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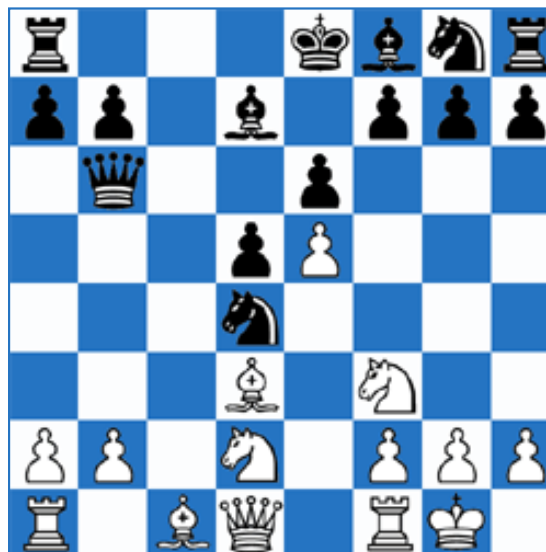
9.Nbd2!? in the C02 French Defense

Milan Bjelajac

International master Misha Pap achieved a very nice win against GM Dragan Kotic at the International Open tournament in Bosnjaci. Aside from the great aesthetic quality of the game, it also contained a very important theoretical novelty.

IM Pap played a variation of the French Defense (C02) that sacrifices the d4-pawn and after the tactical continuation 9.Nbd2!? he introduced the novelty 15.Ne5!?, which is an improvement on 15.Re1 as played in Ji. Nun – Schimtdiel, Prague 1990.

Because the theory of 9.Nbd2!? is still developing, and the strong interest shown among French Defense practitioners, we present this theoretical survey to give a complete history on the status of this continuation.



1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Bd3 cd4
7. cd4 Bd7 8. 0-0 Nd4 9. Nbd2!?

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
...	Nd4 ²	Qe2 ³	Nb3	Bf4	Rad1 ⁴	Rd3	Nd4	Rd4		
1	Bc5 ¹	Bd4	Ne7	Nc6	Nb4	Nd3	Bb5	Qd4	Be2 ⁵	equal
...	Nd4	Nf3 ⁶	Be3 ⁸	Qb3 ¹⁰	Rac1	Rfe1	Bb1	Qd3		
2										with compensation

	Ne7	Qd4	Qb6 ⁷	Qd8 ⁹	Nc6	Qb8	Be7	0-0	g6 ¹¹	
3	...	Nd4	Nf3	Be3 ¹³	Nd4	Qd2	Bf5	Rac1	Rc2	with compensation
	Nh6	Qd4	Qb6 ¹²	Qd8 ¹⁴	g6	Nf5	gf5	Be7	Rc8 ¹⁵	
4	...	Nf3	Nd4	Qd3	Be3	Rfc1 ¹⁷	Bd4	Bc5	Bd6	with compensation
	Nf3	Bb5 ¹⁶	Bd3	Bc5	Ne7	Bd4	Qd8	0-0	f6 ¹⁸	
5	...	Nb3	Be3	Rc1	Nc5	Bc5	Ne5! ²¹	Qb3 ²²	Ba3	with compensation
	Nc6	Nge7 ¹⁹	Qc7	Ng6	Bc5 ²⁰	Nge5	Qe5	b6 ²³	Qf4! ²⁴	

1

9... h6 10. Nd4 Qd4 11. Nf3 Qa4 [11... Qb6 see 9... Nf3] 12. Qe2 Ne7 13. b3 Qa5 14. Bd2 Qd8 15. b4 Nc6 16. Rab1 Be7 17. Rb3 Rc8 18. a3 0-0 [18... Kf8 19. Bc3 g6 20. Qd2 d4 21. Ba1 Kg7 22. Be4 (and White is slightly better) Nun, Ji – Mojzis, J, Hradec Kralove 1992] 19. Bb1 with compensation, with attack

