



## Flexible system of defensive play for Black – 1...b6

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A few years ago during II League Polish Team Championship, Spala 2001, on a stand selling chess literature I purchased a book entitled „English defence” written by Daniel King. I started working very eagerly on the new opening because I was not satisfied with Slovan defence I used of play that time and I was searching for different set for Black. I was only afraid of one thing: whether this new opening is correct? That’s why, a 15-minute game with M. Grabarczyk (2495), a 25-minute game with R. Kempinski (2561) or a blitz game with K. Sakajev (2657) from Russia had a great meaning to me. Unexpectedly, none of mentioned grandmasters could not achieve advantage in the opening, and what’s more, the first two may speak of truly great luck. Telling the truth, those games were played at the fast rate, yet Black also achieved satisfying results in games played at classic rate, e.g. on tournament YMCA-SPRING, Warsaw 2004 (average rating 2301 Elo) with MF M. Rudolf (2425), with the winner of the tournament M.

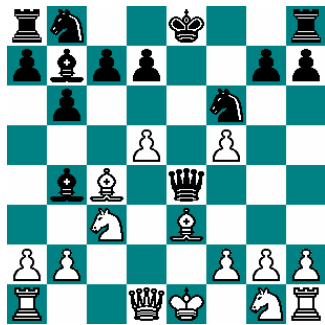
Nurkiewicz (2360) and E. Szwier (2278) I achieved 1.5 points, and as you can find out personally in the moment, my score could be much higher.

At the beginning I played exclusively English defence (1.c4/d4 b6) and some time later also Owen’s defence (1.e4 b6). Moreover I had to get acquainted with Nimzowitch defence (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6), Dutch defence (1.d4 f5), French defence (1.e4 e6) and Queen’s Indian defence (1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6) hitherto known to me only by hearing. All those openings mentioned above create one huge system of defensive play for Black with characteristic bringing the Bishop out on b7. This way of playing is not very popular, what is quite unjust, because it leads to very interesting positions. Once a strong English grandmasters like T. Miles and J. Speelman used to play 1...b6. In my opinion it’s only weakness is that it must be played courageously and imaginatively, e.g. in case of taking the center by White, Black should break the center, just like they did in game (1-3). However,

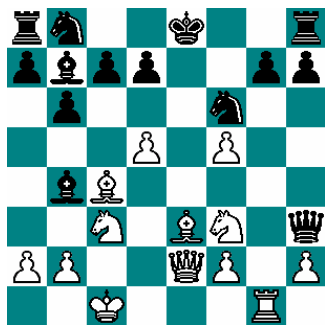
in so-called hippopotamus formation you should not be afraid of passive play in opening – games (4-5), because the position will surely become sharper in middle game, just like in three last games (6-8) in Owen’s defence.

**(1) M. Szymanski 2405 – M. Maciaga 2248, Warsaw 2004, 15 min, 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4?! White plays logically trying to build a strong center, but immediate realization of this plan meets a strong reply from Black side, that’s why many players prefer to play first 4.a3 or 4.Nf3. 4...Bb4 5.d5** In one of my games came 5.Bd3 f5 6.d5 (6.ef5? Bxg2 7.Qh5+ Kf8; 6.f3 fe4 7.fe4 Bxc3+ 8.bc3 Nf6! with danger of Nf6xe4) 6...fe4 7.Bxe4 Qh4 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.Bf3 0-0 (9...Ba6!? 10.de6 d5) 10.de6 Nc6 11.ed7 (11.g3 Qd4 12.Bd2 Ba6 13.ed7 Bxc4 14.Qe3 Qxd7 15.0-0-0 Rae8 -/+) 11...Nd4 12.Qd3 and now after 12...Nxd7 White in slightly worse position got completely lost. **5...Qe7! 6.Be3 f5!** Breaking the chain of White pawns in the center has on

purpose joining to the game White Bishop on a8-h1 diagonal. In such type of positions it is also possible to consider move b6-b5 or eventually plan Nb8-a6-c5 combined with a7-a5 and Bb4xc3. 7.ef5 ed5 8.cd5 Nf6 9.Bc4 Qe4



