 12.Ka4 Kd4 13.Kb4 Ke3 14.Kc3
Kf2 0:1.

Ree H. : Ftacnik L.
Kiev 1978



56...g5?

Black tries to win desperately and allows typical break.

57.g4 hxg4

Or 57...gxh4 58.gxh5 f5 59.h6 f4+ 60.Kf3
Kf6 61.e5+ Kg6 62.e6 h3 63.e7.

58.h5 Ke6 59.Kf2 Kf7 60.Kg3 Kg7

61.Kxg4 Kh6 62.Kf5 Kxh5 63.Kxf6 g4

64.e5 g3 65.e6 g2 66.e7 g1Q 67.e8Q+

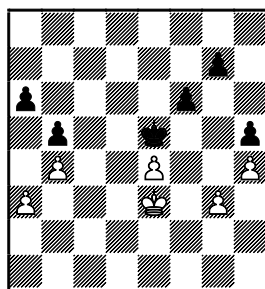
Kh4 68.Qh8+ Kg3 69.Qg7+ Kf2

70.Qxg1+ Kxg1 71.Ke5 Kf2 72.Kd5 Ke3

73.Kc6 Kd2 74.Kxb6 Kc2 75.Ka5 Kxb2

76.Kxa4 Kc3 1:0.

Welling : Eingorn
Bad Wiesee, 2006



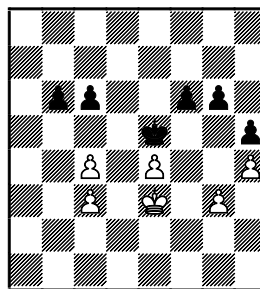
1...g5??

Not the first, not the last! Black has better position and wants to win creating threat g5-g4.

2.g4!! hxg4 3.h5 f5 4.h6 f4+ 5.Kf2 Kf6

6.e5+ Kg6 7.e6 1:0.

Koch J. : De Dovitiis A.
Argentina 2005



1...Kd6!

Correct preventive move, as Black avoids opponents break. 1...g5? 2.g4!! hxg4 (2...gxh4 3.gxh5 h3 4.Kf2 f5 5.h6 Kf6 6.exf5+-) 3.h5 Ke6 (3...f5 4.h6 f4+ 5.Kf2 Kf6 6.e5+ Kg6 7.e6+-) 4.Kf2 Kf7 5.Kg3 Kg7 6.Kxg4 Kh6 7.c5! (7.Kf5 Kxh5 8.Kxf6 g4 9.e5 g3 10.e6 g2 11.e7 g1Q 12.e8Q+ Kh4 13.Qh8+ Kg3 14.Qg7+ Kf2 15.Qxg1+ Kxg1 16.Ke5 Kf2 17.Kd6 Ke3=) 7...b5 (7...bxc5 8.c4 Kg7 9.e5! fxe5 10.Kxg5+-) 8.Kf5 Kxh5 9.Kxf6 g4 10.e5 g3 11.e6 g2 12.e7 g1Q 13.e8Q+ Kh4 14.Qh8+ Kg3 15.Qg7+ Kf2 16.Qxg1+ Kxg1 17.Ke5 Kf2 18.Kd6 Ke3 19.Kxc6+-.

2.Kd4

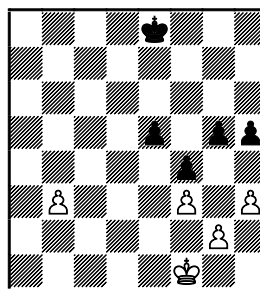
Does not help cautious 2.Ke2 Ke6 3.Kf3 (3.Ke3 Ke5 4.Kf3 g5) 3...g5 4.Kf2 gxh4 5.gxh4 Ke5 6.Ke3 c5 7.Kf3 f5--.

2...g5 3.c5+ bxc5+ 4.Kd3

4.Kc4 Ke5 5.Kxc5 gxh4 6.gxh4 Kxe4 7.Kxc6 f5 8.Kd6 f4--.

4...Ke5 5.Kc4 gxh4 6.gxh4 Kxe4 7.Kxc5 f5--.

Ilinsky Y. : Riazantsev A.
Novgorod 1997



46.Ke2?!

Correct was to avoid break with prophylactical destroyer 46.h4!! g4 (46...gxh4 47.Ke2 Kd7 48.Kd3 Kc6 49.Ke4 Kc5 50.Kxe5 Kb4 51.Kxf4 Kxb3 52.Kg5+-) 47.fxg4! hxg4 48.h5 e4 49.h6 Kf7 50.h7 Kg7 51.b4 g3 52.b5 f3 53.b6 e3 54.gxf3+-.

46...e4TM 47.fxe4 g4TM 48.hxg4?
48.h4 Kd7 49.Kd3 Kc6 (49...Kd6 50.Kd4 g3 (50...Ke6 51.e5 f3 52.gxf3 gxf3 53.Ke3 Kxe5 54.Kxf3 Kf5 55.b4 Ke5 56.b5 Kd5 57.Kf4 Kc5 58.Kg5 Kxb5 59.Kxh5 Kc6 60.Kg6+-) 51.e5+ Ke6 52.Ke4+-) 50.b4 Kb5 (50...g3 51.Ke2+-; 50...Kd6 51.b5 Kc5 52.e5 Kxb5 53.Ke4 f3 54.gxf3 gxf3 55.Kxf3 Kc6 56.Kf4 Kd7 57.Kg5 Ke6 58.Kxh5 Kxe5 59.Kg6+-) 51.e5 Kc6 52.Ke4.

