



## COLUMNISTS

## Middlegame Motifs

Nigel Davies



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## The Double Bishop Sacrifice

This month's theme is one for the rabid attackers out there, a double bishop sacrifice to strip away the pawn cover in front of a castled king. The attacker then follows up by bringing in a queen and rook in order to mate the undefended king. To bring off this attack successfully there should be no minor pieces defending the opponent's king position. This means they either have to be driven or lured away; for example, via exchanges. The first game I know of in which this sacrifice was played was the game Burn - Owen, Liverpool 1884, but the first really famous one was played by the future World Champion, Emanuel Lasker. In his game against Bauer in 1889, he draws the defending knight away with 14.Nh5 before laying waste to Black's kingside pawn protection.

**Lasker, Emanuel - Bauer, Johann Hermann**

Amsterdam (1), 26.08.1889

Bird's Opening [A03]

**1.f4**

Already something unusual. Throughout most of his career Lasker specialised in 1.e4.

**1...d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.b3 e6 4.Bb2 Be7 5.Bd3 b6 6.Nf3 Bb7 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne2**



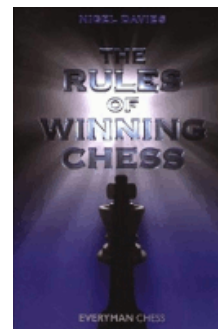
The knight is en route for the kingside to help with White's build up of forces. Black might have answered this with 9...Nc5 in order to exchange off the bishop on d3, but he continues the rather passive development of his pieces.

**9...c5 10.Ng3 Qc7 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Qc6 13.Qe2 a6?!**

Had Black tried 13...g6 he might have been able to defend himself. Now the storm breaks.

**14.Nh5 Nxh5**

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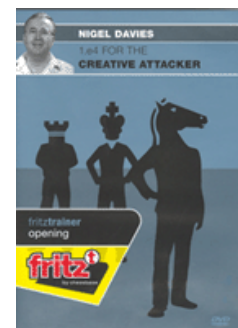
*Rules of Winning Chess*

by Nigel Davies



*Bxh7+*

by David Rudel



*1.e4 for the Creative*

*Attacker*

by Nigel Davies



After 14...d4, there would follow 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Qg4 Kh8 (16...e5 is decisively answered by 17.Be4!) 17.Rf3 Rg8 18.Bxh7!, the point being that 18...Kxh7 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.Rh3# is mate.

**15.Bxh7+!**

Both brilliant and essential. After 15.Qxh5, Black can stop White in his tracks with 15...f5.

**15...Kxh7 16.Qxh5+ Kg8 17.Bxg7!!**



Today Lasker might have tried to copyright this idea.

**17...Kxg7**

If Black had tried to bail out with 17...f5, White would have 18.Be5 Rf6 19.Rf3 with a winning attack.

**18.Qg4+**

And not 18.Rf3 because of 18...Rh8 19.Rg3+ Bg5! 20.Rxg5+ Kf6 when White lacks a good follow-up.

**18...Kh7 19.Rf3 e5 20.Rh3+ Qh6 21.Rxh6+ Kxh6**



**22.Qd7!**

The sting in the tail, winning a piece and the game.

22...Bf6 23.Qxb7 Kg7 24.Rf1 Rab8 25.Qd7 Rfd8 26.Qg4+ Kf8 27.fxe5 Bg7  
28.e6 Rb7 29.Qg6 f6 30.Rxf6+ Bxf6 31.Qxf6+ Ke8 32.Qh8+ Ke7 33.Qg7+  
Kxe6 34.Qxb7 Rd6 35.Qxa6 d4 36.exd4 cxd4 37.h4 d3 38.Qxd3 1-0

Although this attacking scheme is very well known that does not mean it has lost its relevance. The following game is an ample demonstration, with the former World Champion Anatoly Karpov falling victim to it.

**Polgar, Judit (2722) - Karpov, Anatoly (2693)**

Essent Crown Hoogeveen (1), 12.10.2003

Petroff Defence [C42]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c4  
Nb4 9.Be2 0-0 10.a3 Nc6 11.cxd5 Qxd5 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Qd6 14.Rb1  
b6 15.Re1 Be6 16.Bd3 Rae8 17.Rb5!

From the fifth-rank this rook can swing across to the e-file or even the kingside.

17...Na5 18.Rbe5 Nc6 19.R5e2



The transfer of White's rook to e2 leaves her with strong pressure. It's far from easy for Black to free his position without some horrid accident befalling him.

19...Bd7 20.d5 Na5

Of course 20...Qxd5?? 21.Bxh7+ would cost Black his queen. So his knight must journey to the edge of the board.

21.Ne5 Bf6 22.Bf4! Bxe5 23.Bxe5 Qxa3



24.Re3!

With the rook's transfer to the third rank things are looking ominous for Black's king.

24...Qc5?

Missing the threat, though in any case Black is in serious trouble here. For example, after 24...h6, White can play just 25.Bxc7 (25.Rg3 f6 is unconvincing) 25...Rxe3 26.Rxe3 with a powerful passed d-pawn.

25.Bxh7+! Kxh7 26.Qh5+ 1-0



Realising what he had fallen into Karpov resigned. Actually there is no defence; for example, after 26.Qh5+ Kg8 there follows 27.Bxg7 Kxg7 (27...f5 28.Be5 would also give White a mating attack) 28.Rg3+ Kf6 29.Qg5# is mate.

### Exercises (solutions next month)



White to play. What should he do here (solution next month).



White to play. What should he do here (solution next month).

### Solutions to last month's exercises

**Eisenmann, Wolfgang - Heller, Martin**  
Schleswig Holstein-ch 43rd Gluecksburg (3), 1988



Black to play, what should he do here?

Black uncorked the move **20...Rxe3!** which wins a vital pawn. The problem for White is that **21.fxe3** can be met by **21...Ng3+** after which **22.hxg3 Qh5#** is mate. White didn't see the point of Black's rook sacrifice until **21...Ng3+** was played, but he then promptly resigned.

**Sabel, Reinhard - Schwarz, Peter (2280)**

Wiesbaden op (1), 1994



Black to play, what's his best move?

**23...Nxe3!** Smashing open White's defences. The problem is that after **24.fxe3 Qxg3+** White cannot play **25.Qg2** because **25...Qxe3+** would pick up the knight on c3. Instead there followed **25.Kh1 Rxe3 26.Ne2 Qh3+ 27.Kg1 Qg4 + 28.Kf2 Rae8 29.Rd2 Rf3+** and White resigned. After **30.Ke1 Qg3+ 31.Kd1 Rxf1#**, he is mated.

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