2

10. b3 Ne7 11. Bb2 Nef5 12. Bf5? Nf5 [and Black is superior] Brauer, H – Tabibzade, A, Neumuenster 1998; 12. a4!?!; **10. b4** Qb4 11. Rb1 [11. Nd4 Bd4 12. Rb1 Qc3 13. Qe2 Bb6 14. Kh1 Ne7 15. Nb3 Qb4 16. Be3 Qh4 17. Nc5?! Bc6 18. a3 d4 0 : 1 Klimes, M – Kubala, P, Plzen 1997; 17. f4!?!] Qc3 12. Nb3 Nf3 13. Qf3 Bf8 14. Bb2 Qc7 15. Rfc1 Bc6 16. Nd4 with compensation

3

11. Nf3 Ne7 [11... Bc5 see 9... Nf3] 12. Nd4 Qd4 13. Kh1 Qe5 14. Re1 Qf6 15. Qh5 h6 16. Re3 Ng6 17. Qd5 Bc6 18. Qc5 Ne7 19. Re2 0-0 20. Qh5?! Rfd8 21. Bc2 Rd5 22. Qh3 Bb5 0 : 1 Brady, C – O'Kearney, S, Ireland (ch) 1997; 20. Be3!?!; 12. a4!?! with compensation

4

14. Bg3? Nd3 15. Qd3 Bb2 16. Rab1 Bb5 [and Black is winning] Scherber, P – Lenhardt, M, Dortmund (open) 1993

5

18. Rc1 Kd7 19. Rd2 Bb5 20. Rdc2 Bc6 21. Be3 equal

6

11. Qe2 Nc6 12. Nf3 Qg4 13. h3 Qh5 14. a3 Be7 15. b4 0-0 16. b5 Na5 17. Kh2 f6 [and Black is slightly better] Baron Rodriguez, Je – Ramon Perez, J, Aragon 2003

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11... Qa4 12. b3 Qa5 13. Bd2 Qd8 14. Re1 h6 15. b4! a6 16. a4 Nc6 17. Rb1 Be7 18. b5 ab5 19. ab5 Na5 20. Nd4



a) 20... Nc4 21. Bc4 dc4 22. Qg4 g6 23. Qe4 Bc8 24. b6! (and White is superior) Qd5 25. Nb5 Qe4 26. Re4 Ra2 27. Rc4 Bd7 28. Bc1! [28. Nc7 Kf8 with the idea Kg7; 28. Be3 Bb5 29. Rc8 Bd8 30. Rb5 Ra1 31. Rc1 Rc1 32. Bc1 Kd7] 0-0? 29. Nc3! Rc2 30. Bh6 Ra8 31. Rc7 Rd8 32. h3 Bc6 33. Re7 Rc3 34. Bg5 [and White is winning] Nun, Ji – Razuvaev, Yuri, Sochi 1989; 20. Bb5 only move; b) 20... 0-0!? 21. Qg4 [21. Re3!?] Bg5 22. f4 Be7 23. f5 Bg5 unclear Knaak, R

8

12. Ng5 h6 13. Nh7 Bb5 14. Nf8 Kf8 15. Re1 Bd3 16. Qd3 Ng6 17. b3 Kg8 18. Bb2 Qd8 19. g3 h5 20. f4 Ne7 21. h3 Nf5 22. Kg2 Rc8 23. Re2 Rh6 [and Black is slightly better] Novy, V – Hadraba, V, Klatovy 2003; better is 23. Rac1

9

12... Qb2 13. Rb1 Qa2 14. Ra1 Qb2 15. Bd4 Qb4 16. Rb1 Qa5 17. Rb7 with compensation, development advantage; **12... Qc7** 13. Rc1 Nc6 14. Qc2 [14. Bb5 Be7 15. Bc5 Bc5 16. Rc5 0-0 17. Bc6 Bc6 18. Qe2 Rac8 19. Rfc1 Qb6 20. R1c3 Bd7 21. Qc2 Rc5 22. Rc5 Bb5 [and Black is slightly better] Haba, P – Goloshchapov, A, Cappelle la Grande 1998] h6 15. a3 g5 [unclear] Sylbing, G – L'Ami, E, Soest 1999

