



## COLUMNISTS

*From the Sidelines*

Hannes Langrock

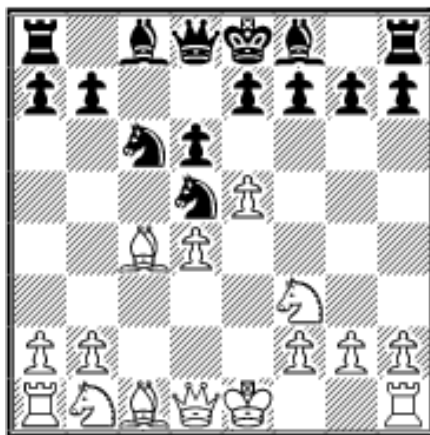
*The Modern  
Morra Gambit*

by

Hannes Langrock

## An Ambitious Option for Black in the c3-Sicilian

This month I will discuss an infrequently played option for Black in one of the main lines of the c3-Sicilian with 2...Nf6. After 1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5, White usually plays an early d2-d4 or delays d2-d4. Upon the former, the following position is often reached:



This position can be reached by various move-orders; for example, 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4, 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 or 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 d6 6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Bc4.

My database contains 3,088 games with the position after 7.Bc4. In 2,237 of them, Black played the main move 7...Nb6, after which White can choose between the pawn sacrifice 8.Bb3 dxe5 9.d5 and the solid 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5. The latter can especially be annoying for Black, who will have a hard time playing for a win, if White doesn't want more than a draw.

The move we are going to examine has only been played 208 times, namely, 7...dxe5!?:



Many theoretical sources consider this move to be doubtful because of 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3. White gives up his bishop-pair for fast development. However, praxis has shown that this evaluation is incorrect, the main line goes 9...Qd6 10.d5 Nd4! 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7. Black is solid and has long-term trumps. If he is careful in the next few moves, 14.0-0 f5 15.Re1 Kf7!, he will be the one fighting for an advantage, see the game [X. Bedoin-B.Chatalbashev](#).

Given that the theoretical recommendation does not offer much, White mainly opts for the natural 8.dxe5. And now, instead of the main move 8...Ndb4, I recommend playing the endgame after 8...Nb6!? 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8. This should be objectively equal, but there is an imbalance because of White's e5-pawn, which confers a space advantage, yet it is a weakness nevertheless. The game [H.Langrock-P.Enders](#) shows that there is plenty of play in the position and that Black can frequently create winning chances in this endgame.

White's third option is 8.Nxe5. This move leads to positions with an isolated pawn and is generally harmless for Black. As the game [D.Atlas-Z.Lanka](#) demonstrates, White would probably be doing better with his knight on f3, instead of the apparently active e5-square.

All in all, 7...dxe5!? looks like an ambitious way for Black to avoid the deeply analyzed

main line 7...Nb6, and I hope that we see more practical examples in the future!

**Xavier Bedoin (2342) – Boris Chatalbashev (2534)**

Sautron, 28.10.2006

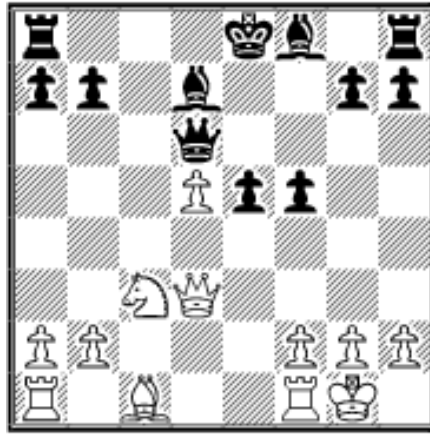
**1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 8.Bxd5**

White gives away his bishop and temporarily sacrifices a pawn to continue developing with tempo. Many theoretical sources say this continuation promises White an advantage; however, praxis proves that Black can fight for an edge.

**8...Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4!**

Black gives back the pawn to develop comfortably.