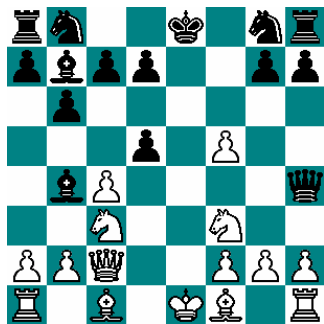
10.Qe2! 10.Be2 Nxd5 11.Bf3 Nxc3! 12.bc3 Bxc3+ 13.Kf1 Qc4+ 14.Be2 Qd5 15.Qxd5 Bxd5 leads to distinctly better ending for Black. 10...Qxg2 11.0-0-0 Qxh1 12.Nf3 Qg2 13.Rg1 Qh3



14.Bc5+? White goes to far worse ending for them with less quality point. 14.Bh6+! would have been a better try, but Black still has a great position, e.g. 14...Kd8! [14...Be7 15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.d6 (16.Rg3 Qxg3) 16...Rxxg7 17.Rxxg7 Qh6+ 18.Ng5 Qxg7 19.Bf7+ Qxf7 20.Nxf7 Nc6 21.Ng5 cd6 22.Nxh7 was unclear] 15.Bxg7 Rf8 16.Ng5 Qxf5 17.Bxf8 Bxc3! 18.bc3

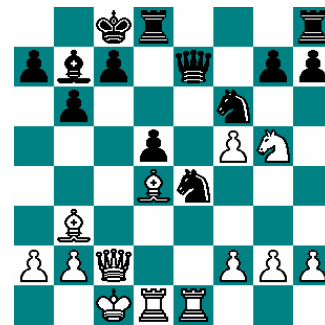
Bxd5. 14...Kd8 15.Bxb4 Re8 16.Ne5 Qxf5 17.Nf7+ Kc8 18.Qd2 Na6 19.Ba3 Nc5 20.Bxc5 bc5 21.Rg5 In very complex position White unfortunately did not took advantage on their last chance – 21.Nb5! Kb8 22.Qa5, although after further 22...Qf4+ 23.Kb1 Rc8 Black still kept slight advantage. 21...Qf3 22.Nb5 Qh1+ 23.Kc2 Qe4+ 24.Bd3 Qa4+ 25.Kb1 Bxd5 26.Nbd6+ cd6 27.Nxd6+ Kd8 28.Rxd5 Nxd5 29.Nxe8 Kxe8 30.Qe2+ Kd8 31.Be4 Qd4 32.Qf3 Rb8 33.b3 Nc3+ 0-1

(2) MF D. Barwinski 2230 – M. Maciaga 2248, Ciechanow 2004, 30 min, 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.e4 Bb7 4.Nc3?! Bb4 5.Qc2 Qh4! 6.d5 f5! 7.ef5 ed5 8.Nf3



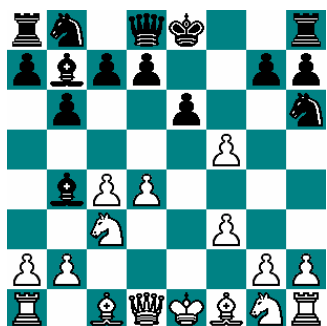
8...Qe7+?! Much more promise was 8...Qe4+! 9.Qxe4 de4. Then it turned out, that all departures of White Knight are wrong, e.g. 10.Ng5 Bxc3+ 11.bc3 h6 12.Nh3 Ne7 and now White have to weaken their position playing g2-g4 to safe the f5-pawn. 9.Be3 Nf6 10.0-0-0 dc4? Another

inaccuracy. Definitely better for Black was 10...Bxc3! 11.Qxc3 Nc6 12.cd5 Nb4 13.Bc4 Nbx d5 14.Qb3 Nxe3. 11.Bxc4 Bxc3 12.Qxc3 d5 13.Bb3 Nbd7 14.Rhe1 Ne4 15.Qc2 Ndf6 16.Bd4 0-0-0 17.Ng5

