



## COLUMNISTS

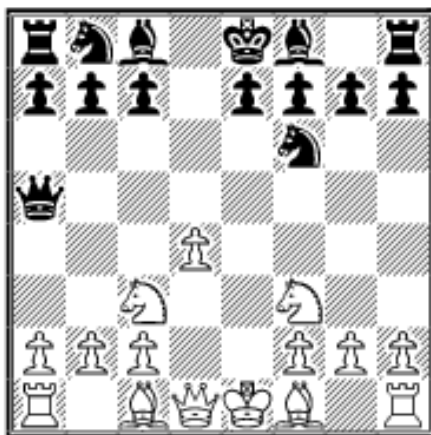
*Over the  
Horizons*

Stefan Bucker

## A Queen on Wheels

Every chess player likes to surprise his opponent. But when your new move only comes at move twelve, how can you be sure to reach this precise position? Of course, you could prepare thousands of novelties, in any possible line. This is an excellent solution – for a happy few whose names often begin with a “K.” Unfortunately, most of us are better at forgetting new ideas than in preparing them. The radical alternative is a repertoire where the surprises come at a very early stage, perhaps on move two or three. This column has already presented several examples. But to play 1 e4 c5 2 Qh5 or 2 Na3 isn’t quite the same as a winning novelty on move 18 in a Najdorf Variation. Late surprises can gain impressive victories without much fight; however, there is a third alternative. You can prepare novelties for a later stage of the game, when they are (perhaps) more effective, and still you don’t have to spend all your time on opening theory. The solution is to concentrate your efforts: find surprises in key positions of standard openings. Take, for example, the Scandinavian Defense:

**1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3**



When you are Black against a 1 e4 player, you can expect to reach this position in 50 percent of your games. The next move (5...Bg4) was preferred by Jacques Mieses at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, later it lost much of its popularity because of a line found by World Champion Lasker. This shouldn’t deter you, because the move has a significant advantage over the modern alternatives 5...c6 or 5...Bf5

– it leads to a well-known main line:

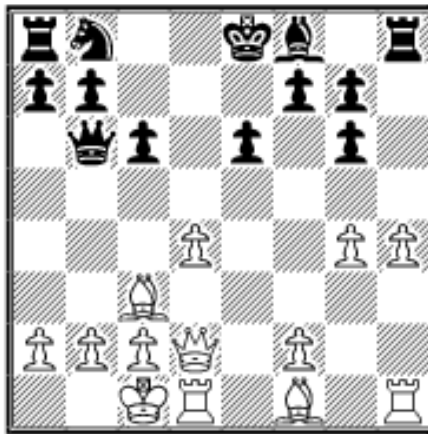
**5...Bg4! 6 h3 Bh5 7 g4 Bg6 8 Ne5**

The last few moves have become routine since Emanuel Lasker recommended the line for White. In the tournament book of St. Petersburg 1909, he continued his analysis: 8...c6 9 h4 Nbd7 10 Nc4 Qc7 11 h5 Be4 12 Nxe4 Nxe4 13 Qf3 Nd6 14 Bf4, White's position is preferable (Lasker).



Black can expect to reach this position (after 8 Ne5) in at least 30 percent of his 1 e4 games. Or rather 40 percent against stronger players, because these guys know their statistics: none of the alternatives for White give him more than equality (more details in *Kaissiber* 6 [5]). After the text move, however, White's results *are* impressive. What is the point of going into a poorly-regarded line, no matter how forced it might be? It is time for our surprise.

Remember that 8...c6 9 h4 Nbd7 was the original line by Emanuel Lasker (1909). Later Savielly Tartakower recommended 9...Ne4 10 Bd2 Qb6! ("and Black has counterplay," [1]) as an improvement. This is still a good weapon, although C. J. S. Purdy claimed that "his" 10 Bd2 was a refutation (wrongly assuming that both Tartakower and Reinfeld [2] had overlooked the "simple" 10 Bd2). Purdy's analysis continued 11 Nxg6 Nxc3 12 Bxc3 hxg6 13 Qd2 e6 14 0-0-0 (more details in [3], [4]).