**11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0–0 f5**



An important move that allows Black to meet f2-f4 by ...e5-e4 if need be.

**15.Re1**

Now it looks as if Black is in danger, as White threatens Bf4, as well as Nb5.

15.Nb5 Bxb5 16.Qxb5+ Qd7 is harmless for Black: 17.Qe2 (17.Qb3 Bd6 18.f4 e4 19.Be3 0–0 with a good position in D.Arngrimsson-P.Bobras, Hastings 2005.) 17...Bd6 18.Bf4 0–0! 19.Bxe5 Rae8 20.f4 Bxe5 21.fxe5 Qxd5 22.Rfe1 Re6=+ F.

Kwiatkowski-C.Ward, London 1994.

**15...Kf7!**

This defends against both of White's threats. The king is perfectly safe on f7, as there is no way for White to open the f-file and the a2-g8 diagonal is closed as well.

**16.a4**

In the following interesting example Black constantly ignores White's pawn-grabbing threats and eventually achieves an advantage: 16.Qe3 a6 17.Bd2 (17.Qxe5?? Re8–+) 17...Re8 18.Qa7 Be7 19.Rad1 (19.Qxb7 Rb8 20.Qa7 Rxb2 and Black is fine.) 19...Ra8 20.Qe3 Bf6 21.Ne2 Rac8 (21...Qxd5 would be a typical mistake. If White offers the d5-pawn, Black should almost never take it in such positions. This opens lines and diagonals, and, from one moment to the other, White can improve from a slightly worse (or at best equal) position to a very promising attacking one: 22.Bb4 Qb5 23.Nc3 with an initiative) 22.Qb3 b5 23.Bb4 Qb6 24.d6+ Rc4 25.Qa3 Ra8 26.Ba5 Qb7 27.Rc1 Rac8 and Black was somewhat better in a complicated position in V.Okhotnik-E.Turzo, Eger 1994.

**16...a6**

Black decides to eliminate any Nb5-ideas. This good and solid move is played most often. Still, 16...e4 has been doing well in praxis. 17.Qe2 and now:

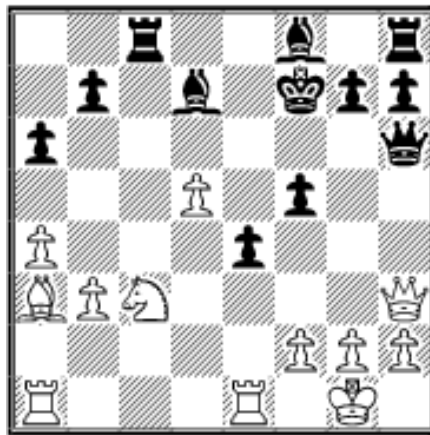
A) 17...Qa6 As in the line 16...a6, Black generally likes to go into the endgame in this variation. 18.Qh5+ Qg6 19.Qh3 Rd8 Meeting the threat of 20.Nxe4. 20.f3? Bc5+ 21.Kh1? (21.Kf1) 21...Bf2! Black wins the exchange. Probably White overlooked that 22.Re2 fails to 22...f4. 22.Bf4 Bxe1 23.Rxe1 Rhe8 24.fxe4 fxe4 -/+ J.Blauert-O.Jakobsen, Klaksvik 2002.

B) 17...Qf6 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 (unclear, Rogozenko) 20.Qh5+ Qg6 21.Qh4 Qf6 22.Qxf6+ Kxf6 23.f3 exf3 24.gxf3 and Black is a bit better in this endgame from S.Lalic-P. Szekely, Haarlem 1996.

### 17.b3 e4 18.Qh3 Rc8 19.Ba3

19.Bb2 Be7 20.Ba3 As Rogozenko indicates, "White's maneuver 19.Bb2 followed by 20.Ba3 fails to impress." 20...Qh6! 21.Qxh6 gxh6 22.Ne2 (22.Bb2 Bf6 23.Rac1 Rhd8=+ Rogozenko) 22...Bxa3 23.Rxa3 Rc2 24.Raa1 Rhc8=+ D.Sermek-J.Borisek, Terme Zrece 2003.