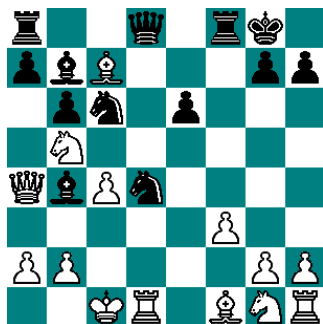


17...Qd7?? 18.Ne6 Uff! After 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Rxe4! de4? 20.Be6 Black could finally stop the clock. Although White easily achieved winning position after their movement, a player who prefers combined style of play would not certainly miss such a strike. 18...Rde8 19.f3 Nd6 20.Bxf6 gf6 21.Bxd5 c6 22.Be4 Kb8 23.Rd2 Qe7 24.Red1 Rd8 25.Nxd8 Rxd8 26.Kb1 Kc7 27.Qa4 a6 (...) 0-1 The result of the game was determined in mutual time-trouble. White first lost a pawn on h2 and then could not break the resistance of Black turned quality. Finally, he exceeded the time limit in an equal position. The game was a very nervous kind because the victory in it practically decided of the reward for 1<sup>st</sup> place with a very pretty, 48 cm high cup!

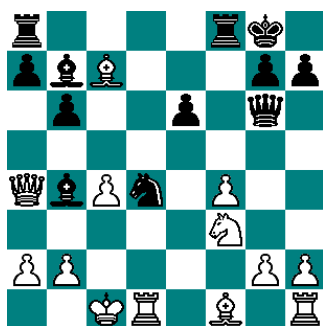
(3) R. Standowicz 2150 – M. Maciaga 2205, Wysowa-Zdroj 2003, Polish Team Championship – II league, 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4?! Bb4 5.f3 At first glance, White center looks very solid. However, also this time, thanks to smooth and not-so-obvious moves Black stir the game. 5...f5! 6.ef5 Nh6!



7.fe6 Only this move might be dangerous for Black because 7.Bxh6? Qh4+ 8.g3 Qxh6 9.Qd2 Qxd2+ 10.Kxd2 Nc6 and also 7.Bd3 0-0 8.fe6 Nf5 with danger Qd8-h4+ or d7xe6 joined with Nb8-c6xd4 led in both cases to better position for Black. 7...Nf5! 8.Bf4 Taking another pawn, i.e. 8.ed7+ with retarded of White looks slightly risky, but after following 8...Nxd7 9.Bf4 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qe7+!? 11.Qe2 there's still no sign of advantage for Black. 8...de6 9.Qa4+ Nc6 10.0-0 Also 10.d5 ed5 11.0-0 d4 led to an interesting play. 10...Nfxd4 11.Nb5 0-0 12.Bxc7



12...Qg5+! I discovered this move at home, just before going away on competition. Analyzing this position I did not even suspect, that so soon an occasion happen to check it out in practice. Till then only 12...Qe7 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Bc5 15.Rd7 Qg5+ 16.Kc2 Rac8 was played, just like in Sadler – Kengis, Koge 1997. 13.f4 Qg6! 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Nf3 Better was 15.Rxd4, although Black still keep winning position after 15...Bc5 16.Ne2 Bxd4 17.Nxd4 Qe4 18.Nc2 Rf7! 19.Be5 Rad8 with following very nice plan of doubling Rooks on d-file.