10

13. Nd4 Nc6 14. f4 Bc5 [and Black is slightly better] Brady, C – Hynes, K, Ireland (ch) 1992; **13. b4!?** with compensation, development advantage

11

18. Bh6 Rc8 [18... f6 19. Bf8 Qf8 20. a3 [and White is slightly better] Nun, Ji – Karnik, P, Pardubice 1992] 19. Qe3 with compensation

12

11... Qa4 12. Bc2 Qa5 13. Nd4 [with compensation] Pucovski, M – Petkovic, R, Backa Palanka 2001

13



12. a4 a5 13. Ng5 Be7 14. Nh7 Nf5 15. Ng5 Rc8 16. Bf5 ef5 17. Nf3 [17. Qd5 Qg6 with compensation with attack] Rc4 18. Be3 [18. Qd5 Rg4!?] d4!? [18... Qg6!?] 19. Bd4 Qh6 [unclear] 20. Rc1!? Ba4 21. Rc4 Bd1 22. Rd1 0-0 [22... Qe6 with the idea 23. Rc7 Qb3] 23. Rc7 [with compensation] Nun, Ji – Pastircak, CSSR 1989; **12. b4** Be7 [12... Bb5!?, 12... Nf5!?] 13. Be3 Qb4 [13... Qd8 14. Bh6 gh6 15. Rb1 a6 16. a4 Rc8 17. Re1 Rc3 18. b5 [and White is slightly better] Tleptsok, R – Dydy, K, Maikop 2004] 14. Rb1 with compensation, development advantage

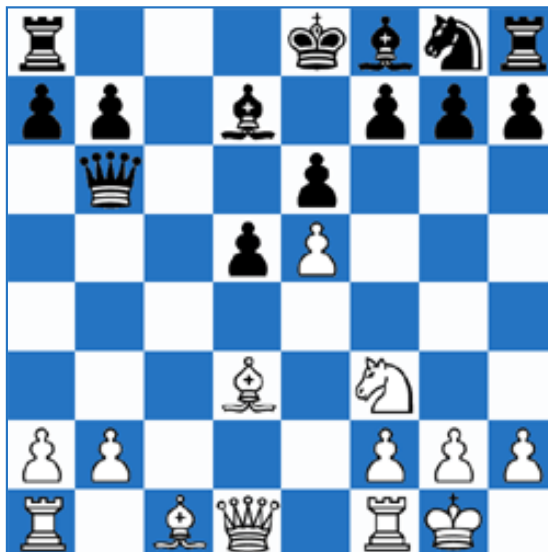
14

12... Bc5 13. Bh6 gh6 14. Qd2 Bf8 15. Rac1 Bg7 16. Rc3 0-0 17. Rb3 Qc7 18. Bb1 Bc6 19. Re1 Rae8 20. Nd4 [and White is slightly better] Nun, Ji – Haba, P, Cesko 1998; **12... Qb2** 13. Rb1 Qa2 14. Rb7 Ng4 15. Bd4 with compensation, development advantage

15

18. Rfc1 [with compensation] Humphrey, J – Sedina, E, Mount Buller 2004

16



10... Nh6 see 9... Nh6; **10... Ne7** see 9... Ne7; **10... Rc8** 11. Ng5 Nh6 12. Nh7 a) 12... Be7 13. Bh6 gh6 14. Qg4 [and White is superior, with attack, weak