### 19...Qh6!



Going into the endgame is a key idea for Black in this line, even at the price of doubled h-pawns. Without queens on the board, White can forget about organizing an attack against the black king. In this line, Black is usually more active in the endgame, and White's d5-pawn, as well as his queenside pawns, are vulnerable to attack.

### 20.Qxh6

According to its nature Fritz is frantic about 20.Nxe4, winning a pawn, but after 20...Qxh3 21.Ng5+ Kf6 22.Nxh3 Bxa3 23.Rxa3 Rhe8, Black

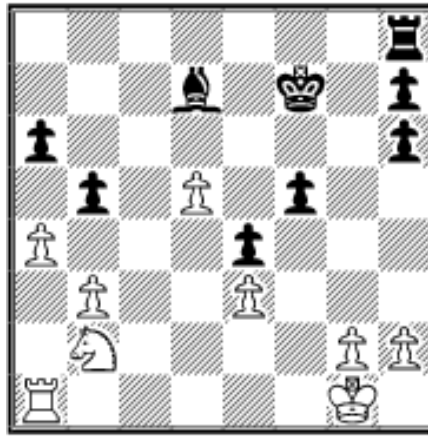
obviously has very nice compensation.

Rogozenko gives the following lines: 24.Rd1 (24.Raa1 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Rc3=+) 24...g5 25.f4 g4 26.Nf2 Rc2 with compensation.

### 20...gxh6 21.Bb2

21.Bxf8 Rxc3 22.Bxh6 Rxb3=+ Black is more active and White's pawns are more vulnerable at the moment. The lower rated player couldn't stand the pressure in the next phase of the game: 23.g3 (23.a5!?) 23...Rc8 24.Be3 Rd3 25.Rab1 b5 26.axb5 Bxb5 27.Red1 Rd8 28.Rxd3 exd3 29.f3 Rxd5 and Black was not only a pawn up, but also had two passed pawns and excellent winning chances in C.Engelbert-Z.Lanka,Hamburg 2002.

### 21...Bg7 22.Nd1 Bxb2 23.Nxb2 Rc3 24.Re3 Rxe3 25.fxe3 b5



Not allowing White to play Nc4. White is fighting for a draw, but fails in the end.

**26.Rc1 Ke7 27.Rc5 Kd6 28.b4 bxa4 29.Ra5 Bb5 30.Nxa4 Kxd5 31.Nc5 Rc8 32.Nxa6 Kc4 33.Kf2 Rc6 34.Nb8 Rb6 35.Ra8 f4 36.exf4 Kd3 37.Ra3+ Kd4 38.Ra8 e3+ 39.Kf3 Re6 40.Ra1 e2 41.Kf2 Re8 0-1**

**Hannes Langrock (2407) – Peter Enders (2456)**

German Bundesliga, 12.12.2004

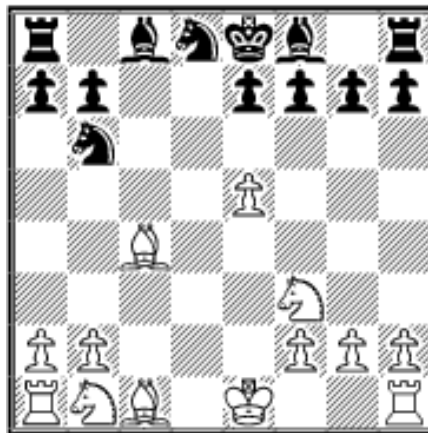
**1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bc4 dxe5 8.dxe5**

This has become White's main option in tournament praxis. It is played about as often as the alternatives 8.Bxd5 and 8.Nxe5 put together.