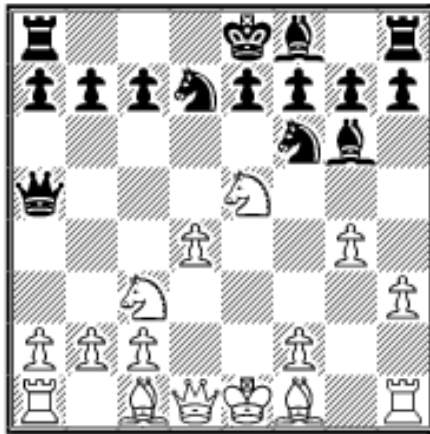
Purdy sees an "overwhelming advantage in development" for White, because the threat 15 Ba5 will cost Black more time. Yet, I only get the overwhelming impression of equality, for example 14...Qc7 15 Ba5 b6 16 Bc3 Nd7 17 Ba6 Rd8, followed by Nf6. Or even 14...Na6 15 Bc4 (15 Ba5 Bb4! or 15 a3 Bd6 16 Ba5 Bf4!) 15...Bb4 16 Bxb4 Qxb4 17 Bxa6 Qxd2+, with sufficient counterplay against pawn

h4.

The modern alternative 8...e6 was created at the end of the 1970's. The Australian GM Ian Rogers explored the set-up and often used it in practice. An important article by Rogers appeared in *New in Chess Yearbook* 18. Today most sources assess 8...e6 as +=. So there are two playable lines for Black, but we are looking for something special, for a real surprise. When White's attack against bishop g6, Ne5 combined with h4-h5, is so critical for the whole variation, why not attack the

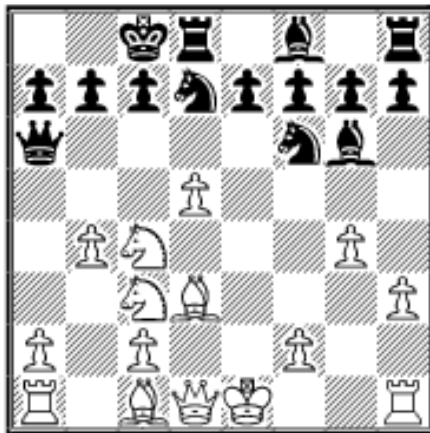
strong knight e5 immediately?

### 8...Nbd7?!!



The surprise. “An almost absurdly provocative move,” Watson [7]. Black ignores the threat of Nc4. When the move was introduced into practice it lead to a disaster. On January 19, 1924, Alexander Alekhine gave a blindfold simul in New York at the Man-hattan Chess Club, winning eight games and drawing two. His shortest win: 8...Nbd7 9 Nc4 Qa6 10 Bd3 Qe6+? (10...0-0-0 11 Be3 e6 =+) 11 Ne3 0-

0-0 12 d5 Qb6 13 Nc4 Qb4?? 14 a3 Qc5 15 Be3 1-0. The “blind” Alekhine had caught the queen of his sighted opponent M. Schroeder. Of course 13...Qa6 was forced, then 14 b4 looks difficult for Black.



But Black replies 14...Ne4!, e.g. 15 Bxe4 Qxc4 -/+.

Alekhine’s game is quoted in many sources as the chief witness against 8...Nbd7, in spite of Black’s obvious mistakes. Prominent masters have tried to revitalize the move, Esteban Canal in 1929 and the Spanish IM (now GM) Juan Ma-nuel Bellon in 1978. That it never became popular, largely depends from the forcing

answer:

### 9 Nc4

Had Black played 8...e6, this move would be less dangerous: 8...e6 9 Nc4 Qa6 10 h4 Qc6 (without e6, now 11 d5! was a refutation) 11 Rh3 Bb4 ... unclear, *ECO* B, 1984. Later editions of *ECO* (1997) ignore 8...e6 9 Nc4. After the text move, the queen a5 is in trouble. But when the king is a strong piece, which can defend himself (Steinitz), the same rule will apply to the fastest piece on the chess board.

9 Nxg6 hxg6 10 Bg2 is no refutation:

(a) 10...c6

(a1) 11 Qd3 Nd5 12 a3 e6 13 0-0 Nxc3 14 Bd2 Bd6 15 Qxc3 Qc7 16 f4

0-0-0 17 Qa5 Qb6 18 Qxb6 Nxb6 19 Ba5 Bc7 20 c3 Nc4 21 Bxc7 Kxc7 22 Rf2 Ne3 23 Rd2 c5 24 Re1 Nxc2 25 Kxc2 Rd5 26 Re5 = (draw, 37), Stoica (2420) – Bellon Lopez (2350), Buka-rest 1978.

(a2) 11 Bd2 e6 (11...Qb6 12 g5! Nd5 13 Nxd5 cxd5 14 Bxd5 e6 15 Bg2 +/- Labahn [6]) 12 g5 Nh5 13 d5 cxd5 14 Nxd5 Qc5 15 Qe2 +=.