point Rh8, Ke8] Pap,M – Jurkovic,A, Bizovac 2004; *b*) 12... Bb5 13. Bh6 gh6 14. Bb5 Qb5 15. Rc1 *b1*) 15... Bc5 16. Nf6 Ke7 17. Qf3 [and White is superior, with attack, weak point Ke7] Smerdon,D – West,G, Melbourne 2004; *b2*) 15... Rc1 16. Qc1 Bg7 17. Qc8 Ke7 18. Qc7 Qd7 19. Qc5 Kd8 20. Nf6 and White is slightly better, weak point Kd8; **10... Bc5** *a*) 11. Qe2 Ne7 12. b4 Qb4 13. Rb1 Qa5 14. Bd2 [14. Rb7 with compensation] Qc7 15. Rfc1 b6 16. Rb4 Bc6 17. Rg4 [with compensation] Novy,V – Blecha,Mil, Cesko 2002/03; *b*) 11. b4 Be7 12. Be3 Qd8 13. Nd4 [with compensation] Pucovski,M – Milosavljevic,Z, Srbija i Crna Gora 2003; *c*) 11. a3 a5 12. Ng5 Bb5 [12... Nh6 13. Nh7 Nf5 14. Qh5 [and White is slightly better, development advantage] Smerdon,D – Ly,M, Mount Buller 2004] 13. Qh5! g6 14. Qf3 Nh6 15. Bb5 Qb5 16. Ne6 and White is slightly better, development advantage; 15. Ne6!?: **10... h6** *a*) 11. b4 *a1*) 11... Ne7 12. Be3 Qd8 [12... Qb4 13. Rb1 with compensation, development advantage] 13. b5 g6 14. a4 Bg7 15. Qd2 g5 16. Qb4 [with compensation, development advantage] Nun, Ji – Prandstetter,E, CSSR 1989; *a2*) 11... Bb5 12. Be3 Qa6 13. Bb5 Qb5 14. Nd4 Qd7 15. Qd3 Ne7 [15... Bb4 16. Rab1 Bf8 17. Rfc1 Ne7 18. Qb5 with compensation] 16. b5 Ng6 17. f4 Bc5 18. Kh1 Bd4 19. Bd4 0–0 20. g4 Rfe8 21. Rae1 Qc7 and Black is slightly better Klimes,M – Rozmbersky,D, Cesko 1996; *b*) 11. a4 a5 12. Be3 Qb2 [12... Bc5 13. Bc5 Qc5 14. Qd2 (with compensation) Tempelaar,P – Al,A, Nederland 1994; 14. Qb3!?] 13. Rb1 [13. Nd4!?] Qa3 14. Nd4 Qa4 [14... Ba4 15. Bb5 and White is winning] 15. Qa4 [15. Qf3!? with the idea 15... Bc6 16. Rb7] Ba4 16. Rb7 with compensation

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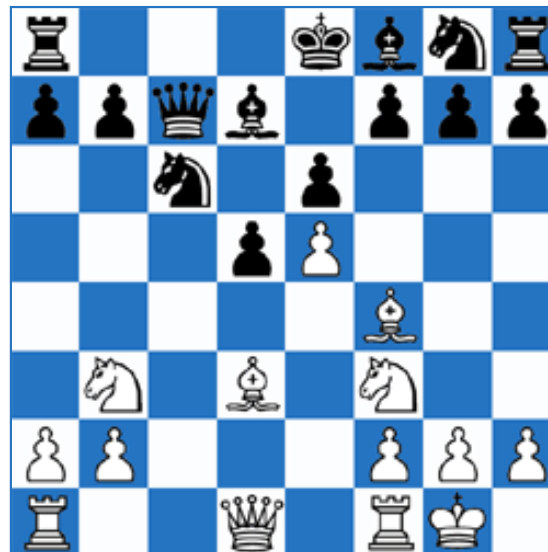
14. b4!? Bd4! [14... Qb4 15. Nb5 and White is slightly better, weak point Ke8; 15. Rab1!?: 14... Bb4 15. a3!?: 15. Nb5!?] 15. Bd4 Qd8 16. Rac1 Qd7 17. Rc3 0–0 [and Black is slightly better] Pace,C – Sosa,N, Bled (ol) 2002; 17. f4!?