**8...Nb6!?**

8...Ndb4 is the main move here. However, I believe that 8...Nb6 leads to endgame positions in which Black can fight for the initiative without risking too much. Inaccurate is 8...e6?! 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qe2, which gives White exactly the position he strives for when playing the c3-Sicilian. His e5-pawn secures him a long-term space advantage and he has good prospects to develop an initiative on the kingside.

**9.Qxd8+ Nxd8**



German grandmaster Peter Enders has shown that Black can seriously play for a win in this line by being patient and resolute. White's problem is that his e5-pawn is a weakness without queens on the board.

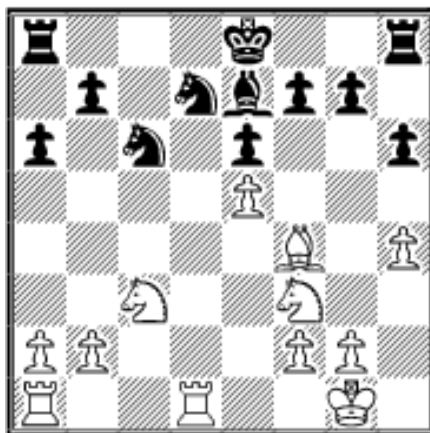
**10.Be2**

Of course, this is not the only square for the bishop:

10.Bb3 Be6!? Actually a very logical idea. Why not exchange pieces when you have less space?

(10...Bg4 11.Nd4! has been played more often, but the bishop proved to be somewhat isolated on g4 after: 11...e6 12.0-0 Bc5 13.Be3 0-0 14.Re1 Nd7 15.f4 Nc6 16.Nxc6 Bxe3 + 17.Rxe3 bxc6 18.Nc3 Rfc8 19.Ne4 c5 20.Rc1 Rc7 21.Rec3± V.Afromeev-A.Bakutin, Donskoj 2003) 11.Be3 (11.Bxe6 Nxe6= and Black will develop his bishop to g7.) 11...Nc4 12.Bxc4 Bxc4 13.Na3 Ba6 14.Nd4 Rc8 15.Ndb5 Nc6 16.e6 (16.Nxa7 Nxa7 17.Bxa7 e6 with compensation) 16...fxe6 17.Nxa7 Nxa7 18.Bxa7 g5 19.Bd4 Rg8 20.Bc3 g4 21.Nc2 Bg7 22.Nd4 Bxd4 23.Bxd4 Rc2 and Black had the initiative in M.Godena-P.Enders, Budapest 1995.

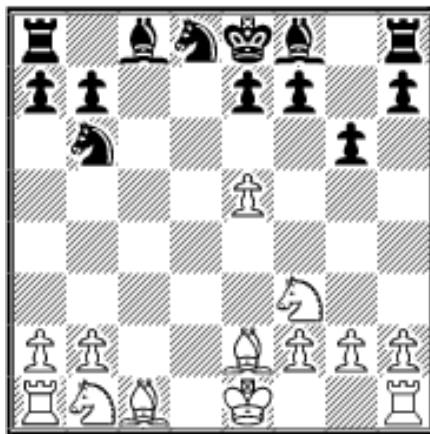
10.Bb5+ is the main continuation. 10...Bd7 11.Nc3 a6! This not only forces White to exchange on d7 (or move the bishop), but also takes the b5-square under control. (11...e6 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.Nb5 gave White an initiative: 13...Bb4+ 14.Ke2 Ke7 15.a3 Bc5 16.b4 a6 17.bxc5 axb5 18.Be3 Nc6 19.Rhb1 b4 20.axb4 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Nxb4 22.Rb1 Na6 23.Rxb7 Rc8±, although Black finally managed to save a draw in D.Pavasovic-E.Sveshnikov, Ljubljana 1996, but there is no reason to repeat this line as Black.) 12.Bxd7+ (12.Be3 Bxb5 13.Bxb6 (13.Nxb5 Nd5) 13...Bc6 14.Nd4 Bxg2 15.Rg1 Bc6 16.0–0–0 g6=+ Z. Susak-S.Videki, Split 1998) 12...Nxd7 13.0–0 e6 14.Rd1 Nc6 15.Bf4 h6 Inserting ...h7-h6, h2-h4 can't be wrong for Black, as ...g7-g5 may be a good option later. 16.h4 Be7