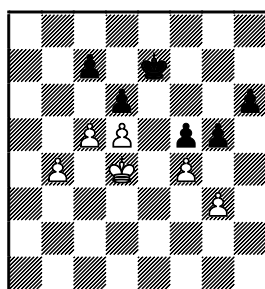
48...hxg4 49.Kd3 Kd7 50.b4
Or 50.e5 Ke6 51.Ke4 f3 52.gxf3 gxf3 53.Kxf3 Kxe5.

50...Kc6 51.Kd2

51.Kd4? g3!-+.

51...Kb5 52.Kd3 Kxb4 53.e5 Kc5 54.Ke4 f3 55.gxf3 gxf3 56.Kxf3 Kd5 57.Kf4 Ke6 ½.

Camacho G. : Hernandez A.
Cuba 1995



1.g4!! fxg4

1...gxf4 2.gxf5+-.

2.f5 dxc5+

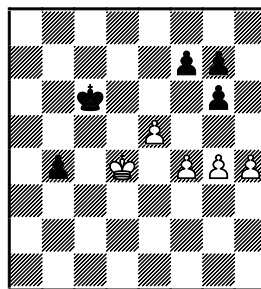
2...Kf6 3.cxd6 cxd6 4.b5+-; 2...g3 3.Ke3 g4 4.c6 h5 5.b5 h4 6.Ke2!+-.

3.bxc5 g3 4.Ke3 g4 5.c6!!

5.d6+? cxd6 6.c6 d5!=.

5...h5 6.f6+ Kxf6 7.d6 1:0.

Mamedyarov S. : Sokolov I.
Essent 2008



Once more Black has far passed pawn and White has to be fast and decisive.

1.f5 b3 2.Kc3 gxf5

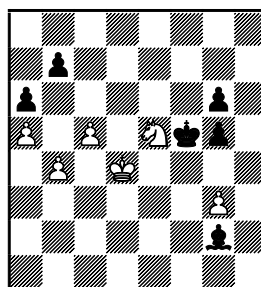
2...Kd5 3.e6 fxe6 4.fxg6 5.h5.

3.gxf5 Kd5

Now follows classical sacrificing concert, after which Black King can't catch white pawn, as own pawns stop him.

4.e6! fxe6 5.f6! gxf6 6.h5! 1:0.

Yagupov I. : Mukhametov E.
Russia 1995

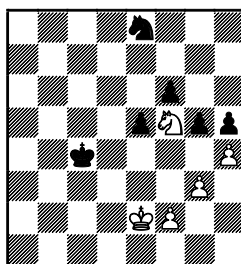


62.b5! axb5 63.c6! bxc6 64.Kc5!

Now King blocks opponents Bishop and a pawn is ready to run.

64...b4 65.a6 b3 66.Nc4 Bf1 67.a7 Bxc4 68.a8Q b2 69.Qb7 1:0.

Kosteniuk A. : Polgar J.
Moscow 2009



63.g4! Nc7

63...gxh4 64.gxh5 h3 65.Kf1 h2 66.Kg2 Nc7 67.h6 Ne6 68.h7 Nf4+ 69.Kxh2 Ng6 70.Kg3+-.

64.gxh5 Ne6 65.h6 Nf8 66.hxg5 fxg5 67.Kf3 Kd3 68.Kg4 Ke2 69.Kxg5

69.f3 was better and simpler.

69...Kxf2 70.Kf6?

70.Nd6 Kf3 71.Kf5 was correct.

70...e4?

70...Kf3 71.Kxe5 Nh7 was keeping draw.

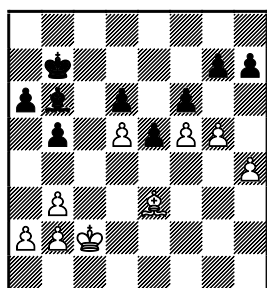
71.Kf7 Nh7 72.Kg6 Nf8+ 73.Kg7 Ne6+

74.Kf6 Nf8 75.Nd4 e3 76.Kg7 Ne6+

77.Nxe6 e2 78.Nf4 1:0.

Kovcan V. : Antal P.

Hungary 1995



Break is typical manoeuvre, not just in the pawn ends.

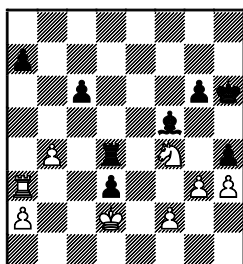
1.h5!! fxg5

After 1...Bxe3 2.h6 gxh6 3.g6+- promotes.

2.Bxb6 Kxb6 3.h6! gxh6 4.f6 1:0.

Hoang Thi Bao Tram : Majdan J.

Dresden 2008



46...g5!

With this sacrifice of important passed pawn, Black prepares to create new one on the far side with other sacrifice.

47.Nxd3 g4! 48.hxg4 h3 49.gxf5 h2

50.Ke3 Rd7

50...Rd8 was a bit simpler.

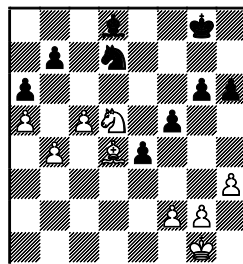
51.Ne5 h1Q 52.Rc3

Did not help 52.Nxd7 Qc1+.

52...Qe1+ 0:1.

Svidler P. : Dominguez Perez L.

