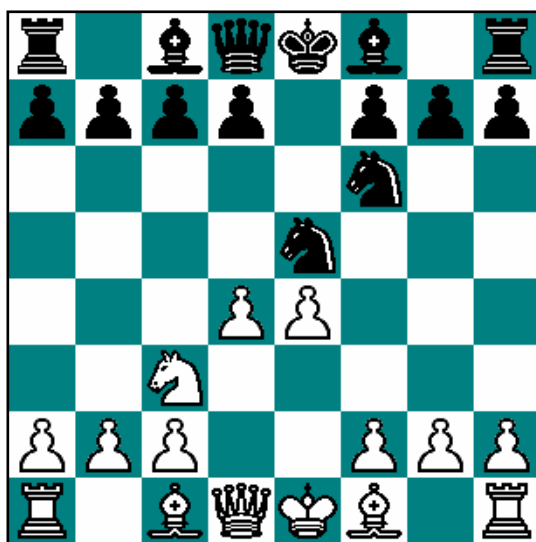


**Thematic tournament in Four Knights defence: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nxe5 (Halloween gambit) 4...Nxe5 5.d4**



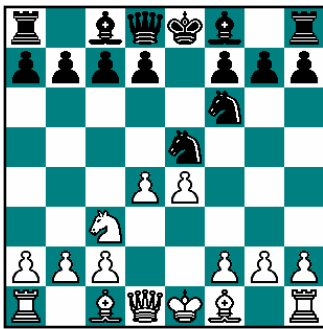
Position after 5.d4

*“Another move in the Halloween gambit tournament. It is a very strange piece sacrifice this opening. I think my Black games are very difficult and with White I always think I am losing just the piece, hah” – MF J. Blokhuis.*

## Thematic tournament in Four Knights defence: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nxe5 (Halloween gambit) 4...Nxe5 5.d4

Written by Marcin Maciaga; <http://d-artagnan.webpark.pl/>; [d-artagnan@wp.pl](mailto:d-artagnan@wp.pl)

In 2003 Maurits Wind from Netherlands organized thematic tournament in the Four Knights defence (C 47) from the initial position arose after the sequence of moves: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nxe5 (Halloween gambit) 4...Nxe5 5.d4 *See Diagram*



Every participant had 10 games to play sending moves to the partners via e-mail. The tempo of the game was 30 days for 10 moves for each player and first exceeding the time limit loses the game. In order to prepare better to the games before starting the tournament all players received a theoretical overview of the Halloween gambit written by Wind. On the ground of it Black could not repeat the same variant. Despite the fact that there was no any entry

fee there only 13 competitors with average 2229 Elo played *See Table 1*. Among them were GM Vadim Milov (Switzerland), IM Ilmars Starostits (Latvia), MF Antonio Torrecillas (Spain) and MF Jeroen Blokhuis (Netherlands). Moreover, just after the tournament Alfonso Jerez (Spain) was given IM-title. The first prize was 800 Euro, 2<sup>nd</sup> 400 Euro, 3<sup>rd</sup> 200 Euro, 4<sup>th</sup> 150 Euro, 5<sup>th</sup> 100 Euro and 6<sup>th</sup> 50 Euro. The prize money was shared between the players with the identical score or precisely with the same percentage because all games with G. Albarran (Argentina) were canceled. This player had to withdraw for personal reasons at the beginning of the tournament. M. Wind (Netherlands) became a winner with 8.5 points *See Table 1*. Close behind him MF A. Torrecillas (Spain) with 8 points and F. Steenbekkers (Netherlands) with 6.5 points. M. Wind as well as MF A. Torrecillas did not lose any game!

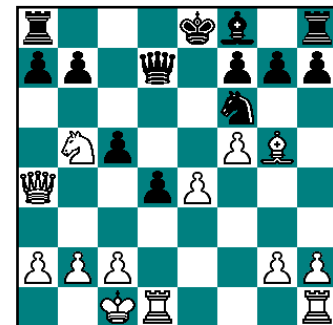
**Table 1.** Bold-faced type marked points taken by Black. White gained 36% and Black 64% of all 65 points (+15; =17; -33).

List of participants	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	Score	Place
1. Alfonso Jerez 2392, Spain*	●	●	<b>1</b>	=	=	0	=	1	=	0	<b>1</b>	0	●	5 (50%)	VIII
2. Gustavo Albarran 2226, Argentina	●	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	XIII
3. Paul Keiser 1932, Belgium	0	●	●	●	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	<b>0</b>	=	=	0	<b>0</b>	3	X
4. GM Vadim Milov 2592, Switzerland	=	+	●	●	●	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	=	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	0	6	IV-VII
5. Arie Werksma 2196, Netherlands	=	+	0	●	●	●	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	=	0	=	2.5	XI-XII
6. Eric Fraikin 1985, Netherlands	<b>1</b>	+	<b>1</b>	0	●	●	●	=	0	<b>1</b>	0	=	0	5 (44%)	IX
7. MF Antonio Torrecillas 2389, Spain	=	+	1	<b>1</b>	1	●	●	●	<b>1</b>	=	<b>1</b>	=	=	8	II
8. MF Jeroen Blokhuis 2339, Netherlands	<b>0</b>	+	<b>0</b>	0	<b>1</b>	=	●	●	●	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	2.5	XI-XII
9. Frans Hoynck 2043, Netherlands	=	+	1	=	1	<b>1</b>	0	●	●	●	=	=	<b>0</b>	6	IV-VII
10. Marcin Maciaga 2207, Poland	<b>1</b>	+	=	0	<b>1</b>	0	=	1	●	●	●	<b>1</b>	0	6	IV-VII
11. IM Ilmars Starostits 2398, Latvia	0	+	=	<b>1</b>	=	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	=	●	●	●	=	6	IV-VII
12. Franck Steenbekkers 2073, Netherlands	<b>1</b>	+	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	=	=	1	=	0	●	●	●	6.5	III
13. Maurits Wind 2200, Netherlands	●	+	1	<b>1</b>	=	<b>1</b>	=	<b>1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	=	●	●	8.5	I

\*Currently A. Jerez owns IM-title.

**(1) P. Keiser (1932) – MF J. Blokhuis (2339)**

**5...Qe7?!** Declining the gambit at fifth move is a wrong decision since Black at least can only equal position, e.g. a) **5...Bb4?!** 6.de5 Nxe4 7.Qg4! Nxc3 (7...d5 8.Qxg7 Rf8 9.Bd3 Nxc3 10.a3 Ba5 11.Bd2 Qe7 12.bc3 +/-) 8.Qxg7! Rf8 9.a3 Ba5 10.Bd2 Qh4 11.bc3 Qe4+ 12.Kd1 +/-; b) **5...Bd6** 6.de5 [6.Nb5!? Ng6 (6...Nxe4 7.de5 Bc5 8.Qg4 +/-; 6...Nc6 7.e5 Qe7 8.Be2 Nxe5 9.de5 Bxe5 10.f4! Bd6 11.Nxd6+ =) 7.e5 Bxe5 8.de5 Nxe5 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Bxg5 gf6 11.Be2 =; 6.f4 Ng6 7.e5 Bb4 8.ef6 Qxf6 9.Be2 =] **6...Bxe5** 7.Bd3 d5 8.ed5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.0-0 Be6 11.Qe2 0-0-0 =. **6.de5 Qxe5** **7.f4!** Joined pawns e4 and f4 provides a long-lasting advantage. **7...Qe6?!** 7...Qa5 8.Bd2 c6 9.Bd3 d6 10.Qf3 deserved for attention. **8.Qd4 d5?** Much better was 8...c6. **9.f5** 9.Nxd5 also led to the advantage. **9...Qe7** **10.Bg5** **c5** **11.Qa4+** **Bd7** **12.Bb5** **d4** **13.0-0-0** Please note, that Black has developed only three pieces and his King is still in the middle while White's entire army is in action. **13...Bxb5** **14.Nxb5** **Qd7** *See Diagram*

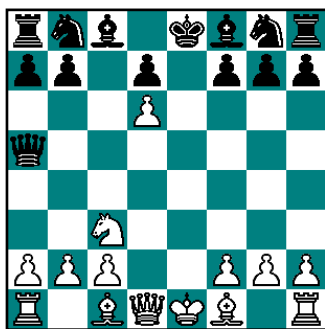


**15.Rhe1! 1-0** White did not need to hurry with taking a material at once playing **15.Bxf6?!** gf6 16.Nc7+ Kd8 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Nxa8 due to 18...Bh6+ 19.Kb1 Rxa8. After the text move Black position comes tumbling down, e.g. **15...Be7** 16.e5 Nd5 17.Nd6+ Bxd6 18.ed6+ Ne3 19.Rxe3+ de3 20.Qe4+.

**(2) F. Hoynck (2043) – A. Werksma (2196)**

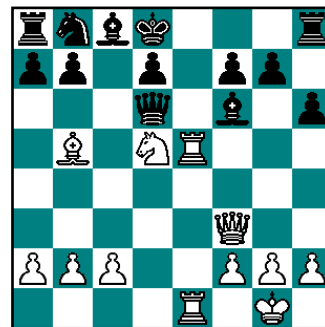
**5...Nc6!?** An interesting question is whether Black Knight should retreat on c6 or g6-square? I prefer the second alternative but quite a few of my friends believe that retreating Knight on c6-square makes possible to simplify the position obtaining small advantage. **6.d5 Nb8** Black would also consider **6...Nb4** 7.a3 Na6 8.e5 Ng8 9.d6 cd6 10.ed6. **7.e5**

**Ng8** 7...Qe7?! 8.Qe2 (8.Bf4!? d6 9.Bb5+ c6 10.0-0) 8...Ng8 9.d6 Qe6! (many players with claustrophobic thinking continue with 9...Qd8?? 10.Nd5 Na6 11.Nf6+ or 9...cd6 10.Nd5 Qxe5 11.Nc7+ Kd8 12.Nxa8 b6 13.Be3 Bb7 14.Nxb6 ab6 15.Bxb6+ Kc8 16.0-0-0 Qxe2 17.Bxe2 Bxg2!? 18.Rg1 Bb7 19.b4!? +/-) 10.Nb5 Na6 0-1 (44 moves) Keiser – Fraikin<sup>1</sup>. Now, instead of played 11.f4? White should have tried 11.dc7! d5?! 12.ed6 with satisfying position. **8.d6!** That's putting it mildly, the malicious pawn seems to be worth Rook. The strong outpost on d6-square will paralyse Black position for a long time. **8...cd6 9.ed6 Qa5!** *See Diagram*



Black threatens Qa5-e5+xd6 or Qa5-b4xd6 and prevents Nc3-b5. In the event of 9...Qb6?! (or 9...Qf6?!) White would have maintained excellent chances after 10.Nb5 Na6 11.Bc4. Please note, that roughly the same position would be reached also after 6...Nb4 7.a3 Na6 8.e5 Ng8 9.d6 cd6 10.ed6. **10.Bb5?!** White should have played the main line 10.Bf4 Nc6 11.Bc4 (11.Qe2+!?) with full compensation for a piece, e.g. 11...Qf5!? 12.Bg3 Nd8 13.0-0 Ne6 14.Nb5 Kd8 15.Re1. **10...Qb4?** Better was 10...a6! After the most encouraging subsequent moves 11.Qe2+ Kd8 12.Bg5+ f6 13.Be3 Bxd6 14.0-0-0 Be5 it was clear that White would not maintain compensation for a piece. Now, after the text move the result of the game was prejudged

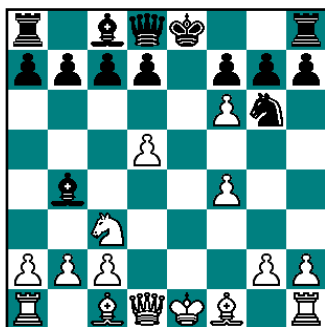
because further game to 20th move with known estimation of the position was forced. **11.0-0 Qxd6 12.Re1+ Kd8 13.Qf3 Nf6 14.Bf4 Qc5** Black consciously provokes White to put Rook on 5-rank because 14...Qb6 15.Bg5 h6 (15...Be7 16.Rxe7!) 16.Nd5 Qd6 17.Nxf6 would lose the game at once. **15.Re5 Qb6 16.Bg5 h6 17.Nd5 Qd6 18.Rae1 Be7 19.Bxf6 Bxf6** *See Diagram*



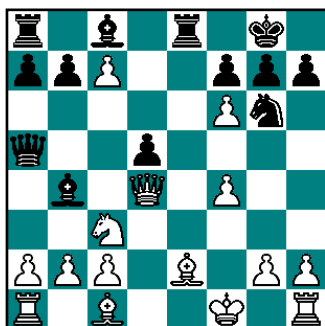
**20.Qg3!!** Culminating point of the very long variant. For the last 10 moves White has mobilized the pieces and now he is ready to transpose the developmental into the material advantage with technically won endgame. **20...Bxe5 21.Rxe5 Na6** Warszawski pointed out that 21...Qg6 would have saved Black from defeat. He was convinced that 22.Rg5 Qxg5 (or 22...Qxc2) 23.Qc7+ Ke8 24.Qxc8+ Qd8 as well as 22.Qf4 d6 gave Black good play. However, after unexpected 22.Qa3! d6 (or 22...Qf6 23.Nxf6 +/-) 23.Qa5+ b6 24.Qc3 White gives mate in 5 moves. **22.Re8+ Rxe8 23.Qxd6 Re1+ 24.Bf1 Ke8 25.Qg3 Kf8 26.f4 Re8 27.f5 f6 28.Qd6+ Kg8 29.Bc4 Kh8** Black gets mate in 5 moves. **30.Nxf6! 1-0** Further could happen only: 30...Rg8 31.Bxg8 b6 32.Ne8 Bb7 33.Qg6 Rxe8 34.Qh7 mate.

**(3) M. Wind (2200) – F. Hoyneck (2043) 5...Nc6!?** **6.d5 Ne5 7.f4 Ng6** In Keiser – Jerez<sup>2</sup> followed 7...Bd6 (7...Neg4 8.e5 Bc5 9.ef6 Nxf6 10.Qe2+

Qe7 => 8.fe5 Bxe5 9.Qf3 Qe7 10.Bd3 d6 11.0-0 with roughly equal position. However, the greater chess experience of Jerez got the upper hand finally and Black won the game at 46th move. 8.e5 Bb4 9.ef6 *See Diagram*

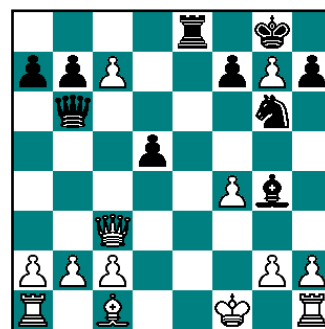


9...0-0!? In the diagrammed position three different approaches have been tried, i.e. 9...0-0!?, 9...Qxf6!? game (4) and 9...Bxc3+ 10.bc3 Qxf6 – game (5). In first alternative Black plays in spirit of the gambit returning pawns to assume the initiative but this approach is questionable. 10.Qd4 Re8+ 11.Be2 c5 12.dc6 Qa5 13.c7 d5 14.Kf1 *See Diagram*

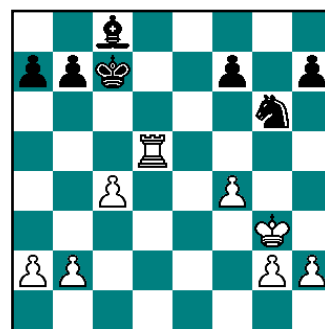


14...Bxc3?! I have a feeling that Black should not have exchanged dark-squared Bishop, e.g. in IM Starostits – Hoyneck<sup>3</sup> followed 14...Bf5 15.h4 Rac8 16.h5 Nf8 17.Bd2 1/2-1/2 (36 moves) with interesting position which is just starting to warm up. 15.Qxc3 Qb6 16.fg7 Rxe2! The situation turned already ugly for Black but the next move is the best try for him, e.g. 16...Bd7? 17.h4 Rac8 18.h5 Rxc7

19.Qb3 with winning position for White. 17.Kxe2 Bg4+ 18.Kf1 Re8 *See Diagram*



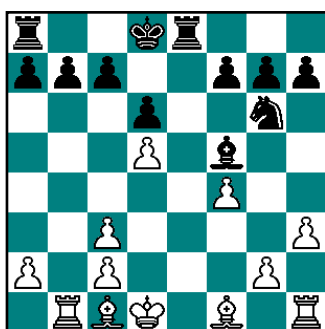
Such a turn of events would have suited Black entirely, but his combination is now refuted by the unexpected counter-punch. 19.Be3! This move returning a piece must have come as a shock to Black. 19...Qxe3 20.Qxe3 Rxe3 21.Re1 Rxe1+ 22.Kxe1 Kxg7 23.Kf2 Kf8 24.c4 Ke7 25.Kg3 Bc8 26.Rd1 Kd6 27.Rxd5+ Kxc7 *See Diagram*



Black position is hopeless. White threatens to take h7-pawn and then move forward h-pawn. If Black counteracts it by playing Ng6-f8 to defend h7-pawn, then White Rook along 8-rank and King from g7-square easily throw out Knight placed on f8-square. 28.Rh5 Nf8 29.f5 Kd6 30.Rg5 Ke7 31.Kf4 Bd7 32.g4 a5 33.h4 Ke8 34.Ke5 Bc6 35.Rg8 Ke7 36.f6+ Ke8 37.Kf4 h6 38.h5 1-0

(4) P. Keiser (1932) – M. Maciaga (2207) 5...Nc6!? 6.d5 Ne5 7.f4 Ng6 8.e5 Bb4 9.ef6 Qxf6!? 10.Qe2+! Very good move for several reasons. First of all, Black King has to retreat on d8

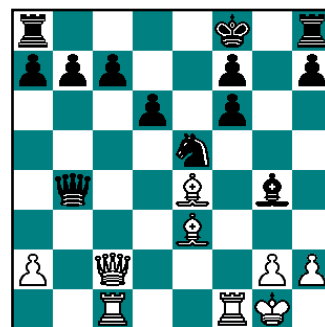
remaining in the middle if Black wants to maintain advantage in the opening, e.g. 10...Be7? 11.Nb5! +/-; 10...Ne7? 11.Bd2 +/- or 10...Qe7 11.Qxe7 =. Secondly, the alternatives: 10.Qf3 Nh4 11.Qg3?! Nf5 =/+ as well as 10.Bd3?! Bxc3+ 11.bc3 Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qd4 – see game (5) promises nothing for White. **10...Kd8 11.Qc4 Re8+** It is a pity that two games after 11...a5 being just started to warm up ended so quickly: 12.Be2 b5 13.Qd3 Nxf4 (13...Bxc3+ 14.Qxc3 1/2-1/2 Steenbekkers – Fraikin) 14.Bxf4 Qxf4 15.Rf1 1-0 (time) Steenbekkers – Albarran. **12.Kd1** According to Wind, the line 12.Be2 Qe7 [12...Bxc3+ 13.bc3 b5 14.Qd3 Nxf4 15.Bxf4 Qxf4 16.g3 1/2-1/2 (38 moves) Hoyneck – Jerez<sup>4</sup>] 13.Kf1! also led to roughly equal position. **12.Bxc3 13.Qxc3 Qxc3 14.bc3 d6 15.h3 Bf5 16.Rb1** *See Diagram*



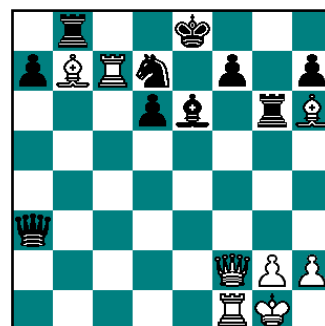
**16...b6** A peaceful move in contradiction to 16...Be4!? 17.Rxb7 (17.c4? b6 followed by doubling of Rooks along e-file) 17...Bxd5 18.Rb5!? Bc6 19.Ra5 with a sharpen position. **17.Bb5** 17.Bd3? Be4 18.Bxe4 Rxe4 19.Rb4 Rxb4 20.cb4 Ne7 (20...b5!?) 21.c4 b5 22.Kc2 a5 -/+. **17...Bd7 18.Bd3 Nh4 19.g3 Nf5** 1/2-1/2 A draw was agreed due to 20.g4 Ne3+ 21.Bxe3 Rxe3 22.Kd2 Re8 (22...Rf3!? =) 23.Bxh7 g6 24.f5 gf5 25.Rbf1 Re5! with equal position. Black also could have tried 19...Ng2 counting for a mistake of an opponent, e.g. a) 20.Bxh7 g6 21.c4 Rh8!? 22.Bxg6

fg6 23.Rh2 Bg4+ =/+; b) 20.Rh2 Ne3+ 21.Bxe3 Rxe3 22.g4 (22.Rg2 Bxh3 23.Rg1 h5 =/+) 22...Rhx3 23.Rhx3 Bxg4+ 24.Kd2 Bxh3 25.Rh1 (25.Bxh7 g6 26.Rh1 Bg2 27.Rg1 Bxd5 28.f5 gf5 =/+) 25...Bg2 26.Rxh7 Ke7 27.c4 Kf6 =/+. However, after 20.c4! White remained with a pair of Bishops and better perspectives.