This is an important position of the 11.Bb5+ line. Objectively it should be about equal, but there is plenty of play left. White has more space, but e5 is still weak and Black is very solid. Black should try to establish a knight on d5, which would give his position added security. If White moves his knight to d6, it will be exchanged, when, after exd6, White may realize that he has created a new weakness instead of a strong passed pawn. 17.Ne4 (17.h5 0–0–0 18.Ne4 Nb6 19.Nd6+ Bxd6 20.exd6 Nd5 21.Bg3 Kd7 22.Rac1 f6, in this unclear position much depends on whether d6 is a strength or weakness. Black eventually gained the upper hand in a chaotic game that

nevertheless ended in a draw, in J.Pinski-K.Chernyshov, Krynica 1998.) 17...Nb4 18.Rac1 Nd5 19.Bg3 0–0 20.Rc4 Rfc8 21.Rdc1 N7b6 22.Rxc8+ Rxc8 23.Rxc8+ Nxc8 24.Nd4 (In case of 24.Nd6 Nxd6 25.exd6 Bf6 d6 it is indeed a weakness; for example, 26.d7? Nb6 27.Ne5 Bd8, with the threat of ...f7-f6.) 24...Kf8 25.Kf1 Ke8 26.Ke2 h5 27.Nb3 Kd7 28.Na5 b6 29.Nc4 b5 30.Ne3 Ncb6 31.Nxd5 Nxd5 with a small advantage for Black, but there are too few pieces to really play for a win, T.Tenev-I.Todorov, Borovetz 2002. 10.Bd3 g6! 11.0–0 Bg7 12.Nc3 Bg4 13.Bb5+ Nc6 14.Nd4 Bd7 15.Nxc6 (Instead of this pawn sacrifice, it was possible to play 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.f4.) 15...bxc6 16.e6 fxe6 17.Be2 0–0 Black has isolated pawns, but his dark-squared bishop is very strong and he has the d5-square for the knight. And he is still a pawn up. Overall, Black must be better here, which is also indicated by the course of the game: 18.Ne4 Bd4 19.Bg4 e5 20.Bxd7 Nxd7 21.Ng5 Rab8 22.Rb1 c5–/+ A.Zapata-L.Garcia, Bogota 1980.

**10...g6!**



An important improvement over the much less ambitious 10...Nc6. Black is going to put pressure on e5 as soon as possible.

**11.Nc3**

11.0–0 Bg7 12.Nc3 Nc6 13.Bf4 White chooses a setup that gives his e5-pawn as much protection as possible. 13...0–0 (13...Bg4 deserves attention as well.) 14.Rad1 h6 15.h3 Be6 16.b3 Protecting c4, but weakening c3. 16...Rac8 17.Rfe1 Nxe5 Of course, Black thankfully takes the pawn. White will get some activity as compensation, but it

won't be entirely sufficient. 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.

Nxe5 Rxc3 20.Bf3 Bc8 21.Rc1 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 This is the game A.Gritsenko-V.Mukhlisov, St. Petersburg 2005, when instead of 22...e6? 23.Rc7 Black should have played 22...Kg7! =+. Now ...Kf6 can be a good idea, another point is that g6 is covered, which gives Black

the option to play ...f7-f6. Black has good chances to drive back White's forces, eventually keeping the extra pawn. Note that 23.Rc7 is met by 23...Na8!.

**11...Bg7 12.Be3**

On first sight it looks like White can create active play, but Black takes over the initiative.

**12...0-0!**

Temporarily sacrificing a pawn.