15...Bc6 After this move the following events are forced and lead to slight advantage for Black. It turns out anyway, that 15...b5! 16.cb5 Rac8 won the game instantly. 16.Ne5 Bxa4 17.Nxg6 Bxd1 18.Nxf8 Ba4 19.b3 Bc6 20.Be5 Ba3+ 21.Kd2

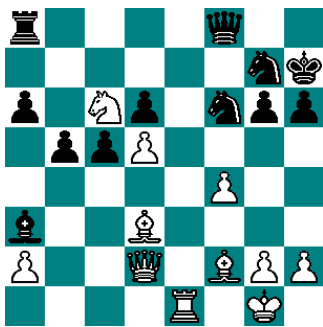
Rd8 22.Kc3 Kxf8 23.Bxd4 Bb2+ 24.Kxb2 Rxd4 25.Kc3 Rxf4 25...Rd1 could paralyse White for long time, although it was not necessarily a good move. 26.Bd3 Bxg2 27.Re1 Kf7 Black plan looks simple – use the advantage of one pawn on Queenside with active assistance of other pieces. 28.a4 h5 29.a5 g5 30.ab6 ab6 31.Kb4 Bc6 32.Ra1 Rf3 33.Bh7 g4 34.Ra6 h4 35.Ra2 Of course, in case of 35.Rxb6 g3! Black easily won the game. 35...g3 36.hg3 hg3 37.Rg2 Rxb3+ 0-1

(4) V. Zheliandinov 2378 (UKR) – M. Maciaga 2205 Warsaw 2003, 25 min, 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.Nf3 g6!? Black can also come to Nimzowitch defence playing 4...Bb4 or one of variants of Dutch defence after 4...f5. 5.e4 Bg7 Black wants to play so-called hippopotamus formation which characterizes a slightly passive play in opening, but in middle game after coming to c7-c5 and/or f7-f5 the play becomes much more lively. 6.Bg5 Nge7 7.Qd2 h6 8.Be3 d6 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.0-0 a6 Move a7-a6 prevents Nc3-b5 after c7-c5, just like h7-h6 prepares f7-f5 in case of Nf3-g5. 11.Rad1 Kf8 12.Ne1 Kg8

13.f4 f5 14.Bf2 c5 15.Nc2 Kh7  
16.Rfe1 Re8



17.d5 A real play begins just now, because till then both sides mobilized their forces. 17...ed5 18.ef5 Nxf5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5! In case of 19...Bxb2 20.Rxe8 Qxe8 White won quality point with move 21.Nc7. 20.cd5 Bxb2 21.Re6 Nf6 22.Rde1 Rxe6 23.Rxe6 Ng7 24.Re1 b5? Much more precise was 24...Ng4 25.Bg3 b5! 26.h3 Nf6. 25.Nb4 Ba3? 25...cb4 26.Qxb2 Qf8! (26...Nxd5 27.Bxg6+ Kxg6 28.Qb1+ Kf7 29.Qb3) with equal position. 26.Nc6 Qf8

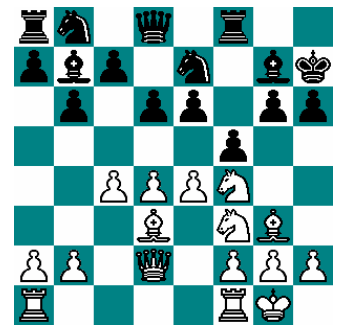


27.Qc2? 27.Bxg6+! Kxg6 28.Qd3+ Kf7 29.Ne7 won the game at once and even giving up the Queen after 29...Qxe7 did not help Black. 27...Nxd5 28.Bxg6+ Kh8 29.Qb3 Nxf4 30.Bb1 Re8 With threat of Re8xe1+, Bf2xe1, Nf4-e2+, Kgl-h1 and Qf8-f1 mate. 31.Qc2

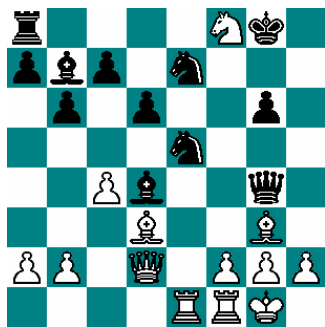
Qg8? A line 31...Kg8! 32.Rf1 Nf5 33.Qxf5 Qxf5 34.Bxf5 Ne2+ should have been played, which in contradiction to this one from game did not loose in forced way. 32.Rxe8? After 32.Ne7! Rxe7 33.Rxe7 threats of Nf4-h3 and Ng7-f5 would be only illusion. 32...Nxe8 33.Bg3 Nd5 34.Qf5 Bb2 35.Nd8 (...) 1/2-1/2 The game continued for a long time and ended very dramatically. In mutual time-trouble in easily won endgame Black gave up two Bishop for nothing, and White in revenge for it made illegal move, which brought Black bonus two minutes of time. Next, in time 5 s to 30 s (electronic clock) Black quite needlessly promoted two pawns into Queens forcing White to give up two Bishops. On the chess-board left only two Kings so, this game ended with draw.