18

17... Re8 18. Rc7 Nf5 19. Qa3 with the idea Rac1 with compensation; **17... f6** 18. Rc7 Nf5 19. Qb5 [with compensation] Brady,C – Clarke,T, Ireland (ch) 1995

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10... Qc7 11. Bf4



a) 11... f5 12. Rc1 Nh6 13. Re1 g6 14. Nbd4 [with compensation, weak point

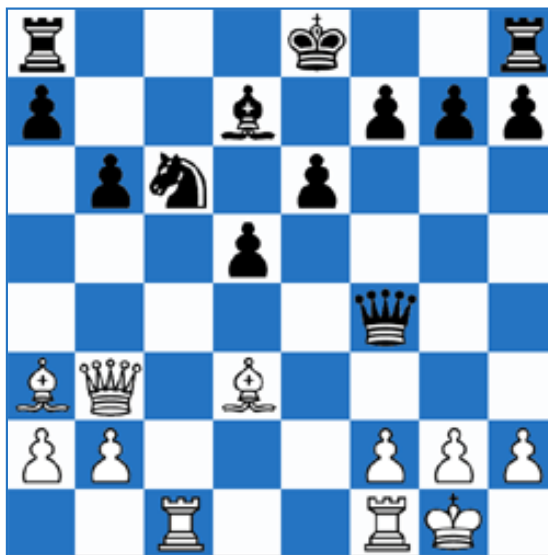
20
13... Be7



21
15. Re1 Rc8 16. Ba3?! Nd3 17. Qd3 Ne5! 18. Rc7 Nd3 [and Black is superior]
Nun, Ji – Schmitt diel, E, Prague 1990

23
16... Qc7; 16... Rb8

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18. g3 Qd4! [18... Qf3? 19. Rc6 Bc6 20. Rc1! and White is winning] 19. Rfd1 [19. Bb5 Ne5 and Black is slightly better] Ne5 20. Bb5 Qe4 21. Rc3 with compensation; **18. Bb5!?** Ne5 [18... Na5 19. Bd7 Kd7 20. Qb5 Kd8 21. Rfd1 and White is superior] 19. Bd7 Nd7 20. Rc2 f6 21. Rfc1 Kf7 22. g3 Qh6 23. Rc7 with compensation; **18. Rfe1!?** a) 18... Kd8? [weak point Kd8] 19. g3 Qf6 [19... Qf3 20. Re3] 20. Bd6! a1) 20... Nd4? 21. Bc7! [21. Qd5?? Bc6! and Black is winning] Ke8 22. Qd5 [and White is superior, weak point Ke8] Nf3 [22... Rc8 23. f4 Nc6 24. Rc6 Qe7 25. Qf3 Bc6 26. Qc6 Qd7 27. Qd7 Kd7 28. Be5 and White is winning] 23. Kf1 [only move] Rc8 [only move] 24. Bb5 Qe7 [24... Nd2 25. Kg2 Qe7 26. Qb7! and White is winning; 24... Nh2 25. Kg2 Qf3 26. Qf3 Nf3 27. Bd7 Kd7 28. Red1 Ke7 29. Kf3 and White is winning; 24... Bb5 25. Qb5 Ke7 26. Qb4 Ke8 27. Qa4 Ke7 28. Bd6 Kd6 29. Rcd1! and White is winning] 25. Bb6!! [and White is winning, weak point Ke8] Pap,M – Kotic,M, Bosnjaci 2005 see 92/258; a2) 20... h5!? 21. Bb5 Rc8 22. Qa4 e5 23. Rc6!? Bc6 24. Be5 Qg6 25. Bc6 Rc6 26. Qa7 with attack; a3) 20... Rc8 21. Qa3 e5 [21... Nd4? 22. Rc8 Bc8 23. Qa7 and White is winning] 22. Ba6 with initiative; b) 18... Rc8 19. Bb5 [with compensation] Pap,M

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