**13.Bxb6 axb6 14.Nd5**

White is missing his dark-squared bishop here.

**14...Bg4**

In a newer game Enders played 14...Nc6!? (a novelty) and, after 15.Nxb6 Ra7 16.0-0 Nxe5, he had won back the pawn with an advantage, C.Aepfler-P.Enders, Jena 2006.

**15.Nxb6**

15.Nxe7+ Kh8 is good for Black: 16.Nd5 (16.0-0 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Bxe5) 16...Nc6!? with compensation.

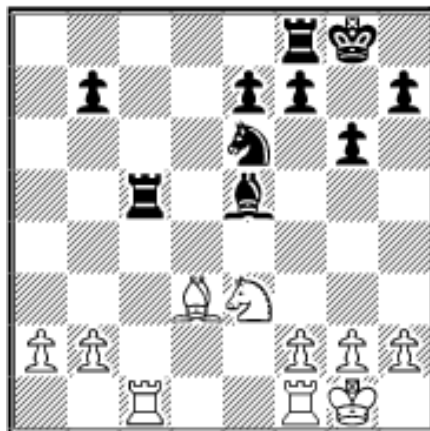
**15...Ra5 16.0-0**

16.Nc4 Rc5 17.b4 Rc7 18.Nfd2 Bxe2 19.Kxe2 Nc6 and Black wins back the pawn keeping the initiative.

**16...Nc6 17.Nc4 Rc5**

White is still under pressure and has to play precisely to keep the balance.

**18.Ne3 Be6!? 19.Ng5 Nd4 20.Bd3 Bxe5 21.Nxe6 Nxe6 22.Rac1**



**22...Rfc8**

Enders could have won a pawn by 22...Rxc1! 23. Rxc1 Bxb2 24.Rb1 Bf6, as 25.Rxb7? fails to 25... Nc5+, so White would be reduced to struggling for a draw by 25.Nd5.

**23.Rc4 Rd8 24.Be4 Rxc4 25.Nxc4 Rd4 26.Nxe5 Rxe4 27.Nf3 Re2 28.Rb1 Nf4 29.Kf1 Rc2 30. Ne1 Rc4 31.g3 Nd5 32.Ke2**

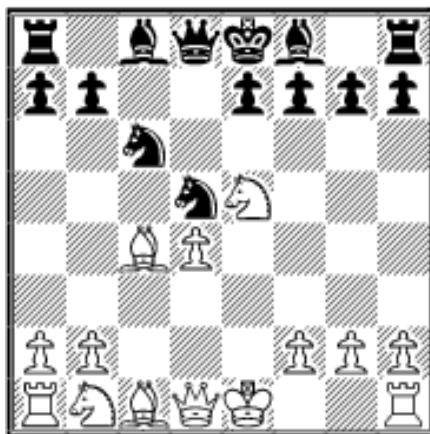
White has survived. Enders presses hard for the full point, but he missed his chance earlier.

**32...f6 33.Rd1 e6 34.Rd2 Kf7 35.Nc2 Re4+ 36.Ne3 Nxe3 37.fxe3 Ke7 38.Kf3 Rc4 39.**

Rd3 b5 40.Rb3 Rc5 41.Rb4 f5 42.h4 h5 43.b3 Rc2 44.Rxb5 Rxa2 45.e4 Kd6 46.Rb8 Rc2 47.exf5 gxf5 48.Kf4 Rf2+ 49.Kg5 Rf3 50.Kf6 Rxd3 51.Rb6+ Kd5 52.Rxe6 f4 53.Re5+ Kd4 54.Rxh5 Rxb3 55.Rf5 Ke4 56.Re5+ Kd4 57.Rf5 f3 58.h5 Ke4 59.Re5+ Kf4 60.Rf5+ Kg4 61.Rg5+ Kh4 62.Rf5 Rb6+ 63.Kg7 Kg4 64.Rxf3 ½-½