(a3) 11 g5! Nd5 12 Bd2 Nxc3 13 bxc3 e5 14 Qb1 0-0-0 15 Qb3, at least += because of White's pressure against b7 and f7.

(b) 10...0-0-0! 11 Qf3 (11 g5 Ne8 12 Qf3 Nd6 13 b4 Qf5!) 11...c6 12 g5 (12 0-0 e5 13 Be3 cxd4 14 Bxd4 Bc5) 12...Nd5 13 Qxf7 Nxc3 14 Bd2. White's set-up was recommended by Wolfgang Labahn (Hamburg) in *Kaissiber* [6], but Black seems to get sufficient play for the pawn: 14...e5 15 Bxc3 (or 15 bxc3 exd4 16 cxd4 Bb4) 15...Bb4, for example: 16 Qc4 Bxc3+ 17 Qxc3 Qxc3+ 18 bxc3 Rh5 19 h4 Rdh8 20 Kf1 exd4 21 cxd4 Rxh4 22 Rxh4 Rxh4 23 Re1 Rxd4 24 Re7 Kb8 25 Rxg7 Ne5 =.

### 9...Qa6

Not a difficult decision (9...Qb4?? 10 a3 +-).

### 10 Bf4

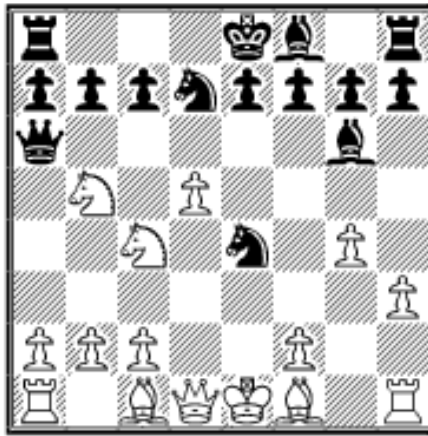
“The most logical move, threatening Nd6+ with tempo and hitting c7,” John Watson [7]. There are several alternatives:

(a) 10 Bd3, Alekhine – M. Schroe-der, New York 1924. See the note to 8...Nbd7, above.

(b) Against 10 f4 or 10 Qe2 Black replies 10...e6.

(c) 10 Ne3 Qa5 can lead to a draw by a repetition of moves, but I'd prefer 10...Qd6 11 h4 (11 g5 [5] Ne4!) 11...0-0-0 12 g5 Bh5 13 Be2 Bxe2 14 Qxe2 [5] Qc6 15 d5 Nxd5 16 Nexd5 e6 =.

(d) 10 d5 Ne4! (10...0-0-0? 11 Be3 etc.; 10...e6? 11 Bf4 Kd8 12 Ne3 Qb6 13 dxe6 Qxe6 14 Bc4 Qc6 15 0-0 Bd6 16 Bxd6 Qxd6 17 Qf3 c6 18 g5 Ne5 19 Qd1 Qxd1 20 Rfxd1+ Nfd7 21 Be2! f5 22 gxf6 Be8 23 f4 Ng6 24 fxg7 +-, Marinkovic – Sta. Nikolic, Kladovo 1991) 11 Nb5



11...Qf6? (Black should be happy to get three minor pieces for his queen: 11...Qxb5! 12 Nd6+ Nxd6 13 Bxb5 Nxb5 =+) 12 Be3 Kd8 13 Qe2 a6 14 Nd4 h5 15 Bg2 +/- (1-0, 31), Kosmac – Hrelja, Krsko 1993.

(e) 10 Be3 e6 11 d5 Bc5 12 Bxc5 Nxc5 13 Qd4 Ncd7 (13...Nce4) 14 Nb5 0-0? (14...0-0-0! 15 Nd2 Kb8 16 Nxc7 Qb6 -/+) 15 Nxc7 e5 16 Qe3 +- (1-0, 41) Canal –

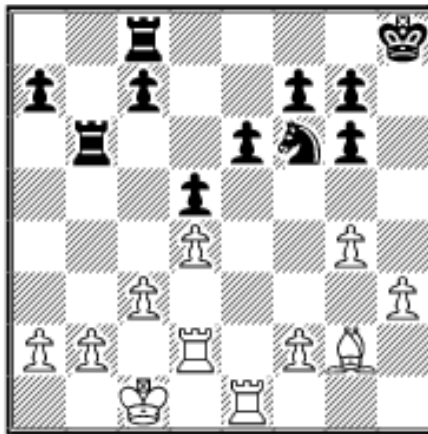
Blagojevic, Rogaska Slatina 1929.

