

# 2 150 Attack

## Introduction

The 150 Attack is a system for White against all Modern and Pirc Defence players. We shall examine all the ways Black can reach his desired set-up, whether it be from a Barry Attack move-order (1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♗e3), or otherwise. I used to play the Pirc Defence in order to lure White onto unfamiliar territory from an early stage. I suspect that, like myself, the majority of club players who try the Pirc or Modern Defence do so because they are intimidated by the more usual main-line openings. By opting out, Black has greater opportunities to confuse White with his various move-orders, which are hard to pin down.

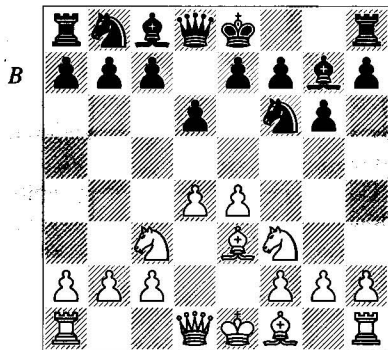
What White needs is a simple, yet effective response, which can be used against any black system. The 150 Attack fits the bill perfectly. White negotiates the course of events on his own terms. I feel the 150 Attack is putting Black off playing the Pirc/Modern Defences at all levels. It has been successfully adopted by the world's elite, such as Kasparov, Anand, Topalov and Leko, to name just a few. To whet your appetite, here is an attractive white victory, from a super-grandmaster clash.

Game 15  
**Leko – Beliavsky**  
*Madrid 1998*

1 d4 d6 2 e4 ♘f6 3 ♘c3 g6 4 ♗f3

We shall concentrate on this knight development as our primary move-order is 1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♘c3, which commits the knight to f3 straight away. If Black uses a 1...g6 or 1...d6 move-order he must also be prepared for lines where White plays an early f3 or f4.

4...♗g7 5 ♗e3 (D)



This is White's basic set-up in the 150 Attack. The 150 Attack supposedly got its name because it was widely used by a lot of medium-strength club and tournament players in Britain (an English grading of 150 is roughly

equivalent to 1800 Elo) and because its ideas were simple enough that it was a very dangerous weapon even in the hands of mid-ranking players. The basic idea was to exchange the dark-squared bishops and play for a mating attack on the black king. Since then, it has become much more refined, but we still have the unusual case of the world's grandmasters and super-grandmasters borrowing the ideas of lesser players!

### 5...c6

5...0-0 is an important possibility, which we shall consider in Game 16.

### 6 ♖d2 b5

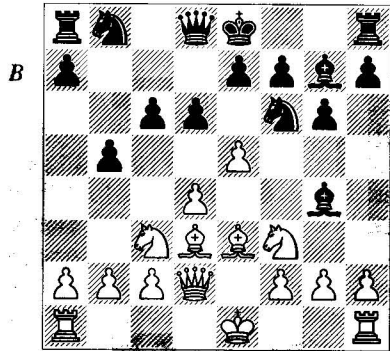
Even positional players like to use the 150 Attack, although in their case it is sometimes a bluff. White sets up an attacking formation pointing towards Black's kingside. The automatic response for Black is this counter-stroke on the queenside. However, then White can suddenly change tack, castle on the kingside, and set about exploiting the queenside weaknesses left by Black's pawn advances. This time it is Black who is left bewildered and confused!

The reason for this is that while White's moves are direct and aggressive, they are useful moves that fit in well in a wide variety of plans: he may be *intending* to attack the black king, but he has not burned any boats by *committing* himself to doing so.

### 7 ♙d3 ♙g4 8 e5! (D)

8 ♘h4 is also possible (and it is examined in Game 18, together with many other options on the preceding moves), but the text-move is obviously more potent. The advance e5 often

plays a key role in White's victories in the 150 Attack.



### 8...b4

Or 8...♘fd7 9 exd6 ♙xf3 (9...exd6 10 0-0-0 0-0 11 ♙h6 gives White the initiative) 10 gxf3 exd6 11 h4 ♘b6 12 0-0-0 ♘8d7 13 ♙g5 f6 14 ♙f4 ± Kharchenko-Borzov, Kiev 2006.

### 9 ♘e4 ♘xe4

After 9...♘d5?! 10 ♙h6 0-0 11 h4 ♙xf3?! (11...f5 should be tried) 12 gxf3 dxe5 (12...f6 13 ♙xg7 ♘xg7 14 0-0-0 gives White the initiative) 13 h5 ♙f6 14 ♘xf6+ exf6 15 hxg6 fxg6 16 ♙xf8 ♖xf8 17 dxe5 White has a large advantage. Short-Irzhonov, Elista Olympiad 1998 concluded 17...♘d7 18 ♙e4 ♘7b6 19 exf6 ♖xf6 20 ♖h6 ♖f7 21 0-0-0 ♘f6 22 ♙xg6 1-0.

### 10 ♙xe4 d5

10...a5 11 exd6 exd6 12 h3 ♙xf3 13 ♙xf3 d5 ±.

### 11 ♙d3 ♙xf3

11...♖b6 led to a quick win for White in E.Hossain-M.Mohammed Abdul, Dhaka 2008: 12 ♘h4 0-0 13 f4 f6 14 h3 ♙e6 15 f5! fxe5 16 dxe5 d4

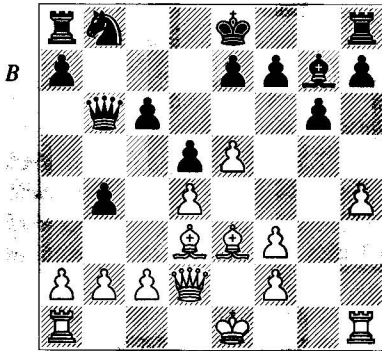
17 ♖h6 gxf5 18 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 19 ♚g5+ ♜f7 20 ♙xf5 ♙xf5 21 ♜xf5 ♚c5 22 0-0 1-0.

### 12 gxf3

White's pawn-structure has been compromised, but he has definite attacking chances on the kingside.

### 12...a5

12...♚b6 13 h4 (D) is similar:



a) 13...h5 is met by 14 e6.

b) 13...e6 14 h5 ♜d7 15 0-0-0 c5 and now 16 dxc5 ♜xc5 17 hxg6 hxg6 18 ♙xh8+ ♙xh8 19 f4 ♚a5 was unclear in Kosten-Cekro, Escaldes Zonal 1998. Instead White should try 16 hxg6 hxg6 17 ♙xh8+ ♙xh8 18 ♙h1 0-0-0 19 dxc5 ♜xc5 20 ♙d4, when his play on the h-file and Black's weak f-pawn give White a large advantage.

c) 13...♜d7 14 h5 c5 and now:

c1) 15 h6 ♙f8 16 dxc5 ±.

c2) 15 dxc5 ♜xc5 16 ♙e2 0-0 17 ♚xd5 ♙ac8 18 hxg6 hxg6 19 ♚d4 ± *Deep Junior-Khalifman*, Dortmund 2000.

c3) 15 c3 bxc3 16 bxc3 ♚a5 17 ♙b1 ♙b8 18 ♙xb8+ ♜xb8 19 h6 is

much better for White, Vyskočil-Skačelik, Brno 2001.

### 13 h4 ♜d7

13...h5 is well met by the disruptive 14 e6, and 13...e6 didn't look good in Kosteniuk-Flückiger, Biel 2004: 14 h5 ♜d7 15 c4 dxc4 16 ♙xc4 ♜b6 17 ♙d3 f5 18 exf6 ♚xf6 19 hxg6 hxg6 20 ♙g1 ♚xf3 21 ♚c2 ♙h1 22 ♜d2 ♙h6 23 ♙e2 ♚xf2 24 ♚xc6+ ♜e7 25 ♚c5+ ♜d7 26 ♙xh6 ♙xh6 27 ♙af1 1-0.

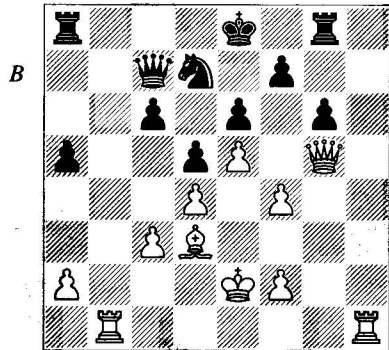
### 14 h5 ♚b6 15 c4

White opens up a second front for the attack.

15...bxc3 16 bxc3 e6 17 ♙b1 ♚c7 18 ♙h6 ♙f8

Obviously now was not the right time for Black to castle!

19 ♙g5 ♙g8 20 hxg6 hxg6 21 ♜e2 ♙e7 22 ♙xe7 ♜xe7 23 ♚g5+ ♜e8 24 f4 (D)



White has a truly dominant position and only needs to find the final breakthrough. The text-move threatens exactly this through f5.

24...♚d8 25 ♚g3 ♜f8 26 ♙bg1 ♙b8 27 f5 ♙b2+

Black lands a check, but one piece does not constitute an attack.

28 ♖e3 exf5 29 ♙xf5 ♜b6 30 ♙d3 ♜c4+ 31 ♙xc4 dxc4 32 ♜f4 ♜e7 33 ♜b1 ♜a3 34 ♜f3 g5

34...♜xc3+ 35 ♜g2 g5 36 ♜f5 ♜xd4 37 e6 is winning for White.

35 ♜c1! 1-0

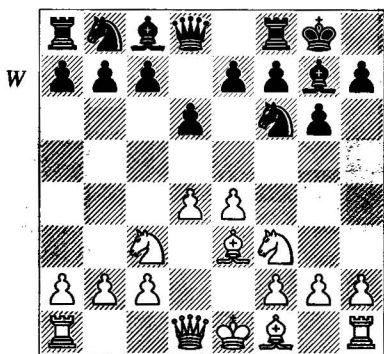
## 5...0-0

Game 16

Khalifman – Adams

World Team Ch, Lucerne 1997

1 d4 d6 2 e4 ♜f6 3 ♜c3 g6 4 ♜f3 ♙g7 5 ♙e3 0-0 (D)



In the 1990s the majority of Pirc players reached this position as a matter of course. Today mainly the highly incautious and the extremely well prepared enter this dangerous line.

6 ♜d2 ♙g4

Black continues to treat the position in the same manner as a Classical Pirc, but is in for a rude awakening. The alternatives are:

a) For 6...c6, the main line, see Game 18.

b) 6...♜bd7 7 ♙h6 e5 8 0-0-0 ♜e7 9 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 10 h4 h5 11 ♜g5 ±.

c) 6...♜c6 is a major alternative. The previous edition suggested 7 d5 as deserving consideration (as an alternative to 7 0-0-0 and 7 ♙b5). Matters are still not entirely resolved but it now looks like this is White's most promising path:

c1) 7...♜b8 8 ♙e2 c6 9 0-0 cxd5 10 exd5 ♙g4 11 ♜fe1 ♜bd7 12 h3 ♙xf3 13 ♙xf3 ± Kleinegger-Radecke, Bad Wiessee 1999.

c2) 7...♜e5 8 ♜xe5 dxe5 9 ♙h6 e6 10 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 11 0-0-0 exd5 12 exd5 a5 (12...a6 13 h4 h6 14 ♙e2 ♜e8 15 ♜e3 ♜f6 16 g4 ♜d6 17 g5 hxg5 18 hxg5 ♜f4 19 ♜xf4 exf4 20 ♜d4 ± Kogan-Durão, Dos Hermanas 2000) 13 h4 h5 14 ♙e2 ♜g4 15 ♙xg4 ♙xg4 16 f3 ♙d7 17 ♜e2 ♜f6 18 ♜e4 ♜f4+ 19 ♜b1 ♙f5 20 g3 ♜h6 21 g4 ♙xe4 22 fxe4 hxg4 23 ♜xg4 f5 24 exf5 ♜xf5 25 h5 ♜h8 26 d6 c6 27 d7 ♜d8 28 ♜dg1 ♜f6 29 hxg6 1-0 L.Adams-Feng, corr. 2001.