Moscow 2009



36.b5! Bxa5

Forced, as other capture is losing faster 36...axb5 37.c6 bxc6 38.a6 and pawn is unstoppable.

37.c6 axb5 38.cxd7 Kf7

Now White has just to be careful, realizing his extra piece.

39.Kf1 Ke6 40.Nf4+ Kxd7 41.Nxg6 b4

42.Ke2 b3 43.Nf4 Kd6 44.f3 exf3+

45.Kxf3 Bb6 46.Bb2 Bc5 47.Nd3 Bg1

48.Nc1 b5 49.Nxb3 Kd5 50.Nd2 b4

51.Kf4 Ke6 52.Nf3 Bc5 53.Nd4+ Kd5

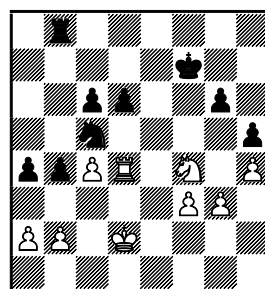
54.Nxf5 Kc4 55.g4 Kd3 56.h4 b3 57.h5

Kc2 58.Be5 Kd3 59.Bg7 Bb4 60.Kf3 Ba5

61.Nd6 Bc3 1:0.

Aronian L. : Svidler P.

Moscow 2009



39...a3! 40.bxa3

Other variation shows break, after piece sacrifice 40.b3 Nxb3+! 41.axb3 a2.

40...b3!

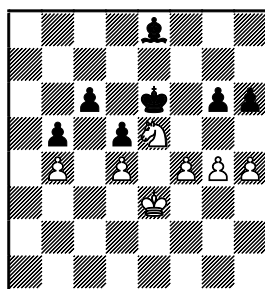
This break can be stopped just with exchange sacrifice.

41.axb3 Nxb3+ 42.Kc3 Nxd4 43.Kxd4

Ra8 44.Nd3 Rxa3 45.c5 dxc5+ 46.Nxc5

Rxf3 47.Ne4 Ke7 48.Kc5 Re3 0:1.

Lu Shanglei : Ji Dan
Xinghua 2010



39.f5+! gxf5 40.g5

White obtained dangerous passed pawn plus strong position of the King. So, sacrifice of the pawn is paid.

40...hxc5 41.hxc5 c5

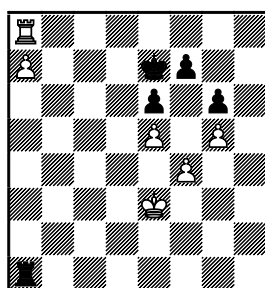
Desperate try, as normal move is easily losing: 41...Kd6 42.g6 Ke6 43.g7 Bf7 44.Kf4 Kf6 45.Nxf7 Kxf7 46.Kxf5 Kxg7 47.Ke6 Kg6 48.Kd6 Kf5 49.Kxc6 Ke4 50.Kc5! is losing, after typical zugzwang manoeuvre.

42.bxc5 b4 43.Nd3!

Stopping all opponents counterplay, as Knight will block pawn f5.

43...b3 44.Nf4+ Kd7 45.Kd2 1:0.

Vistaneckis : Sardarov
USSR 1963



1.f5!! exf5

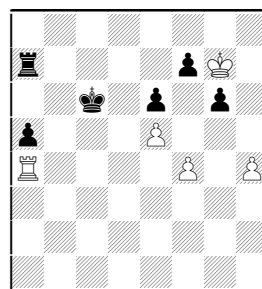
1...gxf5 2.g6 fxg6 3.Rh8.

2.e6 fxe6

2...Ra6 3.exf7 Kxf7 4.Rh8.

3.Rh8 1:0.

Lasker E. : Levenfish G.
Moscow 1925



49.Kf6?

It was necessary to try to conduct break as soon as possible: 49.f5 exf5 50.e6 fxe6+ 51.Kxg6 Kb5 52.Ra1 f4 53.h5 e5 54.h6 e4 55.Kf5 f3 56.Kxe4 f2 57.Ke3 Rh7 58.Kxf2 Rxe6 59.Ke2 Rd6 60.Rd1!, destroying the cutting of the King and obtain in theoretical draw position.

49...Kb5 50.Ra1 a4 51.f5

Better late, than never! But, it is late!

51...exf5 52.e6 fxe6 53.Kxg6 f4 54.h5 f3

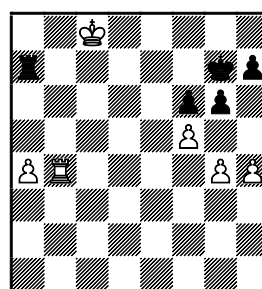
55.h6 e5 56.Re1

56.Kf5 f2 57.Kxe5 Rh7 58.Rf1 Rxe6

59.Rxf2 a3, but now we obtain winning Blacks position.

56...a3 57.Rxe5+ Kc4 58.Re1 a2 59.h7 Ra8 60.Kg7 f2 61.Ra1 Kb3 62.Rf1 a1Q+ 63.Rxa1 Rxa1 0:1.

Stein L. : Vaganian R.
1971



With two powerfull pawn moves Black create important passed pawn:

1...h5! 2.gxh5

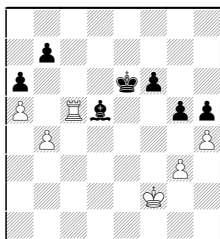
2.fxg6 hxg4 3.Rxg4 f5=.