(f) 10 h4 Qe6+ (10...Ne4!? 11 Ne5 Qa5) 11 Ne3 h5 (11...Nb6? 12 d5 +/-), for example:

(f1) 12 Nb5 0-0-0 (12...Qc6) 13 g5 Ng4 (13...a6) 14 Nxa7+ Kb8 15 Nb5 Nxe3 16 fxe3 (1-0, 75) Aflalo – Gupta, Mureck 2004; 16...Be4 =+.

(f2) 12 g5 Ng4 13 Bg2 (13 Nb5 0-0-0 see above) 13...0-0-0 (13...Qa6? 14 Ned5 0-0-0 15 f3 +/- [1-0, 45] Auer – Bücker, Bundesliga II 1999) 14 Qe2 Qb6 =.

(g) 10 Qf3 e6 happened in the Tie Break blitz game of the press tournament held during the World Championship at Lausanne 1998 (Karpov vs. Anand): 11 Bf4 (11 g5 Nh5) Qc6 12 Qxc6 bxc6 13 0-0-0 (13 Bxc7 Nd5 14 Nd6+ Bxd6 15 Bxd6) 13...Nd5 14 Bd2 Bb4 15 Nxd5 Bxd2+ 16 Rxd2 cxd5 17 Bg2 Rb8 18 Na5 0-0 19 Nc6 Rb6 20 Ne7+ Kh8 21 Re1 Nf6 22 Nxg6+ hxg6 23 c3 Rc8



24 b4 a5 25 a3 axb4 26 axb4 Ra8 27 Rb2 Rba6 28 Kd2 Nd7 29 Bf1 Ra3 30 Bd3 Nb6 31 Rc2 Kg8 32 h4 Ra1 33 Rcc1 R8a2+ 34 Ke3 Rxc1 35 Rxc1 Kf8 36 h5 gxh5 37 gxh5 Nd7 38 Rh1 Nf6 39 f3 Ke7 40 h6 gxh6 41 Rxh6 Ra3 42 Kd2 Ra2+ 43 Bc2 Nd7 44 Kd3 Nb6 45 Rh2 Nc4 46 Re2 Na3 47 Rh2 Rxc2 48 Rxc2 Nxc2 49 Kxc2, Gik (2350) – Bouton (2210). Both players had overstepped the time limit, so the

game was declared drawn and Black received the first prize of \$9,000. I won't argue with Black's lucrative tenth move. Still 10...Qe6+ can be a reasonable alternative: 11 Be2 c6 12 0-0 Nd5 13 Bd2 0-0-0 14 Rfe1 h5 15 g5 Qf5 16 Qxf5 Bxf5 17 h4 Nxc3 18 bxc3 Bxc2 19 Bf4 f6 20 Bf1 Bf5 with rough equality.

## 10...Qe6+!

After 10...Kd8? (10...Qc6? 11 d5 +-) 11 Qf3 +- Black is lost.

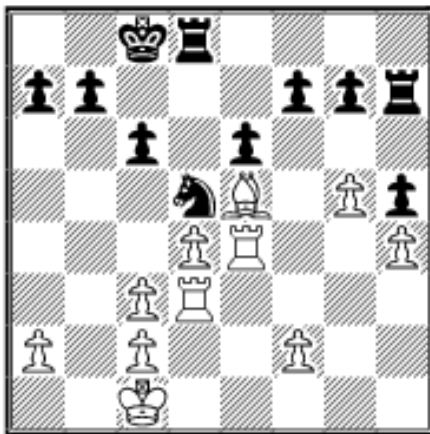
## 11 Ne3

The database contains 68 games with 8...Nbd7 (score: 68 percent for White), 29 of these reached the position after 10...Qe6+ (74 percent for White). Here 11 Ne3 clearly dominated: in 21 games White scored 81 percent, while the important alternative 11 Ne5 (below) occurred only once. Nevertheless it is difficult to say whether 11 Ne3 is objectively best, considering the coming blow on move twelve. None of the alternatives is harmless:

(a) 11 Be2 Nd5 (11...Nb6 12 Ne5 0-0-0 13 0-0 Nfd5 14 Nxd5 Nxd5 15 Bg3 f6!?) 12 Qd2 (12 Nxd5 Qxd5 13 0-0 0-0-0 14 Qd2 e5 15 dxe5 Qxd2 16 Nxd2 Nxe5 =) 12...0-0-0 13 0-0-0 (1-0, 62) Villing – Niebaum, Bad Wörishofen 2002; 13...N7b6 =.