(5) GM R. Kempinski 2561 – M. Maciaga 2205, Warsaw 2003, 25 min, 1.d4 Despite the fact, that my name was already on the start list, I was not matched instantly in I round, just like about 20 other people. Only after 10 minutes I was put in absence of player with II category. To make whole thing funnier, I decided to make notes of game in a notebook. Probably these are the reasons of a bit poor

disposition of grandmaster (...)  
1...e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.Nf3 g6!? 5.e4 Bg7 6.Bd3 Ne7 7.0-0? Castling makes the play for Black more easy, which plans to play h7-h6, 0-0, Kg8-h7 and f7-f5. That's why White should have played 7.Be3 h6 (7...0-0? 8.Qd2 with following Be3-h6 and h2-h4-h5) 8.Qd2 Kf8!? (with plan Kf8-g8-h7) 9.h4 (with further 0-0-0), what gave them a strong attack on the Kingside. 7...0-0 8.Bf4 h6 9.Qd2 Kh7 10.Be5? f6 11.Bg3? Bishop went on wrong diagonal. 11...d6 Funny set of Black pawns. 12.Ne2 f5 13.Nf4



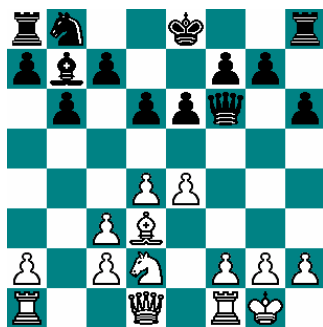
13...fe4! Playing with stronger player than ourselves, it is worth to try positions with unbalanced material, because it makes it far more difficult to opponent to estimate the position, and as a result it increases our chances. 14.Nxe6 Qc8 15.Nfg5+ hg5 16.Nxg5+ Kg8 17.Nxe4 Bxd4! 18.Rae1 Nbc6 19.Ng5 Qg4 20.Ne6 Ne5! 21.Nxf8



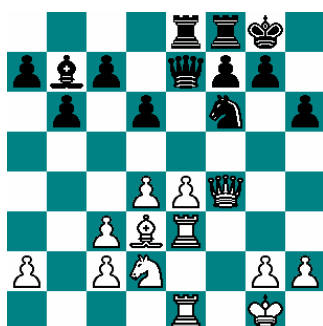
21...Rxf8?? Now, White is easily winning because Black committed a very sad in consequence inaccuracy. However, after 21...Qf3!! 22.gf3 Nxf3 23.Kh1 Nxe1+! 24.f3 Nxf3 Black in elegant way won the game in miniature with grandmaster! 22.Be4 Bxe4 23.Qxd4 Rf4 24.f3 c5 25.Qxe4 Rxe4 26.fg4 Rxe1 27.Rxe1 N7c6 28.Bxe5 Nxe5 29.b3 Kf7 30.g5 1-0

(6) MF M. Rudolf 2425 – M. Maciaga 2248, Warsaw 2004, YMCA-SPRING tournament, 1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 e6 It would be too soon for 3...f5? 4.ef5 Bxg2 5.Qh5+ g6 6.fg6 Bg7 7.gh7+? Kf8 8.hg8Q+ Kxg8 taking into consideration 7.Qf5! Nf6 8.Bh6!! Therefore, Black must prepare f7-f5 playing e7-e6 and then only after c2-c4, Nb1-c3 or f2-f4 to play this move. 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bb4 6.Bg5 Once I found in the Internet an article written by an international master, which recommended this line against Owen's defence. From that moment I saw that