2...g5!!=

Wrong would be simple capture 2...gxf5? 3.Kb8 Ra5 4.Kb7 Kh6 5.Kb6 Ra8 6.a5

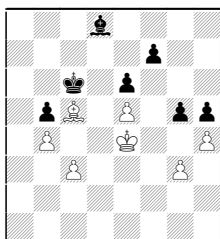
Rb8+ 7.Kc5 Ra8 8.Ra4 Kxh5 9.Kb6!+-.
3.Kb8 Ra5 4.hxg5 fxg5 5.Rb7+
 After 5.Kb7 Kf6 6.Kb6 Ra8 7.a5 Rb8+
 8.Kc5 Rxb4!= 9.Kxb4 g4 10.a6 g3 11.a7
 g2 12.a8Q g1Q 13.Qf8+ Ke5 Black have
 good chances for draw.
5...Kh6 6.f6 Rxa4 ½.

Carlsen M. : Wang Yue
 Bazna Medias 2010



46.g4!
 Creation of passed pawn demands
 sometimes sacrifices.
46...hxg4 47.h5 Be4 48.Rc7!
 Now Rook is ready to support its passed
 pawn.
48...f5 49.h6 f4 50.h7 g3+ 51.Ke1 f3
52.h8Q f2+ 53.Ke2 Bd3+ 54.Ke3 1:0.

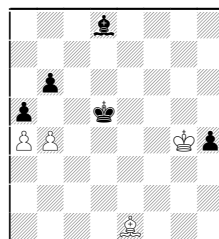
Zorigt : Korzin
 Budva 1963



1.g4!!
 Creation of passed pawn is now very easy
1...gxh4 2.gxh5 Bg5 3.Bf8 h3 4.Kf3 Kd5
5.h6?
 Correct was natural 5.Bg7.
5...Bxh6?
 Black could make draw in the pawn end
 5...Kxe5 6.Bg7+ Bf6 7.Kg3 Kf5 8.Kxh3
 Kg6 9.Bxf6 Kxf6 10.Kg4 Kg6 11.Kf4
 Kxh6 12.c4 bxc4 13.b5 e5+ 14.Ke3 f5
 15.b6 f4+ 16.Ke2 c3 17.b7 f3+.

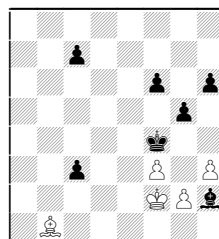
6.Bxh6 Kxe5 7.Bg7+ Kd5 8.Kg3 f5
9.Kxh3 e5 10.Kg3 Ke4 11.Bh8 f4+
12.Kg4 f3 13.Kg3 1:0.

Filip M. : Mozhny M.
 Chechoslovakia 1977



1...b5!!
 Only and last chance, as after 1...axb4
 2.Bxb4 ... Be1-f2-b6= White will
 transpose into the end with the Bishop of
 wrong corner colour.
2.bxa5 bxa4 3.a6 Kc6 4.Bb4 Bb6 5.Kxh4
Kb5 6.Ba3 Kxa6 7.Kg3 Kb5 8.Kf3 Bc5
9.Bc1 Kc4 10.Ke2 Kb3
 ... Bd4-b2-+ **0:1.**

Makarichev S. : Averbakh Y.
 URS-ch, Lvov 1973



48...Bg1+! 49.Ke2
 Black idea was to penetrate Whites
 position. 49.Kxgl Ke.
49...Kg3 50.Kf1 Bf2 51.Bc2 f5!
 Another small sacrifice - once more White
 cannot capture ,as Black King accelerates
 to the other flank.
52.Bb1
 52.Bxf5 Kf4 53.Be4 Ke3.
52...f4 53.Bg6 Be3 54.Bc2 h5 55.Bf5 c5
56.Bg6 h4 57.Bf5 g4! Idea is to create
 passed pawn on the Kings side and then to
 come with the King to help pawn c3.
58.hxg4 h3 59.gxh3 Kxf3 60.g5 Kg3
61.g6 Bd4 62.h4 f3 63.h5 Bg7 64.Ke1 f2+
65.Kf1 Kf3 0:1.

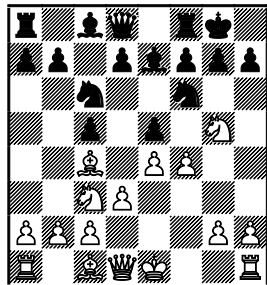
Adrian Mikhalechishin:

Problems of middlegame planning connected with the opening strategy

Preparation of opening plans from the opening part is the key of every top players homework and preparation. Sometimes developments are leading to very sharp developments.

Kupreichik V. : Sveshnikov E.
B30 Kuibyshev 1986

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4
This extremely positional line became popular as antidotum for Sveshnikov variation. I remember great Efim Geller, who was laughing seeing Sveshnikov ideas, but after 10 years he tried it himself!
4...Be7 5.d3 Nf6 6.Ng5 0-0 7.f4