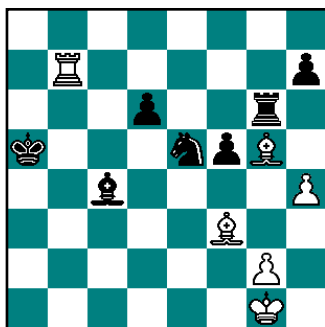
**(5) F. Hoyneck (2043) – P. Keiser (1932) 5...Nc6!?** **6.d5 Ne5 7.f4 Ng6 8.e5 Bb4 9.ef6 Bxc3+ 10.bc3 Qxf6 11.Bd3!?** Beginning of very interesting plan with numerous pawn sacrifices. **11...Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qd4 13.Qe2+ Kf8 14.c3 Qxd5 15.0-0 d6 16.Be4 Qc5+ 17.Be3 Qxc3 18.f5 Ne5 19.Rac1 Qb4 20.f6 Bg4 21.Qc2 gf6** *See Diagram*



**22.a3** It is funny. White opens all diagonals and files before striking at enemy's King. **22...Qxa3 23.Qf2 Be6 24.Bh6+ Ke8** Now, White gives back his three pawns! **25.Bxb7 Rb8 26.Rxc7 Rg8 27.Qxf6 Nd7 28.Qf2 Ne5 29.Qf6 Nd7 30.Qf2 Rg6** *See Diagram*

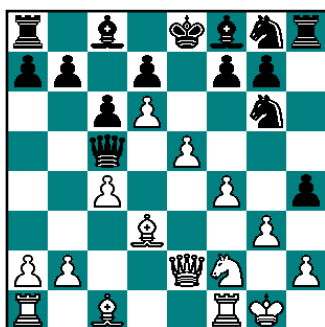


31.Bc6 Kd8 32.Rxa7 Qc5 33.Qxc5 Nxc5 34.Bf8 Rb6 35.Be7+ Kc8 36.Bf3 Bc4 37.Rc1 Rb4 38.h4 f5 39.Bg5 Nd3 40.Rca1 Ne5 41.Ra8+ Rb8 42.Rxb8+ Kxb8 43.Ra8+ Kc7 44.Ra7+ Kb6 45.Rb7+ Ka5 *See Diagram*



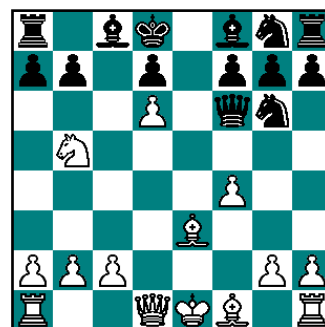
Black position is lost since White threatens to capture h7-pawn and advance h4-pawn. 46.Rxh7 Nxf3+ 47.gf3 Kb4 48.Kf2 Kc3 49.f4 Re6 50.h5 Re2+ 51.Kg3 Re3+ 52.Kh4 Re1 53.h6 Bg8 54.Rc7+ Kd4 55.Kh5 Re8 56.Re7 Rc8 57.Kg6 d5 58.Kxf5 1-0

(6) M. Maciaga (2207) – G. Albarran (2226) 5...Nc6!? 6.d5 Ne5 7.f4 Ng6 8.e5 Ng8 9.d6 c6? 10.Bd3 Qh4+? Penetration of White's camp by the lonely Queen is condemned to a defeat in advance. However, after 10...b5 11.Qe2! b4 12.Ne4 Qa5 13.Bd2 Black was barely able to defend his position. 11.g3 Qh3 12.Ne4 Qg2 13.Nf2 Qd5 14.c4 Qc5 15.Qe2 h5? Again, Black is under the mistaken impression that he is able to create an attack against White King. 16.0-0 h4 *See Diagram*



White has just completed development and now he is ready to carry out a winning attack. It easy comes to White since Black Queen is exposed for many dangers and the Kingside is weakened. 17.Be3 Qa5 18.Bd2 Qc5 Or 18...Qb6 19.f5! N6e7 (19...hg3 20.fg6 +/-) 20.f6 gf6 (20...Ng6 21.Bxg6 +/-) 21.ef6 with overwhelming advantage. 19.b4 1-0 (time) After 19...Qd4 20.Be3 Qc3 21.a3 Black Queen was trapped.

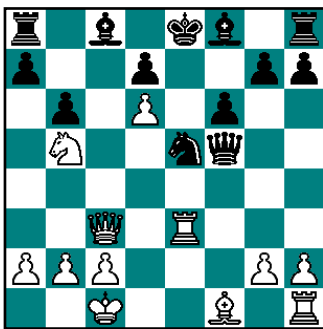
(7) F. Hoynck (2043) – F. Steenbekkers (2073) 5...Nc6!? 6.d5 Ne5 7.f4 Ng6 8.e5 Ng8 9.d6 cd6 10.ed6 Qf6 a) 10...Qh4+? 11.g3 Qf6 12.Nb5 b6 13.Qd5!? Rb8 14.0-0-0 Bb7 15.Qc4 Rc8 16.Qa4 +/- (Rook on h1 is of course inviolable); b) 10...Qa5 and now according to Wind the best is 11.Qd4!, e.g. 11...Qb6 12.Qxb6 ab6 13.Nb5 Ra5 (13...Ra4 14.Be3! Re4 15.Kd2 Nxf4 16.Na7!!) 14.Be3 Rxb5 15.Bxb5 Bxd6 16.Bd4 =; c) 10...Qb6 11.Nb5 Kd8 12.f5! Ne5 (12...a6 13.Nc7 Rb8 14.Nd5 Qxd6 15.Be3!? +/-) 13.Bf4 f6 14.Qd2 Qc6 15.0-0-0 a6 15.Na3 b5 16.Bxe5 fe5 17.Nc4 bc4 18.Qa5+ Ke8 19.Qxe5+ with perpetual check due to 19...Kf7? 20.Rd4 +/- 11.Nb5 Kd8 12.Be3 *See Diagram*



12...Nh6 a) 12...b6 13.Qd5 Rb8 14.0-0-0 Bb7 15.Qc4 Rc8 16.Qa4 +/-; b) 12...Qxb2 13.Bd4 Qb4+ 14.c3 Qa5 15.f5 a6 16.Nc7 Rb8 17.fg6 hg6 18.Nd5 +/-; c) 12...Nxf4 13.Qd2 Ne6 14.0-0-0 +/- followed by Bf1-c4xe6 combined with Qd2-a5+.

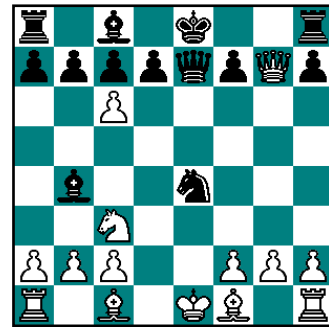


**13.Qd2 b6** It prevents from unpleasant check Qd2-a5+ but simultaneously exposes to Nb5xa7. **14.f5 Qxf5** 14...Qe5 15.0-0-0 Nxf5 16.Re1 is roughly equal. **15.0-0-0** 15.Nxa7 Rb8 (15...Qa5 16.Qxa5 ba5 17.Bb6+ Ke8 18.Nb5 Rb8 19.Nc7+ Kd8 20.Ba5 +/-; 15...Qe6 16.0-0-0 Bxd6 =) 16.Nb5 (16.0-0-0 Ng4 -/+; 16.Nxc8 Rxc8 17.Bxb6+ Ke8 18.0-0-0 Bxd6 19.Bd3 Bf4 -/+) 16...Ng4 17.Qc3 Nxe3 18.Qc7 Ke8 19.Qxb8 Qc5 20.Kd2 f5 21.Bd3 f4 22.Na7 Kd8 0-1 (62 moves) Werksma – Keiser<sup>5</sup>. **15...Ng4 16.Re1 Nxe3 17.Rxe3 Ne5 18.Qc3 f6 19.Qc7+ Ke8 20.Qc3** *See Diagram*

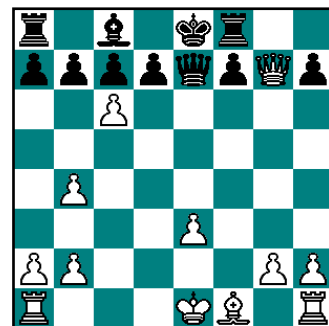


**20...Kd8?** 1/2-1/2 Instead of repeating moves better was 20...Bb7 21.Nc7+ (21.Qc7 Rc8 22.Qxb7 Qxc2 mate) 21...Kd8 22.Nxa8 Bxd6 23.Nxb6 ab6 with great chances for victory!

**(8) IM I. Starostits (2398) – A. Jerez (2392)**  
**5...Nc6!?** **6.d5 Bb4** For a long time before Wind has introduced a new conception (see the next game) this continuation was believed to be the simplest refutation of the Halloween gambit. **7.dc6 Nxe4** 7...Qe7? (7...bc6 – Scottish Four Knights) 8.cd7+ Bxd7 9.f3 0-0-0 10.Qe2 Bxc3+ 11.bc3 Rhe8 12.Qe3 1-0 (35 moves) Steenbekkers – MF Blokhuis<sup>6</sup>. **8.Qd4 Qe7** 8...Bxc3+! 9.bc3 0-0 10.Bd3 d5 (10...dc6 11.Bxe4 Qxd4 12.Bxh7+ =) 11.f3 Nf6 12.cb7 Re8+ 13.Be3 Bxb7 14.0-0 =. **9.Qxg7?** *See Diagram*

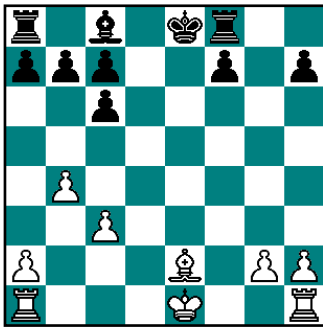


**9...Nxc3+** Owner of GM-title followed his pathways. After 9...Nf6+ (it is really difficult to invent and play minor variant in important game) 10.Be2 (perhaps the plan with long castling is even playable but objectively was a bit dodgy, e.g. 10.Be3!? Rg8 11.cb7 Bxb7 12.Qh6 0-0-0 13.0-0-0!? Bxc3 14.bc3 Qa3+ 15.Kb1 Rg6 16.Bc1) 10...Rg8 11.Qh6 dc6 12.0-0 Be6 13.Bd3 Ng4 14.Qh5 0-0-0 15.Bf4 Bxc3 16.bc3 Rd5 17.Qh3 h5 0-1 (40 moves) Fraikin – GM Milov<sup>7</sup>. **10.Be3 Nd5+** 10...Ne4+? 11.c3 Rf8 12.cb7 Bxb7 13.cb4 =. **11.c3 Rf8 12.cb4 Nxe3 13.fe3** *See Diagram*

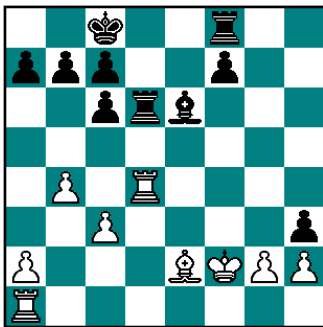


**13...Qxe3+** Preparing to my game against MF Torrecillas before starting the tournament (see the next game) I found very long and interesting variant leading to a small advantage for Black, i.e. 13...Qh4+! 14.g3 Qxb4+ (14...Qe4 15.0-0-0 Qxc6+ 16.Qc3 =) 15.Kf2 dc6 16.Be2 Qe4! (intending to castle in long side) 17.Rhd1 Bd7 18.Rd4! Qe7 19.Bg4! Bxg4 (19...0-0-0 20.Rxd7 Rxd7 21.Bxd7+ Kxd7 22.Qd4+ Kc8 23.Qxa7 =) 20.Qxg4 f5. **14.Be2 dc6 15.Qc3** In answer to my long variant MF Torrecillas showed me much

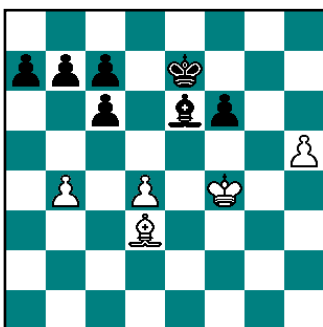
simpler continuation: 15.Qxh7 Bg4 16.Qd3 Qxd3 17.Bxd3 0-0-0. The endgame is much better for Black, e.g. 18.h3 (18.Bf1!? Rfe8+ 19.Kf2 Rd2+ 20.Kg3) 18...Rxd3 19.hg4 Re8+ (19...Rd4 20.a3 Rxa4 21.0-0 Re4 22.Rae1 =) 20.Kf2 Rd2+ 21.Kf3 Ree2 22.Rh8+ (22.Rh2 Rxb2 -/+) 22...Kd7 23.Rd1 Rf2+ 24.Ke3 Rxd1 25.Kxf2 Rd2+ 26.Kf3 Rxb2 -/+. **15...Qxc3+ 16.bc3** *See Diagram*



Mission half-accomplished. The opening has just finished and remaining endgame is technically winning for Black. **16...Be6 17.Bd3 h5 18.Kf2 0-0-0 19.Rhd1 Rd6 20.Be2 h4 21.Rd4 h3** *See Diagram*

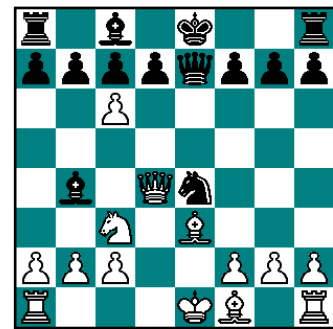


**22.Rad1 hg2 23.Kxg2 Rg8+ 24.Kf2 Rxd4 25.Rxd4 Bxa2 26.h4 Rd8 27.h5 Rxd4 28.cd4 Kd8 29.Bd3 Ke7 30.Ke3 Be6 31.Kf4 f6** *See Diagram*



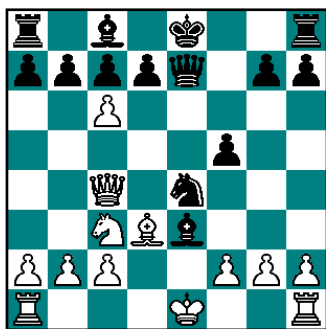
**32.Bf5? Bxf5 33.Kxf5 Kf7 34.Ke4 Kg7 35.Kf5 b6 36.h6+ Kxh6 37.Kxf6 a5 38.ba5 ba5 39.Ke6 0-1** Mission accomplished. The outcome of the game only proved the general feeling that White has serious problems after 9.Qxg7?