Michal, who also had an occasion to get acquainted with those analyzes, often plays this line. 6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bc3 d6 10.Nd2

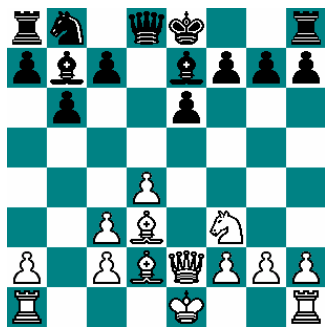


10...Nd7? Despite apparently calm play, Black must be worry. Unfortunately, with their last move they let White play f2-f4 with following e4-e5!, that's why absolutely necessary was 10...e5! 11.f4 Qe7. 11.f4 0-0 12.Qh5?! Qe7 13.Rae1?! White twice did not advanced on the occasion and now the play comes again to the main paths of theory. Move e4-e5 was much more dangerous for Black since they castled on the short side. Otherwise after e4-e5 Black could have played d6-d5, g7-g6 in case of f4-f5 and 0-0-0 coming to one of the variants of French defence. However, even then White felt a bit better. 13...e5! 14.Re3 Nf6 15.Qh4 ef4 16.Qxf4 Rae8 17.Rfe1



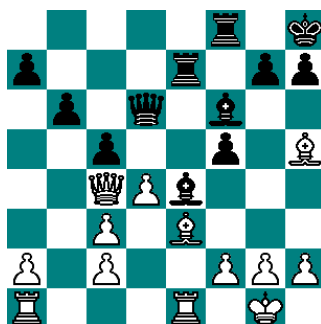
17...Nh5!? Black intends to simplify a bit the position exchanging Queens. However, much more safe was keeping the tension in center by playing 17...c5. 18.Qg4 Qg5 19.Qxg5 hg5 20.e5 Nf4 21.ed6 Rxe3 22.Rxe3 cd6 23.Be4 Re8! In case of 23...Bxe4? 24.Nxe4 one of pawns on d6 or g5 was lost. 24.g3 Nd5 Also after 24...Bxe4 25.gf4 Bc6 26.Rxe8+ Bxe8 27.fg5 White left with one pawn more. 25.Bxh7+ Kf8 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.Be4 Bc6 28.c4 Ne7 29.Kf2 f5 30.Bxc6+ Nxc6 31.c3 Ke7 As a result of not quite studied decision related to exchanging Queens Black fell under strong attack and finally now they managed to repel it. 32.Ke3 Kf6 33.Nb1 Ne7 34.Na3 g6? Unexpectedly, after 34...d5 Black caught the wind and now they could try to make result of game advantageous for them. 35.Nb5 Nc8 36.a4 Ke6 37.Kf3 g4+ 38.Ke3 g5 39.Nc7+ Kd7 40.Nd5 Ke6 41.Nc7+ 1/2-1/2

(7) M. Nurkiewicz 2364 – M. Maciaga 2248, Warsaw 2004, YMCA-SPRING tournament, 1.e4 b6 2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Qe2 d5 7.ed5 Nxd5 8.Bd2 Nxc3 9.bc3 Be7



**10.Ne5!?** Very interesting appeared also 10.h4!? after which Black of course could not castle due to 10...0-0? 11.Bxh7+! Kxh7 12.Ng5+ Kg8 13.Qh5+ Be4 14.Nxe4. The main continuation was 10.0-0 Nd7 11.a4 a5! 12.c4 0-0 13.Rab1, like in Kupreichik – Rudolf, Bardejov 2001. Black should have tried now to get to e6-e5 after Rf8-e8 and Be7-f6. Unfortunately, they choose a wrong plan and after 13...Nf6? 14.c3 c5? 15.Rfd1 Qc7 16.Ne5 Rfd8 17.Bf4 Bd6 18.Rd2 Nd7 19.Bh7+ Kf8 20.Bc2 Bxe5 21.de5 Qc6 22.Qg4 f6 23.Rbd1 1-0 they lost the game. **10...0-0 11.Qh5 f5!** Despite all appearances, this move is not that bad, as it might occur at first sight. In case of 11...h6? 12.Bxh6 White easily won, and on the other hand 11...g6 12.Nxg6 (12.Bxg6? fg6 13.Nxg6 Qe8) 12...hg6 13.Bxg6 fg6 14.Qxg6+ led to draw. However, after 11...g6 White would probably play 12.Qe2 with futher plan h2-h4-h5, what would secure them a long term initiative. **12.0-0 Nd7 13.Nxd7**