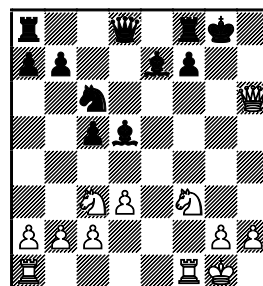


7...exf4

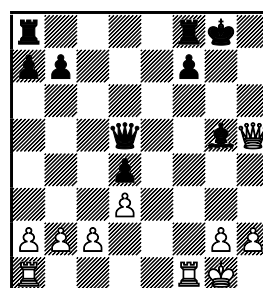
Many years later Sveshnikov invented fantastic gambit idea **7...d5!** **8.exd5 Bg4** **9.Qd2 Nd4 10.0-0 exf4 11.Qxf4 Bd6 12.Qf2 Qb8 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 b5 15.Qxb8 Raxb8 16.Bb3 c4 17.dxc4 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Nxc2 19.Rac1 Ne3 20.b3 Nxf1 21.Rxf1 Rfe8 22.d6 Bh5 23.Nd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Re5 25.Bxf7+ Bxf7 26.Nxf7 Rd5 27.d7 Rxd7 28.Ne5 Rd2 29.Rf2 Rd1+ 30.Rf1 Rbd8 31.Nc6 R8d7 32.b4 Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Rd1+, 0:1, Srebrnic M. : Sveshnikov E. ,Bled 2008. Great inventors are always on the top of the theory!
8.Bxf4 d6 9.0-0 h6 10.Nf3 Be6 11.Qd2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5!**

Its new direction of attack of Victor Kupreichik, instead of previously tested **13.Rae1**.

13...Bxd5 14.Bxh6! gxh6 15.Qxh6



15...Nd4? 16.Nxd4 Bg5
16...cxd4 17.Nxd5 Qxd5 18.Rf3.
17.Qh5 cxd4 18.Nxd5 Qxd5

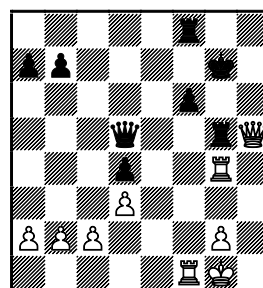


19.Rf4!!

Such moves, as horizontal pins, are always effective and show beautiful fantasy of such inventive players as Victor Kupreichik.

19...Rae8 20.h4 Re5 21.hxg5! Rxc5
22.Rg4 f6 23.Rf1 Kg7

It is strange, that young and talented players repeated this line 20 years later! Its poor homework. **23...Qe5 24.Rxc5+, 1:0**, Vyskocil N. : Volodin V., Marianske Lazne 2003.

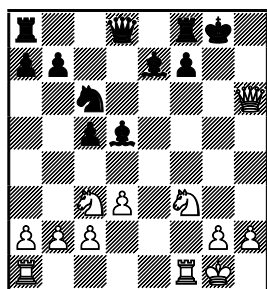


24.Rxf6! Kxf6 25.Qh6+ Ke7 26.Rxc5
1:0.

Barczay L. : Muse M.
B30 Kecskemet 1990

Hero of the next part is Croatian - German GM Mladen Muse, who made profit of this sharp line, winning 3 games here! It was result of good home preparation.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 Be7 5.d3 Nf6 6.Ng5 0-0 7.f4 exf4 8.Bxf4 d6 9.0-0 h6 10.Nf3 Be6 11.Qd2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Bxd5 14.Bxh6 gxh6 15.Qxh6



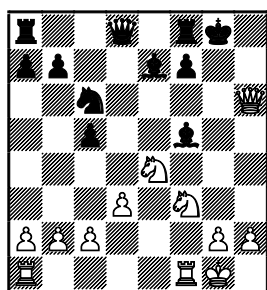
15...Be6!

First try to refute Whites powerfully looking attacking set up.

16.Ne4

Weak is 16.Rae1 Bf5 17.Nh4 Bg5 18.Qh5 Qd4+, 0:1, Dusenov R. : Iljushin A., Saratov 2006.

16...Bf5



Here, in this critical moment, White unsuccessfully tried other attacking ways.

17.Nfg5

17.Rae1 Bg6 18.Ng3 Nd4 19.Ne5 Bg5 20.Qh3 Nxc2 21.Re4 Bxe4 22.Nxe4 f5 23.Rxf5 Qd4+ 24.Nf2 Qe3 25.Rxg5+ Qxg5 26.Qe6+ Kg7 27.Qd7+ Kh8 28.Qh3+ Kg8 29.Qe6+ Kh7 30.Qd7+ Qg7 31.Qh3+ Qh6 32.Qd7+ Kh8 33.g3 Qc1+ 34.Kg2 Ne1+ 35.Kh3 Qh6+, 0:1, Gallagher J. : Muse M., Biel 1989;

17.Ng3 Bg6 18.Nh5 Bxh5 19.Qxh5 Qd6 20.Rae1 Qg6 21.Qh3 f5 22.Ne5 Nxe5 23.Rxe5 Bf6 24.Rexf5 Bd4+ 25.Kh1 Rxf5 26.Rxf5 Re8 27.Rf1 Bxb2 28.Qd7 b6 29.g3 Qe6 30.Qb7 Bg7 31.a4 c4 32.Rf4 cxd3 33.cxd3 Rc8 34.Re4 Rc1+ 35.Kg2 Rc2+ 36.Kh1 Qc6 37.Qb8+ Kh7 38.Qf4 Qf6 39.Qxf6 Bxf6 40.Re6 Kg6 41.h4 Rd2 42.Rd6 Kf5 43.a5 bxa5 44.g4+ Ke5 45.Ra6 Bd8, 0:1, Beckemeier W. : Muse M., Germany 1988.