**(9) M. Wind (2200) – MF A. Torrecillas (2389) & MF A. Torrecillas (2389) – M. Maciaga (2207)** As a curiosity I only give in addition that game (30) consists of two the same notations in the entirety. **5...Nc6!? 6.d5 Bb4 7.dc6 Nxe4 8.Qd4 Qe7 9.Be3!** *See Diagram*

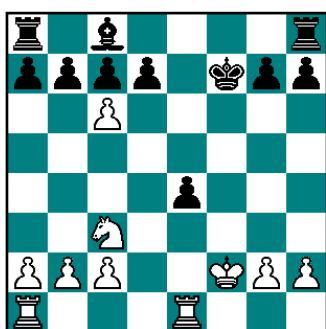


White refreshed old continuation. Probably Wind contributed to it because during my game I had a feeling that MF Torrecillas abstained sending moves to become acquainted first with Wind reaction. It should not be astonishing since the main line 9.Qxg7? was not perspective. **9...f5?** Black overlooked a crucial moment in the game to reach better structure of pawns, i.e. 9...0-0! (9...Nxc3 10.bc3 Bd6) 10.Bd3 Nxc3! 11.bc3 Bd6! 12.cd7 Bxd7 13.0-0 Rfe8. **10.Bd3!** Before Wind demonstrated a fresh conception White used to play 10.Be2?! Bxc3+ 11.bc3 dc6 12.Bh5+ Kf8 13.Bf3. **10...Bc5** Only now, it became clear to me that the game eluded under the control, e.g. a) 10...Bxc3+? 11.bc3 dc6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rfe1 +/-; b) 10...dc6 11.Bxe4 fe4 12.a3!? c5 [12...Bxc3+ 13.Qxc3 Bf5 (13...0-0? 14.Bc5 +/-) 14.0-0-0 +/-; 12...Ba5 13.0-

0 =] 13.Qc4 Bxc3+ 14.Qxc3 b6 15.b4 =; c) 10...bc6 11.Bxe4 fe4 12.a3 c5 13.Qd2! (13.Qd5 c6 14.Qd2 Bxc3!? 15.Qxc3 d6 16.b4 0-0 17.bc5 d5 =/+ ) 13...Bxc3 14.Qxc3 d6 15.b4 0-0 16.bc5 d5 17.Qd4 c6 18.c4 =. **11.Qc4** Disaster was 11.Nd5? Bxd4 12.Nxe7 Bxe3 13.Nxc8 Bxf2+ 14.Ke2 bc6. **11...Bxe3** *See Diagram*

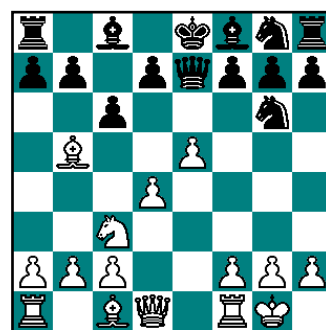


**12.Bxe4!!** The fundamental move in White's plan. Hopeless was 12.Nd5? Qh4 +/- or 12.fe3? Nxc3 13.Qxc3 dc6 =/+. **12...Bxf2+** At first glance it seems that Black overlooked winning a piece. Only after plunging into position it turns out that retreating Bishop on b6 or h6 was a bit awkward, e.g. a) 12...Bb6? 13.0-0-0 fe4 14.Rhe1 +/-; b) 12...Bh6 13.0-0 (13.Nd5? Qxe4+ =/+ ) 13...fe4 14.Nd5!? (14.Rfe1 Kd8 =) 14...b5! (14...Qd6? 15.cd7+ Bxd7 16.Nxc7 Ke7 17.Qxe4+ Kf7 18.Nxa8 +/-; 14...Qe5? 15.f4 +/-) 15.Qc3 (15.Qxb5?! Qd6 16.Qc4 dc6 17.Qxe4+ Kf7 18.Qf3+ Kg6 19.Qe4+ Kh5 =/+ ) 15...Qd6 16.cd7+ Bxd7 17.Nxc7+ Kf7 =. **13.Kxf2 fe4 14.Rhe1 Qf7+ 15.Qxf7+ Kxf7** *See Diagram*



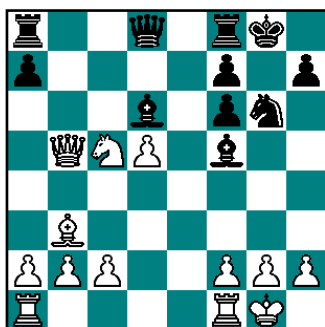
The reached position is completely equal therefore it should not be surprise that both games (splitting now into two roads) ends quickly in a draw: **16.cb7 Bxb7 17.Nxe4 Rae8 18.Nc5 Bc8 19.Ne4 d6 20.c4 Re5 21.Nc3 Rhe8 1/2-1/2 Wind – MF Torrecillas** and **16.cd7 Bxd7 1/2-1/2 MF Torrecillas – Maciaga**, respectively.

**(10) MF J. Blokhuis (2339) – GM V. Milov (2592) 5...Ng6!** It should be consider for the most appropriate move since Black got an advantage in the opening. **6.e5 Qe7 7.Bb5** In recent years the vast majority of players has been turned towards 7.Bb5. However, in my opinion 7.Qe2! Ng8 8.h4 deserves for more attention. Other moves, i.e. 7.Be2, 7.Be3 or 7.Bg5 are insufficient due to 7...Nxe5 8.de5 Qxe5 and Black remains with a pawn up. Also continuation 7.f4 d6 8.Be2 de5 9.fe5 Nd7 10.0-0 Nb6 11.a4 a5 12.Bf3 c6 13.Ne4 Qc7 14.Ng5 Be7 15.Be4 Bxg5 16.Bxg5 Be6 17.b3 0-0 18.Qf3 Nd5 19.Rae1 h6 20.Bd2 f5 0-1 (time) derived from Albarran – Wind is not sufficient for White. **7...c6 8.0-0 Ng8 8...cb5? 9.Bg5 d5 10.Qd3** is fine for White *See Diagram*



**9.Ne4** Text move is the most frequent chosen continuation but I was aiming to turn off the well-beaten theoretical tracks as quickly as possible and played 9.Ba4 (9.Bc4 d5 10.ed6 Qxd6 11.Ne4 Qc7 12.Qf3 f5!? =/+ ) 9...d6 10.f4 Nh6 11.Qe2 Bg4

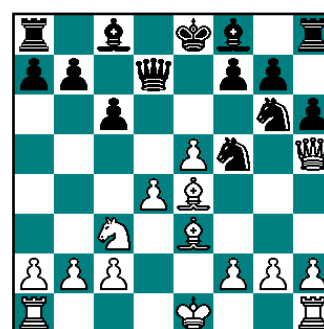
12.Qf2 b5 13.Bb3 d5 14.h3 Bc8 15.Bd2 (15.g4?! Qh4 16.Qf3 Nxc4 17.hg4 Bxc4 +/-) 15...a5 16.a4 b4 17.Ne2 (17.Nd1? Qh4 18.Qf3 Nf5 19.c3 Qg3 -/+) 17...Ba6 18.Rae1 f5 with a huge advantage for Black in Maciaga – MF Blokhuis<sup>8</sup>. Closed position allows Black to finish development and prepare a counterattack. Nevertheless, the game won White at 39<sup>th</sup> move because Black exceeded the time limit for reflection. **9...Qd8** 9...cb5 10.Qf3 f6 (10...Qd8 11.Bg5 Qc7 12.Rfe1) 11.Bd2 (threatening Ne4-d6+ Ke8-d8 Bd2-a5+ b7-b6 Qf3xa8) 11...Rb8 12.Qb3 gives White a chance but his position is still difficult. **10.Ba4 d5 11.ed6 Bxd6 12.d5 b5 13.Bb3 Nf6 14.Bg5 c5 15.Qe2 0-0 16.Qxb5 Bf5 17.Bxf6 gf6 18.Nxc5** *See Diagram*



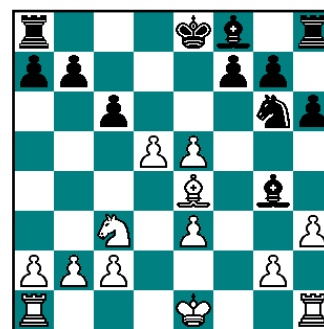
At this point White has three pawns for the piece. **18...Qc7 19.Na6?** After such inaccurate move Black gets a strong attack. Therefore better was 19.Nd3 Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Bd6 with a small advantage for Black. **19...Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Qf4 0-1** Black occupies dangerous positions near by White King and threats a decisive attack, e.g. 21.g3 Qf3+ 22.Kxh2 Be4 or 21.d6 Qh4 22.Qxf5 Nf4 in both cases with a successful attack on the enemy King.

(11) M. Wind (2200) – A. Werksma (2196)  
**5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d5** In return for a pawn

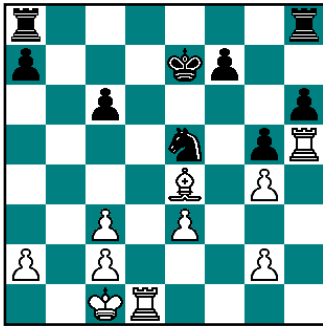
Black liberates his cramped position. However, two extra pawns and a strong center give White ample compensation for Knight. **8.Bxd5 N8e7 9.Bg5!** After 9.Bb3 Nf5 10.Be3 c5! or 9.Be4 Nf5 10.Be3 c5! Black broke up White's center. **9...Qd7 9...h6?** 10.Qf3 Bf5 led to unnecessary complication. **10.Be4!?** White prepared very interesting idea instead a standard continuation beginning from 10.Bb3. **10...Nf5 11.Qh5 h6 12.Be3 c6** *See Diagram*



**13.d5! Nxe3** In the event of 13...Nxe5? 14.0-0-0 c5 15.Rhe1 begun to appear problems along e-file. **14.fe3 Qg4 15.Qxg4 Bxg4 16.h3** *See Diagram*

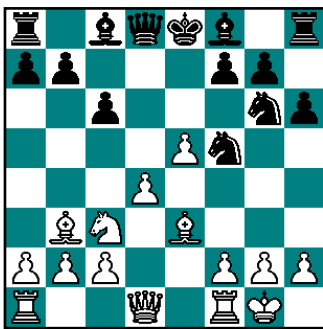


**16...Nxe5** Black has to return Bishop otherwise all his pieces will be cramped, e.g. 16...Bc8 (16...Bd7? 17.e6 +/-) 17.dc6 Rb8 18.c7 Ra8 19.e6 Ne5 20.0-0-0 Be7 (20...fe6? 21.Rd8+ Ke7 22.Bxb7 +/-) 21.ef7+ Nxf7 22.Rhf1 with winning position. **17.hg4 Bb4 18.dc6 bc6 19.Rh5 g5 20.0-0-0 Bxc3 21.bc3 Ke7** *See Diagram*



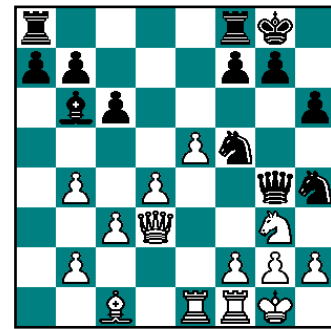
**22.Rdh1** 1/2-1/2 A famous wizard at the Halloween gambit – Wind who scored 8.5/10 points in the tournament should continued the game since Black had a hard task to save position, e.g. 22...Nxg4 23.Bf3 or 22...Rd8 23.Bf5 Rd6 24.Rxg5.

(12) GM V. Milov (2592) – MF A. Torrecillas (2389) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d5 8.Bxd5 N8e7 9.Bg5! c6 10.Bb3 h6 11.Be3 Nf5 12.0-0 *See Diagram*

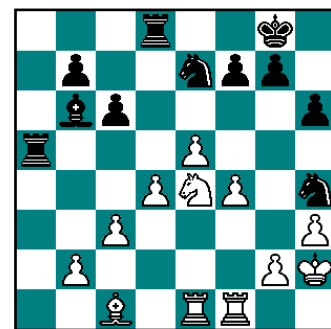


**12...Qh4** Natural 12...Be7 had to be rejected due to 13.Qh5! with unpleasant threat e5-e6. **13.Ne2** All players were asked to keep their games in secret from other competitors until position reach the middle stage. But something must be in contradiction with it since the Spanish players selected the same variants in games (8) and (9) as well as (17), (18) and (19). The line 13.Qd3 Bb4 14.Ne4 0-0 15.c3 Ba5 16.f4 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Ne7 18.Kh1 1/2-1/2 (40 moves) from Werksma – Jerez<sup>9</sup> only confirms it. **13...Bb4 14.c3 Ba5 15.Ng3 0-0 16.Qd3 Nge7 17.Rae1** White had a choice of two

standard plans, i.e. either c3-c4 combined with d4-d5 or the set up with f2-f4. The break up in the middle was very obligate and probable for this reason grandmaster decide for passive defence. **17...Be6 18.Bc1 Qg4 19.Ne2 19.Bd1!? Qg6 (20...Qh4? 21.Re4) 20.Bh5 Qh7. 19...Nh4 20.Ng3 Bxb3 21.ab3 Nef5 22.b4 Bb6** *See Diagram*

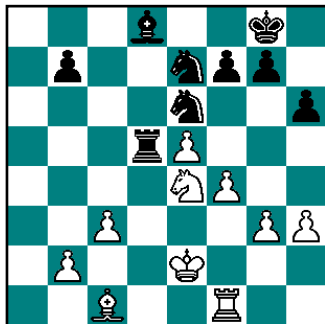


**23.Qe4!?** Seeing this move first time I was in a state of total confusion. If it was played by another player I would put question mark but when grandmaster plays in this manner something inclines to the reflection. In general, the side possesses a piece against two or even three pawns in the endgame has better perspective, thus weaker side should avoid the exchanges. **23...Qxe4 24.Nxe4 Rfd8 25.h3 a5** In order to bring Rook in play Black opens a-file. **26.ba5 Rxa5 27.Kh2 Ne7 28.f4** *See Diagram*

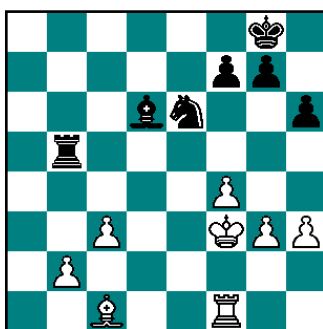


White intends to play f4-f5 combined with g2-g4 or Ne4-d6 to paralyze Black Knight. **28...c5 29.dc5 Bxc5 30.Red1** Black succeeded in breaking down White's pawn chain. It was supported by 30.b4 Ra2

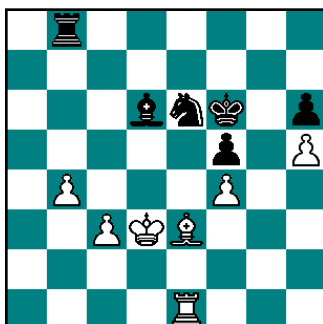
31.Nxc5 (31.bc5 Nxc2 +/-) 31...Rxc2+ 32.Kh1 Nef5 33.Re3 (33.Ne4 Rd3 +/-) 33...Ra8 intending Ra8-a1xc1 or Ra8-a2 with the threat to give mate White King. **30...Bb6 31.Rxd8+ Bxd8 32.g3 Nhg6 33.Kg2 Rd5 34. Kf2 Nf8 35.Ke2 Ne6** *See Diagram*



Both sides ended regrouping their pieces. It is very questionable why White again wants to exchange his Knight because in endgames pawns should be exchanging but not pieces. **36.Nd6 Bc7 37.Nxb7 Nf5 38.Kf3 Rb5 39.Nd6 Nxd6 40.ed6 Bxd6** *See Diagram*



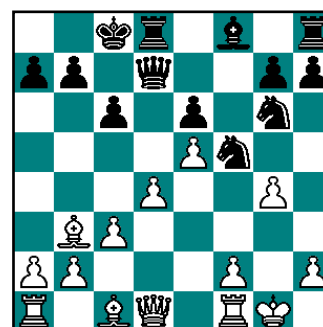
It is clear that two extra pawns are insufficient to recompense Knight. **41.Rd1 Bc7 42.b4 g5 43.Be3 gf4 44.gf4 Kf8 45.Re1 Bd6 46.Ke4 Ke7 47.h4 f5+ 48.Kd3 Rb8 49.h5 Kf6 0-1** *See Diagram*



The passed b- and c-pawns were the last White chance. However, the piece down or weakened the f4- and h5-pawn do not give fair promise, e.g. 50.Rf1 Rg8 51.b5 Rg3! (Black prepares the exchange of a pair Rooks, though indirect attack on f4-pawn was also possible, e.g. 51...Rg4 52.b6 Nxf4+) 52.Ke2 Bc5! 53.Bd2 Rg2+ 54.Kd3 Rf2! 55.Rb1 Bb6 and White position was crashing down.

**(13) F. Steenbekkers (2073) – M. Maciaga (2207)**

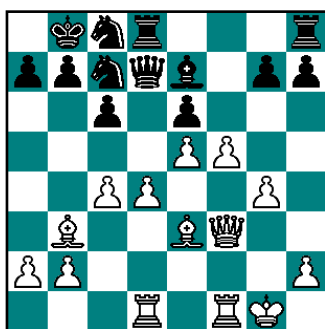
**5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d5 8.Bxd5 c6 9.Bb3! Be6 9...Bb4 10.0-0** [White in Fraikin – Hoyneck<sup>10</sup> mixed up two lines by mistake playing 10.Qf3?! Be6 11.Bd2 Qxd4 12.0-0-0 Bxc3 13.bc3 Qxe5 14.Rhe1 Qa5 15.Bxe6 fe6 16.c4 0-1 (30 moves)] 10...Bxc3 (10...N8e7 11.Ne4 Bf5 12.Ng5 0-0 13.g4 =) 11.bc3 N8e7 12.c4!? (12.f4 h5! with advantage for Black but after 12...Be6 13.g4! position is equal) 12...0-0 13.c3 (intending Bc1-a3-d6) 13...Qa5 14.Bd2 Be6 15.f4. **10.0-0 N8e7 11.Ne4** 11.g4!? Qd7 12.Bxe6 fe6 13.Ne4 Nc8 14.f4 =/+ . **11...Nf5 12.c3 Qd7 13.Ng5 0-0-0 14.Nxe6** 14.g4 Bxb3!? 15.ab3 Nh6 16.Ra7 Kb8 17.Ra1 f6 =/+. **14...fe6 15.g4** *See Diagram*



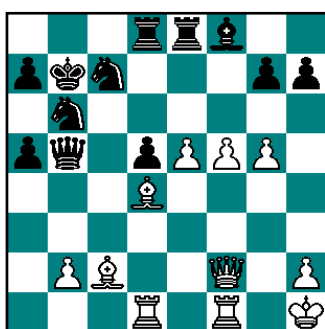
**15...N5e7 15...Nfh4 16.f4 Be7 17.f5 Nf8 18.f6 gf6 19.ef6 Bd6 20.Bg5 Nhg6 21.f7 h6 22.Bxd8 0-1** (38 moves) Jerez – Fraikin<sup>11</sup>. **16.f4 Nd5 17.f5 N6e7!** Intermediating the exchange of pawns made possible for White to equal position, e.g. 17...ef5!?