(b) 11 Qe2 Qxe2+ 12 Bxe2 0-0-0! is a critical position (12...c6? 13 Na5! +/- 0-0-0? 14 Nxc6!; 12...e6? 13 Bxc7 Bb4 14 f3 Nd5 15 Ba5 b5 16 Bxb4 Nxb4 [0-1, 24] Caldi – Blanos, Buenos Aires 1992; 17 Ne3! +/-), for example:

(b1) 13 0-0-0 e6 14 Bf3 c6 15 Rhe1 h5 16 g5 Nd5 17 Nd6+ Bxd6 18 Bxd6 Nxc3 19 bxc3 Bf5 20 h4 Nb6 21 Be5 Rh7 22 Be4 Bxe4 23 Rxe4 Nd5 24 Rd3 =+

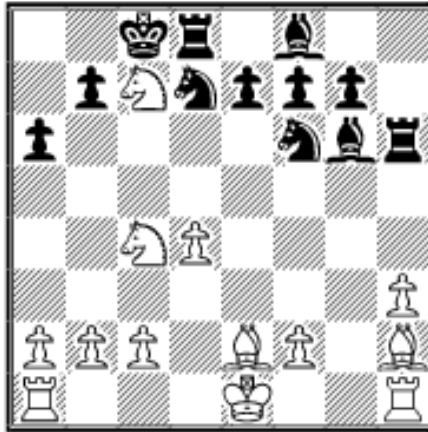


This time “good knight against bad bishop” isn’t sufficient for a win: 24...b5 25 Bg3 (threatens 26 g6) Kd7 26 c4! bxc4 27 Ra3 Ra8 28 g6 fxg6 29 Re5 a5 30 Rg5 a4 31 Rxc6 c3 (or 31...Ne7 32 Rg5 Nf5 33 Rc3) 32 Be5 Ke7 (32...Kc8!? 33 Rxe6 Kb7) 33 Kd1 Kf7 34 Rg3 Ra7 35 Ke2 Kg8 36 Kd3 Ra5 37 Rg1 Kf7 38 Kc4 Rb5 39 Kd3 Ra5 40 Rg3 Kg8 41 Ke4 Kf7 draw, Sapi – Bellon Bopez, Mon-tilla Moriles

1978 [\[5\]](#).

(b2) 13 g5. The queens have left the board, but White’s lead in development still counts. Black has to play carefully: 13...Nh5 14 Bg2 h6! (after 14...c6? 15 0-0-0 e6 16 Bd3! +/-, pawn f7 is too weak) 15 gxh6 (15 Nb5 hxg5 16 Na5 Be4 17 f3 e5 18 0-0-0 Bb4!, or 16 Bg4 Nhf6 17 0-0-0 Nxc4 18 hxg4 a6 19 Na7+ Kb8 20 Bxc7+ Kxc7 21 Rxh8 Kb8 ->) 15...Rxh6 16 Nb5 (16 0-0-0 a6 17 a3 Nhf6!; 16 Bf3 c6 17 d5

cx d5 18 Bxd5 Nhf6 19 Bg2 Rh5 +=) 16...a6 17 Nxc7 Nhf6



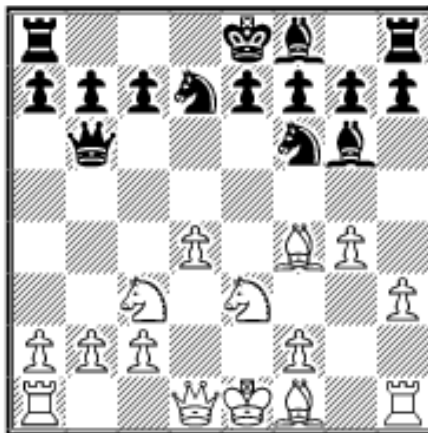
The extra pawn is meaningless, White has problems finding an escape route for his knight c7. For example 18 Bf1 (18 0-0-0 Ne4 19 Na8 b5 +=; 18 a4 Rxb3 19 Na8 b6 =; 18 Bf4 Rh4 19 Bg3 Rxd4 20 c3 Re4 21 f3 Rxe2+ 22 Kxe2 e5 23 Na8 b5 +=) 18...Bf5 (Be4) 19 Bg2 Be4 20 f3 Bf5 21 Kf2 Bxb3 =.