c3) 7...♜b4 8 a3 ♜a6 9 ♙xa6 bxa6 10 ♙h6 ♜b8 (10...e5 11 dxe6 fxe6 12 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 13 e5 dxe5 14 ♜xd8 ♜xd8 15 ♜xe5 ♙b7 16 f3 ♜d5 = Zapata-Pfleger, Cienfuegos 1983) 11 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 12 ♜d4 ♜e8 13 0-0-0 e5 14 dxe6 fxe6 15 e5 dxe5 16 ♜b3 (16 ♜f3) 16...♙b7 17 f3 = Emms-Speelman, London 1990.

d) After 6...a6 7 0-0-0 b5 8 e5!? dxe5 9 ♜xe5 ♙b7 10 ♙h6, we have:

d1) 10...♙xh6?! 11 ♜xh6 ♜c6 12 h4 ♜xd4 13 ♙d3 b4? (13...♜d6 is

necessary) 14 h5 +- g5 (Richardson-Beaumont, British League (4NCL) 2008/9) and now 15 ♖g4 is the neatest win.

d2) 10...♗c6 was recommended by Vigus. After 11 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 12 ♚e3 he offers two lines:

d21) 12...♗b4 13 h4 h6 (13...♗bd5 14 ♗xd5 ♚xd5 15 h5 also gives Black problems) 14 h5 g5, when it seems White is clearly better after 15 f4 ♗bd5 16 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 17 ♚f3 e6 18 fxg5 ♚xg5+ 19 ♚d2 ♚ab8 20 ♚f2 ♗f6 21 ♙d3 ±.

d22) 12...e6 13 h4 ♗e7 (13...h5 14 ♙e2 b4 15 ♗a4) 14 h5 ♗f5 15 ♚d2 ♗xh5 and Vigus assesses the position as unclear. However, after 16 ♚g1 it seems Black has a difficult task: 16...f6 (16...♗d6 17 g4 ♗f6 18 f3 ♗d7 19 ♚h1 h5 20 ♙d3 b4 21 ♗e2 ±) 17 ♗d3! ♚xd4 (17...♗xd4 18 ♗c5 +-) 18 g4 ♗hg3 (18...♗h4 19 ♙e2 ♗f3 20 ♙xf3 ♙xf3 21 ♚de1 ±) 19 gxf5 ♗xf5 (19...♗xf1 20 ♚gxf1 exf5 21 ♗e2 ♚d6 22 ♗df4 ♚xd2+ 23 ♚xd2 ♚ae8 24 ♗d4 ±) 20 ♙h3 ♚ae8 21 ♗e2 ♚d6 22 ♗ef4 ±.

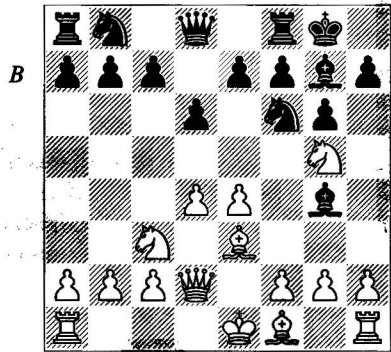
e) 6...e5 7 0-0-0 and now:

e1) 7...♚e7 8 ♙g5 c6 9 ♜b1 ♙g4 10 h3 ♙xf3 11 gxf3 ♗bd7 12 h4 ♚fd8 13 d5 (13 h5) 13...c5 14 h5 h6 15 ♙xh6 ♗xh5 16 ♗e2 ♚f6 17 ♙g5 ♚xf3 18 ♚h3 ♚xe4 19 ♙xd8 ± Duppel-Lederle, Schwäbisch Gmünd 1999.

e2) 7...♗fd7 8 ♙h6 ♗c6 9 h4 exd4 10 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 11 ♗xd4 h5 12 f4 ♗xd4 13 ♚xd4+ ♚f6 14 ♗b5 ± Hebden-Bokan, Kallithea 2000.

e3) 7...♗c6 8 h3 a6 9 g4 b5 10 g5 b4 (10...♗h5 11 dxe5 dxe5 12 ♗d5 ±

Naiditsch-T.Reich, German Ch, Höckendorf 2004) 11 gxf6 ♚xf6 (11...bxc3 12 ♚xc3 ♚xf6 13 ♙g5 exd4 14 ♚xd4 ♚xg5+ 15 ♗xd5 ♗xd4 16 ♚e3 ±) 12 ♚e2 bxc3 13 ♙g5 ♗xd4 14 ♚xd4 ♙h6 (14...♚e6!?) 15 ♙xh6 cxb2+ 16 ♜b1 exd4 17 ♙xf8 ♜xf8 18 ♙g2 ±. 7 ♗g5! (D)



It was the discovery of this move that enhanced the popularity of the 150 Attack. White side-steps the bishop's attack and prepares his own on the kingside.

7...♗c6

Black has tried almost everything here:

a) 7...e5? 8 dxe5 dxe5 9 ♚xd8 ♚xd8 10 ♙c4 ♚f8 11 ♙c5 ±.

b) 7...h6 8 h3 ♙h5 (8...♙d7 9 ♗f3 ♗h7 10 g4 with the initiative) 9 g4 (9 ♗xf7 ♚xf7 10 g4 may be even stronger) 9...hxg5 10 ♙e2 (a clever move, designed to put maximum pressure on h5, before taking there) 10...c5 (Black in turn tries to find counterplay on the queenside, but is simply too far behind in the race) 11 gxf5 cxd4 12 ♙xd4

♖c6 13 ♕e3 ♜h7 14 h4 (White's strategy is simple: open as many lines as possible) 14...g4 15 hxg6 fxg6 16 h5 gxh5 17 ♜xh5 ± ♚e5 18 0-0-0 ♜f6 19 ♜g5 ♜c8 20 ♙d4 ♜f7 (20...♞a5 21 ♙xe5 dxe5 22 ♙xg4 +-) 21 ♙xe5 dxe5 22 ♜xg7+ 1-0 Kosten-Seret, French Team Ch, Auxerre 1991. Black loses his queen after 22...♜xg7 23 ♞g5+.

c) 7...♚a6 8 f3 ♙d7 9 h4 h6 10 g4 c5 11 0-0-0 and now 11...♙xg4? 12 fxg4 ♚xg4 13 ♚f3 really isn't adequate for Black, Siebrecht-Jansa, Differdange 2007.

d) 7...c6 8 f3 ♙c8 9 h4 h5 10 0-0-0 b5 11 g4 hxg4 12 h5 ♚xh5 13 fxg4 ♙xg4 14 ♙e2 ♙d7? 15 ♙xh5 gxh5 16 ♜xh5 f6 17 ♜g1 +- Belikov-Semiev, Alushta 2005.

e) 7...c5 8 dxc5 h6 9 ♚f3 (9 h3 may be stronger) 9...dxc5 10 ♙d3 ♙xf3 11 gxf3 ♚c6 12 ♙xh6 ♚d4 13 0-0-0 ♚xf3 14 ♞e3 ♞d4 15 ♙e2 ♞xe3+ 16 ♙xe3 ♚d4 17 ♙xd4 cxd4 18 ♜xd4 ± Hebden-S.Petrosian, Marseilles 2003.

f) 7...♙d7 8 h3 e6 9 0-0-0 ♚c6 10 ♚f3 e5 11 dxe5 ♚xe5 12 ♚xe5 dxe5 13 ♙c4 ♙c6 14 f3 ± Khenkin-Golubev, Bad Wiessee 1999.

**8 d5 ♚b8**

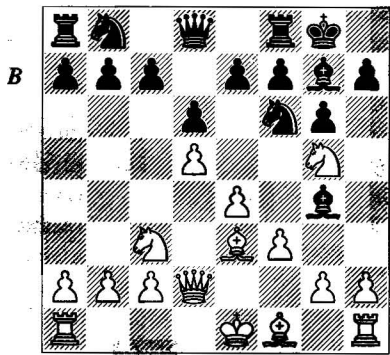
8...♚e5 9 f4 ♚ed7 10 h3 ±.

**9 f3 (D)**

This is the point: White can use Black's bishop as a target, in order to gain time for his attack.

**9...♙d7 10 h4 h5 11 g4!**

With Black's queenside pieces so poorly placed, White thinks nothing of offering a pawn to open lines against Black's king.



**11...c6**

Or 11...hxg4 12 ♙c2.

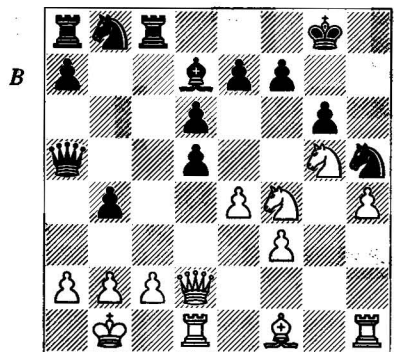
**12 gxh5 ♚xh5 13 0-0-0 ♞a5**

Black is trying hard to generate some counterplay before White's king-side attack becomes too dangerous.

**14 ♙d4 ♙xd4 15 ♞xd4 b5 16 ♜b1 b4 17 ♚e2**

But now the counterattack seems to have reached a dead end.

**17...♜c8 18 ♞d2 cxd5 19 ♚f4 (D)**



Black's position is critical, since he is faced with the inevitable collapse of his kingside defences while most of

his queenside pieces are still undeveloped.

**19...b3!?**

Adams decides to go down fighting. Unfortunately for him, he never even gets close to reasonable compensation for his queen.

**20 ♖xa5 bxc2+ 21 ♔c1 cxd1♖++ 22 ♔xd1 ♗xf4 23 exd5 ♙f5 24 ♗d2 ♗h5 25 ♖e3 ♜c7 26 ♙b5!**

White goes back on the offensive, the clearest way to realize his advantage before Black can get organized. White ties Black up on the queenside and introduces the threat of ♙e8.

**26...♗f8 27 ♗d4**

Black is given no rest, as White creates a threat with each move.

**27...♗f6 28 ♗h7+ ♔g7 29 ♗xf6 exf6 30 h5 gxh5 31 ♜xh5 1-0**

Leaving Black defenceless against an invasion on the h-file.

## 150 Attack vs the Pirc Defence: Black Delays ...0-0

A decade ago, delaying castling against the 150 Attack was a refinement mainly used by grandmasters. But the idea has steadily crept down the rating ladder and today it's standard procedure even at club level.

Game 17

**Hebden – Felecan**

*Cappelle la Grande 1993*

**1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♗f3 g6**

For King's Indian players (in contrast to Grünfeld players), 2...d6 is an alternative move-order. This gives the

extra option of 3 ♗c3 ♙f5!?. However, after 4 ♙g5 White is able to keep his initiative:

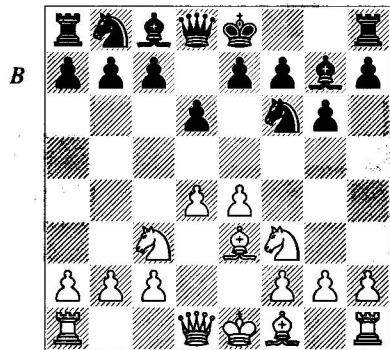
a) 4...♗bd7 5 ♗h4 ♙g6 6 ♗xg6 hxg6 7 d5!? ♗c5 (7...c6 8 e4 ♖a5 9 ♗d2 ♜c8 10 0-0-0 ± Miles-Robović, Münster 1993) 8 e4! e5! 9 dxe6 ♗xe6 10 ♙e3 c6 11 ♖f3 ± Palliser.

b) 4...♗e4 5 ♗xe4 ♙xe4 6 ♗d2 ♙g6 7 e4 d5 8 c3 c6 (8...dxe4 9 ♖b3 ♖c8?! 10 0-0-0 ♗d7 11 ♜e1 ±) 9 ♙d3 dxe4 10 ♙xe4 ♗d7 11 ♖f3 ♖a5 12 h4 ± Hebden-Collinson, British League (4NCL) 2007/8.