18.gf5 Nge7 19.Qf3 (19.f6? gf6 20.ef6 Rg8+ 21.Kh1 Qh3 22.Qf3 Rg3 -/+; 19.Bg5? h6 20.Bh4 g5 -/+; 19.e6 Qc7 20.c4 Nf6 21.Bf4 Qa5 22.Be5 Neg8 =/+) 19...Kb8 20.Bg5! (20.f6? gf6 21.ef6 Rg8+ 22.Kh1 Nc8 23.f7 Rg6 24.Bc2 Rf6 25.Bf5 Qxf7 26.Bg5 Rxf5 -/+). **18.Qf3** 18.f6 (18.Bg5? ef5 19.gf5 h6 -/+) 18...gf6 19.ef6 Ng6 =/+. **18...Kb8** Retreating King vacates c8 for other pieces. Much worse is 18...Ng8 or 18...h5. **19.c4 Nc7 20.Be3 Nc8 21.Rad1 Be7** *See Diagram*

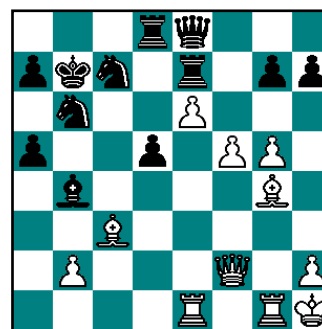


**22.d5 cd5 23.cd5 ed5 24.a4 Nb6 25.a5 Nc8 26.Qe2 Bb4 27.a6 ba6 28.Qd3 Qb5 29.Qc2 Nb6 30.Qf2 Rhe8 31.Bd4 a5 32.Bc2 Bf8 33.g5 Kb7 34.Kh1** *See Diagram*



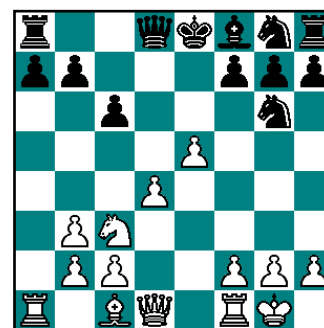
Sometimes I used to analyze with computer what was not contrary to the tournament regulations. Unfortunately, computers in complex positions make strange moves like in the reached position where Black has an advantage but the nearest excursion of the Queen around a chessboard proposed by a programme led to unnecessary complications. **34...Qb4 35.Bc3 Qg4 36.Rg1 Qh5**

**37.Rde1 Bb4 38.e6 Re7 39.Bd1 Qe8 40.Bg4** *See Diagram*



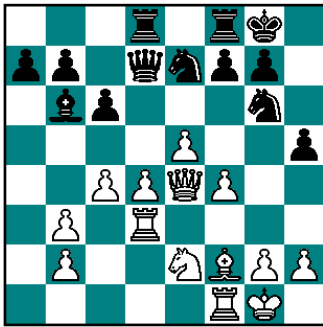
**40...Qc6!** The best since in the position began to appear fine continuations for my opponent, e.g. 40...d4? 41.Bxb4 (41.Bxd4? Rxd4!? 42.Qxd4 Qc6+ =/+) 41...ab4 42.f6 gf6 43.gf6 Rxe6 44.Bxe6 Nxe6 45.Rg7+ +/- or 40...Bxc3? 41.bc3 Qc6 42.f6 gf6 43.gf6 Rxe6 44.Bxe6 Nxe6 45.f7 =. **41.Rc1 0-1** It should be mention that all the longest games were referred to arbitration in order to finish the tournament before the end of the year. In all fairness, Franck behaved gently toward me giving up the game in complex position. However, after 41...Bc5 42.Bd4 Bxd4 43.Qxd4 Qd6 Black remained with the extra piece.

(14) GM V. Milov (2592) – IM I. Starostits (2398) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d5 8.Bxd5 c6 9.Bb3! Be6 10.0-0 Bxb3 11.ab3 *See Diagram*

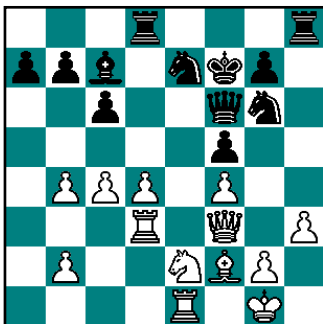


Black assumed the control over two important squares: d5 and f5. **11...N8e7 11...Qd7 12.Ne4 a6 13.Qe2? Qxd4 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.ed6 Kf8 0-1** (30 moves) Keiser – Steenbekkers<sup>12</sup>. **12.f4 12.Ne4 Nf5**

13.c3 Qd7 (13...Be7 14.g4 Nfh4 15.f4 h5 1/2-1/2 Jerez – GM Milov) 14.g4 Nfh4 15.f4 h5 16.f5 Nxe5 17.g5 Qd5 18.Qe2 Nef3+ 19.Rxf3 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 a6 21.b4 0-0-0 1/2-1/2 (28 moves) IM Starostits – Keiser<sup>13</sup>. **12...Nf5 13.Ne2 h5 14.Qd3 Qd7 15.c4 Bc5 16.Be3 Rad8 17.Rad1 0-0 18.Bf2 Nfe7 19.Qe4 Bb6 20.Rd3** *See Diagram*



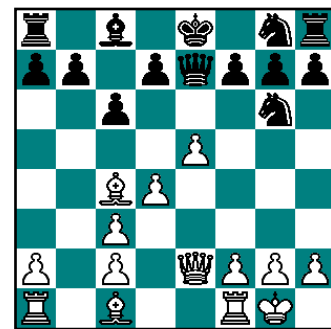
**20...f6 21.e6 f5 22.Qe3 Qc8 23.Qf3 Qxe6 24.Qxh5 Kf7 25.Re1 Rh8 26.Qf3 Qf6 27.b4 Bc7 28.h3** *See Diagram*



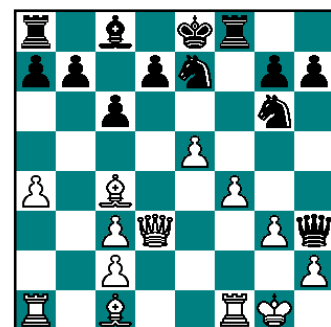
**28...b5 29.b3 Qd6 0-1**

(15) MF A. Torrecillas (2389) – A. Werksma (2196) **5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 c6** The point of this move is that 8.Qf3 is answered with 8...d5 9.ed6 Be6 (9...Nf6!? 10.Qe2+ Kd7 11.Be3 Bxd6 12.0-0-0) and White has nothing better than 10.Bxe6 fe6 11.Ne4 Bxd6 12.Qb3 N8e7 ending up with two pawns for Knight without full compensation. **8.Qe2** Prevents d7-d6/d5 and prepares an attack with Nc3-e4-d6/g5, Bc1-g5 or f2-f4-f5. **8...Bb4 8...N8e7** (8...d5!? 9.ed6+ Kd7 10.Be3 Bxd6 11.0-0-0 =/+ ) 9.Ne4 Nd5 10.0-0 Ngf4

11.Bxf4 Nxf4 12.Qe3 Ne6 13.f4 f5 14.ef6 gf6 15.f5 d5 16.fe6 de4 17.Qxe4 Be7 18.Rf5 Qd6 19.Rd1 b6 20.Qe2 1/2-1/2 (42 moves) MF Blokhuis – Fraikin<sup>14</sup>. **9.0-0 9.Bxf7+? Kxf7 10.Qc4+ Kf8 11.Qxb4+ Qe7 12.Qxe7+ N8xe7 13.b3 Nf5 14.Ba3+ Kf7 15.0-0-0 d5 16.ed6 Re8 17.g3 h6 18.f3 Bb7 19.Ne4 Ke6 20.c4 c5 21.Bxc5 Kd7 22.Rhe1 bc5 23.Nxc5+ Kc6 24.d7 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Nf8 26.b4 a5 27.d5+ Kc7 28.g4 Nd6 29.Re7 Rd8 30.Ne6+ Nxe6 31.de6 Nxc4 0-1 (55 moves) Hoyneck – MF Torrecillas<sup>15</sup>. **9...Bxc3 9...N8e7?! 10.Bxf7+ Kxf7 11.Qc4+ Ke8 12.Qxb4 (Nc3-e4-d6). 10.bc3 Qe7 10...N8e7 11.Qf3 0-0 12.Ba3 (Ba3-d6, g2-g3, h2-h4)** *See Diagram***



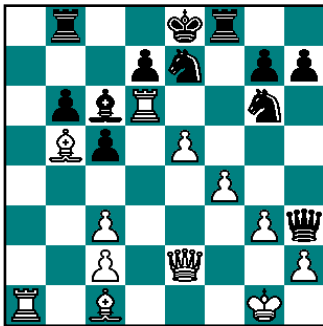
**11.Qf3!** 11.f4? d5 12.Bd3 f5 13.c4 dc4 14.Bxc4 Be6 0-1 (30 moves) Maciaga – Wind<sup>16</sup>. **11...f6 12.Qg3 fe5 13.de5 Qh4** a) 13...Nh6 14.Bd3 Nf7 15.f4 =; b) 13...Qc5 14.Bd3 N8e7 15.a4 =. **14.Qd3 N8e7 15.f4 Rf8 16.g3 Qh3 17.a4** *See Diagram*



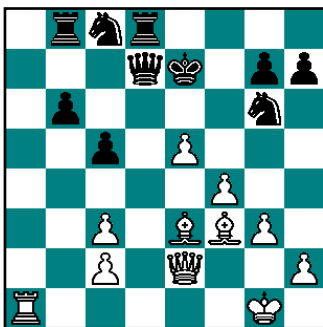
The first time the diagrammed position was considered in Wind's theoretical overview but without any comment. **17...b6** Black wants to



complete development of the queenside. In the case of 17...h5 with the aim of opening h-file the game would have followed 18.Ba3 h4 19.Bd6 Rh8 (19...hg3 20.hg3 Rh8 21.Kf2) 20.f5! with an excellent compensation for material, e.g. 20...hg3 (20...Nxe5 is objectively better) 21.Qxg3 Nf8 22.f6! **18.Qe2 Bb7 19.a5 c5** After 19...b5? 20.a6 Bc8 Black Queenside was immobilized. **20.Rd1 Bc6 21.Rd6 Rb8 22.ab6 ab6 23.Bb5** *See Diagram*

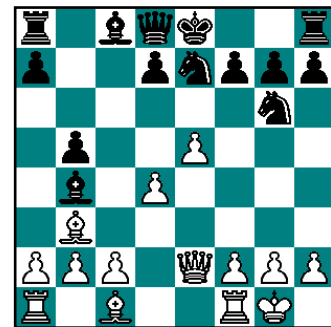


If Black had seen upcoming positional sacrifice he would have played 23...Bxb5 24.Qxb5 Nh4 25.gh4 Qg4+ 26.Kf1 Rxf4+ with a simply draw, but he surely underestimated White's possibility. **23...Nc8? 24.Rxc6!! dc6 25.Bxc6+ Ke7 26.Be3 Rd8 27.Bf3 Qd7** *See Diagram*

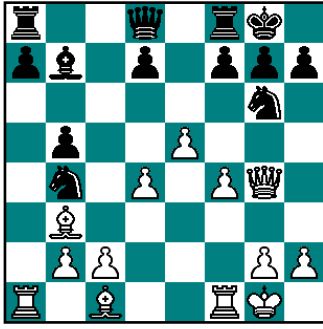


**28.e6!** Another strong move. **28...Qc7 28...Qxe6 29.f5. 29.f5 Ne5 30.Bf4 Nxf3+ 31.Qxf3 Rd6 32.Qg4 Kf8 33.f6! 1-0 33...gf6 34.Bh6+ Ke7 35.Qg7+** and Black must return Queen otherwise he get mate in 1 move.

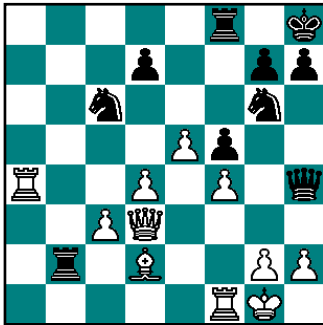
**(16) M. Wind (2200) – IM I. Starostits (2398)**  
**5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 c6 8.Qe2 b5 9.Bb3** A mistake now would be the combination: 9.Nxb5? cb5 10.Bxf7+ Kxf7 11.Qf3+ Nf6 12.Qxa8 since after 12...Qc7! 13.Qf3 Bb7 with decisive attack. **9...Bb4 9...Qb6 10.0-0 Ba6 11.Qe4 b4 12.Na4 Qb5 13.Be3 0-0-0 14.c4 bc3 15.Nxc3 Qd3 16.Qf3 Nh6 1-0 (time) Fraikin – Albarran. 10.0-0 N8e7** Majority of players exchange on c3 immediately after castling, i.e. 10...Bxc3 11.bc3 (11.Qf3!? Qe7 12.Qxc3 =) 11...Qe7 (11...N8e7? 12.f4 d5 13.ed6 Qxd6 14.f5 +/-) 12.a4 ba4 13.Bxa4 Qe6 14.f4 Nh6 15.Qf3 Ne7 16.Bb3 Qf5 17.Ba3 with chances for both players. **11.Nxb5 cb5** *See Diagram*



**12.a3** In order to understand last White's move which wants Black to retreat Bishop on a5 we should reach the position arising by force after: 12.Qf3 d5 13.ed6 Bf5 14.de7 Nxe7 15.Bg5 f6 16.Bf4 Rc8. What is the main difference between Bishop standing on a3-f8 and a5-d8 diagonal? This subtlety is clear after the nearest moves, i.e. 17.Qh5+ g6 18.Qh6 Bxc2 19.Be6 (19.Qg7 Kd7 -/+) 19...Nf5 (19...Rc6 20.Qg7 Rf8 21.Bh6 Nf5 =/+ and Bishop on b4 secures the result of the game) 20.Bxf5 Bxf5 (after inserting moves a2-a3, Bb4-a5 and b2-b4 Black has to give back Bishop by playing Ke8-f7 in view of the threat Qh6-g7) 21.Qg7 Qe7 22.Qxh8 Kd7 -/+. **12...Nc6 13.Qf3 0-0 14.ab4 Bb7 15.Qg4 Nxb4 16.f4** *See Diagram*



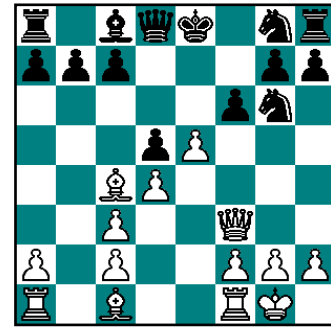
**16...Qh4** 16...Qb6 [16...a5 17.f5 Qh4 (17...a4? 18.fg6 ab3 19.Bg5 +/-) 18.Qe2 a4 19.fg6 ab3 =/+]  
 17.c3 Nd3 (17...Bd5? 18.Bxd5 Nxd5 19.f5 Nxe5 20.Qe4 Nxc3 =) 18.Qxd7 Bc8 -/+ **17.Qe2** Also interesting is 17.Qxd7 Bc6 18.Qd6 Qg4 19.d5 Nh4 20.g3 Nf5 21.Qxb4 Nxf3 22.dc6 Ne4+ 23.Kh1 Ng3+ with perpetual check. **17...a5** **18.Bd2 Nc6** 18...a4!? 19.Bxb4 Nxf4 20.Qd2 ab3 21.Bxf8 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 Kf8 would have unbalanced the position with good play for Black (threatening Nf4xg2). **19.c3 a4** **20.Bc2 Ba6** **21.Bd3 f5** **22.Bxb5 Bxb5** **23.Qxb5 Kh8** **24.Rxa4 Rab8** **25.Qd3 Rxb2** *See Diagram*



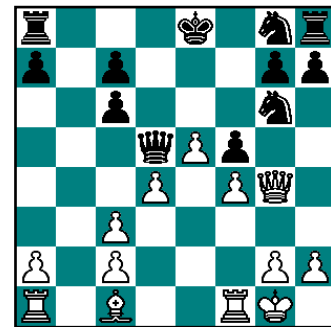
**26.Bc1 Rb3** **27.Ba3 Nce7** **28.Bb4 Rb2** **29.Ba3 Rb3**  
 1/2-1/2

(17) MF A. Torrecillas (2389) – A. Jerez (2392)  
**5...Ng6!** **6.e5 Ng8** **7.Bc4 Bb4** **8.Qf3 f6** Close related to this line is 8...f5 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bc3 d5. Now, 11.ed6 or 11.Bxd5 can be answered similar to

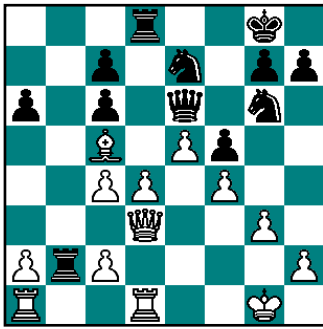
main line after the text move 8...f6, i.e. 11...cd6 or 11...Nh4, respectively. **9.0-0 Bxc3** **10.bc3 d5** *See Diagram*



**11.Bxd5** I prefer this line than 11.ed6 – see games (18-19). **11...Bg4?!** In one of my rapid game (25 min) a strong opponent with Elo above 2300 points played against me more accurately, i.e. 11...Nh4! 12.Qh5+ g6 13.Qxh4! (13.Bc6+ bc6 14.Qxh4 Be6! 15.ef6 Nxf6 16.Re1 Kf7 17.Bg5 Bf5 -/+) 13...Qxd5 14.ef6 Be6 now after 15.Re1 we agreed for a draw. However, after 15...Kf7! (15...0-0-0?! 16.Bf4 Rf8 17.Be5 Qd8 18.d5!? +/-) Black position was slightly better. **12.Bc6+ bc6** **13.Qxg4 Qd5** **14.f4 f5** *See Diagram*



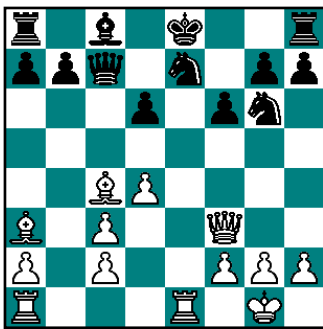
**15.Qe2** But only not 15.Qxf5?, due to 15...Qxg2+ 16.Kxg2 Nh4+ and Nh4xf5 allowing Black to simplify the position. **15...N8e7** **16.Ba3 0-0** **17.Bc5** **Qe6** **18.c4 Rfb8** **19.Qd3 Rb2** **20.g3 a6** **21.Rfd1 Rd8** *See Diagram*



White threatens to break up the center with d4-d5. However, it was not dangerous for Black because the c6- and c7-pawn successfully was able to stop White pawn phalanx. **22.Qc3 Rdb8** 1/2-1/2 Playing with an extra piece Black preserved more chances for victory. Perhaps, he should have tried the plan with g7-g5?

**(18) MF A. Torrecillas (2389) – P. Keiser (1932)**

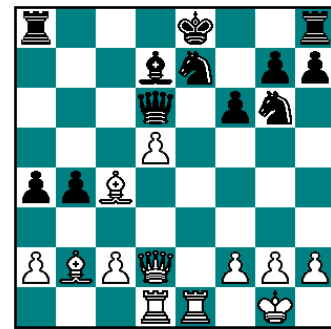
As this game ended with the most spectacular victory of White, MF Torrecillas was awarded with the special prize of 60 Euro. It has been founded by brother of Maurits, i.e. Michael Wind – also strong player. **5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 Bb4 8.Qf3 f6 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bc3 d5 11.ed6 cd6** Risky was 11...Qxd6? because it made possible to develop a dangerous attack after 12.a4. Opened e-file and the threat Bc1-a3 made difficult Black position. **12.Ba3 N8e7 13.Rfe1 Qc7** *See Diagram*



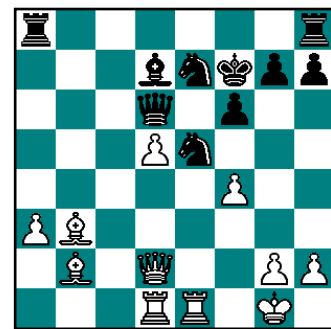
**14.Bb3** White nothing got after 14.Qd5? Kd8 15.Qf7 Nf5. **14...Kd8?** It is hard to understand why Black decided to leave his King in the middle.