*Dimitry Atlas (2350) – Zigurd Lanka (2510)*  
Austria, 1996

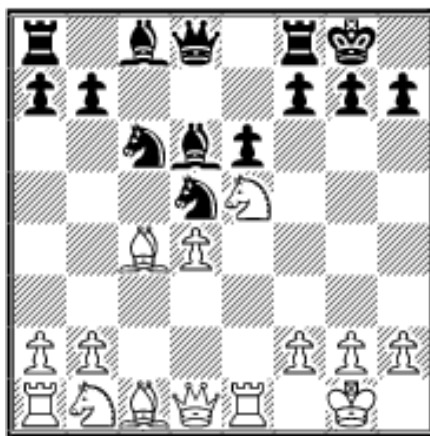
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be4 dxe5 8.Nxe5



White decides to play with an isolated pawn, but he has no prospects of fighting for an opening advantage. His knight looks active on e5, but it would be better to have it on f3! The main reason is that Black can exchange knights on e5 at any time, which indeed is a good option in some positions. In contrast, exchanging on c6 usually doesn't promise White anything. Furthermore, d4 is hanging in some lines.

8...e6 9.0-0 Be7

There is nothing wrong with this solid standard move. Although, with the knight on e5, 9...Bd6!? deserves attention: 10.Re1 (10.Nxc6 bxc6 is comfortable for Black.) 10...0-0



This position illustrates the disadvantages of White's knight on e5. On 11.Nd2 d4 now hangs, while every possible development of the dark-squared bishop loses material and 11.Nc3 is also bad. 11.Nf3!? (11.Nc3?! Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qc7 (Grabbing a pawn with 12...Bxe5 wasn't enough for Black, though that deserved attention. 13.dxe5 Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Nxe5 15.Be2 Nc6, with the idea 16...e5) 13.Bd3 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bxe5 15.Bxh7 + (15.Qh5 f5) 15...Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxe5 Qxe5 18.Rxe5 Rd8=+ M.Rev-S.Wassin, Mondariz 2003) 11...Bb4!? 12.Rf1 b6 13.a3 Be7 14.Nc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bb7 16.Bd3 Bf6. Now we have a typical position with hanging pawns, in

which White has to develop active play to compensate for his weaknesses. In the game he doesn't manage and Black's structural advantage wins the day: 17.Qc2 g6 18.Bh6 Re8 19.Rfe1 Rc8 20.Be4 Qc7 21.Rad1 Na5 22.Bxb7 Nxb7 23.Rd3 Na5 24.Ne5 Nc4 25.Bf4 Nxe5 26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.Rxe5 Rd8=+ 28.h4? Rxd4!-/+ R.Slobodjan-G.Bagaturov, Arco 2000.

## 10.Nxc6

10.Nc3 allows Black to exchange material and enter an endgame with a structural advantage: 10...Nxc3 11.bxc3 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Bd7 This endgame looks drawish, though Black should be at least equal, and maybe even slightly better. White has more space and is somewhat more active, which compensates for the slight structural disadvantage. 14.Rb1 (14.Be3 Rc8 15.Be2 Bc5=+ S.Oschetzki-E.Grivas, Chania 1995) 14...0-0-0 15.Be3 Kb8 16.f4 (16.Rd2 Bc6 17.Rbd1 Rxd2 18.Rxd2 Rc8 19.Bb3 b5 20.f4 a5 21.Bd4 Kb7 22.f5 with unclear play, P.Kufa-S.Firt, Czechia 1996) 16...g6 17.Kf2 h5 18.Bb3 Bc6 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rd1 Rxd1 21.Bxd1 b5 22.Bf3 Bxf3 23.Kxf3= K.Müller-G.

Moehring, Halle 1974.