**3 ♗c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6**

4...d5!? should not be underestimated. In the critical line 5 e5 ♗e4 6 ♗xe4 dxe4 7 ♗g5 c5 no clear path to an advantage for White has been established. 8 ♙c4, 8 e6, 8 c3 and 8 d5 all deserve further investigation but 8 dxc5 seems a safe path to a small plus: 8...♖xd1+ 9 ♔xd1 ♙xe5 10 ♗xe4 0-0 11 ♙d3 ± or 8...♖a5+ 9 c3 ♗c6 (9...♖xc5 10 e6 fxe6 11 ♙e3 ♖e5 12 ♖c2 ±) 10 ♙e3 0-0 11 ♙e2 ♗xe5 12 ♗xe4 ±.

**5 ♙e3 (D)**



**5...♗g4**

This attempt to harass the white bishop backfires badly. Black should stick to 5...c6, which is considered in Game 18.

Other attempts to delay castling include:

a) 5...♗g4 6 h3 (6 ♖e2 0-0 takes us outside our repertoire) 6...♗xf3 7 ♗xf3 ♗c6 8 0-0-0 0-0 (8...♗d7 9 g4 e5 10 dxe5 ±) 9 ♖b5 (9 e5!?) 9...♗d7 10 e5! ± Khenkin-Agnos, Greek Team Ch, Athens 2000.

b) 5...♗bd7 6 ♗d2 ♗g4 7 ♖g5 h6 8 ♖h4 and now:

b1) 8...♗b6 9 h3 ♗f6 10 ♖d3 0-0 11 0-0 ♖d7 12 e5 ♗e8 13 ♗fe1 dxe5 14 ♗xe5 ± ♖c8?! 15 ♗xg6 (15 ♗g4!? +) 15...fxg6 16 ♖xe7 ♗xd4 17 ♖xf8 ♗xf8 18 ♗b5 ± Hebden-Moser, Neuchâtel 2003.

b2) 8...c6 9 ♖d3 ♗c7 10 0-0-0 ♗b6 11 h3 ♗f6 12 e5 ♗fd5 13 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 14 c4 ♗b6 15 exd6 exd6 16 ♗de1+ ♖e6 17 ♖xg6 ± Palliser-J.Gilbert, London 2000.

b3) 8...c5 9 h3 cxd4 10 ♗xd4 ♗ge5?! (10...♗gf6 gives Black a more standard-looking Sicilian position) 11 0-0-0?! (11 ♗d5 g5 12 ♗f5 ±) 11...a6? 12 g4?! (12 ♗d5) 12...♗c5 13 f4 ♗c6 14 ♗xc6 bxc6 15 e5 ± Drabke-Bielawski, NATO Ch, Kolobrzeg 2005.

c) 5...a6 6 ♗d2 b5 7 ♖d3 ♖b7 8 ♖h6 ♖xh6 (8...0-0?! 9 h4 b4 10 ♗d5 ♖xd5 11 exd5 ♗bd7?! 12 h5 gave White a decisive attack in Fressinet-Smirin, Bastia rapid 2006: 12...♗g4 13 ♖xg7 ♗xg7 14 ♗g5 ♗df6 15 f3 h6 16 ♗xf7 ♗xf7 17 hxg6 ♗f8 18 0-0-0 ♗xd5 19 fxg4 ♗f4 20 ♖f5 1-0) 9

♗xh6 ♗bd7 (9...b4 10 ♗e2 ♖xe4 11 ♖xe4 ♗xe4 12 ♗g7 ♗f8 13 ♗xh7 e6 14 ♗h6 ♗d7 15 0-0 d5 16 ♖e3 ♗h8 17 c4 ± Bricard-Agrest, Reykjavik 2000) 10 0-0 e5 11 ♗fe1 ♗g4 12 ♗d2 0-0 13 a4 exd4 14 ♗xd4 ♗f6 15 ♖f1 c5 16 ♗f3 b4 17 ♗d1 ♗de5 = Henao-A.Ivanov, Bled Olympiad 2002.

**6 ♖g5 h6**

Or 6...c5 7 dxc5 ♗a5 8 cxd6 ♖xc3+ 9 bxc3 ♗xc3+ 10 ♖d2 ♗c5 11 ♗e2 exd6 12 h3 ♗e5 13 ♗b5+ ♗bc6 14 ♗xc5 ♗xf3+ 15 gxf3 dxc5 16 ♖h6 ± Kolev-Huerga Tirados, Seville 1999.

**7 ♖h4**

7 ♖f4 may also be promising; e.g., 7...e5 8 dxe5 ♗xe5 9 ♗xe5 dxe5 10 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 11 0-0-0+ ♖d7 12 ♖e3 c6 13 ♖c4 ± Galinsky-Chizhevsky, Kiev 2004.

**7...c6 8 ♗d2 g5 (D)**

This is consistent with Black's previous moves, but frankly does not impress. All Black has achieved is to weaken his kingside.

8...b5 9 ♖d3 a6 10 h3 ♗f6 led to a nice attacking victory for White in Leitão-An.Rodriguez, Santos 2004: 11 e5! ♗h5?! 12 g4 g5 13 gxh5 gxh4 14 ♗g1 ± ♗f8?! 15 ♗f4 dxe5 16 dxe5 ♗c7 17 0-0-0+ ♗d7 18 ♖f5 ♗c5 19 ♖xg7 ♗xg7 20 ♗g1+ ♗f8 21 ♗g4 ♖xf5 22 ♗g7+ ♗e8 23 ♗xh8+ ♗d7 24 ♗xa8 1-0.

**9 ♖g3 ♗d7 10 0-0-0 b5 11 e5**

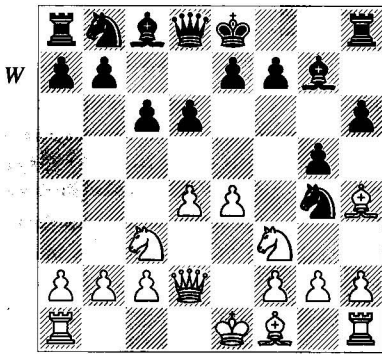
The usual remedy to a flank attack.

**11...b4 12 ♗b1**

Not 12 ♗e4? due to 12...d5.

**12...dxe5 13 dxe5 ♗a5 14 h4**

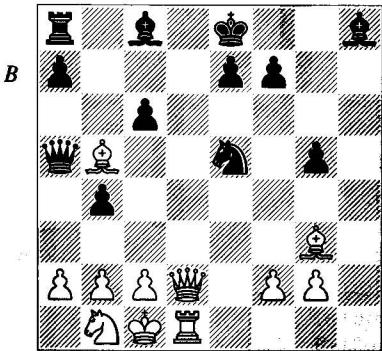
Seeking to make Black pay for his previous aggression.



14...♘gxe5

14...gxh4 15 ♖xh4 ♘gxe5 16 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 and now 17 ♗xe5?! ♗xe5 18 ♖xh6? ♖xh6 19 ♗xh6 is good for Black after 19...♗f6 or 19...♗e6, so White should prefer 17 ♖xb4, with good chances in view of Black's ragged structure.

15 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 16 hxg5 hxg5 17 ♖xh8+ ♗xh8 18 ♗b5! (D)



A thunderbolt.

18...♗g4!

18...♗xb5? 19 ♗d8#; 18...cxb5 19 ♗xg5 ♘d7 (19...♘g6? 20 ♗d5 +-) 20

♗g8+ ♘f8 is the only other defensive try, desperate-looking though it is.

19 ♖h1 ♗f6 20 ♗xe5 ♖d8??

Black had to try 20...♗xe5 21 ♗xg5 (21 ♗xc6+? ♘f8 22 ♗xa8?? ♗f4) 21...♗xb5, when 22 ♗xg4 ♘f8 is unclear and 22 ♗g8+?! ♘d7 23 ♗xa8 gives Black the option of an immediate draw by 23...♗f4+ 24 ♘d2 ♗xd2+ 25 ♘xd2 ♗g5+, etc.

21 ♗xc6+ 1-0

White wins material after 21...♗f8 22 ♗xf6.

Game 18

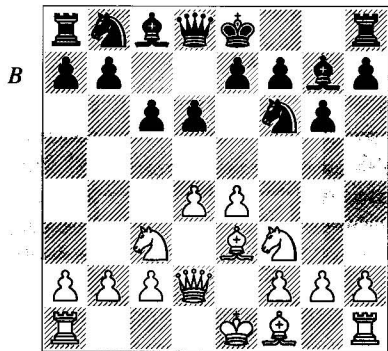
Izeta – Striković

Elgoibar 1994

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♗e3 c6

Black seeks queenside counterplay before developing his kingside.

6 ♗d2 (D)



6...b5

Black has also tried:

a) 6...♘b7 is highly transpositional. A high-level encounter continued 7

♙h6 ♘h6 8 ♖xh6 e5 9 0-0-0!? ♗e7 (White's score from this position is formidable) 10 h3! a6 11 dxe5 dxe5 12 ♙c4! b5 13 ♙b3 a5 14 a4!? b4 15 ♘b1 ♙a6? (Black should try 15...♘xe4 16 ♚he1 ♘ec5 as 16...f5? 17 ♘bd2 ♘xf2 loses to 18 ♘c4, as pointed out by Lane) 16 ♘bd2 0-0-0 17 ♗e3! and White had a clear advantage in Kasparov-Radjabov, Moscow rapid 2002. The game concluded 17...♙b7 18 ♙c4 ♘c5? 19 ♙xa6+ ♙xa6 20 ♘c4 ♘fxe4 21 ♘fxe5 ♚d5? 22 ♘xc6 ♗g5 23 ♚xd5 ♗xd5 24 ♘4xa5 ♙b6 25 ♘xb4 1-0.

b) 6...♙g4 7 ♙h6 ♘h6 (this is always an option for Black, but it makes the position of his king more precarious; 7...0-0 8 ♙xg7 ♙xg7 9 ♘g5 h6 10 h3 ♙c8 11 ♘f3 ♗a5 12 e5 dxe5 13 ♘xe5 ♘bd7 14 ♘g4 ♘xg4 15 hxg4 ♚h8 16 f3 ♘f6 17 ♙c4 b5 18 ♙b3 ♙b7 19 0-0-0 was very sharp but probably better for White in Degraeve-Ponomariov, Belfort 1998) 8 ♖xh6 and now:

b1) 8...♙xf3 9 gxf3 ♘bd7 10 0-0-0 ♗a5 11 ♙c4 d5 12 ♙d3 0-0-0 13 e5 ± de la Riva-Krasenkow, Olite 2006.

b2) 8...♗a5 9 ♗e3 (a very solid move, recentralizing the white queen and hinting at a central breakthrough) 9...♙xf3 10 gxf3 b5 11 a4 (it looks strange to advance on the queenside when that seems a likely resting place for White's king, but White has a devilishly clever idea!) 11...♘bd7?! (despite leaving light-square weaknesses, 11...b4 had to be tried) 12 b4! ♗xb4 (12...♗a6 13 ♙b1 ±) 13 axb5 ♚c8?! 14 ♚a4 ♗b2 15 ♚a2 ♗b4 16 ♚a4 ♗b2

17 ♘d2 ± Kinsman-W. Watson, European Clubs Cup, London 1996. White threatens simply to bring the h-rook to b1.

b3) 8...♘bd7 9 ♙e2 ♗a5 10 0-0 ♗b4 11 ♗e3 0-0 12 ♚ab1 e5 13 ♚fd1 ♚fe8 14 h3 ♙xf3 15 ♙xf3 ♗b6 16 ♗d2 ♚ad8 ½-½ Anand-Ivanchuk, Amber Blindfold, Nice 2008.

c) 6...♗a5 (in my opinion, this is the most flexible move for Black, as he holds back from giving White a target with ...b5) 7 h3 (the most accurate response; since Black is keeping his options open, it would seem best to play quietly and look for an opportunity to exploit the sometimes shaky position of the black queen) and now Black has tried:

c1) 7...0-0 8 ♙d3 e5 9 0-0 ♘bd7 10 a4 ♚e8 11 ♚fd1 (White is well placed for the inevitable opening of the centre, after which he will be better, thanks to his slight space advantage) 11...♗c7 (11...exd4 12 ♙xd4 {it is usually more accurate to recapture with the bishop for tactical reasons} 12...♘c5? 13 b4 ♗xb4 14 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 15 ♘d5 ♗b2 16 c3 +- was given by S.Pedersen) 12 a5 (a useful move, gaining space) 12...exd4 13 ♙xd4 ♘c5 14 e5 (this is another reason for recapturing with the bishop on d4) 14...♘fd7 15 exd6 ♗xd6 16 ♙f1 ± Nunn-Azmaiparashvili, Wijk aan Zee 1993.