Considering that c- and d-pawn will move forward more reasonable looked 14...Kf8. Though, it also was not the best solution for Black since his King would be then under strong White Bishops attack.

**15.c4 Bd7 16.Rad1 Qc6 17.Qc3 a5 17...d5 18.Qa5+ b6 19.cd5 ba5 (19...Qb7 20.Qc3 Nxd5 21.Qf3 Bc6 22.Re6! +/-) 20.dc6 Nxc6 =/+.** **18.d5 Qc7 19.c5 b5 19...Nf5 20.c6!? bc6 21.dc6 Qxc6 22.Qd2 Ra7 23.Bd5 Qc7 24.Be4 Re8 25.Bxf5 Bxf5 26.Bxd6 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Qd7 28.Qd5 Ne5 29.Qg8+ Qe8 30.Qxe8+ Kxe8 31.f4 =.** **20.Qd2 b4 21.cd6 Qxd6 22.Bb2 a4 23.Bc4 Ke8** *See Diagram*

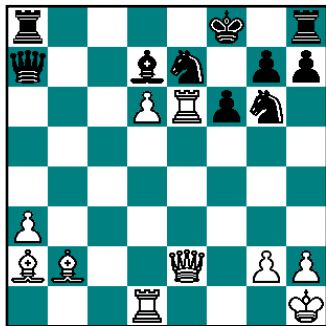


Evidently Black circulates around the same point without any conception. Now, he surely wants to hide his King on f7 but in view of the threat Re1-e6 combined with subsequent d5-d6 with him is very badly. **24.a3 Ne5 25.Ba2 b3?** Better was 25...ba3. Then White should try 26.Bd4 intending to play c2-c4-c5 but his position was objectively still worse. **26.cb3 ab3 27.Bxb3 Kf7 28.f4** *See Diagram*



**28...N5g6?** Indispensable was 28...Ng4! with small advantage to Black. **29.Re6! Qxf4 30.Qe2**

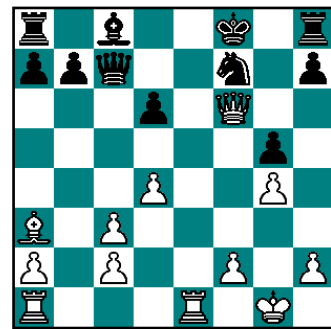
**Qb8 30...Rhb8? 31.Bc1 Qf5 (31...Qh4 32.Re4 +/-) 32.g4 Qb1 33.Bb2 +/- 31.Ba2 Qa7+ 32.Kh1 Kf8 33.d6 See Diagram**



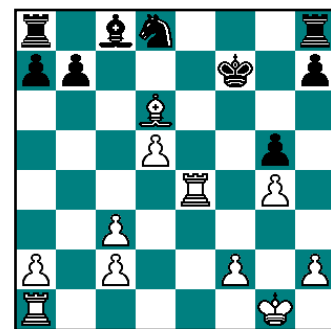
**33...Ng8** All departures of Knight from e7-square were insufficient, e.g. a) 34...Nf5 35.Bxf6 +/-; b) 34...Nc8 35.Bxf6 +/-; c) 34...Nc6 35.Bxf6 Bxe6 36.Qxe6 gf6 37.Qxf6+ Ke8 38.Re1+ Kd7 39.Be6+ +/- **34.Qc4 Nh6?!** Indispensable was 34...Bxe6 35.Qxe6 Nf4 36.Qe4 g5. Now, Black position will fall into pieces. **35.Bxf6! gf6 36.Rxf6+ Ke8 37.Rxg6 hg6 38.Qc3 Rh7 39.Qf6 Ba4 40.Qxg6 Nf7 41.Rf1 Bc2 42.Qxc2 1-0 42...Rg7 43.Qc6+ Kf8 44.d7 Qb8 45.Qe6** convincingly demonstrates that White maintains a great advantage.

**(19) A. Jerez (2392) – M. Maciaga (2207) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 Bb4 8.Qf3 f6 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bc3 d5 11.ed6 cd6 12.Ba3 N8e7 13.Rfe1 Qc7 14.Bd5 Kf8 15.Be4** White keeps two others options in reserve. The first alternative was making an attempt to open the center by putting forward c3-pawn, then after 15.c4 Black should played 15...Nh4!? Other alternative for White was increasing the pressure on d6-pawn, e.g. 15.Qg3?! Nf5 16.Qf3 Bd7 17.g4 (17.Bxb7 Rb8 18.Bd5 N6e7 =/+) 17...N5e7 18.Qg3 Nc8 =/+ **15...Nh4!** The key manevrue in which Black unties his cramped position. **16.Qf4 Nhf5 17.Bxf5** Immediately 17.g4 is answered similar like in the game, i.e. 17...g5

18.Qf3 Nh6. **17...Nxf5 18.g4 g5 19.Qf3 Nh6 20.Qxf6+ Nf7 See Diagram**

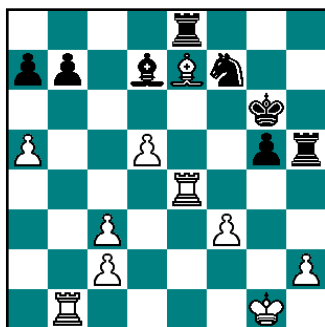


**21.Re4** After 21.Re3 Qd8 22.Qxd8 Nxd8 23.Bxd6+ Kf7 24.Rf3+ Kg6 25.Be5 Rg8 26.Rf6+ Kg7 the check from the Bishop after retreating White's Rook is not dangerous and Black easily takes initiative. **21...Qd8! 22.Qxd8+ Nxd8 23.Bxd6+ Kf7 24.d5 See Diagram**



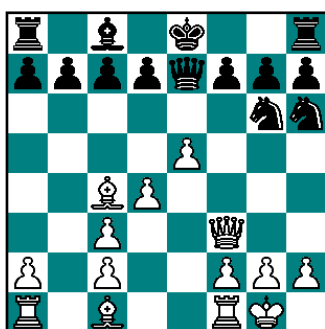
**24...Kg6!** Black has to play accurately otherwise he loses a chance for winning the game, e.g. a) 24...b6?! 25.Rae1 Bb7 26.Re7+ Kg6 27.Rxb7 =; b) 24...Re8?! 25.Rxe8 Kxe8 26.Re1+ Kf7 27.Re7+ Kf6 28.Re8!? =; c) 24...h5?! 25.g5 =. **25.a4 Bd7** Accordance to MF Rudolf after 25...Nf7 26.Be7 (26.Bg3 Bd7 with idea to exchange Rooks 27.Rae1 Rhe8 28.Rxe8 Rxe8 29.Rxe8 Bxe8 with probably winning position because it forces White to play d5-d6 in many variants what is not good for him, e.g. 30.a5 Kf6 31.f4 gf4 32.Bxf4 Ne5 33.h3 Nc4 34.Bc7 Bf7 35.d6 Ke6 -/+) 26...h5 27.g5+ (27.h3 hg4 28.hg4 Rh3 29.c4 Rc3 and now if White has to play 30.Rc1 Black stands better. Also 27.f3 hg4 28.fg4

Rh4 29.Rb1 b6 30.Rbb4 Bd7 leads to advantage for Black) 27...Rxb5 28.d6 Bf5 29.Rd4 Ne5 and Black's pieces are full of vigor and there is even the possibility to make the mate's net around White King. **26.a5 Nf7 27.Be7 Rae8 28.f3 h5 29.gh5+ Rxh5 30.Rb1** *See Diagram*

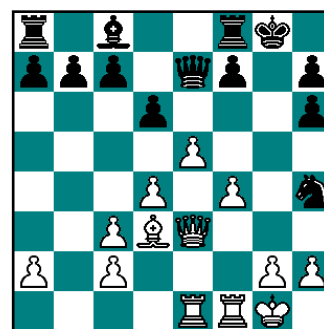


**30...g4!** This move was discovered after long analysis when it seemed that the game ended quickly in a draw, e.g. 30...Bc8?! (30...Bf5?! 31.Ree1 =) 31.d6 Reh8 (31...g4? 32.Rd4 Ne5 33.fg4 =) 32.d7 Bxd7 33.Rxb7 Bc8 34.Rc7 =. **31.c4** If 31.Rxb7 Rxd5 32.fg4 then Black's Knight hops happily into the middle, 32...Ne5, and White has serious problems. **31...gf3 32.Rxb7 Nd6 33.Rxd7? Nxe4 0-1**

(20) IM I. Starostits (2398) – MF A. Torrecillas (2389) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 Bb4 8.Qf3 Qe7 This is a privileged continuation in practice for players of the Black pieces who come face-to-face with the Halloween gambit first time. Probably it easy crosses Black's mind because of his naturalness. **9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bc3 Nh6** *See Diagram*



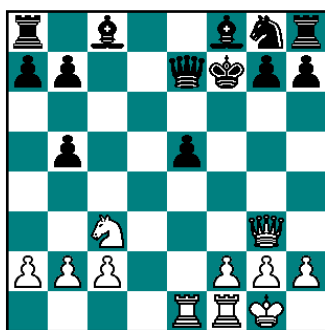
**11.Bxh6** The general White's plan is straightforward. He intends to go away his Queen on d3 or h5 and then advance f-pawn. In practice White it realizes by delaying the exchange on h6 playing 11.Qd3 d6 (11...0-0? 12.Bxh6 gh6 13.f4 +/-) 12.ed6 Qxd6 13.Re1+ Ne7 14.Qe4 or 11.g3 0-0 12.Qh5 d6 13.Bxh6 gh6 14.f4 with slightly better position for Black in both continuations. However, there are deviations from it, e.g. in Fraikin – IM Starostits<sup>17</sup> after 11.Qd3 Qh4!? game turned off from well-beaten theoretical tracks leading into more random territory 12.f4 Ne7 13.Ba3 Nhf5 14.Qe4 Rb8 15.Rf3 b5 16.Bb3 Qh6 17.d5 a5 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.a4 Qb6+ 20.Kh1 0-0 21.f5 ba4 22.Qxa4 d6 23.f6 Ng6 0-1 (40 moves). The plan introduced by IM Starostits in game against MF Torrecillas is also minor. **11...gh6 12.Rae1 0-0 13.Qe3 d6 14.f4** Perhaps, White should have tried 14.Qxh6 de5 15.f4 in order to avoid closing the position after the text move. **14...Nh4 15.Bd3** *See Diagram*



**15...f5!** From practical standpoint the result of the game played on IM-MF level is prejudice. Black prevented White from playing f4-f5 and he is ready to regroup pieces before final attack. **16.c4 Ng6 17.e6 Qf6 18.Kh1 b6 19.d5 Bb7 20.Be2 c6** In this way Black intended to open c-file. **21.Qb3 Rac8 22.Rf3 Rfe8 23.Bf1 Re7 24.a4 a6 25.c3 b5 26.cb5 ab5 27.a5 cd5 28.Rg3 d4 29.cd4 Qxd4 30.Bxb5**

White maintained passed a-pawn but for the price of crushed the central pawns. **30...Bd5 31.Qb1 Rb8 32.Qd3 Qxd3 33.Bxd3 Rxe6 34.Ra1 Rb2 35.Bxf5 Ree2 36.Bg4 Rxxg2 0-1**

**(21) MF J. Blokhuis (2339) – IM I. Starostits (2398) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6** The most flexible continuation with several interesting continuations for both sides. **8.Qf3 Qe7!?** At first glance it gives White permission to play 9.Nd5?, however after 9...Qd7 10.Nc3 (because of the threat c7-c6 combined with d6-d5) Black transposes the position to 8...Qd7 line with extra tempo. A big mistake is 8...Be6?! 9.Qxb7 Bxc4? because of 10.Qc6+ Ke7 11.ed6+ cd6 12.Qxc4 Rc8 13.Qe2+ Kd7 14.Qb5+ Ke7 15.Nd5+ Ke6 16.0-0 f6 17.Re1+ Kf7 18.Qb3 +/- . Something more accurate was 9...N8e7 10.Nb5 Rc8 11.d5! Nxe5 12.de6 Nxc4 13.Nxa7 Rb8 14.Qa6 Nxb2, though after 15.Nc6 Nxc6 16.Qxc6+ Ke7 17.0-0 White has a long term compensation. **9.0-0** Insufficient was 9.Bg5? Qxg5 10.Bxf7+ Kd8 11.Bxg6 Nf6 -/+ . **9...de5 10.de5?** Subsequent line is forced and leads to lost. **10...Nxe5 11.Bb5+ 11.Qg3 Nxc4 12.Nd5 Qd6 13.Nxc7+ Kd8 14.Nxa8 Qxg3 15.hg3 Bg4 -/+ . 11...c6 12.Qg3 cb5 13.Bf4 f6 14.Rae1 Kf7 15.Bxe5 fe5** *See Diagram*

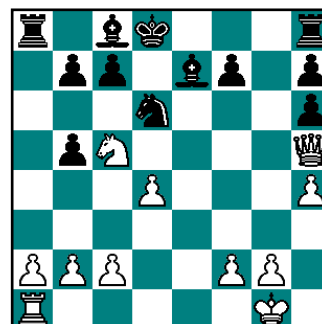


**16.f4** Recompense for two pieces is incompleteness. **16.Rxe5!?** Qb4 [16...Qd7 17.Nxb5 Nf6 18.Nc7!

**Rb8 19.Ne6 (19.Qb3+ Kg6 20.c3!?! =/+ ) 19...h6 20.Rfe1** and in view of Ne6xf8, Re5-e7+ with the threat Qg3xb8 Black has to repeat moves though he plays with two Bishops up, i.e. 20...Ra8 21.Nc7 Rb8 22.Ne6 =] 17.Rxb5 Qg4! and now 18.Rxb7 is not dangerous for Black. **16...Qc5+ 17.Kh1 ef4 18.Ne4 Nf6 19.Qxf4 Qc6 20.Re3 h6 21.Rc3 Qe6 22.Re3 Kg8 0-1**

**(22) IM I. Starostits (2398) – A. Werksma (2196) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 Qe7 9.0-0 de5 10.Bb5+ Kd8 10...c6!?! 11.Bxc6+ bc6!?! 12.Qxc6+ Qd7 13.Qxa8 ed4 14.Nb5! Qb7 15.Re1+ Kd8 16.Qxb7 Bxb7 17.Nxd4 +/- . 11.Rd1 e4 11...c6 12.Bxc6 bc6 13.Qxc6 Rb8 14.de5+ Bd7 15.Nb5 Rxb5+ (15...Rc8 16.Qb7 Qe6 17.Nxa7 Rxc2 18.Qb8+ =) 16.Qxb5 Ke8 17.Qb8+ Qd8 18.Qxa7 =. 12.Nxe4 Nh4** In case of 12...c6 White played 13.Bc4 followed by d4-d5. **13.Qf4 Nf5 13...Nf6 14.Ng5 Bg4 15.f3 h6 16.Ne4 Ng6 17.Qg3 Bd7 18.Bd3 Nh5 19.Qf2 Nh4 20.Bc4 Kc8 21.Re1 f5 22.Nc5 Qd8 23.Nxd7 Qxd7 24.c3 0-1 (36 moves) Jerez – Steenbekkers<sup>18</sup>. 14.Bd2 Ngh6 14...c6? 15.Ba5+ Ke8 16.Re1 Be6 (16...cb5 17.Bb4 +/-) 17.d5 cb5 18.de6 fe6 19.Rad1 +/- . 15.Re1 a6 16.Nc5 ab5 17.Rxe7 Bxe7 18.Qe5 Bf6 19.Qd5+ Nd6 20.Bxh6 gh6 21.Qh5 Bg5 22.h4 Be7** *See*

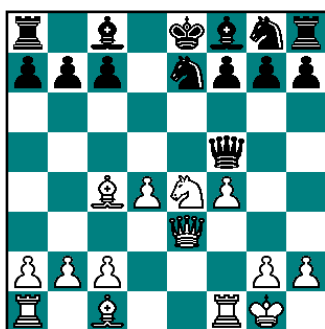
*Diagram*





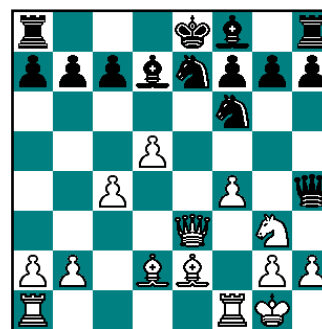
**23.c3** 23.Qxh6 Bf5 24.Qf4 Kc8 25.c3 b6 26.Nb3 Rg8 =/+ . **23...Re8 24.a3 Bf8 25.Rd1 Rb8 26.Qf3 Bf5 27.Kf1 1/2-1/2** Black should continue the game, e.g. 27...b6!? 28.Na6 (28.Nd3 Nxd3 29.Rxd3 Kd7 =/+) 28...Be4 29.Qf6+ Be7 30.Qxh6 Ra8 31.Nb4 Rg8 32.f3 Nf5 =/+.

**(23) M. Wind (2200) – P. Keiser (1932) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 Qd7 9.0-0 Qf5 10.Qe3!** Slightly better than 10.Qe2 allowing 10...Qg4. **10...de5 11.f4 e4 12.Nxe4** Threatening Ne4-g3 combined with f4-f5. **12...N6e7** Disaster was 12...N8e7? 13.Ng5 Be6 14.Bd3 but 12...Be7 13.Bd3 Kf8 14.Bd2 was unclear *See Diagram*

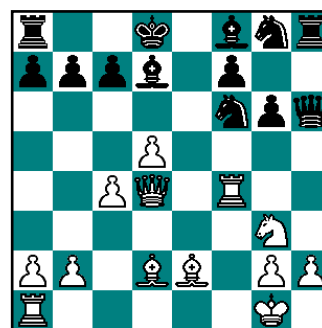


**13.Bd2!?** The new idea prepared by Wind. Till now it has been mainly played 13.Bd3 Qa5 (13...Qe6 14.f5 Qb6 15.Nc5 Nf6 16.a4 a5 17.Bc4 Bd7 18.Ra3 0-0-0 19.Rb3 Ned5 with complex position) 14.f5 Bd7 15.b4! Qxb4 16.c4 with initiative. In Werksma – MF Blokhuis<sup>19</sup> followed 13.Re1. It was not important from theoretic point of view thought from practical point it demonstrated typical play in the Halloween gambit 13...Nf6 14.Ng5 Nfd5 15.Qb3 c6 16.Bd2 f6 17.Ne4 Kd7 18.Bd3 Qh5 19.c4 Nb6 20.a4 Kc7 21.a5 Nd7 22.Qc3 f5 23.Ng5 Nf6 24.d5 Ng6 25.b4 h6 26.Nf7 Rg8 27.a6 b6 28.dc6 Ne4 29.Qd4 Be6 0-1 (39 moves). **13...Bd7 14.d5 Nf6 15.Ng3 Qg4?** Stronger is 15...Qxc2, although

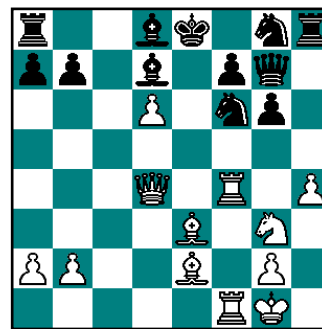
16.Rac1 Qa4 17.Qe5! is still unclear. **16.Be2 Qh4 17.c4** *See Diagram*



**17...Kd8 18.f5 Neg8 19.Rf4 Qh6 20.Qd4 g5 21.fg6 hg6** *See Diagram*



**22.h4! Be7 23.Raf1 Qf8 24.Be3 Ke8 25.c5 Qg7 26.d6 cd6 27.cd6 Bd8** *See Diagram*



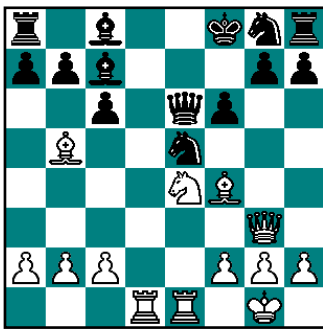
**28.Qb4! Bb6 29.Bxb6 ab6 30.Qxb6 Kf8 31.Bb5 Bxb5 32.Qxb5 Re8 33.Qxb7 1-0** After 33...Rh7 White calmly played 34.a4! and then 34...g5 35.Nf5 Qg6 36.hg5 Qxg5 37.d7 Nxd7 38.Qxd7 was devastating.