An important alternative is 10.Re1 0–0 11.Nc3 Nxc3 (or 11...Nxe5 first) 12.bxc3 Nxe5 and now:

A) 13.dxe5 Qc7 (Exchanging queens, as in F.Wallart-A.Ly, La Fere 2006, is possible. After 13...Qxd1!? 14.Rxd1, Rogozenko gives the following lines: 14...Rd8 15.Rxd8+ (15.Be3 Bd7=) 15...Bxd8 16.Be3 Bd7 17.Rd1 Be8!= (17...Bc6? 18.Bxa7 b6 19.Rd6±) 18.Bxa7? b6–/+ 14.Qg4 Now, in L.Bergez-M.Vachier Lagrave, Paris 2005, Black played 14...Rd8, but after 15.Bh6 g6 16.h4!, White could develop an attack and score a nice win: 16...Bd7 17.h5 Be8 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.Re3 Rdc8 20.Bb3 Bc5 21.Rae1! Bxe3 22.Rxe3 Qa5 23.Qh4 1–0.

Instead of 14...Rd8, Rogozenko recommends releasing the pressure by sacrificing a pawn: 14...f5 15.exf6 Bxf6 “and Black must be able to equalize: 16.Bxe6+ Bxe6 17.Qxe6+ Qf7!? with compensation.”

B) 13.Rxe5 Black has been doing extremely well after this move. In most cases he managed to defend against White’s attempts to develop a kingside attack, and then made use of his structural advantage. I think White would rather like to see at least one pair of knights on the board in such positions. 13...Bf6 The most solid approach, as the bishop can help defend the kingside after a later ...g7-g6. (13...Bd6!? is interesting as well: 14.Rh5 (14.Re1? Bxh2+ 15.Kxh2 Qc7+ 16.Kg1 Qxc4–/+ 17.Qf3 Bd7 18.Qg3 f6 19.Rb1 Bc6 20.Qe3 Rfe8 21.a3 e5 22.Bb2 Rad8–+ K.Alevizos-A.Tzermiadianos, Patras 2001) 14...g6 15.Rh6 Qc7 16.Bd3 e5 17.d5 Qxc3 18.Bg5 f5 19.Rc1 Qa5 20.Qb3 Qb6 21.Qa4 e4 22.Bc4 Qb2 23.Rd1 Qg7–/+ Y.Linik-C.Nanu, Andorra 2001) 14.Re3 Bd7 15.Bd3 g6 16.Rb1 Bc6 17.Bb5 Bxb5 18.Rxb5 Qd7 19.Rb3 b6 20.Rd3 Qd5 21.Qf3 Qxf3 22.Rxf3 Bg7 23.Kf1 Rfd8 24.Bg5 Rd5 25.Bf6 Bxf6 26.Rxf6 Ra5 and White’s weaknesses begin to tell in the endgame, M.Walter-D.Donchev, Oberwart 1992.

### 10...bxc6



This structure is usually quite comfortable for Black. There are exceptions, such as when White is able to put pressure on c6, but that’s not the case here. Black’s ideas involve using the semi-open b-file, preparing ...Ba6 or playing ...c6-c5 at the proper moment.

### 11.Nc3 0–0 12.Qf3

12.Bb3 Ba6 13.Re1 Nxc3 14.bxc3 c5 with a good game for Black, in R.Molander-Y.Rantanen, Jyvaskyla 1997.

### 12...Qb6! 13.Rd1 Ba6 14.Bxa6 Qxa6 15.Ne4 Qb6 16.b3 a5! 17.Bg5? f6?

17...f5!–/+ would have directly won material.

18.Bc1 a4 19.Rb1 axb3 20.axb3 f5 21.Nc3 Bf6 22.Nxd5 cxd5 23.Qd3 Ra2 24.Rb2 Ra1 25.Rbd2 h6 26.g3 Kh8 27.Qc3 Raa8 28.Rd3 Rfc8 29.Qb2 Rc6 30.Bf4 Rac8 31.Qe2 Rc2 32.Qe3 Kh7 33.h4 Rb2 34.Re1 Rcc2 35.Rf1 Re2 36.Qf3 Bxd4 0–1





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