c2) 7...♘bd7 8 ♙d3 0-0 9 0-0 and then:

c21) 9...♗c7 10 ♘e2 e5 11 ♘g3 d5 12 exd5 ♘d5 13 ♙h6 exd4 14 ♙xg7 ♙xg7 15 ♘h5+ ♙h8 16 ♗h6 ♚g8 17 ♚ae1 ♘7f6?! 18 ♘g5 ♙e6 19 ♘xf6

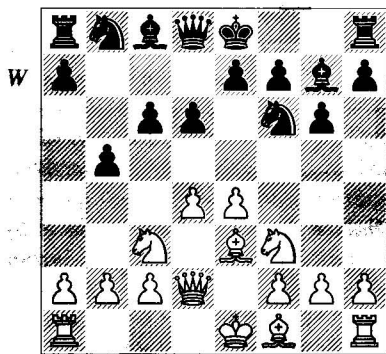
♟xf6 20 ♞xe6 fxe6 21 ♞xe6 ± Barua-McNab, Catalan Bay 2004.

c22) 9...e5 10 a4 and now:

c221) The line 10...♞e8 11 ♞fe1 ♟f8 12 b4! ♞xb4? 13 a5 exd4 14 ♟xd4 d5 15 ♞a4 ♞e7 16 exd5 ± Naiditsch-Claesen, Belgian Team Ch 2002/3 is a reminder that the queen can be exposed on a5.

c222) 10...exd4 11 ♟xd4 ♞e8 (or 11...♞e5 12 ♟e2 ♞e8 13 ♞fd1 ♞b4 14 a5 ♟fd7? and in Hebden-Sandu, Montpellier 2006 White could have won by trapping the queen with 15 ♞a4 ♞xb2 16 ♞b1) 12 ♟b3 ♞c7 13 ♞ad1 a6 14 ♟h6 ♟xh6 15 ♞xh6 b5 16 axb5 axb5 17 ♟d2 b4 18 ♟e2 ♟e5 = Leko-Kamsky, Moscow 2007.

We now return to the position after 6...b5 (D):



### 7 ♟d3

The actual move-order of the game was 1 d4 d6 2 e4 g6 3 ♟c3 ♟g7 4 ♟e3 c6 5 ♞d2 b5 6 ♟d3 ♟f6 7 ♟f3.

### 7...♟g4

Aiming to disrupt White's normal plan by threatening to double his

pawns. Black also has the following options, none of which are attractive:

a) After 7...♟b7?! Black has been going down in flames: 8 ♟h6 ♟xh6 9 ♞xh6 b4 (9...♟bd7 is pulverized by 10 e5 dxe5 11 dxe5 b4 12 ♟e2 ♟d5 13 e6 ♟7f6 14 ♟e5 ♞f8 15 exf7+ ♞xf7 16 ♟xg6 1-0 Gallagher-De Reymaeker, Lausanne 2004) 10 ♟e2 ♞b6 11 0-0 c5 12 e5 dxe5 13 dxe5 ♟xf3 14 ♞g7 ♞f8 15 exf6 ♟xe2 16 fxe7 ♟xe7 17 ♟xe2 ♟d7 18 ♟g4 1-0 Yagupov-Zakharevich, St Petersburg 1998.

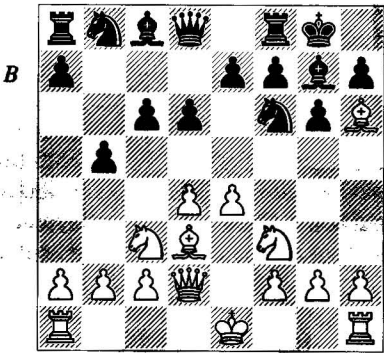
b) 7...a6, bolstering Black's queenside, is not the most active of ideas, and 8 ♟h6 seems sufficient for a substantial advantage:

b1) 8...♟xh6 9 ♞xh6 ♞a5 10 e5 dxe5 11 dxe5 ♟d5 12 0-0 ♟xc3 13 ♞g7 ♞f8 14 ♟g5 ♟f5 15 bxc3 ♞xc3 16 ♟xf5 gxf5 17 ♞ad1 b4 18 ♟xh7 1-0 Ganguly-Chiraranjan, New Delhi 2008.

b2) 8...0-0 9 e5 (as a general rule, a flank attack is often most successfully parried by a counter in the centre) 9...dxe5 10 dxe5 ♟xh6 11 ♞xh6 ♟g4 12 ♞f4 f6 (this is forced, due to the threat of h3) 13 h3 ♟xe5 (13...fxe5 14 ♞g5 ±) 14 ♟xe5 fxe5 15 ♞xe5 ♞d6 16 ♞e2 ♟d7 17 0-0-0 ± Gallagher-Todorčević, Biel 1991. White is better structurally, and has a lead in development.

c) 7...0-0 (Black puts king safety as his highest priority, although, as we shall see, often his majesty wishes he had remained in the centre) 8 ♟h6 (D) and now:

c1) 8...b4 (again with hindsight this looks like a mistake, as White is often



prepared to expend a tempo with a4 to provoke this) 9  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{Qa6}$  10  $\text{Qg3}$  (the pleasant thing about this manoeuvre after Black has played ...b4 is it probably appears non-threatening; Black may even feel he has driven the knight to a worse square and cost White two tempi, while furthering his queenside options, but nothing could be further from the truth!) 10...c5 11 e5 (this central breakthrough is the prelude to a kingside attack) 11... $\text{Qg4}$ ? (11... $\text{Qxh6}$  12  $\text{Qxh6}$   $\text{Qg4}$  13  $\text{Qf4}$  is Black's only chance, when he must avoid 13...dxe5? 14 dxe5 f6? 15  $\text{Qxa6}$  with a simple overload, but 13...cxd4, based on 14  $\text{Qxa6}$ ?! dxe5, gives him some practical chances at least) 12  $\text{Qxg7}$   $\text{Qxg7}$  13 h3  $\text{Qh6}$  14  $\text{Qh5+}$  gxh5 15  $\text{Qg5+}$   $\text{Qh8}$  16  $\text{Qxh6}$  1-0 Hebden-P.Littlewood, Walsall 1992. A total rout!

c2) 8... $\text{Qg4}$  (at least with this move Black keeps a firm hand on the h5-square) 9 a4 (White could consider 9  $\text{Qh4}$  here) and now:

c21) 9... $\text{Qxh6}$  10  $\text{Qxh6}$   $\text{Qxf3}$  11 gxf3  $\text{Qa5}$  12 h4  $\text{Qbd7}$  13 h5 e5 14 d5 b4 15  $\text{Qd1}$  cxd5 16  $\text{Qe3}$   $\text{Qh8}$ ?! 17

hxg6 fxg6 18 exd5 e4 19  $\text{Qxe4}$   $\text{Qe5}$  20 f4  $\text{Qc7}$  21  $\text{Qxg6}$   $\text{Qf3+}$  22  $\text{Qd1}$   $\text{Qd4}$  23  $\text{Qd3}$   $\text{Qae8}$  24  $\text{Qh3}$   $\text{Qe7}$  25  $\text{Qd2}$   $\text{Qg8}$ ? (a blunder in a lost position) 26  $\text{Qxf6+}$ ! 1-0 Khalifman-Kupreichik, Aaland/Stockholm 1997.

c22) 9...b4 10  $\text{Qe2}$  a5 11  $\text{Qg3}$   $\text{Qbd7}$  12 h4 e5 13 dxe5 dxe5 14 h5 gives White an exciting attacking position. Zapata-Schüssler, Santa Clara 1996 concluded 14... $\text{Qxh5}$  15 0-0-0  $\text{Qc5}$ ? (Zapata gave 15... $\text{Qxh6}$  16  $\text{Qxh6}$   $\text{Qg4}$  17  $\text{Qd2}$   $\text{Qdf6}$  18  $\text{Qh4}$  intending  $\text{Qxh5}$  as very good for White, but this may not be so clear after 18... $\text{Qh8}$ ) 16  $\text{Qxg7}$   $\text{Qxg7}$  17  $\text{Qg5}$   $\text{Qe6}$  18  $\text{Qxe5}$   $\text{Qxf3}$  19 gxf3  $\text{Qd4}$  20  $\text{Qf5+}$  gxf5 21  $\text{Qdg1+}$  1-0. After the forced 21... $\text{Qh8}$ , White has the amusing 22  $\text{Qxh7+}$ !  $\text{Qxh7}$  23  $\text{Qh2+}$ .

### 8 $\text{Qh4}$

White could consider 8 0-0-0 or 8 e5!, which we examined in Game 15.

### 8...e5

Or 8...b4 9  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{Qxe2}$  10  $\text{Qxe2}$   $\text{Qbd7}$  11 0-0 0-0 12  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Qc7}$  13 c3 bxc3 14 bxc3 c5 15 a4  $\pm$  Pavasović-Hendriks, Salzburg 2004.

### 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 h3

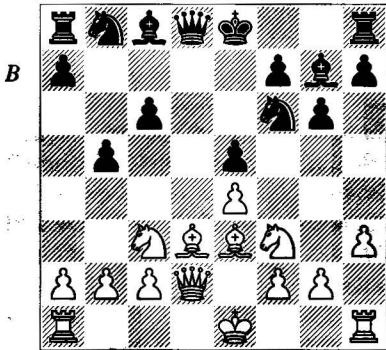
White's point is that  $\text{Qh4}$  is not really a waste of time, as the bishop lacks a good retreat-square, since on e6 it could be harassed by a later  $\text{Qg5}$ , and after 10... $\text{Qd7}$  11 a4! it seems to hamper the progress of Black's development.

### 10... $\text{Qc8}$

After 10... $\text{Qe6}$  11  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Qbd7}$  12 a4 b4 13  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{Qe7}$  14  $\text{Qg5}$  (14 0-0 must be at least a little better for White) 14...a5 15  $\text{Qg3}$  0-0 16 0-0  $\text{Qfd8}$  17

♖e2 ♠f8 Black was very close to equality in Landa-Hickl, Bundesliga 2003/4.

11 ♠f3 (D)



11...♠bd7 12 a4 b4 13 ♠e2 a5

Zakić-Popchev, Belgrade 1991 continued 13...♖e7 14 0-0 a5 15 c3 ♖b8 16 cxb4 ♗xb4 17 ♗xb4 ♖xb4 18 ♠d2 0-0 19 ♖fc1 ♖d8 20 ♖xc6 ♠b7 21 ♖c7 ♠e8 22 ♖c3 and White had the advantage.

14 c3

This is a common idea, to open lines on the queenside in order to exploit the holes left by Black's pawn moves.

14...c5

Other options include:

a) 14...♖e7 15 cxb4 axb4 16 ♖c2 ♠b7 17 0-0 0-0 18 ♖fd1 ♖a5 19 ♠c1 ♠c5 20 ♠b3 ♠xb3 21 ♗xb3 ♠h5?! 22 ♠b6 ± Gallagher-Fioramonti, Zug 1991.

b) 14...♖b8 15 cxb4 (15 0-0 0-0 16 ♠g3 ♖c7 17 ♖fd1 ♖e8 18 ♖ac1 ♠f8 19 ♠c4 ♠b6 20 ♠b3 ♠e6 21 ♠xe6 ♖xe6 22 b3 ± Scavo-Papa, Budapest

2000) 15...♖xb4 16 ♖c2 0-0 17 0-0 ♖e8 (17...♖c7 18 ♖fc1 ♖b8 19 ♖ab1 ♖a8 20 ♠d2 ♖b8 21 ♠g3 c5 22 ♠c3 ± Gdanski-Van Wely, Iraklion 1993) 18 ♖fd1 ♖c7 19 ♖ab1 ♠f8 20 b3 ♠b8 21 ♖dc1 h6 22 ♠d2 ♖d8 23 ♠c3 (23 ♠c4 ±) 23...♠a6 ± Kolev-Chakov, Varna 1995.