**(24) GM V. Milov (2592) – F. Hoyneck (2043) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 Qd7 9.0-0 de5 10.de5 Nxe5 11.Re1 Bd6 12.Bf4 f6 13.Bb5!?** c6

**14.Rad1 Qe6** 14...cb5 15.Bxe5 fe5 16.Ne4 Bc7 17.Rxd7 Rxd7 =; 14...Qc7 15.Nd5 a) 15...Qd8 16.Bxc6+ bc6 17.Nxf6+ Nxf6 = (17...gf6 18.Qxc6+ Bd7 19.Qxd6 Ne7 20.Qxf6 N5g6 21.Qg7 +/-); b) 15...Qa5 16.Bxc6+ bc6 17.b4!? +/-; c) 15...Qb8 16.Ba4 Kf8 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Nxf6!? gf6 19.Qa3+ Kg7 20.Rd8 Qc7 21.Qf8+ Kg6 22.Bb3 =/+.

**15.Qg3 Kf8** 15...g5 16.Bxe5 fe5 17.Qxg5 Ne7 18.Bc4 Qxc4 19.Rxd6 Qf4 20.Qh5+ Kf8 21.g3 Qf5 22.Ne4 +/-.

**16.Ne4 Bc7** *See Diagram*



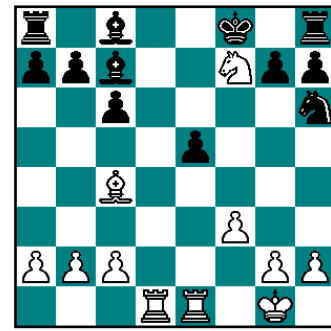
**17.Ng5** After 17.Ba4 Black answers 17...Qg4! with winning position but only not 17...Qxa2?? after which wins 18.Bxe5! Bxe5 (18...fe5 19.Bb3 Qa5 20.Qf3+ +/-) 19.Rd8+ Ke7 (19...Kf7 20.Bb3+ +/-) 20.Qxg7+ Kxd8 21.Bb3 Qa5 22.Rd1+.

**17...Qf5** In case of 17...Qxa2 White plays very effective move 18.Rxe5!?, though insufficient, e.g. 18...fg5! 19.Qxg5 cb5! 20.Re3 Bxf4 21.Qd8+ Kf7.

**18.Bxe5 fe5 19.Bc4 Qg4** 19...Nh6!? 20.Qa3+ Ke8 21.Nf3 Nf7 22.Qc5 Rf8 =/+.

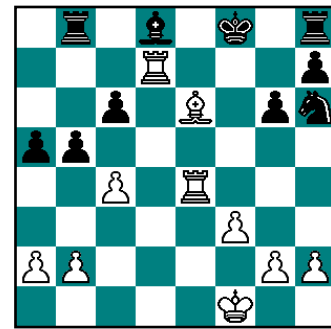
**20.Qxg4** 20.Qa3+ Ne7 21.f4!? **20...Bxg4 21.f3 Bc8** 21...Bf5 22.g4 Bb6+ (22...Bc8 23.Nf7 Nh6 24.Nxh8 g6 25.g5 +/-) 23.Kg2 Bxc2 24.Rd7 Nf6 25.Rxb7 e4 (25...h6? 26.Rf7+ Ke8 27.Rxe5+ +/-) 26.Bf7 Re8 27.Bxe8 Nxe8 28.fe4 +/-.

**22.Nf7 Nh6** *See Diagram*



**23.Nxe5** 23.Nh8? Ke7 (23...g6? 24.g4 Kg7 25.g5 Nf5 26.Nf7 +/-; 23...g5!? and now as well 24.h4 g4 25.f4 as 24.g4 Kg7 25.h4 Kxh8 26.hg5 Ng8 leads to unclear position) 24.g4 Be6 25.Bxe6 Kxe6 26.g5 Nf5 27.Nf7 Bb6+ 28.Kh1 Kxf7 =/+.

**23...g6 24.Nd7+ Bxd7 25.Rxd7 Ba5 26.Re6 Rb8 27.Kf1 Bd8 28.Re4 b5 29.Be6 a5 30.c4** *See Diagram*

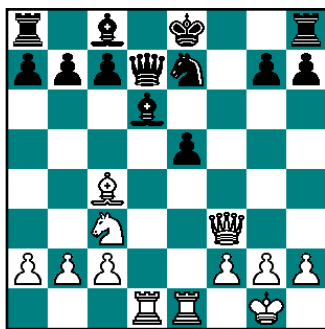


**30...Ng8** 30...Nf5!? 31.cb5 cb5 32.Bxf5 gf5 33.Re5 f4 34.Rd4 Bf6 35.Rxf4 Kg7 -/+.

**31.Bxg8 Rxg8 32.Rxh7 Rg7 33.Rh8+ Rg8 34.Rh7 1/2-1/2** Black prematurely accepted a draw. For attention deserved 34...g5!? with better chances for Black playing with Bishop for two pawns.

**(25) MF A. Torrecillas (2389) – F. Steenbekkers (2073)** 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 Qd7 9.0-0 de5 10.de5 Nxe5 11.Re1 Bd6 12.Bf4 f6 13.Rad1 Ne7 As Wind has pointed out after 13...Qf5? 14.Nb5 Kf8 15.Bxe5 fe5 16.Qb3 Black can barely defend his position. **14.Bxe5 fe5** *See Diagram*

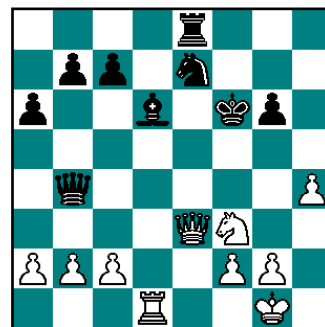




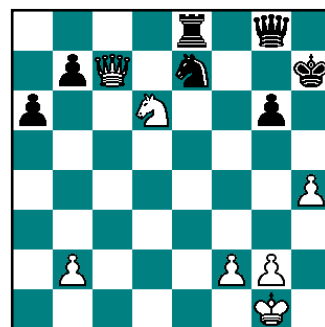
**15.Ne4** White can take into consideration 15.Bb5!? Nc6 16.Rxe5+ branching away on the following variants: a) 16...Bxe5? 17.Rxd7 Kxd7 18.Bxc6+ bc6 19.Qf5+ Kd6 20.Ne4+ Kd5 21.c4+! Kd4 22.Qf3! with easily winning position for White, e.g. 22...Re8 23.Nd2 Kc5 24.Qa3+ +/-; 22...Rd8 23.b3 +/-; 22...Kxc4 23.Nd2+ Kc5 24.Qe3+ Kd6 25.Nc4+ Kd5 26.Nxe5 +/-; b) 16...Kd8 17.Red5! a6 18.Ne4 Qg4 19.Qc3 Qxe4 20.Qxg7 ab5 21.Rxd6+ with a draw by repetition of moves, i.e. 21...cd6 22.Rxd6+ Ke8 23.Qh8+ Ke7 24.Qf6+ Ke8 25.Qh8; c) 16...Nxe5! 17.Bxd7+ Bxd7 18.Qxb7 Bc6 19.Qb3 0-0-0 =/+. **15...Rf8!** a) 15...Qf5?! 16.Qb3 Qf4 17.Bb5+ Kf8 18.Nxd6 cd6 19.Rxd6 Bg4 (19...Bf5 20.g3 Qg5 21.Rxe5 +/-) 20.g3 Qg5 21.h4 Qh5 22.Qd3 g6 (22...Kf7 23.f4 +/-) 23.Rd8+ Kf7 24.Rxh8 Rxh8 25.Qd6 +/-; b) 15...Nf5 16.Ng5! Qe7 17.Nf7 Rf8 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Qd5 Bd6 20.Rxe7+ Nxe7! 21.Qh5+ =. **16.Qh5+ g6 17.Qxh7 a6** Black wants to play Qc6 followed by developing c8 Bishop. In the event 17...Qg4? White plays 18.Qg7 with deadly threat Rd1xd6. Also 17...b6? 18.Rxd6! cd6 19.Bb5 Nc6 20.Qxg6+ Kd8 21.Rd1 was inaccurately. **18.Bb3** For reflection deserved 18.Qg7 Qc6 19.Bb3 Bf5 20.Nf6+ Rxf6 21.Qxf6 0-0-0 with roughly play. **18...Qc6 19.Ng5 Bg4 20.Bf7+ Kd7 21.Qg7 Rxf7 21...Bxd1? 22.Be6+ Ke8 23.Nh7 Rf4 24.Rxd1 Qxc2 25.Rf1** with extremely unclear positions but

White chances are greater. **22.Nxf7 Bxd1 23.Rxd1 Qe4 23...Qxc2 24.Nxe5+ Ke6 25.Qf7+ Kxe5 26.f4+ Ke4 27.Qe6+ Kxf4 28.Rf1+ Kg5 29.Qe3+** with a draw by repetition of moves. **24.Nxe5+ Ke6 25.Nf3 Qf4 26.Qc3 Qb4 27.Qe3+ Kf6 28.h4 Re8**

*See Diagram*



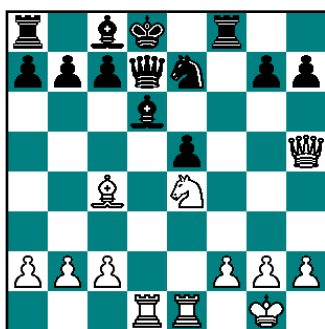
**29.c4!** White wishes to make use with weakness a1-h8 diagonal. In the reached position threats Qe3-d4+ with dangerous attack after Nf3-g5. **29...Qxc4 30.Nd2 Qxa2 30...Qxh4 31.Ne4+ Kg7 32.Qd4+ Kf8 (32...Kh6 33.g3 Qh3 34.Qd2+ Kg7 35.Qd4+ Kf8 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Rxd6! cd6 38.Nxd6 =) 33.g3 Qh5 34.Qf6+ Kg8 35.Qe6+ Kg7 36.Rxd6! =. 31.Ne4+ Kg7 32.Rxd6 cd6 33.Nxd6 Qg8 34.Qc3+ Kh7 35.Qc7** *See Diagram*



**35...Rf8 35...Qf8 36.Nxe8 Qxe8 37.Qxb7 a5!?** =. **36.Qxe7+ Qg7 37.Qe6 Qf6 38.Qd7+ Qg7 39.Qe6 1/2-1/2 39...Qxb2 40.Ne4 =/+ or 39...b5 40.h5 =/+.**

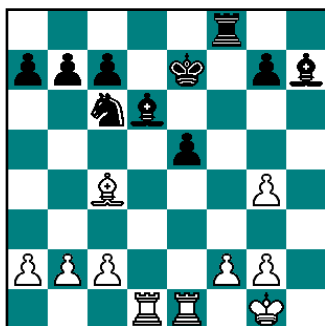
**(26) A. Werksma (2196) – M. Maciaga (2207) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 Qd7 9.0-0 de5 10.de5 Nxe5 11.Rfe1 Bd6 12.Bf4 f6 13.Rad1 Ne7**

14.Bxe5 fe5 15.Ne4 Rf8! 16.Qh5+ Kd8! *See Diagram*



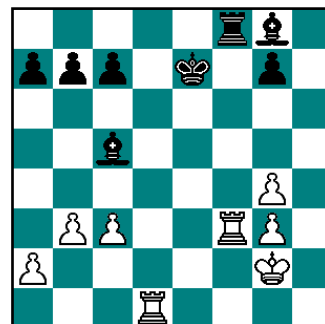
17.Qxh7 The reached position is full of many tempting variants but none of them was satisfying for White, e.g. 17.Nxd6 cd6 18.Rxe5 and now Black can exchange his Queen for two Rooks 18...de5 19.Rxd7+ Bxd7 as well as to play 18...Rf5 19.Rxf5 Qxf5 20.Rxd6+ Kc7 21.Qd1 Nc6. Other continuations like 17.Ng5 Qf5 18.Nf7+ Rxf7 19.Qxf7 Qxf7 20.Bxf7 or the line derived from Albarran – Werksma, i.e. 17.Qg5 h6 18.Qxg7 Nf5 19.Qg6 Qe8 20.Qxe8 Rxe8 21.Nf6 Rf8 0-1 (time) were also insufficient. 17...Qg4! 18.h3 Quite dangerous for Black was 18.Nxd6 cd6 19.Rxd6+ Kc7 20.Qd3 but after forced 20...Qf4! he was still better. 18...Bf5! Black must still watch his step carefully. 19.hg4 Bxh7 20.Nc5 Nc6 20...Bxc2? 21.Nxb7+ Kd7 22.Rd2 Bh7 23.Bb5+ would have led to an equal ending. 21.Ne6+ Ke7 22.Nxf8 Rxf8

*See Diagram*

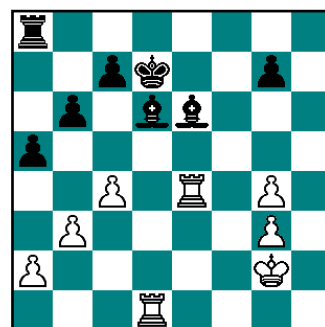


Till now I depended on Wind's recommendation from his theoretical overview. In the reached

position Black is definitely better. However, he needs to regroup all his pieces and puts them on proper squares. 23.c3 Rf4 24.Be2 Bc5 25.Rf1 Bg8 26.b3 e4 27.g3 Rf8 28.Kg2 Ne5 29.f4 It was not necessary but Black provoked White beyond endurance. The majority of players does not like playing in defence. 29...ef3+ 30.Bxf3 Nxf3 31.Rxf3 *See Diagram*



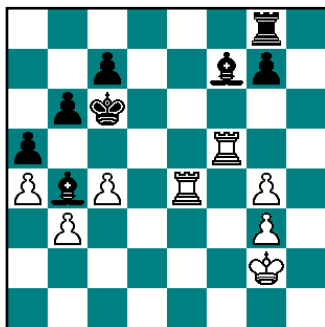
31...Ra8! From positional standpoint the exchange of Rooks on f3 would be a great inaccuracy. Soon, two Black's Bishops after taking excellent positions will be able alone to neutralize White's Rooks. It means that Black will play with one piece more, i.e. entire Rook up. 32.Rf5 Bd6 33.c4 b6 34.Rf2 Be6 35.Re2 Kd7 36.Re4 a5 *See Diagram*



37.a4 White weakened b3-pawn in order to avoid opening a-file. At first glance, there was nothing extraordinary in that. However, a picture of play underwent a change. From a given point, Black will strive to exchange a pair of Rooks and then attack strongly weakened b3-pawn. In the event of 37.Re5 Bxg4 38.Rd2 (38.Rd3? after opening a-file the second rank became weak) 38...Rf8 39.c5 bc5

40.Rxc5 Bf3+ 41.Kg1 Ke6 42.Rxa5 Bxg3 Black remained with strong g-pawn ensured him easy winning the game. **37...Bg8 38.Rh1!** This move only prolonged White's life delaying an exchange of Rooks, e.g. 38.Re5 Re8! 39.Rxe8 (39.Rg5 Re7 40.c5 bc5 41.Rxc5 Bxb3 42.Rd2 Bxa4 43.Rxa5 Bc6+ -/+ ) 39...Kxe8 (and only now Black is ready to focus around b3-pawn) 40.Kf3 Bh7 41.Rd2 Kd7 42.Rh2 Bb1 43.Rb2 Bg6! 44.Re2 Be7 45.Kf4 Bf6! 46.Rd2+ Kc6 47.g5 Bc3 48.Re2 Kc5 49.Re7 c6 with winning position. **38...Rf8** Black steered a course. However, 38...b5!? 39.ab5 a4 40.c5!? was also correct. **39.Rh5 Bf7 40.Rg5 Rg8** But only not 40...g6? because the g6-square is destined for light-square Bishop. **41.Rd4 Kc6 42.Re4 Bb4 43.Rf5**

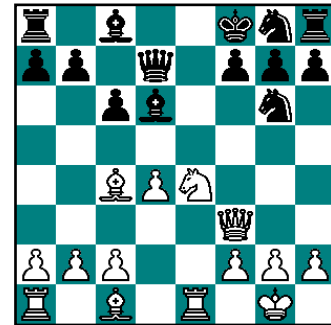
*See Diagram*



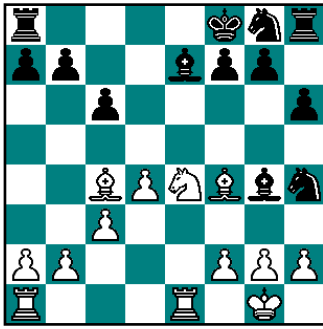
**43...Re8!** Finally Black succeeded in ending the first part of his plan assuming to exchange a pair of Rooks. According to second part of plan he will make an effort to tear b3-pawn with light-square Bishop via g6-c2-square, dark-square Bishop on a1-h8 diagonal defending g7-pawn and cutting off White King from b3-pawn, and Black King via Kc6-c5-b4. **44.Rxe8 Bxe8 45.Re5 Bf7 46.Re4 Bd6 0-1** 47.Kf3 Bg6! 48.Re3 Kc5! 49.Ke2 Kb4! 50.Kd2 Bc5 51.Rf3 Be4 Exclamation mark denoted key moves from elucidated plan.