17...Bg6 18.h4 Qd4+ 19.Kh1 Qg7

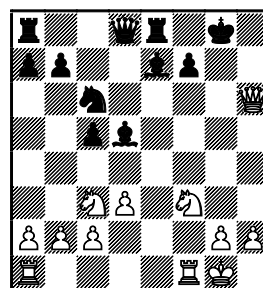
20.Qxg7+ Kxg7

Fantastick hat trick! **0:1.**

Landa K. : Gagarin V.

B30 Bratislava 1990

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3 Be7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Ng5 0-0 8.f4 exf4 9.Bxf4 h6 10.Nf3 Be6 11.Qd2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Bxd5 14.Bxh6?! gxh6 15.Qxh6 Re8!

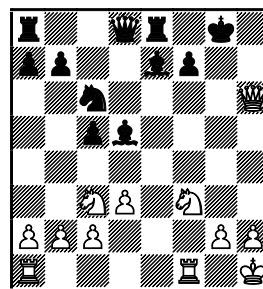


Another way to stop Whites attack.

16.Kh1!?

Not better would be 16.Rae1 Bxf3!

17.Rxf3 Qd4+ 18.Ree3 Ne5 19.Rh3 Ng6 20.Nd5 Bh4! 21.Qh5 Re5, 0:1, Yurtaev L : MeshkovY., USSR 1990.



16...Ne5!!

It is necessary to add defensive power.

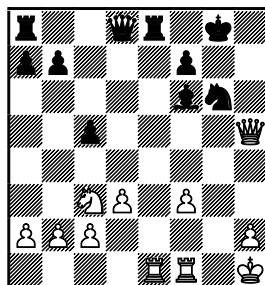
16...Be6 17.Rae1±; 16...Bf8 17.Qh5±.

17.Qh5

17.Nxe5 Bg5; 17.Nxd5 Qxd5 18.Ng5

Bxg5 19.Qxg5+ Kf8.

17...Bf6™ 18.Rae1 Bxf3™ 19.gxf3 Ng6

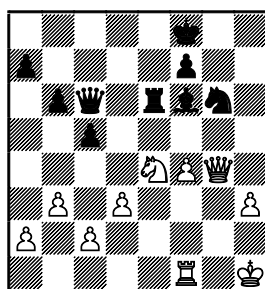


Attack is stopped.

20.Rxe8+?!

20.Ne4!? Kg7!

20...Qxe8 21.Ne4 Qc6! 22.f4 Kf8 23.b3 Re8 24.Qf5 Re6 25.h3 b6 26.Qg4



26...Rxe4!

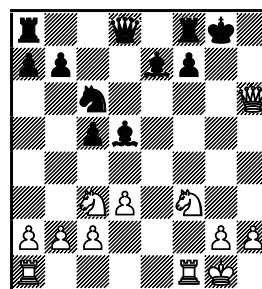
→ 27.dxe4 Qxe4+ 28.Qg2 Qf5! 29.Qa8+ Kg7 30.Qg2 Bd4 31.Qg4?! Qxc2 32.h4 Qe4+ 33.Kh2 f5 34.Qg2 Qxg2+ 35.Kxg2 Nxh4+ 36.Kg3 Ng6 37.Rh1? Be3 0:1.

De Firmian N. : Browne W.

B30 USA - ch, Seattle 2003

Story seemed to be finished, but after 15 years something unusual appeared.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3 Be7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Ng5 0-0 8.f4 exf4 9.Bxf4 h6 10.Nf3 Be6 11.Qd2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Bxd5 14.Bxh6 gxh6 15.Qxh6



15...f5!?

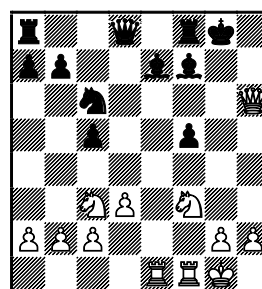
It looks, that such experienced GM's, with huge opening knowledge, tried to open new page.

16.Rae1

16.Qg6+ Kh8 17.Ng5? White tries to continue attack, which has no chances to succeed here. 17...Bxg5 18.Nxd5 Ne5 19.Qh5+ Kg7 20.c4 Ng6 21.Rae1 Rh8 22.Qf3 Qd6 23.g3 Raf8 24.h4 Bf6 25.Re2 Bd4+ 26.Kg2 Rf7 27.Rfe1 Ne5 28.Qf4 Re8 29.h5 b6 30.b4 Kh7 31.bxc5 bxc5 32.g4 fxg4 33.Qxf7+ Nxf7 34.Rxe8 Ne5 35.Re4 Kh6 36.Nf4 Qd7 37.Re6+ Kh7 38.R6xe5 Bxe5 39.Rxe5 Qb7+ 40.Re4 Qb1 41.Kg3 Qxa2 42.Kxg4 Qa5 43.Re7+ Kh6 44.Nd5 Qd8 45.Re6+ Kh7 46.Kf5 a5 47.Rg6 a4 48.Nf6+ Kh8 49.Rh6+ Kg7 50.Rh7+ Kf8 51.Rh8+ Ke7 52.Rxd8 Kxd8 53.h6, 1:0, Meyer F. : Ekeberg C., Gausdal 2003.

16...Bf7

16...Rf7! was very good try to stop the draw.

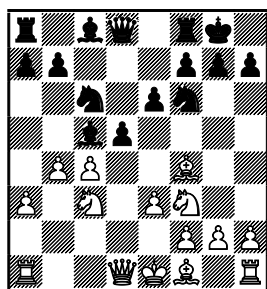


17.Re6 Bxe6 18.Qg6+ 1/2.