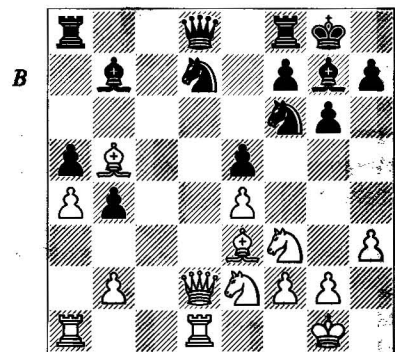
15 cxb4

15 ♠g3 0-0 16 0-0 ♠b7 17 ♖fd1 ♖e7 18 ♠h6 ♖fe8 19 ♠xg7 ♗xg7 20 ♠b5 ♖ed8 21 ♖g5 ♖e6?! 22 ♖d6 h6 23 ♖d2 ± Movsziszian-Oliva del Amo, Seville 2007.

15...cxb4 16 0-0 0-0 17 ♖fd1

The knight on d7 is a serious cause of concern for Black. White was also somewhat better after 17 ♖ac1 ♠a6 18 ♖fd1 ♖b8 19 ♠g3 ♖b7 20 ♠xa6 ♖xa6 21 ♖d3 in Stefansson-Luckans, Liepaja 2004.

17...♠b7 18 ♠b5 (D)



18...♖e7

18...♖b8 is a better try, exploiting the tactical trick that 19 ♠xd7 can be met by 19...♖d8. Nevertheless, a high-level example suggests that this is still

very far from easy for Black: 19 ♖g3 ♙c8 (19...♙d8 20 ♙c4 ♗c7 21 ♗c2 ♙ac8 22 ♙ac1 ♖f8 23 ♖g5 ♙a6 24 ♖xf7 ♙xc4 25 ♖d6 +- is given by Nunn) 20 ♙ac1 ♙xc1 21 ♙xc1 ♖f8 22 ♙c4 (just as Black solves one problem, a new one arises) 22...♖e6 (this amounts to positional suicide, but in any case Black lacks a satisfactory way to stop ♖g5) 23 ♙xe6 fxe6 24 ♖g5 ♙a6 25 ♙d1 h6 26 ♗d8+ ♗xd8 27 ♙xd8+ ♙f8 28 ♙b8! +- hxg5 29 ♙xb7 (Black's pawn-structure is horrific!) 29...♙d6 30 ♙b5 ♙d1+ 31 ♖h2 ♙b1 32 ♙xe5 ♙d6 33 ♙xe6 ♙xg3+ 34 ♖xg3 ♖f7 35 ♙a6 ♖xe4+ 36 ♖f3 ♖f6 37 ♙d4 1-0 Nunn-Gelfand, Munich 1991. This game actually arose via a wholly different move-order, with the result that the move-numbers in the game were actually two less than those given. See note 'c' to Black's 5th move in Game 19.

### 19 ♗xd7!?

Imaginative; perhaps Black was only expecting 19 ♙xd7? ♙fd8. But the simple 19 ♙ac1 is also strong.

### 19...♖xd7 20 ♙xd7 ♗e6 21 ♙xb7

White has a clear advantage, with three well-coordinated pieces for the queen.

21...♗b3 22 ♖d2 ♗xb2 23 ♙b1 ♗a2 24 ♖c1 ♗e6 25 ♖cb3 ♗c8 26 ♙b6 ♗d8 27 ♙c6

The black queen is kept under lock and key.

### 27...f5 28 ♙c5

This forces Black to part with material, without any compensation.

### 28...♙h6

28...♙e8 29 ♙d6; 28...♙f7 29 ♙c4.

29 ♙xf8 ♗xf8 30 exf5 ♙xd2 31 ♖xd2 gxf5 32 ♖c4 e4 33 ♖d6 ♙d8 34 ♙d1 ♗h6 35 ♙d5 ♗f6 36 ♙xf5 ♗a1+ 37 ♖h2 ♗d4 38 ♙c4+ ♖g7 39 ♙d5 ♙xd6

39...♗xf2 40 ♖f5+.

40 ♙xd4 ♙xd4 41 ♙c5 1-0

Game 19

**Dgebuadze – Cekro**

*Belgian Ch, Aalst 2005*

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♖f6 3 ♖c3 g6 4 ♙e3 c6!?

Black delays not only castling but also ...♙g7. This way Black discourages ♙h6, which after ...♙xh6 will now leave White a tempo down on lines we have already examined. Objectively this may be one of Black's best options against the 150 Attack. However, it's also an approach which takes considerable skill and courage as Black is two moves away from castling and must constantly watch out for central breaks that may embarrass his king at the cost of a pawn or two.

4...a6!? is a related idea, delaying castling and preparing ...b5. However, Black is somewhat more vulnerable than in the similar positions after 1 d4 g6 2 e4 ♙g7 3 ♖c3 d6 4 ♙e3 a6 as the knight on f6 may be kicked with a well-timed e5. After 5 ♗d2 b5 6 f3 ♖bd7 7 a4 b4 8 ♖d1 Black has tried:

a) 8...♙b8 9 ♙d3 c5 10 c3 bxc3 11 bxc3 ♙g7 12 ♖e2 0-0 13 0-0 ♗a5 14 ♖f2 e5 15 d5 ♖h5 16 ♗c2 ♗c7 17 c4 ♖f4 18 ♙ab1 ♖xe2+ 19 ♙xe2 ♙xb1 20 ♙xb1 ± K.Lutz-Margolin, Germany tt 1999/00.

b) 8...a5 9 c3 bxc3 10 bxc3 ♖g7 11 ♙d3 0-0 12 ♗e2 ♙a6 13 ♗f2 ♙xd3 14 ♚xd3 ♗b6 15 0-0 ♚d7 16 c4 ♗xa4 17 ♚c2 (17 e5!?) 17...♗b6 18 c5 gave White more than enough compensation for his pawn in R.Pert-Bitansky, Witley 2000.

c) After 8...e6 9 ♗h3 c5 10 a5 cxd4 11 ♙xd4 e5 12 ♙f2 White was clearly better in Chandler-Atzmon Simon, Sydney 2007 as Black was unable to free his position with ...d5 (although that was exactly what he tried to do!).

### 5 ♚d2

This fits best into our repertoire. But if you consider expanding your repertoire, you could investigate 5 h3!? followed by 6 f4, which is a kind of Austrian Attack in which Black really needs to play ...c5 in order to gain counterplay. This is probably the line that has done most to put players off 4...c6.

### 5...♗bd7

This appears the most solid. Black plays for ...e5 without weakening himself. Yet there is something to be said for the space-gaining 5...b5 too. After 6 ♙d3 ♗bd7 7 ♗f3 Black has tried:

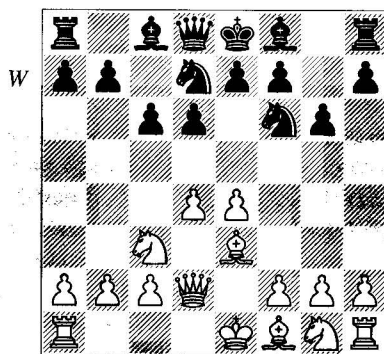
a) 7...♙g7 is no problem for White as he has made no concessions and is ready to play along known lines with 8 ♙h6.

b) 7...♚c7 8 0-0 e5 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 h3 ♗c5 11 b4 ♗e6 12 a4 ± Tkachev-Galdunts, French Team Ch, Gonfreville l'Orcher 2007.

c) 7...e5 8 dxe5 dxe5 9 h3 ♙b7!? (9...♙g7 transposes to the position after Black's 11th move in Game 18) 10 0-0 ♙g7 11 a4 a6 12 ♗e2 ♚e7 13

♗g3 0-0 14 c4 ♚fd8 (14...b4 15 c5 a5 16 ♚c2 ♚fd8 17 ♚fd1 ♙f8 18 ♚ac1 ♗e8 19 ♙c4 ± Nguyen Anh Dung-Villamayor, Bangkok 2004) 15 axb5 cxb5 16 cxb5 axb5 17 ♚xa8 ♙xa8 18 ♚a5 ± Adams-M.Gurevich, Wijk aan Zee 2002.

We now return to 5...♗bd7 (D):



### 6 ♗f3 e5

Or 6...♚c7 7 ♙d3 e5 8 0-0, with these options:

a) After 8...♗g4 9 ♙c4 ♙g7?!, as in the game Kasparov-Azmaiparashvili, Rethymnon blitz 2003, it seems White could have gained a clear advantage by 10 ♗g5! with the tactical point 10...0-0 11 ♗e6!.

b) 8...♙g7 9 dxe5 ♗xe5 10 ♗xe5 dxe5 11 a4 ♙e6 and now 12 a5 0-0 13 ♗a4 ♗d7 14 b4 b5 15 ♗c5 ♗xc5 16 ♙xc5 ♚fd8 was fairly equal in Waitzkin-McNab, London 1998. Possibly White should try 12 ♙c5!?

### 7 h3

This sensible, non-committal move, which stops ...♗g4 ideas and can be useful support for a later g4 attack, is

White's most popular choice. Yet the critical test may be 7  $\text{♙c4!?$ , attempting to take advantage of Black's uncastled king:

a) Somewhat surprisingly, 7...  $\text{♙g7}$ , which sensibly prepares to castle, allows White a very promising attack: 8  $\text{dxe5 dxe5}$  9  $\text{♙xf7+!?$  (calmer approaches are also possible, of course) 9...  $\text{♙xf7}$  10  $\text{♘g5+}$  gives Black an unpleasant choice:

a1) According to Vigus, 10...  $\text{♙e7}$  11 0-0-0  $\text{♚c7}$  (Kupreichik-Slobodjan, Meisdorf 1996) 12  $\text{f4}$  gives White very reasonable compensation.

a2) 10...  $\text{♙g8}$  11  $\text{♚d3}$   $\text{b5}$  12  $\text{♘xb5!}$   $\text{♚a5+}$  13  $\text{♘c3}$   $\text{♙a6}$  14  $\text{♚d6}$   $\text{♞e8}$  15 0-0-0 also seems to give White at least enough compensation.

b) 7...  $\text{b5}$  8  $\text{dxe5 dxe5}$  9  $\text{♙b3!}$  (not 9  $\text{♙xf7+?}$   $\text{♙xf7}$  10  $\text{♘xe5+}$   $\text{♙g8}$  11  $\text{♘xc6}$   $\text{♚e8 ♣}$ ) is extremely good for White: 9...  $\text{♙b4}$  (9...  $\text{a5?}$  10  $\text{♘g5 +-}$ ; 9...  $\text{♙g7}$  10  $\text{♚d6 ±}$ ) 10  $\text{♙h6}$   $\text{♘xe4}$  11  $\text{♚e3}$   $\text{f5}$  12  $\text{♙g7}$   $\text{♙c5}$  13  $\text{♚h6}$   $\text{♙xf2+}$  14  $\text{♙f1}$   $\text{♚b6}$  15  $\text{♘xe4}$   $\text{fxe4}$  16  $\text{♙xh8}$   $\text{♙a6}$  17  $\text{♙f7+}$   $\text{♙xf7}$  18  $\text{♘xe5+}$   $\text{♙e8}$  19  $\text{b4}$   $\text{♘xe5}$  20  $\text{♙xe5}$  and White is much better.

7...  $\text{♚e7}$

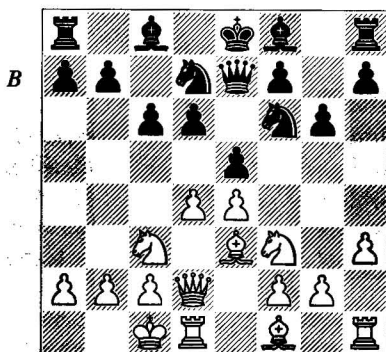
Or:

a) 7...  $\text{b5}$  transposes to note 'c' to Black's 5th move above.

b) 7...  $\text{♙g7}$  8  $\text{♙h6}$  0-0 9  $\text{♙xg7}$   $\text{♙xg7}$  10 0-0-0  $\text{♞e8}$  11  $\text{g4}$   $\text{b5}$  12  $\text{g5}$   $\text{♘h5}$  13  $\text{♘e2}$   $\text{♚b6}$  14  $\text{♘g3}$   $\text{♘g3}$  15  $\text{fxg3}$   $\text{exd4}$  16  $\text{♘xd4}$   $\text{♘c5}$  17  $\text{♙g2 ±}$  Landa-Rudolf, European Clubs Cup, Rethymnon 2003.