(27) MF J. Blokhuis (2339) – M. Wind (2200) **5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 Qd7 9.0-0 c6 10.ed6** Otherwise Black plays d6-d5 and in appropriate moment f7-f5 in order to close the position. **10...Bxd6 11.Re1+ Kf8 12.Ne4** *See*

*Diagram*

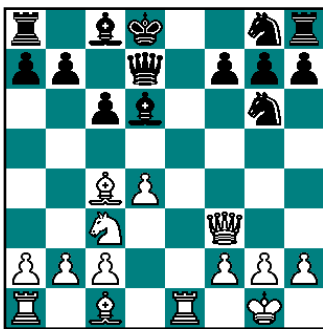


**12...Nh4!** The most challenging move since 12...Bb4? 13.c3 Ba5 gave White an excellent compensation for Knight, e.g. 14.Ng5!? Nf6 (14...Nh6 15.Ne6 Kg8 16.Bxh6 gh6 17.Qf6 +/-) 15.b3 Nd5 16.Ba3+ Kg8 17.Re7. **13.Qe2** With the aim of playing Ne4xd6 Qd7xd6 Qe2-e8 mate. In addition, this move prolong White's life because the alternatives: 13.Qxf7+? Qxf7 14.Bxf7 Bb4! as well as 13.Qh5 Nf5 14.Nxd6 Nxd6 15.Bf4!? Nxc4 (15...Nf5? 16.Qxf5 Qxf5 17.Bd6+ Ne7 18.Rxe7) 16.Qc5+ Ne7 17.Qxc4 Nd5 immediately lost the game. **13...Be7 14.c3** After 14.Qh5 g6? 15.Qe5! Qg4 (15...f6 16.Nxf6 Nxf6 17.Bh6+ +/-) 16.Bh6+! Nxb6 17.Qxh8+ Ng8 18.Ng3 White obtained a decisive advantage. However, after 14...Qf5 15.Ng5 Bxg5 as well as 14...Ng6 15.Ng5 Bxg5!? he had nothing special. **14...h6 15.Bf4?** This allows Black to exchange Queens. 15.h3 would have kept a tension in the middle but the position with a piece down did not guaranteed White a good game. **15...Qg4 16.Qxg4 Bxg4** *See Diagram*



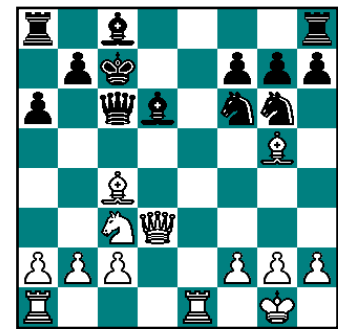
**17.Nd6 g5 18.Be5** In reply to 18.Nxf7, Black should play 18...Rh7 but only not 18...gf4? changed radically the situation on desk. **18...f6 19.Bg3 Bxd6!** Wind quite reasonably decided to give back his Bishop. After regrouping all his pieces he is going to exchange Rooks getting a winning endgame with a piece up. **20.Bxd6+ Kg7 21.Re4 Bf5 22.Re2 Rd8 23.Ba3 Ng6 24.Rae1 h5 25.g3 Nh6 26.f3 Bd7 0-1**

**(28) M. Maciaga (2207) – GM V. Milov (2592)**  
**5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 Qd7 9.0-0 c6 10.ed6 Bxd6 11.Re1+ Kd8!?** *See Diagram*

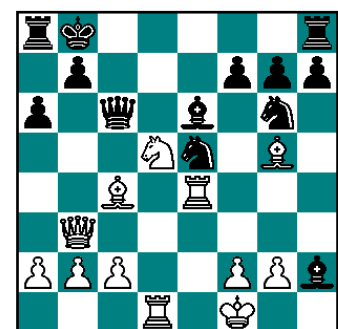


Grandmaster said after the game, that he played 11...Kd8!? by mistake, but he accidentally discovered a new very interesting and playable line for Black. **12.d5** I was anxious for winning with owner of GM-title, therefore I spent a lot of time looking for the best continuation. Finally I decided to play courageously opening the position in order to make use of remaining Black's King in the middle. **12...Nf6** Playing developmental moves and making complications is for now the best strategy

for Black since forced continuations are too risky, e.g. 12...Ne5? 13.Rxe5 Bxe5 14.dc6 bc6 (14...Qxc6 15.Qxf7 +/-) 15.Bg5+ Kc7 16.Rd1 Qf5 17.Bd8+ Kb7 (18...Kb8 19.Qxc6 Bb7 20.Qe8 a6 21.Bb6 Bc8 22.Bd5 +/-) 18.Ba6+ Kb8 19.Qxc6 Bxa6 20.Qxa6 Qe6 21.Qb5+ Kc8 22.Qc5+ with perpetual check or 12...Qf5?! 13.Qd1 Ne5 14.dc6!? Nxc4 15.b3 bc6 16.bc4 Kc7 17.Ne4 with small advantage to Black, but the position requires from Black accurate moves, for example 17...Be5? at once lost the game after 18.Ba3. **13.dc6 Qxc6 14.Qd3 a6 15.Bg5 Kc7** *See Diagram*

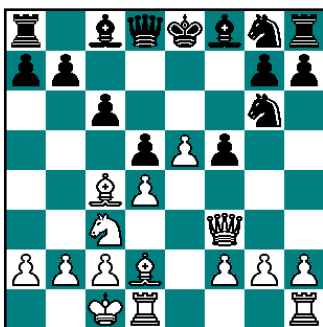


**16.Nd5+** This gives White some hope. Apart from 16.Nd5+, White also has several options, e.g. 16.Bxf7? Ne5; 16.a4? Ne5; 16.Rad1 Ne5 17.Rxe5 Bxe5 18.Qe3 Ng4 19.Bf4 Nxe3 20.Bxe5+ Kb6 21.Be3; 16.Bxf6 gf6 17.Bd5 Nf4 as well as 16.Bb3 Ng4 17.Nd5+ Kb8 18.h3, thought in all cases an advantage of Black pieces is overwhelming. **16...Kb8 17.Rad1 Ng4 18.Qb3 Bxh2+ 19.Kf1 Be6 20.Re4 N4e5 0-1** *See Diagram*



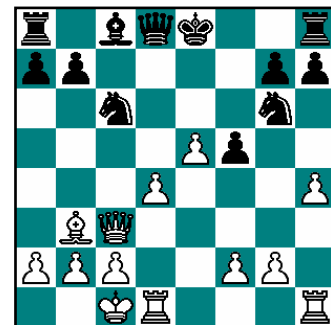
There was no reason to continue the game, especially that on the other side of chessboard sat bearer of GM-title, e.g. a) 21.f4 Nxc4!? 22.Rxc4 Qxd5!? 23.Rxd5 Bxd5 24.Rc8+ Rxc8 25.Qxd5 f6!? 26.Qd6+ Ka7 27.Bxf6 gf6 28.Qd4+ b6 29.Qd7+ Kb8 30.Qxh7 Bxf4 31.Qxg6 Be5 -/+; b) 21.Be3 Nxc4!? 22.Rxc4 Qb5 -/+; c) 21.g3 Bh3+ 22.Ke1 Re8 -/+; d) 21.Be2 Bf5 22.Red4 Bxc2 -/+.

**(29) GM V. Milov (2592) – M. Wind (2200)**  
**5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 f5** The line with 8...f5 is very interesting and solid side-line. It can be recommended to those players, who wish to avoid a well beaten tracks. **9.Bd2!?** White had three equivalent alternatives here, i.e. 9.Bd2!?, 9.g4 – the main line, and 9.h4!? de5 10.h5 e4 11.Nxe4 Nh4 (11...Qxd4 12.Bf7+ Kxf7 13.hg6+ Ke8 14.Rxh7 Qxe4+ =/+) 12.Qb3 Qe7! 13.Rxh4 Nf6 with advantage to Black. **9...c6** Taking a pawn in the position with delayed development 9...de5?! 10.de5 Qd4 11.Bb3 Qxe5+ was very risky due to 12.Be3 Bb4 13.0-0-0. **10.0-0-0** The best since 10.ed6 Qxd6 11.0-0-0 Be7 has favoured Black. **10...d5** *See Diagram*



**11.Nxd5** This second piece sacrifice was the point of White's play. **11...cd5 12.Bxd5 N8e7 13.Bb3 Nc6** Black must watch his step carefully, otherwise White pawns on d- and e-file become extremely dangerous, e.g. 13...a5? 14.e6 a4 15.Bc4 Qb6

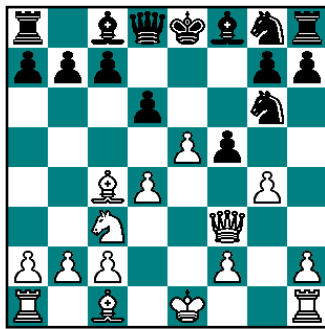
16.Rhe1 Qc6 17.Qe2 with unpleasant threats Bc4-b5 or d4-d5. **14.Bc3 Bb4** A computer recommended 14...Qg5+? 15.Kb1 f4, but this would give White ample opportunity to increase an attack possibilities after 16.Qd5 Qf5 17.Rhe1 Be7 18.Qc4. **15.h4?!** Stronger was 15.Bxb4 Nxb4 16.d5, thought Black was still better after 16...0-0!? 17.d6+ Kh8 18.e6 Bxe6 19.Bxe6 Rf6. Perhaps, Black should try 16...a5!? combined with a5-a4-a3, Ra8-a5 or Nb4-a6-c5, thought the position with King in the middle is complex. **15...Bxc3 16.Qxc3** *See Diagram*



**16...Nf4!** Returning one of Knight for a full blockade of the center was a winning manoeuvre. **17.Kb1 Nd5 18.Qf3 Be6 19.c4 Nce7! 20.h5 Qd7 21.cd5 Bxd5 22.Qg3 Bxb3 23.Qxb3 Qd5 24.Qa3 Nc6 0-1** Black took control in the middle and played with extra Knight. However, White should have tried to run a blockade with Rh1-h3-c3-c5 and move forward his strong pawns.

**(30) F. Steenbekkers (2073) – GM V. Milov (2592) & A. Werksma (2196) – F. Steenbekkers (2073)** Two identical games like in Polish comedy with Boguslaw Pawlik. As an amateur chessplayer he made separately a bet with two grandmasters that he would defeat them. When he received a move from one of the masters playing as White in the correspondence game, he immediately sent the move to the next one playing as Black. Games

ended in a draw! **5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 f5 9.g4** See Diagram

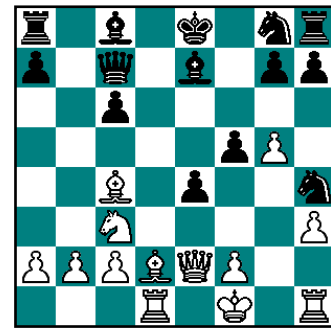


**9...Nh4** The best since 9...N8e7?! 10.Bg5 h6 11.gf5 Bxf5 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.Qxb7 as well as 9...de5!? 10.gf5 Nh4 11.Qh5+ g6 12.fg6 Nxc6 13.Be3 Nf6 14.Qe2 has exposed Black King remaining in the middle to numerous dangers.

**10.Qe2 Be7** Everything would be going splendidly if Black successfully closes the position by playing c7-c6 followed by d6-d5. Because White could not permit for it the only real threat remained to intermediate the check after Nh4-g2+ in order to prevent White from castling in long side. The continuation of the game Jerez – MF Blokhuis<sup>20</sup> was a good example of that 10...de5 11.Bd2 e4? (also 11...Qxd4? made possible to castle in long side 12.0-0-0 Bd6 13.f4 Ng6 14.Rhf1 e4 15.Nd5 and White already had a winning attack, therefore 11...Ng2+! 12.Kf1 Nh4 was desired) 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.gf5 Bxf5 14.Nxe4 Qd7?! 15.Nc5 Qxd4 16.Ne6 Bxe6 17.Bxe6 1-0 (49 moves). **11.h3 c6 12.d5! de5 13.Bd2 Ng2+! 14.Kf1 Nh4 15.Rd1 Qc7** If White were castled in long side he would simply have a great position, but playing with King in the middle is not going to be easy. **16.dc6 bc6 17.g5** Threatening Bc4xg8 Rh8xg8 Qe2-c4 with doubled attack on Black Rook and Knight. **17...e4** See Diagram

**18.Qh5+** At first glance returning the second Knight was tempting, e.g. 18.Nxe4 fe4 19.Qxe4. In the event of straightforward 19...Ng6? 20.Ba5! (xRd1-d8 mate) 20...Qxa5 21.Qxc6+ Kf8 22.Qxa8 Qc7 23.Be6 Qxc2 24.Qxc8+ Qxc8 25.Bxc8 Bxc8 White obtained strong passed a-pawn 26.Rd7 a5 27.Rd5 Bf6 28.Rxa5. However, after 19...Nf5! 20.Ba5 Nd6! 21.Qe5 Qb8 22.Qxg7 Nxc4 23.Qxh8 Be6 White's attack turned out to be insufficient. **18...Ng6 19.Ne2 Bd6 20.Bc3 Be5 21.Nd4 Ne7 22.h4 Bd7 23.Qe2 Nf4 24.Qd2 Ned5 25.Nb5** It looks like despairing move but there was not good moves, e.g. 25.Ba5 Nb6 26.Ba6 0-0 and Black has a very solid position. **25...cb5 26.Bxd5 Bxc3 27.bc3 0-0-0 0-1**

**(31) E. Fraikin (1985) – M. Wind (2200) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 f6** If I had to play in the Halloween gambit tournament once again, I would choose this variant in one of my games from Black side. Although Black pieces are a bit passive I think this line is one of the best. **9.0-0** Black had to take into consideration 9.e6 c6 10.d5 Ne5 11.Qe4 Nxc4 (11...f5!?) 12.Qxc4 cd5 13.Nxd5 Bxe6 14.Nc7+ Kd7 and he is winning though two last moves demand precise estimation. **9...de5** Playable but not recommended was 9...c6!? 10.ed6 Bxd6 11.Ne4 f5. Instead of 11...f5 if Black have played 11...Nge7? 12.Qxf6 gf6? he would get mate in two moves



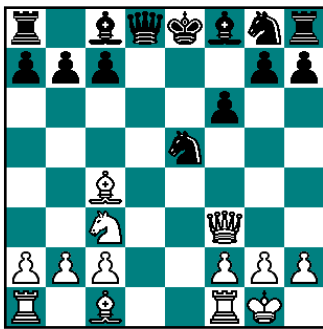
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**(31) E. Fraikin (1985) – M. Wind (2200) 5...Ng6! 6.e5 Ng8 7.Bc4 d6 8.Qf3 f6** If I had to play in the Halloween gambit tournament once again, I would choose this variant in one of my games from Black side. Although Black pieces are a bit passive I think this line is one of the best. **9.0-0** Black had to take into consideration 9.e6 c6 10.d5 Ne5 11.Qe4 Nxc4 (11...f5!?) 12.Qxc4 cd5 13.Nxd5 Bxe6 14.Nc7+ Kd7 and he is winning though two last moves demand precise estimation. **9...de5** Playable but not recommended was 9...c6!? 10.ed6 Bxd6 11.Ne4 f5. Instead of 11...f5 if Black have played 11...Nge7? 12.Qxf6 gf6? he would get mate in two moves

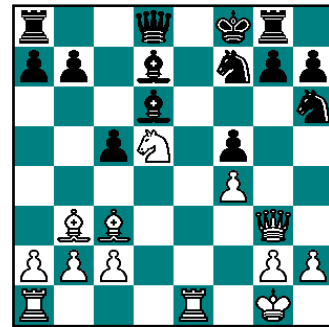


13.Nxf6+ Kf8 14.Bh6 mate. 10.de5 Nxe5 *See*

*Diagram*



**11.Qe4** Please note, that 11.Re1 Bd6 12.Bf4 Qd7 transposes the position to games (24-26). However, Black can improve variant playing 12...Qe7! 13.Qg3 g5. **11...Qe7!** 11...Ne7? 12.Rd1 Bd7 13.Be6 Qc8 14.Rxd7 Nxd7 15.Be3 Nc6!? 16.Rd1 Bd6 17.Nb5 Ke7 18.Bh3+ Kd8 19.Rxd6 cd6 20.Nxd6 Qc7 21.Nf7+ Kc8 22.Nxh8 +/- . **12.Nd5 Qc5 13.Bb3 Bd6** Black also had the advantage after 13...Ne7 14.Be3 Qd6 15.Rad1 Bf5, as in Maciaga – Fraikin<sup>21</sup> 0-1 (35 moves). Though White had strong move 16.Qb4! his position was still hopeless. **14.Be3 Qa5 15.f4 f5 16.Qd4 c5 17.Qd1** 17.Nf6+ Nxf6 18.Qxd6 Nf7 19.Bxf7+ Kxf7 20.Bxc5 -/+. **17...Nf7 18.Qd3 Ngh6 19.Bd2 Qd8 20.Rfe1+ Kf8 21.Bc3 Bd7 22.Qg3 Rg8** *See Diagram*



**23.Be5!** Good move. Of course, White could have played 23.a4 Rc8 24.Bc4 because after 23.Rad1 b5 24.a4 c4 25.Ba2 a6 Black excluded light-square Bishop from play. Now, after taking Bishop, i.e. 23...Nxe5? 24.fe5 Bb8 25.Qe3 (threatening Qe3xc5+, e5-e6-e7 or Nd5-f6) or 23...Bxe5?! 24.fe5 Be6 25.Rad1 Qc8 26.Nf4 c4 27.Ba4 g5 28.Qa3+ Kg7 29.Nh5+ Kg6 30.Nf6 Rd8 31.Qe7 White got counterplay. **23...Rc8 24.Ne3 c4! 25.Bxc4** 25.Nxc4 Bc5+ followed by Nh6-g4. **25...Bxe5 26.fe5 Qb6 27.Kh1 Be6 28.b3 Rc5 29.Rad1 Qc6** 29...Rxe5?! 30.Bxe6 Qxe6 (30...Rxe6? 31.Qb8+ Re8 32.Qxe8+) 31.Nc4 Rxe1+ 32.Rxe1 =/+. **30.Rd6 Nxd6 0-1** Without any doubt White should continue the game. In such a complicated position is hard to defend, e.g. 31.ed6 Bxc4 32.Nxc4 and now Black has to play precisely as well 32...Ng4 33.d7!? Qxd7 34.Qb8+ Rc8 35.Rc8 Qxa7 as 32...Nf7 33.Qe3 g6 (33.Qe4? Qg1) 34.Qe7 Kg7 35.Re6 Rf8 36.d7 Rd5! 37.Ne3 Rd6.