(c) 11 Ne5 may be the strongest continuation. Black can choose:

(c1) 11...Qb6 12 Nxc6 hxc6 13 Qf3 e6 14 0-0-0 0-0-0 +=. White has an advantage. But Black plans Bb4, and the direct blow 15 g5 Ne8 16 Be3 Bb4 17 Qxf7 Rf8 18 Qxc6 Bxc3 19 bxc3 Qc6 gives Black sufficient counterplay (20 Bd3 Nb6 21 c4 Nxc4). Delaying g4-g5 could be an improvement: 15 Kb1 (or 15 Bg3!? a6 16 g5 Nh5 17 Bh2 Be7) 15...Bd6 16 Bxd6 Qxd6 17 Nb5 Qb6 18 g5 Nh5 19 Be2 (19 Qxf7 Ne5) 19...f6, with a complicated situation. I'd prefer White, but Black is not without chances.

(c2) 11...Nd5 12 Bc4 N7b6 13 Nxd5 Nxd5 14 Qf3 0-0-0 15 0-0-0 f6 16 Rhe1 (1-0, 34, Buchicchio – Manzardo, Limone Piemonte 2001) 16...Bxc2! 17 Kxc2 fxe5 18 Bxd5 (18 Rxe5 Qc6) 18...Qxd5 19 Qxd5 Rxd5 20 Rxe5 Rxe5 21 Bxe5 Rg8 22 Rd3 g5, and although this ending is better for White, Black seems to hold: 23 Rc3 c6 24 d5 Rg6 25 dxc6 Rxc6.

**11...Qb6!**



“Almost ridiculing White by continuing to make queen moves,” Watson [7].

(a) 11... 0-0-0? 12 d5 Nxd5 13 Qxd5 +- or 12...Qb6 13 Nc4 Qa6 (Qb4 14 a3) 14 Nd6+ +-.

(b) 11...a6? 12 d5 Qb6 13 Nc4 Qa7 14 Be3 etc.

**12 g5**

In Topalovic (2395) – Oresh-kovic, Porec 1994 (Championship of Croatia), White first repeated moves by means of 12 Nc4 Qe6+ 13 Ne3

Qb6, apparently to win time on the clock. Then he chose the text move. We ignore the two additional moves in the game.

After 12 Nb5 further complex variations arise:

(a) 12...e5? is incorrect: 13 dxe5 Qc5 (13...0-0-0 14 exf6 Nxf6 15 Qxd8+ Kxd8 16 Bxc7+ +-; 13...a6 14 exf6 axb5 15 Nd5 etc.) 14 Qd4! (14 exf6 Qb4+) Qxd4 15 Nxd4 Be4 16 Bg2 (better than 16 f3 Nd5) 16...Bxg2 17 Nxg2 Nd5 18 0-0-0 Nxf4 19 Nxf4 +- [\[5\]](#).

(b) 12...Rc8. The correct answer. 13 g5 (13 Nc4 Qe6+ 14 Qe2 Qxe2+ is equal, while 14 Be2? Qe4 attacks Bf4 and Rh1), Z. Nasiolkowski, Lüdenscheid for example:

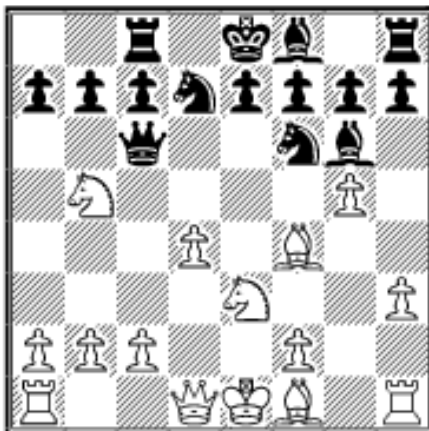


(b1) 13...Nh5? 14 Bxc7! Qc6 (After 14...Rxc7 15 Nd5 Qe6+ 16 Be2 the black rook cannot move because of Nc7+, winning the queen. If 16...Qe4 17 Nbxc7+ Kd8 18 Rg1 e6 19 Ne3) 15 d5 Qc5 16 Ba5!, followed by 17 b4 +- [\[5\]](#).

(b2) 13...e5 14 dxe5! Ne4 15 Qg4 Qc6 16 Rd1 Bc5 17 f3 a6 [\[5\]](#) 18 a4! +-.

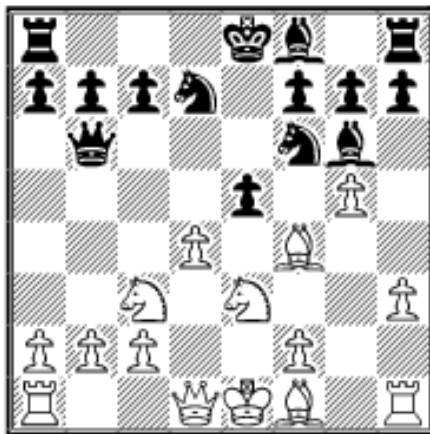
(b3) 13...Be4 14 f3 Nd5! 15 fxe4 Nxf4 16 Qg4 e5 [\[5\]](#) 17 Nc4 Qe6 18 Ncxe5 +/-.