8 0-0-0 (D)

8...  $\text{♙g7}$



Now there is a lot of risk and little to achieve by delaying kingside castling. It's worth noting that 8...  $\text{b5}$  can be met with 9  $\text{♙xb5}$   $\text{cxb5}$  10  $\text{♘xb5}$ ; e.g., 10...  $\text{♚b8}$  11  $\text{♘c7+}$   $\text{♙d8}$  12  $\text{♚a5}$   $\text{♘b6}$  13  $\text{♘b5}$   $\text{exd4}$  14  $\text{♘xd6}$  and White wins.

9  $\text{♙h6}$  0-0 10  $\text{♙d3}$   $\text{♞e8}$

Or 10...  $\text{b5}$  11  $\text{g4}$  (11  $\text{♙b1}$ ) 11...  $\text{♙b7}$  12  $\text{♞h1}$   $\text{♞f8}$  13  $\text{♞d1}$   $\text{c5}$  14  $\text{♙xg7}$   $\text{♙xg7}$  15  $\text{g5}$   $\text{♘h5}$  16  $\text{dxe5}$   $\text{♘xe5}$  17  $\text{♙e2}$   $\text{♘c4}$  18  $\text{♙xc4}$   $\text{bxc4}$  19  $\text{♘d5}$   $\text{♙xd5}$  20  $\text{exd5 ±}$  Gommers-Cekro, Belgian Team Ch 2003/4.

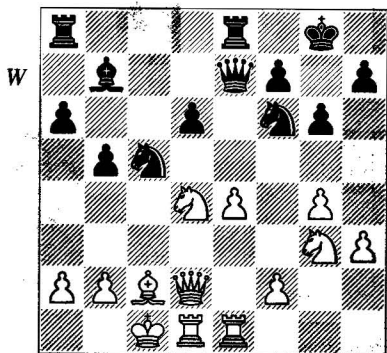
11  $\text{♞h1}$   $\text{b5}$  12  $\text{♘e2}$

This direct plan is probably better than 12  $\text{♙b1}$   $\text{♙b7}$  13  $\text{♘e2}$   $\text{a6}$  14  $\text{♘g3}$ , as in Szalanczy-C.Horvath, Hungarian Ch, Budapest 1989. The knight has a job to do on the kingside.

12...  $\text{a6}$  13  $\text{g4}$   $\text{c5}$  14  $\text{c3}$   $\text{cxd4}$  15  $\text{♙xg7}$   $\text{♙xg7}$  16  $\text{cxd4}$   $\text{exd4}$  17  $\text{♘fxd4}$   $\text{♘c5}$  18  $\text{♘g3}$   $\text{♙g8}$

Although it doesn't play a major role in the conclusion of the game, it seems more prudent to eliminate the dangerous light-squared bishop when given the chance.

19 ♖c2 ♗b7? (D)



20 f3?!

The simple tactical trick 20 ♘df5! is pretty much decisive.

20... ♗h8 21 ♗b1 ♞ad8 22 g5 ♘g8?!

After 22... ♘fd7 nothing would have been clear.

23 h4 f6 24 h5

Now White's forces are crashing through in typical fashion.

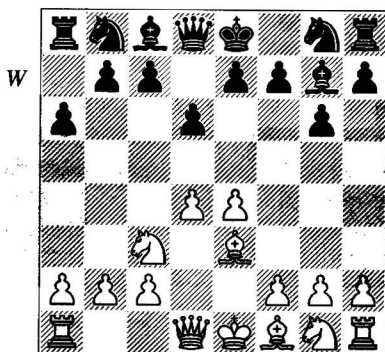
24...fxg5 25 hxg6 ♜e5 26 ♘gf5 ♞d7 27 ♜xg5 ♞ee7 28 ♞h1 ♞g7 29 ♘xg7 1-0

## 150 Attack vs the Modern Defence (Black delays or omits ...♗f6)

Game 20  
Krasenkov – Vokač  
Pardubice 1994

1 d4 d6 2 e4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 ♗e3 a6 (D)

This continuation has been growing in popularity lately – probably due to its recommendation by Tiger Hillarp



Persson. Black keeps his kingside options open while preparing queenside counterplay. White's standard ♗h6 idea will not be possible before Black moves his knight from g8.

5 ♘f3

It's worth noting that although there is no strong incentive in the Modern move-order 1 d4 g6 2 e4 d6 for White to play an early ♘f3 (putting the f-pawn on f3 or f4 may be quite attractive), we shall concentrate on this set-up here too, as otherwise an early ...♘f6 from Black might lead us into unknown territory.

Let's note that the move-order of the actual game was 1 d4 g6 2 e4 ♗g7 3 ♘f3 d6 4 ♘c3 a6 5 ♗e3.

5...b5

This is the logical follow-up to Black's previous move. Other options:

a) 5...♘f6 leads back to Pirc positions.

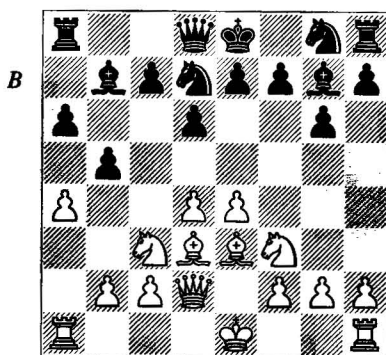
b) 5...♗g4 is an attempt to take the game back to the realms of the Classical Variation, but the loss of tempo should give White at least a small advantage; for example, 6 ♗e2

♖c6 7 d5 ♙xf3 8 ♙xf3 ♗e5 9 ♙e2 ♗f6 10 0-0 0-0 11 a4 and Black has difficulty creating counterplay without moving his c-pawn, which enables White to prepare to fix a weakness on b6, and simultaneously gain space on the queenside. Dunnington-Carlier, Hafnarfjörður 1996 continued 11...c5 12 a5 b5 13 axb6 ♗xb6 14 ♙c1 ♖fb8 15 ♗h1 ♗ed7 16 f4 and White was slightly better due to his bishop-pair, Black's structural weakness on a6 and the possibility of a central breakthrough, involving some combination of e5 and/or f5.

c) 5...e6 signals that Black is heading for the 'Hippopotamus', in which he places many of his pawns on his third rank and his minor pieces on his second rank. Black doesn't really try to equalize, but he keeps the pieces on the board and delays the real fight to the middlegame. After 6 ♗d2 b6 7 ♙e2 ♙b7 8 0-0 ♗d7 9 ♖fe1 h6 (Black often plays this move in order to stop ♙h6 but will now have problems castling kingside; 9...♗e7 is a sensible alternative) 10 h3 ♗e7 11 ♙f1 g5 12 a4 ♗g6 13 d5 e5 14 ♗e2 ♗f6 15 ♗g3 White had clearly the better prospects in Vink-Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2001 (but Black won the game!).

d) 5...♗d7 is a flexible move which may transpose to the main game after a later ...b5. In Benjamin-D'Costa, Bunratty 2005, after 6 ♙d3 Black went for another version of the Hippo with 6...e6: 7 ♗d2 h6 8 h3 ♗e7 9 0-0 b6 10 ♖ad1 ♙b7 11 ♗e2 c5 12 ♗g3 ♗c7 13 c3 b5 14 ♖fe1 e5 15 b3 ±.

6 ♗d2 ♙b7 7 ♙d3 ♗d7 8 a4 (D)



This is an extremely important pawn-lever in the 150 Attack. Black is faced with the unpleasant choice of capturing on a4, or protecting his b-pawn with ...c6, or else advancing to b4.

#### 8...b4

This is the most popular, driving the knight away from c3, but it still leaves Black with queenside weaknesses, which White can seek to exploit.

a) 8...bxa4 just leaves Black saddled with a permanently weak a-pawn.

b) 8...c6 makes more sense, but blocks in the light-squared bishop and leaves Black potentially vulnerable to a capture on b5, followed by d5.

#### 9 ♗e2 ♗gf6

Black eventually has to complete kingside development and it's natural to do so with an attack on e4, but actually protecting the b-pawn – directly or indirectly – has been more popular:

a) After 9...♖b8 White has made no headway with 10 ♗g3!? so probably 10 0-0 should be explored further:

a1) 10...e6 11 ♖ad1 ♗e7 12 ♗g3 must be at least a little better for White.

a2) 10...♗gf6?! 11 e5 ♗g4 (White is much better after 11...dxe5 12 dxe5 ♗g4 13 e6 fxe6 14 ♗g5) 12 e6 fxe6 13 ♗g5 ♗f8 14 ♗f4 also looks promising for White.

b) 9...c5 10 c3 and now:

b1) 10...♗gf6 11 ♗g3 bxc3 12 bxc3 ♗g4 (12...cxd4 13 cxd4 d5 14 e5 ♗e4 15 ♗xe4 dxe4 16 ♗g5 0-0 17 e6 ♗c5?! {17...f6} 18 exf7+ ♗h8 19 0-0 h6 20 ♖c2 ± Moiseenko-Zozulia, Warsaw rapid 2006) 13 ♗f4 e5 14 ♗g5 f6 and now rather than 15 h3?! ♗xf2, which was better for Black in Y.Geller-Inarkiev, Moscow 2004, White should play 15 ♗h4 as ...g5 can always be met by ♗f5.

b2) After 10...bxc3 11 bxc3 ♖c7 (11...cxd4 12 cxd4 ♗c5 13 ♗g3 ♗xd3+ 14 ♖xd3 a5 15 ♖b5+ ♗d7 16 0-0 ♗f6 17 ♖xd7+ ♗xd7 = Neelotpal-Koneru, Visakhapatnam 2004) 12 0-0 ♗gf6 White can safely play 13 ♗h6 as 13...♗xe4?! (13...0-0 14 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 15 ♗g3) 14 ♗xe4 ♗xh6 15 ♖xh6 ♗xe4 16 ♗g5 gives White ample compensation; e.g., 16...♗d5 17 ♗f4 ♗c4 18 ♖fe1 e5 19 dxe5 ♗xe5 20 ♗xg6 fxe6 21 f4 0-0-0 22 fxe5 dxe5 23 ♖h4 ♗d5 24 c4 ♗b7 25 ♖h3+ ♗d7? (25...♗b8 26 ♗e6 isn't much better) 26 ♖ad1 ♖e8 (26...♖hd8 loses to 27 ♗f7) 27 ♗f7 1-0 P.Littlewood-Tiller, Davos 2004.

c) After 9...a5 10 ♗g3 Black has a somewhat unprepossessing choice:

c1) 10...c5 11 c3 looks less logical than the immediate 9...c5.

c2) 10...e6 11 0-0 ♗gf6 12 ♗h6 0-0 13 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 14 c3 bxc3 15 bxc3 e5 16 ♖fe1 ♗c6 17 ♖g5 ± Ma.Tseitlin-Kantsler, Givataim 2000.

c3) 10...h6 11 0-0 e6 12 c3 bxc3 13 bxc3 ♗gf6 14 h3 d5 15 ♖c2 dxe4 16 ♗xe4 0-0 17 ♖ab1 ♖b8 18 c4 ♗c6 19 ♖xb8 ♖xb8 20 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 21 ♗e5 is much better for White, Kleiman-Stripunsky, Boston 2001.

c4) 10...♗gf6 11 ♗h6 ♗xh6 12 ♖xh6 e5 13 c3 (13 h3 ♖e7 14 0-0 0-0 15 ♖fe1 ♗b8 16 c3 c5 17 ♗b5 exd4 18 cxd4 cxd4 19 ♗xd4 ± Lane-Claverie, Budapest 2002) 13...bxc3 14 bxc3 ♗g4 15 ♖d2 0-0 16 0-0 ♖e7 17 ♖fe1 ♗g7 18 h3 ♗h6 19 ♖ab1 ♖fb8 20 ♗b5 ♗b6 21 ♖e3 ± Durarbeyli-D.Howell, European Ch, Dresden 2007.