Mikhalchishin A. : Ubilava E.
D37 URS – ch, Volgodonsk 1981

Now a bit different story, as White invented very positional plan, which served for a long time to positional players. But one day came, when Black became tired of suffering and decided to shapen the game maximally.

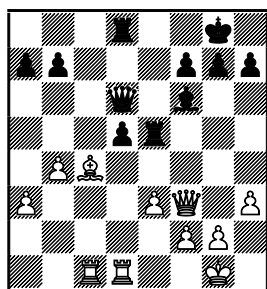
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bf4 0–0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.a3 Nc6
9.b4



In that times I worked as a second of Anatoly Karpov and we researched many new ideas. Top players like Korchnoi and Karpov played this line differently. I tried to find completely different plan in middlegame, trying to develop initiative on the Queens side.

9...Bd6

Young future strong IGM and famous trainer P.H.Nielsen tried different retreat:
9...Be7 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5
12.Bd3 Bf6 13.Rc1 Re8 14.0–0 Bg4 15.h3
Bxf3 (after retreat, white prepared very unusual attack on Isolani from the side:
15...Bh5 16.Rc5!) **16.Qxf3 Ne5 17.Bxe5**
Rxe5 18.Rfd1 Qd6 19.Bc4 Rd8



Now I start very simple but effective attack on Isolani, using the presence of opposite squared Bishops on the board, which made

protection of Isolani very difficult: **20.Bb3**
b6 21.Rd3 a5 22.Rcd1 Qf8 23.Bxd5 Re7
24.b5 Rc7 25.e4 Kh8 26.g3 Be5 27.Kg2
Rcd7 28.Rc1 Rc7 29.Rc6 Rxc6 30.bxc6,
1:0, Mikhalchishin A. : Nielsen P.,
Copenhagen 1991.

10.Bxd6 Qxd6 11.Be2

Another plan was possible, but I wanted to wait, before creation of Isolani. **11.cxd5**
exd5 12.Be2 Bg4 13.Nb5 Qe7 14.0–0
Rad8.

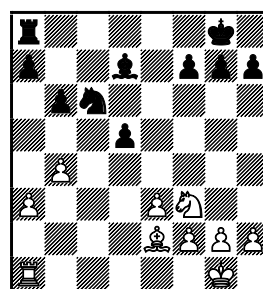
11...Rd8 12.0–0 b6

Another option led to slightly better position for White: **12...dxc4 13.Qxd6**
Rxd6 14.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 15.Rxd1 Bd7.

13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5

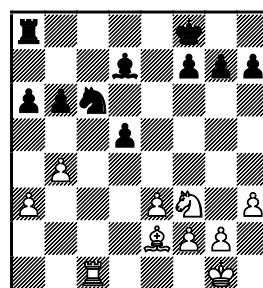
After **14...exd5 15.Bb5 Bb7 16.Bxc6 Bxc6**
17.Qd3 a6 18.Nd4 White would get classical Isolani with Knight against Bishop, which is considered to be very favourable for White. in all such kinds of positions.

15.Qxd5 Rxd5 16.Rfd1 Bd7 17.Rxd5
exd5



Finally Isolani appears-Blacks defence is not easy task.

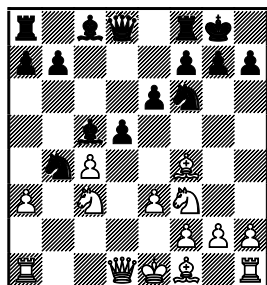
18.Rc1 a6 19.h3 Kf8



20.Bxa6 Nxb4 21.axb4 Rxa6 22.Rc7 Be8
23.Nd4 g6 24.g4 Ra1+ 25.Kg2 Rb1 26.f4
Rb2+ 27.Kf3 Rxb4 28.f5 Kg7 29.Kf4 h6
30.Ke5 Rc4 1:0.

Epishin V. : Short N.
D37 Malmo 2002

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7
5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.a3 Nc6
9.b4!? Nxb4!?



Definitely home preparation, as Epishin has already played 9.b4 a few times in the past. Short completely changes the character of the position, the sacrifice forces White to start defensive play.

10.axb4 Bxb4 11.Qb3

Natural, White meets the threat with tempo. **11.Be5 Ne4!** (11...Nd7?! 12.Bd4 Re8 is analogous to one of the examples below, but instead of 13.Qb3 White can play better: 13.Qa4! (13.Ra4?! a5 14.Qa1 Nb6 15.Bxb6 Qxb6©) 13...a5 14.Rb1 Rb8 (14...b5 15.cxb5 Bb7 16.Be2 e5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.0-0; 14...e5? 15.Rxb4 exd4 16.Nxd5±) 15.Ne5 f6 16.Rxb4!? axb4 (16...fxe5 17.Bb6!+- retains the extra piece) 17.Nxd7 Bxd7 18.Qxb4 b6 19.Nb5±) **12.Qb3 a5 13.cxd5 f6!?** **14.Bd4** (14.dxe6 Qe7 15.Bd4 Bxe6 Rfc8 (15...Rd8?! 16.Bc4 Rxd4 17.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 18.Ke2)) **14...e5 15.Ke2** (otherwise Black wins the piece back immediately) **15...Bf5!?** **16.Nxe4 Bxe4© Stohl.**

11...a5 12.0-0-0!?