(b4) 13...Qc6!



14 Rg1 (14 f3 Nh5 15 Bh2 a6 16 Na7 Qe6 17 Nxc8 Qxe3+ 18 Qe2 Qxd4 19 c3 Qh4+ 20 Qf2 Qxf2+ 21 Kxf2 e5 22 b4 Kd8 23 Na7 Bd6 =+) 14...e5 15 dxe5 Ne4 16 c3 Bc5 17 h4 Rd8 18 Nd4 Bxd4 19 cxd4 Qb6 20 Nc4 Qb4+ 21 Bd2 Nxd2 22 Qxd2 Qe7 23 Be2 +=. Black has lost a pawn, but his opponent's king has no safe haven.

**12...e5!**



“Black’s play in this variation depends upon pure dynamism!” – Watson [7]. The text move is an improvement. Without this idea, Black would simply be lost. In Topalovic (2395) – Oreshko-vic, Porec 1994 (Championship of Croatia) Black immediately snatched the pawn: 12...Qxb2? 13 Nb5 e5 14 Nc4 (14 gxf6 exf4 15 Nc4!, for example 15...Qb4+? 16 c3 +- , winning the queen. Or 15...Qxc2

16 Qxc2 Bxc2 17 Kd2! +/-) 14...Bb4+ 15 Ke2 exf4? (slightly better: 15...Nd5 16 Nxc7+ Nxc7 17 Nxb2 Nb5 18 Bd2! +/-) 16 Nxb2 +- f3+ 17 Kxf3 Bh5+ 18 Kg2 Bxd1 19 Nxc7+ Kd8 20 Nxa8 Bh5 21 gxf6 gxf6 22 Bd3 Rg8+ 23 Kf1 Bf3 24 Rg1 Rxg1+ 25 Kxg1 Bc3 26 Rb1 b6 27 Nxb6 axb6 28 Na4 Bxd4 29 c3 Be5 30 Nxb6 Nc5 31 Bxh7 Bxc3 32 Rc1 Bd4 33 Rc4 Ne6 34 Na4 Bd5 35 Rc2 Ng5 36 Bf5 Nf3+ 37 Kf1 Nh4 38 Bd3 Bg2+ 39 Ke1 Bxh3 40 Be4 Ke7 41 Nc3 f5 42 Bb7 Kf6 43 a4 f4 44 Nb5 Nf5 45 a5 Ne3 46 Nxd4 Nxc2+ 47 Nxc2, and Black resigned [5].

### 13 dxe5

Other moves are not promising either:

(a) 13 gxf6 exf4 14 Ned5 Qe6+ 15 Qe2 0-0-0 16 Qxe6 fxe6 17 Nxf4 gxf6 =+, Black has a comfortable position.

(b) 13 Bxe5 Nxe5 14 Bb5+ (14 dxe5 Qxb2 15 Nb5 Bb4+ 16 Ke2 Bh5+ 17 f3 Ne4) 14...c6 15 gxf6 Qxd4! -/+

(c) 13 Nc4 Qc6 (13...Qxd4 [5] 14 Be3 Qxd1+ 15 Rxd1 Nh5 16 Nb5 0-0-0 =+) 14 d5 Nxd5 15 Qxd5 Qxd5 16 Nxd5 0-0-0 =+.

### 13...Qxb2 14 Nb5

If 14 Ned5? Nxd5 15 Nxd5, the clearest road to victory is 15...Bb4+ 16 Nxb4 (16 Ke2 Nxe5 threatens Bd3+) 16...Qxb4+, followed by Qe4+, and wins rook h1.