### 10 ♗g3

Although the knight may not seem particularly well placed here, it is actually a key piece in many kingside attacks. Black can now choose to defend his b-pawn in two ways.

### 10...c5

The alternative is 10...a5 11 ♗h6 0-0 (11...♗xh6 12 ♖xh6 is the lesser evil, but makes life hard for the black king, who will not feel comfortable on the queenside) 12 h4 with a looming kingside attack.

### 11 dxc5

11 c3 would lead to play along the lines of 9...c5 10 c3.

### 11...♗xc5?

This is far too ambitious. Probably 11...♗g4! is best; e.g., 12 ♗d4 ♗xd4 13 ♗xd4 dxc5 and in Borgo-Spassky, Italy 1995 White should have gone for

equality with 14 ♖f3 ♜de5 15 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 16 ♜d1.

12 ♜xb4 ♜b8 13 ♙xc5 dxc5 14 ♜xc5 ♜d7 15 ♜a3 ♙c6 16 c3

Black has clearly insufficient compensation for the two-pawn deficit.

16...h5 17 0-0 h4 18 ♜e2 e5 19 ♙xa6 ♜a8 20 ♙c4 ♜xa4 21 ♙xf7+

Black's pawns just seem to fall off the board.

21...♙f7 22 ♜b3+ ♙f6 23 ♜xa4 ♜c5 24 ♜c4 ♙xa4 25 ♜xc5 ♜e8 26 ♜xh4 ♙f8 27 ♜e3 ♙b5 28 ♜f3 ♙g7 29 ♜a1 ♜e6 30 h4 ♙e7 31 h5 ♜f8 32 ♜g3 ♙c5 33 ♜g5 ♙h7 34 hxg6+ ♜xg6 35 ♜h5+ ♙g7 36 ♜xe5+ ♙g8

Black must either have been very short of time, or an amazing believer in the power of the two bishops to keep going now, five pawns down!

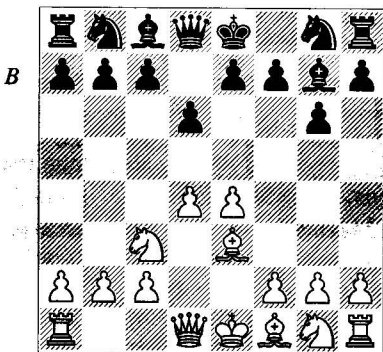
37 b4 1-0

### Game 21

Pein – Swanson

British League (4NCL) 1996/7

1 d4 d6 2 e4 g6 3 ♜c3 ♙g7 4 ♙e3 (D)



### 4...c6

This is Black's main alternative to 4...a6.

### 5 ♜d2 ♜d7

5...b5 is covered in Game 22. Black can also try 5...♜a5 or 5...♜c7, when after 6 ♜f3 transpositions to the next note are highly likely.

### 6 ♜f3 b5

Or:

a) 6...♜a5 7 ♙d3 ♜gf6 8 ♙h6 ♙xh6 (8...0-0-9 ♙xg7 ♙xg7 10 0-0 e5 11 ♜fe1 ♜c7 12 ♜e2 ♜e8 13 ♜g3 ♜f8 14 c3 ± Goloschchapov-Botschek, Bad Wiessee 2002) 9 ♙xh6 ♜h5 10 ♜d2 and then:

a1) 10...♜b6 11 ♜e2 ♜g4 12 h3 ♜h6 13 ♜a5 0-0 14 0-0 ♜f6 15 ♜g3 ♙e6 16 b3 d5 17 e5 ♜h5 18 ♜xh5 ♜xh5 19 ♜h2 f6 20 ♜ae1 ± Chernyshov-Goreskul, Cappelle la Grande 2005.

a2) 10...c5 11 ♙e2 cxd4 12 ♜xd4 ♜c5 13 f4 ♜b6 14 0-0-0 ♙d7 15 ♜b3 ♜f2 16 e5 dxe5 17 fxe5 ♜h5 18 ♜hf1 ♜xg2 19 ♜xf7 ± Arzumian-Zakharevich, Tula 2002.

a3) 10...♜a5 11 h3 0-0 12 0-0 e5 13 dxe5 dxe5 14 ♜h6 ♜c5 15 ♜ad1 ♜e8 16 a3 ♜f8 17 ♜c1 b5 18 ♜e2 h6 19 ♜g3 ± Golubović-Biti, Kastav 2001.

a4) 10...0-0 11 ♜e2 (11 0-0-0!? b5 12 ♜e2 ± ♜g4? 13 h3 +- Santo-Roman – Stigar, World Junior Ch, Dortmund 1980) 11...♙g7 12 ♜g3 ♜h6 13 ♜g5 ♜b6 14 f4 ♜h5 15 0-0-0 f6 16 ♜xh5+ ♜xh5 17 ♙e2 ♜h6 18 ♜f3 ♙g8 19 h4 ± P.Cramling-Glinert, Toronto 2003.

b) 6...♜c7 7 ♙d3 (7 a4 ♜gf6 8 h3 0-0 9 ♙d3 e5 10 0-0 b6 11 ♜fe1 a6 12

dxe5 dxe5 13 ♖e2 ♜e8 14 ♘g3 ♘f8 15 ♛c3 ♘d7 16 ♙c4 ± Hebden-Badea, Marseilles 2003) and Black has these options:

b1) 7...♘g6 8 ♙h6 ♙xh6 9 ♛xh6 b5 10 0-0 ♙b7 11 ♜fe1 e5 12 dxe5 dxe5 13 a4 b4 14 ♘b1 ♛d6 15 ♘bd2 ± Hodgson-Schekachev, Linares 1996.

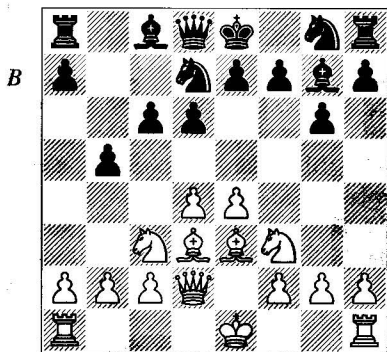
b2) 7...e5 8 dxe5 dxe5 9 0-0 ♘g6 10 h3 0-0 11 ♜fd1 ♘h5 12 a4 ♘h8 13 a5 is much better for White, E.Hossain-M.Abdul, Dhaka 2004.

b3) 7...b5 8 0-0 ♘g6 9 ♙h6 0-0 10 ♘e2 and now:

b31) 10...a5 11 ♘g3 e5 12 c3 a4 13 ♘h4 ♙xh6 14 ♛xh6 ♘h8 15 ♘f3 ♘g8 16 ♛d2 ± Van den Doel-Gagunashvili, Bled Olympiad 2002.

b32) 10...c5 11 c3 a6 (11...♙b7 12 ♘g3 c4 13 ♙c2 e5 14 ♜fe1 ♜fe8 15 ♙xg7 ♘xg7 16 ♜ad1 ♜ad8 17 ♛g5 ± De Vreugt-Milov, Santo Domingo 2003) 12 ♘g3 ♜e8 13 ♙xg7 ♘xg7 14 ♘h4 ± Fressinet-Tkachev, Bordeaux rapid 2000.

7 ♙d3 (D)

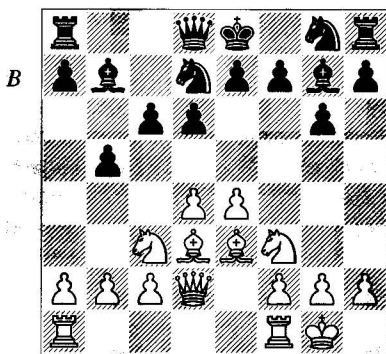


7...a6

Apart from this, Black has two other options:

a) 7...♘b6 (this early attempt at queenside counterplay seems set to rebound on Black if White castles kingside) 8 h3 ♘f6 (8...a5 9 e5 d5 10 b3 a4 11 0-0 h5 12 ♘e2 ♘h6 13 ♘f4 e6 14 ♘xg6 fxg6 15 ♙g5 ♛c7 16 ♙xg6+ ♘d7 17 ♙f6 ♙xf6 18 exf6 ♛d6 19 ♜fe1 ♘c7 20 ♛g5 ♙b7 21 ♘e5 ± Adams-Akopian, FIDE Knockout, Las Vegas 1999) 9 ♙h6 0-0 10 0-0 a5 11 ♜fe1 b4 12 ♘e2 ♙a6 13 ♘g3 c5 14 ♙xa6 ♜xa6 15 ♙xg7 ♘xg7 16 c3 cxd4 17 cxd4 ♛b8 18 ♜ac1 ± Kasparov-Bonnafous, Besançon simul 1999.

b) 7...♙b7 8 0-0 (D) with another division:



b1) 8...a6 9 a4 and now:

b11) 9...♘b6 10 ♜fe1 ♘f6 11 a5 ♘c8 (11...♘c4 is well answered by 12 ♙xc4 bxc4 13 e5 ±) 12 e5 dxe5 13 dxe5 ♘d5 14 ♙h6 ♙xh6 (Black had to try 14...0-0 although after 15 ♘e4 White has a clear advantage) 15 ♛xh6 ♘xc3 16 bxc3 ♘d7 17 ♘g5 ♛f8 18 ♛xf8 ♜xf8 19 ♘xf7 ♜xf7 20 e6+

♠e8 21 exf7+ gave White a decisive material advantage in Miles-Wohl, Linares 1998.

b12) 9...♖c7 10 axb5 cxb5 (White is slightly better after 10...axb5 11 ♖xa8+ ♗xa8 12 d5 b4 13 dxc6) 11 ♔d5 ♗d8 12 ♗a5 (White's clear strategic plan is to gang up on the a6-pawn, a plan which Black is hard-pressed to meet) 12...♞c8 13 ♗xd8+ ♜xd8 14 ♔b4 ± ♔gf6 15 e5 dxe5 16 ♔xe5 ♔xe5 17 dxe5 ♔d7 18 f4 g5 (Black desperately tries to find counterplay, but it is too late) 19 ♞fd1 gxf4 20 ♗xf4 ♞c5 21 ♔xa6 ♞d5 22 ♔b4 ♞d4 23 c3 ♞xf4 24 ♗xb5 ♗xe5 25 ♞xd7+ ♜c8 26 ♞a7 1-0 Adams-Dunington, Hastings Masters 1995.