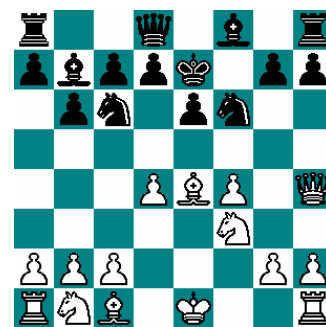
**Qxd7 14.Qe2 Bf6 15.Bc4 Rae8 16.Rfe1 Qd6** Consequences of giving up a pawn are hard to account, however the initiative for pawn is more tempting than obvious 16...Bd5 with eventual exchange of Bishops. **17.Bxe6+ Kh8 18.Qc4 Be4!** Taking the pawn on e6 White surely not consider this move. **19.Bf7 Re7 20.Bh5 c5 21.Be3**



**21...f4?!** Played after long thinking to avoid mistake in a very complicated calculations. It turns out anyway, that quite simple 21...cd4 22.Bxd4 (22.Rad1? Bxc2 23.Rd2 d3; 22.cd4? Rc7) 22...Rc7 23.Qb3 Bxd4 gave Black a large advantage. **22.dc5 Qe5 23.Bd4 Qxh5 24.Bxf6 Qg6 25.Bg5?** 25.Bxg7+! winning the game at once. **25...Bxg2?!** Inaccuracy, which as a matter of fact caused weakening of position around White King. However, after 25...Rfe8! Black won quality point. **26.h4 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Qc6 28.Qe6 Qa8 29.h5 h6?** Absolutely necessary was 29...Bh1! with big chances for draw. **30.Bxh6 Rf6 31.Qe8+**

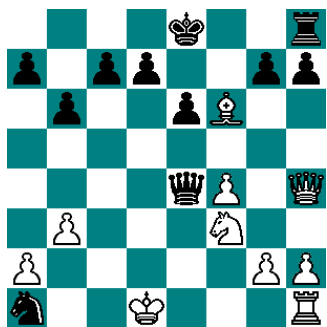
**Kh7 32.Bxg7 Kxg7 33.Qe7+ Rf7 34.h6+ Kg8 35.Qe8+ Qxe8 36.Rxe8+ Kh7 37.Kxg2 Kxh6?** A large inaccuracy, which definitively decides of the result of game. Just like in the saying, that all Rooks ending bring draw, a last chance for Black was 37...bc5 with futher active play of Black Rook. **38.c6 Kg5 39.Rc8 Kg4 40.f3+ Kf5 41.c7 1-0**

(8) E. Szwier 2282 – M. Maciaga 2248, Warsaw 2004, YMCA-SPRING tournament, **1.d4 e6 2.e4 b6 3.Bd3 Bb7 4.f4 f5 5.Qe2 fe4** Another possibility was 5...Nc6 6.c3 (6.ef5? Qh4+) 6...fe4 7.Be4 Nf6 8.Bd3 Bd6 with equal play. **6.Bxe4 Nc6!** In this system of defensive play for Black their White square Bishop on b7 is a very important piece and only in extreme situation Black should exchange it. **7.Qh5+ Ke7 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Qh4**



**9...Nxd4** From the very first moves Black`s play makes impression. First they decided to courageously bring out their King, and now they are

exchanging a key Bishop.  
**10.Bxb7 Nxc2+ 11.Kd1 Nxa1**  
**12.b3 Ke8 13.Bxa8 Qxa8**  
**14.Nc3 Bb4 15.Bd2 Bxc3**  
**16.Bxc3 Qe4 17.Bxf6**