## Summary

<b>1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nxe5 Nxe5 5.d4</b>	<b>game(s)</b>
<b>5...Qe7?! +/-</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>5...Nc6!?</b> <b>6.d5</b> <b>6...Nb8 +/-</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>6...Ne5</b> <b>7.f4</b> <b>7...Ng6</b> <b>8.e5</b> <b>8...Bb4 =</b>	<b>(3-5)</b>
	<b>8...Ng8</b> <b>9.d6</b> <b>9...c6 +/-</b>
	<b>9...cd6 =</b>
	<b>(6)</b>
	<b>(7)</b>
	<b>(8)</b>
	<b>(9)</b>
<b>5...Ng6!</b> <b>6.e5</b> <b>6...Qe7 -/+</b>	<b>(10)</b>
<b>6...Ng8</b> <b>7.Bc4</b> <b>7...d5 =/+</b>	<b>(11-14)</b>
	<b>7...c6 =/+</b>
	<b>7...Bb4</b> <b>8.Qf3</b> <b>8...f6 =/+</b>
	<b>8...Qe7 =/+</b>
	<b>(20)</b>
	<b>(21-22)</b>
	<b>(23)</b>
	<b>(24-26)</b>
	<b>(27-28)</b>
	<b>(29-30)</b>
	<b>(31)</b>

**Figure 1.** The tree of variants presents approximately and subjective estimation of main continuations in the Halloween gambit derived from the thematic tournament. On the right side are placed links with estimated continuation to appropriate games in chronological order from 1 to 31.

**Table 2.** Numbers in the table links to appropriate games with detailed comments presented in chronological order from 1 to 31 in the text. Bold-faced type marked games played by Black.

Players	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1. Alfonso Jerez*	●	●	3	14	12	13	17	30	4	19	8	22	●
2. Gustavo Albarran	●	●	●	-	26	16	-	-	-	6	-	4	10
3. Paul Keiser	3	●	●	●	7	2	18	1	5	4	14	14	23
4. GM Vadim Milov	14	-	●	●	●	8	12	10	24	28	14	30	29
5. Arie Werksma	12	26	7	●	●	●	15	23	2	26	22	30	11
6. Eric Fraikin	13	16	2	8	●	●	●	15	13	31	20	4	31
7. MF Antonio Torrecillas	17	-	18	12	15	●	●	●	15	9	20	25	9
8. MF Jeroen Blokhuis	30	-	1	10	23	15	●	●	●	10	21	8	27
9. Frans Hoyneck	4	-	5	24	2	13	15	●	●	●	3	7	3
10. Marcin Maciaga	19	6	4	28	26	31	9	10	●	●	●	13	15
11. IM Ilmars Starostits	8	-	14	14	22	20	20	21	3	●	●	●	16
12. Franck Steenbekkers	22	4	14	30	30	4	25	8	7	13	●	●	●
13. Maurits Wind	●	10	23	29	11	31	9	27	3	15	16	●	●

\*Currently A. Jerez owns IM-title.

**Acknowledgements.** I'm most grateful to Maurice Wind for making the Halloween gambit tournament a great success. Furthermore, I would also like to thank MF Michal Rudolf and Bartosz Warszawski for excellent analysis in games (9, 19, 26), and (15, 16, 18), respectively.



## Supplementary materials

<sup>1</sup> P. Keiser (1932) – E. Fraikin (1985) game (2) 11.f4? Nh6 12.Nd4 Qd5 13.c3 cd6 14.ed6+ Kd8 15.Qe5 Qxd6 16.Be2 Nb8 17.Qb5 Nc6 18.Be3 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 Qc6 20.Qh5 d5 21.0-0 Bf5 22.b4 Qg6 23.Qh4+ Be7 24.Qf2 Be4 25.Bf3 Nf5 26.Bxe4 de4 27.Bxa7 Kc8 28.a4 Re8 29.Rfe1 Nh4 30.Re2 Nxc2 31.f5 Qg5 32.Kh1 Nh4 33.Qd4 Qf6 34.Rxe4 Qxd4 35.Bxd4 Nxf5 36.Bc5 g6 37.a5 Kd7 38.Rd1+ Bd6 39.Rxe8 Rxe8 40.c4 Re2 41.Kg1 Kc7 42.Bxd6+ Nxd6 43.c5 Ne4 44.Rd5 f5 0-1

<sup>2</sup> P. Keiser (1932) – A. Jerez (2392) game (3) 11...0-0 12.Bf4 Bd7 13.Nd1 Rae8 14.Nf2? Bxb2 15.Rab1 Bd4 16.Bg5 b6 17.Bh4 Qe5 18.Kh1 Qh5 19.Bxf6 Qxf3 20.gf3 Bxf6 21.Bb5 Bxb5 22.Rxb5 Bd4 23.Kg2 f5 24.Rb4 Bxf2 25.Rxf2 Kf7 26.Kg3 Kf6 27.h3 Rf7 28.Rd4 Re5 29.a3 Rfe7 30.Kf4 g5+ 31.Ke3 Kg6 32.Re2 fe4 33.Rxe4 Kf5 34.Rf2 h5 35.Kd4 Kg6 36.Ke3 Rxe4+ 37.fe4 Rf7 38.Rg2 Rf4 39.Rg3 a5 40.Rg1 Rh4 41.Rg3 g4 42.hg4 Rxc4 43.Rf3 h4 44.Rh3 Rg3+ 45.Rxc4+ hg3 46.Kf3 Kf6 0-1

<sup>3</sup> IM I. Starostits (2398) – F. Hoynck (2043) game (3) 17...Bxc3 18.Bxc3 Qxc7 19.Qxd5 Qxf4+ 20.Qf3 Qg5 21.fxc7 Nd7 22.h6 Nf6 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.c3 Re5 25.Rh5 Rce8 26.Re1 Qg6 27.Rd1 Qe6 28.Rd2 Be4 29.Qf2 Bxc2+ 30.Kxc2 Qg6+ 31.Kf1 Rxh5 32.Bxh5 Qxh5 33.Qf4 Qh3+ 34.Kf2 Qe6 35.c4 Qe1+ 36.Kg2 Re2+ 1/2-1/2

<sup>4</sup> F. Hoynck (2043) – A. Jerez (2392) game (4) 16...Qe5 17.Kf2 d6 18.Rhe1 Bf5 19.Qd2 Qf6 20.Kg1 a6 21.a4 ba4 22.Rf1 Qe5 23.Rae1 Be4 24.Bf3 f5 25.g4 g6 26.gf5 gf5 27.Qg5+ Qe7 28.Qxe7+ Rxe7 29.Bxe4 fe4 30.Rf8+ Re8 31.Rxe8+ Kxe8 32.Rxe4+ Kf7 33.Rxa4 Kf6 34.Ra5 Ke5 35.Kf2 h5 36.Ke3 h4 37.c4 h3 38.c3 1/2-1/2

<sup>5</sup> A. Werksma (2196) – P. Keiser (1932) game (7) 23.Nxc8 Qxc8 24.Qxb6 Ke8 25.Rae1 Qc6 26.Qxc6 dc6 27.g3 Kd8 28.gf4 Ng2 29.Ref1 Bxd6 30.f5 Bf4 31.Ke2 Re8+ 32.Kf3 N6h4 33.Kg4 Be5 34.Rf2 Bf6 35.Re2 Rxe2 36.Bxe2 Ne3 37.Kf4 Nd5 38.Ke4 Bxb2 39.Bd3 Nc3+ 40.Kf4 Nxa2 41.Rb1 Bf6 42.Rb7 Ng2+ 43.Kg3 Ne1 44.Be4 Nc3 45.Bxc6 Be5 46.Kg4 Nxc2 47.Rd7+ Kc8 48.Rf7 Nd4 49.Bh1 Kd8 50.Ra7 Ncb5 51.Ra2 Nd6 52.Rf2 Ke7 53.Bd5 Kf6 54.Bg8 h6 55.Bh7 Nc4 56.h4 Ne3+ 57.Kh3 Nd5 58.Kg4 Ke7 59.Bg6 h5+ 60.Kh3 Nf4+ 61.Rxf4 Bxf4 62.Bxh5 Nxf5 0-1

<sup>6</sup> F. Steenbekkers (2073) – MF J. Blokhuis (2339) game (8) 12...Kb8 13.Bd3 Nd5 14.Qd4 Bc8 15.0-0 Nf4 16.Qe3 g5 17.Rb1 h5 18.Bb5 Bd7 19.Qf2 Qe5 20.a4 Qxc3 21.Bb2 Qa5 22.Bf6 Bxb5 23.Rxb5 Qxa4 24.Rxc5 Rd7 25.Ra1 Qxa1+ 26.Bxa1 Rd1+ 27.Qf1 Rxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Rd8 29.Bf6 Rd1+ 30.Kf2 b6 31.Ke3 Ne6 32.Rxh5 a5 33.h4 a4 34.Rd5 Re1 35.Kd2 1-0

<sup>7</sup> E. Fraikin (1985) – GM V. Milov (2592) game (8) 18.Qf3 Qf6 19.Rfe1 Rc5 20.c4 Bxc4 21.Be4 Be6 22.Rad1 Rc3 23.Be3 Qxf3 24.Bxf3 Rxc2 25.a3 Rc3 26.Bxg4 hg4 27.Ra1 b6 28.Ree1 Rxc1+ 29.Rxc1 c5 30.Rc3 Kb7 31.Kf1 Kc6 32.Bf4 a5 33.f3 gf3 34.Rxf3 b5 35.h4 Rh8 36.Bg5 b4 37.Ke1 c4 38.Kd2 c3+ 39.Kc2 Kb5 40.ab4 ab4 0-1

<sup>8</sup> M. Maciaga (2207) – MF J. Blokhuis (2339) game (10) 19.Kh2 Qe6 20.g3 Be7 21.Be3 0-0 22.Qg2 Rad8 23.Rf2 Bc4 24.Nc1 Rd7 25.Rd2 Rc8 26.Rd1 Nf8 27.Qf3 Qg6 28.Bg1 Ne6 29.Bxc4 dc4 30.Qe2 c3 31.bc3 bc3 32.Rd3 Bb4 33.Na2 Nc7 34.Nxc3 Qe6 35.Bf2 Rcd8 36.Qf3 Qc4 37.Rc1 Ne6 38.Ne2 Rd5 39.Kg2 1-0 (time)

<sup>9</sup> A. Werksma (2196) – A. Jerez (2392) game (12) 18...Bc7 19.Rae1 a5 20.a4 b6 21.c4 Rd8 22.Qc3 Ra7 23.Bc2 Bf5 24.Bb1 Bb8 25.g3 Qh5 26.Nf2 Bxb1 27.Rxb1 Rad7 28.Rbd1 Qf5 29.Rfe1 Qe6 30.Rd3 Kh8 31.b3 Nf5 32.Red1 Ne7 33.Re1 f6 34.Qd2 fe5 35.fe5 Rf8 36.Kg2 Qf5 37.Re4 Rdd8 38.Qe2 Ng6 39.Rde3 c5 40.d5 1/2-1/2

<sup>10</sup> E. Fraikin (1985) – F. Hoyneck (2043) game (13) 16...Qxa2 17.Rxe6+ N8e7 18.Bc3 Qxc4 19.Re3 Qf7 20.Qg4 O-O 21.Rd7 Rae8 22.Rxb7 a5 23.Ra7 h5 24.Qe6 Qxe6 25.Rxe6 Rxf2 26.Rxg6 Nxg6 27.Rxg7+ Kf8 28.Rxg6 Ree2 29.Rxc6 Rxc2+ 30.Kb1 Rce2 0-1

<sup>11</sup> A. Jerez (2392) – E. Fraikin (1985) game (13) 22...Qxd8 23.Qe2 h5 24.Rf2 Qg5 25.Bxe6+ Kc7 26.Bf5 Nf4 27.Rxf4 Bxf4 28.h3 Bd6 29.Re1 hg4 30.Qxg4 Qf6 31.Qg8 c5 32.Kg2 Rh6 33.Rf1 cd4 34.Rf3 Kb8 35.Bg4 Qe5 36.cd4 Qh2+ 37.Kf1 Rg6 38.b3 Bb4 0-1

<sup>12</sup> P. Keiser (1932) – F. Steenbekkers (2073) game (14) 16.Rd1 Qe5 17.Qg4 Nf6 18.Qb4 Qb5 19.Qxb5 cb5 20.c4 Ke8 21.Bg5 Kd7 22.Bxf6 gf6 23.Rd4 Rhc8 24.f4 Rc5 25.Rc1 Rac8 26.Kf2 Nf8 27.Ke3 Ne6 28.Rd3 bc4 29.bc4 Rxc4 30.Rxc4 Rxc4 0-1

<sup>13</sup> IM I. Starostits (2398) – P. Keiser (1932) game (14) 21.b4 0-0-0 22.Ra5 Qb3 23.Qe2 Bd6 24.Nxd6+ Rxd6 25.Bf4 Rdd8 26.Qe5 Qd1+ 27.Kg2 Rd6 28.Qxd6 1/2-1/2

<sup>14</sup> MF J. Blokhuis (2339) – E. Fraikin (1985) game (15) 20...Bb7 21.Qh5+ Kd8 22.d5 c5 23.b3 Kc7 24.a4 Rag8 25.Qf3 Rg5 26.Bf1 Rxf5 27.Qxf5 Qe5 28.Qxe5+ fe5 29.c4 Kd6 30.Bd3 h5 31.g3 Kc7 32.Re1 Kd6 33.h3 a6 34.Rf1 Rg8 35.Kf2 Ra8 36.Bg6 h4 37.g4 Rb8 38.Kf3 b5 39.ab5 ab5 40.Ra1 Bc8 41.Bd3 bc4 42.bc4 Rb4 1/2-1/2

<sup>15</sup> F. Hoyneck (2043) – MF A. Torrecillas (2389) game (15) 32.Rxg7 Nd6 33.Rxh7 Bxf3 34.b5 Bxg4 35.b6+ Kxb6 36.Rh6 Kc7 37.e7 Rxd7 38.Rxd6 Rxe7 39.Rd2 Re3 40.Kb2 Kb6 41.Rd6+ Kc5 42.Ra6 Kb5 43.Rg6 Be6 44.a3 Ka4 45.h4 Re2+ 46.Kc3 Kxa3 47.h5 Bb3 48.h6 Rh2 49.Kd4 Kb2 50.Ke5 a4 51.Kf6 a3 52.Kg7 a2 53.Ra6 Bc2 54.Rb6+ Ka3 55.Ra6+ Ba4 0-1

<sup>16</sup> M. Maciaga (2207) – M. Wind (2200) game (15) 15.Bxe6 Qxe6 16.c4 N8e7 17.Be3 Rd8 18.a4 0-0 19.a5 Rd7 20.Ra4?! 20.Rab1! 20...Rfd8 20...c5 21.Rb4 21.Rc1? Nxf4 22.Bxf4 -/+; 21.Qc2 c5 22.d5 Nxd5 23.cd5 Rxd5 (23...Qxd5? 24.Qxc5) 24.Rc4 [24.Bxc5? Qc6 a) 25.Rc4 Rd2 -/+ b) 25.Rc1 Rxc5 26.Qxc5 Qxa4 -/+] 24...b6 25.ab6 ab6 -/+; 21.Qa2 Kh8!?!; 21.Qf2 c5 22.d5 Nxd5 23.cd5 Rxd5 (23...Qxd5 24.Bxc5 Qc6 25.Qa2 Kh8 26.Bd6) 24.Bxc5 Qc6 25.Rc4 b6 26.ab6 ab6 27.Bxb6 Qxc4 28.Bxd8 Rxd8 -/+ 21...Qf7 22.Rb2 Nf8 23.Rd1 Ne6 24.Qf2 g5 25.g3 Qh5 26.Rbd2 Ng6 27.Kh1 Qg4 28.Rf1 gf4 28...h5!?! 29.gf4 Kh8 30.Rg1 Qh5 0-1

<sup>17</sup> E. Fraikin (1985) – IM I. Starostits (2398) game (20) 24.ed6 cd6 25.Qxa5 Qxa5 26.Rxa5 Re8 27.h3 Kf8 28.fg7+ Kxg7 29.c4 Re1+ 30.Kh2 Ne5 31.Rg3+ Kf8 32.c5 dc5 33.Rxc5 Bd7 34.d6 Rb5 35.Rxb5 Bxb5 36.Rg5 Bc6 37.Rf5 Kg7 38.c4 Re2 39.Kg1 Rxg2+ 40.Kf1 Nf3 0-1

<sup>18</sup> A. Jerez (2392) – F. Steenbekkers (2073) game (22) 24...Bd6 25.Qc2 c6 26.b4 Kc7 27.g3 Nd5 28.Bd3 Rae8 29.Bd2 Nge7 30.b5 f4 31.bc6 Nxc6 32.Bf5 Qd8 33.Be4 Nb6 34.Kg2 fg3 35.hg3 Nc4 36.Bc1 Kb8 0-1

<sup>19</sup> A. Werksma (2196) – MF J. Blokhuis (2339) game (23) 30.Bxe4 fe4 31.f5 Qxf5 32.Rf1 Bc5 33.bc5 Qxc5 34.Qxc5 bc5 35.Ba5+ Kxc6 36.Rad1 Bxc4 37.Rf5 Bd3 38.Bc3 Rab8 39.Kf2? e3+ 0-1

<sup>20</sup> A. Jerez (2392) – MF J. Blokhuis (2339) game (30) 17...Qc5 18.Qe4 c6 19.Rhg1 g5 20.Bd7+ Kf8 21.Bc3 Nf6 22.Qe6 Qf5 23.Qxf5 Nxf5 24.Bxf5 Rg8 25.Rge1 Rd8 26.Rxd8+ Bxd8 27.Bd4 Rg7 28.Bxa7 b6 29.Bb8 Bc7 30.Bxc7 Rxc7 31.Re6 Kf7 32.a4 h5 33.c4 g4 34.Kc2 Ne8 35.Re3 Nd6 36.Bd3 Ra7 37.b3 Kf6 38.f3 c5 39.fg4 hg4 40.Rg3 Nf5 41.Bxf5 Kxf5 42.h3 gh3 43.Rxh3 Rb7 44.Rh6 Ke5 45.Kc3 Rb8 46.Rc6 Kf4 47.a5 ba5 48.Rxc5 Ra8 49.Kb2 1-0

<sup>21</sup> M. Maciaga (2207) – E. Fraikin (1985) game (31) 16.Qa4+ 16.Qb4! 16...Bd7 17.Qa5 Nxd5 18.Bxd5 Qb4 19.Qxc7 Rc8 20.Qxb7 Qxb7 21.Bxb7 Rxc2 22.f4 Rxb2 23.Bd5 Ng6 24.Bxa7 Bb4 25.Rb1 Rxb1 25...Rd2 26.Rfe1+ Kf8 27.Bc4 26.Rxb1 Bd6 27.g3 Ne7 28.Bb3 h5 29.Rd1 Nc8 30.Bd4 h4 31.Bd5 Ne7 32.Be4 Bc6 33.Bxc6+ Nxc6 34.Bb6 Ke7 35.a4 Ra8 0-1

The End