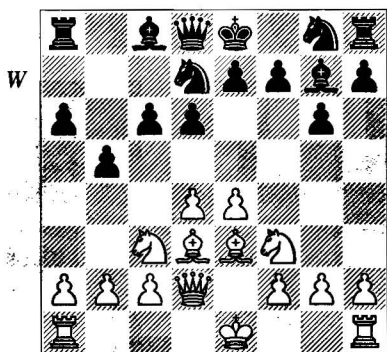
b13) 9...b4 10 ♔e2 a5 (10...c5 11 ♔g3 h5 12 h4 ♔h6 13 c3 bxc3 14 bxc3 ♔g4 15 ♗g5 ± Gopal-Bologan, Gibraltar 2008) 11 c3 (this is nearly always the correct response to Black's queenside pawn advance) 11...bxc3 12 bxc3 e5 13 ♞ab1 ♖c7 14 dxe5 dxe5 15 ♗c4 (although Black has an equal share of space, White's actively placed pieces now give him a definite advantage; the sneaky 15 ♗a2! looks even better, as it makes it very hard for Black to complete his kingside development without something dropping off) 15...♗a6 16 ♗xa6 ♞xa6 17 ♞b2 ♔gf6 18 ♞fb1 0-0 19 ♞b7 (White now has complete control of the position) 19...♗d8 20 ♗d3 (or 20 ♞d1 ±) 20...♞a8 21 ♖c4 ♗c8 22 ♔g3 h6 23 h3 ♜h7 24 ♗c1 c5 25 ♗b5 ♗xb7 26 ♗xb7 ♞ab8 27 ♗a3 ♗xb7 28 ♞xb7 (despite the exchange of two sets of major pieces, White's advantage has

not diminished) 28...♞a8 29 ♔d2 ♗f8 30 ♔c4 ♞a6 31 ♔f1 ♜g7 32 ♔fe3 ♞a8 33 f3 ♗e7 34 ♔d5 (White converts his positional advantage into a material one) 34...♗f8 35 ♔xf6 ♔xf6 36 ♔xe5 ♗d6 37 ♔xf7 ♗g3 38 ♗xc5 g5 39 ♗d6 1-0 Norri-Salmensuu, Tampere 1996.

b2) 8...♖c7 9 a4 (immediately challenging the b5-pawn is a logical approach; 9 ♞fe1 in effect came to the same thing after 9...a6 10 a4 b4 11 ♔e2 c5 12 ♔g3 ♞c8 13 c3 bxc3 14 bxc3 ♔gf6 15 ♗h6 0-0 16 ♗xg7 ♜xg7 17 ♗g5 e6 18 e5 with a clear advantage to White in Emms-Mestel, British League (4NCL) 1998/9) 9...b4 10 ♔e2 a5 11 ♞fe1 ♔gf6 12 ♗h6 0-0 13 ♔g3 c5 14 c3 (as usual, White simply strengthens his centre, leaving Black biting on granite) 14...e6 15 ♗g5 (with control of the centre, White can switch his attention to the kingside) 15...bxc3 16 bxc3 cxd4 17 cxd4 ♞fc8 18 h4 (business as usual; I think the fact that White can castle kingside and continue his attack attracts many players to the 150 Attack) 18...♗d8 19 ♗xg7 ♜xg7 20 h5 (White is simply piling on the pressure, waiting until Black reaches breaking point; meanwhile, because of White's rock-solid centre, Black lacks meaningful counterplay) 20...♔g8 21 ♗g4 ♗a6 22 ♗b1 ♞ab8 23 hxc6 hxc6 24 ♔h5+ ♜f8 25 ♔f4 (White feints at a sacrifice on e6 or g6, after perhaps playing e5; Black avoids the issue, but gives White a nice outpost on d5 as a result) 25...e5 26 ♔d5 ♔d6 27 ♗g3 ♔xd5 (Black had to try 27...exd4) 28 exd5

exd4 29 ♖xg6! fxg6 30 ♘g5 +– ♖d7  
31 ♘e6+ ♜f7 32 ♖f4+ 1-0 Hodgson-  
Webster, Dublin Zonal 1993.

We now return to 7...a6 (D):



### 8 h3

Although very sensible and safe, this isn't really necessary yet and I would recommend an immediate strike against the black queenside. The move that really fits the bill is 8 a4. This is the classic response to Black's queenside pawn advance. White seeks to gain ground on the queenside to increase his manoeuvring space and has done rather well in practice following 8...♖b7 9 0-0, which leads to a position we have already considered under the move-order 7...♖b7 8 0-0 a6 9 a4 (note 'b1' to Black's 7th move).

8...♖c7

Alternatively:

a) 8...e5 9 0-0 ♘g6 10 dxe5 dxe5  
11 a4 ♖b7 12 ♘e2 0-0 13 ♘g3 ♖e8 14  
c4 bxa4 15 c5 ♘f8 16 ♖xa4 ± Nov-  
gorodsky-Mikhailovsky, Kazan 2007.

b) 8...♖b7 9 0-0 c5 10 a4 b4 11  
♘e2 ♖c7 12 c4 (12 b3 and 12 ♘g3 are

alternatives) 12...cxd4 13 ♖xd4 e5 14  
♖e3 ♘c5 15 ♖ad1 a5 = Baron Rodrigue-  
z-Vassallo Barroche, Spanish Team  
Ch, Mondariz 2002.

9 0-0 ♘g6 10 ♖h6 0-0 11 ♘e2

Interestingly, White re-routes his knight without being asked.

11...♖e8

Or 11...e5 12 ♘g3 ♖e8 13 ♖fe1  
♖h8 14 a4 ♖b7 15 dxe5 dxe5 16 ♖c3  
♖d6 17 ♖e3 ♖g7 18 ♖ed1 ± Wip-  
permann-Sailer, Bad Wiessee 2006.

12 ♖xg7 ♜xg7 13 ♘g3 ♘f8?

13...e5 prevents White's next move,  
although even then 14 ♖g5 is a little  
better for White. 13...c5 is another nat-  
ural idea.

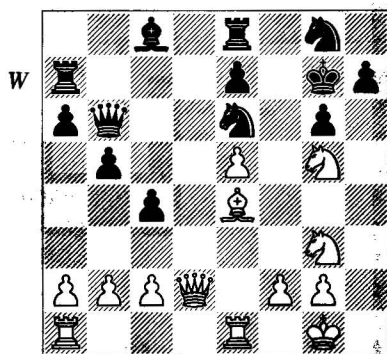
14 e5

If allowed, this is a key part of  
White's armoury in the 150 Attack.

14...dxe5 15 dxe5 ♘g8 16 ♖fe1 c5  
17 h4

White sounds the charge.

17...♘e6 18 ♘g5 ♖b6 19 h5 c4 20  
hxg6 fxg6 21 ♖e4 ♖a7 (D)



22 ♘h5+! gxh5

22...♜h8 23 ♘f7#.

23 ♖xe6+ ♗xe6 24 ♗g5+ ♖f8

After 24...♖h8 25 ♗xh5 ♖f6 26 exf6 exf6 27 ♛e3 White has a huge attack.

25 ♛e3 ♗g4 26 ♛f3+ ♖f6 27 ♗h6+

The immediate 27 ♗e3 is a little more clinical.

27...♗g7 28 ♗e3 ♖g4

Black decides to keep his knight for defence.

29 ♗xa7 ♖xf3 30 ♖xf3 ♖g4 31 ♛e1 ♖xe5 32 ♖xh5 ♖g6 33 ♗xa6

Black has had to pay a high price for the safety of his king, with all the black pieces huddled on the kingside. Now White threatens simply to Hoover the queenside pawns.

33...♖f4 34 ♖f3 ♗g5 35 ♗b6 ♖g7 36 ♗e3 e5 37 g3 1-0

### Game 22

#### Kupreichik – Lutikov

Sochi 1970

1 e4 g6 2 d4 ♖g7 3 ♖c3 d6 4 ♖e3 c6 5 ♗d2 b5

This is a popular move, seeking to initiate immediate counterplay on the queenside. 5...♗c7 and 5...♗a5 are both very likely to transpose to positions we discussed after the move 5...♖d7 in Game 21.

6 ♖d3 (D)

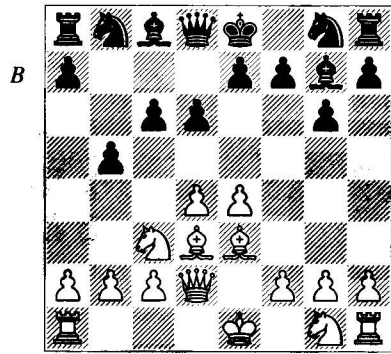
6...a6

Here Black has a wide choice:

a) 6...♖d7 7 ♖f3 would lead right back to Game 21.

b) 6...♖f6 7 ♖f3 leads to typical Pirc positions.

c) 6...b4 must be considered inaccurate, given that White often expends



a tempo with a4 in order to get Black to do just this. After 7 ♖c2 there is:

c1) 7...a5 8 h3 ♖a6 9 ♖f3 ♖xd3 10 cxd3 ♖d7 11 0-0 e5 12 dxe5 ♖xe5 13 ♖xe5 dxe5 14 a3 b3 15 ♗c3 ± B.Ivanović-Joksimović, Bar 2005.

c2) 7...♗b6 8 ♖f3 d5 (Black is mixing up systems in order to confuse White, but he is lagging behind with development) 9 e5 ♗b7 10 c4 (the better developed side should normally try to open the position) 10...dxc4 11 ♖xc4 e6 12 ♖g5 ♖e7 13 ♖e4 (Black's odd opening play has left him with critically weak dark squares) 13...0-0 14 ♖h6 (when playing against a weak colour complex, it usually makes sense to exchange any pieces that can guard the crucial squares) 14...♖d7 15 ♖xg7 ♖xg7 16 h4 c5 (faced with a massive kingside attack, Black is compelled to strike back) 17 ♗f4 f6 18 exf6+ ♖xf6 19 ♖xc5 ♗xg2 20 ♖g1 ♗c6 21 ♗e5 ♖ed5 22 ♖g3 ♗c7 23 ♖h5+ (placing Black on the critical list) 23...♖g8 24 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 25 ♖xd5 and Black could easily have resigned in J.Schneider-Stassen, Wallertheim 1994.

d) 6...♙b7 7 a4 a6 8 ♘f3 ♘d7 9 0-0 ♘gf6 10 h3 0-0 11 e5 ♘e8 12 ♙h6 dxe5 13 dxe5 ♘c5 14 ♙xg7 ♘xg7 15 ♚e3 ♘e6 16 ♚fd1 ♚c8 17 ♘e4 ± Thinius-Sobolevsky, Gotha 2006.

e) 6...e5 7 dxe5 dxe5 8 ♘f3 ♚e7 9 a4 b4 10 ♘a2 a5 11 c3 ♙a6 12 cxb4 ♙xd3 13 ♚xd3 axb4 14 ♚c2 ♘f6 15 ♘c1 ♚e6 16 0-0 0-0 17 ♙c5 ± Sion Castro-Krasenkov, Oviedo rapid 1993.

f) 6...♚c7 7 h3 ♘d7 8 ♘f3 ♙b7 9 0-0 a6 10 ♘e2 c5 11 c3 ♘b6 12 ♘g3 e6 13 ♚fe1 e5 14 dxe5 dxe5 15 ♚ad1 h5 16 ♘h4 ± Kotan-Hickl, Bad Ragaz 1993.

### 7 ♘f3

This move, completing development, would be my choice.

a) Cautious players might consider 7 h3, preventing ...♙g4.

b) 7 a4 is interesting, immediately putting the question to the black queenside. After 7...b4 8 ♘ce2 a5 9 c3 (White is very consistent in his attempts to clarify the structure on the queenside) 9...♙a6 10 cxb4 ♙xd3 11 ♚xd3 axb4 12 ♘f3 ♘f6 13 0-0 0-0 14 ♚c2 White has a small advantage, Sion-Garcia Blazquez, Spanish Ch, Linares 1993. The c6-pawn is weak and under surveillance and the a-pawn will be an asset in the endgame.

### 7...♙g4

7...♘d7 again transposes to Game 21.

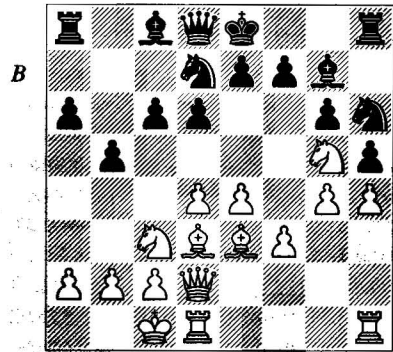
### 8 h4 h5

I don't feel this move is very consistent; although the white attack is certainly dangerous, Black should try 8...♙xf3 here.

### 9 ♘g5

Now White builds up a powerful attack without making any positional concessions.

9...♘h6 10 f3 ♙c8 11 0-0-0 ♘d7 12 g4! (D)



Continuing the theme, White opens the kingside.

### 12...c5

12...hxg4 is met by 13 h5. But after the text-move, White is just better.

13 dxc5 dxc5 14 gxh5 gxh5 15 ♚hg1

White has a large lead in development and can attack on any sector of the board.

15...♙d4 16 ♘d5 ♙xe3 17 ♘xe3 ♙b7 18 ♚c3 e5 19 ♙xb5!

It is not surprising that White has a combinative finish, with so many attacking pieces.

19...axb5 20 ♚xd7 ♘xd7

20...♚xd7 21 ♚xe5+ is also winning for White.

21 ♚d1+ ♘c6 22 ♚xd8 ♚hxh8 23

b4 f6 24 ♚xc5+ ♘d7 25 ♘d5 ♙xd5

25...fxg5 26 ♚e7+ ♘c6 27 ♚c7#.

26 ♚xd5+ 1-0