### 14...Bb4+



Z. Nasiolkowski, Lüdenscheid

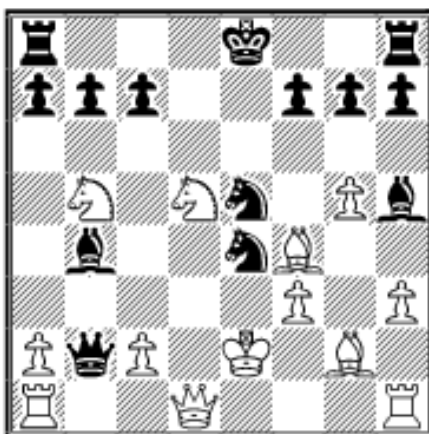
In *Kaissiber* 6 my main line was 14...Qb4+ 15 Qd2 Ne4! 16 Qxb4 Bxb4+ 17 c3 Ba5! -/+, for example 18 Nd5 c6! 19 Nbc7+ Kd8 20 Nxa8 cxd5 21 0-0-0 Nxc3 22 Bd2 d4, followed by Kc8-b8 -+ [5]. However, in my sideline 15 c3 Qxf4 16 Nxc7+ Kd8 17 gxf6 [5] Qxe5 (17...Rc8 18 Ncd5) 18 Nb5 Rc8 White may hope to survive: 19 Qd2 Bh5 20 a4 a6 21 Nd4 Rc7 22 Bg2 Kc8 23 0-0 Nxf6 =+.

### 15 Ke2

Not 15 c3? Ne4! -+, threatening Qxf2 mate.

### 15...Ne4 16 Nxc7+

(a) 16 Nd5 Bh5+ 17 f3 Nxe5 18 Bg2

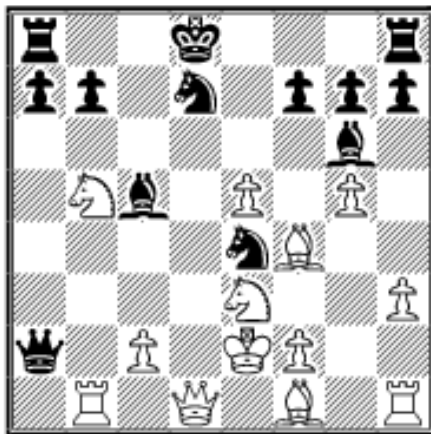


18...Ng6 19 Bh2 0-0-0 20 Rb1 Qxa2 21 Nxb4 [5] Nc3+! 22 Nxc3 Qe6+ 23 Kf2 Qb6+ 24 Kg3 Rxd1 25 Rhxd1 Qc5 26 Nbd5 Qd6+ 27 f4 Bxd1 28 Rxd1 h6 -+. In this variation, the black queen did most of the work alone. A queen on wheels!

(b) 16 Rb1 Nc3+ 17 Nxc3 Qxc3 18 Rb3 [5] Qc6 19 Qd5 Qa4 20 Qxb7 Rb8 21 Qxc7 0-0 -/+, Black has a strong attack.

**16...Kd8 17 Nb5**

17 Ncd5 Bc3 18 Rb1 Qxa2 19 Bg2 (19 Rb5 Rc8) 19...Qa6+ 20 Kf3 Qc6  
21 Ke2 Re8 -/+.

**17...Bc5 18 Rb1 Qxa2****19 Rb3**

(a) 19 h4 Qa6 20 Qe1 Bh5+ 21 f3  
Re8 -+.

(b) 19 Bg2 Rc8 20 Ra1 Qe6 21 Ke1  
Qb6 with excellent winning  
chances, for example 22 Nxa7 Qb4+  
23 c3 Nxc3 24 Qd2 Qxf4 25 Nxc8  
Bb4! 26 Ra8 Kc7 27 Kf1 Qxe5 28  
Bc6!? Nc5 29 Qb2 Nd3 30 Qa1 Qf4  
-+.

**19...Qa6 20 f3 Qxb5+ 21 Rxb5 Nc3+ 22 Kd2 Nxd1 -/+.**

In *Chess Strategy in Action* John Watson wrote about 8...Nbd7!? [\[7\]](#):  
“Black’s little-played idea and Stefan Bücken’s analysis ... may yet  
prove to be unsound and I could have chosen something more  
established, but I thought that the friskiness of Black’s queen would  
provide a counter-example to the “rules” we established above.”

We are still far away from proving the line’s correctness. When I  
checked my old analyses ([\[5\]](#), [\[6\]](#)), I found several refinements for both  
sides. But the present state of affairs is already a success for the  
Scandinavian Defense. Lasker’s line is not as convincing as the “books”  
say. If only 8...Nbd7 leads to lively play with mutual chances (which  
seems to be the case), Mieses’ sharp Scandinavian repertoire based on  
Bg4 and Nc6 could become as popular as it was before 1920.

**Sources:**

[1] S. Tartakower: *Die hypermoderne Schachpartie*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vienna 1925.

[2] F. Reinfeld: “Addenda to Griffith and White,” in: *The Chess Review*,  
September 1937, p. 198f.

[3] C. J. S. Purdy: “Centre Counter,” in: *The Australasian Chess Review*,  
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