Maybe the best try, although King is not safe there. There were other defensive tries: **12.Be5?! Nd7 13.Bd4** (13.Rc1? f6 14.Bg3 Nc5 15.Qc2 Ne4 16.Qb2 e5 17.Ke2 Nxc3+ 18.Rxc3 Bg4 19.h3 Bh5 20.Rd3 Qc8 21.Qa2 dxc4 22.e4 Bf7-+, 0:1, Lautier J. : Topalov V., Monte Carlo 1999) **13...Re8 14.cxd5 e5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Bb5 Nc6! 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.dxc6 Qd4 19.Rc1 Rxe3+! 20.fxe3 Qxe3+ 21.Kd1 Be6**

22.Qb2 Rd8+ 23.Nd5+ Kg8, 0:1, Gretarsson H. : Ehlvest J., Reykjavik 2002; **12.Nd2 d4! 13.Ncb1 Ne4 14.Qxb4 axb4 15.Rxa8 e5 16.Bg3 Nc3 17.e4 f5 18.Bxe5 fxe4 19.c5 Nxb1 20.Bc4+ Kh8-+,** Sulypa A. : Heinis V., FRA - chT, 1999; **12.Bd3? dxc4 13.Bxc4 b5! 14.Be2 (14.Bxb5 Qb6) 14...Nd5 15.Be5 a4 16.Qb2,** Van Wely L. : Vaganian R., Dordrecht 2000.

The best try seems to be untested on practice **12.Be2** (McShane) **12...Ne4 13.Rc1 Bxc3+ 14.Rxc3 a4 15.Qb4 Nxc3 16.Qxc3** (the a-pawn is a definite strength) **16...a3 17.0-0 Qa5.**

12...Bd7 13.Rd4?

This mistake gives Short's attack a strong impulse, as not only it fails to evacuate the K on time, but also the R is exposed on d4. Better is to take King away from c file:

13.Kb1 Rc8 (13...Qe7© Dautov) **14.Rc1.**

White fights for the crucial c-file and the position remains unclear.

Possibly, **13.Be5** (McShane) immediately was more to the point.

13...Qe7 14.Be5

Now King escape is not so effective:

14.Kb1 Rfc8 (14...a4!? 15.Qb2 Rfc8)

15.Na2 Bc5 16.Rd2 Ne4;

14.cxd5 Rfc8 15.d6 Qe8 16.Rc4 Rxc4!

(16...b5 17.Rc7) 17.Bxc4 b5(17...Rc8) ;

14.Ne5 Rfc8 15.Kb1 b5!, is very similar to the game.

14...Rfc8 15.Kb1 b5! 16.Nxb5 a4 17.Qa2

17.Bxf6 (Dautov) **17...gxf6 18.Qc2**

(18.Qb2 a3 19.Qa2 Rab8-+ ...dxc4)

18...Bxb5 19.Rg4+ Kh8 20.Rh4 f5

21.Qb2+ Kg8 22.cxb5 Ba3 23.Qe5 Rc1+

24.Ka2 Qc5-+.

17...Bxb5!

Removes an important defender.

17...Ne4?! 18.cxd5 (18.Rd1? dxc4 19.Bxc4 Bxb5 20.Bxb5 Bc3-+) 18...exd5

(18...Bxb5? 19.Rxe4 Qc5 20.Bxb5 Qxb5

21.Ka1 exd5 22.Rg4±) 19.Qxd5 Bc6

20.Qc4.

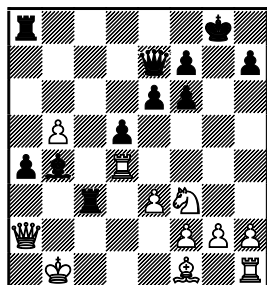
18.Bxf6

18.cxb5? Ne4 19.Rd1 Bc3-+.

18...gxf6

Queen has to be closer to the other side:
 18...Qxf6 19.cxb5 Bc3 (19...Qg6+?!
 20.Bd3 Qxg2 21.Rg1 Qxf3 22.Rxb4)
 20.Rxa4 Qg6+ 21.e4 Rxa4 22.Qxa4 dxe4
 23.Qc2! is less convincing.

19.cxb5 Rc3



20.Rd3

Attack does not help, as there are no more forces to help Rook: 20.Rg4+ Kh8 21.Nd4 Ba3! 22.Ne2 (22.Nc2 Rb3+ 23.Ka1 Qc7 24.Bc4 Qa5!—+) 22...Rb3+ 23.Ka1 Bd6! and a3 can't be met satisfactorily.
 Or 20.Bd3 Ra3 21.Bxh7+ Kh8—+.

20...Rac8 21.Be2

21.Qxa4 Rc1+ 22.Kb2 (22.Ka2? R8c2+ 23.Kb3 Qc5—+) 22...e5! paralyzes White, his N can't go to d4 anymore and 23.Nd2 e4 24.Rxd5 Ba3+! 25.Ka2 R8c2+—+ loses quickly.

21...Ba3 22.Qd2?

Its losing, better was 22.Rxc3TM Rxc3 23.Ka1, with some chances to hold.

22...Qb4+ 23.Ka1 Rc1+ 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 25.Ka2 Qc4+! 26.Kxa3 Ra1+ 27.Kb2 Qa2+ 28.Kc3 Qb3+ 0:1.

Sad end of Whites plan. It was beautiful, effective, but at the end became too slow for modern dynamic times!

So, we saw two different approaches, In the Kupreichik game attack looked so powerful, but defensive ideas appeared to be prevailing. In the second case positional approach of White could be refuted just by the unlimited attack.