**17...Qb1+?! 17...Qc2+!** **18.Ke1**  
**Qxg2 19.Rg1 Nc2+ 20.Kd1**  
**Qxf3+ 21.Kxc2 g6** and now the  
 advantage of three pawns should  
 be enough to win the game, e.g.  
**22.Qxf6 Rf8 23.Qg7 Qxf4** or  
**22.Rg7 Qe4+** and **Qe4-d4.**  
**18.Ke2 Qxh1 19.Qh5+ g6**  
**20.Qg5 Rf8 21.Ne1?** It is a sin  
 not to take advantage of such an  
 occasion, like **21.Bd8! Kf7**  
**22.Be7**, although Black still kept  
 slight advantage after **22...Re8**  
**23.Ne5+ Kg8 24.Nxg6 (24.Nxd7**  
**Qb1) 24...h6 25.Qg4 Qb1.**  
**21...Qxh2 22.Bxa1 Rf5 23.Qg4**  
**Rxf4 24.Be5 Rxc4 25.Bxh2**  
**Re4+ 26.Kf2 d6 27.Nf3 Kd7**  
 (...) **0-1** Black had no problems  
 in making their advantage real,  
 although they needed 22 more  
 moves to do it.

## Conclusion

This system of defensive  
 play for Black could also be  
 successfully used playing with

reversed color, that means  
 playing White with one more  
 tempo. This system from very  
 first moves leads to exceptionally  
 complex positions and appears a  
 really good way to catch an  
 opponent by surprise. Despite the  
 fear, that it is not fully-fledged  
 system of defensive play for  
 Black, because strong players  
 seldom use it, it is difficult to  
 show a best continuation for  
 White.

In Rudolf's opinion, the  
 best line for White against  
 English defence is **1.d4 e6 2.c4**  
**b6 3.e4 Bb7 4.Bd3 Bb4+ 5.Kf1**  
**f5 6.ef5 Nf6 7.Be2!** (it prepares  
 c4-c5 and threatens Be2-h5+)  
**7...0-0 8.c5 bc5 9.a3 Ba5 10.dc5**  
**Nd5 11.Sf3 (11.fe6!?) 11...Wxf5**  
**12.b4 Nxb4 13.ab4 Bxb4 14.Bb2,**  
 just like in Bielawski – Short,  
 Groningen 1997. I admit, that  
 ending position is much more  
 profitable for White, but Black  
 can straighten their play  
 choosing: **4...f5 5.ef5 Bxg2**  
**6.Qh5+ g6 7.fg6 Bg7 8.gh7 Kf8**  
**9.Bg5 Nf6 10.Qh4 Bxh1 11.Ne2**  
**Qe7!?** Black can also draw back  
 their Bishop **5...Bf8** with  
 following plan of coming to  
 hippopotamus formation or at  
 least play **5...Be7! 6.Nf3 Nc6**  
**7.a3 d6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Nxe5 de5**  
**10.Be3 Nf6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.de6?**  
**fe6**, like in Joyce – Speelman,

Bunratty Masters 1998. Loss of  
 one tempo by Black for drawing  
 back their Bishop (**5...Be7!**) in  
 comparison to fact, that White  
 King was decastled does not  
 certainly decide of anything yet.

Other interesting plan of  
 play for White, also suggested by  
 Rudolf is **1.e4 b6 2.d4 e6 3.Be3**  
**Bb7 4.Nbd2 Nf6 5.Bd3.** If Black  
 play calmly now and castle on  
 short side, White will lead attack  
 on Kingside, and in case of  
**5...d5 6.f3 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.Nge2**  
**cd4 9.cd4 de4 10.fe4 Ng4 11.Bg1**  
**Nb4 12.Bb1** appears exception-  
 ally interesting position, which  
 as analyzes show is more  
 advantageous for White.

**The End**